
Natura 2000 | Outdoor Recreation and Tourism

A GUIDELINE FOR THE APPLICATION OF THE HABITATS
DIRECTIVE AND THE BIRDS DIRECTIVE

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Translation

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Graphic Design

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Print

Landwirtschaftsverlag GmbH.
48165 Münster-Hiltrup

To be obtained from

Bundesamt für Naturschutz
Konstantinstraße 110
53179 Bonn, Germany

Note

This guideline is also available in German.

Print run: 1,000

Bonn-Bad Godesberg, February 2010

IMPRESSUM

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This guideline was developed within the F+E Project "Development of a
guideline for Outdoor Recreation, Sport and Tourism in Natura 2000 sites under
consideration of different European member states" (FKZ 806 82 370) financed
by the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) Funded by the Federal
Ministry of Environment Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU)

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This publication will be part of the literature database DNL-online
(www.dnl-online.de)

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CONTENT

	6	PREFACE OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION/DG ENVIRONMENT
	7	JOINT PREAMBLE BY THE EDITORS
Chapter 1	Page 9	1 INTRODUCTION – THE GREEN NETWORK NATURA 2000
Chapter 2	Page 11	2 NATURA 2000 – WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
	11	2.1 Introduction
	19	2.2 The Conservation Concept based on the Habitats Directive and the Birds Directive
	19	2.2.1 The Conservation Concept
	21	2.2.2 The Concept of “no deterioration”
	22	2.2.3 Habitats Assessment for Plans and Projects
	26	2.2.4 Conservation and Management
	27	2.2.5 The Conservation Concept for Rare Species
Chapter 3	Page 29	3 NATURA 2000 – REQUIREMENTS FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF SPORT, OUTDOOR RECREATION, AND TOURISM
	29	3.1 Tourism and Natura 2000
	30	3.2 Sport and Natura 2000
	33	3.3 Typology of Outdoor Recreation and Sports Activities
Chapter 4	Page 35	4 NATURA 2000 – CONSEQUENCES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION, SPORT AND TOURISM
	35	4.1 Introduction
	36	4.2 Hotels and Sports Facilities in Natura 2000 Sites or Adjacent Areas
	36	4.2.1 Continued Operation for Already Existing Facilities
	38	4.2.2 Expansion of Existing Sports Facilities and Touristic Infrastructure
	41	4.3 Outdoor Sports and Touristic Activities in Natura 2000 Sites
	41	4.3.1 Possible impact associated with infrastructure dependent activities in the open landscape (Type 1)
	42	4.3.2 Possible impact associated with activities that depend on specific nature and landscape properties (Type 2)
	44	4.3.3 Possible impacts of activities without special requirements on nature and/or landscape (Type 3)
	46	4.4 Compatibility of Events and Competitions in Natura 2000 Sites
	46	4.4.1 Competitions and events that do not require permits
	47	4.4.2 Organizing or Implementing a New Competition or Touristic Event
	47	4.4.3 Repeated sport competitions and touristic events which require authorization

CONTENT

5 NATURA 2000, SPORTS AND TOURISM – TOWARDS COOPERATIVE SOLUTIONS

Page 49

Chapter 5

- 5.1 The Mandate and Significance of the Management Plan
- 5.2 Cooperation During Inventory and Evaluation
- 5.3 Cooperative Development of Suitable/Appropriate Measures
 - 5.3.1 Voluntary Agreements and Conventions
 - 5.3.2 Cooperatively Developed Types of Visitor Management
 - 5.3.3 Implementation with Contracts and Other Measures of Landscape Improvements
- 5.4 Participation, Information and Public Relations

49

51

52

52

54

55

57

6 SPORT, TOURISM AND NATURA 2000 – MORE STRENGTH IN UNITY

Page 61

Chapter 6

- 6.1 Introduction
- 6.2 Case Studies

61

61

7 GLOSSARY AND ABBREVIATIONS

65

8 LITERATURE

69

9 ANNEX AND SERVICES

75

PREFACE OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION/DG ENVIRONMENT



Ladislav Miko. EU/DG Environment, Brussels.
C. Sturbois

The protected areas network Natura 2000 is of enormous significance for the protection of biodiversity across Europe. This brochure will inform tourism, outdoor recreation and sport representatives about the Natura 2000 concept and at the same time explain the many common interests between use and conservation goals. This guideline also contains real world examples about how the common goals of outdoor recreation use and nature conservation can be achieved jointly.

The cooperative development of this brochure is remarkable. Sports associations, tourism representatives, hotel operators and representatives of tourism destinations from many parts of Europe contributed to this volume. The many case studies document convincingly how successful cooperation between tourism, sports and nature conservation can be established. At the same time these case studies show that economic and ecological concerns are connected and can be advanced together.

In many European regions it has become clear that an intact nature is a fundamental precondition for successful tourism and for a sustainable economy in general. The inclusion of many studies and the extensive use of pictures will make this volume attractive to sports enthusiasts, recreationists and conservationists alike. This method of presentation makes the complex content comprehensive and understandable.

The European Commission is convinced that this brochure constitutes an important contribution towards increasing the acceptance of the goals of Natura 2000. We hope that this document will enjoy wide distribution and will provoke constructive debate in many future projects.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Ladislav Miko'.

Ladislav Miko

Director for Environment Protection
European Commission - General Direction Environment
Brussels

JOINT PREAMBLE BY THE EDITORS

Outdoor recreation, sports and nature tourism require a diverse and healthy natural environment. The ecological network represented by Natura 2000 contributes to the conservation of natural landscapes for future generations, and at the same time provides opportunities for many sustainable sports and nature recreation activities. Many European citizens spend much of their leisure time in protected landscapes such as clear lakes, forested mountain ranges, or in the alpine region, and they may actually be oblivious to that fact. In these protected areas it is especially important that outdoor enthusiasts behave in a responsible manner, as the manifold sports and recreation activities may have varied effects on nature and landscape.

In order to solve current problems, to answer contentious questions, and to prepare cooperative solutions, it is essential to provide a suite of relevant information about sports and tourism. Until now only few relevant situational analyses and case studies about tourism in protected areas have been undertaken. The guideline on "Natura 2000, Sports and Tourism" presents the current dynamic of sports, outdoor recreation and tourism development in protected areas. Current trends and applied management issues are presented and simple practical examples document how these uses can be integrated in Natura 2000 sites. Experience has shown that good communication and early participation by all actors, including sports and tourism interests, lead to acceptable solutions while maintaining the protection of valuable species and habitats, and thus may increase the acceptance of the Natura 2000 network.

This brochure emerged from several workshops with representatives from various sports and tourism associations, environmental and conservation organizations, and surveys in tourism communities. Therefore we would like to thank all tourism organizations, communities, workshop organizers and facilitators, sports associations and other experts for their contributions towards the successful development of this project.

We hope that the content of this guideline with its many case studies, the elaborations on judicial cases and the many figures will attract many sports and recreation enthusiasts and tourists. We also anticipate that sports and tourism associations, communities and relevant businesses will perceive this document a useful one. Ultimately it is the goal of this guideline to increase the public understanding of nature conservation in Europe, to reduce future conflicts, and to facilitate new cooperation between outdoor sports and recreation, tourism and nature conservation.


Federal Agency for Nature
Conservation (BfN)


Environment Agency Austria


German Olympic Sports Confederation


University of Natural Resources and
Applied Life Sciences (BOKU)


Expert Centre Recreation

What a fascinating idea: Europe is developing a network of protected areas which will span across all national boundaries. The rich natural inheritance of the European Union will be preserved, from the moorlands of northern Finland to the Mediterranean maquis, and will provide homes for bearded vultures as well as stag beetles, orchids and rare trees. All of them will be protected for future generations.

The purpose of this network of precious habitats is to counteract the continuous decline of many species – for example, 3000 plants of the European flora are endangered. This is in essence the goal of Natura 2000, to establish this coherent European network of protected areas, which is guided by the Habitats Directive and the Birds Directive.

Great, but what is the relationship between this noble European goal on the one side, and tourism, outdoor recreation, and sports activities on the other?

Exploring these multi-faceted relationships between the many outdoor recreation activities, sports and tourism, and Natura 2000 is precisely the goal of this guideline. The landscape is one of the crucial decision criteria when vacationers select their destinations. Landscapes constitute an amiable, attractive and restorative environment, and at the same time they also provide the physical resources for many outdoor recreation and sports activities, be it hiking, canoeing, or the many winter sports. The importance of landscape is the same for vacationers and local residents. For example, the Black Forest in Germany is a renowned tourism destination and at the same time it serves as the “playground” for more than two million residents who live nearby.

The ideal locations for many of the desirable outdoor recreation and sports activities frequently overlap with the habitats of many rare animals and plants. One main reason for the attraction of canoeing, rock climbing or ski touring is the fascination associated with movement in the landscape, and the challenges of mastering natural conditions.

Particularly in natural landscapes with a high level of appeal to tourism and nature-based sports activities it is essential to pursue these activities under conditions of mutual respect. As manifold as the various leisure activities are, as multi-faceted are their possible impacts on nature and landscape. It is equally wrong to globally condemn the potential negative effects exerted by tourists and sports enthusiasts, as it is to offer sweeping declarations that any one of these recreation activities are completely harmless to the living conditions of all the species and habitats under concern.

This guideline intends to provide stakeholders, managers of tourism enterprises and sport associations with insights of the goals and mandates of the protected areas network Natura 2000. The guideline shows where and under which conditions it is essential to be considerate of valuable species and habitats and how potential impacts can be

► *Relationships between outdoor recreation, sports and tourism, and Natura 2000*



Outdoor recreation and sport is especially attractive in natural landscapes.
Picture-Alliance

► *Goals and target groups of the brochure*

prevented in a pro-active manner. This guideline also elaborates on the opportunities that collaborative initiatives provide for securing diverse natural conditions for the future. For example, areas exist which are owned or managed by sport or recreation associations since a long time and became part of the European network Natura 2000 precisely because of their high level of ecological integrity. Obviously, tourism associations as well as individual tourism entrepreneurs can serve as important catalysts of protected areas and their conservation goals. In Spain, for example, the protection of dolphins has been promoted by tourism associations, who lobbied for a strict implementation of conservation measures for this attractive species.

Throughout the report, graphical representations and images simplify and highlight the complex materials. The illustrations and arguments are adapted to the concerns and interests of tourists and outdoor recreation enthusiasts. The main emphasis of this guideline is on the spatial context of conservation as demanded by the directives, while its consequences for the immediate protection of individual species (e.g. removal, trade, breeding, transportation) cannot be addressed here.

The guideline's main themes have been identified in a survey of representatives from selected sport, outdoor recreation and tourism associations from across Europe, and were selected in several workshops with representatives of European tourism associations and destinations which have major interests in nature. In collaborations with various sport associations it became possible to identify their most pressing questions and to present the results in this brochure.

The crucial questions from the perspective of outdoor recreation, sports and tourism

This guideline desires to answer the most crucial questions and to present feasible solutions to a number of common problems and issues:

- Where and how can I obtain information about Natura 2000?
- Which effects will this European system of protected areas have on recreation activities that depend on landscapes?
- What are the possible consequences associated with the siting or expansion of touristic infrastructure and recreation and sports facilities?
- Do events also constitute a project that must be evaluated within these Directives?
- Which opportunities for collaboration exist?

Case studies explain the basic principles of Natura 2000

Numerous case studies explain the relevant principles and what they mean for implementation. Most of these examples are from real world situations. When no actual case studies existed, simple fictitious situations were invented. Furthermore, Chapter 6 contains best practices examples for how tourist and sports associations have contributed towards the implementation of the goals of the Nature 2000 network.

2.1 Introduction

A number of protected areas existed across Europe already since the beginning of the 19th century. The origin of some of these is associated with the hunting interests of the local nobility, as it is the case in the National Park Donauauen near Vienna, and the densely forested National Park Bialowieski in the east of Poland. Other areas were originally protected for their beautiful scenery or unique landscapes, such as the National Park Berchtesgaden (Germany) with the Watzmann and the Königsee as its most famous landmarks. Only rarely did scientific reasons lead to the protection of valuable habitats or habitats of rare and endangered species. By the 1980's only about two percent of the total area of Central Europe was protected permanently.

In summary, the total area allocated to the protection of habitats and species across Europe was rather meager, no scientifically based approach existed for the identification of protected areas, and no international concept for ecologically based protection existed. Given that void, conservation interests under the auspices of the European Union (EU) established a concerted legislative approach, based on the Birds Directive and the Habitats Directive. Some further legal support arose from the protection of species which are of European-wide significance. Natura 2000 is one crucial initiative to curtail the loss of biological diversity by the year 2010, as agreed upon by all member states of the EU.

► *The history of protected areas*

► *Rationale for the introduction of Natura 2000*



Attractive landscapes, such as the Königsee in Germany, used to be the main criterion for designating protected areas in the past.
Nationalparkverwaltung Berchtesgaden

*The basic building blocks of
the European protected areas
system Natura 2000*

More specifically, the European concept of Natura 2000 is based on two directives (see Figure 1):

- The Council Directive 79/409/EEG on the protection of wild birds – “Birds Directive” (April 2nd, 1979)
- The Council Directive 92/43/EEG on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora – “Habitats Directive” (May 21st, 1992)

The aims established in these directives of the European Union are legally binding for all member states. Each member state must implement them within their respective national judicial system to conform to the directives.

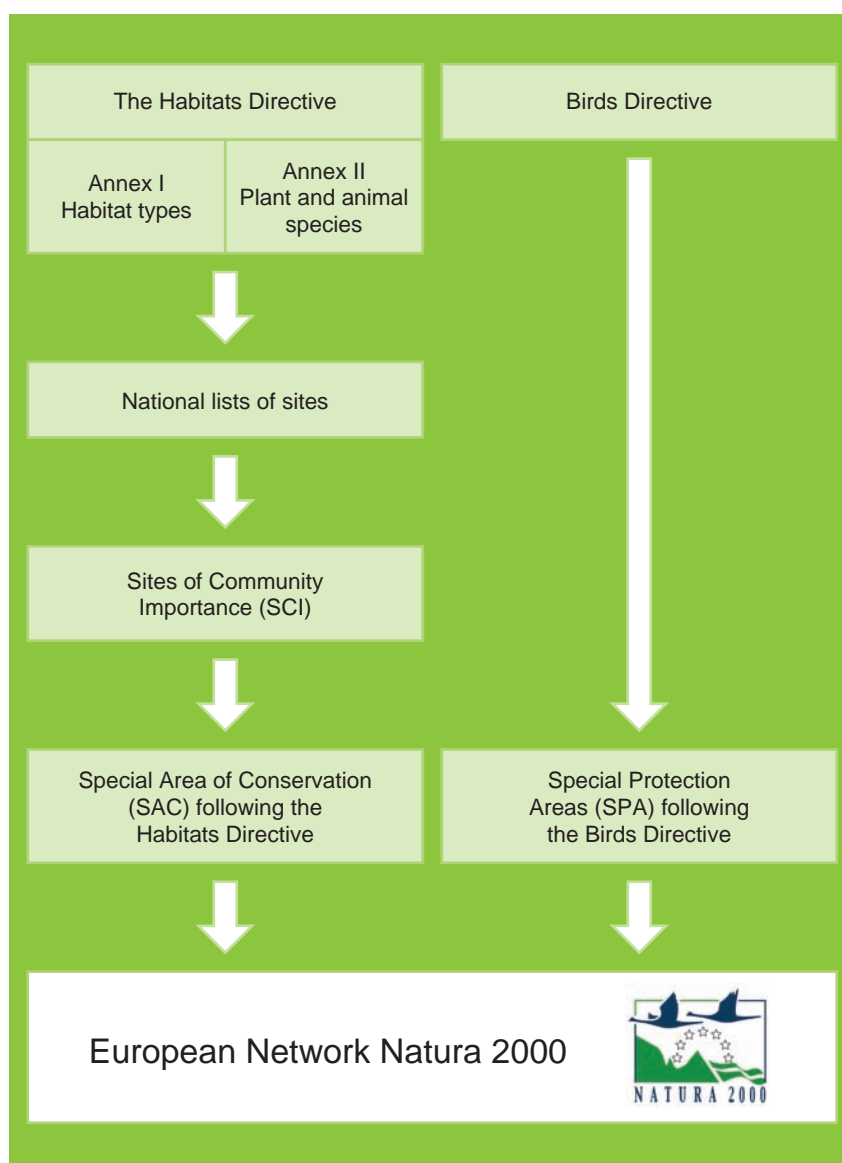


Fig. 1: In combination, the Habitats Directive and the Birds Directive constitute the foundation of the European protected areas system Natura 2000. Several processes exist within these directives to select Natura 2000 sites.

The aim of the Birds Directive is the preservation of all naturally occurring bird species and their habitats throughout Europe in all member states to ensure viable populations. All member states have agreed to identify and protect the most suitable sites for a total of 190 bird species and sub-species. Breeding, moulting, and winter ranges, as well as resting areas for migratory birds must all be considered. Well known species such as the white stork, crane, owl, kingfisher, and black grouse all benefit from these special provisions.

► *The goals of the Birds Directive*



Based on the Birds Directive, the Golden Eagle will enjoy special protection throughout Europe. Ruka Press Finland

The goals of the Habitat-Directive ◀

The main aim of the Habitats Directive (1992) is to conserve and maintain the biological diversity of Europe. Towards this goal, a coherent network of protected areas shall be established under the label of Natura 2000 for the purpose of protecting areas with rare or endangered habitats or fauna and flora. The concept of the network acknowledges that long term viability of many species does not only depend on healthy habitats, but also on a healthy large scale ecosystem with sufficient connectivity between its components. Furthermore, the selection of the species and habitats to be protected shall be based on fundamental biogeographic regional characteristics of Europe (see Figure 2 and glossary).



Fig. 2: Biogeographic regions in Europa, Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) 2007.

Structure and Content of the Habitats-Directive	
Definitions and aims	
Art. 1	Important definitions (e.g. conservation status, priority species,...)
Art. 2	Aims of the directive
Conservation of natural habitats and habitats of species	
Art. 3	Description of the Natura 2000 network
Art. 4	Establishment of national site lists of community importance (SCI), and identification of special protected areas (SAC)
Art. 5	The role of the European Council in selection of sites of community importance
Art. 6	Management of Natura 2000 sites
Art. 7	Obligations according to Birds directive
Art. 8	Financing Natura 2000
Art. 9	Declassification
Coherent network	
Art. 10	Improving the ecological coherence
Monitoring	
Art. 11	Surveillance of the conservation status
Protection of species	
Art. 12 to 16	Strict protection of animal and plant species
Information and research	
Art. 17	Information, report on the implementation of the measures
Art. 18	Research
Further provisions	
Art. 19	Procedure for amending the annexes
Art. 20, 21	Committee
Art. 22	Re-introduction of species
Art. 23, 24	Final provisions
Annex	
Annex I	Natural habitat types of Community interest
Annex II	Animal and plant species of Community interest
Annex III	Criteria for selecting sites eligible for identification as sites of community importance and designation as special areas of conservation
Annex IV	Animal and plant species in need of strict protection
Annex V	Animals and plants whose taking in the wild and exploitation may be subject to management measures
Annex VI	Prohibited methods and means of capture and killing and modes of transports

Fig. 3: Summary of the structure and content of the Habitats Directive (see Office for Official Publications of the European Communities).



The beech forest is listed in Annex 1. S. Balzer

*Overview of the concept
of protected objects in the
Habitats Directive*

The protected habitats and species are listed in the annexes of the two directives. Natura 2000, the ecological network of protected areas, will be established in all member states of the EU, for all habitats listed in Annex I and all species listed in Annex II of the Habitats Directive, as well as for all species and all regularly occurring migratory bird species as listed in Annex I of the Birds Directive. Certain species and habitats of the Habitats Directive, whose preservation is of particular significance to the EU are labeled as “priority” (using the symbol “ * ”). Both, the Habitats Directive and the Birds Directive suggest specific protective measures for endangered flora and fauna (Art. 12-16, annex IV und V of Habitats Directive und Art. 5-9 of Birds Directive).

Among the protected habitats in Annex I of the Habitats Directive are lagoons, dunes, raised bogs, alpine river systems, salt marshes, dry grasslands, heath lands and beech forests.

Annex II of the Habitats Directive also lists flora and fauna of European Community interest, which require special habitats for their preservation. Among them are higher order plants and mosses, such as the Eastern Pasque Flower, Lake Constance Forget-me-not, the Norn, the Madeira Cranesbill or the Hornwort. The list also contains a number of mammals, such as the European otter, the lynx, the woodland caribou, the seal and various bats.

The directive also protects amphibians, reptiles, fishes and lampreys. The directive applies to more than 1,000 species which have or had their habitat in Europe, including many beetles, dragon flies, butterflies, mollusks and crustaceans.

Figure 4 shows how these habitat types of Annex I and species of Annex II of the Habitats Directives constitute the basis for the integrated network of protected areas. Furthermore, Annex IV contains additional species which must be protected everywhere regardless of the protected area status. These species must not be subjected to any kind of disturbance, trade or hunting. These species must be monitored continuously, and if necessary, specific measures of support must be undertaken. Among these species are many bats, as well as sea turtles, the Atlantic white-sided dolphin, the European tree frog, and the sand lizard. The list also contains plants, such as the angel's tears, branching orchids, lady's slippers and the long-spur violet.

Annex V of the Habitats Directive contains a list of flora and fauna which may be subjected to human use as long as their favourable conservation status is guaranteed. The list features the alpine ibex, Aristotle's catfish, chamois and different fish species as well as various peat mosses, the great yellow gentian and arnica. The use or removal of single plants or animals from their natural environment must be in agreement with the favourable conservation status for the respective species. Special regulations may be introduced for the conservation and protection of these species.

► *The Habitats Directive proposes various types of protection*



The Green Lizard is strongly protected everywhere, independent of any protected areas. A. Prutsch



The Lady's slipper is protected in Annex II as well as in Annex IV. W. Simlinger, Österreichische Bundesforste AG

Various types of protection, as suggested by the Habitats Directive

Figure 4 summarizes the various types of protection suggested by the Habitats Directive. Habitats listed in Annex I and species listed in Annex II may lead to the declaration of a Natura 2000 site. The species listed in Annex IV are strongly protected, regardless of the area they are located in. Annex V lists animal or plant species which may trigger limitations of use in a given area. Some species may be listed in more than one annex. For example, the lady's slipper is listed in Annex II and Annex IV. The Habitats Directive contains further detailed prescriptions for establishing the Natura 2000 network. These regulations for the implementation of the directive and its significance in the context of sports and recreation in the open landscape and tourism will be explained further below.

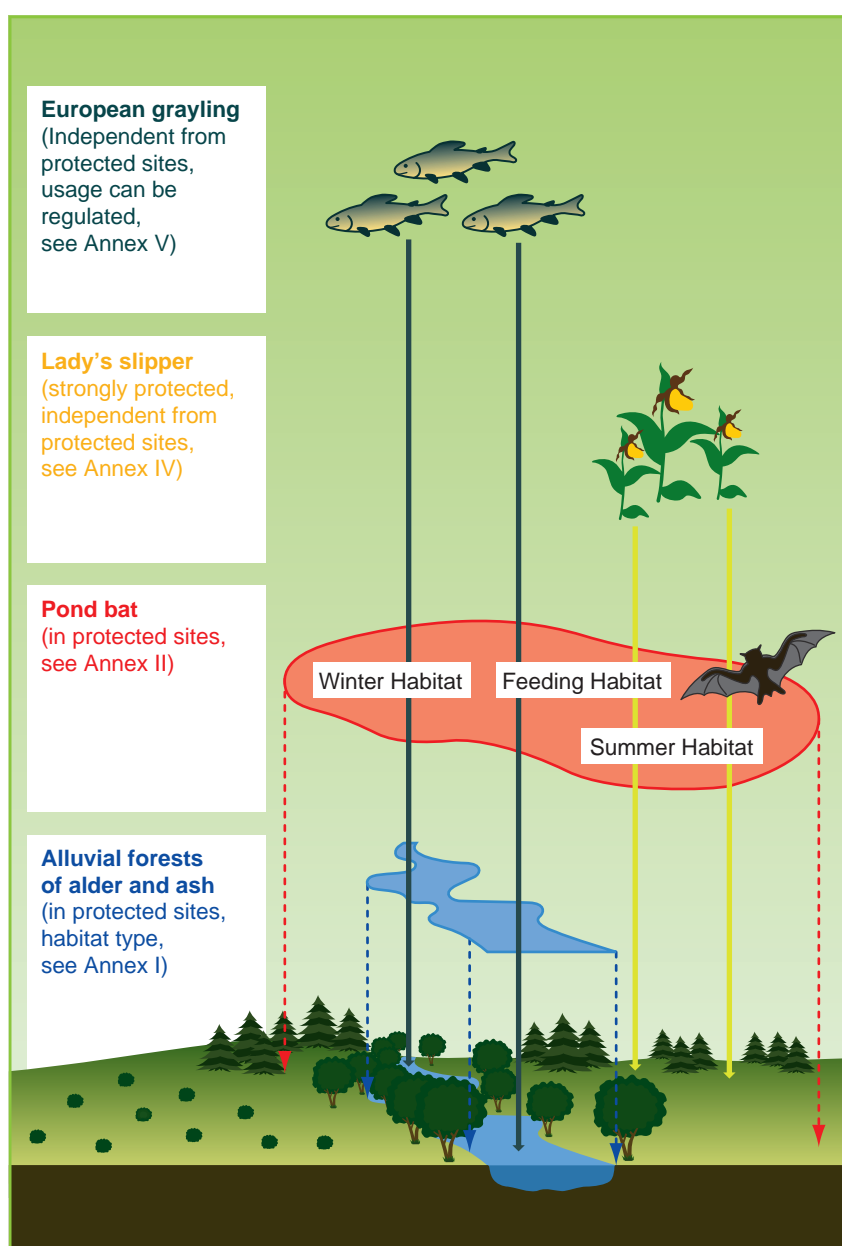


Fig. 4: Various types of protection suggested by the Habitats Directive and its annexes (Pröbstl 2001).

2.2 The Conservation Concept based on the Habitats Directive and the Birds Directive

2.2.1 The Conservation Concept

This section presents the very concept of the two directives and associated consequences. Special emphasis is given to the concepts of “no deterioration” of Natura 2000 sites, and the special Natura 2000 related assessment (i.e. the Habitats assessment), which elaborates on the potential impacts or changes associated with specific plans or projects. This section will also explain the concept of protection for rare and endangered species and how sites must be managed in general. A wealth of information on these topics is available on the web sites of the European Commission, as well as on the web sites of the member states, or their provinces. These web pages also document the precise geographic location of the protected sites (see Chapter 9).

Chapters 3 and 4 below document how the directives are to be implemented in the context of tourism, outdoor recreation and nature-based sports activities.

The concept of the Habitats Directive suggests two main instruments: spatial protection in Natura 2000 sites and species protection in these sites as well as elsewhere. In addition to the Natura 2000 sites, further landscape components which can serve as corridors shall also be promoted (see Article 10 of the Habitats Directive).

In order to ensure the quality of the Natura 2000 network of protected sites according to Article 6 of the Habitats Directive, it contains specific regulations to avoid the deterioration of habitat types or living conditions of protected species in Natura 2000 sites. This strict regulation pertains exclusively to habitat types as defined in Annex I, and fauna and flora as defined in Annex II in the Habitats Directive, as well as the bird species and their habitats as defined in the Birds Directive.

The Habitats Directive does not require a specific type of protected areas definition in an obligatory manner; however each member state must safeguard the legally sound implementation of all Natura 2000 sites. One fundamental feature of Natura 2000 sites is that the function of protection does not cease automatically at its boundaries (protection of surrounding areas). In contrast to other types of protected areas, the protective function in a Natura 2000 site is focused exclusively on the habitat types and species as defined in Annex I and II of the Habitats Directive. Consequently, at occasion one must consider impacts on or disturbances of the object of conservation which origin outside of the defined site, regardless of the actual location of boundaries. This argument is based on the site’s conservation objectives, which must be defined for each Natura 2000 site. For example, if a site is defined for the protection of the Great Crested Newt, then one must consider its winter habitat as well as the aquatic breeding habitat in spring and its

► *The Natura 2000 concept combines habitat and species protection*

Natura 2000 is not based on general regulations, but conservation focuses on specific objects and objectives

summer habitat. The evaluation of disturbances and any negative exposures depends on the specific location and the actual timing of the effects. For example, in the case of the Great Crested Newt, recreation activities may be allowed in their aquatic habitat during late summer. In other words, no globally rules and regulations apply. Any appropriate assessment requires a case by case approach. Furthermore, part of the concept is that the habitat types and the habitats of the protected species must be able to improve in the future. Therefore it is essential that all possible effects from the surrounding areas that might be associated with future uses must also be considered.

Specific measures for species protection apply across the entire European Union, regardless of a Natura 2000 site being spatially defined or not. This protection pertains to single, rare or endangered fauna or flora, as listed in Annex IV and Annex V of the Habitats Directive.

Applying the directives to the globally protected species of Annex IV is much more challenging in praxis, as the actual existence and distribution of the species is frequently not known (as opposed to the existence of species in Natura 2000 sites). If projects or events are planned in any natural areas, then the possible existence of such species must be determined early during the process (see Section 2.2.4). Furthermore, for some species both concepts of protection may apply, as is the case for many butterflies, freshwater pearl mussels, and the European otter.



The European Terrapin is listed in Annex IV and must be protected everywhere.
N. Schneeweiss

2.2.2 The Concept of “No Deterioration”

The so-called concept of “no deterioration” is one of the core concepts for the site-specific protection associated with Natura 2000. As soon as a site is defined as a site of European community interest, the concept of “no deterioration” applies. It implies that any deterioration of habitat types as well as habitats of the protected species must be avoided throughout the site. The condition of the site at the time of its selection as “site of European community interest” is to be used as the reference condition. The concept of no deterioration applies solely to the specified objects of conservation (i.e. species or habitat types), but not to areas within a Natura 2000 site that do not contain any Natura 2000 specific objects of conservation. It is important to understand that deterioration is not necessarily associated with negative activities or land uses. Deterioration may also occur due to the neglect of regular maintenance. Allowing dirt biking on rough pastures would deteriorate their condition. A deterioration would also occur due to changes in use, e.g. as soon as the species rich rough pasture would no longer be grazed by sheep and consequently would go into natural stages of succession (i.e. increasing shrubs).

Therefore, in a Natura 2000 site, all types of projects, measures, changes, or interferences which might deteriorate the area significantly are prohibited. In order to avoid deteriorations in these sites, mitigation measures must be taken against human induced effects and interferences, as well as against natural changes that counteract the preservation goals. The European Court of Justice has clarified in pertinent cases that it interprets the concept of deterioration in a rather encompassing manner, i.e. deterioration pertains to all interventions in the natural surroundings and landscape.

► *All activities which cause significant deterioration are prohibited*

EXAMPLE 1

Deterioration may also occur due to Neglect

Decision by the European Court of Justice on October 20, 2005, regarding C-06/04

“Violation of the requirement to implement the directives properly within national laws by the UK and Northern Ireland”.

This decision by the European Court of Justice declared that Great Britain and Northern Ireland did not decree all necessary measures in a timely manner in order to implement properly and fully all requirements associated with the two directives. Here, the European Court of Justice makes it unambiguously clear that deteriorations may not only be associated with disturbing activities, but may also occur due to inattention or neglect. Therefore the authorities are mandated to implement defensive actions against non-natural deteriorations (e.g. afforestation, grazing), as well as measures against undesirable natural developments (e.g. succession with shrubs).



F. Meyer

*Plans and projects require an
Habitats Assessment*

In summary, the rule of no deterioration ensures sustainable development of a Natura 2000 site, including a nature and landscape sensitive steering of all uses. The rule of no deterioration does not automatically imply limitations of current uses. However, plans¹ and projects² with the potential for negative impact require an appropriate assessment (as specified in the Habitats Directive).

2.2.3 Habitats Assessment for Plans and Projects

Despite the goal to maintain the protected habitats and species without deterioration, it was clear to the EU that in specific cases change may be inevitable. This may be the case when constructing roads, railways, or other infrastructure. The directive does not preclude this type of development, but the plans and projects must be subjected to the appropriate assessment under the Habitats Directive³. Such an assessment is required when a pre-assessment cannot rule out significant impacts. This initial forecast is undertaken by the agency charged with the approval or planning process.



B. Engels

EXAMPLE 2

Clarification of the Terms “Project, Plan, and Activities”

Decision by the European Court of Justice of September 7, 2004, regarding C-127/02
“Conflict about licensing the cockle fishery in the Wadden Sea of the Netherlands”.

In this ruling the European Court of Justice clarified that established activities that may have been practiced for decades are also subject to an assessment, and are included in the terms “project, plan, or activity”. This ruling shows that these terms are to be interpreted very broadly, and include any intervention in nature and landscape. For example, the cockle fishery, which was practiced in the Wadden Sea of the Netherlands until 2004, and required an annual license was interpreted as a “project”. Eventually, the mechanically executed cockle fishery was banned, because the large-scale suction of the wadden floor caused significant negative ecological effects.

1. The following types of plans must be evaluated: regional plans, land use plans and master plans, and construction plans.
2. Projects include, among others, all intended projects which require official administrative approval, announcement, and permission. This includes construction permits, events that require announcements, as well as any intrusion in nature and landscape.
3. Art. 7 of the Habitats Directive specifies that potential impacts in sites protected by the Birds Directive are also subject to an assessment as specified in Art. 6 of the Habitats Directive.

When undertaking an assessment, all effects that relate to the habitat types and species as defined in the conservation objectives must be considered, such as a specific habitat type or the habitat of specific species. Furthermore it must be assessed whether the impacts are significant on the Natura 2000 site with regards to the objectives of conservation, and it impedes concepts and measures for future development according to the conservation objectives. Plans and projects which do not lead to significant effects will be permitted (see Chapter 4).

An appropriate assessment (habitats assessment) is also required when an intervention is planned outside of the Natura 2000 site, and this interference has the potential to impact the site and its objectives of conservation significantly. This assessment must consider effects from noise, light, vibrations and the introduction of materials. The assessment must also consider cumulative effects, i.e. whether, under consideration of the already existing stresses or other plans, the new project or plan has the potential to cause further impacts. In this context, existing or currently planned projects must be considered as long as they are already in a sufficiently concrete state of implementation. If the responsible authorities deem a full appropriate assessment as necessary, then the project proponent must initiate an assessment study with appropriately qualified experts. This assessment describes the project and its possible consequences (see Figure 5) in text and maps.

Content of an Appropriate Assessment (Habitats assessment)

- Project cause, legal background and definitions
- Sources of documents used, data used, and methods applied
- Description of project or plan and its impacts
- Description/presentation of the Natura 2000 site and its conservation objectives
- Description of the habitat types as defined in Annex I of the Habitats Directive, and species as defined in Annex II of the Habitats Directive (including their habitats in the Site of Community Importance [SCI), presence of bird species according to the Birds Directive Annex I, as well as regularly occurring migratory birds (Art. 4 para. 2 Birds Directive), including their habitats
- Description and assessment of the project impacts on the protected habitats and species (impact prediction) under consideration of avoidance and mitigation measures and alternative solutions
- Assessment of the impacts in relation to other projects or plans
- Assessment of the likelihood of possible impacts on habitat types and species based on conservation objective
- Results of the appropriate assessment study

Fig. 5: Structure and main content of an appropriate assessment (Habitats assessment) study.

► *An Habitats Assessment must also include the effects emanating from outside the Natura 2000 sites*

► *The cumulation effects between existing and future effects must be examined*

► *The most important stages of an Habitats Assessment*



Projects, such as the expansion of a downhill skiing facility adjacent to a Natura 2000 site, must be assessed in a differentiated manner. U. Pröbstl

Based on the results of the appropriate assessment study, the respective authority will undertake the full appropriate assessment.

If the assessment concludes that significant impacts on the relevant conservation objects and objectives are to be expected, then the project is not admissible. In that case it can only be admitted and implemented, if

- there are no reasonable alternatives to the current project or plan, and at the same time
- the project has imperative reasons for overriding public interest, including those of a social and/or economic nature.

Significant effects can lead to the inadmissibility of a plan or project

In this latter case special compensatory measures are required, which secure the overall conservation aims of Natura 2000 and contribute to the “closing of the gap” in this European wide network of protected areas. For sites with especially endangered habitat types and species, an agreement from the European Commission is required in special cases (see Figure 6). Examples for the application of these processes to outdoor recreation, sport and tourism can be found in Chapter 4.

Principally, any construction plans, officially approved plans, licenses and other permits which have been issued prior to the commencement of the directives are not affected. However, one must keep in mind that these earlier projects should not lead to any deterioration or disturbance of the respective Natura 2000 sites.

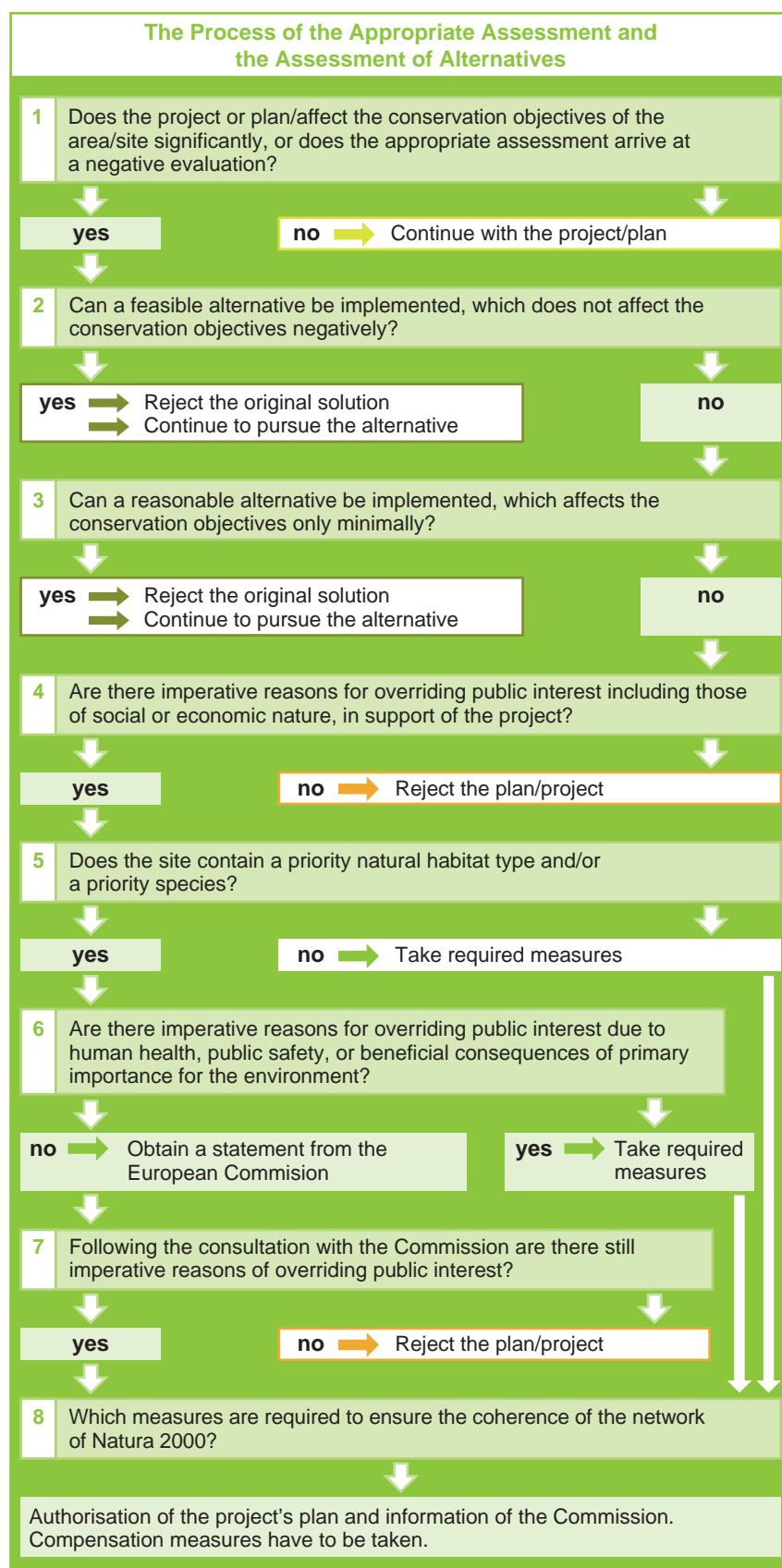


Fig. 6: Judicial sequence of the Appropriate Assessment if the project or plan is deemed non-appropriate.

The goal of conservation may be achieved by several means

2.2.4 Conservation and Management

Based on the Habitats Directive and the Birds Directive, all member states of the EU have committed to protect and secure their Natura 2000 sites sustainably. How they will achieve the conservation objectives is up to the discretion of each respective member state. Several options exist:

- Rules and regulations based on legally established protected areas,
- Contractual agreements, e.g. a contract for nature conservation based on agricultural subsidies (agricultural environmental programmes), or the species and biotope conservation programmes, and
- Administrative instructions.

Contractual conservation measures are possible, as long as the conservation objectives can be achieved permanently. For that reason one cannot claim that the Habitats Directive leads automatically to an expansion of protected areas. However, the Natura 2000 sites must always be established within the national legal framework. One should keep in mind that many valuable and contiguous Natura 2000 sites are already legally protected by law. Among them are the registered nature reserves, many of the legally established biotopes, as well as water protection areas, and forest reserves.

In most provinces in Austria the Natura 2000 sites were established under the newly established protected areas category of “European Protected Area”.

Whenever the conservation objective is to continue with an extensive, “close-to-nature” type of use, then contractual agreements will most likely be the preferred option. The voluntary contract, honoring the contribution to the maintenance and improvement of habitats and habitat types of rare species, also improves the level of acceptance of the European-wide network of Natura 2000.

Tourists, as well as sports and outdoor recreation enthusiasts, must also consider the rules and regulations associated with other types of protected areas, which may overlap with Natura 2000 sites. Depending on the types of protected areas used in a particular nation, there are national parks, nature reserves and landscape reserves. The rules and regulations associated with these protected areas may complement any rules associated with Natura 2000 sites. One example for such an overlap exists at the Lake Neusiedl in Austria, which is one important European protected area, as well as a national park and therefore enjoys special protection.

Implementation of the Natura 2000 framework is funded by already established programmes of the member states and their provinces, as well as various programmes offered by the EU.



Protected habitats, such as mowed mountain meadows, are mostly protected by contract. V. Wirth

The most appropriate type of protection, its associated management measures and regulations, must be decided on a case by case basis and depend on the species and habitats to be protected, the current uses, and the defined conservation status.

One suitable tool to define the conservation status is the so-called management plan. This plan is not always required, but it is of immense value when various uses need to be managed and coordinated. This applies to most Natura 2000 sites.

Management plans typically contain:

- A description of the area, including earlier land uses (if appropriate);
- An inventory of the current situation;
- An evaluation of the current situation;
- The definition of the site's conservation objectives and of barriers for achieving these objectives;
- A summary of measures for maintenance and/or development;
- A budget;
- Suggestions for monitoring and indicators of success.

The management plan suggests the required maintenance and development measures, and also contains possible limitations of use. The currently existing stresses and negative impacts should also be considered in the management plan. On that basis, eventual constraints for sport and tourism can be discussed and possibly implemented.

In this context it is important to emphasize that the European Commission has recommended explicitly in its supporting documents for Natura 2000 management that these management plans shall be developed in a cooperative and participatory manner. All affected interest groups and actors shall be included in the planning process.

The management plans shall be written in plain language, consider the interests of all users, and explain the costs of all planned measures.

2.2.5 The Conservation Concept for Rare Species

In addition to the Natura 2000 sites there is one other concept for conservation which applies to particularly rare and endangered species in the European Union. These species are protected everywhere, independent of any Natura 2000 legislation. This applies to all species listed in Annex IV of the Habitats Directive, and all native wild birds.

► *Decisions should be taken on a case by case basis*

► *The management plan is the tool to regulate various uses*

► *Cooperative development and transparency*

► *Rare species are protected everywhere*

*The assessment process
for rare species, which are
protected everywhere*

Any project, inside or outside of Natura 2000 sites, which potentially affect any one of these species, require a separate species specific assessment. That process should typically involve the following stages (Figure 7).

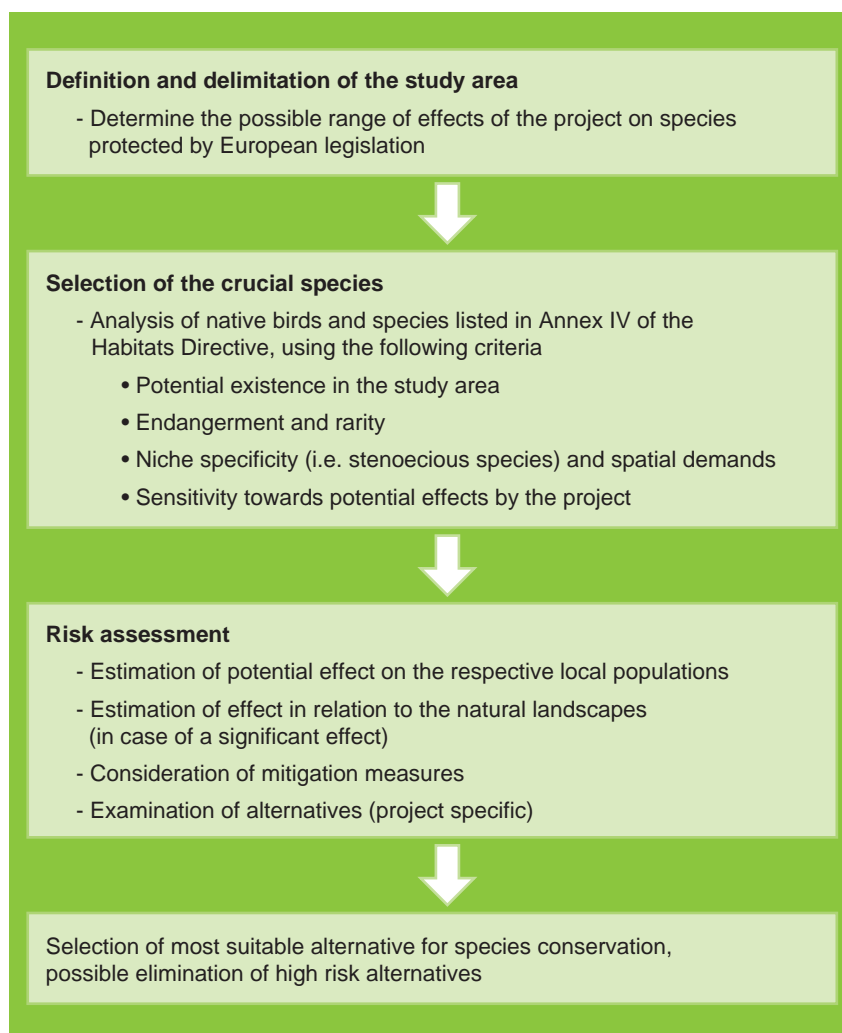


Fig. 7: Process for the assessment of species of Annex IV and native wild birds in Germany (following Hormel und Schmoll 2007).

3.1 Tourism and Natura 2000

Current trends in tourism show that it is simply insufficient to sell hotel rooms. Successful tourism offers its clients unique experiences. These experiences also contain attractive landscapes and healthy nature, in addition to events, such as cherry blossom festivals, cultural celebrations, or motorcycle rallies in the north of Finland. Obviously, just as other types of protected areas, Natura 2000 sites can enhance the attractiveness of a tourism region.

Both pristine landscape and intact nature frequently rank as the most important motives when tourists choose destinations. Several recent publications observe that the significance of nature in the destination choice process is still increasing. This trend opens opportunities to use the many attractive and natural habitats associated with Natura 2000 sites for promoting destinations, or to actually use this label of a landscape for the branding of local or regional tourism destinations. These concepts and examples of such cooperations are documented in Chapter 5.

Also, the trend to promote more individual experiences and regional identity as counter-arguments to globalization might constitute the foundation for a mutually beneficial cooperation between nature conservation and tourism.

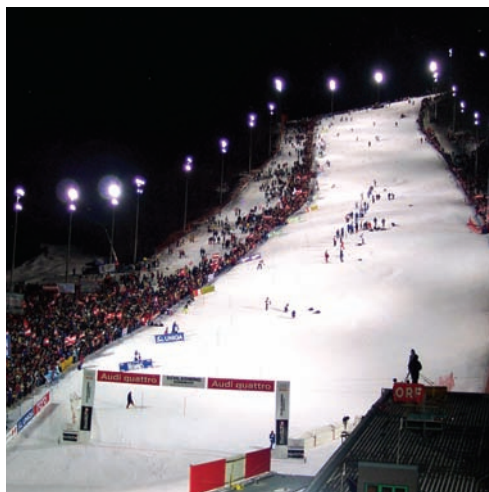
In order to identify relevant questions about Natura 2000, and to improve the knowledge of representatives from the tourism, outdoor recreation and sports sectors about the topic, several workshops were convened with respective experts from nine European countries. The most important results accruing from these workshops are summarized below. Most participants were not very familiar with the goals of the

► Trends in tourism

► Attitudes towards tourism and Natura 2000



Pristine nature and landscapes are one main motive for many tourists. A. Schmida



Events and competitions are increasing in popularity for tourists. K. Höflehner

Natura 2000 concept. Only tourism communities with a large proportion of protected areas, and communities along the Baltic Sea and in the Alps differed in that regard. These tourism oriented communities expect mostly negative effects from the introduction of Natura 2000 sites due to restrictions on certain sports and outdoor recreation activities, as well as restrictions on the expansion of touristic infrastructure and the general development of the communities.

It is crucial that the majority of tourism entrepreneurs and marketing agencies maintain an open mind towards Natura 2000, and perceive it as an opportunity for strengthening regional identities and marketing. Contrary to agriculture and forestry, the main reason for critical attitudes by representatives of the tourism sector appears to be a lack of information. In that regard they also differ markedly from sports associations (see Section 3.2 below).

Many representatives of tourism communities emphasized the need for better information about the general content and implications of the directives and associated consequences of the “no deterioration” concept on tourism development. Therefore, one of the latter sections in this guideline will focus on the construction of new tourism infrastructure (Section 4.2). One must also take into consideration the effects of Natura 2000 on sports and cultural events, which are presented in Section 4.4.

Another serious information gap exists around the many opportunities to influence the management planning process via public participation. It is an opportunity for tourism interests to make their position and ideas known, because the EU suggests that the management planning process is the vehicle for considering relevant socio-economic aspects (see Section 5.1).

3.2 Sport and Natura 2000

In contrast to the tourism interests, the outdoor recreation and sports associations have already addressed concerns around Natura 2000 for years. A comparative survey in Germany, undertaken in the years 2001 and 2007 confirms the high level of knowledge among representatives of outdoor sports associations⁴.

In-depth interviews and a workshop revealed two main reasons for this phenomenon: First the German Ministry of Environment developed information materials in collaboration with the sports associations, such as the German Olympic Sport Association as early 2001. Second, during the early stages of implementation of Natura 2000, restrictions were often defined pre-maturely, which lead to an intensive engagement with the topic on the part of respective associations; - especially nature-based

4. Unpublished report by the Institute of Landscape Development, Recreation and Conservation Planning 2008, BOKU University, Vienna, 2008.

sports⁵ such as sailing, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, and mountain biking were involved early. In other countries, such as France, the discussions around Natura 2000 and its consequences for these sport activities started during the management planning process.

As a consequence of these early discussions, the ministries and other agencies in the various member states emphasized the fundamental compatibility between nature based sports activities and Natura 2000. Their opinion can be summarized as follows:

With regards to sports, outdoor recreation and any leisure activities in Natura 2000 sites one can generally assume that there is no significant impact. However, several limitations apply to this rather general rule:

1. No existing regulations may contravene the outdoor recreation activity;
2. All sports and outdoor recreation activities must respect and follow the concept of behaviour that is compatible with nature;
3. The site's conservation objectives and/or the conservation status of the species and habitat types are not deteriorated.

Given the multitude of possible leisure and sports activities in a landscape and the variety of goals in the respective protected areas, for specific cases these general rules must be examined in more detail. The term “generally” indicates that exceptions are possible, and further refinement might be required. Past experience shows that occasionally serious conflicts may arise. Therefore the EU always requires a case by case evaluation.

Whether the sport or recreation activity is compatible with the conservation objectives of a Natura 2000 site depends on many factors, such as the type of activity, the number of participants, the intensity of use, the sensitivity of the species and/or the habitat, the already existing stresses, and the cumulative effects at the site. Chapter 4 elaborates on these issues.

Outdoor sports activities are characterized by many trends and developments; some of them affect their actual use of land and landscapes, and may influence the opportunities of co-existence between sport and conservation. Experts describe several new trends.

Many sports and outdoor recreation activities differentiate themselves into more specialized niches. Some of these new types of activities may expand the spatial requirements of the activity, or affect the landscape

► *Constraints for outdoor recreation, sports and tourism activities*



Many sports activities can be practiced in a nature-compatible manner. E. Tuunter

► *Trends in outdoor recreation and sports*

5. In this chapter, the term “Sport” refers not only to proper sports activities but any recreational activities in the outdoors. Motorized activities have been excluded from this report to simplify the argument and because they are not perceived as nature-based recreational activities in many European countries.

in other ways. Some of these innovations are rare fads such as canoe-rodeo, while on the other extreme an innovation may eventually lead to sufficient demand for new infrastructure such as Nordic walking centers. The trend towards more extreme types of activities leads them into more challenging terrain. Opportunities for practicing indoors increase the number of participants (i.e. rock climbing), and increase skill levels. Consequently, levels of participation increase and lead these outdoors activities into ecologically more sensitive terrain, which did not receive the same levels of visitation traditionally. As has been observed for tourism since some time, the number of events and competitions also increases in many outdoor sports, and the question arises to what extent these various events might stress Natura 2000 sites. Further elaborations on this topic can be found in Sections 4.4.2 and 4.4.3.

Experts expect further increases in leisure activities. Several nature based recreation activities, such as hiking and ski-touring, have experienced significant increases over the past few years. New activities such as geocaching have been developed and have expanded tremendously. These developments are exaggerated further by the shift from indoor sports to outdoor sports (e.g. volleyball to beach volleyball).

The proper use of management planning in Natura 2000 sites is one option to elaborate on these dynamics and their potential effects in a site-specific manner, and hopefully to resolve many of the associated issues. Further information and examples can be found in Chapter 5.



Many nature based recreation activities, such as rock climbing, are nowadays more in demand. A. Prutsch

3.3 Typology of Outdoor Recreation and Sports Activities

Given these above described trends and dynamics in outdoor recreation and sports, it appears useful to attempt a typology of these activities for the purpose of further discussion in this brochure:

- Activities depending on infrastructure in the open landscape (Type 1),
- Activities depending on specific properties of nature and landscape (Type 2), and
- Activities not depending on any special features of nature and landscape (Type 3).

Type 1 represents leisure and sports activities which are pursued in the landscape, but rely on specific infrastructure. Examples include golf, alpine skiing (which requires lifts), and aerial sport activities and gliding (which require various types of infrastructure). These recreational pursuits may also require specific landscape characteristics, such as elevation, specific thermo-climatic conditions or wind conditions, periods of snow cover, etc. The infrastructure which has been established for these activities and has been legally approved prior to the establishment of Natura 2000 sites, typically enjoys right of continuance, i.e. the current uses will continue in the future without any constraints. The EU-directives will only affect them if these facilities are to be expanded, as elaborated further in Section 4.3.1.

Type 2 refers to sports activities which do not rely on any special facilities, but require specific features or properties of the landscape, and may actually be tied to them; frequently they require fairly natural conditions. Examples for these activities are rock climbing in the low mountain ranges, canoeing along small and mid-sized rivers, or ski touring which requires ideal snow conditions and mountains. This type also contains many new sports activities such as canyoning and rafting. All these activities prefer fairly natural landscapes, and consequently the likelihood of some overlap with Natura 2000 sites is quite high (see Section 4.3.2).

Type 3 consists of activities which can be pursued widely without specific facilities, or frequently use already existing infrastructure such as forest roads; neither do they have any specific requirements towards landscape or nature. Typically many large sections of landscape are suitable for these activities, such as horseback riding, recreational bicycling, cross-country skiing, hiking and swimming. It may be more enjoyable to pursue these activities in a more natural or more amiable landscape, but they do not rely on these landscapes. Consequently, these activities have much less potential for conflict as they occur on already established elements of infrastructure and trails.

The explanations below elaborate on the possible effects of the EU-Directives on sport, outdoor recreation and tourism and will discuss



Example for Type 1: golfing. M. Pütsch



Example for Type 2: canoeing. M. Pütsch



Example for Type 3: hiking. K. Taczanowska

Some outdoor recreation and sports activities may be associated with several types

them within the above presented typology. Most outdoor activities in a given landscape – even if they have not been mentioned here explicitly – fit into one of these three types.

Some sport and recreation activities may fit into more than one type, depending on the degree of specialization and setting required. Canoeing, for example, may be pursued in specifically constructed facilities (Type 1), or in naturally flowing rivers or lakes (Type 2). The advantage of using this typology is that the potential effect of the Habitats and Birds Directives on a specific sport or recreation activity will become apparent immediately. In addition, one also needs to consider the possible impacts on Natura 2000 values from events and competitions (see Section 4.4).

4.1 Introduction

This chapter demonstrates the possible effects that the existence of a Natura 2000 site might have on tourism and sports activities and their associated development, and will demonstrate them on hand of examples. The discussion begins with the touristic infrastructure such as hotels, alpine huts, lift stations and cable cars, etc. (Section 4.2). Important questions for this section are:

- Is there a right of continuance for currently existing facilities?
- Can existing facilities be expanded?
- What must be considered when new facilities are planned?

Contrary to what one would expect from guidelines for the protection of species and habitats, this chapter will also present a number of positive effects, from which both species conservation and outdoor recreation/sport and tourism can benefit (see Section 4.2).

Thereafter the discussion will turn to issues associated the actual outdoors recreation and sports activities. Here the activities that are most likely to cause negative effects on the landscape will be identified (see Section 4.3).

The chapter will conclude with a focus on the management of events and competitions. It will become clear that such single events can have long-term consequences for the protected species and habitats (Section 4.4).

► *Possible affects on sports-specific and touristic infrastructure*

► *Protection of recreation and sports facilities and attractive landscapes by Natura 2000*

► *Possible affects on outdoor recreation and sports activities*

► *Possible affects on events and competitions*



The development of new facilities, such as hotels, requires the consideration of Natura 2000 concerns from the beginning. U. Pröbstl

*Legally compliant facilities that
exist already enjoy the right
of continuance*

4.2 Hotels and Sports Facilities in Natura 2000 Sites or Adjacent Areas

4.2.1 Continued Operation for Already Existing Facilities

In Natura 2000 sites, already existing sports facilities and hotel complexes, which have been erected under the previous legal framework enjoy the right of continuance.

This concept applies to all existing or planned facilities which are based on legally binding administrative protocols. It also pertains to any planning processes, emission related permits, water management permits, or approvals relating to air traffic, and includes all measures which are required for the continuous support and maintenance of the existing facilities. Any work essential for the service and/or maintenance of these existing facilities does not require an assessment. However, the “principle of no deterioration” must be obeyed.

Examples for such facilities are:

- Sports related infrastructure and buildings
- Lifts and other means for accessing mountains
- Airports
- Jetties, harbour facilities and moorings
- Areas with buoys
- Sports facilities with flood lights
- Artificial snow-making equipment
- Golf courses
- Hotels and guest-houses
- Campsites

The operation of all these facilities may continue within the existing permits. Usually, the right of continuance applies to all facilities, infrastructure and measures which were in place at the time of listing of candidate areas for the Habitats Directive and Birds Directive. The actual dates may vary between member states due to different times of accession to the EU and/or listing deadlines. For example, in Germany and the Netherlands, the critical date is June 4th, 1994, while in Austria it is January 1st, 1995, and in new member states such as Estonia it is May 1, 2004. Even for later approved projects and measures, one may principally rely on the right of continuance. This situation has been confirmed in rulings by the European Court of Justice as long as the facilities are legally approved entities.

EXAMPLE 3	<i>Violation of Contract by Illegal Tourist Facilities and Activities</i>
<p>Decision by the European Court of Justice of January 30, 2002, regarding C-103/00 “Law suit about the violation of protection of the sea turtle <i>Caretta caretta</i> in Greece”.</p> <p>Illegal buildings (without official permits) were constructed along the beach, and sunshades, deck chairs, and increased traffic seriously affected the habitat of the tortoise. Consequently, the illegal facilities did not qualify under the right of continuation, as decided by the European Court of Justice against Greece: the illegal tourism development affected the turtle's habitat requirements and reproduction sufficiently, as it deposits the eggs along the sandy beaches.</p>	



U. Pröbstl

Experience shows that the location of facilities within a Natura 2000 site does not necessarily need to be a disadvantage. Hotel entrepreneurs may appreciate the strong protection of their environment around their facility, which they can count on in the future and their guests will continue to enjoy the views and an intact nature. Hence the value of the hotel facilities increases. These hotels may also offer guided tours in the protected areas of European significance.

► *Natura 2000 may have positive effects on tourism*

EXAMPLE 4	<i>Unique and Picturesque Location of a Hotel</i>
<p>The hotel “Schloss Elmau” in the Bavarian Alps benefits from the indistinguishable and unchangeable surroundings of a large-scale Natura 2000 site. Visitors may enjoy walks through the flowery meadows in close proximity to the hotel complex, and its exciting history provides an opportunity for guided tours. The management plans secure the continuation of the extensive pastoral use with its ecological integrity and high level of landscape beauty by contract with the agricultural land owners. This type of a surrounding landscape ensures an exclusive and un-rivalled location for the hotel, in an amiable landscape and a unique niche in its competition with other locations.</p>	



Schloss Elmau

Several sports associations also perceive the location of a sports facility in a Natura 2000 site in a positive way. Such a label emphasizes their engagement for nature and environment, and it also secures these areas for continuous recreational use, as it will be next to impossible to change from these recreational land uses to more intensive uses or development. When such areas are registered as Natura 2000 sites, the sports and/or recreation uses are very likely to continue permanently into the future. One group which has mentioned this aspect repeatedly are hang gliders, who maintain species rich rough pastures around their airstrips, and change of use to light industrial or residential uses is now very unlikely.

**EXAMPLE 5*****Airstrip Serves as a Unique Natural Jewel***

The airstrip in Wels, Upper Austria, is the last large remnant of the Welser Heath. It is a refuge for many endangered and very rare species which require an open step-like landscape. It provides nesting habitat for the endangered Large Eurasian Curlew and numerous other rare birds, such as the Wheatear, Yellow Wagtail, and Corn Bunting. About 70ha of the 100ha large airstrip is rough pasture, which equals in area all of the Lime-Dry Grasslands in the alpine foothills of Upper Austria. In 2007 biologists identified two insects which were considered extirpated in this province for 50 years.

The air traffic does not conflict with the goals of nature conservation – in the contrary. The aviation club “Weiße Möwe” has contributed to the excellent ecological condition of the airstrip. If this type of land management continues (no fertilization, one time mowing with removal of the biomass), then its importance for conservation will increase further.

However, any further reduction of the area will increasingly endanger these rare species and may lead to their extirpation, as the populations shrink and cannot maintain a minimum level of genetic diversity. Conservationists and recreationists battle jointly for the conservation of this site, which is supposed to be partly rededicated to light industrial uses. The Natura 2000 network is one of their main arguments.

*Expansions of existing facilities
require a detailed assessment
of each case*

4.2.2 Expansion of Existing Sports Facilities and Touristic Infrastructure

With regards to the expansion of existing facilities it is only possible to do justice to the European directives and the associated national legal frameworks in a distinct case by case evaluation.

For the implementation of the Natura 2000 framework it is useful to differentiate between substantial changes and minor adaptations of existing infrastructure^{6,7}.

Minor adaption implies qualitative improvements of already existing technical facilities, the replacement of materials, and exchange of components, and possibly a minor extension of the facility. In such a situation one does not usually expect significant and/or sustained impacts. Therefore one can assume that no appropriate assessment (Habitats assessment) will be required neither. However, it is recommended to clarify the situation with the respective conservation authorities early on⁸.

6. In the documents for the Natura 2000 consultation process in Baden-Württemberg, Germany, the term “adaptation related to continued existence” was used to describe minor adaptation.

7. See Iven, 1998.

8. Basically the nature conservation authorities of the region.

Substantive Changes usually imply at least partial renewal of the existing facility, a significant expansion, or an intensification of recreational use, maybe over a larger area. Therefore, any substantive changes in the Natura 2000 site or its immediate surrounding will initially trigger a pre-evaluation by the respective authorities in order to clarify whether the significant change is likely to constitute a serious deterioration of the targeted habitat types or species. If this is to be the case, a full appropriate assessment (Habitats assessment) is in order. In such a situation it is important to also consider the effects of the surrounding area into the overall assessment.

► *The evaluation process in the case of significant changes*

EXAMPLE 6	Assessment of a New Wellness Facility
<p>The hotel is located on a belay in the Allgäuer Alps in Germany, and is surrounded by valuable habitats such as rock faces, rough pastures, and forests. In order to remain competitive, the owner planned a small-scale extension of the hotel to accommodate a sauna and wellness area. Since the hotel is located in immediate vicinity to the Natura 2000 site, a pre-assessment was required. In this case, the “regional nature-conservation authority” decided that the planned extension will not considerably affect the habitat types of the site. Therefore, no full appropriate assessment was required. Many mitigation measures were implemented during construction in order to accommodate the extension into the landscape as gently as possible.</p>	



Considerable changes or new constructions must be considered as significant deteriorations, when habitat types and species are affected directly. The following actions may lead to a complete or partially affected habitat function:

- A grave reduction of the site,
- A change to one or several factors contributing to the quality of the site (i.e. water level, or water quality),
- Any disturbances, and
- Fragmentation.

One basic principle during the initial assessment is that the worse the actual condition of the site-relevant species or habitats, and the more sensitive they are towards the disturbances, the more likely it is that a significant deterioration will occur.

For sports facilities in the open landscape, such as winter-sports facilities or airstrips, one must also examine effects on their surrounding which may affect a Natura 2000 site located adjacent to the facility. If

► *The effects on the surroundings must be considered*

Habitats Assessment for new development or significant modifications

deteriorations are possible then examinations are required (see Section 2.2.3). Overall, the following principles should be adhered to:

In case of a new construction or significant alterations to a sport facility or other tourism infrastructure in a Natura 2000 site, an appropriate assessment must always be undertaken. Such an assessment is also required outside of a Natura 2000 site, if

- Significant effects are possible on the crucial components of the Natura 2000 site, or
- The facility leads to any significant deterioration or disturbances in interaction with other projects or uses.

These principles do not automatically imply that such facilities must not be planned or constructed in Natura 2000 sites. However, the special requirements of the Habitats Directive and its implementation within the respective national context are to be considered.

Examples for Habitats assessments from the German-speaking area can be found in a publication by the Bavarian Academy for Nature Conservation from 2007, which also contains many examples from outdoor recreation and sport. Some examples below document that individual cases may turn out in favour or against the recreation and sports interest (see examples 7 and 8 below).



U. Pröbstl

EXAMPLE 7

Appropriate Assessment about the Expansion of Snow-making Equipment

The community of Garmisch-Partenkirchen is interested to expand snow-making equipment on its ski-jumping facility and the slalom slope. These actions might affect the adjacent areas of a Natura 2000 site with mountain hay-meadows (EU-Code 6520). Only a small area (150 m²) of the habitat type „mountain-meadows“ is affected by the additional snow-making capacity, which cannot be interpreted as a considerable deterioration of the habitat type or any species that depend on it. Given a concern for cumulative affects, these additional snowmaking facilities must be evaluated in the context of the already existing snow-making and ski-jumping facilities, the Olympic training site and the nearby gondola. Based on the Appropriate Assessment the agency concluded that the planned expansion of the snowmaking facility may go ahead as planned.

EXAMPLE 8

*Non-conforming Expansion of a Golf Course
into a Natura 2000 Site*

Decision by the European Court of Justice of January 29, 2004
regarding C209/02

This case addressed the licensing of an expansion of a golf course in
Wörschach, Styria (Austria). The concern was about potential effects on
the habitat of the corncrake.

The provincial government of Styria granted a license for the addition of two new
greenways to this golf course despite the fact that the assessment documented
negative effects on the habitat of the corncrake. The expansion was located
inside the Natura 2000 site „Wörschacher Moos“. The European Court of Justice
passed a decision in 2004, after five years of exchanges of documents between
the European Commission and the Republic of Austria. It observed a violation
of the commitment to maintain wild bird species in this Natura 2000 site.
Consequently, the two greenways were re-naturalized in 2006. The expenses
were carried by the nature conservation authority of the provincial government
due to its earlier mistaken approval.



4.3 Outdoor Sports and Touristic Activities in
Natura 2000 Sites

4.3.1 Possible Impact associated with Infrastructure dependent
Activities in the open Landscape (Type 1)

Pursuing a sports activity in any already licensed facilities is usually not
regarded to be a considerable deterioration. This thinking applies to
downhill skiing on already licensed slopes, as well as golfing and golf
facilities. The assumption here is that for the construction of the facility
official permits and licenses were required, which did not only assess
the infrastructure per se, but also its associated operation.

Furthermore, these infrastructure dependent sports activities should be
regarded as one bundle, because golfers find the desired conditions for
their activity only on a golf course. Obviously there is a close connection
between the facility and activity management, i.e. in influencing the beha-
viour of the client by providing appropriate information. This same condi-
tion also provides the opportunity to sanction any environmental violations
by users, as an operator may confiscate lift passes or other licenses.

One should also be aware of the fact that the limited capacity of these
facilities actually constrains further growth and consequently any as-
sociated increases of environmental effects. For example, the number
of spaces on a boat jetty limits the use of a water body, the lift capacity
and waiting times limit the amount of use on downhill slopes, and safety
concerns and tee-off times constrain the number of golfers.

► *Outdoor recreation and sports
activities in already approved
facilities*



Golfing – an example for Type 1. M. Pütsch

*“Indirect affects” must also
be considered*

Exceptions of this generally positive evaluation of these Type 1 activities exist with some activities or facility types, when at times of high use the activity spreads to adjacent areas (see Example 9) and causes impacts and disturbances there. For example, congested airspaces might lead to alternate, non-licensed, flying routes, which might affect rare sensitive bird species and mammals in an adjacent Natura 2000 site, such as eagles nests, or resting and nesting sites of migratory birds. Such developments fall under the concept of “no deterioration”, and must be ruled out.

The benchmark for determining a considerable deterioration always depends on the conservation objectives defined for the respective Natura 2000 site (see Section 2.2).



EXAMPLE 9

Off-Piste Skiing into a Natura 2000 Site

Immediately adjacent to an already existing downhill ski area is a Natura 2000 site with sensitive winter-active birds such as the black grouse and the snow grouse. Given the specific location of the ski area, its regular skiing operation with several thousand skiers a day does not have any negative impacts on any species. However, out-of-bounds skiing leads single skiers into the Natura 2000 site and causes considerable disturbances of the wildlife, which leaves its protective dens in the snow and is prompted to take flight. Such repeated behaviour leads to considerable loss of energy in course of a season, which at the end the animals can no longer balance. The Natura 2000 site management plan recognized this problem and developed a solution in cooperation with the lift operator: they provide information to their clients, and barricade the most prominent exit points; occasional patrols can lead to the loss of ski passes, which are then propagated by the media. All these actions terminated this subtle deterioration of this habitat.

4.3.2 Possible impacts associated with activities that depend on specific nature and landscape properties (Type 2)

In addition to deteriorations caused by the construction of facilities, conflicts between outdoor recreation and sports and Natura 2000 sites are also possible when the activities depend on specific characteristics of nature or landscape.

Examples are rock climbing in sensitive mountain ranges, canoeing in small or medium sized streams and rivers, canyoning in mountain streams and ski touring in the Alps. The ever increasing specialization of outdoor recreation and sports activities⁹ and the increasing offers

⁹ e.g. canyoning, downhill biking, rafting – see, among others, LORCH 1995

of new commercial activities¹⁰ all can easily affect sensitive habitats and habitat types. These “special” outdoor recreation places frequently coincide with the “special” habitats of rare fauna and flora, and are precisely the main reason for selecting them as Natura 2000 sites.

In many such situations, recreation and sports activities have already been constrained during the initial demarcation of the protected area. If further regulations are now required in these sensitive locations, then a more refined and differentiated evaluation is desirable from both a conservation point of view as well as an outdoor recreation and sports point of view. This evaluation should examine the compatibility of the outdoor recreation and sports activities with the natural environment and should also consider possible mitigation measures. The impacts associated with other, more traditional and frequently commercial activities in the area should also be considered.

Given the high potential for conflict with this type of outdoor recreation and sports activities, it has already been common in the past to develop solutions in a cooperative manner between conservation and sports interests. Options are the spatial and/or temporal regulation of the activities in order to protect rare species, small scale limitations of use, or restrictions on certain behaviour for the purpose of protecting plant communities or habitat types (see Example 10). Since for many of these outdoor recreation and sports activities no alternative locations are available, such compromise solutions should be the preferred management approach as long as it can be proven that the conservation goals are not compromised.

EXAMPLE 10

Voluntary Self-restriction of Rock Climbers in a Natura 2000 Site

In one Natura 2000 site rock climbing has been enjoyed for more than 100 years. Now the area is protected because of its rare plant communities in the rock crevices, as well as the breeding habitat for birds in the rock formations. Climbing is a potential threat to these two conservation goals. In the management plan it was agreed with the local climbing association that one rock face will no longer be used for climbing, and all climbing aids were removed. In addition, access to this rock formation was made more arduous. Climbing continues to be permitted on the other rock faces, as long as the conservation goals are maintained. The local climbers participate in the monitoring, as they inform – out of self-interest – visitors about the situation in “their climbing area”.



Canoeing – an example for Type 2. M. Pütsch

► Collaborative decision-making reduces conflicts



A. Prutsch

10. e.g. programmes for building character (experiential pedagogy), as well as purely touristic offers.



Hiking – an example for Type 3.
K. Taczanowska

*Recreational uses of existing
agricultural and forest trails
reduces conflicts with
conservation goals*

Addressing conflicts

4.3.3 Possible impacts of activities without special requirements on nature and/or landscape (Type 3)

Outdoor recreation activities belonging to this type, such as cross-country skiing, horseback riding, jogging and running, and swimming do not have intensive ties to specific areas and landscapes. They may be enjoyed in fairly natural high quality habitat types or landscapes (i.e. swimming in a natural lake), as well as in highly developed areas (i.e. swimming in dammed lakes). Furthermore, many of these activities occur on rather small areas or within rather restricted spaces, as is the case with cross-country skiing tracks, or riding, biking and hiking trails.

In many cases summer and winter uses occur on the same areas (e.g. hiking or biking trails in the summer serve as cross-country trails or dog-sledding trails in the winter). Associated facilities can frequently be used by several activities (i.e. hard-surface biking trails can also be used by in-line skaters). This concentration of use and the overlapping use of infrastructure that exists already with other land uses frequently leads to a reduction of impacts as the pressure on the total amount of area used is reduced and wildlife becomes habituated to these uses.

The already existing facilities used by these outdoor recreation and sports activities such as trails, swimming beaches, and jetties may continue to be used and enjoy protection from Natura 2000 regulations. Similarly, maintenance, improvements and reconstruction of walking, biking, and riding trails are usually not associated with considerable deterioration. Therefore they usually do not require an Appropriate Assessment¹¹. Furthermore one should be aware of the fact that due to multiple uses in this category, it is more likely that the community rather than a sports association is responsible for the construction and maintenance of the relevant infrastructure.

Many options exist for conflict resolution around this type of recreation activity. In a specific situation it may be desirable to relocate a trail away from a sensitive area, as its original siting happened without consideration of the sensitive and valuable landscape components¹². A possible conflict has occurred at one occasion which in the official Bavarian notifications is described as „creeping“ deterioration, caused by slowly changing use patterns¹³. Such a situation may occur when the number of recreation participants increases significantly within a given area. In that situation it is not the type of sport activity that leads to a considerable and continuous deterioration, but the cumulative sum of all effects due to the increased user numbers. Since most clubs and associations desire to increase memberships, it is up to these associations to define an environmentally sound solution.

11. See documents and regulations from different German conservation authorities (Brandenburg, Nordrhein-Westfalen and Bavaria).

12. If existing rights are violated, compensation must be provided.

13. In this case the focus was on agriculture, forestry and fishery.

Overall, one assumes that regulations or limitations of the recreation activities are only required when an unsatisfactory condition of the targeted habitat types or species in the Natura 2000 site is observed, or the principle of no deterioration is violated.

EXAMPLE 11	<i>“Creeping” Deterioration</i>
<p>A natural lake used for swimming originally received about 50 swimmers on a hot summer day. The natural cleaning processes of the lake were able to cope with this number of users. However, over the years, a successful advertising campaign by the local tourism association eventually tripled the number of visitors. Many visitors now bring swimming aids, inflatable rafts and boats. Consequently disturbances and damages to the valuable and protected shoreline vegetation happen more frequently, which must be evaluated as considerable after all these years. The water quality and the habitat for species adapted to nutrient-poor conditions have diminished significantly. Overall, deterioration has occurred.</p>	



This example can also be applied to other situations, such as the creeping widening or braiding of trails, or the appearance of short-cuts along heavily used hiking or biking trails, as well as cross-country trails. These situations may lead to increased impacts of the actually used area or may deteriorate the surrounding areas by changing the quality of habitats, the vegetation or the physical condition.

The “creeping” deteriorations cannot simply be solved with rules and regulations, as they do not occur due to the activity of one single recreationist, but rather they are the sum of the impacts of many users leading to the deterioration. The deterioration may also be caused by multiple uses between a sport activity and other land uses (e.g. fishing and hunting). In such a situation it should be up to integrated land use planning to coordinate and resolve the various land uses (see also examples in Chapter 6). One useful instrument in such situations is the management plan; its purposes and goals will be presented in Chapter 5. If restrictions are required to safeguard the conservation objectives of the Natura 2000 site, then they should be considered during the selection of an appropriate type of protected area.

► *Integrated planning to prevent “creeping” deterioration*

4.4 Compatibility of Events and Competitions in Natura 2000 Sites

4.4.1 Competitions and events that do not require permits

Avoiding deteriorations and considerable disturbances¹⁴ also applies to activities which usually do not require any permits, and it also applies to small competitions which normally do not require any permits.

Restrictions may be enacted when it becomes obvious that the target species and habitat types in the respective Natura 2000 site no longer enjoy favourable living conditions.



H. de Jong

EXAMPLE 12 *Snowboard-Competition with Music*

The Skiclub "Friends of Skiing" organizes a snowboarding competition in a skiing area in a low-lying mountain range. In immediate vicinity of the half-pipe, "Nardus grasslands" with Arnica has been documented which lead to the original proclamation of the Natura 2000 site. During the competition loud techno-music is played, which affects the surrounding environment and actually prompts deer in some distance to move away further. However, this competition does not constitute a deterioration as defined in the Habitats Directive, as the actual conservation objectives is the "Nardus grasslands", which is not affected by the music and no other conservation objectives exist.



RW XD, Deutsche Sporthochschule Köln

EXAMPLE 13 *Cross-country Running Competition in the Mating Habitat of Capercaillie*

The sports club "Run e. V." is planning a championship competition in long-distance running. The competition will take place in the Black Forest area of southwestern Germany, sometime during April or May. In close proximity to the selected track, mating habitat of the capercaillie can be found, which prompted the original selection of the area as a Natura 2000 site. It is expected that during the competition, considerable deteriorations may be caused by the many spectators, the accompanying assistants, and the service stations along the track, which might affect the mating and breeding success of the capercaillie. Therefore it was decided to move the competition to another location.

14. See Art. 6 para. 2 of the directive and European Commission, 2000 p. 20.

4.4.2 Organizing or Implementing a New Competition
or Touristic Event

When organizing and implementing a new competition or event, then the legal framework pertaining to nature conservation must be considered, as well as the rules and regulations about other environmental concerns such as water management. Special event permits may also be required. If the Natura 2000 site is protected by some other protected area status (e.g. as a nature conservation area), then the appropriate legal requirements, and the associated provincial legislation must also be considered with regards to the no deterioration concept.

Considering the many components of a competition or events that may contribute to a deterioration in a Natura 2000 site, i.e. changes to the location of tracks, changes to the terrain to accommodate media and spectators, barriers, temporary construction and toilets, or the disturbance of wildlife by music and announcements, it is understandable that events must be assessed separately. According to the Habitats Directive, a competition or event can only be denied if it causes considerable deterioration of the conservation objectives.

► *Competitions and events may also require an assessment*

EXAMPLE 14 *A Cultural Festival in a Natura 2000 Site*

The Wadden Sea and parts of the Terschelling Island in the Netherlands are listed as Natura 2000 sites. Every year, the “Oerol Open-Air Festival” for music is organized there. About 50,000 people visit during the ten days of the festival, which requires 60 stages spread over the entire island. One special component of the festival is how nature and landscape are included by various cultural programmes, and actually provide the setting for theatre performances and music shows.

Scientific research prior to the festival identified the sensitive areas which are subject to conservation efforts. These areas are off-limits to visitors. This measure will enable the organizers to continue with the festival as before, even though the island is a Natura 2000 site.



E. Bruls

4.4.3 Repeated sport competitions and touristic events
which require authorization

The regulations of the conservation authority Brandenburg in Germany contain concrete recommendations and suggestions about the evaluation of repeated events and competitions that require permits. It assigns competitions and events which have already a long and ongoing tradition a kind of existing right. This principle is only valid as long as the monitoring under the Habitats Directive shows that all objects of conservation have or will reach a favourable conservation status. If the situation is unclear and significant effects like changes or disturbances are likely to happen an Appropriate Assessment is required.

► *A favourable conservation status allows the right of continuance*



F. Essl

EXAMPLE 15***Regular Events on a small river***

The kayaking club “Mountain creek e. V.” is planning a competition which shall become a regular event. The section of the river intended for this competition contains a natural floodplain forest and sections are part of a Natura 2000 site. The conservation goal is the habitat type “floodplain forest with alder, ash and willow”. During the initial scoping stage, the first instance of evaluation could not preclude any considerable negative impacts, and therefore a consulting company was commissioned to undertake a complete Appropriate Assessment. The evaluation concluded that – under specific rules which must be adhered to – the event does not pose a considerable deterioration of the conservation objective, and the respective regulatory authorities agreed with this conclusion. The actual flooded terrain of this habitat type, which contains high biodiversity, is not affected by the event. Therefore the club received the permit for the event. The reporting actually revealed a positive condition of the habitat under concern, and therefore the event may be repeated under the same conditions without another assessment.

5.1 The Mandate and Relevance of the Management Plan

Several of the above case studies on potential conflicts have already shown that the creation of a separate management plan for each site is a crucial component for the successful establishment of Natura 2000 sites. Frequently, the planning process is an ideal tool to pre-empt latent conflicts, to solve existing conflicts, and it also establishes the pre-conditions for long-term cooperation. In this chapter we will present successful forms of cooperation between outdoor recreation, sports, and tourism interests and Natura 2000 from across Europe. Many of them are based on collaborative planning, a process in which interested and affected individuals from the planning area collaborated and contributed their knowledge.

The fundamental purpose of the management plan is to ensure a sustainable use of a Natura 2000 site. It also provides the basis for site-specific monitoring, i.e. providing the mechanism for controlling the quality of the objects of conservation, both species and habitat. The goal of each management plan is to either maintain the favorable condition it is protecting, or to define the ideal desired condition and the required actions for achieving them.

► *The management plan is the basis for long-term solutions*



Management plans may – as in this example with boardwalks – design a sustainable use of valuable habitat of migratory birds in a Natura 2000 site for recreationists and tourists. K. Taczanowska

Overall, a management plan is characterized by the following three pillars:

- Inventory and evaluation: with regards to outdoor recreation, sports and tourism, the main focus ought to be on maintaining the favorable condition for the species and habitat types listed in the Habitats and Birds Directives.
- Development of suitable management measures: these include measures for the conservation and maintenance of species and habitat types, as well as measures for achieving improvements and provision of information.
- Participation and consideration of the socio-economic context: this pillar includes measures to increase the acceptance of the protected area among residents and the design of a sophisticated participatory process.

These three pillars will be presented in detail in Chapter 8, but first they will be explained on hand of case studies from numerous Natura 2000 sites from across Europe.

*The three pillars of
management planning*

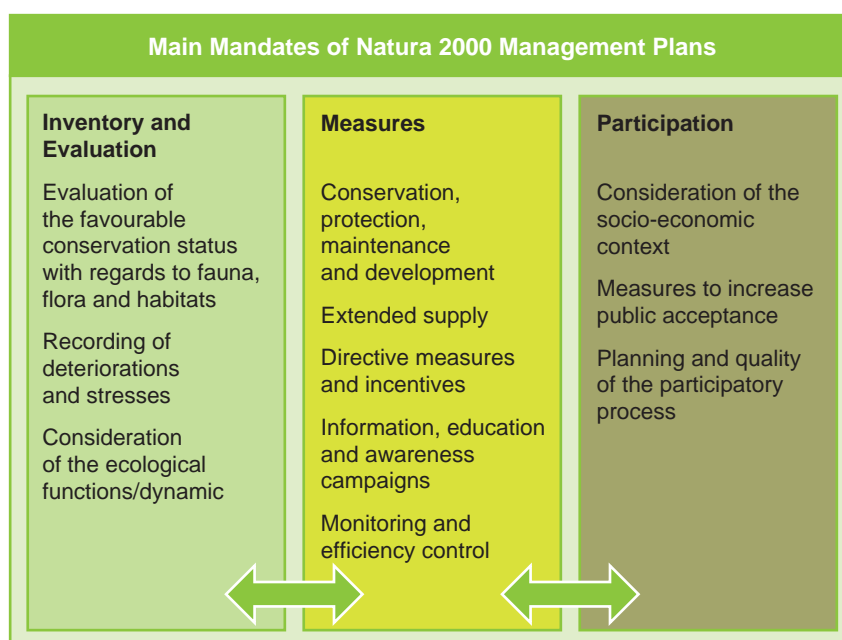


Fig. 8: The main components of the management planning process (Pröbstl 2001).

*Required content of a
management plan from the
perspective of a tourism region*

One survey of representatives of major German tourist destinations revealed the following expectations from a management plan (see Figure 9). In tourism regions and areas with intensive uses by outdoor recreation and sports activities, a management plan should provide information, the blueprint for management and land use actions, as well as monitoring, by consideration the following issues:

- Control measures related to sport and tourism,
- Measures for conflict resolution,

- Precise definitions of rights for access and land uses; and
- Establishment of working groups and development of cooperative structures to support the implementation of management goals.

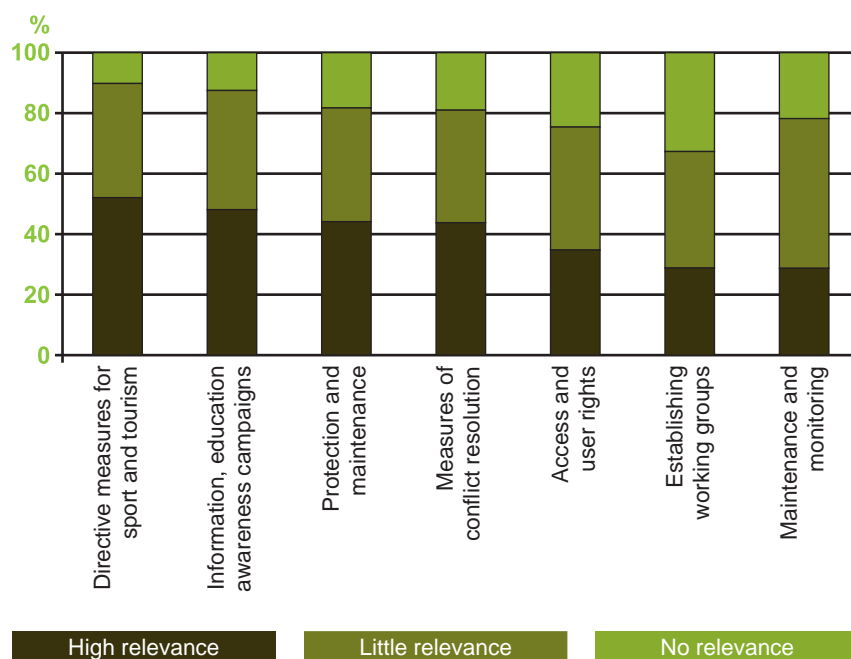


Fig. 9: Purpose of the management planning process as perceived by representatives of German tourism destinations (Garbe et al. 2005).

5.2 Cooperation During Inventory and Evaluation

In many cases the sports and outdoor recreation activities and tourism are among the defining land uses; therefore sports associations as well as officials of tourism boards and associations, and entrepreneurs should all participate in the development of management plans facilitated either by the administration or by private consulting offices. Cooperation increases the likelihood that the participation of the affected stakeholders representing the various land uses, recreation, tourism and sports results in very specific and case-relevant suggestions and management measures which will be supported by all. At the same time, cooperation also increases the understanding and acceptance of the goals of the Habitats Directive, and the measures selected for the maintenance and restoration of the preferred conditions of habitats and species will be supported very effectively.

Sport clubs still criticize that they are not sufficiently consulted about management plans, even though they usually have excellent knowledge about the activities of recreationists, and their pattern of distribution throughout the site. They also point out that in the past too many activities were eliminated too quickly based on sweeping judgments, without sufficient knowledge about a specific outdoor recreation or sport activity.

► *Participation in the management planning process*

The examples below emphasize the importance of undertaking a more detailed and user specific inventory and evaluation, which occasionally might lead to surprising results.



E. Bruls

EXAMPLE 16

Inventory Shows: Sensitive Management of Riding Supports Rare Species

The National Park De Hoge Veluwe in the Netherlands is one of the oldest national parks of the country. The park contains habitat for many endangered species and is therefore also a Natura 2000 site. One unique feature in the park is a complex management approach towards horseback riding. Since May 2006, after a detailed inventory and evaluation of all ecological interactions, riding is now permitted everywhere. Only in the heavily used areas are the riding trails maintained.

After a detailed analysis of rider behaviour it was concluded that these more liberal regulations are beneficial for riders and nature: most riders use the designated trails; only riders with excellent local knowledge abandon the trails and ride across protected areas. This extensive use of the area benefits the protected areas. The touch of the horses' hoofs creates minor openings in the sandy topsoil. The mosaic of open and closed areas represents a suitable habitat for one species of endangered grasshoppers. Thus, horseback riding contributes to the creation of habitat for this species, which depends on these sandy micro-environments. The inventory also showed that trail edges are ideal environments for certain seeds. For example, the regeneration of juniper was documented predominantly along these riding trails¹⁵.

5.3 Cooperative Development of Appropriate Measures

Experience over the past few years has shown that suitable and acceptable results can be achieved when the affected stakeholders or population is invited to participate in designing solutions. The following examples show the suitability of

- Voluntary agreements;
- Cooperative developments of new forms of visitor management; and,
- The implementation via contracts and other landscape management measures.

5.3.1 Voluntary Agreements and Conventions

In the past, voluntary agreements and conventions have already been used as measures to regulate various sports activities in Natura 2000 sites in an ecologically sound manner, and many possible impacts were

15. Further information: www.hogeveluwe.nl

reduced or eliminated. Without these voluntary self-restrictions, more sweeping and more generally applicable rules and regulations would have been essential. Therefore it is useful to discuss the role of the management instruments in the context of the goals of European nature conservation.

Past experiences show that voluntary agreements and conventions are highly effective, especially if implemented within a spatial context, for several reasons:

- The level of self-control among the recreation participants, and
- The high level of acceptance of these measures by the participants, because of their participation in the development of these jointly defined rules.

If the prescribed monitoring and reporting reveals that the voluntary agreements for self-control by the recreationists or sports enthusiasts does not lead to the desired goals, then this method must be re-evaluated and possibly be replaced with stricter regulations. The fairly strict requirements of the directive which call for monitoring and description of developments on the one side, and the options of tightening regulations on the other should provide an incentive for participating in the design of voluntary agreements and conventions.

For many clubs and associations, their engagement in the implementation of the European protected areas system Natura 2000 is part of their contribution to the AGENDA 21, and their engagement to support a sustainable development in their region according to the conference in Rio 1992.

► *Voluntary constraints instead of rules and regulations*

EXAMPLE 17	<i>Voluntary Agreement by Watersport Associations</i>
<p>With 250.000 ha, the Dutch Wadden Sea is the largest nature protection area in the Netherlands¹⁶. This site is a crucial habitat for many plants and animals, especially halophytic, species such as seals, fish and birds; all these characteristics lead to its registration as Natura 2000 site.</p> <p>This area also attracts a lot of tourism development and many water-based recreation and sports activities, especially sailors. Prior to 2003 the mooring of boats was allowed only at a minimum distance of 200m from demarcating buoys; a rule that was heavily criticized by the various water sports associations. In order to settle the conflict, a code of conduct was developed between the nature administration and the various water sports associations, which permitted exceptions to the rule. The underlying notion to this voluntary agreement is to motivate recreationists and visitors to avoid any behaviour with negative impacts on nature. The site is monitored annually for possible negative impacts and the commonly agreed on rules of behaviour are evaluated.</p>	



16. Further information: www.waddenzee.nl

*Various options exist for
visitor management* ◀

*Open planning and
conflict resolution* ◀

5.3.2 Cooperatively Developed Types of Visitor Management

A crucial component of visitor management in a protected area is the active control of recreationists and tourists. Several possible strategies exist. The most common approach in protected areas is zoning, in which visitors are simply prevented from seeking out the particularly sensitive and valuable core zones. These zones are typically marked, no trails cross them, and their accessibility is also reduced by large scale planning actions such as the location of parking lots and visitor services. In addition, visitor management also uses active management to channel the attention of the majority of visitors on specific areas by locating infrastructure accordingly, or with the marking and signing of trails, designing themed trails, visitor centres and other services such as guided tours, and children programmes. In many cases strict regulations can be avoided with the clever application of such measures, which at the same time increase the level of acceptance of the protected area and participation by visitors.

In Natura 2000 sites with high levels of use the intention is that the management plan contains a visitor steering or visitor management concept. When representatives of the various sports activities and tourism have the opportunity to participate in the management planning process, one frequently obtains innovative, practical and widely accepted solutions.



EXAMPLE 18

Cooperatively Developed Visitor Management Concepts in Oulanka National Park, Finland

The Oulanka National Park¹⁷ extends over an area of 270 km² north of the town of Kuusamo. Its diversified landscape of coniferous forests and rivers with sandy banks and rapids offers habitats for many plants, mammals, insects and birds. Most touristic activities in the park are organized and guided by local providers who are certified by the park administration. The park can be visited only with these professional guides, who de facto implement the visitor management and consequently reduce negative impacts as much as possible. At the same time, this arrangement results in a high end tourism product with a significant contribution to the regional economy.

17. Further information: www.ruka.fi



Extensive land uses as well as the fostering of landscapes is encouraged by many member states. U. Pröbstl

5.3.3 Implementation with Contracts and Other Measures of Landscape Improvements

The implementation of management measures in Natura 2000 sites may also rely on programmes run by the administration responsible for nature conservation, (e.g. contractual nature conservation programmes) or by the administration responsible for agriculture (e.g. programmes to protect or maintain cultural landscapes). These types of programmes may have very different names in the respective member states, and may also function in rather different ways, but they are based on some common principles. The higher input or services provided by the land owners in support of the nature conservation goals will be compensated financially.

Any one of the following actions may be subsidized:

- Extensive use or care, e.g. mowing of ecologically diverse meadows,
- The limitation or elimination of fertilizer and artificial, chemical inputs,
- The improvement of biodiversity, which may be achieved by introducing field groves, hedges and single trees, or
- Temporal limitation of use.

Many of these incentives are well suited as appropriate management measures in Natura 2000 sites. The contracts are typically established with the landowners. Since sports clubs and sports associations, or facility operators frequently own such valuable lands, it is possible that they also benefit from these incentives.

► *Specific incentives offered by conservation and agricultural agencies*

Arrangements in which the maintenance of recreationally used areas, such as ski slopes or air strips is undertaken in agreement with the conservation goals, can be considered a successful cooperation between outdoor recreation and sports interests and conservation in Natura 2000 sites. Apparently conservation goals and the recreation sports interest can be mutually beneficial and in support of each other. Specific habitat types such as heath, mountain meadows, and rough pasture can frequently be found around air strips. Management actions required for regular flight operations, such as mowing of the grass strip and removal of groves complement the conservation goals ideally (see Example 5).

Hands on biotope restoration ◀

The active improvements and measures to enhance the biodiversity and the conservation status include the elimination of fertilizer, the cutting of meadows at appropriate time, or the felling of trees in a dry meadow on limestone habitat. The restoration of a heath land and the maintenance of these different types of open landscapes serve as another example for a common interest of sport and conservation.



M. Pütsch

EXAMPLE 19 *Nature Conservation on an Airfield*

The airfield Landau-Ebenberg in the Palatinate is used for gliding and is located in a Natura 2000 site which is characterised by rough pastures and semi-arid grasses. On and adjacent to the airfield more than 100 bird species have been identified, which breed successfully in the area. Several species are endangered. Among the 22 proven mammals is the serotine bat, which is endangered. Another bat, the Common Noctule, is known to congregate in swarms of several thousand individuals above the airfield, which have made the community famous throughout Germany. It appears that all these species have adapted well to the operations of the airfield, which permits the use by gliders and ultra-light planes. The extensive land use and the special care required for the operation of the airstrip for safety reasons is highly supportive of many endangered species. During mapping exercises one species of plant, which was thought to be regionally extirpated, and which is supportive for several other species, was rediscovered. One species of butterfly, also considered extirpated in the region was observed again. POLLICHIA, a reputable research oriented nature conservation association advises the aerial sport club. In all, this is a well established, mutually beneficial cooperation, which is built on trust.

Another promising alternative are voluntary contractual agreements, which may be established with land owners as well as sports associations. Currently, the regional sports association of Schleswig-Holstein is establishing several examples of such contractual arrangements in cooperation with the state's Ministry of Environment, Nature and Forestry. These examples will hopefully serve as blueprints for similar arrangements elsewhere in the future.

5.4 Participation, Information and Public Relations

In summary, these above examples demonstrate in a vivid manner that the management planning process must consider economic, social and cultural concerns, and regional and local character to the largest possible extent as long as they are in agreement with the conservation and development goals of the respective Natura 2000 site. These trade-offs and the consideration of conservation goals as well as the socio-economic development are especially important when tourism contributes to the economic sector of a region. Furthermore outdoor recreation and sports opportunities enhance the regional quality of life significantly, and should therefore be also considered as a social requirement.



Outdoor recreation opportunities such as mountain biking contribute significantly to the quality of life in a region. Ruka Press

*A sophisticated communication
plan is essential* ◀

As shown above, this participatory type of management planning assumes the presence of the following three conditions:

- An integrated inventory and evaluation of all uses
- A cooperative participation of all affected groups
- An agreement with new rules for the various uses and, if necessary, a contractual regulation.

In many cases it is advisable to implement a step-wise communication concept, which works parallel to the respective sections of the management planning process. The planning process starts with a general information session to the topic, and ends with the completion of contracts with property owners. Initially, a screening process should clarify which stakeholders and interest groups should be invited to participate and who the appropriate representative should be for the respective clubs or associations. Surveys have shown that community representatives enjoy a major role of trust, especially when rather un-organized user groups, such as hikers, need to be represented.

Within the management planning process various forms of representation are possible for each of the planning components, which are summarized in figure 10.



The participation of tourism and sports representatives is especially important in management planning. U. Pröbstl

Steps during the planning process	Main content	Proposed types of participation (Examples)
1. Introduction/explanations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of the aims of the directives and of the conservation network Natura 2000 • Presentation of the planning team • Local stakeholders and actors identification 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public meeting with <i>a priori</i> identification and invitation of all potentially affected groups (in larger areas break this into several components)
2. Inventory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mapping and checking of species, habitats, and land uses • Validation and, if necessary, completion of data base • Integration of widespread local knowledge and expert knowledge of the various user groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site visits, if applicable separated with various user groups, and/or in various areas
3. Land use analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compilation of future aims by the various user groups • Mapping of land uses 	-
4. Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interpretation and evaluation of the existing data 	-
5. Conflict analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listing of conflicts and areas with special problems • Analysis of interaction and causation • May include visualization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public meetings to present the area, its special features, based on this basic information explanation of conflicts and preparation of a 'round table' for conflict resolution, complemented by targeted personal dialogues
6. Development of solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop detailed possible solutions specific to various user groups and actors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work by roundtables, complemented by individual personal dialogues
7. Preparation of implementation and determination of specific measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalizing the planning • Visualization of the results • Introduction of measures and preparation of contracts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public presentation and explanation of the final report • Summary in form of a brochure, public letter or briefing notes for the media • Preparation of the implementation with the respective contractual partners, on a one-on-one basis (i.e. property owners)

Fig. 10: For the various steps in the Natura 2000 management planning process several options for participation can be suggested (see Pröbstl 2002).



M. Pütsch

EXAMPLE 20***Brochure on Natura 2000 and Sailing***

One interesting example for the positive dissemination of information about the relationship between Natura 2000 and sports can be found in the brochure “Wind in the Sails of Natura 2000”. This brochure covers all pertinent issues about sailing and Natura 2000 sites for the coastal regions of Northern Germany. The brochure is based on a cooperative inventory undertaken between conservation authorities and sailing associations. They discussed the spaces for future recreation and tourism uses jointly. The brochure informs the sailors in an ostensive manner about the significance of the various marine habitats. Cooperative planning was a precondition for the development of joint solutions which also considered the socio-economic needs of the region in an appropriate manner.

The successful cooperation is reflected in this joint brochure. The brochure shows how complementary the information provided by the two respective ministries and sailing associations is. Sailing routes, attractive pictures of flora and fauna, suggestions for appropriate behaviour, stories, and recommendations for trips and attractive beaches are all integrated in an attractive manner.

6.1 Introduction

Successful participatory management that includes outdoor recreation, sports and tourism leads to successful and beneficial solutions for both sides. Its success is based on the facts that

- Protected – and usually rare – species and habitats contribute to the “branding” of a tourism region,
- Protected areas frequently represent a unique characteristic of the destination,
- Natura 2000 sites allow the development of new touristic offers such as guided tours, and nature experience programmes, and
- Ecologically based offers are particularly supported.

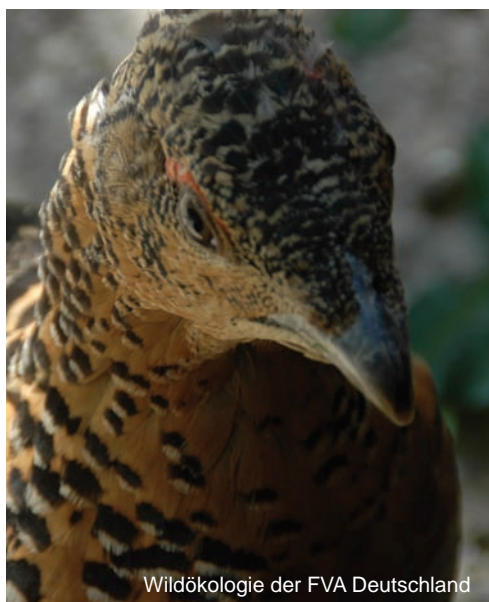
► *Criteria for success*

6.2 Case Studies

Several of these successful examples from across Europe will be presented in this chapter.



One pre-condition for successful participation is the willingness to participate by the various partners representing outdoor recreation, sports and tourism, as well as conservation. U. Pröbstl



Wildökologie der FVA Deutschland

EXAMPLE 21***Capercaillie Tourism: Joint Marketing by Tourism and Conservation***

In September 2002 the EU-LIFE Cooperation "Grouse und Tourism in Natura 2000 Sites"¹⁸ was initiated by the Forstliche Versuchs- und Forschungsanstalt Baden Württembergs jointly with partners in Finland, Scotland and Germany. Grouse are very sensitive to habitat changes and especially towards human disturbances, and therefore represent a useful indicator species. In addition to this ecological significance they also have a high symbolic value for humans who associate the capercaillie with undisturbed nature. These sensitive species are used to elaborate on the conservation goals. The project also developed a framework for tourism development. The habitat needs of grouse are communicated to the visitors who are also offered the opportunity to participate actively in nature conservation activities.

Factors of success are:

- The use of an attractive, charismatic species as "ambassador" of nature
- The inclusion of tourists as supporters of nature conservation
- A trans-boundary European-wide approach for the protection of one species



Wildnisgebiet Dürrenstein

EXAMPLE 22***Exclusive Experience: Wilderness Area Dürrenstein***

The wilderness area Dürrenstein¹⁹ represents the largest natural forest area in Austria, and also contains the largest primeval forest in Central Europe. The Natura 2000 site provides habitat for most typical species of the eastern Alps, such as brown bear, lynx, deer, alpine salamander, the adder, and golden eagle, as well as all four species of grouse endemic to Austria. Due to the large amount of dead wood, more than 600 species of fungi and mushrooms have been observed. The goal is to manage the wilderness area to protect natural processes without any human interference. However, in order to improve the understanding about and sympathy for this type of protection, humans should not be excluded. Therefore, part of the management plan is to offer an exclusive guided excursion programme with a limited number of participants. This control enhances the visitor experience, and most negative impacts on this untouched nature can be avoided.

Factors of success are:

- A limited supply of a nature product can increase its value
- Guided excursions are promoted as a special visitor experience and reduce stresses on nature

¹⁸. Further information: www.grouse-tourism.de

¹⁹. Further information: www.wildnisgebiet.at

EXAMPLE 23 *Nature Experience and Regional Development*

The Prague-Vienna Greenways²⁰ consist of an extensive hiking and bicycling network of about 400 km between the two capital cities of Prague and Vienna. The rich flora and fauna along the greenways is as attractive as its cultural sites. The ponds in Ledenice are famous for their rare water birds, the mountains around Palava offer rare alpine flora and in the National Park Podyji one can experience three extraordinary and rare landscapes: forest, arid grasslands along the steep slopes of the Dyje River, and heath. The main conservation goal of the project is to maintain the rich natural and cultural heritage of the region, and to develop sustainable tourism. Towards that goal, already existing infrastructure is used efficiently, and the manifold opportunities for nature experiences are documented and promoted in travel guides and maps. All these initiatives are designed to set positive stimuli for regional development.

Factors of success are:

- Efficient use of existing structures
- Promotion of an active lifestyle, not only for tourism but also for recreation in general
- Trans-boundary greenways are used as special attraction for tourists



N. Partnerství

EXAMPLE 24 *Cross border Cooperation of Rhine Alive*

Under the leadership of the Elsaß Region, this LIFE-Project across several local Natura 2000 sites combines numerous partners from Switzerland, France, Luxembourg, Germany and the Netherlands. All have agreed to the common goal of restoring the unique natural habitats of the Rhine landscapes²¹. While the river was still heavily polluted in the 1980s, by now sensitive species such as salmon have returned. By providing relevant information about these conservation successes to the communities along the river, many of its residents have re-discovered the Rhine landscapes as attractive sites for local recreation. An action plan for the promotion of sustainable tourism along the river was developed, with its goal to position the region with eco-tourism products such as bird watching. The programme also encourages trans-boundary networking.

Factors of success are:

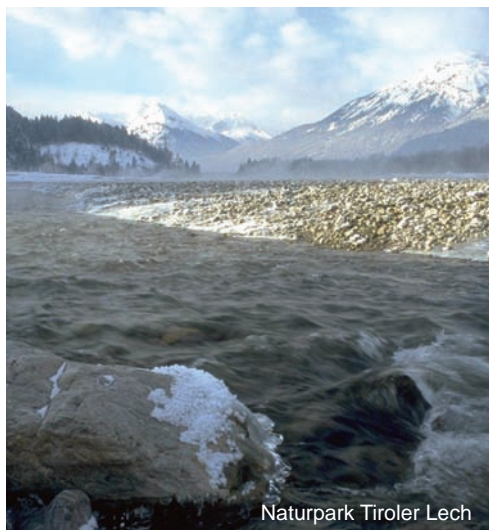
- Re-naturalisation and public promotion collaborate for the revival of the entire region
- Sustainable tourism as new economic benefit
- Positive snowball effect: gain initial acceptance from local residents, then weekend visitors, then tourists



G. Lacoumette

20. Further information: www.pragueviennagreenways.org

21. Further information: www.rhinivivant.com



Naturpark Tiroler Lech

EXAMPLE 25***Natural Treasure: The Wild River Landscape of the Lech-Floodplains in Tyrol***

The Lech River in Tyrol has maintained much of its natural character until today. Its extensive floodplain forests encompass almost 42 km² and were listed as a Natura 2000 site. It contains an impressive variety of species with one third of all birds endemic to Tyrol. This natural riparian landscape offers plenty of opportunities for outdoor recreation, leisure and nature experiences. In order to bring the special character of the area closer to residents and tourists, the LIFE project developed an activity based programme with information brochures about the special landscape, species and habitat characteristics, and suggestions for hiking routes. For example, one brochure is entitled "The Ladyslipper and its Secrets". Special viewing points and adventure trails were also established²².

Factors of success are:

- Diversification of the tourism offer
- Information and awareness campaigns enhance the experience for the visitors
- Special focus on local specialities



U. Anders

EXAMPLE 26***Cooperation and Certification Eco-Romania***

The "Association of Ecotourism" in Romania (AER) represents a new initiative to combine private and public sectors in a partnership for nature conservation and eco-tourism development. The partnership consists of the conservation authorities, tourism associations, as well as public authorities and non-governmental associations. The goal of this collaboration is to ensure sustainable tourism development in the Natura 2000 sites by using eco-certification to control both the quality of tourism products as well as their minimal impacts on nature. Such a framework enables the official tourism agencies to promote Romanian eco-tourism at international fairs. For the Natura 2000 network this approach constitutes an interesting concept to improve public acceptance and continued maintenance of the protected areas²³.

Factors of success are:

- Multitude of eco-tourism opportunities with quality control by an umbrella association
- Collaboration between eco-tourism providers

²². Further information: www.tiroler-lech.at

²³. Further information: www.eco-romania.org

Art.

Article, uppermost hierarchical level in laws.

Appropriate Assessment (Habitats Assessment)

Based on the habitats directive (Art 6), an assessment of plans and projects in relation to their possible impacts on Conservation objectives (habitat types and/or species) as listed in the Habitats Directive and the Birds Directive.

Biogeographical Region

Geographical evaluation frame for the selection of Sites of Community Importance (SCI) for the Natura 2000 Network. There are 9 biogeographical regions in the EU Territory: Continental (central Europe), Atlantic (western Europe), Mediterranean (southern Europe), Alpine (high mountains), Macaronesian (Canary islands, Azores, Madeira), Boreals (Scandinavia), Pannonical (southeastern Europe) as well as the Steppe and Black Sea region.

Biotope

A distinct area that is uniform in environmental conditions and characterized by an associated community of animals and plants.

Biotope complex (Habitat complex)

Characteristic combination of biotope types (habitat types).

Biotope type (Habitat type)

An abstract class/grouping of similar biotopes/habitats.

Birds Directive

Directive 79/409/EWG on the preservation of wild birds and their habitats (last amended by the Directive 2008/105/EG).

Coherence

Coherence refers to a functional and spatial network of habitat types and protected sites. The term takes into account the interactions of species and habitat types within their respective environment. Coherence is intended to contribute to the long-term survival of species and habitat types.

Conservation

According to the Habitats Directive, a term that describes measures designed to maintain or restore natural habitats and populations of species at a favourable status. This may potentially include the reintroduction of locally extinct species.

Directive

EU legal document (law).

Ecological network

Spatial or functional relationships between biotopes/habitats that provide functional coherence and connectivity. Ecological networks allow for gene flow between populations, dispersal, migration and recolonization.

European Commission

Executive body of the European Union (EU) residing in Brussels.

European Court of Justice (ECJ)

Judicial body of the European Union residing in Luxembourg.

Habitat of a Species

Denotes the places and environment defined by specific abiotic and biotic factors, in which the species live at any one stage of its biological cycle.

Habitats Directive

Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and wild fauna and flora (last amended by Directive 2006/105/EEC).

Habitat types (natural Habitat types)

Certain habitat types and habitat type complexes of Community interest listed in Annex I of the Habitats Directive and protected under the umbrella of the Natura 2000 network.

IUCN

The "International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources", is a global organization with more than 500 members in over 100 countries. It was founded in 1948, and its headquarters are in Geneva. Its goals are the support, harmonizing and coordination of nature conservation on an international level, and the IUCN also cooperates closely with various UN organizations.

Management plan

According to Art. 6 of the Habitats Directive, plans for Natura 2000 sites designed to safeguard the ecological requirements of the protected habitat types and species.

Member States

The term refers to the 27 members of the European Union.

Monitoring, surveillance requirements

New: In accordance with Art. 11 of the Habitats Directive, comprehensive monitoring of the conservation status of Annex I habitat types and Annex II species (in and outside of Natura 2000 sites).

Nature-based sport

Nature-based sport encompasses any voluntary activity in the open landscape, which enables the participants an encounter with themselves in nature, and with nature. These activities are non-motorized, and are not necessarily tied to sports-specific facilities. Nature-based sport is different to nature- and landscape-compatible sports and recreation.

Natura 2000

Coherent EU-wide network of protected sites consisting of Sites of Community Importance according to the – Habitats Directive (Special Areas of Conservation; SACs) and the Birds Directive (Special Protection Areas, SPAs).

Obligatory reporting

Comprehensive summary for state of implementation, exemptions granted or measures to assess the Natura 2000 network. According to the provisions in the Habitats Directive, reports relating to the protection of species are due every two years (Art. 16). Comprehensive national reports outlining the implementation of the Habitats Directive are due once every 6 years. According to the Birds directive, comprehensive reporting is required every 3 years.

Plan

The term refers to plans and also to decisions in earlier related proceedings which need to be considered in administrative decisions, as long as they alone, or in conjunction with other plans or projects, may impact significantly a special area of conservation (SAC) or a special protection area (SPA); exempt are any projects under the immediate jurisdiction of SACs or SPAs.

Priority habitat types and species

Species and habitat types for which the EU has particular protection responsibility (* denotes priority species and habitat types in the Annexes of the Habitats Directive).

Project

Projects include all intentions and measures, as well as all impacts in nature and landscape in SACs and SPAs, which require an administrative decision or a permit, or are implemented by one of the administrative bodies. They also include facilities that require permits in accordance with legislation on emissions and the usage of water bodies as long as the plan or project itself, or in interaction with other plans or projects may impact a SAC or SPA significantly.

Site of the Community Importance (SCI)

Based on the provisions of the Habitats Directive (Art. 4, Annex III, Phase 2 Habitats Directive), sites for the Natura 2000 network selected by the EU Commission from lists submitted by the Member States – national list of sites

Special Area of Conservation

Site of Community Importance according to Article 4 (4) of the Habitats Directive which is formally and legally protected at the national level.

Special Protection Area

According to Art. 4 (1) and (2) of the Birds Directive a protected area formally established and legally protected at the national level.

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European Member State	Informations on Habitat and Birds Directive on the Internet	Address and contact for further information
European Union	http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/environment/nature/natura.htm http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/environment/nature/habdirde.htm	European Commission GDXL.D2 TRMF 02/04 200, Rue de la Loi, BE-1049 Brussel
Austria	www.lebensministerium.at www.umweltbundesamt.at	Bundesministerium für Land und Forstwirtschaft, Umwelt und Wasserwirtschaft Abt. II/4 Stubenbastei 5 A-1010 Wien Umweltbundesamt Spittelauer Lände 5 A-1090 Wien
Belgium	www.mina.be www.environnement.wallonie.be	Departement Leefmilieu, Natuur en Energie Vlaamse milieudministratie Graaf de Ferrarisgebouw Koning Albert II laan 20,bus 8 BE-1000 Brussel www.lne.be Direction Generale des Ressources Naturelles et de l'Environnement Av. Prince de Liège, 15 BE-5100 Namur
Bulgaria	www.moew.government.bg	Ministry of Environment and Water 67 William Gladstone str. BG-1000 Sofia
Cyprus	www.moa.gov.cy www.moi.gov.cy	Ministry of Agriculture Natural Resources and Environment Environment service 1411 Nicosia Ministry of Interior 1453 Nicosia

European Member State	Informations on Habitat and Birds Directive on the Internet	Address and contact for further information
Czech Republic	www.env.cz www.ochranaprirody.cz	Ministry of Environment Director, Dept. of International Conservation of Biodiversity Vrsovicke 65 CZ-100 10 Prague Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection Kalisnická 4-6 CZ-130 23 Prague
Denmark	www.mim.dk	Ministry of the Environment Spatial and Environmental Planning Agency Haraldsgade 53 DK-2100 København Ø
Estonia	www.envir.ee	Nature Conservation Dpt. Ministry of the Environment Toompuiestee 24 EE-15172 Tallinn
Finland	www.environment.fi	Ministry of Environment Land Use Department P.O. Box 380 SF-00131 Helsinki
France	www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr	Ministère de l'Ecologie, de l'Energie, du développement durable et de l'Aménagement du territoire 20 Avenue de Ségur FR-75302 Paris 01 SP
Germany	www.bmu.de www.bfn.de/0316_natura2000.htm	Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz und Reaktorsicherheit Postfach 12 06 29 D-53048 Bonn Bundesamt für Naturschutz Konstantinstraße 110 D-53179 Bonn

European Member State	Informations on Habitat and Birds Directive on the Internet	Address and contact for further information
Greece	www.minenv.gr www.minagric.gr	Ministry of Environment Physical Planning and Public Works Nature Management Section Triaklon 36 GR-11526 Athens Ministry of Rural Development and Food 3-5, Hippokratous Street GR-10164 Athens
Great Britain	www.defra.gov.uk www.jncc.gov.uk	Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs Eastbury House 30 - 34 Albert Embankment London SE1 7TL Joint Nature Conservation Committee Monkstone House, City Road UK-Peterborough PE1 1JY
Hungary	www.kvvm.hu	Ministry of Environment and Water Költő u. 21. HU-1121 Budapest
Ireland	www.environ.ie	Dúchas The Heritage Service Dept of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands 7, Ely Place IRL-Dublin 2
Italy	www.minambiente.it	Ministero dell'Ambiente Servizio Conservazione della Natura Via Capitan Bavastro, 174 IT-00147 Roma
Latvia	www.vidm.gov.lv	Ministry of Environment Peldu 25 Riga LV- 1494
Lithuania	www.am.lt	Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania A. Jaksto 4/9 LT-2600 Vilnius

European Member State	Informations on Habitat and Birds Directive on the Internet	Address and contact for further information
Luxembourg	www.environnement.public.lu	Ministère de l'Environnement 18, Montée de la Pétrusse L-2918 Luxembourg
Malta	www.mepa.org.mt	Environment Protection Directorate Malta Environment and Planning Authority Floriana CMR 01
Netherlands	www.minlnv.nl	Ministry of Agriculture, Nature, and Food Quality (LNV) Department for Nature Management 73 Bezuidenhoutseweg P.O. Box 20401 NL-2500 Ek Den Haag
Poland	www.mos.gov.pl	Ministry of the Environment Nature Conservation Department Str 52/54 Wawelska PL-00-922 Warsaw
Portugal	www.icn.pt	Instituto da Conservação da Natureza Rua Filipe Folque 46-3 P-1050 Lisboa
Romania	www.mmediu.ro	Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development B-dul Libertatii nr. 12, Sector 5, Bucuresti
Slovakia	www.lifeenv.gov.sk	Ministry of the Environment Department for Nature and Landscape Protection nam. L. Stura c. 1 SK-812 35 Bratislava
Slovenia	www.mop.gov.si	Ministry for Environment, Spatial Planning and Energy Dunajska cesta 48 SI-1000 Ljubljana

European Member State	Informations on Habitat and Birds Directive on the Internet	Address and contact for further information
Sweden	www.sweden.gov.se/sb/d/2066 www.naturvardsverket.se	Ministry of Environment Miljödepartementet S-10333 Stockholm Swedish Environmental Protection Agency Blekholtsterrassen 36 S-10648 Stockholm
Spain	www.mma.es	Ministerio de Medio Ambiente Plaza de San Juan de la Cruz, s/n E-28071 Madrid

