Natura 2000: opportunities for sustainable tourism embracing natural and cultural heritage in nature protected areas.

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Natura 2000 network: Why are we proud of it?

- Established under the EU nature directives
- Largest coordinated network of protected sites in the world
- More than 27500 protected sites across the EU
- 18% of EU territory and 9,5% of EU seas
- Human activities are not excluded - wider concept of conservation and sustainable use
Socio-economic benefits of the Natura 2000 network

- Wide range of benefits including tourism, recreation, education, knowledge, employment opportunities, social cohesion, health benefits, aesthetic pleasure etc...

- Key to create support for the network, including ensuring resources for its management
Natura 2000 Awards

NEW CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: 21 May 2019

• Conservation
• Socio-Economic Benefits
• Communication

• Reconciling Interests and Perceptions
• Cross-Border Cooperation and Networking

Examples of 2018 finalists

European citizens’ award
School of Nature, Portugal

Finalist - socioeconomic benefits category
Magic autumn at Ambroz Valley, Spain
EU action plan for nature, people & the economy

- 4 key priorities
- 15 Actions
- More than 100 measures
- Timeframe 2017-2019
- Key Actors: MS, COM, CoR, EIB, EEA, Stakeholders

Overlap of World heritage sites with the Natura 2000 network

In total, almost half (ca 170 sites) of all World Heritage Sites in the EU are in, or within 2 km of, a Natura 2000.

27 of the 29 natural and mixed World Heritage Sites in the EU overlap with Natura 2000 sites.

20% of the 336 cultural WHS in the EU, are located partly or fully in Natura 2000.

A further 75 cultural WHS are within walking distance of a Natura 2000 (2km).
Links of natural & cultural heritage

- Bring similar socio-economic benefits
- Subject to similar threats & pressures
- Face common challenges, e.g. lack of adequate financial resources

- Join forces - joint projects - a potential win-win
  - Tackle common challenges
  - Help find solutions to potential areas of conflict
  - Increase chances of EU financial support
Examples of EU Funded projects

INTERREG

- **Austria/ Slovenia**:
  3 castles, 2 countries, 1 story:
  creating a sustainable cultural touristic destination in a cross border nature area

EAFRD

- **Finland**: Sustainable Tourism Development Strategy in the Kvarken Archipelago WH/Natura 2000 site

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Examples of EU Funded projects

**EMFF WildSea Atlantic Ocean Heritage Route**
develop the first European sustainable diving route and network of dive sites based on their natural and cultural heritage

**GeoparkLIFE project Burren Tourism, Ireland**
Reconcile tourism development with the conservation of natural and cultural heritage
Key recommendations for a more integrated approach to natural and cultural heritage management

Integrated planning and management

✓ Natura 2000 management plans as a starting point
✓ Appropriate Assessment procedure – a legal framework to evaluate the impact of plans or projects
Key recommendations for a more integrated approach to natural and cultural heritage management

**Improve communication and dialogue**
- Exchange information, identify areas of synergies
- Raise awareness for socio-economic benefits and importance of natural and cultural heritage as part of wider sustainable development
- Share experiences through good practice and capacity building
MORE INFORMATION

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Thank you for your attention!