



# Natura 2000 & tourism

**Partnerships for Biodiversity**  
**European policies and the role of**  
**protected areas**

**2019 Seminar-dialogue**

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- *Latest report on natural & cultural heritage in Natura 2000*
- *Scoping study on tourism and recreational activities in Natura 2000*
- *Next steps*



# Natural and Cultural Heritage in Europe: Working together within Natura 2000



Photo Naturepl.com

[https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/pdf/Natural\\_and\\_Cultural\\_Heritage\\_report\\_2019\\_WEB.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/pdf/Natural_and_Cultural_Heritage_report_2019_WEB.pdf)



# Contents of the report



- *Spatial overlaps between natural and cultural heritage sites in the EU – Natura 2000 and UNESCO World Heritage sites*
- *Common socio-economic benefits, threats and challenges*
- *EU funding opportunities for joint initiatives*
- *Recommendations for integrated management*



# Actions funded by EU funds

- *developing and implementing management plans*
- *restoration work*
- *providing visitor infrastructure*
- *promoting and managing tourism & education*
- *awareness raising*
- *enhancing regional identity*
- *supporting local sustainable development*

# 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

## EMFF

- **Wild Sea Atlantic Ocean Heritage Route:** develop the first European sustainable diving route and network of dive sites based on their natural and cultural heritage



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# Scoping study on tourism and recreational activities in Natura 2000

- *Overview of the elements to consider in the promotion and management of tourism and recreational activities in Natura 2000*
- *Explores the possibility of preparing a new document that could guide the planning and development of tourism and recreational activities in Natura 2000*



# Findings

- *Many initiatives (guidelines, regulations, certification schemes, best practices, etc) promoting sustainable tourism in Natura 2000 are available across the EU*
- *Natura 2000 sites offer great opportunities for tourism and outdoor recreation – need to properly manage these activities*
- *Tourism and recreation activities (including leisure and sports) definitions in Natura 2000 are not consistent across EU - No aggregated data of tourism and recreation activities at the EU level*
- *No systematic approach or tools to evaluate and manage tourism impacts on Natura 2000.*
- *Sustainable tourism and recreation activities in Natura 2000 have been funded under all the main EU programmes (ERDF, EAFRD, EMFF, LIFE, NCFE, Horizon 2020, etc.)*



# Next steps – first phase

- *A series of reports by the end of 2019:*
  - **Focus on habitats and species most affected by tourism & recreation based on the reporting under the Birds and Habitats Directives + relevant solutions**
  - **monitoring of tourism and recreation activities in Natura 2000**
  - **Assessment of carrying capacity**
  - **EU funding for management and regulation of tourism and recreational activities in Natura 2000**



# Next steps – second phase in 2020



*Develop a guidance document on the management of tourism and recreation in Natura 2000 in close cooperation with relevant stakeholders*

*Thank you!*

