

IPA 2009 CROATIA PROJECT FICHE

HR2009-03-27-08

1. Basic information

1.1 CRIS Number: IPA/2009/21661

1.2 Title: Capacity building for preparation of management plans and strengthening of nature protection inspection for proposed Natura 2000 sites

1.3 ELARG Statistical code: 03-27- Environment

1.4 Location: Zagreb and Zagrebačka County, Krapinsko-zagorska County, Sisačko - moslavačka County, Vukovarsko-srijemska County, Ličko-senjska County, Istarska County, Dubrovačko-neretvanska County

Implementing arrangements:

1.5 Implementing Agency: Central Finance and Contracting Agency (CFCA), Zagreb

Ms Marija Tufekčić

Programme Authorising Officer

Ulica grada Vukovara 284

10000 Zagreb, Croatia

1.6 Beneficiary (including details of SPO):

Ministry of Culture, Nature Protection Directorate
Ms. Nina Obuljen, State Secretary / Sectoral Programming Officer
Runjaninova 2, 10 000 Zagreb
Phone: 00 385 1 4866 301
e-mail: nina.obuljen@min-kulture.hr

The following project partners will be involved in the course of the project preparation/Implementation

- State Institute for Nature Protection
- Public Institutions for management of protected natural values
- Public Institutions for management of National parks and Nature parks

Financing:

1.7 Overall cost (VAT excluded)¹: EUR 1 950 000

1.8 EU contribution: EUR 1 700 000

¹ The total cost of the project should be net of VAT and/or other taxes. Should this not be the case, the amount of VAT and the reasons why it should be considered eligible should be clearly indicated (see Section 7.6)

1.9 Final date for contracting: 2 years following the date of conclusion of the
Financing Agreement

1.10 Final date for execution of contracts: 2 years after the end date for contracting

1.11 Final date for disbursements: 3 years following the end date for contracting

2. Overall Objective and Project Purpose

2.1 Overall Objective: Preservation of existing biodiversity in Croatia

2.2 Project purpose: Ensuring sustainable management and strengthening of inspection supervision in proposed Natura 2000 sites

2.3 Link with AP/NPAA / EP/ SAA

1. Stabilization and Association Agreement, COM (2001) - 371 final,

This project will contribute to the fulfillment of the Article 103 stipulations according to which “Croatia and the EU have committed to strengthen cooperation in combating environmental degradation and promoting environmental sustainability”. Priorities are given in particular to “the protection of the flora and fauna including forests and the conservation of biodiversity”, „international Conventions in the area of environment to which the Community is a Party“, “continuous approximation of laws and regulations to community standards” and „education and information on environmental issues and sustainable development“.

2. Accession partnership (Council Decision on the principles, priorities and conditions contained in the Accession partnership with the Croatia and repealing Decision 2006/145/EC, COM 5122/08, Brussels 5 February 2008)

This project will contribute to the following priorities stipulated under Chapter 27 Environment.

- Continue work on transposition and implementation of the EU acquis, with particular emphasis on waste management, water quality, air quality, **nature protection** and integrated pollution prevention and control.
- Ensure integration of environmental protection requirements into the definition and implementation of other sectoral policies and **promote sustainable development**

3. National Programme for the Integration of the Republic of Croatia into the European Union 2009

This project will contribute to the following priorities stipulated under Chapter 3.27.6. Nature protection

- Further employment and training at national and regional/local levels will be continued
- Drafting of all protected areas management plans will continue
- Adoption of proposal for NATURA 2000 sites and adoption of the Regulation of areas of international ecological importance (NATURA 2000) is expected

2.4 Link with MIPD:

Multi-Annual indicative planning document 2008-2010 sets “Reinforcing and coordination of administrative structures as one of the strategic choices for IPA assistance under IPA component I (Ability to assume obligation of membership)

2.5 Link with National Development Plan (where applicable): -

2.6 Link with national/ sectoral investment plans(where applicable): -

3. Description of project

3.1 Background and justification:

Pursuant to the Nature Protection Act (OG 70/05 and 139/08)(NPA) and Regulation on the internal organization of the Ministry of Culture (OG 21/08, 70/08) the Ministry of Culture (MoC) - Nature Protection Directorate (NPD) is responsible governmental body for administrative and expert affairs in nature protection field. Among other tasks, the MoC is obliged to approve management plans for protected areas, including national ecological network areas and future NATURA 2000 sites. The MoC - NPD implements a uniform Protected Area Management System covering all institutions on national and regional level responsible for management of protected areas and/or other protected values.

Also, MoC - Directorate for Nature Protection Inspection (DNPI) is responsible governmental body for nature protection inspection in Croatia. The main objective of the DNPI is to carry out inspection supervision in the field of nature protection. According to the Nature Protection Act (NPA) inspectional supervision over the application of the NPA and regulations passed on the basis thereof are carried out by the nature protection inspection within the MoC - DNPI, while direct supervision in protected areas is carried out by the chief supervisor and supervisors of the public institutions administering protected areas. Actually there are three levels of supervision: one on the state level (inspectors within the DNPI), one on the level of public institutions for management of national/nature parks (PIs) and one on the level of county public institutions for management of protected natural values in counties (CPIs).

State Institute for Nature Protection (SINP) is an institution centrally responsible for specialized nature protection activities in Croatia. These tasks include, among others, responsibility for organizing and implementing biodiversity inventorying, monitoring and operating a nature protection information system. The SINP is also responsible for evaluation of the management plans for protected areas, technical tasks in connection with drawing up the evaluation of nature impact assessment, preparation and implementation of project and programmes in the field of nature protection and organization and implementation of educational and promotional activities. (Decree of the Government of the Republic of Croatia dated 30 October 2002, OG 126/02). SINP is financed from the state budget through the MoC.

All national and nature parks are managed by the PIs established by the Government. There are 8 PIs for management of national parks and 11 PIs for management of nature parks. Those PIs are financed from the state budget through the MoC.

On county level the protected natural values are managed by regionally based CPIs that are established by counties assemblies in 20 out of 21 counties. Counties may also transfer their founder rights to cities and municipalities, so the strengthening of PI's continues at the local level. CPIs are financed out of County Budgets.

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). This regulation includes 1550 ecological network sites important for conservation of species and habitat types on national and European level including potential NATURA 2000 sites (pSCI's and SPA's). 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 framework, 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).

Preparations for setting-up National ecological network and NATURA 2000 network started in 2002 through LIFE III project Building up National Ecological Network as a part of the Pan-European Ecological Network and NATURA 2000 (CRO-NEN). It finished in June 2005, resulting with a GIS database (map) on ecologically important sites, including potential NATURA 2000 sites. Selection of sites was made exclusively upon the expert judgment based on the available scientific data. All existing data was gathered and processed into database and some new data has been collected through the field work of SINP staff and external assistants. Proposal of NATURA 2000 network is planned to be finalized through PHARE 2005 project - Institutional Building and Implementation of NATURA 2000 in Croatia by the SINP, after extensive consultation process with all relevant stakeholder groups. In the National Program for Accession to EU for 2009 key priorities include drafting of the proposal of NATURA 2000 sites and the adoption of the Regulation on internationally important ecological NATURA network sites is expected by the day of Croatia's accession to the EU. In the current NATURA 2000 sites proposal (16.10.2008) Croatia has 44,83% of its territory included.

According to the Article 4 of Regulation on Proclamation of Ecological Network, obligation to manage the sites of national ecological network and proposed NATURA 2000 sites is given to PIs and CPIs which should prepare management plans for sites under their jurisdiction and manage those sites accordingly. Content of the management plans for NEN and future NATURA 2000 sites is similar to the protected areas management plan and should include:

- a) The objectives of and policies in administering the site, with the following components:
 - perspective, mission and objectives for site in question,
 - site administration policy.
- b) Site protection guidelines with the following components:
 - evaluation of the site and zone of influence,
 - concept for protection of the entire area and its integral parts (zones),
 - monitoring the state of the site and its assets,
 - protection and administering the natural and cultural assets as well as resources of the site (programmes for protection, etc.),
 - development of authorized activities in a site area,
 - visiting the site (programs of visits, interpretations, etc.)
 - establishing connections between the site and its neighbouring areas,
 - impact on environment and socio-economic complex.
- c) Implementation of the plan, with the following components:
 - guidelines for integrating sectoral plans,
 - activities in implementing the plan,
 - control of implementation of the plan,
 - costs of implementation of the plan,
 - method and sources of financing,
 - institutional structure and bodies responsible for administering the site.

According to Article 8 of Regulation on Proclamation of Ecological Network PIs and CPIs also have an obligation to carry out monitoring of the species and habitats considered to be conservation objectives of the sites. Development of a monitoring plan on a state level for EN and

NATURA 2000 sites is responsibility of the SINP (to be developed before the accession), while detailed monitoring plans should be developed for each particular site..

This project is aiming to increase the level of knowledge and expertise of employees of the MoC, SINP and CPIs regarding procedure of preparation of management plans for proposed NATURA 2000 sites. Project will also develop several management plans for selected sites in selected counties and develop monitoring plan for habitats and species designated as conservation objectives of selected sites with involvement of all relevant stakeholders, especially forestry, hunting, fisheries, agriculture and water management sector. Active communication and networking with the stakeholders during the entire project will be very important for the success of the project. The NPD and SINP have very good knowledge and overview of the capacity, staffing, experience and tasks of the CPIs as well as of other stakeholders and NGOs and will provide all necessary information.

Sites selected for preparation of management plans and produced management plans (MP's) will serve as an example of MPs for other sites with similar characteristics (e.g. similar conservation objectives). Employees of CPIs who will be educated in the framework of this project regarding preparation of the MP's, can share their experience and train colleagues in other public institutions with similar sites and conservation objectives of the sites.

In line with the above mentioned, the MoC has invited all CPIs to express their willingness to participate in this project and to propose their future NATURA 2000 sites for which management plans should be prepared. The reaction of CPIs was very positive and proposed sites were taken into consideration. According to the opinion of the SINP the MoC selected 6 potential sites in 7 counties, distributed evenly throughout Croatia taking into account specific characteristics of proposed sites. Those sites are:

- alluvial forests in Vukovarsko-srijemska county,
- wet meadows in Istria county important for protection of false ringlet (*Coenonympha oedipus*) which is HD Annex II species,
- complex Mediterranean fields and mountain areas in Dubrovačko-neretvanska county,
- alluvial wet meadows in Sisačko-moslavačka county,
- karstic fields in Ličko-senjska county and
- transboundary river in Krapinsko-zagorska county.

At the beginning of the project in cooperation with the TA, the list will be revised in accordance with the current status. However, it is expected that the number of sites stays the same.

According to the article 10 of the Regulation on Proclamation of Ecological Network supervision of the implementation of this Regulation, including implementation of management plans, is performed by nature protection inspection and supervisors of PIs and CPIs. All inspectors and supervisors on all levels are responsible for supervision of national ecological network sites and future NATURA 2000 sites. The overall nature protection supervision capacity in the Republic of Croatia, including nature protection inspectors and supervisors in PIs and CPIs, is around 150 employees. In order to have an effective inspection and supervision in proposed NATURA 2000 sites it is important to build adequate information system for all inspectors and supervisors as a part of Nature Protection Information System (NPIS). NPIS is defined according to Article 68 of the NPA, where it is said that SINP manages the NPIS as part of an integral information system of the MoC, in compliance with internationally agreed standards and commitments.

Through the finished CRO-NEN project some elements of the NPIS have already been established by the SINP: the GIS database on CRO-NEN sites. The general concept of the NPIS and the management of existing databases is developed through the finished CARDS 2002 project

“Capacity Building: State Institute for Nature Protection” with recommendation for future actions in this regard. Based on this report, the SINP completed a national project aimed to design the NPIS architecture. The national project has created adequate NPIS architecture and data model and structure for integration of SINP databases and defined IT infrastructure for its implementation.

The NPIS architecture has set up framework for appropriate integration of SINP databases and Protected Areas Management System (PAMS) and databases of data providers in to efficient state of the art information system. This activity was finished in the first half of 2007. The NPIS is envisioned as a distributed web geographic information system based on industry standards. The NPIS should integrate SINP databases with existing or future segments of IS of protected areas management authorities and network of other data users/providers with the purpose of harmonisation of collection and exchange of nature protection related data, as well as reporting to the Croatian Government and international community – EC and EEA.

MoC implemented already in information system the VPN connection between all public institutions, implementing same standardization for hw, sw platform. Therefore, all future components need to be compatible with the current system. Based on a system that is already used it is planned to establish new additional functionality and new sw modules specially designed for nature protection inspection and supervisors for supervision of proposed NATURA 2000 sites.

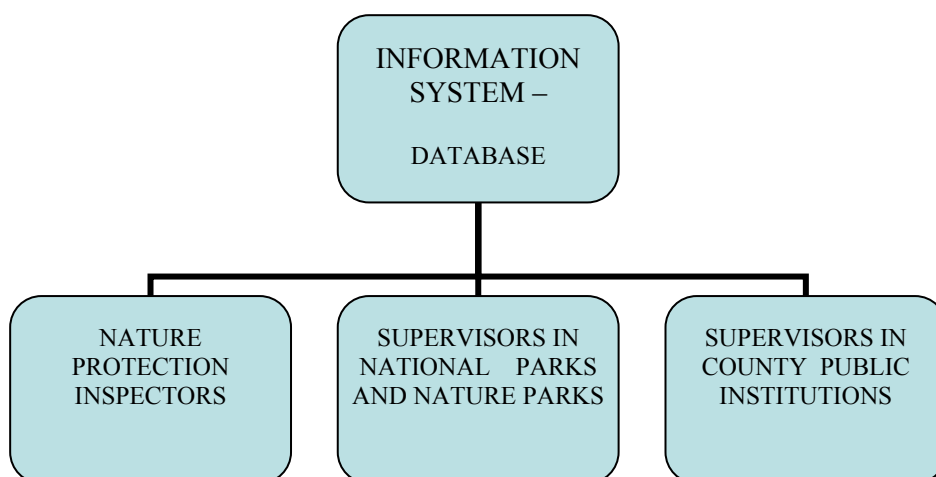
This is the first project that proposes the development of an information system to be used by inspectors and supervisors engaged in nature protection supervision.

It is envisaged that the proposed information system be integrated into the existing NPIS. The input and use of data from the system would be made possible for all three levels of supervision previously mentioned. The information system would contain all the forms required in the supervision of nature protection (in electronic form) and the forms would be filled out on a daily basis by all the participants from all the three mentioned levels.

After activities in the field, inspectors and supervisors should be able to enter into the data base, through an approved password system, following data on:

- the institution for which carried out the supervision;
- physical or legal person that was the object of supervision
- established state
- established irregularities
- legal basis for possible sanctions
- supervision results

It is envisaged that nature protection inspectors have the highest level of authorization in the system (in accordance with the NPA) while supervisors in public institutions will have a lower level of authorization.



Thus created database would be filled out on a daily basis by all inspectors and supervisors and serve as the basis for planning of additional supervision activities and survey of the work results.

An information system that would connect all those included in nature protection supervision would provide:

- an improved organizational structure
- uniformity of procedures
- faster exchange of information
- better work efficiency
- an improved reporting system
- the possibility of better education

The implementation of effective supervision in the proposed NATURA 2000 sites requires, along with other preconditions, adequate IT equipment with accompanying programme support as well as other equipment used in field work (database server, web server, firewall and communication equipment, PCs, monitors, printers, scanners, laptops, GPS devices, cameras, video cameras, microchip readers, system and application sw, CAD and GIS utility sw, installation, configuration accessories and security policies, Arc Editor and ArcView licensees).

In the framework of the PHARE 2005 project “Institutional Building and Implementation of NATURA 2000 in Croatia», which is being implemented by the SINP, some IT equipment was purchased and distributed to 17 CPIs that were established at the time (17 PCs and monitors and 17 GPS devices). Also 5 CPIs have acquired laptops. 2 acquired database servers and several cameras/video cameras are being used only by the SINP. Equipment that was given to the CPIs is used by expert staff of CPIs, not by supervisory service. With this proposed project all necessary equipment for nature protection inspectors and supervisors in public institutions for effective supervision and inspection, will be ensured.

Main beneficiary of this project is the Ministry of Culture, who is responsible governmental body for NATURA 2000 in Croatia in general, and public institutions for management of protected natural values at county level which manage selected (future) NATURA 2000 sites. Other public institutions and SINP will benefit from the training on methods for preparation of management plans and management of NATURA 2000 sites.

SINP will also contribute to the project with their inputs in relation to monitoring and preparatory activities for development of monitoring plans for selected sites.

Adequate office for the **project team** will be provided by the Ministry of Culture and will be located in the same area as the MoC NPD and DNPI . Members of the project team will travel occasionally on the different sites in the counties, as needed by the project.

All inspectors which are regionally distributed will have adequate working space in regional offices (county departments) of the MoC.

The Ministry of Culture is on disposition for adequate administrative capacities for the project implementation. Already, there are five employees both in MoC NPD and DNPI involved in the preparation of this project. It is also planned to employ 8 new employees within the MoC NPD in 2009. One of the employees will work on issues related to international projects and one will work on issues related to ecological network and NATURA 2000 sites.

3.2 Assessment of project impact, catalytic effect, sustainability and cross border impact (where applicable)

Project Impact: The realization of the project purpose will significantly contribute to the implementation of the NPA, but also to the fulfillment of the obligation regarding adequate management of the NATURA 2000 sites. Most importantly that will be done by capacity building for the preparation of management plans but also thorough the development of the nature protection supervision information system and adequate equipping of the nature protection inspectors.

Catalytic effect: As this project is relevant for progress of Croatia negotiations in chapter 27 as regard to nature protection, IPA-TAIB assistance will definitely facilitate that process by supporting capacity building in that field.

Sustainability of this project component related to the management plans will be ensured through the fact that management plans that will be prepared would serve as the pilot (model) ones for other sites of the similar characteristics and secondly thorough the fact that CPI staff trained for the preparation of the management/monitoring plans will deliver their expertise through the “train the trainers”. As regards Information system component of the project the Ministry of Culture will ensure the establishment of a fully functional system in terms of connecting to the server and enabling access to the software/database all stakeholders supplied with the equipment. Furthermore, it shall ensure training for nature protection inspectors and supervisors in order to acquire the required skills to use the information system.

Cross border impact:

3.3 Results and measurable indicators:

The results of this project are:

- raising knowledge on management plan preparation and actual preparation and drafting of management plans for 6 selected sites together with plans for future monitoring activities on those selected sites.

- strengthening of the nature protection inspection in order to undertake better and more efficient supervision of implementation of management plans according to Nature Protection Act

According to this, the following results are expected:

Result 1: Increased knowledge on preparation of management plans at central and county level

- indicator: 20 of workshops/round tables delivered at central level and counties

Result 2: Management plans and monitoring plans for selected sites drafted and developed

- indicator: 6 management plans and 6 monitoring plans (separated or integrated in the management plans)

Result 3: National information system for nature protection supervision developed

- indicator: software/database for the information system developed and functional

Since TWL will finish before the equipment is procured and delivered (especially web/database servers) the presentation and the testing of the system will be possible only on a sample base under the technical capacity of the inspection service of the Ministry of culture in Zagreb. Therefore under the scope of the TWL project the functionality of the IS will be demonstrated on the sample basis. Installation and full functionality of the system will be ensured subsequently by the beneficiary

Result 4: Equipment for nature inspection supervision system delivered

- indicator: number of equipped inspectors and supervisors

3.4 Activities:

Contract 1. - technical assistance

Activities in relation to Results 1:

Activity 1.1.: Carry out workshops for all CPIs, the Ministry of Culture and SINP on preparation of NATURA 2000 management plans

- these workshops are aimed to increase general knowledge of CPIs employees, as well as employees of the MoC and SINP on preparation of NATURA 2000 management plans and its implementation; it is planned to organise 2 workshops for around 40 people per workshop.

Activity 1.2.: Deliver on-the-job training

- after workshops carried out under activity 1.1 present employees of CPIs should be able to share their knowledge with other colleagues in their institutions

Activities in relation to Results 2:

Activity 2.1.: Assess situation in relation to data availability and institution capacity in 6 selected counties prior to preparation of management plans

- prior to the preparation of management plans for selected sites the assessment of situation including data availability, institution capacity, availability of experts and stakeholders, etc. must be undertaken; if needed other sites can be selected or additional data collection could be undertaken;

Activity 2.2.: Organise stakeholder workshops and carry out study trips

- these workshops will be delivered in order to collect all necessary information and to carry out consultation process with all involved stakeholders in order to develop 6 selected management plans; each management plan should be prepared through at least 3 workshops/round tables per county, so in total at least 18 workshops/round tables are envisaged; this activity may include study trips;

Activity 2.3.: Drafting the management plans

- assistance in drafting 6 management plans according to the inputs from Activity 2.1 and 2.2.;

Activity 2.4.: Presentation of draft management plans

- each of 6 management plans will be presented and discussed through workshop on the county level with all relevant stakeholders present;

Activity 2.5.: Identify and contact potential monitoring organizations

- in order to develop a monitoring plan for each selected NATURA 2000 sites relevant expert NGOs, scientific institutions or individual scientists/expert, etc., should be identified and contacted;

Activity 2.6.: Hold workshops with identified monitoring organizations in order to discuss development of monitoring plans

- in order to develop a monitoring plan for selected NATURA 2000 site it will be necessary to held at least 2 workshops with selected monitoring organizations in each county.

Contract 2. - twinning light

Activities in relation to Results 3:

Activity 3.1.: Analyse the existing state and the needs for the development of the IS for the nature protection inspection / supervision

- assessment of the current situation regarding the functioning of the nature protection information system
- assessment of the needs for the development of new additional functionality/SW module of the NP information system specially designated for the nature protection inspectors / supervisors, including listings of necessary administrative data required for the development of such system; This needs assessment should related to the programming component (software) as well as equipment component of the IS with the latter one including the verification of the proposed list of IT equipment that needs to be purchased under the supply contract
- methodological and technical preparation with making draft of architecture for nature protection inspectors/supervisors information system, technical and applicable assumptions, including safety of information system and data back up. Proposed architecture has to be compatible with the overall NPIS architecture model.

Activity 3.2.: Develop a national information system for nature protection for inspection supervision

- detailed specification of software on the basis of information needs and users requirements
- software development for nature protection for inspection supervision
- proposal and devising respective electronic forma required in the supervision of nature protection and proposal for the approval/password system
- presentation of developed information system with its entire database to the representatives (inspectors) of the Ministry of Culture²
- testing of the developed software/data base on a sample unit in the Ministry of culture³

Activity 3.3.: System testing

² Since TWL will finish before the equipment is procured and delivered (especially web/database servers) the presentation and the testing of the system will be possible only on a sample base under the technical capacity of the inspection service of the Ministry of culture in Zagreb. Therefore under the scope of the TWL project the functionality of the IS will be demonstrated on the sample basis. Installation and full functionality of the system will be ensured subsequently by the beneficiary

³ See footnote 2

- preparation of a draft of the instructions and Manual for usage of the Information system

Contract 3. - supply

Activities in relation to Results 4:

Activity 4.1.: Deliver and install equipment

- supply of necessary equipment and data protection applications
- installation of purchased equipment

Activity 4.2.: Pilot application of the equipment

- testing of purchased equipment
- preparation for commissioning by the users (inspectors and supervisors)

Activity 4.3.: Provide adequate training in using the inspectors' equipment

- in accordance with Activity 4.5. organizing of a workshop for nature protection inspectors and supervisors is envisaged who will undergo trainers' training, acquire the required skills to use purchased equipment

3.5 Conditionality and sequencing:

Adequate office for the project team will be provided by the Ministry of Culture and will be located in the same area as the MoC NPD and DNPI . Members of the project team will travel occasionally on the different sites in the counties, as needed by the project. The Ministry of Culture is on disposition for adequate administrative capacities for the project implementation. Already, there are five employees both in MoC NPD and DNPI involved in the preparation of this project. It is also planned to employ 8 new employees within the MoC NPD in 2009, . One of the employees will work on issues related to international projects and one will work on issues related to ecological network and NATURA 2000 sites.

The Twinning light contract will start approximately three to four months earlier then tendering of the supply contract, since the list of equipment that is expected to be purchased under supply contract, is to be verified via Activity 3.1 (assessment of the needs for the development of new additional functionality of the NP information system specially designated for the nature protection inspectors / supervisors)

Equipment from Contract 3. planned within the project, which could not be realized for various reasons from the project, will be purchased from the State budget during 2010 in accordance with financial possibilities at that moment.

3.6 Linked activities:

For the moment there are 3 ongoing projects in Croatia and 2 finished project, described bellow, aiming to develop several management plans for some ecological network sites and future NATURA 2000 sites. It is important to emphasize that each of those projects relates to areas of Croatia which are different from areas proposed by this project. Areas covered by ongoing projects are: forest areas important for large carnivores, lake area important for birds, karst wetland areas and marine areas.

- CARDS 2002 project “Capacity building of the State Institute for Nature Protection” contributed to strengthening negotiation position in the field of nature conservation and subsequent compliance with EU Habitats and Birds Directives. In the scope of this project, a network of different stakeholders in nature protection was developed and cooperation agreements initiated, management plans for two small future NATURA 2000 sites were developed (**Dubravica Bog in Zagrebačka County and Đurđevac Sands in Koprivničko-križevačka County**) and general concept of the NPIS and the management of existing databases were developed. Based on recommendation of this project SINP has started a project aimed to establish the Cro-Fauna database, as unique database and platform for processing all data on fauna, collected by relevant institutions. National Biodiversity Monitoring Programme (NBMP) started through the CRO-NEN project and further developed through this project.
- The PHARE 2005 project “Institutional Building and Implementation of NATURA 2000 in Croatia», which is being implemented by the SINP has officially started in January 2008. The overall objective of this project is to support the Croatian institutions in approximation to EU Habitats (HD) and Birds Directive (BD). Through the project the consultant should assist the Croatian authorities in implementing the Natura 2000 network in accordance with national legislation and EU Environmental *Acquis*. The project has five specific objectives: (1) development of Natura 2000 proposal; (2) **preparation of the management plan for Vransko Lake Nature Park and Jasen candidate Natura 2000 site (Zadarska and Šibensko-kninska County)**; (3) **development and start of the implementation of the management plan for the candidate Natura 2000 site important for large carnivores (Primorsko-goranska County and Ličko-senjska County)**; (4) expert training for establishment and implementation of the mechanism for assessment of impact on Natura 2000 sites; and (5) dissemination of project results. In the framework of component (4) training was held for representatives of Nature Protection Directorate (including Nature Protection Inspection), State Institute, environmental and physical planning sector, including interested stakeholders.
- The PHARE 2005 project “Enhanced Environmental Inspection for Enforcement of New Environmental Legislation” is aimed to enhance environmental inspection for needs of improvement of the structure, equipment, permanent education and specific specializations, as well as reporting and co-operation with other relevant institutions, for the enforcement of provisions stipulated by existing and new environmental laws as harmonized with environmental *acquis*.
- The project „Capacity building of local public institutions for management of protected natural values, in process of legislative alignment with EU“ financed by Swedish fund SIS through Croatian Ministry of Foreign Affairs was conducted from June 2008 – December 2008 in the Ministry of Culture. In the framework of this project 2 management plans for ecological network sites and proposed NATURA 2000 sites are prepared - **MP for Drežničko polje including Polje Lug and MP for Dretulja river. Both sites are in the karstic area and are located in the Karlovačka County.**
- The project „Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem - Pilot-project for Croatian marine protected areas“ (MedPan) started in 2008 and is financed by FFEM (Fonds Français pour l’Environnement Mondial) and other private and international foundations (WWP-MedPO, RAC/SPA). The aim of the project is to enlarge effectiveness of biodiversity conservation of valuable coastal and marine areas by creating coherent network of protected marine areas and development of management plans for

selected marine parks: national parks Kornati, Mljet and Brijuni, as well as nature parks Telašćica and Lastovo archipelago

There are also two approved IPA projects described below which have no direct connection with the proposed project in terms of development of management plans, but can be of significant importance by providing additional information on species and habitats:

- IPA 2007 TAF “Identification and Setting-up of the marine part of Natura 2000 network in Croatia – Marine NATURA 2000”. The purpose of project is identification of marine part of the NATURA 2000 network as an obligation of Croatia as the country acceding to the EU. Through this project potential NATURA 2000 marine sites will be identified in cooperation with local stakeholders, based on existing marine part of NATURA 2000 proposal and existing BD data. Data on distribution of species and habitat types from annexes to the Habitats Directive in 7 selected pilot / priority marine areas of NATURA 2000 will be collected and marine Habitat maps (max. scale 1:25,000) for 7 selected pilot / priority marine areas of NATURA 2000 will be prepared. Also, Marine BD Monitoring Programme for 7 pilot sites will be established.
- IPA 2007 TAF “Development of faunistic and speleological databases (CRO fauna and CRO speleo), as part of NPIS (Nature Protection Information System I IPA 2007 TAF). Through this project, SINP will create architecture (data model) for Cro-Fauna database and CRO Speleo database as unique database and platform for processing all data on fauna and speleology, collected by relevant institutions. Implementation of this model is an important component for functionality of NPIS.

It is important to mention that two above mentioned projects will not significantly overlap, timewise, with the proposed project. Namely, both IPA TAF 2007 projects will be tendered by the end of 2009 and finished in the beginning of 2010 while this proposed project is expected to start in the beginning of 2010. Additionally, it is important to mention that main beneficiary of this project is the Ministry of Culture, as responsible governmental body for NATURA 2000 in Croatia, all other institutions involved will benefit from the training on methods for preparation of management plans and management of NATURA 2000 sites.

Also, the results of this project will be linked with the PAMS project described below:

- Project “Protected Areas Management System (PAMS) - Phase II - capacity building for regional public institutions (PI) for management of protected areas” started in the III. quarter 2007 and is planned to end by the end of II quarter of 2009. The project is financially supported by the Government of Norway and adheres to the Project “Protected Areas Management System (PAMS) - Phase I – capacity building for the public institutions of national and nature parks”, which had ended in the II quarter of 2007. The new project “Protected Areas Management System (PAMS) - Phase III” is focused on implementation of the ecological network and it has been proposed and is contracted in 2008. This project will also be financially supported by the Government of Norway and the beneficiaries are the MoC, SINP and the State Geodetic Administration.

According to all above mentioned there is no overlapping between this proposed project and so far implemented projects.

3.7 Lessons learned:

The lessons learned from the previous EU projects were mainly related with the need for precise preparation of the necessary documentation, dead-lines respecting and necessity of establishment of close cooperation with relevant institutions. Special attention was given to the possible links with the ongoing project, relevant outputs that can be used and ensuring avoidance of the overlap.

4. Indicative Budget (amounts in EUR)

| | | | SOURCES OF FUNDING | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------|---------|--------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|-----------|------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|-------------------------|--------------|----------------------|----------|
| | | | TOTAL EXP.RE | TOTAL PUBLIC EXP.RE | IPA COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION | | NATIONAL PUBLIC CONTRIBUTION | | | | | PRIVATE CONTRIBUTION | |
| ACTIVITIES | IB (1) | INV (1) | EUR (a)=(b)+(e) | EUR (b)=(c)+(d) | EUR (c) | % (2) | Total EUR (d)=(x)+(y)+(z) | % (2) | Central EUR (x) | Regional/ Local EUR (y) | IFIs EUR (z) | EUR (e) | % (3) |
| Contract 1 Technical assistance | 1.250.000 | 0 | 1 250 000 | 1 250 000 | 1 125 000 | 90 | 125 000 | 10 | 125 000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Contract 2 Twinning light | 250.000 | 0 | 250 000 | 250 000 | 237 500 | 95 | 12 500 | 5 | 12 500 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Contract 3 Supply | 0 | 450.000 | 450 000 | 450 000 | 337 500 | 75 | 112 500 | 25 | 112 500 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTAL IB | | | 1 500 000 | 1 500 000 | 1 362 500 | 91 | 137 500 | 9 | 137 500 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTAL INV | | | 450 000 | 450 000 | 337 500 | 75 | 112 500 | 25 | 112 500 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTAL PROJECT | | | 1 950 000 | 1 950 000 | 1 700 000 | 87 | 250 000 | 13 | 250 000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

NOTE: DO NOT MIX IB AND INV IN THE SAME ACTIVITY ROW. USE SEPARATE ROW

Amounts net of VAT

(1) In the Activity row use "X" to identify whether IB or INV

(2) Expressed in % of the **Public** Expenditure (column (b))

(3) Expressed in % of the **Total** Expenditure (column (a))

5. Indicative Implementation Schedule (periods broken down per quarter)

| Contracts | Start of Tendering | Signature of contract | Project Completion |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Contract 1. Technical assistance | 2nd Q 2010 | 4 th Q 2010 | 2 st Q 2012 |
| Contract 2. Twinning light | 2 nd Q 2010 | 1 st Q 2011 | 3 rd 2011 |
| Contract 3. Supply | 2 nd Q 2011 | 4 th Q 2011 | 1 st Q 2012 |

All projects should in principle be ready for tendering in the 1ST Quarter following the signature of the FA

6. Cross cutting issues (where applicable)

6.1 Equal Opportunity

Equal access regardless of sex, nationality, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation will be guaranteed for participation in the project. Equal opportunities will be ensured by the Steering Committee during the project implementation

6.2 Environment

The project will not have any negative effects on the environment, even more one of the main requirements for the future monitoring system is to be environmentally safe.

6.3 Minorities

Based on the fundamental principles of promoting equality and combating discrimination, participation in the project will be guaranteed on the basis of equal opportunity for minorities

ANNEXES

- 1- Log frame in Standard Format
- 2- Amounts contracted and Disbursed per Quarter over the full duration of Programme
- 3- Description of Institutional Framework
- 4 - Reference to laws, regulations and strategic documents:
 - Reference list of relevant laws and regulations
 - Reference to AP /NPAA / EP / SAA
 - Reference to MIPD
 - Reference to National Development Plan

Reference to national / sector investment plans

5- Details per EU funded contract (*) where applicable:

For *TA contracts*: account of tasks expected from the contractor

For *twinning covenants*: account of tasks expected from the team leader, resident twinning advisor and short term experts

For *grants schemes*: account of components of the schemes

For *investment contracts*: reference list of feasibility study as well as technical specifications and cost price schedule + section to be filled in on investment criteria (**)

For *works contracts*: reference list of feasibility study for the *constructing works* part of the contract as well as a section on investment criteria (**); account of services to be carried out for the *service part* of the contract

(*) non standard aspects (in case of derogation to PRAG) also to be specified

(**) section on investment criteria (applicable to all infrastructure contracts and constructing works):

- Rate of return
- Co financing
- compliance with state aids provisions
- Ownership of assets (current and after project completion)

ANNEX 1: Logical framework matrix in standard format

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| LOGFRAME PLANNING MATRIX FOR Project Fiche | Programme name and number | |
| Capacity building for preparation of management plans and strengthening of nature protection inspection for proposed Natura 2000 sites | Contracting period expires | Disbursement period expires |
| | Two years following the date of conclusion of the Financing Agreement | Three years following the end date for contracting |
| | Total budget : 1 950 000 EUR | IPA budget:1 700 000 EUR |

| Overall objective | Objectively verifiable indicators | Sources of Verification | |
|---|--|---|---|
| Preservation of existing biodiversity in Croatia | percentage reduction in species reduction in species number count | Ministry of Culture reports Ministry of Culture statistics | |
| Project purpose | Objectively verifiable indicators | Sources of Verification | Assumptions |
| Ensuring sustainable management and strengthening of inspection supervision in proposed Natura 2000 sites | percentage reduction in species reduction in species number count number of inspections / supervisions Amount and quality of data fed into the system | Ministry of Culture reports Ministry of Culture statistics Outputs of the national information system for nature protection supervision | Continued political support to environmental protection Political support to the nature protection |
| Results | Objectively verifiable indicators | Sources of Verification | Assumptions |
| Result 1: Increased knowledge on preparation of management plans at central and county level | 20 workshops delivered to central level and counties | Project reports | support from local initiatives |
| Result 2: Management plans and monitoring plans for selected sites drafted and developed | 6 management plans and 6 monitoring plans | Ministry of Culture reports | sufficient staff available for training |
| Result 3: National information system for nature protection supervision developed | software/database for the IS developed and functional | System outputs | Support from within the administration |
| Result 4: Equipment for nature inspection supervision system delivered | number of equipped inspectors and supervisors | | IT support from within the administration |

| Activities | Means | Costs | Assumptions |
|--|--|---------------|--|
| <p><u>Under Contract 1</u></p> <p>Activity 1.1 Carry out workshops for all CPIs, the Ministry of Culture and SINP on preparation of NATURA 2000 management plans</p> <p>Activity 1.2.: Deliver on-the-job training</p> <p>Activity 2.1.: Assess situation in relation to data availability and institution capacity in 6 selected counties prior to preparation of management plans</p> <p>Activity 2.2.: Organise stakeholder workshops and carry out study trips</p> <p>Activity 2.3.: Drafting the management plans, including data collection</p> <p>Activity 2.4.: Presentation of draft management plans</p> <p>Activity 2.5.: Identify and contact potential monitoring organisations</p> <p>Activity 2.6.: Hold workshops with identified monitoring organizations in order to discuss development of monitoring plan</p> | TA contract | 1 250 000 EUR | <p>Good co-ordination and timing of project activities</p> <p>Good working relationship established with TA team</p> |
| <p><u>Under Contract 2</u></p> <p>Activity 3.1.: analyse the existing state / needs for the development of the IS for the nature protection inspection / supervision</p> <p>Activity 3.2.: develop a national information system for nature protection for inspection supervision</p> <p>Activity 3.3.: draft user guidelines</p> | Twinning light | 250 000 EUR | |
| <p><u>Under Contract 3</u></p> <p>Activity 4.1.: Deliver and install equipment</p> | Supply contract (including required training) ⁴ | 450 00 EUR | |

⁴ Equipment from Contract 3. planned within the project, which could not be realized for various reasons from the project, will be purchased from the State budget during 2010 in accordance with financial possibilities at that moment

| | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| <p><i>Activity 4.2.:</i> Pilot application of the equipment</p> <p><i>Activity 4.3.:</i> Provide adequate training in using the inspectors' equipment</p> | | | <p>Good coordination and timing of project activities</p> <p>Good working relationship established with Twinning light team</p> <p>Proper analysis of needed equipment and its specifications carried out</p> |
|---|--|--|---|

Pre conditions

ANNEX II: amounts (in EUR) Contracted and disbursed by quarter for the project

| Contracted | 2010 | 2010 | 2010 | 2010 | 2011 | 2011 | 2011 | 2011 | 2012 | 2012 |
|-------------------|------|------|------|----------------|----------------|------|------------------|------------------|------|------------------|
| | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1 | Q2 |
| Contract 1 | | | | 1 250. 000 | | | | | | |
| Contract 2 | | | | | 250 000 | | | | | |
| Contract 3 | | | | | | | | 450 000 | | |
| Cumulated | | | | 1 250 000 | 1 500 000 | | | 1 950 000 | | |
| Disbursed | | | | | | | | | | |
| Contract 1 | | | | 400 000 | | | 400 000 | | | 450 000 |
| Contract 2 | | | | | 100 000 | | 150 000 | | | |
| Contract 3 | | | | | | | | 450 000 | | |
| Cumulated | | | | 400 000 | 500 000 | | 1 050 000 | 1 500 000 | | 1 950 000 |

**

ANNEX III: description of institutional framework

The Act on the Structure and Scope of Ministries and State Administrative Organisations (OG 199/03) sets out the area of competence of **the Ministry of Culture** in the matters of culture, cultural heritage and nature protection (including genetically modified organisms).

The Ministry of Culture performs the following administrative and other activities in the domain of nature protection: research, studying, monitoring, recording, documenting and promoting natural heritage, central information and documentation services; identifying and evaluating characteristics of protected areas of nature; running central registers of protected areas of nature; prescribing criteria to identify programmes addressing nature protection requirements in the Republic of Croatia; ensuring, harmonising and managing supervision of the financing of nature protection programmes; establishment and supervision of institutions performing nature protection activities; assessment of working conditions for legal and natural persons involved in nature protection activities; laying the groundwork for education and training of professional staff in the field of nature protection, supervision of trade in protected areas of nature, their import and export; setting out requirements for the use and intended purpose of protected areas of nature, management of protected areas of nature; defining nature protection requirements; nature protection inspection activities. The Ministry is also responsible for supervision of the legality of operations of the State Institute for Nature Protection.

In addition to the scope of activities determined by law, the Nature Protection Directorate of the Ministry of Culture is also responsible for:

- carrying out administrative and other tasks contributing to the establishment of the Croatian ecological network in the system of ecologically important areas and eco-corridors,
- implementation of international nature protection agreements and treaties of which the Republic of Croatia is a party,
- activities related to approximation of Croatia's legislation to the *acquis* in the field of protection of species and habitats, foreign trade in endangered species of wild flora and fauna and deliberate release of GMOs into the environment.

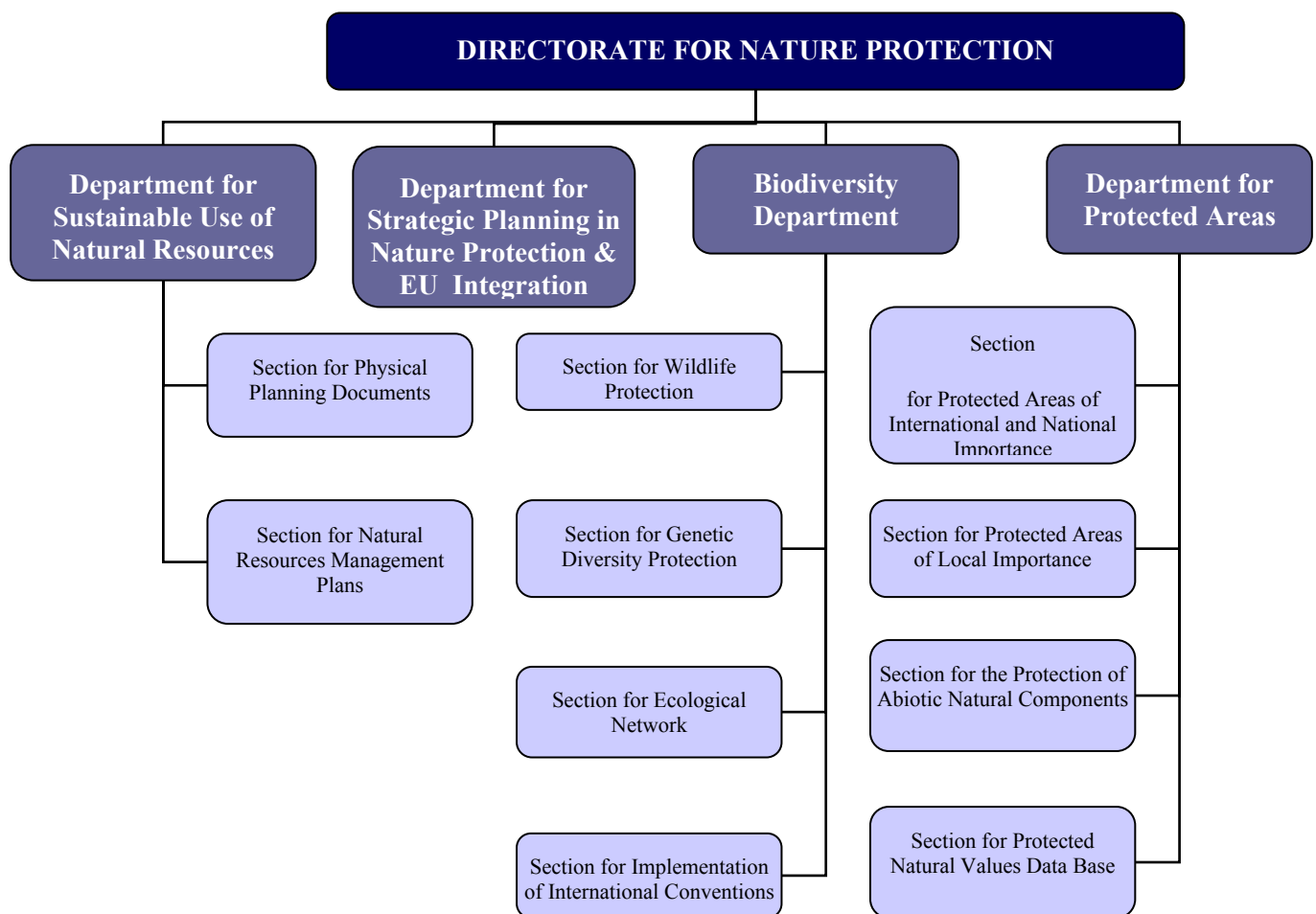
Ministry of Culture, Nature Protection Directorate is competent authority for implementation of all international conventions in the field of nature protection and biodiversity/landscape conservation (UN Convention on Biological Diversity and related Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, CMS and related agreements AEW, ACCOBAMS, EUROBATS, Bern Convention, Ramsar Convention, etc.)

Pursuant to the Regulation on amendments to Regulation on internal organization of the Ministry of Culture (OG 70/08), the Ministry consists of 9 Directorates and one independent Department: Directorate for International Cultural Cooperation, Directorate for the Protection of Cultural Heritage, Directorate for Cultural Development and Cultural Policy, Directorate for Visual Arts, Performing Arts and Music, Directorate for Books and Publishing, the Nature Protection Directorate, Directorate for Management and Financing, Directorate for Normative, Administrative and Legal Affairs, Directorate for Nature Protection Inspection and Independent Department of Internal Audit.

The Nature Protection Directorate was structured as shown below in December 2006; it consists of the following 5 Departments and the pertaining Sections:

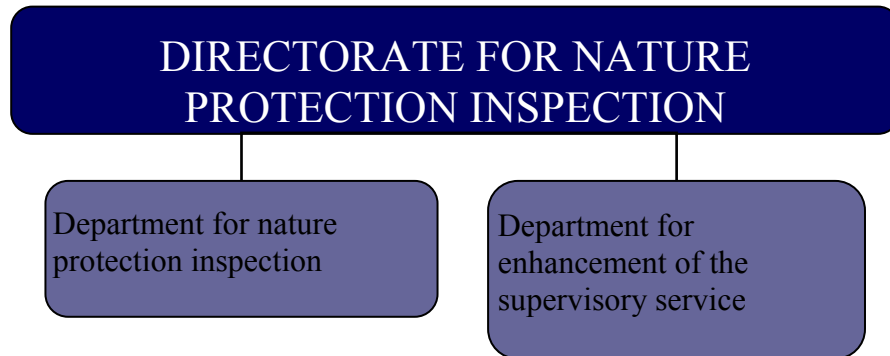
1. Biodiversity Department

- Section for Wildlife Protection
 - Section for Genetic Diversity Protection
 - Section for Ecological Network
 - Section for Implementation of International Conventions
2. Department for Protected Areas
 - Section for Protected Areas of International and National Importance
 - Section for Protected Areas of Local Importance
 - Section for Protection of Abiotic Natural Components
 - Section for Protected Natural Values Data Base
 3. Department for Sustainable Use of Natural Resources
 - Section for Physical Planning Documents
 - Section for Natural Resource Management Plans
 4. Department for Strategic Planning in Nature Protection, and EU Integration



The Directorate for Nature Protection Inspection was established in June 2008 according to the Regulation on amendments to Regulation on internal structure of the Ministry of Culture (OG 70/08). This directorate is structured of two departments: Department for nature

protection inspection and Department for enhancement of the supervisory service.



The **State Institute for Nature Protection (SINP)** is a public institution that performs its business activity as a public service. SINP was established by a Regulation on establishment (OG 126/2002) passed by the Government of the Republic of Croatia. It became operational in September 2003. The Institute is managed by an Administrative Council. The activities envisaged under the Nature Protection Act include the following expert tasks: collection and processing of data related to nature protection; setting up of appropriate databases on plant, fungi and animal species, types of habitats, ecosystems and landscapes; collection and setting up of databases on invasive alien species; monitoring of the degree of conservation of the biological and landscape diversity and proposing protection measures; preparing expert background for the protection and conservation of nature parts or nature values; developing expert background for the purpose of determining the terms of nature protection, management of protected area and utilisation of natural resources; statistical analysis, result consolidation and preparation of reports on the state and protection of nature; expert tasks related to the assessment of nature-friendliness of various projects; preparation and implementation of nature protection projects and programmes; participation in the implementation of international nature protection agreements to which the Republic of Croatia is a party; organisation and implementation of educational and promotional nature protection activities.

After a new Ordinance on internal organisation was passed in 2008, four departments with their accompanying sections were formed within SINP: Department for Wild and Domesticated Taxa and Habitat Types (with 8 sections); Department for Nature Impact Assessment (with 4 sections), Department for Protected Areas (with 4 sections) and Department for Landscapes (with 2 sections).

Protected areas are managed by the **public institutions**, established under the Nature Protection Act (OG 70/05 and 139/08):

- PI in charge of National Parks and Nature Parks – established by the Government of the Republic of Croatia;
- CPI for the management of protected natural values – established by regional self-government units and the City of Zagreb that may transfer their founders' rights to the local self-government units (cities, municipalities).

Every PI is managed by an Administrative Council, but it also has a director as well as expert and supervisory services.

8 PIs in charge of national parks and 11 PIs in charge of nature parks have already been founded, as well as 20 CPIs (of 21) for the management of protected natural values at the county level and 7 at the local level.

ANNEX IV: Reference to laws, regulations and strategic documents:

Reference list of relevant laws and regulations

Croatian legislation:

- Nature Protection Act (OG 70/05 and 139/08)
- Regulation on proclamation of the ecological network (OG 109/07)

European Commission legislation:

- Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (Habitat Directive)
- Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds (Birds Directive)

Reference to AP /NPAA / EP / SAA

- Stabilization and Association Agreement, COM (2001) - 371 final
- Accession partnership (Council Decision on the principles, priorities and conditions contained in the Accession partnership with the Croatia and repealing Decision 2006/145/EC, COM 5122/08, Brussels 5 February 2008)
- National Programme for the Integration of the Republic of Croatia into the European Union 2009

Reference to MIPD

Multi-Annual indicative planning document 2008-2010 Section 2, page 12

Reference to National Development Plan – no reference

Reference to national / sector investment plans – no reference

ANNEX V: Details per EU funded contract:

For TA contracts:

For this project in relation to **Contract 1** the Republic of Croatia asks for technical assistance for the following reasons:

The Ministry of Culture selected 6 potential sites in 7 counties, distributed evenly throughout Croatia taking into account specific characteristics of proposed sites. Having in mind specific characteristics of selected NATURA 2000 sites in terms of species and habitats, as well as specific local situation, it is hard to expect that adequate partners in EU countries' administration could be found, so through technical assistance it will be necessary to engage consultants with wider expertise and specific insight in situation on selected sites.

For *TA contracts*: account of tasks expected from the contractor

- Organize workshops for all CPIs, the Ministry of Culture and SINP
- Make analysis of existing situation regarding availability of data, institutional and administrative framework
- Organize workshops and round tables for all stakeholders in process of preparation of draft management plans
- Organize study trips to selected sites
- Contact all relevant stakeholders in relation to selected NATURA 2000 sites
- Draft management plans for selected sites
- Identify (with input from Ministry of Culture and SINP) and contact potential monitoring organizations and organize workshops in order to develop monitoring plans
- Develop monitoring plan for selected sites
- Participate on the Steering Committee meetings and inform about undertaken activities

For *twinning light*: account of tasks expected from the MS public sector expertise⁵

- Examine and give assessment of the current situation of information system.
- Make analysis of the current situation of information system and give recommendations for methodology of work.
- Drafting of architecture for information system, technical and applicable assumptions, including safety of information system and data back up
- Working on technical project as basis for programming.
- Development of software that ensures the functioning information system.
- Making technical recommendations for equipment procurement.
- Presentation of database model to inspectors in the Ministry of culture .
- Testing on a sample basis upon development of software.
- Writing instructions and Manual.

⁵ Term used based on the Twinning manual since TWL doesn't allow for the RTA

- Other activities related to the methodological and technical preparation in developing information system

For *investment contracts*: reference list of feasibility study as well as technical specifications and cost price schedule + section to be filled in on investment criteria (**)

-See market study attached to this PF

For *works contracts*: reference list of feasibility study for the *constructing works* part of the contract as well as a section on investment criteria (**); account of services to be carried out for the *service part* of the contract

(*) non standard aspects (in case of derogation to PRAG) also to be specified

(**) section on investment criteria (applicable to all infrastructure contracts and constructing works):

- Rate of return (NA)
- Co financing (National joint co-financing for all three contracts will be earmarked in the state budget)
- compliance with state aids provisions (Project has no compliance with state aids provisions)
- Ownership of assets (current and after project completion):
Ministry of Culture