

BARNDOMSEGN  
I FORVANDLING  
CHILDHOOD REGION  
IN TRANSFORMATION

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## Barndomsegn i forvandling

Store forandringer er i gang her på min barndomsegn i Østhimmerland. I løbet af få årtier vil landskabet fremstå som grundlæggende forvandlet – og forvandlingen er allerede i fuld gang.

Lille Vildmose er i dag en af Danmarks største naturfredninger, og farvandet langs østkysten er også fredet. Planerne om at genskabe moseområdet til sin oprindelige udstrækning – før mennesket dræned store arealer og lagde dem under plov – er ikke længere blot visioner. De er ved at blive til virkelighed.

Hertil kommer en række lavlandsområder, bl.a. langs vores åer, som nu lægges tilbage som natur. Store søer reetableres, og betydelige arealer udlægges til skov. Kombinerer man dette med, at vi allerede har Danmarks største sammenhængende skovområde, Rold Skov, mod vest og en af landets smukkeste

fjorde, Mariager Fjord, mod syd, tegner der sig et billede af et naturmekka i Østhimmerland uden sidestykke i Danmark.

De store omlægninger er drevet frem af nye krav til klimaforbedringer, beskyttelse af grundvandet og en gennemgribende omstilling af dansk landbrug – ikke mindst svinebruget.

Selv har jeg altid set miljøødelæggelse som noget, der rækker langt dybere end teknik og lovgivning. Det handler om kultur. Et folk, der ødelægger sit eget naturgrundlag, undergraver fundamentet for sin egen eksistens – på kort sigt såvel som langt. En kultur, der ikke formår at leve i pagt med planetens økosystemer, bærer kimen til sin egen undergang i sig.

Ugens fotografier er fra Østhimmerland, juli 2012.

## Childhood Region in Transformation

Major changes are underway here in the region where I grew up, in Eastern Himmerland. Within just a few decades, the landscape will appear fundamentally transformed—and the transformation is already well underway.

Today, the raised bog, Lille Vildmose, is one of Denmark's largest protected nature reserves, and the waters along the east coast are also protected. The plans to restore the bogland to its original extent—before humans drained large areas and converted them into farmland—are no longer merely visions. They are becoming reality.

In addition, several lowland areas, including those along our rivers, are now being returned to nature. Large lakes are being re-established, and significant areas are being designated as forest. When this is combined with the fact that we already have Denmark's largest continuous forest area, Rold Forest, to the west, and one of the country's most

beautiful fjords, Mariager Fjord, to the south, a picture emerges of a natural paradise in Eastern Himmerland unlike anything else in Denmark.

These major transformations are being driven by new requirements for climate improvement, groundwater protection, and a comprehensive restructuring of Danish agriculture—especially pig farming.

I have always viewed environmental destruction as something that goes far deeper than technology and legislation. It is about culture. A people who destroys the natural foundation on which they depend undermine the basis of their own existence—both in the short term and the long term. A culture that cannot live in harmony with the planet's ecosystems carries within itself the seeds of its own downfall.

This week's photographs are from Eastern Himmerland, July 2012.



Østhimmerland, juli 2012

East Himmerland, July 2012



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## KOLOFON

Ugens foto: Barndomsegn i forvandling  
Af Keld Jensen

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## COLOPHON

Photo of the week: Childhood Region in Transformation  
By Keld Jensen

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