



# European Commission Expert Group on the management of Natura 2000

Anita Prosser

27/04/2015 Brussels, Belgium

# About Eurosite



## **Eurosite's Vision:**

*"A Europe where nature is cared for, protected, restored and valued by all."*

## **Eurosite's Mission:**

*"Providing opportunities for practitioners to network and exchange experience on practical site management."*

## **Eurosite's Objectives:**

- Networking for Europe's Nature
- A Gold Standard for Information
- Advocacy for Site Based Management
- To be a Resilient Organisation



# The Eurosite Network



- 56 members
- 21 countries across Europe
- Governmental and non-governmental organisations
- Natura 2000 sites and other natural areas
- 3 staff members, based in the Netherlands



# Eurosite – Born from Twinnings



- **Mid 1980s** – Conservatoire du littoral and Espaces Naturel Regional Nord-Pas-de-Calais – exchange of information between Northern France, United Kingdom and the Netherlands.
- **1987** – the European Natural Sites Twinning Programme – 33 sites across Europe.
- **1989** – Eurosite established.
- **2015** – Twinning between Staatsbosbeheer and the Biosphere Reserve Niedersächsische Elbtalaue, Germany.



# How does a Eurosite Twinning work?



1. Internal discussions within an organisation
2. Initial contact with Eurosite
3. Initial contact with suitable site (or sites) identified
1. Draft a Twinning Agreement
2. Official launch event – sign Twinning Agreement
3. Implement the Twinning
4. Monitor and review



*Signing Twinning Agreement between Veluwe, Netherlands and Nuthe-Nieplitz, Germany*



# Benefits of Twinning



- Realise mutually beneficial objectives
- Assure the quality of nature conservation practices and methods
- Acquire new skills, experience, knowledge and information
- Promotion to an international audience
- European dimension



# What can Eurosite offer?



- Over 25 years experience
- Dedicated Twinning Coordinator
- Network of potential partners
- Twinning Guidelines
- Model Twinning Agreements
- Intermediary to ensure the Twinning works effectively

Eurosite Twinnings do not involve:

- Complicated or time-consuming bureaucracy
- Unnecessary additional work
- Imposed ways of working

Eurosite cannot make the Twinning work – that is up to the site managers!



# Twinning case study



A Eurositere Twinning between two Non-Governmental Organisations in the Netherlands and Poland:

- Odra Delta Nature Park (EUCC, Poland)
- Groningen / Noord-Drenthe, (Natuurmonumenten, the Netherlands)



*Twinning Agreement signed at the 2010 Eurositere Annual Meeting in Scotland*





# Twinning case study



Key achievements:

- Exchange visits
- WE Young People – getting young people interested in nature through photography and exchanges
- Two jeeps for the Odra Delta



# Twinning case study



Rombout Bennema, Natuurmonumenten site manager for Groningen and Noord-Drenthe:



*“The Twinning has been a fantastic opportunity for these two Natura 2000 sites to exchange knowledge and resources. Our sites are very similar, but the contexts are different and this creates unique challenges. It has been interesting to learn from our different approaches to stakeholder involvement.”*



# Eurosite and the Natura 2000 network



- Natura Green Days (2002-2003)
  - 980 nature events
- Natura Network Initiative (2004-2006)
  - 70 site managers, 18 European countries
  - 1,700 Green Days
  - 150 Natura 2000 site case studies
- Natura 2000 Networking Programme (2007)
  - 30 site managers and landowners, 18 European countries
  - 15 training events
  - 15 Toolkits
  - 150 Green Days

**NATURA 2000**  
**NETWORKING PROGRAMME**  
[www.natura.org](http://www.natura.org)

The Natura 2000 Networking Programme involves a series of training events, themed workshops and practical tools to promote Natura 2000, good practice in site management and the benefits of networking, across Europe. Activities focus on communication, capacity building and the value of working in partnership to achieve nature conservation objectives.

The Natura 2000 Networking Programme is targeted at individuals involved in or influential to the management of Natura 2000 and also the general public. It aims to improve knowledge and understanding of Natura 2000, while promoting the exchange of good practice examples in site management.

The Natura 2000 Networking Programme is funded by the European Commission and managed on their behalf by Eurosite, the European Landowners Organization and the EUROPARC Federation. All the programme details and the exchange of good practices are communicated through the dedicated programme website: [www.natura.org](http://www.natura.org)

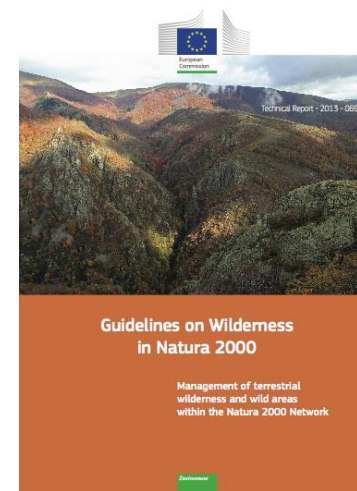
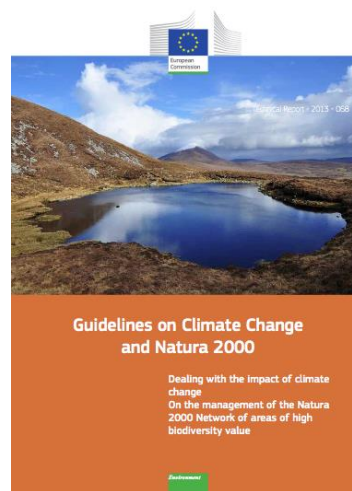


# Eurosite and the Natura 2000 network



EC service contracts with Alterra:

- Dealing with conflicts
- Impact of climate change on the management of Natura 2000
- Management of wilderness and wild areas in Natura 2000



# Eurosite and the Natura 2000 network



‘Natura 2000 Site Managers: their key role, profile and importance for Europe’s nature’, Remerschen, Luxembourg, October 2010

- 31 people, 9 European countries



# Eurosite and the Natura 2000 network



‘Habitat Restoration in Natura 2000 sites in Krkonoše National Park and Europe’, Špindlerův Mlýn, Czech Republic, June 2012

- 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Habitats Directives
- 40 delegates, 12 countries



# Eurosite and the Natura 2000 network



‘Terrestrial Natura 2000 Monitoring’, Swansea, South Wales, United Kingdom, March 2013

- 110 delegates, 17 countries



# Eurosite and the Natura 2000 network - 2014



Four workshops:

- Natura People
  - 36 people, 10 European countries
- Living with wilderness in Europe
  - 51 people, 13 countries
- Sustainable Wildlife Management
  - 31 people, 7 countries
- Creating a Climate for Change (mini-workshop)
  - 15 people, 5 countries





# Eurosite and the Natura 2000 network - 2014



Field trips to Natura 2000 sites:

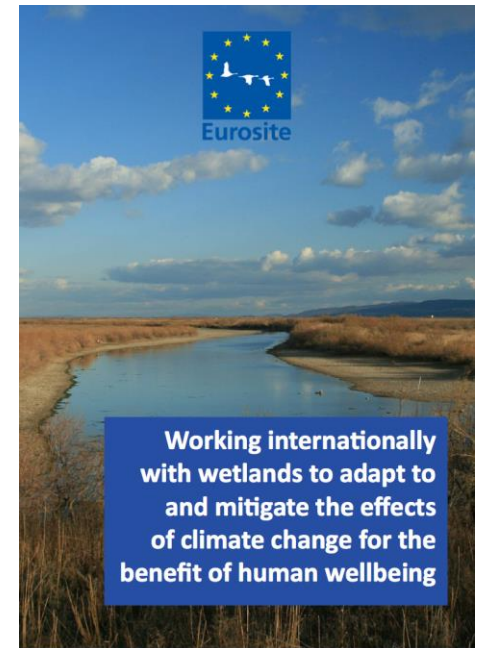
- Het Zwin Nature Reserve (Belgium)
- Kennemerduinen (Netherlands)
- Elmley National Nature Reserve (United Kingdom)
- Natural park of the Alpille & coastal lagoons Petit and Grand Travers (France)



# Eurosite and the Natura 2000 network - 2014



Three guidance documents:



# Natura 2000

## Biogeographical Process



Two service contracts with ECNC:

- Maintenance of the Communication Platform and Support to the New (Natura 2000) Biogeographical Process



- Support for the Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process

Activities to date include:

- Promotion of the Process
- Natura 2000 Platform
- Networking event on governance and policy integration in Mediterranean wetlands
- Identifying and supporting future networking events



# Eurosite and the Natura 2000 network - 2015



## Workshops

- Wetland Visitor Management centres
- Integrated management of estuaries and ports
- Monitoring Natura 2000 areas
- Conflict resolution

## Study Visit

Restoration of Natura 2000 areas





**Eurosite**

**Thank you**

**<http://www.eurosite.org/>**

