

Proposal for a post conference field trip to The Swabian Alb mountain range (Baden-Württemberg, Germany)

Topic: Land-use and conservation

The field trip will address questions and issues related conservation management in a central European cultural landscape. We will visit reserves and project areas that are well suited to illustrate programs and laws that promote conservation management in landscapes that for centuries have been shaped by human use (cultural landscapes). However, we will also address causes for severe deficiencies in the implementation of existing laws.

Sites visited are located in or adjacent to the Swabian Alb mountain range in southwestern Germany. The natural vegetation in the area is beech forest. Cultural landscapes are characterised by nutrient poor and highly diverse chalk grassland (orchids, butterflies). Traditionally, these grasslands were grazed by migrating herds of sheep. Current threats to grassland biodiversity include abandonment and intensification of agricultural use. Several State programmes and project areas have been implemented to support low intensity use of such grasslands. This support is based on direct subsidies and on concepts to help market products derived from low-intensity land-use.

Other aspects of the field trip include: insights into environmental compensation legislation in Germany (EnComp) and its actual application; attempts to preserve old orchards characterised by a rich avifauna; the upper Danube restoration project including management of floodplain grassland; traditional use of moist grassland and swamps in the Federsee Reserve; and the management of the highly endangered yellow-bellied toad (*Bombina variegata*), a target species listed in the European Flora-Fauna Habitat directive.

Cost	
Trip from Canterbury to Stuttgart/Munich	220.- €
Room and board (except lunch)	120.- €
Lunch	80.- €
Transportation within Germany	sponsored
TOTAL COST (ESTIMATE)	420.- €

Proposed schedule

DATE	TIME	ISSUE
20.07.02	16:00	Arrival
	18:00	Dinner
	19:00	Reception and Introduction to the Field trip
21.07.02	07:45	Breakfast
	08:30	Departure
	09:00	PLENUM-Project: grazing management with sheep and goats, marketing, case examples integration of recreation/tourism and conservation
	15:00	Visit to the pig-grazing project in Tieringen (Balingen)
	19:00	Return and Dinner
22.07.02	07:45	Breakfast
	08:30	Departure
	09:00	Forest use and the management of the Yellow bellied toad
	11:00	EnComp in Germany: theory and reality - The 'Münzen' housing zone
	13:00	Orchards: Problems and management strategies
	15:00	The Filsalb project: Visit to some of the Swabian Alb Nature Reserves
	19:00	Return and Dinner
	20:00	Social gathering
23.07.02	07.45	Breakfast
	08:30	Departure
	09:30	Upper Danube Restoration Project
	13:00	The Federsee Reserve
	19:00	Return and Dinner
	20:00	Social gathering
24.07.02	07:45	Breakfast
	09:00	Departure

Note: Lunch will be taken en route in restaurants providing locally grown food