



How can grid expansion protect and enhance the Natura 2000 network?

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Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020 (COM(2011) 244)

2050 Vision

2020 headline target
Halt biodiversity loss – restore ecosystem services – global contribution

6 Targets:

 Enhance implementation of nature legislation	Restore ecosystems est. Green Infrastructure	Sustainable Agriculture & Forestry	Sustainable Fisheries	Combat Alien Invasive Species	Contribute to averting global biodiversity loss
▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼



Target 1: Nature Conservation

To halt the deterioration in the status of all species and habitats covered by EU nature legislation and achieve a significant and measurable improvement in their status so that, by 2020, compared to current assessments:

- (i) 100% more habitat assessments and 50% more species assessments under the Habitats Directive show an improved conservation status;
- (ii) 50% more species assessments under the Birds Directive show a secure or improved status.

Natura 2000 Network central pillar of EU biodiversity policy

- The EU wide ecological network of protected areas

- Aims to ensure long-term survival of Europe's most valuable/ threatened species and habitats

- The largest co-ordinated network of conservation areas in the world



As of Jan 2011:

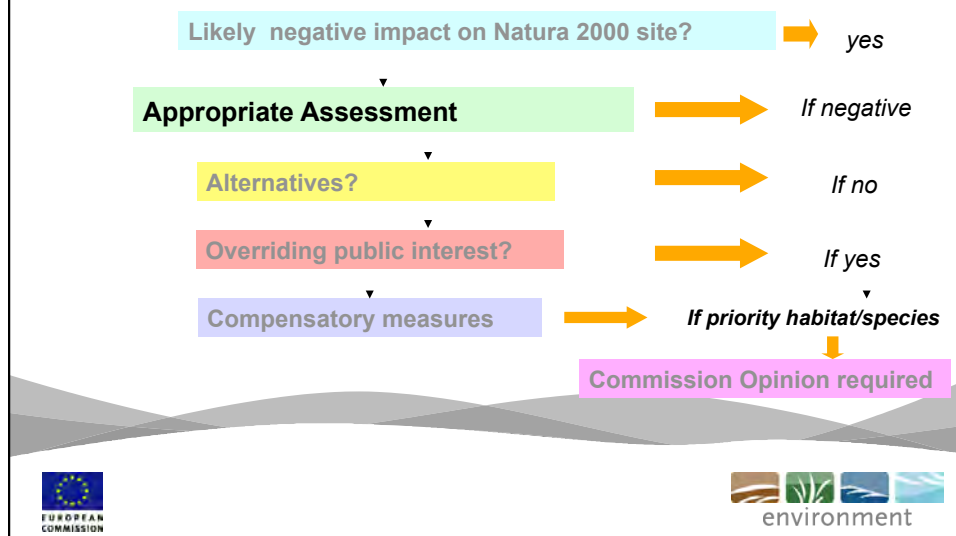
Total nr of sites in EU27
[26.078 sites](#)
Total area covered: [949.995 km²](#)
Terrestrial: 751.369 km²
Marine: 198.627 km²
[17.5 %](#) of terrestrial surface of EU covered by Natura 2000 sites (equals DE +FR+DK)

The protection regime of Natura 2000

- No 'a priori' prohibition of new activities or developments
- Judged on 'case by case' basis
- Any plan or project likely to have a significant effect on the site (whether located in the site or not), either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, must be subject to an appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives
- The competent authorities shall agree to the plan or project if the integrity of the site is guaranteed

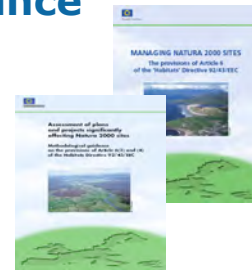
New developments

Step-by-step assessment of plans and projects affecting Natura 2000 sites (Art 6.3 & 6.4)



Commission Guidance

- ❖ *Managing Natura 2000 sites – the provisions of Art. 6*
- ❖ *Assessment of plans and projects : methodological guide Art 6 (3) & (4)*
- ❖ *Sector specific guidance:*
 - ❖ **Wind energy**
 - ❖ **Non-energy extractive industries**
 - ❖ **Ports & estuaries**
- ❖ **Forthcoming: Agriculture,**
- ❖ **Inland Waterways,**
- ❖ **Aquaculture, Cormorants,**
- ❖ **Climate Change,**



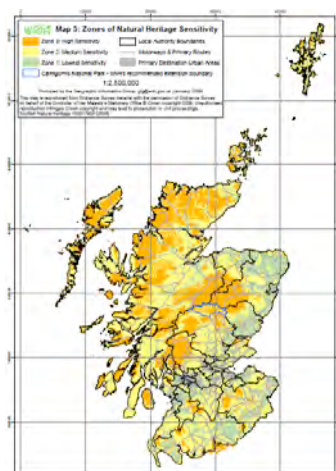
Need for strategic planning: example from EC guidance on wind energy

Developing wildlife sensitivity maps at strategic planning stage enables areas to be identified where wind farm development might be considered a :

- low,
- medium or
- high risk

in terms of nature and wildlife.

Scottish example of good practice







European Commission
DG Environment, Directorate B

Support to the development of a guidance document on electricity, gas and oil infrastructures and Natura 2000

Stakeholder's Workshop
15 June 2012

In collaboration with




Potential impacts from transmission facilities

Potential impacts from terrestrial transmission facilities


Construction and decommissioning	Operation	Accidents
<p>All facilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Habitat loss or degradation ▪ Fragmentation ▪ Fauna and flora harm or mortality ▪ Fauna disturbance ▪ Pollution <p>Buried facilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fauna and flora harm or mortality (e.g. soil fauna, fauna trapped in the trench) <p>Watercourse-crossing pipelines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Habitat loss or degradation 	<p>All facilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fragmentation (e.g. mammals, birds, insects) ▪ Fauna disturbance due to noise (e.g. birds) ▪ Pollution due to corrosion <p>Overhead powerlines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Electrocutation and collision (birds) ▪ Electro-magnetic fields (e.g. birds) <p>Buried powerlines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Heat emission to the soil and electromagnetic fields 	<p>Gas and oil facilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pollution due to pipeline rupture or leakage of pipelines or associated components <p>Electricity facilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pollution by insulation oil due to fluid-filled cables and substations ▪ Pollution due to substations maintenance <p>All facilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fire risk




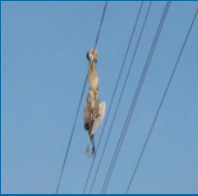
Powerlines versus birds – an example from Hungary


Power lines are a major cause of bird mortality – electrocution and collision

After decades of cooperation, bird conservationists and electricity suppliers signed MoU in 2008 („Accessible Sky“)







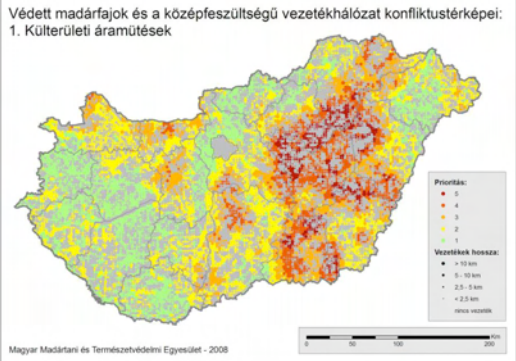


New national law since 2008: „new power lines have to be bird-friendly“

Conflict map by BirdLife Hungary – most dangerous sections identified

„BAT“ designs by electricity suppliers amended in 2011 with new, innovative solutions

Védett madárfajok és a közepesfeszültségű vezetékhálózat konfliktustérképe:
1. Külterületi áramütések



Magyar Madártani és Természetvédelmi Egyesület - 2008



Energy and Environment OP supports retrofitting of power lines

Over 1000 km of power lines already retrofitted and further projects in the pipeline

**25% co-financing secured by electricity suppliers
International cooperation has begun under two LIFE projects (SK, RO, BG) + Budapest Declaration**



Examples of LIFE+ projects on powerlines and nature



creating green corridors under overhead lines

Corrección de Tendidos Eléctricos Peligrosos en Zonas de Especial Protección para las Aves de la Región de Murcia



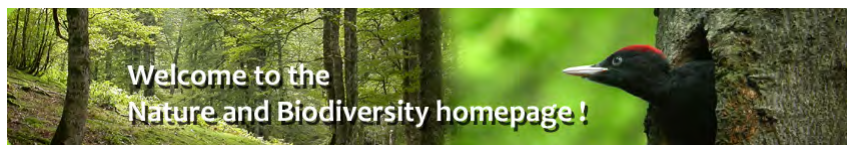
CONSERVATION OF THE IMPERIAL EAGLE IN THE CARPATHIAN BASIN





Conclusions: How can grid expansion protect and enhance the Natura 2000 network?

- Plan in a strategic way (and early)
- Use every opportunity, e.g. upgrading existing infrastructures
- Modernize power lines making them environmentally friendly (e.g. underground cables)
- Use substantial existing know-how
- Build partnerships



For more information, please consult:

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/
index_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/index_en.htm)

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment>

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