



Theme 3: OECMs

Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process

Day 3, OECM Theme

35 participants in two groups

Facilitation: Luna Milatovic, Paul Goriup

- Do you have actual / potential examples of OECMs in your country?
 - Areas currently used for fisheries (including marine), forestry, military
 - Rivers under Water Framework Directive, peatlands, soil protection zones
 - Private land with willing owners, NGO nature reserves not already in Natura 2000 sites



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Questions:

- Why are there no OECMs in the pledges, what are the obstacles?
- Are you thinking about OECMs in your country? Can you name 2-3 examples?
- What is the relationship between N2000 and OECMs?



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- Country examples

- ❖ Belgium – biological high-value meadows with farmers, rewilding commitments in forest areas
- ❖ Hungary – voluntary zonal schemes with farmers in high-nature value areas
- ❖ Austria – similar agricultural schemes
- ❖ Sweden – areas set aside for conservation in private forests
- ❖ Germany – land bought for wilderness and like in BE
- ❖ Italy – hunting grounds
- ❖ France – mixed sectors – 5 pilot sites (IUCN FR)



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- What are the main obstacles for recognizing OECMs
 - ❖ Clear guidelines of what are and are not OECMs
 - ❖ Setting minimum standards for OECMs
 - ❖ Lack of a national process for the identification of the OECMs
 - ❖ Putting in place the necessary long-term incentives, financial / fiscal / non-monetary
 - ❖ Putting in place the administrative system for reporting to EU
 - ❖ Difficulty with defining long-term (many schemes up to 7 years)
 - ❖ Reluctance from stakeholders, incl. fear of future formal commitments
 - ❖ Lack of understanding what recognition of an OECM would mean for the landowner
 - ❖ Risk of recognising OECMs but having no impact