



BIOGOV uses multi-stakeholder partnerships and participatory governance to improve regional policies for natural heritage and biodiversity conservation

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An interregional cooperation project for improving natural and cultural heritage policies.

Project Partners

- Province of Fryslân (NL)**
- Flemish Land Agency (BE)
- Bulgarian Management Association (BG)
- Territorial Studies Institute (Environment and Territorial Planning Ministry) (ES)
- Lodzkie Region (PL)
- ADEPT Transylvania Foundation (RO)
- Mures Environmental Protection Agency (RO)
- County Administrative Board of Västra Götaland (SE)
- Slovenian Forestry Institute (SI)

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European Union
European Regional
Development Fund

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LETTER OF ENDORSEMENT

An in-depth evaluation in 2019 of the Swedish environmental objective no 16 - *a rich plant and animal life* - concluded that it is not possible to achieve the objective until 2020.

The Environment Objective Council (EOC), a platform of strategically important authorities in the process of implementing the environmental objectives, annually presents measures to be implemented to increase the pace of work.

Due to the evaluation, the EOC have jointly pointed out that the efforts made today need to be supplemented by efforts that contribute to a broader view of the landscape, local anchoring and committed civil society.

The aim of the INTERREG EUROPE project BIOGOV is to improve the implementation of the environmental objective no 16 - *a rich plant and animal life* - through multistakeholder partnership and participatory governance.

As the responsible body for the Swedish environmental objective no 16 - *a rich plant and animal life*, the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency are looking forward to the second phase of the BIOGOV project and the forthcoming implementation of the attached action plan.

We think that this will generate a greater understanding and acceptance of preserving biodiversity on a regional level within a broad number of stakeholders and communities and hope that the BIOGOV project will serve as an inspiration for how to achieve an effective implementation of the environmental objective in other parts of the country.

Date: 23/10 - 2020

Signature: _____



Claes Svedlinth, Head of Nature Department

Stamp of the organization:



SWEDISH ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION AGENCY



Projekt: BIOGOV

Partner organisation: Conty Adminstrative

Board of Västra Götaland

Country: Sweden

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Part II – Policy context

The Action Plan aims to impact:

- Investment for Growth and Jobs programme
- European Territorial Cooperation programme
- Other regional development policy instrument

Name of the policy instrument addressed:

The Swedish 16th environmental quality objective: A Rich Diversity of Plant and Animal Life

BIOGOV
Interreg Europe



This action plan has been developed with the support of the European Union through Interreg Project BIOGOV 2018-2020.

Biodiversity governance

Improving regional policies for natural heritage and biodiversity conservation through Multistakeholder partnerships and participatory governance

During 2018-2020 the BIOGOV project have started to form a collaboration on biodiversity conservation and sustainable landuse among different stakeholders within the Valle area. The work is done by using a multi-stakeholder partnership process. The plan is to present a long-term cooperation-model (joint working method), by the end of the Biogov project in May 2022.

A regional stakeholder group (RSG) who participates in the project was established on a broad stakeholder meeting in October 2018.

We identified which stakeholder groups to involve and who is to represent each perspective, a collaborative working group consisting of 20 participants was established. The group covers both public and private organisations, business and NGO's, as well as a gender and age balance among them.

From October 2018 to March 20120the RSG were involved in defining visions, values and what they had at stake regarding future and sustainable land use. The meetings have been characterized by the 7 principles that makes a multistakholder partnership process efficient. Furthermore, we have been able to describe existing perspectives and core values which are of most importance within the Valle District. These values seem to be able to co-exist and to be strengthened if stakeholders can negotiate their interests taking an integrated and more holistic approach to land and water management in the area

By starting a process of implementing vision and values in concrete landscapes and environments in the area we make stakeholders negotiate and take joint responsibility for the practical consequences of the need for a multifunctional land use approach.

The actions within this action plan are all identified by the RSG as important measures to carry out in the area in order to preserve and enhance bioiversity, green infrastructure and ecosystem services.

The actions will also partly be based on the international knowledge-exchange among the partners in the Biogov project.

This action plan:

- has been adopted and accepted by the Regional Stakeholder Group.

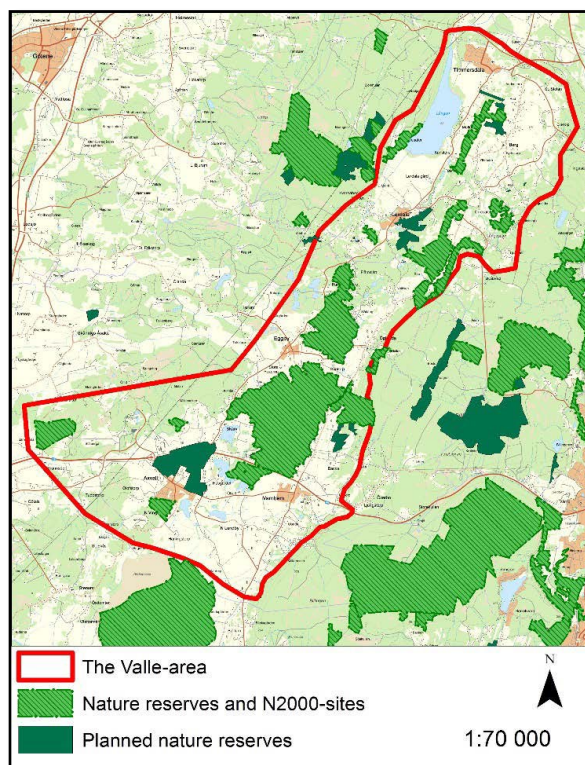
Executive summary

The Valle area (*what is the state of play*).

The Valle area is known for its rich biodiversity. It is a mosaic and small-scale landscape where several different habitats meet. The ground/soil is rich in minerals, especially lime. In the area there are viable agricultural activities, mainly based on grazing systems and cherishing a long historical and natural heritage. This has created an area where rich biodiversity has been established over the last decades, and the historic landscape has been well preserved in comparison with most other parts of Sweden. However, there is an ongoing loss of biodiversity within the area, mainly due to the abandoning of grazing areas, nutrient leakage and forestry. The farmers must struggle to make a living out of small-scale farming. The area is therefore greatly affected by the agriculture and forestry policy as well as societal changes in general.

It is essential from a national point of view to ensure the sustainability of the best-preserved areas in the country. It provides more conservation benefits per invested capital to preserve and strengthen areas with existing high biodiversity than to restore areas that have lost habitats and species.

There are 15 nature reserves within the Valle area covering a substantial part of the surface. Many of the nature reserves were established during the 1970s and are not optimally designed to meet today's need in terms of preserving biodiversity, developing a green infrastructure and as a resource for ecosystem services (tourism, outdoor life), historical identity (cultural heritage). The county administrative board has control of the land use within the nature reserves and is also responsible for their management according to management plans (one plan per nature reserve).



However, the biodiversity within the nature reserves is largely affected by external factors, and in order to carry out much of the management the County Administrative Board are dependent on a large number of farmers and grazing animals who does a substantial part of the management in practice. It is therefore essential with a renewal of the management plans from a holistic perspective including the needs and wishes from many stakeholders in the Valle area.

The policy document

Sweden has 16 environmental quality objectives established by the parliament in 1999 (see image).



BioGov focus on No 16. A Rich Diversity of Plant and Animal Life. This environmental objective states that: "Biological diversity must be preserved and used sustainably for the benefit of present and future generations." The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) is the responsible body for the policy. SEPA has delegated to the County Administrative Boards to implement the policy on a regional level. The County Administrative board has produced regional targets and a regional action plan, called Challenges for a sustainable Västra Götaland, to achieve these targets. The regional actionplan will be renewed during the autumn 2020-(2021).

BIOGOV in Sweden

The overarching goal of BioGov in Valle is to establish a model of cooperation where a broad number of stakeholders can take a joint responsibility to strengthen a holistic approach of the challenges concerning nature conservation, green infrastructure and ecosystem services. The outcome will be a new, locally implemented, model of biological governance which is also possible to scale up and out to other processes and geographies.

BioGov aims at improving the policy document by making the implementation of it more efficient. By working for MSP processes to form a basis for activities aimed at both regional and national interim targets, we hope that BIOGOV will generate a greater understanding and acceptance of preserving biodiversity within a broad number of stakeholders and communities. The policy will thereby become a possibility not a threat.

How the action plan will affect the policy document

An in-depth evaluation in 2019 of the Swedish environmental objective no 16 - *a rich plant and animal life* - concluded that it is not possible to achieve the objective until 2020 and that the development in the environment is negative. The conservation status for the EU Species and Habitats Directive is poor for both the agricultural landscape and the forests. Strengthening green infrastructure is a prerequisite for achieving several of the environmental objectives, including no 16- a rich plant and animal life.

The Environment Objective Council (EOC), a platform of strategically important authorities in the process of implementing the environmental objectives, annually presents measures to be implemented to increase the pace of work.

Because of the evaluation, the EOC have jointly pointed out that the efforts made today need to be supplemented by efforts that contribute to a broader view of the landscape, local anchoring and committed civil society. The EOC also proposed that a new financial support should be set up that will strengthen the landscape perspective and local participation and expect that the measure will primarily strengthen the 16th environmental objective. The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency is responsible for how this support should be designed.

The EOC has decided to prioritize a new program area with efforts for green infrastructure. The work is managed by the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency in collaboration with other national authorities and the county administrative boards. This will include formulating proposals for green infrastructure interim targets. The proposals must then be submitted to the government, which decides on the new interim targets.

With the support of the BioGov project, we are working to ensure that one of the new national interim targets for green infrastructure will point to the need of trustful and sustainable collaboration between authorities, companies, research and civil society. The model for collaboration that we develop in BioGov should be able to support the achievement of the proposed new interim target. We are also working to make BioGov's results a basis in designing the new financial support that will strengthen local participation.

The renewal process of the regional action plan (Challenges for a sustainable Västra Götaland) can use the experiences made from BIOGOV and try to include and design actions using multistakeholder cooperation in order to develop a well functioning green infrastructure in the region.

Our action plan will contribute to how a collaborative model can be designed.

In Action 1, we report to the SEPA how, with the support of the MSP process, we developed the cooperation in the Valle area and how the BIOGOV project can stand as a model to achieve the new interim targets towards achieving the 16th environmental objective.

In action 2, we produce a long-term collaboration document that will continue to apply in the Valle area after the BioGov project is completed. The model should support how collaboration documents can be designed in other geographical areas.

Action 3 to 7 will provide examples of how jointly integrated knowledge bases and confidence-building collaboration strengthen the conditions to achieve the environmental objective and thus be examples that leads to trustful and sustainable collaboration and regional actions for developing well-functioning green infrastructure and preservation of biodiversity.

Action plan

BIOGOV 2020 - 2022

The following actions are planned for 2020-2022 to improve regional policies for biodiversity conservation in the Valle area in Sweden

Note: we will try to group actions in specific themes linked to the policy improvement strategic level.

Strategic level

Action 1

1

Report of national guidelines to the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA)

We will produce a report of the results and experiences from the project to SEPA in order for the project to:

1. be a model for how trustful and sustainable collaboration can be designed and lead to the proposed interim target for green infrastructure being achieved.

2. stand as a model (good example) of implementing the policy document on a local scale using multistakeholder partnership and hopefully be spread to other geographies.

Best Practices level – from interregional learning

Action 2:

2

Strengthen the role of biodiversity, green infrastructure and ecosystem services in the Valle area.

We want to develop a sustainable model of collaboration on local level, joint working method, among a great deal of stakeholders to achieve a more holistic approach of the challenges concerning sustainable landuse.

Action 3:

3

Develop an interactive storymap addressing mapping of green infrastructure, biodiversity management, planning and future work in Valle area.

We will develop a digital storymap combining maps with narrative text, photos and videos in an interactive way where we will involve stakeholders and work in a collaborative process. The storymap will include mapping of the green infrastructure in Valle. and also, address biodiversity management, planning and future work.

Action 4:

4

Improved conditions for outdoor life.

We need to development the hiking- and biking trail system further as well as parking facilities in order to meet the demands from residents and visitors regarding outdoor life. The public acces to the lakes also needs to be improved to enhance the possibilities of swimming, fishing and canoeing etc.

Best Practices level – from regional learning

Action 5:

5

Enhance the efficiency of preservation efforts for natural grasslands in Valle by adding a farming perspective.

In order to sucre a long-term preservation and elaborate a well fuctioning green infrastructure of natural grasslands in Valle, we need to identify valuable natural grasslands in risk of being abandoned and old pastures and meadows with good restoration possibilities from both a biodiversity and economic perspective. We then need to create a network of farmers and landowners to facilitate the distribution of the pastures and meadows.

Action 6:

6

New management of nature reserves

We need a new more holistic management of several nature reserves within the Valle area thereby making them more optimal in preserving and increasing biodiversity and useful tools in the work with green infrastructure and the local community development as foreseen in the BioGov application


Action 7:

7

Plan for management of public roadsides

We will produce a plan for the management of public roadsides taking into consideration the usage of these areas for conservation of species, green infrastructure and the control of invasive species.

Date: 15 Oct 2020

Signature: 

Sven Swedberg, Head of Nature Department,

Stamp of the Organisation:



Part III – Details of actions envisaged	
Action 1	<p>Report of national guidelines to SEPA</p> <p><i>We will produce a report of the results and experiences from the project to SEPA in order for the project to:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. be a model for how trustful and sustainable collaboration can be designed and lead to the proposed interim target for green infrastructure being achieved</i> <i>2. stand as a model (good example) of implementing the policy document on a local scale using multistakeholder partnership and hopefully be spread to other geographies.</i>
1. Background	<p>Due to an in-depth evaluation of the Swedish environmental objective no 16, it has been pointed out that efforts that contribute to a broader view of the landscape, local anchoring and committed civil society are important to achieve the objective. A new financial support to strengthen the landscape perspective and local participation is also proposed.</p> <p>New interim targets are to be formulated e.g for green infrastructure. SEPA has decided to work with green infrastructure from a holistic and landscape perspective.</p> <p>This means that there must be regional and local knowledge about how to work with different stakeholders to gain acceptance, understanding and achieve results. New inclusive working methods that engages stakeholders need to be developed. This is where BIOGOV can support with the experiences achieved through the MSP process.</p>
2. Activities	<p>A report concerning the methods, results and experiences from the BIOGOV-project will be produced and presented to SEPA as a basis for achieving the new interim targets regarding green infrastructure etc. and as national guidelines to improve the implementation of the policy document on a local scale.</p> <p>SEPA can use the experiences from the BIOGOV-project in designing the new proposed financial support. Thereby we envisage that BIOGOV can stand as a national model for how to work with multistakeholder partnership to achieve improved governance and a use of natural resources.</p>
3. Players involved	<p>The County Administrative Board of Västra Götaland will be mainly responsible for the reporting of the project. work. The report will be produced in cooperation with the RSG (See action 1).</p>
4. Timeframe	2022
5. Cost	8000 Euro
6. Funding sources	To be covered by the regular budget of the County Administrative Board of Västra Götaland.
7. Lessons learned from BIOGOV	<p>The guidelines will to a large extent be based upon the experiences we gained from the visits in the Netherlands, Spain, Romania and the other exchanges with the remaining partners. For ex.</p> <p>Poland's knowledge orientation - learning to increase understanding of biodiversity.</p> <p>How Galicia identifies and engages key stakeholders that are influencers in the local society and thereby important for a successful process.</p> <p>How ADEPT in Romania connects biodiversity with socio-economic development and thereby generates high reliance for their work.</p> <p>How the Netherlands has achieved to raise the question of preserving biodiversity to a political level.</p>

Part III – Details of actions envisaged	
Action 2	<p>Strengthen the role of biodiversity, green infrastructure and ecosystem services in the Valle area.</p> <p>We want to develop a sustainable model of collaboration, joint working method, among a great deal of stakeholders to achieve a more holistic approach of the challenges concerning sustainable landuse (mainly nature conservation, green infrastructure and ecosystem services).</p>
1. Background	<p>During 2018 -2020 the BIOGOV project have started to form a collaboration on biodiversity conservation among a great deal of different stakeholders within the Valle area. The work has been done using a multi-stakeholder partnership process considering several of the 7 principles that makes such a process more efficient. By establishing a long-term sustainable collaboration between different stakeholders, we aim to make the implementation of the policy document more efficient through a greater understanding and acceptance of preserving biodiversity within a broad number of stakeholders and communities.</p>
2. Activities	<p>We need to develop the collaboration further by testing and finetune it until 2022 by, among other things, working with concrete actions such as action 3-7 below. This will lead to a collaboration document describing the agreed future working method. This document will be signed by stakeholders who participated in the project.</p>
3. Players involved	<p>The Regional Stakeholder group (RSG) within the BIOGOV project. This group consists of:</p> <p>The County Administrative Board of Västra götaland, The Swedish Forestry Agency, The municipality of Skara, The municipality of Skövde, Swedish Transport Administration, Vallevägen (<i>Association of local entrepreneurs</i>), Vadsbo skog (<i>Forrest company</i>), Flämslätt/Diocese of Skara (<i>Confernece facility and landowner</i>). The Federation of Swedish farmers, Representatives of smaller landowners, University of Skövde, Society for nature Conservation, Skaraborg (<i>NGO</i>), Eggby, Istrum Öglunda hometown association (<i>NGO</i>) Istrums Sk (<i>NGO</i>), Emten-Flämsjöns FVOF (<i>Fishing Area Association</i>), Skärvalången m.fl. FVOF (<i>Fishing Area Association</i>).</p>
4. Timeframe	2022
5. Cost	32 000 Euro
6. Funding sources	To be covered by the regular budgets of the parties involved.
7. Lessons learned from BIOGOV	<p>The experiences from the MSP-processes in Spain and Romania will be useful in establishing guidelines for the joint work ahead. The similar actions proposed within the action plan of Fryslan (Netherlands) enables for a joint learning platform during the deveolpement of the cooperation-model.</p>

Part III – Details of actions envisaged	
Action 3	<p>Develop an interactive storymap addressing mapping of green infrastructure, biodiversity management, planning and future work in Valle area.</p> <p>We will develop a digital storymap combining maps with narrative text, photos and videos in an interactive way where we will involve stakeholders and work in a collaboratory process. The storymap will include mapping of the green infrastructure in Valle and also address biodiversity management, planning and future work.</p>
1. Background	<p>The County Administrative Board have produced a regional plan for green infrastructure. The plan identifies different measures that ought to be taken such as preserve and develop ecological corridors, generally increase the amount of small and important habitats within the agricultural landscapes etc.</p> <p>A mapping of the current green infrastructure is crucial in order to carry out several of the identified measures needed. For example, we must identify shortages of different habitats and lack of connectivity between key-habitats and species. One way of approaching biodiversity management from both a social and ecological perspective simultaneously can be to visualize how green infrastructure provides ecosystem services such as foodproduction, historical identity and acces to outdoor life. Visualization of the importance of green infrastructure for those ecosystem services has, as far as we know, not been done before in Sweden. The experience from this work might therefore be useful in different levels of policymaking and spatial planning etc.</p> <p>The stakeholder group have identified different perspectivies and values that are important to consider, preserve and develop in Valle. To maintain the engagement among the stakeholders and developpe their interest in a long-term participation in planning and decisionmaking processes they need to have access to the documentation and material and the opportunity to affect the result.</p> <p>With this action we want to show how, with the help of a storymap, we can strengthen the landscape perspective and the local participation in community planning in Valle. We want to highlight how green infrastructure preserves and strengthens the policy document while at the same time providing the conditions for sustainable ecosystem services that everyone can benefit from.</p>
2. Activities	<p>We will start to develop an interactive storymap. Within this storymap, we will start mapping the green infrastructure and build an inter-municipal knowledge base of the green infrastructure in Valle. We will then try to link it to ecosystem services and thereby visualize its importance for a sustainable rural development. By mapping the green infrastructure, we can identify shortages of habitats and lack of dispersal routes for different key-species (or groups of species) and then design mesurements to handle the problem. We can also identify patches of habitats that are especially crucial to preserv or enhance from the perspective of green infrastructure and ecosystem services.</p> <p>All the actions carried out by the RSG (including the ones in this actionplan) can be addressed in the storymap. By making the storymap available and interactive it will be a useful tool to create a participatory process from a very broad perspective of stakeholders. We envisage the storymap to be an important and interactive tool in collecting data, knowledge and needs as well as spreading information and results about the actions taken.</p>
3. Players involved	<p>The County Administrative Board of Västra Götaland is responsible for producing the storymap. The work will be done in close cooperation with the Regional Stakeholder group (RSG) within the BIOGOV project. (See action 1).</p>
4. Timeframe	<p>To be upstarded during 2020 – 2022, the storymap (knowledge base) will then be constantly updated.</p>
5. Cost	<p>20 000 Euro</p>
6. Funding sources	<p>Special foundings from the County Administrative Board of Västra Götaland.</p>
7. Lessons learned from BIOGOV	<p>Our partners in Spain and the Netherlands have proposed similar actions within their action plans. They are both working with mapping and presentation of green infrastructure. This enables for a joint learning plattform and a collaboration of sharing experiences has started and will be further developed.</p>

Part III – Details of actions envisaged	
Action 4	<p>Improved conditions for outdoor life.</p> <p><i>We need to development the hiking- and biking trail system further as well as parking facilities in order to meet the demands from residents and visitors regarding outdoor life. The public acces to the lakes also needs to be improved to enhance the possibilities of swimming, fishing and canoeing etc</i></p>
1. Background	<p>Valle is a well-known for its good conditions of hiking and biking. These activities play an important role in the turism industry in the area. Valle offers a rather well-developed network of hiking trails. In total there are about 60 kilometers of marked hiking trails in the area and it is possible to continue other hiking trails outside the Valle area. The many roads winding through the beautiful nature invite to road cycling.</p> <p>However, many of the trails lack well developed resting places and other fascilities and by extending the trail-system further you can attract new visitors, for example people with disabilities or families with small children. The roads ar narrow and winding and heavily congested, especially during spring and holiday season. This leads to high risks of accidents and conflicts between bikers and motorists. There is also a shortage of parking spaces for visitors to the area in general. Measures needs te be taken to meet the demand of alternative biking routes and cycling off the country roads.</p>
2. Activities	<p>A survey of needs and wishes for new /improved hiking and cycling routes and parking facilities as well as swimming and fishing possibilities will be done until 2022. This information should be considered in the renewing av management plans of nature reserves. Continued development of the joint trail-system, parkinglots and the public acces to the lakes outside the nature reserves should be a more long-term work for the RSG (Action 2).</p>
3. Players involved	<p>The Regional Stakeholdergroup (RSG) within the BIOGOV project. (See action 1)</p>
4. Timeframe	<p>2022</p>
5. Cost	<p>1600 Euro.</p>
6. Funding sources	<p>To be covered by the regular budgets of the parties involved.</p>
7. Lessons learned from BIOGOV	<p>During our visit in Romania and the peer review held in Sweden we learned about how ADEPT had built 80 km of mountainbike trails. The trails link guesthouses in 8 villages who are now benefitting from higher visitor numbers. They have also designed a smartphone application for the bike trail offering an interactive map with information about the area. This will be used as a good example and we will try to implement something similar in the Valle area.</p>

Part III – Details of actions envisaged	
Action 5	<p>Enhance the efficiency of preservation efforts for natural grasslands in Valle by adding a farming perspective.</p> <p><i>In order to secure a long-term preservation and elaborate a well functioning green infrastructure of natural grasslands in Valle, we need to identify valuable natural grasslands in risk of being abandoned and old pastures and meadows with good restoration possibilities from both a biodiversity and economic perspective. We then need to create a network of farmers and landowners to facilitate the distribution of the pastures and meadows.</i></p>
Background	<p>In Sweden natural grasslands has diminished dramatically. In Valle however there are conditions for enough area of high qualitative natural grassland to preserve the biodiversity connected to such a habitat and achieve a well functioning green infrastructure. This means that many natural pastures are especially well preserved and that there are farmers in the area with large herds of animals.</p> <p>However, there is an ongoing loss of biodiversity within the area, mainly due to the abandonment of grazing areas. From a biodiversity and green infrastructure perspective, we need to preserve all existing natural grasslands. We also need to expand the area of natural grasslands and enhance the quality in terms of biodiversity. It is essential to ensure the sustainability of the best- preserved pastures in the area before starting to work with the ones harboring less biodiversity. We think one way of doing this can be to clarify/visualize the dependency between green infrastructure and Ecosystem services by adding a farmer-perspective to the conservation efforts and thereby addressing the issue from a more holistic point of view.</p> <p>In this action, we want to give examples of how, through local collaboration including an economic sustainability for the farmers, we increase the ability to preserve natural grasslands and stop the loss of species associated with this type of habitat that has drastically decreased in the country over the last 60 years.</p>
2. Activities	<p>A survey should be made in the whole of Valle by 2022 identifying the most important grazed areas to preserve from a green infrastructure and biodiversity perspective as well as making the farming efficient. This survey should also identify pastures and meadows suitable for restoration and the ones with most risk of being abandoned and overgrown. We then need to establish a network of farmers and landowners to facilitate the distribution of pastures in order to sustain or increase the amount of natural grasslands in Valle and make good priority regarding the green infrastructure and efficient farming.</p>
3. Players involved	<p>The Regional Stakeholder group (RSG) within the BIOGOV project. (See action 1) will conduct the survey and establish the network among the farmers. Then the farmers and landowners will play the most important role in the preservation of these natural grasslands.</p>
4. Timeframe	<p>2022</p>
5. Cost	<p>12 000 Euro</p>
6. Funding sources	<p>To be covered by the regular budgets of the parties involved.</p>
7. Lessons learned from BIOGOV	<p>At the meeting in Romania we learned about ADEPT's integrated program linking economical and social benefits with biodiversity conservation of a farmed landscape with biodiversity rich grasslands.</p>

Part III – Details of actions envisaged	
Action 6	New management of nature reserves in the Valle area; <i>We need a new more holistic management of several nature reserves within the Valle area thereby making them more optimal in preserving and increasing biodiversity and useful tools in the work with green infrastructure and the local community development.</i>
1. Background	<p>There are 15 nature reserves within the Valle area covering a substantial part of the surface. Each reserve has its own management plan. The County Administrative Board have control of the land use within the nature reserves and are also responsible for their management according to management plans. However, many of these reserves were established during the 1970:s and are not well functioning today in terms of preserving biodiversity and as a resource for the local community development. The management plans have grown old and are not well adapted to today's need of nature conservation measures. We therefore need to renew several of the management plans.</p> <p>The challenge is to redesign the management from a holistic perspective making the nature reserves more useful in preserving the biodiversity on a landscape level. (not only within each separate nature reserve) and to make them important tools for the local community development. Based on the regional actionplan for green infrastructure, we also need to link the nature reserves together in terms of connectivity for species and habitats in order to sustain/develop a good functioning green infrastructure.</p>
2. Activities	The 4 largest nature reserves in Valle: Højentorp-Drottningkullen, Eahagen-Öglunda ängar, Jättadalen and Torp covers almost 70% of the protected area. We will therefore start renewing these management plans. The County administrative Board of Västra Götaland is responsible for renewing management plans of nature reserves. Normally this is done in a dialogue with the landowners within each nature reserve and a few other selected stakeholders. By allowing the BIOGOV RSG to be a part of the renewing process we aim to achieve management plans that consider the needs, wishes and perspectives of a broader stakeholder group. Thereby we can get management plans better adapted to the local community development and the overall need of green infrastructure and ecosystem services within the Valle area.
3. Players involved	The County Administrative Board of Västra Götaland is responsible for producing renewed management plans. The work will be done in close cooperation with the Regional Stakeholder group (RSG) within the BIOGOV project. (See action 1).
4. Timeframe	2022
5. Cost	16 000 Euro
6. Funding sources	To be covered by the regular budget of The County Administrative Board of Västra Götaland
7. Lessons learned from BIOGOV	During the international learning exchange, we have met with Poland several times. Especially the work done in Poland with large trees in order to create and preserve habitats for the beetle <i>Osmoderma eremita</i> will be useful knowledge to incorporate in the upcoming management plans. Poland even dedicated a short video-narrative to this topic in order to assist our managing of old oak trees.

Part III – Details of actions envisaged

Action 7	Plan for management of public roadsides in the Valle area <i>We will produce a plan for the management of public roadsides taking into consideration the usage of these areas for conservation of species, green infrastructure and the control of invasive species.</i>
1. Background	<p>Public roadsides cover a large area in Valle. The roads are often narrow and winding and harbours a rich biodiversity, especially regarding flora, insects and old, large deciduous trees. The Swedish transport Association has conducted an inventory of the biodiversity along the public roads in the Valle area highlighting routes with especially high species values. The roadside is therefore often important habitats for many species and can also act as significant dispersal corridors for many species. With a well thought out management of these habitats they will be an important basis for a functional green infrastructure in the Valle area.</p> <p>The Swedish Transportation Administration are responsible for managing public roadsides and has a great experience in preserving biodiversity in these areas. For example, how to take care of or replace old and important trees along the roads.</p>
2. Activities	The Swedish Transport Administration will produce a plan for the maintenance of the public roadsides in Valle. The plan will, in addition to considering road safety, specify how to use the roadsides as important habitats and dispersal corridors for many species, thereby making the plan an important tool in generating a functional green infrastructure. For example: where to plant new or replacement trees along the roads in order to achieve a connectivity between habitats for species living on specific trees. Or were to harvest and sow seeds along the roads to create functional habitats or dispersal corridors for certain flowers and insects. The plan will also consider how to control invasive species along the roadsides. The plan will be produced in cooperation with the RSG.
3. Players involved	The Swedish Transport Administration will be mainly responsible for the work. The plan will be produced in cooperation with the Regional Stakeholdergroup (RSG) within the BIOGOV project. (See action1)
4. Timeframe	2022
5. Cost	8000 Euro
6. Funding sources	To be covered by the regular budget of The Swedish Transport Administration
7. Lessons learned from BIOGOV	Feedback from several project partners visiting the peer review in Sweden shows that the way of managing biodiversity along the roadsides in Sweden and using it as a tool for green infrastructure was a good practice and new experience for the partners.