In Seattle, USA (18 – 21 September 2003) LTER-Slovenia was accepted in the International Long-Term Ecological Research network (ILTER).

Participating institutions in LTER-Slovenia:

1. Scientific Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts

Karst Research Institute

Jovan Hadži Institute of Biology

Institute of Anthropological and Spatial Studies

Anton Melik Geographical Institute

2. National Institute of Biology

3. University of Primorska, Science and Research Centre of Koper, Institute for Biodiversity Studies

4. University of Ljubljana, Biotechnical Faculty, Department of Biology

Chair of Ecology

Chair of Zoology

5. University of Maribor, Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, Department of Biology

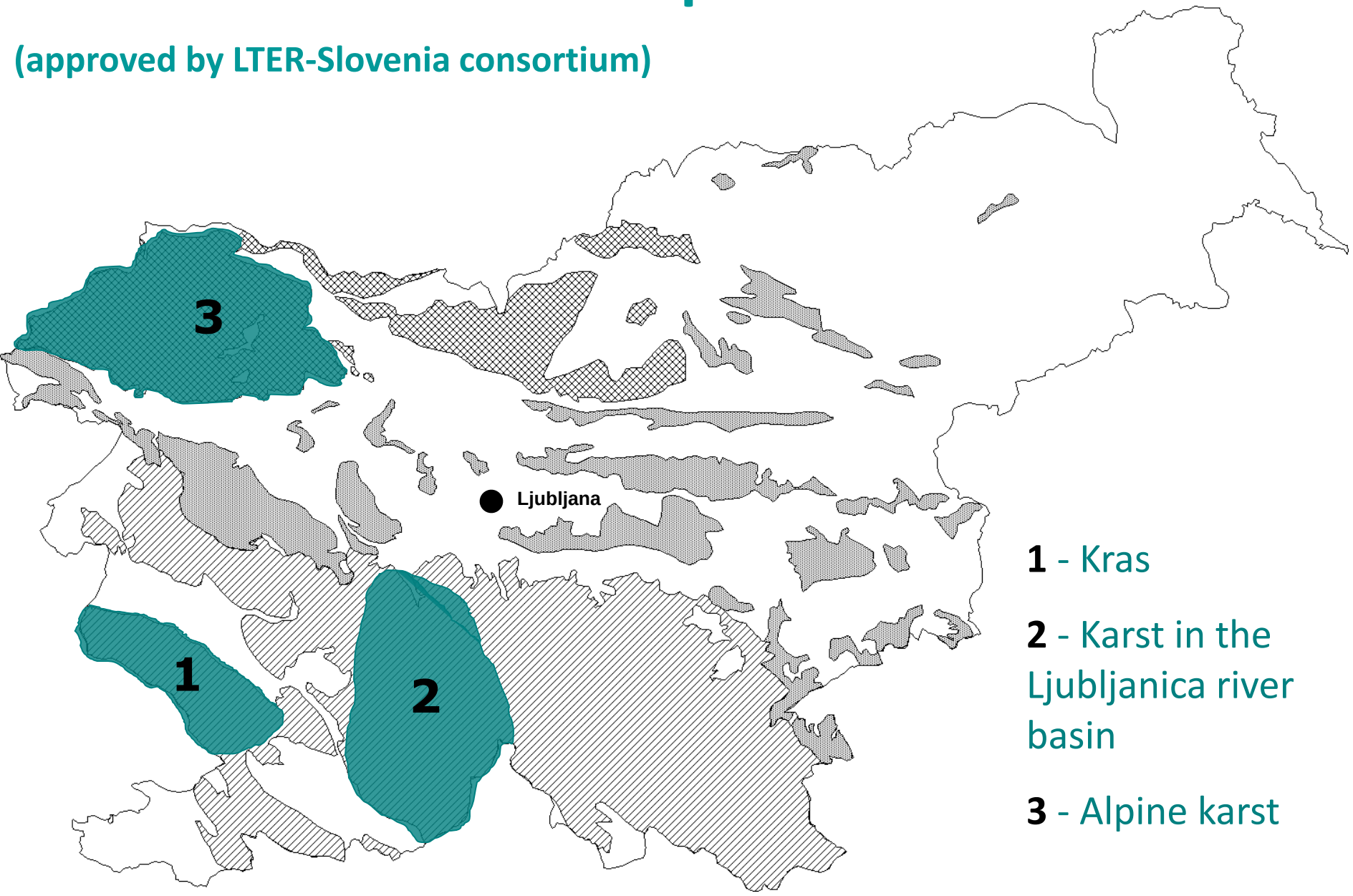
Chair of Geobotanics

6. Notranjska Museum Postojna, Biological Department

7. Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning. Environmental Agency of the Republic of Slovenia

LTER-Slovenia research platforms

(approved by LTER-Slovenia consortium)



1 - Kras

2 - Karst in the Ljubljanica river basin

3 - Alpine karst

Some Criteria to define LTER-Slovenia research sites:

1. Recorded past activites in the region
2. Existence of “reference areas”
3. Coverage of gradients, e.g. altitude, types of habitats, …
4. Establishing of network of people

- Slovenia is situated in the very northwestern end of the Dinaric area, and is inhabited by the richest subterranean fauna in the world in addition to a rich variety of surface fauna and flora.

- This richness means that of 517 registered species of stygobionts (obligate aquatic subterranean fauna) and 783 species of troglobionts (obligate terrestrial subterranean fauna) in Western Europe, there are respectively 207 and 166 of these species in Slovenia.

- Besides the approximately 207 stygobiotic taxa in Slovenia there are 120 endemic taxa.

ILTER
International Long Term Ecological Research

LTER-Slovenia sites includes investigations of biodiversity on:

KARST SURFACE

Karst poljes and intermittent lakes

High Alpine lakes

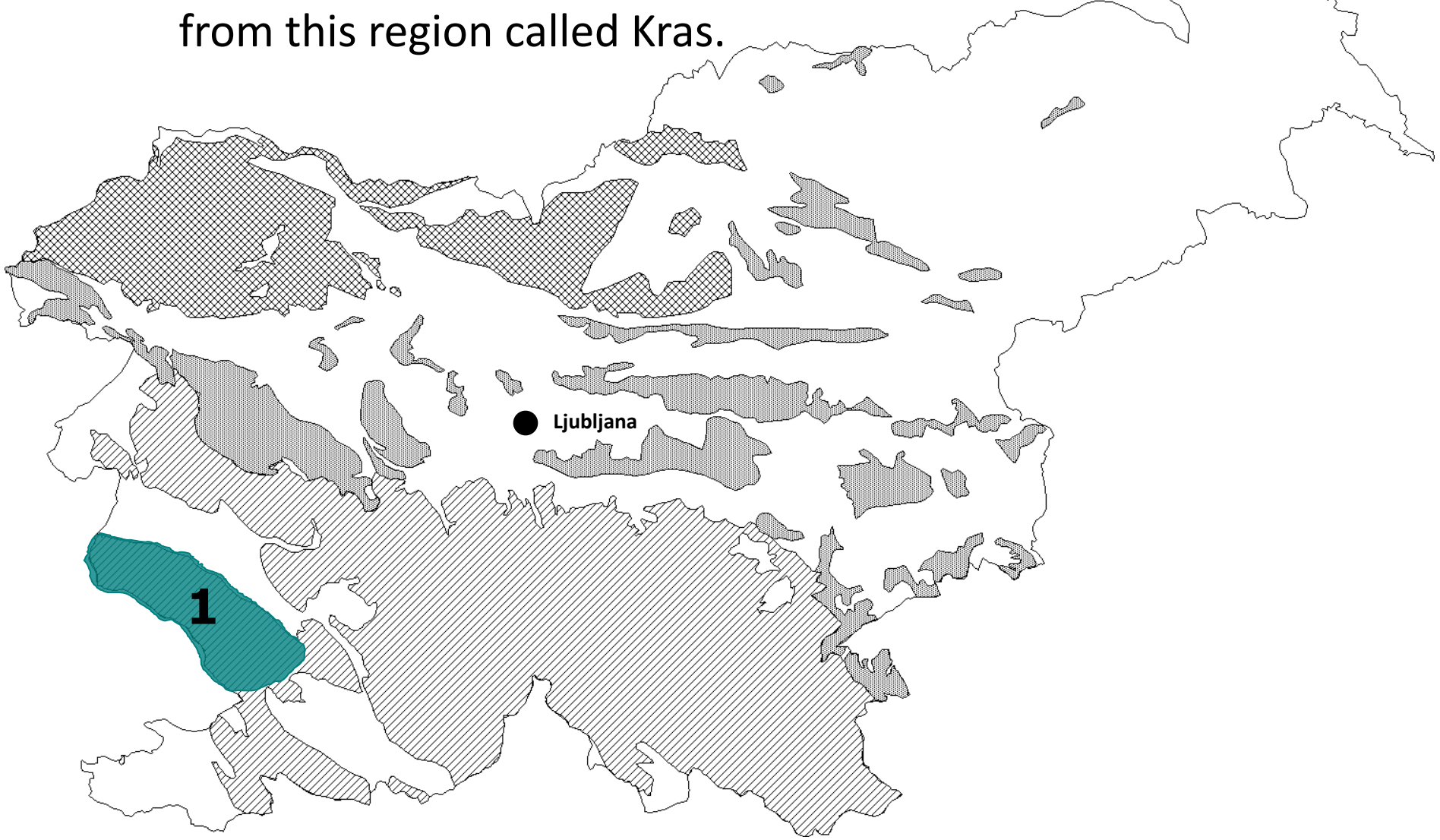
KARST UNDERGROUND

Caves

ILTER

International Long Term Ecological Research

The first LTER-Slovenia site was chosen in the region called Kras – this is the limestone plateau, the hill region behind Trieste in Italy, and the international term *karst* is derived from this region called Kras.

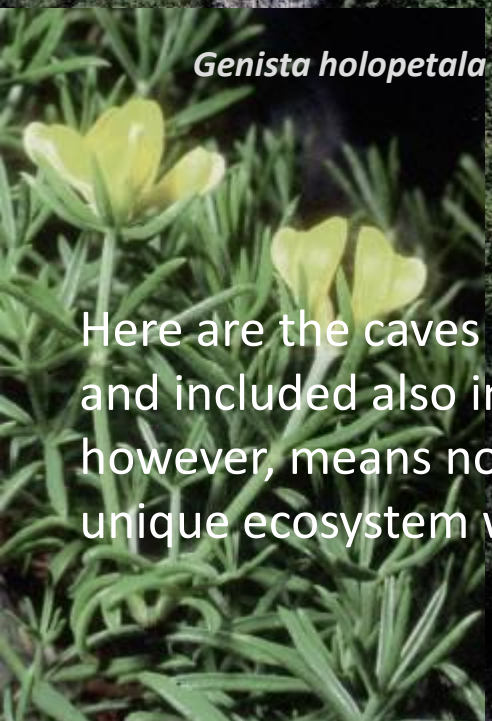


Škocjanske jame


Titanethes albus


macroinvertebrates


Geranium robertianum


Genista holopetala

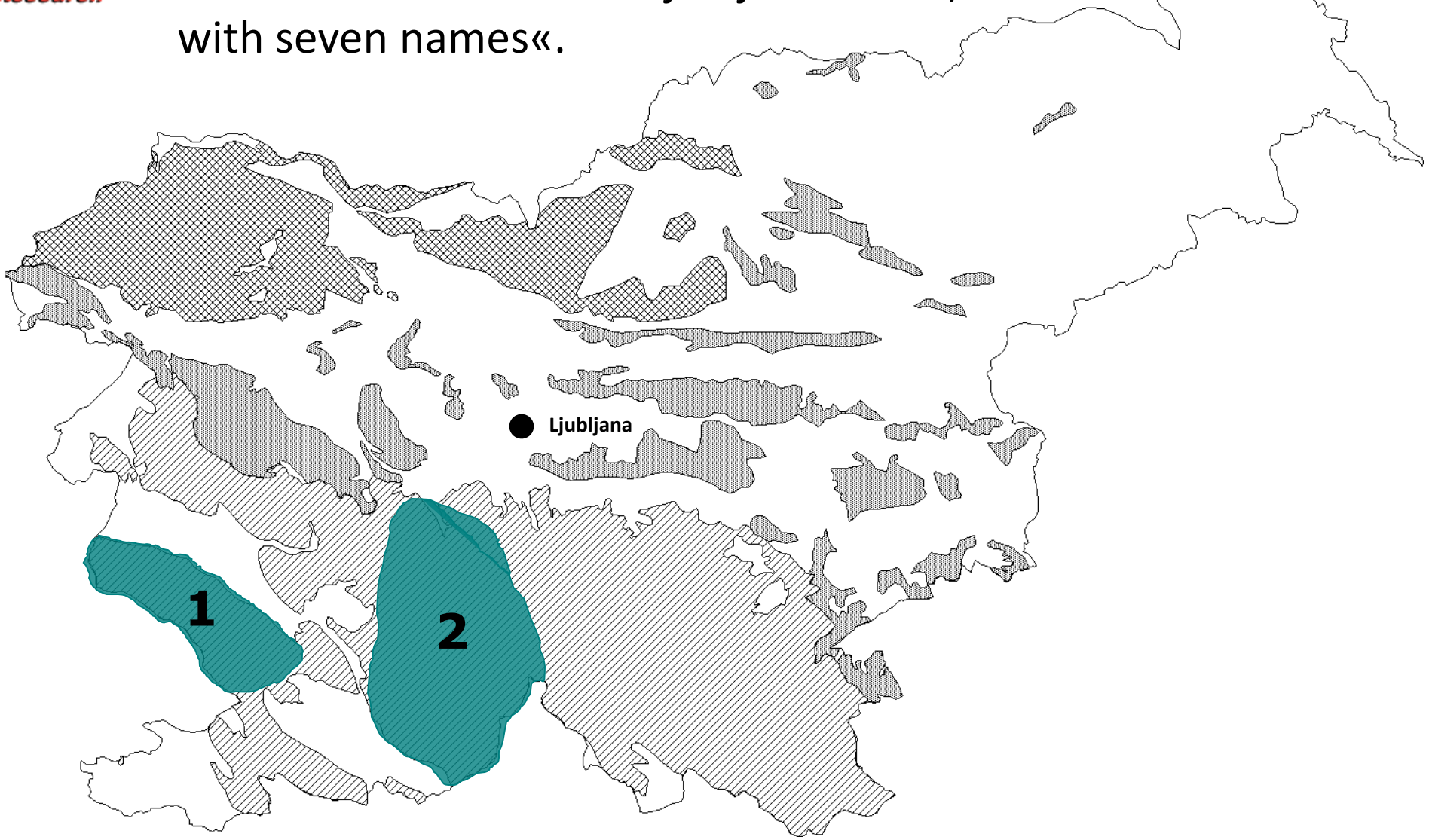
Here are the caves **Škocjanske jame**, included in the UNESCO World Heritage List and included also in the Ramsar list as the important subterranean wetland. This, however, means not only an honour, but also a commintment to preserve this unique ecosystem with interesting subterranean and surface **fauna and flora**.

Caves

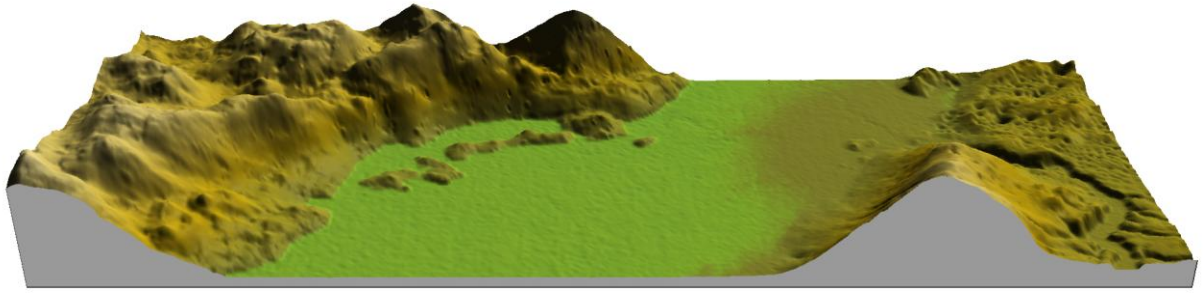
ILTER

International Long Term Ecological Research

The second LTER-Slovenia site is a karst region in the Ljubljanica river basin. There are more than 1500 caves in the catchement area of the Ljubljanica river, the so called »river with seven names«.



There are karst **springs**



Cerknica lake

Cerknica polje

Karst poljes as the well known **Cerknica polje**

JEZERO, KI IZGINJA

Monografija o
Cerkniškem jezeru

JEZERO, KI IZGINJA

Monografija o
Cerkniškem jezeru

In 2003 very interesting and comprehensive **monograph** about Cerknica lake was published, edited by Prof. Dr. Alenka Gaberščik. The book covers from geological, geomorphological, hydrological, speleological, climatic properties of the region, to flora, vegetation and fauna of the Cerknica lake, as well as socio-geographic and cultural characteristics.

UREDILA ALENKA GABERŠČIK
DRUŠTVO EKOLOGOV SLOVENIJE

LJUBLJANA, 2003

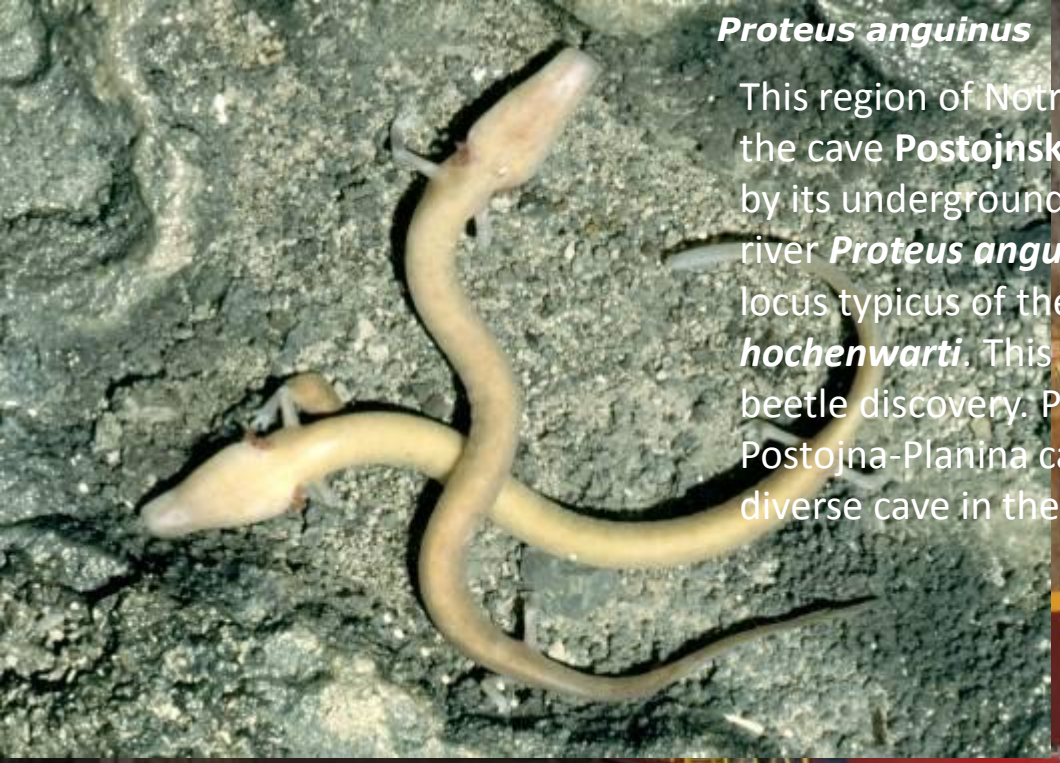
Intermittent lakes

One of the important site in this region are **Pivka intermittent lakes**. Pivka basin with17 intermittent lakes is very interesting region due to interesting fauna and flora of intermittent karst lakes and their surroundings, interesting is karst hydrology and geological structure. Some of the **plant species** that are growing here are very rare and endangered. An endemic species of fairy shrimp, ***Chirocephalus croaticus*** can be found in Petelinjsko jezero intermittent lake and according to the latest data it appears also in nearby lake Jeredovce.

Gladiolus illyricus

Pivka lakes

Chirocephalus croaticus



Proteus anguinus

This region of Notranjska karst is well known also by the cave **Postojnska jama**. The cave is known not just by its underground train, but in underground Pivka river ***Proteus anguinus*** lives. Postojnska jama is a locus typicus of the cave beetle ***Leptodirus hochenwarti***. This was one of the world's first cave beetle discovery. Postojnska jama is a part of the Postojna-Planina cave system, the most biologically diverse cave in the world.

Postojnska jama

Postojna cave

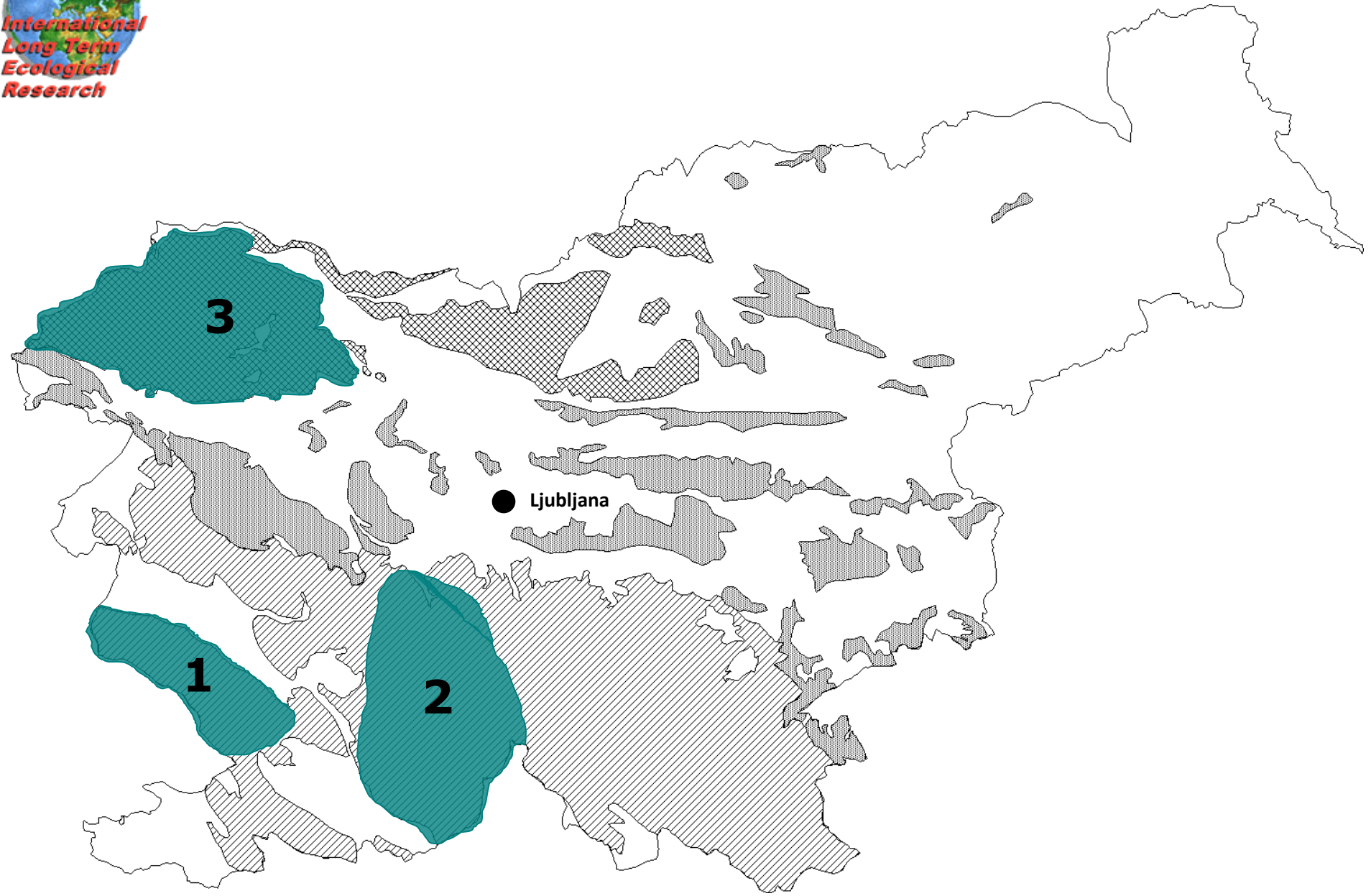
Leptodirus hochenwartii

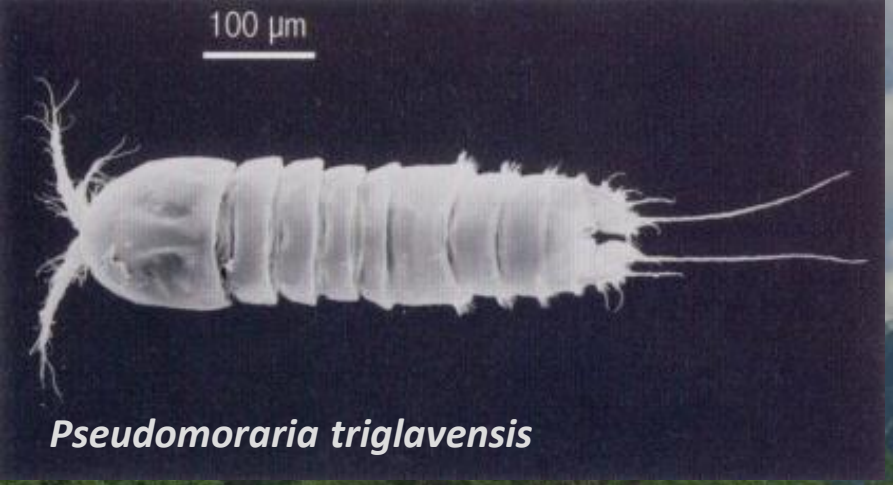
Caves

ILTER

International Long Term Ecological Research

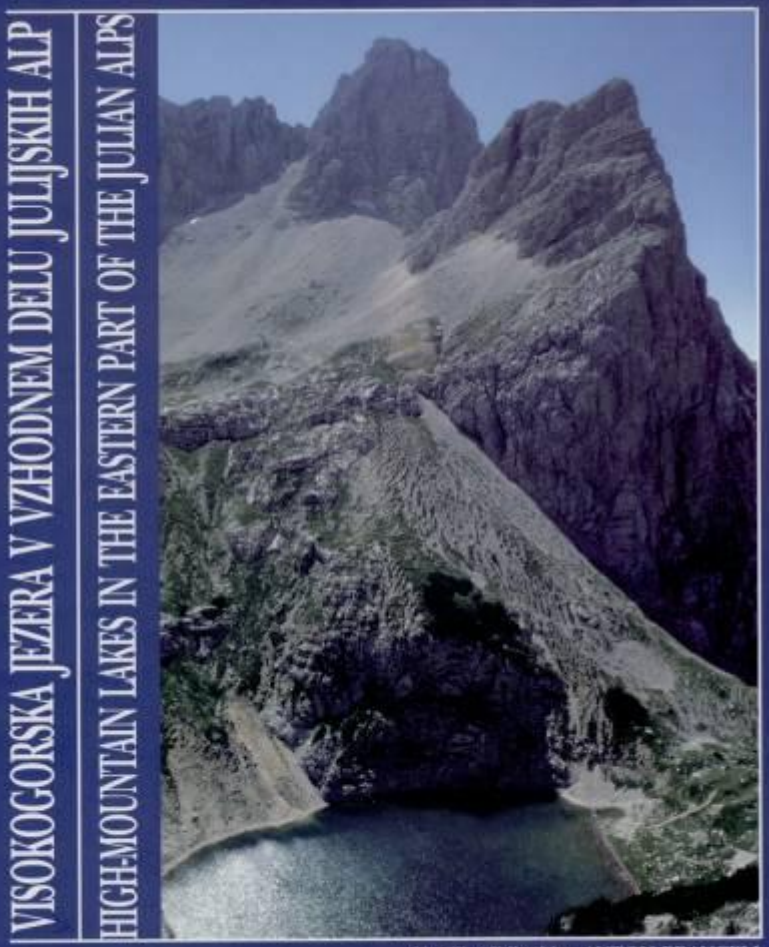
The third LTER-Slovenia site was chosen in Alpine region





Pseudomoraria triglavensis

Campanula zoysii



Alpine karst

where interesting **alpine flora** and vegetation appears. In 2002 interesting **monograph** on High mountain lakes in the Eastern part of the Julian Alps was published, edited by dr. Brancelj. Many physical, chemical and biological data from high mountain lakes are described in it.

Historical review of LTER-Slovenia activities

2001 — 2002 — 2003 — 2004 — 2005 — 2006

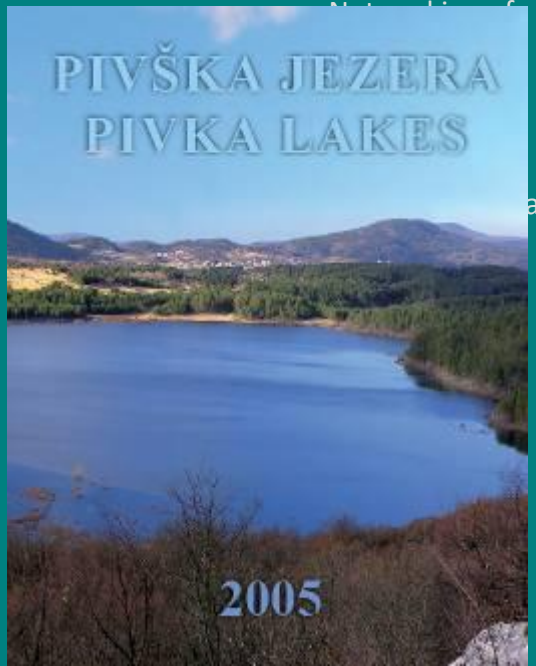
Slovenia ILTER Member

Expression of interest

Kopenhagen Denmark,16 Jan

Workshop on European

and



Motz France, 1-5 July

European-American workshop on long term socio-environmental research

Seattle USA, 18-21 Sept

LTER All scientists meeting

Postojna Slovenia, 12-14 Sep

Visit of Dr. H. Gholz, Program Director for LT tive of

Colima Mexico, 26 Oct- 2 Nov

Coordinating comittee meetig the ILTER

Postojna Slovenia

Monograph of LTER-Slovenia site (Pivka lakes)

Gumpenstein Austria, 17-19 May

Gumpenstein joint of ALTER-Net meeting of workpackages I2, I3, R1

Východná Slovakia, 24-28 May

ILTER workshop of Central and Eastern European countries

Postojna Slovenia, 20-24 Oct

Slovenian-US workshop on long term ecological research

LTER-Slovenia
Tanja Pipan – ID 1260

Scientific Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (ZRC SAZU)
ID 1260, 2058, 2059, 1255, 1261

Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning
ID 2061

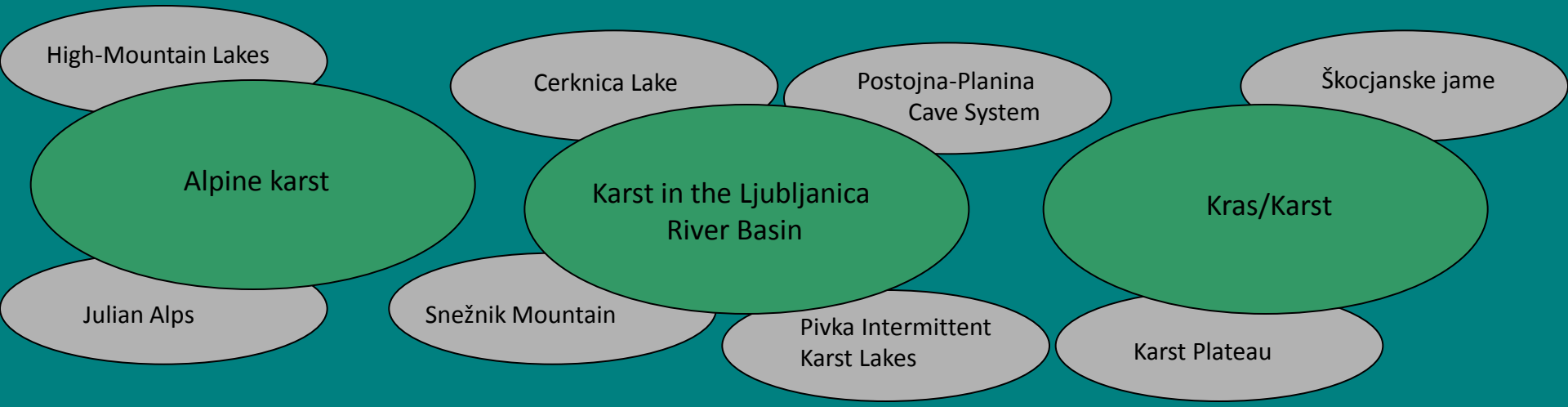
Slovenian Research Agency

University of Ljubljana, Biotechnical Faculty ID 2063

Institutes within ZRC SAZU
ID 1260, 2059, 1261, 1255, 2058

National Institute of Biology
ID 2060

University of Maribor, Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics
ID 2064



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Notranjska Museum, Postojna
ID 2065

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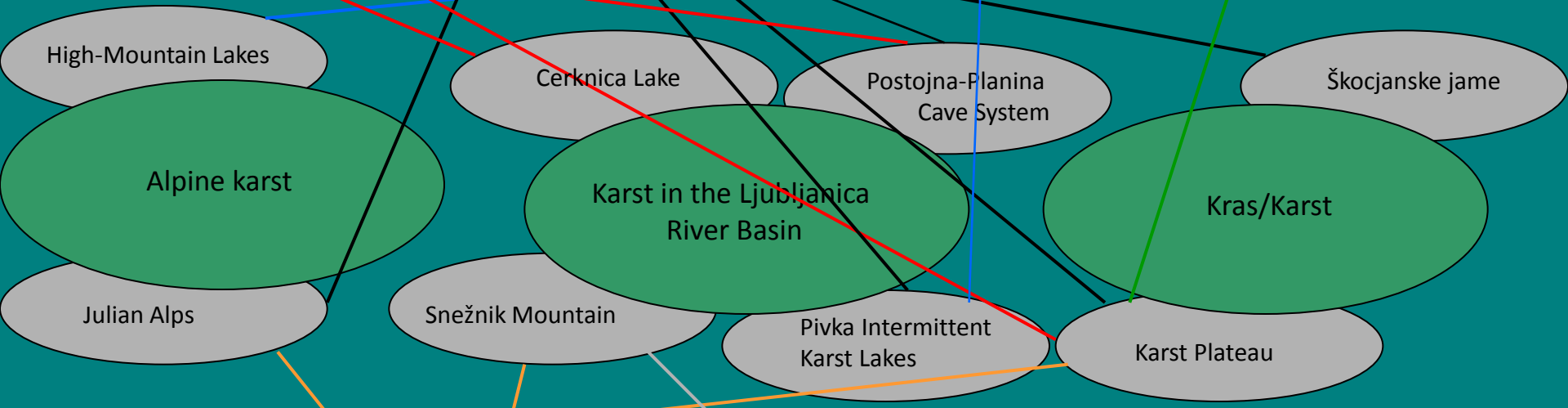

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