



Challenges and priorities for the management of farmland in Natura 2000 areas

Marco Cipriani
European Commission
DG Environment Unit B.3 Natura 2000

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Natura 2000



Data as of January 2009

**Total : > 26,000 sites
= ~18% of EU 27
territory**

0 250 500 Km



Managing Natura 2000 sites

Within all Natura 2000 sites:

- ❖ **Damaging activities must be avoided** that could significantly disturb the species and/or habitats for which the site has been designated;
- ❖ **Positive measures are taken**, where necessary to maintain and restore those habitats and species to a favourable conservation status in their natural range



The ultimate objective is to ensure that the species and habitats types reach «favourable conservation status»

LOSS OF BIODIVERSITY IN THE EU

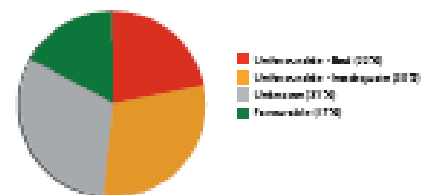
Art. 17 of the Habitats Directive – Monitoring reports

- ❖ First Member State assessments done for 2001-2006
- ❖ EU composite report or ‘Health Check’ June 09

Key findings:

- *Only 17% deemed to be in favourable conservation*
- *Grasslands, wetlands & coastal habitats most under pressure*
- *Habitats associated with agriculture show worse conservation status*

Assessment of conservation status of species



Assessment of conservation status of habitats

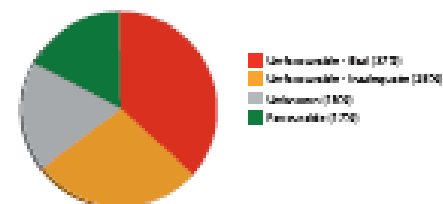
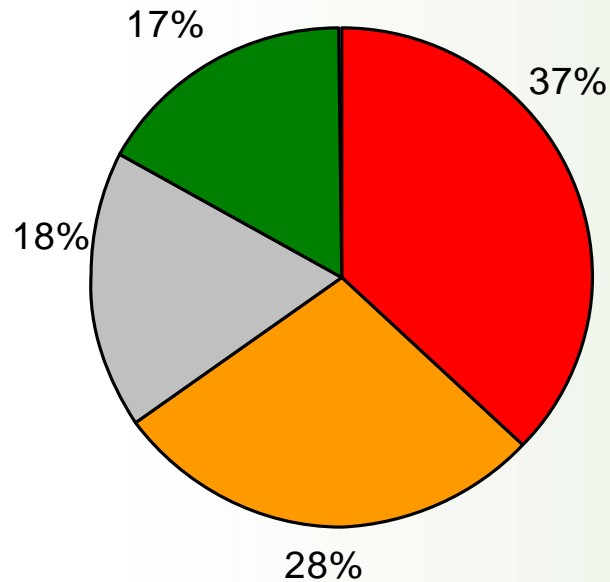
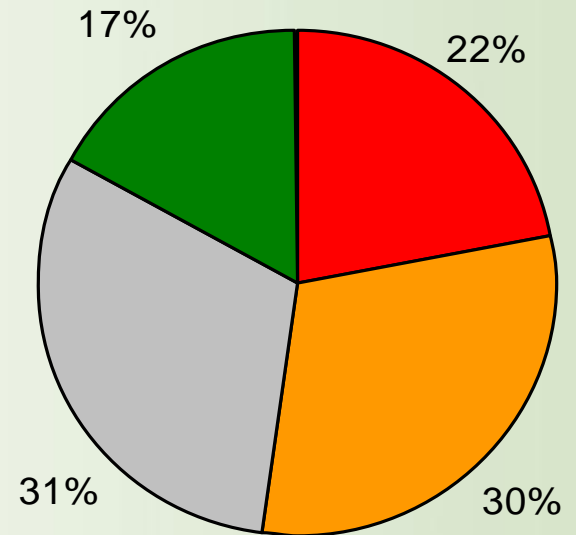


Illustration Habitats Directive Art. 17, 2009 report key findings (I)



Habitats Assessments



Species Assessments

Natura 2000, agro-ecosystems and conservation status

Nearly one third of the area of the Natura 2000 sites is made up of agro-ecosystems.

- Agro-ecosystems cover 28% of the surface of Natura 2000 (13% with regularly cultivated and 10% of agro-ecosystems which need extensive practice, 5% with complex agro ecosystems)
- Grassland ecosystems cover 11% of the total surface of Natura 2000

Natura 2000, agro-ecosystems and conservation status

- Nearly 30 species of European interest from the Habitats Directive are linked to agro-ecosystems
- Nearly 40 species from the Birds directive are linked to agro-ecosystems
- 25% of Mammals of European interest linked to agro-ecosystems are threatened
- 42% of Birds of European interest linked to agro-ecosystems are threatened
- Common farmland birds declined by 20-25% between 1990 and 2007

Natura 2000, agro-ecosystems and conservation status

More than 80% of assessments for amphibians and invertebrates linked to agro-ecosystems are unfavourable

76% of the assessments of habitats linked to agro-ecosystems are unfavourable

89 of the 152 grassland bird species (59%) have an unfavourable conservation status in Europe

Only 5% of the assessments of grassland habitats and 15% of the species of European interest are favourable

Europe's grassland butterflies have declined by 60% since 1990 and this reduction shows no sign yet of levelling off

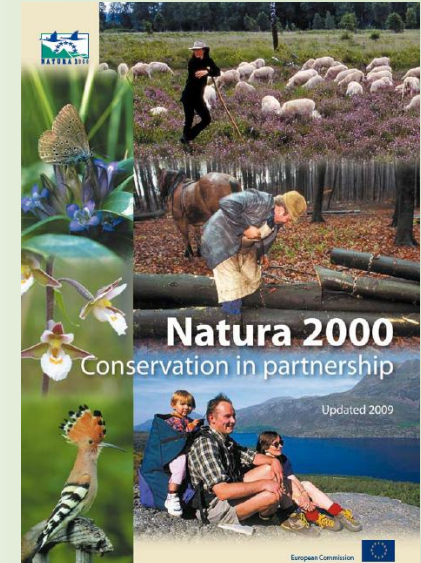
Future priorities

- ❖ Management of the sites (Setting conservation objectives; Designating SCIs as SACs, promoting good management practices)
- ❖ Ensuring better integration into other policy sectors;
- ❖ Improving enforcement of the legislation
- ❖ Promoting Natura 2000 as a part of climate change mitigation and adaptation
- ❖ Improving the overall coherence of the network
- ❖ Ensuring adequate financing
- ❖ Improving strategic partnerships with users and business
- ❖ Enhancing awareness about Natura 2000

Working in partnership

People and nature – not nature without people

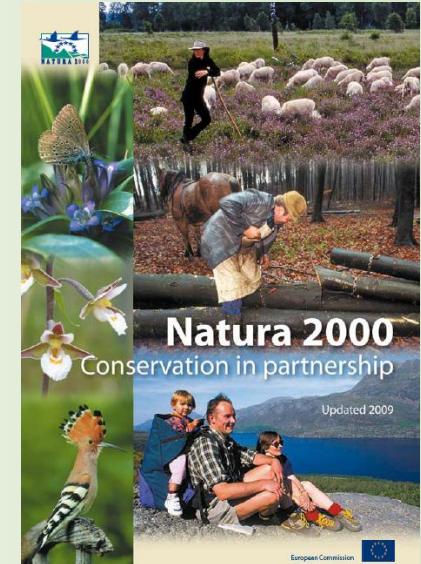
- ❖ Natura 2000 is mainly about managed landscape. Humans integral part of nature;
- ❖ The conservation objectives should be met while taking economic, social, cultural, requirements into account;
- ❖ Sector specific guidance documents.



Working in partnership

People and nature – not nature without people

- ❖ New guidance document on agriculture and N2000:
- ❖ To contribute to improvement of the conservation status of the habitats and species associated to agriculture;
- ❖ To promote the integrated management of farmland in N2000 areas.



Financing Natura 2000

- ❖ Art 8 of the HD foresees co-financing by EU
- ❖ Overall costs estimated at €6 bn per year
- ❖ Case studies demonstrate: Benefits far outweigh the costs - investing in Natura 2000 pays off!
- ❖ Current approach: Integration. Natura 2000 management activities can be funded through
 - **EU LIFE Programme (2007-2013):** €800 million for demonstration and best practice projects in the field of nature and biodiversity, and N2000 in particular.
 - **EU CAP Rural Development Fund**
 - EU Cohesion / Regional Policy Fund

Financing Natura 2000

Some questions:

- ❖ Keeping current “integration approach”?
- ❖ Why poor uptake?
- ❖ Useful to introduce a “N2000 programming” approach?
- ❖ Are management needs for Natura 2000 farmland clearly identified? Are they translated into clear, simple, acceptable requirements at farm level?
- ❖ Pay for mandatory requirements or voluntary commitments?
- ❖ Administrative burden?
- ❖ What obstacles to generalize Life projects experience through RD type measures?
- New Communication in preparation for mid-2011

HOW TO IMPROVE CAP SUPPORT FOR NATURA 2000?

Principles based on the current structure of the CAP

- Changes in the architecture of the CAP?
- Make bigger use of Pillar I?
- Payments for public goods (ie for ecosystem services)? (limited to additional costs and income foregone?)
- Increase funding in Pillar II?
- Avoid harmful subsidies?

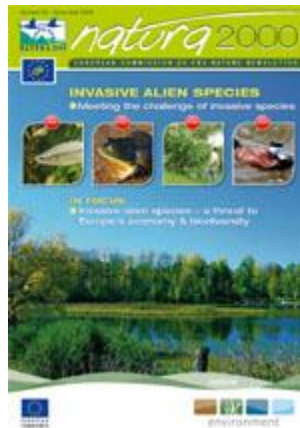
HOW TO IMPROVE CAP SUPPORT FOR NATURA 2000?

Some ideas under discussion:

- Ensure that part of direct payments (Pillar I of the current CAP) are dedicated to **biodiversity set-aside and other farmland features**, to **permanent grassland**, to **green (vegetation) cover**, to **crop rotation**, to **Natura 2000** and to **HNV** as a form of Payment for ecosystem services ?
- Substantially increase the funding in Second pillar for **agri-environment measures** that would target **HNV areas** and **Natura 2000 areas** ?
- **AND/OR...???**

Thank you!

For more information go to:
<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature>



Useful links

- Natura 2000 Public Viewer:
<http://natura2000.eea.europa.eu/>
- Natura 2000 other data and resources:
http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/access_data/index_en.htm
- Article 17:
<http://biodiversity.eionet.europa.eu/article17/>