

RGI Workshop: How can Grids protect and enhance the Environment?

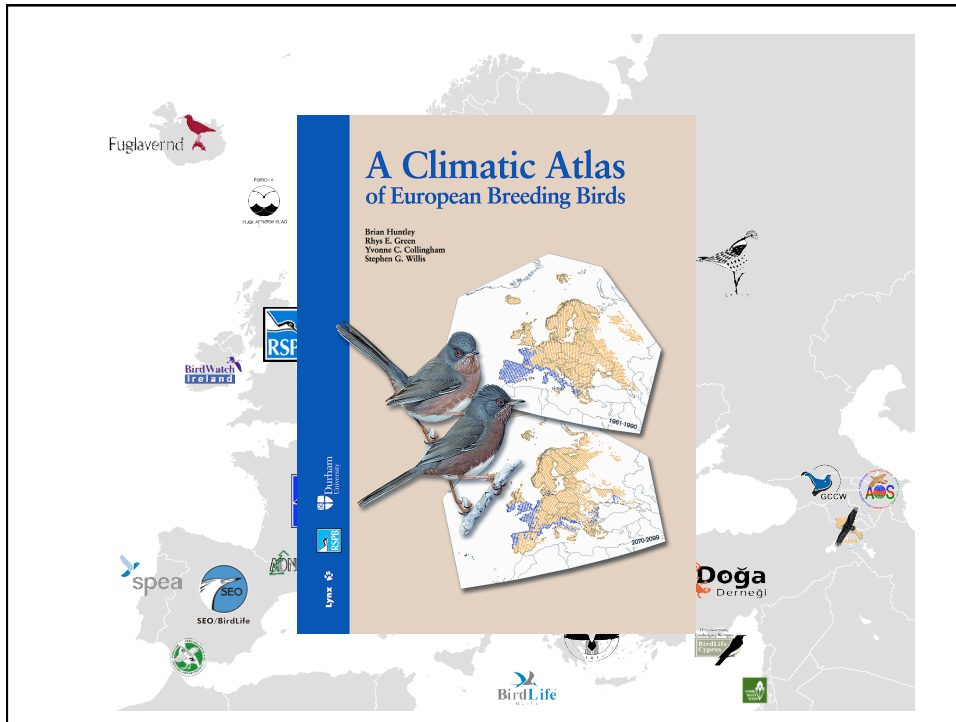
Implementing the European Grid Declaration. Paris October 3 2012

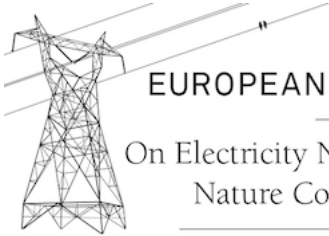
*Why the European Grid Declaration
emphasises environmental assessments
and Natura 2000*


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Renewables 
Grid Initiative

EUROPEAN GRID DECLARATION

On Electricity Network Development and Nature Conservation in Europe

“...an agreed framework of principles guiding the Parties’ ... in their efforts to **minimise negative impacts on the natural environment** that can arise in developing the infrastructure needed for the integration of Europe’s rapidly expanding renewable electricity generation capacity and consumption.”

“strive towards a **high level of protection of Europe’s biodiversity** and natural environment”

“support more **coherent, effective and efficient decision making processes** for electricity transmission investments needed to integrate renewable electricity supplies

“Promote **public support** for necessary infrastructure development by enhancing **transparency** on the reasons for grid development, including on realistic and reasonable **alternatives**, and by promoting **access to environmental information** and public participation, in the spirit of the **Aarhus Convention**.”

- Strategic planning
- Strategic environmental assessment (SEA)
- Environmental impact assessment (EIA)
- Protecting the Natura 2000 network

SEA in the EGD

“...support the use of strategic spatial planning... at relevant planning scales (at EU, EU-regional, national, regional and local levels).”

“help to develop and apply good practice in the environmental assessment of strategic plans...”

“...promote the use of SEA as a means to find the most environmentally acceptable options with regard to protected areas and ecological sensitivities”

“...recognise the value of mapping ecological sensitivities to power line development at appropriate spatial scales...”

EIA in the EGD

“...commit to good practice in the conduct of EIA...”

- ...high and similar level of environmental protection...
- Inform and consult the public...
- Use best practices in terms of the assessment of ... less damaging alternative technologies and routing options...
- Ensure professionals... are suitably qualified to address the likely significant ecological impacts... understand the importance of providing full and objective scientific information...

Natura 2000 in the EGD

“A high level of protection of areas designated for their conservation value, in particular achievement and maintenance of a favourable conservation status of species and habitats for which Natura 2000 sites have been designated, and maintaining the integrity and coherence of the Natura 2000 network, through retention and implementation of the provisions in the Birds and Habitats Directives 2009/147/EC and 92/43/EC”

“The TSOs will seek to avoid harm and minimise impacts to habitats and species protected under the Birds and Habitats Directives and support the existing provisions in those Directives and their underlying principles.”

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Thank you

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