

2nd Natura 2000 seminar for the Continental, Pannonian, Steppic and Black Sea regions

Strasbourg, 16 – 18 October 2018

Seminar Report

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Consortium Information:

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Event: For more information on this seminar, see the Natura 2000 Communication Platform: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/platform/events/continental_pannonian_steppic_and_black_sea_regions_seminar_en.htm

Relevant documents can be found here:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/platform/knowledge_base/141_continental_region_en.htm

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1. Introduction

1.1. Context of the Natura 2000 seminar for the Continental, Pannonian, Steppic and Black Sea regions

The Natura 2000 biogeographical process has been launched in 2011 by the European Commission. The objective of the process is to promote information exchange, networking and cooperation on Natura 2000 related issues amongst Member States and stakeholders at biogeographical region level. The process involves regular seminars in each biogeographical region (or group of regions) to discuss key conservation challenges and agree on a road map for cooperative action in the region(s) for the following years.

The four distinct biogeographical regions (Continental Pannonian, Steppic and Black Sea biogeographical region – called “CPSBS regions” hereafter) cover 16 Member States and represents one third of the European Union land territory. Whereas the Continental biogeographical region covers 14 different Member States, the Pannonian, Steppic and Black Sea regions only cover respectively 5, 1 and 2 Member States each, and represent a small share of the EU land area.

The seminar took place on 16 to 18 October 2018 in Strasbourg, France, where it was hosted by the Région Grand Est at the Maison de la Région. In total some 126 participants attended the seminar, originating from 18 Member States.

The field visits were organised by the Regional Nature Park of the Northern Vosges (Parc naturel régional des Vosges du Nord (PNRVN)) in co-operation with various involved parties, with the support of the Regional Directorate for the Environment, Land Use and Housing of Grand Est (DREAL Grand Est). The PNRVN was established in 1975. At present, it extends over 127 666 hectares and there are eight Natura 2000 sites located within its boundaries.

1.2. The four themes selected for the seminar

The Natura 2000 seminar has been organised around four major themes:

1. Linking site-level objectives, regional/national-level objectives and favourable reference values
2. Identifying and solving issues in relation to habitat type definitions
3. Increasing the involvement of local land managers through integrated site management
4. Selecting biogeographical level conservation priorities and measures

These themes were central to the thematic working groups. These themes were also (partly) leading for the site visits on the second day of the seminar. Reports on the outcome of these sessions were presented in plenary.

1.3. Reading guide

After this introduction, Chapter 2 provides a summary of the opening session (day 1).

Chapter 3 presents reports from the three field excursions and on the main topics that were discussed there.

Chapter 4 presents the reports from the four thematic working groups, with the findings and recommendations as presented on the closing day. The plenary discussion of the conclusions, as well as the important issues which might require follow-up actions are also presented there, in part 4.3.

Based on these discussions, Chapter 5 presents follow-up actions and an introduction to the roadmap that will be presented in the relevant groups (Steering Committee, NADEG) and made available to the seminar's participants and the general public.



Picture 1: Official opening of the Continental Seminar by Mr Humberto Delgado Rosa, Director Natural Capital of DG Environment, Mrs Christèle Willer, Vice-President of the Region Grand Est and Simone Saillant, Deputy Director Water and biodiversity, Ministry for the ecological transition (left) and Michael Weber, President of the Regional Nature Park of the Northern Vosges (right).



Picture 2: Introductory presentations in the auditorium of Région Grand-Est

2. Opening and plenary session

The seminar was open by Mrs Christèle Willer, Vice-President of the Région Grand-Est, who welcomed the guests and participants of the seminar on behalf of the host organization and briefly presented the Région's environmental ambitions and policy.

Mr Humberto Delgado Rosa, Director for Natural Capital, Directorate General Environment (DG ENV) from the European Commission highlighted the importance of Natura 2000 biogeographical seminars for the implementation of the EU conservation agenda. He underlined the fact that this 11th biogeographical seminar was also the 3rd to be hosted by a regional authority and that this level of administration is also very relevant in terms of involvement of the network of Natura 2000 actors.

The President of the Regional Nature Park of the Northern Vosges, Mr Michaël Weber, highlighted the particular location of the region, between countries, habitats and regions, and the long lasting commitment and efforts that have been made by the Park in implementing Natura 2000.

Mrs Simone Saillant, Water and biodiversity Deputy Director of the Ministry for the ecological and inclusive transition welcomed all participants and presented an outline of the Ministry's agenda relating to Natura 2000.

After the official opening, the context and objectives of the seminar were introduced: Mrs Sophie Ouzet, DG ENV, European Commission presented the Natura 2000 biogeographical process and the state of play in the CPSBS regions. She outlined the context of the process, the role of the Fitness check of the Nature directives and the development of the Action Plan for nature, people and the economy. She emphasized that the Natura 2000 biogeographical process is meant to spark new initiatives for cooperation, for knowledge sharing and harmonisation of approaches. It offers the possibility to take follow-up action through networking events and other activities that can also be supported through the resources available under the Commission's contract with Wageningen University Research (WUR), the Netherlands.

Mrs Maja Mikosinska, EASME presented an overview of Life projects in the CPSBS regions, and a review of the habitats and species which have in particular been supported by the past programmes. She also presented perspectives on the LIFE programme for the coming years, particularly under the Multiannual Work Programme (MAWP) 2018-2020. Mrs Mikosinska explained the changes in the programme, the Standard Action Projects (SAPs), Strategic Integrated Projects (SIPs) and Strategic Nature Projects (SNaPs). She highlighted that the increased budget for the coming years will result in more opportunities to support projects through the LIFE programme.

Mr. Rita Jacob, Director, Regional Nature Park of the Northern Vosges, introduced the next day's field visits through an overview of the protected areas in the territory of the PNRVN.

The thematic orientation and working group sessions were explained by Theo van der Sluis, Project Leader of the support program for the Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process, from WENR.

3. Site visits

Each field visit was arranged around a specific cluster of habitats: the forest and its management (Field visit A), the water courses and their management (Field visit B) and meadows and their management (Field visit C). Each visit also covered the different topics and issues addressed in the seminar. Short findings based on these field visits are presented in the following paragraphs.



Picture 3: Field trip A, which focuses on forest management. Essential is co-operation between all partners, in particular, to involve local partners from the beginning.

3.1. Field trip A: The forests and their management

Guide: Sébastien Morelle, Natura 2000 officer, PNRVN. Report: Irene Bouwma.

During the field visit various parties involved in the management presented the management and explained the local situation. The LIFE Lynx project and the Lynx Parliament were also presented. Furthermore, the contracts for management were discussed with participants. The points highlighted on the basis of the excursion are:

- Co-operation between all partners is essential: involve local partners from the beginning
- Soil conditions create many gradients and habitats, making habitat classification difficult: good phytosociological handbooks that show variations in typology can help
- Changing forest species composition takes a long time, management measures therefore need to be synchronised with forest activities/cycles
- Conditions included in contracts with land owners are: no fertilisation is done, beech species are favoured, establishment of reserves ("îlots de sénescence": islands for aging)
- Decreasing game densities through contracts with hunters has according to managers positive effect and reduces additional feeding in winter time
- The Forest Charter aims to create a local market for timber harvested in the Park, by co-operation with the timber industry and local carpenters (competition for furniture)

- The LIFE Lynx Reintroduction Project in the Palatinate Forest ([LIFE Luchs](#) - Wiederansiedlung von Luchsen im Pfälzerwald) aims to reintroduce and manage Lynxes and their habitat, and to develop acceptance through information transparency and discussion on Lynx introduction and Lynx sightings with a network of mayors, hunters and NGOs.
- Always consider informing local people of why you are modifying watercourses (or of any forest measures for that matter); be aware that people may be emotionally attached to certain ponds or bridges

3.2. Field trip B: Water courses and their management

Guides: Marie l'Hospitalier, Natura 2000 officer PNRVN and Rita Jacob, Director of PNRVN. Report: Ventzislav Vassilev.

This field visit focused on the management of watercourses and restoration projects in the Natura 2000 sites “La Sauer et ses affluents” (SAC FR4201794) and “Cours d'eau, tourbières, rochers et forêts des Vosges du nord et souterrain de Ramstein” (SAC FR4100208). The field visit was organized around several locations of watercourse restoration projects, demonstrating different issues, approaches and success stories:



Picture 4: Field trip B which focuses on watercourses, Graffenweiher dam was visited. Setting the objective(s) in a nature restoration project requires a balance between objectives of the fragmented water course (re-connection, fish species, removal of hydraulic structures, WFD) and conservation of secondary wetland (N2K habitat).

- Re-connection of fragmented watercourse at Graffenweiher dam. The participants discussed the balance between the conservation objectives related to the river restoration (increased populations of protected fish species, improved ecological status of the water body) and conservation of the secondary wetland, which is also Natura 2000 habitat.
- Restoration project on private land in Niedersteinbach, demonstrating the approach of PNRVN to involve private owners by proposing feasible win-win solutions and raising their awareness on the benefits (ecosystem services).
- Presentation of the [LIFE Biocorridors project](#), which described the establishment of cooperation at regional and local level for improved management and restoration of the shared habitats and ecosystems.
- Valley of Tiefenthal: demonstration of recently implemented re-naturalization works, aiming to remove forest road and to restore the slopes and forest habitats in the valley.
- Camping in Fleckenstein: a cooperation between the Park, the water agency, the private owner and the water supply company for a joint restoration project.

The participants had a chance to meet various local stakeholders and partners in the above-mentioned river restoration projects – foresters, mayors, private land owners and entrepreneurs – and to learn about their success stories and lessons learned.

3.3. Field trip C: Grasslands and meadows and their management

Guide: Cécile Bayeur, Natura 2000 officer, PNRVN. Report: Theo van der Sluis.

A first stop was made at Niedersteinbach. This is part of a former landscape devoted to fruit trees ('Obstgarten') which has almost disappeared nowadays. The N2000 site focuses on rivers: it includes riverine habitats, whereas all valuable grasslands are not included. The management plan is focusing on Natura 2000 only but the agri-environmental Schemes might include slightly wider areas.

- The farmers are motivated by grasslands management, protecting voluntarily e.g. rare butterflies. They derive their motivation from the set of activities the park is organising in the community, the Natura 2000 and Agri-environment officers being in charge of most of them.
- The local concertation mechanisms were explained, namely the functioning of the local management boards that are set up for each site : "comités de pilotage" or COPIL.
- Art. 17 Reporting is aggregated at national level, based on data that are produced at local level without there being an even protocol among different sites.
- The Botanical Conservancy of Alsace (Conservatoire Botanique d'Alsace) presented a typology of grasslands (*Typologie des milieux ouverts du massif vosgien*, that can be uploaded [here](#)) they have elaborated and published as a handbook and that is used as a tool for grassland management.

The second stop was at Griebelsboesch, near Lembach. Here the group spoke at length with Mr Charles Suss, a farmer, on his motivations and tools for grassland conservation.

- Mr Suss sells his milk as local milk or high quality milk, with a higher price. He also sells part of it in regional shops at a price thrice as high.
- This farmer considers extensive livestock management to be the best possible land use in this area, since intensification and crop farming are not sustainable in the long run. However, as the market price for milk is so low, and the subsidies relating to good environmental practises are not stable, some farmers have no alternative but to intensify their practises and / or convert grassland into crop land.
- Environmental management is supported from different sources coming from the CAP and defined in the regional RDP. Depending on the measure, payments are either per parcel or extended to the entire farm.
- In addition to the huge amount of paper work that is required, it may take several years before the agri-environmental measures are paid, which means the farmers cannot but plan without this support.

The Regional Nature Park of Lorraine presented how they developed knowledge on pollinators' and high environmental value grasslands' input in the farming system and income and how they transformed this knowledge into data that can be used by the farmers to make their operational choices. A third stop was organised to allow for presentations on two local agronomical typologies of permanent grasslands by the PNRVN together with the French National Institute for Agronomical Research (INRA, Mr Geoffrey Mesbahi) and by the Regional Nature Park of the Forêt d'Orient (Mrs Christine Matthieu). These tools have been developed with a view to choosing and promoting a management that is coherent with the conservation or restoration of the habitats. Some of them also take pollinators on board.

The fourth stop was at Mr Stéphane Huchot's, a sheep farmer with 1400 sheep, 7000 lambs, on 230 ha. The sheep herds are mobile, moving in the area over distances up to 8 km and grazing on riverine Natura 2000 meadows in a flexible manner, depending mainly on the habitat management requirements.

- The farmer considers that the global administrative burden is very important for farmers (registration of the small and changing sheep herds whereabouts).
- 2-3 years late payment of agri-environment measures is not exceptional.
- The farmer has set up his own marketing system for the lamb meat: his personal initiative to sell the meat as a regional product has now evolved into a cooperative group, which negotiates contracts with a slaughterhouse and regional selling points (currently 60 different shops, supermarkets and butchers). The slaughterhouse collects the sheep at the farm, the price is fixed year-round, the cooperatively operating farmers decide on the meat price they will be selling at. They are also working with local restaurants to directly market lamb meat.

- The farmer is now diversifying his products to sheep cheese too, so he continuously has some 30 ewes at the farm that are milked. The cheese is also sold to local shops and restaurants.
- The Regional Nature Park of Lorraine presented how they developed a late-mown hay specific sales channel for zoos and pet shops, in order to generate additional income from species-rich grasslands that have to be maintained through late mowing, mainly in Natura 2000 areas.
- The PNRVN also mentioned the transboundary EU LIFE Luchs (LIFE Lynx project in the Palatinate Forest) which supports a local Lynx Parliament allowing for a better sharing and understanding of the information and data on the species. The use of such platforms for other large carnivores could be considered, namely if the Wolf should return to the region. According to the farmer, this would cause severe problems as, under the current sheep management, there is no shepherd staying at night with the herd anymore.

A general conclusion from these field visits is that developing win-win solutions is key and requires that the management that is set in place is an integrated one.



Picture 5: Field trip C which focuses on Grassland management. At Niedersteinbach the former 'Obstgarten' landscape almost disappeared. The N2000 site includes river, not much grasslands, the valuable grasslands are not included since the focus is on the river. Still the Community / farmers are motivated for grasslands management, protecting e.g. rare butterflies

4. Thematic sessions

4.1.1. Linking site-level, regional/national-level objectives and FRVs (theme 1)

Context

The Habitats Directive requires setting conservation objectives at the site level for the species and/or habitat types for which a site has been designated, in order to contribute to maintaining or reaching favourable conservation status at the national, the biogeographical or the European level.

Where a Member State has decided to set conservation objectives at the higher geographical level, the targets for achieving favourable conservation status could be defined at national, regional or biogeographical levels within the Member State or at an even broader level (biogeographical or EU). (*Commission note on the setting conservation objectives for Natura 2000 sites, 2012*). There are at present significant differences in terms of progress of the Member States for setting conservation objectives at higher geographical level.

It should be underlined that setting conservation objectives at national or regional level is different from setting of conservation or restoration priorities as part of the Prioritized Action Frameworks (PAF), however some MSs report that the two processes are joined.

Even if Member States have set higher level conservation objectives, the relationship between these objectives and the Favourable Reference Values (FRVs) is not always straightforward. The FRVs have been identified by EU guidelines as tools for assessing FCS and their application has been related mainly to the Art. 17. reporting at the level of the Member State's biogeographical region. FRVs are often set at national level but not necessarily equal to 'national targets'. The reference values could vary significantly between countries due to biological specifics (one country having a population at the edge of the distribution, whereas other one central population).

The specific approaches of Wallonia and Flanders (Belgium) to establish conservation objectives at regional level were presented. The importance of the mapping and assessment of the habitats and species outside Natura 2000 was highlighted in relation to the national/regional objectives and FRVs. Setting quantitative objectives, related to the FCS and taking into account the land use was discussed, including the advantages and challenges of this approach.

The presentation of Mr. Manenti from LIFE IP GESTIRE 2020 (Italy) described conservation actions for amphibian species with focus on the linking site level objectives of amphibians' conservation to regional strategies.

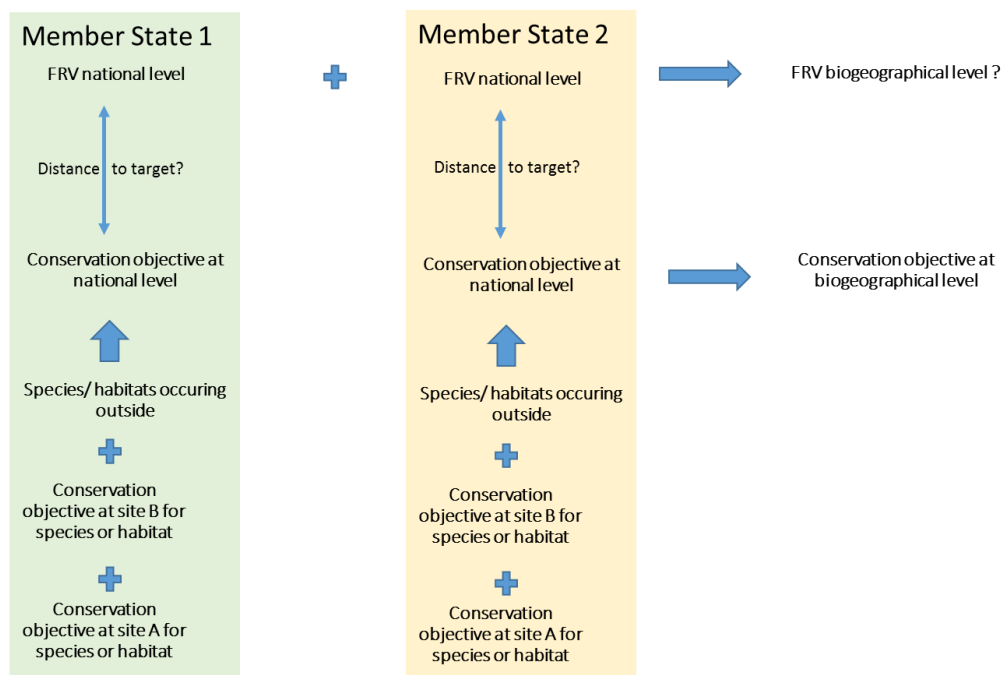


Figure 1: Setting Conservation Objectives and Favourable Reference Values at regional and national levels

Objectives of the thematic session

- Review the different approaches followed by the Member States to develop regional/national conservation objectives or conservation objectives at the biogeographical level within the MS;
- Develop a situation analysis: identify how far countries are in the process;
- Show examples and identify the best practices and effective approaches for establishing the link between site-level objectives and the regional/national-level objectives, including relationships between these objectives and the Favourable Reference Values (FRVs);
- Identify cooperative actions between Member States for the habitats and species which require conservation efforts at the biogeographical level.

The objectives of the thematic session were confirmed to a great extent by the “**Expectations exercise**”, which outlined the following expectations from the participants: Exchange information, knowledge, experiences;

- Review of the different national approaches (guidance, reference). Good examples and lessons learned. Challenges of implementation;
- Define the concept of FRVs and relation to the conservation objectives;
- More coherent approach how to define conservation objectives at different levels; Upscaling and downscaling of the conservation objectives; How to bring the regional conservation plan to national level?
- How to define more specific conservation objectives, based on FRVs? Approach how to check the conservation status of the best sites or hot spots.



Picture 6: Ideas are discussed on linking objectives to Favourable Reference Values (Group 1)

Discussions in working group

The thematic session was organized in small groups, which brainstormed on common guiding questions and then reported the outcomes to the thematic group. The results are summarized below:

Why establishing regional and national objectives would help implementation of the Nature directives and Natura 2000 site management?

- To ensure strategic framework for conservation actions, linking the top-down and bottom-up approaches; Linking the Natura 2000 management at site level and national level;
- To ensure unified/coordinated approaches in objectives setting;
- To facilitate comparison between the current status and the targets;
- To link the conservation objectives with priorities setting at national level (PAF);

Why to establish biogeographical-level FRV?

- To ensure transparency and clarity of the common targets; to assess the progress at biogeographical level;
- To facilitate setting the targets and their common understanding between the MSs;
- To facilitate the cooperation between MSs;
- Beneficial for fragile species;
- Could be only a recommendation but not binding.

Which are the main barriers?

- Differences in legislation and context between the countries;
- The regional autonomy could be an issue in some MSs;

- Resistance, related to the already established practices;
- The process is demanding / insufficient political will;
- Insufficient expert knowledge on the conservation status;
- Insufficient or scattered data (including historical data)

Which are the possible cooperative common actions and opportunities in the Biogeographical process?

- Exchange of strategies and best practices in establishing of conservation objectives at national and biogeographical levels;
- To reach common understanding and definitions, for example on the FRVs between the different Member States and different groups of experts;
- To link the management at site level with the monitoring and reporting of the conservation status;
- To coordinate the management (and objectives setting) of specific habitats and species at biogeographical level, e.g. by establishment of joint working groups;
- Organizing topic-specific meetings at biogeographical level, including for the stakeholders;
- Using the Natura 2000 Platform for sharing experience and practices from the MSs
- Sharing of knowledge about the reference conditions for specific habitats and species;
- To coordinate the development of LIFE and INTERREG projects (as opportunities for funding of exchange and cooperative actions).

Opportunities for cooperative work and follow-up

The thematic discussion resulted in clustering and prioritizing of the proposed cooperative and follow-up actions as follows:

- Exchange of best practices between the Member States
- Overview of the national approaches for setting conservation objectives at higher geographical level
- Guidance or explanatory document about the main concepts, principles and terminology
- Network meetings on specific topics and follow-up events on specific habitats and species
- Development of joint projects to be funded by LIFE and INTERREG programmes, including integrated cross-border projects
- Involvement of the Natura 2000 experts in other sectors.

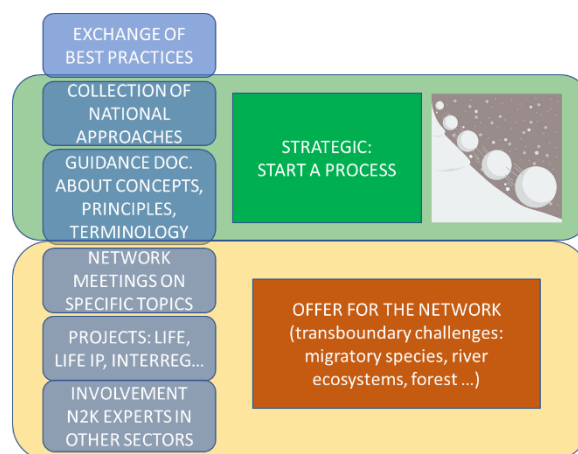


Figure 2: approach for cooperative actions

4.1.2. Solving issues in relation to habitat type definitions (theme 2)

Context

The Continental, Pannonian, Steppic and Black Sea biogeographical regions together cover over a quarter of the territory of the European Union. They contain a variety of habitat types, that are interpreted differently by the 16 Member States concerned. Language issues currently hamper a comparison between those different interpretations of habitat types, which is required for a proper aggregation of data and information on habitat types from national level (e.g. the article 17 reports) to biogeographical level. It is also essential to exchange knowledge and experiences at the biogeographical level on e.g. the evaluation of effects of conservation measures or to define favorable reference values.

Doug Evans from the **ETC/BD** introduces the theme, the problems associated with the habitat type definitions. When the Habitats Directive was adopted in 1992, annex I listed 170 habitat types, and following the enlargement of the EU to 27 member states this has increased to 231 habitat types (Evans, 2010). The first lists of habitats was based on the CORINE biotope classification. Later the Interpretation Manual was produced by the EC in association with experts from the member states. The habitat types definition in the Interpretation Manual is based on both the CORINE biotope and Palearctic classification.

The descriptions of the habitat types in the EU Interpretation Manual are mostly very short, only available in English and have to cover often a wide range of variations. This led Member States to producing their own handbooks (Evans, 2010). **In most countries, the national handbooks or guidance documents use a phytosociological framework, which can help compare the interpretations by the different MSs. However, a proper comparison of the definition and interpretation of habitat types between EU member states is often complicated because of the absence of an easily accessible database with all national/regional definitions/interpretations and of translations.**

Some problems could be solved but there are still remaining issues, such as habitat types that occur in different biogeographical regions (lacking on the present list), overlapping habitat types (partly due to scale differences) and habitat types that do not really fit to the ones on the list. This has consequences for the mapping and monitoring of habitat types (e.g. by field detection) as well.

Vincent Gaudillat from the Natural Heritage Unit, UMS PatriNat, FR, introduced the use of the habitat definitions in France. Initially a French manual was developed: the Cahiers d'habitats (2001-2005). In 2014 a start was made with the revision of interpretation of the terrestrial habitats of Community interest. The goals were:

- To incorporate the improved knowledge
- To address the outstanding interpretation problems
- To achieve for each habitat a single and shared interpretation at the national level (different interpretations were used at regional level despite the existence of the national manual)

The Ministry of Ecology established in 2014 a national working group on the interpretation of terrestrial habitats of Community interest. This working group consisted of about 20 experts from all regions of France, coordinated by the Natural Heritage Unit (UMS Patrinat), and identified in total around a hundred habitats among 134 have issues (75%). In 4 years' time, some 50% of the issues have been solved, the project may be finalised perhaps in 5 years.

The first version of the conclusions were published in March 2018, and they are updated once a year. Also, habitat factsheets are updated: some 20 factsheets, mainly coastal and freshwater habitats, are planned by the end of 2018. Further, reports were published on the interpretation of some habitats¹.

Vincent Gaudillat recommended:

- To promote tools to help Member States that have problems of interpretation to benefit from the experience of other countries;
- To encourage the diffusion of national/regional manuals for interpreting habitats on electronic media, and translate or publish synthesis in English
- To compile a list of resources persons in each Member State to make exchanges about interpretation of habitats easier
- To create a discussion forum.

A recommendation for the European level: Identify the habitats with the main differences of interpretation between Member States, and organise a debate on these differences (discussion forum, workshop, etc.) with all interested experts of the biogeographical regions. The consequences of a revision of interpretation of habitats for Member States needs to be taken into account. Also, countries could agree upon common rules for habitat interpretation.

¹ <https://inpn.mnhn.fr/telechargement/documentation/referentiel-habitats?lg=en>



Picture 7: Presenting different approaches to solve issues with habitat definitions (Group 2)

Discussions in working group

There are considerable differences in interpretation, most participants can list habitat types which are ambiguous. One of the examples given was that some Central European countries fitted habitats into the most related habitat type, although they did not fit so well. Several years later one of the recent accession countries defined for the same habitats new habitat types. These newly added types were the same as those previously grouped under another type, so the 'older' types are now *de facto* wrongly classified.

Comparison of the national typologies is often complicated because national/regional handbooks in different languages are not easy to find with commonly used keywords, and cannot be understood by other Member States. It is difficult to compare them when establishing regional/national definitions. Also, there is in general a lack of exchange between regional, national experts.

Consequences of differences between definitions

A) Assessment of conservation status:

- A wide definition incl. degraded habitats results in favorable surfaces, bad structures and functions
- Narrow definition focused on habitats in better condition results in favorable structures and functions but insufficient (bad) surface
- Responsibility of some MS that are the only ones identifying a habitat type in a biogeographical region

B) Aggregation of reports:

- At national level (different regions with different definitions)
- At European level: MS do not report exactly on the same habitat. This will result in inconsistencies in European aggregated reports, assessments and maps

C) Other issues:

- Use of thresholds (for instance %tree cover) can cause very strict definitions suddenly excluding habitat units from the definition (ex. 51% of beech ≈ annex I habitat ; 49% of beech means no habitat)
- Restoration of habitats: when does a habitat unit become an annex I habitat? For example, a grassy degraded peatland within Natura 2000 is restored, resulting in peat growth and wet heather. It becomes Habitat 4010, Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*. At what point do you have to change the description of degraded peatland to Annex 1 Habitat 4010?

Opportunities for cooperative work and follow-up

→ Option 1 = to establish a synopsis of national habitat types interpretation

The goal would be to identify similarities and differences among MS. First should be agreed on a template for habitat descriptions should be agreed upon, as definitions in national/regional handbooks may be very long. A proposal for a template should be prepared at EU level. Next, the national information should be adapted to the template. This should be coordinated by MS. Based on this, summaries per habitat type should be produced, with a minimum of common elements and differences. The expert groups should be coordinated at EU level. A possible subsequent analysis could be to prepare a shorter list of habitat types for discussion. It is worthwhile to keep track of the discussions and possible changes, to keep track of the process for later. Also, to be kept in mind are the implications for conservation status.

→ Option 2 = to improve and update the EU interpretation manual

In this option, a better link is established to syntaxa/EUNIS classification. Also, a better coverage of national variation – adding more complete information on biogeographical and regional level characteristics, which will allow for better distinguishing similar habitats. This will result in a complete description with abiotic habitat conditions

The method should be based on consensus (no new elements, no real change of the habitat but clarification), the process must be well documented (keep track of discussions). The time scale for this process might be 2-3 years.

→ Option 3 = to implement a practical approach (for example in a follow-up event of the Seminar)

This approach works best at small levels (regional, neighbour countries) and/or discussion by habitat groups. MSs should identify real differences and problems in monitoring, assessment, reporting. For all differences, it should be discussed whether MSs can work with the existing differences between their definitions, and based on these considerations, suggestions to Commission for modification of the interpretation manual could be prepared.

In any case, a risk analysis should be conducted of the consequences (for monitoring, reporting, management, payment, legal aspects, communication to stakeholders, biodiversity conservation) of

restricting or expanding certain habitat definitions. It might well be that there could be important consequences, e.g. financially, but also that farmers or foresters that have been paid so far for certain management would find themselves at once excluded from these measures due to changed definitions. It should also be considered which flexibility MSs would have in case of change in the interpretation manual.

4.1.3. Involving local land managers through integrated site management (theme 3)

Context

The management of Natura 2000 is a complex issue. It involves various groups of stakeholders, with different interests, socio-economic needs and uneven understanding how to integrate the nature conservation in their daily land-use practices.

Some of the common factors which play a role in achieving integrated management are:

- the views and concerns of private owners with regard to site management;
- the (pro-active) involvement of private owners in the development of management plans;
- the availability of and access to public funding schemes and other incentives.

There are significant differences across EU Member States in the economic situation of the forestry and agricultural sector, as well as different traditions in land use and management. This results in different Natura 2000 site management practices in the Member States and difficulty to identify common “best practices”. The LIFE programme provides a very important contribution with regard to integrated site management, various LIFE projects work with different sectors (agriculture, forestry), they have a focus on outreach, communication with stakeholders and communities. Experiences from LIFE are therefore very valuable and should be shared wider, for learning purposes and exchange.

Recent studies carried out for the European Commission as well as exchanges with international partners, have shown that the use of specific advisory tools aimed at promoting private land conservation (e.g. through covenants, conservation easements, private protected areas, fiscal benefits, etc.) has considerable potential to contribute to the overall targets set by EU nature legislation and biodiversity policy. As a large share of the Natura 2000 network is privately owned, an increased involvement of private owners is essential for successful management of the network. The studies carried out clearly show that these tools are in most Member States used to a limited extent, very heterogeneous and poorly known.

Objectives of the thematic session

- To identify the best practices for pro-active involvement of private agricultural and forest owners in the development and implementation of integrated management instruments for Natura 2000; build in particular further on LIFE experiences;

- To identify the main barriers preventing pro-active participation and involvement and provide solutions to them;
- To review the approaches of different Member States to ensure that available financing schemes are effectively used by private owners
- To identify cooperative actions to ensure improved stakeholder involvement in management.

Kristijan Čivić from Eurosite presented the LIFE-ELCN project that deals with Private Land Conservation. This is seen as a voluntary activity carried out by individuals, communities, corporations or NGOs with the aim to protect a piece of land and its habitats and species from harm, or to restore the natural properties of a piece of land to their former condition. The project aims to identify legal and political obstacles for upscaling and to promote ELCN to relevant stakeholders amongst others by testing 9 innovative private land conservation tools to promote their replication and proposing policy actions to support them.

Jürgen Tack (ELO) presented the LIFE project Land is forever. This project aims to expand the use of private land conservation methods and approaches in the EU and to develop recommendations for new and more effective private land conservation policies changes, administrative regulations, guidelines, funding, incentives, capacity needs.

Marie Kaerlein of Landcare Germany presented the activities of their organisation which supports private landowners by providing them advice on maintaining cultural and biodiversity values of their land but also by supporting them in allocating and accessing available funds for environmental measures. Key factors for their success are that Landcare Germany is a committed partner that knows the regions well and is there for a long period, the trust they have created and the network built over the years and that the involvement with Landcare is voluntary (so no penalties or fines).

Opportunities for cooperative work and follow-up

A) Involvement of land owners and land users in the preparation of management plans.

- Mapping of stakeholders on relevant levels and their agreement on the integrated planning approach
- Political level: agreement on, and creation of a stable financial framework
- Simplification of the planning approach incl. the involvement of a professional mediator to ensure trust in the process(e.g. consultant agencies)
- Improve knowledge of the various approaches taken in regards to stakeholder involvement in various Member States by providing information

B) Capacity building on Natura 2000 in education (different levels).

- Create and/or promote N2000 education events and network on 1) ways to include Natura 2000 in education at various educational levels 2) ways to ensure involvement of researchers in Natura 2000 processes is also acknowledged in their performance assessments (e.g. Platform meetings).

- Establish site manager positions that includes undertaking of education and stakeholder involvement activities. Often these task are not valued and no resources (e.g. staff) are allocated to them

C) Methods and ways for trust-building

- Do not only learn from positive examples but also analyse with stakeholders what went wrong, and why and how to avoid this in the future. Also be not afraid to acknowledge mistakes.
- Use positive case studies and examples in field visits and demonstrations
- For trust building it is important to have organisations that can provide advisory and supporting service over a longer period and that are trusted by local stakeholders as they know the area and the economic issues that are important for stakeholder. These organisations can also provide long term communication and feedback in case of questions.

D) Different ways to create a positive image.

- Launching intensive Pro-N2000 information campaigns (all media and communication events) tailored for different stakeholder groups to improve the image of Natura 2000 in general
- Broaden audience to involve other businesses in the area– not only farmers, other land owners/users
- Development of N2000 site partnerships (schools, business)
- Launching of N2000 awards and competitions at national and local level (for land owners / users, municipalities)
- Hold a workshop/training on the development for interested stakeholders how to develop a Natura 2000 information campaign

E) Sustainable financing schemes at national level

- Development of studies on Natura 2000 sites on the restriction costs and economic benefits of ecosystem services
- Ensure exchange of best practices on financing schemes that work

4.1.4. Selecting biogeographical level conservation priorities and measures (theme 4)

Frank Vassen of the European Commission provided an introductory presentation with context for the workshop discussions. He stated that priority setting for conservation and/or restoration of habitats and species listed within the annexes of the Nature Directives is not consistently used, often remains too general or is not using all available data and can sometimes be anecdotal, based on the opinion of people working in the field. He went on to say that the situation is further complicated by the issue of how to set priorities if species and habitats are mostly in unfavourable conservation status; if a majority are in an unfavourable status then they may all, arguably, be considered as priorities? Ruud Foppen of SOVON, in his presentation focussing on bird data, commented that “all the data is available for birds”; confirming that birds have an extensive coverage of data points across Europe that can be used for setting objectives and identifying priorities.

Mora Aronsson added that it is also clear that Art. 17 conservation status is a composite that reflects a large spectrum of cases, although this is often not reflected within the reporting process. Furthermore, not all priority habitats and species listed in Annex I and II of the HD are threatened or require urgent attention, and hence the priority status of species or habitat in these HD annexes is not a suitable basis for priority setting either.

Priority setting under the Biogeographical process has so far been confined to habitat types and in most cases has not been followed-up by any field actions. Frank Vassen commented that at some point the 'Low-hanging fruits approach' was developed as part of the biogeographical process, but has proved to be not very popular. This approach has also been subject to criticism as the low hanging fruit are often not those requiring the most urgent attention. This approach therefore has the potential to divert resources from more important actions.

Several speakers (Ruud Foppen, Marta Rzemieniuk and Mora Aronsson) described the possible benefits of priority setting at biogeographical level.

Having agreed priorities would allow the available EU-funding to be steered towards the most urgent priorities. Furthermore, a dynamic priority setting process could take account of the most recent available data and would benefit from the improved data and datasets that are nowadays available (for example, the information in relation to birds and increasingly butterflies, is now comprehensive in relation to the former and growing quickly in relation to the latter). Priority setting may also have the potential to take into account a range of additional criteria around social and economic issues and benefits (although always recognising that any prioritised actions need to fall clearly within the framework provided by the Nature Directives).

Marta Rzemieniuk concluded that priority setting is most relevant at national level. For certain species and habitat types there is a higher urgency to improve/restore their conservation status. While relevant information is available (EU, national and regional Red Lists, Article 17 data, Article 12 data for bird species, etc.), there is currently no agreed approach for identifying priorities and associated measures at EU or the level of biogeographical region, there is no clear mechanism for agreeing on such priorities, and there is no process for following up on their implementation.

Frank Vassen said that in the frame of the first Natura 2000 seminars (2013-2017), biogeographical region level priorities had already been identified for habitat types in the Continental/ Pannonian/ Steppic/ Black Sea, on the basis of a limited number of criteria. This exercise, which had initially led to the identification of a high number of habitat types for priority consideration (largely based on their unfavourable conservation status), could be further refined to a new list of habitats that are in most urgent need of improvement/restoration. Ruud Foppen stated in his presentation that there is both an opportunity and a need to extend this prioritisation exercise to species, including bird species.

Mora Aronsson stated that in the frame of the 6-yearly update of the reporting on status and trends of species and habitats, Member States will soon (2019) provide updates on the state of nature.

Together with other relevant data sources, this up-to-date information could be used for establishing, ahead of the next MFF, a list of priorities at biogeographical region-level for actions to be implemented during the period 2021-2027.

Whereas such a prioritization exercise would obviously need to make use of the available data on the status and trends of habitats and species as described above, Frank Vassen suggested that other criteria (whether scientific, ecological, social or economic) may also deserve consideration in this exercise. He also mentioned that the EU red lists, which are nowadays available for most species in the HD Annexes could be used to further refine priority setting within the large group of species and habitats that are in an unfavourable-bad conservation status.

Marta Rzemieniuk said that the discussions on prioritization approaches during the first seminars, whilst extensive and wide-ranging, have not received sufficient followed in relation to concrete and specific actions. Accordingly, no incentives have been generated which would have allowed Member States to focus on these priorities when implementing the EU Nature Directives. In the frame of the upcoming second round of seminars, there is a clear opportunity to bridge this gap.

Objectives of the thematic session

- To discuss possible approaches for selecting biogeographical level priority measures for habitats and species in most urgent need of action, based on the relevant information available at EU, national or regional levels.
- To present and discuss national/regional approaches for the prioritization of conservation actions and how these could be used for biogeographical level prioritization.
- To identify (and possibly agree) on priorities to be followed up in the near future and/or a roadmap towards selecting biogeographical level priorities for the next MFF period

Discussions in the working group

To facilitate the discussion on a mechanism or criteria for deciding on biogeographical level conservation priorities and the relevance of such a mechanism or criteria for Member States, some considerations are described below as well as examples of Member States that are already considering some of these during the development of their PAFs:

Specific benefits of a biogeographical approach were identified by the group. As well as acknowledging the benefits already set out as part of the introductory presentations, participants identified the following complementary elements, together with a number of other observations:

- Agreeing common standards in terms of priority setting at biogeographical level could facilitate discussions at national level as well as provide a more coherent approach between countries in a biogeographical region.
- Working between countries at the biogeographical level increases the potential for sharing lessons learned within the biogeographical region.

- LIFE could also have a role in assisting the implementation of common priorities identified at biogeographical level.
- Biogeographical level priorities allow for a more efficient use of resources.
- Biogeographical level priorities assist when comparing similar situations between countries and help to guide actions at national level.
- A flexible approach may however be required across the larger and more varied biogeographical regions (such as the continental).

The group also considered the potential criteria that might be applied to biogeographical level prioritisation:

- Vulnerability/extinction risk.
- Trends: there was much discussion of the issue of trends; the improvement in data availability and coverage (temporal and spatial) means that trends can be modelled for many species and habitats so that within the context of 'unfavourable condition' it is possible to be clearer in relation to whether species and habitats are declining, maintaining a stable state or improving. This increased understanding and sophistication means that resources and effort can be targeted more effectively.
- The most up-to-date Article 12 and 17 assessments for a given species or habitat shall be used (6-yearly reporting; the next reports are due in 2019). The new Article 17 format also includes a requirement for an enhanced reporting on trend information.
- The number of MS within a given biogeographical region that have a particular species or habitat.
- Feasibility and socio-economic constraints (how much will it cost, can it actually be achieved, what are the social implications, et cetera).
- The extent to which the implementation may deliver ecosystem services and other socio-economic benefits.
- The availability of finance.
- The wider 'biodiversity umbrella effect'/broader value for biodiversity of carrying out actions to improve the situation of a specific habitat or species.
- The 'Flagship status' of a habitat or species. Funding and public support for actions is easier to secure for attractive species.
- Natura 2000 coverage (e.g. the proportion of a habitat for species found within the Natura 2000 network of sites may be a reason for its prioritisation).
- Short - long-term costs of management (the ongoing cost of management/restoration versus a single or short-term cost for a restricted but equally effective action, maybe a consideration in decision making over priorities for funding).

Opportunities for cooperative work and follow-up

The group discussed a range of potential follow-up actions:

- Workshop to learn and share priorities between neighbouring Member States within a biogeographical region in order to better assess priorities or agree on common actions and projects. It was further discussed that this could also be taken forward as a project that would identify already listed priorities at country level, bring them together as background material for one or more facilitated workshops between neighbouring countries, concluding with a prioritised list of species habitats that could be used within (for example) Prioritised Action Frameworks and other strategic documents at national level.
- In relation to the previous point, it was further discussed that the analysis of selection criteria for prioritisation could be transformed via algorithms that would give weight to certain criteria over others and would provide a better framework for accurate decision-making in relation to priorities; this could form part of the same project approach or be a separate project.
- Workshop to discuss (and hopefully agree on) prioritisation approaches for species the conservation status of which varies between different parts of a Biogeographic region or is otherwise difficult to interpret (for example, European beaver approaches pest status in certain Member States whilst in others it is assessed as unfavourable).
- Whilst species action plans have been prepared for a number of threatened species few if any of these have been implemented. It was therefore proposed that actions could be taken forward by groups of countries within a biogeographical region to prepare further plans and/or improve the delivery of existing biogeographical management plans for key species (for example, the sturgeon).
- Workshop/supporting project to 'crosswalk' biogeographical priorities that appear in the PAFs.
- Project/action to look at the potential for delivering structured data forms for species to collect information across a biogeographical region.
- Project to 1) collect species data in order to support discussions about prioritisation; 2) collect data in relation to the success/impact of conservation measures in order to provide an indication of impact on species and/or habitat condition.
- Test a bottom-up versus top-down approach to setting priorities (see below, final bullet point under the general reflections).
- Workshops/projects to consider a common approach for monitoring the implementation of priorities agreed at the biogeographical level (in relation to habitats and species).

To conclude, the group came up with a number of general reflections:

There was generally strong overall support for the idea of setting biogeographical level priorities.

It would be important, however, to stay within the legal framework (although that should not restrict the possibility of seeking opportunities through other sectoral policies or consider social and economic criteria).

We still need to find additional ways to bridge the gap between planning and action (as evidenced for example by the widespread failure of delivery of species action plans).

The focus up until now has been on prioritising actions for habitat management and/or restoration; there was a general feeling that it is now time to look at species which, for a range of reasons not least public support, may be more likely to succeed.

Member State ownership (within and between MS) is likely to be a key success factor.

A significant discussion took place in relation to the 'top-down versus bottom-up' paradigms. The key question was whether a bottom-up approach, e.g. a group of MS coming together to set biogeographical level priorities, would come up with the same answer as a top-down approach with the Commission setting the regional priorities? In conclusion, it was agreed that there needs to be a balance between bottom-up and top-down.

The next step should be to address practical realities. To get into the detail and, at biogeographical level, to facilitate and conclude a discussion around which species/sites/habitats should be selected to start with.



Picture 8: François Kremer (DG-ENV), for the last time opening the knowledge market

4.2. Concluding plenary session, Theme 1-4

4.2.1. Site-level objectives

After the presentation from the Chair of the session Peter Skoberne, on the site level objectives, Michael O'Brian raised the point that we should be cautious for legal implications of certain objectives.

Germany would welcome the exchange of good practices between MS by national experts, meeting at events or workshops.

On the issue of Transboundary cooperation Peter Skoberne raised the point of how to agree on conservation objectives. François Kremer called for a better overview of transboundary initiatives; it is important to share experiences (some work is currently done in this respect by ETC/BD for the EEA).

It is important to pay attention also to adjoining policy fields, e.g. the relations with WFD and CAP, or Integrated River Basin Management, across boundaries.

4.2.2. Habitat definitions

The following three options are presented by the Chair Lionel Wibail:

1. Synopsis of national habitat types interpretation
2. Improve and update EU interpretation manual
3. A practical approach as follow-up event of the Seminar

Feedback from the plenary:

Michael O'Brian asked whether practical examples could be provided. Doug Evans had presented several examples from France in his introduction. Some existing differences in interpretation of forest types between Hungary and Czech republic were mentioned. The focus of the thematic session was however to discuss the issues relating to habitat definitions on a more general level and stay away from discussing specific issues.

Werner Rehkla stressed that a bottom-up process (approach 3) may be easier to control and explore what is possible. He indicated that the network on freshwater habitats, in which Natural England has the lead, and could be a good example of a small-scale approach with national experts on a specific habitat type.

4.2.3. Involvement of land managers

The following actions were proposed in the session on better involving land owners in Natura 2000 management:

(A) Involvement of land owners and land users in the preparation of management plan:

Improvement of respective regulations: Establishment of a position of (local, regional) N2000 site manager (facilitator) to ensure the process & trust building

(B) Capacity building on Natura 2000 in education:

Special event within the BGP on the role of higher education and science (networking event, side-event to BGS) to specify further steps

(C) Methods and ways for trust-building:

Establishment of the communication tool « field workshop », on-site presence of land users: best practices and N2000 benefits: (inter)national exchange

(D) Ways to create a positive image:

Training on strategy development for information and communication campaigns, actions and measures

(E) Win-win situations at local level:

Support of projects (in different level) on the valorisation of ecosystem services

Field workshops presenting positive examples by land users

(F) Sustainable financing schemes at national level:

Establishment of N2000 site manager positions (see a above)

Collect information on economic consequences and ecosystem services so this can be included into economic valorisation and financing schemes for N2000

Especially action B and C are practical, and easy to start with; other actions focus more on process; Capacity building (B); research is limited in N2000. In scientific communities involvement in e.g. LIFE has a low rating; however, there are some good examples of cooperation in past.

With regard to methods and ways to trust building (C): the stable position of a mediator or process manager will allow to identify and grab opportunities that occur, based on trust in the area and identifying win-win situations. Funds are available but are not always used in the right way; here is the potential to improve! Guide people in how to use Agri-Environmental Schemes AES in N2000 management.

Francois Kremer noted that there are many handbooks on involvement of stakeholders and that these could easily be put on websites and even possibly translated.

In addition Bastian Coignon suggested that the relevant authorities in each Member State provides basic information on their management of the Natura 2000 sites and network, covering the whole cycle from the designation and management planning process to the way in which stakeholders are involved, article 6 is implemented and results and conservation status monitored and assessed. He indicated France is currently writing a short note on these elements and will make it available to the EC with a view that it and could be shared online.

4.2.4. Conservation priorities

There was strong overall support to the idea of priority of a biogeographical level setting of conservation priorities, covering both habitat types and species (including bird species). A dynamic priority-setting will have to be data-driven and identify habitats and species in most urgent need of action, using the most up-to-date information at EU, biogeographical region and national levels. The process and the data sources for arriving at agreed priorities still need to be discussed further,

although it is clear that national reporting data on status and trends (the update of which is expected for 2019) will remain a key source of information.

While such an exercise will necessarily be based on the available data at European level, the importance of political ownership at national and regional levels and the bottom-up engagement of experts is probably key to a successful implementation of priorities.

A number of ideas for specific workshops have been suggested to further elaborate on the above ideas.

With a view to bridge the gap between planning and priority setting on the one hand, and implementation on the other hand, workshops under the biogeographic process could be used to bring together experts from different Member State in a “matchmaking exercise” that could lead to the agreement on common implementation of projects (e.g. under the next LIFE program). The need for concerted action on Danube sturgeon was mentioned as an example to start with...

4.3. Report on facilitated discussion

There was a lively discussion in relation to a number of the topics that had been brought forward in the workshops and field excursions. There was a general feeling that the connection between the field excursions and the workshops had been particularly useful in providing synergy and context for the discussions and specific points were raised in relation to public and stakeholder involvement, monitoring, data management and the wider use of data to support effective decision-making in relation to prioritisation, management and restoration of species and habitats, marketing and the links to economic and social factors. Specific points included:

- Marta Rzemieniuk, Poland, made a proposal for organising an workshop/event to discuss (and hopefully agree) assessment criteria for the status of critical species for which a common standard would be beneficial in terms of both protection and future management.
- There was significant discussion in relation to stakeholder engagement for both the protection and management of sites and species. This came up within the field excursions and the working groups. Marie Kaerlein, Landcare Germany, suggested that it could be important to exchange information on best practices and successful approaches in relation to networking and stakeholder engagement. She emphasised the importance of skilled facilitators in this process, techniques to bring people together (dinners, presentations, et cetera) and other methods.
- Bastien Coignon, who had earlier spoken about the importance of stakeholder engagement and had shared examples of best practice, reiterated that the French have experiences with local facilitation, would be willing to share and are in the process of writing up lessons learned. He suggested that other Member States also make their experience available and indicated he and/or colleagues may be willing to look at organising a workshop to exchange best practices.

- There was some discussion of the commercial aspects of managing Natura 2000. It was suggested that, as well as focusing on marketing of products generated within and around Natura 2000 areas, there should be promotion of a range of nature friendly enterprises. One way to support this would be to help entrepreneurs to develop and write business plans, and to support them in finding financial investment for the realisation of their ideas.
- Vanya Bhizova: working with business incubators, went on to say that this process can be very effective/relatively cheap; innovation; she is willing to discuss this further, and to be involved in discussions over follow up.
- Jan Sliva: confirmed that there are good experiences/examples from Germany in relation to public participation and some of the other aspects related to the topic; he suggested that an event might be appropriate, perhaps facilitated through the LIFE platform, or that another smaller networking event could be arranged. He offered support for delivering such a regional approach.
- Stanislav Brezina: mentioned that there have been good results from the Netherlands in relation to monitoring; he proposed that colleagues from the Netherlands could be invited to share their experience at a future workshop.
- There was strong support for finding a way to share experiences (specifically in relation to public and stakeholder involvement but also more generally) on the website; this could include short narrative giving examples of best practice with links to publications and reports, stand-alone URLs in relation to identified subject areas and links to individuals who might be willing to offer the benefits of that experience.

Other remarks made:

- François Kremer underlined that one goal of the Natura 2000 biogeographical process is making out of Natura 2000 also a network of people. The process is not an institution but thrives by people's motivation. It should build on synergies and complementarities. No naming and shaming, but sharing of good practices and mechanisms to be followed up.
- Micheal O'Briain mentioned the link with e.g. the pollinators initiative and the work done under the large carnivores EU and regional platforms.
- LIFE projects and INTERREG were highlighted as relevant supporting tools for multinational cooperation.
- The Commission is preparing for the post-2020 MFF, where PAFs are highly important: seminars on the upcoming financing opportunities will be organised in due time.
- Participants were encouraged to share information using the Natura 2000 Biogeographical process webpages. It was noted that the information gathered thanks to the knowledge market should also be made available on these webpages.

5. Following steps

- The new road map will be based on the meeting; it must be flexible, capture the ideas of the meeting. It is not fixed in stone, but will be updated, as part of the biogeographical process.
- A draft Road Map will be joined to the report, further elaborated within the steering committee and posted on the Platform.
- At the beginning of 2019, there will be new opportunities to send in proposals for networking events to the Consortium organising the Biogeographical process. Follow announcements on the platform, in the Newsletter or on Twitter.
- The Commission will provide feed-back from this forum at next NADEG meeting (end of November 2018).



Picture 9: Chair Micheal O'Briain, seconded by Frank Vassen, Sophie Ouzet and François Kremer of the European Commission

5.1. Coordination of future meetings and networking events

The potential actions fall between two main follow-up areas. The first are actions that could best be taken forward on a project basis; for example, a review of the current priorities at Member State level (also based on the PAF contents) and an assessment of how they match up at biogeographical level as a basis for sharing content and for finding areas for future collaboration. Following the execution of such a piece of work a workshop could be arranged at biogeographical level to share the information and take things forward. Other examples included the preparation of guidelines, the collation of examples of best practice, et cetera.

The second area are actions that could be taken forward as workshops without any significant prior preparation. Thus, the discussion that can take place about 'process management using facilitators/animators' could begin with a couple of presentations on best practice followed by a facilitated workshop looking at how to set up a process at an appropriate geopolitical level (within the Natura 2000 site, river catchment, et cetera), critical success factors and how to maintain momentum over a longer period of time.

5.2. Development of the roadmap

Networking can be effective and can be time-saving, especially when new or more efficient techniques are shared. When a case is made for networking at a national level it can be given added value by networking at an international level. As well as intra-sectoral networking there needs also to be dialogue with other sectors and stakeholders.

Current and future LIFE projects could support and benefit from a knowledge network which adds structure to project activity by providing access to a larger audience than could be reached by one project alone and by focusing project activity on issues that benefit from a cooperative approach.

The roadmap V2.0 is the product of discussion involving representatives of the CPSBS Member States at the 2018 Continental Biogeographic Seminar. It is a separate document on the Natura2000Platform. The roadmap is uploaded as a separate document on the website of the Biogeographical Platform.

The roadmap proposes a series of actions which would address the need for knowledge exchange on the key issues already identified for the CPSBS biogeographical region. For most of these actions the roadmap identifies possible lead bodies and a target timetable. In some cases a lead has been offered, in others a lead has been proposed by the European Commission through the biogeographical process and in others there are suggested lead bodies.

The roadmap acts as an “aide-mémoire” to put on record the key issues that have been discussed by practitioners over the last decade and as a stimulus for new activities that could be included in, e.g. LIFE projects, cooperation between research bodies or in funding through Member States conservation bodies.

The roadmap is also a rolling record of activity, listing the development of networks, outputs from events, proposed projects and publications. The roadmap should be updated at milestone intervals such as international conferences. It is the intention that the experience and results of the Continental roadmap is reported at the 3rd Continental biogeographic seminar in 2021.

Points to note:

The roadmap has been developed for the Continental biogeographic region and the biogeographic process led by the European Commission. The Habitats Directive requires Member States within each biogeographic region to work together to achieve favorable conservation status at the biogeographic level. However, the ambition of a European Network is to share experience across all biogeographic regions. Especially for the Continental region there are close similarities with work in both the Boreal and Alpine regions.

Also through LIFE projects there is a ‘family’ of European projects where networking, transfer of knowledge, replication of success and sharing of good practice is built into project design. These

projects are encouraged to use available resources from the Natura 2000 platform and actively participate in the Natura 2000 network events (and sometimes biogeographical seminars).

ANNEXES

Annex 1 – Program of the seminar

Tuesday 16 October 2018

8:00 – 9:00	<i>Registration of participants</i>	<i>Reception desk</i>
Participants register at the Reception desk at the Maison de la Région. They receive their information package, badge, and indications on their working group and field trip group. Contributors to the knowledge market are given indications on the preparation of their stands.		
9:00 – 10:45	<i>Plenary session</i>	<i>Hémicycle</i>
9:00 – 9:45	Opening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mrs Christèle Willer, Vice-President for the ecological and energy transition, Région Grand Est - Mr Humberto Delgado Rosa, Director for Natural Capital, Directorate General Environment (DG ENV), European Commission - Mr Michaël Weber, representing the six Regional Nature Parks of Grand Est, President of the Regional Nature Park of the Northern Vosges - Mrs Simone Saillant, Water and biodiversity Deputy Director, Ministry for the ecological and inclusive transition, France 	
9:45 – 10:45	Introduction to the seminar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Natura 2000 biogeographical process: state of play in the continental, panonian, steppic and Black Sea biogeographical regions – Sophie Ouzet, DG ENV, European Commission - Perspectives on the LIFE programme – Maja Mikosinska, EASME - Presentation of the work programme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Context of the field visits – Rita Jacob, Director, Regional Nature Park of the Northern Vosges, France ▪ Thematic orientations and working group sessions – Theo van der Sluis, Wageningen Environmental Research, the Netherlands 	
10:45 – 11:15	<i>Coffee break</i>	<i>Grand Hall</i>
11:15 – 12:30	<i>Parallel working groups sessions</i>	<i>4 rooms below</i>
The programme consists of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduction round - Setting the scene, including presentations in one of the groups. - Discussion on expectations of participants 		
Thematic group 1: Linking site-level objectives, regional/national-level objectives and favourable reference values Chair: Peter Skoberne, Ministry of the environment and spatial planning, Slovenia Facilitator: Ventsislav Vassilev, Regional Environmental Centre, Bulgaria		Amphithéâtre
Thematic group 2: Identifying and solving issues in relation to habitat type definitions Chair: Lionel Wibail, Public Service of Wallonia, Department of Natural and Agricultural Research, Belgium Facilitator: Theo Van der Sluis, Wageningen Environmental Research, the Netherlands		Salle Rudloff
Thematic group 3: Increasing the involvement of local land managers through integrated site management Chair: Jan Silva, NEEMO Facilitator: Irene Bouwma, Wageningen Environmental Research, the Netherlands		Hémicycle
Thematic group 4: Selecting biogeographical level conservation priorities and measures Chair: Frank Vassen, DG ENV, European Commission Facilitator: Lawrence Jones-Walters, Wageningen Environmental Research, the Netherlands Presentation: Mora Aronsson, European Topic Centre - Biodiversity		Salle Bartholdi
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>	<i>Grand Hall</i>

14:00 – 17:15	Continuation of parallel working groups sessions	Same rooms
<p>Chairs, facilitators and rooms remain unchanged.</p> <p>The programme consists of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recap on morning session - Presentations and facilitated discussion - Agreement and conclusions <p>Separate coffee breaks are planned so that each group can decide on their timing.</p>		
Thematic group 1: Linking site-level objectives, regional/national-level objectives and favourable reference values Presentations: - Raoul Manenti, LIFE IP GESTIRE 2020, Italy - Jean-Marc Couvreur & NN (t.b.c.), Belgium		Amphithéâtre
Thematic group 2: Identifying and solving issues in relation to habitat type definitions Presentations: - Doug Evans, European Topic Centre – Biodiversity - Vincent Gaudillat, UMS Natural Capital, France		Salle Rudloff
Thematic group 3: Increasing the involvement of local land managers through integrated site management Presentations: - Kristijan Čivič, Eurosite, Netherlands - Jurgen Tak, LIFE Land is for Ever, Belgium - Marie Kaerlein, Deutscher Verband für Landschaftspflege, Germany		Hémicylce
Thematic group 4: Selecting biogeographical level conservation priorities and measures Presentations: - Ruud Foppen, Sovon Vogelonderzoek Nederland, the Netherlands - Marta Rzemieniuk, Ministry for the Environment, Poland		Salle Bartholdi

17:15 – 18:30	Break
Chairs, reporters and facilitators prepare their reports.	

18:30 – 21:00	Knowledge market and buffet dinner	Grand Hall
After the opening of the knowledge market, participants are kindly invited to join a buffet dinner.		

Wednesday 17 October 2018

Note! Field trip!	<p>Participants are kindly requested to bring warm clothes in case of rain or cold weather, to wear comfortable tourist shoes and to bear in mind that some trails might be wet and muddy.</p> <p>Lunch will kindly be provided by the organisers.</p>
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8:20 – 8:30	Gathering of the participants and boarding the buses	Maison de la Région
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8:30 – 09:30	Travel of each group to a specific location	PNRVN
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9:30 – 17:00	Field visits in three parallel groups	PNRVN
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Field trip A: The forests and their management – Sébastien Morelle, Natura 2000 officer, PNRVN
SAC FR4201799 and SPA FR4211799 « Vosges du Nord »: governance, management plan, conservation objectives, sustainable management goals, local forest habitat description manual, conservation status, mediation, economic integration of nature into forestry, streams and connectivity restoration, impacts prevention; LIFE Lynx and Lynx Parliament, large carnivores platform.

Field trip B: Water courses and their management – Marie l'Hospitalier, Natura 2000 officer, PNRVN
SAC FR4100208 « Cours d'eau, tourbières, rochers et forêts des Vosges du nord et souterrain de Ramstein », FR4201795 « La Moder et ses affluents » and FR4201794 « La Sauer et ses affluents »: coordination of protection tools, governance, management plans, conservation objectives, sustainable management goals, mediation, stirring and implementing restoration measures with private and public landowners, monitoring; LIFE Biocorridors, reintroduction of Stone Crayfish.

Field trip C: Grasslands and meadows and their management – Cécile Bayeur, Natura 2000 officer, PNRVN
SAC FR4201795 « La Moder et ses affluents » and FR4201794 « La Sauer et ses affluents »: Agricultural context in relation to meadows, local typology and phytosociological classification of open and agricultural habitats, habitat mapping, promoting and implementing agri-environmental measures, concours "Prairies fleuries" ("blooming meadows"), granting ecologically managed grasslands an agricultural economic value, lamb, meat and hay chains; LIFE Lynx and Lynx Parliament.

17:00 – 20:00	Film, discussion on mediation, buffet dinner	Reichshoffen
17:00 – 17:30	Gathering of the three groups in the Centre Culturel La Castine and break	
17:30 – 18:00	Screening of the film by Serge DUMONT "De grès et d'eau, balade en zones humides" ("Of sandstone and water, a walk through the wetlands")	
18:00 – 18:30	Presentation by the PNRVN of their mediation activities aiming to facilitate the integration of Natura 2000.	
18:30 – 20:00	Participants are kindly invited to a buffet dinner with regional products.	
20:00 – 21:00	Travel back to Strasbourg	Maison de la Région

Thursday 18 October 2018

9:00 – 10:50	Plenary session	Hémicycle
9:00 – 9:30	Lessons from the field excursions and introduction to the concluding session	
9:30 – 10:50	Reporting from thematic working groups: - Presentations by the chair persons; - Integration of comments and field visits discussions; - Debate on actions and initiatives.	
20'	- Reporting from thematic working group 1	
20'	- Reporting from thematic working group 2	
20'	- Reporting from thematic working group 3	
20'	- Reporting from thematic working group 4	
10:50 – 11:15	Coffee break	Grand Hall
11:15 – 12:30	Plenary session	Hémicycle
11:15 – 12:00	Planning for action Facilitated discussion to further explore opportunities and initiatives for cooperative and/or transboundary actions, to detail the coordinated development of specific tools, to plan future steps, workshops and meetings, to identify the necessary resources and financing instruments.	
12:00 – 12:15	Perspectives on a roadmap for the Natura 2000 biogeographical process – Micheal O'Briain, DG ENV, European Commission	
12:15 – 12:30	Closure	
12:30 – 13:00	Refreshments, departure of participants	Grand Hall
Participants are offered lunch boxes they can either share in the Maison de la Région or take-away.		

Annex 2 – List of organisations and projects at the Knowledge Market

Organization	Country	Title of the presentation/poster and short description
Danube Delta National Institute for Research and Development	Romania	Data regarding the natural protected areas in south east of Romania The South East Development Region is the region with the largest total surface of protected areas in Romania (43.8% of the total protected areas) and representative area occupied by the natural protected areas in Continental, Steppic and Black Sea biogeographical regions.
Conservatoire d'espaces naturels de Champagne-Ardenne	France	Partnership between the French Ministry of Defence and The Conservatoire d'espaces naturels de Champagne-Ardenne for Natura 2000 site management.
Federazione Italiana della Caccia	Italy	Restoration and maintenance of wetlands in the agricultural plain of Veneto Region – Northern Italy
European Landowners' Organization	Belgium	Private Land Conservation incentives in Europe Presenting LIFE project on Private Land Conservation incentives in Europe, wherefore we are working on the development of a private landowner network.
Natagriwal	Belgium	Ecological restoration in private lands within Natura 2000 sites Poster explaining projects of ecological restoration subsidized by the Government
Deutscher Verband für Landschaftspflege e.V. (DVL)	Germany	Landcare Associations for N2K management Presents the German practice of Landcare Associations as a model to implement Natura 2000;
Department of Land, Environment, Agriculture and Forestry, Università degli Studi di Padova	Italy	1) Identifying Habitat Type Conservation priorities under the Habitats Directive: Application to two Italian biogeographical regions 2) Five major invasive alpine tree species in European Union forest habitat types of the Alpine and Continental biogeographical regions 3) Synergies of planning for forests and planning for Natura 2000: Evidences and prospects from Northern Italy 4) Ecological risk and accessibility analysis to assess the impact of roads under Habitats Directive 5) LIFE e-Natura.edu: Supporting e-learning and capacity building for Natura 2000 Managers
Eurosite	Netherlands	LIFE ELCN Fostering Private Land Conservation in Europe The LIFE ELCN project aims to develop a network of organisations and individuals active in private land conservation. The network will support private landowners (non-public bodies or individuals) who are willing to engage in conservation on at least part of their land. The project contributes to the EU Action Plan for nature, people and the economy.
DREAL Bourgogne-Franche-Comté	France	1) Natur'amogne association - association created by cattle breeders, committed to preserving permanent grasslands in a Natura 2000 sites, at local sale; 2) The Sylvotrophée - An innovation for the multifonctionnal forests on the Haut Jura; Trophy rewarding respectful forest management of preserved ecosystems, optimally using economic potential without compromising social function 3) LIFE project "Tourbières du Jura" - Hydrologic and fonctionnal rehabilitation of mires in the Jura mountains
Parc naturel régional des Ballons des Vosges	France	Posters presenting inventories in a network of old forests, made for municipalities involved in a natura 2000 contract
PNR Lorraine	France	Participative science and the bioacoustics monitoring of the Great Bittern
Broz	Slovakia	Involving local farmers in reintroduction of sustainable grazing (best practice from restoration of NATURA 2000 sites in southern Slovakia)
EGTC Eurodistrict PAMINA	France / Germany	Cross-border forum Natura2000 As a cross-border platform at the German-French border, the EGTC Eurodistrict PAMINA organized in March 2018 a cross-border event to connect local and regional stakeholders. In addition to creating new cross-border networks, this event informed about Natura2000 structures in both countries and gave practical advice on how to set up environmental projects in a cross-border context.
Regional Directorate for Environmental Protection in Wrocław	Poland	Involvement of stakeholders in drafting of the Nature 2000 management plans as the key to their efficient implementation - examples

Organization	Country	Title of the presentation/poster and short description
General Directorate for Environmental Protection	Poland	Conservation status assessment – is common approach needed?
NEEMO GEIE (LIFE external monitoring team)	Belgium	Information and printed materials about LIFE NATURE projects

Annex 3 – List of Participants (alphabetical order)

#	Last Name	First Name	Organisation	Country	Working Group
1	Andersen	Lisbeth Bjørndal	Ministry of Food and Environment	DK	3
2	András	Schmidt	Ministry of Agriculture	HU	
3	Angelini	Pierangela	Istituto Superiore per la Protezione e la Ricerca Ambientale (ISPRA)	IT	1
4	Antolic	Ivana	Ministry of Environment and Energy	HR	3
5	Aronsson	Mora	ETC	SE	4
6	BAGDAHDI	Romy	PNRVN	FR	
7	BALCERZAK	Jan	General Directorate for Environmental Protection	PL	3
8	BALTAG	Emanuel Stefan	NGO Federation „Coalition Natura 2000”	RO	1
9	Barbos	Marius Ioan	GTM CO	RO	
10	BAYEUR	Cécile	PNRVN	FR	
11	Bizheva	Vanya	Balkan Center for Sustainability and development	BG	3
12	Bottazzo	Michele	Federazione Italiana della Caccia	IT	3
13	Bouwma	Irene	WENR	Org	3
14	Březina	Stanislav	Krkonoše Mountains National Park	CZ	1
15	Brøndum	Winnie	SEGES	DK	2
16	Bystriansky	Jozef	LESY SR	SK	3
17	CAIRAULT	Alban	PNRVN	FR	
18	Campagnaro	Thomas	Università degli Studi di Padova- Territorio e Sistemi Agro-forestali	IT	1
19	Čámská	Klára	Nature Conservation Agency	CZ	3
20	Casella	Laura	Istituto Superiore per la Protezione e la Ricerca Ambientale (ISPRA)	IT	2
21	CAZACU	Simona Roxana	National Institute for Research and Development in Forestry “Marin Drăcea”	RO	4
22	Černecký	Ján	SNC SR	SK	1
23	Chautard	Manon	Conservatoire d’Espaces Naturels de Champagne Ardenne	FR	3
24	Ciurzycki	Wojciech	SZKOŁA GŁÓWNA GOSPODARSTWA WIEJSKIEGO W WARSZAWIE	PL	1
25	Čivić	Kristijan	Eurosite / EHF	EU	3
26	COIGNON	Bastien	Ministère de la Transition écologique et solidaire	FR	2
27	Couvreur	Jean-Marc	Public Service of Wallonia/DGO3/Department of Natural and Agricultural Research	BE	2
28	CRACIUNAS	Anca	Ministry of Environment	RO	1
29	ČUŠ	Jure	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food	SI	4
30	Defoort	Thomas	Agentschap voor Natuur en Bos	BE	1
31	DELGADO ROSA	Humberto	European Commission, DG ENV	EU	3
32	Derochette	Luc	Public Service of Wallonia/DGO3/Department of Natural and Agricultural Research	BE	3
33	Dolek	Matthias	Büro Geyer und Dolek / Butterfly Conservation Europe (BCE)	DE	
34	Doneva	Asya	Ministry of Environment and Water	BG	4
35	Doroftei	Mihai	“Danube Delta” National Institute for Research and Development	RO	1
36	DUPONT	Fabien	Conservatoire d’Espaces Naturels de Champagne Ardenne	FR	
37	Đuricová	Viktória	SNC SR	SK	3
38	Ekov	Georgi	State Agricultural Fund - Paying Agency	BG	3
39	ELVINGER	Nora	Ministère du Développement durable et des Infrastructures	LU	4
40	EVANS	Doug	ETC	EU	2
41	Flensted	Knud	BirdLife/Dansk Ornitologisk Forening	DK	1
42	FOPPEN	Ruud	SOVON	NL	4
43	GAUDILLAT	Vincent	Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Service du Patrimoine Naturel	FR	2
44	GENOT	Jean-Claude	PNRVN	FR	
45	Geraskov	Stiliyan	Union of Hunters and Anglers in Bulgaria	BG	3
46	Gerissen	Dries	Agentschap voor Natuur en Bos	BE	
47	Grell	Michael Borch	Danish Environmental Protection Agency	DK	4
48	Halford	Mathieu	NatAgriWal	BE	3

#	Last Name	First Name	Organisation	Country	Working Group
49	Hansen	Victoria	GECT Eurodistrict PAMINA	FR	
50	HERR	jan	Administration de la nature et des forêts	LU	3
51	Husse	Sébastien	PNR de Lorraine	FR	
52	Ilijas	Ivana	Croatian Agency for Environment and Nature	HR	4
53	Ioja	Cristian	University of Bucharest	RO	3
54	Jacob	Rita	PNRVN	FR	
55	Janak	Milan	WWF DCP	SK	1
56	Jones-Walters	Lawrence	WENR	Org	4
57	Junger	Mathieu	Parc Naturel Régional de Lorraine	FR	3
58	KAERLEIN	Marie	Landcare Germany (DVL)	DE	3
59	KANARIEV	DIMITAR	National association "Bulgarian Black Sea" (NABBS)	BG	3
60	KARLIK	Vlastimil	Arnika	CZ	1
61	Katarina	Groznik Zeiler	Ministry of the environment and spatial planning	SI	
62	Knizatková	Eva	Nature Conservation Agency	CZ	1
63	KOLEVA	Atanaska	Ministry of Environment and Water	BG	1
64	Koning	Inge	WENR	Org	
65	KOPRIVNIKAR	Mihael	Chamber of Agriculture and Forestry of Slovenia	SI	
66	Kozlik	Thierry	Ministère du Développement durable et des Infrastructures	LU	1
67	Kremer	Francois	European Commission, DG ENV	EU	
68	KUSNIROVA	Tereza	Ministry of the Environment	CZ	4
69	L'HOSPITALIER	Marie	PNRVN	FR	
70	Lacina	David	Nature Conservation Agency	CZ	4
71	LANGOWSKI	Andrzej	General Directoratefor Environmental Protection	PL	1
72	łapińska	Katarzyna	Regional Directorate for Environmental Protection in Wrocław	PL	3
73	Lévisse	Pierre	Communauté de communes de la Dombes	FR	3
74	LITTERA	Pavol	BROZ	SK	3
75	Maja	Cipot	Ministry of the environment and spatial planning	SI	
76	MANENTI	Raoul	LIFE-IP Gestire, Lombardia Region	IT	1
77	MESBAHI	Geoffrey	PNRVN	FR	
78	Mesterhazy	Attila	independent expert	HU	
79	Miazga	Michał	REC - Poland	PL	3
80	Mihai	Dragos	National Forest Administration - Romsilva	RO	1
81	Mihai Iancu	Zotta	Fundatia Conservation Carpathia	RO	3
82	MIHAYLOV	Mihail	Ministry of Environment and Water	BG	2
83	MIKOSINSKA	Maja	EASME	EU	
84	MORELLE	Sébastien	PNRVN	FR	
85	Mulier	Anne-Sophie	European Land Owners Association ELO	BE	3
86	O'BRIAIN	Micheal	European Commission, DG ENV	EU	3
87	OLSEN	Tanja Blindbaek	Danish Forest Association	DK	1
88	Opacic	Biljana	Croatian Agency for Environment and Nature	HR	3
89	OUZET	Sophie	European Commission, DG ENV	EU	2
90	Paquet	Jean-Yves	Natagora	BE	1
91	Paternoster	David	UBA	AT	
92	PISHUM	Migraine	PNRVN	FR	
93	REHKLAU	Werner	Bavarian Environment Agency	DE	2
94	Rejt	Łukasz	General Directoratefor Environmental Protection	PL	2
95	Rouveyrol	Paul	Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Serv. du Patrimoine Naturel	FR	4
96	RUDFELD	Lars	Ministry of Food and Environment	DK	4
97	RZEMIENIUK	Marta	General Directoratefor Environmental Protection	PL	4
98	SALOMON	Caroline	PNRVN	FR	
99	Sämann	Nelly	GECT Eurodistrict PAMINA	FR	3
100	SCERRI	Léa	DREAL Grand-Est	FR	3
101	Sepulchre	Arnaud	NatAgriWal	BE	3
102	SIPOS	Katalin	WWF Hungary	HU	
103	SITZIA	Tommaso	Università degli Studi di Padova-Territorio e Sistemi Agro-forestali	IT	3

#	Last Name	First Name	Organisation	Country	Working Group
104	SKOBERNE	Peter	Ministry of the environment and spatial planning	SI	1
105	SLIVA	Jan	NEEMO	EU	3
106	SMARANDA	Samad John	Ministry of Environment	RO	2
107	SORRENTI	Michele	Federazione Italiana della Caccia	IT	1
108	Szabó	Anna	NGO Federation „Coalition Natura 2000”	RO	2
109	Szymańska	Magdalena	Regional Directorate for Environmental Protection in Kraków	PL	3
110	Tack	Jurgen	LIFE Land is for Ever, Belgium	BE	3
111	Tchatchou	Tomy	Public Service of Wallonia/ Department of Nature and Forest	BE	4
112	Thiallier	Claire	DREAL Bourgogne Franche-Comté	FR	3
113	Toräng	Per	Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences	SE	2
114	Trachtová	Pavla	Nature Conservation Agency	CZ	2
115	Tryfon	Eleni	EEA	EU	1
116	Ulrych	Libor	SNC SR	SK	4
117	Van der Sluis	Theo	WENR	Org	2
118	Varga	Ildikó	Ministry of Agriculture	HU	
119	Vassen	Frank	European Commission, DG ENV	EU	4
120	Vassilev	Ventzislav	Alpheus-Ltd.	Org	1
121	Vidus	Aurore	DREAL Grand-Est	FR	3
122	Vukadin	Vesna	independent expert	HR	3
123	Wibail	Lionel	Public Service of Wallonia/DGO3/Department of Natural and Agricultural Research	BE	1
124	Wojcik	Roman	Szkoła główna gospodarstwa wiejskiego w warszawie	PL	2
125	Zotta Cherascu	Ramona	Ministry of Environment	RO	1
126	ŽUPAN	Dijana	independent expert	HR	1

Annex 4 – List of Participants (per country)

#	Last Name	First Name	Organisation	Country	Working Group
1	Paternoster	David	UBA	AT	
2	Couvreur	Jean-Marc	Public Service of Wallonia/DGO3/Department of Natural and Agricultural Research	BE	2
3	Defoort	Thomas	Agentschap voor Natuur en Bos	BE	1
4	Derochette	Luc	Public Service of Wallonia/ Department of Natural and Agricultural Research	BE	3
5	Gerissen	Dries	Agentschap voor Natuur en Bos	BE	
6	Halford	Mathieu	NatAgriWal	BE	3
7	Mulier	Anne-Sophie	European Land Owners Association ELO	BE	3
8	Paquet	Jean-Yves	Natagora	BE	1
9	Sepulchre	Arnaud	NatAgriWal	BE	3
10	Tack	Jurgen	LIFE Land is for Ever, Belgium	BE	3
11	Tchatchou	Tomy	Public Service of Wallonia/ Department of Nature and Forest	BE	4
12	Wibail	Lionel	Public Service of Wallonia/ Department of Natural and Agricultural Research	BE	1
13	Bizheva	Vanya	Balkan Center for Sustainability and development	BG	3
14	Doneva	Asya	Ministry of Environment and Water	BG	4
15	Ekov	Georgi	State Agricultural Fund - Paying Agency	BG	3
16	Geraskov	Stiliyan	Union of Hunters and Anglers in Bulgaria	BG	3
17	KANARIEV	DIMITAR	National association "Bulgarian Black Sea" (NABBS)	BG	3
18	KOLEVA	Atanaska	Ministry of Environment and Water	BG	1
19	MIHAYLOV	Mihail	Ministry of Environment and Water	BG	2
20	Březina	Stanislav	Krkonoše Mountains National Park	CZ	1
21	Čámská	Klára	Nature Conservation Agency	CZ	3
22	KARLIK	Vlastimil	Arnika	CZ	1
23	Knizatkova	Eva	Nature Conservation Agency	CZ	1
24	KUSNIROVA	Tereza	Ministry of the Environment	CZ	4
25	Lacina	David	Nature Conservation Agency	CZ	4
26	Trachtová	Pavla	Nature Conservation Agency	CZ	2
27	Dolek	Matthias	Büro Geyer und Dolek / Butterfly Conservation Europe (BCE)	DE	
28	KAERLEIN	Marie	Landcare Germany (DVL)	DE	3
29	REHKLAU	Werner	Bavarian Environment Agency	DE	2
30	Andersen	Lisbeth Bjørndal	Ministry of Food and Environment	DK	3
31	Brøndum	Winnie	SEGES	DK	2
32	Flensted	Knud	BirdLife/Dansk Ornitologisk Forening	DK	1
33	Grell	Michael Borch	Danish Environmental Protection Agency	DK	4
34	OLSEN	Tanja Blindbaek	Danish Forest Association	DK	1
35	RUDFELD	Lars	Ministry of Food and Environment	DK	4
36	Čivić	Kristijan	Eurosite / EHF	EU	3
37	Delgado Rosa	Humberto	European Commission, DG ENV	EU	3
38	Evans	Doug	ETC	EU	2
39	KREMER	Francois	European Commission, DG ENV	EU	
40	MIKOSINSKA	Maja	EASME	EU	
41	O'BRIAIN	Micheal	European Commission, DG ENV	EU	3
42	OUZET	Sophie	European Commission, DG ENV	EU	2
43	SLIVA	Jan	NEEMO	EU	3
44	TRYFON	Eleni	EEA	EU	1
45	VASSEN	Frank	European Commission, DG ENV	EU	4
46	BAGDAHDI	Romy	PNRVN	FR	
47	BAYEUR	Cécile	PNRVN	FR	
48	CAIRAULT	Alban	PNRVN	FR	
49	Chautard	Manon	Conservatoire d'Espaces Naturels de Champagne Ardenne	FR	3
50	COIGNON	Bastien	Ministère de la Transition écologique et solidaire	FR	2
51	DUPONT	Fabien	Conservatoire d'Espaces Naturels de Champagne Ardenne	FR	

#	Last Name	First Name	Organisation	Country	Working Group
52	GAUDILLAT	Vincent	Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Serv. du Patrimoine Naturel	FR	2
53	GENOT	Jean-Claude	PNRVN	FR	
54	HANSEN	Victoria	GECT Eurodistrict PAMINA	FR	
55	Husse	Sébastien	PNR de Lorraine	FR	
56	JACOB	Rita	PNRVN	FR	
57	Junger	Mathieu	Parc Naturel Régional de Lorraine	FR	3
58	L'HOSPITALIER	Marie	PNRVN	FR	
59	Lévisse	Pierre	Communauté de communes de la Dombes	FR	3
60	MESBAHI	Geoffrey	PNRVN	FR	
61	MORELLE	Sébastien	PNRVN	FR	
62	PISHUM	Migraine	PNRVN	FR	
63	Rouveyrol	Paul	Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Serv. du Patrimoine Naturel	FR	4
64	SALOMON	Caroline	PNRVN	FR	
65	Sämann	Nelly	GECT Eurodistrict PAMINA	FR	3
66	SCERRI	Léa	DREAL Grand-Est	FR	3
67	Thiallier	Claire	DREAL Bourgogne Franche-Comté	FR	3
68	Vidus	Aurore	DREAL Grand-Est	FR	3
69	ANTOLIC	IVA	Ministry of Environment and Energy	HR	3
70	Ilijas	Ivana	Croatian Agency for Environment and Nature	HR	4
71	Opacic	Biljana	Croatian Agency for Environment and Nature	HR	3
72	Vukadin	Vesna	independent expert	HR	3
73	ŽUPAN	Dijana	independent expert	HR	1
74	ANDRÁS	Schmidt	Ministry of Agriculture	HU	
75	Mesterhazy	Attila	independent expert	HU	
76	SIPOS	Katalin	WWF Hungary	HU	
77	VARGA	Ildikó	Ministry of Agriculture	HU	
78	Angelini	Pierangela	Istituto Superiore per la Protezione e la Ricerca Ambientale (ISPRA)	IT	1
79	Bottazzo	Michele	Federazione Italiana della Caccia	IT	3
80	Campagnaro	Thomas	Università degli Studi di Padova- Territorio e Sistemi Agro-forestali	IT	1
81	Casella	Laura	Istituto Superiore per la Protezione e la Ricerca Ambientale (ISPRA)	IT	2
82	MANENTI	Raoul	Lombardia region	IT	1
83	SITZIA	Tommaso	Università degli Studi di Padova-Territorio e Sistemi Agro-forestali	IT	3
84	SORRENTI	Michele	Federazione Italiana della Caccia	IT	1
85	ELVINGER	Nora	Ministère du Développement durable et des Infrastructures	LU	4
86	HERR	Jan	Administration de la nature et des forêts	LU	3
87	Kozlik	Thierry	Ministère du Développement durable et des Infrastructures	LU	1
88	FOPPEN	Ruud	SOVON	NL	4
89	BOUWMA	Irene	WENR	Org	3
90	Jones-Walters	Lawrence	WENR	Org	4
91	Koning	Inge	WENR	Org	
92	Van der Sluis	Theo	WENR	Org	2
93	VASSSILEV	Ventzislav	Alpheus Ltd.	Org	1
94	BALCERZAK	Jan	General Directoratefor Environmental Protection	PL	3
95	Ciurzycki	Wojciech	SZKOŁA GŁÓWNA GOSPODARSTWA WIEJSKIEGO W WARSZAWIE	PL	1
96	LANGOWSKI	Andrzej	General Directoratefor Environmental Protection	PL	1
97	łapińska	Katarzyna	Regional Directorate for Environmental Protection in Wrocław	PL	3
98	MIAZGA	Michał	REC - Poland	PL	3
99	Rejt	łukasz	General Directoratefor Environmental Protection	PL	2
100	RZEMIENIUK	Marta	General Directoratefor Environmental Protection	PL	4
101	Szymańska	Magdalena	Regional Directorate for Environmental Protection in Kraków	PL	3
102	Wojcik	Roman	Szkoła główna gospodarstwa wiejskiego w warszawie	PL	2
103	BALTAG	Emanuel Stefan	NGO Federation „Coalition Natura 2000”	RO	1
104	Barbos	Marius Ioan	GTM CO	RO	
105	CAZACU	Simona Roxana	Nati. Inst. for Research and Development Forestry “Marin Drăcea”	RO	4
106	CRACIUNAS	Anca	Ministry of Environment	RO	1

#	Last Name	First Name	Organisation	Country	Working Group
107	Doroftei	Mihai	"Danube Delta" National Institute for Research and Development	RO	1
108	Ioja	Cristian	University of Bucharest	RO	3
109	Mihai	Dragos	National Forest Administration - Romsilva	RO	1
110	Mihai Iancu	Zotta	Fundatia Conservation Carpathia	RO	3
111	SMARANDA	Samad John	Ministry of Environment	RO	2
112	Szabó	Anna	NGO Federation „Coalition Natura 2000”	RO	2
113	Zotta Cherascu	Ramona	Ministry of Environment	RO	1
114	ARONSSON	Mora	ETC	SE	4
115	Torång	Per	Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences	SE	2
116	ČUŠ	Jure	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food	SI	4
117	Katarina	Groznik Zeiler	Ministry of the environment and spatial planning	SI	
118	KOPRIVNIKAR	Mihael	Chamber of Agriculture and Forestry of Slovenia	SI	
119	Maja	Cipot	Ministry of the environment and spatial planning	SI	
120	SKOBERNE	Peter	Ministry of the environment and spatial planning	SI	1
121	Bystriansky	Jozef	LESY SR	SK	3
122	Černecký	Ján	SNC SR	SK	1
123	Đuricová	Viktória	SNC SR	SK	3
124	Janak	Milan	WWF DCP	SK	1
125	LITTERA	Pavol	BROZ	SK	3
126	Ulrych	Libor	SNC SR	SK	4

Annex 5 – Evaluation of the seminar (summary)

Below the main findings of the evaluation are presented, concluded with other ‘general’ comments.

During the seminar, did you gain access to new and useful ideas which you will use for future work?	Total
None	1
A few	26
Many	14

Do you expect to make follow-up contacts with people you have met during the seminar?	Total
None	1
A few	32
Several	8

Would you be interested in initiating or taking part in follow-up actions under the Natura 2000 biogeographical process?	Total
No	1
Maybe	8
Yes	29
Do not know	3

How would you rate (on a scale of 1-10): the overall organisation of the seminar	Total
5	2
7	3
8	13
9	14
10	9
Average	8.56

How do you rate (on a scale of 1-10): the opening plenary session of the seminar	Total
2	2
3	3
5	5
6	6
7	7
8	8
9	9
10	10
Average	7.4

Did the knowledge market generate new ideas or contacts?	Total
No	12
Not applicable	4
Yes	25

How do you rate the quality of the presentations?	Rating						
	1	2	6	7	8	9	10
Theme 1: Linking site-level objectives, regional/national-level objectives and favourable reference values			1	2	1	7	3
Theme 2: Identifying and solving issues in relation to habitat type definitions	1			2	3	2	2
Theme 3: Better involving local land managers through integrated site management		1		2	10	3	5
Theme 4: Selecting biogeographical level conservation priorities and measures						2	1
Grand Total	1	1	7	13	22	23	21

In your view, do the final conclusions and discussions reflect the work of previous days?	Total
To some extent	6
Yes	30
Not attended	5

Do you have any other specific recommendations or comments to improve the seminar?

- A theme could be the clarifying of the terminology used in the directives.
- The seminar was very well organized and conducted - congratulations to all.
- As much practical information and case study as possible. These examples can be used as references "at home".
- At key levels of decision, delivery and work-flow of the expert knowledge information by using different tools of communication
- Better incorporation of the results in the guidance documents issued by EC
- everything was great
- Excellent seminar, to be continued...
- Good site visits trigger the discussions.
- I do not have specific recommendations; the seminar was useful and interesting.
- I suggest the seminars should be an arena to know the opinion of member states delegates. Therefore, a voting session on the issues raised during the event, even if only informative, would be appreciated.
- It will be excellent if you can allocate more time to the group discussions or to more choose focused subjects to be able to reach some conclusions.
- Just keep this line for a short and focused next meeting.
- May be to be present any very short progress report about the conclusions done before at the next seminar
- maybe re-put the field visit the first day, because it help people to encounter each other and can help discussion on the second day.
- Maybe next time other biogeographic region? Pannonian maybe?
- more concrete examples from other countries
- More focused and practical discussions. E.g. around the communication of N2000 values, there are good initiatives, projects in all countries that we can duplicate, but these were not systematically collected/ introduced.
- More time for workshops.
- needs more time for discussions
- Perhaps the first opening session could be reduced, and the working groups could have been given time to present some of their conclusions already on the first day.
- Thank you very much, I think it was a very good and useful event
- The use of devices and a service for translation could be always useful. English is not the native language for most of the participant, this could affect an effective exchange of opinions
- To produce as soon as possible follow up materials.
- Try to find more practical subjects, not only theory.