



**Update on  
High Nature Value farming  
in the Western Balkans  
since February 2006, Belgrade  
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EUROPEAN FORUM ON  
NATURE CONSERVATION  
AND PASTORALISM



# HNVF in Western Balkans in 2006

## *Objectives*

- To cover the ecological and political context of HNV farming, its role in CBD, Kyiv Resolution and within other policy instruments and processes
- To present the status of the HNV farming concept definition, identification and protection in Europe in general;
- To assess the present state, identification and protection of HNV farming in the Western Balkans and develop recommendations for future actions



# HNVF in Western Balkans in 2006

*Countries: 6*

Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina,  
Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro and  
Serbia

*Participants: 23*

ministries, governmental organizations,  
universities and local, national and  
international NGOs



# Main recommendations (1)

- Translate HNV farming into the Western-Balkan languages, finding words to express the concept adequately
- Compile more precise information on
  - ✓ the character and distribution of HNV farmland in the region, and
  - ✓ assess the way in which these systems are changing, and
  - ✓ what the related implications for nature conservation are.
- Ministries of Agriculture and Institutes of Nature Conservation are crucial players.

We need to get them on board! We also need to raise awareness of the importance of agri-environmental programmes within MoA where such programmes do not yet exist, especially in the context of EU accession



# Main recommendations (2)

➤ At the same time, *build awareness and clarify misunderstandings before talking about policy measures*. Actions may include:

- ✓ Preparing simple literature and/or a website to explain/share concepts
- ✓ Use specific examples so people can relate to them
- ✓ Consider 'demonstration' farms to illustrate the concept, especially outside of designated areas
- ✓ 'Train the trainers' workshops
- ✓ Link HNMF explicitly to international agreements and EU law
- ✓ Cultivate pressure and support from high-profile international organisations (WWF, IUCN..) to reinforce local messages
- ✓ Get international institutions, including the EU, FAO and World Bank to support overall message
- ✓ Do not forget Ministries of Finance!



# Main recommendations (3)

➤ Discuss HNVF informally with other stakeholders and

Use their reaction to develop coalitions of stakeholders which together can make critical mass to which ministries often respond better.

Stress urgency of task;

Build link in farmers' minds between HNV and economic viability;

Make link to the EU and EU accession process;

Have a communications strategy aimed at the general public to build support and understanding; and

Use consumer power.



# Main recommendations (4)

- Involve actors from Croatia and Bulgaria, since they are at different stages of EU accession and have valuable experience
- Make the most of the Beograd Environment for Europe conference as an awareness-raising opportunity in itself and as a reason for governments to do something now
- For all this work, get know-how, support and help from foreign, experienced organizations, last but not least for fundraising
- Let's meet again before the end of 2006



# What has happened since then?

EU Biodiversity Policy

EU Rural Development Policy

EU Enlargement Process



# EU biodiversity policy and target

SERIOUSLY CONCERNED that both the EU and the global biodiversity 2010 targets have not been met, that biodiversity loss continues at an unacceptable rate entailing very serious ecological, economic and social consequences,.

The main reasons for not achieving the EU target are:

- ✓ Incomplete implementation of certain legal instruments,
- ✓ incomplete and poor integration into sectoral policies,
- ✓ insufficient scientific knowledge and data gaps,
- ✓ insufficient funding,
- ✓ lack of additional efficiently-targeted instruments to tackle specific problems, and
- ✓ shortcomings in communication and education to enhance awareness.



# EU 2020 biodiversity target

Halting the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services in the EU by 2020, and restoring them in so far as feasible, while stepping up the EU contribution to averting global biodiversity loss

Green Infrastructure concept:  
HNV areas both within and outside protected areas



# EU Rural Development Policy

- Current programming period 2007-2013:

HNV farmland and forest areas are among the top priorities for Axis 2 of the RDP

- Monitoring and Evaluation of HNV farmland very important but extremely challenging for most member states (MS)
- A series of HNV farmlands indicator guideline papers developed to assist MS in their efforts



# HNV farmland indicators in CMEF

Indicator	Description	Measurement
Baseline (18)	Biodiversity: HNV Farmland and Forestry	UAA of HNV Farmland, in ha
Result (6)	Area under successful management contributing to biodiversity and HNV Farming & Forestry	Total area of HNV Farmland & Forestry under successful land management, in ha
Impact (5)	Maintenance of HNV Farming & Forestry	Changes in HNV areas, defined in terms of quantitative and qualitative changes



# EU CAP post 2013

EC says “A reform is needed to respond to the new challenges including:

- ✓ to enhance the sustainable management of natural resources such as water, air, biodiversity and soil
- ✓ to make best use of the diversity of EU farm structures and production systems, which have increased following EU enlargement, while maintaining its social, territorial and structuring role
- ✓ to pursue the simplification of the CAP implementation procedures and enhance control requirements and reduce the administrative burden for recipients of funds
- ✓ .....



# Env.NGOs on the future of CAP (1)

## Proposal for a new EU Common Agricultural Policy

5 NGOs: Birdlife, EEB, EFNCP, IFOAM, WWF

Key principles:

- ✓ Public money for public goods - reward farmers and other land managers for the provision of public goods
- ✓ Certain farming systems such as HNV deliver a wide range of public goods in larger quantities
- ✓ Sustainable production needs sustainable consumption



# CAP reform 2013– the last chance for HNV farming?

4 NGOs: EFNCP, Birdlife, Butterfly Conservation Europe, WWF

Establish a consistent and effective strategy for maintaining HNV farming across the EU:

- A targeted support payment for HNV farming under Pillar 1.
- RDP investment aids for HNV farming at higher rates of grant than other farms.
- Targeted agri-environment schemes for pursuing specific objectives and promoting certain practices.
- Local projects that work pro-actively with HNV farmers mainstreamed into rural development policy, e.g. as a special type of LEADER project for HNV farming.



# CAP post 2013– EU HNV strategy .

- Development of a consistent EU model of LPIS that includes biodiversity features such as semi-natural grasslands, and a consistent approach to recording numbers of all grazing livestock through IACS.
- Development of consistent EU rules for ensuring scrubby and woody grazing land is included in permanent pasture statistics, and is eligible for CAP payments.
- Improved cross-compliance protection for permanent grassland and for biodiversity features, complemented by targeted HNV support payments.
- Adaptation of administrative and regulatory mechanisms, such as veterinary visits and controls on livestock movements, to HNV farming conditions.



**What has happened since then**

**in the Western Balkan countries?**

