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Mãe d'água

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Event: For more information on this seminar, see the Natura 2000 Communication Platform: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/platform/index_en.htm and on the NaturaBioGeo [wiki](#).

Documents from previous Alpine seminars can be found [here](#).

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1. Introduction

1.1. Context of the Natura 2000 seminar for the Alpine region

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

The Alpine region comprises some 8% of geographical Europe and involves thirteen EU Member States² (Figure 1). Five of the longest and highest Alpine ranges of the European Union have been included in the Alpine biogeographic region. They comprise the **Alps** which stretch over France, Italy, Germany, Austria, Slovenia, Croatia (and non-EU countries Switzerland and Monaco), the **Scandes** or Scandinavian mountains which straddle Sweden, Finland (and Norway), the **Apennines**, the spine of Italy, the **Pyrenees** on the border between Spain and France, and the **Carpathians** in Bulgaria, Romania, Slovakia and Poland (that extend into Ukraine). Extensive background documentation prepared for the seminar is available [here](#).

The seminar, online, took place from 8 until 11 September online, and was hosted by by the Ministry of the Environment of Sweden and the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (Naturvårdsverket). Some 162 registered participants from 13 countries attended, in addition to the 15 people from the supporting team. The first day 115 participants attended while the three following days gathered on average 80 participants.

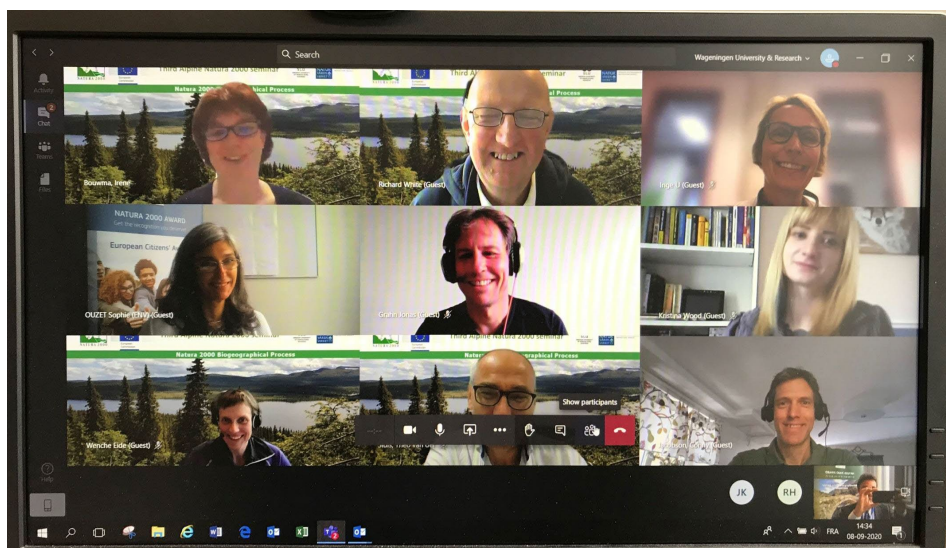


Figure 1: The organising team: Irene Bouwma, Richard White, Ingeberte Uitslag, Sophie Ouzet, Conny Jacobson, Kristina Wood, Wenche Eide, Theo van der Sluis, Jonas Grahn (left to right)

1.2. The four themes selected for the seminar

The following crosscutting themes were the central focus for the thematic sessions and movies shown during the seminar:

- **Theme 1.** *Defining and coordinating a Natura 2000 restoration agenda in the Alpine region;*
- **Theme 2.** *Managing land use to improve the conservation of Alpine Natura 2000 habitats and species;*
- **Theme 3.** *Optimising co-benefits of Natura 2000 management with climate change mitigation and adaptation;*
- **Theme 4.** *Improving landscape connectivity for the Natura 2000 Alpine habitats and species.*

Theme 1 and 3 and theme 2 and 4 were scheduled as parallel sessions. Reports on the outcomes of the thematic group sessions were presented in the plenary session during the last day.

1.3. Reading guide

This introduction is followed by Chapter 2, a summary of the opening and plenary session (day 1). Chapter 3 presents the reports from the four thematic working groups, with the findings and recommendations as presented on the closing day. The plenary discussion of the conclusions, as well as the important issues which might require follow-up actions are presented in Chapter 4. These actions are included in the roadmap that will be presented in the relevant groups (Steering Committee, NADEG¹) and made available to the seminar's participants and the general public. Annexes 1 to 3 list the programme, the presentations of the knowledge market and participants lists. Annex 4 provides a summary of the survey undertaken amongst participants to evaluate the seminar.

All presentations from the seminar are available [online](#) at the Biogeographical process website.



¹ EU Expert Group on the Birds and Habitats Directive

2. Opening and plenary sessions

The seminar was opened by Jan Terstad, Deputy Director General, Division for Natural Environment at the Swedish Government Offices who welcomed the guests and participants on behalf of the Ministry. He underlined that the main task of the seminar is not only sharing experiences but also to help each other take real, effective action for nature in the EU. Climate change is a main threat for biodiversity but at the same time there is hope as the EU has set the ambitious goal to become climate neutral. In particular, forest and wetlands are important ecosystems to mitigate and adapt to climate change and both are present to a large extent in the Alpine region. Also Mr. Claes Svedlindh, Head of the Nature Department at the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency welcomed all online participants.

Humberto Delgado Rosa, Director for Natural Capital of the Directorate General Environment (DG ENV) of the European Commission, highlighted the importance of the new EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030 and the European Green Deal to tackle environmental challenges. This seminar will make a start with the discussion on aims and targets for years to come, and provide opportunities for joint action and cooperation by Member States.

After the opening, Frank Vassen, DG ENV of the European Commission, introduced the new EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 – Bringing back nature into our lives. The strategy entails the development and strengthening of a coherent network of protected area, which includes legal protection of a minimum of 30% of its land and sea areas to achieve a trans-European Nature network. This includes strict protection of all remaining old-growth forests. The Commission will discuss with Member States criteria and guidance for identifying and designating additional areas, including a definition of strict protection, as well as of appropriate management planning. A second pillar of the strategy is a nature restoration plan: no deterioration in conservation trends and status of all protected habitats and species by 2030, and a favourable conservation status for at least 30% of species and habitats (or a positive trend) by 2030. The Commission will in addition put forward in 2021 a proposal for legally binding EU nature restoration targets to restore degraded ecosystems.

A movie illustrated Natura 2000 in Sweden's Alpine region with its key habitats and species and identified challenges in relation to the management of Sweden's Natura 2000.

Mora Aronsson from SLU and ETC-BD, presented the situation for Alpine species and habitats in the Alpine region based on the Habitats Directive Article 17 reporting. He presents the result according to the Alp region, i.e. Fennoscandia (27.2% of territory), Dinaric Alps (4.3 %), Pyrenees and Alps (39.1%) and Carpathians and Balkans (29.4%). Some 39% of the habitats are in favorable conservation status, 56% unfavorable. 36% of



Figure 2: Mora Aronsson, presenter on behalf of ETC-BD and SLU, on the situation for Alpine species and habitats in the Alpine region based on the Habitats Directive Article 17 reporting

species are in favorable conservation status and 51% unfavorable. Heaths and scrubs and rocky habitats are improving, whereas others are declining. Only vascular plants are improving: all other species groups are declining. The main pressures are agriculture and forestry. Finally, assessments show a strong contrast for both species and habitats between the Northern and Southern Alpine habitats: geographical differences need to be taken into account.

3. Thematic sessions

3.1.1. Theme 1 – Defining and coordinating a Natura 2000 restoration agenda in the Alpine region

Chair: Frank Vassen; **Facilitator:** Theo van der Sluis

Objectives of the thematic session

The main objectives of this thematic session were to:

- Identify priority actions for the restoration of degraded ecosystems in the Alpine regions, in particular those with the most potential to capture and store carbon or to prevent and reduce the impact of natural disasters;
- Exchange good practice for identifying priorities for restoration actions (including through the PAF²) that target habitats and species in the Alpine region;
- Share experiences on best practice restoration measures undertaken in the Alpine region, including from LIFE projects, in view of ensuring upscaling and replicability.

Highlights of the presentations

Carlos Romao (EEA) presented an analysis of the opportunities for restoration of habitats and species for the Alpine region. In particular the freshwater habitats, natural and seminatural grasslands, raised bogs, mires and fens and forests are not in good status, often with a deteriorating trend. The condition is not good for 51% of the habitats, and for many habitats unknown. There are large differences for various Alpine regions. It is important that Member States use the reporting data to take this into account, and to prioritise restoration activities for typical Alpine habitats (e.g. grasslands and rivers).

Fredrik Nordvall (Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management) presented actions for favourable conservation status in watercourses in Sweden. He presented an analysis of the similarities between the Water Framework Directive (WFD) and Nature Directives, and work done in Sweden on river restoration. A study shows that many rivers are not in good conservation status. A large number of rivers is in or near Natura 2000 sites. One of the main bottlenecks is the lack of continuity of rivers, in particular dams for hydro-power, but also siltation which can in some cases come as a result of

² Prioritised Action Framework - a plan that each MS drafts to indicate major objectives for Natura 2000 and how they will use EU Funding (LIFE, CAP, Structural Funds) for Natura 2000

recreational activities as e.g. skiing. Planning for the removal of dams suit both Natura 2000 and WFD goals.

Discussions in the breakout groups

A crucial issue mentioned in various groups (5 breakout groups in total) is land abandonment resulting in a decline of grasslands and meadows. Successful restoration measures were e.g. increase of dead wood in forests, removal of bushes from grasslands and lake restoration by removing invasive alien species. In particular grassland restoration was mentioned by various groups as successful. River restoration, removal of barriers and creating fish passages – partly linked to WFD – is another action. Also single-species action plans can have ecosystem-wide benefits, e.g. beavers which lead to improved wetlands.

Important factors are the motivation and involvement of people, in particular farmers and NGOs. Also LIFE funding or EAFRD rural development programmes have been very instrumental for restoration measures. Meadow restoration is fairly easy implemented and can be applied on a large scale, which has contributed to its success. Problems identified are the lack of young farmers (leading to land abandonment) and lack of knowledge with young farmers.

Priority for restoration should be with areas in bad conservation status. Further, the discussion in the breakout groups focused on halting land abandonment, as this is an important reason for decline of meadows (Habitat 6410). Young farmers are needed, in particular in traditionally managed land and on steep slopes and highlands. In lowland focus should be on extensification of farming practices. Also diversification and expansion of forests (habitats 91D0/91E0/9260/9410), restoration of peatland hydrology and removal of barriers in rivers was mentioned.

The factor most hampering successful implementation of restoration is the lack of cooperation between agriculture and nature conservation authorities. This is important for a proper implementation of EAFRD funded programmes at the local level for habitat restoration in land abandonment areas. E.g. EAFRD funds are privately used by the beneficiaries without taking into account the nature management requirements. In some countries the lack of access to private land is a problem, as is the involvement of land owners in restoration activities. The latter is often related to lack of incentives.

Which habitat types would require most restoration?



3.1.2. Theme 2 – Managing land use to improve the conservation of Alpine Natura 2000 habitats and species

Chair: Bent Jepsen; Facilitator: Richard White

Objectives of the thematic session

- Exchange knowledge and experiences relating to addressing intensification of agriculture, land abandonment and pressure from tourism;
- Develop a list of practical ideas for addressing land management challenges based on issues identified in discussions.

Highlights of the presentations

Jérémie Crespin (DG ENV, European Commission) highlighted relevant aspects of the post-2020 CAP. Nature conservation has a specific objective within the new policy, with a new 'eco-scheme' instrument within Pillar I. With increased subsidiarity, national Priority Action Frameworks will be more important. Using examples from the Austrian Alpine region, **Dr Wolfgang Suske** from Austria described how a shift to results-based payments for agri-environmental support provides flexibility for landowners to innovate, improves understanding of environmental targets, as well as achieving positive results for biodiversity.

Introducing discussions on tourism and Natura 2000, **Sofia Pachini** (European Commission) highlighted the wider social importance of Natura 2000 sites, describing work being carried out linking natural and cultural heritage and studies into the support of sustainable tourism and recreational activities. **Dr Michael Jungmeier** (UNESCO Chair 'Sustainable Management of Conservation Areas', Carinthia University of Applied Sciences, Austria) identified key issues, both in terms of assessing cumulative impacts of recreation on the small scale and identifying new challenges and perspectives in Alpine and high-Alpine areas subject to large scale and extensive recreational use.

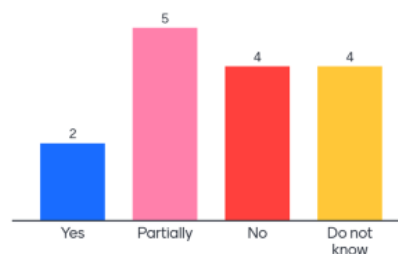
Discussions in breakout groups

Alpine habitats and species are under pressure from two trends in land management; intensification of agricultural activities, and the abandonment of land. Agriculture in Alpine regions is more marginal than in many other biogeographical regions and economic pressures can lead to

intensification of farming in areas where this is an option. Alternatively, there may either be a shift in land use from agriculture to forestry, or abandonment of any form of land management.

Participants raised a range of issues relating to **land management and agriculture**, highlighting the reduced opportunities for effective conservation management due to increasing abandonment of

Do you think that your country's upcoming CAP strategic plan will take sufficient account of the needs for Alpine species and habitats?



marginal land and intensification of other areas. This trend was linked to demographic change, as young people move away from the countryside into the cities. This in turn is driven by economic pressures as it becomes increasingly difficult to make a living from the land.

Specific challenges were identified, related to financial support offered to landowners and farmers. Participants highlighted the need to increase the uptake of existing financial support, to increase economic returns from low impact farming. However, it was also recognised that the current schemes are not always fit for purpose and that challenges around applying them to specific local issues often discourage applicants.

A range of potential actions was identified, all with the aim of subsidising agriculture to benefit biodiversity in Natura 2000 sites, and in the surrounding countryside. At the most basic level, it was suggested that additional advice could be provided to farmers in navigating existing funding schemes, as these are often complicated to access. Additionally, there was much mention of the need for increased flexibility in CAP and other financial support mechanisms to increase the range of opportunities open to farmers. Following on from the presentation on results-based payments, participants were supportive of a move away from prescriptive measures in payment schemes, instead agreeing the conservation results to be achieved and allowing farmers to apply local knowledge to achieve the desired results. In the wider context, there was discussion around linking biodiversity gain to both social and economic benefits for local communities. It was suggested that there would be benefit in exploring the concept of added value for agricultural products through Natura 2000 branding.

A separate session discussed issues relating to addressing the pressure on Alpine habitats from **tourism**. Tourism is often seen as an appropriate area for diversification away from agriculture. On a global scale, mountain regions make up 15-20% of global visits, second only to the world's coasts. However, as well as bringing economic benefit, tourism can also lead to increased pressure on habitats and species. This is especially the case in Alpine regions where much of the tourism is related to winter sports which rely on additional infrastructure.

A major issue raised was the lack of data, of biodiversity in Alpine regions, of the level of tourism in those areas and, importantly, of the interactions between the two. The need for an understanding of these issues at a scale to support local management was also highlighted. As with agriculture, the economic pressure on tourism providers was seen as a key issue for the development of sustainable tourism.

The major challenge in addressing these issues is that data gathering is expensive. Even where money is available it is not balanced across all areas, with National Parks being better funded than other Natura 2000 sites. The issue of providing information on biodiversity, its value, and appropriate codes of conduct, to both tourists and tourism providers was highlighted. And, again, as with agriculture, the need to increase economic returns from low impact tourism was identified.

Participants discussed possible actions for addressing the challenges that were identified. Increased cooperation on monitoring and modelling of data was seen as important, along with the dissemination

of good practices in Natura 2000 sites. Retezat in Romania, Rila in Bulgaria, and Abisko in Sweden were specifically mentioned, though other sites will have useful information to exchange. There was discussion of the development of codes of practice for tour agencies, along with the provision of better information for tourists. All aimed at ensuring that businesses and visitors better understand the part they can play in reducing tourism pressure. The economic challenges were seen as more complicated, and the idea of added value for tourism businesses through the development of certification schemes for all tourism providers was seen as a potentially useful action



3.1.3. Theme 3 – Natura 2000 and climate change

Chair: Petri Alroth; Facilitator: Irene Bouwma

Objectives of the thematic session

The objectives of this thematic session are to:

- exchange knowledge and best practices on assessing effects of climate change for Natura 2000 species, habitats and sites;
- exchange knowledge and best practices on adaptation to climate change for Natura 2000;
- discuss opportunities for transboundary cooperation on climate change adaptation on Natura 2000 objectives in future projects;
- identify common actions on how best practices for climate change adaptation can be shared or developed between various Member States.

Highlights of the presentations

Dr. Britta Sannel (Stockholm University, Sweden) presented the impact of climate change on Natura 2000 in Sweden. She highlighted that climate change has a major impact on the occurrence of permafrost and associated habitats worldwide. Permafrost soils are a major storage of CO₂ and the thawing of permafrost soil releases more greenhouse gases thus creating a feedback mechanism that will even further increase temperatures. This feedback mechanism is identified as a key uncertainty in the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) assessment report. Research in the Natura 2000 sites Tavvavuoma (Sweden) and Katterjokk (Sweden) and in the site of Guatheluoppal (Norway) shows that in the European Union permafrost has already started to thaw and disappear with its associated habitats. Mitigation and adaptation measures unfortunately do not work. The only way to maintain permafrost in the European Union in the future is to strongly reduce greenhouse gas emissions and stop global warming.

Prof. Jörg Ewald (Hochschule Weihenstephan-Triesdorf, Germany) presented the effect of climate change in the Bavarian Alps and how this will also change the agriculture and forestry in the area. Historical research has shown that forest species are able to rapidly migrate upwards while the migration of

Alpine species is limited and slower than the ongoing changes. As a result it can be expected that the area of Alpine vegetation will decrease rapidly while the forest will extend. Three different scenarios were presented to depict likely changes in the area due to the combination of climate change and changing land use. If no action is taken it can be expected that intensively used grasslands as well as forests will expand while areas with forest pastures, extensive pastures and Alpine vegetation will decrease. Measures designed to counteract the forest succession processes and keep and maintain extensive pastures and forest pastures would help mitigating the effects of climate change and would deserve CAP support.

Discussion in breakout groups

In the various breakout group participants discussed the effects they already noted as well as the experiences gathered so far in the field of mitigation and adaptation. Such effects of climate change as expansion of butterflies, red fox and brown bear are already noted. As the same time several participants indicated that there is still a lack of knowledge of the current and expected effects for their region. To assess climate change effects, there is a global network in the mountain areas in which also several Alpine regions participate (<https://www.gloria.ac.at/home>). Spain has set up a programme to monitor climate in its national parks (see <https://www.miteco.gob.es/es/red-parques-nacionales/red-seguimiento/parques.aspx>).

What actions might be needed?



Asked whether they already knew examples of successful mitigation of adaptation measures, most participants indicated that there is a lack of knowledge on the effects of mitigation and adaptation measures. They indicated that measures which are taken to conserve nature, in particular measures for river and lake restoration and raised bogs, are considered as good strategies to tackle climate change as well. In the Pyrenees there are projects ongoing to address climate change for biodiversity (see <http://www.lifelimnopyreneus.eu/en>).

Overall, participants felt a need to set up a monitoring system and an observatory network to exchange on the effects of climate change and on successful adaptation measures. Such a system should involve site managers as well as researchers and facilitate data exchange between Member States. It should also help bridging the gap between the way the monitoring system is designed (often very technical and complex) and the capacity of those in charge of implementing it.

At the same time, it was also recognised that for some species and habitats (e.g. *palsa mires*) the only option to safeguard them is to reduce greenhouse gases emissions as no adaptation measures are possible.

On the second day actions on which discussions explored opportunities for co-operation. Participants focused in particular on extreme events and on the long-term monitoring of evolutions in relation to climate change as well as on measures to address both. Several suggestions were made:

Extreme events:

- There was a need to exchange between Member states how to respond to extreme events due to climate change that have a large impact on a specific site (storms, forest fires). Sites managers might like to discuss with other sites manager how to manage the area after such an event
- There was also the question more on the legal side - how to report on the area in Natura 2000 data base and which procedures should apply (derogations, appropriate assessment of management)

Long-term monitoring of evolutions in relation to climate change

- Guidance on how we can monitor these changes at biogeographical level (which monitoring, observatory network is needed?). The techniques to do so are there but how to interpret the impacted habitat types and relate them to those in the HD's interpretation manual?
- Guidance on how to report on changes in the Article 17 reporting (new formats, new innovative measures)?



3.1.4. Theme 4 – Improving landscape connectivity for Natura 2000 Alpine habitats and species

Chair: Ingrid Johansson Horner; **Facilitator:** Rene Henkens

Objectives of the thematic session

The objectives of this thematic session are to:

- exchange knowledge and best practices on improving network coherence for Natura 2000 species, habitats and sites in the Alpine region;
- identify species and habitats which are in particular need of improved ecological connectivity and which are of common interest to several MSs;
- discuss opportunities for transboundary cooperation on improving ecological connectivity for Natura 2000 habitats and species.

Highlights of the presentations

Przemyslaw Oginski (DG ENV, European Commission) gave a short introduction on the Prioritised Action Framework (PAF) for Natura 2000, focusing on ecological connectivity restoration and management needs. **Michaela Künzl** (Bavarian State Ministry of the Environmental and consumer protection, Germany) and **Matthias Drösler** (University Weihenstephan) highlighted the Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP project) which aims to make the Alps a model region for Green Infrastructure development, including rural and urban areas. They presented a joint effort between Alpine countries aimed to achieve ecological connectivity of Alpine peatlands.

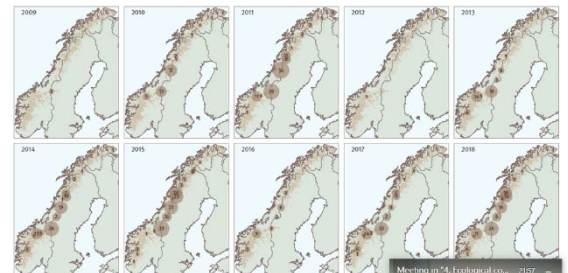
Tomas Bergström (County administrative board of Jämtland, Sweden) presented the Arctic Fox Action Plan, which aims to achieve a viable Scandinavian population of the threatened Arctic Fox in the mountainous region along the borders of Norway and Sweden (and Finland).

Marine Vilarelle (Commission syndicale de la Vallée de Baigorry, France) presented a project on the

Mediterranean horseshoe bat (*Rhinolophus euryale*) in the French Pyrenees. The project aims to achieve a metapopulation of the species through the development and restoration of a green network.

Arctic fox distribution

- Mountain area in Sweden and Norway, previous also i Finland



Distribution of Arctic fox litters in Finland

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Discussion in breakout groups

Break-out groups consisted of approximately 6-12 participants. The groups were relatively small but nevertheless represented Member States from all of Europe.

The participants discussed a range of issues in relation to landscape connectivity, like habitats and species populations most fragmented as well as cross-border initiatives between member states. This lead to the recommendations like: continued defragmentation of riverine habitats, forests and large herbivore and carnivore populations; organisation of events to exchange knowledge (like this 3rd Alpine seminar); and increased financial support.

Concern was raised that the focus on large-scale habitats and populations of large species would be at the expense of smaller-scale habitats and species, like grasslands and insects. This has led to the following two recommendations:

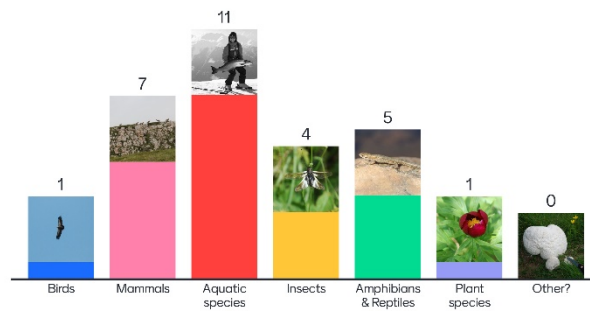
1. Prevent the loss of small-scale extensive management practices

Natura 2000 habitats (e.g. grasslands) across Europe are getting degraded due to land abandonment and their associated extensive land management practises. This results in habitat loss and fragmentation. The economic viability of living in rural areas must be improved, to prevent people from leaving the countryside. Conservation, tourism, agriculture and other sectors should cooperate to make nature economically viable, prevent landabandonment and maintain extensive small-scale land management practises.

2. Develop and maintain corridors for small-scale habitats and species populations across borders

Cross-border projects for large carnivores and herbivores exist, but for smaller species (e.g. insects) and their habitats (e.g. Natura 2000 grasslands) these cross-border projects are often lacking. There is a need for cross-border cooperation on these issues, e.g. mapping of grassland habitats, or joint management plan aimed at the implementation of small-scale ecological corridors accross borders.

Which species group would require most measures to improve connectivity?



4. Knowledge market

The knowledge market was introduced by Bent Jepsen who provided an overview of LIFE projects in the Alpine region. In total there are 130 biodiversity projects ongoing in the Alpine region, which have been supported by LIFE. LIFE has played a role in formulating PAFs and now LIFE Integrated Projects (LIFE IPs) can help implement the PAFs .

Examples of projects undertaken relating to restoration are (large scale) restoration of forests, restoration of natural rivers, restoration of lentic habitats, elaborating management models.

Regarding land use, projects undertaken are addressing land use changes through restoration of grassland habitats, fighting illegal poisoning, management of aquatic habitats, combatting Invasive Alien Species (IAS), Integrating nature and tourism planning.

On climate change, good examples are reviewing the effects of climate change on grasslands and forests, or focus on good practices to conjugate sustainable use of forests, restoration of large forest areas, and re-naturing rivers to regulate water flow.

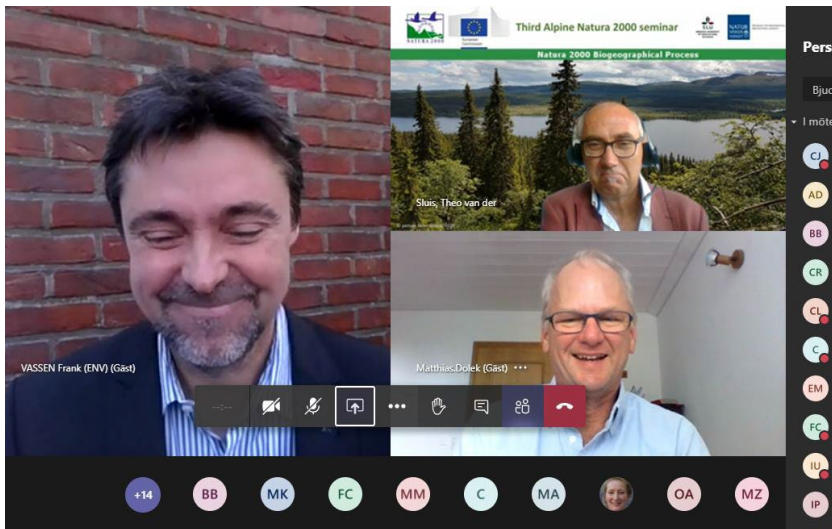
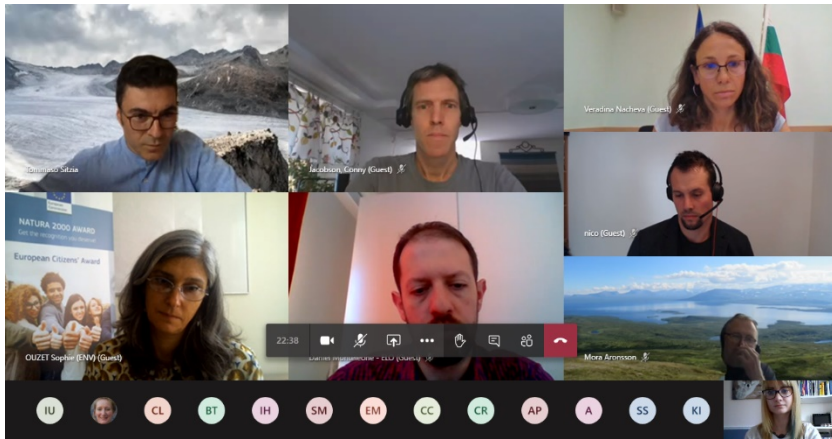
LIFE projects improving ecological connectivity finally have a focus on improving connectivity for large carnivores, removing barriers for raptors migration, ensuring river connectivity, transnational planning and conservation actions.

There are various integrated projects with the aim to implement PAFs and river basin management plans. Typical for these projects are that they are large scale, with complementary actions involving provision of additional co-funding and cooperation with stakeholders.

For the new EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, the Strategic Nature Projects (SNAPs) under LIFE will take over from the Nature LIFE IPs and will be very important. They will aim for mainstreaming nature and biodiversity into other policies and programmes through coherent programmes of actions in the Member States, including institutional support. They will in particular, but not exclusively, focus on PAFs. The ambition is to cover all Member States, from the start of the upcoming Multi-annual Financial Framework. Beneficiaries are the competent nature/biodiversity authorities, in partnership with relevant stakeholders. The LIFE IPs and the SNAPs seek to explore new cooperation and financing models.

Participants are advised to search for best practise experience for management of Natura 2000 areas in the LIFE database. The LIFE programme is expected to continue in 2021-2027 with an increase of almost €2 billion compared to the present LIFE which offers many opportunities in future.

Annex 2 provides an overview of the presenters at the knowledge market. Each session allowed for short presentations of approximately 10 minutes, followed by a questions and answers session and discussions among participants.



5. Concluding plenary session and following steps

5.1. Further elaboration of actions

On the final day the four chairs of the thematic sessions reported back on the outcome of discussions and each of them suggested two topics to be further debated between participants with a view to planning for practical action:

Linked to theme 1 on restoration:

- **How to ensure that Europe's mountain regions maintain (economically viable) farm structures for managing species-rich grasslands?** This complex issue requires an integrated approach, from different sectors. One idea is to develop trial project(s) with various remote areas involved, it could be the focus of a LIFE IP. Organising a workshop with participants and institutions managing funding to discuss project opportunities and develop a joint project would be relevant.
- **How to ensure that more people will acquire the skills and capacities needed for site restoration work, and how can we organise this?** The EU can stimulate compiling and testing of traditional knowledge on restoration. It is interesting to mix scientists and practitioners (farmers etc.) to exchange ideas (like OBN does in the Netherlands). Training at EU-level on specific Natura 2000 restoration issues could address this too.

Linked to theme 2 on land use:

- **What factors need to be considered as we develop and implement results-based agrienvironment payments schemes?** Developing ecological corridors in cooperation with farmers, especially for grasslands, bearing in mind impacts from climate change looks promising. Such schemes could be certified and recognised at the EU level. Similarly, discussions conducted at national level on approaches for results-based payments should be extended to include farmers.
- **How can we define certification and promotion of Natura 2000 site products and tourism services based on biodiversity criteria?** The group confirmed the interest of certification but did not clarify how to bring this further.

Linked to theme 3 on climate change:

- **How to increase cross-border co-operation on defining management measures to protect habitats and species threatened by climate change?** For short term effects, practical guidance and results need to be exchanged between sites affected by extreme events. For long term effects, more information on identified evolutions is required. In addition, Member States need guidance on how to report on climate change effects on the conservation status, both regarding the data they mention in Natura 2000 data forms as well as regarding their reporting under Art. 17.

- **How to improve the knowledge base of climate change effect on habitats (and species)?** It is suggested to organise at national and biogeographical level an online platform/database where latest information on climate change effects and measures can be found.

Linked to theme 4 on ecological connectivity:

- **How can we increase connectivity in particular for Natura 2000 habitats as well as invertebrates and their habitats?** It is proposed to organise joint, cross-boundary workshops for adjacent regions e.g. in Scandinavia, France or Italy. They would focus on sharing experiences and discuss transboundary cooperation. The “contract corridors” used in France could serve as a model, transboundary habitat maps could be developed, technical guidance could be discussed.
- **How can we prevent connectivity-loss by diversifying the rural economy in remote areas of Europe?** Organising study tours at regional level between neighbouring countries would allow for knowledge exchange on sustainable grassland management in the region .

5.2. Closing remarks

Nicola Notaro, Head of the Nature Protection Unit in DG ENV, concluded with perspectives for the discussions under the biogeographical process. He first encouraged the whole network of people working on Natura 2000 to build on this seminar’s conclusions. He then outlined that MS’s Nature authorities and experts working together under the process will focus on ensuring coherence in the implementation of national commitments under restoration and protected area targets of the EU biodiversity strategy for 2030 at biogeographical level: this is key to scale up the effects of national policies. He finally gave a final vote of thanks to participants, speakers, chairs and organising team and in particular to Sweden for their support to the new online meeting format and the preparation of the movies that made up for field trips to the Scandinavian Alpine region.

On behalf of the Sweden, **Conny Jacobson** (SEPA) concluded that actively developing an adaptive management of the protected areas network will make a difference in these changing times. He closed the seminar thanking DG ENV and all participants for their input and active participation.

All presentations from the Seminar are available on the Natura 2000 biogeographical process webpages:

https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/platform/knowledge_exchange/28_document_library_en.htm

6. Additional information: development of the roadmap

The roadmap for cooperation in the Alpine Region acts as a reminder for the key issues and actions that have been discussed by practitioners over the last decade and as a stimulus for new activities. It will list a series of actions which would address the need for knowledge exchange on the key issues already identified. For some of these actions, the roadmap will identify possible lead bodies and a target timeline. In some cases a lead has been offered, in others a lead will be proposed by the European Commission through its support to the Natura 2000 biogeographical process and in others there are suggested lead bodies.

The added value of cooperation and networking among the European network of people working together for Natura 2000 is transfer of knowledge, replication of success and sharing of good practice across all biogeographical regions. To meet this goal, activities from the roadmap can be further developed by e.g. LIFE projects, cooperation between research bodies or mobilisation of resources from different partners at national or crossborder level (authorities and agencies in the Member States, NGOs and other stakeholders' organisations...).

ANNEXES

Annex 1 – Programme of the seminar

Monday 7 September 2020

Time	Test Session	
11:00-13:00	Testing of MS-TEAMS for participants;	Irene Bouwma / Theo van der Sluis

Tuesday 8 September 2020

Plenary session (Chair: Sophie Ouzet, DG ENV)		
Time	Session, topics and speakers	Chair/Speaker
9:00-9:15	Opening and welcome Introduction round of main speakers, and supporting team	Sophie Ouzet, DG ENV
9:15-9:40	Opening address by the Ministry of the Environment of Sweden Opening address by the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency Opening address by DG ENV, European Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Jan Terstad, Deputy Director General, Division for Natural Environment• Mr. Claes Svedlindh, Head of the Nature Department• Mr. Humberto Delgado Rosa, Director for Natural Capital
9:40-10:00	The Biodiversity Strategy 2020-2030 and update on Multi-Annual Financial Framework 2021-2027	Frank Vassen, DG ENV
10:00-10:15	Natura 2000 in Sweden's Alpine region – Movie	
10:15-10:35	Situation of Alpine species and habitats in the Alpine region based on the Habitats Directive Article 17 reporting	Mora Aronsson, ETC-BD
10:35-10:45	Organisation of parallel thematic sessions	Irene Bouwma, WUR
10:45-11:00	Coffee break – Slide show with pictures from the Alpine region	

Tuesday 8 September 2020 (continued)

Parallel thematic sessions		
Time	Session, topics and speakers	Session, topics and speakers
11:00 - 12.30	<p>Theme 1: Defining and coordinating a Natura 2000 restoration agenda in the Alpine region</p> <p>How to decide on priorities and implement restoration activities in the Alpine region?</p> <p>Chair: Frank Vassen (European Commission) Facilitator: Theo van der Sluis (WUR)</p> <p>Presenters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Carlos Romao (EEA) on restoration priorities in the Alpine region. • Freshwater restoration – an example. Video <p>Breakout sessions 1</p>	<p>Theme 3: Optimising co-benefits of Natura 2000 management with climate change mitigation and adaptation</p> <p>How to adapt the Natura 2000 network to changing climate conditions?</p> <p>Chair: Petri Ahlroth (Director of the Biodiversity Centre, Finnish Environment Institute (Suomen ympäristökeskus, SYKE) Facilitator: Irene Bouwma (WUR)</p> <p>Presenters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Britta Sannel (Stockholm University, Sweden) on impact of climate change for Natura 2000 in Sweden • Prof. Dr. Jörg Ewald (Hochschule Weihenstephan-Triesdorf, Germany) on N2000 habitats of Alpine pastures in the Bavarian Alps: recent challenges by climatic and socio-economic change <p>Breakout sessions 1</p>

Wednesday 9 September 2020

Parallel thematic sessions		
Time	Sessions, topics and speakers	Session, topics and speakers
09:00-10:30	<p>Theme 2. Managing land use to improve the conservation of Alpine Natura 2000 habitats and species.</p> <p>How to improve land use, in particular toward private land owners in the agricultural and tourism sector?</p> <p>Chair: Bent Jepsen (NEEMO) Facilitator: Richard White (NatureBureau) Presenters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jérémie Crespin (European Commission) on perspectives for the CAP strategic plans (short introduction) • Dr. Wolfgang Suske (Austria) on result based approaches for Alpine grasslands • Short movie <p>Breakout sessions 1</p>	<p>Theme 4. Improving ecological connectivity for Natura 2000 Alpine habitats and species</p> <p>How to work together to ensure connectivity for Alpine species and habitats?</p> <p>Chair: Ingrid Johansson Horner, Swedish Environmental Protection Agency SEPA Facilitator: Rene Henkens (WUR) Presenters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Przemyslaw Oginski (European Commission) on information from PAFs on ecological connectivity restoration and management needs (short introduction) • Michaela Künzl (Bavarian State Ministry of the Env. And Consumer Protection, Germany) and Matthias Drösler (University Weihenstephan): The EUSALP project – Alpine Peatlands and Natura 2000 – Backbone of an Alpine Region Green Infrastructure • Short movie: Green infrastructure in Sweden in practice <p>Breakout sessions 1</p>
10:30-10:45	Coffee break	
10:45- 12:30	<p>Theme 1 [continued]. Defining and coordinating a Natura 2000 restoration agenda in the Alpine region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fredrik Nordwall (Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management) Actions for favourable conservation status in watercourses in Sweden. <p>Breakout sessions 2</p>	<p>Theme 3 [continued]. Optimizing co-benefits of Natura 2000 management with climate change mitigation and adaptation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forestry and nature conservation Short movie • LIFE Pastoral <p>Breakout sessions 2</p>

Thursday 10 September 2020

Parallel thematic sessions		
Time	Session, topics and speakers	Session, topics and speakers
09.00 - 10.30	<p>Theme 2 [continued]: Managing land use to improve the conservation of Alpine Natura 2000 habitats and species Parallel session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short movie • Sofia Pachini (European Commission) linkages between conservation and cultural heritage (short introduction) • Dr. Michael Jungmeier (UNESCO Chair "Sustainable Management of Conservation Areas", Carinthia University of Applied Sciences, Austria): A drop to make the barrel overflow - Cumulative impacts of recreational and touristic activities <p>Breakout sessions 2</p>	<p>Theme 4 [continued]: Improving ecological connectivity for Natura 2000 Alpine habitats and species [continued]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tomas Bergström (County adm. board of Jämtland, Sweden) Arctic fox action plan and Nordic cooperation • Marine Vilarelle (Commission syndicale de la Vallée de Baigorry, France) on restoration of « Trame verte et bleue » (green and blue network) at site level <p>Breakout sessions 2</p>
10:30-10:45	Coffee break	

Plenary session (Chair: Sophie Ouzet, DG ENV)		
Time	Session, topics and speakers	Chair/Speaker
10:45- 10:55	The LIFE projects in the Alpine biogeographical region	Mr. Bent Jepsen, NEEMO
10:55 – 11:00	Introduction on the organisation of the knowledge market	Irene Bouwma, WUR
11:00- 12:30	Knowledge market: 3 parallel sessions organised around the themes of the seminar.	

Friday 11 September 2020

Plenary session (Chair: Mr. Nicola Notaro, Head of the Nature Protection Unit, DG ENV)		
Time	Session, topics and speakers	Speaker/Chair
09:00 – 9:50	Closing session: feedback on the discussions and actions defined during the four parallel thematic sessions.	Chairs from the 4 sessions: Frank Vassen, Petri Ahlroth, Bent Jepsen, Ingrid Johansson Horner
09:50 – 10:00	Introduction to Carousel	Theo van der Sluis, WUR
10:00-10:30	Planning for action – Carousel Round I	Theo van der Sluis, WUR
10:30-10:45	Coffee break	
10:45- 11:15	Planning for Action – Carrousel Round II and III	Theo van der Sluis, WUR
11:15 – 11:45	Report back – Carousel, perspectives for next steps for the biogeographical process and the road map	Carousel reporters
11:45 – 12:00	Video highlights from the Seminar	Nature Bureau
12:00- 12:15	Closing session. The continuation of the biogeographical process. Final words	Mr. Nicola Notaro (Head of the Nature protection Unit DG-ENV) Conny Jacobson (Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, Sweden)

Annex 2 – Overview of presenters at the Knowledge Market

Plenary session: Knowledge market (Chair : Sophie Ouzet, DG ENV)	
Time	Session, topics and speakers
10:45- 11:00	Introduction to the Knowledge Market. Bent Jepsen (NEEMO) will provide an overview of LIFE projects in the Alpine biogeographical region.
Round 1 (11:00- 11:45)	Presentations
Round 2 (11:50-12:30)	<p>1. Differences in the interpretation of some habitats in France and Spain François Prud'homme (Conservatoire botanique national des Pyrénées et de Midi-Pyrénées , France)</p> <p>2. Stakes of biodiversity knowledge and conservation in high Alpine areas Sébastien Lavergne, Laboratoire d'Ecologie Alpine, CNRS - Université Grenoble Alpes (France)</p>
Round 1 (11:00- 11:45)	<p>1.Grassland Management Experience in the Alpine Biogeographical Region Matthias Dolek, from Butterfly Conservation Europe (BCE)</p>
Round 2 (11:50-12:30)	<p>2.Restoration work and land management model FCC in Alpine region Mihai Zotta, FUNDAȚIA CONSERVATION CARPATHIA (Romania)</p> <p>3.Prioritisation of Natura 2000 habitats in the Occitanie region (France) Olivier Argagnon. Conservatoire Botanique National Méditerranéen de Porquerolles (France)</p>
Round 1 (11:00- 11:45)	<p>1. Capacity Building for Conservation Management By Thomas Campagnaro and Tommaso Sitzia From University of Padova</p>
Round 2 11:50-12:30)	<p>2. Adaptive Management of Recreation in Natura 2000 By Nico Boenisch and Ilke Tilders From FOS Europe (consultants working for the Swedish EPA)</p>

Annex 3 – Lists of participants (alphabetical order; sorted by country)

Last Name	First Name	Country	Organisation	Non-governmental ^{1a)} / government expert ^{1b)}
Abderhalden	Angelika	Switzerland		
Abdulhak	Sylvain	France	Conservatoire Botanique National Alpin	non-governmental expert
Ahlroth	Petri	Finland		
Åkerhammar	Peter	Sweden	Geological Survey of Sweden	government expert
Albrecht	Maximilian	Austria		
Aleksandrov	Sergey	Bulgaria	Central Balkan National park Directorate	government expert
Antolic	Iva	Croatia	Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development, Nature Protection Directorate	government expert
Aragnon	Olivier	France	Conservatoire Botanique National Méditerranéen	non-governmental expert
Aronsson	Mora	other	ETC-BD/SLU	
Bacchereti	Simona	EASME	EASME- EUROPEAN COMMISSION	
Bach Ferré	Quim	Spain	Generalitat de Catalunya	government expert
Bal	Bernard	France	Conservatoire d'Espaces Naturels Haute-Savoie	non-governmental expert
Baláž	Peter	Slovakia	State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic	government expert
Balcerzak	Jan	Poland	Generalna Dyrekcja Ochrony Środowiska	government expert
Barova	Sylvia	EASME	EASME B.3 LIFE	
Bartal	András	EU		
Benemann	Axel	Germany	Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety	government expert
Berglund	Håkan	Sweden		
Bergström	Tomas	Sweden	Country adm borar of Jämtland	
Biersteker	Levi	other	WUR	
Biriş	Iovu Adrian	Romania	Universitatea de Ştiinţe Agronomice şi Medicină Veterinară din Bucureşti (USAMV)	non-governmental expert
Bizheva	Vanya	Bulgaria	Balkan Center for Sustainability and development	non-governmental expert
Blaj	Jasna	Slovenia	Ministry for environment and spatial planning	government expert
Bonelli	Simona	Italy		
Bourlon	Sophie	France	Parc Naturel Régional du Luberon	non-governmental expert
Bouwma	Irene	other	WUR	
Campagnaro	Thomas	Italy	Università' di Padova	non-governmental expert
Candela	Sara	Spain	Tragsatec	non-governmental expert
Capitao	Joaquim	EU		
Cazacu	Simona Roxana	Romania	National Institute for Research and Development in Forestry "Marin Drăcea"	non-governmental expert
Celada	Claudio	EHF	LIPU	
CERABOLINI	Bruno Enrico Leone	Italy	Biodiversity Monitoring Centre of Lombardy Region (ORBL) and Università degli Studi dell'Insubria	government expert
Černecký	Ján	Slovakia	State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic	government expert
Chocholová	Lenka	Slovakia	Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic	government expert
Cipot	Maja	Slovenia	Ministry for environment and spatial planning	government expert
Coignon	Bastien	France	Ministère de la Transition Ecologique	government expert
Combal	Bruno	EU		
Copiz	Riccardo	Italy	"Mettiamoci in Riga" Project, Sogesid - Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea Protection	government expert
Crespin	Jérémie	EU		
Čuš	Jure	Slovenia	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food	government expert
Dahlström	Marie	Sweden	Swedish Ministry of Environment	government expert
De Oliveira Romão	Carlos	other	EEA	

Last Name	First Name	Country	Organisation	Non-governmental ^{1a)} / government expert ^{1b)}
Delgado Rosa	Humberto	EU - Env, Natural Capital	Head	
Delhaye	Sébastien	France	IGN Sud-Est	non-governmental expert
Dolek	Matthias	Germany	Butterflies Conservation International	non-governmental expert
Doneva	Asya	Bulgaria	Ministry of Environment and Water	government expert
Droesler	Matthias	Germany		
Dulin	Alexa	France	animatrice en charge de l'élaboration du Docob de la ZPS "Vallée de la Nive des Aldudes, col de Lindux"	non-governmental expert
Dumaitre	Alexandre	France	Direction Régionale de l'Environnement, de l'Aménagement et du Logement Nouvelle-Aquitaine	government expert
Eide	Wenche	Sweden	Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (Swedish Species Information Centre)	government expert
Ewald	Jörg	Germany	University of Applied Sciences Weihenstephan-Triesdorf	non-governmental expert
Garriga	Marc	Spain		
Gavilan	Laura-Patricia	other	ETC-BD	
Goriup	Paul	other	Naturer Bureau	
Grahn	Jonas	Sweden	Swedish EPA	government expert
Grigorova	Yulia	Bulgaria	Ministry of Environment and Water	government expert
Guil	Francisco	Spain	Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge	government expert
Gussev	Chavdar	Bulgaria	Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences	non-governmental expert
Henkens	Rene	other	WUR	
Herrero Cangas	Barbara	EHF	BirdLife Europe	
Hrabkovský	Branislav	Slovakia	Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic	government expert
Iannizzotto	Antonio	Italy	TA Sogesid – Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea Protection	government expert
Iglesias-Blanco	Lucia	Spain		
Ivanova	Yanitsa	Bulgaria	Central Balkan National park Directorate	government expert
Jacobson	Conny	Sweden	Swedish EPA	government expert
Jacobson	Anders	Sweden		
Jelenko-Turinek	Ida	Slovenia	Ministry for environment and spatial planning	government expert
Jepsen	Bent	other	NEEMO	
Jogan	Jernej	Slovenia	University of Ljubljana, Biotechnical Faculty	non-governmental expert
Johansson Horner	Ingrid	Sweden	SEPA	
Kareksela	Santtu	Finland	Metsähallitus Parks and Wildlife Finland	government expert
Kasic	Andrijana	Croatia	Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development, Nature Protection Directorate	government expert
Keränen	Inka	Finland	Finnish Environment Institute	government expert
Koli	Martin	Slovakia	Slovak Water Management Enterprise	government expert
Kováčiková	Magdaléna	Slovakia	Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic	government expert
Kraan	Jolanda	other	WUR	
Kučera	Matej	Slovakia	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic	government expert
Künzl	Michaela	Austria		
Lang	Albert	Germany	Private consultant	non-governmental expert

Last Name	First Name	Country	Organisation	Non-governmental ^{1a)} / government expert ^{1b)}
Langowski	Andrzej	Poland	Generalna Dyrekcja Ochrony Środowiska	government expert
Laszlo	Demeter	Romania	National Agency for Natural Protected Areas	government expert
Latruberce	Maud	other	NEEMO	
Lavergne	Sébastien	France	Laboratoire d'Ecologie Alpine (LECA) UMR CNRS-UGA-USMB 5553	non-governmental expert
Lešová	Andrea	Slovakia	State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic	government expert
Lindberg	Mikael	Sweden	Swedish EPA	government expert
Lindhagen	Anna	Sweden	Swedish EPA	government expert
Löfroth	Michael	Sweden		
Lundqvist	Sven	Sweden	Geological Survey of Sweden	government expert
Lundvall	Päivi	Finland	The Finnish Association for Nature Conservation (FANC)	non-governmental expert
Luniewska	Izabela	Poland	Generalna Dyrekcja Ochrony Środowiska	government expert
Lupu	Gabriel	Romania	"Danube Delta" National Institute For Research and Development	non-governmental expert
Malenotti	Elisa	Italy	Piedmont Region, Office Biodiversity and natural areas	government expert
Mandon	Isabelle	France	Direction Régionale de l'Environnement, de l'Aménagement et du Logement Occitanie	government expert
Marsy	Sylvain	France	DREAL Auvergne Rhône Alpes EHN/PPN	government expert
Marușca	Teodor	Romania	Research - Development Institute for Grasslands, România	non-governmental expert
Miazga	Michał	Poland	REC Polska	non-governmental expert
Mierczyk-Sawicka	Mirosława	Poland	Regionalna Dyrekcja Ochrony Środowiska w Katowicach	government expert
Mihaylov	Mihail	Bulgaria	Ministry of Environment and Water	government expert
Mistarz	Margaux	France	Chargée de mission "Surveillance des habitats humides"	government expert
Mróz	Wojciech	EHF	Eurosite	
Mulser	Joachim	Italy	Provincia di Bolzano	government expert
Nacheva	Veradina	Bulgaria	Ministry of Environment and Water	government expert
Nared	Nives	Slovenia	Ministry for environment and spatial planning	government expert
Näslund	Ingemar	Sweden		
Nordwall	Fredrik	Sweden	Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management	government expert
Notaro	Nicola	EU	Head Nature protection Unit DG-ENV	
Obretenova	Iva	EU		
Oginski	Przemysław	EU		
Ojala	Olli	Finland	Ministry of the Environment	government expert
Oprea	Adrian	Romania	University "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" / Botanic Garden "Anastasiu Fatu", Iasi, Iasi county, Romania	non-governmental expert
Ouzet	Sophie	EU		
Pache	Robert	Romania	National Forest Administration - Romsilva	government expert
Pachini	Sofia	EU		
Panchetti	Fabiana	Italy	Mettiamoci in Riga Project, Sogesid - Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea Protection	government expert
Paulin	David	France		
Pedersen	Susanne	Sweden	EU - Nature protection Unit DG-ENV	assistant Mr. Notaro
Peric	Nenad	N2K	Copa-Cogeca	non-governmental expert
Phillippeau	Aurélie	France	Coordinatrice inter-réseaux Natura 2000 et territoires	non-governmental expert
Piana	Marine	France	animatrice des sites Natura 2000 du Pays de Cize : ZSC "Montagnes de Saint Jean Pied de Port" et ZPS : "Haute Cize: Pic d'Errozate et Forêt d'Orion"	non-governmental expert

Last Name	First Name	Country	Organisation	Non-governmental ^{1a)} / government expert ^{1b)}
Plavac	Ivana	Croatia	Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development, Institute for Environment e Nature	government expert
Plössnig	Christian	Austria		
Pont Gasau	Sara	Spain	Generalitat de Catalunya	government expert
Prud'homme	François	France	Conservatoire botanique national des Pyrénées et de Midi-Pyrénées	non-governmental expert
Rauzier	Adèle	France	Parc National du Mercantour	non-governmental expert
Rehklau	Werner	Germany	Bavarian EnvironmentAgency	government expert
Richard	Olivier	France	DREAL Auvergne Rhône Alpes EHN/PPN	government expert
Rzemieniuk	Marta	Poland	Generalna Dyrekcja Ochrony Środowiska	government expert
Salles	Jean-Marc	France	Direction Régionale de l'Environnement, de l'Aménagement et du Logement PACA	government expert
Sannel	Britta	Sweden	Stockholm University	
Schödl	Michael	Germany	Landesbund für Vogelschutz	non-governmental expert
Schoning	Kristian	Sweden	Geological Survey of Sweden	government expert
Schreiber	Klaus	Germany	Bavarian State Institute of Forestry	government expert
Schwarz	Matej	Slovakia	National Forest Centre	government expert
Šibík	Jozef	Slovakia	Slovak Academy of Sciences	non-governmental expert
SITZIA	Tomamaso	Italy	UNIVERSITA' DI PADOVA	non-governmental expert
Smaranda	Samad John	Romania	Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests	government expert
Solida	Luigi	Italy	Mettiamoci in Riga Project, Sogesid - Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea Protection	government expert
Sunyer	Carlos	other	TerraEcogest	
Supeková	Monika	Slovakia	Slovak Water Management Enterprise	government expert
Suske	Wolfgang	Austria	Suske Consulting	
Svedlindh	Claes	Sweden	Swedish Environmental Protection Agency	Head Nature Department
Szymańska	Magdalena	Poland	Regional Directorate for Environmental Protection in Kraków	government expert
Tabourin	Pierre	France	DREAL Auvergne Rhône Alpes EHN/PPN	government expert
Tammilehto	Anna	Finland	Metsähallitus Parks and Wildlife Finland	government expert
Taromi Sandström	Olof	Sweden	Geological Survey of Sweden	government expert
Tăușan	Ioan	Romania	Universtatea Lucian Blaga din Sibiu	non-governmental expert
Tchekouteff	Thysia	EU		
Terstad	Jan	Sweden	Ministry of the Environment of Sweden, Division for Natural Environment	Deputy Director General
Tomasella	Michela	Italy	Regione Friuli Venezia Giulia	government expert
Tranvik	Lena	Sweden		
Uitslag	Ingeberte	other	WUR/advisor	
Van Es	Jérémie	France	Conservatoire Botanique National Alpin	non-governmental expert
Van Rooij	Sabine	other	WUR	
VanderSluis	Theo	other	WUR	
Vassen	Frank	EU		
Veistola	Tapani	Finland	The Finnish Association for Nature Conservation (FANC)	non-governmental expert
Viestová	Eva	Slovakia	Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic	government expert
Vila Bonfill	Albert	Spain	Generalitat de Catalunya	government expert
Vilarelle	Marine	France	animatrice Natura 2000 site "Montagnes des Aldudes"	non-governmental expert
Vîrtopeanu	Liliana Viorica	Romania	Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests	government expert
Von Wachenfeldt	Eddie	Sweden		
Walkeapää	Anne	Sweden	Sami Parliament of Sweden	government expert

Last Name	First Name	Country	Organisation	Non-governmental ^{1a)} / government expert ^{1b)}
White	Richard	other	Nature Bureau	
Wietersheim	Antonia	N2K	Landwirtschaftskammer Österreich / Austrian Chamber of Agriculture	non-governmental expert
Wood	Kristina	other	Nature Bureau	
Wyżyński	Wiktor	Poland	Generalna Dyrekcja Ochrony Środowiska	government expert
Zehm	Andreas	Germany	Bavarian State Ministry für the Environment and Consumer Protection	government expert
Żero	Grzegorz	Poland	Ministry of Environment	government expert
Zoltan	Kovrig	Romania	National Agency for Natural Protected Areas	government expert
Zotta	Mihai Iancu	Romania	Fundatia Conservation Carpathia	non-governmental expert

Participants, sorted by country

Country	Last Name	First Name	Organisation	Non-governmental1a) / government expert1b)
Austria	Suske	Wolfgang	Suske Consulting	
Austria	Albrecht	Maximilian		
Austria	Künzl	Michaela		
Austria	Plössnig	Christian		
Bulgaria	Bizheva	Vanya	Balkan Center for Sustainability and development	non-governmental expert
Bulgaria	Aleksandrov	Sergey	Central Balkan National park Directorate	government expert
Bulgaria	Ivanova	Yanitsa	Central Balkan National park Directorate	government expert
Bulgaria	Gussev	Chavdar	Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences	non-governmental expert
Bulgaria	Doneva	Asya	Ministry of Environment and Water	government expert
Bulgaria	Grigorova	Yulia	Ministry of Environment and Water	government expert
Bulgaria	Mihaylov	Mihail	Ministry of Environment and Water	government expert
Bulgaria	Nacheva	Veradina	Ministry of Environment and Water	government expert
Croatia	Plavac	Ivana	Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development, Institute for Environment and Nature	government expert
Croatia	Antolic	Iva	Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development, Nature Protection Directorate	government expert
Croatia	Kasic	Andrijana	Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development, Nature Protection Directorate	government expert
Finland	Keränen	Inka	Finnish Environment Institute	government expert
Finland	Kareksela	Santtu	Metsähallitus Parks and Wildlife Finland	government expert
Finland	Tammilehto	Anna	Metsähallitus Parks and Wildlife Finland	government expert
Finland	Ojala	Olli	Ministry of the Environment	government expert
Finland	Lundvall	Päivi	The Finnish Association for Nature Conservation (FANC)	non-governmental expert
Finland	Veistola	Tapani	The Finnish Association for Nature Conservation (FANC)	non-governmental expert
Finland	Ahlroth	Petri		
France	Piana	Marine	animatrice des sites Natura 2000 du Pays de Cize : ZSC "Montagnes de Saint Jean Pied de Port" et ZPS : "Haute Cize: Pic d'Errozate et Forêt d'Orion"	non-governmental expert
France	Dulin	Alexa	animatrice en charge de l'élaboration du Docob de la ZPS "Vallée de la Nive des Aldudes, col de Lindux"	non-governmental expert
France	Vilarelle	Marine	animatrice Natura 2000 site "Montagnes des Aldudes"	non-governmental expert
France	Mistarz	Margaux	Chargée de mission "Surveillance des habitats humides"	government expert
France	Abdulhak	Sylvain	Conservatoire Botanique National Alpin	non-governmental expert
France	Van Es	Jéréemie	Conservatoire Botanique National Alpin	non-governmental expert
France	Prud'homme	François	Conservatoire botanique national des Pyrénées et de Midi-Pyrénées	non-governmental expert
France	Aragnon	Olivier	Conservatoire Botanique National Méditerranéen	non-governmental expert
France	Bal	Bernard	Conservatoire d'Espaces Naturels Haute-Savoie	non-governmental expert
France	Phillippeau	Aurélie	Coordinatrice inter-réseaux Natura 2000 et territoires	non-governmental expert

Country	Last Name	First Name	Organisation	Non-governmental1a) / government expert1b)
France	Dumaitre	Alexandre	Direction Régionale de l'Environnement, de l'Aménagement et du Logement Nouvelle-Aquitaine	government expert
France	Mandon	Isabelle	Direction Régionale de l'Environnement, de l'Aménagement et du Logement Occitanie	government expert
France	Salles	Jean-Marc	Direction Régionale de l'Environnement, de l'Aménagement et du Logement PACA	government expert
France	Marsy	Sylvain	DREAL Auvergne Rhône Alpes EHN/PPN	government expert
France	Richard	Olivier	DREAL Auvergne Rhône Alpes EHN/PPN	government expert
France	Tabourin	Pierre	DREAL Auvergne Rhône Alpes EHN/PPN	government expert
France	Delhaye	Sébastien	IGN Sud-Est	non-governmental expert
France	Lavergne	Sébastien	Laboratoire d'Ecologie Alpine (LECA) UMR CNRS-UGA-USMB 5553	non-governmental expert
France	Coignon	Bastien	Ministère de la Transition Ecologique	government expert
France	Rauzier	Adèle	Parc National du Mercantour	non-governmental expert
France	Bourlon	Sophie	Parc Naturel Régional du Luberon	non-governmental expert
France	Paulin	David		
Germany	Rehklau	Werner	Bavarian EnvironmentAgency	government expert
Germany	Schreiber	Klaus	Bavarian State Institute of Forestry	government expert
Germany	Zehm	Andreas	Bavarian State Ministry für the Environment and Consumer Protection	government expert
Germany	Dolek	Matthias	Butterflies Conservation International	non-governmental expert
Germany	Benemann	Axel	Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety	government expert
Germany	Schödl	Michael	Landesbund für Vogelschutz	non-governmental expert
Germany	Lang	Albert	Private consultant	non-governmental expert
Germany	Ewald	Jörg	University of Applied Sciences Weihenstephan-Triesdorf	non-governmental expert
Germany	Droesler	Matthias		
Italy	Copiz	Riccardo	"Mettiamoci in Riga" Project, Sogesid - Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea Protection	government expert
Italy	CERABOLINI	Bruno Enrico Leone	Biodiversity Monitoring Centre of Lombardy Region (ORBL) and Università degli Studi dell'Insubria	government expert
Italy	Panchetti	Fabiana	Mettiamoci in Riga Project, Sogesid - Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea Protection	government expert
Italy	Solida	Luigi	Mettiamoci in Riga Project, Sogesid - Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea Protection	government expert
Italy	Malenotti	Elisa	Piedmont Region, Office Biodiversity and natural areas	government expert
Italy	Mulser	Joachim	Provincia di Bolzano Ripartizione Natura, paesaggio e sviluppo del Territorio	government expert
Italy	Tomasella	Michela	Regione Friuli Venezia Giulia	government expert
Italy	Iannizzotto	Antonio	TA Sogesid – Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea Protection	government expert
Italy	Campagnaro	Thomas	UNIVERSITA' DI PADOVA	non-governmental expert
Italy	SITZIA	Tomamaso	UNIVERSITA' DI PADOVA	non-governmental expert
Italy	Bonelli	Simona		
Poland	Balcerzak	Jan	Generalna Dyrekcja Ochrony Środowiska	government expert
Poland	Langowski	Andrzej	Generalna Dyrekcja Ochrony Środowiska	government expert

Country	Last Name	First Name	Organisation	Non-governmental1a) / government expert1b)
Poland	Luniewska	Izabela	Generalna Dyrekcja Ochrony Środowiska	government expert
Poland	Rzemieniuk	Marta	Generalna Dyrekcja Ochrony Środowiska	government expert
Poland	Wyżyński	Wiktor	Generalna Dyrekcja Ochrony Środowiska	government expert
Poland	Żero	Grzegorz	Ministry of Environment	government expert
Poland	Miazga	Michał	REC Polska	non-governmental expert
Poland	Szymańska	Magdalena	Regional Directorate for Environmental Protection in Kraków	government expert
Poland	Mierczyk-Sawicka	Mirosława	Regionalna Dyrekcja Ochrony Środowiska w Katowicach	government expert
Romania	Lupu	Gabriel	"Danube Delta" National Institute For Research and Development	non-governmental expert
Romania	Zotta	Mihai Iancu	Fundatia Conservation Carpathia	non-governmental expert
Romania	Smaranda	Samad John	Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests	government expert
Romania	Vîrtopeanu	Liliana Viorica	Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests	government expert
Romania	Laszlo	Demeter	National Agency for Natural Protected Areas	government expert
Romania	Zoltan	Kovrig	National Agency for Natural Protected Areas	government expert
Romania	Pache	Robert	National Forest Administration - Romsilva	government expert
Romania	Cazacu	Simona Roxana	National Institute for Research and Development in Forestry "Marin Drăcea"	non-governmental expert
Romania	Marușca	Teodor	Research - Development Institute for Grasslands, România	non-governmental expert
Romania	Biriș	Iovu Adrian	Universitatea de Științe Agronomice și Medicină Veterinară din București (USAMV)	non-governmental expert
Romania	Oprea	Adrian	University "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" / Botanic Garden "Anastasie Fatu", Iasi, Iasi county, Romania	non-governmental expert
Romania	Tăușan	Ioan	Universtatea Lucian Blaga din Sibiu	non-governmental expert
Slovakia	Kučera	Matej	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic	government expert
Slovakia	Chocholová	Lenka	Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic	government expert
Slovakia	Hrabkovský	Branislav	Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic	government expert
Slovakia	Kováčiková	Magdaléna	Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic	government expert
Slovakia	Viestová	Eva	Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic	government expert
Slovakia	Schwarz	Matej	National Forest Centre	government expert
Slovakia	Šibík	Jozef	Slovak Academy of Sciences	non-governmental expert
Slovakia	Koli	Martin	Slovak Water Management Enterprise	government expert
Slovakia	Supeková	Monika	Slovak Water Management Enterprise	government expert
Slovakia	Baláž	Peter	State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic	government expert
Slovakia	Černecký	Ján	State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic	government expert
Slovakia	Lešová	Andrea	State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic	government expert
Slovenia	Blaj	Jasna	Ministry for environment and spatial planning	government expert
Slovenia	Cipot	Maja	Ministry for environment and spatial planning	government expert

Country	Last Name	First Name	Organisation	Non-governmental1a) / government expert1b)
Slovenia	Jelenko-Turinek	Ida	Ministry for environment and spatial planning	government expert
Slovenia	Nared	Nives	Ministry for environment and spatial planning	government expert
Slovenia	Čuš	Jure	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food	government expert
Slovenia	Jogan	Jernej	University of Ljubljana, Biotechnical Faculty	non-governmental expert
Spain	Bach Ferré	Quim	Generalitat de Catalunya	government expert
Spain	Pont Gasau	Sara	Generalitat de Catalunya	government expert
Spain	Vila Bonfill	Albert	Generalitat de Catalunya	government expert
Spain	Guil	Francisco	Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge	government expert
Spain	Candela	Sara	Tragsatec	non-governmental expert
Spain	Garriga	Marc		
Spain	Iglesias-Blanco	Lucia		
Sweden	Bergström	Tomas	Country adm borar of Jämtland	
Sweden	Pedersen	Susanne	EU - Nature protection Unit DG-ENV	assistant Mr. Notaro
Sweden	Åkerhammar	Peter	Geological Survey of Sweden	government expert
Sweden	Lundqvist	Sven	Geological Survey of Sweden	government expert
Sweden	Schoning	Kristian	Geological Survey of Sweden	government expert
Sweden	Taromi Sandström	Olof	Geological Survey of Sweden	government expert
Sweden	Terstad	Jan	Ministry of the Environment of Sweden	Deputy Director General, Division for Natural Environment
Sweden	Walkeapää	Anne	Sami Parliament of Sweden	government expert
Sweden	Johansson Horner	Ingrid	SEPA	
Sweden	Sannel	Britta	Stockholm University	
Sweden	Nordwall	Fredrik	Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management	government expert
Sweden	Svedlindh	Claes	Swedish Environmental Protection Agency	Head Nature Department
Sweden	Grahn	Jonas	Swedish EPA	government expert
Sweden	Jacobson	Conny	Swedish EPA	government expert
Sweden	Lindberg	Mikael	Swedish EPA	government expert
Sweden	Lindhagen	Anna	Swedish EPA	government expert
Sweden	Dahlström	Marie	Swedish Ministry of Environment	government expert
Sweden	Eide	Wenche	Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (Swedish Species Information Centre)	government expert
Sweden	Berglund	Håkan		
Sweden	Jacobson	Anders		
Sweden	Löfroth	Michael		
Sweden	Näslund	Ingemar		
Sweden	Tranvik	Lena		
Sweden	Von Wachenfeldt	Eddie		
Switzerland	Abderhalden	A.		
EASME	Barova	Sylvia	EASME B.3 LIFE	
EASME	Bacchereti	Simona	EASME- EUROPEAN COMMISSION	
EHF	Herrero Cangas	Barbara	BirdLife Europe	
EHF	Mróz	Wojciech	Eurosite	
EHF	Celada	Claudio	LIPU	

Country	Last Name	First Name	Organisation	Non-governmental1a) / government expert1b)
EU	Bartal	András	EU	
EU	Capitao	Joaquim	EU	
EU	Combal	Bruno	EU	
EU	Crespin	Jérémie	EU	
EU	Obretenova	Iva	EU	
EU	Oginski	Przemyslaw	EU	
EU	Ouzet	Sophie	EU	
EU	Pachini	Sofia	EU	
EU	Tchekouteff	Thysia	EU	
EU	Vassen	Frank	EU	
EU	Delgado Rosa	Humberto	EU - Env, Natural Capital	Head
EU	Notaro	Nicola	EU - Nature protection Unit DG-ENV	Head
N2K	Peric	Nenad	Copa-Cogeca	non-governmental expert
N2K	Wietersheim	Antonia	Landwirtschaftskammer Österreich / Austrian Chamber of Agriculture	non-governmental expert
other	De Oliveira Romão	Carlos	EEA	
other	Gavilan	Laura-Patricia	ETC-BD	
other	Aronsson	Mora	ETC-BD/SLU	
other	White	Richard	Nature Bureau	
other	Wood	Kristina	Nature Bureau	
other	Goriup	Paul	Naturer Bureau	
other	Jepsen	Bent	NEEMO	
other	Latruberce	Maud	NEEMO	
other	Sunyer	Carlos	TerraEcogest	
other	Biersteker	Levi	WUR	
other	Bouwma	Irene	WUR	
other	Henkens	Rene	WUR	
other	Kraan	Jolanda	WUR	
other	Van Rooij	Sabine	WUR	
other	VanderSluis	Theo	WUR	
other	Uitslag	Ingeberte	WUR/advisor	

Annex 4 – Seminar evaluation (summary)

In total 162 people attended the seminar. 28 responses were received in the evaluation survey and are included here (response rate = 17,2%). In the evaluation the delegates could score from 1-10 for various parts of the seminar. The answer range varied from 1 – 10. All aspects of the seminar were positively rated, with scores ranging from 7.4 to 8.0 out of 10 (Table 1), with the exception for 'interactions with other participants (6.8), which is not surprising considering that it was an online event. Most positive rated were the 'overall organisation, the work presentations, opening and movies'. The average scores are presented in the table below:

Table 1: Overall rating of the Alpine Biogeographical Seminar

Issue	Average score (best score = 10/10)
the overall organisation of the seminar	8,0
the opening plenary session of the seminar	7,7
the work presentations	7,7
the quality of the facilitation	7,4
the interactions with other participants	6,8
Movies prepared for the seminar	7.8

Table 2 presents the overall scores given to the eight scoring questions. Some 21 times a score was given below 6 (23%). The scores are slightly lower than for the previous seminars, which is attributed to the fact that it was held online, also considering remarks made regarding the absence of opportunities for networking and renewing contacts.

Table 2: Overall scores for all questions summarized.

Scoring	Total
1	13
2	7
3	6
4	11
5	53
6	33
7	51
8	93
9	60
10	61
Grand Total	388

Participants were asked to provide feedback on the values of the seminar they attended, in particular the knowledge they gained (Table 3). The majority stated to have gained more insights, more ideas for work which can be used in their work regarding N2000. The survey confirms that the interaction with other participants is important and highly rated, it is acknowledged that other countries are facing similar problems and the seminar is important to make these relations. In general the evaluation of the online seminar was slightly less positive than the 'live' seminars.

Table 3: The value of the seminar for the work of the participants, with regard to knowledge and interaction.

Knowledge	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	Total
The talks and discussion I heard during the seminar have changed my view of the management of Natura 2000	3	6	11	8		28
The information provided at the seminar has given me a more in-depth understanding of the intricacies of the management of Natura 2000		3	8	15	2	28
During the seminar I gained new and useful ideas for my future work		4	5	18	1	28
I am likely to use the information provided at the seminar to change or adapt my own management or implementation of Natura 2000		4	12	11	1	28
Through the seminar I learned that other participants are facing similar challenges as I am with implementing Natura2000 policy		1	2	15	10	28

Participants could also indicate one issue they felt was a particular success during the seminar. What stands out is the discussions in smaller groups, the interactive approach and facilitation techniques that were used to have all people contribute and participate. Interesting is the remark of less climate impact as a result of the online meeting. And in particular, how the seminar was built up to come towards preparing the road map.

Further, the information on LIFE projects and exchange of experiences around real projects was appreciated.

The responses are given below:

- Variation between participatory sessions and listening
- Microsoft Teams / online organization (3x)
- A meeting with less climate impact.
- The opportunity to be involved in this seminar (vs. just listening at the seminar)
- Group discussions (2x)
- To show that such a big meeting can happen online and is a value for all participants, too.

- Plenary sessions and online voting.
- Information about LIFE financing opportunities
- Exchange of experiences in concrete projects
- Shared vision by almost all participants on common results-based payment approach might be considered as a success
- The process of decision making
- Organisation of smaller discussion groups (3x)
- an orderly course of the seminar, possibility to participate in selected groups
- creating shortcomings in addressing nature conservation
- seeing many various project regarding NATURA 2000
- Overall structure with online workshops in two rounds leading to the identification of key questions then discussed in the carousel session + wrap up session
- Open and free discussions and good practical examples
- Quite well management of various rooms, meetings, connections
- Forwarding presentations
- Smooth technical support and instructions. Very nice and skillful moderators.
- It was the first seminar fully organized online

Participants could also indicate one issue they felt needed to be improved during the seminar. Particular comments focus on shortage of time for discussions, and going in-depth. Also recurring is the knowledge market, which leaves room for improvement and more clarity in the process. Below the responses are given:

- More In-depth sessions with focussed questions
- Difficult to propose something to improve the video-conferencing.
- My English! I am not able to understand every presentations. But the slides helped me...
- Enabling to all participants the use of the chat (I missed the Mentimeter code for questions and was unable to pose questions, without disturbing the presenter for some hours)
- Less polls and more discussion. I had the feeling that the polls were too general and they disturbed the discussion a lot (at least in my group). Also the discussion - groups were too small, sometimes just two or three active participants (and more organisers, but they did not join the discussion). Set minimum size to groups (2x)
- Knowledge market with more detailed topics, and more information about the participants to get into contact with the people who might be interesting
- Sometimes "less is more". Reduce the overall agenda, focus on less topics but allow more time for exchange and discussion. The many breakout-groups were often quite rushed (3x).
- I think that such a virtual format with many participants is good for exchange but not as appropriate to agree on common conclusions and actions. Participants come from very different backgrounds remain relatively anonymous to each other. This makes it difficult

to develop common positions or agree on issues and roadmaps. Expectations in this regard should probably be reduced for virtual biogeographic Events.

- Thematic sessions might be held not in parallel, which will provide access to participate in all workshops for those, that are willing to hear more.
- better technical organisation and support (2x)
- knowledge market
- The overall connection issues
- synchronization of the program with national hours
- Add some more discussion about problems with Directives, such as the compilation of article 17 report or Water Framework Directive commitments
- Split people to rooms automatically (not each of them by clicking the link) (2x)
- Some participants were very slow in jumping between different sessions.
- More targeted content on nature conservation
- More intuitive program for organizing such seminars
- Maybe paying more attention to the selection of facilitators.
- better exchange of information between the different subgroups and more time for general discussion on the topics
- Methodology of working groups and familiarisation of people (replacement of cafe breaks)