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The contribution of prospective methods to support pastoral strategies in the Mediterranean through the example of Corsica

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Integrated Approach for Mediterranean Grazing systems

The contribution of prospective methods to support pastoral strategies in the Mediterranean through the example of Corsica

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(with the methodological contribution of Martin Vanier)



<https://umr-selmet.cirad.fr/>



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**A general context with many
uncertainties and rapid changes**

**Many questions about the future
of livestock farming, pastoralism
and the transformations of
pastoral systems**



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Content

- **Principles and objectives of the prospective approach**
- **The prospective on the future of pastoralism in Corsica and the scenarios it opens up**
- **What this study tells us about the future of pastoralism in the Mediterranean and else where**

Prospective methods have the wind in their sails in a world of uncertainty

What is prospective :

Prospective aims to imagine the trends on future of the object it works on. The deliverables are scenarios built by the prospective group.

It is an ethic to live up to what awaits us in a both lucid and imaginative way ; to reopen the game of perspectives, problems and solutions.

Prospective aims to situate oneself between **what is probable, possible or even unimaginable, what is desirable, desired or even utopian.**

A "good" prospective transforms those who are in charge of its implementation: It disturbs them, moves the lines of the present and changes the representations and mental models we collectively have on a subject and its issues..

By questioning the future, prospective first en lights the present and the challenges of today



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Prospective methods have the wind in their sails in a world of uncertainty

What prospective is not :

- Not (only) the extension of the present, the tendency.
- Not a forecast (close to it but very different).
- Not prediction or prophecy (prospective does not claim to tell the future).
- Not only foresight or precaution (= capacities for reaction rather than pro-action)..
- Not the free statement of unconstrained desires and ideals.
- Not the strategy (the path), but what clarifies it by a "look ahead" nourished by "looks back".



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Prospective methods have the wind in their sails in a world of uncertainty

The need to define the frame of reference of our prospective:

- **What time horizon:** One or more decades (2030, 2050...)
- **Properly identify the project's sponsors**
- **The constitution of a prospective limited group of between 15 and 30 diversified actors (from administration, associations, economy stake holders of actors, experts, scientists, politicians, citizens, etc.) all volunteers and engaged to participate during all the exercise**
- **The participants accept to apply the principles of the exercise: pluralism, heterogeneity of contrasting points of view, expression of divergences and even points of tension, mutual respect without controversies or polemics (“what is said is said” ...); the key role of the facilitator**

The futures of pastoralism in Corsica

- **Our time horizon:** A decade, the time of a political program
- **Our sponsors:** A prospective launched as part of a support program for the implementation of a pastoral strategy, the setting of the pastoralism agenda by the regional authorities ("*Pasturismu, una andatura cumuna*")
- **The chosen territorial prospective method (Martin Vanier) -** Setting up a prospective workshop with a group of around thirty diversified actors from Corsica ready to accept the rules
- **A workshop organized in 4 one-day sessions after a previous preparation and documentation:**

- **Problematizing.** Build the subject collectively, agree on the starting points and on a documented diagnosis by combining ecological (environments and resources), economic (products and values) sociological (the actors and their real aims) approaches.
- **Projecting and planning.** “what will be the pastoralism tomorrow”... by multiplying hypotheses, anticipations, convictions, intuitions, information about the future, based on the previous problematization.
- **Building scenarios.** By combining the processes described above to build scenarios using a dynamic approach.
- **Calling on the sponsors.** Describe, illustrate, explore each scenario to draw their strategic consequences (If this scenario is chosen, what should be done?)

The futures of pastoralism in Corsica



CONTEXT : ANIMAL PRODUCTION AND PASTORALISM IN CORSICA

Some data:

Corsica, 340 000 inhabitants, 8722 km², 39 hab./km² France, 117

1600 animal farms (61% of the 2600 farms) :

- 564 with dairy sheep -35%
- 394 with dairy goats -25%
- 540 with (out door running) pigs -34%
- 1098 are owners of cattle – **69%**

Gross product of animal production in Corsica (out of Agro-food industry) 55 Millions€ - 23% of the GDP of the agriculture of the island –France 43%

0,5% of the Corsican GDP – France 1,5%

Gross product of an animal farm in Corsica: 34375 € (an average of 260 000 € for a farm in Corsica including all types of production) France : 151 000 €

Little cultivated lands to produce forage (1%) – a mountainous island with a majority of rangelands

An heavy dependance on CAP subsidies : First Pillar : 35 M€ + 2nd Pillar is equivalent to the gross product of animal production in Corsica which creates windfall effects!



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The futures of pastoralism in Corsica

A SHARED DIAGNOSIS IN THE GROUP ON PASTORALISM AND PASTORAL SYSTEMS :

- Pastoralism is an important component of the culture of the island
- Highly degraded practices and know-how that no longer promote the ecological balance of pastoral areas and the preservation of resources
- The absence of pastoral technical models: The observation of a very low contribution of pastoral resources to the food autonomy of the herds (an average of 12% to 40%) , but surveys show that practices based on the resources of pastoral rangelands could lead to a food autonomy until 75%.
- The significant loss of the link between Corsican society and its village and pastoral identity in a changing world,
- The divagation of uncontrolled cows,
- No global strategy to dynamize pastoralism
- No strategy to develop controlled burning
- The perverse effects of European subsidies

At some extent, pastoralism and animal production are de legitimized in Corsica
in spite of the highlighting of "success stories"



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The futures of pastoralism in Corsica

- **What should be the prospective scenarios:**
- **Exploratory** scenarios, credible ways of telling what may happen tomorrow for pastoralism and pastoral activities in Corsica, given **major trends** or **precursory signs**.
- Each scenario may be partly already at work in certain micro-regions and may bring contradictions.
- **No pushback scenarios**



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The futures of pastoralism in Corsica

- The 4 prospective scenarios:

- The scenario of a memory pastoralism (serving other non-agricultural developments like tourism and bio conservation)

Pastoralism remains the cultural backdrop of reference but development priorities go to other non- agricultural developments.

- The scenario of a rediscovered pastoralism (required by transition)

In this scenario we would observe a vast movement to live and work in the countryside ("pè campa qui") by developing local production and with a marked silvopastoral orientation

- The scenario of an absorbed pastoralism by the dairy and meat industry in Corsica:

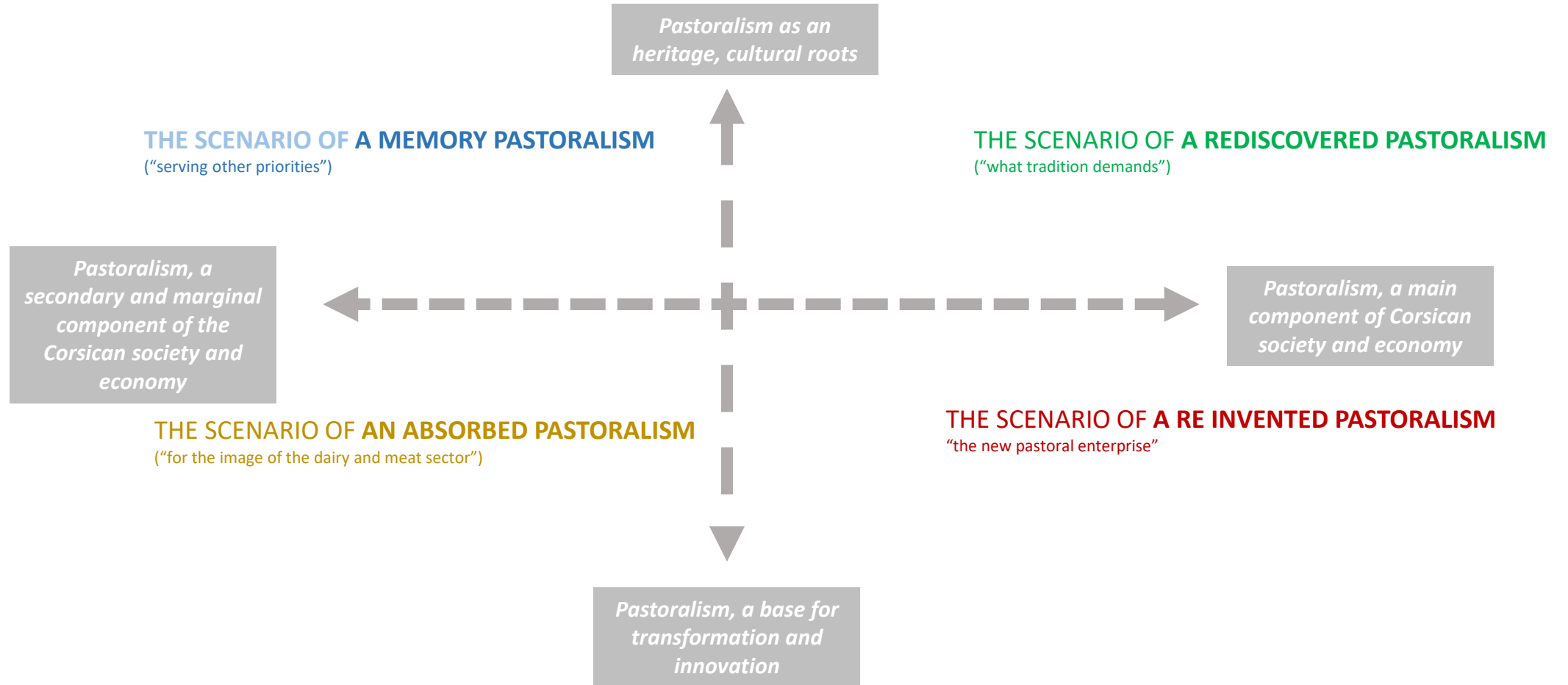
A marginal but symbolic contributor to the island's agricultural ambitions.

- The scenario of a re invented pastoralism (or the new pastoral enterprise)

Pastoralism in Corsica is a source of innovation, join the new world of start-ups and the circular farming economy (Diversification, local products, business approach).

The futures of pastoralism in Corsica

- The interpretative model of the 4 scenarios:





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The futures of pastoralism in Corsica

From scenarios to the development of a strategy by public authorities:

Calling on them

- 6 common strategic calls for all the scenarios:

Rethinking and adapting the CAP

Build a coalition of actors at the service of pastoralism

Enable local communities to become more fully actors in pastoralism

Reinforce the initial and permanent training of breeders

Investing in evaluation, science and engineering in the service of pastoralism

Reconciling pastoralism and forestry

- The strategic calls of each scenario

The memory pastoralism: Suggesting local charters and contracts between breeders and other mountain stakeholders

The rediscovered pastoralism: Design and adopt technical, viable and attractive models to enhance the pastoral resource

The « absorbed » pastoralism: To lean on the requirement of healthy and local food to improve quality everywhere

The « re invented » pastoralism: Support innovations, diversification with a focus on the individual actors who promote them

A look at pastoralism in the Mediterranean

A common context of rapid changes with situations of tension and trends that question the very existence of these pastoral systems;

Many questions about probable, possible, desired or feared futures.

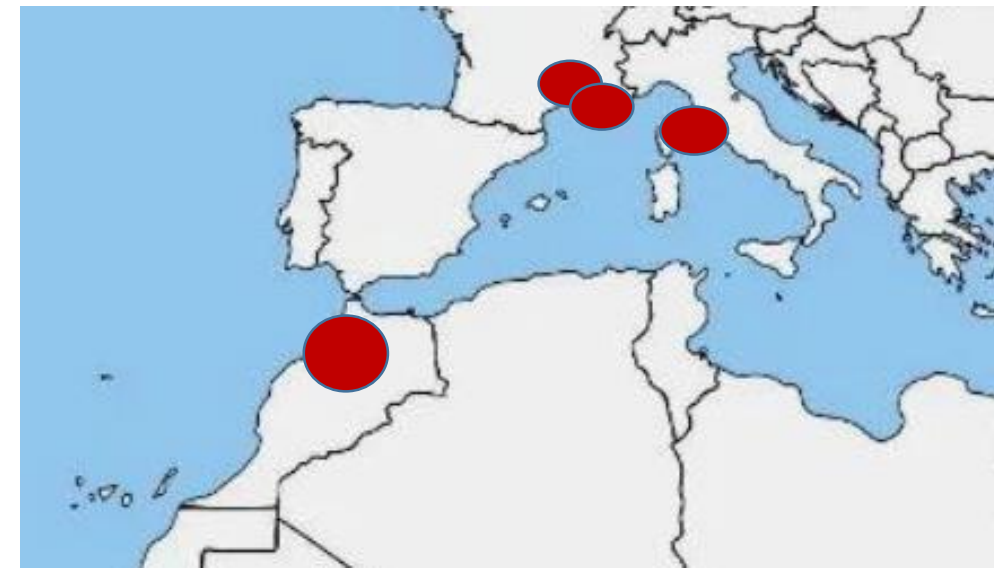
Several other prospectives have been implemented in France, Morocco...

Many prospectives on animal production in Africa, Brazil...

-Some examples

- A prospective on the future of pastoralism in the mainland French mountains under the pressure of predation
- A prospective modelizing the possible futures of pastoral systems in a context of Agro – ecological transition
- An institutionnal prospective on national or regional agriculture in Morocco including the future of pastoralism

To identify the common lines of force to pastoralism, through a cross-analysis of very different socio-political and geographical situations as well as the opportunities, levers and threats shared by the different fields.



A look at pastoralism in the Mediterranean

Reminders on pastoralism, its location and the diversity of forms of pastoral farming

- The common characteristic of all forms of pastoralism is that it is based exclusively or partly on the **spontaneous fodder resources** available to the populations.
- **Issues of degradation** by overgrazing or closure of pastoral rangelands due to under grazing.
- **Very varied resources** depending on their location: more or less wooded herbaceous steppe territories, high altitude meadows, moors, shrublands (matorrals, maquis, garrigues) or even forests.
- Another central issue is **mobility** (transhumance – half transhumance - nomadism)

The diagnosis : Differences and common trends to different situations

- Pastoralism is at the heart of food security and social balance in many regions of the South (90% of cattle in West Africa, 40% of small ruminants); it is an activity at the heart of people's lives with 69% of the farmers in Morocco; it has lost economic importance in Europe but the environmental issues and the preservation of bio-diversity and landscapes are important challenges.
- Everywhere, the observation of a decrease in the mobility of herds with a certain weakening of transhumance or nomadism.
- Some competition between wildlife and pastoralism
- An expected impact of the effects of climate change (on fodder resources, on the availability of water on the behavior of animals, etc.) but at an extent which is still difficult to evaluate.
- Pastoralism at the heart of tensions and conflicts (conflicts over access to pastures in Morocco, conflicts of use with predation and hiking in France, insecurity in Western Africa) with significant governance issues.

A look at pastoralism in the Mediterranean

Heavy trends and challenges to face :

- What **rehabilitation of degraded pastures**? Agriculture and livestock integration
- The challenge of training, education and improving information systems with their access by as many people as possible.
- **the lack of connection between administrations**, constitute a very important brake to face the problems; the need to **enhance local communities** and to build an integrated **territorial approach**
- **Very general proposed answers and everywhere calls to:**
 - to agro-ecology,
 - to conservation agriculture,
 - to sustainable intensification,
 - to methane reduction
 - To procedures for promoting and certifying local and regional products
 - to multi functionality and diversity...

What prospective tells us about pastoralism in the Mediterranean and elsewhere

- Prospective can be used by a region or a country without been followed by neither relevant strategic decisions or action plans nor real consultation or debate.
- The prospective studies first carry out in-depth diagnoses on the diversity of pastoral realities on specific problems [Tensions, impact of predation, marketing, mobility, food independence, training and motivation of breeders, potentialities of rangelands].
- The evolution of the systems of value during the 20th century [paradigm of progress - intensification - globalization] and its effects [explosion of performance, very strong increase in productivity, marginalization of pastoral activities] is slow and not fully shared
- The recent awareness of the negative impacts of progress linked to the depletion of resources, the loss of biodiversity and climate change.
- The awareness for pastoralism increased but has not been materialized through the implementation of a real new front of modernity.
- So far, pastoralism has not benefited the same investments in terms of research, training and technical assistance than controlled “intensive “ production systems.
- The described scenarios are often already at work



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What prospective tells us about pastoralism in the Mediterranean and elsewhere

- Scenarios which show a need to reconcile economic efficiency, justice, social cohesion and preservation of the environment (Morocco for example)... but a permanence of the paradigm of intensification and a persistence of lock-in, routines and resistance that limit their implementation
- A slow but real movement towards more positive representations in favor of pastoralism that reinvests collective imaginations
- A diversity of local situations which makes impossible to choose one unique scenario; no all purpose answers



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What prospective tells us about pastoralism in the Mediterranean and elsewhere

- ❖ The future of pastoralism will largely depend on the ability of the different territories to develop **territorial intelligence processes** and to identify the horizons for its redeployment.
 - ❖ The importance of the answers provided in the territories and their ability or not **to build dialogues between actors** for the development of shared strategies
 - ❖ ***A preponderant role of public action, political contexts and governance***
 - ❖ ***Many research, training and extension issues***
 - ❖ ***The importance of the local territorial dynamics***
- ... Some possible ways to overcome the fatalism or even the despair from several situations!!**