restoration of habitats
examples from Poland

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Poland

the only country with all big
mammals of Middle Europe

primeval habitats like
• Białowieża Ancient Forest,
• Wisła (Vistula) River
Why revitalisation?

Examples of problems

- invasive species and succession
- use of land for different human needs
- habitats dependent on human management

**Revitalisation of habitats in Poland**

**Habitats of particular species:**

- Pond tortoise, European gopher (=suslik),
- Blackgrouse, European bison, Brown bear,
- Montague’s harrier, Golden eagle, Lesser spotted eagle,
- White stork, migratory fish (Salmon – spawning grounds, river revitalisation),
- rare plants: Globe-flower, Autumn crocus, orchid, trees, ....
Revitalisation of habitats in Poland

habitat types – subject of revitalisation

- dry
- wet

Revitalisation methods

- open
- forest
WHO

- National Parks and other conservation authorities
- National Forestry
- non-governmental organisations

Example - role of NGOs

Naturalists’ Club (Klub Przyrodników) project on conservation of raised mires in N Poland brought these results:

- improved habitats -> 100 objects (wetlands) - total area 920 ha,
- re-meandered river - 4 km
- 38 new small, shallow water bodies
- 2 mln m³ of water retained
example Beka meadows
Revitalisation of habitats in Poland

Project implemented by:
OTOP (The Polish Society for Bird Protection)

BirdLife partner in Poland
Revitalisation of habitats in Poland

example Narew

1980’s - river regulation broke natural regime (overflow and high groundwater levels)

2009 – building of natural step on the river

Results

• removing of bushes:
  return of Lapwings (2p), Corncrake (2p) and Montague’s harrier (1p), Snipe, Redshank, Godwit (all breeding), Short-eared owl, Jacksnipe, Ruff, other waders (migration)

• water control infrastructure:
  under monitoring
Project implemented by:
The PTOP (Polish Society for the Protection of Birds)

with the support of:

**Financial aspect**
Example – Łacha river

Project implemented by:
The PTPP „pro Natura” (Polish Society of Wildlife Friends „pro Natura”)

with the support of:

DOEN Stichting (Netherlands) and others
Hay as biofuel

example Bug River
Revitalisation of habitats in Poland

Odkrzaczyliśmy już kilkadziesiąt hektarów muraw.

Project implemented by:
TP „Bocian” (Naturalists’ Association „Stork”) with the support of:


**Agri-environmental packages**

- Training for 13 villages for 195 farmers

- Cooperation with landscape park authorities to cumulate land plots within less farmer families

- 1 ha = 250-350 €

- Obligations: 1-time mowing, removing of biomass, no fertilising

- 1 ha of fish pond = 400 € \* 2 € = 800 €

- Profit ~ 5-12% -> 40-100 €

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**Example Milicz Ponds**

*Before*

*After*
Project implemented by:
Environmental Association „Etna”
with the support of:

and indirectly by
Leonardo da Vinci Lifelong Learning Programme
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

1. Non-Governmental Organisations (3rd sector)
   • implement projects on their own land
   • consult or initiate projects of other institutions
   • work in coalitions
   • engage volunteers, provide training (for instance for prisoners), subcontract some services
   • develop sustainable solutions (connecting environmental and socio-economic aspects
   • provide opportunities for local population

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

2. Benefits for local communities
   • improved conditions for life / services
   • jobs – direct/indirect (horse chart rides for tourists, bicycle rental, gastronomy, b&b)
   • resources (space for grazing, biomass from habitat management as energy, training)
   • safety (anti-flood control)
   • promotion of the region
   • good examples of development towards economic or quality of life benefits
Key factors:

- enthusiasm
- volunteers
- but not only
- scientific base
- cooperation
- local communities
- farmers
- money
- conservation money, agri-environmental schemes, business solutions

Revitalisation of habitats in Poland

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