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## Project sites fact sheet

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### **DE-23 : Grüner Brink**

Natura 2000 code: SPA: 1530-491; pSCI : 1532-391

Protection status: nature reserve: NSG Grüner Brink

#### Habitats:

\*1150 Lagoon 25%

1210 Annual vegetation of drift lines 6%

1330 Atlantic salt meadow 10%

\* 2130 Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation, grey dunes 14%

2190 Humid dune slacks 1%

#### Animals:

Philomachus pugnax staging -150

Recurvirostra avosetta 40 pairs

Sterna albifrons 1-2 pairs

Sterna hirundo 10 pairs

#### Site description:

Grüner Brink coastal lagoon system is situated at the north coast of the island Fehmarn, Germany. It includes 3 coastal lagoons and surrounding coastal wetland. Lagoon 3 is the biggest one, occasionally connected to the Baltic Sea and can even dry out in hot summers.

The depth of the water in average is about 50 cm in lagoon 3, and in lagoon 1 and 2 up to 1,5m. The coastal grasslands around lagoon 3 have been used as a pasture for cattle grazing. Grazing ended 2002 years ago and has restarted 2005 years ago but with too less cattle. The reed is expanding the shallow lagoon system and surrounding meadows making habitat unusable for different kind of species.

Grüner Brink constitutes for many rare and endangered plant, bird and amphibian species. The area is a very important resting and foraging area for migratory birds. Situated at the South of Fehmarn Belt, the most important flyway for waterfowl and waders in the south western Baltic Sea, over the year nearly all species of waterfowl and especially waders are resting here.

The reserve is an important foraging (*Circus aeruginosus*, *Pluvialis apricaria*, *Calidris alpina*, *Philomachus pugnax*) and breeding place for birds (*Recurvirostra avosetta*, *Sterna albifrons*, *Sterna hirundo*) and amphibians (*Bufo calamita*, *Bufo viridis*).

#### Foreseen actions:

Improving site management towards an appropriate habitat condition,

#### Proceedings:

Grazing with 11 cattle (Blonde d'Aquitaine) was continued. The very good breeding success in Lapwing (12 fledged chicks of 6 breeding pairs) shows the success of the improved grazing management.

Because of fox predation in the tern and avocet colony at the gravel spit an electric fence was installed. After 30 days successful running the electric fence the fox passed the fence at the seaside and predated again. For the next season a swimming fox fence was constructed and technical tested.

As in the years before artificial straw islands were installed in mid of May for Common terns – also with good (breeding) success.

In 2006 the breeding success of the birds on Grüner Brink in general was very good.

In the night from 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2006 the big lagoon was flooded and has a very high water level since then. The salinity increased at the lagoon and the preferred calling pond of *Bufo calamita* was also flooded with salt water. Consequently the second calling pond of *B. calamita* - which was not flooded - was enlarged and deepened in mid November 2006. So there is an alternative for the next breeding season for the toads.

Further activities are under preparation and coordinated together with the district administration.