

Short Report on International Training for Wetland Restoration in the Czech Republic

A five-day international training course on wetland restoration was held on 18 – 22 October 2021 in the Czech Republic with a focus on restoration of mires affected by drainage, peatlands after peat extraction, drained spring areas and channelized or piped small streams. During the five days the course participants visited on-going restoration projects in three Czech Ramsar sites: Šumava mires, Springs and mires of the Slavkovský les Protected Landscape Area, and Mires of Krušné hory Mountains. In addition, an artificial lake Medard that was created on the site of an open-cast brown coal mine at the foothills of Krušné hory Mountains was visited to show the case of an extensive impact of coal mining on the landscape and local hydrology.

The course was attended by 15 participants from Slovakia and Czechia, who represented administrations of protected areas, non-governmental organisations and university PhD students.

Big thanks go to the guides of the field excursions: Ivana Bufková (Šumava National Park), Přemysl Tájek (Slavkovský les Protected Landscape Area) and Vladimír Melichar (Krušné hory Mires). The tour around the Medard Lake was lead by Petr Rojík (geologist from the Muzeum in Sokolov). While the daytime was spent in the field, the evenings were devoted to lectures in meeting rooms presenting the broader aspects of the restoration projects, project planning and designs, monitoring data on hydrology of the sites, vegetation changes, etc. Also all the course participants were given an opportunity to present projects that they are involved in within their organisations.

The course was organised by Libuše Vlasáková from the Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic, in collaboration with two members of the Czech Ramsar Committee (Martina Eiseltová from the Centre for Theoretical Studies, joint research institute of Charles University and the Czech Academy of Sciences, and Katarína Slabeyová from the Czech Ornithological Society), and Ján Kadlečík from the Carpathian Wetland Initiative (CWI), State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic. Financial support was provided by the Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic and CWI.

The course was organised in support of the implementation of the Ramsar Convention Resolutions adopted at COP8 and COP13 (listed below) and work plan of the Ramsar Regional Initiative – Carpathian Wetland Initiative:

Resolution VIII.34: Agriculture, wetlands and water resource management

Resolution XIII.19: Sustainable Agriculture in Wetlands

Resolution XIII.9: Ramsar Regional Initiatives 2019-2021

Resolution XII.9: The Ramsar Convention's Programme on communication, capacity building, education, participation and awareness (CEPA) 2016-2024

The course was very well received and thanks to an overwhelming interest we expect to convene a similar course in the coming years.

Libuše Vlasáková, Martina Eiseltová & Ján Kadlečík



Field trip in Šumava National Park lead by Ivana Bufková, Photo: J. Kadlečík



Participant having lecture in Šumava NP, Photo: J. Kadlečík



Field trip in Slavkovský les PLA, Kladská educational trail, Photo: J. Kadlečík



Participants at mires of Slavkovský les, Photo: J. Kadlečík



Final discussion and course evaluation by participants, Photo: J. Kadlečík