

Title of the example of good practice	Ornithological educational and volunteer camps on Mount Učka
Categories	Education, Management #volunteers #monitoring
Organisation	Biom
Partners	Učka Nature Park Public Institution (NPPI)
Area of Activity / Location	Učka Nature Park
Country	Croatia
National protection category (IUCN?)	IUCN V / Nature Park
Scope of implementation (local, national)	Local
Time period required to achieve a solution	10 months
Number of employees	3 months 1 person
Budget (salary included)	HRK 55,000 (ca. EUR 7,300)
Funding source	Učka NPPI and own resources
More information	<a href="http://www.biom.hr/vijesti/ornitoloski-kamp-ucka-2017/">http://www.biom.hr/vijesti/ornitoloski-kamp-ucka-2017/</a>
Contact person	Vedran Lucić
Overview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Years the camp has been taking place – 14</li> <li>• Total number of volunteers – over 1,000 so far</li> <li>• Number of volunteers per year – 70</li> <li>• Number of visitors per year – 100</li> <li>• Total number of schools participating – 6</li> <li>• Total number of bird ringers participating – 10</li> <li>• Total number of birds ringed – 22,000</li> <li>• Meadow maintenance – 2 ha</li> </ul>

Problem/opportunity	
Opportunities you wish to seize	The NPPI Učka interested in cooperation – gathering

	data for the park birds. No site had priorly existed for ringing birds, educating volunteers and interested citizens.
Planning	
Key pre-requisites for success	Legal: Statutory decree related to camping outdoors which must be adhered to.
	Institutional: The interest of the local manager (NPPI Učka) and/or local self-governing units. The local manager provides co-funding, equipment and promotes the camp.
	Internal capacities: Licensed bird ringers that have the authority to ring birds in the protected area. One person remains outside the office for 2 months during the camp. Own resources and own equipment, if there are no other funding sources.
How did the idea come to you?	NPPI Učka contacted Biom, since priorly there was no place for ringing birds, educating volunteers and interested citizens.
Is the idea part of a more expanded strategy?	Part of Biom's strategy (subsequently included in the plan management of NPPI Učka).
What are the roles of the partners?	NPPI Učka – support (part of the equipment, including fire fighting equipment, use of land, transport of equipment and participants, camp preparation), co-funding, promotion.
Implementation	
What were the key stages – from idea to actualisation?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. establishing the partner's engagement and expectations on both sides</li> <li>2. procuring the equipment</li> <li>3. establishing a camp maintenance schedule</li> </ol>

	<p>4. camp promotion</p> <p>5. volunteer applications</p> <p>6. arranging the schedule of the employees and volunteers</p> <p>7. distributing responsibilities among employees and volunteers</p> <p>8.a meadow mowing</p> <p>8.b bird ringing / morning education and at noon each day</p> <p>9. analysing the collected results of bird ringing</p>
How did you select the local stakeholders?	Anyone interested. The partner arranged the free use of the parcels where the camp was held with the owners in advance.
How have you included the stakeholders?	<p>Local schools included in the camp – informed by the partners.</p> <p>The hunters provide support to the camp (issue of wounded wild animals).</p> <p>Cooperation with fire fighters for water supply and fire safety.</p>
Which vulnerable groups have you included and in what way?	The most active volunteers are over 65, most of the camp is organised by women and all age groups are covered.
Which communication activities have you implemented and which channels have you used?	<p>The public institution informed newspaper agencies and radio stations.</p> <p>Lecture in Rijeka (Natural Science Museum) and Zagreb (Faculty of Science).</p> <p>Lecture for students at Bius (association of biology students).</p> <p>Contacting, via e-mail, international organisations that would have an interest in these kinds of activities and which include volunteers in their work.</p> <p>Biom on their web-site, Facebook and via newsletter.</p>
How have you included the activities of reducing and alleviating climate	Using solar panels, firewood-based cooking (instead of gas).

change into your work?	
Challenges during implementation:	Financial: Considerable use of own funds as co-funding.
	Technical: Organising the camp during forest fire season
Change (your contribution to change)	
What has been the positive change in nature?	Maintaining habitats by mowing (reducing succession)
How was the negative environmental impact reduced?	Camp presence reduces any potential illegal activities.
Positive economic (E) and social (S) change in:	The public sector (local, national): S: The municipality of Kršan recognised the significance of the camp and joined us in applying for an EU-funded project (Biom and NPPI Učka), and received HRK 1 million (ca. EUR 130,000) for a 4-year period
	The business sector: E: local hospitality facilities and stores benefit economically from the volunteers participating in the camp
	Protected area management: S: they get information about the birds; educational and volunteer activities are organised in their area; the area is being promoted on a local, national and international level The protected areas of Croatia should send their employees to the camp
	The local community: S: Increased interest in nature, Parcel owners satisfied since the volunteers mow the parcels and thus keep them in order
	The scientific community: All licensed bird ringers of the last 5 years started

	their education at this camp.
What's your greatest contribution to the project?	To the nature – contribution to the scientific community
	To the people – educational and promotional aspects of outdoor activities and bird watching.
Replication and recommendations	
What are the key things essential to replication?	<p>The existence of capacities (within the organisation or with partners).</p> <p>The support of the area manager and the local community (land, hospitality facilities, etc.)</p>
Is there anything you would do differently (and recommend others)?	<p>Engage a greater number of people on the first and last day of camp that know what they're doing (setting up and closing down the camp).</p> <p>Prior to arrival, inform the volunteers of the possibility of not having contact with birds.</p>
What is the key element for project sustainability?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support of the protected area management.</li> <li>• A constant improvement of camp conditions.</li> <li>• Successful implementation.</li> <li>• Maintaining a financial structure – secured EU-funded project for the next 4 years.</li> </ul>
What are your recommendations for policy improvements?	To include these activities, or similar ones, in management plans of protected areas.
What are the areas for which you'd like to know about the examples of good practice?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Including the local community</li> <li>• Corporate social responsibility (cooperation with the business sector)</li> <li>• The justice system (attorneys and courts) – successful cooperation</li> <li>• Measuring the socioeconomic benefits and services of the ecosystem</li> </ul>
Expectations	
What do you expect of the "Nature for People" site?	No expectations
What do you expect of the WWF?	Promotion using WWF's communication channels

	(on a national level).
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