

LIFE+ project objectives for 2017 are to:

- graze the open natural landscape
- clear woodlands and scrub
- combat Japanese rose and Cord grass
- manage moorland through burning
- ensure the presence of breeding wading birds and terns
- ensure the presence of migratory waterfowl and wading birds
- combat foxes, mink and crows
- generate understanding for Læsø's unique nature
- establish a locally anchored landowners' association

Initiatives

The LIFE project involves a broad range of naturally linked initiatives, all of which are to help achieve the project objectives. A key initiative is to establish a landowners' association to undertake future management of the Natura-2000 areas. This association is to ensure the correct preservation measures for nature, landowners and the Læsø community in general, including when the LIFE project has ended in 2017. It is hoped that the landowners' association will be able to obtain the backing of everyone on the island for this very important task. Furthermore, there are woodlands and scrub to be cleared, livestock populations to be increased, fencing to be established and invasive alien species to be controlled. Large areas of moorland need to be rejuvenated

through burning, game such as fox and mink need to be controlled in order to protect and help endangered meadow birds, and in some places it will be necessary to restore the natural water level.

Finally, the objectives and progress of the project must be communicated on signs, in folders, through guided tours and via the project's website.



LIFE is the EU's funding instrument for the environment, nature and climate. The programme provides support for projects contributing to implement the EU's climate and environment policy.



Natura-2000 is a network of protected natural habitat sites in the EU. These sites are to preserve and protect natural habitats as well as plant and animal species that are rare, endangered or unique to the EU Member States.

LIFE Læsø on your smartphone

You can access more information about this project via your smartphone by scanning the QR code to the right. The price and speed will depend on your telecom supplier.



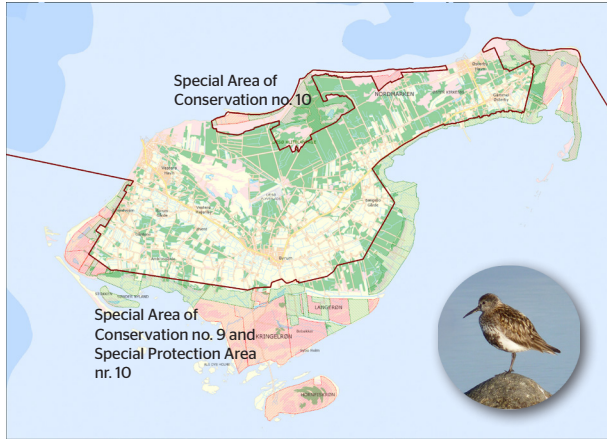
Ministry of Environment
The Danish Nature Agency
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LIFE Læsø

- a nature project

EU LIFE, Municipality of Læsø and the
Danish Nature Agency in partnership



Natura-2000 sites sets the boundary for the project

Project description

The open natural landscape on the island of Læsø is entirely unique; in Denmark as well as worldwide. The Municipality of Læsø and the Danish Nature Agency have therefore joined in a partnership to restore and preserve the open natural habitats of Læsø; to preserve them as homes for endangered species of birds as well as to ensure the basis for future management of the islands Natura-2000 sites. The project is



being funded 50 % by the EU under the LIFE+ Programme. The project will run from 2012 to 2017 and has a budget of around DKK 16 million.

Natural habitat types

Due to the genesis of Læsø, which includes numerous formations of beach ridges, the island is home to a diverse mosaic of natural habitat types which are otherwise rare to Denmark. The mix of salt meadows, grasslands and heaths on the southern part of the island, dune forma-



tions on the western and eastern parts, in particular, and large flat eroded plains with parable sand dunes on the northern part, can only be described as unique. Efforts in the project aim at all open natural habitats and on preserving these habitats for the future through grazing and through clearing of trees and scrub. Efforts moreover aim at combating invasive alien species such as Japanese rose and Cord grass, which are threatening the indigenous flora and wildlife.

Species

A further objective of the LIFE Læsø project is to

help a number of bird species. These species are a part of the basis for the designation of the southern part of Læsø as a bird protection area.



The species concerned include these breeding birds: Dunlin, Avocet, Wood sandpiper, Arctic tern and Little tern; as well as the migratory birds: Dark-bellied brent goose, Dunlin and Bar-tailed godwit. The breeding birds are under threat due, in particular, to overgrowth and excessive numbers of predators, while the migratory birds are threatened primarily due to overgrowth with e.g. Cord grass.

