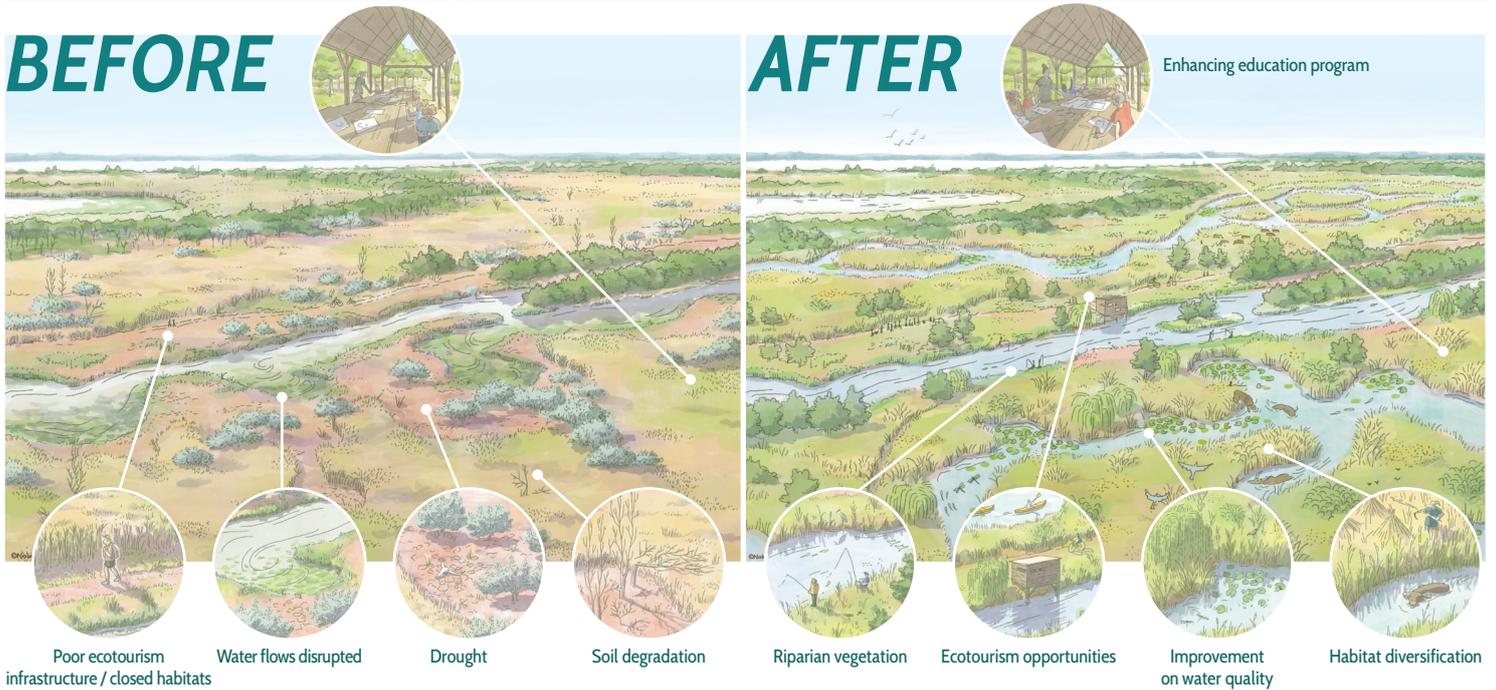


CARSKA BARA

SERBIA

Home to rare and protected species, Carska Bara is a **unique biodiversity hotspot** in Serbia. This Special Nature Reserve and Ramsar Site supports a range of globally and nationally threatened bird and plant species, with unique Pannonian flora of conservation value. Home to **46 endangered species** listed on Global IUCN Red list (including 6 Critically Endangered), Carska Bara could offer **vital ecosystem services** — from water purification and flood control to ecotourism and recreation for local communities. But this wetland is at risk : pollution has degraded water quality, and both habitat and local species diversity are in decline. **Urgent restoration is needed to recover ecological functions and unlock long-term benefits for both nature and people.**



<p>? OBJECTIVE</p> <p>Restore and develop a sustainable management approach for Carska Bara Nature Reserve, ensuring the recovery of habitats for its rich biodiversity, the long-term conservation of its natural and semi-natural landscapes, and the delivery of lasting benefits to local communities through ecosystem services and sustainable livelihoods.</p>	<p>HOW</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance wetland hydrology Control invasive species Manage water levels via sediment removal Restore and diversify habitats (e.g., reintroduce water buffalo) Support local community involvement 	<p>IMPACTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1,700 hectares restored, improving flood resilience and carbon storage. Nutrient pollution reduced, leading to cleaner water. Endangered amphibians and native fish populations recovered. Water buffalo grazing controls reedbed extent, preserving open areas for waterbirds. Science & Education improved through student visits. Local employment created for restoration, guiding and monitoring. Example of nature-based solution approach to apply across other Mediterranean wetlands.
<p>WHO</p> <p>Bird Protection and Study Society of Serbia (BPSSS), in collaboration with managers of the Special Nature Reserve and with the support of the Mediterranean Alliance for Wetlands.</p>	<p>WHERE</p> <p>Northeastern Serbia, on the alluvial plain at the confluence of the Tisa and Begej rivers, 10-15km from the main course of the Danube.</p>	
	<p>WHEN</p> <p>Anticipated duration : 3 years</p>	



Ferruginous Duck
Aythya nyroca



Spoonbill
Platalea leucorodia

PHASE 1

Improving the hydrological regime and water quality of the complex (water regime analysis, feasibility of two temporary reservoirs for flood storage)

PHASE 2

Improving habitat species and livelihoods of local population (increasing diversity of habitats by opening channels, modifying topography and introducing water buffaloes)

PHASE 3

Synthesizing lessons learned (adaptive management, educational activities and sharing lessons)



White-tailed Eagle
Haliaeetus albicilla



Eurasian Otter
Lutra lutra



Whiskered Tern
Chlidonias hybrida