

NATURA 2000 VALUES AND BENEFITS

the basics

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I aim to cover:

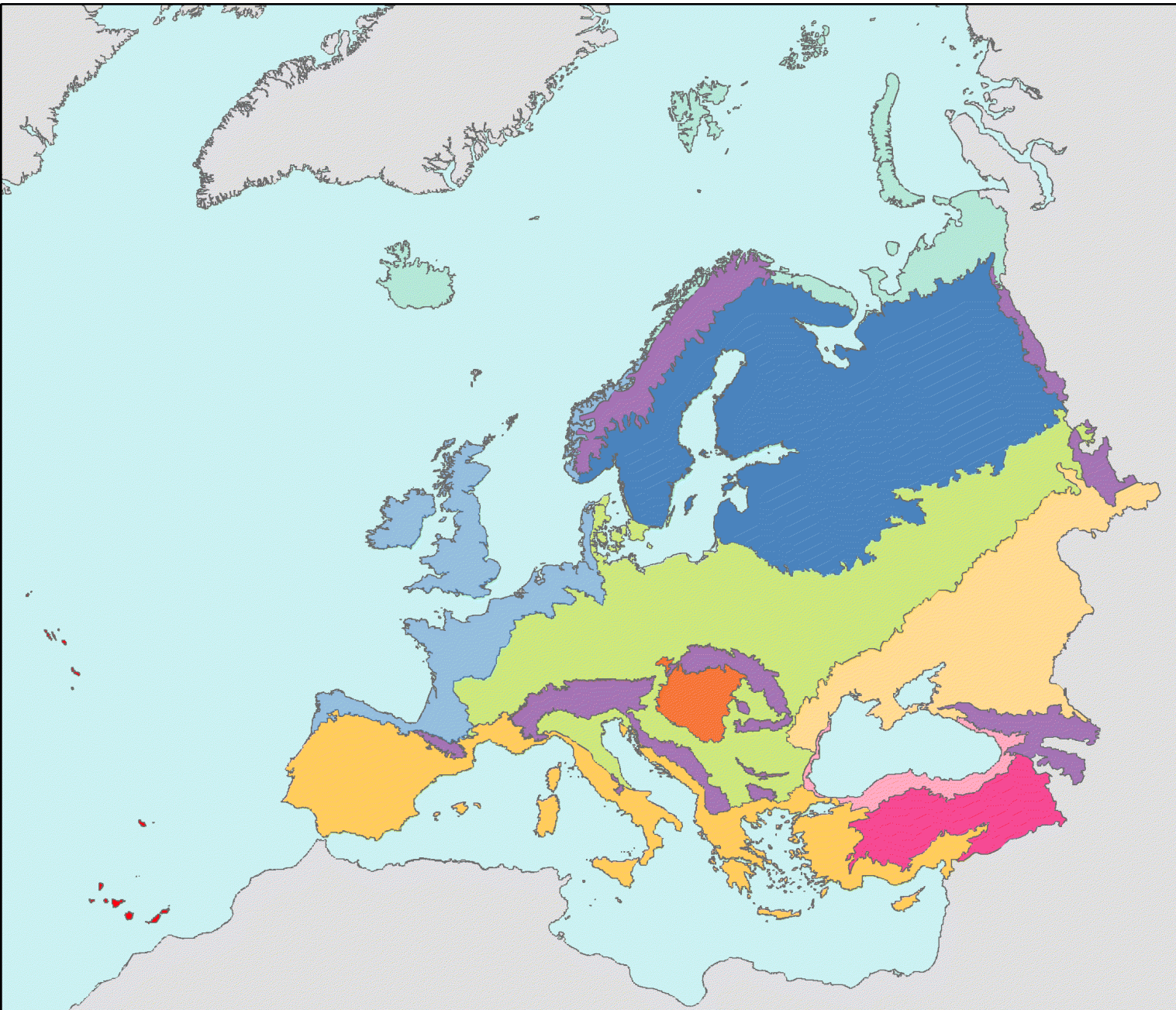
- What is Nat 2000?
- What are we trying to conserve?
- What is the problem?
- Policy framework
- What do member states have to do?
- Enforcement
- Guidance
- Communication
- Funding
- Current state of progress
- Values and benefits

What is it?

- A network of protected sites
- 20% of EU territory

What are we trying to conserve?

- Biodiversity – within species; between species and between ecosystems
- Provides goods and services
- In Europe, divided into 9 biogeographical regions



Biogeographical regions, 2001

- Alpine
- Anatolian
- Arctic
- Atlantic
- Black sea
- Boreal
- Continental
- Macaronesia
- Mediterranean
- Pannonian
- Steppic
- Outside data coverage

Alpine: mountain chains with high altitudes and cold, harsh climates, forests and rock peaks, including the Alps, Pyrenees and Apennine mountains.

Atlantic: Europe's western coastal areas, with flat lands and cliffs, plus some major river estuaries. The Gulf Stream system brings mild winters and cool summers.

Black Sea: the western and southern shores of the Black Sea, extending through Bulgaria and Romania. The Danube delta is a maze of marshes, lakes and islands, sheltering a wide range of fauna.

Boreal: Europe's far north, extending into the Arctic Circle; forests cover 60 % of this region, which shelters thousands of migratory birds.

Continental: the heartland of Europe — much of it agricultural — spanning 11 countries from France to Poland. Hot summers contrast with cold winters.

Macaronesian: made up of Europe's volcanic islands in the Atlantic Ocean: the Azores, Madeira and the Canaries. Covering only 0.3 % of EU territory, this region is home to 19 % of habitat types of EU concern.

Mediterranean: Europe's hot, dry, southern countries, with mountains, grasslands, islands and extensive coastlines.

Pannonian: the steppes of Hungary and southern Slovakia, the dry grasslands of the Carpathian basin, are home to 40 % of Hungarian plant species.

Steppic: stretching from Bucharest (Romania) in the west, across the lower section of the floodplain of the Danube and to the north of the Black Sea, with lowlying plains and wetlands.

(source: 'Environment fact sheet: Natura 2000' EC pub)

What is the problem?

- Millenium Ecosystem Assessment

‘across a range of taxonomic groups, the population size or range (or both) of the majority of species is declining’

‘over the past few hundred years, humans have increased species extinction rates by as much as 1000 times background rates...’

Within Europe:

EEA, fourth assessment report concluded:

‘biodiversity decline and the loss of ecosystem services continue to be a major concern in the pan-european region. The target of halting biodiversity loss by 2010 will not be achieved without additional efforts’

New pressures eg climate change

IPCC 2007 Synopsis Report

- Climate change is *likely* to lead to some irreversible impacts. There is *medium confidence* that approximately 20-30% of species assessed so far are *likely* to be at increased risk of extinction if increases in global average warming exceed 1.5-2.5C (relative to 1980-1999).

Policy framework

Bern convention – 1979 – conservation of species and habitats



Birds Directive 1979 – establishes Special Protection Areas for birds } N2K

Habitats Directive 1992 – establishes Special Areas of Conservation for habitats }

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) – 1992 – legal framework for biodiversity conservation



European Community Biodiversity Strategy - 1994



EU Biodiversity action plans – delivering N2K
- other measures eg on alien species



(MS action eg UK biodiversity action plans)

Goteborg declaration 2001 – EU leaders agree to halt the loss of biodiversity by 2010

El Teide declaration 2002 – MSs pledge to raise awareness about N2K and involve stakeholders

6th Environment Action Programme 2002-2012 – overall programme for EU environmental action

Catalonia declaration 2004 – Europarc Federation commitment to a 5 year action plan on N2K

Sites designated as SACs under the Habitats Directive, along with sites designated as SPAs under the Birds Directive, form the network of protected areas known as Natura 2000.

What do MSs have to do?

Under the Birds Directive:

- Identify SPAs for rare or vulnerable species, including migratory species
- Action through national legislation; such sites automatically become part of Nat 2000 network
- Wider context of maintaining favourable conservation status of wild bird species across their distributional range

Habitats directive:

Main aims:

‘to contribute towards ensuring bio-diversity through the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora’

Specifically, MSs are to:

‘maintain or restore, at favourable conservation status, natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora of Community interest’ (Art 2)

3 main elements:

- Developing a coherent ecological network
- Species protection
- Supplementary measures

Establishing SACs

1. MSs draw up proposed Sites of Community Importance (SCI)
2. Commission adopts a list of SCI
3. MS designates as Special Areas of Conservation, within 6 years

Protecting SACs

- Avoid deterioration/disturbance
- Subject projects or plans to 'appropriate assessment'
- If proposal damaging and must proceed, take compensatory measures
- Establish the necessary conservation measures eg management plans
- Establish 'strict protection' for species of Community interest
- Report progress every 6 years

Article 10

- ‘encourage the management of features of the landscape.....which, by virtue of their linear and continuous structure...or their function as stepping stones...are essential for the migration dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species.’

Enforcement

- Failing to transpose provisions within the necessary time period
- Failure to submit complete lists of proposed SCI and associated info
- Failure to protect individual spp
- Lack of protection of proposed sites (many member states)
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Guidance

- Interpretation manual for Article 6 (management plans) and guidance on dealing with 'appropriate assessment' of proposed developments
- Guidelines for the establishment of the Natura 2000 network in marine areas

Communications/networking

- Natura 2000 newsletter, produced by the Commission
- Natura 2000 networking programme, which produced a series of training events and practical tools (now ceased but website and materials still available)

Networking organisations

- Eurosite (organizations managing N2K sites)
- European Environmental Bureau (influencing policy)
- Europarc Federation (protected areas)
- European Centre for Nature Conservation (conservation and sustainable use)
- European Habitats forum (restoration and sustainable use of habitats)

Funding

- Make use of existing funds (and therefore integrate the funding of Nat 2000 into other relevant Community policies)

(Europa website)

Guidance

- **Financing Natura 2000**
- **Guidance Handbook**
 - **Revised version, June 07**
 - **Commissioned by the European Commission
DG Environment**

Main funding instruments:

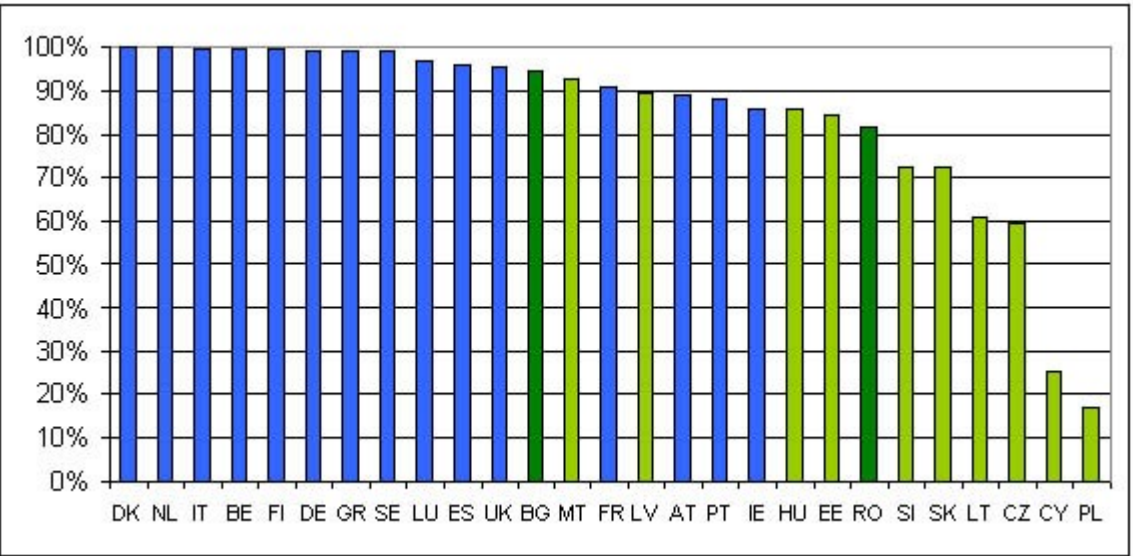
- The Structural Funds (European Social Fund (ESF) and European Regional Development Fund (ERDF));
- The Cohesion Fund;
- The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD);
- The European Fisheries Fund (EFF);
- The Financial Instrument for the Environment (LIFE+); and
- The 7th Research Framework Programme (FP7).

Progress?

- The Natura 2000 Barometer gives an evaluation on the progress made in establishing the Natura 2000 network, both under the Birds and the Habitats Directives: published in the [Natura 2000 Newsletter](#).
- The statistics are provided twice a year by the [European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity](#) in Paris.

(source: Europa website)

State of **progress by Member States** in reaching sufficiency for the Habitat Directive Annex I habitats and Annex II species:





CONSTITUENTS OF WELL-BEING

Security

PERSONAL SAFETY
 SECURE RESOURCE ACCESS
 SECURITY FROM DISASTERS

Basic material for good life

ADEQUATE LIVELIHOODS
 SUFFICIENT NUTRITIOUS FOOD
 SHELTER
 ACCESS TO GOODS

Health

STRENGTH
 FEELING WELL
 ACCESS TO CLEAN AIR
 AND WATER

Good social relations

SOCIAL COHESION
 MUTUAL RESPECT
 ABILITY TO HELP OTHERS

Freedom of choice and action

OPPORTUNITY TO BE
 ABLE TO ACHIEVE
 WHAT AN INDIVIDUAL
 VALUES DOING
 AND BEING

Source: Millennium Ecosystem Assessment

Values and Benefits

Core value – the need to conserve biodiversity

Benefits?

Can these benefits be measured?

‘The economics of ecosystems and biodiversity’

Major report in preparation to

‘draw attention to the global economics of biodiversity and the costs of biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation’

Phase 1 report

‘we find poverty and the loss of ecosystems and biodiversity to be inextricably intertwined’

‘we are still struggling to find the “value of nature”. Nature is the source of much value to us everyday, and yet it mostly bypasses markets, escapes pricing and defies valuation.’

Realising the benefits eg

- The European Charter for Sustainable Tourism (ECST) – to stimulate the development of tourism in harmony with the sustainable use of natural resources

In conclusion

- Nat 2000 – a vital resource; we need to do better
- Complex and evolving network - enlargement
- All MSs need to take action
- Consider climate change, and the Article 10 provisions
- Needs clearer information on public benefits – to attract sufficient resources