



# **SLOVENIAN EXPERIENCE WITH PREPARING THE SWOT FOR THE SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE ON BIODIVERSITY**

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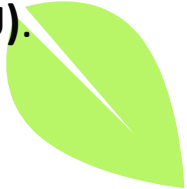


# Biodiversity and Agriculture

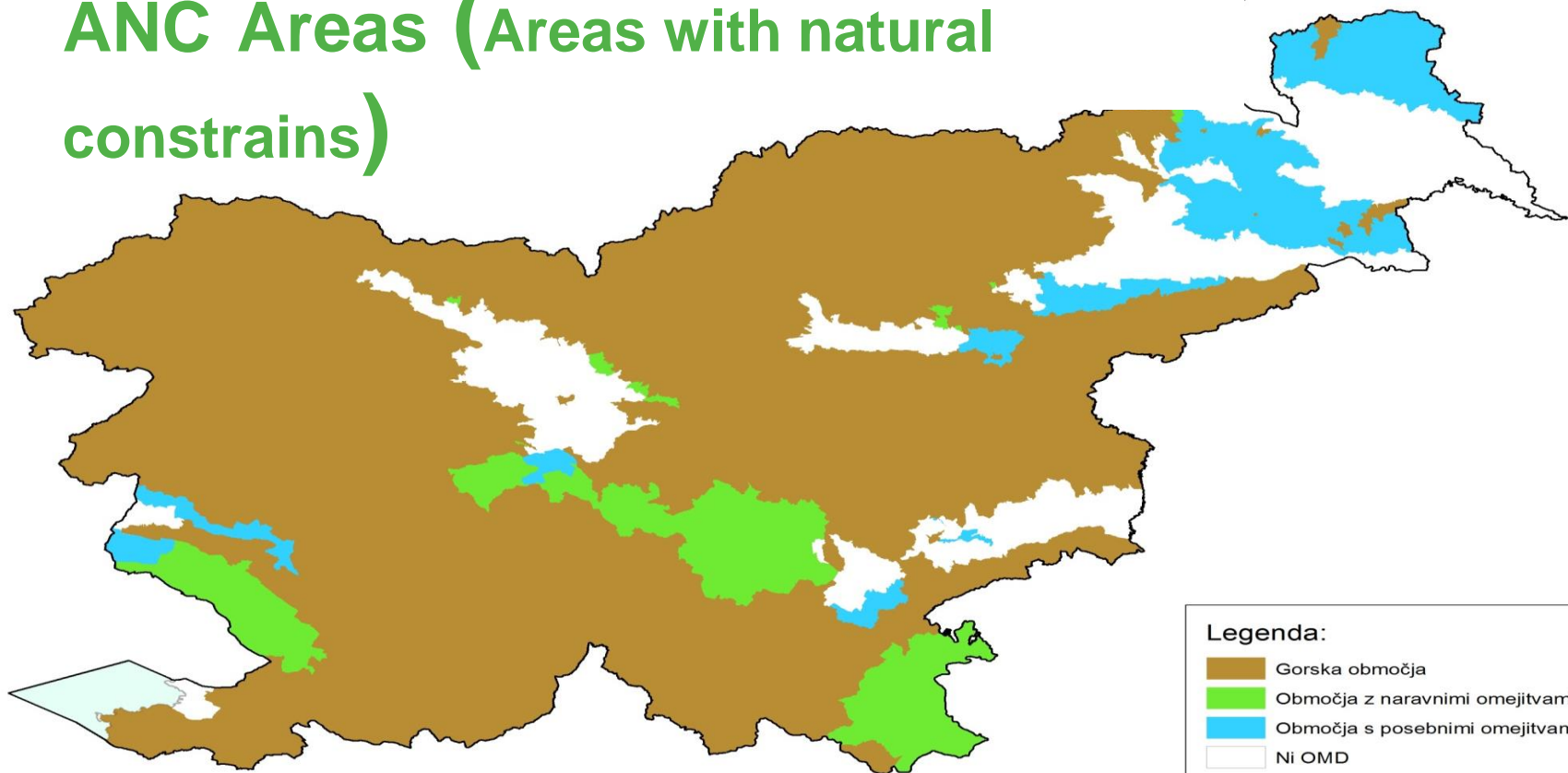
## Slovenian agriculture:

- cca 70.000 farmers (around 56.000 lodging single application), the average holding 6,9 ha UAA, average age of a farmer is 57; slow structural changes
- Utilized Agricultural Area (UAA): 477.670 ha
  - 36 % arable land, 5 % permanent crops, **58 % permanent grassland**
  - 23 % of UAA and around 30% of permanent grassland UAA are in the Natura 2000.







## Natura 2000:

- 355 Natura 2000 sites (324 according to the Habitats Directive (SAC + pSCI) and 31 according to the Wild Birds Directive (SPA)), in total 7.684 km<sup>2</sup>.
  - The sites in total encompass **37,16 %** of the territory (**the highest rate in the EU**).
  - 71% of Natura 2000 area are forests.
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# ANC Areas (Areas with natural constrains)

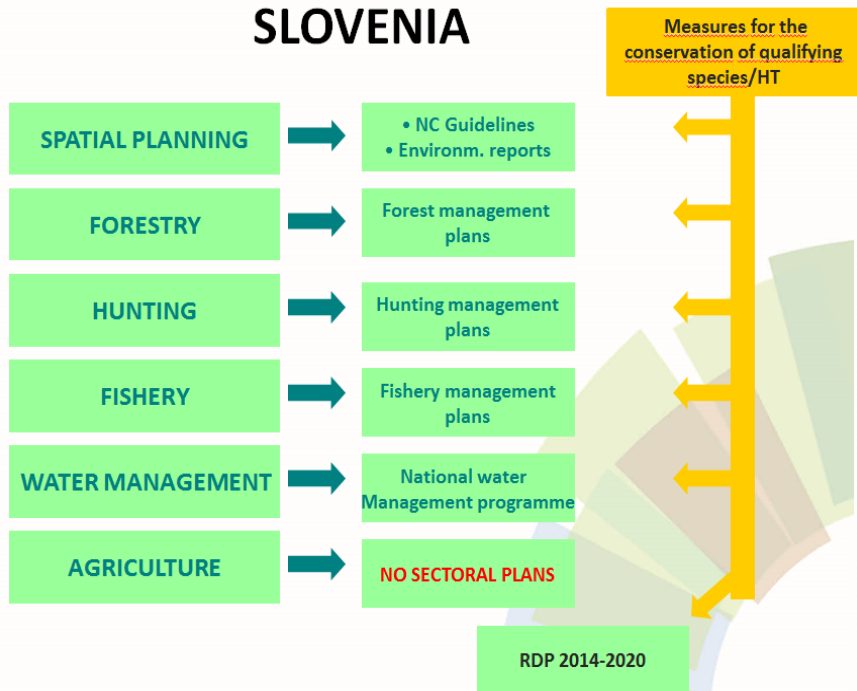


## Legenda:

-  Gorska območja
-  Območja z naravnimi omejitvami
-  Območja s posebnimi omejitvami
-  Ni OMD
-  Državna meja Republike Slovenije
-  Teritorialno morje Republike Slovenije

# Natura 2000 management in Slovenia

## NATURA 2000 MANAGEMENT IN SLOVENIA



N2 site	Species/HT	Objective(s)	Measure(s)	Sector
Območje	Vrsta/HT	Cilj	Varstveni ukrep	Sektor
Cerkniško jezero	<u>Crex crex</u>	Ohranjanje habitata kosca za vzdrževanje stabilne populacije (17-25 gnezdečih parov).	V notranji coni kosca se z redno, ekstenzivno košnjo ohranja sedanjí obseg travniških površin. Ustrezna raba se zagotovi skozi KO ukrepe, ukrep VTR/HAB/ETA, in sicer do leta 2010 na 250 ha, do leta 2013 pa na 300 ha travniških površin.	kmetijstvo



# General objectives of nature conservation in agriculture


- to maintain extensive grasslands
- to maintain meadow orchards
- to maintain landscape features and agricultural landscape





# Strategic plan

**The analyses of the situation for specific objectives (d), (e) and (f) have or will take into account:**

- EU and national legislation concerning the environment and climate from Annex XI of the regulation proposal
  - National Environment Protection Action Programme
  - National Energy and Climate Plan
  - Context indicators prepared by the Commission
  - National research projects, LIFE projects
  - Letter of formal notice to Slovenia from the Commission due to infringement of the provisions of the Habitats Directive and the Birds Directive
- 

# Nature conservation – current measures

## Cross compliance

SMR 2: Conservation of wild birds

SMR 3: Conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora

GAEC 7: Conservation of landscape features

## Greening

EFA (fallow land)

Environmentally sensitive permanent grassland (ESPG) within Nature 2000 sites

## AECM

4 nature protection operations (special grassland habitats, butterfly habitats, birds habitats, litter meadows)

High-trunk meadow orchards

Hummocky meadows

Conservation of steep meadow habitats

Conservation of hedgerows

## Other measures

### Investments in AH:

- Establishment of meadow orchards
- Establishment of pastures and pens in the areas of appearance of bear and wolf

**ANC payment (PI & PII)**  
**Organic farming payment**



# Nature conservation – cross compliance (CC)

## **Lessons learnt - cross compliance**

SMR 2 - Bird Directive. Following the auditors observations in 2018, the implementation area is the entire country and not only the Natura 2000 area.

GAEC 7 - Invasive Plants. The optional standard has been implemented since 2010.

Requirements for alien invasive species can be very demanding in areas where nature conservation measures are implemented (very late mowing or mowing once every two or more years).

## **Conditionality – open questions**

GAEC 2 - Wetlands and Peatlands. What areas to include in this standard?


GAEC 9 - LF and non-productive areas: The intention is to transfer the basic principles of the EFAs under the greening with a set of unproductive elements from the areas with ecological significance. As to take into account specific situation and needs in Slovenia, a size thresholds of arable land and permanent crops have to be set, as well types and location of unproductive elements.

GAEC 10 - Ban on converting or plowing of permanent grassland: All PG in NATURA 2000 areas represent about 1/3 of all PG in Slovenia. Not all are habitats for endangered plants or animals.





# Nature conservation - Greening

- **Maintaining permanent grassland (PG):** the reference share of 58,65 %, annual share of PG is stable, within the 5 % tolerance.
  - **Maintaining ESPG: the most critical areas of PG in the Natura 2000 sites have been designated as ESPG** = around 20.000 ha, (i.e. nearly 30% of PG in Natura 2000 or 7,5 % of PG for which direct payments are claimed), around 13% of beneficiaries to the basic payment
  - **Ecological focus area (EFA):**
    - **fallow land, and** from 2018, fallow land for melliferous plants
    - No landscape features (LF) (covered under the AECM and CC)
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# Key AE requirements in RDP 2014-2020 for sustainable use of agricultural land within Natura 2000

## AGRICULTURAL LANDSCAPE:

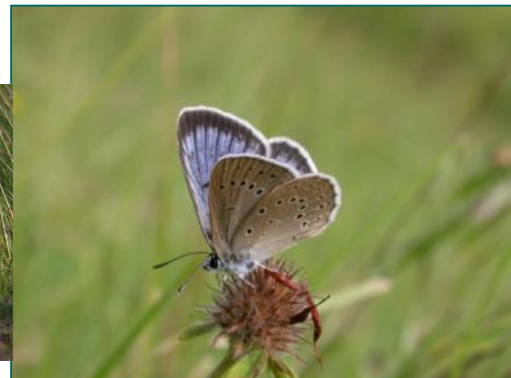
- the maintenance of hedges
- the maintenance of meadow orchards
- the maintenance of permanent grasslands on the most sensitive areas
- mowing of steep grasslands
- mowing of humpy grasslands
- the maintenance of alpine pastures



# Key AE requirements in RDP 2014-2020 for sustainable use of agricultural land within Natura 2000

## SPECIES RICH GRASSLANDS:

- mowing/grazing is not allowed:
  - Between 20. 5. - 30.6. – species rich habitat types
  - between 15.6. – 15.9. – butterflies (genus *Maculinea*)
  - before 1.8. – grasslands birds (*Crex crex*)
  - before 25.8. – butterflies (*Coenonympha oeddis*)
- the use of organic fertilizers in limited quantity
- the use of plant protection products and mineral fertilisers is not allowed
- grazing is not allowed
- \*harvesting of dry forage
- \*leaving unmown strips - 5-10% of the total surface of the plot
- mowing from one edge to the another or from middle-out



A decorative graphic consisting of two overlapping leaves. The top leaf is light green and the bottom leaf is light blue. They are positioned in the upper left corner of the slide.

# AECM, OF - observations (1)

## From the view of farmers: (reasons for inadequate inscription)

- keeping records
- (too) low payments
- too much administrative burden
- too much checking
- mandatory training programme
- 5-year commitments - problems with rental/leasing contracts
- inadequate and rigid system of infringements and penalties - penalties for repeated infringements
- *force majeure* or exceptional circumstances do not cover certain situations (e.g. termination of rental/leasing contract)






A decorative graphic consisting of two overlapping leaves. The top leaf is light green and the bottom leaf is a muted blue-grey color. Both leaves have a white vein running through them.

# AECM, OF - observations (2)

## **From the view of authorities:**

- certain environmental data unavailable or not up to date
  - non-implementation of certain expertly justified and necessary requirements for reasons of unverifiability and uncontrollability (AECM)
  - lack of staff and time has not allowed the preparation of a farm plan that, given the situation on the farm, would envisage the measures that this farm could implement
  - lack of specific knowledge - agricultural advisers (AECM, OF)
  - unawareness of farmers about the purpose of the AECM
  - implementation of measures M1 and M2 - public procurement procedure
  - considering the financial evaluation of environmental benefits in determining the level of payments (AECM, OF)
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# Analysis of the situation

## Problem:

- intensification of farming
- cessation of farming - abandonment of agricultural land use

## Consequence:

- deterioration of habitats and species
- loss of habitats and species

## Where:

- certain areas where habitats and species are related to the agricultural landscape
- on extensive grasslands in narrower areas within Natura 2000 sites

## Need:

- conservation or improving the state of the biodiversity of habitats and species of the agricultural landscape and agricultural biodiversity



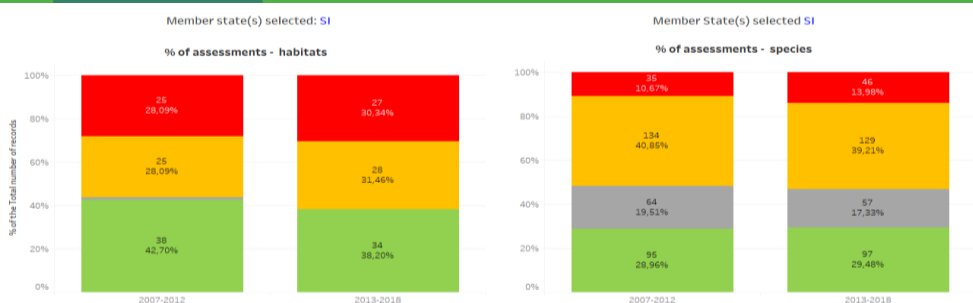
# State of Nature report for Slovenia

## Habitat types and species (2007 – 2018)

### Conservation status & trend

- FV - Favourable
- XX - Unknown
- U1 improving
- U1 stable/unknown
- U1 decreasing
- U2 stable/unknown
- U2 decreasing

EU



The figures shown for 2007-2012 and 2013-2018 are not necessarily directly comparable because changes in Member State's conservation status may be due to changes of methods or to better data rather than reflecting genuine changes.

Only habitats & species assessments flagged as 'Use for statistics' in '3. List of habitats & species reports' are included.

### Reason for change in conservation status - habitats (%)

Member State	genuine change	non-genuine change	no change
SI	3.37%	6.74%	89.89%

### Reason for change in conservation status - species (%)

Member State	genuine change	non-genuine change	no change
SI	2.43%	24.32%	73.25%

### Proportion of habitats assessments categories of conservation status

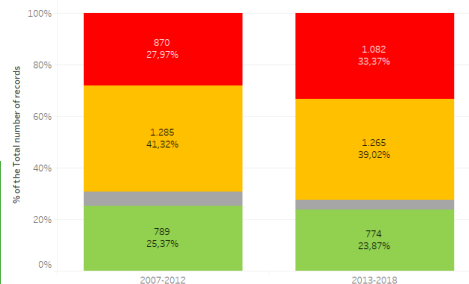
Member State	FV	XX	U1	U2	Total
SI 2007-2012	38 (43%)	1 (1%)	25 (28%)	25 (28%)	89 (100%)
SI 2013-2018	34 (38%)	0	28 (31%)	27 (30%)	89 (100%)

### Proportion of species assessments categories of conservation status

Member State	FV	XX	U1	U2	Total
SI 2007-2012	95 (29%)	64 (20%)	134 (41%)	35 (11%)	328 (100%)
SI 2013-2018	97 (29%)	57 (17%)	129 (39%)	46 (14%)	329 (100%)

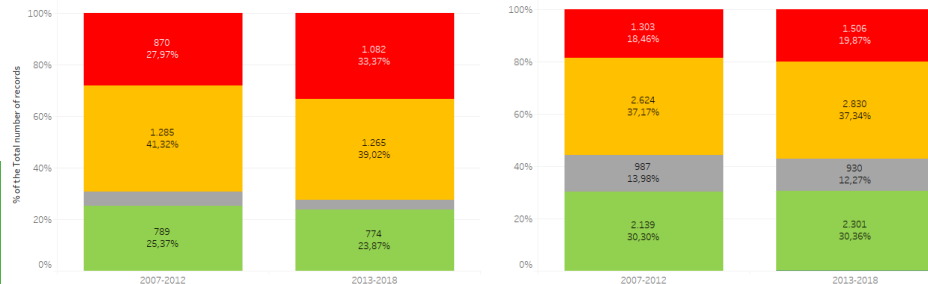
Member state(s) selected: All

### % of assessments - habitats



Member State(s) selected All

### % of assessments - species

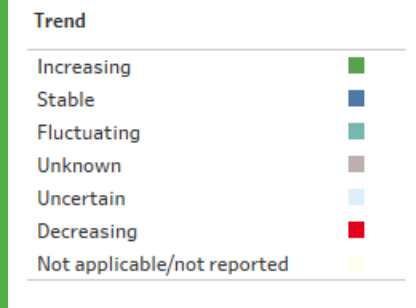
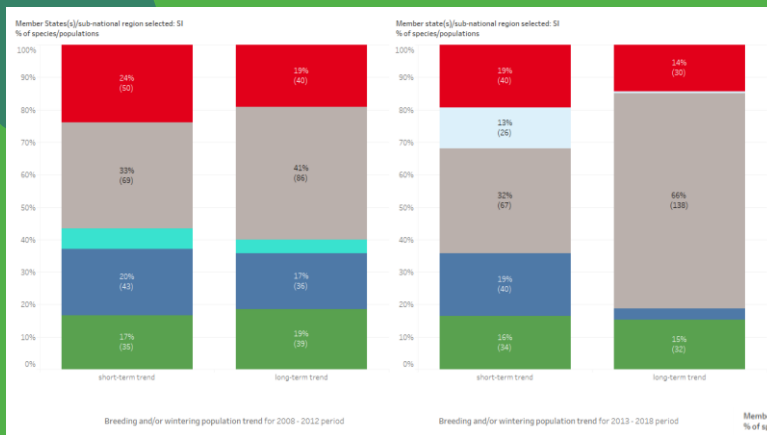


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Slovenia

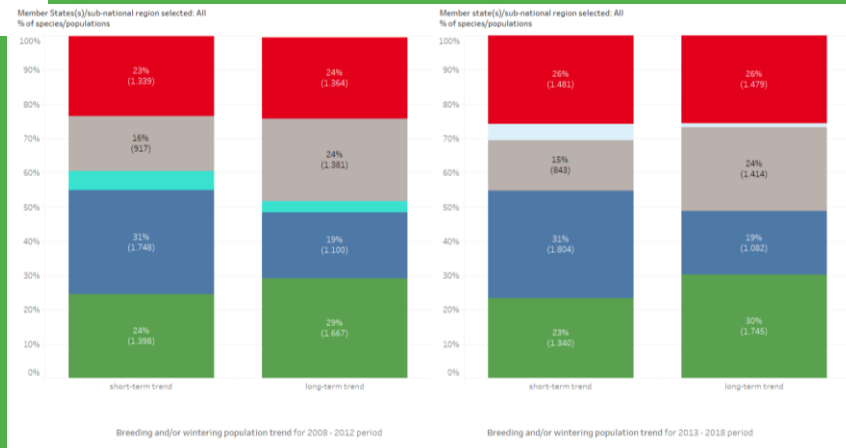
# State of Nature report for Slovenia

## Breeding bird population trends (2008 – 2018)



EU

Slovenia





# Draft SWOT on biodiversity



# STRENGTHS

- Small farms prevent rural depopulation and contribute to diverse landscapes.
- Preserved ecosystems provide diverse habitats and ecosystem services.
- 37 % areas of Slovenia are part of the Natura 2000 network.
- High amount of protected areas, that contribute to sustainable development.
- Existence of autochthonous agricultural plants and animal breeds that are adapted to local environmental conditions.
- Well preserved forest ecosystems, that are part of Natura 2000 network.
- Forest management is based on sustainable and nature friendly traditional values.





# WEAKNESSES

- Decline of biodiversity – habitat types and species are in unfavourable state (especially grassland and freshwater habitats that are linked to farming)
- Disappearance of landscape features and mosaic landscapes.
- Intensification of farmland on important natural areas.
- Abandonment of agricultural land and the increase of forest.
- Areas of Natura 2000 cause a burden to landowners / absence of Natura 2000 payments.
- Small and fragmented forest holdings.
- Problems with forest restoration.
- Autochthonous agricultural plants and animal breeds bred in low numbers due to low productivity / lack of reproductive material.
- Lack of awareness, cooperation and knowledge transfer.



# OPPORTUNITIES

- Preserving Natura 2000 areas in good conservation state.
- Preserving habitat types and species in good condition.
- Improving the capacity building and motivation of farmers to take a greater role in sustainable farming.
- Possibility for development of supplementary activities on farms that contribute to nature protection.



# OPPORTUNITIES

- Development of value-added products.
- Improved advisory service on sustainable farming practices and nature conservation measures.
- Raising environmental awareness of farmers and farm advisors.
- Finding solutions and improving technologies that provide a sustainable use of natural resources.
- Promoting plants that are more adopted to climate change and raise farmland diversity.
- Production of seeds with a high added value as additional farm income.
- Better cooperation and knowledge transfer on the field of seed production and processing.



# THREATS

- Lack of interest from farmers for environmental friendly farming practices.
- Declining of small farms which are self sufficient (not market oriented production).
- Agricultural land abandonment of small farmers in remote areas and areas with natural constraints.
- Further spread of alien invasive species.
- Decline of utilisation of traditional breeds and varieties that could lead to the loss of genetic resources and biodiversity.
- Climate change.





**THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
ATTENTION!**