

Project Title: Support to Income Generation through Establishment of a Fish Hatchery in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Project Symbol: GCP/BIH/003/NOR

Donor: Norway (100.0%)

Budget: US\$ 1, 170,000

Duration: December 2003 – December 2009

With the basic aim to support income generation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, especially to create jobs and incomes for war invalids, above-mentioned project was initiated in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Major focus of this project is the municipality of Bosanska Krupa where activities are concentrated on the production of local strains of brown trout, grayling and Danube salmon for sale and for re-stocking natural waters through the construction and operation of a hatchery. Additional financial benefits through this project implementation will accrue to the region by attraction of sports fishermen into the area. Environmental benefits will result from the maintenance of biodiversity through enhancement of native fish stocks and by increasing public awareness of the environmental importance of the river catchments and their fisheries.

Project implementation started in 2004, first by acquisition of a land for the hatchery. The permissions were obtained to construct the hatchery and after the bidding process first construction activities on the site started on October 2005. The hatchery Building construction was delayed due to various constraints like severe winter and high water levels of the river, absence of resident engineer for continuation of the works and major drawbacks left by construction contractor, particularly in construction of the water supply pipe-line.

After completion of the hatchery building, the water supply with sufficient capacity was altered for application of water recirculation system technology and was established by development of a bore hole nearby to the hatchery building. Fish rearing unit, Artemia production unit, fingerling production unit has already started. Six war invalids are trained and employed in the hatchery. Fish farm business is being successfully run with Juvenile fish production and stocking which has also contributed to the enhancement of fish stocks. Moreover, considering the endeavours of the local municipality leaders, Sport's Fishermen's Association, the local green organisations and the Biotechnological Department of Bihać University, the project staff and FAO are looking at the possibilities to integrate the fish hatchery into the planned nature protected area which will be established in the valley of Krusnica river. In this way the project will support to an important aspect of environment protection and will also contribute to the improved public awareness of environmental issue.