

SGSII-8 the Freshwater Pearl Mussel, Blanice river and Zlatý potok



Ministerstvo životního prostředí

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NEWS

Project name: Revitalisation of the River Catchment Area, Optimisation of Functional Components and Monitoring in the Key Site of the Freshwater Pearl Mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*) in the Blanice River and Zlatý potok

Project Nr.: MGSII - 8

Project location: The catchment area of the Blanice River and the Zlatý potok, South Bohemia Region, Prague

Financial support: EEA Grants, Small Grants Scheme (SGSII) entitled “Action Plans for Endangered Species II”, support area 1: “Realisation of Approved Action Plans and Management Plans for Endangered Plant and Animal Species”

Total Resources: 1,838,001 CZK incl. VAT

Financing: Financial resources from EEA Grants are assigned in the amount of 1,562,301 CZK, which is 85% of the anticipated total project expenditure. The state budget grants financial resources in the amount of 275,700 CZK, which is 15% of the anticipated total project expenditure.

Project duration: 1.3.2015 – 30.6.2016

Project partners:

- Gammarus CZ s.r.o.

Project guarantee:

- Mgr. Tomáš Birčák, AOPK ČR, Division of species protection, E: tomas.bircak@nature.cz
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Project Objective and Scope:

This project is carried out by the Nature Conservation Agency of the Czech Republic (NCA CR) in cooperation with the company Gammarus CZ, s.r.o. The first part of this project deals with the revitalisation of the headwater area in the catchment area of the Spalenecký brook, a tributary to the Blanice River, and the Capi mokriny moors in the catchment area of the Zlatý brook.

As a result of reckless management in the past, the supply of detritus, i.e., the food for the filtrator species, from the

headwater area to the main stream has been interrupted. The aim of the revitalisation of small tributaries is to restore the network of small watercourses and to achieve a partial improvement of the feeding conditions in the habitat of the Freshwater Pearl Mussel (FWPM) in the estuary of the Spalenecky brook, and subsequently also in the Blanice River and in the Zlaty brook.

The next objective of this project is optimisation of the functions of the erosion control measures built in 2013 on the Lucni brook, a tributary of the Zlaty brook. The objective of this erosion control measures was to diminish the erosive force of the water and to direct as much floating debris into sedimentary effusion areas. The inlets and effusion areas will be modified, sediments will be removed and other necessary modifications will be made. The correct functioning of the erosion control measures in the catchment area of the Zlaty brook will be monitored continuously all year round.

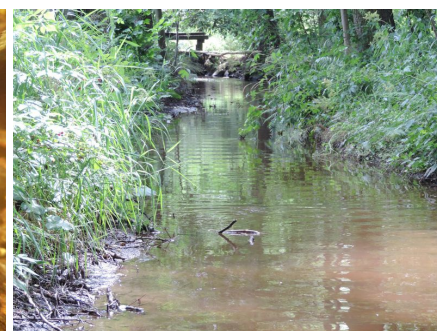
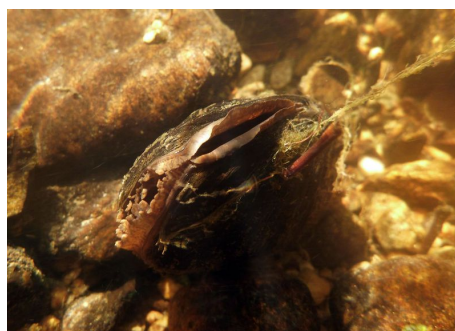
As part of the monitoring, full-scale inspections will be organised in the catchment area, aiming to prevent damage to the biotope of the FWPM by the anthropogenic effects of the management, with conflict being anticipated especially with forestry and farming management. The next form of monitoring will consist of installing temperature sensors with a permanent recording function in selected profiles. Besides this, two permanent areas will be selected for monitoring of the FWPM, with special attention being paid to the occurrence of juveniles.

About the FWPM

The FWPM (*Margaritifera margaritifera*) is an umbrella species for the conservation of oligotrophic watercourses. It is highly sensitive to disturbed natural processes in the whole catchment area. This makes it an organism whose effective preservation requires the wide participation of the public and stakeholders, especially farmers, forest management staff, fishermen, local governments, etc.) along the entire catchment area where this species occurs.

In the past, the FWPM was threatened mostly by pearl pickers. The adverse impacts today are eutrophication and chemical pollution of waters, inconvenient temperature regime as a result of overgrown forest over spring areas and watercourses, erosion and sedimentation in watercourses caused by intense agricultural and forest management, unbalanced hydrological regime, calcium metabolism disorder and a lack of fish or genetically unsuitable host fish species. To mitigate these effects, broad cooperation is necessary of the many entities in the whole catchment area where the FWPM occurs. This can be assisted by the demand raised by public awareness and thus help to to preserve this interesting animal species.

Photos:



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