

IPSI Case Study Summary Sheet

Basic Information

Title of case study			
Enhancing communication and co-learning in socio-ecological landscape management through elicitation of local communities' visions and values			
Submitting IPSI member organization(s)			
ECOAGRASOC, Higher Polytechnic School of Engineering, University of Santiago de Compostela			
Other contributing organization(s) <i>(IPSI members and/or non-members)</i>			
Department of Botany, Higher Polytechnic School of Engineering, University of Santiago de Compostela			
Author(s) and affiliation(s)			
Díaz-Varela, Emilio R. (ECOAGRASOC); Blanco-Arias, César A. (Department of Botany); Rodríguez-Morales, Beatriz (ECOAGRASOC); Díaz-Varela, Ramón A. (Department of Botany)			
Format of case study <i>(manuscript or audiovisual)</i>	Manuscript	Language	English
Keywords			
Socio-Ecological Production Landscapes; Participatory approaches; Co-Learning; Value conceptualization; Common Land; Ecosystem Management			
Date of submission <i>(or update, if this is an update of an existing case study)</i>		13 December 2019	
Web link <i>(of the case study or lead organization if available for more information)</i>	https://collections.unu.edu/eserv/UNU:7506/SITR_vol5_fullset_web.pdf#page=95		

Geographical Information

Country <i>(where site(s) or activities described in the case study are located – can be multiple, or even “global”)</i>									
Spain									
Location(s) <i>(within the country or countries – leave blank if specific location(s) cannot be identified)</i>									
Lugo, Galicia									
Longitude/latitude or Google Maps link <i>(if location is identified)</i>									
https://www.google.com/maps/place/43%C2%B027'33.2%22N+7%C2%B032'55.9%22W/@43.4592261,-7.5510498,10z/									
Ecosystem(s)									
Forest	x	Grassland		Agricultural	x	In-land water		Coastal	
Dryland		Mountain	x	Urban/peri-urban		Other (Please specify)			
Socioeconomic and environmental characteristics of the area									
Serra do Xistral (Galician language for Xistral Mountains) is a mountainous area in the northern part of the Autonomous Community (region) of Galicia, in Spain. The oceanic climatic influence, which provides the area with abundant precipitation, winds and fogs, combines with medium-range relief (maximum height: 1,052 m ASL). The livestock-centered activities of local communities, dating back to time immemorial, form the characteristic heathland and bog socio-ecological production landscapes.									
Description of human-nature interactions in the area									
Livestock in a semi-wild regime, specifically horses (official sources in the Galician regional government consulted for the project account for a total of 1,324 individuals currently in the study area), cattle and sheep, have played an important role in the use of land from ancient times, and form the backbone of a multifunctional landscape. In present times, a number of ecosystem services are provided by the area, including the production of food (e.g. meat, cheese, honey), energy (windfarms), and ecosystem regulation (biodiversity, pollination, and water purification, to name a few), as well as cultural services (from local knowledge and sense of place to tourism and recreation).									

Contents

Status (<i>"ongoing" or "completed"</i>)	Completed	Period (<i>MM/YY to MM/YY</i>)	
Rationale (<i>why activities or policies described, or information shared in the case study are needed</i>)			
<p>Nowadays, different visions of nature and human-nature interactions and the values thereof can be found among the local inhabitants and different institutions and administration levels, especially regarding conservation practices and measures. In many instances, these differences hinder the communication process across the governance system. More in-depth knowledge on the visions, values and narratives of the local communities, and how they perceive themselves in their environment, could lead to a mutual-learning and understanding process which would enhance communication in the socio-ecological system and ultimately, in its management.</p>			
Objectives (<i>goals of activities or policies described, or of producing the case study</i>)			
<p>The EU-financed project "LIFE in Common Land" was developed in Serra do Xistral, involving eleven MVMC. Its aims include the development of management approaches for the protection of priority habitats, including incentives like payment for conservation results.</p>			
Activities and/or practices employed			
<p>A qualitative approach for obtaining information from local communities was developed. Semi-structured interviews with board members of the MVMC Communities were recorded, gathering information about management systems, community organization, and natural resource uses in the area. In addition, questionnaires specifically designed to assess perceptions of ecosystem services and nature conservation measures were collected.</p>			
Results			
<p>Information gathered from interviews, together with previous studies, allowed for a general description of the social-ecological system. This characterization is considered as a necessary initial step for the understanding and comprehension of the interactions of stakeholders amongst themselves and with the biophysical environment (see Fig. 5), and thus, with the conservation of priority habitats and ultimately, biodiversity.</p>			
Lessons learned (<i>factors in success or failure, challenges and opportunities</i>)			
<p>Results allowed for characterization of views on nature and ecosystems of the local communities, whose values in many instances differ from those of environmental conservation institutions. Also, important elements of sense of place and attachment of the community members to their environment were identified, as well as environmental conflicts related to wildlife-livestock interactions. These results could be used to develop new ways of understanding and co-learning, which could form the basis of novel approaches to ecosystem management and conservation.</p>			
Key messages			
<p>To overcome the conflicts derived from differing visions, restoring common trust and enabling communication strategies are recognized among the necessary measures. Specifically for Serra do Xistral, a conversational approach between the different stakeholders would favor an openness to the variety of visions and values of the SEPL, the incorporation of other perspectives (e.g. those related to rural development or new alternatives of management) and the integration of information about the new dynamics of the system.</p>			
Relationship to other IPSI activities (<i>if the case study is related to any other IPSI collaborative activities, case studies, etc.</i>)			
<p>This case study originally appeared in the Satoyama Initiative Thematic Review v. 5.</p>			
Funding (<i>any relevant information about funding of activities or projects described in the case study</i>)			
<p>The LIFE in Common Land (LIFE16 NAT/ES/000707) project has received funding from the LIFE Programme of the European Union.</p>			

Contributions to Global Agendas

CBD Aichi Biodiversity Targets (<https://www.cbd.int/sp/targets/>)

The table below shows based on the self-evaluation by author(s). ● and ■ indicates the “direct” or “indirect” contributions to the CBD’s Aichi Biodiversity Targets respectively to which the work described in this case study contributes to.

Strategic Goal A				Strategic Goal B					
■	●	●	■	■		■		■	
Strategic Goal C			Strategic Goal D			Strategic Goal E			
	■		■	■			■	●	

UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs>)

The table below shows based on the self-evaluation by author(s). ● and ■ indicates the “direct” or “indirect” contributions to the SDGs respectively to which the work described in this case study contributes to.

							■	
	■	■			■			