



Integrating Biodiversity

The Land Users' Perspective





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Who We Are

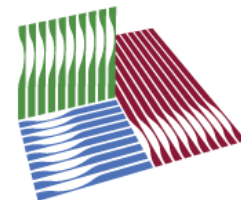
The ELO,

- ✿ Represents a network of national organisations, based in Brussels
- ✿ Anticipates potential changes in the political and legal climate in the EU with significance for its members.
- ✿ Is the voice of landowners and managers in relation to EU authorities.
- ✿ Is active in more than 45 advisory committees and groups in the EU, and has high-level contacts throughout the EU authorities and the 28 Member States

A Selection of our 58 Members



Liga
Asociațiilor
Producătorilor
Agricoli din
România



Who we Are



Working together for a prosperous and sustainable countryside

Food and Environmental Challenges of the 21st Century



- Urbanisation
- Population Growth
- Poverty and Education
- Energy Demands
- Food Demands
- Water Demands
- Climate Change
- Biodiversity Loss
- Public Health

Food and Environmental Challenges of the 21st Century

- ✿ However, challenges are not only related to people and climate.
- ✿ The biggest challenge may be to **change mentalities**:
 - **Farmers** must become more environmentally aware
 - **NGO's** must become aware of the economic challenges of farming in Europe
 - The next generations of farming must be profitable, sustainable, resilient and climate-smart – **all at the same time**.



The Role of Land Managers

- ✿ The **sustainable intensification** of agriculture is vital:
 - EU Agriculture contributes 10% to total **EU GHG emissions**
 - 60% of **protected species**, 70% of **protected habitats** are in unfavourable condition
 - **EU land and soil conditions** still projected to deteriorate for next 20+ years.
- ✿ Land managers demonstrate that **they are the best stewards or Europe's land for both production and environmental services.**

The Role of Land Managers

* Four key Challenges:

1. Mitigating ecosystem impacts while creating wealth
2. Adapting to climate change and environmental challenges
3. Avoiding harm to ecosystems and human health
4. Restoring ecosystem resilience



Integrating Biodiversity: Practical Spaces for Land Managers

✿ Land managers live with biodiversity every day

- Climate
- Water
- Soil
- Pollination



Integrating Biodiversity: Practical Spaces for Land Managers

- ✿ Biodiversity and natural capital are as important to farmers' business as financial capital
- ✿ We need profits and we need well-functioning natural resources – one cannot exist without the other



Integrating Biodiversity: Practical Spaces for Land Managers




✿ The new Greening already needs reform:

- The Greening needs to show visible and measurable results
- To do this the CAP must be **simplified** – but simplification cannot mean lowering ambitions.
- The ELO believes that managed field margins are among the best solutions for farmers and land managers



Integrating Biodiversity: Practical Spaces for Land Managers

*Field margins must be managed to be most effective

	Natural regeneration	Grass buffer strip	Managed Field Margin
			
Biodiversity	★	★	★ ★ ★
Soil & Water	★ ★	★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★
Farm Suitability	★	★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★
Cost Efficiency	★	★ ★	★ ★ ★

Integrating Biodiversity: 3 Field Margin Types

✿ Multifunctional Field Margins:

- Combination of grass and wildflowers
- 6m wide buffer prevents 75-95% pesticide runoff
- Suitable for farm birds, pollinators, insects
- Maintained by sowing & cutting, placed in new locations after 3 years



Integrating Biodiversity: 3 Field Margin Types

- ✿ Specific pollinator mix with pollen and nectar
- Can be re-sown in different places for different seasons
- Should be at least 3 meters wide
- Provides at least 3 different flowers and plants of different sizes and shapes to attract different species
- Needs regular cutting and only spot-applied herbicides



Integrating Biodiversity: 3 Field Margin Types

- ✿ Field margins for small game
 - High grass and flowers protect from predators
 - Presence of invertebrates provide feed
 - Consists of perennial greens and flowers
 - However, species need help with winter feed – feed barrels (on right) are needed



Integrating Biodiversity: 3 Field Margin Types



- ✿ Field margins need maintenance, but they can be implemented and used today
- Difficulty will be in providing different seed mixtures for different regions, but there is current expertise in private sector on how to create these
- Field margins are a highly visible sign of a greener countryside

ELO Field Programs

✿ The ELO strongly believes that policy ideas should be translated to field practice. This is why we have created the following programs:

- Wildlife Estates Label
- Pollinator Network Initiative
- Bee Award
- LIFE+ 3watEr project



ELO Field Programs: Wildlife Estates Label

*The Wildlife Estates

- Private commitment for public goods
- Over 1.000.000 hectares, 150 estates
- Recently added Poland, Bulgaria
- New partners in France and Belgium
- COO Konstantin Kostopoulos

National
Delegations



ELO Field Programs: Wildlife Estates Label

✿ To achieve the WE Label, the estate or territory must complete the following levels of assessment:

- Level I: Agree to follow the **Charter** and its **10 commitments**
- Level II: Complete the **Questionnaire and Evaluation** and submit to **Independent auditing**



ELO Field Programs: Wildlife Estates Label

*Ten Commitments of the WE Charter

1. Identify the estate's manager
2. Develop a long-term integrated wildlife plan
3. Maintain records and monitoring of the integrated plan
4. Undertake sustainable shooting, stalking and/or fishing
5. Manage a sustainable balance of game, wildlife and their habitats

ELO Field Programs: Wildlife Estates Label

*Ten Commitments of the WE Charter

6. Improving, where possible, biodiversity and species protection
7. Compliance with all national and international legal requirements
8. Adherence to the Charter on Hunting and EU's Guide on hunting
9. Maintain active community engagement
10. To apply within 2 years to the level 2 accreditation

ELO Field Programs: Wildlife Estates Label

✿ Level 2 of the Wildlife Estates Label:

- Complete a comprehensive questionnaire based on biogeographical regions
- The Questionnaire follows specific indicators in which the territory is to be evaluated
- The Questionnaire is reviewed by the National Evaluation Committee
- Evaluators are trained by the Scientific Committee and Secretariat

ELO Field Programs: Wildlife Estates Label

- ✿ Both levels have been developed by the WE's Scientific Committee
- ✿ Out of a score of 300, 210 points must be reached
- ✿ Scientific Committee is fully independent, led by Prof. Carlos Otero



ELO Field Programs: Pollinator Network initiative



- ✿ Pollinator Network initiative
 - Partner of the Wildlife Estates label
 - Committed to increasing field margins




ELO Field Programs: Bee Award

Objectives:

- Reinforce the role of pollinators to the public
- Enhance the role of private land management in the protection of biodiversity
- Showcase in-field projects rather than policy or academic work

Currently open for submissions

 The Bee Award is handed out after the ELO's Biodiversity Conference



ELO Field Programs: LIFE+ 3watEr

- ✿ Our LIFE + 3Water project in Belgian Limburg concluded at the end of April 2014.
- ✿ The project delivered huge benefits for the visibility of cooperation between different stakeholders Natura 2000 areas
- ✿ 'Triple E' approach (Ecology, Economy, and Education) as the key to successful programmes.
- ✿ 3WatEr won the Natura 2000 Award in the category 'reconciling interests and perceptions'

What We Should Do Next

What Does the European Countryside Need from the EU Biodiversity Strategy

- Ensure that the intention of Natura 2000 is well understood by Member States, and not used as a strict tool to prohibit positive land management
- Find a better integration of Natura 2000 and the Common Agricultural Policy, especially with the greening measures.



What We Should Do Next

- ✿ The integration of biodiversity into land managers' practices needs to be common place:
 - Better farm advisory services are needed; farmers currently do not have enough contacts with non-industry advice
 - Those living in the cities (75% of Europe) must also become more aware of the full cost of their consumption
 - A model of payment for the provision of public goods



Thank you for your attention

