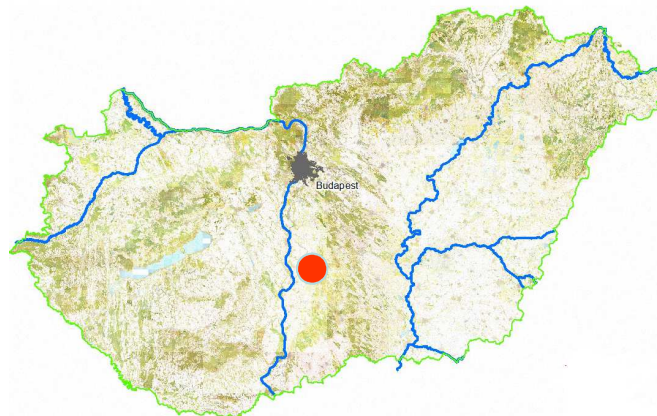


Restoration of pannonic sodic wetlands in the Kiskunság

PROJECT LOCATION:
Kiskunság (Hungary)



BUDGET INFO:

Total amount: € 7,199,323

75 % EC Co-funding: € 5,399,492

DURATION: Start: 01/10/2013 - End: 30/06/2019

PROJECT'S IMPLEMENTORS:

Coordinating Beneficiary:

Kiskunság National Park Directorate

Associated Beneficiary(ies):

Dunatáj Public Foundation

Kiskunság Society for Protection of Birds

LIFE12 Kick-off Meeting, 05/11/2013, Warsaw

András Bankovics, project manager





BACKGROUND and AIMS:

Objective of the project:

Restoration of the **original water dynamics and natural habitats** of the sodic lake and its catchment area

Main threats:

- **Unfavourable water dynamics** (draining, eutrophication, hindering natural turbulence) and *habitat fragmentation* due to the canal crossing the sodic lakebed
- High biomass productive **marsh vegetation, lack of adequate livestock and infrastructure** hinder the appropriate grazing
- **Intensive arable farming** on the catchment area of the sodic lake
- **Presence of non-indigenous and invasive species**
- **Loss of biodiversity and degrading** of the priority habitat types **1530*** and **6260***





MAIN ACTIVITIES:

- **Translocation of 5,9 km section of canal** crossing through the lakebed. The former unused canal section with its drainage ditches will be eliminated.
- **Sustainable Land Use Plan** will be elaborated (regulation of land use, guidelines of high level grazing).
- **Reduction of the marsh vegetation** by mowing, shredding, and the rooting and trampling by native mangalica pigs, and grazing by sheep and native cattle.
- Establishment or renovation of the **infrastructural background of livestock keeping.**
- **Land purchase** is planned in 380 hectares extent.
- **Restoration of ploughlands** on the catchment area of the Pannonic sodic lake.
- **Non-indigenous and invasive plants will be eliminated.**
- **Monitoring** (hidrology, aquatic invertebrate, vegetation, bird)
- **Dissemination of aims and results of the LIFE Nature project** will be ensured widely (nature trail, moving exhibition, project DVD, student workbook).





EXPECTED RESULTS:

In **2345 hectare large SAC/SPA area** detrimental factors will be eliminated and sustainable management will be ensured which will improve biodiversity.

Through the rehabilitation of the natural water balance the **open water surface of the Pannonic sodic lake will increase from the presently 180 hectares to 400 hectares.**

Grazing will contribute to the management and **long-term conservation of the most valuable micro-habitats by 810 ha within habitat type 1530.**

On the catchment area **44 hectares of ploughland will be converted into grassland.**

Non-indigenous and invasive plants will be eliminated.

The project's activities will result the **50% increase of most endangered sub-types of the 1530 priority habitat** and also **20% growth of the Annex I nesting bird species** related to Pannonic sodic wetland of Böddi-szék will be observable.

Results of the project will be disseminated widely in the frame of the media, project branding materials, education, and the impact of the project for the **socio-economic development** will also be highlighted by a special sustainability study.

