

WEBINAR

Protected Areas for
Sustainable Agriculture:
building partnership with farmers

23rd October 2017 - 15:00 CET



EUROPARC
FEDERATION

**PROMOTING OPEN SPACES WITH FARMERS IN A FOREST PARK
AS A MEANS TO INCREASE BIODIVERSITY
- THE SERRA DE COLLSEROLA NATURAL PARK**



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Consorci del Parc Natural de la Serra de Collserola

Serra de Collserola Natural Park

Collserola Natural
Park ~8.000 ha

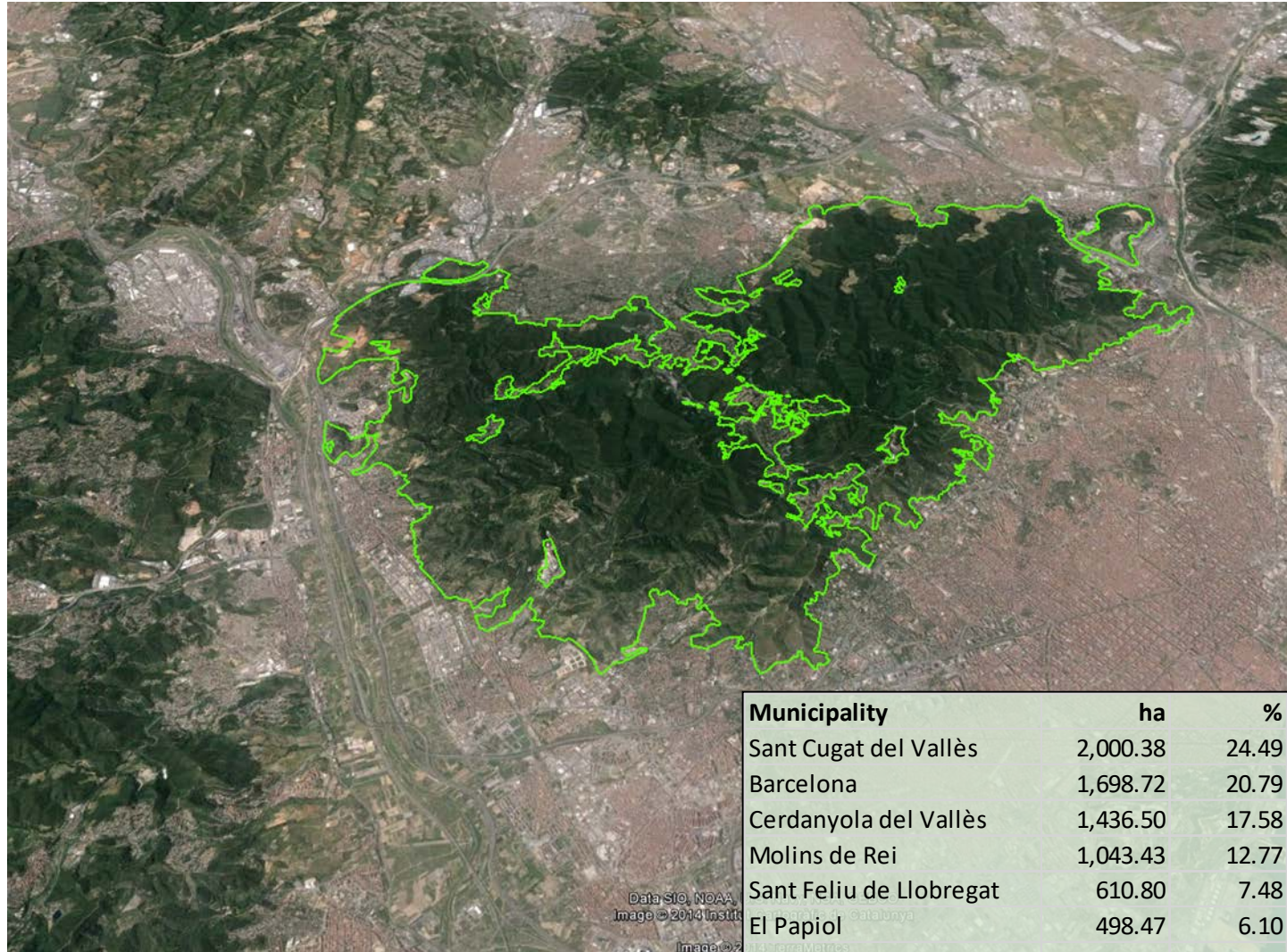
Protected Natura
2000 site

9 municipalities
present within the
park

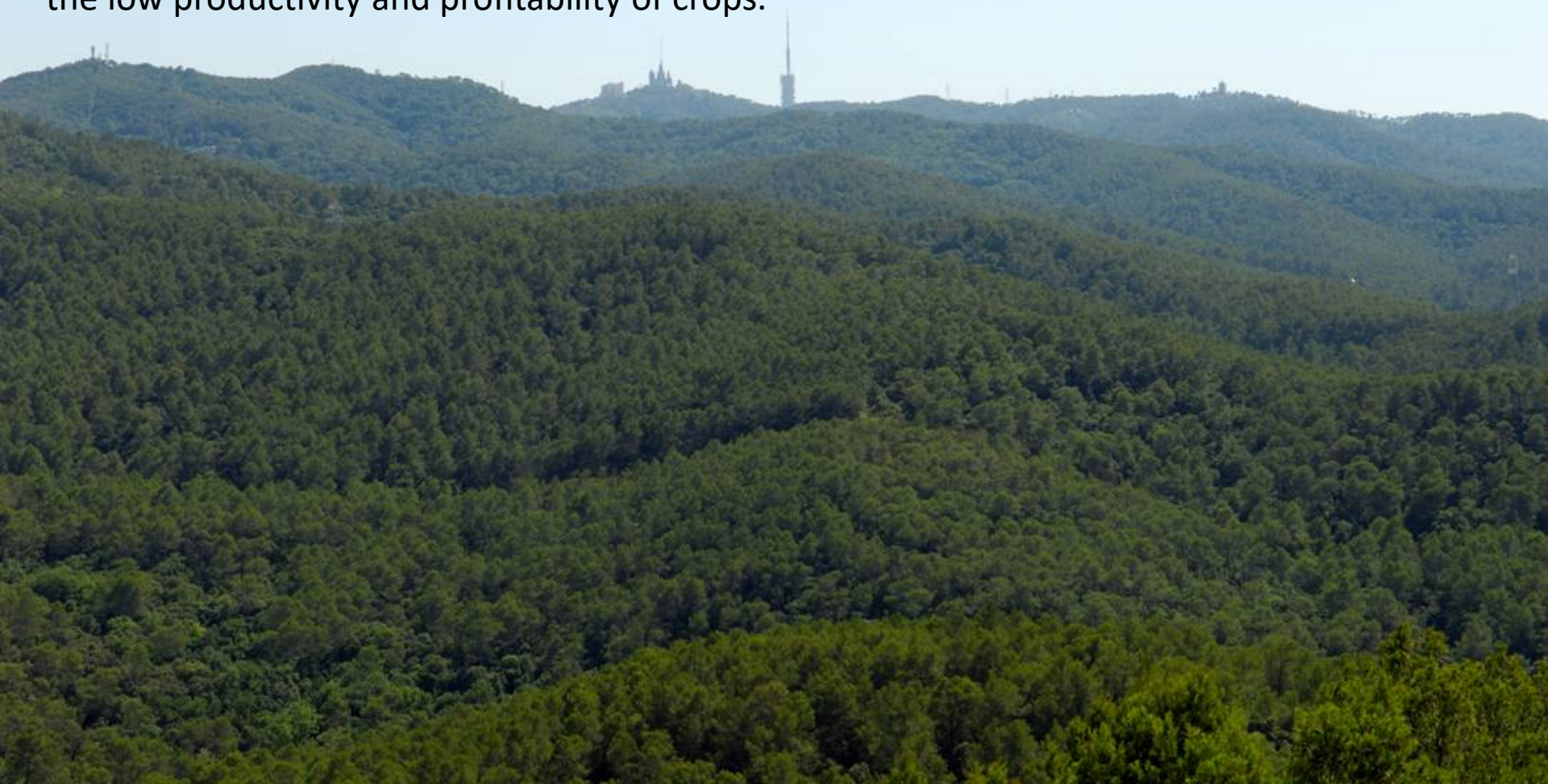
Barcelona
Metropolitan
Area:

~4.5 million
inhabitants

~ 70% forested
habitats



Historically, much of Collserola was devoted to agriculture and forestry. Many hills were covered with terraced vineyards, carob, almond and olive trees, etc. However, with the arrival of the phylloxera epidemic many vineyards were abandoned. In addition, during the last 50 years, many farmers have abandoned such activities because of the low productivity and profitability of crops.



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Changing Mediterranean landscape, still diverse on periphery, but traditional land use declining, and gradually transitioning to forest.

1930s



Farming

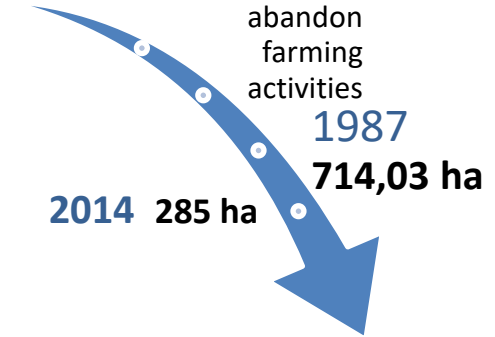
1950s

Owners
abandon
farming
activities

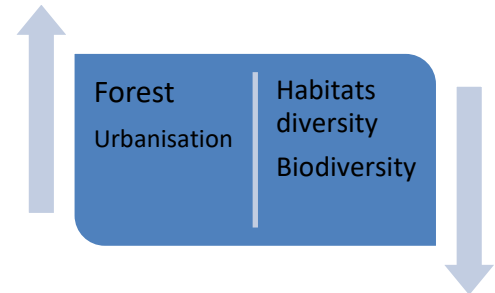
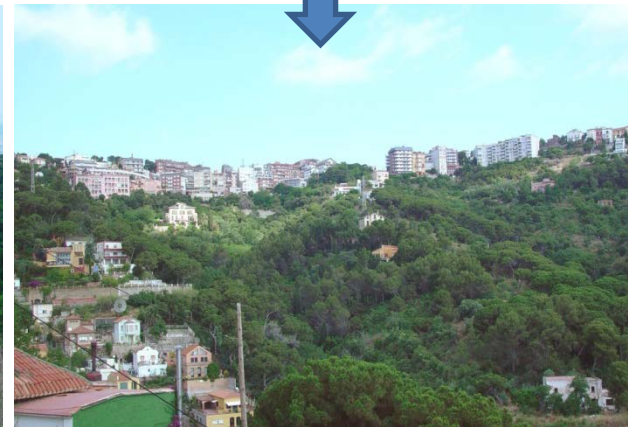
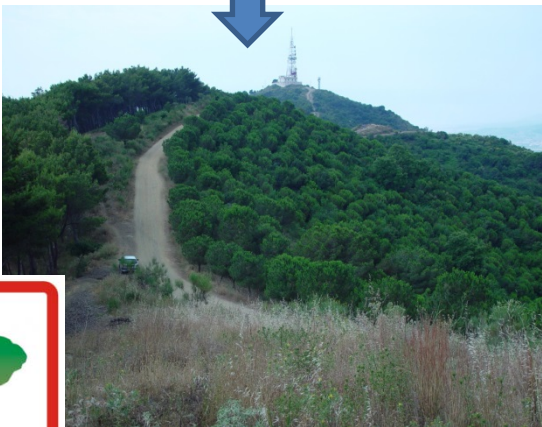
1987

714,03 ha

2014 285 ha



2000s



FOREST EXPANSION CLOSE TO URBAN AREAS



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Challenges of the existing context for farming at PNSC:

- Mountainous terrain, water scarcity (dry farming), highly transformed metropolitan area...
- A lot of agricultural land is in the hands of property developers, either planned for public amenities or for private housing.
- Low number of active farmers remaining in the area
- Chronic overabundance of wild boar in the area – threat for viability of many crops.
- The need to achieve an adequate integration of activities within the park's natural landscape.
- Limited capacity for direct intervention by Park administration



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PREVIOUS PROMOTION OF AGRICULTURE IN COLLSEROLA

- 1989: recovery of crops on publicly owned lands - Habitat improvement for wildlife
- 1995: reintroduction of controlled grazing for grassland maintenance
- 2000: establishment of a new vineyard at Can Calopa de Dalt
- 2004: recovery of an agricultural area at La Salut, Sant Feliu de Llobregat
- 2008: restoration of traditional dry stone vineyard huts at Can Ferriol
- 2010: cartographic inventory of agricultural areas in Collserola
- 2011: construction of sheep farm buildings at Ca n'Oller
- 2011: strategy for the conservation, selection and promotion of the 'Mandó' tomato

2013: AGRICULTURE PLAN FOR THE SERRA DE COLLSEROLA NATURAL PARK



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**NEED TO RECOVER AGRICULTURE AS A SUSTAINABLE ACTIVITY,
BOTH FROM ENVIRONMENTAL AND LIVELIHOOD PERSPECTIVES**



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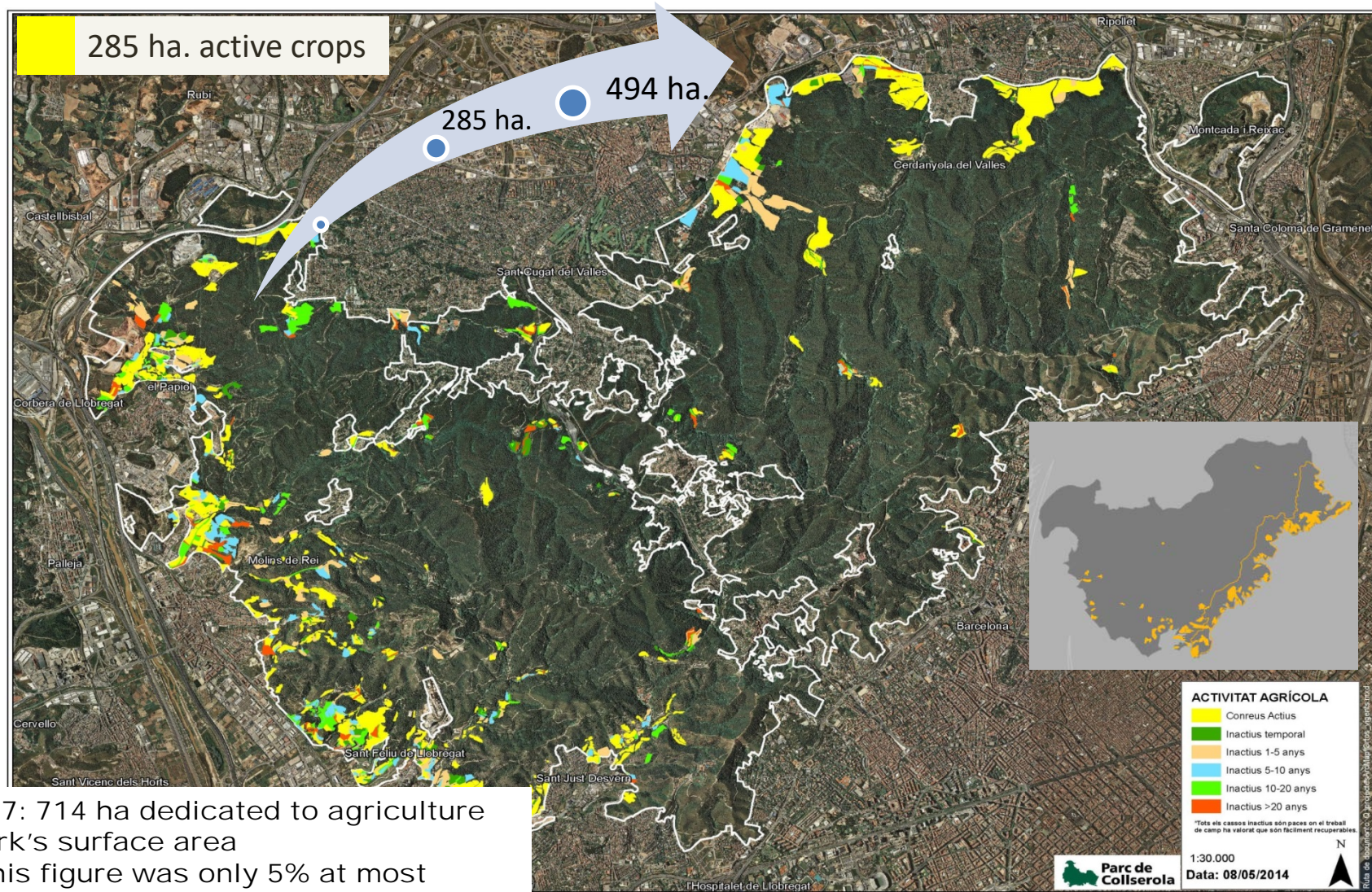
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Goal: consolidate at least ~500 ha of cultivated land (6%), + grazing in natural habitats



PEPCo 1987: 714 ha dedicated to agriculture
8.4% of park's surface area
By 2007, this figure was only 5% at most

AGRICULTURE PLAN FOR THE SERRA DE COLLSEROLA NATURAL PARK

Plan centred on the following main lines of action:

- 1: Consolidate existing cultivated areas, avoiding further land abandonment and favouring the recovery of abandoned fields.
- 2: Encourage environmentally friendly agriculture and move towards organic farming.
- 3: Restructure marginal private allotment areas in an orderly fashion.
- 4: Promote controlled grazing with sheep & goats.
- 5: Provide the necessary support for correct animal husbandry and guide livestock farms towards organic meat production.
- 6: Promote a network for the marketing and commercialisation of farm products.
- 7: Favour the recovery of traditional varieties and local breeds.
- 8: Inventory of traditional dry stone wine huts, shepherding trails, and other elements relating to the farming history of the park, to conserve the legacy of its tradition there.

AGRICULTURE PLAN FOR SERRA DE COLLSEROLA NATURAL PARK

Above all, consolidate existing cultivated areas, avoid further land abandonment and favour recovery of already abandoned fields.



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DINAMIZATION of LOCAL ORGANIC FARMING at PNSC ('DLAe')

Basic principle of DLAe:

- A strategy for local development aimed at promoting fairer and more sustainable communities and food production systems, in which farmers are the main protagonists, given that agriculture plays a key role in conserving biodiversity, landscape and ecosystem services of Protected Natural Areas.
- Work is carried out simultaneously at different levels -farm, local community, society in general- and dimensions - ecological, cultural, socio-economic, political.

DINAMIZATION of LOCAL ORGANIC FARMING at PNSC ('DLAe')

A participative method to connect interests in agriculture and stimulate cooperation

DLAe comprised of Formal participation bodies:

- Coordinating Group: mixed team made up of technicians, farmers, researchers... - drive the participation process
- Monitoring Group: larger group uniting all of the different entities and interested parties and/or promoters – land owners, consumer groups, local authorities, financial supporters...follow-up on progress
- Specific Working Groups: created to develop lines of action within the participation process – land availability, wild boar, product labelling...

OPEN SPACES – CULTIVATED AREAS, BUT ALSO GRAZING IN NATURAL HABITATS

Promoting pastoralism - livestocking, grazing with sheep and goats



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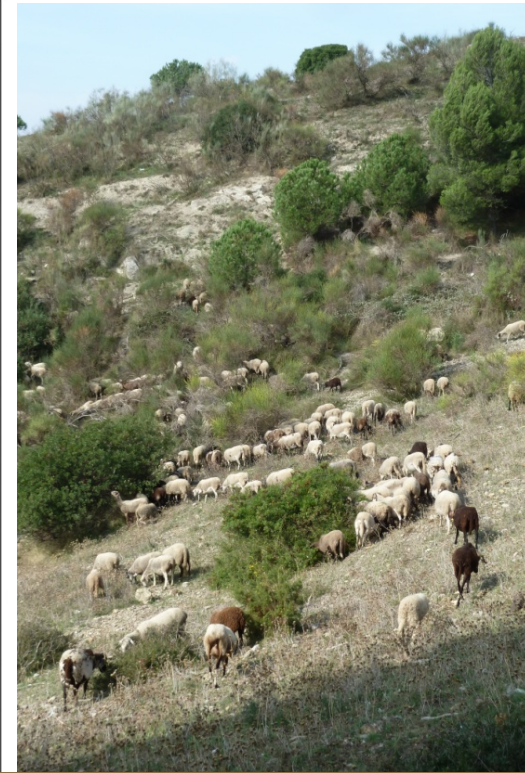
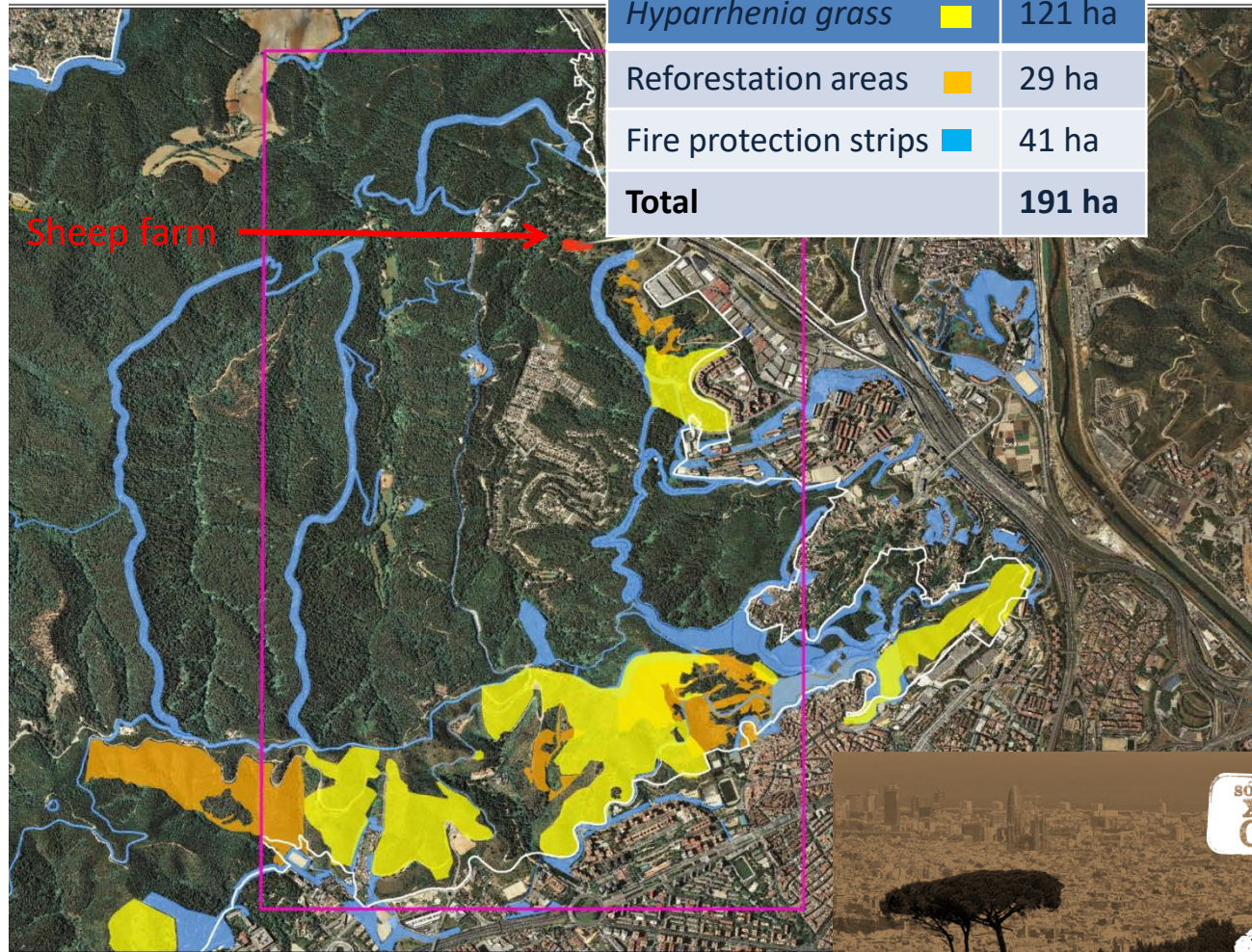
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Habitat maintenance & fire prevention through controlled grazing – ‘Collserola Lamb’



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Importance of adequate marketing of products

The ***Produkte de Collserola*** as a 'guarantee of quality' brand

Prior considerations:

- Identify quality, seasonal agricultural products, locally produced, associated with the traditional landscape of the area
- Diversity of products: lamb and goat's meat, honey, fruit and vegetables, wine...
- Limited production capacity
- Added values: Natural Park origen, organic production, fire prevention, maintenance of habitat diversity...



Considered to be the most useful and feasible option among the different brand types available



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The 'Producte de Collserola' brand
helps open windows of opportunity!

Encouraging environmentally sustainable agriculture
and transitioning towards organic farming



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COMMERCIALIZATION OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

- Establish an active network of outlets for produce
- Fairs, local markets, direct sale, activities...
- The *Producte de Collserola* as 'guarantee of quality' brand
- Involving local restaurants in promotion of local produce



Main outcomes of Plan to date:

- Community building through the process of *Dinamization of Local Organic Farming - DLAE*
- Incorporation of local authorities as DLAE promoters
- Approval of the **Produkte de Collserola** brand
- Livestocking - habitat maintenance & fire prevention
- Production of '**Collserola Lamb**'
- Commercial recovery of '**Mandó**' variety of tomato
- Recovery of traditional dry stone vineyard huts – promoting historical identity, and identification of place and nature with products for local people.



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AGRICULTURE PLAN FOR SERRA DE COLLSEROLA NATURAL PARK

First main conclusions:

- The active maintenance of a rich heterogeneous agro-silvo-pastoral mosaic landscape is key to conserving open habitats and associated biodiversity in an otherwise forested Mediterranean Natural Park.
- Also an essential component of the Park's strategic fire prevention planning!



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PROMOTING OPEN SPACES WITH FARMERS IN A FOREST PARK

- Conclusions & recommendations:

- Importance of local networking, pooling resources, combining strengths, and especially of activating local agricultural community.
- Actions like the Dinamization of Local Organic Farming needs to be on-going processes
- Difficult to compete with 'conventional' farming. Embrace concept of **High Nature Value** farming with a view to producing goods with added commercial value for local markets, restaurants, direct sale...
- **Care of the landscape** as an added value for local produce – e.g. traditional dry stone vineyard huts - promoting historical identity, and **identification of place with product** for local people
- Difficulties of farming with in this mountainous forested area due to **water scarcity** – future tendency towards increased aridity, requires innovation & adaptation
- Damage caused by **wild boar** can undermine marginal viability of some crops – need to mitigate this problem using multiple approaches: prevention, pop. control, adaptation..



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PROMOTING OPEN SPACES WITH FARMERS IN A FOREST PARK

- What next?:

- Participative planning → **Action Plan** → evaluation and redesign of Action Plan
- A **Technical Diagnosis** will soon be completed on the current situation regarding farming and agriculture in the Serra de Collserola Natural Park. This diagnosis is a direct product of the current Dinamization of Local Organic Farming process.
- A **Catalogue of Farming** in Collserola is envisaged whereby greater visibility for farmers and their products would be achieved using both online material and printed pamphlets.
- This Catalogue will contain information not only on the products themselves, but also on the location of different initiatives, their value for biodiversity conservation in Collserola, as well as the challenges they face for their long-term continuity.
- Possibility of strengthening the **Produkte de Collserola** brand with a strong identification with nature conservation values and principles, through compatibility for example with the **Natura 2000** brand.
- Financial aids?



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Many thanks for your interest!
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