

Good practices in stakeholder cooperation in conservation actions

MoE CZ

ReCo

Online Transnational Focus Workshop
28th February 2025

David Hubl

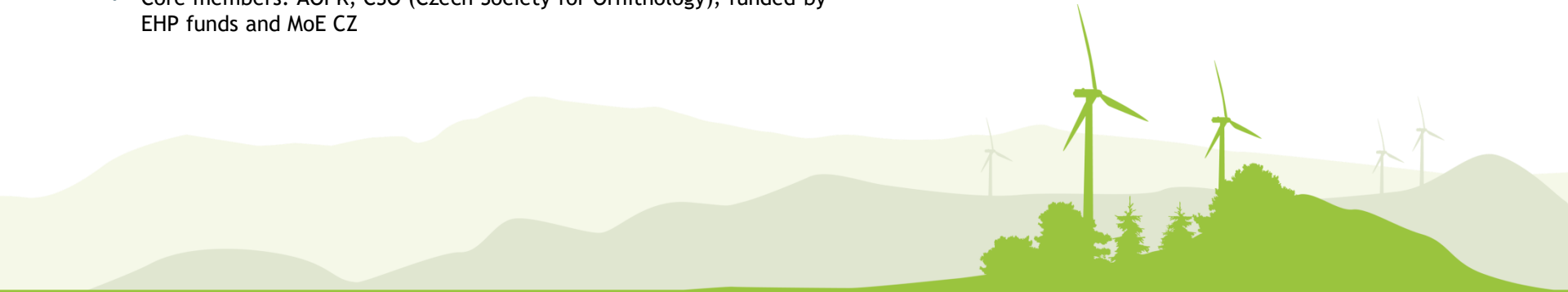




Little owl (*Athene noctua*)
and the rescue program for
little owl in the Czech
Republic

Rescue program for little owl in Czech Republic

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- Developed in 2020 by AOPK - Czech nature protection agency
 - Goal: To raise the dwindling population of little owl in Czechia from around 100 pair present today to over 1000 pairs and stabilise their numbers, possibly expand the species distribution to cover more area of CZ
 - Core members: AOPK, ČSO (Czech Society for Ornithology), funded by EHP funds and MoE CZ



The biggest challenge - general public and blurring the line of who the stakeholders are

- The population is now present almost exclusively only in northwestern Bohemia and Southern Moravia
- Little owl prefers low density agricultural areas due to its nesting (old barns etc.) and hunting habits
- Unsuitable habitat and anthropological „traps“ present the most common cause for mortality of little owl
- Actions of the nature protection stakeholders themselves (AOPK, ČSO etc.) may not be enough without involving private subjects

| | Sýček obecný | | | |
|---|--------------|------|------------|------|
| | před r. 2000 | | po r. 2000 | |
| | n | % | n | % |
| Přirozená mortalita | | | | |
| Vyhladovění | 2 | 1,8 | 8 | 8,9 |
| Predace | 8 | 7,3 | 11 | 12,2 |
| Mortalita způsobená antropogenními faktory | | | | |
| Kolize na silnicích | 16 | 14,7 | 21 | 23,3 |
| Kolize na železnicích | 3 | 2,8 | 1 | 1,1 |
| Kolize s el. vedením a budovami | 0 | 0,0 | 3 | 3,3 |
| Úrazy el. proudem | 2 | 1,8 | 2 | 2,2 |
| Uvznutí v dutých objektech | 3 | 2,8 | 16 | 17,8 |
| Uvznutí v nádržích | 10 | 9,2 | 18 | 20,0 |
| Uvěznění v budovách | 0 | 0,0 | 0 | 0,0 |
| Zástřely | 13 | 11,9 | 1 | 1,1 |
| Otravy | 0 | 0,0 | 4 | 4,4 |
| Neznámé příčiny | 52 | 47,7 | 5 | 5,6 |

The biggest challenge - general public and blurring the line of who the stakeholders are, II

- Preventing the decline of little owl rests only partially on policy changes (agricultural changes can account for reducing the number of starved individuals, predation can be reduced by reducing number of cats)
- Reintroduction potential is limited and can potentially cause new problems for the species





Photo: Jiří Hronek

Involving the general public and building owners - transformation into stakeholders

- Communication with building owners, farmers - seminars, personal contact
- Communication with general public - documentaries (*Slyšet sýčka*, *To hear the little owl*: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R_soC73JSlw), public campaigns (*Pasti na ptáky*, *Bird traps*: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VxHn7qXk154>)
- Social media - <https://www.facebook.com/OchranaSycka>, etc.



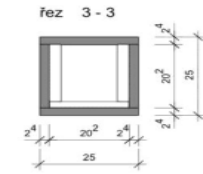
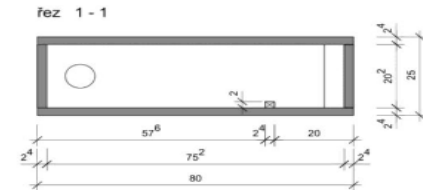
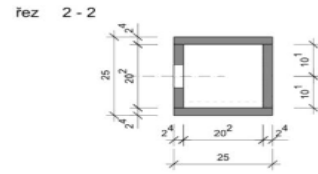
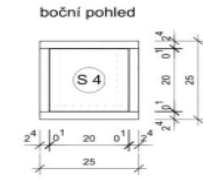
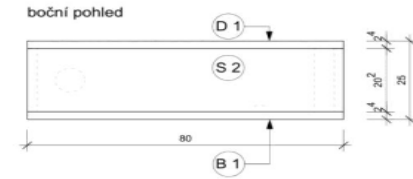
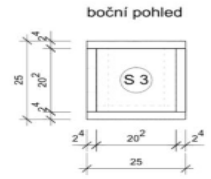
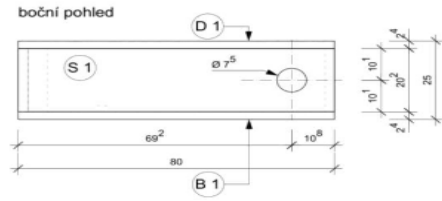
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Návody na výrobu hnízdnicích budek pro sýčka obecného

sestaveno v rámci projektu
ATHENE na ochranu sýčka
v česko-saském příhraničí

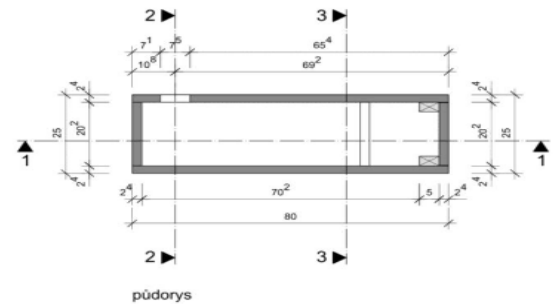
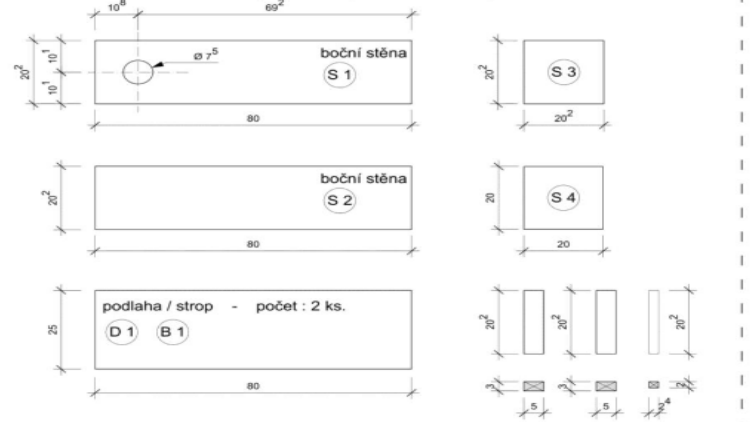
Involving the general public and building owners - transformation into stakeholders, II

- Guidelines on building specific
bird houses for little owl -
project ATHENE



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fixní šířka desky, neopracovaný smrk, 24 mm



Results?

- Increased awareness of the needs of the species (specific bird housing to prevent predation, grass cutting, covering water traps, covering one way steep chimneys)
- Gradual involvement of private subjects (local carpentry school producing special bird houses for little owl, partnership with clothes manufacturer etc.)
- Presenting the activities and importance of little owl in public broadcasting services, Youtube etc.
- Over 4.600 social media users, average 100 reactions to posts about little owl

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- Gradual transformation of general public and private subjects into stakeholders leading lowering of the mortality rate of the species and creating more suitable habitats to support increase of the population

Transferable good practices

- Communication with general public and education can lead not only to raising awareness, easing the realisation of projects by nature protection services and securing future funding, but to creation of new stakeholders committed to conservation
- Heavy investment into these activities (especially for species, which are strongly endangered by anthropogenic activities) can yield best results when it comes to longevity of the conservation projects

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Co-funded by
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ReCo Project
Czechia



https://www.mzp.cz/cz/projekt_reco

