

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 cathment area of the sodic lake

•Presence of non-indigenious and invasive species

•Loss of biodiversity and degrading of the priority habitat types 1530* and 6260*





- •**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.

