



CASE STUDIES - ESPC Target 6

At least 30% of production lands managed consistent with the conservation of plant diversity

Central European Grasslands: Conservation and Sustainable Use

GSPC Target 6 (EPCS target 2.9)

Relevant species - habitats Grasslands (in general)

Key words Grasslands, sustainable use, GIS database, agri-environmental scheme, best farming practices, Biodiversity, flood prevention

Project coordinators Ján Šeffler

Partner organisations Daphne Institute of Applied Ecology (Slovakia), State Nature Conservancy of Slovak Republic, National Park Slovensky raj, National Park Maly Fatra, Protected Landscape Area

Zahorie, Municipality of Olsavica, Co-operative Farm Olsavica- Brutovce, Faculty of Construction of Slovak Technical University

Funding mechanisms World Bank - Global Environment Facility (GEF) Medium Size Project



(Pictures provided by Dobromil Galvánek, DAPHNE, Sk.)

Description

The Daphne Institute of Applied Ecology in Slovakia have compiled a database of the natural and semi-natural grasslands of Slovakia. It is used to target conservation action at specific sites, and to influence Natura 2000 and Rural Development Policy. To date the grasslands database and GIS system contains data on 16,278 grassland polygons and 928,955 species records, and 615 map sheets out of a total of 671 have been completed. These data have been used to identify Natura 2000 sites and to identify valuable grassland sites for inclusion in the agri-environmental programme, through a grassland certification system. At the moment the scheme for protection of semi-natural and natural grasslands have been applied on 101,000 hectares of certified grasslands.

A series of seminars aimed at explaining the benefits of the agri-environment programme to farmers have taken place and a report with recommendations for improvements to the 2007-2013 Rural Development Funding and Implementation Mechanisms was published.

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Description (II)

In addition a publication explaining the value of grasslands and the mechanisms available to conserve them, aimed at farmers, has been published and is available on-line ('Grasslands of Slovakia: the Guide on Wise Use'), and a training manual for teachers and schoolchildren 'World of Grasslands' has been distributed and launched through a series of workshops.

The GEF funded project was targeted at four specific areas of grasslands importance, the Morava River floodplain, Olšavica, Mala Fatra National park, and Slovenský Raj National Park, each representing a different ecological problem relating to grasslands, from lowland to alpine ecosystems. The project aims to promote sustainable use of meadows through preparation and implementation of scientifically based and consensus-based restoration and management plans. In the NP Slovenský raj efforts have been targeted towards demonstrating positive examples and to motivate farmers to manage valuable grasslands for biodiversity through restoration measures (cutting trees/shrubs, mowing/grazing of abandoned grasslands) in order to fulfil conditions for sustainable funding through agro-environmental programmes. At Mala Fatra National Park same activities as in Slovenský raj were applied.

Except for them applied research activities were applied, which were focussed on the dynamics of mountain grassland vegetation and optimal management measures, including the possibilities of restoring abandoned grasslands by mowing.

Restoration activities in Olšavica valley were oriented on the use of grasslands in the flood prevention.

Project activities in Morava River Floodplain provided an example of restoration of species-rich meadows in active floodplain.

Date of case study 2002–2006

Citations and Publications

Viceníková, A. (ed.), 2000: *World of Grasslands - Manual for Teachers*, DAPHNE - Institute of Applied Ecology, Bratislava, 154 p. (in Slovak)

Galvánek, D. & Viestová, E., 2006: *Grasslands of Slovakia – the Guide on Wise Use*. DAPHNE - Institute of Applied Ecology, Bratislava, 18 pp. (In Slovak).

Galvánek D. & Lepš J. 2008: Changes of species richness pattern in mountain grasslands: abandonment versus restoration. *Biodiversity and Conservation*. 17:3241-3253

Contacts

Dobromil Galvánek (galvanek@daphne.sk)

Website

Daphne Institute of Applied Ecology (Slovakia) www.daphne.sk

Other grassland projects related to agrobiodiversity in CEE: www.veenecology.nl

