



Update of guidance on Natura 2000 and climate change

NADEG Online meeting, 14 May 2024

Nature Conservation Unit, DG ENV D3

EU Climate Risk Assessment & Communication on managing climate risks

2023 was the hottest year on record. Europe is already facing the impacts of global warming, with higher temperature changes than the global average. The potential consequences are dramatic and climate change could reduce EU GDP by about 7% by the end of the century. However, **we have the tools to boost the resilience of our societies and to protect people and prosperity.**

The first ever European Climate Risk Assessment provides a comprehensive overview of the level and urgency of risks and identifies who has the responsibility for taking action. The Commission's Communication on Managing Climate Risks responds to it and shows how **we can build climate resilience in the EU** and effectively manage climate risks.

Published on 12 March 2024:

- EUCRA: <https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/european-climate-risk-assessment>
- Communication on managing climate risks: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda_24_1386

EU Climate Risk Assessment

The first-ever European Climate Risk Assessment has identified 36 key climate risks for Europe at different degrees of urgency.

Urgency to act: ● Urgent action needed ● More action needed ● Further investigation ● Sustain current action ● Watching brief

Climate risks by cluster

Ecosystems

- Coastal ecosystems
- Marine ecosystems
- Biodiversity/carbon sinks due to wildfires*
- Biodiversity/carbon sinks due to wildfires
- Species distribution shifts
- Ecosystems/society due to invasive species
- Soil health
- Aquatic and wetland ecosystems
- Biodiversity/carbon sinks due to droughts and pests
- Cascading impacts from forest disturbances

Food

- Crop production*
- Crop production
- Fisheries and aquaculture
- Food security due to higher food prices
- Food security due to climate impacts outside Europe
- Livestock production

Health

- Heat stress — general population
- Population/built environment due to wildfires*
- Population/built environment due to wildfires
- Well-being due to non-adapted buildings
- Heat stress — outdoor workers*
- Pathogens in coastal waters
- Health systems and infrastructure
- Infectious diseases
- Heat stress — outdoor workers

Infrastructure

- Pluvial and fluvial flooding
- Coastal flooding
- Damage to infrastructure and buildings
- Energy disruption due to heat and drought*
- Energy disruption due to heat and drought
- Energy disruption due to flooding
- Marine transport
- Land-based transport

Economy and finance

- European solidarity mechanisms
- Public finances
- Property and insurance markets
- Population/economy due to water scarcity*
- Population/economy due to water scarcity
- Pharmaceutical supply chains
- Supply chains for raw materials and components
- Financial markets
- Winter tourism

*Hotspot region: southern Europe

Cluster Ecosystems:

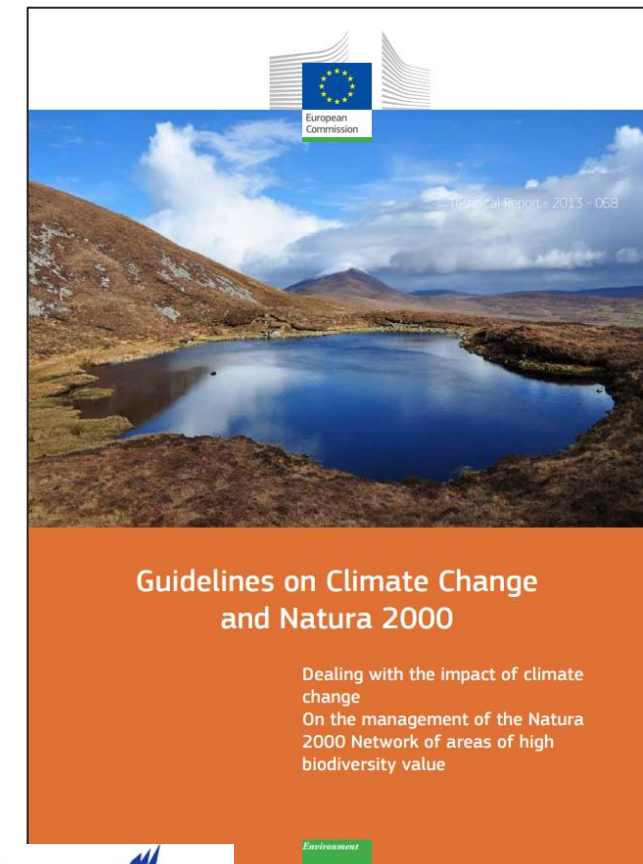
- **Policy implementation** and the **response to climate risks** should be improved
- **Guidance to MSs for protecting ecosystems in a changing climate** should be strengthened
 - **Special attention to the implementation and restoration** of PA networks in- and outside Natura 2000 and **connectivity**

Communication on managing climate risks

- *For effective management of climate risks, ecosystems need to be protected and managed comprehensively... Implementation of the Birds and Habitats Directives and the development of the national restoration plans under the upcoming Nature Restoration Law should ensure synergies with climate resilience.*
- *The Commission will **update the guidelines on Natura 2000 and climate change** to support climate change adaptation in protected areas.*

Guidance on adapting Natura 2000 to climate change

- Update of 2013 Guidelines on climate change and Natura 2000
- **Guidance for Natura 2000 managers and nature conservation authorities on how Natura 2000 network can be adapted to climate change while supporting climate resilience in the EU:**
 - Adaptation support framework to address climate risks for Natura 2000
 - Strategic planning and partnerships, practical measures and funding opportunities that can support adaptation at network, site and wider landscape level
 - Win-win opportunities for Natura 2000 network to support NBS and climate resilience in the EU
 - The legal framework of BHDs in the face of climate change



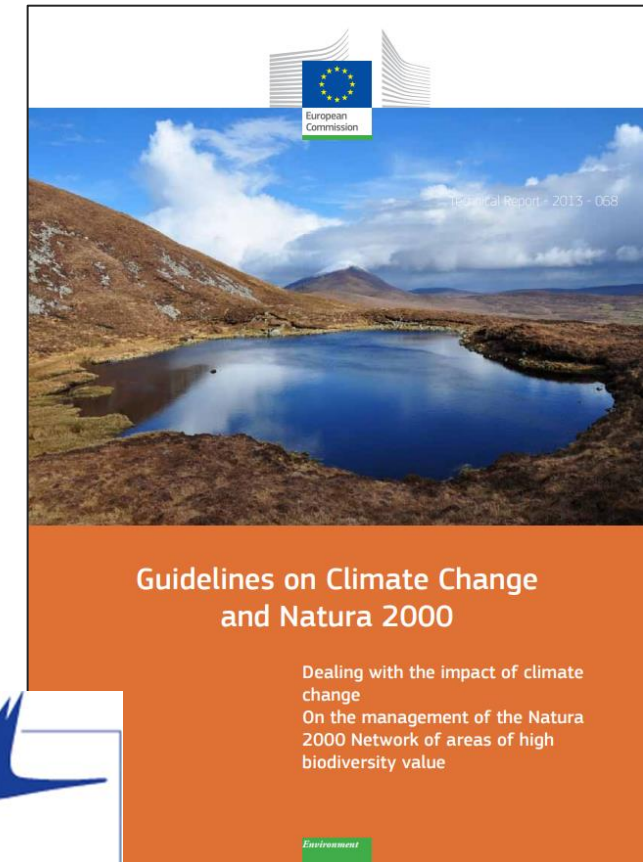
Guidance on adapting Natura 2000 to climate change

- **Expected timeline:** by the end of 2024
- **NADEG consultation:** end of summer/ September 2024

Do you have **examples of best practices/ strategies/ measures** to support Natura 2000 adaptation to climate change?

Do you have examples and data on the **contribution of Natura 2000 to climate resilience**?

- If yes, please share them with us!



Thank you!

