

16 Oehe-Schleimünde

16.1 Change of the site by project activities:

The site is old nature reserve for coastal birds. This value was lost due succession policy in nature conservation for that site. The salt meadows were over grown by *Phragmites*-reed and the smaller lagoons were over grown by *Scirpus maritimus*. In drier habitats a lot of litter inhibited the growth of rare plants which depend on open sand for germination. These plants had often only small remaining populations along a path through the site used by the birds warden. Further tall grasses were spreading and *Rosa rugosa* had established with quite some dense scrub in the dunes and upper beach walls.

At begin of the project the grazing started soon. Some parts with valuable grey dune vegetation and the beach with *Crambe maritima* was excluded from the grazing.

The vegetation monitoring showed that rare plants increased very much and that some species were able to spread in the project site, as *Apium graveolens*, *Oenanthe lachenalii*, *Carex extensa*, *Linum catharticum*, *Inula britannica*, *Centaurea scabiosa* or *Ophioglossum vulgatum*

In the salt meadow *Lotus tenuis* has increased very much and also following characteristic species of salt meadows benefited from the grazing: *Glaux maritima*, *Triglochin maritimum*, *Plantago maritimum*, *Juncus gerardii* and *Aster tripolium*. Along the shore lines *Suaeda maritima*, *Salicornia europea* and *Puccinellia maritima* were able to colonise former reed dominates shores.

The meadow birds as Redshank (3 to 8) are slowly increasing from 2006 to 2010 or stable as for Oyster catcher (4 to 4). This is a remarkable success because the general trend in Baltic coastal bird reserves in Germany is often vice versa. Maybe these are effects of good vegetation structures at the site and higher predation pressure in other sites.

The fencing against fox predation at some of the peninsulas was ongoing in 2010 because the local manager from Verein Jordsand thinks that it is helpful for breeding success within the reserve.

The visit with experts and persons responsible for site managemet took plac in begin aof August



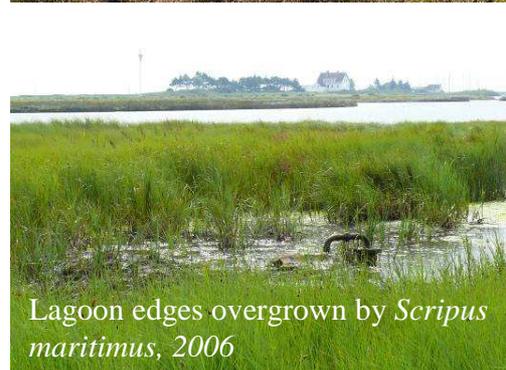
Aerial photo from 2005



Dry habitats overgrown by grasses, 2006



Carex arenaria dominated grey dune, 2006



Lagoon edges overgrown by *Scirpus maritimus*, 2006



Upper beach excluded from grazing

2011. The results are that the grazing regime is very positive against *Rosa rugosa*. Other typical plants as *Eryngium maritimum* are increasing in these grey dune habitat. Some characteristic plants of the salt upper meadow as *Oenathe lachnalii* and *Inula britannica*, which were regarded to be sensible towards grazing in the beginning, are spreading under the robust cattle grazing regime.

The grazing at least has stabilized the number of breeding redshanks at the site at 7-8 pairs in 2011. This is against the general trend in other nature reserves at the German Baltic Sea coast.

16.2 Remaining challenges and actions:

The coastal dynamics formerly creating a coastal landscape rich in structures and succession stages is gone since the navigation channel and the outlet of the Schlei fjord had been dug out and stabilized against sanding up by piers into the sea. So this fixed outlet allows in and outflow at a defined area. This was formerly never the case. These lacking dynamics created within the last 100 years a peninsula instead a coastal landscape with islands and tidal streams. This situation is not re-coverable at the moment because the outlet has to guarantee a defined depth.

The management for the site has to imitate or replace the former dynamics. The cattle grazing is one thing, but shallow lagoons will not created by the sea anymore and therefore breeding ponds for *B. calamita* had to be created to allow the species a re-colonisation.

In the management plan this will be a topic or future management. The strategy is first to create test holes and monitor water levels. Then breeding ponds for *B. calamita* toad at the best place as according to water quality and soil can be created.

The grazing has to go on quite some time to open more shore lines and to get back shorter vegetation structures at least in some of the meadows. This might be better then for Lapwing again.

16.3 Public perception:

Public has no access to the site. The site is locally since long time accepted as a fully protected nature reserve established in 1936. The Verein



Rosa rugosa scrub under whole year grazing, 9/2010



Grazing opened the edges at the lagoons, 9/2010



Result presentation on site 8/2011:
Rosa decrease and *Eryngium maritimum* increase



Inula britannica spreading, 8/2011

Jordsand is managing the site from begin. Jordsand is providing information both at the bird wardens hut in the North and at the Lotseninsel in the South of the site. In several excursions the public was invited to the site. In 2011 two excursions were offered in cooperation with Lighthouse and Jordsand. The lighthouse foundation offers additional information at the own homepage under www.lotseninsel.de. Up to 30 visitors took the chance and checked in to the excursions. The public was interested what is going on at the site for nature conservation. The good resonance was there because the excursion attracted both local people and also interested public from all over Schleswig-Holstein due to the publication in the Genießerland brochure and on web www.geniesserland-sh.de. Also the repeated presence in news paper with project actions probably improved the public perception.

Lower salt meadow is improving as breeding site for redshanks 8/2011

