The International Union of Railways (UIC) is the worldwide professional association representing the railway sector and promoting rail transport. UIC leads an innovative and dynamic sector, helping our members find opportunities and build success. The purpose of UIC's Ecological Effects of Railways on Wildlife (rEvERsE) project is to understand railway's role in the loss and gain of biodiversity and its habitats in Europe. It will seek to set out how railways can manage land in an ecologically sensitive way, providing solutions and best practice examples.

ÖBB

uic

ECOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF RAILWAYS ON WILDLIFE
REVERSE

UIC is seeking solutions and best practice to manage rail lineside in a way that can help **halt and reverse the loss of biodiversity**.

This poster provides information about Theme 6:
"Organisational KPIs, and ideally where these have evidence of biodiversity gain"

AUSTRIA CASE STUDY

During the course of building a new high-performance railway line from Vienna to Salzburg, a 13.3 km system beneath the Vienna Woods was constructed. Excavation material from the tunnel was deposited in an old waste landfill site on Taglesberg in the Vienna Woods

THE SOLUTION

Crossing Originating in the 1980s, this site did not meet environmental regulations and was a contamination threat to the groundwater in that area. Consequently, the site was registered as an area of suspected contamination. The entire clean-up, restoration and landfill activities took place over a seven-year period (between November 2001 and December 2008). In 2007, 1.1 million tonnes of excavation material were deposited at that site, most of it transported in a very environmentally friendly way using a conveyor belt. All the deposited material was profiled in order to fit into the typical landscape of the Vienna Woods, which is an important recreation area for the inhabitants of the city. In 2005, the region was declared a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. Due to the zoning of the Biosphere Reserve, the dumpsite has become part of the Biosphere Reserve management zone. Hence, the huge landscape pit of the former waste dump has been transformed into a smooth terrain, ready to become part of the forest again. The whole area has been replanted with plants such as red clover and bur clover that grow roots deep into the ground. Thousands of local trees and bushes have been replanted as well. The reforestation took place, in part, in cooperation with local elementary schools, to keep children in touch with nature and to familiarise them with the transport infrastructure project. The reforestation was

planned and coordinated by the Austrian Federal Forests. Whilst the forest authority required a complete reforestation of the dumpsite (8 ha), biological monitoring over the following years revealed that some sub-areas of the landfill site, especially where forest development did not meet expectations, showed highly valuable transition habitats for rare species of plants, insects, reptiles, amphibians and birds. This monitoring work enabled the retention of this valuable, open biodiverse habitat. The Biosphere Reserve management team will take care of the maintenance programme and organise volunteers for conservation activities

Keywords: Re-forestation, reserve

ÖBB CONTACT Thomas Schuh

landuse@uic.org