



EU Environmental Policies and Strategies in South Eastern Europe



IUCN workshop

The designation of a Natura 2000 site

Part I - Lecture



Rhinolophus euryale, vulnerable species in Europe (© V.Ruffray, Biotope).

- The Natura 2000 network
- Natural habitats types and species of community interest
- The 3 steps for the selection and designation of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)
- Choosing and proposing Sites of Community Importance (pSCI)
- What kind of participation for CSOs

The Natura 2000 Network

Habitats directive – Main lines

A network of sites to maintain biodiversity and contribute to sustainable development

- Maintain or restore the favourable conservation status of habitats and species

A network composed of sites hosting certain natural habitats types and species

- Natural (and semi-natural) habitats listed in annex I of the Habitats directive
- Species (flora and fauna) listed in annex II of the Habitats directive

A network made of Habitats directive sites and Birds directive sites (SPA) (based on Important Birds Areas = IBA)

Natural habitats types and species of community interest or of priority

What is a “natural habitats” of community interest as referred in the habitats directive (annex I)

Natural habitats of “community interest” are:

- Natural habitats that are in danger of disappearance in their natural range

Or

- Natural habitats that have a small natural range following their regression or by reason of their intrinsically restricted area

Or

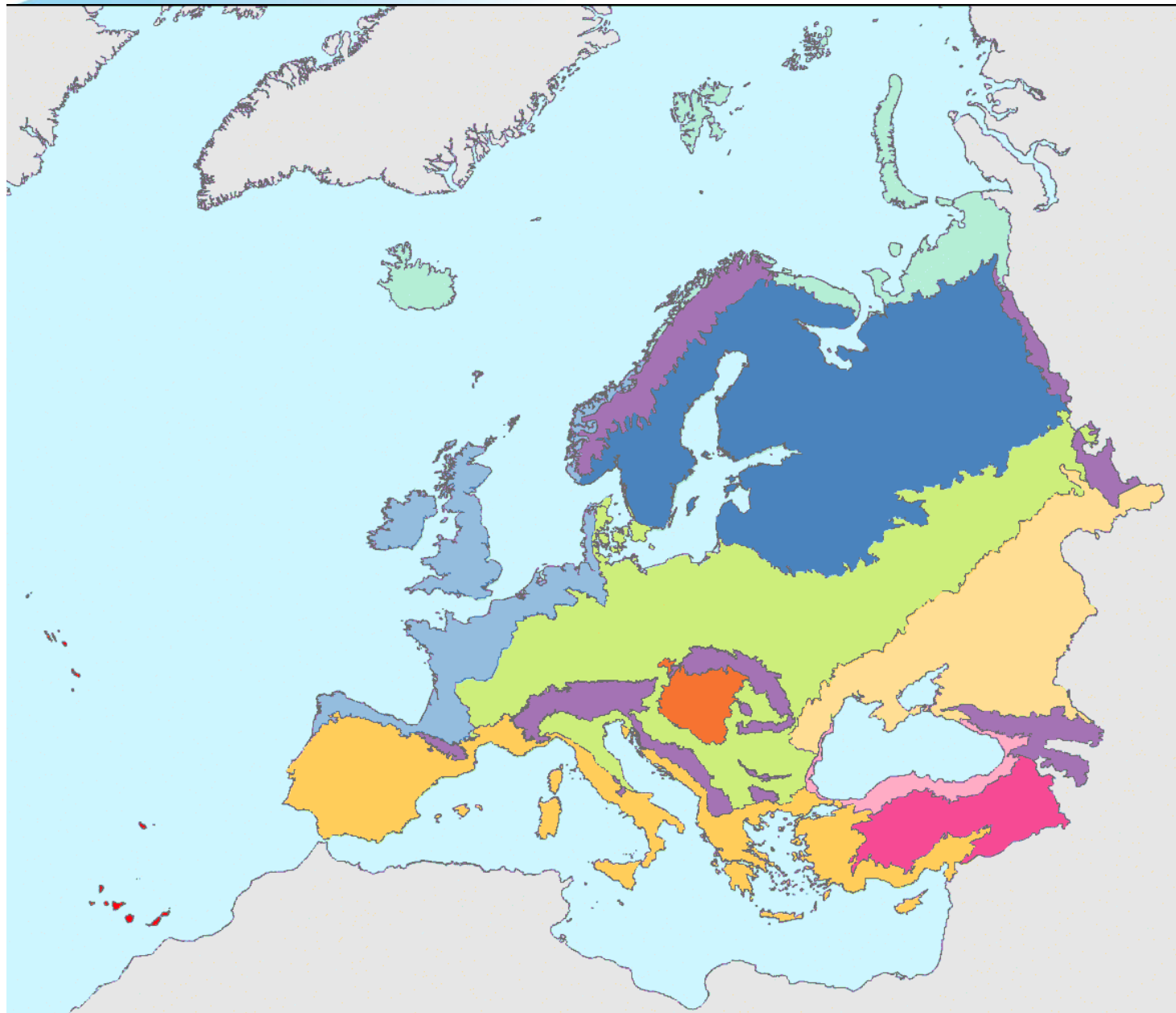
- Natural habitats that present outstanding examples of one or more of the six following biogeographical regions: Alpine, Atlantic, Boreal, Continental, Macaronesian and Mediterranean

Priority natural habitats

- Natural habitats in danger of disappearance and for the conservation of which the Community has particular responsibility in view of the proportion of their natural range

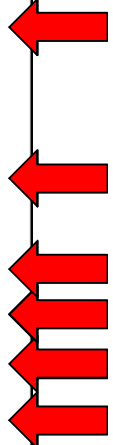
(these priority natural habitat types are indicated by an asterisk (*) in Annex I).

11 Biogeographical regions in Europe



Biogeographical regions, 2001

- Alpine
- Anatolian
- Arctic
- Atlantic
- Black sea
- Boreal
- Continental
- Macaronesia
- Mediterranean
- Pannonian
- Steppic
- Outside data coverage



Tools to characterized the natural habitats of community importance and of priority

→ EUR27 manual (ex-EUR12, 15 et 25) pan-European



→ Some countries have their own tools : “cahiers d’habitats” in France for coastal, forest, open field, wet lands... habitats

Connaissance et gestion des habitats
et des espèces d’intérêt communautaire

INTERPRETATION MANUAL OF EUROPEAN UNION HABITATS

TOME 2
Habitats
côtiers

EUR 27
July 2007

« Cahiers d’habitats »
Natura 2000



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DG ENVIRONMENT
Nature and biodiversity

Name of the habitat type;
an asterisk (*) indicates a
priority habitat

Natura 2000 code; this is the four digit
code given in the Natura 2000 standard
data-entry form (Appendix B)

Code(s) based on "A classification of
Palearctic habitats" 1995 version

Definition - general description of the
vegetation, syntaxa, abiotic features, origin

Characteristic animal and plant species,
including details of their occurrence in
Annex II and IV (*=priority, #=nonpriority
from Annex II/IV, +=Annex IV only)

Corresponding categories, sub-types,
regional varieties, correspondence with
other classification systems, typical sites

Habitat types generally associated in the
field (phytodynamic successions, zonation
or mosaics)

Bibliographical references, others than
those mentioned in the
"PHYSIS" database

2140 * Decalcified fixed dunes with *Empetrum nigrum*
PAL CLASS.: 16.23

- 1) Decalcified dunes colonised by *Empetrum nigrum* heaths of the coasts. Syntaxa associated to this habitat type: *Empetrium nigri*, *Calluno Genistion pilosae* p., *Ericion tetralicis* p. The term "fixed" should be taken to mean the opposite of "shifting". The psychrophilic coastal association *Carici trinervis-Callunetum vulgaris* de Foucault & Gehu 78 may be included here.
- 2) Plants: *Carex arenaria*, *Empetrum nigrum*, *Genista tinctoria*, *Pyrola rotundifolia*.
- 3) Corresponding categories
United Kingdom classification: "H11b *Calluna vulgaris-Carex arenaria* heath community, *Empetrum nigrum* ssp. *nigrum* sub-community".
German classification : "100401 Krähenbeer-Heide der Küsten". In Germany highly endangered coastal *Empetrum nigrum* heathland on the Geest are included.
Nordic classification: "4143 *Calluna vulgaris-Empetrum nigrum-Carex arenaria*-typ".
- 4) Humid dune slacks (16.3), grey dunes (16.22), wooded dunes (16.22, 16.25).
- 5) **McManus, D. (1988)**. *Plant community dynamics on sand dunes at Murlough National Nature Reserve, Dundrum, Co. Down, Northern Ireland*. M.Phil. Thesis, University of Ulster.
Olsson, H. (1993). Dry coastal ecosystems of southern Sweden. In: van der Maarel, E. (ed.) *Ecosystems of the world 2A. Dry coastal ecosystems, polar regions and Europe*. Elsevier, Amsterdam. pp. 131-143.

Natural habitats types and species of community interest

What are flora and fauna “species of community interest” as referred in annex II of the habitats directive

Species of community interest are:

- Endangered species

Or

- Vulnerable species

Or

- Rare species

Or

- Some endemic species

N.B: Not all of the endemic species are listed in Annex II, IV and V of Habitats directive.

Priority species

- Species for the conservation of which the Community has particular responsibility in view of the proportion of their natural range; these priority species are indicated by an asterisk (*) in Annex II of the Habitats directive.

The 3 steps for the selection of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)

Step 1 : Proposed Sites of Community Importance : pSCI

Each Member State shall propose a list of sites (article 4)

- Proposed sites are to be hosting: natural habitat in Annex I and species in Annex II that are native to the territory.
- For animal species ranging over wide areas these sites shall correspond to the places which present the physical or biological factors essential to their life and reproduction.
- The choice of sites is a purely scientific process, based on standard selection criteria specified in the directive (Annex 3) (*cf.* next slide)
- Site specific data (ecological and sociological) are communicated to the Commission by using Standard Data Forms (SDF)

The 3 steps for the selection of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)

Stage 1: Assessment criteria at national level of the relative importance of sites for each natural habitat type in Annex I and each species in Annex II

A. Site assessment criteria for a given natural habitat type in Annex I

- **Degree of representativity** of the natural habitat type on the site
- **Area of the site covered** by the natural habitat type in relation to the total area covered by that natural habitat type within national territory
- **Degree of conservation of the structure and functions** of the natural habitat type concerned **and restoration possibilities.**
- **Global assessment of the value of the site** for conservation of the natural habitat type concerned

B. Site assessment criteria for a given species in Annex II

- **Size and density** of the population of the species present on the site in relation to the populations present within national territory.
- **Degree of conservation of the features of the habitat** which are important for the species concerned and restoration possibilities.
- **Degree of isolation of the population** present on the site in relation to the natural range of the species.
- **Global assessment of the value of the site** for conservation of the species concerned.

The 3 steps for the selection of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)

Step 2 : from pSCI to SCI (Sites of Community Importance)

Adoption of proposed sites by the Commission

- On the basis of the proposed national list
- **Proposals are analysed during scientific seminars for each bio-geographic region**
 - ✓ They are open to Member states and stakeholders representatives, independent experts and **NGOs**.
- **In the seminars, experts have to establish if sufficient high-quality sites have been proposed by each Member State to ensure the favourable conservation status of each habitat type and species throughout their range in the EU**
 - ✓ This analysis is based on the “20-60% rule”
 - ❑ habitats and species cover to an extend of 60% = sufficiently represented
 - ❑ Habitats and species cover to an extend lower than 20% = insufficiently represented
 - ❑ Habitats and species cover to an extend between 20% and 60% = case by case analysis
 - ✓ If the list is incomplete, the commission can require corrections and new proposition
 - ✓ If they consider that the list is incomplete, **NGOs** can prepare and submit a “shadow list”.

The 3 steps for the selection of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)

Stage 2 : Assessment criteria of the Community importance of the sites included on the national lists

- 1. All the sites identified by the Member States in Stage 1 which contain priority natural habitat types and/or species will be considered as sites of Community importance.**
- 2. The assessment of the Community importance of other sites on Member States' lists, will take account of the following criteria:**
 - relative value of the site at national level;
 - geographical situation of the site in relation to migration routes of species in Annex II and whether it belongs to a continuous ecosystem situated on both sides of one or more internal Community frontiers;
 - total area of the site;
 - number of natural habitat types in Annex I and species in Annex II present on the site;
 - global ecological value of the site for the biogeographical regions concerned.

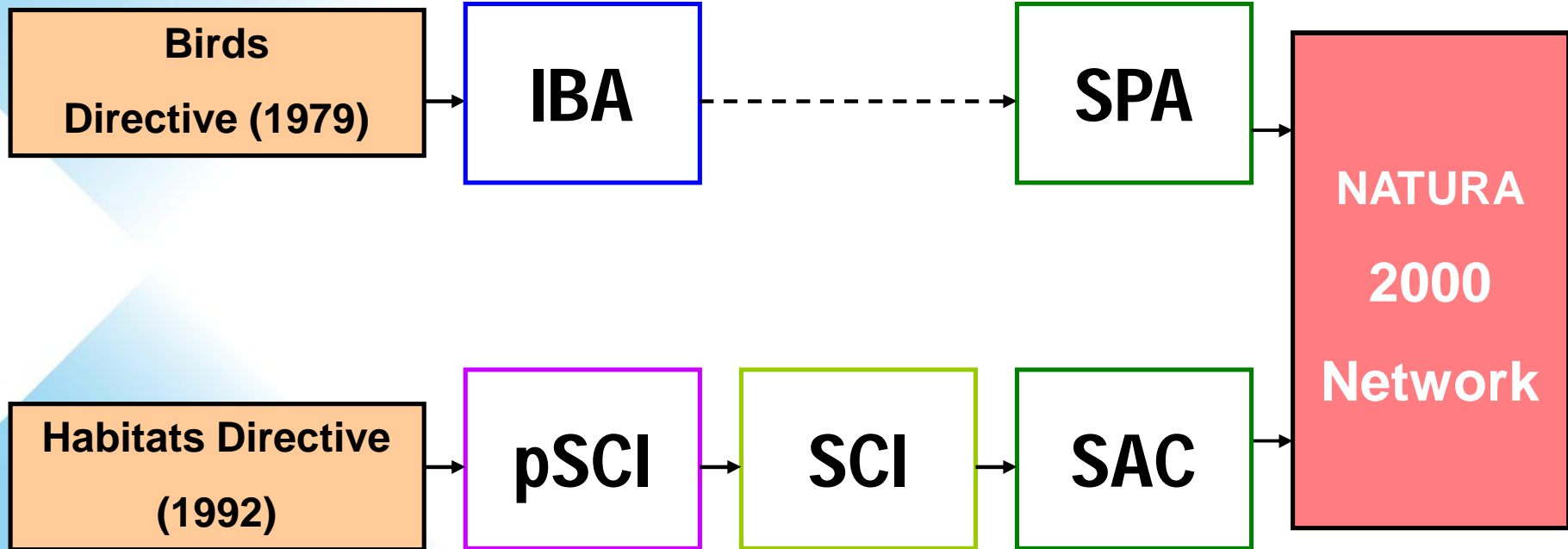
The 3 steps for the selection of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)

Step 3 : from SCI to SAC (Special Areas of Conservation)

Designation of SAC

- **A Member State has to designate as Special Areas of Conservation the Sites of Community Importance adopted by the Commission**
- **Designation must occur as soon as possible and within 6 years at the most**
- **Member States should designate in priority those sites that are most threatened and/or that are of most importance in conservation terms**
- **Within these 6 years, Member States must take the necessary management or restoration measures to ensure the favorable conservation status of those sites.**

The 3 steps for the selection of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)



Choosing and proposing Sites of Community Importance (pSCI)

Proposed Sites of Community Importance : pSCI the French experience

pSCI – rapidly proposed by the French government on the basis of the “ZNIEFF” (Natural areas of ecological interest) inventory

- **Benefit: No need to realise new ecological inventory**
- **Limit: Some data were obsolete, because the ZNIEFF inventory was 20 years old, the result is incomplete or false SDF.**

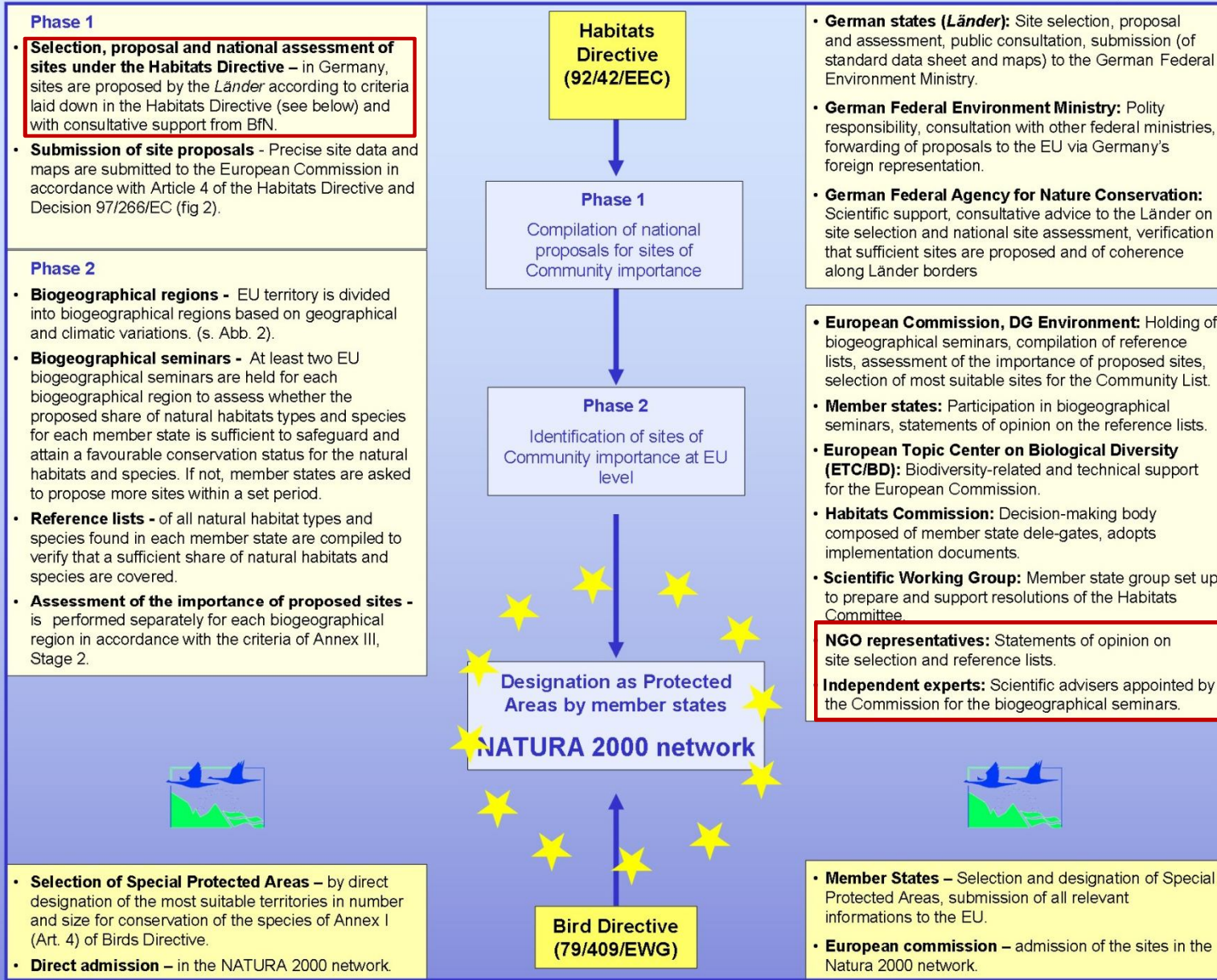
Some habitats and species (bats) were not sufficiently cover by the first proposal.

Necessity of proposing new sites.

Participation of the National Museum of Natural History and independent experts

- **National experts in all branches of ecology participate choosing the pSCI**
- **Some national experts were invited to the seminars for the adoption of the SCI**

Designation of Protected Areas – Under the NATURA 2000 network



Choosing and proposing Sites of Community Importance (pSCI)

Proposed Sites of Community Importance : pSCI the English experience

pSCI are proposed on the basis of the usual criteria's (stage 1 from Annex III of the habitats directive) but also from additional principles:

- **Priority / non priority status**
- **Geographical range**
- **Special UK responsibilities**
- **Multiple interest**
- **Rarity**

What kind of participation for the CSOs

Participation to the identification of the proposed sites

- By collecting and analysing data
- By making available your data (transmission to the national government)
- By being expert adviser for the delimitation of the sites (Help the State to understand the assessment criteria)
- Assess the national list of pSCI and make new proposition if necessary
- By informing the public about Natura 2000 (communicate)

Participation in “defending” the member state list of proposed sites

- Be present to the expert seminars for the adoption of the SCI

N.B: to know more about seminars you can look on the web for “Natura 2000 sites designation process with a special focus on the biogeographic seminar” (CEEWEB, 2007) and “Hot times. The Biogeographic Seminars are a great opportunity for NGOs to make a difference for nature.” (CEEWEB, WWF and Ecotone, s.d.)

Participation in the designation of the SAC

- Help the Member State to increase the ecological knowledge of the sites (inventory, monitoring, assessment)
- Participate to the elaboration of the management plan (being at the local workshop)



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IUCN workshop

Designating a Natura 2000 site– october 26 2011

Part II - Activities

Activity 1: informal debate

Rapidly organising our ideas – presenting arguments “for” or “against” a decision or a statement

Trainees are invited to form 2 groups. In each group:

- A statement will be presented
- The group will be divided into 2 groups, people in favour of the statement and the ones against, seating in front of each other
- Each person has one minute to write his arguments on a post-it
- The trainees have to present their arguments and place them in the right column on the paper board

When everyone has spoken, the trainees get together and point out the best arguments presented by each group

Activity 1: informal debate

Rapidly organising our ideas – presenting arguments “for” or “against” a decision or a statement

Statement 1: There is no place for industrial activities into or near a Natura 2000 site.

Statement 2: Protected areas, like wildlife reserves and parks, are the areas to settle a Natura 2000 site.



Coffee break

Activity 2: Finding consensus

Choosing the area to create a Natura 2000 site and dress its borders

Trainees are invited to form 6 groups :

- The groups are receiving a map
- Locate the area where you are going to settle the Natura 2000 site
- Trace the borders of the sites and get an agreement on the borders
- Explain your choices (identify your criteria)
- Present your result to the other groups
- Critical analyses of the results

Activity 2: Finding consensus

Choosing the area to create a Natura 2000 site and dress its borders

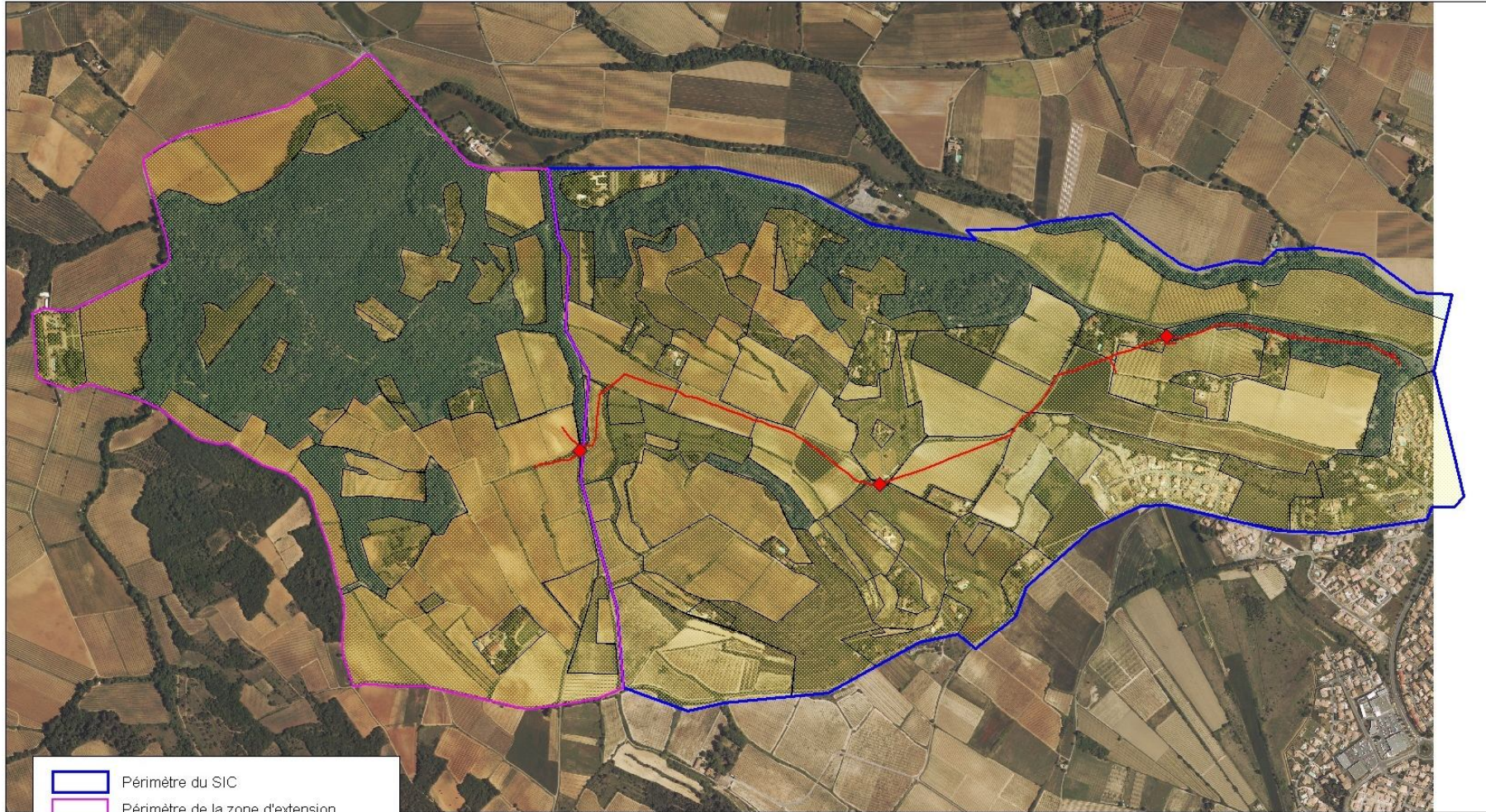
Ecological information on this area:




- This area is concerned by a roman underground aqueduct (main entrances are located by the red stars) where a bat specie (*Miniopterus schreibersi*) in annex II of the DH is breeding.
- Experts believe that young bats are learning to hunt around this aqueduct specifically on open fields.
- Adults are using the linear landscape infrastructures (trees lines) to get to their hunting areas (up to 40 km around the aqueduct).






Docob du site Natura 2000 de l'Aqueduc de Pézenas

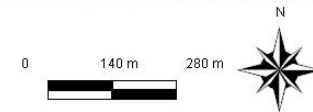
CARTOGRAPHIE DES GRANDS TYPES DE MILIEUX



-  Périmètre du SIC
-  Périmètre de la zone d'extension
-  Entrées de l'aqueduc

Grands types de milieux

-  Milieux forestiers
-  Milieux ouverts
-  Aqueduc



Echelle : 1/ 14 000

Sources : Orthophotos 2005 - CAHM / Cartographie : Biotope, 2009