



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

DRAFT VERSION, based on the report from the 3rd Boreal Natura 2000 Seminar in Tallinn, Estonia from 14-16 October 2019.

Introduction

The current roadmap is a draft version what is based on the outcomes of the 3rd Boreal Natura 2000 Seminar that was held in 2019 in Tallinn, Estonia. A significant range of subjects for future development and concrete collaboration were identified during the discussions of the three main teams and four habitat working groups. The roadmap is based on the outcomes of the thematic and habitat working group sessions, which were presented in the plenary of the 3rd Boreal Natura 2000 Seminar in Tallinn.

Current document outlines the events, working objectives and actions that were highlighted during the discussions and should be arranged to implement Natura 2000 goals in Boreal region. 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.



Topic	Outcome	Action	Timing	Lead	Support
Theme 1 - Stakeholder engagement in Natura 2000					
Strategic communication plan for natural grasslands	Strategic communication plan for grassland is prepared	Develop a strategic communication plan on Natura 2000 grassland management, involving various partners and exchange these in boreal region	Short/medium 16-17.12.2019	Lithuania	Boreal MS
Development of a project for harmonization of multifunctional forests and Natura 2000	Development of a transboundary LIFE project which involves all stakeholders - forest owners associations, state forest organisations, nature conservation, researchers, green NGO's, FSC certification bodies	Develop a LIFE project proposal. Preparation for the project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify common interest • review and develop funding/ regulations needed • identify pilot areas where joint management measures are discussed with private owners and implemented to create clarity on which measures are allowed Separate preparation meetings are needed in order to develop a transboundary co-operation project	June 2020	MS – Who?	EC - funding
Exchange information on on-going project in forests (METSO, Flying squirrel)	Better awareness of activities relevant for other MS	A workshop/exchange between two countries, or all countries together	2020	MS	MS

Topic	Outcome	Action	Timing	Lead	Support
Theme 2 – Priorities for Action					
Prioritisation tools in the Boreal region: how do we evaluate experiences in the Boreal region so far? What role can they play in conservation planning?	Best practices for prioritization are implemented	Sharing best practice about usage of different tools and methods when setting priorities	2020	MS	MS
	Harmonization between countries regarding the PAF	PAF experience exchange at boreal level, review and analyses of data and reaching agreement on a common method to set conservation priorities	2021	MS	MS
Cooperation for an efficient implementation of the PAF	Data collection and analysis via JRC, ETC, BD	EC should facilitate data gathering via JRC, ETC BD	2021	EC	MS
		EC to facilitate prioritization among the biogeographic regions through guidance on the PAFs	2022	EC	MS
Develop future projects based on experiences with the PAF, in particular to frame LIFE projects	Regional cooperation and sharing of best practices such as HELCOM on cross-border cooperation	Boreal expert meeting together with other ministries, especially the Ministries of Agriculture and Ministries of Forestry	2020	MS	EC, BGP
	Transboundary monitoring projects, field studies or usage of the existing data and remote analysis	Formulate a cooperation project or cooperative action, e.g. through LIFE			
	Discuss and develop shared criteria for interpretation of habitats	Networking event to develop common criteria and harmonize interpretation for habitats	2021	MS	MS, BGP

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Theme 3 – Natura 2000 and climate change					
Exchange of knowledge and best practices for integrated approaches, using the Natura 2000 objectives to define and design nature-inclusive projects and management plans vis-à-vis climate change	Systematic conservation planning by habitat mapping and definition of core areas, corridors and stepping stones	Establish systematic conservation planning by habitat mapping and definition of core areas, corridors and stepping stones (Ieva Rove; I.Rove@lvm.lv)	2020	LV	
	Common stratification of boreal forest types	Stratify different boreal forest types by their natural disturbance regimes (Ieva Rove; I.Rove@lvm.lv).	2020-2022	LV	
	Effective restoration projects – peatland, stream etc.	Ongoing cooperation in boreal region, cross-border projects – e.g. LIFE	ongoing	MS	EC
	Harmonization of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transboundary management of species and habitats for shared species populations • Research: methods for species studies, data collection • Management plans of certain habitats on a biogeographical scale 	Establish expert working group that meets at a regular basis, on topics related to data sharing – remote sensing, monitoring etc.	2020	MS	EC, BGP
	Improved monitoring and transboundary cooperation.	Formulate a joint project to be financed by Interreg/COST/ Horizon-2020	2020	MS	EU-COST, etc.

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Develop transboundary cooperation on integrated management of Natura 2000	Improved skills and knowledge sharing about remote sensing	Organise regular meeting of expert groups; divide tasks among MS. Focus on harmonisation of methods for remote sensing techniques, and data management - require new expertise and exchange of knowledge	2020	MS	MS, BGP
	Improved transboundary management	Organise regular meetings of the Natura 2000 site managers	2020-2022	MS	MS
	Develop functional green infrastructure across boundaries	Thematic travelling workshops in landscapes/ regions for stakeholder integration, and sharing of experiences	2021	MS	MS
Habitat working groups - Rivers and lakes					
Remove migration barriers in streams and rivers	Improve the conservation status / achieve good environmental status of rivers and freshwater habitats	Pursue through Integrated Projects LIFE concept – different ongoing projects: Freshabit LIFE-IP (Finland); ForEst&FarmLand (Estonia); LIFE IP CleanEST (Estonia); LIFE GOOD WATER (Latvia); Optimizing the management of Natura 2000 network (Lithuania); Rich waters, GRIP (Sweden)	Ongoing	MS	EC
Integration of Natura 2000 and WFD into RBMPs and EIAs, Appropriate Assessment (AA) according to HD/BD	Achieve common goals from WFD and BHD and use the potential in a mutually supporting manner	Bring together water and nature and marine directors from MSs	2020	EC	MS

Topic	Outcome	Action	Timing	Lead	Support
	Joint monitoring of selected species (WFD-HD-BD), which saves money, resources etc.	To carry out joint monitoring of selected species under both the WFD and the Nature Directives in all MS	2021	MS	MS
Use of dead wood in streams	Harmonization of management, improved status of streams	Joint expert workshop	2020	Boreal MS	
Habitat working groups - Wetlands					
Monitoring of habitat restoration, monitoring effectiveness of measures	Transboundary cooperation in monitoring restoration impacts, to develop common practices for restoration monitoring	Knowledge exchange - restoration monitoring expert meeting in Estonia (2020-2021) in the frame of Life+ projects	2020-2021	EST	
	Evidences base from reliable monitoring data for restoration benefits	Establishment of an expert network for boreal monitoring experts	2020		
	Harmonization of transboundary restoration monitoring approaches, including use of remote sensing techniques	Expert workshop to discuss monitoring at specific case studies	2021		
Sharing knowledge on Wetlands	Mainstreaming novel techniques (like remote sensing), share open datasets (metadata) and accepted process for gathering data	Joint projects and transboundary cooperation (COST, cooperation for funding, work sharing etc.) Data sharing - especially long term remote sensing and other monitoring data	2020	MS	MS

Topic	Outcome	Action	Timing	Lead	Support
Habitat working groups - Forests					
Forest connectivity	Restoration plans for improved connectivity	Spatial analysis (for different forest types) to identify need and options for connectivity; incorporate buffer zones along rivers and streams and consider also other land uses (e.g. watercourses, road and power lines as ways to improve connectivity) Review different sectors (then forestry) to increase connectivity			
Integrated forest management	Exchange of knowledge on legal tools and financial compensation mechanisms	Prepare a gap analysis, using a standardised approach for the different MS in the Boreal Region and discuss on this basis joint conservation targets for connectivity			
		Organise joint visits to review forests of different quality with researchers, forest owners, administrators			
Species and habitat protection outside of Natura 2000	Increased biodiversity outside protected areas	Formulate a national plan on what and how much is required for species and habitat protection, and local programs that enable owners to take responsibility themselves			

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Habitat working groups - Grasslands					
Upscaling grassland restoration – grassland habitats and CAP	A strategic approach for upscaling grassland restoration	Organize a networking event to share and discuss design of agri-environmental measures for the new CAP policy cycle– not only target figures, but also spatially explicit planning Share what agri-environmental measures (ideas, principals or concrete measures) are planned/drafted for next CAP cycle 2021-2027	2019	LIT	Lithuanian LIFE IP project (project website: www.naturalit.lt)
	Use / harmonize available planning tools (e.g. Vivagrass, Zonation)	Sharing best practices, lessons learned of agri-environmental measures of 2014-2020 period			

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