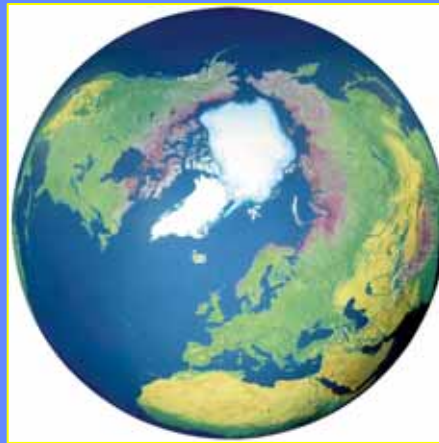




EU biodiversity policy, NATURA 2000, and opportunities under LIFE+






Dr. Micheál O'Briain

Bringing the bogs back Conference, 4 October 2007

Date: 98-11-09

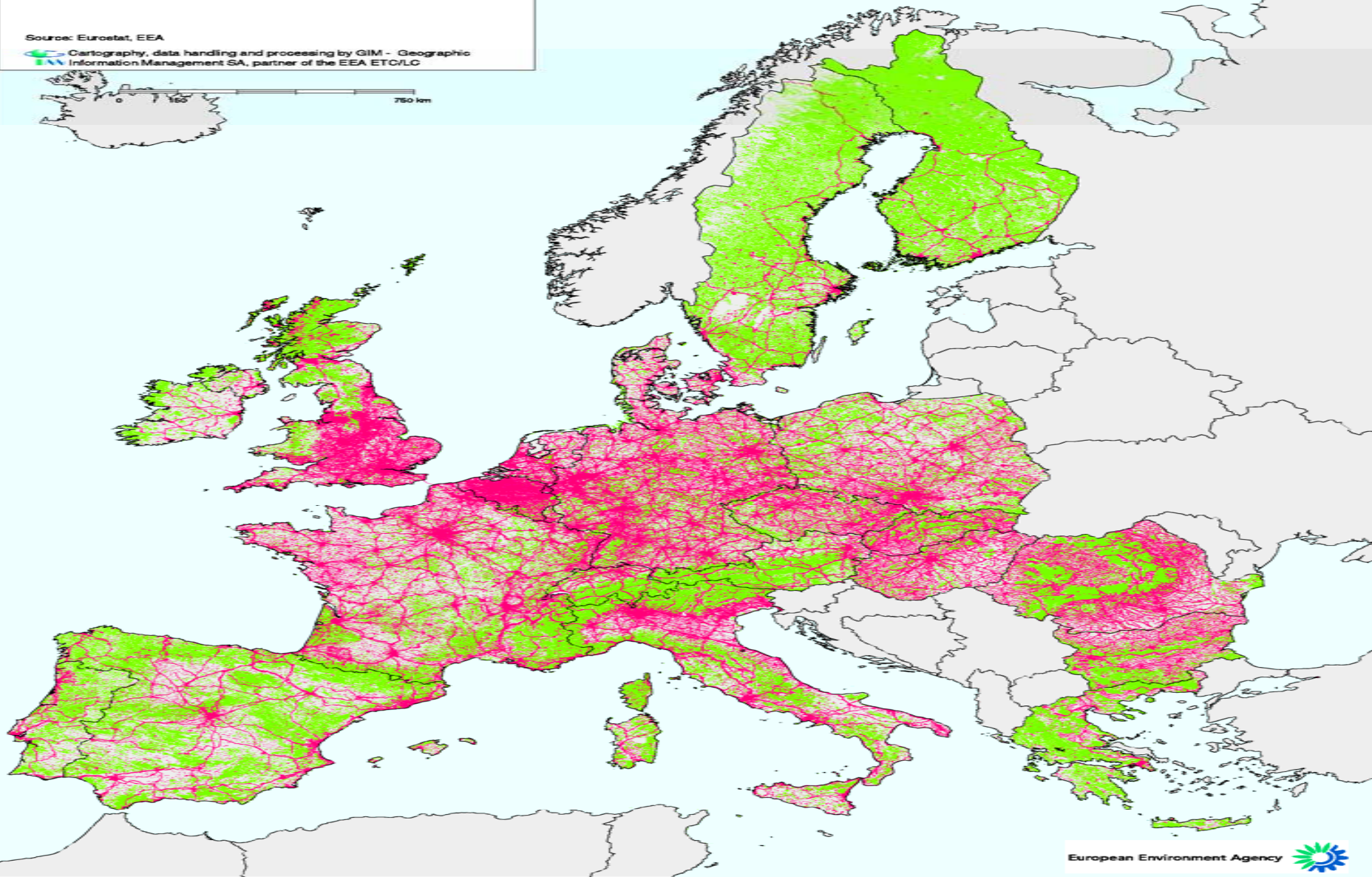
Areas remote from pressure by urban areas and transport networks

-  Sensitive areas
-  Pressure areas
-  Other areas

Source: Eurostat, EEA

Cartography, data handling and processing by GIM - Geographic Information Management SA, partner of the EEA ETC/LC

Attention:
The land cover shown for Finland, Sweden, United Kingdom and Switzerland are derived from national land cover databases which are not fully compatible with the EEA CORINE classification.

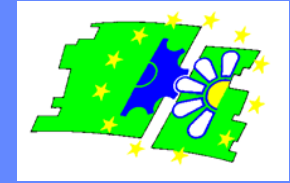


European Environment Agency





What is happening to biodiversity in Europe ?



- **45 % of Europe's butterflies threatened**
- **38% of Europe's birds threatened**
- **60% loss of wetlands in N & W Europe since 1900**
- **40% coastal dunes lost since 1900 (1/3rd - 1977)**
- **12% loss of grasslands in EUR 9 (1975-95)**
- **loss of natural forest (now 4% of forest area)**



source: European Environment Agency

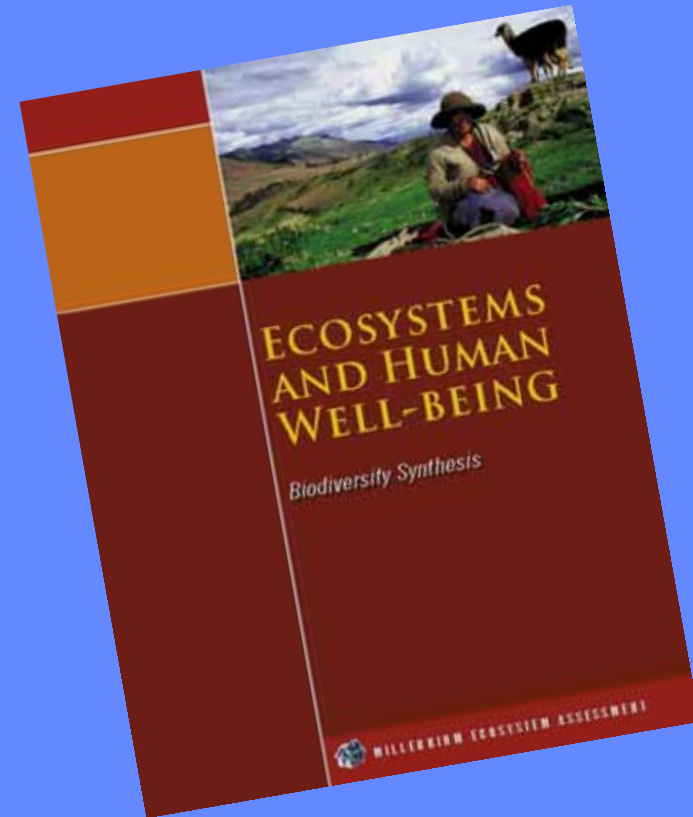


Biodiversity loss – importance of ecosystem services



2005 UN Millenium Ecosystem assessment highlighted importance of ‘ecosystem services’

- the provision of goods – food, fibre, fuel and medicines
- the regulation of the air we breathe and the quality of our waters
- soil fertility, pollination and other essential support services
- cultural benefits – from aesthetic enjoyment to spiritual solace





The EU Biodiversity Communication



Communication on halting the loss of biodiversity to 2010 – and beyond

Sustaining ecosystem services for
human well-being

COM (2006) 216 Final

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/current_biodiversity_policy/biodiversity_com_2006/index_en.htm





Key objectives & supporting measures



- **EU's most important habitats & species**
 - **Biodiversity in wider countryside**
 - **Biodiversity & Regional + territorial development**
 - **Invasive alien species**
 - **Biodiversity & climate change**
 - **Knowledge base for conservation/sustainable use**
- **Financing**
 - **EU decision-making**
 - **Building partnerships**
 - **Public education, awareness & engagement**

 - **Monitoring evaluation & review**



Indicators to measure whether 2010 target is being achieved



ECOSYSTEM INTEGRITY, GOODS AND SERVICES

- Connectivity/fragmentation of ecosystems
- Water quality in aquatic ecosystems
-

SUSTAINABLE USE

- Area of ecosystems under sustainable management
 - Forest
 - Fishery
 - ..
- Ecological footprint

STATUS AND TRENDS OF COMPONENTS OF BIODIVERSITY

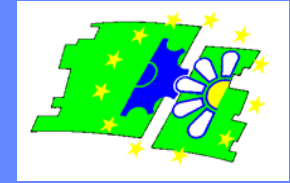
- Coverage of protected areas
- Trends in abundance and distribution of selected species
- Change in status of threatened and/or protected species

THREATS TO BIODIVERSITY

- Nitrogen deposition
- Numbers and costs of invasive alien species (*Trends in invasive alien species*)
- Impact of climate change
-



The role of NATURA 2000

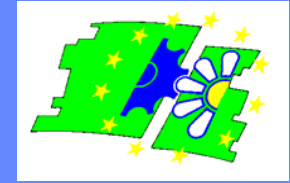


- The central pillar of biodiversity action in Europe
- An EU wide ecological network of protected areas
- Aims to ensure long-term survival of Europe's most valuable and threatened species and habitats
- Comprised of :
 - ⌘ *Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) under Habitats Directive*
 - ⌘ *Special Protection Areas (SPAs) under Birds Directive*
- c. 27,000 sites -17 % of EU 27 territory





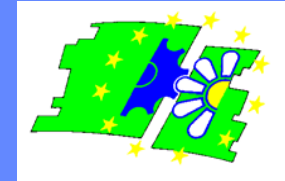
What is the role of the European Commission ?



- work closely with Member States & stakeholders on implementation of EU legislation & policy
- Information & communication
- Name, shame & fame (NATURA barometer)
- Legal actions (DE, FR, IE condemned by ECJ for failure to propose adequate SACs)
- Threat to block EU regional fund programmes
- Promotion of NATURA 2000 in other funds

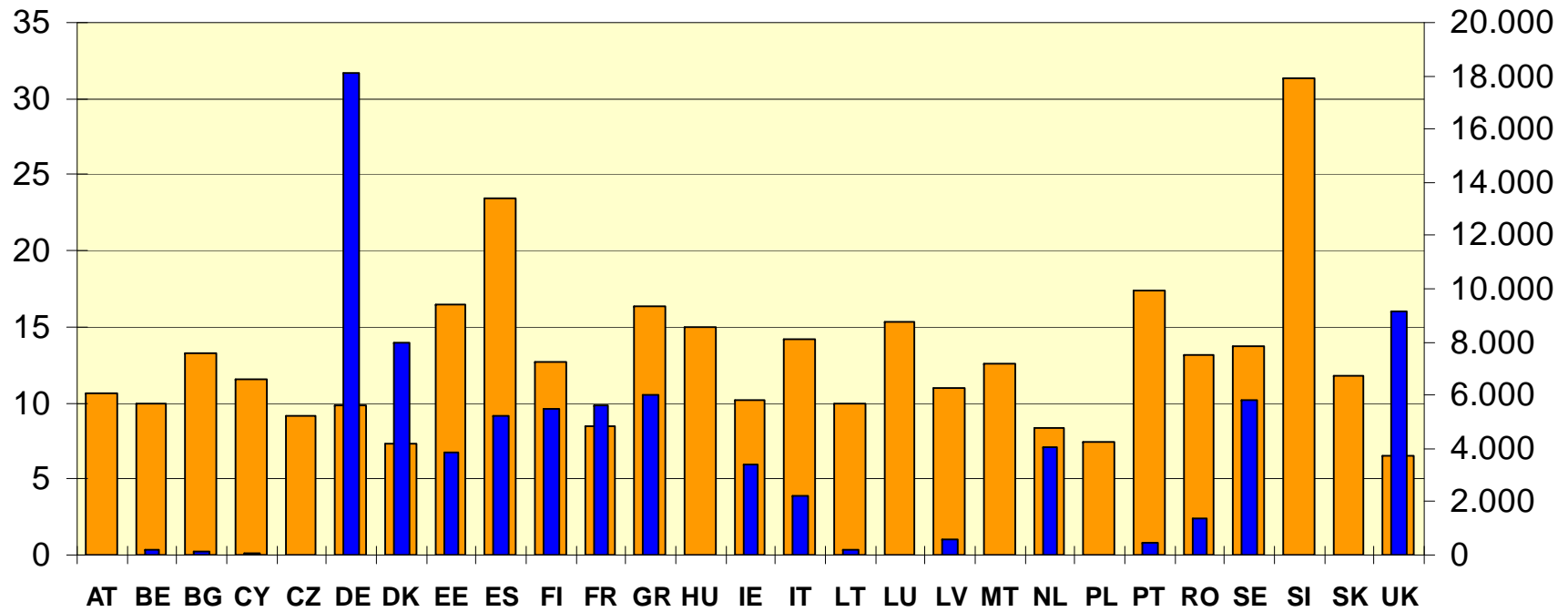


Habitats Directive Comparative pSCI situation



pSCIs database - June 2007

■ % Terrestrial (1)
■ Marine Area (km²)



(2)

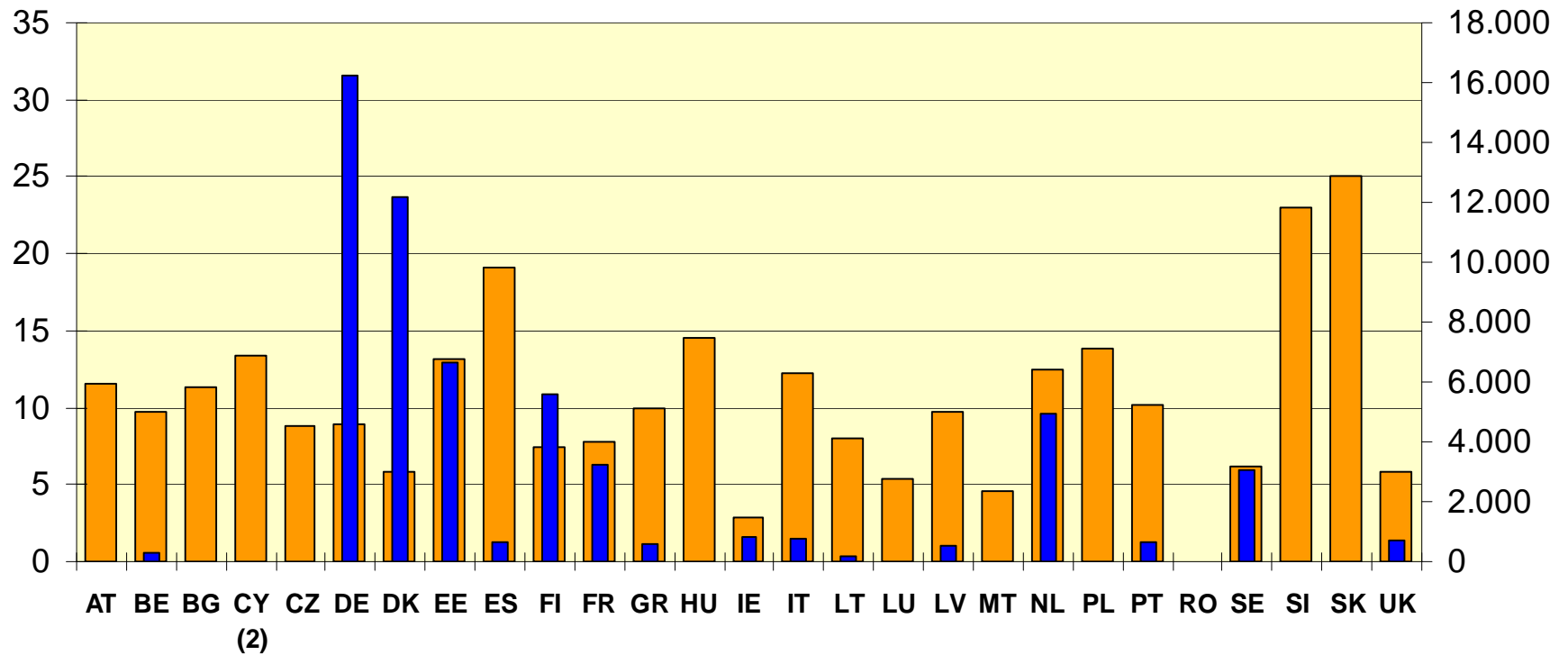


Birds Directive Comparative SPA situation



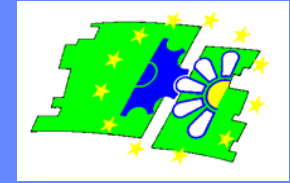
SPAs database - June 2007

■ % Terrestrial (1)
■ Marine Area (km²)





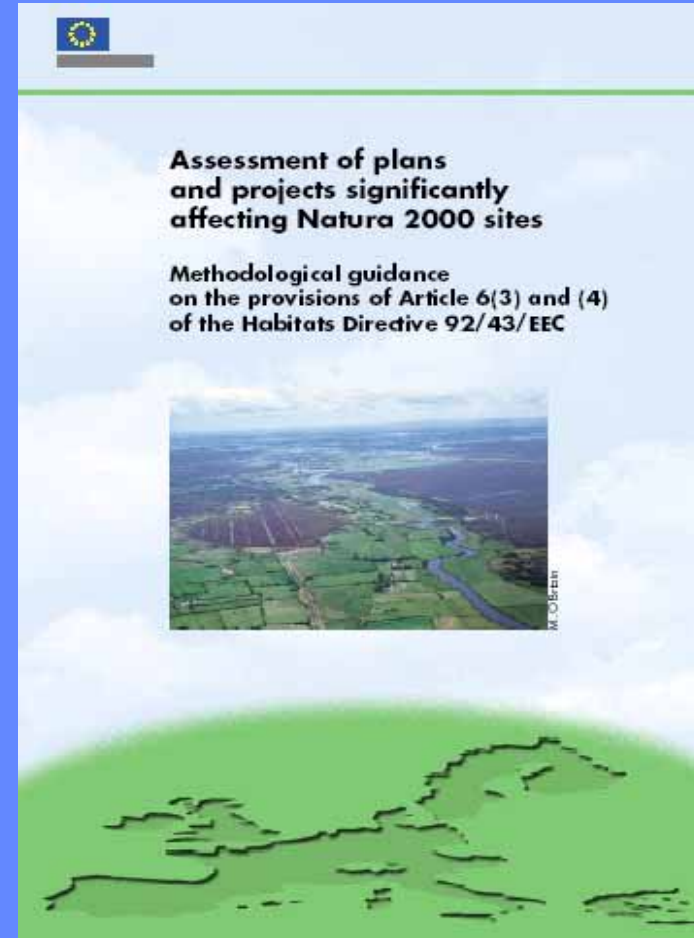
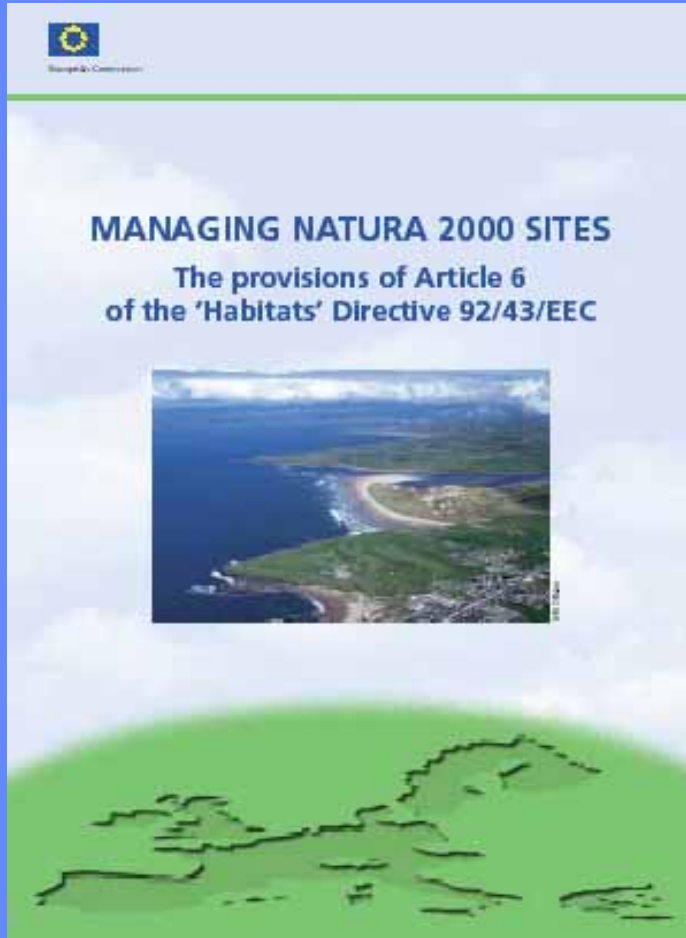
Protection and management of Natura 2000 sites



- responsibility of the Member States
- not ‘strict nature reserves’ where human activities are excluded
- emphasis on sustainable management (ecologically, economically and socially)
- management plans are useful tool



Commission Guidance documents













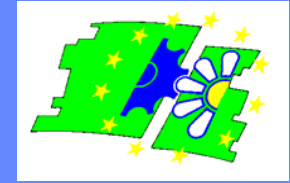
How is NATURA 2000 being financed ?



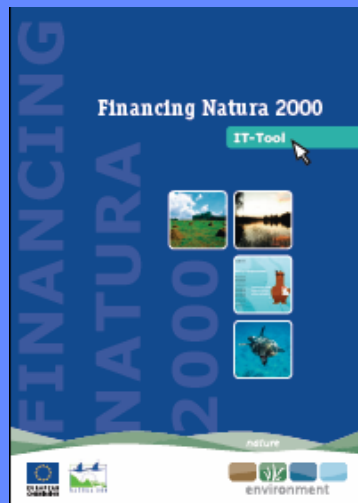
- Habitats Directive foresees EU co-financing
- Pilot projects under LIFE fund
- NATURA 2000 Financial opportunities integrated into different EU funds
- management of Natura 2000 sites is part of wider land management policies of MS
- Rural Development Policy a key tool in IE



Guidance on funding for Natura 2000



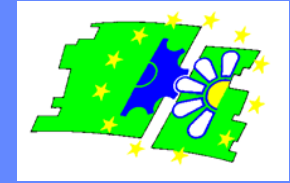
Overviews EU co-funding opportunities for Natura 2000 (2007-2013)



Now supported by an IT tool



Value of Life Nature projects for mire conservation/restoration

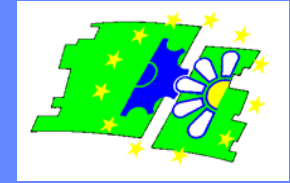


- wide range of mire types in Habitats Directive subject to action (incl. Blanket & Raised Bogs)
- Summarised in ‘Conserving Mires in the European Union’ (1999)
- Have helped develop/share new restoration techniques (eg removing timber from sites)
- Also addressed ongoing management (eg by setting sustainable grazing regimes)
- Coillte LIFE peatland restoration projects build on & further develop this experience.....





Purpose of LIFE+



- Provides specific support for development & implementation of EU environmental policy and legislation
- Does not finance measures eligible and mainly under scope of other EU financial instruments
- It has 3 components:

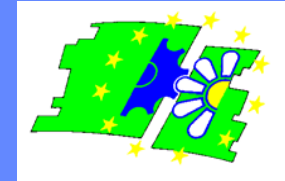
LIFE+ Nature & Biodiversity

LIFE+ Environment Policy & Governance

LIFE+ Information & Communication



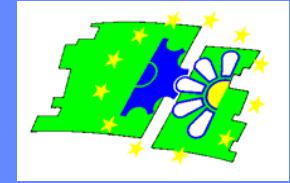
LIFE Nature + Biodiversity



LIFE+ Nature	LIFE+ Biodiversity
<i>objectives of the birds and habitats directives</i>	<i>not restricted to the birds and habitats directives</i>
<i>best practice or demonstration</i>	<i>innovation or demonstration</i>
<i>long-term sustainability of conservation measures</i>	<i>demonstrating the feasibility of new or innovative measures in the short term</i>
<i>land purchase and long-term lease or compensation eligible</i>	<i>only short term lease or compensation are eligible</i>
<i>co-financing rate generally 50% (up to 75% for priority species or habitats)</i>	<i>max. EC co-financing rate for such projects is 50%</i>



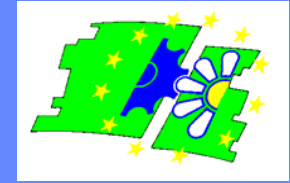
The LIFE + budget and Ireland



- Overall EU budget is €2.143 billion (78% co-financing project action grants)
- 7 annual calls for proposals (2007-2013)
- Budget allocation for Member States in 2007 is 187M€
- Indicative allocation for Ireland in 2007 is €2,943,617
 - ⌘ *depends on quality of projects*
 - ⌘ *fulfilling 50% threshold for Nature & Biodiversity projects*
 - ⌘ *15% threshold for international projects in programme*
- Until 2010, this will go up by about €250,000 each year.
- For the period 2011-2013 may need to revise calculations



Thank you for your attention



http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/index_en.htm

