Conservation strategies for Transylvanian nature treasures: The case of *Maculinea spp.*

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5-fold *Maculinea* miracle in SCI „Eastern Hills of Cluj“

Pics: N. Timus & C. Van Swaay

Butterflies: Rakosy & Voda 2008; Timus et al. 2011

Possible explanations

- Geomorphological diversity (dry and damp meadows near to each other)
- Continuity of traditional meadow management
- Increase of fallow/semi-abandoned areas
Threats

- Abandonment of mowing
- Increase of sheep grazing during summer
- Change in mowing regime, loss of heterogeneity
Protection efforts during last years

- Designation of Natura 2000 site (2011)
- Scientific studies (2009-12)
- Pilot agri-environment programme (2011/12): money for late mowing
- New regional agri-environment package for „Maculinea“-grassland (2012)
- Introduction of hand mowing machines (2012)
„Eastern“ issues

• Novelty of Natura 2000 and agri-environment

• Importance of small scale farming
Conclusions

Challenge of preserving developing further small scale farming for maintaining the high nature value