

## **Annex 2**

### **Action F2**

#### **Corncrake monitoring – SUMMARY IN ENGLISH**

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The aims of Corncrake monitoring scheme in 2004-2006 were: 1) establish a reliable network of DOPPS volunteers to ensure complete and high-quality coverage of most important Corncrake sites in Slovenia, 2) carry out counts on eight most important sites in Slovenia on annual basis and 3) carry out complete national Corncrake census every 5 years. Throughout the 2004-2006 standard recommended counting method was used. Counts were carried out exclusively at night, mostly between 23.00 PM and 03.00 AM. Unless the survey area was well known to the volunteer, daytime visit was required prior to the census. Large areas were divided into several census plots (up to 43). Census period lasted generally from 15 May until 15 June. Overall effort investment was improved with compulsory two visits. All Corncrake singing males encountered were counted and mapped carefully at a scale 1:5000-1:15,000. The third national Corncrake census was carried out in 2004 when 79 additional sites and localities were surveyed. Altogether 341, 311 and 308 singing Corncrake males were counted on most important sites in Slovenia in 2004, 2005 and 2006, respectively. Furthermore, additional 50 Corncrakes were counted on 21 other sites and localities in national Corncrake census in 2004. Entire national population was estimated at 400 singing males in 2004 and considered declining as for data from 90-ies. The most important site was Ljubljansko barje, holding min. 30% of total national population. Some population recovery was noted there during 2004-2006, mainly connected to increase in the eastern part of the area. However, numbers are still well below the levels from 90-ies. The most important threats were identified at Ljubljansko barje. Numbers at Cerknjsko jezero fluctuate substantially due to its intermittent nature and highly unpredictable water levels. Extremely high water-table in 2006 made large areas of floodplain unsuitable for Corncrakes and resulted in very low numbers. Breginjski Stol-Planja is the only site with positive population trend with regard to early 90-ies.