



Grassland working group

Alpine Biogeographical Region Seminar

Graz, Austria 25 – 26 November 2013



**Centre for
Ecology & Hydrology**
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL



 **ARCADIS**
Infrastructure · Water · Environment · Buildings

 **ECNC**
european centre for nature conservation

The bigger picture



Develop collaborative action for the conservation of **dry and wet grasslands**

- Expectations
- Experiences
- Completeness and priorities



European Centre for Nature Conservation

The bigger picture

Natura 2000 in the context of the 6 EU Biodiversity Strategy targets

- 1: Fully implement the **Birds and Habitats Directive**
- 2: Maintain and restore **ecosystems and their services**
- 3: Increasing the contribution of **agriculture and forestry** to maintaining and enhancing biodiversity
- 4: Ensure the sustainable use of **fisheries** resources
- 5: Combat **Invasive Aliens Species**
- 6: Help avert **global biodiversity loss**



Natura 2000 in the context of the 6 EU Biodiversity Strategy targets

- Nature protection needs
- Promote dependence of food quality on biodiversity
- Trans-sectoral cooperation
- Stakeholder involvement into managing process
- Knowledge and monitoring as a support for grassland management
- Communication
- CAP related issues
- Dependence on markets for right pricing
- To combat alien species

Completeness and priorities

Habitats	Issues	Solution
<p>6210 <i>Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco - Brometalia) * important orchid sites.</i></p>	<p>Avoid abandonment/avoid intensification</p>	<p>Developing small scale production</p>
<p>6230 <i>Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on silicious substrates in mountain areas (and sub-mountain areas in Continental Europe).</i></p>	<p>Definition of favourable conservation status (FCS)</p>	<p>Working group on the FCS</p>
<p>6410 <i>Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae).</i></p>	<p>Lack of knowledge/awareness</p>	<p>Education, trust building, improve funding mechanisms and management</p>
<p>6430 <i>Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels.</i></p>	<p>Conservation of species</p>	<p>Apply a landscape approach</p>
<p>6510 <i>Lowland hay meadows (Alopecurus pratensis, Sanguisorba officinalis).</i></p>		
<p>6520 <i>Mountain hay meadows.</i></p>		



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Completeness and priorities

Group comments on the actions:

- General agreement on the actions
- Collaboration between DG ENV and DG AGRI is important
- FCS should also focus on species
- Farming should consider conservation actions
- Funding mechanisms should be clarified
- Legal actions under Natura 2000 should be clear
- Ecosystem services are important



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Completeness and priorities

Actions:

- A. **How to avoid abandonment/avoid intensification**
- B. **Proper definition of favourable conservation status (FCS)**
- C. **Lack of knowledge and awareness**

D. Conservation of species

- Develop and share knowledge on a landscape approach for grassland species



added to X-cutting issues

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The action process



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Alpine Seminar
25 – 26 November 2013, Hotel Weitzer, Graz, Austria

Seminar Document (draft v11 Nov 2013)

The actions in terms of what and how for **dry and wet grasslands**



What & how session

3.1.2 Grassland Working Group Table – Summary actions for discussion

Action	Notes/description	Mechanism/Partners	Who and When
	ISSUE: How to avoid abandonment/avoid intensification	SOLUTION: Developing small scale production	
<p>Raising awareness by organizing events and sharing information on both grassland conservation and ecosystem services.</p> <p><i>Comment: Swedish examples on producing food products like cheese; Czech Republic example of burning briquettes (LIFE project but not in an alpine region); Romania example on a rare plant species for medical use.</i></p>	<p>This action could include the following components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collecting and sharing positive examples of farmers turning farming in the Natura 2000 in the advantage (how farming in Natura in line with nature conservation standards can make products more valuable and bring more return); Launching new calls for projects on Natura 2000 sites management, including grasslands habitats all over the EU, integrating the science projects with the best practices of the farmers, small businesses, pharmacists. <p>Within this action ecosystem services are considered to be important. Therefore the following components are included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collect information on and determine potential medicinal/product species; Generate an overview of potential ecosystem services delivered by Alpine grasslands; Initiate research on ecosystem services by integrating ecosystem services as a research priority in EU research programme; 	<p>Outputs: conference(s), web pages, demonstration positive examples, Case studies, Manual, Multi-State group, Shared knowledge, Twinning arrangements, EU research programme, Natura 2000 communication platform, ad hoc meetings, TEEB, nature conservation foras.</p> <p>Mechanisms: ESF, ERF (like JEREMIE, JEESCA, IASPERs programmes), LIFE+, INTERREG.</p> <p>Partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy-makers and grassland managers; Groups of stakeholders, site-managers; Member (and non-Member) States from across the Alpine Biogeographical Region and; DG Environment/DG Agri; EFNCP (The European Forum on Nature Conservation and Pastoralism) and other organizations with specific expertise. <p><i>Comments: This is an action at local/regional level. The NBP can support by sharing experiences between MS through the</i></p>	To be decided

- Define a concrete objective
- Formulate a number of expected results
- Describe the activities
- Mechanisms to realize the activities
- Potential for collaboration



Detailed content and format of selected proposed actions

Depending on what the action is about, discuss:

- Objective
- Time Frame
- Participants / roles
- Activities / milestones
- Programme
- Budget
- Funding
- Evaluation



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Deliver actions: What, how, when & who

Abandonment/intensification

Action: Develop small scale production

Objectives	Educate farmers on funding mechanisms		Increasing external funding for grassland management				
Expected results	Better acceptance of Natura 2000	Less abandonment and increase in small scale farmers	To maintain local production and economy	More farmers will access funding	To improve the environmental image of pastoralism	Less dependency on governmental funding	
Activities	Best practise on awareness raising and funding systems	Gathering info on funding mechanisms for grassland management	To present funding mechanisms in agriculture school to attract future farmers	Simulate future landscape state without farmers	Find new partners (in tourism, sports and other companies) and show them the benefits	Gather knowledge on grassland ecosystem services	Join and improve existing labeling
Partners and roles	DVL to establish link with Land Stewardship LIFE project	Commission to share guidance; Contractor to disseminate		French Agricultural Organisation to share software		French Agricultural Organisation to share information; DVL share practical examples	
Timing	Before autumn 2014	As soon as possible		x		x	
Milestones							
Funding							
Program							
Mechanisms	Computer simulations	Life+ projects	Workshops				
Collaboration	Consultants	NGOs					

Deliver actions: What, how, when & who

Lack of knowledge/awareness

Action: Develop ways to integrate a better and more meaningful environmental education, funding mechanisms and appropriate management into the education in agriculture (for farmers)

Objectives	Communication to and with land users		Building trust between farmers, authorities, conservationists	
Expected results	Knowledge payment system	Knowledge good experience	Improvement communication farmers - scientists - authorities	Understanding the benefits of Natura 2000
Activities	Information campaign	Pasture competition	Ambassador species	Define targets / measures together with farmers
Partners and roles	<h1>Not developed yet</h1>			
Timing				
Milestones				
Funding				
Program				
Mechanisms	LIFE+, ERASMUS+	Information platform	Working group on hay meadows	Permanent contact person to bridge the gap
Collaboration	Rural Development Associations	NGOs	Farmers Associations	Authorities (Nature, Agriculture)

Deliver actions: What, how, when & who

Improvement of a proper definition of favourable conservation status (FCS) for grasslands across the Alpine Biogeographic Region

Action: Develop a new method and knowledge on determining the FCS for Alpine grasslands and sharing information

Objectives	Develop a common understanding on how to assess the FCS building on experience				
Expected results	Minimum standards to define Favourable Reference Values as concretely as possible (distance to target)	Minimum criteria for structure and function	Streamline assessments between Member States	Achieve better understanding to assess ecosystem status and services	Distribute knowledge about monitoring schemes in EU MS
Activities	Build a working group of representatives of e.g. MS, EC, etc BD, NGOs, experts	Prescoping document analysing Article 17 data	Meetings for discussing the prescoping document and provide information on methodologies	Discussion of results on communication platform	
Partners and roles	See flow chart				
Timing					
Milestones					
Funding					
Program					
Mechanisms	EU Platform	working groups	email communication		
Collaboration	NGOs	ETC BD	site managers	local experts	stakeholders

FCS – what, how, when & who

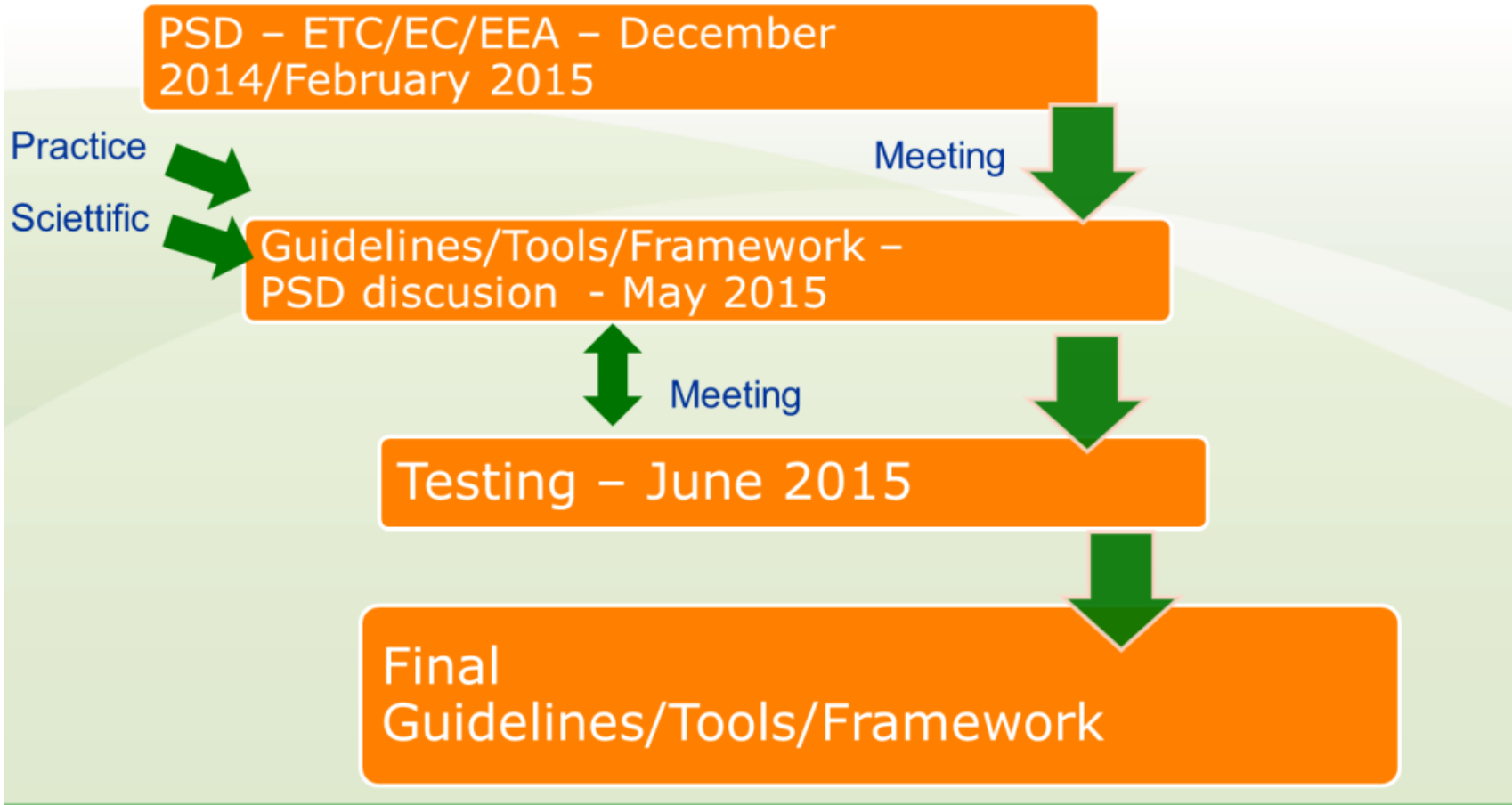
Expert group agreed – March 2014 - Contractor (organises)

Brainstorm meeting – June 2014

Expert group – Autumn 2014

PSD – ETC/EC/EEA – December 2014/February 2015

FCS – what, how, when & who



Thank you

