

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



CEEWEB  
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# 1. Introduction

*Joining the European Union on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2007 marked the end of the long road of preparatory work by Bulgaria and Romania. 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.*

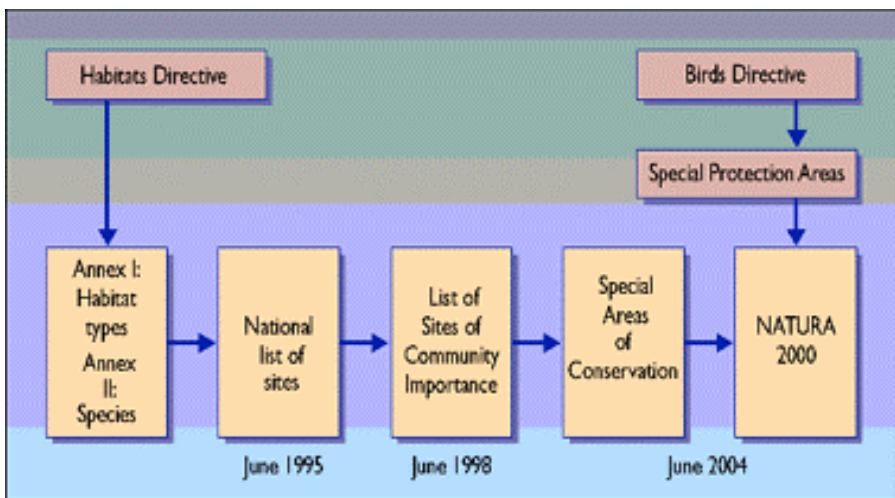
*One of the most important among them is the **Habitats Directive**, of 1992. Through this Directive, Member States of the European Union are committed to the proper establishment of **Natura 2000**, the **European ecological network of protected areas**, from the day they become EU Member States.*

*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 stage I 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 chapter 2).

The SCI selection should have been completed within **six years** after the notification (1992) of the Directive. After long delays all SCIs of the EU 15 have been adopted by the European Commission: Macaronesian region including Madeira, Azores and Canary Islands (2001), the Alpine region (2003), the Atlantic and Continental regions (2004) and Boreal regions

(2005) and Mediterranean (2006). The updating of the biogeographic lists with the sites of new Member States is expected in 2007, 2008 and 2009.

### **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 it is 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.

Once an area has been identified and designated as a Natura 2000 site, some measures to ensure its protection are needed. Co-financing from EU funds for the development of these measures is a possibility included within the provisions of the Habitats Directive. Therefore it is possible to request European Community **resources** to protect and maintain these areas.

Until 2006 the main European Union funding source for Natura 2000 was the Commission's LIFE-Nature fund. **From 2007 financing should be integrated** into the EU Structural and Cohesion policy. The EARDF (European Agricultural Rural Development Fund) will be a source for measures like the possible compensation of farmers or drawing up management plans. Other objectives can be integrated into the ERDF (European Rural Development Fund), ESF (European Social Fund), Fisheries Fund etc. LIFE+ will provide some extra small amount for other necessary measures.

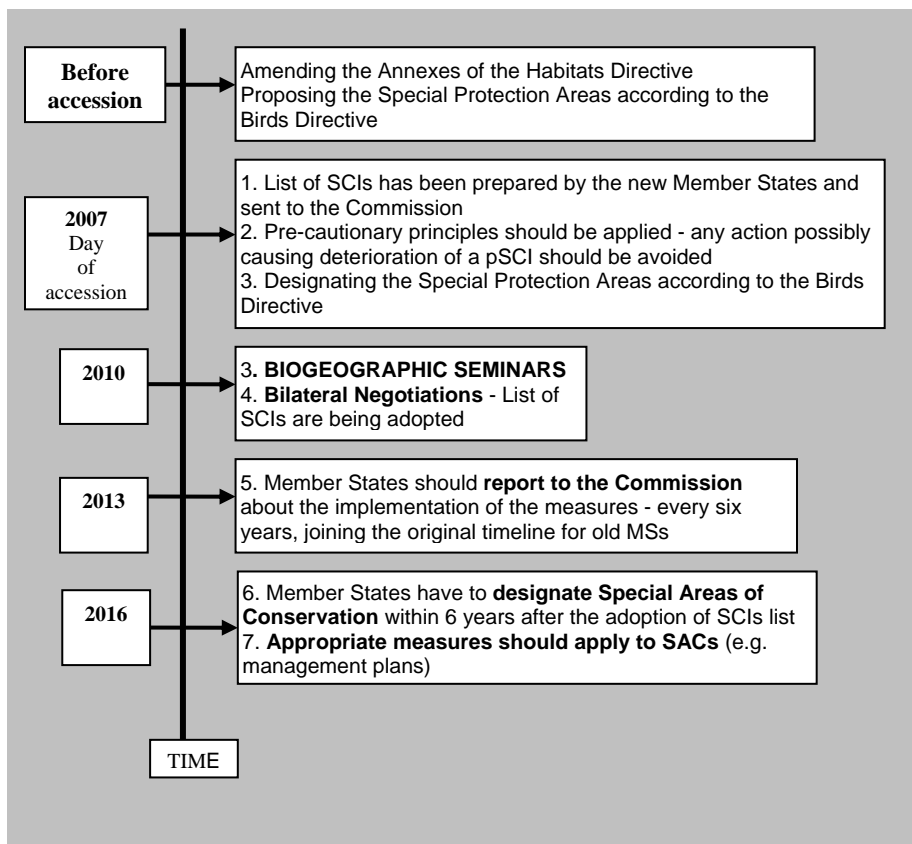


Finally, according to the estimates for the EU 15, Natura 2000 areas could **cover more than 18%** of the terrestrial area of the Member States, which is significantly more than the coverage of protected areas protected under national law for most of the European countries.

## 4. Timing of Natura 2000 establishment in accession countries

There have been long delays in establishing Natura 2000 in the present Member States. Bulgaria and Romania 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. (pSCI – proposed Sites of Community Interest; SCI – Sites of Community Importance; SAC – Special Areas of Conservations; SPA – Special Protection Areas).

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



## **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 Stage 1 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 of a pSCI. To achieve this, governments should **raise awareness** of these sites, and **abstain from all activities that may cause a site on the national list to deteriorate**. Where a complete national list has not been submitted, the same advice applies to a site which, on the basis of the scientific criteria of the directive, clearly ought to be on the national list<sup>1</sup>.

### **5.4 Technical analysis**

The European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity (ETC/BD)<sup>2</sup> carries out a **technical analysis of pSCIs** for each Member State, following the criteria set up in Annex III, Stage 2 and other relevant documents, especially the „Criteria for assessing national lists of pSCI at

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<sup>1</sup> For more information, see the document „Managing Natura 2000 sites: The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC" (EC, 2000). [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/nature\\_conservation/eu\\_nature\\_legislation/specific\\_articles/art6/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/nature_conservation/eu_nature_legislation/specific_articles/art6/index_en.htm)

<sup>2</sup> The ETC is consortium of nine partners with the lead of the Nature History Museum in Paris, France.

biogeographical level"<sup>3</sup>. DG Environment sends the results of this evaluation to the Member States with a request for correction of the shortcomings of the proposals.

### **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)

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<sup>3</sup> Hab. 97/2 rev. 4 18/11/97. See also Habitats SWG 2002-02 rev1. All this information is available at the ETC webpage:

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 in the biogeographic seminar:

- a. *The **reference list** indicating which habitat types and species are present in the given biogeographical region 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*
  - *comments and notes, if any*

## 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, Black Sea and the Steppic regions have been added because of the enlargement. These regions cover the territory of the EU-27.

<b>Name of the accession country</b>	<b>Biogeographic regions</b>
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. Also, once the sites have been endorsed in the meeting, it is difficult to improve them.

Often governmental representatives submit lists which are far from complete. Sometimes 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 prepare so called *shadow lists* for these meetings presenting a more complete list of sites for the country, typically including 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 result in a request for addition of sites to the governmental list of pSCI.

## **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 Biological Diversity (ETC/BD) 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 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 for the seminars are selected on the basis of their expertise 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/BD

Independent experts invited by the Commission who provide relevant scientific data are also present at the seminars. This is also an opportunity for NGOs to suggest 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. First, 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, habitats or species can be added or habitats 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 is based on the preliminary analysis of the list carried out by the ETC and sent to the participants in advance to the seminar. This analysis is based on the so-called “20-60 rule”. However, most of the cases are challenging and require a more detailed case-by-case analysis.

### a. 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, signalled as priority ones in the Habitats Directive or other reasons, more than 60% of coverage could be considered necessary to achieve their favourable conservation status. On the other hand, less than 20% can be judged as adequate for certain habitats or species, e.g. widespread species showing limited ecological and genetic variation. In any case it is important to keep in mind that **this is a guideline, not a golden rule!**

## **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 variations** of the habitat **and genetic variations** of the 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.**

After the biogeographic seminars, the ETC/BD will send the draft conclusions to the participants, including:

- Reference list of the habitat types and present species in the region X (revised version)
- Conclusions with accompanying notes supplemented by habitat types and species of the pSCIs (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.

Further on, according to the conclusions, DG Environment requests that Member States **put additional sites to the list of pSCIs** in case of insufficiency, or evaluate / examine **the scientific information**. The **sufficiency** of the new list **is discussed on special bilateral negotiations**.

### **6.3 Additional rounds of Biogeographic seminars**

Additional rounds of biogeographic seminars can be organised by the European Commission when the results of the first seminar necessitate it. This happened in some old Member States and a second biogeographic seminar will also be conducted in Poland where the list of pSCI submitted by the government failed to present a basis for meaningful discussions during the first seminar.

In the rest of the new Member States (2004, EU-10) the first biogeographic seminar was successful. It was directly followed by bilateral

negotiations between the European Commission and the Member States concerned.

#### **6.4 Bilateral negotiations**

The goal of these negotiations is the final adoption 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 lists for all biogeographic regions in the EU 15 with long delays by July 2006. It is expected that the lists will be updated with the sites from old and new member states in 2007, 2008 and 2009.

#### **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 by the EC. 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:

- **participation in the biogeographic seminars:** adequate and well prepared NGO representation is key in this process
- **shadow lists:** they can help to assess the quality of the proposals. If insufficiency occurs, NGOs can encourage the governments and the Commission to put the missing sites from the shadow list on the official list.

- **critical evaluation** of ETC/BD and Member State **data**. The ETC/BD and the designation process is highly dependent on the data provided by the Member States so they should be true and accurate. The information provided by NGOs to the ETC can play a crucial role at this stage.
- **If needed, focus on priorities, selecting some priority** habitat types and species. Unfortunately it is often impossible to evaluate the sufficiency of all habitat types and species concerned. NGOs can focus on species and habitats for which they have data available and carry out a comprehensive evaluation of these.
- **Work closely together with** ETC/BD and Member States representatives and especially independent experts.

## 8. The future

The first list of SCIs has been approved for the biogeographic regions of EU 15 countries so far. A list of Sites of Community Importance for the Pannonian region has been prepared by the ETC/BD and has been circulated by the European Commission for approval by the Member States; **updates** for the Atlantic, Boreal and Continental regions are underway.

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 first reporting for EU 25 countries is due in 2007, Bulgaria and Romania has to submit progress reports in 2013 the first time. The Commission also intended 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.

Until 2006 the main European Union funding source for Natura 2000 was the Commission's LIFE-Nature fund. Financial support for the network will change in the 2007-13 period. **Financing should be integrated into the Structural and Cohesion policy**. The EARDF (European Agricultural Rural Development Fund) will be a source for measures like the possible compensation of farmers or drawing up management plans Other objectives can be integrated into the ERDF (European Rural Development Fund), ESF (European Social Fund), Fisheries Fund etc. The LIFE-Nature program will be succeeded by LIFE+ which will provide some extra small amount for other necessary measures.



## 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 supported 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 the coordinator of NGO participation in the Biogeographic Seminars of the new EU Member States in 2004 (with the exception of Cyprus and Malta where WWF acts as the coordinator of activities).

## 10. The European Habitats Forum<sup>4</sup>

The European Habitats Forum (EHF) consists of 16 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 Communication and Action Plan.

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

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<sup>4</sup> 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 16 NGO networks can work jointly.

# Members of EHF

## **A Rocha International**

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## **BirdLife International European Community Office**

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## **Central- and East-European Working Group for the Enhancement of Biodiversity**

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[www.fedenatur.org/](http://www.fedenatur.org/)

## **International Mire Conservation Group**

Botanical Institute  
Grimmer Strasse 88  
D-17 487 Greifswald  
Germany  
[www.imcg.net](http://www.imcg.net)

## **IUCN, The World Conservation Union Regional Office for Europe**

Boulevard Louis Schmidt, 64  
1040 Brussels  
Belgium  
[www.iucneurope.org](http://www.iucneurope.org)

## **Planta Europa:**

**C/o Plantlife International**  
14 Rolleston Street  
Salisbury, SP1 1DX  
UK

[www.plantaeuropa.org](http://www.plantaeuropa.org)

## **Societas Europea Herpetologica**

655A Christchurch Road  
Boscombe Bournemouth  
Dorset BH1 4AP  
UK  
[www.herpconstrust.org.uk](http://www.herpconstrust.org.uk)

## **Wetlands International**

PO Box 471  
NL-6700 Wageningen  
The Netherlands  
[www.wetlands.org](http://www.wetlands.org)

## **WWF European Policy Office**

Avenue de Tervuren, 36  
B-1040 Brussels  
Belgium  
[www.panda.org/epo](http://www.panda.org/epo)

# 11. Appendices

## Appendix I.

### Site description

Each site is described in datasheets called Standard Data Form<sup>5</sup> 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)

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<sup>5</sup>

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/nature\\_conservation/natura\\_2000\\_network/standard\\_data\\_forms/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/nature_conservation/natura_2000_network/standard_data_forms/index_en.htm)

- site management (responsible body, plans)
- map, slides

## Appendix II.

### **Potential conclusions after the first stage**

After the seminar, DG Environment and ETC/BD categorise habitat types and species according their representation by the pSCIs. The following categories have been used in the previous seminars:

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.
Reserve	Habitats and species listed in the annexes of the Habitats Directive but present only in the Northern part of the island of Cyprus (no sites proposed)

?

Scientific reserve on the reference list: presence of habitat/species to be checked and confirmed



## Appendix III.

### **The threatened species and habitat types of the present Member States (ETC, July 2006<sup>6</sup>)**

	<b>Total number of threatened species or habitat types</b>	<b>Number of priority species and habitat types</b>	<b>Annex concerned</b>
Birds	195	-	Annex I. of Birds Directive
Mammals	51	18	Annex II. of Habitats Directive
Reptiles	24	7	
Amphibians	24	4	
Fishes	82	7	
Invertebrates	134	14	
Plants	572	204	
Habitat types	218	67	Annex I. of Habitats Directive

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[http://biodiversity.eionet.europa.eu/activities/Natura\\_2000/Nb\\_hab\\_sp\\_annexes\\_Directives.pdf](http://biodiversity.eionet.europa.eu/activities/Natura_2000/Nb_hab_sp_annexes_Directives.pdf)

## Important web-sites

**European Commission, DG Environment Nature Conservation**

homepage:

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/>

**Legal text of the Habitats and Birds Directives:**

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/current\\_biodiversity\\_policy/eu\\_biodiversity\\_legislation/habitats\\_birds\\_directives/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/current_biodiversity_policy/eu_biodiversity_legislation/habitats_birds_directives/index_en.htm)

**ETC/BD homepage:**

<http://biodiversity.eionet.europa.eu/>

## Useful Publications

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](http://www.jncc.gov.uk/SACselection)

## **Contacts**

### **ETC/BD**

EEA-European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity (ETC/BD)

MNHN, 57, rue Cuvier, F-75231 Paris cedex 05, FRANCE

*<http://biodiversity.eionet.europa.eu/>*

*Director Carlos ROMÃO*

### **European Commission's Environment Directorate-General**

BU-9, 3/204; Rue de la Loi 200; B-1049 Brussels; Belgium

*[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/index_en.htm)*

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