

Why a Conference on Promoting Natura 2000 & Sustainable Wildlife Use (hunting & angling)?



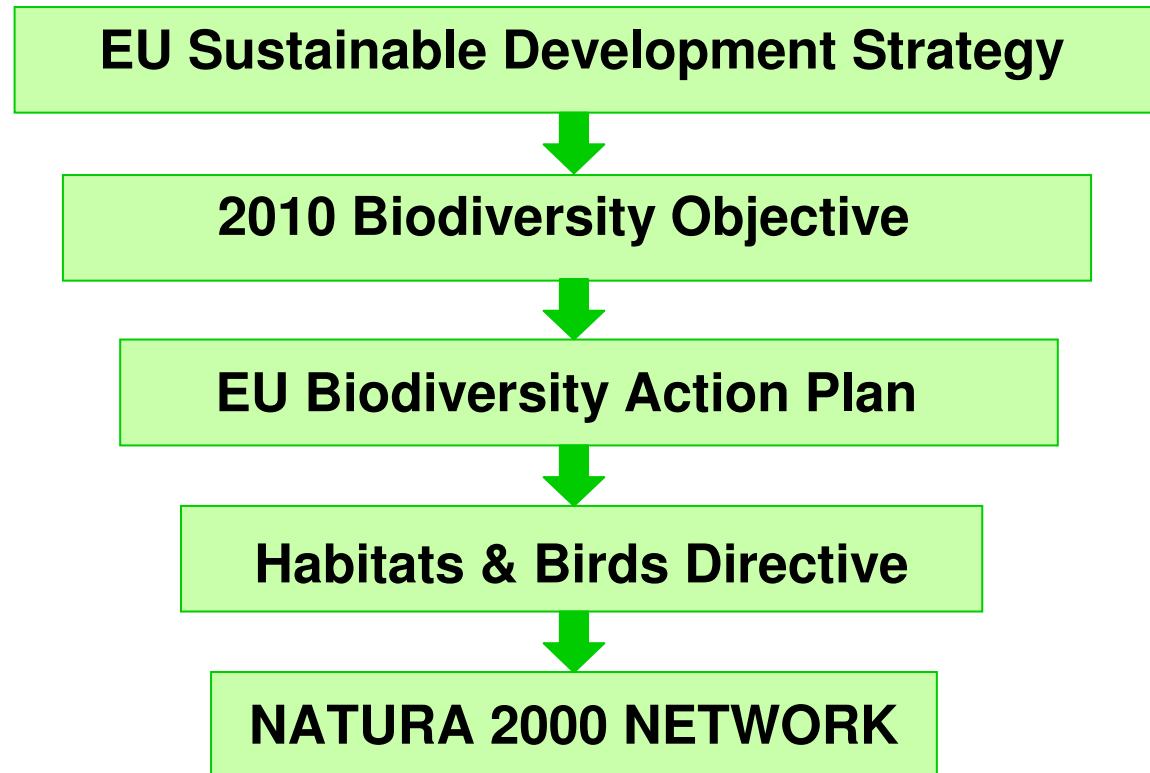
Conference at the European Commission, Brussels, 17th – 18th November 2009

Outline



1. EU Nature & biodiversity policy and legal context
2. Historical overview
3. The Project „Promoting Natura 2000 & Sustainable Wildlife Use“
4. The conference structure
5. Expectations

The EU Nature & Biodiversity Policy and legal context



The “cornerstone” for reaching the 2010 target

Natura 2000



HABITATS DIRECTIVE

National List of
proposed sites
(pSCI)

Sites of
Community
Importance (SCI)

Special Areas of
Conservation
(SAC)

BIRDS DIRECTIVE

Special
Protection Areas
(SPA)



NATURA 2000 NETWORK & EU “Nature Legislation”



- A key contribution to the general objective of maintenance and restoration of biodiversity
- A central policy to safeguard Europe’s most important wildlife areas
- A combination of species and habitats protection
- A way for Member States to work together irrespective of political and administrative boundaries.
- A network of over 26,000 sites that covers nearly 20 % of the EU territory

Sustainable Wildlife Use & Natura 2000



*“I would like to correct one of the **common misconceptions** about NATURA 2000 – which is that once a site is designated all economic activities have to stop. This is simply **not true** and it is unfortunate that this **myth** continues. The NATURA network consists of living landscapes in which farming, **fishing**, forestry and **hunting can continue.**”*



Stavros DIMAS – Commissioner for the Environment
EU Nature Policy – Challenges in a changing world
14th February 2008

Sustainable Wildlife Use & Natura 2000



The Commission recognises that:

- “..many of our favourable habitats are the result of traditional land use and their conservation is dependent on traditional practices and skills.”
- “..many sites in Natura 2000 network are valuable precisely because of the way they have been managed up to now. In such cases it will be important to ensure that these sorts of activities can continue into the future.”
- “..some of the most important wildlife sites in Europe have survived the pressures of development and destruction due to the interest of wildlife uses, such as hunting and angling.”

Sustainable Wildlife Use & Natura 2000



A clear win-win situation:

- The maintenance of habitats and species in NATURA 2000 sites often depends on properly managed wildlife use
- NATURA 2000 is an opportunity for wildlife users because
 - it helps preserving biodiversity and ecosystems
 - it provides the possibility for users to illustrate their investment and commitment for nature conservation
 - it provides financial opportunities for land owners and managers



It is in our all interest to preserve the European natural heritage with the active involvement of wildlife users!



Historical overview



- *The Sustainable Hunting Initiative (2001)*
- *Workshop on Sustainable hunting within and around the Natura 2000 network (April 2002)*
- *The El Teide Declaration (May 2002)*
- *“The Guidance Document on Hunting” (2004)*
- *“The FACE – BirdLife International Agreement” (October 2004)*
- *Awariness-raising programme (2006)*
- *Project of the Commission on Promotion of Natura 2000 in the community of wildlife recreational users (hunters and anglers) (August 2007)*
- *European Charter on Hunting and Biodiversity, Council of Europe (2007)*
- *“The Sustainable Wildlife Use Initiative” ?*

THE PROJECT:

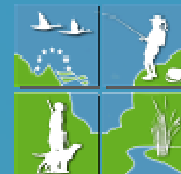


Promoting Natura 2000 & Sustainable Wildlife Use

- Run by FACE (*Federation of Association for Hunting and Conservation of the EU*)
- In partnership with ELO (the *European Landowners' Organization*)
- Supported and funded by the European Commission



Work programm



- Task 1 European Workshops
- Task 2 Assessment of the SHI
- Task 3 Sustainable Hunting and Angling Initiative?
- Task 4 Conference

Conference structure



- Session 1: EU policy framework & Natura 2000 – the role of wildlife users
- Session 2: Field trip
- Session 3: Communication initiatives & cooperation for sustainable use
- Session 4: Management initiatives & good practice

Expectations of the Conference:



Communication platform

- Dialogue: bringing stakeholders together on European level in order to act for Natura 2000
- Discussions: how to promote Natura 2000 as a tool for the local people and for wildlife users?
- Communication of good examples: learning from case studies
- Information and sharing knowledge: to provide better understanding of the challenges, opportunities and responsibilities a site implies
- Recognition of the contribution of each stakeholder in the management and preservation of sites

Expectations of the Conference



Future actions.....

- **Actively participating** in the drafting of the local management plan and in its implementation and monitoring
- **Looking for common interests or responsible compromises** between conservation measures and the management of habitats and huntable species
- **Take responsibility for and undertake those management operations** for which each has particular expertise and implementing exemplary management of habitats and huntable species
- **Raising awareness among the hunting community** for the importance of NATURA 2000 and the funding opportunities it presents

How can we proceed?



- **Establishment of similar initiatives at the national or subnational level (Member States facilitation role)**
- **Active participation in the current agendas of the various working groups at European level**
- **Creating a new platform: Sustainable Wildlife Use Initiative?**
- **Development of new communication activities, e.g. an award scheme to highlight good practices by wildlife users?**
- **Organising a next conference?**
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**The NATURA 2000 Network
has benefits for
and needs the active support of
all land users,
including hunters & anglers**

Thank you for your attention

Promoting NATURA 2000
& Sustainable Wildlife Use



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