



Institute for
European
Environmental
Policy

Area and results-based schemes

CAP Congress: Exploring Eco-climate scheme

WORKSHOP A: Weds 6 February

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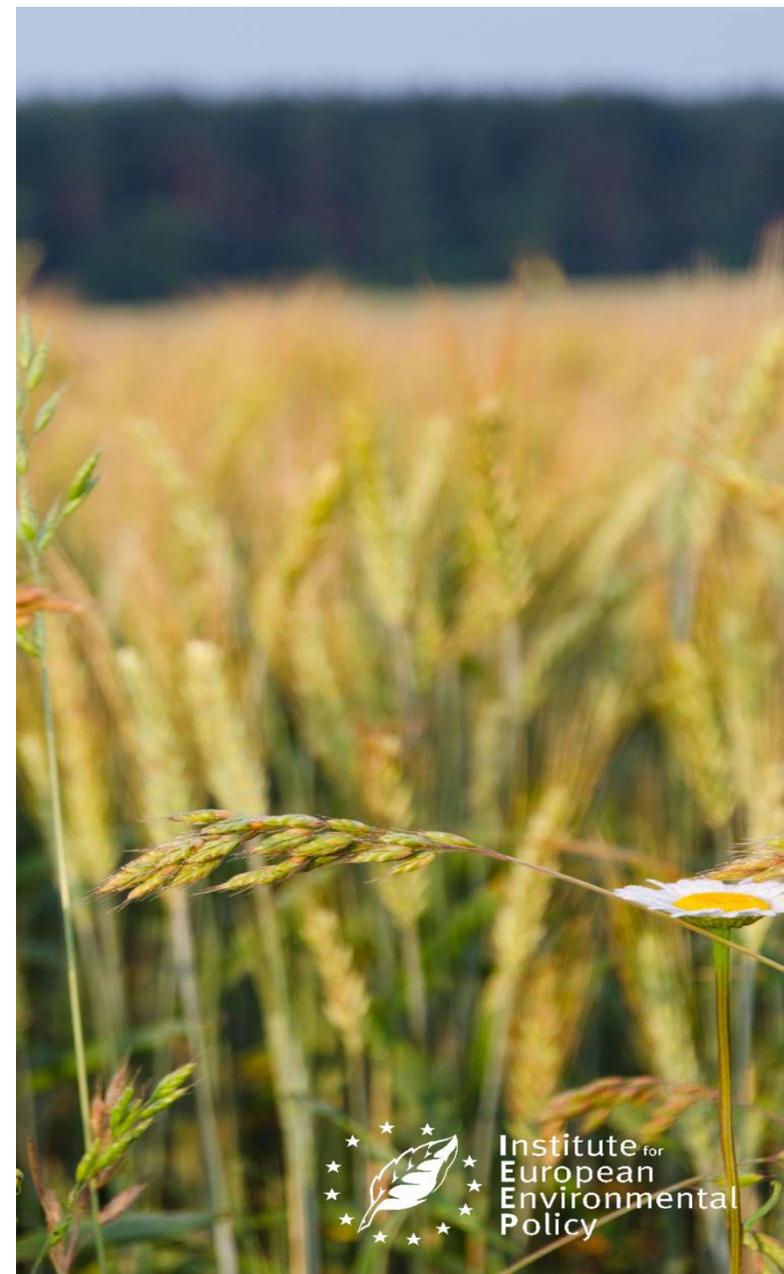


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Why do we need to look again at area based schemes?

The status quo is no longer an option

- Environmental and climate challenges remain critical
- Greater ambition in tackling these challenges is imperative or we risk undermining the long term viability of agricultural and forest systems
- A healthy environment makes a fundamental contribution to vibrant rural areas
- Huge variability in the way Member States have used existing CAP flexibilities to deliver environmental/climate outcomes



Lessons from the current CAP



- Flexibility & lack of specificity of objectives often lead to choices that maintain status quo – e.g. greening or basic AECMs
- Administrative complexity leads to risk averse decision making
- Ringfencing money for environment is positive, but only if the right measures are used
- Rural Development measures are critical to address environmental priorities - must be adequately funded
- Effective implementation requires clear targeting, advice, monitoring and review
- A coherent approach to environmental delivery across Pillar 1 and Pillar 2 is essential
- Stakeholders must be engaged in policy design, implementation and review

AECM objectives – vary significantly across the EU



- **Biodiversity and Landscape** with a focus on:
 - Maintaining (extensive) grazing systems, particularly those of High Nature Value
 - Maintaining and managing landscape features
 - Protecting farmland birds
 - Maintaining genetic diversity (rare breeds)
- **Water and soils** to:
 - Reduce nitrate leaching into watercourses
 - Improve soil management techniques
 - Promote sustainable irrigation practices
 - Improve carbon sequestration
- **Climate** still an emerging priority
 - cited as a general objective for M10 in 34 RDPs but only 19 RDPs specify precise climate-related objectives and action - many actions already incentivised under other priorities are relevant.

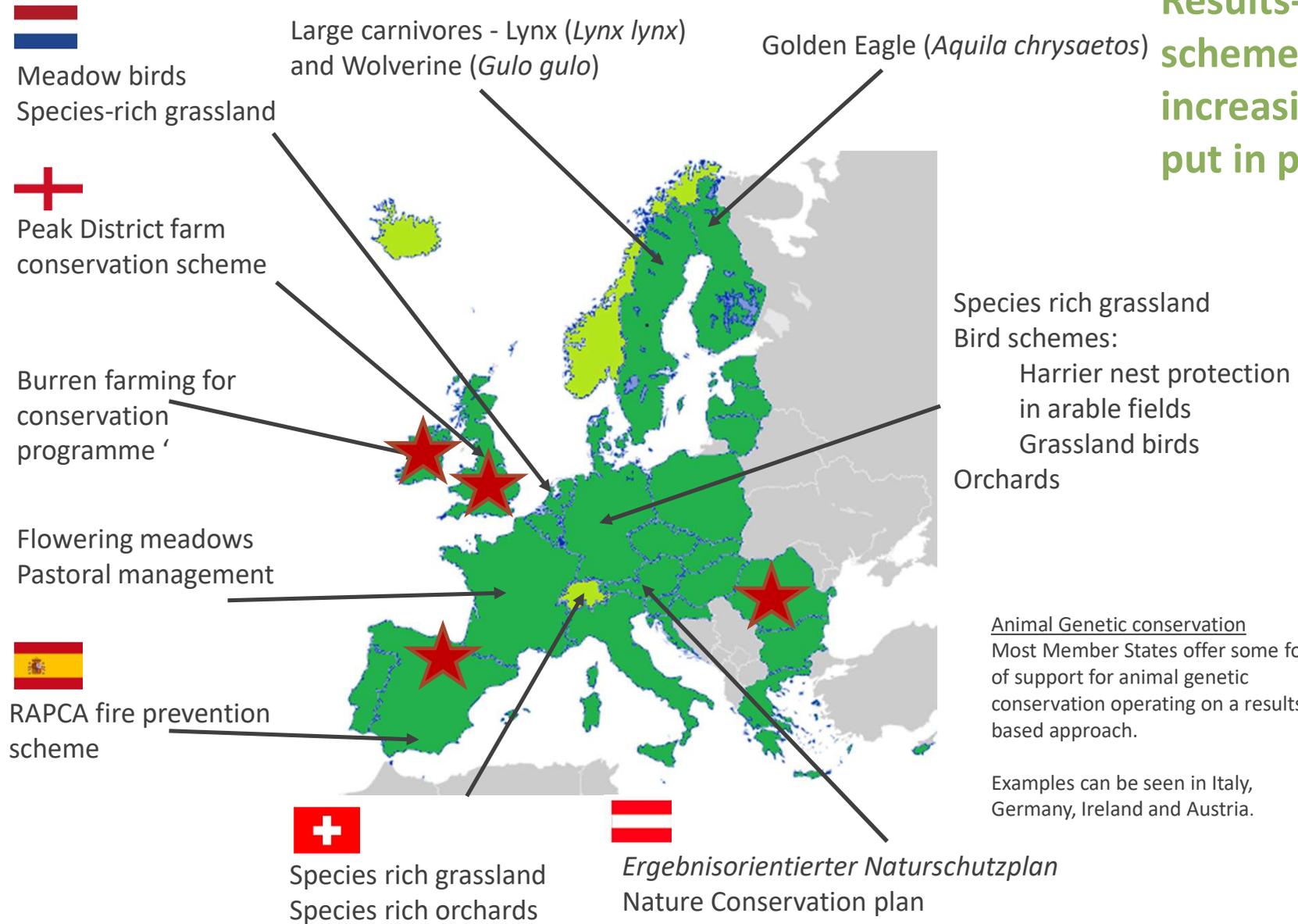


Design of AECMs varies

- **Basic schemes/commitments** – often available across the farmed countryside and encouraging simple management:
 - Maintenance of and encouragement of extensive low input management practices
 - Maintenance of landscape features – hedgerows, terraces etc
 - Introduction of simple management techniques in more intensive systems, i.e. Buffer strips, crop rotations, winter stubble management
 - Integrated Farm Management
- **Targeted schemes/options** – focused on specific habitats, species, or areas of environmental value, often requiring more complex management:
 - Specific management practices required to bring N2K sites into favourable condition
 - Restoration and (re)creation of habitats , i.e. Re-wetting of peatland, creation of wetlands
- Trend towards greater targeting and tailoring of schemes/commitments and some landscape scale delivery
- Sometimes implemented in conjunction with other measures – e.g. M1/M2 (advice/information services), M4.4 (investments), M16 (cooperation)



Results-based schemes are increasingly being put in place



Advantages of results based schemes

Advantages of results-based schemes:

- clear link between results and payment
- biodiversity objectives more easily achieved
- rewards farmers' skills and farmers take 'ownership' of biodiversity 'production'
- public recognition of farmers' role
- easily meet EU requirements for verification
- cost-effective targeting by farmers themselves

BUT to succeed results-based schemes require:

- simple, reliable result indicators
- environmental information and expertise available
- willing farmers



Thank you for listening!

