

Design of Results Based Agri-Environment Schemes



Outline

- Results versus action based AES
- Design of Results Based AE Payment Schemes
- Design process
 - Shannon Callows (Natura 2000): Floodplain grasslands
 - Leitrim: Lowland grassland areas
 - Navarra: Mediterranean Uplands
- Lessons learned to date
- Other “Steeping Stone” Initiatives

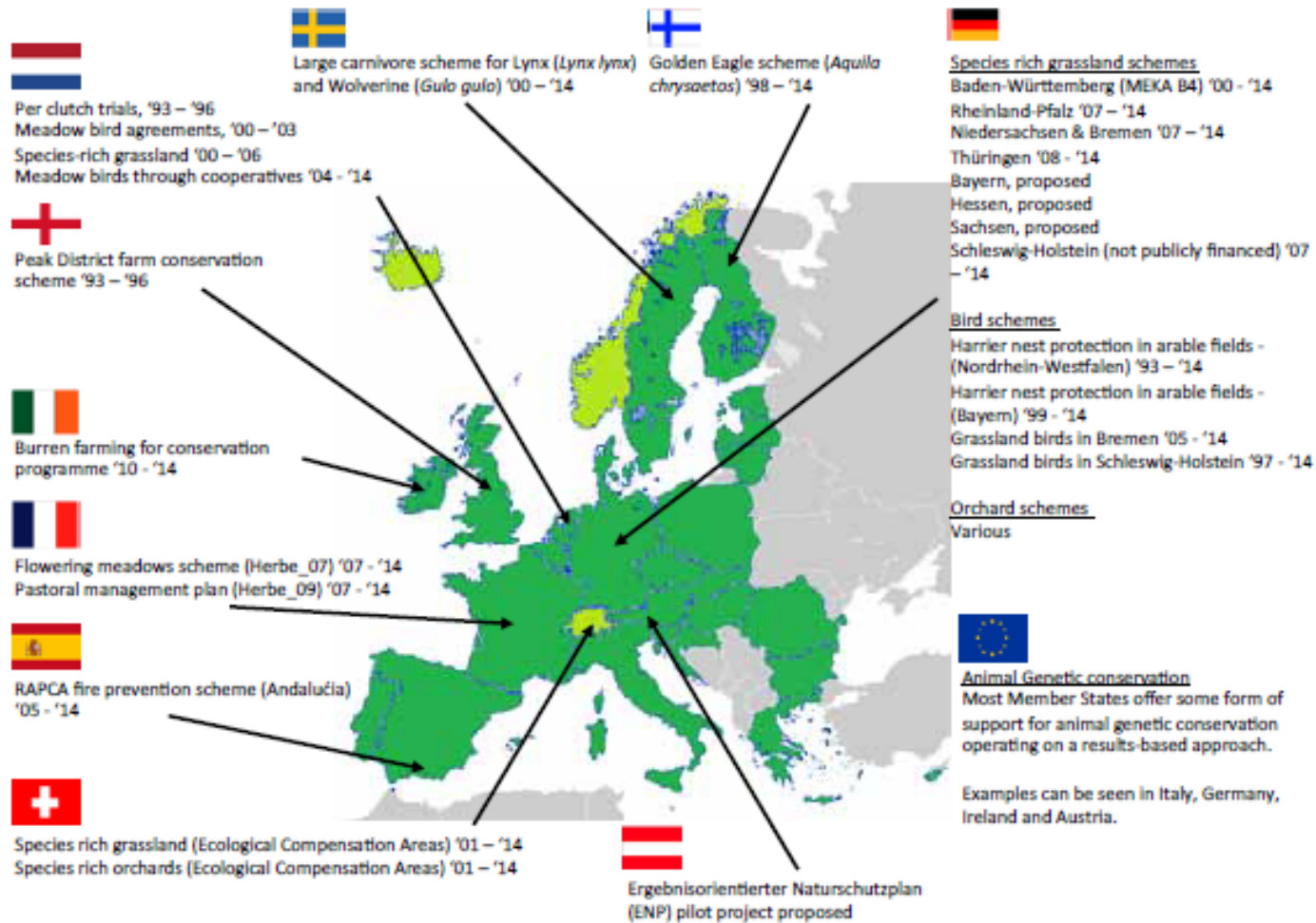


Results versus action based AES



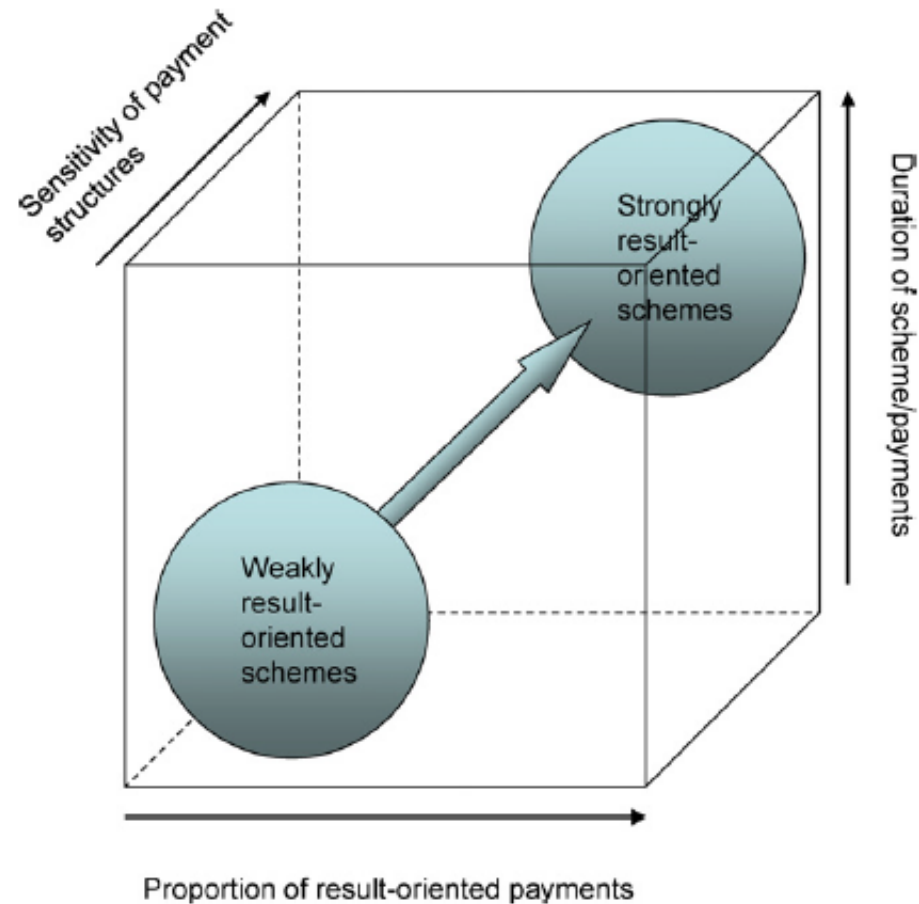
- Continued questions about effectiveness of AES for Biodiversity
- Can be effective when carefully designed and targeted; overall considered expensive (Batáry et al 2015)
- Prescription/Action-based AES pay for compliance with actions or prescriptions
- Results/outcome based AES directly link payments to the production of the desired result





Source: Guidance Handbook for Results Based Payments for Biodiversity

Continuum of Pure Results to Hybrid to Action Based



Source: `Burton and Schwarz 2013

RBAPS 2015-2018

- Testing and developing results based AES
- €1.4 million budget
- 70% EU funded
- 30% from partners, & support from Heritage Council, DAFM & Teagasc
- 3.5 year project

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Overarching Design Principles

- Common design approach in 3 pilot areas
- Locally adapted, practical and results focused
- Balance incentivising higher quality output and overall scheme complexity
- Facilitate flexible and adaptive management on farm
- Build local trust and capacity
- Enable co-creation and innovation
- Accounts for factors outside the farmers control





Design Model

*Pure results or
Hybrid/Blended*

1. Select Biodiversity Target

Use Existing data; reference levels

Conservation
Priorities/
Concerns

Responds to
agriculture practices

2. Scoring System

Understood by
farmers

Simple mgt.
recommendations

Evolution and
adaption

5. Results Based
AE Measure

Monitoring and
Evaluation

3. Set Payment Levels

Rewards quality of product

Need for Non-Productive
Investment?

4. Eligibility
Criteria



Navarra: Traditional mosaic landscape



Leitrim: Species-rich grassland



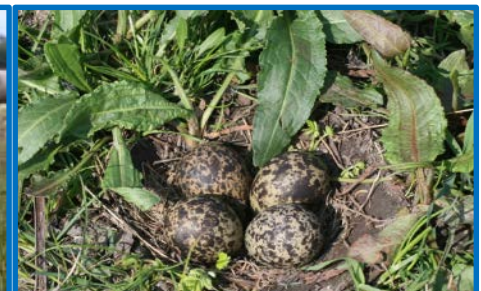
Callows: Breeding Waders



Leitrim: +Marsh Fritillary



Callows: Species rich flood meadow



+ Ground nesting birds

Scoring system

- 10 point scoring system
- Habitat/ecosystem as target
 - Indicators of ecosystem health (biodiversity indicators and habitat condition indicators)
- Species target
 - Indicators of habitat suitability
 - Spatial targeting of measure based on known distribution



Calculation of payments rates



A. Threat assessment

Region	Primary threat	Secondary threat	Tertiary threat
County Leitrim	Conversion to forestry	Intensification	Abandonment
Shannon Callows	Intensification	Abandonment (rare)	-
Navarra, Spain	Intensification	Abandonment	Conversion to forestry

B. Payment rates based on:

Intensification	Conversion to Forestry	Abandonment
Income Forgone & Additional costs	Opportunity cost	Full cost of management

Pay increments designed to: *incentivise farmers to strive for higher scores AND ensure that medium scores were sufficient to cover cost of participation*

Additional considerations

- Substantial initial investment needed to bring some area to even a basic state
 - Once off restoration works (NPI) can be expensive
 - Measures required on long term rotation 5-10 years
 - Including them in annual results based payment may over / under pay farmers
- Consider non productive investments in design in blended/hybrid model



Eligibility criteria



Within Region

• Broader Habitat/Ecosystem target:

- Presence of target declared by farmer (Navarra, Leitrim-species rich grassland, Callows-Meadows)

• Species target:

- discrete spatial targeting based on known distribution of species (Breeding Waders)
- declared by farmer and confirmed by implementing team (Marsh fritillary, ground nesting birds)



Lessons Learned

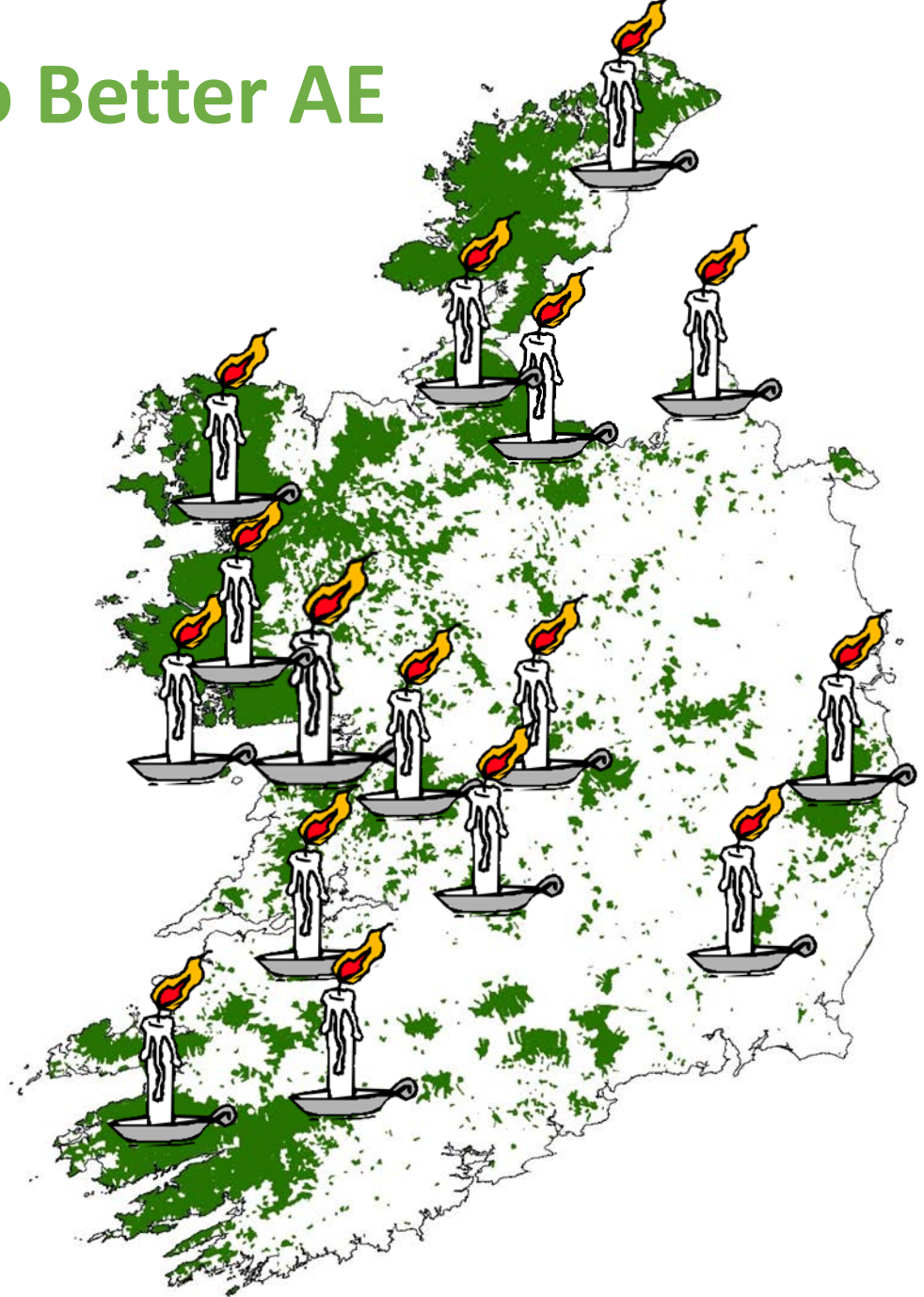


- Common design approach across diverse agricultural landscapes possible.
- Time and expertise required to develop the scoring systems to:
 - a) account for variations in environmental conditions outside control of the farmer
 - b) ensure indicators reflect achievement of the biodiversity target
 - c) ensure locally adapted, practical and results focused
- Guidance and training are key
- Integrated local farm advisory systems
- Implementation and control can be simpler but capacity and resources needed for effective design

“Steeping Stones” to Better AE Design

“Better to light a candle than curse the darkness”

EU LIFE; Horizon 2020; INTERREG; EIPs

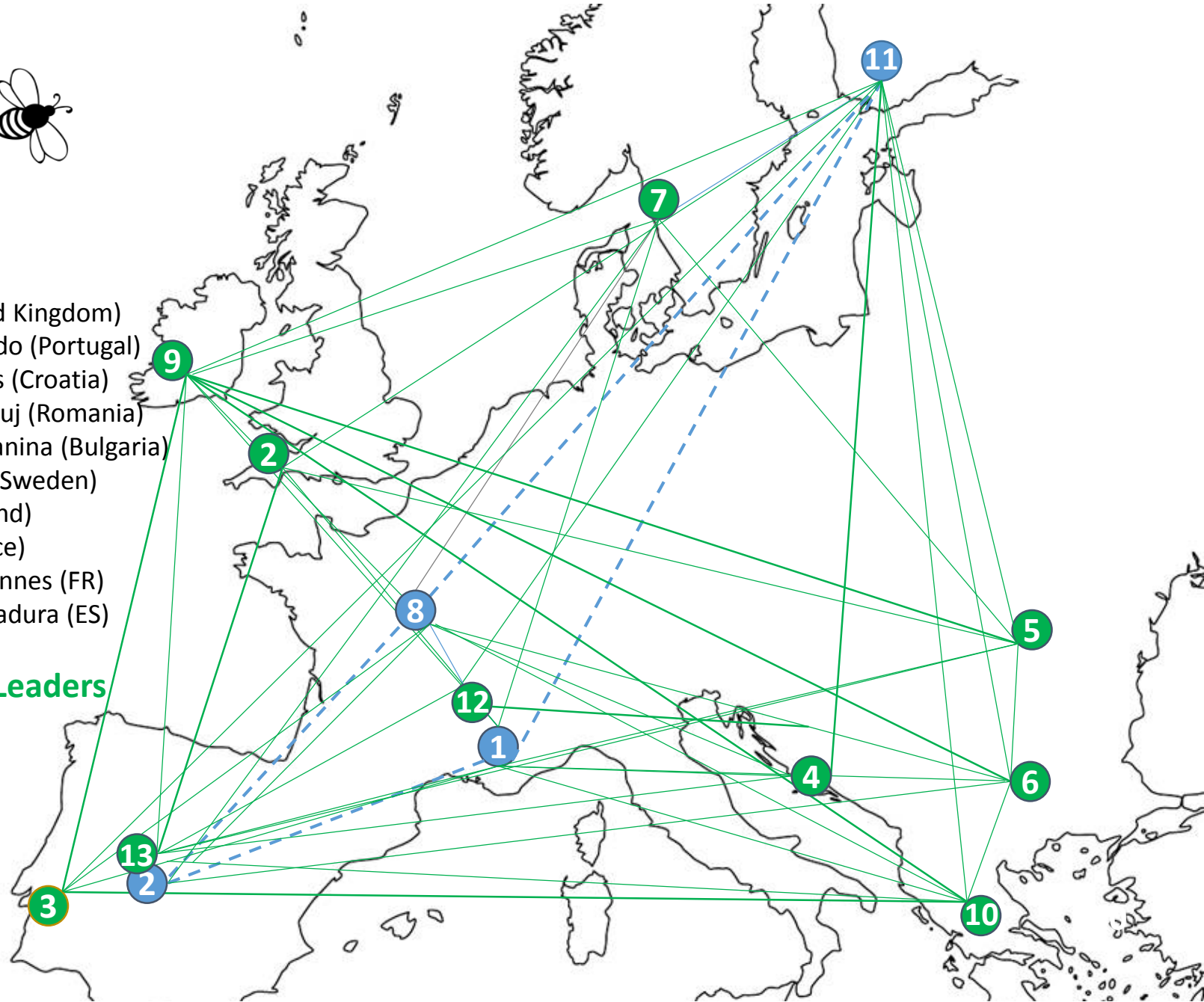


Learning Areas

- 2) Dartmoor (United Kingdom)
- 3) Sitio de Monfurado (Portugal)
- 4) Dalmatian Islands (Croatia)
- 5) Eastern Hills of Cluj (Romania)
- 6) Western Stara Planina (Bulgaria)
- 7) Västra Götaland (Sweden)
- 9) The Burren (Ireland)
- 10) Thessalia (Greece)
- 12) Causses et Cévennes (FR)
- 13) La Vera, Extremadura (ES)

Work Package Leaders

- 1) Ciheam-IamM
- 8) ASca (France)
- 2) EFNCP (Spain)
- 11) UH (Finland)



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Thank you; Gracias; Go raibh maith agaibh



European Forum on
Nature Conservation
and Pastoralism



BirdWatch Ireland
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protecting birds and biodiversity



eGasc
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