National Nature Reserve Podskalský Roháč
Management for Biodiversity

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CEEweb for Biodiversity
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Site localization

Slovakia

Source: http://www.karpazynet/slovensko/slovensko.htm
Basic information

- Declared in 1993 as National Nature Reserve
- Thermophilous vegetation on limestone substrate and well-preserved rock fauna.
- Area 105,57 ha
- Part of NATURA 2000 site Strážovské vrchy which covers 29 400 ha

- 5th level of protection - no human intervention allowed
Southern part of NNR is the most valuable and vulnerable area with the open habitats and rare species. (NATURA 2000: SKCHVU 028, SKUEV 0256)
Historic photo of the village Podskalie shows the open habitats on the hill. The area was used by locals as a pasture. Grazing of sheep and goats resulted in high biodiversity habitats with rare protected species.
Designation of the area as NNR and exclusion of people have led to overgrowing and spreading of non-native black pine (*Pinus nigra*). Management based on the 5th level of protection conducted to decreasing quality of natural protected habitats with extraordinary biodiversity.
NNR from the south. Soil erosion visible in the picture was the reason for afforestation by not-native black pine (*Pinus nigra*) in the 1980s.
Black pines are spreading now. Open habitats are endangered by overgrowing.
A detail of the southern part of the NNR with open habitats crucial for the most valuable species (*Pulsatila sp.*).
Picture was taken in autumn 2010. Shrubs and trees are spreading and valuable open habitat is decreasing.
Open habitats in Slovakia

- Generally open habitats in Slovakia belong to the most valuable in the CEE
- Changes in traditional management have led to degradation or loss of the habitat
- Active measures are necessary
- Re-establishment of traditional management
Management Plan for NNR 2010-2020

- Aim: to halt biodiversity loss and prevent reduction of open habitats (Pulsatilla slavica, P. subslavica)
- Removing shrubs and trees (non-native Pinus nigra),
- mowing grass and removing saplings in 3-year intervals,
- monitoring of the rarest plant species.

Limitations:
- Only 0,8 ha
- Negotiations with land owners and forest owners association
Legislation

- Act No. 543/2002 on Nature and Landscape Protection
- Administration of PLA needs permission for management activities in the NNR (as the 5th level of protection forbids any human intervention)
- A new act is being prepared
- Levels of protection will be replaced with zonation

- Act No. 2240/1998 on Agriculture
- Act No. 23/1962 on Hunting
- Act No. 326/2005 on Forests
- Controversial topics (protection of big predators, overabundant game, clearcut, donation for farmers)
Financing

- State budget (state institutions, projects cofinancing)
- EU Structural Funds
- The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)
- Life
- The GEF Small Grants Programme [GEF/SGP] funded by the Global Environment Facility
- Medium and small grant schemes – e.g. Ekopolis Foundation, Pontis Foundation, Grant programmes of mobile operators and various institutions (financial and industrial groups)
Local people

- Historically excluded from the area for the last 20 years
- Shift in nature conservation strategies
- Efforts to integrate locals into management
- Difficulties with timing of actions
- Financial compensation for farmers

What is crucial:

- Communication between locals, farmers, hunters, foresters and professional nature conservationists and
- Compromise
Thank you for your attention!