



DE-17 : Schwansener See

SPA: 1326-301; pSCI : 1326-301

Protection status: nature reserve “ Schwansener See”

Habitats:

1150 Lagoon 59%

1220 Perennial vegetation of stony banks 3%

1330 Atlantic salt meadow 17%

Animals:

Calidris alpina schinzii 2 pairs

Philomachus pugnax 4 pairs

Recurvirostra avosetta 7 pairs

Sterna albifrons 13 pairs

Sterna hirundo 22 pairs

Sterna paradisaea 55 pairs

Site description and actions:

The project area is about 202 ha including the water body of the Schwansener See. The site consist of a coastal lagoon (120 ha with a maximum depth of 120cm). Towards the coast a grey dune complex have been sedimented by the sea building up a barrier beach. The natural succession would have probably closed partly the natural outlet of the lagoon, depending on the water flow from the lagoon to the sea. Today an artificial connection (sluice) to the open sea is regulated by the local WBV (water body association). The Schwansener See is used as a water reservoir of drained pumped water from the surrounding arable land, lying mainly west of the lake and situated partly below sea water level.

Most of the lagoon shoreline is covered by reed (*Phragmites australis*), only in some sections the reed is grazed and more open. Adjacent to the North, West and South is arable farm land (outside project area) and salt meadows as part of the project area (East). The dune system is partly covered by *Rosa rugosa*, spread here from outside and extended its range quickly.

The site had a special importance as breeding site for *Calidris alpina schinzii*, *Philomachus pugnax*, *Recurvirostra avocetta* and other birds.

In addition, some of the remaining cost populations of *Bufo calamita* in Schleswig-Holstein can still be found here, although the conditions on ground are (at project start) very unfavourable.

The site was previously grazed in a not optimal way and is consequently in a very bad condition. Fences and grazing equipment has to be improved as well as the grazing level itself. The grey dunes and salt meadows of the site are quite equalised and the original relief and modulation of the surface and natural depressions are hardly existing

anymore. Rehabilitation of this natural nivellement would also offer new and appropriate habitats for the remaining few toads (*Bufo calamita*) as habitat improvement.

In the long term grazing could be extended to the Baltic Sea shore side including the *Rosa rugosa* clusters here.

A remaining breeding population of Little Tern, *Sterna albifrons* has to be secured here too. Instalments for fox predation shall be improved.

Dredging work with digging flat shallow temporary flooding areas and ponds started early. Partly this was recreation of depressions and at the same time creating of *Bufo calamita* habitats.

Bufo calamita received a supporting aid program by rearing of eggs and release of tadpoles in the breeding ponds. This will continue to stabilise the population quickly.

The existing fence was replaced by proper fencing and hardy cattle grazing started in spring 2006 and continued with same herd since then.

The animals are an attraction for the hikers and walkers on the hiking trail crossing the project site. The reaction given to the local nature guard on site and reserve manager are very positive.

Further activities are under preparation and coordinated with the district administration and local reserve manager Mr. Plaumann (NABU).