

BIODIVERSITY CASE STUDY

Company: Hengl Mineral GmbH
Location: Limberg, Lower Austria, Austria

Objective Dragon Flies are endangered species and they lose their habitats because wetlands and wet agrarian areas dry up.

Fishing ponds do not help because of the steep banks. The solution is to create shallow Dragon Flies ponds within the quarry area.

Context Hengl Company established a Dragon Flies pond within the Limberg quarry. The area is a very dry, non agrarian and rarely forested unused land. The project was conceived together with the local ground school class of Limberg city.

Solution The pupils planted some water plants and kept the banks free from natural coverings. This was made under the supervision of WWF. As a part of their regular education, the pupils are monitoring and using the results in their thesis.

Periodically a nature conservation expert visits the dragonflies pond and can identify a lot of different plants and animals (aesculapian snakes, grass snakes, newts, frogs, toads, ...). The surrounding area was planted with butterfly-friendly bushes and thistles and a wall for reptiles was created where you can observe numerous butterfly species and more than ten different dragonfly species (e.g. four-spotted chaser, emperor dragonfly, common winter damselfly,...).

Result Even during the creation period some Dragon Flies appeared. *Coenagrion puella*, *Ischnura elegans*, *Libellula depressa* like the Hengl pond very much. The results are three-folded:

- the educational aspect of the monitoring by schools,
- the new wetland in a quarry
- the recreation area for visitors are a substantial benefit for sustainability

In the last years the dragonflies pond became an ecological hotspot and a popular excursion and recreation destination for the local population. There are several events around the dragonflies pond every year. In extreme droughts it is necessary to refill water to avoid a strong rise of the water temperature.

Partners Local ground school class of Limberg city and WWF





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Union Européenne des Producteurs de Granulats
Europäischer Gesteinsverband
European Aggregates Association