Expert input sheet

Conservation and management of Continental Wetlands in Poland

Contributor
Mirosława Mierczyk-Sawicka

Habitat(s):
7220 - Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion)

Biogeographical region:
Continental

Member state:
Poland

Region(s) (if applicable):
śląskie voivodship

Issues and pressures
7220

D02.01.01 Above-ground electric and telephone lines

Felling of Prunus padus in the frames on electricity line conservation has led to an opening of a habitat and burying of a water outlet with branches, which has damaged it mechanically.

E03.01. Removing waste from private houses/recreational facilities. Solid waste causes mechanical damage to the habitat.

I02 problematic native species

In some parts of the habitat there is excess development of Eupatorium cannabinum, Cirsium oleraceum and Urtica dioica. Presence of these species constitutes a threat to the development of a proper species structure of the habitat. Excessive overshadowment caused by those plants slows done the process of creation of travertine. Furthermore, excessive development of the above mentioned plants constitutes rivalry for bryophytes, as slowly decomposing plant parts push out bryophytes.

J02 human caused water system change
piping and control of water inflow disrupts biogeochemical conditions of travertine creation.

K04.05 damage done by herbivores (including game animals) Damage done by wild boars causes mechanical damage to the habitat.
Conservation requirements
7220
At the moment, damage done by wild boars to 7220 habitat is being monitored.

Moreover, planned activities include:
- Preparing guidelines for electricity line conservation/refurbishment;
- Reducing the spread of invasive non-native and expansive species;
- Removal of piping and makeshift flow smoothing inlet structures;
monitoring for the presence of wild boars and potential damage done by them.

Conservation management
7220
At the moment, damage done by wild boars to 7220 habitat is being monitored.

Moreover, planned activities include:
- Preparing guidelines for electricity line conservation/refurbishment;
- Reducing the spread of invasive non-native and expansive species;
- Removal of piping and makeshift flow smoothing inlet structures;
- Conducting information and awareness raising regarding the threats resulting from usage of mechanical vehicles within protected habitats.

Species specific management:
Yes

6180  Phengaris nausithous
1758(Ligularia sibirica)

Barriers and bottlenecks
Lack of complete data at the moment of creation of areas to be included in Natura 2000.

Restricted circle of experts who have the theoretical and practical knowledge.

No understanding of the need for nature conservation in the frame of the Natura 2000 network on the side of the society.

Negative attitude of owners and site managers to conduct activities on Natura 2000.

Lack of financial means to finance activities or difficult access to those funds.

Solutions and opportunities
Educational activities.

Consultations.
Easy system for financing activities.

**Cross cutting issues**

Launching integrated programs e.g. Life.

Straying away from traditional management, e.g. mowing or mowing and grazing in favour or introducing crops, afforestation, or conversion or farmland into sites for construction or services constitutes an important problem for maintaining protected non-forest habitats. Also leaving land as fallow for too long has a negative impact on the environment as it leads to natural succession, overgrowing of habitats and sometimes even irreversible change in a habitat.

It is therefore important to create a system of funding in the form of agri-environment schemes for farmers who manage land in those areas and create effective incentives to use it. Subsidies for those managing on Natura 2000 sites according to recommendations following from planning documents must be much more profitable than outside of this nature conservation area type. It is necessary to create a system which functions by itself and generates profits from pro-environmental activities, e.g. generating local brands and local products, a network of ecotourism farms of an appropriate standard (focusing on development of tourism which is environmentally friendly).

Realising an integrated Life at the national level dedicated to pilot areas where the above mentioned mechanism will be created and will be multiplied, also through indicating to private persons and local governments the possibilities for activities that support both development and environment.

Activising local inhabitants.

**Lessons learned / best practice**

Lack of experience.

**Opportunities for joint action**

Lack of knowledge.

**References**

Conservation management plans of Natura 2000 sites: Zarządzenie nr 38/2013 Regionalnego Dyrektora Ochrony Środowiska w Katowicach z dnia 31 grudnia 2013 r. w sprawie ustanowienia planu zadań ochronnych dla obszaru Natura 2000 Cieszyńskie Źródła Tufowe PLH240001 (Dz. Urz. Woj. Śl. z dnia 8 stycznia 2014 r. poz. 118)

Zarządzenie Regionalnego Dyrektora Ochrony Środowiska w Katowicach z dnia 24 kwietnia 2014 r. w sprawie ustanowienia planu zadań ochronnych dla obszaru Natura 2000 Podziemia Tarnogórsko-Bytomskie (Dz. Urz. Woj. Śl. z dnia 29 kwietnia 2014r. poz. 2576).

Zarządzenie nr 32/2012 Regionalnego Dyrektora Ochrony Środowiska w Katowicach z dnia 24 grudnia 2012 r. w sprawie ustanowienia planu zadań ochronnych dla obszaru Natura 2000 Suchy Młyn PLH240016 (Dz. Urz. Woj. Śl. z dnia 24 grudnia 2012 r. poz. 6035)
Zarządzenie nr 36/2013 Regionalnego Dyrektora Ochrony Środowiska w Katowicach z dnia 23 grudnia 2013 r. w sprawie ustanowienia planu zadań ochronnych dla obszaru Natura 2000 Graniczny Meander Odry PLH240013 (Dz. Urz. Woj. Śl. z dnia 30 grudnia 2013 r. poz. 7874)