

Restoration of non-forest Natura 2000 sites in cultural landscapes and areas strongly influenced by human activities

Annual Meeting of the Specialist Group "Restoration Ecology" of the Ecological Society of Germany, Austria and Switzerland (GfÖ)



and

Field Days for SER Europe Member and Students

3rd – 6th of April 2008, Anhalt University of Applied Sciences (Bernburg)

organized by Sabine Tischew, Birgit Felinks & Sabine Thalmann



Focus:

The directive on the conservation of natural habitats represents a challenge not only with respect to the maintenance and development of (among others) non-forest areas, including the report of measures and monitoring activities, but comprises also the need for an implementation of a series of concrete measures to restore Natura 2000 sites at a favourable status. The consequences of this aspect has up to now not adequately been considered by restoration ecology. Therefore, these aspects shall be dealt within three thematic areas (topic 1-3).

1. Topic

Integrative concepts for the development of the Natura 2000 network by means of restoration measures

Field data from different sites reveal that many non-forest Natura 2000 sites are due to long lasting abandonment and/or eutrophication in a rather unsatisfying status of conservation. Additionally, traditional measures of landscape management, like extensification, seem to be not always sufficient to reach a favourable status in a foreseeable time period. But instead complex initial measures are sometimes required to guarantee a lasting ecological effect on single sites. Moreover restoration concepts preferably should strive for an integration of measures in regional economic cycles. Thus, it should be discussed to which extent restoration measures, such as the purposefully creation of bare substrate or a cutting of shrubs and trees, may be successfully combined with land-use strategies like the use of biomass or all-year megaherbivore grazing.



2. Topic

Restoration of intensively utilized grassland

The proportion of grassland which had formerly been intensively used is often rather high in non-forest Natura 2000 sites. Though many of such grasslands have been managed in the context of agri-environment schemes, both, species composition and structural diversity have yet often to be considered as unsatisfactory. This session will therefore focus on effective methods to provide more favourable conditions for an assisted but also for a spontaneous establishment of characteristic species. Measures like preparation of sites or the transfer of target species will be discussed as well as a combination with more traditional management measures like grazing or mowing.

3. Topic

Perspectives for non-forest Nature 2000 habitat types and SPA's in former lignite mining sites

Regarding the large former lignite mining sites we face the problem that their significance for nature conservation obviously has been decreasing since the end of larger research projects. Though Natura 2000 sites have only partly been delineated within mining sites, many habitats as well as species of community interest have established in the mean time. This requires an analysis of the ongoing succession processes in order to provide a basis for future management strategies. The "pro" and "contra" of carrying out active measures to ensure the open character, but also their relevance e.g. for the implementation of a habitat network, shall be the topic for an open discussion.



Field trips

Two field trips will be organized by SER Europe in order to demonstrate and to discuss each of the three topics 'in situ'. On Saturday afternoon we will visit former lignite mining areas in Saxony-Anhalt, with a focus on later successional stages in open areas and the demonstration of re-vegetation methods for establishing specific vegetation structures. On Sunday we will demonstrate restoration projects within Natura 2000 sites located in the Saale Valley and the Middle Elbe Biosphere Reserve.

Participants

We invite all who are directly involved in the implementation of restoration measures, who deal with the administrative aspects of the implementation of the Natura 2000 network, who are scientifically concerned with the development and the monitoring of restoration measures in nature 2000 sites – and especially students being interested in these restoration issues. In order to generate an open forum for discussion we also ask for contributions which provide insight in "unforseeable difficulties" during implementation or which present combinations of a variety of methods. For an efficient communication and exchange between practitioners, decision makers and scientists, especially concerning topics with strong practical relevance, we suggest to stick lectures to German on Friday. Lectures which focus on more basic aspects will be given in English on Saturday. The field trips will be carried out in English and German.



Programme

Thursday, 03.04.2008, Kloster Bernburg
from 17:00 Arrival
19:00 Snack, 1st poster session



Friday, 04.04.2008

Anhalt University: Roemerhaus – Lecture Hall V
9:00 Opening of the conference
9:10 – 9:40 J. Peterson (Environmental Agency, Halle): „FFH-Offenland-Lebensräume – erforderliche Renaturierungsmaßnahmen aus behördlicher Sicht“
9:40 – 12:30 Presentations and discussion (**topic 1 and 2 in German**)
12:30 – 13:30 Possibility to lunch at the cafeteria
13:30 – 17:30 Presentations and discussion (**topic 1 and 2 in German**)

Kloster Bernburg, Breite Straße

19:00 Dinner (made of regional products)
20:00 2nd poster session
20:30 Panel discussion: "**Perspective for the development of open areas in former lignite mining sites**" (**topic 3 in German**) with representatives of the Federal Agency of Nature Conservation, Environmental Agencies of Saxony-Anhalt and Brandenburg, LMBV and NGOs

Saturday, 05.04.2008

Anhalt University of Applied Sciences, Roemerhaus – Lecture Hall V
8:30 – 12:45 Presentations and discussion (**topic 1 and 2 in English**)
12:45 – 13:30 Possibility to lunch at the 'Hochschulkrug' (university cafeteria)

Anhalt University of Applied Sciences, Pforte

13:30 Field trip to former lignite mining sites in Saxony-Anhalt, Kayna-Süd and Geiseltal (**topic 3**); (return approx. 19.30)

Sunday, 06.04.2008

Anhalt University of Applied Sciences, Pforte
8:30 Field trip to restoration- and management measures in Natura 2000 sites: Saale Valley (goat grazing on steep slopes and use of biomass); Wulfener Bruch, BR Middle Elbe (all-year grazing of alluvial meadows with megaherbivores); Oranienbaumer Heide (former military training area), BR Middle Elbe (restoration measures for Calluna heaths and calcareous grasslands); (end of the field-trip approx. 17:00)

Registration and Deadlines

Registration for conference and field trips: until **15th of February 2008**

Submission of abstracts for lectures: until **15th of February 2008**

Abstract: Word-Document including title, author, address, text (max. 250 words)

Please send your abstract in German for lectures on Friday respectively in English for lectures on Saturday until **15th of February 2008**.

Submissions for poster abstracts are possible in German or English.

Please e-mail your abstract to: **restoration_08@loel.hs-anhalt.de**.

Presentations: Max. 25 min. (incl. at least 5 min. discussion);

Presentations on Friday in German, on Saturday in English

Costs

Conference participation (Presentation and Evening programme)

45,- € - participation from Thursday to Saturday, including Snack Thursday evening, Dinner Friday evening, Coffee, Tea, soft drinks during the conference

Thursday – Saturday morning

Participation in Field Trips

10,- € including Bus fares, Lunch bag on Sunday

Saturday afternoon (former lignite mining area Saxony-Anhalt)

Sunday (Restoration- and management measures in Natura 2000 sites)

Students

25,- € - participation from Thursday to Saturday, including Snack Thursday evening, Dinner Friday evening, Coffee, Tea, soft drinks during the conference, Bus fares,

Lunch bag on Sunday

Thursday – Saturday morning

Saturday afternoon (former lignite mining area Saxony-Anhalt)

Sunday (Restoration- and management measures in Natura 2000 sites)

Participation "Field days" of SER Europe (for SER members)

25,- € including, Coffee, Tea, soft drinks during the conference, Bus fares, Lunch bag on Sunday

Saturday - Sunday

Students of the Anhalt University of Applied Sciences

No conference fee for attendance of presentations only

Please transfer the conference fee until 15th of February 2008

Account No.: 81001509;

Bank code: 810 000 00;

Bank: Deutsche Bundesbank Fil. Magdeburg

Reason for Payment: Kostenträger 21004037

Accommodation

Hotel Askania, Breite Straße 2; Tel.: 03471/354-0; Fax: -135; EZ (single room): 47,- € / DZ (double room): 57,- €, incl. breakfast buffet, special price for conference

participants for registration until 15th of February 2008

Hotel Kammerhof, Breite Straße 62; Tel.: 03471/3349-60;

Fax: -61; EZ (single room): 38,- € / DZ (double room): 55,- €

For further accommodation please visit:

<http://www-bbg.hrz.hs->

[anhalt.de/bernburg/freizeit/uebnacht.html](http://www-bbg.hrz.hs-anhalt.de/bernburg/freizeit/uebnacht.html)

Binding Registration

(Please register by marking the relevant small boxes on the left and filling out the form)

Title / Name

Institution / Organisation

Street / P.O.Box.....

Country / City.....

Phone.....

E-mail.....

**Please e-mail your registration to
restoration_08@loel.hs-anhalt.de
or by fax to 01212-516601652**

**Anhalt University of Applied Sciences
Strenzfelder Allee 28
D – 06406 Bernburg
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