



România legszébb fái  
Arborii remarcabili din România  
Remarkable trees of Romania



# The CAP and wood-pastures from Romania

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*Europe's wood pastures: condemned to a slow death by the CAP?  
17 November 2015, European Parliament, Brussels*

# Social-ecological momentum for wood-pasture sustainability in Romania

Because:

- historical, social, institutional and political context – momentum to 'fill in' good policies in the system.
- substantial proportion of the society relies on provisioning and other ecosystem services of wood-pastures and other farmland – momentum to keep the social-ecological system connected.
- ecologically valuable wood-pastures with key structural elements like native vegetation, large, old trees, shrubs and wetlands – momentum to maintain high conservation value of wood-pastures.
  - there are several threats amplifying
- the CAP could play a major role in all these – see next slides. If this momentum not capitalized, major loss will happen.



# Values of wood-pastures

- Economic
- Social
- Ecological
- Aesthetic/cultural
- Historical



Shepherd feeding his goats with leaves of an ancient beech in Transylvania. ©Tobias Plieninger

# The CAP and Romanian wood-pastures

## *Trees: direct payments, cross compliance rules*

- GAEC 7 – Maintenance of landscape elements including scattered trees (GAEC 7.1.)...for habitats and for the maintenance of farming landscape.
- Trees cannot be removed without the permission from forestry institutions.
- If trees are died/dried or 'dying', farmers will present to APIA a formal approval from the forestry institutions, before cutting the tree. Forestry authorities typically approve such requests.
  - We continue to lose ecologically and culturally valuable trees even with the CAP. Urgent need to address this issue.



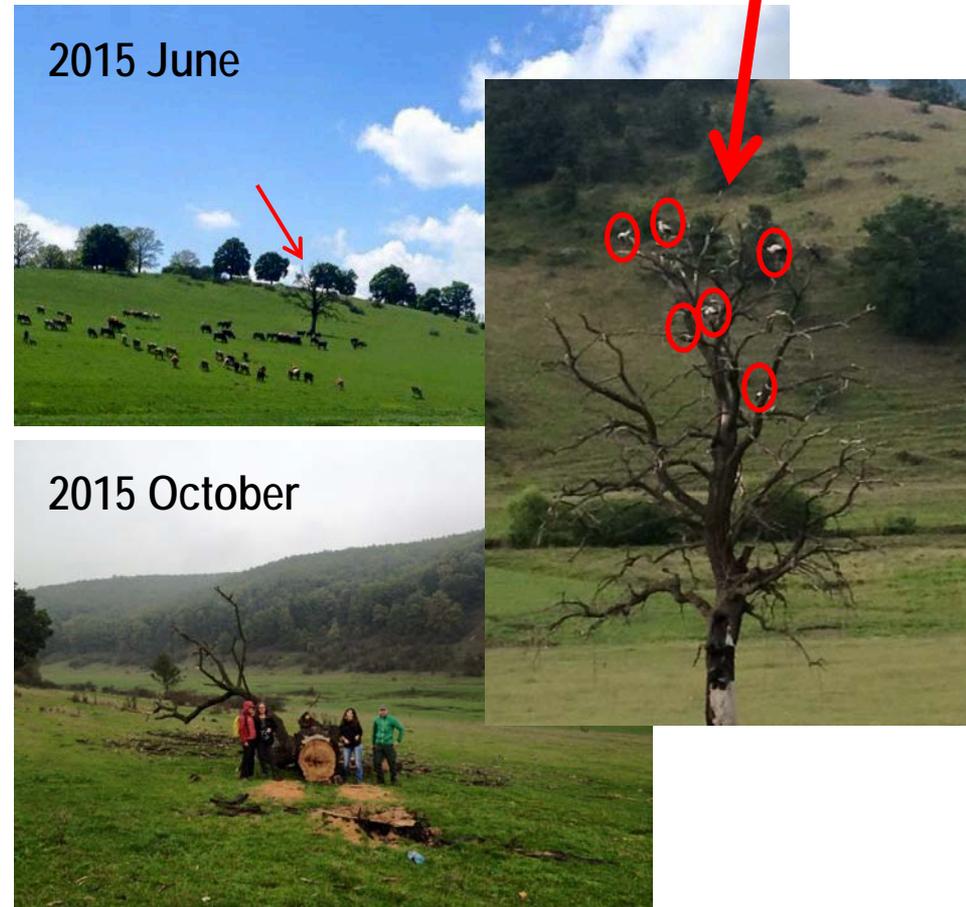
**Recommendation: explicitly recognize the crucial importance of large, old, hollowing trees (GAEC 7).**

# The CAP and Romanian wood-pastures

## *Trees: direct payments, cross compliance rules*

- SMR 3 – Conservation of natural habitats and the wild plant and animals species – in protected areas and outside.
- Destruction of reproduction and resting places (migration, hibernation included) of wildlife...through cutting trees from farmland...is forbidden.
- However, dried/died or 'severely damaged' trees are removed, burned (see previous slide).

Six white storks roosting in this tree!



**Recommendation: recognize the crucial importance of large, old, hollowing trees (SMR3).**

Large old trees have huge ecological value, cultural values, informational values and option values. **These values should not be actively eroded by policy.**

# The CAP and Romanian wood-pastures

## *Trees: transposition of European Regulations into RO policy*

Ordinance no. 3/2015 (Romania):

- Crowns of the trees are considered ineligible elements – yet these trees are protected under GAEC7, and 100 trees/ha is allowed under GAEC 7.
- From 2018 the system will change to the pro-rata reduction in eligibility in proportion to the coverage of ineligible features in pastures (Ordinance no.3/2015).
  - We will continue to loose trees.



Tree crowns have huge 'insurance value' in farmland, as they provide food alternatives (e.g. mast, acorn, fruits, leaves) and shelter for livestock – and people. **These values should be acknowledged, promoted and not destroyed by policy.**

**Recommendation: do not deduct the tree crown from the eligible area of CAP support.**

# The CAP and Romanian wood-pastures

## *Shrubs – direct payments and cross compliance rules*

- GAEC 7: compact patches of shrubs exceeding 0.01 ha are not eligible for direct payments.
- Shrubs as habitats are indirectly recognized (GAEC 7).
- No explicit request for maintaining some shrubs in the wood-pasture. **Therefore they are often completely removed.**



**Recommendation: explicitly promote scattered scrubs in wood-pastures as habitats and nurses.**

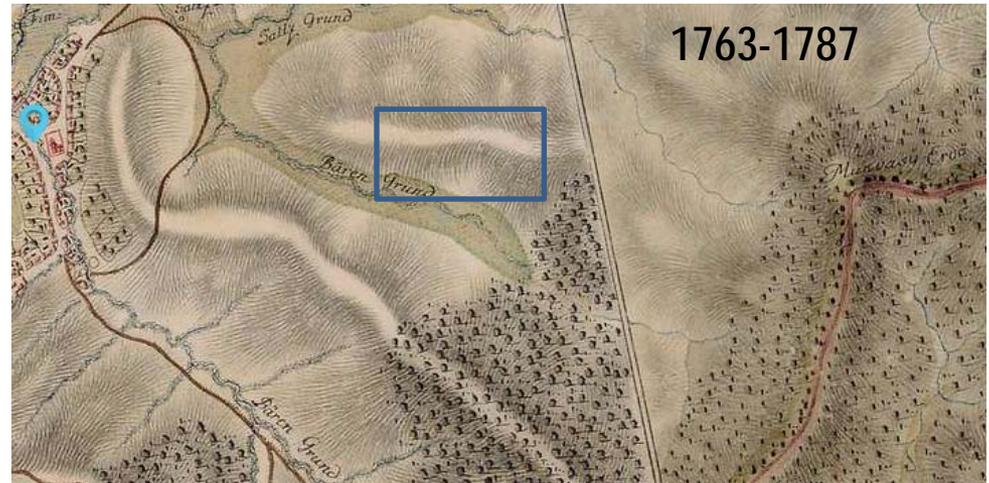
# The CAP and Romanian wood-pastures

## *Grassland management*

- GAEC 7: 0.3 LU is a minimal requirement for accessing payments.
- Old and new (e.g. 5 year old) pastures are treated similarly.

## Recommendations:

- Establish an upper level grazing pressure to avoid overgrazing.
- Adjust livestock type with grassland type.
- Distinguish between ancient pastures and new ones.



# The CAP and Romanian wood-pastures

## *Wetland management*

Small sized temporary ponds are typical components of traditional wood-pastures grazed by buffalo and cattle from Eastern Europe.

These small water bodies are crucial habitats for protected wildlife species such as the yellow bellied toad, great crested newt and other species.

### **Recommendations:**

- (i) Recognize the links between grazing management and wetlands.**
- (ii) Promote grazing with buffalo whenever traditionally present.**
- (iii) Promote active maintenance of wetlands.**



# The CAP and Romanian wood-pastures

## *RDP: rural heritage conservation*

- Measure 7.6 offers financial help for the protection of cultural heritage at local level to achieve positive impact on local tourism and business sector.
- Targets buildings which are recognized as historical monuments by RO legislation.
- Wood-pastures are missing from this measure, although they represent a huge potential for achieving the RDP vision.

**Recommendation: recognize and financially promote (ancient) wood-pastures as highly important elements of the local cultural, ecological and landscape identity. Promote (re)connection of people with wood-pastures.**



# The CAP and Romanian wood-pastures

## *RDP: Investments in forestation*

- Measure 08 aims to financially promote the increase of forested areas, because of its benefits to biodiversity, carbon storage etc.
- Farmlands, including wood-pastures, can be forested.
- This kills open grown trees (oaks, pear etc.) and reduces the exceptional biodiversity of wood-pastures.
- Usually the 'do not see the trees for the wood' attitude dominates.

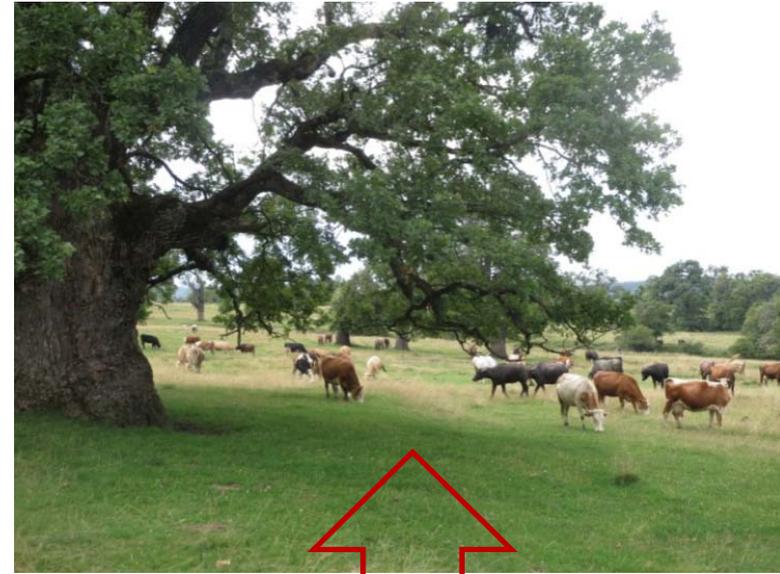
**Recommendation: Highlight the danger of losing wood-pastures due to reforestation.**

**Promote strategies for restoring forested wood-pastures.**



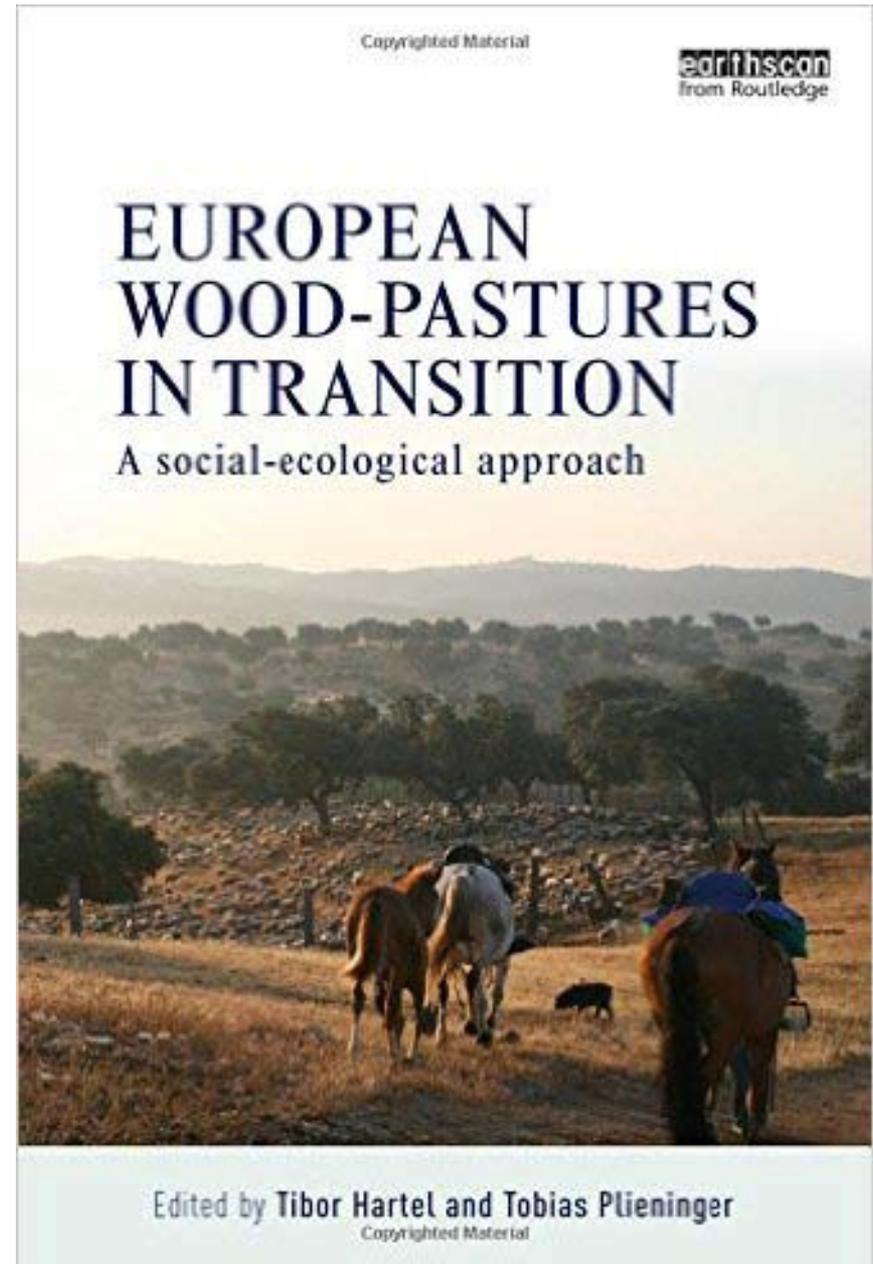
# The CAP and Romanian wood-pastures: other recommendations

- Inventory and characterize the wood-pastures, and create a scientific database for informing policy makers. We have already ca 200,000 hectares from Transylvania.
- Develop a regional and national social-ecological evaluation system for wood-pastures. Identify criteria for priority wood-pastures (e.g. the ancient wood pastures could be such priorities).
- Based on the inventory and evaluation, **develop agri-environment measures** to incentivise the maintenance of priority wood-pastures – strengthening the traditional, and developing / amplifying new values (see right picture).
- Conduct awareness raising campaigns for the authorities, from local to national level, and for farmers and other wood-pasture users (and potential users).



Ancient wood-pastures in artistic exhibition.  
© Florin Ghenade – 'Old Trees' –  
Galeria Posibilă, Bucharest (2015)

# European wood-pastures in a social-ecological context.





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*Ancient oak, Breite wood-pasture.  
© Florin Ghenade – 'Old Trees' exhibition –  
Galeria Posibilă*

**Thank you for your attention!**