

Restoration of Meadow Bird Habitats

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Beneficiary: Skov- og Naturstyrelsen
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Status of Organisation: PUBLIC

Type of Organisation: National authority
Description: The Danish Forest and Nature Agency is an agency within the Danish Ministry of Environment. It is responsible for the administration of national policies and legislation concerning protection, management and restoration of nature, open-air recreational activities, hunting and forestry.

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Project Background

Meadow birds are among the most threatened bird species in Denmark. The species has suffered from serious decline since the 1970s. For dunlin (*Calidris alpina* subsp. *schinzii*), only one fourth of breeding sites remain; and for the ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*) only a seventh of breeding sites remain. The Danish Ministry of Environment has adopted a national action plan for meadow birds covering 25 Special Protection Areas, or SPAs, listed in Annex I of the EU Birds Directive (79/409/CEE). The Ministry has therefore started the implementation on all sites, of these, four of the most important and in special need of major nature restoration, have been selected for this project.

Keywords: protected area restoration measure

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Project Objectives

The main objective is to restore, to a favourable conservation status, areas of the habitats of dunlin and ruff at four key sites for these species in Denmark. Thus, the project actions will contribute significantly to the implementation of the national action plan for threatened meadow birds, including these two species. Approximately 13% of the national population of dunlin and 9% of the national population of ruff, will benefit from these actions.

Regarding their populations, the immediate objective is to halt their decline, and, in the near future, (5 to 10 years) to raise their populations to 1986 levels at four project locations.

A secondary objective is to restore, to favourable conservation status, associated habitat types and habitats of species in the project areas i.e. areas of Atlantic salt meadows, Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of *Chara* spp; and habitats of bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*), black tern (*Chlidonias niger*) and spotted crane (*Porzana porzana*).

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Project Partners

The Danish Bird Protection Foundation, (Dansk Ornitologisk Förening, DOF, Fuglevearnsfonden), Denmark

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Benefiting Countries and Regions

Danmark

København Og Frederiksberg Kommuner	Storstrøms amt	Ringkøbing amt	Viborg amt
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Natura 200 Sites

Harboøre Tange, Plet Enge og Gjeller Sø	Præstø Fjord, Ulfshale, Nyord og Jungshoved Nor	Vestamager og havet syd for
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Target Community Legislative Reference

Nature protection and Biodiversity

- Directive 79/409/EEC – "Conservation of wild birds" (02.04.79)
- Directive 92/43/EEC – "Conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora" (21.05.92)

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Name of Target Species

Botaurus stellaris	Calidris alpina schinzii	Chlidonias niger
Circus aeruginosus	Philomachus pugnax	Porzana porzana

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Name of Target Habitat Types

- Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco–Puccinellietalia maritimae)
- Hard oligo–mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp.

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Map

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Project Administration

Total Budget: 1.428.932,00

Life Contribution: 714.466,00

Year of Finance: 2006

Duration: 01–JAN–2006 to 31–DEC –2009

Commission LIFE06 NAT/DK/000158

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