



The Living Tradition of Transhumance: Insights from the Alps and Spain

A Shepherd's Perspective

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Introduction



- Work across different European countries
- Transhumance as a tool for sustainability
- Challenges of modern pastoralism and coexistence with predators

Transhumance – A Key to Sustainability

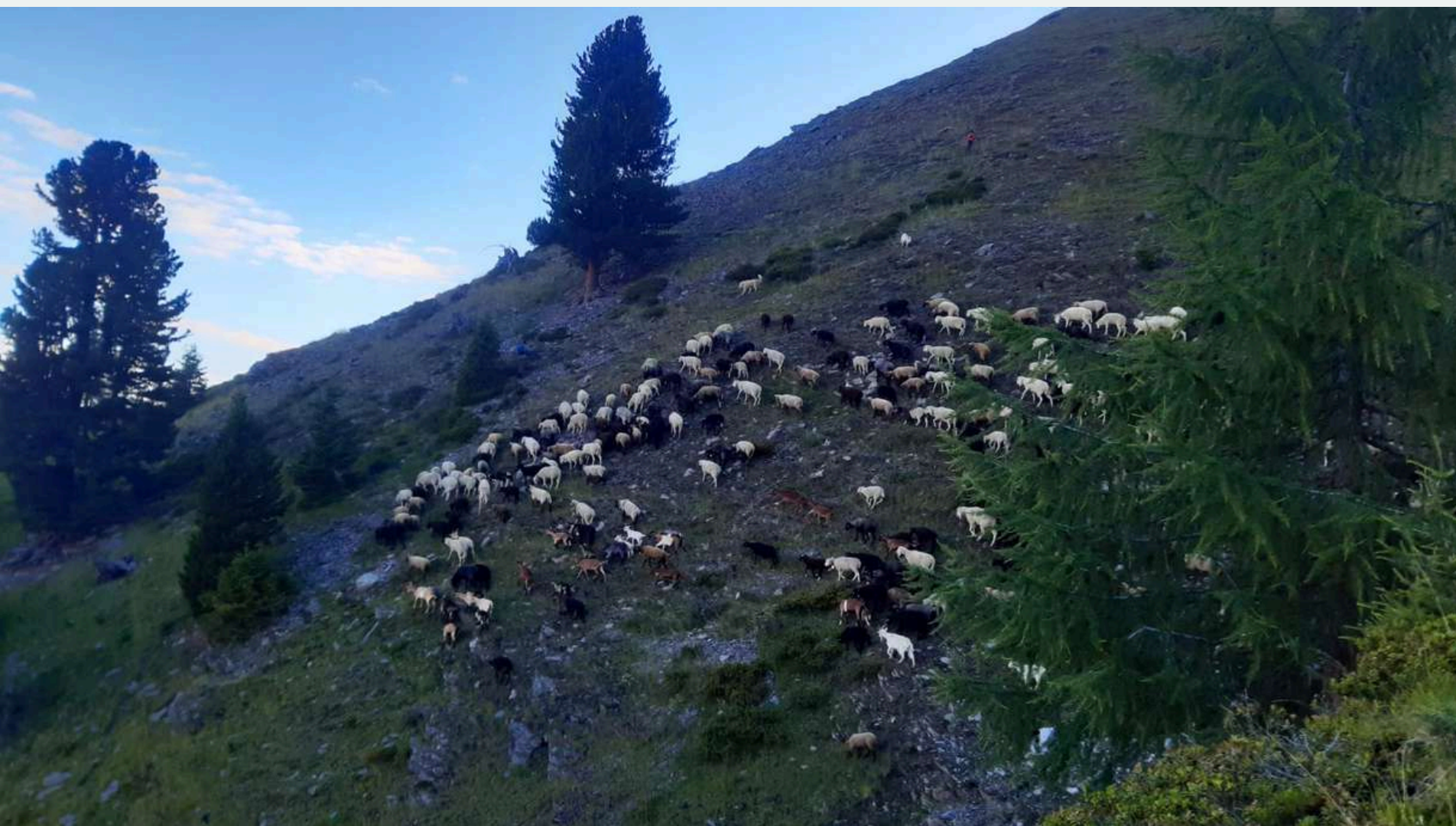
- Seasonal movement of livestock
- Prevents overgrazing
- Promotes biodiversity
- Maintains cultural landscapes

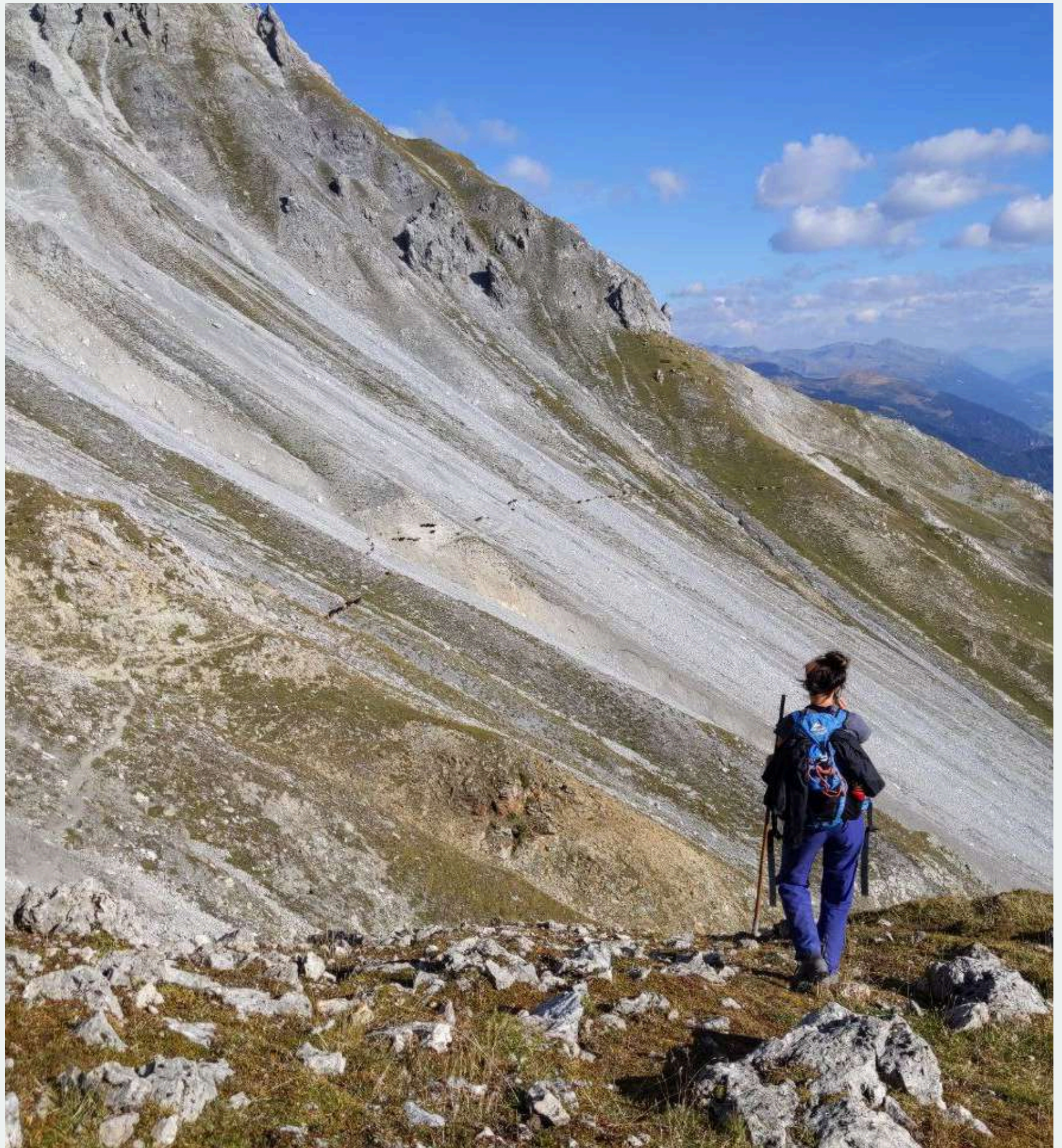


Transhumance in the Alps



- Vertical movement (from valleys to mountains)
- Steep terrain
- Impact of tourism
- Rotational grazing and electric fences

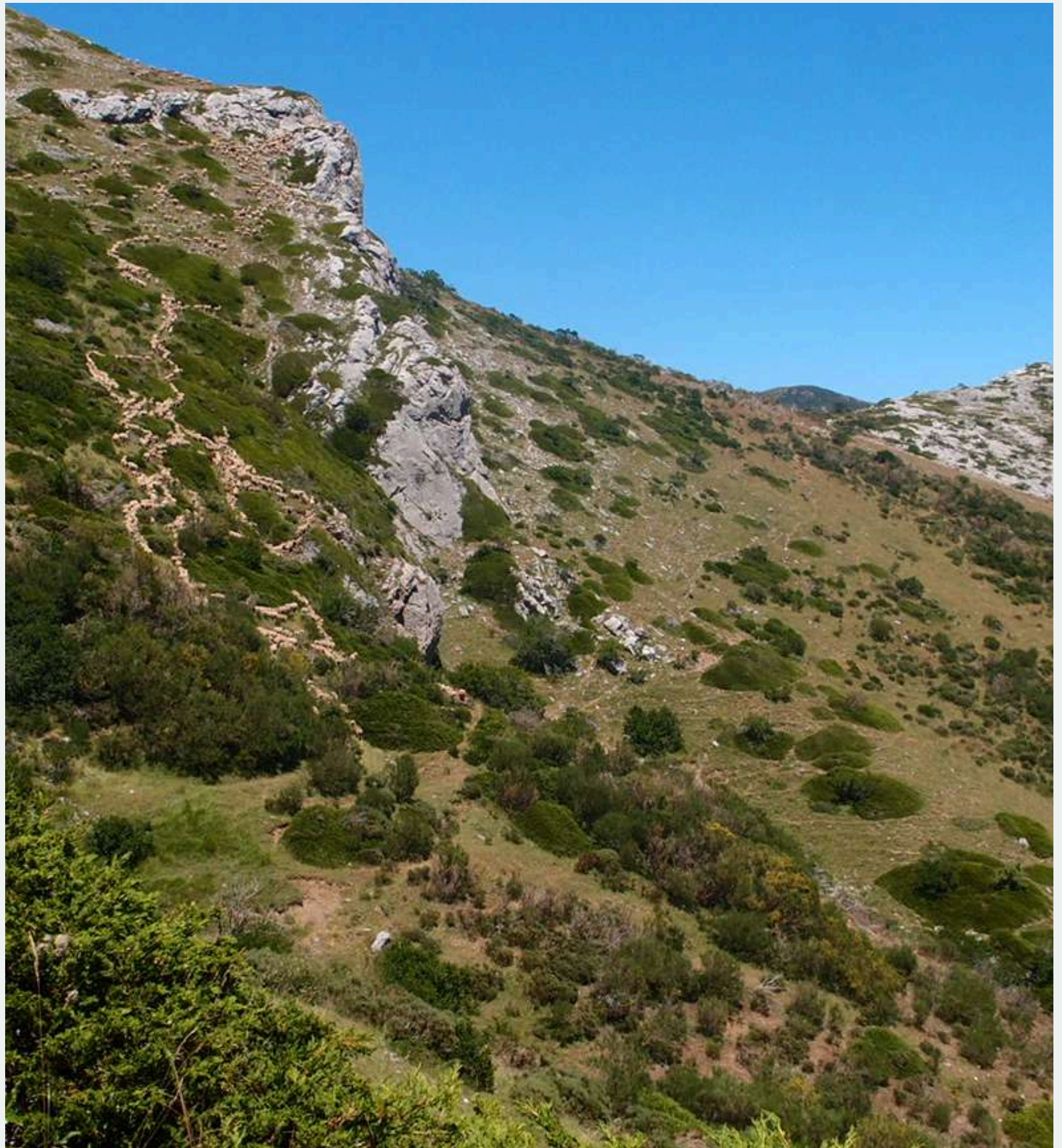




Transhumance in Spain



- Cañadas Reales:
Historic grazing routes
- Urbanization and loss
of traditional
knowledge
- Climate change



Coexistence with Predators



- Protection from predators
- Active shepherdess presence
- Mobile fences
- Coexistence with tourism





Herding Dogs: Key Partners in Management



- Function: Move and maintain flock cohesion
- Breeds: Border Collie, Kelpie etc.

Guardian Dogs: Protectors of the Flock

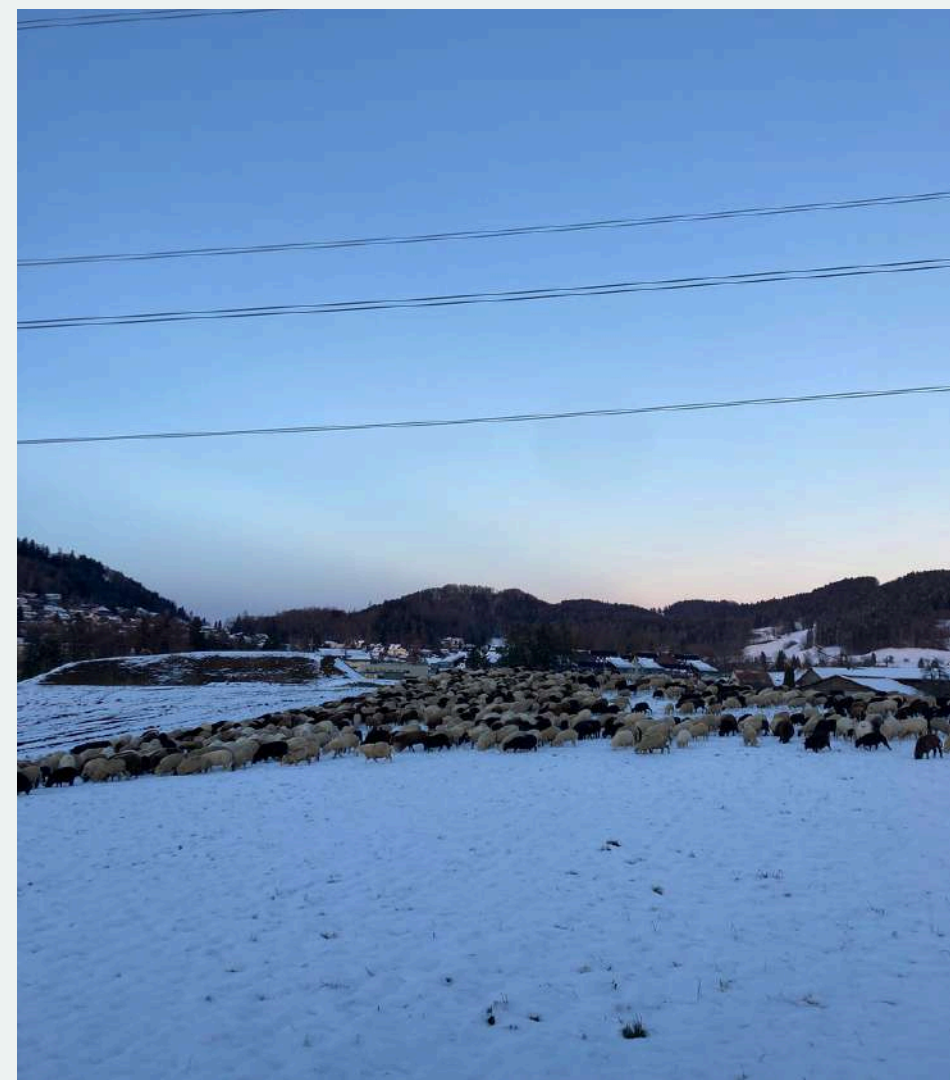


- Livestock protection: Maremma Abruzzese, Pyrenean dogs etc.
- Challenge: Better public understanding of their role



Winterweide (Winter Grazing)

- Grazing areas in winter
- Rotation to prevent overgrazing
- Collaboration with other land users





Living the Rhythm of the Flock

- Winter: Grazing management in Winterweide
- Spring/Autumn: Lambing
- Summer: Mountain grazing
- Balance between tradition and modern solutions
- Collaboration: Shepherdesses, policymakers, and conservationists
- Support for young shepherdesses

Sources

- Extensión de las Cañadas Reales:
Ministerio para la Transición Ecológica y el Reto Demográfico (MITECO). "Trashumancia y vías pecuarias en España."
- Edad media de los pastores en España:
Ministerio de Agricultura, Pesca y Alimentación (MAPA). "Informe sobre la estructura y desafíos del sector ovino-caprino en extensivo."
- Pérdida de conocimiento tradicional y urbanización de rutas:
Proyecto Ovinnova. "La importancia de la trashumancia en la gestión sostenible y conservación de la biodiversidad."
- Retos del relevo generacional en el pastoralismo:
García Martínez, S. (2022). "La pérdida del oficio de pastor en España: un análisis sociocultural y económico." *Revista de Agricultura Extensiva*, Vol. 8, pp. 45-60.

Thank you for listening.

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