



OSCAR



Optimal Strategies for Climate change
Action in Rural areas

Project Summary

The OSCAR Project

Climate change is now widely recognised as one of the greatest threats facing the world today, with human activities making a significant contribution to increased concentrations of atmospheric greenhouse gases (GHGs), with serious implications for our future climate, food and water security, as well as disease pressures and biodiversity impacts. As a result it has become imperative that the twin objectives of climate change policy, namely mitigation and adaptation, are taken into account during the development of policies and programmes of all sorts, not least those with implications for the rural environment and communities.



Chief amongst these over the next few years will be the Rural Development Programmes (RDPs) being developed for implementation in the post-2013 period. As a result, DG CLIMA of the European Commission engaged an international team of researchers, led by the Agriculture and Environment Research Unit (AERU) at the University of Hertfordshire, to develop procedures for integrating climate change policy objectives into those for rural development. The OSCAR project team has therefore completed an extensive review of published and other sources, together with case-studies in the UK, France and Poland, to develop a Manual and complementary Decision Support Tool to assist Managing Authorities in the development of climate change sensitive programmes.



The OSCAR Manual & Software

The OSCAR Manual and Software have been developed to serve as practical tools which Managing Authorities may make use of whilst formulating their RDPs, such that as well as fulfilling a rural development role, they can make a vital contribution towards Member State greenhouse gas emission targets and wider climate change objectives. A step-by-step procedure for achieving this is both described and fully supported by an extensive decision support system, allowing complex environmental interactions to be assessed and considered within high level policy development procedures. Both the Manual and Software are free to download, and can be obtained by visiting the OSCAR website.

Further Details

If you would like further details about the OSCAR Project and/or to join the mailing list, visit the OSCAR website at:

<http://sitem.herts.ac.uk/aeru/oscar>

Or contact the project team at:

AERU, University of Hertfordshire, College Lane,
Hatfield, Herts., AL10 9AB, UK.

Email: aeru@herts.ac.uk

Tel.: +44 1707 284548

