



Natura 2000 Seminars

Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process

**Second Atlantic Natura 2000 Seminar
Ennistymon - Ireland, 25 - 27 October 2016**

DRAFT Seminar Report

An initiative
of the





- Prepared by: ECNC, CEEweb, Eurosite, Europarc
- Authors: Kristijan Čivić, Neil McIntosh, Frank Gorissen
- Contributors: Monika Kotulak (CEEweb for biodiversity, Integrated management approaches to Natura 2000s & Rivers and lakes), Stefania Petrosillo (EUROPARC, Communication and stakeholder engagement & Heaths and bogs), Frank Gorissen (ECNC, Setting conservation objectives & Coastal- dunes and estuaries).
- Photo Credits: All photos (except Pictures 6 and 7) Ctibor Kocman (European Commission), Pictures 6 and 7: Kristijan Čivić (Eurosite)
- Editing: Anita Prosser, Kristijan Čivić (Eurosite)
- Copyright: © European Union, 2016
Reproduction is authorised provided the source is acknowledged.
- Funding: European Commission, as part of contract number 07.0307/2012/60517/SER/B.3.
- Disclaimer: The content of this publication does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the European Commission, nor is the European Commission responsible for any use that might be made of information appearing herein.
- Event: For more information on this seminar, see the Natura 2000 Communication Platform:
http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/platform/events/263_second_atlantic_natura_2000_seminar_en.htm
- Relevant documents can be found here:
http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/platform/knowledge_base/14_3_atlantic_region_en.htm#NBP

Executive summary

The Second Atlantic Natura 2000 Seminar, hosted by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), took place in Ennistymon, Ireland from 25-27 October 2016. The Seminar brought together 90 Natura 2000 practitioners and experts from across the Atlantic region: 8 of the 9 Atlantic Member States were represented. The discussions on the issues of common interest were started during four different field visits on day one of the Seminar and were further deepened during group discussions on day two. Plenary presentations in the morning of day two provided further food for thought and an overview of the ongoing activities on relevant topics for the Atlantic region: integrated management of estuaries, management of coastal dunes, controlling nitrogen deposition, and stakeholder engagement. The context for discussions was further framed by presentations on the recently introduced Low Hanging Fruit (LHF) approach and on the possibilities for the funding under the LIFE Programme.

The group discussions were at the core of the seminar; participants could choose to join one of four thematic working groups and one of four habitat working groups. Some key challenges that were discussed across the various working groups include: lack of cross-sector integration of policies and relevant authorities at all levels, which creates blockages to more integrated working at operational levels; CAP could offer solutions to some problems but there is a need for new innovative measures with partially result based payment schemes; choosing conservation objectives and then communicating this clearly to stakeholders and other sectors is not always easy; stakeholder involvement at the right time and in the right way remains a problem; Natura 2000 sites in the Atlantic region are often small and surrounded by very intensive land use. This causes lots of pressures with Nitrogen deposition and pollution being the most frequently mentioned. Many of the issues require cross-border or even broader regional cooperation; coastal dunes and estuaries are specific for the Atlantic region and there is a lot of cooperation going on with some very good ideas for joint future actions (e.g. Dunes Roadmap, Estuaries Workshop).

The four fieldtrips were a strong entry point to the Seminar. They were chosen to demonstrate a number of real life examples of issues in the field to feed into the discussions the following days. This included hearing the stories first hand from farmers and other stakeholders involved. The examples seen during the field trips were often referred to during the working group discussions. An additional valuable element of the Seminar was the 'Knowledge Market' where participants could discuss around information stands concrete examples of habitat management and a large number of relevant cases studies. There were 27 information stands demonstrating a range of projects and organisations' work for Natura 2000. The knowledge market was also an opportunity for awarding the 'Best Practice Trophy' of the Atlantic Natura 2000 Seminar. The winner of the award was the Dynamic dunes project from the Netherlands.

The formal and informal discussions at the seminar led to interesting and useful ideas for cooperation and incentives to work together on boosting the improvement of the conservation status of habitats across the Atlantic region, demonstrating that there is a genuine willingness for cooperation in the Atlantic region.

Contents

Executive summary	3
List of abbreviations.....	5
1 Introduction	6
1.1 Context of the second Atlantic Natura 2000 Seminar	6
1.2 The Atlantic Seminar Input Document	6
2 Results of the second Atlantic Natura 2000 Seminar	7
2.1 Site visits	8
2.2 Knowledge Market and introduction to the working groups.....	9
2.3 Results of the thematic groups	10
2.3.1 Integrated management approaches to Natura 2000	10
2.3.2 Adaptive approaches to agriculture and nature conservation.....	12
2.3.3 Communication and stakeholder engagement.....	13
2.3.4 Setting conservation objectives	16
2.4 Results of the habitat working groups	18
2.4.1 Coastal- dunes & estuaries	18
2.4.2 Wet & dry grasslands	21
2.4.3 Heaths & bogs	22
2.4.4 Rivers & lakes	24
3 Atlantic Roadmap	26
4 Closing plenary session	31
Annexes.....	33
Annex I Habitats selected in the Atlantic Biogeographical process.....	33
Annex II European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity: Low Hanging Fruits methodology	36
Annex III Programme of the second Atlantic Natura 2000 Seminar	37
Annex IV List of participants of the second Atlantic Natura 2000 Seminar	42
Annex V Projects presented at the Knowledge Market	53
Annex VI Atlantic Dunes Roadmap	64
Annex VII Estuaries Workshop Recommendations	76

List of abbreviations

CAP:	Common Agriculture Policy
EC:	European Commission
ECNC:	European Centre for Nature Conservation
EIP:	European Innovation Partnerships
FCS:	Favourable conservation status
FRV:	Favourable reference value
IAS:	Invasive Alien Species
IMA:	Integrated management approach
LHF:	Low hanging fruits
MS:	EU Member State
NPWS:	National Parks and Wildlife Service
RBAPS:	Results Based Agri-environmental Payment Schemes
WFD:	Water Framework Directive

1 Introduction

This document presents the main outcomes from the second Atlantic Natura 2000 Seminar in Ennistymon, Ireland from 25 till 27 October 2016. This Seminar brought together a wide range of Natura 2000 practitioners and experts from the Atlantic region. As a milestone in the Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process, the seminar serves the purpose of discussing issues of common concern and interest, in relation to the conservation and management of a number of habitats selected for priority consideration. It aims at identifying conservation issues of major concern and proposing actions for reinforced cooperation and networking with a view to achieving better conservation status in the Atlantic biogeographical region. The seminar also discussed a proposed methodology for identifying so-called “low hanging fruit” habitats for which improvement of the conservation status could be achieved more easily and at a short term.

The Seminar was organised by ECNC and Eurosite in close cooperation with the European Commission and the hosts, the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) of Ireland. It took place at the Falls Hotel & River Spa, Ennistymon Co. Clare in Ireland. The Seminar was attended by 90 delegates from 8 out of 9 EU Member States in the Atlantic region.

1.1 Context of the second Atlantic Natura 2000 Seminar

The Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process was launched by the European Commission in 2011 to assist Member States in managing Natura 2000 as a coherent ecological network. The Process provides practical means to exchange the information, experience and knowledge that are required to identify and define common solutions and develop cooperative actions, which can be delivered to ensure progress towards the EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy targets, in particular to Targets 1 & 2.

As responsibility for the implementation of Natura 2000 and ensuring progress towards the EU’s Biodiversity Strategy targets lies with Member States, they are key actors in the Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process. The Process also provides an opportunity to mobilise expert networks and inputs from other key stakeholders, including NGOs. By doing so, it benefits from the experience of and input from Natura 2000 practitioners, expert stakeholders and Member States’ representatives with specific responsibilities for implementation of Natura 2000. This underlines the strategic and operational importance of the Process, the integrated inputs required from diverse actors and the opportunities available to develop concrete collaborative actions for future implementation.

1.2 The Atlantic Seminar Input Document

The Seminar Input Document was produced to serve discussions during the seminar. As a primary source of background information, produced with the support from the European Topic Centre for Biological Diversity (ETC-BD), and including the results of the Atlantic Expert Consultation process before the Seminar, the document:

- Identifies key factors in relation to establishing favourable conservation status (FCS) for the four habitat groups and the habitat types and species within them;
- Outlines the issues, pressures and threats per habitat group;
- Identifies necessary management and conservation actions.

2 Results of the second Atlantic Natura 2000 Seminar

The second Atlantic Natura 2000 Seminar was opened by Mr Ciaran O’Keeffe, Principal Officer Science and Biodiversity, from the host organisation National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) of Ireland. He welcomed the participants to Ireland and its County Clare – one of the richest parts of Ireland both in terms of natural and historical heritage.



Pictures 1, 2 & 3. Welcome speeches at the 2nd Atlantic Natura 2000 Seminar

Mr O’Keeffe’s speech was followed by an address from Mr Micheal O’Briain, Deputy Head of Unit for Nature Protection at the European Commission. He expressed his sincere gratitude to the NPWS of Ireland for hosting this seminar and invited the participants to try and think in as concrete actions as possible for the future roadmap, even if they do not have the full mandate to commit to these. Mr François Kremer, Policy Coordinator Natura 2000, DG Environment at the European Commission, gave an outline of the background of the seminar, commending the thematic working groups approach, which was suggested by NPWS and was already successfully implemented during the recent Boreal Seminar. He encouraged the participants to work towards a Roadmap for future actions in the Atlantic biogeographical region. Finally, Mr Neil McIntosh from ECNC presented an overview of the programme and target outcomes from the Seminar. Ms Andy Bleasdale, from the Scientific Unit of the NPWS, introduced the site visits.

Together, the introductory speeches provided a summary overview of the wider context of the Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process, and its implementation challenges at biogeographical, national and site levels.



Picture 4. Opening session of the Atlantic Seminar

2.1 Site visits

After the introductory presentations, the seminar participants departed for the four separate field visits. The visits were chosen to demonstrate a number of real life examples of issues in the field to feed into the discussions the following days. This included hearing the stories first hand from farmers and other stakeholders involved. The field visits were referred to several times during the working group discussions. The field visit options were:

Field visit 1: Coastal - the north coast of Co. Clare

This trip tracked around the Atlantic-facing north Clare coast taking in a variety of habitats including cliffs, estuaries, dunes, lagoons, shingle and reef. Highlighted issues included visitor management, managing dynamic coastal habitats, aquaculture and port development. The return trip was through the high Burren. (Picture 5)



Field visit 2: Wetlands and peatlands- east Clare, Galway

This trip headed east to visit the peatlands of the Slieve Aughty mountains and Coole Park, which hosts a complex of habitats, including turloughs and limestone pavements. Demonstrated issues included afforestation, wind farms, land abandonment, peat-cutting, flooding and management for hen harrier. The return trip was through the high Burren. (Picture 6)

Field visit 3: Grasslands and associated habitats of the Burren

This trip visited Mullaghmore in the Burren National Park and farms that are participating in the BurrenLIFE agri-environmental programme. Habitats that were encountered include limestone pavements, species-rich grasslands, fens and woodlands. Highlighted issues included balancing visitor access, nature conservation and archaeological priorities, stakeholder engagement, grazing management and results-based agri-environmental schemes. (Picture 7)



Field visit 4: Aran Islands

This trip visited Inis Oírr via a ferry from the village of Doolin. This is the smallest island of the three Aran Islands where a LIFE project is currently underway. AranLIFE aims to develop best conservation management practices in conjunction with local farmers. Visited habitats included limestone pavements, species-rich grasslands and machair. Issues included living and working in a designated island landscape, grazing management and land abandonment

2.2 Knowledge Market and introduction to the working groups

On the evening of the first day of the seminar, everyone got the opportunity to broadcast and share interesting projects and ideas at the knowledge market. An overview of the knowledge market presentations is given in Appendix III of this report. The event provided an opportunity for awarding the 'Best Practice Trophy' of the Atlantic Natura 2000 Seminar, which was awarded for the first time in 2012 to the Burren project. The new winner of the award was the Dynamic dunes project from the Netherlands, represented at the seminar by Luc Geelen.



Pictures 8, 9 & 10. Knowledge Market and the Atlantic Seminar Award

The second day started with Andy Bleasdale from the host, NPWS giving a presentation on some typical issues surrounding management of Natura 2000 habitat and species in Ireland and reflected on the situation across the Atlantic Region. Doug Evans followed this with details of the recently introduced methodology for identifying Low Hanging Fruits (LHF) habitats as an additional approach for focusing conservation and restoration efforts in a biogeographical region. It was considered that the approach should not replace the efforts towards improving the status of priority habitats. It should rather help achieving additional quick wins in conservation status and improving progress towards the Target 1 of the EU biodiversity strategy to 2020.

The following four presentations then gave an overview of the ongoing cooperation in the Atlantic region on cross-cutting issues and habitat groups as an introduction to the thematic group discussions that followed.

- Christian Michalczyk presented the recommendations from the workshop on integrated management of estuaries held in Hamburg in September 2016.
- Luc Geelen presented the work on the protection and restoration of coastal dunes in the Netherlands and the results of a LIFE Platform Meeting on the restoration of coastal and inland dune habitats held in Zandvoort, the Netherlands, in June 2016.
- Clare Whitfield presented the activities addressing the Nitrogen deposition work in the Atlantic region, including the UK workshop in 2013 and a Nitrogen Study tour in the Netherlands in 2015. She concluded with the recent work and progress achieved on the subject in UK.

- Brendan Dunford presented the work with local stakeholders, especially farmers, in the Burren region in Ireland. Results of this work were seen in practice during the excursions on the first day.

The presentations can be found on a dedicated page for the Atlantic region on the Natura 2000 Platform:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/platform/knowledge_base/143_atlantic_region_en.htm#NBP.

Table 1. Chairs and facilitators for the thematic and habitat working groups

Group	Chair	Seminar support by the contractor
Lead Coordinator: Neil McIntosh (ECNC)		
Integrated management approaches to Natura 2000	Chris Mainstone (Natural England)	Monika Kotulak (CEEweb for biodiversity)
Adaptive approaches to agriculture and nature conservation	Dr James Moran (Institute of Technology SLIGO)	Kristijan Čivić (Eurosite)
Communication and stakeholder engagement	Anita Prosser (Europarc Atlantic Isles)	Stefania Petrosillo (Europarc)
Setting conservation objectives	Dr Douglas Evans (ETC/BD)	Frank Gorissen (ECNC)
Coastal- dunes and estuaries	Luc Geelen (Waternet, NL) Christian Michalczyk (Hamburg Ministry of Environment and Energy)	Frank Gorissen (ECNC)
Wet and dry grasslands	Dr James Moran (Institute of Technology SLIGO)	Kristijan Čivić (Eurosite)
Heaths and bogs	Dr Greg Mudge (Scottish Natural Heritage)	Stefania Petrosillo (Europarc)
Rivers and lakes	Chris Mainstone (Natural England)	Monika Kotulak (CEEweb for Biodiversity)

2.3 Results of the thematic groups

2.3.1 Integrated management approaches to Natura 2000

Chair: Chris Mainstone

This working session was divided in three main parts. The first part was devoted to identifying and listing the main challenges from site level to biogeographical level. The following session looked at the possible solutions, and finally the working group agreed on the three key actions for the Atlantic region.

Challenges identified:

On the high-level policy interactions, there is a lack of cross-sector integration of policies and relevant authorities, which creates blockages to more integrated working at operational levels. Variation in timescales for action/achievement of objectives is part of the problem.

There is an insufficient cross-sectoral communication and understanding across a range of policy, technical and operational (e.g. site-level, stakeholder) activities. In addition, existing tendency to think of individual Natura habitats and species in isolation leads to, even further, losing coherent understanding of ecological relationships and functioning in decision-making and amongst different stakeholders.

Another issue is insufficient vertical integration from policy, evidence, technical guidance/rationale, to land management and stakeholders. Authorities and stakeholders are missing landscape / catchment scale of management, i.e. ecological networks and off-site impacts.

General lack of coherent messaging to partners and stakeholders about integrated biodiversity objectives and how to go about achieving them in partnership does not help either.

Approaches taken need to ensure flexibility in outcomes at local level to accommodate local constraints and stakeholder perspectives. This is difficult for specialists focused on ecological requirements only.

In general, the LHF approach seems difficult to realize given ecological response timescales and 2020 timeline.

Solutions:

When thinking about the solutions to the above-identified challenges the following conclusions and recommendations were made:

- Put effort into understanding the landscape/catchment – hydrological function and how different habitats fit naturally into the landscape
- Use natural abiotic processes as a reference point to ensure that our ecological/biodiversity vision promotes natural function as far as possible
- As far as possible, formulate the objectives for priority species linked with the objectives for habitats
- Understand that the Habitats Directive doesn't help integrated approach, but it doesn't prevent it
- Need for prioritizing and pragmatism when creating management plans for species and habitats whose requirements are contradictory to each other
- Generate a clearer narrative about more integrated biodiversity objectives based on functioning habitat mosaics, and how to work with partners to achieve them
- Use this as part of concerted efforts to engage stakeholders at different spatial scales (European, Member State, local, site)
- Appoint people from the local stakeholder community to advocate Natura objectives and local ways of addressing them

2.3.2 Adaptive approaches to agriculture and nature conservation

Chair: Dr James Moran

Workshop structure:

The working session began with the introduction of participants where they could also state what they consider being a main issue in relation to this topic. Some of the main issues stated here were: importance of stakeholder engagement; intensification vs. extensification; communication with and engagement of farmers; CAP and agri-environmental measures; defining clear conservation goals and communicating them to the farmers and other stakeholders.

The session was structured in four main steps:

- Main challenges and issues
- Examples of initiatives
- Development of joint solutions
- Propose joint actions

Main challenges in the Atlantic region:

When looking into the main challenges across the Atlantic region, it was clear that these are similar and numerous for Natura 2000 sites within an intensive agricultural matrix/landscape (i.e. Nitrogen deposition and need for cross-border approach, need for buffer zones, complex planning and implementation), but different for Natura 2000 in extensive high nature value farmland landscapes where the main issues are related to abandonment and intensification.

The following key issues were identified:

- *Ownership and trust by farmers are the key:* Farmers have to feel ownership to be willing to implement. There should be trust between farmers and nature people – conservation sector should also trust farmers to be able to deliver for conservation. Often a compromise is necessary – things change in time – compromising is needed to deliver results through farming. Make the measures simple is the main issue – Intelligently designed results based (or hybrid) payments could help. Farmers are often squeezed in the middle between intensive and extensive approach – getting mixed signals from policy. There should be enough opportunities for people to make a living by meeting the Favourable Conservation Status (FCS) goals of Natura 2000 habitats.
- *Designated areas are not farmed land:* Conventional farming activity is not compatible with nature conservation goals. Therefore, Nitrogen deposition from farming area around the Natura sites is a problem – CAP comes here in play as a possible solution if it would try to combine the interests of nature and agriculture. Natura 2000 sites should have buffer zones around, which is often forgotten. Nitrogen from livestock farms should be addressed further – LHF have long been picked there but there is a need for new technologies to progress more and political pressure is needed to do this. Additionally, Nitrogen emissions from abroad add to the problem – international approach would be a good solution to tackle this.
- *Clarity in defining the conservation objectives and communicating them:* conservation does not always know what it wants to achieve – farming community might have different view of ideal

habitat to what experts think. Farmer should also know the goal, and not just what they need to do, to be motivated and willing to do more. Some farmers want to do more for nature, but need to see results of others and know why are they doing it.

- *Agri-environmental measures*: 'One size fits all' schemes do not work. There should be some flexibility in them and the results should address local specific conditions – there is flexibility and dynamics in legislation but perhaps a better legislative interpretation is needed. And finally, many agri-environmental measures are optional at the moment so perhaps CAP needs rebalancing.

Recommended follow up:

After a short discussion there was a general agreement that there is a need for a change in the approach, in the way that ***biodiversity should be treated as a product as other products farmers produce – product biodiversity***. Farmers should not be compensated for not doing something but paid for delivering biodiversity benefits.

More specifically more attention should be given to:

- results based (or hybrid) agri-environment payment schemes, but these are not always the solution;
- more integrated approaches and co-operative/ landscape scale initiatives; building co-ownership, co-creation and trust;
- specifying goals across biogeographic zones as a basis for Results Based Agri-environmental Payment Schemes (RBAPS¹).

Development of joint solutions:

There are several short-term wins that could be achieved through cooperation on the biogeographical region level. The most obvious ones include:

- Addressing Nitrogen deposition
- Setting conservation objectives and applying proper management measures
- Get people to work together meet a common goal
- Design and apply more widely result paid schemes – there are examples out there – how to expand that more widely

2.3.3 Communication and stakeholder engagement

Chair: Anita Prosser

Case studies:

This session was started with a short presentation of two case studies:

- The experience of the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas, a EUROPARC's tool to promote stakeholder engagement (by Stefania Petrosillo, EUROPARC)
- Good practices on Citizen Science (by Karin Dubsy, Coastwatch).

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/rbaps/index_en.htm

Key points of the discussion and identified challenges:

The first point, agreed among the participants, was related to the title of the working group: **communication and stakeholders' involvement**. Even if interconnected, they are two different topics, presenting different challenges and requiring different skills. The workshop's discussion focused mainly on stakeholder involvement, but some aspects of communication have been mentioned.

- The discussion focused mainly on **agriculture sector and farmers**, as the principal stakeholders to deal with in the N2000 of the Region.
- Nevertheless, participants agreed that the **identification of the stakeholder** is very important and needs an open and wide overview. It is necessary to avoid considering only the "usual" local partners, and not forget or underestimate the importance of other actors. However, to deal with a large **number** of stakeholders (expressing different and varying interests and visions) can be very challenging.
- **Scale of management**: small is beautiful but large scale can have more impact.
- **Relation with stakeholder participation and incentives**. This was an important point of debate. On the one hand, it is very important to use some economic incentives or compensation, where possible and appropriate (especially with farmers). On the other hand, it is necessary to also promote a participation that is not directly dependent on incentives, but that is based in general on the will to establish a positive dialogue and to create a favourable working environment.
- **Capacity and a local presence**. Part of good engagement is a local presence and ability to communicate on 1:1 basis but this is a challenge in times of limited resources and cuts. This is linked to joint and sharing responsibilities with stakeholders. Local led networks create feeling of ownership.
- **Co-responsibility, consistency of people involved**. A proactive way to involve stakeholder is to promote common initiatives and actions and share responsibilities.
- **Flexibility and creativity** are crucial to find good solutions and appropriate ways to work with different stakeholders.
- **Transparency** is essential.
- Risk of **silos thinking and working**: Cooperation and coherence between departments and organisations is challenging but important.
- **Timing**. Stakeholder involvement requires time: in order to ensure the credibility and the sustainability of the process, it is important to work on it for the long term, and not only for specific projects or initiatives.
- **Challenge to deal with and get over past difficulties and conflicts**: key walls are being broken down and assumed conflicts can be overcome with time, patience and listening.
- **Use good examples and share experiences**. Many N2000 sites and Protected Areas can provide very good and successful examples of profitable cooperation with local stakeholders.
- Communication about Nature is **not a top political priority** and it has to compete with more popular issues such as health, housing, employment
- Importance to use **positive language and dialogue**. Talking to people breaks down many barriers and preconceptions and helps to build trust.
- **Avoid negative messages** (see Recommend Forestry Commission Scotland's approach)

- Messengers are not necessarily communicators. **Empower staff/people to be communicators/messengers.** Use “ambassadors”.
- If choosing for the ecological concept of letting **habitats going to succession (re-wilding)** rather than preserving at a moment in time it is important issue to have in mind what will be **the role of farmers.**
- **Not communicating clearly** to the farmers/ landowners about what they need to do can **lead to apathy and “cannot be bothered” attitude.** This is a shame as these people in principle have a good connection to and a pride in their land.
- There are issues in relation to **which law has priority over another law** in relation to land ownership and utilising the land. This should be clearly defined.

Conclusions and success recorded during the workshop:

In the discussions during the session several important conclusions and recommendations were made. It is important to keep these in mind when communicating and working with stakeholders in and around the Natura 2000 sites:

- Experience confirms that working together is better than working separately
- Involving farmers and other stakeholders can help to break down barriers. Listening to them is very necessary
- Farmers and hunters want to invest in their land and can be good partners
- Volunteers are a very good resource
- Passion is harnessed and beautiful. Often common passion can be an important link among stakeholders.
- Messengers can/need to be given right tools to provide the message
- Small can be beautiful (re Arran Isles)
- Local approaches can be preferable to national ones
- Local networks create a feeling of ownership
- Assumed conflicts can be overcome
- Linking local, national and EU levels should be considered
- Brochures, tools and info on conflict solving are available and should be better used
- Systematic integration of biodiversity into agricultural practices is a muste
- Inform, involve, share responsibilities and reward ('IIRR') are four keys to success in stakeholder involvement
- Twinning Natura 200 sites can contribute to promoting cooperation and best practice exchange between sites
- Payments for collective approaches should be considered/promoted
- Compromises are often necessary
- Citizen Science is a resource
- We are on the road to a change for the better
- Learning by doing and flexibility is always necessary

2.3.4 Setting conservation objectives

Chair: Dr Douglas Evans

The discussion within this group focussed on setting conservation objectives at different scales, dealing with potentially conflicting conservation priorities, experience with setting of Favourable Reference Values, and the new Low Hanging Fruit methodology.

Low Hanging Fruits Methodology:

The Low Hanging Fruit (LHF) methodology formed the dominant discussion within this thematic group. The chair of this group was actively involved in the development of the methodology which contributed to the discussion. The results of the Boreal and Atlantic Natura 2000 seminars will be used by the European Commission to discuss the further development of the LHF approach.

An important part of the discussion focussed on the relation between the LHF methodology and the original Atlantic priority habitats. A shared question was how the LHF habitats would influence the priority habitats. The most frequently voiced concern by the participants was if the LHF habitats would become an obligatory priority for the Member States concerned, that this would limited their financial and resource capacity in working on the habitats previously identified as priority. It was explained that the LHF habitats will not replace the priority habitats and that there will be no obligation for the Member States. The LHF approach was developed by the ETC/BD following a request from the European Commission. The Commission first wants to understand how the approach is viewed by the Member States and how they might want to use it. The topic will also be discussed at the NADEG meeting in November (2016). The LHF approach was developed as there was a wish to have more positive messages from Article 17 reporting in the short term as it was realised that for achieving improvements for most species and habitats it will take several reporting cycles. An additional point raised is that results within Natura 2000 should be compared with what happens outside the network. These areas receive less attention.

The participants also wondered about the selection methodology behind the LHF habitats. The value of a habitat on a biogeographical level is based on threshold values of several factors such as size and functions (see Annex II). Following a question it was explained that some factors (e.g. habitat area) were originally included but have been excluded due to a variety of reasons.

It was also noted that for birds, Member States only report information (e.g. population size & trends, distribution) with the assessment carried out for the EU. This contrasts with reporting for the Habitats Directive where Member States report both information and assessments of Conservation Status.

Quick wins per Member States and conservation priorities:

Participants wondered about the added value of the LHF. A major concern was that the LHF would demand resources that could then not be used for priority habitats, which in turn would then not lead to a substantial improvement in habitat conservation status. An important remark which was made about this is that we should be careful with putting resources into something besides the original habitats and risk forgetting target 1 of the EU Biodiversity Strategy. Several Member States already developed own ideas on priority setting and possible quick wins within their projects.

Projects in the Netherlands tend to focus on a system approach that deals with large problems. At the start, quick wins are identified and taken along. In addition, there is only one LHF in the Netherlands, meaning that there are no clear quick wins anyway. Flanders prioritised 16 regions for quick wins. This was a local translation of the EU Biodiversity strategy which addresses issues at a site level, not only habitat level, this ensures a broader approach. It was then mentioned that it might be an idea to let Member States develop their own proposals on LHF habitats. Providing support and guidance besides direct financing, such as legal support, to defend nature management policies and actions are important. Clarity in the use of terminology is very important. The Commission needs to clearly define different aspects because the disagreement in terminology may lead to problems in court.

A risk with LHF is that the habitats within smaller Member States are not acknowledged as LHF, which in turn leads to risks with connectivity between habitats. This threatens the overall structure of habitats in Member States which do not have/have few LHF habitats. It also causes political problems in smaller countries because the politicians might get the impression that they do not need to continue the work on nature conservation. By addressing developments from a system approach the work can also be 'sold' more easily to the other stakeholders. In addition, priority setting can cause conflicts amongst the original habitats and the LHF. There is a limited amount of available land for nature conservation.

Participants mentioned that the already difficult task of setting of conservation priorities becomes additionally difficult with the LHF approach. The term 'conservation status' is used on many levels, including individual sites and for regions. There should be a clear and agreed understanding on what it means and how it should be used. Conservation Status for Article 17 refers to biogeographical levels and should preferably not be used at a site level (the standard data form uses the term 'degree of conservation'). It should also not be forgotten that all of Natura 2000 is a priority and that the 'setting conservation priorities' and LHF is making it seem as if we should only focus on smaller parts of it.

Management plans:

Ireland wanted to hear examples of successful management plans from other countries. France produces mixed management plans for each site (or group of adjacent sites) where all management actions and requirements for different species and habitats are included in one document. This is done to make it easier for local stakeholders to understand the challenges and tasks. There also is a national guidance document given to all authors of management plans to ensure that they follow the structure defined by the national administration. In addition there is a national organisation which trains Natura 2000 specialists on the latest developments.

A Dutch participant stressed the importance of including all local actors when developing management plans. Because of this, the plans spread further than only the Natura 2000 sites. The management plans are not official yet, but certain actions are already in development because involved people know what to do and already got started. The management plans work with 6 year phases (also happens in Denmark).

Conclusion:

Overall the participants understood the objective of the LHF approach, but there are several reservations before being able to consider it as an official and operational tool. These problems are (amongst others): a lack of resources to deal with both LHF and priority habitats, attention being removed from priority habitats, the absence of LHF habitats in some Member States, and uncertainty about how easily or rapidly some LHF habitats can be improved.

Link to paper requested during discussion: Trouwborst, Boitani, Linnell, 2016, Biodiversity conservation: <http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10531-016-1238-z>.

2.4 Results of the habitat working groups

2.4.1 Coastal- dunes & estuaries

Chair: Luc Geelen and Christian Michalczyk

The Dunes and Estuaries workshop brought two groups of experts together to discuss habitat groups that have similar issues but also individual challenges. Dunes and estuaries experts shared their thoughts on both habitat groups and identified a list of issues and ideas that they think are important. After this discussion, the group split into two separate working groups, one for each habitat group.

Table 2. Issues, problems, actions, ideas for dunes and estuaries

Shared issues
Cooperation and sharing of good practices to build on the achievements of previous projects
The importance of support the links between science and management
The need for improved guidance on habitat definition, mapping and management.
In places where there is a strongly urbanised coastline which leads to small and fragmented Natura 2000 sites and isolation of species and habitats there is a need for more creation, restoration and improved connectivity of habitats.
Intensification of agriculture and eutrophication
Control/eradication of alien species in dunes and estuaries and developing an early warning system which can be effective across borders.
Restoration of dynamics in both dunes and estuaries and recognising the coherence of the beach/dune sand sharing system
Need to take a holistic approach to both dunes and estuaries
Clear and sustainable approach on how to deal with habitat changes caused by climate change
Enhancing public understanding of the dynamic character of dunes and estuaries to address the misconception that change is bad and that coastal habitats should be fixed / stabilised / strengthened
Promoting integrated management plans and knowledge sharing amongst Member States.

Dunes issues
The need for a step change in activity supported by cooperation and better resourced networks

(dune habitats as a group have the lowest percentage of favourable conservation status in Article 17 reporting)
Drift line (1210) and embryonic shifting dunes (2110) form on beaches, but beaches are often outside Natura 2000 sites (e.g. in the Netherlands)
Achieving a balance between need for coast protection and accepting natural responses to storms
Addressing negative trends in land use such as conversion of fixed dunes to agricultural holdings with consequent nutrient enrichment and pressures from leisure activities
Recognition that past policies have led to over-stabilisation of dunes and that there is now a need to support actions which maintain or restore dynamic elements of dune systems
The impact of Nitrogen deposition on dune habitats and the development of restoration plans to combat the legacy of nutrient build up in soil (e.g. Dutch Nitrogen plan)
Constraints arising from historic land use including ancient monuments, archaeology and unexploded ordnance (Polish LIFE Military habitats projects served as example)
Concern that 60,000 ha of fixed dunes (H2130) are not within the Natura 2000 network (what are the current threats?)
The need to share best practices in the management of recreation pressures as a habitat management tool
Recognition of the differences and different threats between the southern and northern parts of the Atlantic dune range

Estuaries issues
The actions around estuaries strongly influence the estuaries. But the responsibility of these areas outside the estuaries fall within the responsibility of different sectors: manage the whole system
The habitat definition of fresh water estuaries is not clear
Link Marine process estuaries objectives to the terrestrial process
External negative impact on Hydromorphological status.
1130 – common understanding of definition and restoration
Develop a database with baseline information
Planning of adaption to disturbing measures
Twinning of cross-border estuaries
Citizen science to provide data of changes in estuaries
Attractiveness
Dynamics within the habitat. Many different ‘types of nature’ fall within estuaries. This makes management of these habitats very diverse
Find win-win-situations apart from compensatory measures
Better understanding of the system (quality and quantity)
Promoting knowledge, bringing scientists and managers together

An important note in relation to research on both habitat groups: there is an ‘Estuaries and Coastal Science Association’ focussed on scientific research with their own journal and conferences (This is just one example, there are many other similar organisations and journals). This is important to the management side, and the relation between research and management should be strengthened.

Dune habitats expert group

A LIFE Platform Meeting on the restoration of sand dune habitats was held in Zandvoort (Netherlands) in June 2016. One of the products of this meeting was a draft roadmap. The objective of this dune habitat roadmap is to structure and stimulate knowledge exchange and networking during the period of 2016-2020. The dune group compared and evaluated the mentioned issues with actions defined in the roadmap. The comments of the participants were used by John Houston (NEEMO) to update the roadmap (the updated roadmap is available in annex VI). Additional remarks that came up during the discussion of the roadmap are summarised here below.

All dune experts agree that an assessment of the conservation status of dune habitats must include the evaluation of the 'health' of dune forming processes and the extent of natural dynamics in the dune system. Such criteria should be included in the Article 17 assessments for most dune habitats. The roadmap identifies the need for guidelines at EU level.

Several Member States have adopted a more dynamic approach to dune management but are also aware of the constraints caused by fragmentation, loss of habitat and shoreline management policies. Pioneering work has been carried out in the Netherlands to introduce more shifting sand in the systems. In France there is interest in letting coastal erosion reactivate fixed dunes. In Portugal, however, the dunes suffer from too much erosion caused by human trampling and still require protection. In Ireland there is no more offshore sediment present which means that natural beach nourishment is not possible. In addition, it is difficult to allow dune movement in Ireland because farmers get paid for their productive land, meaning that they would lose income if the dunes move onto their land.

There is also wide support for the need for habitat expert groups covering the biogeographical region. Existing networks would be strengthened if funding could be found for an 'engine room' to coordinate knowledge exchange. There is no clear source for this funding, but the most efficient model seems to be a combination of EU-funding and resources from ongoing projects. Upcoming key events for networking are through: ARCOSLIFE (April 2017), Littoral 2017 (September 2017) and LIFE FLANDRE (May/June 2018).

Dune experts consider that the habitats 2140, 2150, 2170, 2180 and 2190 should be defined better because the interpretation currently varies greatly between Member States. This creates confusion in interpreting the results of the Article 17 reporting.

The Dune roadmap sets out a series of inter-connected actions, which form a target for the next period 2016-2020. Whilst there is a loose network already through the European Dune Network there is a need to step up a gear if the ambitions set out in the roadmap are to be achieved.

Invasive species are seen as a significant threat to dune habitats, which by their nature are more prone to colonisation by alien species. There are online databases that contain information on invasive species, these are however difficult to use for management purposes. Making this data more accessible would be a good task for the dune network. There is a need for a comprehensive list of alien species, and not just the most threatening. Belgium submitted a LIFE application in which they included the idea of an early warning system. The effect of such data can be seen in an example from Ireland. Based on knowledge about *Rosa rugosa* gained at the LIFE Platform Meeting on dunes

in Zandvoort (June 2016), Ireland decided to remove several patches covered by this species before it could grow into a large problem.

Estuaries habitats expert group

A workshop on estuaries was held in Hamburg (Germany) in September 2016 and was an output of the last Atlantic Natura 2000 Seminar in the Netherlands in 2012. Important points of actions for estuaries were worked out during this meeting. These have been divided in four topics: management plans, habitat restoration, legal issues, and communication. The results of this work can be found in annex VII.

2.4.2 Wet & dry grasslands

Chair: James Moran

The session was structured in four main steps:

- Identifying the problems/ threats/ issues for practical management
- Exploring what can be done in the scope of Biogeographical process
- Sharing specific examples of existing or planned projects
- Specifying joint actions

The group went through the list of habitats one by one and discussed the main issues/ pressures/ threats for each of the priority grassland habitat types. The conclusion was that while the considered grassland habitat types are quite different and ecologically specific, the list of pressures and threats is similar for all of them. Of course, there are specificities per habitat type, site and per MS, and different pressures are at a different degree relevant in each case. The list of most relevant pressures and threats for grasslands comprises the following:

1. Extremes of management: intensification and abandonment;
2. Nitrogen deposition, pollution (from herbicide and pesticide use) and acidification;
3. Invasive Alien Species;
4. Habitat definitions and defining conservation objectives;
5. Changes in hydrology (more relevant for wet grasslands).

Working towards the solutions:

- We need to better identify what favourable conservation status means is for each of the habitat types – whilst keeping in mind all the factors (e.g. differences between countries; mosaics of habitats and for which type do we manage; can we manage for the whole mosaic or for an area and not habitat?). Once we do know this, the next step is knowledge transfer to farmers. We need to translate this to farmers in a clear and understandable language.
- Grasslands are semi-natural habitats with active management systems; therefore we should look at processes that led to their formation. To maintain them we need more result based schemes trusted by farmers, avoiding penalising: smart systems that develop schemes that make sense (good examples include: Burren, LIFE projects, other existing RBAPS). Creating sense of ownership is needed, where farmers see benefits, or even where they initiated processes.

- Shrub invasion is a major issue for grasslands (especially in grazed grassland). We need to design schemes that are appropriate and applicable. There are good examples that should be identified and an exchange of knowledge would be useful.
- Some flexibility in the interpretation of habitat directive is needed – a lot is in interpretation, some guidance from EU would be helpful here (on dynamic landscape in general).
- A better link is needed to the EU IAS legislation – connection could be made in which species need to be included in the black list. A list of habitats and list of IAS threatening them, across the MS, could help to operationalise this.
- DG AGRI should be included in the communication concerning the conservation measures for grassland habitat types.

2.4.3 Heaths & bogs

Chair: Greg Mudge

Key points of the discussion and identified challenges:

The workshop was structured in two sessions:

- Session 1: Challenges identification. What are the common problems/issues affecting habitats across the region?
- Session 2: Solutions, actions. What are the potential solutions to these problems/issues? Are there possibilities for collaborative action that will deliver the preferred solutions?

After a short presentation of the habitat types chosen for discussion in the Heaths and Bogs working group (both priority consideration habitats and the LHF) participants decided not to discuss the habitat type 5230 *Arborescent matorral with Laurus nobilis*, present in only one country, and to focus on the other more widespread habitats.

They also agreed to first discuss the *Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix*, identified as a “Low Hanging Fruit” (LHF) habitat in the Atlantic region, and, after that, shortly identify challenges and possible solutions also for the other habitats.

The issues that emerged were compared with the Top 5 Issues identified in the first Atlantic seminar in 2012:

- Inappropriate hydrological conditions for the management and/or restoration of 4010, 7110 & 7230, e.g. artificial drainage
- Inappropriate grazing that ignores individual site conditions
- Lack of “functional” management units & links to individual site conservation objectives, e.g. different life history stages – hoverflies!
- Peat extraction / mining
- Nitrogen deposition & diffuse pollution of groundwater and surface water

Several of the issues emerged again as still important and significant nowadays:

- Inappropriate hydrological conditions for the management and/or restoration of wet heaths, active raised bogs and alkaline fens.

- Inappropriate burning of wet heaths and dry heaths.
- Nitrogen deposition. Much work has been already done following the 1st Atlantic Natura 2000 Seminar, but it is still a big issue in some MS and more attention is required.
- Wider issues beyond heaths and bogs and beyond the Atlantic Zone.

The discussion also mentioned the negative impacts of climate change in all these habitats.

Experiences and solutions:

Participants presented their management experience and good practice to deal with the identified issues. This included several projects and initiatives, at local, national and regional level, showing that a huge technical and scientific expertise exists in the region.

Participants then identified some possible solutions about:

- **Management of Hydrological conditions:** Share experiences of water table management from projects carried out in Walloon, Denmark, Ireland, UK, Netherlands and France;
- **Burning:** UK (Scotland) to circulate the revised Muirburn Code;
- **Nitrogen deposition:** Stimulate further networking to identify and seek to resolve remaining issues, especially cross-boundary controls;
- **Generic issues** of habitats in the region and to increase transboundary cooperation: Twinning of Natura sites, Joint LIFE or Interreg projects.

All participants agreed on the importance of the public awareness and of the stakeholder involvement to reach the conservation objectives, especially farmers and landowners in order to achieve the conservation objectives for the SACs.

They confirmed the need for more efficient transboundary cooperation especially to deal with specific common issues. They also asked for a more incisive EU policy on international issues, such as Nitrogen deposition.

Table 3. Key conclusions from the workshop sessions.

ISSUE	SOLUTION	RECOMMENDATIONS
Inappropriate hydrological conditions for the management and/or restoration of wet heaths, active raised bogs and alkaline fens.	Share experiences of water table management from projects carried out in Wallon, Denmark, Ireland, UK, Netherlands and France	Place relevant information on the Knowledge Platform and alert colleagues to the location.
Inappropriate burning of wet heaths and dry heaths.	UK (Scotland) to circulate the revised Muirburn Code	Place relevant information on the Knowledge Platform and alert colleagues to the location.

Nitrogen deposition. Much work already done following the 1st Atlantic Seminar. But a big issue in some MS and more attention required.	Stimulate further networking to identify and seek to resolve remaining issues, especially cross-boundary controls.	Discuss scope for further collaboration between The Netherlands, Belgium and the UK (JNCC)
Wider issues beyond heaths and bogs and beyond the Atlantic Zone.	Twinning of Natura sites. Joint LIFE or Interreg projects	Dialogue needed with EC, ECNC and relevant MS.

Proposals for follow-up:

The identification of a concrete Road Map, also coherent with the conclusions of the first Atlantic seminar, showed to be difficult for several reasons, among them: participants of the first and the second seminars were different; and several participants had not the mandate to officially commit to actions on behalf of their institutions. Therefore, the workshop did not detect specific actions for follow-up with responsible actors to take them forward. Nevertheless, the above-mentioned solutions can be considered a starting point for possible actions.

2.4.4 Rivers & lakes

Chair: Chris Mainstone

Discussion about the threats, problems, knowledge gaps across the region:

The first part of the discussion was devoted to identifying main threats, problems and knowledge gaps. Most commonly mentioned issues were nutrients (phosphorus, nitrogen), hydrological alterations, physical alterations, and invasive alien species (IAS), together with their cumulative impacts. Another problem commonly shared is climate change and the extreme events that it brings, as well as changed thermal regimes and other effects.

A common problem across the Atlantic region is the lack of communication between and within organizations managing rivers and lakes, not enough common planning, prioritizing, management, and project development. On the top of that, an integrated approach at the catchment-scale is missing. There is not enough large-scale planning, thinking about all effects together, and their impact at catchment-scale, particularly in relation to transboundary cooperation. Responsibilities of each relevant institution are not always clear for the stakeholders and not communicated in clear in a concise way. Moreover, ownership rights of rivers, lakes, floodplains etc. are not clear either.

A Large part of the discussion was devoted to contradictions and overlaps of Water Framework Directive (WFD) and Nature Directives (Birds and Habitats Directives) or in more general terms water objectives and biodiversity objectives. Conservation objectives and management may vary for water and other habitats and can be contradictory to each other. During management planning phase it is necessary to choose priorities to restore and conserve and later adjust the actions according to it. In

addition, within Natura 2000 management there might be conflicts between natural, dynamic development of freshwater habitat and fixed land use for other habitats and species (particularly on floodplains). Additionally, some freshwater habitats and species have opposing requirements and necessary management actions. Another topic discussed was the technical interpretation of some habitats from Annex I, as well as their requirements - there is considerable potential for differences in interpretation between countries in the region.

Low Hanging Fruits (LHF) approach was considered by the group as particularly problematic for freshwater habitats as there are many off-site impacts and it takes a long time to improve the status of chosen habitats.

Identifying solutions:

The second session was devoted to finding solutions to identified problems, summary can be found in the Atlantic Roadmap in chapter 3.

3 Atlantic Roadmap

The discussions and incentives for further cooperation during the Second Atlantic Natura 2000 Seminar will continue in a series of Follow up events:

Subjects for follow-up proposed in more than one working group, or not linked to a specific working group:

What?	When?	Where?
Establish various thematic and habitat expert networks (e.g. freshwater, dunes, estuaries, agriculture)		
More Twinning between Natura 2000 sites		
More and better exchange of examples of good practice using Natura 2000 Platform		
Improve/review terminology and definitions of FCS and various habitat types		
Better cross-sectoral cooperation (e.g. with WFD, with AGRI)		

Subjects for follow-up proposed in the thematic group on 'Integrated management approaches to Natura 2000'

What?	When?	Where/Who?
Need to establish structured sharing of case studies (using the Natura 2000 Communication Platform) – there is plenty of best practice examples out there on some integration issues (coastal zone management, river restoration etc.)	continuous	MS, contractor
Generating a clear cross-MS narrative on integrated biodiversity outcomes and how to engage with partners and local stakeholders to achieve them with socioeconomic benefits (local economy, enjoyment of nature, flood management, better water storage and quality, carbon storage)		MS
Active Atlantic networking – either through a network for integrated management or through an improved habitat specialist networks working in collaboration.	continuous	one or more MS to take the lead

Subjects for follow-up proposed in the thematic group on 'Adaptive approaches to agriculture and nature conservation'

What?	When?	Where/Who?
Exploring the existing broader network of initiatives such as European Innovation Partnerships (EIPs) ² , RBAPS etc. in the Atlantic region and broader. Learn from how these groups are setting targets – how they define measures and implement. The results should be communicated towards policy makers to influence 2020 target and make wider links where possible.	as soon as possible	Ireland
Creating a subsection on Natura 2000 Communication Platform to collate information on the examples above –create network from identified projects and stimulate knowledge exchange through fairs and exchange visits – not for experts but for local group (e.g. farmers, NGOs, management authorities).	2017	MS in cooperation with contractor
Continuing cooperation on Nitrogen deposition in the Atlantic region (and broader) – Build further on PAS system.	2017 onwards	NL, UK
Contributing to CAP reform. In 2017 CAP regulation for 2020 will be drafted. There could be value in bringing together expertise from this group to bring into CAP expert consultation.	2017	Atlantic Experts

Subjects for follow-up proposed in the thematic group on 'Communication and stakeholder engagement'

What?	When?	Where/Who?
Twinning of sites and around thematically issues with strong emphasis of the reason for twinning. Ideas for including local Ambassadors/ Champions within Twinning Programme.	2017 ongoing	Eurosite
Improve the use of Citizen Science: It can involve children and adults and also helps to develop a passion for nature. Many areas already implement these sort of activities and at European level a lot of work is done in Open Science Pillar of Horizon 2020 and research projects.	2017-2020	Coastwatch
Look at existing tools, as e.g. the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in PAs and Transboundary Parks Programme of EUROPARC or others. Useful also to refer to the Aarhus Convention, that provides important guidelines for communication and public involvement.		EUROPARC
Promote Volunteering – encouragement and development at local level is most sustainable but need to use all existing good practice in managing and recognising.		Natuurpunt, EUROPARC, Eurosite

² http://ec.europa.eu/research/innovation-union/index_en.cfm?pg=eip

Curriculum Development in Schools and Agricultural and Fishing Colleges – Natura 2000 sites can be close to schools and provide a great learning landscape. This could be a quick easy win to incorporate this topic into curriculums. Also Agri-environment schemes (e.g. Burren) could be part of college curriculum. This action can be promoted at national or local level.	all MS
---	--------

Subjects for follow-up proposed in the thematic group on 'Setting conservation objectives'

What?	When?	Where/Who?
Results within Natura 2000 should be compared with what happens outside the network		ETC all MS
MS to develop their own proposals on LHF habitats		all MS
The term 'conservation status' is used on many levels, including individual sites and for regions. Agree clear understanding on what it means and how it should be used.		ETC and EC

Subjects for follow-up proposed in the Habitat Group on Coastal- dunes & estuaries

What?	When?	Where/Who?
Coastal- dunes³		
Guidelines on how to incorporate dynamics into the interpretation of Favourable Conservation Status	as soon as possible	EC, all MS, EU Dune Network
Addressing dynamic coastal change with attention to sandy beaches and the formation of strandline vegetation and subsequent formation of 2110 embryonic shifting dunes		management authorities (Rijkswaterstaat, Environment Agency-UK and BRGM-FR).
Interpretation, mapping and management guidelines for EU habitat types		BE, NL, UK/IE, FR
Restore ecological connectivity in fragmented dune belts along strongly urbanised coasts	long-term	BE
Addressing protection and management of 2130* fixed dunes		all MS
Further studies on the 'low hanging fruit' habitats		DK
Developing and promoting a research programme on, e.g. impacts of N-deposition, and monitoring of outcomes of restoration projects	2017	OBN, CEH, INBO
An early warning system for Invasive Alien Species and the sharing of practical control methods with costs	2017	Maike Isermann with input from all MS through networks and scientific bodies
Communication	as soon as possible / ongoing	Atlantic MS, EUCC, Liverpool Hope University, INBO
Conferences, workshops and events	2016 onwards	EUCC-France

³ For details of the activities see Annex VI Atlantic Dunes Roadmap

Estuaries⁴		
Exchange good practice examples of Natura 2000 Management Plans	as soon as possible	
Integrated study on the imbalance of sediment budgets in estuaries		
Review the definition of estuaries	as soon as possible	ETC, EC
Establish Estuaries network for knowledge exchange	2017/2018	all MS
TIDE project scale up or follow-up	2017/2018	Expert Network

Subjects for follow-up proposed in the Habitat Group on Wet & dry grasslands

What?	When?	Where/Who?
Habitats: 6230, 6410 and 6210 are designated but scattered in landscape – transfer knowledge on how they are managed and how to get them managed by farming practices (also from already ongoing projects) would be useful.	2017	
Habitat 6510 is more common habitat, wide spread in territory but declining. A political solution for the improvement of the conservation status for this habitat is perhaps linked to CAP (revision). A workshop to exchange information and projects results for this habitat type would be welcome (possibly combined for the Atlantic and Continental regions).	2017/2018	BE or DE
General Knowledge transfer – a workshop involving farmers and scientists to bring together technical knowledge and translate into operational (in simple language). The results of such workshop could inform the creation of hybrid (management / results based) payment schemes	2018	IE

Subjects for follow-up proposed in the Habitat Group on Heaths & bogs

What?	When?	Where/Who?
In order to continue to share experiences and knowledge, place relevant information on the Natura 2000 Knowledge Platform and alert colleagues to the location;	ongoing	
Discuss scope for further collaboration between The Netherlands, Belgium and the UK (JNCC) about cross-boundary cooperation for monitoring and mitigation of Nitrogen deposition;	2017	NL, BE, UK
Promote dialogue and ask for collaboration with EC, ECNC and relevant MS in order to design joint project proposals.	2017 onwards	Atlantic region

⁴ For details of the activities see Annex VII Estuaries Workshop Recommendations

Subjects for follow-up proposed in the Habitat Group on Rivers & lakes

What?	When?	Where/Who?
Natura 2000 vs. WFD (objectives, planning)		
Preparing material about achieving positive interactions between the directives, - natural function, integrated biodiversity objectives, role of Natura 2000. Cross-biogeographical region approach.		EC
Build on advice from the meeting of the directors Water and Biodiversity in 2015 - use this document, improve if needed, write briefly in layman's language, translate to MSs languages.		EC
Communicate technical rationale about strategic interlinks between WFD and Natura 2000 to policy makers, partners, stakeholders.		Expert Network
Focus on the long term goals for Natura 2000 and work with WFD to identify short term measures in this context.		EC, Expert Network
Build in consideration of the Floods Directive		MS
Multi – agencies responsibility		
Outline best ways of cooperation between authorities.		DE, UK, NL
Promote a common language between biodiversity and water decision-making (key elements of natural function)		EC, Expert Network
Share and promote the outcomes of relevant LIFE and other projects		FI, UK, NL
Networking		
Continue cooperation in Atlantic region between seminars by setting up a well-structured sustainable network of experts, including participants of the seminar, (approach agencies, targeted call for experts on biogeographic mailing list, links with other regions).	ongoing	all Atlantic MS
Prepare a roadmap for the network to operate to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share knowledge between MSs and develop materials above • Communicate over technical consistency of approach to WFD and Natura 2000 habitats • Case studies collection showing how to solve listed problems • Use Eurosite Twinning programme 	2017	UK, DE

4 Closing plenary session

On the last day of this Second Atlantic Natura 2000 Seminar, Ms Silvia Donato from EASME gave a presentation on the LIFE programme and about the opportunities available through the LIFE programme to support the outcomes from biogeographical process. For illustration, she mentioned that there are already 193 ongoing or finished projects from Atlantic region so there is a great wealth of experience within the region.

The LIFE Programme is especially interested in:

- Long term sustainability of project outcomes;
- Replicability and transferability;
- EU added value.

Replicability and transferability are very important, as applicants need to make a greater effort in this area of work and really think about how others could use the results and outcomes of LIFE projects – including the lessons learned from negatives and difficulties. She highlighted that LIFE Environmental Governance and Information (GIE) strand will prioritise support to activities that stand out as coming from Natura 2000 Biogeographical seminars, as well as projects for sharing good practice and development of skills for Natura 2000 managers. Also projects aimed at developing and supporting the role of networks of volunteers with the aim of ensuring their long term contribution to the active management of the Natura 2000 network can be funded through this strand.

There will be a discussion in 2017 about the next Multi Annual Working Programme (2018-2020) and everyone's input is welcome.

Mr Bent Jepsen, LIFE Nature coordinator at NEEMO presented an overview of ongoing and finished projects in the Atlantic region. NEEMO is creating a knowledge base from all the projects and now this needs to be utilised in other Natura 2000 sites –the Biogeographical process is a great opportunity to share with others. Some wonderful examples of projects seen during the seminar are Burren and Arran LIFE projects where LIFE functioned as catalyser for further actions. Mr Jepsen presented an overview of LIFE projects in the Atlantic region per habitat groups. He also stressed the opportunity to apply for LIFE Integrated Projects Nature. These are large scale projects with many beneficiaries (up to 10) and targeted specifically at working with stakeholders and should have outreaches to neighbouring countries. They are often targeting implementation of the national PAFs.

Linked to the LIFE home page there is a LIFE Database of projects, Reports and management guidelines. Additionally, LIFE indicators database will be launched in 2017. If preparing new LIFE proposals it is always good to look at previous life projects.

The LIFE team is open to hearing the needs from users and if there are some broken links within the database they would like to hear about it and will try to follow up and fix these.

The full presentations of this session can be found on a dedicated page for the Atlantic region on the Natura 2000 Platform:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/platform/knowledge_base/143_atlantic_region_en.htm#NBP.

All LIFE projects can be found in a LIFE database:

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/project/Projects/>. General information about LIFE can be found here: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/about/>.

The outcomes of the four thematic working groups and the four habitat working groups were presented by the chairs or facilitators of the respective groups and shortly discussed by all seminar participants. These working group outcomes are discussed earlier in this report.

The presentations of the four thematic and habitat working group results were followed by an expression of thanks by Rebecca Jeffrey on behalf of the Irish host, National Parks and Wildlife Service, to her own team, to the contractors' team and to the European Commission.

Micheal O'Brien, Deputy Head of Unit for Nature Protection at DG Environment of the European Commission expressed his thanks to everyone involved, the hosts – NPWS, the Contractor, all the delegates and his own team. He reflected on the Seminar as being a courageous and brave enjoyable and very rich experience. He pointed out the four fieldtrips as the superb entry point to the Seminar. He reminded all that this Seminar is a part of an ongoing process and part of journey of working together – Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process. These events provide a unique opportunity to step back and look at range of common issues, especially on the thematic issues and wider perspectives, so are, therefore, very useful and valuable. It is all about working together, co-operation and learning from each other of things that have and haven't worked. He stated that the Commission would like this to be the basis of continuing action in the frame of an Atlantic road map. Finally he summarised the results of the work over the past three days in a few short take home messages:

- Things learnt bring back to home;
- There will be Action points with practical activities coming out of this event;
- The identified priorities will feed into the LIFE programme;
- LIFE should be used to address bigger scale projects;
- Volunteers Programme should be tapped in to for Natura 2000
- We should not reinvent the wheel as we all have common goals – promote the work at a European level;
- Low Hanging Fruit – gains not picked up at macro level so focus on successes to show progress.

Neil McIntosh, the lead coordinator of the seminar, also thanked everyone on behalf of the contractor's team for a great cooperation on every step of the way. He gave some concluding remarks before the seminar was officially closed.

Annexes

Annex I Habitats selected in the Atlantic Biogeographical process

Coastal and dunes (including estuaries)			
Habitats Directive code	Habitat name	Low Hanging Fruit	Priority consideration habitat
1130	Estuaries		Yes
1230	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts	Yes	
1310	<i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonizing mud and sand		Yes
1340*	Inland salt meadows	Yes	
1420	Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (<i>Sarcocornetea fruticosi</i>)	Yes	
2120	Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ("white dunes")		Yes
2130*	Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes")		Yes
2140*	Decalcified fixed dunes with <i>Empetrum nigrum</i>	Yes	
2180	Wooded dunes of the Atlantic, Continental and Boreal region	Yes	
2190	Humid dune slacks		Yes
Wet and dry grasslands			
Habitats Directive code	Habitat name	Low Hanging Fruit	Priority consideration habitat
6210	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (* important orchid sites)		Yes

6230*	Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on silicious substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas in Continental Europe)		Yes
6410	<i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>)		Yes
6440	Alluvial meadows of river valleys of the <i>Cnidion dubii</i>	Yes	
6510	Lowland hay meadows (<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i> , <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i>)		Yes
1330	Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae</i>)		Yes
Heaths and bogs			
Habitats Directive code	Habitat name	Low Hanging Fruit	Priority consideration habitat
4010	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i>	Yes	Yes
4030	European dry heaths		Yes
5230*	Arborescent matorral with <i>Laurus nobilis</i>	Yes	
7110*	Active raised bogs		Yes
7140	Transition mires and quaking bogs		Yes
7230	Alkaline fens		Yes
Rivers and lakes			
Habitats Directive code	Habitat name	Low Hanging Fruit	Priority consideration habitat
3110	Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>)	Yes	Yes
3130	Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or of the <i>Isoëto-Nanojuncetea</i>		Yes
3140	Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara</i> spp.	Yes	
3150	Natural eutrophic lakes with <i>Magnopotamion</i> or <i>Hydrocharition</i> - type vegetation		Yes
3180	Turloughs	Yes	

3260	Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation		Yes
3270	Rivers with muddy banks with <i>Chenopodion rubri</i> p.p. and <i>Bidention</i> p.p. vegetation	Yes	
91E0	Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i>)		Yes
Other habitats – woodland and forests			
Habitats Directive code	Habitat name	Low Hanging Fruit	Priority consideration habitat
9110	<i>Luzulo-Fagetum</i> beech forests	Yes	
9130	<i>Asperulo-Fagetum</i> beech forests	Yes	
9150	Medio-European limestone beech forests of the <i>Cephalanthero-Fagion</i>	Yes	
91A0	Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles	Yes	
91C0*	Caledonian forest	Yes	
91J0	<i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of the British Isles	Yes	
9260	<i>Castanea sativa</i> woods	Yes	

Annex II European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity: Low Hanging Fruits methodology

This annex updates the 20 previously identified priority consideration Atlantic habitat-types using 2013 Article 17 data and the results of applying the Low Hanging Fruit approach. The document is available via:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/platform/knowledge_base/143_atlantic_region_en.htm#NBP .

This version is similar to the Annex of the input document of this second Atlantic Natura 2000 Seminar.

Annex III Programme of the second Atlantic Natura 2000 Seminar

DAY 0: Monday 24 October 2016

- Arrival of participants

DAY 1: Tuesday 25 October 2016

<i>Time</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Description/ Session objective</i>
07:45	Pre-seminar briefing meeting	Only for chairs, facilitators and other key actors
08.00 to 09.00	Registration	
09.00 to 10.00	Official welcome & introductory statements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Ciaran O’Keeffe, Director National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS), Ireland • Dr Micheal O’Briain, Deputy Head of Nature Protection Unit, European Commission, DG Environment. 	
	The Natura 2000 Biogeographical Seminar Process in its strategic context <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr François Kremer, Policy Coordinator Natura 2000, European Commission, DG Environment. 	Present the seminar and its context, along with the approach and methods to be used
	Overview of the seminar programme and the thematic working groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Neil McIntosh, ECNC 	Thematic groups are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated management approaches to Natura 2000 • Adaptive approaches to agriculture and nature conservation • Communication and stakeholder engagement • Setting conservation priorities
	Introduction to the site visits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Andy Bleasdale, Scientific Unit NPWS, Ireland 	The site visits provide participants with an opportunity to see ‘on the ground’ the threats and issues, management practices and management planning approaches being applied in different Natura 2000 sites. Experts and guides will provide overviews of the current status and condition of visited habitats, describe conservation objectives and measures and explain the features and management regimes. However, this is also an opportunity for participants to share experiences about related issues and management approaches in their countries.
10.00 to 10.30	Coffee break	
10.30 to 18.30 approx.	Site visits Departures from Falls Hotel by coaches	PLEASE BRING WATERPROOF OUTDOOR CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR. ALSO, PARTICIPANTS SHOULD BRING THEIR CAMERAS AND BINOCULARS.

<i>Time</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Description/ Session objective</i>
	1. Coastal - the north coast of Co. Clare	This trip will track around the Atlantic-facing north Clare coast taking in a variety of habitats including cliffs, estuaries, dunes, lagoons, shingle and reef. Issues include visitor management, managing dynamic coastal habitats, aquaculture and port development. The return trip will be through the high Burren.
	2. Wetlands and peatlands- east Clare, Galway	This trip will head east to visit the peatlands of the Slieve Aughty mountains and Coole Park, which hosts a complex of habitats, including turloughs and limestone pavements. Issues include afforestation, wind farms, land abandonment, peat-cutting, flooding and management for hen harrier. The return trip will be through the high Burren.
	3. Grasslands and associated habitats of the Burren	This trip will visit Mullaghmore in the Burren National Park and farms that are participating in the BurrenLIFE agri-environmental programme. Habitats that will be encountered include limestone pavements, species-rich grasslands, fens and woodlands. Issues include balancing visitor access, nature conservation and archaeological priorities, stakeholder engagement, grazing management and results-based agri-environmental schemes
	4. Aran Islands (NB weather dependent! An alternative option will be available in the event that this site visit is cancelled)	This trip will visit Inis Oírr via a ferry from the village of Doolin. This is the smallest island of the three Aran Islands where a LIFE project is currently underway. AranLIFE aims to develop best conservation management practices in conjunction with local farmers. Habitats include limestone pavements, species-rich grasslands and machair. Issues include living and working in a designated island landscape, grazing management and land abandonment
19:00 to 21:00	Knowledge Market The Knowledge Market will be officially opened by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irish hosts' representative(s); and, • Dr Micheal O'Briain, Deputy Head of Nature Protection Unit, European Commission, DG Environment. Following the official opening, a buffet and drinks reception will be served.	This interactive networking session is designed to stimulate discussion between Seminar participants, share and gather information, and to provide useful inputs for further projects, collaborations and co-operations. Recognising the important contributions and new opportunities from the LIFE Programme, the Knowledge Market will include completed or ongoing LIFE Projects in the Atlantic Region, as well as LIFE Programme information. Participants are invited in advance to provide information material about (planned, ongoing or concluded) relevant Natura 2000 projects or related work. This may (but need not) be a poster and information folder/flyer. This is an informal information gathering opportunity – there are no presentations in plenary. Anyone attending the Seminar and interested to have space at the Knowledge Market should indicate this on the registration form, which will be provided shortly. Representatives from local stakeholder organisations and producers of local products will also be invited to this session.

DAY 2: Wednesday 26 October 2016		
Time	Activity	Description/ Session objective
09.00 to 09.30	Setting management of Natura 2000 in an Atlantic Biogeographic context <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Andy Bleasdale, Scientific Unit NPWS, Ireland Overview of Low Hanging Fruits (LHF) method <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Douglas Evans, ETC/BD 	Introducing some typical issues surrounding management of Natura 2000 habitat and species in the Atlantic Region, reflecting on the field visits of the previous day
09.30 to 10.30	Four presentations to focus on themes of current interest <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated management of estuaries, Mr Christian Michalczyk, Hamburg Ministry of Environment and Energy • Management of dunes, Mr Luc Geelen, Waternet, NL • Controlling nitrogen deposition, Ms Clare Whitfield, JNCC • Stakeholder engagement in the Burren, Dr Brendan Dunford 	Includes outcomes from the most recent events in the Atlantic Region – integrated management of estuaries; coastal and inland dune habitats and nitrogen Deposition.
10.30 to 11.00	Coffee break	
11.00 to 13.00	Thematic working groups	<i>Four Thematic Working Groups will work in parallel to identify common issues and potential practical solutions</i>
	1. Integrated management approaches to Natura 2000 Chair: Dr Chris Mainstone	Theme includes development of integrated management plans and management for multiple benefits, such as flood mitigation; coastal zone management
	2. Adaptive approaches to agriculture and nature conservation Chair: Dr James Moran	Theme includes approaches to tackling nitrogen deposition; locally-led and results-based agri-environmental schemes
	3. Communication & stakeholder engagement Chair: Ms Anita Prosser Presentation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citizen Science – Ms Karin Dubsy, Coastwatch 	Theme includes approaches to initiating and continuing communication; dealing with conflict
	4. Setting conservation objectives Chair: Dr Douglas Evans Presentation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FRV –outline of the EC study - Dr.Ir. Rienk-Jan Bijlsma, Wageningen UR, NL 	Theme includes identification of “low-hanging fruit”; setting conservation objectives at different scales; dealing with potentially conflicting conservation priorities
13.00 to 14.15	Lunch	

14.15 to 15.45	Habitat working groups- session 1	<i>Four Habitat Working Groups will work in parallel to focus on issues of particular relevance to their group</i>
	1. Coastal- dunes & estuaries <i>Chair: Mr Luc Geelen, Waternet, NL - Coastal and dunes; Mr Christian Michalczyk, Hamburg Ministry of Environment and Energy - Estuaries</i>	Aim is to identify future management issues and common priorities, particularly ones common to Atlantic region
	2. Wet & dry grasslands <i>Chair: Dr James Moran</i>	
	3. Heaths & bogs <i>Chair: Dr Greg Mudge</i>	
	4. Rivers & lakes <i>Chair: Dr Chris Mainstone</i>	
15.45 to 16.15	Coffee break	
16.15 to 18.00	Habitat working groups- session 2	<i>Four Habitat Working Groups continue to work in parallel</i>
	1. Coastal - dunes & estuaries	Explore practical solutions for issues identified; focus on scope for collaboration and co-operation
	2. Wet & dry grasslands	
	3. Heaths & bogs	
	4. Rivers & lakes	
19.30	Gala dinner and entertainment	

DAY 3: Thursday 27 October 2016

<i>08.00 to 09.00</i>	<i>Finalise presentations</i>	<i>For working group chairs and facilitators only!</i>
Time	Activity	Description/ Session objective
9.00 to 9.10	Recap on day 2 and introduction to day 3 <i>Mr Neil McIntosh, ECNC</i>	
09.10 to 09.30	The LIFE Programme <i>Ms Silvia Donato, EASME</i> <i>Mr Bent Jepsen, NEEMO</i>	Opportunities available through the LIFE Programme to support implementation of activities identified by Atlantic Seminar participants.

09.30 to 11.00	<p>Thematic & Habitat Working Groups feedback and discussion</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Integrated management approaches to Natura 2000</i> 2. <i>Adaptive approaches to agriculture and nature conservation</i> 3. <i>Communication & stakeholder engagement</i> 4. <i>Setting conservation objectives</i> 5. Coastal dunes & estuaries 6. Wet & dry grasslands 7. Heaths & bogs 8. Rivers & lakes <p>Following the groups' feedback, there will be time for questions and plenary discussion.</p>	<p>The main aim of this session is to report each Thematic & Habitat Working Group's discussions and, where possible, confirm cooperation actions identified for implementation in future.</p> <p>The feedback will focus on the key points and the outcomes achieved and agreed by each groups' participants during Day 2.</p> <p>Each theme has been notionally 'linked' to a specific Habitat Group where that theme is recognised as being a particularly important issue: however, of course, the themes transcend habitats and will be open for discussion in this plenary session.</p>
11.00-11.30	Coffee break	
11.30 to 12.15	<p>Atlantic seminar closing session</p> <p>Following a plenary discussion, the floor will be given to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Rebecca Jeffrey, Scientific Unit NPWS, Ireland • Dr Micheal O'Briain, Deputy Head of Nature Protection Unit, European Commission, DG Environment <p>Note of thanks</p>	<p>Reflecting on the feedback and earlier discussion, this final session aims to summarise outcomes, in particular noting specific cooperation actions identified on agreed common priorities.</p>
12.15 to 14.00	Lunch	<p>Note that a bus transfer to Dublin Airport will leave the hotel at 12.30 prompt. A packed lunch will be arranged with the hotel. The journey time is approximately 3 hours 30 minutes – the estimated arrival time at Dublin Airport is therefore 16.00. All participants wishing to use this service must ensure that they have sufficient time to check-in at Dublin Airport for their return flight.</p>
14.00	Other departures	

Annex IV List of participants of the second Atlantic Natura 2000 Seminar

Coastal- dunes & estuaries

Name	Organization	Country	Email
Joost Backx	Rijkswaterstaat	Netherlands	joost.backx@rws.nl
Jeroen Bot	Agency for Nature and Forest	Belgium	jeroen.bot@lne.vlaanderen.be
Julie Creer	Natural Resources Wales	United Kingdom - Wales	julie.creer@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk
Sheila Downes	Clare County Council	Ireland	sdownes@clarecoco.ie
Manuel Fernandes	Quercus - Associação Nacional de Conservação da Natureza	Portugal	mmfernand@gmail.com
Pat Foley	National Parks & Wildlife Service	Kerry	pat.foley@ahg.gov.ie
Karen Gaynor	National Parks & Wildlife Service	Ireland	karen.gaynor@ahg.gov.ie
Luc Geelen	Waternet	The Netherlands	luc.geelen@waternet.nl
Carol Gleeson	GeoparkLIFE, Clare County Council	Ireland	cgleeson@burren.ie
Frank Gorissen	ECNC	Netherlands	gorissen@ecnc.org
John Houston	NEEMO LIFE team	UK	john.houston@neemo.eu
Leo Jalink	Provincie Zuid-Holland (South Holland)	The Netherlands	lm.jalink@pzh.nl
Francois Kremer	European Commission	Belgium	francois.kremer@ec.europa.eu
Yvonne Leahy	National Parks & Wildlife Service	Ireland	yvonne.leahy@ahg.gov.ie
Christian Michalczyk	Hamburg Ministry for Environment and Energy	Germany	Christian.Michalczyk@bue.hamburg.de

Gunther Van Ryckegeem	Research Institute for Nature and Forest	Belgium	gunther.vanryckegeem@inbo.be
Sandrine Vasseur	The "Conservatoire du littoral" saving the French coast	France	s.vasseur@conservatoire-du-littoral.fr
Paul Rooney	Liverpool Hope University	UK	rooneyp@hope.ac.uk
Karin Dubsy	Coastwatch Europe	Ireland	kdubsy@coastwatch.org
Seamus Hassett	National Parks & Wildlife Service	Ireland	
Jean-Louis Herrier	Agency of Nature and Forests of the Flemish Government	Belgium	jeanlouis.herrier@lne.vlaanderen.be

Wet & dry grasslands

Name	Organization	Country	Email
Thomas Biéro	DREAL of Normandy	France	Thomas.BIERO@developpement-durable.gouv.fr
Andy Bleasdale	National Parks & Wildlife Service	Ireland	andy.bleasdale@ahg.gov.ie
Winnie Brøndum	SEGES	Denmark	whb@seges.dk
Kristijan Civic	Eurosite	The Netherlands	kcivic@eurosite.org
Alex Datema	BoerenNatuur.nl (Farmersnature.nl)	Netherlands	a.w.datema@gmail.com
Silvia Donato	EASME	Belgium	Silvia.Donato@ec.europa.eu
Brendan Dunford	Burren Programme	Ireland	brendan@burrenlife.com
Patrick Dunne	Irish Farmers' Association	Ireland	ciaranagle@ifa.ie
Piera Fehres	Province Noord-Brabant	The Netherlands	pfehres@brabant.nl
Jennifer Fulton	Ulster Wildlife	N Ireland	JENNIFER.FULTON@ULSTERWILDLIFE.ORG
Micheal O'Briain	EC	Belgium	Micheal.O'Briain@ec.europa.eu

Ewoud L'Amiral	Natuurpunt	Belgium	ewoud.lamiral@natuurpunt.be
Neil McIntosh	ECNC	The Netherlands	mcintosh@ecnc.org
Enda Mooney	National Parks & Wildlife Service	Ireland	enda.mooney@ahg.gov.ie
James Moran	Institute of Technology Sligo	Ireland	moran.james@itsligo.ie
Ruth Oldenbruch	Ministry of Environment	Germany	ruth.oldenbruch@bmub.bund.de
Sharon Parr	Burren Programme	Ireland	sharon@burrenlife.com
Guillaume Planche	LPO France	France	guillaume.planche@lpo.fr
Valérie Vandenabeele	Aanspreekpunt Privaat Beheer - Natuur en Bos & Hubertus Vereniging Vlaanderen	Belgium	valerie.vandenabeele@privaatbeheer.be
Olaf von Drachenfels	NLWKN	Germany	Olaf.Drachenfels@nlwkn-H.Niedersachsen.de
Jerome Walsh	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	Ireland	Jerome.walsh@agriculture.gov.ie
Clare Whitfield	Joint Nature Conservation Committee	UK	clare.whitfield@jncc.gov.uk
Lionel Wibail	Public Service of Wallonia	Belgium	lionel.wibail@spw.wallonie.be
Barry O'Donoghue	National Parks & Wildlife Service	Ireland	Barry.O'Donoghue@ahg.gov.ie
Hendrik Siebel	Natuurmonumenten	Netherlands	H.Siebel@Natuurmonumenten.nl
Sara McGuckin	Northern Ireland Environment Agency	N Ireland	sara.mcguckin@daera-ni.gov.uk
Søren Ring	The Danish Bird Protection Foundation	Denmark	soren.ring@dof.dk
Lorna Grenan	National Parks and Wildlife Service	Ireland	

Heaths & bogs

Name	Organization	Country	Email
Rienk-Jan Bijlsma	Wageningen University & Research	Netherlands	rienkjan.bijlsma@wur.nl
Geert De Blust	Research Institute for Nature and Forest - INBO	Belgium	geert.deblust@inbo.be
René de Vries	Ministry of Economic Affairs	Netherlands	r.devries@minez.nl
Caitriona Douglas	National Parks and Wildlife Service	Ireland	caitriona.douglas@gmail.com
Maurice Eakin	National Parks and Wildlife Service	Ireland	Maurice.eakin@ahg.gov.ie
Douglas Evans	European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity	France	evans@mnhn.fr
Julie Fossitt	National Parks and Wildlife Service	Ireland	julie.fossitt@ahg.gov.ie
Mark McCorry	Bord na Mona	Ireland	Mark.McCorry @bnm.ie
Greg Mudge	Scottish Natural Heritage	Scotland, UK	greg.mudge@snh.gov.uk
Desiré Paelinckx	Research Institute for Nature and Forest	Belgium	desire.paelinckx@inbo.be
Jan Pedersen	Danish Nature Conservation Society	Denmark	jap@dn.dk
Stefania Petrosillo	EUROPARC Federation	Belgium	Boulevard Louis Schmidt 64, 1040 Brussels
Sebastian Schmidt	Bezirksregierung Münster	Germany	Sebastian.schmidt@brms.nrw.de
Julien Taymans	Natagora asbl	Belgium	julien.taymans@natagora.be
Attracta Uí Bhroin	IEN	Ireland	attracta@ien.ie
Lars Dinesen	Agency for Water and Nature Conservation	Denmark	ladin@svana.dk
Joe Condon	Irish Hill Farmers	Ireland	
Ciaran O’Keeffe	National Parks and Wildlife Service	Ireland	ciaran.okeeffe@ahg.gov.ie
Ctibor Kocman	European Commission	Belgium	Ctibor.KOCMAN@ec.europa.eu

Rivers & lakes

Name	Organization	Country	Email
Annemiek Adams	Ministry of Economic Affairs	Netherlands	a.s.adams@minez.nl
Carsten Burggraf	german landcare association: Wasser Otter Mensch/ DVL	Germany	burggraf@wasser-otter-mensch.de

Bastien Coignon	Ministry of Environment Energy and Sea	France	bastien.coignon@developpement- durable.gouv.fr
William Cormacan	National Parks and Wildlife Service	Ireland	William.Cormacan@ahg.gov.ie
Luc Denys	Research Institute for Nature and Forest (INBO)	Belgium	luc.denys@inbo.be
Cathryn Hannon	National Parks & Wildlife Service	Ireland	cathryn.hannon@ahg.gov.ie
Bent Jepsen	NEEMO	Belgium	bent.jepsen@neemo.eu
John Kerr	Scottish Natural Heritage	UK	john.kerr@snh.gov.uk
Monika Kotulak	CEEweb for Biodiversity	Hungary / Poland	kotulak@gmail.com
Ludovic Le Maresquier	European Commission	Belgium	ludovic.le- maresquier@ec.europa.eu
Stefan Lehrke	Federal Agency für Nature Conservation (BfN)	Germany	stefan.lehrke@bfn.de
Chris Mainstone	Natural England	UK	chris.mainstone@naturalengland.or g.uk
Ferdia Marnell	National Parks and Wildlife Service	Ireland	ferdia.marnell@ahg.gov.ie
Tirza Molegraaf	Association of the provinces of the Netherlands	The Netherlands	tmolegraaf@ipo.nl
Áine O' Connor	National Parks and Wildlife Service	Ireland	aine.oconnor@ahg.gov.ie
Anita Prosser	Europarc Atlantic Isles	UK	anita.prosser@europarc-ai.org
Wayne Trodd	Environmental Protection Agency	Ireland	w.trodd@epa.ie

Integrated management approaches to Natura 2000

Name	Organization	Country	Email
Joost Backx	Rijkswaterstaat	Netherlands	joost.backx@rws.nl

Carsten Burggraf	german landcare association: Wasser Otter Mensch/ DVL	Germany	burggraf@wasser-otter-mensch.de
Bastien Coignon	Ministry of Environment Energy and Sea	France	bastien.coignon@developpement-durable.gouv.fr
Julie Creer	Natural Resources Wales	United Kingdom - Wales	julie.creer@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk
Geert De Blust	Research Institute for Nature and Forest - INBO	Belgium	geert.deblust@inbo.be
Caitriona Douglas	National Parks and Wildlife Service	Ireland	caitriona.douglas@gmail.com
Sheila Downes	Clare County Council	Ireland	sdownes@clarecoco.ie
Patrick Dunne	Irish Farmers' Association	Ireland	ciaranagle@ifa.ie
Pat Foley	National Parks & Wildlife Service	Kerry	pat.foley@ahg.gov.ie
Carol Gleeson	GeoparkLIFE, Clare County Council	Ireland	cgleeson@burren.ie
Cathryn Hannon	National Parks & Wildlife Service	Ireland	cathryn.hannon@ahg.gov.ie
John Houston	NEEMO LIFE team	UK	john.houston@neemo.eu
Leo Jalink	Provincie Zuid-Holland (South Holland)	The Netherlands	lm.jalink@pzh.nl
Bent Jepsen	NEEMO	Belgium	bent.jepsen@neemo.eu
Monika Kotulak	CEEweb for Biodiversity	Hungary / Poland	kotulak@gmail.com
Chris Mainstone	Natural England	UK	chris.mainstone@naturalengland.org.uk
Neil McIntosh	ECNC	The Netherlands	mcintosh@ecnc.org
Christian Michalczyk	Hamburg Ministry for Environment and Energy	Germany	Christian.Michalczyk@bue.hamburg.de

Áine O Connor	National Parks and Wildlife Service	Ireland	aine.oconnor@ahg.gov.ie
Hendrik Siebel	Natuurmonumenten	Netherlands	H.Siebel@Natuurmonumenten.nl
Paul Rooney	Liverpool Hope University	UK	rooney@hope.ac.uk

Adaptive approaches to agriculture and nature conservation

Name	Organization	Country	Email
Thomas Biéro	DREAL of Normandy	France	Thomas.BIERO@developpement-durable.gouv.fr
Jeroen Bot	Agency for Nature and Forest	Belgium	jeroen.bot@lne.vlaanderen.be
Winnie Brøndum	SEGES	Denmark	whb@seges.dk
Kristijan Civic	Eurosite	The Netherlands	kcivic@eurosite.org
William Cormacan	National Parks and Wildlife Service	Ireland	William.Cormacan@ahg.gov.ie
Alex Datema	BoerenNatuur.nl (Farmersnature.nl)	Netherlands	a.w.datema@gmail.com
Jennifer Fulton	Ulster Wildlife	N IRELAND	jennifer.fulton@ulsterwildlife.org
John Kerr	Scottish Natural Heritage	UK	john.kerr@snh.gov.uk
Micheal O'Briain	EC	Belgium	Micheal.O'Briain@ec.europa.eu
Sara Mcguckin	Northern Ireland Environment Agency	N Ireland	sara.mcguckin@daera-ni.gov.uk
Tirza Molegraaf	Association of the provinces of the Netherlands	The Netherlands	tmolegraaf@ipo.nl
James Moran	Institute of Technology Sligo	Ireland	moran.james@itsligo.ie
Sharon Parr	Burren Programme	Ireland	sharon@burrenlife.com
Guillaume Planche	LPO France	France	guillaume.planche@lpo.fr
Julien Taymans	Natagora asbl	Belgium	julien.taymans@natagora.be

Olaf Von Drachenfels	NLWKN	Germany	Olaf.Drachenfels@nlwkn-H.Niedersachsen.de
Jerome Walsh	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	Ireland	Jerome.walsh@agriculture.gov.ie
Clare Whitfield	Joint Nature Conservation Committee	UK	clare.whitfield@jncc.gov.uk
Søren Ring	The Danish Bird Protection Foundation	Denmark	soren.ring@dof.dk
Emma Glanville	National Parks and Wildlife Service	Ireland	
Enda Mooney	National Parks and Wildlife Service	Ireland	enda.mooney@ahg.gov.ie
Lorna Grenan	National Parks and Wildlife Service	Ireland	

Communication and stakeholder engagement thematic group

Name	Organization	Country	Email
Andy Bleasdale	National Parks and Wildlife Service	Ireland	andy.bleasdale@ahg.gov.ie
René de Vries	Ministry of Economic Affairs	Netherlands	r.devries@minez.nl
Brendan Dunford	Burren Programme	Ireland	brendan@burrenlife.com
Maurice Eakin	National Parks and Wildlife Service	Ireland	Maurice.eakin@ahg.gov.ie
Manuel Fernandes	Quercus - Associação Nacional de Conservação da Natureza	Portugal	mmfernand@gmail.com
Francois Kremer	European Commission	Belgium	francois.kremer@ec.europa.eu
Ewoud L'Amiral	Natuurpunt	Belgium	ewoud.lamiral@natuurpunt.be
Barry O'Donoghue	National Parks and Wildlife Service	Ireland	Barry.O'Donoghue@ahg.gov.ie

Stefania Petrosillo	EUROPARC Federation	Belgium	Boulevard Louis Schmidt 64, 1040 Brussels
Anita Prosser	Europarc Atlantic Isles	UK	anita.prosser@europarc-ai.org
Valérie Vandenaabeele	Aanspreekpunt Privaat Beheer - Natuur en Bos & Hubertus Vereniging Vlaanderen	Belgium	valerie.vandenaabeele@privaatbeheer.be
Karin Dubsky	Coastwatch Europe	Ireland	kdubsky@coastwatch.org
Silvia Donato	EASME	Belgium	Silvia.Donato@ec.europa.eu
Luc Geelen	Waternet	The Netherlands	luc.geelen@waternet.nl
Mark McCorry	Bord na Mona	Ireland	Mark.McCorry @bnm.ie
Joe Condon	Hill Farmers Association	Ireland	

Setting conservation objectives

Name	Organization	Country	Email
Annemiek Adams	Ministry of Economic Affairs	Netherlands	a.s.adams@minez.nl
Rienk-Jan Bijlsma	Wageningen University & Research	Netherlands	rienkjan.bijlsma@wur.nl
Luc Denys	Research Institute for Nature and Forest (INBO)	Belgium	luc.denys@inbo.be
Douglas Evans	European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity	France	evans@mnhn.fr
Piera Fehres	Province Noord-Brabant	The Netherlands	pfehres@brabant.nl
Julie Fossitt	National Parks and Wildlife Service	Ireland	julie.fossitt@ahg.gov.ie
Karen Gaynor	National Parks and Wildlife Service	Ireland	karen.gaynor@ahg.gov.ie
Frank Gorissen	ECNC	Netherlands	gorissen@ecnc.org
Ludovic Le	European Commission	Belgium	ludovic.le-

Maresquier			maresquier@ec.europa.eu
Stefan Lehrke	Federal Agency für Nature Conservation (BfN)	Germany	stefan.lehrke@bfn.de
Greg Mudge	Scottish Natural Heritage	Scotland, UK	greg.mudge@snh.gov.uk
Ruth Oldenbruch	Ministry of Environment	Germany	ruth.oldenbruch@bmub.bund.de
Desiré Paelinckx	Research Institute for Nature and Forest	Belgium	desire.paelinckx@inbo.be
Jan Pedersen	Danish Nature Conservation Society	Denmark	jap@dn.dk
Sebastian Schmidt	Bezirksregierung Münster	Germany	Sebastian.schmidt@brms.nrw.de
Wayne Trodd	Environmental Protection Agency	Ireland	w.trodd@epa.ie
Attracta Uí Bhroin	IEN	Ireland	attracta@ien.ie
Gunther Van Ryckegem	Research Institute for Nature and Forest	Belgium	gunther.vanryckegem@inbo.be
Sandrine Vasseur	The "Conservatoire du littoral" saving the French coast	France	s.vasseur@conservatoire-du-littoral.fr
Lionel Wibail	Public Service of Wallonia	Belgium	lionel.wibail@spw.wallonie.be
Jean-Louis Herrier	Agency of Nature and Forests of the Flemish Government	Belgium	jeanlouis.herrier@lne.vlaanderen.be
Lars Dinesen	Agency for Water and Nature Conservation	Denmark	ladin@svana.dk
Ciaran O'Keeffe	National Parks and Wildlife Service	Ireland	ciaran.okeeffe@ahg.gov.ie
Ferdia Marnell	National Parks and Wildlife Service	Ireland	ferdia.marnell@ahg.gov.ie
Thomas Defoort	Agentschap voor Natuur	Belgium	

en Bos			
Rebecca Jeffrey	National Parks and Wildlife Service	Ireland	
Yvonne Leahy	National Parks and Wildlife Service	Ireland	yvonne.leahy@ahg.gov.ie

Annex V Projects presented at the Knowledge Market

List of Knowledge Market presentations

1. The Natura 2000 biogeographical process
2. The Eurosite network and its current activities
3. Promoting synergies in decision-making between biodiversity and water decision-making; Strategic physical restoration of Natura and other specially protected rivers, UK
4. BurrenLIFE – farming for conservation in the Burren, Ireland
5. Information about the organization for private management and the hunting organization, Belgium
6. Dune challenges in a European context
7. Various LIFE projects, Belgium
8. Present information on a range of projects
9. An introduction to the History and Work of the Irish Wildlife Trust
10. State of knowledge and research projects on the west coast of Normandy, France
11. Various posters and publications, the Netherlands
12. Information about several projects concerning management of Natura 2000 sites in the Atlantic Region of Germany
13. The Natura 2000 website incubator in France, the example of Charente river
14. From legislation to implementation: The Hamburg strategy for improving the conservation status of habitat types and species under the EU Habitats Directive in the Elbe estuary, Germany
15. Poster: Bezirksregierung Münster, Germany
16. Sands of LIFE (LIFE16 NAT/UK/000571), United Kingdom
17. Fact sheet on socio-economy benefits of Natura 2000
18. Information on LIFE11 ENV/IE/922 GeoparkLIFE
19. Bord na Mona's work on biodiversity and bog rehabilitation
20. Current LIFE project and calls for cooperation on future LIFE projects, Denmark
21. Activities and projects of Quercus ANCN, Portugal
22. LIFE Programme
23. National Parks & Wildlife Service, Ireland
24. RBAPS
25. AmmoniaN2K, Ireland
26. AranLIFE, Ireland
27. HNV LINK

Descriptions of Knowledge Market presentations

1. The Natura 2000 biogeographical process

Information about the Natura 2000 biogeographical process will be presented.

Roll up banner/Other

Mr Neil McIntosh

ECNC, The Netherlands

E mcintosh@ecnc.org

2. The Eurosite network and its current activities

The Eurosite Network and its current activities are presented.

Publications/Laptop-based presentation

Mr Kristijan Civic

Eurosite, The Netherlands

E kcivic@eurosite.org

3. Promoting synergies in decision-making between biodiversity and water decision-making; Strategic physical restoration of Natura and other specially protected rivers, UK

Some presentations on the narrative produced by Natural England to promote synergies in decision-making between biodiversity and water decision-making (including between the Habitats Directive and Water Framework Directive). For example, our programme of strategic physical restoration of Natura and other specially protected rivers.

Poster/Laptop-based presentation

Mr Chris Mainstone

Natural England, United Kingdom

E chris.mainstone@naturalengland.org.uk

4. BurrenLIFE – farming for conservation in the Burren, Ireland

Background of the Burren project: the Burren on Ireland's western Atlantic coastline is a beautiful and unique area much of which is composed of priority habitats for conservation under the Habitats Directive. These habitats are significant repositories of wildlife and are valuable for farming, recreation and education. The Burren LIFE Project (BLP) focused its actions on private land and a limited area of State-owned land within the three main terrestrial SCIs that encompass over 30 000 ha of the Burren. Within this area there are sixteen Annex I habitats, five of them priority (limestone pavements, orchid-rich grasslands, petrifying springs, turloughs and *Cladium fens*). The exploitation of the land by generations of farmers, over 6 000 years, has ensured that large areas of limestone

pavements have remained free of scrub, creating a dramatic landscape. In spite of this long tradition of agriculture in the Burren, recent years have seen the withdrawal, restructuring and reduction of farming activity. This has led to the slow degradation of priority habitats through under-grazing, abandonment and the loss of land management traditions. Recent research has shown that traditional pastoral systems are integral to ensuring the presence of over 70% of Ireland's native flora in the region. The area did have its own agri-environment programme, the “Burren Rural Environment Protection Scheme”, but the recent CAP reforms brought an opportunity to design a new model for ‘conservation agriculture’ in the Burren.

On the knowledge marker, an overview of the Burren Programme and explanation about how it works will be given.

Publications/Roll up banner/Laptop-based presentation

Mr Brendan Dunford

Burren Programme

E brendan@burrenlife.com

5. Information about the organization for private management and the hunting organization, Belgium

The organization for private nature management and the hunting organization will be presented, their interest in nature management and how they see to manage implementation of Natura 2000 will be explained. In particular, the initiative of a private landowner to create heath and pools thanks to governmental funding for Natura 2000 investments will be shared. In addition, some examples of demotivating issues turning to incentives for private nature initiatives are given.

Poster/Publications/Laptop-based presentation

Ms Valérie Vandenabeele

Aanspreekpunt Privaat Beheer - Natuur en Bos & Hubertus Vereniging Vlaanderen, Belgium

E valerie.vandenabeele@privaatbeheer.be

6. Dune challenges in a European context

Reports of:

- Dynamic Dunes 2015
- Daring solutions for Natura 2000 challenges
- LIFE Platform meeting on sand dunes 2016

Although conservation projects are underway throughout Europe, the overall condition of European dunes is still alarming. This is the conclusion of the EU ‘State of Nature’ report published in 2015 through the Habitats Directive Article 17 process. Special attention was given to dune habitat challenges in a European context during the 2nd conference.

Publications

Mr Luc Geelen

Waternet, The Netherlands

E luc.geelen@waternet.nl

7. Various LIFE projects, Belgium

Publications about current LIFE-projects which Natagora benefits:

- LIFE Belgian Nature Integrated project
- LIFE in Quarries
- LIFE Pays Mosan
- LIFE Prairies bocagères
- LIFE Nard'us.

Publications

Mr Julien Taymans

Natagora asbl, Belgium

E julien.taymans@natagora.be

8. Present information on a range of projects

Present information on a range of projects including:

- Results Based Agri Environment Pilots Projects in Ireland (Shannon Callows and Leitrim) and Spain (Navarra);
- High Nature Value Farming: Learning, Innovation and Knowledge (HNV LINK) -an EU H2020 funded thematic network on High Nature Value Farming aimed at improving its socio-economic viability and environment efficiency.

Poster/Publications/Roll up banner

Mr James Moran

Institute of Technology Sligo, Ireland

E moran.james@itsligo.ie

9. An introduction to the History and Work of the Irish Wildlife Trust

Laptop-based presentation

Mr Seán Meehan

Irish Wildlife Trust, Ireland

E iwtvicechairman@gmail.com

10. State of knowledge and research projects on the west coast of Normandy, France

The "Havre de la Sienne" on the west coast of Normandy is, with Irish sites, a major wintering site for

the Eastern Canadian High Light-bellied Brent Goose. A state of knowledge and some research projects are explained on the poster.

Other information about French coastal programs in Normandy (habitats conservation, global warming, management plans...), are provided as well, in French.

Poster

Ms Sandrine Vasseur

"Conservatoire du littoral", saving the French coast, France

E s.vasseur@conservatoire-du-littoral.fr

11. Various posters and publications, the Netherlands

Various posters and publications:

- Information on OBN Knowledge Network for Nature Restoration and Management
http://www.natuurkennis.nl/index.php?actie=losse_paginas&id=8
- Information on the Marker Wadden: restoration of one of the largest freshwater lakes in Western Europe by constructing islands, marshes and mud flats from the sediments that have accumulated in the lake in recent decades.
<https://www.natuurmonumenten.nl/markers-wadden/english>
- Results of LIFE Platform Meeting on the restoration of coastal and inland dune habitats.
http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/platform/events/258_ecology_morphology_management_of_coastal_and_inland_dunes_en.htm
- Inspiring natural landscapes in a crowded country
- Viewing copies of books: Fanta & Siepel, 2010. Inland drift sand landscapes of Northwest Europe and: Diemont et al. 2013. Economy and Ecology of Heathlands.
- Possibly: information on the Dutch Approach to Nitrogen
- Maybe: Information on LIFE-IP Deltawateren (very recent...)
- Maybe: information on agri-environmental measures in the Netherlands"

Poster(s)/Publications

Ms Annemiek Adams

Ministry of Economic Affairs, Netherlands

E a.s.adams@minez.nl

Mr Rienk-Jan Bijlsma

Wageningen University & Research, the Netherlands

E rienkjan.bijlsma@wur.nl

12. Information about several projects concerning management of Natura 2000 sites in the Atlantic Region of Germany

A poster with short information about several projects concerning management of Natura 2000 sites in the Atlantic Region of Germany (e.g. Management concepts for selected species and habitats, LIFE-Project for oligotrophic habitats on sand, Strategy for the Habitat Directive of Hamburg)

Handouts about objectives, methods and selected results of a Research and Development Project (F+E), in which management concepts for 38 selected habitat types and 21 species of the German Atlantic region have been developed. All management concepts contain concrete suggestions for conservation measures refer to selected threats and pressures and intend to be recommendations for measures counteracting these negative factors. The recently completed project was supported by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) and funded by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB).

Poster/Other

Stefan Lehrke

Federal Agency für Nature Conservation (BfN), Germany

E stefan.lehrke@bfm.de

13. The Natura 2000 website incubator in France, the example of Charente river

Developed by a public organism, this incubator enables all Natura 2000 structures to create their own personalised website from the same template

Laptop-based presentation

Mr Guillaume Planche

LPO France

E guillaume.planche@lpo.fr

14. From legislation to implementation: The Hamburg strategy for improving the conservation status of habitat types and species under the EU Habitats Directive in the Elbe estuary, Germany

According to the third National Report of the EU Habitats Directive (2013), many of the habitat types and species in Germany are assessed as being in an unfavourable conservation status. To improve the status, the Hamburg authority for Environment and Energy developed a comprehensive Fauna-Flora-Habitats-Strategy (FFH-Strategy); for habitat types available since 2014 (<http://www.hamburg.de/ffh-strategie/>).

In the Metropole region Hamburg, the Elbe estuary extends along an approx. 150 km tidal stretch to the North Sea. Except the Hamburg port and some other industrial sites, the entire area is protected

under the Natura 2000 Network, including more than 50 conservation objectives. The present FFH-Strategy details profiles of habitat types in Hamburg, including data on the situation and specifies conservation measures to reach a favourable status.

One example for protected habitats along the Elbe estuary is residual alluvial forests (habitat type 91E0). Today, tidal softwood floodplain forests are fragmented due to urbanization since the last centuries and, more recently, tidal forests are exposed to increasing tidal amplitude and diverse effects of changes in estuarine hydro morphology. Implementing the FFH-Strategy, measures to restore estuarine tidal floodplain forest is required, planned and currently implemented. The FFH-Strategy and some restoration measures of willow softwood forests in tidal wetlands along the Elbe estuary will be presented in a poster.

Poster/Publications

Mr Christian Michalczyk

Hamburg Ministry for Environment and Energy, Germany

E Christian.Michalczyk@bue.hamburg.de

15. Poster: Bezirksregierung Münster, Germany

Poster

Mr Sebastian Schmidt

Bezirksregierung Münster, Germany

E Sebastian.schmidt@brms.nrw.de

16. Sands of LIFE (LIFE16 NAT/UK/000571), United Kingdom

The aim of this project is to seek favourable conservation status of Welsh sand dune habitats and species on key sites. It will create mobility in the dune landscape through restoration of geomorphological processes, by traditional land management and the removal of constraints including invasive alien species. Annex I sand dune habitats will be improved on 10 SSSI sites equating 2403ha (62%) of Welsh sand dune habitat in 4 Natura 2000 sites."

Poster

Ms Julie Creer

Natural Resources Wales, United Kingdom

E julie.creer@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk

17. Fact sheet on socio-economy benefits of Natura 2000

Publications

Ms Monika Kotulak

CEEweb for Biodiversity Hungary / Poland

E kotulak@gmail.com

18. Information on LIFE11 ENV/IE/922 GeoparkLIFE

A stall displaying information on LIFE11 ENV/IE/922 GeoparkLIFE, Tourism for Conservation in the Burren, containing examples of the actions with agencies, tourism businesses, community groups and natural and cultural site managers in the integrated management of tourism and conservation in the Burren.

Publications/Roll up banner

Ms Carol Gleeson

GeoparkLIFE, Clare County Council, Ireland

E cgleeson@burren.ie

19. Bord na Mona's work on biodiversity and bog rehabilitation

- Bord na Mona biodiversity action plan publication
- BnM biodiversity banner
- Poster about my work on cutaway bog rehabilitation.

Poster/Publications/Roll up banner

Mr Mark McCorry

Bord na Mona, Ireland

E Mark.McCorry@bnm.ie

20. Current LIFE project and calls for cooperation on future LIFE projects, Denmark

- Brief introduction to the foundations EU LIFE SMOOTH project - restoring 155 hectares of raised bog in SW Denmark
- Brief introduction and call for potential cooperation partners in England or Germany on an upcoming application for an EU LIFE project on coastal sea birds and stone reefs, with a focus on the westernmost part of the Baltic Sea.
- Brief introduction and call for potential cooperation partners in England, Scotland and Norway on an upcoming EU LIFE project on *Branta bernicla hrota*."

Laptop-based presentation

Mr Søren Ring

The Danish Bird Protection Foundation, Denmark

E soren.ring@dof.dk

21. Activities and projects of Quercus ANCN

Materials about the projects and activities of Quercus – National Association for Nature Conservation

Publications

Mr Manuel Fernandes

Quercus ANCN, Portugal

E mmfernand@gmail.com

22. LIFE programme

The LIFE programme is the EU's funding instrument for the environment and climate action. The general objective of LIFE is to contribute to the implementation, updating and development of EU environmental and climate policy and legislation by co-financing projects with European added value.

LIFE began in 1992 and to date there have been four complete phases of the programme (LIFE I: 1992-1995, LIFE II: 1996-1999, LIFE III: 2000-2006 and LIFE+: 2007-2013). During this period, LIFE has co-financed some 3954 projects across the EU, contributing approximately €3.1 billion to the protection of the environment.

The European Commission ([DG Environment](#) and [DG Climate Action](#)) manages the LIFE programme. The Commission has delegated the implementation of many components of the LIFE programme to the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises ([EASME](#)). External selection, monitoring and communication teams provide assistance to the Commission and EASME. The [European Investment Bank](#) will manage the two new financial instruments (NCFE and PF4EE).

Publications

Mr Bent Jepsen

LIFE-NAT Coordinator, NEEMO EEIG, Belgium

E bent.jepsen@neemo.eu

23. National Parks & Wildlife Service, Ireland

The role of National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) is:

- To secure the conservation of a representative range of ecosystems to maintain and enhance populations of flora and fauna in Ireland.
- To designate and advise on the protection of habitats and species identified for nature conservation ([Natural Heritage Areas \(NHA\)](#), [Special Areas of Conservation \(SAC\)](#) and [Special](#)

[Protection Areas \(SPA\)](#) having particular regard to the need to consult with interested parties.

- To make the necessary arrangements for the implementation of National and EU legislation and policies for nature conservation and biodiversity including the [EU Habitats and Birds Directives](#), and for the ratification and implementation of the range of international Conventions and Agreements relating to the natural heritage.
- To manage, maintain and develop State-owned National Parks and Nature Reserves.
- To promote awareness of natural heritage and biodiversity issues through education, outreach to schools and engaging with stakeholders.

[The National Parks and Wildlife Service](#) is part of the Heritage Division of the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, headed by Niall Ó Donnchú (Assistant Secretary) supported by four Principal Officers, Trevor Donnelly, John FitzGerald, Brian Lucas and Ciaran O'Keeffe respectively overseeing the areas of:

- Policy and management of National Parks and Reserves, Nature Services strategy, Finance and Regional operational procedures (including enforcement and health and safety).
- The Wildlife Acts and EU Directive transposition, NATURA Policy, Licensing provisions under the Wildlife Acts, Modernisation of property management, Policy on residential properties in national parks and the Departments Development Applications Unit.
- Peatland Policy, Turf compensation and relocation schemes, Land Designation, Land restoration/cross compliance.
- Scientific Support, Biodiversity policy and international issues, CITES and exotic species, Agri-Environment policy and schemes, Marine and aquaculture issues, Education Service and Data management.

Publications

National Parks & Wildlife Service staff

24. RBAPS

Across Europe agri-environment schemes provide important sources of funding that enable farmers to protect wildlife habitats on agricultural land. Results-based schemes focus on payments that reward improvements in farmland biodiversity.

Poster

Caitriona Maher

25. AmmoniaN2K, Ireland

The AmmoniaN2K project will quantify and assess the impact of ammonia emissions from intensive pig and poultry units on Natura 2000 sites in Ireland, in order to assist the EPA licensing of intensive agriculture installations, in particular to support Appropriate Assessments under the Habitats Directive; contribute to national inventory reporting and PRTR reporting; assist in the assessment of developments under Food Harvest 2020 and support work on trans-boundary air pollution.

David Kelleghan

26. AranLIFE, Ireland

The AranLIFE project is a demonstration project operating on the three Aran Islands over a 4 year period from 2014-2017, co-funded under the EU LIFE Nature programme. It seeks to develop and demonstrate the best conservation management practices of local farmers on the designated Natura 2000 sites of the three islands (protected habitats for flora and fauna of European importance). The project focuses on farming activities on the islands within the Natura designated sites, harnessing local farming knowledge and experience with the scientific expertise of other project partners to overcome some of the challenges of island farming and to improve the conservation status of the designated sites.

Roll-up banner

Patrick McGurn

27. HNV LINK

HNV-Link creates a community of practice and knowledge by linking 10 areas throughout the European Union where HNV farming systems are prevalent. These “[learning areas](#)” are used to evaluate innovation examples and gaps relevant to HNV systems. Innovation types include technical, commercial, social, institutional, and of policy.

The project identifies what works in specific places and what methods would also be applicable in other areas or contexts. Among the major outputs and activities for 2016-2019:

- inventory of grassroots innovations in each learning area
- an “Innovation Fair” to foster peer learning
- a set of educational materials to expose educators and students in agricultural studies, rural development and conservation alike to HNV concepts, challenges and opportunities
- an interactive Atlas of Innovations feasible within HNV farming areas
- research papers and presentations

Annex VI Atlantic Dunes Roadmap



Conservation of dune habitats in the Atlantic Biogeographic Region

Outline of a roadmap for knowledge exchange and networking for the period 2016-2020

Version 1.1 following the workshop on dunes and estuaries held at the 2nd Atlantic Biogeographic Seminar, 25-27 October 2016, Ennistymon, Ireland.

Background

The roadmap addresses the conservation of the main dune habitats of the Atlantic biogeographical region:

- 2110 Embryonic shifting dunes
- 2120 Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* (white dunes)
- 2130* Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes)
- 2140* Decalcified fixed dunes with *Empetrum nigrum*
- 2150* Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (*Calluno-Ulicetea*)
- 2160 Dunes with *Hippophae rhamnoides*
- 2170 Dunes with *Salix repens* ssp. *argentea* (*Salicion arenariae*)
- 2180 Wooded dunes of the Atlantic, Continental and Boreal Region
- 2190 Humid dune slacks
- 21A0 Machairs (* in Ireland)

As a contribution to the Natura 2000 Biogeographic Process a LIFE Platform meeting on coastal and inland dunes, hosted by Waternet, PWN and Natuurmonumenten, was held in Zandvoort, The Netherlands, from 15-17 June 2016. The meeting was organised by the Neemo LIFE team and ECNC on behalf of the European Commission and focused on sharing experience on the restoration of dune habitats.⁵ Platform participants contributed to the draft roadmap for knowledge exchange for discussion at the Atlantic seminar.

The LIFE Platform meeting reinforced the conclusions of the *Dynamic Dunes 2015* meeting organised by Dutch LIFE projects⁶ that;

- The overall target of favourable conservation status can only be achieved by concerted efforts
- Dunes should be higher on the European research agenda
- Project experience should be widely disseminated

⁵ The workshop report is published on the Natura 2000 Communication Platform http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/platform/events/index_en.htm

⁶ <https://www.pwn.nl/dynamicdunes> and <http://awd.waternet.nl/media/projecten/Life/PDF/Rapport%20conference%20Dynamic%20Dunes%202015.pdf>

The issues highlighted in the 2012 Natura 2000 Atlantic seminar included climate change, spontaneous and/or artificial fixation of the dune landscape, loss of habitat and habitat connectivity, interference with natural geomorphological dynamics and hydrological dynamics, afforestation, invasive alien species and recreation pressures.

A specific workshop session at the LIFE Platform meeting confirmed that the issues discussed in 2012 remain relevant and added agricultural change, Nitrogen deposition and the need to increase engagement with the general public to the original priorities. See also the Habitat factsheets for Dunes discussed at the Second Atlantic Seminar.⁷

The need for a European Dune Network for Natura 2000

The recommendations of the 2012 Atlantic seminar included forming an expert-network of governmental agencies responsible for conservation policy and the management of coastal dune sites in all Member States. This level of cooperation remains an ambition and should include NGOs. Areas where international cooperation would be valuable, amongst others, include:

- An early warning system for Invasive Alien Species and the sharing of practical control methods with costs
- A comparative review of Conservation Objectives for dune habitats in Member State to help standardise reporting under Article 17
- Developing and promoting a joint research programme on issues with an explicit international dimension e.g. impacts of N-deposition and climate change
- Guidelines on how to incorporate dynamics into the interpretation of Favourable Conservation Status
- Further interpretation of habitat types, especially fixed dune and slack sub-types
- Strengthening cross-border (also within Member States) management initiatives
- Expected changes to habitats as dune systems respond to climate change pressures
- Sharing management practices and results

Although there are already established networks through the Coastal & Marine Union- EUCC and Liverpool Hope University (UK) these do not have the capacity to coordinate a networking programme for Natura 2000. An ‘engine room’ is needed to drive forward a programme developed by, and with the support of, national agencies. With the success of recent LIFE projects in several Member States the timing is right to aim to step up work in the period 2016-2020.

⁷ http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/platform/documents/atlantic_seminar/annex_4-coastal_and_dunes_en.pdf

The Atlantic dune networking roadmap

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

There are already activities or plans to establish networking in the several Member States along with EUCC national branches and offices. These groupings, along with national research bodies, could form the nodes within a network helping to ensure effective knowledge transfer.

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 V1.0 is the product of discussion involving representatives of the Atlantic member states at the 2012 and 2016 Atlantic Biogeographic Seminars, the Dutch LIFE 'Dynamic Dunes 2015' conference and the LIFE Platform meeting on coastal and inland dunes in 2016.

The roadmap presents describes and sets out the relevance for a series of Actions. For most of these the roadmap identifies possible lead bodies and a target timetable. In most cases there is no firm commitment or resources to develop the actions. The roadmap belongs to the Natura 2000 dune management and restoration community with the intention to update the roadmap each year through the actions of the European Dune Network.

Coastal dune roadmap V1.1- 2017

This version follows discussion at the workshop on coastal dunes and estuaries at second Atlantic Natura 2000 seminar held in Ennistymon, Ireland

Action	Description	Relevance	Timing	Lead	Support
Guidelines on how to incorporate dynamics into the interpretation of Favourable Conservation Status	There is a recognised need to ensure that favourable conservation status includes bare sand and dune forming processes. This is true in the mobile habitats as well as the 'fixed' habitats and for the creation of embryo dune slacks	Target values can be set for bare sand /dynamics in dune habitats (a figure of c. 10% is proposed by some experts). The scale of dynamics is also important with a balance between large mobile features, smaller blowouts and scrapes.	First steps would be to review the science and results of monitoring to compile guidelines for assessing habitat condition.	MS to ask science bodies to prepare a science review to guide restoration and management of dune habitats or science bodies to take lead in compiling a review.	Site manager and LIFE project support through practical works which include funding for monitoring.
	After a general science review the second stage would be to consider how MS reconcile the interpretation of the Habitats Directive into guidance and condition monitoring.	The acceptance of bare sand and mobility within dune systems is not a universal concept.	Within the period 2016-2020 this should be a question to be addressed through the biogeographic process.	Based on a science review the lead should be from the EC/MS asking MS to report on the issues concerning adoption of a more dynamic approach to Natura 2000 and the mapping of dune habitats	If this is a MS study the costs should be largely borne by the agencies. Workshops to explore the issues could be supported by national science/management networks.
	Following a MS level review there may be interest in developing a communication and demonstration project to provide case studies of restoring dynamics to dune systems	A LIFE Governance and Information project could help to disseminate new messages about best practice in dune conservation and management. There	Probably not ready for such a bid until 2018	If a European Dune Network can be strengthened it would be the natural proposer of such a project. Or the lead can be taken by any previous LIFE	A LIFE project would involve several partners from the Atlantic Region

Action	Description	Relevance	Timing	Lead	Support
		are still management agencies inclined to 'fix' dunes to prevent sand drift whereas most recent experience seeks to reactivate sand movement.		beneficiary.	
Addressing dynamic coastal change with attention to sandy beaches and the formation of strandline vegetation and subsequent formation of 2110 embryonic shifting dunes	Dune systems are part of the shallow sea, beach and dune sand-sharing system and are moulded by large scale and long term changes in climate, sediment supply and sediment movement.	The 'Living with the Sea' LIFE project addressed these issues in the 1990s. There would be great value in developing a similar project to show how shoreline management policies have evolved in last 20 years	Dependent on interest from responsible bodies	Such a project should be led by shoreline management authorities who deal in sediment management, e.g. Rijkswaterstaat, Environment Agency (UK) and BRGM (FR).	Dune habitat management and protection of sea bird populations (e.g. terns) is perhaps a small component of such studies but they are vital to the long-term prospects of the habitats. It is expected that national conservation agencies would wish to engage with such studies.
Interpretation, mapping and management guidelines for EU habitat types	There are several habitat types which cause confusion and may be interpreted differently in different MS. The habitats which could be reviewed are 2170 dunes with <i>Salix repens ssp. argentea</i> , 2160 <i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i> and 2180	It is difficult to assess progress towards FCS if we are not comparing like with like. Natural England, Scottish Natural Heritage and NPWS, for example, have shared concerns about mapping of	Suggest that a series of expert work groups meet in field to share methodologies, understanding of definitions, mapping and management. One field meeting /year with write up in the style of the EU Management	MS nature conservation agencies could share the project (i.e. one workshop each) as part of Natura 2000 process. Key leads could be from BE, NL, UK/IE, FR	Supported by national networks and national scientific bodies (e.g. OBN, INBO, CEH, Conservatoire Botanique National de Bailleul etc).

Action	Description	Relevance	Timing	Lead	Support
	dune woodland	2170 dunes with <i>Salix repens</i> ssp. <i>argentea</i>	Models. The aim should not be to further sub-divide habitat types but assist with the interpretation of the EU Interpretive Manual		
	In Portugal there is a lack of basic information on several dune habitat types	There is a need to improve the baseline information for a better assessment of future prospects	Surveys to inform the next article 17 assessment	Quercus (PT) to convene a working group on coastal dunes	Sharing of results through dune network
Restore ecological connectivity in fragmented dune belts along strongly urbanised coasts	Urbanisation and intensification of agriculture in coastal areas has led to fragmentation.	The possibilities to restore connectivity for habitats and populations of species should be examined.	The issue is long-term but should be incorporated within national plans and restoration projects.	The issue is of particular relevance in Belgium and has formed a key component of the use of LIFE funding	Sharing of experience between Member States and at networking events.
Addressing protection and management of 2130* fixed dunes	Fixed coastal dunes 2130* is by far the largest dune habitat type by area but only 47% of the 110,880 ha is within the Natura 2000 network according to EEA data.	The conservation needs of the c. 60,000 ha of fixed dune outside the Natura 2000 network must be addressed, e.g. clear evidence of loss in UK (Anglesey)	Assessing the ongoing pressures and threats on all fixed dune habitat (inside and outside Natura 2000)	All MS PAFs must include actions for 2130* as a priority habitat. A lead could be taken by the Habitats Committee to address the particular threats to this habitat type.	A focus on 2130* could be a catalyst for giving more support to a European Dune Network
	Threats to 2130* include both abandonment of traditional management leading to encroachment with scrub and grasses and intensification of	Measures for the maintenance and improvement of fixed dune habitats are required in all Member States.	Article 17 reporting provides 'snapshots' of progress towards FCS	Continued need to share experience between Member States, to publish evidence of successful measures and to	European Dune Network can continue to promote links between science and management.

Action	Description	Relevance	Timing	Lead	Support
	agriculture including enrichment with N and P and conversion to horticulture or stud farms.			continue to support innovation, replication of results and transfer of methodologies.	
Further studies on the 'low hanging fruit' habitats	The background documents prepared for the Atlantic seminar on low hanging fruits identify habitats and the need for improvement to make a step change. MS are also identified. ⁸	Success in applied management indicates that a 'step change' is possible for several dune habitats. Seminar documents suggest that DK can lead on 2140 Decalcified fixed dunes (currently 5 DK LIFE projects address this habitat type) to step up from U1= to U1+	Focusing on how to improve structure and function in DK could help to establish a Danish dune network and the work could extend to other MS through the European Dune Network	The low hanging fruit paper identifies DK as the lead MS. The habitat 2150 Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes could be addressed along with 2140 to target a change from U2= to U2+	Any action would be supported by European Dune Network and other MS. A Natura 2000 management guidelines document for 2140 (and 2150) could also be prepared.
		Habitat 2180 wooded dunes of the Atlantic, Continental and Boreal region is also identified as a low hanging fruit to step up from U1= to U1+	Opinion from dune experts is that not enough is known about the definition and management of this habitat type across the biogeographic regions.	The low hanging fruit paper identifies FR (with 20,000 ha) and NL (with 8,100 ha) as lead MS. In FR the Conservatoire National de Bailleul is a leader in research.	The roadmap suggests that, as a first step, FR could organise a workshop to discuss the identification, monitoring and management of the habitat across three biogeographic regions.

8

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/platform/documents/atlantic_seminar/annex_3_supporting_elements_for_2nd_atlantic_natura2000_seminar_core_document_en.pdf

Action	Description	Relevance	Timing	Lead	Support
Developing and promoting a research programme on, e.g. impacts of N-deposition, and monitoring of outcomes of restoration projects	Science and management are essential partners as confirmed at the LIFE platform meeting.	The experienced scientific bodies such as OBN can assist in drawing up an applied science programme for dune habitats.	This should be started in 2016 for presentation at Littoral 2017.	MS should request bodies such as OBN, CEH, INBO to cooperate in preparing a science programme for coastal dune habitats	A dune science programme can be adopted by and promoted through dune networks. LIFE projects would be encouraged to contribute to the science programme
	A dune management 'decision tree' was developed by the LIFE co-op project on bogs and dunes ⁹ .	The decision tree and PROMME approach is designed to provide managers with decisions based on scientific evidence	To be considered as part of a science review: to update the tool or to replace the tool?	Nijmegen University (Bargerveen Foundation) could be invited to update the knowledge base	Support through OBN and other science networks could develop the tool for wider use in NW Europe
	In some cases there may be added value in integrating existing monitoring programmes to broaden the scope of studies and the relevance of outputs.	Trends in the populations of some species (e.g. <i>Liparis loeselii</i>) could be looked at the biogeographic level.	Aim would be to coordinate national studies so that European added value can be incorporated into project design.	Natura 2000 should provide opportunities for research bodies to collaborate and share their knowledge.	Science networks
An early warning system for Invasive Alien Species and the sharing of practical control methods with costs	Development of a 'black list' for Atlantic dunes	Evidence of S-N spread of invasive species. Guidelines and advice can be disseminated through national networks.	Further discussion at Littoral 2017 on a 'black list'. Sharing of information on web-sites etc.	Scientific lead from Maike Isermann with input from all MS through networks and scientific bodies	Funding support from national authorities to bodies such as OBN, INBO, ATEN, CEH, Quercus etc
	Best practice examples of	For each IAS of	Presentations/	Case studies published	Information made

⁹ [LIFE03NAT/CP/NL/000006](https://ec.europa.eu/nature/natura2000/000006) Co-op bogs and dunes

Action	Description	Relevance	Timing	Lead	Support
	control of IAS	concern the knowledge can be made available through the Natura 2000 process	workshops at key events such as EUCC-France field workshops, Littoral 2017 and LIFE-FLANDRE	by site managers and LIFE projects. Field meetings held, e.g. on <i>Prunus serotina</i> .	available on web-sites-coordinated and updated by a dune network
	Specific review of experience in the control of <i>Rosa rugosa</i> with details of costs and development of national programmes	<i>Rosa rugosa</i> is now recognised as a serious threat to dune sites in NW Europe. There is evidence of its rate of spread.	Scientific report in 2017 and management study in 2018 (present at LIFE- FLANDRE meeting)	Scientific lead from Maike Isermann with experience mainly from DK and NL	From LIFE projects and national authorities
Communication	To re-invigorate a European Dune Network by establishing an ‘engine room’ linking to national nodes	The value of communication is stressed in the biogeographical process and from the practitioners	As soon as possible to propose a first meeting of a new group at Littoral 2017	At LIFE platform offers were given from NL, DK, UK and DE to take an active role in networking and to seek resources	Resources are required to ensure some network staff resources. Suggested 0.4 FTE is required to maintain a network.
	To ensure European conservation objectives, PAF priorities, research priorities and networking sites are well published	All future LIFE projects and similar projects (including Interreg) to be aware of the wider context of their work	As soon as possible – as part of development of updated websites.	An action for a European Dune Network based on published MS or other objectives	Support needed from MS for commonly agreed objectives.
	To maintain existing websites and newsletters	UK and Ireland: A network of over 500 contacts has been developed. Newsletters, field visit reports and website.	Ongoing – currently at a low level due to resources	UK Sand Dune and Shingle Network maintains European pages and has taken lead with a European newsletter- but no resources for this since 2015.	The UK network requires further support from national agencies. Further support could come from the Dunes at Risk Interreg 2 Seas bid.

Action	Description	Relevance	Timing	Lead	Support
		EUCC France and ONF maintain a programme of events, publications and newsletters ¹⁰	Ongoing. Key meetings include Merlimont 2014 and Littoral 2016	Loic Gouget of ONF and EUCC France ¹¹	There is interest from outside France in developing better links and sharing of information. This would be an action for the European Dune Network
		Coast & Marine Union-EUCC maintains link to European Dune Network	Ongoing but low key at present	EUCC ¹²	EUCC will continue to support efforts for European Dune Network
		Networking in Spain includes links to ONF (FR)	Seminar on dune systems under strong human pressure will be held in Santander in 25-26 April 2017	EUCC Atlantic office / LIFE ARCOS ¹³	European Dune Network would encourage participation and disseminate results.
		In Germany a dune section is included in EUCC-Germany	Ongoing	EUCC-D ¹⁴	EUCC
Conferences, workshops and events	Littoral 2016 conference in Biarritz ¹⁵ .	A workshop on coastal dune geomorphology, biodiversity and management in	October 2016	EUCC-France	Supported by EUCC branches

¹⁰ www.euccfrance.fr and http://onf.evenementcom.net/onf_news_detail.php?nof=5&c=dit

¹¹ http://onf.evenementcom.net/onf_html/onf_dunes_10_2015.html

¹² <http://www.eucc.net/green-coasts/european-dune-network/>

¹³ <https://euccatlsantander.wordpress.com/>

¹⁴ <http://www.eucc-d.de/beach-and-dune-network.html>

¹⁵ <http://littoral2016.univ-pau.fr/>

Action	Description	Relevance	Timing	Lead	Support
		relation to climate change addresses one of the key themes identified in the roadmap.			
	Littoral 2017- Liverpool	The Littoral series of European/ International conferences attract scientific presentations. A special session will be devoted to coastal dune management.	September 2017	Liverpool Hope University ¹⁶	EUCC
	LIFE FLANDRE end of project conference. The international conference will offer the next major opportunity for the dune practitioner network to meet in the context of a LIFE project.	Topics include the impact of climate change on the dynamics of beaches and on the status of coastal habitats, restoration and management of coastal dunes and ecosystem services of coastal dunes.	May-June 2018	Flemish Agency for Nature and Forests	Support from dune networks and other LIFE projects.
Submitted and potential project bids	Sands of LIFE project application (LIFE16NAT/UK/000571) by Natural Resources Wales	A project which addresses the main conservation issues affecting dune coasts in Wales	If successful project would start in 2017	Natural Resources Wales	The project would include networking and scientific studies of relevance to the dune network

¹⁶ <http://www.hope.ac.uk/news/conferences/littoral2017/>

Action	Description	Relevance	Timing	Lead	Support
	Dunes at Risk bid under the Interreg 2 Seas programme	A trans-national project with UK, France, Belgium and Netherlands addressing dune responses to increasing climate change pressures	Application submitted in October 2016	Norfolk County Council (UK)	Project has several partners
	Natura 2000 dune sites in Atlantic Portugal	A project which would address the threats to the southernmost sites in the Atlantic region with a focus on ex-situ propagation and controlling recreation pressure.	Possible submission to 2017 LIFE round	Quercus (PT)	Through dune networks and sharing best practice in recreation management
	CHICIAS LIFE project application (LIFE16NAT/BE/000793) Coastal Habitat Improvement by Controlling Invasive Alien Species.	Eradication of IAS in the coastal dunes and Northern France and raising awareness of garden owners/ professionals and development of an early warning system.	If successful the project would start in 2018	Agency of Nature and Forests of the Flemish Government with Département du Nord (FR) and CPIE Flandre Maritime (FR)	All coastal dune owning public authorities (including municipalities) and dune management organisations (NGO Natuurpunt and Golf Clubs) in Belgium and Northern France will participate.

Annex VII Estuaries Workshop Recommendations

Session I – Management Plans

Integrated Approaches and Implementation



1) Natura 2000 Management Plans (other) examples

- (It takes) funding time
- Driver is economy, compensation / restoration, not conservation – how to change?
- Political commitment & finances
- Good communication & consultation providing proper funding
- Best practice examples: Scheldt estuary, integrated management plan in Cantabria

2) The imbalance of sediment budgets in estuaries

- Integrative study
- Relative assessment = first step
- Relative assessment reference = actual situation incl. dredging + relocation
- Holland: Dredging is already part of the system, what is natural? Only relative assessment
- Excess of Mud → Which solutions? (Accommodation, extraction, source?)

Session I – Management Plans

Integrated Approaches and Implementation



3) Dealing with natural dynamics

- Management in exchange with scientists & stakeholder
- Accept more dynamics at the sites & integrate it in management plans & monitoring
- More focus on functions in management plans
- Follow a functional approach
- Allow dynamic development
- Build in resilience
- Give space for natural dynamics

4) Key success factors for implementing management plans

- Prioritize problems & tackle the low-hanging fruits
- Then build trust between the users, then the difficult ones
- honest sharing of information

Session II – Habitat Restoration



1) Discussing oxygen deficiencies in estuaries

- No deficiencies in other Atlantic estuaries apart Elbe/Ems
- Elbe: Reducing the nutrient input in the catchment

2) The Habitat 1130 – Shipping lane contradiction – time for a new thinking?

- It will not be possible to achieve good conservation status
 - We can achieve a lot but... Need commission to accept this
 - Overall aim for improvement but not perfection in special/unusual cases
- Definition of estuaries needs to be revised



Session II – Habitat Restoration



3) How to implement major restoration projects

- (SMART) objectives: realistic, achievable, linking conservation objectives for site & obj. for restoration projects
- Are conservation objectives suited to a dynamic system? Learn to deal with uncertainty.
- Success factor: functioning of site within the larger system even across national borders.
- It takes a good understanding of system for measures to be successful.

4) Preservation vs. succession: Should we let nature take its course?

- nature directives admin framework – but what about natural dynamics? We should conserve habitats but also dynamics & take time-frame into account
- Valuable habitats are also result of human actions (e.g. grassland)
- accept more natural dynamics
- Estuaries are strongly modified by humans today:
 - habitats like shallows need maintenance
 - Should we keep it up indefinitely?

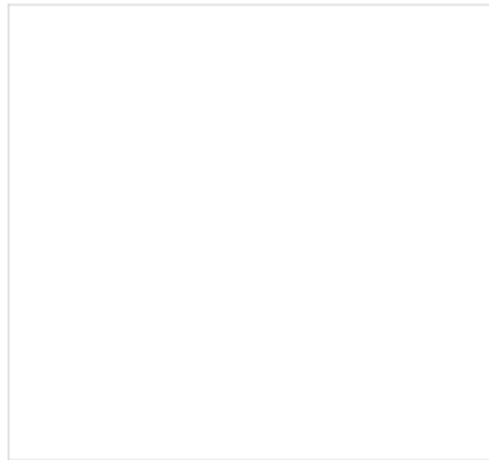


Session II – Habitat Restoration



5) Balancing site specific objectives and overall objectives of the estuarine system

- legislation vs. real life
- only little space
- feedback between ecology and the physics
- allow natural dynamics in newly created sites based on knowledge of model sites (e.g. Heuckenloc)
- consider global objectives and adopt to local conditions
- take into account rarity of species when creating the diversity of habitats



Session III – Legal Issues



1) Compensation and mitigation –Compulsory measures]

- This is site specific based on situation and goals (FSC) – no universal answer/list
- Compensation/restoration type of measure can be the same, but compensation is in addition

2) Dealing with restoration measures: Change and the legal perspective

- The law has to be able to cope with the uncertainties and dynamics in estuaries
- The habitat directive is more suited to terrestrial systems than dynamic estuarine systems (written by lawyers, who don't understand the complexity of the system)
- The member state should develop a favorable conservation state (national law <-> directive)
- Overlapping objectives e.g. bird versus habitat (directives)
- Way forward strategy with milestones + review
- Providing you are making progress you are working within the law.



Session IV – Communication



1) “Talking Estuarine”: Successful communication examples

- clear information on what + why, explain/listen to each other’s objectives
- early involvement on site level; participation
- successful process: partnerships based on trust + respect -> multi stakeholder processes; criteria: clear rules/objectives from the beginning
- stable (local) partnerships
- continuity – political support – clear expectations

2) Stakeholder and target groups

- mutual respect + trust
- find a common language
- different communication strategies for different groups
- stakeholders: inputters, extractors, regulators, affectees, influencers, beneficiaries - all to be involved, may change list with specific task
- avoid stakeholder fatigue: don't exclude any but allow a stakeholder not to participate. Complexity of issue determining who to be involved



Session IV – Communication



3) Actions within the public sphere

- visualization (videos, podcasts) of planned measures
- competitions + art projects (involve locals + children – center of information + communication)
- trust is vital – goes with honesty (but can't always reveal information)
- use people who have empathy with people and place
- visual and sensory presentations are vital and work best

4) Perspectives for the Biogeographical Process and future networking

- network for estuaries only, e.g. under leadership of (EC) contractor
- „Tide“ model follow up/scale up for all estuaries

