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Regional Forum 
for the Future of Agriculture:
The importance of science and
innovation in agriculture



Editorial

Thierry de l'ESCAILLE, *Secretary General*

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Make It New

At the time of writing this, the potential members of the VON DER LEYEN Commission are being heard by the European Parliament; it is always exciting to hear more details about the headline proposals that will lead the Commission for the next five years. This new Commission is proving even more relevant, as all three of its priorities will have a major impact on land managers across the Union and far beyond.

Of course, the European Green Deal could have the highest impact on our members as creating a durable, sustainable new Europe is impossible without land managers. As our current LIFE study is showing, they are currently not convinced that more regulation is the best way forward; incentives and long-term planning is what is needed.

A digital transformation will also be needed in the countryside, not just to provide the backbone to greater productivity and better environmental management through precision farming. It is also needed to attract new people to the countryside, who will never be able to work from distance if they cannot communicate.

Finally, we could not agree more that the EU needs an economy that works for all; to us, this includes paying a fair price for the food that Europe produces, better wages for farmers and farm workers, and more focus on long-term, sustainable investment rather than short-term financial gain.

*We look forward to working with the new Commission and the Parliament and will do our bit by helping to organise the **Forum for the Future of Agriculture (FFA)**, which will take place on **31st March 2020**.*





Panel 1: James O'REILLY, Allan BUCKWELL, Elisabeth CLAVERIE, Matthew DEMPSEY, Marta ZULUAGA-ZILBERMANN, Blaž KURNIK

The importance of science and innovation in agriculture: Regional Forum for the Future of Agriculture

The 2nd Regional Forum for the Future of Agriculture in 2019 held its meeting in Dublin attracting a range of academics, landowners, farmers and NGOs from across Europe, the US and Australia. The half-day conference was divided into three panels moderated by Matthew DEMPSEY, chair of the Agricultural Trust.

Phelim O'NEILL, Irish Farmers Journal & Emmanuelle MIKOSZ, ELO



Climate change and agriculture production

Prof Allan BUCKWELL, RISE Foundation and Blaž KURNIK, European Environmental Agency opened this session. Prof BUCKWELL spoke about UK ambitions and how to address emissions from agriculture and aviation. He was an advocate of the reduction but not elimination of red meat consumption and of a reduction of food waste. He does not foresee increased UK beef imports post-Brexit because of a reduction in consumption and advocates the use of land released from production for forestry, energy crops, agro-forestry and peatland restoration. Blaž KURNIK presented how climate change would influence the pattern of agriculture in the EU over coming decades. Water pressure would increase further in the Mediterranean region while the Atlantic regions of the EU, including Ireland, would experience an increase in heatwaves and droughts, coastal flooding, windstorms and risks to livestock production. He also indicated that agricultural incomes are likely to fall by as much as 16% by 2050 and that land val-

ues will decrease, particularly in southern Europe, leading to land abandonment in some cases.

Marta ZULUAGA-ZILBERMANN, Cargill, pointed out that the world would require a 68% increase from 2010 levels in animal protein by 2050 to meet the demand of a growing population, which needs to be achieved in a sustainable way. James O'REILLY, a tillage farmer from Co Kilkenny, described himself as a custodian of the land and highlighted how he farms in a less invasive way than he did 20 years ago with the use of technology minimizing inputs. Elisabeth CLAVERIE, CIRAD reiterated the issue of water in the mitigation of climate change, when presenting recent studies published by a French research institute dedicated to sub-tropical areas. She pointed out the importance of innovation to protect agro-biodiversity, presenting also case studies from Africa.

European Green Deal

The second panel focused on the better understanding of these targets an-

nounced by the new European Commission. Prof Peter THORNE, Maynooth University and co-author of the IPCC report on Land Use changes presented its three main conclusions: land is under growing human pressure; land is part of the solution; land cannot do it all. He also made interesting observations on how reduction of food loss and waste could lower emissions and improve food security in a world where 821 million people are undernourished but 2 billion people are overweight. He said: "better land management can play its part in tackling climate change, but it can't do it all" suggesting a balanced rather than an extreme position on the role of agriculture and land use in the climate debate.

Oonagh DUGGAN, BirdWatch; Radu ANTOHE, Adviser to the Romania Prime Minister; Stuart GREEN, TEAGASC and Pierre-Olivier DRÈGE, ELO President shared their understanding of the challenges linked to the implementation of the Green Deal. All agreed that land is a critical resource, when ELO President underlined the need to have a different perspective keeping in mind that we should



Panel 3: Alexander MCBRATNEY, Xavier LEPRINCE, Burke CORBETT, Matthew DEMPSEY, Andrew OWEN-GRIFFITHS, John GILLILAND

expect that 40% of the next CAP payments would be environment-based. This will not only influence the land values but most importantly may shift production paradigms: decrease in agricultural productivity and potential in South Europe, while increasing potential in the Baltic States and northern Russia.

Science & innovation for sustainable agriculture

The third panel was opened by Prof Alexander MCBRATNEY, Sydney Institute of Agriculture focusing on soil quality and the highly efficient arable system developed in Australia. This large continent of

25 million people is in fact able to feed around 100 million, as per targets set up by farmers federations as the government does not control agriculture production since there is a very low level of direct supports. He emphasized that the biggest challenge in addition to methane emission is water scarcity and security.

Andrew OWEN-GRIFFITHS, DG SANTE, European Commission concentrated on the need to have clear aims for innovation and science if we want them to deliver; to have a balanced science with a holistic approach. Nevertheless, the most important is to apply it on the field and to have the support of farmers and policymakers. Burke CORBETT, landowner & forester spoke about his feeling of responsibility towards future generations, especially concerning the CO2 emissions linked to transport.

John GILLILAND, Devenish, how LiDAR technology, engaged originally by the company at its site in Dowth to scan for ancient monuments, is also able to accurately measure the volume of hedges. The cost of doing this has fallen from 11 euros/ac to 5 euros/ac with drones able to replace more expensive helicopters. The value of using hedges as carbon sink can only be properly valued when they are accurately measured to reflect changes over time in size and area and this is identified as a way in which the Dowth farm aims to move towards carbon neutrality. In addition to the soil management policy, along with measuring the volume of the trees and hedges, they can also calculate the net carbon cost for livestock production

on the 90ha farm located on a world heritage site in the Boyne Valley. The core point of this presentation was the need to measure the volume of hedges and woodland on farms to enable an accurate calculation to be made of net emissions from agriculture in the absence of accurate measurement.

Xavier LEPRINCE, Syngenta closed that panel by emphasizing that we need to be part of the solution, listening also to the consumers and their attitude towards innovation. The crop protection sector needs to "think outside the box" but we have to be able to communicate that better to better access change and innovation.

Lively discussion followed after each panel with the audience, as the conference was attended by specialists from all over the world.

On behalf of the regional FFA organisers and partners, we would like to thank once more all the speakers and the moderator of the FFA event.

We would also like to extend a special thanks to Patrick PERCEVAL BLUNDEN, Charles KEANE and the Irish Landowners Organisation for their input to organize that event.

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Josef Hofer (1801–1877), Detail from, "View of Palais Rasumofsky from the garden pavilion," after 1837
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Participants of Wildlife Estates Steering Committee

Successful sustainable forest and agricultural management in Austria.

In September the Wildlife Estates (WE) Steering Committee took place on the Esterházy property in Austria where members from eleven countries met to update and present new proposals for the Wildlife Estates project.

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José GÓMEZ-ACEBO ROSAS, Wildlife Estates

The chairman of the WE Scientific Committee reported that the Committee has improved and adapted the methodology for Estonia and Bulgaria, taking into account the requirements and legislation of each of these countries. An additional 9 evaluators were trained at a special training course in June at which the WE methodology and the questionnaire were explained. All national delegations presented their local initiatives and how they are making progress with national governments. Issues such as the management of the wolf population, or the African swine fever were mentioned during the meeting.

Belgium reported that in the Flemish region the *Wildlife Estates* label is now officially considered as a pre-management plan for subsidies. The Swedish delega-

tion announced that it undertakes the task of promoting the WE Label in Norway and Iceland. The WE project will thus be represented in 21 countries in Europe.

The commercial use of the WE label was among the issues discussed at the Steering Committee. It was decided to allow the commercial use of the label for prod-



Friedrich and Christina HARDEGG received the Label for Isbary Bioland Estate

ucts produced on the estates that have the label under the mandatory condition. The label must make clear reference to 'where' the product comes from, but not to the product itself. It was also decided that the label cannot be used as an indicator of any services offered by the specific estate.

On the second day a "Cultivate and protect" conference took place. Verena DUNST (President of the Landtag) gave us a warm welcome speech. Speakers like Nikolaus DRASKOVICH (Chairman at Land & Forst Burgenland) presented an overview of European forests and agriculture along with the objectives to be met in the medium term taking into account the different factors and applicable European policies. Anne BURRILL (DG ENV Advisor, European Commission) spoke on behalf of the European Commission (DG Environment). She made reference to the problematic loss of biodiversity and the action plans now under preparation. The Austrian Johannes NIEGL (Managing Director of Agriculture, (Esterházy Estates), Johannes EHRENFELDNER (Director of the National Park Neusiedler See-Seewinkel) and Klaus SCHACHENHOFER

(General Secretary of the Umbrella Brand 'Hunt Austria'), presented the PANNATU-RA project aiming at a successful sustainable forest and agricultural management in Austria. Prof. Martin GERZABEK, President of the Jury for 'Soil and Land management Award' & former rector of the University of Natural Resources and Life Science (BOKU) in Vienna, spoke on the different soils present in the world, their functions and their importance for a sus-

tainable future. Finally, Jurgen TACK (Scientific Director, ELO), gave an account of the CONSOLE project that had a very good reception among the participants of the conference and that we explain below.

After the conference the members of the Austrian national delegation invited participants to visit different locations on the estate to see the management applied and the results obtained.

IN MEMORIAM



ELO General Assembly at Herdade de Pinheiro with Mrs VIOLET

On behalf of ELO and *Friends of the Countryside* we would like to offer our sincere condolences to the family of Mrs Jacqueline VIOLET, who recently passed away. She not only represented the 5th generation of the Bartissol family to own the Herdade de Pinheiro property, which obtained one of the first WE label in Portugal; but moreover, she was a warm and hospitable person who opened her estate, welcoming the ELO Team on several occasions for our technical meetings in the breathtaking landscape and natural surroundings.

CONSOLE - promoting innovation in the delivery of agri- environmental climate public goods

Branwen MILES, ELO



ELO is a partner in a new H2020 project CONSOLE (CONtract SOLutions for Effective and lasting delivery of agri-environmental-climate public goods by EU agriculture and forestry) – a project that is focused on promoting effective and lasting innovation in the delivery of agri-environmental climate public goods by EU agriculture and forestry.

The CONSOLE multi-actor and multidisciplinary team brings together 24 partners in 13 countries, covering a range of representations from farmer organisations, regional administrations, consultancy companies, research institutions and water and forest management bodies. ELO will be participating to the co-design of research, and is Work Package Leader for dissemination and outreach.

A key stakeholder for the project is the private landowner who is vital in the delivery of public goods on the ground.

During the 2nd Project Meeting at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, partners discussed how they will go about co-creating an empirically validated contractual framework that will then be used to design and test effective and efficient contact models to support their implementation by multiple actors.

During this project ELO will interact with its members and notably the *Wildlife Estates* (WE) members in order to share their input to the research team. Synergies with another important project, *LIFE Land is for Ever* will take place in order to gather information on the

concrete needs of landowners supporting biodiversity provisions whilst undertaking rural activities. It is expected that the research, outcomes and work carried out by the project will improve policy design towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular through environmental policies and the post-2020 CAP.

Project website

 console-project.eu

 @Console.project

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 console-project

Discover the results of the project heritage houses for europe

Started in July 2018, the project Heritage Houses for Europe is the very first pan-European Study on family-owned heritage houses addressing the lack of comprehensive, systemic data on this sector. Its results have been unveiled at the project's Final Conference on September 24th 2019 in Brussels.



Lucie MARET, European Historic Houses

Through this Study, we gained an improved bottom-up understanding of the socio-economic contribution of these houses and how innovative models can support and help their sustainable preservation. The ultimate goal was to strengthen their position within our society, by reinforcing their owners' skillset and capabilities, while also raising awareness of their value for European citizens and society as a whole and formulating policy recommendations at all levels on how to support heritage house owners.

Assessing the contributions of family-owned heritage houses

The study confirms that the uniqueness of these houses, compared to public or commercial owners, lies in their core values – the family values and history that the house embodies. They are lived-in, and have a soul thanks to their owners who invest their passion and care with a long-term perspective.

Building on these values, owners develop activities in their house which in turn span contributions to society in five main areas: economic, cultural, social, educational/skills' and environmental. They form a dynamic sector providing quality jobs and smart, sustainable and inclusive growth; as well as cultural, social and environmental benefits to European citizens.

Despite these contributions, family heritage houses face important challenges, the most important ones being unfavourable and diverse framework conditions across Europe – meaning contradictory legislations as well as unfavourable taxation systems. Other challenges include the internal family dynamics and challenges regarding transmission; business and financial challenges linked to the lack of innovative business models; and challenges linked to negative public perceptions sometimes creating barriers between owners and the general public. In order to overcome these challenges, pro-active management and business model innovation is key to secure the future.



Developing innovative business models for a sustainable preservation

Within this project, we have studied 68 business cases and it turns out that the main factors in determining the business model implemented in a heritage house are the size of the house and the size of its surrounding lands. Above 50 hectares, owners mainly rely on agriculture and forestry revenues to sustain the house – meaning that the most innovative houses are the ones located on smaller plots of land.

Main activities implemented include: guided tours (59%), concerts and theatre (49%), weddings (44%), conferences/business meetings (44%), accommodation (40%), film or TV location (39%), location for commercial photography (35%), open-garden days (29%) or renting part of the heritage house (27%).

We found out that many owners are making a loss – which is why the sector deeply needs more innovation. In order to support owners in doing so we have developed a toolkit available on the project website. One simply enters the characteristics of the house and business strategy and accesses tips and tricks on how to innovate

and discover inspiring examples from other owners. One of the most important innovative trigger is to focus on the uniqueness and story-telling around the house.

Unleashing the sector's potential with policy recommendations

To further develop the sector, the project features policy recommendations aimed at stakeholders at all levels: European, national, regional and local. Stakeholders include policy makers, sector-support organisations such as the European Historic Houses and the European Landowners Organization, cultural heritage organisations, business support organisations, and partners in research and education.

These policy recommendations tackle six key areas for action: access to finance, capacity building, awareness raising, knowledge sharing and networking, framework conditions and new partnerships. We encourage you to read them from the Study or Executive Summary and support their implementation.

Reinforcing owners' skillset and providing concrete tools

The project tackles part of these policy

recommendations by equipping owners with concrete tools to support them in the management of their house. They can be accessed on the website:

- ✓ Toolkit for innovation
- ✓ Funding guide to European programs

Thank you for your support

We wish to thank all the people who have been involved in the project, answered the survey, participated to the interviews, disseminated information on the project and came to the final Conference, for their precious support.

You can continue supporting the project by disseminating its outcomes to your network. This is how you can contribute to building the long-lasting legacy of the 2018 European Year of Cultural Heritage.

Discover the survey results

The survey carried out from December 2018 to February 2019 gathered more than 1500 answers in 27 European countries. Find out below its main results:

- 53% of houses are located in the countryside
- 62% have belong to the family for more than 75 years
- 55% are open to visitors
- They have hosted 52 million visitors* in 2018
- 68% have employees & 1 out of 3 welcomes volunteers
- 4 out of 10 host school visit & 1 out of 5 organizes educational events
- 55% made investments to meet energy or thermal efficiency requirements
- 26% actively undertake activities to enhance biodiversity

To find out more, have a look at the flyer available here <https://www.europeanlandowners.org/heritage-houses-for-europe/tools/>

*projected number

Spotlight on the Final Conference

Gathering 350 participants at the Royal Museum of Fine Arts of Brussels on September 24th 2019, the Conference unveiled the main project results. Keynote speeches were delivered by Tibor NAVRACSICS (video), Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth & Sport and by Luca JAHIER (representative), President of the European Economic and Social Committee.

“Heritage houses have an important part to play in bringing people together and enabling them to learn about others as well as about themselves”, said Tibor NAVRACSICS.

The day ended with a networking session where owners had the opportunity to meet stakeholders providing solutions regarding the developments of activities in a heritage house. Patrivia, Dartagnans, Histoverly, Le Dimore del Quartetto and many others had the opportunity to present their innovative approaches in this field.

Download the Conference presentations & pictures here:
<https://www.europeanlandowners.org/heritage-houses-for-europe/events/>

What can you find on the website?

- Download the full Study & Executive Summary (EN, FR, DE)
- Access the tools for owners (business model toolkit, European funding guide)
- Have fun with the colour book for children
- Have a look at the project's video & flyer



<https://www.europeanlandowners.org/heritage-houses-for-europe/>

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Heritage Houses
for Europe



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Forest fire trends in Russia

Recent years have seen a sharp increase in forest fires in Russia, with estimations of burned area in 2019 reaching up to 4,5 million hectares, an area of the size of Sweden. Still, the long-term trend of fires in Russia remains hard to quantify as there has been very little research on this topic.

Oskars ZEMITIS, Latvian Forest Owner Association

This was one of my conclusions from taking part in expedition to Russia with Igor DROBYSHEV, a dendrochronologist at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, whom I helped collect samples of past fire history in the Republic of Komi, located in the north-eastern part of the European plain.

Many forest ecosystems have evolved under the influence of fire, which is no threat to their existence. This is the case for the vast majority of Russian forests. Fire is a re-occurring phenomenon in nature, but unfortunately, it poses a risk to human settlements, infrastructure, health or even lives. *“The main task for fire in nature is to reset the ‘successional clock’ of the ecosystem so that the light-demanding species have a chance to grow”*, said Igor DROBYSHEV. In addition, other disturbances, like clear-cuts, storms, or pests and disease also facilitate the mosaic structure of habitats suitable for regeneration of these species. There are two main fire types in forests – surface fires, which usually do not kill trees and “travel” only through the top layer of organic soil, and crown fire, which is deadly for the trees and is difficult to extinguish.

Tree growth is ensured by cambium, a thin layer of growing tissues around its trunk that produces new cells each growing season. The cambium cells die off when they are faced with heat of at least 60°C for longer than three minutes. This pattern is broadly similar across various tree species. It means that one of the main parameters, which determines tree susceptibility to fire, is bark thickness. For example, different pine species are well adjusted to frequent fire cycles with thick bark and branches high above ground level. The problem with forest fires is more severe when they occur in ecosystems that are not evolutionally adapted to them. For example, in dry pine stands, frequent surface fires are not deadly for the trees. However, biologically valuable forests are usually encircled with production forests, where the fire regimes are suppressed. In dense forests, with a high load of accumulated fuels, the risk that surface fire will extend to crown fire is bigger. Suppressing crown fires in such conditions is a very challenging exercise. While for-



Recently burned forest surface fire (on the left) stopped by a road

ests are burning, different greenhouse gases are released into the atmosphere. The most prevailing of them is CO₂, which we can recapture by increasing its content in the forest biomass. Growing new trees is an excellent example of how we can achieve that. Apart from carbon, forest fires bring up other problems. For example - smoke, which contains many unhealthy chemicals.

In Russia, due to the vast territory and bad road network, forest fires have been

combated only if they approach infrastructure or human settlements. From unofficial information sources, due to the ban of round wood exports, some of the areas are ignited intentionally, to make salvage fellings afterwards and to sell this wood abroad as “fuelwood”. Many of these fires spread out and become uncontrollable.

For more information, please contact igor.drobyshev@slu.se.



Do you own or a manage a forest? Please take the survey!

Your forest provides many different benefits to society, such as climate change mitigation or wild forest products. Help us to map these benefits by answering a questionnaire, in which you can also comment on any problems that you might have from creating an income for yourself from these benefits. The survey is a joint effort by two European Union Horizon 2020 funded innovation projects (SINCERE and InnoForEst). Your answers will be anonymous, and cannot be traced back to you.

Full link to the questionnaire:
<https://app.maptionnaire.com/en/5199/>

Water2REturn – a novel project

Branwen MILES & Daniel MONTELEONE, ELO



The Water2REturn (*REcovery and REcycling of nutrients TURNING wasteWATER into added-value products for a circular economy in agriculture*) Project is now in its 3rd year and focuses on the recovery and recycling of nutrients from slaughterhouse wastewater. It is a novel project that revolutionises the relationship between many different industries including slaughtering, wastewater treatment and fertilisers to create a circular economy for organic fertilisers while simultaneously dealing with wastewater challenges and harnessing energy.

In January 2019, the 4th project meeting took place in Porto, Portugal where partners discussed the development of the project and the full-scale demonstrator at Matadero del Sur where the extraction of nutrients from slaughterhouse wastewater will be trialled. Partners also took part in a workshop that examined how the project affects the target stakeholder group and the net effects on local communities.

In June, 2019, the 5th General Meeting was held in Ljubljana, Slovenia and was focused on the continued progress of the project, including discussions on social awareness, dissemination, and reducing barriers. Project members attended a visit to University of Ljubljana's Algal Park, where AlgEn has produced and tested different pond designs.

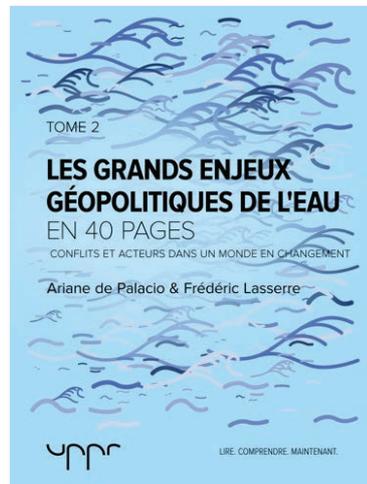
ELO is a key partner for the stakeholder engagement part of the Water2REturn project, seeking to build up a rapport with representatives from the industries that are associated with the objectives of W2R, as well as to increase acceptance of the technologies amongst consumers. The next step of the project includes

organising capacity building workshops across 5 different countries with industry stakeholders, farmers and landowners.

 www.water2return.eu

 @Water2REturn

 WR-Water2Return



The major geopolitical issues of water

Volume 1: Water for Life
Volume 2: Conflicts and actors

Frédéric LASSERRE ;
Ariane de PALACIO

Edition UPR ; 2017 ;
ISBN : 2371681512

The major contemporary issues are all articulated around a political, social and cultural relationship that unites societies and a particular and essential resource water.

The resulting complex issues are present at all scales: from local to global and in all areas and aspects of a society. This capacity of water to express the dynamics and challenges of a society thus makes it a particularly decisive subject of study. In this perspective, Ariane de PALACIO and Frédéric LASSERRE have built this book around six of the main challenges facing water resources at the beginning of the 21st century, echoing other broader dynamics and issues that concern all human societies at all scales of space and time.

In Volume 1 they examine three main issues: first, agricultural water, which must ensure food security for a growing global population; second, water in cities, a very complex reality that is becoming crucial in a context of unprecedented urban growth throughout the world; and finally, the essential role of water in human and environmental health, a crucial issue for sustainable development.

In Volume 2, they study three major challenges: first, that of governance mechanisms and the formation of conflict and cooperation dynamics, which revolve around water resources; second, that of the legal status of water, with variable geometry and sources of conflict; and finally, that of the impact of climate change on water resources, our perception and management of them, as well as the urgency of adopting a responsible, sustainable and resilient relationship with this essential resource.



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Emmanuel De Groef
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manu.de.groef@telemak.com
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CIC position on Giraffe listing in CITES Appendix II

The 18th meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES CoP) took place in Geneva, Switzerland on 17-28 August 2019.



CIC Team

Much like previous meetings of the CITES CoP, the *International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation* (CIC) had a strong presence at CoP 18. CIC President, George AMAN; Deputy President of CIC Policy & Law Division, Shane MAHONEY and CIC Experts Willem WIJNSTEKERS (former Secretary-General of CITES) and Prof Dr Dietrich JELDEN (former Head of the German CITES Management Authority) will be in attendance. Deputy Director General, Mark RYAN, were attending from CIC Headquarters.

The conference brings together a variety of stakeholders, namely CITES parties (Member States), United Nations and specialised agencies, intergovernmental organisations (including the CIC), and actors from the private sector. With a number of different views influencing the various stakeholders, the CIC was actively working to provide CITES parties with the necessary advice and technical expertise to guide their decisions on topic areas that are importance to the CIC, but more importantly to sustainable wildlife management and conservation, and to the global community of sustainable users of wildlife.

On August 22, 2019, following a resolution that was passed at the meeting of the **CITES CoP 18**, giraffe was listed on **CITES Appendix II**. The move had been initially put forward by the Central African Republic, Chad, Kenya, Mali, Niger and Senegal. Based on existing management practices in certain African states, as well as scientific data which does not empirically justify this move, the *International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation* (CIC) was not in support of this decision.

CIC President, George AMAN explained the reasoning of the CIC during his intervention at the CITES CoP. He mentioned that the current management of giraffe and all sub-species in the Southern African hemisphere, which includes the offtake by conservancy hunting, has been proven to be sustainable. This offtake has also had a positive effect on both habitat conservation and local giraffe populations, such as in Namibia and South Africa.



George AMAN

The new Appendix II listing prohibits the uncontrolled trade of all giraffe sub-species. It is important to remember that all subsequent trade of giraffe would have been originally sourced through legal and ethical means – whether that is through trophy hunting, natural deaths or animals culled for meat. Therefore, the CIC considers this type of trade to be sustainable, in addition to providing benefits to conservation efforts.

Moreover, in instances where giraffe populations are on the decline, this cannot be associated with international trade.

In response to this resolution, *Southern African Development Community* (SADC) countries have announced their official reservations against this decision, one which they believe to be scientifically unsustainable. This would mean that the Appendix II listing would not result in any new legal obligations for SADC countries.

The CIC is in full agreement with the unsustainable nature of this ruling, which

may be detrimental to the future conservation efforts of giraffe and their habitats, and supports SADC countries in their official reservations.



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social and care farming case studies of ‘green therapy’

Lindsey CHUBB, ELO

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CARE-T-FARMS kicked off in November 2017 funded under the Erasmus+ programme of the European Union with the goal of creating training materials on social farming for farm workers, farm managers, and social and healthcare professionals. Since then, the project consortium has examined the best practices in social or care farming from Poland, Italy, Turkey, Spain, Belgium, Czech Republic and the Netherlands. They have combined the best practices from all over Europe with theoretical knowledge about the optimal ways to run a social or care farm. The three education and training modules which were developed as outputs from the project each have their own target audience and are in line with different levels of the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) according to their different expected learning outcomes: knowledge, skills and competences.

From this work, the project consortium has generated:

- National reports on the State-of-the-Art of social agriculture and care farms from every country involved in the project
- Transnational Summary Report on main issues from the national reports

- Three care farm training modules: “Care Farm Tutor”, “Care Farm Manager” and “Care Farm Social/Health Educator”

The free online training system is now available in several languages including English, French, Italian, Polish, Spanish and Turkish. The training system incorporates case studies from not only the partner countries, but other European countries as well such as Belgium, Czech Republic and the Netherlands (it is accessible from the project website).

The CARE-T-FARMS project team met for their final meeting in Kraków, Poland in September 2019, where the project coordinator, Agricultural Advisory Centre in Brwinów (CDR) and project partner, Stowarzyszenie ARID, hosted their multiplier event on 17-18 September. The event was attended by agricultural advisors, farmers, students, academics, rural residents, representatives of local associations and organisations, as well as guests from abroad and representatives of the partner institutions of the project.

The consortium presented the goals and results of the project as well as a demonstration of the CARE-T-FARMS training platform. Participants also had the opportunity to do a pilot testing of the training sys-

tem and attend a study visit at the “Farma Życia” (Farm of Life) in Więckowice, a centre for permanent residence, work, therapy, rehabilitation and professional activation for adults with the spectrum of autistic disorders, which served as an example of best practices of care farms in Europe. This farm is of key importance to “green therapy”, during which adults with autism learn basic professional activities, cooperation, and perform social roles.

The second day of the event was devoted to the concept of social farming as an innovative approach enabling combined agricultural activity with social, health, caring or educational activities. The meeting ended with a discussion panel incorporating the participation of all speakers and conference participants. During this meeting, attention was drawn to several issues that are important from the point of view of further work on the subject of social agriculture in Poland. In particular, the need to educate the staff of a social farm. The materials and training platform developed during the CARE-T-FARMS project will be helpful in this regard.

 <http://care-t-farms.eu>
 CARE_T_FARMS
 CareTFarms

2020 FAMIGRO Award for Entrepreneurship



The GROTFELT family represents more than 350 years of diversified landowning in Finland.

Famigro is a private company belonging to this family. It was founded by Karl GROTFELT in 1985. In 2013, he created the Famigro Award, which is granted annually to a young European countryside entrepreneur that has made or is making a special contribution to the rural economy and environment. Thanks to his initiative, each year the YFCS can support a start-up project that provides answers to the current challenges of the rural sector.

Entrepreneurial projects contribute to the evolution of our rural countryside, while the respect of the environment and social responsibility is endorsed by each rural entrepreneur. The aim of the Famigro Award is to increase the chances of these kinds of valuable projects to succeed and grow, letting them benefit from the support of the network of the Friends and Young Friends of the Countryside.

The prize also includes a EUR 5,000 check, an article in the Countryside Magazine and the opportunity to join us during the FCS & YFCS General Assembly in Spain.



The 2020 Edition is now open, and applications should be sent before March 1. The form is available on the ELO and YFCS sites, where all the details and conditions are specified, including the age range to apply (18-40).

Among the previous winners, we can

find: Wignac Cidre Naturel (www.wignac.com), Wildernest Tiny House (<https://wildernest.be/>) and Coucoo (www.coucoo.com).

The application will open from 1st December. For more information please contact: alberto.hermosel@elo.org.





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Diary dates

5 November, Brussels, European Parliament

Genetic innovation vs Climate Change workshop – hosted by MEPs Simona BONAFÈ and Paolo de CASTRO
www.cia.it

5 - 7 November, Łysomice, Poland

6th European Congress of Agro-Business Managers; co-organised by the ELO and the Union of Employers-Managers and Agricultural Owners from Bydgoszcz
www.kongresagrobiznesu.pl

6 November, Brussels

'Agriculture and environment: speaking the same language within the CAP Strategic Plans' - ENRD Workshop
<https://enrd.ec.europa.eu>

19 November, Harghita County Council, Romania

The EU Platform on coexistence between people & large carnivore meeting, co-chaired by ELO
<https://ec.europa.eu/environment>

25 November, Brussels

Soil and the SDGs: Challenges and need for action; co-organised by DG Environment
www.soil-conference.org

25 - 27 November, Zagreb

ELO General Assembly
www.elo.org

10 December, Brussels

ELO Biodiversity Conference & awarding ceremony of the Bel-leuropa Award
www.europeanlandowners.org

28 - 29 November, Bratislava

Clean Air Forum, focusing on four themes: air quality and health; air quality and energy; air quality and



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<https://eucleanairforum.teamwork.fr>

10 December, Brussels

Bee Award ceremony, co-organised by ELO and CEMA

www.europeanlandowners.org



31 March, Brussels, 2020

13th edition of the Forum for the Future of Agriculture (FFA) - FFA2020 - where agriculture & environment meet in Brussels for an open dialogue

www.forumforagriculture.com



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Text editor : Robert de Graeff,
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Communication & proof readers:
Jehanne de Dorlodot - Verhaegen
Gabrielle Cubillo

Back office:
Gabriela Pena, Alberto Hermosel

Rue de Trèves, 67
B - 1040 Bruxelles
Tel. : 00 32 (0)2 234 30 00
Fax : 00 32 (0)2 234 30 09
countryside@elo.org
Internet Site : www.elo.org