Romania – innovation example 2

INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR DEALURILE CLUJULUI EST. (NATURA 2000 SITE)

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- **Location:** Dealurile Clujului Est
- **HNV system:** Extensive grazing, mozaic farming
- **Scale of operation:** Dealurile Clujului Est Natura 2000 site
- **Timespan:** 2013-2016; Management plan approved by Order no. 1208/2016
- **Keys to success:** Initiative and experience of the Romanian Lepidopterological Society in research in the area sustained the initiative; opportunity to attract funds

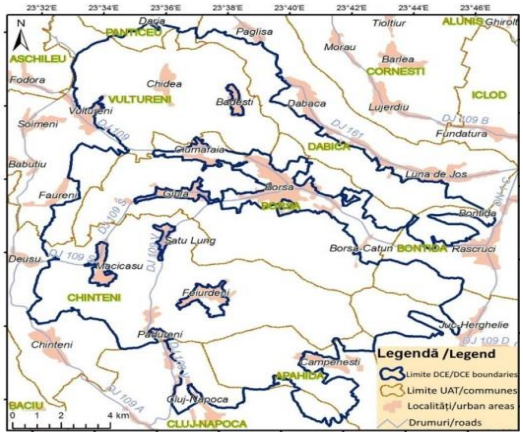

Figure1 *Limits of Natura 2000 area in Dealurile*
Source: Management Plan Natura 2000 site Dealurile Clujului Est (map .4.)

Figure 2 *Project broshure*
Source: Romanian Lepidopterological Society

Problems addressed by this example

The management plan was developed with the aim to conserve the rare fauna and flora, by collaborating with the local communities, especially as regard to the farming activities. For example, mowing only after August 25th, manually or with the use of low capacity machines because this procedure is in the favor of butterflies, the Eastern Hills of Cluj being the only place where can be found all European butterfly species *Maculinea*.

Story in a nutshell

The management plan for the Eastern Hills of Cluj area developed within the project "Development of an integrated management plan for the site of community importance ROSCI0295 – Eastern Hills of Cluj" was intitiatied by the Romanian Lepidopterological Society (SLR). Eastern Hills of Cluj is a Natura 2000 site (Order MMP 2387/2011) with a surface of 18889,6 ha. The management plan substantially contributes to the conservation of the biodiversity, promotes the natural values, encourages traditional agricultural practices and the sustainable management of meadows and hayfields, and encourages a sustainable tourism.

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What does Integrated management plan achieve for HNV farming?

- Traditional farming practices are encouraged to continue
- Farmers from 4 communes (Borșa, Bonțida, Dăbâca and Panticeu) may be eligible for Package 6 Grasslands important for butterflies (*Maculinea sp*.)
- Favourable conservation conditions for site habitats

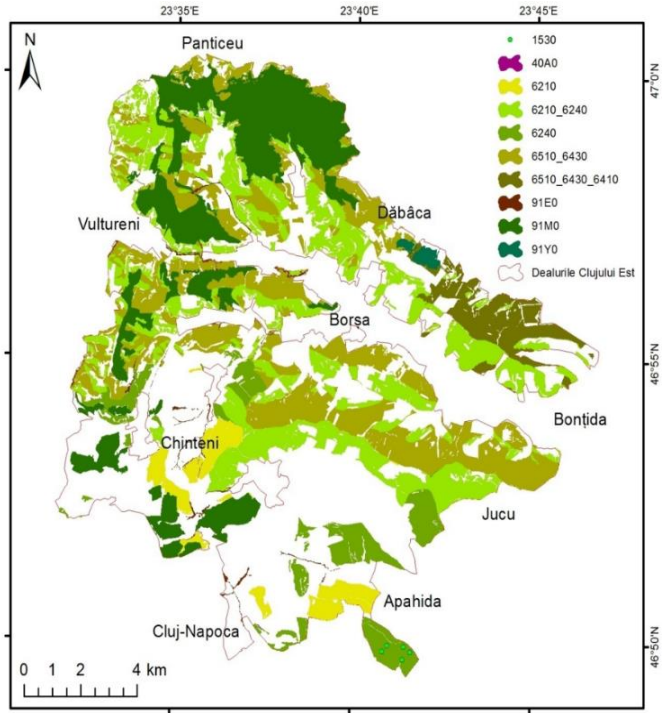

Figure 3 *Distribution of the HNV habitats identified in the LA. Source: Management Plan Natura 2000 site Dealurile Clujului Est*

Figure 4 *Source: Romanian Lepidopterological Society*

Achievements

The management plan was approved by Order of the Romanian Ministry of Environment, Water and Forests no.1208/29.06.2016. This is a good prospect for future if the actions are applied as mentioned in the management plan.

Economics of HNV farming

Farming traditional practices are encouraged to continue. Farmers who respect the management plan comply tothe conditions of the agri-environment measure "Package 6 Grasslands important for butterflies (Maculinea sp.)", which is an extra financial aid.

Maintaining or improving HNV values

The management plan clearly indicates how to assure favourable conservation of each type of grassland habitat in the area by specifying the conditions under which mowing is allowed and naming the authorities in charge for monitoring and control. In the case of damaged areas several measures of ecological reconstruction will be taken.

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How does Integrated management plan respond to the HNV LINK innovation themes?

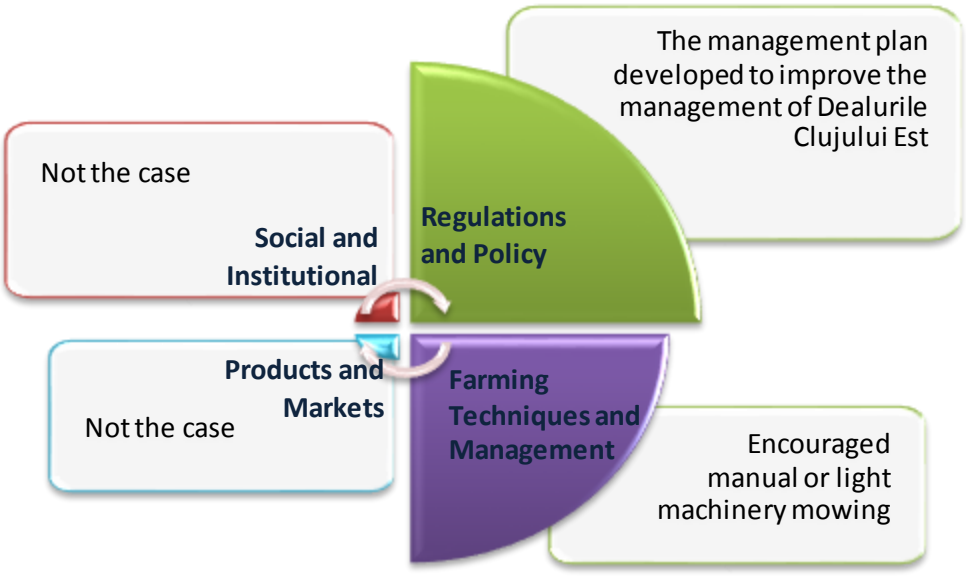

Figure 5 *The framework HNV-Link used for evaluating innovations for high nature value farming.*

- **Regulations and Policy:** The management plan was developed with the aim to improve the management of the site of community importance ROSCI0295 - Dealurile Clujului Est and to increase people awareness regarding the biodiversity protection in the site. It was based on detailed assessment of conserved conservation flora and fauna species, natural habitats of conservative interest, assessment of the anthropic impact on protected areas and implicitly on species and habitats, establishment of conservation measures and ways to involve stakeholders and local communities, as well as the environmental assessment procedure according to the legislation.

- **Farming Techniques and Management:** Mowing is allowed during 25 August – 30 November, the mozaic system being reccomended such that a surface to be mown every 3-4 years. Manual mowing (traditional practices) or with light manchinery are encouraged.

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The process that made it happen and critical factors for success

- Project co-financed by European Regional Development Funds (ERDF)
- Critical factors for success: reluctance of local people to collaborate; migration of young people; low involvement in farming; lack of interest in mowing the land

Figure 5 *Brielmaier mower.*
Source: Romanian Lepidopterological Society

Figure 6 *Researchers in the field.*
Source: http://www.lepidoptera.ro/evenimente.htm

Figure 7 *Signing the contract; Left Prof. dr. László Rákosy - President SLR, Right dr. Codruţa Simule - Director OI POS Mediu Cluj-Napoca.*
Source: http://www.lepidoptera.ro/pos_galerie_foto.htm

Actors and roles: Romanian Lepidopterological Society (SLR) - initiator/catalist/innovator; Agency for Environmental Protection 'Cluj – partner; European Regional Development Funds (ERDF) – co-financer; Romanian Government – co-financed from national budget

Institutional context that made it possible: The initiative of SLR, based on many years or research in the field and opportunity to attract non-refundable funds from the European Regional Development Funds and national budget.

Resources: Total budget was 1,349,497 RON (aprox 300,000 EUR), from which non-refundable funds were 1,331,149 RON from the ERDF, and the rest from the national budget.

Processes: The project was prolonged with 9 months, period necessary for the management plan to be approved. Meetings were organised to inform farmers about the management plan.

Critical factors for success: Reluctance of local people to collaborate and the migration of young people from rural to urban areas; risk of low involvement in farming and lack of interest in mowing the land.

Limiting factors, actual/potential problems, and how could they be overcome: Farmers to be informed about the benefits they can obtain, such as becoming eligible for Package 6 (although only in 4 communes), a higher productivity when using light machinery for mowing.

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Lessons learnt from this innovation example, and its potential replication

- Collaboration with stakeholders is mandatory to succeed
- Actions to increase awareness of the benefits of using extensive farming
- Applicable in regions with same grassland habitats or adapted on other types of habitats.

Overall lessons from this example, especially from point of view of HNV farming?
It is important to develop management plans for protected areas with actions that lead in time to a better conservation of the land with the help of local communities (HNV farming).

Is the innovation unique to its territory and its characteristics, or is it replicable in other areas?
The idea can be applied in other regions with same grassland habitats or adapted on other types of habitats.

Could it be rolled out on a bigger territorial scale?
Yes, in protected areas were HNV farming is still present

What would be needed to do this successfully?
Collaboration with all stakeholders (especially farmers) is critical to understand the reality in the area, the problems they confront on daily basis and find optimal solutions that are in the benefit of both, nature and farmer (to preserve the natural values and help farmers increase their economic productivity).

Figure 8 *Informing farmers about the management plan.*
Source: Romanian Lepidopterological Society

Figure 9 *Meetings with local stakeholders, Vultureni City Hall*
Source: http://www.lepidoptera.ro/pos_galerie_foto.htm

Figure 10 *Prof. dr. László Rákosy explaining about the Natura 2000 site to children in a school from Bondita*
Source: http://www.lepidoptera.ro/pos_galerie_foto.htm

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