

Mapping and restoring fens and lean wet meadows

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Challenges

➤ **Fens and lean wet meadows** are among the **most endangered** habitats in the cultural landscape, esp. in the Waldviertel (AT)

➤ Serious threat due to **drainage and more intensive use**

➤ **Loss of:**

- Provision of important ESS (flood protection, CO₂ sequestration)
- Biodiversity (valuable, often priority habitats and the hosted plant and animal species)
- Protective objects, i.a.:
FFH habitat type 6410, 6230
FFH species 1059, 1060, 1061

➤ **Needed improvements:**

- Stop of wetland drainage & fen renaturation
- Appropriate management of wet meadows

Why is the project interesting?

It targets a topic of utmost importance and mitigate the **biodiversity & climate crisis** by **protecting** fragile and **highly threatened habitats and species**



Sangisorba officinalis, a typical species for wet meadows



Objectives

Overall, in the long-term, the project aims to:

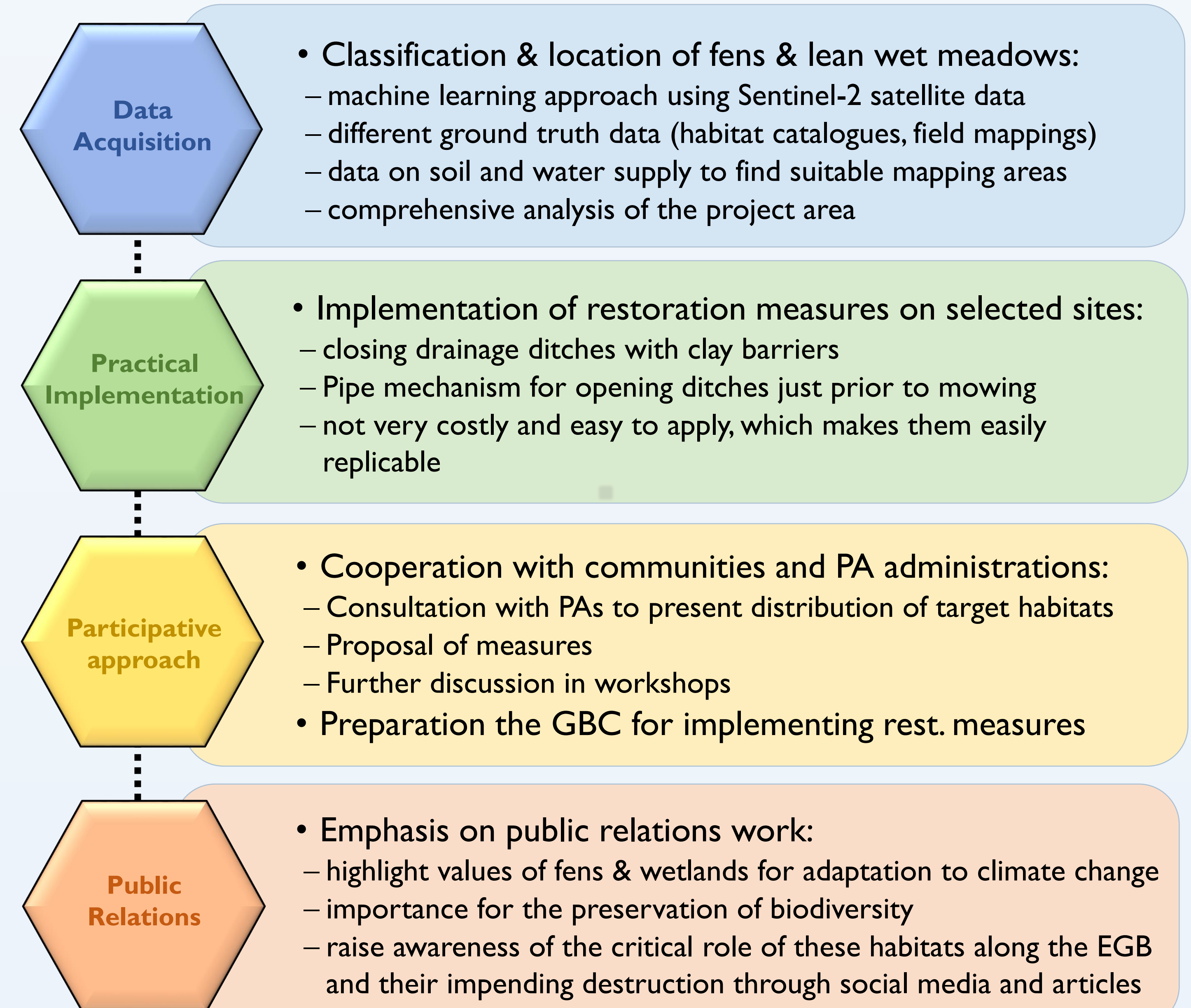
- **Favorable conservation** status of FFH habitats & species
- **Secured provision** of important ecosystem services
- **Tackle biodiversity loss & climate change** along the EGB European Green Belt (EGB)
- **Reach people along the EGB**, communicate the vision and goals of the European initiative, make them feel part of it

The desired outcomes can be summed up as:

- Build-up knowledge about the occurrence of fens and lean wet meadows in the project area
- Testing sustainable management method for fens & lean wet meadows
- Increase the conservation status of 3 fens/lean wet meadows sites
- Spread knowledge about the value of wetlands & fens, their restoration and the Green Belt Europe in general
- Implementation of a Green Belt Camp

Approach

The project's strategy follows several approaches to achieve its goals:



Project overview

Lead partner:



Project partner:



Duration:

November 2022 – December 2023

More information:

<https://www.noe-naturschutzbund.at>

Location: Western Waldviertel region, Lower Austria

