

Opportunities and challenges – experience of the pilot teams



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Opportunities and Challenges: Experiences from RBPS pilots Ireland and Spain

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“Farming for biodiversity: building on know-how from the
results-based payment scheme (RBPS) pilots”

17th October 2019, Brussels

<http://rbaps.eu/>



European Forum on
Nature Conservation
and Pastoralism



BirdWatchIreland
birdwatchireland.ie
protecting birds and biodiversity



Nafarroako
Ingurumen
Kudeaketa, S.A.



An Roinn
Cultúir, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta
Department of
Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council



Gestión
Ambiental de
Navarra, S.A.



Associations and Policy Development Agencies

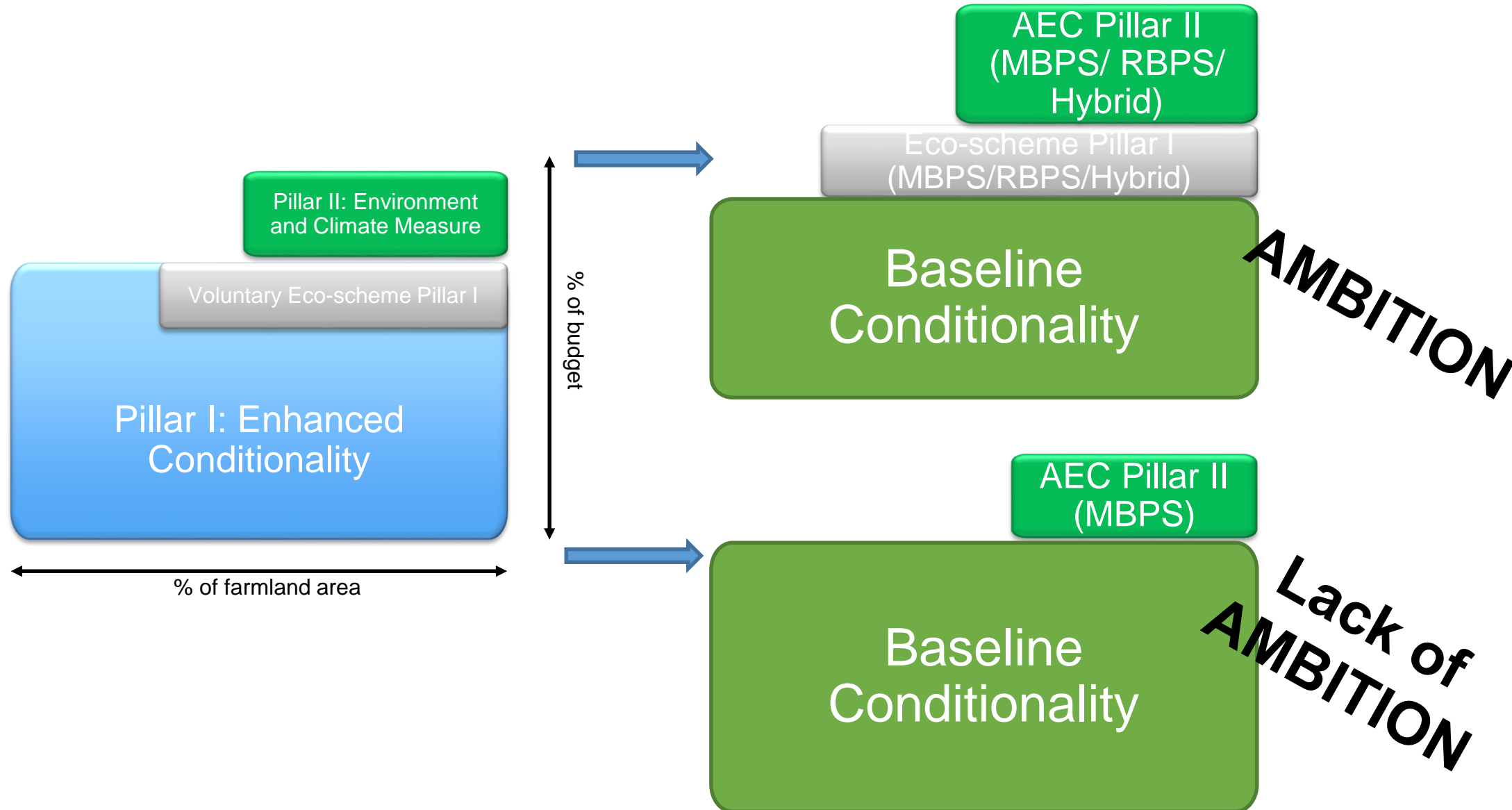


Department of
**Agriculture,
Food and the Marine**
An Roinn
**Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara**



Future of CAP-Opportunity?

CAP Green Architecture Post 2020 (MS Decides?)





Socio-cultural context important

- Understand the socio-cultural context in which RBPS are introduced
- 3 pilot areas – different environment setting
- Social context
 - Interactions with government and private institution
 - Education, advisory, wider agri-industry and NGOS



Similar Challenges /Potential opportunities



Perceived barriers and weaknesses of RBAPS

- Reduced budget for Pillar 2 post 2021
- Institutional resistance, eg fNGOs
- Institutional stasis of lack of ambition
- Current policy framework
- Greater risk for farmers and MAs
- More challenging/expensive to deliver
- Lack of capacity and appropriate skills
- Data deficits can limit roll-out
- Budget forecasting is difficult for MAs
- No current incentive for MAs or MSs
- No current consequence for not delivering results



Inherent and potential opportunities of RBAPS

- Wiser spend of a limited budget
- Supported by DG AGRI and ENV, nature authorities, eNGOs etc
- Improved policy framework
- Greater flexibility and autonomy, trust
- Better value for money; delivers results
- Builds capacity and expertise
- Incentivises gathering of data
- Builds budgetary confidence
- Provides a market for biodiversity
- Delivers biodiversity (and other) obligations (RDP, NBP, BS2020, PAF)



From the plot to the landscape/to the farm

- The scoring assessment and indicators developed for the pilot can be a useful “starting” point for a similar landscape in other areas
- The next step is to develop scoring assessment and monitoring approach:
 - In a whole farm context
 - In the landscape





Recommendations

- Policy framework-a clear focus on incentivising performance
- Clear objectives and targeting essential
- Co-operation, knowledge-sharing, capacity and trust building
- Long term commitments to sustain newly created market for biodiversity and ecosystem services
- Ensure implementation, financial management and monitoring regs facilitate RBPS approach
- Initial investment in design will reap dividends (e.g. defining and testing indicators, of training staff, farmers, advisers and inspectors, communications etc.)





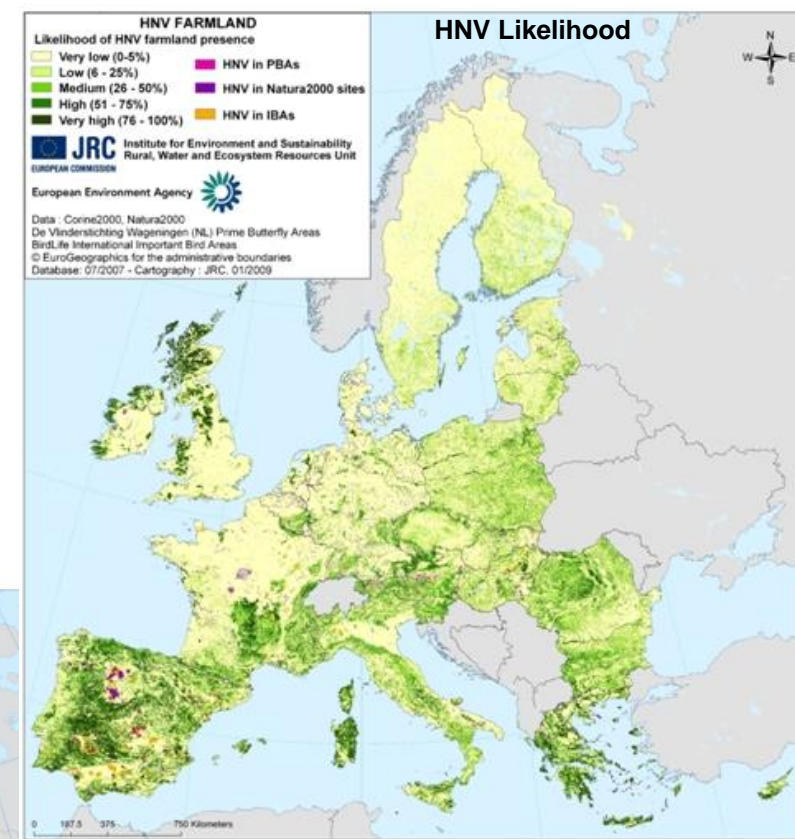
Value Nature: Create market for biodiversity and associated ES.

- Incentivise product production on areas best placed to produce it
 - Natura 2000 and land of similar character;
 - HNV farmland,
 - HNV features (intensive farmland)



NATURA 2000 - EUROPEAN UNION
 Birds Directive sites (SPA)
 Habitats Directive sites (pNCS, SAC, SAI)
 Sites - or parts of sites - belonging to both Directives

European Environment Agency

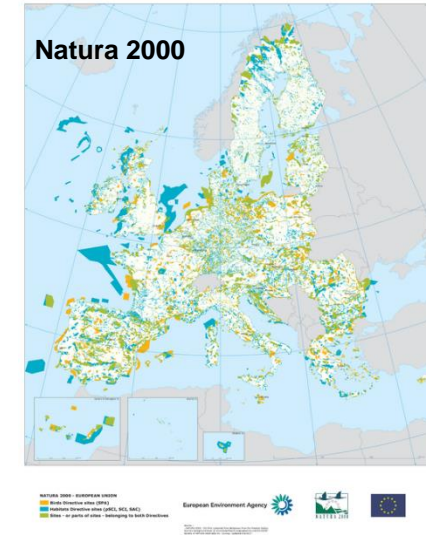


AMBITION!

Potentially 30-40%
of UAA with RBPS
AEC biodiversity
measures (long-
term goal)



Conservation Status Report: art 17-Habitats Directive



- RBPS could be a good “method” to implement conservation measures in Natura 2000: habitat of community interest or Habitats for species
- Good indicators for scoring are easy to relate with “conservation status” concept of the Directive.
- Developing scoring indicators and monitoring systems for RBPS could be useful for the of the conservation status (art 17-Habitats Directive)

Experiences of the Romanian pilot RBPS team in the Pogány-havas area (Eastern Carpathians)



László Demeter, Péter Domokos, Réka Tamás - Romanian Agency for Protected Areas
(ANANP), Pogány-havas Association

Farming for biodiversity: building on know-how from the RBPS pilots. Brussels 17.10.2019

Amount of hay meadows in 2014 ...

16 views

All changes saved in Drive

 Add layer  Share  Preview

☒ Amount of hay meadows per total... 

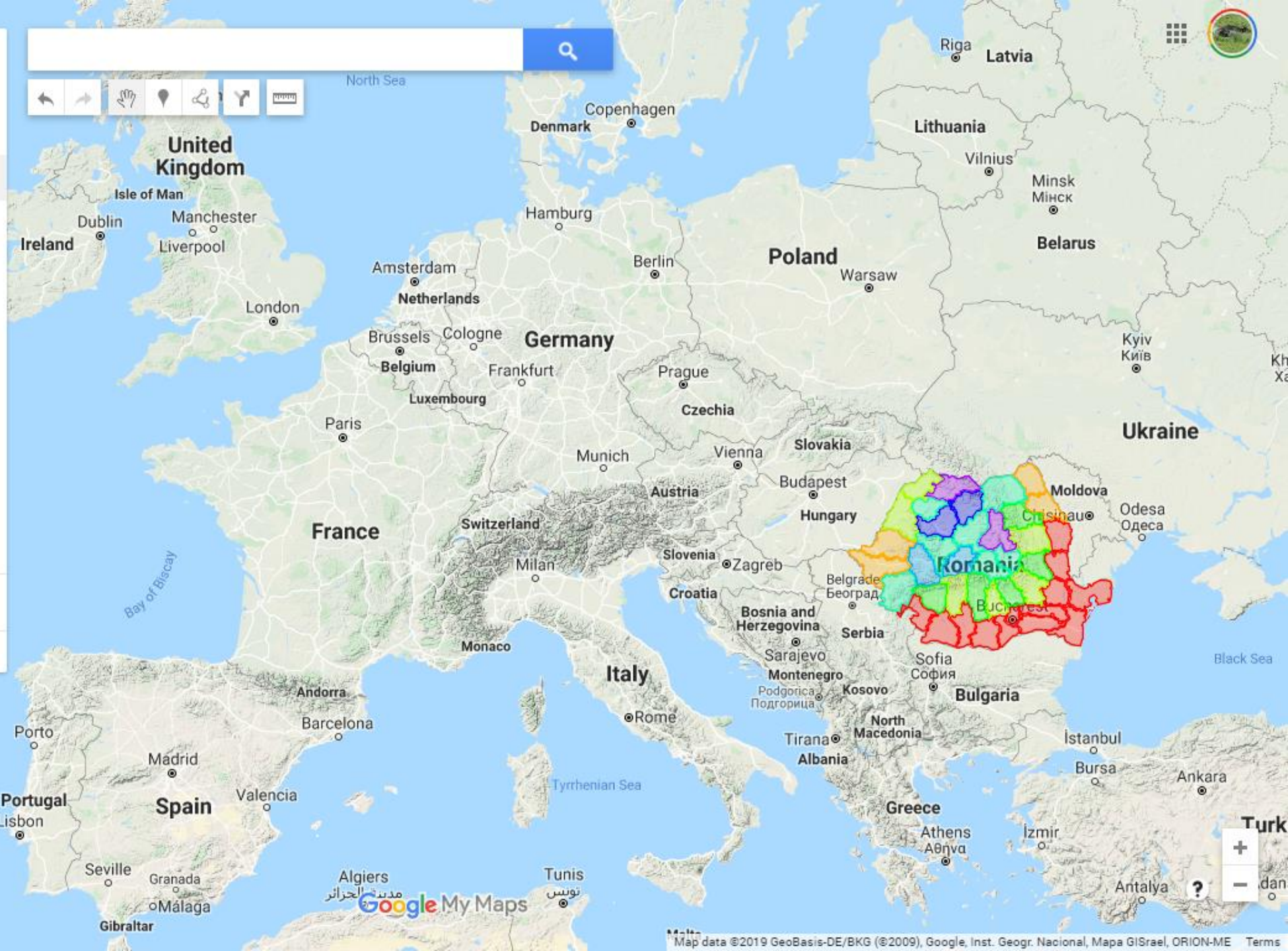


Styled by hay meadow vs agricultural land

-  0 - 0.02 (13)
-  0.03 - 0.04 (4)
-  0.05 - 0.06 (6)
-  0.07 - 0.08 (5)
-  0.09 - 0.11 (7)
-  0.12 - 0.13 (2)
-  0.14 - 0.15 (2)
-  0.19 - 0.25 (2)

☐ Untitled layer

☐ Base map



All changes saved in Drive

 Add layer
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 Preview

☒ Amount of hay meadows per total... ⋮

Styled by hay meadow vs agricultural land

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☐ Untitled layer

Base map



Very high number of farmers and hay meadows in Harghita county, Eastern Carpathians

- 25% of the total land surface of this county is hay meadows and a further 24% pastures, approximately 160.000 hectares of meadows
- More than 26.000 farmers/entities claimed subsidies in 2018
- 53 farmers participated in the RPBS pilot with about 100 ha meadows in the Poganyhavas pilot area



Observations and feedbacks - species knowledge

- Many farmers knew prior an average of 10-12 species also from their names (*Primula*, *Leucanthemum*, *Tragopogon*).
- Another 8 species were recognized by many using the images of scanned flowers and talking about the habitats of species.
- There were about 8-10 species like *Scabiosa*, *Teucrium*, *Lythrum*, *Scorzonera* that participants had difficulties recognizing.



Observations and feedbacks - opinions

- Flexibility: no set date for mowing. In the case of more fertile/humid meadows, late mowing means loss of aftermath
- Flexibility: in the way of mowing: machine vs. hand mowing
- Several farmers were happy that the beauty/ecological value of meadows is appreciated
- *Educational/psychological value of RBPS: making the connection between payment and the reason for payment*
- *Halt the loss of conversion from meadow to pasture*

RBPS ENGLAND

Arable and Grassland



YORKSHIRE DALES
National Park Authority



Opportunities and Challenges



Arable Opportunities



YORKSHIRE DALES
National Park Authority



To build on the Environmental performance gains shown and test the approach more widely

For other biodiversity objectives

A wider range of other environmental objectives, eg historic features, water quality etc

To build ownership, understanding and trust

Plots are having a close eye kept on them to ensure timely management decisions

Additional operations are being undertaken to deliver the highest tier possible with resulting environmental benefits

The use of technology

Use of technology to support self-assessment and increase accuracy/repeatability

Use of technology to target verification/control visits for a small sample of self-assessed results.

Development of markets/insurance to manage delivery risks

To drive learning

The farmers have enjoyed getting together to share their views and experiences. Over half of the farmers have discussed / shared their learning and experience with other participating farmers on how to improve their habitat scores.

Opportunity develop 'environmental benchmarking' approaches.

Shift from paperwork to fieldwork

For both farmers and delivery body

Arable Challenges



YORKSHIRE DALES
National Park Authority



Methodology:

Scoring methodology perhaps too sensitive.

Accuracy of farmer assessments, although generally good, still shows some variability.

Time consuming to complete assessments (although time reflected in payment)

Getting stung by bees when doing the pollen and nectar assessment!

Environmental Results

Pollen and nectar resources need a longer period of time to test management decisions when the sown species start to decline.

Winter bird food results criteria have driven more intensive management than feels 'right' for an environmental option and affected plot structure, further work to test different mixes/scoring approach.

Payments, risk and weather:

The perceived risk of no payment under a 'pure' scheme could be a barrier to wider uptake, especially in the early stages as land managers develop their skills and understanding.

The drought in 2018 highlighted the need to have clear arrangements confirmed in the event that exceptional weather is experienced so that land managers are not unfairly exposed to risk beyond their control.

Administration:

High initial advice requirement as farmers adjust to the approach.



Grassland Opportunities



YORKSHIRE DALES
National Park Authority



- To test a legitimate alternative to management based schemes
- To reduce complexity of the administration of management based schemes
- Involvement of farmers in designing the self assessment methodology
- Involvement of farmers in requiring them to undertake the self assessments
- Use of new technology to make habitat condition recording easier – e.g. mobile phone app, remote sensing
- Training and advice delivery to increase understanding and engagement
- To reinforce the value of local design and delivery against a national one size fits all approach



Grassland challenges



YORKSHIRE DALES
National Park Authority



Limited baseline data for the control sites

Subjective scoring methodology – difficult to move away from? Led to differences in score between adviser and farmer

Difficult to get the methodology right first time

Using a single straight line transect

Weather dependant features – not entirely under farmers control

Resource heavy in the first 2 years but would this lessen if given a longer project?

Only 2 years to measure any change

Only biodiversity measured



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National Park Authority



Challenges to main streaming approach

- Time to undertake self assessments
- Need for extensive training and advice
- Resource required to verify results
- Management of a continually changing budget
- Need time to develop and test other result measures
- Potential diminishing interest for self assessment by farmers



Areas of success – farmer attitudes



YORKSHIRE DALES
National Park Authority



We have found this interesting and has given a new generation of farming an interest in the environment which they didn't have before. Have got our children involved in helping too.

The ability as a group of farmers - we have demonstrated that we can deliver more and better results without the need of prescriptions.

It's been rewarding but in some ways frustrating experience!

The key is low admin burden and expert help plus reasonable payments. The scheme is a good model

Can farm without bureaucracy and prescriptions whilst still getting some financial reward if delivering outcomes

Thanks to everybody who has helped me with the scheme. I do think it can work and farmers with high value land should be encouraged to take part.

