

## CASE STUDY CZ-2

### BIRDS AND AMPHIBIANS SUPPORT ON WET MEADOWS (CZECH REPUBLIC)

#### BRIEF PROFILE OF THE CASE STUDY

- The project “**Ptačí park Josefovské louky**” is located in the region Hradec Králové, N-E Bohemia, on appr. 70 ha of **alluvial grasslands**.
- The origin of the project is threefold: unprofitable livestock production, extreme weather events (droughts and floods), slightly increasing interest of public on the environment
- The project is carried out by a working group which consists of two NGOs (the Czech Society of Ornithology and local ČSOP Jaro Jaroměř) in collaboration with local and regional authorities, donors and volunteers, and local farmers.
- The main environmental and social benefits studied are: 1. **restoration and increasing of biodiversity**, joint with alluvial meadows and wetlands, and 2. **educational benefits for public**. Secondary environmental and social benefit studied is: 3. **benefit from saving cultural heritage: restoration and using of a 100-year old irrigation system**.



#### KEY FACTORS IMPACTING THE PROVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL BENEFITS

- Transformation represents **conversion of common grassland** with help of the old irrigation system management and nature-friendly farming on a private reserve “for birds and for the people”.
- The collective action is coordinated by working group (not formalised but the roles are distributed quite well), which in a coordinated way deals with other actors and also orchestrate fund raising.
- Mechanisms of environmental and social benefits provision are **extensive grassland management, irrigation system management, small ponds building, and education activities**.
- The main drivers of grassland management are **CAP** (Single Area Payment Schemes and Agri-Environmental Climatic Measures) and partly **programs of Ministry of Environment** (national and EU level). Drivers for the project sustainability are **enthusiasm, good knowledge and communication skills of the leaders, and good marketing of environmental and social benefits**.

#### EMERGING FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS



- The **main institutional changes** consisted of: acquisition of part of the grassland by NGOs, creation of working group and the agreement between NGOs on the common approach, agreement with farmers on the grassland management, agreement on restoration of irrigation system and also between users of water (a small water power plant is also involved).
- The partnership is quite strong (e.g. including trust, reciprocity, values sharing) between NGOs and relevant bodies on mezzo level (e.g. local government), but weaker with farmers, who fear of the consequences of regular ground water level increase, and late cuts on their meadows (the demand for grass is low there, but new management of the site could make farming more difficult).

