

## 19 Sehlendorfer Binnensee

### 19.1 Change of the site by project activities:

The restoration of a former camping site as grey dune habitat and some hydrological work are in focus of the project. Further the site was selected as one of the reintroduction site for both toad species. The restoration of the camping site re-activated grey dune plant communities by taking out invasive plants, concrete paths and gravel roads. Within the area several dune slack like depressions were made as breeding sites for toads. With the excavated material beach wall like structures were created.

The release of both toad species the Natterjack and the Green toad was successful. In the fourth year after the release started both species were able to reproduce at the site in the new dug depressions. The habitat complex was completed in 2010 by building hiding sites for the toads similar as an old stone wall. Up to 10 to 15 males of both species were calling in 2010 in several depressions. Both species also reproduce at the site in 2011.

The hydrology in the upper salt meadows was improved by closing ditches. Shallow flooding with brackish to fresh water attract birds for feeding. The accessibility to the salt meadows had been improved by that and the cattle manage better to reach some former reed beds for grazing.

The blocking of ditches and drains established several small temporary flooding with fresh water. Also rare e plants were activated from the seed bank as *Veronica catenata*.

According to the experts recommendation on the lagoon a breeding island was established. On the island regularly Common terns are breeding.

*Rosa rugosa* disappeared by whole year grazing similar as Birch trees and Syringa. The former camping site is not grazed during the breeding season at the moment. When vegetation is becoming denser the site will be integrated to the whole year grazing area.

As at other project sites breeding islands for common tern were put to the lagoon. The action was finance by other funds. The common tern started the breeding in the week after building.

Former campsite before restoration



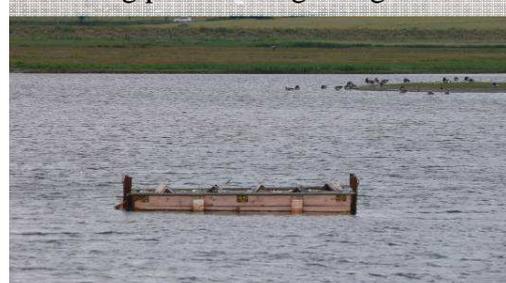
During restoration in 2007



After restoration in 2007



Reactivated depressions as toad breeding ponds with grazing cattle



The development of the breeding meadow bird population was not influenced by the project activities up to now, but most of the site had already suitable vegetation structures before.

The visit on the presentation of results was positive in 2011 for habitat development under grazing. So it is planned to graze more dune site to prevent overgrowth with *Rosa rugosa*. Therefore mobile fence lines will be built for flexible integration of more dunes by additional funds in 2013.

In 2011 also a release with *Apium* started at two sub-sites. In autumn only at the sub-site Tivoli the plant had survived. At the richer places it seems as if *Apium repens* was overgrown by grass. The monitoring will follow this release in 2012.

### 8.2 Remaining challenges and actions:

In the south east some small ditches are planned to be closed. For the restoration of depressions in the Southern meadows the permission was denied due to archaeological conservation law. When the ditch blocking is finished, the project aims for this site are reached.

Many aspects for that site arose when it was discussed during expert visits or when comparing the sites today status with that of former times. Following aspects will be relevant to improve the conservation status:

- Integration of more reed bed to the pastures,
- Restoration of pump drained areas and
- Reactivation of the former island as bird breeding site, what only can be achieved on long term.

For the reed bed grazing at the south shore of the lagoon adjacent arable fields could be bought in 2011 by additional funds. This will enhance the grazing also at the south-western shore line of the lagoon. The arable fields will be transformed into grasslands in 2013/2014 when ongoing tenant contracts will end.

### 18.3 Public perception:

The municipality of Behrendorf and especially the major were very positive towards the project activities and allowed the “grazing passage” over the hiking path. The neighbours were happy about the restoration work, because



Grey dune habitat in 2010



Toad release in 2007 with TV

*B. viridis* reproduction pond in 2011



Info board in 2010

the site looked afterwards more like a coastal landscape. There was some positive feedback from private owners who have houses with a view to the site.

Info boards had been put up and many people passing by when using the hiking and bicycle path through the site to the village of Hohwacht. For the visitors similar to Swedish constructions passages were built. A frog concert in 2011 attracted 18 visitors both tourist and locals.

*Swedish bike passage trough the fence*

