Expert input sheet

Conservation and management of Continental Woodland and forest in Poland

Contributor
Mirosława Mierczyk-Sawicka

Habitat(s):
91E0 - Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)

Biogeographical region:
Continental

Member state:
Poland

Region(s) (if applicable):
śląskie voivodship

Issues and pressures
91E0

I01 Non-native and invasive species

Spatial contact with ruderal and segetal habitats (farmland, non-used land, waste tips) and lack of ecotone areas on the edge of the habitat makes it easier for modern invasives to permeate to the phytocenosis including invasive species (mainly Reynoutria spp., Impatiens glandulifera, Parthenocissus inserta). Moreover, the groundcover which is dominated by non-native species makes self-renewal more difficult (willow saplings — Salix alba i S. fragilis, lose to large Reynoutria Houtt. and Impatiens L). increased ration of edge to inner habitat creates good conditions for the development of Reynoutria Houtt. and Impatiens glandulifera. Forest stands exist in the area where non-native geographically and ecologically species prevail (quercus rubra).

X Lack of pressures and threats

Lack of existing threats

Conservation requirements
91E0

Lack of activities due to non-identification of existing threats.
Exclusion of the habitat from forest economic/management activities in order to retain the dynamic balance of the forest habitat

Elimination of ecologically and geographically non-native species from forest stands - removal of quercus rubra

**Conservation management**

91E0

Elimination of non-native species ecologically and geographically from the forest stands – removal of quercus rubra.

Research regarding finding effective methods for fighting invasive plants.

Exclusion of the habitat from forest economic/management activities.

**Species specific management:**

Yes

6186  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, aforestation, 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 2014 r. 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).