

COUNTRY REPORTING ON THE NATIONAL ASSESSMENT AND CONSULTATION PROCESS FOR WSSD

(max 2 pages)

For the National Assessments of the Implementation of Agenda 21 for WSSD, we would kindly ask you to provide us with a simple country reporting on the national assessment and consultation process for WSSD following the below outline:

Country: CROATIA

Prepared by: Vladimir Jelavić, CO Croatia

A. Background

1. Does your country have a National Agenda 21 or a similar strategy/policy document? (If yes, please list the key focus areas addressed in that document)

Croatia does not have National Agenda 21 but it has the very comprehensive policy document addressing the sustainable development, entitled **Croatia for 21st Century**. This document encompasses all aspects of the socio-economic development of the country with consideration of the environment issues with its full scale. Already completed chapters of the document are available on www.vlada.hr.

Very recently **National Environment Action Plan** has been completed, which is the first one of this kind. The principles of sustainable development have been incorporated in this document thus recognizing the importance of an integrated approach to protection of the environment. As the first step towards implementation, Ministry for Environment and Physical Planning, with assistance of World Bank, has organized a Donor Conference aiming to find financial support for implementation of the priority actions needed. NEAP is going to be submitted on Croatian Parliament on consideration in late autumn of 2001.

In respect the UN biodiversity convention, the **Croatian National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan (BSAP, 2000)** has been prepared and adopted. As country relatively rich with biodiversity, marked as having an ecosystems of global significance, Croatia gives full attention to policy recommendation of BSAP. This Plan sets out strategy principles, including the incorporation of measures for conservation into all economic activities and the harmonization of efforts in protection of biological and landscape diversity with relevant international activities.

In respond to commitment to the UNFCCC Croatia has prepared its **First National Communication** aiming to be submitted to COP7 on November 2001. The First National Communication has been prepared through the UNDP/GEF Enabling Activities project, having broad participation of all stakeholders with substantial contributions of sectorial studies made by business sector and scientist and NGO-s.

Beside above, sectorial policy documents and plans have been developed for physical planning, transport, agriculture, sustainable strategy of islands etc.

2. Are there any Local Agenda 21 initiatives in your country?
(If yes, please list the key focus areas of the Local Agenda 21 initiatives)

Local Agenda 21 initiatives are coming from some NGO-s but they still do not have sufficient policy support on local and national level. A one recently prepared project from local NGO initiative is aimed to mobilize actions on national level but there are no available funds, in spite of Ministry support. A few towns are members of ICLEA (International Council for Local Environment Actions) and in private sector Sustainable Business Council is promoting the sustainable development principles.

3. How has your UNDP Country Office and/or National Capacity 21 Program been involved in the National Agenda 21/Local Agenda 21 process in your country?

UNDP Resident Representative office in Croatia has been established in the mid of year 2000, with starting to build the environment portfolio capacities in year 2001. The role of CO in Agenda 21 begins with Ministry decision to jointly prepare the RIO+10 preparatory programme, in fact being done few weeks ago.

In fact, the CO through its two Local Economic Development (LED) offices situated in area affected by the war, is implementing the principles of Local Agenda 21 in some extend.

In Human Development Report issues on National Agenda 21 are considered.

B. National WSSD Preparatory Process (ongoing/planned):

1. What are the key objectives of the preparatory process?

Preparatory programme is not developed but it is envisaged that the key objective will be the rising of all stakeholders awareness and enabling the platform for discussion of national priorities based on existing policy planning document, mainly government strategy Croatia for 21 Century.

2. When did it start?

The first assessment report has been done at the end of 1996. The Croatian Government in that time has nominated a Working Group for the elaboration of the *Report on the Implementation of Agenda 21 in the Republic of Croatia*. The Working Group consisted of representatives from the governmental institutions, civil society, business and academia. The Report on the Implementation of Agenda 21 in the Republic of Croatia was accepted by the Croatian Government, after which it was forwarded to the Commission on Sustainable Development in April 1997. It is available on UN web page within country profile.

A new assessment process has been not started yet on programatic way.

3. Who is financing the process? (Government, UNDP, Capacity 21, others...)

Ministry for Environment Protection and Physical Planning will be financing process with its in-kind work. It is planned that process will be seeking for financing by different donor funds aimed for this purpose. The contribution available from UNDP Capacity 21 support in amount of 10,000 USD is essential, enabling to CO for having a mobilizing role in preparation process.

4. Which national agency is leading the process?

The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Physical Planning was established in 2000 by merging of the State Directorate for Environment and the Ministry of Physical Planning, Building and Housing, and has as such assumed a more active role in preparing the national reports. It serves as the contact body, while the national focal point is not only preparing the report but also co-ordinating among bodies and institutions, which are involved in this process.

5. Who are the key stakeholders participating in the process? How are they participating?

Not yet being decided.

What are the cross-cutting themes of the national WSSD preparatory process (e.g., poverty and sustainable development, sustainable energy, sustainable communities, etc.)?

Not yet being decided.

6. What is the methodology/mechanism established for the preparatory process? (working groups, consultation processes, reports, etc.)

Not yet being decided.

7. How has your UNDP CO and/or National Capacity 21 Program (if one exists) been involved in the preparatory process?

Not yet being decided.

8. What are the needs to ensure the continuation of the process (technical and/or financial)?

The financial support for process is essential and the technical support is needed in the way of information exchange workshops.

C. Workplan:

Please attach the workplan for the national preparatory process (if available).

Note: Kindly submit the report to Mr. Rastislav Vrbensky (rastislav.vrbensky@undp.org), copied to Ms. Esra Sarioglu (esra.sarioglu@undp.org) before **15 September 2001**, for distribution during the workshop.