



CASE STUDY

DCP

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WORKING TOGETHER  
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SOLUTIONS



GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY  
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET



## Payments for Ecosystem Services

# Federsee

This case study presents a scheme for ecosystem services payment from lake Federsee, Germany. Between 1997 and 2002 local and regional government, nature conservation authorities and EU LIFE funding supported a revitalization project of 250 hectares of marshy meadows in the area.


### Federsee,

located near Bad Buchau, is the third-largest lake in Baden-Württemberg. It stands in the center of the largest marsh and bog region in south west Germany. Due to the large number of animal and plant species that populate a wide variety of rare habitats, such as extensive fens, calcareous marshes, reed beds, bog remnants and semi-natural wet woodlands, and thanks to a set of archaeological monuments that can be found here, the area is a protected area of international importance.



**Total Area:**  
30 km<sup>2</sup>

**Status:**  
protected area

**250 ha**   
of marshy meadows  
were revitalized in  
the Federsee area  
under this project.

## Background

Before project implementation started, progressive disappearance of rare wetland habitats had been noticed due to drainage and intensive use for agricultural purposes.

EU LIFE funding for revitalization of degraded areas brought an opportunity to the area. On this basis, regional and national level governmental and non-governmental organizations joined forces to finance the project and allowed for habitats maintenance through long-term agro-environmental services.

## Stakeholders

Interested in restoration of bogs around Federsee and the lake itself were national and regional bodies, several conservation foundations, local business owners, mainly in the domain of tourism, doing activities relying on the landscapes and natural resources of the area.

## Scheme

Management of the rare wet fen areas, such as *Molinia* habitats was set as a conservation goal for the project.

Within the framework of a LIFE project, over 250 farmers from the area were contracted with strict mowing rules (i.e. mowing every 3rd or 5th year) in order to increase the number of different habitat structures. The additional income for farmers was covered (subsidized) by the LIFE project and co-financed by national government agencies.

## Costs

The initial measures of the scheme were financed under the EU LIFE rules but all partners were contributing to the success. Data shows that beside the 50% EU support, 30% came from the Regional Nature Conservation Service from Baden-Württemberg, 7% from the National Nature Conservation Agency, 8% from the conservation foundation and 5% from two more regional bodies.

## Benefits

The area is considered one of the most important marshes of the south German region, therefore the regional government and its bodies were the forerunners of the revitalization of the Bad Buchau. There are important direct benefits of the revitalized wetland, such as the income provided for locals through jobs created in this process. Several touristic facilities were founded within the project to enhance the process of adding value for locals to the use of the area's resources through sustainable tourism. These facilities – one information center and a nature shop – as well as services provided, such as guided tours, now operating at Federsee, created jobs and are providing income for locals.

This case study was prepared as part of THE DANUBE PES PROJECT: PROMOTING PAYMENTS FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES AND RELATED SUSTAINABLE FINANCING SCHEMES IN THE DANUBE BASIN.

This project promotes and supports land managers who help us sustain the benefits that we all get from nature. The project is implemented by the WWF Danube-Carpathian Programme with the financial support of the GEF through UNEP and the European Commission.



### Why we are here.

To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony and nature.

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