

OC30 - Restoring wetlands in Kampinos National Park – Chances and challenges

Miazga, M.^a, Vendras, E.^a, and Andrzejewska, A.^b

^aRegional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe, Warsaw, Poland

^bKampinos National Park, Izabelin, Poland

Kampinos National Park (Central Poland) is characterized by the contrary presence of inland sand dunes and wetland habitats. The latter are threatened due to drainage activities from the 1800s to 1970s, and resulted in a groundwater level drop by 0.5 m. Thus, wetlands are gradually drying, resulting in a secondary succession in non-arboreal phytocenoses.

The LIFE KAMPINOS WETLANDS PL project aims to restore and maintain wetland habitats by (1) permanently increasing moisture content at the most valuable wetland sites, (2) halting secondary succession, (3) minimizing conflicting issues between local communities and conservation interests, and (4) elaborating benchmark solutions for water management on naturally valuable areas. These goals will be accomplished by technical actions such as constructing dykes and weirs, stopping groundwater from draining into a nearby channel, and removing old drainage ditches. Having commenced in 2013, measures have already taken place, which include the building of a digital elevation model, the purchase of 120 ha of private land in the park, a beaver population management plan, and developing guidelines for efficient weir usage for nature conservation goals.

Here, we discuss the project in detail, its current progress, and projections for its final outcome.

By the end of the project, the soil moisture content of an area of ca. 6000 ha is expected to have increased as a result of this project. At the same time, the range size of NATURA 2000 species and habitats (e.g. riparian forests (*91E0), Tilio-Carponetum forests (9170), fresh meadows Arrhenatherion (6510) and Molinion type meadows (6410)) are believed to increase. Priority bird species that will benefit from the project are the Eurasian Bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*, *A021), Corn Crake (*Crex crex*, *A122) and the Lesser Spotted Eagle (*Aquila pomarina*, *A089). So far, the limiting factors to this project are changing laws regarding the purchase of land as well as time-constraints due to seasonality and waiting-time for permits, however all constraints could be solved.