

Oral presentation

The protection of amphibians and reptiles in the Czech Republic – approach of NaturaServis

S.r.o.

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The application of ecological findings and related biological fields of knowledge into practical protection of nature is the key issue. NaturaServis s.r.o. carries out research and field work in service of nature conservation since 2004. NaturaServis is allowed to interfere with natural evolution of highly protected animals, particularly by catching, transporting or breeding them in captivity – the company uses clauses given by the Ministry of Environment and other conservation authorities in the Czech Republic. NaturaServis s.r.o. designs and implements steps reducing the adverse impacts on the nature during the construction of roads, motorways, railways and similar economic activities. It implements the saving clauses given by the Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic to the investors.

We identified the destruction of breeding sites like main factor of decreasing of amphibians in the Czech Republic. The protection of breeding sites and strengthen populations of amphibians and reptiles should be the main target to save these animals.

Therefore three years ago we decided to establish Herpetological station in the Czech Republic. We strengthen threatened populations of amphibians and reptiles through artificial breeding at this station in Hradec Králové. We catch adult individuals of rare species just before breeding and allow them to reproduce and lay the eggs under our control. The adult individuals are promptly released back to their original habitats, while the tadpoles will be reared at the station and released back just before metamorphosis. We thereby significantly prevent mortality which occurs in the nature due to predation or destruction or drying out of habitats. In case of irreversible habitat damage, we can organize rescue captures and relocations of animals, especially amphibians and reptiles (approved by the Nature Conservation Agency of the Czech Republic). If immediate transfer cannot be performed, we will temporarily keep the transferred animals in our deposit basins until another suitable location is found or a new one is built.

We participate in the special research of chytridiomycosis in the Czech Republic in cooperation with University of Veterinary and Pharmaceutical Sciences Brno.

Key words. the Czech Republic, NaturaServis s.r.o., the protection of amphibians and reptiles, Herpetological station in Hradec Králové.