
Thematic Group on Landscape Features and Biodiversity

Second meeting | 15 December 2022

Agenda

The farmed landscape has a large role to play in conserving and restoring biodiversity levels across Europe. Continued ecosystem degradation has led to the [European Green Deal](#) calling for sustainable food systems in the [Farm to Fork Strategy](#) and enhanced protection of natural resources in agricultural landscapes in the [Biodiversity Strategy 2030](#). The latter sets the target for 10% of agricultural land to incorporate landscape features, or non-productive areas which provide ecosystem services and support biodiversity. The proposed [Nature Restoration Regulation](#) also targets the maintenance and creation of landscape features, such as 'buffer strips, rotational or non-rotational fallow land, hedgerows, individual or groups of trees, tree rows, field margins, patches, ditches, streams, small wetlands, terraces, cairns, stone walls, small ponds and cultural features'.


The CAP Strategic Plans will be a key tool to promote improved maintenance, restoration and creation of landscape features in agricultural landscapes through conditionality (Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition (GAEC) 8) and additional funding within eco-schemes under Pillar 1 and EAFRD-funded agri-environment-climate measures under Pillar 2 targeting various landscape features.

The meeting will focus on ways to encourage greater maintenance, restoration, creation of landscape features to meet the Biodiversity Strategy target through farmer buy-in, Member State examples on how to design schemes which maximise diversity of landscape features and benefits for biodiversity, and issues that need to be addressed for successful scheme design and to increase engagement and action.

Aims of the meeting

- Feedback from the discussion group on the economic benefits of landscape features to consolidate key messages and recommendations;
- Learn from TG members' experiences of successful scheme design for landscape features; and
- Discuss the key factors that must be in place for the design of successful measures to stimulate the management, restoration and creation of landscape features to enhance biodiversity and deliver ecosystem services.



Timing 	15 December 2022 Agenda Items
8.30	<i>Registration – virtual meeting room opens</i>
9.00 – 9.25	Opening – welcome, recap and objectives for the meeting
9.25 – 9.55	Multiple benefits of landscape features <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andreas Gumbert, <i>DG ENV</i> – Importance of landscape features to promote biodiversity and habitat connectivity • Q&A
9.55 – 10.35	Successful scheme design MS examples of schemes promoting landscape features, encouraging greater diversity as well as biodiversity and other ecosystem service benefits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alvaro Perez Ruiz, <i>Service Public de Wallonie (agriculture, natural resources, environment)</i>, BE-Wallonia • Antonella Trisorio, <i>Council for Agricultural Research and Agricultural Economic Analysis (CREA)</i>, Italy • Reflections – Gregorio Davila Diaz, <i>DG AGRI</i> & Andreas Gumbert, <i>DG ENV</i> • Q&A
10.35 – 10.50	<i>Coffee break</i>
10.50 – 12.00	Key factors for successful scheme design and engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group discussions • Feedback in plenary • Development of key messages and recommendations
12.00 – 12.45	Closing panel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karolien Michiel, <i>Flemish Land Agency</i>, BE-Flanders • Lenka Svobodova, <i>Ministry of Agriculture</i>, Czechia • Karin Ellerman-Kuegler, <i>Verband der Landwirtschaftskammern (VLK)</i>, Germany • Aidan Mullally, <i>Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine</i>, Ireland
12.45 – 13.00	Concluding Remarks and Next Steps

