How EU Policies Influenced Biodiversity Conservation in Slovenia

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DEPART FOR ACCESSION

AU!
Civil Society Involvement

- ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS
- TRANSPOSITION of the Habitat and Bird Directive (full and correct)
- DESIGNATION OF NATURA 2000
- IMPLEMENTATION
- TECHNICAL ADAPTATIONS
- SCIENTIFIC SUPPORT BIOGEOGR. SEMINARS
- MANAGEMENT OF SITES ASSESSMENT
- FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS MONITORING
- REPORTING
- COMPLAINT PROCEDURE

COMMUNICATION!!!
Accession process

ACCESSION TREATY

SCREENING PROCES
MULTILATERAL (EC - SI)
BILATERAL (SI - EC)

NEGOTIATIONS
EXCEPTIONS
TRANSITIONAL PERIODS
TECHNICAL ADAPTATIONS

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Technical adaptations

Additions to the Annexes:
- national interest
- meet criteria
- is it already covered
- find the right way
  - Habitats manual
  - proposal for addition
Transposition

Regulation – direct implementation

Directive – transposition
Designation process

- BIRDS DIRECTIVE
- SPA
- INFRINGEMENT
- SAC
- HABITATS DIRECTIVE
- pSCI
- SCI
- BIOGEOGRAPHICAL SEMINARS

NATURA 2000
Example – *Primula carniolica*

Distribution of *Primula carniolica*
How many Natura 2000 sites are needed?

- only scientific criteria for selection on the basis of existing data
- proportion of Natura 2000 is proportional to the biodiversity of the country (more biodiversity, more Natura 2000 needed!)
- prediction (managability, natural processes...)
Biogeographical seminar

INDEPENDENT EXPERTS

EUROPEAN COMMISION

EEA/ETC Biodiversity (technical support)

landowners (ELO)

proposal pSCI

NGO (Biodiversity Forum)

MEMBER STATE

P. Skoberne, 2007
Larger or smaller areas?

• smaller areas for stable and special habitat types or species (e.g. serpentin rocks flora)
• larger areas for dynamic ecosystems and mobile species (e.g. river ecosystems, grasslands…)
  – easier to implement and adapt to changes (including climate)
  – more possibilities with assessments
Govermental Decree 29.4.2004
(Ur. I. RS, št. 49/2004)

SPA - 26 sites (22.8 %)
pSCI - 260 sites (31.6 %)
TOTAL - 35.5 %

9 % above 900 m
60 % forest
22-25% of agricultural land
Implementation (Art. 6)

Avoid deterioration - Art. 6(2) – for proposals as well!

MEASURES – Art 6 (1):
• statutory
• administrative
• contractual
• (appropriate management plans)

ASSESSMENT PROCEDURE Art. 6 (3)(4)

INTEGRATION COMMUNICATION
EU investment funds and Natura 2000

Loan for motorway
Implementation – integration in other sectors

EU policy is to integrate nature conservation (WBD & FFH D) in other sectors (Cardiff process)

Most important integrations:

• Common Agricultural Policy (direct payments & Rural Development Programme)
• Regional Development
• Water Framework Directive
• Common Fisheries Policy
Implementation – integration in other sectors

Forestry

- Rural Development Regulation now offers funding for nature conservation in forests.

Important - 6 year cycle, if NC is not properly included, it is not for 6 (3) years
Operational Programme (2007-13)

Bringing answers to questions:

WHAT & WHY?

- Detailed Conservation Goals for Each Natura 2000 Site

HOW?

- Conservation Measures (+ investments, incentives)

WHO?

- Relevant Sectors

WHERE?

- Interactive Atlas
Objectives in the Natura 2000 operational programme

Most important:

- objectives for each Natura 2000 site in relation to forestry, hunting, fishing, agri-environment, water management and nature conservation measures, designated for each species and/or habitat type

- list of investments to enhance nature protection (info centres, cycling paths,...)
Main groups of measures

1. Nature conservation (e.g. protected areas)
2. sustainable use of natural resources in sectorial plans (forestry, hunting, fishing)
3. adaptation in agricultural programmes (agrienv. measures 2007-2013)
4. water management (planning)
5. other measures
Complaint procedure

**INFORMAL PHASE**

**MEMBER STATE**

**FORMAL INFRINGEMENT**
- Letter of formal notice
- Reasoned opinion
Basic Myths on Natura 2000

• NATURA 2000 = protected area
  – protected areas are one of the measures to reach the goals of the Natura 2000

• in Natura 2000 areas there are no activities (‘no-go’ areas)
  – all activities are possible if assessment proves that they have no significant effect on species and habitat types that were reason for designation

• Member state is passing the suverenity of Natura 2000 areas to the Brussels administration
  – European Commission is checking if national legislation is implemented correctly.
Have you heard about Natura 2000?

- da: 47% (sep.07 n=1056), 42% (nov.06 n=1049)
- ne: 50% (sep.07 n=1056), 55% (nov.06 n=1049)
- ne vem: 3% (sep.07 n=1056), 3% (nov.06 n=1049)
What is Natura 2000?

- Areas protected for animals and plants: 63%
- Strictly protected areas: 24%
- Protected birds nesting areas: 7%
- Large carnivores project: 3%
- Others: 1%
- I don’t know: 10%

Comparison:
- sep.07 (n=491)
- nov.06 (n=451)
Conclusions

POSITIVE
• better legislation
• better implementation
• (+) image for nature conservation
• big opportunity for mobilisation

NEGATIVE
• emphasise on Natura 2000, neglecting other instruments
• (-) image for nature conservation

AND BIODIVERSITY?

ECONOMY IS MORE AGRESSIVE THAN NATURE CONSERVATION EFFECTIVENESS
More information

http://www.natura2000.gov.si

Interactive map:
http://gis.arso.gov.si/atlasokolja