

## Enhancement of landscape features and unproductive areas to improve biodiversity - an AT perspective

ENRD Thematic Group on Landscape Features and Biodiversity, 1<sup>st</sup> meeting  
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## CAP 2023+: Enhancing structural diversity

**Aim: 10% of agricultural area under high diversity landscape features**

(fallow land, hedgerows, trees or areas with farming requirements that have a strong impact on biodiversity) – **GREEN DEAL TARGET**

**Basis: 2.2 Mio. ha** of agricultural area in Austria (excl. alpine forage areas, where structural elements have already been deducted by application of the pro-rata-system)

**Target value: 220.000 ha** of high diversity “landscape elements” on arable land and grassland



## Enhancing structural diversity through:

Landscape elements (trees, bushes, hedges)

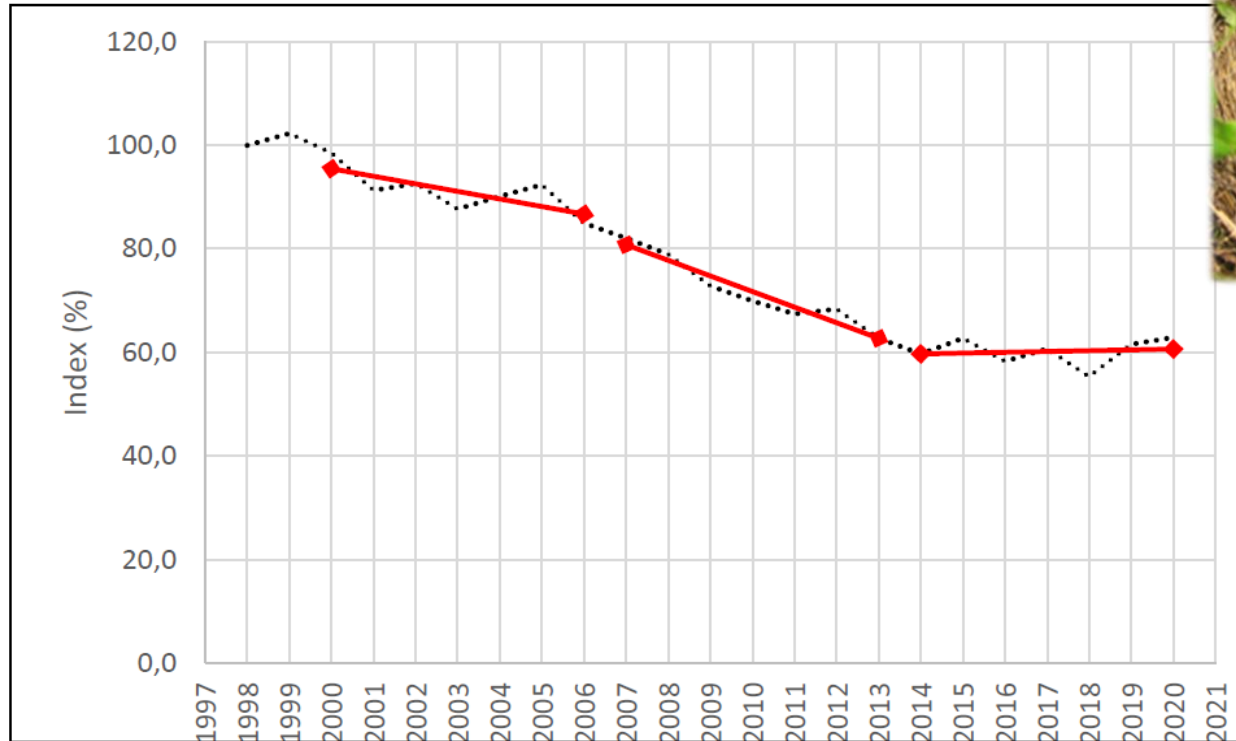
GAEC 8 with its obligation of 4% set aside areas (only land lying fallow eligible)

Additional creation of biodiversity areas on arable land and grassland to fulfil preliminary condition of 7% biodiversity areas within horizontal agri-environmental interventions

Nature conservation (management of ecologically highly valuable agricultural areas).



## Positive impact of the Agri-environmental programme on farmland birds



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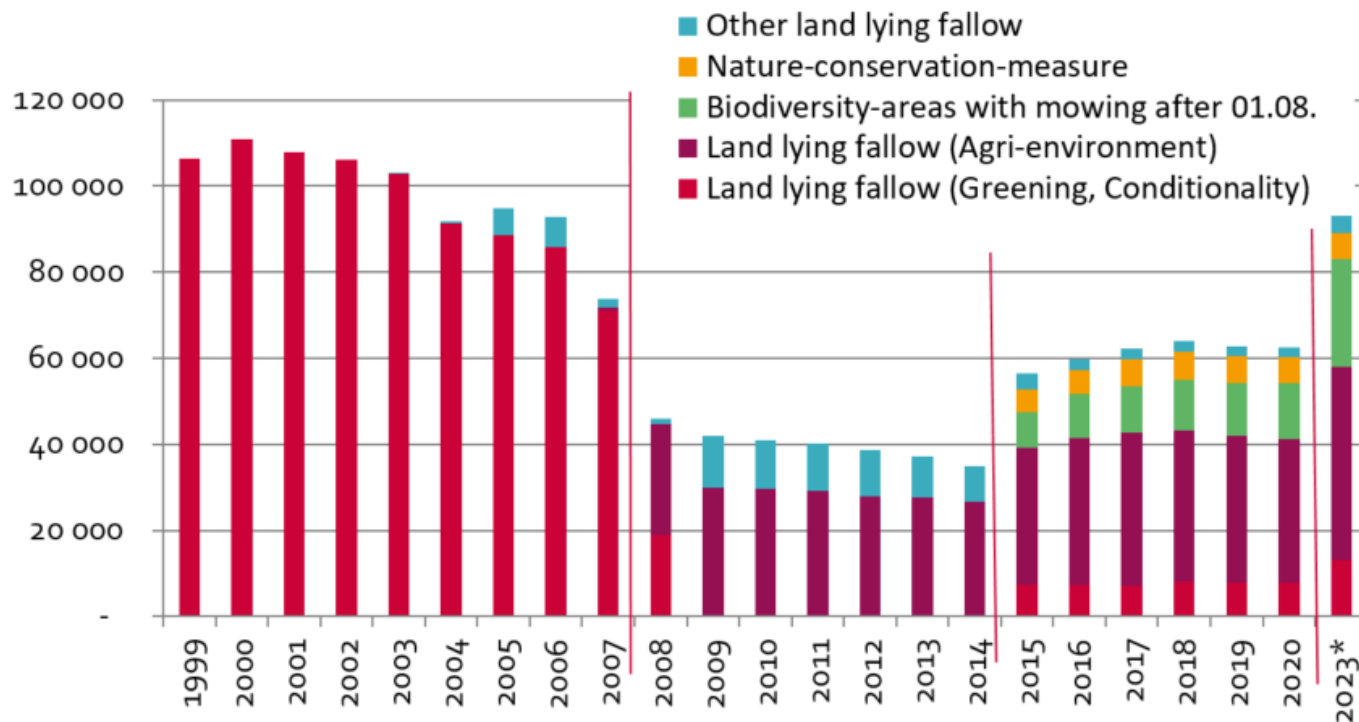
**2023+:**

biodiversity areas:  
at least **7 %** of arable land  
at least **7 %** grassland

Abb. 3: **A** Farmland Bird Index für Österreich 2020 (23 Arten; s. Tab. 5). Für den Zeitraum 1998-2008 liegen nur Daten niedriger Lagen (<1.200 m) vor. **B** Verlauf des Farmland Bird Index mit eingezeichneten Trendlinien linearer Regressionen, getrennt für die ÖPUL-Perioden 2000-2006, 2007-2013 und 2014-2020. Für die Werte der Jahre 1998 und 1999 wurde wegen der Kürze der Zeitreihe auf eine Linie verzichtet.



## Biodiversity areas (land lying fallow / used after 01.08) and nature conservation areas on arable land 1999-2020 in Austria



\*2023 estimated, increased share in conditionalities (4%), agri-environment 5% → 7% and requirement also for organic farms

source: Ministry of Agriculture, Regions and Tourism – own description

**enhancing structural diversity** in a horizontal approach  
(fallow arable land GAEC 8/ nature conservation, creation  
of flowering areas and preservation of landscape  
elements within AEP/ organic farming)

**Site-specific management** of ecologically  
valuable meadows and pastures (AEP – nature  
conservation, management of alpine pastures  
and mountain meadows)

**training, advisory and awareness  
raising** (compulsory training within AEP,  
Monitoring)

## **CAP 2023+** **Activities to support biodiversity**

**renouncement of  
pesticides, restriction of  
fertilizers** on arable land  
(organic farming, AEP)

### **Upgrading biodiversity areas:**

- further increase to 7%
- improved species composition
- prolonged management-free time periods on arable land
- improvement of management options on grassland (A delayed 1st cut, B prolonged management-free time periods, C „old grass strip“)
- possibility to sow **species-rich seed mixtures**

**Upgrading of the performance for the  
conservation of landscape features**, in  
particular scattered fruit trees within the  
framework of the measures UBB and  
Bio.

# Impres



# Thank you for the attention!



**Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Regions and Tourism**

Division of Agri-Environment, Mountain Farmers, Less-Favoured Areas and Organic Farming.

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