



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.

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 issues and solutions, 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 that certain European farming systems are central to achieving the EU's biodiversity targets and are also of high cultural importance, summarised in the term High Nature Value (HNV) farming.
- Raising awareness of socio-economic and cultural factors as critical in ensuring 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 HNV farming systems and potential solutions.
- Developing and promoting policy options which ensure the ecological maintenance and development of these farming systems and cultural landscapes.

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Directors' Report

2014 was if anything a more difficult year than 2013, but one which ended with some good news and again with our finances relatively unscathed. For the second year in a row, we failed to be awarded a DG ENV NGO support grant. The application criteria have been changed somewhat for the 2015 round and the Directors felt it was still worth submitting another application.

In Ireland the Heritage Council continued to support our work in the absence of co-funding. We were not able to employ a project officer, but through partnership with IT Sligo and the use of specialist commonage experts, we played a unique advisory and capacity building role in the CAP implementation debate, both directly and with a group of marginal farmers.

The ESSEDRA project continued in SE Europe, and secured funding for a second two-year period. 2014's work in England's North Pennines led to the chance to bring together similar projects over the whole so-called Northern Upland Chain. In Spain we were closely involved in the development of the new Plataforma por la Ganadería Extensiva y el Pastoralismo, especially on the implementation of the new CAP. Our final output for WWF Spain was an analysis of regional Rural Development Programmes to assess their support for HNV farming.

We continued to be active in the EU policy sphere despite the absence of funding for this work. We followed crucial developments in the drafting of new EU rules and Commission guidance on the eligibility for CAP support of permanent pastures with trees and shrubs. We lobbied the Commission for changes to the drafted texts and provided evidence to support this; positive changes were made in the final texts.

The year ended positively, with an EFNCP-led partnership in Ireland and Navarra (Spain) securing one of only two grants from the DG ENV to develop and trial results-based agri-environment pilot schemes (RBAPS).

Exchange rate variance continues to be a concern. Nevertheless, we managed to break even once more. The lack of full-time staff at the core of the organisation is however taking its toll in terms of our coherence and effectiveness.

Focus on TYFA – an EFNCP/IDDRRI agroecology project

Ten Years For Agroecology (TYFA) is a project originating from a 2012 Brussels expert meeting on Integrating biodiversity in CAP reform. It concluded that we need to consider the wider context in which the evolution of High Nature Value (HNV) farming takes place, both in terms of markets (e.g., competition between extensive and intensive livestock systems) and policy framework.

The workshop attendees were convinced that, far from being a backward-looking activity, HNV farming systems have an irreplaceable role to play in a broader agroecological future for Europe's farming systems, but this only becomes clear when we take the long perspective. We have set out to do just that.

With this vision, shared by Europe's largest environmental NGOs, EFNCP and the Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relationships (IDDRRI) initiated the Ten Years For Agroecology (TYFA) project: "Ten Years" because while change is urgently needed, this is not a project which ends with the next CAP

With support from the Fondation pour le Progrès de l'Homme, a feasibility study has been completed, so we now have:

- a project strategy, with two main aspects:
 - o coordinating a platform of European NGOs to run TYFA
 - o creating a vision for the policy transition that could lead to an alternative scenario, rather than a "Business As Usual" situation in which biodiversity and most of the other environmental heritage associated with farming are likely to collapse.
- a methodological framework which ensures that the scenario analysis will be reliable and have enough credibility to influence the European debate. It will involve both an EU-level analysis and contrasted case studies
- a funding strategy which will allow for a robust and ambitious project

EFNCP has been involved in both the strategic and methodological design work. The design of the project is now completed, case study pilots are being developed and the main work will start as soon as the bulk of funding is confirmed.

New network members

- Society for Territorial and Environmental Prosperity. A Bulgarian NGO working for sustainable territorial and environmental rural development through the conservation of natural resources and biodiversity, diversification of the rural economy, introduction of innovative practices and partnerships.
- The Spanish Network of Farmhouse and Artisan Cheesemakers (QueRed) is a non-profit association created mainly by farmers who process their own milk, in collaboration with other stakeholders. Its objective is to defend and promote the status of small-scale cheese dairies and their main priority is to work for the improvement and adaptation of regional, national and European regulations to their reality.
- The Entretantos Foundation is a non-profit organization which aims to improve and enhance participation in projects, plans or public policies related to land management, sustainability and environmental issues.
- The Mozaic Association is a non-governmental, non-profit organisation based in North-Western Transylvania. It works in the area of nature conservation and rural development, both through research and practical activities.
- The University of Sassari is located on the island of Sardinia. Our collaboration is with the Dept. of Natural Sciences and the Territory
- The Open Spaces Society. Over the last 150 years this Society has preserved commons for the enjoyment of the public, and it has also been active in protecting the historical and vital rights-of-way network through England and Wales.



Publications

Policy submissions

- [Response to draft Irish SEA Materials consultation, incl. RDP measures proposals](#)
- [Response to Irish forestry State Aid measures consultation](#)
- [Response to the publication of the draft Irish 2014-20 RDP](#)

Books and reports

- Elbersen, B.; Beaufoy, G., Jones, G., Noij, G-J., Doorn, A., Breman, B. & Hazeu, G. (2014). Aspects of data on diverse relationships between agriculture and the environment. ([Report](#), [Annex](#))
- [Jones, G. \(2014\) High Nature Value farming in the Northern Upland Chain](#)
- Keenleyside, C; Beaufoy, G; Tucker, G & Jones, G. (2014) High Nature Value farming throughout EU-27 and its financial support under the CAP. Report to DG Environment. [HNV and the CAP: Executive Summary](#) - [HNV and the CAP: Full report](#) - [HNV and the CAP: Annex 1 \(maps\)](#) - [HNV and the CAP: Annexes 2 - 8](#)
- [Monaghan, F; Martyn, M; Boyle, P; Moran, J & Jones, G \(2014\) Commonage Case Studies 2014: informing the development of Commonage Management Plans under Ireland's RDP 2014-2020](#)

