

Project areas

Sand Life will restore habitats in 23 Natura 2000 areas in the counties of Skåne, Halland and Kalmar.



Information is vital

Understanding the need for restoration actions and continuous management of these habitats are vital for the success of the project. Large efforts will be put into information for land owners and the general public. This includes field visits, information meetings and information in printed and digital form.

Please feel free to visit our website www.sandlife.se for more information about the project.

What are Life+ and Natura 2000?

The project is partly funded by LIFE+ Nature 2007-2013 which is part of the EU's LIFE-program, with the purpose to improve the natural environment within European Natura 2000-areas.



Natura 2000 is a network of the EU's most valuable species and habitat types. Each member country is responsible for protection and management of its Natura 2000 areas. The work is based on the EU's Species and Habitats Directive as well as the Birds Directive. More information is available at www.naturvardsverket.se



Project partners



Länsstyrelsen
Skåne



LÄNSSTYRELSEN
HALLANDS LÄN



Länsstyrelsen
Kalmar län



LUNDS
UNIVERSITET



Vattenriket

The project is also supported by

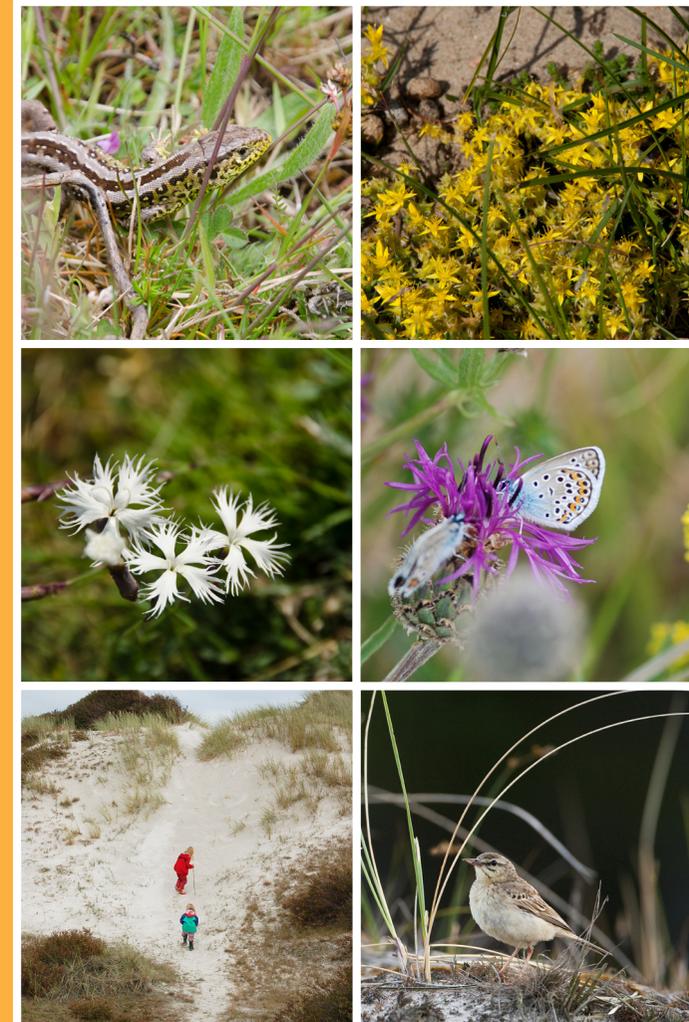


STIFTELSEN
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UNIQUE DIVERSITY IN SANDY HABITATS



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SandLife

Thriving wildlife in the sand

Areas on sandy soils in southern Sweden have a rich diversity of animals, plants and fungi. Many rare species are linked to sandy habitats.

Flowering plants provide an abundant source of nectar, pollen and seeds for insects such as wild bees, beetles and butterflies. The warm sand is also a suitable habitat for nest building and for insect larvae to develop in the dry, warm environment. Dung-living beetles can be found where animals graze. Insects serve as food for other sand-living animals such as sand lizards, tawny pipits and wood larks.

However, many the species adapted to warm, sandy habitats are today endangered. Their habitat is disappearing.

One of the reasons for their disappearance is the way we changed our land use. Large areas of the sandy environments were once grazed or cultivated. Despite the soils being nutrient-poor, they were used in a system of one or two years of cultivation with many years of grazing in-between. Consequently, the landscape was a mosaic of open sand and vegetation and animals, plants and fungi specialized in living in sandy areas could always find suitable habitats.

Today, most of these areas are gone. They have become cropland, forests or simply overgrown. The chances that the wildlife adapted to sandy habitats will survive in the small areas that remain are limited.



What should be done?

Over the last decades, there has been a new approach to managing sandy habitats. A key to a rich wildlife is disturbance, actions that mimic the processes that has been going on in the landscape for thousands of years.

In Sand Life, we will restore sandy environments through a variety of different measures, ranging from clearing trees and bushes to open up patches of exposed sand.

In the project we will:

- Remove Japanese roses
- Remove trees and stumps
- Clear bushes and brushwood
- Burn grass and old heather
- Dig patches of exposed sand

... the result is a mosaic habitat of exposed sand and blossoming herbs where animals, plants and fungi thrive!



What is Sand Life?

The County Administrative Boards of Skåne, Halland and Kalmar are collaborating together with Lund University and Kristianstad's Vattenrike Biosphere Reserve in project Sand Life. The purpose of the project is to restore sandy habitats in southern Sweden.

Overgrown Natura 2000 areas on sandy soils in Skåne, Halland and on Öland will be restored in order to make them more accessible, both to the general public and to rare animals, plants and fungi.

The EU's environmental and nature conservation fund Life+ contribute with half of the project budget. The rest of the project will be funded by project partners, as well as, the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency and the Scanian Landscape Foundation. During the period 2012 - 2018 the project's budget of EUR 7.8 million will be used for restoring sandy habitats, plan for continuous management, information to the general public and monitoring the effect of the project actions.

