

European Learning Network on Functional AgroBiodiversity

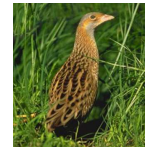
Meeting Rakvere 25-26 August 2010

Claus Goldberg: "Wildlife and Sustainable Farming Initiative"



Project "Wildlife and Sustainable Farming"

- Project funded by European Commission in the period 2006-2009
- Analysis of relationship between agricultural practices/funding and selected species and habitats
- Consolidate relevant information, identify good practices, encourage dialogue, produce species reports with information and recommendations
- Specific species and habitats selected – information obtained using internet, scientific articles, and dialogue with experts



Main objectives



- Stimulate greater dialogue and communication with stakeholders/authorities including workshops – 6 have been arranged.
- Encourage a greater integration of the conservation of wildlife and Natura 2000 into agricultural practice and funding especially the RDPs
- Demonstrate potential for improving favourable conservation status through best practice examples



Habitats



- Habitats predefined:
- Favourable conservation status depending on agricultural practice
- Living place for one or several species from Annexes of the Habitats Directive (and on Annex I themselves)
- In significant part of EU 27:



- * Dry grasslands
- * Wetlands
- * Orchards
- * Meadows
- * Arable land (extens.)
- * (Forests)

Species



- **Selection criteria**
- Preselected habitats important for species at least in part of life cycl^{us}
- Cross section of different taxonomical groups
- On Annexes of Directives
- Depending on farming practices and possibility to relate this to funding
- Habitats covering EU 27
- Piggy back species

Selected species



Meadows:

Corncrake, *Crex crex* & **Meadow Viper**, *Vipera ursinii*

Dry grasslands:

Great Bustard, *Otis tarda* & **Large Blue Butterfly**, *M. arion*

Wetlands:

Yellow-bellied Toad, *Bombina variegata* &

Bittern, *Boutaurus stellaris*

Orchards

Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana* &

Scops Owl, *Otus scops*

Arable land

Skylark, *Alauda arvensis* &

Common Hamster, *Cricetus cricetus*



Reporting

12 species reports: Biological info, threats, management needs, relationship with agricultural policies, results from schemes and gaps + conclusions



Gaps Analysis document



- Compilation document
- Nature directives, agriculture and HNV versus N2000
- CAP and opportunities for wildlife
- Summary sections for the 12 selected species



Gap Analysis

- Gaps related to lack of measures or regulation;
- Gaps related to implementation – mainly the EU sphere;
- Gaps related to implementation – mainly the sphere of the member states; and
- Gaps related to lack of scientific knowledge and similar deficits



Gaps measures and regulations



- The minimum standards are set by each Member State and are not negotiated as part of the Rural Development Programmes (they are simply communicated to the Commission). Leads to significant differences between countries.
- Cross-compliance does not specifically cover the needs of the habitats or species of several species.
- Measures not well suited for complex conservation needs

Gaps Implementation



- Funding insufficient for low-intensity farming
- Support rates too low to be attractive for farmers
- Targeted application as alternative to more commonly used horizontal area uptake would be benefit for many of the analysed species
- Insufficient national prescriptions and guidance
(and monitoring)

Conclusions species



- In the report many conclusions and recommendations targeted the specific selected species.
- In the following conclusions highlighted of a general nature (piggyback)
- Conclusions concern among other ecology of the species versus agricultural practices, threats, *farming practices favourable for the species*, other species that will benefit from improvements, funding already targeted species.

Farming practices 1. Dry grasslands



- **Great Bustard**
Large extensively grazed rotational fallows (1-5 years), with maintenance of extensive grasslands and non-irrigated cereal cultivation. In short a mosaic with traditional farming.
- **Large blue**
Appropriate level of grazing – different level inside distribution range. Restoration of adjacent areas, planting of feeding plant for larvae.



Farming practices 2. Meadows



- **Corncrake**

Avoid drainage and allow winter flooding. Postpone the first date of mowing, birdfriendly mowing pattern and keeping of unmowed patches



- **Meadow viper**

Maintenance of dwarf bush vegetation, no change of water level.

Create or preserve wildlife micro refuges.



Farming practices 3. Wetlands



- **Yellow-bellied toad**

Conservation of temporary ponds inside farmland areas. Keep grazing in surrounding area with avoidance of use of pesticides and fertilizers.



- **Bittern**

Avoid disturbance through critical periods Encourage large mosaic structures of the habitat with general removal of bushes causing overgrowth.



Farming practices 4. Orchards

- **Ortolan Bunting**
Non-intensive farmland areas with trees along tracks, isolated trees and hedges.
Land abandonment in Southern Europe
- **Scops Owl**
Maintenance of traditional agro-pastoral landscapes, with mixture of old trees, open meadows and small pockets of scrub.



Farming practices 5. Arable land

- **Common Hamster**
Use late varieties of cereals and maintain field edges and unharvested strips of cereals.
Reintroduction of suitable crops can be essential.
- **Skylark**
Maintain or increase crop diversity – including spring sowing.
- (Don't eat it...)



Farming practices 6. Short overall conclusions



- Not a surprise: Organic, traditional, low-intensity farming with natural water regime is beneficial – and typically a must!
- The selected species need for agricultural practice is very detailed.
- The relationship with agricultural practice is very different inside the distribution area of the selected species.
- There are many conflicts between the “demand” of different species



Meeting Rakvere, Estonia, August 25 - 26, 2010



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Main information on...



- <http://circa.europa.eu/>
- -> Environment
- -> Sustainable wildlife and farming initiative
 - Introduction to project
 - 12 species reports
 - 6 workshop reports



• Thank You

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