



Natura 2000 Networking  
Programme on behalf  
of the European  
Commission

Natura 2000 Networking Programme managed  
in partnership by project partners EUROPARC  
Federation, Eurosité and European  
Landowners Organization (ELO)

## “Natura 2000 in Benelux– opportunities and obstacles ”

### Workshop Report

#### **a. Introduction/ Background**

- The workshop took place on the 12<sup>th</sup> of September in Luxembourg. The workshop included a half day conference with a QA sessions (after each presentation and in the end of all presentations), followed by an afternoon visit on field in *Mamer & Eich Valley* – selected area for the LIFE+ BENELUX project.
- Target audience: different stakeholders working daily with environmental issues, especially foresters.
- The scope of stakeholders groups was various (17 participants) and included the following:
  - Groupement des Sylviculteurs Luxembourgeois,
  - Lëtzebuerger Natur- a Vulleschutzliga a.s.b.l.,
  - Regionaal Landschap Lage Kempen vzw,
  - Federatie Particulier Groundbezt,
  - Luxembourg Ministry of the Environment, Department of International Affairs and Nature Protection,
  - Ministry of the Environment for Flemish Region,
  - European Commission – DG Environment,
  - European Landowner’s Organization.
- For the actual participants list, see annex 1.

#### **b. Purpose of Workshop & Expected Outcomes**

- The cooperation between three countries – forming the Benelux Entity- was a motivation to use the same “composition” to discuss Natura 2000 issues on local level. The purpose was not only to bring together representatives from those three countries, but also to create a multi-stakeholder dialogue: between public, private and European structures.

- **Aim & Objectives of the workshop for the host**

The aim of this workshop was to create a dynamic structure, helping the cooperation and exchange of good practices between various stakeholders, nourishing the existing forestry network but enabling its opening to new participants. The example of LIFE+ financing was used as a case study to demonstrate various possibilities of common actions.

- Specific issues discussed included the following:
  - Natura 2000 Networking Programme – added value,
  - Viewpoints on the implementation of Natura 2000 – the need to share good examples and best practices,
  - Natura 2000 in Luxembourg: Opportunities and obstacles,
  - Natura 2000 in Flanders: Opportunities and obstacles LIFE+ - Benelux as an example of

- the good use of Natura 2000 tools,
- State of play of the LIFE+ BENELUX in Luxemburg,
  - State of play of the LIFE+ BENELUX in Flanders,
  - State of play of the LIFE+ BENELUX in Netherlands.

**c. Results - key points arising during the workshop**

- The key points which arose were:
  - Even if Natura 2000 is well known in countries such as Belgium, Netherlands and Luxemburg, the need to communicate new regulations is still present. The idea to create a specific Natura 2000 label(s) was also mentioned.
  - It's also necessary to continue to analyse the economic benefits and challenges of the Habitats and Birds Directives on rural activities.

**d. Conclusions and further action**

- Need to have a bottom up approach, compiled with an active presence on the field, assuring good communication and understanding of environmental laws (European or national), e.g. by adapted guidelines.
- Pursuing cooperation and diversifying projects between various stakeholders, to successfully participate in LIFE+ financing.

**e. Contact details of workshop host**

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tel 00 32 (0)2 234 34 00  
Mr Robin du PARC

LIFE+ Coordinator

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**f. Contact details of workshop participants**

- Name, address, e-mail, website  
see the annex 1

**g. Relevant background papers**

see attachments:

1° PP presentations

2° NNP documentation (leaflets, future workshops, [www.natura.org](http://www.natura.org), etc)

**The workshop will be carbon compensated.**

Annex 1

LIST OF PRESENCE  
 12.11.07, Luxemburg

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