Interreg
Alpine Space

EUROPEAN UNION

PARCO NATURALE PREALPI GIULIE

Transboundary Parks
E U R O P A R C

ALPBIONET 2030
EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

In collaboration with

TRIGLAVSKI NARODNI PARK

ALPBIONET2030

Integrative Alpine wildlife and habitat management for the next generation

Management tools for pasture in areas of great natural value

Results of the participative procedure.

Meeting Room – Town Hall – 2° floor – RESIUTTA (Ud), Italy

Saturday, 5th October 2019, 9.30 – 12.30

MINUTES

The workshop started at 9:45am. A welcome speech was delivered by the *Executive Director of the Julian Prealps Natural Park*, M. **Stefano Santi**, by *Resiutta council member*, M. **Andrea Beltrame** and by the *President of the Julian Prealps Natural Park*, Ms. **Annalisa Di Lenardo**.

Stefano Santi briefly introduced the topic of the meeting, divided into: summary of the participative procedure steps, information and data processing presentation, collection of feedbacks concerning proposed methods and tools.

Andrea Beltrame underlined the importance of the project: it provides a useful tool to administrations deciding whether to be in favour or against herd's passage. It happens that City council offices receive several complaints and it isn't easy to reduce them. However, it would be necessary to better regulate transhumance activities as to provide solutions.

Cristina Comuzzo is an external consultant of the Park and she manages this part of the AlpBioNet2030 project. She gave a summary of the participative procedure steps that led to some preliminary results. Participative procedure was characterized by stakeholders' engagement thanks to interviews, questionnaires for residents and tourists, targeted workshops and meetings highlighting issues in the Pilot Region and establishing collaborative relationships among experts and people involved in conflict situations. Following a specific approach, two maps were created: a Relationship Map and a Transhumance Map.

The *Relationship Map* highlighted positive and negative aspects related to pasture management in areas of great natural value. To do so, it was necessary to identify: resources to be managed (landscape, infrastructures, soil and structures - such as cheese huts and shelters -, biodiversity – including herds, wild herbs, wildlife and large carnivores), engaged stakeholders (residents, tourists, hunters, shepherds and herds owners, wild herbs pickers, landowners), managing authorities (Municipalities, Park, Region – Regional Forestry Corps -, Health Services Agency) and bodies providing technical assistance or involved in the research field (Associations and Universities). Moreover, existing relationships among the parties involved in the project were analysed. In addition to the foregoing, the Map is useful to examine management tools already in use, to identify their strengths and weaknesses and to make proposals concerning conflict management and minimization.

The main objectives of the *Transhumance Map* were to identify paths covered by transhumant herds and their staging points within the Park and in the neighbouring areas; to identify conflicts highlighted in the *Relationships Map*; to identify the so-called "hot spots" (within Park borders) in relation to conflicts. On the Map, conflicts are marked as points or extended areas, depending on available data (limited data available: points; several data available: areas). Conflict intensity refers to an area considered as homogeneous (the reference territorial unit is the 500m * 500m cell) and it is given by the summation of persistent conflicts on each area. Moreover, the Map shows areas influenced by limitations in terms of time and number of animals stated by the Park Conservation and Development Plan and also other areas with a fixed load capacity. The Map is an easy-to-use and updatable tool useful to: identify high conflicting areas within the Park and in the neighbouring areas; analyse the type and the intensity of conflicts; address efforts and available resources towards mitigation measures; understand and decide where and when to put in place some monitoring activities concerning specific species; understand where and when to develop activities focused on "man-nature" conflict awareness. This is an initial tool requiring periodical updates and further elaboration, especially for conflict intensity; it will be necessary to investigate the real influence of each conflict on the scale intensity in order to choose the best strategy to solve/mitigate it.

Then, **Stefano Santi** introduced some points concerning the Maps. He stressed the fact that the chosen name is *Relationships Maps* and not "conflict map" as the problem doesn't concern the presence of a roaming pasture but the management of that activity; shepherds should not be indicted but problems related to social, economic and conservation sustainability should rather be investigated. Moreover, M. Santi stated that the "hot spot" where most of the conflicts are concentrated is Sella Carnizza and it is located both inside and outside Park borders; as a consequence, it is necessary to involve all managing authorities in order to find a solution and to favour coexistence between human activities and nature. Finally, he put forward management proposals: tools need to be used and modify where and when necessary and immediately-feasible measures should be separated from those suitable for the medium-long term (as per Annex 1).

- TRANSHUMANCE MAP;
- PASTURE AND TRANSIT DATA ACQUISITION PROCEDURE;
- MANAGEMENT GUIDE AND EXCEL FILE FOR MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATIONS;
- PENALTIES;
- TRAINING ACTIVITY CONCERNING CHECKS TO BE CARRIED OUT;
- INFORMATION REGARDING THE PRESENCE OF LARGE CARNIVORES;
- INFORMATION AND PROMOTION OF GRAZING ACTIVITY.

The abovementioned mitigation measures and tools may be immediately used.

On the other hand, the following measures need different time frames for implementation:

- MOVABLE POSTERS AND SIGNS;
- PASTURE PLAN;
- GUARD DOGS;
- USE OF SATELLITE-LINKED RADIOCOLLARS FOR SHEEPS.

As for these three proposals, it will be necessary to properly study them before giving them a practical effect:

- COMPENSATIONS AND/OR INCENTIVES;
- SERVICE HERD;
- BUREAUCRATIC SIMPLIFICATION OF AUTHORIZATION PROCEDURES.

M. **Santi** concluded his presentation by saying that participants will receive the two Maps, the guide for municipal administrations and the Excel file for complaints and conflicts registration before the end of October. As a consequence, they will have the possibility to send a feedback within the end of November.

The Park intends to adopt the highest number of proposals as soon as possible.

Debate:

Andrea Beltrame said that, as Director, he needs to focus on the economic aspect and he mentioned the example of lawn mowing: it sometimes happens that owners don't want to mow,

but there's also a property sectioning problem. As a consequence, the director intervenes and carries out lawn mowing thanks to some volunteers and stratagems, such as ticks' issue. Secondly, he can use funds to mow (up to 80.000 € to mow lawns for 5 years). Landscape care and protection are expensive and so herds can be extremely useful as, thanks to rents, administrations could also benefit from an economic return. Land managers should schedule a joint programming in order to create some sort of "corridors" for transhumance. Some lands near the Resia riverbed are suitable for grazing and authorization procedures should therefore be investigated. Moreover, it would be beneficial to deepen the knowledge of urban planning tools suitable for this context. Hence, the administration task is to create a management tool for this kind of activities.

Kaspar Nickles, *farmer and owner of the Tiere Vere farm and B&B*, stated that the lack of transit communication depends on the fact that the answer is almost always negative, according to his experience. Not long ago, he and his partners had to transit through a municipal road and Municipal Police told them to avoid passing, in order not to take the responsibility.

Stefano Filacorda, *researcher and professor at the University of Udine*, expressed his appreciation for what had been done and pointed out something positive, the replicability of this model in other areas. He underlined a lack of communication among people in charge of territorial management. On the other hand, he stated that information conveyed by farmers and shepherds is extremely important and useful for monitoring and conservation projects. Establishing a good communication between authorities and shepherds/farmers is crucial. Concerning the service herd, he thinks a technical support should be provided to herd owners; the general idea is positive but it needs to be supported by technical tools and potential regional or European funds. Finally, he makes himself available for possible future collaborations.

Emiliano Morandi, *shepherd of a transhumant herd*, talked about the loss of 90 animals caused by a dog frightening his herd near Casera Canin during the summer period. He normally chooses the herd path according to water availability and so it wouldn't be a problem changing it, if weather conditions are favourable (as they've been this year). Moreover, he said that an eagle preyed on his 15 lambs (2-3 days of life) in an area between Malga Coot and Mount Guarda. He confirmed that the most critical point is Sella Carnizza and the only solution is not to stop: he would like to pass through that area but, to avoid the conflict with hunters (some friends from the same village), he prefers not to. This year, he has left his donkeys near the airport for 15 days only but he hasn't grazed his animals on Mount Nische nor on Mount Stregone. Moreover, he has stopped in Vedronza while entering Torre Valley. As opposed to last year, there were no conflicts in Tanamea. Finally, he added that a "new" herd seems transiting through the Park.

Stefano Santi took the floor again to thank all the people working on this project.

In conclusion of the workshop, some *researchers from **Eurach Institute of Bolzano*** participated as Lead Partner of WPT5 of AlpBioNet2030 project.

Filippo Favilli began by saying that the Pilot Region had been the only one carrying out the project thoroughly and with concrete achievements. We've set an example to follow and this is a major result. He ended his speech underlying another positive aspect: managing to gather directors, technicians and the local community. Now, it's essential to focus on communication!

Isidoro De Bortoli summed up the results they'd achieved in the Pilot Region with their project dedicated to high schools (lectures and questionnaires for students). They collected useful information for the creation of a Comic Book for primary students; it is focused on conflicts, on coexistence with large carnivores and on pasture activities.

The workshop ended at 12:00pm.

Resiutta, 5th October 2019

Signed by the Director
Stefano Santi

Signed by the Consultant
Cristina Comuzzo