



## Partnership and Cooperation

Neither habitats nor impacts of climate change obey national boundaries. Only a strategy reflecting transnational understanding may successfully face the challenges imposed by climate change on habitat integrity. Moreover, transnational cooperation allows for the transfer of knowledge and mutual exchange of experiences with specific types of threats to habitats.

The partnership of HABIT-CHANGE is built by site management administrations, nature conservation authorities and scientific institutions active in ecological and climate change research. HABIT-CHANGE becomes the cooperation of 17 partner institutions from Germany, Hungary, Poland, Slovenia, Romania, Austria, Ukraine, Italy and the Czech Republic.

## Contact and Further Information



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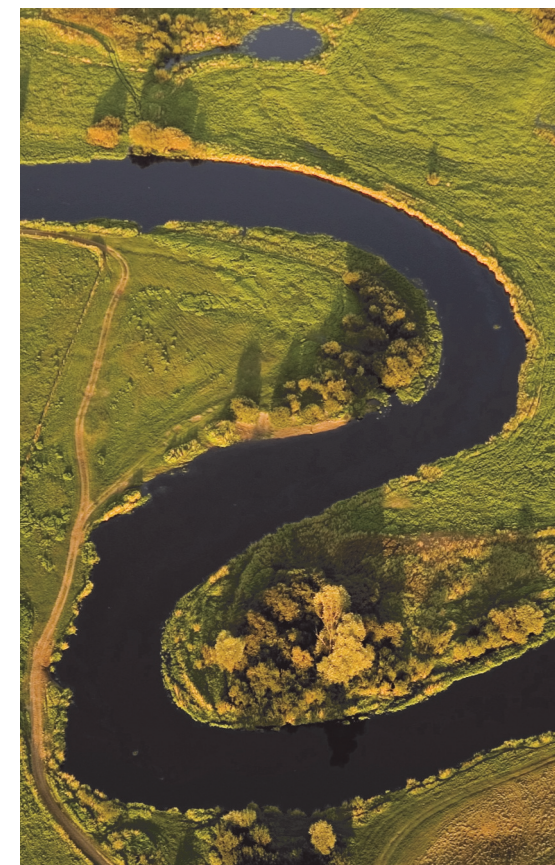
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Could the spreading population of White Egret within the Biebrza Valley be a consequence of climate change?



## HABIT-CHANGE Adaptive Management of Climate-induced Changes of Habitat Diversity in Protected Areas



## The Project

Climate Change and anthropogenic activities are challenging European habitats and their management. Especially protected areas are confronted with the pressing need to monitor changes, adapt management strategies and consider flexible responses to future developments.



HABIT-CHANGE evaluates, enhances and adapts existing management and conservation strategies in protected areas. This way, conservation managers can pro-actively respond to likely influences of climate change which threaten habitat integrity and diversity.

HABIT-CHANGE analyses not only the changes of habitats caused by climate change but also focuses on the necessary changes of our habits in conservation management and land use in protected areas. It is built on a stakeholder dialogue about current user known problems in regard to climate change and is geared towards rising awareness on the demand for adaptive management of protected areas.

## Actions and Outputs

- Analysis of current user known problems and management practices in regard to impacts of climate change
- Selection of indicators for the characterisation of driver / pressure / impact / response relationships of climate change impacts
- Monitoring of impacts of climate and land use change with earth observation systems (EOS)
- Modelling of climate change impacts
- Analysis of scenarios and assessment of risks
- Design of Climate Change Adapted Management Plans (CAMPs) and strategies
- Design of guidelines and manuals for monitoring
- Recommendations and guidelines for the management of protected areas
- Development of a web-based decision support tool
- Workshops and an international conference (summer 2012)

HABIT-CHANGE provides information, guidelines and tools to preserve and strengthen biological diversity on the level of species and habitats.

## Investigation Areas

Investigation areas of HABIT-CHANGE cover protected sites from all over Central and Eastern Europe. They are managed as National Parks, Biosphere Re-serves or Natural Parks with a focus on wetlands, forests, grasslands or alpine areas. The habitat types of these reserves and their composition seem to be very vulnerable regarding climate change.

The direction of future changes in regional climate and their effects on management measures are still unclear. At site-level precipitation as one of the main climatic drivers might de- or increase and shift its seasonality. This will result in different preconditions for the remaining natural habitats and change species composition, especially in water-based ecosystems such as wetlands and rivers but also in forests and natural grasslands.

