



## Editorial

### Farmer : Top Job of the Future

How do we create and maintain jobs and employment in the countryside? With only 14% of Europe's farmers under 40, and 95% of its farms structured as family holdings, there are serious questions to be asked about who will be the next generation of farmers and farm workers.

The way forward is to make farming as modern, as efficient, and as green as possible; we have to show young people that a countryside career is not just spiritually rewarding, but that it comes with a good salary and opportunities for growth. In order to achieve this, we have to make it clear that farming is about being an entrepreneur.

Everywhere else, we laud and applaud entrepreneurship and innovation, but in farming society seems to care less about these important qualities. Farming is modern business, and that requires constant renewal of practices and tools. We should celebrate new tractors, GPS-guided field work, and in-field innovation that combines economy and ecology just as much as we do the latest Iphone or Prius.

If the farm is not a place of innovation and renewal, how will we ever present it as a viable career? Who will grow the crops of tomorrow if the next generation sees it as an old relic? The answer is modernisation, entrepreneurship and innovation, combined with the best care for our landscapes and environment.

Thierry de l'ESCAILLE  
Secretary General



## Wildlife Estates Label in UK



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## Wildlife Estates Label in UK

*On 2nd - 4th September Plenary session of the ELO Wildlife Estates was held at Holkham Hall in the county of Norfolk on the eastern side of England.*

Scotland which, due to a different political imperative already has over 250 estates signed up the Level 1 Wildlife Estates Scotland scheme, and 25 at Level 2, England only has one: Ours at Holkham. We were awarded our certificate (which equates to Level 1, signing up to the charter) at a WE ceremony at Blair Castle, Scotland in 2010. It is due for renewal next year.

There has been less political pressure on landowners in England, indeed whereas in Scotland the Scottish Land & Estates has lent the initiative it’s full support, the Country Land and Business Association has felt that it was not the best organisation to drive it forward.

This did not dampen the enthusiasm of the many of the English landowners present. It was the largest ever WE plenary session as between Michael SAYER and I we managed to persuade a good number of English landowners and managers who we thought ran their estates in accordance with WE principles, to attend. A total of 65 delegates were present and this included 30 English, for whom most this was their first attendance at an ELO event.

Konstantin KOSTOPOULOS, the new Chief Operating Officer of Wildlife Estates in Brussels chaired the debate on the first day after an introduction from the (Secretary General) of the ELO, Thierry de L’ESCAILLE. Stefan LEINER, Head of Nature Unit at DG Environment gave an encouraging speech at which he outlined the EU’s support for WEs. As always David GWYTHYR, The Duke of Buccleuch’s Factor from the Queensbury estate in Scotland gave a very measured speech about how they instituted Wildlife Estates in Scotland. Due to the Duke’s generosity David has been able to work two days a week driving forward Wildlife Estates Scotland.





The event was attended by three key figures at the CLA. We were very grateful when Christopher PRICE the Policy Director volunteered to explained the CLA position. His words were re-iterated by Tim BRIETMEYER, a Cambridgeshire farmer and CLA Vice-President. We were very grateful to hear this balancing of views as too often in conferences such as this everybody overtly supports the motion and it is not subject to more rigorous and stringent interrogation.

Notwithstanding this there were a number of impassioned speeches from the floor, particularly from German, Dutch, Swedish and Finnish delegates urging English landowners present to proceed with the scheme as a unified approach by those offering best practice would be the best way to demonstrate a good defence against the privations and restrictions placed upon private landownership by the state and public conservation organisations. A number of us English landowners spoke about how such organisations in our country had established themselves as the only arbiters of how conservation should be carried out. Philip MERRICK's from Kent in south suggested it was about time that private individuals seized back the conservation initiative. Philip is the only private individual in the United Kingdom to have "Approved Body Status".

It was extremely encouraging, and I think emotive for us English landowners (who thanks to our island status, can take an insular view!) to hear these stark warnings from our continental friends.

We undertook two tours of the Holkham estate, a 10,250 hectare estate of primarily arable land on the north Norfolk coast, the coastal part of which is designated Natura 2000 land. The first was naturally enough a "Wildlife" theme. Delegates were bussed to the Holkham National Nature Reserve, one of the most important reserves in the country. There our Manager, Sarah HENDERSON explained how the estate had taken back the management of the reserve from Natural England, the government's "Green" arm two and a half years ago.

Not unnaturally we believe we are running the reserve more effectively than it had been before, utilising other departments on the estate such as the farms for grazing and topping and the gamekeepers for vermin control. Like this more of the local



community has been able to buy into the nature reserve and take pride in its management.

Our Danish farms director then spoke about our farming policy (we farm 3,100 hectares of the estate). And our Scottish head gamekeeper spoke about the co-operation between the two departments in habitat creation. Indeed one tractor driver works solely on these sorts of activities, essentially managing the land subject to Pillar 2 subsidies.

On the final day the Estates Director, Mr. DAVID HORTON-FAWKES gave a compelling speech outlining the estate's Strategy, our management ethos and our values. About how important this was having come from my family at the top and that it should filter down through all employees and how mutual respect amongst managers, employees, customers, tourists and frankly nature, was key.

To lighten the atmosphere and give delegates a "break from wildlife" the second tour concentrated on the estate's property and tourism activities. The estate surveyor discussed how we had changed our attitude toward people who rented our properties. They had to be afforded excellent customer service, just as if they were a guest in our hotel. We viewed a set of redundant 19th century sheds and stores that were being converted to commercial

premises for a tenant who needed to expand her business.

Delegates then walked through Pine-woods Holiday Park, a site containing over 600 static caravans which the estate had managed for 20 years. This business had become a lifeline for the estate in cash generative terms. Finally a visit to the beach, beach huts and lunch at the Beach Cafe where the "doggie wash" was much admired.

As for the future of Wildlife estates in England, there were enough enthusiastic offers from English landowners for their estates to be included in pilot projects, for us to form a steering committee, together with help from ELO in Brussels and Wildlife Estates in Scotland to drive this initiative forward. Our hope and expectation is that once we have established a successful model and accredited a number of estates, there will be the confidence to take the concept forward

**Tom COKE, Director of Holkham Estate**

For more information  
please visit the website:  
[www.wildlife-estates.eu](http://www.wildlife-estates.eu)



## EHHA General Assembly: “Heritage: Use It or Lose It”

*The European Historic Houses Association organised its 2014 General Assembly from the 2nd to the 5th of October in Lisbon. The conference entitled “Heritage: Use It or Lose It” - The cultural importance of heritage preservation, civic pride and quality of life”- took place in the palace Porto Covo and gather together among other, the Secretary of State for Culture Jorge BARRETO XAVIER and Adolfo MESQUITA NUNES, the Secretary of State for tourism.*

**T**he Conference tackled the importance of the cultural heritage in the wealth and quality of life of the EU citizens. Portugal as one of the most touristic place in the EU showcased the relation between heritage, the economy and the social value of a country. We understood that the private building patrimony can contribute to a large extent to reaffirm national identity and civic pride.

We choose to publish Dr. Ferdinand MASCARENHAS 'speech which gave the audience a real insight in the challenges faced by the owners of historic houses.  
(red.)

### A) The Importance of Heritage?

The human being lives in time and has an acute consciousness of that fact. Everything we experience, live feel or think is within a time sequence. We live in a present, which has a past and a future, we are mortal creatures and we are painfully aware of it. To act on the future we need

to have our feet well rooted in the past, we have to be well aware of the world around us, and stay focused on the future.

Following R. G. Collingwood, I believe that all thought is the critical rethinking of a past thought. Therefore, without Heritage there is no new production of culture: no Art, no Philosophy, no Science, no Literature, nothing new.

Does this way of seeing Heritage seem too radical to you? Well, imagine yourselves drawing a cat without ever having seen a drawing? Writing a sentence without having ever seen a written line?

All thought comes from the rethinking of a previous thought and it is only real and new if it is a critical re-thinking.



## B) The Complexity of a Heritage Object

Any piece of Heritage, in whatever form, is always complex and its degree of complexity depends on the number of critical thoughts that were required to produce it.

When we have to preserve Heritage, we must be aware that we need to understand the Heritage object in its entirety or as close as we can get to it.

We must also take into account what elements of that complexity are the most important ones and, most relevant, what is most worthy of our efforts to preserve.

Older is not necessarily better.



## C) Heritage Object is a Living Object

A Heritage Object is not a dead object; it is not a mere monument from the past, it is a monument of all time; it is something living that interacts not only with the physical and chemical elements of the present, but also with our minds, such as they are now and with future minds as they will be in a future we know not.

It is essential to know how to see and understand the object of Heritage, heir of many pasts, and pregnant with multiple futures.

## D) Good Sense and Good taste

What I would call the well-pondered restoration of a Heritage object is an attitude of constant reflection, and being as flexible as possible. An attitude that is fully aware

of its choices, different from case to case, not only before different objects, but also before different aspects of the same object. It must also be an attitude which seeks to recover the object in its entirety, and that does not refuse to make choices and leave marks that the moment of intervention may require. These marks must be tempered by good sense (not common sense), because they should be reversible and should be enlightened by good taste.

### Heritage Houses and Their Owners

There are basically two ways of coming into possession of a Heritage house: through inheritance or through acquisition.

Inheriting a historic house is a privilege and a burden; a privilege because of its historical meanings and its beauty, a burden

because its preservation often requires substantial economic means.

If one has inherited the House without an adequate amount of income, one has to strive towards putting it to such use so it will provide the necessary income to sustain itself. The choice of 'what to do' to obtain such income depends, among other things, on the layout of the house, of where it is located, and on the owners own tastes; for he will work much more and much better doing what he likes than what he dislikes.

If the owner does not have the stomach fort undertaking this work, it might be better if he sold it to someone who has the means to preserve the house.

The new use of part of the whole of the house will most likely require works, and whether these be small or big, it is essential that they do these five things:

- 1 Respect the history and aesthetics of the house;
- 2 Intervene as little as possible;
- 3 The intervention should be reversible;
- 4 Make sure the house is lived in and preferably by its owner;
- 5 New owners of Heritage houses should have access to courses on the ownership and management of such houses.





## Satellite Scandinavian conference of the Forum for the Future of Agriculture (FFA)

*For the 7th consecutive year FFA satellite conferences took place in two different EU regions. On the 30th of September in Copenhagen, ELO and Syngenta, in association with the Danske Godser og Herregårde, Sveriges Jordägareförbund, Yara SA/NV and RISE Foundation organized the satellite conference for the FFA. The objective of the event was to stimulate the debate on how improve food and environmental security, both at international and local level, the speakers have focused their attention on three main axes during round table debates: Global vision: responses to Climate change and other global challenges; European vision & Sustainable Intensification of Agriculture and Regional vision on practical & political approaches.*

**A**nne Sophie GAMBORG, Danske Godser og Herregårde and Niels TRESCHOW, Sveriges Jordägareförbund welcomed and opened the debate. Jan LAUSTSEN, Director of Trade, Market & Nutrition of Danish Agriculture and Food

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Council, in his keynote speech addressed the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), analysing its impact on global competitiveness. He noted the differences in the approach: Europe being focussed on the environment and efficiency, USA more on new technologies. The Partnership with the Canada could serve as a model, as they have fully accepted the SPS agreement (Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures). If the Canadians have done it, why not the USA? He concluded by wondering if the TTIP would be the funeral of the WTO?

Johan SCHNURER, Professor and Vice-Chancellor of the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, explained how universities can respond and organize themselves to meet global challenges, including climate change, to improve the competitiveness of European Agriculture. Anders NILSSON, Research Advisor of the same University, explained the biotechnology and GMOs and its connections to the competitiveness. He reported comparative numbers of the use of GMO on farm net income.

The debate focused on the use of new technologies not only for economic reasons but especially as assets in order to increase the biodiversity. The participants underlined that they don't feel comfortable with the TTIP because they don't really know what its real implications will be - can Europe defend herself from the power of the American food industry?

Lars OLSSON, Head of the Agriculture Department, Ministry of Agriculture of Sweden, introduced the next session. He pointed out that even if in Europe we don't see the growth of the middle-classes, this phenomenon is taking place in countries like Asia and even Africa. For that reason, we have to increase the production while preserving biodiversity and decreasing nutrient loss. We have to act and to think globally: competitiveness in a global context or we will not be able to export agricultural products. We need new production methodologies; new innovations for new products, in new markets. And those new techniques should be exported.

Mogens NIELSEN, YARA Project Manager

DWS Nitrogen in Danish Arable production, emphasised that we have to search for the right model for sustainable intensification: help growers to produce more crop on the same land and with less environmental impact. This is crucial to mitigate climate change and to protect biodiversity and natural habitats.

As the precedent speaker, Matthew PICKARD DKCH, Syngenta Nordics, argued that we have to produce more in a sustainable way. He explained the *Good Growth Plan* and its 6 objectives i.e. to rescue more farmland, to improve health and to reduce poverty among smallholder farmers, to improve worker safety. He emphasized the two most important for Scandinavia: make crops more efficient and help biodiversity flourish. The challenge is being able to provide complementary technologies, he gave some examples as the Multifunctional Field Margins, the Fair Labour Association or the Kenya Horticultural Competitiveness Project with USAID.

Gustav HAGEMANN introduced the Wildlife Estates Label, a project conceived by ELO in 2005 in order to promote biodiversity conservation in the face of emerging political, economic and social concerns. It helps the owners that have this recognition to be in contact with authorities and the public, and to proof that they have well-managed estates.

Natalie PAUWELS, Member of Cabinet to EU Environment Commissioner Janez POTOČNIK, introduced the last session focussed on Europe. She stated that sustainable intensification is the inevitable pathway towards reconciling the need to meet the demand for food and protect the environment. The solutions based on nature are needed! How we produce, but also where! Our European vision is that our agriculture



is the most efficient. The challenges that we face are land abandonment and liberalization of trade. For Annika ÅHNBERG, Former Minister for Agriculture of Sweden, the question is that future Europe can't be an enormous touristic park. We need to produce more, not the 100 % of what we consume but to produce a 100% of what we can produce, and count with the trade. We have also to develop really high quality products, because this is what we can propose to global markets. The challenge is to lower the collateral damages to European nature, and for that we need innovation and more cooperation between farmers and innovators.

Trying to imagine a cleaner environment by improved agricultural productivity, Mogens ERLINGSON, Yara Head of Strategy and Business Development, focused first on global challenges that we face. He mentioned Eutrophication and Climate change – and the necessity to reduce negative environmental impact; limited availability of new arable land – and the necessity to grow more on existing arable land; and growing population towards 9 billion

– and the need to meet rising food demand. Sustainable intensification could be the solution: optimal production with less environmental impact. The society needs to realize the limits to the reduction potential in agriculture, and the need for increased production in the future. The implementation rate in agricultural has to increase. This requires a collective farmer industry effort (farmers, advisors farmers' organizations, machinery suppliers and fertilizer companies).

The last speaker was Prof Allan BUCKWELL, the ELO Board Adviser on CAP, who disagreed with some of the precedent speakers, pointing out that we don't have to produce the 100% of what we consume. There is an international market and we can buy in other countries what we don't produce. He underlined that Sustainable Intensification is a question of production and farmers, not of consumption. He reminded that Europe has the most intensified agriculture, but as people mostly disagree with the word "intensification" instead of speaking about "Sustainable intensification" we should focus on "environmental performances".

The day after was followed by a field visit to Jordberga (Sweden) hosted by Otto von ARNOLD. At the farm the owner and his son Carl-Adam, presented the history of the farm, as well as the Tullstorp Stream restoration project: *From Source to Sea*; explaining the objectives, the method, and the biodiversity existing there. The whole group visited also the Biogas plant from Jorberga, and Sven-Erik SVENSSON, Head of biogas research on crops at Swedish Agricultural University in Alnarp, explained the influence of a biogas plant on the agriculture.





## Our LIFE+ 3watEr Project: The Results

*After 52 months of hard work, obtaining permits, educating guides, placing panels, restoring ponds, creating dry and wet heath, shaping bittern breeding islands, guiding interested groups, an opening and a closing conference, 44 visits to events and many other activities, the LIFE+ 3watEr event is being wrapped up.*

**T**he LIFE+ 3watEr project, located in near Hasselt in the larger Wijers nature area, got its start, broadly speaking, through the long-term problematic relationships between private landowners and economic actors on the one hand, and nature protection organisations on the other. Private landowners in the area had long voiced their opposition to increasing regulations, which they had perceived as restricting their ability to use their property for economic gain as well as rural and traditional activities such as hunting. Besides social issues, ecological issues included a long-term lack of care for the traditional pond systems in the area, which had mostly been caused through poor incoming water quality, lack of use as traditional fish-farming activities became unprofitable or left the area. Due to these factors, many of these ponds had become overgrown or filled with tree and shrub species, making it difficult for waterbirds such as the Bittern to find suitable habitat and procreate.

The overall objectives of the project were twofold; both the restoration of the 3watEr project area, including traditional ponds and oligotrophic waters, wet and dry heather, and the expansion of educational activities and opportunities throughout the project area. The ecological and educational actions in the project have all been designed with economic use in mind – allowing landowners to be financially viable as well as economically responsible, with forestry and fish farming forming a long-standing economic staple of the area.

Specific terrain objectives are the restoration of the ecohydrological regime in the area (C1), restoration of the traditional 'open landscape' in the area (C2), restoration of the mesotrophic ponds, type 3130, and the Bittern habitat (C3), reduction of fox and marten predation on Bittern nests through the creation of islands in the 3watEr pond area (C4), restoration of additional foraging habitats for the bittern (C5), resto-

ration of the aquatic breeding habitats for the tree frog (C6), restoration of the land habitat of the tree frog, type 6430 (C7), restoration of habitat type 3110 (C8), restoration of wet heathland, habitat type 4010 (C9), and restoration of dry heathlands, habitat type 4030 (C10).

Threats to the area included the deterioration and alteration of hydrological conditions and inadequate water management, fragmentation of habitats, re- and afforestation which threatens mesotrophic and oligotrophic ponds and dry heathland, as well as a reduction in quality of wet heathland and a significant growth of local predator populations such as fox and marten, which threaten local bird populations such as the bittern by preying on nests.

Socio-economic improvements include the expansion of local tourism opportunities through improved ecosystems, especially with regards to bird watchers. Local camping (especially the Heidestrand site in the heart of the project) benefits greatly from the project. Fish-farming will con-

tinue in the region, due to its inclusion in the project, which will maintain local (low-skilled) labour in the area.

In total, the project has protected 85,2 ha of oligo- to mesotrophic standing waters (3110-3130), 6,3ha of Northern Atlantic wet heath (4010), 23,7ha of European dry heath (4030), and 42.9 ha of hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains (6430). These are expected to be maintained in favourable status. Populations of tree frogs have increased from 150 calling males to 500 during the project, and it is expected that the number of breeding couples of bittern will increase from 10 to 15 in the future.

**Robert de Graeff, ELO**

**This project is supported by the European Commission Directorate-General Environment under the LIFE+ Nature Program (grant agreement no. LIFE08 NAT/B/000036)**





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## Commission welcomes the Council's adoption of the Invasive Alien Species Regulation

*On the 29th of September the EU adopted legislation that will tackle the rapidly growing threat to biodiversity from invasive species. The Regulation is a crucial step towards achieving the EU's 2020 biodiversity targets, while also delivering on a commitment under the Convention on Biological Diversity to establish rules to address the threats posed by these species.*

**E**uropean Environment Commissioner Janez POTOČNIK said: "This new Regulation fills a long-recognised gap in EU biodiversity protection. It is carefully targeted, focusing on the most serious threats from invasive species. By working together within the EU to tackle a problem estimated to cost EUR 12 billion every year, we are taking a decisive step towards meeting our objective of halting the loss of biodiversity in the EU by 2020."

The Regulation equips Europe with an effective system that will prevent the introduction and spread of species that can cause significant adverse impacts on the environment, the economy, and human health. The system will be based on a list of species of Union concern, to be drawn up with the Member States on the basis of comprehensive risk assessments and robust scientific evidence. The list will focus on the species that cause the most serious damage. When considering species for listing, their socio-economic benefits, and the concerns of established commercial sectors, will be taken fully into account.

### Background

Alien species are plants, animals, fungi and micro-organisms that have been transported across ecological barriers such as mountain ranges, or oceans as a result of human intervention, and have become established in an area outside their natural range.

About a quarter of these species are brought into Europe intentionally, but most arrive by accident. There are currently more than 12 000 alien species in the European environment. In their new environment, some spread rapidly and become invasive alien species (IAS), causing significant damage to biodiversity, human health or the economy. Roughly 10-15 % of alien

species arriving in Europe eventually become invasive.

These species are a major cause of biodiversity loss, and they can also cause significant damage to human health and the economy. Examples include the American bullfrog, allergy-causing ragweed and musk rats that damage infrastructure.

Invasive alien species are estimated to cost EUR 12 billion annually in health care

and animal health costs, crop yield losses, fish stock losses, damage to infrastructure, damage to the navigability of rivers, and damage to protected species.

**Source : DG Environment**

[http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_STATEMENT-14-286\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_STATEMENT-14-286_en.htm)

## The Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing


*Adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its tenth meeting in October 2010 in Nagoya (Japan), it entered into force on 12th October 2014.*

The Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity is an international agreement which aims at sharing the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources in a fair and equitable way, including by appropriate access to genetic resources and by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies, taking into account all rights over those resources and to technologies, and by appropriate funding, thereby contributing to the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of its components.

The fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources is one of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

**Source : <http://www.cbd.int/abs>**

**More information about the 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity held 6-17 October in Pyeongchang (Republic of Korea): <http://www.cbd.int/cop12/>**



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# Project HERCULES' First Milestone: The Knowledge Hub is Operational

*The objective of HERCULES' ("Sustainable futures for Europe's HERitage in CULTural landscapES") is to develop advanced tools and technologies for mapping, assessing, protecting and managing cultural landscapes in rural areas. With launching the Knowledge Hub, the project has reached its first major milestone.*

The main idea of Knowledge Hub is to act as a general database so that ideas, reports, thoughts, and outcomes of the project can be used and re-used to serve different needs, thus avoiding the subsequent data collection, which is so often in modern research. For datasets to be used by different stakeholders, presenting their stories quickly and efficiently, we built a powerful visualization engine, which makes it possible to show data from different angles. The Knowledge Hub is thus a two-fold system: it is a state-of-the-art data repository, oriented towards spatial, alphanumeric and temporal data and an interactive mapping web platform.



As shown in the picture, the Knowledge Hub does not limit its usage to professionals, but strives for the empowerment of both public and private actors. It allows its users not only to access, use, archive, share and distribute data produced throughout the study, but by being freely accessible to all, also enables anyone to contribute their own data. This data can be fused with existing models and results for new and innovative approaches to landscape management. It thus provides the means for collecting input and feedback from the general public and can act as a toolkit for the communication of (the project's) insights between various parties.

used, since a hub only works if it is at the centre of something. Its virtual landscape should be filled with data and "landscape stories" through the web platform. Only then will the repository become truly useful and all those with an interest in landscape will have, finally, their own platform linking all interests that have for so long been separated. Knowledge Hub today is the start of an iterative process of customisation of the application based on actual needs. Extending the Knowledge Hub into a platform for research analyses (automatic or semi-automatic modelling, supported by change detection, pattern recognition, time series analysis and future dynamics forecasting) is already foreseen in the continuation of the HERCULES project.

We hope the "knowledge" part of the hub will grow and expand within the timeframe of the HERCULES project as well as afterwards, and we will take care that the "hub" part will remain aligned with actual needs.

**Matej BATIČ**  
**Sinergise**  
[www.sinergise.com](http://www.sinergise.com)

We believe the Knowledge Hub is a platform where everybody can participate. As it has become operational, it is of utmost importance for the Knowledge Hub to be

**Discover the Knowledge Hub at [www.hercules-landscapes.eu](http://www.hercules-landscapes.eu)**



The Knowledge Hub strives to protect, manage, and plan for sustainable landscapes at local, national, and Pan-European scales. It provides the means for combining information on landscape practice, land use, land cover, biodiversity, soils & geology, social issues & existing policies, legal constraints, history, archaeology, etc., from both experience-based local insights and scientific knowledge.



## CIC Markhor Award: Tajikistan, A Shining Example For Wildlife Conservation

As it became tradition, at the 12th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea, the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) has handed over the prestigious CIC Markhor Award. This prize recognizes outstanding conservation projects that link the preservation of biodiversity and human livelihoods through sustainable use, in particular hunting.



years. According to the new hunting law promulgated in 2014, 40% of the permit fees is allocated to local communities (in addition communities earn revenue through the hunting fees).

The recipients of the 2014 CIC Markhor Award emphasized that this global recognition of their efforts was a call for responsible follow-up.

**CIC Team**

The Minister of the Environment and Tourism of Namibia, H.E. Uahekua Herunga, representing the Conservancies of Namibia, the winners of the CIC Markhor Award in 2012, announced the 2014 laureate: The *Tajikistan Mountain Ungulate Project*. In congratulating the winners, he encouraged them to continue with the process of empowering local communities to manage their wildlife resource for the benefit of people, nature and economy.

The *Tajikistan Mountain Ungulate Project* is a joint initiative of 6 community based conservancies. More than a decade ago local hunters and concerned individuals in Tajikistan started recognizing the need to conserve the mountain ungulates of their communal areas and in 2008 the first association to manage hunting on communal land was established.

In 2013, for the first time, 6 Bukharan markhor (*Capra falconeri heptneri*) hunting permits were issued, based on a 2-3 fold increase of markhor populations within 5

### The call for the “Land and Soil Management Award” 2014/15 is now open!

Created by: The European Landowners’ Organization (ELO) under the auspices of the European Commission (DG Environment and the Joint Research Centre) in association with the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU) of Vienna, Syngenta International and the Centre for Soil and Environmental Sciences of the Ljubljana University

Aim: To encourage new concepts of land and soil protection and their implementation in land management as well as to enhance awareness about the importance of land and soil functions.

Eligibility: This prize is intended to recognize quality instruments and management practices which contribute to the protection of land and the soil, by improving the quality of the environment.

Prize: With an amount of 5000 € and a diploma of recognition.  
Deadline: 30 November 2014

Contact: Julianne NAGY: [julianna.nagy@elo.org](mailto:julianna.nagy@elo.org).

Information and documents: <http://www.europeanlandowners.org/awards>





# A good time to be innovative

*On the weekend of 12-14 September 2014 the Young Friends of the Countryside (YFCS) held their General Assembly in Lisbon, Portugal. It turned out to be a fantastic weekend, filled with unique experiences and an introduction not only to Portuguese estate management, but also an introduction to Portuguese food and culture.*

On Friday, the Young Friends left Lisbon to visit the "Herdade do Zambujal" Estate, which can also be found in the new Friends of Countryside book. The estate is very much a perfect example of how economic, cultural and environmental factors can interact to create an outstanding place and how they again are reflected in the management of the estate. The Young Friends were introduced to the breeding of fighting bulls, which has a long history in the culture of the country and nowadays there is a clear procedure to select those fighting bulls having proved their quality and bravery. Moreover, the Young Friends learnt about the production of cork. In addition, the Young Friends particularly admired the unique landscape, which is also the home for exotic bird species, such as flamingos. The Young Friends are very grateful to the VINHAS family for welcoming and hosting YFCS and feel privileged to have gained many new ideas and insights into the diverse activities an Estate can successfully pursue.

The visit of "Herdade do Zambujal" was followed by a visit to one of Jose Maria DA FONSECA's wine cellars, where the Young Friends enjoyed learning about the production of Porto wine.

The next day, the 10<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (GA) of the YFCS was held in Lisbon. The GA was opened by Carl-Philip von CROÏ, YFCS's president, who introduced the life membership base of YFCS in order to create a stable and lasting network. Francesco KINSKY DAL BORGIO then gave a short overview of YFCS's activities in the last year. William HILLGARTH, Vice-President of YFCS and head of the ELC (European Liaison Committee) was delighted to present the award "Ambassador of the Year" to Geoffrey de CANNIÈRE, who, together with Agnès de LIEDEKERKE, was crucial for contributing to the success of the Forum of Countryside Entrepreneurship (FCE), which was held in Brussels in February. Guy DELLA FAILLE, Vice-President and Head of the FCE, gave a short overview of the FCE and outlined the importance of sharing ideas about entrepreneurship.



Then the discussion was opened to the audience, during which the audience expressed the wish to increase the number of Portuguese members and further upcoming events were introduced. Carl-Philip von CROÏ then asked for the approval of a change in the Board, in which Emanuele VISCONTI will be replaced by Marie-Christine SCHÖNBORN. The Board of YFCS is extremely grateful to Emanuele VISCONTI for the years he worked with YFCS and enjoyed working with him!

The Young Friends are very proud to award the first FAMIGRO AWARD, supporting entrepreneurial projects and being generously sponsored by Karl GROTFELT, to Christoph-Ludwig zu STOLBERG-STOLBERG for his project "GRAFSCHAFT STOLBERG"!

Karl GROTFELT stated that the prize should be awarded to a young entrepreneur, whose project also supports the future of the countryside. He outlined that Christoph-Ludwig zu STOLBERG's project not only possessed the entrepreneurial side, but also is thoughtful in wanting to provide work for the people living in this part of the European countryside and in contributing to this area's devel-

opment. Christoph-Ludwig zu STOLBERG then introduced the YFCS members to GRAFSCHAFT STOLBERG, a brand being designed to increase and support development in and around the place STOLBERG, known for its outstanding historical value. Christoph-Ludwig zu Stolberg aims not only to sell regionally produced products in Stolberg, but also to broaden the network in the countryside 'Harz', in which Stolberg is located. The Young Friends look forward to following the developments of his project!

In the afternoon, the YFCS Conference was opened by António Paula SOARES, President of ANPC. The Young Friends welcomed the Portuguese Young Farmers, having joined them in the afternoon and introduced them to YFCS. Karl GROTFELT then introduced the audience to his brand "Famifarm Oy". His message to the audience was very clear and encouraging, by telling the Young Friends to "take whatever you have and it can evolve into something else".

His speech was followed by Carlos DE JESUS, Corticeira Amorim, who introduced the audience to innovations in the cork industry. Outlining that AMORIM is the



CHRISTOPH-LUDWIG ZU STOLBERG, KARL GROTFELT, CARL-PHILIP VON CROÿ, THIERRY DE L'ESCAILLE

world-leader in the cork industry, he showed the various and innovative ways in which cork can be used, ranging from wine industry to the aerospace industry and fashion. Then Francisco Almeida GARRETT introduced the audience to ROVISCO GARCIA, showing how the estate, being located in the Mediterranean forest, diversified with various other activities.

He showed that the success of his strategy lies in its two-fold nature, consisting of diversification and simultaneously the addition of value. Patrick Perceval MAXWELL, a Young Friend, presented the Estate BLUNDEN in Ireland and touched upon the highly relevant topic of succession planning and of how to manage family expectations. He left the audience with the message that one has to be young to start up new, innovative projects and to have the courage to promote change.

Having enjoyed his humorous and interesting presentation, the Young Friends had the honour of welcoming and listening to Edward DE BURLET, Senior Vice President of Banque Privée EDMOND DE ROTHSCHILD EUROPE. Edward DE BURLET touched upon a topic of high relevance, which is the link between family business and family governance and to what extent it is crucial that family values should encourage the family members.

The following discussion was moderated by Thierry de l'ESCAILLE, CEO of ELO, and provided a very interesting in depth view of many of the previously raised themes. Carlos DE JESUS stated that it is a good time to be innovative and Edward DE BURLET raised the topic of the aim to not only follow their father's footsteps in a family business, but to exceed and add to the family as a family member. The issue of well-founded risk management was touched upon briefly as well.

Thierry DE L'ESCAILLE, as the CEO of ELO,

outlined recent developments in the European Union, stating that since the elections in May 2014 the Euroscepticism is a new force in the EU. Moreover, he present-

ed the various different areas ELO is working for its members, ranging from forestry, farming, life+ projects to the Wildlife Estates label and then introduced the Bee Award to the audience. His presentation was followed by Ana Rocha's, advisor at ELO, update on recent CAP developments.

Overall, this year's General Assembly proved to be a huge success. The Young Friends are extremely grateful to all who came and supported the organisation in various ways! We especially want to express our gratitude to Francesco KINSKY DAL BORGIO and Joao CARVALHO, whose organisational skills; advice and help were crucial to the success of the Xth General Assembly.

**Marie-Christine SCHÖNBORN,**  
YFCS Board member

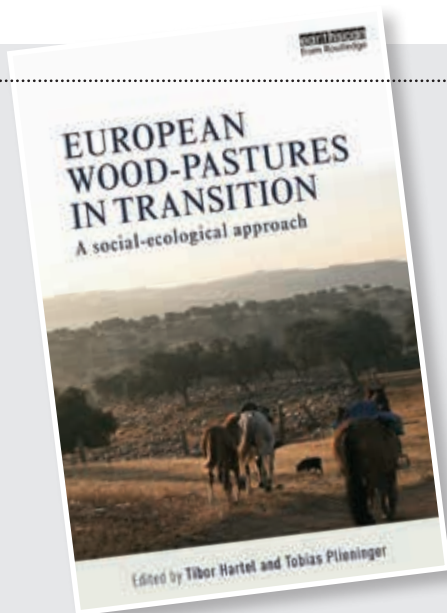
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## European Wood-pastures in Transition : A Social-ecological Approach

T.HARTEL, T. PLIENINGER  
Edited by Routledge, 2014  
ISBN 978-0-415-86989-8

Wood-pastures are important elements of European cultural identity and have an exceptional ecological value, yet they are in decline all over Europe. The structure of wood-pastures is strongly influenced by grazing and multiple other land uses and by local and regional environmental conditions. This book examines the diverse expressions of wood-pastures across Europe. It provides a new perspective, using a social-ecological framework to explore social and ecological values, governing institutions, threats and conservation approaches. It explores the major drivers of decline, which are shown to be related to accelerated cultural, institutional and developmental changes occurring across Europe over the past century. Case studies are included from North-Western, Southern, and Eastern Europe. Written by renowned scholars and conservationists, the book contributes to developing better, locally adapted conservation policies and management approaches for wood-pastures.

Tibor Hartel is Associate Professor in the Environmental Science Department at Sapiientia University of Transylvania, Romania, and is a member of the Board of Directors of the Society for Conservation Biology: Europe Section. His research focuses on rural landscapes from Eastern Europe. He studies wood-pastures in Romania and has been involved in a number of management and educational activities targeting wood-pastures and old trees.

Tobias Plieninger is Associate Professor at the Department of Geosciences and Natural Resource Management, University of Copenhagen, Denmark. He is interested in the study of the driving forces, processes and patterns of changes in human-shaped landscapes. His research integrates natural and social science approaches to landscape ecology and conservation.

### DIARY DATES 2014

#### 12th November, Berlin

2nd European Resources Forum- organised by German Federal Environment Agency  
<http://www.umweltbundesamt.de/en/node/26203>

#### 17th November, Brussels

How to shape Energy Policy so as to boost European competitiveness? In cooperation with DG Energy and DG Enterprise & Industry of the European Commission  
<http://www.energyconference.eu/>

#### 18 - 19 November, Łysomice (Poland)

European Congress of Agri-Managers- co-organised by ELO and ZPDIWR  
[www.elo.org](http://www.elo.org)

#### 19 - 20 November, Technical University of Denmark

Botanicals in Food- state of the art: risk assessment and regulation; organised by the National Food Institute, Technical University of Denmark (host), in cooperation with the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety (ANSES) and the Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) in Germany  
<http://www.conferencemanager.dk/Botanicalsinfood/about.html>

#### 19 - 21 November, Rome

ICN2 Second International Conference on Nutrition: better nutrition better lives – organised by FAO and WHO  
<http://www.fao.org/about/meetings/icn2/en/>

#### 24 - 27 November, Riga

ELO General Assembly  
[www.elo.org](http://www.elo.org)

#### 8th December, European Parliament, Brussels

European Bee Award Ceremony – organised by ELO and CEPA, under the auspices of Mairead McGuinness MEP followed by European Biodiversity conference (date to be confirmed)  
[www.elo.org](http://www.elo.org)

#### 31st March 2015, Brussels

8th Forum for the Future of Agriculture  
[www.forumforagriculture.com](http://www.forumforagriculture.com)

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