

Natura 2000 Site Designation Process
with a special focus on the
Biogeographic seminars



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1. Introduction

Joining the European Union on the 1st of May 2004 marked the end of the long road of preparatory work by ten countries. The main driving force behind building cohesion of the expanding European Union is increasing social and economic welfare. It was realised long ago, that the recent production – consumption pattern of the “consumer society” is providing material wealth to a great part of the population, however, this often happens at the expense of natural habitats and species.

The continuous decline of biodiversity has rung alarm bells in the European Union institutions, so strategies, policies and directives have been developed and implemented to combat it.

*One of the most important among them is the **Habitats Directive**, of 1992. Through this Directive, Member States of the European Union are committed to the proper establishment of **Natura 2000**, the **European ecological network of protected areas**, from the day they become EU Member States.*

The new EU Member States possess a significant part of the European natural heritage, including many threatened species and habitats. The establishment of Natura 2000 is a key step to protect and maintain this rich natural treasure for future generations. Therefore it is very important to make sure that the designation of Natura 2000 sites is carried out in a timely and proper way to maintain their conservation interest as a priority of major importance. To realise this, it is essential to inform relevant stakeholders about their roles and responsibilities within the site designation process. This brochure aims to give information about the site designation process and also to help clarify the role of NGOs in the establishment of Natura 2000.

2. What is Natura 2000?

Natura 2000 is a European **ecological network** of protected areas designated by the EU Member States based on legally **binding** legislation: the Habitats and Birds Directives. According to Article 3 of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), Natura 2000 is a coherent European ecological network of special areas of conservation (SAC) and special protection areas for birds (SPA).

The Habitats and Birds Directives are the most important legal instruments of the European Union for protecting biodiversity. **The aim** of the Habitats Directive is *"to contribute towards ensuring bio-diversity through the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora in the European territory of the Member States to which the Treaty applies"* (Art 2.1).

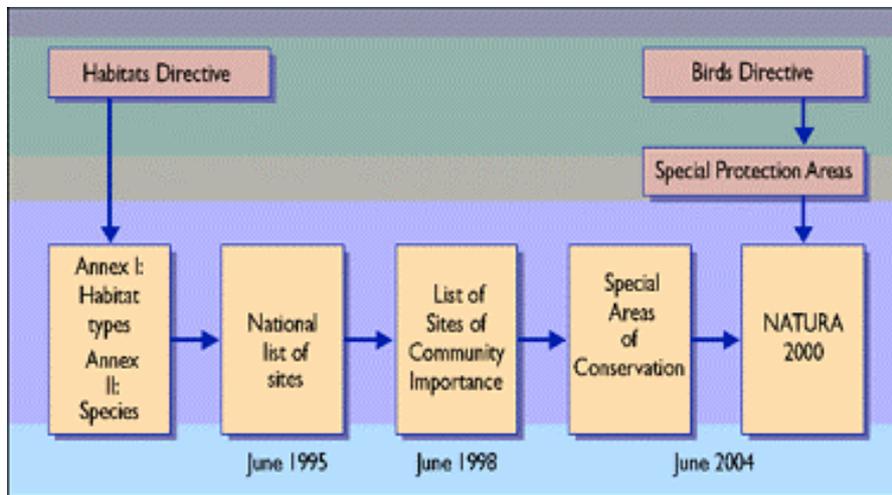


Figure 1. The structure of Natura 2000

The network consists of two types of protected areas: **Special Protection Areas** (SPA) and **Special Areas of Conservation** (SAC). **SPAs** are

designated by the Member States according to the "Birds Directive" (79/409/EEC). The Directive obliges the Member States to "classify the most suitable territories" as SPAs in order "to ensure the survival and reproduction" of the bird species mentioned in Annex I. of the Directive. Similar measures have to be applied "for the regularly occurring migratory species not listed in Annex I.", and particular attention has to be paid "to the protection of wetlands and particularly to wetlands of international importance". The Commission's role is to ensure the coherence of the SPA network.

By the designation of **SACs**, this protection is extended for the habitats of other threatened species as well as birds, (Annex II. of the Habitats Directive) as well as for the habitats listed in Annex I. of the Habitats Directive.

The designation of SACs compared with the designation of SPAs is a more complicated and longer process requiring cooperation between the Commission and the Member States.

Firstly, Member States draw up the list of **proposed Sites of Community Interest (pSCIs)** according to the criteria in Annex III of the Habitats Directive. After this, the **SCIs (Sites of Community Importance)** are agreed between the Commission and the Member States. In this process, the biogeographic seminars play a crucial role. Finally, the Member States designate the adopted list of SCIs as **SACs (Special Areas of Conservation)** (see in chapter 2).

The SCI selection should have been completed within **six years** after the notification (1992) of the Directive. So far, only the SCIs of the Macaronesian region including Madeira, Azores and Canary Islands (2001) and the Alpine regions (December of 2003), and the Atlantic and Continental regions (December 2004) have been adopted.

3. Why is Natura 2000 different from traditional site protection?

The Natura 2000 network has some features which distinguish it from protected areas designated at the national level.

First of all the designation of SACs is based on **purely scientific information** (provided they are available) which gives an unambiguous basis to select these areas and unifies the entire network. These sites provide protection for selected species or habitats only, taking into consideration their protection requirements. Moreover, the protected areas shall form **an ecological network** which can reduce the isolation and the fragmentation of the threatened populations with regards to biodiversity conservation.

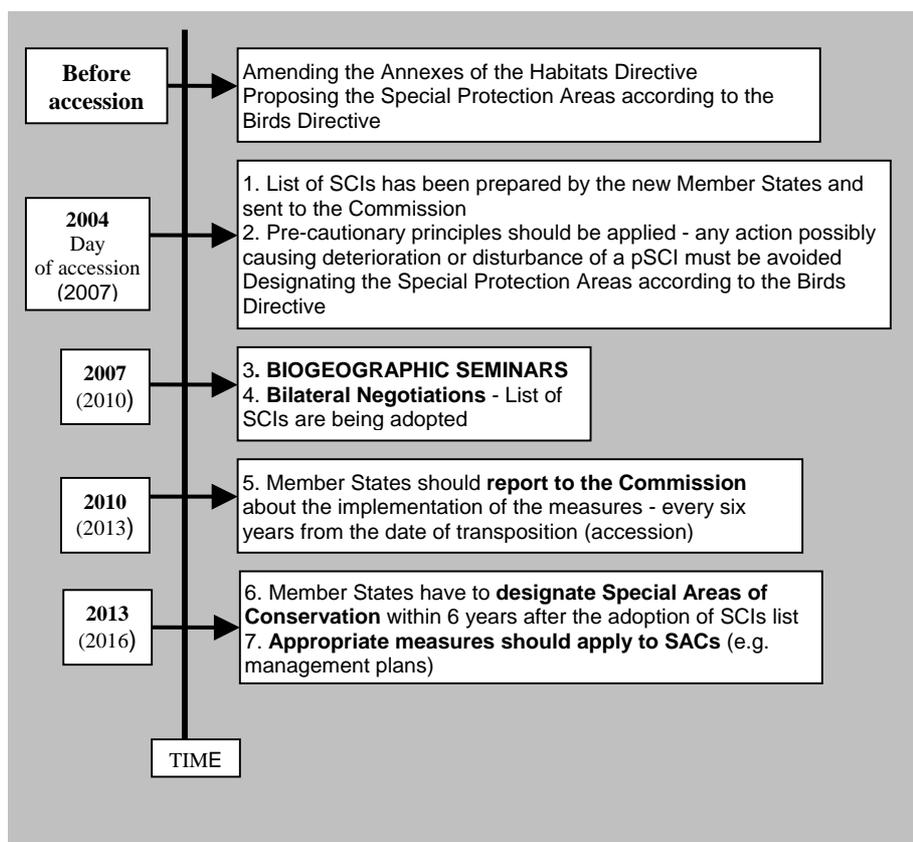
The Habitats Directive is also a basis from which to request some European Community **resources** – though quite limited – to protect and maintain these areas. After 2007, there should be a clear solution for financing the management of Natura 2000 through various EU funds. The use of financial allocations from these funds for Natura 2000 aims to assist the management of these sites, as well as to provide additional income to local inhabitants, contribute to stopping the major trends in land abandonment and decrease the social gap between rural and industrial agricultural areas.

Finally, according to the estimates for the EU 15, Natura 2000 areas will cover more than 15% of the land area of the Member States, which is significantly more than the coverage of protected areas protected under national law for most of the European countries.

4. Timing of Natura 2000 establishment in accession countries

There have been long delays in establishing Natura 2000 in the present Member States. The first-wave accession countries have to keep to the deadlines shown in figure 2 below. From the day of accession there are **3 years** in which to hold the biogeographic seminars and **6 years** for designating the SACs. The time allocated to the specific steps in the Natura 2000 establishment process are the same for the second-wave accession countries (including Romania, Bulgaria and Croatia) calculated from their date of accession. (see Figure 2 below).

Figure 2. TIMELINE – Timing of the Natura 2000 establishment process



The numbers in the brackets on the left show the expected year of the different steps for the second-wave accession countries (pSCI – proposed Sites of Community Interest; SCI – Sites of Community Importance; SAC – Special Areas of Conservations; SPA – Special Protection Areas).

5. The process of designating Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) including the biogeographic seminars

The designation process includes making amendments to the annexes of the Habitats Directive, drawing up the list of pSCIs, selecting the SCIs on the Biogeographic Seminar of the country, adopting them, and finally designating the SACs by Member States.

5.1 Making Amendments

During the accession negotiations Accession Countries can make amendments to the Annexes of the Habitats Directive if they host habitat types or species that qualify under the criteria for Community Interest and are not included in the Annexes. This process has been finished for the 10 accession countries, as well as for Romania and Bulgaria. Updating the list of habitat types and species during the accession process is essential, because the list of pSCIs can be prepared only on the basis of the Annexes of the Habitats Directive. No species or habitats can be included in Annex I and II of the Directive at a later stage in the process.

NGOs should get involved in the implementation process of the Directive at this stage to push for a **list** of species and habitats that is as complete as possible. Any proposal should be backed up by strong scientific data.

5.2 Preparing pSCI list

Each State **draws up and submits the list of proposed Sites of Community Importance (pSCIs)** including a description about the characteristic features of the specific site - by filling out the Standard Data Form - submitted *to the Commission* (see appendix I). On these Standard Data Forms the list of Annex I habitats and Annex II species should be indicated that occur in the site.

The pSCIs are chosen according to the criteria of Annex III of the Habitats Directive. The candidate countries have to submit this list **by the day of accession**.

5.3 Applying precautionary principles

When accessing the European Union all the new Member States have to apply precautionary principles, to **avoid** any actions possibly causing deterioration or disturbance of a pSCI. To achieve this, governments should raise **awareness** of these sites, and take measures to avoid damage and deterioration to them. Therefore, Article 6 of the Habitats Directive should apply to pSCIs from the date of accession.

5.4 Technical analysis

The European Topic Centre for Nature Protection and Biodiversity (ETC/NPB)¹ carries out a **technical analysis of pSCIs** for each Member State. DG Environment sends the results to the Member States with a request for correction of the shortcomings of the proposals.

¹ In the time of preparing this document the ETC is consortium of nine partners with the lead of the Nature History Museum in Paris. This new European Topic Centre for Nature Protection and Biodiversity starts its operation on 1 January, 2005.

The Member States **return** the revised lists of pSCIs. Further discussions will be based on the information included into these lists.

Then the following documents are sent to each participant:

- a. *The **reference list** indicating which habitat types and species are present in the given biogeographical part of the territory of all the members concerned*
- b. *The **Natura 2000 standard data forms** of all the sites proposed by the Member States for the biogeographical region concerned*
- c. *For each habitat type and species, **a map of the whole biogeographical region** presenting all sites proposed by the different Member States concerned*
- d. *A summary table, presenting for each habitat type and species*
 - *the number of sites proposed by each Member States*
 - *the coverage (indicated by %)*
 - *first preliminary conclusions*

6. The process of the Biogeographic seminar

Biogeographic seminars are meetings in which the list of proposed Sites of Community Interests (pSCIs), proposed by national governments, are discussed and agreed by the participants of these meetings: the European Commission, representatives of national governments, NGOs, land users' organisations and independent experts.

The selection of Natura 2000 sites is done according to **biogeographic regions**. There were 6 biogeographic regions including Alpine, Atlantic, Boreal, Continental, Macaronesian, Mediterranean adopted for the EU-15. Pannonian is added because of the enlargement. These regions cover the territory of the acceding countries and the EU-15. Additionally after the

accession of the candidate countries two more biogeographic regions will be added: the Black Sea and the Steppic.

Name of the accession country	Biogeographic regions
Bulgaria	Alpine, Black Sea, Continental
Czech Republic	Continental, Pannonian
Cyprus	Mediterranean
Croatia	Mediterranean, Alpine
Estonia	Boreal
Hungary	Pannonian
Latvia	Boreal
Lithuania	Boreal, Continental
Malta	Mediterranean
Poland	Alpine, Continental
Romania	Alpine, Black Sea, Continental, Pannonian, Steppic
Slovakia	Alpine, Pannonian
Slovenia	Alpine, Continental

Chart 1. The biogeographic regions covering the territories of the first and second wave accession countries of the EU

Each biogeographic seminar is organised by the **Commission** with the participation of countries with land in the particular biogeographic region, which provides the opportunity to ensure the suitable ecological connection of similar habitats and to harmonise national interests with Community policies.

The biogeographic seminars are often **places for heated debates**, as these are the occasions when participants can be **critical** of each others' work. Often governmental representatives submit lists which are far from complete.

Once the sites have been endorsed in the meeting, it is very **difficult to change** them – thus those sites which are potentially conflicting with further development plans are not part of the list in order to avoid putting them under protection. Therefore NGOs (e.g. WWF was a significant player) are presenting so called *shadow lists* at these meetings which includes a lot

more sites than the governmental ones. Should the shadow lists have a sound scientific background, they are truly debated on during the meeting and eventually new meetings are called for in order to allow representatives to present more evidence.

6.1 Participants of the biogeographic seminars

European Commission Institutions

The *European Commission* directs and organises the designation process. The **Directorate General for the Environment** of the European Commission co-ordinates the entire process – e.g. keeps contact among the participants of the seminars and the Commission, prepares the seminars, etc.

The European Topic Centre on Nature Protection and Biodiversity (ETC/NPB, located in Paris) is responsible for the technical and scientific part of the programme - e.g. performs data analysis, prepares the background documents, etc.

Member States

The Member States are responsible for implementing the Habitats Directive and they are also in charge of drawing up and supplementing if necessary the list of pSCIs and completing the process by adopting the complete lists at the end of the process.

In general, national state administrations are responsible for preparing the list of pSCIs, but in some cases also the regional NGOs can be involved to a certain extent. Member States participate at the biogeographic seminars by their nominated representatives.

NGOs:

At the biogeographic seminars the representation and participation of NGOs is coordinated by the **European Habitats Forum** (EHF), which is a

platform of international NGO networks with the aim of advising and influencing conservation policy and supporting the implementation of the EU Habitats and Birds Directives and the EU Biodiversity Action Plan. EHF representatives are selected on the basis of their expertise and data relevant to the region, species or habitats. Their role is to ensure that all important habitats and species are included in the list.

Resource users (land users, investors, etc.):

The participation of different resource users is ensured by the organisation called Forum Natura 2000.

Independent experts invited by the ETC/NPB

Independent experts who work for the Commission and provide it with relevant scientific data are also present at the seminars. This is an opportunity for NGOs to nominate further experts who can advise on the site selection process.

6.2 How are the seminars conducted?

First the representatives from the Commission present the process in general, then the rules and main objectives of the seminars in detail.

There is no particular decision-making mechanism by voting - the participants always try to achieve a consensus in order to solve unsettled questions. In the **first stage**, the participants discuss *the reference list* of habitat types and species occurring in the biogeographic region proposed by the national authorities of the countries. As a result of the discussion, species can be added or species that do not occur in the region can be deleted from the reference list. No more species or habitat types can be added to the reference list later in the process.

The main question of the seminar is whether each Annex I habitat type and Annex II species is **sufficiently represented** on the proposed sites in

order to ensure their **favourable conservation status** (FCS). The discussion consists of two parts: a pre-selection part and a case-by-case section.

a. The pre-selection part is based on the "20%-60% rule"

"20% - 60%" rule

- the habitat types and species which **occurrence** is covered to an extent **higher than 60%** are considered, in principle, as **sufficiently represented**
 - the habitat types and species which **occurrence** is covered to an extent **lower than 20%** are considered, in principle, as **insufficiently represented**
- the habitat types and species which **occurrence** is covered to an extent **between 20% and 60% are the subject of a case-by-case analysis**

This rule is applied generally in order to make the process less difficult and to save time and both the coverage above 60% and below 20% can be the subject of further discussion. On the one hand, in case of habitat types or species occurring in a restricted area or suffering from recent decline, more than 60% of coverage can be verified to achieve favourable conservation status. On the other hand, less than 20% can be judged as adequate for widespread species showing limited ecological and genetic variation.

b. Case-by-case selection

During the case-by-case discussion the following points can be discussed:

- whether the proposed sites **represent the geographic distributions** of the habitat types and species
- whether the proposed sites include all **the ecological and genetic variations** of the habitat types and species

- whether there is any (potential) **natural or human factor** affecting the distribution and abundance of the habitat types and species
- whether **the connection** between different populations is provided
- the coverage must be higher in the countries responsible for preserving a habitat type or species due to the high percentage of their distribution in that country
- the proposed sites must cover the sites essential for the species' **life cycle** even in the case of widespread species

If the representation of a habitat type or species **proves to be insufficient** in one of the Member States, **the member state will be requested to propose additional sites to the list.**

Within **30 days** after the first stage of the biogeographic seminars, the ETC/NPB will send the following documents to the participants:

- "Reference list of the habitat types and present species in the region X" (revised version)
- "Classification with accompanying notes supplemented by habitat types and species of the pSCIs" (revised version, see Appendix II.)
- "List with accompanying notes of the Community interest of the pSCIs" indicating whether a site was a priori pre-selected, doubtful or rejected.

The participants can **make** their **comments** on these lists. DG Environment – by taking these comments into consideration - requests that Member States **put additional sites to the list of pSCIs** or **check the scientific information** in case of insufficiency. The **sufficiency** of the new list **is discussed on special bilateral negotiations** after the second Biogeographic seminar.

6.3 Second round of the Biogeographic seminars

A second round happens when all the habitat types and species of a biogeographic region are **considered to be sufficiently represented** in all the proposed sites made by country authorities of the biogeographic region. During this stage the participants select the Sites of Community Importance (SCIs) from the list of the proposed sites, which the Member States have to designate as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) later. The sites suiting the following criteria according to Annex III "Stage 2" of the Habitats Directive will be included into the Community list:

How to select Sites of Community Importance?

- 1. All the sites identified by the Member States in Stage 1, which contain priority natural habitat types and/or species will be considered as sites of Community importance.
- 2. The assessment of the Community importance of other sites on Member States' lists, i.e. their contribution to maintaining or re-establishing, at a favourable conservation status, a natural habitat in Annex I or a species in Annex II and/or to the coherence of Natura 2000 will take account of the following criteria:
 - (a) relative value of the site at national level;
 - (b) geographical situation of the site in relation to migration routes of species in Annex II and whether it belongs to a continuous ecosystem situated on both sides of one or more internal Community frontiers;
 - (c) total area of the site;
 - (d) number of natural habitat types in Annex I and species in Annex II present on the site;
 - (e) global ecological value of the site for the biogeographical regions concerned and/or for the whole of the territory referred to in Article 2, as regards both the characteristic of unique aspect of its features and the way they are combined." (Annex III. Habitats Directive)

At this meeting **the site boundaries** can also be discussed, although this did not happen in the Macaronesian seminar.

However, the second round of the seminar could be similar in scope to the first, because the sufficiency of the sites should be discussed in depth taking into account the new sites proposed by the Member States. Therefore the whole process described above can be postponed and conducted through **bilateral negotiations** between the European Commission and the Member States.

6.4 Bilateral negotiations

The goal of these meetings is to adopt the list of Sites of Community Importance for each country of the biogeographic region. NGO representatives are usually not invited to these negotiations; however in the United Kingdom NGOs were also invited.

6.5. Official adoption of the Sites of Community

Importance (SCIs)

After finishing the bilateral negotiations, the Commission officially adopts the list of Sites of Community Importance. The Commission has adopted the Macaronesian and the Alpine lists and recently the Atlantic and Continental lists (in December 2004).

6.6 The designation of sites

All concerned Member States have to designate the Sites of Community Importance as Special Conservation Areas within 6 years from the official adoption of the lists. Sites hosting priority species or habitats should be designated first. The Special Protection Areas should be designated by the date of accession according to the Birds Directive.

7. The role of NGOs' in the process

The role of NGOs is **to support** the designation process and as a part of this they can have an advocacy role to make sure that all important sites are included into the list of pSCIs.

The NGOs can **contribute** to the designation process in several ways. First, they have the following possibilities for taking part in drawing up the national list of pSCIs:

- collect and analyse data to identify pSCIs in their country
- transmit their scientific data, which the national authorities can use (in most countries)
- participate in meetings and forums in connection with Natura 2000
- inform the public about the Natura 2000 programme
- put forward proposals for pSCIs
- evaluate the national list of pSCIs and make comments on it
- participate in the official working groups (only in some countries)

NGOs can also participate directly in the **biogeographic seminars** through the EHF. The NGO representatives have a real opportunity to put forward their arguments and to request additional site proposals from the Member States at these meetings. The NGO representatives have to possess a sound knowledge about the designation process and about the natural areas of their countries, and have to be policy-minded as well. The NGOs use the following tools to influence the discussions:

- **shadow lists**: they can help to assess the quality of the proposals. If insufficiency occurs, NGOs should lobby the governments and the

Commission to put the most important sites from the shadow list to the official list.

- **critical evaluation** of ETC/NPB and Member State **data**. The ETC/NPB and the designation process is highly dependent on the data provided by the Member States so they should be true and accurate.
- **select some priority** habitat types and species. Unfortunately it is often impossible to evaluate the sufficiency of all habitat types and species concerned. NGOs should focus on species and habitats for which they have data available and carry out a comprehensive evaluation of these.
- **lobby** ETC/NPB and Member States representatives and especially independent experts.

8. The future

The list of SCIs has been approved only for the Macaronesian, Alpine, Continental and Atlantic regions so far. The official adoption of SCI lists for all the biogeographic regions of the present Member States might be finished in 2005, (according to the Habitats Directive this should have been completed by 1999).

According to the Habitats Directive the Member States are required to provide a report about the implementation of the Habitats Directive **every six years** (the next report is due in 2006). The Commission also intends to replace its Natura 2000 barometer - which has focused uniquely on the progress with site designations - with a barometer of management progress, based on some simple indicators, after the network has been completed. Later this barometer can play an important role in reviewing and evaluating the progress in connection with the Natura 2000 network.

Financial support for the Natura 2000 network will also change in the future. The main financing instrument for Natura 2000 is the LIFE-Nature programme, which supports nature conservation projects in pursuit of the implementation of the Birds and Habitats Directives. Discussions are currently underway concerning the EU's financial perspective for 2007-2013 and the regulatory framework supporting it. It is envisaged that financing for the Natura 2000 network will be secured from various EU funds (regional and rural development funds, LIFE+, fisheries fund). However, the draft proposals can still change, and a top priority for NGOs is to lobby for adequate financing for the network under the different legislation related to the EU budget.

Provision of financial support will be conditional upon the inclusion of the management requirements in the various planning documents at EU and national level. This requires the setting of management objectives, restrictions and prescriptions for each site to help design adequate measures within EU and national funding instruments.

9. Conclusion

It can be seen that the biogeographic seminars are crucial milestones along the road of implementing the Habitats Directive. NGOs can and should play a critical role in the process. The classic NGO role, as an advocate for biodiversity, is especially important in the implementation of the Habitats Directive, including participation in the biogeographic seminars.

These are the events by which the actual sites of Community interest are decided. In order to truly collect and appraise the sites from the various countries sharing the same biogeographic region, the local knowledge as well as their scientific competence and lobby power needs to be mobilised. This tremendous coordination effort is done by the European Habitats Forum, which is the network of NGO coalitions working on the implementation of the Habitats Directive across Europe. EHF designated CEEWEB as coordinator of NGOs on Biogeographic Seminars of New Member States.

10. The European Habitats Forum²

The European Habitats Forum (EHF) consists of 14 International NGO Networks Committed to the Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Use of Habitats and Species in Europe working for nature to make a difference for species, habitats and sites.

Mission

The European Habitats Forum founded in 1991, exists to:

- Represent the interest of civil society in conserving Europe's natural heritage, in the implementation of the EU Habitats and Birds Directives;
- Positively influence biodiversity policy and legislation through discussion and partnership with relevant stakeholders

Aims

To advise and influence:

- The development and implementation of nature conservation legislation;
- The practical management and sustainable use of natural resources;
- Biodiversity monitoring, including the development of indicators;
- The promotion of information, education and public awareness of biodiversity in Europe.

To support the implementation of:

- The EU Habitats and Birds Directives and Natura 2000;
- The EU Biodiversity Action Plan.

To promote nature conservation and the sustainable use of natural resources in Europe, through:

² This part of the text was written and published by the Members of the European Habitats Forum supported by the EHF Secretariat

- The Convention on Biological Diversity;
- The Bern Convention.

To promote communication:

- Between European nature conservation NGOs in order to enhance the effectiveness of their programmes.

The Forum has developed:

- Constructive communication between the EU and nature conservation NGOs working internationally in Europe.

The Forum works by:

- Networking of information via the EHF Secretariat;
- Joint work on priority activities;
- Exchange of information on potential funding sources;
- Regular exchange of publications and newsletters;
- Meetings of the members every six months;
- Representing its membership at key European fora, for example, the Habitats Scientific Working Group, the European Commission Biodiversity Expert Group, the Bern Convention Standing Committee and advising on the implementation of the EC Habitats Directive and the Establishment of the Natura 2000 network.

Main tasks:

- To coordinate the common interests of the members activities in order to enhance the effectiveness of their programmes;
- To choose a "portfolio" of activities by discussion between the members of the forum at its regular meetings;
- To identify new activities on which the 14 NGO networks can work jointly.

Members of EHF

**BirdLife International
European Community Office**
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www.euronatur.org

Eurosite
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www.eurosite-nature.org

International Mire Conservation Group
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www.panda.org/epo

11. Appendices

Appendix I.

Site description

Each site is described in datasheets called Standard Data Form (europa.eu.int/comm/environment/nature/en-form.pdf) which consist of the following parts:

- site identification (site name, site code, site respondents, etc.)
- site location (co-ordinates, altitude, area, concerned administration and biogeographic regions)
- ecological information
 - about habitat types (code, %cover, representativity, relative surface, conservation status, global assessment)
 - about species (code, name, population size, site assessment according to population, conservation, isolation and global aspects)
- site description (% cover of habitat classes, quality and importance, vulnerability, ownership, concerned documentation)
- site protection status and relation with CORINE biotopes
 - relation with other nationally or regionally designated (protected) sites (site name, %cover of overlap)
 - relation with other internationally (Ramsar, World Heritage, etc.) designated sites (site name, %cover of overlap)
 - relation with CORINE biotopes sites (CORINE site code, %cover of overlap)
- impacts and activities in and around the sites
 - general impacts (activity code, intensity, %cover, influence)
 - site management (responsible body, plans)
- map, slides

Appendix II.

Potential conclusions after the first stage

After the first stage of the seminar, DG Environment and ETC/NBP categorise habitat types and species according their representation by the pSCIs. The following categories exist:

SUF:	Sufficient representation, no more sites need to be proposed
SUF (CD):	Sufficient representation, no more sites need to be proposed provided some corrections to data are made (e.g. ensure that all obligatory fields are complete).
IN MIN:	Insufficient representation but deficits can be completed by noting the habitat/species on existing pSCI where present but not noted
IN MOD:	Insufficient representation where more sites need to be proposed
IN MAJOR:	Insufficient representation where no or very few sites have been proposed so far
Open:	No conclusion reached & further examination required.
Scient. reserve:	Scientific examination of data and/or other possible sites required
Marine reserve:	General scientific reserve due to scientific uncertainty about habitat and species distribution in marine (offshore) waters.

Appendix III.

**The threatened species and habitat types of the present
Member States (last update: 08/07/2003)**

	Total number of threatened species or habitat types	Number of priority species and habitat types	Annex concerned
Birds	181	None	Annex I. of Birds Directive
Mammals	41	12	Annex II. of Habitats Directive
Reptiles	20	3	
Amphibians	23	3	
Fishes	58	6	
Invertebrates	79	6	
Plants	485	163	
Habitat types	198	61	Annex I. of Habitats Directive

Important web-sites

European Nature Conservation homepage:

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/nature>

Directives:

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/nature/legis.htm>

ETC/NBP homepage:

<http://nature.eionet.eu.int/>

State of Play - a communication by Margrot Wallström

<http://register.consilium.eu.int/pdf/en/03/st10/st10420en03.pdf>

Useful Publications

WWF: Natura 2000 in the New EU Member States - status report and list of sites for selected habitats and species; June 2004

WWF: Progress on Preparation for Natura 2000 in Future EU Member States; January 2003

WWF - European Policy Office: A race to protect Europe's Natural Heritage - European snapshot report on the status of implementation of the Habitats Directive; June 2001

WWF-EPO: Biogeographic seminars and the role of NGOs; updated February 2004

McLeod, CR, Yeo, M, Brown, AE, Burn, AJ, Hopkins, JJ, & Way, SF (eds.) (2002) *The Habitats Directive: selection of Special Areas of Conservation in the UK*. 2nd edn. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough www.jncc.gov.uk/SACselection

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Unit 2 Nature and Biodiversity

webpage: www.europa.eu.int/comm/environment/index_en.htm

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