



Financing Natura 2000



EU Co-financing

*“Whereas it is recognized that the adoption of measures intended to promote the conservation of priority natural habitats and priority species of Community interest is **a common responsibility of all Member States**;*

*whereas **this may, however, impose and excessive financial burden on certain Member States** given, on the one hand, the uneven distribution of such habitats and species throughout the Community and, on the other hand, the fact that the “polluter pays” principle can have only limited application in the special case of nature conservation;*

*Whereas it is therefore agreed that, in this exceptional case, **a contribution by means of Community co-financing should be provided** for within the limits of the resources made available under the Community’s decisions...”*

-- Preamble, Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)

*Financial provisions further specified in **Article 8** of the **Habitats Directive***



Natura 2000 costs = €6.1 b/yr

1. Finalisation of policy framework and administrative structures

e.g. Scientific studies, inventories, promotion

2. Management, administration and maintenance of related infrastructure

e.g. Preparation of management plans, public participation, administration

3. Ongoing management and monitoring

e.g. Monitoring systems, management and restoration measures, compensation, visitor management, awareness raising and education

4. Investment costs

e.g. Land purchase, public use infrastructures, equipment acquisition



Relevant EU Funds, 2007-13

EU co-financing for Natura 2000 from:

- Rural Development fund (EAFRD)
- Regional Development funds (ERDF, ESF)
- European Fisheries Fund (EFF)
- Financial Instrument for Environment (LIFE+)



EU co-financing for Natura 2000

Total budgets for EU funds that are potentially relevant for Natura 2000 financing versus estimated breakdown of EU co-financing needs assuming total annual cost of €6.1 billion per year. Figures in billions of Euro.

Relevant EU Funds	Total 2007-13	Total/year	N2000 needs/yr ¹
Rural Development (EAFRD)	88 €	12.6 €	€1.69
Regional Funds (ERDF, CF, ESF)	348 €	50 €	€1.33
European Fisheries Fund (EFF)	5 €	0.70 €	€0.21
Financial Instrument for Environment	2 €	0.3 €	€0.25
Total	443 €	63 €	€3.48

¹ According to estimate by BirdLife / Royal Society for Protection of Birds, assuming total cost for Natura 2000 of €6.1 billion per year.



Examples of measures

Rural Development fund (EAFRD)

- Natura 2000 payments (compensation)
- Agri-environment

Regional Development funds (ERDF, ESF)

- Biodiversity promotion and nature protection
- Tourism, including promotion of natural assets
- Cross-border cooperation

Financial Instrument for Environment (LIFE+)



How does it work in practice?

EAFRD (Rural Development):

- N2000 payment: compensation for certain restrictions on land use
- Late mowing and controlled grazing
- Agri-environment: cover additional costs and income foregone
- Farmers as guides – diversification of incomes

ERDF (Regional Development):

- Visitors centre, signage, promotion of area/tourism
- Cross-border management planning and promotion

LIFE+ (Nature Conservation):

- Species conservation project