

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)
Location	Učka Nature Park
Country	Croatia
Form of protection	IUCN V / Nature Park
Scope of implementation (local, national)	Local
Time	10 months
People	3 months 1 person
Budget (salary included)	HRK 55,000 (ca. EUR 7,300)
Funding	Učka NPPI and own resources
Project info	http://www.biom.hr/vijesti/ornitoloski-kamp-ucka-2017/
Contact	Vedran Lucić
Achievements	Years the camp has been taking place – 14 Total number of volunteers – over 1,000 so far Number of volunteers per year – 70 Number of visitors per year – 100 Total number of schools participating – 6 Total number of bird ringers participating – 10 Total number of birds ringed – 22,000 Meadow maintenance – 2 ha

Problem/opportunity	
Opportunity	The NPPI Učka interested in cooperation – gathering data for the park birds. No site had

	<p>priorly existed for ringing birds, educating volunteers and interested citizens.</p>
<p>Planning</p>	
<p>Pre-requisites for success</p>	<p>Legal: Statutory decree related to camping outdoors which must be adhered to.</p>
	<p>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.</p>
	<p>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.</p>
<p>Initial idea</p>	<p>NPPI Učka contacted Biom, since priorly there was no place for ringing birds, educating volunteers and interested citizens.</p>
<p>Strategies</p>	<p>Part of Biom's strategy (subsequently included in the plan management of NPPI Učka).</p>
<p>Partner roles</p>	<p>NPPI Učka – support (part of the equipment, including fire fighting equipment, use of land, transport of equipment and participants, camp preparation), co-funding, promotion.</p>
<p>Implementation</p>	
<p>Project key stages</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. establishing the partner's engagement and expectations on both sides 2. procuring the equipment 3. establishing a camp maintenance schedule 4. camp promotion

	<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>
Stakeholder selection	Anyone interested. The partner arranged the free use of the parcels where the camp was held with the owners in advance.
Stakeholder involvement	<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>
Vulnerable groups involvement	The most active volunteers are over 65, most of the camp is organised by women and all age groups are covered.
Communication	<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>
Climate change adaptation & mitigation	Using solar panels, firewood-based cooking (instead of gas).
Challenges	Financial:

	Considerable use of own funds as co-funding.
	Technical: Organising the camp during forest fire season
Change	
Positive effects on environment	<p>Maintaining habitats by mowing (reducing succession)</p> <p>Camp presence reduces any potential illegal activities.</p>
Positive economic and social changes	<p>The public sector (local, national):</p> <p>Social: 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</p>
	<p>The business sector:</p> <p>E: local hospitality facilities and stores benefit economically from the volunteers participating in the camp</p>
	<p>Protected area management:</p> <p>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</p> <p>The protected areas of Croatia should send their employees to the camp</p>
	<p>The local community:</p> <p>S: Increased interest in nature, Parcel owners satisfied since the volunteers mow the parcels and thus keep them in order</p>
	<p>The scientific community:</p> <p>All licensed bird ringers of the last 5 years started their education at this camp.</p>

Key benefits	To the nature – contribution to the scientific community
	To the people – educational and promotional aspects of outdoor activities and bird watching.
Replication and recommendations	
Essential things 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>
Recommendations	<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>
Sustainability	<p>Support of the protected area management.</p> <p>A constant improvement of camp conditions.</p> <p>Successful implementation.</p> <p>Maintaining a financial structure – secured EU-funded project for the next 4 years.</p>
Needed policy improvements	To include these activities, or similar ones, in management plans of protected areas.
Your interests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Including the local community • Corporate social responsibility (cooperation with the business sector) • The justice system (attorneys and courts) – successful cooperation • Measuring the socioeconomic benefits and services of the ecosystem
Expectations	
From the “Nature for People” site?	No expectations
From WWF?	Promotion using WWF’s communication channels (on a national level).