



DRAFT Roadmap for the Natura 2000 biogeographical process in the Atlantic region

DRAFT VERSION , based on the report from the 3rd Atlantic Natura 2000 Seminar (Antwerp, Belgium, 2019)

Introduction

The current roadmap is a draft version and is compiled based on the outcomes of the 3rd Natura 2000 Atlantic Seminar that was held in 2019 in Antwerp, Belgium. For each of the issues discussed during the seminar, this roadmap highlights one or more biogeographical region-level **working objectives** and associated **actions** that are needed to achieve these objectives. These actions are proposals only and are not binding to any of the Member States, organisations or the EC mentioned in this document.

This roadmap is addressed to relevant stakeholders, including Commission, Member States and non-state actors that should implement these actions. 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. For the actions agreed for dunes we refer to the separate roadmap on dunes that has been updated recently.

Topic	Outcome	Action	Timing	Lead	Support
Facilitation of the discussions under the Natura 2000 biogeographical process	Better mutual understanding of national approaches on the planning and management of Natura 2000	Development of fact sheets	Short-factsheets have been prepared by some MS	Commission and contractor	MSs
		Peer to peer exchange visits on 1) determining conservation status 2) public-private co-operation 3) field management possibly funded by LIFEIP – BNIP			
Theme – Integrated management approaches to Natura 2000					
Improve knowledge exchange and co-operation		Develop Common story on integration of Natura 2000 in other sectors	Medium	MS	
	Better use of existing experience on integrated management	Availability of best cases online	2017	MS in cooperation with contractor	
		Exchange visits focussing on water ecosystems	Medium	Agency for Nature and Forests, Dutch Ministry of ANF	
		Exchange visits focussing on estuaries in context of ongoing LIFE project	Medium	Cantabria	
		Exchange visits focussing on sand dune in context of new to be developed LIFE projects	Medium	Agency for	

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				Nature and Forests,	
	Increase capacity/skills amongst staff	Develop project-based training, in which LIFE and INTERREG projects are involved			
	Improve knowledge on management of invasive alien species	Develop a list of IAS specific for BGP, building on existing IAS work in this area			
		Ensure funding for eradication of IAS through LIFE (and other sources)			
		Develop a network meeting focussing on IAS			
Theme - Communication and stakeholder engagement					
Improve knowledge exchange and co-operation	Better use of existing experience on involvement	Twining of sites and around thematically issues with strong emphasis of the reason for twinning. Ideas for including local Ambassadors/ Champions within Twining Programme.	Continuous	Eurosite	
		Improve the use of Citizen Science: It can involve children and adults and helps to develop a passion for nature. Many areas already implement these sorts of activities and at European level a lot of work is done in Open Science Pillar of Horizon 2020 and research projects.	Continuous	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.	Continuous	EUROPARC	
Increased involvement of society		Promote Volunteering – encouragement and development at local level is most sustainable but need to use all existing good practice in managing and recognising.	Continuous	Natuurpunt, EUROPARC, Eurosite	
Improved skills of students		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	Medium, event for summer school is proposed	All MS – network	

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		schemes (e.g. Burren) could be part of college curriculum. This action can be promoted at national or local level.			
	Better assessment of impact of activities to support stakeholder engagement (for LIFE and other relevant projects)	Develop information on different approaches and methods to assess impact of activities to increase stakeholder engagement, together with organisation of a workshop on this issue	Medium	Consortium/WENR	LIFE/EASME, Eurosite, Europarc Federation
	More knowledge on tools and approaches for stakeholder involvement	Follow up initiative of LIFE projects –European Private Land Conservation Network - LIFE ELCN: Land Is For Ever	Medium	Europarc Federation, Eurosite	
	More knowledge on tools and approaches for stakeholder involvement	Peer-to-peer exchange visits between Member States on management planning and stakeholder involvement	Medium		
Improve capacity of managers	Improved capacity of Natura 2000 managers	Include the training of Natura 2000 site managers in the PAFs	Short	MS	
	Improved capacity of Natura 2000 managers	Distribute the call on training of Natura 2000 managers in the LIFE elearning project to all participants/ MS, NGO to propose experts for join training	Short	Consortium/MS	
Setting conservation objectives					
		Results within Natura 2000 should be compared with what happens outside the network	Next reporting cycle	ETC all MS	
		MS to develop their own proposals on LHF habitats all MS	Medium	All MS	
		The term 'conservation status' is used on many levels, including individual sites and for regions. Agree on clear understanding on what it means and how it should be used.	Medium	ETC and EC	
Meadow birds					
	Improve knowledge and	Establish an Atlantic biogeographic level restoration agenda for			

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	a awareness of meadow birds	meadow birds, including recovery goals for species, and use the biogeographic process to set up a workshop to discuss this further			
		Develop a collaborative LIFE project on meadow birds	Short (September 2019)	Lower Saxony Water Management, Coastal Defence and Nature Conservation Agency	all
		Compile a booklet on meadow birds, to increase awareness of the need for their protection		EC	MS
		Initiate a thematic network of Atlantic region on meadow birds protection		EC	
		Suggest establishment/engagement of a group that represents farmers that are not intensive farmers (e.g. European Forum on Nature Conservation and Pastoralism?)			
		Use existing networks (e.g. AEWA) to collaborate better and exchange knowledge			
	Ensure financing for measures	Propose necessary measures for the protection of meadow birds in the next CAP review			MS
Integrated approaches to tackling nitrogen pollution (air and water pollution): on approaches to tackling the impacts of nitrogen (air and water pollution) on Natura 2000 sites.					
	Improve knowledge and knowledge exchange	Develop guidance on most effective restoration measures	Medium	Aarhus University /WENR	MS/EC
		Share current and appropriate assessment tools and explore	Medium	MS	

Topic	Outcome	Action	Timing	Lead	Support
		alignment			
		Develop guidance on using Critical Loads	Medium		NECD Working Group on Effects International Cooperative Group on Mapping & Modelling (ICP M&M)
		Sharing best practices in reduction of air and water pollution, based on case studies	Medium		
Wet and dry grasslands					
		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, widespread 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	
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Heaths and Bogs					
		In order to continue to share experiences and knowledge, place relevant information on the Natura 2000 Knowledge Platform and	Ongoing		

Topic	Outcome	Action	Timing	Lead	Support
		alert colleagues to the location;			
		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		
		Promote dialogue and ask for collaboration with EC, ECNC and relevant MS in order to design joint project proposals.	2017 onwards	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	
Rivers and lakes					
		Preparing material about achieving positive interactions between the directives, - natural function, integrated biodiversity objectives, role of Natura 2000. Cross-biogeographical region approach.			
Natura 2000 vs. WFD (objectives, planning)		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.	Guidance document has been prepared on relationship		
		Communicate technical rationale about strategic interlinks between WFD and Natura 2000 to policy makers, partners, stakeholders.			
		Focus on the long-term goals for Natura 2000 and work with WFD to identify short term measures in this context.		Expert network	
		Build in consideration of the Floods Directive		EC, Expert network	
		Outline best ways of cooperation between authorities		MS	
Multi – agencies responsibility		Promote a common language between biodiversity and water decision-making (key elements of natural function)		DE, UK, NL	
		Share and promote the outcomes of relevant LIFE and other projects		EC, Expert Network	
		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	Ongoing	FR, UK, NL	

Topic	Outcome	Action	Timing	Lead	Support
		experts on biogeographic mailing list, links with other regions).			
Networking		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	all Atlantic MS	
Dunes and coastal areas					
For the actions agreed for dunes we refer to the separate roadmap on dunes					

Input to V3 provided by: Irene Bouwma, Sophie Ouzet, Theo van der Sluis and Frank Vassen.