



LIFE08 NAT/DK/000464

**FINAL Report**  
Covering the project activities from 01/01/2010 to 31/12/2013

Reporting Date  
**31/03/2014**

Dry Grassland in Denmark – Restoration and Conservation

**Project Data**

<b>Project location</b>	
<b>Project start date:</b>	01/01/2010
<b>Project end date:</b>	31/12/2013
<b>Total Project duration (in months)</b>	48 months
<b>Total budget</b>	2.162.094 €
<b>Total eligible budget</b>	1.426.142 €
<b>EU contribution:</b>	713.071 €
<b>(%) of total costs</b>	50
<b>(%) of eligible costs</b>	50

**Beneficiary Data**

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**Instructions:**

The final report must be submitted to the Commission no later than 3 months after the project end date.

One paper and one electronic version of the report is sufficient for the Commission. These documents must be sent in identical versions also to the monitoring team. The report must also be sent to the national authority.

Please refer to the Common Provisions annexed to your grant agreement for the contractual requirements concerning a final report .

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## 2. Executive Summary (maximum 5 pages)

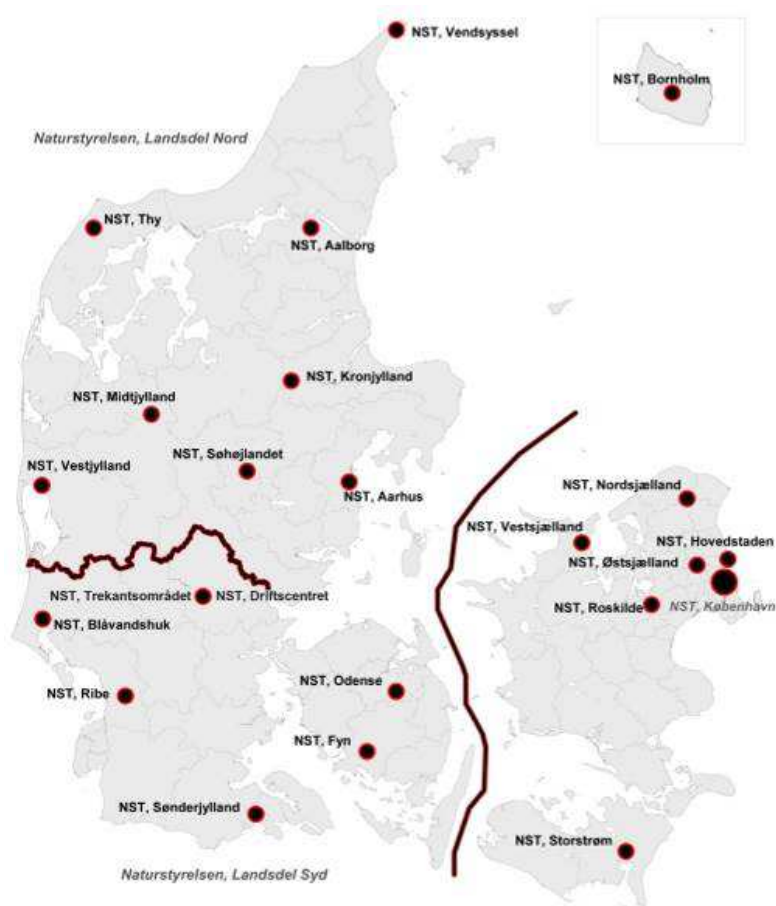
From 2010 to 2013, the Danish Nature Agency, together with the Municipality of Thisted, implemented the project LIFE Dry Grassland II, with the objective to restore and improve approximately 300 hectares of threatened dry grassland habitats in Denmark.

The project benefits habitats and species that are protected under the EU's Habitats Directive, and are supported by the EU program LIFE+. The budget were approximately 2 million Euro – 50% of which is funded by the EU.

### *Administrative Part*

The project has been organized according with a steering committee to assure resources and make fatal decisions and an expert advisory board to assure quality in actions and support in decision making. The project managing role is divided into two, one that manages the project with deliverables and reporting and one that manages the financial aspect of the project. Since the Nature Agency have a division in local units (see figure 1), which have individual functionality, employees, accounts and specific knowledge about local sites, the project group consist of local project managers and project group members. Steering Committee members were from Nature Agency (NST) Fyn, Thy, Vestsjælland, Hovedstaden (focal point manager) and Municipality of Thisted. The project managers have been from NST Fyn and NST Kronjylland (financial part) and local project managers have been from the respective units mentioned above, including Municipality of Thisted but except from NST Hovedstaden.

Steering committee meetings, project group meetings, advisory board meetings and meetings with monitor have all been held according to plan.



**Figure 1. Location of Nature Agency (NST) units, where NST Thy is localised in Municipality of Thisted.**

### *Technical Part and Dissemination*

The LIFE Dry Grassland II project has had its focus on clearing overgrown dry grassland, establishing grazing areas, and combating the invasive Japanese Rose. The project has connected isolated dry grasslands by acquiring former agricultural land for grassland. It has also implemented experiments to accelerate the development of dry grassland vegetation through the depletion of soil nutrients and propagation of plants, with the aim of transforming previously arable land to species-rich dry grassland.

Ponds have been restored and new ponds dug for rare amphibians. Paths have been established, and benches and shelters set up for public use. Teaching materials have been developed for schools. Information about the project is provided through folders, information boards and guided tours, and it has been possible to follow the project through television reports, newspaper articles and the project's website [www.lifeoverdrev.dk](http://www.lifeoverdrev.dk).

### *Financial Part*

The costs incurred within the project period accumulate to 1.542.761 €. Compared to the overall budget according to the grant agreement 2.162.094 €, this amount to 71%.

It has been a general objective to apply as cost efficient a project implementation as possible. This applies both with regard to the internal organization of the project and in relation to the purchase of goods and services. We think we have gradually established an efficient

project organization, and greatly exploit each other's strengths across projects. These synergy benefits have clearly been reflected in project economy.

In addition, this project and The LIFE-Helnæs project have largely cooperated and coordinated project actions most often with an economic advantage for both projects. All in all, it is very satisfactory to the project that we have implemented all technical objectives, with reduced resource consumption.

## Background

Dry grassland is a habitat in decline in Denmark and its neighbouring countries. Grasslands have high biological and historical significance, and it is therefore important to take care of the few that remain.

The threats to the habitat types vary, but for all of the habitat type's abandonment of pastoral systems including overgrowth with woody species is a significant threat. The threat of fragmentation and / or invasion by alien species is another major problem to the targeted habitat types.

The project also targets four species of amphibians. Their conservation status varies from bad and deteriorating to favorable. The main threat is lack of suitable ponds for breeding and as a consequence fragmentation of the populations. All four species is known to respond very positively on restoring of breeding habitats.

## Objectives

The main objective is to improve the conservation status and increase the dry grassland areas of 6210 Semi-natural dry grassland and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (\*important orchid sites) and 6230\* Species-rich Nardus grassland, on silicious substrates in mountain areas (and sub mountain areas in Continental Europe). When present in a mosaic with 6210(\*) and 6230\* also 2130\* Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes"), 2140\* Decalcified fixed dunes with *Empetrum nigrum*, 4030 European dry heaths and 6120\* Xeric sand calcareous grassland is part of this objective.

This objective is in line with the national guideline for the ongoing management planning for all the Natura2000 sites in Denmark which includes an instruction to make a special effort for the threatened habitat types such as 6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (\* important orchid sites) and 6230\* Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on silicious substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas in Continental Europe).

Furthermore the project aims to evaluate the feasibility of different methods or combination of these in controlling the invasive alien species of *Japanese Rose*. The objective is optimising the efforts to control the distribution of the species in order to obtain and maintain a favourable conservation status of the dry coastal grassland habitat types in Denmark. The third objective of the project proposal is to create and improve habitats for the targeted amphibian species Crested newt (*Triturus cristatus*), Natterjack toad (*Bufo calamita*), Treefrog (*Hyla arborea*) and Agile frog (*Rana dalmatina*) in order to obtain and / or maintain a favourable conservation status of the species in Denmark.

## Experiences

Many of the project actions have been based on best practices. Even though this was the case we have felt the need to adjust some of the action as we met reality. The need for making and restoring several smaller ponds, to raise shelter for cattle, to be aware of other interests as bird life, insects, visitors, locals and culture on the site, have been important for project success.

The experiment with Japanese Rose control was ambitious and conclusions on this are that it would have been better to test during a longer period.

Assisted spreading of grassland seeds on former arable land has proven to be a very controversial topic, which “splits the waters” and shows differences in perspectives on nature between scientists, interested parties and professional managers. Contrast between principles, authenticity and entrepreneurship have been discussed regarding transportation of seeds, sowing of natural harvested seeds and distance between sources. Communication of actions taken through press and guided tours have proven to be crucial for success.

Results from the monitoring report already shows progress on more parameters related to secure favourable conservation status. Especially the structural parameters have been undergoing big changes. We will need a longer time period, to tell more long term effects.

## Results

The results show an increase in the number of areas with a favourable nature status and structure status. As a result of improved grazing, the clearing of woody species, the control of invasive species, and the restoration of ponds; the project has managed to limit the threats to, and improve the nature status of existing dry grassland habitats and species.

In following table 1 an overview of results is listed.

Action involved	Expected result (ha)	Result	Comments
Clearing of overgrowth	106	134	
Establishment and securing appropriate grazing	195	240	Extra in Hanstholm region
Acquisition of 4 cattle for grazing	19	40	Two sites
Conversion of former arable land	47	32	Not needed at remaining ha, but plot transplantation done instead
Creation/restoration of ponds suitable for <i>Triturus cristatus</i> , <i>Bufo Calamita</i> , <i>Hyla arborea</i> , <i>Rana damatina</i>	19	31	The need was underestimated in project application phase
Removal of invasive species incl. <i>Rosa rugosa</i>	5	9	
Dissemination	Expected result	Result	Comments
Raising public awareness of values in Natura2000			
→ Information boards	29	42	
→ Facilities for visitors	4 sites	4 sites	
→ Project folders	15.000 copies	40.000 copies	
→ Guided visits	20	31	
→ Educational courses	3	3	
→ Website	1	1	
→ Dissemination of results and knowledge	1 Publication 1 Final Seminar	1 Publication 1 Final Seminar	

**Table 1. An overview of project results.**

The project has made new or restored fencing in about 23 km with access for public through 30 trap gates. Facilities have been made to secure grazing and manage grazing animals with establishment of 5 new automatic drink dispensers, 7 catch folds and 1 shelter for cattle. Clearing of bushes, shrubs and trees have been done on 134 ha to eliminate overgrowth and improve or start grazing and around 9 ha removal of Japanese Rose (*Rosa rugosa*) and Scotch broom (*Cytiscus scoparius*) have taken place on project site. To prompt a more well suited grazing the project have acquired 8 robust cattle and made agreements with tenant farmers about whole year grazing, which is optimal for the nature types and species on the local sites.

The project results for amphibians are 31 new breeding ponds for the Tree frog (*Hyla arborea*), Natterjack toad (*Bufo calamita*), Agile frog (*Rana dalmatina*) and the Crested newt (*Triturus cristatus*).

32 ha at DK006Y275 (Suserup), 6 ha at DK008X183 (Fyns Hoved) ha and 8 ha at DK008X201 (Ristinge Klint, Sydlangeland) new abandoned former arable land have been included in grazing regime, whereas some of it (Suserup) have been impoverished to accelerate development into grassland. Impoverishment has been done in different ways to collect new knowledge about techniques and results. Results from soil samples doesn't yet show significant differences after different experiments, But the analysis shows that parts of the former arable land already seems conditionally ready for natural grasslands colonization. Furthermore inoculation has been done by hay spreading and spreading of seeds, harvested from other grassland areas. Results from the assisted spreading are yet to come, as the sowing was done fall 2013 because the soil conditions had to be as nutrient poor as possible. At site DK008X201 (Ristinge Klint, Sydlangeland) plot transplantation have been done from adjacent grassland to former arable land.

A more detailed statement of results in relation to habitat types and SCI – Natura 2000 sites are listed in following table 2a-2f.

<b>2130 "Grey dunes"</b>	Total area of site (hectares)	Land area of site (hectares) a	Area of habitat type (hectares) b	Habitat type % of site b/a *100%	Area of conservation actions (hectares) c	% of habitat type included in this project -realised	% of habitat type included in this project - objective
DK00EX283 (Hansthølmknuden-North)	388	388	67	17,2	67	100	100
DK00EX130 (Hansthølmknuden-South)	5738	4784	239	4,2	33,6	14,1	7,5
DK005X331(Bjergene og Bollinge Bakker)	451	451	0	0	0	0	0
DK006Y275 (Suserup)	1678	1678	0	0	0	0	0
DK008X183 (Fyns Hoved)	2182	267	0	0	0	0	0
DK008X201 (Ristinge Klint, Sydlangeland)	44986	8096	32	0,1	0	0	0
DK008X329 (Thurø)	162	34	0	0	0	0	0

<b>All sites</b>	55585	15698	338	0,6	100,6	29,8	25,1

**Table 2a. Result in relation to habitat type 2130.**

<b>2140 Decalcified fixed dunes with <i>Em- petrum nigrum</i></b>	Total area of site (hec- tares)	Land area of site (hectares)	Area of habitat type (hectares)	Habitat type % of site	Area of con- servation actions (hectares)	% of habitat type included in this project -realised	% of habitat type included in this project - objective
DK00EX283 (Hansthølmknuden- North)	388	388	126	32,5	94*	74,6	2,9
DK00EX130 (Hanst- hølmknuden-South)	5738	4784	1567	32,8	3,6*	0,2	6,0
DK005X331(Bjergene og Bollinge Bakker)	451	451	0	0	0	0	0
DK006Y275 (Suse- rup)	1678	1678	0	0	0	0	0
DK008X183 (Fyns Hoved)	2182	267	0	0	0	0	0
DK008X201 (Ristinge Klint, Sydlangeland)	44986	8096	0	0	0	0	0
DK008X329 (Thurø)	162	34	0	0	0	0	0
<b>All sites</b>	55585	15698	1693	10,8	97,6	5,8	5,8

**Table 2b. Result in relation to habitat type 2140. (\*numbers swapped in application).**

<b>4030 European dry heaths  *mosaic</b>	Total area of site (hec- tares)	Land area of site (hectares)	Area of habitat type (hectares)	Habitat type %	Area of con- servation actions (hectares)	% of habitat type included in this project -realised	% of habitat type included in this project - objective
DK00EX283 (Hansthølmknuden- North)	388	388	0	0	0	0	0
DK00EX130 (Hanst- hølmknuden-South)	5738	4784	0	0	0	0	0
DK005X331(Bjergene og Bollinge Bakker)	451	451	31	6,9	2	6,5	6,5
DK006Y275 (Suse- rup)	1678	1678	0	0	0	0	0
DK008X183 (Fyns Hoved)	2182	267	0	0	0	0	0
DK008X201 (Ristinge Klint, Sydlangeland)	44986	8096	0	0	0	0	0
DK008X329 (Thurø)	162	34	0	0	0	0	0
<b>All sites</b>	55585	15698	31,0	0,1	2,0	6,5	6,5

**Table 2c. Result in relation to habitat type 4030.**



<b>6120*</b> <b>Xeric sand calcareous grassland</b>	Total area of site (hectares)	Land area of site (hectares)	Area of habitat type (hectares)	Habitat type % of site	Area of conservation actions (hectares)	% of habitat type included in this project - realised	% of habitat type included in this project - objective
DK00EX283 (Hansthølmknuden-North)	388	388	0	0	0	0	0
DK00EX130 (Hansthølmknuden-South)	5738	4784	0	0	0	0	0
DK005X331(Bjergene og Bollinge Bakker)	451	451	0	0	0	0	0
DK006Y275 (Suse-rup)	1678	1678	0	0	0	0	0
DK008X183 (Fyns Hoved)	2182	267	0	0	0	0	0
DK008X201 (Ristinge Klint, Sydlangeland)	44986	8096	3,1	0,0	0,5	16,1**	100
DK008X329 (Thurø)	162	34	0	0	0	0	0
<b>All sites</b>	<b>55585</b>	<b>15698</b>	<b>3,1</b>	<b>0,0</b>	<b>0,5</b>	<b>16,1</b>	<b>100</b>

**Table 2d. Result in relation to habitat type 6120. (\*\* remaining ha too steep.)**

<b>6210</b> <b>Semi-natural dry grassland and schrubland on calcareous substrates</b>	Total area of site (hectares)	Land area of site (hectares)	Area of habitat type (hectares)	Habitat type % of site	Area of conservation actions (hectares)	% of habitat type included in this project - realised	% of habitat type included in this project - objective
DK00EX283 (Hansthølmknuden-North)	388	388	18	4,6*	18	100	100
DK00EX130 (Hansthølmknuden-South)	5738	4784	36	0,6*	13,1	36,3	36,3
DK005X331(Bjergene og Bollinge Bakker)	451	451	8	1,8	5,7	71,3	71,3
DK006Y275 (Suse-rup)	1678	1678	18,2	1,1	0	0	0
DK008X183 (Fyns Hoved)	2182	267	54,6	20,4	12,5	22,9	21,3
DK008X201 (Ristinge Klint, Sydlangeland)	44986	8096	46,3	0,1	9,3	20,1	20,1
DK008X329 (Thurø)	162	34	6	17,6	6	100,0	100,0
<b>All sites</b>	<b>55585</b>	<b>15698</b>	<b>187,1</b>	<b>0,3</b>	<b>64,6</b>	<b>34,5</b>	<b>34,0</b>

**Table 2e. Result in relation to habitat type 6210. (\*numbers swapped in application).**

<b>6230 Species-rich Nardus grassland</b>	Total area of site (hec- tares)	Land area of site (hectares)	Area of habitat type (hectares)	Habitat type % of site	Area of con- serva- tion actions (hectares)	% of habitat type included in this project - realised	% of habitat type included in this project - objective
DK00EX283 (Hansthølmknuden- North)	388	388	0	0	0	0	0
DK00EX130 (Hanst- hølmknuden-South)	5738	4784	5	0,1	0	0	0
DK005X331(Bjergene og Bollinge Bakker)	451	451	38	8,4	38	100	100
DK006Y275 (Suse- rup)	1678	1678	0,7	0,0	0,7	100	100
DK008X183 (Fyns Hoved)	2182	267	0	0	0	0	0
DK008X201 (Ristinge Klint, Sydlangeland)	44986	8096	15,1	0,0	0	0	0
DK008X329 (Thurø)	162	34	0,4	1,2	0,4	100,0	100
<b>All sites</b>	<b>55585</b>	<b>15698</b>	<b>59,2</b>	<b>0,1</b>	<b>39,1</b>	<b>66,0</b>	<b>66,0</b>

**Table 2f. Result in relation to habitat type 6230.**

The experiments in control and eradication of Japanese rose were divided into a demonstration project including test of different control measures; cutting and herbicide (1), grazing and cutting (2) and a large-scale project (3).

None of the methods used have fully exhausted all the Japanese rose stands over the running time of the experiments, but there is a significant reduction of the rose stands with most treatments seen in relation to frequency and cover.

The effects of the different treatment in the block experiment that took place in one large stand of roses were affected both by the size of the stand and by a probably common root system with the neighbouring untreated brim.

The effect of treating Japanese rose with glyphosate once is stand size dependent. Many of the stands in the small-size groups were eradicated or showed prolonged, decreased vitality, most or all 22 of the stands in the large-size groups showed signs of potentially recovering from or surviving treatment without long-term change of vitality.

The effect of cutting and grazing is also stand size dependent, and the experiments stress the importance of starting the control of Japanese roses when they are still young and small.

The effect of glyphosate is dependent of time of application. Glyphosate was applied in July, August and September and there is an efficiency ranking of month of application July over August over September.

One cutting alone was the least efficient treatment showing only prolonged effect on very small Japanese rose stands.

The damage of husbandry grazing on Japanese rose stands depends on the animal species grazing the animals rank goat over sheep over cattle in terms of damage efficiency. Over the three years of grazing the goats have impaired the vitality of most Japanese rose stand.

The project has been disseminated through information boards, folders, brochures, guided tours and seminars and networking with other projects. Dissemination to the public has provided visitors and locals with knowledge and understanding of the nature values of the Natura2000 concept and local site.

Dissemination to other grassland managers and interests in grassland and species has led to discussions of problematic issues and lack of well-prepared concept for bioethics in Denmark. Is it okay to construct nature and reintroduce lost species? Constructive dialog has started based on qualified experiments in this project.

### Perspectives

By focusing on grassland management we have been aware of different methods that vary between very target specific management at some areas and more holistic planning and management for some areas. Both methods are to be used in the future and in combination and can be used to secure vulnerable nature types and species. Different conditions calls for different management methods.

We have started relevant discussion in “best practice” of managers between professional managers, scientist and specialists. The project concludes that a constructive, solution based discussion can add new knowledge and development to the paradigm. But importance of conservation prior to further action is still very basic within grassland management.

## 3. Introduction

The Dry Grasslands of Europe and Denmark are considered to be threatened and vulnerable habitat types. In the latest evaluation (2007) of the conservation status of Annex I habitat types in Denmark the 6 targeted habitat types in the project proposal are evaluated unfavourable. The threats to the habitat types vary, but for all of the habitat type’s abandonment of pastoral systems including overgrowth with woody species is a significant threat. The threat of fragmentation and / or invasion by alien species is another major problem to different habitat types.

The project also targets four species of amphibians. Their conservation statuses vary from bad and deteriorating to favourable. The main threat is lack of suitable ponds for breeding and as a consequence fragmentation of the populations. All four species is known to respond very positively on restoring of breeding habitats (Report on the main results of the surveillance under article 11 for annex I and habitat types and annex II, IV and V species, 2007).

For this project 7 proposed Sites of Community Importance is selected, covering a project site surface of 55.586 ha, from where 36.934 ha is sea, where no actions are targeted. Conservation actions are planned covering an area of approx. 288 ha of nature types as listed in the following table 3.

Nature type	Area of conservation actions (hectares)
<b>6210</b> Semi-natural dry grassland and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (*important orchid sites)	64
<b>6230</b> Species-rich Nardus grassland, on silicious substrates in mountain areas (and sub mountain areas in Continental Europe)	39
<b>2130*</b> Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes")	85
<b>2140*</b> Decalcified fixed dunes with <i>Empetrum nigrum</i>	98
<b>4030</b> European dry heaths and 3 ha of 6120* Xeric sand calcareous grassland	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	288

**Table 3. Conservation actions in the project in relation to nature types.**

The project include areas owned by the Nature Agency Fyn, Thy, Storstrøm, Vestsjælland and areas owned by the municipality of Thisted. The project have focused on nature types and species within the Natura 2000 areas DK008X183 Fyns Hoved, Lillegrund og Lillestrand (Fyns Hoved), DK008X329 Thurø Rev (Thurø), DK008X201 Sydfynske Øhav (Ristinge Klint, Sydlangeland), DK00EX283 Hanstholmreservatet, Nors Sø og Vandet Sø ((Hanstholmknuden – South), DK00EX130 Hanstholmknuden ((Hanstholmknuden – North), DK006Y275 Suså, Tystrup-Bavelse Sø og Slagmosen (Suserupgaard) samt DK005X331 Bjergene, Diesbjerg og Bollinge Bakker (Bjergene og Bollinge Bakker). The location of sites is shown in figure 2.



**Figure 2. Location of sites covered by the project.**

The project sites are selected mainly because of their good potential for creating new dry grassland areas which can develop into the habitat types 6210(\*) and 6230\*. This will be achieved through restoring old habitats of dry grassland and creating new habitats nearby. Conservation actions also include areas outside the targeted habitat types.

These habitats are considered to be potential dry grassland habitat types, which over time can develop into the respectively targeted habitat types.

The main objective is to improve the conservation status and increase the dry grassland areas of the targeted nature types listed above in table 3. This objective is in line with the national guideline for the ongoing management planning for all the Natura2000 sites in Denmark which includes an instruction to make a special effort for the threatened habitat types such as 6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates and 6230\* Species-rich *Nardus* grasslands. Furthermore the project aims to evaluate the feasibility of different methods or combination of these in controlling the invasive alien species of Japanese Rose.

The third objective of the project is to create and improve habitats for the targeted amphibian species Crested newt (*Triturus cristatus*), Natterjack toad (*Bufo calamita*), Treefrog (*Hyla arborea*) and Agile frog (*Rana dalmatina*) in order to obtain and / or maintain a favourable conservation status of the species in Denmark.

The conservation activities of the project will implement a variety of adequate management techniques: This will include restoration by clearing of woody species, establishment of appropriate grazing regimes, impoverishment of former arable land and creation and / restoration of ponds suitable for amphibians. Experiments of impoverishment and removal of the alien invasive species Japanese Rose is a conservation activity in the project with demonstration character.

Dissemination of the activities and results of the project for further will be done to build up better capacity of all professional staff in Denmark involved in management of dry grasslands. Dissemination will be made by means of a seminar, networking, reports and publications.

Public awareness concerning the values of dry grasslands for conservation of biodiversity and the role of NATURA 2000 in that respect will be raised by means of information boards erected at the project sites, distribution of folders, guided tours, education of children, website, co-operation with landowner etc.

We expect that all the existing habitat types and species will be evaluated as being in better conservation status. We expect that species Natterjack toad (*Bufo Calamita*) can be reintroduced to DK008X329 (Thurø).

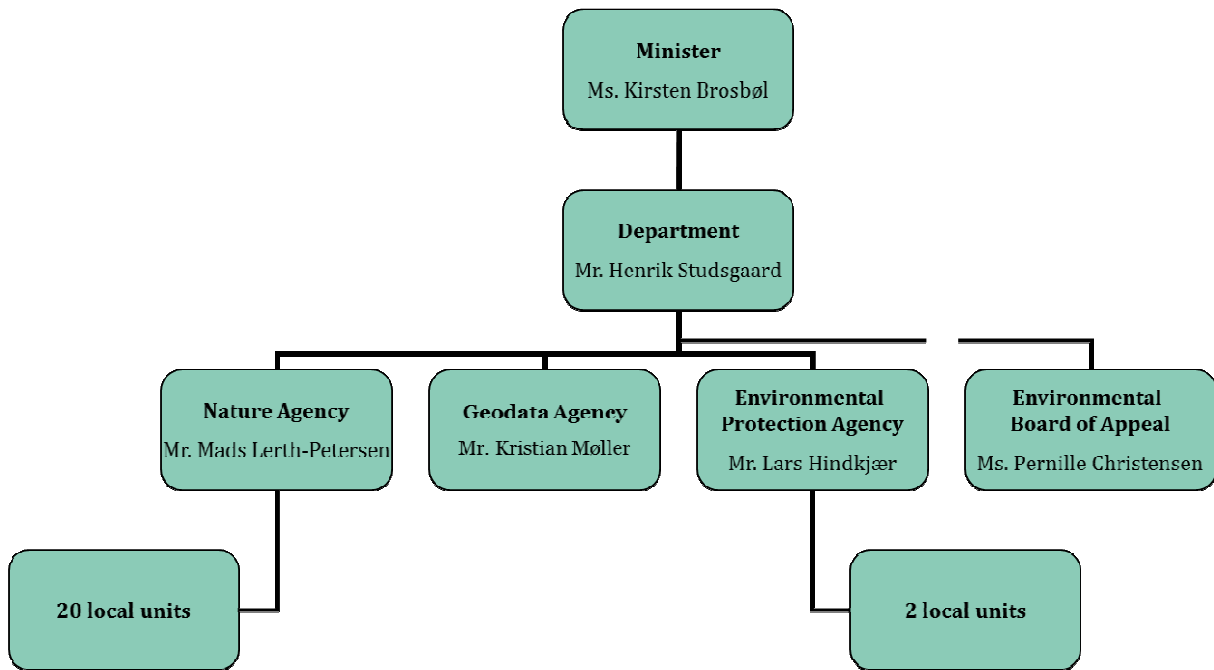
Finally we expect development of new paradigms within nature restoration and that we have changed some of the culture among land leasers and public in regarding values in Natura2000 sites and managing of nature types and species.

## 4. Administrative part

### 4.1 Description of the management system

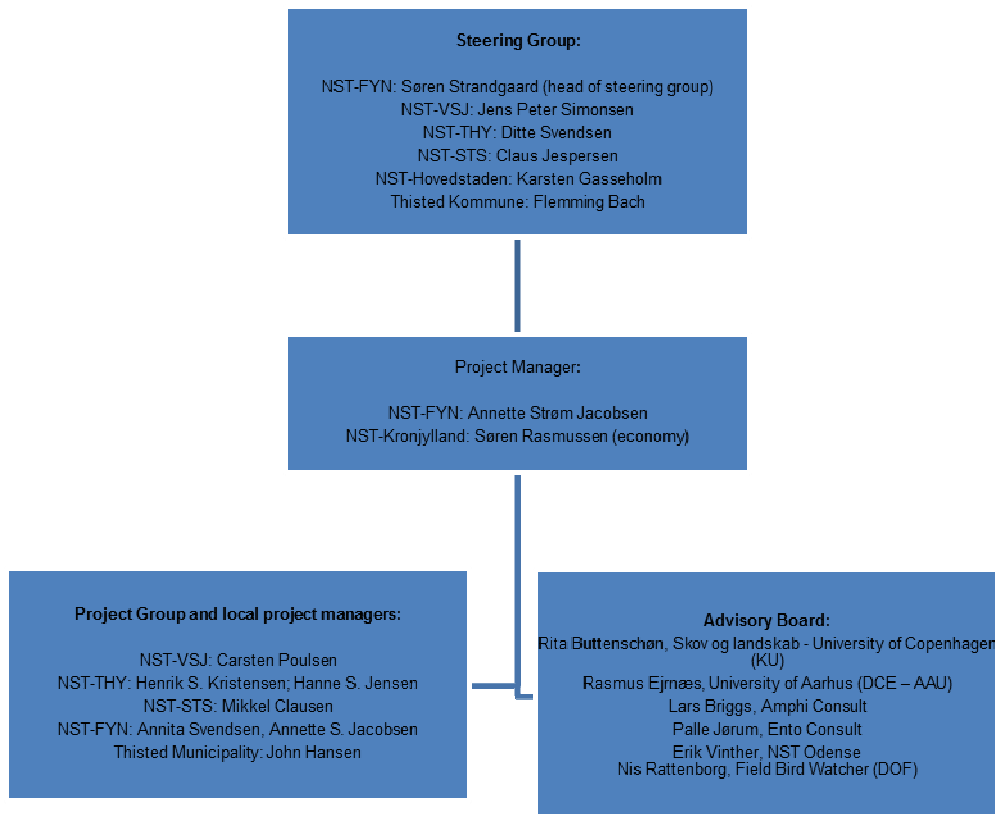
The coordinating beneficiary in the project is Nature Agency Fyn and the project partner is Municipality of Thisted.

The Nature Agency has around 1300 employees in Denmark. It was physically restructured in a new agency in 2011 – From Forest and Nature Agency to Nature Agency (NST). There is a central normative unit that coordinates relations to the department, acts and regulations, task and appropriations to the executive units (see figure 3). The 20 local units are spread out in Denmark (see figure 1). The local units handles, nature and forest management, outdoor activities, wildlife consultation and hunting regulations.



**Figure 3. Organigramme showing organisation of the Danish Ministry of Environment.**

The project has been organized according with a steering committee from Nature Agency (NST) Fyn, Thy, Storstrøm, Vestsjælland, Hovedstaden (focal point manager) and Municipality of Thisted and an expert advisory board to assure quality in actions and support in decision making. The project managing role is divided into two, one that manages the project with deliverables and reporting and one that manages the financial aspects of the project. The project has been managed by NST Fyn and NST Kronjylland (financial part). The project group consist of local project managers and project group members from NST Fyn, Thy, Vestsjælland, Storstrøm and Municipality of Thisted (See organigramme on figure 4).



**Figure 4. Organigramme showing organisation of the project.**

The project is organized with tools from the project model. The milestone plan has been used as a steering instrument for planning of work with the actions. The project manager has involved the local project managers before project start (2009) to get organized and ready for deliverables according to the plan, especially the startup work shop. At project meetings we have decided which actions needed to be started or have more attention. Actions have been managed at the local sites with the relevant local project managers and project group members. Where synergies have been obvious in relation to specific actions, we have coordinated that. The project manager has been responsible for typical unifying actions as startup work shop, meetings, final seminar and publications.

Steering committee meetings, project group meetings, advisory board meetings and meetings with monitor have all been held according to plan. First steering committee meeting was held as early as possible to assure commitment and resources and discuss deliverables. Advisory board meetings have been held in 2010, 2011 and 2012 to assure decisions were made when actions were initiated and to adjust some actions according to new knowledge and previous experiences.

Furthermore a number of project group meetings with different participants have been held to organize actions and financial control. Meetings with the national audit office have also been held to assure better financial control and right accounting. The associated beneficiary has participated in all project group meetings, two monitor meetings and all platform meetings during the project period.

We have had small changes in personnel within the project. In the steering group we got a new national focal point manager, Karsten Gasseholm, who replaced the former person Birgitte Rasmussen and a new manager of the department in municipality of Thisted

Flemming Bach instead of Jens Bach. In the project group Hanne S. Jensen gave notice to her job in NST in favour of a similar job in Municipality of Viborg.

In the same period NST Fyn have had the managing of the LIFE project LIFE08 NAT/DK/000465 Helnæs Made – Total Cover with the project manager Annita Svendsen. Many of the resource persons from the academic environment have been the same and some topics have been overlapping. Therefore we have organised expert advisory board meetings and final seminar etc. together. It has been fruitful and absolutely necessary if we wanted the experts to spend their sparse time on the project. Synergies have also led to benefits in project economy and more effective project organization.

#### *Changes due to amendments to the Grant Agreement*

The 8th of February 2010 an application for support to buy a different piece of land within the same pSCI, NATURA 2000 area Fyns Hoved, Lillegrund og Lillestrand (DK008X183) was sent to the commission and monitor. The 22th of February 2010 the commission met our application in letter on the condition that the overall project objectives are not changed. A new form 2008-C1b and copy of the purchase were submitted as requested in Inception Report 30/09/2010, which were approved by the Commission in Commission letter (CL) 22/11/2010.

A Supplementary agreement (n<sup>o</sup> 1) was made to the grant agreement in Brussels 06/06/2011 for the project. The Danish National Forest and Nature Agency merged with Agency for Spatial and Environmental Planning to form the Danish Nature Agency from 01/01/2011.

#### *Partnership agreement*

Partnership agreement 09/08/2010 between NST and Thisted Municipality were attached in the previously submitted Inception Report 30/09/2010, accepted by the Commission in CL 22/11/2010. The agreement is based upon “Guidelines to partnership agreements” and specifies payment terms and agreed deliverables.

## 4.2 Evaluation of the management system

We have had several yearly project group meetings and excursion to experience methods and discuss different aspects of nature management. All local managers and project partner have participated and shown big commitment to the project. Deliverables have been delivered in reasonable time. As an added value our partner Thisted Municipality have acquired enough experience to try for themselves to be beneficiary in a new EU LIFE nature project, which they plan to apply for in 2014. The decision to collect the financial aspect of this and several other Danish LIFE projects on one person has led to more consistency in the accounts and accounting control. It has been evaluated as leap in quality and an optimization of resources from both external and internal actors and auditors.

Yearly meetings with the monitoring team and discussions during platform meetings have been essential for management of the project within the regulations of the grant



agreement. Communication with the Commission has likewise been useful and fruitful. A relatively large turnover of commission desk managers might have turned out to be a problem, but because of the continuity in the monitor position we have been able to communicate easily and keep track of changes and agreements.

## 5. Technical part

### 5.1. Action A.1: Site specific action plans

The planning of the site specific action plans was done in the “startup work shop” where we held the first advisory board meeting. The project manager (PM) controlled the discussions and with local project managers and experts a general structure were decided. Grassland specialists and amphibian specialists, who were also members of the advisory board, delivered the main parts according to the plan. Some details were delivered about 6 months later than planned according to the milestone (31/12/2010). But the content had been made and used to implement the concrete actions and make more prospective plans for the local sites. Administrative work with layout and printing of the action plans were finally made by the PM and all plans were supposed to be attached in Midterm Report 31/11/2012. Unfortunately the site specific action plan for site DK008X329 (Thurø) was not in the report but only launched on the website. In Commission letter 21/03/2013 we were told to send the action plan with the final report and for this reason it is attached as annex 7.2.1. The previously submitted action plans were approved by the Commission in CL 21/03/2013.

Action plans have been used as background for discussion in future management and especially paradigms within nature management. On one hand it has been nice to have an accepted plan to stick too in your management, but on the other hand it has been a problem to deviate from the plan, if you get new ideas or knowledge you want to pursue. We have been very satisfied with the input from different nature experts, which have secured a high professional level.

### 5.2. Action A.2: Training of personnel in handling pesticides/ spray certificate

Training of personnel in handling pesticides and how to recognize rare species were planned to secure a very controlled handling of pesticides in the local site Hans-tholmknuden North and South (DK00EX130 and DK00EX283). In April 2010, 20 staff members from DFNA-Thy (now NST Thy) attended a course in the correct handling of pesticides, and obtained the compulsory spray certificate. Only participation of 1 staff member from DFNA-Thy was paid by the project. Furthermore, 3 staff members from DFNA-Thy and 3 staff members from municipality of Thisted attended a plant identification course in the beginning of July 2010. The course was conducted by a local expert. A copy of the certificate was attached in the Inception Report 30/09/2010 as well as a plant list, which were approved by the Commission in CL 22/11/2010.

As we concluded that the plant identification course for field workers on grassland were such a success, we wanted to arrange one more for the fieldworkers from local units NST Fyn, NST Vestsjælland and NST Storstrøm as reported in Midterm Report 30/11/2012.

NST Storstrøm arranged a really successful and very relevant course in June 2013 at the local site DK005X331 (Bjergene og Bollinge Bakker). The course began with a description of the N2000 network and system with different nature types and the surveillance system in Denmark. It really gave a good understanding of why management needs can be very specific. Characteristics for typical grassland species were practiced for hours and in the end the fieldworkers had a much better knowledge of all the species and understanding of their needs. As an added value these field workers exchanged experiences in tools and management methods. This knowledge exchange led to new and better investments for nature management and in general a network they use in their future work. The cost was held within the budget.



**Photo1. Training of personel in grassland species at site DK005X331 (Bjergene og Bollinge Bakker).**

### 5.3. Action A.3: Start-up workshop

A start up work shop was arranged by the PM near the local site Hanstholmknuden north and south (DK00EX130 and DK00EX283) at Vigsø Feriecenter.

Project group, Advisory Board members and local forest workers and specialist were invited. Experiences from the former grassland project were presented and discussed. The new actions were presented and especially with focus on action on the local site. Newest knowledge regarding Japanese Rose (*Rosa rugosa*) control from grassland specialist were presented and discussed. Perspectives on grassland, biodiversity and time scale were presented and discussed. Plans for the action plans were also made.

On the second day we had excursions to focal areas within the local site. We had discussions on planned actions and recent management practice and agreed to adjust some proposes actions.

Especially the digging up of Japanese Rose was evaluated as a bad way of managing and we agreed to try out some experiments with grazing along with the pesticide treatment as a result of good result from other places. We also needed some knowledge about how people would react to grazing facilities in the dunes, which is very unusual in that area.

Minutes and list of participants from the start up work shop can be seen on the website under documents and header Referat fra Opstartworkshop  
<http://www.naturstyrelsen.dk/Naturbeskyttelse/Naturprojekter/Projekter/Fyn/LIFE-Overdrev+II/Projektdokumenter/>

The adjustments were reported in the Inception Report 30/09/2010 and approved by the Commission in CL 22/11/2010.

#### 5.4. Action B.1: Purchase on Jøv

We originally applied and agreed for a purchase of an area in the center of Jøev for reasons argued for in action B.1. Meanwhile a very attractive alternative has appeared which we did not expect in the applying stage of the project. The Danish Forest and Nature Agency Fyn (DFNA-FYN) had been trying to get a buying opportunity of these areas within the last 30 years, because it benefits the total nature conservation on the peninsula Fyns Hoved.

The reason why it was so attractive is that some of those areas are central parcel within the peninsula Fyns Hoved. The recent owner's resistance towards a common grazing regime has been the main reason why an optimal grazing of the nature areas have not been possible. The areas include both targeted habitat types 6210(\*) and areas with great potential of becoming the targeted habitat type. Additionally this buy will supply the project with around 1 hectare (4,1 ha instead of 3,2 ha) of the targeted habitat type and around 2 hectares of sea meadows. Another argument was that these areas on the peninsula is within risk of being cultivated because they are not protected under the national law "Nature Conservation Act §3". The areas are subject to an agri environmental agreement, which allows the landowner to reintroduce former use of cultivation and fertilisation, when terminated, even though the nature quality of the areas has become high. The proposed action B.1 will still target habitat type 6210, but it will be approved in a different way than originally planned.

The 8<sup>th</sup> of February 2010 an application for support to buy a different piece of land within the same pSCI, NATURA 2000 area DK008X183 (Fyns Hoved, Lillegrund og Lillestrand) was sent to the commission and monitor. The Commission met our application in CL 22/08/2010 on the condition that the overall project objectives were not changed. A new form 2008-C1b and copy of the purchase was submitted as requested in Inception Report 30/09/2010, which were approved by the Commission in CL 22/11/2010. Assigning of the purchased area definitively to nature conservation activities was made 13/01/2011 and reported in Progress Report 30/03/2012, which were approved by the Commission in CL 14/08/2012.

## 5.5. Action C.1: Clearing of woody species (bushes, scrubs and trees)

Clearings were planned to be done at all project sites except from site DK006Y275 (Suserupgaard). In Midterm Report 30/11/2012 we reported that we wished to make some additional clearings at that site as well and that the costs could be held within the foreseen budget for that action. This minor adjustment was accepted by the Commission in CL 21/11/2013.

Clearings have been made manually with machine, motor chainsaw or bush cutter depending on the terrain or the sensitivity of the surrounding vegetation. Some suitable areas have been crushed to make sure that stubbles will not shoot gain. Mulch have been collected, transported out and chopped or burned. The actions have taken place in 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013 in project sites shown in the following table.

The work has been done by both internal staff and external entrepreneurs, who often have had special developed machines for that purpose. It has been necessary to take some of the clearing in several steps due to the controversial aspect of the action in places where many interests are represented. We had to make guided tours and answer critical questions and reactions from local people, visitors and NGO's. It takes time to make changes in areas where there a lot of interaction with the public and interests and it has been very useful to be able to split an action in to more phases and coordinate with permissions and acceptance.

Approximate 130 ha have been cleared from woody species, which is more than foreseen in application (106 ha).

Code	Site	Annex	ha
DK005X331	Bjergene, Desebjerg og Bollinge Bakker (Bjergene og Bollinge Bakker)	7.2.9	22
DK008X183	Fyns Hoved, Lillegrund and Lillestrand (Fyns Hoved)		27
DK008X201	Sydfynske Øhav (Ristinge Klint, Sydlangeland)		20
DK008X329	Thurø Rev (Thurø)		29
DK00EX283	Hanstholm Reservatet, Nors Sø and Vandet Sø (Hanstholmknuden – South)		0
DK00EX130	Hanstholmknuden (Hanstholmknuden – North)		29
DK006Y275	Suså med Tystrup-Bavelse Sø og Slagmosen (Suserupgaard)		3
<b>Total</b>			

**Table 4. Clearings made in the project period on different sites.**

## 5.6. Action C.2: Establishment of grazing and grazing facilities

New fences, new grazing paradigms and facilities as aqueduct, automatic drink dispensers, catch folds have been invested in project areas as planned. Many of the areas are rejectant and less attractive for grazing. These investments along with meetings and agreements (see action D.5) have made it more clear what our management targets. In this way we have dealt with the specific barriers. As an example on this we have made it possible to have whole year grazing at site DK008X329 Thurø and arranged guided tour to make

public awareness and avoid “reports” regarding animal well fare of the cattle. The management have been more accepted and because of this, more easy to act up to in the future.

Approximate 23 km of fence including fence posts and voltage for wires have been renovated /raised since project start and in some places adjusted to include more or to pay the necessary attention to the surrounding path. Aqueduct, automatic drink dispensers and catch folds have been established where planned. Fence including fence posts and voltage for wires have also been raised at project site DK00EX130 (Hansthokmknuden South) as we agreed that this would be the best management of the areas and add value to the test with Japanese Rose control. This decision was made at the first advisory board meeting where we had excursion to the local site. This was an adjustment to the applied action and reported at Inception Report 30/09/2010, which were approved by the Commission in CL 22/11/2010.

At project sites DK005X331 (Bjergene og Bollinge Bakker) and DK006Y275 (Suserupgaard) additional N2000 areas were fenced. Extra areas at Suserupgaard were presented at the LIFE Platform meeting in 2012 and at Commission Meeting 19/09/2012. A need for an aqua duct and automatic drink dispenser to site DK008X183 (Fyns Hoved) in 2013 was also identified. These minor changes were reported in Midterm Report 30/11/2012 as an adjustment to the applied action, which was accepted by the Commission in CL 21/03/2013.

Furthermore we have invested in s shelter due to stricter legislation and rules for winter grazing. This interpretation was made in 2013 and not foreseen in the beginning of the project. It was presented at monitor meeting 06/11/2013 and accepted as a minor addition to the project in CL 20/12/2013. All minor additions have been held within the budget and thresholds identified in Article 15 of the Common Provisions are respected.

A list of deliverables within the action, which have taken place in the whole project period are shown in the following table 5.

Code	Site	Grazing Facility	Number/Length
DK006Y275	Suserupgaard	Fence including fence posts and voltage for wires	6000 m
		Trap gates	7
		Automatic drink dispenser	1
DK005X331	Bjergene og Bollinge Bakker	Fence	3500 m
		Catch Fold	1
DK008X183	Fyns Hoved	Fence	4500 m
		Trap gates	9
		Automatic drink dispenser	2
		Catch Fold	2
DK008X201	Ristinge Klint, Sydlangeland	Fence	7200 m
		Trap gates	6
		Automatic drink dispenser	2
		Catch Fold	3
		Shelter	1
DK008X329	Thurø	Fence	3185 m
		Trap gates	8
		Catch Fold	1
DK00EX130	Hansthokmknuden south	Fence	7200 m
	Hansthokmknuden north	Fence	1000 m

		Realised	Objective
TOTAL	Automatic drink dispenser	5	6
	Trap gates	30	27
	Catch Fold	7	5
	Shelter	1	0
	Fence	App. 22,8 km	App. 24,3 km

**Table 5. List of grazing facilities established in the project period on different sites.**

### 5.7. Action C.3: Acquisition of cattle

Early in the project period it was decided that the cattle will target another specific grassland areas within the project area, DK008X183 (Fyns Hoved), because the local grazing guild had enough cattle anyway at project site DK008X201 (Ristinge Klint). This minor adjustment did not change objectives or deliverables in the project and was reported in Inception Report 30/09/2010 and approved by the Commission in CL 22/11/2010. According the revised plan four cattle were delivered to project area DK008X183 (Fyns Hoved) 24/03/2012. Since then one more cattle have been bought to build up the right grazing pressure.

The action was more popular and usable than foreseen and as we discussed during Commission Meeting 19/09/2012 and in Midterm Report 30/11/2012 we argued that we would like to use this action on site DK008X329 (Thurø) as well. It was accepted as a minor addition to the project by the Commission in CL 21/03/2013 as long as the threshold defined in CP 15 was respected. Three cattle have been bought to raise grazing pressure at local site DK008X329 (Thurø).



**Photo 2. Grazing pressure has been raised at site DK008X329 on Thurø to secure better conservation status.**

### 5.8. Action C.4: Creation/restoration of ponds suitable for amphibians



The advisory board has been involved in 2010, 2011 and 2012 to assure correct realisation of this action. Restoration of 7 ponds to Natterjack toad (*Bufo calamita*) on site DK008X183 (Fyns Hoved) were made during winter 2010/2011 and further 3 were established and 4 restored February 2012 to both Natterjack toad and Crested newt (*Triturus cristatus*).

At site DK006Y275 (Suserupgaard) 4 ponds were established following the LIFE Platform Meeting in September 2012 and during winter 2012/2013 further 4 ponds for Crested newt, Agile frog (*Rana dalmatina*) and Treefrog (*Hyla arborea*) were restored. At site DK008X329 (Thurø) 1 pond was restored and established during winter 2012/2013. At site DK008X201(Sydlangeland) 8 ponds were restored and established during winter 2012/ 2013 and fall/winter 2013.

During summer 2012 we included reestablishment of population of Natterjack toad on Thurø Rev within the action C4 – Creation/restoration of ponds suitable for amphibians. The cost for this added sub-action was estimated to 10.000 Euros and was held within the foreseen budget for this action. We received permission by national authority (reported in Midterm Report 30/11/2012) and Commission to start this reestablishment in CL 14/08/2012. Small Natterjack Toads were put into ponds and beach at site DK008X329 (Thurø) in the beginning of September 2012 and few individuals at the Commission Meeting 19/09/2012.

The target was to established/restore at least 19 ponds and in total 31 ponds have been established/restored within the project period. The reason why we have established/ restored more is partly that some of the existing ponds were in a more bad condition than expected and partly because we discovered new places, depressions in the land that could connect ponds into a network and improve possibilities for dispersal and stabilize populations. These conditions and possibilities were not foreseen in the application phase, but have had a very positive effect on the targeted species. An overview of restored /established ponds can be seen in following table 6.



**Photo 3: Pond restoration on site DK008X183 (Fyns Hoved).**

	Site	Targeted species	Ponds restored / established	Reestablishment of population
DK006Y275	Suserupgaard	<i>Triturus cristatus</i> <i>Hyla arborea</i>	8	
DK008X183	Fyns Hoved	<i>Triturus cristatus</i> , <i>Bufo calamita</i> , <i>Rana</i> <i>dalamatina</i>	14	
DK008X201	Ristinge Klint, Sydlangeland	<i>Triturus cristatus</i> , <i>Rana dalamatina</i>	8	
DK008X329	Thurø Rev	<i>Bufo calamita</i>	1	yes
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>31</b>	

**Table 6. Distribution of ponds restored/ established.**

### 5.9. Action C.5: Impoverishment of former arable land

A plan with impoverishment of former arable land in DK008X201 (Suserupgaard) was made in 2010. DCE, University of Aarhus (former DMU) were involved in design of the different treatments and specific questions have been discussed with assistance from experts. The first treatments were performed in October-November 2010. The monitoring of the treatments were made in spring 2011 and according to impoverishment plan grazing, cultivation, harvest and hay inoculation was done in different parcels on the former arable land in 2011. The action was presented at the LIFE Platform meeting in September 2012.

The different treatments of the plots at site DK008X201 (Suserupgaard) continued throughout the project period to gain maximal effect of the action. In 2012 and 2013 cultivation followed by harvest should impoverish the former arable land. Hay inoculation, seeding of seeds from other Zealand grassland habitats on different parcels were made to accelerate the development and explore new methods. The seeding was done on 18 ha, which represented all the different treatments to impoverish the land. A final overview of the treatments on the different parcels can be seen in annex 7.2.7.

The evaluation were planned to be done by the University of Aarhus, but yet they haven't found funds. Mowing and transplantation of patches are planned to be done in the After LIFE period as well as more soil samples are planned to be taken to follow development.





**Photo 4: Former arable land at site DK008X201(Suserupgaard) impoverished to accelerate development to grassland and fields with experiments in the foreground.**

Dialog with advisory board meant that impoverishment on site DK008X201 (Ristinge, Sydlangeland) was adjusted regarding method. In 2011 we decided to take soil samples, to qualify our knowledge of how to handle the problem and accelerate the process of turning former arable land into grassland. It seems like that only a part of the area would benefit from more radical impoverishment activities. The rest of the area is just about to have the right starting point for developing grassland. Results from the soil samples showed that it will not add any value to act within this action on this site. Instead we decided in 2013 to make transplantation based on our exchange and experience on our visit to the Polish project CHRONMY MURAWY at the field station Naturalists' Club. We repeated the method from the polish project. 24 plots from “hotspots” next to the walking path outside the grazing area were transplanted into the former arable land and geographical reference was made to be able to follow the development. The location of the transplanted plots can be seen on map attached as appendix 7.2.8. We will follow the development of grassland from the transplanted “patches” in the After LIFE period.

#### 5.10. Action C.6: Removal of invasive alien species encroachment

First time machine removal of Japanese Rose (*Rosa rugosa*) and Scotch Broom (*Cytiscus scoparius*) have taken place in approximate 4 ha on project site DK005X331 (Bjergene og Bollinge Bakker) in 2010 and 2011. More first time removal on 2,3 ha sensitive ground and slopes were made during vinter 2010/2011 at site DK008X329 (Thurø) and at site 2,2ha at site DK008X201 (Ristinge, Sydlangeland) both Japanese Rose (*Rosa rugosa*) and Scotch Broom (*Cytiscus scoparius*) have been removed. The material were transported from the site by tractor to arable land nearby and burned or removed. Further approx. 0,4 ha have been crushed under fence line at DK008X201 (Suserupgaard). In CL 11/05/2012 we were told to justify the need for this action at site Thurø. By failure this ac-

tion was not mentioned in the application, even though it was clearly needed and planned for at this site. On the basis of the monitor visit and our respect for the threshold defined in the Common Provisions article 15, the Commission accepted this change in CL 14/08/2012.

Removal of invasive species and follow up clearings has been done in the whole project period to gain maximal effect of the action. In total 9 ha of either Japanese Rose (*Rosa rugosa*) and/or Scotch Broom (*Cytiscus scoparius*) have been removed. The target was to remove about 5 ha.

### 5.11. Action C.7: Test of techniques to control Japanese Rose encroachment

During the inception period a test scheme set-up was constructed, including various treatments and combinations thereof. The scheme was developed by members from the Advisory Board, a masters-student from University of Copenhagen, and DFNA-Thy (now NST Thy). Plots for the various treatments were set up in the field, including 3 areas for grazing. One of the methods initially proposed for inclusion in the test schemes has been taken out, as it was the opinion of the Advisory Board that digging would be an unsuitable treatment in these vulnerable and relatively inaccessible areas. The adjustments were reported in the Inception Report 30/09/2010 and approved by the Commission in CL 22/11/2010.

A detailed registration of all Japanese Rose plants in the project areas was conducted in 2010 (see Action E2). The results indicate around 2200 individual plants covering a total of 8 ha. At the time of the application, the estimated area of *Japanese Rose* based on surveys of aerial photos was 3,5 ha. The considerably higher number of plants than initially expected has however not hindered good progress, and the acquisition of an ATV mounted with spraying equipment has further contributed to the good progress. We reported in Midterm Report 30/11/2012 that this action would target a bigger area than foreseen and it was accepted as a minor change by the Commission in CL 21/03/2013 as long as threshold identified in the CP was respected.

The experiments on control and eradication of Japanese rose are divided into a demonstration project including test of different control measures:

1. A project in which combinations of cutting and herbicide application was made in a block design with four replicates
2. A project with grazing by sheep, goat, respectively cattle in combination with cutting.
3. Parallel to the detailed block experiments, control by cutting and herbicide application was tested in a large scale project encompassing all Japanese rose stands within the project area, looking at eradication efficiency and cost-benefit in relation to input of resources.

At the end of 2012, around 90% of registered Japanese Rose plants in the project area have been treated with at least one of the methods. In 2013 follow-up treatments have been conducted on all registered plants and data have been collected to make conclusions on the result. The GPS-mapping was repeated at the end of the project in the summer of 2013.

A detailed description of the experimental design and results is attached as a technical report in annex 7.2.2.

None of the methods used has fully exhausted all the treated Japanese rose stands over the running time of the experiments, but there is a significant reduction of the rose stands with most treatments seen in relation to frequency and cover.

In the present studies the efficiency of herbicide treatment depended on stand size and time of application. The herbicide treatment was more efficient early in the season. Similarly, the evidence from the limited amount of controlled experiments with cutting vary in consistence as to the efficiency of the method in general and in regard of time of cutting and of the number of annual cuttings to be used. There is a general consensus that husbandry grazing may hinder the establishment of Japanese rose into pastureland (Ravn & Buttenschøn 2007), but that older, established Japanese rose stands are eradication resistant to grazing.

Regardless treatment the experiments stress the importance of starting the control of Japanese roses when they are still young and small.

## 5.12. Action E.2: Monitoring

The project comprised of grazing, clearing woody species, controlling invasive species, transforming former agricultural land and plantations to dry grasslands, and restoring and establishing ponds.

The activities were monitored by collecting data on the species composition and structure of the areas. This data was then used to calculate a species index, structure index and an index for nature status.

The results show an increase in the number of areas with a favourable nature status and structure status. There has been a slight increase in the number of areas with a favourable species status, but also a site with an increase in the number of areas with a low species status. An explanation for that is the late monitoring date. There has been progress in the positive structural parameters of low vegetation and minimal coverage by woody plants, a reduction in the number of areas with invasive species, and an increase in the number of areas being grazed. The project results for amphibians are new breeding ponds for the Tree frog (*Hyla arborea*), Natterjack toad (*Bufo calamita*), Moor frog (*Rana arvalis*) and the Great crested newt (*Triturus cristatus*).

As a result of improved grazing, the clearing of woody species, the control of invasive species, and the restoration of ponds; the project has managed to limit the threats to, and improve the nature status of existing dry grassland habitats and species.

The final monitoring report with detailed descriptions and presentation of parameters is attached in annex 7.2.3.

### 5.13. Action E.3: Networking with other projects

The local project manager from DFNA-Thy (now NST Thy) participated in a scientific conference on invasive alien species in January 2010, where she presented a poster describing the planned project activities with regard to control of *Japanese Rose*. The conference took place at University of Copenhagen. The local project manager from DFNA-Thy also participated in a scientific conference on invasive alien species in September 2010, where she presented a poster describing the test scheme for the control of *Japanese Rose*.

We participated in the LIFE Platform Meeting in September at Helnaes, where experience was exchanged with regards to hay inoculation and other methods and the project were presented by the project manager. All above mentioned activities were reported in Inception Report 30/09/2010 which was approved by the Commission in CL 22/11/2010. PM also participated in the startup work shop in the Danish LIFE project (Bøjden Nor, Municipality Faaborg-Midtfyn) where project actions were presented and discussed. The project group participated in national network meetings in 2010, 2011 and 2013 and in the LIFE Platform Meeting in Sweden in 2011 we presented our roll up poster. Furthermore networking have taken place between the local project managers in NST Thy and a German project site in Slesvig Holstein. Everything was as reported in Progress Report 30/03/2012 which was approved by the Commission in CL11/05/2012 except from the report/minutes from the Slesvig-Holstein trip which missed the Natura2000 logo. Because of that a new version of the report is attached as annex 7.2 6.

PM, Focal Point manager and local project managers arranged and participated in LIFE Platform Meeting in Denmark in September 2012 and presented the action at site DK008X201 (Suserupgaard), where impoverishment of former arable land takes place. In October 2012 the local project managers from NST Thy and Municipality of Thisted networked with a German Ministry and neighboring municipalities from Lemvig and Struer about grazing in coastal landscapes.

Since then we initiated a network visit to grassland project areas in Italy. The Italian LIFE project LIFE RI.CO.PR.I. then arranged a conference in Rome with networking activities and excursions. Following that Amphi Consult arranged a visit to a buffalo farm and grassland area, where they succeeded with making high quality products from the buffaloes and had experiments with making connection between the production and management of grassland areas. A report from the visit is attached as annex 7.2.4.

Shortly after that we visited another LIFE project in Poland polish project CHRONMY MURAWY where we experienced very targeted nature management of grassland species and new methods. Especially the transplantation of patches we decided to transfer to site Ristinge in action C.5. A report from the visit is attached as annex 7.2.5. Both trips have led to more knowledge about grassland management and a wider understanding of different conditions, solutions and managing culture. In September 2013 we participated in the LIFE Platform Meeting in Jämtland, Sweden.



*Photo 5: Field Excursion on grassland areas in Italian LIFE project LIFE RI.CO.PR.I.*

## 5.2 Dissemination actions

### 5.2.1 Objectives

The plan was

- To have or attend 10 local workshops, meetings with general public and landowners during the project period and two national seminars where project actions were disseminated.
- To communicate with the press when awareness were needed or results could be presented and to generate general attention to the project activities
- To raise project notice boards and facilities for visitors.
- To make layman's report, brochures, posters, technical publications and action plans
- Involve students from primary school, secondary school and higher education.

In general we succeeded with dissemination of the project and have a much better base for future management than before the project.

### 5.2.2 Action D.1: Mounting of information boards

Dissemination through information boards at local sites was planned at all sites and the local managers were responsible for implementing it. Furthermore an inside roll up poster have been made to communicate general project activities. Information boards from DK006Y275 (Bjergene og Bollinge Bakker), DK008X183 (Fyns Hoved) and DK00EX283 (Hanstholmknuden) were reported in Progress Report 30/03/2012, which were approved by the Commission in CL 11/05/2012. Information boards have been mounted at site Thurø Rev, which also were shown at Commission Meeting 19/09/2012 and at site



DK006Y275 (Suserupgaard), which were shown at the LIFE Platform Meeting 2012. It was reported in Midterm Report 31/11/2012 together with a plan to produce more information boards than foreseen. This was accepted as a minor addition in the project by the Commission in CL 21/03/2013.

Since then information boards have been mounted in DK008X201 (Sydfynske Øhav/ Ristinge Klint). Copies are attached in annex 7.2.7 – 7.2.8. In total 42 information boards have been raised in different project areas near public facilities and paths. The objective was to raise 29 information boards and make 2 posters. Our conclusion is that the action has been very welcomed and needed to make the general public aware of nature values and threats and need for action.

The distribution of the mounted information boards are shown in the following table 7.

Natura2000 site Code	Name of project area	Information boards mounted	Appendix
DK006Y275	Suserupgaard	5	(Midterm Report 7.1.3)
DK005X331	Bjergene og Bollinge Bakker	11	(Progress Report 7.1.3)
DK008X183	Fyns Hoved	7	(Progress Report 7.1.4 and 7.1.5)
DK008X201	Ristinge Klint, Sydlangeland	11	7.2.7-7.2.8)
DK008X329	Thurø	4	(Midterm Report 7.1.2)
DK00EX130/DK00EX283	Hanstholmknuden South, Hanstholmknuden North	4	(Progress Report 7.1.6)
Poster (exhibition boards)		2	(Progress Report 7.1.7)
<b>Total</b>		<b>42</b>	

**Table 7. Distribution of the mounted information boards.**

### 5.2.3. Action D.2: Facilities for visitors

Local managers from the Nature Agency were responsible for implementing facilities at specific sites. Preparatory actions were made in 2010 with permissions to raise shelters as reported in Inception Report 30/09/2010, which was accepted by the Commission in CL 22/11/2010. We were told to justify the need for this action at site DK008X201 (Suserupgaard). In Midterm Report 30/11/2012 we reported that it was a failure that this action was not mentioned in the application even though it was planned for at this site. The Nature Agency has a big parking lot and paths starting from there. This site which the Commission also arrived at during LIFE Platform Meeting 2012, facilitates guests to spend time and look at project information boards. It was justified and accepted by the Commission in CL 21/03/2013.

We have mounted 2 shelters including campfires at site DK008X183 (Fyns Hoved) and DK008X329 (Thurø). 3 set of benches and tables are mounted at DK008X201 (Suserupgaard), 4 set of benches at DK008X183 (Fyns Hoved), 1 set of benches and table are mounted at DK008X329 (Thurø) and 2 set of benches and table DK008X201 (Sydlangeland). Parts of footpaths have been changed for the sake of both nature and safety at Fyns Hoved and Ristinge Klint sites in 2011 and 2012. One parking place was established at site DK008X183 (Fyns Hoved) and presented during Commission Meeting 19/09/2012. One was established with external assistance from landscape planner at site DK008X201 (Sydlangeland) together with facilities as paths and new entries to the fenced area and breeding pond just alongside.

The booking activity at our shelters and comments from NGO's gives us a feeling that the facilities are very successfully implemented. Visitors have booked approx. 90 % of the weekends in the summer season, since shelters were established in 2010. One set of benches and table have been raised at site DK00EX130/DK00EX283 in the Hanstholm Region.

The distribution of the established facilities in the project are shown in the following table 8.

Natura2000 site Code	Name of project area	Public facility	Type
DK006Y275	Suserupgaard	3	Benches and tables
DK008X183	Fyns Hoved	4	Benches and tables
		1	Parkinglot
		1	Shelter
DK008X201	Ristinge Klint, Sydlangeland	2	Benches and tables
		1	Parkinglot
DK008X329	Thurø	1	Bench and table
		1	shelter
DK00EX130/DK00EX283	Hanstholmknuden South, Hanstholmknuden North	1	Bench and table
<b>Total</b>		<b>15</b>	

**Table 8. Distribution of the established facilities for visitors.**



*Photo 6: Visitor facilities next to restored parking lot with benches, paths and information boards.*

#### 5.2.4 Action D.3: Project Website

The general website of the Nature Agency undergoes another renewal in 2014, which changes the project website as well. The website has been used to communicate arrangements and product from the project. The website can be seen at:

<http://www.naturstyrelsen.dk/Naturbeskyttelse/Naturprojekter/Projekter/Fyn/LIFE-Overdrev+II/>. The website has two YouTube films showing C.1 and C.4 actions. And a more detailed description of action C.7 is made into a film in both English and Danish as recommended by the Commission

#### 5.2.5 Action D.4: Layman's report

Project manager at NST Fyn have been responsible for making a Layman's report. It has been produced in 13 pages in both Danish and English in 1000 copies. It was presented to the Final Seminar 09/09/2013 as planned. Every local site is presented with descriptions, main actions, results and pictures in a very nice layout. A hard copy of the report is attached as appendix 7.3.1. We have got really good feedback on the publication. The objective was to make a report in 5-10 pages, but we needed more pages to present the project.

#### 5.2.6 Action D.5: Cooperation with locals

Local managers from the Nature Agency and Thisted Municipality have been responsible for cooperation with locals. At several project sites landowners, association of residents and fora with NGO's and municipalities have been involved and informed about actions on local sites. Some of the meeting have been held as excursions on the sites, which we have experienced results in an free and constructive dialog with the implemented landowners. An overview of arranged meetings and respective and output can be seen in following table. Materials have been produced for some of the meeting/workshops and the objective was to make materials for 10 events. At least 19 arrangements have been held, as listed in table 9, but due to the nature of the arrangements not all have included materials. An example of meeting material to work shop, ref. no. 3 is attached as appendix 7.3.2.6.

In general we have experienced that meetings with stakeholders are very valuable to secure support during ongoing actions and acceptance of changes in the landscape. We will continue in doing so.

Site	Date	Ref. no.	Participants no	Interests represented	Output
General project	19/01/2012	1	15	NGO Botanic specialist	Presentation of actions and dialog about actions
DK008X183 Fyns Hoved	12/2 2013	2	10	NGO	Discussion on completed actions and final actions. Inoculations accepted in very small scale.
	04/04/2013	3	9	Landowners	Work Shop with planning of future strategy for management on the site.
	28/9 2013	5	12	Regional Outdoor council	Presentation of actions and dialog about facilities and communication of values. Photos
	12/09/2012	6	9	NGO	DNA (Fyn) User Committee informed and involved. Feedback from actions taken.



	16/07/2012	7	“Open house”	Stakeholders Professionals	Public participation and local ownership. Stakeholder had “guided tour” at local site. PM presented project and poster at local school.
	28/05/2012	8	80	Stakeholders	Celebration of LIFE 20 year’s anniversary. Public participation and feed back from actions taken.
	25/04/2012	9	6	NGO	Discussion on completed actions and future communication
	08/08/2011	10	10	Stakeholders	Information about actions on local sites. Discussions on future management
	16/02/2011	11	9	NGO	General information and invitation to minor adjustments
DK008X201 Ristinge Klint, Sydlangeland	24/05/2011	12	12	NGO	DNA (Fyn) User Committee informed and involved. Feedback from planned actions.
	2011	13	15	Municipalities at Funen	Discussion on completed actions and future management Permissions to actions in project.
	18/02/2011	14	30	Stakeholders	Information about actions on local sites. Discussions on future management and local ownership.
Bjergene og Bollinge Bakke	24/6/2010	15	8	NGO (brugerråd)	Information about actions on local sites. Discussions on future management.
	12/5/2012	16	50	Stakeholders NGO Public visitors	Presentation of project, new paths and local folder
DK00EX283, DK00EX130 Hansholmknuden South, Hansholmknuden North	29/5/2011	17	25	Natural History Society	Presentation of project, aspects of grazing in coastal landscape discussed.
	19/09/2012	18	12	Municipalities in Regional network	Presentation of project for Municipality network with nature management.
	17/05/2010	19	14	NGO	DNA (Thy) User Committee informed and involved. Feedback from actions taken

**Table 9. Organized meetings with stakeholders, public, tenders and NGO’s.**

### 5.2.7 Action D.6: Attendance of conference in nature management

The local project manager from DFNA-Thy (now NST Thy) participated in a scientific conference on invasive alien species in January 2010, where she presented a poster describing the planned project activities with regard to control of *Japanese Rose*. The conference took place at University of Copenhagen. The local project manager from DFNA-Thy also participated in a scientific conference on invasive alien species in September 2010, where she presented a poster describing the test scheme for the control of *Japanese*

*Rose*. This has formerly been reported as a networking activity, because it was also a way of getting preliminary attention and inputs to the action with control of Japanese Rose.

PM attended in a national conference in biodiversity 20. -21- January 2011 and got newest knowledge about important parameters and inspiration to management methods, that benefits both species and nature types. PM also attended the LIFE Balt Coast Final Seminar 28. – 30. of August, where she got new information about management of *Bufo calamita* from European experts and experienced how management was done on different sites. Connection was made with German managers who wanted to visit the Danish sites in the Hanstholm Region and compare how management of Japanese Rose were done in Denmark compared to Germany (visited the project, E5, 19/10/2012).

PM took part of a national conference arranged of the University of Aarhus in December 2012. The theme was Management based on evidence and the project was presented in that matter. Program and presentation from the big conference is attached as annex 7. 3. 2.3.

#### 5.2.8 Action D.7: Guided visits

Local managers from the Nature Agency and Thisted Municipality have been responsible for having guided visits with public and landowners. Guided visits have been arranged and announced in papers, project home site or made for special groups as students or as networking between projects or municipalities. An overview of the activities is shown in table below. 31 guided visits have been held, and the objective was to have at least 20 guided visits with 15-20 persons. At all guided visits we have had between 5 and 25 visitors and on some around 45-50 visitors. An overview can be seen in the following table 10, where specific dates are noted in parentheses. The results from the visits have been very fruitful and led to better understanding of changing due to better management.

Natura2000 site Code	Name of project area	2010	2011	2012	2013	Total
DK006Y275	Suserupgaard			1		1
DK005X331	Bjergene og Bollinge Bakker		3 (20.08, 22.08, 23.08)	4 (12.05,23 .05, 25.07, 22.08)	3 (22.05, 24.07, 21.08)	10
DK008X183	Fyns Hoved	1 (19.08)	2 (14.10. 11.12)	2 (25.04, 26.05)	1 (24.05)	6
DK008X201	Ristinge Klint, Sydlangeland	1 (29.08)	2 (24.05, 10.06)			3
DK008X329	Thurø	4	1 (10.06)	1 (15.10)		6
DK00EX130/D K00EX283	Hanstholmknuden South, Hanstholmknuden North	1 (30.08)	2 (29.05,12 .09)	2 (17.06, 17.09)		5
<b>Total</b>		<b>3</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>31</b>

**Table 10. Guided visits in the project.**

#### 5.2.9 Action D.8: Project Folders

Project manager and local project managers from the NST Fyn, Vestsjælland and Thisted Municipality have been responsible for making project folders. A general project folder (10.000 copies) describing the dry grassland habitats, threats and the project in general was made in 2011 and a local folder (20.000 copies) showing project site DK005X331

(Bjergene og Bollinge Bakker), paths, project actions, grassland values and attractions were made in 2011 as reported in Progress Report 30/03/2012.

We also reported, that we wished to make an additional folder at site DK008X183 (Fyns Hoved). It was approved by the Commission in CL 11/05/2012 if costs were held within the foreseen budget. A local folder (10.000 copies) describing the specific actions at site DK00EX130 /DK00EX283 (Hanstholmknuden North/South) was printed in April 2012 and reported in Midterm Report 31/11/2012 and accepted by the Commission in CL 21/03/2013. The action was completed according to milestone 31.03.2012 except from the added folder at site DK008X183 (Fyns Hoved) (15.000 copies), which was completed end 2013 and attached as annex 7.3.2.7. This folder is also made in English, because it's one of Funes most popular nature tourist attractions. As an added value the local municipality has paid for translation into German as well, as they felt a need for this for the same reasons.

#### 5.2.10 Action D.9: Publications

A "Best practise" management report for controlling Japanese Rose has been made in both Danish and English (annex 7.3.2.5). The report is like a guideline in management methods and it conducts literature studies and results from the experiment with controlling Japanese Rose. The report have been distributed to other LIFE projects and launched on the project website. The article will be published in a national magazine in June 2014, which has 1600 subscribers and all university students.

#### 5.2.11 Action D.10: Final Seminar on Management of dry grassland

A final seminar was arranged in collaboration with the other EU LIFE project Helnaes. About 70 managers from municipalities all over Denmark, agencies, NGO's and experts from advisory board and two Swedish nature managers participated in a very successful final seminar. Layman's report, folders and presentations were delivered in seminar folders and bags. Presentation of the preliminary results from the experiments with Japanese Rose was done by Advisory Board member Rita Buttenschön and Thisted Municipality. We visited the site DK008X201 (Sydlangeland, Ristinge). Presentations from experts and actors provided the basis for some good discussions on management and "best practice". All proceedings from the final seminar and a short resume of the outcome are attached in appendix 7.3.2.8. We got very positive feedback from the seminar.



Photo 7: Photos from the Final Seminar September 2013.

### 5.2.12 Action D.11: Education of school children and the public

Thisted Municipality, Thisted High School and Hanstholm School have established a collaboration to develop training courses and project work about *Japanese Rose*. The idea was that students in Thisted Gymnasium should perform series of experiments related to *Japanese Rose*, for instance by registering insect fauna in various treatments applied to *Japanese Rose*. A film was made showing students work and integration in the project: <http://vimeo.com/15067279>. In 2010 and 2012 about 10 guided visits were arranged with some of the school classes (list in annex 7.3.2.9) and activities are displayed in the local folder as well.

Based on recommendations from teachers we have changed the output form of this action. Thisted Municipality has made teaching material about *Japanese Rose* targeted teachers and students in High school. The material has been uploaded on a popular database platform (<https://materialeplatform.emu.dk/materialer/bogkort/73734574>) where teachers get inspiration and materials for teaching. The material has been improved and a QR code

presents a film about the project <http://vimeo.com/c-han-nels/628822/79773385>

. The film is also in English and can be used for broader dissemination.

Figure 5. Print from the education material platform.

An article with news about the material has been produced on the NST net: <http://ntsnet.dk/nyhed/undervisning-i-vildtvoksende-plantelage> (appendix 7.3.2.10)

Article to present the material has been approved for two magazines Biofag (biology teachers and biology interested in general-High School) and Kaskelot (Biology teachers and biology interested in general, Ground School) as well.

To present the material even more Thisted Municipality participated in a big education conference called BIG BANG in Vejle, 20/03/2014. The project had a stand and material and project were presented for 750 participants, making it the year's natural science venue. No costs have been declared for participating in this event. Teaching material is attached in annex 7.3.2.4.



*Photo 8: BIG BANG conference with presentation of the teaching material and project.*

### 5.3 Evaluation of Project Implementation

Best practice methods have been used for most actions. They are accepted and relatively easy to apply with in nature management. Some of the dissemination actions are a bit old fashioned, and not adapted to the more modern way of searching knowledge as example with publications instead of documents you can download which is environmentally more correct. We have had problems with controlling the “look” of the home site due to strong regulations from internal design and next time we would prefer to host a site outside the agency, even though it's not fully accepted by the agency.

It has been a success and cost efficient to have two projects in house and in the same phase, though it could be hard to coordinate.

The actions with more innovative character have been exciting but challenging. For both the experiment with control of Japanese Rose and impoverishment it would have been an advantage to have some more years to perform conclusion. It takes more time to plan and develop new methods than we had expected.



A comparison of results achieved against the objectives together with an evaluation comment which describes the successes and lessons learned is done in following table 11.

Task - Action involved	Expected result (ha)	Result	Comments - evaluation
Clearing of overgrowth	106	134	Added areas within sites and need for clearing and weed overgrowth as well. Immediately visible.
Establishment and securing appropriate grazing	195	240	Extra in Hanstholm region. New management method accepted in spite of landscape disruption.
Acquisition of 4 cattle for grazing	19 (4 cattle)	40 (8 cattle)	More needed than expected. A very useful and motivating tool to start up right management.
Conversion of former arable land	47	32	Not needed at remaining ha, but plot transplantation done instead. Could have used more time to make the start investigations.
Creation/restoration of ponds suitable for <i>Triturus cristatus</i> , <i>Bufo Calamita</i> , <i>Hyla arborea</i> , <i>Rana damatina</i>	19	31	The need was underestimated in project application phase and more needed than foreseen.
Removal of invasive species incl. <i>Rosa rugosa</i>	5	9	More needed than foreseen. More years would have been an advantage.
Dissemination	Expected result	Result	Comments
Raising public awareness of values in Natura2000			All immediately visible.
→ Information boards	29	42	The need was underestimated in project application phase. Printing and layout has become easier and cheaper with improved IT. A good way to disseminate the project.
→ Facilities for visitors	4 sites	4 sites	Very popular and welcomed action that shows our presence in a good way.
→ Project folders	15.000 copies	40.000 copies	The need was underestimated in project application phase. Printing and layout has become easier and cheaper with improved IT. Still very popular despite of modern medias.
→ Guided visits	20	31	Very popular and welcomed action that shows our presence in a good way. Very popular to meet face to face and be visible.
→ Educational courses	3	3	New methods and communication ways were needed.
→ Website	1	1	Will recommend to host "outside" to have more and fully control.
→ Dissemination of results and knowledge	1 Publication 1 Final Seminar	1 Publication 1 Final Seminar	Networking and seminars is a good way to disseminate results. Article planned for summer 2014.

**Table 11. An overview of project results achieved against objectives.**

## 5.4 Analysis of long-term benefits

In this section please discuss the following:

1. Environmental benefits
  - a. Direct / quantitative environmental benefits:
    - i. The nature management as a branch you can operate in as a professional call for new national interpretations of terms for agri-environment subsidies. The project has asked for more targeted nature management. This and other project has argued for better conditions. It seems like some of our national barriers are about to be removed in favour of nature management as an operating branch.

2. Long-term benefits and sustainability
  - a. Long-term / qualitative environmental benefits:

The outlook for the targeted habitat types and species has become better with the project. To secure and continue the actions we will see to that the management will continue. A more specific description of our longer term actions are described in the attached After LIFE Conservation Plan (annex 7.2.11). It has been made – on the basis of the N2000 plans and the experience gained from the project. The plan consists of future actions together with a description of the sources of financing.

- b. Long-term / qualitative economic benefits:

The nature management as a branch where you operate as a professional has been what we have asked for in the project. Our intent is to have sustainable operation on the sites which in the end will release resources to manage og plan for next level of threats.

- c. Long-term / qualitative social benefits:

We have had at least two tenants in the project who have started up operation based on nature management. They are about to build up expertise in nature management and whole year grazing. In relation to this one of the entrepreneurs we have used has settled down as entrepreneur in one of our sites (DK008X183 Fyns Hoved). He has activated the resources of the site and now operates as nature manger and guide for visitors and tourists. This winter he activated 70 volunteers to clean up the beaches at the site after winter storms. His new identity is due the project and his entrepreneurship activates even more potentials which give development to the rural. Article about him is attached in annex 7.3.2.11. The resources invested in facilities for visitors will makes the regions more attractive for tourist and create more activity for further dissemination, accommodation and outdoor activities.

- d. Continuation of the project actions by the beneficiary or by other stakeholders:

To secure and continue the actions we will continue with management according to the After LIFE Conservation Plan (annex 7.2.11).

3. Replicability, demonstration, transferability, cooperation:

The project has a very big demonstration character for stakeholders, tenants and managers. We have showed that it is possible to create bigger and better grazing regimes and provide the right capacity to have more targeted management of the nature. Through communication we have turned some of the typical pressure from public into support and understanding. As an example of this we have had inquiries from summerhouse stakeholders who want to have more grazing around their properties, where they started out being very sceptical.

4. Best Practice lessons:

To change look of landscape can give a lot of resistance and extra work. To plan for making changes in more phases gives opportunity for interests to come forward and better result.

5. Innovation and demonstration value:

We need to develop “best practices” for creating new nature. The project has made experiment with impoverishment and assisted spreading. And it seems like there is a need for developing a politics on that matter. To do so we need more knowledge about what problems and what advantages this method has. We still need to collect more knowledge about controlling Japanese Rose. Our conclusions are that more consistent use of the methods is needed to make conclusions on best practices. These aspects could usefully be incorporated into a new EU LIFE project.

6. Long term indicators of the project success:

The sites is incorporated in the national surveillance program, which gives us opportunity to see the long term effect in the new generation of national N2000 plans. Indicators will be structural, species and nature as described in the attached monitoring report (annex 7.2.3).

## 6. Comments on the financial report

The costs incurred within the project period accumulate to 1.542.761 €. Compared to the overall budget according to the grant agreement 2.162.094 €, this amount to 71%. It has been a general objective to apply as cost efficient a project implementation as possible. This applies both with regard to the internal organization of the project and in relation to the purchase of goods and services. In addition, this project and The LIFE-Helnæs project have largely cooperated and coordinated project actions most often with an economic advantage for both projects. All in all, it is very satisfactory to the project that we have implemented all technical objectives, with reduced resource consumption.



## 6.1. Summary of Costs Incurred

PROJECT COSTS INCURRED			
Cost category	Budget according to the grant agreement*	Costs incurred within the project duration	%**
1. Personnel	832.543	533.245	64%
2. Travel	82.363	37.940	46%
3. External assistance	716.109	584.246	82%
4. Durables: total <u>non-depreciated</u> cost		0	
- <i>Infrastructure sub-tot.</i>		0	
- <i>Equipment sub-tot.</i>	44.606	35.537	80%
- <i>Prototypes sub-tot.</i>		0	
5. Land purchase	54.228	84.228	155%
6. Consumables	254.174	145.378	57%
7. Other costs	40.174	26.769	67%
8. Overheads	137.897	95.418	69%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2.162.094</b>	<b>1.542.761</b>	<b>71%</b>

\*) If the Commission has officially approved a budget modification indicate the breakdown of the revised budget. Otherwise this should be the budget in the original grant agreement.

\*\*\*) Calculate the percentages by budget lines: e.g. the % of the budgeted personnel costs that were actually incurred

## 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 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:

640180	LIFE-Overdrev II - Financial Manager
640181	LIFE-Overdrev II - Fyn
640182	LIFE-Overdrev II - Indtægter, forskud fra EU
640183	LIFE-Overdrev II - Projekt Manager
640184	LIFE-Overdrev II - Storstrøm
640185	LIFE-Overdrev II - Thy
640186	LIFE-Overdrev II - Tilskud til Thisted Kommune
640187	LIFE-Overdrev II - Vestsjælland

### **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 8, 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)

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 payed 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 Erhvervs-sygsomssikring) 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.

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

### 6.3. Partnership arrangements (if relevant)

The associated beneficiary – Thisted Municipality – has done all the financial reporting themselves. All financial information relevant for Thisted Municipality is included in the financial report for the associated beneficiary. The financial report for Thisted Municipality has been independently audited.

The coordinating and associated beneficiary has met on a regular basis, one or two times a year, to make sure all financial issues were clear and handled in a uniform way by both beneficiaries. Once a year Thisted Municipality has forwarded an updated version of their financial report to the financial project manager.

Thisted Municipality has not received any pre-financing during the project period. They will receive all the EU contribution when the Final Report has been approved by the Commission.

In CL 20/12/2013 we have been asked to explain issues regarding time registration records from Thisted Municipality.

#### *Explanations concerning time registration records from Thisted Municipality*

- a) With effect from 1 August 2013, Thisted Municipality has launched an electronically time registration system. Before 1 August 2013, Thisted Municipality used traditional timesheets, where however only time worked on the LIFE project was recorded. In the period using the traditional timesheets, the system did not allow calculation of the annual productive hours. During consultation with financial desk officer Tommy Sejersten, it was therefore agreed to use 1628 hours as a fixed annual productive hours. In the new electronically system, the employees on regularly basis (in principle daily), reports hours used on specific purposes. When a month has terminated, the IT-department controls daily and weekly working hours. In the case these hours do not correspond to the working time listed in the employment contract, the IT-department requests the employee to control the electronically registration. After this control, a monthly time report is printed out and signed by the employee and the supervisor. However, in the months July 2013 to November 2013, the position as supervisor of the Department of Spatial planning, Building planning, Nature and Environment was open. In this period, the local project manager on monthly basis controlled the timesheets respectively the monthly time report. When the new supervisor took office by 1

December 2013, these timesheets respectively monthly time reports were signed subsequently.

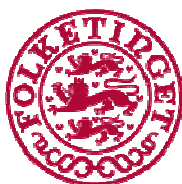
- b) In the electronically time registration system, all use of time is reported, i.e. work on specific tasks / projects, lunch and absence (Public holidays, annual holidays, sick leave and other absence). The system gives a total number of annual working hours from which lunch and absence have to be deduced in order to calculate the annual productive hours. As the electronically time registration system was launched only from 1 August 2013, however also in year 2013 the aforementioned fixed 1628 hours is used as annual productive hours.
- c) Timesheet of John Patuel Hansen was submitted to monitor during visit 6 November 2013. The timesheet submitted was from the old time recording system. With effect from 1 August 2013, John Patuel Hansen uses the new electronically time registration system.
- d) Time report of Mathilde Boesen was submitted to monitor during visit 6 November 2013. In the months July 2013 to November 2013, the position as supervisor of the Department of Spatial planning, Building planning, Nature and Environment was open. In this period, the local project manager on monthly basis controlled the timesheets respectively the monthly time report. When the new supervisor took office by 1 December 2013, these timesheets respectively monthly time reports were signed subsequently.

#### 6.4. Auditor's report/declaration

*Auditor for the Coordinating Beneficiary:*

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**RIGSREVISIONEN**



Audit of State Accounts

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## 7. Annexes

### 7.1 Administrative annexes

- 7.1.1 List of administrative annexes already submitted to the Commission

### 7.2 Technical annexes

- 7.2.1 Action plan for site DK008X329 (Thurø).
- 7.2.2. Technical report – Experiments on control of invasive, *Rosa rugosa*.
- 7.2.3. Monitor report **LIFE08 NAT/DK/000464**.
- 7.2.4. Network Report Poland.
- 7.2.5. Network/Conference Report Italy.
- 7.2.6. Minutes from networking with German project.
- 7.2.7. Plan for impoverishment.
- 7.2.8. Geographical reference of transplantation.
- 7.2.9 Maps C.1.
- 7.2.10 Maps C.2.
- 7.2.11 After-LIFE Conservation Plan

### 7.3 Dissemination annexes

#### 7.3.1 Layman's report

#### 7.3.2 Other dissemination annexes

- 7.3.2.1 Information boards A3\_A2
- 7.3.2.2 Information boards A0
- 7.3.2.3 Conference in management
- 7.3.2.4 Educational materials
- 7.3.2.5 Best Practice controlling Japanese Rose
- 7.3.2.6 Meeting material, ref. no. 3.

- 7.3.2.7 Project Folder Fyns Hoved
- 7.3.2.8 Final Seminar- outcome and proceedings
- 7.3.2.9 Educational tours
- 7.3.2.10 Article NTS net
- 7.3.2.11 Article socioeconomic effect

In electronic format as links :

**–Videos/films:**

<http://vimeo.com/15067279>

<http://vimeo.com/channels/628822/79773385>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jjz93sCEYWo>

<http://naturstyrelsen.dk/media/nst/Attachments/Storemaskinerhjlpersmpadder.mht>

## 7.4 Final table of indicators

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## 8. Financial report and annexes

- Financial report is attached with relevant requested materials.
- Secondments for Annette Strøm Jacobsen and Ebbe Erforth Larsen are attached
- Supporting documents, and further information or clarifications, requested in previous letters from the Commission is attached in electronically form
- Auditor's reports for beneficiary, Danish Nature Agency and associated beneficiary. Municipality of Thisted are attached.