

**SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT** (Max. 3 pages; to be completed in English)

**Project title: Restoring dry grasslands at Bøjden Nor with a positive influence on vulnerable coastal lagoon habitat status – CONNECT HABITATS**

**Project objectives:**

This project targets a number of Annex I habitat types and an Annex IV specimen within the Bøjden Nor habitat area (pSCI DK008X197) in Denmark. The project is presented by the local environmental authority Faaborg-Midtfyn Municipality in Denmark (coordinating beneficiary) in cooperation with two Danish private foundations focusing on nature conservation and bird protection in NATURA 2000 sites.

Recently the conservation status of habitat types and species of the Bøjden Nor area has been assessed according to the Act on Environmental Planning. The main threats to the terrestrial Annex I habitat types have been identified to be fragmentation, overgrowth with trees and shrubs, and desiccation. In addition, the conservation status of both terrestrial and aquatic habitat types are threatened to a high degree by nutrient enrichment from the catchment.

According to a Danish national assessment the conservation status of certain habitat types are in the danger of further deterioration in the coming years. During the planning process towards management plans and action plans for the NATURA 2000 areas in Denmark from 2010 - 2015 special attention must therefore be paid to secure that these habitat types are restored.

The *main objective* is to contribute to obtain a favourable conservation status through restoration of a semi-natural habitat presently evaluated as being a priority for nature restoration efforts. Thus, by the use of land purchase this project targets dry grassland (6210) restoration which at Bøjden Nor has a significant potential to develop both qualitatively and spatially.

A *secondary objective* is through the land purchase to be able to contribute to obtain a favourable conservation status of \*1150 Coastal lagoons, 1330 Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*) and \* 7220 Petrifying springs with tufa formation (*Cratoneurion*) by decreasing the nutrient impact on these habitats from the catchment. An additional objective is to improve the present and create new habitats for breeding *Bufo calamita* which is a threatened Annex IV species in the EC and Denmark.

**Actions and means involved:**

This project involves a number of concrete conservation and management actions. To be able to perform the best possible implementation of these actions and to achieve the projects objectives national experts will be consulted on a workshop in the beginning of the project period. The project targets 88,0 ha distributed on aquatic habitat types (35,9 ha), terrestrial habitat types (18,5 ha), other terrestrial nature types (8,6 ha), and intensive agricultural areas (25 ha).

The project involves the following main actions:

- purchase of 25 ha of intensive agricultural land bordering dry grassland and salt meadows next to the coastal lagoon "Bøjden Nor",
- purchase of 0,5 ha of salt meadow,
- establish grazing facilities on 28 ha of purchased and municipality areas.
- restore the natural hydrology by cutting of subsurface drains and ditches.

- restore the hydrology on the salt meadows by blocking of ditches.
- clear 1,2 ha of trees, shrubs, and alien species on dry grassland and salt meadows.
- restore petrifying springs.
- restore 5 ponds for *Bufo calamita*,
- improve visitor facilities.

The project can be realized almost immediately since the purchase of land only involves one landowner who has agreed to sell the land to the project. The rest of the projects terrestrial areas is owned by the projects partners. Therefore the project is able to operate with a short project period of only three years.

**Expected results (outputs and quantified achievements):**

Through implementation of the actions mentioned above the following results are expected:

- development towards dry grassland – 6210 – on additional 20 ha of former arable land,
- through improved grazing regimes and clearance existing dry grassland (6210) and salt meadows (1330) will develop towards a favourable conservation status on 15,5 ha,
- establishment of bufferzones between the catchment and vulnerable \*1150, 1330 and 6210,
- improved and more natural hydrology resulting in a mosaic of wetlands and springs (\*7220) on 5 ha of former arable land,
- reduced nutrient impact on \*1150, 1330 and 6210 equivalent to a 50 % reduction in the diffuse N load,
- increasing the population of *Bufo calamita* 5-10 times,
- by time better coverage of submerged coastal lagoon vegetation,
- prepare for the development of 1330 and 6210 inland as an adaptation to climate change and erosion,
- Access facilities: 2,0 km of simple path, 6 info tables, and a folder.

Overall, the results will contribute to obtain a favourable conservation status of \*1150, 1330, 6210 and \*7220 as well as of *Bufo calamita*. A comprehensive monitoring program is proposed to evaluate the efforts.

Can the project be considered to be a climate change adaptation project?

Yes           

No