

Company: Českomoravský štěrk, a. s. Mokrý

Location: Tovačov, Czech Republic

Objective The main priority is to protect and increase biodiversity of the whole ecosystem, to do targeted impacts to increase the presence of littoral zones with changing to soft flood plain and to create conditions for development of rare and endangered species, mainly for saving a booming population of seriously endangered Beaver (*Castor fiber*).

Context The area consists of a group of four lakes which were created after gravel and sand extraction operations. The area became interesting from the point of view of nature protection after the creation of water areas and the development of plant and animal communities. The area is a part of a European important area nominated to become a Natural monument and part of a regional ecological corridor.

Solution The care of rare biotopes and species is guaranteed by an expertly worked-up document which steps for further development of high-quality natural locations are suggested, such as:

- Creation of littorals
- Prevention of water eutrophication in the lakes
- Building of bird observatories
- Creation of new wetland areas on the bank of Skašov pond
- Creation of a large island in the east part of the lake

Gravel sand extraction is still continuing on most Tovačov lakes but the bank outline will not be influenced.

Result This quarry gives important services to the community. Essential benefits from the Tovačov Lakes are the development of natural biotopes of high quality and biota connected to them (beavers, terns). Two lakes are also used as a source of water. Tourism is a specific branch and its soft form, connected with ecological education, is very desirable in protected areas.

Partners A civil association called 'Pro Tovačovská jezera' was founded for this partnership, gathering: Townhall Tovačov, conservationists, an ornithological club, associated communities and fishermen. The cooperation is connected with the European association NATURA 2000.

