



LANDSCAPE AND WATER- MANAGEMENT RESTORATION OF ŠKOCJANSKI ZATOK NATURE RESERVE



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Forum of the national selections for the Council of Europe Landscape Award”, 3rd Session (2012-2013); Wrocław, Poland, 11-12 June 2014



Slovenish Candidate for the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe 2013

- Ministry of Agriculture and the Environment launched the third year of the landscape award in Slovenia. Only one nomination was received on this competition.
- The project were judged by six expert and designated that poject fulfilled all the criteria for the Council of Europe Landnscape Award.





Basic Data of Škocijanski zatok

Škocjanski zatok:

- is the largest brackish wetland in Slovenia, covering about 120 ha on the doorstep of Slovenian coast
- supports rich fauna and flora, number of rare and endangered Slovenian species
- ecologically important area, with status of nature reserve and Natura 2000 site







Project objective

The project was aiming to:

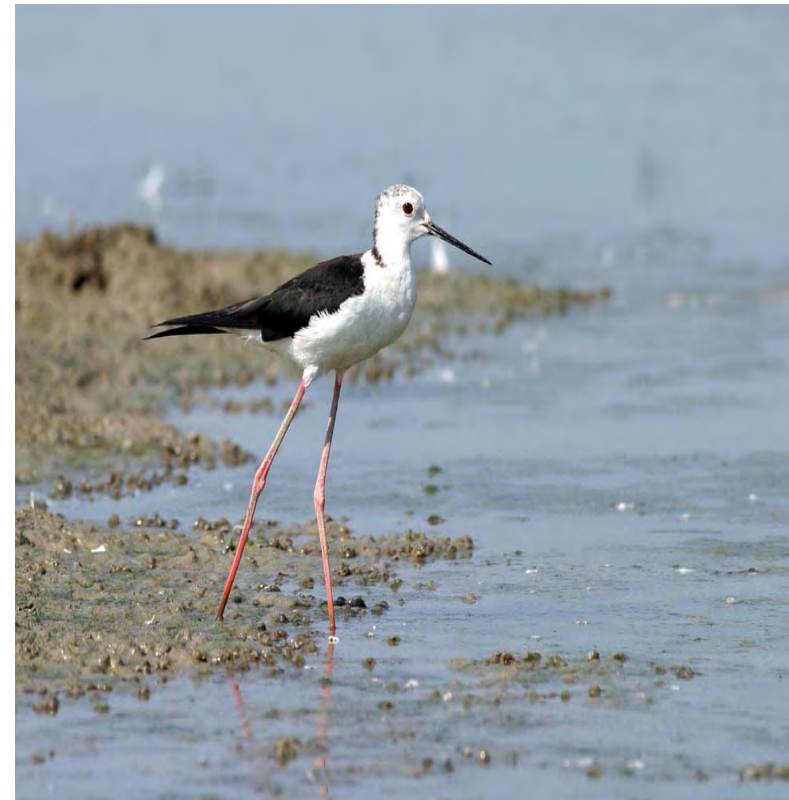
- **recreate the typical coastal wetland landscape** of Škocjanski zatok Nature Reserve, after the industrial degradation in the 1980s,
- restore and conserve habitats of endangered animal and plant species with a purpose of creating suitable conditions for the protection of birds in a long term
- organisation of a **nature reserve open to the public.**





Reserve restoration

- By March 2007, create 71 ha brackish lagoon, 12 ha of open freshwater areas and 13 ha of wet meadows, suitable for breeding of water birds.





Freshwater marsh before the restoration





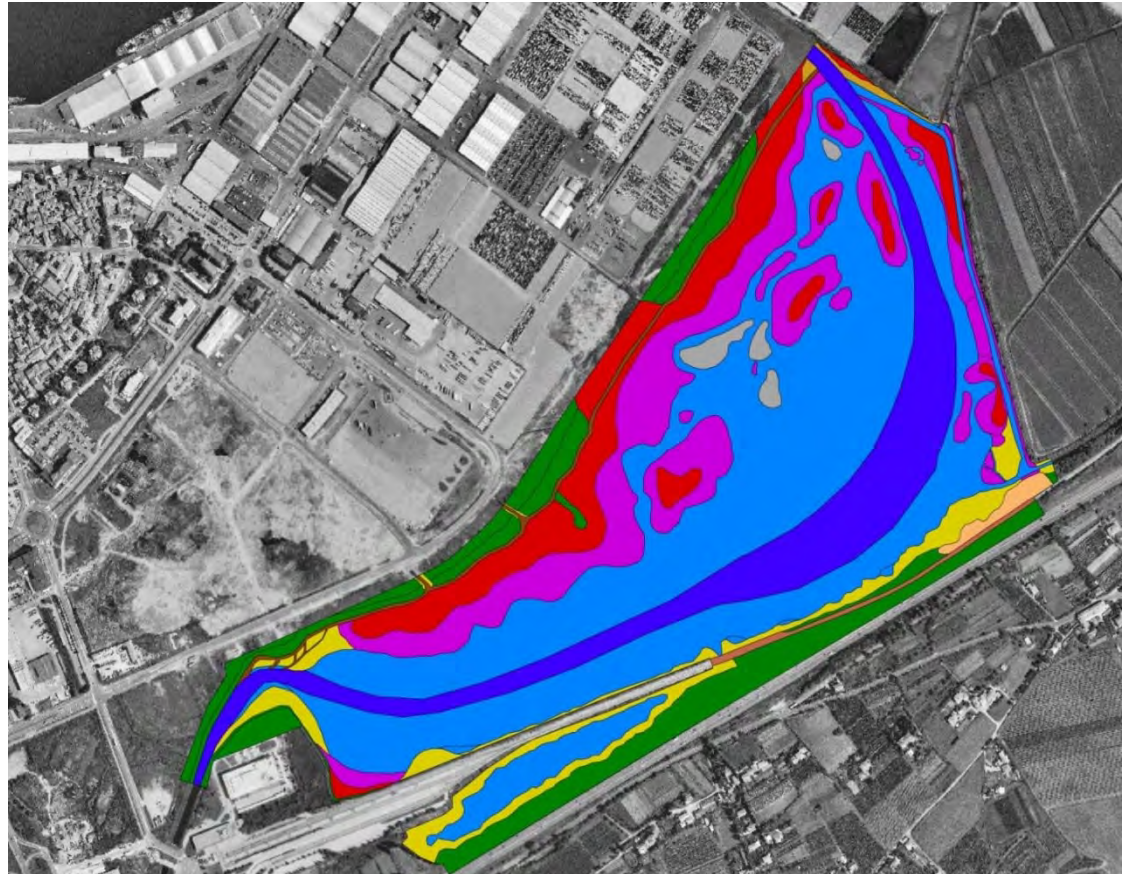
Freshwater marsh after the restoration





Restoration of brackish lagoon of over 71 ha

- Restore semi-natural conditions in the brackish lagoon by removing of sediment, creating channels, thus increase the populations of birds
- Create mudflats and other Natura 2000 habitats at the lagoon borders
- Improved water inflow and water level control





brackish lagoon

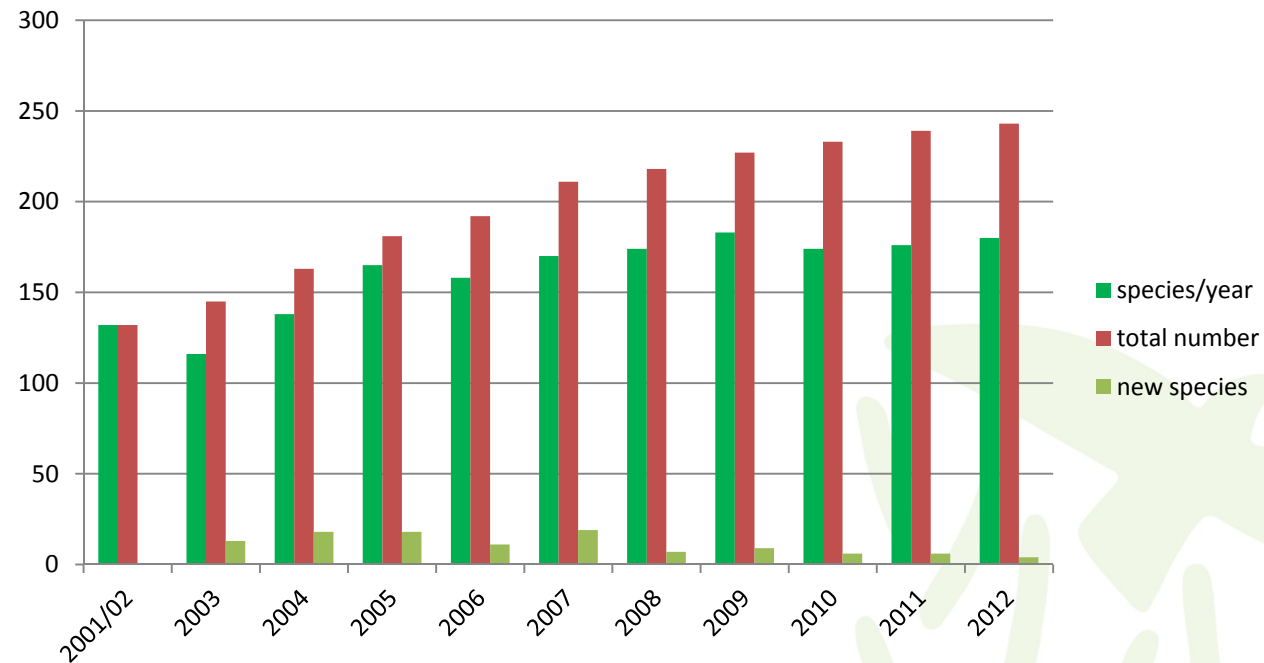
freshwater marsh







Results after restoration - increase of bird species 2001-2012





Promotion, education, awareness raising

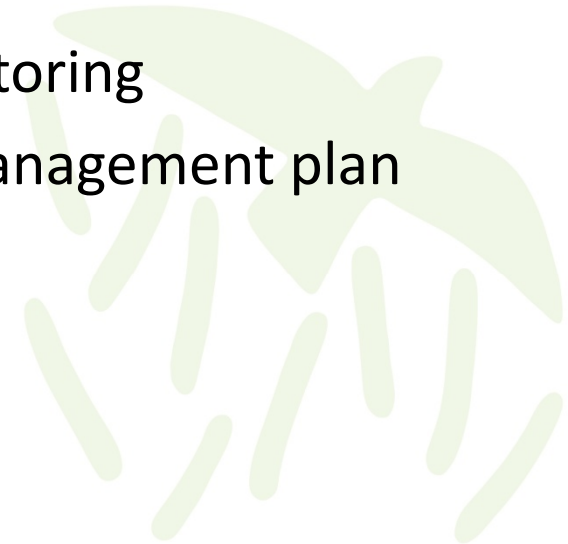
Number of visitors constantly rising, it exceeds 20.000 visitors per year.





Reserve management

- Habitat management (management of water levels, grass cutting by grazing, planting of autochtone vegetation and removal of invasive species ...)
- Working with visitors (education program & guided tours, control and directing, preparing and maintaining visitor facilities)
- Control over the reserve, research & monitoring
- Preparation and implementation of the management plan and more detailed work programs





maintenance grass by grazing





Socio economic context

Restored nature reserve located in the urban environment brings the local community the following opportunities:

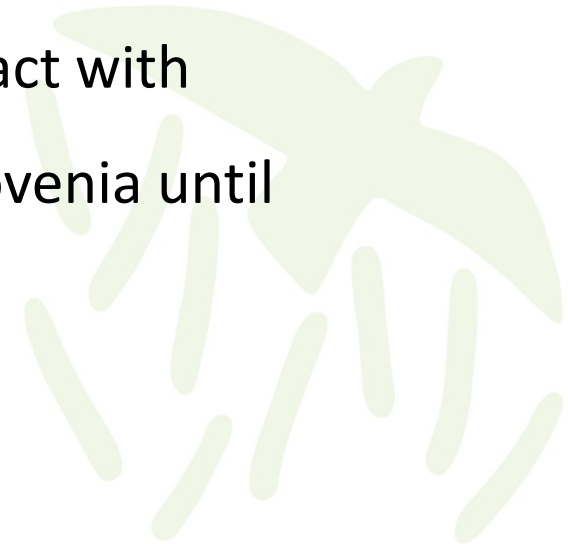
- better quality of life of the local people
- new place for education and recreation
- a new destination of quickly developing nature tourism meets all equal opportunity standards for special needs groups (disabled, blind, deaf)





Organisation of Management

- Restoration was carried out in partnership of the Ministry of the Environment and DOPPS – BirdLife Slovenia
- Management of the site has BirdLife Slovenia (NGO) upon the management licence and contract with Slovene Government (the only case in Slovenia until now)





Partners and Financing bodys

The preparations for the restoration of the site started immediately after the project was approved in LIFE program:

- participants: BirdLife Slovenia, partner Ministry of the Environment; Port of Koper
- project duration: 2001 – 2007
- total value of the reserve restoration was 3 mio eur - 1 mio eur by project, the rest covered by the state budget





More information: DOPPS – BirdLife Slovenia

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THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

