EUROPARC CONFERENCE
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Portugal

New Voices
New Visions
New Values

for People and Nature in Europe
An EU Action Plan for Nature People and the Economy

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New Voices
New Visions
New Values

for People and Nature in Europe
The Fitness Check of the Nature Directives

- Comprehensive evaluation of Birds and Habitats Directives
- Extensive evidence gathering & stakeholder consultation at MS and EU levels
- Over 552,000 response to EU public consultation
Key findings of Fitness Check

• Too many species/habitats show negative trends
• Only 50% of Natura 2000 sites properly managed
• Marine Natura 2000 network incomplete
• Funding shortage and weak policy integration
• Cases of inflexible application & permitting delays by national & local authorities
• Insufficient knowledge, awareness, engagement & cooperation
Conclusion of Fitness Check

Nature Directives are **fit for purpose** but fully achieving their objectives and potential will depend on **substantial improvement in their implementation** in relation to both effectiveness and efficiency, **working in partnership** with different stakeholder communities in the Member States and across the EU, to deliver practical results on the ground.
Objectives of the Nature Action Plan

• to realise the full potential of the Directives to achieve healthy ecosystems, whose services benefit people, nature and the economy
• to boost their contribution towards reaching the EU's biodiversity targets for 2020
• to improve the Directives' coherence with broader socio-economic objectives
Approach of Action Plan

• 4 priority areas of Action
  • Improving guidance & knowledge and ensuring better coherence with broader socio-economic objectives
  • Building political ownership and strengthening compliance
  • Strengthening investment in Natura 2000 and improving synergies with EU funding instruments
  • Better communication and outreach, engaging citizens, stakeholders and communities

• 15 Actions (detailed factsheets in Staff Working Document)
• Timeframe 2017-2019 (cannot pre-empt next MFF nor ongoing debate on the future of CAP)
• Key Actors: MS, COM, CoR, EIB, EEA, Stakeholders
1. Update, develop and actively promote, in all EU languages, guidance on (a) site permitting procedures, species protection and management as well as sector-specific guidance (b) integrating ecosystem services into decision-making

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2. Establish a support mechanism to help Member State authorities address key challenges in applying the permitting requirements of the Birds and Habitats Directives for Natura 2000 and species protection rules

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3. Improve knowledge, including through enhanced and more efficient monitoring, and ensure public online access to data necessary for implementing the Directives (e.g. satellite imagery from the Copernicus programme)

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# Building political ownership and strengthening compliance

4. Complete **Natura 2000** network, especially **gaps for marine & put in place necessary conservation measures** for sites

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<td>5. Use <strong>Environmental Implementation Review</strong> for dedicated <strong>bilateral</strong>s with national &amp; regional authorities to develop agreed <strong>roadmaps</strong> to improve implementation &amp; consult with landowners &amp; other stakeholders on challenges</td>
<td>COM/MS/stakeholders</td>
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<td>6. Bring together public authorities &amp; stakeholders from different MS at <strong>biogeographical region</strong> level to address <strong>common challenges</strong>, including on <strong>cross-border issues</strong></td>
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<td>7. Further develop <strong>Species &amp; Habitats Action Plans</strong> for most threatened species/natural habitats &amp; <strong>stakeholder platforms</strong> on coexistence with conflict species (e.g. large carnivores)</td>
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| 8. | **Strengthen investments in nature**  
   (a) Update **PAFs** - improve Natura 2000 multiannual financial planning  
   (b) Propose **10% nature/biodiversity increase** within LIFE budget  
   (c) Stimulate **private sector investment** in nature projects | COM/EIB/MS/stakeholders |
| 9. | **Promote synergies with CAP**, incl. Natura 2000 payments & agri-environment-climate measures, development of **result-based schemes**, **Farming Advisory Services**, innovation and knowledge transfer. | COM / MS / stakeholders |
| 10. | **Increase awareness of cohesion policy funding opportunities** and improve synergies | COM / MS / stakeholders |
| 11. | **Improve synergies with the common fisheries policy** & integrated maritime policy, including more effective use of financing opportunities | COM / MS / stakeholders |
| 12. | Provide **guidance to support deployment of green infrastructure** for better connectivity of Natura 2000 areas; support nature-based solutions projects through EU research and innovation policy and Horizon 2020 funds | COM / MS / stakeholders |
### Better communication & outreach, engaging citizens, stakeholders & communities

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<td><strong>13.</strong> Support <strong>knowledge exchange &amp; engagement</strong> of local &amp; regional authorities through a joint platform with Committee of the Regions</td>
<td>CoR / COM</td>
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<td><strong>14.</strong> Support recognition of good management of Natura 2000 &amp; awareness-raising of Nature Directives, <strong>availing of new technologies</strong> and <strong>outreach activities</strong>, and strengthen links between natural and cultural heritage (2018 European year of cultural heritage)</td>
<td>COM / CoR / MS stakeholders</td>
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<td><strong>15.</strong> Involve young people by giving them the opportunity to get involved in nature protection in Natura 2000 sites (European Solidarity Corps)</td>
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Essential role for regional and local authorities

- Many challenges at local and regional level
  - Reconciling environmental quality with socio-economic progress
  - Promoting smart & joined up implementation (incl. permitting)
  - Addressing conflicts (e.g. large carnivores)
  - Ensuring investment in and optimise benefits of nature

- Special role of Committee of the Regions
  - Workshops, seminars and conference to promote smart & effective implementation
  - Organise debates in cities and regions to exchange knowledge and share good practices
EUROPARC / FEDENATUR are key partners for Action Plan delivery

- Unique networks of expertise and innovation in protected area management
- Key contribution to make to management, restoration and monitoring of Natura 2000
- Strong links to local communities & communication skills to promote cultural and other socio-economic dimensions & benefits of investing in nature
Thank you for your attention