



# Natura 2000

## The Impact on Forest Management

**Robert Flies**

European Commission

DG ENV – Nature, Biodiversity & Land Use

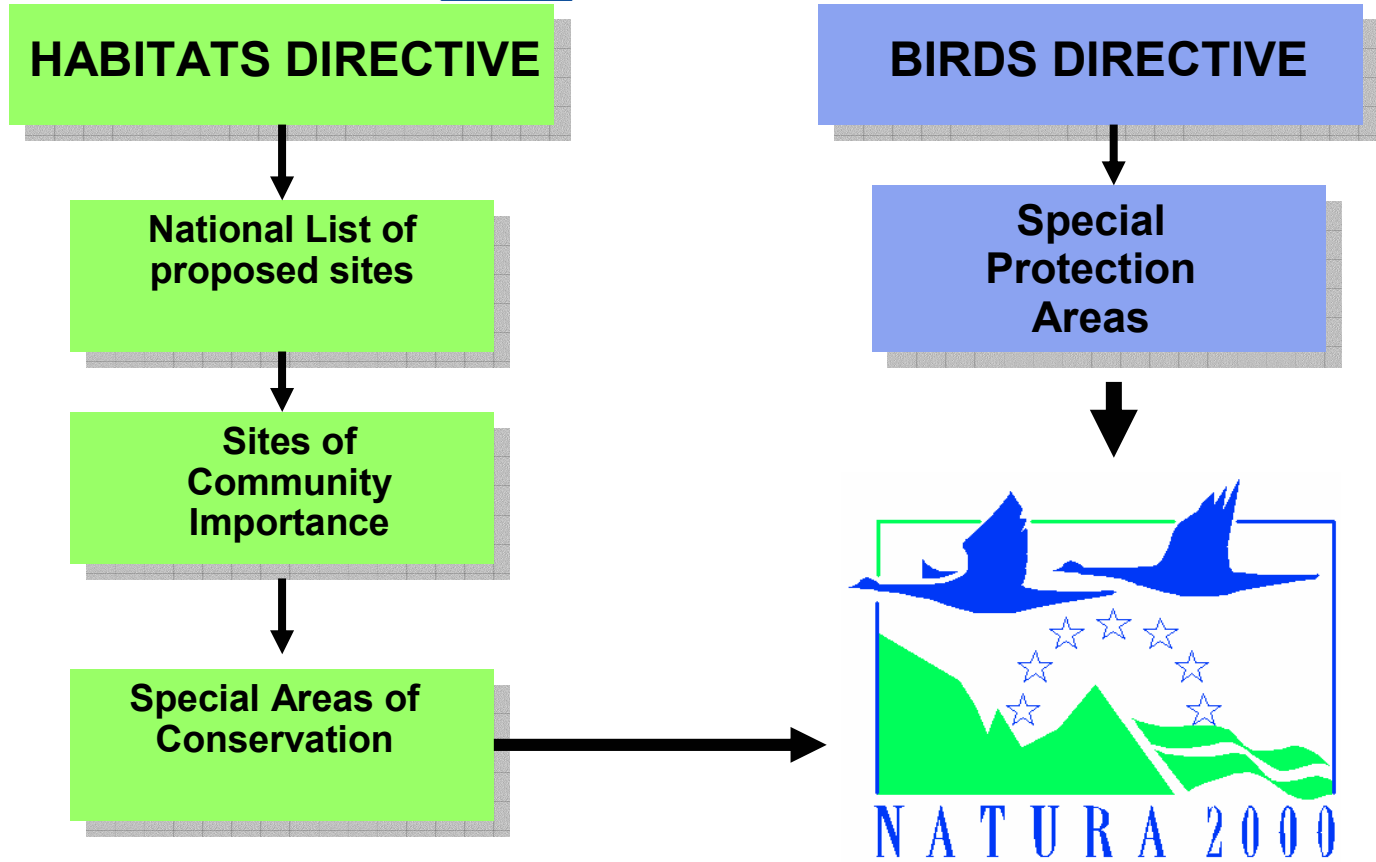


# Structure of presentation

**What is Natura 2000?**

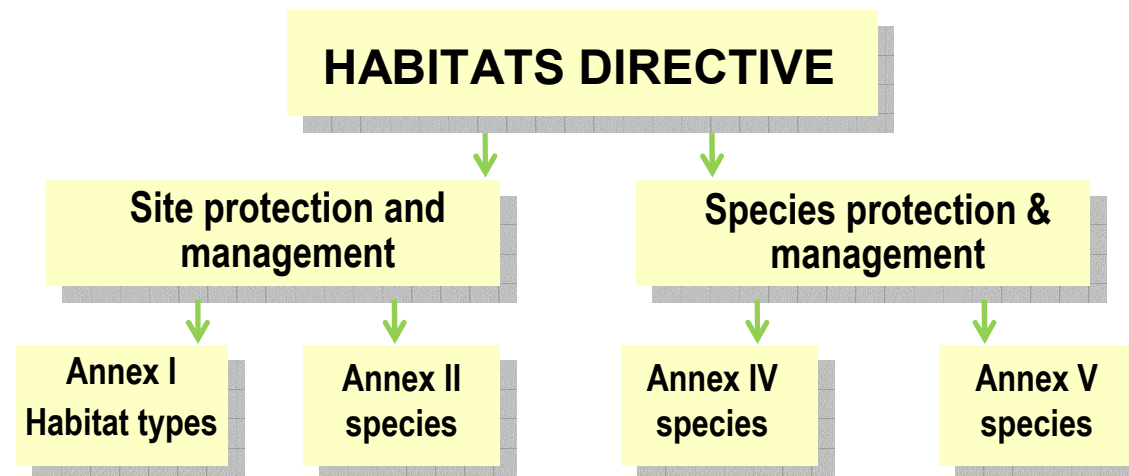
**Natura 2000 and forests**

**Challenges**

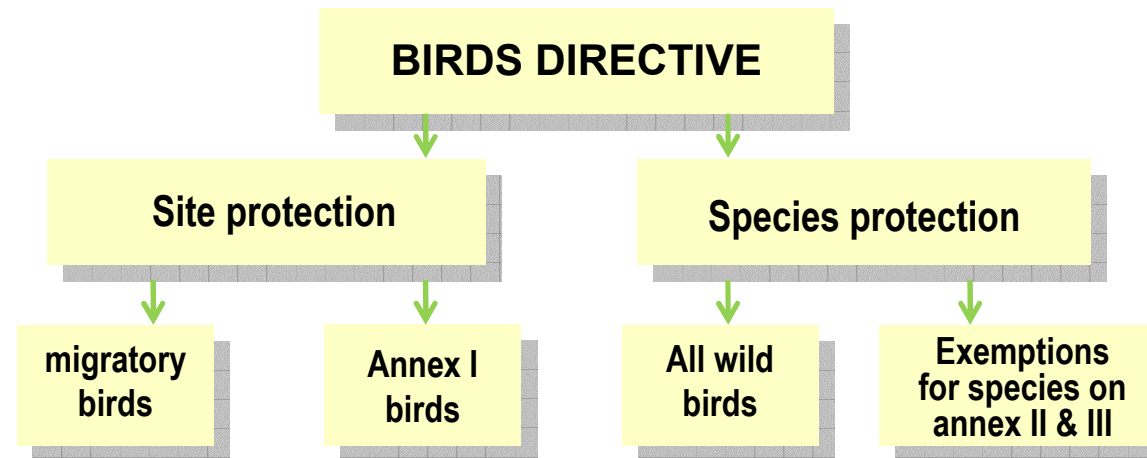


## Objective and scope of Habitats Directive




- ❖ *To contribute towards ensuring biodiversity through conservation of natural habitats and species in EU*
- ❖ *To ensure that these species and habitat types are maintained at, or restored to, a '**favourable conservation status**'*
- ❖ *Focus on 1000+ threatened plants & animals & c.230 habitats*



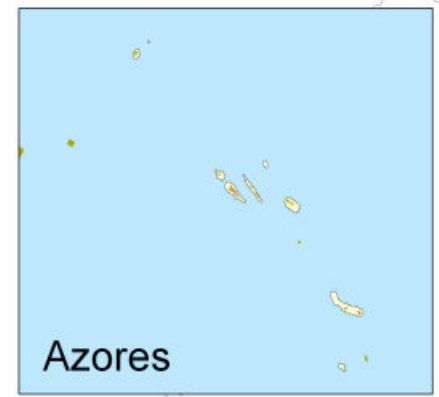
- ❖ **Protects all** species of naturally occurring **birds** in the wild state in the EU
- ❖ **Overall objective is** to maintain the populations of all wild bird species in the EU at a level which corresponds to their ecological, scientific and cultural requirements, or to adapt the population of these species to that level



# Natura 2000

-  Habitats Directive sites
-  Birds Directive sites
-  Areas belonging to both Directives

Data from end-2010



Azores



Madeira

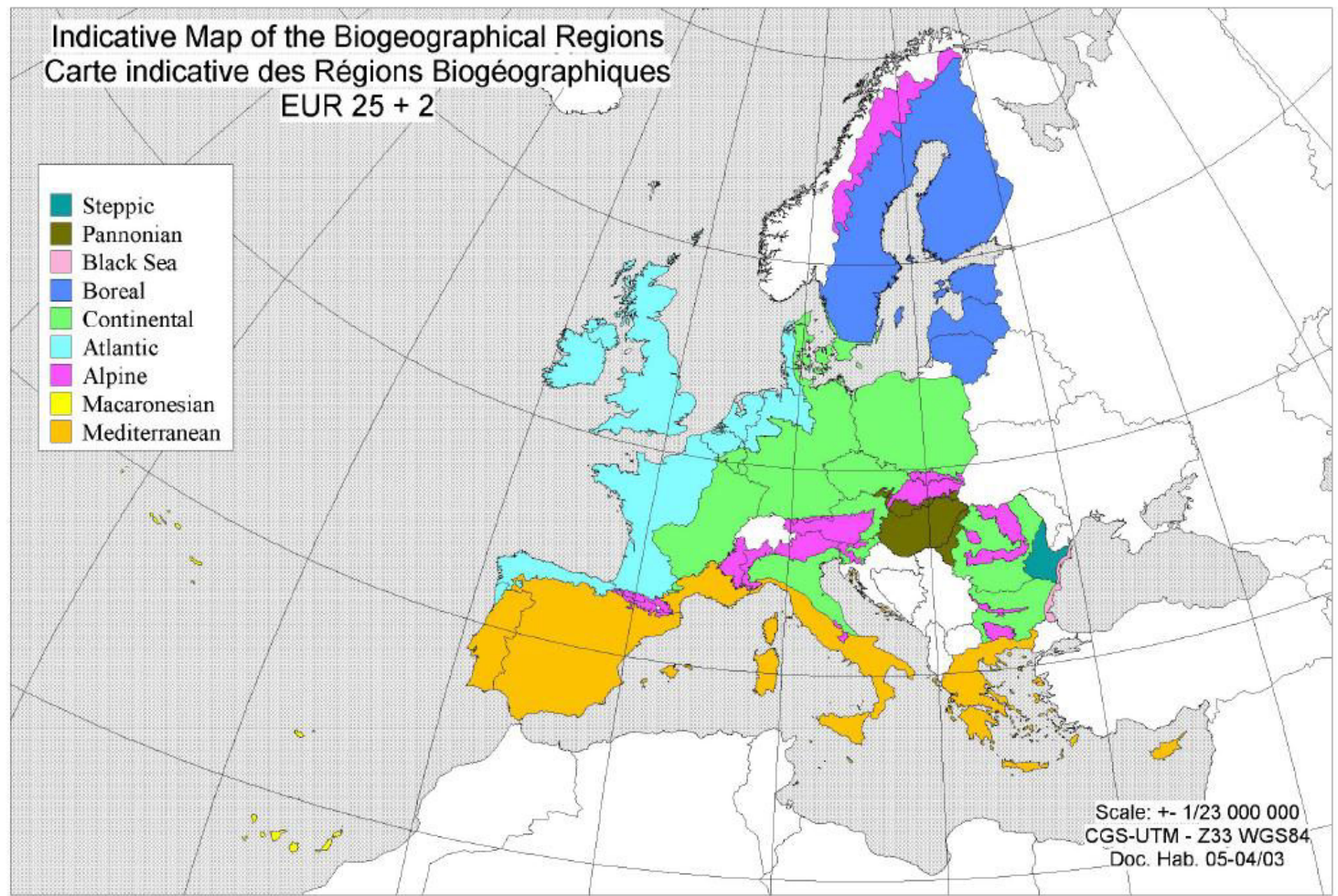


Canary Islands



Indicative Map of the Biogeographical Regions  
Carte indicative des Régions Biogéographiques  
EUR 25 + 2

- Steppic
- Pannonian
- Black Sea
- Boreal
- Continental
- Atlantic
- Alpine
- Macaronesian
- Mediterranean



Scale: +/- 1/23 000 000  
CGS-UTM - Z33 WGS84  
Doc. Hab. 05-04/03



The screenshot displays the Natura 2000 Viewer application in a Windows Internet Explorer browser. The main map shows Europe and surrounding regions, with various Natura 2000 sites marked in red and blue. A 'Layers and Legends' panel is open on the right side, showing the following layers:

- Bing Maps
  - Road
  - Aerial
  - Aerial with labels
- Natura 2000 Sites
- Biogeographic regions
- Corine Land Cover 2006

The map includes a scale bar (0 to 2000 km and 0 to 1000 miles) and a search box at the bottom left. The browser's address bar shows the URL 'http://natura2000.eea.europa.eu/#'. The browser's menu bar includes 'File', 'Edit', 'View', 'Favorites', 'Tools', and 'Help'. The browser's toolbar includes 'Page', 'Safety', and 'Tools'.





# Natura 2000

- 26 400 sites
- 986 000 km<sup>2</sup> (18% of the land area + 4% seas)
- Largest co-ordinated network on nature management
- Focus on +/- 1000 threatened plants & animals + c. 230 habitats



## Natura 2000: a flexible framework

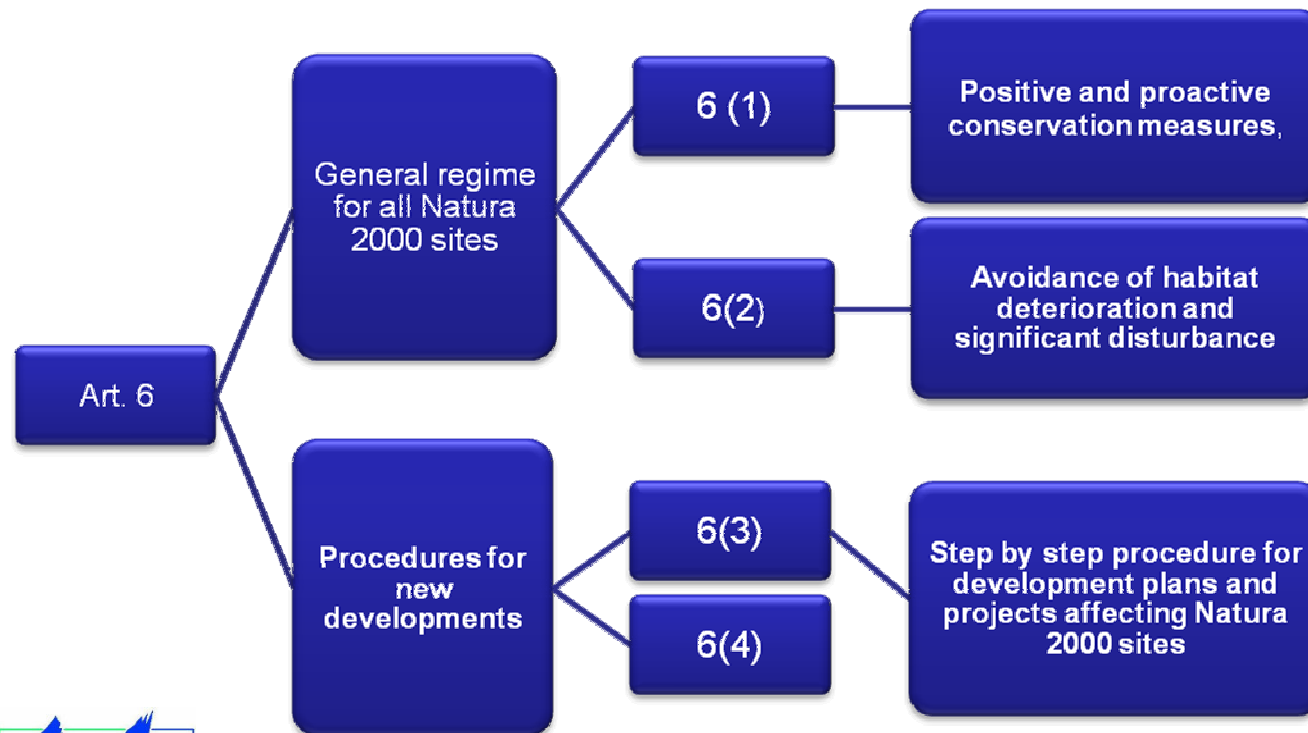
- Aim: favourable conservation status
- Site designation (MS) based on scientific criteria
- Generally, it is not a "no go area"
- Legal protection but has quite high flexibility and subsidiarity provisions
- Supports sustainable development: new activities or development affecting N2000 sites are not automatically excluded



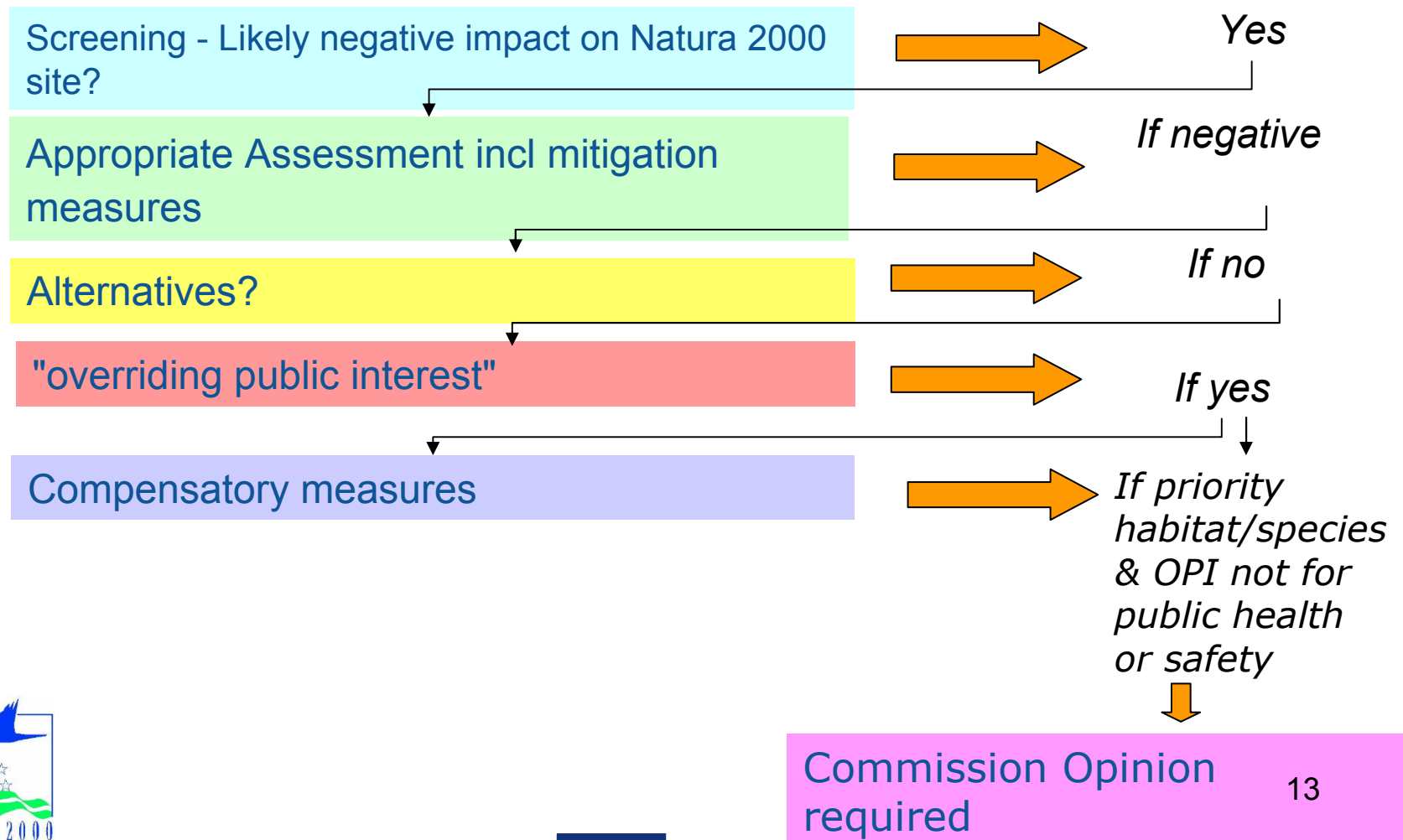
## **N2000: a network for and of people**

- N2000 is not against any socio-economic development and can even be a good tool to maintain our valuable natural heritage
- Involvement of land owners and stakeholders
- Good cooperation between services and sectors
- Strategic approach and integrated planning
- With good will, pragmatism, integrity and the right knowledge, problems may find a solution

# Protection Regime for Natura 2000



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



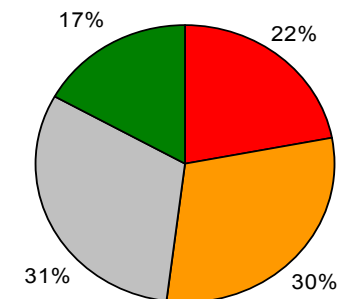
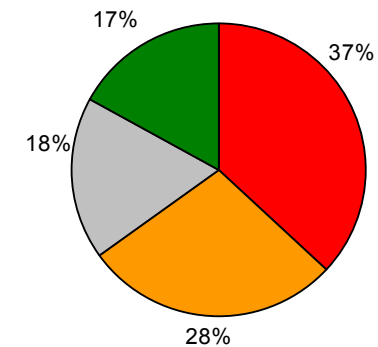
## Monitoring & Reporting

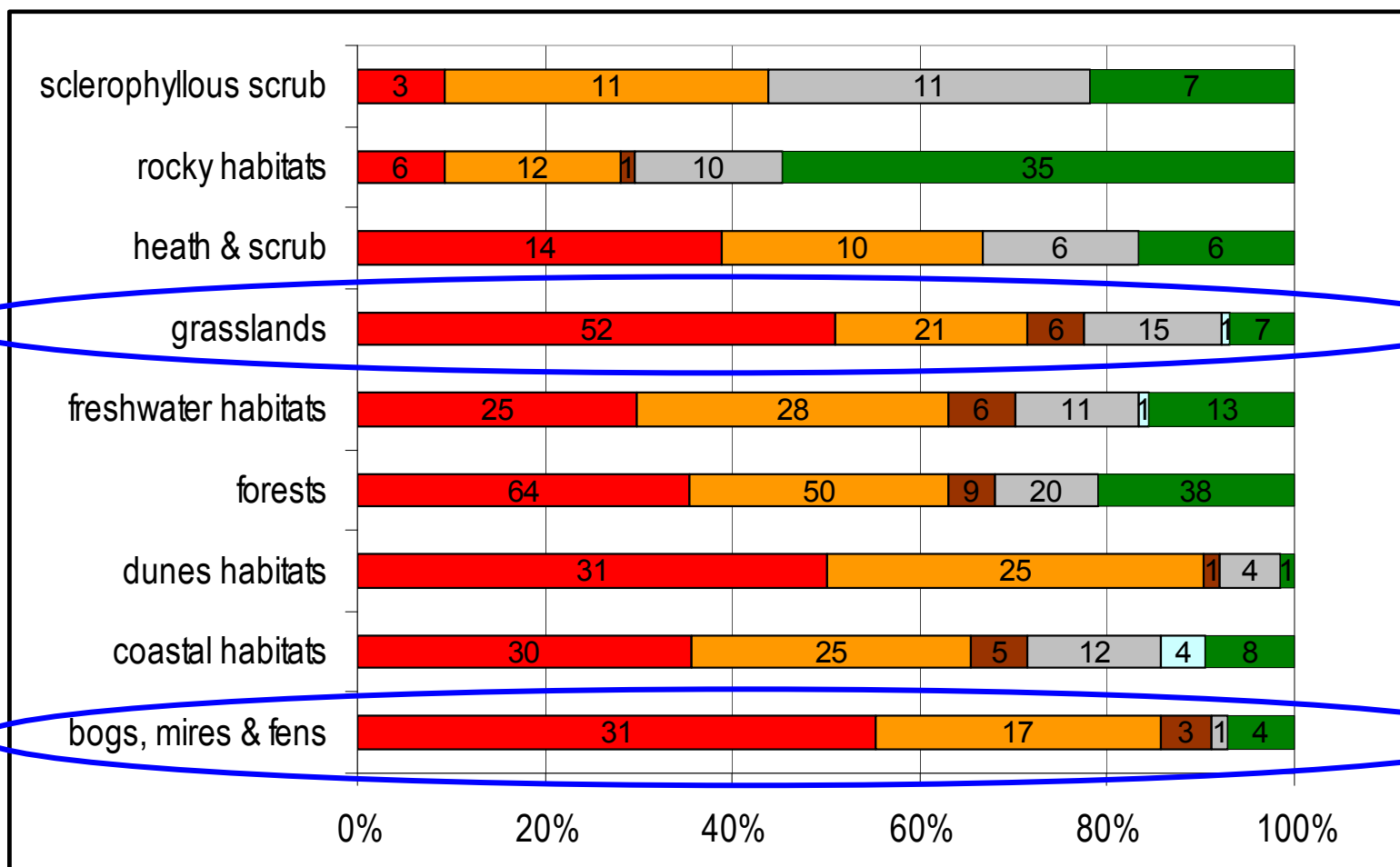
❖ 2009 EU composite report or 'Health Check' showed

- ❖ *Only 17% deemed to be in favourable conservation status*
- ❖ *Grasslands, wetlands & coastal habitats most under pressure*

### The job is far from done!

❖ New reporting cycle underway – MS to submit national reports in 2013





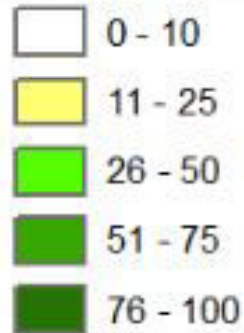


## What has N2000 changed?

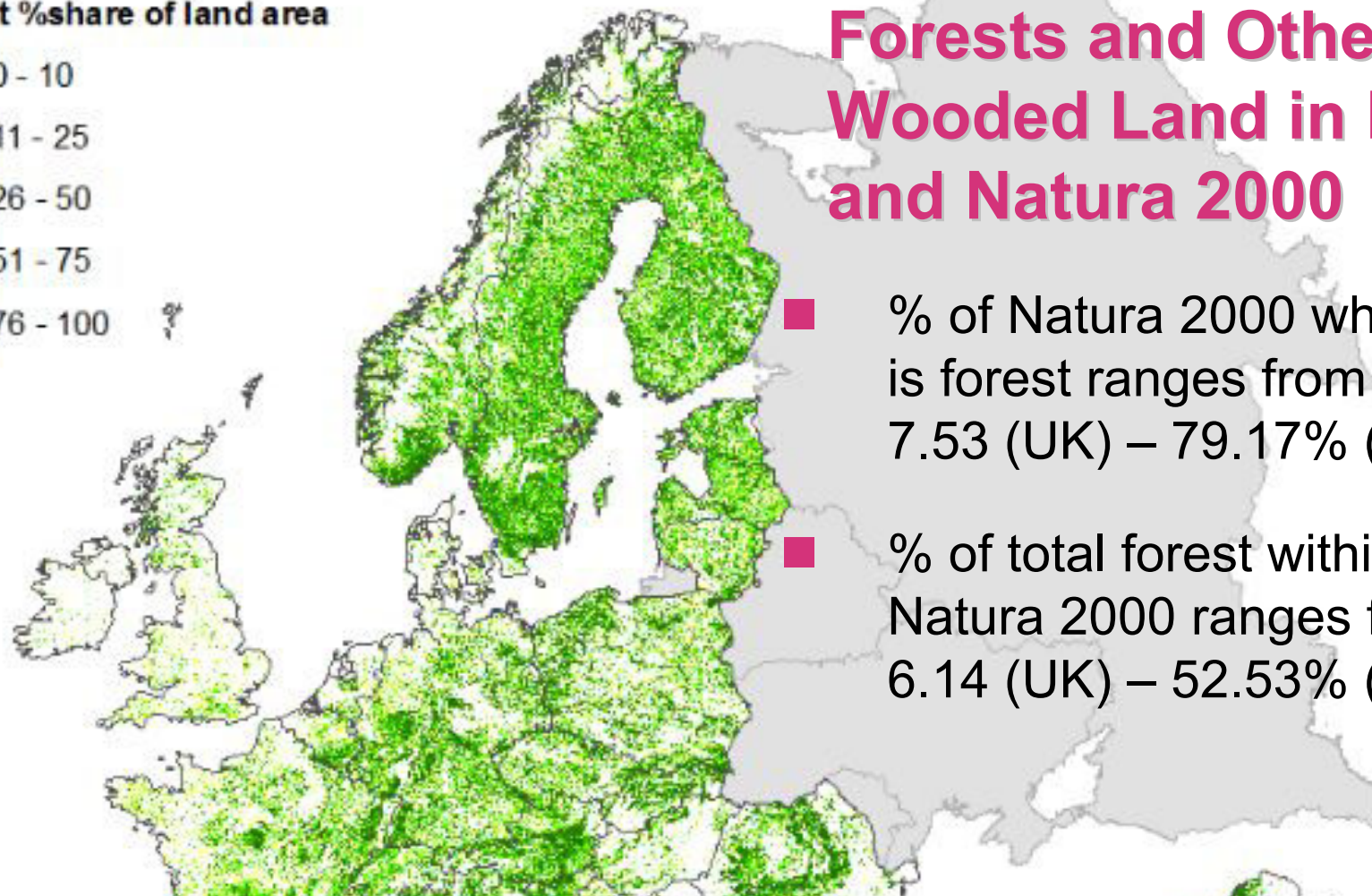
- ❑ Area of protected sites in Europe has increased (3x)
- ❑ The conditions for a number of threatened /endangered species / habitats have improved
- ❑ New ways of cooperation between nature protection and economic sectors have developed
- ❑ Knowledge about ecological sites has increased



**Forest %share of land area**



## Forests and Other Wooded Land in EU and Natura 2000



- % of Natura 2000 which is forest ranges from 7.53 (UK) – 79.17% (CY)
- % of total forest within Natura 2000 ranges from 6.14 (UK) – 52.53% (BG)

	<b>Land area N2000 (km<sup>2</sup>)</b>	<b>Total N2000 Forest Area (km<sup>2</sup>)</b>	<b>% N2000 which is Forest</b>	<b>EURO-STAT Forest &amp; OWL in 2010</b>	<b>Total Forest within N2K (%)</b>
EU	751 368	382 009	50,84%	1 777 570	23,10%



# Forestry and Natura 2000

Quite a number of N2000 areas are already identified as specific protection areas (National park, nature reserve...)

Conservation measures depend from the conservation objective of each individual N2k site:

- Tree species, structural diversity, hedges, longer rotation periods
- Share of deadwood, decaying wood, bird nesting
- Protection focused on certain forest types / species
- Silvicultural management options (no clear cutting, natural regeneration...) and intervention periods, infrastructural measures (forest roads)



## Forestry and Natura 2000

- A number of conservation objectives may be reached by multi-functional silviculture
- Forest management is sometimes essential to maintain a favourable conservation status
- Conversion in fibre / energy plantations not possible
- Additional costs (planning, impact assessment, cooperation, specific measures)



## Management approaches

- EU –wide recognition for close to nature forest management
- Early involvement of land owners is essential
- Public participation
- Cooperation reduces conflicts; there is a need to build up confidence (transparency)
- Multi-functionality: => balanced / equilibrated decisions



**Management plans:** a way to find consensus to a site specific action framework

## **Competent authorities have key responsibility**

- Recommended but not obligatory
- Integrated approach (established individually or included in other planning practices)
- Majority of forest owners are interested to protect their resources; I can't imagine any biodiversity management without decisive participation of those who use these resources and who know them at best



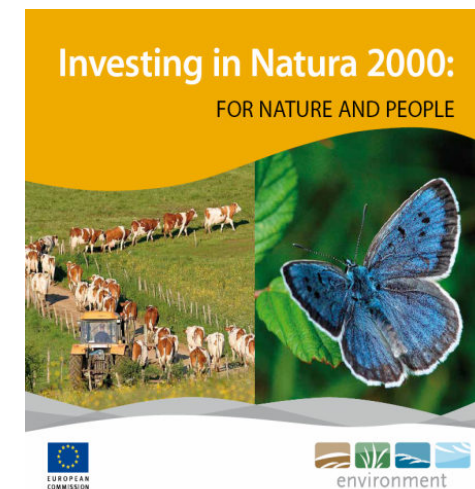
# Management Plans

- Flexibility needed in order to take into account ecological, socio-economic and economic aspects
- Best use of already existing organisational structures
- Transparency, exchange of information
- Clear articulation of conflicts and different interests
- Organisational structures for participation and decision processes must be agreed in advance



# Strategy for Financing Natura 2000 SEC (2011) 1573

- Article 8 foresees EU co-financing
- New opportunities: 2014-2020 MFF including **CAP reform and Cohesion/Regional funds and LIFE**
- Management / Restauration measures; compensation
- Consider other forms of funding for Natura 2000, including innovative financing





# Communication

- Exchange of experiences and good practices
- Education, training activities for people
- Tell merits and initiatives to the public
- Cross-regional and cross-border contacts







## **On-going dialogue on N2k – Forests: preparation of a "guidance doc."**

### **→ Informal, non-mandatory, operational guidelines**

- To facilitate the understanding of the mechanics of the Habitats Directive among stakeholders
- To identify synergies between forest management and N2000 objectives
- to facilitate communication and exchange of experiences on good practices



## Preparation phase

➤ **Preparation through a participatory process**  
*involving key stakeholders, MS authorities, NGO's  
and COM services*

➤ **At present time working group meetings**

➤ *Contacts:*

*DG ENV:*

*Francois Kremer [francois.kremer@ec.europa.eu](mailto:francois.kremer@ec.europa.eu) and*

*Joseph van der Stegen [joseph.van-der-stegen@ec.europa.eu](mailto:joseph.van-der-stegen@ec.europa.eu)*

*DG AGRI:*

*Maria Gafo Gomez-Zamalloa [maria.gafo-gomez-zamalloa@ec.europa.eu](mailto:maria.gafo-gomez-zamalloa@ec.europa.eu)*



**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/nature/natura2000/management/guidance\\_en.htm#art6](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/guidance_en.htm#art6)