Pastoralism and extensive livestock farming in Spain opening the path to integration between agricultural and environmental policies
The Spanish platform for extensive livestock systems and pastoralism

Currently under the coordination of entretantos foundation

Tree pillars

1. farmers and grassroots organizations,
2. universities and research centers,
3. NGOs and other supporting organizations, and concerned individuals

Working together for supporting grazing livestock farming and promoting their outstanding environmental, cultural and social services, with the focus set on

- Nature protection, pasture-based farming and pastoralism, as a key tool for habitats and species management and conservation
- The need for an adequate legal framework to maintain pastoralism and grazing livestock activity
- The European integration of extensive livestock and pastoralism: impact and integration of C.A.P., Natura 2000 network, habitats and birds directives
- The governance of livestock territories
- The social visibility of farmers and pastoralists

Part of a global network.

Supported by decentralized online communications and periodic coordination events (The Botanic Garden Meetings)

Web and social networks communication www.ganaderiaextensiva.org
A basic statement: extensive farming is a key tool for habitats management and conservation

- Most Spanish and south-European habitats of interest have been traditionally managed through grazing
- Pastoralism is the most important historical tool to manage Iberian ecosystems
- Spain hold a great variety of extensive livestock systems
- Pastoralist management is disappearing:
  - Competence with industrialized livestock production
  - Globalization and market constraints
  - Rural abandonment
  - Lack of prestige and support of pastoralists
- Sustainability and nature conservation should support a development framework for pastoralism.
The breach between laws and reality

- CAP and Natura 2000 regulations are developed without enough synchrony.
- They both have problems about extensive farming:
  - CAP do not properly address extensive farming:
    - Pillar 1 is discriminatory again extensive grazing systems.
    - Pillar 2 is also failing in the implementation of pastoralism related conservation measures.
  - The environmental legal framework (Natura 2000, Birds and Habitats Directives) and its development instruments often miss the active role of extensive farming.
The case of Pyrenean Oak in the Spanish Central Mountains

- Pyrenean Oak forests (Habitat 9230) have been historically managed through extensive farming.
- Both Natura 2000 and CAP are misleading the significance of the relationship between trees and livestock.
- CAP is classifying those lands as forestry making them not eligible.
- The basis for Habitat 9230 barely take into account livestock and grazing.
- Recorded several traditional pastoral systems under oak canopy.
- Positive effects of Oak trees over silvopastoral production and related habitats.
- Currently active farms keep profiting from Pyrenean Oak lands.
- Loss of management may derive in loss of this habitat.
The tale of the herder and the pasture
a hard life
Cutting shrubs, a risky profession

- First year: outlaw
- Second year: law abiding citizen
- Third year: bureaucratized
- Fourth year: inspected.
- Fifth year: double penalty
Surprise, this is an interactive tale, ¿what do you think it could be the end?

1. The farmer quits and retires.
2. The farmer burns the state to the ground.
3. The farmer obeys the rules and loss the grant.
4. Hey, come on, this is really interactive. Can you think of a better solution?
The situation with woody grasslands

- CAP regulations recognise the eligibility of woody rangelands
- European Commission is pressing to apply more strict controls
- The auditors do not acknowledge the specific conditions of woody pastures and their underlying extensive livestock systems.
- State members, are enforcing restrictive eligibility systems
- The result is the exclusion from direct payments of actively used pastoral lands with serious effects over farmers
- No scientific nor agronomic basis to discriminate woody rangelands from herbaceous grasslands
- The Spanish Platform has released a “Report on eligibility of Spanish Woody grasslands for CAP’s direct payments” to help policy-makers to improve admissibility system.
Addressing the economic and ecological value of woody rangelands

- Describing Spanish main woody rangelands and their associated management systems
- Establishing the rationale under woody rangelands economic and ecological value
- Comparing Spain with other member-states,
- Helping to define Established Local Practices (ELP).
- Connecting ELP to the accomplishment of the objectives of Natura 2000 network (and the Birds and Habitats Directives).
A great diversity of silvopastoral systems

Shrublands

Dehesa and dehesa-like systems

Grazed forests

Three main operational types of woody grasslands
One system, one practice

- A sheet for each type of rangeland
- A running farm system example included each sheet
- Relationship with Habitats Directive and Natura 2000 Network
- Practical management tips
- Always showing two opposite situations
- All used rangelands should be eligible
Grazed vs. Abandoned.

Both of them are actually considered equally non eligible for direct payments.
Risks associated with misguided policies related to woody grassland

- Loss of extensive livestock farms
- Increasing risk of wildfire hazards
- Uncontrolled removal of elements affecting the eligibility of land
- Threatening the persistence of grazed forests and dehesas
- Misusing extensive farming tools: overgrazing and undergrazing
- Simplifying and homogenising the landscape
- Loss of grazing dependent ecosystems
- Lowering resilience and adaptation capacity
Natura 2000 Network: a solid argument for maintaining woody grasslands

- 21 grazing-dependent habitats
- more than 60 habitats that should be better managed through extensive livestock farming good practices.
- Spanish Priority Action Framework for Natura 2000 promotes extensive farming
- Three key mechanisms to adjust extensive farming: grazing, resting and mobility
- Local Established Practices (LEP) defined after maintaining habitats of interest
- Preventing wildfires is a top priority for Spanish Natura 2000 network
The second pillar: another case of failure

- Spanish RDPs do very little to support extensive farming and Natura 2000 management
  - RDP Extremadura, short measures and bad funded
  - RDP Castilla y León, disconnected from Natura 2000 PAF
A path to solution: strengthening the coordination between planning and management tools and agricultural policies

- Unraveling complementary objectives
  - Woody pastures need to be supported by CAP to achieve Natura 2000 goals.
  - Natura 2000 planning and management tools must address properly the role of extensive farming.
- Natura 2000 should be demonstrative areas developing coordination and integration among policies.
- Management plans and tools offer a key opportunity.
- Bridging the gap between agricultural and environmental policies:
  - Coordination and integration
  - Incorporation of specialists from the “other side”
  - Participatory frameworks with stakeholders
  - Assumption of global and multiagent perspectives and policies, such as global change adaptation or sustainable rural development.
There are very interesting initiatives financed by LIFE program supporting, updating and integrating pastoralism and extensive farming in Natura 2000 planning and management.

*In Spain*
- Montserrat (LIFE13 BIO/ES/000094), in Cataluña. Specifically designed for wildfire prevention.
- Biodehesa (LIFE11 BIO/ES/000726), in Andalucía, focused in the conservation and management of Spanish southern dehesas.
- Feeding scavengers (LIFE13 NAT/ES/001130), in Castilla y León, trying to restore the key role of vultures and other scavengers in protected areas.
- Comforest (LIFE12 ENV/ES/000148) in Extremadura. Identifying, managing and preserving communal forests.
- Oeste ibérico (LIFE12 NAT/ES/000595), in Castilla y León & Extremadura. Wets Iberian States Club, nature conservation actions in stewardship lands.
- Soil-montana (LIFE10 NAT/ES/000579), in País Vasco.

*In Europe*
- Burren LIFE (LIFE04 NAT/IE/000125) in Ireland.
- Mil’Ouv. (LIFE12 INF/FR/000735), in France.
- LIFE Viva Grass - Integrated planning tool to ensure viability of grasslands (LIFE13 ENV/LT/000189).
- Steppen - Pannonic Steppes and Dry Grasslands (LIFE04 NAT/AT/00002).

LIFE projects, linking conservation and extensive farming
Extensive farming should be fully recognized as land management and nature conservation tool.

Environmental and agricultural policies need to be coordinated to enforce its potential.

The accomplishment of sustainability objectives demand improved extensive farming.

Participation of stakeholders in land planning and management instruments is unavoidable.

Extensive farmers, pastoralists and stakeholders should be endorsed as nature protection agents.

Natura 2000 sites may constitute the common ground to introduce integrated agricultural and conservation policies.

Conclusions and recommendations
with the participation of

- 15 authors of the “Report” on woody grasslands
- 60 organizations signatories of the letter to Mr. Jerzy Bogdan Plewa, Director-General Agriculture
- 89 Spanish organizations asking for more participation in RDP
- 212 organizations and individuals currently joining the Platform

Thank you for listening

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join us at www.ganaderiaextensiva.org