

Project area

With its 397 hectares of grassland, pools and alluvial forests, all under the Rhine's constant influence, the Orsoy Rhine bend provides habitats for a multitude of plants and animals. The presence of rare species such as redshank, black-tailed godwit, beaver, crested newt and bedstraw boomrape led to its designation as an SAC of European significance.

As a part of the SPA „Lower Rhine Area“ it is, among other things, a vital stop for long distance migrants like geese, waders and other waterbirds. Lowland hay meadows, endangered in North Rhine-Westphalia and notable for their colourful mix of flowers, occur here in the form of sage oat-grass meadows.



Sage

Life+ and Natura 2000

Life+ is an EU fund to finance conservation measures in areas belonging to the network of protected sites called „Natura 2000“. These include SACs (Special Areas of Conservation) and SPAs (Special Protected Areas) – the Orsoy Rhine bend falls into both categories at once.

In accordance with the goals of Life+, our project's measures aim at preserving biodiversity both today and for future generations.

Project data

Title:

Orsoyer Rheinbogen in the SPA „Lower rhine area“
LIFE 12 NAT/DE/000133

Duration: 1st October 2013 to 31st March 2018

A project by:



Supported by:



Ministerium für Umwelt, Landwirtschaft,
Natur- und Verbraucherschutz
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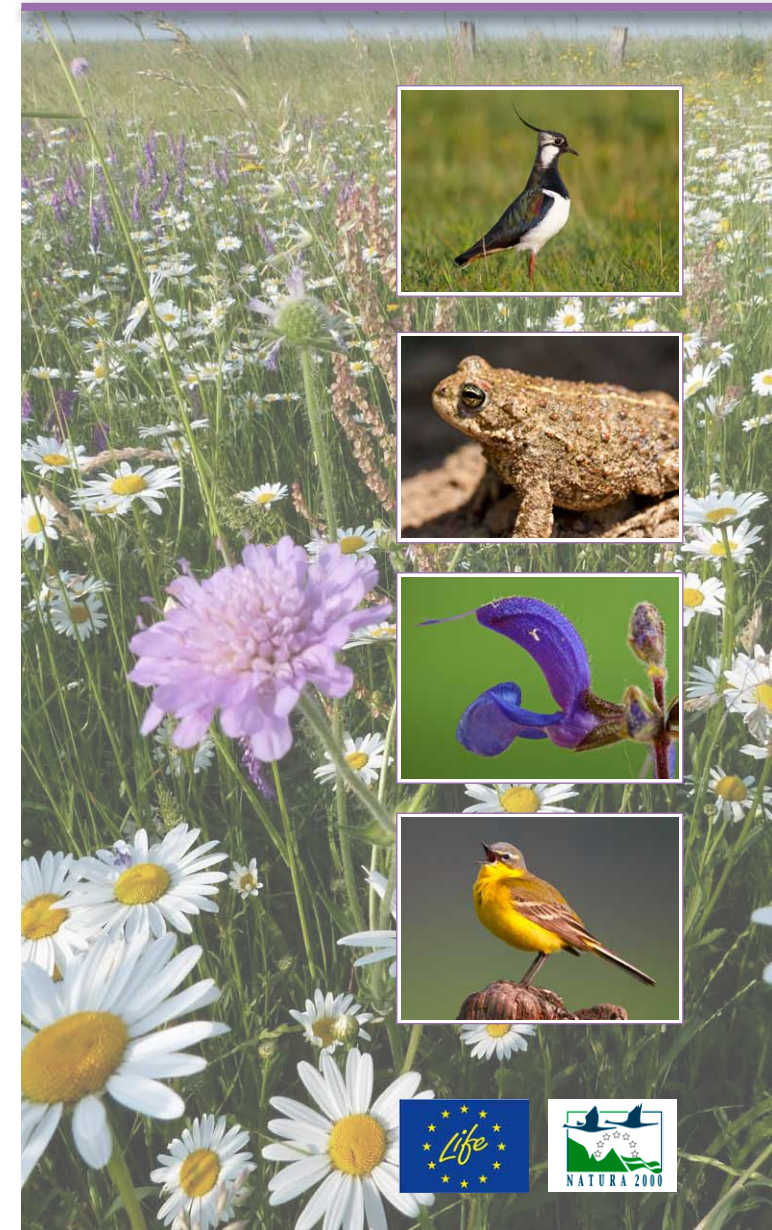
Further information and download (e.g. the layman's report and all of the published newsletters) is available on the project homepage:

www.orsoyer-rheinbogen.de



Orsoyer Rheinbogen

in the SPA „Lower rhine area“



EU funding has aided the Biological Station's commitment

„Orsoyer Rheinbogen in the SPA „Lower rhine area“ is the name of a large-scale conservation project which the Biological Station in Wesel district ran between 2013 and 2018.

The Special Protected Area (SPA) "Lower Rhine Area" is made up of 23 000 hectares of meadows, pastures, flat and shallow lakes and pools, bushland, hedges and alluvial forests.



Alluvial forest



Garganey

The floodplain north-east of the town of Rheinberg is part of one of the most important breeding, resting and wintering habitats for many thousands of birds in western Europe.

However, the habitats of the river plain have almost everywhere deteriorated, losing their humidity and structure. We want to reverse this trend by returning moisture to the floodplain and making its structure more mosaic.

The project's focus lay on meadow bird and amphibian species of Europe-wide significance, whose local populations need stabilising and increasing. A second important goal was to encourage the growth of lowland hay meadows with rare plant species such as field scabious, sage and great burnet.



Natterjack toad

Measures and numbers



To achieve the project aims, we implemented the following measures:

Creation of 17 bog pools - flat, temporarily water-filled moulds that guarantee moist patches in the grassland where waders can feed themselves and their offspring on the rich soil fauna.

Creation of 3 permanently covered waterpools - to serve as refuges for amphibians, waterbirds, insects and young fish.

Management suitable for grassland birds - to give meadow bird chicks a chance of survival.

Introduction of controlled grazing on 30 ha - to create and preserve a mosaic structure of alluvial forest, open spaces, reedbeds and perennial herb fringes with niches for insects, birds and mammals.

Optimisation of water banks - to ensure that they meet the needs of waders and amphibians.

Development of lowland hay meadows on 17.3 ha - to preserve threatened plants and allow them to multiply.

Partial deconstruction of a former military road - 43600 cobblestones were removed to reduce traffic in sensitive areas and create growing space for humid perennial herb fringes.

Acquisition of 93 ha of land - to ensure the long-term fulfilment of conservation goals in the Special Area of Conservation (SAC).



Redshank



Little ringed plover