

LIFE Natura 2000 Programme

**Planning a bright future for
Wales' internationally
important wildlife**



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Nature at its best

Wales has 20 Special Protection Areas for vulnerable birds and 92 Special Areas of Conservation for other rare species and threatened natural habitats. Together they are known as Natura 2000, and along with areas across Europe, they form an unparalleled conservation network of international importance for wildlife.

Wales' Natura 2000 network covers more than 700,000 hectares (8.5% of Welsh land area and 35% of territorial waters).



LIFE Natura 2000 Programme for Wales

Organisations from across Wales (representing landowners, regulators and the conservation, farming, fishing and recreation sectors) are coming together to plan how best to manage and restore these prime wildlife areas over the next decade.

The challenge is to set out agreed priorities for Natura 2000 species and habitats, both on land and at sea. The programme will identify issues and plan the actions which are required to significantly improve the condition of these features, safeguarding them for the future. Actions may be changes to policy, small-scale practical improvements, or major innovative conservation projects.

The programme will also determine sources of funding, so actions can be delivered by 2020.

Why is the Natura 2000 network so valuable?

Natura 2000:

- ◆ Provide a vital sanctuary and high level of protection to 69 species and 55 habitats which are internationally threatened.
- ◆ Contribute significantly to the Welsh economy through tourism, recreation, farming, fishing, and forestry.
- ◆ Provide essential life support services for all of us, such as purifying our drinking water and storing carbon.
- ◆ Show us nature at its best, giving enjoyment to millions of visitors every year.



Planning a brighter future...

While some Natura 2000 species and habitats are thriving, in many instances they are declining and in poor condition; so focused and coordinated action is essential.

The Programme, run by Countryside Council for Wales, will:

- ◆ Bring together those involved in Natura 2000 to pool expertise, look at innovative ways to address the threats to their wildlife, and agree the way forward.
- ◆ Consider the needs of the Natura 2000 network strategically, setting Welsh priorities so efforts can be targeted to best effect and where the need is greatest.
- ◆ Calculate the cost of saving these key natural assets, and help mobilise millions of pounds

of new funding from grant schemes and other sources to provide the investment needed (and a boost to local economies).

- ◆ Highlight the benefits to human wellbeing that Natura 2000 can bring; like carbon storage, cleaner water, natural sea defences, green jobs and local enterprise.
- ◆ Provide evidence for decision-makers and grant-givers of the value of Natura 2000.



By 2014 we will have:

- ◆ A solid evidence base, drawing together existing information from across Wales and Europe.
- ◆ Action or implementation plans for every Natura 2000 area, detailing essential activities with costs, funding and work timetables for the period 2014 to 2020.
- ◆ Significant improvements to the database used to store, analyse and access information.
- ◆ A major funding study to assess the value of existing funds and establish new sources.
- ◆ The final agreed Programme, including a delivery plan.

How can my organisation get involved?

Input from organisations with an interest in Natura 2000 is essential to the success of the programme. You can contribute information, ideas and views and get involved in the creation of the action plans and programme by:

- ◆ Coming along to workshops which will take place around Wales in 2013 and 2014.
- ◆ Meeting with members of the team.
- ◆ Signing up to the mailing list for newsletters and updates

Contact

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