

ALEMANHA:

O PROGRAMA OBJECTIVO 5B DE SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN (1994-1999)

Financiamento

Objectivo 5b - Quadro Comunitário 1994-1999

Subprograma I: Diversificação, re-organização e adaptação das estruturas agrícolas e rurais (FEOGA)

Medidas 1/3: Conservação do Meio Rural

Introdução

O estado federal de Schleswig-Holstein é uma área rural, sendo o estado alemão localizado mais a norte. Confina com a Dinamarca a norte, com o Mar do Norte a oeste e o Mar Báltico a este, e faz fronteira com os estados federais de Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Niedersachsen e Hamburg. Aproximadamente 7.543 km² de Schleswig-Holstein, com uma população de 536.000, foram designados como Objectivo 5b para o período de 1994 a 1999. No Tabela 1 são apresentados dados base das condições económicas e estruturais na área de Objectivo 5b.

Tabela 1: Dados económicos e estruturais na área Objectivo 5b de Schleswig-Holstein

	Área em km ²	População (1.000)	Densidade populacional/ km ²	Taxa de desemprego	Produto Bruto por posto de trabalho (1.000 DM)
Schleswig-Holstein	15,730	2,626	167	8,7	74,111
Area 5b	7,543	536	71,3	9,45	67,840
% de Schleswig-Holstein abrangida por 5b	48	20,4	-	-	91,5

A área abrangida por este programa apresenta uma paisagem diversificada, influenciada pelos mares Báltico e do Norte. Vários cursos de água (Bongsieler Kanal, Eider, Treene e Sorge, Miele e Stör) modelam a paisagem, a maior parte da qual está sujeita a agricultura intensiva. Em 1985, 73 por cento da área foi cultivada, enquanto as áreas florestais abrangiam apenas 9 por cento da região. Conforme é afirmado no Objectivo 5b do Quadro Comunitário (QCA), os biótopos naturais e semi-naturais estão escassamente representados nesta área de agricultura tão intensiva, cobrindo apenas cerca de 5 por cento do território. Aproximadamente 2 por cento da área de Schleswig-Holstein (ie. 38.479 ha) está protegida (o Parque Nacional Wattenmeer que cobre 162.074 ha, a maior parte dos quais é mar, não é considerado naquele valor) e constitui a base da implementação progressiva em curso da rede Natura 2000 em Schleswig-Holstein. Uma parte significativa das áreas protegidas pertence ao estado, estando as actividades humanas sujeitas a restrições.

A conservação da natureza em Schleswig-Holstein tem de competir fortemente com os outros usos da terra. A protecção de áreas naturais implica a compra da terra ou dos direitos de uso, o que constitui uma estratégia dispendiosa. Por outro lado, os habitats semi-naturais existentes na região de Schleswig-Holstein, incluídos ou não na área abrangida pelo programa, estão restritos a pequenas áreas e, conseqüentemente, fragmentados.

Como referido no QCA, as áreas prioritárias para conservação da natureza, na zona abrangida pelo programa, são: Eider-Treene-Sorge-Niederung; Flemsburger Förde; innere Schlei, Fröslev-Jrdelunder Moor, Donn e Klevlanschaft, e Aukrug. Os valores naturais destas pequenas áreas estão sujeitos a diversos tipos de ameaça, nomeadamente poluição por esgotos, drenagem de zonas húmidas, desenvolvimento nas zonas costeiras semi-naturais, agricultura intensiva e sobre-utilização por actividades de recreio.

Objectivos e descrição do programa

A estratégia de protecção da natureza do Programa 5b está, como na maioria dos casos, fortemente relacionada com a estratégia global de protecção da natureza para a região, e pode ser sumariada do seguinte modo:

- redução da poluição nas áreas prioritárias;

- protecção das áreas através da aquisição de terrenos ou do direito de uso. O objectivo a longo prazo é assegurar a protecção da natureza em 15 por cento do território;
- desenvolvimento de uma rede de contínuo ecológico, compreendendo as áreas prioritárias e as áreas de ligação;
- integração de normativos de protecção da natureza nos outros instrumentos de financiamento ou de planeamento, tais como acções de ordenamento e emparcelamento do território ou de desenvolvimento urbano.

Em conjunto com estas estratégias, em algumas áreas prioritárias para a conservação da natureza, por exemplo em Eider-Treene-Sorge-Niederung, têm sido testadas acções integradas, visando áreas territoriais específicas, que combinam normas de protecção ambiental no desenvolvimento económico.

Os programas de protecção da Natureza já existentes são usados para co-financiar os Fundos da União Europeia. O programa 5b é composto por três sub-programas, os quais estão estreitamente relacionados com três diferentes Fundos Comunitários (ver tabela 2).

Tabela 2: Resumo da estrutura, orçamento e áreas prioritárias do programa 5b em Schieswig-Holstein (1994-1999)

Sub-Programas	Fundos EU (m€)	Custo Total (m€)	% de Fundos EU
Sub-Programa I: Diversificação, re-organização e adaptação das estruturas agrícolas e rurais (FEOGA)	34,366	102,754	40
Sub-Programa II: Desenvolvimento e diversificação de sectores não agrícolas (FEDER)	34,375	85,938	40
Sub-Programa III: Desenvolvimento de recursos humanos (FSE)	17,185	40,878	20
TOTAL	85,926	229,570	100

O sub-programa I tem um especial interesse para a conservação da natureza uma vez que apresenta diversas medidas com benefícios directos e indirectos nesta matéria (ver tabela 3).

A maioria das oportunidades para financiar directamente a conservação da natureza são encontradas na medida I/3 Conservação da paisagem rural (tabela 4) a qual é da responsabilidade do Ministério do Ambiente, Natureza e Floresta.

Tabela 4: Acções previstas no quadro da medida I/3 Conservação da paisagem rural

Medida I/3 Conservação da paisagem rural	Projectos Previstos
3.1 Protecção da Natureza	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instalação de sebes, charcos, árvores, etc. • Manutenção e melhoria de paisagens de elevado valor natural e áreas protegidas • Aquisição de sítios designados para conservação da natureza em corderação com a medida de emparcelamento e ordenamento fundiário (medida 1.5 no Tabela 3). Normas de protecção da natureza são assim integradas na melhoria das estrutural do sector agrícola. • Recuperação de linhas de água. • Selecção de áreas destinadas a permitir a sucessão natural. • Conservação da paisagem rural. • Apoio à manutenção de áreas de protecção da natureza e zonas tampão.
3.2 Aquisição de terra para florestação	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aquisição de terra para florestação. Medida corderada com as medidas apoiadas no quadro do Regulamento CE nffl 2080/92. Através da medida 3.2 a terra pode ser adquirida e, numa segunda etapa, a florestação é efectuada através do Regulamento CE nffl 2080/92.

Tabela 3: Dados sobre o Sub-programa I e os potenciais benefícios para a conservação da natureza

Sub-programa I: Diversificação, reorganização e adaptação das estruturas agrícolas e rurais	FEOGA (m€)	Custos Totais (m€)
1. Desenvolvimento integrado de aldeias		
1.1 Desenvolvimento de aldeias. Podem ser financiados estudos sobre a melhoria das condições ecológicas das aldeias, medidas para a melhoria do ambiente das aldeias e o desenvolvimento de infraestruturas para facilitar a protecção da natureza. Apoia a integração de normas de protecção da natureza numa estratégia global de desenvolvimento para a área alvo e o reforço da participação dos agentes locais na concepção e implementação desta estratégia integrada.	8.460	32.767
1.2 Turismo rural. Apoia a criação de novas fontes de rendimento para agricultores e, desse modo, pode contribuir para prevenir a intensificação da agricultura. Pode igualmente encorajar os agentes locais no desenvolvimento de acções de conservação da natureza uma vez que os visitantes são atraídos pelos valores do património natural.	0.156	0.434
1.3 Estações de tratamento de águas residuais em aldeias. Tem efeitos positivos na recuperação da qualidade ambiental de lagos, rios e zonas ribeirinhas. As ETAR's reduzem os impactes nos habitats naturais e são, por isso, uma pré-condição para assegurar a conservação destes habitats.	5.730	14.324
1.4 Planeamento das estruturas agrícolas	0.156	0.390
1.5 Emparcelamento e ordenamento fundiário. Acção crescentemente orientada para a conservação da natureza, oferece a oportunidade de agrupar áreas protegidas fragmentadas e a recuperação de linhas de água e zonas húmidas.	12.186	33.505
1.6 Warfgrundsanierung	2.604	6.509
1.7 Melhoria de caminhos agrícolas e florestais	ver 1.5	ver 1.5
2. Desenvolvimento da produção e do marketing agrícola		
2.1 Coordenação da produção agrícola com a procura do mercado	0.175	1.250
2.2 Melhoria do marketing dos produtos biológicos. Apoio a sistemas agrícolas ambientalmente compatíveis	0.285	2.039
3. Conservação da paisagem rural (ver tabela 4)		
3.1 Protecção da Natureza	3.126	7.812
3.2 Aquisição de terra para florestação em áreas rurais desvitalizadas	1.248	3.123
4. Assistência técnica	0.240	0.601
TOTAL	34.366	102.754

A ideia base que orienta a acção do programa 5b de Schleswig-Holstein é o apoio para o estabelecimento de “consultores regionais”, baseados na região e que dão aconselhamento em matérias de carácter ambiental e económico. Estes consultores auxiliam os agentes da região a desenvolver e implementar uma estratégia local de desenvolvimento, e a dar início a projectos concretos. No programa 5b, dois consultores regionais (um economista e um ecologista) foram financiados através da Assistência Técnica (Medida 4) para a zona ‘Eider-Treene-Sorge-Niederung’. Esta área (com cerca de 60.000 ha) é uma zona de grande importância para a conservação da natureza. O trabalho dos consultores regionais pôde manter a confiança dos agentes locais e permitiu dar relêvo aos efeitos positivos de uma estratégia de desenvolvimento que integra normas de protecção da natureza.

Resultados

Uma avaliação de médio-prazo do programa 5b mostra alguns dos resultados da Medida I/3 Conservação da Paisagem Rural (Tabela 5).

Quadro 5: Resumo dos resultados da avaliação de médio-prazo da Medida I/3 do Programa 5b de Schleswig-Holstein (1994-1999)

Medida I/3	Indicadores e Resultados	Efeitos no Emprego	
		Fase inicial	Empregos criados
1. Protecção da Natureza - foram investidos €9.384m (1994-1996)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 128 emparcelamentos foram realizados com o objectivo de conservar a natureza• foram criados 233 habitats• adquiridos 754 ha• 99 ha de terrenos de elevado valor ecológico foram beneficiados• 103 km de sebes foram instaladas• 48 ha foram seleccionados para permitir a sucessão natural	63 anos/ homem	0
2. Aquisição - foram investidos €1.419m (1994-1996)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 220 ha foram adquiridos para florestação	0	2

Discussão

O tipo de dados utilizados na avaliação de médio-prazo dificulta em extremo a identificação de efeitos qualitativos devidos às medidas de protecção da natureza incluídas no Programa desta área. Por exemplo, o facto de cerca de 1.000 ha de terrenos terem sido adquiridos para fins de conservação da natureza durante o período 1994-1996, não permite uma avaliação da qualidade da mudança registada em termos de protecção da natureza ou o factor de custo-benefício dos projectos desenvolvidos.

Por outro lado, a avaliação dos efeitos no emprego das Medidas dos Fundos Estruturais oferece consideráveis dificuldades metodológicas. Os dados referentes ao emprego não são recolhidos ao nível do projecto e a criação de empregos não é um critério no processo de selecção de projectos. Nesta avaliação de médio-prazo, os efeitos no emprego da Medida 3.1 foram calculados tendo como base uma análise dirigida a diversos projectos na vertente de “Desenvolvimento de Aldeias”. Esta base de cálculo serviu assim para efectuar a estimativa dos efeitos das outras medidas.

Contactos

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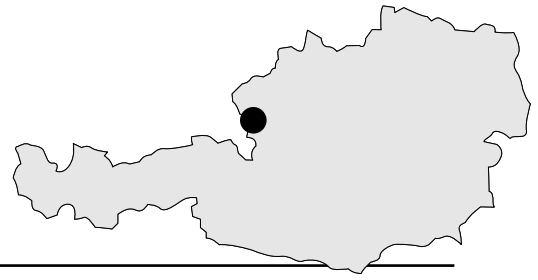
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Austria:

CROSS-BORDER MEADOW BREEDING BIRDS PROGRAMME

Fund

INTERREG II

Background

The project region is located around the rivers Salzach and Saalach on both sides of the border between Germany and Austria and consists of sub-regions: Ettenau and Haarmoos in Bavaria; the Ibmer Moor in Upper Austria; and the Oichtenried and Trumer See in Salzburg. Due to extensive farming methods, the region provides an ideal habitat for several populations of meadow breeding birds which come to the region from their winter habitats to breed. As they are groundnesting species it is important that pastures are not mown before the young birds have left the nest.

Less intensively managed environments are important to the long term survival of the meadow breeding birds, however they are under threat from:

- intensive agricultural management, including increased fertilization, repeated early mowing and drainage;
- the disappearance of many suitable habitats, such as scattered meadows;
- land abandonment, resulting in the encroachment of reeds and bushes on wet ground.

The presence of curlew in an area indicates the suitability of the habitat for other meadow breeding bird species. The curlew thrives in areas containing diverse meadow types, large open fields and little intensive agricultural management.

Project Aims and Content

The project, Habitat for Meadow Breeding Birds, is a joint venture involving Austria (Upper Austria, Salzburg) and Germany (Bavaria). The aim is the revival and securing of diverse populations of meadow breeding birds in a region, identified in a study, which straddles the German/Austrian border. The species concerned include: curlew, European snipe, whinchat, meadow pipit, blue-headed wagtail, lapwing and field-lark.

The project was initiated in 1997 by the Bayerische Akademie für Naturschutz und Landschaftspflege (ANL) and is due for completion in 1999. Partner organisations include EUREGIO Salzburg – Berchtesgadener Land – Traunstein and the government administrations for nature protection in Salzburg and Upper Austria. Representatives of WWF and other NGOs are included in an expert advisory group. The project comprises two stages. The first, funded under INTERREG, concerns the organisation and implementation of the project, including the development of landscape management plans based on existing studies or maps to be developed. These maps will illustrate the agricultural use most suitable for meadow breeding birds and the most effective measures for an optimal environment for the birds. Cross-border networking and linking of measures and information are an important feature.

- targeted public-relations work to raise awareness of the value of the areas and nature protection work;
- a travelling exhibition to inform the public in the regions concerned about the problems facing meadow breeding birds;
- site visits for the landowners concerned to demonstrate the project benefits;
- accurate mapping to provide a sound basis for planning;
- the establishment or maintenance of land under less intensive agricultural management in suitable areas;
- consideration of ways in which a network of such areas could be used for tourism or agriculture without affecting its ecological value.

The second stage is the implementation of land management measures by means of voluntary agreements with farmers which are funded under agri-environment Regulation 2078/92 and include:

- preservation and re-establishment of scattered meadows;
- fixed mowing-times;
- removal of encroaching scrub;
- raising of water levels.

In the event that the land management is not compatible with the requirements of the meadow-breeding birds, the land will be acquired. This is expected to be necessary only rarely.

Financial Details

The organisational and planning phase of the project (stage 1) are 50 per cent co-funded from the ERDF under the INTERREG II programme. The total stage 1 costs amount to around Euro 5,072 per year for each country (see Table 1 for a breakdown for Austria).

Table 1: Breakdown of stage 1 project funding in Austria.

Land	Total cost (€)	EU co-funding (€)
Upper Austria	30,435	15,217
Salzburg	30,435	15,217
TOTAL	60,870	30,434

Results

The landowners have been contacted and informed about the project and have responded positively on the whole. In many instances, the farmers have found that intensive cultivation of the wet meadows has not resulted in increased yields, whereas extensive production provides high quality products which can be marketed at a premium.

The mapping of landuse and determination of the appropriate habitat management measures has been completed. At this stage of the project there was no direct effect on job creation, but the programme indirectly contributed to the preservation of employment as a local environmental planning office was commissioned to undertake the mapping and new perspectives opened up for the resident farmers. A key objective of the project is the maintenance of jobs in the agriculture sector.

It is not intended to use the area for tourism in order to avoid disturbing the birds' breeding grounds. Information on the project is featured on the look-and-learn path outside the area which was initiated by the local village renewal committee.

Discussion

The project provides an interesting example of wildlife management measures which are eligible for funding. It involved the coordinated use of Structural Funds and agri-environment Regulation 2078/92 funding. In many other regions of the EU, for example, the wet lowland areas of the Netherlands and other countries bordering the North Sea, these sorts of measures have been implement solely with Regulation 2078/92 funding. Although the success of the Austria project depends on the cooperation of farmers, there is provision for land acquisition if necessary to protect the bird habitat.

Contacts:

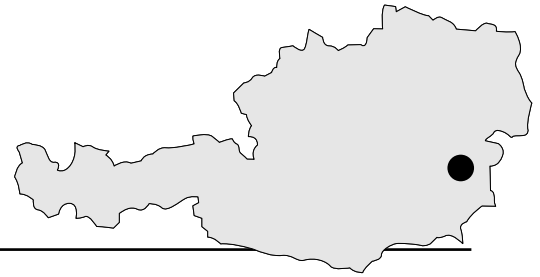
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CASE STUDY 2



Austria:

MAINTENANCE OF GRAZING PASTURES, LAFNITZBODEN

Fund

LEADER programme located in an Objective 1 (Burgenland) and an Objective 5b (Styria) area.

Background

The Lafnitzboden project is located in the Loipersdorf and Kitzladen communities (Burgenland). The project area comprises around 300 hectares in Lafnitzweisen, which is an area of the Lafnitz river.

Farms in this region are predominantly small, extensive livestock enterprises. Economically, the region is weak with a large proportion of the population commuting to work in urban centres, little tourism and few direct agricultural marketing initiatives. Full time farming is decreasing and dairy farming in particular is in decline due to the closure of regional milk-collecting units. The stretch of the lower Lafnitz river is almost completely natural and of high ecological importance, with hardly any river flow or course management works. Consequently, the river banks are being continuously changed by the natural meanders of the river. Fifty years ago, species rich meadows were a predominant feature of the countryside but, more recently, many local farms have changed to intensive livestock management and have converted pasture into maize. In other areas, woodland is encroaching on pastures. It is likely that few meadows will remain in the next millennium if this process continues and soil erosion and water protection functions are affected, thereby endangering the high-value environment of the Lafnitzwiesen.

The project includes around 15 ha of farmed land which border the Lafnitz and its alluvial forests in the west and climax forests in the east.

Project Aims and Content

The objective of the programme is the conversion of maize fields on the banks of the Lafnitz into meadows in order to preserve the wet biotopes and keep the Zaarwiesen, the core zone of this natural riverine landscape, free from tourism. In addition, 60 hectares of alluvial forests and meadows are to be bought from the private owners and transformed into public water protection zones in which the original alluvial forests and meadows will be preserved.

The maize conversion project is in three phases. The first phase, from May to July 1998, involved an analysis of the project potential and consultation with political representatives and farmers interested in extensive pasture management. The second phase, from May 1998 to spring 1999, is the development of a strategy for sustainable extensive pasture management and preparation of the necessary measures and information for the farmers. The third phase is the implementation of the project, to begin in spring 1999 and expected to end in late 2001.

The detailed measures to be implemented are as follows:

1. Pasture management, including:

- extensive cattle and sheep grazing of the Lafnitz meadows (maximum of 1.4 livestock units/ha), no agro-chemical use, minimal building activities;
- common livestock housing in the winter to reduce the burden for housing on individual holdings;
- joint livestock care on pastures and indoors by the cattle farmers;
- preservation of valuable biotopes and replanting of boundary trees.

2. Economic support of farming operations, including:

- conversion to organic farming methods, supported by an advisory service;
- sustainable improvement of farm structures by 'soft' land consolidation (ie small fields are joined together into larger areas);
- business advisory service for product diversification, processing, quality improvement and direct sales;
- creation and advertising of a specific logo for regional products;
- delivery contracts with existing tourist businesses;
- establishment of a joint sales and marketing organisation (mainly for meat and milk);
- improvement of agritourism.

3. Tourism development

- association of farmers, craftsmen and traders in an organisation called 'Weideverein' with the aim of enhancing local,

- environmentally sensitive tourism;
- tourism in the area is to focus on the experience of nature and wildlife;
- promotion of regional shopping culture (supported by a product 'quality mark')

Financial Details

Table 1: Project costs

Item	Cost over 3 year period (€)
Personnel:	
• drovers	32,600
• project management	21,740
• advice	17,390
Public relations	8,700
Investment:	
• shelters	8,700
• enclosures	2,174
• winter housing lease	21,740
Total	113,044

Table 2: Sources of funding

Source	Amount over 3 year period (€)	As % of total
For approximately 100 head of young livestock:		30
• pasture lease	15,217	
• winter housing lease	10,870	
• sponsors for public relations	7,826	
EU	39,565	35
Ministry of Agriculture (federal government)	23,739	21
Burgenland (provincial government)	15,826	14
Total	113,043	

Results

The information campaign for farmers and the foundation of the 'Weideverein' has been completed. Because of initial problems with the pastures where farmers wanted to increase the numbers of cattle grazing, there was only a trial run which, however, went very well.

One of the project priorities was the creation of jobs as during Phase 1 it became apparent that the preservation of jobs in farming was of tantamount importance. Thus, the project offers resident farmers an opportunity to generate additional income.

Discussion

The main aim of the project is to protect the Lafnitz river. In addition, the new grassland may attract birds in the near future although it could take many years for the flora biodiversity of the new grassland to improve.

The interest of farmers in converting to pasture is heavily influenced by subsidies available under the CAP, particularly for growing maize. Consequently, CAP reform could significantly affect the outcome of the project.

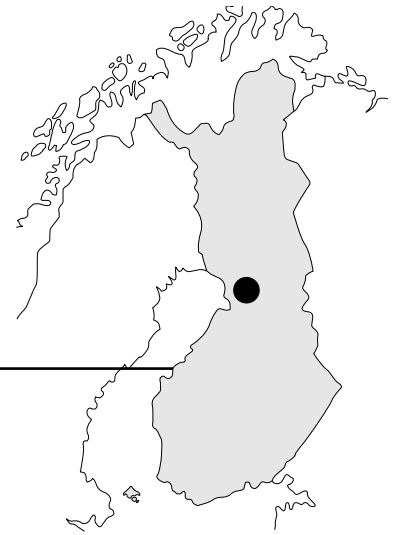
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Finland:

IIJOKI ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

Fund

Objective 6 (ERDF)

Priority 3: Agriculture, forestry, fisheries, rural development and the environment

Measure 3.II: Management and protection of the environment

Background

Iijoki is a major river in the northwest of Finland. The headwaters are dammed for energy generation and the river flow is also restricted to prevent flooding. Five hydroelectric power stations have been built along the river. Despite these engineering works, the upper and middle reaches of the river remain in a relatively natural state. The landscape of the middle reaches of the river is regarded as of great national importance, reflecting the historically rich and diverse settlement of the area. The upper reaches of the river are a scarcely populated wilderness. Parts of Iijoki are proposed SAC areas.

Project Aims and Content

The aim of the programme is to create opportunities for nature tourism through nature conservation, repairing damage caused by water flow regulation and improving the opportunities for boating and angling. The programme also creates new opportunities for employment in the area. The projects in the programme are diverse and range from a canoeing centre to the maintenance of habitats for rare bird species. As the programme covers a large area, co-operation between different local authorities has been necessary.

The Iijoki Environmental Management Programme was approved by the Regional Management Committee of the Regional Council of North Ostrobothnia at the beginning of the 1996 and were due to be finished by 1999. It is estimated that the programme will employ 20 people for two years and will result in three to five permanent contracts in wildlife, fishing and farm tourism.

The project is in two phases

Phase 1

1. Iijoki Water Travel Route. A network of 15 mooring sites is being created along the river to increase wildlife tourism in the Iijoki area. The facilities available at these sites vary and include small jetties, Lapp huts, camping shelters, toilets, rubbish bins etc. The interests of the local enterprises were taken into consideration during the planning of the Route.
2. Syväsalmi. This is one of the Iijoki tributaries. The area has been opened and improved to enhance the scenery, facilitate the migration of fish upstream and increase access for boating and angling.
3. Sotkajärvi Lake. This is a habitat for rare bird species and is a SPA and a proposed SAC. The river tributaries flowing in and out of the lake were blocked by silt leading to low water levels in the lake during dry spells and a lack of open water for the birds. The unblocking of the tributaries has rectified this and also enabled Sotkajärvi to become a part of the Iijoki Water Travel Route.
4. Poroperä. This is a wide, shallow bay, which freezes solid in the winter. An underwater dam is being built which will prevent the water level falling during winter, thereby reducing freezing and increasing the production of fry. Fish stocks will increase and anglers will benefit as a result. The project is almost completed.
5. Improvements of the Iijoki Fishing Conditions. Fishways have been constructed to facilitate the migration of fish in order to help increase their numbers and reduce the need to stock them artificially. The five water power plants may also construct fishways voluntarily.

Phase 2

1. Ranta-Kestilä Fishing and Boating Centre. This will be built in Ranta-Kestilä at the mouth of Iijoki. The groundwork has started and the jetty and other work were completed during the summer of 1998.
2. Landscaping and Construction of Kieriki Centre. Kieriki is an old Stone Age site. The Centre will provide an exhibition of the Stone Age and is hoped to stimulate tourism and related enterprises in the area. Conservation work, landscaping and path building are needed to improve the area. The first stage of building a replica stone age village will be funded by the Programme.
3. Taivalkoski Canoeing Centre. The course to be built is the first of its kind in Finland. It will provide a training centre for canoeing both on a national and international level. The project has not yet received permission from the Water Courts.

Financial Details

Table 1 illustrates the sources and amounts of funding for the two phases

Table 1: Phase 1 and 2 funding

Source of funds	Phase 1 amount (€)	Phase 2 amount (€)	Total (€)	As % of programme total
ERDF	84,746	593,220	677,966	46
Ministry of Labour	508,475	-	508,475	34
Counties and private	118,644	169,492	288,136	20
TOTAL	711,865	762,712	1,474,577	100

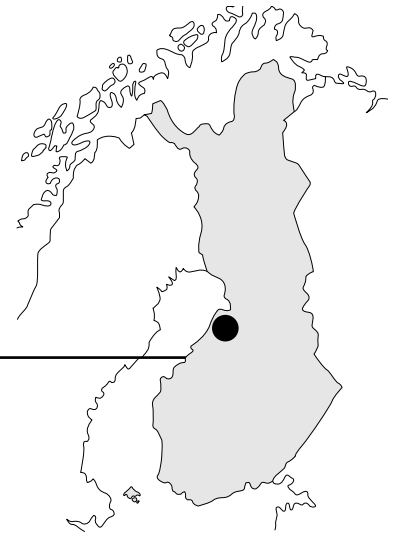
Comment

One of the major aims of the programme is to reduce unemployment as the Iijoki region has the highest unemployment rate in North Ostrobothnia. Consequently for Phase 1 the national funding is provided by the Ministry of Labour rather than the Ministry of the Environment. The North Ostrobothnia Regional Environment Centre has to report to the Labour District the numbers of people employed by the programme and the proportion of them who were long-term unemployed. At least ten per cent of the workforce has to include people who have been unemployed for longer than a year.

Whereas Liminganlahti was based on cooperation between different programmes and projects within a small area, the Iijoki programme is based upon cooperation between municipalities within a large area. The Iijoki case study is a good example of a programme where a proposed SAC comprises part of a wider scheme which enables people living along the river to benefit from the environmental improvements and recreational opportunities on their doorstep.

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Finland:

LIMINGANLAHTI DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Fund

Objective 5b (ERDF)

Priority 4: Development of Rural Communities

Measure 4.3: Protection and Improvement of the Environment

Background

Liminganlahti is located in the northwest of Finland and comprises one of the most valuable wetland areas in Finland. It is an internationally important roosting site for many migratory bird species. The breeding bird fauna is diverse and includes 19 species listed in Annex I of the Birds Directive. The total number of waterfowl have reached nearly 50,000. The rare bird and plant species of Liminganlahti and Liminka contribute to the areas uniqueness as a tourist attraction on an international scale. Liminganlahti is a SPA site and a candidate SAC.

Programme Aims and Content

The purpose of the programme was to develop and maintain the area as a tourist attraction without disturbing the fragile environment, and to improve the local environment for the inhabitants through environmental improvements. Another major aim of the programme was employment creation, both directly by providing local job opportunities and indirectly by promoting business opportunities. The Liminganlahti programme coordinates with two LIFE projects in the area. The project was initiated by the North Ostrobothnia Regional Environment Centre in co-operation with the Labour District and the Regional Council of North Ostrobothnia. Planning for the programme began in autumn 1995 and the construction work started the same year. The work was completed in the spring of 1998.

There are three elements to the programme:

1. Nature Travel and Recreation

WWF-Finland had established a small Nature Centre on the shores of Liminganlahti in Virkkula. As tourist numbers grew, the planning of a new Nature Centre began, to provide a functional centre visitor centre and supply services as part of the Environmental Management Programme.

In 1996, the North Ostrobothnia Regional Environment Centre and the Municipality of Liminka made a proposal to the Regional Council of North Ostrobothnia to separate the Nature Centre from the Liminganlahti Development Programme. At the beginning of 1997, the proposal was accepted as a separate Objective 5b project for the Municipality of Liminka. The decision was principally based on economic considerations as the Nature Centre would have otherwise consumed a large proportion of the budget for the Programme. Building commenced in the summer of 1997 and was completed in time for the bird season in the spring of 1998.

Other projects in this category included the creation of a network of camping sites, six bird towers and over six kilometres of raised nature trails built around Liminganlahti. Several buildings and dozens of information and nature trail signs were installed.

The extension of the Varjakka boat harbour was an important part of the Liminganlahti development. Previously there were several small landing sites in the shallow coves of Liminganlahti which were potentially disturbing the birds. Because of the new harbour extension, the routes to the smaller landing sites have remained undredged and therefore cannot be used.

2. Improvement of Waterways and Water Protection

The aim of these projects was to improve the natural environment of Liminganlahti and of its catchment areas by increasing water levels. The bay of Liminganlahti is shallow, and almost one third of it is less than one metre deep. In addition, the bedrock is rising at the rate of 8 mm per year, so that the water surface area is reduced by an average of 27 hectares per year. Landscaping of the river banks was carried out at Ängeslevänjoki and Temmesjoki and the Niskajärvi wetland was created to

filter water originating from the peat production area and to increase the low water levels during the summer months.

The water level of Ängesleväjoki river was increased by about a metre by the building of six elevations in the place of former rapids.

Guidelines have been provided to promote sensitive drainage measures in areas where the land is traditionally used for agriculture.

3. Cooperation with Landowners

The forests along the shores and nearby areas of Liminganlahti form an important part of the area and forestry and landscaping plans were prepared for each farm. These plans were combined with the education of landowners to encourage appropriate afforestation.

Financial Details

The total cost of the Nature Centre was Euro 1,159,400 of which the Ministry of Labour provided Euro 253,600 and the Municipality of Liminka Euro 420,300. The remaining Euro 485,500 (42 per cent of the total) came from the ERDF.

The remaining measures totalled Euro 1,144,900 of which the Ministry of Labour contributed Euro 405,800 and the Counties provided Euro 333,300. The remaining Euro 405,800 (35 per cent of the total) came from the ERDF.

Results

The programme's impact on employment was recorded monthly. During the period July 1996 to May 1998 the programme resulted in 18 man years of labour with 6.1 persons employed per month on average. At least one new enterprise was founded and a permanent post created.

There have been several other impacts on entrepreneurship and employment. Facilities for boating, accommodation and birdwatching have been created. The village activities of Varjakka have also been boosted. For example, a course to train birdwatching guides and a travel agency specialising in bird watching have been launched. The improvements of the waterways have encouraged the local population to work for the benefit of their river.

The Nature Centre, that started as part of the Liminganlahti Development Programme employed ten people full time during the building stage and now employs five full time and three part time staff.

The bird population has been monitored in the area since the 1950s. During the Programme the numbers of birds has been increasing, unaffected by the growth in visitor numbers.

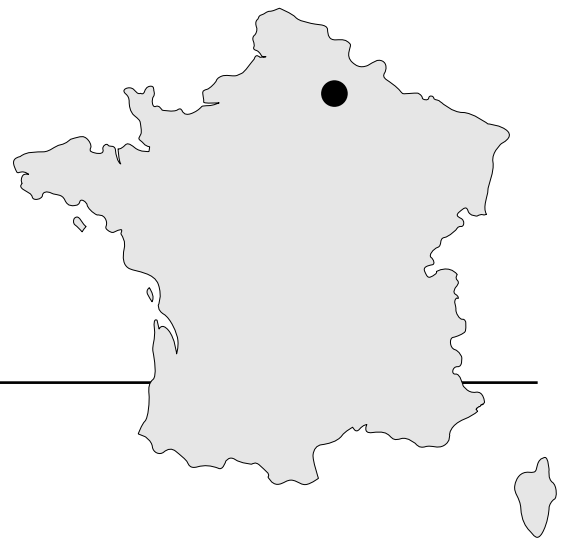
Comment

There are also two LIFE projects in Liminganlahti. The 'Conservation and Management of Liminganlahti Wetland' aims to secure the natural values of Liminganlahti by integrating conservation, protection and other land use measures in an environmentally sustainable way. Activities have included the clearance of reeds and shrubs and the management of existing pastures and meadows by grazing and annual mowing. The second LIFE project aims to protect the Lesser White Fronted Goose, which is a globally threatened species found in the Liminganlahti area during migration in May. The resting population has been in decline since the 1960s and today numbers only 25-40 geese per year. This project that began in 1997 has given valuable information on how to protect and conserve these important resting areas.

These LIFE projects ensure that the nature conservation interest of the area is monitored and protected and provides direct investment for specialised nature protection measures whilst the Structural Fund projects provide opportunities for socio-economic development, without compromising the natural environment.

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FRANÇA:

GESTÃO E RECUPERAÇÃO DAS CHARNECAS DE VERSIGNY NA REGIÃO DA PICARDIA

Financiamento

Objectivo 2 - Quadro Comunitário 1994-1996 e 1997-1999

Eixo de Prioridade 3: Ambiente

Medida 3.1: Protecção do Ambiente e Gestão dos Recursos Naturais

Introdução

As charnecas de Versigny (próximo de Laon, no *Departamento* de Aisne) constituem uma paisagem natural característica da região de Picardia. Foram identificados seis habitats naturais que estão incluídos na Directiva Habitats e 14 espécies florísticas protegidas, duas das quais, *Drosera rotundifolia* e *Lycopodiella inundata*, são protegidas a nível nacional. A área é ainda refúgio de espécies de elevado valor conservacionista de mamíferos, aves e invertebrados. Cerca de 62 hectares de charneca (situados no município de Versigny) foram designados reserva natural em 1995. Esta área está ainda listada no inventário de Áreas Naturais com Interesse Ecológico, Faunístico ou Florístico (ZNIEFF)¹ e é candidata a ZEC (zona especial de conservação) a integrar a rede Natura 2000. Contudo, as actividades tradicionais que eram praticadas nas charnecas (pastoreio e extracção de turfa) cessaram e bétulas têm vindo progressivamente a invadir a área, secando as zonas húmidas com a conseqüente redução da charneca.

Em 1996, a Agência para a Conservação das Áreas Naturais da Picardia tomou a seu cargo a gestão das charnecas. Esta agência é uma organização sem fins lucrativos, que tem vindo a desenvolver planos de gestão para a conservação de áreas naturais na Picardia desde 1989.

Objectivos e descrição do projecto

O projecto, que teve início no Outono de 1996, tem como objectivos informar e sensibilizar o público sobre a região, recuperar cerca de 45 hectares de charneca e áreas associadas e, ainda, proteger os principais valores do património natural. O trabalho permitirá estabelecer uma gestão sustentável da área, através da recuperação das actividades tradicionais, tais como o aproveitamento de lenhas e madeiras, pastoreio e extracção de turfa em pequena escala. O projecto foi iniciado e é gerido pela Agência para a Conservação das Áreas Naturais da Picardia, em associação com a Delegação Regional da Picardia do Ministério do Ambiente.

O projecto decorrerá durante 4 anos (1996-99), sendo composto de várias fases:

1996: início dos trabalhos de gestão da reserva natural; inventariação florística e acções de gestão experimental de habitats prioritários para estabelecimento do plano de gestão.

1997: concepção de um plano de gestão para 5 anos; realização de um estudo hidrológico da zona.

1998: conclusão do plano de gestão; início dos primeiros trabalhos de recuperação.

1999: realização dos estudos prévios necessários à realização das principais acções de conservação; eliminação em grande escala de bétulas; conclusão do primeiro ano do plano de gestão a cinco anos.

Alguns dos trabalhos do programa de gestão, nomeadamente aqueles iniciados em 1996, já foram concluídos. Na fase de 1998, ainda não foi concretizada a instalação de instrumentos para a monitorização dos sistemas hidrológicos (eg. profundidade da água subterrânea, características hidrológicas). Outros trabalhos ainda não foram iniciados. Cada programa de trabalho é implementado ao longo de um período de dois anos.

Dados financeiros

O financiamento é assegurado pelo Fundo Europeu para o Desenvolvimento Regional (FEDER) da seguinte forma:

1. Inventários, levantamentos e equipamentos para a monitorização e gestão do património natural, acções de informação, sensibilização e formação - a contribuição máxima do FEDER é de 50 por cento.

[1] *Zone naturelle d'intérêt écologique, faunistique et floristique*

2. Investimentos para a protecção, melhoria e gestão do património natural - a contribuição máxima do FEDER é de 25 por cento (1994-96) e 30 por cento (1997-99). Estão incluídos: levantamentos, inventários e estudos; planos de gestão; planos de recuperação para as espécies florísticas e habitats ameaçados; instalação de centros de acolhimento e equipamentos de interpretação; instalação dos instrumentos de medição para a monitorização dos sistemas hidrológicos, medidas experimentais de gestão; trabalho de recuperação.

No Tabela 1 são discriminadas as fontes de financiamento.

Tabela 1: Fontes e montantes de financiamento

Fontes de Financiamento	1996		1997		1998	
	Montante (Euro)	% of total	Montante (Euro)	% do total	Montante (Euro)	% do total
FEDER	10,000	50	22,576	49	26,970	34.70
Estado Francês (DIREN Picardia)	6,970	35	15,818	34.5	24,545	31.60
Departamento (Conselho Geral)	3,030	15	3,788	8.25	3,788	5
Conselho Regional com exclusão dos contratos de ordenamento						
Administração Central-Região	-	-	3,788	8.25	9,090	11.70
Agência das Águas do Sena e Normandia	-	-	-	-	11,667†	15
Municipalidade de Versigny	-	-	-	-	1,515	2
TOTAL	20,000		45,790		77,576	

† actualmente em negociação

A Agência para a Conservação das Áreas Naturais da Picardia previu o número de postos de trabalho que poderão ser criados através dos programas de trabalho anuais, estimando o tempo real que será gasto em cada operação por cada membro da equipa. Foi adicionado um extra de 10 por cento, por forma a cobrir problemas e circunstâncias imprevistas.

Resultados

As previsões quanto à criação de emprego verificaram-se correctas (Tabela 2).

Tabela 2: Emprego criado pelo projecto

Cargo	1996	1997	1998	1996-98
Responsável de Projecto	3	4	3.5	10.5
Investigador	2	2.5	2.75	7.25
Monitor técnico	2	2	4	
Secretária	0.3	1.3	1	2.6
Responsável Informação	0.3	0.25	0.55	
TOTAL	5.3	10.1	9.5	24.6

O trabalho delegado a peritos externos e as actividades geradas indirectamente pelo projecto são apresentados na Tabela 3.

Tabela 3: Gastos com peritos externos e estimativa dos efeitos indirectos sobre o emprego

	1996	1997	1998	1996-98
Despesa Total (€)	4,242	16,667	29,545	50,455
% do Orçamento total	14%	34%	38%	32%
Impacto indirecto estimado no emprego	Esporádico	Equivalente de um sexto ou de um quarto de tempo de actividade *	Equivalente de um quarto ou de um meio de tempo de actividade*	Equivalente de um meio ou de um três quartos de tempo de actividade *

*Além dos custos salariais, inclui despesas, contribuições patronais, custos fixos do escritório e impostos.

A Agência também empregou quatro estudantes estagiários durante quatro a dez meses.

Uma avaliação interina do projecto identificou um conjunto de resultados preliminares. Uma parte da área foi inundada, sustentando relevantes comunidades da flora aquática. Foi testada a técnica de recuperação da charneca através da remoção da camada superior do solo (*étrépage*), e em resultado disso foram definidas medidas de gestão a implementar com vista à recuperação de charneca dominadas por *Drosera rotundifolia*. Foi igualmente determinada a técnica a utilizar para limpar as bétulas e o desenvolvimento do matagal está a ser controlado. Tem sido assegurada a manutenção de espécies de plantas e a recuperação da turfeira já foi iniciada.

Um conjunto de efeitos indirectos é igualmente visível. Os caminhos para visitantes e placards informativos foram bem recebidos pelos residentes locais, que pediram a instalação adicional de mais placards informativos. Além disso, foram iniciadas discussões conjuntas com agentes locais (autoridades municipais, federações de caça, Administração Nacional das Florestas, agricultores e proprietários locais e, ainda, o Departamento do Ministério da Agricultura e Floresta) sobre a utilização sustentável da área. Estão em curso a discussão sobre gestão sustentável dos recursos florestais enquanto fonte doméstica de energia, e a discussão com os caçadores para assegurar a compatibilização das actividades de caça com a conservação da natureza. Foi igualmente reanimada a utilização de cavalos como um meio de transporte de produtos (turfa, madeira, etc).

Discussão

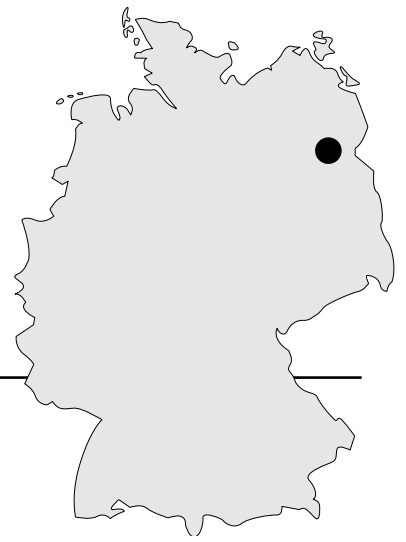
Quatro critérios principais foram considerados durante o processo de selecção do projecto, de acordo com os critérios definidos pelo Secretaria Geral de Assuntos Regionais da Prefeitura e a Delegação Regional da Picardia do Ministério do Ambiente:

- impacto do projecto no desenvolvimento sustentável;
- ligações com as actividades económicas;
- impacto na atractividade da área;
- respeito pelos principais equilíbrios naturais.

O plano de gestão permitirá a recuperação deste local através das acções iniciadas e poderá conduzir à re-introdução do pastoreio extensivo na zona.

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Germany:

BLUMBERGER MÜHLE

Fund

Objective 1 (ERDF)

Background

The Blumberger Mühle is part of the Blumberger Teiche nature protection area (214 ha) which is situated in the very northeast of the 129,161 ha UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, Schorfheide-Chorin. The nature protection area and the Biosphere Reserve were both designated in 1990. The Biosphere Reserve is located in the north-east of Berlin in the Uckermark district of the federal state of Brandenburg and includes a wide diversity of habitats for numerous animals and plants. The areas with the greatest species diversity have been secured as nature protected areas. There are 75 villages and three small towns inside the Reserve with a total population of 35,000. The economic situation is very poor with an unemployment rate of 20 per cent.

The region is characterised by countless bogs, streams and lakes in a hilly terrain. These wetlands form important habitats for birds, including all three eagle species of the North German Plain, and rare wetland mammals such as beavers. Around 50 per cent of the Reserve's 130,000 ha are forests and woodlands. Oak forests are a distinct feature of the reserve, but are found in a near natural state at very few sites as many oak groves and forests were transformed into monocultural pine forests during the 18th and 19th Centuries. Since the designation of the Biosphere Reserve, areas have been selected for natural regeneration (Zone 1), and in the Protective Zone 2, environmentally sensitive forestry is undertaken.

Approximately 40,000 ha of the Reserve is farmed land. Regulations applied in the Reserve for the most part require environmentally sensitive agriculture, with the exception of the Core Zone, where the designation of nature protection areas imposes strict conditions on the farmers for which they are compensated.

Responsibility for the administration of the Biosphere Reserve lies with the Landesanstalt für Großschutzgebiete, a specially created body under the Brandenburg Ministry of Environment.

Project Aims and Content

The 'Blumberger Mühle Project', which is located in a former contaminated area around the northeast of the Blumberger Teiche nature protection area, aims to combine nature conservation, nature tourism and job creation in an area of former East Germany which is of high nature conservation and landscape importance, as well as being one of the economically most deprived regions of Germany. The project and comprises three main approaches.

1. The establishment of a 'nature adventure landscape' and a 'nature adventure trail' in order to combine natural education/conservation and tourism in an attractive, modern way;
2. By becoming the future showpiece of the Reserve, it aims to be the official gateway and starting point to the Reserve and organises the visits to the other parts of the Reserve;
3. The restoration of the small lakes and ponds in the Blumberger Teiche nature protection area provides example for the whole region for the protection and restoration of endangered water bodies and promotes traditional fishing and fish farming methods as commercially viable initiatives and thereby to find economically lucrative ways of nature protection.

The former environmental minister of Brandenburg and the President of Naturschutzbund Deutschland (NABU), which is one of Germany's biggest nature protection organisations, jointly initiated the project in 1990 and received the first funds from the Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt in 1991. It was another two years before NABU was able to buy the ground required for the project, which is managed by NABU.

The detailed elements of the project include:

- an information centre that uses exclusively non-polluting energy resources (opened in April 1997), and is built in a way that makes it almost undistinguishable from the surrounding natural environment;

- a trail through the Blumberger Teiche nature protection area featuring all the biosphere's dominant types of habitat. Along the trail several exhibitions are established to illustrate the natural mechanisms of landscape evolution and man's impact on nature;
- a partially artificially created *Naturerlebnislandschaft* (nature adventure landscape) which exhibits all the biosphere's major habitats in a relatively small area of 18 ha enabling visitors to walk through it in a couple of hours.

The information centre organises numerous events and exhibitions on natural history, nature conservation, environmentally conscious agriculture and consumption, folk traditions, environmental politics and policies. Furthermore, the centre offers guided walks (mainly concentrating on the theme 'Man's use of water and soil') through the *Naturerlebnislandschaft*. Exhibitions along the walk demonstrate traditional and ecologically sensitive handicrafts and agriculture. The centre is equipped with state-of-the-art communication equipment, and intends to use modern communication technology as a means of creating nature protection systems.

Financial Details

The total budget of the project is €6.92 million. Funding is obtained from the following sources:

- €2.77 million from the Deutsche Bundestiftung Umwelt (DBU);
- €3.23 million for the period 1995-97 from the ERDF under the Operational Programme for Brandenburg 1994-1999 (via the Brandenburg Ministry of Economy) as part of the Joint Task, allocated to the construction of the information centre, car parks, the centre's alternative heating system and the general planning costs;
- €0.24 million for the period 1995/96 from Brandenburg's Ministry of Environment, allocated to the establishment of the nature trail and the design of the Nature Adventure Landscape and biotope improvements;
- from Brandenburg's Ministry of Agriculture, Euro 0.3 million for the period 1996/96, aimed at the 'development of rural infrastructure', eg the building of access roads to the project site;
- private donations.

Results

The project has led directly to the following employment opportunities:

- a staff of four permanent employees;
- 15 short term post created through a specially designed job creation scheme (ABM) by the state of Brandenburg
- since 1994/95, 100 persons were engaged in the project through various job creation schemes;
- forecasts predict 100 jobs to be created directly and indirectly through the Blumberger Mühle nature protection centre in the next few years.

Discussion

Obtaining Structural Fund support was a new step for NABU. It required a commercial approach to the proposal which was evaluated by the government in the same way as any other economic development project. The project also attracted a number of private sponsors, such as a large food store company, and has influenced discussion about regional development in the area.

In the future, there are plans to raise public awareness on conservation matters, to promote regional development, to create jobs in nature conservation/education and to foster the development of environmentally benign tourism as a major future economic feature of the region. The project organisers predict 80,000-100,000 visitors a year to the Blumberger Mühle in the mid-term future.

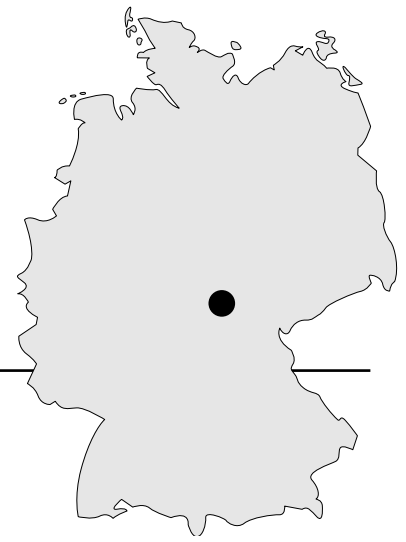
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Germany:

RHÖN BIOSPHERE RESERVE

Fund

LEADER

Background

The whole Rhön region was declared a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in 1991. The Reserve is a protected upland area of 300,000 ha which overlaps the common border region of the federal states of Hessen, Bavaria and Thuringia. About 64 per cent of the Reserve area lies within Hessen. It is a diverse, cultivated landscape which hosts a wide range of animal and plant species.

Cultivation and colonization of the higher upland areas of the Rhön began in the 16th and 17th Centuries. The region still has a relatively low population density (eg 68 people/km² in the Bavarian parts). Eighty per cent of the population live in towns of less than 1,000 inhabitants. The rate of emigration has remained relatively constant since the 1970s and skilled labour is regularly lost to the metropolitan Rhein-Main area.

Approximately 41 per cent of the reserve is forest, 29 per cent is arable land, 25 is meadows and grasslands, whilst the remainder is residential and industrial areas. In recent years the total area of unused land has increased sharply. For example, the use of lowland grassland has decreased and 60 per cent of the milk quota has been lost. Afforestation threatens the abandoned grassland, thereby impacting on the distinct character of the regional cultural landscapes.

Due to the federal political system of Germany, the legislative and administrative matters relating to the Reserve are the exclusive responsibility of the three states within whose boundaries it lies. In all three states, nature conservation laws and policies are relatively strong. Large parts of the reserve belonging to Bavaria and Hessen have already been designated as 'Naturparks' by the respective state governments over the last 20 years. A region of high conservation value called 'Lange Rhön' was part of a nationwide protected area system designated by the Federal Ministry of Environment in 1981.

There is no central coordination agency for the whole Reserve. Plans to create such an institution by early 1999 have failed, largely due to the so far successful reserve management and cooperation by the different state agencies. All three states implemented programmes for nature conservation in the Reserve, developed by the nature conservation departments of the respective Ministries of Environment and the regional development agencies responsible for Reserve management. The responsibilities of the development agencies under the state administration comprises the coordination of research, environmental information and measures concerning landscape protection, the organization of a nature wardens, and the representation of the Reserve to the public and the media. Cooperation between the different state agencies mainly concentrates on public relations, press and media contacts, research and the establishment of a Reserve archive and documentation system.

In compliance with the UNESCO Biosphere Programme, the Reserve is divided into three zones within which different controls on land use apply. Agriculture is excluded from the Core Zone which covers 2.7 per cent of the Reserve, whilst environmentally appropriate land use is allowed within the Care Zone (Pflegezonen A and B) (40 per cent of the Reserve). The remainder of the area is the Development Zone (Entwicklungszone) within which ecologically sustainable economic activities are allowed.

Programme Aims and Content

Between 1991 and 1994, the bodies responsible for the Reserve developed an operational plan for integrated rural development in cooperation with local interest groups. The plan, called the *Rahmenkonzept Biosphärenreservat Rhön*, includes four subprogrammes: agriculture; local business; human resources and the environment. The main objectives of the plan are to promote nature conservation and environmentally sensitive regional development. The securing and creation of jobs is of central importance. In regard to the combination of nature protection and employment measures in all areas, but especially in the Hessian parts, emphasis is put on the extensive, alternative use of fallow grassland areas and the creation of opportunities for nature conscious, ecologically sensitive tourism and other local activities. Other priorities include the use and exploitation of alternative energy resources, and the direct marketing of regional agricultural products. LEADER is one of the main sources of funding for achieving the objectives of the plan.

Only Bavaria and Hessen obtained LEADER funds for the programme initially. Thuringia received funding under LEADER II because it was not part of the EU when applications for the first LEADER funding period were made to the EU.

The respective states founded three regional development agencies to implement the LEADER Programme, and to receive and allocate funds; the *Verein Natur- und Lebensraum Rhön* in Hessen; the *5b-Stelle* in Bavaria as an integral department of the Lower Franconia government; and, in Thuringia, the *Biosphärenreservatsverwaltung Thüringer Rhön* and the LEADER II-Action Groups of the districts of Wartburgkreis and Schmalkalden-Meiningen, which coordinate the LEADER funding applications and implementations.

There are a number of projects implemented under the *Rahmenkonzept* which affect nature conservation and job creation. In the Bavarian Rhön a number of 'interest groups' have been created which are active in various fields, such as the direct marketing of regional and organic agricultural products, nature conservation and care of the countryside, the marketing of hay which encourages the maintenance of species rich hay meadows, and ecotourism.

The Rhön Sheep-Project in the Hessian region attempts to reverse the trend to replace the traditional, hardy Rhön sheep with modern sheep breeds which require more specialised, intensive management and has led to a decline in the use of grazing land which results in scrub encroachment. By encouraging farmers to revert to Rhön sheep, the project has boosted market demand for Rhön sheep and secure many farmers' livelihoods and incomes as well as preserving species rich pasture.

Also in the Hessian Rhön, the Rasdorf Rural Development Consultancy project is tackling the regional problem of agricultural businesses being abandoned. Co-operation between farmers, butchers and caterers has successfully been initiated and farmers are encouraged to convert to environmentally sensitive farming methods. Another programme has established training schemes for guides in ecotourism (since 1994) and nature wardens (since 1993). In the Thuringian Rhön, the *Rhönlandscheune* project has created a centre for the direct marketing of regional, organically produce agricultural products in the town of Dermbach.

A common project which is implemented throughout the Rhön Biosphere Reserve is the Rhöner Streuobst which aims to save the Rhön's characteristic apple tree orchards. The project also establishes a regional direct marketing network for apples and other fruits.

Financial Details

The total budget for the Bavarian *5b-Stelle* is Euro 14.51 million and is much larger than the Hessian *Verein Natur- und Lebensraum Rhön* with a total budget of Euro 4.96 million as it covers a much larger area. EU co-funding amounts to Euro 3.08 million for Bavaria and Euro 2.04 million for Hessen. This is a reduction of the EU funds received by the two states in the period 1991-1994, when nearly Euro 7 million was provided.

The biggest share of the funds was spent in the development of rural tourism (Euro 4.5 million in Bavaria and Euro 1.98 million in Hessen), regional services and handicrafts (Euro 3 million in Bavaria and Euro 1.02 million in Hessen) as well as in developing agricultural products (Euro 1.5 million in Bavaria and Euro 0.6 million in Hessen).

No data was available for Thuringia.

Results

In the period 1991 to 1998, the socio-economic outcomes of the LEADER programme in all the areas of the Reserve combined are:

1. Maintenance of 2,000 part-time farms.
2. Creation of 30-50 new jobs per year. Estimations by the respective development agencies forecast 1,500 new jobs in the short-term future (no precise time period has been given).
3. The use of regional agricultural products in the region's catering services has risen from three to 10 per cent, and to five per cent of private consumption, thereby boosting the demand for environmentally sensitive farming methods.

Discussion

In the Reserve, LIFE has provided funding for strict nature conservation measures and provided funds for land to be bought from private landowners to enable habitat improvements to be made in an area between Himmelsdunkberg in the south and Rossberg in the north. In addition, all three federal states obtained LIFE II funding for their parts of the Reserve in the period 1994-1999.

The specialised nature conservation measures undertaken under LIFE are complemented by the LEADER programme. Much of the habitat and species which are characteristic of the area are dependent on the continuation of traditional, extensive

farming techniques which are under threat from rural depopulation. The LEADER measures combine to improve the economic viability of farming in the Reserve through a variety of approaches. The integrated and participative characteristics of the programme ensure that nature conservation in the Rhön is accepted by the local population, who view the Biosphere Reserve as a driving force for the overall sustainable development of the area. Nature conservation, therefore, becomes an integrated part of the overall development strategy.

Contacts

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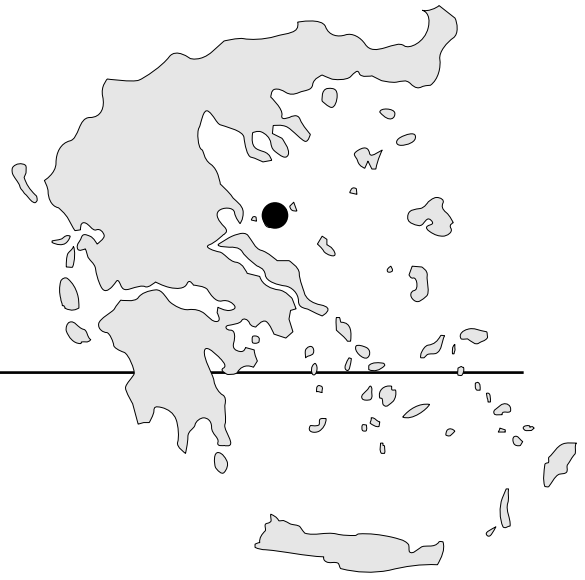
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Greece:

SPORADES MARINE PARK



Fund

Objective 1

Second Community Support Framework

Operational Programme Environment (ERDF)

Sub-programme 3: Management of Natural Environment and Resources

Measure 3.2: Infrastructure establishment for the management and protection of biotopes of importance in Greece.

Background

The Sporades islands in the north Aegean Sea host the only fully established Marine Park in Greece. The area is of high conservation importance as it is home to the largest breeding population of monk seals (*Monachus monachus*) in the Mediterranean Sea.

The Presidential Decree which established the Park imposed restrictions on land development in the most important areas for the monk seal, matched by controls on fishing activities and marine traffic. Some local objections were raised against the land use controls due to a fear that the development of the region would be stalled and income generation opportunities restricted. Also, locals were unfamiliar with the concept of a Marine Park as it was the first to be designated in Greece. However, most of the small islets of the Sporades Marine Park (with the exception of Alonissos) were not destined for tourist development at the time the Park was established due to their inaccessibility, consequently much of the land involved is devoted mainly to extensive stock raising.

Reaction against the fisheries restrictions was much stronger. The waters of Sporades are amongst the most important fishing grounds in Greece and were intensively fished by medium sized vessels (purse seines¹ and trawlers) and to a lesser extent by small coastal vessels. The fisheries restrictions were mainly targeted at the medium scale enterprises as these were the most damaging to both fish populations and the marine habitats upon which the monk seal is dependent. At the same time, an effort was made to protect the small-scale fisheries which are important for the local economy. Although the small-scale fishers supported the control measures, the strong lobbies of the more intensive fishers raised objections.

Prior to the establishment of the Park, the area benefited from many projects supporting nature conservation measures and these activities have since intensified. Both ACNAT² and LIFE funding have enabled the study and monitoring of the area and the monk seal population, as well as the development of management proposals. Under the Structural Funds, two consecutive projects were approved for the region and are described below.

Projects Aims and Content

Both the projects were initiated jointly by the Ministry of Environment Planning and Public Works and the authorities of the region of Magnesia. However, an NGO active in the Sporades region for ten years, the Hellenic Society for the Study and Protection of the Monk Seal (MOM) provided significant input to the development of the projects. Through its research and awareness activities, MOM was one of the main motivators behind the establishment of the Marine Park.

The two projects support the management of the Marine Park through infrastructure provision and improvement in different ways. The first may provide 'fringe' benefits to the local population, which perhaps compensate for the apparent restrictions imposed by Park designation, while the second appears to more directly support the actual operation of the Park and species conservation. The differences are described in more detail below.

Project One

The first project was agreed in December 1995 and finished at the end of December 1997. The involvement of MOM was limited to an advisory role regarding the impact of the proposed actions. The activities included infrastructure work on the

¹ A purse seine is a large wall of net, 1,000 to 1,500 metres in length and 150 to 300 metres in depth which is used to capture fish by encircling them from the sides and below. When used in shallow coastal water, the gear may drag on the sea bed.

² ACNAT (Actions for the Community relating to Nature Conservation) was an EC fund set up in 1991 to support the conservation of bird habitats and the protection of other threatened species of fauna and flora and their habitats. In 1992, ACNAT was integrated into LIFE.

Island of Alonnisos, the administrative centre of the Marine Park, as follows:

- Improvement of the 16 km road network that serves the Marine Park, including the road to the Biological Station of Gerakas and the road between the Monk Seal Nursing Centre in Steni Vala and the fishing port of Kalamaki.
- Heliport infrastructure to support the network that is established for the collection and transfer of wounded or orphan monk seals.
- Infrastructure for the facilitation of visitor access to the old town centre of Alonnisos.

Project Two

This was agreed in February 1998 and is due to end in December 1999. MOM was involved in the development and implementation of this project to a greater extent than for Project one. Furthermore, the project has a more direct link to the conservation of species and habitats and also involves raising public awareness. It includes the following activities:

- Monitoring of the monk seal population and wardening of the Park.
- Functional improvement of the Research/Biological Station of Gerakas.
- Construction, equipping and operating of a new nursing and rehabilitation centre for monk seals in Gerakas.
- Study and establishment of visitor routes and paths in Alonnisos.
- Establishment of an Information Centre at Patitiri, which is the arrival point for visitors to the Island of Alonnisos.
- Signposting of the Marine Park to increase public awareness.

The monk seal monitoring and wardening activity was designed and undertaken by MOM in collaboration with the local authorities. Also, the establishment of the biological station and the rehabilitation centre was based on the study, proposals and scientific expertise of MOM. At the beginning of 1998, a ten year agreement was signed between the Ministry and MOM for the operation of the Rehabilitation Centre and most of the activities of the Biological Station, as a follow-up to the Objective 1 project.

Financial details

	Project One (mEuro)	Project Two (mEuro)
ERDF (75 %)	1.33	0.68
National Government (25%)	0.44	0.22
TOTAL	1.77	0.9

Discussion

The content of Project One was no doubt influenced by the expertise of the technicians responsible for drafting and submitting the proposal to the Objective 1 Monitoring Committee. They were more familiar with transport infrastructure provision than nature conservation. However, it could be argued that the project improves long term public acceptance of the Park as its outcome may be viewed by the local population as 'compensation' for the restrictions imposed on their activities. This positive influence on public attitudes may be of considerable benefit to the future of the Marine Park, despite what may appear at first sight to be a questionable use of funds in a protected area.

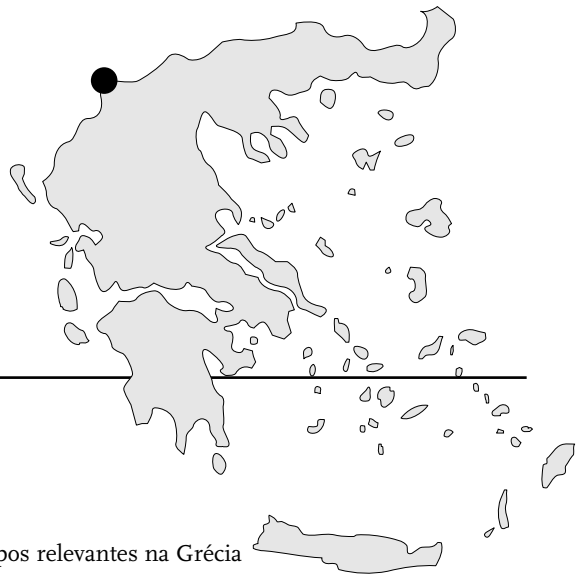
On the other hand, it may be legitimate to criticise the segregated character of Project One, as it failed to integrate infrastructure works and field interventions, and most important, made no provision for training and awareness raising of local people so as to ensure their continued employment and involvement in the operation of the Park. The criticism is a significant one given the size of the project, which is far larger than other, more integrated projects (see the Prespa case).

Project Two shows an obvious improvement in approach as it closely matches infrastructure provision with the nature conservation activities of the Marine Park as well as providing both for the training and employment of local people and the conservation of the monk seal through the establishment of facilities (the biological station, rehabilitation centre and information centre) and monitoring and wardening. In addition, more partners, specifically NGOs, were involved as the initiative has developed.

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GRÉCIA:

LAGO PRESPA

Financiamento

Objectivo 1 - Segundo Quadro Comunitário de Apoio

Programa Operacional para o Ambiente (FEDER)

Medida 3.2: Estabelecimento de infraestruturas para a gestão e protecção de biótopos relevantes na Grécia

Introdução

O Lago Prespa é uma área húmida de importância internacional albergando uma grande diversidade de fauna e flora. É o habitat de uma das maiores populações nidificantes de pelicanos (*Pelecanus crispus*) na União Europeia. Contudo, a implementação de medidas de conservação na área não tem sido fácil. A designação da área como um sítio Ramsar e Parque Nacional gerou resistência local, já que impôs um conjunto de restrições quanto ao uso da terra e dos recursos sem a aplicação de medidas compensatórias adequadas. Além disso, enquanto que a gestão dos Parques Nacionais é da responsabilidade do Ministério da Agricultura, os sítios Ramsar são geridos pelo Ministério do Ambiente. Tem sido, por isso, difícil estabelecer uma instituição responsável pela zona e um plano de gestão consensual.

Esforços anteriores por parte de ONGs para produzir planos de gestão não tiveram sucesso. Além disso, apesar dos esforços continuados da comunidade local e da Sociedade para a Protecção de Prespa (SPP), têm-se verificado actividades ilegais dentro e fora da área protegida, as quais provocaram a degradação de habitats importantes ou o distúrbio da vida selvagem.

O isolamento da área, que lhe permitiu permanecer praticamente inalterada, não sofrendo a agricultura intensiva e o desenvolvimento industrial que ocorreram em outras regiões da Grécia, trouxe-lhe, ao invés, outros problemas. A ausência de oportunidades de emprego levou ao êxodo da população economicamente activa, resultando no abandono da terra e das povoações rurais. O abandono das práticas agrícolas tradicionais, tais como o pastoreio das zonas húmidas, é uma ameaça para a sobrevivência de muitos habitats de Prespa.

Objectivos e conteúdo do projecto

O projecto de Prespa é uma abordagem integrada que visa a gestão, conservação e interpretação dos ecossistemas e área do Lago Prespa e, por outro lado, a criação de emprego local, permitindo assim a manutenção da presença humana no meio rural e, indirectamente, a conservação dos ecossistemas.

O projecto foi elaborado pela SPP, mas uma vez que as ONGs não eram elegíveis para o financiamento directo do Quadro Comunitário de Apoio na Grécia e já que a colaboração com as autoridades regionais foi considerada importante, o apoio da Prefeitura de Florina e da Região Oeste da Macedónia foi obtido. Consequentemente, o projecto foi submetido no Ministério do Planeamento Ambiental e Obras Públicas como uma iniciativa conjunta. A Prefeitura de Florina é responsável pela coordenação do projecto enquanto a Empresa de Desenvolvimento de Florina, em colaboração com a SPP e outras entidades privadas, desenvolvem a grande maioria das actividades. O projecto foi lançado em Março de 1996 e deverá terminar em Dezembro de 1998.

Estão previstas cinco tarefas fundamentais:

- *Estudo ambiental específico* com vista à definição e estabelecimento das normas e práticas de gestão para a protecção efectiva da área agrupados sob a forma de um plano de gestão. Um resultado importante desta tarefa é o reforço do estatuto de protecção da área e o estabelecimento de uma autoridade de gestão do Parque.
- *Estudos específicos de gestão e conservação* para complementar o Estudo acima referido. Estes estudos debruçar-se-ão sobre as necessidades das espécies e habitats, bem como dos atributos culturais da região.
- *Trabalhos técnicos e de infraestrutura*, incluindo a construção de um cais em madeira e de centros de informação temática em três locais na área (Ag. Germanos, Pili e Vrondero), e trabalhos de gestão florestal, tais como a abertura e sinalização de caminhos para visitantes e vedação de uma floresta antiga de cedros.

- *Equipamento para o funcionamento dos centros de informação*, nomeadamente a concepção e a elaboração de exposições e material de informação. Estão igualmente incluídas a vigilância e monitorização da área.
- *Actividades de divulgação e sensibilização*, nomeadamente a organização de seminários e encontros para informar a população local e visitantes, produção de mapas e outro material demonstrando a importância do ponto de vista da conservação da natureza da área e dos caminhos para visitantes, e disponibilização de informação aos media.

Dados financeiros

O custo do projecto é aproximadamente 1.07 milhões de Euro, 75 por cento dos quais (0.8 milhões de Euros) é co-financiado pelo FEDER e o remanescente pelo governo nacional.

Discussão

Na altura em que o projecto foi submetido, era pouco vulgar as ONGs colaborarem com as autoridades, pelo que a proposta foi encarada positivamente pelo Ministério. Um outro factor que favoreceu o projecto foi o seu carácter sensibilizador numa área em que os locais se haviam mostrado inicialmente resistentes ao estabelecimento de um Parque Nacional. Não foi empregue qualquer metodologia durante a concepção do projecto para estimar o número de postos de trabalho que seriam criados. No entanto, o projecto foi concebido com vista a promover o envolvimento da população local, desincentivando a substituição da mão de obra local por outra, excepto quando a necessidade de conhecimentos científicos e técnicos não era satisfeita.

A implementação do projecto não foi fácil na prática. Foi necessário o estabelecimento de novas formas de cooperação entre as autoridades regionais e centrais e a ONG. Além disso, a realização do projecto teve por base, essencialmente, actividades científicas em vez dos habituais trabalhos de construção de infraestruturas com que as autoridades locais estavam já familiarizadas. Tudo isto implicou um ritmo de implementação mais lento do que o esperado, não tendo sido gastos todos os fundos. Contudo, ao longo da realização dos trabalhos, a implementação tornou-se mais rápida, logo que os procedimentos de colaboração e a comunicação entre os diversos parceiros foram estabelecidos.

Apesar das dificuldades, o projecto apresenta um conjunto de características positivas:

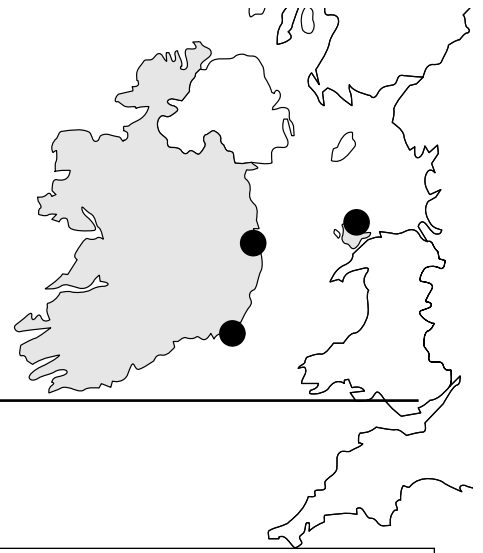
- O projecto permitiu desenvolver um conjunto de importantes acções de conservação e a criação de diversos postos de trabalho. Por exemplo, pelo menos oito jovens locais receberam formação e foram empregados como vigilantes e guias da natureza. Recentemente, uma potencial grave perturbação das colónias de pelicanos por pescadores foi mitigado pela acção destes vigilantes.
- A colaboração entre as autoridades regionais e locais e uma ONG foram fundamentais para o sucesso do projecto. Nenhuma das partes teria sido capaz de concretizar o projecto individualmente.
- A concepção do projecto visando a conservação da natureza através da formação e contratação da população local cumpre dois objectivos e ajudou a aumentar a aceitação das medidas de conservação pela população local.
- Apesar das autoridades locais e regionais terem.
- O projecto obrigou as autoridades a avaliar e consolidar a sua capacidade para a conservação da natureza, uma actividade muito importante em áreas como Prespa, a qual inclui sítios muito importantes e onde as autoridades regionais e locais têm um papel fundamental na sua gestão.

Algumas lições podem ser aprendidas do exemplo de Prespa. A existência de apoio técnico e científico disponível localmente é por vezes limitada. Deverão ser criadas oportunidades e incentivos com vista à formação da população local, conseguindo assim um benefício a longo prazo e evitando a dependência de recursos externos à região. Por último, poderão surgir conflitos entre as entidades em colaboração durante a concepção e implementação das propostas. É essencial atingir um consenso no processo de tomada de decisões durante todas as fases do projecto.

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Ireland:

ROSEATE TERNS – A CONSERVATION AND RESEARCH PROJECT LINKING WALES AND IRELAND

Fund

INTERREG II A (see box below for an outline).

INTERREG II A – Ireland and Wales

The Community Initiative INTERREG II runs until 1999. An operational programme was adopted covering Ireland (Objective 1) and Wales, covering the period 1995 to 1999, with assistance from ERDF and ESF amounting to Euro 84 million. The total financial envelope for the programme amounts to some Euro 143 million.

Sub-programme 1 – Maritime development

The OP is broken down into two Sub-Programmes, concerning 'maritime development' and 'general economic development'. Measure 3 of the maritime development sub-programme concerns 'protection of marine and coastal environment and marine emergency planning'. It is seen as providing a 'unique opportunity to establish scientific and technological cooperation between Irish and Welsh marine institutions to underpin the protection of the marine and coastal environment and promote sustainable development of the sea and coastal resources'. Among the specific objectives of the measure is the 'improvement of nature conservation in the region'.

Although the Maritime Development Sub-programme involves some Euro 60 million, allocated from ERDF, only Euro 3.4 million is directed at Measure 3. Another Euro 1.9 million is to be allocated from national funds.

Background

The roseate tern (*Sterna dougallii*) is a pantropical species with a small proportion of its global population breeding within Europe. The species suffered a dramatic decline in its European population between 1969 and 1987, particularly in the north west. It is classified as endangered and afforded protection under the Birds Directive and Habitats Directives.

In north west Europe, two-thirds of the roseate tern population experienced decline between 1970 and 1990. It is now Ireland and Britain's rarest breeding seabird. The principal threats are disturbance and/or predation from human activities and other avian or ground predators. Nesting roseate terns are especially sensitive to these threats, resulting in desertion by whole colonies or shifts in subsequent seasons.

The species breeds on the Portuguese Azores archipelago where approximately 80 per cent of the European population occurs. However, it also breeds on islets off the east and west coasts of Britain and Ireland, and the north coast of Brittany in France. Of all the European colonies, the largest and most successful is located on the east coast of Ireland. The total number of breeding pairs at the two principal Irish colonies, Rockabill and Lady's Island, remained stable in 1997 at 650 pairs. There has also been return to two of three Welsh colonies, although in small very numbers.

Project Aims and Content

The project is led by the Irish Wildbird Conservancy, in partnership with the North Wales Wildlife Trust, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (Wales), the Countryside Council for Wales, and Duchas, the Irish Heritage Service. The overall aim is to enhance the conservation status of the Roseate Tern in the Irish Sea through improved management and the development of an upgraded research and monitoring programme. There are several elements to the project:

- The protection of the roseate terns is to be strengthened at five main nesting sites in the INTERREG Area, three in Wales and two in Ireland, all of which are also designated as SPAs. This is to be achieved by up-grading wardening and providing wardening equipment.
- Protection is to be extended to two new sites, one in Dalkey, Dublin and the other in Inland Sea, Anglesey. Neither of these sites are SPAs.
- A coordinated research programme is to be initiated on tern ecology and conservation, to include recruitment of a research officer for Ireland.

- The project is to raise the public understanding of terns as indicators of a healthy environment.
- Information and skills on relevant subject areas are to be exchanged between Ireland and Wales, including the organisation of an Irish Sea Tern Conservation Conference in 1998.

The project duration is three years, from December 1996 to December 1999. Both capital and non-capital works are funded under this specific project. Non-capital works include employment of wardens, conservation officers and a researcher. There has also been investment in staff training and meetings to assist information exchange between wardens. Capital costs include setting up new hides, purchasing optical and research equipment, a radio system, maintaining habitats and upgrading accommodation.

A number of performance indicators are attached to the project. These include the following:

- improved protection at seven nesting sites – by securing tenure of sites by conservation agencies and active wardening schemes;
- improved understanding of the species' conservation requirements – research programme on breeding and feeding, on and off site public interpretation and publicity, and incorporating data into marine emergency response plans;
- cooperative international management of the Irish Sea Roseate Tern Population – measured by interchange of information, integration of management policies and standardised wardening procedures.
- annual pre and post season warden seminars;
- Irish Sea Terns conservation Conference 1998; and
- production of a wardening plan for the sustainability of the project.

Financial Details

The total project cost is €182,267, with a total of Euro 136,000 allocated to the project from ERDF. Additional funding amounting to €45,567 is provided from Birdwatch Ireland, RSPB Northern Ireland and the National Parks and Wildlife Service of the Duchas.

Results

The breeding population (nesting pairs) of roseate terns in Ireland remained stable in 1998. The population size reached record levels on Rockabill in 1997 but was down slightly in 1998. Small numbers also re-occupied two of the three 'traditional' Anglesey colonies at Skerries and Ynys Feurig. However, wardening and management action at the Inland Sea and Dalkey failed to attract nesting roseate terns.

Key project improvements brought about by the INTERREG funding include:

- Chartering local fishing boats to convey personnel and equipment to and from sites;
- Construction of new hides for observational work;
- Additional training and education for wardens and rangers;
- Better quality research and optical equipment;
- Habitat maintenance/manipulation, including predator control by fencing;
- Exchange visits by wardens and managers;
- Annual reports for each site and for the Irish Sea tern population; and
- Publication and presentation of papers to raise information among general public and the scientific community.

In addition, funding will be used to support a Irish Sea Terns Conservation Conference in 1999.

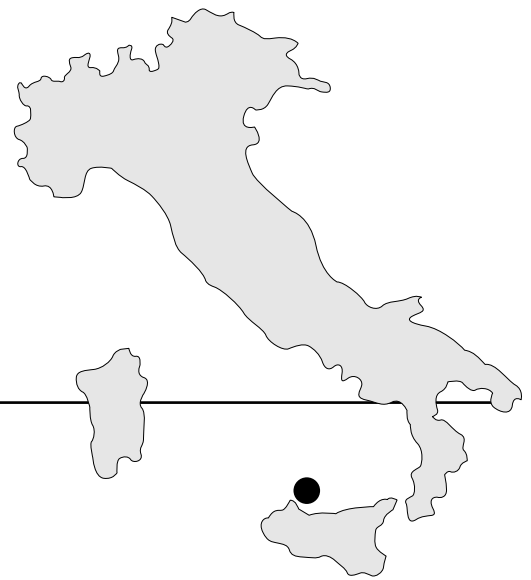
Discussion

Despite the limited affect of the project on roseate tern numbers, the extra resources provided by the project helped further the understanding of the biology of the species and their conservation requirements. In particular, better quality telescopes improved the accuracy of the bird census and thus improved the understanding of population dynamics. A series of exchange visits by wardens and managers also strengthened the international partnership, in particular by providing opportunities for the review of management techniques and experiences.

The most significant project advances made in 1998 were the mapping of tern foraging areas in the Irish Sea around Rockabill, and some similar land-based observations around Lady's Island.

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Italy:

RESTORATION OF LANDSCAPE AND BIODIVERSITY ON THE ISLAND OF USTICA

Fund

Objective 1 (1994-1999)
Multiregional Operational Program 'Sustainable Tourism Development'
Subprogramme 1/ Measure 4 (minor islands).

Background

The Municipality of the Island of Ustica in Sicily has been committed to the promotion of sustainable tourism development for a number of years. The natural environment and wildlife of the island are key features of attraction for tourists and a Natural Reserve covering 200 hectares, which is 25 per cent of the surface area of the island, was established in 1986. It is a candidate SAC.

An important stretch of coastline, approximately four kilometres long and 100-300 metres wide, is located alongside the reserve to the south of the island. This area of around 70 hectares in total includes several interesting natural features and is also a candidate SAC. The jagged coastline contains many inlets and is virtually inaccessible by land despite the presence of ancient sheep tracks and bridle paths. In the past, most of the area was used for farming but much of the land was abandoned when tourism became the main source of income for the island. This abandonment, in conjunction with overgrazing in areas and frequent fires have contributed to the degradation of the Mediterranean maquis towards a more simplified vegetation, such as garrigue or steppe, over more than one third of the area. In addition, soil erosion prevention measures have involved afforestation by non-native species such as pines, cypress and firs.

Programme Aims and Content

A project has been initiated which aims to restore the biodiversity and landscape of the southern shore of the Island of Ustica and to provide tourist access to the coast. The project comprises three areas of activity: the restoration of ancient pathways, old terraces and the natural flora.

- *Restoration of pathways.* Many of the old sheep tracks which run along the southern coast have become overgrown. The project will restore them using traditional techniques and materials such as local paving material (ripiddu) which is a tuffe stone processed to improve its resistance to wear and adverse weather. Lava rock steps will be added to the tracks where necessary. Work started in October 1998 and will take approximately eight months.
- *Restoration of old terraces.* Terraces were built on the steep land to enable farming in ancient times and were made with the stones collected during tillage. Repair of the terraces, according to traditional building techniques, will prevent soil erosion.
- *Restoration of natural flora.* This has two elements. One is the creation of a nature trail, the 'Cammino del Tordo Bottaccio' which is named after a bird in the area. The pathway will provide walkers with information about the history and nature interest of the area. Native tree species such as the carob, mulberry, holm oak, almond, wild pear, olive, quince and Neapolitan medlar will be planted along the route and small agricultural plots will be restored. The second element is the restoration and improvement of the Mediterranean maquis through the gradual removal of non-native species and their replacement with native species. Holm oaks will be introduced into pine plantations. Where farmland has been abandoned and the maquis remains, the vegetation will be supplemented and improved by planting. In the most degraded areas, non-native species will be removed and replaced with native flora. In the area where farming activity remains, traditional fruit species will be replanted (eg apricot, prickly-pear, carob) both to improve biodiversity and as a landscape improvement measure.

Ustica Municipality is developing a management programme for the whole area after the restoration works are complete. A youth cooperative will be established to implement the programme, the members of which would receive vocational training. The programme may be funded under the new Structural Fund package 2000-2006. In addition, a voluntary management scheme will be available to local farmers under the agri-environment programme.

Financial Details

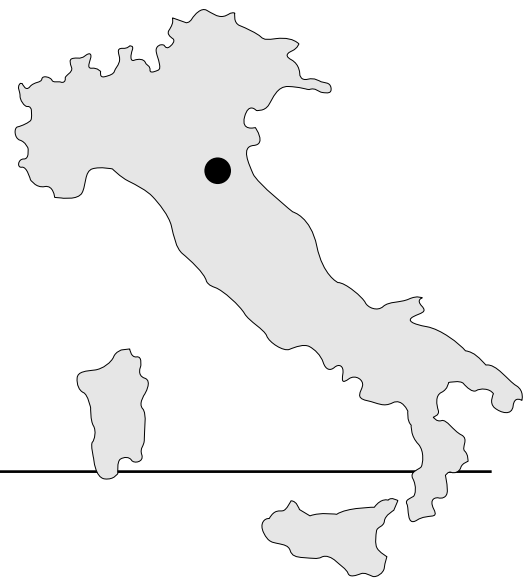
The total budget for the project is Euro 4.38 million. Of this, 50 per cent is from the ERDF and the other 50 per cent is provided by the National Department of Tourism. So far only Euro 0.77 million has been allocated to the restoration of the pathways. It is intended that the remaining Euro 3.6 million will be obtained from the new Structural Funds programme 2000-2006.

Comment

Although the main aim of the project is the provision of opportunities and information for tourism, nature conservation work is also planned. The project was actually funded under the tourism budget. The nature reserve itself has not benefited from Objective 1 support due to the lack of a direct link between the fund and nature conservation works.

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Italy:

FOREST IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME – NATIONAL PARK OF CASENTINO FOREST, MONTE FALTERONA AND CAMPIGNA

Fund

Objective 5b

Measures 4.3 and 4.4

Background

The National Park of Casentino Forest, Monte Falterona and Campigna was established in 1993 and covers an area of approximately 36,450 ha. It is equally divided between two regions with 17,850 ha falling in Tuscany and 18,600 ha in Emilia Romagna. The Park stretches along the Apennine backbone – its highest point is Monte Falco at 1,658 metres and its lowest at Bidente di Comiolo (440 metres). Around 66 per cent of it is state owned, either by the regional or national government. The Park is zoned into three areas, with different regulations applicable in each. Zone A, which covers 900 ha (of which 764 is in Emilia Romagna) is afforded strict protection. Recreational and educational activities are allowed in Zone B which comprises 14,750 ha whilst zone C of 20,800 ha acts as a buffer area in which environmentally sensitive farming and forestry activities are permitted.

Forests dominate the Park, covering even the highest peaks of Monte Falterona, Monte Falco and Poggio Scali, with the exception of a few areas of grassland along the Apennine ridge. In 1914 the core area of the Park (zone A) came into state ownership after 13 years of intense exploitation and is now a Biogenetic Reserve under the management of the regional office of the national agency in charge of forestry, Pratovecchio ASFD. The Emilia Romagna part of the Biogenetic Reserves includes the Natural Reserve of Sasso Fratino (551 ha in size) which was the first Italian reserve ever to be designated, in 1959.

An important region comprising several separate forest areas is found in the zone C section of the Park located in Emilia Romagna. It is owned by the Regional authorities and covers 11,500 ha, between 440 metres and 1,110 metres above sea level. The characteristic tree species in this range are submontane deciduous oaks (including Turkey and pubescent oaks), hornbeams, manna ash, common maples, wild cherry, and various service tree species. On the south facing slopes where the conditions are arid and sunny, the woodland is usually sparse and scattered with many underdeveloped trees due to the poor soil quality and the past, intense timber harvesting. The exploitation of the forest during the 1950s for firewood and cattle grazing has resulted in a simplified floristic composition. During the last forty years of public ownership, exploitation of the forest has ceased and natural regeneration of tree species has occurred. In some areas, abandoned farmland was reafforested to protect water catchment areas but the resulting plantations comprise mainly conifers and are low in biodiversity. In 1995 a forest improvement programme comprising several elements was initiated under Objective 5b.

The area has been proposed as a candidate SAC on the basis of a survey of Emilia-Romagna Region commissioned by the Ministry of Environment.

Project Aims and Content

The National Park Management Body proposed the programme to the Emilia-Romagna Regional authorities. Mountain Communities (consortia of mountain municipalities) are responsible for implementing the programme and may use local cooperatives to do the work. These cooperatives are established by young workers and technicians and are supported by local authorities with the aim of preventing rural depopulation. The programme, which finished in 1998, includes the following actions:

- *Improvement of natural forest* by improving species diversity by coppicing in around 71 hectares of old, well established deciduous woods comprising beech, turkey oak and chestnut and. This involves the selective trimming of tree side-shoots. The total budget was Euro 154,575. A total of 1,505 worker days was involved.
- *Improvement of plantations* to increase the growth and species composition of 287 ha of high density plantations of conifers and broadleaved species which are being damaged by adverse growing conditions and parasite infestation. The proportion of

native broad-leaved trees is to be increased, disease control improved, forest fire risk reduced and the landscape and opportunities for recreation improved. The work involves thinning, pruning and the removal of undesirable species for which there was a total budget of Euro 644,064. A total of 5,740 worker days was involved.

- *Reforestation* to improve the growth of young broad leaved and conifer trees, between three and ten years old, over an area of 245 ha by clearing weeds and hoeing around the trees, providing irrigation if necessary and replacing poor specimens with native species. In addition, damage caused by grazing animals is to be prevented. The total budget is Euro 430,235. A total of 4,105 worker days is involved.
- *Reinforcement of unstable road embankments* and those susceptible to soil erosion and their stabilisation with natural materials, such as palisades made from forest cuttings, dry stone walls, mats of Canada thistle and grass sowing. The total budget was Euro 33,491 and 280 worker days were involved.

Financial Details

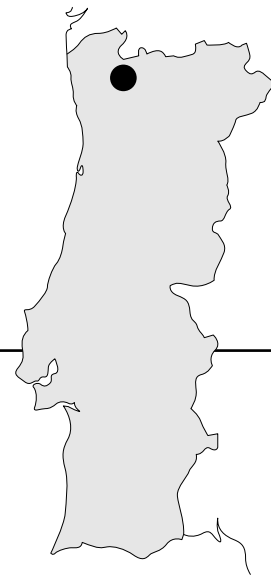
The combined total cost of the actions is Euro 1.26 million of which 50 per cent is provided from the EAGGF Guidance fund and 50 per cent by the National Park Management Body.

Discussion

The project comprises several complementary actions and created work for local, young people through the cooperatives. However, no actions were taken under Objective 5b in zone A, the core area of the Park, because of the limited interpretation imposed on the use of 5b funding. Although afforestation projects can be supported under 5b, more direct nature conservation work is not eligible.

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Portugal:

PENEDA GÊRES NATIONAL PARK

Fund

Objective 1

Structural funding: ERDF and EAGGF operative programmes
LEADER, INTERREG programme

Background

The Peneda-Gêres National Park was established in 1971 and is the only Portuguese protected area with National Park status. It is located in a mountainous area on the border with Spain in the Norte region of Portugal, and covers 71,422 ha. Around 7.2 per cent (5,275 ha) of the Park is state owned: the rest is in private hands. Five councils, belonging to three Counties (Minho-Lima, Cávado, Alto Trás-os Montes), are partially included in the National Park. The whole area is a designated SPA and has been proposed as a SAC. It has a 67km border with the Spanish Baixa Limia-Serra do Xurés Natural Park (see Spain case study). There are two zones in the Park: an uninhabited central area surrounded by a populated zone with 115 villages and a total of 9,099 inhabitants.

The area contains species and habitats which are mainly characteristic of the Mediterranean regions. The Park flora is rich and includes an endemic species *Iris boissieri*. Forest predominates although the natural oak woods (*Quercus robur* and *Q. pyrenaica*) have been substituted by pines in many areas. One of the remaining oak woods is included in the Council of Europe's biogenetic reserve network. There are also large areas of heath, scrub and grassland.

The history of the fauna of the Park is similar to that of the Natural Park of Xurés (see Spain case study), with the extinction of the Spanish ibex, the brown bear and the red deer occurring in the 19th Century. There are more than 50 mammal species, some of which are listed in Annex II of the Habitats Directive, eg the otter and Pyrenean desman *Galemys pyrenaicus*. The wolf is common. There are also 111 bird species, with an important raptor population. In 1974, the public was given the right to hunt game all over Portugal with a negative impact on the population of game species and their natural predators. The situation changed in 1986, when it was again permitted to privatise hunting.

The region has a high depopulation rate. Agriculture is the main economic activity, followed by the service sector which is dependent on tourist activity. The National Park receives nearly one million visitors per year, which makes it the fourth most popular tourist destination in Portugal.

Project Aims and Content

There are several programmes affecting the Park. The most important is an environment subprogramme under an ERDF Environment and Urban Regeneration operational programme. The subprogramme is known as 'Programa Ambiente' and is managed by the Ministry of the Environment. It has a total budget of Euro 346,666 million with a 75 per cent ERDF contribution. The measure 'Conservation and enhancement of the natural heritage and environmental quality improvement', includes a specific action for protected areas and is managed by the ICN (Institute for Nature Conservation). It is implemented on a project by project basis, with each project prepared by the authority responsible for the site. The Peneda Gerês National Park project is managed by the Park authorities and has five actions (Table 1).

Table 1: Conservation and enhancement project of Peneda Gerês National Park.

Actions	Budget (€)
1. Conservation and studies on the natural heritage. Several important studies have been made, eg forest management plans, monitoring of the wolf population, studies on the reintroduction of species. It has also been used for the improvement of a species recovery centre, and the elimination of invasive species.	553,025
2. Information and awareness. Several books and brochures have been published, including an atlas of breeding birds in the Park, several studies (eg on traditional living conditions), maps and videos. Educational scholarships have also been funded.	307,692
3. Infrastructures for public use has permitted the building of recreational sites, the restoration of mountain shelters, visitors information centres, etc. This action has generated significant employment, with 3 full-time whole year contracts, between 15 and 20 short term contracts (in camp sites), and 5-10 part time whole year contracts in cleaning activities.	1,247,794
4. Enhancement of the built and cultural heritage has been used to map archaeological and historical sites, preserve the musical heritage and certain typical sites within villages. Some outstanding buildings have been restored, including Lindoso Castle, an oil mill, old ovens, etc.	1,547,179
5. Infrastructures and support actions for local development is one of the most important actions which, together with the conservation of local cultivated and livestock races, is successfully promoting local products linked with the conservation of the National Park through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. the creation of product markets; ii. the creation of a professional qualification for the promotion of local products (cheese, aromatic plants, honey, etc.) and game wardening. iii. support for local livestock breeds. Several studs have been bought. In Peneda-Gerês there are several local livestock breeds, a pony (garrano), two cattle breeds (barrosa and cachena) and a dog (<i>Castro laboeiro</i>). iv. promotion of honey production. Packaging equipment has been installed, thereby creating a full time job; v. provision of facilities, such as livestock transportation points, small irrigation channels, livestock health control facilities, etc; vi. game management through collaboration with local hunters in order to ensure hunting is controlled by local inhabitants and provision of facilities (eg water points for game, small tracks, etc). In exchange, local hunters provide wardens who are paid by the hunters, but who are educated by the Park through a specific budget line (point 5.ii). At present there are 22 wardens who locate forest fires, protect against poachers, and undertake scientific studies, etc. 	1,767,282
TOTAL	5,422,974
ERDF contribution (75%)	4,268,230

There are several other EU co-funded projects which also influence the Park and are summarised in Table 2

Table 2: EU co-funded projects and their total budgets of which a portion may be spent on actions within the Park boundaries (with the exception of the Cohesion Fund)

Fund source and action	Total budget (m€)
<p>Cohesion Fund Several forestry actions have been developed: 5,000 ha have been afforested, and integrated actions have been developed on other 200 ha, including the promotion of small woods, the removal of invasive species, and the installation of water points and forest tracks.</p>	<p>5.1 (total amount spent within Park)</p>
<p>LEADER Programmes: Valle do Vale do Minho. One project, a mountain shelter, affects the Park. A full time post is created. Alto Calvado com...vida! Several projects in the Park are under development including rural tourism, traditional gastronomy, local crafts. Vale do Limia. Focused on rural tourism, provision of market places, livestock markets, animal health provision etc. Potentially of greatest impact on the Park.</p>	<p>13.25 (65 % co-funding from EU)</p>
<p>Operational Programme – Support for Rural Development. This programme is known as PPDR This programme, known in Portugal as PPDR, has an action named ‘Support for the development of rural centres’ financed by EAGGF, which aims to enhance the rural economy in selected ‘Rural Centres’ by maintaining rural populations; improving living conditions; and promoting activities which complement agriculture. Soajo and Lindoso Councils within the Park have been selected as Rural Centres. Actions include the restoration of traditional buildings, the inside of a castle, a market place, creation of a river beach, restoration of traditional irrigation systems, etc.</p>	<p>1.52 (for non-production related actions)</p>
<p>Operational Programme of the North of Portugal (Pronorte) This programme is specific for the North region of Portugal. It has four sub-programmes, one of which is for regional and local regeneration and gives assistance for organisations in the public and private sector which provide support for regional development, assistance for business initiatives, and external promotion of the region. Several programmes of the ADERE¹ association affecting the National Park are funded by this programme. For example, the development of a regional promotion programme based on; the publication of information brochures on the National Park and the promotion of local products (honey, meat, etc). It has also developed a centre for rural tourism.</p>	<p>60,980 (69% is funded by ERDF)</p>
<p>INTERREG II projects which affect the park including a programme managed by the Regional Administration (Comissao de Administracao na Regiao Norte) which has contributed to sewage water treatment. There is also a project managed by the Ministry of Agriculture which has been used to study the impact of the brucellosis on wildlife and domestic animals within the Park. Another INTERREG project is the ‘Transboundary Programme for Rural Environment at the National Park of Peneda-Gêres and the Natural Park of Baixa Limia-Sierra de Xures’.</p>	<p>No figures available</p>
<p>Operational Programme: Modernisation of economic sectors. The agriculture sub-programme (managed by the Ministry of Agriculture and known as PAMAF) under this OP includes Objective 5a measures to support the modernisation of farming structures, assistance for young farmers, forests, marketing, research and development, etc. A number of research studies in the Park are funded by this programme including the behaviour of local pony <i>Garano</i> with the wolf, an assessment in a specific sector of the Park of the relationship between increased farm incomes and sustainable development, and a joint study with two other Natural Parks to breed and train local breeds of dogs to protect livestock against wolf attacks.</p>	<p>4,873. 2 (36 % contribution from EAGGF)</p>

¹ ADERE, Association for the Development of the Peneda Gêres National Park Region, composed of 23 institutions, one of which is the National Park. ADERE’s objectives are to represent local interests and promote local development.

Discussion

The conservation of the main ecosystems of the Peneda-Gerês National park relies on the maintenance of traditional farming practices. The Park authorities have co-ordinated the use of different Structural Funds through different programmes and projects, thereby providing a good example of integration between nature conservation and rural development initiatives. Where a link is made between nature conservation and rural development there are a wider opportunities to finance nature conservation and, at the same time, to create jobs.

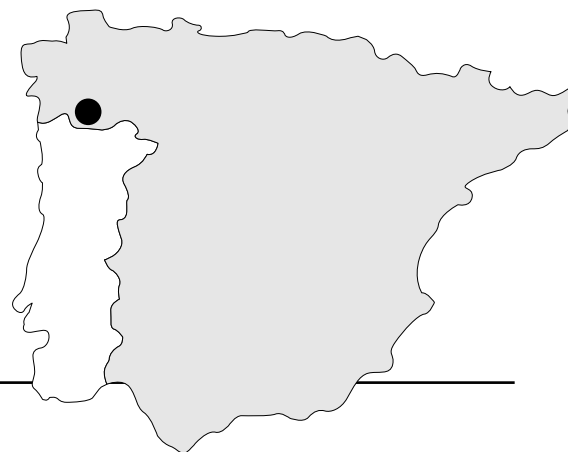
All these measures have contributed to an improved relationship between the Park and the local population, which had initially seen its designation as a protected area as a threat to local interests.

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Acknowledgements

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ESPAÑA:

PARQUE NATURAL DE BAIXA LIMIA-SERRA DO XURÉS INTERPARKS

Financiamento

Objectivo 1

INTERREG II. Contribuições do LEADER e FEOGA Programa Operacional (PRODER - Programa de Desenvolvimento Rural)

Objectivo do INTERREG II: conservação da natureza e desenvolvimento rural

Situação de referência

O Parque Nacional de Limia-Serra de Xurés foi criado em 1993 e localiza-se no Sul da província de Ourense, que é uma zona da Galiza desfavorecida economicamente. Abrange uma superfície de 20.920 hectares de áreas montanhosas que foram propostas como ZEC. Cerca de 70 por cento do Parque está coberto por matagal (*Ulex* y *Erica* spp) e 20 por cento por bosques, maioritariamente de pinheiros exóticos mas também existem carvalhais e vegetação tipicamente mediterrânica (*Quercus suber* y *Arbutus unedo*). Das mais de 800 espécies de plantas identificadas no Parque, há três endémicas e duas incluídas no Anexo II da Directiva dos Habitats. No que respeita a grandes mamíferos encontram-se corços, javalis e lobos.

O Parque Nacional estende-se por três municípios (Muiños, Entrino y Lobios), e dentro dos seus limites existem 12 aldeias que albergam um total de 1.100 habitantes. É uma região montanhosa com maus acessos por estrada, baixa densidade populacional (5,2 habitantes/km²) e uma elevada taxa de emigração. Cerca de 28 por cento da população tem mais de 65 anos. Apesar de 57 por cento da população viver da agricultura, só sete por cento do território destes municípios é cultivado e, na sua maioria, fora dos limites do Parque. Predomina a agricultura de subsistência e a pecuária. Até há pouco tempo não existiam cooperativas e a comercialização das produções locais era problemática.

O Parque confina em 64 Km de fronteira com o Parque Nacional Português de Peneda-Gerês. Apesar da proximidade entre os dois Parques, existia uma fraca coordenação entre as administrações de ambas as zonas que, juntas, cobrem 93.000 ha. Apesar desta situação, em 1997, foi assinado um acordo de cooperação entre ambas as administrações no sentido de criar o Parque Trans-Fronteiriço de Gerês-Xurés. Este acordo define vários objectivos incluindo a aplicação de um convénio de coordenação entre as duas partes, a promoção de actividades conjuntas e o desenvolvimento de infra-estruturas comuns. Foi criada uma comissão composta por representantes de ambos os Parques com o objectivo de preparar programas anuais de trabalho.

Objectivos e conteúdo do programa

A Comissão Inter-regional para a Região Norte de Portugal-Galiza¹, deu-se conta de que o INTERREG II (ver Quadro 1) representava uma boa oportunidade de financiar um projecto para as duas zonas protegidas.

Quadro 1: INTERREG II (1994-1999)

O Programa Operacional INTERREG II para a cooperação inter-regional entre Espanha e Portugal 1994-1999 tem quatro sub-programas; um dos quais é sobre ambiente:

Sub-programas	Orçamento Total	Contribuição CE
Desenvolvimento sócio-económico	220.95	163.17
Meio ambiente e património arquitectónico	102.42	76.81
Abertura de fronteiras	58.38	111.18
Assistência técnica	1.49	1.12
Total	483.25	352.30

Os fundos disponíveis incluem 314,8 mEuro do FEDER, 2,5 mEuro do FSE y 35 mEuro do FEOGA Orientação.

Como consequência, o Departamento de Economia da Galiza pediu ao Departamento de Meio Ambiente que preparasse um programa de acção para o Parque Natural de Baixa Limia-Xurés. Assim foi elaborado um conjunto de projectos para serem

¹ Esta Comissão foi criada há alguns anos para melhorar as relações regionais e o desenvolvimento económico.

desenvolvidos dentro do Parque Natural por diferentes departamentos regionais: a saber, Meio Ambiente, Cultura, Turismo e Obras Públicas (Tabela 1). O programa específico para a conservação da natureza, denominado Interparks, compreendeu quatro medidas: conservação da natureza, desenvolvimento regional sustentável, desenvolvimento do corpo administrativo do Parque, e sensibilização e educação (Tabela 2).

Tabela 1: Medidas Integradas no Parque de Xurés-Gerês, Galiza

Medidas	€
Programa Interparks	8,125,000
Saneamento básico, melhoria das infra-estruturas do Parque	1,403,750
Ecoturismo	430,000
Arqueologia	428,750
Investimento total programado	10,387,500

Tabela 2: Programa Interparks

Medidas	% de fundos	
1. Biodiversidade		
• Re-introdução da cabra montez. Existe um programa de recuperação para esta espécie, que se chegou a extinguir na região em 1987. Os primeiros exemplares foram introduzidos em 1998.	6.2	
• Estudo da conservação e gestão do lobo para melhorar o conhecimento dos seus hábitos alimentares e para avaliar os danos que podem causar ao gado.	1.2	
• Recuperação de zonas húmidas - alguns areeiros serão recuperados para aves aquáticas (ainda não iniciado).	13.8	
• Protecção contra a erosão hídrica.	4.6	
• Protecção contra incêndios florestais – construção e manutenção de corta-fogos.	15.4	
• Recuperação da população de rapinas. Foi efectuado um censo de aves de rapina que será publicado conjuntamente com um atlas de locais de reprodução de aves, o qual relacionará um atlas já publicado sobre o Parque Nacional de Peneda Gerês com um outro sobre Xurés ainda em preparação.	0.8	
• Gestão de bosques em pequenos vales. Até agora foram efectuados alguns desbastes de bosques (200 ha) e trabalhos de re-florestação (100 ha) utilizando 50% de espécies autóctones.	15.4	
• Gestão de recursos piscícolas. Foi adquirido e recuperado um velho moinho numa zona de pesca de truta, como parte de um programa de recuperação da população de truta autóctone.	4.9	
• Gestão de recursos cinegéticos. Procedeu-se à largada de coelhos e perdizes em determinadas áreas, a fim de disponibilizar caça menor para os caçadores locais.	9.2	
• Compra de terrenos para a conservação – foram adquiridos 658 ha para a recuperação de habitats naturais, a instalação de um viveiro (já instalado) e a recuperação de uma raça regional de cavalo em perigo de extinção.	6.2	
• Gestão de visitantes. Antes da criação do Parque, havia escassez de meios para informar o público. Desde então o programa financiou actividades de lazer num parque de campismo situado em Lobios (o próprio parque de campismo foi financiado pelo PRODER), uma praia fluvial em Muiños e a recuperação de um refúgio de montanha.	3.1	
2. Apoio ao desenvolvimento rural. Esta medida aponta para um desenvolvimento sustentável dos interesses agro-industriais no Parque, através da promoção de produtos locais (mel, licor, legumes, fruta e carne de pecuária extensiva), artesanato, ecoturismo e apoio à formação ocupacional. Foram iniciados vários cursos sobre pecuária extensiva, agricultura biológica, agricultura em estufas, silvicultura, apicultura e turismo. Além disso, foi criada a primeira cooperativa agrícola da região gerida por voluntários. Com a participação de trinta agricultores, iniciou a produção de mel de elevada qualidade, que é embalado com a etiqueta do Parque Natural. Estas actividades de comercialização de produtos de elevada qualidade será alargada ao licor e à carne.		5.7
3. Programa de educação ambiental. Foram contratadas quatro pessoas para diversos postos de informação pública. Estes postos foram criados com o acordo dos municípios. Um dá informação sobre as áreas protegidas, está situado num antigo posto fronteiriço na fronteira portuguesa e, um outro na Câmara Municipal de Muiños. Além disso, foi montada uma exposição itinerante pelas escolas da zona e também em algumas cidades. Foram estabelecidos vários percursos pedonais e foram editados guias em galego e português. Todos os anos, duas pessoas são contratadas durante quatro meses como educadores de ambiente. O resultado destas acções, que começaram em 1995, entre 1.200 a 1.400 crianças visitaram o Parque em 1997.		6.2
4. Relações inter-administrativas; incluem a criação de um corpo técnico e a coordenação do programa. Foi adquirida uma casa antiga para servir como Edifício Central do Parque, a qual albergará uma exposição permanente e um centro de informação. O Parque contratou dois biólogos e dois engenheiros. Além disso, foram criados cerca de 60 postos de trabalho relacionados principalmente com a melhoria e a conservação dos bosques. Edições recentes da revista de informação do Parque Inter-regional de Gerês-Xurés, publicação iniciada em 1995, foram financiados pelo Programa INTERREG.		6.9

Para além das medidas financiadas pelo INTERREG, existem os programas financiados pelo LEADER e o PRODER que poderiam contribuir para a viabilidade económica da zona.

1.LEADER

A área de aplicação do programa LEADER de 'Val de Limia' inclui um dos municípios do Parque (Entrinos). O programa conta com um orçamento total de 10.480.000 Euros, com uma contribuição do LEADER de 36,7 por cento. O programa propõe-se promover o desenvolvimento da zona, que melhorará a viabilidade económica da população local. Uma das seis medidas do programa é dedicada à conservação da natureza e a melhoria do meio ambiente, com um orçamento total de 643.472 Euros. No entanto, até à presente data não foi posta em prática nenhuma iniciativa ao abrigo desta medida, apesar de existirem duas iniciativas na vizinhança no quadro da medida Turismo Rural do LEADER, que podem ter alguma influência no Parque: a criação de um parque de campismo, que pode proporcionar 3 a 4 postos de trabalho, e a ampliação de um hotel rural (15 quartos), que criará 2 ou 3 empregos.

2.PRODER

Este é um programa operacional específico do FEOGA para regiões Objectivo 1. Os objectivos desta medida e os seus procedimentos são similares aos do LEADER e pode desenvolver-se em regiões aonde existam grupos de acção local que não disponham de programas LEADER.

O PRODER de 'Lobios-Muiños' tem como objectivo promover a actividade económica local, y compreende quatro medidas, incluindo agro-turismo, turismo local, promoção de pequenas empresas e o apoio a negócios rurais com um orçamento total de 2.375.000 Euros. A contribuição do PRODER varia desde os 42 por cento aos 67 por cento dependendo do projecto. Apesar do PRODER ter sido aprovado em 1996, até agora só foram financiados três projectos: uma pousada (com 2 ou 3 postos de trabalho), a publicação de uma folha turístico-informativa ; e um parque de campismo.

Discussão

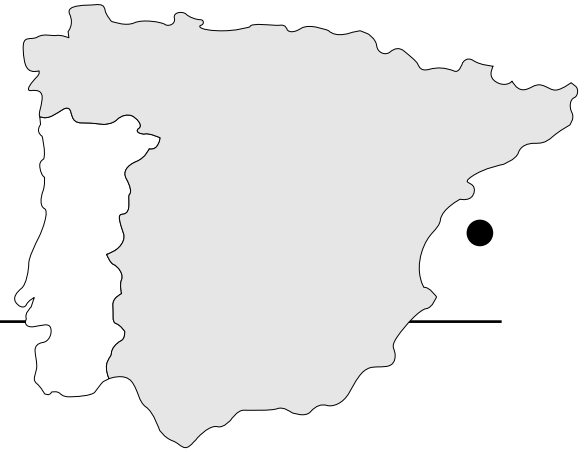
O programa INTERREG é um factor chave no desenvolvimento do Parque Natural. Este programa permitiu às autoridades ambientais actuar numa área aonde os modos tradicionais de propriedade da terra tornam difícil implementar objectivos de conservação. As medidas de desenvolvimento rural aplicadas nesta zona, em combinação com acções de conservação da natureza, como permite o programa INTERREG, asseguram o apoio local para todo o projecto na zona, aonde o desemprego é um tema crítico, juntamente com o abandono da terra e a desertificação humana. A promoção da zona como um potencial destino de férias está criando emprego (entre sete e dez empregos criados até agora) como resultado de um número crescente de turistas. As actividades de conservação da natureza também financiadas pelo INTERREG têm criado emprego (cerca de 68 postos). Portanto, pode argumentar-se que as medidas de desenvolvimento rural proporcionam benefícios indirectos para a conservação da natureza.

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ESPAÑA :

RESERVA MARINHA DE COLUMBRETES

Financiamento

Objetivo 1

Objectivo : Conservação e recuperação das reservas de pesca (IFOP)

Situação de referência

As ilhas Columbretes formam um pequeno arquipélago no Mar Mediterrâneo, a 60 km da costa de Castellón e compreendem quatro grupos de ilhas e recifes de origem vulcânica, com uma superfície total de 14 ha. Nestas Ilhas sem árvores, foram identificadas dez espécies endémicas de invertebrados. Também existem interessantes vertebrados, entre os quais se incluem a lagartixa de Columbretes (*Podarcis hispanica* subsp. *atrata*), colónias de aves marinhas (incluindo a pardela cinzenta, painho comum, corvo marinho de crista, gaivota de Audouin) e uma população de falcão de Eleonora. O mar que rodeia estas ilhas é rico em biodiversidade, incluindo cento e sessenta espécies de algas, coral vermelho, etc. Entre as espécies de interesse económico estão a lagosta vermelha (*Palimurus elephas*), a santola, sardinhas e anchovas. Além disso, durante o Inverno abundam os exemplares de tartaruga boba e de roaz, ambos incluídos no Anexo I da Directiva Habitats. A primeira é uma espécie prioritária.

A ilha principal esteve habitada por alguns pescadores até 1970, depois foi utilizada como campo de tiro pelo exército. Finalmente em 1988, a parte terrestre das ilhas e o mar adjacente foram protegidos como Parque Natural (2.500 ha) pelo Governo Regional. Em 1994 a zona foi reclassificada como Reserva Natural e, desde esse ano, conta com o seu próprio plano de uso e gestão, como é norma em Espanha para todas as zonas protegidas. Em 1990, o Ministério da Agricultura, que é responsável pelas águas marítimas, declarou o mar adjacente às ilhas Columbretes como Reserva Marinha, alargando-a para 12.300 ha, com o fim de proteger e restaurar os seus recursos pesqueiros. Dentro destes limites só é permitido laborar aos pescadores profissionais com direitos históricos e que fazem uso de práticas tradicionais e de métodos selectivos de pesca, excepto nas duas Reservas Integrais, nas quais estão proibidas tanto a actividade pesqueira, como a extracção de flora ou fauna. Esta medida permitiu a recuperação das reservas de peixes (conservação da natureza) e a manutenção da pesca tradicional. Actualmente o Ministério da Agricultura está levando a cabo um estudo sobre os benefícios sociais para os pescadores tradicionais, resultantes da pesca dentro da reserva em comparação com a que é efectuada fora dela. No caso em presença, a frota pesqueira industrializada também beneficia da Reserva Marinha, já que o peixe se movimentava para fora da área protegida.

A totalidade da área da Reserva Natural foi classificada como ZPE e em Janeiro de 1988, 12.300 ha foram propostos como ZEC.

Ao mesmo tempo que foi criada a Reserva, começaram a realizar-se excursões turísticas ao redor das ilhas, e a pesca desportiva e o mergulho desenvolveram-se nos portos vizinhos. Apesar do aumento do número de mergulhadores visitantes, foi restringido ao máximo o seu número por dia. A recuperação das reservas de peixes promoveu por sua vez um importante incremento da pesca desportiva, em conflito com os pescadores profissionais, o que será em breve objecto de regulamentação.

A Secretaria Geral para a Pesca Marinha² do Ministério da Agricultura é responsável pela gestão da Reserva Marinha, enquanto que a responsabilidade pela Reserva Natural recai sobre o Departamento Regional de Agricultura³. Em 1997 as administrações assinaram um acordo para coordenar as suas funções na Reserva Marinha. Existe uma Comissão de Gestão e Acompanhamento que integra representantes das Administrações Central e Regional, o Instituto Oceanográfico Espanhol, a universidade da Região, pescadores e a Câmara Municipal de Castellón. Esta Comissão faz o seguimento e a monitorização da Reserva Marinha e executa as seguintes acções:

- controlo da pesca, navegação e outras actividades marinhas;
- vigilância;
- delimitação da área protegida;
- informação a potenciais utilizadores da Reserva;
- seguimento científico da pesca e da reserva pesqueira.

A Reserva Natural emprega nove trabalhadores de forma permanente. Mas é difícil avaliar os postos de trabalho criados pela Reserva Marinha e pelas actividades de pesca e turismo. O único emprego directo criado foi motivado pelo alargamento do período de vigilância de oito para 12 meses por ano para quatro pessoas. Além disso, são ainda empregadas duas pessoas na exposição permanente da Reserva no museu municipal da cidade de Castellón.

Objectivos e conteúdo do Programa.

Espanha possui uma das maiores frotas pesqueiras da UE. No entanto, as reservas de pesca no Mediterrâneo estão ameaçadas, e o regulamento CE 1626/94 que estabelece medidas técnicas para a conservação dos recursos pesqueiros do Mediterrâneo (DOCE L171, 6.7.94) requer que os Estados membros estabeleçam medidas para proteger e promover os recursos pesqueiros.

Esta obrigação tem sido tomada em consideração em Espanha nas regiões de Objectivo 1 aonde o IFOP se aplica através de um Programa Operacional específico, o qual tem como objectivo a protecção e promoção dos recursos pesqueiros. Este Programa, com um orçamento total de 2.158 milhões de Euros, inclui oito programas, um dos quais, 'Zonas Marinhas Costeiras', supõe-se que deve desenvolver os objectivos acima mencionados (Tabela 1). Neste sub-programa planeia-se um total de quinze reservas marinhas conjuntamente com a regeneração de 12 zonas pesqueiras e a criação de 730 recifes artificiais.

Tabela 1: Distribuição do orçamento e fontes de financiamento do Programa Operacional do IFOP nas regiões Objectivo 1 em Espanha (€)

	Orçamento total	IFOP	Central Administração	Regional Administração	Privado
Programa Operacional	2,158	995	214.2	145.2	803.9
Sub-programa de Zonas Marinhas Costeiras	303	149	7.4	7.4	0.5

Entre 1994 e 1997, a Direcção Geral de Pesca investiu um total de 547.135 Euros na Reserva Marinha de Columbretes, dos quais 233.485 Euros (42 por cento) é elegível para obter 75 por cento de co-financiamento ao abrigo do Programa Operacional do IFOP. O IFOP contribuiu de todos os modos com 175.114 Euros.

Tabela 2. Total de investimentos na Reserva Marinha de Columbretes e investimentos incluídos no Programa Operacional (1994-97)¹

Acções	Total Orçamentado (€)	Budget incluído no PO (€)
Vigilância. A Reserva Marinha está sujeita a constante vigilância por meio de: meios visuais; lancha a motor; e radar. Os guardas contam com equipas de mergulho (seguimento, manutenção de infra-estruturas, etc.).	240,200	0
Bóias de amarração. Foram instalados dezasseis pontos de amarração, especialmente concebidos para não produzir danos no fundo marinho.	136,383	136,383
Manutenção das bóias de amarração.	5,231	0
Lancha a motor.	35,314	35,314
Actividades de limpeza do fundo marinho. Alguns clubes de mergulho organizaram actividades de limpeza subaquática.	2,444	0
Sensibilização. Foram produzidas folhas informativas e cartazes, assim como um vídeo em vários idiomas e uma colecção de diapositivos. 80% destes artigos foram distribuídos nas províncias vizinhas (Castellón, Valencia) e 20% em Madrid (pela Administração Central). Igualmente, foram instalados 29 postos de informação em portos com um potencial impacto sobre a Reserva Marinha.	6,352	0
Sensibilização. Desde 1992 existe um centro de informação da Reserva no Museu Municipal de Castellón, com uma exposição permanente. Esta exposição contém dioramas que representam os diferentes ecossistemas e as técnicas de pesca. A Reserva conta também com dois monitores ambientais para assessorar os visitantes da Reserva.	41,505	41,505
Equipamento de mergulho.	5,078	5,078
Percurso subaquático. Em 1997 foi criado numa das ilhas um percurso subaquático que pode seguir-se com o uso de snorkel, assim bem como um guia complementar.	15,205	15,205

¹ Fuente: 1998, Dirección General de Pesca del Ministerio de Agricultura.



Acções	Total Orçamentado (€)	Budget incluído no PO (€)
Acordo com o Instituto Oceanográfico Espanhol para estudar o “efeito reserva”. Este inclui as seguintes actividades: preparação das metodologias para avaliar as comunidades; campanha experimental para avaliar a recuperação das reservas; análise da possível expansão da Reserva; um estudo sobre a lagosta vermelha.	59,654	0
Investimentos totais na Reserva Marinha.		547,366
Investimentos totais na Reserva Marinha incluídos no Programa Operacional.		233,485

A Comissão para a Gestão e Seguimento prepara e adopta planos anuais de acção. Se os gastos não são cobertos por outro orçamento do Ministério da Agricultura (por exemplo publicações) e são elegíveis para Programa Operacional do IFOP, então são financiados no quadro do sub-programa “Zonas Marinhas Costeiras”, com uma contribuição do IFOP de 75%.

Resultados

Embora os resultados publicados não estejam ainda disponíveis, relatórios preliminares do Instituto Oceanográfico Espanhol mostram uma importante recuperação das reservas de pesca e ressalta a abundância de lagosta em comparação com zonas vizinhas situadas fora da Reserva.

Discussão

O presente caso de estudo é um bom exemplo da utilização do IFOP para a conservação da natureza ao mesmo tempo que mantém a pesca de forma sustentável. A pesca tradicional é um sector em crise em Espanha. Apesar do programa não criar empregos directamente, já que a criação dos mesmos não é elegível para co-financiamento, promoveu-se o desenvolvimento de novos postos de trabalho através do sector turístico, que inclui mergulho, turismo e expedições de pesca às ilhas.

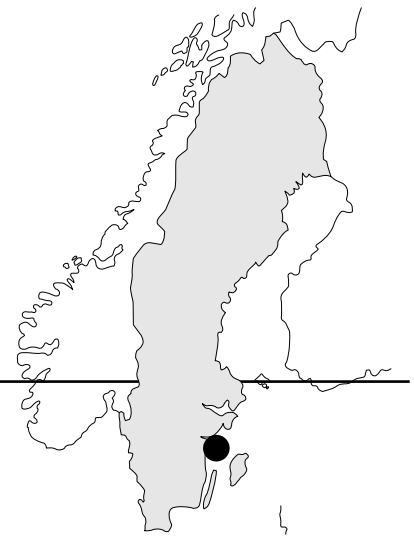
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Sweden:

BOKÖ – NATURE CONSERVATION AND EDUCATION

Fund

The programme is divided into two parts.

1. Nature Conservation Objective 5b (EAGGF)
Priority 2: Natural and Cultural Environment Measure
2.1: Protect and Restore Natural and Cultural Environments
2. Education Objective 5b (ESF)
Priority 3: Developing Modern Communication Systems in Remote Areas
Measure 3.3: Competence Development, Distance Learning and Research

Background

Bokö is an 80 ha island in the archipelago of Östergötaland with a great variety of fauna, flora and geological features. On the west side of the island, leafy oak groves can be found whilst towards the east the landscape becomes increasingly barren, ending with flat rocks which sink into the Baltic Sea. The central parts of Bokö are characterised by small fields interspersed with oak trees. Bokö village lies on the south side of the island by a secluded bay. Five families remain in the village all year round, thereby maintaining the island's fishing tradition. The population of the archipelago is decreasing mainly as a result of the decline in importance of traditional livelihoods, which the economies of remote islands such as Bokö are often based upon.

Half of Bokö is a nature reserve and a proposed SAC. The nature reserve is owned by the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA).

Programme Aims and Content

There are three themes to the programme: nature conservation, education and tourism. A typical cultural environment of the archipelago will be recreated and preserved in the nature reserve and a forum developed where people with an interest in the environment, nature and culture can meet and exchange experiences. The local inhabitants of the archipelago are to undertake the majority of the projects, thereby creating new jobs. The use of any other land will depend on the agreement of the landowner. The management of the nature reserve and the educational initiatives will be run concurrently. It is estimated that the project will involve 1,600 work days, undertaken mostly by women. Twenty archipelago based companies are expected to be established or expanded with the help of the project.

The programme started in 1996 and is due to be completed in 1999. A number of organisations are involved including: NBV; the County Administrative Board; the County Council, the County Administrative Board; and Valdemarsvik's municipality.

There are several measures:

1. Nature Conservation Plan

The aim is to preserve an old cultural landscape, define long-term goals for the protection of natural resources and wildlife and to establish how the area could be made more accessible for recreational use. The plan is based on the work of nature conservationists and cultural specialists. Labourers have been employed by the Environmental Department of the County Council and equipment bought from the previous leaseholders of the land. During December 1997, 18 ewes were bought in to restore grazing. Wooden fences have been constructed using traditional techniques. New sheep enclosures have been erected and old enclosures have been improved. The work has been carried out by locals from Bokö. Farmers from Gräsmarö and Lundby farm carried out autumn ploughing and spring sowing to secure winter feed for the animals. In all cases priority was given to the employment of local workers. Funding is also provided under the programme for the management and running costs of the Nature Reserve which is the responsibility of the Municipality.

2. Education and Tourism Measure, including:

- an environmental and cultural information centre – built in the style of an old boathouse by local craftsmen this will provide visitors with information about Bokö, the Baltic Sea and the ecology of the archipelago;
- camp schools – the project will work in co-operation with the schools in the municipality for the provision of camp schools;
- nature experiences and guiding – educational tours related to the local culture and biodiversity will be run;
- rehabilitation – the project will create opportunities for people to retreat and rehabilitate in a natural environment outside the tourist season.
- international cooperation – a meeting place for international cooperation within the environmental field will be provided;
- education centre – completed at the beginning of 1998 this provides field survey equipment, a laboratory, specialist literature and IT equipment, courses, a conference centre and a meeting place for groups visiting Bokö;
- study plans, education and courses – for target groups (such as schools, teacher, researchers and local people) and to meet general needs, with the main topics being cultural and environmental issues.

In addition, the passenger transport facilities to Bokö will be improved by existing businesses in the archipelago who will benefit from increased visitor numbers. During high season the visitor numbers will be controlled by restricting boat transport to the island.

Staff recruitment will be carried out mainly through established contacts of the cooperation partners and also from more specific groups within the environmental and nature conservation sector.

Financial Details

The County Administrative Board, the County Council, the NBV (a community welfare organisation) and the Municipality are responsible for the national funding.

Table 1: Total budget and sources of funding (€)

	EU	National Funding	Total Budget
Nature Conservation (EAGGF)	46,300	108,200	154,500
Education (ESF)	70,110	164,580	234,690
Total	116,410	272,780	389,190

Comments

Apart from encouraging the local population to grasp the new employment possibilities that sustainable resource management and nature conservation provide, this project also provides the island population outside the Natura 2000 area with new, alternative skills which are compatible with the environment. This is especially important for women who traditionally have few work opportunities on the islands and have often moved to the mainland as a consequence. In some areas of the archipelago there are 20-30 per cent more men than women. The project will also strengthen the economic viability of the community and hence will prevent continued depopulation.

The project may act as a catalyst towards a more environmentally sustainable community, so that the Natura 2000 site is not surrounded by environmentally harmful activities.

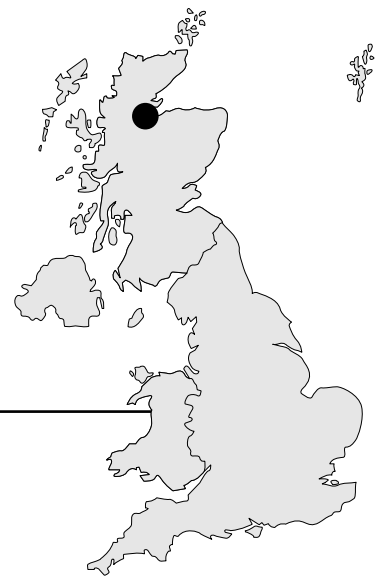
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UK:

ROSS AND CROMARTY FOOTPATH INITIATIVE

Fund

Objective 1

EAGGF Single Programming Document: Highlands and Islands

Measure 1: Enhancement and protection of the natural environment

Background

This project is situated in the Ross and Cromarty District, one of seven Districts within the Highland region of Scotland which has Objective 1 status (1994-1999). Ross and Cromarty is a remote mountainous district with a low population density and a fragile economy which is heavily dependent upon agriculture, forestry, fisheries and tourism. The area is famous for its spectacular scenery, outstanding landscape and high nature conservation value – containing six National Nature Reserves and two National Scenic Areas. It is also a popular venue for walking and mountaineering.

There are estimated to be 500km of footpaths in the district which are heavily used by walkers. Approximately 500,000 tourists visit the district each year, of which at least 70 per cent are interested in hill or nature walking, and tourism contributes some Euro 58 million per year to the local economy. However a survey carried out in 1993 indicated that footpath condition along 19 of the most popular routes was poor and declining, which was leading to increasing conflict between tourism and environmental quality as paths were eroded and sensitive habitats threatened. Many of these routes cross sensitive nature conservation areas, including 17 km in designated UK Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), of which 14 km are also in candidate Natura 2000 Special Areas for Conservation (SACs).

In recognition of this, in 1994 Scottish Natural Heritage (the government nature conservation and recreation agency) and Ross and Cromarty Enterprise (the government funded economic regeneration organisation for the district) jointly sponsored a study to assess the economic significance of the use of the footpath resource. This found that footpath users contribute over Euro 10.1 million per year to the local economy, which supports around 240 full-time equivalent jobs. On that basis, the study concluded that there was a clear case to support the maintenance of the footpath network as a key feature of the local economy, as well as an important way of protecting the natural environment.

Project Aims and Content

The Ross and Cromarty Footpath Trust was set up in 1995 to build, maintain and develop a 200 km network of upland and lowland footpaths in the Ross and Cromarty area and to provide high-quality skills training in footpath construction and maintenance to the local workforce. The project was supported by local authorities in partnership with Scottish Natural Heritage and Ross and Cromarty Enterprise. Local business interests and local landowners were also involved in helping to set up the Trust.

The Trust sought EU funding for its work in two phases. In phase 1 (1995-8), EAGGF funding was obtained for basic footpath maintenance and improvement work. In phase 2 (1998-2000), both EAGGF and ESF funds have been secured to support path works and the employment training offered by the trust in footpath construction and repair.

Financial Details

EAGGF funds:	1995-8	Euro 724,638
	1998-2000	Euro 434,782
ESF funds:	1998-9	Euro 101,450

The total budget for the Trust's five-year programme from 1995-2000 is Euro 3.2 million. Its other main sources of funding for these activities are Scottish Natural Heritage (around 25 per cent of funds), Ross and Cromarty Enterprise (40 per cent). Highland Council also contributes a smaller amount and, since 1996, the Trust has been able to earn an increasing amount of direct income from its work in training and path management, which contributed around 10 per cent of total funds in 1997/8.

Results

The Trust has now repaired and rebuilt around 67 km of mountain paths, and seven local estates have entered into ten-year path management agreements with the Trust. In the eastern, lower-lying part of the district, the Trust is also developing 200km of new footpath and cycle path networks in partnership with local community councils, negotiating access with landowners, erecting signs and building steps and stiles where necessary. In total, it is now managing around one half of all mountain pathwork in Scotland, and is recognised as a leading source of advice and expertise on how to restore and manage paths effectively.

The Trust's work brings benefits for walkers, in that paths are easier to locate and to use, and for nature conservation in that by encouraging walkers to keep to the paths, other areas of sensitive habitat are protected from erosion or other damage. In addition, there can be benefits for land management, in that the paths also serve to give landowners, managers and farmers better access to the remotest areas of their holdings in order to undertake stock and wildlife management work.

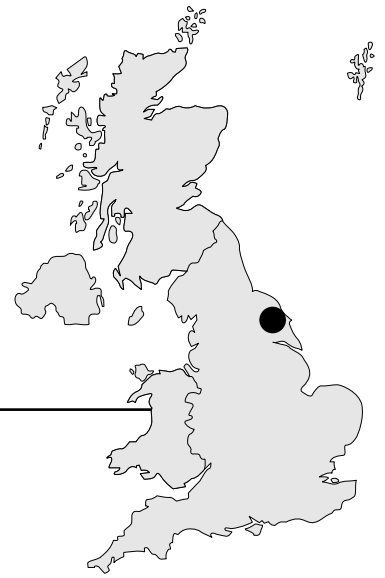
As well as undertaking path work itself, the Trust has developed an ability to offer high quality training to new recruits in the craft of footpath construction and repair. It is now the major source of both professional training and vocational qualifications in path skills and management, for all Scotland. Most of those who qualify under courses run by the trust have established themselves in businesses which undertake footpath repair work in the local area.

Discussion

The project was independently monitored and evaluated in 1998. The main findings of the evaluation were that the Footpath Trust had proved to be very effective in improving footpaths in the area and in building a successful partnership between public environmental agencies, local government administrations, landowners and walkers' groups. The longer-term economic impacts of the Trust's work will depend upon how well the paths are used in future, which could be increased by more promotional work by the Trust. However, from an environmental perspective what is needed must be sustainable levels of use, rather than maximum use, so a balance may need to be struck. Likewise, the Trust's work in successfully training and helping to establish a core of skilled path building contractors will also have to be balanced, to ensure that it does not produce more qualified workers than the market can absorb. In overview, the project has clearly brought small but significant environmental, social and economic benefits to the area in an integrated way.

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REINO UNIDO:

PROGRAMA DE RECUPERAÇÃO DA CHARNEÇA DE NORTH YORK MOORS E PROGRAMÁ DE RECUPERAÇÃO DO RIO ESK

Financiamento

Objectivo 5b FEOGA
Northern Uplands – Área Objectivo 5b Quadro Comunitário de Apoio

Introdução

Ambos estes programas visam melhorar a gestão de habitats específicos do Parque Nacional de North York Moors, um parque natural habitado (categoria V na classificação de áreas protegidas da IUCN). O Parque abrange 50.000 hectares de charneca de urze, um tipo de habitat semi-natural internacionalmente raro que foi designado a nível nacional Sítio de Especial Interesse Científico (SEIC) e que é uma potencial Zona de Protecção Especial. A charneca é tradicionalmente mantida por um pastoreio extensivo e maneio para caça ao lagópode escocês. O Rio Esk constitui um importante habitat fluvial que alberga espécies raras a nível nacional, nomeadamente a lontra, rato dos lameiros, guarda-rios e melro de água, e ainda peixes com valor para a pesca desportiva tais como a truta de mar, salmão, truta e umbla.

Nas décadas recentes, a charneca de urze foi afectada pelo declínio das actividades de gestão devido ao efeito combinado da diminuição do rendimento agrícola e da escassez de mão-de-obra, os quais levaram a uma redução da cobertura por urze, à propagação de fetos em muitas áreas e a um aumento do risco de doenças associadas com carraças, parasitas que prosperam na vegetação bravia. Analogamente, nos últimos anos foi observado um declínio na qualidade do habitat e na pesca no Rio Esk, devido à acção conjunta de do acesso incontrolado dos gados, poluição por erosão dos solos e trabalhos mecanizados de manutenção do rio que têm reduzido a diversidade dos habitats ribeirinhos.

Objectivos e conteúdo do Programa

Com o objectivo de inverter o declínio das actividades de gestão e a ameaça à vida selvagem que têm ocorrido nas últimas décadas, surgiu a necessidade de encontrar novas formas de assegurar a gestão ambiental da charneca e do Rio Esk através de um modelo atractivo e viável comercialmente. O Programa de Regeneração da Charneca procura abordar este declínio através da identificação das ligações entre o pastoreio de ovinos, caça ao lagópode, a boa gestão da charneca, da paisagem, a conservação da natureza e o turismo. Uma vez que estas ligações estejam interpretadas, é possível promover a gestão sustentável do ponto de vista comercial do habitat de charneca. O programa para o Rio Esk procura melhorar a gestão deste rio para a conservação e vida piscícola.

Ambos os programas são conduzidos por uma associação de pessoas individuais e organizações interessadas, incluindo agricultores/pescadores, proprietários, entidades públicas relacionadas com o ambiente, ONGs, ambientalistas e a sociedade, assim como os técnicos do Serviço Nacional de Parques, a entidade responsável pela gestão do Parque. O programa de regeneração da charneca foi desenvolvido em duas fases: fase um — Agosto 1995-Dezembro 1997, fase dois — Janeiro 1998-Dezembro 1999. A duração do programa de regeneração do Rio Esk é Julho 1997-Outubro 2000. Em ambos os casos, todos os parceiros do projecto juntaram-se para definir os problemas a serem resolvidos, identificar as soluções possíveis e conceber os programas para suportar estas soluções.

Os objectivos do Programa de Regeneração da Charneca são:

- reduzir a elevada mortalidade de borregos e crias de lagópodes na charneca, provocada em grande medida por doenças relacionadas com as carraças, e assim melhorar a saúde e qualidade dos borregos e lagópodes que poderão ser comercializados, o que vai, por sua vez
- melhorar o valor económico da charneca, aumentando o emprego, salvaguardando as actividades económicas dependentes dos recursos locais e reforçando a comunidade; e
- melhorar e manter um ambiente de elevado valor natural, no qual a vida selvagem, cultura e paisagem da charneca sejam assegurados para o futuro.

Estes objectivos serão atingidos em duas fases. Na primeira é oferecido apoio financeiro aos agricultores e proprietários para melhorar a qualidade da vegetação da charneca e a saúde e qualidade das ovelhas e lagópodes. Na segunda procura-se providenciar incentivos comerciais por forma a assegurar a continuação da gestão da charneca quando os apoios financeiros cessarem, melhorando as oportunidades de comercialização dos lagópodes e ovelhas e aumentando o conhecimento de boas práticas e novas técnicas. Até ao momento, isto envolveu o desenvolvimento de um equipamento móvel para armazenar em boas condições os lagópodes após serem abatidos, e a formação de uma nova Associação, a 'Associação para a Melhoria da Qualidade dos Ovinos de North York Moors', para a comercialização de produtos pecuários de qualidade, rústicos, saudáveis e rastreáveis, com uma elevada identidade regional.

O objectivo do Programa de Regeneração do Rio Esk é a protecção, conservação e melhoramento dos habitats do Rio Esk para a fauna piscícola e outra vida selvagem, e assim aumentar o valor económico do rio para a comunidade rural, através da melhoria do habitat fluvial e da gestão dos recursos hídricos, a formação em técnicas de gestão do rio para agricultores e gestores da pesca, investigação acerca das populações piscícolas e das lontras, e implementação de um programa de criação e introdução de salmão. O programa oferece apoio a uma diversidade de trabalhos práticos para a recuperação da vegetação ribeirinha, prevenção da erosão, criação de habitats mais diversificados para a vida selvagem e o aumento da segurança e da acessibilidade ao curso de água para o gado. O programa envolve ainda a reintrodução no rio de salmão nativo do Rio Esk para assegurar que os benefícios de carácter económico resultantes da recuperação dos habitats fluviais são amplamente reconhecidos ao nível local, e incluí actividades de formação e de investigação as quais contribuirão para a melhoria do conhecimento e da compreensão das necessidades de gestão e do comportamento das populações piscícolas e restante fauna selvagem.

Dados financeiros

Financiamento	Programa de Regeneração da Charneca (€)		Programa de Regeneração do Rio Esk(€)
	Fase 1	Fase 2	
FEOGA	588,400	797,100	168,100
Orçamento total	1,594,200	2,174,000	434,780

Para o Programa de Regeneração da Charneca, outras fontes importantes de financiamento incluem o Ministério da Agricultura, Pesca e Alimentação, a iniciativa privada e a Autoridade para os Parques Nacionais. Agências governamentais e uma NGO nacional - o RSPB - também participam com pequenas contribuições destinadas aos trabalhos de levantamento.

Para o Programa de Regeneração do Rio Esk outras fontes importantes de financiamento incluem o Ministério da Agricultura, Pesca e Alimentação, a iniciativa privada, a Autoridade para os Parques Nacionais e a Agência do Ambiente.

Resultados

Apenas o Programa de Regeneração da Charneca decorre há tempo suficiente para evidenciar claros resultados. Até ao momento, e considerando ambas as fases, o programa:

- permitiu a gestão de 48.000 hectares de charneca sob novos acordos de gestão;
- melhorou a saúde dos ovinos através de banhos desparasitantes e aumentou a sobrevivência dos borregos em 10 por cento;
- aumentou o rendimento de lagópode da charneca em 11 por cento;
- ofereceu formação através de oito cursos e dez encontros de informação/comunicação para agricultores e gestores de caça;
- realizou levantamentos económicos e ambientais e estudos de viabilidade de comercialização para os lagópodes e ovinos;
- concebeu e promoveu um equipamento móvel para armazenar a caça e ajudou o estabelecimento de uma associação para a comercialização os ovinos de qualidade;
- criou quatro empregos em “full-time” e 15 em “part-time” e ajudou a manter 331 empregos existentes.

A avaliação intermédia no final da fase 1 (Dezembro de 1997) referiu que o programa tinha começado a apoiar actividades económicas que contribuem para a melhoria dos recursos da charneca e o estado sanitário dos ovinos e lagópodes, e que criou a oportunidade para as pessoas identificarem os pontos fracos e fazerem melhorias nos modos de gestão, infra-estruturas e técnicas. A faceta comercial do programa, que irá em última instância assegurar a sua sobrevivência, tem tido um desenvolvimento mais lento do que o trabalho imediato de gestão, mas o equipamento móvel para o armazenamento da caça e a associação de criadores de ovinos mostram-se muito populares entre os proprietários locais e agricultores. Será importante assegurar que o balanço crucial entre conservação e o comércio é mantido enquanto estes empreendimentos decorrem, como tem ocorrido ao longo do programa de trabalhos de gestão subsidiados.

Discussão

Um dos aspectos mais importantes destes projectos foi o estabelecimento da cooperação entre as entidades que representam os interesses públicos, da sociedade civil e da actividade económica nestas áreas. Desta forma, foram identificadas, em conjunto, as ameaças futuras à sua gestão continuada e foram desenvolvidas estratégias que deverão combater estas ameaças e aumentar a sustentabilidade económica e ambiental do Parque. O programa objectivo 5b gerou a motivação necessária para o estabelecimento de parcerias de cooperação e para encorajar os diferentes grupos de interesses a concentrarem-se nas questões relativas à gestão de habitats específicos, abrangidos por cada medida. Sem este programa, o apoio do Ministério da Agricultura (que constituía a outra principal fonte de financiamento) não teria sido disponibilizável.

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UK:

KNOWSLEY WILDFLOWER CENTRE

Fund

Objective 1

ERDF Single Programming Document: Merseyside 2000

Measure 4/5: Protecting and developing the natural and historic built environment.

Background

This project is sited in Merseyside which is the only Objective 1 area in England for the 1994-9 period. It is a predominantly urban area which has suffered severe economic problems in recent decades, mainly due to a decline in traditional UK manufacturing industries which has led to a decrease in local employment opportunities. Most of the land area of Merseyside is occupied by housing and commercial development and transport infrastructure, and the population density is high. However, small areas of parkland and other open spaces survive, and new areas of derelict land have been created as a consequence of the decline in local industries.

A local environmental NGO, 'Landlife', was formed in Merseyside in 1975. Its aims are to strengthen the relationships between people and wildlife and to create opportunities to increase wildlife resources throughout the country. Since 1975 it has developed a range of local and national projects, including establishing a trading company which specialises in supplying native wild plants and seeds for habitat creation and restoration work all over the UK. In recent years, Landlife has secured European funding from both Structural Funds and the LIFE budget, for various aspects of its work.

Project Aims and Content

This project is an unusual case study because it does not involve direct nature conservation management of a high-value site. Instead, it promotes environmental enhancement in a low-value urban setting by creating a national resource which can be used to bring nature conservation benefits to many parts of the UK, including the restoration of habitats under Natura 2000. The aims of the national wildflower centre project are summarised in its mission statement:

'to increase our wildflower resources for future generations by promoting the creation of new habitats that have economic, environmental and ecological benefits for the nation'.

As well as promoting 'creative conservation' and local community involvement, the National Wildflower Centre serves as an arts venue and environmental training centre.

Landlife identified the opportunity to create a national centre for the conservation of native wildflowers on a 35-hectare parkland site in Merseyside, using land which was owned by the local government administration, Knowsley Borough Council which supported the concept. Objective 1 funding was applied for in 1995 and secured in two phases. Phase one ran from March 1997 to March 1998, and phase two runs from March 1999 to June 2000.

The elements of the project are described below.

- Creative conservation: including the provision of a genetic resource bank and a testing and demonstration site for the native wildflowers of the UK which can support the needs of academic research and promote environmental information exchange; running a commercial business supplying seeds and plants to habitat restoration and creation projects all over the country; and offering training in environmental restoration techniques.
- Local community and leisure: this involves improving the local environment by creating a diverse and attractive area including parkland, an adventure playground and a Visitor Centre, which serves as a venue for education, local arts, music and drama activities;
- Local economy: this involves the creation of job opportunities in the local area, both in the management of the Centre itself and in a number of related business opportunities, including the trading company which sells seed and plants from the centre, the training centre for ecologists, and the Visitor Centre.

In phase one, the project had the following output targets:

- restoring the buildings on the park site to create the national centre and an arts venue;
- establishing 25 hectares of wildflower beds in production;
- providing information and hosting visits to the centre for 15 local schools each year;
- training 500 people each year in wildflower nursery techniques and landscape ecology;
- providing 26 permanent and 21 temporary jobs for local people;
- attracting 1000 visitors to the centre each year;
- supplying wildflowers to landscape 2,500 m2 of other land in the Merseyside area;
- providing assistance to 10 ecological research institutes each year.

In phase two, enhanced output targets include:

- building a new Visitor Centre with 3,000 m2 car parking;
- restoring 1 km of roads to the site to improve visitor access;
- creating a total of 37 permanent jobs and 42 temporary jobs on the site;
- training 1,000 people per year;
- attracting 50,000 visitors per year;
- offering environmental education to 30 local schools per year;
- landscaping 5000 m2 of other land in Merseyside;
- bringing a further 20 hectares of land into wildflower production;
- providing assistance to 15 ecological research institutes each year.

Financial Details

Source of funding	Phase 1 (March 1997-March 1998)	Phase 2 (March 1999-June 2000)	Total
ERDF	Euro 221,915	Euro 495,652	Euro 656,522
Millennium Commission (the national lottery)	Euro 789,855	Euro 1.45 million	Euro 2,239,130
English Partnerships (the government agency for urban regeneration)	Euro 202,898	Euro 579,710	Euro 782,608
TOTAL			3,678,260

There has also been a significant amount of money raised through sponsorship from a wide range of local and national businesses and charities, as well as local authorities such as Knowsley Borough Council. Landlife's own contribution is mainly of 'in-kind' labour and administration costs.

Results

Phase one has now been completed and has achieved all its target outputs, and phase two is proceeding according to the plan. New opportunities are opening up such as the ability to use the centre as a national regional and local information exchange, hosting a large number of events each year on the general subject of ecology and nature conservation. In addition, other local sites have been offered as demonstration areas for the project's work, such as a 25 hectare reservoir site owned by the local water company and a smaller urban site owned by an electricity company. The centre has raised the profile of Merseyside as a source of expertise in ecological management and in particular, promoting and demonstrating how 'creative conservation' can be achieved in practice.

Discussion

Landlife faced some initial difficulties in bidding for large public grants because it is a small NGO which is entirely independent of the public administration. However, these have been overcome through a growing partnership with local authorities and through the support of a wide range of local and national businesses and well-known individuals who have become Board members or patrons of the project.

Fundraising in order to secure the future of the Centre beyond 2000 is a constant preoccupation for the staff and trustees of Landlife. However, as the commercial wildflower and seed business and the arts, conference and training programmes have grown, these have been able to make an increasing contribution to the Centre's finances.

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