

NATURE SCORE CARD



Luxembourg

Luxembourg has been a member of the European Union since 1958. Its Natura 2000 network consists of 66 sites, covering 702km² (27% of the land area). The below analysis and recommendations suggest that national authorities still need to make further efforts in order to fully implement the Birds and Habitats Directives and effective conservation of threatened species and habitats to be achieved on the ground.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transposition of the Birds and Habitats Directives • Site designation • Promotion of research
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of sites • Species protection • Avoid deterioration of sites, disturbance of species and implementation of appropriate assessments • Landscape connectivity • Funding and resources • Habitats and species monitoring • Non-native species • Stakeholder engagement, public participation and communication

ACTION PLAN FOR NATURE IN LUXEMBOURG

Transposition and designation	Prevention of negative impacts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved environmental impact assessment • Prosecution of environmental crimes esp. in relation to Natura 2000
Active management to achieve favourable conservation status <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full Implementation of management plans, conservation measures and Species Action Plans • Compensation measures must be fully implemented • Restoration of ecosystems and their services • Improved connectivity 	Funding
Monitoring and research	Stakeholder engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved collaboration with agriculture • Improved communication strategy • Improved collaboration at government level between their services and stakeholders

The information in this scorecard is based on expert analysis from natur&ëmwelt a.s.b.l. and Mouvement écologique. Full details on the following pages.

LEGAL REQUIREMENT	STATUS IN LUXEMBOURG
<p>Transposition</p> <p>Site designation</p> <p>Designate and establish sites that form the Natura 2000 network of protected areas</p> <p><i>Habitats Directive, art. 3 & 4</i> <i>Birds Directive, art. 3 & 4</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The transposition of the Birds and Habitats Directives is complete • The terrestrial Natura 2000 network is considered complete in Luxembourg. • The 66 Natura 2000 sites cover 13% of the land area. • All Natura 2000 sites are designated and integrated into national legislation. • Natura 2000 is fully implemented within the national system of protected areas.
<p>Management of sites</p> <p>Establish site protection measures in Natura 2000 sites</p> <p><i>Habitats Directive, art. 6(1)</i> <i>Birds Directives, art. 4(1) & 4(2)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The conservation objectives are in the process of being completed • The conservation objectives are not considered adequate yet, as they are mostly focused on maintaining the current state • Management plans have been adopted for 18 Natura 2000 sites (27%). They contain specific targets (both for species and habitats) and suggest conservation measures to achieve these targets. • The management plans are partly implemented. • There are no clearly designated management authorities for Natura 2000 sites yet. The management of Natura 2000 sites is to be shared between all major stakeholders (comité de pilotage). Overall the National Nature and Forestry Administration (ANF) is to play a major role in the management of N2000 sites. Regional coordinators are to be designated in the future.
<p>Species protection</p> <p>Ensure species protection</p> <p><i>Habitats Directive, art. 12-16</i> <i>Birds Directive, art. 5-9</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Species action plans (SAP's) have been approved¹ for 24 animal species like Red kite, Grey partridge, Peewit, Great grey shrike, Quail, Black stork, Little owl and 12 plant species. In addition, also 17 habitat action plans have been developed. • The species action plans are implemented partially. Some plans are implemented on a large scale while others remain rudimentary or have not been implemented yet. • The increased implementation of SAP's has been identified as one of the top priorities of the PNP2 (National Plan of Nature Conservation). • Permits for activities impacting protected species are being issued through the Ministry of Environment but not normally published.
<p>Avoid deterioration of sites, disturbance of species and appropriate assessment</p> <p>Ensure no deterioration of habitats and disturbance to species in Natura 2000 sites</p> <p><i>Habitats Directive, art.6(2)</i></p> <p>Ensure that plans or projects likely to affect Natura 2000 sites are subject to appropriate assessment</p> <p><i>Habitats Directive 6(3)</i></p> <p>Ensure that developments affecting the integrity of the site are not approved unless there are no alternative solutions, and for imperative reasons of overriding public interest and if compensatory measures are taken</p> <p><i>Habitats Directive 6(4)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article 6 procedures to assess projects and plans are generally adequately implemented. • Procedures for impact assessments are in place and generally adhered to. • On several occasions the national courts have questioned decisions, or ruled the permit procedure as insufficient. • Experts and evaluators are independent and properly qualified. The competent authorities sometimes decide to hire additional consultants or external experts to assess potential impacts. • Adverse effects on the site are only partially correctly assessed as not all management plans have been finalized. • The precautionary principle is partially applied. • The "overriding public interest criteria" are overall not enough justified. • Compensation measures are not adequate and not implemented.
<p>Landscape connectivity</p> <p>Encourage the management of landscape features to improve the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connectivity has been identified as a major issue in Luxembourg. Main corridors have been identified and integrated into the National Plan of Nature Conservation PNP2 and PAF within N2000 sites. • Most of the wildlife nature reserves are within the Natura 2000 areas. It's

¹ http://www.environnement.public.lu/conserv_nature/dossiers/Plans_d_actions/Plans_d_actions/index.html

<p>ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 network</p> <p><i>Habitats Directive art. 3(3) & 10</i></p>	<p>planned to have the other ones in the “Plans sectoriels” to improve the landscape connectivity. These plans are not yet ratified.</p>
<p>Funding and resources</p> <p>Identify funding needs</p> <p><i>Habitats Directive, art. 8</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Luxemburg has a Prioritized Action Framework (PAF), which was finalised in April 2015. • The current estimate of financial needs for management of Natura 2000 during 2014-2020 are 33.Mio. € •
<p>Habitats and species monitoring</p> <p>Undertake monitoring of the conservation status of habitats and species of Community importance</p> <p><i>Habitats Directive, art.11</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A monitoring system is in place for all common breeding birds (CBM), and for selected habitats and species. • Monitoring plans and projects have been completed by protected areas’ management bodies, NGO and scientific institutions, enriching the knowledge of the protection of specific habitats and species. • The assessments of conservation status and the underlying data are of good quality. • Data are available in summarized form via the EU website. They are not available nationally unless specifically requested.
<p>Promotion of research</p> <p>Encourage research and scientific work</p> <p><i>Habitats Directive, art. 18</i> <i>Birds Directive, art. 10</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The scientific community in Luxemburg receives support for research projects to assess the status of threatened species.
<p>Non-native species</p> <p>Ensure that introductions of non-native species do not prejudice native habitats and species</p> <p><i>Habitats Directive, art. 22</i> <i>Birds Directive, art. 11</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measures to address the threat caused by invasive alien species are partially foreseen. Where management plans are in place they tend to be effective, but for most invasive species, no plans exist.
<p>Stakeholder engagement, public participation and communication</p> <p>Stakeholder engagement and public participation are key to ensuring effective implementation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is adequate stakeholder participation in the site designation process. Sites to be designated were presented at public events, to which all stakeholders were invited and had the possibility to voice their concerns. • There is stakeholder participation in the development of management plans, but only partially. Draft proposals are presented to a panel which includes all main stakeholders, (Conseil supérieur de la Protection nationale, CSPN) where input and discussion is possible and encouraged. • There is no adequate public consultation processes before approving management plans. • There is adequate stakeholder participation and public consultation on the granting of authorisations under Article 6. • There is no full public participation and transparency in decision-making impacting nature. • Several local and regional initiatives and projects with awareness raising activities on Natura 2000 have been implemented. • There is no Natura 2000 communication strategy for the local level (site level).

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LUXEMBOURG

- Full Implementation of management plans, conservation measures and Species Action Plans
- Compensation measures must be fully implemented in a reasonable timeframe instead of taking years which is now often the case
- Restoration of ecosystems and their services
- Improved connectivity
- Improved environmental impact assessment (Independence)
- Prosecution of environmental crimes esp. in relation to Natura 2000
- Improved collaboration with agriculture (i.e. financial support for sustainable management, etc.)
- Improved communication strategy
- Improved collaboration at government level between their services and stakeholders