



# Amphibian Conservation and Habitat Restoration

## Preoperational Study Taarup Strand

Author: Niels Damm



Version 1, January 2021

Project: Amphibian Conservation and Habitat Conservation  
LIFE18 NAT/SI/000711 – LIFE AMPHICON

Action: A.1 Inventory and Site Specific Plans for Project Sites

Deliverable name: Preoperational Study: Taarup Strand

Beneficiaries responsible for implementation:

**Amphi International ApS**  
Forskerparken 10  
DK-5230 Odense M

Written by: Niels Damm, univ.dipl.biol.

Work group: **Amphi International ApS**  
Niels Damm, univ. dipl. biol.  
Lars Briggs, univ. dipl. biol.  
Florian Bibelriether, univ. dipl. biol.  
Ute Thiergärtner, univ. dipl. biol.

Date: 26. 1. 2021

Recommended citation:

Damm, N., 2021. Preoperational Study: Taarup Strand.

.

LIFE AMPHICON project is co-financed by the LIFE programme of the European Union, the Slovenian Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, Bistrica ob Sotli Municipality, and the project partners. The content of the deliverable document reflects only the author's view. The Executive Agency for Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (EASME) nor the European Commission are responsible for any use that may be made of the information it contains.

Content

- 1. Introduction..... 4
- 2. Method..... 4
- 3. Results ..... 4
- 4. Evaluation of status ..... 4

## 1. Introduction

The LIFE AmphiCon project focuses on amphibian conservation in Slovenia, Germany and Denmark. In Slovenia, Germany, and Denmark amphibians are undergoing a significant decline mainly caused by a loss of suitable aquatic and terrestrial habitats. The project will mitigate this within the project areas by creating or restoring core amphibian habitats for the fire-bellied toad in Slovenia, Germany and Denmark, yellow-bellied toad in Slovenia and Italian crested newt in Slovenia. Also a rearing programme will be set up for the fire-bellied toad in all three countries.

*Bombina bombina* exists in two populations within the Natura2000 site on the east coast of Fyn: Taarup Strand and Klintholm. Taarup Strand is a very small population situated on a camping site which is surrounded by summer houses and mostly farmed land. The population at Klintholm is much larger probably counting some few hundreds adult frogs.

## 2. Method

The population of *Bombina bombina* at Taarup Strand has been monitored several times during May 2020 on warm and sunny afternoons with no wind. The number of calling males have been determined by means of binocular and by hearing the different tones of the individuals. During late summer breeding success have been monitored by searching toadlets at the edge of the ponds.

## 3. Results

Only two calling males have been heard in the central and largest pond „Lergraven“ (the clay pit) and the toads were calling only rather late in the season. No breeding success could be found at the ponds. This is a clear sign that the population is highly endangered and is no longer reproducing itself.

## 4. Evaluation of status

The Natura2000 site only covers the camping site and is standing alone completely inadequate in size in order to sustain a viable population of *Bombina bombina* in the long run. The site is surrounded by intensive conventional farmed land and there is a great lack of migration corridors outside the site with permanent grass lands. *Bombina bombina* thrives best in large sites with a number of suitable habitats that they can migrate between throughout the season. The sub populations of *Bombina bombina* in the surrounding landscape are separated by distances larger than 1.000 m and thus the exchange of individuals between the populations is only theoretical. The population size is as small as it can be and still existing. Only two calling males were heard in 2020. There is a great risk of sudden extinction and of inbreeding depression. There is an urgent need to higher the population level and presumably also to support the genetic diversity.

Based on the current preoperational study a work plan has been prepared identifying the threats to the population and actions to counteract these.



*The breeding pond at Taarup Strand.*