

The Landscape and water-management restoration of Škocjanski Zatok nature reserve, DOPPS, BirdLife Slovenia

The project aimed to recreate the typical coastal wetland landscape of Škocjanski Zatok Nature Reserve, the largest brackish wetland in Slovenia, after the decay it suffered in the 1980s. This resulted in the restoration of the semi-natural coastal wetland ecosystem, landscape and its natural processes. It thus remedied the environmental problems of the past, and assured the conservation and development of the typical brackish and freshwater habitats supporting fauna and flora of European and national importance with a strong exemplary value, as well as the organisation of the wetland centre – a nature reserve open to the public. Visitors from within Slovenia and elsewhere can now enjoy the area for education, recreation and a unique nature experience. Awareness was raised in the local community, which participated in the project with a positive attitude – this also contributed to a better quality of life and the sustainable development of the Slovenian coast.



The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe recognised the great value of the project. This landscape and water-management restoration project relating to Škocjanski Zatok nature reserve concerns a coastal wetland. Thanks to the project, urban and industrial sprawl have been successfully halted, something very important in this limited coastal area. Managed by BirdLife Slovenia, the project has benefited from significant national and European Union (LIFE) support, without which it would be impossible to curb urban and industrial pressure. It clearly shows public participation in the planning process and a good level of public awareness. The planning process incorporates nature protection and attention to the landscape.