Green Infrastructure and Natura 2000

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Natura 2000 – based on two EU Directives

HABITATS DIRECTIVE

National List of proposed sites (pSCI)

Sites of Community Importance (SCI)

Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)

BIRDS DIRECTIVE

Special Protection Areas (SPA)
State of progress in establishing Natura 2000

- 27,307 sites
- 1,039,333 km²
- 18.36% EU land
- ~4% EU seas
- Largest co-ordinated PA network in the world
Natura 2000 is a strategically planned network of natural and semi-natural areas with other environmental features designed and managed to deliver a wide range of ecosystem services. It incorporates green spaces (or blue if aquatic ecosystems are considered) and other physical features in terrestrial (including coastal) and marine areas. Natura 2000 is present in rural and urban settings. (European Commission 2013)

Natura 2000 is a holistic tool to tackle habitat loss while contributing to smart and sustainable socio-economic growth. It provides us with solutions for a better quality environment, a healthier society and a more prosperous economy. Natura 2000 is especially important due to its potential to help us preserve and enhance ecosystem services and adapt to climate change in a multi-stakeholder setting.
Relationship between GI and Natura 2000

GI ❌ Natura 2000

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GI ✓ Natura 2000
Multiple benefits of investing in Natura 2000

- Ecosystem services from Natura 2000 worth €200 to 300 billion/yr;
- Natura 2000 stores approx. 9.6 billion tonnes of carbon (equiv. 35 billion tonnes of CO2) valued at between €607 billion and €1,130 billion;
- Estimated between 1.2 to 2.2 billion visitor days/yr to Natura 2000 - recreational benefits €5 - €9 billion/yr.
- Study on relationship between specific conservation measures and ecosystem services provided by Natura 2000 at local scale
Benefits of GI for Natura 2000

Making Natura 2000 a real network
✓ GI connects the sites, implements Article 10 HD

Making finance Ministers understand the value of nature
✓ GI is a good vehicle to explain the value of EC services generated by Natura 2000

Are we going to achieve FCS just by protecting and managing Natura 2000 sites?
✓ GI operates in a wider landscape, helps protecting wider biodiversity
Benefits of Natura 2000 for GI

- Protecting and managing Natura 2000 provides GI
- Many Natura 2000 measures are GI measures (e.g. establishing field margins and hedges, restoring floodplains, ...)
- Natura 2000 best practice guidance docs contain a number of GI example
- Many Art 6.3. mitigation or Art.6.4. compensation measures provide GI
- Natura 2000 is well established, provides a strong legal framework
Natura 2000 provides natural solutions to Climate Change

Ecosystem services of N2000 that help to address effects of climate change

- Reduce impact of sea level rise (natural coastal protection)
- Carbon storage/increase capture of carbon
- Climate regulation (shade, moisture)
- Increased water retention/storage
- Reduce risk or impact of extreme events (floods, fires, storms)

Major climate change aspects

- Sea level rise
- Overall temperature increase
- Changing precipitation patterns
- Increase of extreme events

Other....
Example for key Natura 2000 sites providing GI: Peatlands

- Blanket bog UK
- Raised bog NL
- Aapa Mires FI
- Alkaline fen IT
- Raised Bog Belgium
- Raised Bogs Latvia
Conclusions

- Natura 2000 is the backbone of GI
- Natura 2000 sites are critical “space for nature”
- GI enhances connectivity between Natura 2000 sites
- GI helps achieving FCS
- GI helps integration of Natura 2000 into other policies
- GI provides additional funding to Natura 2000
- Natura 2000 management provides GI
- For example, Natura 2000 provides natural solutions for mitigating and adapting to climate change
- Many Natura 2000 sites can serve as laboratory for GI investments and activities
- GI and Natura 2000 are mutually supportive
For more information, please consult:

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

http://ec.europa.eu/environment

Welcome to the Nature and Biodiversity homepage!