# Enhancement of biodiversity in the agricultural landscape of Austria

21st April 2022

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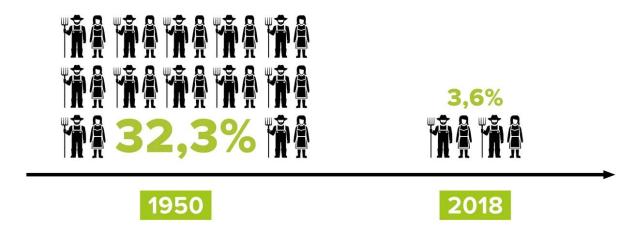






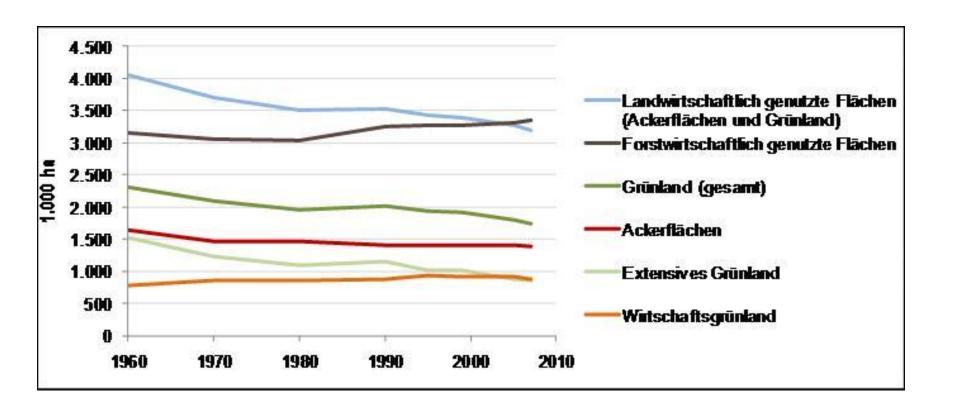
During the period of mechanical improvement of land use conditions within the last century different types of specialization took place within the different agricultural landscapes: the Alpine mountainous areas set a focus within grassland and gave up remainings of subsistential arable production of cereals like rye and barley. The lowlands on the other side expanded the market products like wheat, corn, sugar-beet. A continuous process of draining and optimising the field configuration raised the production.

### IMMER WENIGER BESCHÄFTIGTE IN DER ÖSTERREICHISCHEN LANDWIRTSCHAFT





At the same time the number of producing persons decreased from 32,3 % in 1950 to 3,6 % in 2018 in a dramatically way. This also means a severe consequence for the identity of family-based farm system and also for the habitat potential. Around 75 % of all arable land in the country are located in Upper and Lower Austria.



Development of crop diversity on arable land since 1960 in Austria.

Source: http://www.risk.boku.ac.at/OPAL/HP/index.html

Landscape guidelines for integrated cultural landscapes have been developed since 30 years. Euregio Sumava - Bayerischer Wald – Böhmerwald Trilateral visionary guideline 1996-2000 Deutschland LEGENDE ZUR KULTURLANDSCHAFTSTYPENKARTE Landschaftsleitbild Dreiländerregion Böhmerwald Österreich HANG- UND SCHLUCHT-KULTUR-LANDSCHAFTS-SIEDLUNGS- UND SIEDLUNGSNAHE LANDSCHAFTEN AGRARLANDSCHAFTEN KARTE Bearbeitung: Peterseil, J.; Vierlinger, R. & Kutzenberger, H. (2001) ACKERBAUGEBIETE EXTENSIVGRÜNLAND HÖHERE LAGEN SCHOTTERABBAU- UND SCHOTTERABBAUFOLGE MITTLERE LAGEN Maßstab 1:250.000 TIEFERE LAGEN ÜBER



#### Common Hamster

Cricetus cricetus

CITATION

Banaszek, A., Bogomolov, P., Feoktistova, N., La Haye, M., Monecke, S., Reiners, T. E., Rusin, M., Surov, A. Weinhold, U. & Zlomek, J. 2020. Cricetus cricetus: The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2020: e-15529A111875852. Downloaded on 09 July 2020.

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The implementation of the EU Common agriculture policy on national "Austrian program for an environmentally friendly agriculture" (ÖPUL). This program compiles a complex system of financial tools. From ecological view there are especially serious gaps in the field of permanent ecological structures.



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Regional initiatives: integrated meso-level program 2021 KLAR Climate-Adaption-Region Wagram, Lower Austria Agro-forstry – biodiversity – subsistence – organic farming



### 3 Projects for local promotion 2021 ongoing:

TREE: developing permanent multi-use hedgerows in farmland (plus temporary eco-windows und permanent small wetlands)

VEGGIE: developing regional organic market gardens: soil regeneration, food security, biodiversity and landscape amenity (eg. Grandfarm.at)

WATER: green roofs and cisterns on small and large buildings on public and private property



## Lower Austrian Government & Austrian Research Institute for Organic Farming 2019

Multi functional hedgerow in arable landscapes

Wind reduction
Reduction of soil erosion
Local climate
Positive effects on biodiversity
Fruit-trees, medical herbs, spice herbs, mushrooms, wood

https://www.bioforschung.at/projects/mehrnutzungshecken/



In an EU funded pilot project in Vienna, Interreg AT-HU Agrinatur (2019 – 2022), an interdisciplinary planning team investigated perspectives for a biodiversity friendly organic farming area have been investigated and put together in a regional implementation plan.

The city of Vienna has been implementing and researching organic farming since 1978 on large scale. Now the next step towards a biodiversity friendly organic farming are set. First measures have been implemented already and will be discussed.











## **Vienna Forests & Austrian Research Institute for Organic Farming**

**Organic farming in Nationalpark** 

40 years of experience in organic farming climate adaption and food security Positive effects on biodiversity

https://www.interreg-athu.eu/agrinaturathu/



## **Vienna Forests & Austrian Research Institute for Organic Farming**

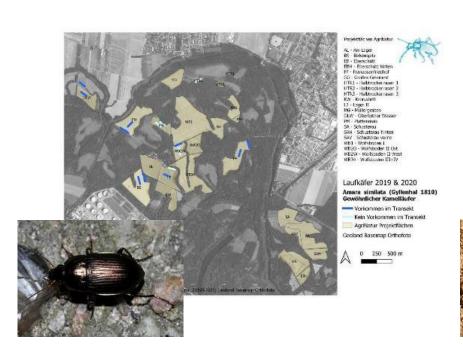
**Organic farming in Nationalpark** 

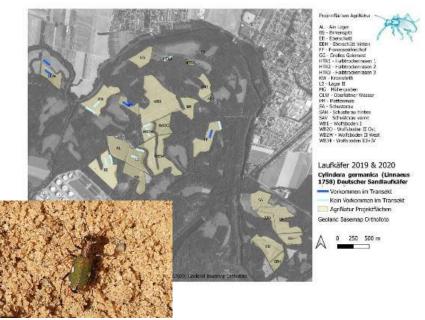
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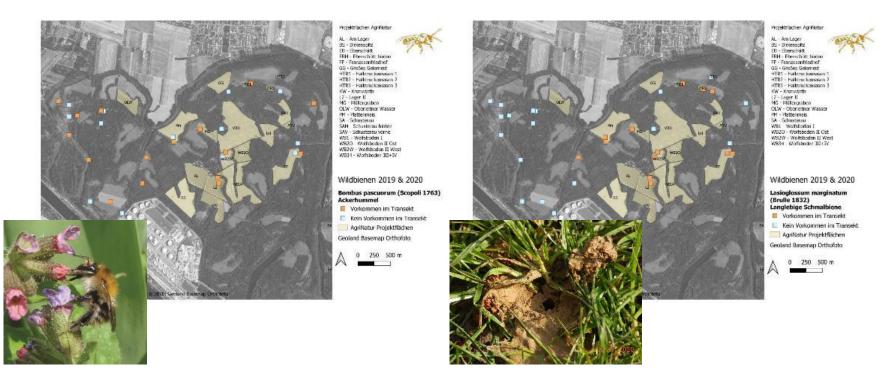
94 different groud beetle species have been mapped: 64 on arable land, 31 in extensive habitats and 78 along hedgerows. Most are typical for cultural landscapes such as *Amara similata und Cylindera germanica*.





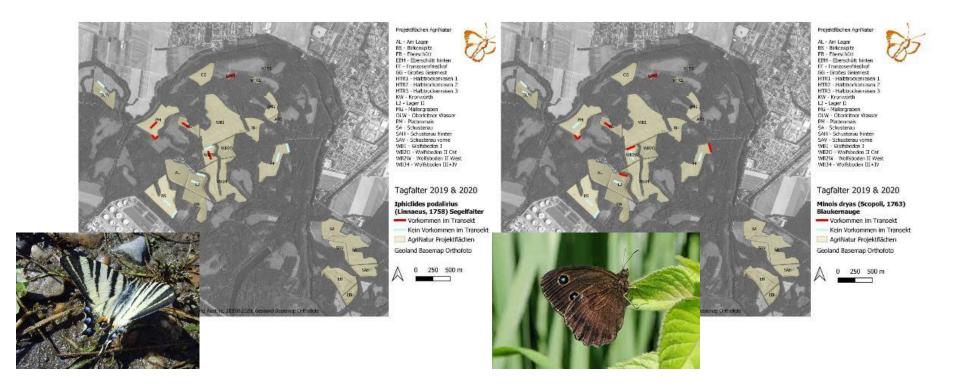
All in all 210 different species of solitary and social bees have been mapped, 80 species in fields, many along hedgerows.

Bombus pascuorum is common, Lasioglossum marginatum especially in open landscapes.

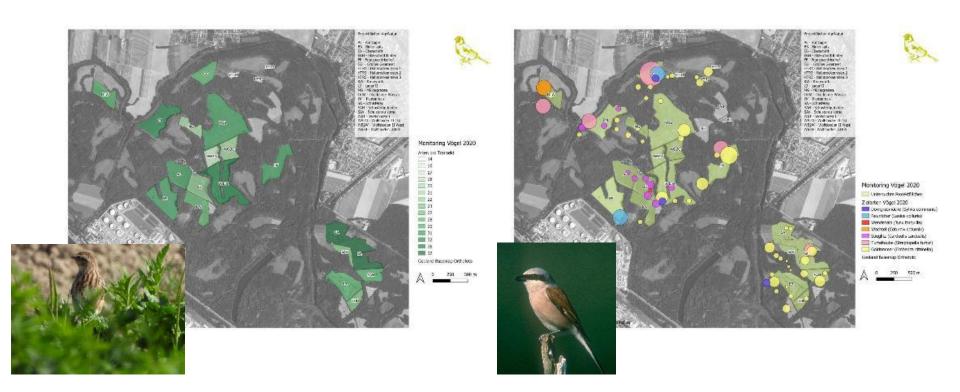


46 species of butterflies (Rhopalocera) have been mapped. Fields have actually a limited quality as habitat for butterflies, but the diversity increases, if there are hedgerows and grasslands integrated. *Iphiclides podalirius* is typical and feeds on *Prunus* and *Crataegus*,

Minois dryas inhabits grassland, often along hedgerows.

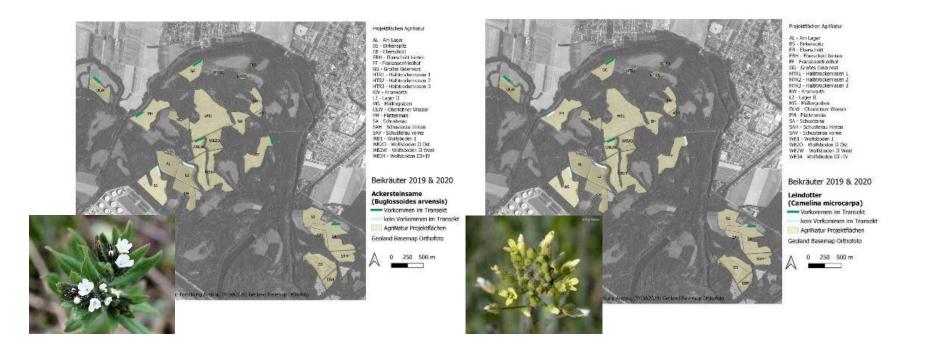


69 birds species live in the area. 48 are resident breeding birds in the open arable area. Along hedgerows live birds like *Emberiza citrinella* and *Carduelis carduelis*, on fields *Coturnix coturnix*, *Lanius collurio* and *Sylvia communis*.



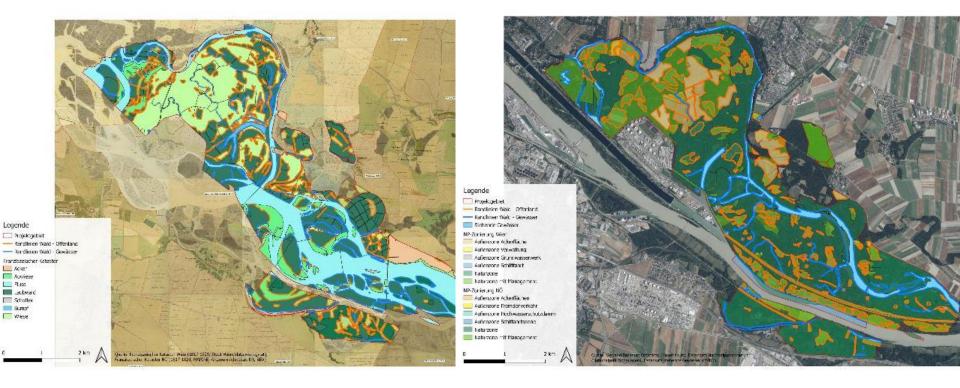
11 cultivated plant species and 103 wild plant species have been mapped in the arable land.

Buglossoides arvensis and Camelina microcarpa are examples for endangered, indigenous herbs.



### Looking 200 years back to develop the structures for the future!

Especially in riverine landscapes the habitat patterns are often memories of the history of our cultural landscapes. They help to understand, why species survive or extinct – and help us to design new pattern with high habitat quality.





Integrated habitat design for recreation, biodiversity and climate change adaptation on organic farmland







Pilot implementation measures Wolfsboden I in March 2022: 1080 meters permanent linear structures 20000 square meters extensive grassland and wood edges



The Green Deal + Biodiversity2030 Strategy and + Farm2Fork Program open a new chapter in Europe:

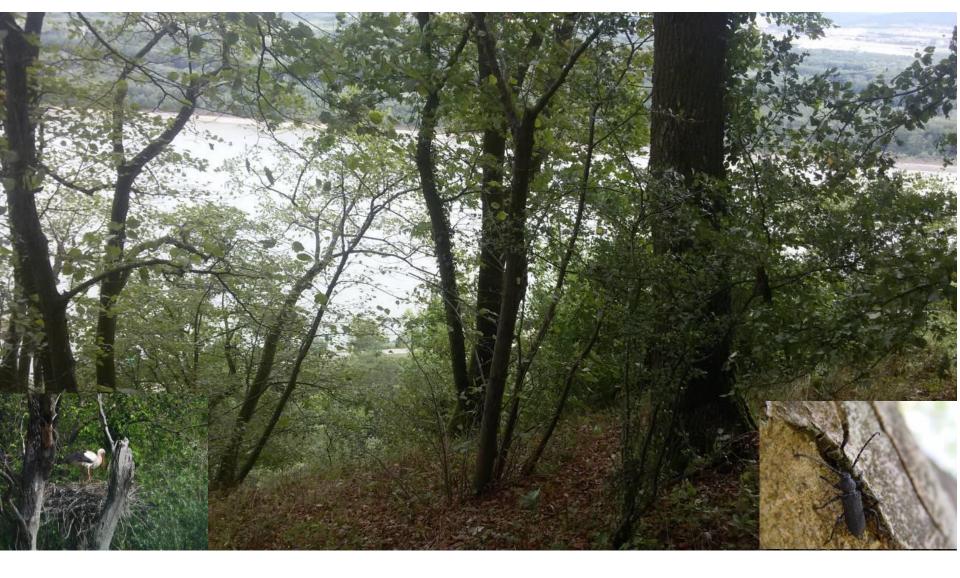
Raising the NATURA2000 coverage from 18% to 30% both in terrestrial and marine sites will make a huge difference and we fully appreciate the enthusiasm.



But are we aware that around 20 % of EU population inhabit these areas?

Do we have concepts how to deal with the biodiversity of cultural habitats: eg grassland, farmland birds and invertebrates?

How to manage CAP, hunting and fishing interests? Will we talk to people this time?



The first NATURA2000 stage had a focus on +/- pristine habitats such as rivers, lakes, forests and alpine habitats

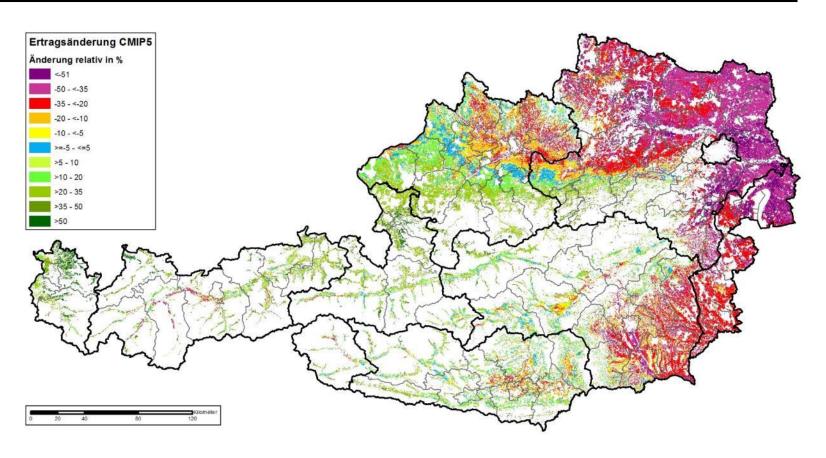


# "Cultural landscapes of the past as Wilderness of tomorrow?"



Headline of a new romantic movement that is rising within nature protectionists – do we think about effects and side-effects?

# "Scenario: -50% decline in food production driven by climate crisis?"



BEAT Bodenbedarf für die Ernährung Österreichs (Haslmayr et.al.2018)

# "320 Austrians get richer & hold one third of the private property"



pas. Das geht aus dem "Global Wealth Report 2020" des Beratungsunternehmens Boston Con-

Dabei ist das Finanzvermögen Osterreich stark auf wenige sehr wohlhabende Personen konzentriert. Ein Drittel des Finanzvermogens wird von nur 320 Menschen gehalten, die jeweils über mehr als 100 Millionen Dollar verfügen Kriege 47.000 Dollar-Millionare (880,000 Euro) zahlt BCG in Osterreich ie halten 55 Prozent, 36 Prozen jiegt in den Händen der 7,2 Millionen Österreicher, die weniger als 250,000 Dollar besitzen.

#### Corona-Knick beim Zuwachs

Während die Prognosen aus dem

Österreicher mit

jeweils weniger als

250.000 Dollar.

mit großen Firmenbeteiligungen. Dieses Geld ist aktiv und schafft Arbeitsplätze", sagt er im Gespräch mit den OÖNachrichten. Er wehre sich dagegen, dies negativ zu sehen.

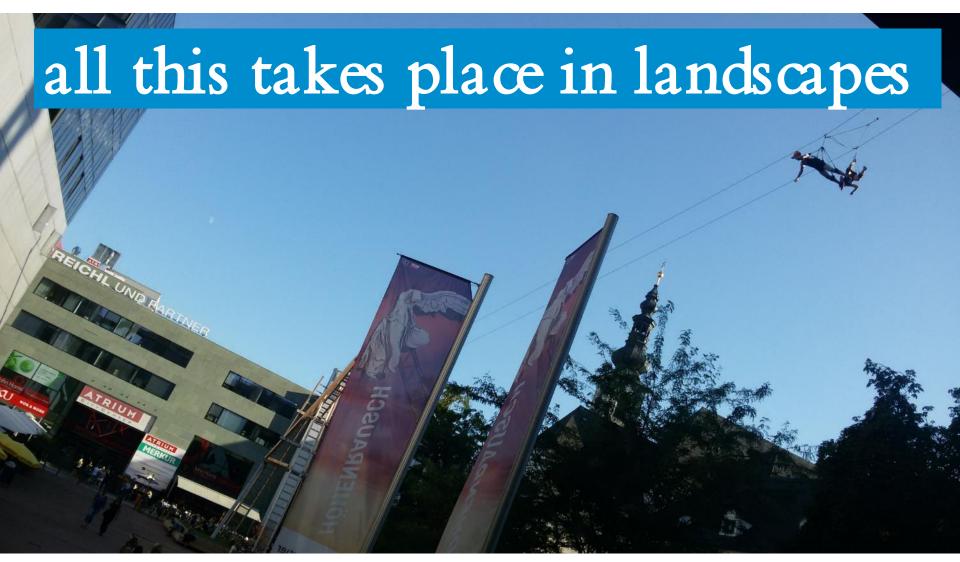
#### Hohe Aktienquote

Die Österreicher halten 33 Prozent ihres Vermögens in Aktien und Investmentfonds. Damit liegen sie acht Prozentpunkte über dem Durchschnitt Westeuropas. "Entgegen der vorherrschenden Meinung zeigt sich, dass die Österreicher dem Aktienmarkt gegenüber aufgeschlossen sind", sagt Anna Zakrzewski, BCG-Partnerin und Autorin der Studie.

Mit 41 Prozent wird freilich der

chen in Österreich durchgeh gefangen vom Hälfte-Eigent von Red Bull, Dietrich Mate bis hin zur Familie Porsche der mit Volkswagen der g Auto-Konzern der Welt n lich gehört.

Dieses Geld schafft A ze. Das gilt auch für die 47,000 Millionäre, die Report" der Boston Co Group in Österreich gen werden bei uns gründungen gescha mehrt. Was ist dan den? Wir fördern



So we have an urgent need for an integrated, international and interdisciplinary cooperation in small scale landscape management to realise a vision of green infrastructure in cultural landscapes and especially to make sustainable implementation happen!

## A last wish for today:

It is such a shame that Austria did not yet ratify the European Landscape Convention (Florence Convention) after twenty years as one of the last countries in Europe – let it happen this year!

This would seriously help to get regional implementation going.

