



Biosferno območje
K · R · A · S
in porečje Reke

KARST (and Reka River Basin) BIOSPHERE RESERVE, SLOVENIA

Networking river and watershed biosphere reserves building a
»continental freshwater ecosystem« MAB network
EuroMAB 2017

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United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Organizacija Združenih
narodov za izobraževanje,
znanost in kulturo



Škocjan Caves
inscribed on the World
Heritage List in 1986

Škocjanske jame
vpisane na Seznam svetovne
dediščine leta 1986



CONVENTION ON WETLANDS
(Ramsar, Iran, 1971)



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The Karst
Biosphere Reserve since 2004
Man and the Biosphere Programme

Kras
Biosferno območje od leta 2004
Program Človek in biosfera

The main characteristics of Karst and Reka River Basin BR: location, area, connections with rivers and aquatic systems



- SW part of Slovenia
- **Reka River** is the „spine“ or the „cohesive thread“ of our BR
- Two separated parts:
 - the **surface part** with its surface river basin and river affluents (flysch) and
 - the **underground part** which gives water to the Karst aquifer which gets water also from Soča and Vipava River, other smaller affluents and rainwater (limestone)
- In the buffer zone of our BR we also have the **bifurcation between the Black and Adriatic Sea Catchment Area**

The main problems encountered (1)



- not properly established and regulated collecting and cleaning of waste water
- illegal releases, mostly from industrial plants and certain entrepreneurs
- non-properly equipped and regulated parking lots, especially for hazardous substances transporters
- traffic



The main problems encountered (2)



- illegal (old) waste dumps
- industrial plants
- disappearing of „water cultural heritage“ (abandoned mills and sawmills, water supply system of the Southern Railway from the Austro-Hungarian Period, other infrastructure, ...)
- crab plague
- ...



The main solutions or way of working that were developed by our BR to solve this problems



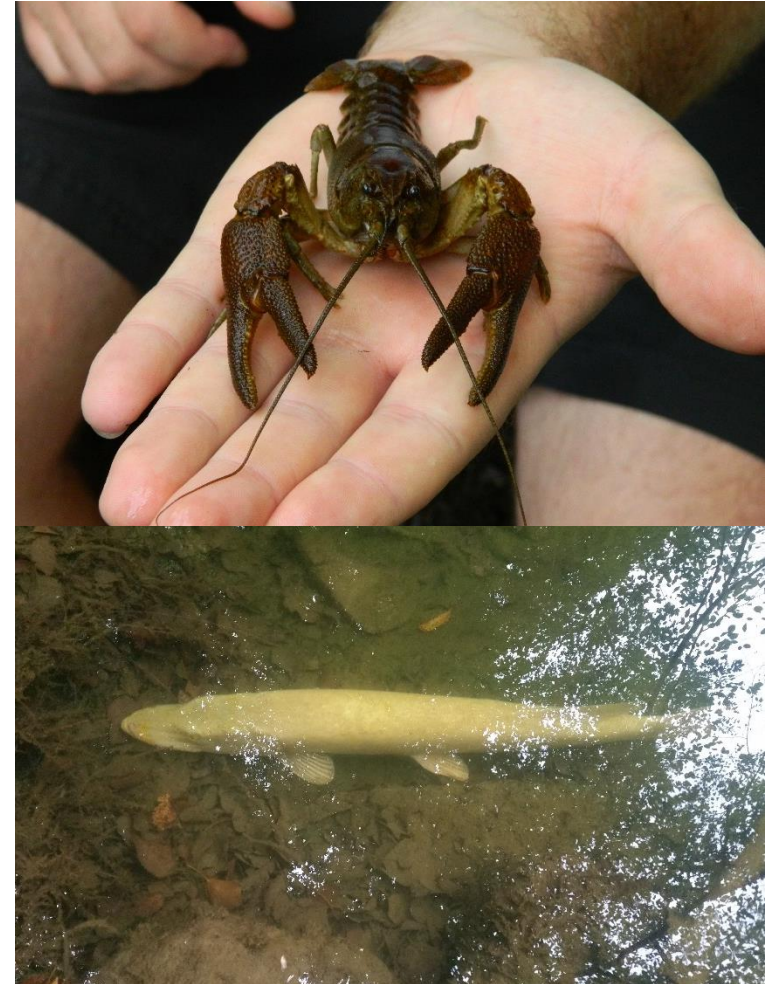
- **strengthening the nature conservation surveillance**
- **talks with companies that are in charge of Reka River and dumps monitoring on behalf of the industry firms etc.**
- **chemical analysis of water**
- **rescuing equipment in case of hazardous substances spillage**
- **cleanup actions**
- **public and local authorities awareness rising**
- **funds search for the renaturalization of hazardous dumps**
- **encourage the use of the UNESCO status by local authorities for gaining funds for the building of sewerage system**
- **professional help availability, feedbacks and partnership for inhabitants and local authorities on concrete issues**



Listing of main deadlock points and difficulties (political, financial, technical, scientific ...)



- **strong lobby**
- **small political will for problem solving on the state level**
- **ineffective inspectorates**
- **lack of funds**
- **inefficiency of individual municipalities with applications for international funds for the building of sewerage systems**
- **local disagreements**
- **uneducated inhabitants**





THANK YOU!

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