

# Conservation

of landscapes, ecosystems and species

◆ Work with preserving the values in Kristianstads Vattenrike is carried out in a number of different ways. While the conservation of individual species through projects to preserve the European catfish (*Silurus glanis*), the white stork or threatened amphibians is important, the primary focus is on preserving the natural values of landscapes and ecosystems through collaboration with local farmers who tend the hayfields, pastures and sandy grasslands.



Every spring, you can witness the courtship display of the ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*) on the seasonally inundated grasslands of Kristianstads Vattenrike around Håslövs ängar.

PHOTO PATRIK OLOFSSON /N

◆ Since Kristianstads Vattenrike was established, many nature conservation projects have been conducted in collaboration with the county administrative board, WWF Sweden, landowners and local associations.

Broad cooperation is important for all parties.



Amphibious bistort (*Persicaria amphibia*) and water lilies bloom in many parts of Lake Hammarljön, also home to some rare underwater flora, such as the slender naiad (*Najas flexilis*). PHOTO: SVEN-ERIK MAGNUSSON

# Development

with sustainability

◆ Biosphere reserves contribute to the type of development that benefits nature and people alike. The introduction of biogas buses in Kristianstad, ecotourism initiatives and harvesting wetlands grass for hay are good examples of this approach.

The key to sustainable development is to not to exploit the region's natural assets, but to nurture them.



Harvesting grass from the seasonally inundated grasslands of Kristianstads Vattenrike.

PHOTO: HÅKAN OLSSON

◆ Ecotourism is tourism that doesn't exact a toll on the natural environment. Several tour operators have already taken the initiative by offering trips through the wetlands. Two of the region's ecotourism activities are the first in the province of Skåne to receive "Nature's Best" approval, Sweden's national seal of quality for responsible ecotourism.



The Riverboat Trip and Wetland Safaris, both providing daily tours in the biosphere reserve, have received the "Nature's Best" award. PHOTO: SVEN-ERIK MAGNUSSON

# Logistic support

information, education, environmental monitoring and research

◆ Biosphere reserves are designed to make it easier for the general public, students and researchers to explore what the area has to offer. That's why there has been an ecomuseum here since 1989 with several visitor sites and a Nature School, and close collaboration with various universities and colleges, including Kristianstad University.

The Biosphere Reserve has some 20 visitor sites: outdoor museums, information displays, raised boardwalks and birdwatching towers. Some sites, such as the Åsums ängar and Pulken outdoor museums and Ekenabben, are specially equipped for disabled visitors. A regularly updated website, with daily water-level reports, webcams and information about storks and resting cranes is an important support function.



The Kanalhuset outdoor museum, among the reeds beside the River Helge å, yet only 300 metres from Kristianstad railway station, is a good starting point for exploring Kristianstads Vattenrike. The Nature School also has one of its outdoor classrooms here. PHOTO: SVEN-ERIK MAGNUSSON



# Theme areas

*with high natural values*

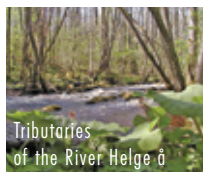
◆ In Kristianstads Vattenrike there are many natural values worthy of conservation. The area is full of variety and contrasts, providing a rich and changing mosaic of natural habitats stretching from the hills to the sea.

So far, attention has mostly been devoted to the rich wetlands flanking the River Helge å. Now, however, the focus will gradually expand to embrace more areas of this valuable environment. Ten theme areas with high natural values have been identified. Future work will concentrate on conserving and developing these values in the theme areas.

The outdoor museums, the Nature School and the website are all important tools for presenting and sharing this knowledge.



Urban landscapes



Tributaries of the River Helge å



Balsberget Hill and Lake Råbelövssjön



Wooded habitats



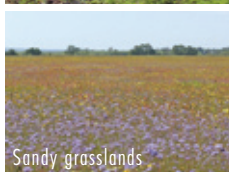
Groundwater



Hanöbukten Bay



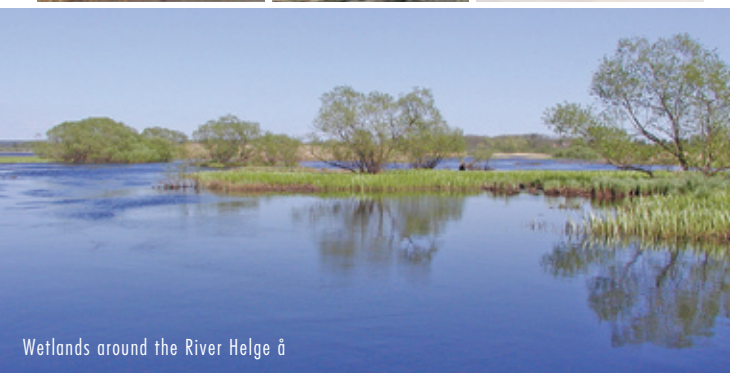
Forests on the ridge



Sandy grasslands



Coastal dunes



Wetlands around the River Helge å

# Biosphere reserves

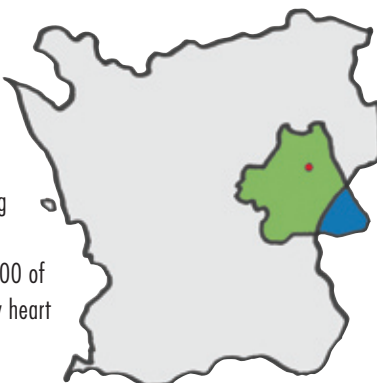
*for the benefit of man and nature*

◆ Biosphere reserves represent a new aspect of Swedish nature conservation, involving the preservation and development of large areas of the countryside that possess high natural values. These biosphere reserves then serve as models for other areas.



◆ Biosphere reserve status is accorded by UNESCO in conjunction with its "Man and the Biosphere Programme" (MAB). Biosphere reserves have been created in every part of the world, contributing to a global network for the exchange of experience and ideas. UNESCO approved the application submitted by Kristianstads Vattenrike in 2005. The number of biosphere reserves in 2007 is 530 in a total of 105 countries.

◆ Kristianstads Vattenrike Biosphere Reserve lies within a densely populated area of Skåne. The reserve covers an area measuring roughly 35 by 35 kilometres, totalling more than 100,000 hectares. Some 75,000 people live here, 29,000 of them in Kristianstad itself, at the very heart of the biosphere reserve.



## Contact us at the Biosphere Office!

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Read more about Kristianstads Vattenrike — nature, culture, visitors' sites and biosphere reserve on our website: [www.vattenriket.kristianstad.se](http://www.vattenriket.kristianstad.se)

# Biosphere Reserve Kristianstads Vattenrike®

UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme



PHOTO: PATRIK OLOFSSON/N

*Kristianstads Vattenrike Biosphere Reserve is a model area for the conservation and development of high natural values.*

*The way to a more sustainable future.*