

# lifelineMDD

## Grassland Management Within Danube-Drava National Park (Hungary)

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5-country Biosphere Reserve Conference  
Event

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## ***Danube-Drava National Park***

-covers app. 50.000 hectares along river Drava and Danube

-diverse habitats from oxbow lakes to dry sands

-covers the core and buffer zone of Biosphere Reserve



## Role of national park directorate in Hungary


- regional organization (DDNPD covers 1.5 million hectares in 5 counties)
- collecting data about protected/Natura 2000 values
- cooperation with nature conservation authorities
- habitat restoration projects
- ecotourism and education
- area management



## *Grassland management*

- app. 2700 hectares state owned grassland (5,4% of DDNP) where DDNPI is the dedicated landuser
- mostly secondary grassland – permanent management needs to maintain grassland habitats
- app. 2000 hectares actively managed
- 1200 hectares managed by contracted farmers
- 800 hectares managed by the own staff of DDNPD
- 150 hectares managed by grazing, 650 hectares managed by mowing/hay production
- habitat restorations



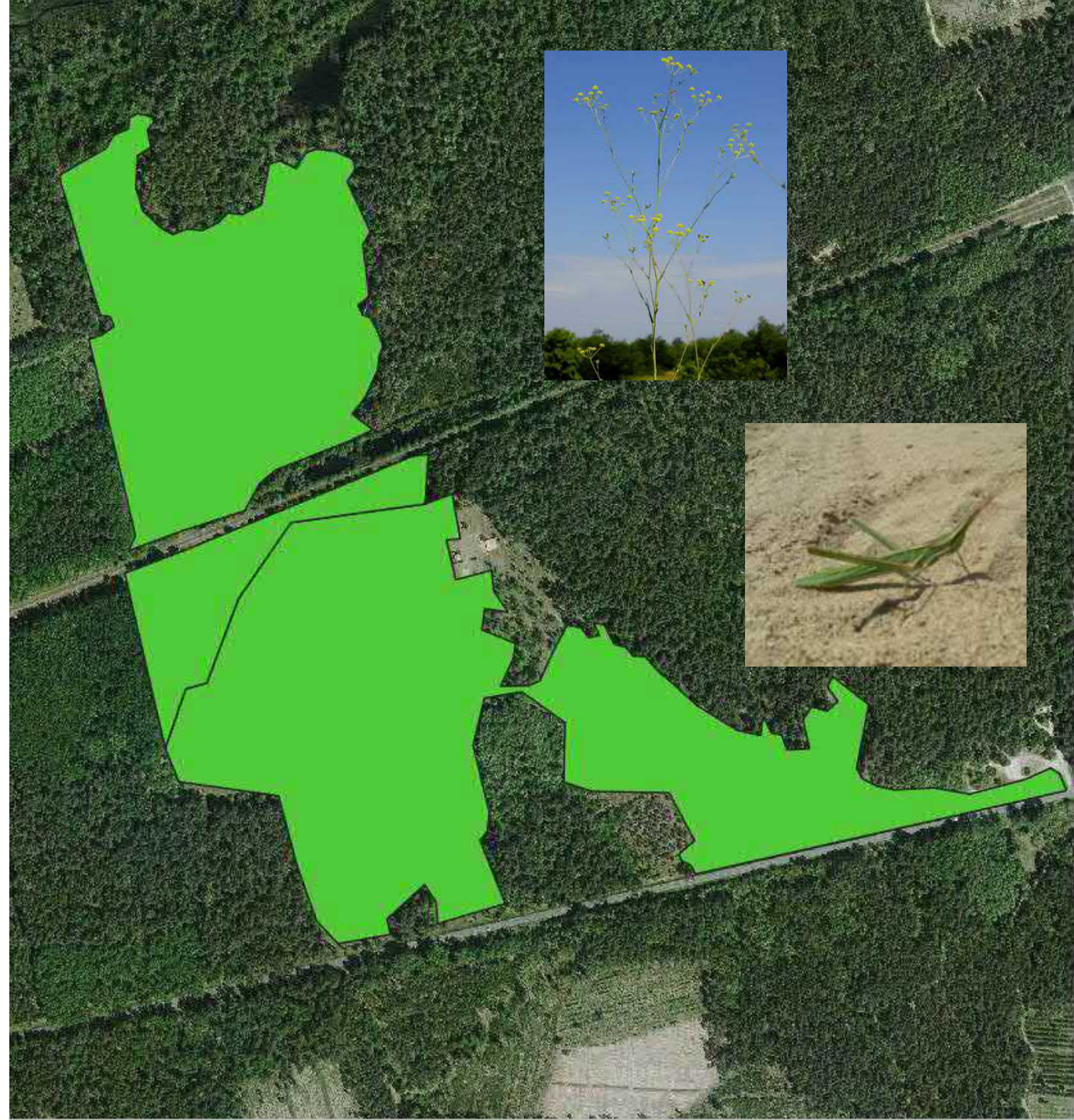
-  6440 *Alluvial meadows of river valleys of the Cnidion dubii*
-  6510 *Lowland hay meadows (Alopecurus pratensis, Sanguisorba officinalis)*

- 100-150 grey cattle on 150 hectares wet grassland
- mowing/grazing mosaics



 5130 *Juniperus communis* formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands Natura 2000 habitat type

- 200 “racka” sheep on 50 hectares of sand grassland
- grazing in summer season, only
- controlling invasive species (*Prunus serrotina*)



*Nature conservation recommendations:*

- late mowing – flowering meadows
- unmanaged refuge parts
- grass friendly method of mowing – i.e. higher aftergrass
- no fertilization
- limited animal density - avoid overgrazing



## Challenges:

- financial issues (EU and national subsidies)
- increasing costs (fuel, salaries)
- lack of human resources (herdsman, shepherd)
- floods



1€/kg



2€/kg



Grassland management → Maintain natural values by economically and environmentally sustainable way !





Thank you!