

Site 22 – Südwest Fehmarn

22.1 Change of the site by project activities:

The site is containing of different sub-sites as the Nature reserve *Krummsteert-Sulsdorfer Wiek*, the former beach wall and lagoon complex of *Püttseer Warde* behind the dike north of the village Flügge, the bird sanctuary *Wallnau* and some areas around.

At *Püttseer Warde* on an abandoned pasture grazing with robust cattle and Konik horses started again. By this grazing litter was removed, open ground created and the dominance of plant species as *Carex arenaria*, *Phragmites*-reed and *Festuca rubra* was reduced. First in dry habitats coastal heath and Withish hair-gras (*Corynopherus canescens*) were recovering. In wet dune slacks *Salix* scrub and other shading vegetation was partly removed and by trampling the seed bank was reactivated. Due to these processes a rare annual plant *Radiola linoides* occurred again only in the grazed dune slacks.

Two former lagoons was planned to be reactivated at the site by removing reed and organic matter. Since one of the lagoons in the south-western subsite Bittern was calling in 2009, only the second one without possible breeding Bittern was aimed to be opened again. The local manager Martin Altemüller believed to achieve this by mowing and grazing. This was right for some areas at the edges, which where opened until 2010. On these areas typical water plants reappeared from the seed bank as e.g. *Ranunculus aquatilis* agg. and *Hippuris vulgaris*. In 2010 it was decided then to remove remaining reed beds by machinery. Areas opened by grazing were excluded from machinery work. Additionally some depressions were created as breeding habitats for amphibians.

From 2011 will be better breeding habitats for meadow birds as Lapwing and for Amphibians as Green toad and Natterjack toad.

Afforestation for wind protection purposes planted in the 1950ies in the north could not be taken away due public obstruction. Only stripes could be opened for connections for grazing animals.



Wet dune slacks reactivated



Start of lagoon scraping 2010



Ongoing work



Ongoing work



As an effect of grazing the site was re-colonized by breeding lapwing (without breeding success) and common snipe (breeding success unknown).

The subsite Krummsteert was declared as zero-plot without any grazing. Development of *Rosa rugosa* was monitored with impressive increase (> 300%) after inundation in November 2006. Because of that as well as a result of vegetation monitoring by Heiko Grell a recommendation for grazing in the future was given, but at the moment accessibility to bring cattle to the site is difficult.

As a result of increased need of changes in hydrology in March 2011 a disregarded deep drainage ditch on the formerly grazed area of Krummsteert was closed by excavator. By that activity the different small lagoons had in August 2011 different salinity up to fresh water. Before that salinity was homogenous and more or less like in the Baltic Sea. The fresh water lagoons offer a future breeding possibility for Natterjack toad.

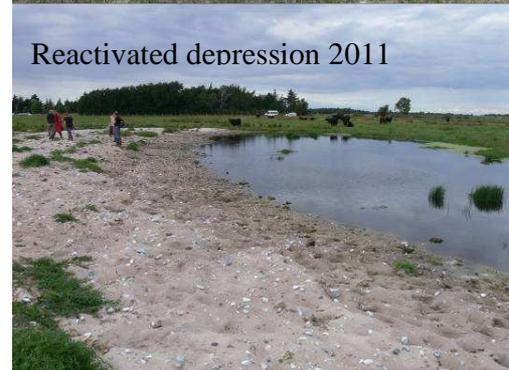
In the northern and eastern part of Sulsdorfer Wiek instead of planned mowing summer grazing was established in 2009. Subsequently population of Green Toad and Moorfrog boomed and the small meadowbird population was stabilized.

At the water bird reserve Wallnau no actions were planned by the BaltCoast project. Nevertheless the increased expertise implemented some important changes in grazing management including opening meadows to ponds by cutting and aftergrazing of reedbeds. As a result of better knowledge in fence design new fox fences were built. The water management now also include awareness of salinity to solve the different needs of saltmeadow on one and breeding amphibians on the other hand.

Changes in management seem to be positive for toad target species. Main problem for ground nesting breeding birds including the target species of the project is still predation, which could not be solved easily. In 2009 Ruff was observed during breeding season, but not in 2010 and 2011. Population of Avocet decreased during project time, probably because of unsuccessful prevention of predation.



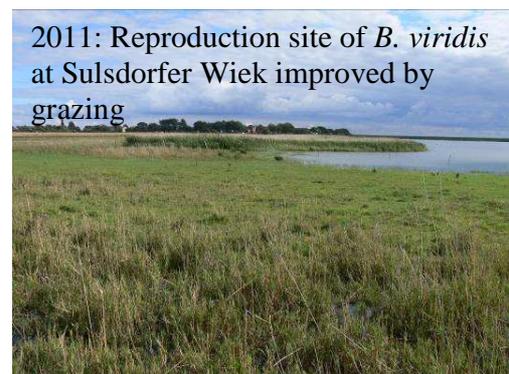
Re-activated lagoon 2011



Reactivated depression 2011



Fresh water lagoon at Krummsteert 2011



2011: Reproduction site of *B. viridis* at Sulsdorfer Wiek improved by grazing

100 years ago all reed beds in Wallnau were grazed, but today these reed beds are breeding place for bittern, water rail, spotted crake, bearded tits and other birds, which also need protection. But these reedbeds are also important retreat areas for foxes. Increased grazing pressure on meadows as well in dry reed beds seem to decrease fox density, but still breeding success is not high enough to stabilize population size at the site. Probably size is not big enough for sustainable results.

22.2 Remaining challenges and actions:

All hard actions which were planned or possible on the site had been implemented. One remaining idea is to initiate a grazing of the Krummsteert again. The *Rosa rugosa* is increasing very much. The site is actual a site without management and *Rosa* will for shure deteriorate the beach and dune complex within the next 20 years.

To start a management at such a site is at the moment difficult, because the general politics in the LLUR, partner of the project, is that “wildernis sites” in Schleswig-Holstein shall be kept, even if N2000 habitats are decreasing in conservation value. This is the case at the site.

Within the preparation of the After-Life Conservation plan we will work on that topic and we will present then the results of the decision.

22.3 Public perception:

The public from the neighbouring village Püttsee was very much against the removal of the wind protection afforestation. Due to the political pressure the plan was given up during the project. Since then the activities of nature conservation are more or less ignored. For the public guided tours offered by the local partner people from the local villages are normally not participating. The municipality administration of Fehmarn is neutral to positive about the project activities, because nature is one of the most mentioned values why tourists visit the island.

The lagoon scraping started with a public ground break with the chairman of the board Mrs. Todsense, the mayor of municipality of Fehmarn, Amphi Consult and local partner NaBu Wallnau. In 2011 a nature guided tour within the program of the Stiftung called “Extratouren” attracted 14 visitors to the sub-site Pütseer Wader.



Wallnau



Public ground break 2010



Konik horses presenting their “reed management skills” at the Extratour 2011