

Pilot project: The Lower Saale Valley

The Lower Saale Valley offers a rich collection of cultural heritage. Along its ca. 50 km long way through the Nature Park the Saale river is the dominating landscape element, and it is an important anchor for regional identity as well. Situated between the largest cities and economic centers of the state Saxony-Anhalt, Magdeburg in the north and Halle/Saale in the south, the Lower Saale Valley itself is - apart from the city of Bernburg - out of the superior focus. For the main part it is up to the stakeholders and inhabitants of the region to make sure that Lower Saale Valley will be as vital as today also in the future. The VITAL LANDSCAPES Project will support them by providing new ideas, advanced knowledge and interesting international contacts.



General map of the pilot area



Map of potential compensation areas

PP1, Land Company Saxony-Anhalt PP2, Cultural Heritage Association Saxony-Anhalt

LANDGESELLSCHAFT
SACHSEN-ANHALT MBH



KULTUR-
landwirtschaft
IM UNTEREN SAALETAL



Project partner working team:

PP1: Jörn Freyer (coordination), Ines Pozimksi, Heike Winkelmann

PP2: Annette Schneider (coordination), Bernd Reuter (external expert), Diane Gerth, Henrik Hass

Name of the area:

Lower Saale Valley (Unteres Saaletal)

Pilot project name:

Kulturlandwirtschaft im Unteren Saaletal

Size:

408 km²

Location:

In the heart of Saxony-Anhalt

Geographical specifics:

River valley which lies ca. 50-100 m below its surroundings

River valley: Flood plain, grassland

Slopes: Rock (lower trias and upper carboniferus), bush land

Plateau: loess soil

Population:

ca. 45.000

Dominant land-use:

Arable land (85%)

Dominant economy:

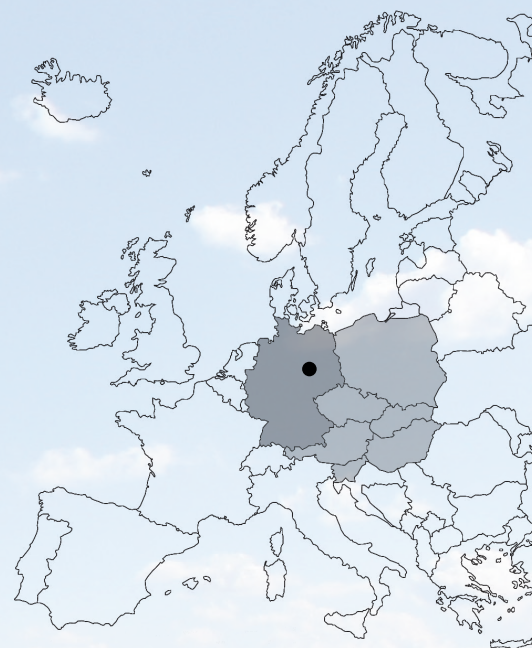
Farming

Administrative division:

4 districts, 9 municipalities

Legislated protection:

Nature Park



background: Saale valley near Rothenburg
(photo: Bodo Hausmann)

Outcomes:

- Development scenarios for 5 potential compensation areas
- Cadastral land registers of 29 project approaches
- 25 educated cultural landscape guides
- Open data base of cultural landscape elements
- Analysis of historical maps
- Sustainable platform for regional dialogue

The Lower Saale Valley stretches across 3 rural districts and 1 urban municipality. Within every single of these units, the valley is rather a border area. The Nature Park is the ideal platform to enable a common regional dialogue across administrative borders. Regarding project activities, stakeholders from nature protection, agriculture, landscape conservation and science were involved, as well as municipalities and inhabitants were invited as local experts.

The pilot activities mainly focus on activating the exchange among stakeholders and on strengthening public engagement. The exchange among stakeholders was encouraged by the process to create a strategy of clustered compensation measures in the region. The network platform established by the project is designed to commonly discuss landscape and regional development issues well beyond project lifetime. Since discussions about future development always benefit from input of local inhabitants, several workshops in the villages all across the Lower Saale Valley had been organized.

Altogether the above mentioned activities shall contribute to a sustainable landscape development process, which supports the region by optimally valorizing endogenous potentials.



left top: Workshop outdoors
(photo: Jörn Freyer)
left bottom: Cultural landscape guide in
action (photo: LHBSA)
right: View from Wettin hill
(photo: Ines Pozimski)

PLATFORM FOR REGIONAL DIALOGUE

time frame: Since autumn 2010 quarterly meetings
stakeholders: PP1, PP2, Naturpark administration
participants: 15-50 each
target group: Inhabitants, municipalities, associations and multipliers.

intention: Even at the regional administration level Lower Saale Valley stretches across 4 districts. In practice, it is quite difficult just to bring landscape relevant stakeholders in permanent contact. Thus a forum shall be established, which significantly helps improve the communication within the region and to identify fields of co-operation.

outputs: Quarterly workshops and discussions on landscape development (focus: clustered compensation measures, development potentials for villages and networking opportunities).

long-term outputs: Networking, better participation and greater identification of people with their region. Besides the issues that were in focus so far, further topics important for landscape development and valorization of regional potentials shall be on the agenda. Thus e.g. local economy could take more advantage of the started process.

PREPARING A COMPENSATION POOL

time frame: 9/2010 - 12/2012
stakeholders: Nature Park, project investors, Land Company Saxony-Anhalt
participants: 15
target group: Regional stakeholders from nature protection, agriculture, landscape conservation, from municipalities and local experts.

intention: Concentrating compensation measures of infrastructure projects in a rather large dimension to unfold a relevant impact (in terms of nature protection, landscape conservation and beyond). In this respect the project supported the preparation phase with several outputs (see below).

outputs: Cadastral land register of 29 project approaches, cost analysis for compensation through grazing resp. wild herbs, landscape development scenarios for 5 selected areas.

long-term outputs: Successful realisation of compensation areas fulfilling nature protection goals also after 20 years and demanding less to none arable land.

TRAINING THE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE GUIDES

time frame: 1st curriculum: May – September 2011
2nd curriculum: January – March 2012
stakeholders: Cultural Heritage Association Saxony Anhalt
participants: 1st curriculum - 15
2nd curriculum - 13
target group: Interested inhabitants, city guides interested in cultural landscapes.

intention: Qualifying interested inhabitants to present authentically the regional heritage and cultural landscape values and thereby becoming ambassadors of their region.

outputs: 25 educated cultural landscape guides.

long-term outputs: For the first time the nature park has access to cultural landscapes guides educated in European standard. Visitors and inhabitants will be able to discover, to experience and to save the regions' character and treasures during common excursions.

