

Ecopastoral management plan

Goal	Implement an ecopastoral management plan to assure production as well as good conservation of habitats
Short 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 agro pastoral 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 style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p><i>For each animal group :</i></p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Animals needs</p> </div> <div style="margin: 0 10px;">  </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Resources available</p> </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>
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.
How auditors can assess if the measure has been implemented in a good quality?	<p>Grazing calendar that includes for a time grazing : animal type, number of days, effective date, exist date, livestock density</p> <p>A discussion of the breeder in order to understand the practices and choices</p>
Additional information the auditor need for verification (if any)	If the auditor has naturalist skills, he can check directly on the field the habitats quality of pastoral surfaces (abandoned field, overgrazing,...).

Effects on biodiversity (ecosystems, species, soil biodiversity)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Pastoral habitats conservation ■ Preservation of biodiversity richness ■ Soil: Limitation of overgrazing and trampling
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,...)
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/recommends/life-milouv-mediterranean-open-pastoral-habitats-are-an-important-resource-lets-share-our-know.html

Further information: Knowledge Pool

This Action Fact Sheet belongs to the training package for auditors 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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