



Roadmap for cooperation under the Natura 2000 biogeographical process in the Continental, Pannonian, Steppic and Black Sea regions

Version 3.0, based on the report from the 2nd Continental, Pannonian, Steppic and Black Sea Natura 2000 Seminar (2018, Strasbourg, FR).
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Introduction

This updated roadmap is based on the conclusions of the 2nd Natura 2000 Continental, Pannonian, Steppic and Black Sea region Seminar (2018, Strasbourg, FR) where the following themes were discussed:

- Theme 1 – Linking site-level, regional/national-level objectives and FRVs
- Theme 2 – Solving issues in relation to habitat type definitions
- Theme 3 – Involving local land managers through integrated site management
- Theme 4 – Selecting biogeographical level conservation priorities and measures

It brings together the **expected outcomes** and **associated actions** that have been highlighted by the seminar participants as highly relevant to the development of cooperation across borders on Natura 2000 in these four biogeographical regions.

Its purpose is to serve as a benchmark for the development of the Natura 2000 biogeographical process by the Commission, Member States and other stakeholders, the networking programme being at the core of the actions they put in place at a transboundary level to enhance the implementation of Natura 2000.

An approximate timeframe for each action is proposed, together with suggestions for lead and supporting partners:

Short = <1 year
Medium = 1 to 4 years
Long = 5 + years

The roadmap is intended to be a living working document. Its content will be reviewed periodically, and updated whenever necessary. Implementation progress will be reported through the Natura 2000 biogeographical process webpages and regular newsletters.

Topic	Outcome	Action	Timing	Lead	Support	Update
Facilitation of the discussions held during the meetings	Better mutual understanding of national approaches on the planning and management of Natura 2000	Prepare and publish online at EU level short notes on the main elements of national approaches for Natura 2000 planning and management (France initiated the preparation of such descriptions)	Short	MS	EC, on the basis of submissions by MS	2018 seminar, plenary
Favourable reference values (FRVs)	Common understanding of the link between FRVs and conservation objectives	Disseminate guidance /explanatory document about the main concepts, principles, terminology of FRVs including report on FRVs (Bijlsma et al.).	Short	EC, MS, stakeholders		2018 seminar, theme 1
and conservation objectives	Common understanding on the variety of existing approaches to the setting of conservation objectives at national/biogeographical region levels	Prepare an overview of national approaches for setting conservation objectives at region/national level (as complementary to site level)	Short / Medium	MS	EC, on the basis of submissions by MS	2018 seminar, theme 1
	Agreed methodology for setting FRVs for certain species and habitats	Follow-up networking events on habitats and species that require setting of biogeographical FRVs and conservation objectives; a first selection can be made by experts during a workshop	Medium	MS	EC	2018 seminar, theme 1
Habitat type definitions	Improved consistency in the interpretation of habitats, including their quality and function, across all Member States	Make national and regional manuals for interpreting habitats and other relevant guidance available for all MS through internet	Short	MS	ETC/BD	2018 seminar, theme 2
		Identify habitat types with main differences of interpretation Organise a networking event to: - improve the description of these specific habitat types - agree on solutions with the relevant expert group	Short	MS, stakeholders, as for example Natural England for freshwater habitats	ETC/BD, EC	2018 seminar, theme 2
		Assess the need for a discussion forum as a tool for interaction between MS on the definition of habitats	Short	EC	ETC/BD, MS	2018 seminar, theme 2

Topic	Outcome	Action	Timing	Lead	Support	Update	
Stakeholder involvement	Effective dissemination of best-practise approaches for stakeholder involvement	Implement actions to share knowledge on Natura 2000 management	Short	MS, EC, stakeholders		2018 seminar, theme 3	
	Increased awareness amongst key stakeholders of relevant financing mechanisms	Increase chances that the information really reaches and convinces the key stakeholders (land owners and users, especially farmers and foresters): - Demonstrate benefits (best practices with positive ecological and economic effects) directly in the field (more efficient for this purpose than booklets, articles or conferences) to interested / relevant stakeholders (farmers, foresters) - Consider and plan exchanges of experience between attendees on positive experience with applied financial schemes (EU, national) during all in-field activities.	Medium	MS, EC, stakeholders	Marie Kaerlein (DLV) Jan Sliva (Neemo), examples from LIFE projects	2018 seminar, theme 3	
	Increased knowledge of best-practise approaches on communicating Natura 2000	Prepare a workshop/training on how to develop a Natura 2000 information campaign for interested stakeholders	Short	MS, stakeholders (V. Bizheva?)	EC	2018 seminar, theme 3	
	Increased awareness on the economic benefits of Natura 2000	Promote existing studies and methodologies on the evaluation of the economic benefits of ecosystem services provided by Natura 2000 Seek synergies with existing research networks on the same topic		Short, then ongoing	MS, EC,	Ecosystem Services Partnership LIFE	2018 seminar, theme 3
		- Support business incubators that act as middle-men to help start-ups / new companies develop ideas and activities around Natura 2000. - Advertise the income that is generated to improve the image and attractiveness of Natura 2000.		Short	Stakeholders (Balkan center for sustainability and ecoengineering (V. Bizheva))		2018 seminar, plenary

Topic	Outcome	Action	Timing	Lead	Support	Update
Integrated site management planning	Effective integration of Natura 2000 in education and training programmes that develop skills on integrated management	Create and/or promote N2000 education events and networking on: 1) ways to include Natura 2000 in education at various educational levels 2) ways to ensure involvement of researchers in Natura 2000 processes is acknowledged in their performance assessments Seek synergies with existing authorities and networks on education and research.	Short, then ongoing	MS, stakeholders	EC	2018 seminar, theme 3
Priorities for conservation action	Update (habitats)/ create (species) a list of priority conservation targets at biogeographical region level	Establish a list of conservation priorities at biogeographical region level on the basis of the most up-to-date national reporting data (Article 17 and Art. 12, due in 2019) and other relevant data (IUCN Red lists, etc.). Organise a follow-up workshop to further improve the way priorities are established.	Short / Medium	EC	ETC/BD	2018 seminar, theme 4
	Cooperation amongst Member States on priority conservation targets for transnational or transboundary actions	Organise one or several workshops to trigger actions between neighbouring MS on the identified priorities to follow on the list of conservation priorities mentioned above. Possible example: prepare biogeographical level management plan for the Sturgeon.	Medium	MS	EC	2018 seminar, theme 4
		Identify funding opportunities (example: LIFE, Interreg...) that could help implementing these priorities.	Medium	MS, EC		2018 seminar, theme 4