

# Information about the NATIONAL PARK SENNE project

In 1991 the state parliament of North Rhine-Westphalia unanimously passed the following resolution :

**„After completion of military use, a National Park Senne has to be established immediately. The State Parliament requests the State Government to undertake all necessary measures.“**

(STATE PARLIAMENT NORTH RHINE-WESTPHALIA, plenary protocol 11/28, Düsseldorf 1991)

Military use of the MILITARY TRAINING AREA SENNE, under the headquarters of the British Rhine Army continues until today, but the region has not lost sight of finalizing the establishment of NATIONAL PARK SENNE. Beside military use, nature could develop in exceptional quality. Today the landscape in the Senne area is stamped by crystal-clear natural brooks, fascinating heath- and moorlands as well as extensive pine forests. These are also a result of the eventful history of this landscape.



Today the Senne area is considered to be an outstanding biotope complex in North Rhine-Westphalia. It is classified by the Europarc Federation, Section Germany (FÖNAD), as a region fulfilling the criteria of a National Park.



On May 16<sup>th</sup> 1998, the PROMOTION ASSOCIATION NATIONAL PARK SENNE was founded. One of its main objectives is to help planning towards the establishment of a NATIONAL PARK SENNE in an **informing, integrating and advisory** way.

The landscape of the Senne comprises approximately 250 km<sup>2</sup>, of which the MILITARY TRAINING AREA SENNE covers about 113 km<sup>2</sup>. Since 2002 the MILITARY TRAINING AREA SENNE has been a protected area, recognized by the European Union (SAC), and represents a central junction in the net of nature protection preference areas within the European Union.

## Facts about the MILITARY TRAINING AREA SENNE

Today the Military training area Senne (MTA) covers an area of 11320 hectare.

Figure 1: Ownership structures on the MTA Senne

Owner	Surface area (ha)
Federal Republic of Germany	10702
„Prinz zur Lippe“	577
„Lippischer Landesverband“	41

**At present the Military training area Senne is under British command and is predominantly used as an infantry exercise area.**

### Nature conservation potential:

- very high species and biotope diversity
- conservation and documentation of and research into natural processes
- non-fragmented large landscape area
- no agricultural use
- no settlements
- habitats poor nutritive quality

### Biotope spectrum

(selection, surface area in hectares)

- |   |      |
|---|------|
| • dry heath   | 1900 |
| • poor nutritive grassland                                    | 400  |
| • wet heath   | 88   |
| • moor land   | 30   |
| • dunes (non-forested)  | 60   |
| • water meadow /marsh forest                                  | 85   |
| • forest succession   | 330  |
| • zonale forest communities                                   | 710  |
| • spare vegetation communities<br>(predominantly pine forest) | 5100 |

Undisturbed run-off systems extend to a length of 55 km.

### Species diversity (selection)

- 40 species of mammals
- 111 species of breeding birds
- 12 species of fish
- 15 species of amphibians
- 1150 species of butterflies
- 1500 species of beetles
- 47 species of dragonflies
- 23 species of locusts
- 800 species of ferns and phanerogames
- 1200 species of large-scale mushrooms
- 313 species of mosses

## PROMOTION ASSOCIATION NATIONAL PARK SENNE

### Aim and purpose

- education and public relations
- conservation research
- conservation politics

in connection with the idea of the NATIONAL PARK SENNE.

### Information - integration - consulting

In co-operation with the government, municipalities, military, nature conservation and the local population the Promotion Association National Park Senne supports the establishment of National Park Senne.

### Regional development

The establishment of a National Park Senne increases the attractiveness of tourism- and spa resort in the region of East-Westphalia, creates new jobs and provides additional investment.

A National Park - also an impulse for the regional development.

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