

### **Promoting the Benefits of Natura 2000**

**Lille Vildmose** 

# NATURE AS RAW MATERIALE FOR LOCAL DEVELOPMENT Denmark









### Introduction

At long last, ten years after its approval, the Natura 2000 Network of nature conservancy areas and protected species is about to be implemented. There is a long way to go yet, however, and Natura 2000 is still a vague idea for a large part of the populations and the decision-makers in the EU. It is a widespread myth that all economic activity in an area has to stop as soon as it has been selected for Natura 2000 and that it will then be a burden on the local community. This misunderstanding has inspired scepticism towards Natura 2000, and it has contributed greatly to the slow realisation of the directive. However, several internal and foreign studies indicate that it is in fact good business for the local community when the natural assets are used to give impetus to the local economy. The present study confirms this conclusion. Unfortunately, the slow implementation is critical to the bio-diversity in Denmark as in Europe as a whole. Even though certain negative trends have been stopped or even reversed, the overall picture is still of slow

but sure reduction of the bio-diversity. The environmental conditions of Danish waterways, for instance, have improved during the last ten years and several mammals, such as roe deer and red deer and some birds, i.e. birds of prey, are on the increase. In contrast to this, almost half of all Danish plant species are in rapid decline. As in the other parts of Europe, areas available for nature are shrinking and are to a still greater extent being separated by the infrastructure, farms, urban developments etc. In Denmark, for instance, this development has meant that

- Approximately 14% or 1000km of the Danish coastal line has disappeared as a result of reclamation etc.
- Danish salt marshes have been reduced by 50 – 75%.
- Approximately half of all Danish water-courses have been converted and most of the others have been straightened and dredged.
- The bogs of Denmark have been reduced from having covered 15 20% of the country to covering only 1 2%.

- Meadows have been reduced from covering 25 – 35% of the country's area to approximately 2%.

Effective implementation of Natura 2000 is therefore vital to the efforts to safeguard Danish and European bio-diversity. This study should be seen in that light. In order to ensure improved implementation of Natura 2000, WWF and The Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP) have joined forces to highlight the socioeconomic advantages of Natura 2000. With this in mind, six case studies have been completed, among them the present study based on Lille Vildmose in North

Jutland in Denmark. The other case studies were carried out in Austria. Belgium, Spain, Latvia and Estonia. The studies are sponsored by the European Commission, with IEEP – the Institute for European Environmental Policy – responsible for the overall project coordination and WWF responsible for the individual projects. The studies in Latvia and Estonia were financed through WWF Denmark, while the Danish study has received additional support from the Danielsen Foundation. The actual execution of the individual studies. however, was carried out by independent bodies, such as Aalborg University Centre which produced the Danish study.



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### MAIN CONCLUSIONS FROM THE STUDY

 There is no coherent strategy for the development of Lille Vildmose whereby the priorities for nature conservancy and for the local development interests are part of an overall responsibility. The various authorities, interest groups, owners and users have not co-operated to an extent which points in any unified direction. Public bodies have become involved as a result of the current conservation case and the implementation of a regional plan. According to Ministerial Order no. 836 of the year 2000, the public must be involved in large-scale nature management projects. This means that the state/counties must inform

- and involve the affected landowners and local authorities in the initial preparation of any future management plan for Lille Vildmose.
- It is therefore suggested that a 'Lille Vildmose' Development Council be established with the task of gathering all interested parties in a common forum and in common understanding of the development of the bog. The 'Lille Vildmose' Development Council should represent local and central authorities, landowners and representatives of local user groups. The Bog Development Council could with great benefit attach a consultancy function which would offer other interests the possibility of contributing to the dynamic development of the bog. Alternatively, the Northlands County must undertake the pivotal role because this authority can exercise control in respect of a wide variety of options for future arrangements for the area. In spite of Lille Vildmose in 1998 being declared a Habitat Area 1998 (The Ministerial Order regarding International Nature Conservancy) with particular focus on the active raised bog, the central, peat excavated part of the bog is still being used for primary raw material recovery and secondary farming. This means that sphagnum is being dug and that drainage and fertilisation takes place in the so-called hydrologic basin of which the active raised bogs are a vital part.
- According to the Habitat Directive, the bog area as a whole must be safeguarded, both internally and in relation to the adjacent areas. This means, for instance, that in the centre of the Vildmose, the raised bog must be re-established, as directed in the decision by the Nature Conservation Board, but the application of fertiliser must not continue, as stated by the Board. It also means that the remaining part must be laid out in grazing areas or some other form of nature area. An area around the

- whole of Vildmose should be declared a Site of Special Agricultural Sensitivity, with the aim of protecting the remaining part of the raised bog.
- The level of employment in agriculture and raw material recovery in the area has dropped considerably over the years but can be replaced by increased employment of a sustainable character within nature conservation, tourism, education and research as well as increased home building as a result of the unique natural environment. Today, the labour force in the bog area numbers approximately 68 full-time employed while according to the present, cautious assessment the Natura 2000 project forecasts 167 full-time jobs. This is the equivalent of a net increase of approximately 100 fulltime jobs in the course of a number of vears.
- There are both losers and winners in the Lille Vildmose game. Phasing out of peat mining and perhaps of traditional agricultural production will result in the loss of workplaces and perhaps also in actions for compensation. On the other hand, funds will be required for the reestablishment of the bog that may become a considerable project. Furthermore, the establishment of the Vildmosegården as a pivotal point for information and tourist activities will create a number of new jobs, as will a number of other activities which may result from Lille Vildmose possibly being declared a national nature park. The exposure of Lille Vildmose in itself will inspire more people to move to the area.
- Public participation is of vital importance to the future of the area since many more are needed to support the nature project. One way of involving more people in direct nature management would be the establishment of a grazing guild which would keep various animals in the

areas which will not be part of the reestablishment of the excavated raised bog.

 The many unclarified aspects and the heroic assumptions in connection with the socio-economic evaluation of Lille Vildmose as a Habitat Area makes it

Vildmose as a Habitat Area makes it

Nordjylland DANMARK

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advisable to clarify the long-term aims for the contents of the Habitat Area and the organisation of the physical framework. There is also a need for clarification of the organisational framework and the way the reestablishment of the bog is to be financed.

### **AREA DESCRIPTION**

Lille Vildmose is situated in North Jutland County and covers approxi-mately 78 km<sup>2</sup>. Lille Vildmose reaches into three municipalities though most of the area is in Seilflod Municipality. Lille Vildmose is one of the largest remaining undivided nature areas in Denmark. It consists mainly of raised bog, grazing forest, common land and a few agricultural areas (of which a considerable part is grazing) The central and largest part of the original Lille Vildmose has been considerably degraded by many years of peat mining. The southern part of Lille Vildmose, however (also called Tofte Mose) accounts for the largest remaining part of the active plateau raised bogs in the West European lowland area. This gives it particularly vital importance, nationally as well as internationally. In the fringe areas of the northern part of the original Lille Vildmose, raised bog areas of unique raised bog

vegetation still remain, for instance in the form of a thriving tussock-hummock structure and a sphagnum dominated ground cover. As a result of the unique bio-diversity there, the area has been included in the Natura 2000 network. In addition to chalk cliffs and grass forests surrounding the area, it is the home of an unusually rich diversity of species by North European standards, and seen against a purely Danish background, it is one of the very few places where there is room for large, space-demanding species. There are red deer in both forests, and in the southern part is Denmark's only wild boar population. Breeding birds include the only recorded pair of golden eagles know in Denmark, as well as crane, and it was the last breeding ground for the black stork (there is thought to be great potential for re-colonization). Lille Vildmose is important to the pond bat.

### THE HISTORY OF THE AREA

Originally, Lille Vildmose formed part of a marine area but the continental land uplift gradually formed a brackish water lagoon. Some 1500 years ago, sphagnum mosses immigrated and formation of the raised bog started.

In terms of cultural heritage, the earliest human activities indicate extraction of bog iron ore in the Iron Age. Real exploitation of the bog, however, began in the 18th century only in the shape of peat mining and irrigation of the area's lakes. Since then, peat mining has been a central activity while plans to turn the bog into arable land had no great success. A plan to parcel out 80 state small-holdings after the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War came to nothing. Since then, peat mining for soil improvement and horticulture in particular has taken over and this production is strongly industrialised and dominates large surface areas in the centre of the bog.

During and immediately after the 2nd World War, Vildmose provided sea-sonal employment for approximately 2000 people but industrial develop-ments have in many ways eradicated the role of the bog as a significant source of employment and today, an estimated 40 full-time employed are directly connected with Vildmose.

Geographically, Lille Vildmose covers a somewhat larger area than before developments accelerated in the 18th century. At the moment, the geography is nature dominated in the outer areas which stretches from Høstemark Forest and Bog in the North and over Paraplymose and Portlandsmose westward to Tofte Forest and Bog in the South.



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### THE CONSERVATION CASE

In 1989, the incumbent government proposed the sale of all the Government-owned areas of Lille Vildmose, a total of 900 hectares. This proposal was met with a North Jutland political counter-claim for the landscape protection of Lille Vildmose. Even though the Government dropped the idea of selling its areas, in January 1992 the Danish Society for Nature Preservation, North Jutland County Council and Sejlflod Municipality demanded protection.

The background to this demand was primarily the desire to preserve and improve the landscape and nature conservation integrity of Lille Vildmose, where the existing legislative protection was considered totally inadequate. Peat mining was not a cause for concern to the conservationists and the proposal did not include cessation of peat winning. Instead, the plan centred on nature restoration in the shape of grass, forest and poor fen areas after the completion of peat extraction.

In 1999, the Nature Conservancy Board decided not to carry out the nature

conservancy plan of 1989 and instead to restore the landscape in the centre of the bog as it was before drainage and industrial exploitation began, that is to say a widespread raised bog area without any signification variations in levels or tree stand. Nature restoration is allowed only under a plan approved by the Conservation Board. An appeal has been lodged against the decision of the Nature Conservation Board and is being considered by the Nature Appeals Board. In the summer of 2001, a temporary decision stated that Lille Vildmose is to be subject to landscape protection but the final decision as to the substance of the preservation plan is still pending. There is, for instance, no clarification of the absence of cohesion between the preservation plan and the Habitat Directive and the continued sphagnum extraction in the area. A vision presented by the WWF of turning the whole of Lille Vildmose into an even more unique natural area by providing room for more natural, free dynamics are also part of the deliberations.

### DANISH AND EUROPEAN LEGISLATION ON NATURE

Lille Vildmose is the core of a rich natural. area. To the East is Kattegat, to the West is Rold Forest, Denmark's largest. The many layers of national and international protection covering the area bear witness to an exciting natural area. A Ramsar area closely linked to the bog has been selected under the EU Bird Protection Directive and the EU Habitat Directive. The borders marked out for preservation in 1999 under the Nature Protection Act are broadly speaking the same as those set out in the EU Directives. The Preservation Proposal includes only the intensive agricultural areas to the East and a little to the West. On the other hand, the habitat area also includes areas at Kongstedlund and Smidie and also a larger part of the Paraplymose. Aalborg Bay, including among others the Egense Common is a

Ramsar area and an EU Bird Protection Area.

The 2001-2013 Regional Plan for North Jutland County describes Lille Vildmose as a place in the process of being preserved and one which "ought to be developed as a recreational area with emphasis on the nature and landscape values as well as the cultural environments", he regional plan divides Lille Vildmose into main interest sections: a regional raw materials area, a regional nature area and smaller farming and nature areas. The stated aim of the regional plan is to try to take all interests into consideration in the planning and management of the open country. This means on the one hand that the plan expects the resources of the peat areas of the bog to provide for extraction at the current rate for another 25-30 years. The

County on the other hand also wants to recreate larger undisturbed landscape in which Lille Vildmose is included! With its regional plan, the County adopts a wait-and-see attitude with regard to what is to be done when the final selection of Habitat Areas has been made. In its present form, the regional plan leaves room for both raw materials extraction, regional nature conservancy and agriculture in Lille Vildmose.

In 2000 the Danish Government established the so-called Wilhjelm

Committee, charged with the task of producing a widely supported draft strategy aimed at securing Denmark's biodiversity. One of the committee's recommendations was to establish "Nature Areas", with Lille Vildmose as one of 6 possible areas. This focused much national attention on the site and helped to direct more focus on the protection of natural values in the area, as well as on their role in the development of local economies.



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### PRESENT ACTIVITIES IN LILLE VILDMOSE

### Agriculture, forestry, hunting and peat winning

Agriculture and forestry no longer play the main role in Lille Vildmose. Only two active full-time farmers remain in the area (providing full-time employment for 10 people). Forestry and hunting are organised in particular in Tofte and Høstemark forests respectively. Both forests are owned by the Aage V. Jensens Foundation, a private Danish nature foundation that does not have forestry and hunting as the main aim of the area. All the same, hunting and forestry do play a

role and among other things influences the number of animals kept within the fencing. Large areas of the raised bog are used in sphagnum production. However, the extraction of peat for sphagnum production will cease within a foreseeable number of years because this highly industrialised production will soon have exhausted all peat resources within the mining area. The longest realistic period of continued production is 15 years.

### **Tourism and education**

There are good tourist facilities today near Lille Vildmose but its main focus is coastal

bathing tourism. Seilflod Municipality has purchased a farm (Vildmosegård) in the middle of Lille Vildmose and makes it available to its inhabitants for meeting activities and visiting exhibitions. A nature consultant is attached to the Vildmosegard and acts as a guide for tours of the area. Seilflod Municipality has also purchased an old smithy in the village, immediately East of the bog. Fourteen smiths are now employed there to demonstrate old crafts and restore an old tipping wagon track. This track will one day transport tourists from the smithy and out into the bog. Furthermore, the Municipality is in the process of developing Vildmosegård into a dedicated visitor centre promoting the natural assets and cultural history of Lille Vildmose. There is already a viewing tower by the bog and it has proved very popular. The private environmental Aage V Jensen Fund which owns the forests of Tofte and Høstemark is planning the erection of three more viewing towers in the area. A local association, the Vildmoseforeningen, is formed by local people interested in and supporting the development of the bog and preservation of natural values. Today, the association has approximately 200 members. Last but not least, the Municipality has established a Fund with the aim of supporting local initiatives and projects which will help transform the local economy.

### **Nature Conservancy**

Industrial peat mining in the central part of the original raised bog still goes on. The original four lakes in the bog were drained at an early stage. The largest of them, the Møllesø, is now built-up and will remain farmland. Draining of Lille Sø was abandoned at an early stage. Tofte Sø was re-established in 1973 by the private land owner. The National Forest and Nature Agency has embarked on the re-establishment of Birkesø.

### **Nature Values**

Lille Vildmose is particularly interesting as a Habitat area because of its active raised bogs (7120, code of the Habitat Directive), commons rich in species (6230), grass moors on more or less acid soil (6230)

and alder and ash woods by streams, lakes and springs (91E0). The selection basis also mentions pond bats and a number of other types of natural feature: brackish water lakes and water holes (3160), European dry moors (4030), juniper scrub on moors and less calcareous grazing areas (5130), common or slopes, common and scrub on more or less calcareous ground (6210), degraded raised bogs with a potential for nature reestablishment (7120), vegetation in cracks in calcareous rocky slopes, beech woods on mor soil with holly (9120), beech woods on topsoil (9130) and common oak wood and scrub on lean, sour soil.

Thus, the entire expanse of the bog is considered a unique ecosystem. Therefore, the "lower-quality" parts, such as those of partially spoiled raised bogs are also included and will, wherever possible, be re-established. In addition to direct peat production, the predominant threats to the protection and reestablishment of the bog are nitrogen leaching from productions around the bog, drainage and possibly excessive hunting interests (in the shape of too many animals)

### **Threats**

In 1998 the Ministry for the Environment and Energy issued an Order dealing with protection of International Nature Areas that is, Habitat Areas, Bird Protection Areas and Ramsar Areas. According to the Nature Conservancy Council. preservation of Lille Vildmose will not prevent exploitation of the peat deposits in the raw materials area. In this connection, the Council does not assess the area on the basis of the Order concerning International Nature Protection Areas in spite of it being required to do so.. In consequence, peat excavation continues in the raised bogs, in spite of the raised bogs having been declared Danish Habitat Areas under the Habitat Directive. This is in spite of this type of nature being given high priority in the Habitat Directive, Appendix 1, which puts Denmark under a particular obligation to give it a favourable protected status.

### **ROLE OF THE NATURA 2000 NETWORK**

Designation as a Habitat Area indicates alternative administration of nature areas based on holistic thinking. This is in stark contract to the usual Danish planned division of areas for different purposes. In this connection it must be pointed out that the National Forest and Nature Agency has not yet produced an action plan for Lille Vildmose, such as required by Article 6 of the Directive. This is one of the reasons for the absence of a proposal showing the possible extent of the reestablishment of the bog in the Habitat area.

The Habitat Directive contains farreaching protection provisions. As already stated, Danish legislation does not comply with to Article 6, item 1. Nor does Danish legislation include provisions for general protection of selected localities, aimed at preventing negative changes to a selected area, ref. Article 6, item 2. Finally, Danish legislation does not reflect the method indicated in Article 6, items 3 and 4, for projects and plans which may influence the area. It should be pointed out that the Directive ranks higher than Danish legislation. Tightening of Danish legislation is to be expected, otherwise the Lille Vildmose situation might, for instance, be brought before the European Court of Justice.

In consequence, the inclusion of Lille Vildmose in Nature 2000 is likely to present a task involving active management measures to protect the future of the 4 other active raised bogs. This means that the degraded bog areas must be subjected to extensive nature restoration in the form of closure of drains and ditches in the hydrologic basin as well as reduction of nitrogen input. Thus there will be ample opportunity to observe a large nature restoration project in the Habitat Area.

Furthermore, a nature restoration project will be a natural extension of the Regional Plan's description of ecological relations since such a project will safeguard the original, natural wet cohesion in the entire area.

### **ECONOMIC EFFECTS**

### **Greater interest in settling**

The introduction of other applications of Lille Vildmose within Natura 2000 will result in the development of a new occupational and settlement structure. Primarily. Vildmosen will as a true nature park be talked about and known both nationally and internationally. This will inspire greater interest in settling there. Some resettlement pattern analyses show that it is pleasant to have a nature area for a neighbour. Living near Vildmose will also meet the demand for a relatively short drive to the nearest city, Aalborg being only between 20 and 30 minutes away. The afforestation project near Drastrup has led to higher prices of nearby houses. It follows that the development of a coherent nature area is likely to lead to higher house prices as well as a better income basis.

### More visitors attracted to the area

Development of Lille Vildmose as a nature area will also attracted more visitors than today. This may be in the form of one-day tourists or people wanting to go further and therefore staying near the bog for several days. Against this background, the tourist trade will experience growth. This again will lead to more and more differentiated overnight accommodation. Today, the bog has approximately 6,000 visitors annually. This is expected to rise to 30,000 when the Visitor Centre has been built.

### Development of research and educational activities

Similarly, activities in the fields of research, education and information as

well as the various types of institutions will require recruitment of labour, including people with experience in natural science areas. .

## Income from nature care and nature restoration projects

A major raised bog restoration project in the central part of Lille Vildmose will require the phasing-out of sphagnum extraction and possibly parts of farming areas (if parts of grazing areas cannot be part of the nature restoration). Lost jobs will, however, to some extent be replaced in a large nature restoration project and a grazing guild which could take over or rent any remaining grazing area.

A restoration project aimed at restoring the raised bog in the more or less excavated areas may receive EU support via the so-called Life Programme. This programme contributes, among other things, to the implementation of the Habitat Directive. It may be possible to obtain grants towards the maintenance and restoration of nature types.

### **EMPLOYMENT EFFECTS**

Natura 2000 could be used as a means of promoting development of the area around the Lille Vildmose, thanks to a direct and positive impact on employment. A comparison between the present employment status in the bog and an assessment of the effects of Nature 2000 in the course of 5-10 years illustrates this.

The change from the present situation to the Natura 2000 projection includes the phasing out of peat extraction and a further reduction of farming. On the other

**EMPLOYMENT EFFECTS TABLE** 

TRADE	NOW	FUTURE
Sphagnum extraction	24	0
Forestry and hunting	10	10
services		
Chalkmining	13	13
Farming	10	5
Grazing guild	2	9
500 additional camping		26
places		
Hotel 'Romance'		24
Golf course		12
Bed & Breakfast		1

hand, the establishment of the area as a true nature area will be started. This means the addition of new trades, and the growth of tourism in particular . In due course, exposure of the nature area will also result in more people moving to the area. This aspect, however, has so many uncertain facets that the effect on earnings and employment cannot be calculated with any certainty. There is, however, good reason to expect a positive development of both factors. The result of the study is shown in the table below:

20 % more		15
summerhouses		
One-day tourists, County		8
assessment		
The Vildmosegård Centre	2	5
Transport/business	7	7
The Remisen project		3
Nature continuation		12
school		
Raw materials		5
laboratories		
Nature restoration		10
TOTAL	68	167

The individual forecasts are, of course, subject to a number of uncertainties and problems. It is, for instance, arguable whether:

- chalk extraction would continue, even though this does not take place in the central area of the bog:
- farming will disappear if traditional farming is replaced by grazing guilds;
- the attraction value is so strong that it will result in the estimated number of tourists:
- where one-day tourists will spend their money and in particular how much will be allocated to finance the Vildmosegård Centre;
- whether an hotel is feasible on the basis of hunting, golf, nature exploration and Vildmose gourmet
- whether there is support for an employment project in Remisen and the nature continuation school:
- whether financing of nature restoration can be secured, as was done in Holland and elsewhere;
- whether the peat mulch factory will import more sphagnum and start

developing compost products. At present 21 full time jobs are active and with continued import the jobs can be maintained. The factory is outside the direct project area and therefore the number is not included in the table.

A new direction for employment trends will be important to the labour market. Some of the known places of work will remain while others will disappear, so reeducation for other types of work may be required. Tourism will require more people. Today, Seilflod Municipality estimates the present number of full-time employed to be 69. A Nature 2000 projection expects this figure to be at least doubled.

### **EFFECT ON LOCAL AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

From a social viewpoint, there is a possibility for new development of the area. From a human resources viewpoint, there will be both winners and losers. Most immediate losers will be those engaged in traditional peat cutting which will be phased out (and under all circumstances will disappear when the peat reserves have been exhausted) while the winners will be the new trades and the many visitors to the area.

### **How May Local Development Be** Realised?

A vital prerequisite for local development is that it springs from within the local community itself. Local development cannot be imposed from outside. Swedish and Norwegian studies conclude that sustainable rural development is based on interaction between three elements. Firstly internal human, social and financial resources must be mobilised locally. That is the starting point for local development. Secondly, it must be possible for inspiration and pressure from outside to contribute to the local discussion and decision-making, because this may inspire further local mobilisation in connection with new initiatives. The local authorities must act as a source of support and as a resource for local initiatives and projects, as this is crucial to a successful implementation of the projects. Interaction between these elements is necessary for the mobilisation of the local community. Local communities desiring to move towards positive local development must

address two basic questions:

- how will the citizens involve and mobilise local authorities and trades?
- and how can the authorities create a framework for local communities and establish a thriving economy?

Furthermore, a number of social, political and economic questions must be clarified:

- The legal framework within which future development is to be structured.
- The existing economic value of exploitation of the area must be established.
- The economic value which can be generated using Natura 2000 as a lever for local development must be established.

### Conclusion

Since many of the requirements for local development of the natural values already exist in Lille Vildmose, such development could probably take place provided the necessary political determination can be found.

- National media and decision-makers pay great attention to the area because it has been proposed as a future "National Nature Area". Thus, development of the area is part of a general debate at national level.
- The attitude of local and regional authorities to the idea of promoting nature protection in the area as a means of improving the local economy is positive.
- Lille Vildmose's position only 20 kilometres from Aalborg, the regions largest city, may well attract resourcerich individuals.
- The tourism potential of the area is considerable, and nature and landscape values are two of the main

reasons for tourists to visit Denmark. Good tourist facilities already exist in the fringes of Lille Vildmose.

The study forecasts that a revision of the economy will generate much greater economic benefits than does the present exploitation of the area. The study expects 167 full-time jobs to result from the new approach. This compares with the 68 fulltime jobs based on current exploitation. Economists from Aalborg University which produced the study expects that this may, among other things, be the result of more tax payers being attracted, the development of quality tourism, for instance through the construction of a golf course, an exclusive hotel, improved infrastructure etc. For such initiatives to succeed, natural values must be protected and developed. Unusual attractions are necessary, and it will be important to "think big". Local authorities, furthermore, must tackle the following questions and challenges:

- A cohesive strategy for the area must be developed. The various levels of authorities, interest groups, owners and users will have to cooperate in a way which points in a unified direction. On the one hand, there are detailed plans for the reestablishment and development of certain nature values in the area but on the other, resources in the centre of the area are still being exhausted and farmed. Therefore, degeneration of nature values continues.
- Ways to involving more local people must be found since this is of decisive importance to the future of the area.



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Text: Martin Schneekloth (WWF EPO) & Uffe Gjøl Sørensen (WWF Verdensnaturfonden). This document is based upon the information obtained by personal interviews with local stakeholders in the study area and on the summary report of the study produced by the University of Aalborg.

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