Title

Natura 2000 sites are not “fenced-off” protected areas. On the contrary, they are often dependent on sustainable human activities and land-use that have shaped them and maintained them over the years. For each site, conservation objectives need to be set and management plans need to be designed, together with all interested stakeholders, for the targeted habitats and species. This process, if properly applied, allows discussion on how to best reach the common objectives and what this means for the individual types of land-use. This facilitates the buy-in of all concerned and can often prevent the typical “nature vs. economy” conflicts.

The development of management plans can also play a key role in showing the benefits of Natura 2000, for example for job creation, health, recreation, climate change adaptation etc. BirdLife has compiled examples from all over Europe to show how people benefit from wildlife. Read or download the publication "Wellbeing throught wildlife".

Related topics

- Scientific expertise for the benefit of society
- Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs) - Programme

- The Birds and Habitats Directive
- Natura 2000 designation
- Natura 2000 management
- Site protection
- EU Biodiversity Strategy
- Back to EU Nature & Biodiversity

Natura 2000 is the centrepiece of EU nature & biodiversity policy. It is an EU wide network of nature protection areas established under the 1992 Habitats Directive. The aim of the network is to ensure the long-term survival of Europe's most valuable and threatened species and habitats. More information.

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