



Deutscher Verband für
Landschaftspflege

Landcare Associations in Germany

We love Landscapes



Diverse landscapes are crucial for our quality of life

While fascinating us with its variety of habitats and species, nature at the same time also represents the vital foundation of our quality of life and our prosperity. It is for this reason that Landcare Germany and its members are committed to conserving and developing our landscapes.

Collaboration is the key to success

Farmers, conservationists and representatives of the local communities who team up in Landcare Associations work on a voluntary basis and share the same rights. Their close cooperation is the backbone for mutual understanding, trust and acceptance. These are the best possible conditions for implementing even complex measures.

Preserving vibrant landscapes for generations to come

Meadow orchards, hedgerows, species-rich grassland and other landscape elements can only be preserved if used and cared for continuously. Usually, Landcare Associations collaborate with local farmers for the management of the landscape in their region. This ensures that farming businesses can earn a second income and supports regional development.

Landcare associations care for Natura 2000 habitats to protect important species such as the crane.





Richly structured landscapes sheltering rare plants and animals are both mesmerizing and inviting further exploration.

Helping farmers preserve nature

Numerous farmers are happy to voluntarily take responsibility for preserving nature. It also helps them create additional income. One farmer, for instance, will mow small patches on steep mountain meadows to sell hay mixed with a diversity of fragrant herbs. Another farmer will graze his sheep on moorland pastures to market their high quality and locally produced meat. These services are invaluable and grouped in the category of »Agricultural nature conservation«. Landcare Associations strive to give these farming businesses a long-term perspective by offering them advice and expertise.

Strengthening regional value-chains

Food as local products, such as fruit juices or meat from grazing animals, as well as locally produced sheep wool or wicker baskets have become immensely popular. As soon as people learn where their product comes from and who makes it, they develop trust in the product and appreciation of the farmer's work.

Customers are also willing to pay a fair price. Landcare Associations support the development of regional value chains and organize events such as farmers' markets. Aside from strengthening the farming businesses, Landcare Associations give a major boost to the entire region.

Connecting habitats

Many endangered species will only survive if they live in connected habitats. Landcare Associations engage themselves in networking biotopes. They provide mosaics in the landscape by establishing corridors which they create or amplify in cooperation with farmers and communities, or by planting hedges and restoring natural stretches of water.

Protecting the climate by natural means

Plants have the ability to bind atmospheric gases. This ability presents a natural way of protecting the climate. Protecting forests and keeping moorland landscapes or grassland areas intact is an efficient way to conserve vital carbon sinks. Anyone who plants trees or hedges will bind carbon in a natural way. Furthermore, restoring marshes or flood plains will help lower greenhouse gas emissions and thereby re-establish their natural ability as carbon sinks. Landcare Associations organize climate protection by natural measures.

Climate protection is a relatively new challenge, which also affects biodiversity and healthy waters, soil and landscapes in a positive way.

Preparing landscapes for change

Being responsible for higher temperatures, altered precipitation patterns and an increasing number of extreme weather events, climate change also has a profound impact on our landscapes. It is important to prepare our cultural landscapes for this. For example, restoring retention zones in riverbeds can reduce the risk of flooding. In addition, marshland can store tremendous amounts of water. In cities, hedges and natural parks can contribute to a more pleasant and cooler climate.

Creating spaces for rest and nature experience

Landcare Associations offer various possibilities to enjoy nature. They arouse people's interest in nature by organising tours as well as nature and experience trails. The organisations also create recreational areas by enhancing parks and landscapes using such compensating measures as planting hedges or maintaining flowering meadows. Thus tourism profits in this region.

Playing in nature inspires the senses and imagination.



Guiding principle of Landcare Germany, DVL

We are ... the umbrella organisation for all landcare associations in Germany. The characteristic of Landcare Germany and all of its members is that they form a voluntary association of equals who engage in the fields of agriculture and forestry, nature conservation and politics.

We aim to ... improve biodiversity and a high quality in our cultural landscapes in a modern und sustainable way. Everything we do reflects a commitment to those who manage to combine their production and value creation activities in the countryside with the preservation of habitats for plants and animals.

We offer ... professional service and consulting for the preservation of landscapes and our natural resources in Germany.

We offer a platform for those involved in agriculture and forestry, nature conservation and politics to meet and network. We also champion with great dedication all topics centred on landcare. We concentrate and advance the interests and experiences of our members on both a national, and a European level.

We operate ... with practical solutions and sustainable recommendations for the long term. Our thinking and acting is deeply rooted in the practical experience gained by our member associations.

We promote our topics in an objective and professional manner. For this, we cooperate with our members, other interest groups, representatives of science and administration and political bodies.

Scottish highland cattle help preserve the cultivated landscape and graze even in wintertime. One example of how a natural landscape can be utilised in an economically sustainable way.





Landcare Associations ...

... are regional organisations that allow people working in agriculture and forestry, nature conservation and local municipalities to work together with equal rights and in close cooperation. All Landcare Associations preserve the regional cultural landscapes as habitats that can be shared by nature and all the people living and working in them. Landcare Germany is the umbrella organisation for all Landcare Associations operating in Germany. It provides support and a joint network for the various member organisations.



Landcare Germany – Deutscher Verband für Landschaftspflege e.V.

Feuchtwanger Straße 38, 91522 Ansbach, Germany

Phone +49 (0)981 4653-3540, Fax +49 (0)981 4653-3550; Email: info@lpv.de

www.landschaftspflegeverband.de

www.gruendung.lpv.de

Printed on material made of 100 % recycled paper.