

Bringing trashumance back to life as an option to the future: collection of nine years of experience

Mariana Yuan Ribeiro Couto



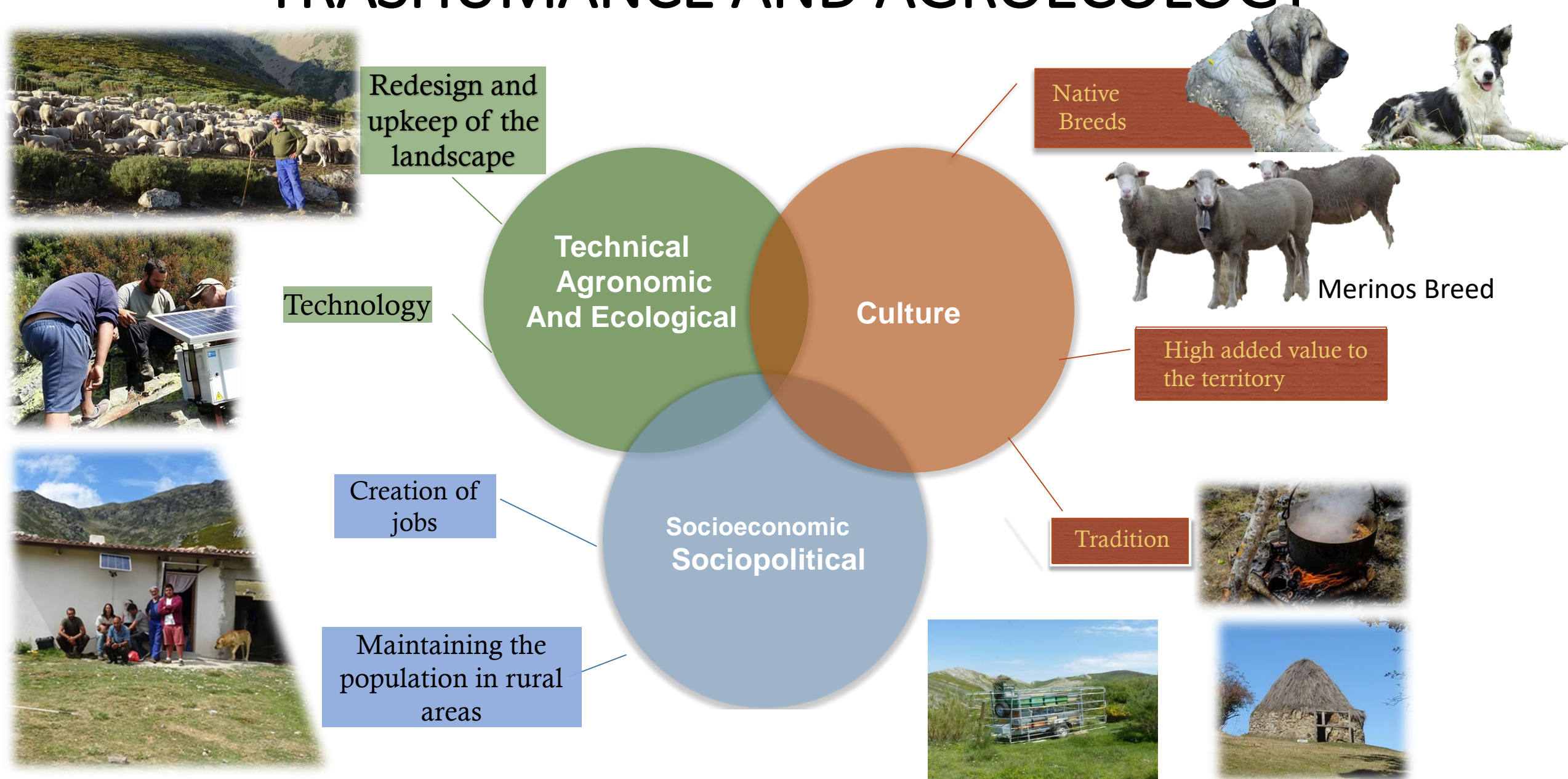
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Establishing The Ecological Basis For Sustainable Agriculture
22-23 November 2018 – University of Évora, Portugal



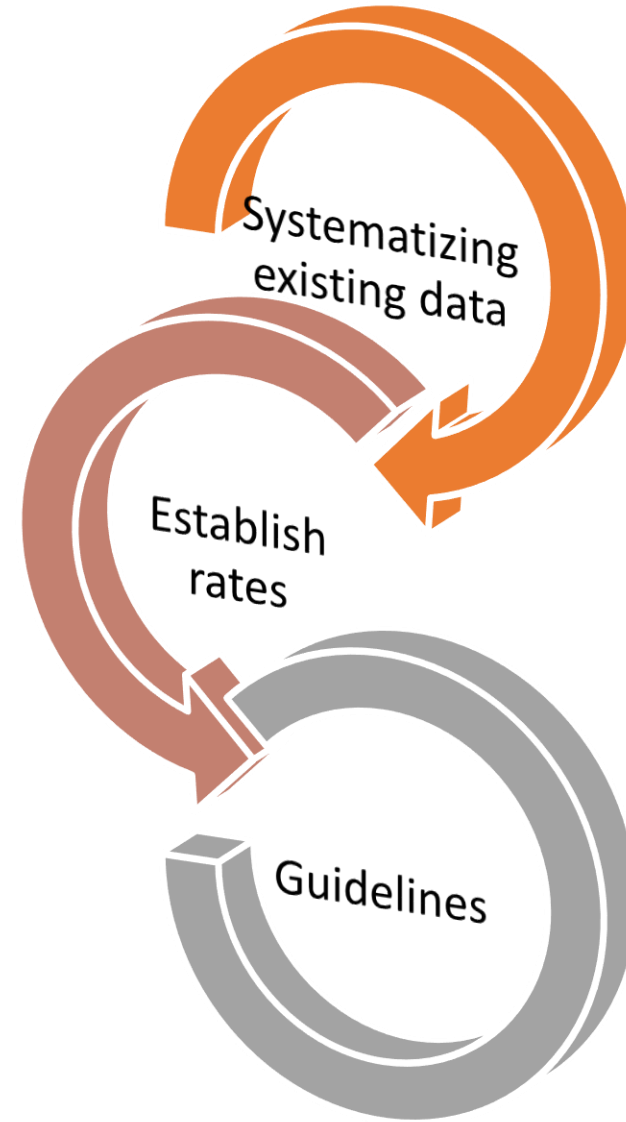


Harmony with
biological cycles

TRASHUMANCE AND AGROECOLOGY



Methodology



FUNDACIÓN MONTE MEDITERRÁNEO

2009

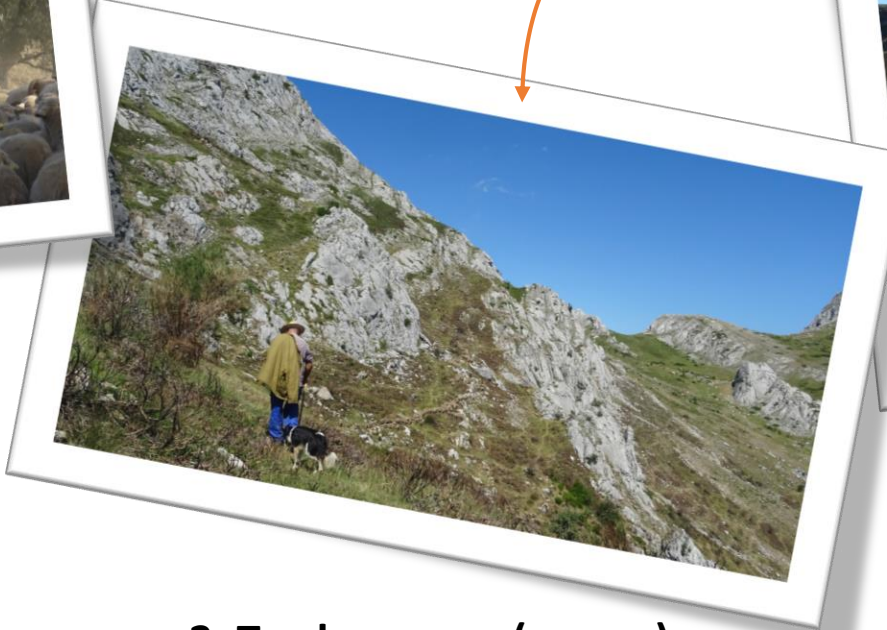
2018



Study-Case



1. Trashumance (on foot)



2. Trashumance (owner)



3. Trashumance (shepherds recruitment)



Case 1. Trashumance (on foot)



N.º animals	860
Mortality Rate	1,16%
€ economic losses/ Mortality (100€/sheep)	1.000,00 €
Wolves /Brown bear attacks	1 (bear)

INDICES OF INTEREST

Economic impact per hectare of transhumance land	66,34 €
Economic impact per sheep during trashumance	77,14 €
Costs without Trashumance	29,76 €
Diferencial	+47,38 €
Indirect Economic Activity Generated	43.940,00 €
Economic impact by herd	66.340,00 €
Generate Jobs by hectare	0,003
Generate Jobs by sheeps	0,0035
Generate Jobs by herd	1,5

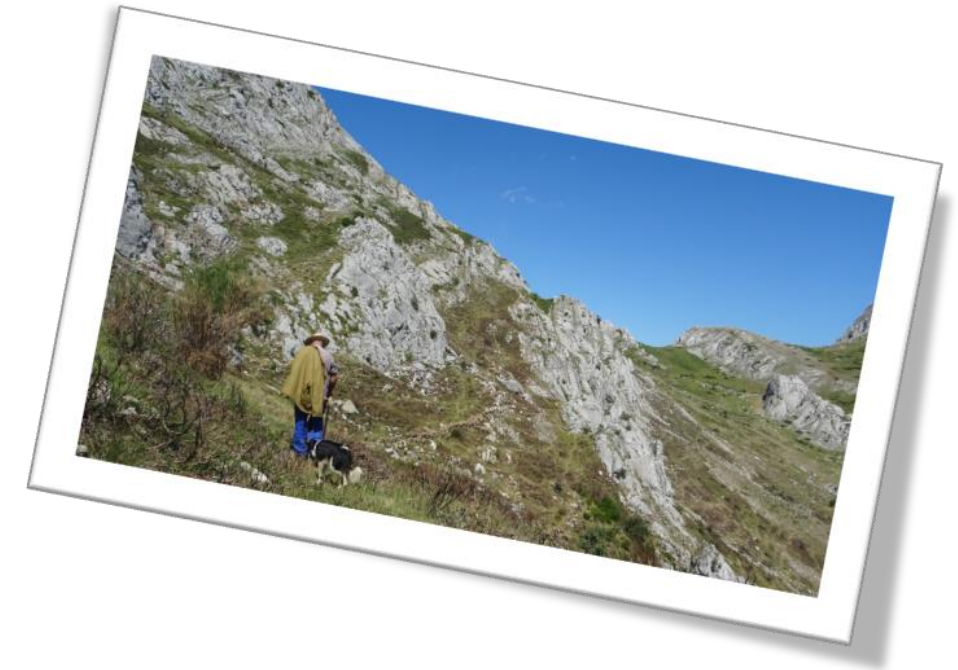
Principals Problems

1. High labour intensity
2. Lack of qualified shepherds
3. Disqualified cattle trails
4. Require greater support

Case 2. Trashumance (owner)



N.º animals	1120	1300
Mortality Rate	0,98%	0,38%
€ economic losses/ Mortality (100€/sheep)	1.100,00 €	500,00 €
Wolves /Brown bear attacks	0	0



INDICES OF INTEREST		
Economic impact per hectare of transhumance land	8,00 €	12,70 €
Economic impact per sheep during trashumance	7,14 €	9,77 €
Costs without Trashumance	16,73	21,51 €
Diferencial	-9,59 €	-11,74 €
Indirect Economic Activity Generated	8.000,00€	10.100,00€
Economic impact by herd	8.000,00 €	12.700,00 €
Generate Jobs by hectare	0	0
Generate Jobs by sheeps	0	0
Generate Jobs by herd	0	0



Principals Problems
Over-dependence by the farmer (owner) – No holidays

Case 3. Trashumance (shepherds recruitment)

	AVERAGE
N.º animals	1431,56
Mortality Rate	1,41%
€ economic losses/ Mortality (100€/sheep)	2.712,50 €
Wolves /Brown bear attacks	2



INDICES OF INTEREST

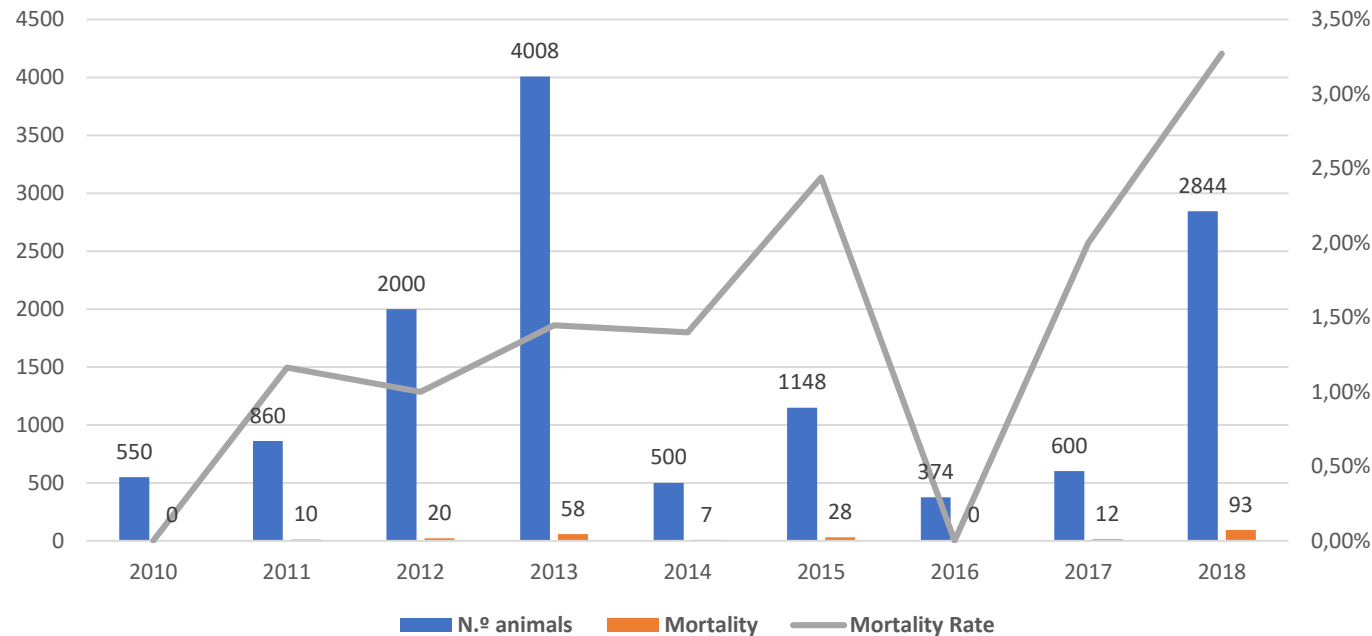
AVERAGE

Economic impact per hectare of land	
Economic impact per sheep during trashumance	
Costs without Trashumance	
Diferencial	+23,95 €
Indirect Economic Activity Generated	17.498,85 €
Economic impact by herd	25.010,50 €
Generate Jobs by hectare	0,00312
Generate Jobs by sheeps	0,00352
Generate Jobs by herd	2,23

When we have profitability?



Case 3. Trashumance (shepherds recruitment)



Principals Problems

1. Lack of qualified shepherds
2. Coordinate herds from different origins

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
N.º animals	860	2000	4008	500	1148	374	600	2844
Economic impact per sheep during trashumance	77,14 €	21,45 €	18,94 €	50,60 €	17,64 €	64,38 €	124,80 €	16,74 €
Costs without Trashumance	29,76 €	16,23 €	27,05 €	27,05 €	21,64 €	16,23 €	18,94 €	21,64 €
Diferencial	47,38 €	5,22 €	-8,11 €	23,55 €	-4,00 €	48,15 €	105,86 €	-4,90 €

Hidden Profitability.....

...Provisioning of ecosystem services?!?

- Clearing of the mountain
 - Maintenance of open spaces with low biomass content in the landscape for reducing fire risk
 - Safe havens for biodiversity adapted to this landscapes
- Respect of biological cycles:
 - Break at the holding of origin
 - Soil rest
 - Regeneration of trees – Montado / Dehesa
- Sheep production:
 - Diet without changes (only grass all the year)
 - Excellent Body Condition (developing musculature)
 - Calving ease and lactation

Carbon Secuestration vs Real Costs

“(...) Merino ewes all reported that BCS at breeding and/or mid-pregnancy was positively correlated with the number of lambs weaned per ewe exposed to the ram.” Kenyon. PR; et al, 2014



A large flock of sheep is gathered in a field, with a wooden fence visible in the background. The sheep are of various breeds, including some with horns. The image is used as a background for the text.

GUIDELINES:

1. 1 Mountain Pass – 1 Shepherd - No more than 1000-1500 sheep
2. Small herds from different origins – No more than 1000 sheep
3. 1 Mastiff dog for each 100 sheep
4. 2 Border Collie
5. Large Knowledge of the mountain pass – Qualified shepherds!!
6. Avoid calving during the transhumance

Requirements for a Real Future:

- Involve actively the Public Administrations:
 - Transhumance for the farmers
- Improve the infrastructure
- Qualified shepherds - Improving the systems of Vocational Education and Training
- Dignifying the Shepherd profession
- Additional opportunities to the farmers (promote extensive livestock)
 - Climatic Change
 - Landscape management and culture
 - Sustainable and healthy food



FUNDACIÓN MONTE MEDITERRÁNEO

Thank you for the attention!



FUNDACIÓN MONTE MEDITERRÁNEO

marianayuan@gmail.com

mariana@fundacionmontemediterraneo.com