



ANNUAL REPORT

January 2012-December 2012



What is EFNCP?

The European Forum on Nature Conservation and Pastoralism (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. EFNCP is a company limited by guarantee, established in 1996.

Our vision is **to ensure a viable future for the farming types that most benefit biodiversity across Europe, by making them valued by policy and the general public, and environmentally, economically and socially sustainable at the farm and landscape scales.** Our work involves:

- Raising awareness of the link between certain types of farming and some areas of high biodiversity and that certain European farming systems are of high nature conservation and cultural importance, summarised in the term High Nature Value (HNV) farming.
- Raising awareness of socio-economic and cultural interactions as key factors in the survival of and the creation of a sustainable future for HNV farming
- Ensuring the availability, dissemination and exchange of supporting information combining research and practical expertise.
- Encouraging networking and dialogue to foster this awareness, especially between actors who traditionally have found it difficult to find common ground.
- Bringing together ecologists, nature conservation managers, farmers and policy makers to consider problems faced by these systems and potential solutions.
- Developing and promoting policy options which ensure the ecological maintenance and development of these farming systems and cultural landscapes.

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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Informing and improving policy



As the CAP reform discussions gained pace, we worked hard in 2012 to ensure that key messages we have been developing with our partners are getting heard in the right places.

- We responded to a range of EU consultations, submitted a range of policy papers (see publications section) and attended 25 stakeholder meetings.
- We held a number of face-to-face meetings with key EU officials and participated in DG Environment's MAES expert group.
- As in previous years, we focussed on our core issues, notable the permanent pasture question, starting the year with a petition in English, French and Spanish.
- In conjunction with DVL, we ran a pair of complementary workshops on the policy and technical aspects of supporting semi-natural grasslands in Brussels and Hungen respectively.
- Recognising the new co-decision role of the European Parliament, we supported and participated in a Pogány-havas seminar on hay meadows, organised with the support of Csaba Sógor MEP.
- At Member State level, we worked on policy issues in Ireland, the UK, France, Spain, Romania and Bulgaria.
- In Ireland we continued to work on developing CAP proposals, both as EFNCP and in partnership with others, and responded to the first consultations on the 2014-20 CAP.



- In the UK, LUPG funding enabled us to hold a seminar to report the projects of recent years. We also maintained our focus in Scotland, producing major reports containing policy proposals both for common grazings and for crofting.

- In France, we worked with others at the national level through the PAC 2013 group.
- In Spain we worked on a WWF Spain HNV farming project funded from CAP Technical Assistance monies.



- We also supported the work of the Asociación Pastores por el Monte Mediterráneo to develop policy to support extensive pastoral systems in the south of Spain.

- In Romania, we continued to support the HNV farming coalition, which held two meetings during the year, and supported the Mozaic and Pogány-havas associations as they develop policy proposals.

- In Bulgaria we worked alongside WWF DCP to comment on policy.

Our new collaboration with IDDRI has lifted our eyes beyond the forthcoming programming period to look at the longer patterns in agriculture policy. In 2012 we prepared two significant policy review papers and held a horizon-scanning expert meeting in Brussels to consider how better to incorporate environmental concerns into future incarnations of the CAP.

We also contributed to the development of EU environment policy, focussing on the new Biodiversity Strategy. Our input was mainly directed through the European Habitats Forum, of which we became a member.



Strengthening the network



Twelve new members joined our network in 2012:

- Stichting Butterfly Conservation Europe (Netherlands)
- Asociación Cultural Pastoral Arkide (Spain)
- Weideverein Taurus (Germany)
- Lietuvos Gamtos Fondas (Lithuania)
- Macedonian Ecological Society (Macedonia)
- Estonian Fund for Nature (Estonia)
- Pro Vértes (Hungary)
- Tiszatáj Environment and Nature Conservationist Public Foundation (Hungary)
- Green Corridor Public Foundation (Hungary)
- Kiskunság Természetvédelmi Non-profit (Hungary)
- Bihar Public Foundation (Hungary)
- North Pennines AONB (UK)

We are continuing to support capacity building in our network of SE European partners. We were approached by Slow Food to be a partner alongside a range of regional NGOs in an application to the EU Civil Society Facility fund – the application was successful and the resulting ESSEDEA network is starting its work in 2013.



We were the receiving partner for a Leonardo mobility project on common grazings management, led by Sligo Institute of Technology. The participants looked at the contrasting approaches to commons governance in England and Scotland.

Projects on the ground



We continued to support and work with local partners in a range of EU countries:

- In Romania, we continued to support the work of the Mozaic Association and Pogány-havas microregion, both working in areas of highly biodiverse Transylvanian farmland.
- In Spain, we supported a recent addition to our network, Asociación Pastores por el Monte Mediterráneo in their work to raise awareness of pastoralism as a tool against wild fire.
- In the UK, we are supporting the work of the Foundation for Common Land.
- In Ireland, continued to work hard to ensure that an Aran Life project gets off the ground.
- In France, we continued our links with the Parcs Régionaux Naturels, exploring ways in which the LEADER approach could be used to support local HNV farming projects.



Improving understanding



We worked to improve our own understanding and that of others across a wide range of HNV farming-related issues, from ecology to policy analysis.

- Work in the Pogány-havas area of Transylvania illustrated more clearly not only the importance of the area's cultural landscapes, including its hay meadows, but the key link to ongoing management by the local farmers.
- In collaboration with Butterfly Conservation Europe, we produced a report on improving the targeting, monitoring and managing semi-natural grasslands.
- We produced two background studies on the macro-economic development of the CAP and on the international context in which changes to the CAP take place respectively, as part of our joint work with IDDRI.
- In Scotland we analysed the uptake of agri-environment on two key aspects of HNV farming – crofts and common grazings – and the reasons for the patterns which emerged.
- Butterflies are an attractive and effective indicator on semi-natural grasslands; in collaboration with Butterfly Conservation Europe, we produced a report on their potential and a 'how to' guide in English, Spanish and Romanian. We also supported a workshop to introduce the BCE methodology to Romania.
- A study tour organised jointly with IT Sligo and funded by the EU Leonardo programme allowed a group of Irish professionals to learn about approaches to common land governance in England and Scotland.



Raising awareness



- We have updated, improved and expanded our website, which now gets over 1.7 million hits annually.
- We produced two pdf editions of our magazine, *La Cañada*, which was emailed to over 2000 key stakeholders.
- We supported the production of information leaflets by the Mozaic Association (RO) and the Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds.



- We organised field visits on Favourable Conservation Status on Natura 2000 sites in Ireland.
- We helped raise awareness of the problems of pasture management legislation in Bulgaria, and shared examples of good and bad practice by municipalities.



PUBLICATIONS

Policy submissions

- [A submission on the Rural Development Programme for Ireland 2014 – 2020, High Nature Value Farmland Measures by EFNCP, Brendan Dunford and IT Sligo.](#)
 - [CAP Greening proposals – GAEC and permanent pasture definition. Letter to Georg Haüsler, Head of Cabinet of Commissioner Ciolos.](#)
 - [Direct Payments on Common Grazings - ensuring equity for active graziers post-2013. Paper for the Scottish Parliament Cross-Party Group on Crofting by EFNCP.](#)
 - [EFNCP. Pour soutenir les éleveurs qui gèrent les paysages pastoraux européens, changeons les règles sur les pâturages permanents dans le PAC](#)
 - [EFNCP response to Commission Services concept paper on greening \(of 11th May 2012\)](#)
 - [EFNCP. Apoyo a los ganaderos que mantienen los territorios pastorales europeos – modificación de las normas de la PAC sobre pastos permanentes](#)
 - [EFNCP. Support the farmers who maintain Europe’s pastoral landscapes – change the CAP rules on permanent pastures](#)
 - [Future National Upland Rural Development Measures – A Submission to Department of Agriculture Food & Marine by the uplands stakeholders’ group.](#)
 - [Improving Pillar 1 greening and GAEC options for Permanent Pasture \(PP\)](#)
 - [Improving Pillar 1 greening and GAEC options for Permanent Pasture \(PP\) 12th September 2012](#)
- ### **Books and reports**
- Babai, D & Molnár, Z. [Monitoring semi-natural grasslands in Gyimes, Romania](#)
 - Beaufoy, G & Jones, G. [HNV farming in England and Wales – findings from three local projects](#)
 - Collins, S and Beaufoy, G. [Improving the targeting, monitoring and management of semi-natural grasslands across Europe – essential steps to achieving EU Biodiversity Strategy targets on farmland. Annex 1 – Ireland, Germany, Sweden, Romania case studies. Annex 2 – Turkey, Italy, Greece, Hungary case studies.](#)
 - Csergő, A M & Demeter, L. [Ecosystem services of mown, grazed and abandoned grasslands in the Csík Mountains, Eastern Carpathian Mountains, Romania](#)
 - Csergő, A M & Demeter, L. [Relationship of biodiversity to productivity in mowed and abandoned hay meadows of Ciucului Mountains - Preliminary results](#)
 - EFNCP & IDDRI. [Integrating biodiversity in CAP reform: What strategy for change in the face of powerful status quo players? Findings of the expert workshop held on 14-15 November 2012](#)
 - Gravey, V & Lumbroso, S. [International negotiations: to what extent do they hinder or foster biodiversity integration into the CAP?](#)
 - IT Sligo & EFNCP. [Capacity Building for Irish Commonages: A report on Leonardo Da Vinci VETPRO Mobility to the UK](#)
 - Jones, G. [An attempt at an ex post evaluation of agri-environment support for crofting in the 2007-13 SRDP](#)
 - Jones, G. [Supporting common grazing through agri-environment – lessons from an ex post evaluation](#)
 - Loos, J & Kirkland, P. [Butterfly monitoring Romania: A report on a workshop held in Sighisoara 16-18 November 2012](#)
 - Oppermann, R., Beaufoy, G. and Jones, G. (eds)(2012): [High Nature Value Farming in Europe – 35 European countries - experiences and perspectives, 544 pages.](#)
 - Poux, X. [Biodiversity and the transformation of agricultural systems in Europe: What are the drivers? What is at stake during CAP reform?](#)
 - Sólyom, A; Knowles, B; Bogdán, J; Rodics, G; Biró, R & Nyíró, G. [Small scale farming in the Pogány-havas Region of Transylvania. Summary report.](#)
 - Van Swaay, C & Warren, M. [Developing butterflies as indicators in Europe: current situation and future options](#)
 - Van Swaay, C; Brereton, T; Kirkland, P & Warren, M. [Manual pentru monitorizarea fluturilor.](#)
 - Van Swaay, C; Brereton, T; Kirkland, P & Warren, M. [Manual for Butterfly Monitoring](#)
 - Van Swaay, C; Brereton, T; Kirkland, P & Warren, M. [Manual Para el Seguimiento de Mariposas.](#)