

# Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process



LE GOUVERNEMENT  
DU GRAND-DUCHÉ DE LUXEMBOURG  
Ministère du Développement durable  
et des Infrastructures

Département de l'environnement



## Continental, Pannonian, Black Sea & Steppic Kick-off Seminar

**Luxembourg**  
**\*29 June to 1 July 2015**

*Venue: Hotel Parc Alvisse,  
120, route d'Echternach, L-1453 Luxembourg*

### DRAFT Programme

*\* Note that, as the Seminar starts at 09.30 on Monday, 29 June 2015, delegates are likely to have to travel on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June to be in good time for the start of the programme.*

*This Seminar is organised as part of the continuing Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process. Launched by the European Commission at the end of 2011, the aim is to improve and strengthen the implementation of Natura 2000 and ensure progress towards key EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy targets. The process provides the means for Member States and expert stakeholder networks to:*

- Work together and collaborate on practical habitat management issues identified as being of common priority and shared importance;*
- Take stock of the current conservation status of specific priority habitats in a biogeographical region and determine what needs to be done collectively to improve, maintain or restore the condition of Natura 2000 sites;*
- Share experience, build knowledge and develop consensus about priority management actions required for particular habitat types in the Mediterranean region;*
- Take specific agreed cooperative actions to restore or maintain favourable conservation status for those habitats that fall within their territory;*
- Network and exchange management experience information, to continue to build know-how about the most effective ways to achieve more for habitats and species of Community importance.*

## **Introduction to the Kick-off Seminar**

Hosted by the Ministry of Sustainable Development & Infrastructures in Luxembourg, this Kick-off Seminar for the Continental, Pannonian, Steppic & Black Sea Biogeographical Regions provides an important opportunity for participants to improve and strengthen the implementation of Natura 2000 and ensure progress in the Region towards the EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy targets - for example, by building common understanding on practical habitat management issues identified as being of common priority, stimulating new know-how about effective management approaches and developing cooperation and networking activities on issues of shared importance.

This Seminar has been developed to launch a continuing process of networking, information sharing and knowledge building, of direct benefit to stakeholders across the Continental, Pannonian, Steppic & Black Sea biogeographical regions. It will be followed by a series of themed Workshops and networking events that will be developed in the months and years ahead to improve practical management know-how in priority habitats across the region. Through such events, as well as the Natura 2000 Platform, the core aim is to achieve maximum benefits for nature and improve essential cooperation amongst all stakeholders as that is required to achieve progress towards the 2020 targets.

Over the course of this three-day Seminar, we will aim to:

- Identify and agree practical concrete actions and cooperation priorities, which can be developed and taken forward by various actors in the Region.
- Share information and experience, capitalising on completed projects, available guidance and potential new proposals to increase synergies and collaboration opportunities.
- Seek new commitments to develop networking in future and, where possible, propose a firm timetable for future events.

At the Kick-off Seminar there will be four Habitat Working Groups: Coastal habitats; Wetlands, Rivers & Lakes; Grasslands, Heaths & Scrubs; and, Woodland and Forests. Participants should come prepared to share their expertise, information and knowledge about the Natura 2000 habitats of which they have experience. Especially in the interactive Habitat Group sessions (on Day 2), participants will gain understanding about how the Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process can be used to contribute to EU and Member States' shared strategic priorities, as well as about practical steps to help them in their work. Participants will discuss & begin to:

- Explore how the Seminar (the possible actions and expected outcomes generated) can be linked to and useful for national and regional priorities designed to improve management of specific habitat types.
- Discuss and define possible follow up cooperative and collaborative actions to improve practical habitat management and agree levels of priority about what can be done together.
- Specify the scope of what can be done following the Continental, Pannonian, Black Sea & Steppic Kick-off Seminar.

As a reference for discussions during the Seminar, the Seminar Input Document for the Continental, Pannonian, Black Sea and Steppic Biogeographical Process has been published on the Natura 2000 Platform – this can be downloaded from the following link:

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/platform/documents/continental\\_seminar/continental\\_pannonian\\_black\\_sea\\_and\\_steppic\\_seminar\\_input\\_document\\_20150612\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/platform/documents/continental_seminar/continental_pannonian_black_sea_and_steppic_seminar_input_document_20150612_en.pdf)

## **Continental, Pannonian, Black Sea & Steppic Natura 2000 Seminar – draft programme**

DAY 0: 28 June 2015
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- Arrival of participants

***(Note that at 19.30, there will be a briefing meeting for Habitat Group Chairs, Facilitators and other key actors. This meeting will take place in the Parc Alvisse Hotel, in the Ansembourg Room.)***

**DAY 1: Monday, 29<sup>th</sup> June 2015**

NOTE THAT ALL TIMINGS WITHIN THE PROGRAMME ARE INDICATIVE ONLY.

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Objectives &amp; outcomes</b>	<b>Key features of the various sessions</b>
08.30 to 09.30		Registration of participants	Participants will receive their name badge and a Seminar pack.
09.30 to 10.45	<p>Welcome &amp; introductions</p> <p><i>Target outcome: Clear understanding amongst participants about expectations from the Kick-off Seminar, in its context as a continuing process.</i></p>	<p><b>Official welcome &amp; introductory statements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mr Camille Gira, Secretary of State for Sustainable Development &amp; Infrastructures, Luxembourg.</li> <li>Mr François Kremer, Policy Coordinator Natura 2000, European Commission, DG Environment.</li> </ul> <p><b>The Natura 2000 Biogeographical Seminar Process in its strategic context</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commission representative</li> </ul> <p><b>Summary presentation of the conservation status, significant issues (threats &amp; trends) and management responses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mrs Zelmira Gaudillat, European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity (ETC-BD)</li> </ul> <p><b>Overview of the Programme &amp; the 4 Habitat Working Groups' – introduction to the Chairs &amp; Facilitators &amp; expected outcomes from the Seminar</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mr Neil McIntosh, ECNC</li> </ul> <p><b>Introduction to the site visits</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Host representatives, Luxembourg</li> </ul>	<p>Present the Seminar and its context, along with the approach and methods to be used – the Continental, Pannonian, Black Sea &amp; Steppic Biogeographical Region Kick off Seminar:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is a starting point in a continuing, long-term process focusing on practical management techniques for specific habitats (and species);</li> <li>Supports stakeholders to identify common priorities and shared interests;</li> <li>Aims to clarify the scope for collaborative and cooperative actions, and generate concrete outcomes with confirmed actors, where possible;</li> <li>Works (together with Chairs and Facilitators) to develop participative and constructive dialogue, encouraging participants to share their experiences and 'real life' examples.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coastal Habitats – Peder Agger (DK)</li> <li>Wetlands, Rivers &amp; Lakes – Ms Jana Durkosova (SK)</li> <li>Grasslands, Heaths &amp; Scrubs – Ms Sophie Ouzet (FR)</li> <li>Woodland &amp; Forests – Mr Frank Wolff (LU)</li> </ul>
11.00	<p><b>Site visits</b></p> <p>Where are we now and where do we need to be?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Departure from Hotel Parc Alvisse by coach</li> <li><b>PLEASE BRING WATER, SUNSCREEN AND SUITABLE OUTDOOR CLOTHING &amp; FOOTWEAR. ALSO, PARTICIPANTS SHOULD BRING THEIR CAMERAS AND BINOCULARS.</b></li> </ul>	<p>The primary purpose here is to provide a benchmark of several priority habitats as a basis for discussions in the group sessions. The site visits will be used to enable participants to network and discuss the condition of priority habitats in their countries "in the field".</p>
11.00 to 19.00 approx	<p><b>Site visits</b> (Please note that details of timing vary according to the duration of each site visit)</p> <p>Three site visits are planned as an integral part of the programme and participants have been invited to indicate their first and second choices – note that, within the limits of capacity, we will do our best to ensure that each participant's 'first choice' is granted!</p> <p>The site visits provide participants with an opportunity to see 'on the ground' the management practices and approaches being applied in different Natura 2000 sites. During the site visits, experts &amp; guides will provide an overview of the current status and condition of selected priority Continental habitats and explain the features and management regimes. However, this is also an opportunity for participants to share experiences about related issues and management approaches in their countries.</p> <p>The site visits are:</p> <p><b>Visit 1:</b> To the Northern part of Luxembourg, to the <b>Möllerdall and Our Valley (Luxembourg)</b> to be exact, which provides an opportunity to see the captive breeding station of the freshwater pearl mussel and the river mussel as well as the Our River Valley .Furthermore, this visit will include interesting forest sites in the "Little Switzerland" of Luxembourg, notably the Mullerthal. This visit is likely to appeal to those in the following habitat groups - Rivers, Lakes &amp; Wetlands; and, Woodland &amp; Forests.</p> <p><b>Visit 2:</b> To the Southern part of Luxembourg (<b>Haff Réimech</b>) for wetlands sites, combined with a field visit to the <b>Sierck region (France)</b> to see dry grasslands sites. This visit is likely to appeal to those in the following habitat groups – Rivers, Lakes &amp; Wetlands; and, Grasslands, Heaths &amp; Scrubs.</p> <p><b>Visit 3:</b> To the <b>Prenzebiërg-Giele-Botter (Luxembourg) and La Praille (Belgium)</b>, a site visit focusing on dry meadows in a unique landscape resulting from open pit land mining in the southern part of Luxembourg combined with a field visit to Belgium to some of the most valuable wet grasslands known in Belgium. This visit is likely to appeal to those in the following habitat groups – Grasslands, Heaths &amp; Scrubs.</p> <p>More information is available on the Natura 2000 Platform.</p>		

<b>DAY 2: Tuesday, 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015 – Habitat Groups</b>			
<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Objectives &amp; outcomes</b>	<b>Description</b>
09.00 to 09.30		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reflections on Day 1 as a framework for the Working Group sessions</li> </ul>	
09.30 to 11.00	<p><u>Habitat Groups: session 1</u></p> <p>“Where are we now?”</p> <p><i>The aim of this session is to develop shared understanding of the ‘bigger picture’ based on experience at regional, national &amp; local levels.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To allow group participants to meet &amp; introduce themselves.</li> <li>• To grow understanding about the EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy targets to be reached and specific implications arising for their habitat.</li> <li>• To share practical habitat management experiences and identify:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What works?</li> <li>• Where are the challenges, issues or problems?</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Planned outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To allow participants to develop their ideas about how the Natura 2000 biogeographical process can help them to achieve their priorities for their habitats.</li> <li>• To begin to sharpen focus on the practical habitat management issues, possible solutions and proposed actions.</li> </ul>	<p>The key questions to discuss here, per habitat group, are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is the favourable conservation status of each habitat?</li> <li>2. Where are we now in relation to achieving the EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy targets?</li> </ol> <p>Each habitat group will benefit from case study presentations (15 minutes max). These have been pre-identified <b>based on specific Natura 2000 sites or the status of habitats according to their experience at national/ transnational levels.</b></p> <p>All delegates are invited to come prepared, to participate actively in discussions and to share information &amp; experiences about their habitats – this may include highlight gaps in knowledge and, collectively, contribute to the identification of common issues/ problems, shared priorities, scope for solutions and possible collaborative actions.</p>
<p><b>Session 1 - Case Study Presentations per Habitat Group</b></p> <p><b>COASTAL: Chair Mr Peder Agger (DK);</b> facilitator, Malgorzata Siuta (CEEweb)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maria Sandell: The SandLife Project: Restoring habitats on sandy soils in southern Sweden (Sweden)</li> <li>• Ivan Kambourov: title to be confirmed (Bulgaria)</li> </ul> <p><b>GRASSLANDS, HEATHS &amp; SCRUBS: Chair Ms Sophie Ouzet (FR);</b> facilitator Mark Snethlage (ECNC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anne Burrill: Report of the LIFE Platform meeting</li> <li>• Georges Moes: The LIFE ORCHIS Project (Luxembourg)</li> <li>• Michael Hošek: The LIFE CORCORTICA project (Czech Republic)</li> </ul> <p><b>WETLANDS, RIVERS &amp; LAKES: Chair Ms Jana Durkosova (SK);</b> facilitator, Agnes Zolyomi (CEEweb)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bent Jepsen: Report of the LIFE Platform meeting</li> <li>• Rossano Bolpagni: the importance of being natural: Role of wetland type on the maintenance of riverine vegetation (Italy)</li> <li>• Wiktor Kotowski: Applying resilience-thinking to fen conservation and restoration: can we predict long-term effects of current strategies?</li> </ul> <p><b>WOODLAND &amp; FORESTS: Chair Mr Frank Wolff (LU);</b> facilitator, Paulo Castro (EUROPARC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Iovu-Adrian Biris: Report of the LIFE Platform meeting</li> <li>• Csaba Németh: Reconstruction of forest-habitats in the Natura 2000 areas of Vas County – Hungary</li> </ul>			
11.00 to 11.30		Coffee break	

<b>DAY 2: Tuesday, 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015 – Habitat Groups continued</b>			
11.30 to 13.00	<p><u>Habitat Groups: session 2</u></p> <p>“What needs to be done?”</p> <p><i>Continuing from the previous session, grow understanding of how the Natura 2000 Biogeographical process can be useful for and used by participants to achieve shared interest and priorities. Start to focus on the scope for collaborative working and cooperative actions that can be usefully developed through the process.</i></p>	<p>What needs to change, what can be improved, and what new actions can be developed?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refer to the Habitat Group section in the Seminar Document and the previous sessions’ discussions, to start to prioritise issues and identify practical solutions.</li> <li>To share practical habitat management experiences and identify: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What works?</li> <li>Where are the challenges, issues or problems?</li> </ul> </li> <li>To propose solutions where there is consensus about the need for practical habitat management actions, as well as common understanding about the steps that can be taken.</li> <li>To develop solutions that evidence collaboration and cooperation between stakeholders – all inputs from stakeholders should be justified in terms of their contribution to achieving progress towards the important strategic targets for their habitats.</li> </ul> <p>Planned outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To begin to develop a level of consensus about common priorities and shared interests that can or need to be addressed, relevant for each habitat group, to ensure progress towards achievement of the EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy targets.</li> <li>To identify gaps to be prioritised for future consideration: equally, to note any differences of opinion that may exist.</li> </ul>	<p>The main purpose of this session is to discuss participants’ examples and experiences of current joint-working approaches they are aware of and know to work; alternatively, where there would be value and need to develop new joint working. Reflecting also on the case study presentations, basically, two questions are posed here:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What are the problems?</li> <li>Where is there scope for useful collaboration?</li> </ul> <p>Ideas from current or proposals for planned projects will be shared. Examples about existing joint-working focussing on practical management knowledge sharing will be discussed – for example, strategic level initiatives (such as guidelines/ advice etc.), and policy-related initiatives, but the focus should remain on practical management collaboration opportunities.</p> <p>Areas where there are recognised gaps in know-how should be identified and discussed in terms of what practical steps can be developed to address these gaps.</p>
13.00 to 14.30		Lunch	
14.30 to 15.45	<p><u>Habitat Groups: session 3</u></p> <p>“Where do we need to go?”</p> <p><i>The aim of this session is to plan desired outcomes &amp; define cooperation or collaboration objectives.</i></p>	<p>To begin to focus discussions and develop agreement about the scope for collaboration and cooperation to take forward common interests and shared priorities, relevant to their habitat group.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To agree (realistic &amp; measurable) objectives that can be achieved appropriate for cooperation and collaboration – consider who will be involved, how they could work &amp; what they could do/ contribute.</li> </ul>	<p>Building on the previous sessions, Group participants will be able to discuss (in some detail) solutions, possible actions and proposed first steps required to take forward agreed, common priorities.</p>
15.45 to 16.00		Coffee break	
16.00 to 17.30	<p><u>Habitat Groups: session 4</u></p> <p>Planning for action</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To work together to seek commitments from within the group (where possible) to achieve the outcomes.</li> <li>To develop a proposed action plan for collaboration and cooperation within the Mediterranean region in terms of what, where &amp; when.</li> <li>To identify and select short-term actions (coming months) and longer term actions (future years).</li> <li>To agree and propose tangible priority actions, which need to be taken, where possible including by whom and when.</li> </ul>	<p>This session will be used to sum up the key points arising from the day’s discussions, especially to capture the common priorities and shared interests where it is agreed there would be most value in developing further cooperation. Focus will be given to specific actions that aim to improve management practice and quality: also, there will be scope to include attention for relevant, identified cross-cutting issues, such as stakeholder engagement practices, communication &amp; outreach, mitigation of and adaptation for climate change impacts etc.</p>
17.30 to 18.00		Free time/ networking	

<b>DAY 2: Tuesday, 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015 – Knowledge Market</b>			
18.00 to 21.00	<i>Knowledge Market</i>	<p><i>The Knowledge Market will be officially opened by:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Mr Camille Gira, Secretary of State for Sustainable Development &amp; Infrastructures, Luxembourg; and,</i></li> <li>• <i>Mrs Pia Bucella, Director Natural Capital, European Commission.</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Following the official opening, a buffet and drinks reception will be served.</i></p> <p><i>This is a dynamic and interactive session designed to enable participants to network and enter into bilateral discussions. Participants will be able to walk round and gather information from diverse projects and initiatives presented at 'market stalls', where materials and best practice examples will be displayed.</i></p> <p><i>Representatives from local stakeholder organisations will also be invited to this session.</i></p>	<i>Further details are provided below.</i>

### **The Knowledge Market**

*The "Knowledge Market" offers the possibility for Member State and stakeholder representatives to present best practice examples from nature protection activities with a specific focus on Natura 2000. This can include: presentation of management plans; ongoing or concluded LIFE projects; stakeholder integration activities; regional, national or local initiatives for Natura 2000; display of posters, maps and other relevant materials; dissemination of guidance, information resources or other literature etc. The aim is to share news about those activities and initiatives which target improving the quality and practices of nature conservation in Natura 2000 areas, or the wider landscape.*

*The Knowledge Market is designed to stimulate discussion between Seminar participants, share and gather information, and to provide useful inputs for further projects, collaborations and co-operations. This is an informal interactive information gathering opportunity – the Knowledge Market is not a session in plenary - it works one-to-one or in small groups, as participants move around to gather and share information. Most importantly, the Knowledge Market contributor should be able to comment about the project, the work or activities and be prepared to discuss with interested experts from other Member States or stakeholder organisations.*

*Participants must have registered in advance in order to facilitate planning and preparations. They will have provided information material about (planned, ongoing or concluded) relevant Natura 2000 projects or related work.*

*If you have registered and have not already done so, please let us know your display plans (what materials you propose to bring) and some details about what you wish to share with Seminar participants. Tables, panels and WIFI will be at your disposal to display publications, posters and other literature – for any PowerPoint presentations and/or websites you wish to share, participants should bring their own laptop.*

**DAY 3: Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> July 2015**

**Note: 08.00 to 09.00 – Habitat Group Chairs and Facilitators will finalise their group presentations for the plenary session on Day 3.**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Objectives &amp; outcomes</b>	<b>Description</b>
09.15 to 09.30		<i>Recap on Day 2 &amp; introduction to Day 3</i>	
09.30 to 11.00	<i>Habitat Groups – feedback</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentations from each of the Habitat Groups;</li> <li>• Plenary discussion about results</li> <li>• Confirmation of proposed recommendations.</li> </ul>	<i>Each Habitat Group will present an overview of the key points discussed on Day 2 and the outcomes achieved and agreed by group participants. Each Group will have been asked to propose 3 priority Seminar follow-up actions and to signal commitments to take forward these actions. The presentations will be made by the Habitat Group Chairs, supported by their facilitator.</i>
11.00 to 11.30		Coffee break	
11.30 to 12.30	<i>Continental, Pannonian, Black Sea &amp; Steppic Kick-off Seminar: Closing session</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A dedicated plenary session to summarise outcomes and agreed, common priorities.</li> <li>• To confirm results and concrete actions identified during the Seminar;</li> <li>• To plan and confirm timescales for next steps.</li> </ul> <p><i>The note of thanks and closing remarks for the Continental, Pannonian, Steppic &amp; Black Sea Kick-Off Seminar will be provided by:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Mr Camille Gira, Secretary of State for Sustainable Development &amp; Infrastructures, Luxembourg.</i></li> <li>• <i>Mr François Kremer, Policy Coordinator Natura 2000, European Commission, DG Environment.</i></li> </ul>	<i>Note that any concrete actions deriving from cross cutting issues may also be discussed within habitat working groups. Reflecting levels of interest and priority, the aim will be to firm up actions proposed for any cross cutting issues of common / shared interest and avoid general discussion – only those cross cutting issues with potential to be covered by the actors of the Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process in collaboration should be captured.</i>
12.30 to 13.00		Departures	