



An Action Plan for nature, people and the economy

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Nature Directives' Fitness Check - Diagnosis: **The directives are fit for purpose, but implementation should be improved**

- *Too many species/habitats still show negative trends*
- *Only 50% of sites properly managed*
- *The marine Natura 2000 network incomplete*
- *Funding shortage*
- *Cases of inflexible application and permitting delays by national & local authorities*
- *Insufficient knowledge, awareness, engagement & cooperation*
- *Need to increase coherence between nature protection and socio-economic activities*



An Action Plan for nature, people and the economy

- The Action Plan was adopted on 27 April 2017
- Measures will be taken at EU level, but Member States and stakeholders concerned will also need to act, with increased support and assistance from the European Commission.
- The Action Plan was presented at a conference on the 6th June 2017 in Brussels.
- See:
http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/fitness_check/action_plan/index_en.htm

Objectives of the Nature Action Plan

- to realise the full potential of the **Directives** to achieve **healthy ecosystems**, whose services benefit of **people, nature and the economy**
- to **boost their contribution** towards reaching the **EU's biodiversity targets** for 2020
- to **improve** the Directives' **coherence with broader socio-economic objectives**

Approach of Action Plan

- **4 priority areas of Action**

- Improving guidance and knowledge and ensuring better coherence with broader socio-economic objectives
- Building political ownership and strengthening compliance
- Strengthening investment in Natura 2000 and improving synergies with EU funding instruments
- Better communication and outreach, engaging citizens, stakeholders and communities

- **15 Actions** (detailed factsheets in SWD, see:

- http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/fitness_check/action_plan/factsheets_en.pdf)

- **Timeframe 2017-2019** (cannot pre-empt next MFF and on-going debate on the future of CAP)

- **Key Actors:** MS, COM, CoR, EIB, EEA, Stakeholders

Improve guidance & knowledge and ensure better coherence with broader socio-economic objectives

<p>1. Update, develop and actively promote, in all EU languages, guidance on</p> <p>(a) site permitting procedures, species protection and management as well as sector-specific guidance</p> <p>(b) integrating ecosystem services into decision-making</p>	<p>COM/CoR/MS / stakeholders</p>
<p>2. Establish a support mechanism to help Member State authorities address key challenges in applying the permitting requirements of the Birds and Habitats Directives for Natura 2000 and species protection rules</p>	<p>COM / MS / stakeholders</p>
<p>3. Improve knowledge, including through enhanced and more efficient monitoring, and ensure public online access to data necessary for implementing the Directives (e.g. satellite imagery from the Copernicus programme)</p>	<p>COM / EEA / MS</p>

Building political ownership and strengthening compliance

4. Complete Natura 2000 network, especially gaps for marine & put in place necessary conservation measures for sites	MS/ stakeholders / COM
5. Use Environmental Implementation Review for dedicated bilaterals with national & regional authorities to develop agreed roadmaps to improve implementation & consult with landowners & other stakeholders on challenges	COM/MS/ stakeholders
6. Bring together public authorities & stakeholders from different MS at biogeographical region level to address common challenges , including on cross-border issues	COM/CoR /MS/ stakeholders
7. Further develop Species & Habitats Action Plans for most threatened species/natural habitats & stakeholder platforms on coexistence with conflict species (e.g. large carnivores)	COM/MS / stakeholders

Strengthening investment in Natura 2000 and improving synergies with EU funding instruments

<p>8. Strengthen investments in nature</p> <p>(a) Update PAFs - improve Natura 2000 multiannual financial planning</p> <p>(b) Propose 10% nature/biodiversity increase within LIFE budget</p> <p>(c) Stimulate private sector investment in nature projects</p>	<p>COM/EIB/MS /stakeholders</p>
<p>9. Promote synergies with CAP, incl. Natura 2000 payments & agri-environment-climate measures, development of result-based schemes, Farming Advisory Services, innovation and knowledge transfer.</p>	<p>COM / MS / stakeholders</p>
<p>10. Increase awareness of cohesion policy funding opportunities and improve synergies</p>	<p>COM / MS / stakeholders</p>
<p>11. Improve synergies with the common fisheries policy & integrated maritime policy, including more effective use of financing opportunities</p>	<p>COM / MS / stakeholders</p>
<p>12. Provide guidance to support deployment of green infrastructure for better connectivity of Natura 2000 areas; support nature-based solutions projects through EU research and innovation policy and Horizon 2020 funds</p>	<p>COM / MS / stakeholders</p>

Better communication & outreach, engaging citizens, stakeholders & communities

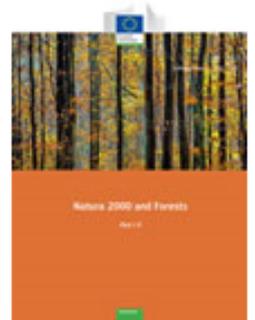
13. Support knowledge exchange & engagement of local & regional authorities through a joint platform with Committee of the Regions	CoR / COM
14. Support recognition of good management of Natura 2000 & awareness-raising of Nature Directives, availing of new technologies and outreach activities , and strengthen links between natural and cultural heritage (2018 European year of cultural heritage)	COM / CoR / MS stakeholders
15. Involve young people by giving them the opportunity to get involved in nature protection in Natura 2000 sites (European Solidarity Corps)	COM / MS / stakeholders

Some examples of (sub-)actions that may more particularly interest the forestry sector

Under Action 1 – guidance and coherence with socio-economic objectives

Aim = clarifying the flexibility provided by the Nature Directives and applying cost-effective approaches

- Update existing guidance
- New guidance and practical tools on incorporating ecosystem services into planning and decision-making



Under Action 2 – addressing permitting requirements

- support mechanisms for administrations dealing with the permitting requirements
- clarify perceived regulatory obstacles and apply innovative solutions that can support implementation

Under Action 3 – improving knowledge

- further development and use of alternative information sources on conservation status
- further work on defining the concept of Favourable Reference Values
- update and improve the on-line Natura 2000 viewer

Under Action 4 - Completing the network and conservation measures

- Strong stakeholder awareness and cooperation is being recognized as is a major factor for success in establishing conservation measures
- Encouraging Member States to actively involve all relevant stakeholders at an early stage

Under Action 5 - the bilateral meetings

- focus on governance approaches and effectiveness of cooperation, e.g. between administration(s) and stakeholders, and on
- the need to actively engage landowners and other stakeholders, especially in management planning for the Natura 2000 sites
- There will be back to back meetings with private sector, NGOs and other stakeholders

Under Action 6 – cooperation between all actors at the biogeographical level

- identification and promotion of best practices
- strengthened cooperation and sharing of experience
- thematic events in all biogeographical regions
- Natura 2000 Communication Platform (see: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/platform/index_en.htm)

Under Action 7 - Species & Habitats Action Plans and stakeholder platforms

- Further support stakeholder platforms/fora to promote dialogue, including at biogeographical level, to exchange experience, knowledge and co-operate in addressing conflicts between people and protected species (e.g. large carnivores, Cormorants, geese)

Under Action 8 - investments in nature

- Propose in 2017 to increase the Nature and Biodiversity envelope under the LIFE Regulation by 10%
- Support additional pilot projects, specifically targeted at landowners' organisations and their constituency, testing tools for private land conservation in Natura 2000 sites under the LIFE programme (2017-2019)

Under Action 9 - funding from the common agricultural policy

- effective use of funds available for Natura 2000 sites under the European Agricultural Rural Development Fund (EARDF)
- Assess the use of financial allocations to compensate for additional costs and income foregone
- Support training & awareness raising for relevant stakeholders, e.g. forest owners, in particular through Farming Advisory Services

Under Action 14 - recognition of good management of Natura 2000 and awareness-raising



- further developing the Natura 2000 Award
- developing and testing systems aimed at recognising positive management of Natura 2000 sites, including recognition of the multiple ecosystem services they provide (e.g. 'name&fame', twinning of sites)
- showcasing benefits and opportunities provided by Natura 2000 for further integration with other EU policies

Under Action 15 – involve young people

- LIFE preparatory actions for young people under the European Solidarity Corps
- offer young Europeans cross-border volunteering opportunities or professional experience in the field of disaster prevention and nature conservation.

- **Ambitious work programme for the next two and a half years**
- **21 May: Natura 2000 Day (proclaimed on 15 May 2017)**
- **World Environment Day 05.06, 'Connecting people with Nature'**
- **Dedicated Conference on 6th June, hosted jointly with CoR and Maltese Presidency**
- **Council Conclusions on the Nature Action Plan: 19 June 2017**

Thank you for your attention

