

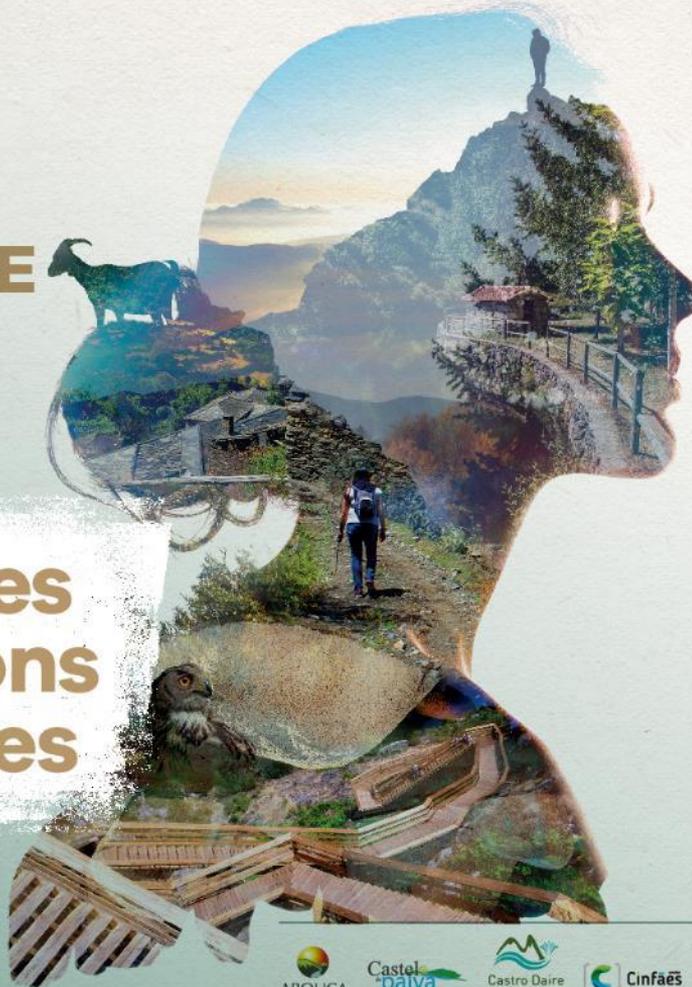


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New Visions  
New Values**

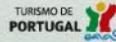
*for People  
and Nature  
in Europe*



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2017  
INTERNATIONAL YEAR  
OF SUSTAINABLE TOURISM  
FOR DEVELOPMENT





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ASSOCIAÇÃO DE DESENVOLVIMENTO  
RURAL, INTRODUÇÃO DEAS ÁREAS DE  
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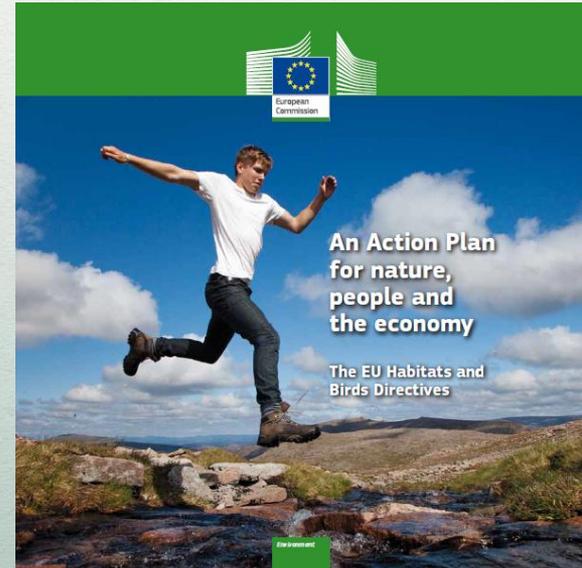


**2017  
INTERNATIONAL YEAR  
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DEVELOPMENT**

# An EU Action Plan for Nature People and the Economy

**Humberto Delgado Rosa**

Director for Natural Capital, DG Environment,  
European Commission



## The Fitness Check of the Nature Directives

- Comprehensive evaluation of Birds and Habitats Directives
- Extensive evidence gathering & stakeholder consultation at MS and EU levels
- Over 552,000 response to EU public consultation

The Fitness Check will evaluate how the EU nature legislation performs according to these 5 key criteria:

### Effectiveness



Have the objectives of the legislation been met?

### Efficiency



Were the costs involved reasonable?

### Coherence



Is the EU nature legislation complementing or contradicting other policy and legislation?

### Relevance



Does EU legislation address the main problems that species and habitats are facing today?

### EU added value



Could similar changes have been achieved at national or regional level, or did EU action provide clear added value?

# Key findings of Fitness Check

- Too many species/habitats show negative trends
- Only 50% of Natura 2000 sites properly managed
- Marine Natura 2000 network incomplete
- Funding shortage and weak policy integration
- Cases of inflexible application & permitting delays by national & local authorities
- Insufficient knowledge, awareness, engagement & cooperation



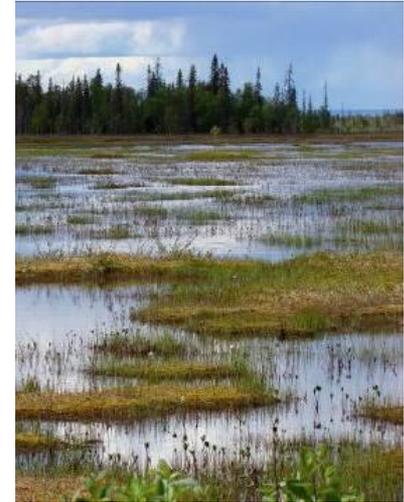
## Conclusion of Fitness Check

Nature Directives are **fit for purpose** but fully achieving their objectives and potential will depend on **substantial improvement in their implementation** in relation to both effectiveness and efficiency, **working in partnership** with different stakeholder communities in the Member States and across the EU, to deliver practical results on the ground



# Objectives of the Nature Action Plan

- to realise the full potential of the Directives to achieve healthy ecosystems, whose services benefit people, nature and the economy
- to boost their contribution towards reaching the EU's biodiversity targets for 2020
- to improve the Directives' coherence with broader socio-economic objectives



# Approach of Action Plan

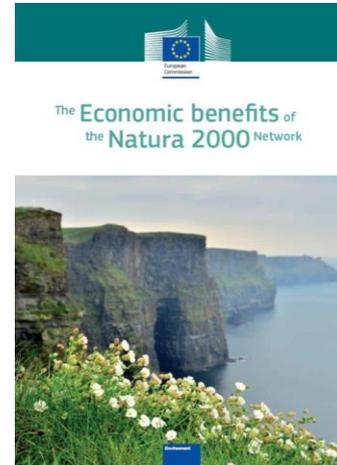
## •4 priority areas of Action

- Improving guidance & knowledge and ensuring better coherence with broader socio-economic objectives
- Building political ownership and strengthening compliance
- Strengthening investment in Natura 2000 and improving synergies with EU funding instruments
- Better communication and outreach, engaging citizens, stakeholders and communities

•15 Actions (detailed factsheets in Staff Working Document)

•Timeframe 2017-2019 (cannot pre-empt next MFF nor ongoing debate on the future of CAP)

•Key Actors: MS, COM, CoR, EIB, EEA, Stakeholders



## Improve guidance & knowledge and ensure better coherence with broader socio-economic objectives

1. <b>Update, develop and actively promote</b> , in all EU languages, <b>guidance</b> on (a) <b>site permitting</b> procedures, <b>species protection</b> and management as well as <b>sector-specific guidance</b> (b) integrating ecosystem services into decision-making	COM/CoR/MS / stakeholders
2. Establish a <b>support mechanism</b> to help Member State authorities address key challenges in applying the <b>permitting</b> requirements of the Birds and Habitats Directives for Natura 2000 and species protection rules	COM / MS / stakeholders
3. <b>Improve knowledge</b> , including through enhanced and more efficient <b>monitoring</b> , and ensure public online <b>access to data</b> necessary for implementing the Directives (e.g. satellite imagery from the Copernicus programme)	COM / EEA / MS

## Building political ownership and strengthening compliance

<p>4. Complete <b>Natura 2000</b> network, especially <b>gaps for marine &amp; put in place necessary conservation measures</b> for sites</p>	<p>MS/ stakeholders/ COM</p>
<p>5. Use <b>Environmental Implementation Review</b> for dedicated <b>bilaterals</b> with national &amp; regional authorities to develop agreed <b>roadmaps</b> to improve implementation &amp; consult with landowners &amp; other stakeholders on challenges</p>	<p>COM/MS/ stakeholders</p>
<p>6. Bring together public authorities &amp; stakeholders from different MS at <b>biogeographical region</b> level to address <b>common challenges</b>, including on <b>cross-border issues</b></p>	<p>COM/CoR /MS/ stakeholders</p>
<p>7. Further develop <b>Species &amp; Habitats Action Plans</b> for most threatened species/natural habitats &amp; <b>stakeholder platforms</b> on coexistence with conflict species (e.g. large carnivores)</p>	<p>COM/MS / stakeholders</p>

## Strengthening investment in Natura 2000 & improving synergies with EU funding instruments

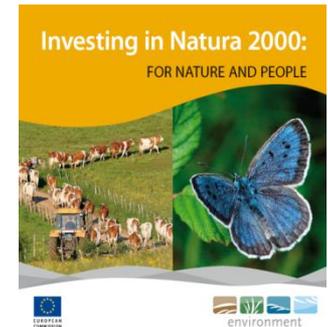
<p>8. Strengthen investments in nature</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) <b>Update PAFs</b> - improve Natura 2000 multiannual financial planning</li> <li>(b) <b>Propose 10% nature/biodiversity increase</b> within LIFE budget</li> <li>(c) Stimulate <b>private sector investment</b> in nature projects</li> </ul>	<p>COM/EIB/MS/stakeholders</p>
<p>9. <b>Promote synergies with CAP</b>, incl. Natura 2000 payments &amp; agri-environment-climate measures, development of <b>result-based schemes</b>, <b>Farming Advisory Services</b>, innovation and knowledge transfer.</p>	<p>COM / MS / stakeholders</p>
<p>10. <b>Increase awareness of cohesion policy funding opportunities</b> and improve synergies</p>	<p>COM / MS / stakeholders</p>
<p>11. <b>Improve synergies with the common fisheries policy</b> &amp; integrated maritime policy, including more effective use of financing opportunities</p>	<p>COM / MS / stakeholders</p>
<p>12. Provide <b>guidance to support deployment of green infrastructure</b> for better connectivity of Natura 2000 areas; support nature-based solutions projects through EU research and innovation policy and Horizon 2020 funds</p>	<p>COM / MS / stakeholders</p>

## Better communication & outreach, engaging citizens, stakeholders & communities

13. Support <b>knowledge exchange &amp; engagement of local &amp; regional authorities</b> through a joint platform with <b>Committee of the Regions</b>	<b>CoR / COM</b>
14. <b>Support recognition of good management</b> of Natura 2000 & awareness-raising of Nature Directives, <b>availing of new technologies</b> and <b>outreach activities</b> , and strengthen links between <b>natural and cultural heritage</b> (2018 European year of cultural heritage)	<b>COM / CoR / MS stakeholders</b>
15. <b>Involve young people</b> by giving them the opportunity to get involved in nature protection in Natura 2000 sites ( <b>European Solidarity Corps</b> )	<b>COM / MS / stakeholders</b>

## Essential role for regional and local authorities

- **Many challenges at local and regional level**
  - Reconciling environmental quality with socio-economic progress
  - Promoting smart & joined up implementation (incl. permitting)
  - Addressing conflicts (e.g. large carnivores)
  - Ensuring investment in and optimise benefits of nature
- **Special role of Committee of the Regions**
  - Workshops, seminars and conference to promote smart & effective implementation
  - Organise debates in cities and regions to exchange knowledge and share good practices



## EUROPARC / FEDENATUR are key partners for Action Plan delivery

- Unique networks of expertise and innovation in protected area management
- Key contribution to make to management, restoration and monitoring of Natura 2000
- Strong links to local communities & communication skills to promote cultural and other socio-economic dimensions & benefits of investing in nature





**Thank you for your attention**