



ANNUAL REPORT

January 2009-December 2009



The European Forum on Nature Conservation and Pastoralism brings together ecologists, nature conservationists, farmers and policy makers. This non-profit network exists to increase understanding of the high nature conservation and cultural value of certain farming systems and to inform work on their maintenance.

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INTRODUCTION

Europe's natural and cultural heritage is enriched by the wide variety of regional farming systems which work in harmony with local environmental conditions. However, many of these farming systems are currently under threat. The aims of the European Forum on Nature Conservation and Pastoralism (EFNCP) are therefore:

- To increase understanding that certain European farming systems are of high nature conservation and cultural value.
- To ensure the availability, dissemination and exchange of supporting information, combining research and practical expertise.
- To bring together ecologists, nature conservation managers, farmers and policy makers to consider problems faced by these systems and potential solutions.
- To develop and promote policy options which ensure the ecological maintenance and development of these farming systems and cultural landscapes.

The EFNCP is a pan-European non-profit organisation, bringing together non-governmental and governmental participants from several interest areas. It is a network to exchange information, identify conclusions, and inform policy development. To achieve its aims, the Forum organises conferences, workshops and seminars and produces a new newsletter (*La Cañada*) which is widely distributed within Europe. The EFNCP also conducts research into the ecological relationships on high-nature-conservation-value farmland and into the development of appropriate policies for such areas.

Between 1988 and 1996, the Forum developed a network of European scientists, conservationists, and policy makers which interacts with farmers, land managers and agricultural departments through biennial conferences (the Fora), a six monthly newsletter and a series of targeted seminars and workshops. The period 1996-2005 saw the further development of these activities, a crucial time for nature conservation on farmland with the second phase of CAP reforms and subsequent Mid-Term Review of the CAP, enlargement of the European Union and development of Natura 2000. Since 2005, much of the policy focus has been on High Nature Value farming and understanding and implementing this concept on the ground. This report of Forum activities in 2009 is structured around the five main headers which encompass the Forum's work.





ADMINISTRATION & MANAGEMENT

- The Forum was unsuccessful in obtaining a grant for 2009 from DG Environment under their LIFE+ programme (despite the Forum being successful in obtaining funding in every year from 1997, with the exception of 2002 and 2004, from the DG Environment programme providing support for NGOs working in the field of environmental protection). The Forum's 2009 application was not considered broad enough to score highly against all the criteria used to evaluate applications. Much of the Forum's effort in 2009 was therefore directed at building up relationships with a wider range of potential partners and co-funders with the aim of ensuring that the LIFE+ application for support in 2010 would be more attractive to DG Environment and score higher against all the desired criteria.
- The lack of LIFE+ funding meant that the Forum's budget in 2009 was even tighter than normal, and some activities had to be either postponed or cancelled. Nevertheless, the Forum was able to engage in a number of activities (such as the French conference) which it regarded as important and to which the Forum and partners were already committed. The Forum's budget continued to be subject to strict controls during 2009, but the financial situation meant that small surplus carried forward from 2008 had to be utilised. Hence the Forum recorded an operating deficit on the year and ended the year with a small deficit overall.
- Through 2009, the Directors of the Forum kept current and potential future budgets under constant review and concluded that it was appropriate to prepare the 2009 financial statement on the going concern basis. It was, however, recognised that because the Forum operates in a situation where the range of projects engaged in is relatively limited this inevitably puts pressure on cash flow at certain times of the year. Seeking ways to address or at least limit the potential for cash flow problems will therefore be a major feature of Forum work in 2010.
- As previously indicated, the Directors see that a simpler and more transparent legal structure is desirable and the intent is that a substantial proportion, ideally a majority, of the Directors will be independent, unpaid and non-executive. To this end, Mr Brendan Dunford and Dr Colin Hindmarch were appointed as two new Directors at the start of 2009. In addition, the Forum has also been considering the potential need to employ staff to help achieve its aims and objectives. Hence through 2009 a focus was put on establishing (especially given the financial situation) what the legal, practical and financial implications would be of employing staff in the UK and other countries such as Bulgaria, France and Ireland.

BIENNIAL CONFERENCES



- The Forum held a two day conference in Paris, France in October 2009. This conference was organised by EFNCP with support from the French Ministry of Environment, the European Commission's European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and ENGREF AgroParisTech. The focus of this meeting was *HNV farming: initiating the debate in France*. Full details of the conference and copies of the presentations can be found on the Forum's website at <http://www.efncp.org/events/conferences/paris/>
- Over 100 delegates attended the conference, which was targeted at national participants involved in the field of nature conservation and agriculture, civil servants, farmers, NGOs and. The aim of the conference was to initiate a debate in France on how the concept of HNV farming could contribute to achieving landscape scale biodiversity objectives within the context of the Common Agricultural Policy beyond 2013.

The Forum's conferences fulfil a major part of the role as a forum. These review progress on basic scientific work and identify further research needs in order to fulfil the requirements of informing policy development and awareness raising. An important role of these main Forum meetings is to ensure that the debate draws on the experience and expertise of a wide range of audience members.





RESEARCH

During 2009, the Forum led and/or provided input to the following projects:

- *Proposal for a new EU Common Agricultural Policy.* The Forum worked within a coalition with BirdLife International, EEB, IFOAM and WWF to develop a detailed proposal for the future of the CAP. The final document was published in March 2010 http://www.birdlife.org/eu/pdfs/Proposal_for_a_new_common_agricultural_policy_FINAL_100302.pdf
- *EU biodiversity indicators.* The Forum provided input to reports on the UK, Romania and Bulgaria in support of a project being conducted by the University of Eberswalde for the EEA on developing EU biodiversity indicators.
- *HNV Guidance for Member States.* The Forum continued to be represented on the HNV Expert Working Group of the European Evaluation network for Rural Development.

In 2009, the Forum continued to focus on how the High Nature Value farming concept could be implemented effectively across the EU. This is especially relevant to the Mediterranean areas, to peripheral and mountain regions and to the recently acceded countries and potential future accession countries in south-eastern Europe. To this end, during 2009, the Forum was involved in a number of consortia developing applications for research projects. For example:

- The Forum (together with Ecologica (Croatia), IUCN Belgrade and WWF-DCP) submitted a proposal to IPA with regard to setting up a regional network on HNV farming for south-east Europe 2010-2012.
- Held discussions with potential funders over the potential to contribute to a project concerned with the development of HNV indicators in Navarra, Spain
- The Forum held discussions with potential partners and funders over the potential to conduct a series of case studies in the UK concerned with HNV farmland and the challenge of identifying, monitoring and targeting appropriate support at local level

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RESEARCH

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- The Forum held discussions with Plantlife and potential Macedonian partners about possible projects in Macedonia
- The Forum held discussions with members of the BES/IOB/CEH '*Natural Capital Initiative*' over the possibility of organising a meeting to highlight the relevance to HNV farming to the aims of the NCI programme.
- The Forum held discussions with Butterfly Conservation about potential collaboration in south-east Europe



DISSEMINATION



During 2009, the Forum:

- Continued to populate the Forum website (<http://www.efncp.org>) to reflect recent activities and added additional HNV showcases on South Wales and the Burren (<http://www.efncp.org/hnv-showcases/>).
- Published a comprehensive document (in French) on the characteristics of High-Nature-Value farming systems and associated policy issues (*L'agriculture à Haute Valeur Naturelle: mieux la (re)connaître pour mieux l'accompagner*) and which was commissioned by the French Ministry for the Environment. The report can be downloaded at: http://www.efncp.org/download/DocumentFrance_HVN.pdf
- Produced responses to consultations on a number of major policy issues in which the Forum highlighted the relevance of and potential impact on HNV farming systems, for example:
 - The Forum responded to the European Commission's consultation on *Agricultural product quality: product standards, farming requirements and quality schemes*. The full text of the Forum's response can be downloaded from: <http://www.efncp.org/download/EFNCPresponseGreenPaper.pdf>
 - The Forum responded to the Scottish Government's *CAP health check implementation consultation*. The full text of the Forum's response can be downloaded from: http://www.efncp.org/download/SG_Health_Check_EFNC-SCF_response.pdf
- Attended and contributed to discussions at a number of meetings, such as:
 - A seminar in Brussels, Belgium concerned with CAP reform
 - Europarc Spain's annual conference held in Cantabria concerned with *Towards a sustainable rural development: the contribution of protected areas*
 - A series of meetings with various officials in Brussels to develop Forum and Scottish Crofting Foundation thinking on LFA reform



ORGANISATION OF SEMINARS & REPRESENTATION ON EC COMMITTEES



During 2009, the Forum:

- Continued to have representatives attend meetings of the Consultative Committees on 'Rural Development', 'Agriculture and Environment' and 'Animal Products' established by DG Agriculture. Four networks (World Wide Fund for Nature, BirdLife International, European Environment Bureau and the Forum) are working together to provide the environmental NGO input to meetings of these and other associated Consultative Committees.
- Set in motion the organisation of a four-day international workshop to be held on the island of Vilm, Germany in June 2010, with a focus on *High Nature Value Farmland- exchange of experiences throughout Europe*. This meeting is being organised jointly by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN), the Institut für Agrarökologie und Biodiversität (IFAB) and the Forum. (see: [http://www.bfn.de/0603_kalender.html?&no_cache=1&L=1&tx_blitzcalendar_pi1\[qclist\]=2&tx_blitzcalendar_pi1\[uid\]=32&tx_blitzcalendar_pi1\[cmd\]=single](http://www.bfn.de/0603_kalender.html?&no_cache=1&L=1&tx_blitzcalendar_pi1[qclist]=2&tx_blitzcalendar_pi1[uid]=32&tx_blitzcalendar_pi1[cmd]=single))
- Set in motion the organisation of a three-day international conference to be held in Gyimesközéplak, Romania in June 2010, with a focus on *Mountain hay meadows - hot spots of biodiversity and traditional culture*. This meeting is being organised jointly by the Pogány-havas (Pagan Snow Cap) Association, Sapientia Hungarian University of Transylvania, Fundatia ADEPT, Hargita Environmental Protection and the Forum. (further details can be found at: <http://mountainhaymeadows.eu/conference.php>)
- Set in motion the organisation of a three-day international workshop to be held on the island of Vilm, Germany in September 2010, with a focus on *Large-scale extensive grazing systems in Europe: advancing knowledge to improve policy*. This meeting is being organised jointly by the International Academy for Nature Conservation of the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN), the University of Rottenburg (HFR) and the Forum. (further details can be found at: <http://www.efncp.org/events/seminars-others/large-scale-extensiv-grazing/>)

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ORGANISATION OF SEMINARS & REPRESENTATION ON EC COMMITTEES

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- Set in motion the organisation of a three-day international workshop to be held in Sibiu, Romania in September 2010, with a focus on *High Nature Value grasslands: securing the ecosystem services of European farming post 2013* This meeting is being organised jointly by the Forum, Fundatia ADEPT and Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu. (further details can be found at: <http://www.efncp.org/events/seminars-others/hnv-grasslands/>)

PUBLICATIONS



No issues of the newsletter were produced in 2009. Other publications arising from the work of the Forum during 2009 include:

Beaufoy, G. 2009 New guidance on the application of the HNV indicator. *Rural Evaluation News: the Newsletter of the European Evaluation network for Rural Development* Issue 2 March 2009, pages 1-3
http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/evaluation/news/newsletter/en/newsletter_home_en.cfm#no2

Beaufoy, G. & Cooper, T. 2009 *Guidance Document. The Application of the High Nature Value Impact Indicator: Programming Period 2007-2013*. European Evaluation Network for Rural Development and European Commission DG Agricultural & Rural Development
http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/evaluation/library/evaluation-helpdesk-publications/en/evaluation-helpdesk-publications_home_en.cfm

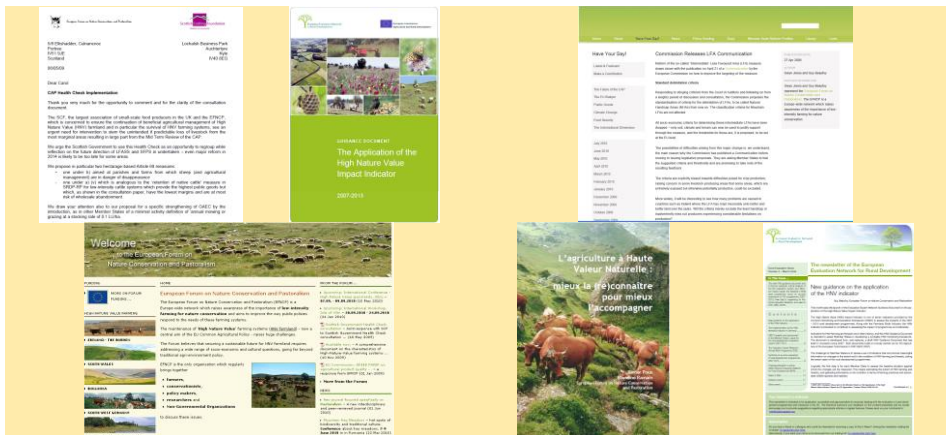
Biber, J.P. (In press) Transhumance in France. *Pastoralism: research, policy and practice*, 1, 91-98

Signal, E.M., & McCracken, D.I. 2009 Herbivores in space: extensive grazing systems in Europe. *British Wildlife* 20 Special Supplement: *Naturalistic grazing and rewilding in Britain: perspectives from the past and future directions*, 44-49.

EEA 2009 *Distribution and targeting of the CAP budget from a biodiversity perspective*. Technical Report 12/2009. European Environment Agency, Copenhagen <http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/distribution-and-targeting-of-the-cap-budget-from-a-biodiversity-perspective>

EFNCP 2009. *EFNCP response to the CEC Green Paper on agricultural product quality: product standards, farming requirements and quality schemes COM(2008) 641*. European Forum on Nature Conservation & Pastoralism, Kenilworth
<http://www.efncp.org/download/EFNCPresponseGreenPaper.pdf>

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PUBLICATIONS

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EFNCP & SCF 2009. *Joint response to Scottish Government Health Check consultation*. European Forum on Nature Conservation & Pastoralism, Skye and Scottish Crofting Foundation, Kyle of Lochalsh

http://www.efncp.org/download/SG_Health_Check_EFNCP-SCF_response.pdf

Jones, G. 2009. Commission releases LFA ideas. *The Crofter*, Issue 83 June 2009, page 1 and 3 http://www.crofting.org/uploads/crofter_journal/crofter-83.pdf

Jones, G. 2009. Small farms: commoner than you think. *The Crofter*, Issue 85 November 2009, page 3

http://www.crofting.org/uploads/crofter_journal/crofter85.pdf

Jones, G. 2009. Why are small farms so important for the environment? *The Crofter*, Issue 85 November 2009, page 4

http://www.crofting.org/uploads/crofter_journal/crofter85.pdf

Jones, G. 2009. Small farms in Portugal: a terminal disease?. *The Crofter*, Issue 85 November 2009, page 5

http://www.crofting.org/uploads/crofter_journal/crofter85.pdf

Jones, G. & Beaufoy, G. 2009. Commission releases LFA communication. CAP 2020 website: Debating the future of the Common Agricultural Policy.

<http://cap2020.ieep.eu/2009/4/27/commission-releases-lfa-communication>

Huband, S., McCracken, D.I. & Mertens, A. (In press) Long and short-distance transhumant pastoralism in Romania: past and present drivers of change. *Pastoralism: research, policy and practice*, 1, 55-71

Poux, X. & Ramain B. 2009 *L'agriculture à Haute Valeur Naturelle: mieux la (re)connaître pour mieux l'accompagner*. European Forum on Nature Conservation & Pastoralism, Paris.

http://www.efncp.org/download/DocumentFrance_HVN.pdf



CUMULATIVE BREAKDOWN OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

In 2003, the Forum's financial year changed to a 1 January - 31 December period. The following Table shows a summary of the relevant information from the Financial Statements for the 2003- 2009 financial years (for detail see the individual end of year accounts). Financial figures are in £ sterling.

	Year ended 31 Dec 2003	Year ended 31 Dec 2004	Year ended 31 Dec 2005**	Year ended 31 Dec 2006****	Year ended 31 Dec 2007*****	Year ended 31 Dec 2008	Year ended 31 Dec 2009**
Balance brought forward from previous year	46,055	34,594	(15,092)	(18,280)	(8,675)	(7,268)	11,212
Income during year	132,126	56,273	110,800	135,300	187,332	179,504	41,061
Expenditure during year	143,784	98,730	114,302	125,851	185,925	161,380	58,444
Retained Surplus/(deficit) for the year	(11,461)	(42,219)	(3,188)	9,604	1,407	18,480	(17,383)
Prior year adjustment***		(7,467)					
Balance carried forward	34,594	(15,092)	(18,280)	(8,675)	(7,268)	11,212	(6,171)

** Note 1 extracted from financial statement for Year ended 31 December 2005: *Going Concern - The company experienced a deficiency this year after the grant applied for in respect of the 31st December 2003 accounts was not fully received. This was due to a lower level of eligible expenditure actually undertaken compared to the grant accrued for in the 31st December 2003 accounts. Since this event, the company have undertaken a number of fully funded projects. However, in some cases this has not been possible. In the period since 31 December 2005, the company are working on a number of fully funded projects and together with the support of the directors it is believed that the company will return to a positive net asset position. The board therefore feel confident that the company can continue in existence for the foreseeable future.*

*** Note 4 extracted from financial statement for Year ended 31 December 2005: *Prior year adjustment – During the year ended 31st December 2005, it was discovered that grant income has been received in advance but has been recognised incorrectly. Grant income to the value of £7,467 was registered in the period ended 31st December 2003 when it should have been deferred and registered as £3,637 in 2004 and £3830 in 2005. Although it was apparent that the grant income should have been deferred, this was missed in error and therefore a prior year adjustment has been required this year to recognise the income in the correct periods. There is no tax effect resulting from this adjustment.*

**** Note 1 extracted from financial statement for Year ended 31 December 2006: *Going Concern – During the current year, the company has returned to generating an annual surplus. The company has generated this surplus by securing a number of fully funded projects, together with grant funding from other sources. The annual deficiency experienced in previous years was due to lower levels of eligible expenditure, resulting in lower grant income. As the company now work predominantly on fully funded projects such shortfalls are believed to be isolated. The company expects to continue their work on fully funded projects and together with the support of the directors it is believed that the company will return to a positive net asset position. The board therefore feels confident that the company can continue in existence for the foreseeable future.*

***** Note 8 extracted from financial statement for Year ended 31 December 2007: *Going Concern –The annual deficiency which has existed in previous years has again been reduced during the year. The company continues to work on fully funded projects and the board feels confident that the company will return to a net asset position and can continue in existence for the foreseeable future.*

** Note 1.2 extracted from financial statement for Year ended 31 December 2010: *Fundamental accounting concept:* The company incurred a loss of £17,383 in the year and at 31 December 2009 had net liabilities of £6,171. The directors have reviewed budgets for a period of at least 12 months from the date of signing these financial statements and have concluded that sufficient cash flow should be available to enable the company to continue to trade and meet its liabilities as they fall due. The directors believe that it is therefore appropriate to prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis.

ENDS