

A person wearing a blue helmet and a red and white jersey is riding a motorcycle on a dirt track. The track is a mix of brown earth and patches of green grass. In the background, there are more tracks and some other riders. The foreground is dominated by tall, green grass with some dried, tan-colored seed heads. The overall scene is outdoors and appears to be a motocross or enduro event.

**Motor tracks  
and  
biodiversity  
- Update 2018**

# A paradigm shift

Between 2013-2017 Svemo received environmental funding grants from four regional authorities in Sweden



County board of Uppsala

County board of  
Västmanland

County board of  
Östergötland

County board of Skåne

# In 2017 a big study was conducted in Landskrona (south of Sweden) - great results in the inventory of insects on a motocross track

NATURCENTRUM AB



## INSEKTER PÅ SAXTORPS MOTORBANA 2017 - fjärilar, steklar och skalbaggar



RAPPORT 2017-11-14

Örjan Fritz, Niklas Franc & Niklas Johansson



- The overall assessment from the experts behind the study was that the track houses a lot of valuable insect fauna.
- Many of these species are linked to open flowery sandy fields – which the track offer.
- The high biological values would disappear if the operation of the track ceased as it would lead to rapid regrowth of the sandy environments.



LANDSKRONA STAD



SVEMO  
SVERIGES MOTOCYKEL- OCH MOTORCYKELFÖRENING

# In 2017 a big study was conducted in Landskrona (south of Sweden) - great results in the inventory of insects on a motocross track



A total of 294 species of insects were collected from Saxtorp's track in 2017. This can only be seen as a subset of the number of insects present in the area. Of these were 23 red-listed species, ie species whose survival in Sweden is not secured in the long run. But they exist here thanks to the activities on and around the track.



# In 2017 a big study was conducted in Landskrona (south of Sweden) - great results in the inventory of insects on a motocross track

NATURCENTRUM AB

INSEKTER PÅ SAXTORPS MOTORBANA 2017  
- fjärilar, steklar och skalbaggar



RAPPORT 2017-11-14  
Orijan Fritz, Niklas Franc & Niklas Johansson



- The study was funded by Landskrona Municipality, a big Swedish national conservation fund (LONA) and Svemo. Local club Landskrona MK participated.
- The county board of Skåne approved the project.
- The Swedish local nature conservation initiative (LONA) is a large national effort to increase local initiatives in the work of local conservation.
- The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency manages the LONA registry promoting good examples nationally, where this project and other Svemo projects now are listed.

# In 2017 a big study was conducted in Landskrona (south of Sweden) – conclusions from the experts conducting the study:

## What makes the motocross-track so special for insects according to the study?

There may be several explanations as to why the track is so attractive to sand living insects. The presence of the following structures is considered important for these species:

- Sun-exposed environments
- Open sand areas
- Topographic variation
- Different types of structures, such as hills, sinks, pits
- Wind protected climateally hot micro environments
- A lot of different flowers with a large amount of flowering species that dissolve each other during the season.

NÄTLURCENTRUM AB

### INSEKTER PÅ SAXTORPS MOTORBANA 2017 - fjärilar, steklar och skalbaggar



RAPPORT 2017-11-14  
Örjan Fritz, Niklas Franc & Niklas Johansson



## Another example: Inventory of insects Järva MX (Stockholm)

- The professional inventories in 2015 and 2016 resulted in the recording of 189 species of insects!
- Meaning the track is much more species-rich than the surrounding areas



# ENDURO

## GRAND PRIX

ENKÖPING SWEDEN

13-15 juni 2014

[www.endurovm.se](http://www.endurovm.se)



# SVEMO

SVENSKA MOTORCYKEL- OCH SNÖSKOTERFÖRBUNDET



FÖRSVARSMAKTEN





A lot of pinetrees later!



Local club opened up a "grand stand" for humans and other species in dialogue with local government



## The results 2016 after the Swedish Enduro GP in 2014 in Enköping:



The results in 2016 after the efforts in 2014 were great, instead of a young dark pine wood forest, now a species and flower rich meadow.

## Example of another track in Svemo's biodiversity project - Arboga

Pretty quick results, moor frogs found a new home and a variety of rather rare insects could be found after improving habitats

*The newly dug pond (below) has been a reproduction site for moor frogs (Rana arvalis.) Pictures were taken on June 27<sup>th</sup> 2013. Professor Nils Ryrholm is seen below.*



*Trichusa byssina.*



*Astata boops.*

## Another good example: Guided nature tour on Finspångs track

In 2016 the Nature Conservation Association in Finspång and County Board in Östergötland had a guided tour on Finspång's MX track.



"Insect-hotel" built in Finspång.

Club planted 500 plants of devil's-bit scabious.

## What does the science literature say?

- The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation, The Swedish Taxonomy Initiative (the Swedish Species Information Centre).
- The mentioned above have all reported on the potential of motortracks for increased biodiversity.
- Now we are building up even more empirical evidence...



# What should the FIM offer environment authorities?

Open unfertilized ground not treated with pesticides

Continuous disturbance on the ground – hinders overgrowth

Fresh dust/mineralisation of the ground

Enthusiasts serving/nursing the ground

Grounds with a high biodiversity

Grounds which already are home for many endangered species

Grounds that can become even more diverse biologically  
valuable with simple adjustments of the treatment

No additional cost for the environment authorities

**Habitats which will lose their biological value if the  
tracks are closed!**

Habitats in many different areas





# ***Gains for the sport (as well for the environment)***

- Tracks will gradually become to be seen as an environment asset

The clubs will be seen as a more important asset for the community

“Natural friends” will not act against tracks and activities

Environmentalists will start to support the  
“survival” of the tracks

Tracks and clubs that are seen as an environmental  
resource will have it easier to find sponsors

- In the long run clubs may be able to obtain environ-  
mental support and hence strengthen their economy

- Biodiversity may thus become a source of  
income for the clubs/societies

# In summary:

The motor track changes character

From: an environmental problem

To: an resource for both  
the environment and  
society

# Educational and "hands-on" visits to around 50 Svemo clubs so far (since 2011)



## **Svemo biodiversity project**

- Started in 2011 in cooperation with Prof. Nils Ryrholm (University of Gävle)
- We give specific written advice to each club we visit
- Professional photos added
- We note management-advice and found species at each track
- Clubs receive protocols with advice after each visit

## **Svemo biodiversity project**

- We have also visited the DMU (Denmark), KNMV (the Netherlands) and Malta (FIM-Congress 2015).
- Good to share experiences and knowledge internationally!

## Svemo biodiversity project

- Some may ask/say: This is only applicable in Sweden!? No...
- Biodiversity is important everywhere on earth and since most club activities provide/create more favorable habitats than the "modern" used landscape, the message is applicable everywhere.
- Although the conditions differ in different climates and, of course, regional/local adaption is necessary.



DN.se



Positive  
environmental  
national media  
attention!

# Svemo biodiversity project – some results/benefits

## BENEFITS:

- Attract new environmental aware sponsors
- Svemo-membership = big (environmental) benefit for the clubs
- Better contact/service for Svemo-clubs
- Lesser risks and strain for the clubs

**SVEMO**

SVENSKA MOTORCYKEL- OCH SNÖSKOTERFÖRBUNDET



# Svemo biodiversity project – some results/benefits

## BENEFITS:

- Enhanced environmental knowledge and confidence for the club representatives
- Easier for the club to communicate with environment authorities
- A positive environmental aspect for the sport!

**ESVEMO**

SVENSKA MOTORCYKEL- OCH SNÖSKOTERFÖRBUNDET

# Questions?

Contact: [mikael.noren@svemo.se](mailto:mikael.noren@svemo.se)



**SVEMO**

SVENSKA MOTORCYKEL- OCH SNÖSKOTERFÖRBUNDET