



EU Habitats, Birds and Water Framework Directives

Introduction to the biogeographical process

3 – 4 September 2014 – Zvolen (Slovakia)



1 – the Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process

EU 2020 biodiversity strategy

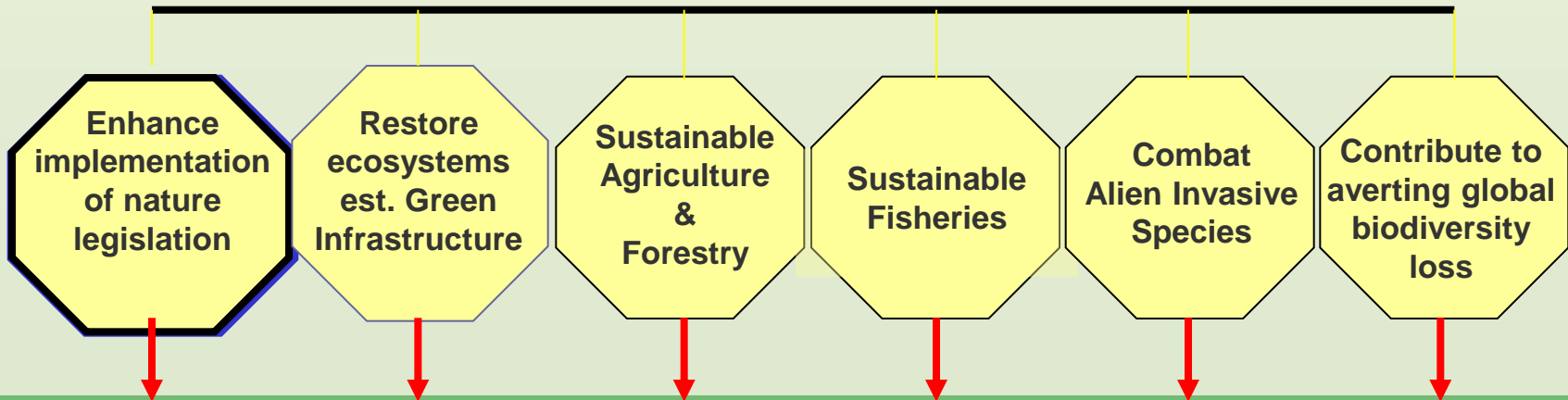
A 2050 VISION

European Union biodiversity and the ecosystem services it provides – its natural capital – are protected, valued and appropriately restored...

A 2020 HEADLINE TARGET

Halt the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the EU and restore them insofar as feasible, and step up the EU's contribution to averting global biodiversity loss.

6 TARGETS



ACTIONS

Natura 2000 network

- Natura 2000 sites with marine component
- Habitats Directive sites
- Birds Directive sites
- Areas belonging to both Directives
- Large rivers



26 000 protected areas
Total area: 760.000 km² (18% of total EU)
Sites with marine component: ~2400
Total marine area: 160000 km²

The ultimate
objective

=

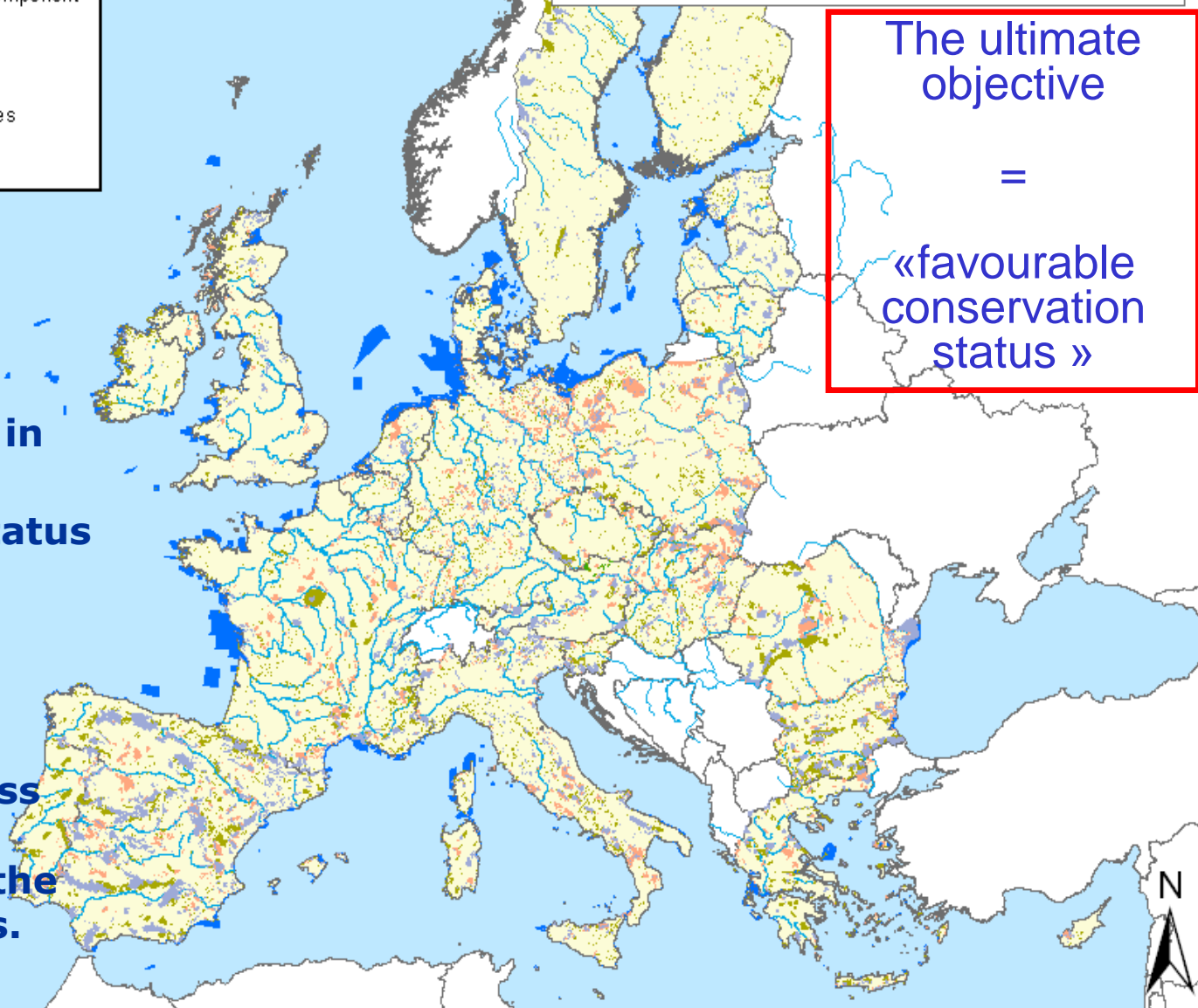
«favourable
conservation
status »

**Working together in
Natura 2000**

**For improving the status
of conservation.**



**A voluntary process
fulfilling legal
obligations under the
Nature Directives.**



What do you have? What do you want? How can you do? What do you need?

Reality on
the field

NO



YES

Objective

**COMMISSION
NOTE ON
SETTING
CONSERVATION
OBJECTIVES
FOR
NATURA 2000
SITES**

Measures



**Establishing conservation measures
for Natura 2000 Sites**

*A review of the provisions of
Article 6.1 and their practical
implementation in different
Member States*

FINAL DRAFT

Environment

Goal



Top 20 list

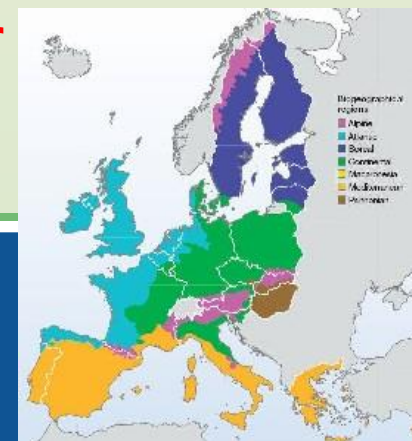
**Core of the Natura 2000
Biogeographical Process**

**LIVING
PROCESS!**

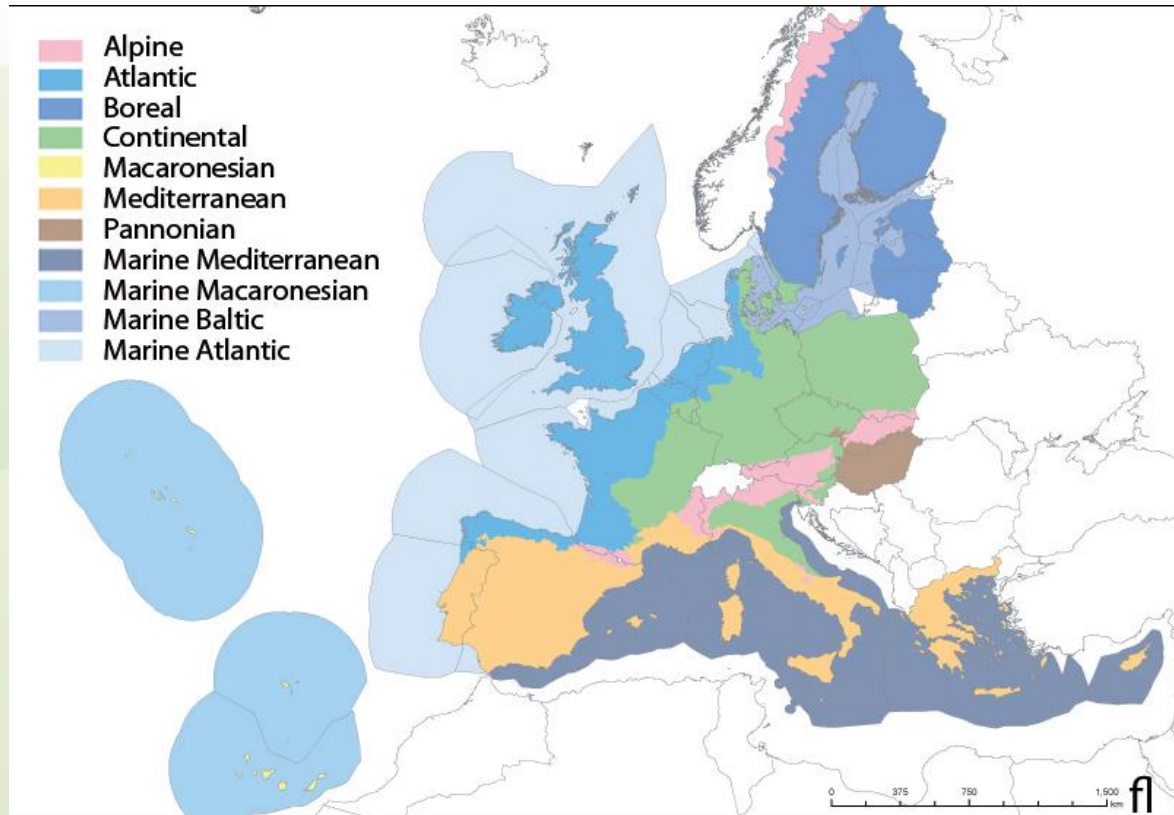


Therefore the process seeks to answer to those questions:

- 1. Do we understand the **problems** and **threats** to address in order to achieve FSC and make significant/measurable and cost effective progress?
- 2. Have some Member States found **practical solutions** that can be shared with others?
- 3. What **actions** can be launched ?
- 4. Where there are important gaps in knowledge can Member States **co-operate together** in finding solutions?



Working at level of Biogeographical Regions...



For each region :

- Steering Committees
- Kick-off Seminars
- Thematic Workshops
- Ad hoc* expert meetings

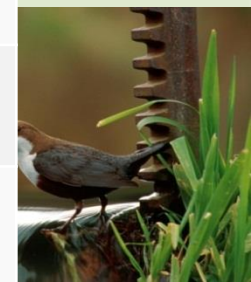
Pre-scoping doc.(Top 20 list) – Background doc. – Seminar doc. & report – N2000 Platform.

...to help Member States to manage the sites.



Achievements so far

<i>BioGeo Region</i>	<i>Seminar</i>	<i>Thematic follow-up events</i>	<i>Review Seminar (indicative dates)</i>
BOR	2012	<i>Mires and bogs (2013), SER conference (2014)</i>	2015
ATL	2012	<i>Nitrogen deposition Workshop (2013)</i>	2016
ALP	2013	<i>Freshwater Workshop (2014), Grasslands (2015)</i>	2016
MED	2014	<i>As from 2014</i>	2017
MAC	2015	<i>As from 2015</i>	2018
CONT/PAN/ BS/STEPP	2015	<i>As from 2015</i>	2018
MARINE	2015	<i>As from 2015</i>	2018





The Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process is

- based on voluntary cooperation between all actors
- strongly depending on active involvement of Member States and stakeholders / NGOs.
- helping Member States in developing and implementing measures necessary to achieve FCS of species and habitats of Community interest and to improve status of bird species



Some lessons learnt

- Limited resources everywhere but overall acknowledgement of the huge potential interest of the process
- Useful information compiled and made available. Importance of inputs from MS/experts.
- Fruitful discussions at field trips, knowledge markets, workshops and seminars
- New cooperations and new contacts established at the biogeographical level.



The background of the slide features a stylized landscape with rolling green hills and a white path that curves through the scene. The text is centered in the middle of the image.

Importance of **LIFE +** funds for river
and nature.

Working together in Natura 2000

The Natura 2000 Platform

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/platform/index_en.htm

To conclude :

This workshop is a unique chance to **gather** people and **share** information on Natura 2000 and river/water **management** issues within the Alpine region in order to **improve** the **status** of aquatic ecosystems.

Thank you for your attention!

2 – the Water Framework Directive and the Nature Directives



- Both directives aim at ensuring **healthy aquatic ecosystems**:
 - Good ecological status/good ecological potential (WFD)
 - Favorable status of conservation (HD)
- While at the same time ensuring a balance between water and nature **protection** and a **sustainable use** of natural resources.
- There are **synergies** between the 2 Directives but in practice, a number of questions.

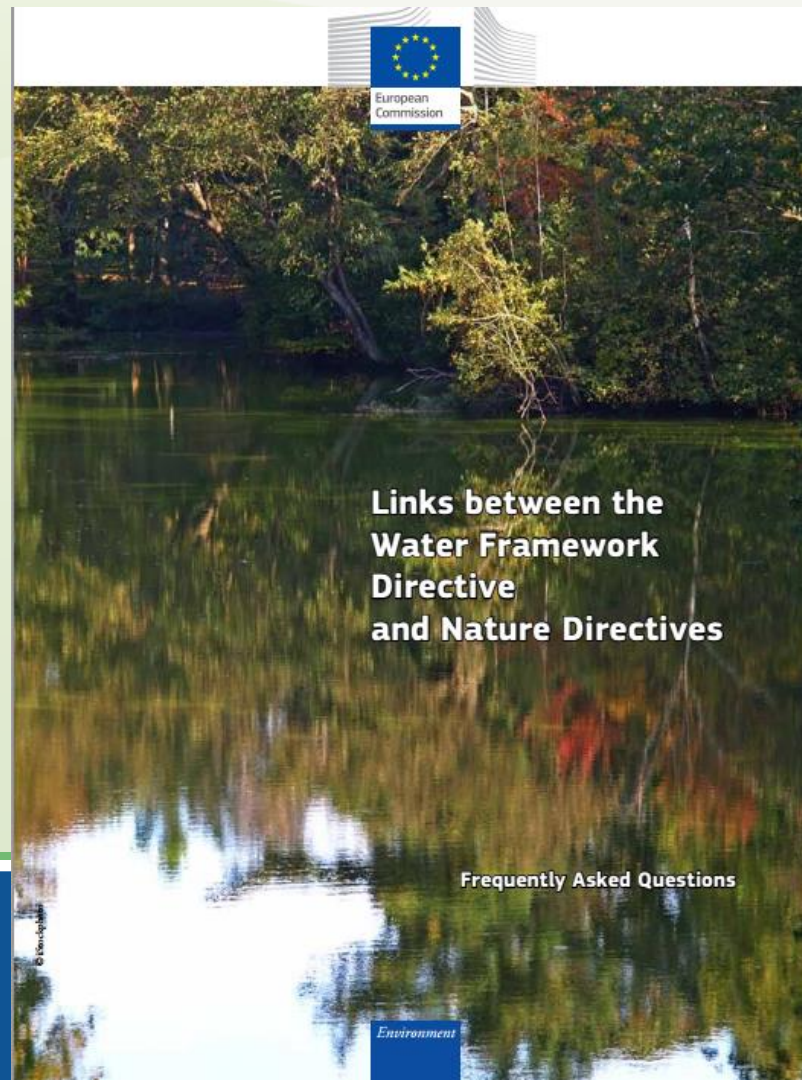




A workshop on “Biodiversity and Water” held in 2010 in Brussels

As a result, a
FAQ
document
in 2011
which gives
answers.

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/docs/FAQ-WFD%20final.pdf>



+ an issue paper
(2011) on *Water
management,
Water
Framework
Directive &
Hydropower*

http://www.ecologic-events.eu/hydropower2/documents/IssuePaper_final.pdf



For example:

- Both RBMP (WFD) and MP (HBD) should integrate the respective requirements,
- The most stringent objective should apply to a water body,
- Wherever possible, a joint monitoring should be arranged (save resources and same data for consistency),
- The ecological requirements of habitats and species of community interest should be taken into account (beyonds the good ecological status),
- ...

3 – a future guidance document on hydropower and Natura 2000

CONTEXT

- *Hydropower challenge : Renewable energy targets – compatibility with Nature, biodiversity and water objectives and legislation*
 - *Increasing information about potential conflicts*
- > *EC intends to develop a guidance document to help MS to face this issue*



AIM and CONTENTS

- *Addressed to stakeholders (including energy sector, water community, environmentalist NGOs) and public authorities.*
- *Steps in authorising projects according to art. 6(3)(4) HD*
- *Facing issues related to existing plants according to art. 6(1)(2) HD*
- *Integrated planning and early strategic enviro assessment*
- *Examples of case studies and best practices*
- *Take into account new developments and technologies*
- *Covering a wide range of situations within the EU*
- *Focus on Natura 2000 issues but take into account existing work such as on WFD.*

PROCESS and CONSULTATION

- *Process under the CGBN (coordinated group for biodiversity and nature) and the Habitats Committee in link with the WFD-related Committees as well.*
- *Consultation of Member States and stakeholders, including from energy sector, environmentalist NGOs and Water experts (through the SCG – strategic coordinated group – for the WFD).*

PROGRESS SO FAR

- *Scoping exercise and first draft of guidance document by the EC's contractor in 2013/2014*
- *First consultations in autumn 2014.*
- *Finalisation foreseen in 2015.*



CONTACTS

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To conclude :

- This workshop is a unique chance to **gather** people and **share** information on Natura 2000 and river/water **management** issues within the Alpine region in order to **improve** the **status** of aquatic ecosystems.
- **Hydropower** is a common threat but discussions should also address technical issues with regard to **maintenance** and **restoration** of rivers.

Thank you for your attention!