

Ecopastoral management plan

Goal	Implement an ecopastoral management plan to assure production as well as good conservation of habitats
Target group	Livestock keepers who manage pastoral systems
Description of the measure	<p>Pastoralism is a complex issue in that sense that it deals with a high diversity of situations which need local diagnosis. The pastoral habitats host an important biodiversity richness with a high level of endemism.</p> <p>In Mediterranean regions, these habitats are shaped and maintained by agropastoral activities. At European level, more than 60 % of open pastoral habitats have been evaluated as having an “unfavourable” conservation status, making them some of the worst preserved.</p> <p>A three steps methodology that involves:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Global understanding of the farming system (goals, feeding livestock strategy) ▪ Ecopastoral diagnosis (understanding the interaction between pastoral practices and rangelands, conservation habitats issues) ▪ Farmer guidance: management plan <div data-bbox="451 1070 1310 1223" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p><i>For each animal group :</i></p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; gap: 20px;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  Animals needs </div> <div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">X</div> <div style="text-align: center;">  Resources available </div> </div> </div> <p>Example of scheme that translate the feeding livestock strategy of a farmer, 19th EGF Symposium Life+ Mil'ouv, 2017</p> <p>The methodology involves a trio composed by a naturalist, a livestock specialist and the breeder him- or herself.</p>
Suitable sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pastoral areas
How a good implementation looks like	<p>Breeders are advised by agricultural technicians mainly for production issues. When breeders are advised on environmental issues, it is usually within the framework of contractual arrangements (CAP). Diagnosis method often target very specific objectives, which makes it difficult to establish a link between biodiversity and management practices.</p> <p>The elaboration of an ecopastoral diagnostics by a naturalist and a livestock specialist is a proof of a quality management.</p>
Effects on biodiversity (ecosystems, species, soil biodiversity)	<div data-bbox="363 1854 507 1995" style="float: left; margin-right: 10px;">  </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pastoral habitats conservation ▪ Preservation of biodiversity richness ▪ Soil : Limitation of overgrazing and trampling

Other positive effects/benefit for the farmer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Good pastoral management plan can lead to reduce feed costs (and particularly forage bought)
Indicator/key data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Share of the pastoral surfaces under an ecopastoral management plan (%) ▪ Share of grazing link to pastoralism (% of total forage amount) ▪ Registration of grazing practices (calendar, entry, exit of plot, livestock density,...)
Risk and further recommendations	Measure that requires experts (naturalist and livestock specialist)
Timeframe (When to start a measure and anticipated time for implementation)	It would be easier to implement the pastoral management plan for the start of the grazing season. Fences work can be done during the previous winter.
Additional special resources/equipment/skills needed	The conclusion of the ecopastoral diagnosis can lead to the new arrangements / organisations. Sometime, fences need to be adapted.
Reference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ LIFE+ Mil'ouv - Mediterranean open pastoral habitats ▪ www.hnvlink.eu/download/France_Diagnosisandadviceforfarmers_LifeMilOuvproject.pdf ▪ http://idele.fr/reseaux-et-partenariats/life-milouv/publication/idelesolr/recom-mends/life-milouv-mediterranean-open-pastoral-habitats-are-an-important-re-source-lets-share-our-know.html

Further information: [Knowledge Pool](#)

This Action Fact Sheet belongs to the training package for advisors of standard organisations and companies and was developed within the project LIFE Food & Biodiversity (Biodiversity in Standards and Labels of for the Food Industry). The main objective of the project is to improve the biodiversity performance of standards and sourcing requirements in the food industry by helping standard organisations to integrate efficient biodiversity criteria into their schemes and motivating food processing companies and retailers to include comprehensive biodiversity criteria into their sourcing guidelines.

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