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The impact of decoupled payments on High Nature Value Farming Systems

A seminar organised by
The European Forum on Nature Conservation & Pastoralism (EFNCP)

Held at
**Scotland House
Rond-Point Schuman 6
Brussels
Belgium**

21st January 2004

EFNCP acknowledge a financial grant provided by DG-Agriculture (Information measures relating to the CAP) and support from the Heinrich Böll Foundation, WWF European Policy Office and Stichting Natuur en Milieu

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The impact of Accession on High Nature Value cattle systems in Central and Eastern Europe

A seminar organised by
The European Forum on Nature Conservation & Pastoralism (EFNCP)

Held at
**Scotland House
Rond-Point Schuman 6
Brussels
Belgium**

3rd March 2004

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Roles and Instruments for the First Pillar of the CAP

Brussels 4th March 2003

A [report is available](#) from this meeting organised by EFNCP, WWF and Stichting Natuur en Milieu.

A Seminar organised by the European Forum on Nature Conservation & Pastoralism on:

"The integration of forestry, biodiversity and agricultural concerns

on High Nature Value open grazed land"

was held in Brussels on 5th February 2003.

A [summary of the meeting](#) together with a [participant list](#) and [background documentation](#) are available.

RECENT PUBLICATION - "Land Management: The Hidden Costs"

Dr Colin Hindmarch and Dr Mike W Pienkowski (2000)

Published by Blackwell Science

<http://www.blackwell-science.com/~cgilib/bookpage.bin?File=10013404>

for the [British Ecological Society](#)

ISBN 0632056525; Paperback; 70 illustrations 72 pages; price £9.99.

Land Management emerged from a meeting held jointly by the British Ecological Society and the European Forum on Nature Conservation and Pastoralism at the 1997 British Association for the Advancement of Science festival in Leeds.

Land Management attempts to integrate the Forum's thinking on traditional land management systems into a model that has relevance for land management in general. It begins by identifying some of the hidden costs of unsustainable production, and considers examples where conservation management has failed. It then argues that sustainable land management is possible, and that conservation and production interests can be satisfied using an approach based on traditional, locally adapted land management practices, or their modern counterparts. Land Management goes on to show how sustainability might be achieved within the framework of Europe's land management and economic policies. The approach recommended is one that has underpinned the development of the [European Union Biodiversity strategy](#), and is one that is becoming a compelling force for change in Europe's decision-making processes.

Land managers planners, ecologists and agriculturalists will find this booklet an invaluable resource. However, its simple, lively style, means that it will appeal to those with a more general interest in the issues surrounding land management.

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RECENT FORUMS

"Recognising European pastoral farming systems and understanding their ecology.

A necessity for appropriate conservation and rural development programmes."

The 7th European Forum on Nature Conservation and Pastoralism - June 2000

in conjunction with the [Heritage Council of Ireland](#)

[Proceedings now available as PDF \(.8Mb\)](#)



Forum publishes Proceedings of its Czech meeting

Just eight months after the meeting, the Forum is delighted to announce publication of the Proceedings of the Sixth Forum in Luhacovice.

The Sixth Conference of the European Forum on Nature Conservation and Pastoralism marked 10 years of existence of the Forum. It marked also the Forum's first full conference in central and eastern Europe. We were delighted that Jaroslav Ungerma, of the Czech environmental non-governmental organisation VERONICA, attended the Forum's Fifth Conference in Valle d'Aosta, Italy in September 1996. Having seen what was involved, Jaroslav and VERONICA were still brave enough to invite the Forum to Luhacovice in the White Carpathians of the Czech Republic, near the Slovak border, for our conference in 1998.

In planning our programme, we were concerned to encourage exchanges of information, experiences and expertise in all directions. For example, whilst several countries are keen to explore the policies of the European Union, which they are in the process of joining, it is also true that the situations in those countries is likely to lead to modifications in EU policies, which will affect existing Member States. More generally, it is often the case that people in one country may have already addressed challenges and opportunities which are novel in other places. The feedback during and after the conference encourages us that these attempts to ensure contributions in all directions, both in the presentations and discussions, may have been successful; we hope so.

In these *Proceedings*, we have largely retained the general structure of the programme of the meeting. We have incorporated those poster presentations whose text we received within the appropriate sessions.

The conference began with the traditional **report from the Forum's Executive Committee** on progress since the last full meeting, in 1996. This was followed (**Section 2**) by **speeches opening this year's conference**, from the Deputy Minister of the Environment of the Czech Republic and the Section Director of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech Republic.

The first technical section (**Section 3**) "**How much do we know and what do we still need to investigate about the detailed ecological relationships between livestock management practices and wildlife value?**" began with the First Colin Tubbs Memorial Lecture. Roy Dennis raises the value of cattle grazing in managing woodland nature reserves — a subject which might fill some reserve wardens with dread. However, our ideas of appropriate cattle densities have been heavily distorted by intensive systems. There are interesting comparisons with Hans Kampf's paper. This addresses the situation of re-creation of a model of pre-human grazing systems. Whilst the areas on which this is possible may be limited, the parallels and continuities with the low-intensity human-managed grazings systems are fascinating.

Section 4 on "**What management practices are required to maintain the wildlife value of low intensity farming systems?**" draws on experience from a wide range of situations. Bill Grayson continues the debate from the previous section by considering a commercial grazing operation designed to provide the management necessary for nature reserves. On a wider scale, Jindřich Kvapilík examines the management options for permanent grassland areas in the Czech Republic. Luigi Guarrera explores ways of working with local farmers to ensure the continued welfare of threatened wildlife, following short-term measures based on land-acquisition.

Helena Bartoszyk, Andrzej Górski & Józef Tyburski explore ways of overcoming the abandonment of farming practices essential to the maintenance of nature value in one of the most important wetlands in Europe. Jan Seffer & Viera Stanová outline a comparable situation in attempts to restore meadows in a river floodplain. Aleksei Lotman, Eve Mägi & Maire Toming provide another comparable example, illustrating how widespread is this problem of abandonment.

How well a range of policy initiatives are working in practice is addressed in

Section 5 on "How useful have agri-environment schemes been in delivering and maintaining environmental aims and objectives?" Some existing schemes are examined from various viewpoints in Germany (Karlheinz Knickel & J. Schramek), Austria (Wolfgang Suske; and Christina Mayer & Hans Karl Wytrzens), Ireland (Liam Lysaght; Tina Aughney & Mike Gormally), Spain (Begonna Peco, J.J. Oñate, F. Suárez, J.E. Malo, J. Aguirre & C. Cummings), and Belgium (Thierry Walot, S. Rouxhet & J.-P. Ledant), together with proposals relating to Hungary (Hannah Bartram, Matthew Rayment, Jim Dixon & Szabolcs Nagy), Finland (Annika Michelson) and the Czech Republic (Monika Procházková).

Section 6 considers "Future challenges and opportunities for existing European Union countries and for Central and Eastern European countries." Anna Barnett's view from the European Commission of their Agenda 2000 proposals is complemented by David Baldock's commentary. Ferenc Tar provides a viewpoint on agri-environmental issues from a central European ministry of agriculture.

Throughout the conference, discussion was an important and major element. Although debates after each paper were not recorded, the discussions were summarised in two ways. First, **four workshops** were held, and these are summarised in **Section 7**. These covered the following topics:

1. Identifying and categorising high nature conservation farmland and farming systems (chaired by Davy McCracken & Anna Liro)
2. Appropriate management of high nature conservation value farmland, particularly in areas facing marginalisation or abandonment (chaired by Jan-Erik Petersen & Marja Markes)
3. Policies for promoting nature conservation on farmland in CEECs and relationship to EU policy (chaired by David Baldock & Tomas Zidek)
4. Plans for developing the Forum's work in the EU and Central Europe in the coming years (chaired by Mike Pienkowski & Mariam Jorjadze).

The discussions in the conference were also summarised expertly by Agata Zdanowicz, whose **overview of points raised** is given also in the final section (7) of the main text.

Appendices (Section 8) include papers on the field visits to farms; contact details of the participants in the conference; and the results of the questionnaire on the value of the conference.

Managing high-nature-conservation-value farmland: policies, processes and practices: Proceedings of the Sixth European Forum on Nature Conservation and Pastoralism

6 - 10 June 1998 Luhacovice, Bile Karpaty, Czech Republic. (Edited by M.W. Pienkowski & D.G.L. Jones).

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