

Conservation, Restoration and Wise Use of Rich Fens in the Slovak Republic (2005-2010)

Ján Šeffer & Viera Šefferová Stanová

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GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY



Project objective:

Representative habitats of unique West Carpathian rich fens are maintained through the promotion of restoration, conservation and sustainable management practices.



Project Team:

Viera Šefferová Stanová, project manager

Ján Šeffer, restoration ecology

Rastislav Lasák, database

Ján Ripka, GIS

Dobromil Galváněk, environmental policy

Andrea Kráľovičová, environmental education

Milan Janák, local manager (Abrod)

Viktória Chillová, local manager (Klastorske Luky)

• Tomáš Dražil, local manager (Belianske Luky)

Jana Dirbáková, financial manager

Daniela Schnáblova, assistant



Experts from Slovak Technical University

Project
outcomes
Local /Pilot Sites

Restoration/management plans for pilot sites
prepared

Improvement of hydrological regime and restoration
management the sites

Monitoring system established

National /Regional

National Peatland Database connected to GIS
enhanced

- The capacity of State Nature Conservancy
offices

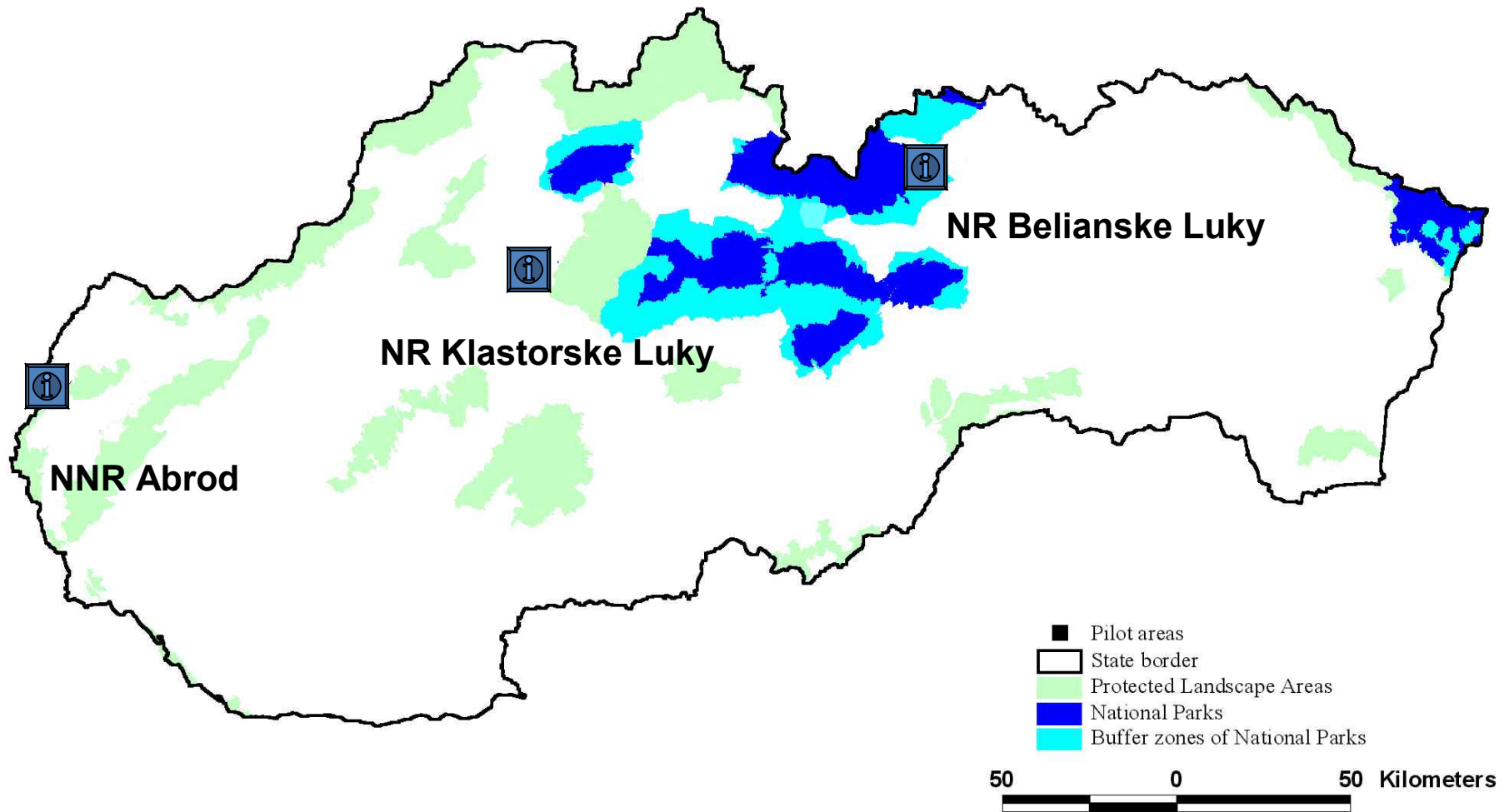
is strengthened

Awareness about the maintenance of Slovakia's
peatland biodiversity raised

Important peatland sites included into Natura
2000 network and Agri-environmental program



Proposed pilot areas



Hydrological Regime Restoration



- ❑ Slovak Technical University (STU) prepared proposal for restoration of hydrological regime on two sections of Poreč creek (lower and middle section) for the pilot site Abrod.
- ❑ Technical project for improvement of water regime at Klas tors ke luky was prepared by STU and discussed and agreed with nature conservation and water management authorities.
- ❑ Approval was obtained from the two landowners concerned and from the local environmental district office. A contractor was selected and the restoration work was done this summer during the dry period.

Hydrological Regime Restoration

Restoration of 2 km section of Porec creek - Abrod



Construction of small dam in Klastorske luky



Restoration Management



- ❑ A total of 84.5 ha of wet and fen meadows have been restored by removal of shrub and trees in all pilot sites: 37 ha at Belianske luky, 30 ha at Klasťorske luky and 17.5 ha at Abrod.



Restoration Management

- ❑ Assistance was provided by the project to prepare applications for agri-environmental schemes (particularly Natura 2000 payments) for local farmers for the period 2008-2013.
- ❑ The area covered by the applications include:
Abrod to manage 80 ha; Belianske luky 42.5 ha;
and Klastorke luky 17 ha.



Monitoring



- ❑ Hydrological monitoring of pilot sites is done since 2005. On Belianske luky and Abrod, hydrological monitoring started earlier. A detailed report on trends for the whole monitoring period (2006-2008) was made for each pilot site.
- ❑ The impact of mulching against regular mowing on fen vegetation is monitored on 39 plots in Belianske and Klasťorske lúky. They are located in different conditions, overgrown by willow shrubs, dominated by reed, and in the part overgrown by birches.
- ❑ Vegetation monitoring in small pools at Belianske luky started in summer 2008 on 5 monitoring plots. The monitoring is specially focused on relic bryophytes. In addition, water level and other parameters are measured regularly.

Monitoring network in Abrod



Capacity building



- ❑ Series of workshops „Implementation of WFD“ - SNC, water management authorities
- ❑ Seminar „Legislation tools in wetland conservation“ – MoE, SNC, regional and district offices for the environment
- ❑ Seminar „Natura 2000 and Nature Conservation Act“ – MoE and SNC
- ❑ Seminar „Rural Development Plan and nature conservation“ - SNC
- ❑ Training “Management, restoration and monitoring of fens” - SNC.
- ❑ Guidelines for site managers was prepared based on European and national experience. It is a tool for managers, including lessons learned from restoration management, hydrological studies and restoration of hydrological regime of peatlands.



Public awareness activities

- ❑ Training of teachers and students using handbook “World of Peatlands” in villages and towns located in vicinity of pilot sites .
- ❑ Creation of information panels and trails within the sites for support of ecotourism and practical education purposes .
- ❑ Development of information leaflets on site biodiversity value and restoration efforts .



Natura 2000 and agri-environmental schemes



- ☐ Our main task was to work with the results of the two biogeographic seminars for Natura 2000 - Alpine and Pannonian.
- ☐ DAPHNE participated as a representative of European Habitat Forum for Slovakia
- ☐ Results of peatland field inventory are used to fill the gaps in Natura 2000 network in Slovakia
- ☐ DAPHNE has been playing active role in the preparation of a new RDP
- ☐ New design of a measure for semi-natural and natural grasslands prepared by DAPHNE's experts was accepted by MoA
- ☐ New register of semi-natural and natural grasslands used for subsidies was elaborated – accessible on the web