The habitat restoration concept and concrete case studies at Duna-Ipoly National Park Directorate, Hungary

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**Short Introduction**

Governmental organization dedicated to nature conservation

**Main tasks:**

Habitat management and reconstruction

Species protection programmes

Site management plans

Environmental education and ecotourism

Monitoring and research

Trustee activity (over 14 000 hectares)

**Responsibility:**

ca. 250 000 ha Natura 2000

ca. 125 000 hectares of national protected areas
Habitat restoration projects – general aspects

- system approach, complex programmes
- two project types: focusing on the target area / focusing on a specific problem
- minimum intervention and disturbance
- sustainability of maintenance, including low costs
- cost efficiency
- combination of best practise and experimental methods
- optimalisation between potencial funds and the measures needed
- LIFE/LIFE+ (pos: 5 years long, flexibility, complex; neg: strong cofinancing, VAT, risk of currency exchange)
- EEOP (pos: 100% contribution, NPD-s in good position; neg: no monitoring, short timing, rigidity)
- regional OP (similar to EEOP)
- SEE (pos: know-how transfer, flexibility in project content; neg: small-scale interventions, extreme bureaucracy)
- HUSK (pos: know-how transfer, transboundary measures; neg: short timing, extreme bureaucracy)

Other potential funds (Visegrad Fund, other OPs, Swiss Contribution, Norwegian Contribution)
Water supply and management

Decrease desiccation of natural habitats, what was the negative effect of overall water regulation

Development of water regulation instruments for retention of water, elimination of drainage channels

Authorisation of new regimes for local water regulation

Reconstruction of open water habitats by small-scale dredging of wetlands

3 implemented (EEOP, CHOP) and 1 ongoing (LIFE+ Nature) activity
Elimination of invasive species

Strong infection by alien plant species (black locust, milkweed, goldenrods, tree of heaven, Russian olive, etc.)

Elimination by mechanical and chemical combined treatment

6 implemented (LIFE Nature, EEOP, CHOP) and 13 ongoing (LIFE+ Nature, EEOP) activities
Reintroduction of natural habitats

Transformation of strongly modified areas:

- Ploughed land to grasslands or forests
- Monocultural tree plantations to semi-natural forests
- Secondary shrublands to diverse steppes

2 implemented (LIFE Nature, CHOP) and 1 ongoing (LIFE+ Nature) activity
Conservation of specific species

Artificial enhancement of strictly endangered populations, *ex situ* breeding

Reintroduction of populations to natural habitats (eg. ground-squirrel)

Special fencing against game

Establishment of artificial nests

1 implemented (LIFE Nature) activity
Elimination of negative effects of linear infrastructures

Development of guidance and relief systems along roads for Reptiles and Amphibians

Insulation of electric wire systems

Establishment of artificial nests

1 ongoing (EEOP) activity
Reconstruction of historical gardens

Reconstruction of traditional composition and structure
Improvement of botanical collections
Establishment of new study trails
Reconstruction of artificial ponds by dredging

2 implemented (EEOP, CHOP) activities
Protection of geological formations

Bat-friendly closing of caves to exclude human disturbance

Stabilization of cave entrances and geological profiles

Establishment of geological study paths

3 implemented (EEOP, CHOP) and 25 planned (EEOP) activities
Research, monitoring and sharing of knowledge

Research on biodiversity and naturalness (vegetation mapping, zoological investigations)

Monitoring the effects of habitat management

Professional cooperation and study visits

Common methodologies and strategies

International partnerships

5 implemented (SEE, CE, LIFE Nature) and 6 ongoing (LIFE+Nature, SCO, SEE, HUSK) activities
Conservation of priority natural values in ‘Turjánvidék’ Natura 2000 site southern unit
LIFE+ Nature project

- **Project duration**: 5 years (01.09.2011. - 31.08.2016.)
- **Project budget**: ca. 2 700 000 EUR
- **EU contribution**: ca. 2 000 000 EUR = 75%
- **Coordinating beneficiary**: Duna-Ipoly National Park Directorate
- **Associated beneficiaries**:
  - Ministry of Defence - Defence Economic Office
  - Ministry of Defence Budapest Forestry Company
  - WWF Hungary
Institutional background

- state budget: ca. 2.000.000 – 2.200.000 EUR
- project cofinancing budget: 150.000 – 250.000 EUR

10-16 projects in parallel, contribution of projects: 6.500.000 – 7.000.000. EUR

Financial liquidity problems may arise.
Mid-term project planning and harmonisation between projects: Project Management Department since 2012.
Limitations in habitat restoration projects:

- short project lifetime (2-3 years), post-treatment costs often arise after the project ending
- public tendering difficulties (risk of uncertain elements, time loss, bureaucracy vs. everyday practise)
- insufficient monitoring
- limited budget for co-financing
- insufficient know-how transfer (technical details)
Thank you for the attention!

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