



Natura 2000 Networking
Programme on behalf of the
European Commission



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

Natura 2000 in the Netherlands Workshop Report

According to the
Natura 2000 Networking Programme



Title:
“Samen gaan voor Natura 2000”

(“Working together for Natura 2000”)

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EUROSITES, the European Landowners Organization (E.L.O.)
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Introduction/ Background

Three leading nature management organisations in the Netherlands, and Eurosite members, **Staatsbosbeheer** (GO), **Natuurmonumenten** (NGO) and **De Landschappen** (NGO) have conducted four co-organised workshops during November - sharing the common theme of Natura 2000 management, and all with the aim of improving organisational staff skills in communicating and working with the public and other stakeholders. These workshops form part of the Natura 2000 Networking Programme; a pan-European initiative to further the integration and appropriate management of the Natura 2000 network. Open to any organisation managing Natura 2000, this series of Dutch workshops were attended by 173 participants.

This is the first time that these nature management bodies have organised a combined workshop. The organisations continue to increase cooperation, realising that Natura 2000, as a European-wide network requires a collaborative approach to management. In the Netherlands the Natura 2000 process is currently in the stage between concept and final designation of the sites. Feedback from society is now being analysed (following a round of public consultation) and the first pilot Natura 2000 management plans are on the way - this series of workshops is well timed as site management organisations look to inform their management strategies with guidance for best practice in stakeholder relations and site management.

The four 24-hrs.workshops were organised in November 2007 in four regions in the Netherlands.

The format used for the workshop

The workshops took place in four regions of the Netherlands (North, West, East and South) and began with an excursion in the nearby Natura 2000 area. During this excursion, the management issues of the site were discussed along with the importance of communication with stakeholders and the general public. The programme involved a general introduction to Natura 2000, followed by an introduction of each participant and their daily management issues within Natura 2000.

In the second presentation the roles of the three management organisations were discussed and two representatives from the organisations presented the daily practice of management planning for Natura 2000 during an interview session. After lunch parallel workshops took place and the issues discussed included: Communicating Natura 2000; Legislation and juridical aspects; Recreation and Branding; Environmental conditions; How to contribute to the management planning within Natura 2000?



A binder with information necessary for the management of Natura 2000 complemented this workshop and was provided to each participant. This information binder can be used as a reference book, which contains general information about Natura 2000 and information about: Management planning Natura 2000; Communication; Financing; Environmental criteria; Recreation; Branding & marketing; Permissions and awkward notions and information about website links to Natura 2000.

Target audience:

The target audience was the local site managers of the three nature management organisations. Representatives from the Ministry, Province and Federations for the protection of the Environment also attended the workshops, as presenters or facilitators for the workshops.

Total number of attendees:

North:	47
West:	27
East:	64
South:	35
Total	173



Purpose of Workshop & Expected Outcomes

- *Workshop rationale - why the workshop was planned as part of the Natura Network Programme*
 - This is the right moment for these workshops, given the fact that in the Netherlands the definite designation for the Habitat-areas is on the way. The production of the Natura 2000-site management plans has also started this year.
 - The three nature management organisations have concluded that before entering the public arena (stakeholders & general public) it is necessary to develop a better understanding of the impacts and opportunities of the Natura 2000 programme within the organisations especially at the level of the local site managers. Regional staff are already involved in the management planning for Natura 2000 and therefore also informed about the details involved.
- *Aim & Objectives of the workshop for the host*

The aims of the workshops can be summarized as:

 - Enhancing the knowledge of the Natura 2000 programme and encouraging enthusiasm and pride about Natura 2000 through the:
 - Translation of the European Directives and responsibilities into daily practice;
 - Preparation for the coming Natura 2000 management planning;
 - Networking and working together.
- *Specific issues to be addressed through the workshop;*
 - Presenting also the broader impact of Natura 2000 as a European concept and legislation for nature conservation (e.g. by poster presentation);
 - Covering all aspects of the Natura 2000 programme such as:
 - What is Natura 2000?
 - What activities are possible in these areas?
 - What do I need to realise the aims?
 - What is my role in the management planning process?
 - Exchange of experiences with Natura 2000;
 - How to combine actions for the benefit of the interests of nature?



Workshop session (West)

Results - key points arising during the workshop

Extract of the key points arising – issues, problems, risks, solutions, proposals for future action and analysis in terms of level of priority attached;

- The participants showed much interest in the subject and were very eager to learn more for their daily work;
- The quality of the presentations has been good and has also been assessed as such by the participants. (Participants have filled in an evaluation form after each workshop).

Conclusions and further action

- The first overall conclusion was that the workshops fulfilled the urgent need for information about Natura 2000 among the local site managers in the three nature management organisations;
- There is still a broad need for information within the nature management organisations (and among stakeholders and the general public);
- During the workshops the positive aspects and opportunities of the Natura 2000 programme have been emphasised;
- Positive communication on Natura 2000 is essential; Natura 2000 gives a lot of opportunities;
- We should use Natura 2000 in a strategic way in our daily work.

Suggestions for future action;

- It has become very clear that communication, internal as well as external, is vital for the Natura 2000 process. Therefore staff were urged to go ahead with drawing communication plans and implementation of these plans as soon as possible.
- Further workshops in the regions are required. These workshops should focus on a broader audience including local stakeholders.



Discussing information on the posters about the European context of Natura 2000

Financing

The workshops have been organised with financial support from the Natura 2000 Networking Programme and were co-financed by the nature management organisations.

Contact details of workshop host

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Relevant background papers

Included in attachment:

- General presentation Natura 2000 (Power Point presentation / in Dutch)
- Natura 2000 and the Nature Management Organisations (Power Point presentation / in Dutch)
- Evaluation forms (without individual comments)

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