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Natura 2000 Management Plan

Methodological Guide for drawing up the Management Plan

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Natura 2000 Management Plan

Methodological Guide for drawing up the Management Plan

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MAIA
Marine protected areas in the Atlantic arc

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3

Natura 2000 Management Plan

METHODOLOGICAL GUIDE FOR DRAWING UP THE MANAGEMENT PLAN

European Directives and the Natura 2000 Management Plan 7

I. Introduction to the Guide

I.1. Why this methodological guide? 9
I.2. Who is the guide aimed at? 9
I.3. How is the guide to be used? 9

II. Dialogue for Natura 2000

II.1. Basic features of dialogue 11
II.1.1. Some definitions 11
II.1.2. Dialogue issues 13
II.2. Coherence and clarity of concertation 13
II.2.1. Getting off to a good start together 14
I.2.2. Identifying the stakeholders 17
II.2.3. Organising the stakeholders and their relationships 19
II.2.4. Preparing and running the concertation process 24
II.2.5. Points to note 27
II.3. Knowing how to facilitate: the key to dialogue 29
II.3.1. From information to building the agreement 29
II.3.2. Facilitating meetings: points to watch 32
II.3.3. The facilitator's tools and positioning 34
II.4. Knowing how to communicate 37
II.4.1. Formulating messages 37
II.4.2. Choosing the communication tools 39
II.4.3. Planning communication 42

III. The Natura 2000 Management Plan (Docob)

III.1. General considerations 43
III.1.1. Legal framework 43
III.1.2. Management Plan layout 44
III.1.2.1. Main document 44
III.1.2.2. Complementary document 44
III.2. Scheduling 45
III.3.Presentation report 46
III.3.1. General information and physical characteristics 46
III.3.1.1. Site context 46
III.3.1.2. Site designation and management 47
III.3.1.3. Administrative data and protection measures 48
III.3.1.4. Abiotic Data 51
III.3.2. Mapping the habitats and species 53
III.3.2.1. Legal points concerning inventory and mapping 53
III.3.2.2. Preparing the fieldwork 55
III.3.2.3. Technical points to be taken into account 61
III.3.2.4. Mapping natural and semi-natural habitats 62
IIII.3.2.5. Mapping species and their habitats 64

III.3.2.6. Other heritage habitats and species 68
III.3.2.7. Formal presentation of the data 68
III.3.3. Ecological and functional analysis 74
III.3.4. Prioritising conservation issues 76
III.3.5. Socio-economic diagnosis 78
III.3.5.1. Who draws it up and at what stage? 78
III.3.5.2. Why do it? 79
III.3.5.3. Inventory of human activities 80
III.3.5.4. Analysis of activities and their impacts 82
III.3.5.5. How to present the information 85
III.3.5.6. Presenting socio-economic issues 85
II.4. Defining sustainable development objectives 86
III.5. Proposing measures of all kinds 89
III.5.1. Categories of measures 89
III.5.2. How to identify the measures to be proposed 92
III.5.3. Cost assessment and financing 97
III.5.4. Schedule for carrying out measures 100
III.5.5. Comment les présenter : la « fiche mesure » 100
III.6. Standard specifications for contractual measures 101
III.7. The Natura 2000 Charter: a tool to gain support for the Management Plan 102
III.8. Monitoring and Assessment of the Management Plan 107
III.8.1. General Framework 107
III.8.1.1. Legal Framework for Natura 2000 107
III.8.1.2. Assessment of the Management Plan 110
III.8.2. Methods for monitoring the measures 111
III.8.2.1. "Measurable" measures 112
III.8.2.2. Indicators for monitoring and evaluation 112
III.8.2.3. Tables and overviews 113
III.8.3. Assessment-reports for Management Plans 113
III.8.3.1. Annual report 113
III.8.3.2. Multi-annual assessment 114
III.8.3.3. A tool for monitoring Management Plans: SUDOCO 115

List of Appendices 117

French abbreviations and acronyms 119

European Directives and the Natura 2000 Management Plan

Natura 2000: the European network and the French approach to its implementation

The European Natura 2000 network has 26 616 sites, amounting to about 17% of the land area of the European Union (figures from the European Topic Centre, June 2008). Its objective is to contribute to the preservation of biological diversity within the territory of the 27 Member States. It aims to ensure that the favourable conservation status of natural habitats and habitats which support species of flora and fauna of Community interest is maintained or restored. The ambition of Natura 2000 is to harmonise human activities and biodiversity commitments using a synergistic approach based on the principles of sustainable development. In France, the two Directives have been incorporated into French law. The designation of the network terrestrial sites was completed in 2007; the marine network is till in the process of being designated. At the present date, the Natura 2000 network consists of 1752 sites - 1368 SACs and 384 SPAs - totalling about 12.5% of the national land area (2011 figures from the French N2000 web portal [natura2000.fr])

See Appendix 35 "Map of French marine Natura 2000 sites";

Tools for managing Natura 2000 sites

1 – Some tools are of a statutory nature, part of existing systems for controlling and prohibiting certain human activities.
2 – Others are of a contractual nature, sometimes drawn up specifically (Natura 2000 charters and contracts)
3 – Other tools are preventive: the system of impact evaluation (a Community obligation) enables the effects of an activity on a Natura 2000 site to be assessed beforehand, in such a way as to avoid any significant damage without having to resort to a general ban.

The management planning authority in charge of drawing up the Natura 2000 Management Plan (Document d'objectifs, Docob) should endeavour to create favourable conditions for dialogue, leading to consensus and the uptake of objectives by the stakeholders concerned, which are key factors in any successful management project. The authority must carry out an objective and precise inventory of the natural heritage and prioritise an effective and realistic action plan. The aim is not to create a highly scientific Management Plan containing as much information as possible, but rather that the conservation status of the habitats and species of community interest, which led to the designation of the site, should be maintained or even improved.

The "Birds" and "Habitats, Fauna and Flora" Directives

Natura 2000 sites are designated by each Member State in the framework of two European directives: the "Birds" Directive 79/409/CEE of 2 April 1979 for the conservation of wild birds, and the "Habitats, Fauna and Flora" Directive 92/43/CEE of 21 May 1992 for the conservation of natural habitats and wild fauna and flora. Special Protection Areas (SPAs) are sites designated under the Birds Directive, while Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) are those resulting from the Habitats, Flora and Fauna Directive.

France has opted to use a combination of statutory, contractual and administrative tools. It has sought to favour a consensual approach, relying on contractual management of sites, in a spirit of collaboration. However the balance between the different categories of tools still needs to be defined on a case by case basis, in association with the partners and based on a detailed understanding of the activities involved and their effects on natural habitats and species.

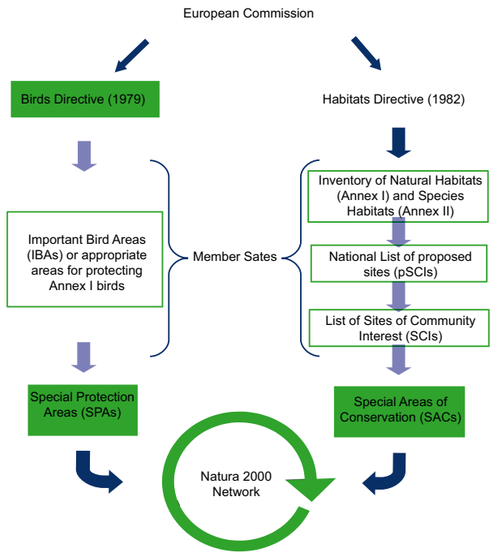
Hautes Chaumes Forez, steering committee meeting. © Cren Rhône-Alpes

Why draw up a Management Plan?

The Natura 2000 Management Plan (in French Document d'objectifs or "Docob"), which is the result of dialogue between the stakeholders and users associated with the site, is the management document for:
- implementing all measures required for the conservation of the site;
- signing contracts and charters;
- drawing up agreements between the various stakeholders involved in the process;
- assessing the management of the site;
- assessing the conservation status of the listed habitats and species;
- assessing the impact of any development projects.

It describes the state of the natural heritage on the site, by making an inventory and mapping the habitats and species covered by the European Birds and Habitats, Fauna and Flora Directives. This description, combined with a description of human uses and activities, forms as basis for defining:
- the issues involved;
- the sustainable development objectives;
- the management measures to be undertaken at the site.

The dialogue between all the stakeholders involved in the management of the site is intended to enable the setting up of multifunctional management while taking better account of the species and habitats of Community interest that caused the site to be designated.
Concerning the Management Plans of mainly marine sites containing land areas, it is important to be consistent vis-à-vis land and sea.
The management planning or implementing authority should consult the regional directorate of the environment ministry to decide how to formalise documents: perhaps by means of a Management Plan containing both a land-sea interface section and a section pertaining exclusively to the sea.

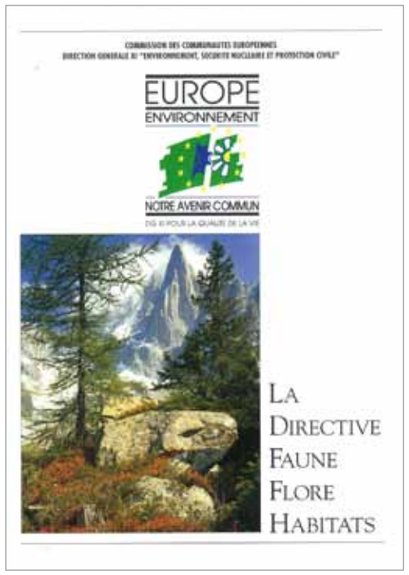


Constitution du réseau Natura 2000

Drawing up the Management Plan in the light of the Directives

The Management Plan should be drawn up in function of the habitats and species of Community interest which have been the reason for designating the site. This means:
- for an SAC: the natural habitats in Annex I and the species (and their habitats) in Annex II of the "Habitats, Fauna and Flora" Directive;
- for an SPA: the species in Annex I of the "Birds" Directive and migratory species together with their habitats.

If the site is related to both directives, two Management Plans are officially necessary (clear identification of the official content of the Management Plan for each site). The management planning authority should consult the regional directorate of the environment ministry (DREAL) to decide on how to deal with synergistic questions during the running of the project and formalisation of documents.



Introduction to the Guide

The Guide is for the use of all organisations charged with producing or revising Natura 2000 Management Plans: designated authorities, management planning authorities and/or service providers, implementing authorities. It provides a frame of reference intended to create an effective degree of coherence between the Management Plans produced, at national level.

I.1. Why this methodological guide?

See Appendix 1 "Bibliographical and legal references"

The objective of the guide is to provide the designated authorities and management planning authorities involved in terrestrial or marine Natura 2000 sites with the methodological elements required for drawing up or revising Management Plans. It is inspired by examples from Natura 2000 sites at national, regional and local level. It conforms to the obligatory standard pattern (laid down in the Environment Code) and includes legal developments associated with the implementation of the Natura 2000 system in France.

Editor's note

This guide is a rewritten version of the "Methodological Guide for Natura 2000 Management Plans", produced by the Association of French Nature Reserves (RNF) and ATEN (1998) following the establishment of the terrestrial sites network in 2007.
Its production forms part of the series of actions planned for by the Natura 2000 technical platform, coordinated by ATEN (Atelier technique des espaces naturels).
The parts covering marine areas are the result of additional work carried out by ATEN and the Marine Protected Areas Agency within a workgroup formed by the consultation committee on marine protected areas.

I.2. Who is the guide aimed at?

The Guide is principally intended for the management planning authorities and implementing authorities of terrestrial and marine Natura 2000 sites responsible for drawing up or revising the Management Plan. In addition to those principally concerned, in charge of its production or revision, other organisations or members of the Steering Committee (Copil) may also find it useful:
- broad-based administrative authorities such as regional or departmental prefectures, maritime prefectures, and regional or departmental directorates;
- public institutions involved with the sea: French Marine Protected Areas Agency (AAMP), IFREMER, EPSHOM, etc.- local authorities: Communes, Departments, Regions and public institutions for inter-commune cooperation;
- regional scientific council for the natural heritage (CSPRN) and other scientists.

I.3. How is the guide to be used?

The Guide is a frame of reference which needs to be adapted to each site according to its characteristics: existing data, complexity, size, conservation issues. It sets out a methodology which is based on feedback from experiences and illustrations in the form of diagrams or inserts.

Part 1 - Dialogue for Natura 2000
- the basic features of dialogue concerning the Natura 2000 site for drawing up the Management Plan;
- the development of a consultation-based approach that is coherent and comprehensible;
- knowing how to facilitate: the key to dialogue;
- knowing how to communicate: a tool for territorial dialogue.

Part 2 – The Natura 2000 Management Plan
In six sections:
- introductory remarks: general information and physical characteristics, mapping of habitats and species, ecological and functional description, issues, socio-economic assessment;
- definition of sustainable development objectives;
- setting out measures of all kinds;
- standard specifications for contractual measures;
- Natura 2000 Charter;
- monitoring and evaluation of the Management Plan.

These sections, which are obligatory, are defined in Article R414-11 of the Environment Code.

Whenever Natura 2000 sites include marine areas, the rules and stakeholders change. The inventory methods, measures proposed, scales and other processes to be taken into account are different. The administrative regulations for setting up Steering Committees for mainly marine Natura 2000 sites are laid down in the 19 October 2010 circular on the setting up of steering committees and the drawing up and implementation monitoring of Management Plans.
Throughout the Guide we use this icon XXX to identify the sections specific to marine habitats:
Given the novel and experimental nature of the implementation of Natura 2000 at sea, regular updating will be required in function of feedback from those involved.

Dialogue for Natura 2000

The approach we propose is the result of several years of territorial concertation, combining theoretical input on the art of mediation with practical experience in the field, especially in the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region (PACA). It combines the local development approach with mediation-based territorial management.

II.1. Basic features of dialogue

II.1.1. Some definitions

Territorial dialogue

The term territorial dialogue is used as an equivalent to social dialogue when it refers to promoting the management of an area of land (territory) by means of two essential components: concertation and communication.

See Appendix 2 "Territorial dialogue, concertation and communication".

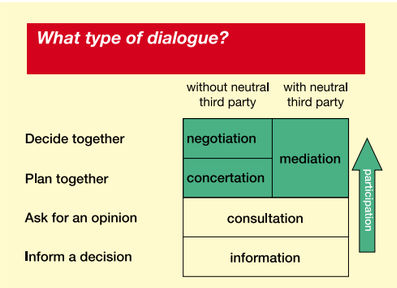
Concertation

Concertation is a methodical process, carried out over time, whose aim is to achieve agreement in order to act in a concerted way. It comprises both formal and informal aspects, enabling the various stakeholders, both institutional and local, to meet within appropriate concertation bodies to discuss and debate, eventually resulting in the development of co-constructed solutions.

With regard to Natura 2000, there are:
- formal concertation phases, which take place within the Steering Committee (Copil), thematic or geographic workgroups and, in the case of marine sites, concertation bodies for each maritime façade (North Sea/Channel, Atlantic, Mediterranean).
- informal communication, which also feeds into concertation: interpersonal links such as casual encounters, e-mails and telephone conversations should not be ignored, because they all contribute to building up the Natura 2000 structure.

Although each stakeholder has a greater or lesser degree of power in building the decision-making process, together they can take on board the relevant ideas. But there will always be one decision-maker (or several) who, in the light of the concertation process, will make the final choices and take on the responsibility by signing his or her name.

See Section II.2.3 "Organising the stakeholders and their relationships".



Source : Geyser, 2008

Some specific features of concertation concerning marine Natura 2000 sites (19 October 2010 circular):
- Steering Committees of existing terrestrial or mixed sites will tend to be inflated by new marine stakeholders;
- inter-site approaches will be required when sites are ecologically linked or the same stakeholders are involved;
- the French coastline is administered in three façades (Channel, Atlantic and Mediterranean), which must be taken into account because that is the scale of sea-use planning and coordination used

by the maritime prefects;
- coordination is required with existing marine protected areas of other types.

Concerning the setting up of marine parks, the exact boundaries of the park have not yet been determined. The partners likely to sit on the Steering Committee of the Natura 2000 site are included in the concertation committee under the aegis of the coordinating prefects, in the framework of the Mission d'étude (body responsible for carrying out the studies required prior to setting up the park). The Mission d'étude, together with the concertation body, draws up the first parts of the Management Plan (presentation report and sustainable development objectives), ensuring that Natura 2000 issues are explicitly taken into account by the natural heritage workgroups. When a Natura 2000 site is mainly situated within the boundaries of the core area of a national park, the administrative council of the national park's state institution draws up the Management Plan, which takes the form of an implementation document for the charter of the national park. The state institution of the national park performs the missions concerning the management of the Natura 2000 site that are usually assigned to the Natura 2000 site steering committee and must include in the charter implementation document the constitutive items mentioned in R.414-11 of the French Environment Code. For other protected areas (national nature reserves, regional natural parks, Conservatoire du Littoral sites), management tools need to be set up in a coordinated and coherent manner in order to avoid having different measures and requests for the same objectives.

The seven rules for concertation and public debate

1 - Establish sustained links between the head of the project and the stakeholders (maintain communication outside peak concertation periods).
2 - Draw up the rules of the game.
3 - Show a genuine willingness to listen.
4 - Ensure there is room for disagreement.
5 - Discuss the underlying causes before discussing solutions.
6 - Maintain flexibility in the system.
7 - Make sure the necessary time and resources are allocated to concertation.

Communication

Concertation forms the core of the dialogue within a given territory; communication is an interactive process between two or more people: dialogue, concertation and communicative actions should not be confused.

See Section II.4 "Knowing how to communicate". See Appendix 2 "Territorial dialogue, concertation and communication".

Concertation builds on communicative actions in a continuous way in order to mobilise, stimulate and support the involvement of the various stakeholders. These actions inform, educate and feed into concertation (or negotiation), and facilitate decision-making.

See Section II.4 "Knowing how to communicate".

Most importantly, co-construction of the approach can only take place if there is effective, on-going communication.

Two types of communication need to be distinguished:
- internal communication with the stakeholders taking an active part in producing the Natura 2000 Management Plan (Docob), within ad-hoc concertation bodies. Its objective is to make sure that the content of the Management Plan is understood, accepted and supported, in compliance with the issues of the Natura 2000 network. It enables work to be organised and the "production process" to be carried out, and also supplies the members with the information they need and keeps their knowledge up to date;
- external communication, which is aimed at a wider audience: representatives of institutions, territorial managers, the population as a whole and experts. Its aim is to inform, encourage participation in the concertation process and influence participants' attitudes to the Natura 2000 approach.

See Section II.2.3 "Organising the stakeholders and their relationships".

II.1.2. Dialogue issues

Dialogue is the driving force enabling the achievement of the double objective of conserving or even restoring biodiversity, and contributing to sustainable territorial development. When well-conducted, with genuine concertation phases, it addresses the following four issues:
- strengthening local democracy;
- optimising public actions and making decisions that are in the general interest;
- facilitating the uptake and taking on board of the process;
- resolving conflicts.

While the first two issues relate to good overall governance, the others are of a directly practical nature. For Natura 2000, the approach will not succeed unless the stipulated measures are effectively carried out (planning documents produced in good order and contracts signed), i.e. if the managers are convinced of the suitability of the proposals concerned, whether in terms of maintaining biodiversity or of how they themselves are directly affected in the field.

Concertation issues

Strengthening local democracy:
- respecting citizens' rights of self-expression and participation;
- strengthening the basis of representative democracy: elected representatives are well-informed for making decisions;
- creating social links.

Promoting the most favourable public actions and arriving at decisions in the general interest:
- making use of the experiences of local stakeholders;
- saving time and money by avoiding mistakes and re-thinking;
- tailoring actions to local needs.

Facilitating acceptance and encouraging participation:
- making local stakeholders responsible through exchange of knowledge and co-construction;
- creating a favourable atmosphere by considering different interests;
- minimising hostile reactions.

Resolving conflicts:
- by choosing to manage them rather than ignore them;
- by seeking to minimise sources of disagreement.

(Source : Territorial éditions)

Docob Urugne. Crédit: Biotope.

II.2. Coherence and clarity of concertation

Concertation is a process that extends over time and requires a methodical approach. It will therefore be necessary to detail how it proceeds. The project manager in charge of coordinating the production of the Natura 2000 Management Plan (and his/her colleagues) is aware of the concertation framework involved: a steering committee (Copil) to convene regularly; working groups to be organised; limited time and financial resources.

II.2.1. Getting off to a good start together

Certain stakeholders, or groups of stakeholders, manage the Natura 2000 process and guide the dialogue: they are the mainstays of the production of the Management Plan (Docob).

What is a Designated Authority?

For mainly terrestrial Natura 2000 sites:

- During the phase when the Management Plan is being drawn up, the Designated Authority (in French Structure porteuse) is the local authority, or grouping of local authorities, designated to manage the drawing up of the Management Plan by all the local authorities represented on the Steering Committee;
- During the phase when the Management Plan is being implemented on the site, the Designated Authority is the local authority, or grouping of local authorities, designated to implement the Management Plan by all the local authorities represented on the Steering Committee,

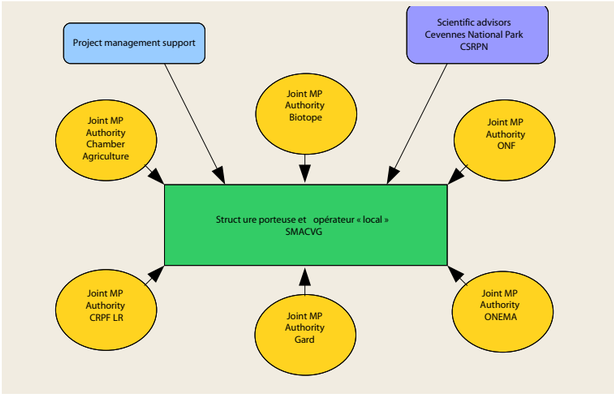
For mainly marine Natura 2000 sites:

- During the phase when the Management Plan for a Natura 2000 site is being drawn up, the Designated Authority is made up of the member(s) of the Steering Committee designated by the State to draw up the Management Plan, based on the proposition of the members of the Steering Committee;
- During the phase when the Management Plan is being implemented on the site, the Designated Authority is made up of the organisations(s) represented on the Steering Committee designated by the State to monitor and implement the Management Plan;

Whether the site is mainly terrestrial or marine:

If the State undertakes to draw up the Management Plan, or monitor its implementation, the State (or a public institution representing the State) is the Designated Authority;

The Designated Authority is therefore responsible for drawing up the Management Plan or monitoring its implementation and receives the funding dedicated to those objectives. The term Designated Authority is thus juridical in nature, derived from the French Environment Code.



Example N2000 Management Plan "Galeizon Valley" (FR9101369) Gard – Lozère, Languedoc-Roussillon Region

Examples of Management Plan Setups

Example of the "Prairies du Fouzon" SPA (FR2410015) located in the Loir-et-Cher Department in the Centre Region.

In the Centre Region, project management for drawing up Management Plans remains very largely the responsibility of the Centre Region DIREN (Regional Directorate for the Environment).The DIREN therefore acts as Designated Authority at the "Prairies du Fouzon" site. It has designated two Management Planning Authorities to produce the Natura 2000 Management Plan (Docob):

- a local "principal" Management Planning Authority, the Centre Region Natural Heritage Conservatory, responsible for drawing up the Management Plan as a whole,
- and a joint Management Planning Authority (or technical Management Planning Authority), the Chamber of Agriculture of the Loir-et-Cher Department, responsible for economic assessment and making proposals concerning agricultural activities.

Each organisation has allocated a member of staff to the task of producing the Management Plan. The production of the Management Plan therefore results from combining the complementary skills of two organisations at a site where there are significant agricultural and ecological issues.

Source: Frédéric Breton, Director of the Conservatoire du patrimoine naturel de la région Centre, 2008

«Prairies du Fouzon» © F. Barreau, CEN Centre

(See next section)

What is a Management Planning Authority? An Implementing Authority?

These terms are technical in nature.

The Management Planning Authority (in French Opérateur) is the organisation that draws up the Management Plan of a site. Either the Designated Authority draws up the Management Plan itself, and is thus also the Management Planning Authority, or it delegates all or part of the drawing up of the Management Plan to an external service provider, which then becomes the Management Planning Authority. Sometimes there is more than one Management Planning Authority, each with its particular responsibilities, in which case they are called "joint management planning authorities" or "technical Management Planning Authorities" (co-opérateurs or opérateurs techniques).

The Implementing Authority (in French Animateur) is the organisation that monitors the implementation of the Management Plan of a site. Either the Designated Authority monitors the implementation of the Management Plan itself, and is thus also the Implementing Authority, or it delegates the implementation to an external service provider, which then becomes the Implementing Authority.

Each Management Planning Authority or Implementing Authority designates one of its members as Coordinating Project Manager to facilitate the project and make proposals to the local steering committee. The Coordinating Project Manager carries out his/her mission in compliance with the specifications laid down by the State.

Examples of marine setups

- In Brittany: the Steering Committee of the Penmarc'h site FR5302008 (a new completely marine site,) is chaired by the maritime prefect, and the local Guilvinec Sea Fishing Committee has been designated as Management Planning Authority. The CRPMEM itself draws up the management plan and is thus also the planning authority.
- At the mixed land-sea Esterel site (code FR9301628) in the PACA Region, despite being almost 50% marine, the commune of the town of Saint-Raphaël remains Management Planning Authority and its mayor presides the Steering Committee. Other planning authorities may also be designated, specifying the main authority and the joint authority.
- In the Nord-Pas-de Calais region, the Dunkirk maritime port authority is the main planning authority, working with the Nord-Pas de Calais – Picardie regional sea fishing committee.
- For the Palavas Coast site in the Hérault (FR9101413), Languedoc-Roussillon region, The Marine Protected Areas Agency is the main planning authority on behalf of the State, working with Regional Fishing Committee, as joint planning authority. The maritime prefect and departmental prefect co chair the steering committee.

The Coordinating Project Manager

The Coordinating Project Manager is the key player in concertation, in conjunction with the Management Planning Authority and certain members of the Steering Committee or their representatives.

- Employed by the Management Planning Authority, he or she undertakes the overall supervision of the project and puts forward proposals to the Steering Committee.

Field visit. © MEEDDAT

- He or she is in charge of the production of the Management Plan, facilitation activities, consulting scientific experts, carrying out surveys, etc.
- He or she works in close association with the Natura 2000 project managers of the Departmental Public Works and Agriculture Directorate (DDEA) and Regional Directorate for Environment, Planning and Housing (DREAL) or, in the case of marine sites, with the Regional Directorate for Environment, Planning and Housing (DREAL), the Inter-Regional Marine Directorate (DIRM) and the local branch of the Marine Protected Areas Agency (AAMP).

A unit for collective facilitation

On the part of the project manager there must be a commitment to co-construction, with a need to adopt that state of mind from the outset. To achieve this, the best way to proceed is to bring together a few close partners, from the organisations most closely involved, and create a small informal facilitation unit, sometimes known as a technical committee. This unit has three objectives:

- to think together: people are strengthened and work more intelligently in a group; ideas gel, decisions mature;
- to provide technical and strategic support for the whole process;
- to facilitate concertation between the Management Planning Authority and the institutions involved.

This internal concertation is important: it ensures that the various departments act in a co-ordinated way at decisive moments (lack of co-ordination among departments undermines the credibility of the concertation process). There may be a high degree of freedom regarding the composition of this facilitation unit. In order for it to work well, there must be continual communication - both internal and external.

Nobody is to be forgotten

It is essential to take the time to establish a list of stakeholders or groups of stakeholders to be invited for concertation. Any stakeholder, or resident, can legitimately become involved to some degree in the Natura 2000 process, simply by reason of their links with the territory concerned. Making sure no one is left out is a good way of avoiding any resentment among local stakeholders about not having been taken into consideration, thereby helping to minimise any opposition.

The Facilitation Unit

In addition to the Natura 2000 co-ordinating project manager, the facilitation unit may include the following be members:

- the project manager's direct superior or one of his/her colleagues;
- a local elected representative to act as contact person, a member of the Steering Committee;
- the DDT Natura 2000 project manager;
- the DREAL Natura 2000 project manager;
- the DIRM Natura 2000 project manager;
- the Natura 2000 contact at the Prefecture, if there is one;
- a scientific and technical expert in inventories and mapping;
- one or more influential or qualified local persons.

NB: taking people into consideration means welcoming others, working towards mutual understanding, and so facilitating acceptance of the approach and support for the project. The opposite approach generates frustration and conflict.

Non-exhaustive) list of Natura 2000 stakeholders

- Agents and technical officers from local authorities
- Farmers/stockbreeders
- Developers
- Nature protection associations
- Associations for nature protection
- Ship-owners
- Quarry operators
- Mineral extractors
- Hunters
- Underwater hunters
- Departmental Sports committees (climbers, ramblers, cavers etc.)
- Shellfish farmers
- Local elected representatives
- State institutions: Marine Protected Areas Agency, water agencies, etc.
- Experts
- Foresters (public and private)
- Managers of natural areas
- Local residents
- Industrialists
- Naturalists
- Anglers, Amateur or sport fishermen
- Professional fishermen
- Tourism, port and windfarm professionals
- Landowners and their assignees
- Scientists and researchers: MNHN, IFREMER , CBN, etc
- State departments: DREAL, maritime façade DREAL, maritime prefectures, DIRM
-River syndicates, etc

Scientific and technical support bodies and organisations

There are scientific and technical support bodies and organisations, charged by the State to implement the Natura 2000 policy, which can be mobilised by the Management Planning Authority to help carry out its mission:

- The regional scientific advisory committees on the natural heritage (CSRPN) are charged with the scientific monitoring and validation of Natura 2000 Management Plans (Docob) for both land and sea. In the Provence- Alpes- Côte d'Azur Region (PACA), contact persons are nominated by the CSRPN who monitor the work of the Management Planning Authorities very closely. The maritime contact persons of the PACA CSRPN meet regularly with those of the whole Mediterranean Façade to deal with any questions whose impact is not limited to the PACA Region.
- The National Botanical Conservatories (CBN), of which there are10 in European France, provide technical support to the network of Natura 2000 sites, particularly with regard to biological inventories of the flora present, and of natural or semi-natural habitats.
- The Marine Protected Areas Agency (AAMP) is a public institution with branches for each maritime façade. It provides support to Natura 2000 Management Planning Authority, notably by collecting information and making it available, and setting up experimental techniques. In some cases, the Agency is also Management Planning Authority or Implementing Authority of Natura 2000 sites. In addition, it is responsible for the creation commissions of marine natural parks and for those marine natural parks that manage Natura 2000 sites.
- The National Natural History Museum (MNHN) is the scientific contact body for the French Ecology Ministry concerning terrestrial and marine Natura 2000 sites: its on-going marine Natura 2000 projects include typology, conservation status and mapping.
- The French Research Institute for the Exploitation of Marine Resources (IFREMER) provides expertise on marine sites;
- The Atelier technique des espaces naturels (ATEN) is an umbrella organisation that brings together the heads of the various natural area management networks in France. It is charged by the French Ecology Ministry with carrying out the technical facilitation of the network of Natura 2000 sites by providing, for example, training programmes, exchange workshops and forums, planning and assessment tools, and a site directory.

II.2.2. Identifying the stakeholders

The project manager, in association with the facilitation unit, might identify the following categories of stakeholders:

Representatives of institutions

This category includes the representatives of State departments – departmental and regional prefectures, maritime prefectures, DDEA, DREAL and DIRM - and of para-public institutions such as the National Office of Forests (ONF), National Office for Hunting and Wildlife (ONCFS), Marine Protected Areas Agency (AAMP) (with a branch for each maritime façade) etc. and chambers of commerce, guilds or

agriculture. They create a link between the different stakeholders from local society, but also with the State. They relay information and some have a role as technical or political resource persons or even experts. They can be found on the steering committee, in workgroups or in the facilitation unit.

When the Natura 2000 site is entirely situated below the low water mark, the management of the site is led by the maritime prefect. In all other cases the site is co-managed by the maritime and departmental prefects.
In general, the maritime prefect coordinates at Maritime Façade level for marine areas included in Natura 2000 sites through:
- concertation with partners
- checking the composition of the steering committee
- ensuring that stakeholders are treated fairly and the management measures are coherent.

Managers and users of the territory

This category includes the stakeholders and groups of stakeholders who interact directly with the management of the territory through their decisions or actions:
- local elected representatives (the best contacts with the community);
- landowners;
- farmers and stock breeders;

See Section II.2.3 "Knowing how to facilitate: the key to dialogue"

Marine stakeholders involved in site management

- Concerning the site of Mont Saint Michel Bay, a long and gradual process to associate stakeholders with the Natura 2000 process has enabled it to be integrated into connected territorial projects: water planning and management schemes (SAGE), integrated management of the coastal zone, etc., enhanced the participation of the stakeholders involved in all the current measures, and brought together the marine and terrestrial stakeholders – fishermen and women, shellfish farmers, and local authorities.
- Even long-distance users or users of several sites should be able to participate.
- French waters are accessible to fishermen and women from the other Member States throughout the EEZ and, according to their historical rights, within the band of 6-12 nautical miles. Joint Consultative Committees (JCCs) have been set up by the European Commission to facilitate dialogue between members of the fishing industry. These bodies should be informed at all stages of the Natura 2000 process and associated in the definition of any fishing measures. The site stakeholders those come from an extremely broad area, and the language barrier needs to be taken into account.
- It is important to preserve the right representative balance between the various participating parties and to ensure their legitimacy and the correct level of representation. For example, there needs to be the right degree of representation of members of the fishing industry in the Steering Committee (Copil) and workgroups at national (CNPMEM), regional (CRPMEM) and local (CLPMEM) level.
- For diffuse stakeholders (shellfish gathering, sea angling, etc.), efforts need to be made to ensure better representation.

In the Public Maritime Domain, there are no owners or assignees as with land property because the PMD belongs to the public domain of the State, and it is important to note that:
- uses are regulated and managed even though the principle of free access to the public domain is guaranteed;
- utilisation of the PMD for temporary exploitation purposes requires specific rights-of-use in the form of concessions, «temporary occupation authorisations» (AOT) or mining claims;
- the Conservatoire du littoral may be the controlling or appointed authority of PMD areas in line with an intervention strategy coherent with its terrestrial properties.

See Appendix 36 "Approaches to concertation: examples of Mont-Saint-Michel Bay and Porquerolles"

Participants and facilitators (1)

- **Representativeness and legitimacy**

Issues concerning the choice of stakeholders :

- ***Should be an effective spokesperson for his/her group***
- ***Should be able to work with other people***
- ***Should be available for meetings***
- ***Should care about the subject***
- ***Should be recognised as a legitimate representative by his/her group and the other partners***

Source : Geyser, 2008

Fishing and shellfish farming on the Etang de Thau (Hérault). Mathias Prat © Biotope

The choice of experts

The choice of which experts to involve in Natura 2000 is no insignificant matter; they must be regarded as credible and legitimate. To this end:
- they must be recognised as being competent in their field;
- they must be accepted by all the various parties, i.e. they must not be suspected of any bias;
- they must be skilled in teaching, communicating and … listening!

See Section II.4 "Knowing how to communicate"

- fishermen and women;
- fish and shellfish farmers ;
- foresters;
- industrialists (quarry proprietors, hydroelectric syndicates, wind power developers, marine aggregate dredgers, operators of pipelines carrying dangerous substances etc.);
- associations of users of the territory: hunting, fishing, tourism, etc.

They should be represented on the steering committee, and some of them are members by right. They take part in the workgroups via their intermediary representatives. They have a long-term interest in Natura 2000 since it is with them that the objectives and the management measures will be drawn up.

Scientific and technical experts

They may be from outside the area or may be locally resident; they may be volunteers or may be appointed – and thus paid – for specific jobs. Their task is to provide all the technical or scientific knowledge required for the process they have come to support. Whether they be agronomists, biologists, ecologists or officials, from the private sector or from associations: they are highly involved in surveying and monitoring, in collaboration with the facilitation unit. They should also be present in a more specifically targeted manner to provide the benefit of their knowledge at:
- workgroups, to help produce the most appropriate proposals;
- the Steering Committee (Copil), to provide support for validation and decision-making.

It is important from the very beginning to involve any local stakeholders who can provide their own particular expertise, which is often very pertinent being derived from knowledge acquired in the field.

The Community

It is essential to establish direct communication between the project manager (and the members of the facilitation unit) and the residents of the Natura 2000 site. The project manager must therefore think at an early stage about the methods to be developed to provide residents with information and encourage some of them to become involved, particularly in the workgroups, where they will act as intermediaries for their peers. In this context, ideally speaking, a policy for information and

Steering Committee (Montselgues – Ardèche). © Meeddat

communication with the local community should be set up. It is this that will promote acceptance of the Natura 2000 process and enable it to succeed.

II.2.3. Organising the stakeholders and their relationships

Once identified the stakeholders, the project manager (or facilitation unit) needs to give each one its rightful place: to draw up the "map" for dialogue by selecting the various pieces of the puzzle, specifying their respective roles, and organising their relationships.

See Appendix 3 "Example of the composition of a steering committee".

Setting up the Steering Committee, the official concertation body

The Steering Committee (Comité de pilotage, Copil), which is set up by the Prefect, is the premier organ of concertation, debate and validation in the Natura 2000 process. It includes members under public and private law; it needs to bring together the representatives of institutions and all the categories of local stakeholders affected by the Natura 2000 site. It must remain open to those who might initially have been overlooked or who ask to be considered.

Since the passing of the law on Rural Land Development (DTR Law of February 2005), local elected representatives have a leading role in the political leadership and implementation of Natura 2000. The elected representatives on the Steering Committee designate its chairperson and a local authority (or grouping of local authorities) to take charge of the project supervision in the production of the Management Plan (Docob) and its implementation. Failing that, it is the State which becomes project supervisor, the Prefect taking on the chairmanship of the Steering Committee.

Composition of the Steering Committee (Copil)

The Steering Committee is made up of ex-officio members together with any other persons under public or private law chosen by the Prefect.

The ex-officio members are the representatives of the local authorities together with the owners and exploiters of the rural properties included in the site.

In particular, the committee membership can be supplemented by representatives of public works concession-holders, infrastructure management institutions, chambers of commerce, guilds or agriculture, professional farming or forestry organisations, organisations involved in hunting, fishing, sport and tourism, nature protection associations and expert consultants.

When the Natura 2000 site partly includes lands controlled by the Ministry of Defence, the commander of the «région terre» (military administrative region) is ex-officio member of the committee.

When the Natura 2000 site is entirely included in a zone controlled by the Ministry of Defence, the prefect is ex-officio member of the committee.

Source: «The composition of the Steering Committee (Copil)» – PACA DREAL presentation 2006

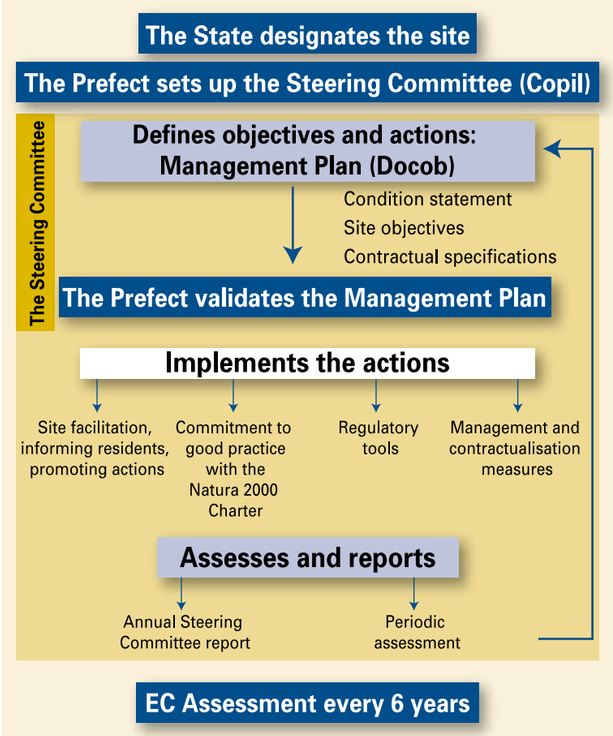
Validation and approval of the Management Plan

1 – Drawing up the management plan
The stages in producing the Management Plan are subject to validation by meetings of the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee validates the survey data, conservation issues, objectives for the site, Management Plan objectives, and the measures to be taken.

2 – Validation of the management plan
Once the Management Plan has been completed, it is validated by the Steering Committee. But its implementation cannot begin, nor the contracts and charters be signed, until it is approved.

3 – Approval of the management plan
Once it has been validated, the Prefect approves the Management Plan by means of a prefectural decree. The Management Plan is approved as soon as the decree is issued.

Source: French Environment Ministry – August 2007



See Appendix 37 "Examples of Steering Committees for marine or sea/land sites"

For mainly marine Natura 2000 sites, it is the prefect(s) who decide the composition of the Steering Committee, and call and chair the meetings. If they wish they can ask one of its members representing a local authority or grouping of authorities to chair the meetings.

The Steering Committee must meet at least three times during the production of the Management Plan:
- to initiate the process, which is explained to the participants at the time (first stage on the route to acceptance);
- to validate the biological and socio-economic survey data (condition statement);
- to validate the Management Plan (validation of the sustainable development objectives and the measures undertaken).

Its role is crucial as it is the ultimate body for dialogue and decision-making. However, it is by means of a prefectural decree (bylaw) that the Management Plan is approved by the Prefect, who thus remains the final decision-maker in the Natura 2000 process.

See Section II.4 "Knowing how to communicate" and subsequent sections

Geographical and thematic workgroups

To go into a particular subject in greater depth, or to take the specific details at a given site into account, the management planning authority sets up workgroups with the local stakeholders. These workgroups also act as local concertation bodies, and make proposals and co-construct the Management Plan. The local stakeholders involved in managing and/or using the territory concerned must all be represented in these workgroups. A workgroup of between 10 and 15 people functions well, depending on how well it is facilitated. The project manager has to resolve two problems:

- avoiding having too many workgroups or too many members;
- ensuring that all the categories of stakeholders affected by the process are represented.

Choosing the number of workgroups and their tasks, deciding on their membership, planning the relationships between them via multiple representation, etc. is a sensitive but very important task. For it is within these workgroups that the socio-economic assessment will be produced and the proposals for objectives and measures will be formulated. The success of the workgroups guarantees a satisfactory acceptance of the Natura 2000 process by local stakeholders. The essential precondition is that trust be established between the management planning authority and the local stakeholders on the basis of discussions in which knowledge is shared, whether scientific or empirical.

"Management Planners' Day" at the 1000 Etangs Natura 2000 site © Luc Terraz

See Sections III.3.4 "Prioritising conservation issues" and III.3.5 "Socio-economic diagnosis".

Set-up of Natura 2000 workgroups in the Vanoise National Park (2006)

"The monitoring unit (technical committee) defined three main themes: "farming", "forest", "tourism", with a specific workgroup for each of the three subjects in each valley. The area consists of two main valleys, very different from one another:

- the Tarentaise, structured around a number of large ski resorts;
- the Maurienne, which remains more agricultural with less tourism development.

The two valleys are geographically separate, coming together near Chambéry.

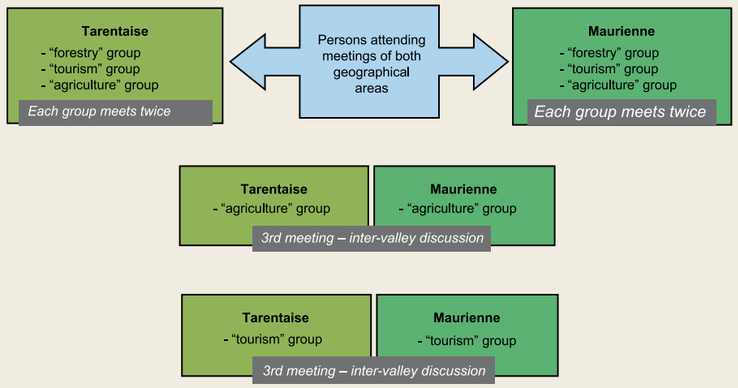
All of the groups meet twice in the centre of the valleys, to work independently on the issues and the Natura 2000 objectives. One or more individuals are involved in both geographical areas in order to create links for each subject. Then the two "farming" groups and the two "tourism" groups get together again at the intersection of the two valleys and at a third meeting pool their results, ensure that they are consistent and study the proposed management measures."

"Tarentaise-Maurienne" workgroup meeting © Parc national de la Vanoise – Christian Neumuller

Dialogue for Natura 2000

2

In diagram form :



Source : Geyser, 2008

The Maritime Façade Concertation Body

The government circular of 14 January 2009, co-signed by SGMER and DGALN, requires the maritime prefects to manage concertation with the various partners involved for whole the maritime façade, chairing one or more concertation or monitoring bodies to freely provide information and exchange concerning the management of marine Natura 2000 sites on the scale of the maritime façade.

The Mediterranean body was set up in December 2009 and consists of 5 colleges: State, local authorities, users, experts and associations (see Appendix 40). It enables subjects to be dealt with that go beyond the scale of a particular site. For example:

- coordinated inventories, methodological coordination;
- list of projects subject to impact assessment studies;
- communication with maritime stakeholders;
- links with Regional marine conventions;
- links with Mediterranean fishery management policies, etc.

It does not replace the Steering Committees for managing each site but ensures there is the required level of coherency between them.

On a narrower scale, other coordinated inter-site processes have been developed on a regional basis:

- common methodology for the lagoons of Languedoc-Roussillon;
- coordination of information and contributions from Regional Fishing Committees, for example: post and commission dedicated to MPAs in Aquitaine, and a dedicated job position in Pays de Loire .

See Appendix 38 "Composition of the Mediterranean façade concertation body"

An integrated approach

In order better to identify and determine the stakeholders concerned, it is important to be aware of any other ongoing processes affecting the site: water planning and management schemes (SAGE or SDAGE), national parks, Grands sites de France operations, EU Leader programme, marine natural parks, Integrated Management of Coastal Zones (GIZC), Rhone-Mediterranean and Corsica Water Agency (AERMC) management plan, coastal water planning and management schemes, marine planning scheme (Schéma de Mise en Valeur de la Mer, SMVM), European Fisheries Fund Axis 4, etc.
The connection with other more global territorial projects should be made as early as possible, enabling the management planning authority to participate in the representative bodies of ongoing processes, and vice versa.
The integrated approach at inter-site and maritime-façade level is essential for marine sites in order to optimise information, organisation and representation for each site (e.g. mooring rights are managed on a maritime-façade basis) and respond to scientific questions not confined to one site. Another characteristic of marine Natura 2000 sites is the need to take international aspects into consideration (e.g. JCC on fishing). For example, in the Mediterranean the AERMC water agency has a very active policy concerning the Mediterranean coastal strip and supports numerous local-authority projects: bay contracts, harbour management plans, etc. Such processes integrate the preservation of marine biocenoses into a global approach. Very often the setting up of a Natura 2000 site is therefore anticipated or consolidated by these processes, which must imperatively be taken into consideration in order not to disorient the stakeholders.
Other examples:
- a workgroup on pleasure boat mooring considerations for the whole Mediterranean façade with the PACA Regional Directorate for Environment, Planning and Housing (DREAL) and the Mediterranean Maritime Prefecture;
- the Pays de Loire Regional Directorate for Marine Affairs (DRAM) has set up a discussion body bringing together both professional and amateur fishermen and women.
- in Brittany, joint (sailing and fishing) work groups across the three Natura2000 sites of Trévignon (FR2300049), Glénan FR5300023) et Penmarch (FR5302008).

See Appendix 39 "Study of pleasure boat moorings at the scale of the Mediterranean maritime façade"

II.2.4. Preparing and running the concertation process

When the stakeholders have been located and put in touch with one other ("mapped"), the dialogue between them has to be organised.

Tailoring dialogue to local conditions

The Steering Committee (Copil), Management planning authority (Opérateur), coordinating project manager and workgroups are the key players in the concertation process for producing the Natura 2000 Management Plan (Docob). The project manager plays the role of "orchestra conductor"; he or she needs to implement a methodical, thought-out process. In close association with his or her partners, he or she has to bear in mind the history of concertation and the specific physical or social factors relating to the site in order to adapt to the local situation, when:

The Weight of History

The project manager must take the time to immerse him or herself in the area in question in order to try to understand all its components, in particular its past history in respect of biodiversity protection: issues, key players, factors in success and constraints deriving from past actions, etc. The progress of dialogue will depend to a large extent on the history of the territory with regard to the environment.

"Les cahiers techniques" Conservatoire Rhône-Alpes des Espaces naturels.

- organising the workgroups (number, topics and/or areas to select, working methods);
- choosing which stakeholders to involve in these workgroups;
- deciding on actions for providing information, communicating, consulting etc. with the various groups of local players in support of the overall concertation process;
- choosing which scientific and technical partners to get involved;
- choosing facilitation methods;
- etc.

There is intentionally a wide scope for manoeuvre with the potential to adapt the process to be as effective as possible in accordance with the particular features of the site. But such freedom can be difficult to manage.

Key events

Dialogue is based on the organisation of events:
- each new event gains (or suffers) from previous events;
- each has a main objective which varies depending on the participants involved.

Preliminary informative meetings

Their role is to provide information about Natura 2000 for a wide-ranging local audience: the European dimension and national implications, the question of conservation and biodiversity, objectives, procedures, etc. The number of participants can be very variable. While the objective of these meetings is to give information, it is also to communicate with the participants: forging links, responding to questions, assessing the degree of support for the approach, providing reassurance, inviting people to become involved in workgroups, etc. These informative meetings may take place at the Commune level or may be inter-commune. It is preferable to organise them in association with local elected representatives.

Workgroup meetings

Their role is no longer to provide information or a forum for discussion, but to draw up proposals together for site assessments, and objectives and measures to be validated by the Steering Committee. This is the core of the concertation process leading to the production of the Management Plan. Those who take part have to undertake a certain degree of commitment - this is a constructive exercise to be carried out over time with, generally speaking, 3 to 4 meetings per group (maximum of 15 to 20 people). It may be judicious to hold these meetings in the field, as close as possible to the management issues; this is often the key to more committed involvement and better uptake.

Steering committee meetings

They regulate the dialogue and give it legitimacy by officially validating its conclusions or suggesting possible changes or additions. They mark the different stages and provide a structure for the progress of the project.

Informal get-togethers

These are of a wide variety – over the phone, indoors or outside, with two people or ten, for a general discussion or a working session on a specific point, etc. All these informal encounters form the cement that

"Management Planners' Day" at the 1000 Etangs Natura 2000 site © Luc Terraz

binds the dialogue, as they strengthen the links between the various people involved. Field visits and educational outings are an excellent means of initiating dialogue and establishing trust.

Meetings at Maritime Façade level

The maritime prefect brings together the stakeholders involved either to work on a specific theme or a particular issue such as impact assessment …;It is also necessary to coordinate with the Maritime Façade councils .

Flexible preparation

Preparing the approach involves bringing together the stakeholders at the key events that are to be organised. To build an effective and cohesive dialogue, throughout the production of the Management Plan: what is to be done, with whom and when? Preparing the approach involves organising the project manager's "flight plan", which will guide the dialogue over the planned period of time. This must be precise, but also adjustable depending on the factors encountered on the way (for example extra workgroup meetings if needed, etc.). It also needs to be transparent, so that all participants are aware of the state of progress of the process at any given time and knows how to position themselves.

The links between the various organisations involved in the dialogue must be consolidated by ensuring a balanced representation of each workgroup within the other groups, and by means of the full circulation of the minutes of meetings, reports, etc.

Time and financial resources

These are limiting factors which it is essential to take into account from the beginning: they can have a considerable influence on the way the concertation process develops.

Example of a "flight plan"

The framework is that of an approach which is built on dialogue for the operational part of the Management Plan (site surveys having been completed) based on the Vanoise National Park example (See. p. 14).

- Month 0: validation of the site survey phase by the Steering Committee at the junction of the two valleys (Tarentaise and Maurienne).
- Month 1: meeting of the coordination unit to decide on the workgroups. Decision: two meetings (once per valley), three groups (agriculture; forestry; tourism); production of a report setting out the dates for information meetings.
- Month 2: 1 information meeting per valley to present the survey results and to make invitations to the workgroups.
- Month 3: 6 workgroup meetings (2 valleys x 3 subject groups) to define the issues (see Section III.3.4 "Prioritising conservation issues").
- Month 4: 6 workgroup meetings (2 valleys x 3 subject groups) to define objectives (see Section III.4 "Defining sustainable development objectives").
- Month 5: meeting of the coordination unit to work on measures (see Section III.5 "Proposing measures of all kinds").
- Month 6: 3 meetings of the thematic workgroups to put forward the measures (each group combining both valleys).
- Months 7 and 8: production of the operational part of the Management Plan and presentation to Steering Committee.
- Month 9: a targeted information bulletin and an information meeting for each valley to communicate the outcomes.

See Appendix 40 "PACA region DREAL flight plan"

See Section II.4 "Knowing how to communicate".

See the socio-economic analysis in Section III.3.5 "Proposing measures of all kinds".

II.2.5. Points to note

Begin the concertation process as soon as possible

It is more efficient, and more fulfilling for the participants, to begin to build the process all together, rather than to bring in new participants en route; difficulties with taking the process on board are reduced and frustrations avoided. Differing needs and opinions are taken into account from the start. Conversely, dialogue that is begun belatedly often creates misunderstandings, disagreements, power struggles. The facilitator of the dialogue then suffers a loss of credibility and legitimacy.

Ensure that things are understood to ensure a good degree of uptake

It is important not only to carefully adapt your language to the people being addressed, but also to make sure that, in return, they have really understood (reformulation). Conversely, one must make the effort oneself to try to understand! This is the least that can be done! Without which there is no point in hoping to get people to support the process, let alone become involved in co-construction. It is absolutely vital that the project manager takes the necessary time to explain and reformulate, even if it sometimes seems to him that he is repeating himself.

It is indispensable for stakeholders to have field experience together: trips out to sea or collecting samples together are excellent ways to get to know each other and share a common vision of the issues.

Carefully assess the stakeholders' attitudes to the process

Their attitude depends a great deal on the history of the site, as has been seen above (Section II.2.4). If this history is looked on favourably, it will be a positive factor for the Natura 2000 process. Conversely, conflicts, or simply a poor level of support for previous conservation activities, will be significant constraints. The effort required for explanation and then concertation will need to be even more sustained. This attitude also depends on the way in which the site designation has been carried out. Designation by agreement is favourable to the development of the initiative, unlike a designation imposed during a struggle for control, which will result in a lot more work. Finally, some local stakeholders are naturally more inclined to support Natura 2000 than others, as they already share the same values relating to the conservation of biodiversity. It is just as important to engage in dialogue with these stakeholders - they will be the ones who drive the process - as with stakeholders who appear at first sight to be opposed.

Because the marine Natura2000 process is a recent development, large numbers of new maritime stakeholders are involved, requiring considerable extra explanation and awareness raising.

Get involved quickly in order to resolve emerging conflicts

A latent conflict which persists is a conflict that becomes more acute, delaying its resolution. And a slight misunderstanding to begin with can result in many difficulties. When there are the beginnings of

misunderstandings or conflicts: above all do not evade them, but on the contrary try to resolve them quickly. For the project manager, this will ensure a greater degree of legitimacy and will help to guarantee the success of the approach. If the conflict is too serious, or if the project manager is personally involved in it, he or she may approach a third party to act as mediator.

Know how to provide the necessary feedback

It must be shown that the work of local players is genuinely taken into account; without this there is a risk of a rapid loss of motivation. To this end, the project manager must make sure there is enough feedback, to show that the dialogue is really open-ended and not just one-way.

Properly manage the time factor

This is one of the most important problems: there is less and less time available, yet dialogue, which is necessary for support, is time-consuming. In the absence of any rules, a few suggestions to consider:
- know how to set yourself priorities and deal with them quickly;
- don't waste time with over-long digressions;
- know how to call for support in the case of major difficulties;
- don't keep going back to the same issue too often;
- know how to draw conclusions and make decisions;
- and know how to pace the dialogue (too fast a rate is exhausting, too slow a rate is tedious…)

Know how to use existing organisations for territorial dialogue

Natura 2000 requires a steering committee and ad-hoc workgroups. But sometimes there already exist, for the same area, other territorial dialogue organisations (e.g. the development council for the management of a particular area, or the local water commission for a Water Development and Management Scheme). Initiatives need to mutually consolidate each other, and to this end it is important:

- to organise joint representation, so that each party knows what information and decisions are affecting the others;

- to consider and support potential opportunities for mutuality and synergy;

- to avoid situations where the same person is being called upon too often, or simultaneously by different parties.

Herbicide spraying © Luc Terraz

See following Section "Knowing how to facilitate".

The time scale of concertation

A concertation exercise is like … a vehicle:
- too fast, and there is the risk that it will come off the road and be difficult to repair;
- too slow, and the passengers become bored and will leave.

The ideal is to go fast … and slow down when the passengers want to.

Even with a completely marine site, the link with the land is essential: on the Ria d'Etel in the Morbihan, the operation «farmers of the sea – farmers of the land», set up by the Syndicat mixte of Ria d'Etel in the framework of a catchment area programme and then an Integrated Management of Coastal Zones (GIZC) programme initiated dialogue, which is always very useful for setting up a Natura 2000 process.

Professional bodies are also excellent for exchanging information, for example the Regional Committee of Maritime Fisheries and Marine Fish Farming, during meetings of industrial disputes conciliation boards and fish production organisations...

II.3. Knowing how to facilitate: the key to dialogue

See Sections III.4 "Defining the sustainable development objectives" and III.5 "Proposing measures of all kinds".

II.3.1. From information to building the agreement

The Natura 2000 project manager plays a key role in drawing up the Management Plan, working on it, shaping it, and very often continuing as its main facilitator.

In order to successfully carry out this function of facilitation and succeed in his or her mission, he or she needs to focus on key stages, independent of the decision-making stages.

Collecting and transmitting the necessary information

For information meetings, workgroups, the Steering Committee etc., the project manager must begin by providing the information upon which the discussions and thinking will be based. This preliminary information may be provided by the project manager in person, or by one or other of the participants considered to be legitimate. This information must be credible and accepted by all. To this end, it must be:
- transparent as regards sources and content;
- based on objective data: scientific studies, communicated facts, etc.;
- put up for discussion and clarification in case of doubt or disagreement.

Insufficient preliminary information, or a lack of acceptance of it, will be detrimental to forthcoming dialogue.

For example, the presence of certain Species of Community Interest found in one part of the site or another should not be called into question.

Clearly identifying the points for debate

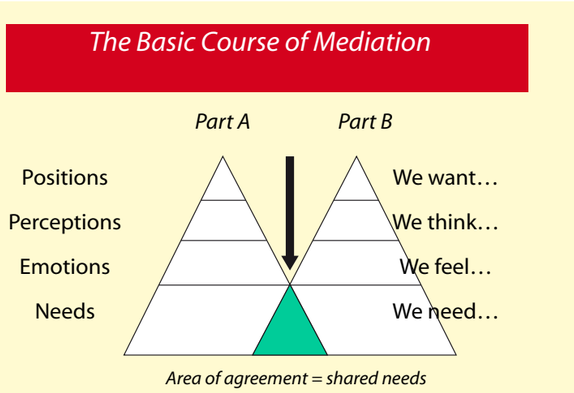
Nothing is to be gained from spending hours discussing secondary issues, or worse, unrelated matters, despite any general importance they may have. All that will result is discouragement and then absenteeism.

To avoid this trap of ineffectiveness, the project manager must concentrate on the points of the debate which are of the highest priority. To this end:
- before meetings, he or she decides on the relevant subjects and submits them, if possible, to a few members of the facilitation unit;
- he or she presents them to the participants at the beginning of the meeting, but remains prepared to modify or expand on them if they wish.

For example, is it necessary to talk at length with the "agriculture" workgroup about the consequences of global warming on the numbers of people using the nearest ski resort?

From the statement of positions to a statement of needs

It sometimes happens that discussions take an unpleasant turn or come to no conclusion: everyone sticks to their positions, dialogue is at a standstill (for example: one person wants some overgrown area or other to be cleared, while someone else wants to keep it overgrown). As soon as the meeting facilitator is aware of this, he or she must quickly try to overcome the sticking point by inviting all parties to go beyond simply stating their positions (e.g. clearing the area is better than having it overgrown and vice versa), to gradually move towards a discussion in terms of the needs (often expressed in the form of fears and expectations) of one person or another. For it is in this context of needs that it is possible to establish an environment for agreement: one person will thus be able to explain her wish for new pasture, the other his fear that it will no longer be possible to see any large game animals.



Building a relationship of trust

For marine sites, just as for terrestrial sites, presence in the field, on the water or under it, is indispensable pour establishing a relationship of trust. The Iroise marine park arranges numerous sea-trips with the professionals involved in marine mammal inventories, the Association for the Defence of the Environment and Nature (ADENA) at Cap d'Agde spends a great deal of time on the quayside and at diving sites giving out information, and Natura 2000 concertation for the Bouches de Bonifacio reserve has been greatly facilitated by the work done by the Office of the Environment of Corsica over the last thirty years.

The mutual recognition of needs

The journey is half-over once one has moved on from statements of positions to statements of needs. What remains to be done is to work towards mutual recognition of those needs: to try to get each party to consider the needs, hopes and fears of the other parties as being legitimate. Each party can then address the matter in its entirety. Their own needs have been understood and recognised as being legitimate, and they recognise the legitimacy of others' needs. The dialogue has progressed and they are closer to agreement. This movement from positions to needs, and their mutual recognition, are the two fundamental stages in making progress with the mediation, be it for plans or for conflicts.

Scrub clearing © Biotope

Examples of "positions" and "needs"

To be against (or in favour of) hunting is an expression of a position.
To want to go for a peaceful walk with one's children on Wednesdays (or to want to meet up with one's fellow-hunters on Sundays at a particular place) are expressions of needs.

It is by means of active listening techniques that concertation can move from "positions" to 'needs' (See Section II.3.3, "The facilitator's tools and positioning").

Source : Geyser, 2008

Steering Committee Meeting (Bougogne) © French Environment Ministry

See Section II.3.3, "The facilitator's tools and positioning"

The CQFD

The creative phase, which is unfortunately all too often overlooked in concertative initiatives, is rich in social links and events. The project manager calls on the participants to "let go" so as to widen "the range of possibilities". This is therefore often an amusing phase which engenders trust among the participants. To create this trust, the project manager can introduce the CQFD rule:
- C no Criticism;
- Q ideas in Quantity at first; F Far-fetched ideas are welcome;
- D a Depth effect: everyone goes deeper into the ideas suggested by the others.

The range voting method

It is sometimes difficult to agree on the best solutions when there are many different suggestions. In this case, the range voting method can be used:
- The project manager writes out a table of solutions that have been pre-selected following an analysis based on criteria of technical and financial feasibility and acceptability; he gives each participant the same number of stickers (for example 10) which they must place opposite the written-down solutions in a previously-defined range (for example, from 0 to 3 stickers) in proportion to their support for each of the solutions;
Then all that remains is to add up the total number of stickers for each suggested solution; those that get the most votes are the solutions chosen by the group.

Creativity in finding solutions

Once these needs, fears and expectations have been flagged up and accepted by the various parties, it is essential for them to cooperate in addressing them; suitable solutions must be found.

To this end, it is important to proceed via a creative phase during which all proposals are welcomed, with no restrictions regarding their effectiveness or feasibility. Anyone can suggest any kind of idea, from the most far-fetched to the most serious, and the project manager must be the driver of this creativity.

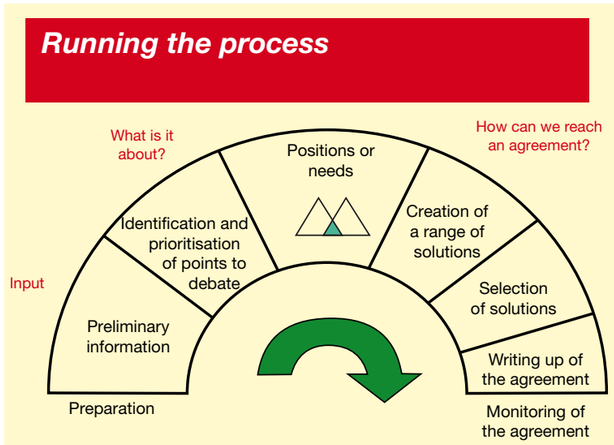
The creative phase leads to:
- a set of solutions, which are often innovative and appropriate;
- strengthening of the links between those taking part in the dialogue.

Choosing solutions

It now remains to select the most suitable solutions. Criteria for choice must be defined collectively in:
- the technical sphere: is the suggested solution technically feasible?
- the financial sphere: is the suggested solution financially possible?
- the social sphere: is the suggested solution acceptable to everyone?

In order to achieve acceptance of the proposed solutions by all, none of these three spheres must be ignored in favour of the other two.

Source : Geyser, 2008



II.3.2. Facilitating meetings: points to watch

Preliminary contacts

Ideally, contact should be made in advance with:
- The members of the coordination unit to agree on:
- the date, time and place;
- the agenda;
- the list of participants;
- each person's role in the business of the meeting: who does what, how and when.
- The other key people involved in the meeting:
- elected representatives: to confirm the date, time and place and to define their role in the meeting (in particular, to make sure that they don't usurp the project manager's function as the facilitator of the meeting). On the other hand it is customary for elected representatives to open and close the meeting with a few words of welcome and of thanks;
- anyone who is likely to cause problems with the running of the meeting (opponents of the initiative or of people responsible for it). The project manager tries to remove the difficulties by explaining and listening before the meeting, either on the phone or at a get-together which he arranges.

Choosing dates, times and places

It is important to think about the most suitable dates, times and places in relation to who is attending. These choices must be made collectively with the coordination unit. The project manager must be at the participants' disposal: must be prepared to travel and to accept timetables which he may sometimes consider to be restrictive. This commitment will result in conscientious attendance by the participants. For sites that cover a wide area, consideration could be given to programming meetings in rotation, in different places, so as to spread out the burden of travelling and improve the level of attendance.

Basing oneself on clear, relevant documents

Based on the pooling of experiences by the project managers, the State is now making available an important set of communication tools (via the Regional Directorate for Environment, Planning and Housing (DREAL) or Regional Directorate for the Environment (DREAL), or directly though the Ecology Ministry which they represent (MEDDTL)).

A role for everyone in the running of the meeting

A meeting that goes well is a meeting where everyone has found his or her place. The three main jobs: running the meeting, secretarial work, and providing output or expertise, must be clearly identified and separately allocated. All the more so if there is a chance that the meeting could be confrontational:

The job of running the meeting (often allocated to the Natura 2000 project manager) has only one objective: try to make sure that dialogue is established and proceeds satisfactorily. He or she guides the meeting, allows all the various participants and those involved

Hay harvest © Biotope

Some points are indisputable: for example, a meeting with dairy farmers at 6 pm (just when evening milking is taking place) is doomed to failure.

See Section II.4 "Knowing how to communicate".

See Section II.3.3 "The facilitator's tools and positioning".

NB at some meetings – those of the Steering Committee for example – there is an expectation that there will be a chairperson. The lead role is then shared between this chairperson, who takes charge of the meeting's structure (See Section II.3.3 "The facilitator's tools and positioning") and its running, and the project head, who is only there to assist him or her. The division of roles must be made clear beforehand.

Environment Ministry magazine: Natura 2000 issue

NB to postpone does not mean "to kick into touch"; the subject that has created a sticking point must be dealt with again later, and a time must be set before going on to the next item.

to have their say, makes sure everyone understands, rephrases, summarises, moves that conclusions be approved, etc.

0ther people have the task of introducing the factors that are necessary for making decisions: technical staff from government bodies or from chambers of commerce, guilds or agriculture, local stakeholders who are competent within their spheres of activity, external experts. All are responsible for clarifying the assembled technical, administrative or scientific materials. They may defend their points of view if they feel the need, and are not obliged to maintain a neutral position like the person running the meeting.

- one or two other people are responsible for the secretarial work: their role is to listen, to understand and to take notes of the discussions in order to write up the minutes of the meeting. These secretarial participants are important: they produce a record of the debates and conclusions.

It is very difficult to carry out several tasks at the same time. It may become necessary due to a lack of human resources, but it must always be an exception especially when very important meetings are concerned.

Effectiveness and friendly relations

Effectiveness

A meeting in which the group makes progress with its thinking and decisions is an effective, thus successful, meeting: everyone has the feeling of having shared in a constructive process and nobody regrets having had to travel to the meeting. To be effective, the meeting must:
- concentrate on the objectives and avoid digressions;
- keep to the prescribed agenda (any other business will be dealt with at the end of the meeting);
- not be allowed to drag on when a sticking point arises; accept the fact and come up with other times or places to continue the discussion;

Friendly Relations (Aquitaine) © Environment Ministry

- note the progress of any developments and take the time to have them validated by all present: all too often, decisions that are taken do not form the subject of a clearly expressed agreement among all the participants;
- know how to end before everyone is exhausted: a two-hour meeting is fine, three hours is too long.

Friendly relations

Friendly relations combine effectiveness with enjoyment:
- a relaxed atmosphere from the start and throughout the meeting facilitates discussion; the facilitator must know how to create a happy atmosphere and make good use of humour;
- how the participants are located in the room is important: set out tables, chairs, benches etc. in advance, and avoid seating two dissenting groups opposite one another.
- try to sit people in a circle or a "U" shape, and remove over-imposing platforms or rostrums, which can create inferiority or superiority complexes;
- paying attention and respecting what others are saying indicates an acceptance of differences;
- a friendly drink after the meeting - why not? Isn't it often said that it is at such times that things progress faster?

Specific aspects of different types of Natura 2000 meetings

The coordination unit should also be provided with secretarial services, whose role is to record the details of decisions that are made in order to:
- enable a summary of what has just been said to be produced;
- to keep a record of the proceedings;
- to make sure that participants understand one another.

Steering committee meetings must be subject to preliminary internal consultation and agreement within the coordination unit. It is out of the question to arrive in a state of disorganisation, resulting in confusion and a loss of credibility. Preparation consists in agreeing on the content and running of the meeting and on everyone's places (management planning authority, prefecture, regional directorates etc.) More than at any other meeting, the thematic workgroups require effectiveness and friendly relations: the participants give their own time to the development of objectives and measures, and their motivation must not be dampened.

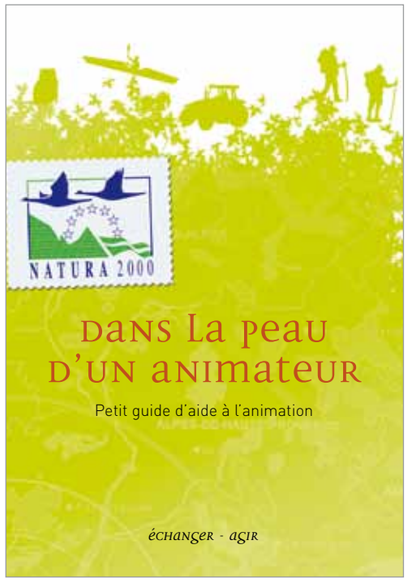
II.3.3. The facilitator's tools and positioning

Apart from exceptional cases (when there is a professional facilitator), it is the head of the Natura 2000 project for the production of the Natura 2000 Management Plan (Docob) who plays the role of leading the dialogue.

Establishing and protecting the facilitator's position and role

The aim is to enable the participants to deal with all the items on the agenda. This presupposes a certain degree of control, from start to finish. To this end it is necessary for the facilitator to assert his authority. The first few minutes are vital: the participants (especially those who are ill-intentioned) quickly gauge the room for manoeuvre

See Section II.3.3 "The facilitator's tools and positioning".



DIREN PACA RegionFacilitator's Guide © DIREN PACA

Dialogue for Natura 2000

2

"Management Planners' Day" © Luc Terraz Environment Ministry

Example of a «prompt"

It is a good idea to prepare for this introduction properly by making written notes on a small card or sheet, to make sure that everything is included in the introduction and is presented in an orderly way, and nothing is missed out:
- I introduce myself: name, job, roles in Natura 2000;
- I remind the participants of the objectives of the meeting and how it is to proceed;
- I set out the rules of the meeting (see below) and get them agreed on;
- I begin the round-the-table introductions;
- I move to the first item on the agenda.

Fontainbleau, National Office of Forests (ONF) © Laurent Mignaux- Environment Ministry

Source : Geyser, 2008

which is open to them. The facilitator must therefore begin speaking straight away, immediately after the meeting has been opened by a local elected representative. To have the best chance, this initial contact must without fail be concerned with the form and content:
- introduce yourself: describe your role in the Natura 2000 initiative, and in the meeting that is in progress. Everyone has the right to know where you come from, what your role is and why you are there;
- set out the framework for the meeting and make sure it is adhered to (see next Section);
- allow time for the participants to introduce themselves by going round the table (except for meetings with a very large number of participants)

The facilitator: initiator and guarantor of the framework

In the introduction, the facilitator sets out the framework for the meeting:
- its objective, the way it is envisaged to proceed, the agenda. He or she may invite participants to add to the agenda, but only if the new items fit in with the original objective. He or she suggests a time for the meeting to end and gets agreement on it;
- procedural rules to be followed:
  - keeping to the objective, which implies avoiding too many digressions;
  - listening to others and allowing all to speak;
  - mutual courtesy, non-aggression (in particular for those meetings where there is a risk of disagreement)
  - once these procedural rules have been announced, the facilitator asks that they be agreed to. He may draw participants' attention to them in case of difficulties.
  - he or she introduces himself as the "time controller", responsible for time management; he relies on the goodwill of the participants to make this task easier;
  - he or she will introduce the main people involved, especially whoe-

The facilitator, guarantor of the framework

Time management

Objectives — **The concertation body** — *Keeping to the rules*

Distribution of tasks

ver is taking minutes and those whose role is to provide information;
• it is up to the facilitator to ensure that everyone respects the framework which has been set out.

Active listening

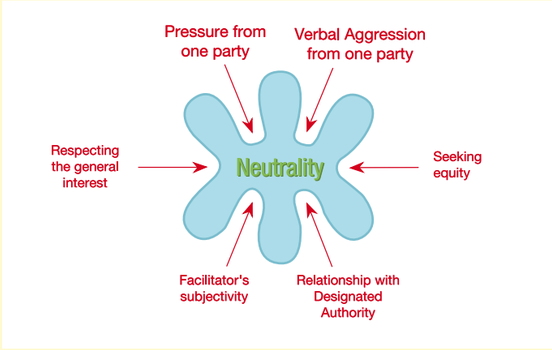
Knowing how to really listen is vital for the facilitator of the dialogue. Active listening takes place through:
- a willingness to take on board what others are saying, which means an attentive attitude to what is being expressed;
- an attitude of empathy: to understand the speaker, try to put yourself in their place;
- questions, which allow the dialogue to be developed;
- rephrasing what has been said: this allows one to remain active when listening and to make sure that everyone has understood, while showing that one is paying attention. Active listening is essential for the facilitator's credibility and legitimacy. He or she may remind the other participants to do the same: to listen before speaking, to accept before passing on. This positive and altruistic approach will be all the more readily adopted if the facilitator sets an example.

The position of neutrality (or multi-partiality)

A good facilitator tries to adopt a position of neutrality so as to be able to listen to what everyone has to say. Avoid taking anyone's part when discussions become contentious or when differences of opinion are being expressed (but without renouncing your own personal convictions). Certain threats may mean that the neutral attitude has to be modified (see diagram).

Rather than the neutral position, which may be felt to be rather cold, some prefer multi-partiality: the capacity to be alongside each participant, to understand and support them while they are speaking, to everyone's benefit.

What are the threats to neutrality?



Source : Geyser, 2008

A few tools

A certain number of tools are available to the Natura 2000 project manager, enabling or her to fuel the dialogue. The following can quickly put into use:

Examples

Looking in the national or regional Natura 2000 network for successful outcomes, spending some time learning about them, contacting their initiators (who will be pleased to talk about them) and bringing them up at the local level during the discussion: all this will prepare the way for possible adaptation for use on your site.

The production of minutes and reports on decisions avoids excessive backtracking and helps to establish a shared memory. It allows important aspects of the forthcoming Management Plan to be set out, for which the compilation will constitute the framework.

Records of decisions or minutes of meetings

Minutes are more ambitious, but not always more appropriate, as they take longer to produce and to read. Drawn up by the meeting secretary, they are sent to all the participants and all absentees (whether or not apologies for absence were received). Each set of minutes must be approved, either collectively at the beginning of the next meeting, or individually when they are sent by email and not followed up at another meeting.

External support in case of deadlocks or significant disagreements

Sometimes significant problems (which are often to do with interpersonal relationships) may arise, causing disruption to the dialogue. The project manager may be directly involved in such problems. It then becomes advisable to bring in a mediator, since, in addition to technical and relational skills, he or she will have two major assets:
- an external point of view that is devoid of any personal interest;
- the possibility of playing the role of Candide (i.e. asking all the questions) - with no consequences for him or her … or for the territory in question.

For more theoretical information about communication (definition, process, etc.) see Appendix 2 "Territorial dialogue, concertation and communication".

How to communicate better?

- Consult relevant publications dealing with communication.
- Sign up for communication training courses*.
- Take part in technical discussion days for managers of Natura 2000 sites, organised by ATEN.
- Keep up to date with professional journals (e.g. Espaces naturels) to provide food for thought about the experiences of other managers.
- Get in touch with the communications departments of local government or services (websites).
- Get help from communications experts when producing support aids and materials.

*For example, the topics of the training courses listed in the 2008 ATEN prospectus included "Communication and Personal Development" (get to know one's problems, acquire professional conditioning and identify techniques for resolving disputes), "Managing Conflict and Negotiating", and "Public Speaking".(www.formation.espaces-naturels.fr).

See Section III.4. "Defining sustainable development objectives"

II.4. Knowing how to communicate

Communication is vital: it creates a shared identity, enables knowledge to be extended, provides a structure for relationships between individuals, etc. It is essential for the territorial dialogue. One communicates to provide information and improve awareness, but especially to encourage the participants to take part in the initiative, to suggest solutions and to support the concerted approach. Communication should be a part of the production of the Management Plan throughout the whole process.

II.4.1. Formulating messages

Defining the objective of your messages

The aim of communication is to secure support for the process of producing the Management Plan (provide knowledge, create support, initiate action). In order for each of your messages to be received and interpreted in the way you intend, the required objective must be identified and also all the steps along the route to its achievement. To get there, you have to answer the following three questions:
- who: at which target group is my message aimed? The Steering Committee, farmers, landowners?
- why: why am I trying to communicate? To improve relations, to give people a sense of responsibility, to initiate activity?
- when: when can I expect to see results? In a year's time, two

years…?

Example 1

Having gone through the stage of providing information and raising the level of awareness (See Section II.2.4) you must organise a workgroup that brings together the economic and political stakeholders involved with the Natura 2000 site, with whom you are going to produce the Management Plan. To prepare for the first meeting of this workgroup you will take the time, before issuing any invitations, to carefully identify the objective to be achieved during this meeting:

- who: the economic and political stakeholders associated with the Natura 2000 site;
- why: to encourage them to take part in defining the sustainable development objectives for the site and, later on, in devising measures (actions);
- when: in the framework of one or more meetings which will take place in January.

If the objectives of your meeting are to define the sustainable development objectives, and to identify the ways and means to produce measures, you must not lose sight of them:

- when you are writing the invitations;
- or during the production of your working documents;
- or while the meeting is being conducted.

Exemple 2 :

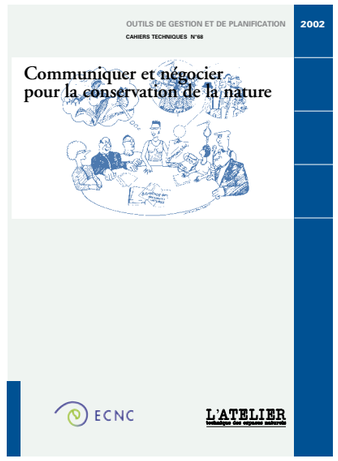
It is sensible to set a progressive series of objectives (step by step) so as to be realistic, and to use a number of means or channels of communication in order to achieve them. For example: two years from now, 40% of the landowners on the Natura 2000 site will have signalled their support for the Natura 2000 Charter.

To formulate your message, you will answer as follows:

- who: I am trying to communicate with the landowners on the Natura 2000 site;
- why: first of all I want to tell them about the Natura 2000 site, and then to encourage them to change their attitudes, or to build on what are already good attitudes (their support for the Charter);
- when: I hope that 40% of landowners will be supporting the initiative two years from now.

Part of the communication undertaken in the framework of drawing up the Management Plan will therefore have the following objectives:

- within a six-month period, 70% of the Natura 2000 site landowners will be informed of the existence of the Management Plan and the Natura 2000 Charter and their content;
- within a year, 50% of landowners will have been invited to awareness-raising meetings ahead of giving them explanations about the issues affecting the site, about good types of behaviour to develop or adopt, and about signing up for the Charter;
- in 18 months 20% of landowners will have signed up for the Charter;
- in two years, 40% of landowners will have signed up for the Charter.



ATEN publication on the role of communication in nature management © ATEN

Target groups

For "internal" communication to do with drawing up the Management Plan, i.e. that which allows the process of producing the Management Plan to be guided, the groups of stakeholders with whom you will be most frequently called upon to communicate are:

- the Steering Committee;
- contractors;
- the coordination unit or technical committee (if there is one);
- the workgroups.

For "external" communication, that which gives information, raises awareness, motivates and gives encouragement for supporting the Management Plan, you will be in touch, among others, with:

- residents and stakeholders associated with the site;
- the press (which is both a target and a vehicle for information)

Everyone has their own expectations, customs and language, which you have to take into consideration in order to establish good communications!

See Section II.2.4 «Preparing and running the concertation process»

Poster on the Charente Valley © Birds Protection League (LPO)

It's a good idea to write down what you are going to say, even if you will be communicating it orally. However, you must know it well enough to be able to convey it to others without reading.

Preparing the content

Once the objective of your message has been defined, you can write a rough draft of it, keeping in mind the following advice:

Know your target audience well so you can adapt your language to it

Just as it is important to adapt what you say to the local context, you should also adapt your language to your target audience. The main ideas in your message will appear more convincing and reach your target group more effectively if you show empathy towards them, by putting yourself in their place. A good way to do this, when preparing a meeting, is to reformulate what you have to say in the language used by the audience you will be addressing. This projection will enable you to understand how knowledgeable it is and its opinion on the subject to be addressed. It will also help you to choose the words, expressions, arguments and illustrations that will be the most meaningful to your audience. They must believe that you know their ideas, opinions, and feelings about the subject and that you respect them. It is a good idea to be familiar with any previous documents (posters, flyers, brochures, and press articles) dealing with the subject that your message is about, and if possible to find out how they were perceived by your target group. Without repeating them identically; you can adapt them to the local context and circumstances (particularly to the type of meeting and participants). In this way, you can better choose the means required (language, writing, image) to convey your message. It would also be beneficial to get to know your target group better:

- by speaking with its members or people that know them;
- by carrying out surveys, studies, and interviews;
- by reading reports and journal articles about it.

Construct your message

In order for your message to be well received, you should show that you are open-minded, honest, and respectful. You also need to express your ideas and expectations clearly. If you want your target group to do something, specify that clearly. If you are expecting feedback, explain how to give it, set deadlines, and tell them how they can contact you.

Test your message

If possible, you should test out your message on your target group. Do they understand the content of your message, how do they react to it, should your message be modified? Try, for example, to gauge the reaction of a member of the Steering Committee who belongs your target group.

II.4.2. Choosing the communication tools

Communication tools include the means (tools and media), for

expressing a message, and the channels used to transmit it. The means of communication include attitude, body language, eye contact, voice, spoken words, writing, drawings, photos and film. The channels of communication are the various media used to transmit information, such as the Internet, radio, television, press articles, posters, meetings, and one-to-one discussions.

How should you choose the means of communication?

Before you choose the means and the channels, it is important to identify those typically used by your target group. One target group may be more comfortable with printed documents, while another may communicate via internet, and a third only in one-to-one discussions.

Your communication tools must be easily accessible to your target group, attract its attention, and arouse its curiosity. Your communication will not be complete unless you also deploy the means required to get feedback from your audience. You will increase your chances of getting feedback by:

- providing the details of the people to be contacted (and checking to see if they have been contacted);
- handing out forms for requesting additional information;
- distributing assessment forms, which you will ask people to fill in immediately if possible;
- asking questions to assess whether the audience has understood your message.

The formal means and channels of communication

The means and channels of communication you can use all have their limits, and their appropriateness will vary in function of your target audience.

Oral communication	Written / printed documents	Visual communication	Electronic communication
- meetings	- newsletters	- slideshows	- internet sites
- press conferences	- reports	- videos	- discussion lists
- public information meetings	- information brochures	- television shows	e-mail newslettres etc.
- field work	- posters and flyers	- geographical maps (GIS), etc.	- CD-ROMs and DVDs
- radio shows	- press packs and press releases		- blogs and RSS feeds
- special events (colloquia, parties)	- minutes of meetings / reports on official decisions made		

(Source: Communicating and negotiating for nature conservation. Communication guide for nature conservation policies and activities. ECNC, 2000. Translation Arel, ATEN, September 2002. p. 78.)

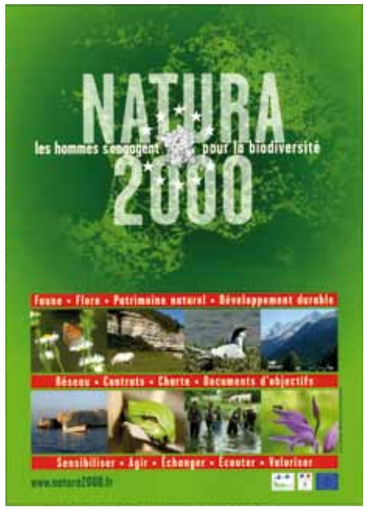
Checklist for preparing an effective message

- Is your message clearly linked to your communication objectives?
- Is it linked to your organisation's goals?
- Is your message interesting for your audience?
- Will your language, references, anecdotes and symbols be understood?
- Have you planned to start with the points of agreement and good news before dealing with more controversial issues?
- If you are trying to make your audience take action, have you clearly expressed that?
- Do your concluding remarks back up the message you are trying to convey?

(Source: Communicating and negotiating for nature conservation. Communication guide for nature conservation policies and activities. ECNC, 2000. Translation Arel, ATEN, September 2002. p. 78.)

For example, an attractive poster displayed in the most frequented areas, or at a pleasurable event, may prove to be more effective than printing out brochures to put in mailboxes.

Appendix 4 ('Platform for communicating in and running Natura 2000 networks') may act as a source of inspiration for developing communications tools (wwww.natura2000.fr)



Natura 2000 Poster © Environment Ministry

Communication tools provided by the French government

List of tools provided by Regional Environmental Agencies (DIREN) and the French Ministry of Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development and the Sea (MEEDDAT):

- the Natura 2000 website: www.natura2000.fr;
- A semiological and linguistic analysis of the 2004 news reports concerning Natura 2000. Its purpose is to provide stakeholders in the Natura 2000 network with keys enabling them to be better understood and to build 'normal' relationships with the press (local, regional, and beyond).
- 4 customisable posters presenting the Natura 2000 network;
- a leaflet for the general public (A4 tri-fold format);
- a 4-panel display (2.00 x 0.90 m) explaining the French approach;
- brochures on the MEEDDAAT's approach (Ecology and sustainable development: Les cahiers n° 33, March 2007 (Ministry rublication);
- a brochure on the impact assessment regime for projects on Natura 2000 sites;
- bookmarks;
- video reports made at 18 Natura 2000 sites.

The ATEN provides the organisations running communications activities with an 'incubator' hosting internet sites, as well as the tools needed to create the sites (www.natura2000.espaces-naturels.fr). Platform for communicating in and running Natura 2000 network can be a source of inspiration for developing communications tools (wwww.natura2000.fr)

Information and communication using existing means and channels

Some examples

- the Mont St Michel Bay magazine covers every aspect of life in the bay, including the Natura 2000 site (http://www.baie-mont-saint-michel.fr/fr/natura_2000.php);
- the pages on Marine Protected Areas in the weekly newspaper Le Marin provides information directly to MPA users;
- the 3 Caps inter-commune syndicate (SIVOM) and Les Maures Marine Observatory run a Natura 2000 blog (http://3capsnatura2000.canalblog.com/);
- the website and journal Encre de Mer of the Saint-Raphaël industrial disputes conciliation board regularly reports on marine biodiversity conservation and Natura 2000 issues (http://www.l-encre-de-mer.fr);

Many fishing committees publish a quarterly newsletter which is widely read by fishing professionals.

- those running the Glénan islands site never fail to attend the GMs of sports fishing associations to keep users informed and even get them involved.

It would also be a good idea to gradually incorporate the use of other documents used by sea-goers , such as: Instructions Nautiques (official documents published by the Marine Hydrographic and Oceanographic Service SHOM for all types of boats), Pilotes Côtiers (navigation guides for amateur sailors), harbour authority information.

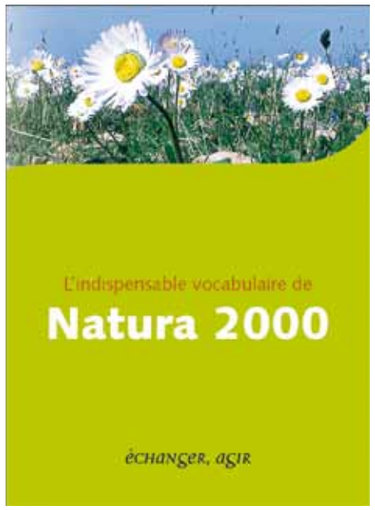
II.4.3. Planning communication

Planning communication is important, and the management planning authority needs to:

- make sure that there are the in-house communications skills required;
- draw up a calendar;
- make allowances for the time needed to draft and disseminate its message and respond to the target group's reactions;
- find the technical support needed to create the communications tools
- find the necessary funding.

Two types of communication can be envisaged:

- occasional communication, carried out on at specific moments during the key periods when the Management Plan is being drafted;
- on-going, long-term communication, which will be continued during the network's operational phase.



Natura 2000 Poster © Environment Ministry

Occasional communication

The principal key periods are the meetings of the Steering Committee and those of the work groups: before, during, and after these meetings, the target groups can be contacted by means of various communications tools and media:

- before: invitations, phase reports, press packs and press releases,
- during: exchanges with the members of the Steering Committee, slideshows, paper documents, and outings
- after: public information meetings, press conferences, newsletters, brochures, and posters

Local, regional, and national events linked to the environment (Owl or Bat Night, Sustainable Development Week, etc.) or the site's cultural life (village festival) may also be key periods in your communications activities aimed at certain target groups.

The workgroups' public information meetings are also examples of occasional communication activities (See Section II.2.4 «Preparing and running the concertation process»).

On-going communication

Within the unit running the network, face to face meetings, and written and telephone exchanges, help shape the various phases in the work.

External communication on the site's biodiversity, Natura 2000 objectives, and the drafting of the Management Plan can also be qualified as continuous when a communications programme is defined, in which a logical sequence of one-off communication activities is implemented:

- a permanent exhibition or display;
- brochures and posters;
- organisation of a welcome centre with trained and skilled officers who can answer questions, letters, and requests for meetings

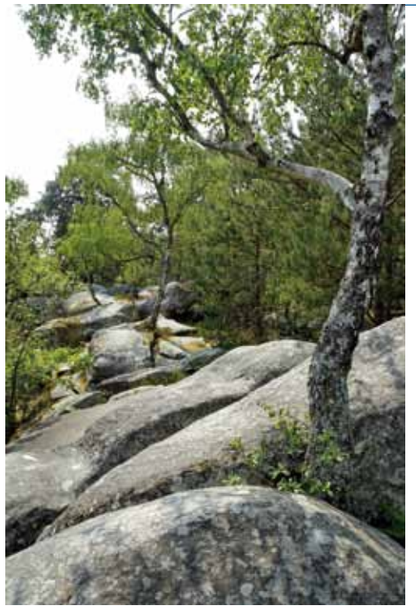
See Section II.2.1 «Getting off to a good start together»

Appendix 5 contains an example of a schedule of key periods and moments for dialogue and communication during the drawing up of the Management Plan.

The Natura 2000 Management Plan (Docob)

The Natura 2000 Management Plan (Document d'objectifs, Docob) includes six specific parts, which will be described in order, along with methodological considerations to help draft each part. Only the section concerning habitat and species monitoring will not be fully developed because the national strategy for monitoring the conservation status of Natura 2000 sites has not yet been finalised at the time this document is being written.

III.1. General considerations



Rocks at Fontainbleau © Laurent Mignaux- Environment Ministry

III.1.1. Legal framework

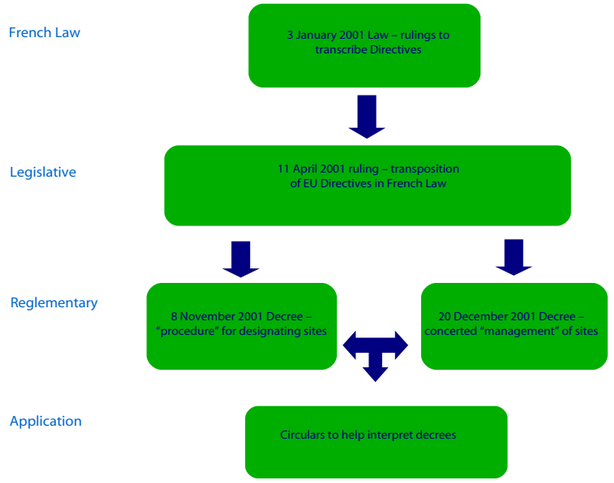
The content of the Management Plan's is defined in Article R414-11 of the French Environmental Code. It must include:

1 – a presentation report describing:

- the conservation status and ecological requirements of the natural habitats and species that led to the designation of the site;
- a map showing the locations of those natural habitats and the habitats of those species;
- any protective measures and actions that apply to the site;
- the human activities that take place there and, in particular, their effects on the conservation status of the above-mentioned habitats and species;

2 - the site's sustainable development objectives for ensuring the conservation or even restoration of the natural habitats and species, taking into account the economic, social, cultural and defence activities carried out there, together with specific local features;

3 - proposed measures of any kind for achieving the intended objectives, indicating the priorities decided upon for their



Legal framework of Natura 2000 in France

implementation, particularly in terms of the conservation status of habitats and species at the national level, the priorities indicated in the second paragraph of Article R. 414-, and the conservation status of the habitats and species on the site;
4 - one or more standard contractual specifications documents applicable to Natura 2000 contracts, as provided for in Articles R. 414-13 and subsequent articles with, for each document, the objective, scope of application, habitats and species concerned, and costs;
5 - the list of commitments figuring in the site's Natura 2000 charter, as defined in Article R. 414-12;
6 – practical details concerning the monitoring of the proposed measures and the surveillance methods used to evaluate the conservation status of the habitats and species.

III.1.2. Management Plan layout

The standardised layout is intended to ensure that the various Management Plans produced in France will be consistent, and make them more readable.

III.1.2.1. Main document

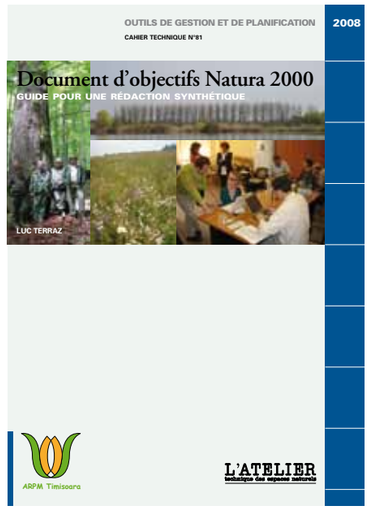
The main document is intended to be ready-to-use: it presents the issues together with the management strategies and actions to be implemented. It is essentially made up of tables and summaries, maps, profiles and diagrams. The main document also includes the Natura 2000 charter.

The main document is sent to all members of the local Steering Committee, and made available to the general public in the Mairie (mayor's office) of each of the communes concerned by the Natura 2000 site. It must be updateable so that any modifications that occur after the Natura 2000 Management Plan (Docob) is validated (e.g. a new type of funding...) can be integrated into it. We recommend the use of a binder, which makes it easier to update the data: every version of which must be dated in a footnote. The computer file should also be archived and updated in a way that guarantees explicit traceability, indicating the reasons for document modifications, version, version date, and other relevant information.

III.1.2.2. Complementary document

The aim of this second document is to exhaustively describe all the surveys, analyses, and proposals deriving from the work conducted in drawing up the Management Plan.
It contains:
- raw data and preparatory studies for ecological and socio-economic appraisals, such as prospecting sheets, and lists of species);
- minutes of meetings (Steering Committee and workgroups);
- plans and documents for general distribution and communication.

The complementary document should be consultable upon request at the offices of either the designated authority or the implementing authority. As with the main document, it must be updateable, and each version must be dated in a footnote. The computer file should also be archived and updated in a way that guarantees explicit traceability, indicating the reasons for document modifications,

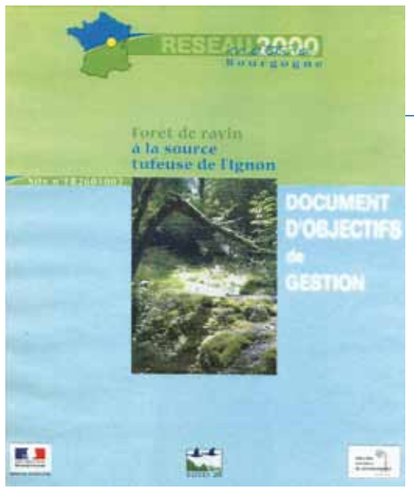


See the ATEN publication (in French) Cahier technique (Technical Guidelines) «Document d'objectifs Natura 2000, guide pour une rédaction synthétique» (Guide to the synoptic writing of Natura 2000 Management Plans), ATEN 2008.

Guide to the synoptic writing of Natura 2000 Management Plans

"Cahier technique «Document d'objectifs Natura 2000, guide pour une rédaction synthétique» , ATEN 2008
This guide helps the manager write the main document. Data is entered into 17 tables, each of which is followed by an overview, with further information provided in the following appendices:
- maps: site boundaries, ecological and regulatory zoning, main habitats, species, human activities, conservation status, issues, and management objectives, and measures;
- fact files: habitats, species, human activities and measures;
- the charter;
- other documents illustrating the contents of the tables.

This guide in French can be downloaded from the ATEN website:
http://www.espaces-naturels. fr/natura_2000/outils_et_methodes



Management Plan for the Forêt de ravin site (Bourgogne)

version, version date, and other relevant information.

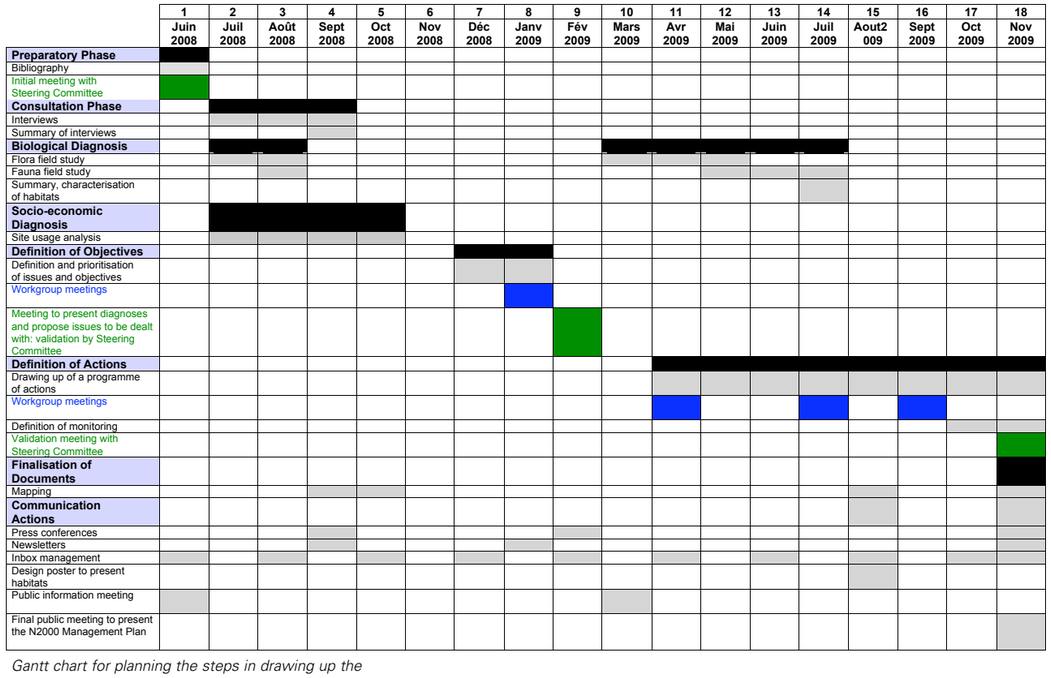
III.2. Scheduling

At the start, scheduling is an essential step in drawing up the Natura 2000 Management Plan. On average, it takes two years to complete for terrestrial sites, and sometimes even longer for marine sites, because inventory and mapping operations require more time due to variability of natural conditions.

The schedule should therefore be presented to the Steering Committee members, who must validate it. There are several scheduling tools available.

Gantt chart

The Gantt chart is used for project sequencing and management, and provides an overview and timelines of the various tasks that make up the project. It provides a graphical representation of the progress of the project. It meets two objectives: optimal scheduling, and communicating about the schedule adopted and the choices it entails.sur le planning établi et les choix qu'il impose.



Gantt chart for planning the steps in drawing up the Management Plan

See Appendix 40 "PACA region DREAL flight plan"

Table

You can also choose to make up a table with the various tasks spread out over 24 months, specifying the organisation responsible for the task, and if necessary, the nature of the interventions: date of Steering Committee meeting, type of communication media used, and so on.

Planner for the main phases in drawing up the N2000 Management Plan

Task concerned	Organisation responsible	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
1- Territorial dialogue	State and Designated Authority																								
1st Steering Committee meeting - launch	Prefect / Administration	date																							
Concertation with local stakeholders	Management Planning Authority																								
Setting up of communication tools	Designated Authority/ Management Planning Authority		Website									Leaflet													
2- Presentation report	Management Planning Authority																								
General information about the site	Management Planning Authority																								
Inventory and mapping of habitats and species	Management Planning Authority																								
Inventory and mapping of human activities	Management Planning Authority																								
Writing of intermediate report	Management Planning Authority																								
2nd Steering Committee meeting - validation	Designated Authority/ Management Planning Authority																								
3- Issues, objectives, management measures	Management Planning Authority																								
Setting up of meetings and workgroups	Management Planning Authority																								
Writing	Management Planning Authority																								
3rd Steering Committee meeting - validation	Management Planning Authority																						date		
4th Steering Committee meeting - validation (optional)	Management Planning Authority																								date

III.3. Presentation report

The presentation report is made up of an ecological appraisal of the natural habitats and species of community interest and a socio-economic appraisal of human activities and their effects.

III.3.1. General information and physical characteristics

The methodological approaches proposed in this chapter have been derived from national and regional methodologies that have already been used and proven their value in the field. They should be of help in obtaining the data needed to draw up the standardised Management Plan, in particular:
- the cover page;
- the layout of the site's Management Plan;
- identifying the people and organisations involved in drawing up the Management Plan;
- an overall presentation of Natura 2000;
- the site identity fact file;
- Table 1 and overview: administrative data;
- Table 2 and overview: location of private property on the site;
- Table 4 and overview: general abiotic data;
- obligatory maps: site location map, official map of the site boundaries, map of the protected areas on the site;
- optional maps: map of the study area at an appropriate scale, plot location map, land ownership map, geological map, topographical map, etc.

See (in French) Technical Guidelines «Document d'objectifs Natura 2000, guide pour une rédaction synthétique» (Guide to the synoptic writing of Natura 2000 Management Plans), ATEN 2008.

III.3.1.1. Site context

General information on the Natura 2000 network and the site's position in the network:

The Natura 2000 network

The size of the Natura 2000 network must be made explicit at several scales:
- in Europe (number of sites, area, %);
- in France (number of sites, area, %);
- in the biogeographical region of the site (number of sites, area, %);
- in the administrative region of the site (number of sites, area, %).

-Where you can find information

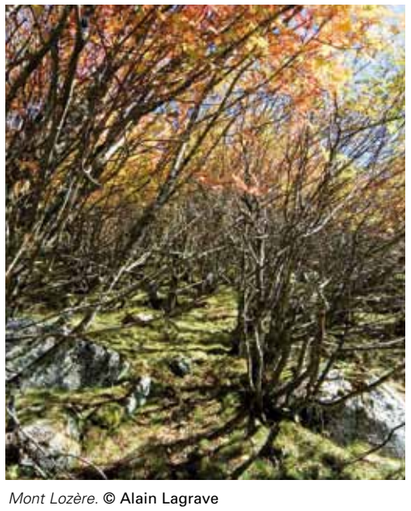
– European Commission website: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000 (subsection: Baromètre) http://biodiversity.eionet.europa.eu
– French Natura 2000 website: http://www.natura2000.fr (in French) (subsection: chiffres clés du réseau Natura 2000)
– Regional Directorate for Environment, Planning and Housing (DREAL) for local information (in French)

The Standard Data Form (SDF): a Natura 2000 site identity fact file

The Standard data form (SDF) is the «identity fact file» for a Natura 2000 site. It is the official document, sent to the European Commission by each Member State, accompanying the transfer decision for an intended site or the decree designating the site. It gives the data identifying the natural habitats and species that justify the site's designation. The SDF data is updated once the inventory and mapping work has been completed.
The DREAL has access to the SDF.
N.B: with marine sites, the first versions of the SDF are relatively inaccurate due to a much lower level of knowledge, and also a lack of precision in how the habitats are defined in the directive, so considerable updating will systematically be required after the inventories are completed.
Give the current level of precision of an SDF for a terrestrial or marine site with a link or an example of an SDF.

See Appendix 41 "Example of map and figures at European scale"

See Appendix 42 "Habitat map of seagrass meadows (Posidonia oceanica) (11-20) in Natura 2000 sites on the Mediterranean façade"



Mont Lozère. © Alain Lagrave

The site

Use the Standard Data Form (SDF) to present the essential reasons justifying the inclusion of the site in the Natura 2000 network, together with its ecological and socio-economic context. This information can be used to assess any knowledge gaps to be filled, notably by:
- finding out and developing the ecological and socio-economic data concerning the site;
- defining management issues, objectives and measures.

III.3.1.2. Site designation and management

Scientific justification for proposing/designating the site

On the basis of the Standard Data Form (SDF), specify:
- when the site was proposed/designated (copy of the official document indicating the designation)
- date the site application was transmitted to the European Commission as a proposed Site of Community Interest (pSCI);
- date of publication in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) of the European Commission's decision granting SCI status;
- date of decree designating the site as an SPA;
- history of how the site was created, when this information is available;
- habitats and species that justified the proposition/designation of the site

Administrative management of the site

Steering Committee

Specify the date it was set up (copy of prefectoral decree in the complementary document), and a table with the names of the organisations and people on the Steering Committee, on what grounds they participate on this committee, and their role on it (president, designated authority, management planning authority).

Designated authority and management planning authority

Indicate the dates the management agreement was signed between the State and the designated authority (Structure porteuse) or management planning authority (Opérateur). Include a copy of the management agreements in the complementary document). In a table (or two, if the management planning authority is different from the designated authority) specify the missions, names and roles of the political representatives (president of the local authority grouping, mayor of the commune, etc.) and technical representatives (director, Natura 2000 project manager, GIS specialist, etc.)

See Appendix 43 "Location map for the Eastern Seine Bay"

III.3.1.3. Administrative data and protection measures

The data should be summarised in Tables 1 and 2 of the Standardised Management Plan.

See Table 4 in the Standardised Management Plan (Document d'objectifs Natura 2000, guide pour une rédaction synthétique» (Guide to the synoptic writing of Natura 2000 Management Plans).

Area, boundaries and administrative data

Provide the area of the site, which can be found in the SDF, together with:
- the site's geographic position: at national, regional, departmental, commune, and inter-commune level;
- precise mapping of the site's geography and landscape: towns close by, urban infrastructure and landscape and natural elements (wooded areas, watercourses, dune massifs, etc.);
- the administrative and legal boundaries (map of the area at 1:25,000 scale, which should be included in the SDF);
- the site boundaries so that they can be seen by stakeholders and users.

Indicate whether it is this map that will be used as the basis for working or if it will be re-adjusted for reasons of scale (e.g., map at 1:10,000 scale). In some cases, the study area, which is justified by the continuity of the natural habitats or the species habitats, may differ from the one found in the SDF.

Identify the administrative data: the local authorities concerned (region(s), department(s), commune(s), and/or group(s) of communes). Present the local authorities in a table with their names and the number of inhabitants they represent. Fill in the table below concerning the communes involved:

Natura 2000 Portal: mapping home page of the Camargue site © French Environment Ministryc

Name of commune	Area of commune	Area of the part of the site located in the commune	Part of the commune on the site	Percentage of the area of the site compared to the area of the commune

Administrative boundaries of marine sites

For the marine parts of Natura 2000 sites, the administrative boundaries to be specified may be: internal waters, territorial sea (12 NM), the 3 and 6 NM lines, des 6 MN, the contiguous zone (24 NM), the EEZ, the straight baseline, the terrestrial boundaries of the public maritime domain (PMD), high-water lines under normal meteorological conditions, etc. These limits are not always precisely defined so it may be necessary to consult State representative bodies (DREAL, DIRM, DDTM) and the local branch of the Marine Protected Areas Agency. Marine topographic outline charts (SHOM) should be used where possible to facilitate exchange.

See Appendix 44 "Marine administrative boundaries and PMDs"

See Appendix 45 "Map of maritime regulations and uses in the Mor Braz area of the Loire estuary"

Delimitation of maritime zones according to the 1982 UNCLOS convention (Source: CEDRE)

Protective measures

Indicate the classifications and inventories drawn up to protect natural heritage on and near the site:

- Natura 2000 network sites: Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas;
- protected natural areas: national parks, regional natural parks, marine natural parks, national natural reserves, regional natural reserves, French Coastal Protection Agency (CdL) land, sensitive natural areas on land owned by French departments, sites covered by a prefectural decree for biotope protection, classified sites, hunting reserves, fishing reserves, biological reserves, classified wooded areas;
- inventories: Natural Areas of Ecological, Fauna and Flora Interest (ZNIEFF), Important Bird Areas, Wetlands of Major Importance;
- other statuses: strategic wetlands for water management, wetlands of particular environmental interest, MAB biosphere reserves, RAMSAR sites, OSPAR or Barcelona sites, etc.

Map the ecological zones on and near the site.

See Appendix 46 "Brochure on Marine Protected Areas", Appendix 47 "Bouches de Bonifacio map" and Appendix 48 "Map of marine protected areas" for examples of marine protection mapping

The law dated 14 April 2006 officially established the list of marine protected areas in

A marine protected area is either:
- the marine part of a Natura 2000 site (SAC or SPA);
- a natural marine park;
- the marine part of a national park;
- the marine part of a site covered by a prefectural decree for biotope protection (APPB) ;
- the marine part of a natural reserve;
- part of the PMD place under the authority of the French Coastal Protection Agency;

The Protected Marine Area Agency (AAMP) is in charge of supporting the creation, management, and networking of PMAs on the basis of this Law.

Note that the French Natural Areas of Ecological, Fauna and Flora Interest (ZNIEFF) are merely inventories with no direct legal status.

Planning and management documents

Make a list of the planning documents and works programmes affecting the site, including the local land use plan (LUP), comprehensive zoning and development plan (Schéma de cohérence territoriale, SCOT), natural reserve management plan, basic forest management plan, forest development plan, national park charter and development programme, regional natural park charter, local landscape charter, Water Planning and Management Scheme (SAGE), river contract, basin contract, bay contract, quarry plan, and risk prevention plan.

Briefly explain how these plans relate to the management of the site. For example:
- the development projects anticipated in the LUP;
- the conservation measures anticipated in the natural reserve management plan;
- the forestry exploitation envisaged in the basic management plan or

forest development plan for public forests;
- developments in favour of such or such habitat are anticipated in the framework of the bay contract.

Type of planning and management document	Structure in charge of document	Relationship with site management

Land tenure

In-depth analysis of land tenure on the site may prove to be costly in terms of time and money. Therefore, during the phase in which the Management Plan is being drawn up, it would be better to limit this analysis to an estimation of the breakdown between:
- public properties: State, commune, group of communes, department; and,
- private properties.

The data obtained in this process can be more precisely defined by the implementing authority's site facilitator during the implementation phase of the Management Plan on the basis of the contracts and charters signed (parcels concerned and how they will be used, name of owner, total area, habitats and species concerned, etc.).

Property rights in the strict sense do not apply to the Public Maritime Domain (Appendix 49). The PMD is regulated by means of a system of usage rights (Appendix 50), with licenses and attributions specific to the Coastal Protection Agency (Conservatoire du littoral) or granted as concessions (fish farms, beaches, etc.) and temporary occupation authorisations (AOTs) (mooring and small-scale facility zones) for private parties occupying the PMD, even if this is for the purpose of preserving the marine environment, as is the case for the Côte Bleue Marine Park in the Bouches-du-Rhône region.

List of processes structuring the PMD
- Marine Development Scheme (Schéma de mise en valeur de la mer, SMVM)– coastal part of the SCOT.
-The Integrated management of coastal zones (GIZC) programme has been replaced by an integrated management plan for the Sea and the coast with strategic documents at the Maritime Façade level, including ecological aspects = PAMM and a strategic plan DSMM
- Link with the WFD and water management policies: bay contracts, management plans, harbours, coastal bodies of water.
- Organisation of professional fishing including the JRC and ICES zones, historical rights and local agreements (Granville Bay).
- Development plans for ports, marinas, nature sports, and others.
- Authorisations in the PMD: marine concessions, AOTs, shellfish farm zones.
- Sea regulations: navigation, cable, and so on.
- Scientific monitoring points.
- Plans for marine concession organisations.
- Cantonnements de pêche (transitory no-take zones).

Enter the data in Table 2 of the Standardised Management Plan (Document d'objectifs Natura 2000, guide pour une rédaction synthétique» (Guide to the synoptic writing of Natura 2000 Management Plans) and if possible, produce a map of land ownership on the site.

Analysis of a site's land ownership structure

Up until now, given the limited means mobilised to draw up the Management Plan, it has been difficult to carry out a land registry and property search. Today, this has become possible because it is easier to access land registry data by means of the Internet site: www.cadastre.gouv.fr.
Without going as far as completing a study, at least these new data enable us to analyse the site's land ownership structure/. Likewise, it should be possible to establish a typology of the sizes of the parcels and their statuses. This typology will enable the Management Planning Authority to specify how the land is occupied, as well as the communication and facilitation efforts that must be made.

See Appendix 49 "The public maritime domain and its management"

See Appendix 50 "Organisation of PMD usage: examples of Glénan and Mont Saint Michel Bay"

See Section III.3.2.2. Preparing the fieldwork

See Table 4 in the Standardised Management Plan (Document d'objectifs Natura 2000, guide pour une rédaction synthétique» (Guide to the synoptic writing of Natura 2000 Management Plans).

Home page of the www.cadastre.gouv.fr cadastral website

How to find climate data

For data concerning climatic parameters check the nearest meteorological station, or one situated in conditions similar to those of the site.
The Météo-France network has a considerable number of stations in France with paid access to data. Climate analyses are also available from certain specialised not-for-profit organisations.

III.3.1.4. Abiotic Data

The methodological points proposed in this section are only required when abiotic data affect understanding of the ecology and functioning of the habitats and species concerned, and their conservation status. It is while preparing the inventory and mapping fieldwork that the relevant abiotic data need to be specified. Abiotic data concern: climate, geology, geomorphology, soil science, topography, hydrology, the study of currents, etc. and play a part during the inventory and mapping preparation phase.

Climatology

The climate and its relationship with the presence or evolution of a given natural habitat should be characterised in the habitat fact file. Several parameters may need to be mentioned:
- average monthly and annual precipitation;
- average monthly and annual temperatures (average, minimum and maximum temperatures);
- annual number of sunny days;
- sunshine duration in hours per day;
- wind speeds and directions;
- hygrometry;
- number and distribution of rainy and snowy days, and frosts.

Summarise the essential parameters in a table. On this basis, characterise the regional and local climate:
- Mediterranean, Atlantic, Continental, etc.
- rainy months and hot dry months (including summer drought);
- temperature range;
- dominant winds;
- any other intra-annual variations for which data are available ;
- a hythergraph combining rainfall and temperature data, if data are available.

Briefly analyse the interactions between intra-annual variations and their consequences for the site (alternation between drought and water-presence in temporary ponds, etc.). Note the dates of significant climatic events (storms, lack of snow, long droughts, etc.) and their direct or potential effects on natural habitats: their occurrence may be even more important if linked with global climate change.

Geology, geomorphology and soil science

Geological, geomorphological and soil data help to understand the locations of plant formations and the evolution of landscapes and habitats.

Geology

Summarise the geological history and formations of the site and its surroundings on the basis of any studies available and the 1:50000 geological maps published by the Geological and Mining Research Bureau, BRGM (Map the geology of the site on the extract of this map. Specify:

- types of outcrops: volcanic or metamorphic plutonic rocks, massive or alluvial sedimentary rocks, any seams of minerals or fossils... ;
- main structures: faults, synclines, etc.

Provide geological cross-sections of the site where available, and useful.

Geomorphology

The relief and landscape result from the action of climatic and hydrological factors on geological formations.
Summarise the characteristic geological relief and landscapes: massif, volcano, surface drainage network, sea, lagoon, pond, glacier, snowfield, etc.

Lozère. Crédit: Biotope, Benjamin Adam

Soil science

Soils form the interface between the substrate and the vegetation and have a profound influence on landscapes and habitats. Describe the various types of soil and their interaction with the main habitats on the site. Provide a soil map of the site or a soil cross section where available, and useful.

Hydrology, hydrography and hydrobiology

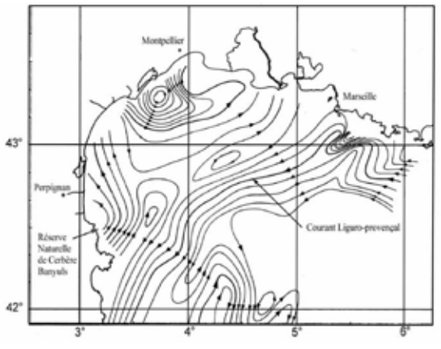
These points may be very important for certain sites (water bodies and watercourses): describe the surface and (if necessary) the underground drainage network, and the water quality. Map the surface and underground drainage network. Summarise the hydraulic functioning of the network and the water quality. Briefly describe the dependence of the site and its habitats with regard to a broader hydraulic system.

Remember that inventory and mapping work should above all focus on the natural habitats and species, found on the site, that feature in Annexes I and II of the Habitats Directive and, for birds, those featuring in Annex 1 of the Birds Directive and the list of migrant birds.

Oceanographic data

Several types of data may be required:
- type of seabed;
- bathymetry,
- topography;
- tidal regime;
- sediment dynamics ;
- water temperature;
- salinity;
- main and local currents;
- suspended matter;
- primary productivity;
- chemical water quality.

These factors can all be of major importance regarding the natural or disturbed functioning of marine ecosystems.
This data has already been gathered, and considerably modelled, in programmes such as Mercator or Prévimer.
The gathering of data, whether existing or to be obtained, should not been limited to the scale of the site, but rather that of the maritime façade, inter-sites or even broader. Consult the Marine Protected Areas Agency (AAMP), which can perform a data check to identify the areas where data is lacking. You should also consult any users who could provide data, such as shellfish farmers, dredgers or fishermen.



General Current chart for the Gulf of Lion (Lenfant et al., 2001)

See Appendix 51 "Examples of uses of oceanographic data"

Framework for using inventory and mapping methods

For terrestrial Management Plans
The methodological points presented in this guide have been validated by the National Natural History Museum (MNHN) and the National Botanical Conservatories (CBN). They make up the minimum required framework for carrying out the work of mapping habitats and species. They stem from already-used national and regional methodologies that have proved their worth in the field.
The inventory and mapping methods to be applied by the management planning authorities should comply with the requirements of the standardised specifications provided for by the Regional Directorates for Environment, Planning and Housing (DREAL) for drawing up Management Plans, if available.

III.3.2. Mapping the habitats and species

The inventory and mapping of the natural habitats and species of community interest lie at the core of the ecological diagnosis of the site: this section describes the stages in the process of carrying out that diagnosis.

A national strategy for mapping MPAs

Concerning the Management Plans of marine Natura 2000 sites, the French Marine Protected Areas Agency (AAMP) is coordinating a major mapping tender market on behalf of the Ecology Ministry and its regional representative bodies (DREAL) with support from the Natural History Museum (MNHN) and Marine Hydrographic and Oceanographic Service (SHOM) with regard to both sites designated under the Habitats Directive and proposed Natural Marine Parks. This market covers 66 sites in the marine Natura 2000 network. It is monitored by a scientific contact person for each batch and by a scientific and technical committee. This choice was made in order to ensure methodological homogeneity nationwide, and mobilise the available experts in a coherent way, together with all the marine resources in France. The same operation is being programmed for sites designated under the Birds Directive. It will consist of:
- differentiated flyovers for the coastal territorial zone (12 nautical miles), plateau, submarine wall and oceanic waters,
- electronic tagging of certain species
- observations derived from oceanographic campaigns or State marine resources.

In addition, these campaigns will be completed by various other programmes such as the monitoring of marine nesting birds (Groupement d'Intérêt Scientifique sur les Oiseaux Marins) and a coast-based observation network (coordinated by the Birds Protection League (LPO) in the framework of its FAME programme).
Complementary inventories may be required for certain marine Natura 2000 sites, linked to very local issues. In this case, the Management Planning Authority should communicate its local needs to the AAMP and MNHN before launching the inventory.

III.3.2.1. Legal points concerning inventory and mapping

The mapping of habitats and species in the Management Plan is governed by Article R414-11-Paragraph 1 of the Environmental Code, which specifies the content of the Management Plan: «a presentation report describing the conservation status and ecological requirements of the natural habitats and species that justify the designation of the site, mapping those natural habitats and the habitats of those species, and protection measures and actions of all kinds.» The process is part of a more general inventory framework covering the French natural heritage defined in Article 411-5 of the Environmental Code.

For the marine environment, there is no problem of property access rights; that said, you need to take into account temporary occupation authorisation (AOT) and concession holders. Marine scientific inventory programmes are coordinated by the maritime prefect, who may apply particular rules (for example the prefectoral decree in force for the North Sea, Channel and Atlantic). Consult the maritime prefecture websites.

Legal provisions concerning the natural heritage inventory

Article L. 411 5 of the Environmental Code (modified by Law 2002 276, 27 February 2002)

I - The natural heritage inventory is instituted for the entire national territory: terrestrial, fluvial and marine. The «natural heritage inventory» means the inventory of France's ecological, wildlife, floristic, geological, mineralogical and paleontological riches.

The State is responsible for designing, facilitating and assessing the inventory. The administrative regions can become involved in the inventory within the framework of their administrative competence. In addition, other local authorities can contribute to knowledge of the natural heritage by carrying out local inventories.

The regional prefect, departmental prefects and other local authorities concerned will be informed of this inventory work.

The inventories are carried out under the scientific responsibility of the National Natural History Museum (MNHN).

For drawing up a plan, programme or project, the prefect will communicate all relevant information contained in the inventories to the competent commune or group of communes.

II - The provisions of the Law passed 29 December 1892 on damage caused to private property by the carrying out of public works are applicable to the operations required for carrying out these inventories. These provisions also apply to knowledge of the soil, vegetation and any other ecological information in the territories surveyed.

III - A regional scientific advisory committee on the natural heritage (CSRPN) has been instituted in each administrative region. This committee is made up of specialists designated intuitus personae for their scientific abilities, particularly from universities, research organisations, learned societies and regional museums. It covers all disciplines of the life and earth sciences for les terrestrial, fluvial and marine habitats. The committee members are nominated by regional prefectural decree after consultation with the president of the regional council. The committee elects its own chairperson. The committee can be consulted by the regional prefect or president of the regional council to give its opinion on any question regarding the inventory and conservation of the natural heritage. The committee's composition, fields of intervention and the conditions under which it can be consulted are defined by a Council of State decree.

Extract from the circular of 2 October 2007 concerning access to private property in the framework of the natural heritage inventories governed by Article L. 411-5 of the Environmental Code

Article L. 411-5 of the Environmental Code states, concerning «entering private properties» that the provisions of the law passed 29 December 1892 on damage caused to private property by the carrying out of public works are applicable to the operations required for carrying out natural heritage inventories.

It provides a simple procedure for carrying out field studies.

The first article of the law passed 29 December 1892 allows agents of the state administration and other persons to whom it delegates its rights, to enter private properties in order to carry out the operations required for performing studies concerning works projects carried out for the State, departments and communes. They are only subject to a simple procedure.

The inventories of the natural heritage to be performed in the framework of Article L. 411-5 of the Environmental Code can be classified as field studies because generally speaking, they only involve observing (presence / absence d'un habitat, or an animal or plant species, counting populations, mapping etc.)

Different cases should be distinguished:

- Unenclosed properties:

In the vast majority of cases, the places where these inventories are carried out will be unenclosed. In such a case, a prefectural decree is required indicating the communes where these inventories are carried out. The decree should be posted at the mayor's office of the communes concerned at least 10 days before the start of operations.

- Enclosed properties (not including private residences):

In addition to the posting of the prefectural decree required for unenclosed properties (see above), the owner or, in his or her absence, the custodian of the property, should be notified of the prefectural decree at least five days in advance. The notification should be carried out by registered letter with acknowledgment of receipt. The law specifies that, in the lack of a known custodian the time limit begins from the notification of the owner at the mayor's office and that on expiry of this time limit, if nobody has come forward to enable access to the property, agents can enter the property with the assistance of a district court judge. Nonetheless, it is better to try to obtain the amicable agreement of the owner before entering the property, in order to ensure that having recourse to the judge only occurs in exceptional cases.

Thus, in the vast majority of cases, carrying out the natural heritage inventories will require prefectural decrees (based on the template found in the Appendices) with the simple formality of posting it at the mayor's office. The cases where agents should enter enclosed properties will undoubtedly be rarer and require, in addition to posting the prefectural decree, that the owner should be notified.

SINP: a national information system on nature and landscape

The Nature and Landscape Information System (Système d'information nature et paysages, SINP) has been set up in the framework of the National Biodiversity Observatory. This system lists and links the various information systems concerning the natural heritage.

Natura 2000 inventories are financed by public funds: and are therefore required by law to be made available to the SNIP so as to be fully accessible to the general public.

See http://www.naturefrance.fr/

III.3.2.2. Preparing the fieldwork

The SFD data should be combined with any already existent knowledge to perform a preliminary analysis of inventory and mapping issues and requirements. This analysis will enable the project supervisor to define the scope of the study and if necessary adapt the mapping scale and methods to the specificities of the site and the management resources and objectives.

A mapping and inventory strategy

A mapping strategy is a preliminary step intended to decide the choices to be made with regard to prospecting, and the precision of the complementary field studies to be carried out in function of the pertinence of existing data, the size and complexity of the site, the accessibility of certain areas, and the human and financial resources available. In order to define this strategy, it is recommended that you:

- carry out a spatial analysis of the main natural features of the site on the basis of existing data, in order to obtain an initial idea of the conservation issues involved;
- make use of the experts involved and the various relevant facilitation units, particularly those of departmental or regional bodies representing state ministries (DREAL, DIRM, DDAE, CSRPN etc.) and the French Marine Protected Areas Agency (AAMP);
- seek assistance from technical and scientific partners such as the National Botanical Conservatory (CBN) and the regional scientific advisory committee on the natural heritage (CSRPN). For example, ask the CBN to validate an initial typology of the habitats present, based on available data or preliminary fieldwork. They can help characterise habitats that are difficult to identify and determine.

See next section «Spatial Analysis».

- for marine sites where the management planning authorities are highly dependent on external data, and fieldwork programmes are very costly and complicated, work with the French Marine Protected Areas Agency (AAMP) which acts as an intermediary and facilitates access to data, and in 2009 launched a government tender to cover the habitats directive costing €6.7 million for the 66 sites in the network, i.e. slightly more than €100,000 per site (Appendix 52);
- plan for the human and financial resources required and help the Steering Committee make well-informed decisions in function of costs and the desired level of precision;
- check the compatibility of the cartographical tools with the navigation software used by professional site-users (e.g. Maxsea and Turbot 2000 for fishing professionals).

See Section II.2.1 «Getting off to a good start together».

See Appendix 7 «Scientific and technical contact organisations for Natura 2000» and Appendix 8 «Example of a mapping strategy for habitats of community interest in the Camargue»

Identifying and making good use of existing data

Identify and analyse the existing data, including abiotic data, in order to assess their pertinence in the framework of the inventory and mapping of species and habitats. This should enable you to identify the areas where knowledge is lacking and thus to orientate the inventories.

See Appendix 52 "Example of a map produced by the Marine Protected Areas Agency for the 2009 tender".

For marine sites, with the support of the French Marine Protected Areas Agency (AAMP), a data check needs to be performed that takes into account the scope and sources of the data, and is coherent on the scale of the whole maritime façade.

See Section III.3.1.4 «Abiotic data».

Potential sources of data include:
- scientific works, publications and studies;
- information from specific natural heritage zones on the site (Natural Area of Ecological, Fauna and Flora Interest (ZNIEFF), National Nature Reserve, National Park, Regional Natural Park, etc.) ;
- scientific and technical organisations (universities, National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), National Botanical Conservatory (CBN) etc.);
- nature protection associations and learned societies;
- users: hunters, fishermen, farmers, etc.;
- local natural heritage management plans;
- existing cartographical data: CORINE Land Cover reference base (see inserts for description and nomenclature), Dupias et Rey vegetation maps, aerial photos from the National Geographical Institute (IGN), the National Forestry Inventory (IFN) with its coloured infrared photographs (see IFN insert);
- synoptic maps of bird, mammal and fish populations;
- data on groups of marine sites
- data from inter-site fieldwork programmes on marine species and habitats, on the scale of the maritime façade or other area larger than the site
- data from impact assessment studies: mineral extraction, wind farms, etc. For example, the body representing aggregate producers (Union nationale des producteurs de granulats) facilitates access to information on authorised aggregate extraction sites by providing a catalogue of metadata in the framework of the Nature and Landscape Information System (SINP). The management planning authority should then consult the mining claim holder to access the data.
- data from habitats and species reference bases on the scale of the region or maritime façade, for example the Languedoc-Roussillon Mediterranean lagoons reference base at www.languedoc-rousillon.developpement-durable.gouv.fr (in French).

See Appendix 53 "Examples of maps for analysing and identifying data gaps".

Petit Rhône Estuary. © Alain Lagrave

See Appendix 54 "Examples of synoptic maps of habitats and species".

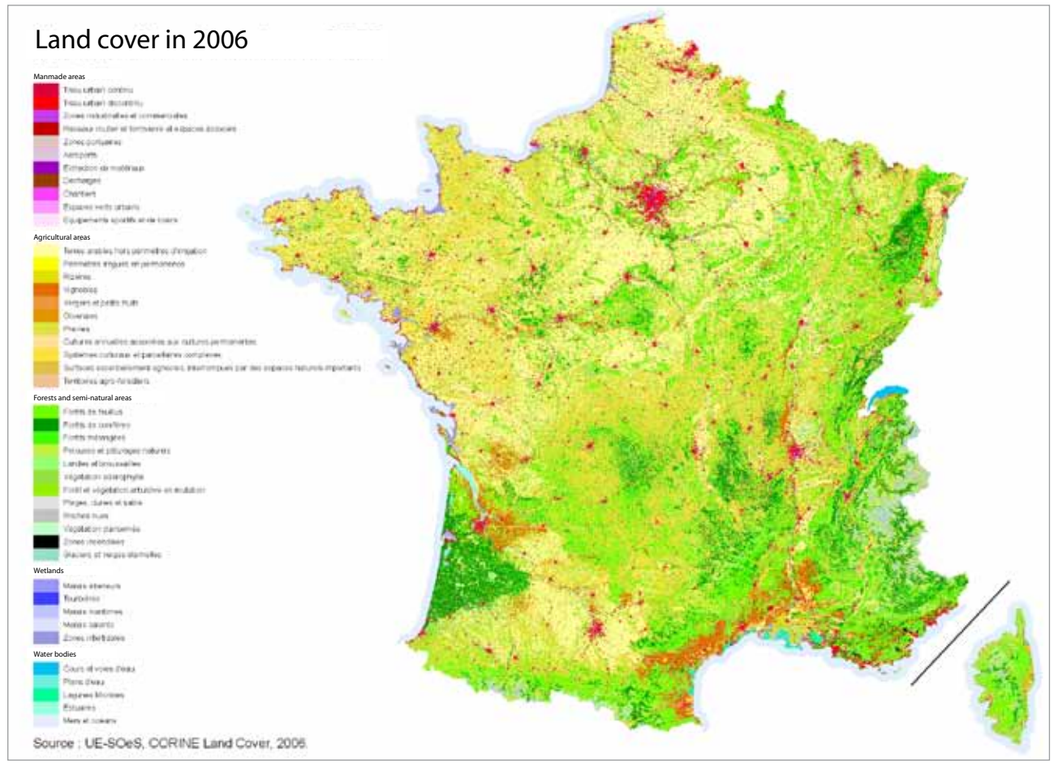
Reference base of management measures for coastal lagoons

See Appendix 55 "Brochure on the marine section of the SINP".
See Appendix 56 "Examples of available and exploitable data".

SINP and data sources

The Nature and Landscape Information System (SINP) enables you to view all the available data systems, already networked at national, regional or maritime façade scale.
- At national level the Natural Heritage Inventory (INPN) gathers together the data on heritage habitats and species: www.inpn.mnhn.fr (in French and English)
- The Marine Mammal Research Center (CRMM) is the contact organisation concerning these species (http://crmm.univ-lr.fr/).
- The French National Network of Marine Stations is organising itself to collect together all the information gathered over time, making it an irreplaceable source of long-term biodiversity monitoring data.
- The regional authorities, DREAL (regional branches of the environment ministry) and Water Agencies have set up networks that work with scientific organisations in the marine domain. The advantage for Natura 2000 management planning authorities is that they can provide mutualised data and useful overviews.

For example, in Brittany the Benthic Network (REBENT) has set up a strategy for the surveillance of marine biodiversity based on marine station and surface monitoring. The network has also produced synoptic fact files on Natura 2000 for the DREAL.



The CORINE Land Cover database

This database can be used for larger sites in order to carry out an initial spatial analysis. It is less appropriate for small sites because the production scale of CORINE Land Cover is 1:100 000 and the surface area of the smallest cartographic unit (description threshold) is 25 hectares.
This biophysical land cover inventory is produced in the framework of the European programme CORINE (Coordination of Information on the Environment) and is created by the automatic analysis of satellite images taken in 2000. It is a real land cover reference base, better fitted to the National Geographical Institute (IGN) cartographic database, and close in date to the population census (1999) and agriculture census (2000).
In France, the French Environment Institute (IFEN) is responsible for its production, maintenance and dissemination. The data are available free on demand (in French).
http://www.ifen.fr/bases-de-donnees.html

Extract concerning natural areas of the CORINE Land Cover classification into 44 land cover types

3- FORESTS AND SEMI-NATURAL AREAS
3.1. Forests
3.1.1. Broad-leaved forest
3.1.2. Coniferous forest
3.1.3. Mixed forest
3.2. Shrub and/or herbaceous vegetation association
3.2.1. Natural grassland
3.2.2. Moors and heathland
3.2.3. Sclerophyllous vegetation
3.2.4. Transitional woodland shrub
3.3. Open spaces with little or no vegetation
3.3.1. Beaches, dunes, and sand plains
3.3.2. Bare rock
3.3.3. Sparsely vegetated areas
3.3.4. Burnt areas
3.3.5. Glaciers and perpetual snow

4-WETLANDS
4.1. Inland wetlands
4.1.1. Inland marshes
4.1.2. Peatbogs
4.2. Coastal wetlands
4.2.1. Salt marshes
4.2.2. Salines
4.2.3. Intertidal flats

5. WATER BODIES
5.1. Inland waters
5.1. 1. Water courses
5.1.2. Water bodies
5.2. Marine waters
5.2.1. Coastal lagoons
5.2.2. Estuaries
5.2.3. Sea and ocean

Photo-interpretation by the National Forest Inventory (INF)

For forest sites the photo-interpretation and mapping work carried out by the National Forest Inventory (INF) can also be used to establish a spatial analysis of the major features.
The IFN's photo-interpretation work includes:
- photo-interpretation of first phase and fourth phase sampling points;
- forest mapping.
To perform these tasks, the IFN was previously obliged to carry out its own aerial photography programmes but now it has obtained usage rights for the photographic component of BD-Ortho, the Large Scale Reference Base (RGE) programme carried out by the National Geographical Institute (IGN).
All the inventory data described above can be provided to users apart from those likely to enable identification of the forest owner, for example the coordinates of sampling points. There is an access charge for the provision of inventory data (photographs, maps, dendrometric and ecological data, dasometric data).

Defining the geographical scope of the study

The geographical scope delimits the inventory and mapping area. The minimum area is that submitted to the European Commission. In certain cases, it may be extended for reasons:
- of continuity of Natura 2000 natural habitats and species;
- of functionality of ecosystems.

Spatial analysis of major natural features

Before carrying out the field inventories, the main ecological units should be identified using existing data and mapping. This will serve as a reference base for the implementation of the biological inventories. It will (rapidly and succinctly) produce a map that can be used to draw up the specifications for the mapping service providers.

See previous subsection «Identifying and making good use of existing data».

Identifying knowledge-issue sectors

In certain cases, mainly for large sites, it may be necessary to identify knowledge-issue sectors. It is a question of pre-diagnosing, a priori, on the basis of existing knowledge, the sectors where inventory and mapping efforts will need to be concentrated. The DREAL (regional directorate representing the environment ministry) of the PACA administrative region has proposed a method for ranking knowledge-issue sectors.

PACA DREAL method for ranking knowledge-issue sectors
Two criteria, which sometimes both apply, can be distinguished for defining the knowledge-issue level: sectors of biological interest and sectors of management interest.

1st criterion: sectors of biological interest	**Example**
• Sector where there is a concentration of remarkable habitats and/or species (biodiversity hotspots)	Wetland, species-rich mountain crest or plateau
• Sector of occasional but major importance for a remarkable habitat and/or species	Petrifying spring with travertine formations, important habitat sector for Orsini's viper on a mountain crest, major bat roost
2nd criterion: sectors of management interest	**Example**
• Sector particularly suited for the implementation of Natura 2000 contracts/ charters/conventions	Agricultural sector (agro-environmental measures) alpine meadows, large area with a single owner or manager
• Sector exposed to certain short or medium-term threats	Valley floor threatened by a motorway project , crest threatened by a windfarm project

Defining the knowledge-issue level involves combining these two criteria (biological interest and management interest). You can use the reference table below which provides an (indicative) combination matrix, in function of biological interest (according to pre-existing data) and management interest:

	High biological interest		**Medium biological interest**		**Low biological interest**	
	Case 1	**Case 2**	**Case 1**	**Case 2**	**Case 1**	**Case 2**
High management interest	**High**	Medium	**High**	Low	Medium	Low
Medium management interest	**High**	Low	Medium	Low	Low	Low
Low management interest	**High**	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low

Case 1: lack of knowledge, or outdated knowledge.
Case 2: good advance knowledge, existence of sufficiently recent and precise bibliographical data.

This pre-diagnosis should enable you to identify the priority sectors for field surveys, i.e.:

Knowledge-issue sectors	**Exemple**
• Sector facing a major management issue and therefore particularly concerned by future measure	Interesting open area being closed by woody encroachment, drying wetland, sea cove subject to heavy tourist pressure
• Sector of high biological interest, a priori not particularly threatened but under-surveyed or requiring data update, indispensable for correctly assessing the conservation status of the habitats/ species	Former bat roost, oxbow lake or stretch of water body potentially favourable to the reproduction of certain N2000 fish, under-surveyed cliff featuring a N2000 plant species of national importance.

Petrifying spring with tufa formation, Vallon de l'Urugne (Lozère). © Biotope

See Appendix 9 «Examples of maps of knowledge-issue sectors».

Sampling strategy and schedule

Before launching the fieldwork programme, it is important to define a sampling strategy for planning the inventories in time and space; the schedule needs to take into account the biological cycle of the species and habitats, and how they function. This strategy will be based on the analysis of existing data.

See Appendix 57 "Example of a survey schedule and sampling plan for a marine site"

Analysis of inventory data						
Name of habitat or species of community interest mentioned on the site	**Presence on site proven or possible (proven/ possible)**	**Priority habitat or species for the directive (yes/no)**	**Well known on the site yes/no)**	**Merits further research or study (yes/no)**	**Knowledge-issue level on the site (high/low)**	**Knowledge-issue sector(s) concerned by the survey**
Species 1						
Species 2						
Habitat 1						
Habitat 2						
etc.						

See subsection «Identifying and making good use of existing data» in last section (III.3.2.2.).

See Section III.3.2.7 "Formal presentation of the data".

Technology

- For the marine environment the technological aspect is important for data acquisition. It is based on aerial surveys with imaging at various wavelengths, the use of sonar and submarine imaging, and truthing exercises in the field, either on foot or by diving, with sampling according to various standardised protocols.
- IFREMER has produced an inventory of the techniques that can be used (Appendix 58)
- The European MESH programme details the signatures of the various habitats for these different techniques: http://www.rebent.org/mesh/signatures/#
- For marine mammals, aerial survey seems to be the best technique for obtaining an overall idea of the distribution of the populations.

Table extracted from the downloadable European guide on the European Union website: (http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/marine/index_en.htm).

In order to identify habitats, linear or punctual benthos sampling data taken using, for example, scoops, drag nets, video or photography, can also be used conjointly with geostatistical analysis.

See Appendix 58 "Reference list of marine habitat types"

III.3.2.3. Technical points to be taken into account

Methods of gathering data

Direct field observations should be used in preference to the analysis of existing data, or photo-interpretation in the case of natural habitats. However, if the site is too extensive or too inaccessible to allow all of the study area to be covered, it is then permissible to resort to photo-interpretation or distance observation (using binoculars) for some particular areas. The data gathering method used should be specified when presenting the data.

Distribution / abundance / habitat
Source: University of La Rochelle/centre for marine mammal research

Data techniques available for identifying or localising habitat types and sub-types

Type of large scale data	1110 Shallow sand banks	1170 Reefs (rocky seabed)	1170 Reefs (stony)	1170 Reefs (biogenic)	1170 Reefs (hydrothermal)	1180 Underwa-ter structures	8330 Sea caves	1120 Seagrass meadows
Geological data/maps of the seabed	Yes	Yes	Partly	No	Yes	Partly	Partly	Partly
Bathymetry	Yes	Partly (does not distinguish between certain reef subtypes)				Partly	No	Partly
Oceanographic data (weather, currents, turbidity, etc.)	No	No	No	Partly	Partly	No	No	Partly
Satellite images and aerial photos (shallow water only)	Partly	Partly (does not distinguish between certain reef subtypes)			No	No	No	Partly

It is important to specify the method of acquisition adopted when the data are presented.

Cartographic resources for photo-interpretation and mapping natural habitats

The IGN digital orthophotographic database (BD Ortho ®) can be used as an aid for field surveys, for carrying out photo-interpretation and for digitising data. Other geo-referenced aids may be used to complement it (IGN BD Topo®, Scan25®,).For marine sites you should use the SHOM databases, at various scales.

The basics of mapping scales

The scale defines the level of precision of the map and thus the minimum size of objects that can be represented. The smaller the scale the more difficult it will be to represent small objects. The smallest visible and interpretable surface that can be represented on a map is considered to correspond to a 25 mm² polygon. This does not apply to objects in the form of points or lines.

The recommended scale for a detailed inventory is, in general, 1/10,000. This is the scale of the mapping resources to be used in field surveys, but it may be varied according to the area of the site, its complexity, and the issues which affect it.

For marine sites, the maximum recommended scale is 1/25,000 given their large size and the access difficulties involved.

The IGN BD ORTHO®.

The National Geographic Institute (IGN) has the task of establishing the Large Scale Geographical Reference Base (Référentiel géographique à Grande Échelle, RGE) with metrical precision, using reference data from its own databases or from other sources.
The BD ORTHO® is a collection of digital orthophotographic mosaics, in visual or infrared colour, of the departments of mainland and overseas France. It is built up from digital images (with no overrun) on which deformities due to the ground relief, to the angle of the viewfinder and the distortion of the objective have been corrected. It also has georeferencing indicators.
The software content is compatible with working scales of the order 1:5000 or less, and can allow utilisation to 1:2000 in some locations.
The resolution (ground area represented by one pixel) is 50 centimetres.
The data are presented in 1km x 1km squares.

Minimum land mappable area in relation to the chosen scale of representation.

Scalle	Smallest mapped object	Real area in m²	That is for example a square of size
1/25 000	25 mm²	15 625	125 m x 125 m
1/20 000		10 000	100 m x 100 m
1/10 000		2 500	50 m x 50 m
1/5 000		625	25 m x 25 m
1/2 500		158	12,5 m x 12,5 m
1/2 000		100	10 m x 10 m

III.3.2.4.Mapping natural and semi-natural habitats

The natural and semi-natural habitats occurring on the site (or study area), for which the site was designated, are to be mapped. The data relating to their description and location will act as a basis for tracking the changes taking place and for monitoring the effectiveness of the measures taken. They can also be used to guide impact assessments in respect of any development proposals. This is therefore a decisive phase which establishes the initial conditions (zero state).

See subsection on "The basics of mapping scales" in Section III.3.2.3.

See Section III.3.2.6 "Other heritage habitats and species"

See Section III.3.2.5 "Mapping species and their habitats"

See Appendix 10 Methodological, typological and taxonomic references».

What habitats should be included in the inventory?

The inventory and mapping must cover the whole of the site, and the level of detail in distinguishing different habitats takes the issues and the items being mapped into account.

In the case of SACs

The inventory must deal with the natural habitats in Annex I of the European "Habitats" Directive. How detailed the inventory is depends on the knowledge issues that have been defined.
For example, a bog or an oxbow lake may require mapping at 1:5000 whereas for a large mountainous site 1:20,000 would be adequate, and even 1:25,000 for an area of countryside with no habitats of Community interest. Natural habitats apart from those listed in the European Directive will not be subject to management measures, but they may be included in the Management Plan inventory for information.

In the case of SPAs

The designation of SPAs takes place in the context of the "Birds" Directive, whose lists comprise resident and migratory birds of Community interest. While not being obligatory, a general inventory of the natural habitats could be useful in facilitating their mapping.

Characterisation of habitats

The objective of characterising the natural and semi-natural habitats is to draw up as complete a list as possible of the types of plant communities on the site, together with data enabling them to be described. It is based on typological and taxonomic references, particularly the Habitats Guidelines and CORINE Biotope.

Towards a functional typology

For marine Natura 2000 sites, the European typological frame of reference for marine habitats (interpretation guide) is ill-defined and is difficult to use in the field. A precisely defined and consensually recognised typological frame of reference would considerably facilitate the in-field implementation of management measures, inventories, conservation status assessment and habitat mapping. The Natural History Museum (MNHN) is seeking to establish equivalences between the various typologies currently used for European French marine habitats (EUNIS, ZNIEFF, Barcelona Convention, OSPAR etc.) and to propose a functional national typology applicable to work in the field. The MNHN's work largely builds on the methodology developed by the French Research Institute for the Exploitation of Marine Resources (IFREMER) for coastal and intertidal Breton sites. It will be extended to the whole Atlantic maritime façade and subtidal habitats, and to the Mediterranean and Channel/North Sea façades with adaptations in function of the species and habitats concerned (complexity, annual and multi- annual evolution, etc.). The results of this work will be available on an on-going basis from the MNHN DREAL (regional directorates representing the environment ministry) and the French Marine Protected Areas Agency.

The typology used must be appropriate to the scale of the site and to the management and knowledge issues affecting it. Each unit identified is characterised with the maximum possible level of precision: depending on the individual case this will be at the level of the association, the alliance or the basic habitat as described in the Habitats Guidelines. The generic habitat (EUR 27) is the minimum level of precision required. It may correspond to a group of plant associations, alliances or basic habitats.

To characterise these habitats, phytosociological recording must be carried out within facies considered to be ecologically and floristically homogenous. The number of recording points will depend on the area of the habitat, its heterogeneity, its status (rare, common, threatened etc.), and the knowledge issues defined for the survey areas. There should be at least three per habitat over the site as a whole. For each recording point, the vegetation layers must be identified (herb layer, understorey and canopy) and the species present must be listed together with an abundance-dominance coefficient for each one. In order to ensure that the data are of high quality, it is strongly advisable to have the typology checked and verified, by the local branch of the National Botanical Conservatory (CBN) in the case of terrestrial sites, and for marine sites by the CSRPN, at the local scale and that of the maritime façade.

Natural habitat complexes

When the habitats are intermingled or superimposed, they form habitat complexes:
- spatial mosaics;
- temporal mosaics;
- mixed units.

Mapping based on composite units allows several plant communities to be shown in a single polygon. The maximum number of habitats that can be shown in one complex polygon is set at five. The proportion of each habitat in the polygon must be estimated as a % of the surface area. This form of representation is only valid in cases where mapping the various habitats separately proves to be impossible.

Example of habitat characterisation

The generic habitat UE3130 "Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Litorellata uniflorae and/or of the Isoeto-Nanojuncetea" is divided into six basic habitats:
3130-1- oligotrophic to mesotrophic montane to subalpine standing waters of Alpine regions with perennial vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflorae;
3130-2- oligotrophic to mesotrophic waters of lowland continental regions with perennial vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflorae;
3130-3- mesotrophic to lowland eutrophic annual communities, with continental affinities, of the Isoeto-Juncetea;
3130-4- mesotrophic to eutrophic lowland annual communities with Atlantic affinities, of the Isoeto-Juncetea;
3130-5- mesotrophic to eutrophic annual communities, acidophilous, medium to montane relief, of the Isoeto-Juncetea;
3130-6- mesotrophic to eutrophic annual communities, neutrophilous to basophilous.

See Appendix 59 "Specifications for mapping the habitats of coastal Natura 2000 sites"

III.3.2.5. Mapping species and their habitats

An inventory of the Natura 2000 species and their habitats on the site (or within the study area) has to be produced, and they also have to be mapped. The data obtained (baseline data) will constitute the point of reference for defining the management measures to be undertaken and for monitoring these species (increasing, decreasing, stable). The inventory and mapping must cover the whole of the site and should also include potential habitats. Indeed, these should also be managed in such a way as to ensure their long-term survival.

Which species should be included in the inventory?
- In the case of a SAC, the detailed, exhaustive inventory includes the species in Annex II of the "Habitats" Directive.
- In the case of an SPA, the inventory covers the nesting species in Annex I of the "Birds" Directive (Decrees of 16 November 2001) and nesters included among the migratory species outside Annex I, identified on the site.

See Section III.3.2.6 "Other heritage habitats and species"

Aquatic plants rooted to Myriophyllum. © Alain Lagrave

See Appendix 11 «Degradation criteria".

If the SPA has the potential to act as a refuge area during the winter, or as a migration stopover site, a similar study must be undertaken in this respect. In many cases, species groups may be considered. The other heritage species may also be included in the inventory when during the survey programme.

Localisation of populations of species

The positions where species occur on the site are to be localised using topographic features or objects in the landscape, or using a GPS (Global Positioning System) receiver if the organisation can obtain one. GPSs usefully complement geographical information systems. Some models enable the characteristics of a given position to be recorded directly in the field: species name, observer, date of observation, population size, degree of geographical precision of the data, etc.

Describing the populations of species

This involves providing quantitative or qualitative information such as:
- the size of the population: by counting (number of individuals or breeding pairs), by abundance class (1 to 25, 26 to 50, 51 to 75, etc.), by area occupied (in square metres), or by semi-quantitative estimates;
- the comparative importance of the local population in relation to those at the regional, biogeographical and European levels, so as to assess the importance of the site for conservation (see the explanatory note in the SDF);
- the type of distribution of the population: aggregated, regular, random, unknown;
- degradation factors: their nomenclature is based on the list in Annex E of the explanatory notes in the SDF;
- the habitat used by the species: see the following section on describing the species' habitats.

Describing the species' habitats

This description will of course include the habitats of the species in Annex II of the "Habitats" Directive, Annex I of the "Birds" Directive, and migratory species.
It is generally difficult to characterise the habitats of species about which little is known, which is frequently the case with marine species.
The management of a species is often achieved via the management of its habitat: the biotope(s) that include all the specific physical and biological factors that are necessary for the population to continue to exist, at one or more stage(s) in the species' life cycle. Detailed knowledge of the biology and ecology of the species covered by the inventory will prove to be indispensable for deciding what will

be mapped as "habitat for the species", in addition to a preliminary literature search and advice from experts.
The description of the species' habitat will be restricted to its confirmed and/or potential area of distribution on the site:
- areas or habitats where the species is present (direct observations of individuals or signs confirming its occurrence;
- areas or habitats which are the most suitable for the species, with medium or high potential for presence "according to the experts", by interpretation of, and extrapolation from, the existing data.

This area will constitute the target area for implementing any management measures aiming to conserve the species. In some cases it is not easy to define, owing to a lack of scientific information or to difficulties in detecting the species in the given habitat. In all cases, the inventory of natural and semi-natural habitats may be helpful in determining the habitat of the species in question.

Habitats of plant species in Annex II of the "Habitats" Directive

The habitat of a plant species corresponds to its known or potential area of distribution on the site. It consists of one or more natural or semi-natural biotopes. Its description is therefore based on the CORINE biotope system or on the Habitats Guidelines. Its characterisation is carried out on the basis of phytosociological notes referring to the positions where its presence is confirmed. Potential habitats, where all the favourable factors (physical and biological) for its presence are found, will also be mapped so that they can be taken into account in the context of the management measures to be put in place. To ensure that the data are of good quality, it is preferable to have the list of species and the characterisations verified by a competent body (CBN, CSRPN, etc.).

Habitats of animal species in Annex II of the "Habitats" Directive and bird species in Annex I of the "Birds" Directive

Describing the habitat of an animal species relates to its range, which varies according to species, individual, age, sex, life history stage, availability of resources throughout the year (food, lack of disturbance, shelter, water, etc.), individual capacity for movement and population density. The same area may be used by an individual at different stages of its life cycle.

The habitat (range) of the species includes:
- the breeding area, which includes the nesting or birthing site and the area where the young are raised;
- feeding areas (sufficient food supplies available at all seasons and throughout the life cycle);
- stopover, resting or refuge areas, of which there may be many, of various kinds and widely separated, but only those areas used regularly by significant numbers will be considered;
- ecological continuity or transition zones, used during movements (all the components of territories or habitats and/or living organisms, which functionally link together the essential habitats for plants, and the breeding, feeding, resting and migration areas for animals). These are biological or physical continua which may be tangible or otherwise, sometimes only in the form of clusters, permanent or otherwise, and will vary depending on the species or species group.

Example: the hermit beetle, adults of which can only be observed for a limited period.

Black-winged stilt Vincent Rufray © Biotope

Example: Greater horseshoe bats spend their days in holes underground, in attics or in disused mines, then go out to feed at night in areas with hedges and trees, within a radius of about ten kilometres.

Greater horseshoe bat Vincent Rufray © Biotope

Example: the stretches or river used by some fish species between their spawning and feeding areas (ascent and descent of salmon).

Mapping the species' habitat distinguishes between:
- its actual presence: data have been collected on the basis of direct field observations, or reported in the recent literature;
- its potential presence: areas that are suitable for the species' life cycle do exist, but the species has never been recorded there or has only been occasionally recorded in the past, although it has not been possible to confirm that it has disappeared.

See Appendix 60 "Map of Bottlenose dolphin sightings"

Assessing the status of species and their habitats

The term "status" of species and habitats on the Natura 2000 site, which we use here, is not the same as "conservation status", which refers to the national context. Its characterisation is based on several criteria: typical / exemplary nature, representativity, conservation status, dynamics, trends and overall assessment, etc. Methodological approaches to the assessment of woodland, riverine and marine habitats have been developed in recent work carried out by MNHN, ONF and RNF.

See Appendix 1 «Bibliographical and legal references» and Appendices 12 and 13 «Assessing the status of species and habitats ».

The characterisation of the conservation status of marine habitats/species at the site level is being undertaken by the National Natural History Museum (MNHN). However there is already some information available concerning the assessment of the conservation status of marine bird habitats within SPAs (Appendix 61)

III.3.2.6. Other heritage habitats and species

Some references

- A reference base published by the MNHN on the characterisation of the conservation status of marine bird habitats based on consultation with experts in the field (Appendix 61). The MNHN is also working on other species, particularly amphihaline fish. These items will be available on the INPN website and from DREAL, ATEN and the Marine Protected Areas Agency. - Distribution maps of directive annex species regularly updated by the Centre for sea mammal research (http://crmm.univ-lr.fr).
- A report on the conservation status of marine habitats drawn up the MNHN (Appendix 62-1).
- Assessment grid templates proposed by the MNHN to harmonise the assessment of the conservation status of Atlantic and Mediterranean natural marine habitats (Appendices 62-2 and 3).

See Appendix 61 "Assessment of the conservation status of marine bird habitats within SPAs"

See Appendix 62-1 "Report on the conservation status of marine habitats"

See Appendix 62-2 "Assessment grid templates for the conservation status of Atlantic natural marine habitats"

See Appendix 62-3 "Assessment grid templates for the conservation status of Mediterranean natural marine habitats"

The following are not covered by the inventory of the Natura 2000 site:
- species in Annexes IV and V of the "Habitats" Directive;
- habitats and species not covered by the Directives but enjoying other protected status (regional, national, international etc. protection);
- other habitats and species not covered by Annexes I and II of the "Habitats" Directive in the case of a SAC, and in particular "decisive species" for ZNIEFF sites (natural areas of ecological, faunistic and floristic interest);
- for marine sites, other habitats and species covered by the OSPAR (and Barcelona Conventions;
- other habitats and species not covered by Annex I of the "Birds" Directive and the list of migratory birds in the case of a SAC, and in particular the "decisive species" for ZNIEFF sites.

If these habitats and species are included in the inventory, they could be presented in the form of a list specifying their possible links with the conservation issues affecting the habitats and species on which the designation of the site was based.

Short-eared owl Olivier Larrey © Biotope

See Table 5 in Section III.3.2.7 "Formal presentation of the data"

III.3.2.7. Formal presentation of the data

Description of inventory and mapping methodologies

The methods must be described and should appear in the supplementary document, so as to avoid the loss of raw data through lack of knowledge of the protocols used to obtain them and to allow the protocols to be repeated in the context of monitoring:
- methods: itineraries, transects, quadrats, sound observation points, sample plots, diving protocols, automatic depth gauges for mapping the ocean floor, photography, etc.;
- sampling techniques: random, systematic, stratified, etc.;
- scales of working and of mapping;
- number and dates of visits and field observations;
- location of areas surveyed and indication of the degree of detail with which the inventory was carried out in each area.

The management planning authority must receive all the raw data gathered.

Example of OSPAR/N2000 characterisation

For example, the OSPAR habitat "Zostera beds" could be included in the habitats "Sandbanks permanently covered with shallow sea water"(1110), " Muddy or sandy shores" (1140), or "Large shallow coves and bays" (1160). It is therefore a good idea to use this habitat to prioritise actions in habitats that are less well-defined in the Directive.

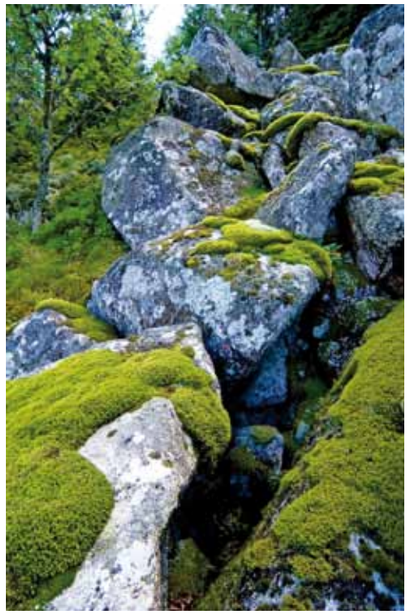
See Section III.1.2 "Management Plan layout".

Presenting the data in a geographic information database

As well as rendering the data capable of being used by the management planning authority, this must also enable the data to be aggregated at higher levels: regional, biogeographical, national and European. It is therefore recommended that the following rules be applied:
- present the data obtained from the field inventory in digital, georeferenced form, in the format of a PC compatible "Geographical Information System" (GIS) software package. The most commonly used formats are E00, MIF/MID, .tab or .shp;
- for non-spatial data, use formats compatible with standard spreadsheets of the type .xls, .mdb and .txt with tabulation;
- use the WGS84 geographical co-ordinates system;
- abide by the standards for data interchange at appropriate scales in respect of the sea: 1:50000 to 1:10000. If unavailable, use the extended Lambert II system;
- carefully digitise the data on orthophotomaps, making sure that the polygons representing the habitats identified in the field fit together perfectly and that each point on the ground is only included in a single area. Each habitat must be represented by one polygon;
- supplement the information obtained during the inventory and mapping of species and habitats with a table of metadata drawn up by the management planning authority or its contractors. The tables describe the content, quality and uses of the collected data.

See Appendix 10 "Metadata tables"

See "SINP: a national information system on nature and landscape" in Section III.3.2.1



Boulders with Racomitrium moss, Mont Lozère. © Alain Lagrave

Location maps of Natura 2000 natural and semi-natural habitats

Present the data on a topographic map as accurately as possible, so as to optimise their computerisation. Meticulous mapping of the terrain is essential in order to ensure the closest possible correspondence to reality.
- The scale of data capture should be at least the same as that of the field inventory: this is the scale at which the data are digitised.
- The scale at which data are presented should be equal to or less than the scale of the field mapping: this is the scale shown on the map which is presented.

Avoid captions that include too many items, which could result in a degree of uncertainty of interpretation. When the colour shades are too similar it is possible to number the polygons according to their colour so as to make it easier to read.

Include the SHOM background for marine sites. The marine protected area agency may, if requested by the management planning authorities of Natura2000 sites, prepare the maps from raw SHOM data (Coastal SCAN especially) and provide them with the finalized maps.

Complex habitats (habitat mosaics) must be clearly identifiable,

RECOMMENDED BACKGROUNDS IN FUNCTION OF SCALE OF PRESENTATION		
Use	Scale of presentation	Terrestrial habitat
Particular case: overall view, assemblage plan	1/50 000 or less	Blank topographic map IGN SCAN25, SCAN100, SCAN250
General case	**1/25 000**	**Blank topographic map IGN SCAN25 DEFAULT COASTAL SCAN: SHOM SCAN 50**
General case	**1/10 000**	**Blank topographic map IGN SCAN25, Orthophotomap**
Particular case: zoom mapping	1/5 000	Orthophotomap
	1/2 500	

in the figures (e.g. by cross-hatching) and/or in the wording of the caption. Minor habitats (mapping size less than 25 mm²) are only marked on the map if their natural heritage value (springs, ponds etc.) justifies their individual identification in the form of micro-polygons,

obtained for example by the automatic conversion of points into polygons or by individual digitisation.

Obligatory maps to be produced

These appear in the atlas appended to the main document:
- map of natural habitats mentioned in Annex I of the "Habitats" Directive (generic habitats). Include the code numbers in the caption (EUR 27 or guidelines on habitats and the European titles which may be adapted to the local context or simplified to correspond to the situation on the ground;
- map of all the natural and semi-natural habitats on the site;
- map showing the status of the habitats: habitats of Community interest in green, priority habitats in red and other habitats in white;
- map of elementary habitats (facies) for marine sites.

The management planning authority may produce other maps of the natural habitats, tailored to suit their target audience: internal communications, communication with experts or site users, etc.

See Appendix 6 «List of optional and obligatory maps».

Maps showing the location of Natura 2000 species and habitats for species

Only the positions of species currently listed and reviewed are to be mapped, even in the case of former positions that can be precisely located from the literature or databases. The area of distribution of the species is also to be mapped: this will be the subject of management measures. Localised positions represented by less than 25 mm² on the field mapping aid will be captured in the form of small polygons obtained by point transformation.

See Appendix 15 «Final presentation of inventory and mapping data».

Obligatory maps to be produced

The obligatory maps appear in the atlas appended to the main document:
- map(s) of plant species listed in Annex II of the "Habitats" Directive in the case of a SAC: known positions and habitat (confirmed or potential areas of distribution);
- map(s) of animal species listed in Annex II of the "Habitats" Directive and their habitats in the case of a SAC: known positions and habitat (confirmed or potential areas of distribution);
- map(s) of species or groups of species of birds listed in Annex I of the "Birds" Directive and the list of migratory birds in the case of a SAC: known positions and habitat (confirmed or potential areas of distribution).

The management planning authority may produce other maps that are tailored to requirements.

See Appendix 6 «List of optional and obligatory maps».

Tables and summaries

In accordance with the technical guidelines Document d'objectifs Natura 2000, guide pour une rédaction synthétique (Guide to the synoptic writing of Natura 2000 Management Plans), the essential data are to be presented in Tables 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9:
- Table 5: major habitats. These major habitats correspond to the major natural entities identified on the site, which are not necessarily the "major types of habitat" covered by the Charter;
- Table 6: natural habitats and species of natural heritage significance (other than the habitats and species on which the designation of the site is based);
- Tables 7, 8, 9: natural habitats and species of Community interest (Annex I and II of the "Habitats" Directive, Annex I of the "Birds" Directive and list of migratory birds).

These Tables, followed by summaries, appear in the main document.

See Appendix 15 «Final presentation of inventory and mapping data».

See Appendix 19 «Tables for presenting inventory and mapping data».

Descriptive fact files on habitats and species

These appear in the appendices to the main document. They are based on the fact files for habitats and species in the specifications for carrying out biological inventories produced by the PACA DIREN.

See Section III.1.2 "Management Plan layout"

Habitat fact file

The descriptive file for a habitat includes:
- name of the habitat;
- illustration;
- Community status: habitat of Community interest, priority habitat of Community interest;
- classification: EUR27 (generic habitat), habitats guidelines (elementary habitat), CORINE Biotope;
- general description: introduction, distribution in France (see habitats guidelines), distribution and variability within the site; botanical physiognomy and structure on the site, indicator species on the site, simplified phytosociological affinities (class, order, alliances) etc.);
- condition of the habitat on the site: distribution (location and surface area), representativeness (quantitative and qualitative importance of the habitat, see SDF notes), ecological and biological value (rarity, distribution, functional aspect of the ecosystem, presence of species of high natural heritage value or high concentration of species, etc.), conservation status, associated or adjoining habitats, vegetation dynamics, favourable and unfavourable factors, possible

See Section III.1.2 "Management Plan layout"

Bryophytes study. © Hassan Souheil (Plateau de Roque-Haute Natura 2000 Site)

Invertebrates study. © Hassan Souheil (Plateau de Roque-Haute Natura 2000 Site)

significance of the habitat from the economic point of view (farming, forestry, fish farming etc);
- management of the habitat: conservation and management objectives, general recommendations concerning uses and activities, recommended management measures, habitat monitoring indicators, main types of stakeholders involved (farmers, stockbreeders, woodland owners etc.);
- appendices: bibliography, referring back to the maps and documents describing the habitat.

Plant species fact file

The fact file describing the plant species includes the following components:
- species name (French and scientific);
- illustration: photo, drawing;
- taxonomy: class, order, family;
- Community status: species of Community interest, priority species;
- additional status: protection laws (Berne Convention, Washington Convention, national protection, Regional protection, Departmental protection), conservation status (Red Data Lists) for the world, Europe, France and the Region;
- general description: morphological characteristics, biological characteristics (reproduction, capacity for regeneration and dispersal, population aspect etc.), ecological characteristics (habitats where found, ecological requirements, plant communities associated with the species, etc.), geographical distribution (world, Europe, France, Region), trends in the condition of the populations and threats on the global scale;
- history of the species on the site;
- current state of the population on the site: distribution, numbers, relative significance of the population, population dynamics, degree of isolation, conservation status of the species and of its habitat;

Fact file templates

- The REBENT network publishes summary fact files on behalf of the Brittany DREAL: for example on eelgrass (Zostera) beds (Appendix 63)
- Reference bases for the management of Natura 2000 sites, particularly the 2nd tome "Habitats and species (Appendix 64),
- The coastal habitat and bird fact files available from the MNHN's INPN website (http://inpn.mnhn.fr/isb/download/fr/docNatura2000Cahhab.jsp) and the Natura 2000 portal (http://www.natura2000.fr).

See Appendix 63 "Synoptic biocenose fact file: marine Zostera meadows"

See Appendix 64 "Reference bases for the management of Natura 2000 sites - Tome 2: Marine Natura 2000 habitats and species"

Narcissus triandus (Glénans).
Frédéric Tintilier © Biotope

Austropotamobius pallipes (Freshwater white-clawed crayfish).
Benjamin Adam © Biotope

- special features and particular characteristics that are reasons for conserving the species on the site;
- potential for restoring the species (if conservation status is poor) and its habitat;
- interspecies and parasite competition which the species could face;
- favourable or unfavourable factors of natural or artificial origin that are affecting the conservation status of the species;
- protective measures from which the species currently benefits;
- management of the species on the site: conservation and management objectives, general recommendations concerning uses and activities which could give rise to contracts or charters; recommended management measures, monitoring indicators for the species or its habitat, main types of stakeholders involved;
- Appendices: bibliography, referring back to the maps and documents describing the species or its habitat.

Animal species fact file

The fact file describing an animal species includes the following components:
- species name (French and scientific);
- illustration: photo, drawing;
- taxonomy: class, order, family;
- Community status: species of Community interest, priority species of Community interest, migrant;
- additional status: protection laws (Berne Convention, Washington Convention, national protection, Regional protection, Departmental protection), conservation status (Red Data Lists) for the world, Europe, France and the Region;
- general description: morphological characters, biological characteristics (reproduction, activity, diet, capacity for regeneration and dispersal, etc.), ecological characteristics (habitats used, ecological requirements, interspecific relationships, population density, etc.), geographical distribution (world, Europe, France, Region), trends and condition of populations and threats on a large scale (France, Europe, etc.);
- history of the species on the site;
- current state of the population on the site: distribution, numbers, relative significance of the population, population dynamics, degree of isolation, conservation status of the species and its habitat;
- special features and particular characteristics that are reasons for conserving the species on the site;
- potential for restoring the species (if conservation status is poor) and its habitat;
- interspecies and parasite competition which the species could face;
- favourable or unfavourable factors of natural or artificial origin that are affecting the conservation status of the species;
- protective measures from which the species currently benefits;
- management of the species on the site: conservation and management objectives, general recommendations concerning

uses and activities which could give rise to contracts or charters; recommended management measures, monitoring indicators for the species or its habitat, main types of stakeholders involved;
- Appendices: bibliography relating to the species, referring back to maps and documents describing the species or its habitat.

III.3.3. Ecological and functional analysis

Relationships between habitats and species

Define the ecological spectrum of each habitat and species of Community interest and provide information concerning:
- the biological importance of the habitats for the species (habitats of species): principal, secondary, used, potential;
- the functions of the habitat: breeding, feeding, resting and shelter, movement corridors, many functions combined.

This information is to be presented in table format.

Ecological functions of the site

The analysis of the site's position in the Natura 2000 network concerns:
- the location of the site in relation to other sites in the regional Natura 2000 network where the habitats or populations of the species occur;
- the degree of ecological connectedness between the site and other Natura 2000 sites and natural areas, as far as can be determined given the available data and knowledge

Cross-referenced "habitats X species" matrix								
			Natural habitats of Community interest			Habitats of species		
			Habitat 1	Habitat 2	Habitat 3	Habitat of species 1	Habitat of species 2	Habitat of species 3
Species of community interest	Name of taxonomic group	Name of species						
	Group 1	Species 1						
		Species 2						
	Group 2	Species 1						
		Species 2						
	Group 3	Species 1						

For mainly marine Natura 2000 sites You need to pay particular attention to connections with land areas (especially catchment areas and the interior of the hydro-sedimentary cell to which the site belongs). A map of showing the currents and sedimentary transfers in the region of the site is useful for this (see Appendix 65). The time dimension is also important in an environment that is undergoing rapid change, particularly regarding the expansion of invasive species populations that could impact the conservation status of habitats (slipper shells, Caulerpa seaweed, etc.)

See Appendix 65 "Strategic analysis of sedimentary dynamics and the high-water line in the north Brittany / west Cotentin zone"

Relationships between major habitats and Natura 2000 habitats/ species

Establish the connection between the habitats and species that have been identified in the site inventory and the major habitats which will be identified when the site charter is being drawn up (see Chapter III.7 "Natura 2000 Charter"), or which have already been identified in a regional guide such as that for the Rhône-Alpes (see below).

Major habitats defined by the Rhône-Alpes DREAL (regional directorate representing the environment ministry) as a basis for signing up to Natura 2000 charters	
- Woodland habitats in general - Grasslands, meadows and heath - Still and flowing waters - Wetlands (reed beds, marshes, wet grasslands, etc.) - Bogs - Ponds	-Tree habitats outside woodlands (hedges, spinneys, isolated trees, woodland edge, wooded pasture, traditional orchards, etc.) - Rocky habitats and caves - Miscellaneous features (bat sites, dikes, scree, etc.)

Make up a table (see below) listing, in addition to the descriptive features (name, proportion on the site, condition, habitats and species), the main threats (disturbance, quarrying, enclosure) or positive features (haymaking, or maintaining hedges in good condition for the conservation of habitats and species, etc.) associated with natural trends and human activities.

Name of major habitat	Surface area, length or proportion on the site (ha, km or %)	Summary of condition of major habitat (good, intermediate, poor)	Habitats of Community interest involved	Species of Community interest involved	Main threats and positive points

The marine habitats mentioned in the Habitats Directive are in themselves "major habitats"; it would be better to group them together within larger geographical features that are subject to the same pressures, such as an archipelago, bay or rocky platform, each containing several habitats.

Revision of the SDF and site boundary

During the ecological inventory stage, it is important to plan for the inclusion of any newly identified habitats and species of Community interest in the SDF, so that they can be subjected to management measures. For both terrestrial and marine sites, the SDF must be revised in order to update the regional and national data and to feed into the national Nature and Landscapes Information System (SINP). Such updates are submitted to the DREAL, the regional directorate representing the environment ministry. On the basis of the biological inventory, the manager may suggest an adjustment (at the edge) to the boundary of the site, for reasons of ecological and functional

coherence or due to the agreed working scale. In certain cases a request may be put in for a site extension if it addresses important conservation issues.
It is obligatory to conform to SINP standards, which facilitates the updating operation.

III.3.4. Prioritising conservation issues

Definition

Depending on the context, the meaning of the word "issue" may vary.

Why prioritise conservation issues?

Identifying the site's major issues, the natural habitats or species of Community interest for which it is necessary to implement measures to ensure their conservation, will enable the order of priority of the measures that are to be applied to be set. The sustainable development objectives for the site and the operational objectives of the Management Plan will be defined on the basis of this prioritisation.
It may be done by the management planning authority, or in partnership with various Management Plan stakeholders: a contractor, those involved on the site, specialist naturalists, etc. - whose role may prove to be important at this stage. Depending on the Region, the involvement of the CSRPN may be required.

The scale of the maritime façade and regional waters is particularly important for this prioritisation and is specifically required by the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008/56/EC).

Criteria for prioritising conservation issues

Their organisation varies depending on the methods used for prioritisation:
- European status of the habitat or the species (of Community interest or Priority);
- presence of protected species (natural heritage);
- degree of rarity;
- the importance of the species for the habitat;
- degree of isolation (edge of range, taxonomic isolation, genetic isolation);
- iconic character of the species, cultural or economic value;
- ecological amplitude;
- numbers;
- conservation status of the natural habitats of Community interest and species of Community interest and their habitats, at the scale of the site;
- natural trends taking place in the natural habitats and in the populations of species of Community interest.

Definition of the concept of "issue" by the Niger Centre for Information Exchange (National Environment Plan for Sustainable Development)

"The concept of an issue (…) enables a complex situation to be summarised and the fundamental points to be identified which will guide the rest of the analysis. By definition, issues are limited in number. They correspond to what ultimately stands to be lost or gained if an action or an event takes place. (…) It is also important to remember the distinction which must be made between the concept of an impact and that of an issue. The impact occurs after the action. It is a result, an effect. An impact, while it may be important, can be corrected, minimised - sometimes completely, sometimes partly - by means of a number of more or less expensive or effective measures. On the other hand, an issue already exists in advance of any action.
(http://bch-cbd.naturalsciences.be/niger/nerfra).

See Appendix16 "Summary tables of issues and objectives" in the Technical Guidelines «Document d'objectifs Natura 2000, guide pour une rédaction synthétique» (Guide to the synoptic writing of Natura 2000 Management Plans).

Note: the prioritising of issues precedes, and is useful for, assigning an order of priority to the measures. These two stages may be carried out simultaneously, as in the example of the "Urugne Valley" in Lozère (Appendix 22), or at different times. According to the methods, similar criteria may be used. Assigning an order of priority to the measures is explained in Section III.5.2 «How to identify the measures to be proposed».

Qualitative and quantitative criteria

Various methods for prioritising the conservation issues have been set out in Management Plans or devised by scientists. Some are quantitative, using a grading system, while others are qualitative and based on deciding whether the issue is very important, important, medium, or less important. This guide sets out methods and examples to help you with your prioritisation.

See Section III.3.2. "Mapping species and their habitats"

See Appendix 20 «Examples of prioritisation of issues» for the Management Plan for "Calcareous hillsides of the Sancerre region" in the Cher.

See Appendix 20 «Examples of prioritisation of issues», for the Management Plan for the "Urugne Valley" in Lozère, prioritisation based on the allocation of a heritage value.

Each method of prioritising conservation issues has its advantages and its limitations:
- qualitative prioritisation is more accessible for local stakeholders and may even partly be achieved with the working groups. However, some may find it too approximate and too subjective;
- quantitative prioritisation is more complex, less accessible for the general public and more difficult to manage with local stakeholders. To make it easier to understand, short explanations of the results should be produced.

Given the particularly rapid rate of change of marine practices and habitats, it is important to present the issues in their temporal context. It is also essential to take into account seasonal or inter-annual variations in certain activities when making the assessment.

III.3.5. Socio-economic diagnosis

The suggested approach is by no means obligatory; it should be modified according to the local context of the given Natura 2000 site. If necessary, the socio-economic diagnosis may be supplemented with a summary of the cultural and defence-related (military) activities

Prioritising conservation issues at the Regional level (CSRPN for Languedoc-Roussillon)

When available, this regional prioritisation is to be brought into the discussion of the issues affecting the site.
Languedoc-Roussillon has some very extensive Natura 2000 sites rich in natural heritage. It is not unusual, especially at the coast, to find a site with many issues of Community significance involving a wide range of taxonomic groups (Birds, Reptiles, Amphibians, Fish, Habitats). Prioritising the conservation issues can therefore be difficult for the management planning authority.
The method devised by the CSRPN addresses an evident need to facilitate the process with the aim of prioritising the conservation actions (measures) to be carried out.
It is achieved in two stages:
- assigning a regional grade to each issue. Regional grades have been predefined by the CSRPN. The management planning authority therefore only has to consult Annex 1 of the method and extract the corresponding grade depending on the level of importance of the habitat or species in Languedoc-Roussillon. Grades are derived from a combination of two major criteria: regional responsibility for the natural habitats and species, and their level of sensitivity (chapter A of the document setting out the method);
- prioritising the issues affecting the site: the management planning authority combines the regional grade for the issue with a grade relating to its representativeness on the site compared with the Region as a whole (chapter B of the document produced by the CSRPN - LR).
Finally, the issues are assigned a level of importance according to the following thresholds:

12-14 points	Exceptional issue
9-11 points	Very important issue
7-8 points	Important issue
5-6 points	Issue of medium importance
< 5 points	Issue low importance
Final note	**Sum of points for "regional grade" + "representativeness"**

You can obtain this method from DREAL Languedoc-Roussillon, website
www.languedoc-roussillon.ecologie.gouv.fr

Prioritising conservation issues for the specifications for drawing up DREAL PACA Natura 2000 site Management Plans

According to the specifications drawn up by the regional representative body of the environment ministry Regional Directorate for Environment, Planning and Housing (DREAL) of the PACA Region:

- A conservation issue results from a combination of a heritage value on one hand and a risk / threat on the other hand:
  - the conservation issue is assessed for each habitat and species relating specifically to Natura 2000, according to a semi-quantitative categorisation (very important, important, medium importance, low importance, no importance) (etc);
  - the evaluated biological elements must then be prioritised, to highlight which ones constitute major conservation issue(s) for the site, and to identify more clearly the degree of urgency of the measures to be taken. This prioritisation may for example result in a concentration of conservation efforts on the habitats and species that are rarest locally (in particular those which are of high priority under the Directive) or on the other hand in the conservation of a particular habitat that is particularly well-represented on the site (quantitatively and qualitatively) but is relatively rare in Europe.

For prioritising the issues, the management planning authority must refer to the analytical criteria set out in the DREAL PACA specifications for biological inventories. In the event of difficulties in assessments, the management planning authority is requested to contact its scientific referee. (the debate could take place before the regional scientific advisory committee on the natural heritage (CSRPN) during the validation of volume 1.) In any case, each issue mentioned must be specifically backed up with brief comments to allow the analysis that has been undertaken to be understood.

Source: page 18 of the specifications for drawing up management plans for Natura 2000 sites (DREAL PACA), available from the DREAL website (http://www.paca.ecologie.gouv.fr)

that are likely to have an effect on the natural habitats and the habitats of species of Community interest on which the designation of the site was based.

III.3.5.1 Who draws it up and at what stage?

It is not necessary to produce an in-depth but rather an empirical study. It may therefore be carried out by the Natura 2000 project manager, if he or she has the requisite abilities and is available, or else by a specialist. It may also be extracted from a socio-economic study carried out over a wider area (at the scale of a Commune or group of Communes).

Délimitation zone. © Hassan Souheil (Site Natura 2000 du Plateau de Roque-Haute)

Site Natura 2000 « Des hautes chaumes du Forez » (Loire) : diagnostic écologique et socio-économique partagé

Le diagnostic écologique a été réactualisé avec la participation du CBN Massif Central, de la FRAPNA Loire, de la LPO Loire, la Société d'histoire naturelle Alcide d'Orbigny et l'Université de Saint-Etienne sous la coordination du CEN Rhône-Alpes, opérateur désigné pour la réalisation du Docob. Le diagnostic socio-économique avait été réalisé par le CEN, en partenariat avec trois structures, en fonction des activités économiques et de loisirs présentes sur le site :

- diagnostic agricole territorial porté par la chambre d'agriculture de la Loire et l'ADASEA Loire, qui a permis d'analyser à l'échelle parcellaire le fonctionnement de plus de 70 exploitations, utilisant la zone Natura 2000 en estives. La complémentarité entre les surfaces d'estive et celles situées autour du siège d'exploitation a été ré-affirmée ;
- diagnostic sylvicole, porté par le CRPF Rhône-Alpes : une typologie des stations forestières du site a été définie et confrontée aux modes de gestion sylvicole actuels. Le CRPF a également participé avec le CEN à la construction des actions forestières du Docob ;
- une enquête sous forme d'audit des acteurs du territoire a été confiée à un bureau d'études spécialisé (GEO'SCOP), pour mieux caractériser les activités touristiques et de loisirs et qualifier leur impact potentiel sur les milieux naturels.

Source : Fabrice Frappa, Conservatoire Rhône-Alpes des Espaces Naturels

Steering committee for the Hautes Chaumes du Forez site.
© Cen Rhônes Alpes

See Section III.2 "Scheduling"

See subsection on "Identifying knowledge-issue sectors» in Section III.3.2.2.

Waste (fertiliser). © Hassan Souheil (Plateau de Roque-Haute Natura 2000 Site)

See Section III.5.1 "Categories of measures".

The socio-economic and ecological diagnoses are usually carried out simultaneously. However, if the management planning authority wishes to use the results of the socio-economic diagnosis to guide the ecological inventories, this must be programmed in advance.

III.3.5.2. Why do it?

More than simply a list of stakeholders and activities on the site, the socio-economic assessment enables:

- the effects of human activities on the conservation of the natural habitats and the habitats of species of European interest to be identified:
- positive effects, so as to plan for their continuation in the framework of the Management Plan action programme;
- negative effects, so as to make suggestions for modifying certain practices;
- cumulative negative effects having a serious impact;
- initial contact to be established with the site stakeholders (by means of interviews), and information to be provided to them about the Natura 2000 network, the ecological significance of the site and the management planning approach;
- the local stakeholders who will be involved in concertation to be identified (constructive individuals who are actively involved with the site, organisations responsible for management initiatives on the site, managers of natural areas, potential signatories of contracts, potential supporters of the charter, etc.);
- information to be obtained for drawing up the management measures and the Natura 2000 charter;
- identification of all the planning documents, works, construction or development projects, events or actions in the natural habitat or landscape (whether in the course of being defined or still at the ideas stage) likely to impact the site's natural habitats and species of community interest, including plans and projects not yet in the national list requiring systematic impact assessment. Those not included in the national list can then be submitted to the Prefect for inclusion in a local list specifically requiring impact assessment.

III.3.5.3. Inventory of human activities

This involves drawing up a report on the current or proposed activities on the site and its immediate surroundings.

What types of information and data to look for

The first stage consists in listing the activities that have effects, whether positive or negative, or that have the potential for such effects: you only need to seek information regarding those activities. Next, describe these activities:

- firstly, a concise description of the social and economic context may be produced. The information enabling such a description to be produced is not necessarily specific to the Natura 2000 site. It is often available at the local, departmental or possibly regional level. For example, the following may be described:
  - the importance of the activities in the area (economic significance, contribution to local employment or to the cultural heritage of the area);
  - the trends affecting these activities: (increase, decline, diversification, alteration of practices or modes of land use, local development strategies, etc.).
- secondly, it is very important to supplement the description of the context with specific information about the activities taking place in the natural areas which support the natural habitats and the habitats of species of Community interest. Detailed descriptions of these activities are essential for drawing up standard contract specifications for the Management Plan.

Information to be sought:

- modes of production and land use. For example, for extensive grazing one would try to find out the number and frequency of mowing, the level of use of agricultural inputs including pesticides, the timing and duration of grazing, etc. (See Table setting out examples of information to be sought);
- public programmes which "influence" or "have influenced" the activities on the site (CAD, MAE, PHAE, forestry management documentation, documentation relating to urban development, etc.);
- any planned developments (roads, water treatment, quarry extensions, reorganisation of agricultural land tenure, wind farms, etc.)
- industrial activities on or near the site (transportation of dangerous substances by pipe or road, etc.);
- the impact of the manager's own activity on the site

"Accrobranche". Mathias Prat © Biotope

See Appendix 23 «Socio-economic diagnosis, examples of information to seek in function of type of activity»

Model for assessing the importance of a human activity in an area

Type of effect		Assessment criteria	Grading scheme ;	Grading scheme =	Grading scheme >	Details
Economic significance of the activity in the area	6	Contribution to the area's prosperity	Low	Medium	High	Direct contribution to the area's prosperity
	B	Contribution to community budgets	Low	Medium	High	Business rates, partly dependent on the size of the business
	C	Level of activity in the area	Low	Medium	High	Opening and diversification of markets and economic channels; innovation
Socio-economic structuring of the activity	6	Contribution to an even distribution of activities	Low	Medium	High	Spatial distribution in relation to the SCOT area
	B	Professional structuring	Low	Medium	High	Professional structuring; level of sectoral monitoring
	C	Link with research training	Low	Medium	High	Assets/constraints in creating a centre of competitiveness
Contribution of the activity to local employment	6	Number of jobs	Low	Medium	High	Direct employment
	B	Employment classification	Low	Medium	High	Direct employment
	C	Seasonality of employment	High	Medium	Low	Direct employment
Contribution to the cultural heritage of the area	6	Contribution to the heritage of the area	Low	Medium	High	Identity, image of the activity within the area
	B	Promotionof local resources	Low	Medium	High	Promotion of resources; links with primary sectors
	C	Reputation of the area	Low	Medium	High	Attractiveness and reputation of the activity

Source: "Methodological guide for assistance in taking account of maritime issues arising from the assessment of coastal SCOT in Cépralmar (2007) p. 45, Table 1: "Presentation of qualitative criteria and notes according to the various options, in relation to the type of effect on the local economy".

Where to find information!

To look for more general information, the following may be consulted:

- reports, statistical data (particularly on government websites), documents relating to regional planning and management;
- national government departments, public corporations, local government;
- representatives of local stakeholders (Departmental federations and committees, Chambers of Agriculture, tourist information offices, etc.)

To look for more specific information, it is important to meet the local stakeholders, whom you will already have identified. Information gathering takes place during formal individual interviews (consultation of local stakeholders with the aid of appropriate questionnaires), or in the framework of the working groups. Depending on the importance of the various activities, the political and social climate in the area, and the budget available to the management planning authority, research may also be carried out by an external specialist consultant (e.g. Chamber of Agriculture, regional woodland owners' centre (CRPF), an expert in the socio-economic field, etc.). Interviews carried out by the management planning authority have the advantage of setting up a relationship with the local stakeholders and establishing the basis for dialogue and concertation.

It must not be forgotten that closer links should be established with organisations responsible for other initiatives for managing natural areas (Water Planning and Management Scheme (SAGE), river contracts], nature

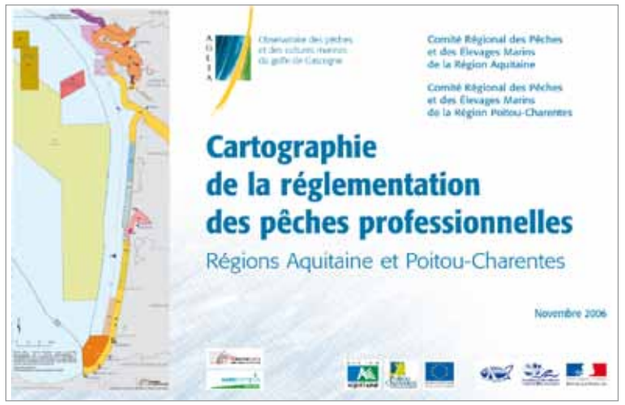
reserves etc.) so that they can become Natura 2000 partners (creating coherence).

.

For marine sites, information concerning human activities is more fragmented than for terrestrial sites. Activity monitoring systems have been set up and these are indispensable resources for consultation:

- the Fisheries Information System (MAAPRAT/DPMA) unites the data of the observation network for fishing resources and associated practices (professional and leisure fishing, shellfish and fish farming, PMD occupation). It is also intended to incorporate data on shellfish gathering. Various tools are being developed by the DPMA in order to exploit Hydrographic Information System data and respond to the different needs, notably with regard to marine protected areas. A national workgroup made up of the DPMA, Water and Biodiversity Directorate (DEB), French Research Institute for the Exploitation of Marine Resources (IFREMER), National Natural History Museum (MNHN), National Committee of Maritime Fisheries and Marine Fish Farming (CNPMEM) and the Marine Protected Areas Agency is investigating maritime fishing data requirements for all marine Natura 2000 sites.
- PMD authorisations (temporary occupation authorisations (AOT) for moorings and beach concessions) by the Departmental Territorial and Marine Directorates (DDTM)
- summaries of regulations; for example in the context of the MAIA project, the Association pour le Grand Littoral Atlantique (AGLIA) has brought out a CD-ROM on the regulation of fisheries in the Gulf of Gascony. This kind of approach, summarising complex sets of regulations, provides a very useful reference; consult the DDTM and CRPMEM concerned (Regional Committee of Maritime Fisheries and Marine Fish Farming)

It is a good idea to involve producer organisations (CLPMEM and CRPMEM, UNICEM, SRC, etc.) in this data gathering because they can mobilise their members to help collect information.



See Section II.2.2 "Identifying the stakeholders» and the example in Appendix 24 "Socio-economic diagnosis" of a questionnaire for use in consulting local stakeholders.

Regulation maps for the professional fisheries of the Aquitaine and Poitou-Charentes regions

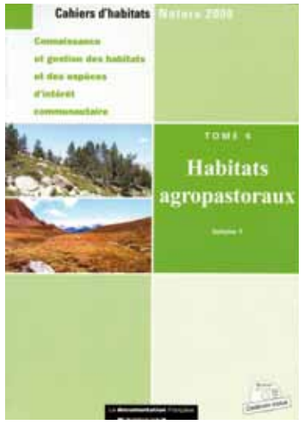
III.3.5.4. Analysis of activities and their impacts

Once the activities have been identified, their ways of thinking, interactions and effects must be subjected to scrutiny.

Activities and uses: anticipated developments and combined effects

Factors to be taken into consideration:

- regional and national trends (decline of farming, population growth, etc.);
- the social dynamics of those involved with the site and its surroundings (age structure of farmers, average age of the local population, etc.);



"Cahiers" (Guidelines) on agro-pastoral habitats.
© French Ecology Ministry
The agro-ecosystems of the Crau are an example of this

See Section III.3.5.2. «Why do a socio-economic diagnosis?»

By way of example, the following may be cited:
- the maintenance of lagoon ecosystems, directly linked with the marketing of shellfish;
- the disappearance of the white-clawed crayfish fishery due to the increasing rarity of this species.

- the projects and programmes that are planned for the site, and beyond it if necessary, which have come to notice during consultation with the stakeholders and from studying planning documents (PLU, SCOT, management plans, etc).

By taking an overall view of the activities and their development, it is possible to understand the combined effects, whether actual or potential, on the natural habitats and the habitats of species of Community interest.

Interaction between activities on the site

By bringing the information from different sources together the following can be revealed:

- conflicts of use, actual or potential, which may prove to be a threat to the natural habitats and the habitats of species of Community interest;
- compatible, intimately connected activities that are favourable to the natural habitats and the habitats of species of Community interest, which depend on their continuation.

When synergies and conflicts are brought to light this stimulates discussion and allows the stakeholders in the working groups to come to an understanding.

Interaction between activities and natural habitats and species of Community interest

Human activities can have positive, neutral or negative effects, either actual or potential. The «Cahiers d'habitats» "Habitat Guidelines" produced by the National Museum of Natural History are the fruit of concertation between the national representatives of various groups of stakeholders. They provide information, particularly in relation to threats, which results from a consensus and which the management planning authority may draw on to support its diagnosis and set out measures. It is also worthwhile to point out the effects that the conservation of the natural habitats and the habitats of

Human activities which depend on keeping lagoon complexes in a good state of conservation

Lagoon complexes support:

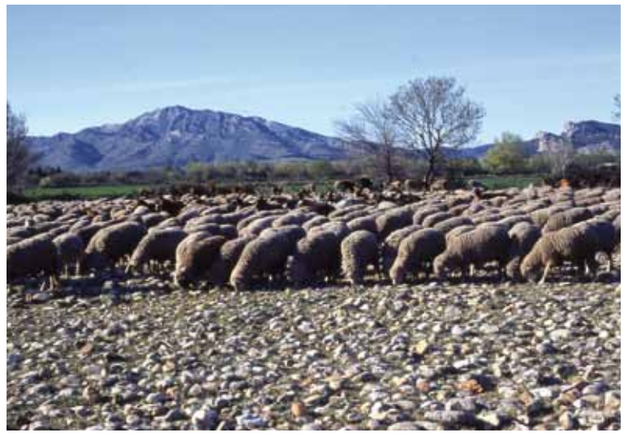
- economic activities: depending on the quality of the natural environment, commercial fishing, shellfish farming and agriculture may be carried out here. They are also good places for managed public access (tourism);
- social and cultural activities: fishing for sport or recreation, hunting, and water sports. In addition, lagoons and their surroundings also provide landscapes and atmospheres that are valued by walkers and artists (painters, writers etc.);
- essential needs of the local populations: lagoon complexes are made up of wetlands which allow water to be purified and floodwaters to be held back. They also provide a buffer zone which protects the communities living by the lagoons during storms (protection against coastal erosion).

The agro-ecosystems of the Crau

The grassy steppes ("coussouls") of the "Dry Crau - Central Crau" Natura 2000 site, located in the Bouches-du-Rhône, are maintained by sheep grazing according to a highly specialised type of transhumance. Sheep farming therefore needs to be continued in this area. Extensive grazing is considered to be the essential way to conserve a number of habitats and birds of European interest.
Extensive grazing activity also depends on the amount of forage that is available and for part of the year it makes use of hay meadows, a habitat which is also recognised as being of Community interest under the Habitats Directive. Sheep farming and the production of Crau hay are therefore intimately connected. These farming activities allow the natural habitats of Community interest to be maintained. Hence the main ecological issue at the Natura 2000 site coincides completely with the agricultural issue, i.e. the producers of Crau hay and sheep farmers.

species of Community interest have on the survival of traditional or economic activities.

Based on the information obtained during interviews, the management planning authority produces a list of programmes and projects that could create problems for the habitats and species of Community interest on which the designation of the site is based and which could specifically be subjected to impact assessments. This list is based on the table of projects and programmes in progress, or under discussion, for the site and its immediate surroundings, that was drawn up during the stage of producing the inventory of human activities (if they are not already included on the national list of projects routinely subjected to impact assessments).



Dry Crau. © P. Fabre, Bouches du Rhône Chamber of Agriculture

See Appendices 66 to 68 "Reference bases for the management of activities in Natura 2000 sites". They include matrices of potential interactions between types of activities and habitats or species for professional fishing, fish farming and leisure activities

See Example 2 in Appendix 15 "Socio-economic diagnosis, examples of other informal methods of presenting the information collected».

Assessment of local impacts	
Examples of projects or programmes	**Important ecological issues justifying inclusion on the list**
Climbing infrastructure projects or any other developments to the cliffs in the Natura 200 site (apart from opening up isolated climbing routes).	Risk of destruction: - of a natural habitat of Community interest as constituted by: calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation, - of a species habitat for: bats (particularly the Barbastelle).
Radical modifications of agricultural practices: - Transformation of permanent grasslands into temporary grassland or crops (significant soil re-working and/or re-seeding), - Transformation of dry pasture grassland into temporary grassland or crops (significant soil re-working and/or re-seeding), - Transformation of heath into temporary grassland or crops (significant soil re-working and/or re-seeding), - Destruction of hedges or lines of trees in the context of the reorganisation of land tenure.	Risk of destruction:: Of natural habitats of Community interest and of high priority as constituted by: - semi-natural dry grassland and shrub facies on limestone, - lowland unimproved hay meadows, - rupicolous calcareous grasslands*, - stable xerothermophilic Buxus sempervirens formations, - Juniperus communis formations on heath or in calcareous grasslands Habitats of the following species: - bats (which use grasslands and meadows as feeding areas and hedges as movement corridors), - Jersey tiger moth, which likes woodland edge habitats)

See Appendix 69 "Assessment regime for Natura 2000 impacts"

See examples in Appendix 22 "Socio-economic diagnosis, table for presenting the information collected and examples of maps».

See Appendix 19 «Table for presenting inventory and mapping data».

Presentation formats are set out in Appendix 15 "Socio-economic diagnosis, examples of other informal methods of presenting the information collected».

III.3.5.5. How to present the information

Ultimately, the information obtained during the inventory of human activities must be presented in the format of Table 3 in the Technical Guidelines "Document d'objectifs Natura 2000, guide pour une rédaction synthétique» (Guide to the synoptic writing of Natura 2000 Management Plans) and in the form of maps of human activities. The results of the analysis of activities and their effects will be used to fill in the column "Principal threats or compatible activities associated with natural trends and human activities" in Table 5 of this same Guide. This official format for the final presentation may be supported if necessary by tables, maps or notes providing more detailed information required for a full understanding of the site and the defining of measures.

III.3.5.6. Presenting socio-economic issues

The socio-economic issues are brought up during the interviews that form part of the socio-economic diagnosis. In presenting them in the Management Plan, the management planning authority builds on the dialogue that has been initiated with the local stakeholders and makes sure that their expectations and needs are taken into account. It seeks above all to point out:
- the compatibility which can exist between the continuation of human activities on the site and the maintenance of the natural habitats and species there;
- in fact, the necessity of maintaining certain human activities in order to conserve the biodiversity;
- or indeed, the need to conserve certain natural habitats in order to

continue with certain economic activities.
A few examples of socio-economic issues at a Natura 2000 site:
- the maintenance of extensive grazing as the main economic activity on the site;
- the development of tourism which respects the stakeholders and the natural heritage of the site;
- maintaining the quality of life.
- maintenance of pipes by transporters of dangerous substances, conserving an open habitat.

Activities on marine sites may be very much linked to their location (fishing areas, shellfish farming sites) with no possibility of moving elsewhere. It is therefore recommended that the level of dependence of an activity on a site or a habitat be recorded, in order to assess the economic impact of the proposed measures.

Note that the sustainable development objectives which will be defined in the framework of the Management Plan will not deal directly with the socio-economic issues. They can only help to address these issues if they have no negative impact on the natural habitats and species with which the Natura 2000 site is concerned.

Formal presentation of the diagnosis

The information gathered for the socio-economic diagnosis should be presented in accordance with the table and mapping examples in Appendix 22 "Socio-economic diagnosis" See also Appendix 6 "«List of optional and obligatory maps».

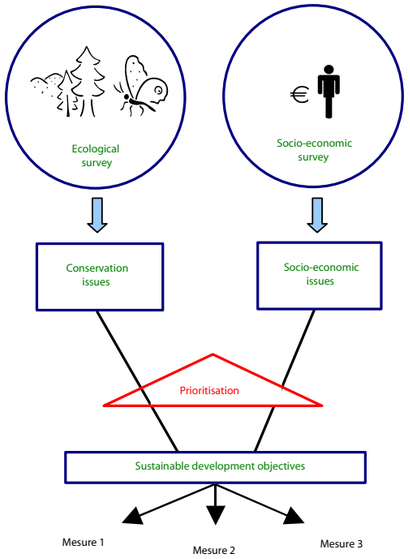
III.4. Defining sustainable development objectives

What is a sustainable development objective?

The Environmental Code, in section R414-11, gives the following definition:

Presentation of the sustainable development objectives

The prioritised sustainable development objectives and the operational objectives are set out in Tables 10 and 11 of the Technical Guidelines "Document d'objectif Natura 2000, guide pour une rédaction synthétique" (Guide to the synoptic writing of Natura 2000 Management Plans) and in Appendix 16 "Summary table of issues and objectives". A third Table, no. 12, enables a summary of the sustainable development objectives to be set out in relation to management units (see Appendix 16, "Summary table of issues and objectives"). Management units are geographical entities which group together the natural habitats and species which require the same management.



"The sustainable development objectives for the site enable the natural habitats and species for which the site was designated to be conserved and, where appropriate, restored, while taking into account the economic, social, cultural and defence activities which take place there as well as any special local features. Defining the sustainable development objectives leads to the identification of the results that are to be anticipated as a result of the implementation of

Clearcutting, Cassagnas. Mathias Prat © Biotope

the Management Plan. They are valid for as long as the associated conservation issues persist.

How are the sustainable development objectives to be defined?

The management planning authority devises sustainable development objectives and submits them for discussion by the steering committee and the working groups. The sustainable development objectives must be:
- in accordance with the objectives of the Natura 2000 network;
- self-coherent, and consistent with the biodiversity conservation objectives as defined in any existing plans or programmes relating to the area in question (e.g. Nature Reserve management plans, water planning and management scheme (SAGE), RNP Charter, etc);
- in accordance with any regulations (national, regional or local) applying to the site.

Examples of sustainable development objectives

A sustainable development objective may address a single conservation issue or a set of issues.
Example of a single issue: ravine woodlands with ferns. Wording: "Promote, regulate, avoid or guide activities (x, y) which have an impact on the conservation of ravine woodlands with ferns".
In the case of a Natura 2000 site with many conservation issues, of which some are closely interconnected (for example, meadows and grasslands of Community interest used as feeding habitats by species of bats of Community interest) the wording could be: "Promote, regulate, avoid or guide activities (x, y) which have an impact on the maintenance of open natural habitats of Community interest which are also habitats for species (bats), or which would enable such habitats to be restored".
Setting out objectives that combine a number of issues is appropriate for sites affected by many issues: it allows their formulation to be better structured.
Some objectives may aim at an environmental benefit that goes beyond the strict heritage interest of the site, for example:
- natural, industrial or sanitary risk considerations;
- the setting up of an environmental management system (EMS) an operational tool for continuously improving the site through a set of "eco-responsible" or sustainable development measures regarding its interaction with the territory in which it is situated.

Reed cutting (Tour Carbonnière, Camargue). Mathias Prat © Biotope

Presentation of the site's issues (example of the Urugne Valley in Lozère)	Sustainable development objectives (activities/ issues)
Conservation (ecological) issues	
"Open" natural habitats of Community interest and of high priority (grasslands, meadows and moorland)	1) Maintain or establish management by extensive grazing and fodder production in the open natural habitats of Community interest and of high priority (grasslands, meadows and moorland).
Bat species whose breeding sites are threatened (Lesser Horseshoe, Greater Horseshoe, Barbastelle and Bechstein's)	2) Maintain breeding sites in dwellings (for Lesser and Greater Horseshoe and Barbastelle bats) whenever the built environment is undergoing restoration or alteration.
	3) Maintain the old broad-leaved woodlands, which are breeding habitats for bats (Barbastelle and Bechstein's), in the context of forestry management .
Caves (natural habitats of Community interest and habitats of species)	4) Keep the caves in a good state of conservation in accordance with the degree to which they are visited by people.
Mosaic of natural habitats (requirement for bats)	
Other habitats and species of Community interest in the Urugne Valley Natura 2000 site	5) Continue to manage the human presence in the caves to improve their conservation.
Socio-economic issues	
Conserving the natural and cultural heritage value of the site	6) Maintain the "open" natural habitats, which are feeding areas for bats, while promoting extensive grazing and upkeep of the area.
Maintaining, and if possible developing, the agricultural sector	7) Pursue a type of management for open spaces which tailors the use of fertilisers and pesticides to the conservation of the species.
Promoting and improving the local lifestyle and economy	8) Maintain and promote the restoration by the landowners and managers involved of broad-leaved riparian woodland, hedges and stands of trees, which are hunting areas and wildlife corridors.
Promoting tourism development while respecting the residents of the site and its environment	9) Reconcile the promotion of activities and development with the maintenance of the habitats and species on the site.

Defining operational objectives in the Management Plan

Although it is not compulsory under Article R 414-11, the translation of sustainable development objectives into operational objectives may enable the link between the sustainable development objectives (which are expressed in a more general way) and the measures to be put into practice in order to achieve them, to be more precisely defined. In this case the operational objectives take forward and express more specifically the sustainable development objectives, and guide activities and the definition of measures (see example below). The operational objectives have a timescale: they must be achieved by the time the Management Plan is due to be updated.

Operational objective
For example, the operational objective "Re-open 80% of the overgrown area of dry grassland and associated habitats within five years" could be achieved by measures involving scrub clearing and maintenance by grazing. It derives from a more general sustainable development objective: "Maintain the dry grasslands and associated habitats while promoting extensive grazing and upkeep of the area".

Examples of operational objectives deriving from a sustainable development objective		
Issues affecting the site, within the Natura 2000 network	Sustainable development objective for the site	Operational objectives in the Management Plan
- * Rupicolous calcareous grasslands (6110) - Semi-natural dry grasslands (6210) - Lowland hay meadows (6510)	Maintain the dry grasslands and associated habitats while promoting extensive grazing and upkeep of the area.	Re-open, within 5 years, 80% of the overgrown area of dry grassland and associated habitats on the site
		Keep the dry and rupicolous grassland on the site 100% open for the next 5 years by means of farming activities
		Maintain 100% of the hay meadows on the site for the next 5 years by means of farming activities

Setting out the operational objectives that derive from the sustainable development objectives may also facilitate the use of the monitoring tool for Management Plans (SUDOCO) which has been developed by ATEN (See Section «III.8 Monitoring and Assessment of the Management Plan»)

For help in drawing up objectives, you could use the test known as "S.M.A.R.T.":
S = Specific: is the objective precise, targeted and practical?
M = Measurable: can the result(s) of the objective be assessed using indicators (quantitative or qualitative)?
A = Accessible: can the objective be achieved with the human, technical and financial resources that are available to the manager?
R = Realistic: can the objective be achieved within the framework of the Management Plan?
T = Timed: has a deadline been set for achieving the result?

III.5. Proposing measures of all kinds

Six categories of measures to address the issues

The measures set out in the Management Plan should enable the sustainable development objectives to be achieved that were identified following the completion of the site assessment and issue prioritisation phases.

III.5.1. Categories of measures

Administrative and regulatory measures

These are measures involving the use of administrative and regulatory tools such as:
- coordinating planning documents (SCOT, PLU) or work programmes (forestry developments) so that they can include the conservation objectives for the site;
- passing a municipal decree to limit parking;
- restricting vehicular traffic on a road (sectoral regulatory measure);
- creating a regional nature reserve (RNR) or an arrêté de protection de biotope [prefectural decree for preserving a protected species' habitat, APB] for a higher level of protection in an area where the natural habitats and species of Community interest are threatened due to the presence of numbers of people in situations where their impact is difficult to manage.

Euleptes europea (gecko). Vincent Rufray © Biotope

Land tenure - based measures

For example:
- setting up an agreement between a landowner who does not have the resources to manage his land, and a manager;
- including certain parcels of land in a pre-emption area under the TDENS [Departmental tax for sensitive natural areas].

Measures covered by contracts and charters

The management measures specified in the framework of the Management Plan must take account of the available planning tools, existing good practices, the economic, human and financial resources available, and the plans, needs and expectations that have been expressed by stakeholders associated with the site during the territorial dialogue.

Tools and instruments that can be used for contractual measures

Sectoral contractual instruments: the contractual mechanisms of the policy for water, or the mechanisms developed by agricultural or fishing and aquaculture policies, may be used for certain areas of land once the sustainable development objectives are in harmony with their own objectives.

Mechanisms specific to Natura 2000: the Natura 2000 charter (described in Section III.7) and the Natura 2000 contract. Depending on the natural habitats involved and the management applied to them, the measures may include:

- building on good practices (unpaid commitments) via the Natura 2000 charter (example: good silvicultural practices carried out by woodland owners);
- defining management measures to be funded via Natura 2000 contracts: for forestry, "non-agricultural – non-forestry" (e.g. wetlands or open non-agricultural habitats), and agriculture (tAEM).

Measures for monitoring and improving scientific knowledge

These may include among others:

- supplementary studies in the context of the implementation of the Management Plan (additional surveys, behavioural studies of particular species, mode of functioning of natural habitats, etc.);
- scientific monitoring of the natural habitats and species of Community interest on the site, if this is compatible with the overall monitoring programme as defined at the national and regional levels (framework forthcoming);
- the monitoring of certain indicators enabling the achievement of objectives to be assessed;
- trials of innovative management measures.

Measures for communication and awareness-raising

Communication about the Management Plan and the Natura 2000 site is based on tools for providing information, specialised training, education and awareness-raising. It must be targeted according to the audience: youth, general public, specific groups of stakeholders. The measures for communication and awareness-raising may be included in a communications programme or a wider-ranging teaching programme (local authority, park).

"Off-site" stakeholders are a very important target for communication: seasonal users, fishermen from other European member states, etc.

Tools and instruments that can be used for contractual measures in marine sites

French Law 2006-1772 on water and aquatic habitats, passed 30 December 2006, opened up the possibility for professional and other users of marine areas to benefit from the contractual management tools of Natura 2000 sites: the Natura 2000 contract and charter. Agreement is not based on property law (which is non-existent at sea), and may be collective (shellfish farming syndicates, maritime fishing and marine fish farming committees, fish processing organisations, sports associations, etc.) Care is required concerning the legal consequences of signing such contracts: they may commit all the members of an organisation, thus negating the voluntary nature of the agreement (for example in the case of obligatory membership of fishing committees), or engage the responsibility of the signatory (for example concerning a mooring buoy in the case of an accident). The example of the "contrat bleu" is interesting in this respect because although it is sometimes signed by "collective" obligatory membership organisations, it only commits members to a series of environmental actions on a voluntary basis. (Projects (sets of measures) are presented for a particular fishing ground. Boats using each fishing ground who are interested in the measures can sign up to them on a voluntary basis). Commitment thus remains individual but facilitated by the coordination of the organisation.

Examples of measures for communication and awareness-raising

- Creation of 20 events for the general public during the first year of implementation of the Management Plan to demonstrate the services provided by the dunes and beaches of the Natura 2000 site.
- Drawing up a communications plan from year 1 of the Management Plan, to be implemented during the second year.
- In year 3 of the Management Plan, production of 200 leaflets aimed at farmers (on the site and immediately surrounding it) about the wise use of pesticides.

Presentation of measures

See Table 13 of the Technical Guidelines "Document d'objectifs Natura 2000, guide pour une rédaction synthétique» (Guide to the synoptic writing of Natura 2000 Management Plans) in Appendix 26 «Table for presenting measures and examples of tables and maps". This appendix also gives an example of a completed table and localisation maps (extracted from the "Massif de la Serre" management plan, Jura).

Measures for facilitating the Management Plan

These include coordinating and monitoring the implementation of the Management Plan, encouraging support for its objectives and the proposed contractual measures, and managing the various working groups responsible for its implementation (in accordance with their themes (real estate/ urban planning etc)). The contract specifications specified by the designated authority for facilitating the Management Plan will deal with these various items.

Transversal measures with regard to the manager's activity may be envisaged in this category, notably the setting up of an eco-responsible policy or Environmental Management System (http://ecoresponsabilite.espaces-naturels.fr).

Example from the Galeizon Valley Management Plan (FR9101369), Gard -Lozère, Languedoc-Roussillon region
List of management measures by theme (category)

Code number	Title
Theme: HABITAT MANAGEMENT	
GH01	Restoration of riparian habitats
GH02	Maintenance of riparian habitats
GH03	Programme to control invasive species
GH04	Provision and management of points of vehicular access to watercourses
GH05	Facilitating the free movement of fish species in the Galeizon and its tributaries
GH06	Maintaining open habitats in moorlands, meadows and grass lands, etc.
Theme: MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT	
SE01	Monitoring the conservation status of populations of beaver, otter and white-clawed crayfish
SE02	Monitoring the conservation status of populations of European bullhead, souffia and southern barbel
SE03	Monitoring changes taking place in habitats and the conservation status of certain natural habitats (etc)
Theme: IMPROVING KNOWLEDGE	
AC01	Trials of establishing reserves along lengths of river to favour fish species
AC02	Survey of invasive plants
AC03	Supplementary survey of populations of white-clawed crayfish (etc.)
Theme: AWARENESS RAISING	
S01	Raising the awareness of users of the river and monitoring uses (activities, fires, etc).
S02	Awareness-raising programme among consumers and managers of water
S03	Raising the awareness of farmers about the habitats on their farms
Theme: ADMINISTRATIVE, REGULATORY AND LAND-BASED MEASURES	
AF01	Supporting Communes in the implementation of a policy of land purchase to help safeguard habitats and species of Community interest
AF02	Supporting landowners with the creation of a Pastoral Land Tenure Association
Theme: Facilitation	
AN01	Administrative management of the Management Plan and its implementation
AN02	Facilitation

Choosing measures

For the sea, the initiative is a comparatively new one, and time and information are necessary for progress via experimental phases. In addition, activities here are very much regulated, and including Natura 2000 in the system for marine management is the first priority.

The professional fishing organisations have accordingly offered to work on five major principles to be discussed by each committee:
- taking the existing management system into account;
- improving knowledge;
- raising awareness and providing information;
- testing, developing and implementing technical measures to limit impacts on the habitats and species of Community interest;
- building on positive individual attitudes and the contribution of Natura 2000 sites to the promotion of activities and products.

For shellfish farming, sport and leisure activities, examples of measures suitable for each type of activity are listed and described in the references. Needless to say they still require modification and need to be discussed by the Steering Committee for each site or group of sites.

For all of these practices, it will be very important to make sure that the suggested measures are even-handed among the sites, since the activities are often mobile and extend over a number of sites. To this end, the Management Planning Authority may consult the coordinating prefecture for the maritime façade and the branches of the Agency for Marine Protected Areas.

III.5.2. How to identify the measures to be proposed

The management of Natura 2000 sites is based on bringing the conservation objectives for habitats and species into economic activities and sectoral policies on the basis of a local, concerted approach. To ensure that the implementation of the Management Plan proceeds efficiently and rapidly, it is prudent to identify the whole range of measures to be put forward, bearing in mind:-
- the administrative tools available for the site (plans, work programmes etc.)
- existing good practices;
- additional activities to be put in place;
- existing or potential sources of funding;
- the technical and socio-economic feasibility of these measures.

Works requiring investment

Accordingly, to help to achieve a rapid implementation of the Management Plan, once the "good practices to be developed" have been made clear in the wording of the charter, the management planning authority looks for supplementary management activities that are appropriate for the site's conservation issues and are capable of being funded at the national and regional levels.

See Appendices 66 to 68 "Reference bases for the management of activities in Natura 2000 sites".

Examples of actions outside Natura 2000 contracts

With regard to the marine section of the national specifications for implementing Natura 2000 Management Plans, there are possibilities of non-contractual management measures, including:
- monitoring interactions between marine fish farms and the species and habitats covered by Natura 2000;
- drawing up local good practice guides for marine fish farms;
- communicating natural heritage maps to marine professionals;
- training or informing monitors, guides and service providers of nautical recreational activities;
- increasing knowledge of the pressures of sporting and leisure activities on the habitats and species concerned by the site ;
- participating in the management of nautical and sporting events;
- providing information to yacht users ;
- monitoring and studying the frequentation of the site;
- training or informing persons in contact with amateur shellfish gatherers;
- communicating with shellfish gatherers and the general public, raising awareness about low-impact shellfish gathering techniques;
- information panels on the rules and regulations governing amateur shellfish gathering;
- monitoring the conservation status of the habitats and species concerned by the site ;
- developing general or awareness-raising information concerning the site's habitats or species or the activities and events set up on the site.

Updates

These measures or actions are set out in documents that are subject to regular updating. It is therefore important to apply to the decentralised services of the State, such as DREAL and DDEA, to obtain the most recent versions of the document. The technical discussion days for Natura 2000 site managers, organised by ATEN, are also another way to obtain current, reliable information that has been tried out with Natura 200 sites. (http://www.espaces-naturels.fr/natura_2000/animation_du_reseau/journees_d_echanges_techniques).

See Section III.7 «The Natura 2000 Charter «.

Examples of "non-agricultural, non-forestry" or forestry contracts

- In the context of "non-agricultural, non-forestry" contracts, an eligible person may undertake to implement the measure or action A32305R "Maintenance of open habitats using a brushcutter or light scrub clearing" to restore grasslands of Community interest or habitats of species of Community interest.
- In the framework of a Natura 2000 forestry contract, an eligible person may undertake to implement measures that are favourable for the conservation or restoration of woodland habitats or habitats of species of Community interest, including the measure (or action) F22703 "Implementation of controlled regeneration".

On the other hand, activities which have the aim of making a profit (agriculture or aquaculture) are subject to a Natura 2000 agricultural contract which is intended for economic stakeholders.

The contractual measures eligible for EC funding via EAFRD are currently set out in the Regional Rural Development Document (DRDR), which is the regional version of the Rural Development Plan for Mainland France 2007-2013 (PDRH). Further EC funding (ERDF, LIFE+, etc) may also be available (Regional Operational Programmes, LIFE+ sites, etc.). The national co-funding that is necessary for the release of these funds may originate from various sources (ministry of agriculture and fisheries, environment ministry, local authorities, public institutions, etc.).

Non-agricultural contractual measures

At present, certain contractual measures are eligible for co-funding by MEEDDM and EAFRD. They are detailed in the "list of contractual management activities for Natura 2000 sites eligible for funding" set out in Appendix 1 of the circular of 21 November 2007 relating to the contractual management of Natura 2000 sites. This list comprises non- profit-making activities that are favourable to the conservation or restoration of natural habitats and species of Community interest. These activities can be covered by a Natura 2000 non-agricultural, non-forestry contract (activities under Measure 323B of the PDRH) or a Natura 2000 forestry contract (activities under Measure 227 of the PDRH).

Agricultural contractual measures

The contractual measures eligible for co-funding by MAP and EAFRD are set out in Appendix 1 of Instrument 214-I (p. 220 to 231) of the PDRH. Grants are provided for economic activities of various types, which may also be carried out at territorial level, in association with the socio-economic stakeholders (grazing measure 323C, training

Management through grazing St Privat. Mathias Prat © Biotope

measure 111.).
Regarding farmers who wish to undertake management activities for habitats and species, the territorialized agro-environmental measures (tAEM, 214) have replaced the previous instruments. They may address localised threats or conserve noteworthy resources in farming areas, primarily on Natura 2000 sites. The measures in this territorialised instrument are defined for each territory by a local project initiator, and adapted to the specific context and issues.
Only a small number of agro-environmental measures are defined for each territory, to improve clarity and coherence. Their contract specifications are drawn up on the basis of unitary undertakings set out at the national level in the PDRH. Payments are calculated by adding together payments for the various different unitary undertakings which make up each tAEM measure. Measure 216 of the PDRH (support for non-profit-making investments) may also give rise to contract specifications which address conservation issues at a regional level.

Example of combined unitary undertakings

In the framework of an agricultural Natura 2000 contract for special habitats and grasslands, it is obligatory for a farmer who signs up for the undertaking "SOCLEH01:strand relating to the management of grasslands" to combine it with one of the 11 HERBE or OUVERT (GRASSLAND or OPEN) undertakings such as:
- HERBE02 "Limiting the use of inorganic and organic fertilizers on special habitats and grasslands";
- HERB05 "Delaying grazing on special habitats and grasslands";
- OUVERT02 "Keeping habitats open by mechanical or manual removal of woody scrub and other undesirable plants";

OUVERT03 "Controlled burning-over or uprooting and burning undesirable growth".

Natura 2000 forestry, agriculture and "non-agriculture, non-forestry" contracts eligible for measures 227, 323B, 214 I1 and 216 of the PDRH

Type of land	Beneficiaries	PDRH measures involved	Actions involved	Type of Natura 2000 contract
Type of land	Farmers and others	227 (possibly 323B)	All F227 actions in Annex 1 (If necessary, actions A323.P or R)	Forestry
Farmland (a posteriori verification: all areas declared on the yellow S2 form)	Farmers	214 I1 et 216	The agro-environmental unitary undertakings appearing in Annex 1 of Instrument 214-I and actions compatible with measure	Agricultural
		323B	Limited list of eligible actions, identified on the national list, convergent with non-profit-making environmental activities: - artificial works to improve conditions for the species on which the designation of the site was based; - innovative operations to favour species or habitats.	Non agricultural, non-forestry
	Non-farmers	323B	Limited list of eligible actions identified on the national list: - actions forming part of a joint initiative to manage watercourses; - actions forming part of a joint initiative to provide information to users in order to limit their impact; installation of materials to provide information to users to limit their impact.	Non agricultural, non-forestry
Land other than farmland (a posteriori verification: exclusion of any areas declared on the yellow S2 form)	Farmers	323B	Limited list of eligible actions, identified on the national list, convergent with non-profit-making environmental activities: - artificial works to improve conditions for the species on which the designation of the site was based; - innovative operations to favour species or habitats.	Non agricultural, non-forestry
	Non-farmers	323B	All actions in A323.P and R in Annex 1	Non agricultural, non-forestry

Contractual measures that can be funded via other instruments

If the contractual measures eligible for funding, as listed in the documentation of Annex 1 of the circular of 21 November 2007 dealing with the contractual management of Natura 2000 sites, and in the PDRH, do not enable the intended conservation objective to be attained, consideration may be given to defining a specific measure and planning the process by which it is funded (self-financing, funding by local or regional government, funding from the Water Agency in the framework of the water policy, etc.).

Marine Natura 2000 contracts

The marine Natura 2000 contract is applicable to marine areas of Natura 2000 sites with an operational Management Plan. It puts into practice the action "innovative operation in favour of species or habitats" covered by the government decree of 17 November 2008 which established the list of actions eligible for financial support from the State in the framework of a Natura 2000 contract. A marine Natura 2000 contract can be implemented for any sea area of the site starting from the high-water mark. Ecology Ministry (MEDDTL) funding is preferentially allocated to innovative, non-producer operations included in the Management Plan and required for the conservation and restoration of the habitats and species of marine Natura 2000 sites. Producer measures integrating conservation objectives for habitats and species of community interest in professional fishing and fish farming practices can receive funding from the Agriculture and Fisheries Ministry (MAAPRAT) and in certain exceptional cases be accompanied by financing from the Ecology Ministry (MEDDTL). For marine contracts, there is currently no systematic co-funding from the European Union. Classification of an action as an "innovative operation" is based on an appropriateness assessment on the part of the examining body, the Departmental Territorial and Marine Directorate (DDTM), and submitted to the Regional Directorate for Environment, Planning and Housing (DREAL), Inter-Regional Marine Directorate (DIRM) and Maritime Prefecture.
Examples of projects identified to date as eligible for a marine Natura 2000 contract: cleaning up abandoned dead animals, creating a yacht mooring and services area, creating a mooring area for diving, replacing existing moorings by ecological moorings, replacing traditional beacons by ecological beacons, combatting Caulerpa taxifolia encroachment, modifying fishing practices, for example adoption of keepnets, etc.
la nasse...

Extensive agriculture (Causse). © Alain Lagrave

Making sure the measure is feasible

Once the measure has been identified, it is important to assess its feasibility, considering the various factors which could affect its implementation, such as:
- human and technical resources: are the stakeholders who could implement the measure actively involved with the site; do they have the necessary materials and skills?
- the physical characteristics of the site (relief, climate etc.): do they allow the measure to be implemented, or do they create constraints which will make the measure unworkable?
- administrative (pre-)feasibility: is the administrative setup seen as solid by the administrative bodies representing state ministries at local level, particularly the Departmental Public Works and Agriculture Directorate (DDEA) and Regional Directorate for Environment, Planning and Housing (DREAL)?
- financial (pre-)feasibility: is the cost of the measure acceptable or does it jeopardise its achievement?
- local acceptability: is this measure acceptable by the local population or is there a risk that it will be rejected?

Considerations regarding fishing in a Natura 2000 site

Professional fisheries are under the exclusive competence of the European Union by virtue of Article 43 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. Article 9 of Regulation 2371/2002 nonetheless enables Member States to adopt non-discriminatory regulatory measures to minimise the impacts of fisheries on the conservation of marine ecosystems within the 12 nautical-mile territorial waters zone on condition of boats' historical fishing rights. In terms of administrative procedure, the method of drawing up any regulatory measures based on the Management Plan proposals thus depends on the administrative category of the zone concerned.

1) Concerning all Natura 2000 sites: firstly, the appropriate geographical level for administrating the fishing activities of the site needs to be determined. Regulatory measures are proposed either by the Maritime Fisheries and Marine Fish Farming Committee of the ad hoc administrative level, or by the administrative authority responsible for fisheries after receiving the opinion of the Maritime Fisheries and Marine Fish Farming Committee of that administrative level.

2) Concerning fishing activities in Natura 2000 sites situated in territorial waters without historical fishing rights: the measures stemming from the procedures described in 1) may be rendered obligatory by a decree issued by the administrative authority responsible for fisheries in that area

3) Concerning fishing activities in Natura 2000 sites situated in territorial waters with historical fishing rights: the procedure described in 1) can only lead to the publication of a regulatory text after consulting the European Commission and the Member States and Fisheries Joint Consultative Committee (JCC) concerned. The proposed measures stemming from the procedures described in 1) are therefore communicated to the French central government departments responsible for fisheries and the environment for validation. The Maritime Fisheries and Fish Farming (DPMA) together with the Marine Protected Areas Agency then presents the measures within a one-month time limit to the JCC concerned. In function of the corrections made, the French central government departments responsible for fisheries and the environment compile a dossier regarding the official formal request to be sent to the Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries. The measures can then be rendered obligatory by a decree from the authority responsible for maritime fisheries.

4) Concerning fishing activities in Natura 2000 sites situated in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ): the procedure is identical to the one described in 3). However, France does not have legal competence to apply fisheries management measures to all EU fishing fleets. The French authorities must therefore request the European Commission to apply the regulatory measures required by means of an EU regulation in the framework of a joint decision by the Council of Ministers and the European Parliament.

It is important to note that the EU regulations will be reviewed in the context of the revision of the Common Fisheries Policy. The interactions between the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and Natura 2000 are subject to regular modification and clarification with the European Commission.

Donner un ordre de priorité à chaque mesure

For each measure identified, an order of priority must be established: the most important criterion is the conservation status of the natural habitats and species as defined at the national (biogeographical) level for the natural habitats and species included in the "Habitats" Directive. This national value derives from a condition statement which the National Natural History Museum (MNHN) produced in 2007 based on the major biogeographical categories (Alpine, Atlantic, Continental, Mediterranean) using several parameters:

- location;
- surface area ;
- structure and functioning for habitats, population size for species, future prospects;
- development of threats, including human pressures, and the projected changes in human activities on the site (cessation of traditional practices, urban development and increasingly artificial nature of natural habitats, etc.).

See the web portal of the Natura 2000 network: http://www.natura2000.fr section "Agir avec le réseau" (Acting with the network).

Salinas in the Camargue. © Alain Lagrave

See Table 12 in Appendix 19 "Prioritising conservation issues"

See previous section "Making sure the measure is feasible".

Accordingly, the circular of 21 November 2007, dealing with the contractual management of Natura 2000 sites, stipulates on pages 26 and 27 that

"… in signing Natura 2000 contracts priority should be given to the holders of rights in personam and in rem whose land supports the habitats and species, listed in the site's Management Plan, whose conservation status is "unfavourable poor" at the national biogeographical level."

Increased and co-ordinated programme of activity to restore and maintain conservation status

To address the «performance requirement" required by Europe for the next assessment of conservation status in 2013, France has to carry out the appropriate actions:

- in order to maintain favourable conservation status (if this is the case);
- or to restore it (for the habitats and species with poor conservation status).

To this end, a national assessment is in progress, with the National Natural History Museum (MNHN) and regional directorates representing the environment ministry (DREAL), in order to draw up a Directive for prefects. This will detail, for each biogeographical region, the natural habitats in Annex I and the species in Annex II of the "Habitats" Directive for which, within the Natura 2000 network, an increased and co-ordinated programme of activity will be undertaken until 2012.

This work takes into account the vulnerability of the natural habitats and species but also of the foreseeable effectiveness of the proposed actions over the next 5 years, so as to make the most of the potential for improvements.

In determining the order of priority, attention should also be paid to the natural habitats in Annex I and the species in Annex II of the "Habitats" Directive for which, within the Natura 2000 network, a programme of increased and co-ordinated activity will be in force until 2012. In addition, further criteria may be used to fine-tune the process of prioritising the measures:

- the status of the habitats and species of Community interest on the site;
- the degree of priority given to sustainable development objectives;
- the potential for restoration and the ease, or feasibility, of implementing conservation or restoration measures in the framework of Natura 2000;
- the magnitude of the threats facing the habitats or species on the site;
- the logical sequence in which measures relating to a given habitat would be implemented (for example, scrub clearing would take priority over management by grazing).

The National Natural History Museum (MNHN) has drawn up a synopsis and analysis of conservation issues linked to professional fishing activities as part of an agreement with DPMA/MAAPRAT, the maritime fishing and aquaculture directorate of the Agriculture and Fisheries Ministry.

III.5.3. Cost assessment and financing

Estimating the cost of the measure

To estimate the cost (or a cost range) for a measure, the management planning authority may:
- make use of estimates / quotes;
- in the context of tAEM: do the calculations based on the surface areas potentially subject to contracts;
- in the context of non-agricultural management measures for natural areas, the managers of natural areas (CREN, shooting and fishing federations or associations, etc.) may provide cost estimates for the measures to be implemented or adapted;
- more generally, consult the national or regional guides or references, which may provide the basis for making estimates.

A few examples of guides and references for cost assessments

- Écosphère, 2006: "Drawing up technico-economic references for management measures at Natura 2000 sites in open, aquatic and wetland habitats. Volume 4: National list of measures – Propositions". 155 p.
- Mediterranean Environment Agency, Languedoc-Roussillon Region, 2002: "Moorland and grassland in the Mediterranean Region. Management by grazing. Practical Guide." 119 p. .
- Maubert P. & Dutoit V. (Departmental Committee for the Protection of the Environment) 1995. Understanding and managing calcicolous grasslands. ATEN. 65 p.

Invertebrates workshop. © Hassan Souheil (Plateau de Roque-Haute Natura 2000 site)

Financial partners

These are principally:
- Europe;
- the State, via the Ministry for Ecology, Sustainable Development, Transport and Housing (MEDDTL) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAP).

Further financial partners may be approached: public institutions (Water agency, etc.) local authorities (region, department, group of communes, etc.) or other public or private bodies (Conservatoire du littoral (coastal protection), SAFER [rural land sales agency], etc).

Optimisation of funding

It is important to coordinate the funding that is allocated and to optimise the sources of funding for the implementation of a measure, whether it be for Natura 2000 or other initiatives for the management and conservation of natural habitats and species.

Baseline: 2008

The mechanisms set out are those described in the Circulars (on the basis of sources available in 2008). Further mechanisms may supplement the amounts disbursed by the European Union and the French Government (self-financing, funding from the Regional Council, etc.).

Funding mechanisms

For contractual management measures

The mechanisms for contract funding set out below are taken from the Circular of 21 November 2007 on the contractual management of Natura 2000 sites. For marine and fish farming sites, it will be necessary to refer to this information and also to the specialised government departments.

For other measures

The administrative, regulatory and land tenure-based measures, as well as those relating to the improvement of scientific knowledge, may in particular be eligible for funding via:
- the European programmes: ERDF and Life+;
- the State, via direct funding from the Ministry responsible for the environment or from certain public institutions (e.g. water agencies);
- regional government, in the framework of policies promoting the maintenance of biodiversity.

Funding for contractual measures

Type of habitat	Type of contract	Financial mechanisms	MEDDTL	MAP
Forestry (according to the definitions in Article 30. 2. and 3. of Regulation No. 1974/2006)	Natura 2000 Forestry Contract	EAFRD up to 55% + credits from MEDDTL, local authorities and other public bodies	X	
Non-forested land	Natura 2000 Non-Forestry, Non-Agricultural Contract	EAFRD up to 50% and + credits from MEDDTL, local / regional government and certain public institutions	X	
Farmland	Natura 2000 Agricultural Contract	EAFRD		X

Source: Circular of 21 November 2007 on the contractual management of Natura 2000 sites.

Steering Committee Urugne. © Biotope

See Appendix 27»Indicative list of tasks for drawing up Management Plans and facilitating Natura 2000 sites»: figures 2 and 3 of note 8 of the Circular of 21 November 2007.

Funding the phase of facilitating the Management Plan by the Steering Committee

The process of drawing up the Management Plan is led by the Steering Committee. The involvement of the stakeholders is also essential in order to identify the management measures which will help to achieve the defined objectives. The facilitation phase also depends on this: its objective is to ensure that the actions specified in the Management Plan are put into practice, more particularly by setting up contracts that will be used in their implementation. The following may first and foremost be funded during this facilitation phase:
- measures for monitoring the implementation of the Management Plan.
- subsequently, the process of bringing the Management Plan up to date.

For drawing up the Management Plan and facilitating sites

According to the same circular, funding for these aspects derives from operating credits. The work of drawing up Management Plans and facilitating Natura 2000 sites may be co-funded by EAFRD in the framework of Measure 323A of section 3 of the French rural development programme (PDRH) entitled "Development and organisation in respect of Management Plans for Natura 2000 sites". Some Regions have chosen to draw on co-funding from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

Un dispositif de financement en devenir

The funding mechanism, whether national (MEDDTL for the conservation of habitats and species, MAAPRAT for financially productive activities or others: water agencies, local authorities which are already carrying out activities to restore the marine environment) or European, has still to be put in place. The Management Planning Authority will have an important financial engineering role in setting out costed measures, and the state administration (DIRM/DDTM, DREAL) will have a supporting role in putting the corresponding funding in place as and when required and coordinating for the maritime façade. The contrats bleus model, even though it can no longer allocate credits, demonstrates the type of constructive initiative to be developed.
It is also essential to define who is going to benefit from the measure or who will apply the measure when the Management Plan is being drawn up, a concept that is less obvious in relation to the sea than to the land and which could create problems if it not specified.

NB: Natura 2000 funding provisions do not apply to the implementation of measures included in a Marine Natural Park Management Plan (which acts as the Natura 2000 Management Plan). Such measures are covered by the budget of the French Marine Protected Areas Agency. It should be underlined, in the case of study commissions for Marine Natural Parks, Natura 2000

contracts may be drawn up with the agreement of the prefects coordinating the study commission. Once the MNP has been created, these measures may be adopted or adapted and (co-)financed by the Marine Protected Areas Agency if they correspond to the objectives in its Management Plan. Preliminary setup measures (co-)financed by the Marine Protected Areas Agency may be initiated for ecologically linked marine or terrestrial areas in concertation with the prefects coordinating the MNP study commission.

III.5.4. Schedule for carrying out measures

A schedule for all of the measures set out in the Management Plan should be established in order to visualise the chronological order in which they are to be implemented and to help with devising a set of performance indicators, which is required for monitoring. Each of the measures may also have its own timetable indicating the stages in which it is to be achieved during the period when the Management Plan is being implemented. The schedule of deadlines for the measures must be presented in a table.

See Appendix 28 "Overall schedule of Management Plan measures, the example of the Canet lagoon complex SAC, and Appendix 26 Table 13 of the Technical Guidelines "Document d'objectifs Natura 2000, guide pour une rédaction synthétique» (Guide to the synoptic writing of Natura 2000 Management Plans).

Survey and monitoring of bat colonies in public buildings - Priority level: 2					
Schedule					
Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Buildings	Carried out - feasibility study	Carrying out adaptation work	Monitoring	Monitoring	Final report

How to plan the achievement of the measures during the period of the Management Plan

The planning must take into account:
- the level of priority of the measures;
- the measures that are a precondition of the implementation of an action (e.g. surveys, land tenure measure, etc.);
- the timetables of providers of funds also have to be taken into account in order not to miss an opportunity to obtain funding.

See Section III.5.2 «How to identify the measures to be proposed - Giving an order of priority to each measure».

Keeping the schedule flexible

This planning must conform with the predetermined priorities for action. However, it is important that it is fairly flexible in order to be able to make the most of any opportunities. It is possible that measures of a lower priority may be quickly implemented due to very motivated local stakeholders or unexpected funding, or in order to get the local stakeholders to join up with the initiative by providing practical examples of achievements.

III.5.5. How to present the measures

Each measure must be set out in a fact file in accordance with the following template:
- title;
- order of priority;
- habitats and species involved ;
- conservation status to be maintained or restored (type of objective);

The measures are presented in the form of tables and charts (See Final presentation table of measures and examples of tables and maps and using a standard specification file (see opposite).

See Appendix 29 «Examples of measure specification files».

- area of application;
- person or persons approached for the implementation of the action, potential partners or beneficiaries;
- objectives (of sustainable development, or practical objectives if defined);
- description of the measure or standard contract specifications for the contractual management measures;
- details of how the measure is to be achieved (type of contract / without a contract, etc);
- observations and recommendations (optional);
- timetable of activities (optional);
- estimated cost and type of expenditure;
- funding plan;
- monitoring indicators.

We recommend that management measures should be devised and carried out within an eco-responsible policy (eco-measures). The policy should be applied to each measure or in a more global Environmental Management System framework (http://ecoresponsabilite.espaces-naturels.fr).

III.6. Standard specifications for contractual measures

Their role

The standard contract specifications for contractual measures facilitate the practical implementation of the Natura 2000 Management Plan (Docob) as they usually result from a consensus agreed on during local concertation. They are obligatory, and they act as reference points for:
- the facilitating authority of the plan, who will have to refer to them when setting up individual contracts;
- the services in charge of preparing contracts.

See note 8, page 22, of the circular of 21 November 2007 relating to contractual management.

References for preparing standard contract specifications

In setting out standard contract specifications, it is suggested that the following be consulted:
- the technical parts of the unitary undertakings the territorialised agro-environmental measures (tAEM);
- the list of contractual activities for managing Natura 2000 sites that are eligible for funding under Appendix 1 of the circular of 21 November 2007;
- regional references (regional application of national material);
- Techno-economic references relating to fishing, shellfish farming, leisure and water sports (Appendices 66 to 68). These are examples and not a prescriptive framework, and will need to be adapted if the local context requires it.
- regional prefectural decrees, particularly relating to measures in woodland habitats;
- future national work on the management of marine areas (including lagoon areas).

Regional State representative bodies can direct you to the most

See Appendix 1 of Instrument 214-I: "territorialised agro-environmental measures"

up-to-date versions and those that are most appropriate to your site.

The sections: common framework

To simplify the Natura 2000 Management Plan (Docob) and to make it easier to understand, the standard contract specifications may be included in the "notes on measures", with the following sections:

- precise description of the paid and unpaid undertakings on the part of the recipient (tAEM and others) and their location;
- details of the discretionary margin available to the signatories of Natura 2000 contracts;
- the nature of the subsidy or subsidies being proposed;
- the amount and method of calculation of the subsidies being proposed;
- the duration and terms of payment of the public subsidy awarded in return for the undertakings;
- the details of funding for the subsidy that is being considered (potential co-funders);
- the points in the contract specifications which will be subject to administrative verification and on-site verification;
- all of the documentary evidence which has to be produced;
- the practical details of transferring contractual undertakings;
- the indicators for monitoring and assessing the implementation of the measure;
- the penalties incurred in the event of a false declaration or failure to abide by the obligations.

See Section III.5.5 «How to present the measures».

See Section III.5.3. "Cost assessment and financing"

See Appendix 29 «Examples of measure specification files».

We recommend that management measures should be devised and carried out within an eco-responsible policy (eco-measures). The policy should be applied to each measure or in a more global Environmental Management System framework (http://ecoresponsabilite.espaces-naturels.fr).

III.7. The Natura 2000 Charter: a tool to gain support for the Management Plan

This chapter is a summary of the circular relating to the application of the measures set out in Paragraph 5 of Article R. 414-11 and in articles R. 414-12 and R. 414-12-1 of the Environmental Code relating to the Natura 2000 Charter, of 26 April 2007.

The objective of the Natura 2000 Charter

The site charter is established within the framework of the Management Plan. Its objective is to conserve the Natura 2000 site, and to address the major conservation issues that were identified at the time when priorities were being set. It promotes the maintenance and development of practices that are favourable to the conservation of the site by securing the support of the signatories for the objectives being pursued.

Who is the charter aimed at?

Extensive agriculture with corncockles (Pyrénées catalanes). © Alain Lagrave

Charters being tested

In marine areas, charters are experimental and do not provide the same commitments and advantages as for terrestrial sites. Given the dispersed distribution of marine site users, they may sign up on an individual or a collective basis.
At the Cap d'Agde site, ADENA has developed a programmes of signing events (http://www.adena-bagnas.com). The collective approach, if it is widely supported, can result in a considerable level of uptake for the Natura2000 process.

See Appendix 70 "Natura 2000 Charter of the Cap d'Agde sea grass meadow site"

Anyone may sign up for the charter who has rights in personam or rights in rem over areas of land included in a Natura 2000 site. This may therefore include:

- the landowner;
- a "proxy" (person legally authorised to sign up and to undertake the commitments mentioned in the charter);
- both of the above acting together.

Signing up to the charter may take place as soon as the Natura 2000 site has been provided with a functional Management Plan which has been approved by prefectural decree. The basic unit for the undertaking is the cadastral plot (a delineated parcel of land). The signatory chooses the plots on the Natura 2000 site for which to sign up for the charter.

Relationship between the charter and the Management Plan measures

Complementary nature of the contract and charter

The charter allows the signatory to indicate his or her support for the Natura 2000 initiative and for the objectives of the Management Plan, while signing up for commitments that are less restrictive than those involved in Natura 2000 contracts (which are not the subject of the charter and should not appear in it). For example, his or her obligations should not include additional management costs. In addition, these obligations should not be restricted to complying with national regulations regarding the environment, even though it is good to bear these in mind. Ensure that there is consistency between the commitments and recommendations of the charter and the unpaid commitments included in the contracts.

The standard of requirements for the charter and compensation

The obligations must be in accordance with good practices that are in force locally, or are to be aspired to, and which are favourable to the natural habitats and species of Community interest.

According to Article 146 of the law relating to rural land development, 23 February 2005

Signing up to the Natura 2000 charter can give access to financial benefits and public subsidies as follows:
Exemption from the land tax on non-constructed land (TFPNB or TFNB) is only possible when the Management Plan has been approved and the site has been designated under French law (SCI, SAC or SPA):

- when these areas of land appear on the list drawn up by the Prefect, once the objectives document for a Natura 2000 site has been approved;
- and they have been made the subject to a five-year management agreement, as defined in Article L.414-3 of the Environment Code in accordance with the Management Plan in force;

See Monichon Regime for the financial aspects of woodland management] – exemption of ¾ of property transfer tax - and wealth tax

The sustainable woodland management guarantee, when the landowner is in possession of a management document that has been issued, agreed or approved. This guarantee allows access to public funding for the development and protection of woods and forests.

For marine sites, this commitment is accordingly an acknowledgement of practices that are compatible with Natura 2000, and it may reassure those who are involved in these practices as far as the concept of impact assessment is concerned. For example, sports clubs which have respect for the sites and times when birds are nesting will be able to sign the charter and organise their activities in this framework.
In some cases it is important to study eco-labelling carefully, from the economic point of view and in association with existing initiatives (particularly (FranceAgriMer); it may enable an extension of the charter.

The process of drawing up the charter in five phases

Phase 1: consult the reference material

Before undertaking the production of the charter, it is highly advisable to consult:

- the circular of 26 April 2007, relating to the application of the measures set out in Paragraph 5 of Article R.414-11 and Articles R.414-12 and R. 414-12-1 of the Environment Code relating to the Natura 2000 charter.
- the regional guides to drawing up Natura 2000 charters;

the technico-economic references applicable to the sea. (Appendices 66 to 68) To maintain consistency for the whole maritime façade, you should consult the maritime prefecture, regional State representative bodies (DREAL and DIRM) and the local branch of the Marine Protected Areas Agency.

Phase 2: identify the major types of habitat including the natural habitats of Community Interest and other habitats

The regional guide, when available, should be consulted during this phase. This stage may have been completed previously, during the ecological and functional assessment.
In the absence of any regional guide, or if the major types of habitat have not been defined during the ecological assessment, it is necessary to define them. They are a precondition for phase 4.

See Section III.3.3 Ecological and functional analysis

The major habitat types are the same as those referred to in the Habitats Directive (for example Habitat 1170 "Reefs". It is recommended that they be grouped under coherent headings relating to activities or pressures: archipelago areas, tidal zones, shallows etc.

Phase 3: identify the good practices which are to be maintained and developed on the site in view of the conservation issues

The ecological and socio-economic evaluations are the basic tools for identifying practices to favour the maintenance or restoration of natural habitats and of the habitats of particular species. The working groups will help to identify these practices more specifically.

Phase 4: define the obligations and recommendations for each major habitat type or in relation to each different activity

Check on complementarity with the contractual measures. The regional guides set out these assessments, carried out sector by sector.

Plateau de Malzéville (Meurthe et Moselle).
© Diren Lorraine

Phase 5: specify monitoring, verification and penalties

The content of the charter

The charter must contain at least the obligations and recommendations, including those of a general nature and those relating specifically to each major habitat type and/or each activity being carried out on the site. It must be a straightforward document, understandable by anyone, and it should be of a limited length (ideally 2 to 3 pages).

General obligations applying to the whole of the Natura 2000 site

The circular of 27 April 2007, relating to the Natura 2000 charter, stipulates that the charter should include general obligations relating to:

- access to the areas of land in respect of which the charter has been signed, in order to enable surveys and assessments of the conservation status of the natural habitats and species of Community interest to be carried out;
- ensuring that the management plan, or forestry development documentation, conforms with the obligations agreed to in the charter (within a period of 3 years following signature).

Obligations of a general nature. Extract from the Natura 2000 charter for the Malzéville plateau (Meurthe-et-Moselle)

* The signatory undertakes to inform the authorised agents about the obligations agreed to and to modify the terms of reference when they are revised in order to render them consistent with the obligations agreed to in the charter.
- Objectives: to provide information for the various users and to respect the elements of the Natura 2000 charter.
- Verification: document signed by the authorised agent(s) certifying that the landowner has informed them about the commitments undertaken, modification of terms of reference.

*The signatory undertakes to authorise access by the co-ordinating body, or any person nominated by the Prefect, the monitoring committee for the Natura 2000 site or the facilitator, to the plots of land affected by the charter.
- Objectives: to enable experts or the facilitator to move around on the Natura 2000 site in order to carry out the required monitoring and surveys (wildlife surveys, assessment of conservation status, Natura 2000 contract, etc.)
- Verification: site facilitator's correspondence and activities report / no denial of access to surveyors.

*The signatory undertakes to respect the existing paths and tracks across the land affected by the charter. The signatory or his or her authorised representatives must use the existing paths and tracks. Day-to-day management works are not included in this obligation: tree felling and removal, grass cutting, livestock health issues.
- Objective: to maintain the condition of the routes.
- Verification: absence of any major ruts.

The signatory undertakes to keep a written record of all operations and information relating to the parcel of land during the 5 years of commitment to the charter.
- Objective: to monitor the activities of the signatory on the parcel(s) entered into the charter.
- Verification: submission of the up-to-date record of activities.

See Appendix 22 «Example of a Natura 2000 Charter»

Specific obligations

These are the "zoned" obligations, i.e. those specific to each major habitat type. If dividing up according to major habitat types does not allow certain activities to be covered adequately, then specific obligations for each activity carried out on the site may be drafted: they are restricted to five per major habitat type or per activity.

Woodland habitats: joint undertakings at all Southern Vosges and Hautes-Vosges sites

Commitment 4

Objective: to conserve and promote the natural tree species of the woodland communities of the Vosges massif. In the case of plantations, to select indigenous species, according to the lists for each habitat attached in Appendix 3, and, if possible, trees of local provenance.

Verification: on-site confirmation that there are no plantations of species that do not appear on the habitat-specific lists and that the supplementary stipulations noted in Appendix 3 are being respected.

Commitment 5

Objective: to ensure that woodland cover is maintained; to minimise the impact of forestry on the landscape. In the case of clear-felling, or permanent felling of saplings less than 3 m tall:

- limit the working area to 2 ha per individual landholder in public woodlands and 4 ha per individual landholder in private woodlands;
- leave at least three years between two adjacent fellings (reference point: dates of commencement of felling).

In situations where the state of health of the tree communities causes the signatory to infringe these obligations, he must explain the reasons for the proposed operations to DDAF and inform them of the date of the works.

Verification: on-site assessment of the area of clearfells and verification in the woodland management documentation of the interval between two separate felling operations in adjacent areas.

Recommendations

These too may be of a general nature or "zoned" or relating to different activities. To avoid any confusion, they must be clearly distinguished from the obligations. Their objective is to raise the signatory's awareness of the conservation issues being addressed on the site and to encourage any activities to this end. They may be written using verbs of the type "avoid", "promote", "limit", etc.

The other sections of the charter

To make it more accessible to the local stakeholders, the Natura 2000 charter may also contain:

- a brief description of the site, the issues and the objectives;
- an indication of the period for which it is in force: 5 years, subject to renewal;
- information relating to monitoring, verification and penalties:
  - monitoring and verification are carried out by DDAF/DDEA;
  - penalties will be incurred if the signatory fails to comply with the obligations or refuses to submit to verification;
  - possible penalties are the temporary suspension of the charter agreement, thus resulting in the suspension of tax exemptions and the sustainable woodland management guarantees.

To read about experiences in drawing up Natura 2000 charters (in French), see the minutes of the technical discussion day organised in December 2008 by ATEN (http://www.espaces-naturels.fr/natura_2000 /animation_du_reseau/journees_d_echanges_ techniques).

III.8. Monitoring and Assessment of the Management Plan

This Section is based on national and regional methodologies, particularly those described by ATEN in 2005 in the "Methodological guide for the report assessing the implementation of Management Plans – assessment-report tools for the implementation of Management Plans at Natura 2000 sites"; by the DIREN (regional directorate representing the environment ministry) of Franche-Comté in its 2007 "Contract specifications for the assessment of Natura 2000 Management plans"; and by RNF (Natural Reserves of France) in their reports on the assessment of natural reserve management plans (Champion, 2004; RNF & Chiffaut, 2006; RNF & Douard, in press) and on the implementation of Natura 2000 (Michelot et al., 2004).

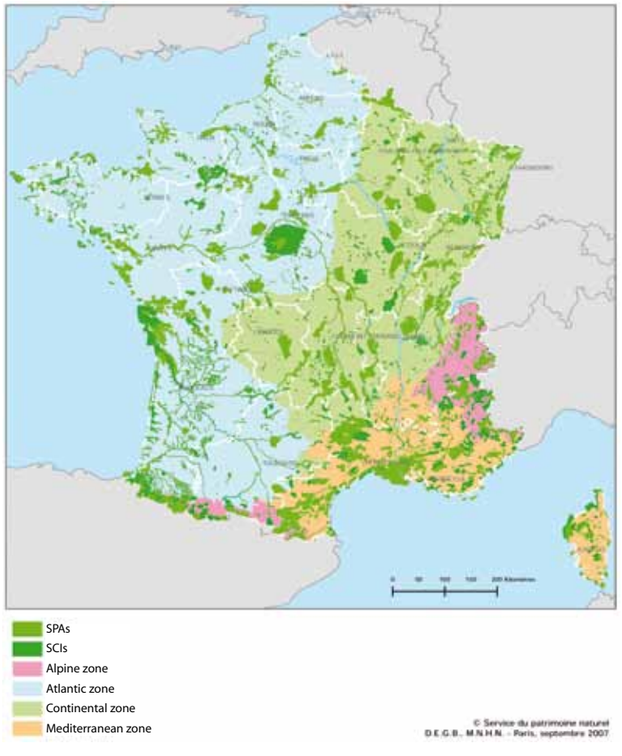
The Natura 2000 initiative is subject to assessment, as specified in the wording of the "Habitats Directive". This assessment is carried out at the national and biogeographic levels by each Member State. At the local level, on the scale of individual sites, the question arises of monitoring the Natura 2000 Management Plan, and its implementation, as well as assessing the condition of the species and habitats, as envisaged in the Environmental Code (Articles R. 414-11 and R. 414-8-5). This Section describes the main aspects of the methodology for monitoring and assessing the Management Plan. However, monitoring the condition of species and habitats at the site level will be added later, the national guidelines for this purpose not having yet been finalised.

III.8.1. General Framework

III.8.1.1. Legal Framework for Natura 2000

Assessment in the framework of the "Habitats Directive" (Article 17)

«Every six years from the date of expiry of the period laid down in Article 23, Member States shall draw up a report on the implementation of the measures taken under this Directive.



Natura 2000. Habitats and Birds Directives as of 30 June 2007
© Natural Heritage Service, DEGB, MNHN. - Paris, September 2007

This report shall include in particular information concerning the conservation measures referred to in Article 6 (see Box) as well as evaluation of the impact of those measures on the conservation status of the natural habitat types of Annex I and the species in Annex II and the main results of the surveillance referred to in Article 11, i.e. surveillance of the conservation status of the natural habitats and species referred to in Article 2 with particular regard to priority natural habitat types and priority species.»

France has to produce a report every six years for the European Commission. It must contain information about what has been implemented, the conservation status of the habitats and species, and the impact of the management measures on this conservation status.

The first report, on the national scale and at the scale of biogeographical regions, appeared in 2007.

Assessment in respect of the "Birds" Directive

The "Birds" Directive requires that all necessary measures be taken to preserve, maintain or re-establish sufficient diversity and extent of habitats for all the bird species which live naturally in a wild state in European territory. Member States must maintain their populations at a level that fulfils the ecological, scientific and cultural requirements, while taking economic and recreational requirements into account. They must also take "all necessary measures to preserve, maintain or re-establish sufficient diversity and extent of habitats". The same measures must also be taken for regularly-visiting migratory species. The implementation of the "Birds" Directive is subject to assessment every 3 years.

Article 6 of the "Habitats Directive"

This sets out the type of management measures involved: "For special areas of conservation, Member States shall establish the necessary conservation measures involving, if need be, appropriate management plans specifically designed for the sites or integrated into other development plans, and appropriate statutory, administrative or contractual measures which correspond to the ecological requirements" … of the habitats and species concerned.
In addition, "Member States shall take appropriate steps to avoid, in the special areas of conservation, the deterioration of natural habitats and the habitats of species as well as disturbance of the species for which the areas have been designated, in so far as such disturbance could be significant in relation to the objectives of this Directive."

Assessment methods in progress

MEDDTL [Ministry for Ecology, Sustainable Development, Transport and Housing] has initiated four distinct but complementary processes to contribute to the overall assessment under the Birds and Habitats Directives:
1. The aspect entrusted to the National Museum of Natural History (MNHN) deals with the assessment, every six years, of the conservation status of habitats and species at the national level. A first report was produced in 2007 and submitted to the European Commission.
2. Various national thematic assessments (for example, economic and institutional assessment of the Natura 2000 programme in France, entrusted to CREDOC [Research centre for the study and observation of living conditions] and based on a three-site sample; integration of Natura 2000 into public policy; the work of IFEN [French Environment Institute] , etc.
3. Defining a framework and a methodology for monitoring the condition of habitats and species at Natura 2000 sites.
4. Collecting information on the measures implemented at the local level, then taking this information up to the regional and national levels, in particular. This collecting of information takes place in the framework of the assessment-report process that is overseen by the Implementing Authority. A tool, known as "SUDOCO", has been developed by ATEN for this purpose and put at the disposal of managers to help them to monitor and assess the implementation of their Management Plans.

In the context of the Marine Framework Directive, the Member States must produce an initial assessment of the ecological status of their marine environment by July 2012. This assessment will link in with assessments carried out for the Birds and Habitats Directives

Monitoring and assessment at Natura 2000 sites 14-11
Monitoring and assessment at Natura 2000 sites are covered by Articles R. 414-11 and R. 414-8-5 of the Environment Code:
- **Article R. 414-11** specifies that the Management Plan should include:
"Paragraph 6: Practical details for monitoring the proposed measures and methods for monitoring habitats and species with a view to assessing their conservation status".
- **Article R. 414-8-5** specifies the monitoring of the implementation of the Management Plan and the assessment of the conservation status of habitats and species:
"I. – The Natura 2000 steering committee monitors the implementation of the management plan. To this end the local government body, or the Association or, failing that, the State department which has been substituted for it, submits a report to it at least once every three years which describes the measures that have been implemented and the problems encountered and, if necessary, indicates how the document should be modified in order to facilitate the attaining of the objectives which were paramount during the designation of the site, taking particular account of any developments in human activities at the site.
II. – The Prefect or, in some cases, the commander of the région terre (military administrative region), periodically assesses the conservation status of the natural habitats and the populations of those species of wild flora and fauna which form the basis for the designation of the site. The results of this assessment are given to the members of the Natura 2000 steering committee.
When it appears that the objectives which were set at the time of the designation of the site have not been achieved or are not capable of being achieved, the Prefect or, in some cases, the commander of the région terre puts the management plan up for revision, referring it to the steering committee."

Conservation Status: definition under review

The approach established by the National Natural History Museum (MNHN) will have to be adapted for marine sites. The first items, mainly derived from considerations at regional level, have been used in the framework of national Natura 2000 condition statements. These items will gradually be made available on the National inventory of natural heritage (INPN) website, and from the Regional Directorates for Environment, Planning and Housing (DREAL/DIRM) or the Marine Protected Areas Agency.
Furthermore, the MNHN ensures that the conservation status assessment of Natura2000 sites is coherent with the assessments carried out at biogeographical regional scale. Connections must be established with the main marine environment observation networks, and it is indispensable that the Natura 2000 management planning and implementing authorities receive considerable scientific support.
For marine sites, the maritime façade or inter-site scales are of prime importance and a link must be made with countries sharing the same coastline and assessment measures taken in the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.
The monitoring system for MPAs (including Natura2000 sites) is developed by the Marine protected Areas Agency/ The aim is to

gradually set up monitoring tools for the conservation status of habitats and species in order to facilitate regular assessment of the implementation of Natura2000

III.8.1.2. Assessment of the Management Plan

Applying the theoretical principles of assessment, the lifetime of a Management Plan can be divided into three phases:
- the phase of drawing up the Management Plan, to which an ex-ante assessment is applied;
- the phase of implementation, to which in-progress monitoring or assessment, or intermediate assessment, is applied;
- the phase of final assessment and evaluation, which generally leads to the revision of the Management Plan.

The first phase involves the Management Planning Authority, while the other two involve the Implementing Authority in charge of putting the Management Plan into practice.

The period of drawing up the Management Plan – ex-ante assessment

The more precisely and coherently the Management Plan is laid out, the easier its assessment will be. In other words, the quality of the design and compilation of the Management Plan partly determines the feasibility of the assessment: writing the Management Plan involves embarking on the process of assessment. As soon as it is drawn up, it is a good idea to confirm that it is internally consistent, externally coherent, and relevant. To assess these different points, it is useful to ask the following questions:

Relevance:
- Do the development objectives logically follow on from the issues affecting the site?
- Do the operational objectives (if defined) convey in practical terms the results to be achieved by the implementation of the Management Plan?
- Will the measures enable the practical or sustainable development objectives to be achieved?

Internal consistency:
- Is the layout of the sustainable development objectives, practical objectives and measures structured in a consistent, comprehensible way?
- Do the objectives complement one another rather than being contradictory?

External consistency:
- Are the other documents relating to the site planning and programming referred to in the Management Plan?
- Are these documents likely to have an impact on the objectives of the Management Plan?
- If so, do they include a reference to the Natura 2000 conservation objectives?
- If not, are specific means of communication planned for, in order to anticipate possible contradictions and to bring in the Natura 2000 objectives at the earliest possible opportunity with the contracting authorities for these programmes or projects?

The ex-ante assessment is also the time for defining monitoring indicators which will allow the later stages of the assessment to be

Cf Appendix 31: «Theory and definition of assessment»

Prospecting in the field (Fontainebleau). © Laurent Mignaux – Meeddat

© Alain Lagrave

effectively carried out. The regional scientific advisory committee on the natural heritage (CSRPN) can provide technical support or advice for this assessment.

The period of in-progress assessment and monitoring

Once it has been approved, the Management Plan is implemented, i.e. the various measures provided for are initiated, carried out and monitored. This monitoring is based on tools for management and reporting (performance indicators, mapping etc.) In-progress monitoring of the measures enables an inventory of the work being carried out on the site to be produced and analysis of the direction in which the project is going, the internal consistency of the application of the Management Plan, and the effectiveness of the actions being implemented.

Internal consistency may be assessed by comparing the measures that are implemented with the priorities defined by the Management Plan:
- are the priority measures well under way?
- are the resources mainly being allocated to the priority measures and thus to the principal issues of the site?

Monitoring allows:
- a record to be kept of actions undertaken on the site, irrespective of any changes in the implementing authority or the project head;
- annual reports to be produced, summarising the actions carried out;
- contract specifications for the measures being taken to be modified, or their cost to be re-evaluated;
- the actions undertaken to be accounted for in relation to the programme in the Management Plan, and the necessary resources (human and financial) to be altered or their allocation among different measures to be readjusted.

The period of final assessment

The final assessment has no predefined timescale. However, an assessment of the implementation of the Management Plan is currently required from the steering committee every three years (formerly every six years). This does not mean that the Management Plan must be revised every three years. The steering committee, or the Prefect, may decide to revise the Management Plan before, or after, those three years, depending on whether or not the document is considered to be still applicable. Whatever the period of application of the Management Plan, it is essential to revise it on the basis of the results obtained, corresponding to the assessment-report process which consists of:
- summarising all the actions that have been implemented and thus obtaining a measure of the ground that has been covered;
- obtaining a more precise estimate of the impact of the measures, and more generally the project, on the site;
- evaluating the changes taking place on the site in its context (the influential factors, internal and external);
- noting the lessons learned from the past management, particularly as regards monitoring and improvements in the knowledge of the site;
- suggesting modifications to the Management Plan, with regard to the application of the measures and possible changes in the issues.

III.8.2. Methods for monitoring the measures

The points set out below should be taken into account by the management planning authority at the time when the management measures are being worked out and the descriptive profile is being written. They will then enable the implementing authority to set up the assessment-report for the Management Plan.

III.8.2.1. "Measurable" measures

All the measures are covered by the assessment-report: management of habitats and species, improving knowledge, overall management of the site, management of the project (communications, providing information, local support, etc.). As with the operational objectives, the measures must be SMART (see page 89).
The measures must also be set out in such a way as to include achievement descriptors from the initial stages: the number of contracts signed with this measure (Natura 2000, territorial agro-environmental measures (MAET), the total implementation area, etc. If possible, a quantifiable objective should be specified. This will serve as a reference point for the achievement indicators. The measures must also be subject to a forecast regarding the resources required for their achievement (provisional budget, time required for achievement, etc.). This will be used to assess the efficiency of the measures and to set reasonable objectives in terms of timescales.

Plant monitoring. © Hassan Souheil (Plateau de Roque-Haute Natura 2000 Site)

Examples: amount of funding requested, amount obtained, number of days' work carried out, etc.

III.8.2.2. Indicators for monitoring and evaluation

Indicators are the basic tools for both the annual report and the multi-year assessment. They enable the actions implemented and the immediate effects of one or more measure(s) to be monitored, as well as the long-term effects. Several categories of indicators are described below, in increasing order of complexity.

Indicators of means (or resources)

They give information about financial, human, material, organisational or regulatory resources used by the implementing authority to implement the Management Plan. Analysis of the resource indicators enables the efficiency of the implementation of the Management Plan to be measured.

See "Defining the operational objectives" in Section III.4 "Defining sustainable development objectives".

Achievement indicators

Achievement indicators quantitatively and objectively assess the degree of implementation of each measure. They do not require specific monitoring and, for management measures for example, can be obtained directly by reading the descriptive sections of the contract specifications.
Examples:
- for the measure "waymarking of footpath X", the achievement indicators could be:
  - waymarking the footpath: yes or no (yes/no indicator),
  - number of metres (or km) waymarked (quantitative indicator)
  - state of progress with the waymarking (scale indicator: over 50% / less than 50%);
- for the measure "mechanical scrub clearing", the achievement indicators could be the number of plots of land cleared (or proportion of the total number to be cleared) (quantitative indicator);
- further examples: surface area brought under management, length of hedge replanted, number of contracts signed, surface area of land redeveloped, etc.

On the basis of these indicators, the overall state of progress can be calculated from the percentages achieved for each measure. However, this state of progress cannot be used directly to gauge the efficiency of the measures, as the achievement indicators to not allow the effects of the actions that are implemented to be assessed.

Examples: increase in the area suitable for a given species; change in area of ground covered by woody plants, etc.

Result indicators

These describe the direct effects, in the short term, of the actions carried out. They give information about the changes taking place for those concerned with an operation, a measure, or the site after an operation (or combination of operations) has been carried out.

Examples: improvement or decline in the condition of a given habitat, increase in the population of a species following the restoration of its habitat, etc.

Impact indicators

Impact indicators describe the more or less long term, indirect or inferred effects of the implemented measures.
In the context of Natura 2000 the result and impact indicators are based in general on biological parameters, which often require complex monitoring. They must be subjected to monitoring which is in accordance with the management measures that are being implemented. We therefore consider that only indicators for resources and achievements are necessary for management measures and measures relating to facilitation and communication. Indicators for results and impacts should rather be applied to measures relating to scientific monitoring and improving the knowledge of the site.

III.8.2.3. Tables and overviews

As specified in the Technical guidelines (ATEN publication) Document d'objectifs Natura 2000, guide pour une rédaction synthétique (Guide to the synoptic writing of Natura 2000 Management Plans), the essential data are to be presented in:
- Table 14: monitoring the measures;
- Tables 15, 16 and 17: monitoring the management of natural habitats and species of Community interest.

These tables, followed by overviews, appear in the main document.

See Tables in Appendices 32 and 33 "Tables for presenting monitoring data on measures" and "Tables for presenting monitoring data on the management of habitats and species", and Section III.1.2 "Management Plan layout".

III.8.3. Assessment-reports for Management Plans

III.8.3.1. Annual report

Each year, the report on the implementation of the project to which the Management Plan relates must describe what has actually been carried out and the results, both positive and negative, in the framework of the measures that have been implemented (non-intervention also being considered as a management activity, if it was specified in the Management Plan). Of the four sections previously defined, the annual report relates to the sections "Implementation of measures" and the section "Running the project".
Analysis of the state of progress of the management measures

Suivi Charmettant. © Meeddat

comprises five stages:
- examining the measures implemented during the year (for example by summarising the various contracts signed and detailing the actions that have been implemented, the habitats and species affected, etc.);
- making use of information (including indicators);
- establishing the stage of progress for the implementation of the Management Plan;
- comparing this stage with the planned objectives;
- producing an overview and contextualising the situation.

For the analysis of the running of the Management Plan project, three stages have to be provided for in the annual report:
- an overview of the activities associated with the running of the project: administrative management, production of the annual report on activities, financial and budgetary management procedures, setting up and technical monitoring of the operations, contract management, provision of information, communications, etc.;
- making use of the indicators for these activities;
- an evaluation of the standard achieved in running the project.

For the measures relating to scientific monitoring, it is also useful each year to set out the measures being used, the protocols that are followed, the sectors involved and, wherever possible, the results obtained so far.

III.8.3.2. Multi-annual assessment

This involves a more detailed analysis of the state of progress with the management measures over a number of years, including the running of the Management Plan project and the scientific monitoring measures. It is carried out by the implementing authority and consists of an overview and analysis of the annual reports.

Report on the actions implemented

As with the annual report, the first part of this assessment may therefore be structured to follow the three main types of measures being implemented in the framework of the Management Plan: management of habitats and species, facilitation and communication (running the Management Plan project), and scientific monitoring. For these three main categories, it will be necessary to produce a detailed report on the actions carried out, to make use of the monitoring indicators that have been put in place, and to note the lessons to be learned from these results as far as internal consistency, effectiveness and efficiency are concerned. This report may be illustrated with summary tables, mapping of contracts and management measures, or graphics showing developments in the various indicators of resources and achievements.

Analysis of the Management Plan

This report must be supplemented by an analysis of the Management Plan, to enable value judgements to be applied to its implementation. This concerns in particular: ecological assessments (habitat mapping), details of measures of whatever type (contract specifications), and the existence of a Natura 2000 Charter.

Who can use SUDOCO and how is it accessed?

SUDOCO can be made available free of charge to all Natura 2000 Management Plan implementing authorities. It is also open to the State departments in charge of Natura 2000: DREAL, DDEA, MEED-DAT, etc.
SUDOCO is a database that is completely available via the internet, with no need to install any particular software apart from an internet connection and browser. To learn how to use it ATEN provides two-day inter-regional training course.
www.formation.espaces-naturels.fr
For further details about SUDOCO, see the guided tour on the ATEN website:
www.espaces-naturels.fr
and the on-line users' manual:
http://sudoco.espaces-naturels.fr/wiki

Scrub clearing. © Hassan Souheil (Plateau de Roque-Haute Natura 2000 Site)

See Appendix 34 "The SUDOCO tool: contents and how it works".

Information update about the site

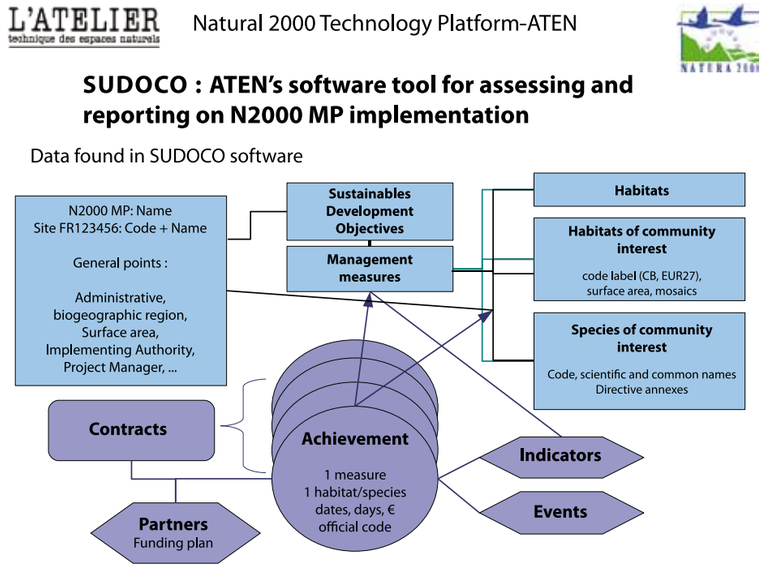
It is also appropriate to summarise and make use of all the new information that has been obtained about the site in order to bring the ecological assessment up to date. To avoid having to completely re-map the site without taking the previous version into account, it is sufficient to identify the strong and weak points; the components that have undergone marked natural or anthropogenic changes, or on the other hand the stable components of the landscape, etc.

Proposals for modifications for a revised version of the Management Plan

The evaluation must eventually end with a judgement on the objectives and measures in the Management Plan and an indication, in summary form (using a table for example) of whether it is necessary to abandon, continue unchanged or reformulate the measures, and the objectives, so as to make the new version of the Management Plan more relevant to the issues affecting the site.

III.8.3.3. A tool for monitoring Management Plans: SUDOCO

SUDOCO is a database whose objective is to provide a set of performance indicators for the implementation of Natura 2000 Management Plans, with in-progress monitoring by the implementing authority. It aims to facilitate the production of periodic reports as well as the evaluation of the Management Plan for its revision. It also allows a description of the various activities carried out in the framework of Natura 2000 Management Plans to be kept in a shared database. The designated user can get access to information relating to all the sites that are represented in SUDOCO, so the database also performs the function of networking the facilitators of Natura 2000 sites.



SUDOCO diagram © ATEN

List of Appendices

Downloadable (in French) from: www.espaces-naturels.fr/natura_2000

Appendix 1
Bibliographical and legal references useful for drawing up the Natura 2000 Management Plan

Appendix 2
Territorial dialogue, concertation and communication

Appendix 3
Example of the make-up of a Steering Committee

Appendix 4
Platform for communicating in and running Natura 2000 networks 2005-2007

Appendix 5
Scheduling key periods and moments for dialogue and communication during the drawing up of the Management Plan

Appendix 6
List of optional and obligatory maps from Cahier technique (technical guidelines) n° 81 Document d'objectifs Natura 2000, guide pour une rédaction synthétique (Guide to the synoptic writing of Natura 2000 Management Plans) ATEN 2008

Appendix 7
Scientific and technical contact organisations for Natura 2000

Appendix 8
Example of a mapping strategy for habitats of community interest in the Camargue

Appendix 9
Examples of maps of knowledge-issue sectors for the Le Buëch Natura 2000 site FR9301519

Appendix 10
Methodological, typological and taxonomic references for the inventory and mapping of habitats and species of Community interest

Appendix 11
Degradation criteria. Appendix E of the explanatory notes on the Standard Data Form: impacts and affecting the conservation status of the site (EU N° 107/153, 24/4/97)

Appendix 12
Assessing the status of habitats. Examples of Natura 2000 species taken from the Management Plan of the Le Buëch site FR9301519

Appendix 13
Assessing the status of habitats. Examples of Natura 2000 species taken from the Management Plan for the Gorges de la Vésubie and Var-Mont-Vial «Lac Saint-Léger» Ferion FR9301546

Appendix 14
Presenting inventory and mapping data. Tables of metadata extracted from Guide méthodologique de cartographie des habitats naturels et des espèces végétales appliqué aux sites terrestres du réseau Natura 2000 (Methodological guide to the mapping of natural habitats and plant species applied to terrestrial sites in the Natura 2000 network) National Natural History Museum (MNHN) / National Botanical Conservatories (CBN)

Appendix 15
Presenting inventory and mapping data. Examples of mapping data

Appendix 16
Presenting inventory and mapping data. Tables to present inventory and mapping data from Cahier technique (technical guidelines) n° 81 Document d'objectifs Natura 2000, guide pour une rédaction synthétique (Guide to the synoptic writing of Natura 2000 Management Plans) ATEN 2008

Appendix 17
Presenting inventory and mapping data. Examples of habitat and species fact files

Appendix 18
Ecological and functional analysis. Example of relations between habitats and species

Appendix 19
Prioritising conservation issues. Table for presenting prioritised conservation issues and objectives from Cahier technique (technical guidelines) n° 81 Document d'objectifs Natura 2000, guide pour une rédaction synthétique (Guide to the synoptic writing of Natura 2000 Management Plans) ATEN 2008

Appendix 20
Prioritising conservation issues. Examples of quantitative and qualitative methods

Appendix 21
Prioritising conservation issues. Example of the application method recommended in the DREAL PACA specifications

Appendix 22
Socio-economic diagnosis. Table for presenting the information collected and examples of maps» from Cahier technique (technical guidelines) n° 81 Document d'objectifs Natura 2000, guide pour une rédaction synthétique (Guide to the synoptic writing of Natura 2000 Management Plans) ATEN 2008

Appendix 23
Socio-economic diagnosis. Examples of information to seek in function of type of activity

Appendix 24
Socio-economic diagnosis. Example of a questionnaire for consulting local stakeholders

Appendix 25
Socio-economic diagnosis. Examples of other informal methods of presenting the information collected: tables, maps and fact files

Appendix 26
Table for presenting measures from Cahier technique (technical guidelines) n° 81 Document d'objectifs Natura 2000, guide pour une rédaction synthétique (Guide to the synoptic writing of Natura 2000 Management Plans) ATEN 2008 and example of a completed table and maps specifying **the location** of management measures from the Management Plan for the «Massif de la Serre» site

Appendix 27
Indicative lists of tasks for drawing up Management Plans and facilitating Natura 2000 sites from the 21 November 2007 government circular on the contractual management of Natura 2000 sites

Appendix 28
Overall schedule of Management Plan measures extracted from the Management Plan for the Canet lagoon complex SAC, Saint-Nazaire, Pyrénées-Orientales

Appendix 29
Examples of specification files for measures

Appendix 30
Example of a Natura 2000 Charter

Appendix 31
Theory and definition of assessment

Appendix 32
Table for presenting monitoring data concerning management measures from Cahier technique (technical guidelines) n° 81 Document d'objectifs Natura 2000, guide pour une rédaction synthétique (Guide to the synoptic writing of Natura 2000 Management Plans) ATEN 2008

Appendix 33
Table for presenting monitoring data concerning the management of habitats and species of community interest from Cahier technique (technical guidelines) n° 81 Document d'objectifs Natura 2000, guide pour une rédaction synthétique (Guide to the synoptic writing of Natura 2000 Management Plans) ATEN 2008

Appendix 34
The SUDOCO tool: contents and how it works

Appendix 35
Map of French marine Natura 2000 sites

Appendix 36
Approaches to concertation: examples of Mont-Saint-Michel Bay and Porquerolles

Appendix 37
Examples of Steering Committees for marine or sea/land sites

Appendix 38
Composition of the Mediterranean façade concertation body

Appendix 39
Study of pleasure boat moorings at the scale of the Mediterranean maritime façade

Appendix 40
PACA region DREAL flight plan

Appendix 41
Example of map and figures at European scale

Appendix 42
Habitat map of seagrass meadows (Posidonia oceanica) (11-20) in Natura 2000 sites on the Mediterranean façade

Appendix 43
Location map for the Eastern Seine Bay

Appendix 44
Marine administrative boundaries and PMDs

Appendix 45
Map of maritime regulations and uses in the Mor Braz area of the Loire estuary

Appendix 46
Brochure on Marine Protected Areas

Appendix 47
Bouches de Bonifacio map

Appendix 48
Map of marine protected areas

Appendix 49
The public maritime domain and its management

Appendix 50
Organisation of PMD usage: examples of Glénan and Mont Saint Michel Bay

Appendix 51
Examples of uses of oceanographic data

Appendix 52
Example of a map produced by the Marine Protected Areas Agency for the 2009 tender

Appendix 53
Examples of maps for analysing and identifying data gaps

Appendix 54
Examples of synoptic maps concerning knowledge of habitats and species

Appendix 55
Brochure on the marine section of the SINP

Appendix 56
Examples of available and exploitable data

Appendix 57
Example of a survey schedule and sampling plan for a marine site

Appendix 58
Reference list of marine habitat types

Appendix 59
Specifications for mapping the habitats of coastal Natura 2000 sites

Appendix 60
Map of Bottlenose dolphin sightings

Appendix 61
Assessment of the conservation status of marine bird habitats within SPAs

Appendix 62
1- Report on the conservation status of marine habitats at Natura 2000 site-scale.
2- Assessment grid templates for the conservation status of Atlantic natural marine habitats
3- Assessment grid templates for the conservation status of Mediterranean natural marine habitats

Appendix 63
Synoptic biocenose fact file: marine Zostera meadows

Appendix 64
Reference bases for the management of Natura 2000 sites - Tome 2: Marine Natura 2000 habitats and species

Appendix 65
Strategic analysis of sedimentary dynamics and the high-water line in the north Brittany / west Cotentin zone

Appendices 66 to 68
Reference bases for the management of activities in Natura 2000 sites - Tome 1: professional fisheries, marines aquaculture, nautical sports and leisure activities.

Appendix 69
Assessment regime for Natura 2000 impacts

Appendix 70
Natura 2000 Charter of the Cap d'Agde sea grass meadow site

French abbreviations and acronyms

(explanations/translations in the main body of the Guide)

AAPPMA : Association agréée pour la pêche et de protection du milieu aquatique
ACCA : Association communale de chasse agréée
ADASEA : Association départementale pour l'aménagement des structures des exploitations agricoles
ADEME : Agence de l'environnement et de la maîtrise de l'énergie
AE RMC : Agence de l'eau Rhône, Méditerranée et Corse
ANEM : Association nationale des élus de la montagne
AOT : Autorisation d'occupation temporaire
APB : Arrêté préfectoral de protection de biotope
ASP : Agence de services et de paiement
ASQAB : Association de surveillance de la qualité de l'air à Besançon
ATEN : Atelier technique des espaces naturels
CA : Chambre d'agriculture
CAD : Contrat d'agriculture durable
CBN : Conservatoire botanique national
CC : Communauté de communes
CCI : Chambre de commerce et d'industrie
CCR : Conseil consultatif régional
CDOA : Commission départementale d'orientation agricole
CELRL : Conservatoire de l'espace littoral et des rivages lacustres
CEMAGREF : Centre national du machinisme agricole, du génie rural, des eaux et des forêts
CG : Conseil général
CIADT : Comité interministériel pour l'aménagement du territoire
CIEM : Conseil international pour l'exploitation de la mer
CITES : Convention de Washington sur le commerce international des espèces de faune et de flore sauvages menacées d'extinction
CLPMEM : Comité local des pêches maritimes et des élevages marins
CNASEA : Centre national pour l'aménagement des structures des exploitations agricoles
CNC : Comité national de la conchyliculture
CNERA : Centre national d'étude et de recherche appliquée (ONCFS)
CNJA : Centre national des jeunes agriculteurs
CNPMEM : Comité national des pêches maritimes et des élevages marins
CNRS : Centre national de la recherche scientifique
COPIL : Comité de pilotage (d'un site Natura 2000)
CPE : Commission de protection des eaux (CPEPESC)
CPIE : Centre permanent d'initiatives pour l'environnement
CR : Conseil régional
CREN : Conservatoire régional des espaces naturels
CROS : Comité régional olympique et sportif
CRPF : Centre régional de la propriété forestière
CRPMEM : Comité régional des pêches maritimes et des élevages marins
CSP : Conseil supérieur de la pêche (devenu ONEMA)
CSRPN : Conseil scientifique régional du patrimoine naturel
CTE : Contrat territorial d'exploitation
CTE-PNB : Centre thématique européen - Protection de la nature et de la biodiversité
DAM : Direction des affaires maritimes
DCE : Directive cadre sur l'eau
DCO : Demande chimique en oxygène
DCSMM : Directive cadre stratégie milieu marin
DDJS : Direction départementale jeunesse et sports
DDT(M) : Direction départementale des territoires (et de la mer)
DE : Direction de l'eau (MEEDDAT)
DG Env : Direction générale de l'environnement (Commission européenne)
DG MARE : Direction générale des affaires maritimes et de la pêche
DGAC : Direction générale de l'aviation civile
DHFF ou DH : Directive habitats faune flore sauvages CEE/92/43
DIREN : Direction régionale de l'environnement (ex-DRAE)
DIRM : Direction inter-régionale de la mer
DNE : Doubs nature environnement
DNP : Direction de la nature et des paysages (MEEDDAT)
DO : Directive européenne oiseaux sauvages CEE/79/409
DOCOB : Document d'objectifs (d'un site Natura 2000)
DPF : Domaine public fluvial
DPM : Domaine public maritime
DPMA : Direction des pêches maritimes et de l'aquaculture
DPMA : Direction des pêches maritimes et de l'aquaculture
DRAE : Délégation régionale à l'architecture et à l'environnement (devenue DIREN avec les SHC)
DRAF : Direction régionale de l'agriculture et de la forêt
DRAM : Directions régionales des affaires maritimes
DREAL : Direction régionale de l'environnement, de l'aménagement et du logement
DTONF : Direction territoriale de l'office national des forêts
EDF : Électricité de France
ENF : Espaces naturels de France
ENGEES : École nationale du génie de l'eau et de l'environnement de Strasbourg
ENGREF : École nationale du génie rural, des eaux et des forêts
ENS : Espace naturel sensible
EP : Établissement public
EPA : Établissement public à caractère administratif
EPCI : Établissement public de coopération intercommunale
EPIC : Établissement public à caractère industriel et commercial
FCNE : Franche-Comté nature environnement
FDAAPPMA : Fédération départementale des associations agréées de pêche et de protection du milieu aquatique
FDC : Fédération départementale des chasseurs
FEADER : Fonds européen agricole pour le développement rural
FEDER : Fonds européen de développement régional
FEOGA : Fonds Européen d'orientation et de garantie agricole
FEP : Fonds européen pour la pêche
FNCOFOR : Fédération nationale des communes forestières françaises

FNE : France nature environnement
FNRPFS : Fédération régionale des syndicats de propriétaires forestiers sylviculteurs
FNSEA : Fédération nationale des syndicats d'exploitants agricoles
FPNR : Fédération nationale des parcs naturels régionaux
FRC : Fédération régionale des chasseurs
FSD : Formulaire standard de données (base de données officielle européenne de chaque site Natura 2000)
FSE : Fonds social européen
GIC : Groupement d'intérêt cynégétique
GIP : Groupement d'intérêt public
GIZC : Gestion intégrée des zones côtières
IFORE : Institut de formation de l'environnement (MEEDDAT)
IFREMER : Institut français de recherche pour l'exploitation de la mer
INRA : Institut national de la recherche agronomique
ISTE : Institut des sciences et techniques de l'environnement de l'université de Franche-Comté
JOCE : Journal officiel de la communauté européenne
JORF : Journal officiel de la république française
LIFE : L'instrument financier pour l'environnement
LPO : Ligue pour la protection des oiseaux
MAAPRAT : Ministère de l'alimentation, de l'agriculture, de la pêche, de la ruralité et de l'aménagement du territoire
MAAPRAT : Ministère de l'Agriculture, de l'Alimentation, de la Pêche, de la Ruralité et de l'Aménagement du territoire
MAE : Mesures agro-environnementales
MAETER : Mesures agro-environnementales territorialisées
MAP : Ministère de l'agriculture et de la pêche
MATE : Ministère de l'aménagement du territoire et de l'environnement (devenu MEDD en juin 2002)
MEDAD : Ministère de l'écologie, du développement, et de l'aménagement durables
MEDDTL : Ministère de l'écologie, du développement durable, des Transports et du logement
MEEDDAT : Ministère de l'écologie, de l'énergie, du développement durable et de l'aménagement du territoire (ex. MEDAD)
MES : Matières en suspension
MNHN : Muséum national d'histoire naturelle
ONCFS : Office national de la chasse et de la faune sauvage
ONEMA : Office national de l'eau et des milieux aquatiques
ONF : Office national des forêts
ONG : Organisation non gouvernementale
OPIE : Office pour les insectes et leur environnement
OSPAR : Convention pour la protection du milieu marin de l'Atlantique du Nord-Est ou Convention OSPAR (OSPAR pour «¾Oslo-Paris¾»).
PAMM : Plan d'actions pour le milieu marin
PCB : Polychlorobiphényles
PCP : Politique commune des pêches
PDIPR : Plan départemental des itinéraires de promenade et de randonnée
PLU : Plan local d'urbanisme (ex POS)
PMPOA : Plan de maîtrise des pollutions d'origine agricole
PN : Parc national
PNR : Parc naturel régional
POS : Plan d'occupation des sols (devenu PLU avec la loi SRU)
PPR : Plan de prévention des risques
PSG : Plan simple de gestion
RBd : Réserve biologique domaniale
RBi : Réserve biologique intégrale
RHP : Réseau hydrologique et piscicole
RN : Réserve naturelle
RNCFS : Réserves nationales de chasse et de faune sauvage
RNF : Réserves naturelles de France
RNN : Réserve naturelle nationale
RNR : Réserve naturelle régionale
RNV : Réserve naturelle volontaire
SAFER : Société d'aménagement foncier et d'établissement rural
SAGE : Schéma d'aménagement et de gestion des eaux
SCOT : Schéma de cohérence territoriale (ex SDAU avant la loi SRU, Schéma directeur d'aménagement et d'urbanisme)
SDAGE : Schéma directeur d'aménagement et de gestion des eaux
SFEPM : Société française pour l'étude et la protection des mammifères
SHC : Service hydrologique centralisateur (intégré dans les DIREN depuis 1991)
SIC et pSIC : Site d'intérêt communautaire et proposition de Site d'intérêt communautaire (directive Habitats)
SIG : Système d'information géographique
SINP : Système d'information sur la nature et les paysages
SMVM : Schéma de mise en valeur de la mer
SRADT : Schéma régional d'aménagement et de développement du territoire
SRAE¾: Service régional d'aménagement des eaux (intégré avec les DRAE et les SHC dans les DIREN en 1991)
SRU : loi Solidarité et renouvellement urbain
SSCENR : Schéma de services collectifs des espaces naturels et ruraux
UE : Union européenne
UICN : Union internationale pour la conservation de la nature
UNICEM : Union nationale des industries de carrières et matériaux de construction
URCPIE : Union régionale des centres permanents d'initiatives pour l'environnement
WWF : World wildlife fund
ZEE : Zone économique exclusive
ZICO : Zone importante pour la conservation des oiseaux
ZNIEFF : Zone naturelle d'intérêt écologique, floristique et faunistique
ZPS : Zone de protection spéciale (directive Oiseaux)
ZSC : Zone spéciale de conservation (directive Habitats)

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Atelier technique des
ESPACES NATURELS
Le réseau des professionnels de la nature

The Atelier technique des espaces naturels develops and disseminates heritage management methods for natural areas

This document is a translation of the highly operational methodological guide to drawing up Management Plans written for the managers of French Natura 2000 sites. It is intended to help you comprehend the main aspects of the French approach, notably the principle of a Steering Committee and the drawing up of a Management Plan (Document d'objectifs, Docob) in the hope that it may enable Natura 2000 managers in other European countries, or even other managers of protected sites, to consider their own approach. The methodological aspects described may be applied elsewhere and prove beneficial in other contexts. The appendices, which are very long and specific to French sites, are available online but have not been translated.

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Natura 2000 Management Plan

METHODOLOGICAL GUIDE FOR DRAWING UP THE MANAGEMENT PLAN

This Guide is intended for all organisations responsible for drawing up or revising Natura 2000 Management Plan (Docob): designated authorities, management planning authorities and/or service providers, and facilitators. It is a reference base aimed at ensuring genuine consistency between the N2000 MPs produced nationwide. However, it can be adapted to each particular site, whether terrestrial or marine, in function of its characteristics: existing data, complexity, surface area, e conservation issues.

Part 1 - Dialogue for Natura 2000

- the basic features of dialogue concerning the Natura 2000 site for drawing up the Management Plan;
- the development of a consultation-based approach that is coherent and comprehensible;
- knowing how to facilitate: the key to dialogue;
- knowing how to communicate: a tool for territorial dialogue

Part 2 – The Natura 2000 Management Plan

In six sections:

- introductory remarks: general information and physical characteristics, mapping of habitats and species, ecological and functional description, issues, socio-economic assessment;
- definition of sustainable development objectives;
- setting out measures of all kinds;
- standard specifications for contractual measures;
- Natura 2000 Charter;
- monitoring and evaluation of the Management Plan.

For further assistance see the ATEN Cahier technique (Technical Guidelines) No. 81 Document d'objectifs Natura 2000, guide pour une rédaction synthétique (Guide to the synoptic writing of Natura 2000 Management Plans), ATEN 2008, downloadable at: http://ct81.espaces-naturels.fr

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