

### Additional material

#### Hydrological values:

Hydrological value is very important: The 'Quarter of the Morava River' is one of the most important groundwater sources in the Czech Republic, with good quality water. The main reason for constructing the Nove Mlyny reservoirs was to eliminate flooding, but achieving this objective caused huge problems in the floodplain forests and associated habitats: ironically, nowadays, the water from Nove Mlyny reservoirs is used for artificial flooding downstream of the reservoir! The importance of the site in flood control became readily apparent during the catastrophic floods of July 1997: the dry polder of the Soutok was capable of retaining ca. 50 million m<sup>3</sup> of water, i.e. more than all the human-made reservoirs within the catchment, and thus saving many areas from much worse flood damage. A significant part of the whole area is officially designated as a natural storage area for drinking water

#### Social and cultural values:

The most important economic uses of the area are timber production, tourism and agriculture. Nearly all the forests are economically used, however the timing of tree felling in the central part of the Soutok area is prolonged to 160 years (better situation for tree hole breeders and many invertebrate species). The largest part of the Soutok area is game reserve for breeding of red deer (*Cervus elaphus*; spring stock 300 specimens) and fallow deer (*Dama dama*; ca 170 specimens). Water reservoirs are important as water storage (ca 55 million m<sup>3</sup>), and for recreation. As a place where many international nominations meet (World Heritage Site, Biosphere Reserve, Important Bird Area), the area invites many visitors; among them, cycling is very popular nowadays. For greater self-sufficiency of food production in former socialist Czechoslovakia, nearly all previous meadows in the floodplain were ploughed and changed to arable fields. The most important crops are cereals, maize and sunflower. The area is extremely important archaeologically: hunters of mammoths had settlements here, and a huge mammoth cemetery has been discovered here. Relics from Roman legions and from the oldest times of Slavs (e.g. the bases of church from 9th century in Pohansko) should also be mentioned.

#### Current land (including water) use:

- a) within the Ramsar site: forestry, agriculture, water storage, fishery, recreation, nature conservation. Exceptional importance of the area for ground water storage has been mentioned in 14.
- b) in the surroundings/catchment: in the surroundings - the same as under (a). The catchment has many various uses, but important is agriculture in the highlands; this changed heavily during 1960s and 1970s, mainly from previous meadows and pastures to ploughed fields, quite often causing floods downstream.

#### Current recreation and tourism:

Activities are various. The Soutok area has become very popular, partly because of its inaccessibility during socialist times (military border area). Cycling is the most popular way for visitors – cars are prohibited. The remaining parts of the floodplain are visited more sparsely. There are increasing numbers of visitors to the Lower Reservoir of Nove Mlyny – sunbathing, windsurfing, and also as one of the few suitable reservoirs in CZ for yachting.

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