



# **Spatial planning and biodiversity strategy**

## **Challenges and opportunities**

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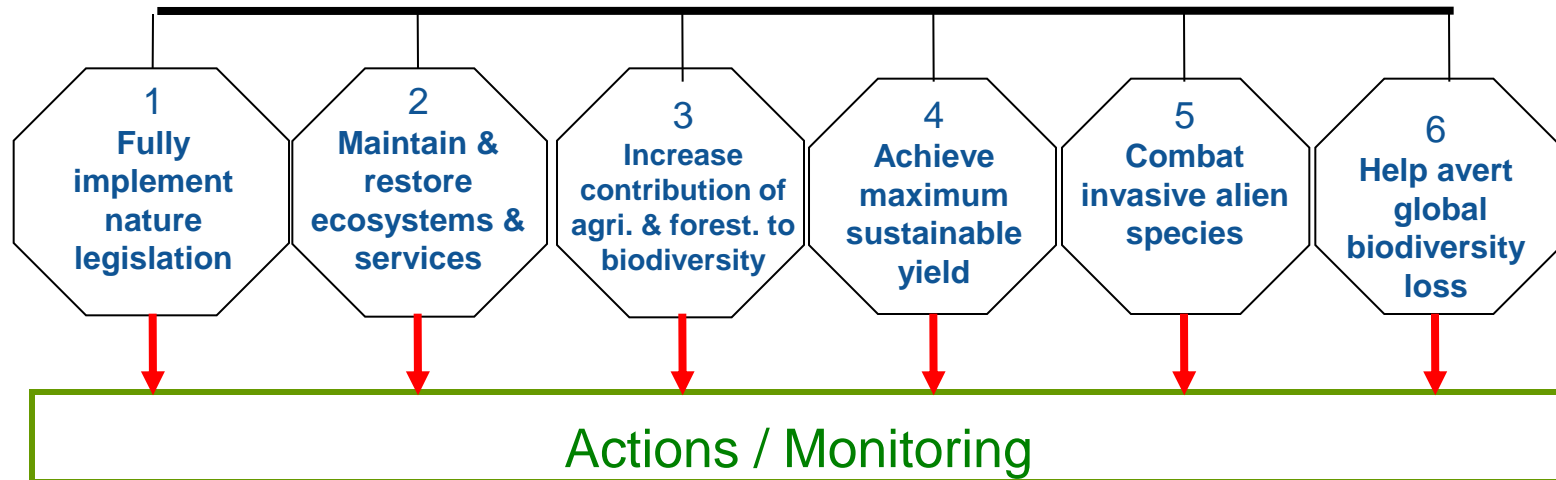


# EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020

2050 Vision

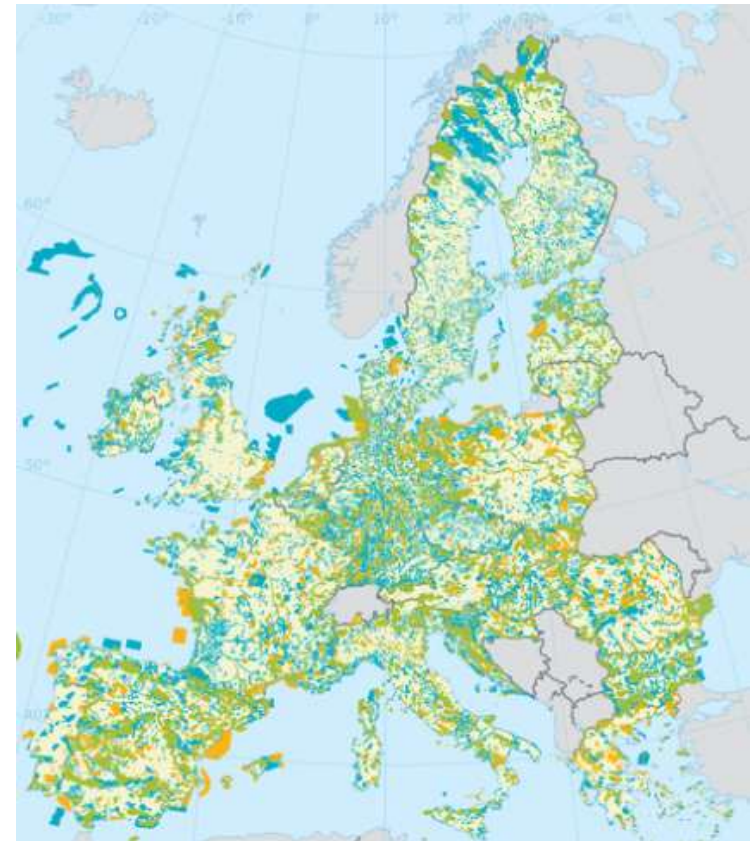
2020 headline target

## 6 Targets:



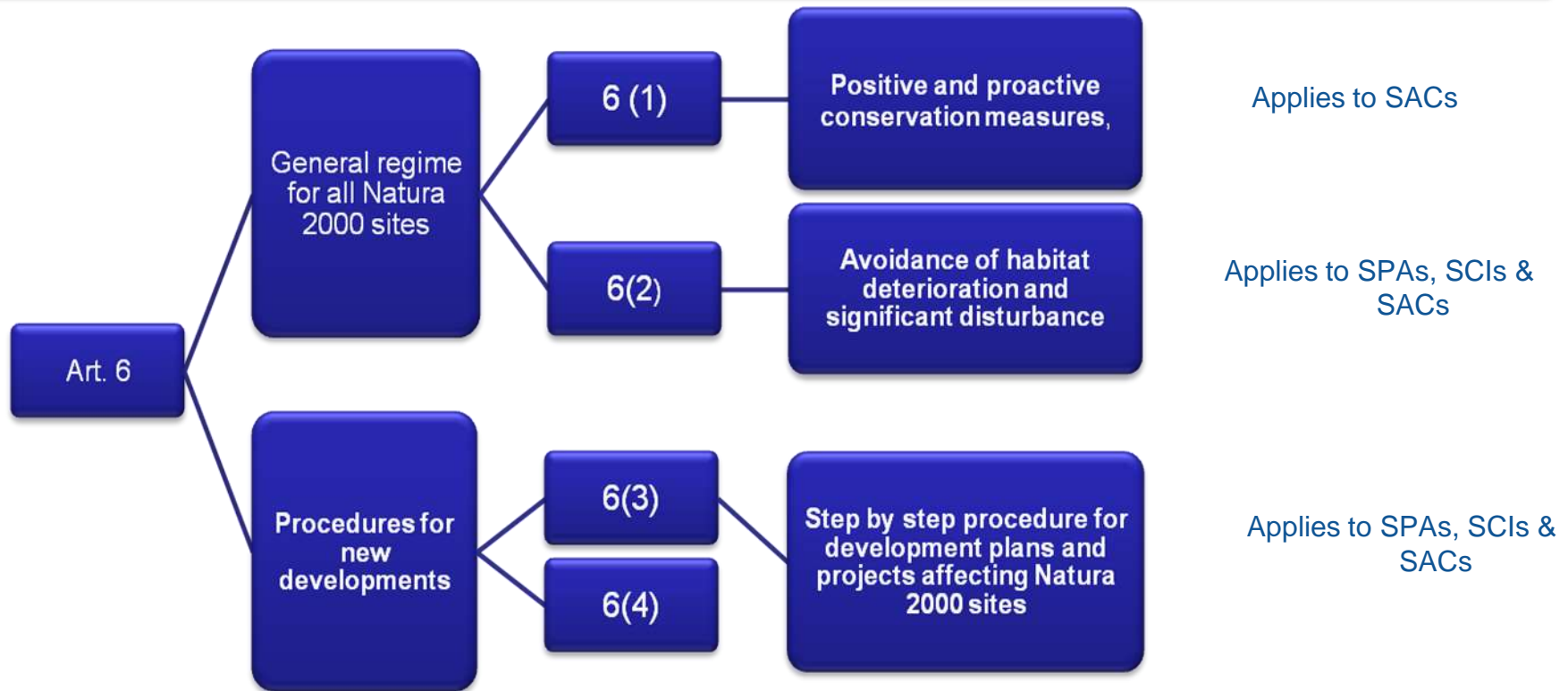
# Natura 2000 – backbone of EU biodiversity policy

- **Natura 2000 and BHDs: target 1 of the BS**
- **Strong spatial component:**
  - More than 27.000 sites
  - Over 1.1million km<sup>2</sup>
  - 18% of the land
  - 6% of the seas
- **Legal framework:**
  - Article 6
  - Article 10
- **Natura 2000: an element of wider EU biodiversity policy, e.g.:**
  - Green Infrastructure
  - Maintenance and restoration of ecosystem services





# Article 6 HD: key provisions for spatial planning





## Article 10: legal incentive for spatial planning in synergy with biodiversity protection

*'Member States shall endeavour, where they consider it necessary, in their land-use planning and development policies and, in particular, with a view to improving the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 network, to encourage the management of features of the landscape which are of major importance for wild fauna and flora.'*

*Such features are those which, by virtue of their linear and continuous structure (such as rivers with their banks or the traditional systems for marking field boundaries) or their function as stepping stones (such as ponds or small woods), are essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species.'*





## **Diagnosis: Nature Directives are fit, implementation is 'half-sick'**

- Too many species/habitats show negative trends
- Only 50% of sites properly managed, marine network incomplete
- Funding shortage
- Cases of inflexible application and permitting delays by national & local authorities
- Insufficient knowledge, awareness, engagement & cooperation
- Natura 2000 alone cannot halt biodiversity loss





European  
Commission

# Fitness check of BHD and spatial planning

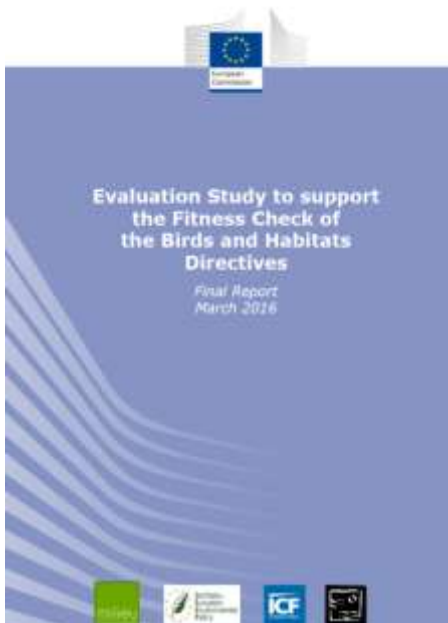
**Evaluation study:** analysis of integration of BHD with spatial planning, SEA and EIA

➤ **Problems:**

- Some sectors problematic (energy, transport, agriculture)
- Appropriate assessment of plans more difficult than of projects (the impact of projects resulting from these plans often unknown)

➤ **Solutions:**

- Good spatial planning supports implementation
- Examples from MS:
  - In DK spatial planning helped remove conflicts between N2000 and developments;
  - In Burgenland (AT) planning of wind farm zones helped increase wind energy production and secured populations of great bustards and imperial eagles;
  - In NL land consolidation plans are example of good zoning.





## Therapy: an Action Plan for Nature, People and the Economy with 4 priorities at equal level

- Priority A: Stepping up implementation for **effective delivery** of the BHDs
- Priority B: Developing and applying smart implementation approaches to **improve efficiency**
- Priority C: Strengthening **investment** in Natura 2000 and **integration** with other policies
- Priority D: Improving access to **knowledge**, stakeholder **engagement**, public **awareness**







# Action Plan: possible actions with relevance for spatial planning and Natura 2000

*Update of guidance documents on Article 6 Habitats Directive*

*Sector specific guidance (e.g. on energy networks and hydropower)*





## Action Plan: possible actions with relevance for spatial planning and Natura 2000

*Initiative for a trans-European network for Green Infrastructure (to improve connectivity) and no-net-loss*

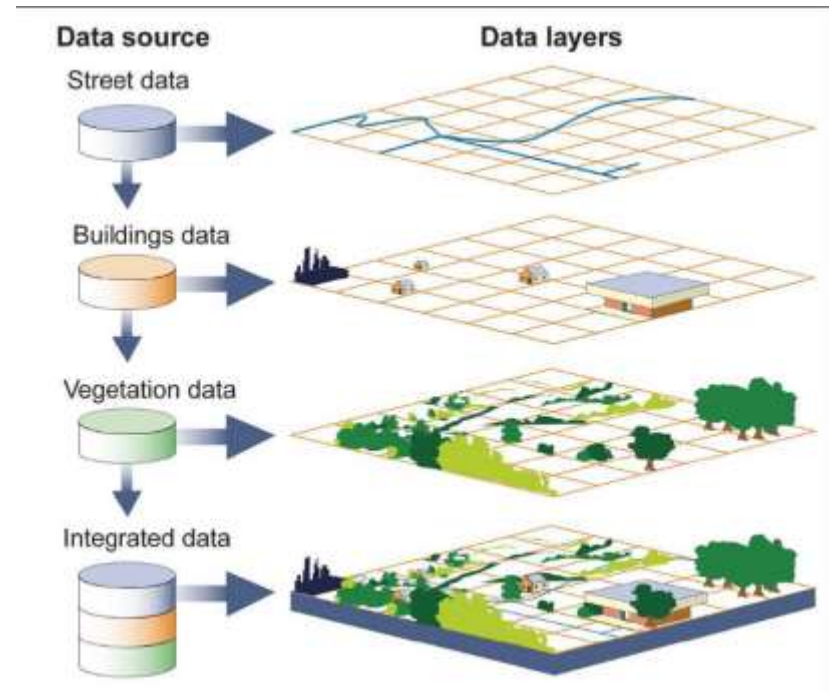
*Develop educational material for spatial planners to raise awareness on Natura 2000 requirements*





## Action Plan: possible actions with relevance for spatial planning and Natura 2000

- *Strengthen communication: new mobile technologies and social media, satellite imagery from COPERNICUS*







# Synergies between spatial planning and Natura 2000: key messages

**Helps ensure compliance**



**Allows integration of different sectors**



**Allows reconciliation of different interests**



**Win-win solutions**



Bank armouring beforehand

Renaturalised river bank after construction works

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## For more information, please consult:

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/index_en.htm)

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