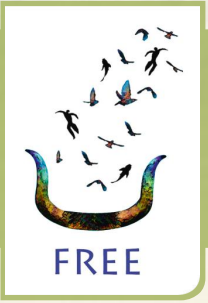


Natural grazing and law

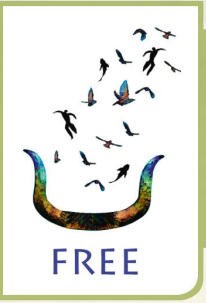
Hurdles and opportunities





1. Introduction

1. Introduction
2. What is natural grazing?
3. Natural grazing and law
4. The “way out”



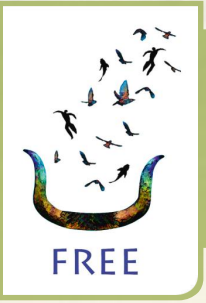
2. What is natural grazing

Natural Grazing is a natural process and ecosystem service, from which society profits

Natural grazing is cost efficient

Natural grazing is animal friendly

FREE Nature, 2024

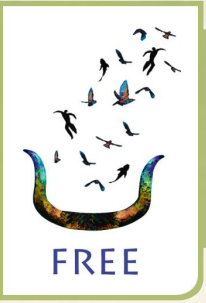


2. What is natural grazing

What is Biodiversity?

- Diversity within species
- Diversity between species
- Diversity between ecosystems

Convention on biological diversity, 1993



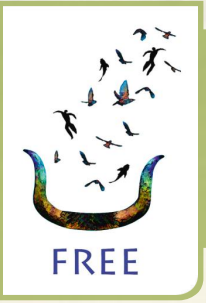
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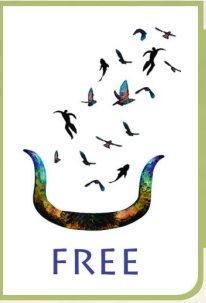
2. What is natural grazing

How does it work?

1. Natural densities: carrying capacity



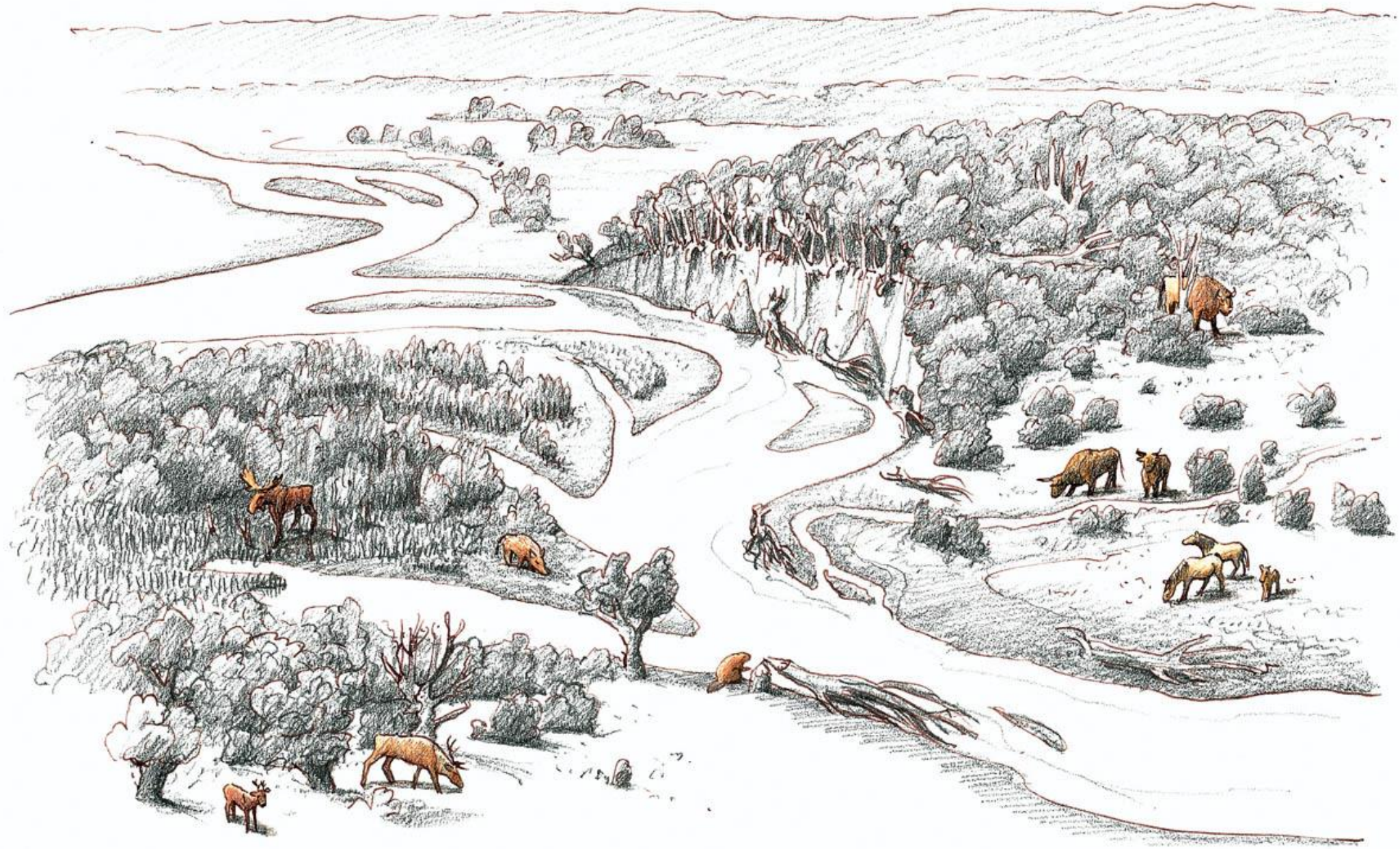


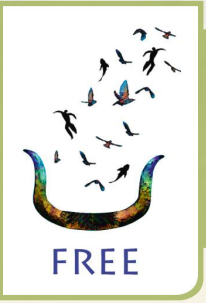


2. What is natural grazing

How does it work?

1. Natural densities
2. Natural habitat selection: sum of species





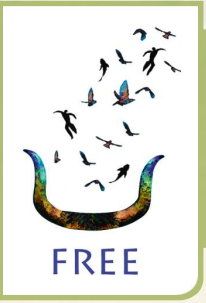
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How does it work?

1. Natural densities
2. Natural habitat selection
3. Social herds: natural herd structure







2. What is natural grazing

How does it work?

1. Natural densities
2. Natural habitat selection
3. Social herds
4. Self-reliance



27 mei 2012



4 juni 2012



14 juni 2012



27 juni 2012



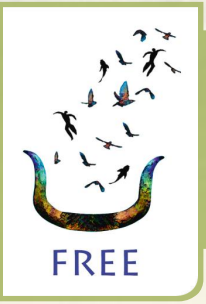
11 juli 2012



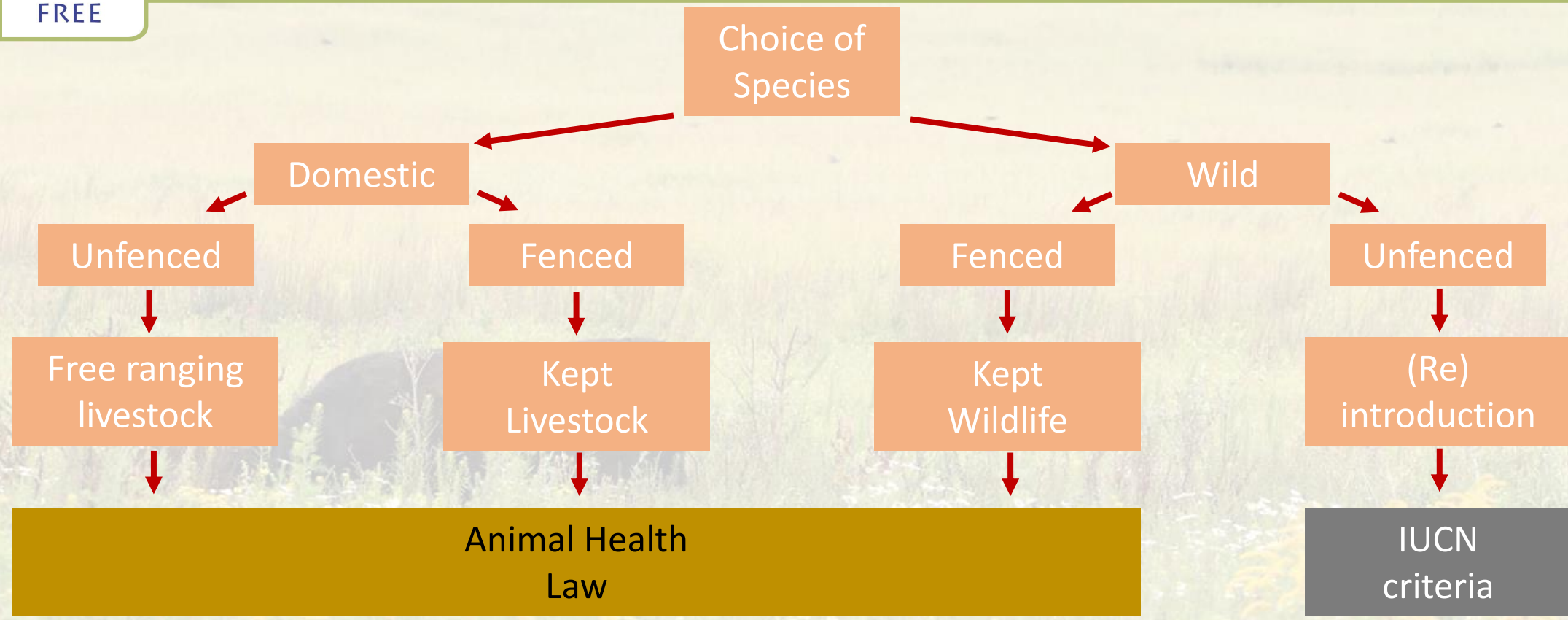
30 augustus 2012

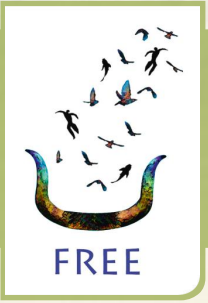






3. Natural grazing and law

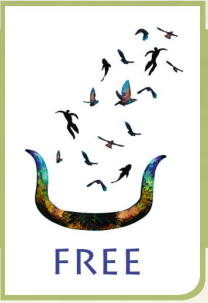




3. Natural grazing and law

- Kept animals, owner is liable and responsible
- AHL (EU) provides framework
- Member states implement AHL into national law and policy





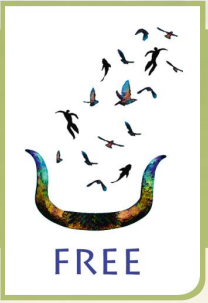
3. Natural grazing and law

Registration (cattle)

- 7 days AHL
- 3 days Dutch law
- 20 days within Romanian Legislation (?)
- Animals registered to a facility/ owner
- Veterinarian care within registration system
- Cattle = Wisent = Water buffalo → Bovines







3. Natural grazing and law

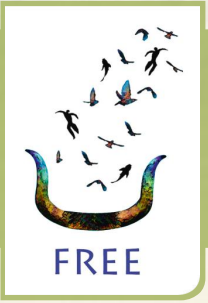
Registration conflicts (cattle)

- Legislation on safety procedures employers
- Tame animals vs rewilding
- Tame animals vs public access









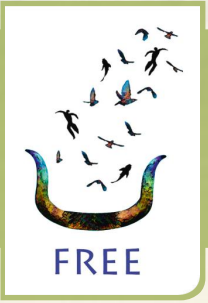
3. Natural grazing and law

Exceptions

- Registration within nine months
 - 6 – 9 months with DNA proof (maternal lineage)
- Dutch Oostvaardersplassen / Veluwe Zoom
- Wisent aren't tagged in the Netherlands





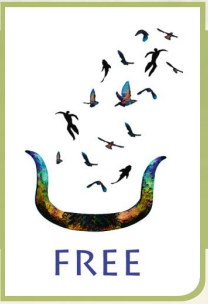


3. Natural grazing and law

Providing care

- Supervision
 - Weekly Netherlands
 - Daily Germany/ Denmark
- Herd or individual animal?





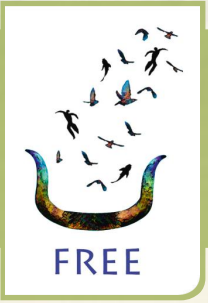
3. Natural grazing and law

Animal welfare

- Irritations, is it allowed for animals to experience temporal discomfort
- Body condition core
- Diseases and injuries



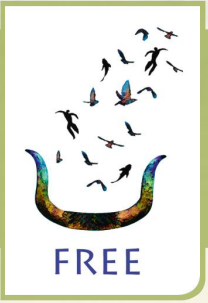
score	1	2	3	4	5
A / C Zichtbaarheid heupbot – zitbot en spier achterpoot					
B Kuil tussen heupbot – ribben					
D Bedekking ruggengraat					
E Holte onder staart Achter- aanzicht					



3. Natural grazing and law

Animal health programs

- Derogations
 - 0.1 % of animals
 - 0.2 % of facilities
- Netherlands
 - 3.8M cattle → 3,800 derogation space
 - 6,000 – 12,000 cattle within nature reserves
- Different countries have running programs for different diseases

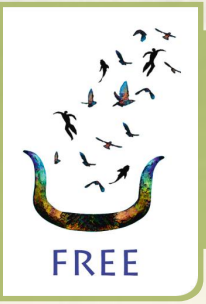


3. Natural grazing and law

Animal health programs: IBR

- National vs European programme
- Exceptions for natural grazing within Dutch programme
 - Wisent excluded
 - Annual vaccination of 85% of herd vs bi-annual vaccination of all animals, or..
 - Annual testing of 55% of herd
- Water buffalo:
 - False positive tests; BoHV-1 vs BuHV-1
 - Forked vain beneath tail

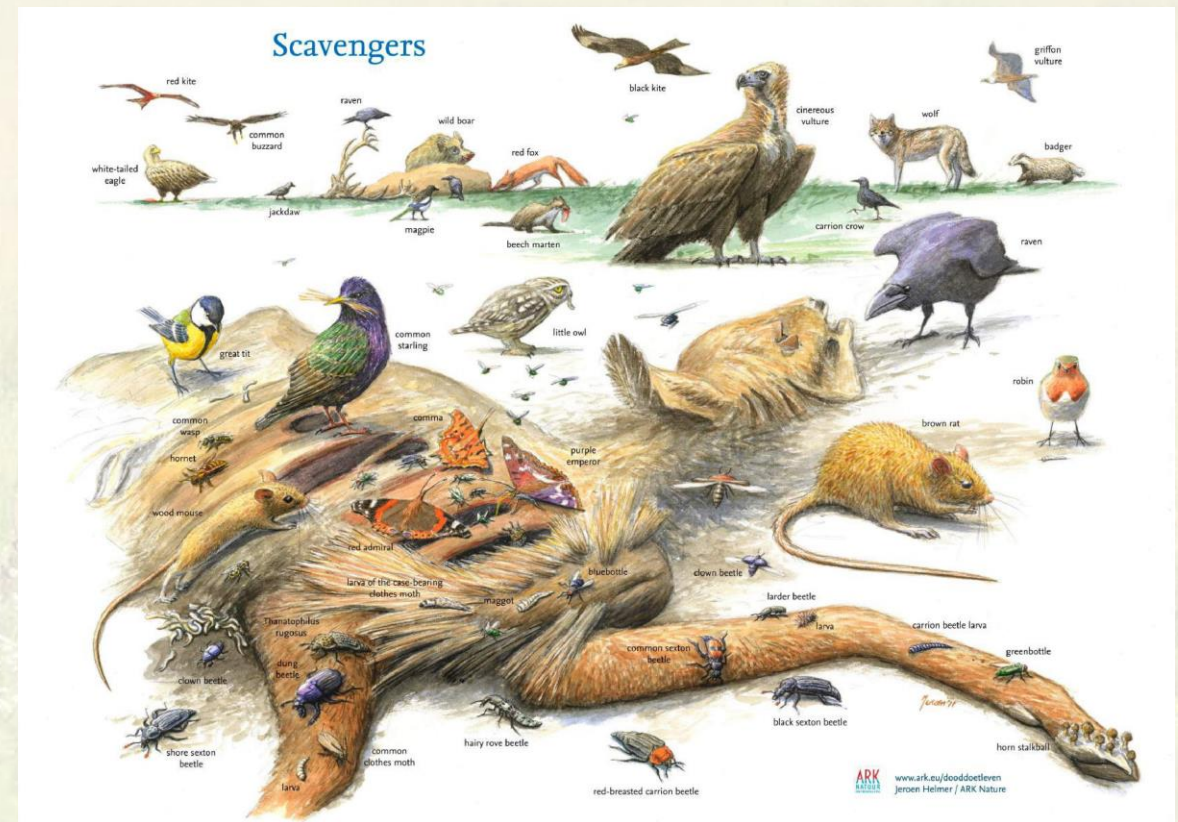


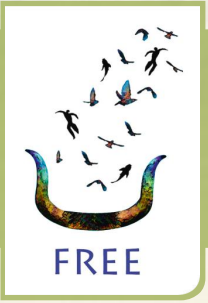


3. Natural grazing and law

Death animals

- Destruction law
- AHL provides exceptions for feeding of scavengers → National implementation
- Dutch exceptions
 - Carcasses beyond power of control
 - In conflict with other legislation/ law
 - Wisent ≠ registered ≠ no destruction



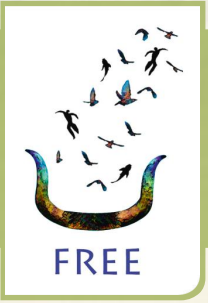


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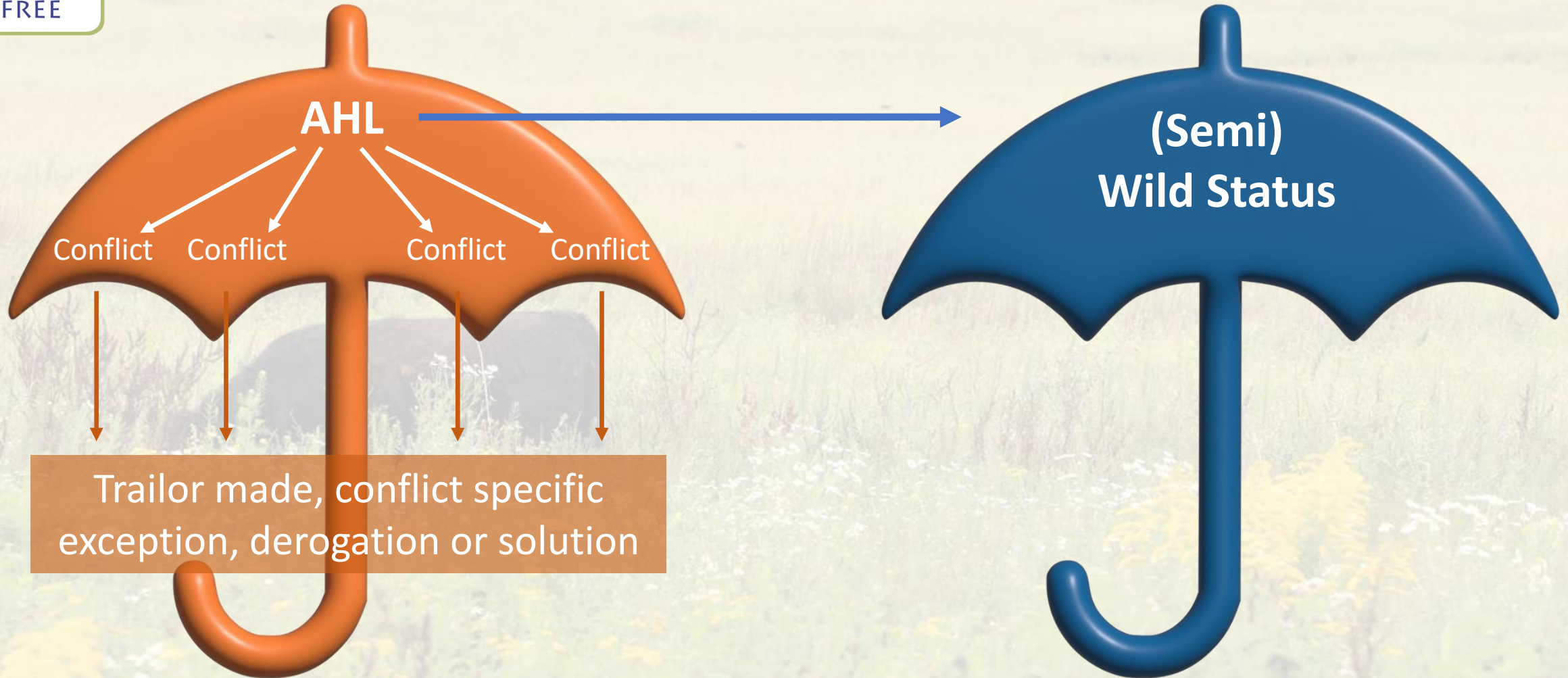
Culling grazers

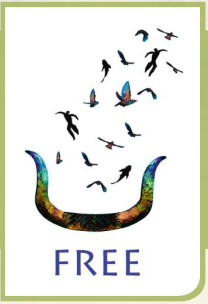
- Law on 'Weapons and munition'
- Cattle / horses ≠ Wildlife: hunters license is not valid
- WM4 derogation
 - License to shoot dangerous, uncontrollable or ill animals
 - ≠ population management





4. The “Way out”



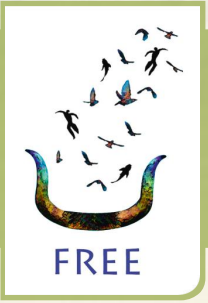


4. The “Way out”

Showcase example *(Prof. A. Trouwborst)*

- Protection of grazers against wolves
 - Animals are self-reliant; social herds!
 - “Owner” does not have complete power of disposal
- Importance way of living of animals
- Irrelevant of breed or area size

Zorgplichten voor grote grazers in natuurgebieden; een juridische verkenning, met bijzondere aandacht voor het scenario van predatie door wolven (Trouwborst, 2023)



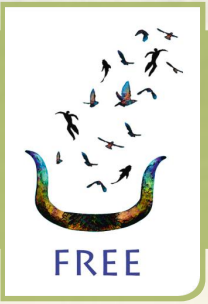
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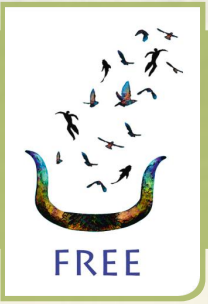
4. The “Way out”

Legal obligations

- Convention on Biological Diversity (1993)
- International treaties override EU & National law
- COP15 (Kumming Montreal) → obligation to restore ecosystems
- COP16 (Cali) → just 44 out of 196 parties came up with new biodiversity plans

Personal interpretation:

EU and its members states are obligated to (lawfully) restore natural grazing as a natural process as part of its biodiversity plans and according to the `Convention on Biological Diversity's` definitions



4. The “Way out”

(Semi) wild status

- Animals managed as wildlife
- The process of natural grazing is key, not, the species, breed or area size
- Smaller populations are managed as one big meta-population, through connectivity or animal exchange

“Kept animals” and “wild animals” are defined in Article 4(5) and (8) of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 and they are regardless of the species in question. For example, bovine animals in nature reserves may be considered by the given competent authority of the MS in question as wild animals. For such wild bovine animals, the above exemptions would not be applicable, simply because already the baseline EU rules are not applicable. Such considerations and decisions are the responsibility of the MS, in light of their particular circumstances.

Thanks to Edwina Dunn, for submitting the question to the European Commission

A photograph of a herd of horses and cattle grazing in a field. The horses are light-colored, and the cattle are dark. The sky is blue with white clouds. The text "Questions?" is overlaid in yellow.

Questions?