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Contribution of protected areas to economy: economic activities within protected areas, local community involvement

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INSPIRING
ENVIRONMENT



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Protected areas –an impediment to economic development?

- Establishing nature protected area and enforcing conservation measures will indeed restrict some of economic activities – mainly those using raw resources from the site (e.g. forestry, mineral extraction etc.), employing intensive land use practices (e.g. Intensive agriculture), creating pollution and disturbance.
- Sites with semi-natural ecosystems need economic activities, but usually very specific kind of activities (extensive mowing and grazing, pollarding, other traditional management practices) – end products are expensive.
- Protected areas can be appealing as a place to live or visit, but it's creating a different kind of pressure to the site and threatening its values by land-use change and anthropogenic pressure.



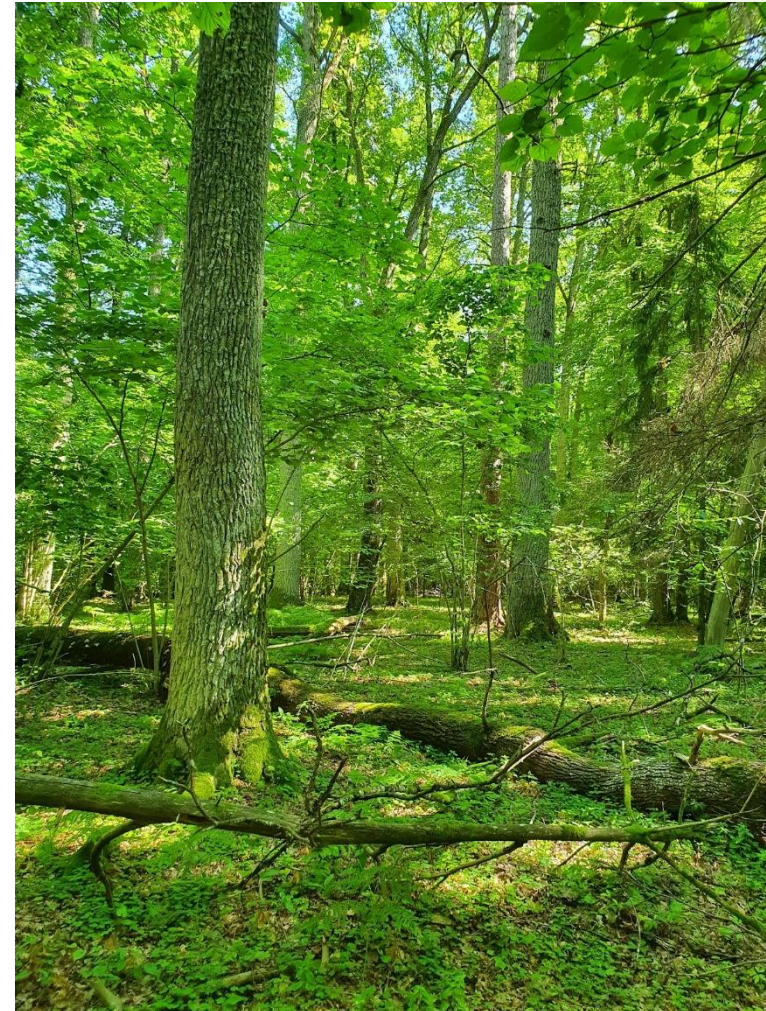
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Compensations for some, support for others I

- Preserving biodiversity provides important ecosystem services to areas outside the site, but it's complicated to calculate monetary value and compensate accordingly.
- Usually compensations are provided for «loss of income» which can be evaluated by market value (e.g. value of timber in forest), in form of reduced taxes, through agricultural subsidy payments.
- Better point of view – payment for «producing biodiversity»; substantial and continuous funding necessary to create favorable attitude to restrictions.





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Compensations for some, support for others II

- Traditional, extensive management practices which create tangible products have to be supported to become competitive in the market (either subsidies or assistance with marketing, creating novel products, reaching new consumer bases etc.).
- Tourism and recreation – common approach to using protected areas for economic benefits; risks of over-exploitation have to be considered.





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Role of local communities and assistance from outside sources

- Local communities keep the knowledge of historical management practices, can invent tangible and service products, ensure balanced management of site and its appeal to visitors and customers
- Outside funding through projects can give «kickstart» for development of economic activities (e.g. building infrastructure, preparing marketing activities, providing training etc.) → needs solid plan for further steps and self-sustainability after projects end

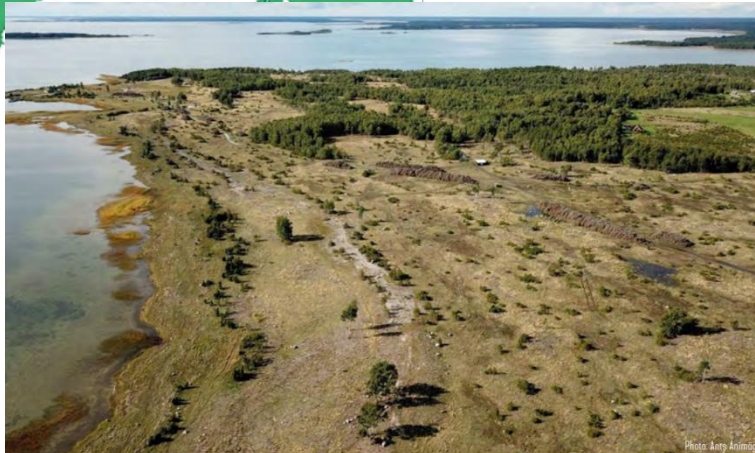


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Example 1: Restoration of Estonian alvar grasslands, development of meat production and tourism activities



- 1/3 alvar grasslands in Europe are found in Estonia
- 25 project areas at 16 different NATURA 2000 sites
- **Background:** less than 30% of area being managed annually, without grazing the biodiversity typical to open pastures disappears
- **Objectives:** to restore 2,500 hectares of the most valuable yet overgrown alvar grassland areas, ensure their continued traditional management, and raise awareness among various stakeholder groups affected by the project implementation
- **Actions:** reduction of the tree and shrub layers to a coverage of up to 30% (using chain swipe mower and the common forestry machinery), farmers equipped with necessary grazing supplies, involvement of ~ 600 private landowners, grazing infrastructure established (25 shelter, 200 km of fences etc.), information panels set up, seminars and trainings held



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Economic outcomes:

- Organized orchid tours by local nature tourism entrepreneurs
- Hiking trail app for Muhu Island available for visitors (within 'LIFE Connecting Meadows' project)
- Cooperation of local farmers into processing meat
- A small-scale butchery established, reducing costs of meat production
- Strategic branding and marketing of local livestock
- All the restored areas of the project were ready to join the agri-environmental subsidy scheme of Common Agricultural Policy that allows long term management of the restored areas to continue

Constant work with landowners and livestock keepers, promotion of cooperation between these two interest groups



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Instagram

Log In Sign Up



muhi.liha

Follow

Message

...

538 posts

859 followers

180 following

Muhu Liha

Local service

Lamba- ja veiseliha, mis on kasvanud Muhumaa puhtas looduses! ☺

✉ muhuliha@muhuliha.ee

Lehe haldamist toetab PRIA,

Oliveri, Nõmmküla, Muhu, Saaremaa, Estonia 94752

📍 muhuliha.ee



Autosound/audios



Partnerid



Partnerid



Lambafestival



Meie Klendid



Kinkepakid2021



Uus tootmish...

POSTS

REELS

TAGGED



Source: <https://www.instagram.com/muhu.liha/?hl=en>

Days 8 - 10

Saaremaa Island including Tagamoisa and Vilsandi National Park

34 out of Estonia's 36 orchid species are found on the limestone island of Saaremaa. We'll explore unspoilt Vilsandi National Park where along ancient raised beaches left by the freshwater Ancylus Lake, the Baltic's predecessor, we'll find masses of Dark Red Helleborines, Fly Orchids and Fragrant Orchids. Scarlet Rosefinches sing from Whitebeams as we search coastal marshes for the impressively tall Baltic endemic marsh orchid *Dactylorhiza longifolia*. Vilsandi Island has a beguiling mosaic of habitats from coastal marshes to juniper scrub and pine forest to reedbed. Maiden Pinks, Yellow Rattle, Thymes and *Allium carinatum* colour tracksides where we'll encounter colonies of Silver-studded and Large Blues. We'll find Large Heath, Purple Emperor, White Admiral, Woodland Brown and Nickerl's Fritillary, and Geranium Argus is abundant amongst all the Bloody Cranesbill. Bared Warblers and Willow Tits frequent shrubberies surrounding patches of richly diverse grassland flora with Danzig Vetch flowering with Lesser Butterfly Orchids, Round-leaved Wintergreens, Forked Larkspur, Angular Soloman's Seal and Herb Paris. Black-lined Skimmers and Yellow-winged Darters overfly fens where we'll encounter *Dactylorhizas curvifolia* and very rare *ruthei*, and in disused limestone quarries there's a fine show of Musk Orchids and Marsh Helleborines. In the finest mires the tall Moor King flowers above abundant Fen Orchids!

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Booking

1

2

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4

5

6

7

Holiday Destination

Estonia - Orchids, Butterflies

Departure Date

07/07/2025

Return Date

17/07/2025

I/We wish to book places: *

Please enter a number from 1 to 4.

Deposit Total *

Price: £ 0.00

Please state any extensions or options required (e.g. ground only)

Next

Save & Continue

Source: <https://www.greentours.co.uk/booking/?bid=15157>



Source: Life to alvars. The restoration and grazing reintroduction on 2500 hectares of Estonian alvar grassland. Layman's report on LIFE+ project 2014-2019

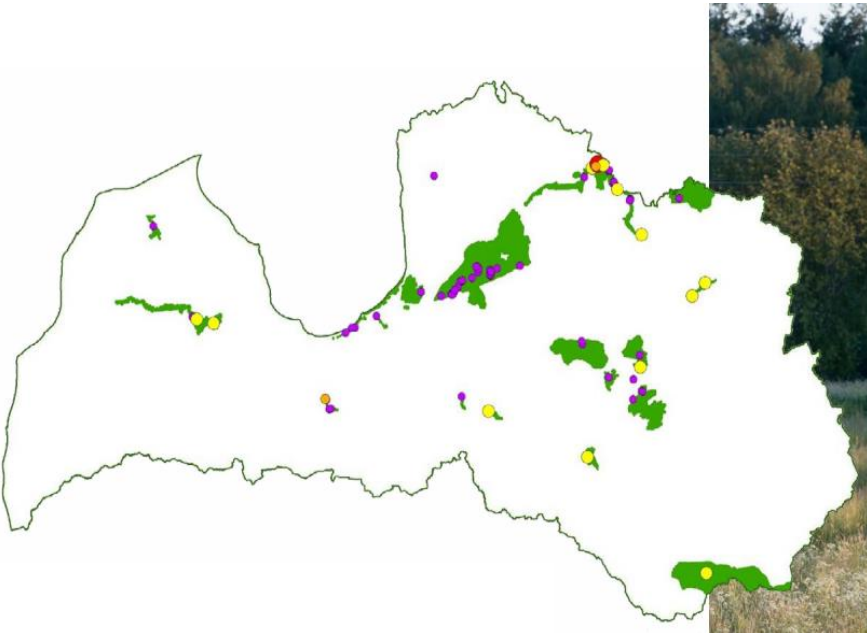


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Example 2: GrassLIFE Restoring EU priority grasslands and promoting their multiple use, Latvia



Source: https://grasslife.lv/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/FR_Annex-E.1.1.1-LaymansReportLV.pdf

- In 14 Natura 2000 network sites, 12 farms
- **Objective:** to develop, optimize, and enhance the conservation status of five EU priority grassland habitats in Latvia, while also improving the economic viability of sustainable grassland management
- **Actions:** restoration of grasslands, establishment of grazing infrastructure, implementation of sustainable management through mobile grazing units, development of a long-term sustainable management system, development of farm-level restoration plan, establishment of a demonstration farm, business analyses and support, promotion of high-value grassland-related products etc.



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Economic outcomes:

- 127 restoration plans have been produced and compiled into 15 farm-level restoration plans, and 7 business analyses have been performed
- The economics study focusing on grasslands, biodiversity and business has been conducted, identifying and promoting 8 grassland-related business products with high added value
- "Grassland Product" brand formed (research was carried out during the GrassLIFE project, but the practical work on brand development within the LIFE LatViaNature project)
- Chemical analyses of beef from Galloway cattle raised on semi-natural grasslands have been carried out, thereby promoting the meat market
- Grassland and soil experts work closely with project partners – farms; project beneficiaries have formed a community for mutual support and information exchange



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Source: <https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=122210225006196283&set=pcb.122210225312196283>



Source: <https://kestathome.lv/products/gramata-tirznieciba-bus-pieejama-no-16-junijs>

Producers



Ieva Galiņa - Lat Angus

Labumi, Bērzaunes pag., Madonas nov., LV-4853
Beef, processed products.



ZS Kalna Rubeņi

Kalna Rubeņi, Praulienas pag., Madonas nov., LV-4825
Beef, processed products.



SIA Sita Nature Park

Silmalas, Lītenes pag., Gulbenes nov., LV-4405
Beef, processed products.
Venison, processed products.



ZS Upmalas

Upmalas, Vecināni, Mežvidu pag., Ludzas nov., LV-5725
Beef, processed products.

Source: <https://dabiskoplavuprodukts.lv/en/pasture-beef>



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Example 3: Ecotourism in the Natura 2000 Network in Castilla-La Mancha, Spain



Source: <https://soyecoturistaclm.com/en/arauca-birds-and-wildlife-center-la-media-legua/>

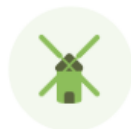
- Area of 33,950 km², 294 municipalities with 325,419 inhabitants
- 9 counties in the 5 provinces, 9 local action groups
- **Objective:** create the product Ecotourism in Castilla-La Mancha in a selection of Natura 2000 Network sites with tourism companies that voluntarily wish to be trained and meet certain requirements to offer ecotourism experiences, **promote** the Natura 2000 Network sites, **link** the product to the Ecotourism Club in Spain, to boost its promotion and ensure its continuity, **join** companies and tourist destinations to the Ecotourism Club in Spain



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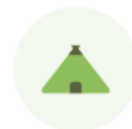
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**Promoting Natura
2000 Network Sites in
Castilla-La Mancha**



**Offering ecotourism
experiences**



**Improving the
profitability of tourism
businesses**



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Soyecoturista

Natura 2000 Network Experiences

Sierra de Alcaraz and
Campo de Montiel

Alcudia Valley and Sierra
Madrona

Upper Guadiana Mancha

Molina de Aragón - Upper
Tagus



Experiences in Sierra de
Alcaraz y Campo de Montiel
Fauna Flora
Nature observation

**The top 10 birds of
Campo de Montiel**





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Example 4: Italian farmers proud of their nature friendly products



- WWF Italy protected area network - 100 nature reserves known as “Oasi” (protecting wetlands, Mediterranean forests, farmlands, alpine and marine habitats - over 75 % are included in Natura2000 sites)
- **Mission:** produce, transform and market organic products from protected nature reserves and neighboring areas
- **Objective:** **restore** abandoned farmlands, **develop** a model of sustainable farming in protected areas and N2000 sites that can be replicated in other reserves, **demonstrate** that sustainable economic activities are compatible with nature conservation, **generate** revenues for nature reserves and conservation projects, **provide** new opportunities for local economies, **protect** local traditions



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Source: <https://www.natura2000branding.eu/story/terre-dell-oasi/>



Source: <https://www.terredelloasi.com/shop>



Bosco di Vanzago (Lombardy, SCI IT2050006)

honey

Source: https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/rest/cms/upload/05112021_113230_marketin_g_products_from_wwf_italy_in_pas_terre_dell_oasi.pdf



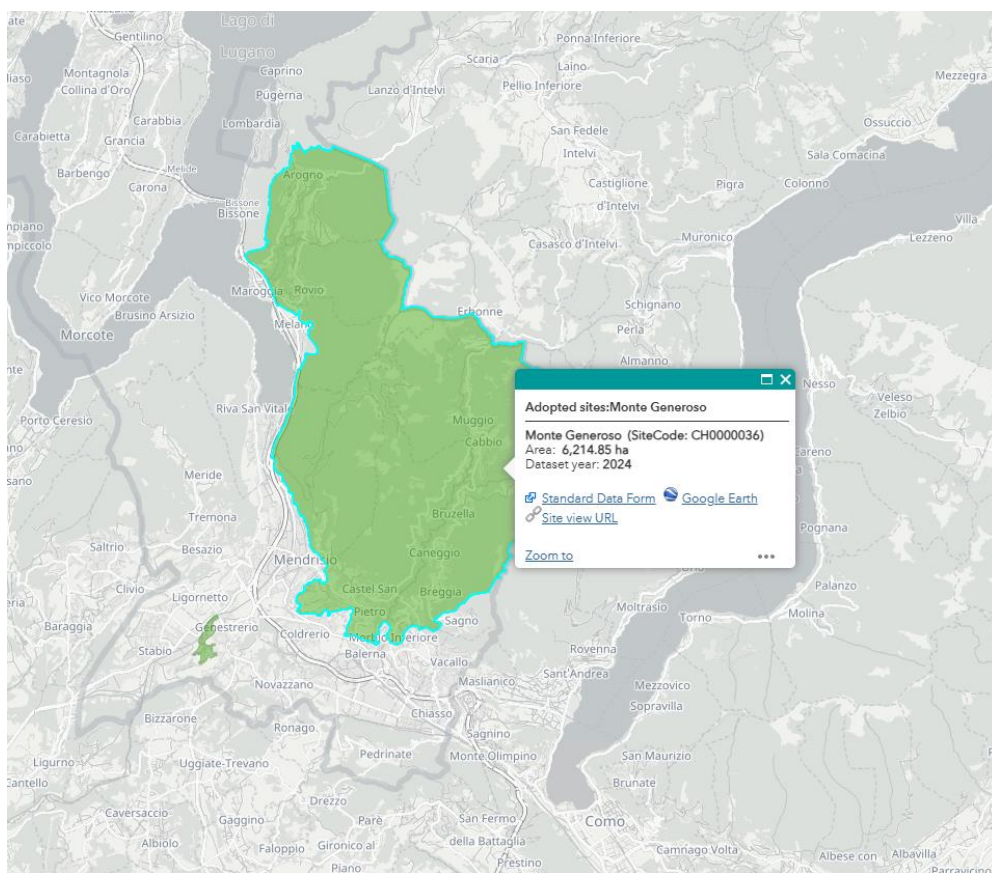


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Example 5: Mendrisiotto and Basso Ceresio, Switzerland



Source: <https://emerald.eea.europa.eu/?query=Adopted%20sites,SITECODE,CH0000036>

- Includes the Monte Generoso, an Emerald protected area
- Tourist board of Mendrisiotto and Basso Ceresio region used geolocation to promote ecotourism (mapping of thematic tourist itineraries using satellite navigation)
- Collaboration with other tourist offices, other environmental organisations
- Nine geolocated itineraries to discover the flora and the fauna of the “Emerald” zones in the territory (collaboration with the WWF)
- Initiative “Road to Wellness” - development of e-bike itineraries, involving local hotels renting electric bikes
- Other trails guide tourists through local vineyards and cheese factories, promoting local products



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Links and resources

General:

- <https://www.natura2000branding.eu>
- <https://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-97-en.pdf>

Restoration of Estonian alvar grasslands:

- <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/publicWebsite/project/LIFE13-NAT-EE-000082/restoration-of-estonian-alvar-grasslands>
- <https://youtu.be/qwDupuYSDBs?si=8cjuAUVrzSSH5B5p>
- <https://youtu.be/P3OcROzrn3E?si=rJGTd5IIsqM-1Tih>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=itCYshKc-VM>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5MvLK5FIBPE>

GrassLIFE Restoring EU priority grasslands and promoting their multiple use:

- <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/publicWebsite/project/LIFE16-NAT-LV-000262/restoring-eu-priority-grasslands-and-promoting-their-multiple-use>
- <https://grasslife.lv/en/>
- <https://dabiskoplavuprodukts.lv/en/about-the-brand>



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Links and resources

Castilla-La Mancha, Spain:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GTTxlthDYRo&t=1s>
- <https://soyecoturistaclm.com/en/>

Terre dell' Oasi, Italy:

- <https://www.terredelloasi.com/>
- <https://www.natura2000branding.eu/story/terre-dell-oasi/>
- https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/rest/cms/upload/05112021_113230_marketing_products_from_wwf_italy_in_pas_terre_dell_oasi.pdf