

# Project findings - land-related issues

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# What do we mean by 'land issues'

- Use or non-use of land (and appropriate use)
- Ability of the state to influence (and in some cases control) the use of land
- Ability of state to support particular uses of land by financial incentives





# Land issues - why they matter

- Because biodiversity objectives (Natura 2000, Axis 2 aims, EU Biodiversity Action Plan.....) are delivered by particular management on particular land
- Because support measures are increasingly targeted to particular land
- Because targeting of support on particular desired management usually involves setting criteria such as stocking density which need to be accurately assessed
- Because there are €/ha limits on payments
- Because some of cross-compliance relates to land





An aerial satellite image of a mountainous region. The top of the image shows a snow-capped mountain peak. Below the peak, a yellow line is drawn across the landscape, following a ridge or valley. The terrain is a mix of green vegetation and brown, possibly bare or sparsely vegetated, areas. The text "Reminder of some objectives...." is overlaid in yellow at the top.

**Reminder of some objectives....**

**Maintain all current forage under  
appropriate grazing regimes**

Image © 2008 DigitalGlobe  
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Image © 2008 TerraMetrics  
© 2008 Tele Atlas

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Lat: 43°15'22.18" N Long: 23°02'18.26" E elev: 541 m

Streaming: 100%



A satellite image of a mountainous landscape. The top of the image shows a mountain peak with patches of snow. Below the peak, a yellow line is drawn across the terrain, following a path that appears to be a former grazing area. The terrain is a mix of green vegetation and brown, possibly bare or eroded soil. The text "Possibly, reintroduce grazing to former forage areas" is overlaid in yellow on the upper part of the image.

Possibly, reintroduce grazing to  
former forage areas

Image © 2008 DigitalGlobe  
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A satellite image of a mountainous landscape. The top of the image shows a snow-capped mountain peak. Below the peak, the terrain is covered in dense green vegetation, likely scrub or forest. A yellow oval highlights a specific area of the landscape, indicating a region of interest. The text "Control of scrub expansion, but not complete eradication of scrub" is overlaid on the image in yellow. At the bottom of the image, there is a copyright notice and a streaming status indicator.

Control of scrub expansion, but not  
complete eradication of scrub

Image © 2008 DigitalGlobe  
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ter 43°15'22.18" N 23°02'18.26" E elev 541 m

Streaming ||||| 100%





# Maintenance of low-intensity small-scale mosaics

Image © 2008 DigitalGlobe  
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Lat: 43°15'22.18" N Long: 23°02'18.26" E elev: 541 m

Streaming: [|||||] 100%



## Reminder of some objectives....

- Maintenance of (or change to reach) appropriate grazing regimes on all current forage areas
- Possibly, reintroduce grazing back onto former forage areas
- Control of scrub expansion but not eradication of scrub
- Maintenance of small-scale low-intensity mosaics





# What are the possibilities?

- SAPS/SFP
- Article 69
- Disadvantaged area
- Agri-environment
- Non-productive investments
- (Productive) Investments in holdings
- “Reaching standards” support
- Natura 2000 payments

Obvious message: put land on IACS!





# Actual situation in 4 Western Stara Planina municipalities

- Total recorded pastures and meadows: 38375 ha
- Total not recorded as abandoned: 15617 ha, or 40% of total land
- Total recorded in LPIS (IACS): 7078 ha, or 18% of total and 45% of non-abandoned land

**WHY???**



# Inability to put land on LPIS

- Scrub and woodland - a CAP-based obstacle

## Regulation 1783/2003

- Art 43.3 “The forage area shall not include ... woods”





# Inability to put land on LPIS

- Scrub and woodland - a CAP-based obstacle
- Land classified as forest but in fact grazing land - national obstacle











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Image © 2008 DigitalGlobe

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02°50.35" N 27°25'34.99" E elev 314 m

Streaming ||||| 100%

Eye alt



# The interpretation in Scotland

- Woodland can be declared as grazed (and IACS-eligible) if
  - Use for grazing is long-standing
  - Not causing environmental damage
- Areas within parcels where tree cover is such that growth of grazeable vegetation is impaired should be deducted from forage (Scotland has no extensively-grazing goats)





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- Parcels fall below size threshold - interaction of national and CAP obstacles









# Inability to put land on LPIS

- Scrub and woodland - a CAP-based obstacle
- Land classified as forest but in fact grazing land - national obstacle
- Parcels fall below size threshold - interaction of national and CAP obstacles
- Use of land by multiple IACS claimants??









# Unwillingness to put land on LPIS

- Growth of unwanted vegetation - GAEC
- Annex IV: “Ensure a minimum level of maintenance and avoid the deterioration of habitats
  - avoiding the encroachment of unwanted vegetation onto agricultural land”









# Unwillingness to put land on LPIS

- Growth of unwanted vegetation - GAEC
- Minimum stocking level rules - agri-environment and GAEC
- Annex IV: “Ensure a minimum level of maintenance and avoid the deterioration of habitats
  - minimum livestock stocking rates and/or appropriate regimes”





## Examples:

- Minimum stocking rate in BG:
- Minimum stocking rate for agri-environment grassland management payment in BG:





# Interpretation in Scotland

- NO minimum stocking for GAEC
  - “land will not be considered to be undergrazed provided it is capable of recovering by anytime during the growing season in the calendar year that follows the date that the problem first occurred”
- NO minimum stocking for LFA
  - large changes in declared stocking triggers cross-checks





# Common/communal land

- Additional transaction costs
- Dependence on attitude of mayor/local authorities
- Actual vs. 'legal' vs. 'on paper' use
- Additional difficulties of 5 year commitments
- Land used in common - who applies?
- Who delivers an ecologically-sound grazing regime and how?





# Land used informally

- Additional transaction costs
- Dependence on attitude of owner
- Additional difficulties of 5 year commitments
- Danger of availability of payments to inactive parties
- Becomes bigger problem as more landowners become inactive





# Small farmers hardest hit

- Most likely to use marginal forage
- Most likely to use small parcels
- Most unlikely to commit to capital-intensive management
- Most likely to have large % of forage as common or communal land
- Very likely to use land informally WITHOUT paperwork





# What do we really know?

Source of information on stocking density	Stocking density LU/ha
LPIS area	0.67
Non-abandoned grasslands	0.24
Grasslands, incl. abandoned land	0.14
Case study farmers	Down to 0.1

- How can we describe 'appropriate' or 'optimum' grazing for the future if we don't try to measure it now?
- How can we pay realistic area payments if we don't know the forage area?
- How can we get a proper grip on the problem? Who will do it? Will LPIS be 'improved'?





Identification of HNV farmland



HNV farmland



Policy 'access' to HNV farmland



Setting criteria for eligibility and for prescriptions on HNV farmland



Appropriate management of HNV farmland

All HNV farmland must be on IACS

All land used by farmers with HNV farmland must be on IACS





## •IACS

- must consider ACTUAL not legal 'farmland'
- including grazed forest and scrub
- including small parcels







Including land used informally or for less than one year

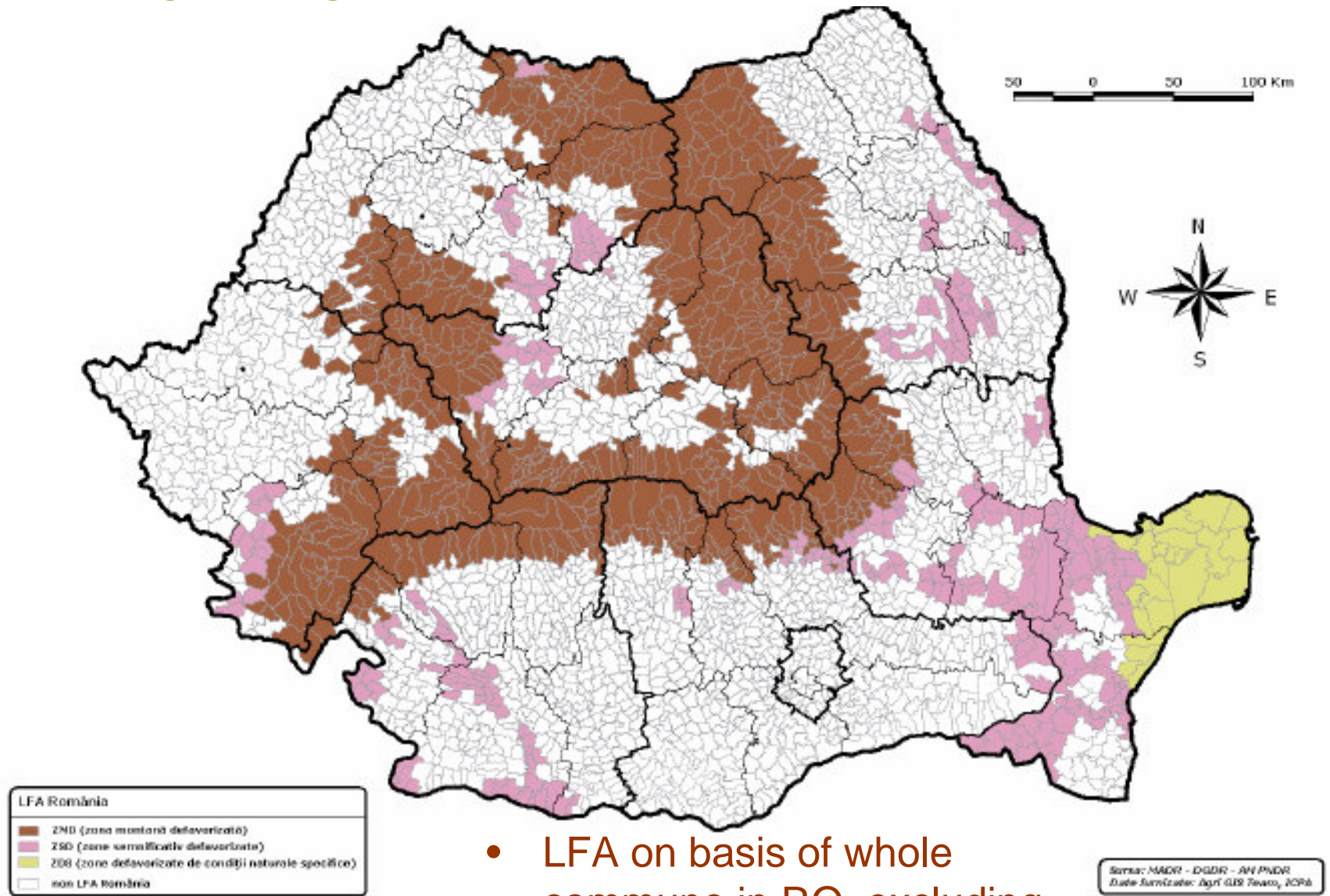




Including common or communal land



# Targeting measures at land: LFA



- LFA on basis of whole commune in RO, excluding some communes with marginal HNV land





# Targeting measures at land: LFA

- Some farming systems usually use land of below-average quality
- In Galați, they are HNV!
- Food for thought for LFA reform

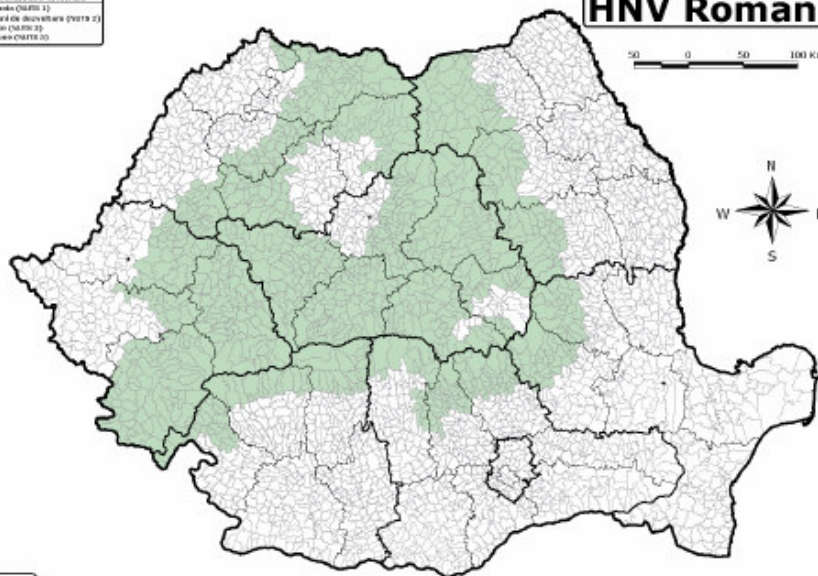




Sistemul administrativ teritorial  
 Judeţele (NUTS 2)  
 Regiunile de dezvoltare (NUTS 3)  
 Judeţele (NUTS 4)  
 Comune (NUTS 5)

## HNV Romania

50 0 50 100 Km

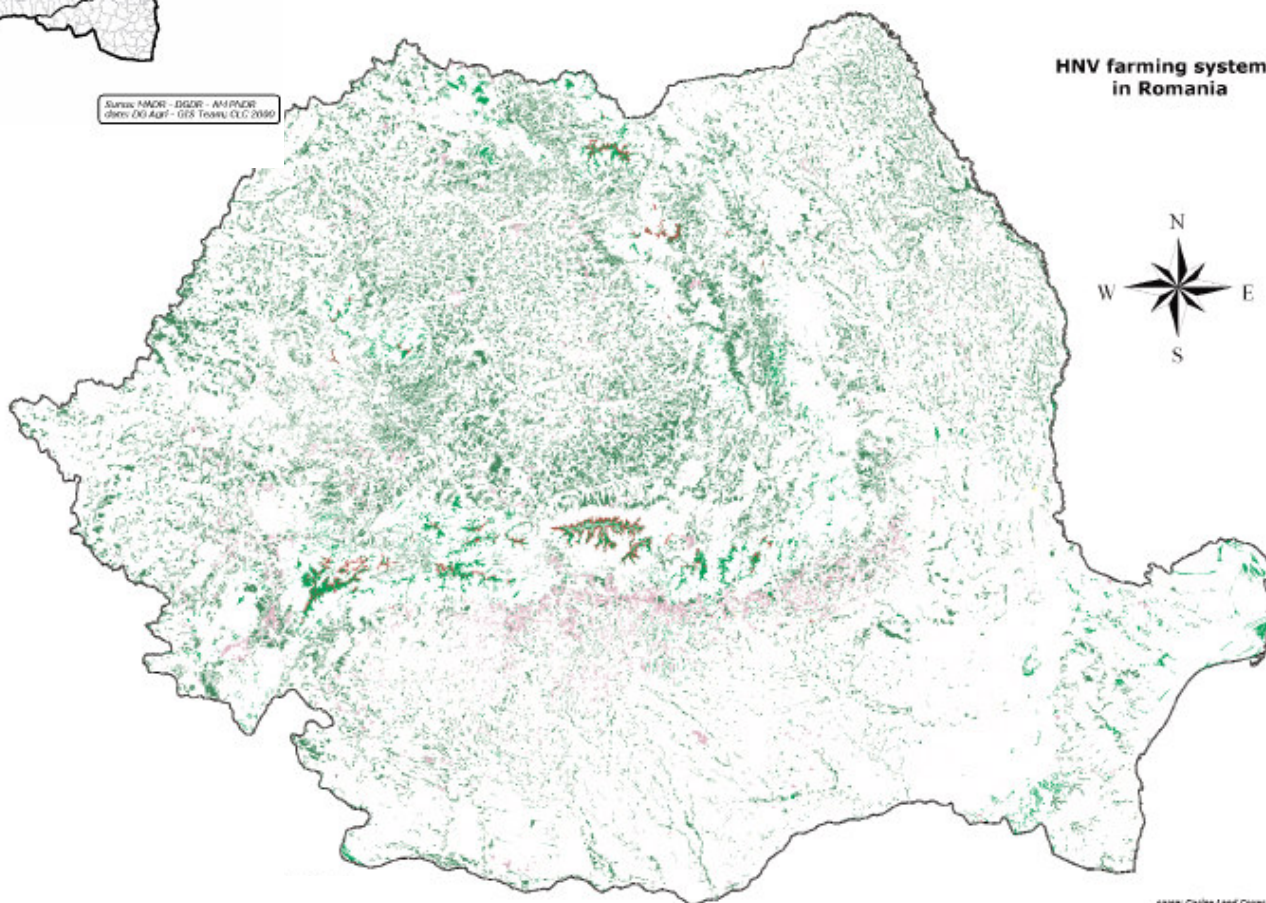


HNV Romania  
 non HNV  
 HNV

Figure 1 – Area HNV grassland

Surse: MAOR – DGDR – ANPDR  
 date: DG ADP – GIS Team, CLC 2000

## HNV farming systems in Romania



MAOR / Cluj-Napoca / Cluj 2000





# Targeting agri-environment at HNV farmland: Scottish example

- In the (approved) Scotland RDP, there are NO measures targeted specifically at HNV farmland
- Axis 2 biodiversity objectives are to be delivered through
  - agri-environment
  - organic aid
  - woodland management and improvement
- Since the HNV farmland indicator is ‘under-developed’, an alternative will be used: “% of land under agriculture, woodland, urban and other”
- Agri-environment payments for species-rich grasslands, grassland birds etc. available to all applicants (though acceptance into scheme is budget-limited)





# Abandoned land (and future of open grassland)

- It's an IACS question
- It's a GAEC question
- It's a Biodiversity 2010 question
- It's a question of Axis 2 objectives
- It's a FUNDAMENTAL ISSUE FOR THE CAP





# Small-scale mosaics

- It's a matter of scale
- It's a matter of funding
- It's a matter of engagement and empowerment
- It's also a Biodiversity 2010 question
- And an IACS question
- And a question for all 3 EAFRD objectives
- It's also therefore a **FUNDAMENTAL ISSUE FOR THE CAP**