Exchanging good practices on managing Natura 2000 sites

The **Natura 2000 Network** is an ecological network of natural areas designated to conserve Europe's rich but vulnerable habitats and species. The network includes over 20,000 sites from all 25 Member States of the EU. Collectively they cover a substantial area: almost a fifth of Europe's land and water.

The **LIFE programme** was adopted in 1992 to promote the implementation of Community policy and legislation in the field of the environment. One of the three strands called LIFE-Nature is designed to contribute to the implementation of Community nature protection legislation: the "Birds" Directive 79/409/EEC and the "Habitats" Directive 92/43/EEC and in particular the establishment of the Natura 2000 network. Around €600 million has been spent on around 900 practical conservation projects across the EU covering around 10% of the sites in the Natura 2000 network.
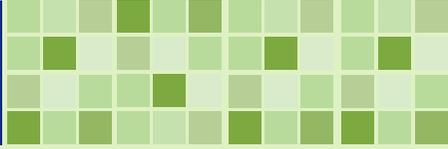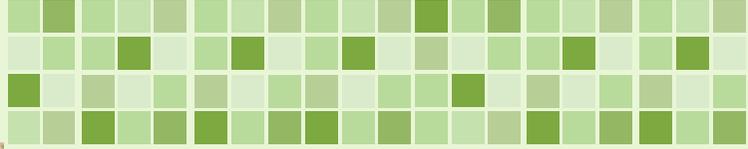
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A great deal of additional information on the European Union is available on the Internet.
It can be accessed through the Europa server
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For more information about the LIFE programme, other LIFE-Nature projects and in focus reports, please consult www.europa.eu.int/life

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Announcing a new webpage presenting good practice examples in the field of farming, forestry, marine, wetland and river management.

The first 25 case studies are derived from projects co-financed under LIFE-Nature

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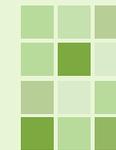
As the selection of sites for the Natura 2000 Network nears completion, attention is increasingly focused on the issue of management.

With over 20,000 sites in the Network, covering almost a fifth of the EU territory, the prospect may seem rather daunting at first. Not only do the ecological requirements of the species and habitats vary significantly from one site to another, but the proposed management options must also take account of economic, social and cultural requirements of the areas concerned as well as their regional and local characteristics.

Recognising this concern, the Commission has developed a special website on its nature homepage to help illustrate the different forms of management that can be used in a range of circumstances across Europe and to encourage exchange of good practices.

Twenty-five practical examples of successful management practices and solutions are presented within five different sectors:

- **farming,**
- **forests,**
- **rivers,**
- **marine,**
- **wetlands.**

These have been taken from projects funded under LIFE-Nature which has co-financed around 900 practical conservation projects aimed at Natura 2000 sites in all Member States of the EU. As such they provide a wealth of experiences and examples of 'Natura 2000' in practice.

The aim of this special website is to encourage other nature managers across Europe to submit examples of their good management practices to the Commission in order to encourage a greater exchange of experiences.

The Commission will review the examples submitted and post the most appropriate ones on its website, with the aim of building up a comprehensive library of good management practices over time in a wide range of different sectors.

The good practice webpage can be accessed via the European Commission DG Environment website at **http://europa.eu.int/comm/ environment/nature/nature_conservation/ natura_2000_network/managing _natura_2000/index_en.htm**

Or through http://europa.eu.int/comm/environ-ment/life/infoproducts/index.htm