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**TESAF**

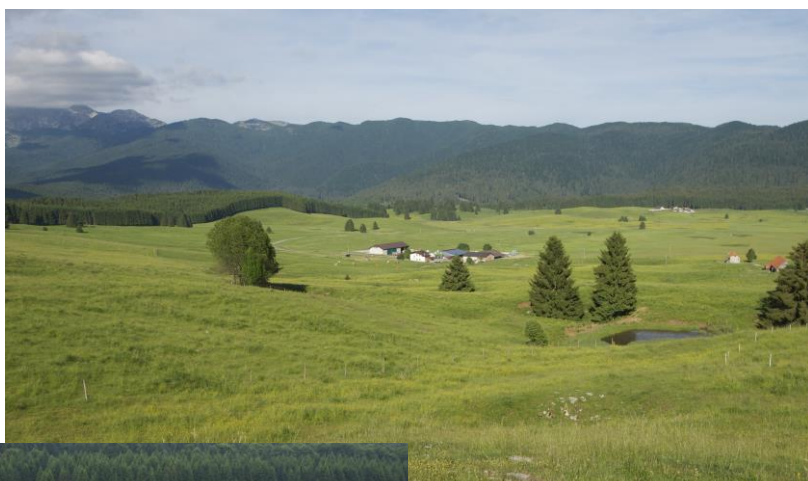


# NATURA 2000 BIOGEOGRAPHICAL PROCESS

## 2<sup>ND</sup> ALPINE NATURA 2000 SEMINAR

Padova, Italy  
21 - 23 June 2017

Hosted by  
*Department of Land, Environment, Agriculture and Forestry (TESAF)*  
*University of Padova*



### IMPORTANT NOTE VENUES:

There are 3 different venues on each day of the programme. On Days 1 & 2, bus transfers have been arranged for participants from Padova to the respective venues as follows:

**Day 1 – Venue: Agripolis, Viale dell'Università 16, Legnaro (PD)**

Note that the Seminar starts on Day 1 with a bus pick-up from Padova at 08.15 on Wednesday, 21 June 2017, and that the programme begins at 9.30 prompt. Therefore, delegates are likely to have to travel on Tuesday 20th June to be in good time for the start of the programme.

#### **Field visit in Pian Cansiglio (BL)**

For the site visits, please bring water, suncream, insect repellant, suitable outdoor clothing and footwear. Also, participants should bring their cameras and binoculars. Packed lunches will be available.

**Day 2 – Venue: Villa Bolasco, Via Borgo Treviso 73, Castelfranco Veneto (TV)**

**Day 3 – Venue: Department of Geography, Via del Santo 26, Padova**

Note that this venue is in Padova City Centre and is within walking distance.

**Host organisation coordinators:** Thomas Campagnaro and Tommaso Sitzia (Department TESAF, University of Padova)

**Host organising team:** Monica Barzon, Marco Bellonzi, Cristina Busatto, Raffaele Cavalli, Antonio Checchinato, Simone Iacopino, Gianluca Marchiori, Paolo Semenzato (Department TESAF, University of Padova);

Massimo De Marchi, Eugenio Pappalardo (Department DiSSGeA, University of Padova);

Paola Berto (Veneto Agricoltura).

The organisers and the host gratefully acknowledge the generous support of the following organisations for this Natura 2000 Biogeographical Seminar:



# Outline Programme

This seminar is organised as part of the Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process. Launched by the European Commission in 2011, the aim is to improve and strengthen the implementation of Natura 2000. The primary purpose of the Natura 2000 Seminars is to help sharpen focus on the strategic targets to be achieved and contribute to meeting the EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy objectives.

The Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process provides the means for Member States and expert stakeholder networks to:

- Work together and collaborate on practical habitat management issues identified as being of common priority and shared importance;
- Take stock of the current conservation status of specific priority habitats in a biogeographical region and determine what needs to be done collectively to improve, maintain or restore the condition of habitats and species of Community interest;
- Share experience, build knowledge and develop consensus about priority management actions required for particular habitat types or species, as well as to address specific themes;
- Take specific agreed cooperative actions to restore or maintain favourable conservation status for those habitats that fall within their territory;
- Network and exchange management experience information and to continue building know-how about the most effective ways to achieve favourable conservation status of habitats and species of Community importance.

The Fitness Check evaluation of the EU Nature Directives has revealed that the effectiveness of the Directives has been constrained by, among other factors, the lack of and insufficient targeting of funding, limited stakeholder awareness and cooperation, and gaps in knowledge. It has also highlighted the need to put in place effective conservation systems, enabling delivering the Directives' objectives, having full regard to the socio-economic context in which they operate<sup>1</sup>. As part of the follow-up to the Fitness Check evaluation the Commission has proposed to refocus the Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process, for the latter to better contribute to the establishment of coherent, effective and efficient conservation systems throughout the EU. The Process should in particular deliver improved coherence in conservation status evaluation and setting conservation objectives and priorities. It should promote the identification of best practices in conservation management, in seizing funding opportunities, in dealing with communication and stakeholder involvement and in improving governance of Natura 2000 the network in order to optimize conservation results at biogeographical level. The process should deliver strengthened cooperation and sharing of experience on common challenges, including those related to the specific socio-economic context and to cross-border issues and agree biogeographical-level roadmaps for cooperative action.

In order to help re-focussing the work at the second Alpine Natura 2000 Seminar this seminar will be organised around four large thematic clusters in the context of which also more specific issues related to the so-called 'top 20' habitat types can be addressed as appropriate. The four '*Habitat Working Groups*' of the first Alpine Seminar will be replaced by four '*Thematic Working Groups*' corresponding to the following thematic clusters:

1. **Setting conservation status, objectives and priorities** (setting restoration priorities, interpretation of habitats, favourable reference values,...);
2. **Conservation measures and their effectiveness** (approaches to integrated planning, effective Natura 2000 governance structures, participatory approaches,...);
3. **Monitoring and evaluation** (ways to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness conservation measures,...);
4. **Addressing threats & pressures to Alpine habitats and species** (ways to assess and mitigate negative impacts, dealing with ecological connectivity,...).

Specifically, the seminar will identify and, where possible, agree a biogeographical-level roadmap for cooperative action, including future practical management actions that are required to improve favourable conservation status. Through the Process' networking events, as well as the Natura 2000 Communication Platform, the collaboration amongst all stakeholders will be encouraged and enhanced.

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<sup>1</sup> See SWD(2016) 472 final, section 7

## Introduction to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Alpine Natura 2000 Seminar

The second Alpine Natura 2000 Seminar is being hosted by the University of Padova, Department of Land, Environment, Agriculture and Forestry (TESAF). The Seminar provides an important opportunity for participants to improve and strengthen the implementation of Natura 2000 in the Region and ensure progress towards the EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy targets. Progress includes building common understanding of practical management and thematic issues identified as being of common priority, stimulating new know-how about effective management approaches and developing cooperation and networking activities on issues of shared importance.

The Seminar is a milestone in a continuing process of networking, information sharing and knowledge building, of direct benefit to stakeholders across the Alpine Biogeographical Region. Over three days, the Alpine Seminar will aim to generate concrete outputs as identified by participants, which can be further developed following the Seminar. Although some attention will be given to reviewing progress since the first Alpine Seminar (held in Graz, Austria, 25 – 26 October, 2013), the focus is very much forward-looking - this will include:

- Taking stock of the activities implemented since the kick-off seminar and identify and agree further concrete actions and cooperation priorities, which can be developed and taken forward by various actors in the Region – with the aim of reaching favourable conservation status (FCS);
- Identifying possible new conservation issues/priorities – new cooperation actions based, in particular, on the lessons learnt from the latest State of Nature Report, including a 'Roadmap' of agreed future collaborative actions;
- Compiling sources of information and experience that capitalise on completed projects, available guidance and potential new proposals to increase synergies and collaboration opportunities.

The seminar will also discuss:

- The possibilities and practicalities of identifying restoration priorities, including the so-called 'low hanging fruit' (LHF) i.e. habitat and species whose conservation status could be improved in the short-term using reasonably straightforward management measures. This reflects the urgency to demonstrate progress towards achieving the targets of the EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy in the short to medium term;
- How to develop the most useful form of cooperation and implementation strategies for biogeographical level favourable reference values (FRVs);
- Any additional conservation issues of common interest that will have been identified in the expert consultation process preceding the seminar.

As a reference for discussions during the Seminar, the Seminar Input Document will be made available sufficiently in advance of the seminar. It will also be available on the Natura 2000 Platform and will be available to download from the following link:

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/platform/events/263\\_second\\_Alpine\\_natura\\_2000\\_seminar\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/platform/events/263_second_Alpine_natura_2000_seminar_en.htm)

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Alpine Natura 2000 Seminar Programme

DAY 0: Tuesday 20 June 2017 – arrival in Padova		
20.00	Pre-seminar briefing meeting	<i>For chairs, facilitators and other key actors ONLY!!</i>

DAY 1: Wednesday 21 June 2017		VENUE: Agripolis, Legnaro (PD)
Time	Activity	Location / Session objective
<b>08.15</b>	<b>Pick-up from Padova</b>	Bus transfer to Legnaro
09.00 to 09.30	Registration	Coffee will be available!
09.30 to 10.30	<b>Official welcome &amp; introductory statements</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Laura Pettiti (Italian Ministry of the Environment and Protection of Land and Sea)</li> <li>Micheal O'Briain (Deputy Head of the Nature Protection Unit, European Commission, DG Environment)</li> </ul>	
	<b>The Natura 2000 Biogeographical Seminar Process in its strategic context</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>François Kremer (Policy Coordinator Natura 2000, European Commission, DG Environment)</li> </ul>	Present the seminar and its context, along with the approach and methods to be used
	<b>Overview of the seminar programme and the thematic working groups</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Neil McIntosh (European Centre for Nature Conservation, ECNC)</li> </ul>	Thematic working groups are scheduled for Day 2 - see Annex 1 for a summary description. The group themes are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Setting conservation status objectives &amp; priorities;</li> <li>Integrated approaches for Natura 2000, implementation of conservation measures and their effectiveness;</li> <li>Monitoring and evaluation;</li> <li>Addressing threats and pressures to Alpine habitats and species.</li> </ol>
	<b>Introduction to the site visits</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tommaso Sitzia and Thomas Campagnaro (University of Padova, Department TESAF)</li> </ul>	The site visits provide participants with an opportunity to see 'on the ground' the threats and issues, management practices and management planning approaches being applied in different Natura 2000 sites. Experts and guides will provide overviews of the current status and condition of visited habitats, describe conservation objectives and measures and explain the features and management regimes. However, this is also an opportunity for participants to share experiences about related issues and management approaches in their Countries.
10.30 to 18.30.	<b>Site visits</b> (Departure from Legnaro by coaches) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Alpine Grassland Natura 2000 sites</b></li> <li><b>Alpine Forest Natura 2000 sites</b></li> </ol>	Departure from Legnaro by coaches IT3230077 – "Foresta del Cansiglio" Natura 2000 site Pian del Cansiglio grasslands: 6230* "Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe)", 6510 "Lowland hay meadows ( <i>Alopecurus pratensis</i> , <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i> )", and other non-habitat grasslands Field guides: Paola Berto and Cesare Lasen  IT3230077 – "Foresta del Cansiglio" Natura 2000 site Cansiglio forest: 9130 "Asperulo-Fagetum beech forest" Field guides: Thomas Campagnaro, Elena Piutti and Tommaso Sitzia

DAY 2: Thursday 22 June 2017		VENUE: Villa Bolasco, Castelfranco Veneto
Time	Activity	Description/ Session objective
08.00	<b>Bus pick up Padova to Castelfranco Veneto</b>	Bus transfer to Castelfranco Veneto
09.15 to 09.45	<b>Alpine Natura 2000 Management</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Raffaele Cavalli</b> (Director of Department TESAF) <i>Welcome greetings</i></li> <li><b>Tommaso Sitzia</b> (Department TESAF) <i>Setting management of Natura 2000 in an Alpine Biogeographic context</i></li> <li><b>Mora Aronsson</b> (European Topic Center on Biological Diversity, Sweden) <i>Overview of the Low Hanging Fruits (LHF) method</i></li> </ul>	Introducing some typical issues surrounding management of Natura 2000 habitats and species in the Alpine Region, reflecting on the field visits of the previous day.
09.45 to 11.15	<b>Six case study presentations to focus on thematic issues</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Pierangela Angelini, Laura Casella , Piero Genovesi</b> (Italian National Institute for Environmental Protection and Research) <i>The Italian Handbook for habitat monitoring under the Habitats Directive: strategies and tools for a National Monitoring System</i></li> <li><b>Werner Rehklau</b> (Bavarian Environment Agency, Germany) <i>Integrating the Water Framework Directive with the Birds &amp; Habitats Directives - examples from Bavaria</i></li> <li><b>Tommaso Sitzia</b> (Department TESAF, Italy) <i>Integrating conservation measures within the existing regulatory and planning framework: the case of the Alpine biogeographical region of Veneto</i></li> <li><b>Matthias Dolek</b> (Butterfly Conservation Europe, Germany) <i>Grassland management experience in the Alpine Biogeographical Region</i></li> <li><b>Marie Kaerlein</b> (Landcare Germany) <i>Landcare Associations as a model to implement Natura 2000</i></li> <li><b>Clive Hurford</b> (Eurosite workshop CZ) <i>Developing conservation management objectives and condition indicators for monitoring on Natura 2000 sites</i></li> </ul>	See summary description in Annex 1.
11.15 to 11.45	<b>Coffee break</b>	



<p>11.45 to 18.00</p>	<p><b>4 x Thematic working groups</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Setting conservation status objectives &amp; priorities</b> <i>Chair:</i> Clive Hurford <i>Facilitator:</i> Monika Kotulak</li> <li><b>2. Conservation measures and their effectiveness</b> <i>Chair:</i> Thomas Campagnaro <i>Facilitator:</i> Federico Minozzi</li> <li><b>3. Monitoring and evaluation</b> <i>Chair:</i> Mora Aronsson <i>Facilitator:</i> Emmanuelle Mikosz</li> <li><b>4. Addressing threats and pressures to Alpine habitats and species</b> <i>Chair:</i> Jana Durkošová <i>Facilitator:</i> Jinthe Roelofs</li> </ol> <p>(Lunch break: 13.15 to 14.30) (Coffee break: 16.00 to 16.30)</p>	<p><i>Four Thematic Working Groups will work in parallel to identify common issues and potential practical solutions. The same working groups continue after lunch and participants remain in their groups.</i></p> <p><i>The aim during both group sessions on Day 2 is to identify future management issues and common priorities, particularly ones common to Alpine region, especially where there would be scope to develop practical cooperative actions in future.</i></p> <p><i>These are interactive group working sessions, so please come along prepared to share your Natura 2000 experiences!</i></p> <p><b>(See Annex 1 for a summary description of the thematic working groups)</b></p>
<p>18:30 to 21:00</p>	<p><b>Knowledge Market</b></p> <p>The Knowledge Market will be officially opened by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hosts' representative(s); and,</li> <li>• Representative of DG Environment.</li> </ul> <p>Following the official opening, a buffet and drinks reception will be served.</p>	<p><i>This interactive networking session is designed to stimulate discussion between Seminar participants, share and gather information, and to provide useful inputs for further projects, collaborations and co-operations.</i></p> <p><i>Recognising the important contributions and new opportunities from the LIFE Programme, the Knowledge Market will include completed or ongoing LIFE Projects in the Alpine Region, as well as LIFE Programme information.</i></p> <p><i>Participants are invited in advance to provide information material about (planned, ongoing or concluded) relevant Natura 2000 projects or related work. This may (but need not) be a poster and information folder/flyer.</i></p> <p><i>This is an informal information gathering opportunity – there are no presentations in plenary. Anyone attending the Seminar and interested to have space at the Knowledge Market should indicate this on the registration form, which will be provided shortly.</i></p> <p><i>Representatives from local stakeholder organisations and producers of local products will also be invited to this session.</i></p> <p><b>N.B.: Between 20:00 and 21:00 (exact timing TBC), simultaneously with the Knowledge Market, there will be an informal Round Table discussion on opportunities for developing regional cooperation initiatives on large carnivore management.</b></p>

DAY 3: Friday 23 June 2017		VENUE: Department of Geography, Padova
<b>08.00 to 09.00</b>	<b>Finalise presentations</b>	<b>For working group chairs and facilitators only!</b>
<i>Time</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Description/ Session objective</i>
09.00 to 09.10	<b>Recap on Day 2 and introduction to Day 3</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Neil McIntosh</b> (European Centre for Nature Conservation, ECNC)</li> </ul>	
09.10 to 09.40	<b>The LIFE Programme</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Blanca Saez-Lacave</b> (Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises)</li> <li>• <b>João Pedro Silva</b> (NEEMO EU LIFE Program)</li> </ul>	<i>Opportunities available through the LIFE Programme to support implementation of activities identified by Alpine Seminar participants. Example of LIFE Projects and experience gains.</i>
09.40 to 11.00	<b>Plenary session reporting and discussion from Day 2 Thematic working groups</b>	<i>The main aim of this session is to report each Thematic Working Group's discussions and, where possible, confirm cooperation actions identified for implementation in future.</i>  <i>The feedback will focus on the key points and the outcomes achieved and agreed by each groups' participants during Day 2.</i>
11.00-11.30	<b>Coffee break</b>	
11.30 to 12.00	<b>Second Alpine Natura 2000 Seminar closing session</b> <p>Following a plenary discussion, a note of thanks will be given by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Representative from Department TESAF</li> <li>• Representative from European Commission, DG Environment</li> </ul>	<i>Reflecting on the feedback and earlier discussion, this final session aims to summarise outcomes, in particular noting specific cooperation actions identified on agreed common priorities.</i>
12.00	<b>Close</b>	



## Annex 1 – Thematic Working Groups – four thematic clusters of focus

### 1. Setting conservation status objectives & priorities

*Chair: Clive Hurford*

*Facilitator: Monika Kotulak*

This group will focus on approaches for identifying appropriate indicators and targets to be achieved. Already existing and applied methods will be discussed to understand their feasibility in the Alpine biogeographical region. The group will benefit from the results of the Workshop on “Developing conservation management objectives and condition indicators for monitoring on Natura 2000 sites” held in Czech Republic, April 2017. An additional presentation will be provided by Rebecca Jeffries following the 2<sup>nd</sup> Atlantic Natura 2000 Seminar in October 2016 about experience with setting conservation objectives in Ireland.

**Time will also be given to discussing approaches to setting restoration priorities.** Knowledge of best practices is critical to achieve (cost) effective restoration measures and meet targets. Conservation goals are best achieved when restoration of habitats is prioritized. This group will discuss and highlight aspects which are important to take into consideration when prioritizing restoration efforts in the Alpine biogeographical region. It will also address the 'Low hanging fruit' approach.

**Interpretation of habitats – vegetation relevés and databases** is still considered tricky. The large number of vegetation relevés stored in main European databases can play a fundamental role to improve consistency of interpretation and resolve this issue. The group will discuss how and what types of guidelines, based on the available databases, may usefully be developed to tackle interpretation issues. One output from this group should be a roadmap of concrete future steps and defined recommendations.

### 2. Conservation measures and their effectiveness

*Chair: Thomas Campagnaro*

*Facilitator: Federico Minozzi*

This group will focus on discussing approaches to integrating Natura 2000 into wider society – it will consider approaches used for integrated planning, governance arrangements that positively engage stakeholders, respecting cultures and the role of traditional knowledge, and the economic value of managing habitats and their ecosystem services. In particular, this group will seek to compare best practices in such areas. Andy Bleasdale (National Parks and Wildlife Service, Ireland) will provide a presentation on “Results based agri-environmental measures – an Irish experience”.

#### **Approaches to integrated planning**

Natura 2000 management plans are important tools to achieve biodiversity goals. While being practical tools to support conservation planning, to be effective in achieving biodiversity goals, they should be integrated with other plans (such as forest plans, river plans, park plans, etc.). The group will share experience and approaches with integrated management planning and seek to identify best practice examples, while highlighting the main features to consider when integrating plans for Natura 2000 sites.

#### **Effective Natura 2000 governance structures**

Good and inclusive governance structures are essential for strengthening implementation of Natura 2000 at local and/ or regional levels – engagement and direct involvement of stakeholders are critical for site management, conservation status assessment and monitoring. By comparing experiences and stakeholder engagement models and management practices, this group will indicate what makes and what should be considered to have good Natura 2000 governance models in the Alpine biogeographical region.

#### **Cultural changes and the role of traditional knowledge**

Semi-natural habitats in the Alpine biogeographical region derive from traditional management practices. The group will work to highlight future actions to prevent the loss of relationship with land.

### 3. Monitoring and evaluation

*Chair: Mora Aronsson*

*Facilitator: Emmanuelle Mikosz*

Monitoring is an integral part of the management planning process. This group will focus on ways to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness conservation measures, including tools and approaches used for monitoring.

Monitoring of conservation measures established for Special Areas of Conservation is still lacking in many Natura 2000 sites although it is central to effective management planning. Effective monitoring is necessary with a view to assessing and evaluating the results of applied conservation and restoration measures in terms of conservation impacts on habitats and species and to adapt the measures where necessary.

New technologies, especially for remote sensing, and novel approaches are increasingly important to tackle current and future biodiversity issues. This group will focus on identifying appropriate monitoring tools in light of the current and next reporting periods. It will seek to highlight an agreed way forward to improve the effectiveness of monitoring conservation measures in the Alpine biogeographical region.

### 4. Addressing threats and pressures to Alpine habitats and species

**Chair: Jana Durkošová**

**Facilitator: Jinthe Roelofs**

In the Alpine biogeographical region land abandonment, invasive alien species, and climate change are amongst several important threats to the conservation status of Natura 2000 habitats and species. This group will focus on identifying the main management practices required to adapt or mitigate such threats, as well as ways to increase resistance and resilience. It will seek to highlight agreed ways forward to improve the effectiveness of conservation measures in the Alpine biogeographical region.

**Widespread priority species and habitats (e.g. large carnivore management)** will be discussed to identify species and habitats that are of major conservation concern and widely spread over the Alpine biogeographical region. The group will analyse the possibility of considering how to address habitats and species not currently identified as priorities in the region.

**Appropriate Assessment under Article 6(3)** involves interpretation of definitions and methodologies vary among countries and regions - therefore, this group will also discuss what definitions and interpretations are in use currently and the feasibility of agreeing more consistency within the Alpine biogeographical region. As any assessment should enable a positive result to be achieved and mitigate negative impacts, it will be useful to take into consideration relevant ECJ rulings on Appropriate Assessments.

**Ecological connectivity (Article 10)** - not all species and habitats are represented in Natura 2000 sites. This group will discuss what management challenges this poses and how to generate more inclusive management approaches where Natura 2000 is central but not exclusive. Group participants will identify which types of areas could be linked to the network and possible management measures for those species and habitat not well represented.