



Project LIFE04NAT/SI/000240 “Natura 2000 in Slovenia - Management Models and Information System”

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Preserved nature and protection of endangered plant and animal species are among the most important tasks of the European Community (EC). Within the Natura 2000 network, all member states of the EC are committed to protect rare and endangered species and their habitats. *Habitats Directive* and *Birds Directive* form legislative basis for designation of the Natura 2000 sites.

The project objective is a systematic study of questions of sustainable management of the Natura 2000 sites in Slovenia. During the course of the project we will review existing sectorial managing instruments and prepare proposals for possible incorporation of Natura 2000 conservation policy into them. As one of the project's deliverable products we have already elaborated a document "Guidelines for the preparation of management plans for Natura 2000 sites in Slovenia". These Guidelines could serve to those who will be engaged in the preparation of management plans in the future. In order to test the appropriateness and practicability of Guidelines we have chosen five project pilot Natura 2000 sites which differ in size, nature conservation contents, and complexity.

At project pilot sites which are presented on the back page, many nature conservation actions such as late mowing, removal of bush overgrowth, building a bird watching tower, setting up an educational trail, etc., will be taking place. Since sustainable development of Natura 2000 sites is closely linked to acceptance of nature conservation goals among local inhabitants and landowners, we will devote our attention especially to them. Thus we will publish different kinds of leaflets, place information boards, organize workshops, and invite local inhabitants and landowners to cooperate with us in the field.

Detailed information about the project is available at www.zrsvn.si/life.



Boletina

Boletina is a village near Ponikva pri Grobelnem, northeast of Celje. Karst landscape gives necessary conditions for thriving and growing of *Pulsatilla grandis*. This area represents the most south-western site of its global distribution. The plant extends over an area of 1,8 ha at Boletina. In the period of blooming the grassland is visited by more than a thousand visitors each year. The local inhabitants who recently have started taking care of the habitat also guide visitors and provide explanations.



Jelovica

Jelovica is a large forested plateau above Bohinj in the Gorenjska region. Open areas are limited to alpine meadows where pasturing is still popular. Otherwise the area is slowly becoming overgrown with forest. Two open areas are high altitude bogs called "Za blatom" and "Ledina". Here some rare bog plants and animals can be found such as carnivorous plant round leaf sundew and a bog dragonfly. Extensive Jelovica forests are also an important habitat for threatened forest fowl and other species of wood birds.



Jovsi and Dobrava

Jovsi is an extensive flood plain which lies in the eastern part of Slovenian border alongside the river Sotla. The Dobrava forest and Jovsi wetlands are included in Natura 2000 network because of the importance of oak-hornbeam forests and extensive river flood plains. Oak-hornbeam forests represent an important habitat for the middle woodpecker and other threatened forest bird species. On waterlogged meadows we can find corncrake, which is one of the most threatened bird species in Slovenia and worldwide. No less important is the presence of amphibians, dragonflies, butterflies and otter.



Petelinjek

Petelinjek is a stream which runs near Loče pri Slovenskih Konjicah in the valley of Ličenca. Its tributaries give a unique appearance and form characteristic humid grassland and stream wetland environments with ponds and near-aquatic and aquatic herb communities. The stream is a suitable habitat for many endangered species such as dragonflies and butterflies. Extensive fishing activities take place at Petelinjek, giving a good example of nature friendly management.



Snežnik

Snežnik plateau is an extensive Karst region in the northwest of Dinaric mountains complex. At altitudes about 700 metres above sea it is mostly covered with Ilyrian oak-hornbeam forests, which are core living areas for big carnivores, various bat species, ural owl, boreal owl, and beetles. The highest peak Veliki Snežnik (1796 m) represents the only known location in Slovenia where dinaric chickweed can be found. This is also a location of rare growing plant Scopoli's rock-cress. There are extensive east submediterranean dry meadows with endangered birds species and butterflies in the Pivka valley. Because of karst characteristics, numerous subterranean caves are populated with proteus and cave beetle.

