



LIFE09 NAT/DK/000370

Progress Report

Covering the project activities from 01/07/2014 to 31/12/2015

RAHID

Restoration of Atlantic heaths and inland dunes in Denmark.

Reporting Date

31/12/2015

Project Data

Project location	Denmark, 6 different SCT's in Jutland:
DK00AX048 - Hedeområder ved Store Råbjerg (H74)	DK00CX159 - Skovbjerg Bakkø (H57)
DK00BY165 - Harrild Hede (H64)	DK00CX277 - Lønborg Hede (H196)
DK00BY171 - Randbøl Hede (H71)	DK00CX285 - Heder i Klosterheden Plantage (H224)
Project start date:	01/10/2010
Project end date:	31/12/2016
Total Project duration (in months)	75 months
Total budget	4.075.688 €
Total eligible budget	4.075.688 €
EU contribution:	2.037.844 €
(%) of total costs	50 %
(%) of eligible costs	50 %

Beneficiary Data

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Calluna vulgaris



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1.1 *List of abbreviations*

ASEP:	Agency for Spatial and Environmental Planning.
DFNA:	Danish Forest and Nature Agency.
DOF:	Danish Ornithological Society
ENVINA:	The Danish association of environmental-, planning- and nature employees in the public sector.
NST:	Danish Nature Agency.
NST- CO:	Danish Nature Agency, Central Office.
NST-BLÅ:	Danish Nature Agency, Regional Office, Blåvandshuk.
NST-KJY:	Danish Nature Agency, Regional Office, Kronjylland.
NST-MJY:	Danish Nature Agency, Regional Office, Midtjylland.
NST-TRE:	Danish Nature Agency, Regional Office, Trekantsområdet.
NST-VJY:	Danish Nature Agency, Regional Office, Vestjylland.

2 **Executive summary**

The project in general is progressing according to the plan. The concrete conservation actions of the project are well underway, and only a few of them are behind schedule. One action has been complete altered since the grant agreement.

The initial base line monitoring – action *E.2b – Monitoring of impact*, - has been completed in 2012, and the midterm monitoring finished in 2015, the description of the methods is enclosed in Annex P.

The overall management structure of the project is still functioning well. The project steering committee has held 3 meetings, and the project is implemented at site level with local project-managers. The advisory board is established and autumn 2012 and held one meeting and a two days excursion together with the project group. Some of the members participated in the national seminar in September 2015.

The overall accounting system has been set-up to meet the requirements of the grant agreement.

The project has been well exposed in the media – regional- and local radio/television, national/regional/local newspapers, especially in the start of the project.

In spite of some delay we feel that the project generally is on the right track.



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Summary of each section of the progress report:

Section 3 Introduction:

This section summarizes the project, the background, the project sites and the expected results.

Section 4 Administrative part:

This section describes how the project is organised and managed.

And it describes the activities of the steering committee, the advisory group and the project management for the report period

Section 5 Technical part:

This section presents project-activities.

For each action expected results, status and problems encountered is presented.

And the envisaged progress until next report is stated (e.g. the end of the project).

Section 6 Comments on the financial report.

The financial report is briefly commented in this section.

Section 7: Annexes.

The 25 annexes to the report are listed in this section.

2.1 *Assessment as to whether the project objectives and work plan are still viable.*

The plans for all the Natura2000 sites in Denmark has now been finished, and the heath-land still have priority, so the overall project objectives are still viable.

Regarding the work plan the one year prolongation of the project has assured that the project will be completed in the most cost-efficiency way.



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2.2 *Problems encountered.*

No essential problems encountered, but progress in the field is still slower than expected for a few actions. This is mainly due to the weather during the periods in which it is allowed to make interventions on the heathlands. The last few years, has the weather during these periods unfortunately been very rainy. The weather has particularly affected action C.5 (Controlled burning) on the areas, as it has been much less effective than expected. In some places it will be necessary to burn an area a second time. But it seems that we will be able to reach the expected results

The Danish Ministry of the Environment was from 1st January 2011 reorganized. The former National Forest and Nature Agency and the Agency for Spatial and Environmental Planning have merged into one agency – The Nature Agency. The Beneficiary of the RAHID-project, the Danish Forest and Nature Agency, is from 1st January 2011 replaced by the Danish Nature Agency as Beneficiary of the project cf. “*Supplementary Agreement no 1 to Grant Agreement*”.

After the general election in the spring of 2015 the Ministry of Environment was merged with the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries forming the Ministry of Environment and Food.

As part of a government decision, the Nature Agency will be divided in two agencies effective from June 1st 2016, forming two agencies, a new Nature Agency and an Agency for Management of Water- and Nature (direct translation, the official English name has not been decided yet).

We expect that the national focal point for LIFE will be in touch with the Commission considering this situation, and we will prepare the necessary document for any project modifications requested from the Commission due to this situation.

3 Introduction

3.1 *Description of background, problem and objectives*

Overall and specific objectives

The heath land habitat types of Europe and Denmark are considered to be vulnerable and to some extent threatened habitat types. A number of circumstances influence the conservation status of the heath land habitats in an unfavourable way.

Airborne fertilization and attacks from the Heather Beetle (*Lochmaea suturalis*) are the main reasons for overgrowth with grasses at the expense of the characteristic heath land scrubs, resulting in a major loss of biodiversity in all of the targeted habitat types. The wet and dry heath land habitat types furthermore suffer from accumulation of organic materials / nutrients which starts a vicious circle since the damaging Heather Beetle exactly winters in the peat layer. Overgrowth with woody species is part of the natural succession of all of the habitats, but it is accelerated because of abandonment of pastoral systems. Especially the wet heath land habitat type suffers from fragmentation and unfavourable hydrological regimes.



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The present project aims to restore some of Denmark's large areas of heath land before it's too late. An urgent and comprehensive effort is imperative in order to reverse the trend of deterioration and the targeted heath land habitat types to achieve a good conservation status. This will be achieved through restoring existing habitats of heath land and creating new habitats nearby. Conservation actions therefore also include areas outside the targeted habitat types. These habitats are considered to be potential heath land habitat types, which over time can develop into the respectively targeted habitats types.

Sites involved in the project.

The project targets six different SCI's in Jutland:

DK00AX048 - Hedeområder ved Store Råbjerg (H74)

DK00BY165 - Harrild Hede (H64)

DK00BY171 - Randbøl Hede (H71)

DK00CX159 - Skovbjerg Bakkeø (H57)

DK00CX277 - Lønborg Hede (H196)

DK00CX285 - Heder i Klosterheden Plantage (H224)

Which habitat types and/or species are targeted

The main objective of the project is to improve the conservation status and when possible also increase the heath land areas of Dry sand heaths with *Calluna* and *Genista* (2310), Dry sand heaths with *Calluna* and *Empetrum nigrum* (2320), Inland dunes with open *Corynephorus* & *Agrostis* grassland (2330), Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix* (4010), European Dry Heaths (4030) and *Juniperus communis* formations on heaths (5130). In the Natura2000 sites these habitat types often occurs in a mosaic with each other.

This project is completely in line with the national guideline for the ongoing management planning for all the Natura2000 sites in Denmark. This includes an instruction to make a special effort for the threatened habitat type Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix* (4010). The actions in each sub-area are in accordance with the national conservation plan for the management of each Natura2000 site.

The second objective of the project is to improve existing and potential breeding habitats for the targeted Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*) and the Nightjar (*Caprimulgus europaeus*) both in Annex I of the Birds Directive

Main conservation issues being targeted (including threats)

The main conservation issues being targeted in the project are:

- Overgrowth with woody species, grasses and invasive alien species
- Accumulation of organic materials / nutrients
- Inappropriate hydrological regime
- Fragmentation
- Insufficient management knowledge
- Adverse impacts from visitors
- Lack of support for the conservation of heath land habitats



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Socio-economic context

The social benefits from the project is mainly positive due to the employment effects of the actions implemented, the use of product from the heather and the production of timber and chips related to clearings (e.g. the use of chips and material from harvest and mulching in heating plants)

And of course the enhancement of the nature values and biodiversity.

The development of methods to remove three stumps after clearing, use of existing machinery in new ways by contractors, will contribute to increase earnings and employment.

Raised awareness and easy access to the Natura2000 sites will lead to more activities (tours/events) at some of the sites. The activities organized by local people, municipalities or nature centres.

Several DNA units in Denmark are running projects where people with learning disabilities are to lend a hand with various tasks for the unit.

At Randbøl Hede there is such a project, and even if it haven't done any direct work for the LIFE project, is the LIFE project adding value to the effort these people provides. Having the opportunity to receive harvested heather from among other sites Harrild Heath, local farmers have had the motivation to experiment with compost bedding for cattle (see articles in Annex X p 33-35 and 50 (Skoven og landbrugsavisen))

3.2 Expected longer term results

The expected long term output of the project is that the different habitats on the 6.500 hectares involved in the project will be in better conservation status in the future:

- Dry sand heaths with Calluna and Genista 2310, (114,6 ha)
- Dry sand heaths with Calluna and Empetum nigrum 2320, (441 ha)
- Inland dunes with open Corynephorus & Agrostis grassland 2330, (14.6 ha)
- Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix 4010, (278,5 ha)
- European Dry Heaths 4030, (1981,5 ha)
- Juniperus communis formations on heaths 5130 (120 ha)

The targeted species: Tringa glareola (wood sandpiper, *da: tinksmød*), Caprimulgus europaeus (European Nightjar *da: Natravn*), can hopefully be seen on many more of the sites after the end of the project.

Expected long term quantified achievements:

The different actions, clearing, grazing, removal of upper soil layer, milling, tilling, burning and harvest of heather will result in bringing better conditions to the habitat on a total area of 2304 ha.



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4 Administrative part

4.1 *Description of the management system.*

The project manager and the local project-managers were assigned to the project before project start. They were all involved in the process of producing the project proposal and all are incredibly committed to the project.

A second project manager (Jesper Stenild the former manager of the Life RERABOG project) was attached to the project in the autumn of 2012, primary to act as technical project manager.

The project-group consists of the project management team and the local project-managers.

The first project-group meeting was held on 8th of December '10. The meeting acted as an internal start-up workshop. This meeting facilitated a very useful exchange of experience regarding management of heaths and inland dunes in general as well as the participants' experience with LIFE-Nature projects.

At the meeting the overall project implementation plan detailing the actions was talked over – the site specific as well as the general activities. The procedures for reporting and accounting of the site specific actions was outlined and agreed upon.

The Steering Committee consists of the Chief Foresters/Head of the Regional Offices where the project actions are implemented and the National LIFE-Coordinator, placed in the Central Unit of Nature Agency, 6 persons in total. It has not been necessary to have any meetings in the Steering Committee in the reporting period.

The Advisory board was assembled during autumn of 2012. And the first Advisory board meeting was held together with the project-group in connection with “part 2” of the start-up workshop, in October 2012.

The project has been organized according to organigram shown in figure 1. The composition of the steering committee is done in such a way that resources to complete the project are assured, both locally at site-level to implement actions and centrally to maintain a competent project management.



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The formal organisation of the project as per October 1st 2015 is outlined in figure 1, below (Inken Breum Larsen has replaced Henrik Winther as Chief Forester).

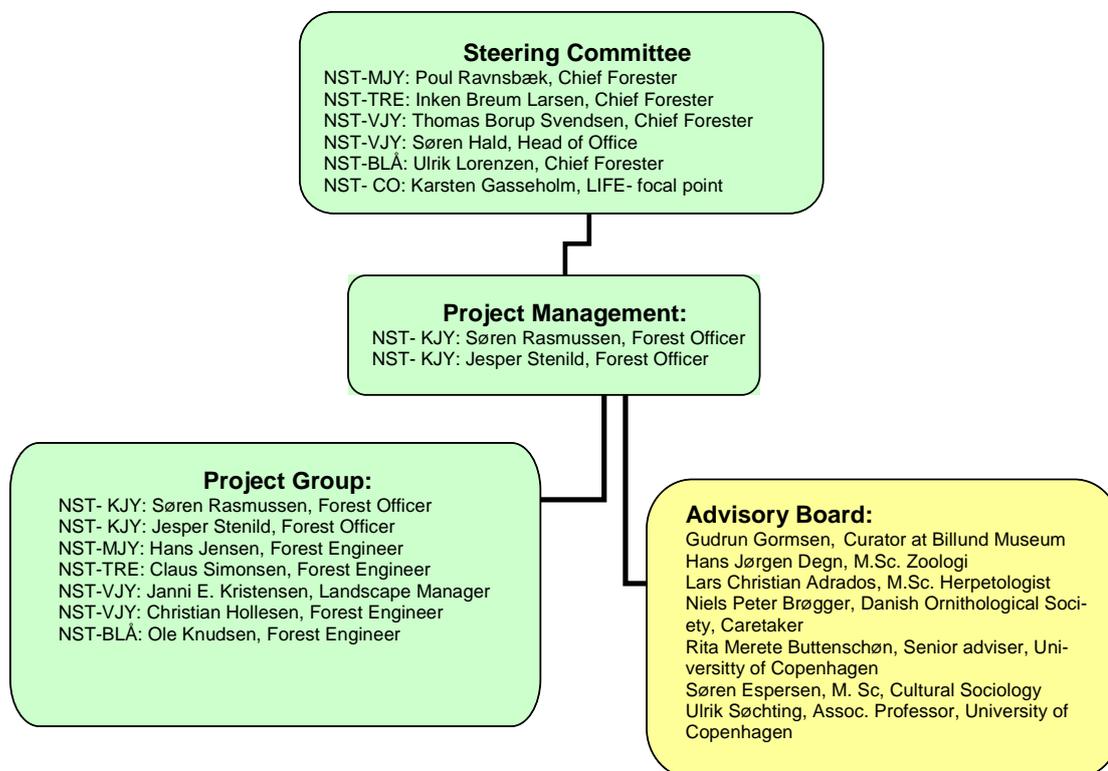


Figure 1: RAHID –Organigram ultimo 2015.

Management activities in the reported period.

The project management has been in continuously dialog with the local project managers to secure project progress, visiting the local sites together and separately several times. Since 2013 the financial manager have had yearly meetings with Rigsrevisionen - the Danish National Audit Office, to confirm that the accounts are kept correctly.

Project group: There was 4 meetings in 2011-2012, and 4 in 2013 where the group together visited all the project sites. In 2014 and 2015 there have been 3 meetings each year.

Steering Committee: Have had 4 meetings since the project stated, and the project management have had one formal meeting with the Chairman of the steering committee. There is an ongoing contact between the project management and the Chairman.

The project manager gave a lecture at a LIFE theme meeting (for municipalities considering LIFE as an instrument). The meeting were held by EnviNa on 24st January 2013.

The project manager participated in the LIFE20 Celebration Event – Ll. Vildmose on 21st May 2012. The event was arranged by the The Danish Presidency together with the



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European Commission. The event was hosted by the Nature Agency, the Commission and the Municipality of Aalborg and was attended by The Danish Minister of the Environment, the European Commissioner for the Environment and the mayor of the city of Aalborg.

The Project Manager participated in a symposium on “evidence-based Nature Management” arranged by Institute for Bioscience - Science and Technology Aarhus University at December 13th 2012

The project management have participated in the yearly platform meetings with Danish/Swedish/Finnish Life project in 2011-2015. (2011: Västerås, Sweden, 2012: Sørup, Denmark, 2013: Östersund, Sweden and 2014: Rovaniemi, Finland, and Aalborg Denmark in 2015)

The project management have had yearly meeting with the external monitor Bent Jepsen from Astrale GEIE until 2013. In May 2014 (14-15) there were a two days meeting with the monitor team and with the participation of the financial and technical desk officers from the LIFE unit.

In June 2015 (15-16) there were a two days meeting with the monitor team, where the new monitor Magnus Stenmark was introduced to the project.

The advisory Board was put together in the fall of 2012.

The Advisory Board and the project group held part 2 of the start-up work-shop in October 24th (see the summary of the meeting in Annex A)

In May 2013 (21-22 May) the advisory board and the project group had a two days excursion together, visiting several of the project sites (see the summary of the excursion in Annex B). The external monitor of the project participated in the excursion, and held the yearly meeting with the Project Management May 23.

The Project Management team and most of the project group participated in the “13th European Heathland workshop” held in Denmark June 23th – 28th 2013.

From June 8 to June 11 most of the project group participated in an excursion to Germany, the Netherlands and Belgium. A report of the visit is attached in Annex D.

The project group send one member to represent it at the 14th European Heathlands Network Workshop which took place in Poland on 21-27 June 2015.

4.2 *Evaluation of the management system.*

All in all it is the assessment that the system is functioning well, and has become more robust after a second /technical manager has been assigned to the project. Neither of the project managers is working full time on the project, so the assignment of a second manager is not affecting the project budget.



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5 Technical part

The heath land habitat types of Europe and Denmark are considered to be vulnerable and to some extent threatened habitat types.

Airborne fertilization and attacks from the Heather Beetle (*Lochmaea suturalis*) are major reasons for overgrowth with grasses at the expense of the characteristic heath land scrubs resulting in a major loss of biodiversity in all of the targeted habitat types. Overgrowth with woody species is part of the natural succession of all of the habitats, but it is accelerated because of abandonment of pastoral systems. Especially the wet heath land habitat type suffers from fragmentation and bad hydrological regimes.

The targeted habitat types in the project consist of following dry sand heath habitat types / inland dunes and dry and wet heath land habitat types:

- 2310 Dry sand heaths with *Calluna* and *Genista*
- 2320 Dry sand heaths with *Calluna* and *Empetrum nigrum*
- 2330 Inland dunes with open *Corynephorus* and *Agrostis* grassland
- 4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*
- 4030 European dry heaths
- 5130 *Juniperus communis* formations on heaths

The inland dunes/dry sand heaths consist of sand from melt water deposits. The poor nutrient conditions, along with the warm and dry conditions favour a characteristic vegetation regime such as common heather (*Calluna vulgaris*), petty whin (*Genista anglica*), silky leaf woadwaxen (*Genista pilosa*), crowberry (*Empetrum nigrum*), grey hairgrass (*Corynephorus canescens*) and sand sedge (*Carex arenaria*).

The wet and dry heaths often occur in a mosaic with each other – in some places also with elements of *Juniperus* formations. The poor nutrient conditions favour a characteristic vegetation regime such as common heather (*Calluna vulgaris*), crowberry (*Empetrum nigrum*), lingonberry (*Vaccinium vitis-idaea*), bearberry (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*), cross-leaved heath, *Erica tetralix*, northern bilberry (*Vaccinium uliginosum*) and cranberry (*Oxycoccus palustris*).

The project actions are also targeted to improve existing and potential breeding habitats for the targeted Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*) and the Nightjar (*Caprimulgus europaeus*) both in Annex I of the Birds Directive

For this project 6 Sites of Community Importance is selected, covering a project site surface of 6.566 ha. 8 Different conservation actions are planned at an area of 2.304 ha. More actions might take place at the same area.

The main threats to habitats are addressed with the actions in the project.

Most of the actions are not targeted towards one specific threat, but will affect other threats too. And in many circumstances it is feasible to combine more than one action to counteract a specific threat; the table here gives an overview of the main threats and the main countermeasures (actions).



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	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7
	Clearing	Topsoil removal/ Repeated burning	Tilling Removal of heather litter	Harvest of heather	Burning	Historical cultivation	Grazing
Overgrowth	X	X			X	X	X
Molinia growth (Purple moor grass)		X	X	X	X	X	X
Organic accumulation		X	X	X	X	X	X
Fragmentation	X						

And besides that there is the threat of inappropriate hydrological regime, which is targeted by action C2 topsoil removal (lowering of the ground) and C.8 restoration (by closing drains and ditches).

As the project has progressed, we have become increasingly aware of the possibilities of combining actions to achieve a better result. This has resulted in that we have sought to use the actions in unconventional ways.

As an example one of the more promising methods, are the use of cheap existing agricultural equipment, can be mentioned here:

After burning or harvesting the area are run over by an ordinary disc harrow, then the loosened material are gathered in rows by a common hay rake and finally the material is collected with the “bio-pick-up” system. A photo of the bio-pick-up system can be seen in the article in Annex X p 33-35 and 50.

It is such that the development of different methods makes it necessary that we use some space to describe how this development of methods is related to the one described in the grant agreement, and how they are reported.



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So here is a short Chapter of clarification:

Action C.1: clearing of woody species.

Clearing is normally done by machine and / or manually with motor chainsaw or bush cutter depending on the terrain or the sensitivity of the surrounding vegetation.

In the grant agreement is also described that a stump crushing will be carried out after clearing. However, it has turned out that part of the clearings can be done by mulching/crushing. As the mulching also affects the peat layer of the heather, the mulching until now has been reported under action C.3.

But in our opinion it will be more correct to report it under action C.1. So we will do that from this report and forward. It will be reported separately on tables and maps to distinguish from the normal clearing actions.

Action C.2: removal of upper peat soil layer.

The original machinery for the action turned out to unfeasible on many areas due to the heavy impact on the cultural and geological interests on the heathland, and to the fact that it performs poorly in wet conditions. Instead, there has been developed a method that is using cheap existing agricultural equipment, and is much gentler on the environment than the traditional methods.

A special kind of removal of the upper soil layer is "scraping" in favour of Wood Sand-piper. The soil is removed to form small shallow wetlands or temporary ponds.

The scraping is reported here, but could also justified be reported under action C.8 restoration of natural hydrology.

Action C.3: Tilling of areas dominated by purple moor grass.

This action, wrongly named milling in the grant agreement has only been used at two small demonstration sites. It has turned out that the intended action is too strong a treatment on most of the areas, so the method has instead been substituted with other actions. Primarily with repeated burning which is reported separately under action C.5, but also harvest of heather (C.4) and mulching.

Mulching which previously was reported here is now reported under action C.1.

The action has only been effectuated on the two demonstration sites on less than one hectare.

Action C.4: harvest of the heath land vegetation.

This action has not changed from the grant agreement.



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Action C.5: controlled burning to rejuvenate the heath land vegetation.

This action is partly carried out as described in the agreement and partly as repeated burning to fight the dominance of *Molinia* (purple moor grass).

The two types of burning are reported separately, and on top of that the repeated burning is reported yearly.

Action C.6: historically heath land cultivation.

This action has not changed from the grant agreement.

Action C.7: establishment of grazing and grazing facilities.

This action is carried out mostly as described in the grant agreement.

On site 71 (Randbøl Hede) the repeated burning action is complemented by short-term grazing by sheep.

Action C.8: restoration of natural hydrology in wet heath areas.

This action has not changed from the grant agreement.

Calculation of the area affected by the different actions.

In the beginning of chapter C1 in the grant agreement, there is an explanation of the different terms used to describe the area affected by the actions in the grant agreement. The terms are “gross area”, “net area”, and “marginal total area”.

Here we will try to give a shorter and more compact explanation of the terms:

Gross area:

When an action is performed, that happens normally on a well-defined piece of land within a perimeter. The area is what we call the “Gross area”.

Actions could be grazing, burning, clearing or harvesting,

Net area:

Some of the actions will always affect all the surface area within the perimeter, for instance grazing.

But for other actions it can be different, and it is most easily explained for clearings:

When you have to separate areas of the same size, one totally covered in trees, and another only covered with evenly scattered trees and bushes, the effort (and price) for clearing the areas will be very different.

In those cases we have found it convenient to operate with a percentage, defining the area directly affected by the action concerned. For instance, if you have a 100 ha area where 15% of the area is covered in scattered clumps of trees, then you do only affect



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15% of the area directly with the action. The area of 15 ha (15% of 100 ha) is the “net area”.

So in the mentioned case of two areas of 100 ha you have an overall gross area of 200 ha, and an overall net area of 115 ha.

Marginal total area.

Many of the actions in the project overlap in time and place.

You can on the same surface area have clearing of trees, burning and grazing.

So when you want to know what area of the habitat has been affected, you just can't add the gross area together. What you need is the union of all the actions, without counting any area twice.

For example, if you have 100 hectares of clearing, and then have 50 hectares of burning of which 25 hectares are within the cleared area, the union of those two areas will be 125 hectares. This is the “marginal total area” as defined in the grant agreement.

The “marginal total area” is always calculated from the gross areas, never the net areas.

In the grant agreement “marginal total area” is expected to be 2303,6 ha. And at the present the area is 2208,2 ha. So we are confident that we will reach the expected area of restored habitat.

Areas managed more than one time.

After the monitoring mission on 14-15 May 2014 we were asked to describe which areas are repeatedly managed by one or multiple concrete actions.

In annex E0 you will find maps showing those areas for each site.

The total area amounts to 648,2 ha.



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5.1 *Technical progress, per task (Action).*

5.1.1 **Action A.1: Permits to carry out conservation actions:**

Status at the end of this reporting period:

The conservation actions carried out in this project will in most cases require a notification according to the Departmental Order on EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) in order to examine the need for a screening of the impact of the conservation actions at the environment. Through the end of 2010, the notifications were sent to the competent authorities. The results of these screenings were as expected; there is no need for further investigations.

According to the Nature Conservation Act the conservation actions will in most cases also require a notification or a permission of the respectively Municipalities of the project sub-sites. The local project-managers have been in contact with the relevant Municipalities in order to obtain permission to implement the different conservation actions, and have in fact received these permissions. A general condition in the permits are that the local museum should be contacted prior to initiating action **C.2 Removal of upper peat soil layer** and action **C.3 Milling of areas dominated by purple moor grass** in order to secure that possible cultural heritage aren't damaged!

There is a continuous contact to the museums to be sure that no archaeological sites are damaged by the project actions.

In February 2012 we received a memorandum from *Museum Midtjylland* concerning site 64 Harrild Hede, the memo is enclosed in Annex C. As a result of this memo, some actions were changed or relocated.

At the same site a time limited (3 years) permission to the nature management has expired, but a new one was granted in December 2014.

We expect to have continuous contacts to the museums during the implementation of the actions but we expect no delays of the project process in this context.

5.1.2 **Action A.2 Start-up workshop.**

Status at the end of this reporting period:

It was expected to complete a two day workshop ultimo 2010. On account of all the internal commotion in relation to reorganising the Danish Forest and Nature Agency, the chairman of the Steering Committee decided to split up the start-up workshop into two separate arrangements. A one day meeting with just the local project-managers and the project manager to get the project started in a proper way. An additional meeting with external experts in the Advisory Board should be held later on.

Part 1, the one-day meeting in project-group was held in December 2010.

Part 2 with participation of the project group and the Advisory board was held October 24th 2012. A summary of this meeting (in Danish) can be seen in Annex A.



5.1.3 Action C.1 Clearing of woody species.

Progress in this reporting period:

Normal clearings

Name	No.	Area ha	Net ¹ area ha
Skovbjerg Bakkeø	57	460,44	194,74
Randbøl Hede	71	35,94	8,27
Store Råbjerg	74	99,24	74,90
Lønborg Hede	196	107,86	43,24
Klosterheden	224	33,53	1,68
	Sum	737,01	322,83

Clearing by mulching

Name	No.	Area ha	Net area ha
Skovbjerg Bakkeø	57	35,50	35,50
Store Råbjerg	74	24,05	24,05
Lønborg Hede	196	13,01	13,01
Klosterheden	224	6,73	6,73
	Sum	79,29	79,29

Clearings totally	816,30	402,10
Expected result	211,10 ha	142,40 ha
Proportion (%)	386,69 %	282,38 %

This action has obviously turned out to be larger than expected. That is very positive as it means we have been able to turn afforested heath back to heathland.

For 2016 there are only planned minor clearings, less than 10 ha. all in all.

Maps showing the actions site by site are found in Annex E.

¹ Conservation actions C.1 through C.6 operates with “treatment” percentage, ranging from 10 to 100 %. This means that a certain action is to be carried out on just part of a larger (gross) area. The selection of the specific area to complete the action on, within the gross area, is decided on basis of the actual situation at the time when the action is initiated. The net area is the gross area multiplied with the treatment percentage. In the tables “Area” is the gross area.



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5.1.4 Action C.2: Removal of upper peat soil layer

Status at the end of this reporting period:

Name	No.	Area ha	Net area ha
Harrild Hede	64	62,40	62,40
Randbøl Hede	71	1,23	1,23
Store Råbjerg	74	3,18	3,18
	Sum	66,81	66,81

Expected result	247,4 ha	133,5 ha
Proportion (%)	27,0	50,0

The area for this action has been smaller than expected.

The main reason for that is, that the machinery we planned to use to do the action, turned out to be unfeasible on many areas due to the heavy impact on the cultural and geological interests on the heathland, and to the fact that it performs poorly in wet conditions.

We discussed this with the Advisory Board, and the conclusion was to exchange this action for other types on some areas, and to test if the action could be implemented with other types of machinery available on the Danish market.

So other methods has been developed and tested.

- Control of purple moor grass with repeated harvest and/or burning.
This method is reported under action C.5 burning.
- Retrieving the stumps after clearing of plantation.
- The use of various types of existing equipment to removal of upper peat soil layer.

For instance the use of the “biopick-up” method; here a forestry mulcher is used to mulch the vegetation and the top layer and collect the material in one operation.

The method is described in an article seen in Annex X p 33-35; 50.

Another of the more promising methods is the use of cheap existing agricultural equipment: After burning or harvesting the area is run over by an ordinary disc harrow, then the loosened material is gathered in rows by a common hay rake and finally the material is collected with the “bio-pick-up” system.

Inspired by the visit at Strabrechtse Heide in the early summer of 2015, we will try to make the inland dunes more dynamic on two to three sites in 2016.

Hopefully we will be able to use one of the experts from Holland as consultant.

The costs for both the advice from an expert and the actions in the field will be within the budget frame.

Maps showing the actions site by site are found in Annex F.



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5.1.5 Action C.3: Tilling (former Milling) of areas dominated by purple moor grass.

Name	No.	Area ha	Net area ha
Harrild Hede	64	0,79	0,79
	Sum	0,79	0,79

Expected result	300,10 ha	159,50 ha
Proportion (%)	0,3 %	0,5 %

In the last reporting we had a clarification of the intended type of action. Because we had recognized that there has been a misuse of the English terminology “milling” in the application.

The action is named “Milling of areas dominated by purple moor grass” and that is a translation of the Danish word “fræsning” in to English. Unfortunately the one Danish word covers different meanings in English. “Fræsning” translates to ”milling” in English, meaning “removing a thin layer of material from the surface”.

But the term “fræsning” also has a second meaning in Danish, namely “tillage by a rotating cultivator (Rotavator)”.

So the correct term for the action should have been something like “Tilling of areas dominated by purple moor grass by rotating cultivator”

It has turned out that the intended action is too strong a treatment on most of the areas, so other alternatives has been tested. For instance mulching and harvesting.

Mulching (where only the top layer of the soil is affected) has been used in some places at the same time at the area was cleared of encroachment. It will from this report and forward be reported under action C.1. (Until now it has been reported here under C.3).

One of the more comprehensive alternatives is repeated burning of the purple moor grass. It was discussed with the expert Advisory Board and considered worth trying. It can be seen as a combination of action C.5, C.3 and C.2., where the burning hopefully stresses the purple moor grass and favors the heather.

The burning is done the same way as the burning for rejuvenating the heather, and is reported separately under action C.5.

We hope the Commission can accept this change in the actions justified partly in a linguistic misunderstanding and partly in, that it has turned out that the expected method advantageously can be replaced by other, less costly options.

As a result of the changes only the tilling on the demonstration area at site 64 is reported under this action.

Maps showing the actions site by site are found in Annex G.



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5.1.6 Action C.4: Harvest of the heathland vegetation

Status at the end of this reporting period:

Name	No.	Area ha	Net area ha
Skovbjerg Bakkeø	57	27,84	21,79
Harrild Hede	64	91,42	91,42
Randbøl Hede	71	52,12	52,12
Lønborg Hede	196	68,88	68,88
Klosterheden	224	13,37	13,37
	Sum	253,63	247,58

Expected result	756,00 ha	385,70 ha
Proportion (%)	33,5	64,2

This action will continue during the rest of the project period.

The action is much delayed and it is unlikely that we will be able to reach the expected results on all sites even with the one year prolongation we have been granted.

Unfortunately the attack of the Heather beetle (*Lochmaea suturalis*) has continued on most of the sites, causing the harvesting to be too costly to do as we have to pay a high price to get harvested material removed as waste.

Many of the areas planned for harvest will be treated with other kind of actions, most likely burning (C.5) or mulching (C.1)

Maps showing the actions site by site are found in Annex H.



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5.1.7 Action C.5: Controlled burning to rejuvenate the heath land vegetation

Progress in this reporting period:

Name	No.	Area ha	Net area ha
Skovbjerg Bakkeø	57	181,37	178,28
Harrild Hede	64	214,74	214,74
Randbøl Hede	71	51,20	51,20
Store Råbjerg	74	31,02	31,02
Lønborg Hede	196	164,78	164,78
	Sum	643,11	640,02

Expected result	1.099,80 ha	578,10 ha
Proportion (%)	58,5 %	110,7 %

This action will be ongoing until the end of the project.

Controlled burning to control purple moor grass.

As mentioned under action C.3.

Status at the end of this reporting period:

Name	No.	Area ha	Net area ha
Randbøl Hede 2012	71	226,70	226,70
Randbøl Hede 2013	71	201,93	201,93
Randbøl Hede 2014	71	179,99	179,99
Randbøl Hede 2015	71	211,78	211,78
	Sum	820,4	820,4

Expected result	0 ha	0 ha
Proportion (%)	NA	NA

As described under action C.2 & C.3 one of the more comprehensive alternatives to removal of top-soil or tilling is repeated burning of the purple moor grass. It was discussed with the expert Advisory Board and considered worth trying. It can be seen as a combination of action C.5 and C.2, where the burning hopefully stresses the purple moor grass, reduces its coverage and thus favours the heather.

The burning is done the same way as the burning for rejuvenating the heather, and is reported separately here.



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This action has replaced some of the planned removal of upper peat soil layer (action C2) and some of the tilling (action C3).

Maps showing the actions site by site are found in Annex I.

5.1.8 Action C.6: Historically heath land cultivation

Status at the end of this reporting period:

Name	No.	Area ha	Net area ha
Harrild Hede	64	7,13	7,13
Randbøl hede	71	1,65	1,65
	Sum	8,78	8,78

Expected result	14,60 ha	11,30 ha
Proportion (%)	60,1%	77,7 %

A management plan for this action has been promised earlier. But due to limited area of the actions, Curator Gudrun Gormsen from the advisory board has been so kind to prepare at short note with suggestions for the historical cultivation. The nota were submitted in spring 2013, and are enclosed in Annex J.

In 2015 a small area on site 71 (Randbøl Hede) has been included in the action.

Maps showing the actions site by site are found in Annex K.

5.1.9 Action C.7: Establishment of grazing and grazing facilities

Status at the end of this reporting period:

Permanent grazing:

Name	No.	Area ha	Net area ha
Skovbjerg Bakkeø	57	180,10	180,10
Randbøl Hede	71	223,77	223,77
Store Råbjerg	74	33,88	33,88
Lønborg Hede	196	119,30	119,30
Klosterheden	224	39,08	39,08
	Sum	596,13	596,13

Expected result	658,50 ha	658,50 ha
Proportion (%)	90,5 %	90,5 %



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Short time (less than one year) grazing:

Name	No.	Area ha	Net area ha
Randbøl Hede 2013	71	21,48	21,48
Randbøl Hede 2014	71	21,64	21,64
Randbøl Hede 2015	71	21,64	21,64
	Sum	43,12	43,12

Expected result	0 ha	0 ha
Proportion (%)	NA	NA

The action has now been implemented on all the expected sites.

In 2016 there is planned establishment of grazing on around 185 ha. (Site 196, 74 and 64)

Two types of grazing have been implemented, a permanent grazing with cattle (and horses) and a short time grazing with sheep using removable fences.

A third method, grazing with herded sheep, has being considered, but will not be implemented on the project sites.

At site 74 two cattle have been bought and lend out to a local farmer for grazing at St. Råbjerg. This “lend-a-cattle” system has been used in several other EU LIFE projects (LIFE Bombina, LIFE BaltCoast, LIFE Helnæs , LIFE Dry grassland II, LIFE Rare Nature).

The agreement principle is lending a number of Nature cattle to a farmer.

The farmer can keep the offspring and has all obligations for the cattle according to regulations and animal welfare – as a permanent agreement.

The agreement can be terminated by the famer or by the Nature Agency, and the cattle will be returned to the Agency.

When the farmer has built his own herd from the offspring, he can choose to give back the lending cattle, and they can go for a new project area as part of a new agreement.

At the moment it is not expected that it will be necessary to buy more cattle.

Maps showing the actions site by site are found in Annex L.



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5.1.10 Action C.8: Restoration of natural hydrology

Status at the end of this reporting period:

Name	No.	Area ha	Net area ha
Randbøl Hede	71	0,40	0,40
Lønborg Hede	196	9,58	9,58
	Sum	9,98	9,98

Effected area is estimated

Expected result	17 ha	17 ha
Proportion (%)	58,7 %	57,7 %

60 % of the action has been completed.

The affected area is estimated, what we can measure is the length of closed ditches, which is 796 m.

Early in 2014, we considered the opportunity of re-meandering a small stream at site 196 (Lønborg Hede) as a part of this action.

The re-meandering will result in a wetter and more natural hydrology on the surrounding areas of the affected stretch of the stream.

The notes concerning this consideration are enclosed in Annex M.

As the cost for this re-meandering could be kept within the budget, we had planned to carry out this project.

In the spring of 2015 we got the permission from the authorities but under the condition that we had to compensate a neighbour economical, an action *not* included in the project grant agreement

Since then there has been an interesting development, site 196 (Lønborg Hede) has been designated as one of the potential target areas in a project called “collective- impact” see homepage here: <http://collective-impact.dk/det-aabne-land>

And enclosed in Annex N there is more information about the project.

In short the purpose of the project is to promote multiple use of the open landscape.

So the project of restoring Styg Bæk will move out of the LIFE project, hopefully to be realised under the “collective-impact” project. So the preparatory actions done here will not be wasted, but brought into play to obtain further external financing for the restoration of the stream, and restoring the natural hydrology on site 96.

Maps showing the actions site by site are found in Annex O.



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5.1.11 Action E.1: Project management.

The action is described in section 4.

5.1.12 Action E.2a: Overall project monitoring.

Status at the end of this reporting period:

The local project-managers are documenting project conservation-actions continuously, primarily by photo documentation. Pictures are taken before, under and after an action have been completed. Besides that all actions are registered on a regular basis in GIS based on the latest orthophotos.

5.1.13 Action E.2b: Monitoring of impact

Progress in this reporting period:

The NOVANA monitoring program conducted by The National Environment Research Institute, Aarhus University, will follow the conservation status of habitat types and species covered by the Habitats and Bird Directive. The inland dunes and heath land habitat types present in the project will be monitored. This monitoring program was started in 2004. This project will utilise the results from the NOVANA program. (The NOVANA program is not part of this project and will not be financed from the project budget).

NOVANA-data will be used to make a base line for the conservation status of the habitat type in the different project sites by the start of the project. These data are freely available for the project.

NOVANA-data are inadequate and we have to make supplementary registrations at all sites.

A special monitoring programme to take care of this has been implemented during 2012.

A complete base line of the conservation status was completed in 2012.

And a mid-term monitoring has been conducted autumn / winter 2014/15.

A description of the method used is enclosed in Annex P.

Regarding the 2 targeted bird species - Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*) and the nightjar (*Caprimulgus europaeus*) – those are monitored yearly by the Danish Ornithological Society through the Danish IBA Caretaker Project at three project sites, Harrild Hede (H64), Randbøl Hede (H71) and St. Råbjerg (H74).

In 2015 there has been a collecting of data for a report on the status of those two species, based on literature, databases and interview with locals (but not field studies) the report will be finished in January 2016. In Annex Q you will find the preliminary text of the report (note that it is the raw text without photos and logos!)



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5.1.14 Action E.3: Networking with other projects

Status at the end of this reporting period:

To ensure the exchange of experiences from other LIFE projects the project management have participated in five LIFE Platform meetings:

At Västerås, Sweden, September 12th -13th 2011.

At Sørup, Denmark, September 17th -18th 2012

At Östersund, Sweden September 24th - 26th 2013

At Rovaniemi, Finland June 10th – 13th 2014

At Aalborg, Denmark September 15th – 17th 2015

The project manager participated in the Kick-off workshop for a new Danish LIFE-Nature project – LIFE Kær, Municipality of Faaborg-Midtfyn. 11. December 2012.

And of course there is a close intern network between all the LIFE projects managed by the Danish Nature Agency, mostly ad hoc but also with a yearly meeting, where different experiences (technical and financial) are shared.

From June 8 to June 11 2015 most of the project group participated in an excursion to Germany, the Netherlands and Belgium, and among other sites visiting former LIFE projects (LIFE Liereman and LIFE Dommeldal).

A report of the visit is attached in Annex D.

And of course we will welcome other LIFE projects who want to visit the RAHID project.

In July 3^d most of the project group visited Borris Heath at Borris Target Range (owned by the Danish Ministry of Defence).

Borris Heath is Denmark's largest area of heathland. It encompasses moorlands, ponds and inland sand dunes. The group was shown around by the personnel of the Danish Defence Estates and Infrastructure Organisation which is responsible for the management of the areas.

5.1.15 Action E.4: After-LIFE Conservation Plan

No activities during the report period.

5.1.16 Envisaged progress until next report

The project will end within a year and until then we will do the outermost effort to reach as many of the projects objectives as possible. And we are confident that this will be achievable, with the above mentioned changes and constraints.

The comprehensive management guide will be finished and the final seminar held 15th – 16th September 2016.



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Gantt chart, Proposed and actual project progress.

Aktion		2010	2011				2012				2013				2014				2015				2016			
		IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV
Project reports	Proposed			X					X					X					X							
	Actual			X					X					X					X							
A1 Permits	Proposed																									
	Actual																									
A2 Start up workshop	Proposed																									
	Actual																									
C1 Clearing of woody species	Proposed																									
	Actual																									
C2 Removal of upper peat soil layer	Proposed																									
	Actual																									
C3 Milling of areas dominated by molinia	Proposed																									
	Actual																									
C4 Harvest of the heath land vegetation	Proposed																									
	Actual																									
C5 Controlled burning to rejuvenate the vegetation	Proposed																									
	Actual																									
C6 Historically heath land cultivation	Proposed																									
	Actual																									
C7 Establishment of grazing and grazing facilities	Proposed																									
	Actual																									
C8 Restoration of natural hydrology	Proposed																									
	Actual																									
D1 Mounting of information boards	Proposed																									
	Actual																									
D2 Facilities for visitors	Proposed																									
	Actual																									
D3 Project website	Proposed																									
	Actual																									
D4 Layman's report	Proposed																									
	Actual																									
D5 Co-operation with landowners and the local communities	Proposed																									
	Actual																									
D6 Attendance of conference in nature management	Proposed																									
	Actual																									
D7 Guided visits.	Proposed																									
	Actual																									
D8 Project folders	Proposed																									
	Actual																									
D9 Publications	Proposed																									
	Actual																									
D10 Final seminar	Proposed																									
	Actual																									
E1 Project management.	Proposed																									
	Actual																									
E2 Overall project monitoring.	Proposed																									
	Actual																									
E3 Networking with other projects	Proposed																									
	Actual																									
E4 After-LIFE Conservation Plan	Proposed																									
	Actual																									



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5.2 *Dissemination action*

5.2.1 Objectives

There is no dissemination plan contained in the project

The obvious objectives are:

- To inform the public about the project, Natura2000 and LIFE.
- To disseminate the management results to other professionals

5.2.2 Dissemination: overview per activity.

5.2.3 Action D.1: Mounting of information boards

The following Information boards (size A2) have been mounted.

The amount of boards at each site differs slightly from what is described in the grant agreement. The numbers in brackets are the planned numbers.

Skovbjerg Bakkeø:

4 (5) boards: at Idum Hede, Nr. Vosborg Hede, Vind Hede and Øster Sande Hede

Harrild hede:

6 (5) boards : Two boards in Nørlund Plantage, 3 boards at Harrild Hede and 1 board south of the country road.

A series of smaller boards (2x6) placed at the two demonstration sites, informing of the different techniques.

Randbøl:

4 (4) boards (Nord, Midt 1 og 2, og Syd)

St Råbjerg:

3 (2) boards (Vest, midt og øst)

Lønborg:

2 (2) boards (Nord og syd)

Klosterheden:

3 (5) boards (Fladhøj hede nord, Fladhøj hede syd og Risbæk Hede)

PDF files of all the boards are in Annex R.



5.2.4 Action D.2: Facilities for visitors

Status at the end of this reporting period:

The information-centre/nature school at site 64 (Harrild Hede) was finished in November 2012, and the information posters, 8 set of tables and benches and 2 Shelters were acquired late in 2013 and the rest of the information material and the interior for the centre was acquired and ready for the 2013 season.

See photos in Annex S.

It has turned out that the ornithologists are not interested in the planned observation tower at Randbøl Heath (71), so this will not be established. The tower that was planned in the project will be changed to a viewing platform for the general visitors to the site. The platform will be placed very close to an existing visitor centre, giving the 20.000 yearly visitors a better opportunity to experience the heathland landscape. It will be established in 2016 when the permit from the conservancy board had been granted.

5.2.5 Action D.3: Project website

The project website was finished and launched by mid April 2011.

The WEB-site can be found at the following addresses:

www.naturstyrelsen.dk/hedeprojektet and www.naturstyrelsen.dk/lifeheathlands

This is the closest to project-specific domain-name it is possible to have within the web design of the Danish Ministry of Environment and Food.

Due to constant changes in the platform for the official webpage of the Ministry of Environment it has been difficult to keep the page updates regularly.

And in the summer 2015 the ministry was merged with the ministry of food and agriculture, if that will lead to another change of platform, is not clear at the moment.

At the project website there is a link to a short video, showing controlled burning (action C5) at site 71 (Randbøl Hede):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mvRCleVqIAM>

5.2.6 Action D.4: Layman's report

No activities during the report period.



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5.2.7 Action D.5: Co-operation with landowners and the local communities

Status at the end of this reporting period:

The project manager participated in the LIFE20 Celebration Event – LI. Vildmose on 21st May 2012. The event was arranged by the The Danish Presidency together with the European Commission. The event was hosted by the Nature Agency, the Commission and the Municipality of Aalborg and was attended by The Danish Minister of the Environment, the European Commissioner for the Environment and the mayor of the city of Aalborg.

The local project-manager at site 196 Lønborg Hede presented the project for the local Round table (20 persons) at a meeting on August 6th 2012.

At site 71 Randbøl Hede all the neighbours were informed by a letter before the controlled burning at the site was performed.

Each year NST-TRE organizes a coordination/clarification meeting with the Nature Conservancy Board, the local municipalities, and the ornithological society, regarding the coming restoration activities at Randbøl Hede. These meetings are quite important in relation to avoid potential management problems.

Every unit of the DNA have a local council of users who normally meets twice a year. If required relevant parts of the project are discussed there.

There has been no further need for public meetings, but should the need arise they will be held.

5.2.8 Action D.6: Attendance of conference in nature management

The project management and the majority of the project team participated in the "13th European Heathland Workshop", held in Denmark from 23 to 28 June 2013.

Read more on

<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/biodiversity/protectandmanage/europeanheathlands/default.aspx>

There is a 107 pages report from the workshop, it can be found here:

<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/5815805149184000>

In 2015, a single member of the project group participated in the "14th European Heathland Workshop", held in Poland from 21 to 27 June 2015.

(<http://www.heathlands2015.umk.pl/>)

The report from the workshop can be found here:

<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/4901015468900352>



5.2.9 Action D.7: Guided visits.

In general the Danish Nature Agency has several guided tours each year in the sites they own. In this overview below only tours where the management of heathland has been part of the information are counted.

Site 57 (Skovbjerg Bakkeø):

In 2011 – 2015 here have been 30 guided tours in the area with 1089 participants.

Site 64 (Harrild hede):

In 2011-2015 there have been 99 guided tours with more than 4221 participants. This includes a visit by the The Environment Committee of the Danish Parliament at September 4'th 2012.

Site 71 (Randbøl Hede):

In 2011-2015 there have been 35 guided tours with 1305 participants.

Site 74 (Store Råbjerg):

In 2011-2015 there have been 5 guided tours with 168 participants.

Site 196 (Lønborg Hede):

In 2011- 2015 there have been 7 guided tours with 136 participants.

Site 224 (Klosterheden):

In 2011 – 2015 here have been 20 guided tours in the area with 657 participants.

A detailed list of the tours is enclosed in Annex T.

5.2.10 Action D.8: Project folders

There have been produced 6 folders for the project:

- A general folder describing the project
- Nørre Vosborg (Skovbjerg Bakkeø)
- Harrild Hede
- Randbøl Hede
- Grene Sande (Store Råbjerg)
- Lønborg Hede

The folders can be seen in Annex U.

5.2.11 Action D.9: Publications

As accepted by the Commission this activity has been expanded within the budget frame of the project.

As it has been found necessary to test several alternative methods and equipment



during the project, we have found it logical to incorporate lessons learned from this work in a more comprehensive management guide than envisaged in the grant agreement.

The work has begun in 2015 with a report on old experiments on controlling Purple Moor Grass on Randbøl Hede (Site 71) (enclosed without annex number). A consultant firm has been contracted to make the management guide, and collection of data begun in summer 2015 and we expect them to finish it just before summer 2016.

5.2.12 Action D.10: Final seminar

In 2015 a national seminar on Heathland management was held in cooperation with EnviNa (The Danish association of environmental-, planning- and nature employees in the public sector), and the municipalities of Herning and Viborg.

The target group was Danish professionals working with heathland management

The preliminary results of the project were presented and two of the project sites were visited, together with two sites managed by the municipalities.

A report from the seminar is enclosed in Annex V

The final seminar will be held in autumn 2016.

5.2.13 Press cuttings

Press cuttings are in Annex X.

5.3 Evaluation of Project Implementation.

It is clear that the methodology we expected to be used in action C2 removal of topsoil, did not survive the reality of the Danish heathlands.

But it is also clear that when a project like this brings very experienced professionals together, the creative ideas will flourish.

This has meant that the lessons learned in the project until now, has resulted in a more multiple approach in dealing with the threats at hand, than we had before.

And we look forward to present our experiences in the management guide.

5.4 Analysis of long-term benefits.

At this stage of the project no long term impacts can be ascertained.

But the results so far seem promising, and we are confident that there will be a long-term benefit of the project.



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6 Comments on the financial report.

The cost incurred within the reporting period accumulates to 2.147.288,10 € Compared to the overall budget according to the grant agreement 4.075.688,00 € this amount to 52 %. Of course there is variation to this average figure between the different cost categories, but all in all the consumption matches the budget nicely.

6.1 Summary of Costs incurred.

Cost incurred until 31'th December 2015

Budget breakdown categories	Total cost in €	Costs incurred from the start date to 31.012.2015 in €	%
1. Personnel	1.330.853,00	882.634,82	66 %
2. Travel and subsistence	115.255,00	37.640,77	32 %
3. External assistance	1.977.318,00	855.717,53	43 %
4. Durable goods			
Infrastructure	0,00	0,00	-
Equipment	129.031,00	83.865,05	65 %
Prototype	0,00	0,00	-
5. Land purchase / long-term lease	0,00	0,00	-
6. Consumables	238.654,00	135.938,50	57 %
7. Other Costs	17.943,00	11.014,65	61 %
8. Overheads	266.634,00	140.476,78	52 %
TOTAL	4.075.688,00	2.147.288,10	52 %

6.2 Accounting system.

The accountancy

The Nature Agency has a coherent accountancy. All internal appropriations, budgets and accounts are kept in one system. This system also holds information about each employee's time registration. This means that all financial reporting materials are stored in one system, with easy access to extract the information again.

Project accounts

Each LIFE-Nature project has one or more accounts, depending on the complexity of the project, to hold the financial information. Each local-unit in the Nature Agency participating in a



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LIFE-Nature project has a specific account-number to hold internal appropriations, budgets and accounts, relevant for the actions this local-unit is involved in. The local-unit participating in a LIFE-Nature-project will get an internal appropriation in the beginning of the project, based on a budget regarding the actions the local-unit must complete. These project accounts are balanced each year. The sum of these local-unit accounts makes up the total project account.

Project accounts relevant for this project:

640115	LIFE-Hede - Blåvand
640116	LIFE-Hede - Indtægter, forskud fra EU
640117	LIFE-Hede - Midtjylland
640118	LIFE-Hede - Projekt manager
640119	LIFE-Hede - Trekanten
640120	LIFE-Hede - Vestjylland

Invoices

All project relevant invoices are in the accounting system provided with appropriate accounting information; project account, action number and cost category. Copies of all project-invoices are sent to the project manager to certify the approval of the cost.

Paper copies of all invoices and proof of payment are collected and kept by the financial project manager.

All costs entered into the LIFE+ financial reporting tool are without VAT.

Please refer to Annex Y, for an outline of all relevant project account-references.

Time sheets and calculation of annual working time

All salaried employees make time registration into an electronic system on a daily basis. The system is called *mTID*. All project-relevant activities are marked with project- and action-specific numbers. Each month the employee accepts and locks the time registration, after which the registration is approved by the head of the Unit. This information is then accessible in the accountancy. All hourly-paid employees make time registration on “paper-time-sheet” also on a daily basis. As was the case for salaried employees project-relevant activities are marked with project- and action-specific numbers. Each month the employee signs the time-sheet and forwards it to the manager, who approves and enters the information into the time-sheet database *mTID*, after that the information is accessible in the accountancy.

Statistical information based on the employee’s information in the timesheet database is composed every year. The “yearly-statistic” is the foundation when calculating the annual working time. The annual working time is calculated on an individual basis for every employee.

The total time registered is then reduced with the non-productive time, which includes time registered as:

- Vacation time
- Lunch time
- Sickness/other absence.
- Absence because of bad weather (may be relevant for some workmen)



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If an employee is long-term ill, more than 21 days in succession, the employer is entitled to a *partial* refund of the salary. If this is the case, time registered as sickness will **NOT** be deducted from the total registered.

Time registered as parental leave will **NOT** be deducted from the total registered, because of *partial* refund of the salary.

We have chosen this conservative approach regarding calculation of the annual working time because it is associated with a rather large effort to find and document the compensation received per employee. So if we don't deduct compensation received (which always will be less than the amount paid in salary to the employee) it wouldn't be righteous to regard the absence as non-productive time.

Calculation of the Annual gross salary.

Calculation of the annual gross salary is based on the actual cost for each individual employee. The monthly salary slip for the employee is used as a clear reference to the different elements included in the salary. The salary slip specifies which wage-components the salary is composed of.

Included in the Financial Report you will find a sheet, detailing the calculation of the annual gross salary.

The majority of the annual salary consists of regular wage, including different merit awards etc. In the Financial Report this element is mentioned as *Løn* (salary)

Some wage-elements included in the accumulated annual salary for some employees, are considered *not eligible*, and are therefore again deducted from the total salary, these include:

- Bonuses, (engangsvederlag, resultatløn, og lignende)
- "Taxation-Technical"-benefits - Company paid benefits, which the employee much pay tax on (Multimediebeskatning, Telefonbeskatning ol)
- Allowance to maintain an office at home (Kontorholdsgørelse ol.)

These wage-elements are listed in the Financial Report as *Fradrag* (deduction).

Included in the annual gross salary is "wage earners' supplementary pension" (ATP). The employee pays 1/3 of this and the employer pays 2/3. This element is included as (*Statens ATP-bidrag*).

Also Included in the annual gross salary is *Pension*. The pension schemes are obligatory/compulsory for all employees except some trainees/apprentices.

AER (Arbejdsgiverens Elevrefusion) a financial support scheme for trainees.

AES (Arbejdsmarkets Erhvervsyngsomssikring) A labour market fund for occupational diseases.

Fleksbidrag (Bidrag til fleksjobordningen). A financial support scheme, for getting unemployed persons back on the labour market.

It is obligatory for The Nature Agency to take part in/pay to these 3 support-schemes.



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All the above mentioned wage-elements are taken into account when the annual gross salary is calculated.

Travel

Travel expenses are held in accordance with the guidelines for business travel in the ministry of Environment. Travel in privately owned cars are refunded with a fixed rate for mileage, the rate are annually adjusted. For travel activities that last for more than 24 hours subsistence costs are refunded with a fixed rate pr. day or by reimbursement of actual costs to a reasonable extent.

Travel expenses are entered in a travel and expense management system called *RejsUd* according to guidelines in DNA. The rates for mileage and subsistence cost are integrated in the system and *RejsUd* automatically calculate the payment to the employed. The entered information is approved by the administration after the information is accessible in the accountancy.

6.3 Partnership arrangement.

There are no partners in the project.

6.4 Auditor's report/declaration.

No such report/declaration is needed for this report.
Below you find the contact information to project auditors.

Auditor for the Coordinating Beneficiary:

RIGSREVISIONEN



Audit of State Accounts

St. Kongensgade 45
DK-1264 Copenhagen K.
Denmark
Tel: +45 33 92 84 00
e-mail: info@rigsrevisionen.dk

Contacts:
Sultan Kayiran, Fuldmægtig: E-mail sk@rigsrevisionen.dk



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6.5 *Summary of costs per action*

Has not been calculated, as it is not mandatory.

7 Annexes

7.1 Administrative annexes.

Annex A:	Report from meeting in the advisory board autumn 2012.	6 p.
Annex B:	Report from meeting in the advisory board May 21-22 2013..	14 p.
Annex C:	Memo from Museum Midtjylland.....	13 p.
Annex D:	Report from excursion June 2015	24 p.

7.2 Technical annexes

Annex E0:	Areas managed by one or multiple concrete actions (maps).....	5 p.
Annex E:	Maps showing activities in action C.1.	15 p.
Annex F:	Maps showing activities in action C.2.	5 p.
Annex G:	Maps showing activities in action C.3.	1 p.
Annex H:	Maps showing activities in action C.4	6 p.
Annex I:	Maps showing activities in action C.5.	14 p.
Annex J:	Note from Curator Gudrun Gormsen.	2 p.
Annex K:	Map showing activities in action C.6.....	2 p.
Annex L:	Maps showing activities in action C.7.	7 p.
Annex M:	Notes concerning the stream Styg Bæk.	11 p.
Annex N:	Information about Collective Impact	15 p.
Annex O:	Maps showing activities in action C.8	2 p.
Annex P:	Description of impact monitoring method.	10 p.
Annex Q:	Preliminary report on species.....	6 p.

7.3 Dissemination annexes

7.3.1 Layman's report.

Not relevant for the midterm-report.

7.3.2 After LIFE Communication plan.

Not relevant for Nature projects.

7.3.3 Other dissemination annexes.

Annex R:	Information boards (Reduced in size).....	26 p.
Annex S:.....	Photos from information center at Harrild Hede.....	4 p.
Annex T:.....	List of guided tours until 2015.	2 p.
Annex U:	Project folders	14 p.



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Annex V Report National Seminar	17 p.
Annex X Newspaper articles and other media	70 p.
Report on reduction of Purple Moor Grass 1999-2014.....	25 p.

7.4 Final table of indicators.
Not relevant for the progress report.

8 Financial report and annexes

8.1 Financial report.
Not relevant for the progress report.

8.2 Financial annex.
Not relevant for the progress report.

Annex Y: An outline of all relevant project account-references.1 p.



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