

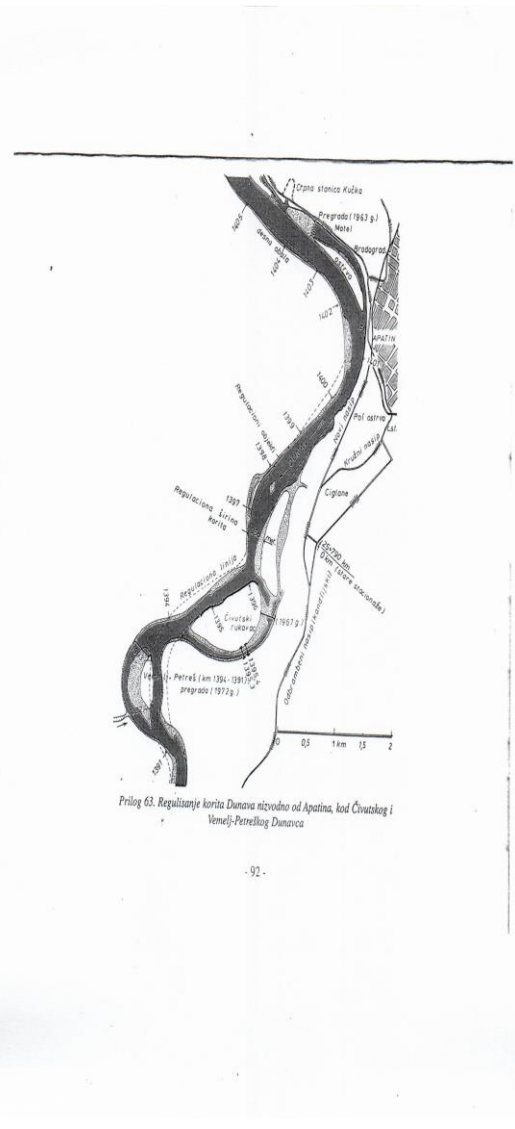
**Factsheet A.3.1: restoration of side branches in Gornje podunvalje Nature Reserve (Serbia, RS084 and RS085)**

Location: left bank of the Danube river km 1398-1396

Responsible Partner: PE "Vojvodinašume"

Background: Analyzes shows the very high hydro-morphological dynamic in this Danube section (see Topographic map 1880). After river regulation at the end of the last century, three large cuts were made and the course of the Danube was shortened for 18 kilometers. In 1967, the Danube diverted its course along the "Čifut" sidearm and it was accepted as a new riverbed.

For the preparation of LIFE WILDIsland, first analyzes and plannings took place to prepare the restoration two side branches and the complex of islands which has been negatively impacted by this river regulation work.



**Picture 1:** Topographic map 1880

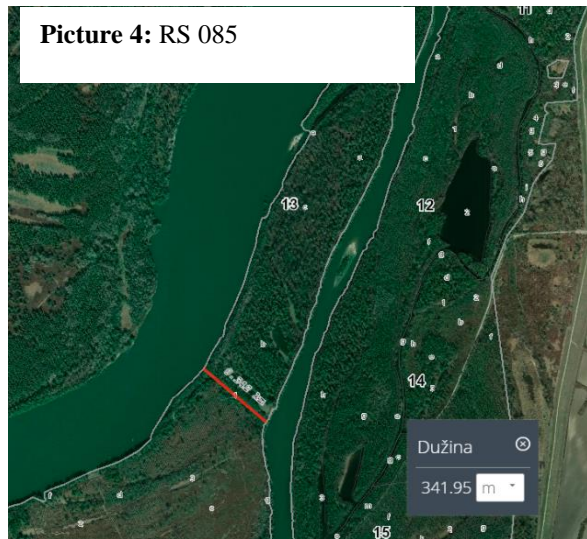
**Picture 2:** River regulation 1899-1901



Objective:

The “old” sidearm between these two islands will be dragged (Picture 3) by own staff of PE “Vojvodinašume”, with equipment (bagger) purchased within LIFE WILDIsland. This restored side branch will induce improved river dynamics in this region, and will separate the small island RS84 (8,39ha) from the origin island RS085 (196,21ha).

To further improve the hydrological conditions in these dynamic floodplains on a long-term, additionally, a second side branch will be restored on island RS085 by dredging and removing the fine sediments (Picture 4). As a consequence, the big island RS085 will be divided in two islands, a new island with very limited access for human activities will be created.



The restoration of these two side branches will improve the waterbodies on a length of approx. 6,766 m, will improve the river dynamics (morphology) on 23,6 ha and increase the habitat quality of 91E0\* through better hydrological conditions on 256 ha.

Consequently, it will contribute to A.4.9 and to the establishment of native 91E0\* habitats.

