



Participant Information Sheet

1. Research Project Title

“Understanding and resolving conflicts between food security and biodiversity conservation under uncertainty.” **(ConFooBio)**. ConFooBio is a five-year project (2017-2021) that is funded by the European Research Council.

2. Aims of project and research methods

ConFooBio is run by the University of Stirling (UK) and aims to identify more effective land management strategies from a better understanding of farmers’ preferences. To that end, we would like to invite you to take part in our research survey that will consist of interactive games and short questionnaire that will take about 90 minutes. The interactive games will be played in a group of four participants on tablet computers, each participant is a land manager representing one farm. The games do not require any particular levels of literacy or numeracy skills.

3. Do I have to take part?

No. You do not have to take part, and your participation will not be discussed with any other people. If you do decide to take part, you can withdraw your participation at any time without needing to explain and without penalty. You can also ask to withdraw your data within one month of participating in the study. You will be given this information sheet to keep, and be asked to sign a consent form.

4. Are there any potential risks in taking part?

There is no potential for physical harm for those involved in the research. Although a potential risk may come from the fact that some activities which we will be exploring in this study are not prescribed by current legislations. To reduce this potential risk and the potential stress associated with this, we will not share your personal details or personal views with anyone else and your identity will be saved using identifier codes stored separately from the data. In addition, we will not reveal organisation or township names in our research reports or scientific publications.

5. Are there any benefits in taking part?

You will help us understand land and wildlife management in Scotland. Anonymised data from this study will be useful in discussions of conflict management strategies and can provide critical evidence base with important policy implications. However please note that we are conducting independent research, i.e. we are independent of governmental or conservation organisations and thus we have neutral views with regard to policy decisions about land and wildlife management.

6. What happens to the data I provide?

All research data will be kept anonymous. Before we publish any results, your name and town/village name will be coded so they cannot be identified. Your consent form will be stored separately to the responses you provide in the games and questionnaire so that you cannot be identified from your signature.

7. Will the research be published?

The research will be published in reports and scientific journals. You will not be identifiable in any report/publication.

8. Who has reviewed this research project?

This project has been ethically approved by the University of Stirling General University Ethics Panel.

9. Who do I contact if I have concerns about this study or I wish to complain?

If you would like to discuss the research with someone, please contact Dr Sarobidy Rakotonarivo (saro.rakotonarivo@stir.ac.uk).

Thank you for your participation.