

Introduction to the “Conservation of flowering meadows” result-based pilot scheme in Lithuania: requirements, implementation experience, lessons learned and recommendations

Expert meeting on grassland conservation at the Boreal biogeographic region

Justas Gulbinas, Žymantas Morkvėnas
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Objectives of the scheme

- Conservation of natural and semi-natural meadows and pastures;
- Stimulate larger diversity of plants, typical for natural grassland ecosystem;

Primary objective is to maintain already valuable grassland.
Secondary – if possible, improve its habitat status.

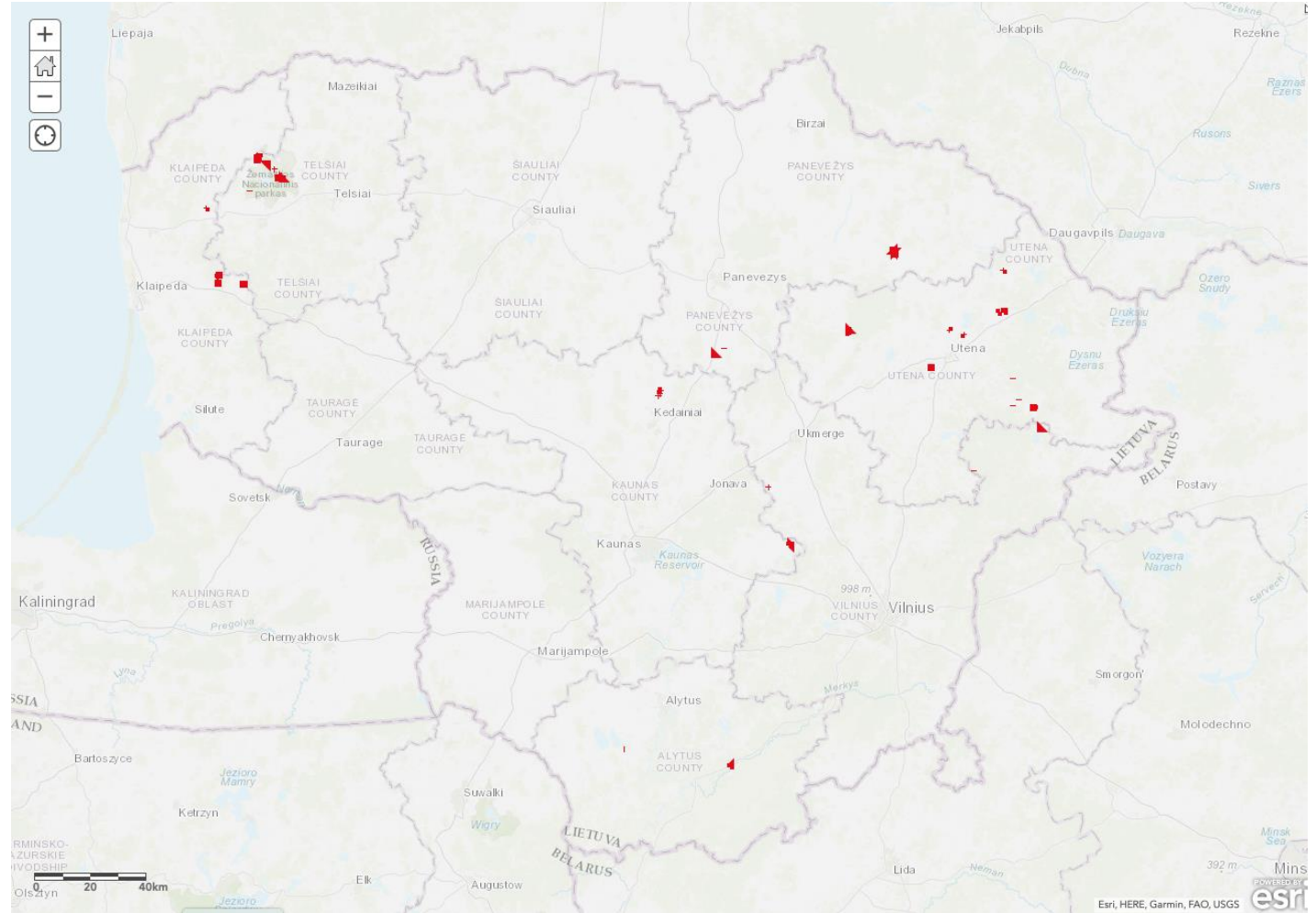
RBPS is targeted to flowering plants, however it provides benefit for conservation of whole grassland biodiversity



Overview of the pilot areas

29 contracts were signed with farmers covering 243,71 ha of grasslands

Some of the most common species



Major requirements of the RBPS

Restrictions

- Ploughing;
- Drainage;
- Liming and fertilization (not applicable for cattle manure if it is grazing in the field);
- Seeding cultivated grassland mixes.

What is possible?

Farmer himself/herself takes decision what kind of farming activity to take.

Other requirements

- Farmer needs to apply management dealing with grass biomass;
- Fill special activity journal;
- Participate in the events organized by the pilot.



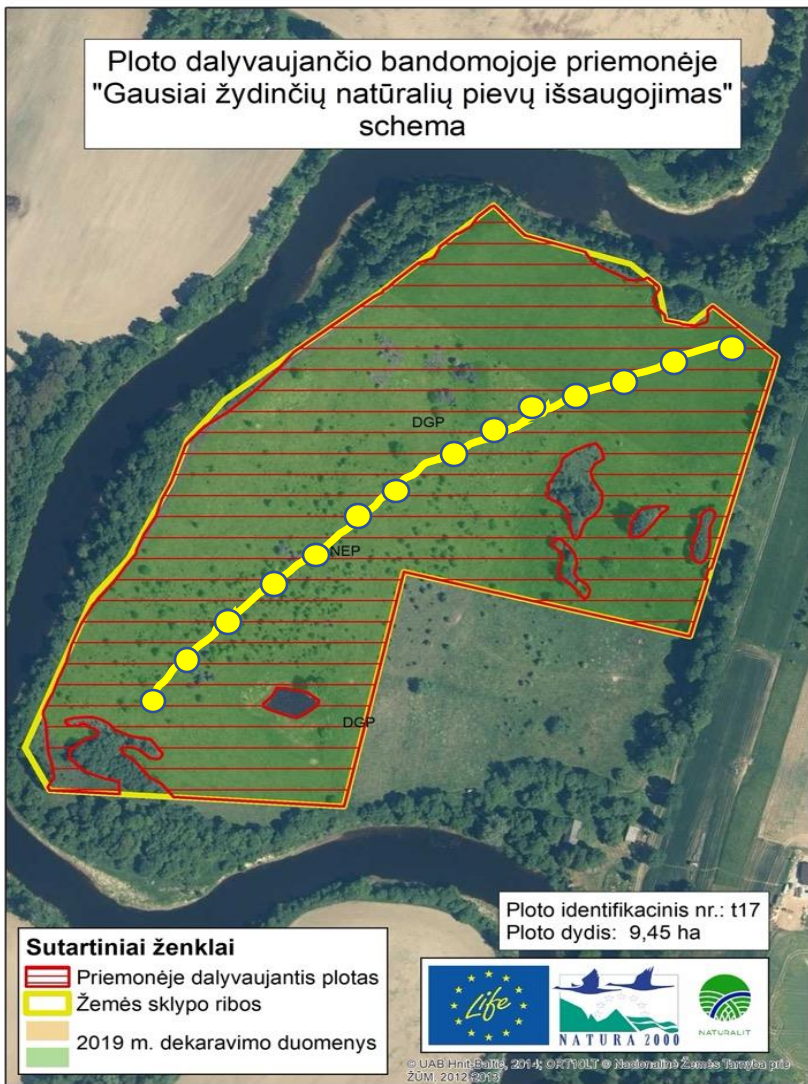
Payment level

Farming approach	Basic payment (minimum score) Status – OK	Second level Status – very good	Thirds level Status – Excelent
Farming with grazing cattle	125 Eur	141 Eur	158 Eur
Farming without cattle	93 Eur	105 Eur	118 Eur

Farmers may also apply for CAP payments (direct payments, LFA, Natura 2000 payment) except agri-environmental measures to avoid duplication



Monitoring methodology

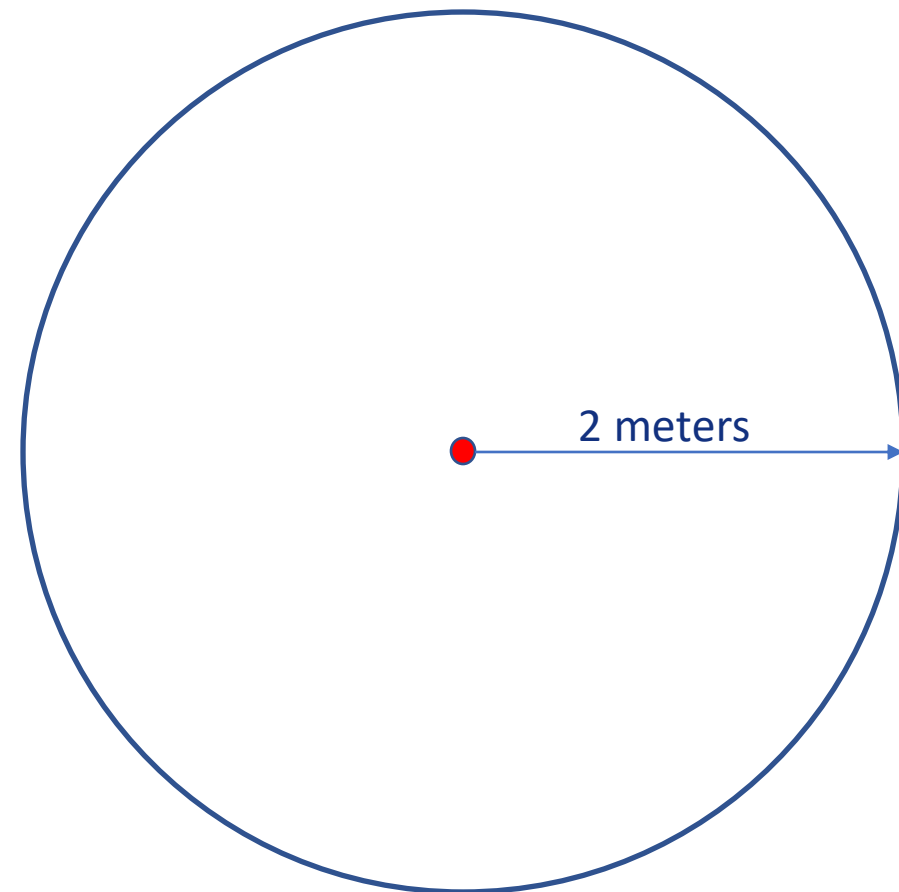


Sampling point formula

- Up to 1 ha – 5 points
- 1 ha – 7 points
- 2 ha – 7+3 points
- 3 ha - 7+3+2 points
- 4 ha – 7+3+2 points

Plotas (ha)	Stebėjimo taškų kiekis
Iki 1	5
1	7
2	10
3	12
4	14
5	16
6	18
7	20
8	22
9	24
10	26

Sampling point observation area



Implementation experience and lessons learned



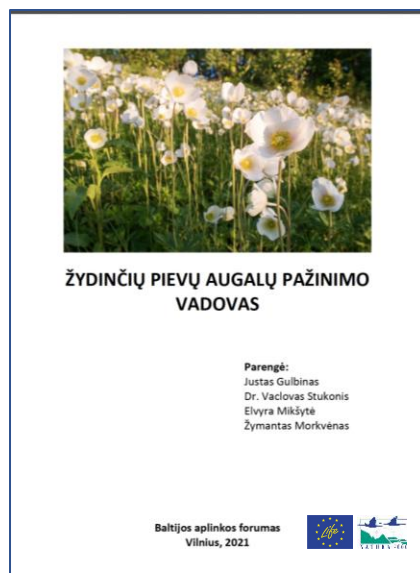
- Primary selection of grasslands
- Administrative work load: automation need?
- Setting the transect
- The question of shredding

Setting the base score for payment levels

- During the monitoring much smaller diversity was found in the fields compared to the baseline inventory results;
- General scoring is highly impacted by the negative indicator species (some of them being very common);
- Eventually final scoring was calculated by eliminating top 5 negative species from scoring system;
- General challenge remain – principal of setting the levels of payments based on scoring
 - Having fixed score levels defined before implementation
 - Having fixed score levels defined after monitoring results
 - Having flexible score levels defined after monitoring results

Ükininkas	skaitlis	sk.	sk.	sk.	(sk.)	(sk.)
96a_b	35	1296,67	1525,67	43,5		
p81	6	112,33	235,67	39,28		
p24	9	336,33	337,00	37,44		
t136	20	386,00	659,33	32,97		
p40	14	287,33	453,33	32,38		
p41	15	429,00	469,67	31,31		
p78	14	303,33	364,33	26,02		
p41	21	470,67	527,33	25,11		
p13	19	548,00	451,33	23,75		
t108	13	295,00	287,67	22,13		
t185	36	779,00	779,00	21,64		
p62	12	259,00	259,00	21,58		
p64	14	338,67	296,33	21,17		
t137	20	301,67	415,67	20,78		
p73	20	155,00	412,33	20,62		
p26	13	255,00	249,33	19,18		
t146	21	401,00	374,00	17,81		
p30	35	628,67	613,33	17,52		
p23	24	427,00	399,33	16,64		
p60	7	159,00	113,33	16,19		
t17, t123, t133	58	895,00	883,67	15,24		
p58	7	158,33	105,00	15,00		
p61	17	374,00	253,00	14,88		
p83	10	146,33	146,33	14,63		
p52_t33	21	306,67	305,00	14,52		
t8	23	212,33	290,00	12,61		
p4	19	229,67	235,33	12,39		
67	18	222,33	222,33	12,35		
t79	13	157,00	157,00	12,08		
t27	12	135,33	124,00	10,33		
p95	15	184,67	152,67	10,18		
p53	21	231,33	209,00	9,95		
p11	15	158,67	145,67	9,71		
p94	12	161,00	116,00	9,67		
66	7	65,67	65,67	9,38		
p51	12	82,33	112,33	9,36		
t106	16	139,67	139,67	8,73		
p77	7	43,33	58,00	8,29		
88	17	137,33	135,00	7,94		
t109,t110,t111	59	453,33	453,33	7,68		
92	17	112,33	112,33	6,61		
56	7	39,00	39,00	5,57		
p71	35	352,33	175,33	5,01		
65	19	68,67	75,33	3,96		
p93	12	47,33	34,33	2,86		
p59	7	21,00	16,00	2,29		

- Indicator species list
- Farmer vs. expert data
- Changes in the grasslands
- Interaction with farmers and their experience



Recommendations

- Keep it simple!
- Automated as many processes as you can;
- Involve the farmer-stay connected with him;



Thank you!

