

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

11-06-2002

Developing a High Nature Value farming area indicator

Invitation to tender EEA/.....

Project manager: Ybele Hoogeveen

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Agriculture manages approximately 50% of all land in Europe. Regional farming traditions and extensive management practices have resulted in rich cultural landscapes with associated high biodiversity, commonly referred to as High Nature Value farming areas. Due to intensification of European agriculture, however, their extent has decreased and considerable biodiversity loss has occurred. The importance of HNV farming areas is recognised in several EU documents, such as the Rural Development Regulation 1257/1999 (as an objective for agri-environment schemes), the EC Biodiversity Action Plan for Agriculture, and Commission Communications on agri-environmental indicators (COM(2000) 20 and COM(2001) 144).

It is difficult to give an accurate and comprehensive European picture of the current situation and extent of remaining HNV farming areas. In spite of previous work during the 1990s, there is no consistent and commonly accepted indicator that combines relevant data on farming practice and associated biodiversity. Many relevant data sources are insufficiently detailed or have regional gaps. However, maintaining and developing HNV farming areas is crucial for protecting biodiversity on farmland in Europe. Policy measures, such as agri-environment schemes, should adequately target the remaining HNV farming areas.

An indicator for High Nature Value farming areas is urgently required to:

- a) determine which farming systems in Europe are most important for agricultural biodiversity,
- b) monitor their geographical distribution,
- c) assess the targeting of agri-environmental policy measures, and
- d) gain insight into the impact of CAP regimes on biodiversity rich farming systems.

As a contribution to agri-environmental indicator development in the framework of a Memorandum of Understanding between DG Agri, DG Env, DG Eurostat, DG JRC and the EEA, and in view of the expected IRENA project on agri-environmental indicators, the EEA has therefore decided to include the development of a HNV farming area indicator in its 2002 work programme.

1.2. Previous work

On 21 and 22 February, an expert meeting was held at EEA to discuss options for the development of a HNV farming area indicator and discuss data availability. In general, there was a preference for an approach, in which farming characteristics (*input/product/management* parameters) would be combined with biogeographical data (*quality* parameters). It appeared very difficult to find HNV farming parameters that are suitable across Europe, since farming practices show big regional variation. Instead the most promising approach appeared to be to build on a simple classification of regional farming systems. In spite of the difficulty of developing a detailed concept during just one meeting, some preliminary parameters, that would be relevant in the development of a HNV farming area indicator, were proposed (see table 1).

Table 1. Preliminary HNV parameters.

Farming characteristics	Nature quality
Input use (fertiliser/pesticide/fodder import)	Landscape diversity parameters
Management practices (crop rotation)	Share of semi-natural habitats
Livestock density	Presence of key species
Biomass production/ ha of Utilized Agricultural Area (UAA)	

Data availability was not discussed in detail, given the general character of the preliminary parameters. Among other options, remote sensing techniques, as applied in Corine Land Cover, were considered helpful, but at present their resolution and discerning power are insufficient to delineate for example semi-natural grasslands. Sample based land use inventories, such as the LUCAS project, may provide useful additional data, but relevant agro-environmental aspects are still insufficiently covered in current surveys. For modelling and interpreting land use data as well as agricultural production trends, several tools are available (MARS, ELPEN, CAPRI).

The recommendations included further research into the link between farm management and farmland biodiversity and pilot studies to test different approaches for the development of a HNV farming area indicator. A second expert meeting on the basis of a further developed HNV concept was also recommended. A summary record of the results of the expert meeting is attached in annex 1.

2. Objective of the contract

The objective of the contract is to develop and test a HNV farming area indicator at EU level, on the basis of an in-depth analysis of presently available data. Secondly, the contractor should evaluate possibilities and availability of data for expanding the HNV farming area indicator, and related data sets, to all EEA member countries. The indicator to be developed should allow for a precise geographical definition of HNV farming areas and should be validated in three pilot regions. It needs to meet the general criteria as given in the Commission Communication on agri-environmental indicators (COM (2001) 144 final):

1. *policy-relevance* - address key environmental issues;
2. *responsiveness* – change sufficiently quickly in response to action;
3. *analytical soundness* – be based on sound science;
4. *measurability* – be feasible in terms of current or planned data availability;

5. *ease of interpretation* – communicate essential information in a way that is unambiguous and easy to understand;
6. *cost effective* – costs in proportion to the value of information derived.

In addition, the work under the contract should build on the outcome of the expert meeting taking into account the set of preliminary parameters. Close co-ordination of work under the contract with other work at the EEA, such as the expected project on biodiversity implementation indicators, and the European Topic Centres for Terrestrial Environment as well as Nature Protection and Biodiversity needs to be ensured at all times. Consultation and co-operation with other partners in the Memorandum of Understanding between DG Agri, DG Env, DG Eurostat, DG JRC and the EEA is also essential.

3. Tasks

The tasks to be performed are:

1. *Survey of datasets* – Screening of available data (including those of administrative nature) at EU level, as well as in all EEA member countries, for their suitability as basis for the development of a HNV farming area indicator.
2. *Conceptual development of HNV farming area indicator* – Selection of relevant parameters and elaboration of a quantitative aggregation protocol, that will enable a geographical definition of HNV farming areas in the EU. This task is expected to build on a simple classification of regional farming systems as outlined in section 1.2. Tasks 1 and 2 have to be performed in an iterative process.
3. *Elaboration of a map of HNV farming areas in the EU* – on the basis of presently available data and work under tasks 1 and 2 a map of HNV farming areas at a scale of 1 : 1,000,000 has to be elaborated.
4. *Analysis of possibilities for extending the HNV farming area indicator to all EEA member countries plus Switzerland*- investigation of available data sets as well as possible (future) tools for developing a HNV farming area indicator at nearly pan-European level.
5. *Validation of results and approach through consultation with regional experts with relevant expertise in the fields of agriculture as well farming related landscapes and biodiversity* – The indicator and resulting map as defined through tasks 1 to 4 need to be validated through a technical consultation of experts with relevant background knowledge in three pilot regions in Europe (representative for agricultural systems in Western Europe/Scandinavia; Central/Eastern Europe and Southern Europe, respectively.)
6. *Evaluation of project results and recommendations for future work* – The implications of the project results for the further development of a HNV farming area indicator must be analysed. Minor adaptations need to be incorporated into the indicator directly. Major consequences that require a follow-up must be clearly signalled.

Completion of the work is estimated to require between 250 – 300 working days. Approximately 40 % of that amount is likely to be spent on tasks 1 and 2. However, these figures should be taken as guidance only.

4. Geographic coverage

The HNV farming area indicator must in principle be applicable in all EEA member countries: All EU Member States (EU15), plus Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Slovak Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Hungary, Romania, Slovenia, Cyprus, Malta and Turkey. Options for extending the work to Switzerland should be investigated.

5. Time schedule and organisation of work

The work should begin within three weeks of signing the contract and be executed in discussion with the respective EEA Project Manager over a period of twelve months.

The results of tasks 1 and 2 should be presented to the EEA Project Manager for approval before starting tasks 3 and 4.

There are no special requirements regarding the location of work. It is envisaged that three meetings with the EEA Project Manager will be necessary:

- a) at project start-up;
- b) for approval of results of tasks 1) and 2);
- c) to discuss final draft.

Under the coordination of the EEA project manager, co-operation with the EEA Topic Centres on Terrestrial Environment as well as Nature Protection and Biodiversity should be sought.

6. Reports and documents to be submitted

The consultant should submit the following reports:

- An interim report on the results of tasks 1) and 2) including the proposed final selection of pilot areas, approximately five months into the project;
- A map of HNV farming areas in the EU at the scale 1 : 1,000,000;
- A final draft report four weeks before the end of the project;
- All datasets related to the elaboration of the proposed HNV farming area indicator at pan-European level and to the map of HNV farming areas in the EU.
- A final report at the end of the project.

The final report and the map of HNV farming areas in the EU must be suitable for publication as a technical report of the EEA.

7. Payment

- 30 % within 60 days of signing of the contract;
- 40 % within 60 days of acceptance of the interim report;
- the balance within 60 days of acceptance of the final report.

8. Contract

In drawing up the bid, the tenderer should bear in mind the provisions of the **standard contract** attached to this invitation to tender (Annex I).

This contract can be extended according to the original conditions. Such an extension has to be applied for at least one month before expiry of the original contract.

9. The tender must include:

- all the information and documents required by the authorising department for the appraisal of tender, on the basis of the award criteria in Section 12;
- the price in accordance with Section 10.

10. Prices

- Prices must be fixed amounts in EURO. Apart from a total offer for the services, rates per day should be given.
- Travel and subsistence expenses likely to be incurred in the course of execution of the contract are not covered by daily rates. Estimated travel and subsistence expenses must thus be indicated separately. (Travel and subsistence expenses will not be taken into account when deciding whom to award the contract to.)
- Travel and subsistence expenses shall be reimbursed in accordance with the rules and conditions relating to the payment of missions expenses in force at the Agency.

The estimate of costs should be based on Annexes I/III/IV of these specifications and include any travel required to meet representatives of the Agency. In any event it should include the maximum amount of travel and subsistence expenses payable for the services provided.

11. Tenders from **consortiums** of firms or groups of service providers, contractors or suppliers must specify the role, qualifications and experience of each member or group.

12. Contract awarding criteria

Contract will be awarded to the tenderer whose offer is the most advantageous taking into account:

- The consultants knowledge of the relationship between agricultural land use and biodiversity;
- the consultants' understanding of European farming systems as well as the impact of different farm management methods on the diversity of landscape structures and agricultural biodiversity;
- the consultants' knowledge of available agri-environmental data sources;
- the consultants' experience in analysing agri-environmental statistics and land use data, preferably at the European level;
- a proven track record in timely delivery of high-quality work in similar areas;
- price and quality.

ANNEXES

Annex 1 : HNV Proceedings (summary record)

Annex I : Model for standard study contract

Annex II: Reports and documents

Annex III: General terms and conditions applicable to contracts awarded by the EEA

Annex IV: Reimbursement of travel expenses

Annex V: VAT and excise duty exemption form

High Nature Value Farming Areas

Defining the concept and developing an agri-environmental indicator

Proceedings of an Expert Meeting
21-22 February 2002,
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Editors:

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1 Introduction

The European countryside is strongly influenced by human activities, and especially by agriculture. About half of the EU territory is managed by farmers. Varying farming traditions in conjunction with specific soil and climate conditions have resulted in diverse and highly characteristic agricultural landscapes. Apart from their aesthetic appeal and cultural heritage value extensively used agricultural areas also host a rich flora and fauna. In the 20th century, however, the biodiversity of Europe's farmland has declined sharply, mainly due to intensification of farming. Areas with extensive agricultural land use and corresponding species richness still exist, but farming in these areas is generally under strong economic pressure. Thus, it is essential to gear policy efforts towards maintenance of extensive farming systems in so-called 'High Nature Value farming areas'.

'High Nature Value areas'¹ are included as an indicator in Commission Communication COM (2001) 144. The concept has been part of the debate on the efficient targeting of agri-environment and other CAP policies in the EU for quite some time. However, since the mid-1990s, not much work has been done to further develop the definition of High Nature Value (HNV) farming systems and to come up with parameters that would allow their delimitation in space. At present consistent datasets on the intensity of farming and the associated biodiversity are largely lacking. We are in need of a proper conceptual framework and corresponding data in order to plan and evaluate policy measures. For these reasons, the EEA has decided to include the development of the HNV-concept in its 2002 work programme. This expert meeting is the first step in this process.

¹ In COM144, the term 'High Nature Value areas' is used without an explicit reference to farming. Since COM144 deals with agri-environment indicators, it is clear that the term exclusively refers to farmed areas. It should be pointed out, that the term itself has remained rather loosely defined and is often confused with 'semi-natural grasslands'. In EEA terminology, the term 'High Nature Value farming areas' refers to areas under mostly extensive agricultural management with a high biodiversity value. These do not necessarily include a high share of grassland, although they are often pastoral in nature. Unutilized elements are only included in the concept, if they can be considered an integral part of the agricultural landscape. Thus small elements, such as hedges, ponds and thickets are included, whereas larger non-farmed habitats are not. Large-scale semi-natural systems, such as grazed moorland and uplands, are included in the concept, as long as farming is practised and considered necessary for maintenance of the specific nature value. In this approach, semi-natural grasslands are a sub-category of HNV farming areas.

2 Purpose of the meeting

The expert meeting aimed to lay the basis for developing the ‘High Nature Value farming area’ concept as an agri-environmental indicator in the light of available data at EU level. Three different objectives can be distinguished in this context:

- a) to arrive at a commonly agreed, clear and operational definition of HNV farming areas;
- b) to review the usefulness of existing data sets for defining HNV farming areas in space;
- c) to develop recommendations for promising approaches to developing additional data sets where required.

The conceptual framework (aspect a) was discussed during the first day of the meeting. The second day was dedicated to operationalization of the concept (aspects b and c).

The contributions and conclusions are summarized below in order of the expert meeting agenda.

3 The concept of High Nature Value (HNV) farming areas

3.1 What are High Nature Value Farming Areas

Davy McCracken (Scottish Agricultural College)

Davy McCracken highlighted the broad ecological principles that underlie the high nature conservation value of extensively farmed semi-natural vegetations.

In general, there will be a greater range of organisms living within any one area when that area:

- a) Contains a greater range of different types and structures of niches;
- b) Is subject to medium levels of disturbance through climatic factors (e.g. flooding, exposure) or agricultural management (e.g. grazing, cutting);
- c) Is large enough to contain viable populations and to allow for habitat variation due to natural senescence/development of conditions in part of the area.

A wider range of species will be found in an area where there is heterogeneity both at the 'field' level (in terms of vegetation composition and structure) and in the wider landscape (in terms of greater mixture of different habitat types - grassland, woodland, wetlands etc).

Extensive pastoral systems are particularly valuable in this context. They occur at a large scale under ecological and topographic constraints that limit intensification of management. Typically parts of the area are inaccessible or can be used on a seasonal basis only. Hence the semi-natural vegetation is generally found within a mix of more natural habitats and features. The low nutritional value of semi-natural vegetations prevents high stocking densities. Herd behaviour can introduce seasonal and cyclic pressures which are virtually impossible to produce in any other way - not only through grazing but also through trampling, dunging, resting and ruminating in favoured places and selecting foraging areas in relation to the seasonal availability of herbage. Thus, such pastoral systems are a key example of the complex ecological factors that define HNV farming areas.

3.2 From semi-natural grassland mapping units to functional HNV Units

Peter Veen (Royal Dutch Society for Nature Conservation)

The approach by Peter Veen is based on a classification and evaluation of vegetation types. He focuses on semi-natural grasslands, a sub-category of HNV farming areas. Veen's method relies on grassland mapping. The plant alliances according to the Braun Blanquet phytosociological school are used as mapping units. They can be characterized by ecological profiles, with humidity, acidity and nutrients as differentiating factors. The criteria for distinguishing semi-natural grasslands are :

- Close similarity in species composition with selected reference alliances (to be identified on the basis of character species and differentiating species);



- Species composition reflects type of management and abiotic conditions, rather than climatic conditions on the locality;
- Vegetation is maintained by man and has long management history of mowing and/or grazing;
- Species diversity is typically high, but may vary considerably according to local abiotic conditions (<20 taxa/m² in salt marshes to >50 taxa/m² in dry festuca-Brometea vegetations);
- Input of nutrients is generally low (<50kg/ha).

This method of delineating semi-natural vegetations is site-based, does not require very much external interpretation and yields easily replicable results. Veen presented the results of a survey of semi-natural grasslands in Central and Eastern European Countries (table 1).

Table 1. Estimated distribution of agricultural area, permanent grassland and semi-natural grassland in Central and Eastern European Countries.

Country	Total area (ha.)	Agricultural area (ha)	Permanent grassland (ha)	Alpine grassland (ha)	Semi-natural grassland (ha)	% Semi-natural grassland of total agricultural area
Bulgaria	11099400	6215700	1163500	332100	444400	7
Czech Republic	7886400	4258700	946400	1800	550000	13
Estonia	4510000	1533400	315700	0	73200	5
Hungary	9303200	6233100	1116400	0	850000	14
Latvia	6458900	2454400	775100	0	117900	5
Lithuania	6530000	3134400	848900	0	167900	5
Poland	31270000	18762000	4040400	413600	1955000	11
Romania	23750000	11846900	4987500	285000	2332700	20
Slovakia	4903600	2451800	833600	13100	294900	12
Slovenia	2025600	500400	495000	29800	268400	54
CEEC total	107737100	57390800	15522500	1075400	7054400	12

3.3 Approaches to classifying farming systems

Eric Bignal (EFNCP)

In contrast to Peter Veen, Eric Bignal tackles the problem of delineating High Nature Value farming systems by starting at the other end of the scale: farming inputs. He stresses the importance of internal logic and policy relatedness of the classification. The classification should be relevant and easily interpretable in view of EU agriculture policy. This policy is generally aimed at yields of particular products and corresponding farm types. Bignal therefore proposes a simple hierarchical system, where the first discriminating variables are a selection of relevant variables, such as crop types, livestock

types, livestock density per ha, fertilizer input, farm size etc. On the basis of these variables a coarse classification of farm systems should be made.

The nature value of the areas within these systems depends very much on detailed farming practices, such as cutting and burning regimes, rotation patterns etc. This category of variables follows very different regional patterns and is thus not useful for the overall classification at the European level. Instead they may be used for a regional breakdown of farming systems. Analysis of the relations between these regional farming practices and biodiversity is the final step to understand and predict changes in response to policy measures (see figure 1).

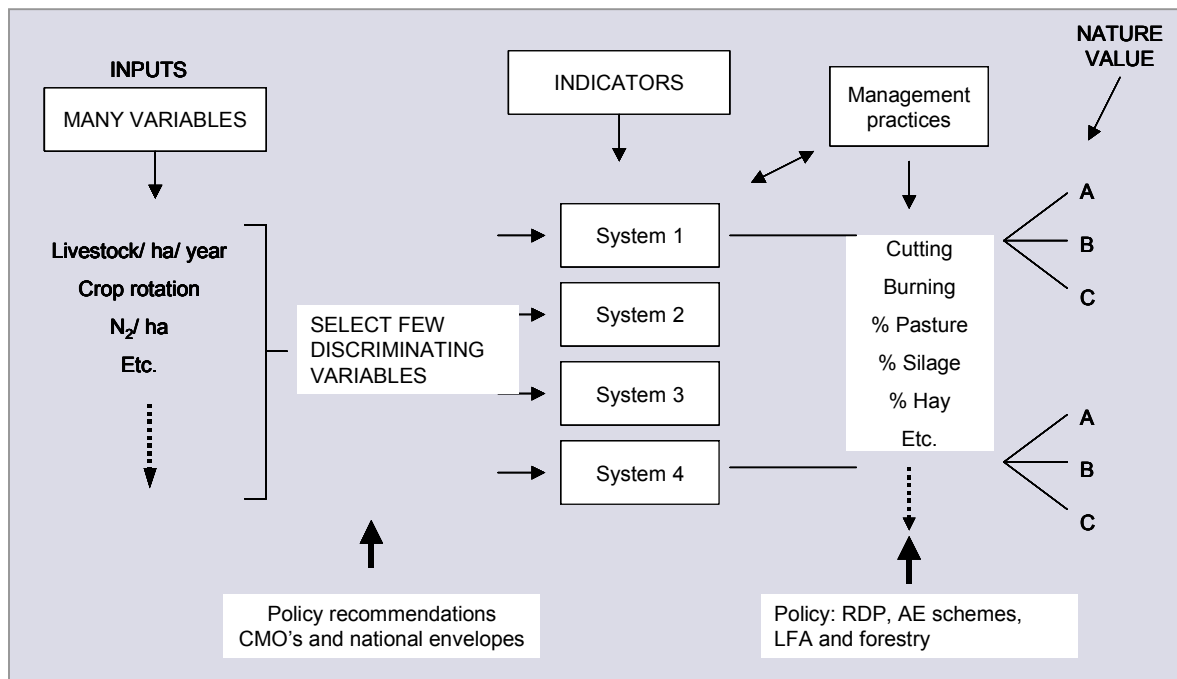


Fig 1. Dualistic approach to HNV farming classification as proposed by Bignal

3.4. Defining an indicator for High Nature Value farming areas

Two parallel workshops

3.4.1 Aim of the workshops

There are in principle two alternative and potentially complementary ways of identifying High Nature Value farming areas:

Nature quality approach: This approach takes species and habitat distribution patterns as the basis for arriving at a (geographical) definition of HNV farming areas.

Input / farming systems approach: This approach uses farm systems characteristics as proxy indicators for nature quality. These can include stocking densities, levels of fertiliser use, the proportion of semi-natural habitats in the farming system; livestock management patterns (e.g. stabled or outdoor grazing), crop rotation cycles etc.

The workshop participants were asked to discuss the pros and cons of the two approaches and the possibility of combining them. They were also asked to propose parameters that could be used in practice for delineating HNV farming areas. The total area of HNV farming would then be the overall indicator, based on a limited number of underlying parameters.

It was stressed that the indicator concept should meet the general criteria as given in the Commission Communication on agri-environmental indicators (COM (2001) 144 final).

- *policy-relevance* – address the key environmental issues;
- *responsiveness* – change sufficiently quickly in response to action;
- *analytical soundness* – based on sound science;
- *measurability* – feasible in terms of current or planned data availability ;
- *ease of interpretation* – communicate essential information in a way that is unambiguous and easy to understand;
- *cost effectiveness* – costs in proportion to the value of information derived.

3.4.2 Results

The two separate workshops yielded similar results. There was a preference for the nature quality based approach (see table 2), but farm characteristics were considered as valuable additional parameters. Most speakers recommend a combination of input/farming system parameters with nature quality indicators. The second can complement and refine the first. The preferred concept would thus be a mixture of elements of both approaches.

Table 2. Relative scores for alternative approaches to HNV definition. Criteria derived from COM (2001) 144 final.

Criterion	HNV indicator definition approach	
	Farming systems/ input based	Nature quality based
Policy relevance	+	+
Responsiveness	+	+
Analytical soundness	+/-	++
Measurability	+/-	+/-
Ease of interpretation	+	++
Cost effectiveness	+/-	+/-

It appeared very difficult to find HNV farming parameters that are suitable across Europe. Thus, the preferred solution was to identify a common methodology and to select HNV parameters according to regional farming systems and nature characteristics. In addition to the schematic representation of such a dualistic approach by Bigal (see fig. 1), several concepts were broadly outlined.

Jones proposed a system, in which HNV farming areas would be characterized in a two-dimensional matrix, with two variables along the axes:

- a) the degree of integration in farming systems , and
- b) the dependence on farming for maintenance (see fig. 2)

Typical HNV farming areas, such as semi-natural grasslands, are highly dependent on agriculture and highly integrated in the farming system.

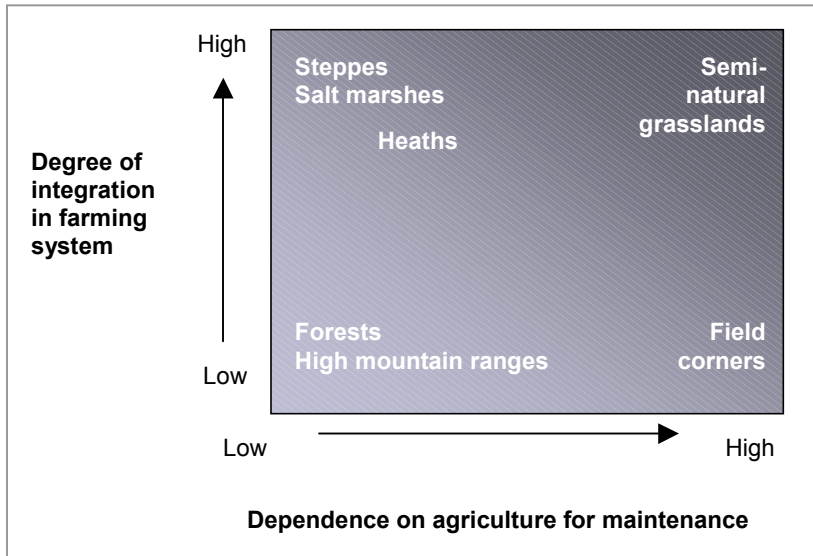


Fig. 2. HNV farming areas characterized in a two-dimensional matrix proposed by Jones.

In spite of the difficulty of going into detail, some general parameters, that would be relevant in any HNV concept, could be defined (see table 3). The analysis of data availability on the subsequent day was based on these.

Table 3. Proposed general HNV parameters.

Farming systems / input based approach	Nature quality based approach
Input use (fertilizer/pesticide/fodder import)	Landscape parameters
Management practices (crop rotation)	Share of semi-natural habitats
Livestock density	Presence of key species
Biomass production/ ha of UAA	

4 Relevant European databases and ongoing initiatives

4.1 CORINE land cover

Chris Steenmans (EEA)

Chris Steenmans presented the basic specifications and methodology in the Corine Land Cover Survey (CLC). The CLC is a geographic land cover/ land use database and with a minimum mapping area of 25 ha the CLC consists of 44 classes in a scale of 1:100,000. The first inventory was carried out in the early 1990s and by updating every 10 year new results should be in place by the end of 2003 (completion for 28 countries). During the presentation Steenmans emphasized that CLC is a mapping tool, not a statistical land cover tool. Various technical documents concerning CLC have been published by the EEA.

Some CLC classes correspond partly to HNV farming areas, e.g. the category 2.4.2 'Complex cultivation patterns' and 2.4.3 'Land principally occupied by agriculture with significant areas of natural vegetation'. These classes have a good overlap with preliminary HNV maps. On the other hand, CORINE allows no further breakdown of the broad category of grasslands, which is of particular relevance to the HNV discussion. Thus, no distinction can be made between intensively used grasslands with very little associated nature value on the one hand, and species rich extensive grasslands on the other.

The general conclusion should therefore be, that CORINE's potential for delineating HNV farming areas is limited, due to its low update frequency and the broad habitat classes. However, in the future it could provide more detailed data on the basis of modern high-resolution remote sensing techniques.

4.2 LUCAS / Farm Structure Survey

Gerd Eiden (LANDSIS)

Gerd Eiden gave an overview of the Farm Structure Survey (FSS) and the LUCAS survey. FSS is one of the main EU data sources for agriculture in general. It aims at the compilation of objective, reliable and comparable information on the structure of the agricultural holdings at EU level in order to track their current state and changes. It is based on a questionnaire. Data on holding characteristics, land use, livestock and labour force are gathered at NUTS 2 or 3 levels. Since 1966/67 a sample-based survey is carried out every 2-3 years, a full census every 10 years. The 2003 survey will be adapted to new data requests and will provide additional environmental information that may serve as a basis for HNV proxy indicators.

The LUCAS survey investigates land cover and use in a systematic sample of points across Europe, and monitors various environmental characteristics (soil erosion, noise and different landscape features) related to these points. In 2001, the LUCAS pilot survey started. Observations were made for a total of 86,384 points in an area frame

covering 3,240,190 km² based on a 18 x 18 km grid. The survey consists of two phases, namely a field survey and interviews carried out at farm level. These interviews partly overlap with the FSS survey.

LUCAS nomenclature is similar to CLC classification, but the methodological approach is different. LUCAS distinguishes between land use and land cover and relies on direct observation, which is more powerful than interpretation of satellite images.

The LUCAS pilot survey does not yet provide the information that would be needed for delineating HNV farming areas. Land cover classes are too broadly defined. Extensively used species rich grasslands, for example, are not discerned. The density of sampling plots is too low for accurate delineation, and rare farming systems are not sufficiently represented in the total sample to yield statistically significant results.

The general LUCAS methodology, however, is potentially very powerful. It builds on a harmonised classification system with specifically trained surveyors, which minimizes noise in the data. Further breakdown of land cover categories is possible, but requires special survey skills. Concerning the LUCAS farm level interview, the questionnaire still needs integration of issues related to HNV farming areas.

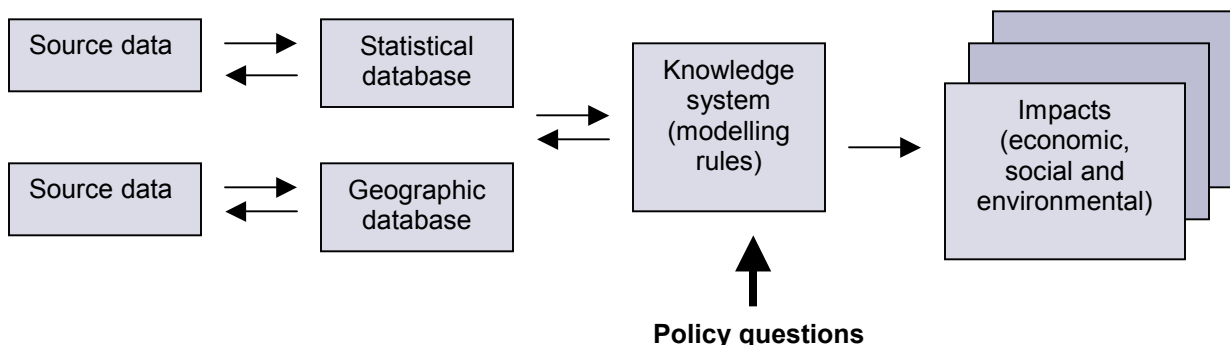
4.3 ELPEN / Ecoland

Berien Elbersen

Berien Elbersen presented the European Livestock Policy Evaluation Network (ELPEN). This project delivers an innovative tool, which will enable EU and national policy makers to assess the economic, environmental and social impacts of livestock related policy measures on a regional basis.

The ELPEN decision support system consists of four components:

1. *Statistical data:* These data describe the characteristics of livestock systems, livestock farms and EU regions.
2. *Geographical data:* These are site-specific biophysical data, including soil, landscape, land cover and climate.
3. *Policy measures:* These come from politicians and officials who indicate what policy measures or changes need to be assessed for impacts.
4. *Knowledge system:* In this component the knowledge, which is necessary to assess the economic, environmental and social impacts of policy changes, is stored.



In principle ELPEN is a very powerful tool for analyzing environmental impacts of agricultural policy. The missing link, however, is the relation between farming system and nature value. With this information added to the 'knowledge system', ELPEN will enable structured, policy related quantitative and qualitative assessments with regard to the environmental impact of selected European livestock farming systems. The necessary additional data will be obtained from a number of reference farms, representative for the ELPEN farm types.

4.4 Operationalization of an HNV agri-environmental indicator

Two parallel workshops on data availability and possible approaches.

4.4.1 Aim of the workshops

The workshops focused on the following questions:

- a) How can the initial set of parameters (as presented in table 3) be assessed using the statistical databases and land use surveys discussed in the previous sessions.
- b) Which parameters are most easily developed in sufficient detail at European level?
- c) What is the time frame for development?
- d) Which follow up is recommended for further elaboration of the concept? (e.g. Commission task force; further expert seminars; new technological tools?)

4.4.2 Results

The remarks on data availability (aspects a and b) for each of the selected HNV parameters are summarized in table 4.

The time frame for development was not discussed in detail given the uncertainties and conceptual issues to be solved. The recommended follow-up was a second expert meeting on the basis of a further developed HNV concept. This concept should allow for regional differentiation (regionally differing sets of discriminating parameters) and give further guidance on delineating semi-natural habitats. Some of the possible approaches for identifying HNV farming areas should be tested in practice before arranging a second expert discussion.

Table 4. Potential datasources for the identified HNV parameters.

Farming systems / input based approach	Nature quality based approach
<p>Input use (fertilizer/pesticide/fodder import)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Economic data could be derived from FADN, but representativeness is a problem. Small farms are not included. <li>○ More information from reference farms is needed. 	<p>Landscape parameters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Some targeted national surveys exist (e.g. british Countryside Survey) and will possibly be integrated in the international ECOLAND initiative <li>○ LUCAS is a possible source, provided that the relevant parameters will be incorporated in the survey <li>○ Remote sensing data from CLC are available, but need refined (grassland) detection
<p>Management practices (crop rotation)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Very important, but no data available yet. <li>○ Very region specific; requires differentiated approach <li>○ LUCAS may provide useful data on cropping patterns 	<p>Share of semi-natural habitats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Data available for some regions, but work on common definition beyond semi-natural grasslands is still required. <li>○ Feasible, but needs expert knowledge
<p>Livestock density</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ FSS provides data on livestock numbers. Combination with data on UAA and farm size may provide a more detailed info on geographical distribution <li>○ ELPEN is a promising tool for analysis of statistical data 	<p>Presence of key species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Several possible datasources <li>○ Commonly agreed selection of key species is needed
<p>Biomass production/ha of UAA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Different datasources are available, for example on cereal yields. <li>○ Agricultural models, such as MARS and CAPRI, may provide adequate information. 	

5 Conclusions

Definition of HNV farming areas

- The discussions and workshops at the expert meeting showed that it is an ambitious task to define a common indicator for HNV farming areas at European level. However, a Europe-wide comparable data set is a necessity if one wants to use the HNV farming area concept for policy assessment, such as an analysis of agriculture policy spending or agri-environment scheme targeting in comparison to the distribution HNV farming areas.
- Given the difficulty of finding HNV farming indicators that are suitable across Europe, the preferred solution was to identify a common methodology and to select HNV farming indicators according to regional systems and nature characteristics. Most speakers recommend a combination of input/ farming system parameters with nature quality indicators. The second can complement and refine the first.
- Developing a farming system typology appears very helpful in understanding how farming interacts with the environment and thus also the nature value of farmland. This needs to be complemented by an analysis of management practices that are a key influence on species and habitats. We need to be able to link these farm management practices to specific farming systems to use them as proxy indicators for HNV farming areas.
- The development of an indicator for HNV farming areas needs to take full account of the criteria set out in Commission Communication (COM(2001) 144 final): policy-relevance, responsiveness, analytical soundness, measurability, ease of interpretation, and cost effectiveness.
- The parameters defined in table 3 are likely to be useful for defining HNV farming areas in Europe.

Analysis of available datasets

- The usefulness of existing data sets in the context of defining HNV farming areas has not yet been fully explored. The expert meeting could only make a limited contribution to this task. The approach utilised in the ELPEN project gives a positive example for possible ways forward in this regard.
- Promising data sets, such as semi-natural grassland distribution maps, need to be completed. It is also very necessary to explore possibilities for combining data sets from different domains, such as Farm Structure Survey data with administrative data or satellite based land cover information.

Recommendations

- Further research is required to better understand the link between farm management and farmland biodiversity and to validate our assumptions on the effect of certain farming systems on nature value/biodiversity.
- The feasibility of different approaches as well as the usefulness of individual parameters for identifying HNV farming areas need to be tested out in real-life pilot studies at European level. Only such practical experience will reveal whether a common indicator for HNV farming areas in Europe can be developed.

Appendix: List of participants

Invited participants

- Erling Andersen - Danish Forest and Landscape Research Institute (FSL), Denmark
- Guy Beaufoy - Instituto de Desarrollo Rural Sostenible (IDRISI), Spain
- Eric Bignal - European Forum for Nature Conservation and Pastoralism (EFNCP), Scotland
- Sophie Condé - European Topic Centre on Nature Protection and Biodiversity, France
- Teresa Pinto Correia - University of Evora, Portugal
- Dimitrios Dimopoulos University of Thessaloniki, Greece
- Dobromira Dimova - Vitosha Natural Park, Bulgaria
- Gerd Eiden - LANDSIS, Luxembourg
- Berien Elbersen - Wageningen University and Research Centre, The Netherlands
- Sten Folving - JRC, Italy
- Marco Genghini - National Institute of Wild Fauna, Italy
- Frans Godeschalk - Wageningen University and Research Centre, The Netherlands
- Ivan Hristov Vitosha National Park, Bulgaria
- Gwyn Jones - Scottish Agricultural College, Scotland
- Antoni Kuzniar - Institute for Land Reclamation and Grassland Farming, Poland
- Ferenc Markus - WWF, Hungary
- Davy McCracken - Scottish Agricultural College, Scotland
- Merit Mikk - Centre for Ecological Engineering Tartu, Estonia
- Andre Pflimlin - CEMAGREF, France
- Ferenc Tar - IEEP, UK
- Peter Veen - Veen Ecology, The Netherlands
- Claude Vidal - Eurostat, Luxembourg
- Thomas Walter - Swiss Federal Research Station for Agro-ecology and Agriculture, Switzerland

EEA participants

- Jan-Erik Petersen - Project manager, agriculture and environment
- Ybele Hoogeveen - Project manager, agriculture and biodiversity
- Peder Gabrielsen - Visiting scientist, agriculture and environment
- Ulla Pinborg - Project manager, biodiversity, nature and forest
- Chris Steenmans - Project manager, land and remote sensing
- Niels Thyssen - Programme manager, environmental assessment

STUDY CONTRACT

CONTRACT REF No. XXXX/BXXXX.EEA.XXXXX

The European Environment Agency, hereinafter called “the Agency”, which, for the purposes of the signature of this contract is represented by Mr. Gordon McINNES, Interim Executive Director of the Agency

on the one part

and

whose official address is:

VAT Nr :

represented by

hereinafter referred to as "the contractor"

of the other part

have agreed as follows :

Article 1 - Subject

In the framework of this contract, the contractor hereby undertakes, subject to the conditions laid down in this contract and the annexes thereto, which form an integral part thereof, to perform the following study :

The programme of work is set out in Annex I which, with the other annexes, forms an integral part of the contract.

Article 2 - Duration

This contract will take effect from the date of signature and will end months after the date of signature of the contract.

The task entrusted to the contractor shall be completed at the latest months after the date of signature of this contract.

Article 3 - Financial dispositions

1. In consideration of the services performed under this contract, the Agency shall pay to the contractor a maximum amount of € , **VAT xxcluded**.

It is agreed that the said amount shall cover all expenditure incurred by the contractor in the performance of this contract, including a maximum amount of € for travelling expenses.

Article 4 - Payment conditions

1. In derogation from article 10, paragraph 2 of the General Conditions applicable to contracts awarded by the European Environment Agency, this amount will be paid as follows:

FEES	€
€	payable within 60 days after presentation of an invoice, following the signature of the contract (30%) .
€	payable within 60 days after presentation of an invoice, and acceptance by the Agency of the 1st Interim report (40%) .
€	payable within 60 days after presentation of an invoice, and acceptance by the Agency of the Final report (30%) .

TRAVEL EXPENSES¹ € (MAXIMUM)

€ payable within 60 days after presentation of one or several invoices with all supporting documents.

- Reimbursements will be made in accordance with Annex IV of this contract (Reimbursement of travelling expenses).
- Invoices for travelling expenses must be issued at the latest within two months after the expenses were incurred.

2. Payments shall be made within 60 days of receipt of the invoice and shall be deemed to have been made on the date on which they are debited to the Agency's account. All payments will be done upon presentation of an invoice.

The Agency may, however, after giving notice to the Contractor, defer payment if the services covered by the request for payment are contested by the Agency or if the vouchers in support of the invoice are incomplete. Where payment is so deferred, the Agency shall not be liable to pay interest or indemnities of any kind.

All request for payment and any complaints shall be sent to the following address :

The European Environment Agency
To the attention of: The Budget and Finance Department
Kongens Nytorv 6
DK - 1050 Copenhagen

The Agency shall be bound to comply with payment periods only if requests for payment are presented at the above address.

3. The payments shall be made to account no.

in the name of

with

bank identification code (BIC code):

¹ Only applicable if travel expenses have been incurred

Article 5 - General conditions and applicable law

1. This contract shall be governed by the General terms and conditions applicable to contracts awarded by the European Environment Agency as laid down in Annex III to this contract, which the contractor hereby declares to have read and agreed to.
2. This contract shall be subject to Danish law.
3. The Agency and such persons whom are authorised for this purpose by the Executive Director shall be entitled to carry out audits and controls, have access to all books, documents, papers, records and files kept by the Contractor relating to expenditure incurred in performing the contract during the contractual period and for a period of five years after such period.

Article 6 - Non-performance or delayed performance

1. Of any of the obligations arising from this contract, and regardless of the consequences provided for under the law applicable thereto, the beneficiary shall forthwith inform the Agency, with the relevant details, of any event that is liable to prejudice or delay the performance of this contract. The parties concerned shall agree together on the measures to be taken.
2. If no agreement can be reached concerning the delayed performance or/and the non-performance by the beneficiary the Agency may automatically terminate the contract without recourse to any legal proceedings, where no action is taken by the beneficiary within one month of receiving formal notice by registered letter.
3. Furthermore, without prejudice to such termination, the Agency may require reimbursement of all or a part of the amounts paid, having regard to the nature and the scale of the work carried out, before the date of termination of the contract, as well as the interest incurred on overdue payments at the rate in force on the exchange market in the country of the beneficiary or failing that, in Denmark, for three month's deposits in euros, starting the day when the amounts to be reimbursed were received by the beneficiary. The amount due shall be notified to the contractor by registered mail and reimbursed to the Agency within two months of the notification, failing which the rate of interest on the amounts to be reimbursed shall be raised by 2 % points.

Article 7 - Jurisdiction

Any dispute between the Agency and the contractor or any claim by one party against the other under this contract which cannot be settled by the contracting parties out of court, shall be brought before the Copenhagen courts.

Article 8 - Administrative provisions

1. Any amendment to this contract, the annexes thereto or the general terms and conditions applicable to contracts awarded by the European Environment Agency shall be the subject to a supplementary written agreement on the same terms as the contract; a verbal agreement shall not be binding on the contracting parties.
2. The reference number indicated on the first page of this contract as well as the subject of the contract mentioned in article 1 must be mentioned in all relevant reports. For all letters and financial documents with reference to the performance of this contract, only the reference number is compulsory.
3. Any communication with reference to the performance of this contract shall be in written form and shall be sent to the following address :

For the Agency:

EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

For administrative and financial matters to the attention of :

The Budget and Finance Department

For technical aspects only, to the attention of :

Kongens Nytorv 6
DK - 1050 Copenhagen K

For the contractor, to the attention of :

Article 9 - Tax

1. The Agency shall, in respect of its financial interest in the contract, be exempt from duties, levies and taxes, including value added tax, pursuant to Article 3 and 4 of the Protocol on the Privileges and Immunities of the European Communities and the Headquarters Agreement between the European Environment Agency and the Government of Denmark of 17 August 1995.
2. The contractor **is/is not** subject to VAT The VAT number of the contractor is XXX
3. The VAT number of the European Environment Agency is: **DK 18 13 98 39**.

For the purposes of the application of Article 3 and 4 of the said Protocol, the Contractor shall comply with instructions of the Agency.

Article 10 - Annexes

1. The following are annexes to this contract:

Annex I	Technical annex
Annex II	Reports and documents
Annex III	General terms and conditions applicable to contracts awarded by the European Environment Agency.
Annex IV	Reimbursement of travelling expenses
Annex V	VAT exemption form

2. In case of conflict between dispositions of the annexes and those of the contract, dispositions of the contract will prevail.

Done at Copenhagen on
in three copies, in the English language.

For the contractor:

For the Agency:

Gordon McINNES
Interim Executive Director

REPORTS AND DOCUMENTS

The work carried out by the Contractor under the contract will be subject to the following reports, copies of which must be sent to the Agency by the Contractor.

Interim reports or documents

The reports or documents will describe the work carried out and the results obtained during each period or phase, the duration of which is specified below, and state in particular:

- the effects, if any, of the results obtained on the overall work covered by the contract;
- the work programme planned for the following period.

Reference periods:

Final report

The final report will describe the overall work carried out and the results obtained under the contract. It will also contain a summary of the main results obtained.

The draft report must be submitted to the Agency **not later than** **months after the signature of the contract.**

The Agency will then either inform the Contractor that it approves the draft or will send him its comments.

Within a month of receiving any such comments from the Agency, the Contractor will send the Agency its final report.

The final report will be deemed to have been approved by the Agency if it does not expressly inform the Contractor of any comments within a month of its receipt.

**GENERAL TERMS & CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO CONTRACTS AWARDED
BY THE EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT AGENCY**

Article 1 - Performance of the contract

- (1) The contract shall be performed in such a way as to exclude the possibility of the Contractor or his staff supplying services under conditions identical to those governing the supply of services by a member of the European Environment Agency's staff. The Contractor and his staff may not be members of the European Environment Agency's staff.

Article 2 - Secondary obligations of the Contractors

- (1) The Contractor to the European Environment Agency undertakes to perform the tasks assigned to him according to the highest professional standards. In performance of the contract, the Contractor is required, depending on the circumstances, to use only his own highly qualified, professional staff.
- (2) The Contractor to the European Environment Agency undertakes to provide the Agency with any information it may request for the management of the contract. If the Contractor is a natural person, he shall be required to provide proof of his status either as a self-employed person or an employee for the duration of the contract. To this end, he shall provide the Agency with information about his occupation.
- (3) In the event of termination of the contract for one of the reasons referred to in Article 7 of these terms and conditions, the Contractor to the European Environment Agency shall undertake to send the Agency all information and documents in his possession on the tasks assigned to him.

Article 3 - Confidentiality

- (1) The Contractor undertakes not to make use of and not to divulge to third parties any facts, information, knowledge, documents or other matters communicated to him or brought to his attention during the performance of the contract or any matter arising therefrom. He shall continue to be bound by this undertaking after the expiry of the contract.
- (2) If the Contractor uses his own staff in the performance of the contract, he shall obtain from each staff member a written undertaking that they will respect the confidentiality of any information brought to their attention during the performance of the work and that they will not divulge to third parties or use for their own benefit or that of any third party any document or information not available publicly, even after completion of their assignment. A copy of the undertaking shall be sent to the European Environment Agency.

Article 4 - Permits and licences

- (1) The Contractor shall be solely responsible for taking the necessary steps to obtain any permit or licence required for the performance of the contract under the laws and regulations in force at the place where the tasks assigned to the Contractor are to be performed.
- (2) The European Environment Agency may terminate the contract without notice if the Contractor is unable, through his own fault, to obtain any permit or licence required for the performance of the contract.

Article 5 - Spread of risk

- (1) The Contractor shall not be entitled to payment if he is prevented by force majeure from performing the tasks assigned to him. Part performance only of any such task shall result in part payment. Provided it is specified in the contract, the above provisions shall not affect the Contractor's entitlement to reimbursement of travel and subsistence expenses and of costs for the shipment of equipment incurred in the performance of the contract.

Article 6 - Liability of the contracting parties

- (1) The European Environment Agency may not under any circumstances or for any reason whatsoever be held liable for damage sustained by the Contractor himself or by his staff during the performance of the contract. The European Environment Agency shall not accept any claim for compensation or repairs in respect of such damage.
- (2) Except in case of force majeure, the Contractor shall be required to indemnify the European Environment Agency for any damage they may sustain during the performance, poor or otherwise, of the contract.

Article 7 - Termination of contract

- (1) Each contracting party may, of his own volition and without being required to pay compensation, terminate the contract by serving formal notice two months in advance. If the contract is terminated by the European Environment Agency, the Contractor shall be entitled to payment for the part performance of the contract only.
- (2) In the event of a serious failure by the Contractor to the European Environment Agency, duly noted by the European Environment Agency, to fulfil his obligations under the contract, the contract may be terminated at any time by registered letter without formal notice or payment of any compensation whatsoever by the European Environment Agency. This provision shall not affect the application of Article 6(2) of these General Terms & Conditions.

Article 8 - Termination of the contract and services to third parties

- (1) The Contractor to the European Environment Agency shall not, without the prior and explicit approval of the European Environment Agency, assign the rights and obligations arising out of the contract in whole or in part or sub-contract any part of the contract to third parties.
- (2) Even where the European Environment Agency authorises the Contractor to sub-contract part or all of the work to third parties, he shall nonetheless remain bound by his obligations to the European Environment Agency under the contract.
- (3) Save where the European Environment Agency expressly authorises an exception, the Contractor shall be required to include in any sub-contracts for all or part of the work such provisions as enable the European Environment Agency to enjoy the same rights and guarantees in relation to the sub-contractors as it enjoys in relation to the Contractor himself.

Article 9 - Ownership

- (1) Any result or patent obtained by the Contractor in the performance of the contract shall belong to the European Environment Agency which may use them as it sees fit.
- (2) Copyright and any other rights of ownership in respect of manuscripts or parts thereof shall belong exclusively to the European Environment Agency except where copyright or other property rights already exist.
- (3) On the date of acceptance of the manuscripts and subject solely to the exception referred to in paragraph (2) above, all rights in respect of manuscripts, including amongst others the right to use, print, publish and sell all or part thereof in any manner and in any language whatsoever, shall be acquired by the European Environment Agency which may transfer all or part of such rights to third parties on its own terms.
- (4) The Contractor shall specify any parts of manuscripts, including illustrations, maps and graphs, in which copyright or any other right of ownership already exists and hereby affirms that he has obtained permission to use such parts from the titular holder(s) of such rights or from his or their legal representatives. Any cost for which the Contractor may become liable for such permission shall be paid by him. Save as otherwise provided for in paragraph (2), the Contractor hereby affirms that he is entitled to transfer the copyright or other rights of ownership in respect of the subject matter of the manuscript.
- (5) The European Environment Agency shall not be required to publish manuscripts or documents supplied in the performance of the contract. If it is decided not to publish the manuscripts or documents supplied, the Contractor shall not have them published elsewhere without the written approval of the European Environment Agency.

Article 10 - Methods of payment

- (1) Payments shall be made in euro (€).
- (2) At the request of the Contractor, the Agency may pay him an advance equal to 30% of the amount due on completion of the contract. In addition to the requirement of the second paragraph of Article 45 of the Financial Regulation applicable to the Budget of the European Environment Agency, payment of the advance may be made conditional upon the furnishing by the Contractor of proof that he has lodged a deposit equal to the amount of the advance. The advance shall be deducted from subsequent payments in such a manner that it is fully recovered on exhaustion of the funds provided for such payments.
- (3) In the event of termination of the contract under Article 7 of these General Terms & Conditions, no payment shall be due except for services actually rendered up to the date of termination. In such an event, the amount due shall be calculated after deducting any payments already made. If the payments made prior to termination exceed the sum finally due, the additional amount shall be repaid by the Contractor to the European Environment Agency within 60 days of receipt of a request for repayment. If payment is not made within this period, the sum owed by the Contractor shall start to bear interest at the euro rate applied by the European Central Bank on the last day of the period allowed for repayment, as published in the C series of the Official Journal.
- (4) Reimbursable travel and subsistence expenses shall be paid, where appropriate, on production of supporting documents including receipts, used tickets and boarding pass.
- (5) Payments shall be made within 60 days of the due date.
- (6) The Contractor, whose registered office or place of abode shall be situated within the territory of one of the Member States of the European Environment Agency, shall be required to name a bank within the territory of his country of domicile for the payment of the sums due to him under the contract.

Article 11 - Provisions relating to taxation

- (1) If the tax laws to which he is subject require the Contractor to pay VAT on fees received under the contract, the amount of VAT shall be included in the sums paid by the Environment Agency in return for services rendered.
- (2) The Contractor shall be responsible for complying with the national tax laws applicable to him in respect of revenue received under the contract with the European Environment Agency.

(3) Tax laws:

For Belgium

Direct exemption for transactions of 5.000 Bfr or more. The invoices shall be marked "*Exemption from VAT, Article 42, Paragraph 3.3 of the Code, Circular No. 2/1978*".

For the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

Services rendered in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg for 10.000 Flux or more for official purposes of the European Environment Agency shall be granted exemption from Value Added Tax. The invoices shall be marked "*Articles 8 and 9 of the Regulation of the Grand Duchy of 19 December 1969, Article 47 of the law of 5 August 1969 (Recueil de Législation A - No. 66 of 24 December 1969)*".

For the Netherlands

Services rendered in the Netherlands for official purposes of the European Environment Agency shall be zero rated (cf. *Resolution of 14 March 1969 No. 69/1649 - Wet op de Omzetbelasting 1968*).

For Italy

Services rendered in Italy for 100.000 Lires or more inclusive of tax for official purposes of the European Environment Agency shall benefit from direct exemption. The invoices shall be marked "*Decrees of the President of the Republic No. 687 of 23 December 1974 - Italian Official Journal No. 338 of 28 December 1974 - and No. 288 of 2 July 1975 - Italian Official Journal No. 183 of 11 July 1975*".

For France

Services as referred to in Article 259B of the "Code général des Impôts" rendered outside France for official purposes of the European Environment Agency shall be granted exemption from Value Added Tax (note of the "*Ministère de l'Economie et des Finances of 29 July 1980, Official Bulletin - Direction Générale des Impôts, note No. 201 of 18 November 1980*").

For the other Member States

If the Contractor is required, under the fiscal laws to which he is subject, to pay VAT on the sums paid under this contract, the amount of the tax shall be included in the sum referred to in Article 4 of the contract.

The contractor shall, at the request of the European Environment Agency, make available to the latter all vouchers which it might require in order, where necessary, to apply for reimbursement by the fiscal authorities of levies and taxes which have been paid in execution of this contract, pursuant to Articles 3 and 4 of the Protocol on the Privileges and Immunities of the European Communities.

Article 12 - Amendments or additions to the contract

- (1) The provisions of the contract and the annexes thereto may be amended or supplemented only by means of an additional agreement signed by each of the parties or their authorised representatives.
-

REIMBURSEMENT OF TRAVEL EXPENSES

The reimbursement of travel & 'per diem' expenses occasioned by a convocation of a Contractor to the European Environment Agency is paid in euro (EUR) at the rate of exchange in force against the euro (EUR) for the month in which the liquidation is effected (rate applied by the European Central Bank). All accounts must be in the currency in which they were paid.

a) Travel expenses

by train: First class fare (used ticket with claim),
 by air: Economy class where available (used ticket with claim),
 by car: The equivalent of first class rail fare.

b) Transfer of professional materials or non-accompanied luggage

Subject to prior approval by the Agency.

c) Daily allowance

The daily allowance is to include **all** expenses relating to:

- accommodation;
- meals;
- local transport including taxis.

NOTES:

Taxis are not chargeable.

For information only:

The current daily allowances are as follows (*)

Austria	:	EUR	89,42	Belgium	:	EUR	149,63
Denmark	:	EUR	179,28	Finland	:	EUR	158,97
France	:	EUR	130,29	Germany	:	EUR	127,10
Greece	:	EUR	113,19	Ireland	:	EUR	165,20
Italy	:	EUR	129,82	Luxembourg	:	EUR	143,48
Netherlands	:	EUR	147,69	Portugal	:	EUR	142,98
Spain	:	EUR	141,30	Sweden	:	EUR	158,97
United Kingdom:		EUR	199,21				

(*) Rates are decreased with 25% when the mission exceeds 4 weeks.

**EUROPEAN COMMUNITY
CERTIFICATE**

VAT AND EXCISE DUTY EXEMPTION

**(Directive 77/388/EEC - Article 15 (10) and
Directive 92/12/EEC - Article 23 (1))**

Serial No. (optional)

1. ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION/INDIVIDUAL

Designation/name: **European Environment Agency**
Street and No. **Kongens Nytorv 6**
Postal code, place: **1050 Copenhagen K**
(Host) Member State: **Denmark**

2. COMPETENT AUTHORITY FOR ISSUING THE STAMP
(Name, address and telephone No.)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Protocol Department
DK-1448 Copenhagen K Tel.: +45 33 92 00 00

3. DECLARATION BY THE ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION OR PERSON

The eligible institution hereby declares

(a) that the goods and/or services set out in box 5 are intended ¹

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> for the official use of | <input type="checkbox"/> for the personal use of |
| <input type="checkbox"/> a foreign diplomatic mission | <input type="checkbox"/> a member of a foreign diplomatic mission |
| <input type="checkbox"/> a foreign consular representation | <input type="checkbox"/> a member of a foreign consular representation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> an international organisation | <input type="checkbox"/> a staff member of an international organisation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> an armed force of a State being a party to the
North Atlantic Treaty (NATO) | |

(designation of the institution (see box 4))

- (b) that the goods and/or services described at box 5 comply with the conditions and limitations applicable to the exemption in the host Member State mentioned in box 1, and
- (c) that the information above is furnished in good faith. The eligible institution or individual hereby undertakes to pay to the Member state from which the goods were dispatched or from which the goods and/or services were supplied, the VAT and/or excise duty which would be due if the goods and/or services did not comply with the conditions of exemption, or if the goods and/or services were not used in the manner intended.

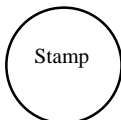
Copenhagen, _____
Place, date

Name and status of signatory

Signature

4. STAMP OF THE INSTITUTION (in case of exemption for personal use)

Place, date



Name and status of signatory

Signature

¹ Put a cross in the appropriate box

5. DESCRIPTION OF THE GOODS AND/OR SERVICES, FOR WHICH THE EXEMPTION FROM VAT AND/OR EXCISE DUTY IS REQUESTED

A. Information concerning the supplier/authorised warehouse keeper

(1) Name and address

(2) Member State

(3) VAT/excise number

B. Information concerning the goods and/or services

No.	Detailed description of goods and/or services ² (or reference to the attached order form)	Quantity or Number	Value excluding VAT and/or excise duty		Currency
			Value per unit	Total value	
Total amount					

6. CERTIFICATION BY THE COMPENENT AUTHORITY OR AUTHORITIES OF THE HOST MEMBER STATE

The consignment/supply of goods and/or services described in box 5 meets

totally

up to a quantity of _____ (number)³

the conditions for exemption from VAT and/or excise duty.

_____ Place, date

Stamp

_____ Name and status of signatory (ies)

_____ Signature (s)

7. PERMISSION TO DISPENSE WITH STAMP

By letter No _____ of _____

(reference to file) (date)

_____ has been permitted by

designiation of eligible institution

_____ to dispense with the stamp under box 6.

(designiation of the competent authority in the host Member State)

_____ Place, date

Stamp

_____ Name and status of signatory

_____ Signature

² Delete space not used: This obligation also applies if order forms are attached

³ Goods and/or services not eligible should be deleted in box 5 or on the attached order form

Explanatory notes

1. For the supplier and/or the authorised warehouse keeper, this certificate serves as a supporting document for the tax exemption of the supplies of goods and services or the consignments of goods to eligible institutions/individuals referred to in Article 15 (10) of Directive 77/388/EEC and Article 23 (1) of Directive 92/12/EEC. Accordingly, one certificate shall be drawn up for each supplier/warehouse keeper. Moreover, the supplier/warehouse keeper is required to keep this certificate as part of his records in accordance with the legal provisions applicable in his Member State. In case a Member State does not grant a direct exemption for the supply of services and, therefore, proceeds to exempt the supply by reimbursing the tax to the beneficiary specified in box 1, this certificate should be attached to the request for reimbursement.
2.
 - a) The general specification of the paper to be used is as laid down in the Official Journal of the European Communities No C 164 of 1.7. 1989, p. 3.

The paper is to be white for all copies and should be 210 millimetres by 297 millimetres with a maximum tolerance of 5 millimetres less or 8 millimetres more with regard to their length.

For an exemption from excise duty the exemption certificate shall be drawn up in duplicate:

 - one copy to be kept by the consignor
 - one copy to accompany the administrative accompanying document
 - b) Any unused space in box 5.B. is to be crossed out so that nothing can be added.
 - c) The document must be completed legibly and in a manner that makes entries indelible. No measures or overwriting are permitted. It shall be completed in a language recognised by the host Member State.
 - d) If the description of the goods and/or services (box 5.B. of the certificate) refers to a purchase order form drawn up in a language other than a language recognized by the host Member State, a translation must be attached by the eligible institution/individual.
 - e) On the other hand, if the certificate is drawn up in a language other than a language recognized by the Member State of the supplier/warehouse keeper, a translation of the information concerning the goods and services in box 5.B must be attached by the eligible institution/individual.
 - f) A recognized language means one of the languages officially in use in the Member State or any other official language of the Community which the Member State declares can be used for this purpose.
3. By its declaration in box 3 of the certificate, the eligible institution/individual provides the information necessary for the evaluation of the request for exemption in the host Member State.
4. By its declaration in box 4 of the certificate, the institution confirms the details in boxes 1 and 3(a) of the document and certifies that the eligible individual is a staff member of the institution.
5.
 - a) The reference to the purchase order form (box 5.B. of the certificate) must contain at least the date and order number. The order form should contain all the elements that figure at box 5 of the certificate. If the certificate has to be stamped by the by the competent authority of the host Member State, the order form shall also be stamped.
 - b) The indication of the excise No as defined in Article 15(a), paragraph 2 (a), of Directive 92/12/EEC of the authorised warehouse keeper is optional; the VAT identification No must be indicated.
 - c) The currencies should be indicated by means of a three-letter code in conformity with the international ISO 4217 standard established by the International Standards Organisation⁴.
6. The above mentioned declaration by the eligible institution/individual shall be authenticated at box 6 by the stamp(s) of the competent authorities of the host Member State. It is up to the competent tax authority to obtain such agreement.
7. To simplify the procedure, the competent authority can dispense with the obligation on the eligible institution to ask for the stamp in the case of exemption for official use. The eligible institution should mention this dispensation at box 7 of the certificate.

⁴ As an indication, some codes relating to currencies currently used: BEF (Belgian franc), DEM (German mark), DKK (Danish kroner), ESP (Spanish peseta), FRF (French franc), GBP (Pound sterling), GRD (Greek drachma), IEP (Irish pound), ITL (Italian lire), LUF (Luxembourg franc) NLG (Dutch guilder), PTE (Portuguese escudo), ATS (Austrian schilling), FIM (Finnish mark), SEK (Swedish kroner), USD (United States dollar).



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CONTRACT NOTICE

Works

Supplies

Services

X

Reserved for the Publication Office

Date of receipt of the notice _____

Identifier _____

Is this contract covered by the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)? NO YES **X**

SECTION I: CONTRACTING AUTHORITY

I.1) OFFICIAL NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE CONTRACTING AUTHORITY

Organisation European Environment Agency	For the attention of Mr Jimmy Flindt
Address Kongens Nytorv 6	Postal code 1050
Town Copenhagen K	Country Denmark
Telephone +45 33 36 71 50	Fax +45 33 36 71 99
Electronic mail (e-mail) Jimmy.flindt@eea.eu.int	Internet address (URL) http://org.eu.int/tenders

I.2) ADDRESS FROM WHICH FURTHER INFORMATION CAN BE OBTAINED:

As in I.1 **X**

If different, see Annex A

I.3) ADDRESS FROM WHICH DOCUMENTATION MAY BE OBTAINED:

As in I.1 **X**

If different, see Annex A

I.4) ADDRESS TO WHICH TENDERS/REQUESTS TO PARTICIPATE MUST BE SENT:

As in I.1 **X**

If different, see Annex A

I.5) TYPE OF CONTRACTING AUTHORITY*

Central level

EU Institution

Other **X** (EU Body)

Regional/local level

Body governed by public law

SECTION II: OBJECT OF THE CONTRACT

II.1) DESCRIPTION

II.1.1) Type of works contract (in case of works contract)

Execution	Design and execution	Execution, by whatever means of a work, corresponding to the requirements specified by the contracting authority
-----------	----------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

II.1.2) Type of supplies contract (in case of supplies contract)

Purchase	Rent	Lease	Hire-purchase	A combination of these
----------	------	-------	---------------	------------------------

II.1.3) Type of service contract (in case of service contract)

Service category **STUDY**

II.1.4) Is it a framework agreement ? * NO YES

II.1.5) Title attributed to the contract by the contracting authority *

Study contract for developing a High Nature Value farming area indicator _____

II.1.6) Description/object of the contract (use continuation sheet if necessary)

See continuation sheet with description of the project (background and purpose of the contract)

II.1.7) Site or location of works, place of delivery or performance

European Environment Agency

NUTS code * _____

II.1.8) Nomenclature

II.1.8.1) Common Procurement Vocabulary (CPV) *

	Main vocabulary	Supplementary vocabulary (when applicable)		
Main object	73.00.00.00-2	-	-	-
Additional	74.14.19.00-8	-	-	-
objects	90.31.10.00-0	-	-	-
	• • • -	-	-	-
	• • • -	-	-	-

II.1.8.2) Other relevant nomenclature (CPA / NACE / CPC) _____

II.1.9) Division into lots (for details about lots use Annex B as many times as needed)

NO YES

Tenders may be submitted for: one lot several lots all lots

II.1.10) Will variants be accepted (where applicable)

NO YES

II.2) QUANTITY OR SCOPE OF THE CONTRACT

II.2.1) Total quantity or scope (including all lots and options, if applicable)

250 - 300 working days required _____

II.2.2) Options (if applicable). Description and time when they may be exercised (if possible)

II.3) DURATION OF THE CONTRACT OR TIME LIMIT FOR COMPLETION

Either: Period in month/s **15** and/or days (from the award of the contract)

Or: Starting / / and/or ending / / (dd/mm/yyyy)

SECTION III: LEGAL, ECONOMIC, FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL INFORMATION

III.1) CONDITIONS RELATING TO THE CONTRACT

III.1.1) Deposits and guarantees required (if applicable)

III.1.2) Main terms of financing and payment and/or reference to the relevant provisions (if applicable)

General terms and conditions applicable to contracts awarded by the European Environment Agency. _____

III.1.3) Legal form to be taken by the grouping of suppliers, contractors or service providers to whom the contract is awarded (if applicable)

III.2) CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATION

III.2.1) Information concerning the personal situation of the contractor, supplier or service provider and information and formalities necessary for the evaluation of the minimum economic, financial and technical capacity required

III.2.1.1) Legal position – means of proof required

III.2.1.2) Economic and financial capacity – means of proof required

III.2.1.3) Technical capacity – means of proof required

III.3) CONDITIONS SPECIFIC TO SERVICES CONTRACTS

III.3.1) Is provision of the service reserved to a specific profession?

NO YES

If yes, reference of the relevant law, regulation or administrative provision

III.3.2) Will legal entities be required to state the names and professional qualifications of the personnel responsible for execution of the contract?

NO YES

SECTION IV: PROCEDURE

IV.1) TYPE OF PROCEDURE

Open Accelerated restricted
Restricted Accelerated negotiated
Negotiated

IV.1.1) Have candidates already been selected? (for negotiated procedure only and if applicable)

NO YES *If yes, provide details under Other information (section VI)*

IV.1.2) Justification for the choice of accelerated procedure (if applicable)

IV.1.3) Previous publication concerning the same contract (if applicable)

IV.1.3.1) Prior information notice concerning the same contract (if applicable)

Notice number in OJ content list /S - of / / (dd/mm/yyyy)

* Field not indispensable for publication

IV.1.3.2) Other previous publications

Notice number in OJ content list /S - of / / (dd/mm/yyyy)

IV.1.4) Envisaged number of suppliers which will be invited to tender (when applicable)

Number or: Minimum / Maximum

IV.2) AWARD CRITERIA

A) Lowest price

or

B) The most economically advantageous tender in terms of: **X**

B1) criteria as stated below (in descending order of priority where possible) **X**

The contract will be awarded to the tenderer whose offer is the most advantageous taking into account:

- the consultants knowledge of the relationship between agricultural land use and biodiversity;
- the consultants' understanding of European farming systems as well as the impact of different farm management methods on the diversity of landscape structures and agricultural biodiversity;
- the consultants' knowledge of available agri-environmental data sources;
- the consultants' experience in analysing agri-environmental statistics and land use data, preferably at the European level;
- a proven track record in timely delivery of high-quality work in similar areas;
- price and quality.

Tenders from consortiums of firms or groups of service providers or contractors shall specify the role, qualifications and experience of each member or group.

In descending order of priority : NO **X** YES

or:

B2) criteria as stated in contract documents

IV.3) ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

IV.3.1) Reference number attributed to the file by the contracting authority * Ref. no. **EEA/EAS/002/02**

IV.3.2) Conditions for obtaining contract document and additional documents

Obtainable until / / (dd/mm/yyyy) *37 days from the date of publication in OJ*

Price (where applicable) _____ Currency _____

* Field not indispensable for publication

Terms and method of payment _____

IV.3.3) Time-limit for receipt of tenders or requests to participate (*depending whether it is an open, restricted or negotiated procedure*)

/ / (dd/mm/yyyy) or **52** days from dispatch of notice

Time (*when applicable*): _____

IV.3.4) Dispatch of invitations to tender to selected candidates (*In restricted and negotiated procedure*)

Estimated date : / / (dd/mm/yyyy)

IV.3.5) Language or languages in which tenders or requests to participate can be drawn up

ES DA DE EL EN FR IT NL PT FI SV Other (s) – third country
X X X X X X X X X X X plus Norwegian and
Islandic_____

IV.3.6) Minimum time frame during which the tenderer must maintain its tender (in case of an open procedure)

Until / / (dd/mm/yyyy) or **6** months and/or days from the
deadline stated for receipt of tenders

IV.3.7) Conditions for opening tenders

IV 3.7.1) Persons authorised to be present at the opening of tenders (where applicable)

Officials from the Agency and financial controller _____

IV.3.7.2) Date, time and place

Date / / (dd/mm/yyyy) Time: _____
Place _____

SECTION VI: OTHER INFORMATION

VI.1) IS THIS NOTICE A NON-MANDATORY ONE?

NO **X** YES

VI.2) IF APPLICABLE, INDICATE WHETHER THIS PROCUREMENT IS A RECURRENT ONE AND THE ESTIMATED TIMING FOR FURTHER NOTICES TO BE PUBLISHED

VI.3) DOES THE CONTRACT RELATE TO A PROJECT / PROGRAMME FINANCED BY EU-FUNDS?*

NO **X** YES

If yes, indicate the project/programme and any useful reference _____

VI.4) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (if applicable)

VI.5) DATE OF DISPATCH OF THIS NOTICE: / / (dd/mm/yyyy)

* Field not indispensable for publication

ANNEX A

1.2) ADDRESS FROM WHICH FURTHER INFORMATION CAN BE OBTAINED

Organisation	For the attention of
Address	Postal code
Town	Country
Telephone	Fax
Electronic mail (e-mail)	Internet address (URL)

1.3) ADDRESS FROM WHICH DOCUMENTATION MAY BE OBTAINED

Organisation	For the attention of
Address	Postal code
Town	Country
Telephone	Fax
Electronic mail (e-mail)	Internet address (URL)

1.4) ADDRESS TO WHICH TENDERS/REQUESTS TO PARTICIPATE MUST BE SENT

Organisation	For the attention of
Address	Postal code
Town	Country
Telephone	Fax
Electronic mail (e-mail)	Internet address (URL)

ANNEX B – INFORMATION ABOUT LOTS

LOT n°

1) Nomenclature

1.1) Common Procurement Vocabulary (CPV) *

	Main vocabulary				Supplementary vocabulary <i>(when applicable)</i>			
Main object	.	.	.	-	-	-	-	-
Additional objects	.	.	.	-	-	-	-	-
	.	.	.	-	-	-	-	-
	.	.	.	-	-	-	-	-
	.	.	.	-	-	-	-	-

1.2) Other relevant nomenclature (CPA/NACE/CPC) _____

2) Short description _____

3) Scope or quantity _____

4) Indication about different starting/delivery date *(if applicable)*

Starting / / (dd/mm/yyyy) / delivery / / (dd/mm/yyyy)

LOT n°

1) Nomenclature

1.1) Common Procurement Vocabulary (CPV) *

	Main vocabulary				Supplementary vocabulary <i>(when applicable)</i>			
Main object	.	.	.	-	-	-	-	-
Additional objects	.	.	.	-	-	-	-	-
	.	.	.	-	-	-	-	-
	.	.	.	-	-	-	-	-
	.	.	.	-	-	-	-	-

1.2) Other relevant nomenclature (CPA/NACE/CPC) _____

2) Short description _____

* Field not indispensable for publication

3) Scope or quantity _____

4) Indication about different starting/delivery date *(if applicable)*

Starting / / (dd/mm/yyyy) / delivery / / (dd/mm/yyyy)

..... *(Use present annex as many times as necessary)*

II.1.6 Description of the project

Background

Agriculture manages approximately 50% of all land in Europe. Regional farming traditions and extensive management practices have resulted in rich agricultural landscapes with associated high biodiversity, commonly referred to as High Nature Value farming areas. Due to intensification of European agriculture, however, their extent has decreased and considerable biodiversity loss has occurred. The importance of HNV farming areas is recognised in several EU documents, such as the Rural Development Regulation 1257/1999 (as an objective for agri-environment schemes), the EC Biodiversity Action Plan for Agriculture, and Commission Communications on agri-environmental indicators (COM(2000) 20 and COM(2001) 144).

It is difficult to give an accurate and comprehensive European picture of the current situation and extent of remaining HNV farming areas. In spite of previous work during the 1990s, there is no consistent and commonly accepted indicator that combines relevant data on farming practice and associated biodiversity. Many relevant data sources are insufficiently detailed or have regional gaps. However, maintaining and developing HNV farming areas is crucial for protecting biodiversity on farmland in Europe. Policy measures, such as agri-environment schemes, should adequately target the remaining HNV farming areas.

An indicator for High Nature Value farming areas is urgently required to:

- a) determine which farming systems in Europe are most important for agricultural biodiversity,
- b) monitor their geographical distribution,
- c) assess the targeting of agri-environmental policy measures, and
- d) gain insight into the impact of CAP regimes on biodiversity rich farming systems.

Purpose of the contract

The purpose of the contract is to develop and test a HNV farming area indicator at EU level, on the basis of an in-depth analysis of presently available data. Secondly, the contractor should evaluate possibilities and availability of data for expanding the HNV farming area indicator, and related data sets, to all EEA member countries. The indicator to be developed should allow for a precise geographical definition of HNV farming areas and should be validated in three pilot regions. It needs to meet the general criteria as given in the Commission Communication on agri-environmental indicators (COM (2001) 144 final):

1. *policy-relevance* - address key environmental issues;
2. *responsiveness* - change sufficiently quickly in response to action;
3. *analytical soundness* - be based on sound science;
4. *measurability* - be feasible in terms of current or planned data availability;
5. *ease of interpretation* - communicate essential information in a way that is unambiguous and easy to understand;
6. *cost effective* - costs in proportion to the value of information derived.

Close co-ordination of work under the contract with other work at the EEA, such as the expected project on biodiversity implementation indicators, and the European Topic Centres for Terrestrial Environment as well as Nature Protection and

Biodiversity needs to be ensured at all times. Consultation and co-operation with other partners in the Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation on Agri-Environmental Indicators between DG Agri, DG Env, DG Eurostat, DG JRC and the EEA is also essential.

Tasks

1. *Survey of datasets* – Screening of available data (including those of administrative nature) at EU level, as well as in all EEA member countries, for their suitability as basis for the development of a HNV farming area indicator.
2. *Conceptual development of HNV farming area indicator* – Selection of relevant parameters and elaboration of a quantitative aggregation protocol, that will enable a geographical definition of HNV farming areas in the EU. Tasks 1 and 2 have to be performed in an iterative process.
3. *Elaboration of a map of HNV farming areas in the EU* – on the basis of presently available data and work under tasks 1 and 2 a map of HNV farming areas at a scale of 1 : 1,000,000 has to be elaborated.
4. *Analysis of possibilities for extending the HNV farming area indicator to all EEA member countries plus Switzerland* - investigation of available data sets as well as possible (future) tools for developing a HNV farming area indicator at nearly pan-European level.
5. *Validation of results and approach through consultation with regional experts with relevant expertise in the fields of agriculture as well as farming related landscapes and biodiversity* – The indicator and resulting map as defined through tasks 1 to 4 need to be validated through a technical consultation of experts with relevant background knowledge in three pilot regions in Europe (representative of agricultural systems in Western Europe/Scandinavia; Central/Eastern Europe and Southern Europe, respectively.)
6. *Evaluation of project results and recommendations for future work* – The implications of the project results for the further development of a HNV farming area indicator must be analysed. Minor adaptations need to be incorporated into the indicator directly. Major consequences that require a follow-up must be clearly signalled.