



Gajna commons, fight for nature, people and climate

Project IRIS - Inspiring rural heritage:
sustainable practices to protect and conserve
upland landscapes and memories
Closing Conference and Sinjajevina workshop
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**ICCA consortium (Indigenous peoples and local
Communities Conserved Areas and territories)**

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Common pasture GAJNA – the only pasturing community in Croatia

In densely populated and intensively cultivated agricultural area close to the Sava River, there are places extremely valuable for nature and directly dependent on traditional land use (common pastures, flooded grasslands and alluvial floodplain lowland forests)



Guardians of nature protection on Gajna are:

Brod Ecological society-BED which initiated the protection in 1990, and was trusted with jurisdiction over the implementation of the measures and conditions of protection of nature until 2006, - over 30 nature protection projects.

when **Public institution Natura Slavonica** was founded and became responsible for management of protected areas and ecological network in Brod-Posavina County.

Pasturing Community Veterans Cooperative Eko-Gajna was founded in 2007, and included this protection measures in its Management plan.

Protected as a significant landscape since 1990, 300 ha of typical flooded pasture, alluvial depressions and elevations, directly dependant on activities of local community for its survival as a valuable habitat.

**Similar grazing practices throughout centuries on Gajna
– continuous communal governance of the land**

The values of common flooded grasslands – and the obstacles



Landscape and biodiversity value, HNV agriculture
Carbon sink

Flood protection and a role in fire risk/management
Extensive grazing, hubs of old breeds - adaptable,
Natura 2000 and/or protected areas



Rural commons in EU, especially common pastures are marginalized, politically isolated and without human capacity to influence policies that affects them .
Policy makers are influenced by rationalisation and privatisation interests in agriculture – farming unions, big producers.

The vast diversity and marginal position make networking between common grazers in Europe a huge challenge.

Commons are „complicated” – in regulating relationships within the communities and especially towards the State and EU administration.





Why old breeds?

Best caretakers of the pasture – low input, high stamina, natural and cultural heritage, gene pool, best for removal of invasive plant species, adaptative to climate extremes.

Gajna – an ICCA?



What does ICCA's stand for ?

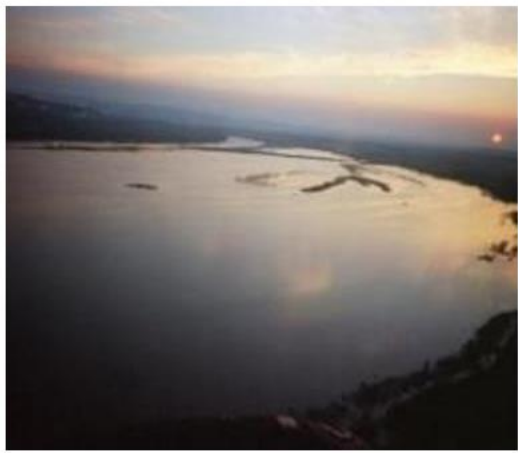
Indigenous Peoples' and Community Conserved Areas and Territories

3 ICCA defining characteristics:

1. *The community is closely connected to a defined ecosystem culturally and/ or because of survival and dependence for livelihood*
2. *The community management decisions and efforts lead to the conservation of nature*
3. *The community is the major player in decision making (governance) and implementation regarding the management of the site*

Brod Ecological Society-BED is member of the ICCA Consortium since 2012. <https://www.iccaconsortium.org/>

The ICCA Consortium is an international association dedicated to promoting the appropriate recognition of, and support to, the territories and areas conserved by indigenous peoples and local communities (ICCAs).



Climate (un)justice – climate friendly
but first in the „line of fire”
(water and draught)



Thank you for your attention

13.12.2023.

