



Making Direct Payments work for seminatural habitats in Germany

German Association for Landcare (DVL)

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Deutscher Verband für
Landschaftspflege

Topics

1. What is DVL and what are Landcare Associations?
2. How do we finance nature conservation / extensive grazing in Germany?
3. Current situation in Germany: What are the main problems?
4. What solutions do we suggest?



Landcare Germany

cooperating with various stakeholders



Landcare Germany

financing nature conservation and Landcare

The ideal case: Combination of 3 elements:

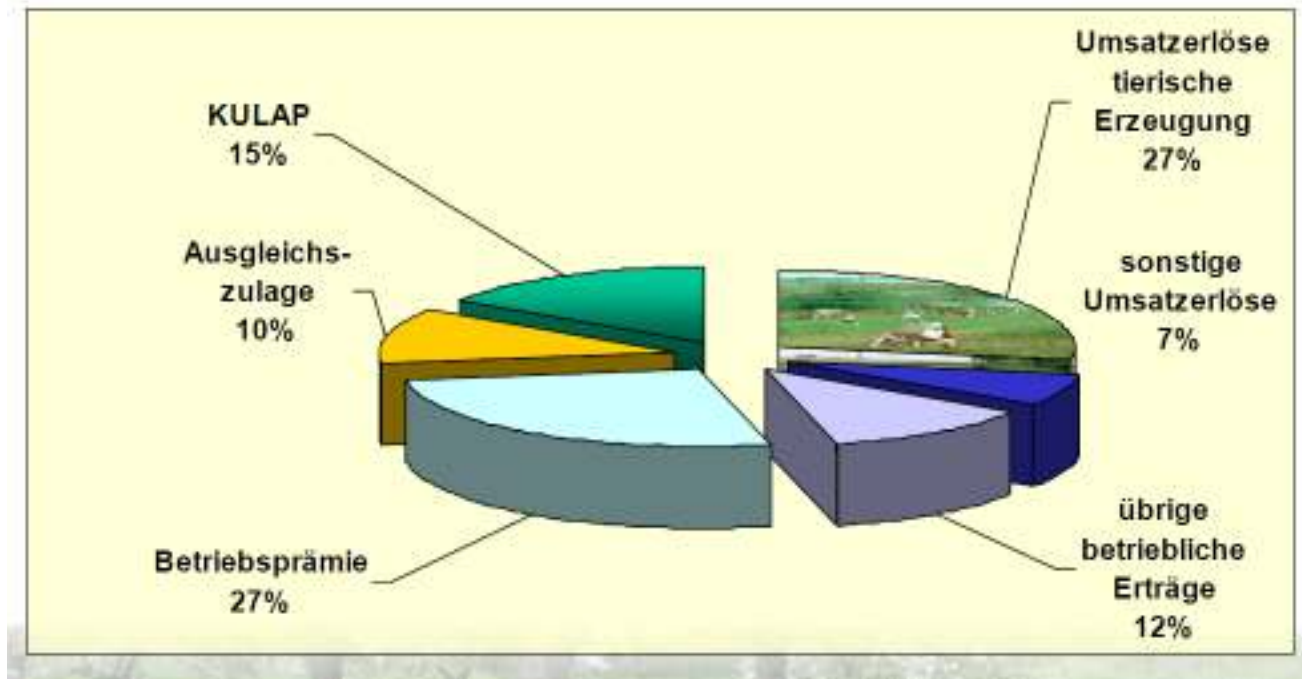
1. **Direct Payments (strongly linked to farmers who produce goods)**
2. **Agri-environmental Programs**
3. **Land Management Programs to preserve our Natural Heritage based on the current Article 57 of the EU Agricultural Financing Regulation**



Situation in Germany

Importance of CAP for extensive livestock farmers

Ertragsstruktur der Mutterkuhbetriebe



Strümpel 2010



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Relevance of extensive pastures

Extensive pastures = Natura 2000



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Extensive pastures are future

- Big potential for
 - Rehydration and use of organic soils
 - Maintenance and use of inundation zones (Potential 250.000 ha)
- Extensive pastures are often seen as a historical way of use – but not as a modern land use in the future (climate protection, protection of water bodies)



Current Situation in Germany

Germany: Direct payments completely decoupled

After decoupling: Definitions of grasslands play a central role

- What is agricultural land? How is permanent grassland defined?
- What is agricultural use?
- What is a forage crop?

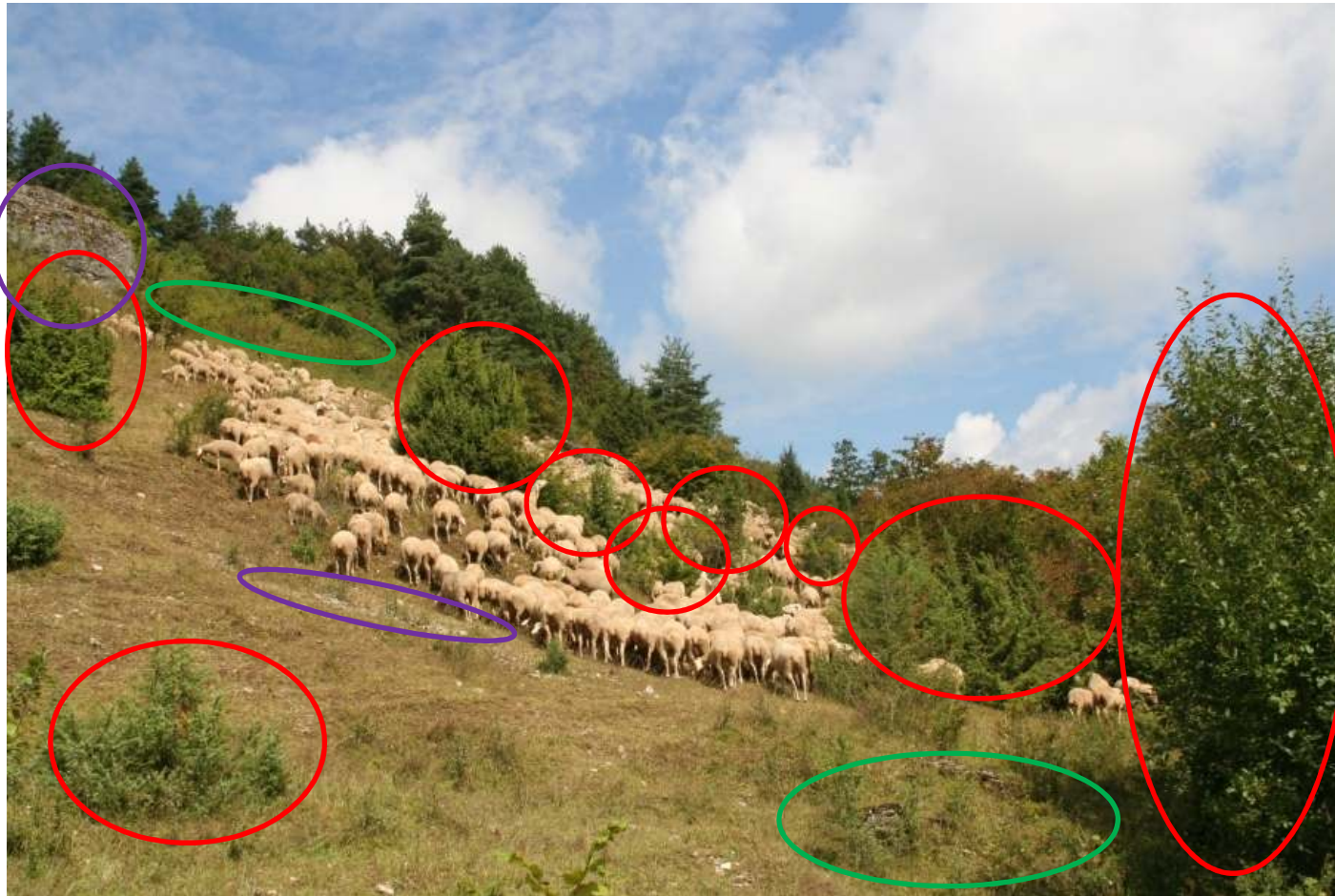


Homogeneous grassland is easier to define as an eligible area than historical pastures.



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Current situation in Germany:
extensive pasture





No solution: evaluation of the area by details



Problems with direct payments

Problems with eligibility of target areas for nature conservation:

1. Permanent grassland which is not dominated by forage crops (grass species) are not eligible (e.g. Heath lands, Arid grassland)

2. In areas with many **CC-relevant landscape features** shrubs can only be removed under certain exceptions.

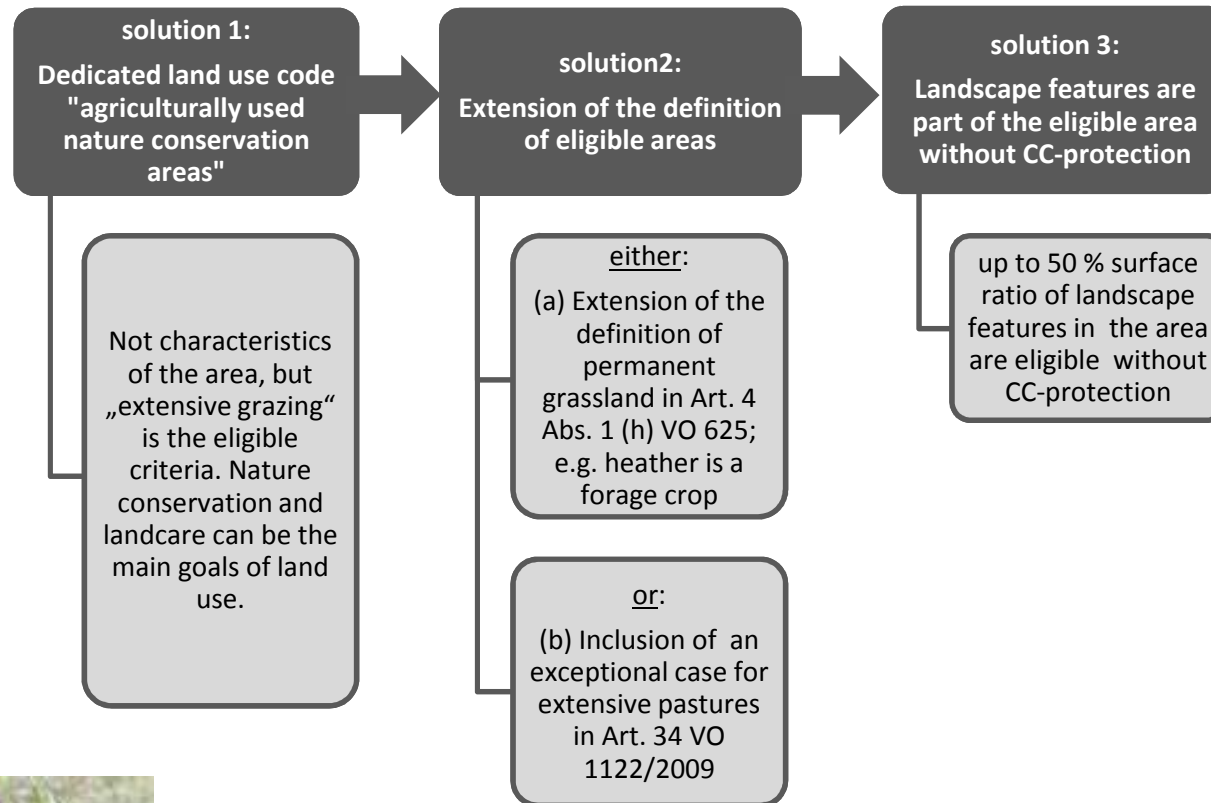
3. Risks for sanctions is very high for land users (e.g. due to little measuring tolerance)



Solution: overall evaluation regarding its goals (land use but nature conservation)



Integration of extensive pastures to eligible areas



Request:

- Dedicated land use code
- Nature conservation can be a goal of land use



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Thank you very much



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Relevance for nature conservation: e.g. Natura 2000

In 20 habitat types extensive grazing is reasonable/ of importance/
absolutely essential for maintenance

Additionally: traditionally grazed woodlands, grazed orchards, edges of
the forest , other extensive pastures with a variable proportion of
shrubs

Relevant FFH-sites ca. 6% of grassland area in Germany

Most important habitat types in Germany listed after their area for pastures	Fläche
Humid to dry heath (LRT4030)	48.000 ha
Raised bogs (LRT 7120)	46.900 ha
Hydrophilous tall herb fringe (LRT 6430)	39.800 ha
Dry grassland on calcareous substrates (LRT 6210)	39.500 ha

Aus Jedicke & Metzner 2012



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Landcare Germany

extensive pasture

Challenges:

1. Heath, arid grassland, Semi-open pastures with wood, former military areas **are eligible for funding**
2. **Landscape features on pastures like woods and shrubs can** integrate into the eligible area (without having to digitise them)

