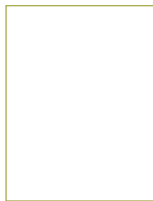




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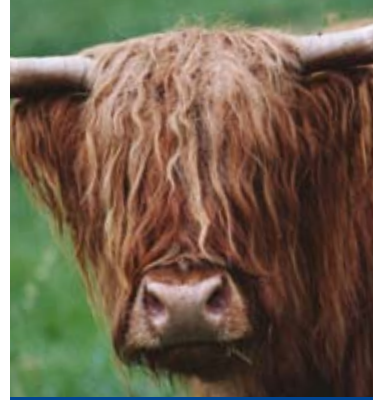
The Natura 2000 Networking Programme is managed on behalf of the European Commission by Eurosite, the EUROPARC Federation and The European Landowners Organization (ELO)





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NETWORKING PROGRAMME

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The Natura 2000 Networking Programme involves a series of training events, themed workshops and practical tools to promote Natura 2000, good practice in site management and the benefits of networking, across Europe. Activities focus on communication, capacity building and the value of working in partnership to achieve nature conservation objectives.

The Natura 2000 Networking Programme is targeted at individuals involved in or influential to the management of Natura 2000 and also the general public. It aims to improve knowledge and understanding of Natura 2000, while promoting the exchange of good practice examples in site management.

The Natura 2000 Networking Programme is funded by the European Commission and managed on their behalf by Eurosite, the European Landowners Organization and the EUROPARC Federation. All the programme details and the exchange of good practices are communicated through the dedicated programme website: www.natura.org



Programme events

The Natura 2000 Networking Programme includes various events planned to take place in different countries throughout the European Union. These events will address practical issues involved in the implementation of Natura 2000 within Member States.

Topics include:

- Sustainable development within Natura 2000 sites;
- Natura 2000 site management in military training areas;
- Tourism and communication strategies for Natura 2000;
- Natura 2000 funding opportunities for site management.

For more information on the programme events, visit: www.natura.org

Other elements of the Natura 2000 Networking Programme include:

- A Natura 2000 Green Days calendar of events taking place throughout Europe;
- Compilation of Case Studies to show 'good practice examples' of site management and partnership development within Natura 2000;
- A 'Twinning Lite' programme to promote collaboration between individuals and organisations in different countries and improve nature conservation management practices.

In May 1992, Governments throughout the European Union adopted legislation designed to protect Europe's natural resources. The legislation is called the Habitats Directive and it protects the most seriously threatened habitats and species across Europe. It complements the Birds Directive adopted in 1979.

At the heart of both these Directives is the creation of a network of sites called Natura 2000. The Birds Directive requires the establishment of Special Protection Areas (SPAs). SPAs are important for rare and vulnerable birds because they rely on them for breeding, feeding, wintering or migration. The Habitats Directive requires Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) to be designated for other species, and for habitats. SACs are classified under the Habitats Directive and provide rare and vulnerable animals, plants and habitats with increased protection and management.

Together, SPAs and SACs make up the Natura 2000 network. All EU Member States are required to manage and implement Natura 2000. This forms a network of sites and the basis for the Natura 2000 Networking Programme's partnership approach.



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For more information visit the programme website: www.natura.org



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