



Natura 2000: opportunities for sustainable tourism embracing natural and cultural heritage in nature protected areas.

XI European Charter Network Meeting

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Natura 2000 network: Why are we proud of it?

- ✓ *Established under the EU nature directives*
- ✓ *Largest coordinated network of protected sites in the world*
- ✓ *More than 27500 protected sites across the EU*
- ✓ *18% of EU territory and 9,5% of EU seas*
- ✓ *Human activities are not excluded - wider concept of conservation and sustainable use*



Socio-economic benefits of the Natura 2000 network

- ✓ *Wide range of benefits including tourism, recreation, education, knowledge, employment opportunities, social cohesion, health benefits, aesthetic pleasure etc...*
- ✓ *Key to create support for the network, including ensuring resources for its management*

Natura 2000 Awards

NEW CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: 21 May 2019

- Conservation
- Socio-Economic Benefits
- Communication
- Reconciling Interests and Perceptions
- Cross-Border Cooperation and Networking



[http://ec.europa.eu/
environment/nature/
natura2000/awards
/index_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/awards/index_en.htm)

Examples of 2018 finalists

European citizens' award
School of Nature , Portugal

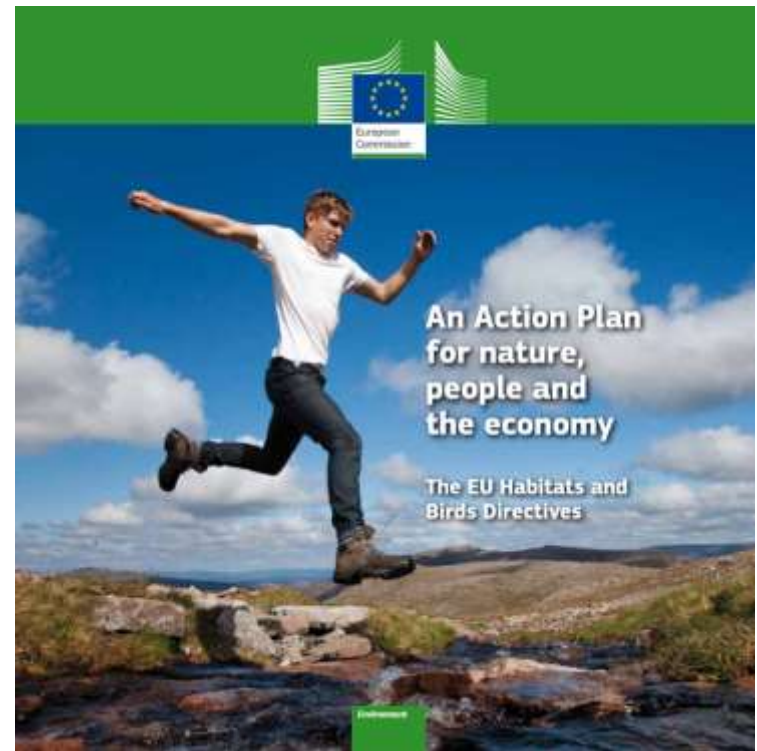


Finalist- socioeconomic benefits category
Magic autumn at Ambroz valley, Spain



EU action plan for nature, people & the economy

- 4 key priorities
- 15 Actions
- More than 100 measures
- Timeframe 2017-2019
- Key Actors: MS, COM, CoR, EIB, EEA, Stakeholders



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

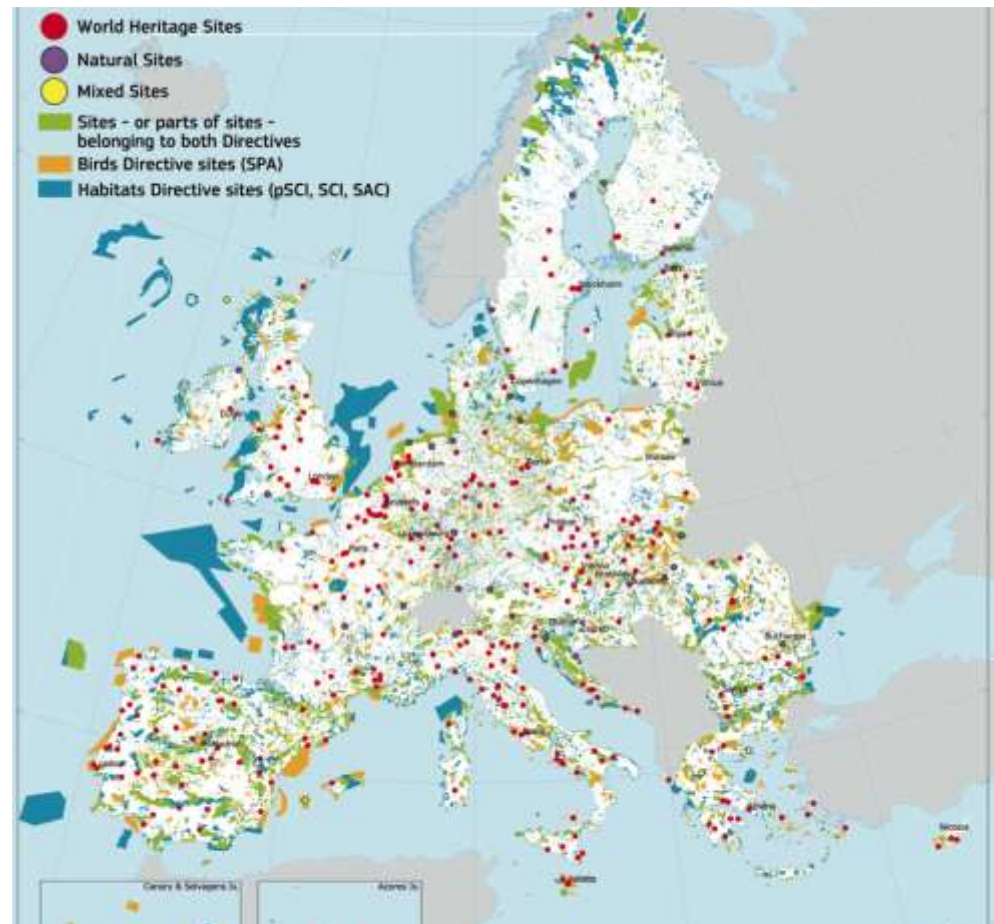
Overlap of World heritage sites with the Natura 2000 network

In total, almost half (ca 170 sites) of all World Heritage Sites in the EU are in, or within 2 km of, a Natura 2000.

27 of the 29 natural and mixed World Heritage Sites in the EU overlap with Natura 2000 sites.

20% of the 336 cultural WHS in the EU, are located partly or fully in Natura 2000

A further 75 cultural WHS are within walking distance of a Natura 2000 (2km).



Links of natural & cultural heritage

- ✓ *Bring similar socio-economic benefits*
- ✓ *Subject to similar threats & pressures*
- ✓ *Face common challenges, e.g. lack of adequate financial resources*

- ✓ *Join forces- joint projects - a potential win-win*
 - ✓ **Tackle common challenges**
 - ✓ **Help find solutions to potential areas of conflict**
 - ✓ **Increase chances of EU financial support**

Examples of EU Funded projects

INTERREG

- **Austria/ Slovenia** :3 castles, 2 countries, 1 story : creating a sustainable cultural touristic destination in a cross border nature area

EAFRD

- **Finland** : Sustainable Tourism Development Strategy in the Kvarken Archipelago WH/Natura 2000 site



Examples of EU Funded projects



Photo © naturepl.com

EMFF WildSea Atlantic Ocean Heritage Route

develop the first European sustainable diving route and network of dive sites based on their natural and cultural heritage



GeoparkLIFE project Burren Tourism, Ireland

Reconcile tourism development with the conservation of natural and cultural heritage

Key recommendations for a more integrated approach to natural and cultural heritage management

Integrated planning and management

- ✓ Natura 2000 management plans as a starting point
- ✓ Appropriate Assessment procedure – a legal framework to evaluate the impact of plans or projects

Key recommendations for a more integrated approach to natural and cultural heritage management

Improve communication and dialogue

- ✓ Exchange information, identify areas of synergies
- ✓ Raise awareness for socio-economic benefits and importance of natural and cultural heritage as part of wider sustainable development
- ✓ Share experiences through good practice and capacity building

MORE INFORMATION

Go to :

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

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/awards/index_en.htm

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

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/info/pubs/natura2000nl_en.htm

Thank you for your attention!

