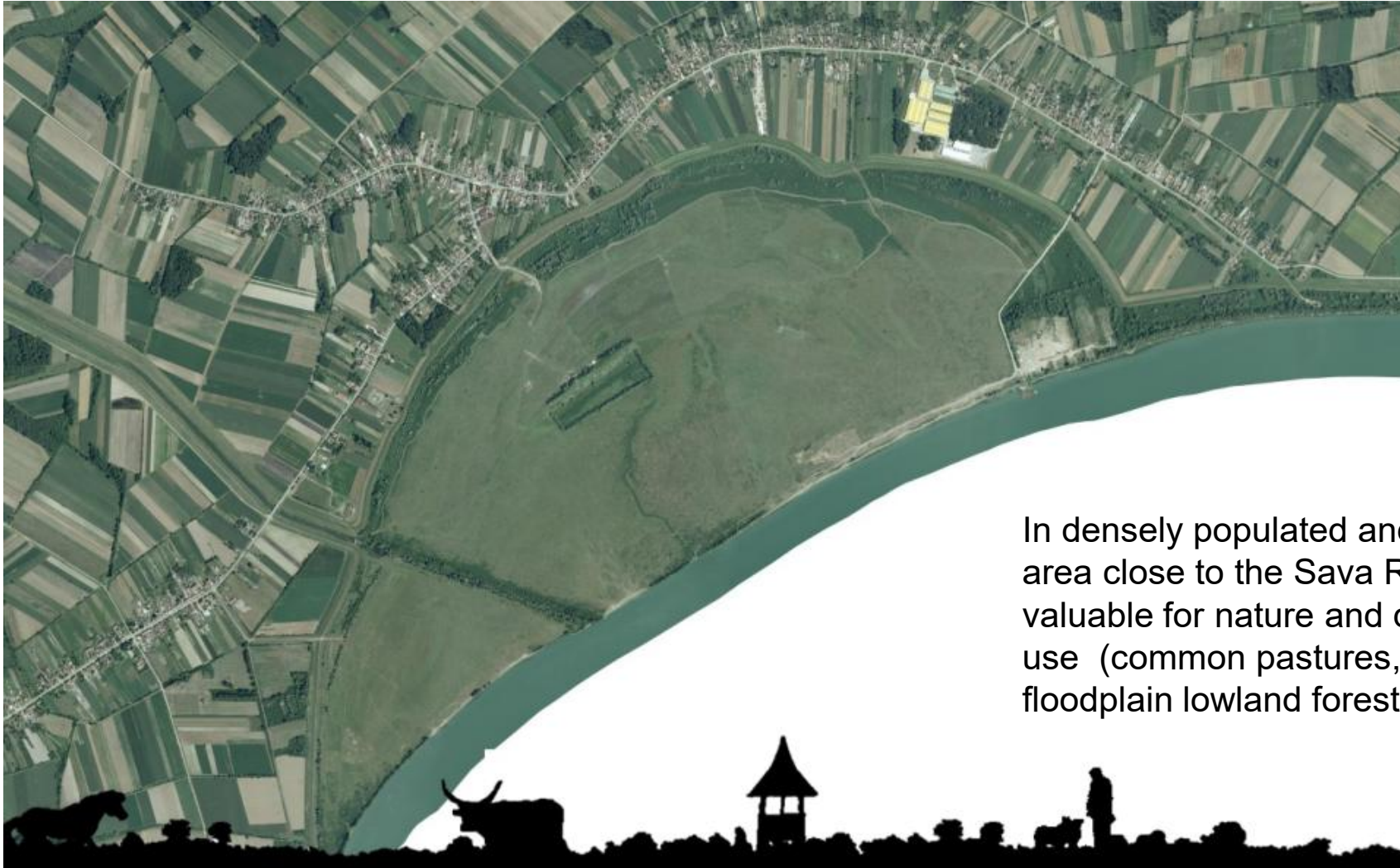


Preserving traditional common management on Natura 2000 grassland of the wetlands «Gajna»



In densely populated and intensively cultivated agricultural area close to the Sava River, there are places extremely valuable for nature and directly dependent on traditional land use (common pastures, flooded grasslands and alluvial floodplain lowland forests)

LANDCARE EUROPE Captures Carbon

– Supporting Natural Climate Protection in Agricultural Landscapes

Similar grazing practices throughout centuries – continuous communal governance of the land



Late Bronze Age



1970's



1980's



2010's

250 hectares are enscripted in Land Parcel Identification System as pasture since 2015., and a High Nature Value Grassland since 2019.

It has been traditionally used as common pasture for centuries.

Local community and NGO BED founded in 1989 - managing the area together - revitalization, biodiversity protection and protection of cultural and natural heritage



Protected as a significant landscape since 1990, 280 ha of typical flooded pasture, alluvial depressions and elevations,

UNESCO Biosphere 2021 - Croatia's Shallow Ponds

Directly dependant on activities of local community for its survival as a valuable habitat

Significant landscape from 1990 and part of EU ecological network (Natura 2000)

–Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) HR2000427 and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) HR1000005



Guardians of nature protection on Gajna are:

Brod Ecological society-BED initiated the protection in 1990, and was trusted with jurisdiction over the implementation of the measures and conditions of protection of nature until 2006, when **Public institution Natura Slavonica** was founded and became responsible for management of protected areas and ecological network in Brod-Posavina County.

Pasturing Community Veterans Cooperative Eko -Gajna was founded in 2007, and included this protection measures in its Management plan.

About 250 plant species have been recorded on the Gajna pasture and it is an important place for bees, butterflies and other pollinators, a feeding place for birds, a place where amphibians live, a place where fish spawn in seasonal floods. Invasive plant species spreading with floods pose a major threat, particularly *Amorpha fruticosa* – grazing is the only efficient way of controlling it !!!

Gajna - a place of the first Pasturing community in Croatia



Eco-cooperative Gajna was founded in 2007- re-registered as Pasturing community in 2012. (BED is one of founding members)

Management plan created for Common pasture Gajna in 2012.- approved by Ministry of Environment and Nature Protection - Conservation measures have to be followed:

- **ensure constant livestock grazing in pasture areas;**
- **keep 10-15% of the total area under water during non-flooding periods;**
- **keep 10% of the total area covered by indigenous forest vegetation (oak, willow, poplar and narrow-leaf ash);**
- **prohibit waste disposal in the area;**
- **prohibit removal of surface soils with grasses;**
- **favour traditional endangered domestic breeds etc**



Why old breeds?

Best caretakers of the
pasture – low input, high
stamina, natural and cultural
heritage, gene pool, best for
removal of
invasive plant species,
adaptative to climate
extremes and zoonoses
ecosystem maintenance,
adaptation qualities



The values of common flooded grasslands – and the obstacles



Landscape and biodiversity value, HNV agriculture
Carbon sink – climate change
Flood protection and a role in fire risk/management
Extensive grazing, hubs of old breeds - adaptable,
Natura 2000 and/or protected areas



Commons are „complicated” – in regulating relationships within the communities and especially towards the State and EU administration.

Croatia - Land lease contracts are short, jurisdictions change

Nature protection restrictions

Controlling rules and mechanisms often change

Commons survived because they were not attractive enough for intensive agriculture – most have natural constraints

Rules, rules, rules, rules internal

In order to be recognized by the different government bodies

Pasturing community Eko-Gajna has developed many internal controlling mechanisms

Management plan created for Common pasture Gajna in 2012.- approved by Ministry of Environment and Nature Protection

Yearly management plans – based on individual plans – in order to uphold to the – no more than 1 cattle head per hectare - rule.

Field controls of HNV grassland activities

Founded **a special farm** connected to the cooperative and the pasture, opened cattle owners cards for cooperative members differing cattle that graze from the cattle staying in barns.

Agreed with the Ministry of Agriculture and Paying Agency to **send lists every year** since there is no systemic way to connect cattle with pasture.



POSJEDNIČKI LIST

POSJEDNIK	FARMA
30150078 BRODSKO EKOLOŠKO DRUŠTVO TRG HRVATSKOG PROLJEČA 1 SLAVONSKI BROD 35000 SLAVONSKI BROD	HR 40092626 EKO - GAJNA GAJNA BB OPRISAVCI 35213 OPRISAVCI

DATUM ISPIŠA: 21.04.2021



Rules, rules, rules, rules external

Apart from internal rules and

general rules for every agricultural holding – 

PZBZ Eko-Gajna adheres to contractual agreements with

Croatian Waters – conditions of Contract on the 5 year **lease of the land**

Conditions of the **Decision on the granting of a concession permit** for carrying out activities in the protected area in the significant landscape of Gajna for the activity of livestock - livestock grazing and mowing County Public Institution for nature protection - Natura Slavonica –

TAX ADMINISTRATION – can not transfer subsidies to members unless paying taxes



Rulebook on the implementation of direct support to agriculture and IAKS rural measures of development for the year 2024 (Official Gazette No. 157/23)
➤ Rulebook on amendments to the Rulebook on the implementation of direct support agriculture and IAKS measures of rural development for the year 2024 (Official Gazette No. 26/24)
➤ Strategic plan of the Common Agricultural Policy of the Republic of Croatia for period 2023-2027. and amendments to the EC Decision of December 7, 2023.
➤ Law on Agriculture (Official Gazette No. 118/18, 42/20, 127/20 – Decision of the Constitutional Court Republic of Croatia, 52/21, 152/22)
➤ Regulation on conditionality (Official Gazette No. 26/23)
➤ Regulation on multiple compliance (Official Gazette No. 113/19)

Subsidies...so close yet so far apart

No subsidies at all until 2015 –
„complicated commons”

High Nature Value Grassland since
2019. (5 year commitment) – from 2023
turned into an eco-scheme

Kicked out from Land Parcel
Identification System in 2022. (appeals in
process)

In 2024.- Paying the lease for **277** ha –
eligibility for **248** ha

Example – High Nature Value Grassland rule – eradicate
invasive species all the time – no mowing before August
the 1st. Choice given to either mow or graze, but cattle is
mandatory, no place for combinations. Vis major? Different
heights, different plants. Spring Floods in 2023. left
abundant invasive species



Gajna through months



January



February



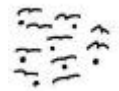
March



April



May



June



July



August



September



October



November



December



Climate (un)justice – climate friendly and first in the „line of fire” of extreme weather events



How we fight the obstacles?

Daily work on the field, engaging into networks, learning, joining forces in policy work, working constantly with and from within the community, building bridges between sectors (agriculture, nature protection, water management)





The Coordination council of significant landscape Gajna

Together with Public Institution Natura Slavonica as an organiser, suorganisers were Brod Ecological Society - BED and Municipality Oprisavci. Farmers from Oprisavci, Poljanci and Donja Bebrina participated, as well as representatives of Pasturing Community veterans' cooperative Eko-Gajna, Croatian Agency of the Enviroment and Nature, Croatian Waters VGI Brod Posavina, Croatian Forests – Forest division Trnjani, Croatian forest society Ogranak Slavonski Brod, Sporting Fishing society 'Mrist' Oprisavci, Police Station Vrpolje, LAG Slavonian Plain and Elementary school Stjepan Radić Oprisavci.



Gajna is one of the rare protected areas in Croatia which has a body that allows the participation of all stakeholders which meet up regularly.





Workshop

Extensively managed grasslands as natural carbon sinks – Practical implementation and requirements for CAP measures

Prepared by Iris Beneš,
mag.iur, president



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web: www.bed.hr,

FB: BED Brodsko ekološko društvo

Insta: BED Brod Ecological Society



Nature and Environment Protection Organization and Work with Volunteers Protection and Preservation of Significant Landscapes of the Public of Civil Society Sustainable Agriculture Development of Commons Advocacy and Lobbying Traditional Buildings Habitat Restoration and Landscaping Cooperation with Genetic Resources Work in Networks Cross-Border Cooperation the Public and Private Sector Cross-Border Cooperation Influence on Public Policies Wetlands Natural Defense Against Floods The Fight Against Invasive Species Collaborative Councils in Protected Areas

Zaštita prirode i okoliša Organizacija i rad s volonterima Zaštita i očuvanje značajnog krajobrazca Gajna Edukacija javnosti Praktična rješenja u znanstvenim osnovama Razvoj civilnog društva Održiva poljoprivreda Zajedničko upravljanje staništa Zaštita i poboljšanje Tradicijska gradnja Restoracija staništa Aktivacija građana Klimatske promjene Genetski resursi Rad u mrežama Suradnja s javnim i privatnim sektorom Prekogranična suradnja Učinci na javne politike Vlažna staništa Prirodna obrana od poplava Borba protiv invazivnih vrsta Suradnička vijeća na zaštićenim područjima

Ljudi za prirodu, People for nature, priroda za ljude nature for people

