The HNV Farmland indicator
current situation and future prospects

Zélie Peppiette

Rural Development Evaluation Manager

2nd international workshop on pastoral landscapes and conservation

Vilm, Germany, 20th-24th September 2010

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CMEF: what does it ask?

HNV common impact indicators new for 2007-2013 period

- Baseline indicator 18 = HNV farmland and forestry

- Common impact indicator 5 = Maintenance of HNV farmland and forestry (recorded as changes in HNV farmland and forestry)
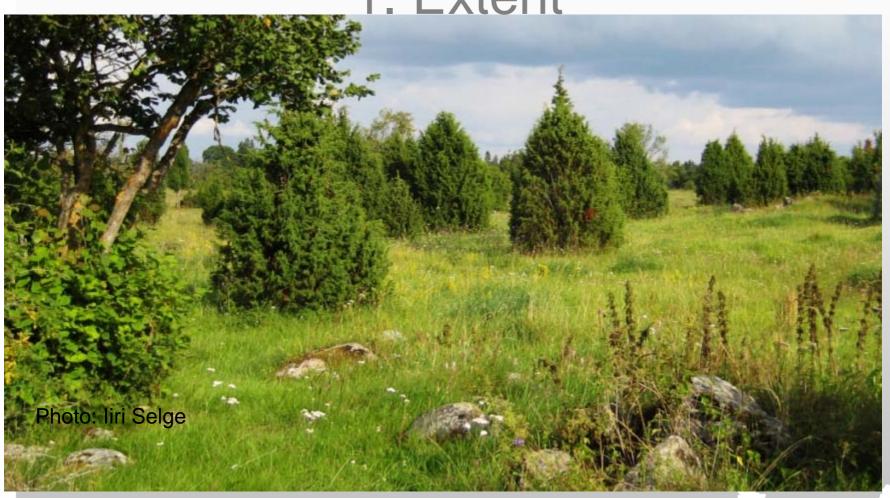
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Variety within the EU…..

………variety within the EU

Photo: Riho Marja

CMEF: what does it contain?

- Farmland and/or forestry
- Ha or % UAA
- Missing data

- Not currently possible to provide an aggregate figure at EU level

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Approaches to HNV assessment
1. Extent

Photo: Iiri Selge

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Approaches to HNV assessment
1. Extent

- IRENA/EEA figures
- Land cover (CORINE, other national databases)
- National species databases
- IACS data (sometimes enriched)
- Parcels included in relevant ag-env schemes
- Statutory designations
- Field samples
- Farming systems approach

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Approaches to HNV assessment
1. Extent: example 1

- HNV GIS layer
- Combined with IACS physical blocks

= HNV farmland area + spatial location

Advantages: minimises resource requirement; integrated with IACS; spatial distribution

Disadvantages: HNV layer not very dynamic; farming system not included; not strong for Type II HNV

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Approaches to HNV assessment
1. Extent: example 2

- Field sampling
- Stratified random sample (land cover classes)
- Evaluation of all HNV elements (+ quality)
- Indicator species + landscape features
- 25% of sample plots updated annually

Advantages: dynamic, flexible, good differentiation, covers all HNV types, avoids proxies

Disadvantages: resource intensive; does not identify farms or parcels

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Approaches to HNV assessment
2. Quality

Approaches to HNV assessment 2. Quality

- Very few MS currently assess quality
- Some databases exist, but not updated regularly
- Sampling approach can provide quality assessment

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Summary of MS approaches 1

- IRENA/EAA 3
- Land cover (+) 4 3
- Designation (+) 4 5
- Sampling 1
- Systems/Landcover (+) 2 1
- IACS + 1
- (Agrienvironment) 1

Summary of MS approaches 2

- Type 1 only   7/8?
- Type 3 only   5
- Types 1 & 2   2/3?
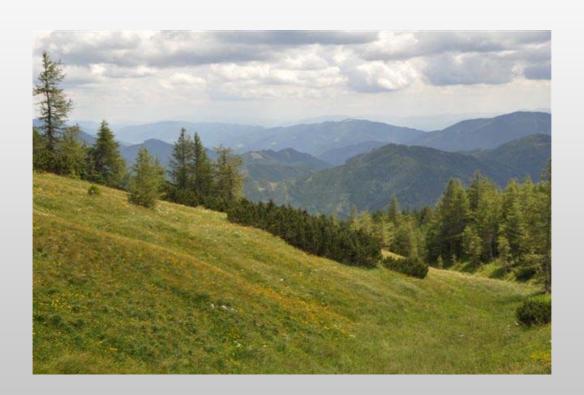- Types 1 & 3   4
- Types 1,2 & 3   5

- (Agrienvironment)   1

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Summary: Type I

Summary: Type I

- Currently the best identified HNV type
- ?most prevalent
- Land cover approaches reasonable (but do not take account of quality)
- Can be combined with IACS/LPIS to identify parcels
- Hard to distinguish between HNV and abandoned land
- Variant: grazed low density woodland

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Summary: Type 2

Photo Arne Ader

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Summary: Type 2

- Type II hardest to identify
- Only few MS currently including Type 2

Summary: Type 3

Summary: Type 3

- Statutory designations

- National species databases

- Expert panels

- Sample plots

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Issues and challenges

Issues and challenges 1

- Farming systems
- Specific features (hedgerows, ponds etc)
- Assessment of quality/condition
- Reliability/robustness/proxy/derived indicators
- Consistency/equivalence
- Dissenting voices

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Issues and challenges 2

- Sampling vs full coverage
- Level of identification (parcel, farm, commune)
- Links to IACS/LPIS
- Monitoring and updating
- Resource constraints

Where do we go now?

Where do we go now?

- Many MS are using the RDP MTE to develop/refine methodology
- Development of AEI 23 (follow-on from IRENA project) ongoing
- Review of CMEF for post-2013
- Follow-up of MS methodology (MTEs)
- Convergence of CMEF/AEI indicators

Where do we go now?

- RD policy post-2013 will be closely aligned to overall EU objectives, including biodiversity, climate change etc

- Pressure for Pillar I to take more account of provision of public goods

- M&E growing in importance

Where do we go now?

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- More and better environmental monitoring
- HNV Farmland a key component
- One concept, many methods
- For use in policy targeting, need:
  - common acceptance of alternative methods
  - equivalence (real and perceived)
  - identification at appropriate level
  - robust, reliable, validated, data

- We are not there yet, but there are signs of progress in the right direction!!

- Watch this space!

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