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ABSTRACT

During centuries it was developed one extensive grazing system in the Campo Branco region, contributing to the evolution of a landscape called steppic fields. The habitats in this region are classified as priority under the nature conservation point of view.

During the LACOPE project (Large Scale Extensive Grazing Systems in Europe) it was developed a linear programming model that simulated several agrarian political scenarios and how these measures influenced the land uses, economic sustainability of the farms and the survival of the habitats. In this work we present the results of the modelling process and the several political measures, agricultural and others, that influenced and modelled the landscape since the XIX Century. The Zonal Plan of Castro Verde was one of the few measures that have succeeded to maintain some economic sustainability and the nature conservation purposes. According with the modelization process and bibliography the grazing system is not sustainable but is essential for the maintenance of the steppic birds. We evaluate possible measures that can be implemented in a way that allows the survival of the extensive grazing farms and the habitats.

Keywords: Campo Branco, Great bustard, steppic habitats; Natura Network 2000; Common Agricultural Policies.