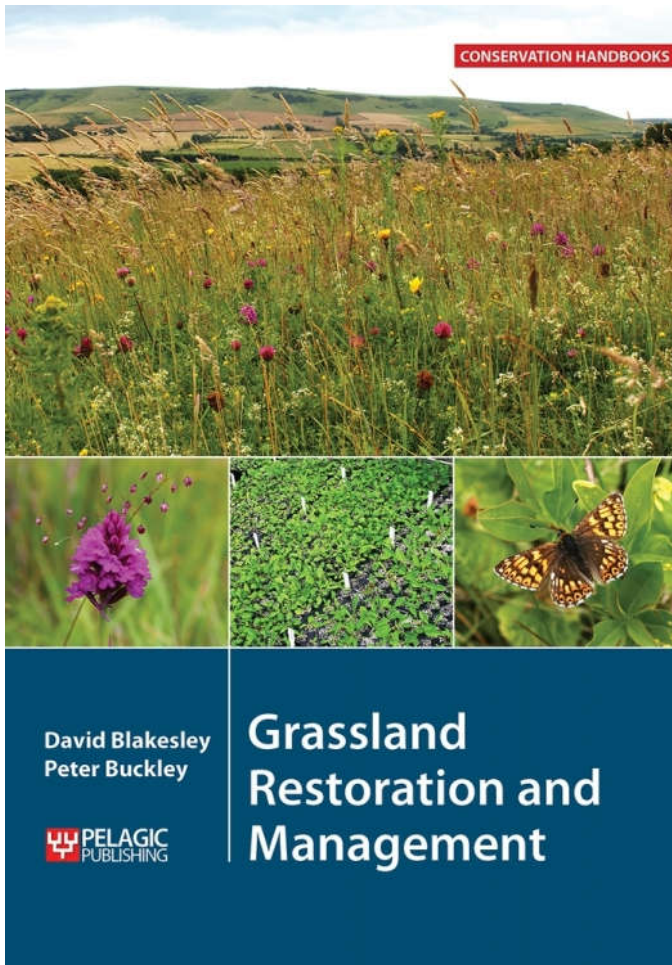


Book Review

Here we present recently published books that might be relevant for grassland scientists and conservationists, both specific grassland titles and faunas, floras or general books on ecology and conservation biology. If you (as an author, editor or publisher) would like to propose a certain title for review, or if you (as an EDGG member) would like to write a certain review (or reviews in general), please contact the Book Review Editor (anya_meadow@i.ua).



Blakesley, D. & Buckley, P. 2016. Grassland Restoration and Management. - 272 pp., Pelagic Publishing, Exeter. ISBN: 978-1-78427-078-0. 34.99£

This book is a new and interesting addition to the "Conservation Handbook Series" by Pelagic Publishing. In this book, dry grassland conservation and restoration perspectives are in the spotlight, thus it can be a useful and interesting reference for all the members of the Eurasian Dry Grassland Group. The topic is in line with the themes of the EDGG, which is well reflected in recent EDGG-edited special features on the importance, conservation and restoration of steppes and semi-natural grasslands (Dengler et al. 2014; Becker et al. 2016; Török et al. 2016; Valkó et al. 2016; Wesche et al. 2016).

The book is pioneering in many ways, as it provides a comprehensive overview of the conservation status, threats and nature conservation and restoration perspectives of dry grasslands in the United Kingdom. There is an urgent need for such books on grassland restoration and management in many regions. This publication is a nice example to follow, and hopefully similar syntheses will be published in other countries as well.

The book guides us to the field of grassland restoration and management through seven chapters totalling 191 pages. Initially, the authors give a comprehensive overview of grassland types in the United Kingdom based on the National Vegetation Classification (Rodwell 1992), with links to the Natura 2000 habitat types as well. The chapter about grassland wildlife identifies species of special conservation interest in the UK and also those habitat features, which are important for these species. Authors also provide guidelines for biodiversity assessment, including habitat and wildlife surveys, with references to several protocols and guidelines. After these introductory parts, chapters 3-7 deal with the management and restoration of grasslands. First, management methods, such as grazing, mowing, shrub control and herbicide application, are discussed. Probably the most interesting part is about grazing, with detailed guidelines for stocking rates, timing and duration of grazing and challenges for animal husbandry. Chapters 4 and 5 give a comprehensive overview of the threats, challenges and opportunities for grassland restoration. Chapter 6 discusses questions on the plant material used in restoration, such as the origin, species composition and ecological traits of the species used and the methods of their introduction into the restoration sites. Finally, chapter 7 deals with determining the success of grassland restoration, in terms of monitoring short and long-term restoration success and cost-effectiveness analyses.

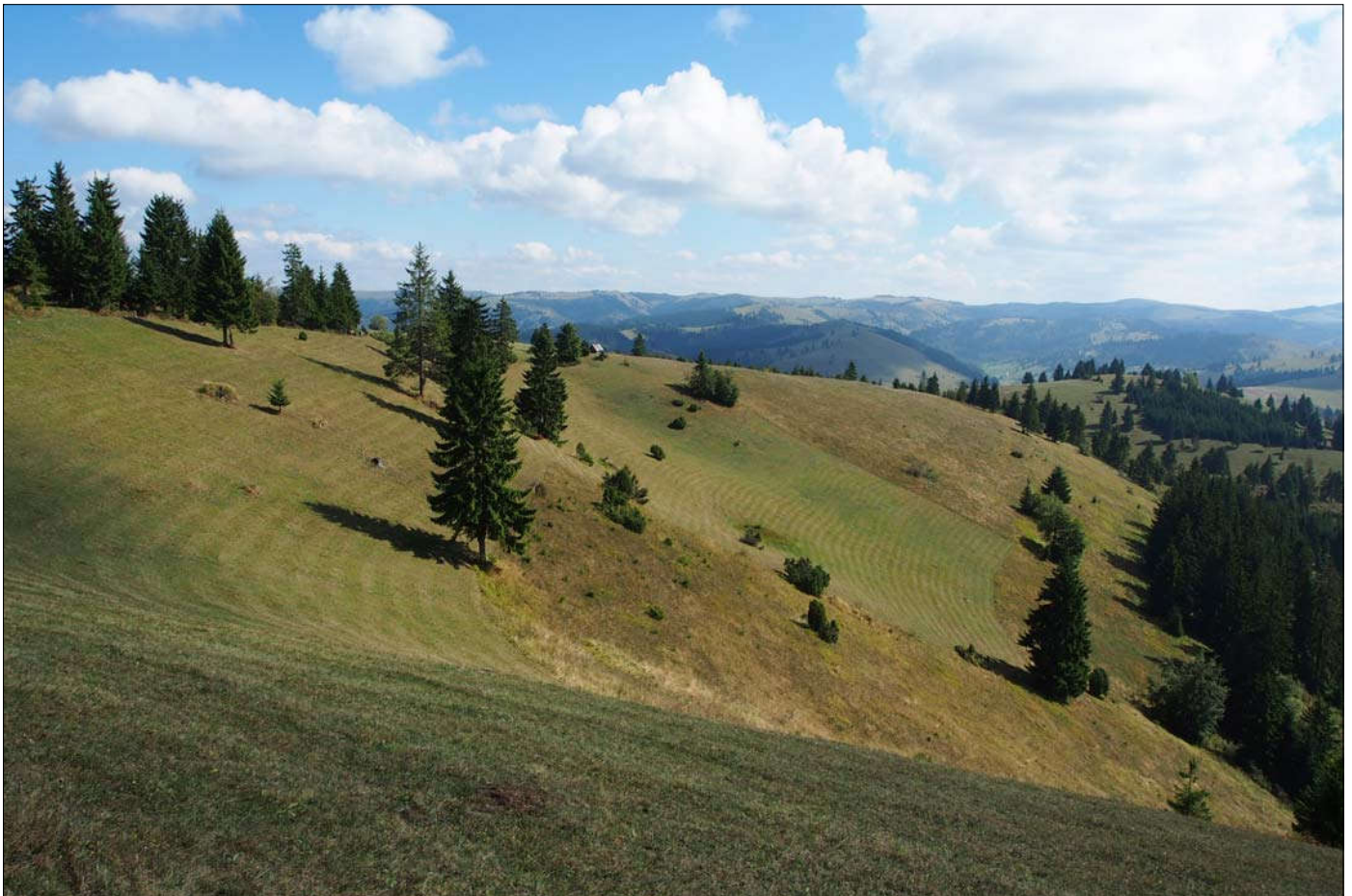
The focus of the book is clearly on the United Kingdom, but reference is made to several international researches. I am sure that the findings are important and informative for readers outside the United Kingdom as well. One minor criticism is that species are mentioned in their English common names and Latin names are only given in the Species index, which is rather challenging for readers whose mother tongue is not English. But to sum up, this is a comprehensive and practice-oriented book, which can be recommended for conservationists, site managers and also for scientists who are concerned with the conservation and restoration of grassland habitats.

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**Specific biodiversity-friendly management in the Csik Mts.—the site of post-conference excursion of the EGC.
(Photo: M. Janišová).**