



Rehabilitation of the Baltic Coastal Lagoon Habitat Complex

BALTICOAST

Our Project Set-up

The LIFE Project BaltCoast assembles over 20 partners from 5 countries around the Baltic Sea for this Coastal Habitat Project running from 2005 to 2011. It is aiming on restoration and improvement of several characteristic habitat types, animals and plants listed in the EU-Habitat Directive and EU-Bird Directive.

At 33 project sites actions for the restoration of several habitat types, many of them listed as priority habitats, are in the focus of the project managers and experts. In addition some reference sites show positive developments for orientation.

Actions will take place on public as well as private land and strongly involve local cooperation. Main tool for long term management of sites is the improvement of big herbivore grazing through hardy grazers as cattle and horses. The improvement of winter grazing or extending grazing period to early spring and late autumn will have positive impacts on the vegetation on sites.

Habitat types will improve their general status and will be managed in appropriate ways. Nature in general as well as rare species within flora and fauna will benefit by the better ecological status. The decline of three target birds will be stopped, if not reversed.

Intact nature will be a welcomed leisure area for locals and tourists looking for natural holiday sites to experience a full enjoyable coastline recreation feeling.

Our Working Program

Several activities are foreseen in the 31 sites which all have specific demands and needs for improvement :

Actions for Habitats:

The natural hydrology will be restored by blocking of drainages, unnatural discharges of lagoons closed or reduced. Lagoons which have accumulated eutrophic mud will be dredged and dense reed vegetation will be moved (from the lagoons). A natural morphology of depressions and dells in dunes and meadows will be remodelled.

By clearing unnatural overgrowth of bushes and trees (including alien invasive species as *Rosa rugosa*) dry semi natural habitats will be restored again. The habitat quality for wading birds and amphibians will be enhanced by restoration of open shallow water bodies and Coastal Lagoon shorelines.

Actions for Birds:

As the largest and the most viable populations of *Calidris alpina schinzii* and *Philomachus pugnax* are situated precisely in Denmark, Sweden and Estonia, the international co-operation provides the opportunity to turn the decline of these species. Previous and ongoing LIFE projects are fundamental for the network establishment and experience exchange regarding habitat management, meadow grazing and predation.

Our 'task force':

Appropriate grazing regimes will be imposed through use of hardy grazers. To ensure a sustainable future management adapted strategies depending on local socio-economic conditions will be chosen combined with management plans.

Knowledge transfer:

The methods for rehabilitation of the Coastal Lagoon Habitat Complex will be improved by co-operation between experts and project managers from Denmark, Sweden, Germany, Estonia and Lithuania. Site visits of experts and site managers together with Workshops for all project participants will ensure this vital capacity building aspect. Through this widespread project cooperation a network of experts regarding project aspects will be established and working. Results will be published in guidelines for restoration of Lagoon Complexes.

All activities will be accompanied by active awareness rising activities and information policy of locals, public and other interested groups. Visit our Website: www.life-baltcoast.eu

Our habitats and species



All project sites are designated NATURA 2000 sites and contribute to this Pan-European network supported by the LIFE-Nature program.

Project actions are focussing on, among others, following habitats and species:

EU-Habitat Directive Annex I:

- 1110 : Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time
- *1150 : Lagoons
- 1210 : Annual vegetation of drifted lines
- 1220 : Perennial vegetation of stony banks
- 1310 : *Salicornia* and other annuals colonizing mud and sand
- 1330 : Atlantic salt meadows (*Glaucopuccinellietalia*)
- *1630 : Boreal baltic archipelago, coastal and landupheaval areas
- 2110 : Embryonic shifting dunes
- 2120 : Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* (white dunes)
- *2130 : Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes)
- 2140 : Decalcified fixed dunes *Empetrum nigrum*
- *2250 : Coastal dunes with *Juniperus* spp
- 5130 : *Juniperus communis* formations on heath or calcareous grasslands
- *6120 : Xeric and calcareous grasslands
- *6210 : Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (*Festuco-Brometalia*)
- 6280 : Nordic alvar and precambrian calcareous flatrocks
- *7210 : Calcareous fens with *Cladium mariscus* and species of the *Caricion davallianae*

EU-Habitats Directive, Annex II:

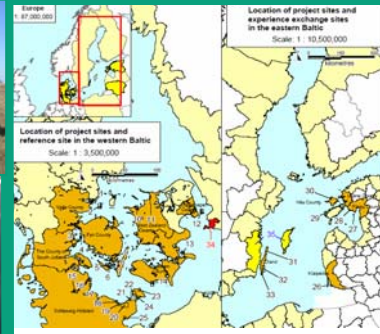
- *Apium repens*, Creeping Marshwort
- This typical plant of salt meadows *Apium* is declining dramatically

EU-Habitats Directive, Annex IV:

- *Bufo viridis*, Green toad
- *Bufo calamita*, Natterjack toad
- Depending on low salinity and sandy-salt meadow, losses in habitat types diminish the amphibian representatives of coastal landscapes

EU-Birds Directive:

- *Calidris alpina* ssp. *schinzii*, Dunlin
- *Philomachus pugnax*, Ruff
- *Recurvirostra avocetta*, Avocet
- All these target birds have gone through a serious decline within the last decades due to several, site specific reasons



Denmark:

Vejles Amt; Sønderjyllands Amt; Fyns Amt; Vestsjællands Amt; Storstrøms Amt; Saltholm Ejerlæg; Danish Forest and Nature Agency; Amph Consult :

- | | |
|------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Hjørnø | 2 Endelave |
| 3 Halk Nor | 4 Båge |
| 5 Urehoved-Drejø | 6 Halmø |
| 7 Store Egholm | 8 Monnet |
| 9 Hjelmskov | 10 Store Vrej & Krageø |
| 11 Korevlen | 12 Saltholm |
| 13 Ulvshale | 14 Saksfjed-Hyllekrog |

Germany:

Stiftung Naturschutz Schleswig-Holstein; NABU Wallnau; Landesamt für Natur und Umwelt SH; University Hamburg :

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|----------------------------|----------------------|
| 15 Reesholm | 16 Oehe-Schleimünde |
| 17 Schwansener See | 18 Kleiner Binnensee |
| 19 Sehlendorfer Binnensee | 20 Weißenhäuser Brök |
| 21 Eichholzriederung | 22 Südwest-Fehmarn |
| 23 Grüner Brink | 24 Sundwiesen |
| 25 Neustädter Binnenwasser | |

Lithauen:

Lithuanian Fund for Nature; Nemunas Delta Region Park Administration:

- 26 Nemunas Delta

Estonia:

Ministry of Environment Estonia; Kihnu Strait Marine Park Foundation; NPA Põhjakonn; State Nature Conservation Center; Kallapa Farm; Tauno Tähe :

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 27 Linaküla Säareküla | 28 Sõmeri |
| 29 Teorehe | 30 Kõrgessaare-Mudaste |

Sweden:

Commune Vellinge; County Gotland; County Kalmar; Nature; Skanes Ornitologiske Forening ;32 Sydöstra Ölands sjömarker

- 31 Högby hamn
- 33 Ottenby
- 35 Gotland and Kalmar (for experience exchange)
- 34 Falsterbo-Fotevike (as reference site)

Further sites around the Baltic Sea for experience exchange and networking

LIFE-Nature BaltCoast
LIFE 05 NAT/D/000152



Financial corner stones:

Total Budget 5.685.005 Euro
Co-financing LIFE 3.403.203 Euro (-60%)

Beneficiary

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