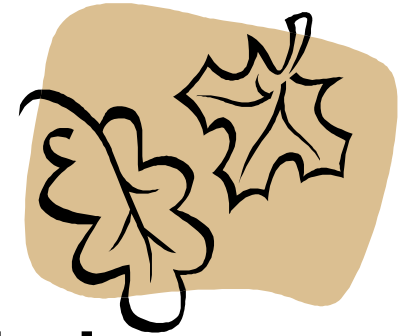


# The role of Nature Conservation in maintaining ecosystem services in the Var catchment



Report for the MEDUSA project  
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# Ecosystem Services in the Var catchment



Wide range of ecosystem services

- supporting (e.g., forests)
- provisioning (e.g., meadows)
- regulating (e.g., floodplains)
- cultural (e.g., open landscapes)

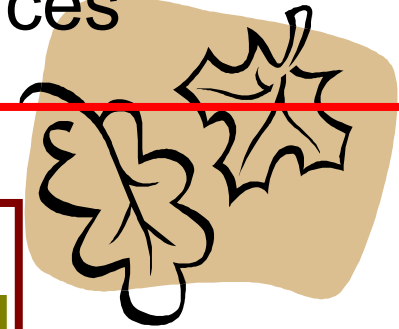
# The role of Nature Conservation



**Objective:** Ensuring the continued supply of ecosystem services in the face of environmental change by:

- Protecting significant parts of the Var catchment
- Developing adaptive measures to secure continued supply of ecosystem services
- Continuous monitoring ecosystem states
- Stakeholder participation
- Cooperating with other sectors

# Important drivers and Key Ecosystem Services



**Climate Change**

**Policy - Lifestyle - Tourism**

**Economics**

*Trad. Ecol. Knowl.*

*Intrusive recreation*

*Non-intrusive rec.*

*Open habitats*

*Closed habitats*

*Open Landscapes*

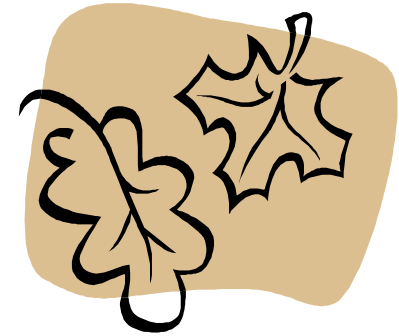
*Trad. livelihoods*

*Species diversity*

**Technology**

**Demographics - Land Use**

# Achieving Nature Conservation Objectives

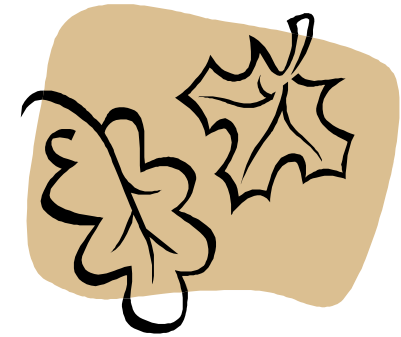


- Possible futures developed in the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment
- Case Study: The role of Nature Conservation in the Adaptive Mosaic scenario



# Storyline

## Adapting Mosaic



- simple life on small organic farms
- biodiversity of food providing plants
- wild cautious species (e.g. wolf) moved up the mountains
- habitat corridors provide life for other plants -> Pollination provided
- *Genepi* extinct -> no digestive liquor -> people suffer
- Extreme events -> destroying livelihoods, but neighbors help
- knowledge on the use of natural resources, e.g. medical plants



# Nature Conservation & Stakeholders



- Stakeholder Water:
  - grazing, tourism
- Stakeholder Nature Conservation:
  - organic agriculture, high biodiversity, knowledge, no pesticides
  - protected areas
- Developer:
  - nice livelihoods
- Our friendly farmer:
  - keeping traditions
  - fire, drought
- Mr. EU: THANKS for Support
  - diversified agriculture, local markets
  - maintaining terrestrial habitats
  - connectivity of Natura2000 areas

## Legend

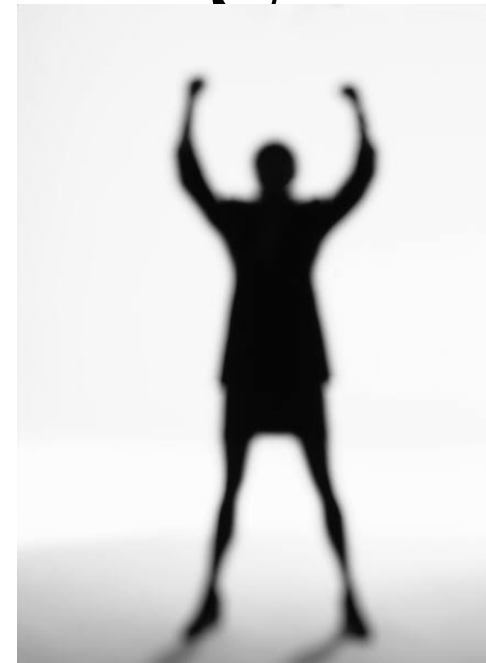
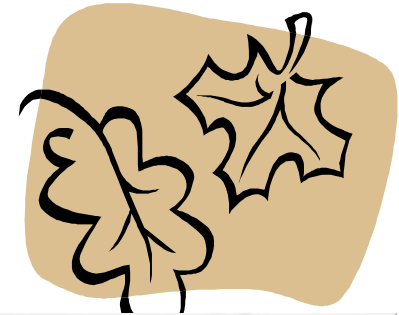
no concern

small concern

high concern

# Adaptation strategies for AM

- extinction:
  - creation of a seed bank for plants
  - species retreats in botanic gardens
- catastrophic events:
  - improve resilience of cropping system
- fire, drought, soil erosion:
  - habitat diversification
- maintaining terrestrial habitats:
  - create corridors between habitats
- connectivity of Natura2000 areas:
  - smaller patches of protected areas, but connected
  - improve green technologies to get more unmanaged area
  - decrease meat consumption

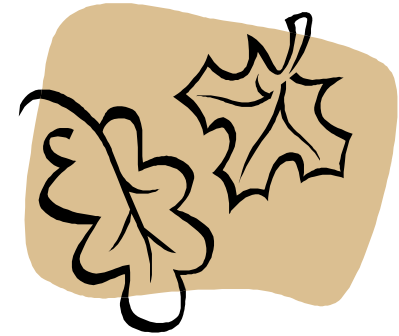


# Synergies and tradeoffs between stakeholder demands for cultural ecosystem services and nature conservation



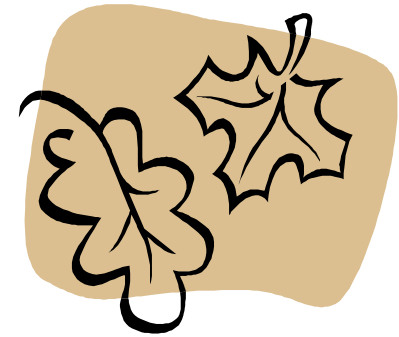
	Nature Conservation and Farmer	Nature Conservation and Water	Nature Conservation and EU	Nature Conservation and Developer	Farmer and EU
Synergies	Open landscapes, tourism, organic agriculture	Less forest cover	Connect Natura 2000 sites	Maintaining natural areas	Lively communities
Disagreement	Wolves, fires	Grazing			

# Outlook



- Pro-active Nature Conservation can ensure maintenance of important ecosystem function
- Nature Conservation can contribute to human well-being and sustainable development in the Var catchment
- Dialogues with Policy-makers and Stakeholders ensures timely implementation of required measures

# Acknowledgements



The stakeholders from Nature  
Conservation, Water, Agriculture,  
Development, and the European  
Commission