

The plans for Pohorie pilot area include field activities in five areas: Ribniško barie bog. Lovrenška jezera lakes. Klopnovrška baria peat bogs. Črno jezero lake with its surroundings and the bog at Javorski vrh.

Following activities will be carried on:

- an inventory of flora and fauna of the pilot area.
- restoration of bog surfaces, including selective removal of overgrowth, hydrologic activities like construction of wooden barriers on water outflows, construction of wooden footpaths. restoration of the wooden tower at the Lovrenška iezera lakes.
- integration of nature conservation guidelines into sectoral management plans,
- · raising stakeholder awareness of the importance of wetlands

Ecotourism in wetland areas brings local and national benefits both for the biodiversity as well as



the population. It contributes to stronger economies, sustainable use, healthy population and the evaluation of ecosystem services provided by wetlands. Ensuring targeted tourism in wetland areas and raising visitor awareness of the importance of wetlands contributes to longterm benefits provided by the

Project lead partner is



Project partners are:











The project is co-financed by:



REPUBLIKA SLOVENIJA MINISTRSTVO ZA KMETIISTVO IN OKOLIE

Municipality of Črnomeli, Municipality of Zreče, City Municipality of Maribor, Municipality of Slovenska Bistrica, City Municipality of Sloveni Gradec and Municipality of Lovrenc na Pohorju.

Published by: Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation Authors: Jurii Gulič, Sebastian Štruc, Mateia Nose Marolt Drawings: Samo Jenčič Photos: Jurii Gulič, Mihael Kocian, Tomaž Mihelič, Martin Vernik Design and print: Birografika Bori Print run: 1000 copies March 2012

www.wetman.si



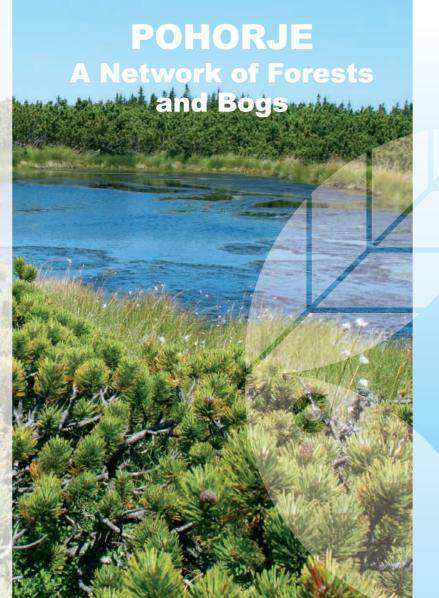


This brochure was published as a part of the "Conservation and Management of Freshwater Wetlands in Slovenia - WETMAN' (LIFE 09NAT/SI/000374) project with funding from the LIFE+ EU financial instrument. The text does not necessarily reflect the views of the European Commission.

LIFE+ is the EU's funding instrument for the environment. It facilitates the implementation of EU environmental policy by cofinancing sustainability projects and projects with added value in terms of conservation of environment and nature in EU member states. LIFE+ Nature co-finances projects for preservation of habitats and biodiversity in Natura 2000 areas

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Project description:

The goal of the "Conservation and Management of Freshwater Wetlands in Slovenia – WETMAN" project is to restore and improve the condition of six Slovene wetlands that are also designated as Natura 2000 sites. These are the bogs of Pohorie. Zelenci, Mura oxbow lakes near Petišovci, Planik. Vrhe and three sinkhole ponds in Bela krajina (Gornii kal. Krivače and Kršeliivec).

The project lasts from 1st February 2011 until 1st February 2015 and will fund nature protection activities in individual pilot areas. These activities and the establishment of a sustainable pilot area management will significantly contribute to preservation of wetlands in Slovenia. The WETMAN project (LIFE 09NAT/SI/000374) will be carried out with co-financing by LIFE+ EU funding instrument.



The WETMAN project pilot area "Pohorie bogs" includes the topmost region of Pohorje, spreading over an area of 2.567 hectares. The area consists of two separate units: a greater area around Lovrenška jezera lakes and Ribniško barje bog and the area between Črno jezero lake in the south and the Klopnovrška barja peat bogs in the north. The area is covered by a network of bogs, acidophilus spruce forests and boggy spruce patches. Through project activities in the pilot area the ecological condition of wetland ecosystems and the local animal and plant population, along with their management, will be improved and through renovation of recreational infrastructure the awareness of the nature conservation and social importance of Pohorje bogs will be raised.



Diagram of bog formation







Black grouse.

Black grouse's habitat are wetlands, turf patches and wooden surfaces at higher altitudes.

The bog ecosystems of Pohorje are one of Slovenia's largest wetlands of this type. They represent a specific habitat that is crucial for numerous of animal and plant species, and also considered an attractive tourist destination. The aim of preserving the multiple functions of bogs in this area is the basic guideline for a long-term process that is based on sustainable use of natural resources.

Endeavours for preservation of Pohorje and its specific natural wealth date back to over a hundred years ago. The nature protection importance of this area is reflected in its designation as an ecologically important area Natura 2000, Pohorje group, numerous natural



Most species are very selective in their choice of environment and the white-faced darter is no exception. In Slovenia it can only be found on Pohorje and in certain bogs of Pokljuka and Jelovica.

values, a rich cultural heritage and in the proposal for creation of a larger Pohorie nature preserve.

The most important factors of peat accumulation and development of bog ecosystems are the plants that make up the peat, and water. The following processes are important for creation of bogs: purification, decay, decomposition and peat accumulation.

The extensive Pohorje forests are home to numerous bird species. Wetland habitats also feature two charismatic animal species; the Capercaillie and the Black grouse.



Round-leaved sundew is a typical representative of highland bogs; it is a carnivorous plant indigenous to Slovenia.

Over 20 dragonfly species have been documented in the area surrounding the Pohorje summit.

Lingonberry is a typical plant found in peat areas. Due to its appearance and its delicious taste it is becoming increasingly rare to find.

The highland bogs and transition mires in Slovenia represent the southern border of the Europan bog area. While transition mires extend further toward the Balkan peninsula and end in northern Croatia, highland bogs in Slovenia (with rare exceptions) are the southernmost bogs of Europe.





