

Output Factsheet

Output title: 3.2: SavaParks Capacity Building Programme

Summary of the output (max. 2500 characters)

The aim of the Output **3.2. SavaParks Capacity Building Programme** was to improve knowledge, develop new skills and competences of the SavaParks Network members for effective invasive alien species (IAS) management that would contribute towards improved conservation status of habitats and wetland ecosystems in the Sava River basin.

Capacity building program was realised by implementation of the Activity A.T1.2 Raising capacities of SavaParks Network members that resulted into following deliverables:

- Deliverable D.T1.2.1 Study visit
- Deliverable D.T1.2.2 Trainings for partners and other stakeholders

The main purpose of study visit, held on 11-13 September 2019, was to increase knowledge of project partners and other SavaParks Network members about different methodologies of invasive species control, containment and eradication that have been successfully applied in Kiskunság National Park and Körös-Maros National Park in Hungary. Participant learned about whole process and results of the following eradication methods:

- herbicide injection method, selectively applied to target IAS (Kiskunság NP)
- partnership to combat IAS - cleaning the area from IAS manually (Kiskunság NP)
- traditional land use by cattle grazing and haying (Körös-Maros NP)

The aim of the trainings was to increase participants` knowledge on IAS management good practices in different sectors (nature conservation, agriculture, forestry, water management) as well as to develop new skills for increasing impact of the IAS management activities among stakeholders and improve communication and negotiation skills with stakeholders from different sectors and with different interest.

In total 3 training were organised:

The first training was held in Bihać on 18 October 2019 with the purpose of developing skills of project partners and other SavaParks Network members on (i) how to make a plan to increase an impact of a project results among wider stakeholder community and (ii) how to use World Café method to establish collaborative dialogue among different stakeholders.

The second training was organised on 7 October 2020 Online on ZOOM platform with the main purposes of (i) developing participants` communication and negotiation skills and (ii) gaining new knowledge about good practices in IAS management coming from Serbia and Croatia.

The third training was organised on 24 February 2021 Online on ZOOM platform with the aim of introducing SavaParks Network members and other stakeholders with good practices in IAS management applied worldwide. Relevant speakers from Bulgaria, Canada, Slovenia, South Africa, Turkey, and USA presented their experience in IAS management that helped Sava River basin stakeholders to get new insights in IAS management topic.

Contribution to the project and Programme objectives (max. 1500 characters)

Output 3.2. SavaParks Capacity Building Programme contributes to the main project objective by increasing capacities of all parties from the Sava River basing interested in nature protection to efficiently operate in invasive alien species (IAS) management process.

In addition to that, output 3.2 contributes to project specific project objective 1 “to engage cross-sectoral stakeholders in SRB habitat restoration” by providing skills, knowledge and tools to the project partners and other SavaParks Network members to efficiently communicate, negotiate and establish collaborative dialogue among different stakeholders as well as to increase impact of a project results and engage wider stakeholder community in solving IAS issue.

What is more, Output 3.2. directly contributes to specific project objective 2 “To achieve integrated, transnational management of IAS in SRB” by providing opportunities to SavaParks Network members to improve capacities for IAS management by learning on good IAS management practices from the region and worldwide.

Having in mind all mentioned above output 3.1 contribute to the program Programme specific objective “Foster the restoration and management of ecological corridors”.

Transnational impact (max. 1500 characters)

Representatives of different institutions relevant for nature management in the Sava River Basin from 4 countries participated at study visit and 3 trainings which was not only opportunity for increasing relevant knowledge, but also opportunity for sharing experience and discussion among Sava River basin stakeholders which fostered joint spirit and awareness on necessity of transnational cooperation for efficient IAS management in the SRB.

Contribution to EUSDR actions and/or targets (max. 1500 characters)

Output 3.2 contributes to PA4, PA5 and PA6 of EUSDR. It contributes in particular to target 1 and 3 of PA6.

Target1 of PA6:

“Improve management of Natura 2000 sites and other protected areas through transnational cooperation and capacity building”.

Target3 of PA6:

“Reduce the introductions and spread of Invasive Alien Species (IAS) in the Danube Region”

Raising capacities of stakeholders for Invasive Alien Species management is precondition for successful achievement of target 1 and 3 of PA6.

Performed testing, if applicable (max. 1000 characters)

N/A

Integration and use of the output by the target group (max. 2000 characters)

SavaParks Network members and other stakeholders from the Sava River basin were direct beneficiaries of SavaParks Capacity Building Programme (Output 3.2). Knowledge on good practices in IAS management, in particular practical field experience on different eradication practices during the study visit, will help protected areas managers to innovate and improve IAS eradication practices in their protected areas and IAS management planning.

Knowledge and skills on communication and negotiation that stakeholders obtained at trainings

will be further used in their daily work to improve relationships with stakeholders from different sectors and with different interest. This will contribute to smoother decision making and better cooperation among stakeholders with conflicting interests.

Exercised methodologies for increasing an impact of a project results among wider stakeholder community and how to use World Café method to establish collaborative dialogue among different stakeholders will be used by trained stakeholders in the future for better developing and implementing of environmental projects.

Geographical coverage and transferability (max. 1500 characters)

Output 3.2 covered the Sava River Basin countries: Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Hercegovina and Serbia. However, capacity building program developed within SavaTIES project could be used in other similar regions from Danube River Basin and beyond.

Thus, output 3.2 has strong transferability potential.

Durability (max. 1500 characters)

Skills and knowledge provided by the capacity building program will be used by project partners, SavaParks Network members and other stakeholders after project is finished. Gained knowledge on IAS management good practice will be used by stakeholders to improve IAS related filed work, while more general skills on communication, negotiation, project impact planning will be used in activities related to nature protection in general and IAS management in particular.

Synergies with other projects/ initiatives and / or alignment with current EU policies/ directives/ regulations, if applicable (max. 1500 characters)

Output 3.1 is in line with all EU IAS related regulations and strategic documents, such as:

- UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters.
- EU Strategy on invasive alien species.
- EU biodiversity strategy 2030

Output integration in the current political/ economic/ social/ technological/ environmental/ legal/ regulatory framework (max. 2000 characters)

Capacity building program is not the Output that as such could be integrated into current political/ environmental/ legal/ regulatory framework.

However, having in mind that it foster capacities of stakeholders, in particular communication and negotiation skills, it could facilitate integration of other outputs or other results to be developed in the future into political environmental/ legal/ regulatory framework.