



WOULD YOU LIKE TO PARTICIPATE?

Several awareness raising activities are to be executed as part of the project: lectures, workshops, camps and international conferences. Three new educational trails and an amphibian information centre in Kozjanski Park are to be introduced. An important part of the project will be the establishment of international cooperation and the transfer of knowledge, experience and best practices.

Do you need information or advice on the conservation of amphibians? Would you like to report sightings of amphibians and the locations where they cross a road?

Coordination Centre for Amphibians in Slovenia provides information and promotes examples of best practice for the conservation of amphibians, their habitats and their migratory routes.

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ABOUT THE PROJECT

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AMPHIBIAN CONSERVATION AND HABITAT RESTORATION

LIFE18 NAT/SI/000711 – LIFE AMPHICON | Project time frame: 1/11/2019–31/12/2026

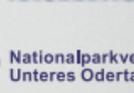
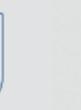
COORDINATING BENEFICIARY



CO-FINANCERS:



ASSOCIATED BENEFICIARIES:



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AMPHIBIAN CONSERVATION AND HABITAT RESTORATION

RESTORATION OF AMPHIBIAN HABITATS

In order to reproduce and develop larvae, amphibians need suitable aquatic environments – **breeding sites**. These sites need to:

- be **large enough not to dry out** during the summer,
- have **shallow and deeper zones** with suitable structures for life throughout the year,
- have **gentle slopes** that animals can easily leave,
- be **covered with vegetation** that offers suitable sites for spawning and refuge from predators, and
- be **free of fish** that feed on larvae, eggs and plants on which eggs are attached.

Over 160 spawning ponds will be **restored** or **created** on the project areas. However, terrestrial habitats used by amphibians as **summer shelters**, **wintering grounds** and **migratory routes** are just as important for their survival as aquatic habitats. We are set to improve **over 70 ha of terrestrial habitats** by **planting hedgerows**, **removing invasive alien plant species** and organising **time-adjusted mowing**.

IMPLEMENTATION OF PERMANENT AMPHIBIAN MITIGATION MEASURES ON THE ROADS

Amphibians migrate from breeding sites to terrestrial habitats along established routes that are often crossed by roads. Migrations occur throughout the year, and roadkills are most noticed during spring migrations, when many species start their journey almost simultaneously.

Implementing voluntary rescue operations for amphibians and setting up temporary fences on the roads are effective measures for reducing mortality rates, but this solution is not permanent and does not prevent collisions during the summer and autumn. That is why we are to establish **tunnels** and **permanent amphibian fences** on **5 road sections** to allow amphibians a safe passage and prevent them from crossing those roads throughout the year.

REINFORCEMENT OF THE FIRE-BELLIED TOAD POPULATIONS

Aside from habitat restoration, **supportive breeding** is another effective measure for increasing the number and for the preservation of small and endangered amphibian populations on the verge of extinction, including the fire-bellied toad on some project areas.

In natural circumstances, only 1 to 5 % of eggs will develop into toadlets, which, in case of a low number, is not enough for a long-term survival of the population. By **transferring part of the spawn to a breeding centre**, where the development from egg to toadlet can take place, death by predators and other factors can be prevented, and thus the **survival rate is improved** to reach as much as 90 %.

THE LIFE AMPHICON PROJECT

Amphibians are among the most endangered vertebrates in Europe. The decline in amphibian populations is mostly due to **habitat loss**, **fragmentation** and **destruction**, as well as **reduced population connectivity**.

TARGET SPECIES:

Fire-bellied toad
(*Bombina orientalis*)



Italian crested newt
(*Triturus cristatus*)



Yellow-bellied toad toad
(*Bombina orientalis*)



The project aims to improve the conservation status of the species protected by the Habitats Directive on 6 selected Natura 2000 areas. The project will last 7 years, and taking part in its implementation are 9 project partners from 3 countries: Slovenia, Denmark and Germany.