Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process
Mediterranean Kick-off Seminar

Thessaloniki, 26 – 28 May 2014

Grasslands Working Group
Introductions

Chair:
**Dr Panayotis Dimopoulos**, University of Patras, Professor in Botany and Ecology

Facilitator:
**Hans Van Gossum**, ARCADIS, Project Manager Environmental Policy
Identifying the state-of-art: selected Habitats and their conservation status

- 3 true grassland types, 1 shrub (and more of continental origin)
- Several other grassland types require attention
- Enlarge grassland group with scrubs?
Identifying the state-of-art: main issues and problems

- **Main issue**: either too intens or even more no grazing at all. Traditional agricultural practices are not maintained.

- **Pressures:**
  - Fragmentation
  - Afforestation/succession
  - Urbanisation and tourism
  - Invasive non-native species
  - Depopulation/repopulation
  - Pollution (e.g. nitrogen)
  - Unregulated and overgrazing
  - Wild boar and wolves
  - Intensified agriculture
  - Climate change
  - Mining/energy power production
  - Fire
Identifying the state-of-art: Management and collaborative practices

- Features, values and context varies between countries. Seek generalities, but consider site-specific needs.
- Traditional extensive management schemes; extensive grazing; farming at low intensity, low.
- Provide variety in structure and composition, both on macro and micro scale; a balanced approach.
- High nature value farming; valuable natural products.
- Exclusive nature tourism.
- Positive discrimination: people to appreciate services nature provide and the beauty of their natural heritage.
- Land management agreements; bottom-up approach.
Identifying the state-of-art: case study examples

Presentation of two case studies:

- **The ecosystem functioning dimension in Natura 2000 habitats: a monitoring approach based on remote sensing**
  - **Dr Javier Cabello**, University of Almería, Spain

- **The impact of tourism and population policy on grasslands of Mediterranean area**
  - **Dr Jasenka Topic**, Univ. prof., retired, Croatia
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Knowledge</th>
<th>Management</th>
<th>Network</th>
<th>Advice to governments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lack of information: which nature do we have?</td>
<td>Appropriate intensity of grazing, while providing economic return</td>
<td>Known information is not present where it should be (AA, farmers)</td>
<td>Money under CAP used for Natura2000, include Natura2000 angle in rural development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>scheme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lacking data on climate change: threat or opportunity</td>
<td>Fire as a threat, but if controlled as a solution.</td>
<td>Guidance on Farming and Natura 2000</td>
<td>Demographics and changing attitudes: have people living in rural areas. Incentives,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>subsidiary programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Which reference values for favorable conservation status</td>
<td>Big animals: wild boar, wolves</td>
<td>Positive discrimination: Ecosystem services and being proud about natural</td>
<td>Too little exclusive nature tourism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Inappropriate use of grazing animal types (too many cows)</td>
<td>heritage</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grazing (intensity, when, duration, ....)</td>
<td>High nature value farming; valuable natural products</td>
<td>Connect with people in the field, not only stakeholder representatives;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Exclusive nature tourism</td>
<td>bottom-up approach</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitor human activities</td>
<td>Buying seeds outside of EU for restoration</td>
<td>Suggesting alternative less damaging agricultural practices</td>
<td>Include grazing in forest management plan considering the role of forestry in Medit.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Action!

Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process
Mediterranean Region
### Engagement 1: guidance document farming and Natura 2000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Who?</th>
<th>European Commission (indicated by Mr. Ludovic Le Maresquier)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Why?</td>
<td>To provide guidance on how to deal with farming and Natura 2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How? Actions</td>
<td>Dissemination of guidance document through communication platform and other fora.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timing</td>
<td>Forthcoming</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Engagement 2: share knowledge on monitoring

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Who?</strong></th>
<th>Dr. Javier Cabello, Mr. Daniel Goñi</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Why?**          | • Improve monitoring strategies and help understand conditions and pressures/threats of habitats of community interest in the Mediterranean region  
                    • To compare and contrast different approaches in approaching FCS and Favorable Reference Values to reach more consistency in the Mediterranean region (a sort of “ideal”). |
| **What and how?** | 1. Share knowledge on monitoring strategies and discuss FCS  
                            2. Through email group **if possible as a subtheme within the forum of the communication platform** (e.g. mailing group on grassland monitoring in the Mediterranean area) |
| **Timing**        | Starting early October with e-mail to Grassland group and other potentially interested parties. |
## Engagement 3: networking for grassland management

### Who?
Dr. Jenny Calabrese, Dr. Domingos Leitão, Mr. Kyriakos Skordas, Dr. Michael Vrahnakis

### Why?
- To create a better connection between EC, management authorities and stakeholders on documents and common decisions
- To better adapt and apply to local conditions the indications of the Guidance document on farming in Natura 2000
- To share ideas, lessons learnt, best practices, on how to achieve conservation results in grassland areas
- To present success stories to stakeholders and wider public

### How? Actions
1. Produce a document introducing need of networking on grassland management
2. Post document on the Natura 2000 Platform and discuss it in local forums and groups, like the Grassland Symposium in Greece.
3. Create a discussion group (email group) to share success cases in grassland management. Members of this group will come from scientific institutions, administration bodies, NGOs and other relevant.
4. Propose practical activities to EC to be funded by EU programs. These activities aim to show success cases in Natura 2000 management and gains to local communities.

### Timing
- Action 1 will start now and action 2 will start next September.
- Action 3 will be developed until the end of 2014.
- Action 4 must be planned for 2015.
## Engagement 4: Networking for best-practices

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Who?</th>
<th>Dr. Dimitar Ouzounov – Chlora website</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Why?</strong></td>
<td>Finding ways to have (potential) inhabitants and (potential) tourists being attracted to live in or visit rural areas</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **What and how?** | 1. Networking for best-practices on tourism in grasslands and on how to counter abandonment of land through for example production of valuable natural products  
2. E-mail – Skype – Chlora website |
| **Timing**        | Starting in October                   |
## Engagement 5: Technical workshops on management

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Who?</th>
<th>Dr. Panayotis Dimopoulos, Dr. Georgios Fotiadis, Dr. Michael Vrahnakis, Dr. Jasenka Topic, Dr. Pezco Conezo, Dr. Dimitar Ouzounou, Dr. Marios Andreou, Dr. Loannis Tsiripids</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Why?</td>
<td>To identify and prioritize concrete actions for Natura 2000 Mediterranean grasslands habitat types</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| How? | • Having workshops in the coming year to pick up the technical discussion on managing grassland sites  
        • **Any advice on opportunities for funding travel expenses is most welcome**                                                                                                           |
| Timing | 1. Workshop 1: mid-late October 2014 in Greece in Prespa National Park  
        2. Workshop 2: April 2015 in Italy in Conero - Ancona                                                                                                                                         |
### Engagement 6: Project application under Interreg

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Who?</th>
<th>Dr. Panayotis Dimopoulos, Dr. Eduardo Biondi, Dr Dimitar Ouzounou, Dr. Jasenka Topic, Dr. Georgios Fotiadis, Dr. Marios Andreou, Dr. Apostolos Kyriazopoulos, Dr. Ioannis Tsiripidis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Why?</td>
<td>Problematic Management in (East and West) Mediterranean countries</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| What and how? | 1. Initiate group involving private and public sector with scientific support by scientific institutions  
2. Interreg (IPA) project                                                                                                               |
| Timing | IPA call is not open yet. Proposals can be submitted to the IPA ADRIATIC CBC Program solely during the period when a public call for proposals is open. |