



The plans for Pohorje pilot area include field activities in five areas: Ribniško barje bog, Lovrenška jezera lakes, Klopnovrška barja 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 jezera 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 long-term benefits provided by the wetlands.



Project lead partner is



Project partners are:



The project is co-financed by:



Municipality of Črnomelj, Municipality of Zreče, City Municipality of Maribor, Municipality of Slovenska Bistrica, City Municipality of Slovenj Gradec and Municipality of Lovrenc na Pohorju.

Published by: Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation
 Authors: Jurij Gulič, Sebastijan Štruc, Mateja Nose Marolt
 Drawings: Samo Jenčič
 Photos: Jurij Gulič, Mihael Kocjan, Tomaž Mihelič, Martin Vernik
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WETMAN

POHORJE A Network of Forests and Bogs



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 Pohorje, Zelenci, Mura oxbow lakes near Petišovci, Planik, Vrhe and three sinkhole ponds in Bela krajina (Gornji kal, Krivače and Kršeljivec).

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 "Pohorje 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.



Ribniško jezero



Black grouse



White-faced darter



Round-leaved sundew

Diagram of bog formation



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

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.

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

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

values, a rich cultural heritage and in the proposal for creation of a larger Pohorje 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.

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 European 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.



Lovrenška jezera



Wetland with cotton-grass



Lingonberry