



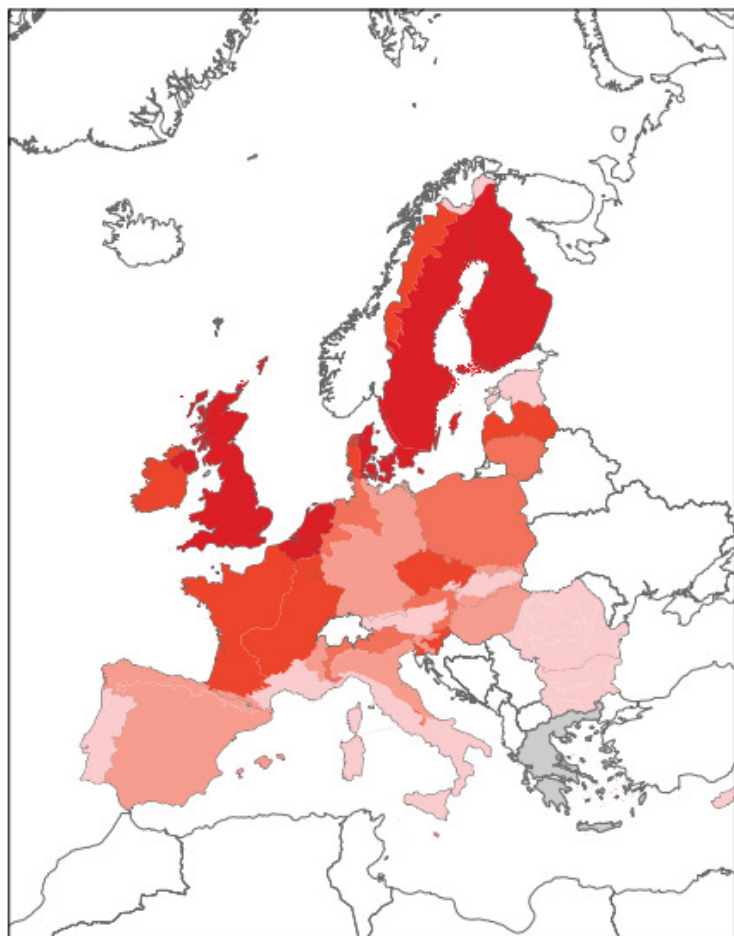
Farmland biodiversity is declining in the NSR
Who cares?!

...and what can we do about it?

For the PARTRIDGE partnership
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The Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust
PARTRIDGE Lead Partner



The Problem: Farmland biodiversity continues to decline across Europe



Proportion of habitats linked to MAES agricultural ecosystems assessed as 'unfavourable-bad' in Member State reports



The situation is particularly bad in the NSR

Source: EEA (European Economic Area), 2015b, Article 17 reports and assessments
MAES = Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystems and their Services

The good intention

Target 3a (EU biodiversity strategy to 2020)

Increase the contribution of Agriculture to maintaining and enhancing biodiversity

The EU cares!



The Reality

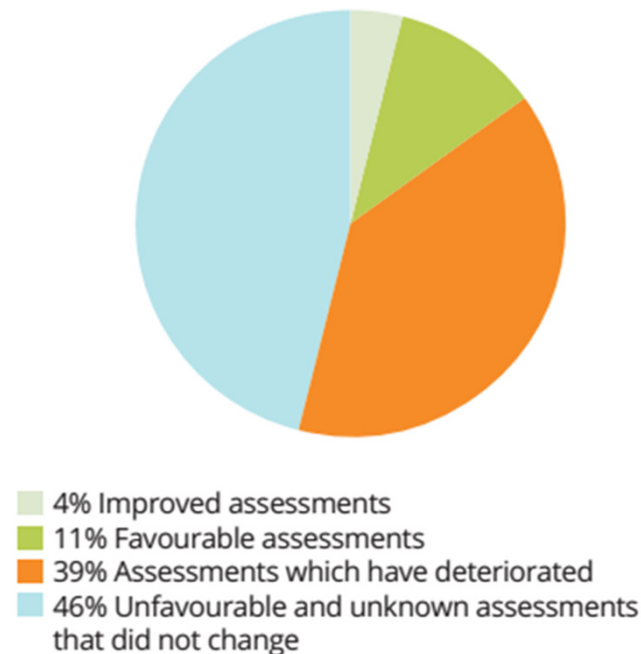
The Mid-term review of the EU biodiversity strategy to 2020 states:

Intensive agriculture is still a major pressure

There has been no measurable improvement in the status of agriculture-related habitats and species covered by the nature legislation.

There appears to be no working solution in place!

Change in conservation status of agriculture-related habitats



The Reasons

1. The CAP is not reversing biodiversity loss

2. Intensification of agriculture continues

1. Habitat loss
2. Pesticide use
3. Block cropping
4. Reduction in winter food
5. Increase in generalist predators

3. Little cooperation between nations

Everyone is trying to reinvent the wheel

This costs money and time and benefits no one



Our Approach

Demonstrate working solutions at 10 demonstration sites (500ha) across four countries in the NSR

- 1) Get a wide range of rural stakeholders to work together,
- 2) Design and implement a management plan that is tailored to the Grey Partridge and which therefore suits farmland biodiversity in general.

The Grey Partridge is a bioindicator for diverse arable landscapes





Where we work

10 demonstration sites

2 sites each in Scotland,
England, Netherlands,
Belgium & Germany

Interreg VB North Sea Region Programme Area 2014-2020

Regions within the NSR programme area



Who will do it



Steering group (15 members)



UK

Lead partner



'Outstations'



BE

Coordinating
partners

INSTITUUT
NATUUR- EN
BOSONDERZOEK



Sub-partners



eco agrobeheercentrum

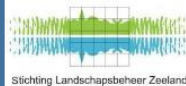


NL

Coordinating
partner



Sub-partners



D

Coordinating
partner



Sub-partner



Stakeholder groups

Members of
cluster farm
groups

NGO's, Farm
advisory
organisations,
hunters, citizens,
etc.

National, regional
and local relevant
agencies

DK, S, NO

What will we do

At each demonstration site at least 7% of high-quality habitat will be implemented

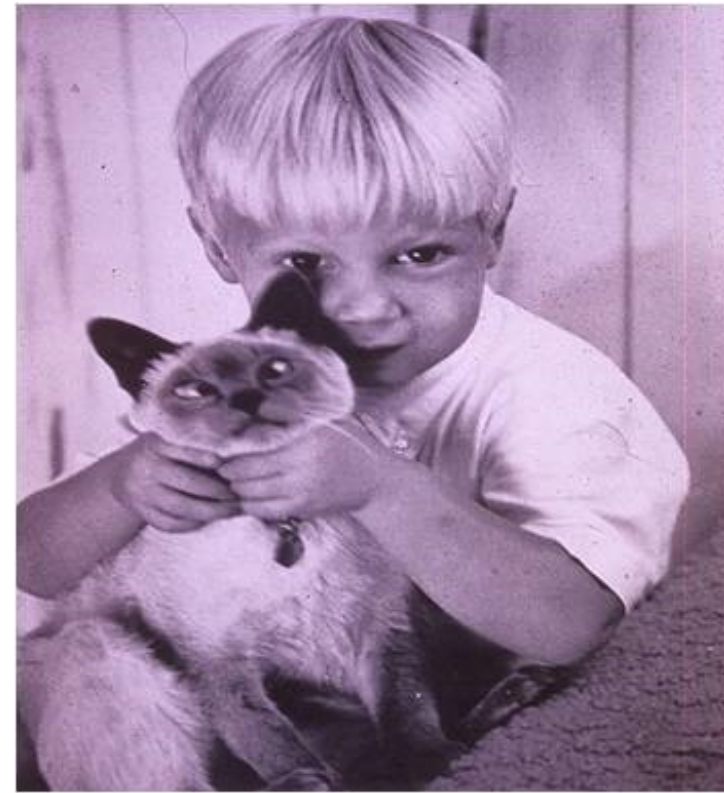


High quality habitat will be provided mainly through wild bird mixes
(flower strips or blocks)



What will we do

Additional management will be provided by supplementary feeding & legal predator management



By 2020 we expect a 30% increase in biodiversity indicators, such as Grey Partridge, Brown hare and farmland birds



Our key objective

Facilitate long-term change to improve farmland biodiversity

1. On local and regional level ➡ Among farmers and other rural stakeholders
2. On national level ➡ Among environmental agencies
3. On European level ➡ Influence next CAP



Discussion

Questions?

Practical examples of successful solutions that restore farmland biodiversity from your own experience?

Any other suggestions?

The Solution

Agri-environmental schemes only improve biodiversity where:

- 1) A range of suitable habitat options are available and are implemented
- 2) The Scheme is implemented in a large enough area
- 3) The management plan is well thought out
- 4) A wide range of rural stakeholders are involved
- 5) The agreement is flexible enough to allow changes during the agreement period
- 6) The farmer receives regular advice by an expert
- 7) The Scheme takes into consideration the attitudes of farmers