

ANNUAL PROJECT REPORT (APR)

Basic programme/project information

Programme or project number and title: 00047440 Restoration of Golema Reka

Project starting date:

Originally planned: 01 October 2005

Actual: 01 December 2005

Project completion date:

Originally planned: 31 December 2007

New: 31 July 2008

Total budget:

Original: 1,000,000 CHF

Latest signed revision: 2,000,000 CHF

Period covered by the report: 01 January – 31 December 2007

3. What risks or unknowns can you identify in implementing a gender perspective?

Potential risks are related to the lack knowledge and previous experience on dealing with gender related issues.

4. Can you suggest how such risks might be minimized (within or beyond the scope of your project)?

Raising awareness and providing training on gender issues among key stakeholders, decision makers, consultants and project personnel

1. What are the major achievements of the programme or project vis-à-vis the expected results during the year under review? To the extent possible, include an assessment of the potential impact, sustainability and contribution to capacity development.

- During the reporting period all the technical documentation required for implementation of the physical measures for restoration of the riverbed of Golema Reka was completed. After being revised several times, the documentation was cleared and verified by the external Reviewer to assure the required quality and to present a solid basis for further implementation of the river restoration/protection measures.
- The project initiated the process of gathering permits from the local government of Resen and the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning required according to the pertaining national legislation. In that regard permit for the construction works was obtained by the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning upon the approval of the Environmental Impact Assessment Study for the river restoration design.
- The municipal authorities are very close to the finalization of the procedure for resolving the land ownership related issues along the river section which will be subject to regulation/restoration, in accordance to the provisions of the expropriation elaborate prepared by the project. It is expected that these issues will be resolved by mid-January 2008 latest.
- Technical designs for the storm water drainage and wastewater collection system have also been completed. The quality and level of detail of the designs has been confirmed by the reviewing companies, which signed the verification documents as required according to the national legislation (Law on Construction). Both designs are fully integrated with the river regulation design and are result of a close cooperation with the relevant local authorities.
- In addition, detailed design for the construction and electric works required for installation of the hydrological monitoring station has also been completed. This design duly incorporates the relevant provisions of the main/basic river restoration design. This monitoring station will allow Golema Reka to become a part of the national level river monitoring system (RIMSYS) established through the support provided previously by the Government of Switzerland.
- According to the recommendations provided by the engineers (designers and reviewers) working on the different technical documentation (river restoration, storm water and wastewater collection, and monitoring station), the construction works required for their implementation should be carried out in parallel. Such solution was recognized to be the most technically and economically feasible. Taking into account the above, an independent consultant was hired to assemble the four designs and select priority technical measures in order to develop integrated and rationalized technical solution which will be implemented over the next period. The consultant was also responsible for development of optimal number of construction stages whose implementation will gradually result in realization of the full-size river restoration plan. The proposed sequence of construction stages will serve as a basis for organization of number of subsequent tendering procedures.
- The integrated technical solution for the first stage was developed to a greater detail, necessary for organization of the procurement procedure. This solution encompassed the river restoration/regulation measures, construction of storm water and wastewater collection system.



ANNUAL REPORTING GENDER MAINSTREAMING TEMPLATE

PROJECT TITLE:	Restoration of Golema Reka
PROJECT OBJECTIVE:	Project main objective is the improvement of the overall environmental status of Golema Reka through implementation of series of impact mitigation measures

1. Does the project incorporate a gender perspective? (e.g. inputs, outputs, outcomes, impact)?

If YES, please explain with reference to specific sections of the project document. Describe activities/partners/other

If NO, please justify:

The project document does not explicitly incorporate a gender perspective. However, during the project implementation wide range of stakeholders, were consulted in order to ensure adequate reflection of their concerns into the project implementation plan. Besides the various relevant institutions and affected communities, these stakeholders include non-governmental organizations including those dealing with gender issues.

2. If YES or NO:

a) In what (other, additional) potential areas could gender be incorporated in your project?

Since the stakeholders selected the riverbed restoration/regulation as the highest priority, during the forthcoming period, the project will focus mainly on construction works, thus leaving limited opportunities for gender based activities.

b) What would be required to incorporate gender in such a way?

N/A

c) Who could be the potential partners?

If an opportunity occurs; potential project partners could be the Local Government, NGOs and community groups.

- According to the original technical river regulation design, the hydrological monitoring station was foreseen to be placed in the river section which would be subject to a subsequent tendering procedure (second stage). However, considering the importance of the monitoring system for the project and generally for the country, having in mind that such monitoring currently doesn't exist, the project made efforts to jointly with the State Hydro-meteorological Institute (HMI) define a new location of the station. During the implementation of the physical measures, the project will make the required efforts to install and put into function the monitoring station in the section which will be subject to regulation during the first stage according to the integrated implementation plan for river restoration.

2. What major issues and problems are affecting the achievement of programme or project results?

- Delays in submission of the technical documentation (especially the main river restoration design) due to:
 - Unsatisfactory quality of the produced documentation and requests for multiple revisions of the documentation for improvement of its quality;
 - Insufficient coordination and internal control of the design engineer (designer);
 - Long procedures for preparation of the expropriation elaborate;
 - Inappropriate quality of the translated documentation and the need for multiple reviews by UNDP;
- Extended consultation with and delays in providing of feedback from the HQ's Advisory Committee on Procurement ACP on procurement case affected the timely implementation of the project and could have also seriously affected additional resource mobilization.

3. How should these issues or problems be resolved? Please explain in detail the action(s) recommended. Specify who should be responsible for such actions. Also indicate a tentative time-frame and the resources required.

- Strict control over the work of the design engineer (Designer) imposed by UNDP and the independent Reviewer has resulted in preparation of high quality technical documentation with adequate level of detail, sufficient for organization of the tendering procedure and more importantly the future organization of the physical interventions in the riverbed. The quality of this fundamental technical documentation was considered extremely important, besides the negative effects on the project implementation dynamics and associated delays.
- Given the volume of the construction works proposed within the design stage of the project (river bed regulation, restoration, wastewater collection system, storm water drainage system, and hydrological monitoring station) and the associated costs for their complete execution, as well as the limited budget available for implementation of activities on the ground, the project hired a consultant who assembled four separate designs and proposed priority works. The consultant also suggested the key standards for the materials to be used and methods to be applied during the execution of the construction works.
- After the unsuccessful first tender, UNDP had a meeting with the Donor, the Swiss Development Cooperation Agency, to discuss the new terms and conditions for extension of the cooperation agreement which initial date of validity was end of December. The outcome of the discussion was positive and the Donor decided to extend the support beyond the previously defined time limit under a stipulation of successful completion of the new tender for

Trust funds AOS (where applicable)	Swiss Development Cooperation Agency
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SUMMARY OF RESULTS		
Programme support objectives (PSOS) or immediate objectives	Indicators	Achievements
Obj. 1 Development of main/basic river restoration design	Completed main/basic river restoration design (Task 1)	Task 1: Fully completed and verified (serious delays due to the need for multiple revisions of the reports)
Obj. 2 Implementation of prioritized set of river restoration measures / activities	Implemented set of measures and activities prioritized by the stakeholders	Not achieved due to the delays in finalization of the river restoration design
Annual output targets		Proposed output targets for the next year
Obj. 1 Implementation of prioritized set of river restoration measures/activities	Achievement of outputs	Finalization of the physical interventions for regulation/restoration of the Golema Reka riverbed as defined in the contract for construction works
Output 01: Physical implementation of the main river restoration measures/activities		Implementation of the prioritized measures (physical implementation of the main river restoration measures, construction of wastewater collection system, installation of the river monitoring equipment...)

construction works i.e. signing of the contract with the selected contractor by the end of November or beginning of December the latest. UNDP accepted the terms of the new agreement and decided to organize new tender and to duly incorporate all the suggestions and remarks made by the ACP in order to avoid additional problems and thus delays in the project implementation.

- Mindful of the limited financial resources available for the project, the scope of works for the second tender was reduced to the essential elements of the required work. As a result, the project was successful in receiving qualified bids within the budget, without sacrificing the project quality.

4. What new developments (if any) are likely to affect the achievement of programme or project results? What do you recommend to respond to these developments?

- Upon successful completion of the repeated tendering procedure the project focus for the upcoming period will be the efficient conclusion of the preparatory activities for smooth implementation of the construction works and the actual commencement of the works.
- For that purpose a procedure for selection of the project supervisor/engineer (engineering company) was conducted in parallel with the procedure for selection of the main contractor. This process is also near completion, so it is expected that the contract for supervisory works will be signed very soon. The supervisor will be authorized by UNDP to administer and control the contract, and to verify if the foreseen works are adequately completed by the contractor.
- In addition, in order to strengthen the capacities of the project management unit based in Resen to appropriately supervise and control the dynamics of execution and overall quality of the main contractor's performance, UNDP also organized a process for recruitment of a Technical Advisor (Riverbed restoration/regulation specialist) who will provide professional support during the period of execution of the planned construction works. The contract with the consultant will also be signed in a timely manner.
- Having clearly defined the management structure including the roles and responsibilities of all actors during the period of execution of the construction works, a major part of the preparatory works have already been completed.
- It is expected that the construction works defined in the contract will have their official commencement as soon as the Municipality ensures access to the construction site and when the weather conditions allow that, having in mind the period of the year. In order to avoid additional delays, the project will focus on all preparatory works and organizational aspects required for smooth execution of the works. The work of the authorities with regard to the fulfilment of their obligations and responsibilities for the tender is being closely monitored by UNDP.

5. What are the views of the target groups with regard to the programme or project? Please note any significant gender-based differences in those views.

The project stakeholders were regularly informed of the project status, its achievements and constraints during numerous meetings and through information published in local newspapers or web sites etc. It was recognized that such communication is very important since the expectations of the stakeholders including the broader community from the project are rather high.

Programme or project summary table

Programme/project title and number:	00047440 – Restoration of Golema Reka	Management arrangement:	DEX
Designated institution:		Period covered:	01 January 2007 – 31 December 2007

OVERALL ASSESSMENT

Brief analysis of progress achieved in the contribution of the programme or project to the expected results.

The main product of the project's first stage was the main river restoration design, which presents a solid basis for prioritization and selection of appropriate measures and activities whose implementation will result in achievement of the project goal – improvement of the river's overall environmental status. The significant delays in the delivery of good quality river restoration design have resulted in delays of the project's second stage focusing on implementation of the proposed measures. However, after the series of subsequent revisions of the project documentation (river restoration design), it was finally accepted and verified by the Reviewer to be a solid basis for further interventions aiming towards achievement of the project goal. In addition, the project finalized the technical design for the wastewater collection system, the stormwater drainage system and the installation of the hydrological monitoring station. Due to complications in the tendering procedure for selection of the contractor responsible for the main part of the measures (mainly construction works), more significant progress in their implementation wasn't achieved. However, considering the fact that the outcome of the second tendering procedure was successful and the contractor is now selected, it is expected that the delivery of planned results will significantly increase in the beginning of 2008.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Source of funds	Annual budget (USD)	Estimated annual expenditure (USD)	Delivery rate (%)
TRAC (1 and 2) TRAC 3			
Cost-sharing: Government Financial institution Third party	646,671	438,593	68%

The local government of Resen is providing full support to the project team and is very committed to successful completion of the project activities.

The donor (SDC) has also expressed satisfaction with the implementation of the projects which resulted in additional approval of resources (1,000,000 CHF).

6. To date, what lessons (both positive and negative) can be drawn from the experience of the programme or project?

Such complex projects that involve construction works require careful planning of activities and the associated timeframe.

The donor must be kept informed on the project progress and issues that affect project implementation in order to gain trust and maintain good relations.

7. If the programme or project has been evaluated, what is the implementation status of the recommendations made by the evaluators?

N/A

8. Do you propose any substantive revision to the programme or project document? If yes, what are they? State justification.

No substantive revision is proposed.

9. Provide any other information that may further support or clarify your assessment of the programme or project. You may include annexes as you deem necessary.

N/A

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