The Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process in its strategic context

2nd Alpine Natura 2000 Seminar - Padova, 21-23 June 2017
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Protect species and habitats - Target 1
By 2020, the assessments of species and habitats protected by EU nature law show better conservation or a secure status for 100% more habitats and 50% more species.

Maintain and restore ecosystems – Target 2
By 2020, ecosystems and their services are maintained and enhanced by including green infrastructure in spatial planning and restoring at least 15% of degraded ecosystems.
The Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process in a nutshell

- **WHY?** support of Targets 1 & 2 of the Biodiversity Strategy
- **WHEN?** launched in 2011, *1st ALP Seminar in Graz, Austria, Nov. 2013*
- **WHERE?** EU, at the biogeographical level
- **WHO?** all Natura 2000 actors & stakeholders
- **WHAT?** networking, information exchange and cooperation
- **HOW?** Natura 2000 Seminars, expert meetings, workshops and networks, cross-border projects, ...
- includes knowledge building about **coherent approaches** to conservation **objectives and measures**, cooperative projects, Natura 2000 Communication Platform
- Is based on **voluntary cooperation** and strongly depending on active involvement of governmental and non-governmental experts
Working at level of Biogeographical Regions...

For each region:
- Steering Committees
- Natura 2000 Seminars
- Thematic Workshops
- Ad hoc expert meetings
- Road maps for action

Pre-scoping doc. (Top 20 list) – Background info. – Seminar doc. & report – N2000 Platform
EU Action Plan for nature, people and the economy’ 2017 - 2019

Priority B:

Building political ownership and strengthening compliance
Action 6: 
Strengthening biogeographical cooperation

The Commission, in cooperation with MS and stakeholders will:

• Refocus the Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process to even better contribute to effective conservation systems through for example improved coherence in evaluating conservation status of habitats and species, setting priorities at biogeographical level, the implementation of action plans, etc.

• Agree biogeographical-level roadmaps for cooperative action

The Committee of the Regions will play a role in actively promoting the process and encouraging the engagement of regional authorities.
THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION underlines the importance of focussed discussions at the biogeographical level to share experience, expertise and solutions regarding structural and cross-border challenges, as well as thematic discussions across those biogeographical regions and the importance of investing in capacity-building with a view to enhancing implementation and gaining experience on transboundary management of species; and welcomes the development of roadmaps as a possible tool for cooperative action in the context of the Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process;
The process seeks to answer questions such as:

1. Do we understand the pressures and threats to be addressed in order to achieve FCS and make significant/measurable and cost effective progress?
2. Are there any practical solutions that can be shared with others?
3. How can we enhance coherence in conservation status assessment and in establishing conservation objectives & measures?
4. Are there particular knowledge gaps that should be addressed?
5. What cooperative actions can be launched (road map)?
Objectives

– To review conservation priorities at the biogeographical level
– To recommend management approaches based on best practice
– To discuss restoration priorities, incl. the 'Low hanging fruit' approach
– To consider further work on favourable reference values (FRVs)
– To identify concrete cooperation and networking opportunities
– To agree on a road map for action
Four thematic working groups:

1. Setting conservation status, objectives and priorities (setting restoration priorities, interpretation of habitats, favourable reference values, ...)

2. Conservation measures and their effectiveness (approaches to integrated planning, effective Natura 2000 governance structures, participatory approaches, ...)

3. Monitoring and evaluation (ways to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of conservation measures, ...)

4. Addressing threats & pressures to Alpine habitats and species (ways to assess and mitigate negative impacts, dealing with ecological connectivity, ...)

Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process
A side event in the margin of this seminar:
An Informal Round Table Meeting on large carnivores management, to exchange information and views on
- cooperation initiatives already in place
- perceived obstacles to the development of common approaches
- opportunities to making progress to more harmonised approaches
- possible follow-up events/workshops.

Thursday evening at 20:00 HRS, at the knowledge market. Don't miss it!
Seminar documents and presentations, see

- the Natura 2000 Communication Platform:

- CIRCABC:
  https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/4b22b719-a75b-44b6-8b41-50e1423dab7e
The Natura 2000 Communication Platform

Thank for your attention and enjoy the field visits!