Good practices in management planning for Natura 2000 sites

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Habitats Directive requirements

**Article 6(1):**

“For special areas of conservation, Member States shall establish the necessary conservation measures involving, if need be, appropriate management plans specifically designed for the sites or integrated into other development plans, and appropriate statutory, administrative or contractual measures which correspond to the ecological requirements of the natural habitat types in Annex I and the species in Annex II present on the sites.”

Management plans - useful tool for implementation of Article 6.1
Recommendations for development of management plans for Natura 2000 sites
Know your site as good as possible

- Sound information base on the existing conditions in the site
- Species and habitats: inventory, quantity (population, area), distribution, status
- Main pressures and threats
- Existing and planned socio-economic activities in the site
Identify target habitats and species

- Habitats and species of Habitats and Birds Directives
- Nationally important habitats
- Threatened, rare and endemic species
- Species composition, biodiversity
Identify previous and current management

- Traditional management
- Recent management
- Current ownership structure, users
Involve stakeholders

• Owners, users, local inhabitants, farmers, authorities, public
• Informing about the importance of the site and conservation objectives
• To achieve and engage their active participation
• Identification of potential conflicts and possible ways and means to solve them
• Setting up steering groups or committees to develop conservation management
• Intensive dialogue with stakeholders brings a better understanding of conservation needs and creates acceptance for changes in the use of natural resources.
Formulate conservation and management goals

Overall objective of N2000: Protect biodiversity through achieving a favourable conservation status of habitat types and species of Community interest

- Formulate the target status of focal species and habitats in qualitative and quantitative way
- To protect biodiversity together with (traditional) economic activities and to promote local ecological products and proper management

COMMISSION NOTE ON SETTING CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES FOR NATURA 2000 SITES
Identify ecological and management requirements of target species and habitats

- Expert knowledge
- Vast ecological and phytosociological literature

Look for good practice

• Firstly: good practice in the site – current and past
• Then external sources: expert knowledge
• Existing guidelines and good practice publications

New Biogeographical Process – Communication Platform:
The DG ENVI web site
Management of Natura 2000 sites: Best Practice

Themes:
> Wetland management
> Farming
> Forestry
> River management
> The marine environment
Management models for protected habitat types (26)

1. COASTAL AND HALOPHITIC HABITATS: 1120, 1330, 1530, 1630
2. DUNES: 2130, 2190, 2250
3. FRESHWATER: 3170
4. TEMPERATE SCRUBS: 4010, 4050, 4060
5. SCLEROPHYLLOUS SCRUB: 5210
6. GRASSLANDS: 6170, 6210, 6220, 6230, 6260, 6280, 6440, 6450
7. BOGS: 7150, 7230
9. FORESTS: 9070, 9110, 9360, 9530
Good practice examples of Natura 2000 management

### Austria

**Truppenubungsplatz** 15,600 ha  **Continental**

Priority activities:
Military training and nature conservation

Priority habitats:
None

### Bulgaria

**Central Balkan** 71,669.5 ha  **Alpine**

Priority activities:
Setting up of a national and regional public campaign

Priority habitats:
6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (*Festuco-Brometalia*) (* important orchid sites) + 6230 * Species-rich *Nardus* grasslands, on silicious substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas in Continental Europe) + 9180 * *Tilio-Acerion* forests of slopes, scree and ravines + 91EO * Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (*Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae*) + 9530 * (Sub-) Mediterranean pine forests with endemic black pines

### Czech Republic

**Krkonose National Park** 54,979.60 ha  **Continental**
Management of Natura 2000 sites: Guidance

- Commission Note on Setting Conservation Objectives for Natura 2000 Sites
- Commission Note on Establishing Conservation Measures For Natura 2000 Sites
Management of Natura 2000 sites: Sector Specific Guidance
Management of Natura 2000 sites: Sector Specific Guidance

Guidance documents on:
- Aquaculture
- Inland water transport
- Estuaries and coastal zones
- Port development
- Wind energy developments
- Non-energy mineral extraction
- Climate change

... and Natura 2000
NATURA 2000 Management in European State Forests


Natura 2000 and forests ‘Challenges and opportunities’
Interpretation guide

LIFE Programme

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/about/

The LIFE Programme

The LIFE programme is the EU’s funding instrument for the environment, biodiversity and climate action. Its objective is to contribute to the implementation, updating and public awareness of environmental and climate policy and legislation by co-financing projects with EU funding.


The European Commission (DG Environment and DG Climate Action) has delegated the implementation of many of the projects to the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME). The LIFE communication teams provide assistance to the Commission.
LIFE Programme

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/about/

GRASSHABIT - Habitat management on the Pannonian grasslands in Hungary

LIFE05 NAT/H/000117

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PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

BACKGROUND

The Pannonian grasslands were formed through centuries of extensive grassland management practices, especially through extensive grazing. The grasslands and steppes found in Hungary are of a unique character and are listed as priority habitats in the Habitats Directive. The project targets six of these habitat types, including Pannonic steppic grasslands, sand steppes and salt steppes.
Divide the site to management units

- N2000 sites often diverse, consisting of different types of habitats
- Individual approach to the different areas
- Different requirement of species or species groups for site conditions and management
Develop management plan in collaborative manner

- Participation of habitat and species specialists, experts
- Involvement of stakeholders, stakeholder consultation
- To integrate all relevant interests of stakeholders as far as possible with the achievement of the conservation objectives

COMMISSION NOTE ON ESTABLISHING CONSERVATION MEASURES FOR NATURA 2000 SITES
Financial plan

• Sources of funding management measures
• LIFE: good especially for restoration and preparation of habitats for regular management
• Regional funds: INTERREG, Danube Transnational Programme
• Agri-Environmental measures
• Forest-environment payments to support Natura 2000
• National sources: nature conservation, water authorities, forestry...
Financing Natura 2000

Guidance Handbook on financing Natura 2000
http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/financing/index_en.htm#guidancehandbook
Make the management adaptive

The flexibility of management plan – challenging issue due to (usually) strict procedure of the management plan preparation and approval.

Source: Guidelines on climate change and N2000
Promote your site and its values

• Inform public about natural values of your site
• Promote management plan and its importance
• Awareness raising measures for user groups: increase public understanding of conservation and the species and habitats of European importance
• Promotion of ecotourism and knowledge exchange
• Production of tourist guides on the habitats, plants and butterflies of the site
An example: Malta

• Completion of management plans for 22 sites in 2015
• Stakeholder involvement to plans development
• Public consultations
• Promotion in newspaper
Natura 2000 Award: Communication
LIFE09 NAT_CZ_0363 Lounské středohoří
Recommendations

- Know your site as good as possible
- Identify target habitats and species
- Identify previous and current management
- Involve stakeholders
- Formulate conservation and management goals
- Know/identify management requirement of target species and habitats
- Look for good practice
- Divide the site to management units
- Develop management plan in collaborative manner
- Financial plan
- Make the management adaptive
- Promote your site and its values

Thank you