



From research to restoration, from conflict to cooperation – conserving nature at the lower Drava River in Slovenia

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The River Connectivity Conference, Ljubljana, 22.10.2015

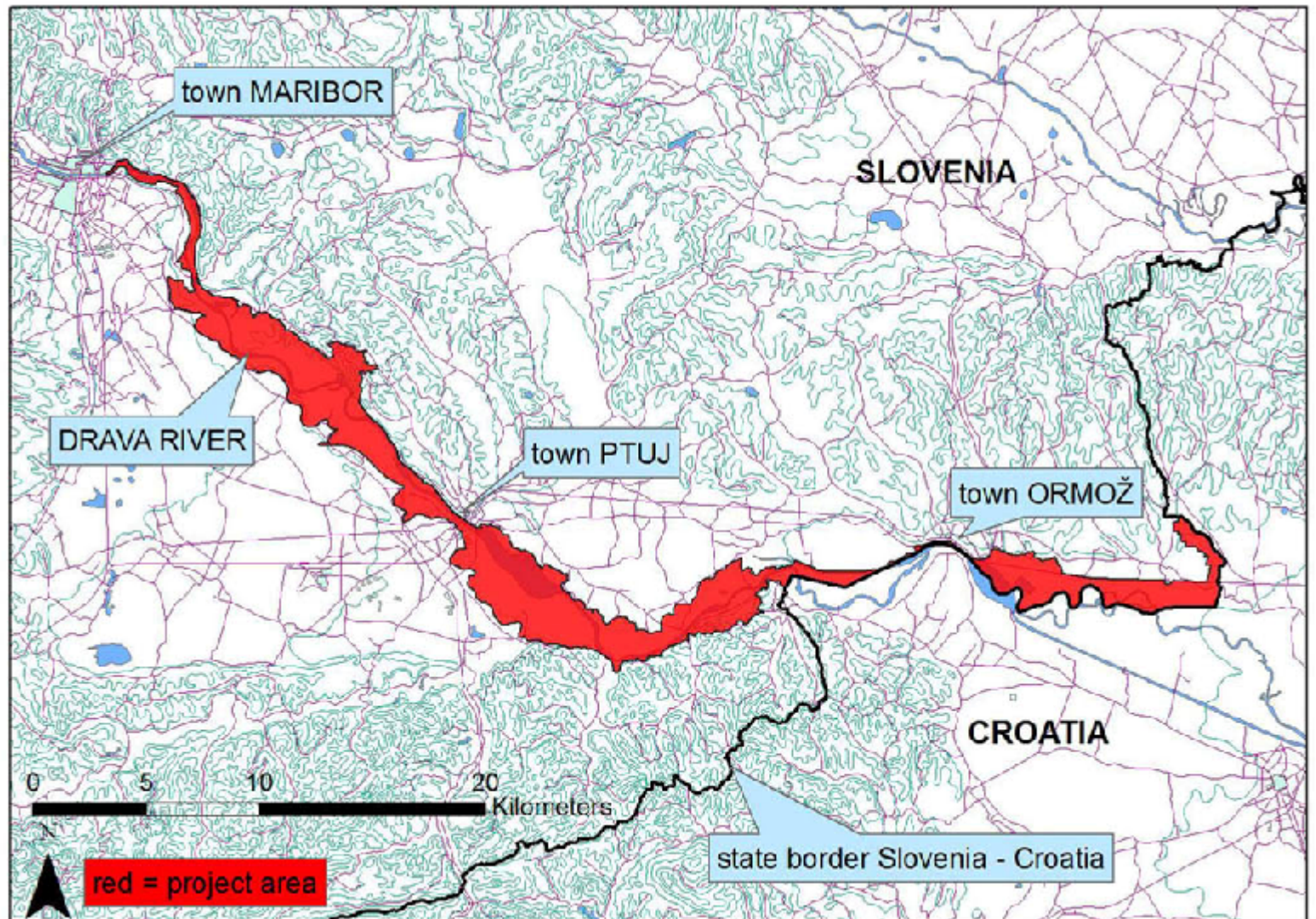




DOPPS – BirdLife Slovenia

- non-profit, NGO, established in 1979
- working in the public interest of nature conservation, environmental protection and research, 1000 members, > 200 volunteers, 24 experts employed, managing 3 nature reserves
- a national partner of the worldwide nature conservation organisation [BirdLife International](#) since 2001
- Mission: „We are working for the protection of birds and their habitats, thus contributing to nature conservation and the wider communities’ welfare.“







Characteristics of the Drava River downstream from Maribor today

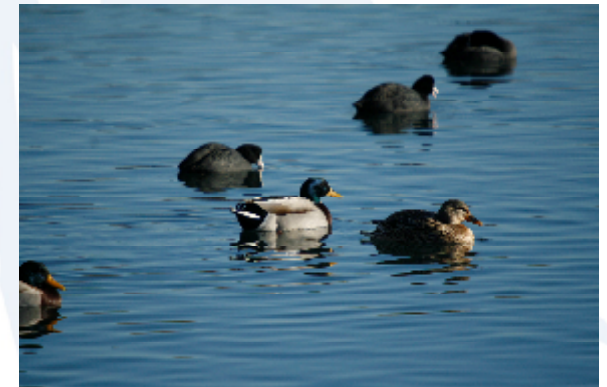
- 3 large artificial accumulation lakes
- In the riverbed in majority 20 times less discharge then in the past, water table in average 1.6 m lower, overgrowing gravel bars
- Transport of gravel dramatically reduced – from 100.000 m³ in 1969 to recent 10.000 m³
- Groundwater level dropped for 2-3 m





Characteristics of the Drava River downstream from Maribor today

- Natura 2000 (SPA, SaC), 53 bird species, 21 other animal species, 9 habitat types





Main problems & threats

1. Degradation of river habitats – reduced breeding population of Little Ringed Plover (Flußregenpfeifer), Common Sandpiper (Flußuferläufer), Kingfisher (Eisvogel), Sand Martin (Uferschwalbe) and Common Tern (Flußseeschwalbe), extinction of Little Tern (Zwergseeschwalbe). Overgrowing of gravelbars, disturbances, inappropriate water maintenance works etc.
2. Relatively low local awareness of understanding importance of nature conservation (ecosystem services, public benefits)



**PROJECT LIFE+
LIVEDRAVA
LIFE11 NAT/SI/882
<http://livedrava.ptice.si/>**



Mestna občina Ptuj



OBČINA ORMOŽ



AGENCIJA RS ZA OKOLJE



OBČINA SREDIŠČE OB DRAVI



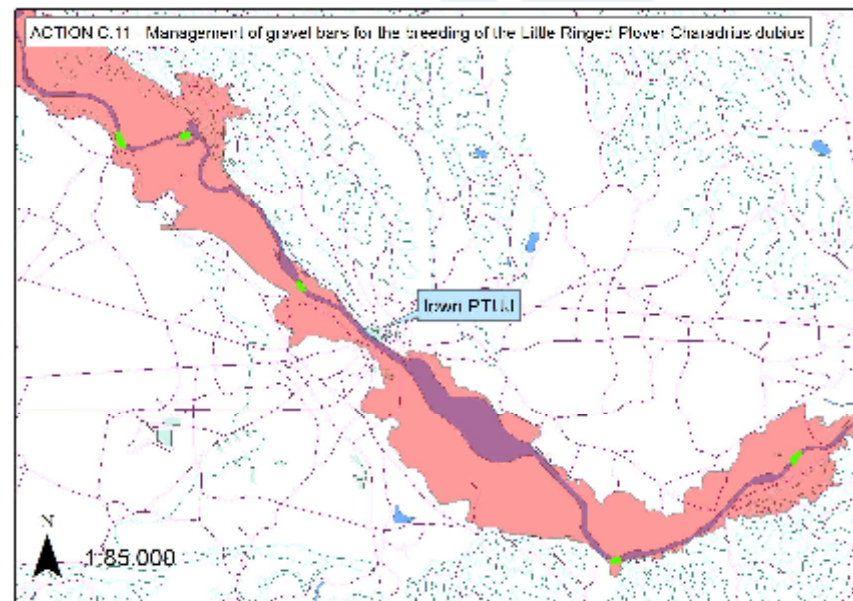
Partnership for
nature and people



REPUBLIKA SLOVENIJA
MINISTRSTVO ZA KMETIJSTVO IN OKOLJE



Degradation of river habitats – overgrowing problem





Spring 2014





2014



2015



Partners
in nature



Year	Section	Breeding pairs <i>C. dubius</i>	
		min	max
2013	Maribor - Starše	4	5
	Starše - Ptuj	9	11
	Markovci - Zavrč	-	-
	Total	13	16
2014	Maribor - Starše	17	18
	Starše - Ptuj	11	14
	Markovci - Zavrč	38	41
	Total	66	73
2015	Maribor - Starše	11	14
	Starše - Ptuj	10	12
	Markovci - Zavrč	34	38
	Total	55	64

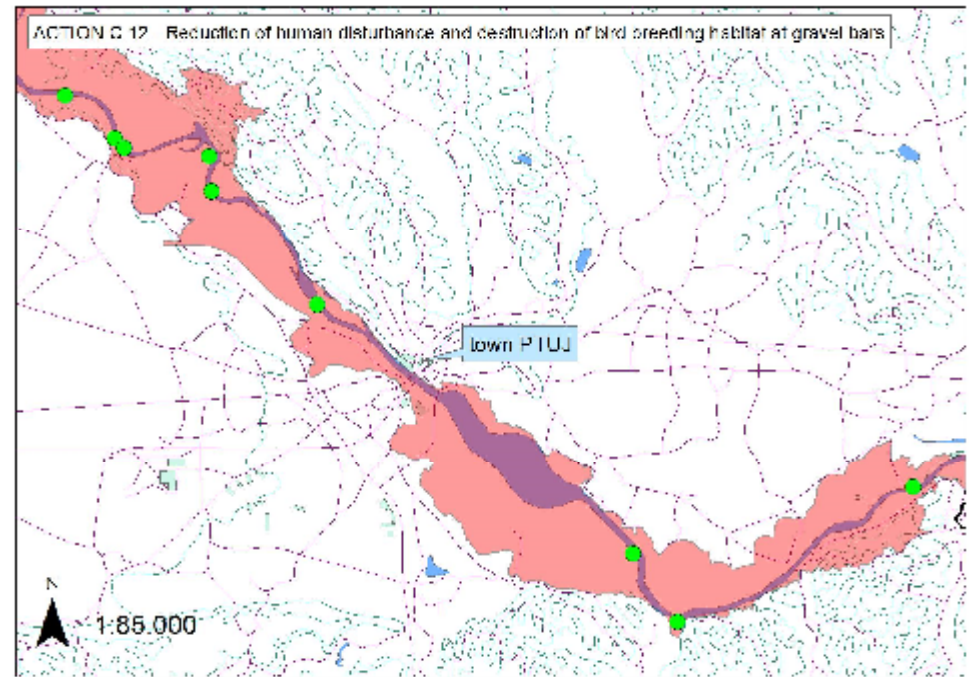
2015: 18 pairs on restored gravel bars, only!

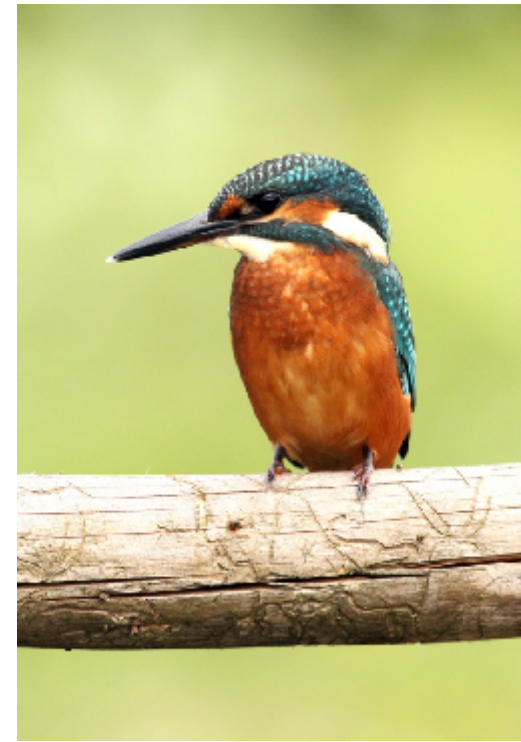
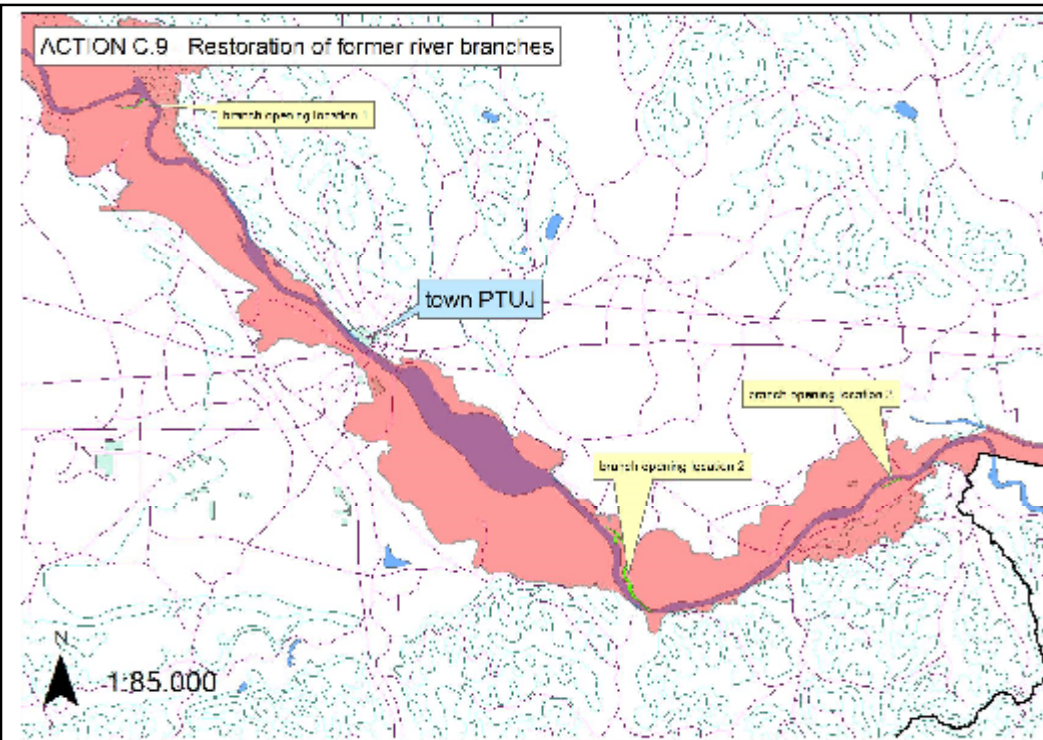




Degradation of river habitats – disturbance problem



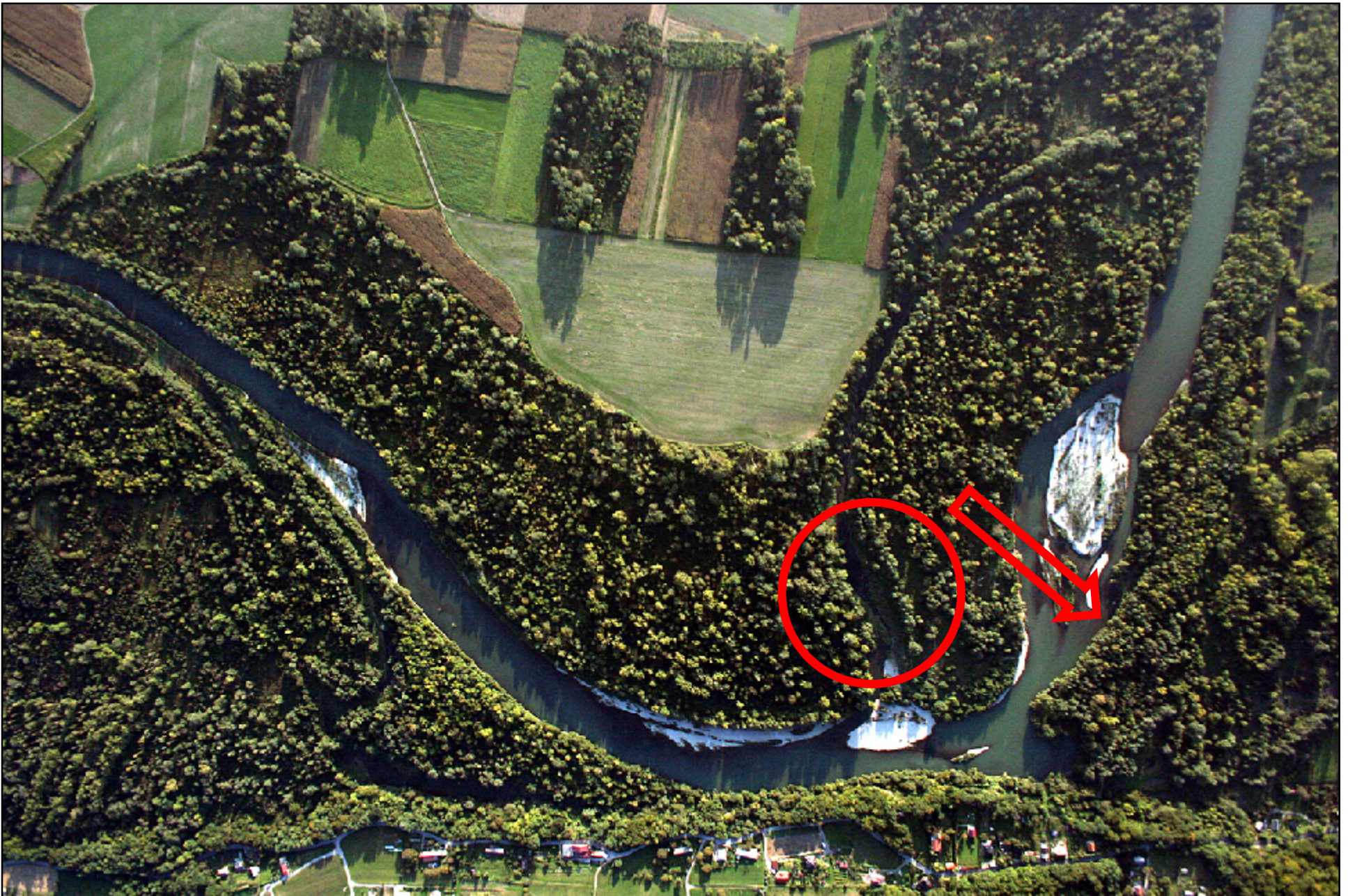




Bitterling



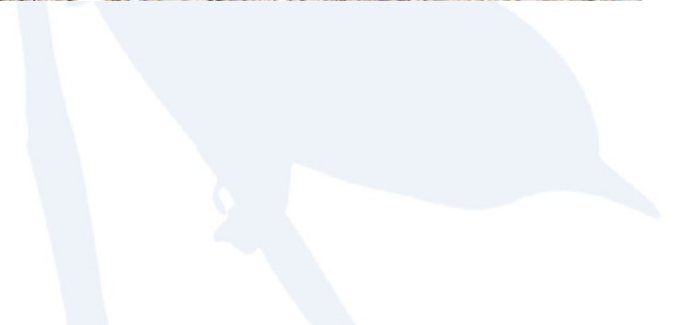
Spined Loach - Steinbeißer







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- 2013: 8 banks, 385 Sand Martins, 1 Kingfisher
- 2014: 7 banks, 490 Sand Martins, 2 Kingfishers
- 10-20 % pop. Kingfisher
- 50-100 % pop. Sand Martin







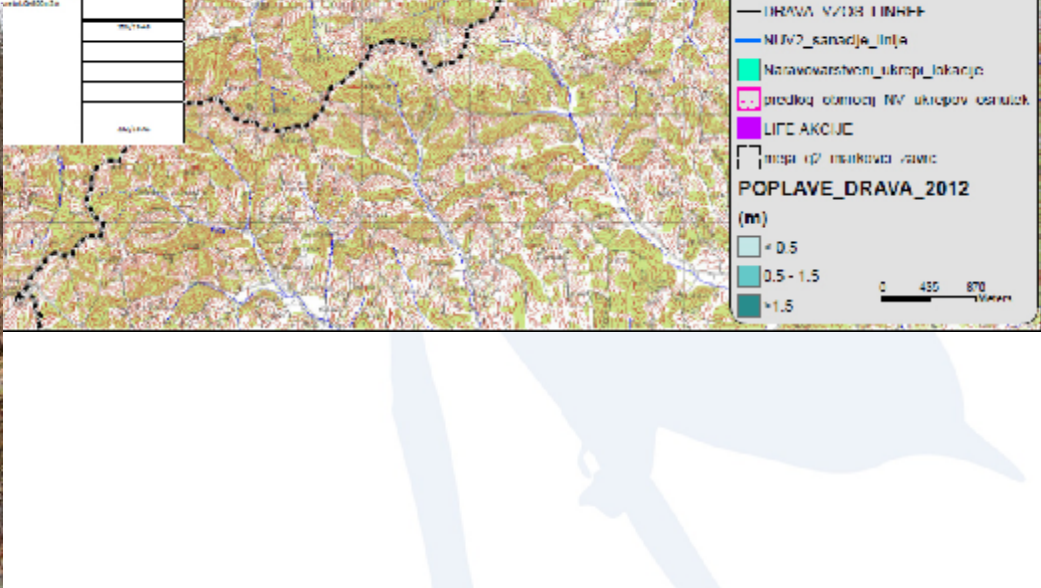
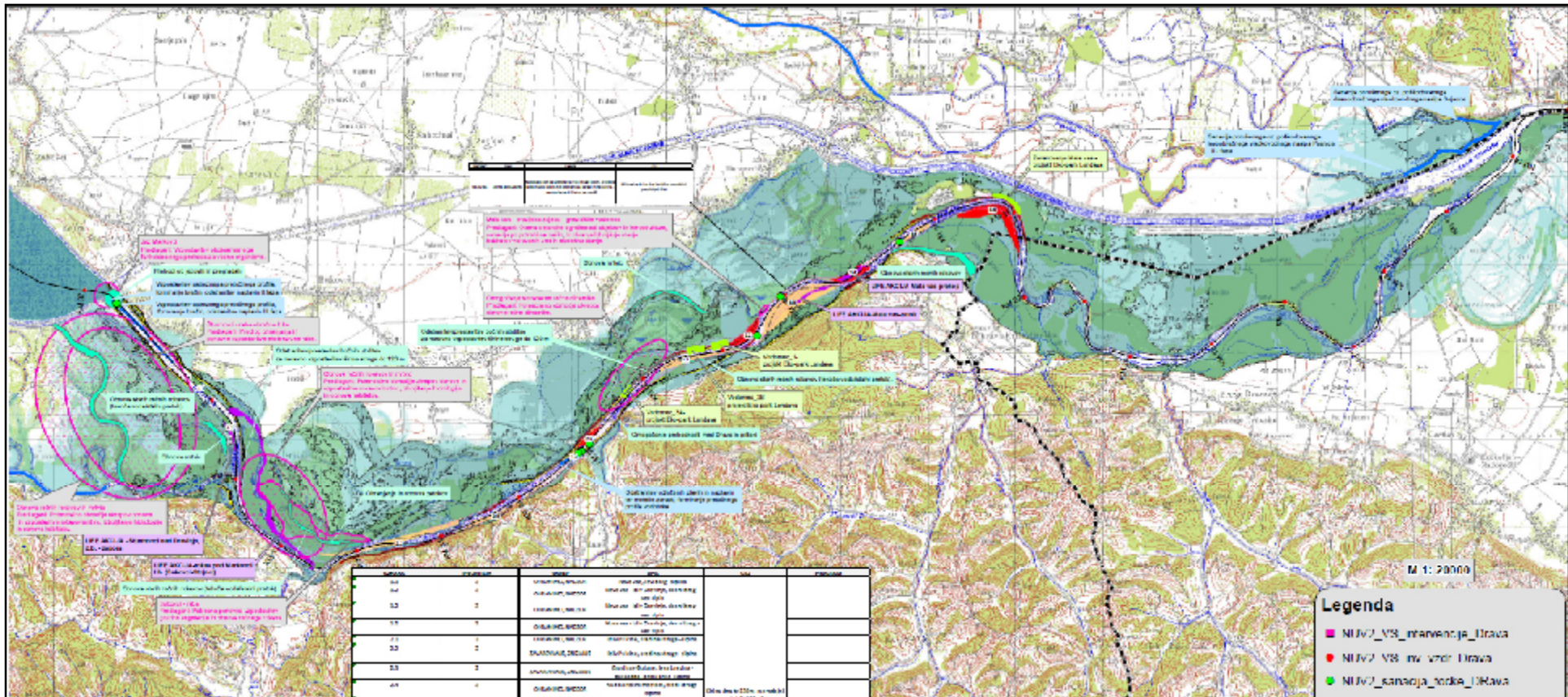




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Sources

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- Uradni list RS 49/2004: Uredba o posebnih varstvenih območjih (Območjih Natura 2000).
- Uradni list RS 33/2013: Uredba o spremembah in dopolnitvah Uredbe o posebnih varstvenih območjih (Območjih Natura 2000).

Photos

- Tilen Basle, Gregor Bernard, Andrej Bibič, BIOM, Dominik Bombek, DOPPS archive, Dejan Bordjan, Luka Božič, Damijan Denac, Google Maps, GURS, Kajetan Kravos, Matevž Lenarčič, Borut Mozetič, Jure Novak, Vesna Pirnat, Alen Ploj, Agata Suhadolnik, Gregor Šubic, Michael Tiefenbach, Davorin Tome, Sara Usnik, Al Vrezec, Eva Vukelič