

LIFE-Nature 2005: Commission provides €69 million to 54 nature conservation projects in 20 countries

The European Commission has approved funding for 54 nature conservation projects, in 20 Member States or acceding countries, under the LIFE-Nature programme 2005. The projects will restore protected nature areas and their fauna and flora, establish sustainable management structures and strengthen public awareness and cooperation with stakeholders. They will thus further contribute to the creation of the EU-wide Natura 2000 network of protected sites. The projects are situated in Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom and Romania. They represent a total investment of €125 million, of which the EU will cover €69 million.

Environment Commissioner Stavros Dimas said: "I am delighted to see European funds supporting local, regional and national efforts to conserve natural species and habitats. Having visited LIFE-Nature sites myself, I have seen the difference this dynamic collaboration can make".

LIFE-Nature in 2005

This year, the Commission received 183 proposals for funding through the LIFE-Nature programme from partnerships of various conservation bodies, government authorities, NGOs, anglers' and hunters' associations, etc. The Commission selected 54 of those projects, nine of which involve two or more countries.

Most projects aim at conserving or restoring Natura 2000 sites or networks of sites, designing and implementing management or action plans, improving watercourses, restoring sites, laying the foundations for long-term site management and eliminating invasive species. In addition, several projects aim at breeding and releasing endangered species into the wild or at reducing the by-catch of fishing.

Background

Natura 2000 is an EU-wide network of special areas of conservation and protection. It was set up under the EU Habitats Directive¹ and also incorporates sites identified under the Birds Directive². Altogether, it comprises over 18,000 sites and covers approximately 17.5% of the territory of the 15 original EU Member States – an area almost as large as France – and is now being extended to the 10 new Member States.

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.

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. Its objective is to contribute to the development and implementation of EU environmental policy by financing specific actions. Since 1992, LIFE has co-financed some 2,500 projects, contributing €1,500 million to the protection of the environment.

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

The current LIFE programme ("LIFE III") finishes at the end of 2006. The Commission has proposed a new programme called "LIFE +", which would run from 2007-2013 with a budget of €2.19 billion. The proposal is currently under discussion in the Council of Ministers and the European Parliament.

More detailed information about each project is available at:

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/life/project/index.htm>.

More information about the Natura 2000 network can be found at:

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/nature/home.htm>

Index of projects selected in 2005

Location	Project number	Title of project
AUSTRIA	LIFE05 NAT/A/000077 Grosstrappe	Working under ground for the great bustard
	LIFE05 NAT/A/000078 LIFE - Gesäuse	A peak for bears, bullheads and yellow bellied toads
BELGIUM	LIFE05 NAT/B/000085 Loutre BeLu 2005-2006	Otter families united
	LIFE05 NAT/B/000087 Cx SCAILLE	Valleys and Moors of Croix Scaille
	LIFE05 NAT/B/000088 Natura2mil	Natura2Mil
	LIFE05 NAT/B/000089 PLTTAILLES	Bogs on the plate
	LIFE05 NAT/B/000090 Life Grote Nete	Landscape mosaics in the Grote Nete valley
	LIFE05 NAT/B/000091 Dommeldal	A natural kingdom in the valley of Dommel
DENMARK	LIFE05 NAT/DK/000150 RERABOG-DK	Raising bogs in Denmark
	LIFE05 NAT/DK/000151 ASPEA	Devil's bit and butterflies
	LIFE05 NAT/DK/000153 Houting	Houting in bed
FINLAND	LIFE05 NAT/FIN/000104 Vattajan dyyni LIFE	LIFE in the dunes of Finland
	LIFE05 NAT/FIN/000105 Ansery-Eur	Looking for the Anser
FRANCE	LIFE05 NAT/F/000134 LIFE TRANSFERT	The French-Spanish raptor connection
	LIFE05 NAT/F/000135 Life plateau de Montselgues	Restoring heath and peat lands
	LIFE05 NAT/F/000137 Dougall	New nests for sea birds
	LIFE05 NAT/F/000139 CONSAVICOR	Re-opening Mediterranean habitats
GERMANY	LIFE05 NAT/D/000051 Cuxhavener Küstenheiden	Coastal meadows in Cuxhaven
	LIFE05 NAT/D/000053 ROSTAM	Rosenheimer master basin bogs
	LIFE05 NAT/D/000055 Osteifel	Junipers on top of the Eifel
	LIFE05 NAT/D/000056 Oberer Hotzenwald	A wealth of life on top of the Hotzenwald
	LIFE05 NAT/D/000057 Lippe-Aue	Letting the Lippe loose

Location	Project number	Title of project
GERMANY	LIFE05 NAT/D/000111 Salzstellen Brandenburgs	Add salt to the inland marshes in Brandenburg
	LIFE05 NAT/D/000152 BALTCOAST	Baltic coastal lagoons
GREECE	LIFE05 NAT/GR/000083 MOFI	Hellenic monks at sea
HUNGARY	LIFE05 NAT/H/000117 GRASSHABIT	Hungarian grass habits
	LIFE05 NAT/H/000122 F.VESPERTINUS-HU/RO	Nests for red-footed Falcon
IRELAND	LIFE05 NAT/IRL/000182 RPWHI	Paving the way for woodlands
ITALY	LIFE05 NAT/IT/000009 RAPACI LUCANI	Rapt with raptors
	LIFE05 NAT/IT/000026 LIFENAT Fortore 2005	Damned water
	LIFE05 NAT/IT/ 000037DUNETOSCA	Secure dunes and wetlands
	LIFE05 NAT/IT/000050 HABI.COAST	Naturalising dunes in Brindisi
LITHUANIA	LIFE05 NAT/LT/000094 NELEAP	Save the Baltic turtles
	LIFE05 NAT/LT/000095 LITCOAST	Protecting the Lithuanian Curonian lagoon
LUXEMBURG	LIFE05 NAT/L/000116 Ardmouperl	A new life for pearl mussels
LATVIA	LIFE05 NAT/LV/000100 Baltic MPAs	Save the Baltic
THE NETHERLANDS	LIFE05 NAT/NL/000124 Dutch Coastal Dunes	Saving the Dutch dunes
POLAND	LIFE05 NAT/PL/000101 Aquatic Warbler project	Action Plan for German and Polish singers
ROMANIA	LIFE05 NAT/RO/000155 RENAT2000PRUTPARK	Renaturalising the Prutpark
	LIFE05 NAT/RO/000158 Saving V.u. rakosiensis	Rare snakes on the loose in Transylvania
	LIFE05 NAT/RO/000169 SAVEDP	Dalmatians in the Danube
	LIFE05 NAT/RO/000170 LCVNRO	Mountain ranges for brown bears, wolf and lynx
	LIFE05 NAT/RO/000176 Forest-Alp NATURA 2000	Putting Romania on the map

Location	Project number	Title of project
SPAIN	LIFE05 NAT/E/000058 BASSES	Save the minor ponds
	LIFE05 NAT/E/000060 Res. Habitats Anf. Com. Val	Spring for tufa and toads
	LIFE05 NAT/E/000067 LIFE AIAKO HARRIA	Back to native forest
	LIFE05 NAT/E/000073 GERVE	Galleries for the European mink
SLOVAKIA	LIFE05 NAT/SK/000112 WETREST	Watering Slovakian lowlands
	LIFE05 NAT/SK/000115 OTISSK	Prevent great bustard extinction
SWEDEN	LIFE05 NAT/S/000108 ROSORIS	Hermits and horses in the meadows of Östergötland
	LIFE05 NAT/S/000109 Moälvsprojektet ReMo	From the mountain to the deep blue sea
UNITED KINGDOM	LIFE05 NAT/UK/000141 Canna Seabirds	Seabirds of Canna
	LIFE05 NAT/UK/000142 ERDUK	Launching the white headed duck
	LIFE05 NAT/UK/000143 STREAM	STREAM

Working under ground for the great bustard

Official title

Cross-border Protection of the Great Bustard in Austria

Background

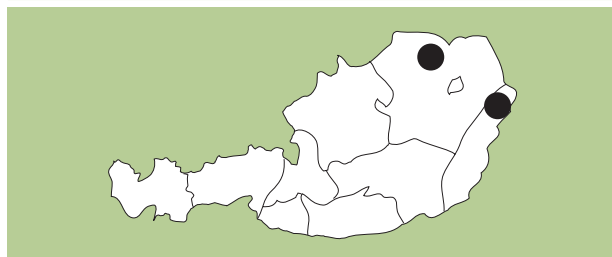
In Austria, collision with power lines is currently the main cause of premature death of great bustards. In one Austrian sub-population, nearly 20% of the 45 adult birds died in this way within one year (2003). Additional threats to the long-term survival of great bustards in Austria are predation, intensive farming, habitat fragmentation and human disturbance.

By means of habitat improvement, the population of great bustards in Austria is now stable and even slightly increasing. The Austrian breeding population is part of the West Pannonian population of great bustards of which a significant part spends the winter in Austria. The present project complements ongoing or recently started great bustard projects in the neighbouring countries Hungary and Slovakia. A secure and healthy Austrian population could play a key role in establishing a breeding population in the Czech Republic where the bustard is currently present but not breeding.

Objectives

The main objective of the LIFE project is to reduce the risk of great bustards (*Otis tarda*) colliding with overhead power lines. About 42 km of aerial medium-voltage power lines that disturb the great bustard's flight into its resting areas in Austria will be removed and laid underground. Additionally, some 125 km of aerial high-voltage lines will be provided with bird protection markings. A workshop will be held to discuss different methods of marking of aerial power lines and long-term monitoring will reveal whether power line marking is a successful means to prevent great bustards from colliding with the lines.

LIFE05 NAT/A/000077
GROSSTRAPPE



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

NGO-Foundation

Name of beneficiary

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Duration of project:

60 months (July 2005 – June 2010)

Total budget in euro:

5,840,760.00

EC contribution in euro with %:

3,504,456.00 (60.00%)

To obtain more knowledge on other threats and causes of mortality, habitat use and population trends of the great bustard will be monitored. To gather more information of movements of great bustards by telemetry, a feasibility study will be carried out. Close cooperation with local farmers will be prioritised in order to encourage the active management of suitable great bustard habitats. Networking and collaboration with similar projects in neighbouring countries as well as a strong cooperation with conservation experts is planned.

A peak for bears, bullheads and yellow bellied toads

Official title

Conservation strategies for woodlands and rivers in the Gesäuse Mountains

Background

The Nationalpark Gesäuse covers around 14,530 ha. Its spectacular river gorges are one of the most famous landscapes in Austria. Efforts to preserve the area date back to the beginning of the 20th century. The area is now classified as a category II national park, corresponding to the criteria of IUCN – the World Conservation Union. The project area covers 10,300 ha, encompassing two Natura 2000 sites, and holds an impressive 25 habitats of European importance. Seven of the 25 are prioritised habitats in the EU Habitats Directive. One priority habitat, “Bushes with dwarf mountain pine (*Pinus mugo*) and Rhododendron *hirtutum*”, alone covers around 14% of the project area. Some 16 bird species listed on Annex I of the Bird's Directive are resident in the area. Brown bears (*Ursus arctos*) have also been observed regularly, albeit in small numbers, since 2003. The Gesäuse and its adjacent areas have a potential as an important trans-regional corridor for large migrating species.

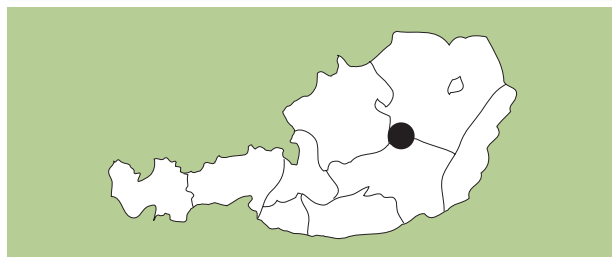
Major threats to the habitats and species in the area stem from regulation of water courses, intensive forestry practices, tourism, traffic and abandonment or intensified use of mountain pastures.

Objectives

The project aims to improve natural habitats surrounding the River Ens and the Johnsbach brook by encouraging the establishment of an ecologically functioning wetland along the water courses and their main tributaries. Species that will benefit from restoration of the river habitats include otter (*Lutra lutra*), Ukrainian brook lamprey (*Eudontomyzon mariae*), bullhead (*Cottus gobio*) and common kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*).

The project will also take important first steps towards a long-term goal of converting the forest from spruce dominated, monoculture forests to natural mixed forests.

LIFE05 NAT/A/000078
LIFE - GESÄUSE



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

Park-Reserve authority

Name of beneficiary

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Duration of project:

61 months (July 2005 – Aug 2010)

Total budget in euro:

2,363,205.00

EC contribution in euro with %:

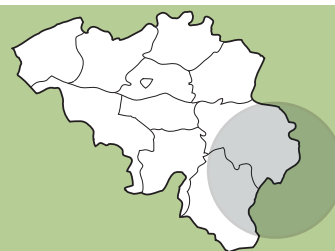
1,181,603.00 (50.00%)

To preserve mountain pastures and species such as black grouse (*Tetrao tetrix*) and yellow bellied toad (*Bombina variegata*), the project will regulate grazing intensity and access to drinking water on mountain pastures in the project area.

Overall, the restoration activities will contribute to a greater connectivity and complexity of the landscape. All activities will be supported by public relations activities, including information panels and brochures. Specially trained wardens will provide visitors with guidance and information on the habitats and wider landscape.

Otter families united

LIFE05 NAT/B/000085
LOUTRE BELU 2005-2006



Official title

Restoration of European otter habitats (Bel, Ger, Lux)

Background

Due to land use and development in the 20th century, the western and eastern European subpopulations of the otter (*Lutra lutra*) have become separated. Protection actions implemented in several European countries are slowly changing the situation. In France and Germany, the otter populations and their range are increasing. The very small otter population still existing in the Belgian Ardennes and the neighbouring part of Luxembourg could play a major role in establishing a link between the increasing German and French populations. Together, these four countries could become an important stronghold for the species on a European scale. However, fragmentation and low quality of habitats as well as disturbances are hindering a positive evolution in this region.

Objectives

In order to safeguard the existing otter population and encourage recolonisation, the project will restore the otter (*Lutra lutra*) habitat in a cross-border area between Belgium and the Grand Duché de Luxembourg, including the basins of the rivers Our, Sûre and Ourthe, covering approximately 300,000 ha. The aim is for the habitat restoration to improve the possibility for contact and genetic exchanges between the currently separated populations.

In order to make the habitats in the valleys more favourable to otters, some 150 ha of conifer plantations along the river valley bottoms will be cut and either replaced by mixed deciduous trees or else left open. Various invasive species will be removed from about 35 ha. Some 25-30 safe refuge zones will be put in place in areas favourable to reproduction, and 9 road-bridges will be equipped with passageways for otters to allow them to cross roads with dense traffic safely. Various actions will be carried out to increase the natural supply of fishes, including restoring 20 cutoffs.

The project will achieve synergies by working in close relations with three other relevant nearby LIFE projects, and with an Interreg IIIA project concern-

Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

Park-Reserve authority

Name of beneficiary

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Duration of project:

60 months (Oct 2005 – Sept 2010)

Total budget in euro:

3,891,663.00

EC contribution in euro with %:

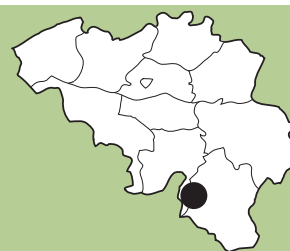
1,945,831.00 (50.00%)

ing the protection and development of the ecological network in the area (1302W). The three LIFE projects concern conservation of pearl mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*) habitats (LIFE02 NAT/B/008590); the rehabilitation of natural habitats on the Tailles Plateau (LIFE05 NAT/BE/0089); and the restoration of raised bogs (LIFE03 NAT/B/00019).

As this conservation programme has so many different aspects and concerns such a large area, the involvement, awareness and approval of numerous local stakeholders are of vital importance. To address this challenge a wide-ranging communication effort will be made with specific actions toward different target groups.

Valleys and Moors of Croix Scaille

LIFE05 NAT/B/000087
CX SCAILLE



Official title

Actions for the valleys and turf moors of Croix Scaille (Belgium)

Background

In the past, open habitats such as raised bogs, transition bogs, heaths and grasslands covered a great part of the southern border region between France and Belgium. Many of these habitats and related species are now endangered in Belgium but are still present on the Plateau Croix Scaille, where the river La Houille and its tributary La Hulle take their source. The project area boasts an impressive 13 habitat types of Community interest, including the priority habitats bog woodland, Tilio-Acerion and alluvial forests, and Nardus grasslands.

However, some 50% of these two river valleys have been planted with conifers in the last fifty years, which has caused the destruction and fragmentation of these semi-natural habitats. In addition, many abandoned plots, in particular the bogs, are menaced by spontaneous reforestation and invasion by purple moorgrass (*Molinia Caerula*).

In the two last decades, the Reserves Naturelles RNOB and the Walloon Region established some protected areas in the region. However, while carrying out extensive inventories, it became clear that there is a need for more ambitious conservation and management actions in the area if the rare habitats and species are to survive.

Objectives

The overall objective of the project is to improve the quality of the two river valleys, restoring open landscapes and enhancing the connectivity between the currently fragmented habitats. The project focuses on restoring habitats on three Natura 2000 sites that have been extensively planted with conifer groves.

To reduce habitat fragmentation, 160 ha of exotic conifer plantations will be removed from the peat zones on the plateau and along river valleys leading away from the plateau.

Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

NGO-Foundation

Name of beneficiary

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Name of contact person

Joëlle Huysecom

Duration of project:

48 months (Jan 2006 – Dec 2009)

Total budget in euro:

2,116,700.00

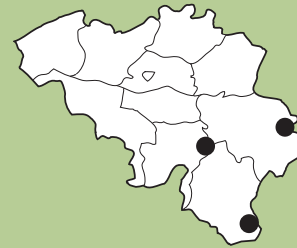
EC contribution in euro with %:

1,058,350.00 (50.00%)

Actions will be taken to encourage the development of natural and semi-natural environments on the cleared areas and other peat zones. On some areas, the project will restore bogs by clearing scrubs, blocking drainages and digging ponds. To keep the landscape open, the project will introduce extensive grazing and initiate mowing. Cooperation with local farmers is foreseen for the continuous management of these sites. Some 90 ha will be thereby be restored and managed.

50 ha of key plots will be purchased and made into nature reserves, to ensure their long-term protection and conservation management

To ensure increased local awareness, the project will involve the local media and TV. A programme of activities to discover and take part in the management of the sites is foreseen. This will in particular target regional schools and youth organisations, local associations, the tourism sector and the local press.



Official title

Rehabilitation of habitats in military camps in Wallonia

Background

Having avoided land use intensification, for example through agricultural practices, military areas often contain areas of high biological interest and are of great significance for biodiversity conservation. In many cases, historical landscape types and natural habitats were included in military areas in the 19th century and still exist there. Military areas are therefore often the only locations where natural habitats formed in the past centuries exist. However, the absence of specific management in some cases leads to a loss of habitat types through for instance overgrowth and changes in hydrological conditions. The military camps in Wallonia, Belgium, are particularly remarkable for extensive areas of *Nardus* grasslands, a priority habitat under the Habitats Directive.

Objectives

The project aims to restore some 400ha of *Nardus* grassland and heath habitats in three large military training grounds in Wallonia: Marche en Famenne, Lagland and Elsenborn. It also aims to restore hydrological conditions in marshes in the project area and to initiate continuous management of the open habitats by grazing.

Measures to be implemented include felling trees and removing scrubs on 380 ha of different habitats. Topsoil will be stripped on 35 ha of heath and grassland to remove some of the nutrients that are causing changes in the species composition. Nine ha of nard (*Nardus stricta*) and spicknel (*Meum athamanticum*) swards will be restored and over 100 old targets removed. Longer term management of these grasslands will be put in place by means of grazing by sheep and cattle or by controlled burning. Draining will be discontinued and the water capacity of small streams will be reduced in order to create better hydrological conditions for the wet habitats and to facilitate the creation of a few small ponds. In two of the military camps,

Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

Regional authority

Name of beneficiary

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Name of contact person

Gérard Pierre

Duration of project:

60 months (Jan 2006 – Dec 2010)

Total budget in euro:

3,447,436.00

EC contribution in euro with %:

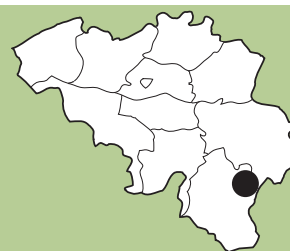
1,723,718.00 (50.00%)

particular attention will be given to the management of wild boar populations that are currently too dense and cause damage to ground nesting birds, amphibians, invertebrates and bulb plant species.

An information programme will be implemented to raise the awareness of conscripts and permanent military staff in order to reduce unintentional damage to rare habitats and species during military training.

Bogs on the plate

LIFE05 NAT/B/000089
PLTTAILLES



Official title

Rehabilitation of natural habitats on the Tailles Plateau

Background

The Tailles Plateau with altitudes between 500m and 700m is the highest plateau in Wallonia, Belgium. The habitats found on the plateau have a surprising character of mountain vegetation considering the relatively low altitude. They include several types of bog habitats, forests and grasslands and accommodate many rare and endangered species. Examples of species found on the plateau are the Marsh fritillary (*Euphydryas aurinia*), black grouse (*Tetrao tetrix*), black stork (*Ciconia nigra*) and common crane (*Grus grus*). The region has great conservation value at European level and with its central localisation, the Plateau is also an important stepping stone for species moving between the other high plateaus of Wallonia.

Some strict protected areas have been established on the plateau. However, in recent decades, the natural habitats of the plateau have suffered from a reduction of surface, fragmentation and degradation by the abandon of traditional agricultural activities and the plantation of exotic conifers. The designation of large Natura 2000 sites on the plateau increased the awareness of the need for more comprehensive and ambitious management.

Objectives

The overall objective of the project is to enhance the connectivity of the habitats inside the project area, and between the project area and other similar areas in Wallonia. The secondary aim is hence to establish the Plateau Tailles as a base from which species can colonise suitable habitats in the region, or re-colonise areas where local extinction has occurred.

To this effect, the project aims to restore 13 habitat types of Community interest present on the Plateau. The habitats include mostly open habitats such as *Nardus* grasslands, heaths, meadows and bogs, but also alluvial forests and bog woodland. The project will also regenerate natural beech forests that have lost a lot of mature trees.

The project will be implemented on four Natura 2000 sites covering an area of 2800 ha. The primary restoration objectives are to re-establish open areas and natural hydrology by removing trees and shrubs (200 ha), filling in of ditches (20 km), stripping topsoil (20 ha), removing isolated trees to reopen 50 ha of bogs and heaths, and creation of 20 small ponds.

Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

Regional authority

Name of beneficiary

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Name of contact person

Pierre Gérard

Duration of project:

48 months (Jan 2006 – Dec 2009)

Total budget in euro:

3,753,300.00

EC contribution in euro with %:

1,876,650.00 (50.00%)

The project aims to put in place long-term conservation management of some 250 ha, consisting mostly of conifer plantations in valley bottoms, either by entering into management agreements with the owners (200 ha) or by purchasing the plots (50 ha). Some 50 ha of heaths and meadows will be regularly cut, and two 20 ha enclosures will be set in place to allow grazing to be introduced at a later stage.

The project will also take in account the need for future management of the restored areas. Contacts will be established with local farmers and stakeholders potentially interested in extensive use of the open habitats, for example by extensive grazing. Information will be disseminated to the general public, and to specific stakeholders such as private forest owners in order to raise awareness about the natural values of the Tailles Plateau and encourage appropriate management.

Landscape mosaics in the Grote Nete valley

Official title

Restoration of the lowland river system 'Grote Nete'

Background

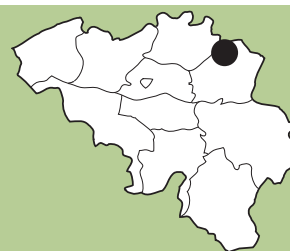
Wet and dry heath vegetations, bogs, mires and lowland river systems covered much of the Campine region in Belgium until the early 20th century when industrialisation, urbanisation and intensification of agricultural practices largely destroyed this natural landscape mosaic. The valley of the Grote Nete is one of the most representative remnants of the landscape. The valley holds 11 remarkable habitat types, including sand dune and dune-heath vegetations, dry heath, species-rich grasslands, aquatic plant communities and forests on wet soils. Some rare species are also present. For example, the river system is home to more than 15% of the Flemish population of brook lamprey (*Lampetra planeri*) and spined loach (*Cobitis taenia*), two fish species in decline at European level. Natuurpunt and the Flemish Region have established several strictly protected areas in the valley but afforestation, eutrophication, habitat fragmentation, intensification of agriculture, and disturbances of the natural hydrology continue to adversely affect the fragile habitat types.

Objectives

The aim of the project is to restore a landscape mosaic with heathlands, dune habitats, wetlands and grasslands on 1850 ha in the valley of the Grote Nete. An integrated management plan for the site will be prepared and actions will be implemented to ensure permanent conservation of the habitats. A long term partnership will be established with the Province of Antwerp to preserve and enlarge the populations of brook lamprey (*Lampetra planeri*) and spined loach (*Cobitis taenia*).

Restoration will primarily be undertaken by means of clearing trees, renaturation of river courses and landscape hydrology, eradication of invasive water plants and improving spawning possibilities or fish in the river system.

LIFE05 NAT/B/000090
LIFE GROTE NETE



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

NGO-Foundation

Name of beneficiary

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Joost Dewyspelaere

Duration of project:

59 months (Jan 2005 – Dec 2009)

Total budget in euro:

3,120,940.00

EC contribution in euro with %:

1,560,470.00 (50.00%)

A natural kingdom in the valley of Dommel

Official title

Transboundary habitat restoration in the valley of the Dommel

Background

Vastlandscapes of wet and dry heathlands, mires and bogs, grassland and lowland river systems once covered much of the Campine regions in Belgium as well as other regions of North-West Europe. The valley of the Dommel is one of the most impressive remnants of those once widely spread landscapes.

In the period 1950-1960, the river Dommel was straightened, the water levels became lower and changes in land use practices lead to increased inputs of nutrients, afforestation with exotic tree species and abandonment of extensive uses. This caused a dramatic decrease in the variety of habitats and species.

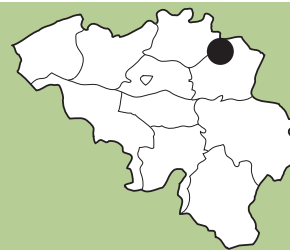
On both sides of the Belgian-Dutch border, volunteers have worked to conserve the most remarkable habitats and species. Hence, a great number of habitats types of Community interest can still be found in the valley. The entire area has now been designated as Special Protection Area (SPA) and Site of Community Interest (SCI). Because of its North-South orientation, the valley is the most important ecological link between the Belgian NATURA 2000 area Hoge Kempen and the large heath areas of the southern part of North Brabant in the Netherlands. The two countries are now making efforts to implement coherent management allowing for transboundary connections between habitats and species.

Objectives

The long term objective in the area is to establish an ecological corridor between the heath habitats of the Hoge Kempen (Belgium) and the heath habitats in North Brabant (The Netherlands) by restoring habitats along the valley and thus creating a network of stepping stones for species migration.

The immediate objectives of the project are to expand and increase the quality of the priority habitats "Calcareous fens with great fen-sedge (*Cladium mariscus*)" and "Alluvial forests with black alder (*Alnus*

LIFE05 NAT/B/000091
DOMMELDAL



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

NGO Foundation

Name of beneficiary

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Name of contact person

Jost Dewyspelaere

Duration of project:

59 months (Jan 2005 – Dec 2009)

Total budget in euro:

5,818,650.00

EC contribution in euro with %:

2,676,579.00 (46.00%)

glutinosa) and ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*)". Furthermore, the project aims to expand the breeding habitats of the great bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*) and other reed-inhabiting birds and to carry out large-scale restoration of a complex of fens, heaths and inland dunes with transition mires and quaking bogs. Finally, the project will focus on restoring a type of grasslands (watering-graslanden) that is very specific to the region. These grasslands were in the past irrigated with calcareous water from the river Meuse in order to balance the pH of the soils and now form a unique type of lowland hay meadow.

The restoration and establishment of trails and observation posts for visitors is also an integrated part of the project to ensure local involvement and acceptance and to reduce the disturbance of nesting birds species. Local farmers and volunteers associated with the beneficiary will be involved in the management of the area after the LIFE project.

Raising bogs in Denmark

LIFE05 NAT/DK/000150
RERABOG-DK



Official title

Restoration of raised bogs in Denmark with new methods

Background

More than 90% of the previously existing active raised bogs in Denmark have been lost. Apart from one relatively large active raised bog (*Lille Vildmose*), the raised bogs in Denmark are small. They are threatened by desiccation caused by draining and peat excavation, tree encroachment, and nutrient enrichment from atmospheric deposition of nitrogen or from influx of surface water from neighbouring agricultural areas. In most areas, the cover of *Sphagnum ssp.* is not dense enough to secure peat formation and peat accumulation. The National Environmental Research Institute (NERI) has preliminarily evaluated the conservation status of raised bogs in Denmark as unfavourable.

For this project, seven Sites of Community Importance (SCIs) have been selected to demonstrate restoration, covering a broad variation with respect to threats, size, history of their management and the surrounding landscape.

Objectives

The main objective of the project is to contribute to upholding the coherence of the network of Danish Natura 2000 sites with active raised bogs, a priority habitat for the European Community. This will be done by pursuing a twofold strategy. Firstly, the project will restore and maintain a favourable conservation status for active raised bogs on the seven project sites by conserving the present areas of active raised bog vegetation as well as other habitat types mentioned in the Annex II of the Habitats Directive. The restoration will also provide the conditions for development of active raised bog vegetation on a further 398 ha.

Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

National authority

Name of beneficiary

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DENMARK

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Web site <http://www.sns.dk>

Name of contact person

Peter Ilsoe

Duration of project:

60 months (Jan 2005 – Dec 2009)

Total budget in euro:

2,881,313.00

EC contribution in euro with %:

1,407,578.00 (48.85%)

Secondly, the project will test and develop a new method for restoring bogs, especially raised bogs, by grafting sphagnum on restored areas suitable for development of bogs. The method is used in Canada but has not been applied in Europe so far. The results obtained by the method and possible recommendations will be shared with managers of bog habitats across Europe.

Devil's bit and butterflies

LIFE05 NAT/DK/000151
ASPEA



Official title

Action for sustaining the population of *Euphydryas aurinia*

Background

The marsh fritillary butterfly (*Euphydryas aurinia*) has suffered rapid decline in Denmark due to fragmentation of habitats and populations. Together with a continuing decline in quality of existing and potentially suitable habitats, this has caused the conservation state of the marsh fritillary today to be highly unfavourable. Only eight small sub-populations remain, and it is crucial to reverse this negative trend if the butterfly is to continue to exist in Denmark.

Objectives

The global objective of the project is to bring the threatened and isolated population of marsh fritillary (*Euphydryas aurinia*) in Denmark into a favourable conservation state. In order to reach this objective, project seeks to fulfil three immediate objectives. Firstly, the project aims to preserve and strengthen existing subpopulations through a range of conservation measures. Each subpopulation should be stable or increasing and have a minimum size of 500 individuals or approximately 125 observed spins. Secondly, the project will create opportunities for the establishment of at least three new subpopulations from the existing localities through restoration of potential habitats. Finally, the project will raise awareness of the marsh fritillary amongst land users to ensure appropriate management of its habitats in the future.

The actions of the project primarily concern six Natura 2000 sites in which marsh fritillary populations are still present or have disappeared within recent years. The conservation actions in the project sites mainly aim to ensure good conditions for devil's bit (*Succisa pratensis*), which is an essential food plant for marsh fritillary. Devil's bit benefits from measures that prevent overgrowing, and these will also be of general value to many other listed species and habitat types. Actions will include mechanical clearing of overgrowth, including scrubs and trees, controlled

Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary
Public

Name of beneficiary
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Name of contact person
Peter Sorensen

Duration of project:
36 months (Jan 2005 – Dec 2007)

Total budget in euro:
566,568.00

EC contribution in euro with %:
283,284.00 (50.00%)

burning, mowing, extensive grazing, and in some cases removal of upper peat layers and restoration of natural hydrology.

Supplementary surveys focussing on the conservation state and needs of marsh fritillary will be carried out in the project sites and form the basis of management plans, which will be elaborated in close cooperation with the landowners. Actual implementation of the plans will be ensured through management agreements with the landowners.

To raise awareness, especially among landowners and administrators, the project will establish an information network and a website to disseminate information about marsh fritillary and the project. Additionally, information on good management of marsh fritillary habitats will be made available and excursions to project sites for landowners and a seminar for administrators will be held.

Houting in bed

Official title

Urgent actions for the endangered Houting "Coregonus oxyrhynchus"

Background

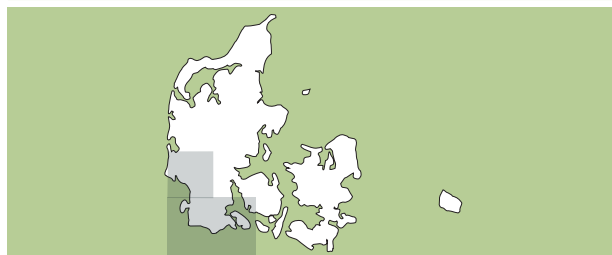
The houting (*Coregonus oxyrhynchus*), a fish species from the white fish family, has a complex ecology making it vulnerable to relatively small disturbances in its range. It was previously distributed throughout the Wadden Sea (the Netherlands, Germany and Denmark) but it has declined severely and its occurrence is now restricted to Denmark, where it reproduces in six river systems. The presence of even small obstacles in rivers is one of the main impediments to successful reproduction, as the houting is unable to pass weirs and fish ladders. Silting of spawning grounds is also a severe problem. Furthermore, juvenile houting require large areas of reed beds or flooded meadows, where they forage for several months prior to migration to the sea. Previous restocking attempts in Denmark have not been successful because they were not followed up by habitat restoration.

Objectives

The overall project objective is to restore and maintain a favourable conservation status for the houting (*Coregonus oxyrhynchus*) in four Danish river systems. The project is in accordance with national recommendations. It will explore possibilities and develop recommendations for reintroduction into other parts of the houting's previous distribution range within the EU.

The project will have a profound positive effect on all other components of the river ecosystems including the conservation status of the habitat type 'Water courses characterised by Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion communities'. It will result in improved access to areas of spawning habitats for other anadromous fish species, such as indigenous populations of Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*), species of lamprey (*Lampetra sp.*) and the only population of weather fish/pond loach (*Misgurnis fossilis*) in Den-

LIFE05 NAT/DK/000153
HOUTING



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

National authority

Name of beneficiary

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Name of contact person

Jan Steinbring Jensen

Duration of project:

54 months (Feb 2005 – July 2009)

Total budget in euro:

13,385,913.00

EC contribution in euro with %:

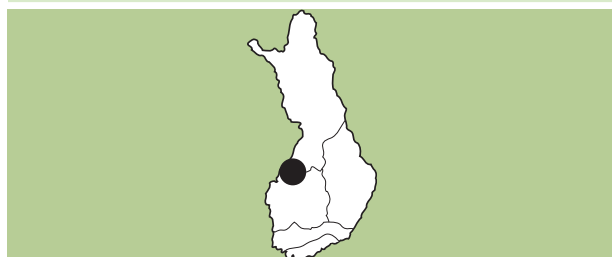
8,031,548.00 (60.00%)

mark, and it will improve habitat conditions for the otter (*Lutra lutra*).

Weirs and dams in the four river systems will be removed and riffles or meanders constructed in order to facilitate upstream migration. Two hydroelectric power plants and three fish farms will be decommissioned. River sections will be restored with gravel and stone, creating new spawning grounds, and a combination of changes to hydrology and construction works will create new flooded areas adjacent to the river. The project will be implemented in broad cooperation between a number of stakeholders including local and regional authorities, land and fish farm owners, a regional angling society, and owners of hydrological installations.

LIFE in the dunes of Finland

LIFE05 NAT/FIN/000104
VATTAJAN DYYNI LIFE



Official title

Restoration of Dune and Coastal Habitats in the Vattaja Military Area

Background

The state-owned Vattaja Natura 2000 area covers 1,200 ha. It is Finland's most important dune habitat area. For example, it accounts for 37% of Finland's grey dunes. The area is also important to the entire European network of protected areas as Vattaja is the largest boreal zone dune area in Europe. The area contains six priority habitats, mainly dunes and coastal lagoon habitats, and eight other habitats of interest to the European Community.

Vattaja is one of the most important military exercise and artillery practice area of the Finnish Defense Forces and is also used for international military exercises. Due to its great natural beauty, the area is at the same time subject to significant recreational use and tourism. Both activities put the vulnerable priority habitats under pressure. Furthermore, the intensive forestry with monocultures established in the 20th Century, together with the termination of extensive farming practices, have had a profound negative impact on the habitat types and continue to pose a threat to their conservation.

Objectives

The main objectives of the project are to conserve and restore the dune habitats in the Vattaja and to enhance users' awareness of the dune habitats, as well as the conservation objectives of the Natura 2000 network.

The project aims to adjust the activities of the Finnish Defense Forces in order to prevent damage caused to Natura 2000 habitats during military exercises. Military personnel using the exercise and artillery areas will be trained to take into account the vulnerability of the natural habitats. Areas affected by military use, such as transition mires, forests and a part of the adjacent glo-lake, will be restored. One relatively new method involving blowing up the top of mature trees

Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

National authority

Name of beneficiary

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Name of contact person

Kari Hallantie

Duration of project:

48 months (Apr 2005 – March 2009)

Total budget in euro:

1,807,330.00

EC contribution in euro with %:

903,665.00 (50.00%)

to make them more interesting for insects and birds will be explored and results widely disseminated. To prevent overgrowth and encourage the development of open and semi-open habitats, grazing animals will be introduced to meadows and pastures in cooperation with local farmers.

In the more sensitive areas of the site, recreational users will be better guided and informed to reduce the negative impact of recreational use on the habitats.

Looking for the Anser

Official title

Conservation of *Anser erythropus* on European migration route

Background

The lesser white-fronted goose (*Anser erythropus* - LWfG) is a priority bird for the European Community. The Fennoscandian breeding population of the LWfG is critically endangered, numbering only 20-30 breeding pairs.

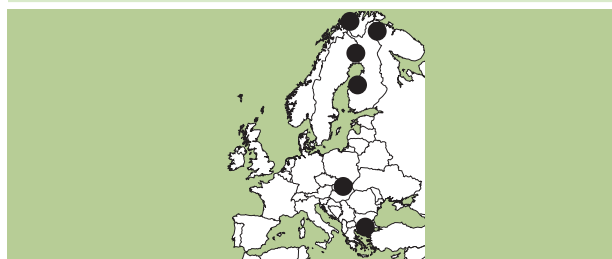
The European flyway of LWfG addressed by the project stretches from its breeding grounds in the northern parts of Fennoscandia (*Finland, Norway, Sweden*), via the staging areas in Norway, Finland, Estonia and Eastern Hungary, to the wintering grounds in the border areas of Greece and Turkey.

Objectives

The objective of the project is to improve and monitor the conservation status of the critically endangered Fennoscandian breeding population of the lesser white-fronted goose (*Anser erythropus* - LWfG) on its eastern European migration route. The project aims to put into practice the actions defined in the international Action Plan for LWfG, published by the EC in 1996. In the short term, the aim of the project is to halt the decline of the Fennoscandian LWfG population, while the ultimate objective of the project is to achieve a favourable conservation status of the Fennoscandian LWfG breeding population.

In the vast potential breeding grounds of the LWfG in the mountainous Fennoscandian tundra, the project aims to identify the most important breeding areas, and to secure favourable conservation status of these areas. At the staging and wintering sites, the project aims to eliminate the most important threats for the species. These include: high mortality due to hunting and poaching; loss of original feeding and roosting habitats; and human disturbance.

LIFE05 NAT/FIN/000105
ANSERY-EUR



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

NGO-Foundation

Name of beneficiary

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Name of contact person

Jari Luukkonen

Duration of project:

48 months (Apr 2005 – March 2009)

Total budget in euro:

1,097,900.00

EC contribution in euro with %:

749,025.00 (68.22%)

The French-Spanish raptor connection

Official title

Reinforcement and conservation of Lesser Kestrel populations in Aude (FR) and Extrémadure (ES)

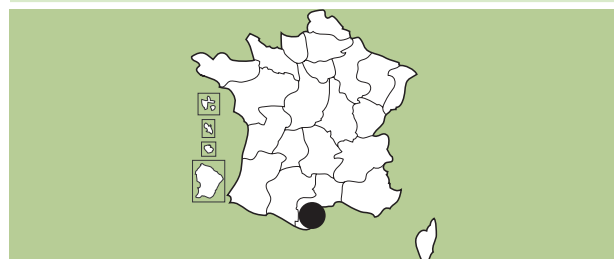
Background

Unsuitable agricultural management, human disturbance, power lines and poisoning by pesticides are largely responsible for the decline of the Lesser Kestrel (*Falco naumanni*), a bird species of European importance. Populations in Europe have decreased by 90% since the middle of the 20th century. In Spain, however, thanks to strict legislation and reintroduction programmes, the population is about 12,000 couples. Nevertheless, to guarantee conservation of the species in this country more feeding habitats and restoration of urban nesting sites are needed. In France, where the population used to cover more than 12 sites, only three breeding areas remain, with approximately 115 couples. In a previous LIFE project tackling conservation problems of the Lesser Kestrel (LIFE97 NAT/F/004119), a study was very positive about the potential for reinforcing and increasing the existing population.

Objectives

The project aims to conserve and improve the conservation and status of the Lesser Kestrel (*Falco naumanni*) population in two Natura 2000 sites, in France (Aude) and Spain (Extramadura). The project plans the release of chicks and the establishment of a breeding centre in France with the assistance of the Spanish project partner. Studies and experimentations will be carried out to improve the knowledge of the Lesser Kestrel's biology and reasons for its mortality. The results will lead to guidelines for habitat management.

LIFE05 NAT/F/000134
LIFE TRANSFERT



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:

48 months (Sept 2005 – Aug 2009)

Total budget in euro:

1,284,712.00

EC contribution in euro with %:

963,534.00 (75.00%)

Restoring heath and peat lands

Official title

Preservation of the heathlands, peatlands and bats of Montselgues

Background

The Plateau de Montselgue in Ardèche is a 4,000 ha French Natura 2000 site. Located in the Rhône Alpes region, it includes four bat species and four habitats of European importance including the priority habitat "active raised bogs". The main threat to these heathlands and peatlands is afforestation mainly with conifers. Conifers invade these habitats and disturb their water cycle, soil and micro-climate. Inappropriate agricultural management also threatens the dry heaths and arborescent matorrals (bushes). Moreover, the habitat of the four bat species, the galleries of abandoned mines, is threatened by the closure of the mines' access for security reasons.

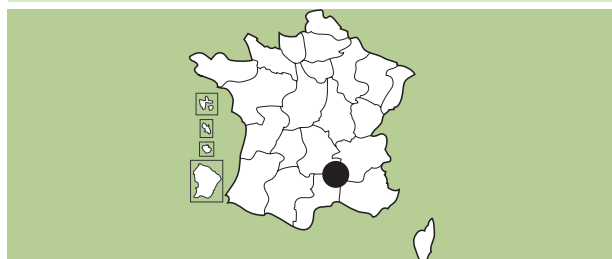
Objectives

The project aims to improve the management and conservation status of the habitats and species of European interest on the Plateau de Montselgues site.

Pastoral activities will be sustained in dry heaths and arborescent matorrals. New management specifications of heathlands will be tested (on 80 ha) and defined that could be used in future agro-environmental contracts with farmers. Twenty ha of active raised bogs and depressions on peat substrates will be restored and management plans will be drawn up. Experience from a previous LIFE project concerning the management of peatlands in France, in which one of the four peatlands of the site was implicated, will be exploited to set up management plans for the three other peatlands.

Following extensive contacts with the landowners, key plots of land will be either acquired (30 ha) or management contracts will be concluded (100 ha).

LIFE05 NAT/F/000135
LIFE PLATEAU DE MONTSELGUES



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

NGO-Foundation

Name of beneficiary

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Web site <http://www.natura2000.environnement.gouv.fr/sites/FR8201660.html>

Name of contact person

Laurence Jullian

Duration of project:

56 months (Oct 2005 – May 2010)

Total budget in euro:

465,000.00

EC contribution in euro with %:

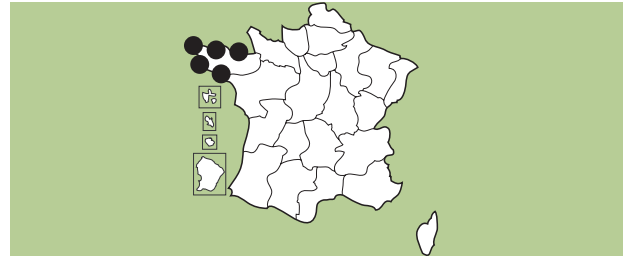
232,500.00 (50.00%)

Finally, depending on the results of monitoring the existing bat colonies in the mines, actions will be taken to ensure passage for the bats while keeping the mines closed to public.

Communication will also be part of the project, with the aim to make local actors and public aware of the importance of preserving biodiversity both locally and at the European level.

New nests for sea birds

LIFE05 NAT/F/000137
DOUGALL



Official title

Conservation of the Roseate Tern in Brittany

Background

The Roseate Tern (*Sterna dougallii*) is a common sea bird whose global population is about 50,000 pairs, which breed outside Europe. Its Atlantic Ocean variety is fragmented across the north-eastern coasts of America, the Azores, the Irish Sea region and the coasts of Brittany. In Europe, the number of pairs has slowly increased except in France. In Brittany, the population of Roseate Tern decreased dramatically between the 1950s and the 1980s. Since 1980, the annual decrease rate has been around -0.9%, but increased to -3.6% between 1997 and 2004. Since there is only one nesting site in France (L'île aux Dames in Brittany) the species is extremely vulnerable. Potential threats are uncontrolled human disturbance, predation by foxes, minks, rats and coypus, and interspecific competition with gulls and rabbits.

Objectives

The main objective of the project is to enhance the breeding rate of Roseate Tern on L'île aux Dames and to re-attract this sea bird to four other neighbouring islands (la Colombière, Trevorc'h, l'île aux Moutons and Petit Veizit).

A management plan for each site will be established. Measures will be taken to reduce the impact of the various threats and disturbances. Potential predators, such as rats, rabbits, coypus and minks will be trapped and eradicated. The project will also ensure the presence of wardens during the Tern's breeding period. By creating artificial colonies (using sound recordings and artificial stone nests), the project will enhance the probability of attracting new Tern colonies.

Information programmes will be set up in order to heighten the awareness amongst local stakeholders and the public of the issues of breeding sea-birds.

Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

NGO-Foundation

Name of beneficiary

Bretagne vivante - Société pour l'étude et la protection de la nature en Bretagne (SEPNB)

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Name of contact person

Luc Raoul

Duration of project:

60 months (Nov 2005 – Oct 2010)

Total budget in euro:

1,436,119.00

EC contribution in euro with %:

1,077,089.00 (75.00%)

The project will also contribute to improving the knowledge and management of this species in Europe amongst Natura 2000 site managers, amongst others by publishing a newsletter, organising an international workshop, producing a management guide and publishing the findings of the project.

Re-opening Mediterranean habitats

Official title

Conservation of rare birds in Eastern Corbières

Background

For centuries, open Mediterranean habitats such as Eastern Corbières Mediterranean scrub and dry grassland, were maintained through grazing. In recent decades, grazing these open habitats has become uneconomical and began to decline. However, these habitats are the ideal environment for many species, especially birds listed in Annex I of the Birds Directive. In addition, the eastern part of the Eastern Corbières area is located on an important migration route for 50,000 raptors, 2,000 black and white storks and over 1 million migratory passerines.

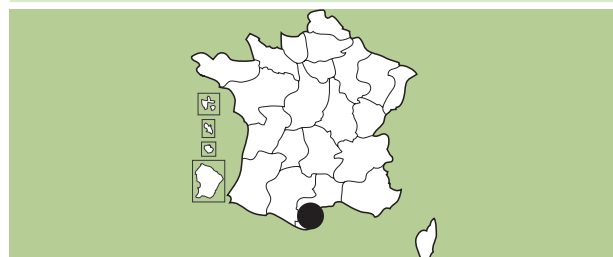
Objectives

The objective of the project is to conserve 13 endangered bird species listed in Annex I of the Birds Directive in the Eastern Corbières Special Protection Area (SPA), and to improve and conserve their key habitats.

The project will collect data on issues such as lack of prey for raptors and habits of local bird populations. After discussions with local landowners, land-use agreements will be set up to allow the project to re-open 150 ha of overgrown habitats and maintain a further 200 ha open habitats by grazing with 50-100 sheep, which will be purchased by the project. An evaluation will be made of the different impacts of these actions

Another aim of the project is to enhance the prey populations for raptors, particularly Bonelli's Eagle (*Hieraetus fasciatus*) which mainly hunts rabbits and red-legged partridges (*Alectoris rufa*). The effectiveness of these actions will be studied by monitoring the predators' reproduction rate, as well as that of their prey. Certain power lines will also be equipped to reduce the risk of collisions by raptors.

LIFE05 NAT/F/000139
CONSAVICOR



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

NGO-Foundation

Name of beneficiary

Ligue pour la Protection des Oiseaux Délégation de l'Aude

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Name of contact person

Henri-Pierre Roche

Duration of project:

59 months (Jan 2005 – Dec 2009)

Total budget in euro:

891,072.00

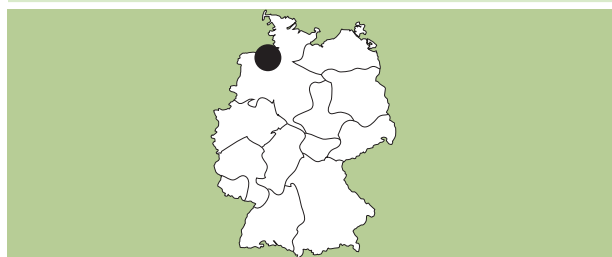
EC contribution in euro with %:

445,536.00 (50.00%)

The knowledge and management practices developed during the project will be integrated into the longer-term site management plans (Docobs), and various actions will be taken to raise the awareness of the relevant stakeholders and the local population, including discussing, negotiating and developing a local biodiversity action plan for each of the 33 communes within the project area.

Coastal meadows in Cuxhaven

LIFE05 NAT/D/000051
CUXHAVENER KÜSTENHEIDEN



Official title

Large Herbivores for Maintenance and Conservation of Coastal Heaths

Background

The coastal heaths and coppiced woodland near Cuxhaven is a unique coastal area by the German North Sea. The area is designated as a Natura 2000 site and borders a marine protected area, the National Park Niedersächsisches Wattenmeer. It is characterised by a mosaic of habitat types, such as dry heaths, sandy dunes, oak woodlands, raised mires and oligotrophic waters. There is no other area in Germany where this habitat composition occurs directly next to the sea.

Until 2003, the «Truppenübungsplatz Altenwarde», located within the Natura 2000 site and covering 600 ha, was used as a military training site. Overgrowth is threatening the open habitat types and some areas are in need of restoration after having been subjected to intensive training activities.

The area is very popular for recreational uses, including erosive sports such as motocross driving and riding. Furthermore, many visitors are unaware of the obligation to keep dogs on a leash and dogs are often let loose in the area, causing people to wander off the paths.

Objectives

The project aims to improve the conservation status of coastal heaths and coppiced woodland in the Natura 2000 site near Cuxhaven. The project will restore open habitats, and will target threats such as overgrowth, invasion of alien species (particularly *Prunus serotina*) and human disturbance.

To maintain and develop the targeted habitats, the project will initiate grazing with large herbivores such as heck cattle, wild horse (*Equus przewalskii*) and European bison (*Bison bonasus*). This will suppress the current invasion of shrubs and pioneer grass species. As a result, an area of about 400 ha of open coastal heath landscape with no or few trees will be established and maintained.

Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

Regional authority

Name of beneficiary

Land Niedersachsen, Niedersächsisches Umweltministerium

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Name of contact person

Ursula Langendorf

Duration of project:

48 months (March 2005 – Feb 2009)

Total budget in euro:

928,996.00

EC contribution in euro with %:

464,498.00 (50.00%)

In an area of about 80 ha, forestry measures will be implemented to convert monoculture coniferous forests to mixed deciduous and coppiced woodland. In addition, nine small water bodies will be revitalised or established.

To establish a more considerate use of the area by visitors and recreational users, a visitor information and guidance concept will be implemented through the installation of a nature trail, an observation platform, and information panels.

Rosenheimer master basin bogs

Official title

Rosenheimer master basin bogs

Background

The project area encompasses two Natura 2000 sites: «Hochrunstfilze» and «Auer Weidmoos mit Kalten und Kaltenaue». These sites together cover 1,100 ha and are part of one of the largest pre-alpine moor lands in Europe. This area encompasses four priority habitats of the Habitats Directive, which altogether cover 25% of the project area: active raised bogs, calcareous fens, bog woodland, and alluvial forests. The project area is also remarkable by having maintained a very high connectivity between different bog and fen habitats.

Although large parts of the area are still in a good conservation status, many land sections have been affected by peat extraction and draining, causing excessive dryness and overgrowth. The project complements and builds on an ongoing state-initiated conservation effort under the project name «Rosenheimer Stammbekkenmoore». The ongoing efforts encompass 42km² and include the project area.

Objectives

The overall aim of the project is to restore the biodiversity of fens and bogs in the project area. The restoration of a 444 ha raised bog area will be achieved through the purchase of 142 ha of land and the removal of shrubs on 57 ha. Once purchased, the natural hydrology of the entire raised bog can be restored through the large-scale closure of drainage ditches.

A second project objective is the improvement of the hydrological situation of the adjacent fen-meadow habitats. Again, the project will have to close a large number of drainage ditches. In addition, it will re-flood ponds, restore areas where peat has been cut, and reintroduce traditional farming methods.

Another crucial project objective is to maintain the natural dynamics of rivers and streams in the

LIFE05 NAT/D/000053
ROSTAM



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

Regional authority

Name of beneficiary

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Web site <http://www.stmugv.bayern.de/>

Name of contact person

Harald Lippert

Duration of project:

60 months (Nov 2005 – Oct 2010)

Total budget in euro:

1,874,014.00

EC contribution in euro with %:

937,007.00 (50.00%)

project area, as the latter have a great impact on the groundwater regime and hence on the hydrology of bogs and fens.

Public awareness raising actions include an educational trail, information leaflets, guided tours and media coverage. The project aims to raise general awareness of the importance of the conservation of the moor land and the importance of the Natura 2000 network.

Junipers on top of the Eifel

Official title

Protection and cultivation of the Juniper heaths of the Osteifel

Background

The isolated juniper heaths of the Eastern Eifel are the last remnants of a vast heath landscape, which once covered a large proportion of the Eifel ranges. These heaths were the result of the historical «Schiffelwirtschaft» land use. This once widespread agricultural system was based on heathland grazing, interrupted by occasional heather burning and subsequent periods of arable land use (Feld-Heide-Wechselwirtschaft).

The Natura 2000 site «Wacholderheiden der Osteifel» encompasses 888 ha of the most valuable remnants of this landscape. It is characterised by acidic heaths with *Juniperus communis* and *Cytisus scoparius*, and species-rich *Nardus* grasslands. The heaths are threatened by overgrowth, intensive recreational use and reforestation. In recent years, local initiators have started removing trees and shrubs and initiated grazing on some heaths, in order to re-establish the typical heath landscape.

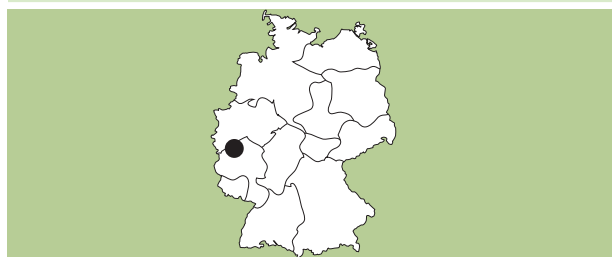
Objectives

The project's main objective is to conserve and develop species-rich *Nardus* grasslands and heaths with *Juniperus communis* and *Cytisus scoparius*. In the long run, this can only be achieved by the re-establishment of permanent, extensive grazing regimes.

The project area covers around 240 ha, distributed amongst eight isolated sites. Grazing concepts will be prepared for each of these sites in order to provide guidelines for the site management. All relevant stakeholders, including farmers, hunters and local authorities, will participate in the preparation of these plans. The project will then focus on the removal of trees and shrubs. In order to speed up the restoration of natural heathlands on the cleared areas, seeds from heather (*Calluna vulgaris*) and other typical heathland species will be sown.

LIFE05 NAT/D/000055

OSTEIFEL



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

Local authority

Name of beneficiary

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Web site <http://www.vordereifel.de/>

Name of contact person

Alexander Saftig

Duration of project:

60 months (July 2005 – June 2010)

Total budget in euro:

1,772,433.00

EC contribution in euro with %:

1,063,460.00 (60.00%)

A central aim of the project is to restore vast grazing areas, which provide the preconditions for a financially viable grazing management. Sheep and goat flocks from four local shepherds will be used for this purpose. On a few sub-sites, grazing with cattle and horses will also be tested and assessed.

The project aims to raise awareness of the importance of the heath landscape through «juniper-blossom walks» and the editing of a cookbook with dishes using juniper berries.

A wealth of life on top of the Hotzenwald

Official title

Upper Hotzenwald

Background

The project area is located in the state of Baden-Württemberg in the district of Waldshut. It comprises the montane part of the Hotzenwald, located in the southern Black Forest at an altitude of 900 - 1000 m. It covers 2,105 ha of which more than 50% is mixed forests and around 20% is a mosaic of pastures, fens, meadows, streams and standing water bodies. The Upper Hotzenwald contains an exceptional variety of habitats, amongst which 21 are listed in Annex I of the Habitats Directive. It is thus of outstanding significance for the European network of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs).

A recent inventory study underlined the significance of the project area as a major biodiversity hotspot but also pointed out a number of negative trends in the conservation status and development of the landscape.

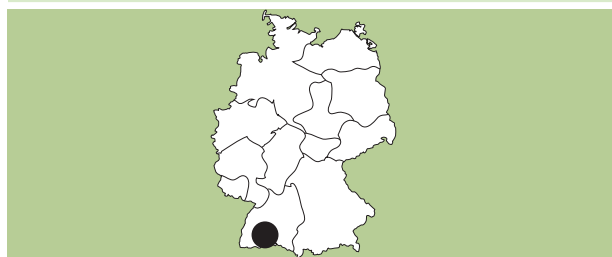
Objectives

The project aims to improve the conservation status of existing priority habitats, to expand their geographical coverage and to interconnect them into a coherent biotope-network.

Concrete actions foreseen include forestry works on private and communal lands, to promote the populations of capercaillie and hazel grouse, the clearing of conifers and overgrowth from species-rich grasslands and dry heaths, the re-instatement of extensive grazing, and the removal of drainage systems to encourage the development of areas with raised bogs and bog woodland. Local landowners and small-scale farmers will be charged with most of the work.

The project will intensify the close cooperation between authorities, local farmers and forest owners, which was initiated during the previous conception of nature conservation plans for the Upper Hotzenwald. Special efforts will also be made to involve the local

LIFE05 NAT/D/000056
OBERER HOTZENWALD



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

Regional authority

Name of beneficiary

Regierungspräsidium (RP) Freiburg

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Name of contact person

Friederike Tribukait

Duration of project:

60 months (Nov 2005 – Oct 2010)

Total budget in euro:

1,691,852.00

EC contribution in euro with %:

845,926.00 (50.00%)

population in the primary landscape management, to establish a forum for discussion and exchange of experiences as well as to offer educational activities with a focus on NATURA 2000.

Letting the Lippe loose

Official title

Optimisation of the pSCI «Lippe flood plain between Hamm and Hangfort»

Background

The River Lippe, a tributary of the Rhine, is running along the southern edge of the Westfalian lowlands. Its floodplain connects the biotopes of the Lower Rhine in the West and of the Teutoburger Wald and the Eggegebirge in the East.

The river system has been heavily modified by water engineering works and agricultural use, but has still some areas with high conservation value. One of these areas is the proposed Site of Community Interest (pSCI) «Lippeaue zwischen Hamm and Hangfort». This pSCI is characterised by grassland, backwaters and oxbows, and small pockets of alluvial forests, a priority habitat under the EU Habitats Directive. Part of the area is also designated as Special Protection Area (SPA, «Lippeaue zwischen Hamm und Lippstadt mit den Ahsewiesen»), with breeding populations of corncrake (*Crex crex*), kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*) and marsh harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*).

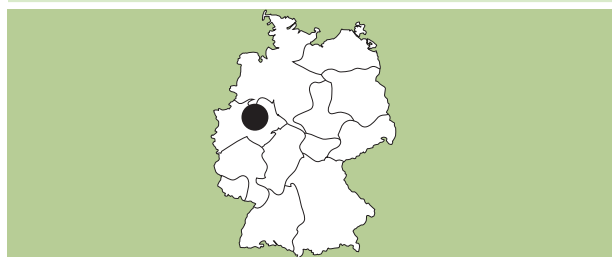
Objectives

The main objective of the project is to restore the natural river and floodplain dynamics in the proposed Site of Community Interest (pSCI), including its extensively used wet grasslands.

Along 5,500 m of the River Lippe, the river bank reinforcement will be removed in order to promote the natural riverbank erosion and sedimentation processes. Additionally, a 585 m stretch of a small side stream will be renaturalised. As a result, new natural river habitats will be established and on 110 ha of land the frequency of flooding will be increased. Additionally, some weirs and small barriers in the River Lippe will be removed, resulting in improved possibilities for the migration of various fish species, such as Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*), river lamprey (*Lampetra fluviatilis*) and asp (*Aspius aspius*).

LIFE05 NAT/D/000057

LIPPE-AUE



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

Local authority

Name of beneficiary

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Web site <http://www.hamm.de/>

Name of contact person

Oliver Schmidt-Forman

Duration of project:

62 months (Jan 2005 – Feb 2010)

Total budget in euro:

5,514,594.00

EC contribution in euro with %:

2,757,297.00 (50.00%)

On 40 ha of wet grasslands, the restoration of the natural hydrology will be achieved by blocking ditches, and 2.6 ha agricultural land will be converted to grassland.

During the project various activities will be carried out in order to involve the general public. A nature trail and an observation tower will be established to provide the public with information on and guided access to the nature area.

Add salt to the inland marshes in Brandenburg

Official title

Conservation and development of the inland salt marshes of Brandenburg

Background

From a biological and geographical point of view, the salt marshes in Brandenburg are an important link between the salt meadows of Northern and Western Europe and those of the more eastern continental areas. The project area comprises the most significant of the Brandenburgian salt marshes, including several plant species endemic to Central Europe. The salt marshes in the project area are generally of small size, but relatively numerous.

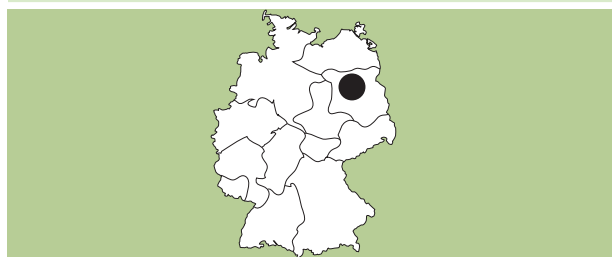
They are threatened on one hand by the abandonment of extensive grazing, leading to overgrowth, and on the other hand by intensification, leading to a conversion into agricultural lands. Furthermore, the salt marshes are suffering from salt imbalances due to changes in the hydrological conditions, traditionally regulated by the irrigation and drainage system in the project area.

Objectives

The overarching objective of the project is to contribute to the conservation and regeneration of the inland salt marshes of Brandenburg. The most representative salt marshes, with their characteristic habitats and species, will be restored and managed in a sustainable way. The hydrological balance will be restored in several marshes and saline areas, which have been affected by overgrowth.

The technical approach of the project comprises stabilising the groundwater regime in drained fens, initiating extensive cultivation of meadows, and clearing former salt marshes of overgrowth. The project stresses the importance of public awareness raising and environmental educational measures, with an aim to increase local interest in the project's aims and activities. Several project activities will concentrate on public relations and the development of tourism in the area.

LIFE05 NAT/D/000111
SALZSTELLEN BRANDENBURGS



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

Regional authority

Name of beneficiary

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Name of contact person

Matthias Freude

Duration of project:

54 months (Aug 2005 – Jan 2010)

Total budget in euro:

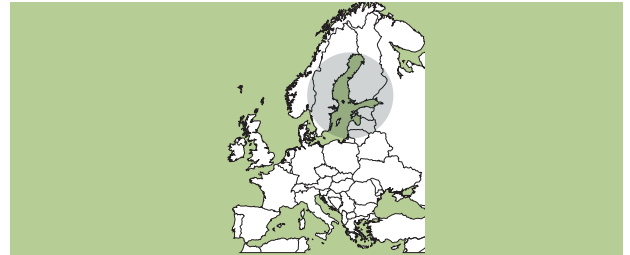
1,855,246.00

EC contribution in euro with %:

1,391,435.00 (75.00%)

Baltic coastal lagoons

LIFE05 NAT/D/000152
BALTCOAST



Official title

Rehabilitation of the Baltic coastal lagoon habitat complex

Background

The Coastal lagoon is a priority habitat for the EC Habitats Directive. Coastal lagoons are particularly well developed in the Baltic region. Together with various dune habitats, cliffs and stone beaches, salt meadows and various types of grasslands, the Baltic coastal lagoons form an extremely varied habitat complex, associated with high levels of biodiversity.

The project focuses on the most important Baltic coastal areas for breeding populations of the ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*) and of a distinct subspecies of dunlin (*Calidris alpina schinzii*), two wading bird species listed in the Birds Directive. The project area also covers many of the last Baltic strongholds for creeping marshwort (*Apium repens*), European green toad (*Bufo viridis*) and natterjack toad (*Bufo calamita*).

Many coastal lagoons have either been destroyed already or are still losing their ecological distinctiveness because of hydrological changes, overgrowth, and eutrophication. The project provides an opportunity for testing and demonstrating restoration and management measures on a range of 34 Baltic coastal lagoons habitat complexes, located in Denmark, Germany and Estonia.

Objectives

The overall goal of the project is to contribute to securing a favourable conservation status of the species and habitats associated with the Baltic coastal lagoon complexes in Denmark, Germany and Estonia. The project aims to prevent the extinction of the ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*) and of the southern subspecies of dunlin (*Calidris alpina schinzii*) from the Baltic Sea region. In order to ensure the use of best practices, the project has established a reference site in Sweden and aims to establish a strong coastal lagoon management network between the countries bordering the Baltic Sea.

Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

NGO-Foundation

Name of beneficiary

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Name of contact person

Hauke Drews

Duration of project:

68 months (May 2005 – Dec 2010)

Total budget in euro:

5,685,005.00

EC contribution in euro with %:

3,403,203.00 (59.86%)

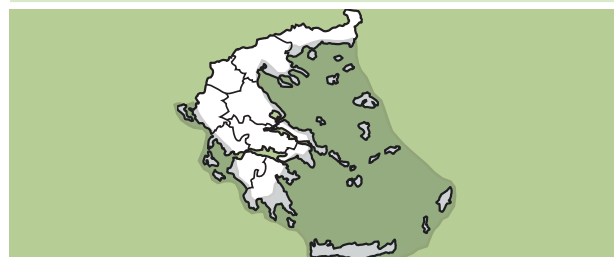
In order to restore the coastal lagoons, drainage trenches will be blocked. Additionally, eutrophic mud and dense reed vegetation will be removed from the lagoons. These actions will lead to the enhancement of habitat quality for wading birds and amphibians. Dry semi natural habitats will be restored by clearing overgrowth with bushes and trees including alien invasive species like the wrinkled rose (*Rosa rugosa*). Appropriate razing regimes with hardy grazers will be introduced on many areas to keep them free of overgrowth.

To ensure a sustainable management, the socio-economic conditions will be taken into account while developing site management strategies. The methods for the restoration of the coastal lagoon habitat complex will be improved by co-operation between experts and managers from Denmark, Sweden, Germany, Estonia and Lithuania.

Hellenic monks at sea

LIFE05 NAT/GR/000083

MOFI



Official title

Monk Seal & Fisheries: Mitigating the conflict in Greek seas

Background

The Monk seal (*Monachus monachus*) is one of the six most threatened mammals in the world. In 1993, the Greek population was estimated at 200-250 individuals. This is the largest global population and it represents 90% of the European population. In Greece, 15 years of efforts to conserve the monk seal have led to the establishment of a strictly protected National Marine Park, 35 Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), a National Action Plan, and the establishment of management bodies for two of the monk seal's most frequented areas.

Conflicts between fishery interests and seals result in deliberate killings by fishermen as well as delayed or non-reporting of stranded monk seals sighted by fishermen. The monk seals cause damage to fishing gear and occasionally die from entanglement in fishing nets. The lack of knowledge and cooperation with fishermen on these issues continue to seriously threaten the species' survival. Formulating measures to reduce mutually negative impacts is a complex problem since interactions between seals and the fishing industry are influenced by a range of parameters.

Objectives

The project objective is to improve the conservation status of the monk seal in Greece by mitigating the negative consequences of conflicts between monk seals and fishermen. The aims are to decrease mortality rates for the monk seals (*Monachus monachus*) and to reduce the loss of income in the fishery sector induced by seals.

The project addresses all coastal areas and islands in Greece, altogether about 15,000 km of coastline and 3,000 islands. Seven hotspots will be selected for interviews with fishermen on the extent and effects of the interactions between seals and the fishing industry.

Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

NGO-Foundation

Name of beneficiary

Hellenic Society for the Study and Protection of the Monk Seal (MOM)

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Website <http://www.mom.gr>

Name of contact person

Spyros Kotomatas

Duration of project:

48 months (July 2005 – June 2009)

Total budget in euro:

1,564,735.00

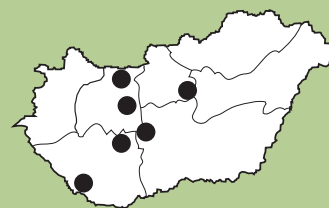
EC contribution in euro with %:

938,841.00 (60.00%)

In the two most important breeding sites, the National Marine Park of Alonnisos-N. Sporades and the island complex of Kimolos-Polyaigos, field work aboard professional fishing boats will be conducted to quantify the intensity of the problems. Acoustic seal deterrence devices will be tested on fishing gear to evaluate their effectiveness for reducing contact between seals and fishermen. The feeding preferences of the monk seal will also be determined for the first time. Information gathered will lead to the formulation of a Monk Seal-Fisheries Action Plan. In parallel, an awareness campaign and the involvement of local groups in the project activities aim to achieve maximum consensus among key stakeholders for the implementation and follow-up of the project.

Hungarian grass habits

LIFE05 NAT/H/000117
GRASSHABIT



Official title

Habitat management on the Pannonian grasslands in Hungary

Background

The Pannonian grasslands were formed through centuries of extensive grassland management practices, especially through extensive grazing. The grasslands and steppes found in Hungary are of a unique character and are listed as priority habitats in the Habitats Directive. The project targets six of these habitat types, including Pannonian steppic grasslands, sand steppes and salt steppes.

As a result of the EU accession negotiations, Hungary receives very few structural funds favouring extensive and nature conservation-friendly management practices (CAP II pillar), and mainly receives funds for intensive agricultural practices (CAP I pillar). Consequently, farmers feel encouraged to change the management of their grasslands by either intensifying use, ploughing and applying fertilisers, or abandoning all management and letting the grasslands revert to forest. Both courses of action are threatening the existence of the Pannonian grasslands.

Objectives

The objectives of the project are to: explore and test the best possible grassland management methods; to ensure ecological and economical sustainability of grassland management; and to ensure availability of management information to practitioners.

The project aims to restore, conserve and sustainably manage 720 ha of six characteristic grasslands and steppes in the Pannonian Biogeographic Region. The development of economically and ecologically sustainable management plans is foreseen for each habitat type and practical management with grazing, mowing, hydrological works and clearing of overgrowth are envisaged. The aim is to disseminate information on best practice management to land managers,

Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

NGO-Foundation

Name of beneficiary

Land Stewardship Advisory Service of BirdLife Hungary (MME-BirdLife Hungary)

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Name of contact person

Zsolt Szilvácsku

Duration of project:

48 months (Jan 2006 – Dec 2009)

Total budget in euro:

1,082,424.00

EC contribution in euro with %:

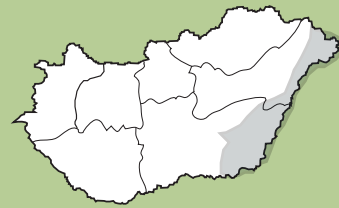
666,774.00 (61.60%)

farmers and the general public, and to encourage the application of these practices on patches of existing habitats as well as in agricultural areas.

Based on the project results, the Land Stewardship Advisory Service of BirdLife Hungary (LSAS) aims to provide knowledge, information and consultation services to daily managers of the project sites and to the farmers in buffer zones around the Natura 2000 areas. After the project, LSAS aims to continue to provide these services to the land managers.

Nests for red-footed Falcon

LIFE05 NAT/H/000122
F.VESPERTINUS-HU/RO



Official title

Conservation of *Falco vespertinus* in the Pannonian Region

Background

The red-footed Falcon (*Falco vespertinus*), a threatened species in Annex I of the Birds Directive, is also identified as a priority species in Hungary and Romania. These two countries have 90% of the total red-footed Falcon European population, notwithstanding the separated sub-population in the former Soviet Union. The conservation of the population of the Pannonian Bio-geographical Region (PBR) is therefore crucial for the survival of the species in the EU. The population of the species in the PBR has decreased from almost 3,200 breeding pairs in 1990 to roughly 925 known breeding pairs in the project area in 2003. The population can be maintained only if accurate information is available about the reasons for its decline.

Objectives

The aim of this project is to create favourable conditions for the short-term stabilisation of the red-footed Falcon (*Falco vespertinus*) in the Pannonian Bio-geographical Region (PBR). This project will focus on securing the current nesting sites and increasing potential nesting places by installing nest boxes. Practical measures to reduce the key factors of mortality will be taken, such as insulation of dangerous electric pylons around nesting, roosting and feeding sites, eliminating predators and reducing road-side kills by imposing speed limits.

The project will also try to better understand the food and habitat preference of the species, elaborate habitat management methods for Special Protection Areas (SPAs) management planning and influence the Agri-Environmental Scheme. The project will target 12 SPAs sites in Hungary and 11 proposed SPAs in West Romania. Because many of them are situated in highly populated areas, public acceptance is particularly important. An intensive communication programme will aim to increase awareness in the target groups.

Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

Park-Reserve Authority

Name of beneficiary

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Web site <http://www.kmnp.hu/>

Name of contact person

Péter Pálfi

Duration of project:

48 months (Jan 2006 – Dec 2009)

Total budget in euro:

1,546,580.00

EC contribution in euro with %:

772,190.00 (49.93%)

Paving the way for woodlands

Official title

Restoring Priority Woodland Habitats in Ireland

Background

In Ireland, four native woodland habitats are recognised in the Habitats Directive as being critically rare and restricted in their distribution across the EU. These habitats are alluvial woodland, yew woodland, bog woodland, and woodland associated with limestone pavement, which is a glaciated karst feature of very limited distribution in Europe and largely restricted to the north-west of the continent. These priority woodland habitats are threatened by issues such as: afforestation with exotic tree species; natural regeneration and spread of exotic species; trespass and damage caused by animals such as feral goat, livestock and deer; artificial drainage; and illegal dumping of domestic and commercial waste.

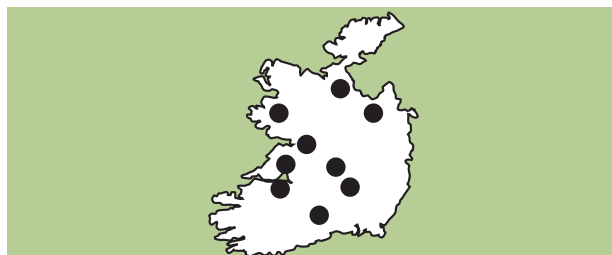
Objectives

The main objective of the project is to restore 555.5 ha of alluvial woodland, yew woodland, bog woodland, and woodland with limestone pavement. The project encompasses nine Natura 2000 sites, owned and managed by Coillte, and located in nine different counties across Ireland. The diversity, quantity and quality of the areas make them sites of considerable national and European significance.

The project aims to improve the conservation status of the sites and to restore the natural vegetation, as far as possible. The principal protective and restorative actions of the project include removal of exotic species; planting of native and habitat specific species; and installation of fences, dams and dip wells.

On many of the sites, the presence of rare habitats was previously unknown and the project will therefore mean a significant increase in the national area of managed habitats of these types. Three of the sites will be LIFE Project Demonstration Sites, where there will be a focus on public awareness and education over the four-year project period. The project will

LIFE05 NAT/IRL/000182
RPWHI



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

Small and medium-sized enterprise

Name of beneficiary

Coillte Teoranta [The Irish Forestry Board]

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Web site <http://www.coillte.ie>

Name of contact person

Philip Murphy

Duration of project:

48 months (Dec 2005 – Nov 2009)

Total budget in euro:

2,595,148.00

EC contribution in euro with %:

1,304,861.00 (50.28%)

encourage co-operation between NGOs and statutory bodies involved with protecting the Irish natural environment, making results available for a broad group of stakeholders. Under Coillte's programme for Sustainable Forest Management, the project sites will be managed with nature conservation as the primary objective after the LIFE project ends.

Rapt with raptors

Official title

Safeguard of the threatened raptors of the Matera Province

Background

The project will be implemented on two Natura 2000 sites: The Gravine di Matera site, which is part of a 6,000 ha regional archaeological park, and the Lago S. Giuliano e Timmari site, a 1,000 ha nature reserve along the banks of the artificial lake San Giuliano. The sites are hunting grounds for the lesser kestrel (*Falco naumanni*), a priority bird for the European Community. Around 500 couples, i.e., 25% of Italian and 3% of the estimated European population, live in the urban fabric of Matera and Montescaglioso. The Lanner falcon (*Falco biarmicus*), another priority bird, is present at the sites with two couples (10% of regional and 1% of the national population). The Egyptian vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*) is also present with two couples (50% of regional and 13% of the national population). Finally, the sites also host 3-4 couples of red kite (*Milvus milvus*) (3-4% of regional and 50% of national population). The three last mentioned species are considered endangered or at risk of extinction in Italy.

Objectives

The project objective is to improve the conservation status of the threatened raptors in the Special Protection Areas (SPA) and Sites of Community Interest (SCI) Gravine di Matera and Lago di S. Giuliano e Timmari in the Province of Matera.

The main aim is to safeguard and increase the most important Italian population of lesser kestrel (*Falco naumanni*) and to make its cohabitation consistent with the inhabitants of the towns of Matera and Montescaglioso. The project will also implement actions to protect the threatened populations of Lanner falcon (*Falco biarmicus*), Egyptian vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*) and red kite (*Milvus milvus*), amongst others through the elaboration of a wider strategy to protect the Egyptian vulture at Italian and European level.

LIFE05 NAT/IT/000009
RAPACI LUCANI



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

Local authority

Name of beneficiary

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Website <http://www.provincia.matera.it>

Name of contact person

Enrico De Capua

Duration of project:

48 months (Oct 2005 – Sept 2009)

Total budget in euro:

866,062.00

EC contribution in euro with %:

649,546.00 (75.00%)

Damned water

Official title

Urgent conservation actions for Fortore River pSCI

Background

Like most rivers in southern Italy, the Fortore river has a torrential character, with heavy water flow during winter and long drought period in summer months. The Occhito dam was built on the river in the 1950s to supply the Foggia province with water. The infrastructure had a significant impact on the river water flow, which is since often below the so-called minimum in stream flow (MIF). Moreover, the implementation of land reclamation schemes has resulted in the canalisation of the riverbed by means of concrete banks and other engineering works in order to control floods caused by the dam's water release. Since the construction of the Occhito dam, the habitats are in critical condition due to excessive water intake and to river canalisation, but also to excessive human pressure (agriculture and hunting).

Objectives

The aim of the project is to achieve an overall improvement of the river's environmental state and to foster a sustainable use of the land. Measures will be taken to restore the threatened and degraded habitats by drawing up a management plan with the River Authority, restoring the river bed and afforesting native species. The project will also encourage farmers to adopt eco-friendly practices and raise public awareness of the vital role of the river. By raising the ecological quality of the water, the project also contributes to actuating the 2000/60/CE Water Framework Directive, whose ultimate objective is to reach a 'good status' of river waters by 2015.

LIFE05 NAT/IT/000026
LIFENAT FORTORE 2005



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

Local authority

Name of beneficiary

Comunità Montana Monte Dauni Setteentrionali

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Name of contact person

Armando Palmieri

Duration of project:

54 months (Oct 2005 – March 2010)

Total budget in euro:

1,590,000.00

EC contribution in euro with %:

715,500.00 (45.00%)

Secure dunes and wetlands

Official title

Conservation of ecosystems in northern Tuscany

Background

One proposed Site of Community Interest (pSCI) and one Special Protection Area (SPA) are located in the coastal habitat of the Regional Park of Migliarino San Rossore Massaciuccoli in Tuscany: Dune litoranee di Torre del Lago (IT5170001) and Selva pisana (IT5160002). These two habitats of sand dunes and wetlands are threatened by invasive exotic plants and by erosion caused by visitors. This situation is particularly serious for bats (*Chiroptera*) whose reproductive and hibernating sites are under threat. Two previous LIFE projects were conducted in the Regional Park, to conserve the coastal habitat of San Rossore and to reclaim the Massaciuccoli Lake as a carrying site for the bittern.

Objectives

The aim of the project is to secure and enhance the dune habitats and the wetlands of the back-dune habitats in the Migliarino San Rossore Massaciuccoli Regional Park. These habitats are respectively a proposed Site of Community Interest (pSCI) and a Special Protection Area (SPA). The project will set up a plan to monitor plants communities, breeding birds and small fauna in wetlands habitats. Specific measures will be taken to maintain a reproductive colony of bats, a species of Community interest, and to stop the spread of exotic plant species. To reduce the impact of tourism, dedicated trails for visitors will be established.

LIFE05 NAT/IT/000037
DUNETOSCA



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

Park-Reserve authority

Name of beneficiary

Ente Parco Regionale Migliarino San Rossore
Massaciuccoli

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Fax +39 050 533650

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Website <http://www.sanrossore.it>

Name of contact person

Sergio Paglialunga

Duration of project:

36 months (Sept 2005 – Sept 2008)

Total budget in euro:

1,100,000.00

EC contribution in euro with %:

499,950.00 (45.45%)

Naturalising dunes in Brindisi

Official title

Protection of coastal habitats in pSCI Torre Guaceto

Background

The Site of Community Interest (SCI) Torre Guaceto e Macchia S. Giovanni holds coastal habitats of exceptional beauty and interest. The primary threats to the site are human activities that bring about a loss of priority habitats and the deterioration of forest ecosystems. The area is classified as a State Nature Reserve but it is located along a coastal stretch, which the inhabitants of Brindisi and surroundings use frequently for beach leisure activities.

Within the framework of a previous LIFE Environment project (LIFE00 ENV/IT/000090), concluded in August 2004, the area previously obtained support for implementing an integrated approach to environmental protection and management along the wider coastline (445km).

Objectives

The project aims to alleviate the adverse effects of human activities and to improve the conditions for the natural vegetation on the Site of Community Interest (SCI). The project will carry out restoration activities in the dune habitats and improve the forest structure and composition by silvicultural management and by eliminating allochthonous species introduced by humans. Land, which borders the SCI and is currently cultivated, will be purchased and restored to a natural state. The land will act as a buffer against impacts from human activities and improve the ecological balance of the most significant habitats in the targeted area.

Furthermore, the project aims to raise stakeholder awareness and understanding of the environmental protection activities associated with sustaining biodiversity in the Torre Guaceto and in particular of the need to reduce human induced pressures in the area.

LIFE05 NAT/IT/000050
HABI.COAST



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

Mixt enterprise

Name of beneficiary

Consorzio di Gestione di Torre Guaceto

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Name of contact person

Alessandro Ciccolella

Duration of project:

36 months (Jan 2006 – Dec 2008)

Total budget in euro:

730,000.00

EC contribution in euro with %:

365,000.00 (50.00%)

Save the Baltic turtles

LIFE05 NAT/LT/000094
NELEAP



Official title

Protection of *Emys orbicularis* and amphibians in the north European lowlands

Background

Considerable knowledge has been acquired on the design and improvement of pond landscapes of high value for amphibians, thanks mainly to three LIFE projects. The first project dealt with the consolidation of the European fire-bellied toad (*Bombina bombina*) in Denmark (LIFE99 NAT/DK/006454). The two other projects, still ongoing, focus on the protection of the Great crested newt (*Triturus cristatus*) in the Eastern Baltic region and on the management of the *Bombina bombina* in the entire Baltic region (LIFE04 NAT/EE/000070) and (LIFE04 NAT/DE/000028). With basic experience on turtle conservation in Lithuania, Poland and Germany, there are enough data available to implement protection measures on herpetological (reptiles and amphibians) sites of European interest and to develop a concept of active protection of sites of high herpetological diversity in the North European lowlands.

Objectives

The main objective of the project is to ensure the favourable conservation status of the European pond turtle (*Emys orbicularis*) in the North European lowlands. The project also foresees to ensure a favourable conservation status for the European fire-bellied toad (*Bombina bombina*) and the Great crested newt (*Triturus cristatus*) in the areas where they occur together with *Emys orbicularis*. The project will furthermore demonstrate how to protect *Bombina bombina* in artificial and drained lowland meadows of Brandenburg in Germany and in the large natural swamps and fenland of Zuvintas National Park in Lithuania. The aim is to protect more than 90% of the *Emys orbicularis* individuals in the north European lowlands and to demonstrate the validity of protection measures for *Bombina bombina* and *Triturus cristatus* as well as other amphibian species such as *Hyla arborea* and *Pelobates fuscus*.

Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

NGO-Foundation

Name of beneficiary

Lithuanian Fund for Nature (LFN)

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Name of contact person

Pranas Mierauskas

Duration of project:

60 months (Jan 2005 – Dec 2009)

Total budget in euro:

2,346,185.00

EC contribution in euro with %:

1,161,373.00 (49.50%)

Protecting the Lithuanian Curonian lagoon

Official title

Natura 2000 site conservation and management on the Lithuanian coast

Background

The Lithuanian Baltic seashore stretches for over 90 km, of which 52 km are along the Curonian Spit. The Curonian Spit is on the UNESCO World Heritage list. The 1,584 km² Curonian lagoon is the largest lagoon in the South-East Baltic region. Part of the Curonian Lagoon belongs to the Nemunas delta Regional Park, which is also a Ramsar site of 2,800 ha. Finally, the northern part of the Curonian lagoon is designated as an Important Bird Area (IBA).

Objectives

The project has a total area of 60,000 ha covering the terrestrial areas in the Curonian Spit National Park, the Seaside Regional Park and the entire Lithuanian area of the Curonian lagoon. The project aims first to ensure a favourable conservation status for seven habitats, four bird species and one plant species of Community importance listed in the annexes of the EU Birds and Habitats Directives on the Lithuanian seashore. The project will also prepare the management plans for Natura 2000 and establish new Natura 2000 sites for bird, fish and habitat protection. A demonstrative material will be prepared on permanent protection, supervision, management and observation of habitats and species. Finally, the project will enhance public awareness about the protection and sustainable management of Lithuanian seashore Natura 2000 sites.

LIFE05 NAT/LT/000095
LITCOAST



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

Development agency

Name of beneficiary

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Name of contact person

Jurate Morkvenaite

Duration of project:

36 months (Nov 2005 – Oct 2008)

Total budget in euro:

642,045.00

EC contribution in euro with %:

321,022.00 (50.00%)

A new life for pearl mussels

Official title

Restoration of pearl mussel populations in the Ardennes

Background

The River Our has a transboundary basin across Belgium, Germany and Luxembourg. In Luxembourg the upper part of the basin is a proposed Site of Community Interest (pSCI). Eleven habitat types of Community interest, of which three are priority habitats, are present in that Natura 2000 site.

The pearl mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*) is one of the most endangered species in the site because mainly of poor water quality and management of the river. In addition, populations of trout, which are necessary to the mussel life cycle as the larvae live some months in the gills of the trout, are very low. Furthermore, the remaining pearl mussel population is very small (1,500 individuals) and old which makes reproduction quite difficult. For the same reasons, the pearl mussel is endangered in most European countries.

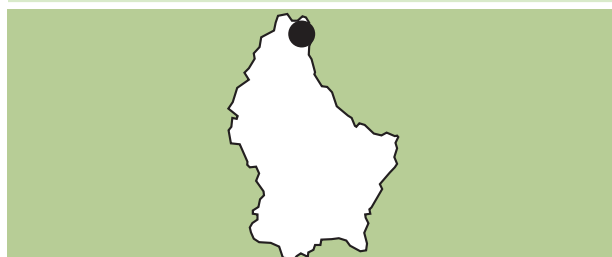
One LIFE project for the restoration of the habitat of the pearl mussel is already running in the Belgian part of the Our basin. Three Interreg projects were and are devoted to the knowledge and improvement of ecological conditions of the streams and the Our valleys. This LIFE project is a direct follow up to those first steps.

Objectives

The main thrust of the project is to set up and manage a breeding station to ensure the regular reintroduction of young pearl mussels to reinforce the size of the surviving population.

Pearl mussel conservation is also indissociable from assuring the good state of the river ecosystem. Building on extensive contacts with local stakeholders, the project will therefore carry out a series of measures including: removing dams and barriers or fitting them with fish passes; monitoring and reinforcing the trout population (as part of the pearl mussel breeding and

LIFE05 NAT/L/000116
ARDMOUPERL



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

NGO-Foundation

Name of beneficiary

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Name of contact person

Frantz-Charles Muller

Duration of project:

72 months (Sept 2005 – Aug 2011)

Total budget in euro:

2,264,062.00

EC contribution in euro with %:

1,132,031.00 (50.00%)

release actions); restoring gravel banks free of silt or clay; monitoring water quality and identifying and removing local sources of pollution; restoring natural riverbanks by cutting exotic conifers (4 ha) and planting indigenous trees (4 ha); and preventing cattle entering the river with 2.5 km of fencing.

The project will finally take a series of actions to enhance awareness among the local population and stakeholders, including fishing and hunting clubs, recreational operators and farmers.

Save the Baltic

Official title

Marine protected areas in the Eastern Baltic Sea

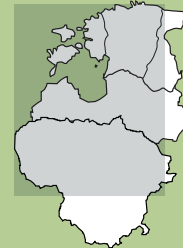
Background

The Baltic Sea is a unique and fragile ecosystem hosting many species and habitats of European interest and of importance for global biodiversity. Since the EU's enlargement in May 2004, the protection of the Baltic Sea and the sustainable use of its resources has become a major concern. In this context, implementing one Natura 2000 network in marine areas is a key instrument. Moreover, due to the close ecological connectivity of the Baltic Sea ecosystem, cooperation with adjacent non-EU countries, Russia for instance, is imperative as they are source of major marine pollutions.

Objectives

The overall objective of the project is to secure the protection and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in the Eastern Baltic Sea. The project will complete the establishment of Natura 2000 in the marine territories of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania (site selection, designation, protection rules and management plans). Furthermore, it will assess and reduce the impact of fishery by-catch on target bird and mammal species, for example the Steller's Eider (*Polysticta stelleri*). The project will also address other threats to marine Natura 2000 sites such as construction developments, economic or recreational activities and pollution. Finally, it will promote transboundary networking and capacity building on marine protected areas between the Baltic States, other EU Member States and Russia.

LIFE05 NAT/LV/000100
BALTIC MPAS



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

NGO-Foundation

Name of beneficiary

SO "Baltijas Vides forums"

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Web site <http://www.bef.lv>

Name of contact person

Heidrun Fammler

Duration of project:

48 months (Aug 2005 – July 2009)

Total budget in euro:

3,111,316.00

EC contribution in euro with %:

1,555,658.00 (50.00%)

Saving the Dutch dunes

Official title

Restoration of dune habitats along the Dutch coast

Background

Coastal dune grasslands, dune heath lands and dune slacks are threatened or vulnerable habitats all over Europe. In the Netherlands, the dunes' biodiversity is decreasing, mainly due to eutrophication and desiccation. The Dutch dunes are of European importance as they comprise 10% of all European dunes, and are among the best preserved in North-Western Europe. The State Forestry Service manages approximately 15,000 ha of dunes, approximately one-third of the total area. Eight Natura 2000 sites, partly managed by the State Forestry Service, are included in this project. The priority types of dunes, the fixed grey and the decalcified fixed dunes with *Empetrum nigrum*, are two of the dominant habitat types in the project site area.

Objectives

The main objective of this project is to create favourable conservation conditions through a set of related activities in 4,700 ha of dunes covering eight Natura 2000 sites. The project focuses on restoration of approximately 1,100 ha of wet and humid dune areas, primarily through restoration of natural hydrology, sod cutting and the removal of shrubs. The project aims also to restore dune grasslands and heath lands on approximately 1,550 ha through grazing, preceded by the removal of non-indigenous forest and/or scrub, favouring the two priority dune types: fixed grey dunes and decalcified fixed dunes with *Empetrum nigrum*. The project will furthermore create favourable conditions for embryonic dunes and shifting dunes with *Ammophila arenaria* on 10 to 20 ha. Finally, it will replace coniferous plantation with natural woodland on an area of approximately 40 ha.

LIFE05 NAT/NL/000124
DUTCH COASTAL DUNES



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

National authority

Name of beneficiary

Staatsbosbeheer (State Forestry Service)

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THE NETHERLANDS

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Web site <http://www.staatsbosbeheer.nl>

Name of contact person

Ad Van Hees

Duration of project:

63 months (July 2005 – Sept 2010)

Total budget in euro:

4,625,510.00

EC contribution in euro with %:

1,887,750.00 (40.81%)

Action Plan for German and Polish singers

Official title

Conserving *Acrocephalus paludicola* in Poland and Germany

Background

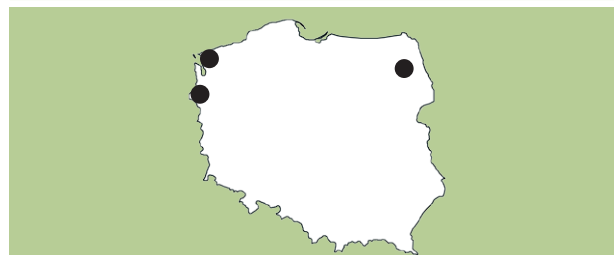
Aquatic warbler (*Acrocephalus paludicola*) is the rarest passerine bird found in mainland Europe. With a very small world population of only 12,000-20,500 pairs, it is classified as vulnerable on the Red List of Endangered Species. The aquatic warbler depends on habitats such as fen mires and wet meadows and is extremely susceptible to changes in land use. Once widespread and numerous, this habitat specialist disappeared from most of its former range in northern Germany and Poland. The genetically distinct population along the German-Polish border and in north-eastern Poland is now acutely threatened.

Aquatic warbler is listed in Annex I of the EU Birds Directive, and is a priority species for the European Community. Most range states, including Poland and Germany, have signed an international Memorandum of Understanding for the aquatic warbler, committing themselves to implementing an International Action Plan (IAP) for this flagship species and its habitat. The present project targets the breeding sites of 81% of the remaining Polish and German populations – about 2,800 pairs or 76% of the EU population – and will contribute to the implementation of the IAP.

Objectives

The project's main objective is to stabilise the population of aquatic warbler (*Acrocephalus paludicola*) in key areas of its range in Poland and Germany. It aims to improve and increase the habitats at the most important sites of the species in Biebrza, Poland and to prevent the extinction of the genetically distinct remnant population in Pomerania, Germany. It will raise the awareness of authorities, key stakeholders and the local public of the conservation needs of the aquatic warbler and its specific habitat requirements. To this end, it also aims to identify and agree upon long-term management measures and to secure financial and political backing for their implementation.

LIFE05 NAT/PL/000101
AQUATIC WARBLER PROJECT



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

NGO–Foundation

Name of beneficiary

Ogólnopolskie Towarzystwo Ochrony Ptaków-Polish Society for the Protection of Birds (OTOP)

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Name of contact person

Aleksandra Priwiezienczew

Duration of project:

64 months (Feb 2005 – May 2010)

Total budget in euro:

5,457,109.00

EC contribution in euro with %:

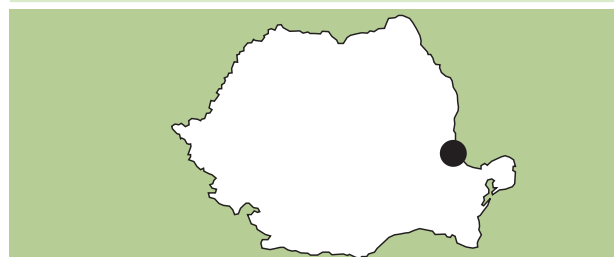
4,092,832.00 (75.00%)

The project will create 1,500 ha of new potential habitat in Pomerania and Biebrza and implement restoration actions on another 1,500 ha with the aim of obtaining an increase of 15% in the population of aquatic warbler. Measures to be implemented include hydrological management, removal of shrubs and overgrowth from wet meadows and mires, initiation of extensive grazing and considerate mowing of aquatic warbler habitats.

An international partnership of five NGOs and two protected area administrations from three EU member states will manage, implement and monitor the project in nine Special Protection Areas.

Renaturalising the Prutpark

LIFE05 NAT/RO/000155
RENAT2000PRUTPARK



Official title

Ecological restoration of the lower Prut floodplain natural park

Background

The Lower Prut Floodplain Natural Park is the entrance of the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve. It lies on the flyway route of hundreds of migratory birds. It is the nesting site for more than a hundred bird species, and also a resting/wintering place for many of the passing migratory birds. More than 50 of these birds are listed in the EU Birds Directive and in the Bern Convention. The target area of the project furthermore comprises three priority habitats under the Habitats Directive.

The ecological importance of the park has been recognised at national as well as international levels. For example, it is included in the Lower Danube Green Corridor programme, developed with the support of WWF, and signed by representatives of Romania, Bulgaria, Moldova, and Ukraine in 2000. In 1999-2000 a project on nature rehabilitation and international wetlands management, financed under the PHARE scheme, was implemented in the park.

The natural park is characterised by average to low levels of rural settlements, affected by accelerated population decrease. Fishing and agriculture represent the main activities generating incomes for the local inhabitants.

Objectives

The project objective is to improve the conservation status of 13 priority and more than 50 non-priority bird species listed in the Birds Directive and present in the Lower Prut Floodplain Natural Park. The main aim is to resolve the environmental problems caused by human activities such as agriculture, pasturage, pisciculture and tourism in and around the Park. To deal with the degradation of hydrological structures, the project also aims to re-establish the ecological balance of the lakes, including improvement of the water level and its maintenance.

The project foresees a series of strategic interventions involving scientific inventory, monitoring activities, site restoration, awareness raising activities, implementation of a park management plan and the designation of four Spe-

Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

Regional authority

Name of beneficiary

Regional Environmental Protection Agency Galati

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Name of contact person

Dediu Ciprian

Duration of project:

48 months (Nov 2005 – Oct 2009)

Total budget in euro:

824,710.00

EC contribution in euro with %:

412,355.00 (50.00%)

cial Protected Areas (SPAs). These SPAs will be part of the Romanian Natura 2000 sites when Romania enters the EU. The first phase of the project focuses on the establishment of park administrative structures and the preparation of an integrated management plan, to be approved by the local authorities. This plan would guide the conservation activities to be implemented and would consider the protection needs of target habitats and species of the project.

A number of actions are foreseen to address and involve the local community. These include information dissemination, consultation of every village in the area, active participation and the educational actions with local pedagogical material to be produced. The project takes into account that there is a relatively high illiteracy in the area and will address stakeholders in a wide variety of ways, including picture books, nature trails, six annual environment days with expeditions into the area, children's exhibitions, and bird watching towers.

Rare snakes on the loose in Transylvania

Official title

Saving *Vipera Ursinii Rakosiensis* in Transylvania

Background

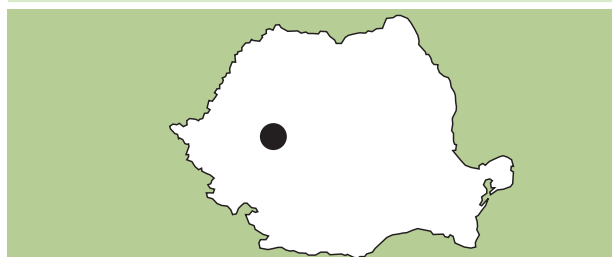
The Hungarian meadow viper (*Vipera ursinii rakosiensis*) is amongst the rarest subspecies of snake in the world and is the most endangered reptile in Europe. The snake, which is yellow with a distinct black zigzag pattern on its back, was once common throughout the Carpathian Basin, where its natural habitat, the steppe, dominated the landscape. The snake disappeared from Austria in the 1970s and was thought to be extinct in Romania where the last known population, in the Fanatele Clujului Natural Reserve, disappeared more than 40 years ago. However, in 2002, a population of the Hungarian meadow viper was unexpectedly discovered in Transylvania. After preliminary studies, it is estimated that there are about 300-400 specimens in a dense population on a relatively small core area of about 30-40 ha. This constitutes about 50% of the total European population. The only other known populations in Europe to date are in Hungary, where two small sites hold a few hundred specimens.

Very little is known about the Hungarian meadow viper's requirements and habits but a prerequisite for its survival is conservation of its current habitat and protection from capture for sale on the black market. Preliminary negotiations have been conducted with 40 landowners for land purchases or lease of relevant areas in order to establish a protected area with core and buffer zones.

Objectives

The aim of this project is to protect and enhance the only known Hungarian meadow viper (*Vipera ursinii rakosiensis*) population in Romania. It aims at the conservation and enlargement of the snake's current range by habitat restoration such as hedge plantation and establishment of a corresponding buffer zone. The project will focus on an inventory and biological monitoring of the Romanian population. An area management plan and action plan for the Romanian

LIFE05 NAT/RO/000158
SAVING V.U. RAKOSIENSIS



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

Training centre

Name of beneficiary

Centrul de Initiativa pentru Mediu – CRIM

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Name of contact person

Calin Tiberiu Voda

Duration of project:

48 months (Jan 2005 – Jan 2009)

Total budget in euro:

517,723.00

EC contribution in euro with %:

388,292.00 (75.00%)

population of the Hungarian meadow viper are foreseen and permanent surveillance of the protected area will be carried out by three specially trained rangers.

The project seeks to obtain land lease and purchase to secure management in the newly proposed protected area and to ensure an increased habitat range for the Hungarian meadow viper. In the long term, it is hoped that the project results may lead to the establishment of new populations of the Hungarian meadow viper in suitable habitats in the Transylvanian Plain or elsewhere.

Dalmatians in the Danube

Official title

Saving *Pelecanus crispus* in the Danube Delta

Background

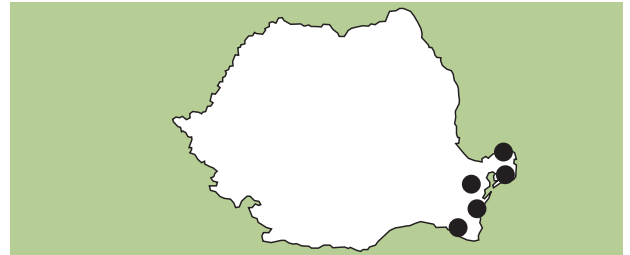
Within its entire geographical range, from Yugoslavia to Mongolia, the Dalmatian pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*) is classified as vulnerable on the IUCN Red List (2004). Its present total breeding population is estimated at 4,000 - 5,000 breeding pairs. The European population of the Dalmatian pelican is crucial for the survival of the species. The two major subpopulations of 700 pairs in Greece and about 400 pairs in Romania are the last remaining strongholds of the species outside the former Soviet Union. In Romania, the Dalmatian pelican breeds in five colonies, all located within the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve. The population of the Danube Delta targeted by the project represents 33.5 – 36.5% of the European population outside the former Soviet Union. The main threats to the species at its breeding sites are disturbances and degradation of its habitats.

Objectives

The main objective of this project is to protect and increase the breeding population of the Dalmatian pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*) in the Danube delta. The project aims at a 27% increase in the number of breeding pairs so that the population in 2009 will be around 500 pairs.

Specific conservation measures aim to improve the breeding conditions by ensuring an adequate protection of the breeding sites and eliminating human disturbances and mortality caused by anglers and hunters. Activities that will address this aim include clear delineation of breeding sites, the use of warning signs, and the training of wardens to deal with illegal intruders. Furthermore, authorities will be urged to regulate fishing and hunting in order to prevent unintentional killings. Power lines will be marked to eliminate mortality due to collision. With the aim to secure the habitats and provide larger breeding areas, the shoreline of the natural islands will be consolidated and artifi-

LIFE05 NAT/RO/000169
SAVEDP



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

Park-Reserve Authority

Name of beneficiary

Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority (DDBRA)

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Web site <http://www.dbbra.ro>

Name of contact person

Virgil Munteanu

Duration of project:

47 months (Nov 2005 – Sept 2009)

Total budget in euro:

704,260.00

EC contribution in euro with %:

492,696.00 (69.96%)

cial structures will be installed. Ground predation will be reduced by limiting the access of predators to the sites. All the six breeding areas will be proposed as Special Protection Areas (SPAs).

A comprehensive monitoring programme aims to provide information on breeding requirements, population size, movements of the Dalmatian pelican, and to monitor the effects of the implemented conservation measures. Furthermore, the species' requirements, with regard to water quality and the risk of their contamination with heavy metals, will be investigated.

Mountain ranges for brown bears, wolf and lynx

Official title

Enhancing the protection system of large carnivores in Vrancea county

Background

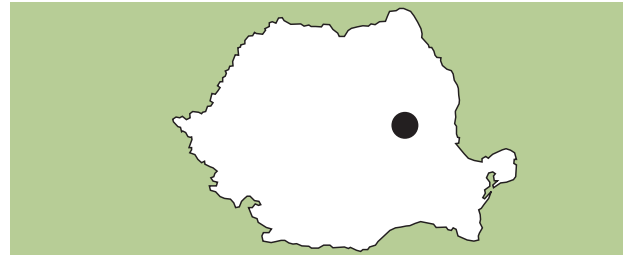
The Vrancea mountains provide ranges for the second densest population of large carnivores in Romania. The mountains are home to 6.5% of the brown bear (*Ursus arctos*) population, 5.5% of the Eurasian lynx (*Lynx lynx*) population, and 3.7% of the grey wolf (*Canis lupus*) population in Romania. Widely distributed in the past, these three species of carnivores are now listed in Annex II of the EU Habitats Directive.

The trend of the brown bear populations in Romania varies from region to region. In total, there are about 6,900 individuals, which is almost 50% of the European population. The grey wolf has almost disappeared in Western and Central Europe but Romania is home to 4,000 individuals, or 35% of the European population. This situation is similar for the Eurasian lynx, which is listed as endangered by CITES. With numbers of about 1,800 individuals, Romania has the greatest population of lynx in Europe.

Objectives

The aim of the project is to improve the protection management of brown bear (*Ursus arctos*), Eurasian lynx (*Lynx lynx*), and grey wolf (*Canis lupus*) in Vrancea County. Moreover, the project aims to connect the local protection network for large carnivores with the European ecological network, Natura 2000. The project will focus mainly on monitoring the large carnivores, on establishing management plans for the sites proposed to be included in the Natura 2000 network when Romania enters the EU, and on ensuring increased habitat protection. The project will furthermore deal with issues related to mortality by poaching and illegal hunting, through increased patrolling of the area and the establishment of a rehabilitation and monitoring centre.

LIFE05 NAT/RO/000170
LCVNRO



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

Regional authority

Name of beneficiary

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(EPA VN)

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Name of contact person

Silviu Foscanit

Duration of project:

48 months (Nov 2005 – Nov 2009)

Total budget in euro:

577,989.00

EC contribution in euro with %:

346,793.00 (60.00%)

Public acceptance is paramount to the success of the project, and the project will implement an educational campaign to raise awareness and establish support for the conservation of the brown bear, Eurasian lynx and grey wolf. The campaign will promote the social and economic benefits of implementing the Natura 2000 network and establishing a strong local network for large carnivores protection in Vrancea County.

Putting Romania on the map

Official title

Priority forest, sub-alpine and habitats in Romania

Background

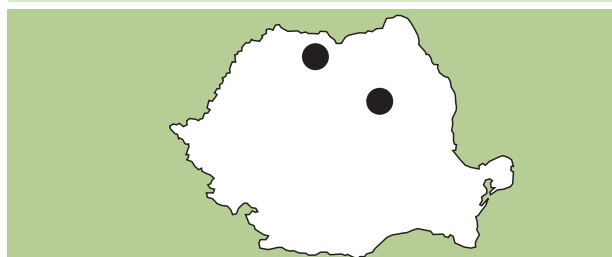
Forest, sub-alpine and alpine areas cover about 40% of Romania and comprise a range of rare and important species and habitats. Recent changes in land ownership pose a major threat to valuable forest habitats. Private as well as public owners are currently subject to growing economic pressure and - while public owners are under some obligations to preserve biodiversity - private owners often have little incentive to conserve biodiversity values. At the same time both land abandonment and intensification of land use are progressively leading to significant losses of biodiversity on sub-alpine and alpine pastures.

Objectives

The project targets all known Romanian forest, sub-alpine and alpine areas, which altogether covering a project area of 6,5 million hectares. The objective is to prepare the designation of Romanian Natura 2000 sites in forests, sub-alpine and alpine areas. The project aims to identify, map and describe potential Sites of Community Interest (SCIs). Management plans will be prepared for areas identified to be of high conservation value. To ensure local understanding and acceptance, the project will implement awareness raising and training activities for key stakeholders and the general public. It will develop proposals for possible compensation schemes for the land owners in the future Natura 2000 sites and lobby the government for acceptance and implementation of these schemes. Agreements will be signed with land owners and administrators to ensure the implementation of specific conservation measures in the identified habitats.

The potential economic and social benefits of the future Natura 2000 sites will be demonstrated in two protected areas, the Rodna and Ceahlau National Parks. These case studies will demonstrate the exploitation of recreational and ecological values of nature as a possible alternative to intensified, uniform land uses.

LIFE05 NAT/RO/000176
FOREST-ALP NATURA 2000



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

University

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Name of contact person

Ioan Vasile Abrudan

Duration of project:

49 months (Jan 2005 – Jan 2009)

Total budget in euro:

933,490.00

EC contribution in euro with %:

700,094.00 (75.00%)

Save the minor ponds

Official title

Management and conservation of temporary ponds in Minorca

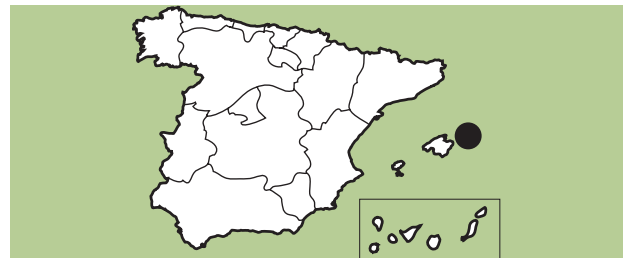
Background

The north-west corner of Minorca has one of the island's most spectacular landscapes. The aridity of the land, a direct consequence of over-grazing, is exacerbated by a prevalent strong north wind. The area is a broad calcareous rocky plateau located 20-40 metres above the sea, presenting dramatic vertical cliffs. Small precipices open to small bays where seasonal rivers flow. Although they only carry water during heavy rainy seasons, the water volume is sufficient to allow the formation of seasonal water ponds. These ponds are the source of interesting vegetation communities with a high biodiversity. This includes some species endemic to the Balearic islands, such as *Romulea assumptionis*, from the iris family, and *Polygonum romanum* subsp. *Balearicu*, from the knotweed family.

Objectives

The aim of the project is to set up a long-term conservation programme for the priority habitat Mediterranean temporary ponds on the island of Minorca. The programme has four main objectives. It will first design an integrated management model for the most important temporary ponds on the island and secondly get a better knowledge of the dynamics of the temporary ponds habitat. The project will also restore the degraded temporary ponds. Finally, it will raise public awareness about the importance of the conservation of this habitat and small habitats in general.

LIFE05 NAT/E/000058
BASSES



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

Regional authority

Name of beneficiary

Consell Insular de Menor a-Conselleria de Medi Ambient

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Name of contact person

Juaneda Joan

Duration of project:

36 months (Sept 2005 – Aug 2008)

Total budget in euro:

1,013,549.00

EC contribution in euro with %:

608,129.00 (60.00%)

Spring for tufa and toads

Official title

Restoration of priority habitats for amphibians

Background

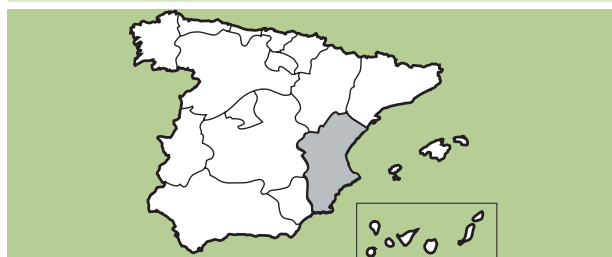
Owing to the widespread abandonment of traditional management practices, the small inland freshwater bodies of the Valencia Region are rapidly disappearing. Small freshwater bodies are vital habitats for a range of threatened amphibians as well as some rare plant and animal species. Eight different amphibians are currently found in the freshwater bodies in Valencia.

In 1998, a preliminary inventory of water bodies of interest was developed with a view to the protection of their biodiversity. Based on interviews with environmental managers and field visits, more than 4,600 water bodies across Valencia were inventoried. At the same time, it was established that actions are necessary to ensure the restoration, protection and management of many of these water habitats. Amongst the habitats are Mediterranean temporary ponds and petrifying springs with tufa formations, which are prioritised by the European Community.

Objectives

The project targets the preservation of a network of 55 small freshwater pools, part of a vast complex of 4,612 ponds (or water retention sites) of small and medium-size in Valencia. The project aims to improve the conservation status of eight amphibians found in the pools. Amongst these are the Spanish painted frog (*Discoglossus jeannea*), a priority species for the European Community, as well as three other rare species: the midwife toad (*Alytes obstetricans*); the natterjack toad (*Bufo calamita*); and the Western spadefoot (*Pelobates cultripes*), a toad which is only found on the Iberian peninsula and in southern France.

LIFE05 NAT/E/000060
Res. Habitats Anf. Com. Val



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

Regional authority

Name of beneficiary

Consellería de Territori y Habitatge Generalitat Valenciana

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Name of contact person

Francisco Javier Gómez Martín

Duration of project:

48 months (Jan 2005 – Dec 2008)

Total budget in euro:

1,047,747.00

EC contribution in euro with %:

523,874.00 (50.00%)

Management plans will be elaborated for individual habitat types and two of the targeted amphibian species. To encourage an increase in the habitat-specific vegetation, the propagation of hydrophytic and helophytic plants will be carried out. Further concrete restoration actions that are planned include the eradication of invasive species, erosion control, and restoration of hydrological features.

Back to native forest

Official title

Conservation and restoration of "Aiako Harria" LIC (ES2120016)

Background

The Aiako Harria Special Protection Area (SPA) is located at the foothill of the Pyrenees Mountains, in the west corner of the Gipuzkoa province (Basque Country). This natural area of 6,913 ha is characterised by a succession of deep valleys and high slopes. While most of its surface is now covered by pine, there are still remarkable areas of native forest, such as the Añarbe oak-beech forests, the Endara oak forest and the Oianleku beech forest. The area has also other ecosystems with high biological diversity, such as silica rock communities and communities linked to small rivers. The wildlife is typical of the Euro-Siberian area, with more than 147 species of vertebrates including wild boar and roe deer in forest areas, griffon vulture on rocky slopes and salmon in the rivers. Pressure on land for recreational uses is increasing; in particular, picnic areas have been created, with direct road access.

Objectives

The overall objective of the project is to conserve and restore habitats and species of Community interest in an area which is predominantly forested. The project will focus on the protection, restoration and expansion of two natural habitats of Community interest in the Aiako Harria Special Protection Area (SPA): the Atlantic acidophilus beech forests and the Galaico-Portuguese oak woods. These measures will have a positive impact on populations of coleopterons such as *Rosalia alpina* and *Lucanus cervus*, and would allow the establishment of others including *Osmoderma eremita* and *Cerambyx cerdo*, all of which are of Community interest (and, as such, listed in Annex II of the Habitats Directive). Measures will also be taken to restore fluvial habitats and species, particularly the plant *Soldanella villosa*, given the importance of Aiako Harria for the global conservation of this species.

LIFE05 NAT/E/000067
LIFE AIAKO HARRIA



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

Regional authority

Name of beneficiary

Dirrección General de Montes y Medio Natural-Departamento para el Desarrollo del Medio Rural

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Name of contact person

Inma Lizaso

Duration of project:

48 months (Oct 2005 – Sept 2009)

Total budget in euro:

2,260,318.00

EC contribution in euro with %:

1,130,159.00 (50.00%)

Galleries for the European mink

Official title

Ecosystemic management of rivers with European mink

Background

The project targets one of the few remnants of the priority species European mink (*Mustela lutreola*) and its riparian habitats in the Aragón and Arga River systems. The project sites host one of the largest remnant populations of European mink in Europe, and 10% of the Spanish population. Other animal and bird species of European importance found in the area include the European pond turtle (*Emys orbicularis*), otter (*Lutra lutra*), French nase (*Chondrostoma miegii*), escaño roach (*Rutilus arcasii*), purple heron (*Ardea purpurea*), and night heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*). Riparian galleries with willow (*Salix alba*) and poplars (*Populus alba*) cover a large part of the sites and is one of the favoured habitats of the European mink.

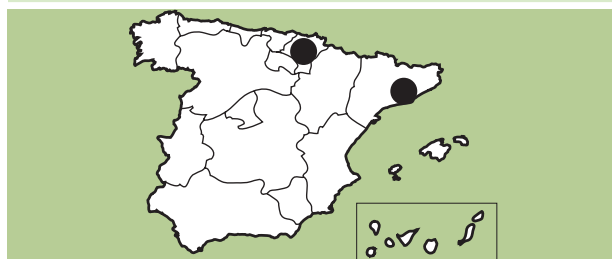
Habitat degradation and fragmentation, and competition with the American mink (*Mustela vison*) are the main threats to sustaining a viable population of the European mink. Fragmentation of habitats has also led to the genetic isolation of populations, which is now threatening the genetic viability of the remaining European mink.

Objectives

The project aims to restore and secure the habitats of the European mink (*Mustela lutreola*) in two proposed Sites of Community Interest (pSCI) in the Navarra region in Spain. The objective is to ensure a viable population of European mink in the area and to provide the species with possibilities for expansion.

Riparian habitats in the Aragón and Arga River systems will be restored and invasive plant species removed with the aim of increasing habitat connectivity. About 15 European mink will be moved to new suitable habitats within the Natura 2000 network. Their adaptation to the new habitats will be studied in order to increase knowledge of the mink's habitat prefer-

LIFE05 NAT/E/000073
GERVE



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

Public enterprise

Name of beneficiary

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Web site <http://www.gavrn.com>

Name of contact person

Santiago García Fernández-Velilla

Duration of project:

34 months (Jan 2005 – Oct 2007)

Total budget in euro:

1,691,681.00

EC contribution in euro with %:

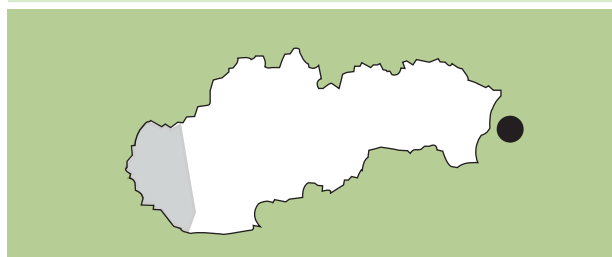
1,015,009.00 (60.00%)

ences and behaviour for potential future reintroduction to other areas. To decrease competition from the American mink (*Mustela vison*), actions will be implemented to control its presence in the project area.

An information campaign and guidance to recreational users, particularly anglers, aims to increase the knowledge and understanding about the European mink and its habitats in the local and general public.

Watering Slovakian lowlands

LIFE05 NAT/SK/000112
WETREST



Official title

Restoration of the Wetlands at Zahorie Lowland

Background

In Slovakia, wetlands are among the most seriously threatened natural ecosystems. They represent unique habitats for many plant and animal species. They are important for biodiversity conservation and for stabilising the water regime of the landscape. During the last two decades, the total wetland area in Slovakia has declined dramatically and the vast majority of remaining natural and semi-natural wetlands are seriously threatened by human activities.

The main cause of the decline is changes in the natural water regime, brought about by extensive drainage, peat extraction and land reclamation schemes. The changes have led to a decline in habitats and species associated with the wetlands and a reduction of the retention capacity of the areas concerned. One of the most valuable remaining wetlands is located in the Zahorie Lowland, which is also one of the most important regions in Slovakia for biodiversity in general.

Objectives

The overall objective of the project is to contribute to the development of the Natura 2000 network in Slovakia and the conservation of habitats and species at national level. The project aims to restore eight proposed Sites of Community Interest (pSCI) in the Zahorie Lowland. The proposed activities target a network of mountain rivers and ponds, bogs, dunes, and riparian and alder forests.

To respond to the lack of appropriate management, the project will elaborate long-term management plans and restoration projects and the existing forest management plans will be amended. This process will involve extensive stakeholder concertation.

The project foresees the construction of a system of fish bypasses and the restoration of river banks to enhance the quality of the river and adjacent habitats. This will include installing 5 small weirs and filling in

Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

National authority

Name of beneficiary

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Name of contact person

Peter Urban

Duration of project:

47 months (Feb 2005 – Dec 2008)

Total budget in euro:

624,000.00

EC contribution in euro with %:

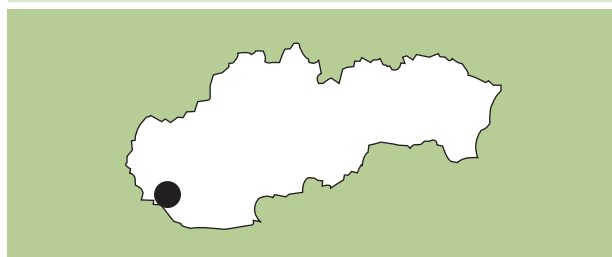
312,000.00 (50.00%)

over a kilometre of drainage ditches, and should improve the conservation status of some 1800 ha, as well as of a number of species.

There are also plans to re-establish traditional use on 165 ha of lowland hay meadows in order to restore their ecosystem functions. This will involve cutting and regular mowing and grazing. Finally, the project aims to block ditches and drains to improve the hydrological conditions of the wet habitats in the project area.

Prevent great bustard extinction

LIFE05 NAT/SK/000115
OTISSK



Official title

Conservation of *Otis tarda* in Slovakia

Background

The great bustard (*Otis tarda*) population is highly fragmented across Europe, Morocco and Asia. The greatest part of the world's breeding population (50%) is now found in the Iberian peninsula, followed by Russia, Turkey and the Hungarian basin. Several small populations, partly isolated, also live in different central European countries. The species is however extinct in France, Western Germany, Poland, Yugoslavia and the U.K. It is globally threatened, classified as vulnerable and is included in Annex I of the EU Wild Birds Directive, Appendix II of the Bern Convention, Appendix I of the Bonn Convention and Appendix I of CITES.

In Slovakia, this species is also threatened and classified as critically endangered. To enable the population recovery and to ensure the long-term protection of the species it is necessary to implement conservation measures. One of the two project sites, Syslovske polia, is the last regular nesting place of the great bustard in Slovakia, and serves as a winter roosting ground of more than 10% of the central European population.

Objectives

The overall objective is to improve the conservation of the great bustard (*Otis tarda*) and its habitats in two Slovakian sites designated as Special Protection Areas (SPAs) under the Birds Directive, through a series of measures that are in line with the priority actions listed in the European Action Plan and Slovak National Action Plan for *Otis tarda* protection.

This will involve purchasing 150 ha of key nesting and wintering locations, and converting them into grasslands which will be regularly managed for *Otis tarda* together with a further 75 ha of leased land. Some 20 ha of feeding strips will be planted with oil rape and cabbage, and snow will be removed from selected areas to ensure accessibility of food during severe winters.

Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

National authority

Name of beneficiary

The State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic (SNC)

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Web site <http://www.soprs.sk/>

Name of contact person

Peter Urban

Duration of project:

60 months (Jan 2005 – Dec 2009)

Total budget in euro:

2,040,000.00

EC contribution in euro with %:

1,500,000.00 (73.53%)

Practical measures will be developed in collaboration with hunters to prevent disturbances during the breeding season and to control predators, and some 30 km of power lines will be marked and/or insulated to reduce the risks of collision and electrocution

Following intensive discussions with local farmers and the relevant administrations, appropriate management and farming practices will be tested and implemented on a further 820 ha, with a view to establishing an effective agri-environment scheme that will ensure the long-term conservation management in the area.

An information and logistic centre will be established for the overall management of the SPAs and for the coordination of the protection measures, and an extensive programme of communication with the local population and stakeholders is planned.

Hermits and horses in the meadows of Östergötland

Official title

Natural meadows and pastures of Östergötland – restoration and maintenance

Background

Meadows and grasslands contain a broad diversity of plant species, which provide the conditions for a wealth of insect life while grazed shore meadows provide habitats for many species of birds.

During the past decades, the modernisation of agriculture has resulted in a drastic reduction in the acreage of natural hay meadows and grazing land as small land plots were abandoned or incorporated into large intensified agricultural units. Where small plots still exist, lack of management has resulted in overgrowth of the plots and caused many connected species of flora and fauna to become rare or even disappear.

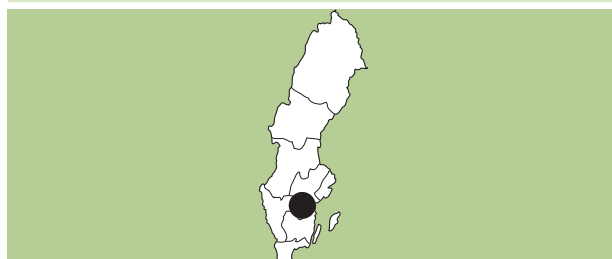
The county of Östergötland holds a considerable proportion of Sweden's acreage of natural hay meadows and grazed pastures. Östergötland is also an important region for many species connected with old oaks. These old, often hollow, trees host a myriad of insects, lichen and moss species. For example, the hermit beetle (*Osmoderma eremite*), a priority species in the Habitats Directive, has its largest populations in Östergötland and occurs in no less than eight of the project sites.

Objectives

The project targets natural meadows, wooded pastures and shore meadows typical for extensive agricultural landscapes. It aims to restore natural meadows and pastures on 41 Natura 2000 sites in Östergötland. The habitats typically require continuous management in the form of haymaking or extensive grazing. Within the framework of the project, 398 hectares of meadow and wooded pasture will be cleared of overgrowth. Grazing by horses and cattle will be introduced, or grazing conditions improved, on 392 hectares, and natural hay meadows will be restored on six hectares. Pasture will be established on an additional 433 hectares of shore meadows to encourage the rich bird life of these areas.

LIFE05 NAT/S/000108

ROSORIS



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

Local authority

Name of beneficiary

Länsstyrelsen Östergötland

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Name of contact person

Dan Nilsson

Duration of project:

60 months (Jan 2005 – Dec 2009)

Total budget in euro:

2,158,933.00

EC contribution in euro with %:

1,079,467.00 (50.00%)

In one area, pollarding of old deciduous trees will be resumed to benefit the many species of flora and fauna that need old trees for their survival. Oak trees will be plated to encourage, in a long-term perspective, the many species dependent on old oaks.

From the mountain to the deep blue sea

Official title

From source to sea, restoring river Moälven

Background

The Swedish population of pearl mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*), otter (*Lutra lutra*), Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*) and bullhead (*Cottus gobio*) are of high importance to their conservation at European level. About 50% of the European population of pearl mussels occurs in Sweden, and Sweden and Finland together hold the majority of the EU population of bullhead. Furthermore, the Swedish population of Atlantic salmon is about 15% of the total EU population.

To facilitate log floating during the 19th and 20th centuries, vast amounts of rocks and boulders were cleared from Moälven's streambeds. The loss of habitat for fish and invertebrates was enormous. In 1868, during an extreme flood, a logging company provoked the River Moälven to break a new course. This created a waterfall, making it impossible for migratory fish to pass and hence made spawning areas and living habitats inaccessible for the Atlantic salmon and the pearl mussel.

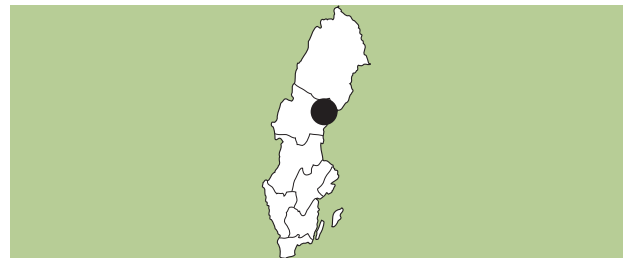
The acidification of water bodies has also been a problem for conservation of biodiversity in Sweden over the last 50 years. Around Moälven, the main cause of acidification and poor soil resilience is lack of awareness in forest management.

Objectives

The overall objective of the project is to restore a part of the River Moälven in order to protect and conserve the freshwater pearl mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*), otter (*Lutra lutra*), Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*) and bullhead (*Cottus gobio*). The project takes an innovative approach by establishing a tunnel and a fish ladder through the mountainside where a human induced waterfall currently hinders fish passage.

To ensure that the species will return to spawn in the river system, Atlantic salmon will be bred and released

LIFE05 NAT/S/000109
MOÄLVSPROJEKTET REMO



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

Local authority

Name of beneficiary

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Name of contact person

Sofia Lund

Duration of project:

48 months (Jan 2005 – Dec 2008)

Total budget in euro:

1,972,033.00

EC contribution in euro with %:

986,016.00 (50.00%)

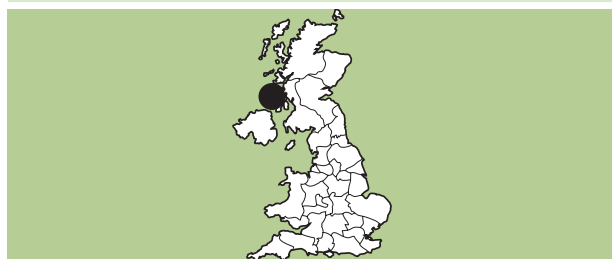
in the river system. The restored habitats will also be suitable for bullhead and brown trout that already occur in the river system. Glochidia of freshwater pearl mussels make use of salmon as host fish for a period of 8-10 months. An increased population density of salmon will strengthen the pearl mussel population and make it possible for the mussel to recolonise the currently inaccessible parts of the river.

The pH level is important for the successful reproduction of the targeted fresh water species. Liming efforts will be intensified to secure near-neutral water during all seasons. The forest management authorities will at the same time raise the awareness of negative impacts of forest management amongst forest managers.

Finally, for the otter, the aim is to re-connect stream banks with small passages under roads so that hazardous road crossings can be avoided.

Seabirds of Canna

LIFE05 NAT/UK/000141
CANNA SEABIRDS



Official title

Canna seabird recovery project

Background

The islands of Canna and Sanday, as well as being a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), qualify as a Special Protection Area (SPA) by regularly supporting more than 20,000 individuals of 13 species of seabirds. Breeding success has fallen and seabird numbers have declined severely from about 21,000 breeding seabirds in 1995 to about 14,000 in 2004. This is due to increasing levels of predation of eggs and chicks by introduced brown rats (*Rattus norvegicus*). The Manx shearwater (*Puffinus puffinus*) appears to have disappeared from the islands as a breeding bird. Only one seabird, the black-legged kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*), is increasing in numbers on the islands and this is only in areas where it nests on vertical cliffs inaccessible to rats. There are important socio-economic implications since the principal source of revenue and employment on the islands is the tourist trade. The declines in seabirds and the presence of large numbers of rats around houses will adversely affect this trade.

Objectives

The overall objective of the project is to halt the decline in the internationally important seabird populations breeding on the islands of Canna and Sanday, and to facilitate their recovery and long-term protection.

The project aims to remove all brown rats (*Rattus norvegicus*) from the islands and to maintain them permanently rat-free. It addresses three main issues: egg and chick predation by rats; potential loss of biodiversity from the Special Protection Area (SPA) as a result of the project's rat eradication programme; and accidental reintroduction of rats to the SPA following eradication.

The main part of the project focuses on rat eradication. A programme will be implemented to set out and maintain a grid of bait stations containing poisoned bait to kill rats during two successive winters (2005/07). Mitigating actions to reduce the threat of

Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

NGO-Foundation

Name of beneficiary

The National Trust for Scotland

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Web site <http://www.nts.org.uk>

Name of contact person

Richard Luxmoore

Duration of project:

41 months (Jan 2005 – May 2008)

Total budget in euro:

840,458.00

EC contribution in euro with %:

420,229.00 (50.00%)

accidental or secondary poisoning of non-target wild and domestic mammals or birds include specific eradication designs and a diversionary feeding of raptors to reduce the likelihood of scavenging on dead rats.

Supporting actions include the establishment of rat-proof waste management, freight and quarantine procedures and long-term rat surveillance, coupled with a contingency plan for action in the event of a rat being accidentally reintroduced to the islands. A comprehensive local and national programme will raise public awareness of issues relating to conservation of seabirds, the NATURA 2000 network and problems of introduced species.

Launching the white headed duck

Official title

Eradication of Ruddy ducks in the UK to protect the white headed duck

Background

The white-headed duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*) is the only stiff-tail duck indigenous to Europe. It is listed in Annex 1 of the EU Birds Directive and is a priority species for LIFE funding. Its only European breeding population is in Spain, where it is strictly protected and where Natura 2000 sites have been designated for more than 82% of the population. There is also a wintering population in Greece, Romania and Bulgaria, but this population breeds in western and central Asia.

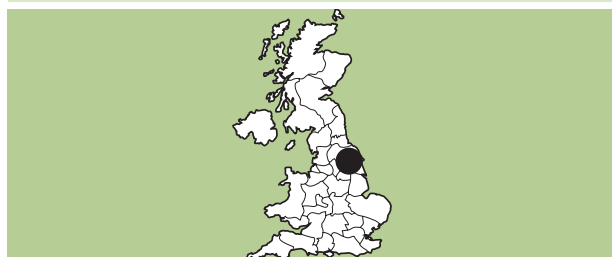
The greatest threat to the species' survival is the risk of hybridisation with the ruddy duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*), an American species introduced to the UK in the 1940s. The UK now holds about 5,000 feral ruddy ducks, 95% of Europe's total. In 1982, ruddy ducks were recorded in Spain and hybridisation with the white-headed duck was recorded in 1991. There are ongoing control programmes in France and Spain but if ruddy ducks were to colonise mainland Europe in significant numbers, the white-headed duck as a distinct species is likely to be lost.

Objectives

The project has two objectives that will lead to a more effective control of ruddy ducks in Europe. The first is to protect the European population of the white-headed duck by eradicating ruddy ducks from the UK. The second is to exchange and disseminate information on control methods and progress through contact with other European control teams and policy makers.

Shooting with sound-moderated rifles and shotguns will be the main method of control but other methods such as trapping and egg oiling will be used where appropriate. Data on numbers of ruddy ducks recorded in Ireland and mainland Europe will be collated and consultation with scientific advisers and animal wel-

LIFE05 NAT/UK/000142
ERDUK



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

National authority

Name of beneficiary

Central Science Laboratory

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Niall Moore

Duration of project:

60 months (Sept 2005 – Aug 2010)

Total budget in euro:

3,770,771.00

EC contribution in euro with %:

1,827,130.00 (48.46%)

fare groups will ensure that disturbance to habitats and other species is minimised.

Changes in the size and distribution of the UK ruddy duck population will be monitored and modelling of the time and effort required for full eradication of any remaining birds will be carried out if this is not achieved within the time span of the project.

STREAM

LIFE05 NAT/UK/000143
STREAM



Official title

River Avon cSAC: demonstrating strategic restoration and management

Background

The Avon Valley Special Protection Area (SPA) includes one of the largest expanses of floodplain grassland in Britain. It is internationally important for its wintering populations of Bewick's swan (*Cygnus columbianus bewickii*) and gadwall (*Anas strepera*), and has nationally important populations of waterfowl, rare plants, invertebrates and protected species for which Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs) have been prepared. The River Avon Site of Community Interest (SCI), located in the same area, supports more than 180 aquatic plant species, outstanding fish fauna, the Annex II species Desmoulin's whorl snail (*Vertigo moulinsiana*), and numerous nationally important species.

The catchment area has an intricate history of settlement and land use. The River Avon and its tributaries have been heavily modified, reflecting usage over many centuries. As a result, the river's ecological function and watercourse habitat has been damaged. Fishing is an important source of income to landowners along the river system and generates local employment. There is some conflict between water level managers and the protection of the aquatic species that qualify the site as Site of Community Interest (SCI).

Objectives

The overall objective of the project is to demonstrate the restoration of the River Avon Site of Community Interest (SCI) to favourable conservation status through a catchment approach, and to integrate the management of the SCI with the adjacent Avon Valley Special Protection Area (SPA). In particular, the project addresses issues that were identified by the River Avon SCI Conservation Strategy, produced through the LIFE in UK Rivers Project (LIFE99 NAT/UK/006088).

Specific objectives are to restore the watercourse habitat and conditions for associated species in the River

Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

National authority

Name of beneficiary

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Duration of project:

50 months (Aug 2005 – Sept 2009)

Total budget in euro:

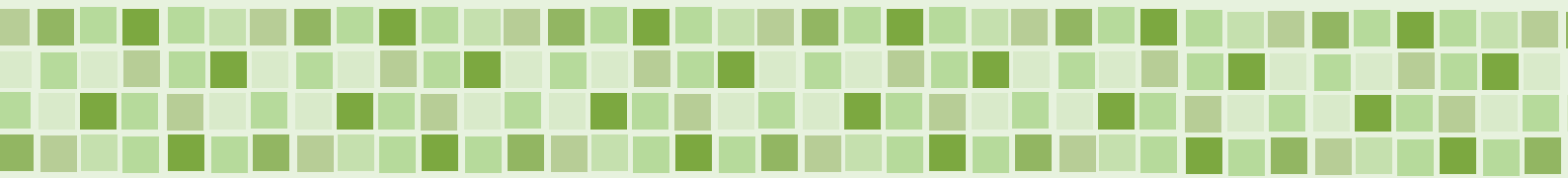
1,570,163.00

EC contribution in euro with %:

628,065.00 (40.00%)

Avon SCI and to demonstrate a range of innovative river restoration techniques appropriate to chalk rivers, for local, national and European audiences. The project also aims to develop a coordinated management of the River Avon SCI and the Avon Valley SPA, balancing the requirements of the qualifying interests of each.

Six demonstration sites for river restoration will be established throughout the River Avon. Innovative techniques and proven fish habitat enhancement methods will be combined to restore the favourable condition of the river's ecology. Protocols will be developed to coordinate the management of the River Avon SCI and the Avon Valley SPA. Methods will be developed to protect fish species from entrapment in SPA ditch networks. A programme of ditch restoration will be developed to integrate the conservation objectives of the two sites.



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