



**PRACTICE ABSTRACT No 4**

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**Country/Region**

UK (Northwest England)  
France (Pyrenees)

**Collective approaches to agri-environmental management in the Pyrenees (France) and Northwest England (UK)**

Collective approaches to agri-environmental management are increasingly important. They include both, the collective contracts and collaboration that occurs as part of designing, administering and managing different agri-environmental contracts.

The Pyrenees in France and Northwest England share many characteristics, with land use dominated by pastoral/ grazing systems (sheep, cattle), low population density and high-value landscapes. Challenges include diverse grazing patterns, land abandonment vs overgrazing, generational changes, farming profitability and development pressures.

Key to understanding the collective arrangements is the recognition of both formal contracting and informal traditional practices of collaboration. In both cases, the principle of (individual) agri-environmental contracts has been extended to cover areas of collectively managed land. The contracts available to collective managers through AES require substantial input:

- 1) from them to recruit participants/ farmers/ shepherds and coordinate new practices
- 2) from facilitators to negotiate shared objectives between stakeholders.

However, these transaction costs are poorly recognised and compensated under current contracting arrangements. The flexibility required in grazing management and existing informal arrangements is incompatible with rigid administrative requirements. Management rights are complicated by other layers of authority and ownership. These interrelated institutional, economic and socio-cultural factors will also play a role in the delivery of environmental public goods in other contexts; they need to be taken into account to achieve intended outcomes. More information: [katrin.prager@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:katrin.prager@abdn.ac.uk)

This Practice Abstract is based on a more detailed Research note ([EN](#) & [FR](#)) (Dodsworth et al., Dec 2020).



Shepherd in the Pyrenees © S. Harvard



Uplands in Northwest England © J. Dodsworth

## ABOUT CONTRACTS2.0

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Contracts2.0 aims to develop innovative contract-based solutions, which increase the motivation for farmers and land managers to produce more environmental public goods and allow them to reconcile the profitability of their farms with sustainability objectives. To do so, 28 research and practice partners closely cooperate to co-design and evaluate the novel contracts. Lessons learned from successfully tested contracts will also provide support for policy makers on local, national and EU-Level.

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### Research partners



### Action partners



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All Practice Abstracts prepared by the contracts2.0 project can be found here:

<https://www.project-contracts20.eu/publications/in-brief/> & <https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/search/site/contracts2.0>