



Food and Agriculture Organization  
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## CAPACITY BUILDING FOR A SUSTAINABLE GAME MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

June 2020

SDGs:



Countries:

Republic of Serbia

Project Codes:

TCP/SRB/3603

FAO Contribution

USD 317 000

Duration:

15 January 2018 – 31 December 2019

Contact Info:

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### Implementing Partners

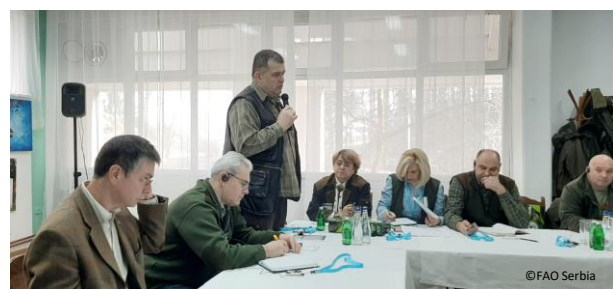
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management (MAFW).

### Beneficiaries

MAFW staff, local communities from rural areas, hunting groups and associations.

### Country Programming Framework (CPF) Outputs

CPF (2019-2022) Output 2.2. Sustainable management of natural resources including protection of biodiversity, wildlife and forests strengthened.



## BACKGROUND

Sustainable game management requires adequate and reliable information about the extent and state of existing resources and the changes in those resources over time. In Serbia, after the adoption of the Law on Game Management and Hunting in 2010, hunting areas were established in order to implement existing strategic planning documents, and to take appropriate measures for the protection and improvement of game populations. Despite this, game management and hunting practices in the country remain unsatisfactory and the Draft Hunting Development Strategy of Serbia (2015-2029) has never been adopted. As a result, considering the current state of game populations and management in Serbia, it is evident that both the number and the spatial distribution of the majority of game species are not in accordance with the natural carrying capacities of the habitat. This unfavourable situation is related to weaknesses in the 2010 Law and subordinate legislation, all of which should be reviewed by wildlife and legal experts to ensure that a future game management system complies with good practices and sustainability standards.

The objective of the project was to develop an up-to-date game management system for Serbia and to improve the transparency and consistency of information on game, hunting and trade management and monitoring for planning and reporting purposes. The sustainability of the results of the project would be ensured through the revision of current procedures stipulated by the above-mentioned legislation, and by using the capacities developed and the data provided by the project to establish a long-term programme for sustainable game management.

## IMPACT

The expected impact of the project was an improved system of planning and monitoring game populations and their habitats that would make a significant contribution to sustainable wildlife management, rural development and biodiversity conservation. Although time constraints made it impossible for the project to carry out all the activities originally envisaged, the outputs delivered will serve as a basis for an improved future wildlife management system.

## ACHIEVEMENT OF RESULTS

The outcome of the project was to enable informed and evidence-based decision-making on game related issues, using a landscape approach and focusing on livelihoods. This was expected to be achieved through three outputs: a report on the management of game resources in Serbia, the strengthening of national capacities to implement a sustainable game, hunting and trade management and monitoring system, and an improved habitat assessment system for sustainable hunting. Because of the limited timeframe available, not all activities under these three outputs were performed. However, the major deliverables, including a country profile of the wildlife sector, a review of wildlife monitoring and planning systems, a draft game, hunting and trade information system, and national capacity building, were produced; the missing deliverables are expected to be achieved through other available resources.



## IMPLEMENTATION OF WORK PLAN

The delayed submission of some technical reports resulted in considerable delays in the delivery of subsequent reports and the workshops designed to build on them. Despite this, the project was implemented in accordance with the original timeframe and budget, and no budget revisions were conducted during implementation.

Risks envisaged in the Project Document included conflicting interests impeding the adoption of needed legislation, low technical capacity at national and local level, and a lack of government commitment. The main risk during project implementation was found to be the limited timeframe. Following initial delays, a six-month extension would have been desirable. However, this was not possible as a result of the financial closure of the previous biennium (2018-2019).

## FOLLOW-UP FOR GOVERNMENT ATTENTION

Clear recommendations and priorities were formulated for follow-up activities after the end of the project. The priority for the Government is to operate a countrywide monitoring system and to create an information system containing up-to-date data to allow sustainable game management.

## SUSTAINABILITY

### 1. Capacity development

A thorough evaluation on the legal background, conducted under Output 1, resulted in two reports: one focused on national legislation and the other on how international obligations are translated into national legislation. These will provide a basis for reform of the current legal system. Throughout project implementation, events were organized with a participatory approach and involving participants from different sectors, building knowledge and awareness of the relevant issues.

### 2. Gender equality

Although the wildlife management and hunting sector is male dominated, the project successfully encouraged women to participate in events.

### 3. Environmental sustainability

As the main aim of the project was the sustainable management of wildlife resources through strengthened national capacities to implement wildlife resources assessment, management and monitoring, the project's performance in mainstreaming environmental sustainability can be considered satisfactory.



### 4. Human Rights-based Approach (HRBA) – in particular Right to Food and Decent Work

Human rights issues were not taken into specific consideration during the design of the project.

### 5. Technological sustainability

The technology used during training was selected on the basis of the latest technology developments and by taking into consideration possibilities for future utilization.

The project contributed to the development of local knowledge and capacities, inviting training participants from different organizations and locations, and holding training in various regions of Serbia to allow participants to come from remote areas. The capacities of stakeholders, above all in wildlife monitoring, were strengthened during project implementation. This should be sufficient for future activities, although the dissemination of knowledge to other regions of Serbia is still required.

### 6. Economic sustainability

Economic issues were not taken into specific consideration during the design of the project.



## DOCUMENTS AND OUTREACH PRODUCTS

- ❑ Legal gap analysis diagnostic tool for sustainable hunting in Serbia. Nino Gogsadze. August 2018. 47 pp.
- ❑ Report on existing habitat assessment systems and carrying capacities in relation to specific game species in Serbia. Dragan Gacic. Belgrade, Serbia. December 2018. 14 pp.
- ❑ Preliminary assessment of national legislation of Serbia relevant to hunting. Nino Gogsadze. January 2019. 15 pp.
- ❑ Report from the first workshop about legal analysis and information needs assessment. Predrag Glavonjic. Belgrade, Serbia. February 2019. 21 pp.
- ❑ Back-to-office report (BTOR) including the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the legal analysis. Nino Gogsadze. February 2019. 7 pp.
- ❑ Report on existing game management system in Serbia. Nenad Novakovic and Predrag Glavonjic. March 2019. Serbia. 30 pp.
- ❑ Report from the second workshop on good practices in game population monitoring, habitat quality assessment, hunting management and game resources utilization. Predrag Glavonjic and Nenad Novakovic. Belgrade, Serbia. July 2019. 17 pp.
- ❑ Wildlife Management and Game/Hunting Information and Communication System in Serbia (final draft). Predrag Glavonjic, Niels Hahn and Nenad Novakovic. April 2020. 79 pp





## ACHIEVEMENT OF RESULTS - LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

Outcome	Informed and evidence-based decision-making on game-related issues, using a landscape approach and focusing on livelihoods		
	Indicator	1. Level of knowledge that major Serbian stakeholders possess on good practices for game monitoring and use. 2. Consultations carried out and agreements reached with project partners on recommendations for necessary changes in legislation, institutional arrangements and choice of policy instruments.	
	Baseline	1. Limited knowledge of advanced, up-to-date game management. 2. Inadequate and scattered data and information on game resources and use; inadequate game management legislation.	
	End Target	1. Know-how on good practices for game monitoring and use transferred to Serbian partners. 2. Agreements reached with project partners on recommendations for necessary changes in legislation, institutional arrangements and choice of policy instruments.	
	Comments and follow-up action to be taken	Owing to time constraints posed by the late start of project implementation and the impossibility of a project extension, not all foreseen activities could be carried out. Nevertheless, the project delivered a number of outputs that can serve as a basis for an improved future wildlife management system.	
Output 1	Report on management of game resources in Serbia		
	Indicators	Target	Achieved
	Data collected and country profile of game resources management produced.	One country profile.	Yes
Baseline	0		
Comments	The project team collected information on policies, laws and regulations that had direct or indirect impact on the use of wildlife resources and the related institutional setting, and developed a country profile of the wildlife sector. The legal environment of game management was assessed against international requirements. Findings were presented to, and discussed with, relevant stakeholders.		
Activity 1.1	Collect information on policies, laws and regulations with direct or indirect impact on the exploitation of wildlife resources and the related institutional setting, and develop a country profile of the wildlife sector (including inception seminar)		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	An inception seminar was held on 21 March 2018 (Belgrade, Serbia). A preliminary assessment of national legislation of Serbia relevant to hunting was conducted by the international consultant, with the support of the national consultant.	
Activity 1.2	Develop diagnostic tool encompassing all sectors directly and indirectly related to wildlife resources, and use it to review and revise relevant existing national legislation against international obligations and standards to ensure consistency and compliance		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	A legal gap analysis diagnostic tool for sustainable hunting in Serbia was prepared by the international consultant to assess domestic legislation on hunting against applicable international legal instruments (conventions, agreements, directives, etc.). Its main objective was to identify how international obligations are translated into national policies and laws, as well as to detect and address any gaps for improving the country's overall sustainable hunting management system.	

Activity 1.3	Consultation with stakeholders on legislation	
	Achieved	Yes
	Comments	<p>On 5-7 February 2109 (Fruska Gora, Serbia), a workshop was organized to present legal findings (back-to-back with Activity 2.2). Highlights of the concerns and challenges expressed by national stakeholders included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– The absence of the monitoring system, as this is a critical part of sustainable wildlife management. There is no data collection tool and the creation of the central database along with the reporting obligations at the central level will be the priority.</li> <li>– There is a need for more flexible regulations in developing and changing hunting ground management plans, in order to adapt them to specific local environmental needs.</li> <li>– The absence of information exchange and collaboration among the various public entities with a role and responsibility in sustainable hunting management, in particular between the MAFW, the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection and the Hunting Chamber and Hunters' Association.</li> <li>– There is no scientific body to serve MAFW as an advisory body, technically justifying and backing the decision-making process.</li> </ul> <p>The detailed list of challenges discussed and presented by the working groups is included in the relevant BTOR of the international consultant.</p>
Activity 1.4	Organize legal training to government officials as well as law enforcement officials and other relevant stakeholders on the proposed legal framework for wildlife protection and sustainable game management	
	Achieved	Partially
	Comments	<p>On 11-13 February 2019 (back-to-back with Activity 1.3), a three-day discussion working group was organized for detailed discussions on legal gaps and analysis, under the leadership of the international legal expert. The results are included in the relevant BTOR. Owing to the limited number of participants this activity was marked as partially achieved.</p>
Activity 1.5	Presentation of recommendations for legal amendments to policy makers	
	Achieved	No
	Comments	Owing to the delayed start of project activities in 2018 and the impossibility of an extension for administrative reasons, this activity could not be carried out within the project implementation period.
Activity 1.6	Drafting proposal for a National Game Management Programme (NGMP)	
	Achieved	No
	Comments	Owing to the delayed start of project activities in 2018 and the impossibility of an extension for administrative reasons, this activity could not be carried out within the project implementation period. Nonetheless, the proposal for a NGMP is being finalized by FAO through other resources available.
Activity 1.7	Public relation campaign on the improved game management system	
	Achieved	No
	Comments	Owing to the delayed start of project activities in 2018 and the impossibility of an extension for administrative reasons this activity could not be conducted within the project implementation period.

Output 2	National capacities for implementing a sustainable game, hunting and trade management and monitoring system strengthened		
	Indicators	Target	Achieved
	Strengthened national capacities for sustainable game, hunting and trade management and monitoring.	Information system developed and experts' capacity strengthened.	Yes
Baseline	0		
Comments	With the technical assistance and support of FAO, the capacities of experts from various institutions were strengthened. However, the final training on future game management and monitoring system could not be delivered. The project results will contribute to the inclusion of wildlife habitats and biodiversity considerations in future decision-making processes by the Government on wildlife management and hunting issues in the country.		
Activity 2.1	Reviewing existing game management system		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	During the first phase of project implementation, national consultants prepared a review of existing systems of wildlife monitoring and planning in Serbia. This report served as a basis for all subsequent activities.	
Activity 2.2	Information needs assessment for game, hunting and trade monitoring system		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	A workshop was organized on legal analysis and information needs assessment (5-7 February 2019, Fruska Gora, Serbia; back-to-back with Activity 1.3). The associated report was prepared by national consultants.	
Activity 2.3	Consultation on good practices in game management		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	Workshop on good practices in game population monitoring, habitat quality assessment, hunting management and game resources utilization (8-9 July 2019, Belgrade, Serbia) was held with the participation and support of experts from Bavaria, Germany, who contributed to the success of the workshop by sharing their experiences on the development and use of the Bavarian wildlife information system. This was implemented back-to-back with Activity 3.2.	
Activity 2.4	Development of game, hunting and trade information system		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	International and national consultants jointly prepared a final draft report on Wildlife Management and Game/Hunting Information and Communication System in Serbia. When software and information technology infrastructure background become available, a wildlife management and monitoring module following the report's recommendations can be developed.	
Activity 2.5	Capacity building to implement the improved management and monitoring system		
	Achieved	Partially	
	Comments	During the previous workshop (Activity 2.3), participants expressed a need for practical training in monitoring techniques targeting those professionals most likely to obtain and provide basic monitoring data. In response, training in monitoring was implemented in two locations (Zagubica and Becej, 10-14 February 2020) with different terrain conditions to demonstrate specific monitoring needs related to site conditions and to allow more people to participate. However, part of the capacity building on the future game management and monitoring system could not take place as initially planned owing to the shortened timeframe of the project.	

Output 3	Improved habitat assessment system for sustainable hunting		
	Indicators	Target	Achieved
	Habitat assessment system approved.	Improved habitat system for sustainable hunting.	Partially
Baseline	0		
Comments	Capacities on habitat assessment in the country were strengthened. An objective for the future should be to include an improved habitat assessment methodology in a future hunting management system. Owing to time constraints posed by the late start of project implementation and the impossibility of an extension, half of the planned activities under Output 3 could not be completed. However, FAO is currently following up on some incomplete activities through other resources available.		
Activity 3.1	Review of the habitat assessment system		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	During the first phase of project implementation, the national consultant prepared the report on existing habitat assessment systems and carrying capacities in relation to specific game species in Serbia.	
Activity 3.2	Workshop on habitat assessment		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	A workshop was held on good practices in game population monitoring, habitat quality assessment, hunting management and game resources utilization (8-9 July 2019, Belgrade, Serbia) with the support of experts from Bavaria, Germany. This activity was implemented back-to-back with Activity 2.3.	
Activity 3.3	Improve habitat assessment system		
	Achieved	No	
	Comments	Owing to the delayed start of project activities in 2018 and the impossibility of an extension for administrative reasons, this activity could not be carried out. Nevertheless, FAO is finalizing the deliverables listed below through other resources available: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Habitat requirements of main game species.</li><li>– Use of different grid approaches to assess habitats for certain game species.</li><li>– Habitat quality assessment report.</li><li>– Decision tree for habitat assessment.</li></ul>	
Activity 3.4	Capacity building on habitat and carrying capacity assessment		
	Achieved	No	
	Comments	Owing to the delayed start of project activities in 2018 and the impossibility of an extension for administrative reasons this activity could not be accomplished.	



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