TransParcNet Meeting 2018 Austria/Czech Republic

Bridges over troubled water – Nature protection of river landscapes

5th June – 8th June 2018

Workshop: Agricultural landscape and adaptation to climate change (leader Silke Weich)

I) Physical weaknesses and threats of climate change

Rising temperatures
Increasing variability of rainfall
More frequency of floods and droughts, tornados (soil erosion, drying up of crops)
- loss of soil fertility, capability of water retention
- impact on crop production, yield loss

II) Policy threats

Lack of communication and dialogue with landusers
Intensity of agricultural structures, big farms with major landuse interests
Conflict of interests between nature protection and farming
Wrong system of EU subsidies

III) Approaches

First of all diversity is the best assurance

Physical methods:
Afforestation / reduction of deforestation
Sustainable forest management
Cropland management (increase the amount of organic matter, no ploughing, crop rotation with variety of crops, soil covered with vegetation or plant residues at all times)
Grassland management
Agro biodiversity (stress tolerant crops)

Policy solutions:
Change of subsidies system (CAP - Common Agricultural Policy in the EU); funding of farming that adapts good practices
Approach in communication to make sure that agricultural adaption is about rural
development and not only about nature conservation
Farmers need guarantees for sustainable agriculture
The Europarc Federation has set up a position paper about sustainable agriculture in protected areas and is busy with the development of a charter

IV) Practice examples from parks

1 LIFE project Restauration of waterstorage (Sumava National park, Czech Republic)
2 Management plan to change landscape structures. Cooperation with landowners in park and bufferzones (Podyji National park, Czech Republic)
3 INTERREG V-A project Transborder fire protection in protected areas. Cooperation of nature conservation organisations and fire departments (Maas-Schwalm-Nette Nature park, Netherlands-Germany)

V) Synthesis

Adaption goes slowly, thus immediate commencement necessary
People’s mind needs to be changed by distinct communication
Transborder cooperation necessary

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