



Environment and Climate  
Regional Accession Network **ECRAN**

## **TAIEX ECRAN Multi-beneficiary Workshop on Protected Area Management and Development of Tourism Infrastructure**

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## **Nationally designated protected areas VS Natura 2000**

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# The new concept

European countries – establishing their first protected areas since 1800s

After ~ 200 years: EU MS + candidates – new obligation: Natura 2000

Idea behind: let's create a *network* of *conservation areas* across the EU

# The new concept

The concept:

- not a set of *protected* areas

but

- a network of *conservation* areas

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A brief comparison of national protected areas  
and Natura 2000:

## The new concept

National PAs	N2K
Target features often not “tangible” (ecosystems, valuable landscape) = indicators of protection /conservation often missing	Always particular target features (habitat types/species) = indicators of protection /conservation always present
Protection <i>via</i> restrictions and bans	Conservation is a goal: measures to be tailored to needs of target features
Restrictions and bans address the area, not target features as such	No need for bans/restrictions addressing the site only
Management requirements often not taken into account	Management obligatory
	Abandonment = prohibited “activity”
	AA – preventing deterioration of the network

## The new concept

- N2K - regardless the national borders
- Identical principles, defined list of target features
- For the first time in history, *habitat types* become target features
- Very high ambition: not to let Natura sites deteriorated (abandonment, plans & projects)

## Potential conflicts

...but...

Europe & Asia Minor is not Alaska/Amazonia!

In each country, we already have our national protected areas...

Overlap is inevitable...

## Real conflicts

- In many cases, “duplication” of protection is beneficial
- In some cases, a conflict may arise: between *conservation objectives*

## Real conflicts

Typically, this conflict may occur in national parks:

- NPs striving for IUCN category II – 75 % of non-intervention area
- Conservation objective: *maintaining natural processes, no human intervention*

## Real conflicts

N2000 sites: designated for habitat types which are no climax

- They need management = *permanent human intervention*
- Otherwise they disappear (= change naturally into another habitat type)
- And Natura 2000 requires *at least maintenance* of site target features

And we do have a serious conflict....

## Real conflicts

A more “peaceful” kind of a conflict:

“National” target feature expanding, “N2K” one deteriorating

Which one is more “valuable”?

- → selective management needed
- Expert justification, often experimenting →  
→ need for monitoring of management efficiency
- → need for change/improvement of management plans

# Conclusions

Each particular country:

- different circumstances
- different natural conditions
- single “recipe” does not exist
- national “solutions” needed

# Conclusions

Purpose of this seminar:

provide you with a

- “material” for thinking
- Inspiration

Provoke you to think about your practices

# (Conclusions)

We do not expect any “solutions” and  
“conclusions”

Enjoy this seminar and the bunch of speakers  
gathered for you in the framework of this  
ECRAN project!