



An Action Plan for nature, people and the economy

COM(2017) 198 final

Objectives of the Nature Action Plan

- to realise the full potential of the **Directives** to achieve **healthy ecosystems**, whose services benefit of **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 and 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 SWD)

- **Timeframe 2017-2019** (cannot pre-empt next MFF and on-going debate on the future of CAP)

- **Key Actors: MS, COM, CoR, EIB, EEA, Stakeholders**

Improve guidance & knowledge and ensure better coherence with broader socio-economic objectives

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| <p>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</p> | COM/CoR/MS / stakeholders |
| <p>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</p> | COM / MS / stakeholders |
| <p>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)</p> | COM / EEA / MS |

Building political ownership and strengthening compliance

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| 4. Complete Natura 2000 network, especially gaps for marine & put in place necessary conservation measures for sites | MS/ stakeholders / COM |
| 5. Use Environmental Implementation Review for dedicated bilaterals with national & regional authorities to develop agreed roadmaps to improve implementation & consult with landowners & other stakeholders on challenges | COM/MS/ stakeholders |
| 6. Bring together public authorities & stakeholders from different MS at biogeographical region level to address common challenges , including on cross-border issues | COM/CoR /MS/ stakeholders |
| 7. Further develop Species & Habitats Action Plans for most threatened species/natural habitats & stakeholder platforms on coexistence with conflict species (e.g. large carnivores) | COM/MS / stakeholders |

Strengthening investment in Natura 2000 and improving synergies with EU funding instruments

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| <p>8. Strengthen investments in nature</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (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 | <p>COM/EIB/MS /stakeholders</p> |
| <p>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.</p> | <p>COM / MS / stakeholders</p> |
| <p>10. Increase awareness of cohesion policy funding opportunities and improve synergies</p> | <p>COM / MS / stakeholders</p> |
| <p>11. Improve synergies with the common fisheries policy & integrated maritime policy, including more effective use of financing opportunities</p> | <p>COM / MS / stakeholders</p> |
| <p>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</p> | <p>COM / MS / stakeholders</p> |

Better communication & outreach, engaging citizens, stakeholders & communities

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



Next steps

- **Ambitious work programme for the next two and a half years**
- **Natura 2000 Day proclaimed on 15 May**
- **Dedicated Conference on 6th June, hosted jointly with CoR and Maltese Presidency**
- **Council Conclusions**