

What is Natura 2000?

- A Natura 2000 site is an area of land or sea that has been protected under EU Habitats and/or Birds Directives to safeguard Europe's most valuable, but increasingly threatened, wildlife and habitats;
- Natura 2000 sites form part of the Natura 2000 Network. They exist in all 27 countries of the EU and vary in size from a few hectares to thousands of square kilometres;
- Over 26,000 sites have been included in the Natura 2000 Network so far covering around 18% of the land and significant areas of the sea, making it the largest network of conservation areas anywhere in the world;
- Around 2000 species, from mammals and birds to butterflies and beetles - are protected under the Natura 2000 Network. They are amongst the most endangered species in the EU;
- The Natura 2000 Network also protects ca 230 rare and threatened habitat types, such as coastal lagoons, heathlands, flower rich grasslands, dehesas and natural forests;
- Natura 2000 is not restricted to nature reserves; it is based on a much broader principal of conservation and sustainable use, where people and wildlife can live together in harmony;
- The Natura 2000 Network is a cornerstone of the EU's nature policy and demonstrates Europe's strong commitment to preserve its rich native biodiversity for future generations.



Hiking on La Gomera

To find out more about Natura 2000 go to:
http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/index_en.htm

The Natura 2000 Viewer

- Where are all the Natura 2000 sites?
- Is there a Natura 2000 site near you?
- Which species live in Natura 2000 sites?
- Why is a particular Natura 2000 site protected?

To find out go online to:
<http://natura2000.eea.europa.eu>

The Natura 2000 viewer allows you to search for, and locate, any one of the ca 26,000 Natura 2000 sites present in the EU.



Walkers map reading

nature



What is the Natura 2000 Viewer?

The European Commission, with the assistance of the European Environment Agency (EEA), has developed a new on-line facility called the 'Natura 2000 viewer' which enables the user to locate and explore Natura 2000 sites anywhere in the EU at the press of a button¹.

How does it work?

Various different search options are available:



Find a Natura 2000 site near you: This facility allows you to type in a location anywhere in the EU, such as Lulea or Cordoba. The map will automatically zoom into that area and highlight all the Natura 2000 sites present there.



Locate a specific Natura 2000 site: If you already know the name or the site code of the Natura 2000 site you can use the search tool to zoom in on its location. If you are unsure of the name, the prompter will help you find it once a few letters have been typed in.



Look for a particular species: You can also search for a particular species in the Natura 2000 Network. Just type in the Latin name of the species and all sites where it is present will appear on the map. You can then zoom in on any sites of particular interest.



Search according to different backgrounds: depending on your interests, the background of the map can be changed to: a street map, a satellite map, a Corine land cover map or a biogeographical map. Additional background options will be regularly added in the future.

What else is available on the Natura 2000 viewer?

An identification tool is available to find out more about a particular site. On this, you can consult the Standard Data Form (SDF) which provides key information on the rare and threatened species for which the site has been designated, such as data on their estimated population size or their conservation status.

You can also view a wide range of different photos taken around the area thanks to a link established with Google's Panoramio photo library.

Who is it for?

The viewer will be of interest to:

- Anyone who is curious about Natura 2000 and who might want to search for a site near them or in their holiday destination;
- Teachers and school children interested in finding out more about the EU's natural heritage and how Europe's biodiversity is being protected through the Natura 2000 Network;

It will also be of use to:

- Land owners, users and other stakeholders, such as tourism providers, who would like to know about Natura 2000 sites in their area;
- Developers preparing new development projects;
- Non-governmental organisations;
- Government authorities, land use planners and policy makers;
- Researchers and scientists.

¹ NB At the time of printing (June 2010) data for UK and Austria are not included. Natura 2000 maps for UK will be added soon. For Austria discussions are currently underway.



Poppy field, Italy