

# High Nature Value farmland indicator(s) - Approaches and use

# Introduction

*HNV farmland* refers to farmland characterised by the presence of particular land cover types and patterns (especially semi-natural vegetation and low-intensity crop mosaics) which indicate that this farmland is valuable for nature conservation. The presence of populations of particular wildlife species may also provide this indication. HNV farmland may exist at different scales, from the individual parcel to an entire landscape.

HNV *farming* is the land management activity that creates HNV *farmland*.

EEA / JRC work has focused on creating a spatial area estimate for HNV farmland at EU level.

This allows to compare distribution and share between countries and regions. And it allows to track trends in extent over time.

# HNV Farmland Indicator I

The current EU level approach is the result of work of JRC and EEA staff together with country experts

First published in 2008, since then updated as input data have changed.

Currently undergoing a methodological review.



## High Nature Value Farmland in Europe

An estimate of the distribution patterns on the basis of land cover and biodiversity data

Maria Luisa Paracchini, Jan-Erik Petersen,  
Ybele Hoogeveen, Catharina Bamps,  
Ian Burfield, Chris van Swaay



EUR 23480 EN - 2008



# HNV Farmland Indicator II

## HNV farmland typology:

**Type 1** Farmland with a high proportion of semi-natural vegetation

**Type 2** Farmland with a mosaic of low intensity agriculture and natural and structural elements, such as field margins, hedgerows, stone walls, patches of woodland or scrub, small rivers etc

**Type 3** Farmland supporting rare species or a high proportion of European or World populations

# HNV Farmland Indicator III

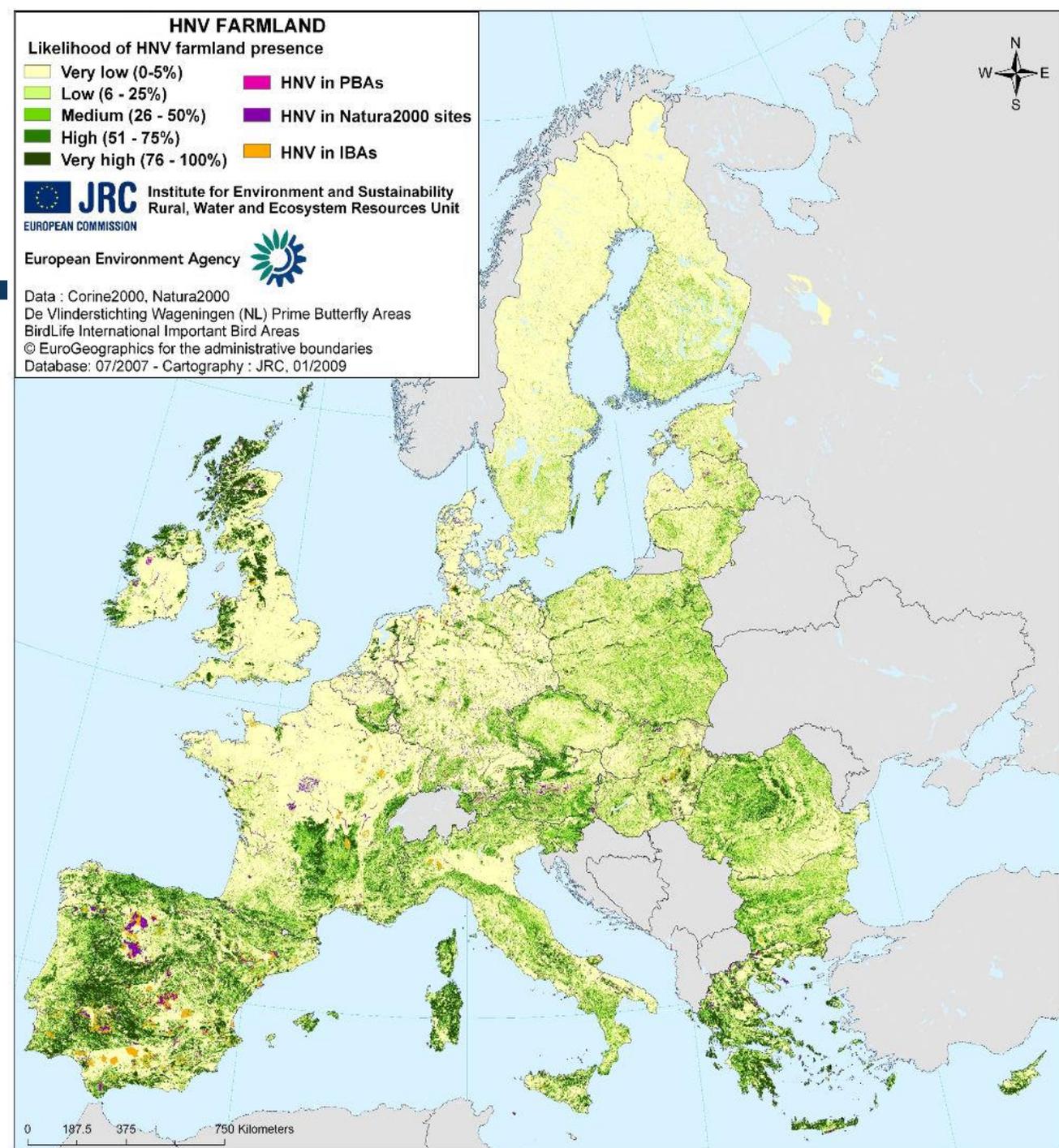
EU approach is based on:

Corine land cover

N2000, Important Bird +  
Butterfly areas

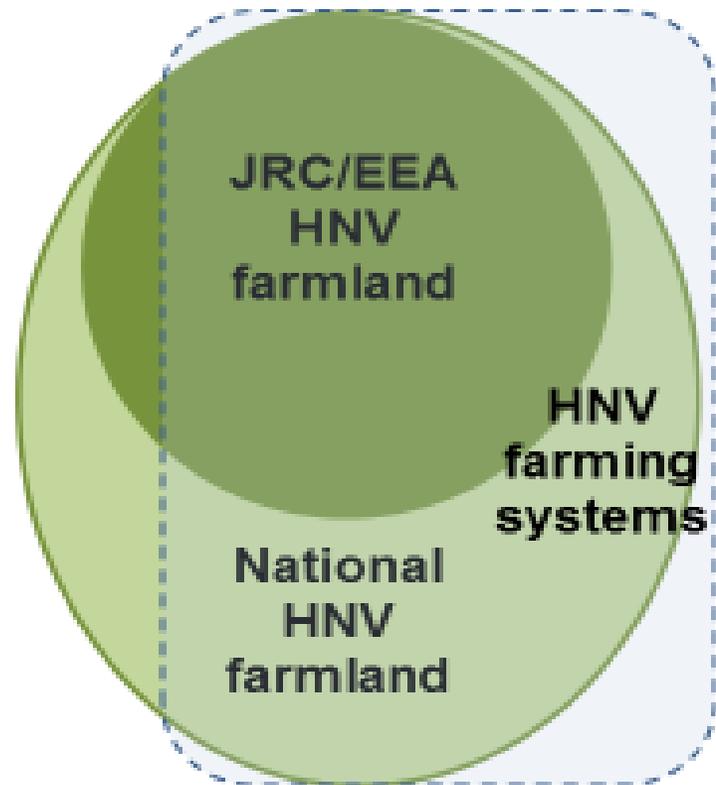
National data for a few  
countries

Expert assessment for  
interpreting CLC classes  
as 'High Nature Value'



# HNV Farmland Indicator IV

## Types of 'HNVF'



**'HNV farming' comprises:**

***JRC/EEA 'EU' HNV farmland:***

European definition, focus on extent & trend, analytical use at EU level

***National HNV farmland:*** national definition, focus on extent & trend, analytical use at national level and/or in RDP context

***HNV farming systems:*** focus on identifying farm system characteristics (land use & practices) that support High Nature Value

# Use of HNV Indicators

- EEA/ JRC HNV indicator is part, of e.g. the set of Agri-environmental indicators.
- EEA/ JRC HNV indicator was used as CAP indicator in the period 2007 – 2013.
- In the period 2014 – 2020, Member States have been asked to develop an HNV farming indicator.
- For the CAP post 2020, no HNV farmland/farming indicator is foreseen in the current version of the legal proposal.

# Use of HNV Indicators II

- Selecting an approach to an indicator, depends on purpose it should serve.
- Strengths and weaknesses of HNV farmland indicator:
  - Common approach applied to all countries covered.
  - Consistent timeseries, which are continued independently from policy decisions.
  - Indicator assesses the “likelihood of presence of HNV farmland”.
  - For monitoring impacts of policies along one funding period not sensitive enough (too coarse, update frequency too low in the past).
  - Can be used as context indicator to inform policy-makers, where intervention is needed.

# Use of HNV Indicators III

- Strengths and weaknesses of the HNV farming indicator(s):
  - Approaches applied by Member States vary; comparison of trends between countries only possible by means of indexing.
  - National approaches allow the indicator to be assessed with more detailed data and to be updated more frequently.
  - Approaches tend to be more related to the farming practices actually applied.

# Final Remarks & Questions

- Corine data set, the main input to the HNV farmland indicator, does not cover all countries being member of the Carpathian Convention.
- Which purpose should an HNV farmland/ farming indicator for the Carpathians serve?
- What is the link to SARD Protocol, where it is referred to “HNV farming”?

**Thank you for your attention!**

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