



# LMBV – The Company

A key role in Transformation

# We create safe post-mining landscapes

## Company

To redevelop, to flood and to recultivate former lignite pits and mines of the former GDR – those are the core tasks of LMBV (Lausitzer und Mitteldeutschen Bergbau-Verwaltungsgesellschaft mbH). The company was founded in 1994 to handle the phasing out and restructuring of non-privatised mining operations in Lusatia and Central Germany. In 2014, the backfilling and securing of underground mines decommissioned since the early 1990s in the states of Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt and Thuringia became also a part of the missions of the federally owned company.

With about 650 employees, LMBV is aware of its legal obligation in the field of mining. Former industrial areas were dismantled, lignite pits and mines secured, flooded, and the surrounding areas and dumps recultivated.



Lusatian Lake District from above

## Responsibility

A total of ten billion euros of federal and state funds were allocated from 1990 until the end of 2016 for the redevelopment of lignite mining sites, in order to secure closed mines and to implement further necessary projects for enabling re-use.

LMBV is aware of the great responsibility it carries for the people in these regions. More than 20 years of experience in remediation and recultivation will also be employed in the coming years to build on past successes and, in so doing, to support the structural change of the regions.

## Remediation

The last lignite mining sites of LMBV were taken out of operation in 1999. Since then the focus has been on realizing decommissioning plans as well as on enabling the re-use and conversion of the areas used for former lignite mining.

This creates the conditions for a comprehensive restructuring for the recovery of the former mining regions. Remediation creates new perspectives for both man and nature.



Drop-plate compaction in the former mining area of Wulfersdorf



LMBV remediation ship "Klara" being used for the improvement of the water quality of post-mining lakes

## Flooding

Lignite extraction had reached deep into the water supply. Until 1990, cones of depression in the groundwater were formed with depths up to 80 metres. Refilling of the aquifer is necessary to restore a balanced water supply that regulates itself as much as possible. Including the flooding of the open pit mines as well, a total of 12.7 billion cubic metres of water is required.

By using the natural groundwater stream after configuration of the pumping systems and with the help of external flooding from surrounding rivers, over 80 per cent of the water demand has been covered so far. 30 of the 52 larger mining lakes have reached their final water level, and 20 more are still being flooded. During the gradual transition from the flooding phase to the after-care phase, water treatment is of increasing importance, in particular pH neutralisation and the reduction of substances into water bodies.

## Recultivation

LMBV acquired about 107,000 hectares of land that had been used for mining. So far, agricultural and forested lands have been recultivated and several thousands of hectares have been left to natural development. On behalf of LMBV, around 11,000 hectares of new forests consisting of deciduous and coniferous species native to the region have been established so far. LMBV has planted over 100 million trees and created 1,600 hectares of productive agricultural area. More than 10,000 hectares serve as public areas for nature conservation and for tourism.

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