

Case Study for CEEweb Award
Stakeholder cooperation in nature conservation

Restoration of floodplain habitats and construction of a birdwatching tower

BirdLife - HeidelbergCement

Country: Czech Republic
Organisation: BirdLife
Type: NGO

1. Brief Description of the case

Central Europe has lost nearly all of its natural wetlands and floodplains to infrastructure and flood protection measures. With this many important habitats, biodiversity and ecosystem services have been lost. Nowadays every natural or semi-natural wetland deserves protection and habitat restoration projects are very much needed to maintain local and migrating birds and other threatened species.

2. Detailed Description:

Type of case: philanthropic (donation) / project based / strategic

Location: Czech Republic

Type of area: Bird protection

Duration: since 2013

Involved organizations (both business and green NGOs): Heidelberg Cement, Českomoravský štěrk, a.s., Czech Society for Ornithology (CSO/BirdLife in the Czech Republic)

Activities carried out in the framework of the cooperation including concrete tools used:

Plans are made for the restoration of the habitat. First a piece of land covered with natural forest will be „cut“ from the shore by a canal to create a 6 ha large island. Birds and other animals can use this undisturbed reserve for nesting and roosting. Secondly, part of the shoreline will be remodelled to create a shallow litoral zone giving more suitable conditions for birds feeding on small aquatic animals.

Results:

The planned works will be done in three phases starting with careful planning in 2013, excavation and bank remodelling in 2014 and habitat management and monitoring from 2015 onwards.

Plans for continuation/extension/improvement:

There are plans for continuation. The two main objectives to be achieved by 2015 are: To create a 6 ha island covered by lowland forests on the edge of the Tovačov Lakes, and to construct a viewing tower and information facilities there.

3.	<p>Benefits and motivation of partners (businesses, green NGOs): By demonstrating the ecological value of gravel pits in Moravia, CSO and Českomoravský štěrk aim to increase the support of the local community and visitors for biodiversity conservation and to demonstrate the benefits of business-NGO partnerships.</p>
4.	<p>Social, environmental and economic impacts of the activities including stakeholders of the company/NGO (be as specific as possible) The project is an investment of money from the company every year.</p>
4.	<p>General information on legal background and other incentives /obstacles in the country <i>E.g. What kind legal requirement exist? ISO/EMAS?, CSR activities based on Global Reporting Initiative, How widely does this type of partnership spread? What is the attitude of the public towards this type of partnership?</i></p> <p>The planned restoration of the lakes and their use for nature conservation and recreation is widely supported by the local authorities and local people. Nevertheless, the law requires a detailed Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and hydrologic study to be carried out due to the proximity to the Morava and Bečva rivers and the potential risk for flooding.</p>
5.	<p>Annexes (pictures, maps, websites, etc.). http://www.business-and-biodiversity.de/fileadmin/user_upload/documents/companies/HeidelbergCement/HeidelbergCement_BirdLife_Floodplain_project.pdf http://www.heidelbergcement.com/NR/rdonlyres/23D345E8-4540-40BE-8F8D-478DBC8BF1D0/0/Q22014_InterimFinancialReport_web.pdf</p>