



Lower Morava Biosphere Reserve

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) establishes Biosphere Reserves (BR) in individual states as examples of a balanced relationship between human activities and their environment. In 2007 there were over 500 biosphere reserves worldwide, six of which were in the Czech Republic.

The Lower Morava Biosphere Reserve was

established in 2003 and represents an area which is unique in its diversity, as well as plant and animal richness in the entire Czech Republic. An area covering little over 300 km² encompasses both outstanding cultural and historical values and areas of unique nature. Among the latter we can find the Pavlovské Hills and their karst phenomena, steppe grasslands, forest steppes, thermophilous oak forests and vast complexes of unique floodplain forests and alluvial meadows along the lower reaches of the Kyjovka, Dyje and Morava rivers. The BR also encompasses the composed Lednice-Valtice Cultural Landscape.

The BR is managed by the Lower Morava Biosphere Reserve, Public Benefit Corporation, which promotes sustainable use of landscape and natural resources.



Floodplain Forest

The Region Podluží

www.dolnimorava.org

www.podluzi.cz

www.dolnibojanovice.cz

www.hrusky.cz

www.josefov.eu

www.kostice.cz

www.ladna.cz

www.lanzhot.cz

www.luziceuhodonina.cz

www.mnves.cz

www.moravskyzizkov.cz

www.novypoddvorov.eud.cz

www.obecprusanky.cz

www.poddvorov.cz

www.tvrdonice.cz

www.tynec.cz

www.hodoninsko.info



Contact: Biosférická rezervace Dolní Morava, o.p.s.

Národních hrdinů 23, 690 02 Břeclav

info@dolnimorava.org, www.dolnimorava.org

Text: Jan Vybíral, Petr Čupa, Petr Maděra

Expert review: Antonín Buček

Photo: Petr Čupa, Jan Vybíral, Petr Maděra

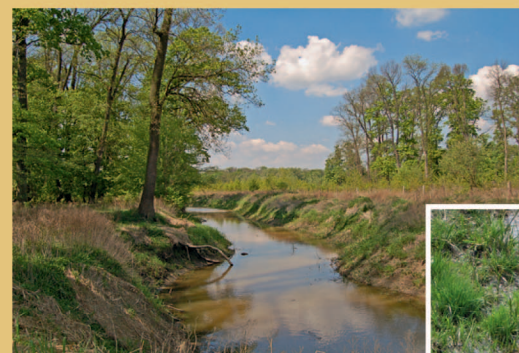
Region Podluží, dobrovolný svazek obcí

Náměstí 177, 691 51 Lanžhot, tel.: +420 777 328 052

info@podluzi.cz, www.podluzi.cz

Published by Lower Morava BR, Public Benefit Corporation, under the support of the Podluží Region in 2007.

Processed by: Jan Machovský, info@machovsky.cz, www.machovsky.cz



Floodplain Forest – an extraordinary ecosystem

The floodplain forests of the Dyje and Morava rivers floodplains belong to the richest ecosystems of Central Europe. However, the value of a floodplain landscape does not lie only in the diversity of its plant and animal species, but also in the enlightening history of the development of the floodplain landscape and its key element – the floodplain forests. Approximately 10,000 years ago, after the last Ice Age, we can trace the beginnings of the development of an ecosystem, whose present shape has most crucially been influenced by man. Despite the fact that the landscape is economically managed, its nature is not under threat. It can develop

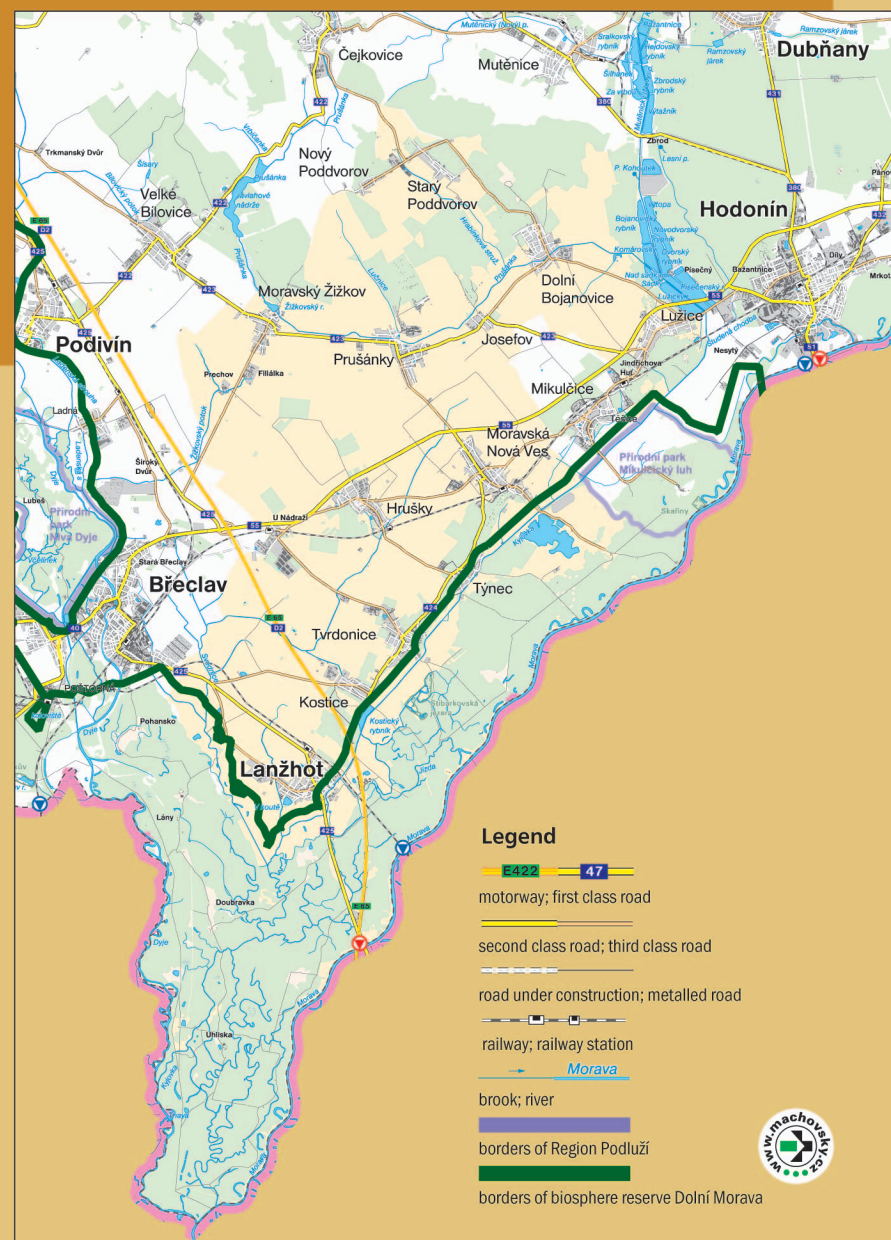
in an environment that people manage in a such way which encompasses all the components of sustainable management of a cultural landscape. At first sight, a floodplain forest reveals an ecosystem full of life, which bears witness to the forces of natural processes. Yet, the character traits of forests with dominant giant oak trees are a result of economic designs of foresters. Since the 18. th century, places with clearings and young stands have been an integral part of floodplain forests. In time, they will mature and will be admired by our grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Floodplain forests' enduring beauty and ecological stability is safeguarded only by an ample supply of water and an even composition of young, middle-aged and oldest age categories. Floodplain forest management is thus a prerequisite for its preservation for the future.



Points of interest of the Podluží floodplain forests

The broad valley floodplains of the lower reaches of the Morava and Dyje rivers contain preserved vast complexes of close-to-nature floodplain forests. A quarter of the entire area covered by floodplain forests in the Czech Republic can be found in Podluží!

The original floodplain forest had vastly different character traits from the one we know today. The present form of floodplain forests, containing dominant pedunculate oak and narrow-leaved ash, was created by the Liechtenstein foresters in the 19th century. They sowed large numbers of acorns into agriculturally prepared soil, which was simultaneously used for the growing of field crops. Usually after 7 – 10 years, the growing of crops was terminated and a forest prevailed. Nobody today realizes that the monumental floodplain forests that we know, with their rich plant and animal communities, are in reality a man-made natural ecosystem! Based on the occurrence of tree species we distinguish two types of floodplain forests – softwood and hardwood.



Legend

- E422 47
- motorway; first class road
- second class road; third class road
- road under construction; metalled road
- railway; railway station
- Morava
- brook; river
- borders of Region Podluží
- borders of biosphere reserve Dolní Morava

