



European
Commission

Linking Natural and Cultural Heritage

Activities under the EU
Nature Action Plan
focusing on Natura 2000
and cultural heritage



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Natura 2000 and cultural heritage

- **Cultural landscapes:** "the combined works of nature and man"
- Ecosystems in N2000 sites often result from **interaction with human activity** (e.g. extensive agriculture) or depend on it.
- Many **species and habitats** with cultural significance
- Significant **spatial overlap** of cultural and N2000 heritage - sites with multiple designations
- Biodiversity and cultural assets often subject to **same threats**, hence need **integrated management**



A question of shared heritage and values of society!

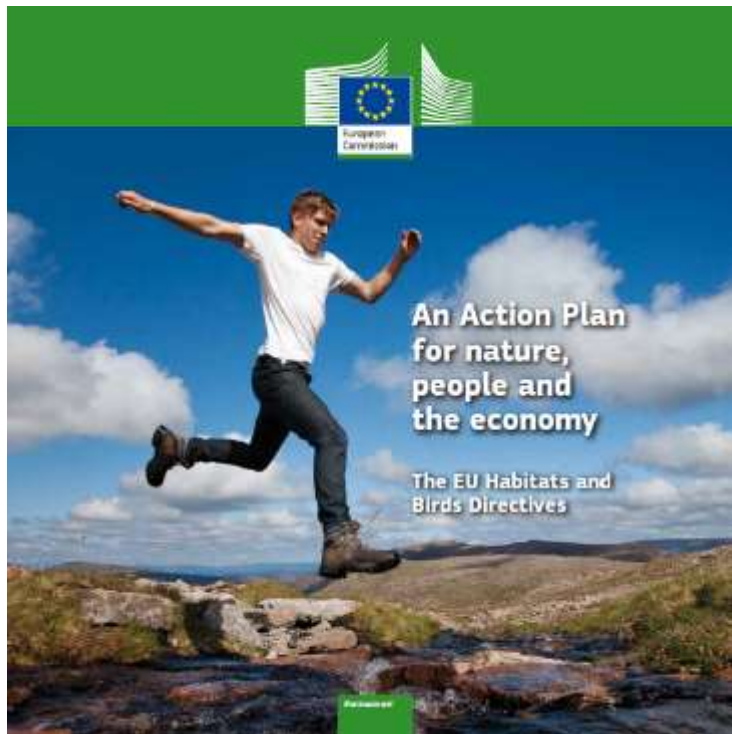


Integrated management of Natura 2000 & cultural sites

- Linking cultural assets and Natura 2000 sites can:
 - **Improve communication, awareness, education**
 - **Enhance public support and community engagement**
 - **Establish effective management schemes and measures**
 - **Increase synergies of financing sources**
 - **Maximise potential of sites to deliver their benefits for people and nature**
- Protection afforded to cultural assets can benefit nature conservation
- Opportunities offered by N2000

EU Action Plan for nature, people and the economy

Priority D: Better communication and outreach, engaging citizens, stakeholders and communities



Support recognition of good management of Natura 2000 sites and awareness-raising of the Nature Directives through relevant fora, availing of new technologies and outreach activities, and **strengthen links between natural and cultural heritage, especially in the context of 2018 as European Year of Cultural Heritage.**

The scoping study - 2015

Context: Declaration of Stymphalia (2014) and Charter of Rome.

Objective: review of links and complementary between nature and culture with a focus on linking N2000 and cultural assets through a scoping exercise to identify how the different policies might better support each other and which are the possible funding opportunities available.



**Scoping study on the
review of links and
complementary between
Natura 2000 and cultural
sites**

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/financing/docs/Scoping%20study%20N2000%20and%20culture.pdf>



DONE





The case studies - 2017

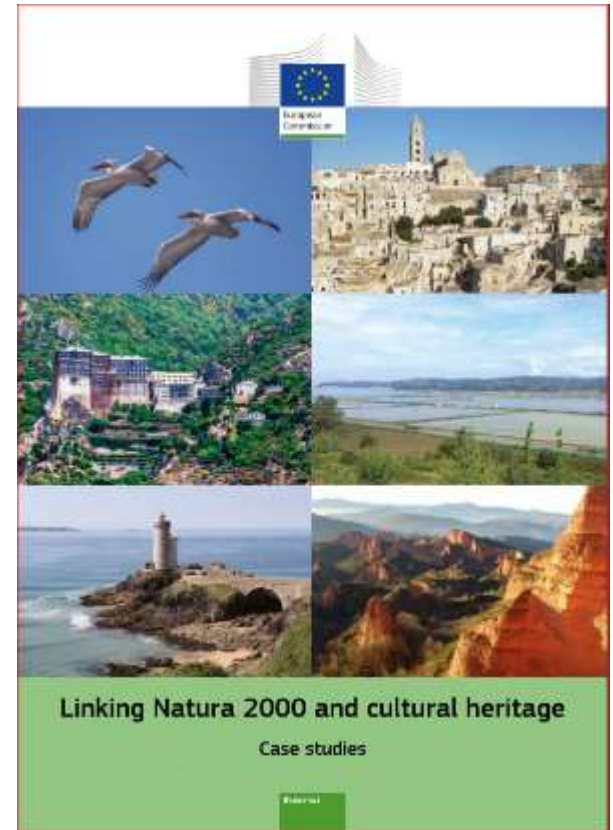
Context: growing awareness of the advantages of linking biodiversity and cultural heritage.

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Objective: showcasing a series of case studies from across the EU that would represent different aspects of linking N2000/biodiversity and cultural heritage.



http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/pdf/case_study_natura2000_cultural_heritage.pdf





A case study: **Matera, Italy, where culture and nature live side by side**

The Italian city of Matera is famous for its Sassi (literally “stones”), a peculiar system of dwellings and churches carved into the rock, inhabited since the Paleolithic age. The City is both a **World Heritage Site** and part of the **Natura 2000 Network**.

DONE

Two very rare bird species, the **Lesser kestrel** (*Falco naumanni*) and the **Lanner falcon** (*Falco biarmicus*), nest under the Sassi roofs and work is underway to conserve these colonies. New standards have also been set in the **construction regulations** to ensure the use of raptor friendly roof tiles and cavities in buildings, thanks to **integrated management planning**.



Synergy areas - 2018

Objectives:

1. Evaluate the **spatial overlaps** between Natura 2000 and cultural heritage areas.
2. Identify and analyse **areas of synergy** between nature and culture and key elements of success for an integrated approach.



Designation overlaps: Natura 2000 and UNESCO cultural World Heritage Sites

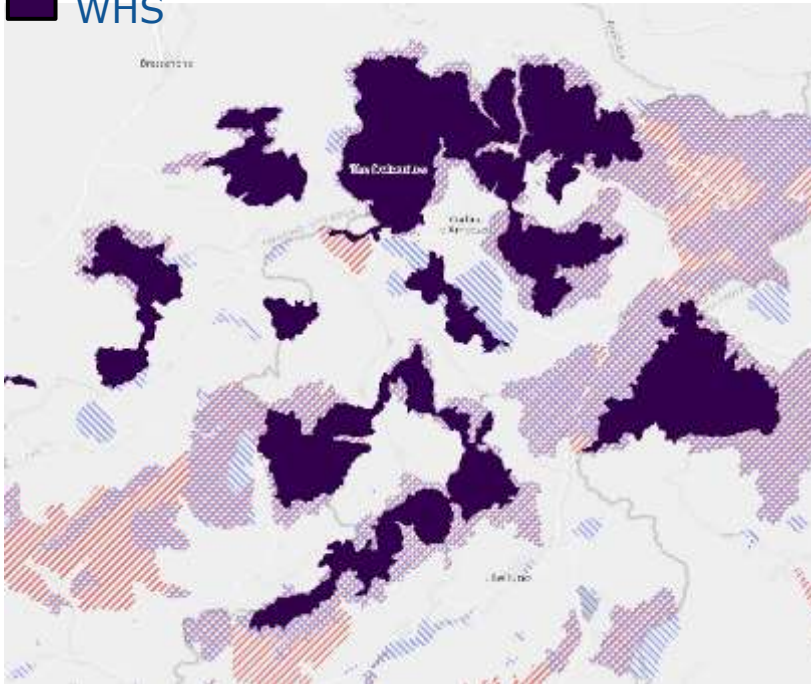


- The overlaps between cultural World Heritage and Natura 2000 are larger than one would expect
- Of the 336 unique cultural World Heritage Sites in the EU, 49 (or almost 15%) are located in or directly border a Natura 2000 site
- 142 sites (or 42%) are located within walking distance (2 km radius)





Designation overlaps: Natura 2000 and UNESCO cultural World Heritage Sites



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- Of 34 unique natural- and mixed cultural-natural World Heritage Sites in the EU, 32 are at least partly designated under the EU Birds- and Habitats Directives
- Of these 32, all but one Natura 2000 designations fully or largely overlapped with the entire World Heritage Site designation
- Example: Dolomites (IT) where nearly the entire UNESCO site is designated Natura 2000 area too

Many other overlaps.

Example: EU Cultural Heritage/Europa Nostra award winners



- Nearly half of EU Cultural Heritage Conservation Award laureates are located within walking distance of Natura 2000
- Out of 116 laureates since 2009, 18 are located inside or directly bordering Natura 2000, 49 laureates are within a 2km radius
- Left: Greek laureates 2009-2016, with cut out restoration of Lassithi Plateau's Windmills, Crete in Dikti SAC (GR4320002)



Many other overlaps.

- **EU Natura 2000 Awards**



- **21st of May EU Natura 2000 Day**



#Natura2000

#LIFEProgramme



Common threats: Ancient city of Nessebar (BG) World Heritage Site in Natura 2000

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Common threats: Ancient city of Nessebar (BG) UNESCO cultural World Heritage Site

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Reported impacts 2017 UNESCO
Conservation of Status reporting:

- Housing
- Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation
- Management systems/ management plan
- Marine transport infrastructure

Natura 2000 two most recorded high
threats & pressures:

- Urbanisation, residential and commercial development
- Recreation and leisure development

...And no management plans(s) in place!



Common opportunities: Schloss Eggenberg (Styria, AT) Cultural World Heritage Site

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- World Heritage since 1999 and the last known remaining wintering site in Austria of the highly- threatened Greater Horseshoe Bat (*Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*) protected under the EU Habitats Directive
- In 2015 the castle and its gardens were designated as a Natura 2000 site to protect the bat species

Common opportunities: Schloss Eggenberg (AT)



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Bat Nights - Schloss Eggenberg Edition
Fledermausführung und Beobachtung

20.05.2016 20:00

Treffpunkt: Schloss Eggenberg, Parkeingang
Kosten: € 4,50./Person, gratis mit der Familien Joanneumskarte
Anmeldung: +43 316/8017 9560
Führung und Beobachtung für Kinder + 1 Begleitperson

- Conservation Order of 09 July 2015 set management measures into law, obliging site managers to both improve castle and park
- Presence of bats now embraced as an opportunity to bring different audiences to the site, and its protection integrated in cultural site management

Thank you!

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/index_en.htm

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/links_natural_cultural_heritage_en.htm



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