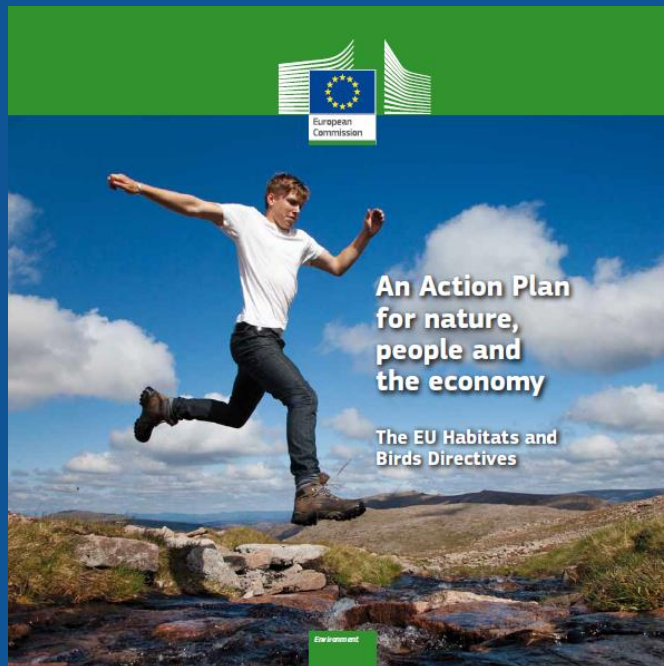




European
Commission

Action Plan for nature, people and the economy



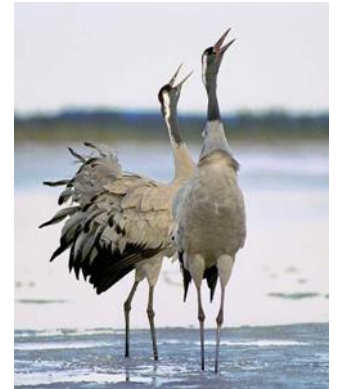
Luisa Samarelli
Team Leader
Unit D.3 – Nature Protection
DG ENVIRONMENT



European
Commission

1979: The Birds Directive

- Protects all species of naturally occurring birds in the wild state in the EU.
- Overall objective is to maintain the populations of all wild bird species in the EU at a level which corresponds to their ecological, scientific and cultural requirements, or to adapt the population of these species to that level.



1992: The Habitats Directive

- Protects 1000+ other threatened plants and animals and c.230 habitat types
- Overall objective is to ensure that these species and habitat types are maintained at, or restored to, a 'favourable conservation status'.





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Evaluation of Birds & Habitats Directives

The Fitness Check will evaluate how the EU nature legislation performs according to these 5 key criteria:

Effectiveness



Have the objectives of the legislation been met?

Efficiency



Were the costs involved reasonable?

Coherence



Is the EU nature legislation complementing or contradicting other policy and legislation?

Relevance



Does EU legislation address the main problems that species and habitats are facing today?

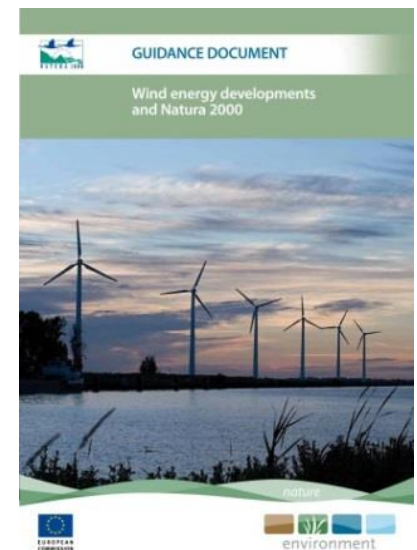
EU added value



Could similar changes have been achieved at national or regional level, or did EU action provide clear added value?

Key findings of Nature Fitness Check

- Too many species & habitats show negative trends
- Marine Natura 2000 network incomplete
- Only 50% of Natura 2000 sites properly managed
- Funding shortage and weak policy integration
- Cases of inflexible application & permitting delays by national & local authorities
- Insufficient knowledge, awareness, engagement & cooperation



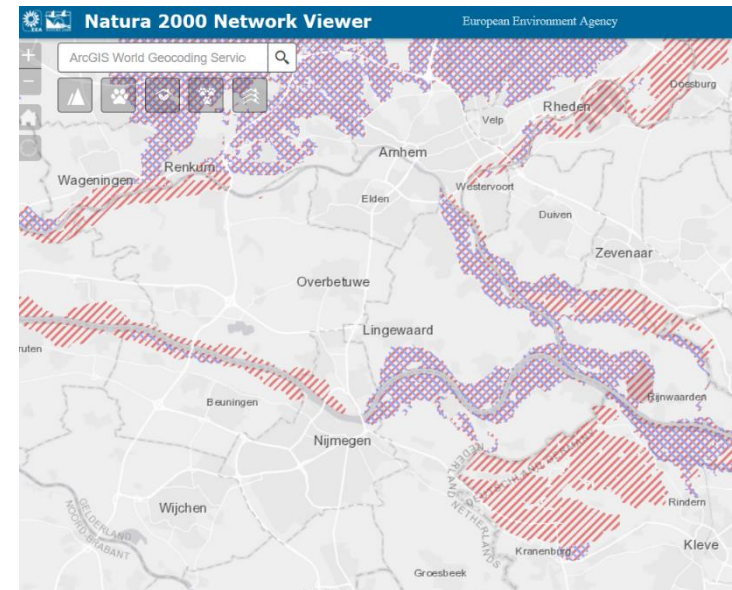
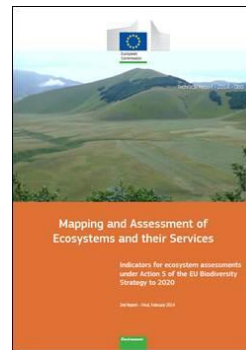
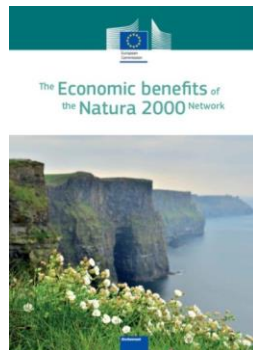
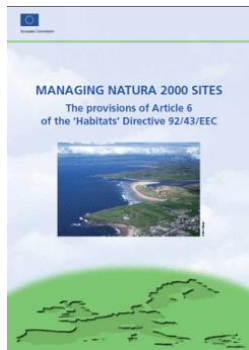


Action Plan for nature, people and the economy

- **4 priority areas of Action:**
 - ❖ Improving guidance and knowledge and ensuring better coherence with broader socio-economic objectives
 - ❖ Building political ownership and strengthening compliance – especially to ensure a functional Natura 2000 network
 - ❖ Strengthening investment in Natura 2000 and improving synergies with EU funding instruments
 - ❖ Better communication and outreach, engaging citizens, stakeholders and communities
- **15 Actions & over 100 measures**
- **Timeframe 2017-2019 Key Actors:** Member States, European Commission, Committee of the Regions, European Investment Bank, European Environment Agency, Stakeholders

Improve guidance & knowledge and ensure better coherence with broader socio-economic objectives

Improve EU guidance on site permitting, species protection, sectoral & ecosystem services



Support mechanism for permitting (promote peer to peer)

Fill knowledge gaps and improve quality & access to data

Building political ownership and strengthening compliance

Completing Natura 2000 network & establishing conservation objectives & measures



Bilateral nature Discussions with MS & Stakeholders (EIR)

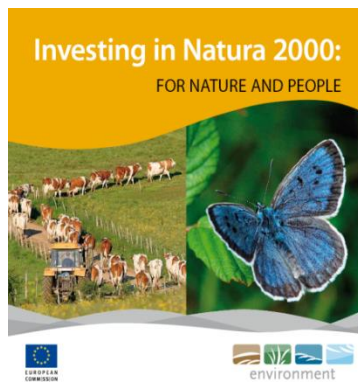
Engagement in site management & co-operation at Biogeographical level



Species & habitat Action Plans

Strengthening investment in Natura 2000 & improve synergies with EU funding instruments

Update funding strategies (PAFs) for Natura 2000



10% increase in nature & biodiversity within LIFE budget



Promote synergies with CAP & other EU funds & private sector funding



Provide EU guidance to support deployment of green infrastructure

Better communication & outreach, engaging citizens, stakeholders & communities

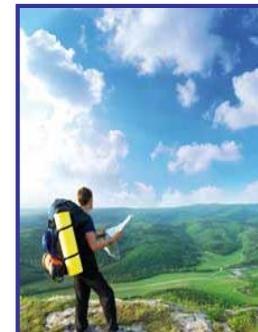


recognition of good management of Natura 2000



knowledge exchange & engagement of local & regional authorities

Involve young people



Expenditure supported by visitors to Natura 2000 sites
≈ €50–85 billion/year (in 2006)

strengthen links between natural and cultural heritage



Thank you!

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