



Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora

and

Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds

**FORMAT FOR
A PRIORITISED ACTION FRAMEWORK (PAF)
FOR NATURA 2000**

For the EU Multiannual Financing Period 2014-2020

GIBRALTAR

January 2013

A. Introductory overview of Natura 2000 network for territory

A.1 Short introduction to the habitat types of Annex I and species of Annex II of the Habitats Directive and Annex I and migratory bird species for which Natura 2000 sites are designated

Under Directives 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds and 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats, Gibraltar hosts 10 Annex I habitat types which support 45 species of Annex I, 3 Annex II species, alongside a further 138 priority species.

The **Rock of Gibraltar** nature reserve SAC/SPA (see figure 1) has undergone several transformations in its habitats and uses. Habitats have ranged from a once (presumably) forested landscape to a totally denuded slope during the Great Siege, 1779 – 1783, to a succession of vegetation back to dense maquis with scattered patches of garrigue and pseudosteppe in recent times. More recently, the emphasis has changed to that of a Nature Reserve which remains, a tourist attraction with several tourist sites.

The Rock of Gibraltar SAC/SPA boasts a rich flora, with 363 species having been recorded within the boundary of the Nature Reserve (Linares 2003). The vegetation of the Upper Rock Nature Reserve is dominated by closed Mediterranean shrubland known as maquis (a tall, thick type of Mediterranean matorral), which consists of a dense community of evergreen, sclerophyllous shrubs that typically replaces evergreen woodland after fire or deforestation (Rocamora, 1997), as was the case with the Upper Rock following the initial removal of its Mediterranean woodland. Maquis habitats are not determined by any species of trees or bushes in particular (Tomaselli 1977), but the typical shrub genera that dominate in this habitat, depending on location, soil and other conditions, are *Arbutus*, *Cistus*, *Erica*, *Olea*, *Phyllirea*, *Genista*, *Calycotome*, *Sarothamnus*, *Quercus*, *Ulex*, *Rhamnus*, *Pistacia* and *Myrtus* (Rocamora 1997).

The Rock of Gibraltar, and in particular the Upper Rock Nature Reserve is dominated by a dense cover of mostly maquis, with some garrigue, and these habitats include many important fruit-bearing shrubs that support large passerine populations during passage periods and in winter (Heath et al. 2000). The slopes of the Rock also serve as a staging site for large numbers of passerine and near-passerine migrants. Most migratory western European species can occur at Gibraltar during the northward or southward migration periods (Cortes 1996). The passerine and near-passerine species that occur within the Nature Reserve on migration are listed in table 1, which shows that a number of these birds have an unfavourable conservation status within Europe.

In addition, many migratory birds of prey and storks congregate at the Strait of Gibraltar on their way towards their wintering grounds in Africa. When westerly winds blow across the Strait, Gibraltar itself sees the majority of raptor passage during both the pre-nuptial (northerly) and post-nuptial (southerly) migrations, and most of these birds fly directly over the Upper Rock Nature Reserve. The species that can be observed over the Rock on migration are listed in table 2.

Extending three miles to the East and South of Gibraltar and stretching all the way up to the median line to the West of Gibraltar, the marine SAC/SPA or **Southern Waters of Gibraltar SAC/SPA** has long been recognized as an important marine area due to its rich diversity in species and habitats (see figure 2). Sea cliffs and caves, reefs and sandy marine habitats all

form part of the marine ecosystem found along the southern shores of Gibraltar. The abundance and richness of species is largely influenced by the strong currents and upwelling that are so characteristic of the Strait of Gibraltar. Seasonal abundance, due to migratory movements between the Mediterranean and the Atlantic, results in a multitude of pelagic and predatory fish along with cetaceans including the Striped and Common Dolphins. The latter cetaceans breed in the Bay of Gibraltar.

The Southern Waters of Gibraltar SAC/SPA is also located on an important migration route for seabirds. Many species stop over and feed within the marine SAC/SPA during their migratory journeys and some, such as the Cory's Shearwater, forage in the marine SAC/SPA whilst breeding. Other species rely on the SAC/SPA during the winter in variable numbers depending on weather conditions (e.g. numbers of Gannets feeding inshore during storms).

Table 1. Migrant passerines and near-passerines of the Upper Rock Nature Reserve, together with their frequency of occurrence and conservation status and category attributed to them by BirdLife International.

| Common Name | Scientific Name | Frequency of Occurrence | SPEC Category | European Threat Status |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|------------------------|
| stone curlew | <i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i> | O | 3 | V |
| woodpigeon | <i>Columba palumbus</i> | O | 4 | S |
| turtle dove | <i>Streptopelia turtur</i> | R | 3 | D |
| great spotted cuckoo | <i>Clamator galandrius</i> | R | | S |
| common cuckoo | <i>Cuculus canorus</i> | O | | S |
| European scops owl | <i>Otus scops</i> | R | 2 | D |
| common nightjar | <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i> | R | 2 | D |
| red-necked nightjar | <i>Caprimulgus ruficollis</i> | R | | S |
| common swift | <i>Apus apus</i> | R | | S |
| pallid swift | <i>Apus pallidus</i> | R | | S |
| alpine swift | <i>Apus melba</i> | R | | S |
| European bee-eater | <i>Merops apiaster</i> | R | 3 | D |

| Common Name | Scientific Name | Frequency of Occurrence | SPEC Category | Threat Status |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| European roller | <i>Coracias garrulus</i> | O | 2 | D |
| Eurasian hoopoe | <i>Upupa epops</i> | R | | S |
| Eurasian wryneck | <i>Jynx torquilla</i> | R | 3 | D |
| short-toed lark | <i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i> | R | 3 | V |
| woodlark | <i>Lullula arborea</i> | O | 2 | V |
| common skylark | <i>Alauda arvensis</i> | R | 3 | V |
| sand martin | <i>Riparia riparia</i> | R | 3 | D |
| crag martin | <i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i> | R | | S |
| barn swallow | <i>Hirundo rustica</i> | R | 3 | D |
| red-rumped swallow | <i>Hirundo daurica</i> | R | | S |
| house martin | <i>Delichon urbica</i> | R | | S |
| tawny pipit | <i>Anthus campestris</i> | R | 3 | V |
| tree pipit | <i>Anthus trivialis</i> | R | | S |
| meadow pipit | <i>Anthus pratensis</i> | R | 4 | S |
| yellow wagtail | <i>Motacilla flava</i> | R | | S |
| grey wagtail | <i>Motacilla cinerea</i> | R | | S |
| white wagtail | <i>Motacilla alba</i> | R | | S |
| rufous bush robin | <i>Cercotrichas galactotes</i> | O | | S |
| European robin | <i>Erithacus rubecula</i> | R | 4 | S |
| common nightingale | <i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i> | R | 4 | S |
| black redstart | <i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i> | R | | S |
| common redstart | <i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i> | R | 2 | V |
| whinchat | <i>Saxicola rubetra</i> | R | 4 | S |
| stonechat | <i>Saxicola torquata</i> | R | 3 | D |
| northern wheatear | <i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i> | R | | S |
| black-eared wheatear | <i>Oenanthe hispanica</i> | R | 2 | V |
| rock thrush | <i>Monticola saxatilis</i> | O | 3 | D |
| ring ouzel | <i>Turdus torquatus</i> | R | 4 | S |
| song thrush | <i>Turdus philomelos</i> | R | 4 | S |

| | | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|---|---|
| redwing | <i>Turdus iliacus</i> | R | 4 | S |
| zitting cisticola | <i>Cisticola juncidis</i> | R | | S |
| grasshopper warbler | <i>Locustella naevia</i> | R | 4 | S |
| sedge warbler | <i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i> | O | 4 | S |
| European reed warbler | <i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i> | R | 4 | S |
| olivaceous warbler | <i>Hippolais pallida</i> | O | 3 | V |
| melodious warbler | <i>Hippolais polyglotta</i> | R | 4 | S |
| Dartford warbler | <i>Sylvia undata</i> | R | 2 | V |
| spectacled warbler | <i>Sylvia conspicillata</i> | R | | S |
| subalpine warbler | <i>Sylvia cantillans</i> | R | 4 | S |
| Orphean warbler | <i>Sylvia hortensis</i> | R | 3 | V |
| common whitethroat | <i>Sylvia communis</i> | R | 4 | S |
| garden warbler | <i>Sylvia borin</i> | R | 4 | S |
| blackcap | <i>Sylvia atricapilla</i> | R | 4 | S |
| western Bonelli's warbler | <i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i> | R | 4 | S |
| wood warbler | <i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i> | O | 4 | S |
| common chiffchaff | <i>Phylloscopus collybita</i> | R | | S |
| willow warbler | <i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i> | R | | S |
| firecrest | <i>Regulus ignicapillus</i> | R | 4 | S |
| spotted flycatcher | <i>Muscicapa striata</i> | R | 3 | D |
| pied flycatcher | <i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i> | R | 4 | S |
| Short-toed treecreeper | <i>Certhia brachydactyla</i> | O | 4 | S |
| golden oriole | <i>Oriolus oriolus</i> | R | | S |
| woodchat shrike | <i>Lanius senator</i> | R | 2 | V |
| Spanish sparrow | <i>Passer hispaniolensis</i> | O | | S |

| Common Name | Scientific Name | Frequency of Occurrence | SPEC Category | Threat Status |
|------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| chaffinch | <i>Fringilla coelebs</i> | R | 4 | S |
| brambling | <i>Fringilla montifringilla</i> | O | | S |
| European serin | <i>Serinus serinus</i> | R | 4 | S |
| greenfinch | <i>Carduelis chloris</i> | R | 4 | S |
| goldfinch | <i>Carduelis carduelis</i> | R | | S |
| siskin | <i>Carduelis spinus</i> | R | 4 | S |
| linnet | <i>Carduelis cannabina</i> | R | | S |
| common crossbill | <i>Loxia curvirostra</i> | O | | S |
| ortolan bunting | <i>Emberiza hortulana</i> | R | 2 | V |

Frequency of Occurrence:

R = regular (every year)

O = occasional

SPEC category (Taken from Tucker & Heath (1994)):

1 = species of global conservation concern

2 = concentrated in Europe and with an unfavourable conservation status

3 = not concentrated in Europe but with an unfavourable conservation status

4 = concentrated in Europe and with a favourable conservation status

European Threat Status (Taken from Tucker & Heath (1994)):

E = Endangered

V = Vulnerable

D = Declining

R = Rare

S = Stable

Table 2. Raptor, stork and crane species that can be seen from the Upper Rock Nature Reserve on migration, together with their frequency of occurrence and conservation status and the category attributed to them by BirdLife International (which follow those of table 1).

| Common Name | Scientific Name | Frequency of Occurrence | SPEC Category | Threat Status |
|-------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| black stork | <i>Ciconia nigra</i> | R | 3 | R |
| white stork | <i>Ciconia ciconia</i> | R | 2 | V |
| honey buzzard | <i>Pernis apivorus</i> | R | 4 | S |
| black-winged kite | <i>Elanus caeruleus</i> | O | 3 | V |
| black kite | <i>Milvus migrans</i> | R | 3 | V |
| red kite | <i>Milvus milvus</i> | R | 4 | S |
| griffon vulture | <i>Gyps fulvus</i> | R | 3 | R |
| cinereous vulture | <i>Aegypius monachus</i> | O | 3 | V |
| short-toed eagle | <i>Circus gallicus</i> | R | 3 | R |
| marsh harrier | <i>Circus aeruginosus</i> | R | | S |
| hen harrier | <i>Circus cyaneus</i> | R | 3 | V |

| | | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|---|---|---|
| Montagu's harrier | <i>Circus pygargus</i> | R | 4 | S |
| goshawk | <i>Accipiter gentilis</i> | O | | S |
| sparrowhawk | <i>Accipiter nisus</i> | R | | S |
| common buzzard | <i>Buteo buteo</i> | R | | S |
| Spanish imperial eagle | <i>Aquila adalberti</i> | O | 1 | E |
| booted eagle | <i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i> | R | 3 | R |
| Bonelli's eagle | <i>Hieraaetus fasciatus</i> | R | 3 | E |
| osprey | <i>Pandion haliaetus</i> | R | 3 | R |
| lesser kestrel | <i>Falco naumanni</i> | R | 1 | V |
| common kestrel | <i>Falco tinnunculus</i> | R | 3 | D |
| merlin | <i>Falco columbarius</i> | O | | S |
| hobby | <i>Falco subbuteo</i> | R | | S |
| Eleonora's falcon | <i>Falco eleonora</i> | R | 2 | R |
| lanner | <i>Falco biarmicus</i> | O | 3 | E |
| peregrine | <i>Falco peregrinus</i> | R | 3 | R |
| European crane | <i>Grus grus</i> | O | 3 | V |

Frequency of Occurrence:

R = regular (every year)

O = occasional

SPEC category (Taken from Tucker & Heath (1994)):

1 = species of global conservation concern

2 = concentrated in Europe and with an unfavourable conservation status

3 = not concentrated in Europe but with an unfavourable conservation status

4 = concentrated in Europe and with a favourable conservation status

European Threat Status (Taken from Tucker & Heath (1994)):

E = Endangered

V = Vulnerable

D = Declining

R = Rare

S = Stable

Sources of information:

Cortes, J.E. (1979) A description of the vegetation of Gibraltar, with considerations on its development. B.Sc. Thesis, Royal Holloway College.

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Tucker, G.M. & Heath, M.F. (1994) Birds in Europe: their conservation status.

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A.2 Number and area of Natura 2000 sites

| | |
|---|--|
| Sites of Community Importance (SCIs) | <i>Number and Area</i> 2 |
| Reference to Commission Decisions on SCIs | <p><u><i>Link to Decisions at Commission Decision</i></u></p> <p><i>2012/9/EU of 18 November 2011 adopting, pursuant to Council Directive 92/43/EEC, a fifth updated list of sites of Community importance for the Mediterranean biogeographical region (notified under document number C(2011) 8172)</i></p> <p><i>2011/85/EU of 10 January 2011 adopting, pursuant to Council Directive 92/43/EEC, a fourth updated list of sites of Community importance for the Mediterranean biogeographical region (notified under document number C(2010) 9676)</i></p> <p><i>2010/45/EU of 22 December 2009 adopting, pursuant to Council Directive 92/43/EEC, a third updated list of sites of Community importance for the Mediterranean biogeographical region (notified under document number C(2009) 10406)</i></p> <p><i>2009/95/EC of 12 December 2008 adopting, pursuant to Council Directive 92/43/EEC, a second updated list of sites of Community importance for the Mediterranean biogeographical region (notified under document number C(2008) 8049)</i></p> <p><i>2008/335/EC of 28 March 2008 adopting, pursuant to Council Directive 92/43/EEC, a first updated list of sites of Community importance for the Mediterranean biogeographical region (notified under document number C(2008) 1148)</i></p> <p><i>2006/613/EC of 19 July 2006 adopting, pursuant to Council Directive 92/43/EEC, the list of sites of Community importance for the Mediterranean biogeographical region (notified under document number C(2006) 3261)</i></p> <p>http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/sites_hab/biogeog_regions/index_en.htm</p> |
| Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) | <i>Number and Area</i> 2 |
| Special Protection Areas (SPAs) | <i>Number and Area</i> 2 |
| Total Natura 2000 terrestrial area | <i>To be compiled</i> 200.5 (ha) |
| Total Natura 2000 marine area | <i>To be compiled</i> 5486.5 (ha) |

Figure 1. Outline map of Gibraltar with the boundary of the Rock of Gibraltar SAC/SPA.



Key:

Rock of Gibraltar Special Area of Conservation

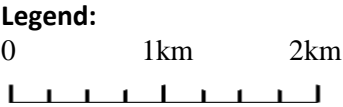
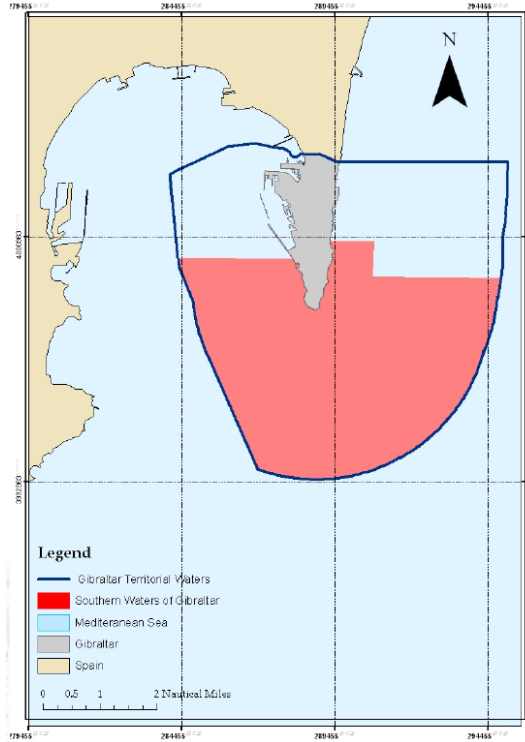
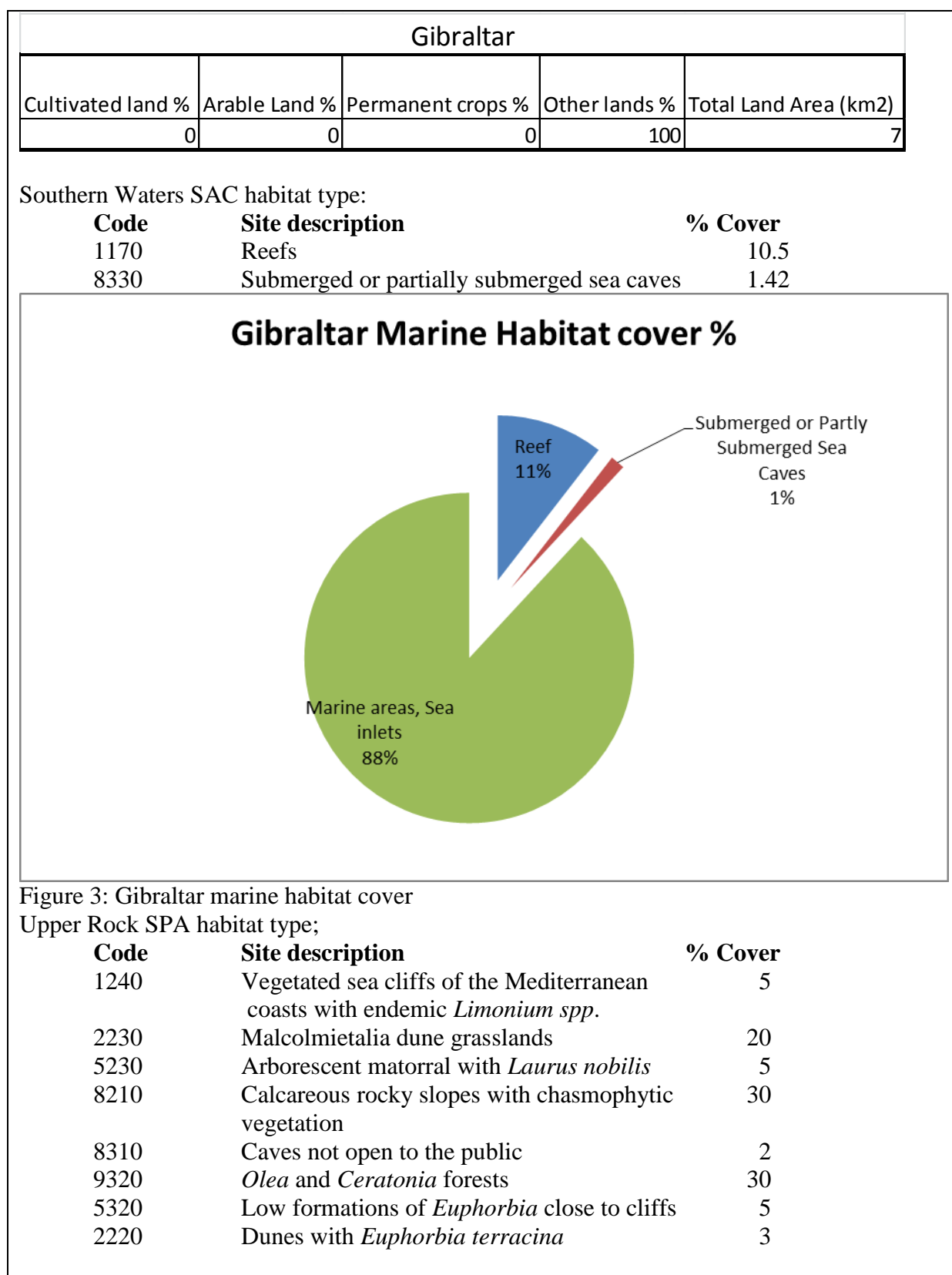


Figure 2. Extent and location of the Southern Waters of Gibraltar SAC / SPA



A.3 Main land use cover and ecosystem categories for Natura 2000 sites



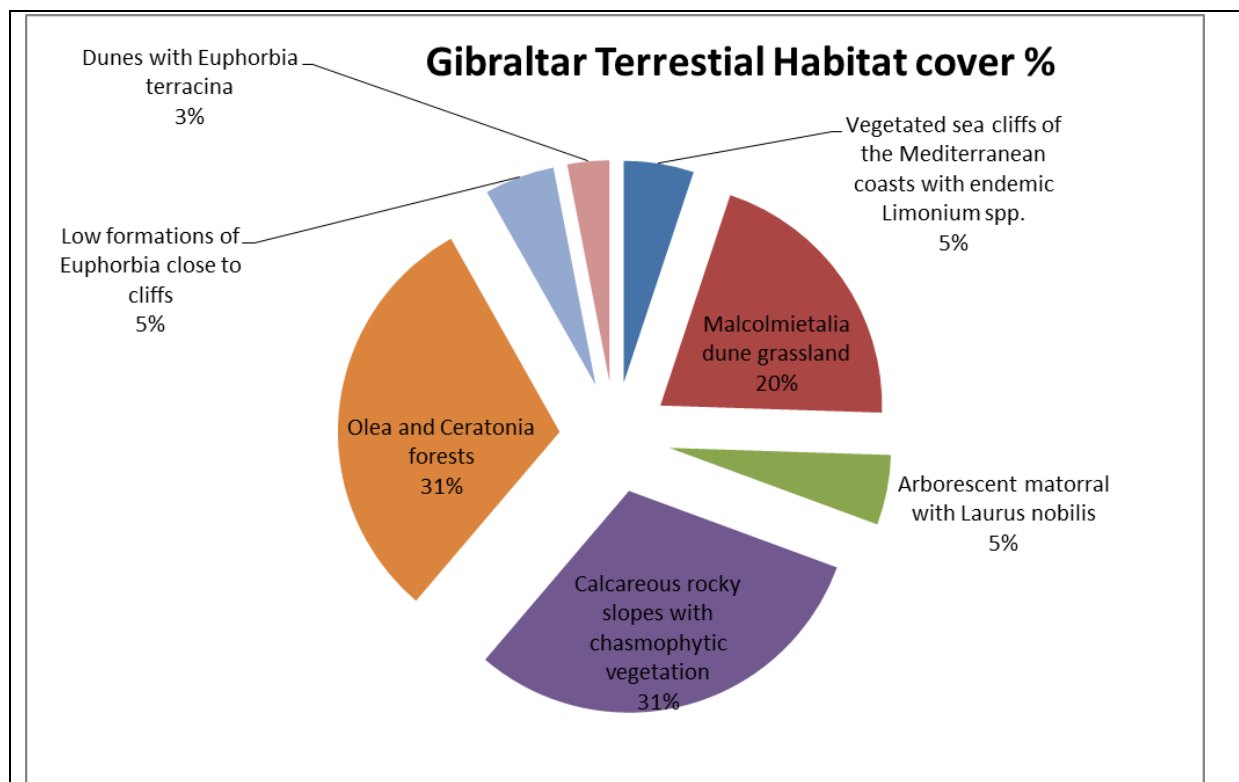


Figure 4: Gibraltar terrestrial habitat cover

Table 3. Cortes' (1979) classification of vegetation types on the Upper Rock. Domin values are given as approximations, and both these and species compositions may obviously differ slightly from one area to another.

| Vegetation Type | Species | (Approximate) Domin Value |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| High Maquis | <i>Olea europea</i> | 8 |
| | <i>Pistacia lentiscus</i> | 5 |
| | <i>Rhamnus alaternus</i> | 5 |
| | <i>Osyris quadripartita</i> | 4 |
| | <i>Chamaerops humilis</i> | 3 |
| | <i>Calicotome villosa</i> | 2 |
| | <i>Genista linifolia</i> | 2 |
| | <i>Acanthus mollis</i> | 5 |
| | <i>Pinus pinea</i> (in some areas) | 8-9 |
| Low Maquis | <i>Genista linifolia</i> | 9 |
| | <i>Calicotome villosa</i> | 5 |
| | <i>Olea europea</i> | 5 |
| | <i>Pistacia lentiscus</i> | 4 |
| | <i>Osyris quadripartita</i> | 3 |
| | <i>Coronilla valentina</i> | 3 |
| Maquio-garrigue | <i>Olea europea</i> | 6 |
| | <i>Oxalis pes-capre</i> | 6 |
| | <i>Hyparrhenia hirta</i> | 6 |
| | <i>Rhamnus alaternus</i> | 5 |
| | <i>Osyris quadripartita</i> | 3 |
| | <i>Calicotome villosa</i> | 3 |
| | <i>Genista linifolia</i> | 3 |
| | <i>Pistacia lentiscus</i> | 3 |
| | <i>Coronilla valentina</i> | 2 |
| Garrigue | bare ground | 5 |
| | <i>Oxalis pes-capre</i> | 5 |
| | <i>Narcissus papyraceus</i> | 5 |
| | <i>Acanthus mollis</i> | 4 |
| | <i>Pistacia lentiscus</i> | 3 |
| | <i>Asphodelus aestivus</i> | 3 |

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| | <i>Chamaerops humilis</i> | 3 |
| Pseudosteppe & Steppe | bare ground | 5 |
| | <i>Dactylis glomerata</i> | 5 |
| | <i>Ferula tingitana</i> | 3 |
| | <i>Smyrniololus olusatrum</i> | 3 |
| | <i>Asteriscus maritimus</i> | 3 |
| | <i>Asphodelus aestivus</i> | 3 |
| | <i>Narcissus papyraceus</i> | 3 |
| | <i>Gladiolus communis</i> | 2 |

Table 4. Domin scale, with the definition of each value.

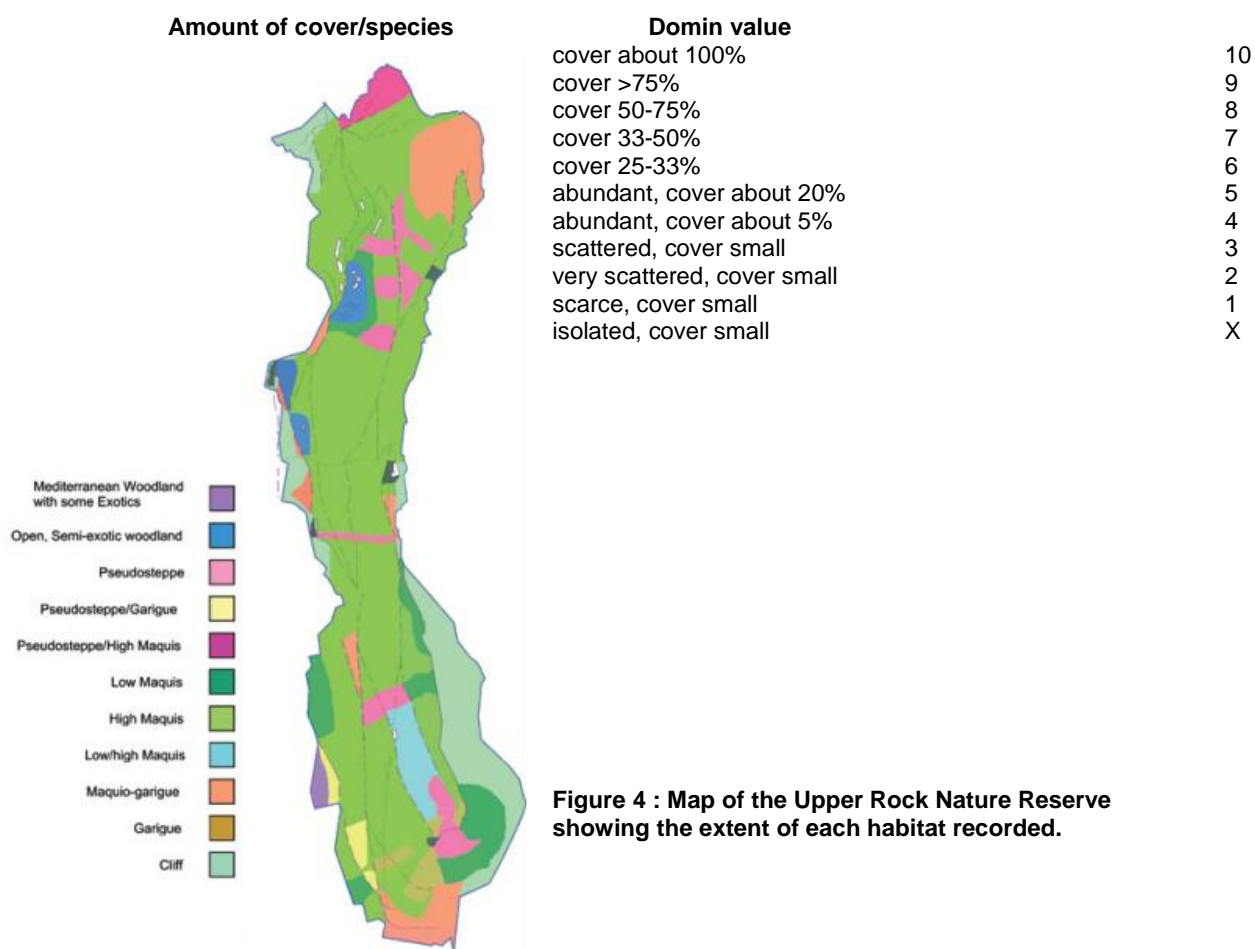


Figure 5: Marine Conservation Zones within British Gibraltar Territorial Water

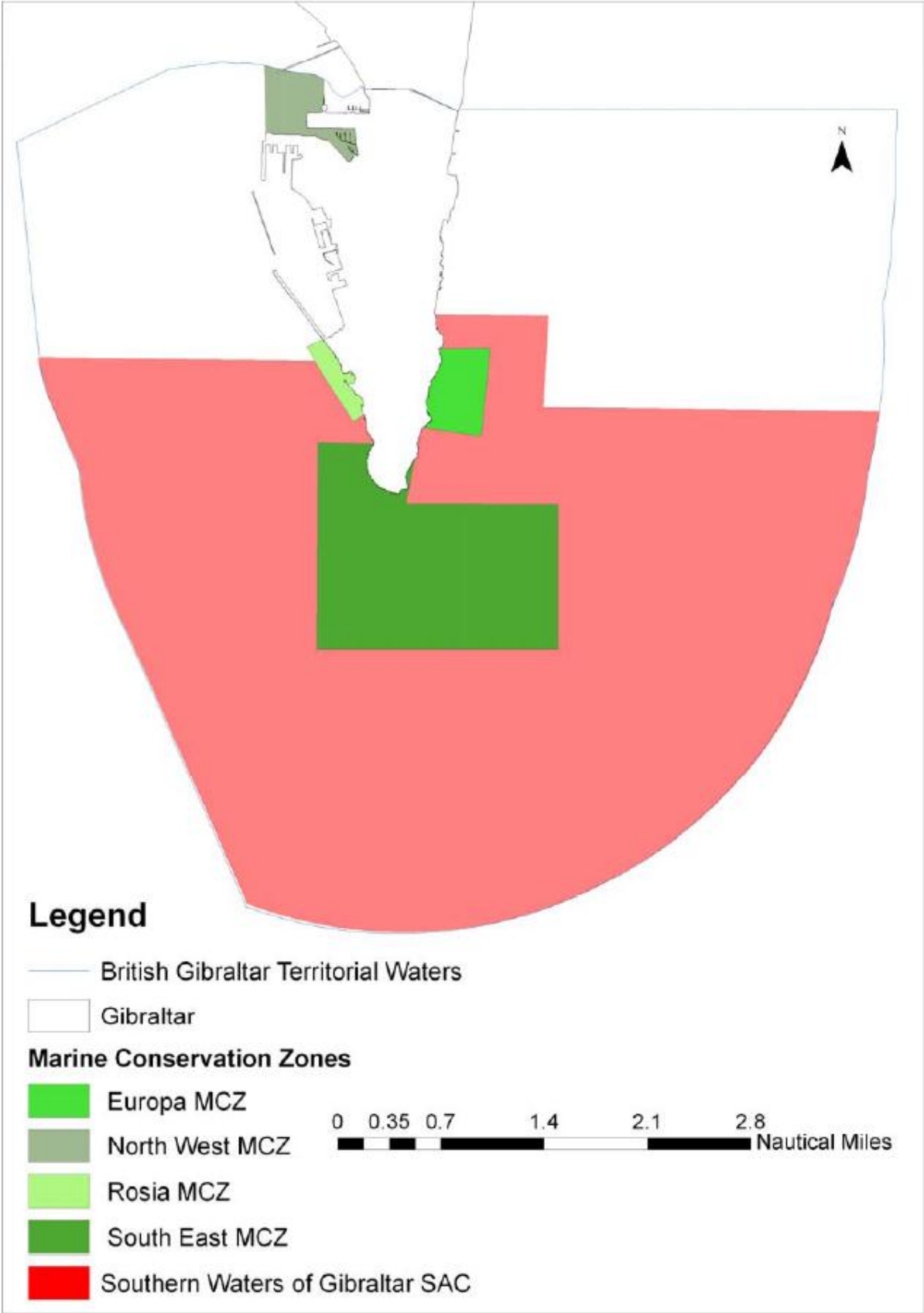


Figure 6: Reefs – (EU Habitat code 1170)

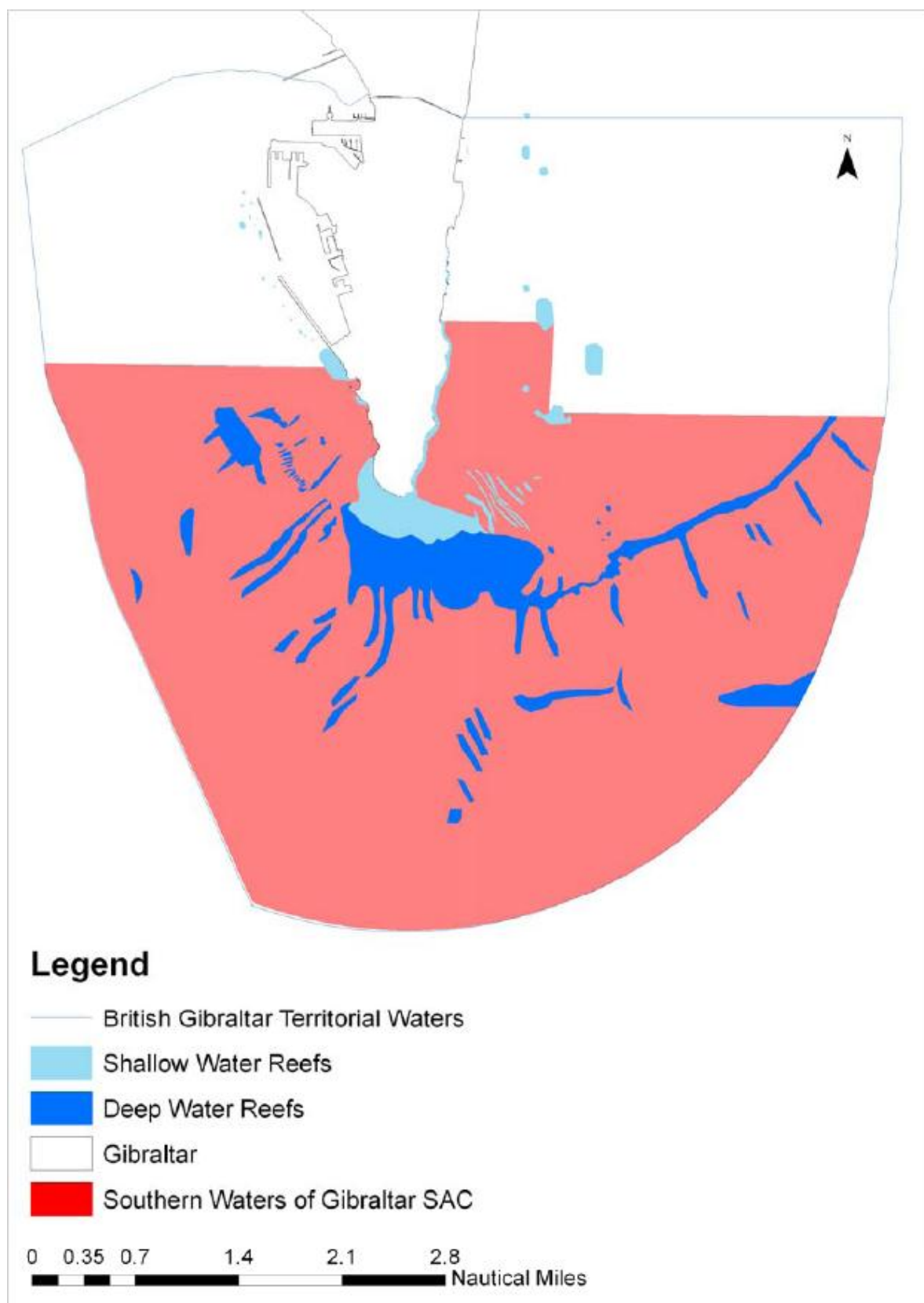
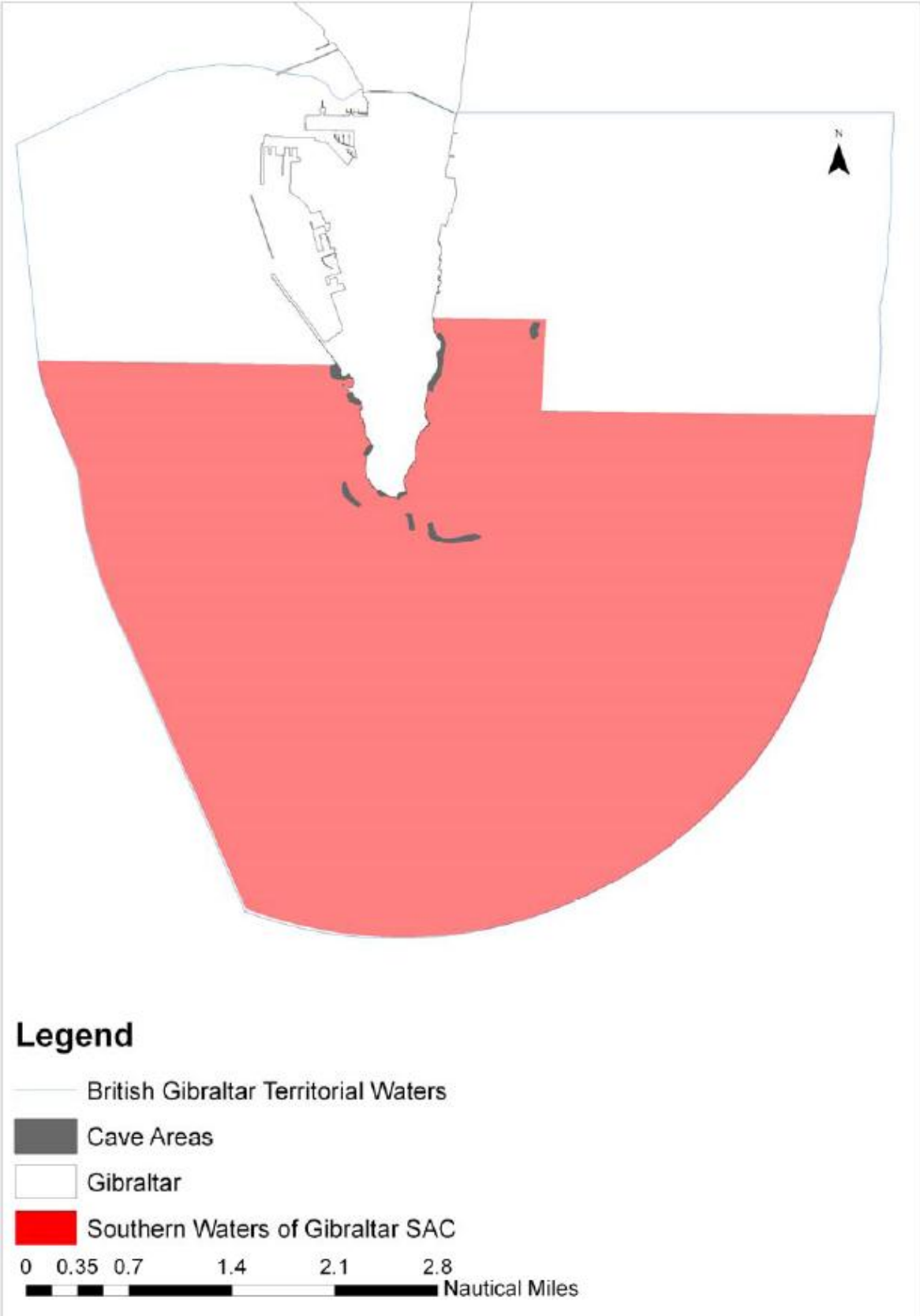


Figure 7: Submerged or Partially submerged sea caves – (EU Habitat code 8830)



B. Status of the Habitats and Species

B.1 Most recent assessment of conservation status of species and habitat types for territory*

B.1.a Habitat and species of Habitats Directive

| | HABITATS | | | | | SPECIES | | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------|----|----|----|----|---------|----|----|----|----|
| | FV | U1 | U2 | XX | NA | FV | U1 | U2 | XX | NA |
| Rock of Gibraltar | 6 | 2 | | | | | | 1 | | 1 |
| Southern Waters | 1 | 1 | | | | | 3 | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| Member State or Region | | | | | | | | | | |

FV – Favourable; U1 – Unfavourable inadequate; U2 – Unfavourable bad; XX - Unknown; NA – Not reported

*Information obtained from Six Year Report for the EC Habitats Directive 2000 -2006 August 2007, new report scheduled for publication in spring 2013.

| Region / Conclusion | HABITATS | | | | | SPECIES | | | | |
|---------------------|----------|----|----|----|----|---------|----|----|----|----|
| | FV | U1 | U2 | XX | NA | FV | U1 | U2 | XX | NA |
| Range | 8 | | | | | 3 | 1 | | | 1 |
| Area / Population | 6 | 2 | | | | 2 | 2 | | | 1 |
| Structure / Habitat | 6 | 2 | | | | 3 | 1 | | | 1 |
| Future Prospects | 6 | 2 | | | | 3 | 3 | 1 | | 1 |

*Information obtained from Six Year Report for the EC Habitats Directive 2000 -2006 August 2007, new report scheduled for publication in spring 2013.

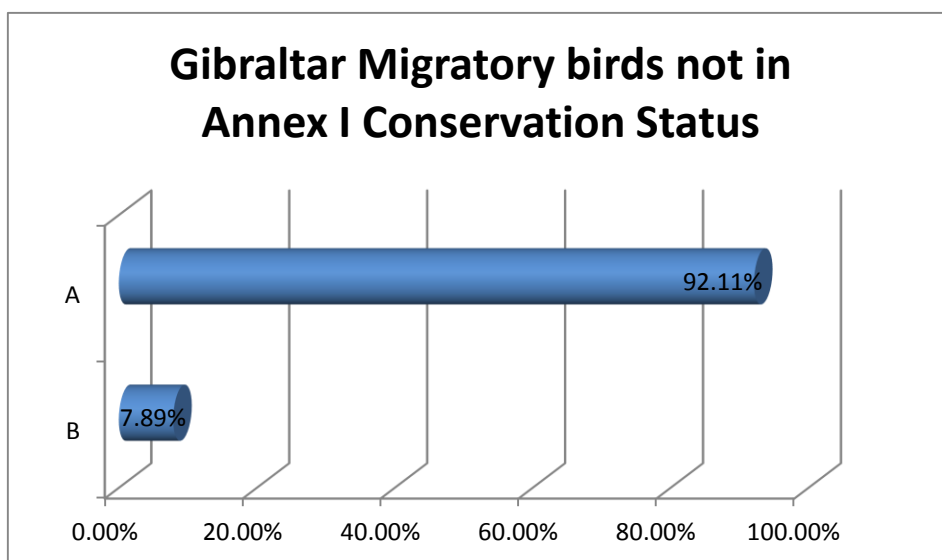
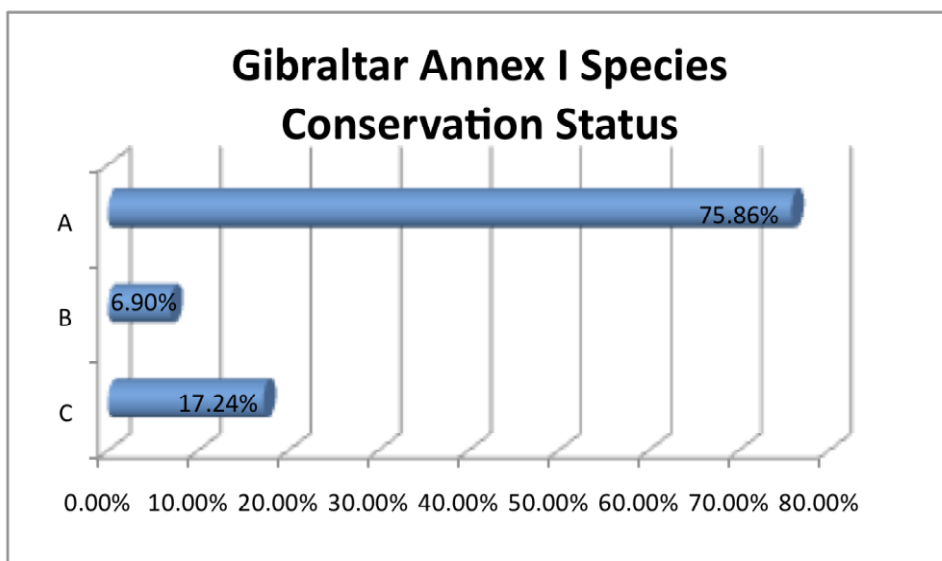
B.1.b Bird species of Birds Directive

Birds listed on Annex 1

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1. A079 <i>Aegypius monachus</i> | 2. A229 <i>Alcedo atthis</i> |
| 3. A111 <i>Alectoris barbara</i> | 4. A255 <i>Anthus campestris</i> |
| 5. A215 <i>Bubo bubo</i> | 6. A243 <i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i> |
| 7. A224 <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i> | 8. A031 <i>Ciconia ciconia</i> |
| 9. A030 <i>Ciconia nigra</i> | 10. A080 <i>Circaetus gallicus</i> |
| 11. A081 <i>Circus aeruginosus</i> | 12. A082 <i>Circus cyaneus</i> |
| 13. A084 <i>Circus pygargus</i> | 14. A379 <i>Emberiza hortulana</i> |
| 15. A098 <i>Falco columbarius</i> | 16. A100 <i>Falco eleonora</i> |
| 17. A095 <i>Falco naumanni</i> | 18. A103 <i>Falco peregrinus</i> |
| 19. A245 <i>Galerida theklae</i> | 20. A078 <i>Gyps fulvus</i> |
| 21. A092 <i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i> | 22. A246 <i>Lullula arborea</i> |
| 23. A073 <i>Milvus migrans</i> | 24. A074 <i>Milvus milvus</i> |
| 25. A077 <i>Neophron percnopterus</i> | 26. A094 <i>Pandion haliaetus</i> |
| 27. A072 <i>Pernis apivorus</i> | 28. A392 <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis desmarestii</i> |
| 29. A302 <i>Sylvia undata</i> | |

Migratory Birds not listed on Annex 1

| | | | | | |
|-----|------|--------------------------------|-----|------|--------------------------------|
| 1. | A086 | <i>Accipiter nisus</i> | 2. | A297 | <i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i> |
| 3. | A247 | <i>Alauda arvensis</i> | 4. | A257 | <i>Anthus pratensis</i> |
| 5. | A256 | <i>Anthus trivialis</i> | 6. | A226 | <i>Apus apus</i> |
| 7. | A227 | <i>Apus pallidus</i> | 8. | A087 | <i>Buteo buteo</i> |
| 9. | A225 | <i>Caprimulgus ruficollis</i> | 10. | A366 | <i>Carduelis cannabina</i> |
| 11. | A364 | <i>Carduelis carduelis</i> | 12. | A363 | <i>Carduelis chloris</i> |
| 13. | A365 | <i>Carduelis spinus</i> | 14. | A268 | <i>Cercotrichas galactotes</i> |
| 15. | A335 | <i>Certhia brachydactyla</i> | 16. | A289 | <i>Cisticola juncidis</i> |
| 17. | A211 | <i>Clamator glandarius</i> | 18. | A113 | <i>Coturnix coturnix</i> |
| 19. | A212 | <i>Cuculus canorus</i> | 20. | A253 | <i>Delichon urbicum</i> |
| 21. | A269 | <i>Erithacus rubecula</i> | 22. | A099 | <i>Falco subbuteo</i> |
| 23. | A096 | <i>Falco tinnunculus</i> | 24. | A322 | <i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i> |
| 25. | A359 | <i>Fringilla coelebs</i> | 26. | A438 | <i>Hippolais pallida</i> |
| 27. | A300 | <i>Hippolais polyglotta</i> | 28. | A252 | <i>Hirundo daurica</i> |
| 29. | A251 | <i>Hirundo rustica</i> | 30. | A233 | <i>Jynx torquilla</i> |
| 31. | A341 | <i>Lanius senator</i> | 32. | A290 | <i>Locustella naevia</i> |
| 33. | A271 | <i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i> | 34. | A230 | <i>Merops apiaster</i> |
| 35. | A383 | <i>Miliaria calandra</i> | 36. | A280 | <i>Monticola saxatilis</i> |
| 37. | A281 | <i>Monticola solitarius</i> | 38. | A262 | <i>Motacilla alba</i> |
| 39. | A261 | <i>Motacilla cinerea</i> | 40. | A260 | <i>Motacilla flava</i> |
| 41. | A319 | <i>Muscicapa striata</i> | 42. | A278 | <i>Oenanthe hispanica</i> |
| 43. | A277 | <i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i> | 44. | A337 | <i>Oriolus oriolus</i> |
| 45. | A214 | <i>Otus scops</i> | 46. | A273 | <i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i> |
| 47. | A274 | <i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i> | 48. | A313 | <i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i> |
| 49. | A315 | <i>Phylloscopus collybita</i> | 50. | A618 | <i>Phylloscopus ibericus</i> |
| 51. | A314 | <i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i> | 52. | A316 | <i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i> |
| 53. | A267 | <i>Prunella collaris</i> | 54. | A266 | <i>Prunella modularis</i> |
| 55. | A250 | <i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i> | 56. | A318 | <i>Regulus ignicapillus</i> |
| 57. | A249 | <i>Riparia riparia</i> | 58. | A275 | <i>Saxicola rubetra</i> |
| 59. | A276 | <i>Saxicola torquatus</i> | 60. | A155 | <i>Scolopax rusticola</i> |
| 61. | A361 | <i>Serinus serinus</i> | 62. | A210 | <i>Streptopelia turtur</i> |
| 63. | A351 | <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i> | 64. | A311 | <i>Sylvia atricapilla</i> |
| 65. | A310 | <i>Sylvia borin</i> | 66. | A304 | <i>Sylvia cantillans</i> |
| 67. | A309 | <i>Sylvia communis</i> | 68. | A303 | <i>Sylvia conspicillata</i> |
| 69. | A306 | <i>Sylvia hortensis</i> | 70. | A305 | <i>Sylvia melanocephala</i> |
| 71. | A228 | <i>Apus melba</i> | 72. | A286 | <i>Turdus iliacus</i> |
| 73. | A283 | <i>Turdus merula</i> | 74. | A285 | <i>Turdus philomelos</i> |
| 75. | A282 | <i>Turdus torquatus</i> | 76. | A232 | <i>Upupa epops</i> |



CONSERVATION: Degree of conservation of the features of the habitat which are important for the species concerned, and possibilities for restoration.

This criterion comprises two sub-criteria:

- i) degree of conservation of the features of the habitat important for the species
- ii) restoration possibilities

Synthesis

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| A. conservation excellent | = elements in an excellent condition, independent of the grading of the possibility of restoration |
| B: good conservation | = elements well conserved independent of the grading of the possibility of restoration |
| C: average or reduced conservation | = all other combinations |

Birds comments

The Upper Rock Nature Reserve boasts an impressive diversity of birds. This is largely due to its geographical position; the Strait of Gibraltar provides the most important bottleneck for migrating birds in Western Europe. An estimated 250,000 raptors cross the Strait in a season, and many passerines and near-passerines use the Rock as a stop-over site (Heath & Evans 2000). The number of these that cross the Strait undoubtedly exceeds that of soaring birds by many thousands (Moreau 1961). As well as this, a number of species that BirdLife International deem to be of European conservation concern (SPECs) breed regularly within the Upper Rock. These include the lesser kestrel *Falco naumanni*, which is of global conservation concern (Tucker & Heath 1994; Heath & Evans 2000).

B.2 Overall assessment of conservation status by Habitat category / species group

Please refer to section G3 for an overall assessment of conservation status for both habitats and species in the Rock of Gibraltar SAC/SPA and the Southern Waters of Gibraltar SAC/SPA.

B.3 Overview of pressures and threats to species and habitats

| Category of pressure / threat | HABITATS | | SPECIES | |
|---|------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|
| | Actual pressures | Future threats | Actual pressures | Future threats |
| Agriculture, Forestry | 1 | | | |
| Fishing, hunting and collecting | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 |
| Mining and extraction of materials | 1 | | | |
| Urbanisation, industrialisation and similar activities | | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Transportation and communication | | | | |
| Leisure and tourism (other than above) | 1 | 2 | | |
| Pollution and other human impacts/activities | 6 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Human induced changes in wetlands and marine environments | 1 | | | |
| Natural processes (biotic and abiotic) | 8 | 5 | 1 | 1 |

Number of key pressures and threats relevant to the management and restoration of the Natura 2000 sites

C. LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS FOR THE PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE NATURA 2000 SITES

C.1 Relevant legal provisions

Nature Protection Act 1991

Marine Protection Regulations

| The Directive and the provisions | Main Legislative Provisions |
|--|--|
| <p>Birds Directive</p> <p>Art 2 - Obligation to take measures to maintain populations of <u>all</u> wild birds at levels corresponding to ecological, scientific and cultural requirements taking account of economic and recreational requirements</p> | <p>Regulation 2B.(1) The Minister, through appropriate means, must establish the conservation status of all wild bird species which are either resident in or visitors to Gibraltar, British Gibraltar Territorial Waters or to both, and shall conduct such periodic reviews as may be required to maintain such information relevant and up to date.</p> <p>(2) Based on the information obtained under subsection (1) the Minister must take such measures as are required to maintain or adapt the population of such wild bird species at a level which corresponds in particular to ecological, scientific and cultural requirements, while taking account of economic and recreational requirements.</p> <p>(3) In the light of the duties under subsection (2) the Minister must by order take such measures as are required to preserve, maintain or re-establish a sufficient diversity and area of habitats for all the wild bird species to which this section applies.</p> <p>Nature Protection Act 1991</p> |
| <p>Art 3 - Obligation to take measures to preserve, maintain or re-establish sufficient diversity and area of habitat for all wild birds</p> <p>Prevent deterioration and pollution of habitats of Annex 1 and Regulatory Occurring Migratory birds outside SPAs</p> | <p>Regulation 2</p> <p>(4) For the purposes of subsection (3) the preservation, maintenance and re-establishment of biotopes and habitats shall include primarily the following measures–</p> <p>(a) creation of protected areas;</p> <p>(b) upkeep and management in accordance with the ecological needs of habitats–</p> <p>(i) inside; and</p> <p>(ii) outside,</p> <p>the protected zones;</p> <p>(c) re-establishment of destroyed biotopes;</p> <p>(d) creation of biotopes.</p> <p>(5) Where the Minister makes an Order under this section in respect of an area of land or sea, the Minister may declare that area shall be treated for the purposes of this Act as a European Site or European Marine Site.</p> <p>Nature Protection Act 1991</p> |

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| <p>Art 4 – Requires special conservation measures for Annex 1 and Regularly occurring migratory species</p> | <p>Regulation 7</p> <p>Special conservation measures.</p> <p>7A.(1) Where a species of wild bird is included in Annex I of the Wild Birds Directive, the Minister shall, by Order, adopt special conservation measures concerning their habitats in order to ensure the survival and reproduction of such species in their area of distribution.</p> <p>(2) When adopting measures pursuant to subsection (1), the Minister</p> <p>shall take account of–</p> <p>(a) species in danger of extinction;</p> <p>(b) species vulnerable to specific changes in their habitat;</p> <p>(c) species considered rare because of small populations or restricted local distribution;</p> <p>(d) other species requiring particular attention for reasons of the specific nature of their habitat; and</p> <p>(e) trends and variations in population levels as a background for evaluations.</p> <p>(3) When adopting measures pursuant to subsection (1), the Minister shall classify, in particular, the most suitable territories in number and size as special protection areas for the conservation of the species in the geographical sea and land area where this Act applies.</p> <p>Nature Protection Act 1991</p> |
| <p>Article 5</p> <p>Obligation to take measures to establish a general system of protection for all bird species, in particular deliberate killing or capturing, deliberate destruction of or damage to their nests and eggs or removal of nests, taking their eggs and keeping these eggs, deliberation disturbance of bird, particularly during the period of breeding, and keeping birds of species the hunting and capture of which is prohibited.</p> | <p>Regulation 3</p> <p>Protection of wild birds, their nests and eggs.</p> <p>3.(1) Subject to the provisions of this Part, if any person intentionally–</p> <p>(a) hunts, kills, injures or takes any wild bird;</p> <p>(b) takes, damages or destroys the nest of any wild bird by any method while that bird's nest is in use or being built;</p> <p>(bb) takes, damages or destroys the nest of any wild bird included in Schedule 9;</p> <p>(c) takes or destroys an egg of any wild bird; or</p> <p>(d) disturbs any wild birds,</p> <p>he shall be guilty of an offence.</p> <p>(2) Subject to the provisions of this Part, if any person has in his possession or control–</p> <p>(a) any live or dead wild bird or any part of, or anything derived from, such a bird; or</p> <p>(b) any egg of a wild bird or any part of such an egg,</p> <p>he shall be guilty of an offence.</p> <p>Nature Protection Act 1991</p> |

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| <p>Article 6 Obligation to prohibit sale of all wild birds and wild bird parts, with exception of certain listed species (e.g. game and wildfowl)</p> | <p>Regulation 6</p> <p>Sale etc. of wild or dead wild birds, egg etc.</p> <p>6.(1) Subject to the provisions of this Part, if any person—</p> <p>(a) sells, offers or exposes for sale, or has in his possession or transports the purpose of sale, any live wild bird or any readily recognisable parts or derivatives thereof, an egg of a wild bird or any part of such an egg; or</p> <p>(b) publishes or causes to be published any advertisement likely to be understood as conveying that he buys or sells, or intends to buy or sell, any of those things, he shall be guilty of an offence.</p> <p>(2) Subject to the provisions of this Part, if any person shows or causes or permits to be shown for the purposes of any competition or in any premises in which a competition is being held—</p> <p>(a) any live wild bird; or</p> <p>(b) any live bird one of whose parents was such a wild bird, he shall be guilty of an offence.</p> <p>(3) In this section “wild bird” does not include any bird which is shown—</p> <p>(a) to have been bred in captivity; or</p> <p>(b) to have been imported into Gibraltar in accordance with the requirements of any other Act.</p> <p>Nature Protection Act 1991</p> |
| <p>Article 9</p> <p>Provision of derogations provided there is no satisfactory alternative. But only for certain purposes.</p> | <p>Regulation 13A.(1) The Minister shall annually send a report to the European Commission regarding the implementation of Article 9(1) and (2) of the Wild Birds Directive in the preceding year.</p> <p>Article 15</p> <p>In respect of the capture or killing of species of wild fauna listed in Annex V (a) and in cases where, in accordance with Article 16, derogations are applied to the taking, capture or killing of species listed in Annex IV (a),</p> <p>Member States shall prohibit the use of all indiscriminate means capable of causing local disappearance of, or serious disturbance to, populations of such species, and in particular:</p> <p>(a) use of the means of capture and killing listed in Annex VI (a);</p> <p>(b) any form of capture and killing from the modes of transport referred to in Annex VI (b).</p> <p>Nature Protection Act 1991</p> |
| <p>Art 12 – Obligation to report to Commission</p> | <p>Article 13 A (2) The Minister shall, in accordance with the timescales set out in Article 12(1) of the Wild Birds Directive, send a report to the European Commission regarding the implementation of the Directive in the preceding reporting period.</p> <p>Nature Protection Act 1991</p> |

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| <p>Habitats Directive</p> <p>Art 2 – general aims – “to contribute towards ensuring biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora. Measure taken pursuant to the directive shall be designed to maintain or restore, at favourable conservation status, natural habitats and wild species of flora and fauna.” Measures shall take account of economic, social and cultural requirements and regional and local characteristics.</p> <p>Art 3 – Requires setting up of coherent ecological network</p> | <p>The Minister shall establish priorities for the designation of sites in the light of–</p> <p>(a) the importance of the sites for the maintenance or restoration at a favourable conservation status of —</p> <p>(i) a natural habitat type in Annex I to the Habitats Directive, or</p> <p>(ii) a species in Annex II to the Directive, and for the coherence of Natura 2000; and</p> <p>(b) the threats of degradation or destruction to which those sites are exposed.</p> <p>17M. (1) The Minister may, after consultation with the Nature Conservancy Council make in respect of any land within a European site or marine area within a European marine site a special nature conservation order specifying operations which appear to it to be likely to destroy or damage the flora, fauna, or geological or physiographical features by reason of which the land is a European site or in relation to the sea a European marine site.</p> <p>(2) A special nature conservation order may be amended or revoked by a further order.</p> <p>(3) Schedule 4 has effect with respect to the making, amending or revoking of special nature conservation orders</p> <p>17PA. (1) Where the natural habitat or the habitat of a species for which a site has been designated a European site or a European marine site is or has been polluted, has deteriorated, is deteriorating or is likely to deteriorate, the Government must make an order specifying the steps which are to be taken in order to remedy or prevent that pollution or deterioration in so far as such pollution or deterioration has been or could be significant in relation to the objectives of the Habitats Directive or the Wild Birds Directive, as the case may be.</p> <p>(1A) In considering deterioration under subsection (1) no regard shall be had as to whether such deterioration arises as a consequence of human activity or from a failure to act.</p> <p>(2) An order under subsection (1) shall be addressed to the owner or occupier of land within such a site or where the pollution or deterioration was caused, results from or is likely to arise as a result of an operation outside that site, to the person who undertook, is or will be undertaking that operation.</p> <p>Nature Protection Act 1991</p> |
| <p>Art 6.1 – obligation to establish necessary conservation measures (i.e. management plans)</p> | <p>17R. (1) The Minister may by notice in the Gazette establish a management scheme for a European marine site.</p> <p>(2) The scheme may, in particular–</p> <p>(a) appoint the Nature Conservancy Council to co-ordinate the establishment of the scheme;</p> <p>(b) set time limits within which any steps by the Nature Conservancy Council are to be taken;</p> <p>Nature Protection Act 1991</p> |

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| <p>Art 6.2 – obligation to take steps to avoid in European sites deterioration of habitats and significant disturbance of species.</p> | <p>17BB. (1) The Minister, or, as the case may be, a person empowered under any enactment to give any consent, permit or other authorisation for a plan or project or works or empowered to undertake a plan or project or carry out works shall if the plan, project or works —</p> <p>(a) is, or are, likely to have a significant effect on a European site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects), and</p> <p>(b) is, or are, not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site, shall make an appropriate assessment of the implications for the site in view of that site's conservation objectives.</p> <p>(4) The Minister, or other person, as the case may be, shall for the purposes of the assessment consult the Nature Conservancy Council and have regard to any representations made by that Council within such reasonable time as the Minister, or other person, may specify.</p> <p>(5) In the light of the conclusions of the assessment, and subject to section 17CC, the Minister or other person, as the case may be, shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the European site.</p> <p>Nature Protection Act 1991</p> |
| <p>Art 6.3/6.4 – Obligation to assess Plans or Projects likely to have a significant effect on SACs or SPAs.</p> <p>Competent authorities must only agree to plan or project affect having ascertained will not adversely affect integrity of the site.</p> <p>Derogations where no alternative and imperative reasons of overriding public interest. In which case all compensatory measures to ensure overall coherence of the network is protected.</p> | <p>17CC.(1) If the Minister is satisfied that, there being no alternative solutions, the plan or project or works mentioned in section 17BB should be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest (which, subject to sub-section (2), may be of a social or economic nature), he may agree to the plan or project or works notwithstanding a negative assessment of the implications for the site.</p> <p>(2) Where the site concerned hosts a priority natural habitat type or a priority species, the reasons referred to in sub-section (1) shall be either—</p> <p>(a) reasons relating to human health, public safety or beneficial consequences of primary importance to the environment, or</p> <p>(b) other reasons which in the opinion of the European Commission are imperative reasons of overriding public interest.</p> <p>Nature Protection Act 1991</p> |
| <p>Art11 – obligation on member states to undertake surveillance of the conservation status of natural habitats and species to which the directive applies</p> <p>Art 17 – Member states to report to the Commission every six years on the implementation of measures taken under the Directive. Including evaluation of impact on conservation status and the main results of the surveillance.</p> | <p>17DD. (1) The Government shall as soon as practicable and thereafter as required by the timetable established under Article 23 of the Habitats Directive forward a report on the implementation of the Directive to the Secretary of State for onward transmission to the Commission.</p> <p>(2) The report shall in particular include—</p> <p>(a) information concerning the conservation measures specified in Article 6(1) of the Habitats Directive;</p> <p>(b) an evaluation of the impact of those measures on the conservation status of the natural habitat types set out in Annex I, if appropriate, and the species referred to in Annex II of the Habitats Directive;</p> <p>(c) the main results of the surveillance carried out under section 17A(2) in compliance with obligations arising from Article II of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>Nature Protection Act 1991</p> |

C.2 Progress and perspectives for management planning for the sites

| | |
|--|--|
| Progress in establishing conservation objectives | <p>Site and habitat specific management plans are in place. Overall direction managed by Department of the Environment and implemented through agents and contracted specialists.</p> <p>The conservation objectives for SAC/SPA sites are based on the fulfilment of the following requirements:</p> <p><u>Under the Habitats directive</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain or restore European protected habitats and species listed in the Annexes at a favourable conservation status as defined in Articles 1 and 2. • Contribute to a coherent European ecological network of protected sites by designating Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) for habitats listed on Annex I and for species listed on Annex II (Article 3). • Ensure conservation measures are in place to appropriately manage SACs and ensure appropriate assessment of plans and projects likely to have a significant effect on the integrity of an SAC (Article 6). • Encourage the management of features of the landscape that support the Natura 2000 network (Articles 3 and 10). • Undertake surveillance of habitats and species (Article 11). • Ensure strict protection of species listed on Annex IV (Article 12 for animals and Article 13 for plants). • Report on the implementation of the Directive every six years (Article 17), including assessment of the conservation status of species and habitats listed on the Annexes to the Directive. <p><u>Under the Wild Birds directive</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain the population of all wild bird species across their natural range with the encouragement of various activities to that end (Article 2 & 3). • Identification and classification of Special Protection Areas (SPAs) for rare or vulnerable species listed in Annex I of the Directive, as well as for all regularly occurring migratory species, • Establish a general scheme of protection for all wild birds (Article 5). • Restrict the sale and keeping of wild birds (Article 6). • Specify the conditions under which hunting and falconry can be undertaken (Article 7). • Prohibit large-scale, non-selective means of bird killing (Article 8). • Maintain procedures under which Member States may derogate from the provisions of Articles 5-8 (Article 9) — that is, the conditions under which permission may be given for otherwise prohibited activities. • Encourage certain forms of relevant research (Article 10 and Annex V). • Ensure that the introduction of any non-native species does not threaten other biodiversity (Article 11). |
| % of sites with plans completed | 100% |
| % of sites with plans in preparation | Not applicable |

| | |
|--|---|
| % of sites with no plans | Not applicable |
| Link to web sites with plans & any guidelines | <p>Southern Water of Gibraltar Management Scheme: http://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/images/stories/PDF/environment/Southern_Waters_of_Gibraltar_Management_Scheme_2012.pdf</p> <p>Upper Rock Nature Reserve: Management & Action Plan http://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/images/stories/PDF/environment/Upper_Rock_Nature_Reserve_Management_Action_Plan.pdf</p> <p>Gibraltar Biodiversity Action Plan http://www.gonhs.org/documents/BiodiversityActionPlan2006web.pdf</p> |
| More background information on plans and comment on other instruments/approaches for management planning, information on and plans for particular sectors (e.g. forestry etc.) | <p>All management plans (in pdf format) can be accessed on the Department of the environment website:</p> <p>http://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/environment/environment</p> |

C.3 Relevant government and non-governmental plans

Control of exotic and invasive species

Control of feral cats

Bat conservation plan

Control of Yellow-legged Gull

Visitor Management

Monitoring for cetaceans & marine reptiles

Monitoring of marine habitats & littoral organisms

Southern Waters of Gibraltar Management Scheme

Upper Rock Nature Reserve Management & Action Plan

Biodiversity Action Plan, Gibraltar: Planning for Nature

D CURRENT EXPERIENCE WITH USE OF EU FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

D1 European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)

Provide a summary of allocations under relevant provisions of rural development fund for Natura 2000 management, (as well as other relevant national/regional financing)

| Fund | Provision | Level of Use* |
|--|---------------------------------|---------------|
| EAFRD | 213 Natura 2000 payments | No prior use |
| | 224 Forest Natura 2000 payments | No prior use |
| | 214 agri-environment | No prior use |
| | 225 forest-environment measures | No prior use |
| Other relevant (national/regional) payment schemes for Territory | | No prior use |
| Summary of key Natura 2000 related measures being undertaken under fund: No previous or current measures carried out through Natura Funding. | | |
| Key lessons learnt and obstacles encountered: Not applicable | | |

* Where estimates are available they should be provided. Otherwise indicate as VS Very significant; MU Moderate Use; MI Minor use; NU No use

D.2 European Fisheries Fund (EFF)

Provide a summary of allocations under Axis 1-4 of EFF used for Natura 2000 management, (as well as other relevant national/regional funding)

| Fund | Provision | Level of Use* |
|--|-----------|-----------------|
| EFF | Axis 1 | No prior use |
| | Axis 2 | No prior use |
| | Axis 3 | No prior use |
| | Axis 4 | No prior use |
| Other (national/regional) payment schemes for Territory | | None applicable |
| Summary of key Natura 2000 related measures being undertaken under fund: No previous or current measures carried out through Natura Funding. | | |
| Key lessons learnt and obstacles encountered: No prior experience | | |

Where estimates are available they should be provided. Otherwise indicate as VS Very significant; MU Moderate Use; MI Minor use; NU No use

D.3 Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund

Provide a summary of allocations under relevant provisions of structural funds used for Natura 2000 management, (as well as other relevant national/regional funding)

| Fund | Provision | Level of Use* |
|---|-------------|---------------|
| ERDF | Category 51 | MI |
| | Category 55 | No prior use |
| | Category 56 | No prior use |
| | INTERREG | MI |
| European Social Fund (ESF) | | No prior use |
| Summary of key Natura 2000 related measures being undertaken under fund: | | |
| Publication of the 2005 Gibraltar Upper Rock Nature Reserve A Management and Action Plan | | |
| Key lessons learnt and obstacles encountered: | | |

Where estimates are available they should be provided. Otherwise indicate as VS Very significant; MU Moderate Use; MI Minor use; NU No use

D.4 LIFE+

Provide a summary of allocations under LIFE+ for Natura 2000 management,

| Fund | Provision | Level of Use* |
|--|-------------------------|---------------|
| LIFE+ | Nature and Biodiversity | No prior use |
| Summary of key Natura 2000 related measures being undertaken under fund: No previous or current measures carried out through Natura Funding. | | |
| Key lessons learnt and obstacles encountered: | | |
| No prior experience | | |

Where estimates are available they should be provided. Otherwise indicate as VS Very significant; MU Moderate Use; MI Minor use; NU No use

D.5 Other key funding sources

| Fund | Level of Use* |
|--|---------------|
| 7th Framework Programme for Research (FP7) | No prior use |
| Public/Private Partnership financing schemes | No prior use |
| Use of innovative financing | No prior use |
| Other (specify) | No prior use |
| Summary of key Natura 2000 related measures being undertaken under fund: No previous or current measures carried out through Natura Funding. | |
| Key lessons learnt and obstacles encountered: No prior experience | |

Where estimates are available they should be provided. Otherwise indicate as VS Very significant; MU Moderate Use; MI Minor use; NU No use

E Current estimate of financial needs for management of Natura 2000 for the territory

Current on-going activities (costings provided in page 31):

Surveillance monitoring of terrestrial and marine Annex 1 habitats.

Monitoring of Annex II & IV listed species.

Monitoring of non-EU listed species and endemic species

Monitoring under the Birds Directive.

Marine Habitats and Species Monitoring Programme

The monitoring programme designed to assess the conservation status of the Southern Waters of Gibraltar SAC/SPA, along with its constituent EU listed species and habitats, forms part of a wider monitoring strategy that has been implemented in line with the requirements of EU Directives, namely the Water Framework and Marine Strategy Framework Directives. These Directives are based on an ecosystem approach concerning the management and protection of coastal / marine ecosystems and therefore any data collected is being used to provide an accurate assessment of the general status of the Southern Waters of Gibraltar. Within this holistic monitoring framework, the specific needs of the Habitats Directive, i.e. monitoring the conservation status of listed habitats and species, is being implemented and will be continuously augmented. The monitoring programme covers other locally important marine species and communities not listed in the Habitats Directive since these play a critical role in maintaining the biodiversity and resilience of EU listed features e.g. reefs. A more detailed explanation of the monitoring that is already being carried out, along with further monitoring required, is provided below.

Annex I Marine Habitats Monitoring

There are two Annex I habitats found in the Southern Waters of Gibraltar: reefs and submerged (or partially submerged) sea caves. These include the Eastside reefs, Seven Sisters reef, Europa reef and Vladi's caves which are renowned for their rich marine life. These attributes are being monitored as part of the Annex I Habitats Monitoring Program.

Annex II & IV Marine Species Monitoring

Several species listed in Annex II and IV of the Habitats Directive are found in the Southern Waters of Gibraltar either in transit or as resident species including:

Tursiops truncatus – Bottle nosed dolphin

Caretta caretta – Loggerhead turtle

Patella ferruginea – Mediterranean ribbed limpet

Lithophaga lithophaga – Date mussel

Pinna nobilis – Fan mussel

Centrostephanus longispinus – Long-spined sea urchin

Balaenoptera acutorostrata – Minke whale

Balaenoptera physalus – Fin whale

Delphinus delphis – Common Dolphin
Grampus griseus – Risso's Dolphin
Orcinus orca – Killer Whale
Globicephala malaena – Long-finned pilot whale
Physeter catodon – Sperm Whale
Stenella coeruleoalba – Striped Dolphin
Dermochelys coriacea – Leatherback turtle

Intertidal and sub-tidal marine protected species e.g. *Patella ferruginea*, *Charonia lampas*, etc are monitored by the Department of the Environment. Cetaceans and marine reptiles are monitored by the Helping Hand Trust. These monitoring programmes are currently being revisited and updated in the light of experiences gained.

The specific methodologies and frequencies employed to monitor Annex II & IV species depend on the species in question and are therefore varied. Preliminary guidance documents have already been produced by the EU Habitats Committee to aid the data collection/reporting process. In line with the Assessment, Monitoring & Reporting requirements under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive, the following criteria as listed below are currently being gathered:

General population dynamics on species including;

- The natural range of species indicating whether it is in decline or is likely to decline in the foreseeable future.
- Population size and trends (current/historic/future prospects).
- Incidental capture and mortality of particular species.

The conservation status of species including;

- Main threats, species adversely affected and reasons for this.
- The mitigation measures suggested/attempted/ employed including the impacts of these measures on the conservation status of species.

Sessile and quasi-sessile marine species e.g. *Pinna nobilis*, *Patella ferruginea*, *Charonia lampas*, *Nudibranchia* spp., etc, are being monitored on a yearly basis via diving and intertidal transect surveys. Cetaceans and marine reptiles are frequently monitored using line transect surveys and photo-ID techniques. Data on incidental capture and killings, with particular regards to cetaceans and marine reptiles are also collected as part of the monitoring program.

Although surveillance reports must be submitted to the Commission every six years, the surveillance process is carried out on a continuous basis. Year-round monitoring and the production of yearly reports in this regard is seen as the best method of attaining the surveillance monitoring objectives of the Habitats Directive.

Annex I and regularly occurring Migratory Birds not listed in Annex I

The Ministry for the Environment relies partly on the data collected by NGOs such as the Gibraltar Ornithological & Natural History Society (GONHS), which continuously assesses which Annex I or regularly occurring migratory bird species occur in Gibraltar. Ornithological research within GONHS is co-ordinated by the Strait of Gibraltar Bird Observatory. This is divided into monitoring and research of passerines and non-passerines, with emphasis on the migration of passerines, seabirds and raptors and an annual passerine ringing programme. The GONHS has a database of records dating back to the 1960's and publishes an annual account, in the 'Gibraltar Bird Report', of avian records in Gibraltar including the Southern Waters of Gibraltar. Daily records are available online at www.gonhs.org/records.htm. A list of Annex I species that are commonly found in the Southern Waters of Gibraltar can be found below.

Cory's shearwater *Calonectris diomedea*
black tern *Chlidonias niger*
gull-billed tern *Gelochelidon nilotica*
Audouin's gull *Larus audouinii*
Mediterranean gull *Larus melanocephalus*
common scoter *Melanitta nigra*
osprey *Pandion haliaetus*
Mediterranean shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis desmaresti*
cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*
Balearic shearwater *Puffinus mauretanicus*
little tern *Sterna albifrons*
caspiian tern *Sterna caspia*
common tern *Sterna hirundo*
Sandwich tern *Sterna sandvicensis*
Levantine shearwater *Puffinus yelkouan*

Water Framework Directive

As part of Gibraltar's commitments under the Water framework Directive 2000/60/EC (WFD), numerous quality elements are used to assess the ecological quality status of Gibraltar coastal waters including the Southern Waters of Gibraltar. These quality elements include physico-chemical quality elements, environmental quality standards for specific pollutants listed in Annex VIII of the WFD, hydromorphological quality elements and finally biological quality elements (e.g. phytoplankton and benthic invertebrates).

In addition to the WFD, the monitoring requirements of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive 2008/56 (MSFD) are also being implemented in Gibraltar. The MSFD requires Member States to determine Good Environmental Status (GES) for their marine waters, and design and implement programmes of measures aimed at achieving it by 2020, using an ecosystem approach to marine management.

The Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) builds on and complements the Water Framework and Habitats Directives. Actions taken to comply with the Water Framework and Habitats Directives will thus help Gibraltar achieve GES for its marine waters. For example, measures taken under the Habitats Directive to protect the Southern Waters of Gibraltar will complement the MSFD considering that maintaining biodiversity is one of its objectives. The

MSFD extends the requirement to maintain or improve the status of marine biodiversity throughout British Gibraltar Territorial Waters.

Where the Marine and Water Framework Directives overlap – in coastal areas – the MSFD requires additional measures to address litter and noise. The MSFD therefore builds on the existing coastal monitoring programme developed by the Department of the Environment.

| RE-CURRENT COSTS (Figures correspond to budget allocated by the Ministry for the Environment during 2012-2013 financial year) | | |
|---|--|-------------------|
| Management Actions | Key Activities | Cost (£ sterling) |
| Upper Rock Team | Habitat clearing and mangement | 260,000 |
| Macaque management | Feeding Monitoring Research | 150,000 |
| Gull control & bird rehabilitation (GONHS) | Culling Population surveys | 100,000 |
| Ringling & tagging of birds | Staffing Monitoring Ringling & Equipment | 2,500 |
| Helping Hand Trust | Monitoring of Cetaceans & marine reptiles | 20,000 |
| Terrestrial and marine environmental monitoring & surveillance | Air quality monitoring | 500,000 |
| | Water quality monitoring Protected Habitat & Species monitoring | 250,000 |
| Surveillance contract with ecological consultants for EU reporting | Production of ecological reports | 70,000 |
| | | |
| Total | | 1,352,000 |

F STRATEGIC CONSERVATION PRIORITIES FOR NATURA 2000 FOR THE TERRITORY FOR PERIOD 2014-2020

F.1 Summary of priorities for period (and expected outcomes), for priority habitat types and species having regard to the need for measurable progress on the nature sub-target under EU 2020 biodiversity strategy and for ensuring good functioning of Natura 2000 network (SACs + SPAs)

In line with obligations arising under Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora and Council Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds, the Natura 2000 funding would ensure the continued surveillance, research, maintenance and restoration of EU protected habitats and species that are present in Gibraltar as previously highlighted.

In conjunction with this work, Gibraltar's other important species of flora and fauna (many of which are not protected under the Habitats Directive) also stand to benefit from the protection and re-establishment of both specific and unique habitats. It should be noted that numerous terrestrial species listed below are endemic to Gibraltar and their continued survival in the wild is dependent on effective management measures.

In addition to EU listed species and habitats, priority species for the next period are as follows:

Rock of Gibraltar habitats:

Vegetated sea cliffs of the Mediterranean coasts with endemic *Limonium* spp.

Malcolmietalia dune grassland

Arborescent matorral with *Laurus nobilis*

Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation

Caves not open to the public

Olea and *Ceratonia* forests

Low formations of *Euphorbia* close to cliffs

Dunes with *Euphorbia terracina*

Rock of Gibraltar flora and fauna:

Silene tomentosa

Ononis natrix var. *ramosissima*

Saxifraga globulifera

Thymus wildenowii

Iberis gibraltarica

Limonium emarginatum

Cerastium gibraltarium

Macaca sylvanus

Tadarida teniotis

Hemidactylus turcicus

Coluber hippocrepis

Chalcides bedriagai

Macrothele calpeiana

Ceciliodes spp.

Zygaena fausta ssp. *gibraltarica*
Buprestis (*Yamina*) *sanguinea* ssp. *calpetana*
Laemostenus (*Leuthostenes*) *mauretanicus*
ssp. *polymephus*
Alphasida (*Betasida*) *argentolimbata*
Tetramorium parvioculum
Technomyrmex vexatus
Acicula norissi
Oestophora calpeiana

Southern waters of Gibraltar habitats:

Reefs

Submerged or Partly Submerged Sea Caves

Southern waters flora and fauna:

Patella ferruginea
Lithophaga lithophaga
Pinna nobilis
Nudibranchia spp.
Balaenoptera acutorostrata
Balaenoptera physalus
Delphinus delphis
Globicephala macrorhynchus
Globicephala malaena
Grampus griseus
Orcinus orca
Physeter catodon
Stenella coeruleoalba
Dermochelys coriacea
Centrostephanus longispinus
Cymbula safiana
Pinna rudis
Dendropoma petraeum
Charonia spp.
Zostera marina
Cystoseira mediterranea
Ascidacea spp.

F.2 Summary of priorities for other habitats and species covered by nature Directives having regard to the need for measurable progress on nature sub-target under EU 2020 biodiversity strategy (Habitats and Birds Directives) and for ensuring good functioning of Natura 2000 network (SACs + SPAs)

F.3 Strategic priorities in relation to investments in Natura 2000 linked to green tourism and jobs, to support climate change mitigation and adaptation or other ecosystem benefits, for research, education, training, awareness and promotion of co-operation (including cross-border) linked to Natura 2000 management

In addition to protecting nature's intrinsic value, Natura 2000-derived funding can provide multiple benefits to Gibraltar, not only from a conservation and natural history perspective but also from the social and economic perspectives. A potential socio-economic benefit of the Natura 2000 programme is reflected in the increased awareness of the effects of climate change together with the adaptation strategies that can be adopted. The Gibraltar Climate Change Forum regularly assesses the potential implications of climate change in Gibraltar. Furthermore, Gibraltar is one of a selected group of European cities that are taking part in the **EU Cities Adapt Project**. Experiences and information gathered as part of this initiative will therefore also be used to better manage Natura 2000 sites in Gibraltar.

In terms of conservation and management, the continued research into climate change implications is directly relevant to Annex 1 habitats specific to Gibraltar such as the ability of forested/vegetated areas to prevent erosion and landslides, the protection of coastal and partly submerged habitats and habitat-dependent species, maintaining good water quality, safeguarding natural pollinators, and preserving landscape and amenity values whilst supporting tourism and recreation.

An additional socio-economic benefit of the Natura 2000 programme is the improvement of natural sites across Gibraltar which supports the burgeoning local tourist industry and local recreation facilities. The tourist sites are an integral part of the Upper Rock Nature Reserve, which serves to attract visitors to Gibraltar (10 million visitors in 2011). In order to balance the maintenance and improvement of habitats and the tourist industry, a reliable infrastructure is required to be in place to ensure the smooth running of that aspect of the Nature Reserve.

Sustainable tourism development guidelines and management practices are applicable to all forms of tourism throughout Gibraltar and especially within Special Areas of Conservation. Current sustainability principles are cognisant and reflective of the environmental, economic and socio-cultural aspects of tourism, a suitable balance must be established between these three dimensions to guarantee its long-term sustainability.

Sustainable tourism development requires the informed participation of all relevant stakeholders, as well as strong political leadership to ensure wide participation, stakeholder engagement as well as stakeholder commitment. Achieving sustainable tourism is a continuous process which requires constant monitoring of impacts, introducing the necessary preventive and/or corrective measures whenever necessary. Sustainable tourism should also maintain a high level of tourist satisfaction and ensure meaningful experience to the tourists, raising awareness about sustainability issues and promoting sustainable tourism practices, alongside providing a revenue stream to support and enhance the tourist attractions.

Gibraltar's aim is therefore that tourism is managed sustainably in both the Southern Waters of Gibraltar and the Rock of Gibraltar SAC/SPA enabling both commercial and ecological benefits for all stakeholders. This would be achieved through a systematic and agreed action plan consisting of a programme of measures as follows:

Physical improvements to the Nature Reserve:

- Clearing of walking / hiking paths
- Improved boundaries
- Clearing of invasive species
- New waste and recycling bins
- Dog waste bins

Improved signage:

- Natura 2000 site identification signs and explanatory notes
- Flora and Fauna sign posts
- Vehicular Speed limit signs

Recruitment of wardens:

- Tourist information / guides
- Prevention of loitering / graffiti

Habitat and Wildlife management and increased resources

Educational programmes

Training of operators working within the nature reserve e.g. cleansing contractors

Awareness campaigns

- No littering campaigns
- Barbary Macaque awareness campaigns
- Habitat and species campaigns

Financial compensation/diversification to compensate for commercial fishing prohibitions

G Description of key measures to achieve priorities

G.1.a General Priority Measures for Natura 2000

| Type of activity | Description of measure | Target species/habitats/sites | Potential Financing sources* |
|--|--|---|------------------------------------|
| Review of management plans, strategies and schemes | Review and updating of management and biodiversity action plans and strategies. | All Rock of Gibraltar SAC/SPA habitats and Southern Waters SCA/SPA habitats | Life+ National / Public |
| Conservation management measures – maintenance and improvement of habitats' favourable conservation status | Including restoration work, provision of wildlife corridors, management of specific habitats, and preparation of management plans. | East side sand slopes, including all Rock of Gibraltar SAC/SPA habitats and Southern Waters SCA/SPA habitats | Life+ ERDF National / Public |
| Conservation management measures – maintenance and improvement of species' favourable conservation status | Including restoration work, provision of wildlife corridors, management of specific species (flora and fauna) and plans. | Barbary partridge. All Rock of Gibraltar SAC/SPA habitats and Southern Waters SCA/SPA habitats | Life+ ERDF National / Public |
| Conservation management measures in relation to invasive alien species (IAS) | Including restoration work, infrastructure, management of specific species, and preparation of management plans. | <i>Acacia cyclops</i> , <i>A.saligna</i> . <i>Carpobrotus edulis</i> , <i>Pennisitum clandestinum</i> . All Rock of Gibraltar SAC/SPA habitats | Life+ National / Public |
| Risk management (fire prevention and control, flooding etc) | Includes reviewing fire-control plans, development of relevant infrastructure, maintenance of fire breaks and specific equipment purchase. | All Rock of Gibraltar SAC/SPA habitats and Southern Waters SCA/SPA habitats | National / Public |
| Training and education | Including production of handbooks, seminars, workshops and communication materials. Stakeholder engagement and management sessions, site specific tours. | All Rock of Gibraltar SAC/SPA habitats and Southern Waters SCA/SPA habitats | Life+ National / Public |

*Funding sources: EAFRD; ERDF, EFF; ESF, LIFE, National public, Private sources

G.1.b Priority Measures for Natura 2000 agricultural and forest habitats and species

| Type of activity | Description of measure | Target species/habitats/sites | Potential Financing sources* |
|--|--|--|------------------------------------|
| Scientific studies/inventories for the identification of sites – surveys, inventories, mapping, condition assessment | Scientific studies, research personnel, workshops and meetings, creation of databases etc. | All Rock of Gibraltar SAC/SPA habitats | Life+ ERDF National / Public |
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*Funding sources: EAFRD; ERDF, EFF; ESF, LIFE, National public, Private sources

G.1.c Priority Measures for Natura 2000 marine and coastal habitats and species

| Type of activity | Description of measure | Target species/habitats/sites | Potential Financing sources* |
|--|--|---|------------------------------|
| Scientific studies/inventories for the identification of sites – surveys, inventories, mapping, condition assessment | Scientific studies, research personnel, workshops and meetings, creation of databases etc. | All Southern Waters SCA/SPA habitats | Life+ National / Public |
| Scientific study | Population ecology and ecosystem services of yellow legged gulls in relation to listed habitats and species. | Yellow legged gull, Rock of Gibraltar terrestrial SAC/SPA | Life+ National / Public |
| Commercial fishing in Natura 2000 sites | Financial compensation/diversification to compensate for commercial fishing prohibitions | | EFF |

**Funding sources: EAFRD; ERDF, EFF; ESF, LIFE, National public, Private sources*

G.1.d Priority Measures for Natura 2000 wetlands habitats and species (including peatlands)

| Type of activity | Description of measure | Target species/habitats/sites | Potential Financing sources* |
|------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | | | |
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| | | | |
| | | | |

**Funding sources: EAFRD; ERDF, EFF; ESF, LIFE, National public, Private sources*

G.2 Other priority measures

G.2.a Priority Measures for securing ecosystem benefits of Natura 2000, especially in relation to climate change mitigation and adaptation

| Type of activity | Description of measure | Target species/habitats/sites | Potential Financing sources* |
|--|--|---|-----------------------------------|
| Climate change adaptation and mitigation | Scientific study, data collection, interpretation and mapping of potential climate change implications e.g. increased temperatures, altered precipitation patterns and sea-level rise – linked to EU Cities Adapt project | All Rock of Gibraltar SAC/SPA habitats and Southern Waters SCA/SPA habitats | Life+ ERDF National / Pubic |
| | | | |
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**Funding sources: EAFRD; ERDF, EFF; ESF, LIFE, National public, Private sources*

G.2.B Priority Measures for promoting sustainable tourism and employment in relation to Natura 2000

| Type of activity | Description of measure | Target species/habitats/sites | Potential Financing sources* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Facilities to encourage sustainable visitor use and appreciation of Natura 2000 sites | Natura 2000 signage, flora and fauna information boards, refurbishment and enhancement of visitor trails. | All Rock of Gibraltar SAC/SPA habitats and Southern Waters SCA/SPA habitats | Life+ ESF ERDF National / Public |
| Recreation management | Creation of appropriate recreational sites, protection and management of protected habitats | All Rock of Gibraltar SAC/SPA habitats and Southern Waters SCA/SPA habitats | Life+ ESF ERDF National / Public |
| | | | |
| | | | |

**Funding sources: EAFRD; ERDF, EFF; ESF, LIFE, National public, Private sources*

G.2.c Priority Measures to promote innovative approaches in relation to Natura 2000

| Type of activity | Description of measure | Target species/habitats/sites | Potential Financing sources* |
|--|---|---------------------------------|---|
| Remote monitoring and surveillance | Use of remote video cameras and still automated cameras to enhance surveillance and species behaviour studies particularly the Barbary Macaque. | All species within all habitats | Life+ ESF ERDF National / Public |
| Remote monitoring and surveillance | Use of CCTV to monitor against graffiti, vandalism and fire outbreaks | All species within all habitats | Life+ ESF ERDF National / Public |
| Website | Improvement of current website, addition of live webcams and public information resources | All species within all habitats | Life+ ESF ERDF National / Public |
| Interactive signage and information boards | Addition of new signage and interactive touch screen information boards | All species within all habitats | Life+ ESF ERDF National / Public |
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*Funding sources: EAFRD; ERDF, EFF; ESF, LIFE, National public, Private sources

G.3 Summary table of priority measures per habitat type and species

| Feature (habitat type or species) | Conservation status (code from HD Article 17 report or BD Article 12 report) | Pressures and threats (codes from HD Article 17 report or BD Article 12 report) | Priority measure (from section G of PAF, possibly by coding) |
|---|--|---|--|
| Southern Waters SAC | | E03.02; J02.01.02; F03.02.09; D03.02; F02.01.02; F02.03; E01; F02.02.02; D03.01; G01.01; F01. | Table G1 A actions Table G1 B actions Table G1 C actions Table G2 B actions |
| Reefs (1170) | A | | |
| Submerged or partially submerged sea caves (8330) | B | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| Upper Rock SPA | | H04; G04.01; K02; F04; D01.02; I02; G05.04; E01; E02. | Table G1 A actions Table G1 B actions Table G1 C actions Table G2 B actions |
| Vegetated sea cliffs of the Mediterranean coasts with endemic <i>Limonium</i> spp. (1240) | A | | |
| <i>Malcolmietalia</i> dune grasslands (2230) | B | | |
| Arborescent matorral with <i>Laurus nobilis</i> (5230) | B | | |
| Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic | A | | |

| | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| vegetation (8210) | | | |
| Caves not open to the public (8310) | B | | |
| Olea and Ceratonia forests (9320) | B | | |
| Low formations of Euphorbia close to cliffs (5320) | B | | |
| Dunes with Euphorbia terracina (2220) | B | | |
| | | | |
| Rock of Gibraltar Flora and Fauna | | | |
| | | | |
| Birds listed on Annex I of Council directive 79/409/EEC | | | |
| <i>Aegypius monachus</i> | A | | |
| <i>Alcedo atthis</i> | A | | |
| <i>Alectoris barbara</i> | B | | |
| <i>Anthus campestris</i> | B | | |
| <i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i> | A | | |
| <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i> | A | | |
| <i>Ciconia ciconia</i> | A | | |
| <i>Ciconia nigra</i> | A | | |
| <i>Circaetus gallicus</i> | A | | |
| <i>Circus aeruginosus</i> | A | | |
| <i>Circus cyaneus</i> | A | | |
| <i>Circus pugargus</i> | A | | |
| <i>Emberiza hortulana</i> | B | | |

| | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <i>Falco columbarius</i> | A | | |
| <i>Falco eleonora</i> | A | | |
| <i>Falco naumanni</i> | C | | |
| <i>Falco peregrinus</i> | A | | |
| <i>Gyps fulvus</i> | A | | |
| | | | |
| Regularly occurring Migratory Birds not listed on Annex I of council directive 79/409/EEC | | | |
| <i>Accipiter nisus</i> | A | | |
| <i>Anthus pratensis</i> | A | | |
| <i>Anthus trivialis</i> | A | | |
| <i>Apus apus</i> | A | | |
| <i>Tachymarptis melba</i> | A | | |
| <i>Apus pallidus</i> | A | | |
| <i>Buteo buteo</i> | A | | |
| <i>Clamator glandarius</i> | A | | |
| <i>Caprimulgus ruficollis</i> | A | | |
| <i>Carduelis cannabina</i> | A | | |
| <i>Carduelis carduelis</i> | A | | |
| <i>Carduelis chloris</i> | A | | |
| <i>Carduelis spinus</i> | A | | |
| <i>Cercotrichias galactotes</i> | A | | |
| <i>Certhia brachydactyla</i> | A | | |
| <i>Cisticola juncidis</i> | A | | |
| <i>Coturnix coturnix</i> | A | | |
| <i>Cuculus canorus</i> | A | | |
| <i>Delichon urbicum</i> | A | | |
| | | | |
| Regularly occurring Migratory Birds not listed on Annex I of Council directive 79/409/EEC | | | |
| <i>Muscicapa striata</i> | A | | |
| <i>Oenanthe hispanica</i> | B | | |
| <i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i> | B | | |

| | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <i>Oriolus oriolus</i> | A | | |
| <i>Otus scops</i> | A | | |
| <i>Phoenicurus ochrurus</i> | A | | |
| <i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i> | A | | |
| <i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i> | A | | |
| <i>Phylloscopus collybita</i> | A | | |
| <i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i> | A | | |
| <i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i> | A | | |
| <i>Prunella collaris</i> | A | | |
| <i>Prunella modularis</i> | A | | |
| <i>Ptyonoprogne repestis</i> | B | | |
| <i>Regulus ignicapillus</i> | A | | |
| <i>Riparia riparia</i> | A | | |
| <i>Saxicola ruberta</i> | A | | |
| <i>Saxicola torquata</i> | A | | |
| <i>Scolopax rusticola</i> | A | | |
| | | | |
| Regularly occurring Migratory Birds not listed on Annex I of Council Directive 79/409/EEC | | | |
| <i>Serinus serinus</i> | A | | |
| <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i> | A | | |
| <i>Sylvia atricapilla</i> | A | | |
| <i>Sylvia borin</i> | A | | |
| <i>Sylvia cantillans</i> | A | | |
| <i>Sylvia communis</i> | A | | |
| <i>Sylvia conspicillata</i> | A | | |
| <i>Sylvia hortensis</i> | A | | |
| <i>Sylvia melanocephala</i> | A | | |
| <i>Turdus iliacus</i> | A | | |
| <i>Turdus merula</i> | A | | |
| <i>Turdus Philomelos</i> | A | | |
| <i>Turdus torquatus</i> | A | | |

| | | | |
|---|-------------------|--|--|
| <i>Upupa epops</i> | A | | |
| <i>Phylloscopus ibericus</i> | A | | |
| <i>Streptopelia turtur</i> | A | | |
| <i>Alauda arvensis</i> | B | | |
| <i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i> | A | | |
| <i>Falco tinnunculus</i> | A | | |
| | | | |
| Mammals listed on Annex II of Council directive 92/43/EEC | | | |
| <i>Miniopterus schreibersi</i> | C | | |
| | | | |
| Other Important species of flora and Fauna | | | |
| <i>Scientific Name</i> | Motivation Status | | |
| <i>Silene tomentosa</i> | B | | |
| <i>Ononis natrix</i> var. <i>ramosissima</i> | B | | |
| <i>Saxifraga globulifera</i> | A | | |
| <i>Thymus wildeowii</i> | A | | |
| <i>Iberis gibraltarica</i> | A | | |
| <i>Limonium emarginatum</i> | A | | |
| <i>Cerastium gibraltaricum</i> | B | | |
| <i>Macaca sylvanus</i> | C | | |
| <i>Tadarida teniotis</i> | A | | |
| <i>Hemidactylus turcicus</i> | A | | |
| <i>Coluber hippocrepis</i> | C | | |
| <i>Chalcides bedriagai</i> | C | | |
| <i>Macrothele calpeiana</i> | C | | |
| <i>Cecilodesspp.</i> | B | | |
| <i>Zygaena fausta</i> ssp. <i>Gibraltarica</i> | D | | |
| <i>Buprestis (Yamina)</i> <i>sanguinea</i> ssp. <i>Calpetana</i> | B | | |

| | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <i>Laemostenus (Leuthostenes) mauretanicus ssp. polymephus</i> | D | | |
| <i>Alphasida (Betasia) argentolimbata</i> | D | | |
| <i>Tetramorium parvioculum</i> | D | | |
| <i>Technomyrmex vexatus</i> | D | | |
| <i>Acicula norissi</i> | B | | |
| <i>Oestophora calpeiana</i> | A | | |
| | | | |
| Southern waters of Gibraltar Flora and Fauna | | | |
| Birds listed on Annex I of the Council Directive 79/409/EEC | | | |
| <i>Calonectris diomedea</i> | A | | |
| <i>Chlidonia niger</i> | A | | |
| <i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i> | A | | |
| <i>Larus audouinii</i> | A | | |
| <i>Larus melanocephalus</i> | A | | |
| <i>Pandon haliaetus</i> | A | | |
| <i>P. aristotelis desmaresti</i> | A | | |
| <i>Puffinus mauretanicus</i> | A | | |
| <i>Sterna albifrons</i> | A | | |
| <i>Sterna caspia</i> | A | | |
| <i>Sterna hirundo</i> | A | | |
| <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i> | A | | |
| <i>Puffinus yelkouan</i> | A | | |
| <i>Egretta garzetta</i> | A | | |
| <i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i> | A | | |
| <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i> | A | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

| Regularly occurring Migratory Birds not listed on Annex I of Council directive 79/409/EEC | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <i>Alca torda</i> | A | | |
| <i>Fratercula arctica</i> | A | | |
| <i>Larus fuscus</i> | A | | |
| <i>Larus ridibundus</i> | A | | |
| <i>Puffinus gravis</i> | A | | |
| <i>Puffinus griseus</i> | A | | |
| <i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i> | A | | |
| <i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i> | A | | |
| <i>Stercorarius skua</i> | A | | |
| <i>Morus bassanus</i> | A | | |
| <i>Melanitta nigra</i> | A | | |
| <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> | A | | |
| <i>Sterna bengalensis</i> | A | | |
| <i>Ardea cinerea</i> | A | | |
| <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> | A | | |
| <i>Numenius phaeopus</i> | A | | |
| <i>Actitis hypoleucos</i> | A | | |
| <i>Arenaria interpres</i> | A | | |
| <i>Rissa tridactyla</i> | A | | |
| | | | |
| Mammals listed on Annex II of Council directive 92/43/EEC | | | |
| <i>Tursiops truncatus</i> | B | | |
| | | | |
| Amphibians and Reptiles listed on annex II of Council directive 92/43/EEC | | | |
| <i>Caretta caretta</i> | | | |
| | | | |
| Other important species of flora and fauna | | | |
| <i>Patella ferruginea</i> | C | | |
| <i>Lithophaga lithophaga</i> | C | | |
| <i>Pinna nobilis</i> | C | | |

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|--|--|
| <i>Nudibranchia spp.</i> | B | | |
| <i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i> | C | | |
| <i>Balaenoptera phsalus</i> | C | | |
| <i>Delphinus delphis</i> | C | | |
| <i>Gloicephala macrorhynchus</i> | C | | |
| <i>Globicephala malaena</i> | C | | |
| <i>Grampus griseus</i> | C | | |
| <i>Orcinus orca</i> | C | | |
| <i>Physeter catodon</i> | C | | |
| <i>Stenella coeruleoalba</i> | C | | |
| <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i> | C | | |
| <i>Chelonia mydas</i> | C | | |
| <i>Centrostephanus longispinus</i> | C | | |
| <i>Cymbula safiana</i> | D | | |
| <i>Pinna rudis</i> | A | | |
| <i>Dendropoma petraeum</i> | D | | |
| <i>Charoina spp.</i> | A | | |
| <i>Zostera marina</i> | C | | |
| <i>Cystoseria mediterranea</i> | C | | |

Section H: Monitoring, evaluation and updating of PAFs

The Article 17 evaluation and reporting system of the Habitats Directive is the key mechanism, and reporting will be foreseen for 2013/2014 and 2020/2021. A system for reporting on the population status and trends of birds under the Birds Directive is under development with the aim of being in place by 2014.

Therefore the main tools for monitoring progress of Gibraltar's PAF will be the reporting rounds for Article 17 and Article 12 in 2013 and 2020. We would expect to be able to update the PAF in 2014 using information from the 2013 reporting round.

National yearly monitoring and reporting is currently in place, assessing both, listed species as well as other important species of flora and fauna, in addition to all terrestrial and marine habitats.

On-going complementary research is also being undertaken by the Air quality, Water Framework and Marine Strategy Framework Directives monitoring programmes.

Specific habitat and species action plans are in place under the "Biodiversity Action Plan, Gibraltar: Planning for Nature (2006)", under the management of authorised wildlife contractors and managed by the Department of the Environment in direct representation of the Government of Gibraltar.

DRAFT FORMAT FOR A PRIORITISED ACTION FRAMEWORK (PAF) FOR NATURA 2000

EXPLANATORY NOTES

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Introduction

The establishment of Natura 2000 is now at an advanced stage and the upcoming period will be critical to making the network fully operational through the effective management and restoration of the sites. While the main responsibility for financing Natura 2000 lies with the Member States Article 8 of the Habitats Directive explicitly recognises the need for EU support for management of the sites, through co-financing by Community financial instruments. Article 8 does not specify the types of EU funding which could be used for co-financing. The current approach, set out in a 2004 Commission Communication on financing Natura 2000 for the 2007-2013 financing period¹, is to integrate the financing of Natura 2000 into the funding streams of different EU policy sectors. The opportunity to finance Natura 2000 has been specified in the financial regulations of the main policy sectors. The Commission has provided guidance, an IT-tool, and training for each Member State to support the use of this integration approach². Despite important progress it appears that the EU co-financing opportunities for Natura 2000 are not been fully utilised³.

The Commission's Communication on 'A budget for Europe 2020'⁴ has set out the framework for future EU financing under the new financial multiannual financial framework, firmly focusing on the delivery of the EU 2020 strategy. In the environment policy fiche attached to the budget communication⁵ it is recognised that the effective management and restoration of Natura 2000 sites is central to attainment of the EU 2020 biodiversity target and that a strengthened integrated approach using the various EU sectoral funds, ensuring their consistency with the priorities of Natura 2000 action frameworks, together with an enhanced LIFE Biodiversity strand, will provide a strong basis for the new Natura 2000 financing strategy.

The Commission staff working paper of 12 December 2012 provides an overview of relevant provisions for EU co-financing of Natura 2000 in the Commission proposals for the next multi-annual financial framework, underlines the benefits to be gained from effective management of these areas and explains how prioritised action frameworks (PAFs) can serve as strategic planning tools to strengthen the integration of Natura 2000 financing into the use of relevant EU financial instruments for the next programming period⁶.

¹ COM(2004) 431 final.

² http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/financing/index_en.htm

³ A summary of the current integration approach is given in the Commission brochure on 'Investing in Natura 2000 for nature and people'
<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/info/pubs/docs/brochures/investing%20in%20N2000%20brochure.pdf>

⁴ COM (2011) 867 final

⁵ COM(2011) 500 final, page 40

⁶ SEC(2011) 1573 final

Article 8 of the Habitats Directive already foresees the need to develop "a prioritized action framework", to be taken when sites are designated as SACs. This would only be possible on the basis of Member States establishing National and/or regional Natura 2000 prioritised action frameworks (PAFs) for the next financing period. Such an approach will provide a clearer framework to set out objectives and priorities, describe the Natura 2000 measures to be financed, identify the potential contribution of each EU fund to the national/regional Natura 2000 network for the next Financial Perspective and set out the prioritised actions to be taken, as well as monitoring and evaluation of the measures supported.

PAFs are intended as planning tools aimed at identifying key priorities and providing an integrated overview of how to achieve them having regard to different financing instruments. Member States will still need to specify their financing needs for Natura 2000 under the relevant plans or programmes. To maximise their influence and the prospect of the uptake under the integration approach such action frameworks will need to be established in advance of the finalisation of the agreement of key programmes for agriculture, fisheries and regional development for the next funding period. The objective is to ensure strategic focus on the most important priorities, as well as complementarity and consistency between the information contained in the prioritised action frameworks and the relevant programmes?

Article 8 of the Directive indicates that PAFs should be prepared at national level. However, Member State may decide to provide a more refined framework at regional level⁷.

A. INTRODUCTORY OVERVIEW OF NATURA 2000 NETWORK FOR THE TERRITORY

The aim is to set the context in relation to the species and habitats that are the focus of action, the number and area of Natura 2000 sites for the territory and details of main ecosystem types involved.

A.1 Short introduction to the habitat types of Annex I and species of Annex II of the Habitats Directive and Annex I and migratory bird species for which Natura 2000 sites are designated

The aim is to provide a summary overview of the species and habitat types, indicating in particular the situation regarding priority habitat types and species, and if possible providing an assessment of the importance of the territory for particular species and habitat types.

Potential Sources of information: Article 17 HD summary reports; 2010 BAP national summary reports; National web sites; Important Bird Areas 2000 publication or national IBAs

A.2 Number and area of Natura 2000 sites

⁷ In deciding on an appropriate territorial level Member States should have regard to available biological and financial data that is necessary for the evaluation.

The aim is to provide summary statistics for the Natura 2000 network for both the terrestrial and marine environments⁸. This should be complemented in an Annex to the document (or a link to a web site) with the most up to date list of SCIs (indicating sites hosting priority habitat types/species), those SCIs already designated SACs, as well as an up to date list of SPAs.

One or more overview maps should also be provided. These can be extracted from the Natura 2000 map viewer (<http://natura2000.eea.europa.eu/#>), which also provides a link to the standard data form for each Natura 2000 site. Other national GIS data systems may be used as well. Other relevant information, such as the range in the surface areas of the sites, may be provided where this is considered relevant.

Potential Sources of information: Statistics on the number and area of SCIs and SPAs are available from the Natura barometer. Member States will need to indicate to what extent the SCIs have formally been designated as SACs. The overall area for Natura 2000 terrestrial and marine sites can be derived from spatial data in the Natura 2000 database.

A.3 Main land use cover and ecosystem categories for Natura 2000 sites

The aim is to provide an overview for the territory concerned of the main CORINE land cover categories for the Natura 2000 sites (based on spatial boundaries of the sites). This will give an indication of the relative importance of major ecosystem types (e.g. forests, grasslands, marine, wetlands etc) within the Natura 2000 network.

Potential Sources of information: Biodiversity Data Centre of the EEA

B STATUS OF THE HABITATS AND SPECIES

The aim is to summarise the most up to date information on the conservation status of species and habitat types covered by Natura 2000 under both the Habitats and Birds Directive and to present summary information on the main pressures and threats they are facing

B.1 Latest assessment of conservation status of species and habitat types for territory

B.1.a Habitat types and species of Habitats Directive

⁸ In accordance with the guidelines for reporting under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive marine sites are defined as any of those which include an area of sea. The Marine area of sites is the area being below the coastline. The definition of the coastline used to define the marine boundary should follow international or national legislation. This approach is the same as adopted for the revised Standard Data Forms (SDFs) for individual Natura 2000 sites. Thus, a site located at the coastline and stretching out into the sea should be counted as a 'marine site', although it might include a terrestrial component.

The objective is to provide the most up to date knowledge on the conservation status of the Annex I habitats and Annex II species. This should be presented for each biogeographical region covered by the Region concerned. This should also be complemented by the summary assessment of the parameters for favourable conservation status

Sources of information: This will largely be based on data extracted from the Habitats Directive Article 17 assessment⁹.

B.1.b Annex I and migratory Bird Species

For bird species there is as yet no published EU assessment on the status and trends of Annex I and migratory bird species (for which SPAs are classified)¹⁰. Notwithstanding, it is necessary to have data for birds as a basis for priority setting in relation to management and restoration of Natura 2000 sites.

Potential sources of information: the summary of the 2004 Birds in Europe assessment for the country; national red lists results or other national assessments; the 2010 BAP country profile

B.2 Overall assessment of conservation status by Habitat category / species group

The situation in relation to ecosystem types (eg forests, peatlands, grasslands etc.) should be presented and interpreted.

Potential sources of information: The main source of information will be the summary results of the Article 17 assessment. This is also summarised in the 2010 BAP country profile (sections A1.1 & A1.3). More detailed summaries are available for agriculture and forest related habitats (2010 BAP profiles Objective 2) and for marine related habitats (2010 BAP profiles Section 3.1). Any relevant information and studies by Member States for habitats of birds should also be summarised

B.3 Overview of pressures and threats to species and habitats

Available information on key pressures and threats to be addressed should be presented, especially relevant to the management and restoration of the Natura 2000 sites.

Potential source of information: Article 17 summary reports for species and habitats of Habitats Directive. Information on bird habitats should also be presented where relevant

⁹ The Article 17 Habitats Directive conservation status assessment has been carried out for EU 25 and does not cover Bulgaria and Romania, for which other relevant sources of information will need to be used. The summary data is also provided at national level and for regional PAFs there will be a need for further analysis

¹⁰ An assessment on population status and trends for bird species covered by the Birds Directive is under preparation in the context of reporting under Article 12 of this Directive.

C. Legal and administrative provisions for the protection and management of the Natura 2000 sites

C.1 Relevant legal provisions

Present a short summary of the regulatory, administrative and contractual approach for the management of the Natura 2000 sites. Indicate the competent authorities for the management of the sites and indicate any procedural provisions and co-operation between the public authorities as well as between them and private bodies, technical and scientific institutions, and if applicable with other regions and trans-border co-operation for implementation of management measures (max. 1-2 page).

Potential source of information: National/regional web sites and relevant policy documents

C.2 Progress and perspectives for management planning for the sites

The aim is to provide an update on progress and perspectives in relation to the establishment of conservation objectives and measures for species and habitats and especially in putting in place management plans and/or equivalent instruments for Natura 2000¹¹. Where information is available on the management systems applying to different categories of sites, this should be given.

While it is acknowledged that management plans are not a requirement under the Directive, this information is of special interest in order to understand the instruments the Member States use to manage their network and also to find more specific information if required.

In the context of Article 17 reporting under the Habitats Directive information is requested on the overall number of comprehensive management plans and the percentage of the network area covered by the comprehensive management plans plus the number of comprehensive management plans in preparation. Although the SDF will include information on management plans (with “yes/no/in preparation” information), it is important to inform the general public on the overall number of comprehensive management plans. In order to put this number into context, a new field “% of the network area covered by plans” is included.

In this context management plans are considered as operational instruments that set practical measures to achieve the conservation objectives for the sites in the network. For reporting purposes under Article 17, only comprehensive management plans covering an entire Natura 2000 site (or sites) and fulfilling the following minimum requirements should be reported:

A comprehensive management plan should:

- indicate the habitat types and/or species and their localities for which conservation measures are planned;

¹¹ Whereas management plans are not a legal obligation under the Habitats Directive they are widely recognised to be a valuable tool in helping define and achieve the necessary conservation measures

- identify the actual status of the habitat types and species and the desired status which should be reached through the conservation measures;
- define clear and achievable conservation objectives and
- identify the necessary measures together with the means and a time schedule which can contribute to meeting those objectives.

Potential sources of information: National/regional web sites; 2010 BAP country profiles (see section A.1.1.1); "Fact Sheet on Member State Natura 2000 Management Plans" in framework of Management Group on Natura 2000; Information being compiled on management plans in context of reporting under Article 17 Habitats Directive.

C.3 Relevant government and non-governmental plans

Any particular initiatives for the conservation and recovery of individual habitat types or species or groups of them or for strengthening the coherence of the Natura 2000 network should be noted (e.g. a national plan for recovery of peatlands or forests). This may also relate to relevant measures under other plans in fulfilment of other EU legislation (e.g. Nitrates Directive, Water Framework Directive, Marine Strategy Directive etc.)

Potential sources of information: National/regional web sites of competent authorities

D CURRENT EXPERIENCE WITH USE OF EU FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The aim is to get an overview of the significance / relative importance of different EU financial instruments for investments in Natura 2000 over the current EU financing period (2007-2013), the kind of uses being made of them as well as any problems encountered in using these funds. Background information on each of the relevant sectoral funds and the opportunities they provide for EU co-financing of Natura 2000 is available in the 'Financing Natura 2000 guidance handbook'.¹² Presentations on the relevance of each of the key sectoral funds were also made at the conference on financing Natura 2000, held in Brussels in July 2010¹³.

D1 European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)

Provide a summary of allocations under Axis 2 of Rural Development Programmes, as well as other national/regional financing. The aim is to provide an indication of the current approach to use of the funds for the territory, including the main categories being applied (e.g. whether category 213 Natura 2000 type payments or category 214 agri-environment payments etc apply). There is an opportunity to indicate other relevant categories. Where estimates are available they should be provided. Otherwise, indicate as VS (Very significant); MU (Moderate Use); MI (Minor use); NU (No use).

Please also provide an additional narrative summary of relevant details, including an indication of the key Natura 2000 conservation measures being pursued. Also indicate important lessons learnt in relation to the use of these funds, obstacles encountered that may need to be overcome to improve uptake of funding of future.

Potential source of information: Section A.2.1 of 2010 BAP country profile provides details on the allocation of funds to main categories of RDP. Information has also been compiled as part of the Commission study on Financing of Natura 2000. Member States may also have access to national/regional databases. In relation to the conservation measures being used the key source should be the rural development plans for the territory concerned.

D.2 European Fisheries Fund (EFF)

Provide a summary of allocations under Axis 1-4 of EFF used for Natura 2000 management. Due to fact that coding system for EFF funds does not provide breakdown for Natura 2000 the information is likely to be limited. In this context please indicate in narrative text any projects where EFF funds have been allocated/used please. If EFF funds are available and not utilised, where possible, please indicated an obstacles encountered.

Potential source of information: Section 3.2.1 of 2010 BAP country profile. Information compiled as part of the Commission study on Financing of Natura 2000.

¹² Available in 22 languages at http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/financing/index_en.htm

¹³ <http://www.ecologic-events.de/natura2000/downloads.htm>

D.3 Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund

Provide a summary of allocations under the relevant categories of structural funding (51, 55 and 56) as well as the use of INTERREG for Natura 2000 management. Also indicate to what extent the European Social Fund may have been applied.

Potential source of information: Section B.1.1.4 of 2010 BAP country profile. *Information has also been compiled as part of the Commission study on Financing of Natura 2000. Member States may also have access to national/regional databases. In relation to the conservation measures being used the key source should be the regional development plans for the territory concerned.*

D.4 LIFE+

Provide a summary of allocations under LIFE+ for Natura 2000 management and indicate the main type of conservation measures being undertaken by the fund as well as key lessons learnt

Potential source of information: Section B.1.1 of 2010 BAP country profile. LIFE+ database.¹⁴
Information has also been compiled as part of the Commission study on Financing of Natura 2000

D.5 Other funding sources

Indicate any other important sources of funding relevant to the management of Natura 2000, particularly EU related funding, such as the 7th Framework Programme for Research. Also indicate any significant public/private partnership financing schemes or innovative financing initiatives. Summarise the key conservation measures being undertaken and lessons learnt.

Also indicate in this section whether there has been any 'programmatic' approach towards the national/regional funding of Natura 2000.

Potential source of information: National reports and web sites. Examples of innovative financing relevant to Natura 2000 are available in the Commission contracts¹⁵.

¹⁴ The Life project database summarises all relevant projects <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/project/Projects/index.cfm> Reviews of LIFE funded projects for several key ecosystems are available at <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/themes/nature.htm>

¹⁵ For examples see study on "Innovative use of EU funds to finance management measures and activities in Natura 2000 sites" at http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/financing/docs/innovative_use_eu_funds.pdf

E CURRENT ESTIMATE OF FINANCIAL NEEDS FOR MANAGEMENT OF NATURA 2000 FOR THE TERRITORY

The aim is to summarise the results of the 2008 questionnaire, which was designed to obtain an estimate of the financial resources required to complete and effectively manage Natura 2000 at land and sea. The aim was to have estimates consistent with managing all sites so as to ensure they make their contribution to the overall favourable conservation status of the network as defined in Articles 1e and 1i of the Habitats Directive¹⁶. This related to the implementation of the management measures foreseen in the Directives, in particular in relation to Article 6 of the Habitats and Article 4 of the Birds Directive.

Individual Member States' cost estimates should relate to all sites¹⁷ for which they have responsibility. Estimates should relate to what is still required and not to what is currently spent, or what has already been spent. The aim was to present an estimate of future costs. However, the Commission did also encourage those countries who have annual estimates of actual expenditure to provide them as additional information.

Financing needs are based on activities relating to the management requirements at Natura 2000 sites or to network costs. To establish consistency and compatibility across Natura 2000 sites, some form of uniform system of reporting on costs was clearly required. The key reference used in this questionnaire was Annex III of the Commission Communication on Financing Natura 2000 (2004), which established a preliminary list of necessary measures and activities for the establishment and management of the Natura 2000 network. The Communication classification has subsequently been articulated in the Financing Natura 2000 Guidance Handbook¹⁸. As noted, this is generally consistent with the earlier classifications. It was not based on the nature of the costs incurred, like labour, fuel or utility charges but on the type of the activities to be financed. The main categories of costs for the 2008 questionnaire were

| EC 2008 | Type of cost |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Finalisation of sites | One-off |
| Investment costs | One-off |
| Management planning | One-off |
| Management planning | Recurrent |
| Habitat management and monitoring | Recurrent |

Where Member States have more updated and reliable estimates of costs these can be provided for the territory.

Potential sources of information: National responses to 2008 questionnaire or more updated estimates of costs that have been prepared for the territory

¹⁶ Favourable conservation status does not appear in the Birds Directive but it can be seen as a tool for determining the ecological requirements of the various bird species under Article 2 and the EC has argued that the obligation extends to the Birds Directive in its own guidance on hunting under the Birds Directive.

¹⁷ Note that site specific cost estimates are not needed; only the national aggregates across sites should be reported – see further below and the questionnaire.

¹⁸ http://circa.europa.eu/Public/irc/env/financing_natura/library?l=/contract_management/handbook_update&vm=detail&sb=Title (table 3 page 10).

F STRATEGIC CONSERVATION PRIORITIES FOR NATURA 2000 FOR THE TERRITORY FOR PERIOD 2014-2020

Outline the strategic priorities for the next period and how this is expected to improve conservation status of Natura 2000 habitat types and species over the next financing period (2014 to 2020). Particular attention needs to be paid to strategy for improving the conservation status for priority habitat types and species. However, the strategy should not be limited to this and should also consider more widely how to secure improvements in conservation of other Natura 2000 habitats and species under both Birds and Habitats Directive (linked to nature sub-target). It can also take an ecosystem perspective (e.g. agricultural, forest, wetland, marine, etc).

There will be a need to incorporate into strategy and priorities a clear link to benefits from financial investments in Natura 2000 and ecosystem services, especially in relation to climate change and mitigation, and also to socio-economic benefits. The information may be organised under three main headings, the first two focusing in particular on the conservation priorities to be achieved for priority habitat types and species as well as other habitat types and species, the third on links to wider policy objectives and the benefits of investments in Natura 2000. It is for the Member States indicate their priorities in light of the above considerations, and having full regard to their state of development in establishing and implementing Natura 2000.

- F.1 Summary of priorities for period (and expected outcomes) for priority habitat types and species having regard to need for measurable progress on nature sub-target under EU 2020 biodiversity strategy (Habitats and Birds Directives) and for ensuring good functioning of Natura 2000 network (SACs + SPAs)**
- F.2 Summary of priorities for period (and expected outcomes) for other habitat types and species having regard to need for measurable progress on nature sub-target under EU 2020 biodiversity strategy (Habitats and Birds Directives) and for ensuring good functioning of the Natura 2000 network (SACs + SPAs)**

In line with Article 8 of the Habitats Directive the PAF should recognise the particular importance of priority habitats and species' listed under this Directive. However, full consideration needs to be given to other species and habitats, especially those for which the Member States/Regions has a particular responsibility for their conservation within the EU. It is for the Member State to identify the habitat types and species most in need and for which Natura 2000 investments are required.

In establishing priorities the results of the Article 17 assessments under the Habitats Directive need to be fully considered. Together with information on the status of birds this forms the baseline for assessing progress towards attainment of the nature target of the EU 2020 biodiversity strategy. The priorities should reflect the objective of achieving a significant and measurable improvement in the status of species and habitats by 2020

Target 1 of EU Biodiversity Strategy¹⁹

To halt the deterioration in the status of all species and habitats covered by EU nature legislation and achieve a significant and measurable improvement in their status so that, by 2020, compared to current assessments: (i) 100% more habitat assessments and 50% more species assessments under the Habitats Directive show an improved conservation status; and (ii) 50% more species assessments under the Birds Directive show a secure or improved status.

Priority setting should also have regard to the functioning and coherence of the network, including ecological connectivity of Natura 2000 or wider measures supporting the sites as part of green infrastructure.

F.3 Strategic priorities in relation to investments in Natura 2000 linked to green tourism and jobs, to support climate change mitigation and adaptation or other ecosystem benefits, for research, education, training, awareness and promotion of co-operation (including cross-border) linked to Natura 2000 management

In order to secure adequate financing for Natura 2000 there needs to be increased focus on its contribution to the attainment of Europe 2020 objectives²⁰. Optimising the benefits provided by investing in Natura 2000 needs to be more clearly reflected in the priority setting.

In addition to protecting nature's intrinsic value investing in Natura 2000 provides multiple benefits to society and the economy, at the local, regional, national and EU level. The most relevant socio-economic benefits include the role of Natura 2000 in regulating climate²¹ (e.g. mitigating climate change - including services directly relevant to climate change mitigation and adaptation such as flood conveyance of wetlands, natural coastal protection of dune systems, carbon sequestration of peatlands and the ability of forested mountain areas to prevent erosion and landslides), maintaining water flow and quality, safeguarding natural pollinators, preserving landscape and amenity values, and supporting tourism and recreation.

¹⁹ COM (2011) 540 final

²⁰ Europe 2020 is the EU's growth strategy for the coming decade aimed at a smart, sustainable and inclusive economy. These three mutually reinforcing priorities should help the EU and the Member States deliver high levels of employment, productivity and social cohesion. The EU has set five ambitious objectives - on employment, innovation, education, social inclusion and climate/energy - to be reached by 2020. Each Member State has adopted its own national targets in each of these areas. Concrete actions at EU and national levels underpin the strategy (see http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/index_en.htm)

²¹ The Commission has developed guidelines on Climate change and Natura 2000 which are available at http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/guidance_en.htm

Several studies have already been undertaken for the Commission to evaluate the benefits of Natura 2000²². Three further studies evaluating overall benefits of Natura 2000, the benefits linked directly to delivery of conservation measures at the sites and the tourism, recreational and employment benefits of investing in Natura 2000, will be finalised before the end of 2011.

Therefore in establishing priorities for financial investments in Natura 2000 full consideration needs to be given to

- Multiple ecosystem benefits that can be derived from such investments
- the potential link between financial investments in Natura 2000 and climate change²³ It is for Member States to identify particular Natura 2000 habitat types (e.g. peatlands, river floodplains, forests, coastal habitats) for which investments can also provide climate change benefits.
- the link between Natura 2000 investments, tourism and jobs and opportunities for research, education, training, awareness and promotion of co-operation (including cross-border) linked to Natura 2000 management

²² The results of Commission funded studies on the benefits of Natura 2000 are available on the web site of DG ENV at http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/financing/index_en.htm.

²³ Commission guidelines on Natura 2000 and climate change are in preparation

G DESCRIPTION OF KEY MEASURES TO ACHIEVE PRIORITIES

The essential measures to give effect to priorities need to be identified by the Member State. A typology of 25 Natura 2000 management activities that may be eligible for EU co-financing has been developed (see Annex). This may be broadly defined as one-off investment costs and recurring management costs. Eligibility of different activities will vary under different EU funds.

It is proposed that this is best approached on an ecosystem perspective. Where possible, measures should be linked to each habitat type and species prioritised in the strategy. This can be further strengthened if linked to different Natura 2000 sites. The measures should also have full regard to ongoing work on setting conservation objectives and on the development of management plans or equivalent instruments for the sites (section C.2). They should also have full regard to the obstacles and lessons learnt from use of EU funds under the current financing period (section D).

The Natura 2000 Financing Natura 2000 guidance handbook and IT-tool already provide an indication of the type of conservation measures that may be applicable under current different sectoral funds, including potential examples and it is recommended that these are availed of, while noting that the future regulations may not contain each of the same provisions.

For each major heading and using the attached Annex provide for each major category the following breakdown

- An outline of the type of activity
- Description of the measures to be undertaken
- An indication of the target species/habitats/sites
- An indication of potential financing sources

Where estimated costs exist for different priority measures (in accordance with information provided under section E) they can be indicated, although this may not be possible in relation to certain measures.

The following sections are indicative and can be adapted in relation to the priorities identified and indicated in Section F for the territory concerned. There may also be an overlap between measures indicated for one section and another (e.g. measures for restoration of peatlands can be indicated under wetlands and climate change mitigation/adaptation).

In relation to level of detail to be provided the aim should be to provide a level of specification in relation to conservation measures that can be readily translated into national and/or regional programmes.

G.1 General Priority Measures for Natura 2000

Indicate the general priority measures that are not linked to particular ecosystem or land category types. This can also include measures linked to good functioning of the network. This should relate to one off investments as well as recurring costs.

G.1.a Priority Measures for Natura 2000 agricultural and forest habitats and species

Indicate the main agriculture and forestry related measures to give effect to priorities. This should relate to one off investments as well as recurring costs. Of particular interest here are measures linked to Rural Development Policy under the CAP. However, other financial instruments may also be relevant.

G.1.b Priority Measures for Natura 2000 marine and coastal habitats and species

This should include consideration of marine management measures that are linked to fisheries. This should relate to one off investments as well as recurring costs. If possible also have regard to the potential for complementarity with measures taken under the Marine Strategy Directive

G.1.c Priority Measures for Natura 2000 wetlands habitats and species, including peatlands.

This may include measures linked to aquaculture in freshwaters. This should relate to one off investments as well as recurring costs. Also have regard to actions being taken under EU water legislation, especially the Water Framework Directive

G.2 Other priority measures

As some EU co-financing opportunities for Natura 2000 may be linked to the attainment of other EU objectives (e.g. in relation to socio-economic development, climate change adaptation and mitigation, employment) it will be necessary to identify measures that provide such multiple benefits. The following sections are indicative and can be adapted in relation to the situation pertaining to the territory concerned.

G.2.a Priority Measures for securing ecosystem benefits of Natura 2000, especially in relation to climate change mitigation and adaptation

G.2.b Priority Measures for promoting sustainable tourism and employment in relation to Natura 2000

G.2.c Priority Measures to promote innovative approaches in relation to Natura 2000

Indicate priority measures that provide multiple ecosystem benefits²⁴ and that contribute to 'Green Infrastructure'. These may be one off investments or recurring management.

²⁴ information from the 3 Commission studies on benefits of Natura 2000 will be made available in 2011.

They may be climate change mitigation and adaptation measures, including in relation to carbon sequestration and water quality and quantity management measures.

Measures that contribute to the sustainable development of the territory and for which Natura 2000 sites provide benefits to the local population should be considered. This includes measures for tourism and promotion of local businesses. Measures may include investments in visitor infrastructure and nature interpretation, measures that promote Natura 2000 related entrepreneurial opportunities.²⁵

There will also be a need to consider and trial innovative financing measures for Natura 2000, especially in relation to private financing. This may include tourism and entrepreneurial activities directly linked to and benefitting from the Natura 2000 areas but also in relation to the multiple benefits provided by investments in management and restoration of Natura 2000 sites (e.g. in relation to water quality management objectives).

Section G.3. Summary Table for of measures per species and habitat type

This summary table allows crosschecking from the point of view of species and habitats, to see how pressures and threats to each species/habitat are addressed in the given region/Member State. This summary table should list for each feature (species or habitat) the planned priority measures to be financed from EU funding (e.g. agri-environmental payment for late mowing, forest-environmental payment for retaining dead wood in the forest). This could serve for crosschecking which features are planned to be covered with one or more planned measures from EU financing/co-financing. This will allow for an overview of the priority measures planned for each feature having regard to the conservation status of the given feature and whether they represent a proper response to the main pressures and threats. Also, this allows a comparison between different regions/Member States to see, feature by feature, how pressures and threats are addressed within the range of the feature.

Section H: Monitoring, evaluation and updating of PAFs

Different elements for evaluation of the priorities and measures to be undertaken in accordance with the prioritised action framework already exist.

As regards the main expected outcome of improved conservation status of species and habitats the Article 17 evaluation and reporting system of the Habitats Directive is the key mechanism, and reporting will be foreseen for 2013/2014 and 2020/2021. A system for reporting on the population status and trends of birds under the Birds Directive is under development with the aim of being in place by 2014. These reporting systems will also provide the principal basis for evaluating progress in meeting the 2020 nature target of the EU biodiversity strategy.

²⁵ An example of the types of investment considered for the Slovenian Natura 2000 programme for the period 2007-2013 is given in Annex 4.6 to the 'Natura 2000 site management programme: 2007-2013 operational programme'

Member States should also be in a position to evaluate progress through review of the implementation of management plans and equivalent instruments. Progress in the establishment of these management tools will also be an important indicator.

Each of the EU sectoral funds (EARDF, ERDF etc) has their own monitoring and evaluation systems and it is not proposed to duplicate these. However, in designing projects under these funds and under any future LIFE instrument the indicators of success should be defined in relation to the objectives of these projects. There should also be full regard to determining the allocation and uptake of funds for Natura 2000 under the different sectoral funds.

There should be a provision for updating of the PAFs in light of improved knowledge on the measures to be taken (e.g. as result of LIFE projects including work on the development of 'integrated projects', or the outcome of biogeographical seminars on management of Natura 2000) and also having regard to developments in programming under key EU policy sectors (e.g. CAP, CFP).

Article 8 of the Habitats Directive foresees a two-year review of the action framework and there will therefore be a need for updating of the PAFs in light of improved knowledge on the measures to be taken (e.g. as result of LIFE projects, or outcome of biogeographical seminars on management of Natura 2000) and also having regard to developments in programming under key EU policy sectors (e.g. CAP, CFP). Progress in implementation of the PAFs shall also be considered in the context of future reviews of implementation of the EU Biodiversity strategy.

ANNEX

Natura 2000 management Activities which may be eligible for EU co-financing²⁶

| Categorisation | No. | Types of Activities | Further description |
|--|-----------|---|--|
| Establishment of Natura 2000 sites | 1 | Administration of the site selection process | Funding for authorities carrying out the selection process. |
| | 2 | Scientific studies/inventories for the identification of sites – surveys, inventories, mapping, condition assessment | Scientific studies, research personnel, workshops and meetings, creation of databases etc. |
| | 3 | Preparation of initial information and publicity material | Including handbooks, seminars, workshops, communication materials for training and capacity building. |
| | 4 | Pilot projects | Initial 'trial' projects at sites. |
| Management planning | 5 | Preparation of management plans, strategies and schemes (including scientific studies and investigations needed for planning and implementation based on solid knowledge) | Elaboration and/or update of management and action plans, land use plans etc. |
| | 6 | Establishment of management bodies | Start-up funding, feasibility studies, management plans etc. |
| | 7 | Consultation – public meetings, liaison with landowners | Including costs incurred for the organization of meetings and workshops, publication of consultation outcomes, financial support of stakeholders, etc. Can include networking activities (travel, meetings and workshops). |
| | 8 | Review of management plans, strategies and schemes | Review and updating of management plans and strategies. |
| | 9 | Running costs of management bodies (maintenance of buildings and equipment) | Including: running costs incurred to meet depreciation of infrastructure, consumables, travel expenses, rents and leases etc. |
| | 10 | Maintenance of facilities for public access and use of the sites, interpretation, observatories and kiosks etc. | Including costs related to guides, maps, related personnel. |
| | 11 | Staff (conservation/project officers, wardens/rangers, workers) | Ongoing staff costs. |
| Ongoing habitat management and monitoring | 12 | Conservation management measures – maintenance and improvement of habitats' favourable conservation status | Including restoration work, provision of wildlife passages, management of specific habitats, and preparation of management plans. |
| | 13 | Conservation management measures – maintenance and improvement of species' favourable conservation status | Including restoration work, provision of wildlife passages, management of specific species (flora and fauna) and plans. |
| | 14 | Conservation management measures in relation to invasive alien species (IAS) | Including restoration work, infrastructure, management of specific species, and preparation of management plans. |

²⁶ P 33, Financing Natura 2000, Guidance Handbook, revised version May 2007, http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/financing/index_en.htm

| Categorisation | No. | Types of Activities | Further description |
|--|-----------|---|---|
| Ongoing habitat management and monitoring | 15 | Implementation of management schemes and agreements with owners and managers of land or water to follow particular prescriptions. | Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Agri-environmental measures</i>, e.g. wildlife-friendly production methods, habitat restoration on agricultural land, extensive livestock breeding, conservation of meadows, etc • <i>Forest-environmental measures</i>, e.g. creation of exploitation-free zones, retention of dead wood, control or eradication of invasive alien species, afforestation or reforestation activities, management of specific vegetation, etc. • <i>Aqua-environmental measures</i>, e.g. habitat maintenance in aquaculture zones etc. (relates to aquaculture rather than fishing). |
| | 16 | Provision of services: compensation for rights foregone and loss of income and developing acceptability 'liaison' with neighbors | Costs of compensation, e.g. to farmers, foresters or other land owners or users for income forgone as a result of management prescriptions needed for Natura 2000. |
| | 17 | Monitoring and surveying | Refers mainly to one-off costs related to monitoring and surveying activities, e.g. development of monitoring plans, methods and equipment and training of personnel. |
| | 18 | Risk management (fire prevention and control, flooding etc) | Includes the preparation of wardening and fire-control plans, development of relevant infrastructure, and equipment purchase. |
| | 19 | Site surveillance | Includes on-going surveillance, wardening and patrolling activities. Can include personnel costs, consumables, travel, etc in order to implement surveillance and guarding activities, including surveillance to control harmful recreational or economic activities and protect against wildfires. |
| | 20 | Provision of information and publicity material | Includes establishing communication networks, producing newsletters and awareness-raising and information materials, setting-up and maintaining internet pages, etc. |
| | 21 | Training and education | Including production of handbooks, seminars, workshops and communication materials. |
| | 22 | Facilities to encourage visitor use and appreciation of Natura 2000 sites | |
| Investment costs | 23 | Land purchase, including compensation for development rights | Land purchase to achieve environmental protection and management schemes. |

| Categorisation | No. | Types of Activities | Further description |
|-------------------------|------------|---|--|
| Investment costs | 24 | Infrastructure needed for habitat or species restoration | Includes an array of measures for the creation of specific infrastructure for the management of the environment, e.g. for water management in peat bogs and mines. Can include equipment acquisition (for equipment relevant to the running of protection and management institutions such as office and IT equipment, monitoring materials, boats, diving equipment, cameras, etc.) |
| | 25 | Infrastructure for public access, interpretation, observatories and kiosks, etc | Infrastructure for public use that is conducive to environmental protection and management (e.g. infrastructure to increase the amenity value of sites such as signage, trails, observation platforms and visitor centres). Can include equipment acquisition (for equipment relevant to the running of protection and management institutions such as office and IT equipment, monitoring materials, boats, diving equipment, cameras, etc.) |