



EUROPARC
F E D E R A T I O N

The EU Habitats Directive: from theory to practice

Appropriate Assessment Procedure
(Article 6.3-4 Habitats Directive)

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Appropriate Assessment

A way of protection – nationally protected areas vs. Natura 2000

- **Nationally protected areas usually have a list of prohibited /restricted activities**
- **Contrary to it, Natura 2000 network has been designed positively; everything is allowed if two basic obligations are met:**
 - Maintenance (or improvement) of status of target features of particular sites is secured (= ban of worsening the current status) (Art. 6.2 HD)
 - Appropriate assessment of plans and projects likely to affect Natura 2000 sites is obligatorily ensured (Art. 6.3 and 6.4 HD).

Appropriate Assessment

Article 6.3 Habitats Directive



- **Any plan or project** not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the (Natura 2000) site but **likely to have a significant effect thereon**, either individually or **in combination** with other plans or projects, shall be subject to **appropriate assessment** of its implications for the site in view of the **site's conservation objectives**.

Appropriate Assessment

Article 6.3 (continued)



- In the light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will **not adversely affect the integrity of the site** concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public.

Appropriate Assessment

What is an Appropriate Assessment?



- An **assessment of potential effects** of proposed plan or project – ‘in combination’ with other plans and projects – on one or more N2K sites
- Only based on scientific (technical) considerations
- To assess implications on “**conservation objectives** and to ascertain whether the proposal would affect **site’s integrity**”

Appropriate Assessment

Result of the Appropriate Assessment (AA)



- **As a result, unequivocal decision has to be made:**
 - **there is no significant adverse impact of given project on any of the target features assumable – plan/project can go ahead**
 - **significant adverse impact of given project on at least one of the target features of any site is proven - integrity of that site is affected - plan/project cannot proceed**
- **However, this ban is not unconditional**
 - under certain circumstances it can be broken through
 - The Directive anticipates situations when there are specific reasons to authorize derogations (Art 6.4)

Appropriate Assessment

Two case studies



Case Study 1 – The Appropriate Assessment in Hungary

by András Schmidt, Ministry of Agriculture, Hungary

Case Study 2 – A hundred times nothing killed the donkey (Krkonoše NP Administration)

by Stanislav Březina, Krkonoše Mountains National Park, Czech Republic