



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA  
COURT OF AUDIT

# AUDIT REPORT

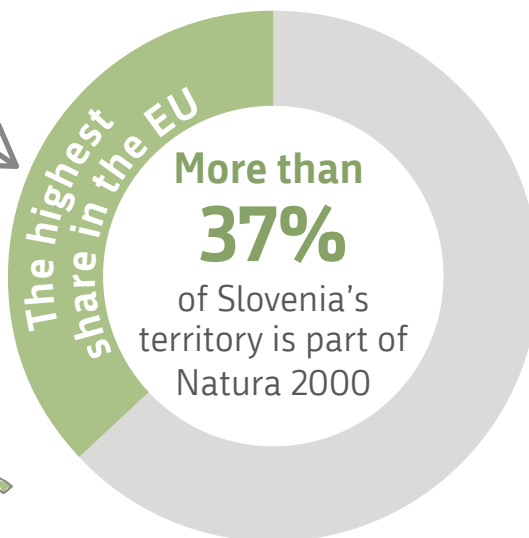
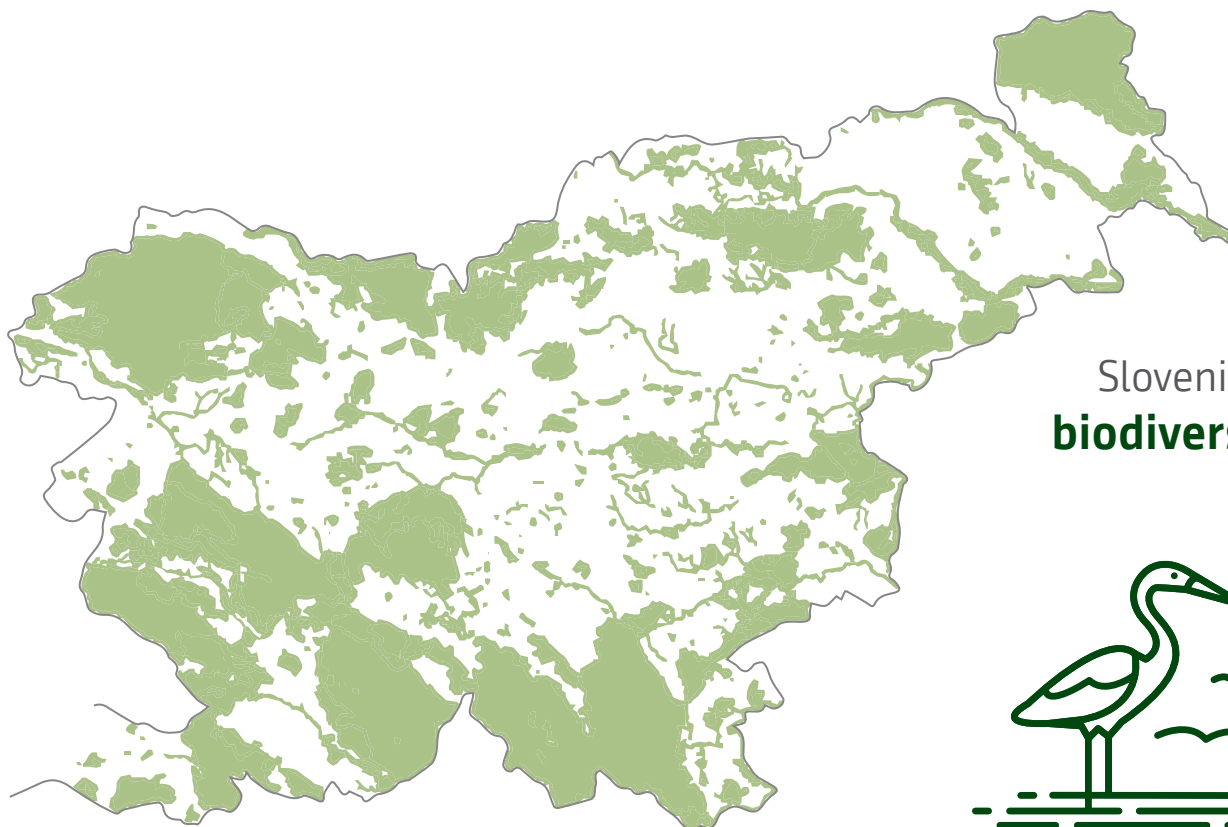
## Managing Natura 2000 areas

**Performance audit**

Audited period: 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2016

## NATURA 2000

Areas in the EU member states  
for protecting biodiversity



Slovenia has the **second highest biodiversity index within the EU**



## Opportunities

Development of sustainable tourism and **green jobs**



Attractive environment for living, **recreation** and enjoyment of nature



Possibilities for developing **local identity** and attracting new investments



Natural protection from flooding and **climate change regulation**



Possibilities for research and **education**



## Challenges

Finding **alternative solutions** regarding spatial planning

Adjusting the intensity of **forest exploitation** and utilisation

Decreasing the intensity or **changing the manner of farming**

**Coordinating measures** for flood safety and species conservation

Monitoring **costs**

# Protecting environment for future generations



**Institute** of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation and **Ministry** of the Environment and Spatial Planning **adequately planned objectives and measures**



**Government** of the Republic of Slovenia **adopted** Natura 2000 Management Programme for the period 2015-2020



We know what we want to achieve and where.

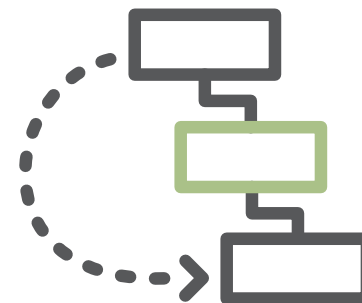




The **Institute** and the **Ministry** mostly **adequately participated in planning** of activities of various sectors



The **Ministry** and the **Government** **did not always** enable the Institute to **participate**



Cooperation  
among sectors  
could be  
additionally  
improved.





**The Institute** has **not yet established the system** for implementing measures



**The Ministry** does not fully provide for the **foreseen monitoring** of animal and plant species conservation status



**Both  
are required  
for monitoring  
the managing of  
Natura 2000 areas.**



# An example of monitoring the implementation of some measures in agriculture

Through **100% implementation** of certain **Natura 2000 measures** the framers could be annually granted at least additional

**€ 4,998,726**

In 2015,  
**only 17.6%**  
implementation.

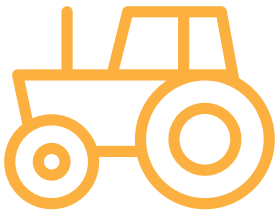
In 2016,  
**only 22.6%**  
implementation.

**Why are the measures not implemented?**


- ❓ Implementation is **voluntary**
- ❓ Farmers **not interested** enough
- ❓ **Insufficient promotion** of measures

Are voluntary measures enough for Slovenia to fulfil its commitments on **protecting Natura 2000 areas**?


?




# Examples of good and bad practices concerning Natura 2000 areas

 The **Ministry** and the **Government** failed to include the **Institute** in the planning phase, which led to a Natura 2000 **habitat destruction** (the Iščica river)



 Coordinated **measures** for **water** management **prepared** (Live Drava)



 The **Institute** expressed a **negative opinion** as regards **5 of 12 municipal spatial plans** (due to non-compliance with the guidelines of the Institute, inadequate mitigation measures)



 Improvement of **species conservation** status **achieved** (the Škocjan inlet)



## OPINION OF THE COURT OF AUDIT

 **Management of Natura 2000 areas** was **partially efficient** and **could be** additionally **improved**, especially in the field of **monitoring**.