Peter Torkler
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As a diplom geographer with interdisciplinary knowledge in the fields of development studies, sustainable development and ecology Peter Torkler is working since 1998 with WWF Germany. In this time he has been involved in more than six projects covering EU policies for rural development, regional policy and funding for Natura 2000. Due to his bilingual German – Polish language skills he was mainly involved in transboundary conservation work of WWF in Poland. Since 2003 as part of the newly established WWF Berlin office the work is focussed on regional policy and the use of the EU structural funds for the environment. Since 2005 Peter Torkler is coordinating an European Commission contract on Financing Natura 2000 in all 27 Member States.
Financing Nature Conservation
Peter Torkler, WWF

nature protection in the context of european environmental law

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Financing Nature Conservation

nature protection in the context of european environmental law

Peter Torkler, WWF Germany
Trier, 7 February 2007

My presentation will deal with:

Natura 2000
Natura obligations and conflicts
Financing Natura 2000
Financial Framework of the EU
Challenges on the national level to secure funding
Natura 2000

Current state and overall goal

Site designation (art.4)
Site Management measures (art 6)
Financing (art 8)
Connectivity (art 10)
Species protection regime (arts 12-16)
Monitoring (art 17)
Natura 2000

Current state and overall goal


Legislation Transposition

Site Designation

Site Management Measures

Monitoring

Species Protection regime

Connectivity

Public awareness / participation

Financing

Alberto Arroyo Schnell, 2006
Natura 2000

Current state and overall goal

European network of protected areas

**Target:**

To ensure bio-diversity through the conservation of **natural habitats** and of **wild fauna and flora** in the European territory
Natura 2000
Current state and overall goal

> 25.000 Natura 2000 sites
20 % of the EU 25 territory
Natura 2000 sites require:

- That damaging activities are avoided that could significantly disturb the species or deteriorate the habitats for which the site is designated.
- Positive measures to be taken, where necessary, to maintain and restore these habitats and species to a ‘favourable conservation status’ in their natural range.

MS decide on provisions to fullfill legal requirements:

- statutory (e.g. making a nature reserve),
- contractual (e.g. signing management agreements with the land owner) or
- administrative (providing the necessary funds to manage the site).
Natura 2000 obligations and conflicts

eg Article 6 of the Habitat directive

• MS shall establish necessary conservation measures involving…appropriate management plans…

• Member States shall take appropriate steps to avoid the deterioration of natural habitats and species

• Any project or plan must be subject to an appropriate assessment…should not affect the integrity of the site
Natura 2000 obligations and conflicts

- Economic development
- Population rise
- Climate change
- Forestry
- Energy Needs
- Agricultural change
Conflicts arise from myths around Natura 2000

What is not true…
• Including land in a Natura 2000 site affects the ownership of such land
• Properties automatically lose value as a consequence of Natura 2000 designation
• All economic activities will be limited
• Hunting activities are forbidden
• Any new infrastructure is forbidden
• Everyday activities will have to undergo an environmental impact assessment

What is true…
• Many existing land use practices will continue as before because they are already compatible with the conservation of the habitats and species present
• Where the land uses negatively affect the species and habitats present, adjustments can often be made without jeopardising productivity
• Management activities that favour nature conservation can receive additional financial support through the Rural Development Regulation
• Hunting, fishing, tourism and other recreational activities will continue provided that they are managed in a sustainable manner and do not adversely affect the rare species and habitats present or prevent their recovery.
Financing Natura 2000
the legal framework

§ 8 Habitat directive
>> Financing of N2000 is MS responsibility
    (in DE Bundesländer)
>> EU can contribute to financing
>> relatively „weak“ obligations

§ 8 Working-group
>> Estimation of costs for N2000
>> Interpretation of Article 8
>> 3 options for the financing of N2000
    (Integration, Expanding Life, New Instrument)

KOM (2004) 431
>> Costs of N2000: 6,1 Mrd. €
>> Integration Option
>> Measures for N2000
Financing Natura 2000

- Key to the success of the Natura 2000 network

- Funds are needed to fulfill the legal obligations

- Many conflicts are caused by bad communication of the network, of course communication is not a matter of funds but at the end also well funded communication strategies help a lot!
Financing Natura 2000

- Cost of Natura 2000 implementation are estimated 6.1 billion Euro per year
- Four cost categories for Natura 2000 identified:
  - Establishment of Natura 2000
  - Management planning
  - Ongoing management actions (as nature conservation measures, Monitoring etc)
  - Investment costs (as restoration and improvement of habitats, infrastructure for public access etc)
## Estimation of yearly Natura 2000 costs in Germany

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measures</th>
<th>Costs in mio. €</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Planing, Administration, Management</td>
<td>116.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ongoing habitat management and monitoring</td>
<td>343.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment costs</td>
<td>159.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>619.6</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

619.6 mio. € means 125 € / ha / Jahr (13.9 % area of DE)

Nature conservation spending Bund / Länder 1999: 469.8 mio. €
Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on Financing Natura 2000 identifies not only costs and needs* ...but also suggest EU co-financing:

Integrating the Natura 2000 funding needs into existing Community funds

Financing Natura 2000

The EU decision for the Integration Option!

- To ensure that management of Natura 2000 sites is part of the wider land management policies of the EU
- Allows MS to set priorities and develop policies reflecting their national specificities
- Avoids duplication of different Community funding
Financial Framework of the EU

Financial Framework 2007-2013
- The final deal -

26.04.2006: Provisional consolidated version of the INTERINSTITUTIONAL AGREEMENT between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission:

€ 864.4 billion, corresponding to 1.048 % of the EU’s gross national income (GNI).
Potential for Environmental Financing 2007-13

- Structural Funds (European Regional Dev. Fund, European Social Fund)
- Cohesion Fund
- European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)
- European Fisheries Fund (EFF)
- Pre-Accession Instrument
- European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI)
- Framework RTD programme
- Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP)
- Life+ instrument (only “pure environmental financing”)
Financial Framework of the EU

Hypothetical contributions of funds for Natura 2000:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund/year</th>
<th>Contribution of Fund for Natura 2000</th>
<th>Funding needs bill. €6,1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EAFRD (9,86 bn)</td>
<td>17,1%</td>
<td>1,69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ERDF (44 bn)</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>1,33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EFF (0,55 bn)</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>0,21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIFE+ (0,27 bill)</td>
<td>92,6%</td>
<td>0,25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total (54,68 bn)</td>
<td>6,36%</td>
<td>3,48 KOM*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*rest to be co funded by national sources

- High competition with current funding for EAFRD and EFF
- Unexploited options with ERDF
- LIFE+ limited
Challenges on the national level to secure funding

Regulations, Guidelines, Frameworks and OPs

- Regulations
  - Adopted by Council/EP
- Community Strategic Guidelines
  - Adopted by Council/EP
- National Strategic Reference Frameworks
  - Negotiated with Commission
- National & Regional Operational Programmes
  - Adopted by Commission
Challenges on the national level to secure funding

Regulations, Guidelines, Frameworks and OPs

- Opportunities to finance Natura 2000 given in the regulations must be transformed by Member States into their Operational Programs

- A first step to clarify what opportunities exist was made by the commission with the „Natura 2000 Financing – Guidance Handbook“
Challenges on the national level to secure funding

Financing Natura 2000
Guidance Handbook
THE HANDBOOK IS SETTING A BASELINE FOR THE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES:

Background
What is it for?
Who is it for?
Benefits
• The European Commission wishes to support all present and future Member States in using the options for Community co-financing of Natura 2000 in the period 2007-2013.
• Within this EU-wide project, two different types of support have been provided:
  - Guidance Handbook „Financing Natura 2000“ in 22 languages
  - Workshops in each Member State inc. Romania and Bulgaria (total of 36 workshops)
What is the handbook for?

- **Financing Natura 2000 Guidance Handbook**
  - Points out funding possibilities across EU funds
  - Addresses all potential groups of beneficiaries
  - Identifies all categories of Natura funding needs
  - Links all these elements in an user-friendly way

- **Availability depends on national programming!**
  - The handbook presents EU funding options that are, in principle, available in all Member States
  - However, concrete funding possibilities for Natura 2000 will be determined by the national and regional programmes that will be prepared by the Member States.
Who is the handbook for?

The Guidance Handbook is intended for

- authorities responsible for formulating national and regional programmes (2007-2013)
- authorities involved in the implementation of Natura 2000, especially the development of management plans for Natura 2000 sites
- stakeholders in potential target groups (beneficiaries, who carry out activities related to Natura 2000 sites)
Benefits of the handbook

➢ The Guidance Handbook should help

✓ To provide an overview on the opportunities for EU co-financing of Natura 2000 in the 2007-2013 funding period.
✓ To check whether all necessary Natura 2000 actions are provided for, and if all funding opportunities are being used to fully benefit from these possibilities
✓ To support the future review of programmes
✓ To give important background information for the development of management plans

➢ First step in an ongoing process

✓ Even if national programme planning for 2007-2013 is almost finalised, the handbook could assist better understanding and implementation of the integration approach of Natura 2000 co-funding in the longer term.
Second step in an ongoing process

- Updating the handbook
- IT tool to link management of Natura 2000 with financing
  - To demonstrate concrete possibilities how measures can be financed through the integration option
  - Work just started and will be finalised by mid, end 2007
  - Will give hopefully also a clearer picture on funding gaps
Handbook from the European Commission
With this handbook it is hoped that actors involved in conservation projects will recognise the diverse opportunities available through the new integrated funding approach, but also the need to actively seek funds from a diverse range of sources.

Support for national implementation
However, concrete funding possibilities for Natura 2000 in 2007-2013 will be determined by the national and regional programmes that will be prepared by the Member States. This Handbook is therefore not intended to be a replacement for carrying out local research on funding opportunities. But it should give managers a good starting point.
Challenges on the national level to secure funding

Secure Funding for Natura in the Programs

- Programming is quite advanced and measures are already proposed for the benefit on Nature conservation in some Operational Programs
  - The use of such opportunities will depend on concrete projects to be proposed under the programmes
- Documents need to be adopted by the European Commission
  - EC cannot force to set up budgets for Natura 2000 but can argue with legal implementation problems if funding is not secured
- National implementation rules and funds allocations
  - Need to assure that funds will be made available for conservation measures
  - Make sure the relevant actors are also eligible for financial support (e.g., National Park Authorities, Forest administration)
  - Make sure a good cofinancing system is in place
Challenges on the national level to secure funding

Exchange good examples and experience

- Funding through regional development fund:
  - Development of management plans
  - Sustainable Tourism activities
  - Environmental education
  - “Information society” actions for monitoring

- European Social Fund use for site managers

- Rural development funding mainly through Article 38, 39, 57

Conclusion:
Rural development considered as the most important funding source for Natura 2000 in many countries. The structural funds although very “business oriented” become more and more important source to finance management plans.
Challenges on the national level to secure funding

Strengthen integration option for funding

Do you think, that the need of financing Natura 2000 in your country will be covered by the integration option?
Challenges on the national level to secure funding

What are the problems for successful financing?

- Weak legal obligation to secure funds
- Integration option does not fit to administrative structures on national level
- Often negative image of Natura 2000 in combination with funds
- Availability and quality of cost estimations for Natura 2000 is not given in many MS
Thank you for attention!

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