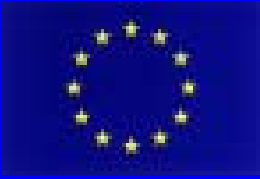


NATURA 2000

Habitats Directive: Myths

"The Habitats Directive is a Community initiative that was concocted in secret by Brussels technocrats"

- **Ministers of the Member States unanimously adopted the Directive**
- **This was after five years of debate in the Council and the European Parliament.**
- **Many interest groups communicated their position to both the Member States and to Brussels during that period and their observations were taken into account.**



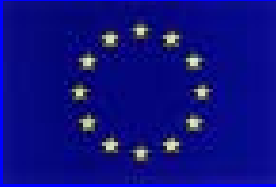
NATURA 2000

Habitats Directive: Myths

"The European Commission decides the sites to be included in Natura 2000"

The responsibility for proposing sites within Natura 2000 lies first and foremost with the Member States.

1. Member States propose a list of sites for their country;
2. From these national lists, the Commission selects, in agreement with each Member State, a European list of Sites of Community Importance (SCI);
3. The Member States designate them as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs).
For the Birds Directive it is the Member States who designate sites directly as Special Protection Areas under Natura 2000.



NATURA 2000

Habitats Directive: Myths

"Natura 2000 sites will all become nature reserves"

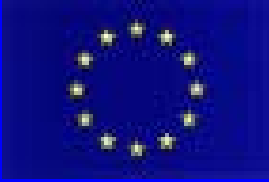
Member States have a choice of mechanisms to use to manage a site.

These can be:

Statutory (e.g. making a nature reserve)

Contractual (e.g. signing a management agreement with the land owner)

Administrative (providing the necessary funds to manage the site)

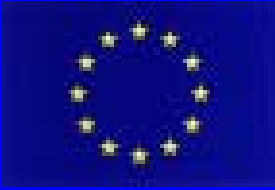


NATURA 2000

Habitats Directive: Myths

"We will have to stop all our activities within a site for the sake of preserving nature"

- **Conserving species or habitats is not necessarily incompatible with human activities. (even applies to well managed hunting).**
- **Many natural areas are highly dependant upon human activities (e.g agriculture).**
- **Nature conservation also provides additional opportunities for human use activities (environmental tourism, pursuit of leisure activities, labelling of natural produce etc).**
- **Any restricting or stopping of certain activities that are a significant threat to the species or habitat needs to be addressed on a case by case basis.**

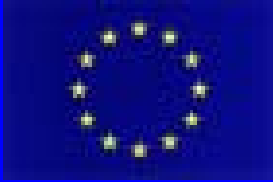


NATURA 2000

Habitats Directive: Myths

"It is the inhabitants of the Natura 2000 sites that will have to support the costs of this protection"

- Member States' and Commission's duty to ensure that the costs of Natura 2000 are shared by all.
- Member States are asked, at the time of submitting their national list of sites, to evaluate the cost of managing those areas hosting priority species or habitat types and to communicate this to the Commission. The Commission will then be required to co-finance these costs.
- There are a number of existing Community funds that may be used for this process (e.g. agri-environment measures, structural funds, LIFE etc ...).



NATURA 2000

Habitats Directive: Myths

"Once a site is included in Natura 2000 it becomes untouchable as regards future developments"

- **Directive does not a priori prevent any new activities or developments within a Natura 2000 site from taking place.**
- **Any new plans or programmes that are likely to have a significant effect undergo an appropriate impact assessment before being implemented.**
- **If a proposed activity is likely to cause significant damage to a site and all possible alternatives have been exhausted, it may still go ahead only if it is of overriding public interest and if there is compensation**