

Hautes-Pyrénées (FR)

The Region

In France, collective land managers are entitled to contract agri-environmental measures since 1992. Today, 1,068 of them do contract one or two AECMs (Herbe 09 or SHP 02) over more than 200,000 ha. These collective lands are mostly localised in the mountains' highlands or the coastal wetlands and managed through pastoral livestock practices.

Contracting of two AECMs by collective land managers in France (2019).

	Herbe 09	SHP 02	Total
Nb collective contractors	437	985	1 068
Contracted area (ha)	55 000	226 000	n.a.

Source: INRAE-ODR

CIL Hautes-Pyrénées covers a region that is characterised by mountain livestock farming and transhumance practices, relatively low population densities and valuable cultural landscapes characterized by multiple uses (production of



cheese/meat as well as recreational activities). The CIL Hautes-Pyrénées mobilizes collective land managers.

These collective entities managing the pastoral domain, and contracting MAEC are either:

- Landowners (municipalities, pastoral land associations) or
- Farmers' associations of farmers (pastoral groups), users of these summer highlands

Challenge: The specificities of these collectives and their territories have not been taken into account in previous or current agri-environmental schemes: collective MAECs are often a simple transposition of the ones proposed to individual farms. The Cils objective is to reconsider agri-environmental contracts not only through their design principles but through the implementation process so that an adaptive and integrated management of collective pastoral areas are promoted.

Contact CIL Hautes-Pyrénées

- Groupement d'Intérêt Public - Centre de Ressources sur le Pastoralisme et la Gestion de l'Espace (GIP-CRPG) / *Didier Buffier* ✉ didier.buffiere@gip-crpge.com
- Centre de coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement (CIRAD) *Céline Dutilly*, ✉ celine.dutilly@cirad.fr



Hautes-Pyrénées (FR)

Objective – Vision for the future

The “dream mountain” is made of a multitude of open environments (lawns, high meadows) and closed environments (chestnut forests, fir trees). Grazing contributes to the conservation of these landscapes, including areas that are difficult to access. Shrubs encroachment which are habitats for wild fauna is controlled, this landscape mosaic is a hotspot of biodiversity. Small and large herds of various domestic species (sheep, cows, goats, horses, donkeys) circulate in dedicated areas, each contributes to maintain the environment according to a suitable guarding method and according to “his tooth and his digestive system”. Collective land managers coordinate the work of shepherds and breeders.

The highlands are lively, connected to the valley’s villages. They welcome a diversity of “local” and “outsider” mountain users (breeders, hikers, hunters, naturalists, etc.). The multiple uses of this exceptional space is based on the adoption and promotion of common values and a dialogue based on mutual recognition of everyone's knowledge and experiences. The “dream mountain” is dynamic; a bearer of traditions, it is also a place of innovation. It is constantly evolving according to climatic conditions and the redistribution of uses. Under these conditions, it contributes to the development of economic activities producing quality products in a healthy environment where the animals are well fed and in good health. It is attractive to breeders and shepherds who find good working conditions, which facilitates the renewal of farmer generations.



© Solène Harvard

Hautes-Pyrénées (FR)

Potential Contract Solution (“Dream Contract”)

The dream contract is designed following a global approach mobilizing the knowledge of experts and local actors. Its implementation relies on the flexibility of practices and the recognition of experiencing.

Objective

The environmental objectives cannot be defined in a top-down manner. Their identification will be the result from a shared understanding of pastoral and ecological challenges by experts and local actors (farmers, sheepherds, elected persons, hunters, forest / protected areas managers, etc.). The overall objective is to maintain the tradition of transhumance and an adapted herd management practices in order to maintain open landscapes and the associated mosaics of vegetation rich in biodiversity.

Measures

Three levels of commitment are considered:

- (A) Maintaining current collective management (and limit further land abandonment and natural reforestation)
- (B) Reopening pastoral land (reconquest)
- (C) Fine-tuned integrated environmental management with possible experimentation of new practices characterized by hazardous impacts.

Actors & Structure

Working groups - composed of experts and various local actors at the local and district levels- prioritises environmental issues, co-edit a pastoral management plan with the appropriate pastoral practices and identify suitable indicators. In parallel, collective land managers update the internal collective grazing rules and edits a charta to be signed by individual breeders. Two intermediaries (a pastoral expert and an ecologist one) are funded to facilitate the entire contractual process:

- Upstream: to realise the eco-pastoral diagnostic, support the creation of the local working group, advise on the environmental priorities and the adapted practices to be contracted accordingly, co-edit the management plan
- Downstream: to facilitate annual meetings for monitoring and adapting the practices, facilitate the reporting to the administration

Contract Type

- PES / Agri-environment- & climate measures



Contract Features

- Collective implementation
- Action-based Payments



Targeted Public Goods

Biodiversity

Cultural Heritage

Landscape & Scenery

Hautes-Pyrénées (FR)

Contract Duration

Ideal Contract length: 2–7 years depending of the type of commitment. However the programs/schemes must be stabilised over the long term.

Payments

The payments are mainly public. It is based on a mixed incentive system that:

- **Rewards** existing good collective practices and the associated internal coordination costs of the pastoral e collectives (commitment level A)
- **Compensates** for the costs associated with greater commitments and efforts as well as increased internal and external coordination costs (levels B and C).

Monitoring and control

A process of participatory monitoring and evaluation of commitments will serve to enrich a quality approach rather than serving a single point of control. A combination of practices and results indicators are intended to be monitored.

Expected Benefits

Social/Ecological Advantages

Other actors/stakeholders (tourists, hunters, forest managers, naturalists, etc.) will benefit from a maintained and very attractive landscape keeping up the traditional land use of the region.

Advantages for Farmers

Depending on internal distribution rule: partly financial, but mostly non-financial and indirect (e.g., collective funding of guarding, financing collective infrastructures).

More information is available by reading this [Factsheet](#) or listening this [podcast](#).