

# A simple gesture to preserve Europe's richest nature sites ? contribute now!

## Title

On 21 May, the EU will celebrate the Natura 2000 Day for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year. **Natura 2000** is the network of Europe's richest nature sites, more than 26,000 remarkable places forming a total area of almost one million square kilometres.

A communication campaign led by SEO/BirdLife (BirdLife in Spain) and involving 17 BirdLife Partners aims to inform people about these sites and the threats to them: degradation, destruction and disturbance of the wildlife they are home to.

Within the campaign, all citizens are invited to upload a picture of themselves making the **?butterfly gesture?** with their hands on the **campaign website** to demonstrate their support to the Natura 2000 network and to nature protection in general. If the picture is published on Twitter, Facebook or Instagram, tag it with **#Natura2000Day!**

**To thank you for your gestures BirdLife Partners will run a conservation action in a Natura 2000 site every year.**

**This year, two conservation activities will be implemented in Doñana in Spain**, one of the most important sites of the Natura 2000 network in Europe. For each photo published, we will restore 25m<sup>2</sup> of 'La Rocina', the stream that represents the main water inflow of the Rocio marshes, and we will clear 16 grams of lead shotgun pellets from Doñana's sandy soils- enough to poison and kill 25 geese.

**The campaign is one key activity of the project *Life+ Natura 2000: connecting People with biodiversity*, launched by the Spanish organisations SEO/BirdLife and the news agency EFE last year. It calls for society to take action to become informed about ,and involved in, the conservation of the Natura 2000 network.**

**For more information visit the Natura 2000 day website: [www.natura2000day.eu](http://www.natura2000day.eu) or contact Beatriz Sánchez, SEO/BirdLife Coordinator of the Life+ Project 'Activa Red Natura'.**

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