

Example of good practice	Incentives for joint pastures to retain the population in Lonjsko Polje (traditional animal husbandry as the key to conserving grassland ecosystems and biodiversity)
Category	Management; local initiative; culture; local products
Organization	Public Institute of Lonjsko Polje Nature Park (JUPP)
Partners	Agriculture Lands Agency (APZ) Ministry of Agriculture All local self-government units (6) Brod Ecological Society (BED), Ministry of Environmental and Nature Protection (MZOE), Representatives of the joint pastures
Area of activity/location	Lonjsko Polje
Country	Croatia
National protection category (IUCN)	IUCN V/ nature park
Scope of implementation (local, national)	Local
Time needed to achieve solution	7 years
Number of employees	1 person
Budget	50 000 EUR
Source of financing	State Budget of the Republic of Croatia
More information	<a href="http://www.pp-lonjsko-polje.hr/new/hrvatski/kulturni_krajobraz_pasarenje.html">http://www.pp-lonjsko-polje.hr/new/hrvatski/kulturni_krajobraz_pasarenje.html</a>
Contact person	Valerija Hima
Accomplishments (overview)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total incentive obtained: HRK 14 million (half from state budget, half from EU)</li> <li>• Number of families: 110 family farms (OPG), positive effect on about 400 people</li> <li>• 25% of the population of Lonjsko Polje has direct economic benefit, while 70% are benefited indirectly</li> <li>• Increase in number of animals: 3200 head</li> <li>• Increase in area conserved by grazing: 3500 ha</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keeping of indigenous animal breeds</li> <li>• Reduced number of hectares under invasive species (false indigo, greater burdock): about 100 ha</li> </ul>
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Problem/opportunity	
Problem to be resolved	Loss of grassland habitats Overgrowth with invasive species Depopulation Reductions in herds
Opportunity to be taken	Accession of Croatia to the EU and the implementation of the EU agriculture policies
Planning	
Key requirements for success	Legal: Implementation of agricultural policies Lonjsko Polje as part of the Natura 2000 ecological network
	Institutional: Support of the Croatian Agency for the Environment and Nature (HAOP), APZ, local government, and MZOE
	Internal capacities: Knowledge of the agriculture act, bringing together stakeholders, organising meetings.
How the idea came about	EU agriculture policy has incentives mechanisms, similar incentives are in place in Austria. These incentives are an important tool to keep people in these areas and to continue with animal husbandry.
Was the idea part of a wider strategy?	EU agriculture policy; EU Biodiversity Strategy; Lonjsko Polje Nature Park Management Plan; Sisak-Moslavina County Development Strategy

What is the role of partners?	<p>Agricultural Lands Agency / Ministry of Agriculture draft the laws and ordinances pertaining to agricultural policy</p> <p>All local self-government units (6) in the area – implement tenders for the leasing of state owned lands and provide support in lobbying and implementation of the incentives process.</p> <p>BED – defining the proposed legal regulations</p>
Implementation	
Key phases – from idea to realisation?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Spatial definition of the joint pastures (in cooperation with local government)</li> <li>2. Determine which users are on each pasture and number of animals per pasture</li> <li>3. Define the proposed legal regulations – ordinance on joint pastures for the assignment of leases</li> <li>4. Agreed conditions of conduct – nature conservation conditions (decision on use from MZOE), animal owners drafted agreement on the use of pastures (grazing seasons, permitted numbers of animals, evacuation pasture, meadows, restoration of overgrown pastures) and all were required to sign</li> <li>5. Agricultural Lands Agency and Payments Agency agreed that entry into the Arkod system would be defined by the part of the cadastral plot of the pasture (and not to the entire plot which was previously a problem).</li> <li>6. Via this Ordinance, the state enabled farmers to lease these lands for temporary use for a 5-year period, without the need for a public tender.</li> </ol>
How were partners involved?	Stakeholders/partners were included in the consultation process from the very beginning, and regular meetings were held.
How were local stakeholders selected?	Support from 110 family farms (OPGs) from the start of development of the incentives idea, and amendment of the ordinance.

How were stakeholders included?	Formation of working groups
Which vulnerable groups were included, and how?	The elderly population living in this area, and entire families to whom these incentives were of great importance for allowing them to stay in Lonjsko Polje. This is a border area that was affected by the Homeland War. Workshops were attended by 30% women and 70% men.
Did you inform (local) stakeholders of their right to information?	Inclusion of the local population in adopting management plans and spatial plans for the Lonjsko Polje area. With the formation of the councils, the local population was able to contribute to ideas and plans for further development of the area, and for resource management in the park.
Which communication activities were carried out and which channels were used?	Via the park website. Meeting minutes distributed via e-mail. Announcements posted on 17 park info panels in all villages in the park area!
How were activities to reduce and mitigate climate change included in your work?	Maintenance of grasslands and floodplain areas that also serve for flood control. Rural development measures (EU funded) for mitigating the effects of climate change.
Challenges during implementation:	Administrative: Outlining the issue of large pasture complexes and their use to the competent ministry. Lack of legislation governing joint pastures. Inclusion of overgrown pastures into the review of forest management plans. Croatian Forests take overgrown areas under their management.
	Technical: Overgrown pastures are not acceptable in the incentives system
Changes	

What are the positive changes for nature?	Habitat restoration (preventing succession), increasing populations of the threatened bird species corncrake ( <i>Crex crex</i> ), Increased numbers of indigenous animal breeds of horses (Croatian Posavina horse and Croatian Coldblooded horse)
How were negative impacts on nature reduced?	People increased their care for the animals that maintain the pastures, thereby increasing pasture area and reducing the area under invasive species.
Positive economic (E) and social (S) changes:	Public sector (local, national) E: benefit from land leases paid by animal owners S: local population remains in the area, conservation of rural areas
	Private sector (specialized construction companies): E: payments from local municipalities for habitat restoration (removal of invasive species where animals could not access)
	Protected area manager E: JUPP Lonjsko Polje has 150 ha in the incentives system (HRK 500,000, 25% of total park budget) S: retention of the local population, conservation of the rural area
	Local population: E: incentives for 110 families, 400 people in the area (25% of population directly affected, 70% indirectly) S: reason to stay in the area, conservation of heritage
What was your greatest contribution to the project?	For nature: Conservation of the floodplain areas that are the main feature of the park. Conservation of traditional animal husbandry, as an important ecological process. Conservation of the floodplain landscape
	For people: Keeping the population in the area

	Conservation of cultural heritage
Replication and recommendations	
Which key items were important for replication?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The example of Austria as the only EU Member State with an organised system of joint pasture use</li> <li>• Existence of large joint pastures under state ownership</li> <li>• Countries prior to accession to the EU</li> <li>• Animal owners able to lease state lands</li> <li>• Protected area that recognised this type of grassland as a valuable resource</li> <li>• Protected area needs a manager</li> </ul>
What would you do differently (and recommend to others)?	<p>Be persistent!</p> <p>Promote the protected natural values that can benefit people if used sustainably.</p>
What is key for project sustainability?	Support of the Ministry of Agriculture and MZOE.
What are your recommendations for policy improvement?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adapted competition for rural development measures to be adapted to the actual needs of OPGs, and not to large producers.</li> <li>• Implementation of rural development measures.</li> <li>• Accepting flooding as a natural occurrence and not a natural disaster – due to the different stance of the Ministry of Agriculture, they halted the incentives during flooding periods, which is a specificity of the flooded pastures of Lonjsko Polje.</li> </ul>
What are your interests for which you would like to learn about examples of good practice?	<p>Branding of traditional products</p> <p>Supply chain of traditional products</p> <p>Inclusion of young people in the work of protected areas</p>
Expectations	
What are your expectations of nature for people?	<p>Finding potential donors for future activities.</p> <p>Finding partners for the platform and solutions that we can use.</p>

What are your expectations from WWF?	Network of protected areas, inclusion in projects. Support in lobbying.
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