



ADMINISTRATION & MANAGEMENT

Once again the Forum was awarded a DG Environment Life+ grant, of €525,800, which was by far the largest source of finance. A wide range of co-funding partners collaborated with us in our work programme, from countries ranging from Sweden to Romania, Ireland to Bulgaria. The activity level of 2010 was therefore successfully maintained.

As in 2010, pressure on the cashflow remains intense, with the Commission payments seemingly getting later each year and the need to take on staff instead of contracting out work bringing with it the duty to pay regular monthly salaries. The increased volatility of currency exchange rates poses a considerable threat, especially as the Forum's reserves are extremely small. Loans were made available by friends and colleagues of the Forum, but the interest cost is ineligible for Commission financing, so becomes a further drain on reserves.

Staffing levels were increased substantially, with eleven full or part-time employees. This further reduced our dependence on subcontractors, in accordance with the expectations of the DG Environment grant. We attempted to open a place of business in Romania to employ part-time staff there, but were unable to complete the bureaucratic requirements within the year and the individuals concerned were retained as subcontractors.

Reflecting the need for increased support of and networking between its expanded workforce, two team meetings were held in Extremadura and Sofia. Both of these locations enabled staff to go on a field trip as part of the programme and thus to broaden their familiarity with HNV farming in a range of European countries.



Internal procedures have been strengthened considerably, taking into account the suggestions of the EU Auditors, who visited in 2010. An intranet site has been introduced for internal reporting, monitoring and information sharing.

As noted in 2010, exchange rates are outwith our control, and affect in particular the value of the final amount of grant funding compared to the apparent value at the year end. Difficulties with a major partner also resulted in diminished income compared to budget. The overall result was a loss on the year of £14,597, although the balance sheet still remains in the black, showing a positive balance of £2,608.

This financial position makes us very vulnerable to the exchange rate in 2012, adding further to the existing challenges posed by cashflow. The Board continues to work to minimise risk, increase our reserves and adjust the cashflow where possible. One way in which cashflow can be eased is through undertaking a wider range of projects outwith our DG Environment Life+ work programme – the Board continues to explore options in this regard.

Increasing the reserves is even more difficult – funders expect most grant-aided projects to break even at best. In the past we have from time to time undertaken some relevant consultancy work; we hope to increase this in 2012. Donations and other non-restricted funding is not easy to get and we remain open to the option of pursuing charitable status in England. Other surplus-generating options are being considered.



CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS



■ *Permanent Pastures and Meadows — adapting CAP instruments to take account of public goods.* A seminar in Brussels organised by the Forum in collaboration with the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation and with funding from the Swedish NRD, with complementary research and reports funded by the Federation of Swedish farmers, this event massively increased the impact of our work on permanent pastures and focussed our efforts on CAP reform (see below).

<http://www.efncp.org/events/seminars-others/permanent-pastures-brussels/>

■ *Characterising and accompanying HNV farming at regional scale: What do we learn from the study of pastoral Mediterranean systems?* A seminar in Montpellier, France, organised jointly with OIER SUAMME, this event was aimed at French participants involved in the field of nature conservation and agriculture, at regional or local level, aiming to create a common picture from local initiatives on HNV farming and propose perspectives for the next years, in the context of the CAP beyond 2013. It was attended by about 60 people.

<http://www.efncp.org/events/seminars-others/hnv-montpellier2011/>

■ *High Nature Value Farming in South-Eastern Europe: Policy Opportunities and Challenges in view of EU Accession and CAP post-2013.* This latest workshop organised by EFNCP in south-east Europe was held in Zagreb and looked in more detail at the ‘next steps’ required to ensure sustainability for HNV farming systems in the various countries of the region.

<http://see.efncp.org/networking/events/2011/20111017/>



LEARNING LESSONS FROM LOCAL PROJECTS

■ *Characterisation of HNV farming at the regional scale in France.* In 2011, the 2010 work in the Vercors was taken forward, including some theoretical work to design an ‘easy to develop’ methodology to mobilise local knowledge and complete the picture of large scale interactions between nature and farming, within a systems-focussed analysis. This methodological proposition was formalized in a document, and will be further discussed in 2012 and incorporates the findings of the work carried out in France in 2010 on HNV characterisation (Vercors, Pays d’Auge, Haut-Jura – see below). The partnership with Vercors Natural Park also resulted in the production by ASca and the Forum of a communication aimed at policy makers illustrating the most interesting results of the HNV farming characterisation work. For details see:

<http://www.efncp.org/projects/hnv-farming-france/>

■ *Common Grazings in the United Kingdom.* In response to the publication of the report on Scottish common grazings, the theme Assessors Conference of the statutory regulator of crofting, the Crofters Commission, was ‘the Crisis in Common Grazing’. The work has now moved into its next phases, which involve looking in detail at the uptake of Rural Development Programme scheme uptake by common grazings, and looking at possible solutions to the upcoming problems with the implementation of the new Basic Payment on common grazings.

■ *HNV farmland as a future strength for Irish uplands.* The Forum’s collaboration with the Heritage Council of Ireland continued, with a lot of effort being put into drafting a Life+ application for the Aran Islands. Other initiatives involved communicating ‘favourable status’ concepts to farmers in Connemara. Consideration of HNV farming in lowland small farm areas was started and will be developed in 2012. [Presentations](#) were made at the Teagasc biodiversity conference.

■ *Support to HNV identification in Navarra, Spain.* This project continued, with further input from the Forum. We also supported an associated exchange with Estonia. A [report](#) is now available in Spanish.

Continued overleaf:





LESSONS FROM LOCAL PROJECTS

(continued)

- *Partnership with Pogány-havas.* In addition to some very interesting field survey (see publications) and event at the European Parliament (see below), the collaboration this year involved work with schoolchildren on linking nature and culture in the landscape and socio-economic research to be published in 2012. Further details at <http://www.efncp.org/projects/projects-in-romania/poganyhavas/>.
- *Partnership with the Mozaic Project.* This collaboration with the University of Bonn and the DBU continued, with further detailed socio-economic, ecological and policy-related work. More details, as the interim report, are available at <http://www.efncp.org/projects/projects-in-romania/mozaic-project/>.
- *Support to HNV identification in Navarra, Spain.* This project continued, with further input from the Forum. We also supported an associated exchange with Estonia. A [report](#) is now available in Spanish.
- *Identifying and supporting High Nature Value (HNV) farming in the UK.* Identifying, supporting and monitoring HNV farming has been a priority for EU rural development policy since 2005, but when they began in 2007, the four RDPs for the UK did not have a fully developed approach for making this priority operational. EFNCP has therefore joined up with a range of local partners in three areas of England and Wales to explore further how policies for HNV farming should work. This analysis has led to an overall report with policy recommendations. The three projects, in the [Wye Valley](#), in [Devon](#) and [Carmarthenshire](#) deal with the characterisation, identification and monitoring of HNV farmland and farming systems and with the design and implementation of policy measures to address their needs and the delivery of public good ecosystem services on them, but the balance between these varied between the areas.

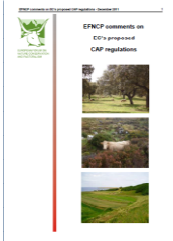


NETWORKING



- As in 2010, we markedly increased the amount of material and information on ongoing projects, publications, etc on the Forum's website (<http://www.efncp.org>) and introduced processes to track the number of visits and routes that visitors take to enter the site. The website is becoming an increasingly important mechanism for raising awareness of the work of the Forum and directing interested parties to more detailed information on ongoing and past projects. We have added a [SE Europe](#) sub-site and have a dedicated parallel [policy website](#).
- Two issues of the Forum's newsletter were produced in 2011. See the Forum's website for pdf copies of both: <http://www.efncp.org/publications/la-canada/2011/>
- Organised a [study tour](#) for common graziers from Abergwesyn, Wales to N Spain.
- Supported a study tour on aspects of the cultural landscape from Brittany to Wales organised by Natur, the Welsh organisation of nature conservation professionals.
- Organised a [session](#) on delivering public policy on common land in the International Association for the Study of Commons European conference in Plovdiv, Bulgaria.
- Supported the formation of a HNV farming coalition meeting in Romania. Attended by EFNCP partners Pogány-havas, Mozaic Project and Fundația Adept and by Green Agora, the coalition met twice in 2011.
- Continued to support wider networking in SE Europe (see seminars and publications).
- Provided support for a study visit by GA Navarra to Estonia.





WORKING WITH EU INSTITUTIONS

- We attended 16 consultative meetings organised by the European Commission, including, as in previous years, a number of DG Agriculture Advisory Groups.
- Our work on the CAP involved both collaboration with other NGO networks and direct engagement through meetings and submissions. In addition to providing statements of our general position at various stages in the Commission's consultation process, we wrote detailed papers on local projects and on permanent pasture issues. In fact, as the year progressed, and especially as a result of the seminar organised with SSNC (see above), we became key players in pushing for rationalisation and reform of permanent pasture definitions, eligibility for support and maintenance rules, holding a number of meetings with senior Commission staff on the issue.
- The European Parliament has co-decision powers in agriculture as a result of the Lisbon Treaty; a challenge for the Forum is engaging with MEPs and Parliamentary Committees for the first time. We supported financially and participated in a seminar in the Parliament organised by our partners in Pogányhavas, and supported also a complementary awareness-raising [brochure](http://www.efnccp.org/events/seminars-others/common-agricultural-policy/). <http://www.efnccp.org/events/seminars-others/common-agricultural-policy/>
- EFNCP joined up with a range of leading European NGOs to produce a set of [Fact Sheets](#) on the CAP and key environmental issues, including Biodiversity, Climate Change, Soil and Water. EFNCP was lead author on the Grasslands and High Nature Value farming Fact Sheets.
- We have joined the European Habitats Forum and contributed to their response to the consultation on the Biodiversity Strategy.
- We also submitted a [response](#) to the consultation on the definition of 'highly biodiverse grasslands' in relation to the Renewable Energy Directive.



BOOKS & REPORTS



- Csergő, A M & Demeter, L 2011: [Plant species diversity and traditional management in Eastern Carpathian grasslands](#). EFNCP.
- Cumulus Consultants 2011: [Grazing and Grasslands in the Wye Valley AONB: a review of existing projects and opportunities for a Local Partnership Project](#). Report to EFNCP.
- Cumulus Consultants 2011: [High Nature Value farmland in Rural Development policy: Blackdown Hills Case Study](#). Report to EFNCP.
- Cumulus Consultants 2011: [High Nature Value farmland in Rural Development policy: Culm Grasslands Case Study](#). Report to EFNCP.
- Cumulus Consultants 2011: [High Nature Value farmland in Rural Development policy: Dartmoor Case Study](#). Report to EFNCP.
- Cumulus Consultants 2011: [High Nature Value farmland in Rural Development policy: South Devon Case Study](#). Report to EFNCP.
- Demeter, L & Kelemen, A 2011: [Quantifying the abandonment of mountain hay meadows in the Eastern Carpathians](#). EFNCP
- EFNCP 2011: [EFNCP comments on EC's proposed CAP regulations](#).
- EFNCP 2011: [Permanent Pastures and Meadows: adapting CAP Pillar 1 to support public goods](#)
- EFNCP 2011: [Permanent Pastures and Meadows under the CAP: the situation in 6 countries](#)
- Jones, G 2011: [Common grazings in Scotland – assessing their value and rewarding their management](#). Paper presented at IASC European Conference, 2011, Plovdiv
- Jones, G. 2011: [Trends in common grazing: first steps towards an integrated needs-based strategy](#). European Forum on Nature Conservation & Pastoralism.
- Jones, G; Browne, C; Carmichael, R & Sazer, D 2011: [High Nature Value Farmland in Wales: East Carmarthenshire Case Study Report](#). EFNCP
- Kazakova, Y & Stefanova, V 2011: [High Nature Value Farming in South-Eastern Europe: Policy Opportunities and Challenges in the EU Accession](#). EFNCP
- Oppermann, R; Beaufoy, G & Jones, G (in press): *High Nature Value Farming: 35 European countries – experiences and perspectives*. Ubstadt-Weiher.
- Paulini, I; Bărbos, M; Crișan, A; Jitea, I M; Mihai, V; Moldovan, A; Negoită, R; Poledna, R; Rákosy, L; Troc, M & Schumacher, W 2011: [Grassland conservation through CAP instruments - A Transylvanian case study. 2010 and 2011 summary report of the Mozaic Project](#). EFNCP

