



2023 TOP 100 GOOD PRACTICE STORY

Title: Teamwork = achievement of objectives

Destination, Country: Protected habitat Tisina, Bosna I Hercegovina

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In the category: Destination Management Environment & Climate Thriving Communities
 Nature & Scenery Culture & Tradition Business & Marketing

The Story in a picture:

Protected habitat Tisina from the air. Characteristic appearance of a horseshoe.



Summary:

The preservation and protection of the Bar Tisina area are being achieved through the declaration of it as a protected habitat and the assignment of management responsibilities to the Municipality of Šamac. Currently, a Management Plan is being developed to promote sustainable tourism.

The process involves conducting assessments, securing legal protection, engaging stakeholders, and involving the community. Efforts are being made to encourage sustainable tourism practices and establish monitoring and enforcement mechanisms. Various funding sources are being explored for ongoing management and protection efforts.



Good Practice Story:

Destination description

Brief background of the destination.

The protected habitat Tisina is located in the extreme north of Republika Srpska and Bosnia and Herzegovina, within the territory of the municipality of Samac. It has an average altitude of 85 meters.

The northern border of the Protected Habitat Tisina also serves as the inter-entity border with the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The total area of the Protected Habitat Tisina is 196.49 hectares.

This complex represents one of the few continental natural ponds and wetlands in the floodplain of the Sava River, playing a significant role in hydrological stability and flood protection. The complex is also an important habitat for numerous species of flora and fauna, many of which are included in the EU Habitats and Birds Directive appendices.

Bara Tišina is one of the locations that has been subject to research by scientists since the time of Austria-Hungary. Prominent researchers such as the well-known German botanist Otto Sentner, hydrobiologist Đorđe Protić, and botanist Željka Bjelčić have conducted studies in this area.

It is the last remaining wetland along the Sava in Republika Srpska and Bosnia and Herzegovina. It serves as a habitat for many endangered species of birds (approximately 130 species), aquatic plants (160 species), and fish (21 species).

It holds great importance as a nesting, wintering, feeding, and resting area for migratory birds passing through the Republic of Srpska. The total area of the "Tišina" Special Nature Reserve is 196.49 hectares, with an altitude of 85 meters.

Issues faced

Problems/issues solved with the Good Practice Story.

Upon careful observation of this destination, it becomes abundantly clear that the most pressing issue, which significantly impacts its sustainability, lies in the preservation of the precious water resources within the Tisina pond, as well as the delicate balance of animal and plant life that thrives both within its tranquil confines and in the surrounding environs.

An unfortunate event unfolded during the summer of 2007, when the Velika Tišina pond fell victim to a severe drought, triggering an alarming proliferation of sea-breeding. This ecological crisis had far-reaching consequences, causing substantial damage to the delicate ecosystem and posing potential threats to human health.

In light of this, the foremost objective is to prioritize the protection of the water body, thereby ensuring the preservation of the diverse array of flora and fauna that depend on it for their survival. Recognizing the pivotal role it plays in this destination's sustainable tourism practices, concerted efforts must be made to safeguard the intricate web of life it supports.

Furthermore, it is imperative to embark on the development of environmentally acceptable infrastructure, taking into account the unique characteristics of the area. By striking a harmonious balance between functionality and ecological sensitivity, any new constructions or additions can contribute to the overall attractiveness of the destination while minimizing their impact on the surrounding natural resources.

Ultimately, the aim is to forge a profound connection between humanity and the awe-inspiring beauty that envelops them. By cultivating a deep sense of stewardship, visitors and locals alike can become champions of the environment, actively participating in the preservation of this natural wonder in its optimal form.

Methods, steps, and tools applied

Solutions implemented to address the sustainability problems or issues.

The swamp-bar complex, known as "Tišina," has been diligently maintained by the local population and local associations, who have dedicated themselves to preserving its natural beauty and unique ecosystem. They have taken great care in monitoring any potential changes or threats to the area and promptly reported them to the Šamac Municipal Administration. The administration, recognizing the importance of this protected habitat, has been actively involved in addressing the issues in accordance with its resources and capabilities.

Acknowledging the significance of the swamp-bar complex and the need for its conservation and enhancement, the "Society for Research and Protection of Biodiversity" in Banja Luka played a vital role. This organization initiated an impassioned campaign to protect this precious natural area, drawing attention to its ecological value and advocating for its preservation.

One of the essential responsibilities of the managers overseeing protected habitats is to develop a comprehensive Management Plan. Understanding this obligation, the Municipality of Šamac diligently prepared a detailed proposal outlining the strategies and actions necessary for the sustainable management and protection of the "Tišina" habitat. The proposal was submitted to the session of the Assembly of the Municipality of Šamac, where it was accepted and approved.

With the formal declaration of the "Tišina" habitat as a protected area, the municipality of Šamac was entrusted with its management. Recognizing the significance of this responsibility, the municipality has taken it upon itself to ensure the effective safeguarding and conservation of the area's unique flora and fauna.

In line with legal requirements and regulations, the management plan for the Protected Habitat "Tišina" was meticulously developed for the period of 2022-2032. This comprehensive plan was created in strict adherence to Article 77, paragraph 10 of the Law on Nature Protection ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Srpska," number: 20/14) and the Rulebook governing the content, determination, and implementation of measures for the management of protected areas ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Srpska," number: 83/15). The plan drew heavily upon the insights and findings presented in the Protection Study, which was meticulously prepared by the esteemed Republic Institute for the Protection of Cultural, Historical, and Natural Heritage.

The development of the Management Plan marked a significant milestone in ensuring the long-term conservation and sustainable management of the "Tišina" habitat. It serves as a comprehensive roadmap, detailing a range of activities and measures designed to preserve the delicate balance of the ecosystem, protect biodiversity, and promote ecological awareness and responsible tourism within the area.

Through collaborative efforts, the local population, associations, municipal administration, and relevant governmental authorities have demonstrated their commitment to the protection and enhancement of the "Tišina" swamp-bar complex. Their dedication paves the way for a future where this unique habitat continues to thrive, providing invaluable ecological benefits and offering a serene haven for visitors to appreciate and enjoy.

Key success factors

Critical elements that led to successfully solving the issues.

With the enactment of protective measures, this area was seamlessly integrated into the existing legal framework, thereby facilitating enhanced accessibility to address the prevailing issues and find suitable solutions. Additionally, these measures have paved the way for acquiring vital financial resources to support the cause.

Demonstrating a commendable dedication to the preservation and improvement of the protected habitat, numerous organizations have expressed their profound interest. Noteworthy among them are the esteemed "Society for Research and Protection of Biodiversity" based in Banja Luka, the esteemed "Sports and Fishing Society Šamac," the esteemed "Hunting Association Pheasant," the reputable "Center for the Environment" located in Banja Luka, the esteemed UG "Arbor Magna" situated in Banja Luka, the esteemed Club of Historians "Posavina," the esteemed Youth Organization Šamac, and the respected Red Cross Šamac. This robust network of communication and collaborative efforts between administrators and stakeholders assumes paramount significance in the relentless pursuit of our overarching goals.

Lessons learned

Challenges faced while implementing the Good Practice and their solutions.

A collaborative and home-like approach to area exploration can yield positive results through mutual cooperation among interested groups.

Achievements and Results

Direct and indirect results of the Good Practice.

With the mutual cooperation of managers and interested parties, following the Management Plan, which is an official document, various activities were carried out, which we will present in the following text.

The project "Sava River Basin Habitat Conservation through International Management of Invasive Species," conducted by the Banja Luka Center for the Environment from 2018 to May 2021, concluded with the planting of seedlings in the small Tišina area. Approximately 2,500 oak, sedge, and white ash seedlings were planted. The planting action received support from the manager of the protected habitat, as well as volunteers from local associations and organizations.

Under the "Northern Gate" project, financial support was provided for desilting the pond over a length of about 300 meters. The desilting work was completed at the end of 2022 to deepen the channel and ensure the flow of water. As part of the same project, a viewing platform for bird watching was installed. In 2022, the municipality of Šamac also installed a children's playground near the existing football field in Tursinovac municipality, which is located close to the water area. These are the initial infrastructure works in this area.

The "Northern Gate" project allocated funds for the work of guards in the Protected Habitat area. Their task is to visit the protected area, record irregularities, and report them to the management.

Through the project "Participation of the local community in the development and promotion of the Tišina protected habitat," the Council of the Tišina Protected Habitat was formed by the decision of the Mayor of Šamac. The council consists of nine members, including the manager, representatives of Tursinov and Tišina Municipalities, local non-governmental associations, and businessmen. Furthermore, as part of the same initiative, the webpage of the Protected Habitat "Tišina" (zs-tisina.com) was created. The website provides information on all current events related to this protected area. Additionally, a brochure has been designed to serve as the identity card of this swamp-pond complex.

In addition to all the aforementioned activities, it is important to note that every year, in August, a manifestation called "Fišijada" is held. This event has grown into a tradition and represents the coexistence of man and nature.

Tips for other destinations

Your suggestions or recommendations for other destinations facing the same issues or implementing similar solutions

Foster mutual cooperation and transparency: Establish effective communication channels and promote transparency among all interested parties involved in the area.

Treat nature as our home: Recognize and appreciate the value of natural assets, such as clean air and diverse flora and fauna, and prioritize their preservation and enjoyment.

Recognitions and Additional references

Recognitions and awards the Good Practice received and supporting evidence.

Decision on the declaration of a protected habitat

<https://srpskainfo.com/odluka-vlade-srpske-bara-tisina-kod-samca-proglasena-zasticenim-stanistem/>

