

Population reinforcement with supportive breeding for *Triturus carnifex*

Presented by Anja Bolčina





Triturus carnifex in Jovsi

Jovsi: a part of Natura 2000 Dobrava–Jovsi and an area of extensive wet floodplain meadows.

The area used to experience annual flooding, sustaining high water levels for extended periods of time. In recent years, it has been subject to drying out, with water bodies failing to retain water throughout the year. The water is gone even before the amphibian larvae can metamorphose, preventing the offspring of populations.

Another challenge is the intensification of agricultural practices in some areas and the abandonment leading to overgrowth in other.

*The population of *Triturus carnifex* there is small, isolated and therefore threatened.*



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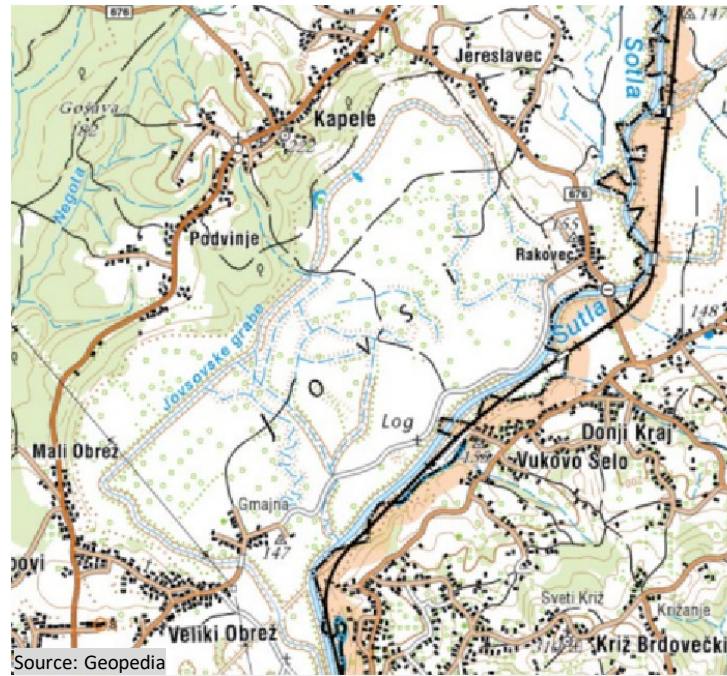
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Jovsi (Photo: A. Preskar)



Source: Geopedia



Jovsi (Photo: A. Bolčina)



T. carnifex (Photo: A. Bolčina)



III. ARC and Land Management

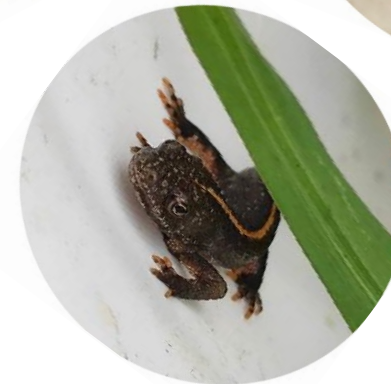
Supportive breeding

Rearing is a valuable measure to re-establish a population and reach its good conservation status.

The larvae, hatched in breeding station, are safe from predation and drying up of the donor water bodies. Juveniles are released back to Jovsi.

Three years of breeding:

- 2022: 166 young newts released
- 2023: 141 juveniles
- 2024: currently cca. 60 larvae hatched



The aim is to increase population size to the extent that, along with the simultaneous improvement of habitats, the species will be able to survive on their own in the future.



III. ARC and Land Management

Habitat restoration

We established 10 new ponds and are pursuing a management plan to restore the terrestrial habitat to extensive wet meadows in Jovsi.

With annual monitoring, we assess the status and growth of populations and the colonization of new ponds.



Recaptured newt No. 100 (Photo: A. Bolčina)

August 19, 2022

May 19, 2023



Indicators of success

- The ponds maintain water throughout the year and their colonization is rather quick.
- The foreseen number of released animals is exceeded.
- Individuals from our breeding station successfully overwintered and were recaptured during monitoring.



Key Messages to Share

Supportive breeding is just the initial boost in reinforcing the population and colonizing new ponds. Together with the simultaneous improvement of water and terrestrial habitats, this can help strengthen populations in the long run - before it's too late.



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