Contact:

Kerstin Heemann
Gesa Wannick
Kathrin Wiener

DBU Naturerbe Press Office:

An der Bornau 2
49090 Osnabrück
Germany
Phone: +49(541)9633-660
Fax: +49(541)9633-690
E-mail: naturerbe@dbu.de
https://www.dbu.de/naturerbe

DBU Natural Heritage (Last update: 10/2026)

Establishment

DBU Natural Heritage (*DBU Naturerbe*) was founded in 2007 as a non-profit subsidiary of the German Federal Environmental Foundation (*Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt, DBU*) in Osnabrück for the environmentally sound management of what are now 66 DBU natural heritage sites.



Senior management and employees

The Managing Director of DBU Naturerbe GmbH is DBU Secretary General Alexander Bonde. DBU Naturerbe GmbH has a total of 24 employees. Furthermore, the company has also signed a service agreement with the Institute for Federal Real Estate. The employees in the State-Owned Forest division are responsible for on-site management of the DBU natural heritage sites.

Mission

The main mission of the DBU subsidiary is to actively secure and manage what are currently 66 sites in 10 German states, totalling roughly 70,000 hectares of natural heritage areas across the entire country. To this end, the Institute for Federal Real Estate has gradually transferred over sites that, for the most part, were previously used for military purposes to DBU Naturerbe since 2008. Using dynamic natural conservation efforts, the forests, wetlands, rivers and streams are restored to as near-natural a condition as possible. Through targeted maintenance measures, areas of non-forested land created through human use are maintained in accordance with the principles of protective natural conservation. In cooperation with the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation and the respective states, site-specific conservation measures are laid out in mission statements for every site Furthermore, the DBU subsidiary creates natural heritage development plans for every site that define the framework for the measures that will be carried out over the next 10 years. Lastly, through local environmental education offers, it helps to increase awareness of the environment and conservation amongst the general population.

Germany's natural heritage

Germany has a special responsibility to protect its diverse landscapes, its natural heritage. In order to preserve this national heritage, the German Federal Government has handed over a total of around 164,000 hectares of areas of national significance to DBU Naturerbe GmbH and nature conservancies – a golden opportunity for natural conservation in Germany!