

## BIODIVERSITY CASE STUDY

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| <b>Objective</b>  | Expansion of a network of biotopes for amphibians, especially Yellow-bellied Toad ( <i>Bombina variegata</i> ) and Great Crested Newt ( <i>Triturus cristatus</i> ), both classified as endangered to critically endangered species.  |
| <b>Context</b>  | In the course of exploiting Neuburg Siliceous Earth there are very often left biotopes. Since 1963 the open pits were filled again with neutral earth and, after recultivating, small mostly shallow pools were developed for collecting surface water on the unstructured soil. Some of them fell dry but the company learned how to establish long-term biotopes on crude soil and to preserve them at early stages of natural succession what is crucial to reproduction of <i>bombina variegata</i> . At later stages <i>Triturus cristatus</i> finds its place beside the earlier entering Alpine Newt ( <i>Triturus alpestris</i> ), Common Newt ( <i>Triturus vulgaris</i> ) and European tree frog ( <i>Hyla arborea</i> ). |
| <b>Solution</b>   | The point is to develop a sustainable network of shallow pools convenient for reproduction of <i>bombina variegata</i> . Suitable Places may be in present open pit mines, on recultivated former exploitation sites and also between.  |
| <b>Result</b>   | Over a large area the network is already established.   |
| <b>Local Partner(s):</b>  | The company acts in close contact with and in consultation by the amphibian specialists of BUND Bavaria.  |
| <b>Is the project that you are describing located in, adjacent to, or contains protected areas or areas of high biodiversity value outside protected areas?</b> | The project is located in the protected area of Naturpark Altmühltal and contains protected areas FFH which originated in recultivated former exploitation sites. In the meantime the area of the project contains dozens of places of high biodiversity value, not always with a mining history but in any case sustained by the network.  |

