



How successful are current CAP greening instruments?

Avalon Conference

Lake Bled 12th-14th November 2010

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EUROPEAN FORUM ON
NATURE CONSERVATION
AND PASTORALISM



Some principles for the CAP at EU and country levels

- Set clear objectives
- Robust analysis of key challenges and best responses
- Long-term thinking, not ad hoc changes
- Monitoring that informs policy improvement

➔ *But it doesn't work like this at any level now*



Natural resource and territorial challenges for the CAP

- Biodiversity 2020 + Natura 2000
- Water Framework Directive
- Soil Thematic Strategy

→ *CAP is failing to respond. No quantitative analysis of needs or best approaches*

This leads to instruments being used in insufficient, inappropriate and inconsistent ways



Some biodiversity challenges that need to be analysed and quantified



The most biodiverse farming landscapes are those dominated by semi-natural grassland – permanent pastures and meadows



Scrubby and wooded pastures are among the most biodiverse - but CAP rules exclude these from support payments in some countries

Scrubby grazing -
Bulgaria



Wooded meadow-pasture - Estonia



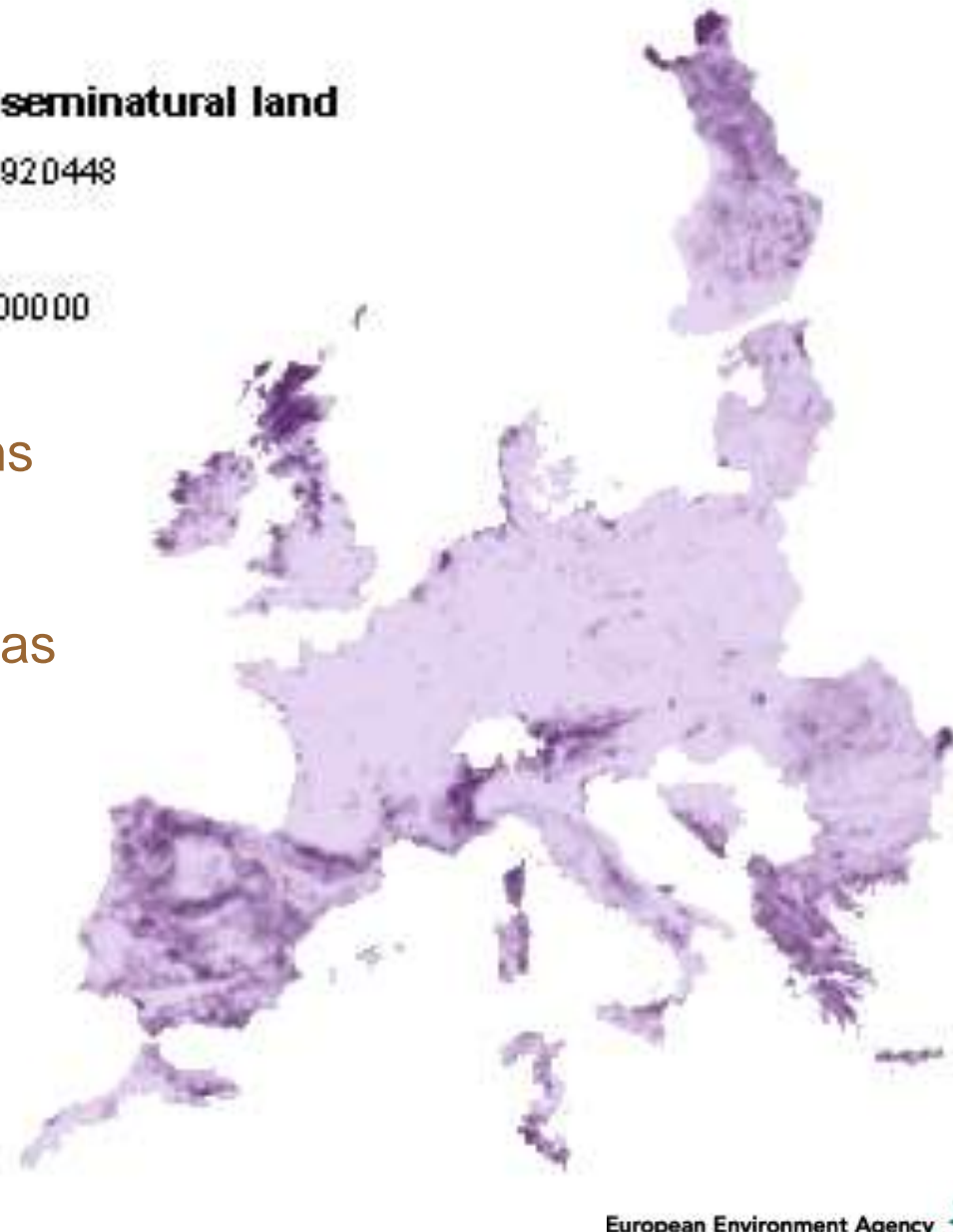
Forest grazing -
Spain

Low-intensity olive and other orchards with semi-natural grassland understorey are also highly biodiverse



Legend

Non wooded seminatural land



European Environment Agency



= farmland biodiversity,
public goods, ecosystems
services...

Needs to be recognised as
fundamentally different
from intensified,
mainstream farmland.

What are the challenges for these semi-natural farming landscapes?



Semi-natural grasslands are dropping out of farming systems all over Europe.

Natura 2000 and agri-environment are not stopping this on a sufficient scale, or with any consistency



Upland hay meadow in Navarra, Spain

Upland goat farm Spain - 150 goats, 14 cows
CAP support is about 25 € / ha.
No agri-environment for this type of farming.
In Romania he would get 70 € / ha
+ 124 € / ha agri-environment



This is the result



Abandonment of traditional olive groves is a fire risk and very difficult to reverse – very few schemes exist to stop this process.



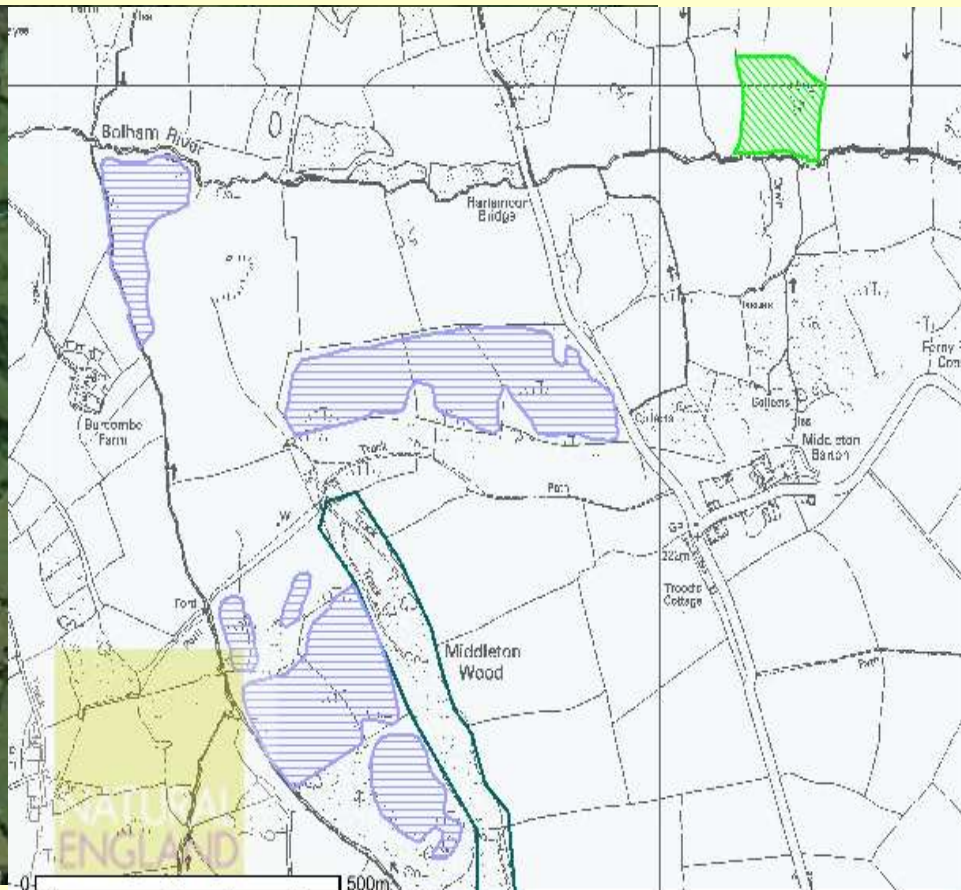
Lowland semi-natural grazing in Devon, England. These farming systems are “ebbing away”

In local case studies we found only 40% of this High nature Value (HNV) land is in agri-environment schemes



Agri-environment schemes are too tightly targeted on priority habitats, rather than landscape scale.
All this land is Grade 4 and 5 (very low productivity) but not LFA

BAP priority habitats



The underlying problem is lack of economic viability

- *Parallel process of abandonment and intensification flagged up repeatedly in Commission documents.*
- *Two sides of the same coin – lack of income generation.*
- *Not addressed by protected areas + compensation payment approach*

