Identification of High Nature Value farmland (HNVF): support to EECCA countries, project supported by the Norwegian Government

High Nature Value Farmlands in EECCA region

Vision of experts of the European ECO-Forum from countries of the subregion

For implementing the Kyiv Resolution on Biodiversity

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**Definition for High Nature Value Farmlands (HNVF)**

**HNVF** - lands and territorial-aquatic formations within the lands of predominately agricultural destination where the high biodiversity is conserved and/or formed as it is testified by assessment criteria and/or by features of a particularly valuable or unique landscape, forming special conditions for existence of ecosystems, communities and species.

**Ecosystem Classification of HNVF comprises 4 types and 23 subtypes:**

**Classification of special land use (social-ecological economy):**
- areas under agri-environment schemes;
- less favoured areas.
Principles and features of ecosystem classification

**Principles:**
- selection of minimally disturbed ecosystems;
- significant contribution into maintenance of biodiversity;
- assessment of input into landscape diversity;
- assessment of uniqueness and potential role in publicity;
- assessment of the land development perspectives.

**Features:**
- of biological values (7),
- of landscape value (6)
- of social attractiveness (4)
- favorable perspectives for territory development (3)
- for social- economic HNVF classes (8)
System of HNVF assessment

Criteria of ecosystem classification:
- Important Plant Areas;
- Important Bird Areas;
- Criteria of the core areas of national and local ecological networks.

Indicators of social-ecological classes of HNVF:
Positive indicators: -4
Negative indicators: -3
Main results of the evaluation

Fig.1. Share of agricultural lands and HNVF according to the expert estimation (per cents)

[Bar chart showing the share of agricultural lands and HNVF in different countries.]

- Expert estimation of HNVF ratio in the total territory of the country
- Agricultural lands ration in the total territory of the country
Main results of the evaluation

Fig. 2. Evaluation of HNVF share among the protected natural areas (per cents)
Specific lessons

- HNVF provide living space for tremendous number of globally and regionally endangered species.
- HNVF have a great importance for national food security and rural wellbeing.
- Their assessment requires information that is little available or missing.
- Abandonment and intensification as directions of agriculture are not recognized as serious problems in the sub-region for the moment.
- If States are not implementing Kyiv Resolution, then there are no HNVF in the sub-region, and if there are HNVF…

- Principles and criteria link HNVF and ecological network.
- Universality of principles of HNVF attribution connects EECCA sub-region and Pan Europe as much as Governments are ready to conserve natural national and Pan-European heritage.
- HNVF are resources, and efficiency of their management is the indicator of the wish and capacity to finish the transition period.
Recommendations for governments and donor-organisations:

- recognize legally the concept of agricultural lands’ multifunction, removing arable land priority and introducing provisions for grassland wise use;
- recognize officially, create registration and introduce HNVF in land use planning;
- recognize true HNVF management as priority and speed up the creation of relevant protected areas and ecological networks;
- elaborate the common for EECCA methodical basis and fulfill programs on identification of HNVF in each country;
- draw special attention to the Kyiv Resolution, development of common HNVF identification procedure for Pan-Europe, in collaboration with UNEP, UNDP, FAO, ECO-Forum and IUCN;
- include a special section in the Environment Strategy for EECCA countries.