



PROJECT PILOT AREAS

POHORJE BOGS

Pohorje is a mountain range in the north-eastern part of Slovenia. It is mostly composed of silicate rock. The impervious ground often leads to water stagnation, resulting in typical peat bogs with small lakes and bog forests, surrounded in places by peat spruce forests. The dense forests give Pohorje its typical image. They are home to birds like capercaillie and black grouse. The pilot area covers 2,568 ha. It consists of two separate units: a connected greater area around lakes Lovrenška jezera and bog Ribniško barje and the area between lake Črno jezero in the south and bogs Klopnovrška barja in the north.

The project's goal is to improve the water regime in the bogs of Klopni vrh, Javorski vrh and Lovrenc by building barriers on drainage channels. This will improve the condition of active bogs, transition mires and bird habitats of capercaillie and black grouse. The improved water regime will significantly slow down or maybe even completely stop the overgrowing of the area and improve its biodiversity. Building footpaths over parts of the area will prevent the negative impact of tourism on target habitats.

ZELENCI

Zelenci is a 54 ha wetland near Rateče in Zgornjesavska region, also known as the source of Sava Dolinka. The unique features of this wetland are its complexity and landscape diversity, since headwaters, small lakes with bubbling underwater sources, water-filled zones, a meandering stream, a transition mire and a bog are all located on a small area. In addition, it is home to a number of rare and endangered plant and animal species. The area is facing the dangers of being covered by gravel brought by torrents from the neighbouring hills, of swamps drying up and becoming overgrown due to cut-off water channels caused by the construction of a nearby road and of a decline of water quality.

We will restore the filled up waterbed and construct a gravel barrier. In order to carry out these tasks we will have to purchase a smaller plot of land. We will monitor the water quality and remove a part of the overgrowth. We will build new footpaths through the area and inform the local population and visitors about the importance of Zelenci and the wetlands.

MURA OXBOW LAKES NEAR PETIŠOVCI

Mura, Slovenia's largest river with a lowland character is the left tributary of river Drava.

The floodplain around Mura still has preserved floodplain forests, parallel riverbeds and oxbow lakes, and larger complexes of wet meadows. Due to rare and endangered habitat types and rare and protected species, this area's biodiversity and nature protection significance make it one of the most important ones in Slovenia.

With the project we want to slow down the process of degradation and overgrowing of three oxbow lakes. We will remove the excess overgrowth, improve the hydrological conditions and remove the invasive alien fish species. Through various actions we want to raise the stakeholders' awareness of the importance of oxbow lakes and biodiversity, which will contribute to conservation of nature.

GORNJI KAL

The pilot area is located in the southern part of Bela krajina and includes three Karst ponds with fields, meadows, orchards and forests located in between. Going from west to east they are Krivača and Gornji kal, while Kršeljavec, located in the easternmost part of the area, is currently dry and overgrown. In the past each village in Bela krajina had several such ponds, which were mostly used for feeding livestock and doing the laundry, while nowadays their primary function is nature protection. Both currently active ponds (Gornji Kal and Krivača) represent an important breeding area for European pond turtles

and amphibians and an important habitat for the greater spearwort. In the project we will restore and improve the hydrological conditions of the channels and clear away the excess overgrowth. We will remove the invasive alien fish species (catfish) from Gornji kal. Through awareness raising campaigns of all stakeholders we will contribute to conservation of this area's biodiversity.

PLANIK

Planik is a marshy Karst depression with a subterranean stream called Ručigajev studenec located near Dobeno. Three brooks are flowing into the valley; one of them is Ručigajev studenec. At the head of the valley the water gathers in a wetland, a lowland bog, which is the habitat of the fen orchid, a species of Community importance. Extensive wet meadows and a forest can be found near the wetland. The Planik valley is also home to endangered butterfly, beetle and bat species, as well as to the carnivorous round-leaved sundew and great sundew plants.

We plan to remove the trees and shrubbery from the fen orchid habitat and to prepare a management plan that will ensure a long-term conservation and good conditions of the fen orchid in this area. This foresees active cooperation with the locals, particularly with plot owners and other users of this area.



VRHE

Near the settlement of Vrhe near Slovenj Gradec, next to the Selčnica brook headwaters, there is a forest with several smaller marshy surfaces. A large part of this area is covered by a swamp forest, while on certain smaller clearings the forest did not develop due to water stagnation. This is predominantly a lowland bog.

Activities in this area are aimed at conservation of the severely endangered fen orchid. Other endangered plants include

the broad-leaved cotton grass, the marsh helleborine, the variegated horsetail and several sedge species.

We will improve the hydrological condition of the area by revitalizing the water regime, cleaning the overgrowing areas and expanding the non-forest marshy surfaces. A strong emphasis will be put on informing and awareness raising of plot owners, the local community and the general public about the importance of the area. We would like to show a best practice example of managing lowland bogs and fen orchid habitats.

As the project applicant, the Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation invited the following partners to cooperate:



ZAVOD REPUBLIKE SLOVENIJE
ZA VARSTVO NARAVE



INŠTITUT
ZA VODE
REPUBLIKE
SLOVENIJE

Institute
for Water of
the Republic
of Slovenia



ZAVOD ZA GOZDOVE
SLOVENIJE



Zavod za
ribištvo
Slovenije



OBČINA
RUŠE



OBČINA
KRANJSKA GORA



RADIO
TELEVIZIJA
SLOVENIJA

Published by: Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation
Design and print: Birografika Bori | Print run: 2.000 copies | May 2011
www.zrsvn.si | www.wetman.si

The brochure was published as a part of project "Conservation and Management of Freshwater Wetlands in Slovenia – WETMAN" (LIFE 09NAT/SI/000374) with a contribution from the LIFE+ EU financial instrument. The text does not necessarily reflect the views of the European Commission.

WETMAN



LIFE 09NAT/SI/000374



CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF FRESHWATER WETLANDS IN SLOVENIA

Wetlands are one of the most endangered habitats in Slovenia. The main objective of the "Conservation and Management of Freshwater Wetlands in Slovenia – WETMAN" project is the restoration and improvement of conditions of six Slovene wetlands. The pilot areas Pohorje bogs, Vrhe, Planik, Zelenci, Gornji kal and the Mura oxbow lake near Petišovci are also classified as Natura 2000 areas. The project objectives are aimed at improving or establishing favourable conditions for ten endangered plant and animal species and habitats of Community importance, which can be found in these areas.

In the course of the project we will improve the hydrological conditions, remove the overgrowth, remove the invasive alien fish species in Gornji kal and Mura oxbow lakes, prevent the destruction of endangered habitats and the disturbance of endangered species by building footpaths in Zelenci and in Pohorje bogs, prepare guidelines for management of pilot areas and integrate them into sector plans, which will ensure a sustainable conservation of pilot areas. Field actions will be supported by awareness raising action both on national and local level.

The project's start and end dates are 1. 2. 2011 and 1. 2. 2015. Project value is 2,144,376 € and it is 50% co-financed by the EU "LIFE+ Nature" programme (1,072,188€).

Project partners: Institute for Water of the Republic of Slovenia, Slovenia Forest Service, Fisheries Research Institute of Slovenia, Municipalities Ruše and Kranjska Gora and RTV Slovenia.