



**Closer
to Nature**

PRESS RELEASE

Thanks to ČSOP and NET4GAS, an Interactive Trail for Children and Adults Has Been Built in the Oder Valley

Studénka, 9 October 2014: The Czech Union for Nature Conservation (ČSOP) has opened a new educational trail to the general public - already the tenth of its kind in the Moravian-Silesian Region, thanks to the NET4GAS Closer to Nature programme. The trail is 4.5 km long and leads through the protected landscape area of (CHKO) Poodří / Oder Valley. It presents the floodplains of the Oder River, known for, among other things, their role in protecting the greater Ostrava area from floods. The interactive trail, fittingly named "Through landscape of floods", familiarises visitors with this issue and with other interesting facts at nine stations along the course of the Oder between Jeseník nad Odrou, Bernartice, and Suchdol. The opening ceremony was attended by the governor of the Moravian-Silesian Region, Miroslav Novák.

In an entertaining and playful way, the educational trail teaches curious hikers about the local nature, which several times each year completely submits to the rule of the element of water. Info panels tell the visitor about the past and present of the floodplains and their powerful mistress - the Oder River. The stations along the trail are devoted to the inhabitants of the floodplain and interesting aspects of their way of life.

"We are commemorating the 35th anniversary of the inception of the ČSOP this year, and, I am happy to report, we are also able to celebrate the 67th publicly accessible site of this kind, thanks to the growing awareness of nature conservation efforts, and thanks to the NET4GAS Closer to Nature programme", said ČSOP president Libor Ambrozek.

"The NET4GAS Closer to Nature programme and our collaboration with the ČSOP is an opportunity for us to get involved in environmental education, unlocking natural treasures to the general public, and promoting respect for valuable sites across the Czech Republic. We are committed to continuing our work on projects aimed at the protection of nature above and beyond the call of our statutory duties", added Radek Benčík, COO of NET4GAS.

The opening ceremony of the trail took the form of a commented walk, with contests for children and an informal discussion among those in attendance about how to best protect nature in practice. Kids had the opportunity to see with their own eyes the water-carrying capacity of a meandering riverbed compared to that of a watercourse that has been straightened. They found out the various sounds made by hard wood and soft wood, learned to recognize the call of the mysterious bird known as corn crake, touched a tree felled by a beaver, and participated in a stone skipping contest.

The educational trail has three starting points, and is easily reached by train. "Attentive visitors may spot, with a bit of luck, both stork species, the sea eagle, the common kingfisher, the goosander, and even the odd beaver, during a single visit - and if they embark on their trip in early spring, they'll moreover be welcomed by fields upon fields of wood garlic", said Ondřej Bartoš of the ČSOP's local Studénka chapter, which constructed the educational trail. The trail is primarily designed for family and school trips; if the weather is not too wet, it is navigable with an off-road baby stroller.

The educational trail "Through landscape of floods" is already the tenth nature site in the Moravian-Silesian Region to be made accessible to the general public in accordance with conservationist principles under the NET4GAS Closer to Nature programme:

- 2007** Myslík Quarry (Myslík, Frýdek-Místek District)
- 2008** Footpaths in the Beskid Foothills (Kunčice pod Ondřejníkem, Frýdek-Místek District)
Salamander Spring (Myslík, Frýdek-Místek District)
Blahutovice Observation Post (Blahutovice, Nový Jičín District)
- 2009** Rezavka (Ostrava-Svinov, Ostrava-město District)
Štěpán (Děhylov, Opava District)
- 2010** Skalka (Kunčice pod Ondřejníkem, Frýdek-Místek District)
- 2011** Around Vřesina (Vřesina, Opava District)
- 2012** Heřmanice Pond (Ostrava-Heřmanice, Ostrava-město District)
- 2014** Through landscape of floods (Jeseník nad Odrou, Nový Jičín District)

For additional information, please visit www.blizprirode.cz and www.csop.cz.

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The **Czech Union for Nature Conservation** is a group of people who love nature and share an active interest in nature conservation. It currently has close to 7,000 members, some of whom hail from the ranks of professional naturalists, but others are enthusiastic volunteers, while some are adults and others are children. Everyone can help. Do you love nature? Then join us! For more information, visit www.csop.cz.

NET4GAS is the Czech Republic's reliable and safe gas transmission system operator, pursuing the responsible policy of protecting nature and the environment for future generations. The commercial operations of NET4GAS are very closely connected with the issue of nature conservation, and it is this fact that underlies the firm's long-term strategy of corporate philanthropy that has been implemented within the context of the NET4GAS Closer to Nature programme. Since 2007, NET4GAS has been the general partner of the Czech Union of Nature Conservation, while the firm also supports various other projects for which the slogan "Closer to Nature" is at the heart of sustainable development. For detailed information on the sites that have been opened to the general public, and for lots of additional interesting information related to nature, please visit www.blizprirode.cz.



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Overview of the 67 sites opened to the public so far under the NET4GAS Closer to Nature programme

2007

NT Klíč Valley, Svor / Česká Lípa
NT Hloučela Biocorridor, Prostějov
Opičák, Liberec
Jelenice, Pozořice / Brno-venkov
Myslík Quarry, Myslík / Frýdek-Místek
NT Milovice Observation Post, Milovice / Nymburk

2008

NT Footpaths in the Beskid Foothills, Kunčice pod Ondřejníkem / Frýdek-Místek
NT A Forest Full of Senses, Krásná Lípa / Děčín
NT Bludov Hillside, Bludov / Šumperk
NT Vinoř Park – Satalice Pheasantry, Praha-Vinoř
Golden Hill, Bečov nad Teplou / Karlovy Vary
Kamenec, Kamenec u Radnic / Rokycany
NT Zvole Hummock, Zvole u Prahy
NT Fryšták, Fryšták / Zlín
Salamander Spring, Myslík / Frýdek-Místek
NT Velký Košíř, Litomyšl / Svitavy
NT Mnichov Serpentine, Prameny / Cheb
NT Hasina Valley, Lipno / Louny
Chlum Quarry, Srbsko / Beroun
Mokroš Biocentre, Mořice / Prostějov
NT Zahrady, Český Brod / Kolín
Blahutovice Observation Post, Blahutovice / Nový Jičín
NT Votočnice, Sázava / Benešov

2009

Rezavka, Ostrava
Štěpán Nature Reserve, Děhylov / Ostrava
NT Medník, Hradištko / Praha-západ
Vladař Mountain, Vladořice / Karlovy Vary
NT Podkovák, Lesná / Tachov
Kudlačena, Horní Bečva / Vsetín
Podlešák's Elm, Vimperk-Boubská / Prachatice
Above the River, Bečov nad Teplou / Karlovy Vary

2010

Choryn Wetland Nature Reserve, Lešná / Valašské Meziříčí
NT Water World, Lesná / Domažlice

Poustka, Pozořice / Brno-venkov
Skalka Nature Reserve, Kunčice pod Ondřejníkem / Frýdek-Místek
NT Sudslavice Circuit, Vimperk / Prachatice
Žák's Hill National Nature Reserve, Cikháj / Žďár nad Sázavou
Moses Spring - Emperor's Stone, Vesec / Liberec
Semanín Trail, Semanín / Ústí nad Orlicí

2011

NT Na cvičišti - At the Training Ground, Valašské Meziříčí / Vsetín
Střelenská Meadow, Střelná / Teplice
Capartice Meadows, Capartice / Domažlice
Chlum Mountain Nature Reserve, Chlum / Karlovy Vary
Manor Rock Natural Monument, Habrovany / Vyškov
NT Around Vřesina, Vřesina / Opava
NT Saint Vitus Guild, Trstěnice / Cheb

2012

Litovice Pond Bird-Watching Spot, Litovice / Praha-západ
Kolo Wetland, Slavkov / Uherské Hradiště
NT Vidžín - Telecí potok, Vidžín / Plzeň-sever
NT Housle, Praha-Lysolaje
Pančava, Pozořice / Slavkov
NT Mýto, Nedvězí / Prague
Bohumilice Avenue, Bohumilice / Prachatice
Ořešník, Hejnice / Liberec
NT Heřmanice Pond, Heřmanice / Ostrava

2013

Lačnov Crocuses, Lačnov / Vsetín
NT Umíř, Plachtín / Plzeň-sever
NT Pňov Mead, Pňov-Předhradí / Kolín
NT St. John's Rapids, Štěchovice / Praha-západ
Třemešské rybníky Bird-Watching Spot, Dolní Studénky / Šumperk
Path to Sulphurous Springs, Zádveřice / Zlín

2014

NT Libušín Fortification, Libušín / Kladno
Lušová Valley, Lušová / Vsetín
NT Zásmuky Pheasantry, Zásmuky / Kolín
Canopy Road Beneath Hořínkova Forester's Lodge, Buchlovice / Uherské Hradiště
NT Chlum, Nepřevázka, Mladá Boleslav
NT Through landscape of floods, Jeseník nad Odrou / Nový Jičín

NT = nature trail

Find more information at www.blizpriode.cz

