



Nature conservation in coastal areas

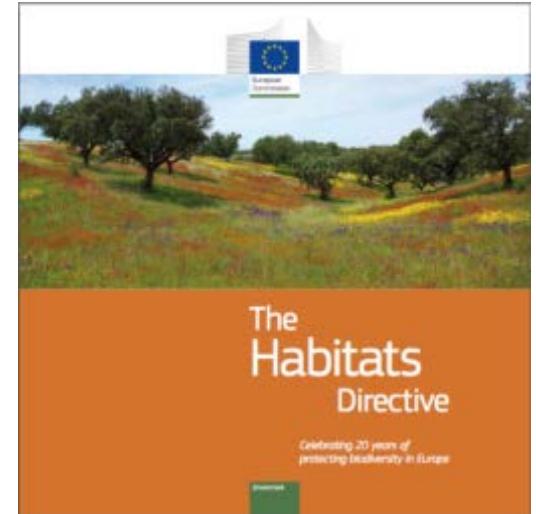
- a delicate balance -

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Oostende, Belgium, 28 November 2012

Outline of the presentation

- *EU Biodiversity policy context*
- *Natura 2000 in the marine/coastal environment*
- *Current activities/priorities*
- *Reconciling Nature conservation and socio-economic development*



New EU biodiversity strategy to 2020

« Our life insurance, our natural capital »

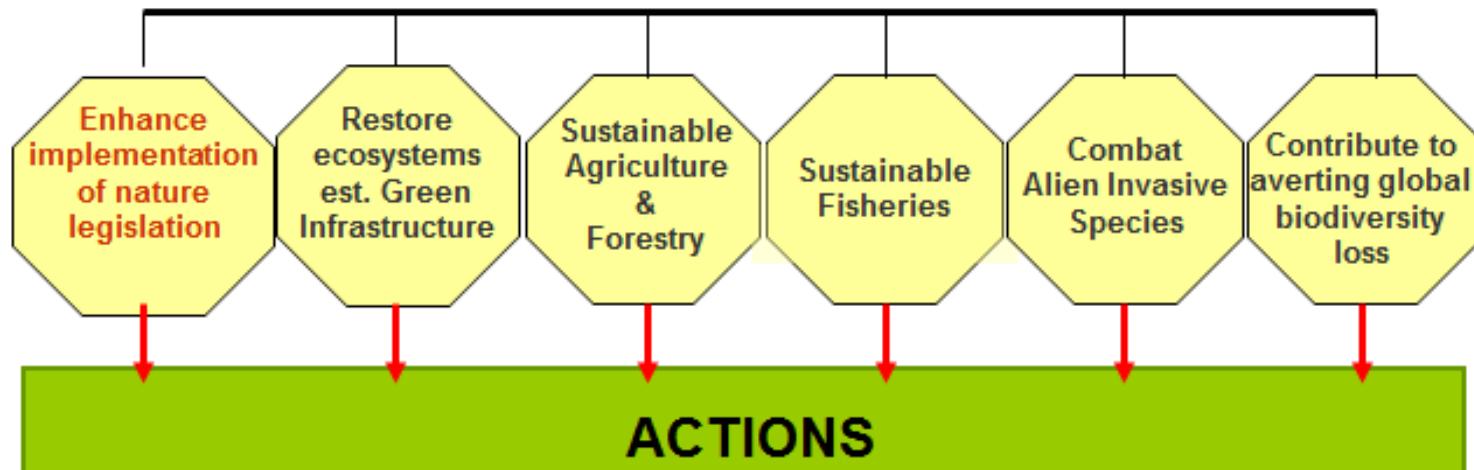
A 2050 VISION

European Union biodiversity and the ecosystem services it provides – its natural capital – are protected, valued and appropriately restored...

A 2020 HEADLINE TARGET

Halt the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the EU and restore them insofar as feasible, and step up the EU's contribution to averting global biodiversity loss

6 TARGETS



NATURA 2000



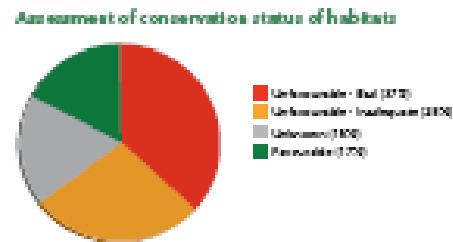
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New EU Biodiversity Strategy

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 by 2020*

- Complete the establishment of the Natura 2000 network, incl. in the marine, and ensure good management
- Ensure adequate financing of Natura 2000 sites
- Increase stakeholder awareness and involvement and improve enforcement
- Improve and streamline monitoring and reporting



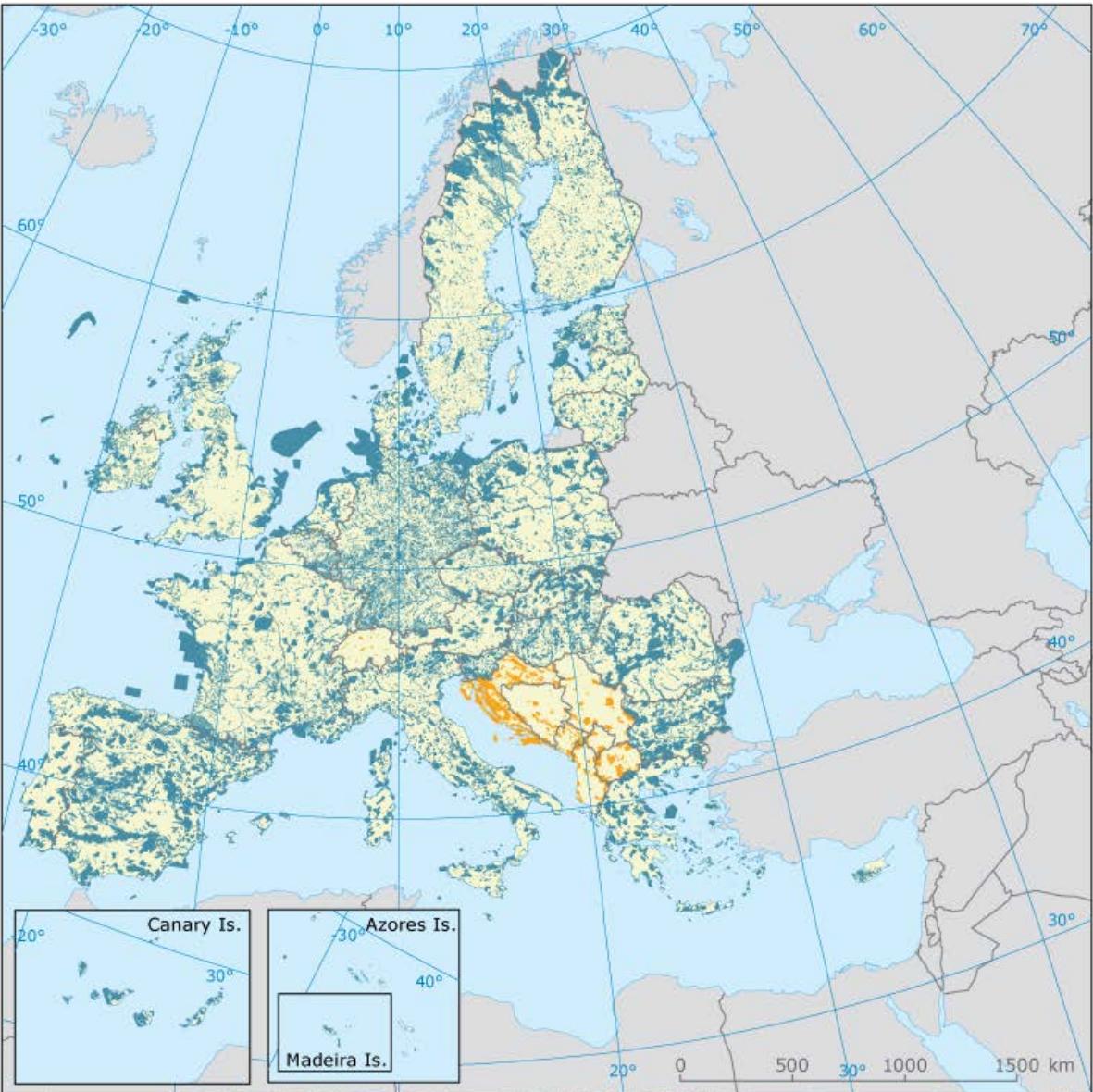
New EU Biodiversity Strategy

- *Target 2 - Maintain and restore ecosystems and their services*
- *Target 4 – Sustainable use of marine resources*
 - Eliminate the adverse impacts on fish stocks, species, habitats and ecosystems
 - Preserve vulnerable marine ecosystems
 - Sustainable fisheries - Eliminate discards, avoid by-catch
 - Support MSFD – MPAs, Financing



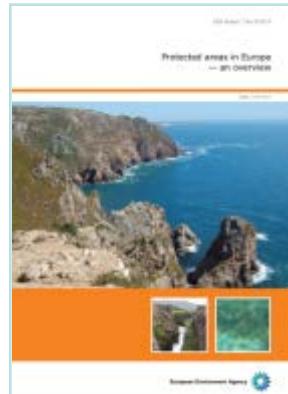
NATURA 2000



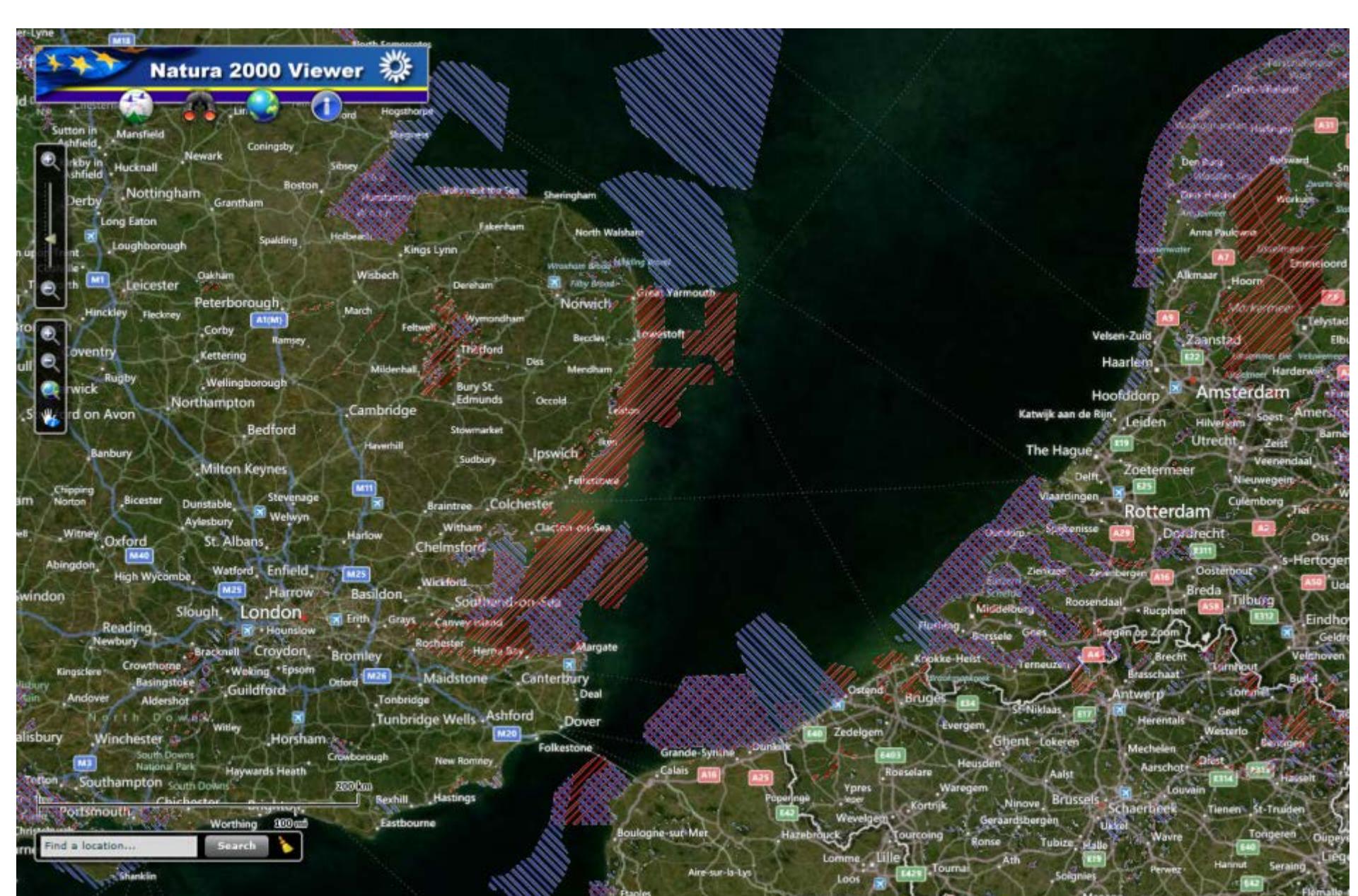


The Natura 2000 and the Emerald Networks

- Natura 2000 sites
- Candidate Emerald sites



- 26 400 sites
- 986 000 km²
- 18 % EU land
- ~4 % EU seas
- Largest co-ordinated PA network
- Almost complete on land
- Some additional work for marine



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Marine Natura 2000 - background

- N2000 largely complete on land – needs to be extended in the marine, esp. offshore
- waters where Member States exercise sovereign rights: territorial waters, EEZ, other protection zones (environmental or fisheries), continental shelf
- A major contribution to preserving marine biodiversity, implementing MSFD
- A priority since 2002 (Court rulings, political commitments, marine expert group, marine guidelines, LIFE projects, fisheries measures, biogeographical seminars...)
- *Aim:*
 - Significant progress in site designations by 2012
 - Conservation status of marine features stabilised/improved by 2020

Guidelines

for the establishment of the
Natura 2000 network in the marine environment.
Application of the Habitats and Birds Directives



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This is a working draft for internal use of the Commission. It has been elaborated for launching an IBC. The document aims to reflect only the views of the Commission services on this issue and is not of a binding nature.



Key protection principles of Natura 2000

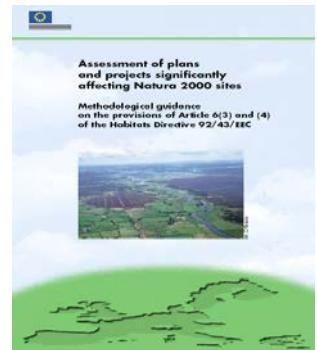
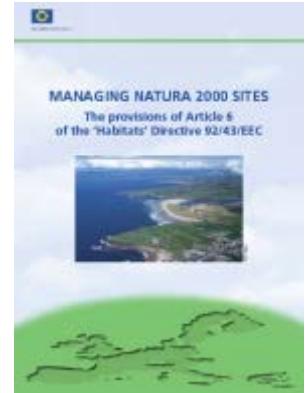
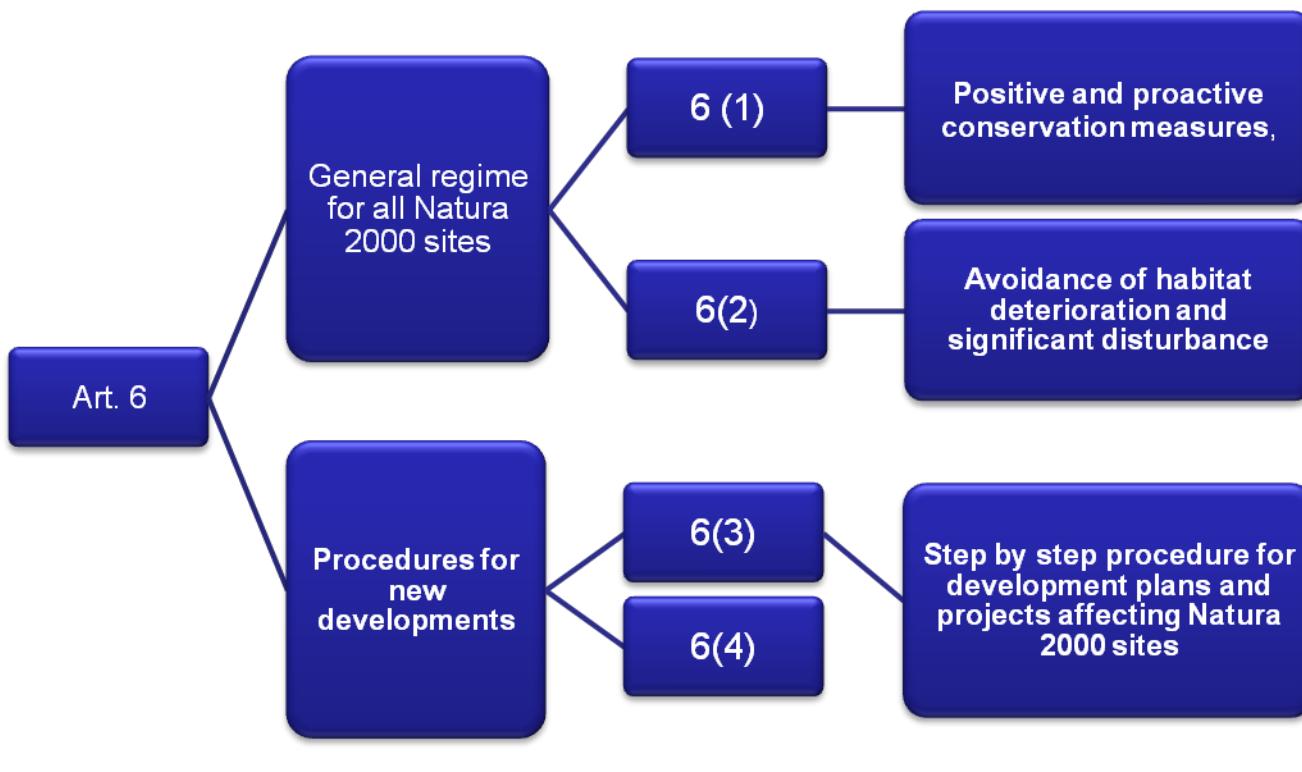
- ❖ *Sites have high level of legal protection*
- ❖ *Not a system of nature reserves – management in collaboration with land owners & users*
- ❖ *Promotes sustainable development*
- ❖ *New activities/developments judged on 'case by case' basis*
- ❖ *Clear procedure for assessments & decisions*
- ❖ *Additional safeguards for priority habitats/spp*



NATURA 2000



Protection Regime for Natura 2000



Management of Natura 2000

- *SCI \Rightarrow SAC (6 year deadline overdue)*
- *Define Conservation Objectives*
- *Establish Conservation Measures*
- *Develop Management Plans, Legal, statutory or contractual arrangements*
- *Full stakeholder engagement*
- *New biogeographical Seminars on management/restoration*



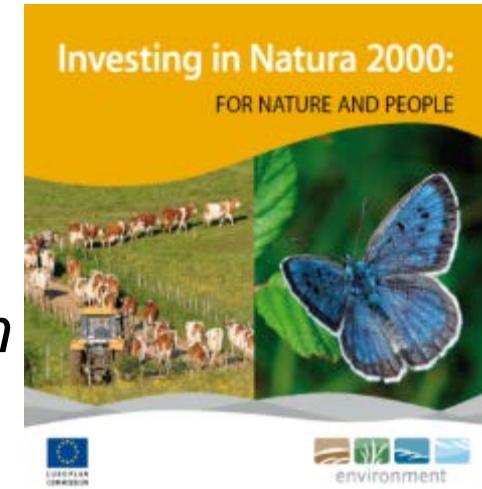
Atlantic Biogeographical Seminar

- *New process to share experience & expertise*
- *Addressing Coastal and Dunes& Estuaries*
- *Problem of large scale loss loss : alteration & unfavourable structure and functioning*
- *Some issues that are raised*
 - large scale habitat restoration (removal of obsolete infrastructures & beach nourishment)
 - Schemes and funds
 - ICZM, with implemented standard ‘no loss of valuable coastal habitat’ and with space for restoration
 - Link to WFD requirements
 - habitat creation in national/regional planning for climate change adaptation



Strategy for Financing Natura 2000

- *Article 8 HD foresees EU co-financing*
- *Better strategic planning for financing*
- *Improved definition of Natura 2000 management requirements for targeted action*
- *Strengthening awareness of socio-economic benefits (estimated at €200-300 billion/yr)*
- *LIFE 'integrated projects'*
- *Consider other forms of funding for Natura 2000, including innovative financing*



European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)

- Stronger focus on ecosystem based management of fisheries;
- Reducing overfishing and overcapacity and reducing direct impacts
- specific measures aiming at protecting and restoring marine biodiversity and ecosystems
 - *Support management, restoration and monitoring of Natura 2000;*
 - *other actions to protect and enhance marine biodiversity and ecosystems more generally, e.g. restoration of coastal and marine habitats in support of sustainable fish stocks*
- Promoting involvement of fishermen and other key stakeholders



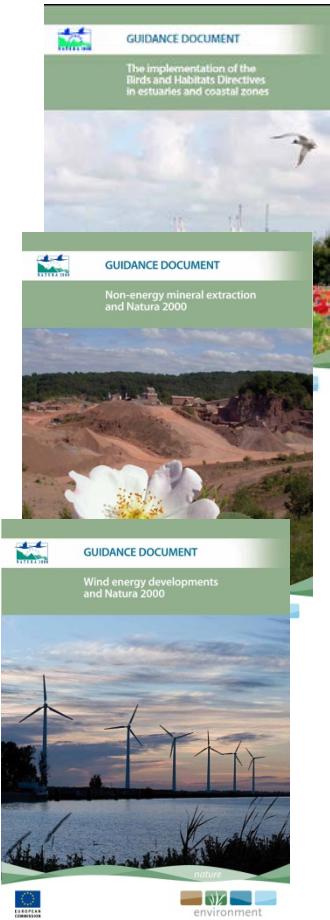
Fisheries measures for marine N2000

- *Area closures or restrictions to fishing gear taken (eg. Darwin Mounds)*
- *2009 COM guidelines on introducing requests for fisheries management measures under CFP*
- *Ongoing work in MSs (usually with assistance from ICES) to assess pressure from fisheries and propose measures*
 - A joint proposal for the Doggerbank is under preparation by DE, NL, UK (DK also involved)
 - NL preparing proposal for its remaining coastal sites, supported by fisheries sector and NGOs
- *COM actively monitoring/supporting such initiatives, esp. cooperation among MS*



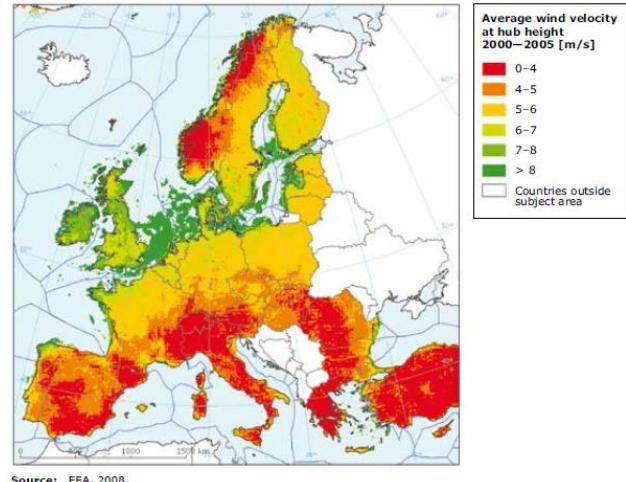
Dealing with sectoral plans and projects

- *Problems in application of Art 6 (complaints etc)*
- *COM recognises need for pro-active approach*
- *Sectoral specific guidelines by COM Services*
- *Prepared with the assistance of Working Group (Member States, Sectors and NGOs)*
- *Focus on reconciling development activities with Natura 2000 protection + good practice*
- *Each guidance document provides:*
 - Policy & legal framework,
 - Assess evidence of risk,
 - Examines strategic approaches to AA
 - Provides advice on project level AA



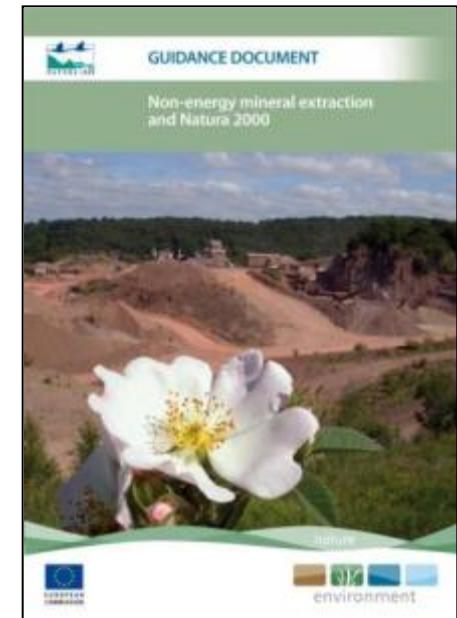
Guidance on wind energy

- *Very significant wind energy potential*
- *Wind power not incompatible with nature*
- *Appropriate siting of farms is critical*
- *Strategic planning over a broad geographical area minimises conflicts*
- *Value of wildlife sensitivity maps*
- *Need good assessment procedures, tools and standards*
- *Measure significance of effects in the context of the conservation objectives sites*



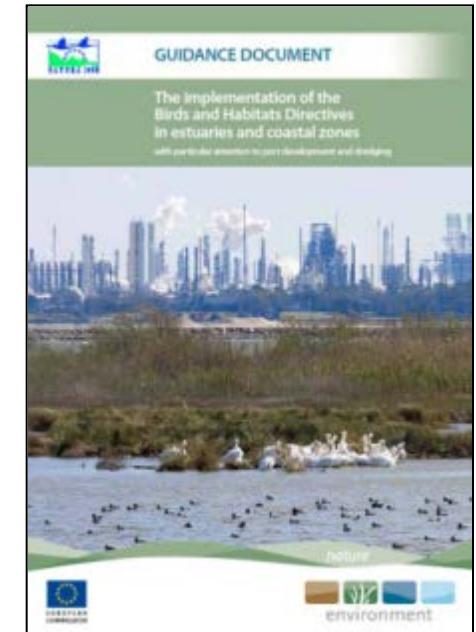
Guidance document on Non-Energy Extractive Industries and Natura 2000

- Triggered by *Communication on Raw Materials Initiative*
- Working Group (MS,NEEI sectors & NGOs)
- *how extraction activities can be reconciled with Natura 2000 + good practices*
 - Examines potential effects of mines/quarries
 - recognises positive practices,
 - emphasises strategic approach,
 - provides advice on AA
- *Marine spatial planning is a key instrument to address marine aggregate extraction in a strategic manner.*



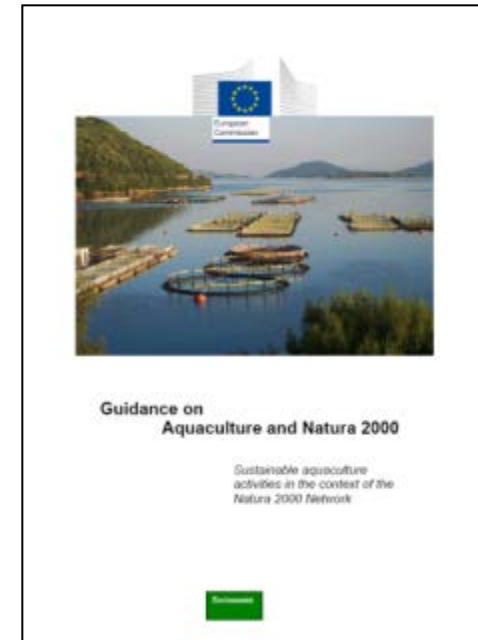
Guidance on estuaries and coastal zones with particular regard to ports

- *Underlines highly complex/dynamic nature of estuarine systems*
- *Recognises strategic economic role of ports*
- *Emphasises ‘working with nature’*
 - Design mutually beneficial strategies
 - Prevention/avoidance preferred to compensation
 - Pre-assessments to evaluate potential for impact
 - Thorough and timely stakeholder consultation
 - Maintenance of ports & navigation access in integrated management plans for entire waterway
 - Need pre-defined monitoring scheme



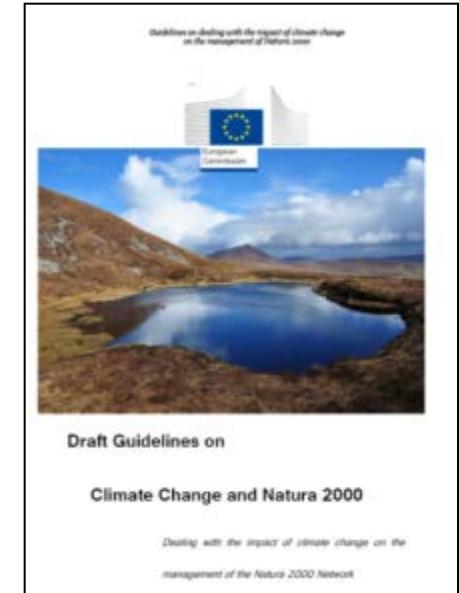
Guidance on Natura 2000 & Aquaculture

- Triggered by *need to boost sustainable development of aquaculture in EU*
- Need to ensure *level playing pitch among economic operators*
- *Underlines importance of strategic spatial planning for aquaculture (sensitivity mapping)*
- *Underlines key factors to prevent/reduce potential impacts, including:*
 - appropriate siting,
 - good management practices,
 - adequate mitigation



Guidance on Natura 2000 & climate change

- *Natura 2000 sites “space for nature”*
- *Part of EU’s “green infrastructure”, including strengthening ecological connectivity (Article 10 HD)*
- *need to reduce non-climate pressures & increase resilience to climate change*
 - improving quality and condition of sites through management or restoration activities
 - reducing impact of pressures in surrounding areas
 - buffering sites
 - where appropriate, enlarge sites
- *Recognise “dynamic nature”*
- *Monitor to distinguish between natural & climate effects & management failures*



Some Lessons

- *Socio-economic and Environmental goals not incompatible*
- *Natura 2000 is not about stopping development but ensuring sustainable use of nature*
- *Natura 2000 offers a tool for strategic spatial planning meeting conservation and societal needs*
- *Natura 2000 needs to be a participatory process & its success requires transparency, sincere dialogue & long-term commitments.*
- *Commitment of socio-economic sectors to N2000 goals must be acknowledged and rewarded*
- *Share innovation, data and experience between landowners, site users, site managers, other economic stakeholders and policy-makers within and across EU Member States – a lot of good practices around!*





For more information, please consult:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/index_en.htm

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