



Project „Lebendiger Weinberg“ (living vineyard) – How Nature and Culture come together and Wine-Growing Areas turn into Nature Experience Areas

The Challenge For centuries, nature and culture come together in vineyards. And because wine grows best where there is a mild climate and a lot of sun, many sun-seeking wild animals have made the vineyard their space to live. Wall and sand lizards, various butterflies like the wall brown or the old world swallowtail, or numerous bumblebees and other wild bees. Together with different plants like common rue, iris, and pokeweed, they are all part of an ecologically valuable biocoenosis.

In areas where grape-vine remained on steep slopes – terraced with stone walls – there is often still a manifold flora and fauna. But in areas where between 1960 and 1990 land consolidations changed the vineyards in order to make cultivation easier, the former diversity of an almost Mediterranean habitat has disappeared. Even though we cannot put the wheel of history into reverse, at least we can be more responsible in the future. Thus, the conviction that we do not have to accept clear-cut slopes as an irreversible fact becomes more and more accepted. And this is the idea of the project “Lebendiger Weinberg” (living vineyard). Together with winegrowers and winemakers, the conditions in formerly consolidated winegrowing areas are to be changed in such way as to connect different habitats and thus create recreation areas for endangered plants and animals. Besides that, the project aims at a conservation of the historical vineyards terraced with stone walls.

The Project The objective of the project is the greening of formerly consolidated vineyards. This is not only important for groundwater and soil protection, but is also to lead to such an extensification as to allow a higher biodiversity and create new recreation areas for example in curves of paths or chevron shaped rows.

The project is a concrete contribution to the biodiversity strategy of the German federal state Baden-Wuerttemberg and the Federal Government. It combines practical environment protection, conservation of local habits, and tourism.

Superior Objectives

- Soil and groundwater protection
- Improved connection of different habitats in order to protect and create living space for endangered plants and animals
- Conservation of plants which used to accompany the grape vines
- Wide environmental education and support of a sustainable tourism

First Measures and Achievements

- Issue of guidelines for owners and cultivators of vineyards
- Education of numerous vine dressers
- First planting measures to resettle those plant species which used to accompany the grape vines and formerly were widespread in the vineyards, but today are endangered
- Creation of areas in which endangered plants can proliferate
- Travelling exhibition

Literature Hutter, C.-P., Bäder, G., Gemmrich, A.: *Aktion Lebendiger Weinberg, Weinbaugebiete als Naturerlebnislandschaften* (project living vineyard – wine-growing areas as nature experience areas), LBBW Umweltstiftung (nature foundation).



NatureLife-International
Foundation for environment, education and sustainability
Bahnhofstrasse 35
71638 Ludwigsburg
Germany
Telephone +49-7141-92 03 21
Fax +49-7141-90 11 83
claus-peter.hutter@naturelife-international.org
www.naturelife-international.org