Overview of the state of nature in Europe and Croatia

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On Biodiversity, we are supporting the implementation of the environmental directives and the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 through data collection and knowledge generation

Information systems for Europe

WISE FRESHWATER
FRESHWATER INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR EUROPE

Biodiversity Information System for Europe

Forest Information System for Europe

WISE MARINE
MARINE INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR EUROPE

Explore nature reporting data

Every 6 years EU Member States are required to report on the sizes of and trends in populations of birds (Article 12 of the Birds Directive) and on the conservation status of and trends in targeted habitats and species (Article 17 of the Habitats Directive) within their European territories.

Indicators

EEA indicators are designed to support all phases of environmental policy making, from designing policy frameworks to setting targets, and from policy monitoring and evaluation to communicating to policy-makers and the public.

Each indicator tells the reader about the trend (or status) of the phenomenon being investigated over a given period of time. It also specifies whether or not associated policy objectives are being met and quantitative targets reached. Where these are not being achieved, it discusses the reasons for this.

- Agriculture
- Air pollution
- Biodiversity - Ecosystems

Abundance and distribution of selected species in Europe
18 Nov 2021

Conservation status of habitats under the EU Habitats Directive
18 Nov 2021

Conservation status of species under the EU Habitats Directive
18 Nov 2021

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State of Nature in the EU

EEA supports reporting under the Birds and Habitats Directives

- Facilitating reporting flows (reporting every 6 years, latest data from the 2013-2018 cycle)
- State of Nature report based on the results
- Providing information through different online tools

What does the data tell us?

Target 1 (good status or improving trend): not reached

- Little progress since 2010 (light green)
- 1/3 of species & habitats not good and further deteriorating

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What does the data tell us?

Birds Directive: conservation status and trends

Habitats Directive: conservation status and trends – EU (left) and MS (right) level

Natura 2000 network

Largest coordinated network of protected areas in the world

- The backbone of protected areas network in Europe
- 27,025 sites
- 1,219,414 km^2
- 18,6 % of EU's land and 9 % of EU's seas
- Complemented by other nationally designated areas in all countries

NATURA 2000 - EUROPEAN UNION
Birds Directive sites (SPA)
Habitats Directive sites (pSCI, SCI, SAC)
Sites - or parts of sites - belonging to both Directives

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NATURA 2000

Source :
- NATURA 2000 - DG ENV, compiled from databases from the Member States.
Sources background map: © EuroGlobalMap/Eurogeographics and DG ESTAT.
Validity of NATURA 2000 data for : Europe. Updated End 2020.
Projection : Lambert Azimuthal Equal Area.

Natura 2000 network

EEA's role

- supporting the European Commission with the Natura 2000 data reporting and processing of the European dataset
- sufficiency evaluation of the network
- online tools for the public and for experts (Natura barometer and map viewer – work underway to have a new viewer!) https://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/dashboards/natura-2000-barometer
- indicators on Natura 2000 and protected areas used to track progress on protected areas coverage https://www.eea.europa.eu/ims/natura-2000-sites-designated-under https://www.eea.europa.eu/ims/nationally-designated-terrestrial-protected-areas

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Natura 2000 network

Continuous expansion of the network over years across EU

Growth in terrestrial Nature 2000 sites network in the EU, 1993-2020

* Drop after 2019 is related to Brexit

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Natura 2000 network and effectiveness

Gaps remain in terms of covering all biogeographical and marine regions

The map shows terrestrial biogeographical regions and their protected areas coverage (including Natura 2000 and other nationally designated areas)

- Gaps also remain in terms of ensuring good connectivity within the network
- Management effectiveness of the network needs to better monitoring and improved – in 2020, only about 8% of protected areas in the EU had reported some type of management effectiveness assessment

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Natura 2000 in Croatia

Good example of efficient implementation

- 783 Natura 2000 sites as of 2021
- 20 716 km2 or 36.7% of land area
- 5238 km2 in the marine area

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Natura 2000 in Croatia

Total of 37,8% of land in Croatia is protected (as of 2021). Mainly through Natura 2000 sites (although about a third of those sites overlap with other national designations)

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Natura 2000 network in Croatia – other information sources

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Biodiversity Information System for Europe

Protected species

Species protected in Croatia under EU law are protected under the Habitats Directive and under the Birds Directive. The Habitats Directive has a total of 2 500 species on its list, the Birds Directive has a total of 500 species of wild birds protected.

254 species protected under EU law in Croatia

11 species are unique to Croatia

744 species under the Habitats Directive

38 species under the Birds Directive

Conservation Status by Group

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Lessons learnt from 30 years of Natura 2000

- Natura 2000 process boosted the designation of protected areas in the EU, particularly at sea
- Species and habitats with a higher coverage by Natura 2000 tend to have better status and trends
- There has been earmarking of EU funds to manage sites, species, and habitats
- Increased involvement of stakeholders in the management of sites
- However, still too many sites remain without appropriate management plans or adequate national financing
- And measuring effectiveness of the network remains restricted

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Natura 2000 and the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030

- Important to continue expanding the network (both Natura 2000 and other nationally designated areas) to reach the 30% target of the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, particularly in the marine realm

- Time to focus on other aspects beyond protected areas coverage – connectivity and coherence of the network, management effectiveness

EU Biodiversity Strategy - next steps for protected areas

Nature protection: key commitments by 2030

1. Legally protect a minimum of 30% of the EU's land area and 30% of the EU's sea area and integrate ecological corridors, as part of a true Trans-European Nature Network.
2. Strictly protect at least a third of the EU's protected areas, including all remaining EU primary and old-growth forests.
3. Effectively manage all protected areas, defining clear conservation objectives and measures, and monitoring them appropriately.

- Good progress to date
- Some progress
- More efforts needed – both in terms of implementation and capacity to measure progress

- EEA will be working more on these qualitative aspects in the coming years to support assessment of progress towards the targets

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Thank you

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