



FORMAT FOR REPORTS

OF THE PARTIES

**AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF AFRICAN-EURASIAN MIGRATORY
WATERBIRDS (The Hague, 1995)**

Implementation during the period 2005 and 2007

Contracting Party: CROATIA

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1. Overview of Action Plan implementation

1.1 Summary of progress to date

In this report the implementation of Action Plan between 2005 and 2007 is presented. All species listed in the Table 1 of AEWA are protected in national legislation: Nature Protection Act (OG 70/05) (NPA) and Hunting Act (OG 140/05). Since the last report three species of ducks were removed from the list of hunting species and are now strictly protected.

In September 2006. new Nature Park "Lastovo" was established. The Nature Park is supporting 85% of national breeding population of *Larus audouinii*.

The Ministry of Culture, Nature Protection Directorate is responsible for implementation of the Nature Protection Act (OG 70/05) (NPA). According to the Article 58 of the NPA, the Government has designated, at the proposal of the Ministry of Culture, the ecological network (EN) with the system of ecologically important areas and ecological corridors - *Regulation on proclamation of the ecological network* (OG 109/07).

Ecological network conservation is one of the main objectives which have to be achieved through measures enforcement, determined by NPA. With this Regulation, Croatia provides an alignment with European legislative, especially, Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (Habitat Directive) and Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds (Birds Directive), on grounds of which EU ecological network NATURA 2000 is defined.

The National ecological network is composed of sites important for conservation of species and habitat types on the national and international level, including potential NATURA 2000 sites. Proclaimed ecological network covers 47% of the land territory of the Republic of Croatia and 39 % of the national sea. All national parks and nature parks, including majority of special reserves, present and suggested by spatial plans are included in ecological network area. Ecological network area enclose majority of natural corridors like waterflows, forest corridors, swamp areas as a stopover sites for birds and other landscape elements, which provide wild species movement. Connecting to ecological network area, two corridors are sorted out: Corridor Palagruža-Lastovo-Pelješac provides birds migratory route across the Adriatic sea and Corridor which covers coastal area till 50 meters in depth, important for sea turtle migrations. Regulation on proclamation of the ecological network includes 1550 ecological network areas including sea caverns and speleological objects according to the NPA.

Preliminary assessment of the sites included in the EN was made through the LIFE III project – *Setting up of National ecological network (CRO-NEN)* which was carried out in the period from 2003 to 2005 by the State Institute for Nature Protection (SINP).

Identifying precise ecological network borders is very important for knowing exact areas and subsequently to accomplish the land owners incentives privilege inside the ecological network borders. In addition it is also important for identification of procedure of nature impact assessment for intervention inside ecological network borders, according to Ordinance on nature impact assessment (OG 89/07).

1.2 Outline of planned actions for national implementation over the next three years

- Further development of NATURA 2000 (consultation process, adoption of proposed sites by Government, implementation of the nature impact assessment according to the Nature Protection Act, etc.)
- Phasing out lead shot for hunting in wetlands

1.3 Outline of priorities for international co-operation over the next three years

The major priority over next three years is the process of accession to the EU.

2. Species conservation

Legal measures

2.1 Has a national policy/strategy or legislation to protect and conserve species covered by the Agreement (Table 1: column A; column B) and their supporting important areas been developed? If so:

- a. What are the main features of the policy/legislation?
- b. Which organisations are responsible for implementation?
- c. How does it relate to other national initiatives (e.g. national Biodiversity Action Plans)?

a. The main legislation in nature protection is the Nature Protection Act (OG 70/2005) (NPA). It regulates protection of the overall nature and defines nature as the entire biological and landscape diversity. NPA is harmonized with EU directives and relevant international conventions for nature protection. It is also in accordance with obligations of the AEWA.

The following ministerial ordinances relevant for species conservation have been adopted in period from December 2005 - November 2007:

- Ordinance on proclamation of wild taxa as protected or strictly protected (OG 7/06)
- Ordinance on transboundary movement and trade in protected species (OG 34/06)
- Ordinance on sorts of habitat types, habitat map, endangered and rare habitat types as well as safeguard measures for conservation for conservation of habitat types (OG 7/06)
- Ordinance on Nature Impact Assessment (OG 89/07)
- Regulation on proclamation of ecological network (OG 109/07)

b. The Ministry of Culture, Nature Protection Directorate is responsible for implementation of the NPA.

c. Nature Protection Strategy and Action Plan for Protection of Biological and Landscape Diversity (NSAP)(OG 81/99) was adopted in 1999. The NSAP has set up a new policy of nature protection that is being put in practice through new national legislation, especially Nature Protection Act. NSAP is under revision and it should be finished by the end of 2008.

2.2 What legal measures or practices has your country developed to prohibit or regulate for the following (refer also to section 4 on hunting):

- a. Taking of, and trade in birds listed in Column A and B of Table 1 (where utilization or trade contravenes the provisions set out in paragraphs 2.1.1 (a) and 2.1.2 of the Action Plan)?
- b. Methods of taking?
- c. Setting of taking limits and monitoring these limits?

All species, except: *Anser fabalis*, *A. albifrons*, *Anas platyrhynchos*, *Anas querquedula*, *Aythya ferina* and *Gallinago gallinago* are strictly protected under the Nature Protection Act, and taking of and trade are prohibited. *Anas acuta*, *Anas strepera* and *Anas clypeata* are protected since 2006. Listed species are covered under the Hunting Act and can be hunted between 1st September (for ducks) or 1st November (for geese) or 16th October (for Snipe) till 31st January. Methods of taking for listed species are regulated under the Hunting Act.

Automatic and semi-automatic weapons, sound recording, traps, nets, baits and poisons are prohibited. Taking limits are given for each species in hunting management plans for each hunting ground separately.

According to the NPA, trade of all bird species strictly protected under the NPA is generally prohibited, as well as any egg collection, but individual specimens of strictly protected wild species may be kept in captivity, bred, sold or bought on the basis of a permit granted by the Ministry, provided that:

- these specimens are legally imported into the Republic of Croatia and have their owner;
- these specimens had been legally acquired before the species was legally protected;
- these specimens belong to the species that can be reasonably used in small quantities and under the conditions of a strict control, in order to maintain the favourable conservation status of the species, as it is prescribed by the Ministry, on a selective basis and on a limited scale (for the moment there are no such exemptions regarding AEWA listed species)

d. Sustainable hunting of species listed in Categories 2 and 3 (and marked by an asterisk) in Column A only?

e. Exemptions to the provisions set out in paragraphs 2.1.1, 2.1.2 and 2.1.3?

There are no hunting of any species listed in Categories 2 & 3 in Column A and no exemptions to the provisions set out in paragraphs 2.1.1., 2.1.2. and 2.1.3.

Single Species Action Plans

2.3 Of the species covered by the Agreement (species listed in Table 1: column A), which spend part or all of their life history in your country, which have formal international (Category 1, species marked with an asterisk) or national (column A) Single Species Action Plans:

a. Proposed?

b. In preparation?

c. Being implemented?

Please append a list of species and their action plan status. (For international plans indicate which other countries are involved in plan development/implementation.)

Croatian ornithologists took part in preparation of International Single Species action plan for Corncrake and Ferruginous Duck, published by AEWA and International Single Species action plan for the Spoonbill which is under preparation. There are no National SSAPs for those species yet.

Emergency measures

2.4 Describe any bilateral or multilateral co-operative action that your country has undertaken to develop and implement emergency measures to conserve species in response to unfavourable or endangering conditions occurring in the Agreement area.

There were no bilateral or multilateral co-operative actions.

Re-establishments

2.5 Has a policy on species re-establishments been developed in your country? If yes, please outline the main features of the policy and give details of any re-establishment programmes for species covered by the Agreement.

The species re-establishment is regulated by Nature Protection Act. There were no re-establishing projects for birds in Croatia until now.

Introductions

2.6 Has your country developed and implemented legal measures to prohibit the introduction of nonnative species? Please provide details, particularly describing measures to control the release or introduction of non-native species (please indicate which species and their status).

Introduction of alien wild taxa into nature on the territory of the Republic of Croatia (RC) is forbidden, but exceptionally it can be authorized by the competent authority (Ministry of Culture, Nature Protection Directorate) if scientifically and technically founded and acceptable from the standpoint of nature protection and sustainable management. The permit shall be issued on grounds of a study on the assessment of the risk of introduction into nature, but it is a subject to prior approval from the minister competent for agriculture, forestry and water management. All of the provisions are proscribed in the *Ordinance on production and conduction of the study on risk assessment related to introduction, re-introduction and breeding of wild taxa* (Official Gazette No. 35/08) which entered into force on 4th April 2008.

Import of live specimens of alien taxa is regulated in more details within the *Ordinance on transboundary movement and trade of protected wild species* (OG 34/06). Breeding of the alien wild taxa in controlled environment which impede the inhabiting of natural environment is not deemed as introduction. The import permit shall be issued if introduction of alien taxa into nature of the RC is already permitted or breeding in controlled environment which impede the inhabiting of natural environment, is permitted. In other cases, the request for import has to be considered in a more detailed way taking into account the opinion of the relevant scientific authority, especially in relation to possible adverse impact of that alien species on native fauna and flora.

In the case of incidental introduction of alien taxa, or if there is a grounded suspicion that such introduction is to occur, the Minister shall prescribe the measures for proceeding with the scope of destroying, eradicating or preventing further propagation of introduced alien species.

3. Habitat conservation

Habitat inventories

3.1 Has your country developed and published inventories of important habitats for species covered by the Agreement? If yes, please provide details, including any provisions to maintain or update these inventories.

Inventory of wetland habitats in Croatia was developed in 2005 by State Institute of Nature Protection under Ramsar SGF project. It comprised a total of 390,885 ha of wetland area as well as 50,516 km of rivers and streams. The CROWET database, as well as table and maps with all localities are available on: http://www.dzpz.hr/projekti_crowet.htm#mocvare

3.2 Has your country undertaken a strategic review of sites to develop a national network of important sites or areas for species covered by the Agreement? Please append a list of identified sites of international importance.

National network of important sites for birds (including species covered by the Agreement) is developed under CRO-NEN project and that network now consist important part of the national ecological network.

Sites of international importance for species covered by the Agreement are listed in Appendix 2.

As it was mentioned in the Summary, the Government of Croatia has designated, at the proposal of the Ministry of Culture, the ecological network (EN) with the system of ecologically important areas and ecological corridors - *Regulation on proclamation of the ecological network* (OG 109/07). Ecological network conservation is one of the main objectives which have to be achieved through measures enforcement, determined by NPA. With this Regulation, Croatia provides an alignment with European legislative, especially, Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (Habitat Directive) and Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds (Birds Directive), on grounds of which EU ecological network NATURA 2000 is defined.

PHARE project: "Institutional Building and Implementation of NATURA 2000 in Croatia" was launched in 2008. The project purpose is to establish and further implement NATURA 2000 in Croatia. The projects main tasks include finalizing NATURA 2000 proposal, after extensive consultation process with all relevant stakeholder groups and Management planning for NATURA 2000 sites (two pilot-projects: management plan for the Nature Park Vransko Lake and Jasen for migratory water birds and one site important for large carnivores.

Conservation of areas

3.3 Describe the legal frameworks and other measures through which sites (including transfrontier sites) including of international importance gain practical protection. (Please append a list of internationally important protected sites.)

Some important sites in Croatia are already protected according to national legislation in different categories: as National Parks, Nature Parks or Special Ornithological Reserves.

List of internationally important protected sites are given in the Appendix 2. Additionally in 2006 Nature Park Lastovo was established. The protected area supports 85% of national breeding population of *Larus audouinii*.

Proclaimed Ecological Network covers 47% of the land territory of the Republic of Croatia and 39 % of the national sea. Details about National Ecological Network sites (list of sites with conservation objectives and guidelines for conservation, map of the national ecological network, etc.) are available at <http://www.cro-nen.hr/nem/>.

3.4 Has your country developed a management planning process for protected sites? If yes, please outline the types of management plans and organisations responsible for development and implementation.

Until now, the only protected area important for migratory birds covered by AEWA with adopted management plan is NP Plitvice Lakes (supporting breeding population of *Crex crex*). Adoption of the management plan for Nature park Kopački rit and management plan for the Nature park Lonjsko polje is planned for the end of 2008. MP for the Nature park Lonjsko polje was prepared within the LIFE III project for 2006, submitted by the Public Institution for governing of the Nature park Lonjsko polje. MP for the Nature park Kopački rit was also prepared within the international project financed by GEF/IBRD. According to the Nature Protection Act (OG 70/2005) all protected areas should have management plans.

3.5 How many protected sites have formal management plans (please append a list of sites and their management planning status):

a. Proposed?

b. In preparation?

- Nature Park Učka
- Nature Park Žumberak-Samoborsko gorje
- Nature Park Kopački rit
- Nature Park Lonjsko polje

b. Being implemented?

- Nacional Park Risnjak
- Nacional Park Plitvička jezera
- Nacional Park Sjeverni Velebit
- Nacional Park Paklenica
- Nature Park Velebit

3.6 What measures does your country have in place to ensure the wise use of wetland habitats and to prevent habitat degradation e.g. pollution control and managing water resources? Please provide examples of best practice initiatives particularly involving cross-sectoral co-operation or public participation.

Pollution control is the competence of State Water Directorate. There are no special measures to ensure wise use of wetland habitats. The important problem in using of wetland habitats is the problem with carp fishponds that present very important habitats for

water birds, but are in extremely difficult economic situation – some of them already stop with their production – that could lead to their disappearance in near future. In 2008, incentive measures for carp fishponds are accepted and adequate sum of money is included within the State budget on the budget line of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fishery and Rural Development.

Rehabilitation and restoration

3.7 Does your country have a policy for the identification, rehabilitation and restoration of wetlands important for species covered by the Agreement? Please provide examples of rehabilitation and restoration projects and initiatives undertaken.

According to the NPA (70/2005), wetlands, including waters, represent natural values in terms of the present Act and should therefore be conserved in the natural or near-natural state wherever possible and appropriate.

The restoration project of the only breeding site for Redshank *Tringa totanus* in Croatia started in 2008. This site is part of National Ecological Network.

4. Management of human activities

Hunting

4.1 Outline the main features of legislation or legal measures in your country to control hunting of the species covered by the Agreement (e.g. use of lead shot and poisoned baits, and to eliminate illegal taking).

Lead shots are still widely used in wetland area. First steps to prevent use were taken by publishing information in the hunting journals and holding workshops on lead poisoning in wetlands in Croatian Hunting Association. See under paragraph 2.2.

Poisoned baits are prohibited by Hunting Act and NPA. Poisoned baits are illegally used in some parts of Croatia. Regarding this matter Republic of Croatia formed the *Committee for problematic of illegal use of poisoned baits in nature* consisting from all relevant governmental institutions and scientific institutions. The *Committee* took several actions to make stricter rules for trade in poison used latter for poisoned baits.

4.2 Does your country monitor hunting levels? If so, how is this information collated and reported?

Hunting limits are given for each species in hunting management plans for each hunting ground, but hunting levels are given only as very rough statistical data (for example, data for all waterfowl are given together!).

4.3 Describe action undertaken by hunting clubs and organisations to manage hunting activity e.g. cooperative action, issuing of licences and proficiency testing of individual members.

Hunting organisations manage issuing of licences, education and proficiency testing of individual members.

Eco-tourism

4.4 What is the status of eco-tourism programmes or initiatives in your country? Please provide examples of projects with an indication of the significant outcomes.

Eco-tourism programmes are developed in Nature Park Lonjsko polje. Several educational programmes have been developed there, such as “The White Stork in Čigoč” (for school children) and “Spoonbills and Herons in the Krapje đol Bird Sanctuary” (for bird-watchers).

4.5 What social and economic benefits accrue to the local communities from the conservation of important waterbird sites?

Eco-tourism is still beginning in Croatia and calculations about social and economic benefits for the local communities were not made. The economic benefits are probably the highest in the Nature Park Lonjsko polje.

Other human activities

4.6 Does your country carry out Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of activities potentially affecting protected sites or areas important for species covered by the Agreement? If yes, briefly describe the main features of your EIA policy and procedures.

All activities affecting nature (constructions, infrastructures, electric power lines, wind farms, dams) must have EIA, prepared by authorized organisations (private or public). A special committee evaluates EIA. EIA must include any measures needed for diminishing negative impact on environment. In case of a planned activity in nature which is not carried out within the context of an environmental impact assessment and is likely, by itself or in combination with other activities, to have a considerable impact on an ecologically important area or a protected natural value, its acceptability to nature with respect to the objectives of conservation of this ecologically important area or a protected natural value shall be evaluated in conformity with the Nature Protection Act (OG 70/2005) according to Ordinance on nature impact assessment (OG 89/07). In case of planned activities in nature, for which an environmental impact assessment has been made obligatory by a special regulation, the acceptability to nature shall be evaluated within the context of environmental impact assessment in conformity with a special regulation.

4.7 Please describe the main features of your planning policy and provide examples of practical implementation (e.g. activities to minimising disturbance of species populations or limit the impact of species populations on crops or fisheries). Please summarize any land-use conflicts especially emphasising successful solutions to problems encountered in promoting the wise-use of waterbirds and their habitats.

Conflicts between land-use and waterbirds are most serious at carp fishponds. Shooting for scaring is most common practice at fishponds. Economic compensations are paid based on at least one year survey of the number of waterfowl at fishpond. In 2008, incentive measures for carp fishponds are accepted and adequate sum of money is included within the State budget on the budget line of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fishery and Rural Development.

5. Research and monitoring

Status of research and monitoring programmes for species

5.1 How are priorities for research identified in your country? Please briefly describe your country's research programmes, including any bilateral or multilateral co-operative action, for wetland habitats and for species covered by the Agreement (e.g. studies into species population, ecology and migratory patterns). Please append a list of research activities initiated, ongoing or completed in the last three years.

Priorities for research are identified according to NSAP. Inventarisation of the different taxa (incl. birds) has been taken at many protected areas (National Parks and Nature Parks). For list of research activities see Appendix 4 of this report.

5.2 What monitoring activities does your country undertake, including any bilateral or multilateral cooperative action, of wetland areas and species covered by the Agreement (e.g. national monitoring schemes, International Waterfowl Census)? Please append a list of monitoring activities or programmes initiated, ongoing or completed in the last three years

Monitoring scheme for biodiversity indicators will be established as a component of *National Biodiversity Monitoring Programme (NBMP)* that has been started through the LIFE III CRO-NEN project, followed by the CARDS project "*Institutional Strengthening of the SINP*" (2005-2006) and will continue with the PHARE 2005 project – "*Institutional Building and implementation of NATURA 2000 in Croatia*" (2008-2009). NBMP is being focused on creating a network of experts and amateurs engaged in collection biodiversity data (scientific institutions, NGO's, schools, PAMA's, forest and water management sector etc). Species and areas for monitoring are chosen based on their international and national importance. The list of monitoring programmes for Agreement species are given in Appendix 4. Recently, new monitoring programme in Nature Park Lonjsko polje was developed targeted on both hunting and protected waterfowl. One of the goal is to establish sustainable hunting levels. This model can be in future spread in other protected and non-protected areas.

6. Education and information

Training and development programmes

6.1 Describe the status of training and development programmes which support waterbird conservation and implement the AEWA Action Plan.

Training to educate rangers in protected areas on the monitoring of target species were organized for the Corncrakes in the National Park Plitvice Lakes and Ferruginous Duck in the Nature Park Lonjsko polje. As the result, monitoring of Corncrake breeding population is included in programme of work by Park staff since 2007. Training for Nature Park Lonjsko polje started in 2008.

6.2 What bilateral or multilateral co-operative action is your country undertaking to develop training programmes and share examples of good practice?

The project “*Communication of Nature Conservation: Institutional Capacity Building and Pilot Projects in Croatia and Macedonia*” started in 2006, carried out by SNIP and European Centre for Nature Conservation (ECNC). The goals of project are to improve skills in communication of nature conservation of staff working in nature conservation, non-governmental organizations and representatives of public institutions for protected area management, which is expected to contribute to a more efficient conservation in the future by raising the awareness of "communication" as a key tool in nature conservation and to broaden the support to nature conservation among relevant actors.

PHARE project: “*Institutional Building and Implementation of NATURA 2000 in Croatia*” was launched in 2008. As mentioned before, the overall objective of this project is to support the Croatian institutions in approximation of EU Habitats and Birds Directive. Through the project all relevant Croatian authorities will receive assistance in implementing the NATURA 2000 network in accordance with national legislation and EU environmental *acquis*. The project has five specific objectives:

- (1) development of final NATURA 2000 proposal,
- (2) preparation of the management plan for Vransko Lake Nature Park and Jasen candidate NATURA 2000 site,
- (3) development and start of the implementation of the management plan for the candidate NATURA 2000 site important for large carnivores,
- (4) expert training for establishment and implementation of the mechanism for assessment of impact on Natura 2000 sites, and
- (5) dissemination of project results.

Raising public awareness

6.3 Describe activities to raise public awareness of the objectives of the AEWA Action Plan. Please outline any particular successes generating public interest in, and securing support

for, waterbird and wetland conservation (e.g. campaigns, information notes or other initiatives)?

World Migratory Birds Day was celebrated each year across the country. Different activities including ornithological camps, workshops, excursions, exhibitions, drawing competitions and lectures were organized by Nature Parks, Museums, NGOs, ZOO etc.

International Wetlands Day was also celebrated by different activities in Ministry of Culture and SINP.

7. Final comments

7.1 General comments on the implementation of the AEWA Action Plan

No special comments.

7.2 Observations concerning the functions and services of the various AEWA bodies

- a. The Agreement Secretariat*
- b. International organisations*
- c. AEWA NGO partners*

No special comments.

7.3 How might the Action Plan be further developed as a practical aid for national and international conservation of migratory waterbirds?

8. Progress to implement Resolutions and Recommendations of the Meeting of the Parties

Please summarize progress to implement decisions of previous Meetings of the Parties.

Croatia has been implementing the Resolution 3.18 (avian influenza) by further development of national surveillance scheme and development of research project related to disease processes in wild bird populations. The conclusions from the Waterbirds around the World conference (Resolution 3.7) were implemented by further development of waterbird monitoring schemes and by extending and strengthen network of key sites for waterbird (under NATURA 2000 network)

9. OPTIONAL SECTION – Planned and future actions

Contracting Parties are invited to outline below any further information regarding the aims of the Agreement, for example, planned actions or other informative examples.

1. Species conservation
2. Habitat conservation
3. Management of human activities
4. Research and monitoring
5. Education and information

List of abbreviations and acronyms used in the report

CRO-NEN - Building-up the National Ecological Network as a Part of the Pan-European Ecological Network & NATURA 2000 Network

KEC - Karst Ecosystem Conservation

MEPPP - Ministry of Environmental Protection and Physical Planning

NPA – Nature Protection Act (OG 70/2005)

NSAP – National Strategy and Action Plans for the Protection of Biological and Landscape Diversity

SNIP - State Institute for Nature Protection

References

Appendices

Appendix 1: Status of Single Species Action Plans

Proposed in 1st Priority group:

Action plan for protection of Corncrake (*Crex crex*)

Proposed in 2nd Priority group:

Action plan for protection of non-breeding bird populations of Avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*)

Action plan for protection of non-breeding bird populations of Slender-billed Curlew (*Numenius tenuirostris*)

Action plan for protection of Great Bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*)

Action plan for protection of Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) and Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*)

Action plan for protection of Kentish Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*)

Action plan for protection of Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*)

Action plan for protection of Red-crested Pochard (*Netta rufina*) and Ferruginous Duck (*Aythya nyroca*)

Action plan for protection of Little Tern (*Sterna albifrons*)

Proposed in 3rd Priority group:

Action plan for protection of Baillon's Crake (*Porzana pusilla*)

Action plan for protection of Jack Snipe (*Lymnocyptes minima*)

Action plan for protection of Gull-billed Tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica*)

Appendix 2: List of sites of international importance

List of internationally important protected sites:

Ramsar sites:

1. Special Reserve Neretva Delta (11,500 ha)
2. Nature park Lonjsko polje (50,650 ha)
3. Nature park Kopački rit (17,700 ha)
4. Special Ornithological Reserve Crna Mlaka (625 ha)

UNESCO World Natural Heritage

1. National park Plitvice lakes (29,482 ha)

List of internationally important sites for bird species covered by Agreement developed under CRO-NEN project Natura 2000 (www.cro-nen.hr):

1. Podunavlje and lower Podravlje - A4i, B1i, B1iii, B2, C1, C2,
2. Upper flow of the river Drava (from Legrad to Pitomača) – B2
3. Fishponds Grudnjak and Našice C2,
4. Gornje Poilovlje (incl. fishponds Poljana, Garešnica and Končanica) - A4i, B1i, C2,
5. Fishponds near river Česma (Siščani, Blatnica and Narta) C2
6. Fishpond Jelas polje B1i, B2, C2, C5,

7. Lonjsko polje (incl. fishpond Lipovljani) - B1i, B2, C1, C2,
8. River Sava from Žitnjak to Rugvica - B2
9. Pokupsko water basin (incl. fishponds Draganić, Crna Mlaka and Pisarovina) - A41, B1i, C2
10. Turopolje – B2
11. Karst fields in Lika (Ličko, Gacko, Krbavsko, Bjelopolje, Gračačko, Kosinjsko) - C2
12. Istria and National Park Brijuni A4ii, B1ii, C2
13. Kvarner archipelago - A4ii, B1ii, B2, C2
14. NW part of Dalmatia (incl. island Pag) - B1i, B1ii, B2, C2
15. Vransko lake, Pakoštane - A4iii, B2, C2
16. Silbanski grebeni and Zadar archipelago - A4ii, B1ii, B2, C2
17. National Park Krka - B1iii, B2, C2
18. Lastovo and surrounding islets (Lastovnjaci, Vrhovnjaci and Tajan) – B2
19. Off-shore islands - B1iii, B2, C2
20. River Neretva - B1i, B2, C2

Appendix 3: Status of management plans for sites of international importance

Nature Park Kopački rit – in preparation
 Nature park Lonjsko polje - in preparation

Appendix 4: List of research and monitoring programmes and projects

4.1. Research activities in last three years

- Karst Ecosystem Conservation (KEC) project (completed)
- Activities for protection of the eco-systems along rivers Drava and Mura on the national level and as a Man and biosphere (MAB) reserve
- Protection of biodiversity of flooded areas in river Sava catchments area (LIFE III project)
- Colour-ringing project of Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*) in Croatia (ongoing)
- Colour-ringing project of Black Stork (*Ciconia nigra*) and White Stork (*Ciconia ciconia*) in Croatia (ongoing)
- Colour-ringing projects of Yellow-legged Gull, (*Larus cachinnas michahellis*), Audouin's Gull (*Larus audouinii*) and Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*) in Croatia (ongoing)

4.2. Monitoring activities in last three years

Ongoing activities :

- Monitoring of Audouin's Gull (*Larus audouinii*) breeding population in Croatia
- Monitoring of Ferruginous Duck (*Aythya nyroca*) breeding and flyover population in Pokupsko basin and Lonjsko polje (Central Croatia)
- Monitoring of breeding colonies of herons and spoonbills (*Platalea leucorodia*) in Croatia
- Monitoring of breeding population of Pygmy Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax pygmaeus*) in Croatia

- Monitoring of wintering population of Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) in NW Croatia
- Monitoring of isolated breeding population of Goosander (*Mergus merganser*) in Croatia
- Monitoring of isolated breeding population of Redshank (*Tringa totanus*) in Croatia
- Monitoring of breeding population of Kentish Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*) in Croatia
- Monitoring of breeding population of Corncrake (*Crex crex*) in Croatia
- Monitoring of wintering waterfowl at Vransko lake (Dalmatia).
- Monitoring of breeding population of Shag (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis desmarestii*) in Croatia
- International Winter Waterfowl Census

Appendix 5: List of national institutions involved in migratory waterbird conservation

Ministry of Culture, Nature Protection Directorate

State Institute for Nature Protection

Ministry of Agriculture, Fishery and Rural Development (MAFRD)

Ministry of Science, Education and Sport (MSES)

Institute of Ornithology, Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts

Appendix 6: List of relevant World Wide Web addresses for national institutions involved in migratory waterbird conservation

http://www.min-kulture.hr/priroda/priroda_fr.htm

<http://www.dzrp.hr/>

<http://www.npkrka.hr/>

<http://www.brijuni.hr/>

<http://www.pp-lonjsko-polje.hr/>

<http://www.kopacki-rit.com/>

<http://www.vransko-jezero.hr/>

Appendix 7: List of relevant migratory waterbird and habitat conservation projects initiated, ongoing or completed in the last three years