

*ECRAN- Multicountry workshop on Capacity Building on
compliance with environmental legislation – Nature Inspection*

21 -23 October 2014,

Kopački rit, Croatia

Nature conservation in Croatia

- Nature Inspection -

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News

Since 1st July 2013 - Croatia is 28th member of EU

New legislation

- Nature Protection Act (OG 80/13)
- Regulation on Ecological Network (N2000) (OG 124/13)
- Ordinance on strictly protected species (OG 144/2013)
- Ordinance on the conservation objectives and measures for the conservation of birds in the ecological network (OG 15/14)
- Act on transboundary movement and trade in wildlife (OG 94/2013)
- Act on GMO (OG 70/2005, 137/2009, 28/2013)
- Act on the implementation of Regulation (EC) no. 1946/2003 on transboundary movements of GMO (OG 81/2013)
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New obligations

- **Direct application of EU regulations (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu>)**
- **Changes the routine of inspection/new procedures for inspection**
- **Obligation to perform the Appropriate assessment for plan or project affecting N2000 site- control of measures and requirements**
- **Obligation to report institution on EU level**
- **New concept, terms for environmental inspection, upgrade EU legal framework on environmental inspections and surveillance:**
 - risk-based approaches,
 - surveillance methods
 - surveillance strategy
 - coordination and cooperation
 - compliance promotion
 - interaction with the public
 - data collection and evaluation

Inspectors and Rangers

NATURE PROTECTION INSPECTION

- Established in 1994, from 2000 as separate Department
- **15** inspectors
- Ministry of Environment and Nature Protection (Directorate, Sector)

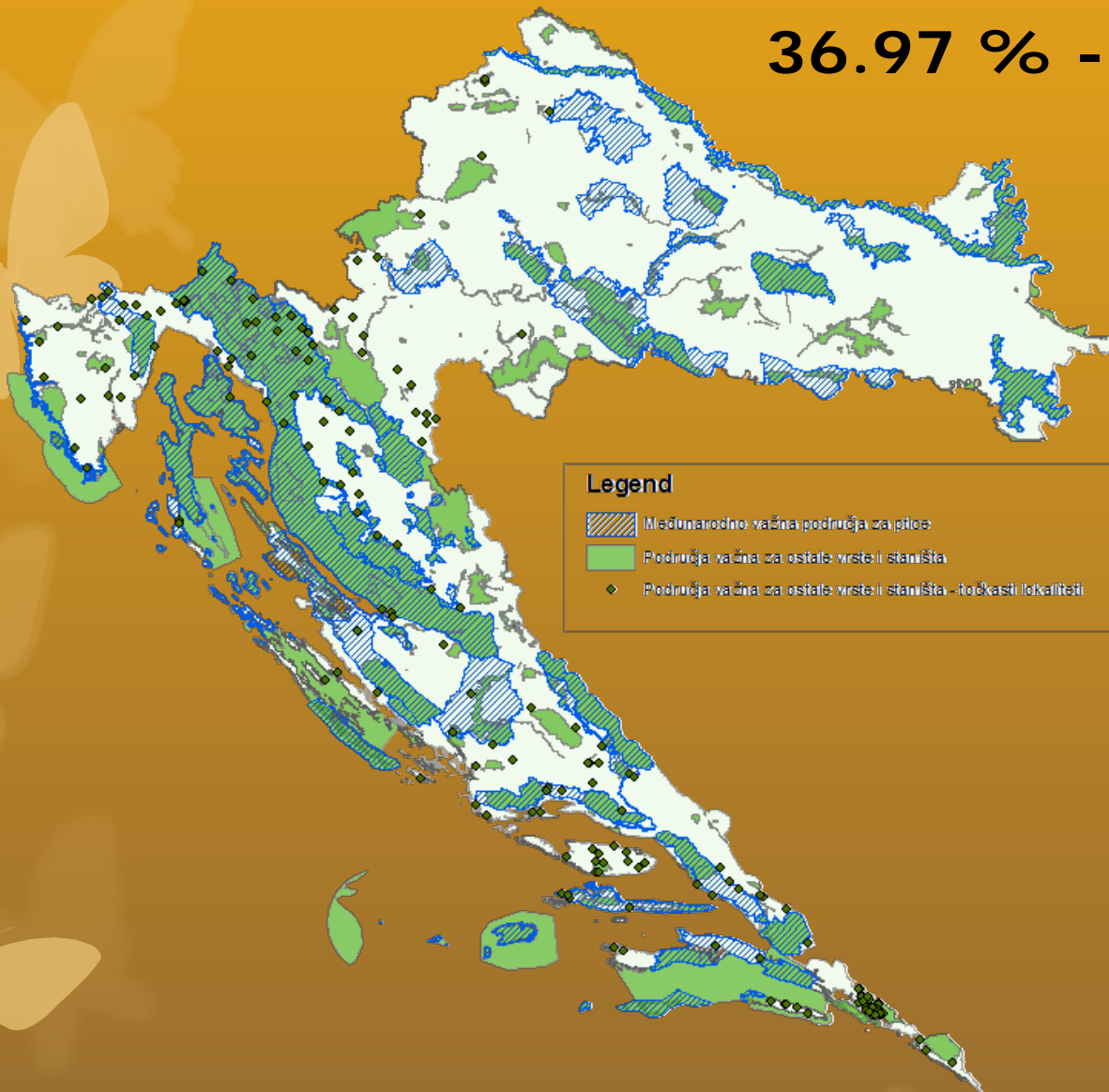
RANGERS (wardens of nature)

- Employee of Public Institution authorized for management of protected area:
- Rangers in National Park and Park of Nature -**121 rangers**
- Rangers in PI on country level – **45 rangers**

Total – **166 rangers**



36.97 % - NATURA 2000



Legend

- Mednarodno važna področja za ptice
- Področja važna za ostale vrste in stanišča
- Področja važna za ostale vrste in stanišča - točkasti lokaliteti

	Land (km ²)	Sea (km ²)	Total (km ²)	% N2 land	% N2 sea	% N2K total
Površina N2K	20925,41	4771,06	25696,47	36,97	15,36	29,31
Površina RH	56594	31067	87661			

Inspection in PA and N2000 sites

Control of nature protection measures and requirements defined in:

- **Spatial plans** (national parks and parks of nature)
- **Management plan for PA, N2K**
- **Water management plans; Forest MP, MP for hunting, etc .**
- **Nature protection requirements**
- **Results of appropriate assessment- (measures/requirements)**

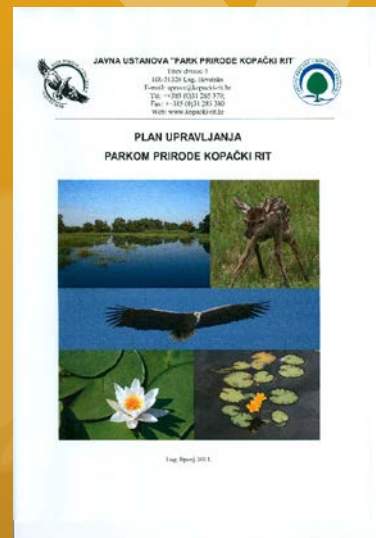
Management plans (1)

18 PARKS (8 NP + 11 PN)

- 14 NP and PN have MPs
- 3 NP in process of adopting MPs
- 2 PN (PN Biokovo, PN Žumberak) have not MPs

37.97 % - N2000

- 6 MPs for N2000 sites - pilot project
- 0 adopted MPs



Management plans (2)

Inspection

- Nature Protection Act (OG 80/13) – article 228. paragraph (1), subparagraph 28: *Fine in the amount of 25.000,00 to 200.000,00 kuna (3000 -27.000 € euro) shall be imposed on a legal person if- carries out the activity in the protected area not comply with the Management Plan*

Example - NP Risnjak

- Goal 3.1.2. Protection, preservation and maintenance of forest
- Guidelines/measures of protection
 - **try** to avoid damage to the trees in forest operations
 - work performed **mainly** with horses without machinery equipment
 - **take into consideration** the protection of fruit trees and other species whose fruits can feed wild animals
 -

Appropriate assessment

- Procedure for app. assessment defined in paragraph 6(3) and 6(4) HD (in short : screening, appropriate assessment, assessment of alternative solutions, assessment of compensatory measures

Screening and AA - Number of cases
-in the period from 01.08.2013. - 07.01.2014.

Responsible body	Screening – number of cases		Cases from screening forwarded to AA		AA		Number of Scoping included in EIA and SEIA	
	1.08.2013. – 31.12.2013	1.1.2014. – 1.7.2014.	1.08.2013. – 31.12.2013	1.1.2014. – 1.7.2014.	1.08.2013. – 31.12.2013	1.1.2014. – 1.7.2014.	1.08.2013. – 31.12.2013	1.1.2014. – 1.7.2014.
MENP Directorate for Nature Protection	78	123	24	24	1	9	4	10
Authorised bodies on local level	57	137	6	13	4	11	-	-
IN TOTAL	395		67		25		14	
501	78,84 %		13,37 %		4,99%		2,79 %	

Screening – examples of projects

- The Framework plan and program exploration and exploitation of hydrocarbons in the Adriatic
- Waste Management Plan for the Period 2015th to 2021st year
- Podravska fast road,
- Reconstruction of the farm
- Reconstruction of the promenade in the Adriatic Bay
- Setting up the system for anchoring in Lavsa Kornati
- The restoration of the pool of red mud and alkalis in former alumina plant in Jasenica

AA –examples of projects

- Removeing the surplus of alluvial deposits in order to maintain the water regime and navigability of the river Drava
- Development of tourism infrastructure in the municipality Lipovljani - Modernization of roads L33138 and part Ž3215, modernization of roads Ž3215 to the pond, the modernization of roads L33139
- Rehabilitation of the exploitation field plaster 'Slane stine - Karakašica' - change the remediation material with a grade of suitable alternatives
- Removeing the surplus of alluvial deposits in order to maintain the water regime and navigability of the Sava River from rkm 310.0 to 615.0 rkm in the area of Sisak and the County
- Construction of the port Crkvina in Vrana Lake Nature Park
- Retention Dreznicko field in Karlovac County

Control of nature protection measures (AA)

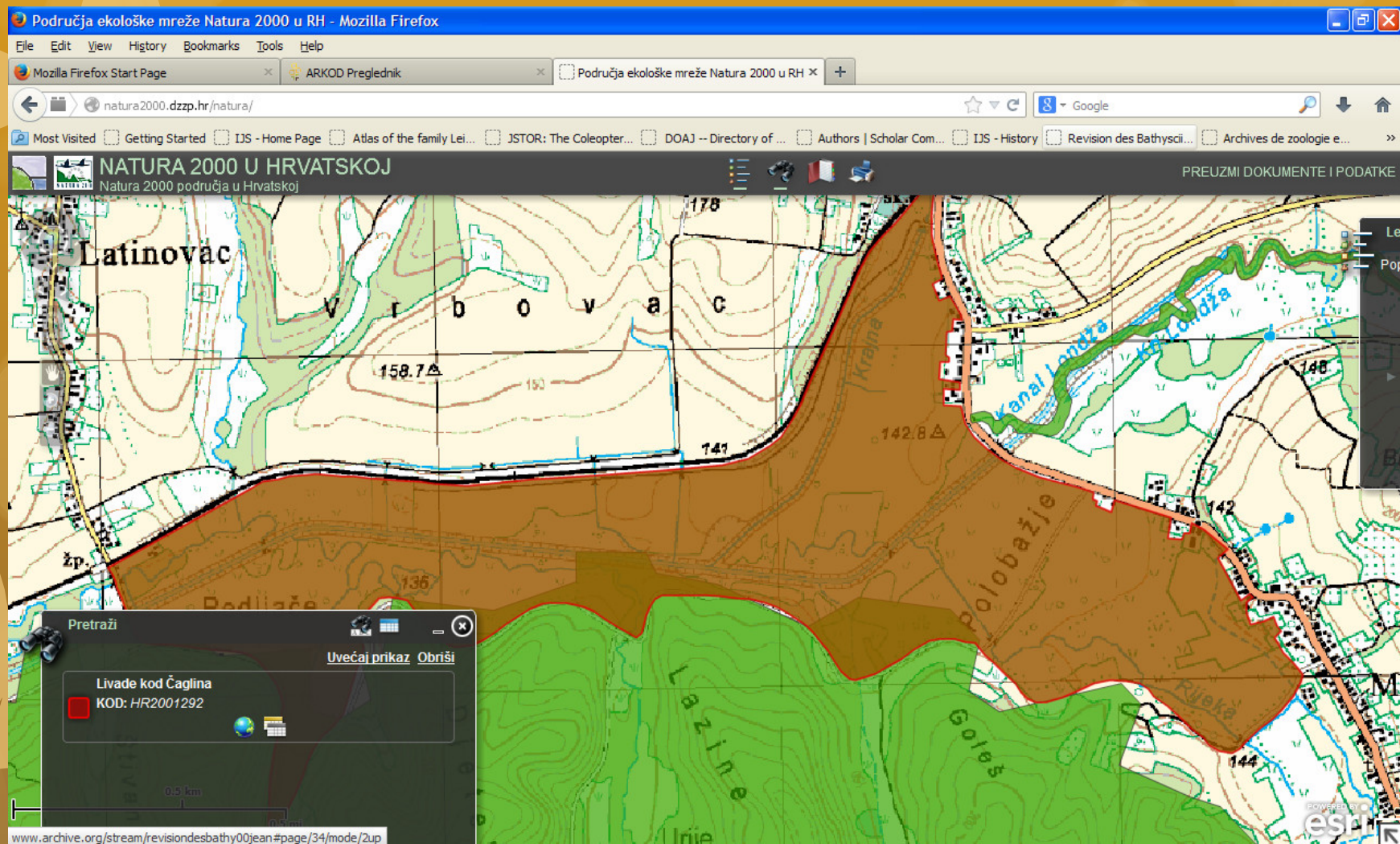
Examples- The Program of the Maintenance of Watercourse
in the Area of Harmful Effects of Water (2014)

Case (1)–River Londža-maintenance of watercourse

Nature protection requirements (AA):

- cutting the trees and shrubs carried out only if the flow of streams may endangered health and property of people, otherwise leave the vegetation in their natural state
- removing hanging branches to the height of the highest water levels and individual tree that disrupts flow
- trees and shrubs removed only on one side of the river coast
- removes woody vegetation diameter less than 20 cm, while larger trees should leave as much as possible

Natura 2000- map



Target species

Butterflies: *Euphydryas aurinia* & *Lycaena dispar*



Plant: *Fritillaria meleagris*



Habitat: wetland meadow

Existing situation





In control ranger has established:

- Cut down all the bushes and trees regardless of the thickness of the diameter
- Cleaned one side of the river coast
- Transportation of wood across the meadow
- The work started more days before
- To work obtaining all permits other relevant services (forester)
- The manager of the field stated-he did not know about the obligations regarding N2000

Measures undertaken:

- works were stopped
- procedure was initiated in Misdemeanor Court

Case (2)- Konavle-maintenance of watercourse

Nature protection requirements (AA):

- consider using other methods firming and protect the coast from erosion, besides stone
- minimal vegetation removal
- about the beginning of works to inform inspectors
- in case that threatened species are found- must stop the works and inform inspector
- does not change the dimensions of the existing embankments
- not concreting bottom of the river, leaving the natural substrate
- canal walls built by hand from stone- connected weakly bounded concrete

Natura 2000- HR2000946- Snježnica i Konavle

Target species and habitats

- River tortoise- ***Mauremys rivulata***-
endemic species (1)
- East European natural dry
grasslands – *Scorzoneretalia villosea*



Mauremis rivulata



Status before beginning maintenance work



Performing work





In control inspector has established

- The Contractor is not informed about the beginning of works
- contractor did not change dimensions but changed shape
- Inspector demanded interpretation/clarification of the nature protection requirements
- _____
- The process is still ongoing

Summary

For Inspection is necessary:

- good preparation (reading studies, guidelines, handbooks)
- understanding the process in ecosystem
- recognize the fragility of the habitat/ possible harmful activities
- proceed/act- act in time
- multidiscipline approach
- Report to decisions maker/expert service

Thank you for attention!

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