

Summary:

The northernmost part of Denmark consists of one of the World's largest headlands, the 30 km long Skagen Odde, where the North Sea meets the smaller sea Kattegat. The area has raised from the sea through the past 8000 years, as the sea has deposited countless beach ridges which in the later part of the period almost entirely have been covered by drifting sand dunes. Among these Råbjerg Mile is the largest, and still active, drifting sand dune in Northern Europe. The northernmost tip of the headland is still geologically active, as new beach ridges are deposited seawards to the existing, slowly prolonging Skagens Odde towards Sweden.

Both on Danish and European level, the headland contains one of the largest coherent areas of grey dunes and dune heath. This pristine nutrient poor and vulnerable headland is among the most precious nature treasures of our country.

These areas have faced and are facing a number of threats. Some of the main threats: Lack of natural dynamic processes (over-stabilisation of dunes) and invasion of coniferous species were responded to in the former project "LIFE02 NAT/DK/008584". Among other main threats are: lack of natural hydrological conditions, invasion of IAS plant species, wear by traffic on sensitive areas, and alarming key animal species loss of breeding areas, disturbance on breeding areas and predation on nests. Some of the threats, especially those of local origin, can be addressed during the time-span of a single LIFE project, but threats with an international origin, even being addressed, continuously proceed and constitute long term potential threats. The effort keeping the wet and humid dune habitats and even alter or reverse their preservation prognosis to favourable, will be a long journey, which, with all respect, one LIFE project alone cannot bring to an end.

Objectives:

In this light, the overall objective of the current project is on the two northernmost Natura2000 areas in Denmark, the terrestrial part of SAC: DK00FX112 and SAC/SPA: DK00FX005, to address all threats, which can be responded to on local level, outlined in the Natura2000 objective and action plans. This implies:

- Significant improve the conservation status of the wet and dune habitats: **2130***, **2140***, and 2190.
- Increase the conditions for the species: **Botaurus stellaris** (b) and **Tringa glareola** (b).