

Natura 2000 and Nature Restoration as an Opportunity

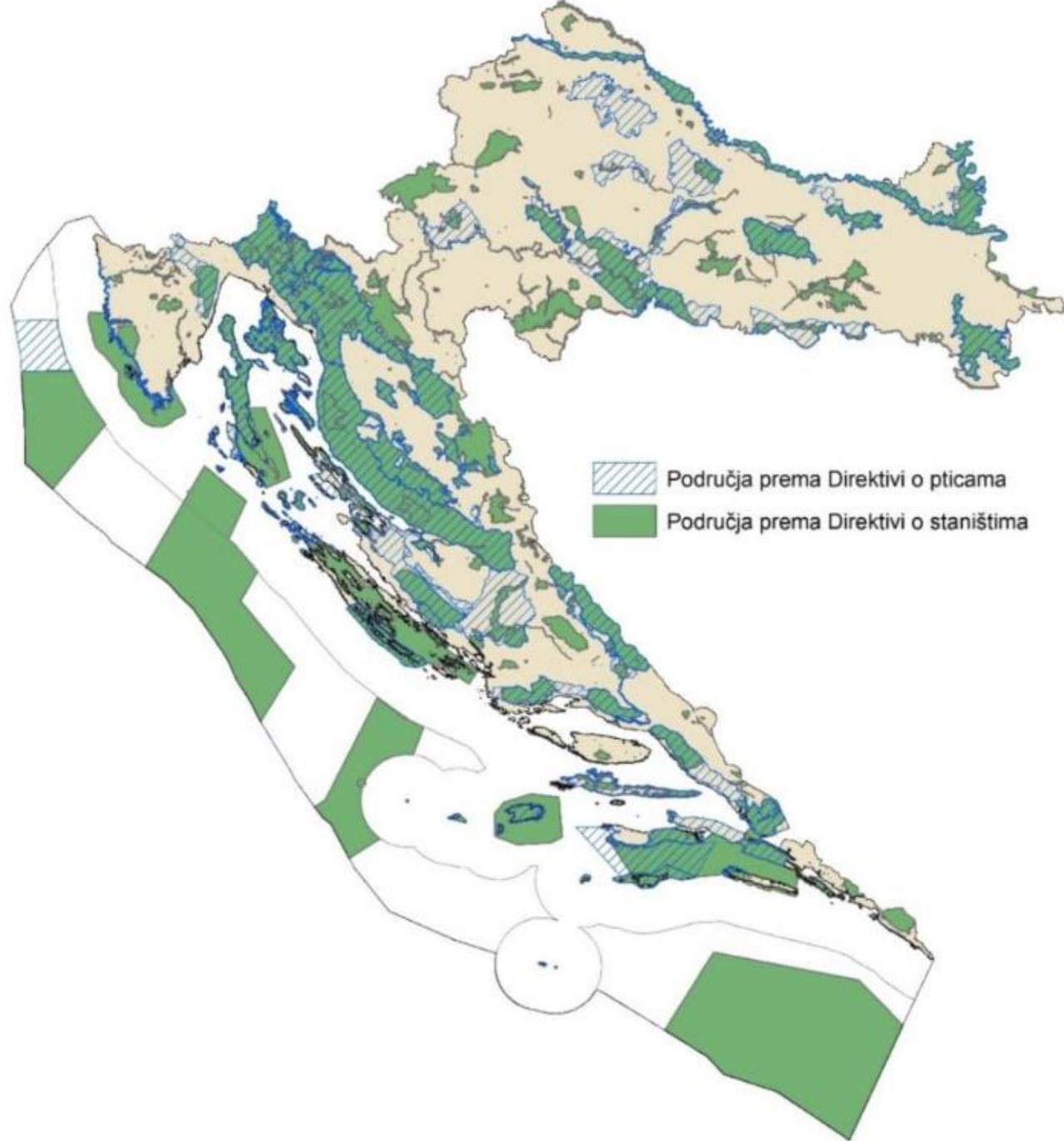
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Slovenian Event on Joint Management of European Nature
Bruxelles, 27 November 2025



**State of
nature in
Croatia –
current
situation and
challenges**





State of nature in Croatia (Natura 2000 and protected areas)

36,8%

LAND

(Natura 2000 + PA)

32,5 %

SEA

(Natura 2000 + PA)

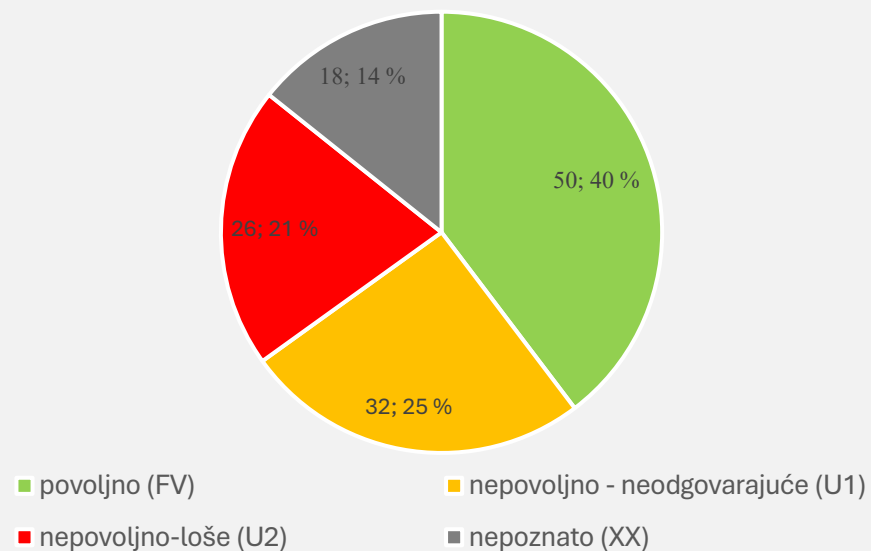
- management plans - adopted for 377 sites, 45% of N2K area (after addition of large marine N2K sites in the EEZ in May 2025)
- new MPs in preparation - internal capacities of the Pls (Nature park Biokovo)



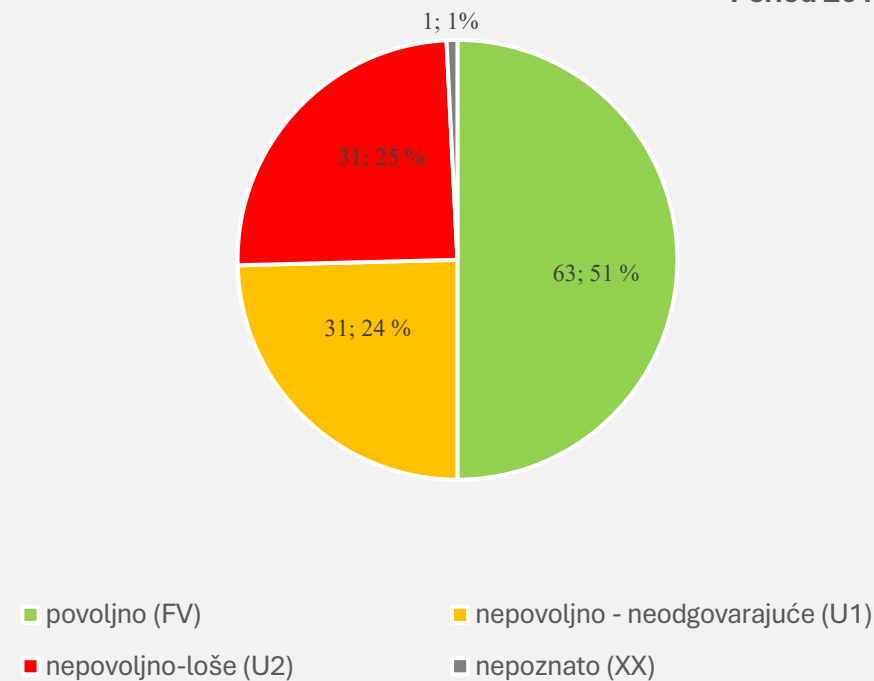
State of nature in Croatia

(Report on conservation status – habitat types)

Period 2013 - 2018



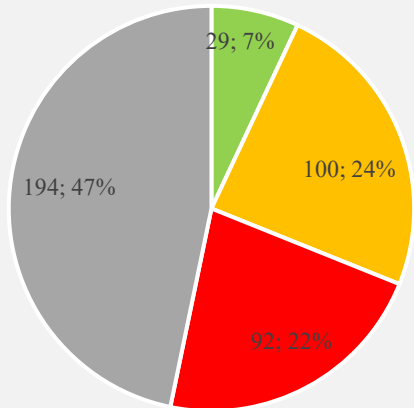
Period 2019 - 2024



State of nature in Croatia

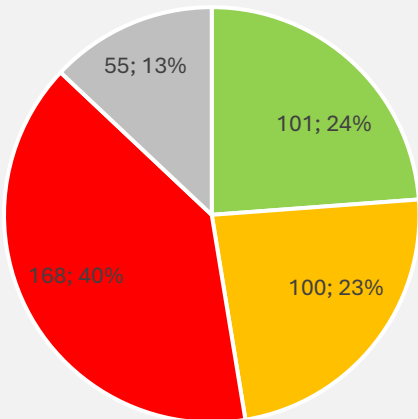
(Report on conservation status - species)

Stanje očuvanosti vrsta za razdoblje 2013.-2018.



■ povoljno (FV) ■ nepovoljno-neodgovarajuće (U1)
■ nepovoljno-loše (U2) ■ nepoznato (XX)

Stanje očuvanosti vrsta za razdoblje 2019.-2024.



■ povoljno (FV) ■ nepovoljno-neodgovarajuće (U1)
■ nepovoljno-loše (U2) ■ nepoznato (XX)

N2K - challenges

- Strict protection – land and sea
 - WG on forest ecosystems
 - new Nature protection act (definition of strict protection)
- Preparation and adoption of management plans for rest of the N2K sites
 - Ministry for N2K sites in the EEZ, Pls for other sites
- Setting up the national PAME monitoring system
- Capacities of Pls are limited

Implementation of the NRR – development opportunities for the future



Implementation of NRR - Croatia

- **Act on the implementation of NRR:**

- ✓ public consultations: 17 Sept - 17 Oct 2025
- ✓ establishes the national competent authorities, processes for development and adoption of the NRP, monitoring trends for relevant indicators, determining satisfactory levels of individual indicators, and reporting on implementation
- ✓ Prepared in consultations with the WG - experts from the competent ministries (MAFF, MPPCSA), namely Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and Ministry of Physical Planning, Construction and State Assets, as well as Croatian Chamber of Economy, Croatian Chamber of Trades and Crafts and representatives from NGO sector

- **Nature Restoration Plan**

- ✓ Establishment of formal WG (*in process*)
- ✓ Survey questionnaire for nature protection practitioners (*lunched 10 Nov 2025*)
- ✓ Analysis of restoration priorities and potential (*ongoing*)

Implementation is a priority ...

TSI project Support to the Development of the National Restoration Plans of Croatia, The Netherlands and Poland – MEPGT (Jul 2025 - Jun 2027)

- ✓ socio-economic impacts and benefits of restoration measures (focus on productive ecosystems – forests, agriculture and fisheries)
- ✓ financing needs for the implementation of the restoration measures and identification / analysis of harmful subsidies
- ✓ gap analysis on monitoring frameworks for forests and agriculture indicators
- ✓ capacity building, stakeholder engagement, communication and coordination across beneficiaries

Implementation is a priority ...

Natura 2000

- ✓ PCC MEPGT ongoing call “*Improved Management of Protected Areas and Natura 2000 Ecological Network Areas*” – EUR 75 million
 - for public institutions – financing conservation and restoration activities

Urban Ecosystems (MPPCSA)

- ✓ National Recovery and Resilience Plan ≈ EUR 25 million
- ✓ PCC Call for Proposals “Development of Green Infrastructure in Urban Areas”
 - EUR 70 million (*public consultations finished end of Aug 2025*)

Numerous other projects financed by different beneficiaries & funding programmes

- ✓ LIFE projects
- ✓ INTERREG
- ✓ HORIZON

Challenges in NRR implementation

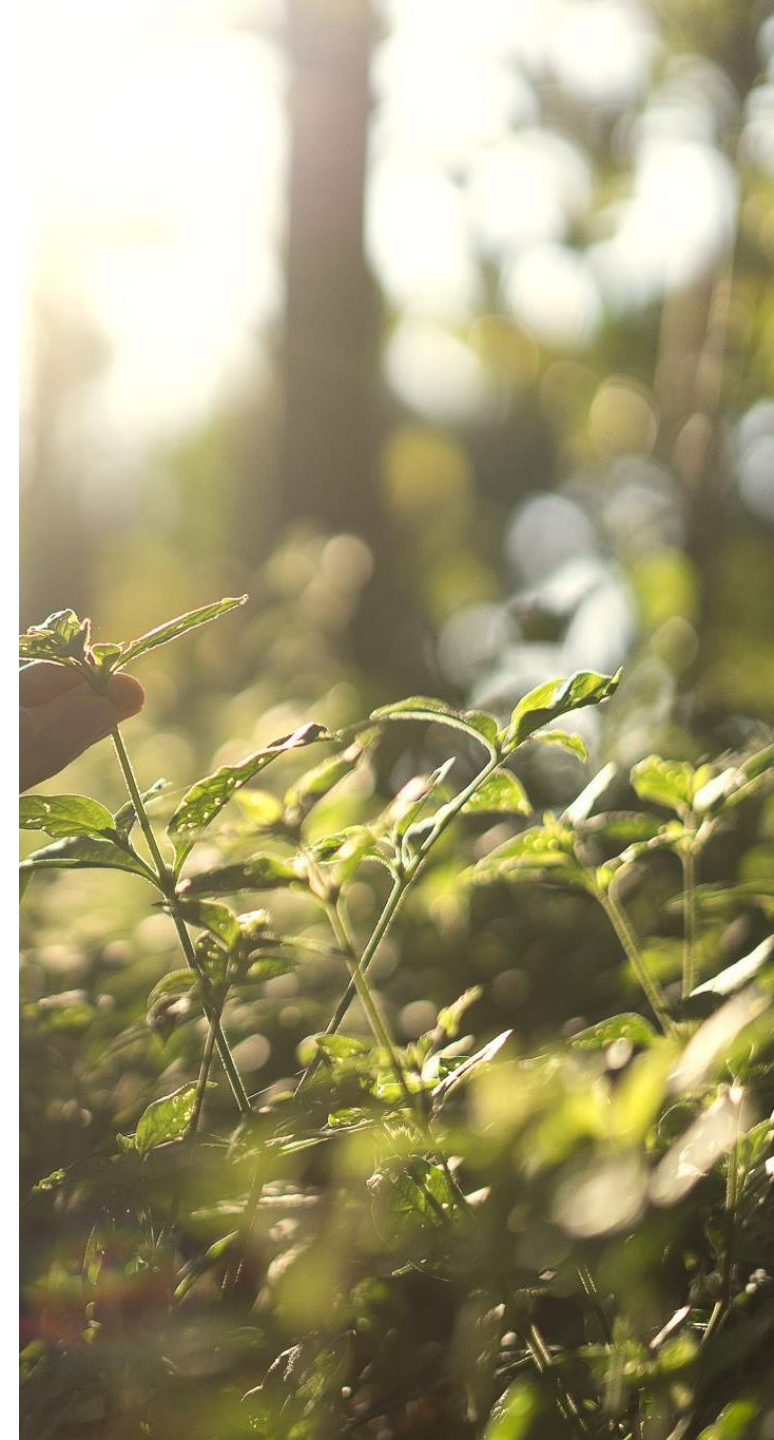


NRR - challenges

- financial and human capacities (monitoring of indicators)
- mechanisms for *no deterioration* outside N2K
- *joint recommendations* for marine N2K sites in the Adriatic sea & coordination of restoration measures in marine ecosystems (CFP)

Conclusions:

- ✓ The goals are **ambitious and challenging**, but at the same time **necessary** to ensure the restoration of nature, resilience of ecosystems and long-term benefits for society and the economy.
- ✓ Preparation of NRP is therefore set **as a national priority**.
- ✓ The process of preparation will **include broad consultation** with a wide group of stakeholders, including through the formal establishment of a working group.
- ✓ A primary focus will be placed on **restoration within Natura 2000 sites**.
- ✓ Successful implementation will require **broad support**, a combination of different approaches, and sufficient technical, financial and human capacities.



*“Restoring nature
means restoring our
future.”*

**Thank you
for your
attention**

