

SITIO DE MONFURADO CROSS-VISIT TO BURREN

Dates: June 4th to June 7th (Programme Annex 1)

Host reflections on cross-visit:

Overall the visit and the agenda worked well. All events took place as planned and within the proposed timeframes. An added bonus was the 'off-agenda' cultural interaction – mainly through the sharing of traditional music – between the host community and the visiting group. Feedback from the host team – farmers and others – was very positive, with several host participants reporting that they really enjoyed hosting the group and sharing ideas with them: to some degree it was also a good opportunity for us as hosts to reflect on what we do, how we do it and how we can do it better.

A good mix of indoor and outdoor sessions incorporating farm visits and local businesses was very useful. It is important to brief all hosting farms and businesses on the purpose of the trip and profile of participants. It was also very important that visiting farmers could speak directly with host farmers, visiting researchers with host researchers, visiting administrators with host administrators etc: having a 'messenger' you can relate to often makes the message itself more relevant and plausible.

In a packed two day programme there was no time to visit innovations outside the learning area. Initiatives from outside LA of particular relevance to the cross-visit overall theme were incorporated into the workshop at the end of day 2. Some staff from these initiatives were available (RBAPS, CANN and Hen Harrier projects) for the workshop which greatly enhanced this event, showing how the 'Burren approach' can be adapted to work for other landscapes and farming systems.

The workshop at end of day 2 concentrated on needs of visiting LA. It is important to include sometime on the visiting LAs reflections of the host LA. Seeing the LA through the eyes of the visitors highlights opportunities for next steps for host LA. Questions raised by visiting LA and discussions with host participants throughout visits can raise some interesting views. In this regard some points raised included the need for a greater concentration on whole farm management; enhancement of direct links and opportunities between farming and tourism; and need for marketing and product development.

It was important to have some free time for the visiting team on their last day. This free time was utilized by visiting team to have a private debrief on their visit. Space was available in their accommodation for this. The group left with a promise of a continuing relationship with the host community, an offer of technical support and the sharing of learning experiences in the years ahead.

The next set of cross-visits to the Burren will take place during the Burren Winterage School and will coincide with the host's regional meeting. Aspects of this two day programme may be distilled into 1 day so that a farm visit and workshop focusing on need of visiting LAs can be added to Burren Winter School programme. Having a range of LAs on the one visit will need careful planning to ensure that it is a worthwhile trip for all LAs. Concentrating on the needs of one LA per cross-visit provides an enhanced experience for the visiting LA but would not be feasible within resources for a large number of LAs.



Portuguese participants' list

Name	Actor	Institution/Farm
Ana Rita Sanches	Researcher	ICAAM/Universidade de Évora
António Marques dos Santos	Farmer	M ^a da Conceição da Veiga Marques dos Santos, Unipessoal, Lda
Carla Azeda	Researcher	ICAAM/Universidade de Évora
Carlos Barroca Lourido	Farmer	Monte da Mouzinha
Catarina Campos	Accompanying person	
Elvira Sales Baptista	Researcher	ICAAM/Universidade de Évora
Gonçalo Marquês Correia	Farmer	Monte da Amendoeira/Monte da Barroca
Helena Guimarães	Researcher	ICAAM/Universidade de Évora
Henrique Macau Pereira	Farmer	Herdade Curral da Léguas
Isabel Ferraz de Oliveira	Researcher	ICAAM/Universidade de Évora
Isabel Loupa Ramos	Researcher	IST/Univeridade de Lisboa
Isabel Manoel	Farmer	Casa Agrícola Condes de Seia, Lda/ Herdade da Falcoeira
João Marques	Public administration	Gabinete de Planeamento, Políticas e Administração Geral - MAFDR
José da Veiga	Public administration	Direção Regional de Agricultura e pescas do Alentejo
José Maria Vaz Freire	Farmer	Sociedade Agropecuária Herdade de Vilares, Lda.
M ^a Manuela Tavares da Silva	Public administration	Direção Geral de Agricultura e Desenvolvimento Rural
Maria do Carmo Bica	Public administration	National Rural Network
Marta Manoel	Farmer	Ovicharol Lda, Herdade do Tojal
Pedro Manoel	Farmer	Ovicharol Lda, Herdade do Tojal
Teresa Pinto Correia	Researcher	ICAAM/Universidade de Évora



Annex 1: Programme MONTADO CROSS VISIT to BURREN

Host Facilitators:

James Moran (Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology on behalf of LA Coordinator IT Sligo). Will accompany group for 5th and 6th

Email: james.moran@gmit.ie Mobile Phone: +353 86 6063949;

Brendan Dunford (Burrenbeo Trust)

Email: Brendan@burrenlife.com Mobile phone: +353 87 2841236

Costs:

For lunch on Tuesday and Wednesday all participants should have €10 in cash to pay for lunch at venue.

Restaurants for the evening meal will accept cards or cash and can provide receipts.

Locations:

google map https://drive.google.com/open?id=13iV_NK-6RpaBPDhRi2X1d3fludm1ZbKy&usp=sharing

June 4th

14:10: Arrive Dublin Airport

20:00: Evening meal (Keogh's Kinvarra- 2 course meal €18.95). Informal meet and greet (Meet Facilitators)

June 5th

09:00: Meet at Burrenbeo office in Kinvarra

09:00-12 :00: Briefing on area and introductory tour of Burren LA. Focus on work of BurrenBeo and broader context of area (brief talk followed by walk at Slieve Carron) (Lead person: Aine Bird)

12:30-13:30: Lunch (Daly's farmhouse- €10 per person)

13:30-15:00 Introduction to Burren Programme - evolution (actors involved and main drivers etc.), design and implementation (challenges and solutions) of an RBPS programme (Lead person: Brendan Dunford)

15:00-16:00: Burren programme – farm walk (Lead person: Brendan Dunford) (Daly's and Marrinan's farms)

16:30-17:30: Travel back to Kinvarra (include visit to a local business on the way back. Burren perfumery)



20:00-22:00: Dinner (Linannes located on coast in New Quay (<http://linnanesbar.com/>) (2 course meal €20)

June 6th

9:30-10:00 Travel to meet farmers

10:00-12:00 approximately: Farmers perspective - Farm walks on a selection of Burren Programme participant farms. (Tour led by Michael Davoren Burren Irish Farmers Association.)

13:30-15:00: Lunch at McCormacks farm plus short walk and intro to Burren National Park

15:00-18:00: RBPS workshop (joined by members of Hen harrier EIP <http://henharrierproject.ie/> and EU RBAPS pilot www.rbaps.eu and Burren LA stakeholders) (Facilitator : James Moran)

Focused on needs and questions of Montado group. A step by step guide to RBPS design and implementation.

Venue : Tubber village hall

Proposed Workshop Format

- Introduction JM (5 mins)
- Formal presentation of visiting LA of their area (15 minutes)
- Overview of results based payment approach to design and implementation of AE schemes (expanding the Burren Model) 10 mins (DB + JM) success factors, farmers centred approach etc.
- Observations of visiting LA on results based approach and key lessons/questions (15-30mins)
- Coffee break (15 mins)
- A step by step guide to RBPS design (focus on visiting LA needs) (1 hour) Will be joined by member of Hen Harrier EIP team

18:00-19:00: debriefing on study case (Montado group debriefing: lessons learnt and reflections).
Venue local pub in Shanaglish village

19:30-22:00: Dinner at Gallery in Gort (chance to discuss informally any emerging questions and follow up from debriefing if required). (2 course meal €20)

June 7th

Free morning for participants

Depart and Travel to Dublin airport



Annex 2: Photos















Annex 3: Social Media and Press Release

Top media Tweet earned 3,080 impressions

End of day 1 of hosting our @HNVLink partner from Sitio de Monfurado, Portugal visit to #Burren. Today's #Innovation focus #partnership #community #RBAPS @BurrenbeoTrust #farmercentered approach #rural #enterprise. Sharing knowledge for sustainable #EU #HNV farming pic.twitter.com/mmt412loKJ



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PRESS RELEASE: Burren Learning landscape focus of Portuguese visit to boost innovation for sustainable agriculture

A group of 20 farmers, researchers and Ministry of Agriculture officials from Portugal recently visited the Burren to experience the lessons learnt and recent innovations in sustainable agriculture in the region. The two day visit focused on innovations in building community partnerships with Burrenbeo Trust, farmer centered approaches of the Burren Programme to the design and implementation of the results based agri-environment schemes. Together with a focus on rural enterprise in the Burren that capitalizes on the unique landscape, the visitors got a real impression of the possibilities and opportunities for sustainable development in the region.

The visit is part of a wider EU Horizon 2020 [1] Research and Innovation funded project HNV LINK, which stands for High Nature Value Farming: Learning, Innovation and Knowledge. The work of the project focuses on developing and sharing innovations that support farming systems of exceptional nature value across Europe. Throughout Europe these High Nature Value farmland areas [2] are threatened with land abandonment, degradation, economic and social marginalization. In recent years, the Burren has shown that these challenges can be overcome. As a result, the area is receiving considerable attention from across the EU.

James Moran (GMIT) who facilitated the trip highlighted that “sharing knowledge across Europe with visits such as this enables innovative networks of people to work in partnership to develop locally adapted and results orientated solutions for their areas”.

Brendan Dunford (Burrenbeo trust and Burren Programme) emphasized the potential of the Burren as a learning landscape: ‘The rich heritage of the Burren makes it an amazing place to experience nature, landscape and history. But we also have a great story to tell here - about local people looking after their own place – and great people to tell it, in particular our local farmers. We really enjoyed hosting our Portuguese colleagues here this week: sharing ideas, having fun and contributing to the local economy. Already for this years’ Burren Winterage weekend we have six delegations coming from across Europe to learn from our experiences in the Burren – this augurs well for the future of the Burren and for its importance as a learning destination.

Maria Isabel Ferraz de Oliveira from the University of Evora who coordinated the Portuguese visit, noted that for the visiting team the “agricultural production and environmental conservation activity carried out in real partnerships between farmers, scientists and public administration was very inspiring for the whole Portuguese group. The Burren has shown that the threats posed by ecosystem degradation caused by either land abandonment or farm intensification can be overcome using farmer centered agri- environmental results based approaches. Our Montado ecosystem has similar challenges and therefore the potential transferability of the Burren experience is enormous. The main take home message from the Burren experience is twofold:

- the environmental services we are expecting from farming can be produced when the farmer has room for an adaptive management supported in flexible policy tools'
- the success of continuous partnership approach across the whole process: design, implementation and evaluation of the results based approach"

ENDS



For further information please contact:

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Dr. Brendan Dunford, BurrenLIFE Programme brendan@burrenlife.com

[1] H2020-ISIB-2015-1. "Closing the research and innovation divide: the crucial role of innovation support services and knowledge exchanges". Despite the continued generation of knowledge through scientific projects, research results are often insufficiently exploited and taken up in practice, and innovative ideas from practice are not captured and spread. Cooperation between researchers, advisory services, farmers and other stakeholders in the supply chain is crucial for innovation-driven research. Therefore, mechanisms and networks, which stimulate this interaction and knowledge exchange, should be developed in view of optimising resource use and enhancing the transition to innovation-driven research.

Projects should involve actors from science and agricultural practice and facilitate the exchange on existing knowledge on innovative approaches in agriculture, the supply chain, and rural areas. They should help to put existing research into practice and capture creative ideas from the grassroots-level. Methods for generation of innovation-driven research should be promoted taking into account the diversity of European regions, farming and agro-food systems.

[2] High Nature Value farmland in Ireland.

High Nature Value farmland encompasses areas in Europe where agricultural activities support, or are associated with, exceptionally high biodiversity. These farmlands are also important for cultural heritage, quality products and rural employment and are priority sites in European agriculture conservation.

Long-standing threats to these nature friendly farming systems include abandonment, degradation, economic and social marginalization. The challenge is to increase the socio-economic viability while maintaining their natural values, including ecosystem services they provide to the society.

In Ireland, High Nature Value farmland mainly occurs in the extensively farmed pasturelands of the west and north-west and in upland areas throughout the country. Recent estimates by Teagasc and IT Sligo have highlighted that these areas cover approximately 30% of the agricultural areas of the country. The fate of these areas is inextricably linked to that of farming

[3] Partners:

Centre International de Hautes Etudes Agronomiques Méditerranéennes – Institut Agronomique Méditerranéen de Montpellier CIHEAM-IAMM, France – Coordinator

European Forum on Nature Conservation and Pastoralism EFNCP, United Kingdom

Instituto de Ciências Agrárias e Ambientais Mediterrânicas – Universidade de Évora, Portugal



University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine – Cluj Napoca, Romania

Society for Territorial and Environmental Prosperity STEP, Bulgaria

County Administrative Board of Västra Götaland, Sweden

Application des Sciences de l'Action ASca, France

University of Thessaly - Department of planning and regional development, Greece

University of Helsinki – Department of Agricultural Sciences, Finland

Local action group LAG 5, Croatia Conservatoire Espaces Naturels Languedoc-Roussillon, France Fundación entretantos, Spain

Irish Partners:

Burrenbeo trust

Institute of Technology Sligo

Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology





Portugeuse visiting group from Alentajeno region of Portugal with facilitator James Moran Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology



Michael Davoren (Burren IFA) explains the farming systems of the Burren to the visiting Portuguese delegation

