

Implementation of the Action Plan for Aesculapian Snake in Horni hrad Valley

Objectives

The population of the Aesculapian Snake in the Eger River Valley is extraordinarily threatened and very vulnerable. Rapid decline in abundance has been documented during last decades and also the area has been reduced. Biotope loss by changed management and landscape use methods, lack of suitable reproducing places, road traffic and alien predators are among the main causes of threatening. This project includes several measures essential for surviving and stabilization of the unique isolated population, such as management of existing egg-laying sites, restoration of old one egg-laying sites, cleaning and restoration of old and shady dry-stone walls, building attractive shelters for reptiles from logs and wood and treatment of fruity trees in orchards.

Implementation

1) Regular maintenance and total reconstruction of an existing egg-laying sites

This project involves building 2 new egg-laying sites and regular maintenance of 3 egg-laying sites. This measure is realized during the whole active season. Most of the activity was already finished

2) Cleaning and restoration of old and shady dry-stone walls

This project involves cleaning and restoration dry-stone walls on 3 localities. This measure was realized during the whole active season and now is finished

3) Building reptile shelters from wood

This project involves building 10 shelters from wood attractive for reptiles. Four shelters are finished up to the present day and other two are in process of building.

4) Fruity trees treatment

Old fruity trees with holes can serve as shelter or egg-laying sites for the Aesculapian snake. This project involves treatment of 681 fruity trees in orchards around Horni hrad. Totally 306 trees have been treated up to the present day.

Results

- 2 new egg-laying sites for the Aesculapian Snake
- 12 managed egg-laying sites for the Aesculapian Snake
- 3 cleaned and restored dry-stone walls
- 4 new reptile shelters from wood (next 2 are in process)
- 360 treated fruity trees