



Grazing of native sheep breeds - protection of biodiversity of valuable natural areas in Poland

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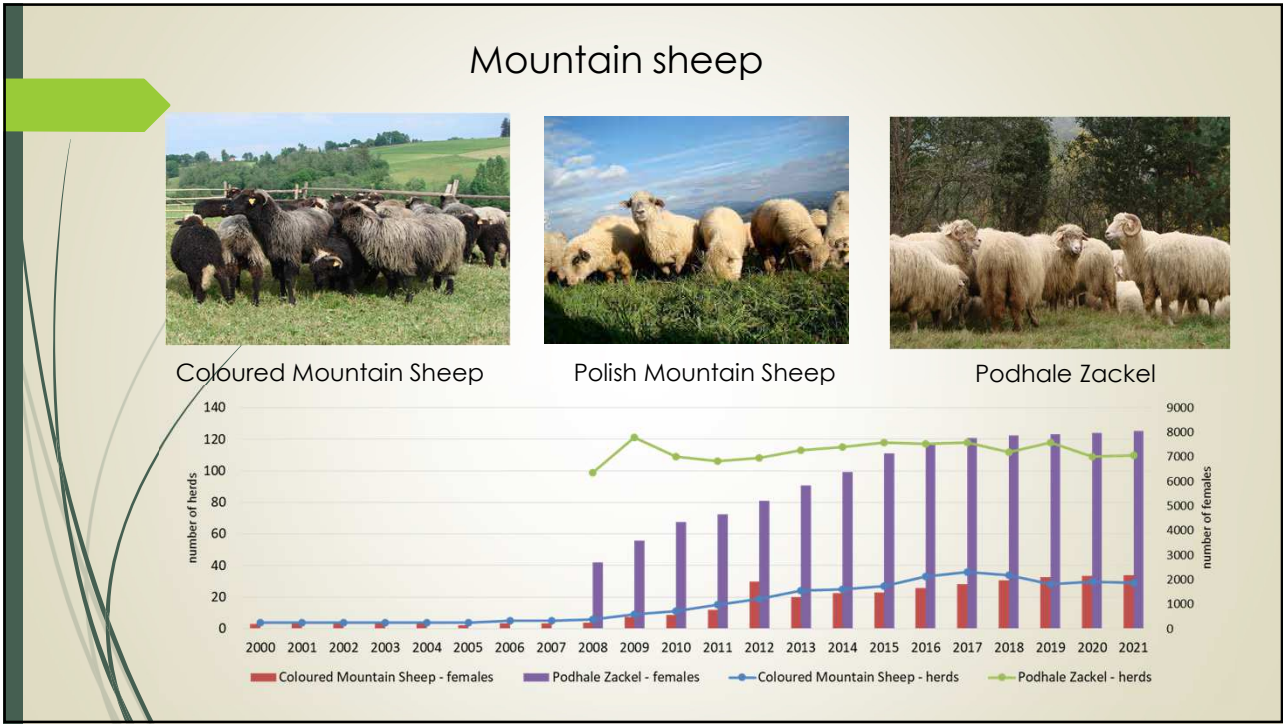
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Presentation plan

- Native breeds of sheep
- The importance of sheep grazing - ecological benefits
- Examples of ecosystem activities



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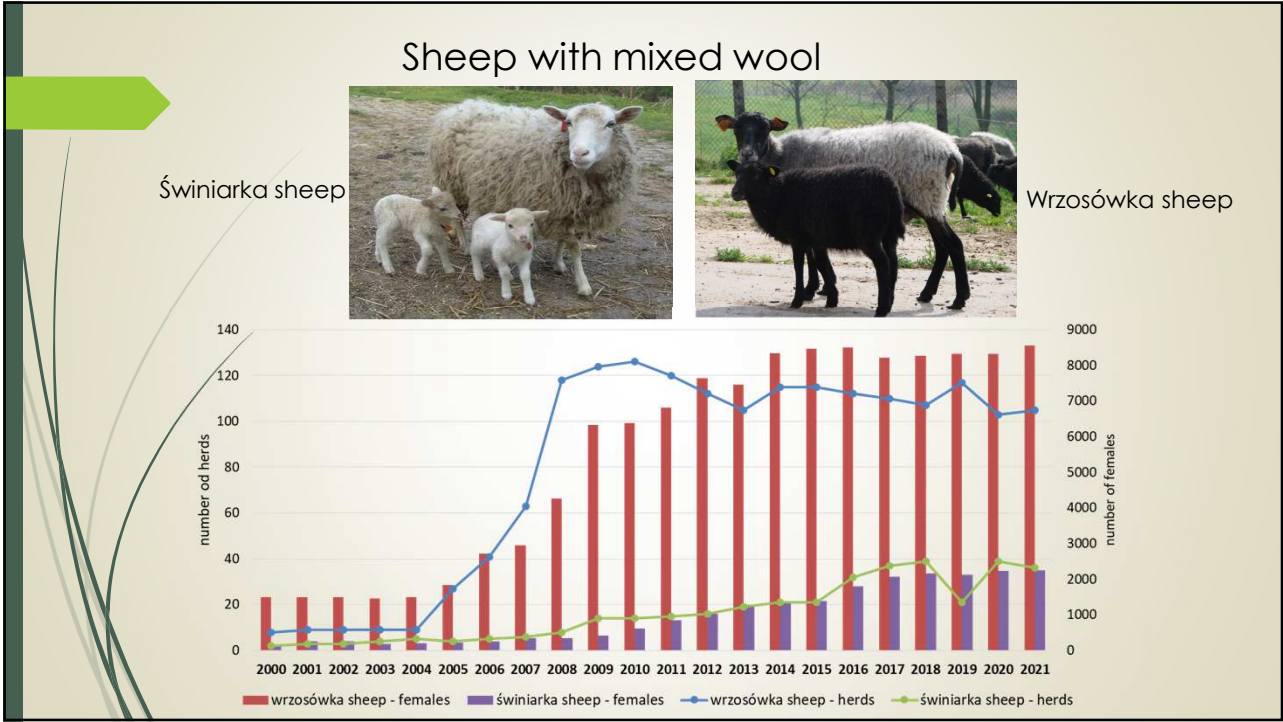


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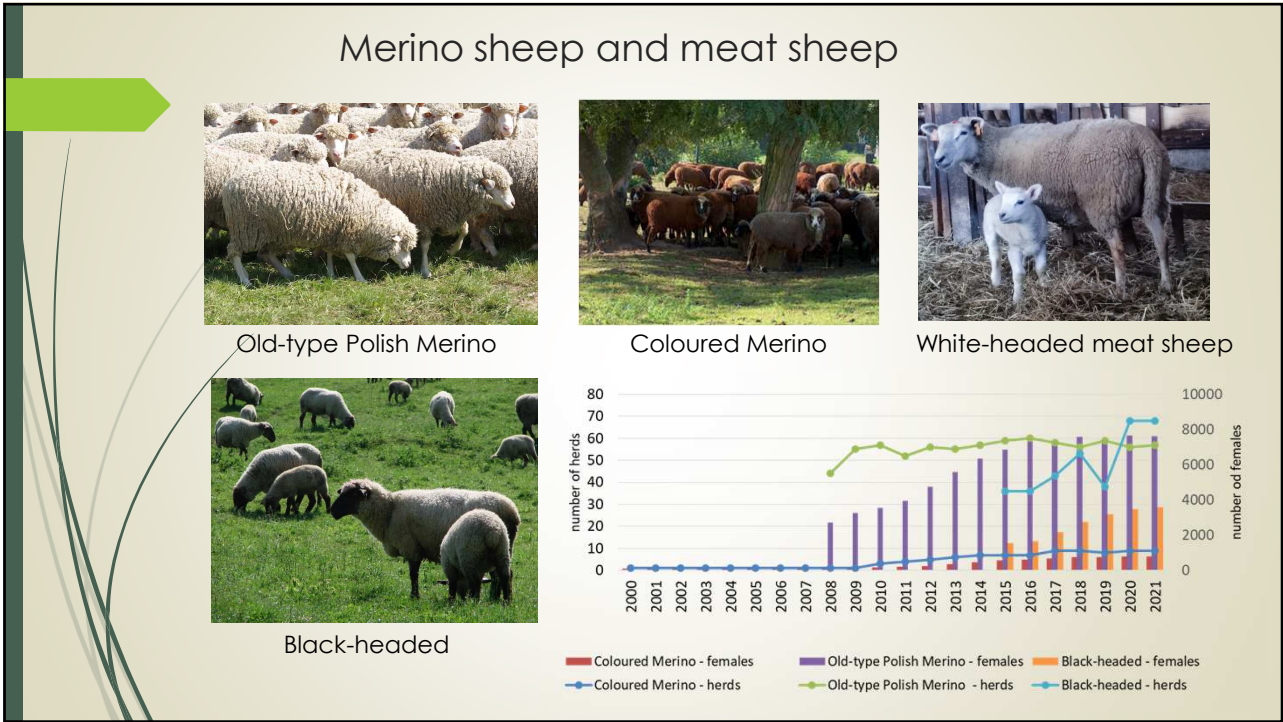
The mountain sheep :
Podhale Zackel, Polish mountain sheep and Coloured mountain sheep, represent the woolly-milky direction of use.

- They provide milk for the production of traditional products (oscypki, bundz, bryndza, redykołki, żentyca), wool, hides, and very tasty meat (lamb from Podhale and Beskidy).
- The breeds are perfectly adapted to the harsh climatic conditions and terrain of the mountains
- Mountain sheep are an inseparable element of the highland economy and culture.
- Cultural grazing of mountain sheep is of particular importance for the preservation of the biodiversity of plant communities in the protected areas of National Parks.

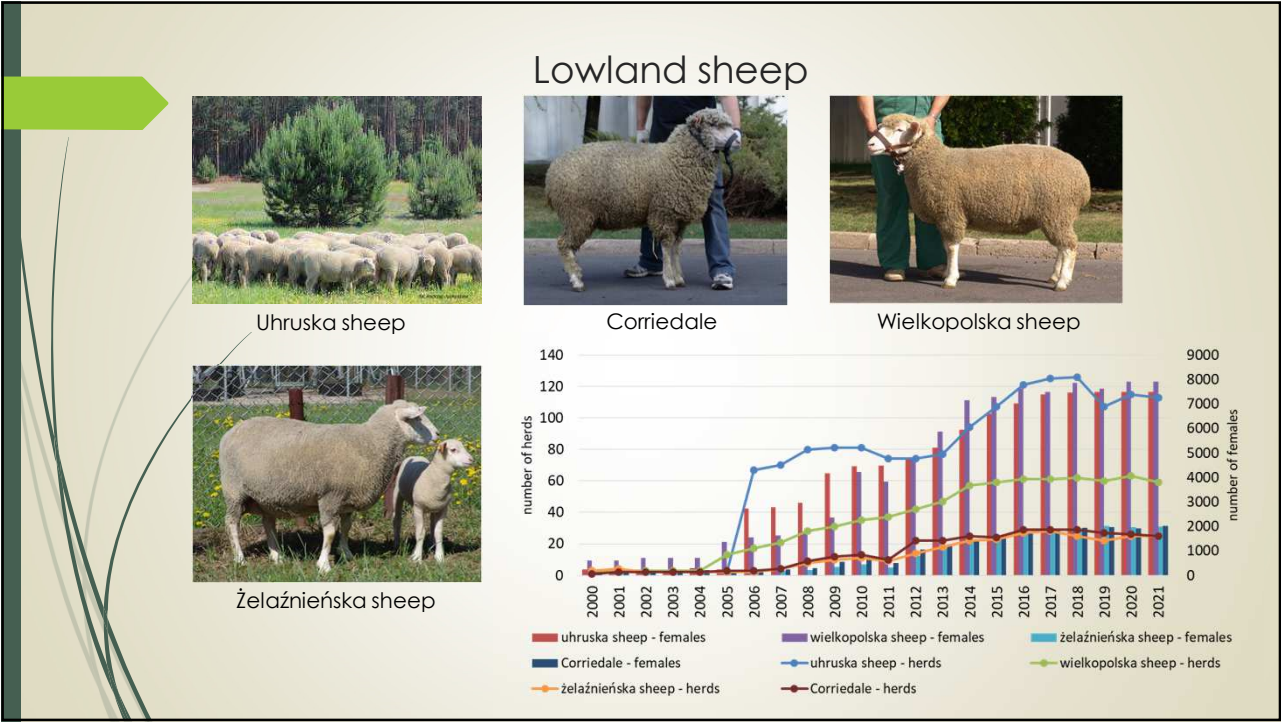
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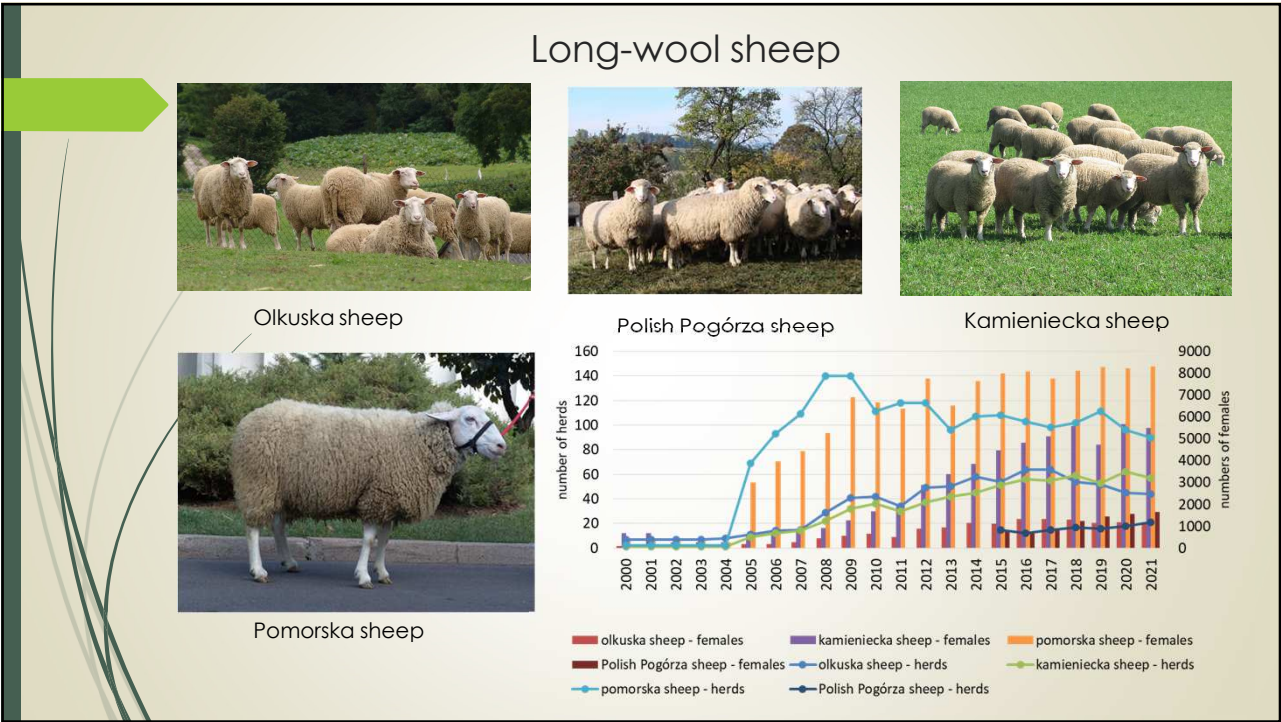
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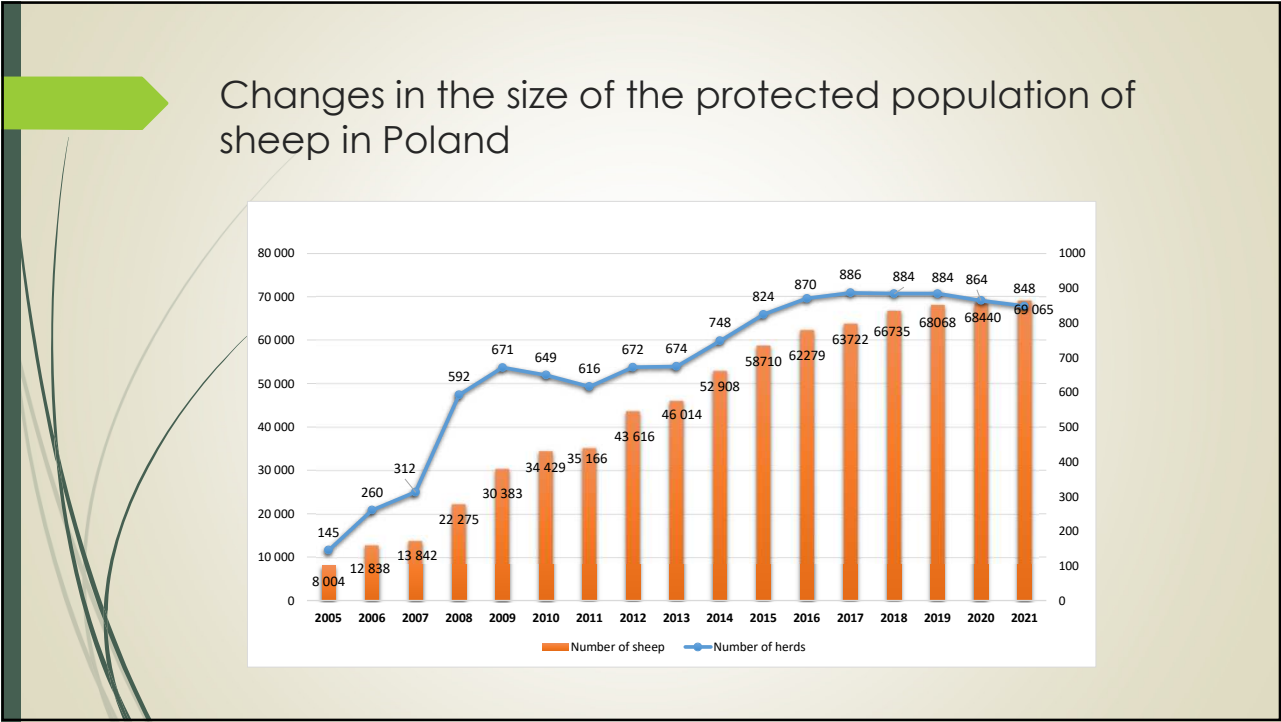
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The usefulness of sheep of native breeds in extensive production

- **Native sheep** - perfectly adapted to local conditions;
- resistant to unfavorable conditions, low temperatures and prolonged rainfall;
- make good use of pasture;
- resistant to herd-related diseases **grazing** like a lameness or parasites.



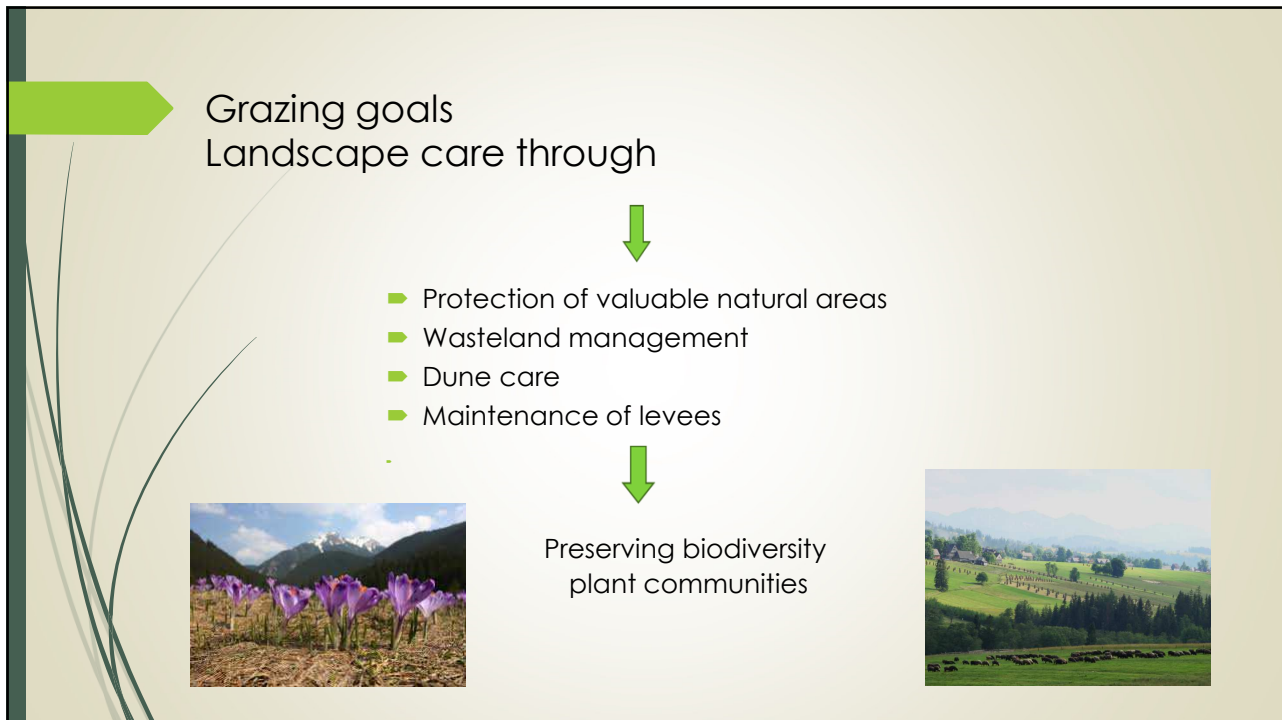
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Sheep grazing

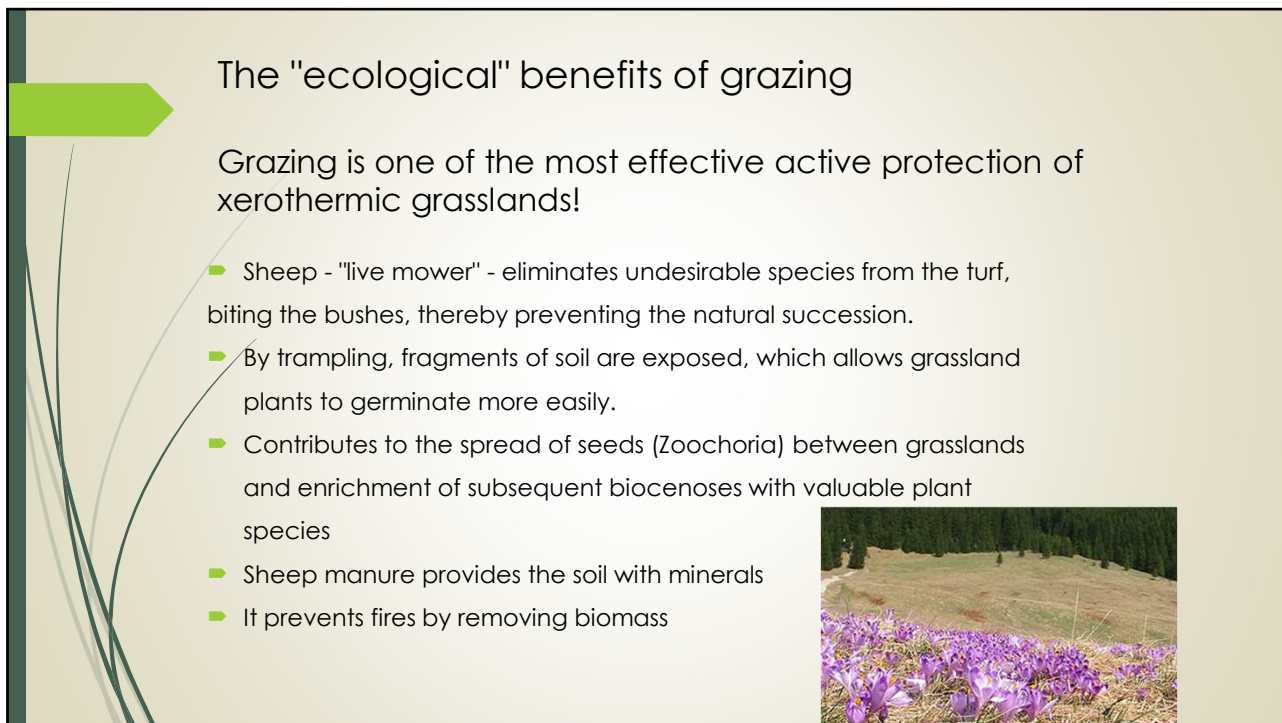
- Sheep are typical pasture animals, therefore from early spring to late autumn they should be fed exclusively on pasture
- An adult sheep takes about 6 kg of pasture fodder per day
- For sheep pastures almost all grasslands are suitable, suitably dry
- Sheep bite the swath very low and selectively
- They do not uproot clumps of vegetation
- They can not cope with larger bushes



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The role of sheep in active nature conservation

- Active protection consists in restoring the natural state of nature through the use of appropriate care, breeding and protection treatments and the preservation of some elements of nature in a specific state.
- Grazing **prevents secondary succession**, which consists of an increase in the share of shrubs and trees and the impoverishment of biodiversity
- Properly conducted grazing is the cheapest, most natural and environmentally friendly method of maintaining the natural and landscape values of semi-natural habitats

Secondary succession: the forest returns to the meadows and fallow fields



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Use of grazing in protected areas

Grazing **prevents secondary succession**, which consists of an increase in the share of shrubs and trees and the impoverishment of biodiversity

Protected areas

- National parks
- nature reserves
- landscape parks
- other protected natural and landscape areas
- Natura 2000 areas




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The use of sheep grazing in the territory of mountain national parks

Nature conservation programs in National Parks with the use of extensive grazing of mountain sheep

National park	Area (ha)	Lead time since
Babia Góra	12	2002-2005; 2008
Bieszczady	300	1998
Gorce	24	2004
Magura	100	1998-2008; 2008
Pieniny	52	1992
Tatra	150	1981


National Parks of Polish Carpathians




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Grazing in the Polish Carpathians

The landscape of the modern Carpathians has been shaped by centuries of mow and pasture economy




Glades and halls created as a result of human activity can exist only when they are used.




During world war II, 30,000 sheep and cows were grazed in the Tatras!
1954 – establishment of TNP
1978 – complete cessation of grazing
Effect! ecological succession
- overgrowing of halls with blueberries, raspberries, forest;
- reduction of biodiversity.


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Tatra National Park

- Currently, about 1500 sheep of mountain breeds are grazed in the park






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Pieniński National Park

- Podhale zackel,
- Polish mountain sheep
- 1 herd – 500 sheep per 50 ha
- Uninterrupted grazing since 1996,
- cultural grazing




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Gorce National Park

- Sheep and cattle grazing,
- cultural grazing,




Gorce National Park
Globtroter.pl

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Bieszczady National Park

- Podhale zackel,
- Polish mountain sheep
- several hundred sheep are grazed



<https://przyrodapolska.pl/>

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Cultural grazing


In the Tatra Mountains, cultural grazing was first introduced in 1981

Cultural grazing – grazing sheep and cattle in protected areas of national parks, allowed with numerous restrictions.

Requirements

- Only shepherds who receive grazing concessions can graze.
- Only sheep and cows of local breeds can be grazed and their number is limited.
- Baca must have meadows or glades outside the Tatras (so-called loincloths).
- The traditional grazing season lasts from the end of April to the end of September.
- Only dogs of the local Podhale Shepherd Dog breed can be used for grazing
- Baca and juhasi must use traditional equipment, clothing and highlander dialect.
- Traditional pastoral decorations are to be preserved.

Grazing on Kalatówki



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Cultural aspect of sheep grazing in the Carpathians



Maintaining sheperd traditions

- Hut construction
- Rituals, customs
- The traditional way of making cheeses

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Preservation of material cultural heritage



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Summary

Sheep grazing has a beneficial effect on the environment through

- inhibition of secondary succession,
- species protection (low-grass plants, insects, birds),
- maintaining landscape values,
- preservation of biological and natural diversity.



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Thank you for your attention



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Extensive sheep grazing serves to protect nature and preserve valuable natural landscapes; carried out in fallow areas, grasslands of mountains and foothills, in river valleys and in mid-forest clearings, it helps to maintain the specific nature of ecosystems and the biodiversity of free-living species. The grazing of animals in mountainous regions has specific culture-forming functions, which distinguishes these areas from other parts of the country, giving a specific character to the entire mountain culture.