

Natura 2000 Seminars Alpine Biogeographical Region

Alpine Natura 2000 Seminar Agenda (Draft)

**Graz, Austria
25th to 26th November 2013**

*Note that a welcome dinner hosted by the European Commission is being held from 19:00 HRS on 24 November at the Weitzer Hotel.
Specific pre-registration is required for participation.*

Introduction to the Alpine Seminar

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

- Enable Member States and expert stakeholders to work collectively and in cooperation;
- Seek agreement about priority management actions required for particular habitat types in the Alpine region
- Take specific agreed collective actions to improve conservation status for those habitats that fall within their territory;
- Network, share information, exchange management experience, and build know-how about the most effective ways to achieve more for habitats and species of Community importance.

The Alpine Seminar provides an important opportunity for participants to develop collaborative approaches and agree cooperative actions required for priority habitats and species in the Alpine Biogeographical Region. This is vitally important to ensure progress in the Region for the EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy targets - for example, by building common understanding about practical ways to halt biodiversity loss, to increase restoration, to stimulate new know-how about effective management approaches, and to improve the favourable conservation status of priority habitats and species. As a continuing process, by sharing ideas, information and practical experience, as well as available guidance and knowledge, through networking and the NBP Communication Platform, the core aim of this collective endeavour is to achieve maximum benefits for nature and improve essential cooperation amongst all stakeholders as that is required to achieve progress towards the 2020 targets.

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

- Identify and agree concrete actions to be taken forward by various actors in the Alpine Region.
- Seek to develop synergies and co-operations required.
- Confirm opportunities to commit to implementing collaborative actions and, where possible, propose a firm timetable for future development.

Alpine Natura 2000 Seminar – draft programme

DAY 0: Sunday, 24th November 2013

- Arrival and registration of participants
- Reception and informal dinner (at 19.00 in Hotel Weitzer) hosted by the European Commission (for those who have pre-registered)

(Note that at 17.30, in the Hotel Weitzer, there will be a final preparatory meeting for Habitat Group Chairs, Facilitators and other key actors.)

DAY 1: Monday, 25th November 2013

Time	Activity	Objectives
08.30 to 09.30	Registration of participants	
09.30 to 10.00	Welcome & introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To explain the context, importance and purpose of the New Natura 2000 Biogeographical Seminar Process (NBP). • To discuss and define outcomes to be aimed for as a result of the NBP process. • To introduce the Habitat Working Group Chairs & facilitators. • To enable participants to have a clear understanding about the methods and approach to be used during the Seminar.
10.00 to 11.15	Habitat Groups – the bigger picture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To allow group participants to meet & introduce themselves. • To discuss the EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy targets and specific implications arising for their habitat. • To present results from the process so far (with reference to the Seminar Document, circulated in advance.) • To begin to sharpen focus on practical habitat management issues, possible solutions and proposed actions - what needs to change, can be improved or can be newly developed.
11.15 to 11.45	Coffee break	
11.45 to 13.00	Habitat Groups – what needs to be done	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To begin to develop a level of consensus about identified priorities for action that will help to achieve progress towards achievement of the targets. • To identify gaps to be prioritised for future consideration: equally, to note any differences of opinion that may exist. • To begin to focus discussions and develop agreement about what common interests and shared priorities can be acted upon, relevant to their habitat group.
13.00 to 14.30	Lunch	
14.30 to 15.45	Habitat Groups – planning for outcomes & defining objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To agree (realistic & measurable) objectives that can be achieved appropriate for cooperation and collaboration – consider who will be involved, how they could work & what they could do/ contribute. • To gather and discuss participants' examples and experiences of current joint-working approaches they are aware of and know to work; alternatively, where there would be value and need to develop new joint working.
15.45 to 16.00	Coffee break	
16.00 to 17.30	Habitat Groups – planning for action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To discuss (in some detail) solutions, possible actions and proposed first steps required to take forward agreed, common priorities (focus will be given to specific actions that aim to improve management practice and quality, integrated with attention for relevant, identified cross-cutting issues). • To identify and select short-term actions (coming months) and longer term actions (future years). • To agree and propose tangible priority actions, which need to be taken, where possible including by whom and when. • To work together to seek commitments from within the group (where possible) to deliver possible actions and achieve specific outcomes.
17.30 to 19.00	Free time/ networking	
19.00 to 20.00	Knowledge Market	
20.00	Evening meal	

DAY 2: Tuesday, 26th November 2013

Time	Activity	Objectives
09.00 to 09.05	Introduction to Day 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To enable participants to have a clear understanding about the methods and approach to be used.
09.05 to 10.30	Habitat Groups – planning for action (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To continue the work from Day 1, firm up agreed actions, and any recommendations to be proposed.
10.30 to 11.00	Coffee break	
11.00 to 12.15	Habitat Groups – future actions & recommendations to be proposed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To build on the planned outcomes and related concrete actions identified, and confirm timescales. • To organise recommendations to be proposed to deliver planned outcomes and agreed, common priorities. • To prepare Group presentations on proposed actions and recommendations.
12.15 to 13.45	Lunch	
13.45 to 14.00	Natura 2000 Platform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Features of the Natura 2000 Platform.
14.00 to 15.15	Presentation of results & plenary discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each Habitat Group to present agreed tangible actions, when these are expected to be taken, and who is involved.
15.15 to 15.30	The new LIFE Funding Regulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To highlight opportunities available through the new LIFE funding regulation. • To show links with other process and funding streams. • To encourage collaboration and increasing integrated approaches.
15.30 to 16.00	Conclusions and close of Seminar	

Note that:

- **Concrete actions deriving from cross cutting issues will be covered within habitat groups during the afternoon of Day 1. Reflecting levels of interest and priority, the aim will be to firm up actions proposed for cross cutting issues with potential to be covered by the actors of the new biogeographical process.**
- **With the exception of the start and finish times, all other timings are indicative only – as far as possible, the Chairs and Facilitators will work at a pace comfortable to the participants.**

Knowledge Market

The “Knowledge Market” offers the possibility for Member State and stakeholder representatives to present best practice examples from nature protection work within the Natura 2000 framework. This can include presentation of management plans, ongoing or concluded LIFE projects, stakeholder integration activities etc, to share news about those activities which target improving the quality and practices of nature conservation in Natura 2000 areas or the wider landscape.

The aim is to stimulate the discussion of Seminar participants and to provide useful inputs for further projects, collaborations and co-operations.

Participants are requested 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. A Seminar participant should be able to comment about the project, the work or activities and be prepared to discuss with interested experts from other Member States or stakeholder organisations. This is an informal information gathering opportunity – no formal presentation is necessary.

Anyone attending the Seminar and interested to have space at the Knowledge Market should **contact Martin Klipp by 15th November 2013** (martin.klipp@stmk.gv.at) at the latest. Please let him know your display plans (what materials you propose to bring) and some details about what you wish to share with Seminar participants.