Experiences from Natura 2000 sites management planning in Poland

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Management plans in Poland

Every Natura 2000 site in Poland must have its own “plan of conservation measures” or “conservation plan”

Contracts signed between Regional Directorates in Environmental Protection and contractors

URS Poland is currently working on 15 plans of conservation measures
Located in Sudety Mts. near Ladek-Zdrój (one of the most popular health-resort in the area)

Small site designated/appointed for protection of:

- Tilio-Acerion forests of slopes, screes and ravines [9180]
- Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220]
- Hay meadows [6510]
SCI Czarne Urwisko koło Lutyni PLH020033

Problems:

• close proximity of recreational housing
• new road and buildings IN natural habitats developed without consideration of Natura 2000 „needs”
• changes in angriculture – abandoned meadows and pastures and to intensive grazing in some areas
• plans of new ski run on the border of the site
• negative attitude towards Natura 2000 network in general
Czarne Urwisko koło Lutyni PLH020033

Chances:

• all forests in Forest Management Plan described as „reference forest” – without „active” management
• statements in plan of conservation measures can change district (local) development plan
• geological attraction and important place for local society
Czarne Urwisko koło Lutyni PLH020033

Are these real problems:

• we support initiative of developing of the new ski run – restablish of hay meadows, positive impact on corncrake/certainly not negative (small scale, without infrastructure in upper parts of the hill)

• on farm lands aiming at changing current agriculture usege as small as possible

*Even if the current usege might be not perfect for [6510] meadows, we assume that it is better to support small-scale farmers than trying to make it „perfect” wich and the end can lead to the abandon of the meadows, pastures. We try to support farmers vs „subsidies farmers”.*
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Main solutions:

• conservation measures set on not used meadows,

• changing development plan to stop housing and private parts of forest [9180],

• „trade of” we resign from setting high-cost protection activities on some degraded meadows, instead we’ve agreed on enlarging the site – including areas of well preserved 6510 meadows,

• support forester’s model of forest management
Czarne Urwisko koło Lutyni PLH020033

Oddity of the site:

• there was otter in Standard Data Form but it has never been there – there are no water bodies in the site
Two Special Protection Areas for birds located in southern Poland

Areas set on two storage reservoirs designed previously as IBA – migratory birds and few, listed in Annex I of Birds Directive, species of gulls and terns)
Problems:

• sites used by many groups of interest through different types of activities (fishing, yachting, hunting, beaches, birdwatchers, geological layer)
• reservoirs built for flood protection in the Nysa Kłodzka and the Odra river valleys
• reservoirs support sailing on Odra river in periods of low water levels
• need for restoring nesting habitats for gulls and terns

To many groups of interest and everyone needs WATER as the birds do
Zbiornik Nyski PLB160002, Zbiornik Otmuchowski PLB160003

Chances:

• clearly show the needs in water management to assure favourable conservation status of birds
• concentrate on areas in which conflicts between birds needs and other activities do not occur
• leave water authorities carte blanche in flood protection actions
• use dredge activities as a tool for creating new habitats
Zbiornik Nyski PLB160002, Zbiornik Otmuchowski PLB160003

Main solutions:

• there’s no really conflict between “birds” and anglers, visitors, etc. but we developed a way of keeping people from most important parts of reservoirs

• hunters can’t hunt IN reservoirs, they do it illegally…

• developing a model of water management that leaves some space for water authorities but at the same time will lead to improving food base for migratory birds

• we still try to agree with mining company on creating new areas of shallow water through their activities
Planing still in process

What we cannot achieve on those sites is to plan low-cost measures that can by done only by supporting or changing of the existing activities.
Plans of conservation measures

Plan of conservation measures – general experiences:

• lack of knowledge, SDF are more or less close to reality
• rationale what can be really achieved and how
• „remodeling” the existing activity in the site
• avoid high-cost and time consuming solutions
Lack of knowledge!