ENRD workshop

Natura 2000 effective use of support possibilities under rural development policy

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Parallel working session:

Bringing Natura 2000 to the public

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www.burrenprogramme.com

www.burrenbeo.com



Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs

Gnóthaí Réigiúnacha, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta

An Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreachta,



burrenbëotrust connecting people and place



1. The Burren









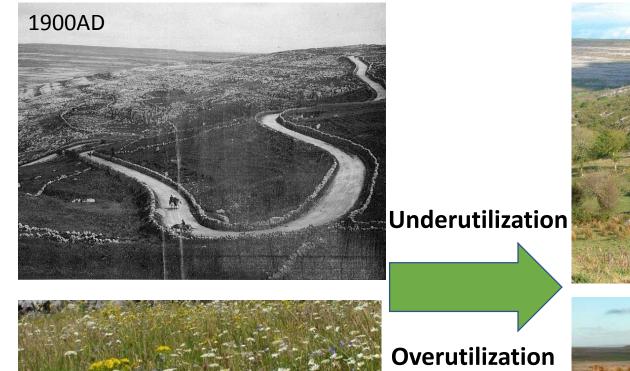






2. Threats to N2000

Changes in farming (the main driver)









Poor social & economic outlook is contributing to these environmental challenges

Burren story: leveraging N2000 to improve social, economic and environmental outlook

3. Solution: locally led, farmer-centered, conservation programme







Benefits: Jobs & Income

- Up to €7k p.a. work
 allowance for farmers
- Database of 80 local (farm) contractors
- Local suppliers and producers (gates etc)







4. Paying farmers for environmental performance



Undergrazed (3/10 = €0/ha)

Well managed (10/10 = €180/ha!)







Benefits: Jobs & Income

- Up to €10k p.a. performance payment
- Better N2000 site condition for visitors!

5. Stakeholder Engagement - Farmers

- 1. (Re)telling the (N2000) story in a more inclusive way
- 2. Co-creation: Testing practical solutions at farm level
- 3. Creating financial incentives to reward positive action
- 4. Building capacity, providing support and assurance
- 5. Restoring pride of place and local 'ownership'









6. Stakeholder Engagement - Local Community (www.burrenbeo.com)



School programmes: 2000 new experts!



Monthly Walks and Talks



Festivals and celebrations



Conservation Volunteers

7. Stakeholder Engagement – Visiting Community



Poulnabrone: 150,000 visitors



Fanore Dunes: 70,000 visitors



Cliffs of Moher: 1.4m visitors

Visitor Survey (2014) www.burrengeopark.ie/community-business/visitor-survey-2014/



Burren National Park: 17,000 visitors

'Spectacular landscape' was the first impression of 69% of visitors

Main Attraction: The beautiful landscape (53%), The Cliffs of Moher (27%), The unspoilt place (24%), To get close to nature (20%).

63% agreed strongly that the natural and cultural heritage is the main appeal for people , 34% agreed slightly, 3% were unsure

39% agreed strongly with the need to protect the Burren for future generations, 32% agreed slightly, 10% neither agreed or disagreed, 19% did not know... nobody disagreed.

8. Tourism and N2000 in the Burren: creating a virtuous circle









9. Some learnings from the land – what has worked for us



Farmer – led walking tours



Farming Festivals



Investing in community wellbeing



Field schools (archaeology, geology, ecology)

10. Conclusions and Discussion Points

N2000 'brand' not well established/widely recognised by consumers (even within sites).

There are often particular sensitivities regarding tourism impact on N2000 sites.

N2000 designation may place additional restrictions/costs on developing visitor facilities

How do we create a 'virtuous circle' between visitors, local community and N2000 sites?



A Vision for Sustainable Farming in the Burren:



The Burren will be an increasingly attractive place to live and farm, a place where farm families enjoy the support and respect of society as they produce quality food and deliver valued services, thereby sustaining the Burren's rich heritage for the benefit of all.