

Site 02: Endelave

2.1 Change of the site by project activities:

At the beginning of the project grazing had been abandoned on the majority of the larger sub-site, Flasken. Most of the salt meadows were overgrown with *Phragmites australis* and a thick layer of dead vegetation covered the ground. During the project grazing has been initiated on almost all formerly ungrazed plots and open and low vegetation has been the result. Flasken is owned by several farmers and hedgerows have been used to separate owner ship of the upper salt meadow. To create an open and coherent salt meadow for wader birds hedgerows have been cleared. Also a no. of dikes separating owner ship has been included to the grazing to avoid upgrowth of *Phragmites australis* as barriers for dispersal of wader chicks. Unfortunately grazing of the dikes has been stopped by a demand from Horsens Municipality. The dikes between the salt meadow plots are protected as a cultural heritage although they all originate from soil piled up when digging ditches. The ditches next to the dikes are important for the farmers but the dikes never were.

Grazing includes the valuable shore line on the small bay at Flasken. Good results have been reached from the grazing both by the Galloway cattle purchased by the project and more common cattle races as Jersey and Limousine.



Before and after initiation of grazing of salt meadows on Flasken (plots ungrazed for 5 years or more).



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On the smaller sub-site, Kloben, a long year cattle grazing stopped at the end of 2009 when one of the owners of the site died. The site was unfortunately ungrazed in 2010 since it was not possible to agree with a key landowner on restarting the grazing. The sub-site is overgrowing fast with high grasses sp. and *Scirpus maritimus* in the wet parts of the salt meadow. In 2011 grazing has been restarted on a smaller part of the site but the majority of the site including the coastal lagoon remains ungrazed due to resistance from a single land owner.

2.2 Remaining challenges and actions:

It has been given up to graze the dikes separating some of the salt meadow plots due to cultural heritage protection of the dikes. The challenge is now to maintain the vegetation sufficiently low on the dikes to keep an open salt meadow landscape for the meadow birds.

Restoration of depressions is foreseen and planned on both sub-sites. There is a small population of *Bufo calamita* on Flasken and there is a great need of new breeding sites. Also the wader birds will benefit from more open water on the meadows. Regulation of the hydrology is also remaining on both sub-sites. On Kloben natural hydrology will be restored of a small part of the site by blocking ditches. On Flasken sluices will be constructed to be able to control the water level of the inner salt meadows where the natural hydrology has been intercepted by the gravel road cutting the site in to two parts.

On Kloben redirecting of drainage water away from the salt meadow and coastal lagoon is remaining but will probably not be carried due to resistance from one land owner.

2.3 Public perception:

The project has been accepted very well for the positive results of the grazing of the salt meadows and the openness of the habitat that has been created. There is a very good understanding on the island of the need of good grazing with cattle to maintain a valuable salt meadow. Two nature guided tours have been held and many of the land owners participated. Concerning restoration of depressions many of the farmers think traditional and only allow the work with limitations. Clearing of the trees between the salt meadows has been a difficult issue and a repeated effort to explain the special needs of the rare wader birds compared to much more common birds resting in trees is being done.



Local farmers take part in carrying out actions as fencing creating owner ship and a good atmosphere around the project.