

NATURE

Nature conservation work of the Renewables Grid Initiative

*4 June 2015,
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Green Week Brussels > 3-5 June 2015



Agenda

Reconciling nature and business activities

- Who is RGI & how do we bring stakeholders together?
- RGI response to Birds and Habitats Directives fitness check
- Disseminating Best Practices
- Lessons learned

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Green Week Brussels
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RGI is a strong and growing coalition of NGOs and electricity grid operators

“Promoting 100% integration of electricity produced from renewable energy sources into the grid”

2015

2009



For the first time, RGI has provided a forum in which NGOs and TSOs come together

“We want a grid built in time and in line with environmental objectives and with people’s concerns”



Focus of electricity grid operators:
„We need to build power grids without delay“

Focus of NGOs:
„We need renewable energies – without negative impact on nature and people“



Objectives of the European Grid Declaration (EGD)

“Electricity networks must be developed in line with Europe’s objectives for climate change mitigation and nature conservation”

Including environmental issues in considerations at the earliest stages of grid planning

Maintaining the integrity and coherence of the Natura 2000 network

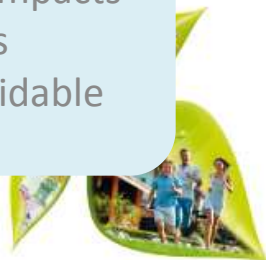
Retention and implementation of the provisions in the Birds and Habitats Directives



Achievement of the EU’s 2020 biodiversity target and the EU’s Biodiversity Strategy

Promotion of strategic spatial planning and SEAs

Prioritisation:
1) avoid environmental impacts
2) minimise impacts
3) compensate for unavoidable impacts



In the spirit of the EGD, RGI partners jointly responded to the fitness check consultation on the Birds and Habitats Directive

RGI partners see the Directives as:

- a clear and stable framework that help in managing environmental questions better
- a support for TSOs, who need predictable rules and clear indications on protected zones
- necessary high standards for nature protection
- a help in structuring relations with key stakeholders
- enablers of TSO/NGO cooperation such as in RGI
- enablers of rational and sensible planning and optimal routing
- creators of greater certainty for investors across Europe



Further RGI work with regard to nature conservation includes:

- Sparring partner in formulation of guidelines for speeding up permitting procedures
- TYNDP: instrumental in readjustment of indicators for environmental and social impacts in the costs-benefits analyses
→ providing stakeholders with more information
- working on increasing the participation of NGOs in the PCI selection process

BEST GRID

- 4 pilot projects – all run with the participation of BirdLife.
- focusing on issues such as impacts of power lines on nature or connectivity and habitat diversity



Disseminating Best Practices: The European Grid Report & best practice database



Example from Italy - Siting criteria and information exchange:

- Objective: finding the most sustainable and environmentally compatible corridor
- Base: extensive database of cartographic information collected by Terna from authorities and via field trips
- National SEA Group determines criteria on technical, economic, social, environmental and territorial aspects to find attractive corridor

Other examples include:

- Cooperation and risk mapping to reduce bird electrocutions
- Restoration of wildlife corridors
- Funding NGO supervised employees
- Commissioning and utilising NGO reports



Disseminating Best Practices:

AWARD GOOD PRACTICE OF THE YEAR



"Honouring outstanding ideas
in grid development"

Good Practice of the Year:
2015 Competition will start this month

3 categories:
Communication & Participation
Technology & Design
Environmental Protection



Look for the call for
submissions soon to be
published on
renewables-grid.eu



Disseminating Best Practices: BirdLife environmental Good Practice award winner 2014



**“Preventing electrocution of endangered birds”
by BirdLife International / Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds**

-Cooperation with Bulgarian power company EVN

-Objective: identifying threats to birds and replacing or improving relevant infrastructure to prevent electrocution

-Result:

- 595 hazardous electricity poles were insulated
- Increase of 25 % in breeding pairs of the endangered Imperial Eagle



Lessons learned

- A structured approach to cooperation as exemplified in RGI helps create deep and trusted relationships. These are essential to find innovative and costs efficient solutions
- EU nature legislation is highly valued by both NGOs and TSOs but streamlined implementation procedures across borders are needed
- Our TSO members fully understand that taking environmental concerns sufficiently into account in the planning process creates more sustainable results and an opportunity for building/strengthening stakeholder relations



Next challenge for RGI the marine environment

