



Environment and Climate
Regional Accession Network **ECRAN**

Sub-Regional Workshop on Pilot Appropriate Assessment

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Introduction to the topic:

Natura 2000 as an object of Appropriate Assessment

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Acronyms used

- AA = appropriate assessment, the entire process pursuant to Art. 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive
- AA study = outcome of Art. 6(3) „main assessment“
- EC = European Commission
- EU MS = Member States of the EU
- N2K = Natura 2000 network
- target features = habitat types & species for which the given site was classified/designated

Rationale behind N2K

- 1970s – recognition of inefficiency of separated national nature policies:
“nature does not recognize borders”
- such an idea implementable only in continental scale and under certain political conditions
- EU – unique chance for such an approach

Rationale behind N2K

- 1979 – EU Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) – first attempt to make nature protection “supranatural”:
all EU 9 MS had to establish SPAs
- no rules, no instructions, no supranational control
- result: by 2000 almost no implementation
- lesson learnt: an obligation left purely up to Member States is *ineffective* and *hardly enforceable*

Rationale behind N2K

1992 EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) –
lessons taken:

- introduction of an obligation to establish “non-bird” sites (SCI, SAC) across EU 12
- sites will not be randomly clustered but are to create a *network* called Natura 2000
- *supranational external check* of sufficiency of the network secured

Natura 2000 in 2014:

27 308 Natura 2000 sites

18.36% of EU terrestrial territory

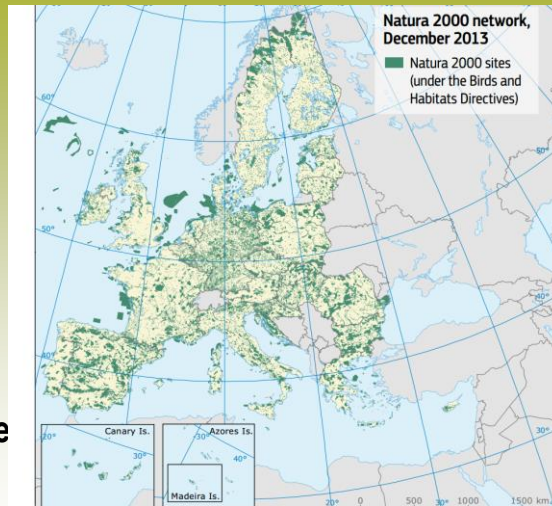
Terrestrial:

5 491 Special Protection Areas

(SPA) (536 840 km²)

23 608 Sites of Community Importance (SCI) (601 177 km²)

Marine SCIs: 251 565 km²



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Principles of N2K network establishment

N2K sites: always must have defined *target features*

Target features: selected

- bird species
- non-bird animal species
- plant species
- “natural habitat types”

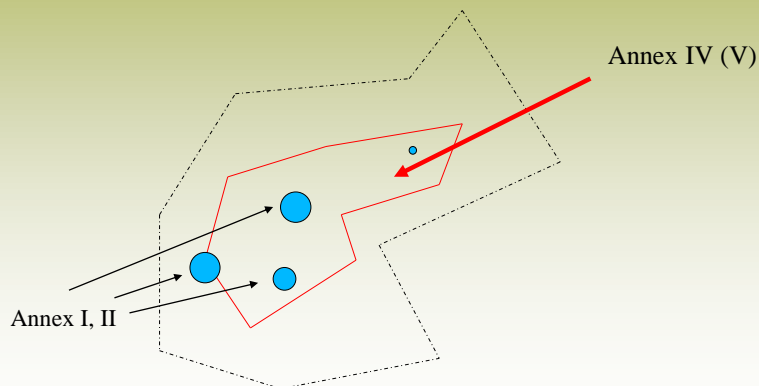
Principles of N2K network establishment

Lists of target features:

- Birds Directive Annex I + regularly occurring migratory species
- Habitats Directive Annex I (habitat types)
- Habitats Directive Annex II (species)

Must not be mixed up with features from other Directive 's annexes!

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What are target features?

- habitat types and species which:

habitat types	species
are in danger of disappearance	endangered
have a small natural range	vulnerable
present outstanding examples of typical characteristics of ... regions: Alpine, Atlantic, Black Sea, Boreal, Continental, Macaronesian, Mediterranean, Pannonian and Steppic ... (Anatolian not yet included)	rare
	endemic and requiring particular attention

Rules of establishment of N2K

Art. 4, Annex III HabDir + several documents of the EC approved by Member States

Each Natura 2000 site

- must have: *target features*
- should have: *conservation objectives* set

2 terms crucial for AA

- site integrity
- (ecological) coherence of the network
- none of them defined in the Directive
- settled definitions developed over time:

a) site integrity

- all those factors that contribute to the maintenance of the ecosystem including structural and functional assets
- site integrity is maintained when all ecological functions and site structure needed for maintenance of target features are present and well-functioning **within the site**

b) coherence of N2K

- it means that the network comprises all the sites which, according to the criteria in the Directives, *should be included* in it

Please remember that

- **integrity** refers to individual **sites**
- **coherence** refers to the whole Natura 2000 **network**

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Why is this important?

Because of *different requirements* of Art. 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive.

Now back to Natura 2000...

At the end of preparatory process (= before accession!), each EU MS should have

completed, i.e., *coherent* Natura 2000 network at its territory

How many obligations refer to Natura 2000 network?

Only 3:

- two proactive
- one reactive

they all described in Art. 6 HabDir:

Proactive obligations

- *establishing conservation measures* and applying them within all sites (Art. 6(1))
- *preventing any deterioration* of habitat types and habitats of species, as well as disturbance of species – both *man-caused* and *natural* (Art. 6(2))

Reactive obligation

- ensure that any plan and project likely to affect N2K sites is subject to **appropriate assessment** of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives...

... and this is why we are here - much more about it tomorrow...

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