Expert input sheet

Conservation and management of Continental Woodland and forest in Poland

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Habitat(s):
91F0 - Riparian mixed forests of Quercus robur, Ulmus laevis and Ulmus minor, Fraxinus excelsior or Fraxinus angustifolia, along the great rivers (Ulmenion minoris)

Biogeographical region:
Continental

Member state:
Poland

Region(s) (if applicable):
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Issues and pressures
1. Lack of natural flooding (embarkments and flood prevention dykes builded between the river bed and habitat. Even if dykes was bulid long ago, their existence (and renovations) still continue negative impact on the habitat.

2. Forest management - elimination of structures crucial for biodiversity, as really old stands, really old trees (>150 y old), deadwood incl. coarse debris

3. Invasive Alien Plants expansion.

4. Trees cutting (habitat removing) as one of oftenly proposed flood prevention measures.

Conservation requirements
1. Maintain or restore natural flood regime. Do not protect alluvial forests against the flood. restore the possibility of flooding the habitat if necessary.

2. Maintaining the features and structures crucial for habitat-related biodiversity, as deadwood incl. coarse woody debris, really ols (veteran) tres etc.

3. Exclude cutting trees / habita removing from the set of posisble flood prevention measures.

Conservation management
Normally the habitat is under forest management. In Poland, mainy shelterwood management schemes are applied, but sometimes clearcuts (which is destructiive for the habitat). Some stands are abandoned
excluded from forestry measures and leaved under non-intervention, usually with high benefits for biodiversity.

Unfortunately, most of the habitat is presently not in the natural hydrological regime, as a result of dykes building in XX w. There is not extensive specific management solving this problem, only some single restoration projects.

**Species specific management:**
Yes

Some species typical to this habitat are even more sensitive than the habitat itself. For maintaining the populations of xylobiontic species and some birds, upgraded targets for deadwood presence are necessary.

Cerambyx cerdo
Osmoderma eremita
Cucujus cinnaberinus
Dendrocopos medius

**Barriers and bottlenecks**

Not enough money for big investments necessary for restoring the natural hydrological regime.

Social pressure for removing trees form the floodplains for enabling faster water flow to prevent floods (even if this is not effective measure, is often required by numerous stakeholders).

**Solutions and opportunities**

"Close to nature" flood risk management.

Investments for reconstructing and removing old, inappropriate flood prevention dykes - restoration of more natural hydrological regime.

Use other flood prevention measures than removing trees from floodplains.

**Cross cutting issues**


Environmentally better options of management of the flood risk.

IAS

**Lessons learned / best practice**

1. Domaszkow-Tarchalice Polder, Odra valley: The flood prevention dykes was reconstructed: the present dyke is destroyed and the new dyke is build outside the alluvial forest. Flood prevention polder is achieved, for better control of the flood. But as an additional result, 600 ha of the alluvial forests 91F0
and oxbow lakes 3150 can be, at least once for some years, flooded again. Good example of synergy between flood risk management and the conservation / restoration of the 91F0 habitat.

2. Jarocin Forest District - the complex of 91F0 habita designated as nature reserve, mainly with non-intervention management, which is followed by benefits for biodiversity. Instead of natural hydrological regime (full restoration was not possible), additional water supply of oxbow lakes inside the forest was provided from the other river, and water storage in natural oxbow lakes was improved by building simple dams enabling water infusion but precluding effusion. Implemented by State Forests Forest District Jarocin with collaboration with naturalists.

Opportunities for joint action
Collect and disseminate good practcs for linking the habitat conservation and "close to nature" flood risk management. Accent benefits of restoration of habitat flooding, as better flood control.

References

Pawlaczyk P. 2010. 91F0 habitat in Poland - monitoring report. Mscr for Institute of Nature Conservation in Krakow, Poland.