



## Project ACC04P01

**Wetlands for Life and Wellbeing: restoration of a Ramsar site in the Morava River alluvium**  
Supported by Norway through Norway Grants. Co-funded by the state budget of the Slovak Republic.

### Project partnership:

**Beneficiary: Green Foundation, Slovakia**

**Partner 1: BROZ, Slovakia**

**Partner 2: NINA, Norway**

**we restore and protect wetlands**

**wetlands protect the climate, biodiversity and our well-being**



# Wetlands for life and wellbeing

## Budget

**Total eligible expenditure of the Project: 694 928 EUR**

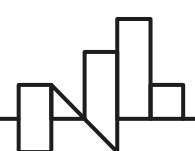
**Project grant: 624 969 EUR**

of which contribution from Norway Grants (85% of the grant): 531 223,65 EUR

of which contribution from the state budget of the Slovak Republic, Programme SK-Climate (15% of the grant): 93 745,35 EUR

**Total financial co-financing of the Project: 35 959 EUR**

**Total non-financial co-financing of the Project: 34 000 EUR**



# Wetlands in Zahorie - potential for the whole region

## The importance of wetlands



highly productive and biodiverse microclimate-stabilising systems

sequester carbon

control erosion

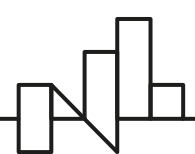
maintain the flow of rivers and streams

they are home to at least one third of all the world's endangered species of animals and plants

improve our health

improve water quality

go hand in hand with ecological and sustainable agriculture



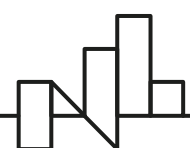
# Wetlands in Zahorie - potential for the whole region

## Current status of wetlands

Over the last 100 years, intensive agriculture, river regulation and the drainage of large areas for the acquisition of additional agricultural land have had a major impact on the wetlands in the Morava river alluvium. During the last century, most of the streams and rivers in the Zahorie plain have been regulated. This necessitated the construction of dykes and the elimination of all significant meanders, which resulted in a reduction in the area of naturally flooded riverbeds, a deepening of river channels and consequent faster runoff of water from the area.



Another important cause of wetland loss in the Zahorie region is the conversion of alluvial meadows to arable land directly by ploughing. Fertilisers and herbicides tend to be used regularly on arable land. Not only is there a direct loss of meadows and wetlands, but the intensive use of chemicals causes an increase in nutrient inputs to the entire river course and a consequent reduction in species richness and a predominance of nitrophilous and invasive plant and animal species. The ploughing itself has also caused an increase in soil erosion.



# Wetlands in Zahorie - potential for the whole region

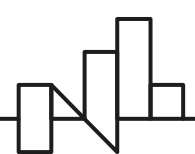
## Our mission



**Our shared vision** was to create a place suitable for recreation and education about the importance of local wetlands. A place rich in biodiversity, full of synergies with other projects and activities in the area, positively impacting residents or tourists.

The nature trail we built, is friendly for people with autism spectrum disorders.

**The project partnership team - Green Foundation, BROZ and NINA joined forces to restore local wetland ecosystems.**

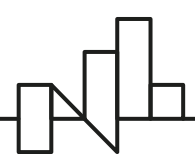


# Wetlands in Zahorie - potential for the whole region

Our goal



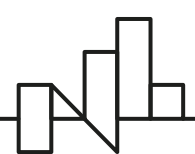
The main objective of the project was to restore at least 20 ha of degraded wetland ecosystems and alluvial meadows belonging to the Ramsar area of the Morava River in the cadastral area of the municipality of Male Levare.



# Wetlands in Zahorie

clearing of non-native and invasive species  
and 650 native tree species

In the spring of 2024, after clearing the project sites of non-native and invasive species, we planted 650 trees and shrubs native and characteristic to the project area. The species of trees and their location were consulted with the State Nature Conservancy, Protected Landscape Area Zahorie.



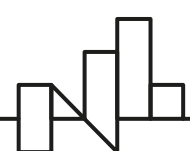


# Wetlands in Zahorie

nature trail for children  
with autism spectre disorders



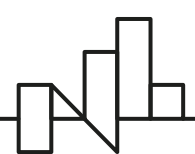
In October 2023, together with 20 volunteers, we installed signs on the nature trail about the wetlands in Zahorie and their importance. The nature trail is friendly for children with autism spectre disorders and was developed in cooperation with them and specialists for ASD.



# Wetlands in Zahorie

transformation of a field into an alluvial meadow

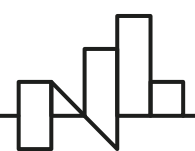
In the summer of 2023, we converted a waterlogged intensively farmed agricultural field into an alluvial meadow full of food for migrating birds.



# Wetlands in Zahorie

cleaning of the dead arm of the Morava River

In the spring of 2024, we partially cleared a dead reach of the Morava River of sediment, contributing to the stabilization of local wetland ecosystems.





**Green Foundation**  
Budkova cesta 22  
Bratislava, Slovakia

Jana Tothova  
[jana.tothova@greenfoundation.eu](mailto:jana.tothova@greenfoundation.eu)



**Thank you 😊**