



NATURA 2000

Habitats Directive: Key Concepts

Natural habitats types of Community interest: in danger of disappearance (*Priority habitat*), small range, outstanding examples.

Conservation status of a natural habitat: sum of the influences acting on a natural habitat.

Species of Community interest: endangered (*Priority*), vulnerable, rare or endemic requiring particular attention.

Conservation status of a species: the sum of the influences acting on the species concerned that may affect the long-term distribution and abundance of its populations.

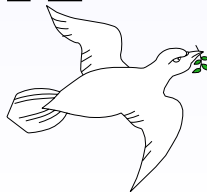




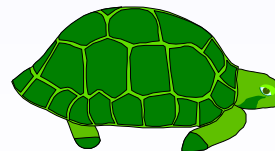
Natura 2000 network

Global aim: Maintain or restore the favourable conservation status of certain species and natural habitat types in their natural range

SPA



SCI



What is the target of protection under Natura 2000?



Species and habitats
of Community interest

- Habitats Directive (its annexes I-V)
 - appr. 200 habitats (EU15)
+ 20 habitats (EU15+10)
 - appr. 700 species (EU15)
+ 165 species (EU15+10)

SPECIES OF EU INTEREST

HABITATS DIRECTIVE

- endangered
- vulnerable (likely to become endangered)
- rare (small populations at risk)
- endemic requiring particular attention



HABITATS DIRECTIVE

- Some species protected
- Priority habitats and species
- biogeographical regions
- **Annex III selection criteria**
- priority habitats/species
- Originally: 1995 ↑ 1998 ↑ 2004
(for EUR15)
- Member States propose areas, EC select them



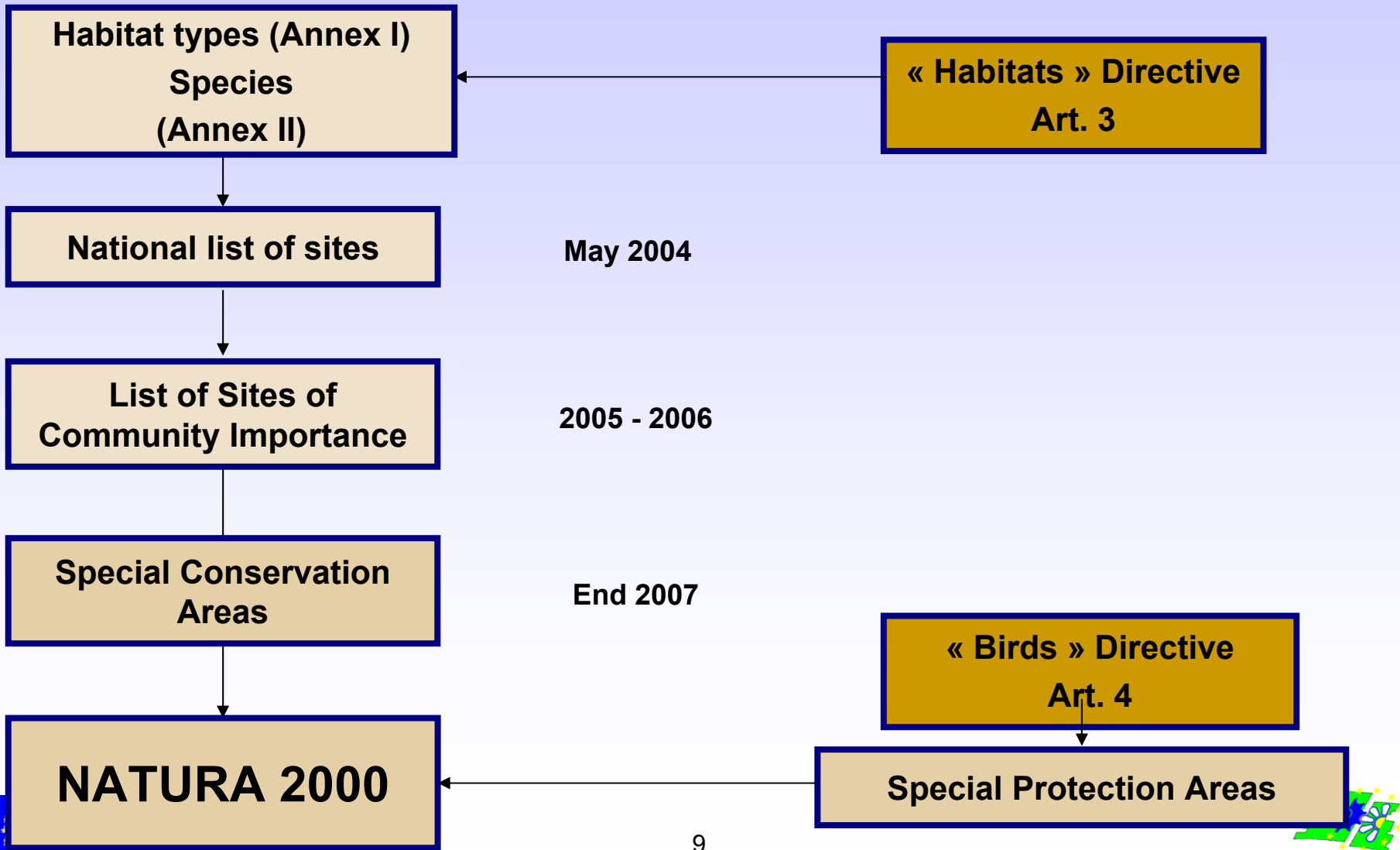
Setting up Natura 2000

- 1) National lists proposed (CC: by accession)
- 2) Selection process on biogeographical level (aim: Community list) - MS & EC - max. 3 years
- 3) Designation by MS max. 6 years after Community list

What is special about Natura 2000?

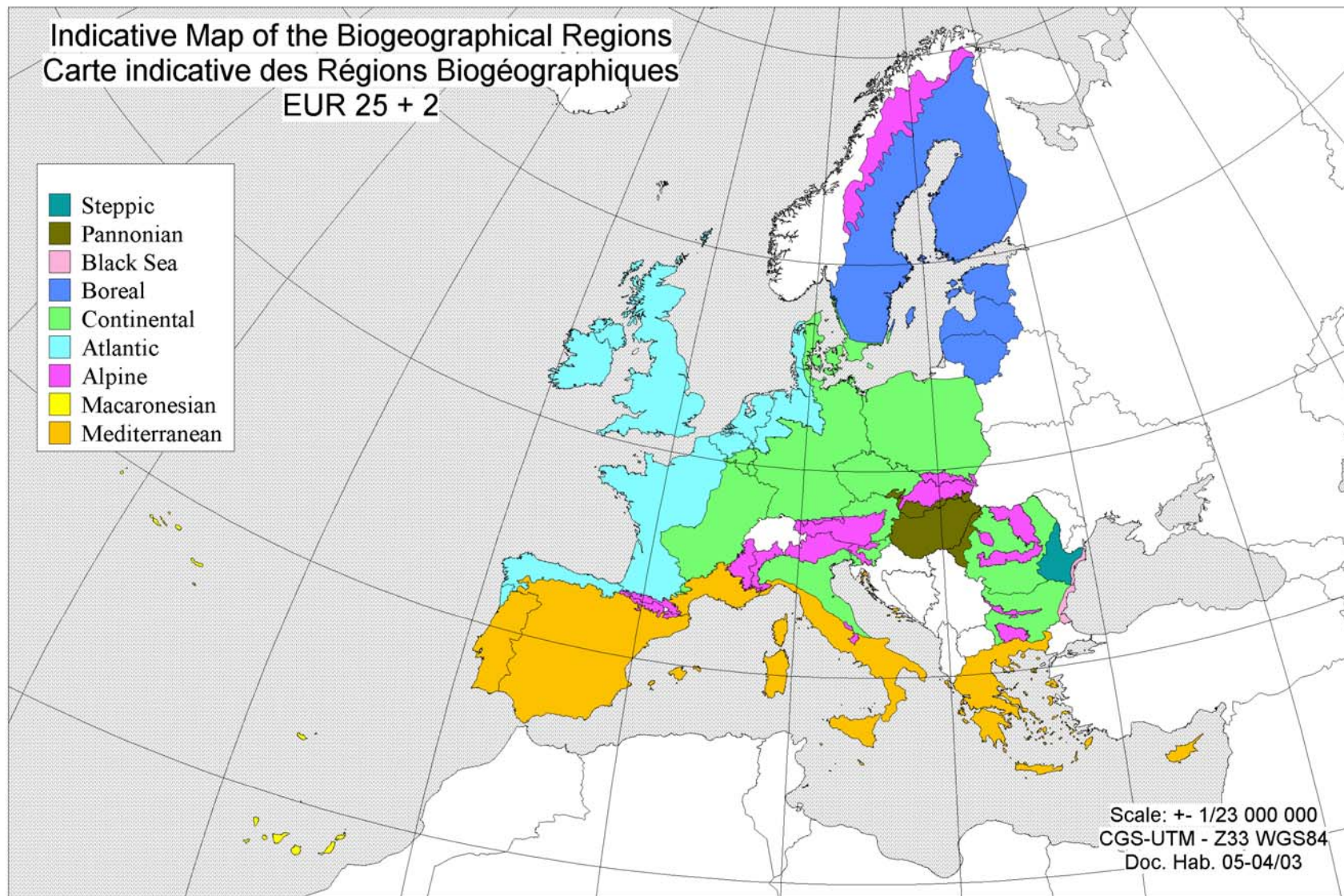
- Clearly defined objectives
- Science based
- Biogeographic regions
- Site evaluation/selection on EU-level
- Management / Integration
- Legal obligation for the member states – the role of the European Court of Justice

NATURA 2000 network



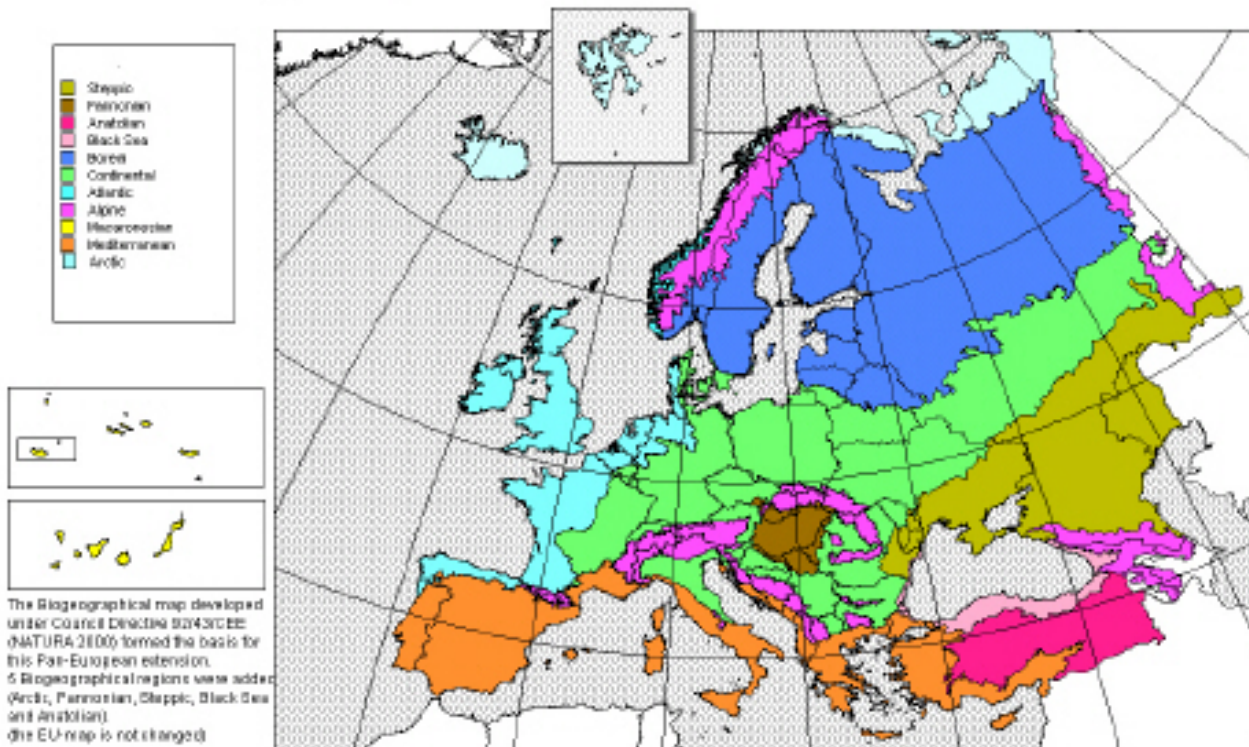
Indicative Map of the Biogeographical Regions
Carte indicative des Régions Biogéographiques
EUR 25 + 2

- Steppic
- Pannonian
- Black Sea
- Boreal
- Continental
- Atlantic
- Alpine
- Macaronesian
- Mediterranean



The map covers not only the EU

Emerald Network of Areas of Special Conservation Interest
Extension of the Biogeographical Regions map of NATURA 2000 to Pan-Europe
Revision as approved by the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention: November 2001



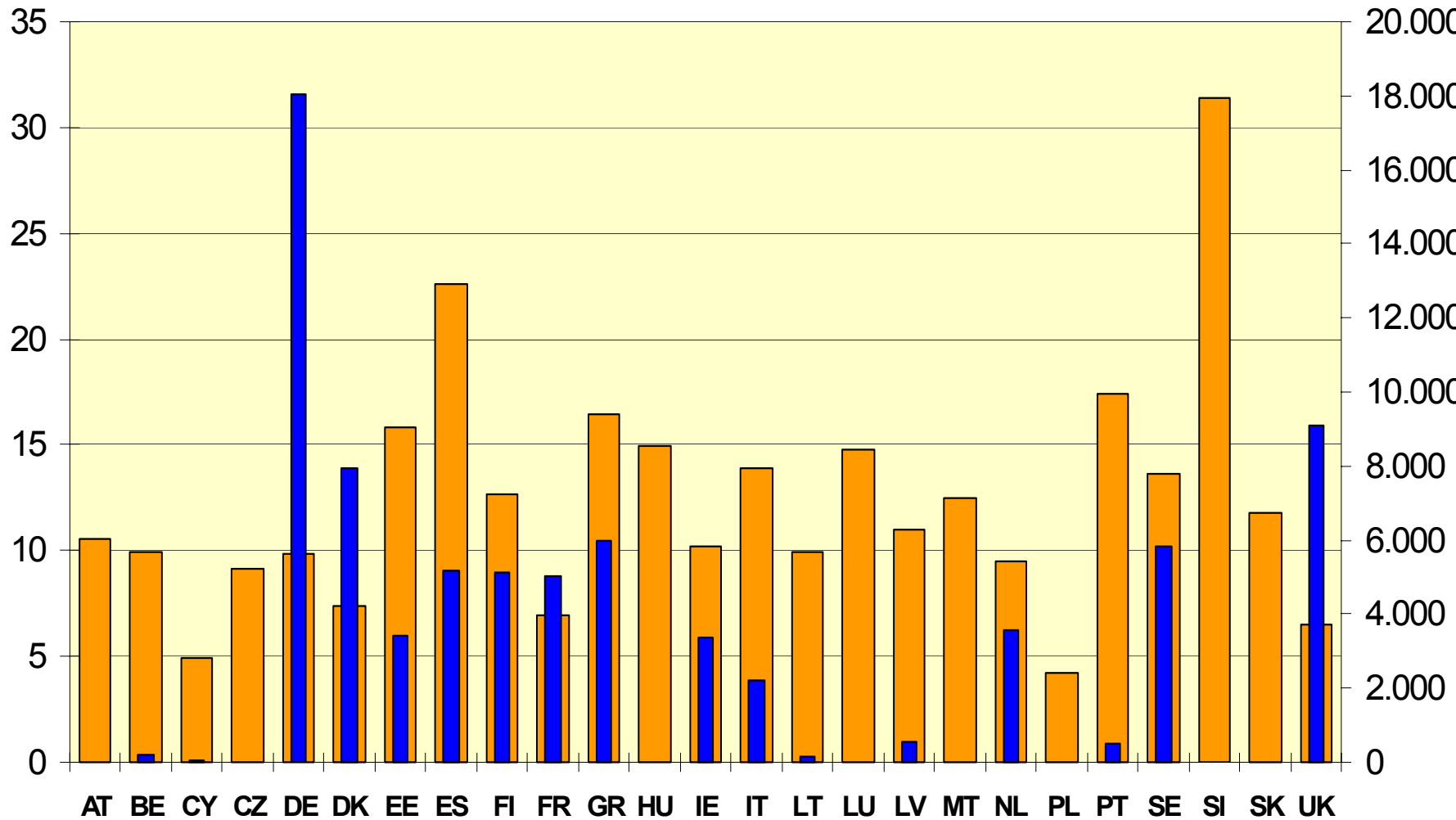
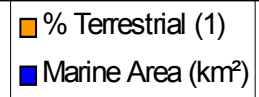
What is current state of play ?

- Very large overall surface area proposed
 - For Habitats Directive ~ 14% of EU territory
- For most EU-15 selection exercise almost complete
- First Biogeographic Lists adopted by the Commission :
Macaronesia in December 2001, Alpine in December 2003,
Atlantic, Continental and Boreal in December 2004
- Still significant gaps for a few MS and for marine sites

Habitats Directive:

- 15,557 sites = 453,577 km²
- (45.3 million ha)

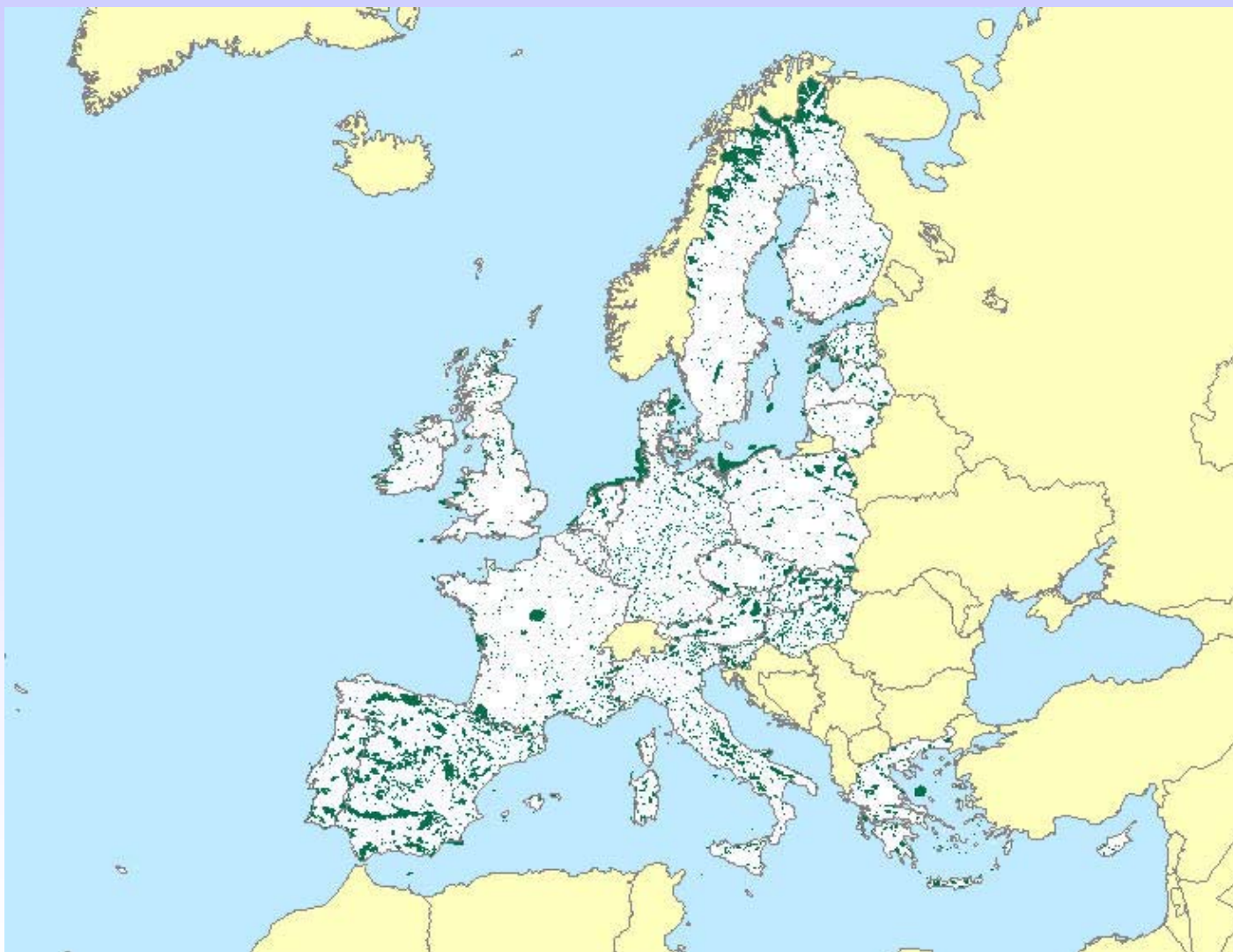
pSCIs database - December 2005



- **The Natura 2000 network today
in the EU-15:**

- 560,000 km² of terrestrial area
 -
- 17.5% of Community territorial space

Sites in the EU-25



Natura 2000 – progress by region

Macaronesian list	December 2001
Alpine list	December 2003
Continental list	December 2004
Atlantic list	December 2004
Boreal list	January 2005
Mediterranean list	<i>Coming soon</i>

- First biogeographic seminars for the EU-10
 - Alpine region
 - Slovenia, 30-31 May, 2005
 - Pannonian region
 - Hungary, 26-27 September, 2005
 - Boreal Region
 - Latvia, 5-6 December, 2005
 - Continental Region
 - Czech Republic, 26-27 April, 2006

•Biogeographic seminars:

- MS delegations of officials and experts
- European Commission officials and EEA European Topic Center in Biodiversity
- independent experts invited by EC
- European Habitats Forum (representatives of environmental NGOs)
- Natura 2000 Users Forum (representatives of land users)

Enlargement

- The long technical discussions of modifying the annexes (more than 1000 proposals from the 12 candidate countries)
- Result - new, consolidated annexes in the Treaty and Act of Accession of 2003 (ca. 150 pages!)

Modifications of the annexes of the Habitats Directive (2003): a summary

- Annex I: 20 new habitat types
- Annex II: 76 new animal species
(3 priorities)
89 new plant species
- Annex IV: 68 new animal species
88 new plant species

**The second
EU member
state to
have the
flying
squirrel is
Estonia**



The beetle *Carabus hungaricus*
was not only proposed by
Hungary, but also by the
Czech Republic



and...

some countries asked for ***GEOGRAPHIC
RESTRICTION*** for

- wolf
- bear
- beaver
- lynx



The 2005 Accession Treaty foresees further amendments upon the accession of Bulgaria and Romania

- Biogeographic regions
- Annex I habitat types
- Annex II, IV and V species

How are Natura 2000 sites to be managed ?

- responsibility of the Member States
- not 'strict Nature Reserves' where human activities are excluded
- emphasis on Sustainable Management (ecologically, economically and socially)
- management plans are useful tool

ARE DEVELOPMENTS LIMITED ON NATURA 2000 SITES?

- Not 'a priori' prohibition of new activities
- Developments assessed on a case-by-case basis
- Evaluation and decision procedure
- Supplementary protection measures for priority habitats
- Documents/guides on article 6
- Encourage the MS to compile similar documents

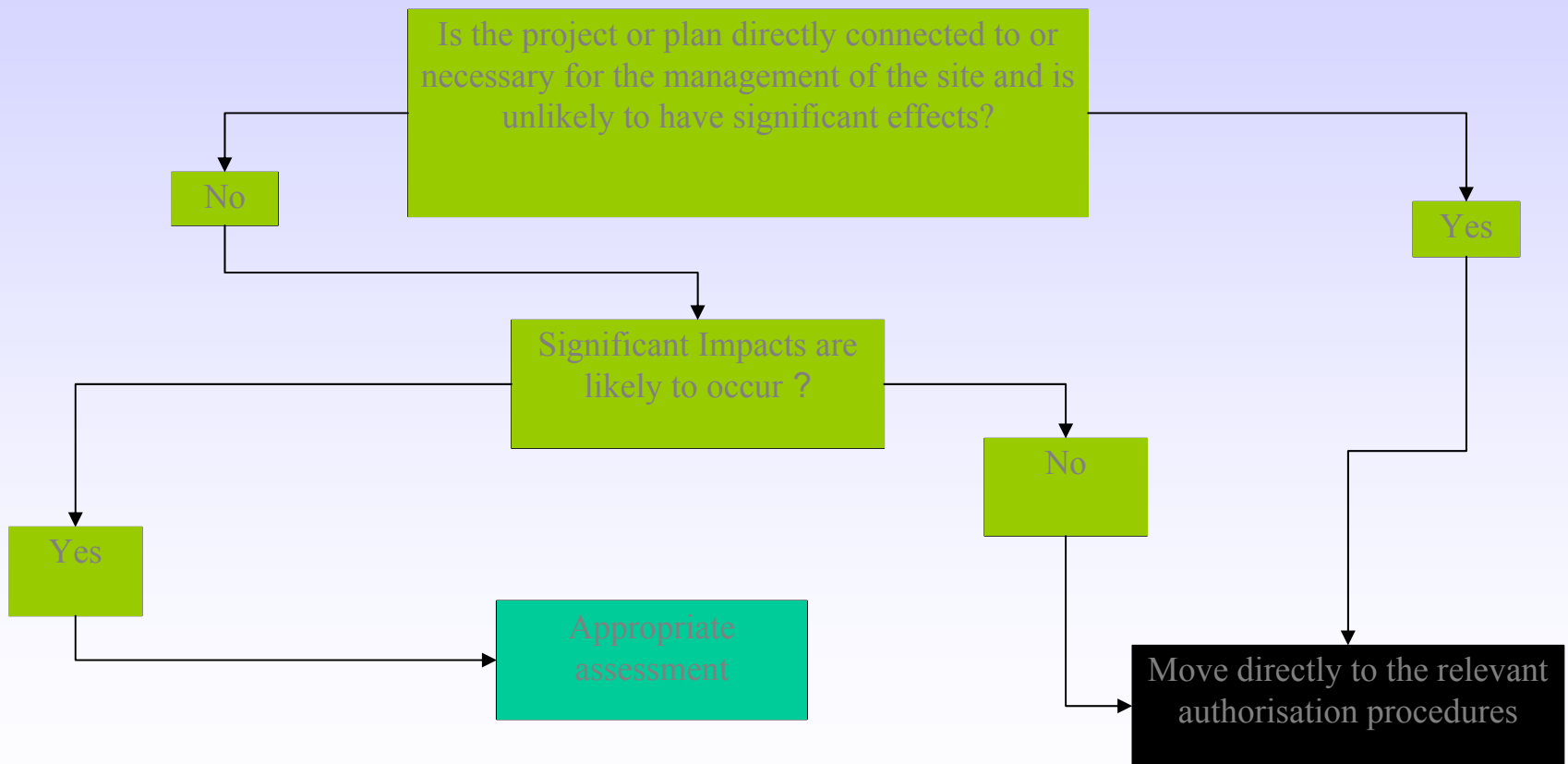
Article 6

- For sites Member States shall:
 - Establish necessary conservation measures
 - Avoid deterioration
- Prepare appropriate assessment for any plan or project (except direct management of site)
 - Likely to have a significant effect on site
 - Either individually or in combination with other plans or projects

Article 6

- Requirements have to be transposed in the national legislation
- “Appropriate assessment” might be a separate document or part of the EIA package

Screening



Article 6

“Appropriate assessment”

- Study prepared by project promoter
- Used by responsible nature conservation authority for the assessment and filling in the ANNEX I (A) form (in case of Community funding)

Appropriate assessment

No significant negative consequences

- Mitigation measures
- Appropriate assessment's report
- Should be made publicly accessible

Alternative solutions

- It is for national competent authority to determine whether alternative solution exists or not
- Alternatives suggested by project proponent
- Alternatives suggested by other stakeholders
- Mitigation measures

Compensation measures:

very limited

Art. 6.3 and 6.4

“Habitats” Directive

Plan/project with impact on a site

Is the plan/project likely to have a negative impact on the values of the NATURA 2000 site?

YES 

EVALUATION OF CONSEQUENCES

Does the evaluation conclude that there will be significant negative consequences?

YES 

STUDY OF ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS


If the initial project is kept

- No priority habitats/species and overriding public interest

YES 

Inform the Commission
COMPENSATION MEASURES

- Priority habitats/species and specific interest for human health, public safety or environment

YES 

Opinion of the Commission
COMPENSATION MEASURES

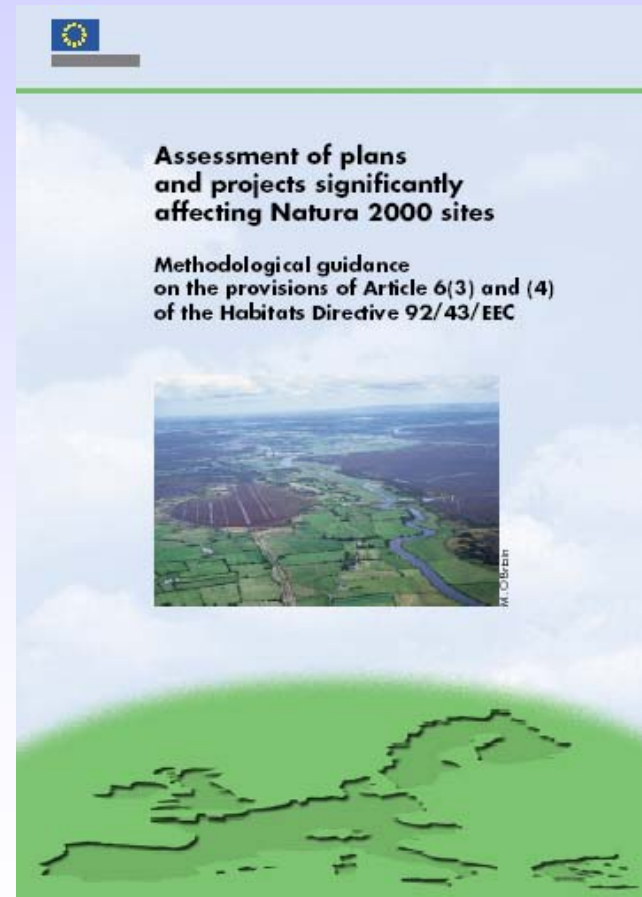
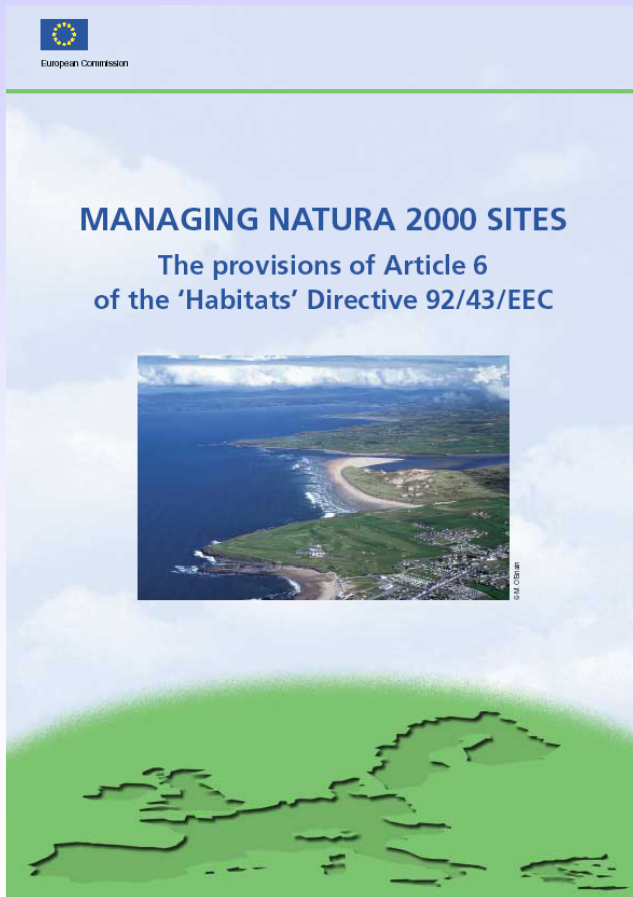
- Priority habitats/species and other overriding public interests

YES 

OPINION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION
+ COMPENSATION MEASURES



Guidance documents, for example



Habitats Directive

Species protection

- Strictly protected species listed in **Annex IV** (parallel structure with Annex II -site protection)
- Species, whose exploitation may be subject to management measures **Annex V**
- Prohibition of certain methods of capture / killing / transport **Annex VI**
- Derogation scheme (art 16)

The role of the European Commission

- Close cooperation with Member States and stakeholders
- Information & communication (for ex. Newsletter, promotion of exchanges of good practice between Member States in the nature management field)
- Integrate NATURA 2000 into other EU funds
- Follow-up of implementation of Habitats/Birds Directives
- Legal actions aiming at the application of environmental Community law:
 - Treatment of complaints in front of the Court of Justice
 - Treatment of petitions
- Ensuring environmental compliance of proposed actions under European programmes of regional funds



How can the Commission help Member States in their implementation of Natura 2000 ?

- Publication of orientation and interpretation documents
- (e.g. on Art. 6; forests; hunting)
- Establishment of specific working groups (financing, communication, marine environment, monitoring, compensation,...)
- Meetings of the Habitats and Ornis Committees with the Member States
- Meetings with the “Nature” Directors every two years
- Bilateral technical meetings on specific questions
- Training

Priorities for the future

- Finalisation of Community lists
- Clarification of Community financing framework
- Development of interpretation documents and of supplementary advises for the MS
- Improvement of communication about the objectives of the Directives
- Monitoring and management of the European Natura 2000 network
- Training

Financing Natura 2000

- Article 8 of Habitats Directive: basis for

Funding instruments today

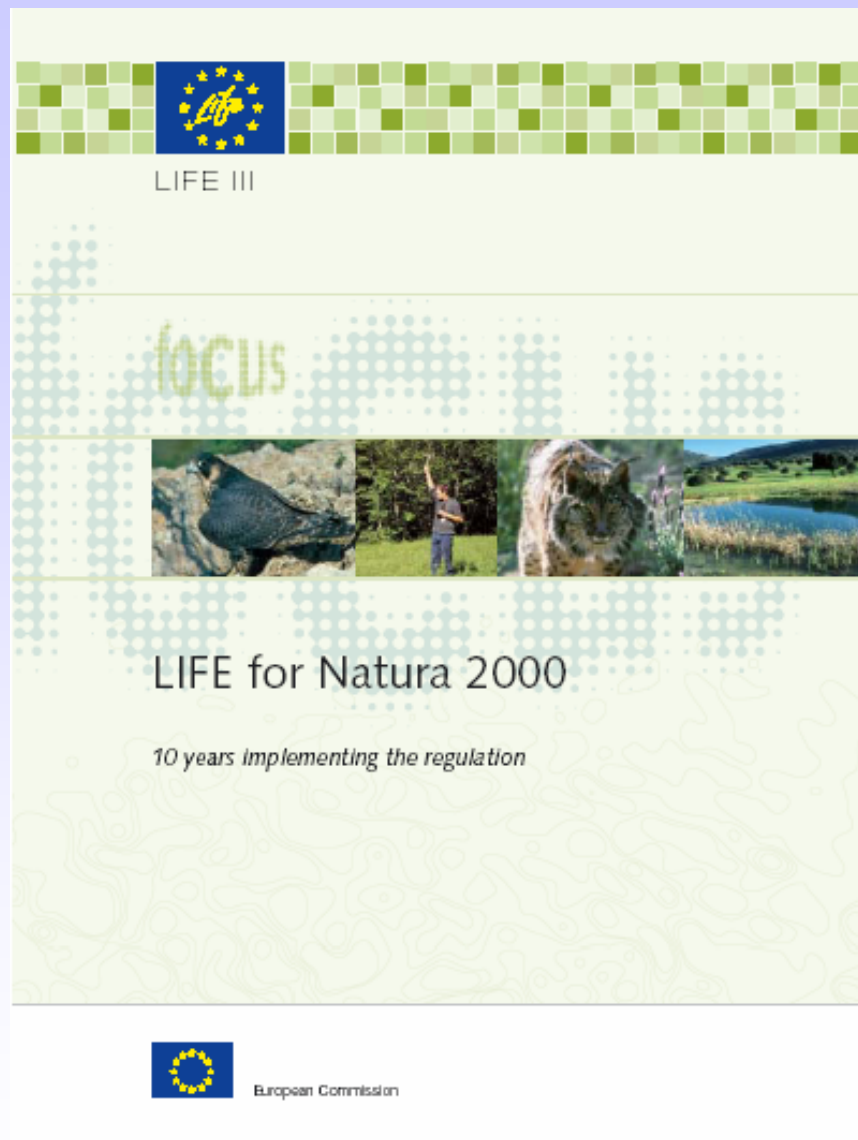
- Common Agricultural Policy – European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Funds
 - Rural development regulation
- Structural Funds
 - Regional Fund, Social Fund, Leader+, Interreg
- Cohesion Fund
- LIFE Nature (till 2006), 76 mio € spent in 2004

Environmental funding after 2006

- Direction: « mainstreaming the environment » into other community programmes
- **LIFE+ instrument** for structural funding
- Rural Development Fund

LIFE-Nature - a pool of good examples

<http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/environment/life/project/index.htm>



Some other ongoing debates:

- Monitoring, assessment and evaluation of conservation status: 2007 report
- Species protection provisions (Article 12 – 16)
 - *Working Group*
 - *Commission guidance document in preparation*
- Improving communication and awareness

Natura 2000 Newsletter

- in 5 languages (en, fr, de, it, es)
- twice a year

Publications & guidelines

« Green Days »



natura

EUROPEAN COMMISSION DG ENV NATURE NEWSLETTER

Issue 17 • December 2003



Sheep with his flock grazing the north of Sagunto, Castellón, Spain.
Photo: Fundación Global Forestal, Madrid via Miguel

FINANCING NATURA 2000

With the Natura 2000 Network nearing completion, attention is increasingly being drawn to the all-important question of how the Network will be financed once it is set up. In this issue, we explore different elements surrounding the current debate on 'financing Natura 2000'.

The 'in focus' looks at the likely costs of managing the Network and possible sources of funding at EU level (pages 2-4). Particular attention is paid to the recent Mid-Term Review of the Common Agricultural Policy as this could lead to a whole range of new funding opportunities for Natura 2000 sites in the near future. The 'feature' article presents some of the practical experiences of a number of LIFE-Nature projects in using agri-environmental measures to secure the long-term management of Natura 2000 sites (pages 5-7) in a bid to encourage others to try similar initiatives.

The final article looks back on ten years of LIFE-Nature (pages 10-12). Although the LIFE budget is relatively small compared to other EU funds, it remains the only financial instrument dedicated to Natura 2000. It has so far targeted over 10% of the sites within the Natura 2000 Network, but its influence can be felt well beyond their boundaries. Such is its success that the Commission has proposed to prolong the existing LIFE Regulation for a further two years until 2006.

Finally, with the imminent accession of 10 new Member States in May 2004, a special page on 'enlargement' has been introduced (see page 13) to follow their progress on implementing Natura 2000 more closely. Collectively they are set to make a significant contribution to the Network, not least because they still harbour significant populations of species and subpopulations of rare habitats that have virtually disappeared in the rest of Europe.

All in all, 2004 is set to be a landmark year for Natura 2000.

CONTENTS

IN FOCUS:
Financing the
Natura 2000 Network
pages 2-4

ON SITE:
Managing Natura 2000
through agri-
environmental schemes
pages 5-7

NATURA BAROMETER:
Latest updates
as of 7 October 2003
pages 8-9

TEN YEARS OF LIFE:
LIFE for Natura 2000
pages 10-12

ENLARGEMENT:
Natura 2000 in an
enlarged Union
page 13

NEWS ROUND UP:
Latest events and
publications summarised
pages 14-16



The NATURA 2000 Newsletter is produced by the NATURA 2000 Network Conservation Units of the Environment Directorate General (DG ENV) of the European Commission. This newsletter is produced twice a year and is available in English, French, German, Spanish and Italian.



HABITATS AND BIRDS DIRECTIVES

Guidelines to amend the Annexes

- understand the purpose of each annex
- respect the balance of existing annexes
- do not modify the legal requirements for EUR 15
- favour the addition of habitat types, including de facto species of Community interest
- use only latin names for species; use the work/classifications of the European Environment Agency for habitats
- check the scientific value of your proposal
- refer to the Bern Convention when appropriate



Thank you for your attention!

More information at homepage:

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/nature/home.htm>

