Future Agri-Environmental Scheme and Natura 2000 payments and current state of play – Polish approach

CEEweb workshop; 5.X.2012

Marek Jobda - The Polish Society for the Protection of Birds
BirdLife Poland
SCOPE OF THE PRESENTATION:

- The present agri-environmental schemes (AES) in Poland
- The future AES and Natura 2000 payment
AGRI-ENVIRONMENTAL 2004-2006 MEASURES IMPLEMENTATION:

Packages within the AES 2004-2006:

- **(S01) „sustainable farming”** - based on fertilisers’ input reduction, balancing of fertilisers’ management and utilisation and on keeping a proper crop rotation;
- **(S02) „organic farming”** - based on utilisation of organic farming methods in the meaning of the Act on organic farming;
- **(K01)„water and soil protection”** - based on intercrops implementation, in order to increase the share of soils covered by plants during the autumn – winter period;
AGRI-ENVIRONMENTAL 2004-2006 MEASURES IMPLEMENTATION:

Packages within the AES 2004-2006:

- **(K02) „buffer zones“** - based on maintaince or introduction of buffer zones and strips in order to protect water, soils and biodiversity

- **(P01) „maintenance of extensive meadows“** - related to re-introduction or continuation of grass-cutting, starting from the 1st July (or 15 August), on meadows of high nature values, endangered with degradation.

- **(P02) „extensive pastures“** - based on usage of low-input grazing as the main way of land management on semi-natural habitats, traditionally managed as pastures.
Packages within the AES 2004-2006:

- (G01) “protection of local farm animal breeds” - based on maintenance of local race farm animals herds (horses, cattle and sheep), that are endangered with extinction.
AGRI-ENVIRONMENTAL 2004-2006 MEASURES IMPLEMENTATION:

Number of applications for individual packages:

- S01 1991
- G01 718
- K02 strefy buforowe 93
- P01 14753
- P02 1311
- S02 11944
- K01 51522
MAIN CONSTRAINTS IN AES 2004-2006 IMPLEMENTATION:

- Not sufficient number of agri-environmental advisers
- Insufficient information campaign
- Too many bureaucracy (too many permissions, overloaded application or plan)
- Not attractive payments
- Redundant zonal availability of packages
- Too many insignificant requirements
- Discrepancy between GAEC and AEM requirements
- Unclear status of some areas as wastelands, communal pastures
- Habitats with natural importance not covered by AEM
GRASSLAND MEASURES:

- Mowing or grazing management
- No evidences of valuable habitats or species
- Willingness to extensive management maintenance or restoration
- Agri-environmental plan prepared by entitled advisor

3. Extensive management on meadows and pastures
Payment: 500 PLN/ha
GRASSLAND MEASURES:

- Mowing or grazing management
- Presence of high nature habitats
- Willingness to extensive management maintenance or restoration
- Habitat documentation prepared by entitled expert
- Agri-environmental plan prepared by entitled advisor

4 (5). Protection of valuable natural habitats

Payment: 800 - 1390 PLN/ha
GRASSLAND MEASURES:

- Mowing or grazing management
- Occurrence of valuable bird species or habitats
- Willingness to extensive management maintenance or restoration
- Species documentation prepared by entitled expert
- Agri-environmental plan prepared by entitled advisor

4 (5).1. Protection of birds breeding habitats

Payment: 1200 - 1370 PLN/ha
NATURE CONSERVATION MEASURES IN AES 2007-2013:

✓ Variant 4 (5).1. – Protection of bird breeding habitats
Breeding habitat of Montagu’s Harrier, Corncrake, Lapwing, Black-tailed Godwit, Redshank, Snipe, Great snipe, Curlew, Dunlin and Aquatic Warbler

Photo: Grzegorz Leśniewski
Variant 4 (5).3. – Tall sedge swamps

Magnocaricion community, excluding Phalaridetum arundinaceae, Caricetum paniculatae, Cicuto-Caricetum pseudocyperi, Caricetum ripariae, Thelypteridi-Phragmitetum, Iridetum pseudacori.
Variant 4 (5).4. Litter meadows Molinion and Cnidion

Molinia caeruleae communities (Molinia meadows) and Cnidion dubii communities (alluvial meadows) and referring communities.
Variant 4 (5).8.– Species-rich Nardion grasslands
Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on silicious substrates in mountain areas (6230), where priority is put only to species-rich stripes.
The specific grassland could be qualified up to three different variants.

THE CHOICE BELONGS TO A FARMER!
NATURE CONSERVATION MEASURES IN AES 2007-2013:

<table>
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<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date of mowing</td>
<td>from 1 June</td>
<td>from 1 August</td>
<td>from 15 July</td>
<td>from 15 July</td>
<td>from 15 September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mown area</td>
<td>90-95 %</td>
<td>90-95 % (50-70 %)</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>50%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rotation grasslands</td>
<td>≥ 0,3 LU/ha</td>
<td>≥ 0,2 LU/ha</td>
<td></td>
<td>≥ 0,2 LU/ha</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livestock units per ha</td>
<td>0,5 - 1,0 LU/ha</td>
<td>≥ 0,5 (0,5 - 1,0) LU/ha</td>
<td></td>
<td>≥ 0,2 LU/ha</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charge of a pasture</td>
<td>10 DJP/ha</td>
<td>10 DJP/ha</td>
<td></td>
<td>5 DJP/ha</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fertilization</td>
<td>≥ 60 kg N/ha/year</td>
<td>≥ 60 kg N/ha/year</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payment (PLN/ha)</td>
<td>In Natura2000: 500</td>
<td>1200</td>
<td>1200</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>1200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Out of Natura2000: 500</td>
<td>1370</td>
<td>1390</td>
<td>910</td>
<td>1390</td>
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## NATURE CONSERVATION MEASURES IN AES 2007-2013:

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Main requirements</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Date of mowing</strong></td>
<td>from 15 July</td>
<td>from 15 June</td>
<td>from 15 June</td>
<td>from 1 July</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mown area</strong></td>
<td>80 - 85 %</td>
<td>90-95 %</td>
<td>90-95 %</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rotation grasslands</strong></td>
<td>0,4 - 0,6 LU/ha</td>
<td>≥ 1,0 LU/ha</td>
<td>≥ 1,0 LU/ha</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Livestock units per ha</strong></td>
<td>0,4 - 0,6 LU/ha</td>
<td>≥ 1,0 LU/ha</td>
<td>0,4 - 0,6 LU/ha</td>
<td>0,5 - 1,0 LU/ha</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Charge of a pasture</strong></td>
<td>5 LU/ha</td>
<td>10 LU/ha</td>
<td>10 LU/ha</td>
<td>5 LU/ha</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fertilization</strong></td>
<td>≥ 60 kg N/ha/year</td>
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</table>

| **Payment (PLN/ha)**            |                                  |                                     |                                          |                      |                       |
| **In Natura2000**               | 1200                             | 800                                 | 800                                      | 800                  | 1190                  |
| **Out of Natura2000**           | 1380                             | 840                                 | 840                                      | 570                  | 1190                  |
| **Out of Natura2000**           | 1380                             | 840                                 | 840                                      | 570                  | 1190                  |
Implementation of the “grassland schemes” in Poland in 2010:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nr.</th>
<th>Package</th>
<th>Area [ha]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Extensive management on meadows and pastures</td>
<td>206 061,16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Protection of valuable natural habitats out of Natura 2000</td>
<td>14 661,48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Protection of valuable natural habitats in Natura 2000</td>
<td>27 177,95</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Źródło: Uchwała Nr 61 Komitetu Monitorującego PROW na lata 2007-2013 z dnia 27 czerwca 2011 roku
Implementation of the “grassland schemes” in Poland in 2010:
Implementation of the “grassland schemes” in Poland in 2010:
Average size of the land parcels

Žródło: ARiMR
Implementation of the “bird package” in Poland in 2009:

- Total area for each species
Implementation of the “bird package” in Poland in 2009:

- Average farm size for each species
TOWARD A BETTER FUTURE:

- **Constrains in AES 2007-2013 implementation underline by conservation NGOs:**
  - **Low flexibility of schemes** - present AES cannot be used for the proper conservation of some specific habitats or species; there is not regional modifications
  - **Very low uptake of AES by small farms** – there is the same amount of administrative burden and payment per ha, but higher management cost and lower total income

- **Mid-term review of the RDP 2007-2013 conclusions for future AES:**
  - simplification of the application procedure is needed
  - more regional approach of the AES realization
TOWARD A BETTER FUTURE:

• European Court of Auditors remarks:

Strengths of Polish AES
- agri-environmental advisors and experts

Weakness of Polish AES
- implementation of AES should be more linked to the natural constrains and nature value of the farm
- payment level should corresponded the regional difference in farming activities
- the application procedure should be more simple (i.e. group application should be overseen)
TOWARD A BETTER FUTURE:

- If the Ministry of Agriculture wants to fulfill all these expectation, they should prepare the future AES which from one hand more simple (feasible in implementation) and another more complicated (matched to specific conservation needs).
CURRENT STATE OF PLAY:


- Currently, the debate regarding future shape of payments beyond year 2013 is under way.
CURRENT STATE OF PLAY:

- Different approaches for the future AES:

  A) Modification of the present one (requirement in packages), take advantage of existing procedures and “habits”

  B) Preparation of new one based on the menu list of separate requirements which could be perfectly fitted to any conservation needs

And the winner is..
General vision of the future AES presented by Polish MoA:

1) National but with regional flexibility (i.e. in terms of mowing)

2) More aim-oriented (packaged rather dedicated for specific ecological groups the general extensification)

3) Implementation on the basis of present procedures with agri-environmental advisors and experts involved

4) Implementation focused on the areas of specific natural constrains (i.e. Natura 2000 sites)

5) Simplifications for small-farmers (more easy implementation)
General vision of the Natura 2000 payment by Polish MoA:

1) According Polish MoA, “Poland want’s” to implement the Natura 2000 payment beyond 2013 😊

2) Natura 2000 payments much broader and shallow than AES, connected to the obligatory management restrictions (AES on voluntary basis)

3) “Few levels of compensation”
Ogólnopolskie Towarzystwo Ochrony Ptaków
dojmuje się licznych działań mających na celu właściwą ochronę ptaków krajobrazu rolniczego i miejsc ich występowania. Wszystkie te działania opatrzone są wspólnym logo kampanii „Rolnictwo Przyjazne Przyrodzie”.

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THANK YOU!!