

Stories from different types of grasslands – dry grassland restoration

LIFE project “Dinara back to LIFE”

- **Dinara back to LIFE** (LIFE18 NAT/HR/000847)

Project info

- January 2020 – November 2023 (1.296.509€ - 60% EU)
- Partners:
 - LAG „Cetinska krajina“
 - Croatian Forests LTD
 - Faculty of Agronomy, University of Zagreb
- Problem: loss of grasslands and their biodiversity, which causes unfavorable status for all target habitats and species within the project area.
- Goals:
 - develop technical guidelines for dry grassland restoration and sustainable management;
 - reduce negative influence of wildfires and demonstrate positive impact of controlled burning;
 - further develop skills and abilities within the community.



Scorzoneratalia villosae dry grasslands
(Natura 2000 - 62A0)



Emberiza hortulana
Calandrella brachydactyla
Burhinus oedicnemus



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Activities

- Shrub clearing – 100ha
- Controlled burning – 100ha
- Service flock grazing – 80ha
- Livestock facilities restoration – watering places, path and dry stone walls



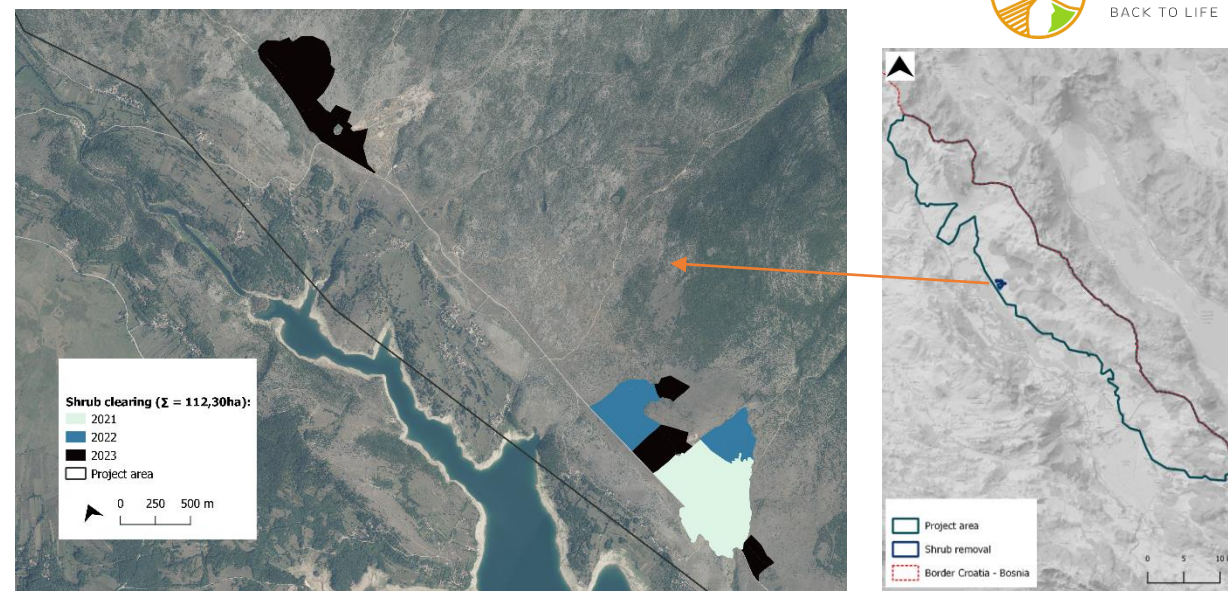
dinarabacktolife.eu

Projekt je sufinanciran sredstvima LIFE Programa Europske unije.
Projekt sufinancira Ured za udruge Vlade Republike Hrvatske.
Sufinancirano sredstvima Fonda za zaštitu okoliša i energetske učinkovitost.

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Shrub clearing

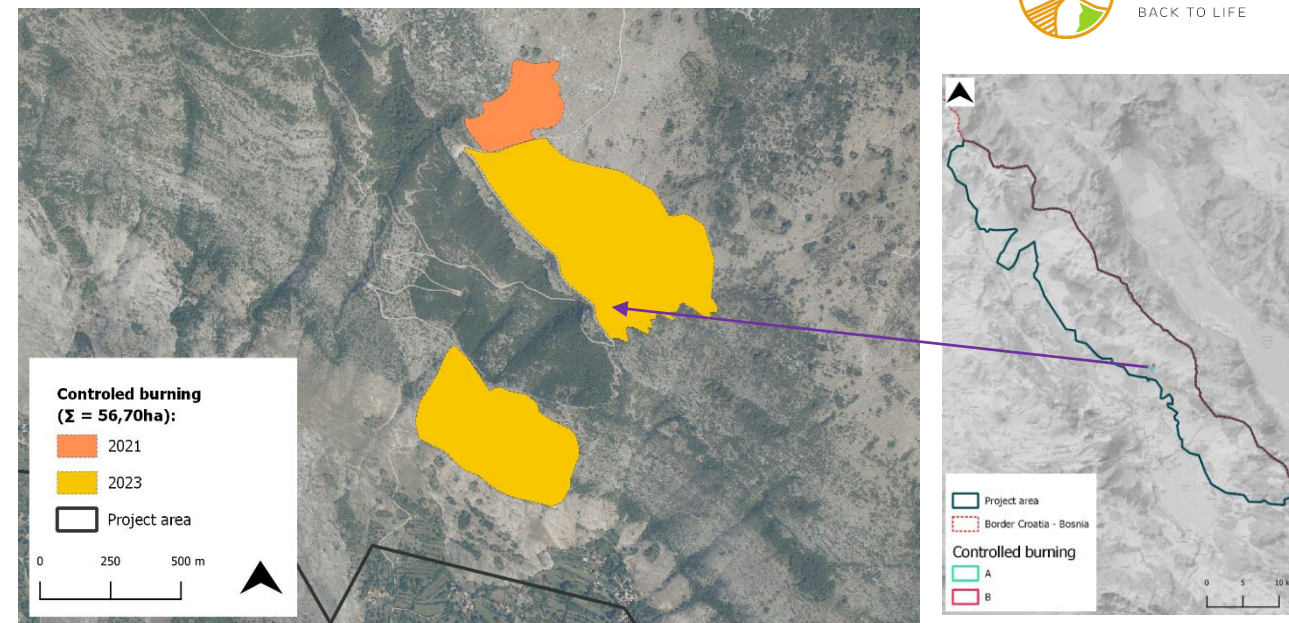
- Volunteer restoration camp in 2021
- Two part-time workers autumn-winter 2021/2022 and 2022/2023
- 112,3ha restored
- Slow progress in dense parts
- Biomass removal can influence the pace
- Main challenges:
 - Land is state owned, managed by Croatian forests LTD
 - Land with woody vegetation – forest land
 - Non-commercial wood cutting is not allowed – hard to get a permit
 - Either lobby for a permit or make exceptions in the management plan
 - Administration takes more time then cutting



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Controlled burning

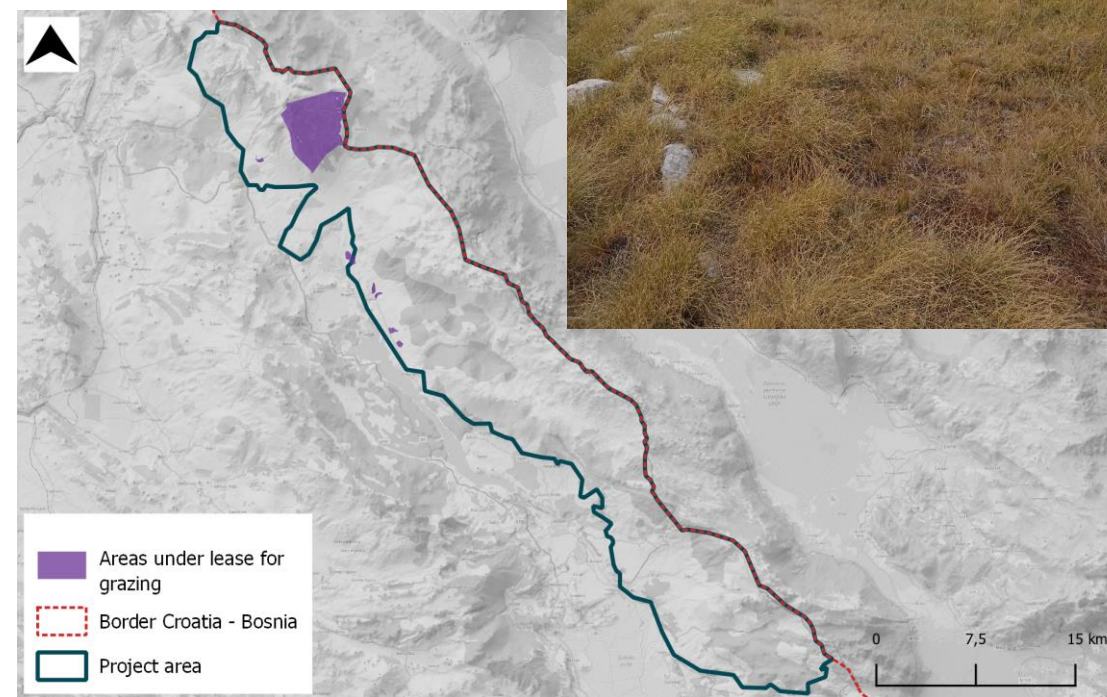
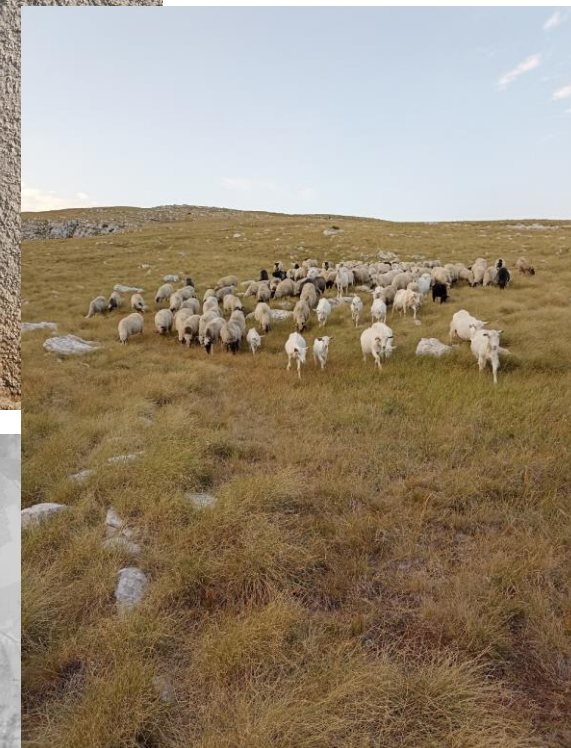
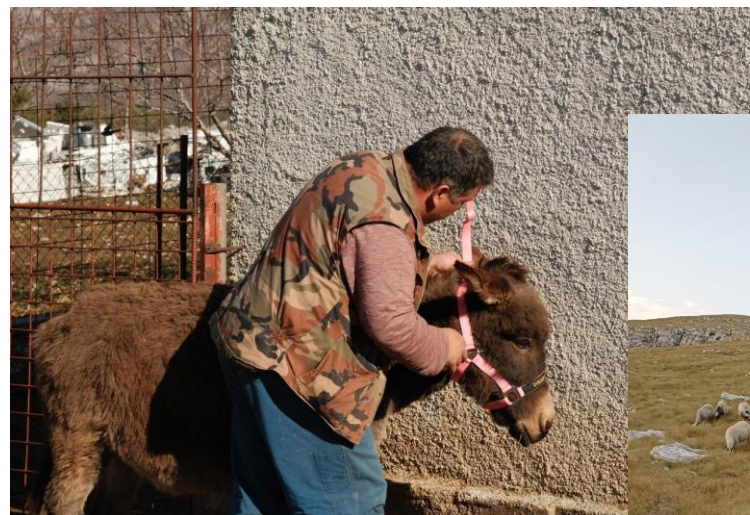
- Used historically on small areas on rough terrains
- Two events in February 2021 and February 2023 – on 56,7ha
- Requires cooperation with local firefighters to guarantee a safe execution
- Main challenges:
 - Limited spatial and temporal scope – winter months and only on small areas where fire can be controlled
 - Requires ideal weather condition (no wind and moderate humidity)
 - Written permit from firefighters and approval on the day of execution
 - Written permit from the relevant Ministry
 - Negative public perception



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Service flock grazing

- Intensified grazing applied to 536,03ha
- Original plan was one flock for one farmer – but flocks not diverse enough
- 16 farmers received in total 14 donkeys, 16 cow and 2 horses
- Main challenges:
 - Farmers need to have their land or a lease
 - Most farmers graze close to home
 - There is a limited amount of reliable farmers in the area



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Livestock facilities restoration

- 20 wells restored
- 11,5km of hiking paths cleared
- 2km of dry stone wall restored
- Well restoration was universally positively accepted
- Electric fences given to 10 farmers, but is still a contended issue
- Main challenges:
 - there is a lack of quality clay for larger ponds and most wells are inaccessible
 - Clearing paths and restoring stone walls is a slow and tedious process
 - There are still no clear guidelines for setting up electric fences on state land



THANK YOU

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Sufinancirano sredstvima Fonda za zaštitu okoliša i energetske učinkovitost.



FOND ZA ZAŠTITU OKOLIŠA I
ENERGETSKU UČINKOVITOST



VLADA REPUBLIKE HRVATSKE
10000 ZAGREB



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Prikazan sadržaj je isključiva odgovornost partnera Dinara back to LIFE projekta i ne odražava nužno stajališta Europske unije, Ureda za udruge Vlade Republike Hrvatske i Fonda za zaštitu okoliša i energetske učinkovitost.