

PROJECT BENEFICIARY

This project is executed by the Biological Station Siegen-Wittgenstein, one of 40 Biological Stations in North-Rhine Westphalia. The Biological Station was founded in 1990 by the „Verein zur Förderung der Zusammenarbeit zwischen Naturschutz und Landwirtschaft im Kreis Siegen-Wittgenstein e.V.“ with the purpose to conserve valuable habitats for especially rare and endangered animal and plant species. Together with local land users, the character of the diverse cultural landscapes of the Siegerland should be maintained. The Biological Station Siegen-Wittgenstein has five main areas of responsibility, which are:

- Protected area management
- Technical supervision of the program for maintenance of cultural landscape (KULAP)
- Species conservation
- Scientific and advisory tasks
- Nature and environment-related public relations and educational work



Biologische Station Siegen-Wittgenstein

In der Zitzenbach 2, 57223 Kreuztal-Ferndorf
Tel. 02732 767734-0
info@life4siegerlandscapes.de
www.life4siegerlandscapes.de

Publisher:

Biologische Station Siegen-Wittgenstein
Verein zur Förderung der Zusammenarbeit zwischen Naturschutz
und Landwirtschaft im Kreis Siegen-Wittgenstein e.V.
www.biologische-station-siegen-wittgenstein.de

Design, photos and illustrations: igreen media, Jonathan Fieber
Print: dieUmweltDruckerei GmbH
Climate-neutral on 100% recycled paper



LIFE-Funding scheme

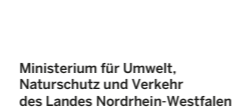
LIFE (L'Instrument Financier pour l'Environnement) was launched in 1992 and is a program of the European Commission that supports the development and implementation of the European Union's (EU) environmental, nature conservation, energy and climate policies. The EU-LIFE program offers eligible projects a grant from the European Union, which is usually 60% of the whole project budget. The LIFE project „Siegerländer Kultur- und Naturlandschaften“ is funded in the subprogram „Nature Conservation and Biodiversity“ in the area „Nature Conservation“. Co-financing is provided by the Ministry of Environment, Agriculture, Nature and Consumer Protection of the State of North-Rhine Westphalia, the NRW Foundation and the District of Siegen-Wittgenstein.

Project details

Projektacronym:	LIFE4Siegerlandscapes
Duration:	01.01.2022 - 31.12.2027
Budget:	4.177.980 Euro
Project partner:	Ministerium: The Ministry of the Environment, Nature and Transport of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia (MUNV) NRW-Stiftung: The North Rhine-Westphalia Foundation for Nature Conservation, Homeland and Cultural Heritage
Co-Financer:	Kreis Siegen-Wittgenstein



Cultural and natural
landscapes of the Siegerland



PROJECT AIMS

This project aims to specifically improve diverse forest and grassland habitats as well as their interactions within the EU Special Protection Area. Within the project, the focus is particularly on the promotion of seven target species:



Black Woodpecker

Dryocopus martius



Middle Spotted Woodpecker

Dendrocoptes medius



Grey Headed Woodpecker

Picus canus



Red Kite

Milvus milvus



Whinchat

Saxicola rubetra



Violet Copper

Lycaena helle



Marsh Fritillary

Euphydryas aurinia



FOREST CONSERVATION MEASURES

Characteristic for the natural environment of the region are beech forests of the Luzulo-Fagetum and Asperulo-Fagetum habitat types, forests on steep slopes of the Tilio-Acerion habitat type as well as cultural landscape biotopes like coppice forests (locally called "Hauberge") and extensively managed species-rich mountain and lowland hay meadows, dry and humid meadows as well as pastures.

The promotion of our forest target species and habitats will be achieved through the following measures:

- Long-term protection of old-growth forests, which are rich in deadwood and nest trees with breeding cavities.
- Promotion of deciduous forest on former spruce tree plantations, especially of the priority natural habitat types Luzulo-Fagetum beech forests (habitat type 9110) and alluvial forests (91E0*)
- Establishment of structurally rich forest edges
- Connection of forest areas
- Conservation of historical forms of forest use in the area, in particular establishment of coppice-with-standards

CONSERVATION MEASURE IN GRASSLANDS

Extensively managed grassland habitat types with characteristic grass species like *Nardus stricta* or *Molinia caerulea* have been widely preserved, especially in old communal pastures. Some grassland areas have turned into fallows due to wetness or remoteness. Due to its geology, the high diversity of valuable habitat types and the still largely practiced extensive cultivation, a high species richness has been preserved in the area, both in floristic and faunistic terms, typical for the German low mountain ranges of the past. The promotion of grassland target species and habitats will be achieved by the following measures:

- Restoration of grassland areas by conversion of spruce plantations
- Establishment of annual fallows
- Promotion of hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities (habitat type 6430)
- Habitat optimization and long-term safeguarding of the natural habitat types like *Nardus* grasslands (6230*), lowland hay meadows (6510), mountain hay meadows (6520) and *Molinia* grasslands (6410)
- Re-introduction of the locally extinct marsh fritillary

PROJECT AREA

The project area comprises the entire EU Special Protection Area „Wälder und Wiesen bei Burbach und Neunkirchen“ (DE 5214-401) in southern Westphalia. The area is characterized by a structurally complex mosaic of cultural and natural landscapes. The EU Special Protection Area is bordered by two other EU Special Protection Areas across the federal state borders of Hesse (DE-5314-450 „Hoher Westerwald“) and Rhineland-Palatinate (DE-5312-401 „Westerwald“). Measures implemented within this project are designed to contribute to the connection of grassland target species (e.g., the whinchat and the two butterfly species) between these Natura 2000 sites and across the federal state borders.

