



EUROPEAN FORUM ON
NATURE CONSERVATION
AND PASTORALISM



ANNUAL REPORT

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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 2007 is structured around the five main headers which encompass the Forum's work.





ADMINISTRATION & MANAGEMENT

- The Forum was successful in obtaining a grant for 2007 from DG Environment under their new LIFE+ programme (following on from the Forum's success 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 award to the Forum in 2007 (which was based on a percentage of spend on an overall work programme submitted by the Forum) was larger than in 2006, mainly because the Forum was in the fortunate position of being able to include a number of existing projects in the programme of work submitted to LIFE+.
- The Forum budget was, however, still limited and subject to strict controls during 2007. In particular, a concentrated effort was made to reverse the reduced deficit carried forward from the 2006 financial year. The decision to continue only engaging in completely or nearly completely fully-funded projects during 2007 meant that at the end of 2007 the Forum was able to record another small operating surplus on the year and had therefore continued to show that it was taking active steps to markedly reduce the existing overall deficit.
- The Forum still has the intent of making changes to its currently complex legal structure. As previously indicated, the Directors see that a simpler and more transparent structure is desirable and the intent is that the Board of Directors will become more independent of the Executive Committee. However, during 2006 the Executive Committee considered that it would be unfair to ask individuals to take on such a role while the Forum's finances were showing a deficit. Towards the end of 2007, the Executive Committee decided (on the basis of the small operating surplus achieved in 2006 and that projected for 2007) that these approaches could now go forward. Executive Committee members are therefore liaising with potential candidates with a view to putting names forward for consideration at the AGM to be held in 2008.
- As indicated previously, the Forum has become increasingly dependent on income from project work, which by its nature only funds certain activities. As a result, all concerned also have to give some voluntary time to additional Forum work, especially the workings of the Executive Committee and administration. The Forum continues to be aware of the difficulties inherent in such an arrangement and of the need to find a mechanism to fund a degree of core tasks.

BIENNIAL CONFERENCES



- During 2007 held the Tenth Meeting of the Forum in Uppsala, Sweden in June 2007. This conference was organised by EFNCP in association with SNF (Svenska Naturskyddföreningen: the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation) with additional sponsorship from DG Agriculture, The French Ministry of the Environment, the Swedish Board of Agriculture and the Swedish Federation of Farmers. The focus of this meeting was *Can the market work for nature?* Full details of the conference can be found on the Forum's website at <http://www.efncp.org/events/conferences/uppsala/> and in issue 21 of the Forum's newsletter <http://www.efncp.org/publications/la-canada/2007/>

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 see examples of high-nature-value farming systems and to speak to the farmers and managers involved. At the Swedish conference, three different field trips were arranged, all of them was including visits to HNV areas and examples of market solutions:

- One field trip went west to the county of Närke and visited a beef farm, (Gymninge gård) in an HNV area which market "nature conservation beef", a nature reserve (Rynninge Bay and Oset) and a national park (Garphyttan) with examples of cultivated landscape of high value
- The second field trip stayed in the area of lake Mälaren visiting a beef producer who is part of a labelling scheme for "nature conservation beef" (Mälarhagskött), a farm based meat retailer who also has a large farm shop (Kungsbyn) and a farm cooperative of organic farmers selling vegetables, meat and other products at the farm gate (Åloppe Eko-mat).
- The third field trip headed east and visited an organic milk producer with HNV farming (Jenny Alm, Knutby), a local small scale cheese factory (Väddö gårdsmejeri) and finally an organic, diversified farmer in the flat land north of Uppsala (Kjell Sjelin, Vattholma) who has both HNV areas along with organic production of cereals, beef, eggs and pig production, partly sold at the farm gate.



RESEARCH

During 2007, the Forum led and/or provided input to the following projects:

- *High Nature Value farmland - recognising its importance in Bulgaria and Romania.* This work is being conducted between 2006 and 2008 and is funded by the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries BBI-MATRA programme. It concerns the organisation of a total of 7 seminars in Bulgaria, Romania and Brussels with the overall aim of illustrating at a local level, for the benefit of both policy makers and farmers, what a rather complicated HNV farmland concept means on the ground in Bulgaria and Romania and how these might be reflected in policy instruments. The Forum is working in partnership with WWF Danube Carpathian Programme to organise these seminars. Further details are available on the Forum website at: <http://www.efncp.org/projects/hnv-bulgaria-romania/>
- *Study on High Nature Value indicators for evaluation.* This project for DG Agriculture was conducted by a consortium led by the Institute for European Environmental Policy and included the Forum and a number of external experts drawn from throughout Europe. The study sought to provide the Commission and the Member States with guidance on operational indicators in a domain where they have not been used before. The final report was submitted in October 2007 and can be accessed from the DG Agriculture website at: http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/analysis/external/evaluation/index_en.htm
- *Support to the Elaboration of a National Agri-environment Programme for Turkey.* This project is being conducted between 2006 and 2008 and is funded by the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries BBI-MATRA programme. The project is led by Avalon (from the Netherlands), the Institute for European Environmental Policy and Buğday (a Turkish NGO), with the Forum in a subcontracted role. An introduction to HNV farmland in Turkey can be found on a leaflet produced by Buğday available at: <http://www.avalon.nl/data/asp/document.asp?volgnr=122&type=pdf>



- *Wildlife and Sustainable Farming Initiative within the context of the Birds and Habitats Directives (Natura 2000 network).* The Forum participates in this project as a subcontractor to ATECMA in Spain in an initiative for the European Commission (DG Environment) on Wildlife and Sustainable Farming which is running between 2006 and 2008. This project analyses the actual and potential role of CAP rural development measures for supporting the conservation of wildlife in a selection of farmland, forest and wetland habitats. For more information see: <http://circa.europa.eu/Public/irc/env/swfi/home>
 - *Global review of the economics of pastoralism.* The Forum finalised its contribution to this desk-study which was conducted under contract from IUCN and the World Initiative on Sustainable Pastoralism (WISP). The full report can be downloaded at: <http://data.iucn.org/wisp/wisp-publications.html>
- In 2007, 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 2007, the Forum was involved in consortia developing applications for the following research projects:
- *Sustaining jobs and biodiversity in marginal rural areas through High Nature Value farming.* Work on this proposal was led by the Environment Agency of the Navarra Government in Spain in association with the Forum, with the intent of submitting it to Interreg IVc. The project did not progress due partly to restructuring in the Navarra authority, and also because the Interreg office in Lille advised that there was too much agricultural content in the proposal. Interreg is funded by the Regional fund and should not overlap with areas covered by EAFRD.
 - *Development of an HNV farmland indicator for Germany.* This proposal was submitted to the Bundesamt für Naturschutz (Federal Agency for Nature Conservation) by a consortium consisting of Hochschule für Forstwirtschaft Rottenburg, Bioplan Marburg/Hoexter and the Forum. Unfortunately the application was unsuccessful.
 - Following on from the food hygiene discussions at the Forum conference in Sweden in June 2007, the Forum initiated discussions concerning the possibility of submitting a hygiene-oriented project proposal to Interreg IVc. The Basque Agriculture Agency took on the responsibility of developing such a proposal. However, in the end no proposal was submitted.

DISSEMINATION



During 2007, the Forum:

- Produced, published and disseminated issues 20 and 21 of the Forum newsletter *La Cañada*. *La Cañada* is sent to those active in Forum activities, appropriate officials in governments and the Commission, and is made available in pdf format on the Forum's website. It has proven a very effective tool. The content of Issue 20 and Issue 21 can be viewed and downloaded from the website at: <http://www.efncp.org/publications/la-canada/2007/>
- Attended and gave invited presentations at meetings organised by a number of partners, for example:
 - in Piatra Neamț, Romania at the Euromontana conference concerned with *Integrating the needs of mountain areas into the CAP*
 - in Jihlava, Czech Republic at a conference on *Less Favoured Areas for agriculture and rural areas*
 - in Buenos Aires, Argentina at a series of *Pastoralist Dialogue* side events organised by the World Initiative for Sustainable Pastoralism (WISP) which ran in parallel to the Fifth Meeting of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention on Combating Desertification (UNCCD CRIC5)
 - in Ranco, Italy at a Joint Research Centre summer school on sustainable agriculture (proceedings available for download from: http://agrienv.jrc.it/publications/pdfs/LIFS_final.pdf)
 - in Ponte de Ilma, Portugal at an FAO-CIHEAM meeting on changes in sheep and goat systems in the 21st century
 - in Lozère, France at a three-day meeting on *Agro-pastoral cultural landscapes in the Mediterranean* (conference proceedings available at <http://whc.unesco.org/uploads/events/documents/event-489-4.pdf>)



- Attended and contributed to discussions at a number of meetings, such as:
 - a Mediterranean pastoralism (PASTOMED) meeting in Marseille, France. Further information on PASTOMED is available in French, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian and Greek at <http://www.pastomed.org/>
 - a world gathering of pasoralists in Segovia, Spain (For further information in Spanish see: <http://www.nomadassegovia2007.org/>)
 - a Euromontana meeting in Inverness, Scotland
 - an international conference on *Animal genetic resources for food and agriculture* organised by FAO in Interlaken, Switzerland. Further details of the conference are available at: <http://www.fao.org/AG/againfo/programmes/en/genetics/angrvent2007.html>
- Continued to maintain contact with the Biodiversity Expert Group charged with reviewing the EC Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans.
- Continued to be involved in the development of the World Initiative for Sustainable Pastoralism (WISP) <http://data.iucn.org/wisp/>
- Initiated a major upgrade of the content of the Forum website (<http://www.efncp.org>) to reflect recent activities.





ORGANISATION OF SEMINARS & REPRESENTATION ON EC COMMITTEES

During 2007, the Forum:

- Initiated discussions investigation the potential of holding an international workshop on the island of Vilm, Germany in 2009, with a working title of *European pastoral systems: ecological uniqueness and importance, threats and political opportunities*.
- Initiated discussion about the possibility of holding the Forum Biennial conference in the Rhône-Alpes, France in 2009 with the provisional theme of *Quelle contribution des systèmes agricoles à HVN à l'intégration de la biodiversité dans le développement agricole ?*
- Initiated discussions about the possibility of holding an additional French-oriented workshop in France in 2009 with the aim of highlighting the importance of High Nature Value farming in France and the amount of this resource which occurs there
- Helped organise seminars in Bulgaria and Romania under the BBI Matra project (see above and <http://www.efncp.org/projects/hnv-bulgaria-romania/>)
- The Forum has continued to have representatives nominated to 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 these meetings. During 2007, Forum representatives attended meetings associated with the 'Agriculture and Environment' and 'Sheepmeat and Goatmeat' committees as well as an ad-hoc meeting on the CAP healthcheck.



PUBLICATIONS



In addition to the copies of the newsletter, other publications arising from the work of the Forum during 2007 include:

- Beaufoy, G. (In press) Reflections from an external evaluator on the future of olive production systems on sloping land. *Journal of Environmental Management*
- Cooper, T., Arblaster, K., Baldock, D., Farmer, M., Beaufoy, G., Jones, G., Poux, X., McCracken, D., Bignal, E., Elbersen, B., Wascher, D., Angelstam, P., Roberge J-M., Pointereau, P., Seffer, J. & Galvanek, D. (2007). *HNV Indicators for Evaluation: Final report for DG Agriculture*. Contract notice 2006-G4-04. Institute for European Environmental Policy.
- Poux, X. (In Press) *Low input farming systems in Europe: what is at stake?* In: *Low input farming systems: an opportunity to develop sustainable agriculture*, eds. Biala, K., Terres, J-M, Pointereau, P. & Paracchini, M.L. Joint Research Centre, Ispra
- Poux, X., Beufoy, G., Bignal, E. & Ramain, B. (2007) Les systèmes ovins et caprins de l'Union Européenne: implications pour l'environnement. In: Abstracts of papers presented at the 6th International Seminar of the *FAO-CIHEAM Network on Sheep & Goats: changes in sheep and goat farming systems at the beginning of the 21st century*



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- 2007 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*****
Balance brought forward from previous year	46,055	34,594	(15,092)	(18,280)	(8,675)
Income during year	132,126	56,273	110,800	135,300	187,332
Expenditure during year	143,784	98,730	114,302	125,851	185,925
Retained Surplus/(deficit) for the year	(11,461)	(42,219)	(3,188)	9,604	1,407
Prior year adjustment***		(7,467)			
Balance carried forward	34,594	(15,092)	(18,280)	(8,675)	(7,268)

** 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.*

ENDS