



Natura 2000
Networking
Programme on behalf
of the European
Commission



Natura 2000 Networking Programme
managed in partnership by project partners
EUROPARC Federation, Eurosite and
European Landowners Organization (ELO)

Natura 2000 management in Slovenia

Workshop report

NATURA 2000- Searching for the Appropriate Development Strategy

Introduction / Background

- The workshop was held in the Kozjanski park – a regional park in southeast Slovenia, which is member of the EUROPARC Federation. One part of the workshop was held in the proposed protected landscape park, Radensko polje near Ljubljana – the capital city of Slovenia. Both areas are listed as Natura 2000 sites.
- The workshop format included presentations, group discussions and site visits.
- The target audience included stakeholders from two Natura 2000 sites (where the workshop was held) and protected area staff (from across Slovenia).
- A list of participants can be found on page 5 of this report. The range of stakeholders participating in the workshop were: landowners, farmers, foresters, site managers, local communities, tourist boards, agricultural advice service, local environmental NGOs and teachers;
- Representatives from the Ministry for the Environment, which is responsible for Natura 2000, as well the local communities were present. While the previously mentioned groups of stakeholders (see bullet point above) were represented, participants from the private sector did not attend. However, as both sites are located in rural areas, private enterprises are under-represented anyway.
- The final part of the workshop included the so-called “Apple festival” in the Kozjanski regional park. Some Government representatives (2 state secretaries) and even representatives from the Parliament (three members from Slovene Parliament) attended the final part of the workshop during the “Apple festival”.

Purpose of Workshop & Expected Outcomes

- The main purpose of the workshop was to introduce Natura 2000 issues to different stakeholders, to inform them and the protected area staff about the current situation regarding Natura 2000 in Slovenia and finally to present the best practise examples from Slovenian protected areas. An excellent case study about managing Natura 2000 sites in Austria was an important addition to the workshop.
- The original programme in Slovene language is an annex to this report (sent by post).

A summary programme in English is as follows:

11.10.2007
⇒ 19,00 participants' arrival to Kozjanski park, informal dinner
12.10.2007
⇒ 9,30 welcome speech of the Kozjanski park director Mr. Trošt
⇒ 9,40 – 10,00 Mr. Šolar (EUROPARC council member): Presentation of the Europarc Federation and the NNP project
⇒ 10,00 – 10,30 Mr. Skoberne (Ministry for environment): Actual Natura 2000 situation in Slovenia
⇒ 10,30 – 10,50 Mr. Wieser: Experiences of a Natura 2000 manager in Austria
⇒ 10,50 – 11,10 Mr. Grabrijan (ELO): Landowner and protected area (Natura 2000 site) manager
⇒ 11,10 – 11,30 discussion
⇒ 12,30 field visit Radensko polje
⇒ 14,00 – best practice examples from various Slovenian protected areas, field visit
⇒ 17,00 – return to Kozjanski park
⇒ 18,30/19,00 – common dinner with local majors
13.10.2007
⇒ 9,00 – field visits in Kozjanski park, presentation of LIFE projects
⇒ 11,30 group discussion, summaries and conclusions
⇒ 12,30 presentation at “Apple festival”

- Slovenia is a new (since 2004) EU member state and it has an extremely high (approx. 35 %) percentage of its area under Natura 2000 designation. Natura 2000 is quite a new issue in the field of nature conservation in Slovenia. At the same time protected areas in Slovenia have a long tradition and quite a good acceptance among the public. Natura 2000 in protected areas is a new phenomenon where the public and other stakeholders see a lot of “threats”. The main objective of the workshop was to present the best practice experiences and benefits of Natura 2000 sites to different stakeholders. Expertise exchange among protected areas managers was also an important aspect of the workshop. Common work or networking between protected areas in Slovenia and involving various stakeholders were the main workshop objectives, which we successfully reached.
- We had two hosts. The main host – the Kozjanski regional park – has a long tradition in the protection and conservation of the natural and cultural landscape. The park is a Natura 2000 site, and even before its designation, park members have been successfully running a LIFE project. From the early beginning, the park has been the only one site in Slovenia where we can observe “life after LIFE” in managing Natura 2000. Hosting the workshop and showing us the results was recognition of their proper management for the Kozjanski Park. It also encouraged and helped the park to work even better with different levels of stakeholders. The other host – the proposed Landscape park Radensko polje – is considered a new challenge for nature conservation. This small-scale protected area is built on the base of “public – private” partnership where landowners, local NGOs, local communities and the state are involved. Such an integrated approach is a very good base for future cooperation in managing the protected area.

Results - key points arising during the workshop

- Protected areas and Natura 2000 sites supply a challenge and opportunity for site managers and stakeholders.
- Natura 2000 sites add additional values but also additional responsibilities for protected area management.
- Protected areas are one of the best tools for managing Natura 2000.
- A wide approach and the involvement of full range of stakeholders ensure successful management of Natura 2000.
- Natura 2000 designation in Slovenia involved a “top down” approach and now the management and “life” of Natura 2000 sites should be developed “bottom up”.

Conclusions and further action

- Participants and observers very warmly welcomed the idea, programme and execution of the workshop in the frame of the NNP.
- Natura 2000 is a government objective. The Ministry for Environment recognises the NNP initiative and the parks' involvement in managing Natura 2000.
- Protected area managers see the challenge and benefits of Natura 2000 but they appealed to the government to prepare an operational programme for managing Natura 2000 in Slovenia where the parks' roles and tasks should be clarified.
- Protected area network in Slovenia will continue with exchange of experiences in managing Natura 2000.
- Involving stakeholders and communication with the public is the key issue for successfully managing Natura 2000.

Contact details of workshop host

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kozjanski park, Podsreda 45, 3257 Podsreda, Slovenia• e-mail: kozjanski-park@kp.gov.si• website: www.kozjanski-park.si |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• CENTER Grajski vrt Boštanj d.o.o., Krajinski park Radensko polje - v ustanavljanju, Veliko Mlačevo 59, 1290 Grosuplje• website: www.grajski-vrt.si, www.radenskopolje.si |
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Contact details of workshop participants

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Relevant background papers

- All presentations were prepared in PowerPoint format and they are except one in Slovenian language. The files are very large due to the pictures. If necessary, we can provide paper copies of all presentations.

version, 31.10. 2007

Report prepared by: Martin Šolar

Annexes

- to be enclosed in the print version, which will be submitted to EUROPARC by post -

- Pictures
- Original participants list
- Original workshop programme (in Slovene)
- Programme of Apple festival