

Workshop 3

Poster presentation

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Conservation of dry grasslands on the edge of Mediterranean basin – a big challenge after changed socio-economic trends

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Among conservation efforts regarding man-made ecosystems, conservation of dry grasslands on the edge of the Mediterranean basin, represent one of the most difficult challenges. LIFE- Nature project »Kraški rob« in SW Slovenia is successfully dealing with conservation of Mediterranean screes and steno-endemic hasmophytic species *Moehringia tommasiniana*. But abandonment of floristically rich traditional meadows and pastures represent a real challenge. As the first step detailed habitat mapping of the total project area of ... ha has been carried out according to PHYSIS typology. Many different successional stages after abandonment have been recognized and most valuable polygons in the terms of size, species richness and type of vegetation has been chosen to keep or start proper management,, which is traditional mowing. Completely changed socio-economic trends in the area (abandonment of agriculture due to nearby big cities with industry and tourism) make keeping the valuable grasslands in good conditions very difficult. The situation is different like in other Slovenian landscapes, where rural population is not declining so much and traditional knowledge of grassland management is still living. An alternative solution for using the hay from Kraški rob region were found with nearby stud farm Lipica.