





# **REPORT**

**ON THE** 

# Natura 2000 in Practice

# Virtual Summer School

7-17 June 2021









Photo credits: G. Trentanovi & T. Campagnaro

as part of the
LIFE e-Natura2000.edu
Supporting e-learning and capacity building for Natura 2000 managers











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Supporting e-learning and capacity building for Natura 2000 Managers





The project and all actions are made possible with support from the LIFE financial instrument of the European Community



















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# Introduction: A first Virtual Summer School on Natura 2000 management

Between the 7<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of June 2021 the "Natura 2000 in Practice" Virtual Summer School was held by the Department Land, Environment, Agriculture and Forestry (TESAF) of the University of Padova for managers of Natura 2000 sites. As a part of the LIFE e-Natura2000.edu project, it capitalises on the experience gained by the project partners, who have collaborated throughout the project and in the identification and selection of participants for the summer school. The Virtual Summer School was an event with important expectations after more than one year of postponements due to the pandemic outbreak.

The Virtual Summer School aimed to disseminate in-depth knowledge on innovative aspects related to the management of Natura 2000 sites and develop practical, technical skills among participants on the ecological and planning tools towards the appropriate management of these protected areas.

A number of different tools were used to convey all information for the Virtual Summer School (Figure 1). All materials (registrations, videos, documents, weblinks, forum, etc.) were made available on a dedicated Moodle page and most of the sessions were conducted on zoom. Virtual field visits were presented by means of specific videos and related online maps.







Figure 1: Three moments of the Virtual Summer School: i) a scene during the virtual field visit (video), ii) a zoom discussion and iii) the closing slide of the first day live session









# 2. The (Virtual) Summer School: the development process

In this section the timeline to organise the Virtual Summer School is presented (Figure 2). The Virtual Summer School eventually took place following more than one year of activities, which started in 2019. The original aim had been to organise a face-to-face event in April 2020.



Figure 2: The changes in time of the Summer School organisation due to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Between 2019 and 2020, many activities were carried out to plan for the face-to-face School. This step was developed to coincide with a co-funding opportunity from the University of Padova specifically related to the organisation of international summer schools. In January 2019, TESAF members of the LIFE e-Natura2000.edu project applied to an internal call for proposals, which was subsequently approved.

The original period identified for the Spring Summer School was from 5 to 10 April 2020 and the one-week programme consisted of 6 hours lectures over 5-days: 3 lectures were to be held in Legnaro and one each in the field in two Natura 2000 sites. The call for applicants and selection of participants occurred in the first two months of 2020. A draft programme was prepared (Figure 3).







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# Draft Programme NOTE THAT TIMINGS WITHIN THE PROGRAMME ARE INDIGATIVE... DAY 0: Sunday 05 April 2020 — arrival in Padova 20.00 Social Dinner NB. ONLY THE VENUE FOR DAY 1, DAY 1, AND DAY 1 IS IN LEGNARO (AGRIPOLIS CAMPUS) — FOR DAY 2 AND DAY 4, BUS TRANSFERS WILL BE ARRANGED TO TAKE PEOPLE FROM PADOVA TO THE VENUE AND RETURN TO PADOVA. DAY 1: Monday 06 April 2020 VENUE: Agripolis, Viale dell'Universita, 16, 35020 Legnaro (PD) Time Activity Location / Session objective 08.3009.00 to 13.00 Coffee will be available! Room 12 P 15 Tommaso Sitzle — introduction to school objective 1 h Nell Molnicah — introduction of LIFE e-natura 2000.edu 2 h Doug Evans — Short history of the Habitats Directive and Issue of habitat identification 13.00 to 14.00 to 14.00 to 14.00 to 17.00 Coffee will be available! 2 Doug Evans — Reporting under article 17 1 h Thomaso Campagnaro — SDF and

Figure 3: Excerpt of draft programme for the original face-to-face Spring School foreseen in April 2020

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic spread quickly in Italy with consequent important legal restrictions in the organisation of networking events and gatherings. On the 5<sup>th</sup> of March, the organising committee decided to postpone this event as a result of national regulations, which meant that it would not be possible to take place. At the same time, international travel was being monitored and it became clear that the rapidly evolving situation would prohibit participation. On the March 6<sup>th</sup> an e-mail about this decision was sent to all selected participants postponing the event to September 2020 and asking for confirmation to participate (Box 1).

Box 1: Text of the e-mail sent to postpone the School

"Dear Participant,

The current COVID-19 outbreak is pressing national and international organisations to put in place extraordinary measures. These are influencing teaching and research activities unpredictably. Over and above this, in the last few days, many flights have been cancelled to northern Italy, several organisations are not permitting staff to travel to affected areas and, locally, networking events have been suspended until 4 April. Unfortunately, we have no control over this developing situation and must take into account the various factors involved.

Therefore, in light of such developments and with sincere regret, we have no alternative other than to act prudently and postpone the Spring School that was scheduled between the 6th and 10th of April.

However, we confirm that the School is now rescheduled to take place between 7 and 11 September 2020.

We understand the convenience that this may cause, but we will still very much welcome your participation! As such,











we would appreciate your acceptance that the alternative dates are suitable for you – please confirm your intention to participate in the rescheduled School to me **before 13 March 2020**.

For those of you who may already have booked travel, in most cases your travel company is likely to enable you to rebook free of charge. Equally, for any hotel bookings you may already have made, please contact your accommodation as soon as possible to alter your booking – again, this is like to be free of charge. In any event where you may incur costs or additional charges, you should check your travel insurance to see if you would be eligible to make a claim – again, given the exceptional circumstances, this may be possible. In any event, for all matters connected to possible reimbursement of incurred costs, please contact my colleague Neil McIntosh (neil.mcintosh@europarc.org). Any potential reimbursements will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis depending on the circumstances involved.

Once again and just to emphasise, we have taken this decision to ensure that the integrity and original purpose of the event can be fully maintained. We hope to see you in September!

Best regards,

Thomas Campagnaro and Tommaso Sitzia (on behalf of the organising group)"

In July 2020, a further invitation e-mail to the Summer School was sent to those participants who had previously registered requesting their confirmation by 17 July that they would be willing and able to attend in September. However, strong uncertainties remained about the possibility or indeed the desirability of organising the event in September 2020. This was also evidenced by the feedback from the potential participants. Due to these factors, the organising committee took the decision to postpone the event for a second time: an e-mail was sent on 21 July 2020 indicating the intent to organise the School in Spring 2021.

For 2021, the initial periods under consideration were 21 to 26 March or 28 March to 2 April. However, due to continuous regulatory restrictions and the uncertainties around COVID, it was decided to develop a Virtual Summer School to take place in June 2021. Unfortunately, by this time, it was not possible to retain the co-finding from the University of Padova: the only way the Summer School could have been performed before the end of the LIFE project was as a virtual event.

To organise the Virtual Summer School, all selected participants were contacted asking for their confirmation to participate in a virtual event. Around ten additional places from the initial applicants were invited to participate including private landowners. All trainers were re-contacted and asked to adapt their contribution to a virtual event. Field visits were modified into virtual field visits consisting of videos made for the Virtual Summer School. Several other materials were used and made available on the purpose-built Moodle.









# 3. Application and selection process

Participants to the Summer School were selected as follows. First, together with EUROPARC, and bearing in mind the other selection activities carried out by project partners for the core courses, a Google form was prepared to be filled in by people interested in participating to the initial Spring School.

The online application (Figure 4) was open between 31/01/2020 and 14/02/2020; therefore, only for 15 days. It consisted of open and closed questions related to the following topics: personal data & contact details, background (mainly questions on the knowledge of specific topics and the use of specific tools), brief curriculum vitae, motivation statement, and video dairy (see Annex 1). There were 121 applications (34 nationalities coming from 32 countries). The selection resulted in 21 face-to-face participants.



Figure 4: First part of the Google online questionnaire used for the application to the School

For the postponed face-to-face Summer School (in September 2020), after an e-mail asking for confirmation to participate to the event, only 13 positive replies were received, 5 did not reply and 3 did not confirm their participation due to the concern over the pandemic.

Finally, once the decision of having a virtual event was taken. The 21 originally selected participants were informed by e-mail on 12 March 2021. A number of participants did not confirm or could not guarantee their attendance because of changes in their work position, their involvement in field activities, due to personal vacation, or did not reply. From the 121 that originally applied for the School, 10 additional potential participants were invited. On top of this, with the support of the project partner European Landowners Organization (ELO), 5 'extra' private landowners were invited to participate.











# 4. Participants

In total, 27 participants to the Virtual Summer School were registered (see Annex 2). Attendance to the live virtual learning events was variable (

Table 1) with a mean participation of 17 people per session. Twenty-five out of 27 participants accessed the Moodle page.

Table 1: Number of learners to the live sessions

Live learning session	Number of participants
DAY 1	24
DAY 2	22
DAY 3	16
DAY 4	15
DAY 6	16
DAY 7	9
DAY 8	16

Participants came from a wide variety of European countries (12) and only four countries were represented by more than one participant (Figure 5: Countries represented by participants. Among the countries represented, two are pre-accession countries.

Country	Number	Country	Number
	6	ш	3
+	2	+	2
	1		1
***	1		1
	1		1













Figure 5: Countries represented by participants

More than half of the participants work for a public authority (national, regional or local; Figure 6). Six participants worked for or were private landowners (one of which for a non-governmental organisation that is also landowner) and their organisations are members of the European Landowners' Organization. Nine participants work for an entity that is member of EUROPARC federation.

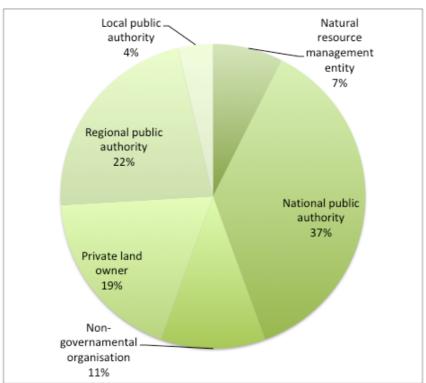


Figure 6: Type of entity for which the participants work











The majority of participants were moderately familiar with the most relevant topics and also with the Natura 2000 standard data form (Table 2).

Table 2: Percentage (%) of replies by participants on their familiarity with topics and tools (from 23 participants)

	Conservation status (%)	Favourable Reference Value (%)	Threats & Pressures (%)	Conservation objectives (%)	Conservation measures (%)	Natura 2000 standard data form (%)
Not at all familiar	0	13	0	0	0	17
Slighlty familiar	9	13	0	13	9	4
Somewhat familiar	30	30	35	9	13	26
Moderately familiar	48	39	26	39	52	35
Extremely familiar	13	4	39	39	26	17

Most participants were occasional users of virtual tools, expect for webinars and smartphone applications with which there was greater familiarity (Table 3).

Table 3: Percentage (%) of replies for different levels on the use of virtual tools (from 23 participants)

Level	Webinars (%)	Online courses (%)	E-learning platforms (Moodle) (%)	Demonstration videos (%)	Smartphone applications (%)
Never used it	17	4	9	13	9
Occasional use	39	43	57	39	22
I'm very familiar	43	52	35	48	70

During the Virtual School, in response to specific requests (via e-mail or chat in zoom), 17 participants reported their willingness to share their contact details. Furthermore, a number of them indicated their willingness to participate in a project related to monitoring actions in Natura 2000 and appropriate assessment that had been shared by one of the participants to the Virtual Summer School.









# 5. Trainers & partners involved

A total of 10 trainers participated in the Virtual Summer School (see Table 4 and programme in Annex 3). The field visit videos involved 4 people from TESAF and one external expert professional in video production.

All LIFE project partners were involved in the Virtual Summer School: i) TESAF and EUROPARC formed the main organising group and had trainers in the live learning sessions; ii) FUNGOBE and ProPark provided one trainer each, and iii) Kullaberg Nature Reserve and European Landowners Organization participated in the live learning sessions. Representatives of all partners accessed the Moodle page of the Virtual Summer School (TESAF 3, EUROPARC 2, FUNGOBE 1, ProPark 1, ELO 1, Kullaberg 3).

Trainers came from Italy, Romania, the UK, France, Spain and the Netherlands, as well as various institutions including private companies, university, freelancers and private foundations.

Table 4: Organisers, trainers and moderators involved in the Virtual Summer School

Name	Affiliation	Role* and involvement in specific activities in the Virtual Summer School
Thomas Campagnaro	Dept. TESAF – Università degli Studi di Padova	Organiser – First day presentation, presenter in the field visit videos, moderator of learning sessions, and preparing and uploading material in Moodle
Tommaso Sitzia	Dept. TESAF – Università degli Studi di Padova	Organiser – First and last day presentations, moderator on the last learning session day, and presenter in the field visit videos
Elisabetta Zanaga	Dept. TESAF – Università degli Studi di Padova	Organiser – Administrative activities
Giovanni Trentanovi	External contractor with Dept. TESAF – Università degli Studi di Padova	Organiser – Preparing material in Moodle
Neil McIntosh	EUROPARC Federation	Organiser – First day presentation and support during all the learning sessions
Douglas Evans	-	Trainer – Day 2
Clive Hurford	Researcher on the Living Wales project team at Aberystwyth University, Wales, UK	Trainer – Day 3







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Diego García Ventura	Fernando González Bernáldez Foundation (FUNGOBE)	Trainer – Day 4
Simone Iacopino	Dept. TESAF – Università degli Studi di Padova	Trainer – Presenter in one of the field visit videos (day 5)
Alina Ioniță	Representing ProPark Foundation for Protected Areas	Trainer – Day 6
Riccardo Da Re	ETIFOR	Trainer – Day 7 and online evaluation moderator
Vito Emanuele Cambria	Sapienza Università di Roma	Trainer – Day 8
Giacomo Laghetto	ETIFOR	Online evaluation moderator
Edoardo Alterio	Dept. TESAF – Università degli Studi di Padova	Support in virtual field visits
Stefania Furlan	External contractor with Dept. TESAF – Università degli Studi di Padova	Video director, shooting and editing (virtual field visits)

<sup>\*</sup> All organisers developed the programme with the support of the trainers











# 6. Tools used

A number of different tools were used to effectively convey all information during the Virtual Summer School. All materials (registrations, videos, documents, weblinks, forum etc.) were made available on the purpose-built Moodle and the live sessions were conducted via zoom (Table 5). MURAL, Zoom Pool and Mentimeter were used to stimulate participation and sharing of ideas. Virtual field visits were presented by means of specifically created videos (made available on Moodle and on Youtube<sup>1</sup>); related online Google maps were also made available via Moodle<sup>2</sup>. These videos regarded monitoring and management of habitat types and habitat of species in two Natura 2000 sites ("Colli Euganei - Monte Lozzo - Monte Ricco" IT3260017 and "Grave e Zone umide della Brenta" IT3260018).

The Moodle page hosts all the materials and recordings of the live sessions (see Annex 4 that reports the main structure of the Moodle). Individual accounts were created for all participants, trainers and the project partners. Passwords were assigned and these were taken from the list of species in Annex II of the Habitats Directive (with the aim of triggering curiosity about the species). A guidance document with instructions to access the Moodle was produced and provided to all users (Annex 5) in advance of the Virtual School.

Reminders about all live sessions were sent in advance through the Announcements section of the Moodle. A Forum section was open for any discussion initiated by the participants. The Moodle page will always be available to participants to continue sharing information and networking. It was decided that the zoom sessions would last not more than two hours. The links to the live zoom events were made available some days before starting the Virtual Summer School in the programme and were reported in each session within the Moodle.

Table 5: Tools/material used in the Moodle part of the Virtual Summer School for the different main topics

Topic	Tools/material
Programme	Pdf file
Kickoff event (day 1)	Text, Zoom (live and) registered session, weblinks [4], video, pdf files [3]
On the Habitats Directive and monitoring (day 2)	Text, Zoom (live and) registered session, weblinks [4], pdf files [5]

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLC650Gb-R3klbtG4uj8PzOsazf2RO4Zc8

https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1Bfmm8h1pjdlWo8uJ8VUY2M0C86PxjUNf&II=45.6738116436609

c3McY gdLw&ll=45.260104874281495%2C11.69907904999997&z=15 and

https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1Bfmm8h1pjdlWo8uJ8VUY2M0C86PxjUNf&ll=45.6738116436609 54%2C11.70580899999974&z=13)





<sup>2</sup>https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=13NHmdBGeTR-MvisqPsTOv-

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=13NHmdBGeTR-MvisqPsTOv-



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Integrating conservation management and monitoring (day 3)	Text, Zoom (live and) registered session, videos [3], pdf file
Setting Favourable Reference Values (day 4)	Text, Zoom (live and) registered session, weblink, videos [2], pdf files [4]
Surveying habitat types and identifying indicators of conservation (day 5)	Text, video, link (online google map)
Habitat restoration and their monitoring (day 5)	Text, video, link (online google map)
The role of communication, collaboration and outreach (day 6)	Text, Zoom (live and) registered session, weblink, videos [3], pdf files [2]
Integrating facilitation and participation in Natura 2000 management (day 7)	Text, Zoom (live and) registered session, videos [4], pdf file
Concluding day: Restoration, management and valorisation of habitat types; Concluding remarks (day8)	Text, Zoom (live and) registered session, weblink, pdf files [3]
Additional material	Pdf file











# 7. The topics

The aim of the Virtual Summer School was to train public and private staff in the management and planning of Natura 2000 sites, applying innovative tools to adhere to the requirements of the Habitats Directive covering Natura 2000 sites. The main topics addressed in the Virtual Summer School included (Figure 7): conservation status, conservation degree and favourable reference values of habitat types and species, pressures and threats, article 17 reporting, site conservation objectives and measures, restoration and monitoring actions, field surveys and remote sensing, facilitation and participatory processes, community outreach, communication and collaboration.

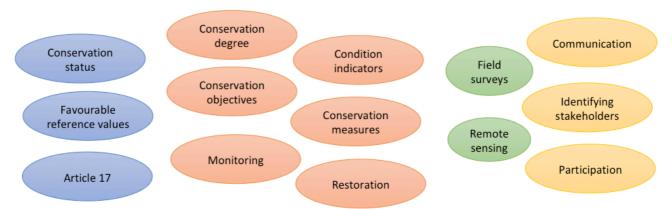


Figure 7: Main topics of the Virtual Summer School. Colours indicate subject categories

These topics were developed in the different parts of the Virtual Summer School and the live training sessions (see Annex 3). The main topics for the different live sessions are shown in Figure 8 and Figure 9. A first live session was used to present the Virtual Summer School (its programme, content and tools) and the LIFE e-Natura2000.edu (approach, content, main items and organisation).

In the first five days, focus was given to applied technical issues. On days 6 and 7, the trainers focused on aspects related to social sciences. One session, held on the last day 8, focused on technical issues but also showed the importance of communication and participation by stakeholders. Furthermore, in the final day a final short session included a summary of the Virtual Summer School outcomes: at this time, the evaluation was completed through online questionnaires and through active participation and discussion. In several learning sessions, the experiences learned from other LIFE projects were presented:

- Day 4: LIFE RedBosques project (LIFE15 GIE/ES/000809)
- Day 5 Virtual field visit: LIFE "Brenta 2030" (LIFE18 NAT/IT/000756)
- Day 8: LIFE PRIMED (LIFE17 NAT/GR/000511).

This organisation of the topics ensured a comprehensive and balanced programme was delivered addressing the relevant issues in Natura 2000 management, from the most scientific and technical, to the more human management side.







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Live lesson	Conservation status	Favourable reference values	Article 17		Conservation objectives	Conservation measures	Monitoring	Restoration	Filed surveys	Remote sensing
DAY 2 On the										
<b>Habitats Directive</b>										
and monitoring										
DAY 3 Integrating										
conservation										
management and										
monitoring										
DAY 4 Setting										
Favourable										
Reference Values										
DAY 5 VIRTUAL										
FIELD VISIT										
Surveying habitat										
types and identifying										
indicators of										
conservation										
DAY 5 VIRTUAL										
FIELD VISIT										
Habitat restoration										
and their monitoring										
DAY 8 Restoration,										
management and										
valorisation of										
habitat types										

Figure 8: Live sessions dealing with technical and scientific issues related to the management of Natura 2000 sites. Day 8 live session also included the three topics linked to social sciences









Live lesson	Communication	Identifying Stakholders	Participation
DAY 6 The role of communication, collaboration and outreach			
DAY 7 Integrating facilitation and participation in Natura 2000 management			

Figure 9: Live session focused on the social science aspects of Natura 2000 management









# 8. Conclusions

Overall participation (including participants, trainers, project partners and organisers) had a mean of 23 participants per day (Table 6).

Table 6: Total number of participants to the live sessions

Live learning session	Number of participants including trainers, project partners and organizers
DAY 1	31
DAY 2	27
DAY 3	20
DAY 4	19
DAY 5	22
DAY 6	15
DAY 7	25

Several project partners and trainers participated in sessions in which they were not directly involved - this, to a certain extent, demonstrates the relevance of the selected topics and their deep interest in the topics presented.

A certificate of attendance was provided to all participants and a certificate of contribution was sent to all trainers.

Results of the evaluation by participants to the Virtual Summer School were analysed by ETIFOR and produced in the appropriate project report. Here, we report some (anonymous) feedback from the zoom chats of the live online learning sessions.

### Box 2: A sample of comments by participants in the Virtual Summer School

"It's been a perfect undertaking to integrate the community of folks involved in N2K all across the continent."

"... I enjoyed the course, lots of interesting presentations; I can use quite a few things for my work. (But, too sad, that we couldn't visit Italy...)"

"Also for me it was very interesting but was important also to meet colleagues working in national/natural parks. We are building a net (first social than professional) of people working in parks, not only in Europe."

This experience highlighted the importance of and interest in deepening methods towards improving knowledge and awareness on Natura 2000 for managers. There was also the first proposal of collaboration among participants, regarding the use of machine learning techniques to support data collection and analysis with the aim of helping Natura 2000 monitoring and appropriate assessments.











The event was also reported on social media by some of the participants to the Virtual Summer School. In Figure 10 two examples, one on Facebook (48 likes, 4 comments and 3 shares) and one on Instagram, are shown.

On Instagram



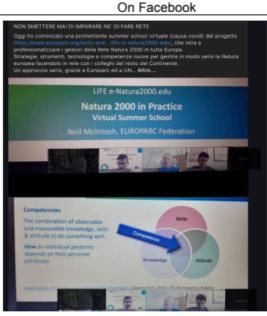


Figure 10: Examples of posts in different social media about the Virtual Summer School











# 9. Annexes

- 1 Google form questionnaire
- 2 List of participants (Omitted)
- 3 Programme of the Virtual Summer School
- 4 Moodle structure and elements
- 5 Moodle instructions







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# **Annex 1 Google form questionnaire**





# Application form for the Spring School: "Natura 2000 in practice"

Learn about what you need to know and be able to do as a Natura 2000 manager!

Enrolment to the Spring School (dates 6-10 April 2020) is limited to 20 participants.

\*Campo obbligatorio

It is part of the LIFE e-Natura2000.edu: supporting e-learning & capacity building for Natura 2000 managers

https://www.europarc.org/life-e-natura2000-edu/

Applications open until 14 February 2020!



Supporting e-learning and capacity building for Natura 2000 Managers

The project and all actions are made possible with support from the LIFE financial instrument of the European Community





### Overview of the project

This innovative three-year LIFE Preparatory project runs from 2018 to 2021. It explores the potential of new approaches and learning methods to improve knowledge and build capacity amongst Natura 2000 site managers in both public and private land, across the EU.

The project will examine the competencies required to manage Natura 2000 more effectively. It will support your professional development needs, enable you to connect with your peers and learn about what managers need to know and be able to do for Natura 2000.

The project places special focus on the following subjects: Protected Area Policy, Planning & Projects, Biodiversity Conservation, Communication & Collaboration, Local Communities & Cultures, Awareness & Education.

### What is the aim of the Spring School?

The Spring School aims to disseminate in-depth knowledge on innovative aspects related to the management of Natura 2000 sites and developing technical skills among participants on the ecological and planning tools towards the appropriate management of these protected areas.

The final aim is to train public and private staff in the management and planning of Natura 2000 sites, applying innovative tools to abide the requirements of the Habitats Directive and the Birds Directive acting on Natura 2000 sites.

Single modules will strengthen the knowledge on the backbone aspects for managing Natura 2000 sites, making widely available a number of possible approaches through specific examples gained from direct experience.

### How the Spring School will work

Dates: 06-10 April

Main Avenue: Legnaro, Padova (Italy)

Field venue: Euganean Hills (<a href="http://www.parks.it/parco.colli.euganei/Eindex.php">http://www.parks.it/parco.colli.euganei/Eindex.php</a>) and Bosco Nordio (<a href="http://www.parks.it/riserva.bosco.nordio/Eindex.php">http://www.parks.it/riserva.bosco.nordio/Eindex.php</a>)

We are looking for 20 people from across Europe to attend the Spring School "Natura 2000 in practice". This is an international project so we need people with good standards of English. Our aim is to ensure that we have a representative sample of different types of Natura 2000 managers from different backgrounds - we need a good mix of specialists, rangers, private landowners etc., as well as ages and sexes.

By mid February 2020, you will know if you have been selected! The indicative application process schedule is as follows:

- \* Application due by 14 February 2020
- \* Final selection process completed some days after the application deadline
- \* Outcomes notified to all applicants by 18 February 2020.

Subject to demand, there may be one other additional Spring School. We'll keep you posted!

### What you can expect to gain from participating

Your participation will help you to develop the competencies and acquire the information you need to work effectively in Natura 2000. You will increase your knowledge about Natura 2000 and build your capacity for your work now and in the future.

The lectures will have an interdisciplinary approach, during which active participation will be favoured through discussions and facilitated group-work. Attendees will be able to learn different innovative approaches to tackle the common issues in the management and planning of Natura 2000 sites.

### The main topics include:

- Ecological indicators and conservation measures: with a focus on different approaches towards data and information used at site level to achieve a good conservation status of habitats and species.
- Assessment of habitats types and species: with a focus on the requirements linked to article 17 of the Habitats Directive and the tools and approaches that could be used to achieve the Natura 2000 goals (e.g. setting Favourable Reference Values).
- Pressures and threats: with a focus on identifying impacts to habitats, species and sites and using these to prioritise management.
- Monitoring and restoration: with a focus on fundamental aspects of monitoring terrestrial and freshwater habitats, on the roles of remote sensing and new technologies in nature conservation and on the main aspects when carrying out restoration actions.
- Participating to Natura 2000: with a focus on tools and challenges in using participatory models, meeting local actors, and understanding their perspective.

Lecturers will first give an overview of the specific topics touched in the modules to consolidate the background key features for the management of Natura 2000 sites. In-depth information will be given for the main concepts related to Natura 2000 management (e.g., conservation status and degree, preventive appropriate assessment). Linked to these relevant features, theoretical and practical information on different tools and approaches for the identification of ecological indicators, management prioritisation, ecological risk assessment, monitoring protocols, engagement strategies and participative approaches will be given. Each day at least 4 hours of lectures in class will enable to consolidate the theoretical background necessary to management Natura 2000 sites. We will use group-work and case study examples to consider how to apply best practices in Natura 2000 sites. The Spring School covers (i) the use of the Standard Data Form and the Natura 2000 viewer tools for collecting and reporting site-specific information fundamental for the management of Natura 2000, (ii) the use of the powerful implication that citizen science tools (e.g. iNaturalist) can have in collecting data useful for planning, and (iii) participatory approaches to engage with local communities in Natura 2000 sites.

Two site visits will be organised to the Euganean Hills (site managed by Ente Parco Colli Euganei) and Bosco Nordio (site managed by Veneto Agricoltura) Natura 2000 sites. The context of these two sites includes seminatural habitats, agricultural and industrial developments, community settlements, and tourism services. This makes for a useful case for the management of Natura 2000 sites. The field visits will function also as a "hands on" management solutions and will enable attendees to share their experiences and concerns.

At the end of the Spring School, you can expect to be awarded a certificate of participation. Participants are expected to attend all the 5 days. At the end of the Spring School participants will complete an evaluation questionnaire related to the Spring School attendance and will carry out a short final exam to assess learning outcomes.

Travel and accommodation costs for participation in the period of the Spring School (i.e. up to a maximum of 5 nights) will be covered by the project up to a maximum of €650 per person. This includes travel, which must be by the most economical means possible and should not exceed €250 per person. Personal expenses are not eligible for reimbursement. Reimbursement will be based on a signed personal claim form. IN ALL CASES, reimbursement can only be made when actual costs are evidenced with original receipts and proof of travel documents. Dinners, lunches and materials during the event will be covered separately. The Spring School is also co-financed under the University of Padova International Summer and Winter School (ISWS) programme.

### Who should apply?

We are looking for people keen to learn about Natura 2000!

Our main target are individuals actively working in a Natura 2000 site or for Natura 2000 in some capacity. Whether you work alone or as part of a team, whether you are a Natura 2000 technician, specialist ecologist, ranger or are engaged more in outreach and interpretation, we will welcome applications from men and women of all ages and backgrounds - for example:

- Managers who are working in a Natura 2000 site, either for governmental or non-governmental organisations
- People working in Protected Areas (e.g. national, regional or natural parks) which also include Natura 2000 sites
- Rangers who are working in a Natura 2000 site
- People who work for a local authority or public administration dealing with Natura 2000 sites
- People engaged in volunteer and/ or visitor management in Natura 2000 sites
- People working with local communities in or around a Natura 2000 site
- Providers of information about Natura 2000 (e.g. Communication or Interpretation about Natura 2000 site features)
- Trainees, recently appointed to work on a Natura 2000 site
- Private landowners of a Natura 2000 site (e.g. farmer or forester)

Applications are open to people that want to actively be involved in the LIFE "e-Natura2000.edu: supporting elearning & capacity building for Natura 2000 managers" and have a strong interest in Natura 2000.

In the case you have any questions please contact: thomas.campagnaro@unipd.it.

Personal data & contact details Your personal data is safe with us! All information provided in this form will be exclusively used by the EUROPARC Federation, University of Padova (Dept. Land, Environment, Agriculture and Forestry, and project partners) it will not be shared with third parties. We will use your information for the purpose of the Life e-Natura 2000 project, and due to legal requirements, we will be keep the records for a period of 5 years, after which the data will be deleted.

1.	First name *
2.	Surname *
3.	E-mail address *

4.	I authorise the Dept. TESAF, EUROPARC Federation and project partners to send me information about the Spring School, the LIFE project, other activities and programmes. *				
	By clicking yes, yo any time.	our email address will be added in EUROPARC mailing list, which you can unsubscribe at			
	Seleziona tutte	le voci applicabili.			
	Yes, I woul work of project	d like to receive more information about Dept. TESAF, EUROPARC and the partners			
5.	Gender *				
	Contrassegna	solo un ovale.			
	Female				
	Male				
6.	Birth date *				
	Esempio: 7 gen	naio 2019			
7.	Nationality *				
8.	Work base lo	cation *			
9.	Country *				
Ba	ackground	Please use this section to tell us about the type of organisation you work for and what you do.			

# **Current position**

10.	Job title *
11.	Name of organisation (where appropriate)
12.	The type of entity I work for is (please tick): *
	Local public authority   Regional public authority   National public authority   Natural resource management entity (forestry, water management, etc),   University / research institute   Non-governamental organisation   Private landowner   Private consultant   Altro:
Netv	vork membership
13.	Is your organization a member of the EUROPARC Federation? *
	Seleziona tutte le voci applicabili.
	Yes
	No
	Don't know

14.	Is your organization a member of the European Landowners Organization? *  Seleziona tutte le voci applicabili.  Yes  No
	Don't know
15.	Do you have decision-making authority within Natura 2000 management? *
	Contrassegna solo un ovale.
	Yes
	○ No
16.	How long have you been in your current position? *
	Contrassegna solo un ovale.
	< 1 yr
	1 to 5 yr
	5 to 10 yr
	> 10 yr
17.	Brief description of what you do *
18.	Please specify the Natura 2000 site(s) you work for (or have a direct interest) - Name & Code Number *

How long have you been working with Natura 2000? \*

19.

	Contrassegna solo un ovale.
	< 1 yr
	1 to 5 yr
	5 to 10 yr
	> 10 yr
20.	Which of the following best describes your role in Natura 2000? *
	Seleziona tutte le voci applicabili.
	I work in a Natura 2000 management team
	I work in a Protected Area management team
	I work for a consultancy company
	I work as a volunteer (or volunteer in an association involved in activities) for a Natura
	2000 site  I am a landowner in Natura 2000 site(s)
	Altro:
21.	Which areas of work are you mostly involved with? (Please tick maximum 3) *
	Seleziona tutte le voci applicabili.
	Management planning
	Development and implementation of conservation measures
	Wildlife management
	Habitat restoration
	Specialist ecological / technical advice
	Site condition monitoring/ reporting
	Farming or forestry
	Health & safety/ risk assessments
	Visitor management or Volunteer management
	Communication and site interpretation
	Working with local communities and different stakeholders
	Altro:

22.	Which of the following areas are you most interested in? (Tick 2 maximum) *						
	Seleziona tutte le voci applicabili.						
23.	Policy, planning & projects Biodiversity conservation Communication & collaboration Awareness raising & education Local communities involvement Participatory processes/ stakeholder engagement  Your level of familiarity with the following topics or tools *						
	Contrassegna solo un ovale	e per riga.					
		1. Not at all familiar	2. Slightly familiar	3. Somewhat familiar	4. Moderately familiar	5. Extremely familiar	
	Conservation Status						
	Favourable Reference Value						
	Threats & Pressures						
	Conservation objectives						
	Conservation measures						
	Natura 2000 Standard Data Form						
	Natura 2000 Standard Data Form Manager						
	iNaturalist						
	Citizen science platforms (other than iNaturalist)						
	Natura 2000 public viewer						

24.	Education & Training: list titles of any formal qualification awarded *				

### Language skills

As an international Spiring School, it is important that all participants have a good level of English. Please indicate your level as appropriate below.

### 25. English level \*

Contrassegna solo un ovale per riga.

	None	Basic	Intermediate	High
Understanding				
Speaking				
Writing				

# Digital skills

### Familiarity with digital (e-learning), online tools & social media

For benchmarking purposes, we would like to know your current experience with different online / digital tools - previous experience is not obligatory, so please answer honestly.

### 26. Please indicate as appropriate \*

Contrassegna	$\alpha \alpha I \alpha$	III	$\alpha u \alpha l$	$\sim$	$n \cap r$	riaa
COMMASSECTIA	SOIL	1111	OVAL	_	111	111111

	Never used it	Occasional use	I'm very familiar with
Webinars			
Online courses			
E-learning platforms (Moodle)			
Demonstration videos			
Smartphone applications			

### 27. Familiarity with social media \*

Contrassegna solo un ovale per riga.

	Don't use it	Occasional use	I'm a frequent user
Facebook			
LinkedIn			
Twitter			

28. Please specify any other social media you use and are familiar with:

Brief curriculum vitae Please include a brief cv highlighting relevant aspects related to Natura 2000 management (no more than 1500 words)

29.	*		
	tivation tement	In your own words (no more than 400!), please use this part of the application form to tell us why you would like to take part in this project.	
30.	*		
31.	who you a	u be willing to provide us with a short video diary? A short film to tell us are, what you do and how your participation to the Spring School will manage Natura 2000?	
	Contrassegna solo un ovale.		
	Yes		
	No		
Vid	eo Diary		

32.	Please indicate whether or not you agree to us being able to use your video publicly to promote the project *  The videos will be shared on social media networks, Department TESAF and project partners' website
	Contrassegna solo un ovale.
	Yes
	○ No
(Plea	ase note that we will only use your video if we have your permission)

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# **Annex 3 Programme of the Virtual Summer School**









# Natura 2000 in Practice

# Virtual Summer School 7-17 June 2021









Photo credits: G. Trentanovi & T. Campagnaro

as part of the

LIFE e-Natura2000.edu

Supporting e-learning and capacity building for Natura 2000 Managers











Università degli Studi di Padova

# **Background**

Natura 2000 is a network of protected sites established under the European Union Directive 92/43/CEE (Habitats Directive). 26,918 sites have currently been designated covering 18 % of the EU's (EU27) land area and almost 9% of its marine territory. The Habitats Directive aims at ensuring the conservation of a variety of rare, threatened, or endemic species, including more than 1,250 species and subspecies and 233 habitat types.

A recent article published in the prestigious journal <u>Bioscience</u> popularised Natura 2000 as the largest coordinated network of protected sites in the world. In fact, Natura 2000 extent calls for appropriate management and planning approaches able to consider ecological needs but also social and economical conditions of these areas. Its management and maintenance require a concerted action among the Member States and great efforts to ensure equal levels of quality in prevention, conservation, surveillance, management, and monitoring. Therefore, the attention towards issues related to Natura 2000 sites is continuously growing and in particularly those related to their management and planning.

The University of Padova has recently activated a curricular course in "Natura 2000 management", taught by one of the Virtual Summer School coordinators. It is very innovative and almost unique in the current Italian university-level educational offer. This course was featured by the <a href="Ministry for Environment">Ministry for Environment</a>, Land and Sea Protection and by <a href="RadioBue">RadioBue</a>. At its first edition (2017/18) external students have registered and taken the exam, to obtain credits recognised by their professional community.

The increasing attention towards the management of Natura 2000 is evinced from the recently launched series of biogeographical seminars on this topic and supported by the European Commission, and by the attention highlighted by the scientific community.

# Main objectives

This Virtual Summer School is organised as an integral part of the LIFE project "LIFE e-Natura200.edu: Supporting e-learning and capacity building for Natura 2000 Managers" (LIFE17PREDE003 "e-Natura2000edu") by the Department Land, Environment, Agriculture and Forestry of the Università degli Studi di Padova. The Virtual Summer School capitalises on the experience gained by project partners, who have collaborated throughout the project and in the identification and selection of participants for the summer school.

The Virtual Summer School aims to disseminate in-depth knowledge on innovative aspects related to the management of Natura 2000 sites and develop practical, technical skills among participants on the ecological and planning tools towards the appropriate management of these protected areas. The final aim is to train public and private staff in the management and planning of Natura 2000 sites, applying innovative tools to abide the requirements of the Habitats Directive acting on Natura 2000 sites. The online lessons will strengthen the knowledge on 'backbone aspects' of managing Natura 2000 sites, making widely available a number of possible approaches through specific examples gained from direct experience.











# **Target**

The summer school targets individuals working for one or more Natura 2000 sites in one of the following situations:

- staff of a regional or local entity in charge with the coordination and/or management of one or several Natura 2000 sites;
- staff of a site-level Natura 2000 management team dedicated to the management of one or several sites;
- staff working for the management team of a nationally, regionally, or locally designated protected area, overlapping with Natura 2000 designations;
- staff members of various entities which hold the responsibility to manage a Natura 2000 site, or delegated them to a lower-rank entity, such as a forestry agency:
- individual landowners who have management responsibilities deriving from the fact that their land is in a Natura 2000 site.

#### **Contents**

Following the title of the Virtual Summer School, the activities will have an interdisciplinary approach, during which active online participation will be favoured through specific moments for discussion. Attendees will be able to understand the possibility of applying different innovative approaches to tackle the common issues in the management and planning of Natura 2000 sites. A specific focus is given to assessing conservation status and degree, identifying indicators of conservation conditions, applying monitoring protocols, and communicating and making aware stakeholders and the general public.

#### The online tools

The Moodle platform will be used to store information and to interact with participants. Participants will have a personal account to access the Moodle of the Virtual Summer School (details will be sent privately via e-mail). The Moodle webpage is: <a href="https://elearning.unipd.it/scuolaamv/course/view.php?id=3878">https://elearning.unipd.it/scuolaamv/course/view.php?id=3878</a>. Zoom will be used for live online sessions while videos will be posted together with other material such as web links and documents. Zoom sessions will be recorded and made available in the Moodle platform.

# Organizing committee

Thomas Campagnaro, Tommaso Sitzia, Elisabetta Zanaga – Dept. Land, Environment, Agriculture and Forestry (TESAF), Università degli Studi di Padova

Neil McIntosh - EUROPARC Federation

Giovanni Trentanovi – External assistance











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## Lecturers' bio-sketch

Alina Ionita - She works in the field of protected area management for 14 years, dealing mostly on the social dimension. Her previous work focused on protected areas' governance, participatory processes, strategic planning, community outreach, communication and collaboration, individual and organisational capacity development. Her PhD thesis, defended in 2011, regarded the participatory management of national parks in Romania. The collaboration with various NGOs, such as the World Wild Fund-Danube Carpathian Programme (WWF-DCP) and Propark Foundation for Protected Areas, The Coalition Natura 2000 Romania and Fauna and Flora International allowed her to transfer her research into practice, resulting in various guidelines and manuals for practitioners, training courses, assessment studies on governance and capacity building, national or regional level strategies.

Clive Hurford – He is a researcher on the Living Wales project team at Aberystwyth University. He began his career in nature conservation as a contractor for the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds in the late 1970s. Subsequently, he qualified in Botany at Swansea University before taking up a post as a Phase I grassland surveyor with the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) in 1991. Within a year, he was recruited to the CCW monitoring team and has worked in the field of conservation monitoring ever since. In the mid 1990s, he led a field team in a Life Nature project to demonstrate the integration of conservation management and monitoring on Natura 2000 sites in Wales. On completing this project, in 2000, he took over the responsibility for developing and delivering Habitats Directive monitoring on terrestrial sites in Wales; a responsibility he held until leaving Natural Resources Wales in March 2019 to work on the Living Wales project.

Diego García Ventura – He is an environmentalist and project technician in Fernando González Bernáldez Foundation (FUNGOBE) since 2010. His entire professional career has been linked to management and conservation of protected areas, both in university departments (Ecology, UAM) and in private enterprises / as freelance. Recent projects tackle several aspects of protected areas management, from monitoring impacts of outdoor recreation and developing carrying capacity approaches to Natura 2000 management (setting management frameworks for Natura 2000 sites in Spain, evaluation of LIFE+ in Spanish Natura 2000 Network). Nowadays, he is finishing with other FUNGOBE colleagues the LIFE project "RedBosques", focused on the importance of old-growth forest as a reference of Favourable Conservation Status (FCS) in Mediterranean forest habitats of Community interest.

Doug Evans – He has recently retired from the European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity (ETC/BD) in Paris where he spent some 20 years working on various aspects of implementing the Habitats Directive, focusing on habitats. This work included the development of reporting under Article 17 of the directive and editing the Interpretation Manual of EU habitats from the 2003 edition onwards, he was also responsible for the development of the EUNIS habitats classification. More recently he has also assisted the Berne Convention in the development of the Emerald network. Doug's background is in plant ecology with a PhD from the University of Aberdeen, Scotland and prior to joining the ETC/BD he worked for Scotlish Natural Heritage, the Institute for Terrestrial Ecology and L'Institut national de la recherche agronomique.

Neil McIntosh – He is Project Manager for the 'LIFE e-natura2000.edu' project, supporting e-learning, open education and capacity building for Natura 2000 managers. As a qualified trainer and assessor of learning and development programmes, the focus of his work in EUROPARC is to support networking, learning and the professional development of people and organisations.

Riccardo Da Re – He is Facilitator and Good Vibe Manager at ETIFOR, expert in stakeholder analysis, participatory approaches and data analysis for local development, he works on many projects dealing with governance and social innovation. He achieved a master degree in Statistics for the Demographic and Social Sciences, and he finished his Ph.D. in Real Estate Appraisal and Land Use Economics with a research on indicators for assessing National Parks local governance. He managed several projects as expert in Social Capital, multivariate statistics, social network analysis, evaluation of local governance, conflict management among public and private stakeholders, surveys and sampling design, questionnaire's







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question wording, collecting and analyzing qualitative and quantitative data, group dynamics, supply chain of non-timber forest products.

Simone Iacopino – He is a research fellow at University of Padova with a PhD on the ecology of invaded woodlands by the American tree black locust and the drivers of its spread. He is currently participating in the LIFE project "Brenta 2030" concerning the restoration of water-related ecosystems in a river of North-Eastern Italy. His on-going research regards plant biodiversity, monitoring of several habitat types and the impacts of invasive alien species.

Tommaso Sitzia – He is Associate Professor at the University of Padova (Dept. Land, Environment, Agriculture and Forestry, TESAF) of forest and Natura 2000 management, with long-term experience in field monitoring, managing and planning natural resources inside and outside protected areas and biodiversity conservation research. He is the scientific responsible for TESAF of the 'LIFE e-natura2000.edu' and of the 'LIFE Brenta 2030" projects that specifically tackle Natura 2000 issues.

Thomas Campagnaro – He is a Research associate at the University of Padova (Dept. Land, Environment, Agriculture and Forestry, TESAF) with expertise on silviculture, forest and semi-natural habitat management, Natura 2000, urban forestry and non-native tree species. In the last year, he has been teaching "Applied Silviculture and Forest Management" (32 hours; language: English) in the MSc "Forest Science". In the last years he gained experience on Natura 2000 by working in different projects and in particular on Prioritized Action Frameworks, conservation measures and objectives, and monitoring of different habitat types.

Vito Emanuele Cambria – He is a biologist with a PhD from the University of Padova, a M.Sc. in Eco-biology from the Sapienza University of Rome and a Master in EU Policy Consultancy & Project Management from the University of Louvain, Brussels. In the past years, he coordinated several EU projects focused on biodiversity conservation, restoration ecology and governance of protected areas, including LIFE17NAT/GR/000511, LIFE20PRE/IT/000007, IPA 2013-EuropeAid/135803/L/ACT/AL.













# **Programme**

## Monday 07 June 2021

#### **Virtual Summer School kickoff**

Time	Topic	Presenter(s)	Virtual venue
14.00-15.00 CET	Introduction to the summer school  The LIFE e- Natura2000.edu and after	Tommaso Sitzia & Thomas Campagnaro – TESAF, University of Padova Neil McIntosh – EUROPARC Federation	Zoom link: https://unipd.zoom.us/j/88988698629?pwd=YX IGQnZTa2pEMXVBSnY4VzJCWVZnQT09 Zoom ID: 889 8869 8629 Zoom password: 601094

The Virtual Summer school will be presented: the structure of the school, an outline of the main topics and an indication of the main tools and materials will be provided.

A summary of the LIFE e-Natura2000.edu and of its main achievements will help participants to link understand the broader context in which the Virtual School was organized.

#### Tuesday 08 June 2021

#### On the Habitats Directive and monitoring

Time	Topic	Presenter	Virtual venue
14.00-15.30 CET	Introduction to the Habitats Directive and reporting under Article 17	Douglas Evans	Zoom link:  https://unipd.zoom.us/j/89617534225?pwd=R  GdaM1p5SVhOVmRRZElldUp5S3NiQT09  Zoom ID: 896 1753 4225  Zoom password: 102194

After a brief review of the history of the EU's Habitats Directive, this session focuses on reporting under Article 17, including results of the most recent round of reporting. It will also include consideration of problems due to differences in habitat interpretation.













#### Wednesday 09 June 2021

#### Integrating conservation management and monitoring

Time	Topic	Presenters	Tools
14.00-15.30 CET	Developing measurable targets for Conservation Objectives	Clive Hurford – Living Wales project team	Zoom link: https://unipd.zoom.us/j/81119090901?pwd=Qk orSExVa084UHhrcGE5bzImdUVEUT09 Zoom ID: 811 1909 0901 Zoom password: 710751

This virtual session will discuss how we can identify conservation targets and how they can be achieved. Conservation targets, that for Natura 2000 sites are linked directly to conservation objectives, should be achieved by applying conservation measures and take into account monitoring requirements. The session will cover: (i) a model for integrating conservation management and monitoring; (ii) prioritisation for conservation management and monitoring; (iii) condition indicators - a stepping stone for monitoring Natura 2000 conservation objectives; (iv) adapting the model to different habitats and species; (v) a case study of the full process at Kenfig National Nature Reserve.

#### Thursday 10 June 2021

#### **Setting Favourable Reference Values**

Time	Topic	Presenter	Virtual venue
14.00-15.15	Setting Favourable Reference Values (FVR): An approach for forest HCI	Diego García Ventura - FUNGOBE	Zoom link: https://unipd.zoom.us/j/85159377656?pwd=bn g0MzVHMHk3V0JPektlQ1RUNTVndz09 Zoom ID: 851 5937 7656 Zoom password: 204810

The aim of this session tackles the concept of "Favourable Reference Value" of ECI and HCI (referenced for the first time by Habitats Committee in 2004 and taken into account on following art. 17 reports), focusing on forest habitats of community interest. The session presents the results of the LIFE RedBosques project (LIFE15 GIE/ES/000809), led by FUNGOBE and applied in Spanish forest HCI. The project includes an on-line tool to share old-growth stands and to compare them with "reference stands" previously identified.













## Friday 11 June 2021

## Surveying habitat types and identifying indicators of conservation

Time	Topic	Presenter(s)	Tools
16.00	Semi-natural dry grasslands (6210)	Tommaso Sitzia, Thomas Campagnaro – TESAF, University of Padova Director of the video: Stefania Furlan	<b>®</b>

The video<sup>1</sup> will present an example of grassland habitat surveys (6210 habitat type). Results of specific surveying protocols (on multiple taxa: plants, Orthoptera species and butterflies) will be presented to exemplify the identification and use of conservation degree indicators and of related pressures.

## Friday 11 June 2021

#### Habitat restoration and their monitoring

Time	Topic	Presenter(s)	Tools
17.00	The "Grave e Zone umide della Brenta" SPA and SAC	Tommaso Sitzia, Thomas Campagnaro, Simone Iacopino – TESAF, University of Padova	<b>69</b>
		Director of the video: Stefania Furlan	-

The video will show habitat types and habitats of species found in riparian landscapes strongly influenced by human activities. Methods for the identification of main threats and pressures will be described. Also, an example of ad-hoc monitoring approaches to assess restoration actions and developed in the LIFE "Brenta 2030" (LIFE18 NAT/IT/000756) will be shown.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Videos will be made available on the Moodle platform.







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#### Tuesday 15 June 2021

#### The role of communication, collaboration and outreach

Time	Topic	Presenter	Tools
14.00-15.30	How can communication support the achievement of Natura 2000 conservation goals	Alina Ioniță – Propark Foundation for Protected Areas	Zoom link: https://unipd.zoom.us/j/89487543742?pwd=Ul YxVGJsZjVyaGZ1bEJnZlRuRnNsQT09 Zoom ID: 894 8754 3742 Zoom password: 787544

No conservation goal can be achieved without people's support. Communication and outreach play the key role in growing public and stakeholders' acceptance and supportive behaviours. But how do we go about communication? And, when, what, how and to whom do we communicate? The "protected area life cycle" framework can be used to plan communication strategically and tailor it to the context and management goals. The session will present the framework and some approaches to communication, presenting examples and fostering exchanges between participants.

#### Wednesday 16 June 2021

#### Integrating facilitation and participation in Natura 2000 management

Time	Topic	Presenter	Tools
14.00-16.00	How to manage the stakeholders of a Nature 2000 area? From the Stakeholder analysis to participatory approaches	Riccardo Da Re – ETIFOR	Zoom link: https://unipd.zoom.us/j/82804436438?pwd=QT F2ay9kWVM0eXZUZndacmJtTHpZQT09 Zoom ID: 828 0443 6438 Zoom password: 126419

Engaging and involving stakeholders, sometimes even confronting them, are important parts of the work of many Natura 2000 managers. Therefore, building relevant capacity is increasingly essential in protected areas management. This talk will showcase some approaches used in facilitating active participation and building understanding with stakeholders. We'll start from some techniques to map and analyse your stakeholders, and conclude with an overview of the main tools to conduct participatory approaches. This session will involve practical exercises using Mural, a digital workspace for online collaboration.







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## Thursday 17 June 2021

#### Restoration, management and valorisation of habitat types

Time	Topic	Presenters	Tools
14.00-14.45	Ecosystem-based approach for the restoration, management and valorisation of Mediterranean coastal ecosystems	Vito Emanuele Cambria – Sapienza University of Rome	Zoom link: https://unipd.zoom.us/j/84352584728?pwd=R0 sySnl3dk5QR2lVWWZLckNNaHdTQT09 Zoom ID: 843 5258 4728 Zoom password: 116553

Transitional small wetlands and coastal forests are among the most degraded and threatened ecosystems in the EU. This has resulted in many habitats and species in Mediterranean coastal areas having 'unfavourable' conservation status according to the Habitats Directive. LIFE PRIMED (LIFE17 NAT/GR/000511) implements traditional and innovative restoration and monitoring actions in the 'Bosco di Palo Laziale', Natura 2000 site in Italy. The area covers about 130 ha and is largely composed of the habitats 'Pannonian-Balkanic turkey oak-sessile oak forests' (91M0) and 'Mediterranean temporary ponds' (3170\*). The session will share first-hand experiences on the (i) assessment and quantifying of triggering abiotic and biotic factors of forest ecosystem decline; (ii) design and implementation of direct conservation actions; (iii) monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of the restoration practices.













# Università degli Studi di Padova

## Thursday 17 June 2021

## **Concluding remarks**

Time	Торіс	Presenters	Tools
14.45-15.30	Online questionnaire Conclusions	ETIFOR  e-Natura2000.edu Project partners	Zoom link:
			https://unipd.zoom.us/j/84352584728?pwd=R0 sySnl3dk5QR2lVWWZLckNNaHdTQT09 Zoom ID: 843 5258 4728 Zoom password: 116553

An interactive approach, through the use of MURAL, will be used to integrate a classical short online questionnaire with a real-time survey. This will promote interaction among participants.

A short conclusion session will enable us to summarise the main key messages from the Virtual Summer School and highlight the major outcomes of the project.

#### **Additional material**

Topic	Tools
<ul> <li>Additional Videos</li> <li>Additional reading materials</li> <li>Additional web links</li> </ul>	





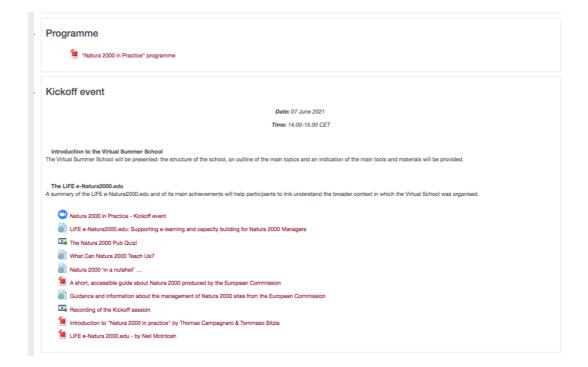






# **Annex 4 Moodle structure and main elements**















#### On the Habitats Directive and monitoring

Date: 08 June 2021 Time: 14.00-15.30 CET

Presenter: Douglas Evans

Topic: Introduction to the Habitats Directive and reporting under Article 17

Brief description: After a brief review of the history of the EU's Habitats Directive as an introduction to the directive, this seminar will focus on reporting under Article 17, including results of the most recent round of reporting. It will also include a consideration of problems due to differences in habitat interpretation

Natura 2000 in Practice - On the Habitats Directive and monitoring

The Habitats Directive

The Birds Directive

The Habitats Directive Reporting

State of nature in the EU - Results from reporting under the nature directives 2013-2018

Searching for Natura 2000 sites - Natura 2000 data viewer

Important Bibliography

Reporting under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive: Explanatory Notes and Guidelines for the period 2013–2018. By DG Environment

值 Article 17 biogeographical assessments: Methodology Methodology of assessments under Article 17 of the EU habitats directive 2013-2018. By European Environmental Agency, European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity

Recording of the session "On the Habitats Directive and monitoring"

"On the Habitats Directive and monitoring" - by Douglas Evans

#### Integrating conservation management and monitoring

Date: 09 June 2021

Time: 14.00-15.30 CET

Presenter: Clive Hurford - Living Wales project team

Topic: Developing measurable targets for Conservation Objectives

Brief description: This virtual seminar will discuss how we can identify conservation targets and how they can be achieved. Conservation targets, that for Natura 2000 sites are linked directly to conservation objectives, should be achieved by applying conservation measures and take into account monitoring requirements. The seminar will cover: (i) a model for integrating conservation management and monitoring; (ii) prioritisation for conservation management and monitoring; (iii) condition indicators - a stepping stone for monitoring Natura 2000 conservation objectives; (iv) adapting the model to different habitats and species; (v) a case study of the full process at Kenfig National Nature Reserve.

Natura 2000 in Practice - Integrating conservation management and monitoring

Surveying birds

Earth observations for monitoring protected sites

Monitoring vegetation with drones

Recording of the session "Integrating conservation management and monitoring"

"Integrating conservation management and monitoring" - by Clive Hurford











#### **Setting Favourable Reference Values**

Date: 10 June 2021 Time: 14.00-15.15 CET

Presenter: Diego García Ventura - FUNGOBE

Topic: Setting Favourable Reference Values (FVR): An approach for forest HCI

Brief description: The aim of this session tackles the concept of "Favourable Reference Value" of ECI and HCI (referenced for the first time by Habitats Committee in 2004 and taken into account on following art. 17 reports), focusing on forest habitats of community interest. The session presents the results of the LIFE REDBOSQUES project, led by FUNGOBE and applied in Spanish forest HCI. The project includes an on-line tool to share old-growth stands and to compare them with "reference stands" previously identified.

Natura 2000 in Practice - Setting Favourable Reference Values

LIFE "RedBosque"

Examples of setting Favourable Reference Values

Mediterranean Old-Growth Forests: Characteristics and Management Criteria in Protected Areas - EUROPARC-Spain Series of Manuals

Mature Forests - Frequently Asked Questions

Old-growth forests: Towards a reference stand network

Old-growth forests: Shelters of biodiversity

"Setting Favourable Reference Values" - by Diego García Ventura

Recording of the session "Setting Favourable Reference Values"

#### Surveying habitat types and identifying indicators of conservation

Date: 11 June 2021

Time: 16.00 CET

The case of the semi-natural dry grasslands (6210) in the SPA and SAC "Colli Euganei - Monte Lozzo - Monte Ricco"

The video presents an example of grassland habitat surveys (6210 habitat type). Results of specific surveying protocols (on multiple taxa: plants, Orthoptera species and butterflies) are presented to exemplify the identification and use of conservation degree indicators and of related pressures.

The case of the semi-natural dry grasslands (6210) in the SPA and SAC "Colli Euganei - Monte Lozzo - Monte Ricco"

#### Habitat restoration and their monitoring

Date: 11 June 2021

Time: 17.00 CET

The SPA and SAC "Grave e Zone umide della Brenta": restoration and monitoring activities

The video shows habitat types and habitats of species found in riparian landscapes strongly influenced by human activities. Methods for the identification of main threats and pressures are described. Also, an example of ad-hoc monitoring approaches to assess restoration actions and developed in the LIFE "Brenta 2030" (LIFE18 NAT/IT/000756) is shown

The SPA and SAC "Grave e Zone umide della Brenta": restoration and monitoring activities











#### The role of communication, collaboration and outreach

Date: 15 June 2021 Time: 14.00-15.30 CET

Presenter: Alina Ionită - Propark Foundation for Protected Areas

Topic: How can communication support the achievement of Natura 2000 conservation goals

Brief description: No conservation goal can be achieved without people's support. Communication and outreach play the key role in growing public and stakeholders' acceptance and supportive behaviours. But how do we go about communication? And, when, what, how and to whom do we communicate? The "protected area life cycle" framework can be used to plan communication strategically and tailor it to the context and management goals. The session will present the framework and some approaches to communication, presenting examples and fostering exchanges between participants.

Natura 2000 in Practice - The role of communication, collaboration and outreach

Personal Communication Competencies

How to build effective joint working relationships

IUCN publication - Communication, education and public awareness (CEPA) : a toolkit for national focal points and NBSAP coordinators

Participatory Management of Protected Areas in the Carpathian Ecoregion

The role of communication, collaboration and outreach - by Alina Ioniță

Recording of the session "The role of communication, collaboration and outreach"

Love. Not Loss

#### Integrating facilitation and participation in Natura 2000 management

Date: 16 June 2021 Time: 14.00-16.00 CFT

Presenter: Riccardo Da Re - ETIFOR

Topic: How to manage the stakeholders of a Nature 2000 area? From the Stakeholder analysis to participatory approaches

Brief description: Engaging and involving stakeholders, sometimes even confronting them, are important parts of the work of many Natura 2000 managers. Therefore, building relevant capacity is increasingly essential in protected areas management. This talk will showcase some approaches used in facilitating active participation and building understanding with stakeholders. We'll start from some techniques to map and analyse your stakeholders, and conclude with an overview of the main tools to conduct participatory approaches. This session will involve practical exercises using Mural, a digital workspace for online collaboration.

Natura 2000 in Practice - Integrating facilitation and participation in Natura 2000 management

Why involve Stakeholders?

Who are Natura 2000 Stakeholders?

Understand our Stakeholders

Dealing with conflict

Recording of the session "Integrating facilitation and participation in Natura 2000 management"

MURAL on Integrating facilitation and participation in Natura 2000 management











#### Concluding day

#### Restoration, management and valorisation of habitat types

Date: 17 June 2021 Time: 14.00-14.45 CET

Presenter: Vito Emanuele Cambria - Sapienza University of Rome

Topic: Ecosystem-based approach for the restoration, management and valorisation of Mediterranean coastal ecosystems

Brief description: Transitional small wetlands and coastal forests are among the most degraded and threatened ecosystems in the EU. This has resulted in many habitats and species in Mediterranean coastal areas having 'unfavourable', 'vulnerable', or 'near threatened' conservation status according to the Habitats Directive. LIFE PRIMED implements traditional and innovative restoration and monitoring actions in the 'Bosco di Palo Laziale', Natura 2000 site in Italy. The area covers about 130 ha and is largely composed of the habitats 'Pannonian-Balkanic turkey oak-sessile oak forests' (91M0) and 'Mediterranean temporary ponds' (3170"). The session will share first-hand experiences on the (i) assessment and quantifying of triggering abiotic and biotic factors of forest ecosystem decline; (ii) design and implementation of direct conservation actions; (iii) monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of the restoration practices.

#### **Concluding remarks**

Date: 17 June 2021 Time: 14.45-15.30 CET

Presenter: ETIFOR

Brief description: An interactive approach, through the use of MURAL, will be used to integrate a classical short online questionnaire with a real-time survey. This will promote interaction among participants

Presenter: e-Natura2000.edu project partners

Brief description: A short conclusion session will enable us to summarise the main key messages from the Virtual Summer School and highlight the major outcomes of the project

Natura 2000 in Practice - Restoration, management and valorisation of habitat types & Concluding remarks

Recording of the session "Restoration, management and valorisation of habitat types" and "Concluding remarks"

MURAL - Virtual Summer School Evaluation

Ecosystem based approach for the restoration, management and valorisation of Mediterranean coastal ecosystems - by Vito Emanuele Cambria

Conclusions - by Tommaso Sitzia & Thomas Campagnaro

#### Additional material

3 most challenging pressures & threats











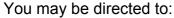
# **Annex 5 Moodle instructions**

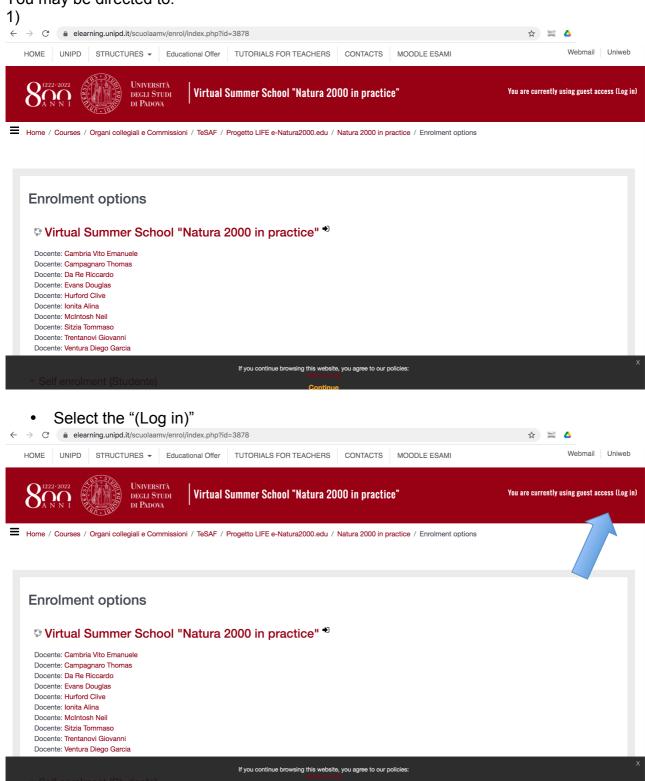




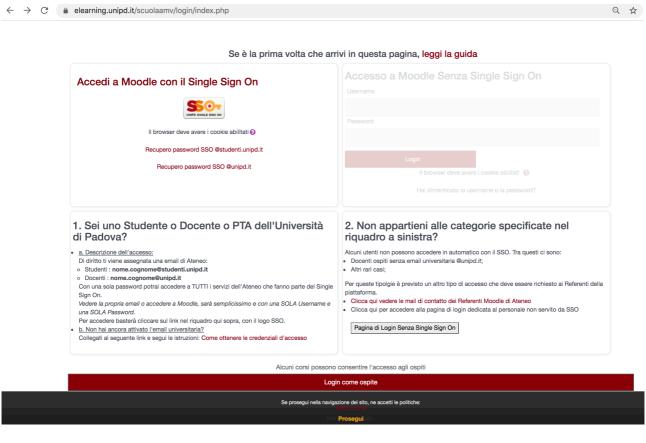
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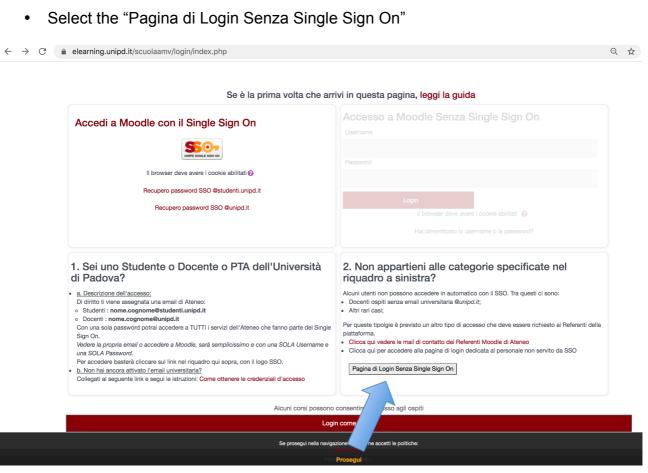
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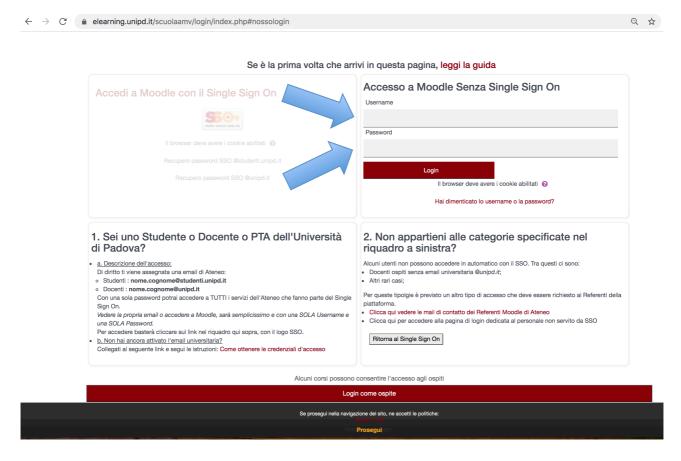


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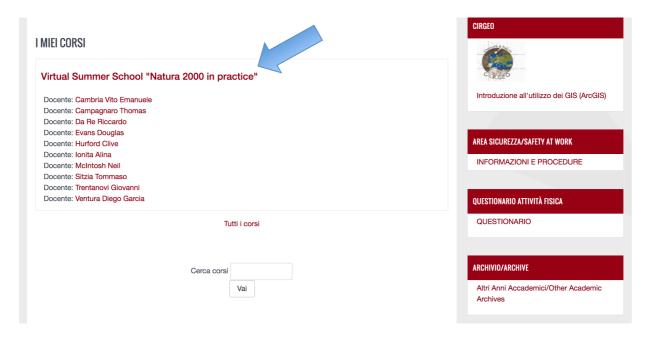


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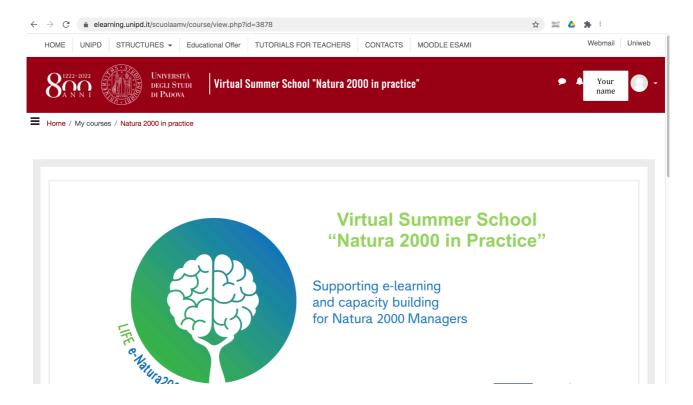
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If you need further indication on the use of the Moodle please visit the several tutorial available online (many are on YouTube).

Do not he sitate to write to thomas.campagnaro@unipd.it if you have any problems.