

**Report Assessing the Impact of Reconstruction of the Main Mura Dike km 16.4 – 22.6 on the Ecological Network**

**Screening Report**



**Zagreb, May 2013**

**5. CONCLUSION ABOUT THE PROJECT’S IMPACT ON THE ECOLOGICAL NETWORK**

According to the data of the State Institute for Nature Protection (Drawing 2), the scope of the planned reconstruction of the main Mura dike lies in the area of the following ecological network areas important for wild taxa and habitats: HR2000364 # Mura and HR2000373 Kotoriba – šuma (forest).

With the reconstruction of the main Mura dike, small areas under the existing vegetation in a narrow belt along the relevant section are expected to be lost, which is not assessed as a potentially significant impact on the distribution of riparian alluvial willow and poplar forests and alluvial forests of the English oak, black narrow-leafed ash and black alder. Likewise, a potential loss of small areas of habitats favourable for target taxa (the snake’s head fritillary, the otter and the dragonflies) is not assessed as a potentially significant impact.

Furthermore, it is possible that particular individuals of target taxa (the otter and the dragonflies) will be temporarily disturbed during construction and maintenance of the dike, i.e. it is possible that the quality of the habitats (presence of people and machinery, noise, emission of dust and exhaust gases) in the working belt will be disturbed. Since these impacts are to the greatest extent associated with the period of construction, i.e. will affect relatively small areas of habitats, and since the project refers to reconstruction of the existing dike within the existing land plot, it has been estimated that its implementation won’t have a significant impact on the populations of target taxa in the ecological network area.

Due to the spatially restricted character of the project, no impact is expected on the target taxa of fish and on the target habitat types – non-overgrown gravel riverbanks (bars) and natural eutrophic lakes with *Hydrocharion* or *Magnopotamion* vegetation.

The degraded habitats formed during construction and maintenance of the dike can become corridors along which invasive plant and animal taxa will spread. In view of the project’s local character and the existing human impact, the possibility of significant impacts of the project itself can be excluded, but increased attention during construction and maintenance works will additionally reduce the possibility of unintentional spread of invasive species.

By analysing potential collective impacts, it has been assessed that during construction and in the foreseeable period after construction of the planned structure, the structure is not expected to significantly contribute to the collective impacts with similar existing and planned interventions in the project area.

**By analysing the project’s potential impacts, it has been assessed that the possibility of the planned project’s significant impact on the conservation objectives and integrity of the ecological network can be excluded.**