



Regional LandLife Workshop on Land Stewardship

“Land Stewardship: reconsidering land stewardship as a tool to conserve nature and setting up land stewardship initiatives”

Dates: 22-23 April 2013

Location: [Campus SupAgro, 2 Place Viala, Montpellier](#) (France)

Language: French

Introduction

This workshop is organized within the LandLife project, which is funded by the European Commission under the LIFE+ programme. The aim of the LandLife project is to communicate the value of land stewardship as an effective and successful tool for nature conservation and biodiversity.

The project will run during the period 2011-2014. The LandLife consortium consists of five partners:

- The **Xarxa de Custòdia del Territori** –xct- (Land Stewardship Network in English) is a not-for-profit organization working to foster land stewardship as a conservation strategy for the natural, cultural and landscape resources and values of Catalonia and its environment.
- The **Conservatoire d'espaces naturels du Languedoc-Roussillon** (CEN L-R) is a French NGO that is part of a network of 30 Conservatoires d'espaces naturels in France. Its main mission is to supply sustainable land management, including empowering and owners and users in heritage conservation and natural resources. Its policy tool is to obtain the right to use or possession of plots of land in Languedoc-Roussillon.
- **Legambiente** is an Italian non-profit organisation, which consists of a group of individuals that joined to improve and protect the environment. Legambiente Lombardia performs its activities on a regional basis, with more than 100 local groups. Soil use, environment, biodiversity and climate change are the priorities in Lombardy.
- **Eurosite** is unique – established in 1989 Eurosite is one of the largest pan-European organisations bringing together governmental and non-governmental organisations, as well as private bodies, in active collaboration for the practical management of Europe's nature.
- **Prysm** is a group of professionals with over 15 years of experience in process consulting, auditing and training, aimed at improving corporate governance, innovation, quality and environment in all sectors of the economy. They optimize the performance of companies and institutions by providing advice and technical assistance in national and European project management.



The project includes a wide variety of activities, including the publication of a European manual for land stewardship, the celebration of the European Week of Land Stewardship in the autumn of 2012, the creation of an online webspace for land stewardship, an online course on land stewardship, regional seminars and workshops and a European conference to be held in Catalonia in 2014 to close the project.

The LandLife project is the recognition of the work of land stewardship organisations, institutions and individuals that are committed to land stewardship in their area and offers the opportunity to launch initiatives across Europe.

This workshop is kindly hosted by CEN-LR and is one of three workshops organised by the regional partners (XCT, CEN L-R and Legambiente). The results gathered during these workshops provide valuable input to International Land Stewardship Congress that will take place in Barcelona in 2014.

For more information please visit www.landstewardship.eu



THE WORKSHOPS

Objectives

The main objective is to share information and build practical know-how to apply land stewardship agreements and improve their management, more specifically:

- To communicate land stewardship as an effective tool for nature and biodiversity conservation;
- To exchange experiences and best practices;
- To increase knowledge on land stewardship and existing legal and policy frameworks;
- To facilitate contacts and synergies between entities to define opportunities and cooperation in the framework of the LandLife project and on land stewardship initiatives;
- To explore how Natura 2000 policy is an instrument that encourages land stewardship approaches to be applied.

A participation process is foreseen to stimulate the engagement of civil society and public institution in a co-creation of an action plan to successfully develop land stewardship in EU countries. The workshop will also be an excellent occasion to introduce some practical tools created in the LandLife project, such as an online help-desk and the European Land stewardship Manual.

The extent to which the objectives above are addressed in each workshop, differs. Each workshop has its own specific perspective that is relevant to the audience targeted and the country it takes place.

Target Audience

The workshop is for a range of actors interested in nature and biodiversity conservation, more particularly:

- Landowners (including farmers) keen to learn about what land stewardship could mean for them, what the benefits of land stewardship are and how they can apply land stewardship;
- Site Managers working on nature conservation in and outside Natura 2000 sites;
- Staff working in outreach / public information functions;
- Staff working directly to support implementation of Natura 2000 and other protected areas;
- Volunteers working to conserve nature on a local and/or regional level;
- Stakeholders in local communities;
- Local and national authorities (including involved politics);
- Biodiversity conservation experts;
- Land stewardship organisations (non-profit).

Results

- A wide recognition of land stewardship as a complementary tool of nature protection and land conservation among political representatives, public officers and experts;
- By exchanging experiences and showcasing best practices, the network of land stewards and land stewardship organisations is strengthened;
- A co-created action plan for the dissemination and further development of Land Stewardship in Italy, France and Spain and Europe (at different levels).

THE WORKSHOP IN MONTPELLIER

The workshop is organised by the Conservatoire d'espaces naturels du Languedoc-Roussillon, member of the Fédération des Conservatoires d'espaces naturels present all over France.

The Conservatoires d'espaces naturels (responsible for the management of 2,400 sites based on agreements or purchase) have broad experience with land stewardship. On a daily basis they work to implement land stewardship, which they base on four important principles:

- rely on knowledge, observations, know-how and share them;
- work on territories considered as priorities in terms of management and protection issues;
- work in partnerships with specialists, land managers, voluntaries and citizens;
- find rules and forms of agreement between stakeholders.

The workshop will take place in **Montpellier** and will deal with:

'Rethink and initiate land stewardship in France'

The workshops will bring together fifty to hundred representatives of administrations, local governments, CENs and NGOs in addition to leading members of academic life and environmentalists.

Context

Owners and users of natural and semi-natural land areas often express distrust of nature-protection policies. It is therefore crucial to create joint responsibility for action and social cohesion as an effective complement to the portfolio of measures for the conservation of biodiversity, particularly the contractual approaches, restoring their legitimacy at a local level and their meaningfulness in both cultural and ecological terms.

In this context we propose that the notion of environmental land stewardship should be introduced and promoted. Whatever form this trans-cultural tradition or practice may take - environmental protection, ecosystem or Earth stewardship in the Anglo-Saxon world, "custodia" in Southern Europe or Latin America, "Kefala" in the Muslim culture, "stewardship" in the Judeo-Christian culture - man is always seen as the steward of nature. He is nature's manager and also its custodian. He must account for what he does with nature, and this obliges him to make proper use of it.

The basic principal of land stewardship thus invokes mutual trust founded on shared knowledge and ethical modes of action (citizen participation, openness, respect for principles, sense of responsibility and joint responsibility, desire to inform) that can enrich local democracy. Land stewardship acknowledges and gives social standing to land managers as an integral part of the socio-ecological system, and appeals to their sense of responsibility to preserve the status and dynamics of ecosystems.

In France, environmental land stewardship is a practice that has proved its worth, but the philosophical, social, political and legal foundations on which it is based need further clarification before it can develop and become recognized as an integral part of public policy.

Without exaggerating the value of the past and its traditional systems, the aim is to rethink and acknowledge the relationship between facts, values and actions, to seek to express the plurality of the values that bind us in ecological solidarity: in other words to recreate the links between ecological processes, practices, cultural frames of reference and public policy.

In this framework, the seminar proposes to work with academics and those involved in the practical and political spheres to re-examine the foundations - philosophical and political, economic and social, ecological and legal - of land stewardship. The aim is to rethink, together, the shared meaning of the local application of public conservation policies.

The seminar will conclude on the second day with a drafting workshop so as to produce a reference document to promote land stewardship in public policies for the preservation of biodiversity and territorial development.

APRIL 22TH

Facilitator : *Raphaël Mathevet*, researcher in the 'Centre d'Ecologie Fonctionnelle et Evolutive -CEFE-Montpellier', Department 'Dynamique et Gouvernance des Systèmes écologiques'.

Witness : *André Micoud*, sociologist, former research director of MODYS (Mondes et DYnamiques des Sociétés) at the CNRS.

09:00 **Welcome to the workshop**

09:30 **General introduction, introduction of LandLife project and land stewardship**

Introduction of LandLife project and of the european manual on land stewardship
Jacques Lepart, President of the CEN L-R

Purposes of the day and planned outcome
Raphaël Mathevet

Introduction of the Fédération des Conservatoires d'espaces naturels
Marc Maury, Director « Network Development and International Actions »

10:15 **The scientific founding principles of the 'Ecosystem stewardship'**

Stuart Chapin III, Ecosystem Ecologist (Institute of Arctic Biology, University of Alaska Fairbanks, USA)

11:00 **Pause Café**

11:20 **Practical land stewardship in Netherlands : A dutch example of land stewardship in wetlands : 'Ronde Hoep'**

Aad Van Paassen (Landschapsbeheer Nederland)

12:00 **Stewardship and environmental ethics**

Virginie Maris, environnement philosopher (Département Dynamique et Gouvernance des Systèmes écologiques, Centre d'Ecologie Fonctionnelle et Evolutive)

13:00 **Lunch time**



- 14:30** **Practical land stewardship in France (Conservatoires d'espaces naturels) : Experience of the LIFE programme 'Nature et Territoires en région Rhône-Alpes'**
Hervé Coquillart, Director of CEN Rhône-Alpes
- 15:15** **Strength and outlook of the environmental contractual policies**
Benoît Grimonprez, Lecturer in private Law, director of the Master 'Droit des affaires' (Université de Franche-Comté)
- 16:00** **Pause Café**
- 16:20** **'Greening' of the public policies and the new social agreement**
Xavier Poux, Researcher-expert-consultant agronomist (Applications des Sciences de l'Action -AScA)
- 17:20** **Closing, sum up of the main ideas / conclusions**
Raphaël Mathevet et André Micoud
- 18:00** **End of the 1st day**

APRIL 23TH (invitation only)

- 09:00** **Writing workshop to progress on the doctrine « Found the land stewardship in France »**
Key messages, text production
- 12:30** **Closing/final conclusions**
- 13:00** **Lunch**
- 14:00** **Departures**

CONTACTS

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