

LIFE - Nature



*Projects-Projekten-Projets-Projectos-Proyectos-Projecten-Progetti-Projektit-Projekte
Projets-Projectos-Proyectos-Projecten-Progetti-Projektit-Projekte-Projects-Projekten*

2006



European Commission

LIFE-Nature 2006: Commission provides over €70 million to 61 nature conservation projects in 20 countries

The European Commission has approved funding for 61 nature conservation projects, situated in 20 Member States under the LIFE-Nature programme. The projects will restore protected nature areas and their fauna and flora, establish sustainable management structures and strengthen public awareness and co-operation with stakeholders. They will thus further contribute to the improvement of the EU-wide Natura 2000 network of protected sites. The projects are situated in Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Slovenia, Slovakia, Sweden and the United Kingdom. They represent a total investment of €141.6 million, of which the EU will cover €70.1 million.

LIFE-Nature in 2005

The Commission received 228 proposals for LIFE-Nature funding from partnerships of conservation bodies, government authorities, NGOs and other parties. The Commission selected 61 of these projects, 16 of which involve two or more countries.

Most projects aim at restoring Natura 2000 sites or networks of sites, designing and implementing management plans, improving watercourses, laying the foundation for long-term site management and eliminating invasive species. A number of projects are aimed at improving the conservation status of particularly threatened wildlife species.

Natura 2000 is an EU-wide network of special areas of conservation and protection. It was set up under the EU Habitats Directive¹ and incorporates sites identified under the Birds Directive². Altogether, it comprises more than 20,000 sites and covers close to 20% of EU territory.

Background

This year is the last under the current LIFE programme. LIFE is the EU's financial instrument supporting environmental and nature conservation projects throughout the EU, as well as in some candidate, acceding and neighbouring countries. Since 1992, LIFE has co-financed some 2,750 projects, contributing approximately €1.35 billion to the protection of the environment.

LIFE-Nature specifically contributes to the implementation of the Habitats and Birds directives and, in particular, the Natura 2000 European network. The two other components of this programme, LIFE-Environment and LIFE-Third Countries, focus respectively on demonstrating innovative environmental techniques and on environmental capacity building in countries bordering the Mediterranean and the Baltic Sea.

The LIFE III programme finishes at the end of 2006. Thereafter a new programme, "LIFE+", will run from 2007-2013 with a budget of approximately €2.1 billion. The LIFE+ proposal is currently undergoing its second reading in the European Parliament. The key difference between LIFE+ and LIFE is that, instead of being managed by the Commission, most of its budget will be managed by National Agencies in the Member States who will carry out the calls for proposals and the selection and monitoring of the projects.

More information about each project is available at: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/project/index.htm>.

More information about the Natura 2000 network can be found at: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/home.htm>.

1. Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild flora and fauna.
2. Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds.

Index of projects selected in 2006

Location	Project number	Title of project
AUSTRIA	LIFE06 NAT/A/000123 Bisamberg	Bisamberg habitat management
	LIFE06 NAT/A/000124 UVOR	Untersberg-Vorland
	LIFE06 NAT/A/000127 LIFE Obere Drau II	Life in Upper Drau River
BELGIUM	LIFE06 NAT/B/000081 Life Averbode	Restoring endangered habitats in Flanders
	LIFE06 NAT/B/000082 Stropersbos	Habitat restoration of alluvial forests and heath in the "Stropers" area
	LIFE06 NAT/B/000084 LIFE Turnhouts Vennengebied	Large-scale Habitat Restoration in "Turnhouts Vennengebied"
	LIFE06 NAT/B/000085 HELA	Cross-border restoration of heathland on continental dunes
	LIFE06 NAT/B/000087 ZENO	Zwindunes Ecological Nature Optimisation
	LIFE06 NAT/B/000091 PLTHautes-Fagnes	Rehabilitation of heaths and mires on the Hautes-Fagnes Plateau
	LIFE06 NAT/B/000095 Bat action	Action plan for three threatened bat species in Flanders
CZECH REPUBLIC	LIFE06 NAT/CZ/000121 MORAVKA	Preservation of alluvial forest habitats in the Morávka river Basin
DENMARK	LIFE06 NAT/DK/000158 REMAB	Restoration of Meadow Bird Habitats
	LIFE06 NAT/DK/000159 BLUEREEF	Rebuilding of Marine Cavernous Boulder Reefs in Kattegat
FINLAND	LIFE06 NAT/FIN/000128 Pelkosenniemi-Life	Promotion of public awareness and protection of aapa mires in Lapland
	LIFE06 NAT/FIN/000129 Kokemäenjoki-LIFE	From Ancient to the Present Estuary, Kokemäenjoki Wetland Chain
FRANCE	LIFE06 NAT/F/000137 Violette et Biscutelle	Rescue of <i>Viola hispida</i> and <i>Biscutella neustriaca</i> on the Seine Valley
	LIFE06 NAT/F/000142 Lauter-Donon	Protection of the forests of Basse Lauter and Vosges moyennes
	LIFE06 NAT/F/000143 Vipère d'Orsini	Conservation of French populations of Orsini's viper (<i>Vipera ursinii</i>)
	LIFE06 NAT/F/000146 Maintbiodiv	Preservation of the coast biodiversity on the Gâvres-Quiberon site
	LIFE06 NAT/F/000147 Marais de Rochefort	Preservation and restoration of the Rochefort marshes biological functions

Location	Project number	Title of project
GERMANY	LIFE06 NAT/D/000003 Rohrhardsberg	Rohrhardsberg, Upper Elz and Wilde Gutach
	LIFE06 NAT/D/000005 LIFE-Projekt Maifisch	The re-introduction of allis shad (<i>Alosa alosa</i>) in the Rhine System
	LIFE06 NAT/D/000006 DONAU	Swabian Danube valley
	LIFE06 NAT/D/000008 Borstgrasrasen	Conservation and regeneration of <i>Nardus</i> Grasslands in Central Europe
HUNGARY	LIFE06 NAT/H/000096 Falco cherrug-Hu/SK	Conservation of <i>Falco cherrug</i> in the Carpathian basin
	LIFE06 NAT/H/000098 HUNSTEPPICOAKS	Conservation of Euro-siberian steppic woods and Pannonic sand steppes in "Nagykörösi pusztai tölgyesek" pSCI
	LIFE06 NAT/H/000102 GRASS-TAPOLCA	Restoration and grassland management of Felső-Kongó meadows
	LIFE06 NAT/H/000104 HUNDIDI	Conservation of the Pannon endemic <i>Dianthus diutinus</i>
ITALY	LIFE06 NAT/IT/000026 Rapaci del Gargano	Safeguard of SPA "Promontorio del Gargano" raptors
	LIFE06 NAT/IT/000050 Co.Me.Bi.S.	Urgent conservation measures for biodiversity of Central Mediterranean Sea
	LIFE06 NAT/IT/000053 CILENTO IN RETE	Management of the network of pSCIs and SPAs in the Cilento National Park
	LIFE06 NAT/IT/000060 LIFE FRIULI FENS	Conservation and restoration of calcareous fens in Friuli
LATVIA	LIFE06 NAT/LV/000110 ADAZI	Restoration of Biological Diversity in Military Training Area and Natura 2000 site "Adazi"
	LIFE06 NAT/LV/000196 IHM-VESTIENA	The improvement of habitats management in Natura 2000 site – Vestiena
MALTA	LIFE06 NAT/MT/000097 GARNIJA-MALTIJA	SPA Site and Sea Actions Saving <i>Puffinus yelkouan</i> in Malta
THE NETHERLANDS	LIFE06 NAT/NL/000071 Brackish Marsh	Restoration of Brackish Marsh for Root Vole, Waders and Terns
	LIFE06 NAT/NL/000072 Moerasontwikkeling Zouweboezem	Marsh area "De Zouweboezem": conservation, restoration and development
	LIFE06 NAT/NL/000074 Wetland succession	Wetlands: challenges and innovation in succession management
	LIFE06 NAT/NL/000075 Engbertsdijksvenen	From Degraded to Active Raised Bogs: pSCI Engbertsdijksvenen (NL)
	LIFE06 NAT/NL/000076 Verbrakking Westzaan	Restoration of brackish ecosystems in Westzaan polder
	LIFE06 NAT/NL/000077 SAMARES	Salt Marsh restoration Eastern Scheldt
	LIFE06 NAT/NL/000078 Roer Migration	Restoring migration possibilities for 8 Annex II species in the Roer
	LIFE06 NAT/NL/000079 Vlietmonding	Connecting 3 pSCI around the Hoeksche Waard for Root Vole

Location	Project number	Title of project
POLAND	LIFE06 NAT/PL/000100 Wetlands Butterflies	Conservation and upgrading of habitats for rare butterflies of wet, semi-natural meadows
	LIFE06 NAT/PL/000105 BISON-LAND	European Bison conservation in the Bialowieza Forest, Poland
PORTUGAL	LIFE06 NAT/P/000184 SOS Freira do Bugio	Urgent measures for the recovery of Bugio's petrel, <i>Pterodroma feae</i> , and its habitat
	LIFE06 NAT/P/000191 Lince Moura/Barrancos	Recovery of Iberian Lynx habitat in Boura/Barrancos Site
	LIFE06 NAT/P/000192 Biomares	Restoration and Management of Biodiversity in the Marine Park Site Arrábida-Espichel
	LIFE06 NAT/P/000194 Tree Nesting Bonelli's Eagle	Conservation of Tree Nesting Bonelli's Eagle in Portugal
ROMANIA	LIFE06 NAT/RO/000172 RESTOREWETLANDS	Conservation, restoration and durable management in Small Island of Braila, Romania
	LIFE06 NAT/RO/000177 GREENDANUBE	Conservation and integrated management of Danube islands Romania
SLOVAKIA	LIFE06 NAT/SK/000114 SENNERESTSK	Conservation of Senne and Medzibodrozie SPAs in Slovakia
	LIFE06 NAT/SK/000115 ZAHORIE SANDS	Restoration and Management of Sand Dunes Habitats in Zahorie Military Training Area
SPAIN	LIFE06 NAT/E/000199 Gallotia bravoana	Program for the recovery of <i>Gallotia bravoana</i> and its distribution area
	LIFE06 NAT/E/000209 Introducción Lince Andalucía	Conservation and reintroduction of the Iberian lynx in Andalucía
	LIFE06 NAT/E/000213 Canal de Castilla	Wetland restoration and management: Canal de Castilla Special Protection Area
	LIFE06 NAT/E/000214 Tendidos Electricos Murcia	Correction of Dangerous Overhead Cables in Special Protection Areas for Birds in the Region of Murcia
SLOVENIA	LIFE06 NAT/SI/000066 BIOMURA	Conservation of biodiversity of the Mura river in Slovenia
	LIFE06 NAT/SI/000069 Cernisko Jezero	Intermittent Cerknica Lake
SWEDEN	LIFE06 NAT/S/000113 RestHejK	Restoration of the Wetland Area of Hejnum Kallgate
UNITED KINGDOM	LIFE06 NAT/UK/000134 Active blanket bog in Wales	Restoring active blanket bog in the Berwyn and Migneint SACs in Wales

Restoring the diverse habitats of Bisamberg

Official title

Bisamberg habitat management

Background

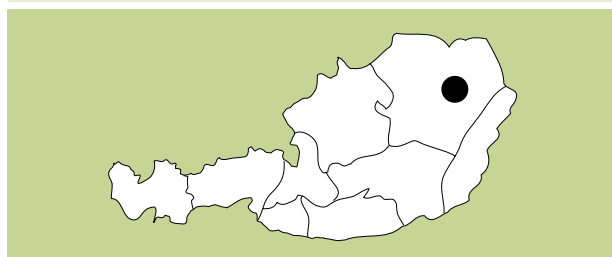
The Bisamberg site is a foothill of the Flysch-Wienerwald, composed of small-scale patterns of open grasslands and thermophile forests. It is one of the nine sites in EU, and in the world, to be home of an endemic mugwort *Artemisia pancicii*. The great number of orchid species are unique for Austria. At Bisamberg a lot of rare plants and insects reach their north-western border of distribution. The landscape has been shaped by man for centuries. By means of low intensity cultivation, e.g. viticulture, grazing and middle forest cultivation resulted a great variety of crop-growing areas as well as open grasslands and forests and transitions between them. The steep, south- and west exposed slopes create dry and thermophile conditions, which support a lot of Mediterranean and continental distributed species. This leads to a great variety of plants (more than 600 species) and animals, especially insects like butterflies (*Lepidoptera*), grasshoppers (*Saltatoria spp.*) and wild bees (*Hymenoptera*). Of great biological interest are semi-natural dry and steppic grasslands with up to 17 kinds of orchids like lady's slipper (*Cypripedium calceolus*), Adriatic lizard orchid (*Himantoglossum adriaticum*), *Ophris* spp. and *Orchis* spp. Other rare species are pasture hawkbeard (*Crepis pannonica*) and herbaceous periwinkle (*Vinca herbacea*).

Objectives

The main objective of the project is to restore a favourable conservation status for 50 hectares of open dry grasslands, giving special attention to three priority habitats: semi-natural dry grasslands with orchids, sub-Pannonic steppic grasslands and Pannonic loess steppic grasslands. Activities on these grasslands should also stabilize the decreasing population of red-backed shrike (*Lanius collurio*), woodlark (*Lullula arborea*) and barred warbler (*Sylvia nisoria*), all listed in Annex I of the Birds directive. Also will extend the habitat of European ground squirrel (*Spermophilus citellus*) included in the Annex II of the Habitat Direc-

LIFE06 NAT/A/000123

Bisamberg



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

Regional authority

Name of beneficiary

Amt der Niederösterreichischen Landesregierung, Abt. RU5

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Name of contact person

Erwin Neumeister

Duration of project:

54 months (July 2006 – Dec 2010)

Total budget in euro:

727,000

EC contribution in euro with %:

436,200 (60%)

ive. Another important objective of the project is to restore and enhance the habitat quality of 30 hectares of dry forest habitats such as Pannonic white-oak woods and Pannonic oak-hornbeam-forests. Finally, the project will run a public awareness campaign.

Restoring typical habitats in the Untersberg-Vorland

Official title

Untersberg-Vorland

Background

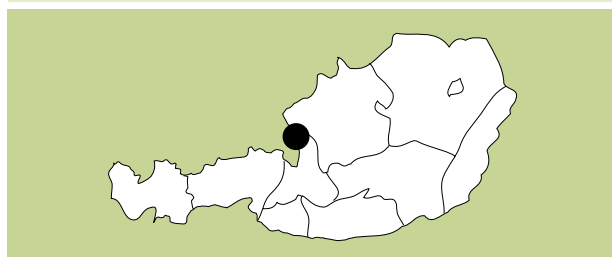
The Natura 2000 site "Untersberg-Vorland" is situated north of the Untersberg hill in the Austrian state of Salzburg. The Untersberg hill is on the northernmost edge of the Austrian limestone alps. Its climate is characterised by high summer precipitation. The area is highly influenced by agricultural use and forest exploitation. Change in land use practice - intensification of agricultural use as well as abandonment of straw meadows - is now the main factor for the critical conservation status of some typical species and habitats of the Natura 2000 site.

Objectives

The overall objective of the project is to restore typical species and habitats of the Natura 2000 site "Untersberg-Vorland". Measures will be taken to conserve and develop the butterfly scarce fritillary (*Euphydryas maturna*) which represents one of the largest remaining metapopulations in Europe. It will improve its habitat connectivity by permanently increasing the number of larval habitats as well as safeguarding adult habitats (fen meadows) in their presently excellent state of conservation. Other conservation measures target the following Annex II species: marsh fritillary (*Euphydryas aurinia*), scarce large blue (*Maculinea teleius*), yellow-bellied toad (*Bombina variegata*) and fen orchid (*Liparis loeselii*) as well as the Annex IV species woodland brown (*Lopinga achine*). Particular attention will also be given to the conservation of fen meadows (Annex I of the EC Habitats Directive) and of petrifying springs with tufa formation in fen meadows and woodland.

Due to the cooperation of the beneficiary with an adjacent open-air museum, there is a unique chance to improve the public awareness of the high conservation value of the project area.

LIFE06 NAT/A/000124
UVOR



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

Regional authority

Name of beneficiary

Amt der Salzburger Landesregierung, Abteilung 13
- Naturschutz

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Name of contact person

Bernhard Riehl

Duration of project:

49 months (Oct 2006 – Oct 2010)

Total budget in euro:

819,500

EC contribution in euro with %:

409,750 (50%)

A “life vein” for the Upper Drau Valley

Official title

Life in Upper Drau River

Background

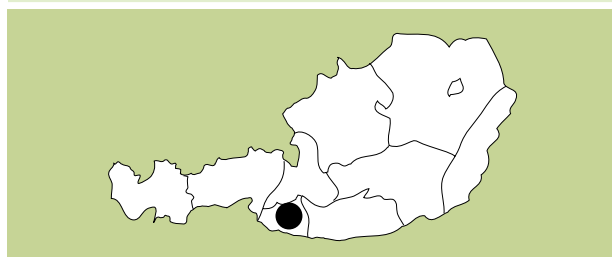
The Upper Drau river is a typical alpine river. Its valley is the tectonic border between Souther and Central Alps. The Natura 2000 area “Obere Drau” contains the largest grey alder (*Alnus incana*) alluvial forest of Austria. The Drau and its side arms are habitat for 19 autochthonous fish species, among others annex II species like the Danube salmon (*Hucho hucho*), varione (*Leuciscus souffia*) and bitterling (*Rhodeus sericeus subsp. amarus*). The river system contains highly endangered habitat types and is of national importance for Austria in view of nature conservation.

The proposed project follows the LIFE project “Restoration of the wetland and riparian area at the Upper Drau river”, which successfully ended in 2003.

Objectives

The project aims to resume the measures taken under the previous LIFE project to revitalise the river, in order to establish the Upper Drau as a “Life vein” for the Upper Drau Valley region. The efforts will focus on typical alpine rivers habitats. It will further extend these measures on the Natura 2000 area, which has been enlarged by 470 hectares to a total of 977 hectares along an average river section of 68,5 km. Innovative management solutions will be set up to solve problems, that have been recognised, but not solved yet as part of the first LIFE project, such as reducing the impacts from swell and increasing the input of bed load material to stabilise the river bed and the groundwater level. It will also improving visitor information and developing visitor strategies on site. The Upper Drau will serve as a pilot study area: the LIFE project will propose – as required under the Water Framework Directive as well – cross-boarder strategies to solve water management and ecological problems, e.g. at the river section along the border between Croatia and Hungary, where protection structures, extraction of bed load material and cutting through meanders are being planned or implemented.

LIFE06 NAT/A/000127
LIFE Obere Drau II



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

Regional authority

Name of beneficiary

Bundeswasserbauverwaltung vertreten durch: Amt der Kärntner Landesregierung. Abt. 18 - Wasserwirtschaft

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Name of contact person

Franz Pischler

Duration of project:

60 months (Sept 2006 – Aug 2011)

Total budget in euro:

3,828,282

EC contribution in euro with %:

1,531,305 (40%)

Restoring heatlands and forests in Averbode

Official title

Habitat restoration in Averbode Bos en Heide

Background

The 'Averbode Bos en Heide' borders the Campine region, and is an area unique to European lowlands. The region's high geomorphological diversity protects several endangered habitats. Among them, are the sand dune and dune-heath vegetation known to grow on inland continental dunes, Atlantic wet heath with *Rhynchosporion* depressions, dry heath, species-rich *Nardus* grasslands, Atlantic acidophilous beech-oak forests and old acidophilous oak woods on sandy plains. The area also used to be famous for its oligotrophic and mesotrophic ponds with *Littorellion* and *Nanocyperetalia* vegetation and the presence of water plantain (*Luronium natans*). The crested newt (*Triturus cristatus*) lives here and the population is one of the largest in Belgium. The area is also home to several rare bird species such as the bluethroat (*Luscinia svecica*), kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*), the honey buzzard (*Pernis apivorus*) and black woodpecker (*Dryocopus martius*). In winter the bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*), little bittern (*Ixobrychus minutus*), great white egret (*Egretta alba*), black stork (*Ciconia nigra*) and wood sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*) all migrate here. Unfortunately, both the diversity of habitats and species has severely decreased in the pSCI over the past few decades. The biggest threat to the area is continuing afforestation and lack of adequate management.

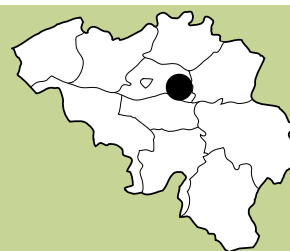
Objectives

The main goal is to continue the restoration and sustainable management of ponds that contain *Littorellia uniflorae*, *Nanocyperetalia*, bogs (*Ericion tetralicis*), transition mires/quaking bogs and *Rhynchosporion*. This should help in the recovery of water plantain, *Littorella uniflora* and *Lobelia dortmanna*. Other goals include:

- Furthering the restoration of dryer habitats, such as Annex I habitats *Corynephorus* and *Agrostis* dune grasslands, dry sand heaths, European dry heaths and the priority habitat species-rich *Nardus* grasslands.
- Improving the health of the beech/oak forests and oak woods on sandy plains.

LIFE06 NAT/B/000081

Life Averbode



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

NGO-Foundation

Name of beneficiary

Natuurpunt Beheer vzw

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Name of contact person

Joost Dewyspelaere

Duration of project:

60 months (Aug 2006 – July 2011)

Total budget in euro:

3,870,400

EC contribution in euro with %:

1,935,200 (50%)

- Increasing the populations of a wide range of endangered bird species.
- Establishing a sustainable long-term management for all the target habitats and species.
- Creating a long-term partnership with the local, provincial and Flemish government to ensure their support of the Natura 2000 area, the first partnership of its kind in Flanders.
- Increasing the area's socio-economic potential through nature-oriented recreation and informing local people and visitors about the project.

Restoring an alluvial forest in Flanders

Official title

Habitat restoration of alluvial forests and heath in the "Stropers" area

Background

The Stropers area of woods and sandy heaths is based in Flanders. It has a mix of forest that is both coniferous, mainly Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris*), and broad-leaved in addition to arable and grasslands. The diversity of land use and the rare plant species that grow here mean the area is of high botanical value. The main habitats include a mesotrophic alder swamp forest a subtype of priority habitat type 91E0*, alluvial forests with alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) and common ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*). European dry heaths and inland dunes that consist of small areas of *Corynephorus* and *Agrostis* grasslands.

The main threats to these habitats are fragmentation and the knock-on effect to species diversity, low ground water levels, a lack of proper nature and forest management, lack of public involvement, uncontrolled recreational use of the land and modern agricultural methods.

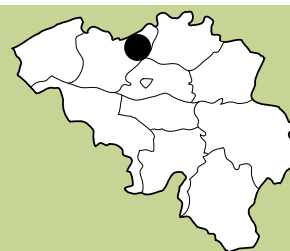
Objectives

The main objectives for the pSCI are the protection, recovery and development of different habitats and their related species plus an increase in the area's biodiversity in general.

The intention is to expand the habitat that is suitable for a mesotrophic alder swamp forest by increasing groundwater levels and groundwater upflow. The managers also plan to recover and develop other habitats such as European dry heath, Northern Atlantic wet heaths, inland dunes with *Corynephorus* and *Agrostis* grasslands, species-rich *Nardus*-grasslands on siliceous substrates and Moor-grass meadows on peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils, habitats with old acidophilous oak woods that grow on sandy plains will be converted to include more coniferous forestation. An increase in forest edges and forest diversity will boost insect life, which will lead to an increase in numbers of bats living in the Stropers area.

LIFE06 NAT/B/000082

Stropersbos



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

Regional authority

Name of beneficiary

Vlaamse Landmaatschappij

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Name of contact person

Eva Cloet

Duration of project:

41 months (Aug 2006 – Dec 2009)

Total budget in euro:

1,881,369

EC contribution in euro with %:

940,684 (50%)

Restoring fen and heath habitats in Flanders

Official title

Large-scale Habitat Restoration in "Turnhouts Vennengebied"

Background

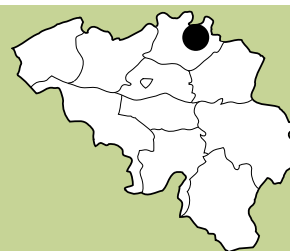
Turnhouts Vennengebied is situated in the northern part of the Campine region. The project area (measuring 285 hectares) was once renowned for its vast complex of species rich fens and heaths. The clay surface produces oligo-mesotrophic fen complexes, in which well-developed Annex I habitats ponds with vegetation of the *Littorelletalia* uniflorae and *Nanocyperetalia* are found. The fen is surrounded by Atlantic wet heathlands, alternating with large peat depressions with vegetation of the *Rhynchosporion*, making the site of European importance. Though species-rich *Nardus* grasslands remain, they have severely declined in recent years. Extensive inland sand dunes with *Corynephorus* and *Agrostis* dune grasslands and dry sand heathlands are unique in Europe. Dry heathlands are found throughout the project area. Several rare bird species are found include the bluethroat (*Luscinia svecica*), kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*), honey buzzard (*Pernis apivorus*) and black woodpecker (*Dryocopus martius*). The presence of the habitats and species has decreased severely in the pSCI. The most important threats are the fragmentation of habitats and populations, intensive farming and large-scale afforestation.

Objectives

This LIFE project is the result of the cooperation between the NGO, Natuurpunt Beheer, and two public bodies, Agentschap natuur en bos and Vlaamse Landmaatschappij. The objective of this partnership is the restoration of an important Flemish Natura 2000 sites, called Turnhouts Vennengebied. Measures include:

- Large-scale redevelopment of the species rich *Nardus* grasslands.
- Optimal restoration of international important fen habitats.
- Restoration of a large heath and land dunes complex, existing of special Annex I habitats, such as wet heathlands, peat depressions, dry inland dune grasslands and heatlands.

LIFE06 NAT/B/000084
LIFE Turnhouts Vennengebied



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

NGO-Foundation

Name of beneficiary

Natuurpunt beheer v.z.w.

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Name of contact person

Joost Dewyspelaere

Duration of project:

63 months (Aug 2006 – Oct 2011)

Total budget in euro:

4,197,525

EC contribution in euro with %:

1,679,010 (40%)

- Improvement and enlargement of the habitats for diverse species especially water plantain (*Luronium natans*), leucorrhine à gros thorax (*Leucorrhinia pectoralis*), blacktern (*Chlidonias niger*), ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*), woodlark (*Lullula arborea*) and nightjar (*Caprimulgus europaeus*).

Besides these conservation objectives, the project organisers want to increase the socio-economic potential of this Natura 2000 area, through recreation, a volunteers force and informing local people and visitors about the project.

Restoring a heathland on the Belgian-Dutch border

Official title

Cross-border restoration of heathland on continental dunes

Background

The De Zoom – Kalmthoutse Heide 3,750 ha heathland extends over the Dutch-Belgian border. It is made up of continental dunes, dry and wet heath, pools and woods. The park is both privately and publicly, and partnerships are necessary to maintain the land, to provide information, education and recreation and to coordinate wood production and fauna management.

The project site of 180 ha is situated in the centre of the cross-border park, on Dutch and Belgian land. Human impact, such as afforestation and soil desiccation, combined with a lack of nature management has led to degradation of the habitat. There is an acute need to invest in nature restoration in this part of the cross-border park.

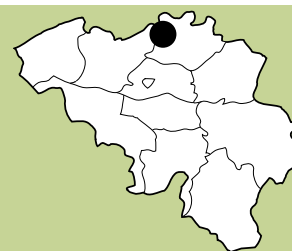
Objectives

This LIFE-project aims to restore and develop a varied heathland landscape, paying special attention to the following Annex I habitats of the Habitats Directive: dry sand heaths with *Calluna* and *Genista*, inland dunes with open *Corynephorus* and *Agrostis* grasslands, oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the *Littorelletea uniflorae* and/or of the *Isoëto-Nanojuncetea*, northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*, European dry heaths and depressions on peat substrates of the *Rhynchosporion*.

As a first step, 52 ha will be purchased with a view to carrying out nature management on the whole project site. Felling of trees will be carried out over an area of 65 ha. An open area of 120 ha will be created alongside present open terrain to connect open heathlands on the Dutch and Belgian part of the park. Together with sod cutting on different locations (total surface of 41 ha), this activity will create the optimal conditions for the restoration of the special habitats listed above.

Between this open heathland and the remaining wood, an area of 20 ha will be reserved for half open landscape. The long-term objective is to create an open

LIFE06 NAT/B/000085
HELA



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary
Park-Reserve authority

Name of beneficiary
BENEGO

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Name of contact person
Marten Wiersma

Duration of project:
58,5 months (Aug 2006 – June 2011))

Total budget in euro:
1,896,047

EC contribution in euro with %:
948,023 (50%)

landscape that merges gradually into close woods in the south of the project site. The open heathland will include a mosaic of different habitats: bare shifting sand, carpets of mosses and lichens in the pioneer phase, pioneer grasslands with *Corynephorus*, dry heaths with a varied age structure, well-developed wet heaths and pools.

The restoration measures will promote the establishment in the area of species of the Habitats Directive, such as the Water-Plantain (*Luronium natans*), the large white-faced darter dragonfly (*Leucorrhinia pectoralis*), and the crested newt (*Triturus cristatus*) and will improve the habitat for birds already breeding in the area, such as the nightjar (*Caprimulgus europaeus*) and the woodlark (*Lullula arborea*). New walking paths will be created.

Optimising the Zwin estuary in Belgium

Official title

Zwindunes Ecological Nature Optimalisation

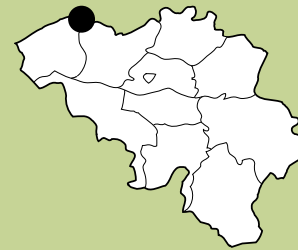
Background

Only two estuary areas exist along the Belgian coast: that of the Zwin in Knokke and the Yzer in Nieuwpoort. They are the two largest remaining natural areas of the Flemish coast and form stepping stones for migrating birds between the great natural coastal areas in The Netherlands, France and UK. The Flemish Nature Reserve 'The Zwindunes and -polders' is situated next to the estuary of the Zwin and consists of low coastal dunes and a large fossil beach plain. In the Middle Ages the river Zwin was still active with a wide estuary and was the natural access to the port of Brugge. But the estuary filled with sand and silt deposits and dams have reduced it to its present size. Parts of the dune-system in the project area are now subject to the invasive growth of scrub and grasses. The project area is also affected by the use of strong fertilizers on its meadowland. The Flemish Region acquired the land in 2002.

Objectives

The project area measures 222 hectares in size. The main objective of the project is the restoration and maintenance of the natural habitat that typically exists on coastal dunes and its transition into salt marshes (this includes habitats such as Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia*), fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation or grey dunes, humid dune slacks and hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of stonewort – *Chara* formations). A second objective is the dissemination of knowledge about how to manage and maintain such habitat. To achieve the objectives of the project the invasion by scrubs and grasses has to be reversed. Also part of the plantation of trees has to be removed to restore the humid dune slacks and fixed dune habitat. These measures are recommended by the "Integral perspective for the Flemish nature reserve" De Zwinduinen en -polders, at Knokke-Heist. It further plans an increase in the recreational use of the area. It will be finished in September 2006.

LIFE06 NAT/B/000087
ZENO



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

Regional authority

Name of beneficiary

Agentschap voor Natuur en Bos (ANB)

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Name of contact person

Koen De Smet

Duration of project:

48 months (Dec 2006 – Dec 2010)

Total budget in euro:

2,537,060

EC contribution in euro with %:

1,268,530 (50%)

Restoring habitats on the Hautes-Fagnes Plateau

Official title

Rehabilitation of heaths and mires on the Hautes-Fagnes Plateau

Background

The high Hautes-Fagnes Plateau, located in the north-east of the Ardennes, consists of acidic and nutrient-poor soils developed on old sediments of the primary era. It is a region of great ecological value with outstanding flora and fauna that preserve boreo-montane and oceanic elements. Heaths, fens and bogs occupied between 15-20,000 ha at the end of the 18th century, but at present occupy just 5,000 ha and are often in a very degraded state, mainly as the result of drainage, widespread spruce plantation and the abandonment of traditional extensive agricultural and pastoral use.

Most areas of special interest are recognised as state nature reserves and are in addition protected as Council of Europe biogenetic reserves. The project area also forms part of an international natural park that crosses into Germany. The project area also forms part of an international natural park that crosses into Germany, the Natural Park Hautes-Fagnes – Eifel, which occupies 65.000 ha in Belgium.

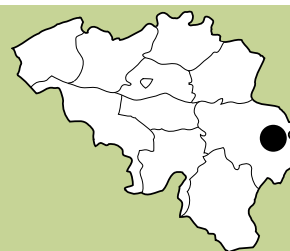
The main economic activities are forestry, hunting and tourism. Two-thirds of the land is publicly owned; local communities own nearly a fifth, and just over a eighth is private ownership. Several landowners have already agreed to participate in the project, which is run by the DGRNE in partnership with the Management Commission of the Natural Park Hautes-Fagnes - Eifel.

Objectives

The project will focus on a 9,724 ha working zone located in six Natura 2000 (pSICs).

The project aims to restore some 1800 ha of endangered peaty and wet habitats including peat moss (*Sphagnum*) and birch woods, raised bogs, damaged or inactive bogs, wet heathlands, transition mires, wet open acid peat with white beak-sedge (*Rhynchospora alba*), old acidophilous oak woodlands on sandy plains, as well as other habitats including dry heathlands, mat-grass swards, mountain hay meadows,

LIFE06 NAT/B/000091
PLTHautes-Fagnes



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

Regional authority

Name of beneficiary

Direction Générale des Ressources Naturelles et de l'Environnement

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Name of contact person

Pierre Gérard

Duration of project:

60 months (Jan 2007 – Dec 2011)

Total budget in euro:

4,500,300

EC contribution in euro with %:

2,250,150 (50%)

river alder woods, tall-herb communities of humid meadows or watercourse fringes.

Actions include purchasing some 100 ha of forest for habitat restoration and negotiating with forest owners to abandon forestry speculation for nature conservation on some 630 ha. Restoration work includes cutting and exporting trees and additional clearing on some 400 ha.

The introduction of extensive grazing via agreements with professional breeders will ensure the sustainable conservation of the open landscapes and related habitats.

Protection of three threatened bat species

Official title

Action plan for three threatened bat species in Flanders

Background

Six bat species mentioned in the Annexe II list of the Habitat Directive are found in the Flemish Region of Belgium. Three of these species are also recorded as seriously threatened in the Red List of Mammals in Flanders: the pond bat (*Myotis dasycneme*), the notch-eared bat (*Myotis emarginatus*) and the Bechstein's bat (*Myotis bechsteinii*). The decline of these bat populations is caused by the destruction of their most important habitats. Bats occupy different locations in summer and winter. A management plan to protect bat populations must take into account the various sites that bats occupy.

The notch-eared bat is a very rare species: Flanders is its most northern European location. It can be found in open woods and ancient parklands. Summer sites include roof spaces – hibernation sites are fortresses, marl caves and ice-cellar.

The most southern location of the pond bat, which is included in the 1996 IUCN Red List of Threatened Animals, in Western Europe is found in Belgium. During the summer they hunt over large water surfaces, like canals and ponds with good water quality. Summer and winter roosts are similar to the notch-eared bat.

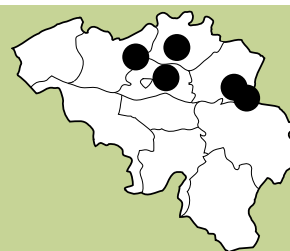
The Bechstein's bat, a typical tree-roosting species, is one of the most unknown and vulnerable bat species in Europe. During summer and winter they have been found exclusively in Flanders in the marl caves of Zussen and the Zoniën Forest around Brussels.

Objectives

The aim of the project is to achieve a substantial increase in numbers of bats, with emphasis on the notch-eared, the pond and Bechstein's bats. Important habitats for bats like fortresses will be acquired and special attention will be given to the breeding roosts, hibernating grounds and hunting habitats. A detailed management plan will be drawn up based on the roost

LIFE06 NAT/B/000095

Bat Action



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

Regional authority

Name of beneficiary

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Name of contact person

Koen De Smet

Duration of project:

53 months (Aug 2006 – Dec 2010)

Total budget in euro:

1,892,271

EC contribution in euro with %:

946,136 (50%)

requirements of each site.

Strategic objects such as fortresses near Antwerp and marl caves in Limburg have been chosen as the main targets for conservation. These strategic sites are linked by large water bodies that are used by the bats for long distance migration. Furthermore, other elements located in between these objects will be protected and made suitable for bats.

An innovative aspect of the project, which may serve as an example for habitat improvement for bat species in a dense urban region, is the placing of specially designed bat roosts under bridges along main migration routes. The public attitude to all bat species is largely negative, and a suitable, targeted educational campaign based on habitat preservation and improvement will be prepared and conducted. The aim of these awareness campaigns will be to generate a positive support for bats among the public and to highlight their conservation needs.

Protecting riverbank habitats in the Czech Republic

Official title

Preservation of alluvial forest habitats in the Morávka river Basin

Background

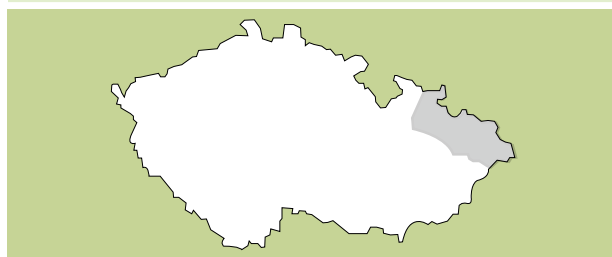
The Beskydy Protected Landscape Area is located in the northeast of the Czech Republic and hosts important habitats and species. The invasion of the Japanese knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*) plant is a major threat to native species in this area. Several steps to remove the Japanese knotweed plant have been unsuccessful due to limitations of scope and scale. To date no overall river basin plan has been implemented, a necessary step for the removal of the plant.

Objectives

The project is focused on the proposed site of Community Interest (pSCI) Morávka river basin, part of the pSCI Beskydy area, and concentrates on eight habitats. (The two priority ones make up 88% of the project site). The main objectives of the project are:

- The establishment of a plan for combating the invasive plants and revitalising of the habitats,
- The restoration of biodiversity,
- The creation of an efficient transferable model of cooperation between interested subjects at a regional level,
- The dissemination of project results and provision of further information on Natura 2000.

LIFE06 NAT/CZ/000121
MORAVKA



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

Regional authority

Name of beneficiary

Moravskoslezský kraj

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Name of contact person

Evzen Tosenovsky

Duration of project:

48 months (Jan 2007 – Dec 2010)

Total budget in euro:

1,014,720

EC contribution in euro with %:

704,000 (69.38 %)

Bringing LIFE to threatened meadow birds in Denmark

Official title

Restoration of Meadow Bird Habitats

Background

Meadow birds are among the most threatened bird species in Denmark. The species has suffered from serious decline since the 1970s. For dunlin (*Calidris alpina subsp. schinzii*), only one fourth of breeding sites remain; and for the ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*) only a seventh of breeding sites remain. The Danish Ministry of Environment has adopted a national action plan for meadow birds covering 25 Special Protection Areas, or SPAs, listed in Annex I of the EU Birds Directive (79/409/CEE). The Ministry has therefore started the implementation on all sites, of these, four of the most important and in special need of major nature restoration, have been selected for this project.

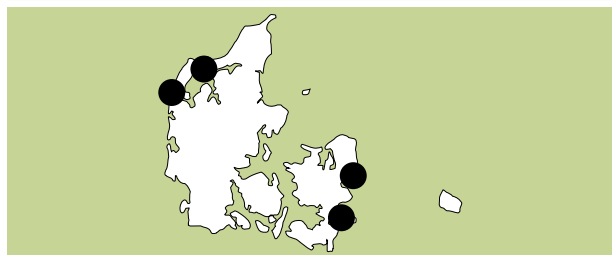
Objectives

The main objective is to restore, to a favourable conservation status, areas of the habitats of dunlin and ruff at four key sites for these species in Denmark. Thus, the project actions will contribute significantly to the implementation of the national action plan for threatened meadow birds, including these two species. Approximately 13% of the national population of dunlin and 9% of the national population of ruff, will benefit from these actions.

Regarding their populations, the immediate objective is to halt their decline, and, in the near future, (5 to 10 years) to raise their populations to 1986 levels at four project locations.

A secondary objective is to restore, to favourable conservation status, associated habitat types and habitats of species in the project areas i.e. areas of Atlantic salt meadows, Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of *Chara* ssp; and habitats of bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*), black tern (*Chlidonias niger*) and spotted crane (*Porzana porzana*).

LIFE06 NAT/DK/000158
REMAB



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

National authority

Name of beneficiary

Skov- og Naturstyrelsen

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Name of contact person

Henrik Christensen

Duration of project:

48 months (Jan 2006 – Dec 2009)

Total budget in euro:

1,428,932

EC contribution in euro with %:

714,466 (50 %)

Restoring reef offshore habitats in Kattegat

Official title

Rebuilding of Marine Cavernous Boulder Reefs in Kattegat

Background

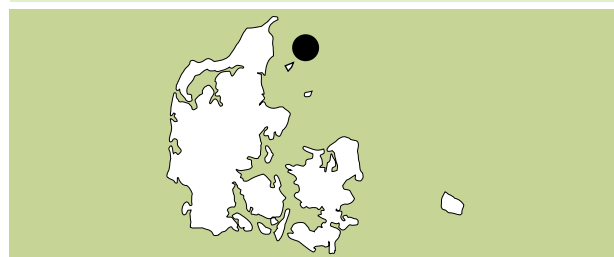
Offshore cavernous boulder reefs in shallow waters have a high biodiversity and are a rare and biologically-important subtype of reef habitats identified in (Annex I) of the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) as being of Community importance. In Denmark, cavernous boulder reefs in shallow waters habitats have been extensively exploited –targeted for their high concentration of easy-to-excavate large boulders suitable for constructing sea defences and harbour jetties.

A cautious estimate is that at least 34 km² of boulders from predominantly shallow cavernous reefs have been excavated from Danish waters (i.e close to 100% of the area of this habitat). The national monitoring programme indicates that only five hectares are left untouched. One Site of Community Importance has been selected at Kattegat bay to be a sanctuary for donor populations and to provide a corridor linking sites within the Natura 2000 network. The restored site will be a significant contribution to maintaining reef-dependent populations in Denmark.

Objectives

The main project objective is to restore and maintain a favourable conservation status of the reef offshore habitat at Læsø Trindel and Tønneberg Banke in the Kattegat bay, through restoration of the structure and function of the cavernous element of the shallow offshore boulder reefs and by stabilisation of the top of the existing boulder reef. As the project is a pilot project it includes a longer period of monitoring of the restored boulder reef. The project will target increased awareness among environmental managers, policymakers and the broader public on marine nature restoration, conservation and management issues.

LIFE06 NAT/DK/000159
BLUEREEF



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

National authority

Name of beneficiary

The Danish Forest Agency

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Name of contact person

Anton Beck

Duration of project:

68 months (Aug 2006 – Apr 2012)

Total budget in euro:

4,808,398

EC contribution in euro with %:

2,364,199 (49.17 %)

Eco-management of mires in Lapland

Official title

Promotion of public awareness and protection of aapa mires in Lapland

Background

Mires are one of the most important habitat types in terms of conservation of biodiversity in northern Europe. In Finland and Lapland, aapa mires represent the most diverse type of habitat occurring on peatlands. In addition to the broad diversity of habitat types, aapa mires are important for conserving diverse avifauna. They are especially important as breeding, but also as resting and feeding area for migrating and moulting birds

The Perä-Pohjola aapa mire zone in central Lapland forms a wide chain of wetlands from east to west. It is one of Finland's most important breeding areas for wetland birds. Many of the aapa mires in this zone is classified as internationally important wetlands. Three Natura 2000 sites included in the project are all included in the IBA (Important Bird Areas) project and one also in the Ramsar convention. Altogether the project covers an area of about 41 000 ha. The selected areas form an interesting combination of mires and old forests, which also offers huge possibilities for the socio-economic development of the region in terms of ecotourism.

Objectives

The main objective of the project is to ensure the restoration of aapa mires in Perä-Pohjola in central Lapland. The project aims also at integrating nature conservation and local land use: by carrying out various public awareness activities the development and diversification of economic life in rural areas suffering from severe unemployment and depopulation will be enhanced.

The conservation objectives will be reached by the following actions:

- Acquisition of privately owned areas (around 2 300 ha) of aapa mire and other associated habitat types such as western taiga and bog woodland in order to attain the favourable conservation status by excluding peat extraction, forestry, drainage and water power plant construction.

LIFE06 NAT/FIN/000128
PELKOSENNIEMI-LIFE



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

Regional authority

Name of beneficiary

Lapland Regional Environmental Centre

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Name of contact person

Kari Kinnunen

Duration of project:

51 months (Aug 2006 – Oct 2010)

Total budget in euro:

1,726,925

EC contribution in euro with %:

856,042 (49.57 %)

- Mire restoration plan for an area of about 100 ha. The aim of this action is to restore the natural status of the aapa mire in previously drained parts of Lui-ron suot and Pyhä-Luosto National Park totalling 250 ha.
- Elaboration of a management plan for Kilpiaapa (a sub-area of Kemihaaran suot) for a total area of around 2 400 ha. The plan will be based on ecological surveys on habitats and vegetation and on a bird census done during the project. The target of this plan is to integrate different methods of land use so that vulnerable and threatened habitats and species as well as avifauna are not disturbed. The plan is expected to decrease the prejudice against conservation areas and integrate local people in the management of the area.

The project will do active media work and arrange meetings in order to involve local people in the planning and implementation of the project.

Restoring the wetland chain in the Kokemäenjoki estuary

Official title

From Ancient to the Present Estuary, Kokemäenjoki Wetland Chain

Background

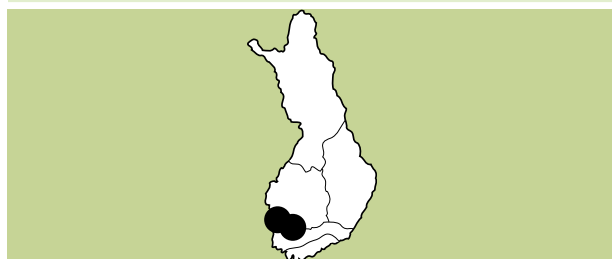
All eight project areas are situated along the Kokemäenjoki-river in Southwest Finland, from the river's ancient estuaries to the present estuary. The target areas are Puurijärvi-Isosuo (3 separate Natura areas), Vanhakoski, Pirilänkoski, Kokemäenjoen suisto and Preiviikinlahti (2 separate Natura areas). Puurijärvi-lake, Preiviikinlahti and Kokemäenjoen suisto (the present estuary of the Kokemäenjoki-river) are among the most important bird protection areas in Finland. They have been assessed as internationally valuable wetland areas in many contexts. Species included in Bird Directive's annex I or classified as nationally threatened species: bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*), marsh harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*), corncrake (*Crex crex*), white-tailed eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*) etc. breed in these areas and use them as resting areas. Two of the few existing breeding areas of dunlin (*Calidris alpina subsp. schinzii*) are situated in the project areas. There are also priority natural habitat types and/or priority species (as Russian flying squirrel - *Pteromys volans*) of the Habitat's Directive in all areas. The target habitats of the project include lakes and rivers, mires, semi-natural grasslands and forests. The projects areas are also very important for recreational use.

Objectives

The project aims to set up management plans for all the eight areas, covering 12 303 ha. Visitors and land-owners will take part in the planning process. In particular, it will restore the actual estuary, whose sediments has been polluted by hazardous substances, and take flood protection measures, as the estuary is part of the potential flooding area of Pori city, where about 15 000 people are living.

It will also restore the overgrown Puurijärvi (440 hectares). It will be the largest wetland restoration project ever in Finland and its experiences and results will benefit other similar restoration projects.

LIFE06 NAT/FIN/000129
KOKEMÄENJOKI-LIFE



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

National authority

Name of beneficiary

Lounais-Suomen ympäristökeskus (Southwest Finland Regional Environment Centre)

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Name of contact person

Risto Timonen

Duration of project:

60 months (Aug 2006 – July 2011)

Total budget in euro:

3,408,558

EC contribution in euro with %:

1,704,279 (50 %)

The water level in the southern part of the lake will be raised about one meter, which will produce new open water area of about 30 ha. In the northern part, new open water area of about 17 ha will be excavated and dredged. Mire and forest areas will be restored in the Puurijärvi-Isosuo area. A small island for breeding birds will be built in the Enäjärvi-lake in the Preiviikinlahti area. The project will establish safe feeding grounds for geese, cranes and swans in protected areas in Rajalanjärvi. In the other target areas (e.g. Preiviikinlahti), overgrown meadows will be mowed and cleared and ditches filled in order to enhance the breeding conditions for Dunlin.

Another goal of the project is to increase public awareness of nature conservation. Five bird watching towers, trails and information boards will be built. Traditional monitoring of birds and other species will be coupled with monitoring of the socio-economical effects of the project.

Saving the Violet of Rouen and *Biscutella neustriaca*

Official title

Rescue of *Viola hispida* and *Biscutella neustriaca* on the Seine Valley

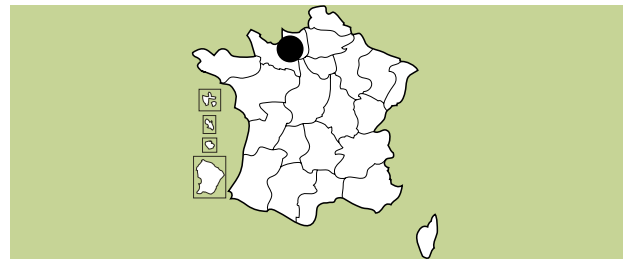
Background

The Violet of Rouen (*Viola hispida*) and *Biscutella neustriaca* are two endangered and endemic plant species of the stone drains and lawns of the Seine valley in Haute-Normandie. Their distribution is restricted to just two Natura 2000 sites and the populations are threatened by extinction. The main threats are the regression of their habitats, the very small size of their locations, the low number of individuals, and the distance between the individual locations. This project follows up a series of studies and actions initiated in a previous LIFE project carried out by the same beneficiary, LIFE99 NAT/F/006332 "Priority species, chalk grasslands and screen in the lower Seine valley catchment area".

Objectives

The main objective of this project is to ensure the long-term preservation of *Viola hispida* and *Biscutella neustriaca* in their natural environment (scree and scorched chalk grassland respectively). This will be done by restoring and managing their current habitat locations, as well as establishing new locations by restoring potential sites. Restoration work includes clearing and grazing some 37 ha of grassland for *Biscutella neustriaca*. For *Viola hispida*, the restoration involves carefully removing by hand vegetation to make the scree mobile, scorching the remaining vegetation, and removing the larger stones to leave only fine scree. Where necessary, individuals will be introduced to re-inforce sparse populations, or to constitute new populations. Isolated locations will be connected by clearing and grazing 16 ha of "ecological corridors"

LIFE06 NAT/F/000137
VIOLETTE ET BISCUTELLE



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

Park-Reserve authority

Name of beneficiary

Conservatoire des Sites Naturels de Haute-Normandie

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Name of contact person

Carine Douville

Duration of project:

60 months (Aug 2006 – Aug 2011)

Total budget in euro:

451,678

EC contribution in euro with %:

271,007 (60 %)

LIFE in the forests of Basse Lauter and Vosges Moyennes

Official title

Protection of the forests of Basse Lauter and Vosges moyennes

Background

The project encompasses two large forested Natura 2000 sites in Alsace: the Lauter valley (2,000- ha) and the ridges of the "Vosges moyennes" (7,000-ha).

The Lauter is one of the rare lowland rivers to have kept a natural course between well preserved wet meadows and flood forests, favouring a number of alluvial habitats and animal species rare at low altitudes, such as alluvial forest with alder and ash, sago pondweed aquatic vegetation, lowland hay meadows, the bullhead, the green clubtail and several species of endangered butterflies and amphibians.

The mountain forest of Donon contains a number of endangered habitats and animal species, such as active raised bogs, bog woodlands, acidophilous spruce forest, Capercaillie, hazel grouse, Tengmalm's owl and seven species of Lycopodia

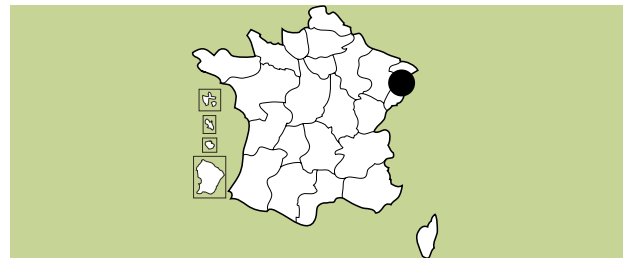
Objectives

At Lauter, the project will purchase some 30 ha of wet meadows for conservation management. It will restore some 35 ha of wet meadows (clearing shrubs and trees and removing invasive species) as well as some 5 km of river banks and riverside forests, and will carry out a range of actions to improve the natural hydrological management of the site.

In the Vosges moyennes, the project will restore some 35 ha of active raised bogs and control access to certain sensitive areas.

The project will closely involve the local administrations and local populations encouraging a move away from viewing these forests as predominantly areas of timber production or commons towards viewing them as forests of high natural interest whose protection is in the interest of the whole community.

LIFE06 NAT/F/000142
Lauter-Donon



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

National authority

Name of beneficiary

Office National des Forêts

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FRANCE
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Fax +33 3 88767650
Email pierre.geldreich@onf.fr

Name of contact person

Pierre Geldreich

Duration of project:

60 months (Sept 2006 – Aug 2011)

Total budget in euro:

845,429

EC contribution in euro with %:

422,714 (50 %)

Saving Orsini's viper in France

Official title

Conservation of French populations of Orsini's viper (*Vipera ursinii*)

Background

In France, populations of Orsini's Viper (*Vipera ursinii*) are known to exist in just 12 localities (with unconfirmed sightings in three other localities). Its range includes approximately 9,000 hectares, of which 5,750-ha (or more than 60%) are in the Natura 2000 network. The French populations are highly isolated from other European populations (the closest of which are found in Italy, in the Central Appennines), and they constitute the western edge of the species' range. Thus, their current situation increases both their risk of extinction, and the potential value of conservation measures.

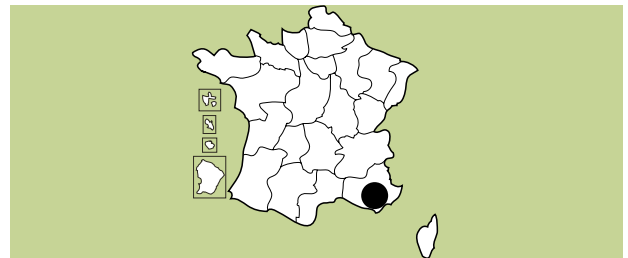
Five factors are thought to have contributed to this decline, including increased size of forested areas, controlled burns, the development of recreational sites in the mountains, the collection or deliberate destruction of the species, and stochastic (random) extinctions inherent in small populations.

Objectives

The objectives of the project are: (1) to protect and restore the habitat and increase its viability; (2) to limit the development of recreational activities that could have a negative impact on its habitat in the mountain zones where the viper is found; (3) to limit the illegal removal and deliberate destruction of vipers in these natural populations; and (4) to encourage better management and protection of *V. ursinii* populations in France and beyond, by encouraging collaboration between specialists (both scientists and managers) and by making habitat data obtained during the course of this project accessible.

LIFE06 NAT/F/000143

Vipère d'Orsini



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

Regional authority

Name of beneficiary

Agence régionale pour l'environnement Provence Alpes Côte d'Azur

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Email contact@arpe-paca.org

Name of contact person

Eric Blot

Duration of project:

57 months (Aug 2006 – Apr 2011)

Total budget in euro:

1,492,540

EC contribution in euro with %:

746,270 (50 %)

As well as carrying out a series of studies, genetic analyses, mappings, inventories, prospection and monitoring, the project will clear some 350 ha of forest, overgrown forest clearings and grasslands. It will reinforce the surveillance of the sites, carry out a series of communication actions, and develop a long term management approach involving all the relevant stakeholders, drafting a technical management guide.

Safe-guarding the jewel of Brittany's dune landscape

Official title

Preservation of the coast biodiversity on the Gâvres-Quiberon site

Background

The area of dune landscape, an almost uninterrupted stretch of nearly 2,500 hectares running from Gâvres to Quiberon, forms the largest area of dunes in Brittany. There are almost 1,000 hectares of the "grey dunes" priority habitat. There are also examples of every type of dune formation from "embryonic shifting dunes", to "white dunes" and grey dunes" etc.

The range of floral diversity is also very large, including an important site of the priority species *Omphalodes littoralis* (a dune species of the blue-eyed Mary Genus) and several occurrences of the fen orchid (*Liparis loeselii*), as well as a number of other protected species.

This coastal area, where development is strictly controlled, attracts more tourists each year and is beginning to suffer the consequences of the high numbers of tourists, and the related activities such as horse-riding, quad-bikes etc. In addition, trees and bushes are beginning to choke the humid dune slacks, and non-native plant species are threatening local biodiversity. There is also rogue dumping of rubbish.

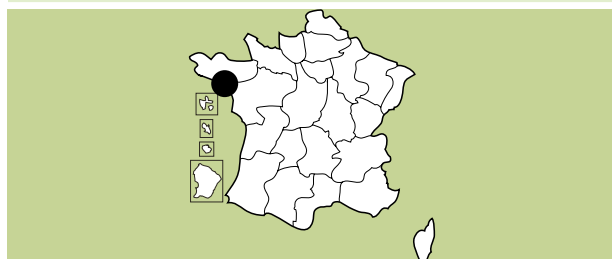
Objectives

The main aim of the project is, over a five-year term, to ensure the conservation of the Gâvres and Quiberon dune area, to protect its biodiversity and the interdependence of the different natural habitats: dunes, humid dune slacks, vegetated sea cliffs and heaths. Specifically, the objectives include:

- The conservation of the tapestry of different habitats and the maintenance of sites of endangered plant species;
- The conservation of the entire dune area and in particular of the grey dune habitat in its natural state;
- The conservation of the humid dune slacks with their biodiversity, notably preserving the habitats favourable to *Liparis loeselii* and *Spiranthes aestivalis*;

LIFE06 NAT/F/000146

Maintbiodiv



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

Local authority

Name of beneficiary

Syndicat Intercommunal à Vocation Unique Grand Site Gâvres Quiberon

Postal Address

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Name of contact person

Emmanuelle Elouard

Duration of project:

61 months (Oct 2006 – Oct 2011)

Total budget in euro:

1,288,573

EC contribution in euro with %:

773,144 (60 %)

- The control of invasive plants species, in particular of the groundsel tree (*Baccharis halimifolia*) in the humid dune slacks;
- Better informing the public and raising awareness of the need to respect and protect the habitats and species;
- The dissemination the results and techniques used.

Amongst others, the project will redirect tourist frequentation to protect sensitive areas, experiment a range of management options to protect the grey dunes habitat, develop a long-term management plan for the site, reopen humid dune slacks, upgrade the area's hydrological management infrastructure, remove invasive plant species, clear illegal rubbish tips and introduce hand-based cleaning of the beaches and dunes in sensitive areas so as to avoid destructive mechanical cleaning.

Preserving the Rochefort marshes

Official title

Preservation and restoration of the Rochefort marshes biological functions

Background

The Rochefort marshes (13,640 hectares), located on the French Atlantic coast between La Rochelle and Rochefort, within the Charente-Maritime department, are part of the vast Atlantic littoral marshes. Because of their high biological value, they are designated sites within the Natura 2000 network. The marshes assure essential biological functions, including allowing the development of endangered natural habitats such as Mediterranean salt meadows and natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition-type vegetation, and host important migrating and wintering bird populations. The marshes also provide a refuge for rare species such as the Otter (*Lutra lutra*), European mink (*Mustela lutreola*) and the longhorn beetle (*Rosalia alpina*).

Objectives

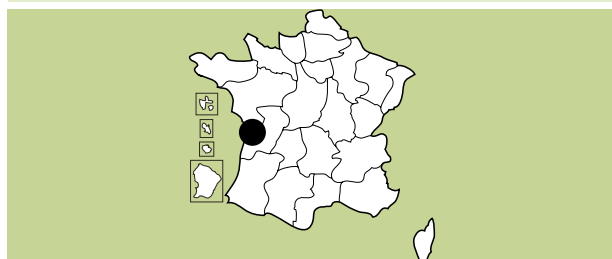
The project aims to implement the priority actions for the conservation of the key species and habitats, identified as part of the site's Natura 2000 management plan (Document d'Objectifs), validated by the local stakeholders in 2005.

The actions will include:

- Improving the biological potential of 225 hectares of wet meadows through appropriate hydraulic and ecological management
- Acquiring 15-ha of wet woodland to allow the preservation of species' linked with this habitat (eg *Rosalia alpina*).
- Regenerating 2 km of wooded levies through the restoration of pollarded trees and *Fraxinus* plantations.
- Reducing the risks of road accidents for the otter and mink.
- Restoring some 30 ha of habitats favourable to the reproduction of the black tern (*Chlidonias niger*) and Montagu's harrier (*Circus pygargus*), including purchasing 4 ha favourable for Montagu's harrier.

LIFE06 NAT/F/000147

Marais de Rochefort



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

NGO-Foundation

Name of beneficiary

Ligue pour la Protection des Oiseaux

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Name of contact person

Yvan Tariel

Duration of project:

51 months (Oct 2006 – Dec 2010)

Total budget in euro:

791,216

EC contribution in euro with %:

395,608 (50 %)

- Implementing biological survey and study programmes.
- Educating and informing users and stakeholders about the marshes' biological richness.

Preserving natural habitats in the central Black Forest

Official title

Rohrhardsberg, Upper Elz and Wilde Gutach

Background

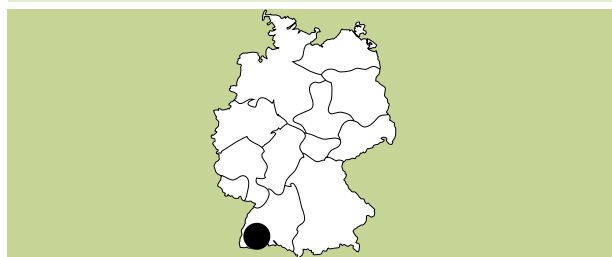
The project area is located in the central part of the Black Forest in SW Germany.

At 1155 m above sea level, the Rohrhardsberg is one of the highest mountains in the project area. It is bordered by two rivers – the Elz and the Wilde Gutach. Three quarters of the project area are covered with forests; the rest is dominated by species rich grasslands, in particular *Nardus* grasslands (priority for conservation). Other priority habitat types targeted are active raised bogs, bog woodlands, alluvial forests and *Tilio-Acerion* forests of slopes, scree and ravines. These woodlands are of national importance for several bird species of Annex I of the Birds Directive. These are the Tengmalm's owl (*Aegolius funereus*), pygmy owl (*Glaucidium passerinum*), capercaillie (*Tetrao urogallus*) and hazel grouse (*Bonasa bonasia*). The populations of hazel grouse (*Bonasa bonasia*) in particular have strongly declined over the last ten years.

Objectives

The main objective of the project is to develop and optimise habitats, especially priority habitats types, and to develop viable populations of several species of the Habitat and Birds Directive species, notably capercaillie and hazel grouse. The Rohrhardsberg region is an important stepping stone between the northern and the southern parts of the Black Forest, where other LIFE Nature projects have taken place in the past (projects "Gründenschwarzwald", "Integrated habitat protection for Grouse", "Coop - Grouse and Tourism") or are still being carried out (project "Upper Hotzenwald"). Other important objectives of the project are preparatory actions for achieving a sustainable financing, organisation and communication of Natura 2000 management. Special efforts will be made to involve the local population into the management of Natura 2000, to establish a forum for discussion and exchange of experience, and to offer educational activities.

LIFE06 NAT/D/000003
ROHRHARDSBERG



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

Regional authority

Name of beneficiary

Regierungspäsidium (RP) Freiburg, Abteilung 5,
Ref. 56 Naturschutz und Landschaftspflege

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Name of contact person

Bernd-Jürgen Seitz

Duration of project:

60 months (Nov 2006 – Oct 2011)

Total budget in euro:

1,917,133

EC contribution in euro with %:

958,566 (50 %)

The return of allis shad in the Rhine

Official title

The re-introduction of allis shad (*Alosa alosa*) in the Rhine System

Background

The allis shad (*Alosa alosa*) is a migratory species of the herring family. It is a priority species of Annex II of the Habitats Directive.

The feeding grounds of allis shad are marine, but reproduction takes place in large freshwater rivers. 150 years ago, the allis shad was the second most important commercial fish species in the Rhine - it used to spawn in the lower and middle stretches of the Rhine and its main tributaries. However, the pollution of the Rhine and the building of large flood protection dams on the Dutch coast, preventing natural migration, caused its extinction in the Rhine river basin in the middle of the 20th century.

Objectives

The aim of the project is the successful re-introduction of allis shad into the Rhine river basin. The project is uniquely European, with financial and practical support of three Rhine bordering countries (Netherlands, Germany, France).

On the technical side, the beneficiary LÖBF will be working in close partnership with its french partners CEMAGREF and MIGADO: allis shad larvae collected from a closely-related allis shad population in a SW French river basin. It is planned to produce and release about 5 million allis shad larvae. Stocking and release into the Rhine river will take place until a viable population is set-up and until no further accompanying measures are necessary.

Extensive preliminary studies have been carried out to define the actions to be taken. These are notably based on the experience of a previous successful re-introduction of a closely related North-American species (*Alosa sapidissima*) in rivers of the eastern US and Canada.

LIFE06 NAT/D/000005
LIFE-Projekt Maifisch



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

Regional authority

Name of beneficiary

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Name of contact person

Heiner Klinger

Duration of project:

48 months (Jan 2007 – Dec 2010)

Total budget in euro:

956,348

EC contribution in euro with %:

478,174 (50 %)

Additional accompanying measures proposed include the mapping of spawning and stocking habitats, assessment of the influence of ship traffic on spawning gravels and juvenile habitats, a diversified public awareness campaign and the integration of the existing knowledge.

Bird sanctuary in the Swabian Danube valley

Official title

Swabian Danube valley

Background

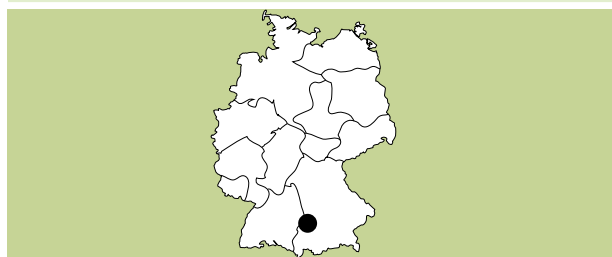
The project area encompasses three SPAs ("Schwäbisches Donaumoos", "Donauauen", "Wiesenbrüterlebensraum Schwäbisches Donauried") and six pSCIs. The extensive 7400 hectares open meadow landscape is one of the largest open fens in southern Central Europe ("Donauried"). It is located in midst of the south-western migration flyway for central European birds. Because to the scarcity of suitable stop-over and wintering areas in this part of southern Central Europe, the Swabian Danube valley is clearly of outstanding importance for migratory bird species.

The project is implementing the "Gesamtökologisches Gutachten Donauried", a participatory nature development concept that is taking into account the expectations of all socio-economic groups.

Objectives

The project will improve an important bird sanctuary of international importance. The focus is on conservation, improvement and restoration of breeding and foraging habitats of 43 species listed on Annex 1 of the Birds directive (amongst them two priority species, corncrake - *Crex crex* and bittern - *Botaurus stellaris*) and on improving the foraging, stop-over and wintering habitats for numerous migratory bird species. A further objective is the maintenance or restoration of 6 important habitat types (of which one is a priority habitat type of the Habitats Directive).

LIFE06 NAT/D/000006
DONAU



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

Regional authority

Name of beneficiary

Bayerisches Staatsministerium für Umwelt,
Gesundheit und Verbraucherschutz

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Name of contact person

Harald Lippert

Duration of project:

54 months (Oct 2006 – March 2011)

Total budget in euro:

2,037,040

EC contribution in euro with %:

1,018,520 (50 %)

Cross-border cooperation for the conservation of *Nardus* grasslands

Official title

Conservation and regeneration of *Nardus* Grasslands in Central Europe

Background

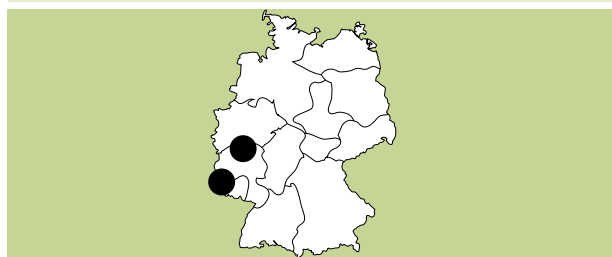
The species-rich *Nardus* grasslands owe their origins to a historical use of grassland for extensive grazing and mowing. They mainly occur in landscapes with silicate rock and until 50 years ago were numerous and widespread in Central Europe. Because of the abandonment of traditional agricultural land uses, agricultural intensification and afforestation, the *Nardus* grasslands across Europe have lost over 90% of their original extent and are nowadays limited to small relict surfaces. *Nardus* grasslands are one of the most endangered habitat types in Europe and, under the Habitat Directive (92/43/EEC), are listed as a priority habitat for which special conservation areas and protective measures are required by the European Member states.

Objectives

Species-rich *Nardus* grasslands are to be restored on 32 Natura 2000 sites located in northern Luxembourg (8), the Belgian Ardennes (7) and in two regions of western Germany (Saarland (12) and Reinland-Pfalz (6)) – and to be brought back into a favourable state of conservation. A whole network of core-protected sites is to be created thereby, for the conservation of the rich fauna and flora, which is part of our European natural heritage. The cooperation between the participating countries will ensure that the *Nardus* grasslands will be interlinked across borders.

LIFE06 NAT/D/000008

Borstgrasrasen



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

NGO-Foundation

Name of beneficiary

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Name of contact person

Ludger Wolf

Duration of project:

48 months (Oct 2006 – Sept 2010)

Total budget in euro:

3,811,038

EC contribution in euro with %:

2,858,278 (75 %)

Conserving the Saker Falcon in Hungary

Official title

Conservation of *Falco cherrug* in the Carpathian basin

Background

Saker falcon (*Falco cherrug*) is a very rare and threatened species in Europe. The total European breeding population was recently estimated at 450 pairs. Currently, Hungary and Slovakia hold about 40% of the total European population. Therefore, the conservation of the population in the Carpathian Basin in these two countries is crucial to the survival of the species in Europe. Although populations increased in these two countries between 1990-2000, the overall population trends show large decline, over 20% during the last 10 years. There is no any reliable information on the reason for this situation. The main factors thought to affect the population are loss and degradation of natural nest sites, degradation of feeding habitat and loss of food resources, increased mortality caused by electrocution and hunting, reduced breeding success by collapsing natural nests, human disturbance and possible increased mortality on migration route and winter grounds.

Objectives

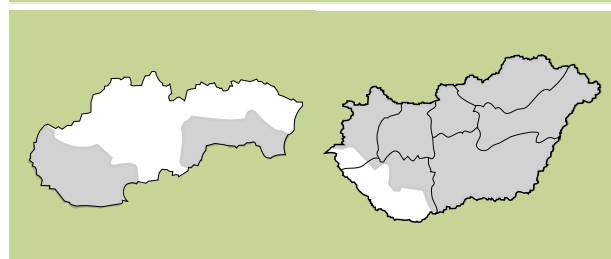
This project aims to reinforce the ongoing efforts to strengthen the Hungarian and Slovakian populations of the Saker falcon, a globally threatened species on Annex I of the Birds Directive also identified as a priority species for LIFE-Nature projects.

The main objective of this project is to identify the main reasons for the European population decrease and create favourable conditions for the stabilisation in the short-term. These goals will form the basis for steady growth of the Saker falcon population in Europe. Measures to reach these goals include:

- Securing nesting sites by protection and establishment of Saker falcon on potential nesting places by installed nest boxes.
- Better understanding the food and habitat preference of the species and running a comprehensive monitoring program;

LIFE06 NAT/H/000096

Falco cherrug-Hu/SK



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

Park-Reserve authority

Name of beneficiary

Bükk National Park Directorate

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Name of contact person

József Duska

Duration of project:

48 months (Oct 2006 – Sept 2010)

Total budget in euro:

2,152,042

EC contribution in euro with %:

1,606,715 (74.66 %)

- Elaborating European ground squirrel (*Spermophilus citellus*) friendly habitat management methods for SPA management and influencing the Agri-Environmental Scheme for advanced habitat management.
- Reintroducing European ground squirrel in some potential Saker falcon habitats.
- Reducing key factors of mortality (insulation of dangerous electric pylons, guarding nests).
- Evaluating migrating losses by satellite telemetry and collecting information from wintering grounds by establishing and operating an international mailing list.
- Establishing an intensive communication programme and awareness-raising activities.

Protecting a dry oak forest in Central Hungary

Official title

Conservation of Euro-siberian steppic woods and Pannonic sand steppes in "Nagykörös pusztai tölgyesek" pSCI

Background

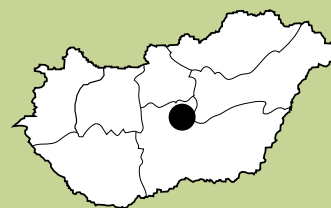
The unique habitats of Euro-Siberian steppic woods with oaks, and Pannonic sand steppes can be found exclusively in the Carpathian Basin. Moreover, the steppic oak forests of Nagykörös pusztai tölgyesek' pSCI represent the last more or less continuous area of such woodland. These habitats are seriously threatened by the spread of alien species, problems in natural forest regeneration capacity, improper forest management practices, fragmentation and a lack of information and public awareness.

Objectives

The main objective of the project is to ensure the long-term conservation and favourable conservational status of the Euro-Siberian steppic woods. This aim will be achieved through the collaboration of Duna-Ipoly National Park Directorate, local government and WWF Hungary. Measures to achieve this goal include:

- Suppression of invasive trees and herbs in the area using appropriate mechanical and chemical methods.
- Fencing off the forest compartments and their monitoring.
- Sustainable forest management focused on the conservational management for 90 years.
- Reconstruction of the inner and external unity of the habitat of steppic oak forests by artificial forest regeneration.
- Public-awareness raising due to media work and dissemination of information.
- Elaboration of the management plan for the area.

LIFE06 NAT/H/000098
HUNSTEPPICOAKS



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

Park-Reserve authority

Name of beneficiary

Duna-Ipoly Nemzeti Park Igazgatóság

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Name of contact person

Annamaria Csoka

Duration of project:

60 months (Sept 2006 – Aug 2011)

Total budget in euro:

1,863,236

EC contribution in euro with %:

1,397,427 (75 %)

Restoring wet grasslands near lake Balaton

Official title

Restoration and grassland management of Felső-Kongó meadows

Background

Tapolca Basin is located beside Lake Balaton in Hungary. During the Holocene era, the water level of the Balaton was higher, shallow stagnating waters covered the depression of Tapolca, and extended rich-fen vegetation contributed to the accumulation of organic soils (peat). Despite significant artificial drainage of the basin in the second part of 19th century, and in the first half of 20th century by converting natural streams into canals and creating drainage ditches, the Tapolca Basin is still one of the most valuable fen complexes in Hungary. The vegetation and soils of this environmentally sensitive area have a significant role to play in the quality of the water running through the basin and into the lake Balaton.

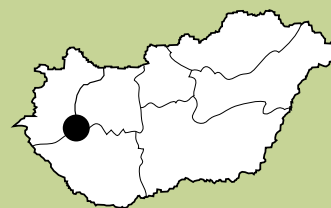
Currently, the project supports the following habitats: Moor grass (*Molinia*) meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils; alluvial meadows of river valleys with vegetation of *Cnidion dubii*; lowland hay meadows.

Objectives

The main objectives of the project are:

- Ensure the continuous management of grassland habitats of the part of the pSCI HUBF20028 (Tapolcai-medence) which are priority habitats listed in the Habitats Directive Annex I.
- Summarise and continuously update the knowledge required for the habitat management, and to ensure availability of this knowledge for practitioners.
- Create a professional background for the management of the priority habitats and the buffer zones.
- Ensure continuous information transfer and provide information to site managers and the public.

LIFE06 NAT/H/000102
GRASS-TAPOLCA



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

Park-Reserve authority

Name of beneficiary

Balaton National Park Directorate

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Name of contact person

Imre Petroczi

Duration of project:

36 months (Jan 2007 – Dec 2009)

Total budget in euro:

288,045

EC contribution in euro with %:

143,245 (49.73 %)

Measures to achieve these aims include:

- A baseline survey of the area.
- Complex rewetting activities.
- Suitable management of the degraded wet meadow areas.
- Monitoring the effect of the project.
- Dissemination of the lessons learned and expertise gained.
- Public awareness raising.

Conservation of a rare plant in Hungary

Official title

Conservation of the Pannon endemic *Dianthus diutinus*

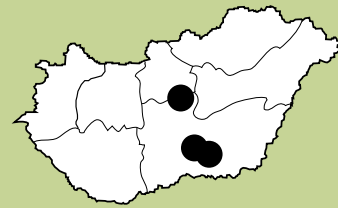
Background

Dianthus diutinus - a long-lasting pink - can be only found in the Danube-Tisza Interfluvium area, and is considered as sub-endemic and extremely rare. As a result, it is strictly protected by Hungarian law and is considered a priority species with Community interest. The majority of known habitats of the *D. diutinus* have been recently afforested. Its natural habitats are open patchworks of grasslands and scattered stands of forest (native juniper and poplar species); most plant species can be found on grassland areas. Natural habitats in their original state are rare due to fragmentation and isolation effects that mainly are the result of forestry activities.

Objectives

The main objective of the project is to stabilise 85% of the presently known stands of the Pannonic endemic *D. diutinus* with proper actions. The project aims to create and establish a semi-natural habitat network with the help of the enlargement and unification of the present habitats at the three most important sites for plant species (Bodoglér, Bócsa and Csévharaszt). These sites will remain free from or only minimally affected by forestry activity. Informing the public about the importance of these unique habitats will definitely improve the chances of survival of this species in the long run.

LIFE06 NAT/H/000104
HUNDIDI



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

Park-Reserve authority

Name of beneficiary

Kiskunság National Park

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Name of contact person

Orsolya Mile

Duration of project:

60 months (Sept 2006 – Aug 2011)

Total budget in euro:

1,630,784

EC contribution in euro with %:

1,223,088 (75 %)

Raptor protection in Italian National Park

Official title

Safeguard of SPA "Promontorio del Gargano" raptors

Background

SPA Promontorio del Gargano was established in 2005 (Bollettino Ufficiale della Regione Puglia n. 105 del 19-8-2005) and is located in the National Park of Gargano. It is characterised by complex karstic (limestone) morphology and climatic features due to the very different topography from the sea level to the maximum altitude of 1055 meters of Monte Calvo. The NATURA 2000 habitats in the SPA are the followings:

- Pseudo-steppe with grasses and annuals of *Thero-Brachypodietea* (priority for conservation).
- Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation.
- Thermo-mediterranean and pre-desert scrub.
- Arborescent matorral with *Juniperus*.

The different habitats are home to many species included in the national red list. The main threats to endemic raptors are the loss of favourable nesting sites, the disturbance of rocky slopes due to the climbing activity, the alteration of the trophic supply due to changes in agricultural and sheep farming practices, the use of pesticides and fertilisers.

Objectives

The project aims to protect threatened raptors of the Special Protected Area (SPA) Promontorio del Gargano (IT9110007) in the Province of Foggia. The species concerned are the lesser kestrel (*Falco naumanni*), Laner falcon (*Falco biarmicus*), Egyptian vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*) and Eurasian Eagle Owl (*Bubo bubo*), all of which are included in the Annex I of the EU Birds Directive.

The main aim of the project is to ensure the future of the populations of these raptors.

For each of these species the project has specific aims: to restore two colonies of 10-15 pairs of *Falco*

LIFE06 NAT/IT/000026
Rapaci del Gargano



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

Local authority

Name of beneficiary

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Name of contact person

Antonio Angelillis

Duration of project:

54 months (Oct 2006 – March 2011)

Total budget in euro:

955,631

EC contribution in euro with %:

716,723 (75 %)

naumanni (1-2 breeding pairs and 200 staging individuals) in the towns of San Giovanni Rotondo and Monte Sant'Angelo; to protect 7 pairs of *Falco biarmicus* and to safeguard between 3-5 staging individuals of *Neophron percnopterus* and 1-2 pairs of *Bubo bubo*.

Another important objective is to contribute to the elaboration of an operative strategy, at Italian and European level, to protect the *Neophron percnopterus*, an endangered species in Italy, and the elaboration of a local action plan for the *Bubo bubo*.

Protecting biodiversity on Italy's coasts

Official title

Urgent conservation measures for biodiversity of Central Mediterranean Sea

Background

The SCIs are in the coastal zones of Latium and Calabria, under degradation risks, partially compromised or degraded by direct or indirect human activities. The coastal landscape contains several habitats covered by nine pSCIs proposals for Nature 2000 network: "Sand banks between Arrone and Marta " IT6000003 (1266,9 ha), "Sand banks of Tor Paterno", IT6000010. (26,79 ha), "Shoreline between Tarquinia and Montalto di Castro", IT6010027, (199,7 ha), "Macchiatonda" IT6030019, (242,1 ha), "Macchia Grande of Focene and Macchia of Stagnone" IT6030023, (317 ha), "Sacred Island", IT6030024, (25,7 ha), "Tor Caldara", IT6030046, (43,2 ha), "Shoreline of Astura Tower ", IT6030048, (201 ha) and, finally, "Sand bank from Crotona to Le Castella", IT9320097 (ha 4453,0). Each SCI is valuable in its own right, but taken together, they gain an extra importance. Abandonment, ignorance and carelessness has seriously endangered some habitats.

Objectives

The main objective is to safeguard and to restore some SCIs particularly important for the conservation of coastal and marine Mediterranean biodiversity, including habitats and species of EU interest, some of which "priority" (sensu Habitat Directive). In the nine SCIs, actions have been planned to exploit or restore the following priority habitats: Posidonia beds; Coastal lagoons; Coastal dunes with *Juniperus* spp; Dunes with pine forests.

Restoration, safeguarding and monitoring activities are also relevant to other habitats and species of community interest, and render the project more organic and effective in the Mediterranean biogeographical regional conservation strategy. Another objective is to sustain indirectly the ecology of the local flora and fauna, including migratory birds. The local public will

LIFE06 NAT/IT/000050
Co.Me.Bi.S.



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

Regional authority

Name of beneficiary

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Name of contact person

Raniero De Filippis

Duration of project:

36 months (Oct 2006 – Sept 2009)

Total budget in euro:

1,100,000

EC contribution in euro with %:

525,000 (47.73 %)

be involved in the sustainable use of marine coastal areas). Initiatives will include fishery associations, tourism operators and environmental NGOs and will focus on the exploitation of natural resources. The plan foresees the direct involvement of municipalities, provinces, regional authorities.

A coordinated strategy for the protected sites of the Cilento Park

Official title

Management of the network of pSCIs and SPAs in the Cilento National Park

Background

The National Park of Cilento suffers a lack of coordinated strategy for the management of the SCIs and SPAs lying within its territory. For some of these sites, notably the forest ones, a loss in the population of priority species is being recorded. The coastal sites are threatened by tourism, which affects, in some cases, the bats populations, and the Posidonia fields are seriously damaged by uncontrolled anchoring. Finally, the local populations are not aware enough of the characters and fragility of their natural environment.

Objectives

The main objective of the project is to establish a regulatory system of the pSCIs and SPAs within the Cilento and Vallo di Diano National Park, with a perspective of establishing a coherent network. The elaboration and adoption of management plans will be made for all the Natura 2000 sites within the Park (excluding three for which they have already been elaborated) according to three environmental groups (marine and coastal, hills and mountains, river), through a participatory process. The management plans will be a much needed, urgent tool to establish the regulations for the management of the Natura 2000 sites and will be included in the Park Plan and in the Park Regulation. Moreover, several urgent conservation actions on different habitats/species will be carried out, with an effort to involve the local population.

LIFE06 NAT/IT/000053
CILENTO IN RETE



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

Park-Reserve authority

Name of beneficiary

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Name of contact person

Angelo de Vita

Duration of project:

48 months (Jan 2007 – Dec 2010)

Total budget in euro:

1,608,932

EC contribution in euro with %:

1,045,806 (65 %)

Fen restoration in Friuli, Italy

LIFE06 NAT/IT/000060
LIFE FRIULI FENS



Official title

Conservation and restoration of calcareous fens in Friuli

Background

At the beginning of the 20th century, the area between the rivers Tagliamento and Isonzo was made up of 6,000 hectares of wetlands most of which were alkaline and calcareous fens. Currently, only 200 hectares of these habitats survive and these are dispersed in small and fragmented patches, most of which are designated as Sites of Community Importance. The remaining fens host many endemic plants and animals of EU and National importance. The project will take place in three SCI, which have been designated because of the presence of the last alkaline and calcareous fens where the 90% of the worldwide population of and endemic thrift (*Armeria helodes*) and 99% of the world-wide population of *Erucastrum palustre* survive. In recent years the number of these species has been decreasing despite big efforts to halt the decline. The reason for this decline are its small size, the fragmentation of natural habitat patches, the lowering of the water table, the eutrophication of surface waters and the abandonment of natural habitat owned by private owners. Both species are running a high risk of extinction.

Objectives

The project aims to conserve and increase the population size of plant and animal species protected by the Habitats Directive that live in the ecological system of alkaline and calcareous fens in the Friuli plain. Public awareness and environmental education programs in local schools, evening courses for the elderly and for the general public will attempt to raise awareness on the conservation and cultural importance of the fens.

Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

Regional authority

Name of beneficiary

Regione Autonoma Friuli Venezia Giulia

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Name of contact person

Daniele De Luca

Duration of project:

48 months (Oct 2006 – Sept 2010)

Total budget in euro:

2,645,000

EC contribution in euro with %:

1,058,000 (40 %)

Eco-management of the Adazi military area

Official title

Restoration of Biological Diversity in Military Training Area and Natura 2000 site "Adazi"

Background

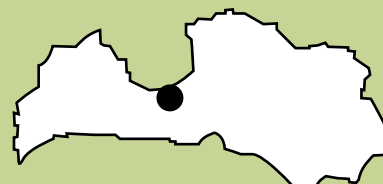
Military areas cover a total of 1,68 % of Latvia's territory. Because of their large area and exceptional nature values, military areas are often important elements of Natura 2000. The selected project, the Military Training Area Adazi (7746,53 ha) is the largest training area in Latvia and in the Baltic States, most of which is a Natura 2000 site (6126 ha). It has been used for military purposes from the 1930s and became a Natura 2000 site in 2004. The territory is also selected due to its potential for raising public awareness. The issue of combining nature protection and use for defence purposes is important in Latvia as well as in the other Baltic states. The Site has 13 habitats Annex I from the Habitat Directive (of which 5 are priority), all targeted by the project. This includes 90 % of the European dry heath habitats in Latvia. This habitat is very endangered by overgrowths and urgent measures are required to maintain it. The territory is also the best site in Latvia for Inland dunes with open grey hair-grass (*Corynephorus canescens*) and bent grass (*Agrostis spp.*). Two plant, three fish, and one invertebrate species listed in Annex II are present and targeted by the project, as well as 21 bird species included in Bird Directive Annex I, of which 16 are targeted by the project.

Objectives

The project has three main objectives:

- Integrating nature conservation and military interests,
- Restoring the Military Training Area's Natura 2000 values to, and maintaining them at a favourable conservation status.
- Networking and dissemination with military Natura 2000 site managers.

LIFE06 NAT/LV/000110
ADAZI



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

National authority

Name of beneficiary

Defence Property State Agency

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Name of contact person

Daina Galktionova

Duration of project:

40 months (Sept 2006 – Dec 2009)

Total budget in euro:

905,307

EC contribution in euro with %:

452,653 (50 %)

Securing sustainable tourism and habitats conservation in the Vestiena site

Official title

The improvement of habitats management in Natura 2000 site – Vestiena

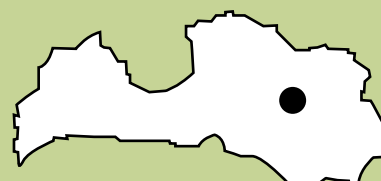
Background

The Vestiena Natura 2000 site host endangered natural habitats of Community interest. The area is also widely used for recreational activities both in summer and winter period. Lack of sustainable management has resulted in degradation and loss of natural habitats of high ecological value, particularly natural and semi-natural Fennoscandian grassland formations and boreal and temperate forest habitats.

Objectives

The project aims at the sustainable management of natural habitats and recreational resources of the Vestiena Natura 2000 site. The project objectives are to develop nature management plans for three protected areas and to draft a site specific Ministerial Regulation; ensure restoration and management of priority natural habitats; implement urgent activities defined by a Nature Protection Plan; reduce the pressures of recreational activities on the natural habitats and support sustainable use of recreational resources. The project will also raise general public awareness on the nature conservation values and the protection requirements of the area, and strengthen co-operation between the stakeholders involved in the management of the Natura 2000 site.

LIFE06 NAT/LV/000196
IHM-VESTIENA



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary
Development agency

Name of beneficiary
Development Agency of Vestienas Protected Landscape Area

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Name of contact person
Mailite Inese

Duration of project:
48 months (Oct 2006 – Sept 2010)

Total budget in euro:
714,601

EC contribution in euro with %:
357,300 (50 %)

Saving a rare seabird species in Malta

Official title

SPA Site and Sea Actions Saving *Puffinus yelkouan* in Malta

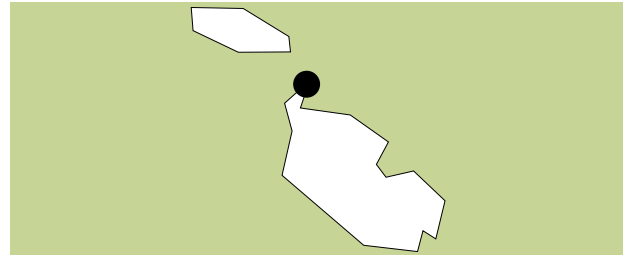
Background

Council Directive 79/409/EEC and its amending acts aim at providing long-term protection and conservation of all bird species naturally living in the wild within the European territory of member states (except Greenland). Species of high priority, in need of urgent protection, are listed in Annex 1 of the directive. One example is provided by Yelkouan shearwater (*Puffinus yelkouan*). Over the last 25 years, the shearwater, a species of strategic importance at the European level, has been in decline in Malta. The bird is under threat because of premature mortality, loss of breeding habitats, and human disturbance at nesting sites.

Objectives

The project intends to reverse this decline and increase the Yelkouan shearwater population at Rdum tal-Madonna, a designated SPA and host of the largest colony of Yelkouan shearwater on the islands. The colony holds 500 of the 1500 breeding pairs in the Maltese Islands.

LIFE06 NAT/MT/000097
GARNIJA-MALTIJA



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

NGO-Foundation

Name of beneficiary

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Name of contact person

Tolga Temuge

Duration of project:

46 months (Sept 2006 – June 2010)

Total budget in euro:

919,733

EC contribution in euro with %:

459,866 (50 %)

Restoring a brackish marsh in the Netherlands

Official title

Restoration of Brackish Marsh for Root Vole, Waders and Terns

Background

The estuarine habitats and species of the Eastern Scheldt (Netherlands) are under serious pressure. The estuaries were famous for their shallow tidal creeks, sand flats, salt marshes and inland brackish marshes and harboured important populations of terns, waders, geese, seals and root vole (*Microtus oeconomus subsp. arenicola*). The biodiversity of the Eastern Scheldt declined as a consequence of the Delta Works, a national safety and water management plan. The habitat area round the Eastern Scheldt reduced in size to just a few salt marshes and a few brackish water marshes, and as a result, the root vole and bird populations declined as marshlands lying within the dikes further fragmented.

About 10 years ago, the Dutch government, the Province of Zeeland and local organisations started a joint restoration programme. Its focus is the restoration of estuarine gradients between estuarine, river and inland habitats, the protection of tidal salt marshes including sand flats against erosion, and the restoration of the inland brackish marshes. The LIFE-project is part of this programme and focuses on the corridor connecting the Eastern Scheldt population with its neighbouring populations. This area is vital for the preservation of the root vole in the southwest Delta.

Objectives

The project covers 157 ha of a wider (1200 ha) restoration initiative in Schouwen Duiveland. It focuses on the restoration of the original relief of the creeks, salt marshes and shallows of a medieval marshland, the restoration of salt and brackish water systems and the development of the vegetation types and plant and animal species that are native to the area. The project aims to create open landscape type, with small-scale transitional zones between salt to very brackish stagnant water, tidelands, salt grasslands and transitional zones to wet (fresh water) meadowlands.

LIFE06 NAT/NL/000071

Brackish Marsh



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

Regional authority

Name of beneficiary

Provincie Zeeland

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Name of contact person

Marion Struik

Duration of project:

58 months (July 2006 – May 2011)

Total budget in euro:

2,465,508

EC contribution in euro with %:

1,145,355 (46.46 %)

The habitat of the priority species the root vole, will increase in size within the project area from less than 10 ha to approximately 107 ha. The avifauna will recover in the project area. The following birds included in the EU Birds Directive are expected to return to breed: marsh harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*), avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*), arctic tern (*Sterna paradisaea*), black-winged stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*), and common tern (*Sterna hirundo*). The project area will also offer foraging and refuge opportunities for various species of migratory birds protected by the EU Birds Directive. Great numbers of barnacle goose (*Branta leucopsis*), golden plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*), little egret (*Egretta garzetta*), Eurasian spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*), bar-tailed godwit (*Limosa lapponica*), are expected to make use of the area.

Preserving the “De Zouweboezem” marshes

Official title

Marsh area “De Zouweboezem”: conservation, restoration and development

Background

De Zouweboezem is a valuable marsh area in South-Holland. It comprises reedbeds, scrub and wet meadows alongside a canal, and adjoins the river Lek (a Rhine tributary) south-west of the city of Utrecht. The area is important for all marsh birds, especially for purple heron (*Ardea purpurea*). Besides being a Special Protection Area (SPA), designated under the EU Birds Directive (79/409/CEE), the site has also been designated as a pSCI (proposed Site of Community Interest for the spined loach - *Cobitis taenia*, weather loach – *Misgurnus fossilis* and the bitterling- *Rhodeus sericeus subsp. amarus*). Human activities include reed-harvesting. At the moment the marsh is becoming dryer, which results in an increase of woody species and decrease of in water growing common reed (*Phragmites australis*). Because of this effect and of insufficient water quality the risk exists that the breeding possibilities will decrease and that the area loses its high value as a marsh.

Objectives

The main objective is to maintain and to improve the breeding and feeding possibilities for all marsh birds and especially for the purple heron, of which in 2005, 158 pairs formed a breeding colony concentrated at one site. By creating new possible breeding locations, the aim will be to encourage the purple heron colony to divide itself over two or more locations. In order to reach the objectives, measures will be taken to establish a semi-natural water level fluctuation.

Besides this, parts of the area where old and dry marshland are located, will be set back in succession, so that a vital, wet area with common reed can develop. Also some forest will be transformed into open marsh and the amount of yearly mowed common reed fields will be decreased.

LIFE06 NAT/NL/000072
Moerasontwikkeling Zouweboezem



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

NGO-Foundation

Name of beneficiary

Stichting Het Zuid-Holland Landschap

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Name of contact person

Erik Buijserd

Duration of project:

54 months (Sept 2006 – Feb 2011)

Total budget in euro:

1,480,825

EC contribution in euro with %:

740,413 (50 %)

Restoring wetlands in the “Wieden and Weerribben”

Official title

Wetlands: challenges and innovation in succession management

Background

The wetlands of Wieden and Weerribben belong to the most important wetland ecosystems in Western Europe. The area, of some 9000 ha, was formed after the last ice age by peat deposition in shallow lagoons isolated from the sea by coastal dunes. Although this mechanism was once very frequent in Europe (northern of Germany, The Netherlands, Flanders and the North East of UK in East-Anglia), Wieden and Weerribben is the most extended lowland fen area in northern western Europe. These wetlands have been modified by man uses (mowing and grazing, peat extraction), creating a high biodiversity by the maintenance of different evolution phases from open water to acidic bogs and to forests. After abandonment natural succession and eutrophication started. In order to maintain the rare habitats in the course of succession from open water to wet forest, continuous management efforts are needed.

Objectives

The objective of the project is to enhance biodiversity by creating more open water, especially in areas with a good water quality, recovering floating trembling bogs and improving reed beds by removing the top soil. These measures will improve the habitats and therefore the conditions for the plants and animals that depend on these ecosystems. Special attention will also be paid to the recovery of natural gradients between open water and the surrounding vegetations. The project will stimulate the area and quality of the following habitats: oligo-mesotrophic ponds, natural eutrophic lakes with floating vegetation, calcareous fens, transition mires and quaking bogs, Moor grass (*Molinia*) meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils, wet heathlands, hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities and bog woodland (91D0).

LIFE06 NAT/NL/000074
Wetland Succession



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

NGO-Foundation

Name of beneficiary

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Name of contact person

Andries Stoker

Duration of project:

53 months (Aug 2006 – Dec 2010)

Total budget in euro:

4,852,480

EC contribution in euro with %:

1,940,992 (40 %)

Restoring an active raised bog in the Netherlands

Official title

From Degraded to Active Raised Bogs: pSCI Engbertsdijksvenen (NL)

Background

The “Engbertsdijksvenen” nature reserve is one of the largest peat-bog areas in the Netherlands, located in the north-eastern part of the Province of Overijssel. The reserve covers a total area of 1,001 hectares and has been designated as a proposed Site of Community Interest and a Special Protection Area.

Its most valuable biotic characteristic is that of the active raised bogs priority habitat type. However, the site's degraded raised bogs' habitat type is also of interest, as, due to its large surface area, it offers the potential to develop into a self-regulating (active) raised bog.

The area is home to nine species of bog moss, including *Sphagnum magellanicum*, *Sphagnum cuspidatum* and *Sphagnum tenellum*.

In addition to its important botanical value, the area is also of great significance to birds identified as requiring protection under (Annex I) the EU Birds Directive (79/409/EEC) including the common crane (*Grus grus*), bluethroat (*Luscinia svecica*) and spotted crane (*Porzana porzana*).

The area suffers from dehydration and internal eutrophication problems caused by drainage and a drop in water levels. Because the water levels are structurally too low, vegetation is therefore over-dry and dehydrates too quickly, especially during periods of low rainfall. This has a negative impact on the mineralisation of the bog (internal eutrophication). Growing conditions also become too nutritious for certain habitat types; and fluctuations in water levels (both dehydration and flooding) discourages growth of the targeted habitat types.

LIFE06 NAT/NL/000075
Engbertsdijksvenen



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

National authority

Name of beneficiary

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Name of contact person

Fons Eysink

Duration of project:

28 months (Dec 2005 – Apr 2008)

Total budget in euro:

3,028,869

EC contribution in euro with %:

1,491,325 (49.24 %)

Objectives

The main objective of the project is to conserve, restore and develop the communities of (priority habitat type) active raised bog and associated vegetation comprising of wet and humid heath, priority habitat type bog woodland and grasslands and communities from humid to dry conditions such as dry heath and oak-birch woodlands.

Two other key objectives are:

- Conservation of flora and fauna diversity, including rare and threatened species of European importance.
- Conservation of the historical-geological (archive) values such as intact soil profiles. Recreation and its impact/importance to nature conservation in the area will also be considered by the project.

Restoration of brackish ecosystems in Westzaan polder

Official title

Restoration of brackish ecosystems in Westzaan polder

Background

In the past, the Westzaan Nature 2000 site was an area of brackish waters due to the regular intake of salt water. However, since the closure of the Zuider Zee in 1932 by the Afsluitdijk between Friesland and Noord-Holland, freshwater encroached, threatening the site's ecological values. Westzaan is one of the few areas where a former brackish peat meadow habitat can be regenerated. The present fresh water conditions are a threat for brackish vegetation habitat types. Furthermore in fresh water conditions the vegetation develops in such a way that open spaces become scarce, which could become a threat to root role (*Microtus oeconomus*).

With the change from brackish to fresh water, the degradation of peat takes place at large scale. The resulting particles lead to turbidity of the water, reducing the growth of water plants. This is a threat for fishes as the bitterling (*Rhodeus sericeus subsp. amarus*) and spined loach (*Cobitis taenia*). Polder Westzaan is a pSCI that includes Annex I Habitats Directive types such as Atlantic salt meadows, Northern Atlantic wet heathlands, hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains, and transition mires and quaking bogs.

Objectives

The aim of the project is to restore the brackish ecosystems in the Westzaan polder by reintroducing salt water, while at the same time safeguarding other functions, such as agriculture and leisure. The project will furthermore prepare the way for large-scale dredging works and nature development works which will fully utilise the brackish conditions. This includes the Habitat directive Annex I habitat types: Atlantic salt meadows, Northern Atlantic wet heathlands, hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and transition mires and quaking bogs. The directly targeted Habitats directive Annex II species are: *Microtus oeconomus subsp. arenicola*, *Myotis dasycneme*, *Cobitis taenia* and *Rhodeus sericeus*

LIFE06 NAT/NL/000076
Verbrakking Westzaan



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

National authority

Name of beneficiary

Staatbosbeheer

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Name of contact person

Jaap Van Groeningen

Duration of project:

48 months (Sept 2006 – Aug 2010)

Total budget in euro:

3,406,241

EC contribution in euro with %:

953,747 (28 %)

subsp. amarus. The project will create a saltwater inlet in the North Sea Canal in the south of the area, from where a sufficient quantity of water with a suitable salt content can be siphoned across the dyke, from a depth of 9 metres. The water will be fed to the project area through an underground pipe into the surface water, ultimately reaching the whole of the most northerly point of the Westzaan polder (the Guisveld). In areas where farmers are still grazing cattle, fresh and salt water will be kept separated; provisions will also be taken for the passage of recreational vessels. The project includes management and monitoring activities and communication activities.

Restoring the Eastern Scheldt salt marshes

Official title

Salt Marsh restoration Eastern Scheldt

Background

The salt marshes of the Eastern Scheldt are seriously endangered following the introduction of the Delta Project to safeguard the south-western part of the Netherlands against flooding. This has resulted in the loss of salt marsh area, (from 1,500 hectares before 1970, to approximately 500 ha today) posing a serious threat to the site's European importance for birds and habitat species. The present rate of decline is 3-4 ha/ salt marsh per year. This decline is attributed to two main causes: the compartment works, which reduced the overall size of the salt marsh area; and the Eastern Scheldt Barrier, (which resulted in a 30% tidal range decrease). As a result of the latter, natural processes such as sedimentation and erosion have turned predominantly into erosion. The area has been designated as a Special Protection Area, and has been proposed as a Site of Community Interest.

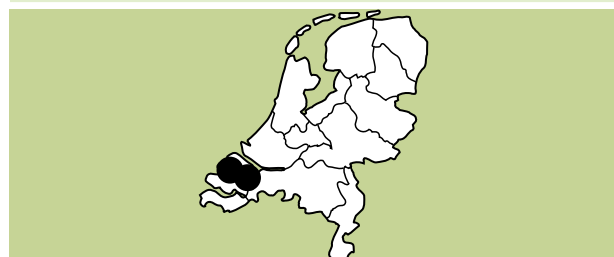
Objectives

The project will target two of the salt marsh areas, Rammegors and Schelphoek, which have been identified as suitable for habitat restoration. In these areas a number of (Annex I) natural habitat types of Community interest are targeted by the project. Both areas are sheltered from erosion and, hence, are durable.

In the Rammegors, the project will lead to restoration of the estuarine habitat, by re-introducing the tidal movement. An immediate result, on completion, will be the generation of approximately 20-ha of salt marsh area. After completion, additional salt marsh area will be generated due to siltation of low-lying areas.

In Schelphoek, (c.210 hectares), a former working harbour for the Eastern Scheldt Barrier and now a nature reserve, the ongoing sedimentation will be promoted by the nourishment of soil in the western part of the area. A new salt marsh area of some 30 ha, on top of the existing mud flats, is anticipated.

LIFE06 NAT/NL/000077
SAMARES



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

National authority

Name of beneficiary

Rijkswaterstaat Dienst Zeeland

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Name of contact person

Arnold Van Der Wees

Duration of project:

53 months (Aug 2006 – Dec 2010)

Total budget in euro:

4,239,350

EC contribution in euro with %:

1,277,500 (30.13 %)

The restoration actions for both the project sub-areas will help to significantly reduce the loss of salt marsh area of the Eastern Scheldt, and add at least 10% of salt marsh to the approximate total area of 500-ha.

Reopening the Roer for migrating fish

Official title

Restoring migration possibilities for 8 Annex II species in the Roer

Background

In the Molentak-branch and the Roertak-branch of the Roer river, there are fish migration barriers. At these two spots there is an unbridgeable difference in height level for fish. These barriers existed as far back as 1290 when the hydraulic works in the Roer (dams and watermills) were constructed to make use of the waterpower of the fast-flowing river. As a result, it is impossible for fish to run up either the Roertak or Molentak branches of the Meuse. This means that, for numerous fish species, the large habitat, foraging and breeding areas of the Roer and its many large tributaries that lie behind are inaccessible. The breeding area constitutes a major link in the ecology of the anadromous and reophilic species (living in salt water, breeding in fresh water). The crucial character of the above-mentioned barriers in the estuary areas of the Roer is reinforced by the fact that these are the only barriers in the Dutch part of the Roer.

In the 1980s, a fish migration facility was built into the Hambeek (the third branch of the Roer in its lower reaches). This fish migration facility was constructed in accordance with the insight available at the time. But this facility is not functioning adequately as a fish ladder and needs to be modified.

Objectives

The aim of the project is to make possible for various species of fish to run up the Roer Delta. The species concerned are the Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*) and other Annex II species namely asp (*Aspius aspius*), bullhead (*Cottus gobio*), river lamprey (*Lampetra fluviatilis*), brook lamprey (*Lampetra planeri*), sea lamprey (*Petromyzon marinus*), bitterling (*Rhodeus sericeus subsp. amarus*) and weatherfish (*Misgurnis fossilis*). A major breeding area and habitat will be reopened for the fish species in question. The effects of this opening up lie in making suitable habitats again available in the mid and upper reaches of the

LIFE06 NAT/NL/000078

Roer Migration



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

Public enterprise

Name of beneficiary

Waterschap Roer en Overmaas

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Name of contact person

Peter Brouwers

Duration of project:

36 months (July 2006 – July 2009)

Total budget in euro:

2,440,658

EC contribution in euro with %:

1,220,329 (50 %)

Roer and its various tributaries. Even more significant is the opening up of the upstream breeding grounds for anadromous and reophilic fish species. These fish species can now progress through the total life cycle between salt water and freshwater. The efforts being made by the national government in the Meuse system are being concentrated on the optimisation of the passage from the North Sea to the entire Dutch section of the Meuse. These measures can now be linked to the efforts being made in Germany to breed a Roer stock salmon and sea trout. At the end, the barrier in the middle of the system between the North Sea and the upper reaches of the Roer will be eliminated.

The project will install fish migration facilities in the Roer Delta, such as fish ladders and to improve an already existing fish migration facility. The construction of the fish migration facilities will enable the populations of various species to re-colonise the area and use the Roer as a core area from where, through population growth, other areas can also be colonised.

Enhancing the Root vole habitat in the Hoeksche Waard

Official title

Connecting 3 pSCI around the Hoeksche Waard for Root Vole

Background

Three pSCIs are bounded on the island Hoeksche Waard in the south-west of the Netherlands. These pSCIs are Haringvliet, Hollandsch Diep and Oude Maas. All three are important areas for root vole (*Microtus oeconomus subsp. arenicola*). This subspecies is endemic to the low-lying parts of the Netherlands. It is estimated to be a relic of the Ice Age and is found in several scattered subpopulations that are in process of extinction. The main threats to the population are fragmentation, isolation, and loss of habitat, in part due to unfavourable site management and water management. The population in pSCI Oude Maas is estimated to be 0,2-0,5% of the Delta meta-population in south-west Holland. This population is estimated to be ca. 45-50% of the total Dutch, hence world, population.

The Hoeksche Waard Vlietproject, in which the present project Vlietmonding is embedded, will provide an ecological network of stepping stones and corridors along ancient creeks in the west and middle of the island Hoeksche Waard. The planned network connects all three pSCIs mentioned above. By this connection the isolation of the subpopulations of the Root voles living in and around the Hoeksche Waard will be lifted. The realisation of this network has started in 2004 and will be finished in 2009. Other important objectives of the Hoeksche Waard Vlietproject are to increase the water storage capacity, to improve the surface water quality, to increase the natural en landscape values and to improve accessibility and visibility of these values. The project has full commitment from all competent authorities as well as farmers and nature conservationists.

Objectives

The aim of the project Vlietmonding is to create an important stepping stone of 13,5 hectares on the south bank of the river Oude Maas. The project area lies within the dykes, not outside like the adjacent pSCI Oude Maas. It directly increases the area by ca. 8% of optimal and suitable habitat for the root vole.

LIFE06 NAT/NL/000079
VLIETMONDING



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

Local authority

Name of beneficiary

Commissie Hoeksche Waard

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Name of contact person

Soet Huijbregts

Duration of project:

34 months (Feb 2006 – Dec 2008)

Total budget in euro:

1,170,112

EC contribution in euro with %:

388,347 (33.19 %)

More importantly, the stepping stone will enable the relatively isolated subpopulation of the root vole living along the banks of the river Oude Maas to enter the Hoeksche Waard island and to connect the other isolated subpopulations in Haringvliet, Hollandsch Diep and Groote Gat, thus strongly reducing fragmentation and isolation. The project area will be included in pSCI Oude Maas. Following land purchase, two patches of agricultural land along the Vliet creek mouth will be converted into a nature reserve, with a mosaic of wet and dry parts. A regime of water management will be implemented in accordance with the specific requirements of the root vole, allowing for higher dynamics in water levels, wetter circumstances in general and in winter in particular. The nutritious soil of the existing agricultural areas will be taken away. Dikes, culverts, dams and ditches will be constructed to retain the water. The management of the vegetation will be very extensive, just enough to create optimal habitat for the root vole. Information will be given to stakeholders and the general public to win support.

Conservation of rare butterflies

LIFE06 NAT/PL/000100
Wetlands Butterflies



Official title

Conservation and upgrading of habitats for rare butterflies of wet, semi-natural meadows

Background

Four Natura 2000 sites are host of six endangered butterfly species: *Maculinea teleius*, *Maculinea nausithous*, *Lycaena helle*, *Lycaena dispar*, *Coenonympha oedippus*, and *Euphydryas aurinia*. These target species, owing to their ecology strongly linked to particular host species, occur on wet, semi-natural meadows. Due to extensive use of these meadows, the host organisms (plants and also ants for the genus type *Maculinea* butterflies) are threatened, involving consequently an important fall of the target species. The main threats are land abandonment, severe drainage, and intensification of agriculture, especially after the economic adjustment of these 20 last years. Present lack of awareness and communication among stakeholders in Natura 2000 sites, as well as lack of good management practices increase the risk that no actions or inadequate ones would be undertaken in terms of butterfly conservation.

Objectives

The main goal of the project is to secure the best possible conservation status and upgrade the quality of habitats of the target butterfly species: *Lycaena helle*, *Lycaena dispar*, *Maculinea teleius*, *Maculinea nausithous*, *Euphydryas aurinia*, *Coenonympha oedippus*.

The objectives of the project are to:

- reverse forest-succession of wet meadows inhabited by the target butterfly species and return them to extensive agricultural use;
- raise water level on drained wet meadows, which are losing host plant species of the target butterfly species;
- elaborate and implement specialised management optimal for the target species;
- develop integrated management systems for sites inhabited by the target species;

Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

NGO-Foundation

Name of beneficiary

Regional Environment Center for Central and Eastern Europe

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2000 Szentendre

POLAND

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Name of contact person

Marta Szigeti Bonifert

Duration of project:

44 months (Aug 2006 – March 2010)

Total budget in euro:

1,278,164

EC contribution in euro with %:

639,082 (50 %)

- secure the implementation of the mechanisms of sustainable conservation and EU-supported programmes in the NATURA 2000 sites, with special regards to the target species;
- raise public awareness and secure the implementation of good nature management in the NATURA 2000 sites.

The revival of the Polish bison

LIFE06 NAT/PL/000105
BISON-LAND



Official title

European Bison conservation in the Bialowieza Forest, Poland

Background

Currently, the European bison (*Bison bonasus*) has to face several threats. It is located in small and restricted areas, where the concentration of individuals is too high and food resources poor and declining. These areas are fragmented and isolated, involving low genetic diversity and high susceptibility to diseases. Furthermore, the species is not well accepted by local population.

Objectives

The major objective of the project is to set up a new strategy for the sustainable conservation of European bison in the Bialowieza Forest. Improvement of the current situation will be achieved by creating corridors in the surroundings of the Bialowieza primeval forest. Detailed plans of migration will be elaborated, checked on the ground and recommended for including into regional and local management plans. Various measures aimed at improving food sources and habitat conditions in the forest will be undertaken. These will include maintenance of meadows, construction of watering places, and introduction of tree species suitable for browsing. Dispersal of bison in and from the Bialowieza Forest will be stimulated by relocation of the winter feeding sites.

An effective system of bison population monitoring (including yearly censuses, satellite telemetry, and genetic studies) will be implemented. It will provide all the necessary information for the sustainable management of the species in a longer term. The attitude of local communities towards the European bison and its expansion to new areas will be improved by better information and educational activities. Potential conflicts caused by damages in crops caused by bison will be avoided by implementing a system of contracting meadows for bison feeding.

Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

Research institute

Name of beneficiary

Mammal Research Institute - Polish Academy of Science

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Name of contact person

Jan M. Wójcik

Duration of project:

48 months (Oct 2006 – Sept 2010)

Total budget in euro:

1,381,700

EC contribution in euro with %:

956,000 (69.19 %)

The development of tourism with bison as the main regional attraction will enhance its role in the development of the Podlasie region and make the species better accepted by local population.

Saving a rare seabird species in Madeira

Official title

Urgent measures for the recovery of Bugio's petrel, *Pterodroma feae*, and its habitat

Background

The Desertas islands in the Madeira Archipelago hold 90% of the breeding population of the rare Fea's Petrel, *Pterodroma feae* (173-258 specimens). The site has been classified as an SPA and also as a pSCI, due to its important biodiversity. It possesses a large number of birds from the Annex I of the Birds Directive, several of them breeding in the Islands, and plants and mammals from the Annex II of the Habitats Directive.

The main threats to the species are the disturbance and destruction of nests caused by rabbits; habitat degradation due to the introduction of vertebrates; concentration of at least 90% of the breeding population in a single limited area (<20.000m²); lack of knowledge of the existence of important feeding and dispersion areas for the species and of the direct and indirect impact of antropogenic activities; and predation by small mammals and other birds.

Objectives

The long-term aim of this project is to conserve a sustainable population of *Pterodroma feae*, and its breeding habitat, where many important species outlined in the Habitat Directive Annex II can be found. Actions include optimising conditions for the recovery of the breeding habitat, promoting the bird's expansion into new areas with available breeding habitat on Bugio and on Deserta Grande, identifying the important areas at sea during its life cycle, and encouraging public support for the conservation of the species and its habitat. The project also aims to create an accompanying group of the species that will thrive long after the project.

LIFE06 NAT/P/000184
SOS Freira do Bugio



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

Park-Reserve authority

Name of beneficiary

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Name of contact person

Paulo Oliveira

Duration of project:

48 months (Feb 2006 – Jan 2010)

Total budget in euro:

966,468

EC contribution in euro with %:

723,691 (74.88 %)

Recovering Iberian Lynx populations in Portugal

Official title

Recovery of Iberian Lynx habitat in Moura/Barrancos Site

Background

The Iberian lynx (*Lynx pardinus*) is currently considered Europe's most threatened carnivore and the world's most threatened feline. Native to the Iberian Peninsula, the species is listed in Annex II of the Habitat Directive, the Berne Convention and the Spanish and Portuguese national red data lists of vertebrates.

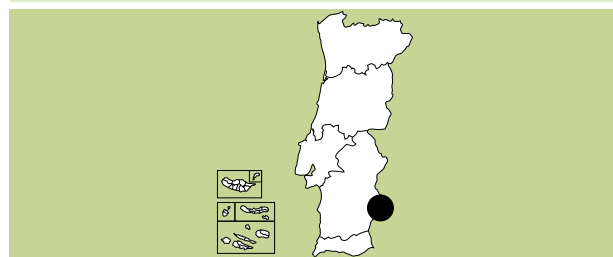
In the mid-nineteenth century the Iberian lynx was found throughout the Iberian Peninsula, but by 1960 it had been confined to the southwest corner of the peninsula. In 1980 Portugal's Iberian lynx population was estimated to be around 50 cats. This population is now believed to live in small, sparse pockets and is possibly facing extinction. The Malcata mountain range is one of such pocket, which extends across the border. The destruction of the lynx's preferred habitat, Mediterranean woodland, the increasing scarcity of its main prey, wild rabbit, and poaching have contributed to the decline in the lynx population over the last few decades.

Objectives

The Project aims to restore and maintain key areas of Iberian lynx habitat, and the connecting areas between them, through the promotion of long-term effective conservation management measures and awareness raising of the lynx within the Moura/Barrancos Natura 2000 site.

The site is one of the areas where the lynx is most likely to be found in Portugal due to its proximity to Andalusia. The region contains habitats that are suitable for lynx or that might be improved in order to insure the recovery or reintroduction of the species in the medium to long term. These areas are crucial to the maintenance of the populations in an Iberian and worldwide context.

LIFE06 NAT/P/000191
Lince Moura/Barrancos



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

NGO-Foundation

Name of beneficiary

Liga para a Protecção da Natureza

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Name of contact person

Isabel Pinto

Duration of project:

36 months (Oct 2006 – Sept 2009)

Total budget in euro:

493,443

EC contribution in euro with %:

370,082 (75 %)

The strategy for Moura/Barrancos is to link core areas of lynx habitat to allow the species to expand its habitat range. The project also aims to create good shelter and feeding conditions (that is, increasing rabbit populations) in the area.

Restoring marine diversity in Arrábida

Official title

Restoration and Management of Biodiversity in the Marine Park Site Arrábida-Espichel

Background

The Arrábida-Espichel site has been classified as a pSIC due to the high marine biodiversity of the area. It contains more than 1100 marine species of fauna and flora. The area is also used as a feeding and growing area by several species, comparable to the nursery roll of the estuaries. Seagrass meadows have central importance to this nursery function, guaranteeing shelter and food and contributing to the high local biodiversity. These *Zoostera marina* meadows are the last of their type in Portugal and the most meridional in Europe. Reduction of seagrass formations in recent years, from 30ha in 1983 to 0.006ha in 2006, has been due several threats including the illegal fishing practices (dredging for bivalves), the anchoring and mooring of recreational boats, the lack of seagrass recruitment possibilities within the site to allow for natural regeneration of meadows, and the lack of awareness of the local and visiting population.

A management plan for the area was approved in 2005. It regulates all activities within its limits, including fishing and recreational boat numbers.

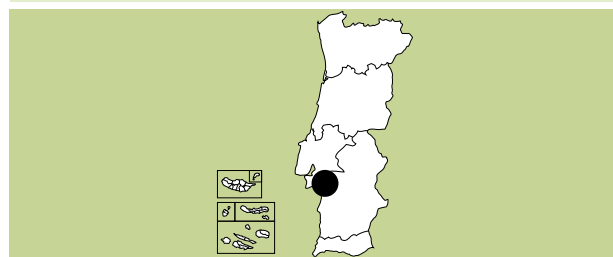
Objectives

The project proposes an active management strategy for reefs and the restoration of the sand banks, permanently covered with sea water.

The project goals are to restore the lost seagrass meadow at Portinho da Arrábida and reverse current over-exploitation and damage of these two rich habitats, which has led to the almost complete destruction of seagrass meadows and their associated biological diversity in what was the last truly marine example of this habitat on Atlantic Iberian coastlines.

LIFE06 NAT/P/000192

Biomares



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

Research institution

Name of beneficiary

Centro de Ciências do Mar do Algarve

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Name of contact person

Ester Serrão

Duration of project:

48 months (Jan 2007 – Jan 2011)

Total budget in euro:

2,364,438

EC contribution in euro with %:

1,182,219 (50 %)

Conserving Bonelli's Eagle in Portugal

Official title

Conservation of Tree Nesting Bonelli's Eagle in Portugal

Background

Bonelli's Eagle (*Hieraetus fasciatus*) is a medium-sized eagle that has a wingspan of 1.5 m and 1.8 m and weighs 1500-2400g. It is found in Mediterranean mountain areas, which offer protection for nesting and an abundance of prey (medium-size birds and mammals).

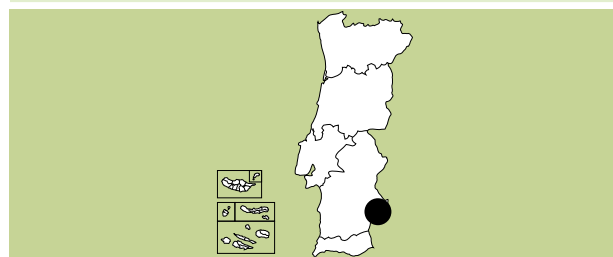
Numbers of the eagle have drastically declined in several European regions, namely France and the northern half of the Iberian Peninsula. Populations, however, in the Alentejo and Algarve are relatively stable. According to records from 1995 to 2003, the Portuguese population was 88 pairs compared with 900 pairs for the rest of Europe. The main threats to this species are the degradation of habitat (for example, construction work, fires, intensive forest activities), scarcity of trophic resources, juvenile mortality due to disease (mostly as a result of the consumption of domestic prey), hunting, impact of electric lines and wind farms, lack of knowledge and the absence of awareness of the general population.

Objectives

The main objective of the project is to maintain or increase the population of Bonelli's Eagle in South Portugal, the only large tree nesting population of the species at Europe. The project also aims to reduce the mortality rates and to increase the productivity of the breeding pairs. The project will address the threats prevalent to each region and monitor populations to determine the number of breeding pairs and population trends.

In addition, the project will contribute to management plans that preserve habitats and to awareness-raising initiatives. The project will work with governmental and non-governmental organisations on conservation activities and will promote the implementation of legal measures.

LIFE06 NAT/P/000194
Tree Nesting Bonelli's Eagle



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

NGO-Foundation

Name of beneficiary

Centro de Estudos de Avifauna Ibérica

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Name of contact person

Carla Janeiro

Duration of project:

48 months (Oct 2006 – Sept 2010)

Total budget in euro:

2,068,831

EC contribution in euro with %:

1,551,623 (75 %)

Conservation of the Small Island of Braila, in the Romanian Danube

Official title

Conservation, restoration and durable management in Small Island of Braila, Romania

Background

The Small Island of Braila (SIB) is located on the Lower Danube. Together with the Danube Delta Biosphere reserve and other ecological sites (i.e. the Iron Gate Natural Park), it forms an important part of the Danube Green Corridor.

The SIB is a particularly diverse area comprising various natural habitats of EU importance and rich populations of species listed in EC Birds and Habitat Directives.

It is also an important stopover site for many aquatic bird species. An integrated management plan for the SIB was set up under a former LIFE project (LIFE99 NAT/RO/006400), and its Natura 2000 designation as an Special Protection Area is currently underway (Sept 06). Incidentally, the Small Island of Braila received international recognition as a Ramsar site.

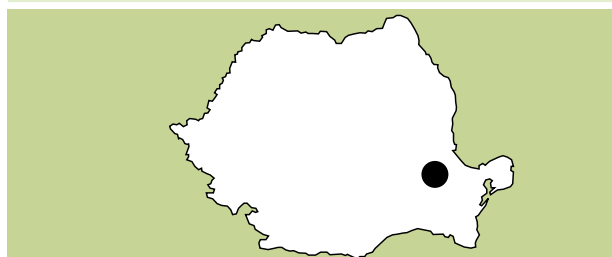
Objectives

The aim of the project is to guarantee the long-term conservation of habitats and species of European importance in the SIB Natural Park. This will be achieved through the implementation of the conservation plans developed in close cooperation with interested stakeholders during the previous LIFE Natura project. An area of almost 3000 ha of important habitats will be restored within the park. A better communication with local people and tourists is also foreseen in the project.

Amongst others, the following actions are planned:

- the dynamic water regime, which is threatened by siltation of a natural inflow channel, will be improved through dredging, to raise the water table on an area of almost 2500 ha
- the invasive alien indigo, *Amorpha fruticosa*, will be removed and replaced with a natural floodplain forest over an area of 212 ha.
- commercial popular plantations will be removed and replaced with a mixed-species natural floodplain forest, over a total surface of 449 ha.

LIFE06 NAT/RO/000172
RESTOREWETLANDS



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

Park-Reserve authority

Name of beneficiary

Small Island of Braila Natural Park Administration

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Name of contact person

Radu Moisei

Duration of project:

50 months (Sept 2006 – Oct 2010)

Total budget in euro:

978,419

EC contribution in euro with %:

489,209 (50 %)

Conservation and eco-management of eight Danube islands

Official title

Conservation and integrated management of Danube islands Romania

Background

The Romanian part of the Lower Danube, which includes the famous Danube Delta Biosphere reserve, is one of Europe's most outstanding freshwater regions. The hydrological dynamics of the Danube, its erosion and sedimentation processes, and its periodic flooding, have led to the creation of numerous islands along the transboundary part of the Danube between Romania (111 islands covering 11.063 ha) and Bulgaria (75 islands covering 10.713 ha). These islands hosting rich floodplain ecosystems including natural floodplain forest, sand banks, marshes and natural river channels.

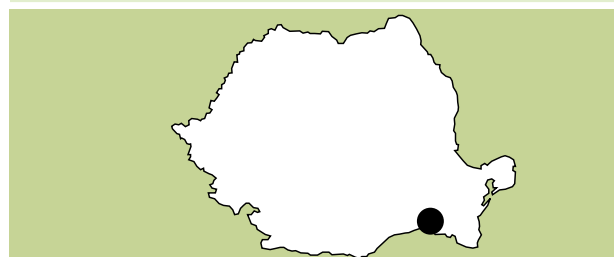
The main pressures on these natural habitats are the management practices of the floodplain forest (conversion into poplar plantations) and riverbank erosion due to ship traffic. On the Danube shores, most natural habitats have disappeared long ago. Fortunately, on the islands, 51% on average are still covered with natural habitats (natural floodplain forest, sand banks and marshes) of Annex I of the Habitat Directive. These islands do also represent important breeding, feeding and wintering sites for globally threatened bird species, including the Dalmatian pelican, the Pygmy cormorant, the Ferruginous Duck and the Saker Falcon.

Objectives

The project aims at improving the conservation status and protection regime of natural and semi-natural floodplain forest on 8 selected Danube islands, all of which will be fully designated as Natura 2000 sites by the date of Romania's EU accession. The following actions are planned:

- Forestry plans will be revised, and a new approach that combines sustainable management and conservation of species and their habitats will be promoted.

LIFE06 NAT/RO/000177
GREENDANUBE



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

National authority

Name of beneficiary

Environmental Protection Agency Calarasi

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Fax +40 242 315 035
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Name of contact person

Viorica Enache

Duration of project:

39 months (Sept 2006 – Aug 2010)

Total budget in euro:

567,953

EC contribution in euro with %:

283,977 (50 %)

- Practical pilot reforestation works will be implemented.
- The islands shoreline will be consolidated with natural material, to prevent excessive erosion on those sites most affected by boat traffic.
- The islands will be actively promoted as eco-tourism destinations and a strategy will be developed to encourage this.
- Training courses and seminars will be given to foresters and other key stakeholders.

As part of the new management approach, a certification model of the floodplain forest will be tested. The outstanding natural value of the islands will be actively communicated through the dissemination of the project results and through an active involvement of the local community in the project's implementation.

Protecting birds' habitats in Senne and Medzibodrozie

Official title

Conservation of Senne and Medzibodrozie SPAs in Slovakia

Background

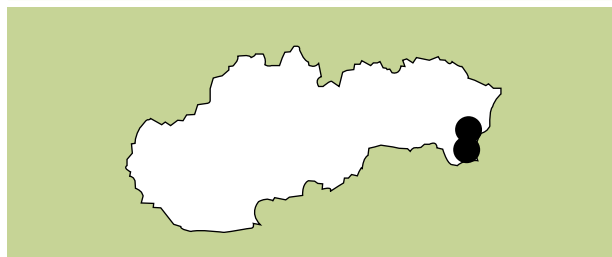
The project focuses on two SPAs located in eastern Slovakia, Senne SPA and Medzibodrozie SPA, both belonging to the most important breeding and resting sites of rare, endangered and vulnerable water birds in Slovakia, including migratory species. These two sites are Important Bird Areas and Ramsar sites.

In the past, the Senne depression and Medzibodrozie plains have been regularly flooded until the river regulation took place in the 1960s and 70s. In 1970s, a fishpond system was built in the Senne depression with a combined purpose of commercial fishery and bird protection. Nowadays, due to the unfavourable water regime caused by improper water management, the local wetland habitats are neither suitable for sound aqua-cultural production, nor are they sufficiently supporting wildlife. This, together with conflicting interest of local stakeholders (commercial fishery, hunting), disturbance, lack of public support and insufficient capacity of nature conservation authorities to address the problems, has resulted in an unfavourable conservation status of target bird species.

Objectives

The overall objective of the project is to restore favourable conservation status of breeding and migrating birds from Annex I of Bird Directive in Senne and Medzibodrozie SPAs through securing habitats in key locations. Project Management Plans will be ensured for both SPAs. The project will also take measures to improve small water management infrastructure and achieve favourable water regime in relevant localities. An aqua-environmental scheme will be developed and tested in order to secure sustainable financing of environmentally friendly management of wetlands. Land will be purchased within the Senne SPA site in order to secure control over the core areas for breeding and migrating birds. Conservation management of meadows leading to restoring and subsequent maintaining

LIFE06 NAT/SK/000114
SENNERESTSK



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

National authority

Name of beneficiary

Štátna ochrana prírody Slovenskej republiky / The State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic

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Name of contact person

Jan Mizerak

Duration of project:

60 months (Nov 2005 – Nov 2010)

Total budget in euro:

1,325,556

EC contribution in euro with %:

662,778 (50 %)

favourable conservation status of birds habitats will also be achieved by including lands in agro-environmental schemes in both SPAs. New localities with breeding and feeding habitats for relevant birds will be created in the Senne and Medzibodrozie SPAs. Finally, a small tourist infrastructure (watch towers, visitors boards, etc.) will be installed, and results gained during the project will be disseminated both in popular and in scientific presentations.

Protecting Sand Dunes in Zahorie Military Training Area

Official title

Restoration and Management of Sand Dunes Habitats in Zahorie Military Training Area

Background

In Slovakia the pannonic inland sand dunes and dry heaths are among the most seriously threatened natural ecosystems. They represent rather unique habitats for many rare plant and animal species. During the last few centuries the total area of these habitats in Slovakia has been dramatically reduced and the vast majority of remaining natural and semi-natural sand dunes and dry heaths have been seriously threatened by human interventions. The most significant have been the changes in their natural character, caused by the extensive afforestation and land reclamation schemes, abandonment of their traditional land uses and sand extraction. These changes have led to the substantial reduction of the areas covered by these habitats and to the dramatic decline of their biodiversity.

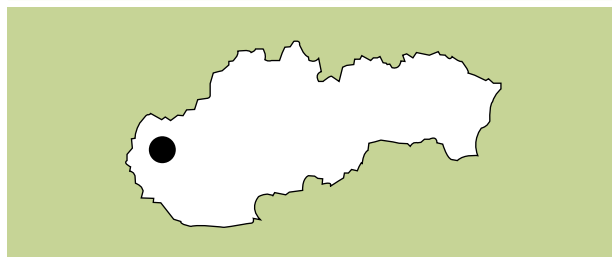
Objectives

The project focuses on the restoration of suitable habitat conditions and introduction of appropriate management on the most valuable remaining pannonic inland sand dunes and dry heaths at the territory of Military Training Area Zahorie, which is one of the most important areas in Slovakia not only for these particular habitats, but also for the biodiversity in general. It will therefore contribute to the development of the Natura 2000 network.

The project will take specific measures such as:

- Elaborate and test management planning to reconcile Natura 2000 conservation requirements with military use
- Reach and maintain favourable conservation status of the habitats and species targeted at 3 proposed Sites of Community Importance (pSCIs);
- Carry out habitat restoration work, notably against forest and scrubland succession, which is a major problem on the sites concerned;
- Raise awareness among the military staff and local communities on sand dunes and dry heaths conservation issues;

LIFE06 NAT/SK/000115
ZAHORIE SANDS



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

Research institution

Name of beneficiary

Military Technical and Testing Institute Zahorie

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Name of contact person

Petras Frantisek

Duration of project:

58 months (Sept 2006 – June 2011)

Total budget in euro:

1,538,438

EC contribution in euro with %:

1,076,900 (70 %)

- Strengthen the cooperation between the military and nature conservation institutions on nature conservation management on military training areas.

A recovery plan for the giant lizard in the La Gomera island

Official title

Program for the recovery of *Gallotia bravoana* and its distribution area

Background

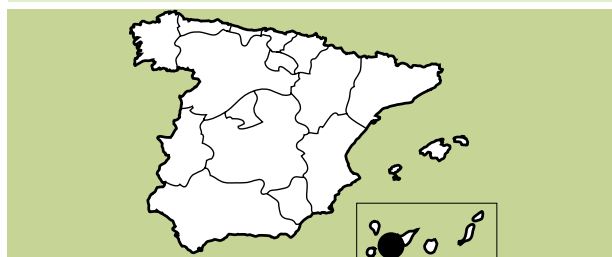
The giant La Gomera lizard (*Gallotia bravoana*) is a large saurian endemic to the Island of La Gomera. Until June 1999 it was considered extinct. The rediscovery of a population on the cliffs of La Mérica (Valle Gran Rey) has allowed the development of a recovery plan for the species based on the protection of their habitat and the search for other populations in appropriate areas of the island. The plan obtained an important input with the concession of a Life Project (O2NAT/E/008614), especially regarding measures directed at the control of introduced predators, environmental education, and in the development of a captive breeding program. In the last few years the natural population has grown significantly and the construction of a breeding Centre has allowed the number of individuals in captivity to grow up to 44. There are six main threats to this lizard: human alteration of their habitat, predation from introduced predators (i.e. cats), deterioration of habitat due to introduced herbivores, reduced distribution area (less than one ha), the populations reduced size and their scarce genetic diversity. *Gallotia bravoana* - part of the Giant Canarian Lizards complex (*Gallotia simonyi* group) - is considered as a species in "danger of extinction". The area of distribution of the species is included entirely in the limits of Valle Gran Rey Rural Park and a pSCI site.

Objectives

The project has five objectives. It will first prepare the areas selected for the release of new populations (areas of Community Importance that have maintained until recent times populations of the species) to eliminate or to minimize the main threats. It will then carry out at least two experimental reintroductions with individuals born in captivity while protecting the already known populations from the effects of the main threats (specially from the introduced predators). It will reinforce the captive breeding program begun in 2001, and finally it will develop environmental education campaigns, specially those addressed at the La Gomera Population

LIFE06 NAT/E/000199

Gallotia Bravoana



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

Regional authority

Name of beneficiary

Excmo. Cabildo Insular de la Gomera

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Name of contact person

Casimiro Curbelo Curbelo

Duration of project:

42 months (Aug 2006 – Jan 2010)

Total budget in euro:

893,595

EC contribution in euro with %:

487,892 (54.60 %)

Enhancing Iberian lynx populations in Andalusia

Official title

Conservation and reintroduction of the Iberian lynx in Andalusia

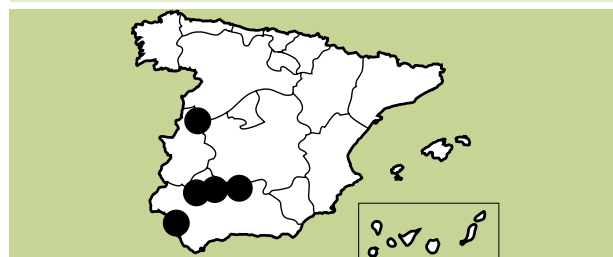
Background

The Iberian lynx is the most threatened carnivorous mammal in Europe. This medium-sized feline (8-14 kg) lives in areas characterised by a mixture of dense woodland, Mediterranean scrub and pasture, especially areas with an abundance of rabbits and where interference from humans is minimal. Up to the XIXth century, the species could be found in all the regions of Spain and Portugal. Since then, and particularly in the last decades of the XXth century, its population and distribution area have suffered an alarming decline mainly due to rabbit epidemics and loss of habitat. At present, the population is barely 100 individuals in only two unconnected regions of Andalusia, Andújar-Cardena and Doñana. This catastrophic trend was partially reversed by a former LIFE project (LIFE 02/E/8609) that succeeded in stabilising the situation by maintaining collaboration with landowners and hunters, improving habitat conditions and managing rabbit populations. A wide and massive awareness raising campaign was also carried out. However, the need for additional efforts was apparent. Many deaths were occurring as a result of road accidents.

Objectives

The project targets a global and comprehensive strategy for the conservation of the Iberian Lynx in Andalusia. The aim is to allow maintenance and stabilisation of the existing populations, increase the number of individuals, and create new territories and connectivity between isolated subpopulations. In addition, the project searches to enhance genetic variability of current populations by translocating specimens from Andujar-Cardena to Doñana. The first trial of reintroduction in the wild of individuals brought up in captivity is also to be tested for the first time. As a basis for this strategy, the project's main objective is to obtain self-sustainable rabbit populations in all Lynx distribution areas and in those areas destined for future reintroductions. During the project a Recovery Plan for

LIFE06 NAT/E/000209
INTRODUCCIÓN LINCE ANDALUCIA



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

Regional authority

Name of beneficiary

Junta de Andalucía. Consejería de Medio Ambiente

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Name of contact person

Cecilia Gañán de Molina

Duration of project:

60 months (Aug 2006 – July 2011)

Total budget in euro:

25,971,489

EC contribution in euro with %:

9,869,166 (38 %)

the Iberian Lynx will be approved in Andalusia. All these actions are to be accompanied by a wide and massive awareness raising campaign helping to gain a constructive attitude of the population, especially in the areas concerned.

Wetlands restoration along the channel of Castilla

Official title

Wetland restoration and management: Canal de Castilla Special Protection Area

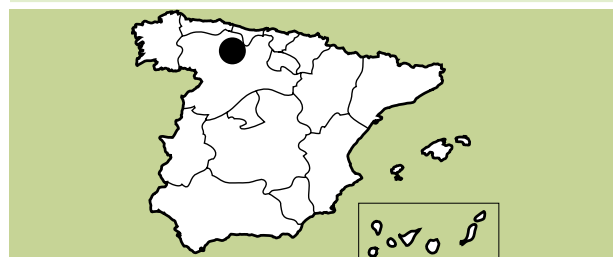
Background

The Channel of Castilla is an artificial watercourse of 207 km built in the 18th century to communicate the centre of the Castilian plains with the sea. The use of the channel was abandoned with the onset of the railway beginning of the 20th century. The 207 km covered by this watercourse include two SPAs: La Nava-Campos Norte and La Nava-Campos Sur, as well as a SPA/SCI Lagunas del Canal de Castilla. The two first SPAs are open areas of great importance for the steppe birds and apart from the ponds of the Channel of Castilla, include two important steppe lagoons, namely La Nava and Boada.

The Channel hosts a series of 35 ponds in its banks distributed between the North Branch and the Branch of Campos. All these wetlands have legal protection under both the Community (as SPA or SCI) and the autonomous legislation (Regional Catalogue of Wetlands). All of them make up a geographical unit independent of the steppe area where they are included and therefore, they share common problems. These wetlands are under destruction or serious alteration due to a series of threats: former drainage projects, soil breakdown for crops or livestock activities; lack of actions aimed at water control of lagoons and helophytic vegetation management; water extraction for crops, marsh vegetation burning, illegal hunting and fishing, dumping; lack of consideration for wetlands among the local populations; lack of information on flora and fauna communities related to the wetlands; negative impact of the wild boar (*Sus scrofa*) and the American mink (*Mustela vison*).

These wetlands are of special importance for the conservation, particularly two species, considered as priority species for LIFE funding by the Ornithological Committee, the bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*) and the aquatic warbler (*Acrocephalus paludicola*). The three sites are also host to sizeable populations of other bird species (many of which can be found in Annex 1 to Directive 79/409/EEC) and to valuable stands of vegetation.

LIFE06 NAT/E/000213
Canal de Castilla



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

NGO-Foundation

Name of beneficiary

Fundación 2001 Global Nature

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Name of contact person

Fernando Jubete Tazo

Duration of project:

48 months (Oct 2006 – Sept 2010)

Total budget in euro:

1,593,448

EC contribution in euro with %:

637,379 (40 %)

Objectives

The aim of the project is to implement a program for the recovery, management, and monitoring of 35 small wetlands associated to the Canal of Castilla (Palencia, Spain,) including three SPAs and one SCI. The project will recover wetlands that have been seriously disturbed and even drained in recent years, as well the management of helophytic vegetation to achieve a habitat suitable for the needs of species of water birds listed in Annex I of Directive 79/439EEC that have a recovery Action Plan in the European Union, particularly species such as the bittern and aquatic warbler. It will also enhance the appreciation of the wetlands of the Canal of Castilla among the local community by preparing material for divulgation and environmental education and information activities. These actions should lead to the direct or indirect creation of local employment.

Safe overhead electricity cables for Birds in Murcia

Official title

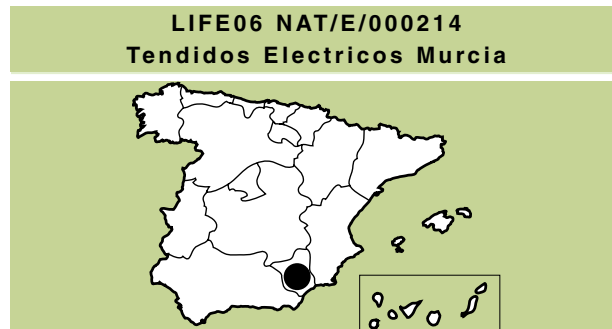
Correction of Dangerous Overhead Cables in Special Protection Areas for Birds in the Region of Murcia

Background

The Regional Government of Murcia has been developing for several years a programme to check the power lines in some SPAs of the region in order to assess the danger for birds. The most threatened species by the overhead cables are the raptors - Bonelli's eagle (*Hieraaetus fasciatus*), the golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), the eagle owl (*Bubo bubo*), the Griffon vulture (*Gyps fulvus*), the peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), the short-toed eagle (*Circaetus gallicus*) - which together with the red-billed chough (*Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*), led to the designation of five SPAs (Sierra de Mojantes, Sierra de Espuña, Monte el Valle y Sierras de Altaona y Escalona, Sierra de la Muela y Cabo Tiñoso and Sierra del Gigante-Pericay, Lomas del Buitre-Río Lucena y Sierra de la Torrecilla). Among the threatened species found in this SPA network, one is considered as priority for LIFE funding: the Bonelli's eagle. Broadly, the five targeted SPAs host a high ecological value concerning both the habitats and the species included in the Annexes of the Habitats and Birds Directives.

Objectives

The aim of the project is to implement the strategy devised by the Regional Government of Murcia for the correction of the overhead cables to the conservation needs of 5 SPAs of the Natura 2000 regional network. To this end, correction measures of the overhead cables with highest risk for birds will be applied. Cooperation agreements with the main electricity companies will be established and developed with the purpose of remodelling dangerous equipments affecting SPAs. Regional legislation will be devised and implemented to ensure the integration of preventive measures in the design and installation of new overheads cables



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

Regional authority

Name of beneficiary

Región de Murcia.
Consejería de Industria y Medio Ambiente

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Name of contact person

Víctor Manuel Martínez Muñoz

Duration of project:

48 months (Jan 2007 – Dec 2010)

Total budget in euro:

1,826,559

EC contribution in euro with %:

913,279 (50 %)

for transport and distribution. Training courses will be given to technicians and field staff of the Dirección General del Medio Natural to apply the preventive and corrective measurements according to the electrical regional law. Experiences of environmental impacts detection and facilities control in the SPAs which allow its exportation to other areas in the Natura 2000 net will be tested. Finally, information activities will be implemented in the course of the project, to increase awareness in the public.

Maintaining the biodiversity of the river Mura

Official title

Conservation of biodiversity of the Mura river in Slovenia

Background

The bed of the river Mura that flows through Slovenia is well preserved, especially in the middle and lower stream, where is characterised by embankment erosion, deposition of the sand, flooding and side-channels. Deepening of the riverbed due to sand accumulation behind the dams of hydropower stations in Austria, however, has resulted in a greater risk of flooding. There are no dams on Slovenian river section but plans to rectify the situation are resurfacing.

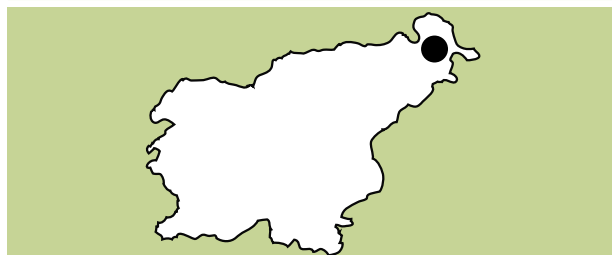
Alluvial forests listed on the Annex I of the Habitats Directive are spreading along the river and its branches and some wet grasslands. The changing ground water level is no longer optimal for the long-term growing of alluvial forests and grasslands and could lead to the growth of other types of vegetation that might affect the management and introduction of fast-growing tree species.

The project area is proposed as a Natura 2000 site, but without adequate management of the area – for example, opening and cleaning of the side channels – ecologically sensitive flooded vegetation and other species could not survive.

Objectives

The main aim of the project is to ensure conservation of existing natural resources and biodiversity and to restore the ecological character of the Mura river corridor to meet the needs of the wetland ecology. The project is particularly focused on conservation of four habitat types, listed on the Annex I of the Habitats Directive, including one priority habitat type (Alluvial forests with alder *Alnus glutinosa* and ash *Fraxinus excelsior*) and to the species from the Annex II (one amphibian, five types of fish and one dragonfly species). There are also 10 targeted bird species, listed on the Annex I to the Birds Directive. The project area is included in the list of Natura 2000 sites (pSCI and SPA).

LIFE06 NAT/SI/000066
BIOMURA



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

Research institution

Name of beneficiary

Institute for Water of the Republic of Slovenia/Institut za Vode Republike Slovenije

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Name of contact person

Mitja Starec

Duration of project:

61 months (Oct 2006 – Oct 2011)

Total budget in euro:

1,975,519

EC contribution in euro with %:

969,385 (49.07 %)

The main actions are the removal of revetments to stimulate side erosion and widening the river profile, introduction of rock-fill riffle to raise water levels during low and average flows, reopening of the side-channels and introduction of a system of wooden sluices to raise groundwater tables. Moreover, standing water habitats will be restored for amphibians and dragonflies, and wet grasslands will be improved providing habitats for butterflies and birds. Information and awareness-raising materials including a film on the importance of restoration for biodiversity will be produced.

Protecting an intermittent lake in Slovenia

Official title

Intermittent Cerknica Lake

Background

Slovenia is very rich in karstic landscape. Its turloughs (intermittent lakes) are listed in Annex I of the Habitat Directive and include Cerknica Lake, the largest turlough in Europe. Cerknica has a flood area that can reach up to 29 km² in its aquatic phase. The water drains through underground caves or sinks through swallow holes in the bottom of the lake. In the terrestrial phase the bottom consists of different habitat types that are favourable for the nesting of endangered bird species listed in Annex II and for amphibians or butterflies.

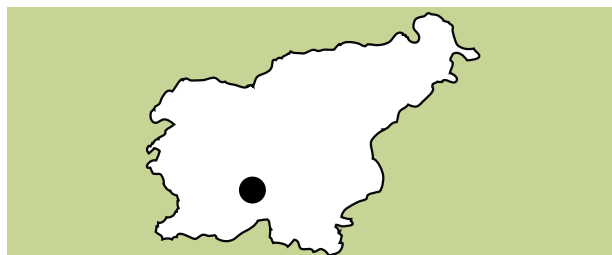
Steps have been taken in the past to improve the lake's drainage and to prolong the aquatic phase, resulting in changes to the natural habitats. In the past few decades management of wet grasslands by farmers has declined due to the poor quality of the hay, also contributing to habitat change. The local community, however, has recently established Regional Park that extends over 220 km². Cerknica Lake is its central focus and has been proposed as a NATURA 2000 site.

Objectives

The goal of the project is to ensure long-term favourable conditions for the conservation of turloughs and other endangered habitat types. The main focus is to restore watercourses that had been levelled in order to ensure faster outflow of water. The purpose of this work is to prolong the drainage time and to hold back the water in the driest summer months. Raising the level of groundwater, particularly on the marches and close to riverbeds or watercourses, is an important factor in conserving endangered habitat types and species. In addition, abandoned wet grasslands, suitable habitats for corncrake, will be purchased, mowed and mulched, and young trees will be cut.

LIFE06 NAT/SI/000069

Cernisko Jezero



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

Park-Reserve authority

Name of beneficiary

Notranjski Regijski Park

Postal Address

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SLOVENIA
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Fax +386 41 718 502
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Name of contact person

Valentin Schein

Duration of project:

36 months (July 2007 – Dec 2009)

Total budget in euro:

1,840,584

EC contribution in euro with %:

1,340,554 (72.83 %)

The Notranjsko Regional Park, beneficiary of the project, will prepare the required technical plans for the restoration of all watercourses in the lake. It will raise awareness of nature-friendly farming and agricultural policy and highlight the positive objectives of nature protection. The project marks the beginning of the long-term restoration of former watercourses, and the research of natural processes.

Protecting Hejnum Kallgate's unique wetlands

Official title

Restoration of the Wetland Area of Hejnum Kallgate

Background

Hejnum Kallgate is a unique wetland area in the north of Gotland. The area is situated between the Ancylyus shingle beach ridge in the west and the Litorina shingle ridge in the east. Between the two ridges the ground is very flat, leading to slow outflow of water. The exceptionally distinctive hydrologic conditions prevailing in the area have created a suitable habitat for many distinctive species of vascular plants and fauna. Several species and subspecies are endemic to this area, and several other species of vascular plants cannot be found anywhere else on Gotland than within the Hejnum Kallgate area.

Objectives

The project aims at achieving a number of interrelated objectives:

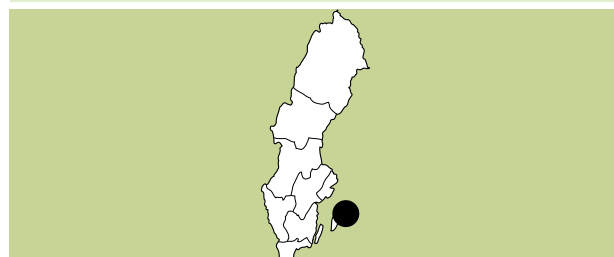
- Protecting the priority Bog woodland habitat within the Hejnum Kallgate area,
- Protecting the unique distribution of rare Alkaline fens (260 hectares) within the Hejnum Kallgate area,
- Protecting Gotland's main locality for the marsh fritillary (*Euphydryas aurinia*) butterfly, achieving an increase by 50% from 242 larva colonies in 2004
- Protecting Gotland's sole locality for the lay's slipper (*Cypripedium calceolus*) and maintaining the number at 50-100 specimens or preferably increase the numbers.

These objectives will be met through various actions: Firstly a few preparatory actions: workplans, air photos, hydrological study.

The main bulk of the work will focus on the implementation of protection plans, i.e. restoration and conservation of habitats. The project will notably clear some 160 ha Bog woodland and set up 16.3 km fences as well as create a permanent closure of 3.2 km near a main road with heavy traffic.

LIFE06 NAT/S/000113

RestHejK



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

Regional authority

Name of beneficiary

Länsstyrelsen på Gotland

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Name of contact person

Tomas Johansson

Duration of project:

60 months (Sept 2006 – Aug 2011)

Total budget in euro:

762,575

EC contribution in euro with %:

381,287 (50 %)

Finally the project include awareness-raising campaigns: creation of a small parking and information area, watch tower, foot paths of 7.3km

Restoring blanket bogs in the Wales

Official title

Restoring active blanket bog in the Berwyn and Migneint SACs in Wales

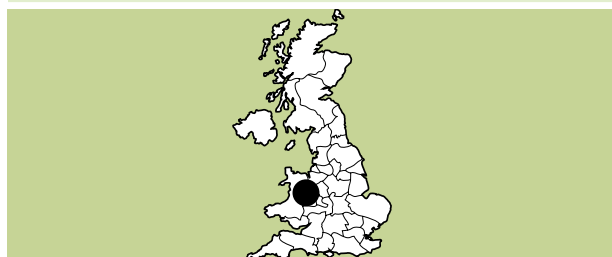
Background

The project is taking place on the Berwyn and South Clwyd Mountains, as well as the Migneint Arenig Dduallt Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), which are two of the most important SACs for blanket bog in the UK. Most of the former site and all of the latter site are also designated as SPAs for their breeding upland bird populations. Some of the blanket bog within the project is managed within the RSPB's Lake Vyrnwy Reserve but most is managed by private farmers in ways that are detrimental to its conservation status. As a result, much of the blanket bog within the SACs is in unfavourable condition, in particular from the direct and indirect effects of the digging of numerous drainage ditches in and around the blanket bog in the 1920s and 1930s to improve the agricultural value of the land. Extensive areas of blanket bog and other habitats in the Berwyn and Migneint uplands were also planted with Sitka spruce (*Picea sitchensis*) in the 1970s and substantial areas have been invaded by rhododendron (*Rhododendron ponticum*) and Sitka Spruce seedlings. On the remaining areas of blanket bog, heather (*Calluna vulgaris*) has been lost due to over-grazing, and/or inappropriate burning management and uncontrolled fires. The bog habitat may also be threatened by future climate change, which is likely to lead to wetter winters (with increased erosion problems) and drier summers (which may be unsuitable for some bog plants).

Objectives

The purpose of the project is to bring about a significant and sustained improvement in the condition of blanket bog in key parts of two SACs in Wales, and to catalyse complementary work elsewhere in these SACs and more widely. The sites concerned are the Berwyn and South Clwyd Mountains SAC and the Migneint Arenig Dduallt SAC, and are two of the most important SACs for blanket bog in the UK. All of the blanket bog targeted by the project is either active

LIFE06 NAT/UK/000134
Active Blanket Bog in Wales



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

NGO-Foundation

Name of beneficiary

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

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Name of contact person

Nick Folkard

Duration of project:

56 months (Aug 2006 – March 2011)

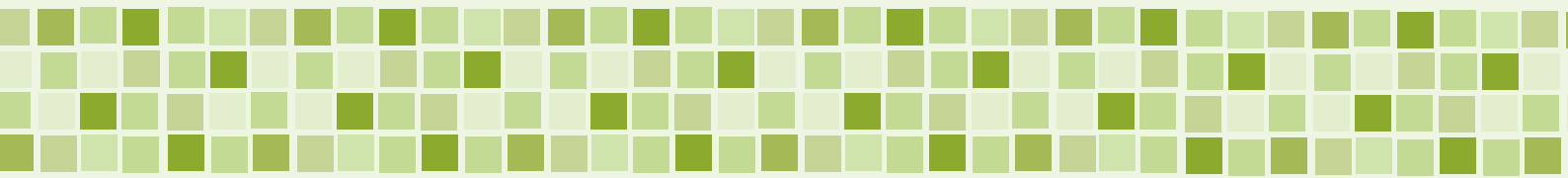
Total budget in euro:

3,765,394

EC contribution in euro with %:

2,824,046 (75 %)

at present or will be returned to activity through the project actions. More specifically, the project seeks to implement restoration and conservation actions over 5,039 ha of the Berwyn and South Clwyd Mountains SAC, benefiting 2,955 ha of blanket bog within the SAC. Practical restoration and conservation actions will also be carried out over 440 ha of the Migneint Arenig Dduallt SAC, benefiting 274 ha of blanket bog within this SAC. Finally, extensive advocacy and advisory work will be carried out aimed at local land managers, local communities in general, and groups involved in the conservation of blanket bog elsewhere in Wales, the UK and Europe.



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A great deal of additional information on the European Union is available on the Internet. It can be accessed through the Europa server (<http://europa.eu>).

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