



# Financing Natura 2000

## Guidance Handbook



European Commission



# Financing Natura 2000

Guidance Handbook

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## 1. FOREWORD

Biodiversity means the diversity of life in all its forms – the diversity of species, of genetic variations within species, and of ecosystems. It provides a wide range of benefits to mankind - for example goods (such as timber and medicinal products) and essential services (such as carbon-cycling and storage, clean water, climate mitigation, mitigation of natural hazards, and pollination).

The continuing loss of biodiversity has been recognised as one of the most pressing environmental problems facing our society. The richness of Europe's wildlife and the habitats that support them are a much valued element of our quality of life. More importantly still, these areas play a critical role in the regulation of the natural systems (water cycle, climate) and some of the natural resources on which our society depends. The economic value of these "ecosystem services" is overwhelmingly higher than the cost of their protection and preservation. We have, however, the tendency to take these systems for granted. Their value is normally only appreciated in the event of breakdown in the systems resulting in some natural disaster - flooding, tidal waves, etc.

As Director-General for Environment, I welcome the growing recognition given to the environmental issue of biodiversity. The conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity is of immense importance for the future of our planet. But - unfortunately - it has still to attract the same level of concern and action.

At the same time, our citizens are greatly interested in nature and wildlife issues. Television documentaries on wildlife are hugely popular and NGOs which support nature protection have many millions of members across Europe. But this widespread concern still needs to be translated into a determined and coordinated political effort.

Over recent years we have made significant progress towards putting into place modern, streamlined and cost-effective policies that will achieve a cleaner and healthier environment for our citizens while also stimulating innovation. Protecting our nature for future generations is a work in progress, and we still have much to do. It is a task I am committed to pursuing vigorously over the coming years. From nature, we will derive pleasure, fulfilment, inspiration and solace. Nature is fundamental to our culture, language, psychological and spiritual wellbeing.

Natura 2000 is the European ecological network of sites established under the Habitats Directive. Its main purpose is the protection of habitat types and plant and animal species of Community interest in the European Union. Natura 2000 is an important contribution to the long-term goal of protecting the Community's biodiversity resources. Significant progress has been made in the establishment of the Natura 2000 network through designation by Member States of more than 18.000 sites. Now that the network is nearing completion, it is crucial that attention turns more towards management of the sites. The implementation of management plans clearly raises the issue of the availability of financial and other resources required.

Through this Guidance you will be able to better know how to use Community funds for Natura 2000, which will contribute to the implementation of Natura 2000 and thus to the overall goal of protecting Europe's biodiversity.



**Mogens Peter Carl**

## 2. INTRODUCTION: NATURA 2000 AND NATURA FUNDING

### Natura in a nut shell

Natura 2000 is the bedrock of conservation in the European Union. The establishment of the Natura 2000 network was initiated in 1992 through the adoption of the Habitats Directive. Together with the Birds Directive, the Habitats Directive provides a common framework for the conservation of wildlife and habitats within the EU and is the key European initiative for maintaining the biodiversity of the Member States.

The sites designated as part of the Natura 2000 network now cover around 15-30% of the territory of the EU Member States – already the total area included in the network is larger than Germany

Natura 2000 will be a EU-wide ecological network of conservation areas with the aim of maintaining and restoring endangered habitats and species of Community interest. In order to establish the Natura 2000 network, the EU has been divided into seven bio-geographical regions: the Pannonian, Boreal, Continental, Atlantic, Alpine, Macaronesian and Mediterranean regions. For each region the Member States propose to the Commission a list of sites selected on the basis of criteria contained in the Habitats Directive. With the assistance of the European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity (ETC), independent scientists, Member State experts and NGOs, the

Commission then evaluates these proposals aiming to create a consistent, coherent and representative ecological network of sites. After the Commission has adopted the Community lists of Natura 2000 sites the Member States (within a certain transition period) are responsible for taking all necessary measures to guarantee the conservation of their sites and prevent their deterioration.

In order to meet their obligations to take the necessary conservation measures, Member States are required to make or continue investments in infrastructure, activities, staff, and/or institutions. A great variety of activities are necessary for the effective management of sites eg developing management plans, habitat restoration, and active management activities such as mowing or species monitoring. These activities impose costs on Member States, which in principle should be covered by national budgets based on the principle of subsidiarity. However, the Habitats Directive Article 8, provides for the possibility of Community co-financing of such activities where needed.

In addition to improving nature conservation efforts, the establishment of the Natura 2000 network can also bring considerable economic and social benefits. These include, for example, the provision of ecosystem services, the supply of food and wood products, the creation of employment opportunities (eg in eco-tourism), diversification of local economies, increasing social stability and improving living

conditions, and reduced local environmental problems such as water pollution.

Preparations for the Natura 2000 network are also taking place in the two accession countries, Bulgaria and Romania, which are to join the EU in 2007. At present, these countries are preparing their list of sites.

### Financing Natura 2000

In its *Communication on the Financing of Natura 2000* to the Council and the European Parliament<sup>1</sup> - adopted on 15 July 2004 - the Commission presents its ideas about how the financial needs of Natura 2000 can be integrated into the different Community Funds and what measures can possibly be financed by them.

In preparing the Communication the Commission, assisted by an Expert Working Group on Article 8 composed of representatives of Member States and stakeholder experts, estimated the likely financial needs of a well-managed network. The final estimate of €6.1 billion per annum for EU-25 was based on Member State responses to a questionnaire, as well as experience to-date of costs arising on sites that have already been subject to management.

In the Communication it is proposed that future co-financing should, consistent with current practice, be accommodated within existing financial instruments – ‘the

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<sup>1</sup> COM (2004) 431 final, 15<sup>th</sup> July 2004

integration option'. The following reasons are presented for the choice of the integration option:

- it will ensure that the management of Natura 2000 sites is part of the wider land management policies of the EU. Thus, farming inside Natura 2000 sites will be part of the Common Agricultural Policy financial support and, structural interventions, being part of rural and regional development policies. This complementary approach will enable the network of Natura 2000 sites to play its role in protecting Europe's biodiversity better than if Natura 2000 sites are seen to be isolated or different from the wider policy context.
- it will allow Member States to set priorities and to develop policies and measures which reflect their national and regional specificities.
- it will avoid duplication and overlap of different Community funding instruments and the administrative complication and transaction costs which would be associated with such duplication.

### **A 'new world' for European financing of nature**

Many of those using this Handbook may have had experience in planning the funding for Natura 2000 projects before, perhaps using the funding instruments that were in place for the 2000-2006 period. It is crucial to recognize that in the period 2007-2013 the Community funding for nature conservation has been revised significantly. This means that those aiming to secure adequate funding for nature projects must actively seek new opportunities in the Community funds as set out in this Handbook, as well as continuing to pursue other national-level funding.

The provisions in the new 2007-2013 funds open up the possibility of making much more finance available for nature projects. The needs for funding of Natura 2000 were clearly identified in all the appropriate funding regulations presented by the Commission in the context of the 2007-2013 Budget proposals.

However, in order to fully benefit from this possibility the Member States and those involved in the management of nature projects need to work together to ensure that the opportunities provided by the Community funds are taken up. This means that the national and regional authorities planning the funding programmes, together with the managers of Natura 2000 sites and land included in Natura 2000 sites need to increasingly think how nature conservation objectives and the management of Natura 2000 can be integrated into the broader

concept of regional, rural and marine development.



### 3. WHO AND WHAT THE GUIDANCE HANDBOOK IS FOR, AND ITS BENEFITS

#### Who is the Guidance Handbook for?

This Guidance Handbook ('the Handbook') is primarily intended for the authorities in the Member States that are responsible for formulating the national and regional programmes in the 2007-13 period. The Handbook aims to assist authorities to identify the opportunities for EU co-financing of **Natura 2000** and encourage these opportunities to be fully incorporated into national and regional funding programmes.

The Handbook could also be a useful instrument for authorities involved in the development of management plans for specific sites as it can provide valuable ideas as to how specific management measures could be financed in future.

Through use of this Handbook, national and regional authorities are invited to consider all potential target groups (ie those 'end-users' of Community funds who actually carry out activities related to Natura 2000 sites), including administrations, farmers, foresters, fishermen and aquaculturalists, private land owners, public land owners, land managers, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), education organisations and Small and Medium Size Enterprises (SMEs). Even though the content of this Handbook does not directly address these target groups, it should help these groups and their

representative organisations to be more informed about the planning being undertaken by national and regional authorities. Moreover managers of Natura 2000 sites know quite well which measures are important and need to be financed and they could provide their experience and information to the relevant authorities that are responsible for formulating the national and regional programmes.

The analysis of the funds presented in the section titled 'Funding Options for Natura 2000 Management Activities' covers different types of Natura 2000 sites including: agricultural land; forests; other terrestrial land; inland waters; wetlands; coastal areas; and marine areas. The analysis also highlights opportunities for the different target groups mentioned above. Details of the target groups and site types are given in the definitions and descriptions section.

#### What is the Guidance Handbook for?

The majority of the Community's co-financing for Natura 2000 in the future will be delivered through existing Community funds aiming to enhance rural, regional, and marine development in the EU. Securing sustainable use of resources and strengthening the synergies between environmental protection and growth are also encouraged within the context of the Lisbon Strategy. Therefore, in the 2007-2013 period, national/regional development and cohesion programmes supported by the Community funds will also need to increasingly incorporate

environmental considerations (eg Natura 2000) in their funding priorities<sup>2</sup>.

This Handbook aims to provide an accurate and up-to-date resource for national and regional authorities to identify the opportunities for EU co-financing of Natura 2000 in the 2007-2013 funding period. It focuses on the main EU funding instruments that will apply during these years, including:

- The Structural Funds (European Social Fund (ESF) and European Regional Development Fund (ERDF));
- The Cohesion Fund;
- The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD);
- The European Fisheries Fund (EFF);
- The Financial Instrument for the Environment (LIFE+); and
- The 7<sup>th</sup> Research Framework Programme (FP7).

The idea is to help identify complementarity and synergies among the various financial instruments, while avoiding duplication and overlaps.

It is to be noted that the Handbook presents the EU funding options that are, in principle, available at the national and regional level. **However, concrete funding possibilities for Natura 2000 in 2007-2013 will be**

<sup>2</sup> Refer to: Integrated guidelines for Growth and Jobs (2005-2008) (COM(2005)141): Microeconomic guidelines - Guideline 14; Communication from the Commission: Cohesion Policy in Support of Growth and Jobs: Community Strategic Guidelines, 2007-2013 (COM (2005) 299).

**determined by the national and regional programmes that will be prepared by the Member States.** The Handbook does not cover funding for all the measures that are necessary to implement the Habitats and Birds Directives (eg elaboration of species action plans separate from site management). Its coverage is limited to **only those activities that relate to Natura 2000 sites.**

In summary, the Handbook will:

- signpost funding possibilities for Natura 2000 at the EU level;
- help in providing understanding of the new Regulations at an operational level; and
- draw attention to general funding options that may not be immediately obvious.

### **Benefits of the Guidance Handbook**

The main benefits of the Guidance Handbook are considered to be the following:

- the possibility to check whether all necessary actions are provided for, and if all funding opportunities are known and used;
- support for the future review of programmes; and
- important background information when developing management plans.

Although some of the national programme planning for 2007-2013 is already finalised, the overall process of drawing up, approving and implementing programmes and selecting projects is still at an early stage. The Handbook will be actively promoted by workshops at the national level and feed in to the funding process.

The elaboration of the Handbook and its further distribution into the Member States by conducting workshops has to be seen as one step in an ongoing process. In the past, Community funding for nature conservation issues has been mainly delivered by the LIFE programme, targeting individual projects. Funding opportunities in the Rural Development and the Structural Funds have not been widely used in previous financial periods. The integration of Natura 2000 co-funding into existing Community funding instruments as proposed by the Commission for the 2007-2013 period is therefore a new approach for most authorities and stakeholders involved.

The national implementation of this new system will certainly take some time. Therefore, the Handbook aims to both assist in the preparation of the current national programmes, and also to support better implementation of the integrated approach in the longer term.

## **4. DEFINITIONS AND DESCRIPTIONS, STRUCTURE, CONTENT AND APPLICATION**

### **Definitions and descriptions**

#### ***Target Groups***

This document aims to provide advice to the relevant authorities in the Member States responsible for formulating the national and regional programmes in the 2007-2013 funding period. Authorities are invited to consider all potential target groups that could carry out activities related to Natura 2000 sites. Table 1 sets out the categories of target groups involved. The categories have been defined in order to distinguish those with legal interests in land (eg owners, lessees), from others.

#### ***Types of Natura 2000 sites***

The table 2 sets out the types of Natura 2000 sites that were included in the analysis of the regulations presented in the next section. The Handbook invites the national and regional authorities to consider the types of Natura sites listed below.

**Table 1: Target groups of the funds analysis**

<b>Public administrations</b>	Public administrations are government bodies and public advisory bodies, at national, regional or local level. Public administrations include: government agencies such as departments and ministries, regional bodies such as local government, water and health authorities, etc.  Advice under this heading is directed at administrations that advise on land management but do not own land.
<b>Farmers</b>	Individuals or organisations involved in commercial agricultural activities.
<b>Foresters</b>	Individuals or organisations involved in commercial forestry activities.
<b>Private landowners</b>	Private individuals or organisations that own land. May include those involved in non-commercial activities on land (not farmers and foresters).
<b>Public landowners</b>	Public organisations and administrations that own land.
<b>Fishermen and Aquaculturalists</b>	Individuals or organisations involved in commercial fisheries and aquaculture activities.
<b>Land managers</b>	Individuals or organisations that manage land, but do not own it. May include those involved in non-commercial activities on land (not farmers and foresters).
<b>NGOs</b>	Non-governmental organisations that neither own nor manage land but wish to support Natura 2000.
<b>SMEs</b>	Small and medium sized enterprises as defined in Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC of 6 May 2003 concerning the definition of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, OJ L 124, p. 36-41, of 20 May 2003.
<b>Educational organisations</b>	Organisations involved in providing educational programmes.
<b>Others</b>	Other individuals or organisations that do not fall into any of the previous categories.

**Table 2: Types of Natura 2000 sites**

<b>Agricultural land</b>	Utilised agricultural area only, including orchards under cultivation.
<b>Forests</b>	Forests, including <i>dehesa</i> , <i>montado</i>
<b>Other terrestrial land</b>	Includes alpine areas, garigue, all other areas that are not included in the other categories (eg pasture that is not classified as utilised agricultural area). Includes abandoned farmland and orchards.
<b>Inland waters</b>	Rivers, lakes, freshwater.
<b>Wetlands</b>	Marshes, swamps, bogs, estuaries [may be some cross-over with coastal areas].
<b>Coastal areas</b>	Sand dunes, beaches, mud flats, inshore waters (out to 12nm) [may be some cross-over with wetlands].
<b>Marine areas</b>	Offshore marine areas (outside 12 nautical miles).

**Table 3: List of Natura 2000 management activities**

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

Categorisation	No.	Types of Activities	Further description
<b>Ongoing habitat management and monitoring</b>	15	Implementation of management schemes and agreements with owners and managers of land or water for following certain prescriptions	Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Agri-environmental measures</i>, eg wildlife-friendly production methods, habitat restoration on agricultural land, extensive livestock breeding, conservation of meadows, etc</li> <li>• <i>Forest-environmental measures</i>, eg creation of no exploitation zones, retention of dead wood, control or eradication of invasive alien species, afforestation or reforestation activities, management of specific vegetation, etc.</li> <li>• <i>Aqua-environmental measures</i>, eg habitat maintenance in aquaculture zones etc. (relates to aquaculture rather than fishing).</li> </ul>
	16	Provision of services; compensation for rights foregone and loss of income; developing acceptability 'liaison' with neighbours	Costs of compensation, eg 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, eg development of monitoring plans, methods and equipment; training of personnel.
	18	Risk management (fire prevention and control, flooding etc)	Includes the preparation of wardening and fire-control plans, development of relevant infrastructures, and the acquisition of equipment.
	19	Surveillance of the sites	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 for the control of harmful recreational activities, the control of harmful economic activities, and protection against wildfires.
	20	Provision of information and publicity material	Includes establishing communication networks, production of newsletters and awareness and information materials, setting-up and maintenance of internet pages, etc.
	21	Training and education	Including production of handbooks, seminars, workshops, communication materials.
	22	Facilities to encourage visitor use and appreciation of Natura 2000 sites	
<b>Investment costs</b>	23	Land purchase, including compensation for development rights	Purchase of land in service of environmental protection and management schemes.
	24	Infrastructure needed for the restoration of habitat or species	Includes an array of measures for the creation of infrastructures specific to the management of the environment, eg for water management in peat bogs and mines. Can include equipment acquisition (for equipment relevant to the running of protection and management institutions and actions such as office and IT equipment, monitoring materials, boats, diving equipment, cameras, etc.)
	25	Infrastructure for public access, interpretation works, observatories and kiosks, etc	Infrastructure for public use that is conducive to environmental protection and management (eg infrastructure increasing 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 and actions such as office and IT equipment, monitoring materials, boats, diving equipment, cameras, etc.)

## Types of activities

The extent to which activities related to the management of Natura 2000 sites are eligible for funding will vary. For this reason, they have been categorised and set out in the table below. This list of 25 activities has been adopted from the list included in Annex 3 to the Commission's Communication on Financing Natura 2000 (COM(2004)431 final), which was in turn derived from the list of categories determined by the Article 8 Working Group and included in their Final Report on Financing Natura 2000<sup>3</sup>.

The working group recognised that the definition of type and scope of activities is not straightforward, and that Member States may take quite different approaches to categorisation and description of these. This point is also recognised by the authors of this Handbook. If Member State authorities are interested in obtaining Community co-funding for a management activity that does not appear to be covered in the list below, they are advised to contact staff in the European Commission's DG-Environment who will be able to assist with questions of interpretation.

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<sup>3</sup> See: [http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/nature/nature\\_conservation/natura\\_2000\\_network/financing\\_natura\\_2000/art8\\_working\\_group/pdf/final\\_report\\_en.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/nature/nature_conservation/natura_2000_network/financing_natura_2000/art8_working_group/pdf/final_report_en.pdf). Some changes/additions have been made to the list, as suggested by the Accompanying Working Group for this project.

## Structure & Content:

Information on funding possibilities under different Community funds is presented for each of the 25 **activity types** in a series of tables. Each table provides references to the **Articles** of the EU Regulations that are relevant for the activity in question. In relation to each Article the following information is provided:

- 1) Article number
- 2) Article's subject (title)
- 3) Possible target groups\*
- 4) Possible site types\*
- 5) Area restrictions on eligibility (eg area restrictions under the Structural Funds)
- 6) Other possible restrictions/notes
- 7) Possible examples of using the Article in managing Nature 2000 sites

\*This information is not included in tables for Structural Funds/Cohesion Fund, as it is not applicable due to the form of these Regulations.

## Application

The European Funds that have been analysed to produce this Handbook each operate in accordance with the systems and requirements set out in their specific Regulations. The analysis of opportunities that is presented in the tables that follow in Section 5 is based on the text of the EU Regulations (draft, or final where available) for each individual Fund.

For the Funds that operate according to a programming process, it is important to note that the availability of funds for a particular

activity 'on the ground' will depend on the contents of several strategic and operational documents, including:

- a) Text in the Regulation, as published in the Official Journal.
- b) The contents of 'strategic' programmes and plans (eg national strategic plans for EFF, national strategy plans for EAFRD, national strategic reference frameworks for the ERDF, ESF and the Cohesion Fund). These are drawn up by the Member States.
- c) The contents of 'operational' national or regional programmes (eg rural development programmes under EAFRD, national operational programmes under EFF, operational programmes under the Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund, national annual work programmes under LIFE+).

These 'levels' of programming detail allow each Member State and/or region to identify the issues that are of most concern locally, and prioritise funds in order to address these issues. The amount of detail included at each level varies for each Fund. For example, the rural development programmes to be developed under EAFRD will contain very detailed descriptions of individual measures that can be funded. By contrast, the plans and programmes required under ERDF, ESF and the Cohesion Fund are more strategic and will not contain detailed descriptions of measures. At the national and regional level, the Commission does not have primary responsibility for determining the contents of the programmes, but it may have a role in

checking that programmes are in line with Community priorities as set out in the Regulations or in Strategic Guidelines. In the past, Ministries of Finance, Environment, Agriculture and Development (amongst others) have been involved in drafting programmes for use of Community Funds.

Users of the Handbook should note that the Articles listed in the tables do not lead to identical opportunities for the activity in question in all Member States. The funding possibilities are always subject to the broader context and objectives of the Regulation (eg regional development) and in some cases the Article itself can be limited to a certain context (eg risk prevention, renewable energies). The management of Natura 2000 sites is likely to consist of a set of measures that, depending on the site in question, may be funded through different European Funds, and different Articles. In fact, managers will need strong skills in assessing funds and programmes in order to match funding needs for Natura 2000 with all existing EU and non-EU funding resources.

At the end of the tables are sheets describing each of the main Community funds. These sheets give a brief description of the aims of the fund, the programming process, and list the Articles that are relevant to Natura 2000 (those included in the tables).

**NB: this Handbook is not intended to be a replacement for carrying out local research on funding opportunities – many Member States operate funding programmes that are independent of**

**Community funds, but applicable to Natura 2000 sites. This Handbook contains information only on the main Community funds.**

## 5. DESCRIPTIONS OF FUNDS

### European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)

Council Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005 of 20 September 2005 on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD). OJ L 277/2 21.10.2005.

Also see:

Community Strategic Guidelines for Rural Development. OJ L.55/20 25.02.2006.

#### *Objectives*

The objectives of the EAFRD are set out in Article 4. 'Support for rural development shall contribute to achieving the following objectives:

- a) improving the competitiveness of agriculture and forestry by supporting restructuring, development and innovation;
- b) improving the environment and the countryside by supporting land management;
- c) improving the quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of economic activity.'

### *Programming*

The EAFRD will operate according to a programming approach for the 2007-13 funding period. Member State authorities are required to develop National Strategy Plans (NSPs) and Rural Development Programmes (RDPs), which will translate the Community priorities contained in the Regulation and Strategic Guidelines into the national/regional context. In many cases, there will be national or regional priorities for specific problems.

The EAFRD Regulation sets out the required process for developing and adopting NSPs and RDPs, and their required contents/structure (see Titles II and III). Activities that are not included in the Rural Development programmes cannot be funded under the EAFRD. **It is therefore important that the needs and objectives related to management of Natura 2000 sites are integrated into the National Strategy Plans and that subsequently the related actions/measures are included in the RDPs, if authorities intend to use EAFRD for co-financing of such activities.**

The implementing Regulations for EAFRD are yet to be finalised. These will provide more detail on how the measures in Regulation No 1698/2005 should be applied by Member States.

## Funding

EAFRD is structured according to four 'axes' of rural development, and the minimum expenditure on each axis varies as follows:

Member States have flexibility to split expenditure across the four axes so long as the minimum thresholds are respected. Axis 4 on Leader is developed as a cross-cutting approach that can deliver integrated rural development by targeting aspects in each of or all of the other three axes (see box). It should be noted that there is likely to be some competition for funding between measures nationally, due to the size of the overall EU budget for 2007-2013, and measures supporting Natura will have to be keenly promoted by stakeholders ahead of other competing measures. The need for dynamic thinking is therefore paramount. Stakeholders and national administrations alike should seek to use the options available within EAFRD to deliver integrated rural development. This means selecting groups of measures that lead to wins not only for the environment and Natura, but also for local economy and society.

**Table 4: Priority axes of the EAFRD**

Axis	Minimum Expenditure (%)
1. Improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector.	10
2. Improving the environment and the countryside.	25
3. The quality of life in rural areas and diversification of the rural economy.	10
4. Leader	5

### LEADER

Leader constitutes the fourth Axis of the new EAFRD and will be used to contribute to the priorities of the first three Axes (ie improving competitiveness, the environment and countryside, and the quality of rural life and diversifying the rural economy) as well as encouraging bottom-up rural development and improved governance. Some 5% of total EAFRD funds will be allocated to the Leader axis.

Leader local strategies are area-based to make the best use of existing resources and capitalise on a common identity. Public-private partnerships, called local action groups (LAGs), identify development needs within their own rural communities. These are then set out in a development plan. Leader funding assists these local action groups to encourage and support the development of small-scale, innovative projects that meet local development needs in a sustainable way. Leader promotes cooperation between LAGs in different European countries to jointly develop projects and build networks at regional, national and European Union level. In past programming periods, many Leader projects have had clear benefits for Natura 2000.

The key benefit of Leader is not in a large funding source for single Natura 2000 measures, but rather in the approach, which promotes co-operation of local actors and the development of integrated projects. Therefore it is very suitable for areas with strategies that combine nature conservation and land use in a sustainable way such as enhancing the value of Natura 2000 sites eg by eco-tourism or marketing of sustainable regional products.

Examples of past Leader projects and programmes, and more information is available at: [http://europa.eu.int/comm/agriculture/rur/leaderplus/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/agriculture/rur/leaderplus/index_en.htm)



**Table 5: Key dates in the implementation process for the EAFRD**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Date</b>
European Parliament Opinion on Community Strategic Guidelines for Rural Development; Community Strategic Guidelines adopted by Council	February 2006
Member States to consult on NSPs	January – March 2006
Implementing Regulations to be adopted by Commission	April–June 2006
Member States submit NSPs	March – May 2006 i.e. max 3 months after adoption of Community Strategic Guidelines, but pending on adoption of general Regulation on Structural Funds.
Relevant authorities submit RDPs	Min. 2 months – max. 4 months after submission of NSPs
Negotiation of RDPs between Commission and Member States	6 months after submission of RDPs
NSPs and RDPs begin	1 January 2007

NB: The above table offers approximate dates only, given that the only concrete date is the 1 January 2007 for NSPs and RDPs to begin. Further delay in finalising the Financial Perspectives could lead to Member States postponing the finalisation of NSPs and RDPs until they are certain of a clear budgetary framework under which their Programmes can operate.

**Table 6: List of key articles in the EAFRD Regulation in relation to Natura 2000**<sup>4</sup>

<b>Article</b>	<b>Text</b>
<b>20(a)(i)</b>	vocational training and information actions, including diffusion of scientific knowledge and innovative practise, for persons engaged in the agricultural, food and forestry sectors
<b>20(a)(v)</b>	support targeting the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector shall concern: setting up of farm management, farm relief and farm advisory services, as well as of forestry advisory services.
<b>20(b)(ii)</b>	improving the economic value of forests
<b>20(b)(iii)</b>	adding value to agriculture and forestry products
<b>20(b)(vi)</b>	restoring agricultural production potential damaged by natural disasters and introducing appropriate prevention actions
<b>36(a)(i)</b>	natural handicap payments to farmers in mountain areas
<b>36(a)(ii)</b>	payments to farmers in areas with handicaps other than mountain areas
<b>36(a)(iii)</b>	Natura 2000 payments and payments linked to Directive 2000/60/EC;
<b>36(a)(iv)</b>	agri-environment payments
<b>36(a)(vi)</b>	support for non-productive investments [agricultural land]
<b>36(b)(i)</b>	first afforestation of agricultural land
<b>36(b)(ii)</b>	first establishment of agro-forestry systems on agricultural land
<b>36(b)(iii)</b>	first afforestation of non-agricultural land
<b>36(b)(iv)</b>	Natura 2000 payments; [forests]
<b>36(b)(v)</b>	forest-environment payments
<b>36(b)(vi)</b>	restoring forestry potential and introducing prevention actions
<b>36(b)(vii)</b>	support for non-productive investments [forests]
<b>52(a)(i)</b>	diversification into non-agricultural activities
<b>52(a)(ii)</b>	support for the creation and development of micro-enterprises with a view to promoting entrepreneurship and developing the economic fabric
<b>52(a)(iii)</b>	encouragement of tourism activities
<b>52(b)(iii)</b>	conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage
<b>52(c)</b>	a training and information measure for economic actors operating in the fields covered by axis 3
<b>52(d)</b>	a skills-acquisition and animation measure with a view to preparing and implementing a local development strategy
<b>57(a)</b>	support for drawing up of protection and management plans related to Natura 2000 sites and other places of high natural value...
<b>63</b>	Leader

<sup>4</sup> NB: this Guidance Handbook should not be used to replace reference to the actual published Regulations, which contain the final legal text governing the operation of the Funds.

## European Fisheries Fund

According to Inter-institutional file 2004/0169 (CNS), (966/05 ADD 1).

### Objectives

The objectives of the European Fisheries Fund (EFF) are set out in Article 4. They include (amongst others):

- supporting the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP);
- fostering the protection and the enhancement of the environment and nature resources where related to the fisheries sector; and

- encouraging sustainable development and the improvement of the quality of life in areas with activities in the fisheries sector.

### Programming

The EFF will operate according to a programming approach for the 2007-13 funding period. Member State authorities will be required to develop and adopt National Strategic Plans (NSPs), setting out a strategy for their fishing sectors in relation to the CFP, and National Operational Programmes (NOPs) detailing how EFF money is to be spent in line with the NSPs.

The proposed EFF Regulation sets out the required process for developing and adopting NSPs and their required contents/structure (see Article 14). NOPs are more specific and focused than NSPs, and will set out how the Member States intend to operationalise the EFF funds. They will therefore set the framework for implementing the policies and priorities to be co-financed by the EFF. An activity should therefore not be funded under the EFF if it is not in the NOP. ***It is therefore important that activities related to management of Natura 2000 sites are included in NOPs if authorities intend to use EFF for co-financing of such activities.***

**Table 7: Key dates in the implementation process for the EFF**

Action	Date
Member States submit NSPs	At latest when submitting NOPs
Member States submit NOPs	By 31 December 2006
Commission may request Member States to amend NOPs	Within two months of NOP submission
Commission approve NOPs	Up to four months after submission of agreed NOP
NOPs begin	1 January 2007
Debate on NSP implementation lessons, organised by Commission and based on Member State written submissions	21 December 2011

**Table 8: List of key articles in the EFF Regulation in relation to Natura 2000<sup>5</sup>.**

<b>Article</b>	<b>Text</b>
<b>4</b>	Objectives
<b>20</b>	Scope of measures for Priority Axis 1: ref 20(c) socio-economic compensation in support of fleet management, including professional training
<b>26(1)(a)</b>	The Fund may contribute to the financing of socio-economic measures proposed by the Member States for fishers affected by developments in fishing and which involve: 1(a) the diversification of activities with a view to promoting multiple jobs for fishers;
<b>26(1)(c)</b>	The Fund may contribute to the financing of socio-economic measures proposed by the Member States for fishers affected by developments in fishing and which involve: 1(c) schemes for retraining in occupations outside sea fishing;
<b>27</b>	Scope of measures for Priority Axis 2: ref - intervention in aquaculture production
<b>28(1)(b)</b>	implementation of aquaculture methods substantially reducing negative impact or enhancing positive impact on the environment when compared with normal practice in the aquaculture sector;
<b>28(1)(c)</b>	support for traditional aquaculture activities important for preserving and developing both the economic and social fabric and the environment;
<b>29(2)(a)</b>	forms of aquaculture comprising protection and enhancement of the environment, natural resources, genetic diversity, and management of the landscape and traditional features of aquaculture zones;
<b>29(2)(d)</b>	sustainable aquaculture compatible with specific environmental constraints resulting from the designation of Natura 2000 areas in accordance with Directive 92/43/EEC
<b>33</b>	Scope of interventions for priority Axis 3, measures of common interest
<b>34(a)</b>	contribute sustainably to better management or conservation of resources;
<b>34(b)</b>	promote selective fishing methods or gears and reduction of by-catches;
<b>34(c)</b>	remove lost fishing gears from the sea bed in order to combat ghost fishing;
<b>34(g)</b>	develop, restructure or improve aquaculture sites;
<b>34(i)</b>	upgrade professional skills, or develop new training methods and tools;
<b>34(j)</b>	promote partnerships between scientists and operators in the fisheries sector;
<b>35(2)(a)</b>	the construction or installation of static or moveable facilities intended to protect and develop aquatic fauna and flora
<b>35(2)(b)</b>	the rehabilitation of inland waters, including spawning grounds and migration routes for migratory species
<b>35(2)(c)</b>	where they directly concern fishing activities, to the protection and enhancement of the environment in the framework of N2K, excluding operational costs
<b>38(2)(b)</b>	Pilot projects: to enable tests to be carried out on management plans and fishing effort allocation plans, including, if necessary, the establishment of no-fishing zones, in order to evaluate the biological and financial consequences and experimental restocking
<b>38(2)(c)</b>	Pilot projects: to develop and test methods to improve gear selectivity, reduce by-catches, discards or the impact on the environment, in particular on the sea bottom
<b>40</b>	Scope of interventions for priority Axis 4, esp ref (2)(b), (c), (d)
<b>41(1)(b)</b>	restructuring and redirecting economic activities, in particular by promoting eco-tourism, provided these actions do not result in an increase in fishing effort;
<b>41(1)(c)</b>	diversifying activities through the promotion of multiple employment for fishers through the creation of jobs outside the fisheries sector
<b>41(1)(e)</b>	supporting small fisheries and tourism related infrastructure for the benefit of small fisheries communities
<b>41(1)(f)</b>	protecting the environment in fisheries areas to maintain its attractiveness, regenerating and developing coastal hamlets and villages with fisheries activities and protecting and enhancing the natural and architectural heritage
<b>41(1)(h)</b>	promoting inter-regional and trans-national cooperation among actors in fisheries areas, mainly through networking and disseminating best practice
<b>41(1)(i)</b>	acquiring skills and facilitating the preparation and implementation of the local development strategy.
<b>42</b>	participation in the sustainable development of fisheries areas 'local entities or groups' representing public and private partners.

<sup>5</sup> NB: this Guidance Handbook should not be used to replace reference to the actual published Regulations, which contain the final text that governs the operation of the Funds.

## ERDF, ESF and Cohesion Fund

Cohesion policy has the core objective of supporting real convergence and reduce socio-economic and territorial disparities. It does so by co-financing investments and other measures in the less developed countries, regions and areas of the Union. For the period 2007-2013 the focus will be on the renewed Lisbon agenda and the categories of investment that are particularly conducive to growth, such as research and innovation, physical infrastructure, environmentally friendly technologies, human capital and knowledge. The Community Strategic Guidelines (CSG)<sup>6</sup>. Includes nature and species protection within the compliance with environmental legislation.

The proposed general Regulation for the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund (ESF) and the Cohesion Fund (CF) defines common principles, rules and standards for the implementation of all the three funds. Additionally, more specific provisions for each fund are set out in three separate specific Regulations.

For the programming period 2007-2013 a rather important simplification has been proposed by the Commission. Cohesion Policy will include **three Funds**: the ERDF, CF and the ESF and **three Objectives**: **1<sup>st</sup>** Objective: 'Convergence' financed by ERDF, ESF and CF, **2<sup>nd</sup>** Objective: 'Regional

Competitiveness and Employment' financed by ERDF and ESF and **3<sup>rd</sup>** Objective: 'Territorial Co-operation' financed by ERDF. Convergence regions are those where the GDP per capita is less than 75% of the EU average. All other regions are potential candidates to the **2<sup>nd</sup>** Objective.

### European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

According to the Commission's proposals for the general Regulation for the Structural and Cohesion Funds (COM(2004)492) and for the ERDF Regulation (COM(2004)495)

#### Objectives

The ERDF shall contribute to the reinforcement of economic, social and territorial cohesion within the EU by reducing regional disparities and supporting the structural development and adjustment of regional economies. The ERDF shall, in particular, aim to strengthen competitiveness and innovation, create sustainable jobs, and promote environmentally sound growth.

The ERDF focuses its assistance on a number of thematic priorities that reflect the objectives of the EU Cohesion Policy (Articles 4, 5 and 6 of ERDF Regulation). In general, the ERDF contributes towards the financing of different regional development initiatives (eg productive investment and infrastructure)

### Programming

The ERDF is to operate according to a programming approach for the 2007-13 funding period. In general, setting strategic orientations and programming for the Structural and Cohesion Funds will take place in three steps; 1) European Council adopt the **Community Strategic Guidelines** proposed by the Commission for funding, 2) Member States develop **national strategic reference frameworks** (NSRF) that set out the strategy with thematic and territorial priorities, for contributing to the Community objectives, 3) Member States prepare **operational programmes** (OPs) that will define the concrete activities under the ERDF (as well as under the ESF and Cohesion Fund) on the Member State level. NSRF and OPs will cover the period 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2013. Both are submitted for the Commission's approval.

Operational programmes will set out how the Member States intend to operationalise the ERDF funds. They will therefore set the framework for implementing the policies and priorities to be co-financed by the Fund. Activities that are not in the operational programmes should therefore not be funded under the ERDF.

<sup>6</sup> COM(2005) 299 'Cohesion Policy in Support of Growth and Jobs: Community Strategic guidelines, 2007-2013

**Table 9: Key dates in the implementation process for the ERDF**

Action	Date
Community Strategic Guidelines for Structural Funds established	
Member States prepare and submit NSRFs	Within five months following the adoption of the Community Strategic Guidelines
Member State prepare and submit operational programme proposals under ERDF	Not later than five months following the Commission's decision on NSRF (General Regulation, Article 31.3) eventually at the same as the presentation of NSRF (Article 26.2).
Commission might request Member State to revise the proposed programme	
The Commission shall adopt each operational programme	As soon as possible but not later than four months following the formal submission by the Member State (Article 31).
ERDF operational programmes begin	1 Jan 2007
Member States present to the Commission a report on the progress in implementing NSRFs	The end of 2009 and 2012.

**Table 10: List of key articles in the ERDF Regulation in relation to Natura 2000<sup>7</sup>**

Article	Text
	<b>Convergence objective</b>
<b>4 (2)</b>	Information society, including development of local content, services and applications, improvement of access to and development of on-line public services, aid and services to SMEs to adopt and effectively use information and communication technologies (ICTs)
<b>4 (3)</b>	Environment, including investments connected with waste management, water supplies, urban waste-water treatment and air quality, integrated pollution prevention and control, rehabilitation of contaminated sites and land, promotion of biodiversity and nature protection, aid to SMEs to promote sustainable production patterns through the introduction of cost-effective environmental management systems and the adoption and use of pollution-prevention technologies
<b>4 (4)</b>	Prevention of risks, including development and implementation of plans to prevent and cope with natural and technological risks
<b>4 (5)</b>	Tourism, including promotion of natural and cultural assets as potential for the development of sustainable tourism, protection and enhancement of the cultural heritage in support of economic development, aid to improve the supply of tourism services through new higher value-added services
<b>4 (6)</b>	Transport investments, including trans-European networks and integrated city-wide strategies for clean urban transport, which contribute to [...] reducing environmental impacts

<sup>7</sup> NB: this Guidance Handbook should not be used to replace reference to the actual published Regulations, which contain the final legal text governing the operation of the Funds.

<b>Article</b>	<b>Text</b>
<b>4(7)</b>	Energy, including trans-European networks, which contribute to [...] integrating environmental considerations, improvement of energy efficiency and the development of renewable energies
<b>4(8)</b>	Education investments, which contribute to increasing the attractiveness and quality of life in regions
<b>4(10)</b>	Direct aid to investment in SMEs contributing to creating and safeguarding jobs
	<b>Regional competitiveness and employment objective</b>
<b>5(2)a</b>	Environment and risk prevention, and specifically: stimulating investment for the rehabilitation of contaminated sites and land, and promoting the development of infrastructure linked to biodiversity and Natura 2000 contributing to sustainable economic development and diversification of rural areas
<b>5(2)b</b>	Environment and risk prevention, and specifically: stimulating energy efficiency and renewable energy production
<b>5(2)d</b>	Environment and risk prevention, and specifically: developing plans and measures to prevent and cope with natural and technological risks
<b>5(3)a</b>	Access, outside major urban centres, to transport and telecommunication services of general economic interest
	<b>European territorial cooperation objective</b>
<b>6(1)a</b>	Development of cross-border economic and social activities through joint strategies for sustainable territorial development: encouraging entrepreneurship and, in particular, the development of SMEs, tourism, culture, and cross-border trade
<b>6(1)b</b>	Development of cross-border economic and social activities through joint strategies for sustainable territorial development: encouraging the protection and joint management of the environment;
<b>6(1)</b>	Development of cross-border economic and social activities through joint strategies for sustainable territorial development: reducing isolation through improved access to transport, information and communication networks and services, and cross-border water, waste and energy systems
<b>6(1)d</b>	Development of cross-border economic and social activities through joint strategies for sustainable territorial development: developing collaboration, capacity and joint use of infrastructures in particular in sectors such as health, culture and education.
<b>6(2)a</b>	Establishment and development of transnational cooperation, including bilateral cooperation between maritime regions, through the financing of networks and of actions conducive to integrated territorial development on the following priorities: water management, with a clear trans-national dimension, including protection and management of river basins, coastal zones, marine resources, water services and wetlands
<b>6(2)c</b>	Establishment and development of transnational cooperation, including bilateral cooperation between maritime regions, through the financing of networks and of actions conducive to integrated territorial development on the following priorities: risk prevention
<b>6(3)</b>	Reinforcement of the effectiveness of regional policy by promoting networking and exchange of experience among regional and local authorities focusing on the topics referred to under Article 5(1) and (2) and Article 8.
<b>8</b>	<b>Urban dimensions:</b> rehabilitation of the physical environment, brownfield redevelopment, and the preservation and development of the historical and cultural heritage [...]
<b>9</b>	Economic diversification in <b>rural areas and areas dependent on fisheries</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Areas with natural handicaps:</b> improving accessibility, promoting and developing economic activities related to the cultural heritage, promoting the sustainable use of natural resources, and stimulating the tourism sector

## European Social Fund (ESF)

According to the Commission's proposals for the general Regulation for the Structural and Cohesion Funds (COM(2004)492) and for the ESF Regulation (COM(2004)493).

### **Objectives**

The ESF shall support policies and priorities aimed to achieve progress towards full employment, improve quality and productivity at work, and promote social inclusion and cohesion (in the European Employment Strategy (EES)). In particular, the ESF shall take into account the objectives of the Community in the fields of social inclusion, education and training and equality between women and men. The ESF focuses its assistance on a number of thematic priorities that reflect the objectives of the EU Cohesion Policy (*Article 3* of ESF Regulation).

### **Programming**

The ESF is to operate according to a programming approach for the 2007-13 funding period. In general, setting strategic orientations and programming for the Structural and Cohesion Funds will take place in three steps; 1) European Council establishes **Community Strategic Guidelines** for funding, 2) Member States develop **national strategic reference frameworks** (NSRF) that set out the strategy for contributing to the Community objectives, 3) Member States prepare **operational programmes** that will define the concrete

activities under the ESF (as well as under the ERDF and Cohesion Fund) on the Member State level. NSRF and operational programmes will cover the period 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2013.

ESF operational programmes will reflect strategic choices and priorities therefore the scope for including a detailed list of activities will be limited. However, it will be possible to include environmental priorities in the programmes, and these may relate to areas that could support implementation of Natura 2000 (eg reform of a Member State's administration related to environmental management).



**Table 11: Key dates in the implementation process for the ESF**

Action	Date
Community Strategic Guidelines for Structural Funds established	
Member States prepare and submit NSRFs	As soon as possible after adoption of the Community Strategic Guidelines
Member State prepare and submit operational programme proposals under ESF	As soon as possible following Commission's decision on NSRF (General Regulation, Article 26) <b>or</b> at the same of the presentation of NSRF.
Commission might request Member State to revise the proposed programme	
The Commission shall adopt each operational programme	As soon as possible after the formal submission by the Member State.
ESF operational programmes begin	1 Jan 2007
Member States present to the Commission a report on the progress in implementing NSRFs	For the first time in 2008 and at the latest by 1 October each year
ESF operational programmes end	31 Dec 2013

**Table 12: List of key articles in the ESF Regulation in relation to Natura 2000<sup>8</sup>**

Article	Text
	<b>Convergence and Regional competitiveness and employment objectives</b>
<b>3(1)a ii</b>	Design and dissemination of innovative and more productive forms of work organisation, including better health and safety, the identification of future occupational and skills requirements, and development of specific employment, training and support services to workers in the context of company and sector restructuring
	<b>Convergence objective</b>
<b>3(2)b i</b>	Strengthening institutional capacity and the efficiency of public administrations and public services [...]: good policy and programme design, monitoring and evaluation, through studies, statistics and expertise, support to interdepartmental coordination and dialogue between relevant public and private bodies
<b>3(2)b ii</b>	Strengthening institutional capacity and the efficiency of public administrations and public services [...]: capacity building in the delivery of policies and programmes, including with regard to the enforcement of legislation, especially through managerial and staff training and specific support to key services, inspectorates and socio-economic actors including social partners and relevant non-governmental organisations

<sup>8</sup> NB: this Guidance Handbook should not be used to replace reference to the actual published Regulations, which contain the final legal text governing the operation of the Funds.

## Cohesion Fund

According to the Commission's proposals for the general Regulation for the Structural and Cohesion Funds (COM(2004)492) and for the Regulation establishing the Cohesion Fund (COM(2004)494)

It is very unlikely that the Cohesion Fund will be used for direct funding of Natura 2000, however, there could be situations where Natura 2000 sites profit indirectly through projects funded by the Cohesion Fund.

### Objectives

Assistance from the Cohesion Fund shall be given to:

- 1) Trans-European transport networks, in particular priority projects of European interest (Decision No 1692/96/EC);

- 2) Achievement of the objectives of Article 174 of the Treaty falling within the priorities assigned to the Community environmental protection policy under the policy and action programme on the environment;
- 3) Areas that can be developed on a sustainable basis and clearly present environmental benefits, namely energy efficiency and renewable energy and, in the transport sector outside the trans-European networks, rail, river and sea transport, intermodal transport systems and their interoperability, management of road and air traffic, clean urban transport and public transport.

### Programming

The Cohesion Fund is to operate according to a programming approach for the 2007-13

funding period. Member States programming for the Structural and Cohesion Funds will take place in two steps: 1) Member States develop **national strategic reference frameworks** (NSRF) that set out the strategy for sustainable growth for contributing to the Community objectives; 2) Member States prepare **operational programmes (OPs)** that will define a coherent set of priorities to achieve with the aid from a Fund. Each priority axis comprises a group of operations. NSRF and operational programmes will cover the period 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2013. OPs are adopted by the EC.

Activities that are not included in the context of the priority axes cannot be co-funded.

**Table 13: Key dates in the implementation process for the Cohesion Fund**

Action	Date
Legislative package	By mid- 2006
Community Strategic Guidelines	Adoption by the Council after consultation of the EP by the Autumn 2006
Member States submit NSRFs	5 months after the Community Strategic Guidelines
Member State submit operational programme	4 months after the previous.

Informal negotiations have already started with the Member States for the discussion of the NSRF.

**Table 14: List of key articles in the Cohesion Fund Regulation in relation to Natura 2000<sup>9</sup>**

Article	Text
2 (2)	Achievement of the objectives of Article 174 of the Treaty falling within the priorities assigned to the Community environmental protection policy under the policy and action programme on the environment
2 (3)	Areas that can be developed on a sustainable basis and clearly present environmental benefits, namely energy efficiency and renewable energy and, in the transport sector outside the trans-European networks, rail, river and sea transport, intermodal transport systems and their interoperability, management of road and air traffic, clean urban transport and public transport

<sup>9</sup> NB: this Guidance Handbook should not be used to replace reference to the actual published Regulations, which contain the final legal text governing the operation of the Funds.

## Financing Instrument for the Environment (LIFE+)

In September 2004 the Commission adopted a proposal for a Regulation for LIFE+, which will operate from 2007-2013, and will replace the former LIFE III programme. The LIFE+ proposal is still the subject of discussion within the European Institutions, and the text of the Regulation has not been finalised. The analysis in this section is therefore based on a compromise proposal, document number 15375/05.

LIFE+ will consist of three components: LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity, LIFE+ Environment Policy and Governance and LIFE+ Information and Communication.

### Objectives

The specific objectives of LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity are set out in Article 4:

- (a) to contribute to the implementation of Community policy and legislation on nature and biodiversity [...]; and to support the further development and implementation of the Natura 2000 network, including coastal and marine habitats and species;
- (b) to contribute to the consolidation of the knowledge base for the development,

assessment, monitoring and evaluation of Community nature and biodiversity policy and legislation;

(c) to support the design and implementation of policy approaches and instruments for the monitoring and assessment of nature and biodiversity and the factors, pressures and responses that impact on it, in particular in relation to the achievement of the target of halting biodiversity loss within the Community by 2010;

(d) to provide support for better environmental governance, broadening stakeholder involvement, including that of non-governmental organisations, in consultations on and the implementation of nature and biodiversity policy and legislation.'

### Programming

The LIFE+ Fund will operate according to a programming approach. The Commission will draw up multi-annual strategic programmes for 2007 to 2010 and 2011 to 2013. These shall define the principal objectives, priority areas of action, type of measures and expected results for Community funding. They shall include allocations between Member States and indicate those parts of the budget subject to central direct and delegated management. Within the

framework of these multi-annual strategic programmes, Member States shall submit draft national annual work programmes to the Commission for each year. The requirements for these work programmes are set out in Article 6. ***It is important that activities related to management of Natura 2000 sites are included in the national annual work programmes if authorities intend to use LIFE+ to co-finance such activities.***

**Exclusion from eligibility:** Article 10 of the LIFE+ Text provides: 'This Regulation shall not finance measures which fall within the eligibility criteria of, or receive assistance for the same purpose from, other Community financial instruments, including the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme, the European Fisheries Fund and the seventh Research Framework Programme.' This means that LIFE+ cannot be used to fund activities that are eligible for funding under the other Community funds discussed in this handbook.

**Table 15: Key dates in the implementation process for the Life+ fund**

Action	Date
Commission draws up first multi-annual strategic programme for 2007-2010, and consults with MS	To be adopted no later than 3 months after entry into force of the Regulation.
MS submit national annual work programmes	First programme no later than 3 months after the adoption of the first multi-annual strategic programme, others according to timetable in implementing rules.
Operation of LIFE+ Fund begins	Around mid-2007

**Key articles in the LIFE+ Regulation in relation to Natura 2000<sup>10</sup>**

The key article in the LIFE+ Regulation in relation to Natura 2000 is **Article 3**, which sets out the eligibility criteria for measures and projects to be funded under the Regulation:

‘... 2. Measures envisaged in the multi-annual strategic programmes drawn up in accordance with Article 6(1), national annual work programmes adopted in accordance with Article 6(5) and projects implemented pursuant to those programmes shall satisfy the following criteria. They shall be:

(a) of Community interest by making a significant contribution to the achievement of

the general objective of LIFE+ set out in Article 1(2); and  
(b) technically and financially coherent, feasible and provide value for money.

3. In addition, to ensure European added value and to avoid financing [...] recurring activities, measures envisaged in annual national work programmes and projects implemented pursuant to those programmes shall meet at least one of the following criteria. They shall be:

(a) either best practice measures and projects or demonstration measures and projects for the implementation of Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds or Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild flora and fauna; or

(b) either innovative measures and projects or demonstration measures and projects relating to Community environmental objectives, including the development or dissemination of best-practice techniques,

know-how or technologies; or awareness raising campaigns and special training for agents involved in fire prevention interventions; or  
(c) measures and projects for the development and implementation of Community objectives relating to the broad-based, harmonised, comprehensive and long-term monitoring of forests and environmental interactions.’

In addition, Article 10, which sets out the limits to eligibility, is very important (discussed above).

<sup>10</sup> NB: this Guidance Handbook should not be used to replace reference to the actual published Regulations, which contain the final legal text governing the operation of the Funds.

## 7<sup>th</sup> Research Framework Programme (FP7)

According to the Commission's proposal for a Decision concerning the 7<sup>th</sup> framework programme of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities (2007-2013) (COM(2005) 119).

### **Objectives**

The 7th Research Framework Programme (FP7) sets out the Community priorities and activities in the area of research and technological development for the period from 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2013. The FP7 objectives are particularly aimed at supporting the aims of the Lisbon agenda through Community funded research activities.

Among other things, the FP7 will support transnational research in a range of thematic areas, eg the environment (*Article 2* of the Decision). The key environmental themes under FP7 are 1) prediction of climate, ecological, earth and ocean systems changes, 2) tools and technologies for monitoring, prevention and mitigation of environmental pressures and risks including on health, and 3) the conservation of the natural and man-made environment.

### **Programming**

FP7 will cover the period 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2013. Individual project proposal under FP7 are triggered by call

inviting researchers to submit project proposals for a specific area of the Framework Programme. Calls will be published in the Official Journal of the European Union and more information can be found on the Europa and Cordis websites<sup>11</sup>.

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<sup>11</sup> See:  
[http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/future/index\\_en.cfm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/future/index_en.cfm)  
and <http://www.cordis.lu/fp7/>

**Table 16: Key dates in the implementation process for the Research FP7**

Action	Date
FP7 launched	Late 2006/early 2007
First calls for proposals under FP7 and first FP7 projects to be launched	From beginning of 2007
Continuing calls for proposals and carrying out projects under FP7	2007-2013
End of FP7	2013

**Table 17: List of key articles in the Research FP7 in relation to Natura 2000<sup>12</sup>**

Article	Text
<b>2(2) f</b>	Cooperation: supporting the whole range of research actions carried out in transnational cooperation in the following thematic areas: Environment (including Climate Change)
<b>2(2) g</b>	Cooperation: supporting the whole range of research actions carried out in transnational cooperation in the following thematic areas: transport (eg greening of surface transport)
The Capacity programme may also be relevant eg for infrastructure ( <i>Article 2(5)</i> ). The themes on biotechnology, agriculture and food, may be of relevance to the cooperation programme ( <i>Article 2(2) b</i> ).	

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<sup>12</sup> NB: this Guidance Handbook should not be used to replace reference to the actual published Regulations, which contain the final legal text governing the operation of the Funds.

## 6. FUNDING OPTIONS FOR NATURA 2000 MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Described below are several hypothetical large-scale conservation projects where Community funds could be used to assist in various aspects of management. The specific measures discussed in the examples are included in the tables that follow. By identifying the ways in which these examples could receive funding, it is hoped that actors involved in conservation projects in Europe will recognise the diverse opportunities available through the new integrated funding approach, but also the need to actively seek funds from a diverse range of sources.

### Example 1: Conservation of bears in Natura 2000 sites

The brown bear (*Ursus arctos*) is the most widespread bear in the world. Brown bears have a massive head with a short nose, rounded inconspicuous ears, small eyes, short tail, and a heavily built body with a prominent shoulder hump. Bears have a low reproductive rate and are vulnerable to human-related mortality. They are omnivores, and require large habitats, making them vulnerable to changes in land use. The best bear habitat has already disappeared in Europe through logging and forest clearance. Key bear areas and corridors need to be sufficiently managed and protected. But not only the presence of existing habitats is important for the survival of the brown bear. The acceptance and adaptive management of the brown bear is a crucial point for the future of this species. Public awareness and education is needed to inform people in bear areas about bear behaviour and ecology. Farmers need to be encouraged to use traditional livestock guarding techniques to reduce conflict arising from livestock depredation.

**Activities that could be required for “Conservation of bears in Natura 2000 sites” [activity number refers to number of relevant sheet in the following tables]:**

- Training for staff involved in bear conservation [activities 3, 21]
- Site restoration, improvement of habitat for bears (eg planting of traditional food plants such as fruit trees) [activities 13, 15]
- Long-term monitoring of individual bears [activities 17, 19]
- Census of bear population [activity 2]
- Education of wider population [activities 20, 21]
- Development and sale of bear-friendly products [activities 15, 16]
- Networking with bear project in neighbouring region [activity 20]
- Mitigation of infrastructure barriers on bear corridors (green bridges, underpasses) [activity 13]
- Intensive public relation work to gain acceptance for bears [activity 20]
- Evaluation of public relation work [activity 20]
- Lobbying and information towards interest groups involved [activity 20]
- Development and/or updating management plans with the involvement of stakeholders [activities 5, 8]
- Damage prevention measures (electric fences, guard dogs) [activities 15, 24]
- Creation of bear-friendly buffer zone around site (on agricultural land) [activities 15, 16]
- Construction and maintenance of education trails/paths inside site [activities 22, 25]
- Construction of visitor infrastructure (visitors centre) [activity 25]
- Construction of species-related infrastructure (holding pens for rehabilitation) [activity 24]
- Risk prevention in area (forest fire measures) [activity 18]

**Measures related to this project are marked [bear] in the tables that follow.**

## Example 2: Livelihood from forestry and agriculture in Natura 2000 sites

The “Livelihood” estate is composed of several agricultural fields located on one side of a river, a beech forest with some coniferous patches, and a humid area with water springs. The original planting pattern of the forest was of even aged trees and served a classical production structure. Some parcels have been progressively altered in order to convert the plantation into a multi-storey forest.

Other parcels follow a dedicated quality wood production. Parts of the forest residues are used for energy production.

One of the parcels is located in a humid area composed of many springs. The previous coniferous plantation has been completely harvested and the drains have been filled-in by using harvested residues in order to restore the initial moisture level. The silvicultural option chosen is natural regeneration and where it is not growing quickly enough, adapted forest species can be planted to fill the gaps. The flora and fauna can re-generate itself and the semi-natural habitat can recover. This type of management is considered to be sustainable and it allows an increase in biodiversity on all parcels and for the forest to remain profitable.

The agricultural fields are harvested annually. Some are dedicated to food production and others are pasture dedicated to fodder production. The management of these fields respects the agri-environmental measures and includes a beetle bank.

## Activities that could be required for “Livelihood from forestry and agriculture in Natura 2000 sites” [activity number refers to number of relevant sheet in following tables]:

1. Forestry
  - Site adapted planting using different tree species to create a multi-storey forest structure [activity 12]
  - Preservation of old and dead trees [activity 12]
  - Control of alien species which could damage habitats [activity 14]
  - Mixing the species (genetic diversification) [activity 12]
  - Variable spacing between newly planted trees [activity 12]
  - Removal of drains in zones with springs [activity 12]
  - Monitoring the sanitary/vitality status of the plots [activity 14]
  - Staff training programme [activity 21]
  - Development of infrastructure (creation of access paths, use of fences to protect against game etc) [activity 25]
2. Agriculture
  - Creation of buffer zones around fields [activity 12]
  - Delay grass harvesting remove all the grass cuttings [activity 12]
  - Rotation of grazed and cut areas during the year [activity 12]
  - Preservation of hedgerow pattern also to provide shelter the cattle [activity 12]
3. Information and communication
  - Communication and information campaign addressed to the public and to schools in collaboration with research centres [activities 20, 21]
  - Installation of signs and notice boards [activity 22]
  - Creation of the infrastructure for public use (examples: display room with local products, fences, etc) [activity 22]

**Measures related to this project are marked [agrifor] in the tables that follow.**



### Example 3: Sustainable river management including otter habitat conservation with tourism activities in Natura 2000 sites

The Blueriver is one of the most beautiful rivers of Europe. Parts of the river are designated as Natura 2000 sites because they hold habitats and species listed in the Habitats Directive. For example, there is an otter habitat as well as locusts on the gravel bar and many dragonflies live in the tarns which are connected with the river. Children like to play alongside this river because there are a lot of things which can be discovered. Tourism is increasing because the region is rich in nature and offers a lot of opportunity for nature activities like hiking, bicycling, rafting and animal observation (otter) etc. Due to dams which have been constructed in the upper part of the river the flowing of the river has been accelerated and therefore the river has deepened continuously. This has caused problems for the important habitats connected with the river. Many tarns have become dry and the river is flowing fast with less branches than before. This has also increased visitor pressure on the last remaining natural habitats. The river basin includes territory in two different Member States.

**Activities that could be required for “Sustainable river management including otter habitat conservation with tourism activities in Natura 2000 sites”:** [activity number refers to relevant sheet in the following tables]

- Education of the local population to increase acceptance for river restoration [activity 20]
- Deconstruction/removal of dams [activity 12]
- Purchase of land for river restoration [activity 23]
- Installation of fish ladder [activity 24]
- Construction of a visitor centre [activity 25]
- Installation of a barbecue place close to the river for tourists (to minimise risk of illegal fires) [activity 22]
- Production of a leaflet for tourists [activities 3, 20]
- Installation of a bicycle trail alongside the river [activity 22]
- Monitoring of the dragonfly and locust populations [activity 17]
- Release of endemic crayfishes [activity 13]
- Promotion of deadwood in the alluvial forest [activity 12]

**Measures related to this project are marked [river] in the tables.**

### Example 4: Harbour porpoise conservation project

The harbour porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*) is one of the world's smallest cetaceans, growing to an average length of 1,55 meters and a mass of 55 kilograms. Harbour porpoises generally inhabit coastal waters, and their common name is derived from their regular appearance in bays, estuaries and harbours. Porpoise populations throughout their ranges are threatened by incidental mortality in fisheries. Chemical and noise pollution as well as boat traffic and lack of food may also threaten this species. More knowledge is needed about key areas for harbour porpoises and identified sites need to be sufficiently managed and protected. Fishermen need to be encouraged to develop and use fishing gears that minimise porpoise bycatch. Active means of alerting porpoises to the presence of a net and keeping them away from it is important, eg by developing acoustic deterrents (pingers).

**Activities that could be required for “Harbour porpoise conservation project ”:** [activity number refers to relevant sheet in the following tables]:

- Identification and designation of important areas for harbour porpoise [activity 2]
- Research on distribution and behaviour of harbour porpoises [activity 13]
- Long-term monitoring of harbour porpoises [activity 17]
- Develop and use fishing gears that minimise bycatch (fishermen and scientists) [activities 4, 13]
- Improvement of water quality eg pollution control [activity 12]
- Trials in protection and management of food sources for harbour porpoises eg fish and cephalopods [activity 12]
- Training for staff to be involved in harbour porpoise conservation [activities 13, 21]
- Networking with harbour porpoise project in neighbouring region [activity 7]
- Education and information to stakeholders eg fishermen, coastguard [activities 3, 20]
- Information to wider public to increase public awareness about harbour porpoise [activities 3, 20]
- Construction of visitor centre [activity 25]

**Measures related to this project are marked [porpoise] in the tables.**

### Example 5: Management of dry grasslands in Natura 2000 sites

“Richness of flowers” –is the slogan which is used for the hilly Natura 2000 site Flowerhill. The farmers manage the land in a traditional and sustainable way. The major part of the grassland is very dry and unproductive. Parts of it are cut only once a year. In some parts of the grassland, goats are used for grazing. The milk of the goats is good because of the high quality of grassland, however, there is not enough local demand to sell it all. Several years ago some farmers decided to plant trees in the more humid part of the site. Some did not grow very well, but some plantations of native species grew very well and the farmers are using this wood to produce firewood and timber. It is difficult to convince young farmers to continue with this traditional agriculture and forest management. Some of them would like to cultivate wine grapes and some of them have already quit farming. Some farmers are only working part-time so some parts of the dry grassland are not being managed. Bushes and trees are growing in these areas. Some rare butterflies which need these dry habitats without trees and bushes have nearly disappeared from the area.

**Activities that could be required for activities mentioned in “Management of dry grassland in Natura 2000 sites”:** [activity number refers to relevant sheet in the following tables]:

- Developing a management plan for the dry grassland [activity 5]
- Purchase of goats for grazing [activity 13]
- Construction of a common stable for the goats [activity 12]
- Installation of a wooden fence for the dry grassland [activity 12]
- Incentive for cutting the non grazed parts of the grassland with a motor mower once a year [activity 13]
- Purchase of a motor mower for the farmers [activity 12]
- Cutting of the bushes which grew up in the non managed dry grassland [activity 12]
- Incentive for a sustainable management of the native forests [activity 13]
- Development of some small infrastructure (driveways) in the forest and grassland [activity 10]
- Organisation of a conference on “management of dry grassland” [activity 7]
- Development of a logo and slogan for the local farmers products (e.g. milk) [activity 20]
- Communication training for the Natura 2000 site manager [activity 21]
- Installation of an exhibition place of the local products in the parish hall [activity 20]

**Measures related to this project are marked [flowers] in the tables.**

### Example 6: River management with agriculture, aquaculture and tourism activities in Natura 2000 sites

A river flows through a valley in a countryside that is composed of rich agricultural fields, orchards, coniferous and broad-leaved trees, fish farms and tourist areas. A city which is located on the border of the river dumps a part of its untreated water into the river. Water recycling projects are underway. Stepping stones, small special areas of the river used by aquatic migratory species, have been designated at intervals of approximately 20 km along the river. Industrial and rural activities near these areas are regulated, and public access is limited. The stepping stones are designated in sensitive areas which are used by protected species (feeding, resting and breeding sites). Specific fauna and flora of the river and the riverbanks are monitored in collaboration with research centres, fishing, boating, and landowners’ organisations. In order to avoid erosion and its impact on the river’s quality, managers of adjacent lands are planting trees and hedges. Part of the river includes ponds for fish farming.

**Activities that could be required for activities mentioned in “River management with agriculture, aquaculture and tourism activities in Natura 2000 sites”:** [activity number refers to relevant sheet in the following tables]:

- Urban planning, waste water recycling project [activities 12, 25]
- Management and monitoring of the stepping stones [activities 12, 13, 14]
- Management and monitoring of the fauna and flora of the river [activities 12, 13, 14]
- Establishment of river contracts with owners of the areas next to the river [activity 12]
- Construction of fences protecting banks, notably near the stepping stone areas [activity 12]
- Staff training on environmental management of the fish farm and river [activity 20]
- Education of the local population and collaboration with educational institutions [activities 3, 21]
- Town meetings, conferences with stakeholders [activity 20]
- Infrastructure for fishing and boating including facilities for the disabled [activity 22]
- Alert system in case of diseases or water related problems [activity 17]
- Development of fishing/nature package holiday [activity 20]
- Infrastructure for tourists (eg jetties, pathways) [activity 22]

**Measures related to this project are marked [agri-aqua] in the tables.**

**Activity 1: ADMINISTRATION OF SELECTION PROCESS**

Fund	Description	Target Groups	Land types	Area restrictions	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
<b>EAFRD</b>						
none						
<b>EFF</b>						
none						

<b>LIFE+</b>						
3	Eligibility criteria	all possible	all possible	none	Not generally eligible, as should be complete by date of accession - exception for marine sites.	
<b>FP7</b>						
none						

Fund	Description	Area restrictions	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
<b>ERDF</b>				
none				
<b>ESF</b>				
none				
<b>CF</b>				
none				

**Activity 2: SCIENTIFIC STUDIES/INVENTORIES FOR SITE IDENTIFICATION**

ACTIVITY 2: SCIENTIFIC STUDIES/INVENTORIES FOR SITE IDENTIFICATION

Fund	Description	Target groups	Land types	Area restrictions	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
<b>EAFRD</b>						
52(d)	Skills-acquisition and animation measure with a view to preparing and implementing a local development strategy	All possible	measure not specific to land type		Refer to Art. 59 The support referred to in Article 52(d) shall cover: (a) <b>studies of the area concerned</b> ; (b) <b>measures to provide information about the area and the local development strategy...</b>	
63	Leader	All possible (within rural areas)	All selected rural areas	none	Refer to Arts 61-65.	<b>In the framework of a local development strategy, at the level of the Local Action Group, public/private partnership could be used to carry out research on site inventories, could include species census, allowing local skills development, and facilitating future eco-tourism opportunities for the area concerned [bear].</b>
<b>EFF</b>						
34(j)	promote partnerships between scientists and operators in the fisheries sector;	fishermen, others	coastal, marine, inland waters, wetlands	none	Art 34: Collective actions: must be implemented with the active support of operators themselves or by organisations acting on behalf of producers or other organisations recognised by the Member State...	A partnership between fishers and scientists could be used to carry out surveys on marine wildlife. Data collected by fishers could be used as part of condition assessment. Fisheries data could be included in site inventory information. [porpoise]
<b>LIFE+</b>						
3	Eligibility criteria	all possible	all possible	none	Not generally eligible, as should be complete by date of accession - exception for marine sites.	
<b>FP7</b>						
2(2)(f)	Objectives and Activities: Environment (including Climate Change)	all possible	all possible	Transnational cooperation	Context: research - refer to Annex 1 for more detail on Environment theme	Could fund a cross-border study comparing similar sites. Information collected could be used to identify priority sites. Study could develop an improved method for site identification (eg in accession states).

Fund	Description	Area restrictions	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
<b>ERDF</b>				
none				
<b>ESF</b>				
none				
<b>CF</b>				
none				

**Activity 3: PREPARATION OF INITIAL INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY MATERIAL**

Fund	Description	Target groups	Land types	Area restrictions	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
<b>EAFRD</b>						
20(a)(i)	vocational training and information actions, including diffusion of scientific knowledge and innovative practise, for persons engaged in the agricultural, food and forestry sectors	farmers, foresters	measure not specific to land type	none	Art 21: Support shall not include courses which form part of normal programmes or systems of agricultural and forestry education at secondary or higher levels.	<b>Production of training materials for farmers and foresters, describing bear-friendly farming and forestry methods [bear].</b>
52(a)(iii)	encouragement of tourism activities	all possible	measure not specific to land type	none	Refer to Art 55.	Production of initial series of site 'brochures' aimed at nature tourists, highlighting individual Natura sites, or the national or regional network. [river]
52(c)	Training and information measure for economic actors operating in the fields covered by axis 3.	All possible	Measure not specific to land type	none	Refer to Art 58.	Training courses for private tour guides to increase knowledge and awareness about protected areas as well as information for private farm holiday operators
52(b)(iii)	conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage	all possible	measure not specific to land type	none	Refer to Art 57.	Prepare exhibitions about natural heritage and traditional land use linked to Natura 2000 sites Vocational training for protected area managers about natural values of cultural landscape/ traditional forms of land use
52(d)	a skills-acquisition and animation measure with a view to preparing and implementing a local development strategy	All possible	measure not specific to land type	none	Refer to Art 59.	Production of training materials on the benefits of Natura 2000, potential impacts of Natura on local development - could involve both staff responsible for local development strategy and a regional or wider network of actors involved in local development public-private partnerships.
63	Leader	All possible (within rural areas)	All selected rural areas	Must be within a specific delimited sub-regional rural territory, as defined by a local development strategy.	Refer to Arts 61-65.	The development of area based local development strategies that account for Natura interests alongside social and economic ones, in order to promote appropriate Leader projects that produce material for capacity building in rural areas, e.g. the development of eco-tourism opportunities.

ACTIVITY 3: PREPARATION OF INITIAL INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY MATERIAL (INCL FOR TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING)

EFF						
26(1)(a)	the diversification of activities with a view to promoting multiple jobs for fishers;	fishermen	measure not specific to land type	none	none	Provision of information to facilitate development of marine and coastal eco-tourism, eg training of fishers in identification of distinctive local species.
26(1)(c)	schemes for retraining in occupations outside sea fishing;	fishermen	measure not specific to land type	none	none	Production of training information in relation to marine sites and species in order to facilitate the development of eco-tourism operations in the area; training schemes to support exit from the industry by fishers affected by Natura 2000.
34(i)	upgrade professional skills, or develop new training methods and tools;	fishermen, others	measure not specific to land type	none	Art 34: Collective actions: must be implemented with the active support of operators themselves or by organisations acting on behalf of producers or other organisations recognised by the Member State...	Developing new training information for fishers in relation to fishing methods that are compatible with nature management at Natura 2000 sites, eg low impact or alternative gear. [porpoise]
41(1)(b)	restructuring and redirecting economic activities, in particular by promoting eco-tourism, provided these actions do not result in an increase in fishing effort;	workers in fisheries or linked sectors	measure not specific to land type	Ref Arts 40(3),(4)	Ref: Articles 40(3),(4) and 41(4) for details on requirements for areas and beneficiaries.	Providing training and information materials relating to the possible contribution of Natura 2000 to economic activities in the marine and coastal context - organise seminar for fishers interested in diversification into eco-tourism activities.
41(1)(c)	diversifying activities through the promotion of multiple employment for fishers through the creation of jobs outside the fisheries sector	workers in fisheries or linked sectors	measure not specific to land type	Ref Arts 40(3),(4)	Ref: Articles 40(3),(4) and 41(4) for details on requirements for areas and beneficiaries.	
41(1)(i)	acquiring skills and facilitating the preparation and implementation of the local development strategy.	public admins, SMEs, others	measure not specific to land type	Ref Arts 40(3),(4)	Ref: Articles 40(3),(4) and 41(4) for details on requirements for areas and beneficiaries.	Production of training materials on the benefits of Natura 2000 (in marine and coastal context), potential impacts of Natura on local development - could involve development of a regional or wider network of actors involved in local development.
LIFE+						
3	Eligibility criteria	all possible	all possible	none		Not generally eligible, as should be complete by date of accession - exception for marine sites.
FP7						
	none					

Fund	Description	Area restrictions	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
<b>ERDF</b> <sup>13</sup>				
4(3)	Supporting modernisation and diversification of regional economic structures. Priority: Environment, including <b>promotion of biodiversity and nature protection</b>	Convergence objective regions	Context: economic diversification/modernisation (eg capacity building)	Within broader (for example) eco-tourism project, could fund development of initial publicity material.
4(5)	<b>Tourism</b> , including promotion of natural and cultural assets as potential for the development of sustainable tourism, protection and enhancement of the cultural heritage in support of economic development, aid to improve the supply of tourism services through new higher value-added services	Convergence objective regions	Context: promoting/developing tourism	Could fund development of information resources for tourists, eg, brochures, maps.
4(8)	<b>Education investments</b> contributing to increasing the attractiveness and quality of life in regions	Convergence objective regions		Production of educational materials relating to Natura 2000 sites, to be used in local schools as part of a larger educational initiative. [porpoise, agri-aqua]
4(10)	Direct aid to investment in SMEs contributing to <b>creating and safeguarding jobs</b>	Convergence objective regions	Context: job creation (eg tourism)	For tourism-related SMEs - production of information resources.
6(1)a	Encouraging entrepreneurship and, in particular, the development of SMEs, tourism, culture, and cross-border trade	European territorial cooperation for transborder cooperation (see Art 19)	Context: job creation (eg tourism)	For trans-border projects, could fund production of information on broader network of Natura sites for tourism, sale of Natura-related products etc.
6(1)b	Assistance on the development of cross-border economic and social activities through joint strategies for sustainable territorial development, primarily: encouraging the <b>protection and joint management of the environment</b>	European territorial cooperation for transborder cooperation (see Art 19)	Context: developing employment initiatives and training	Could include information relating to river-basin management, coastal zones and/or wetlands as these are particularly relevant to trans-border management.
6(2)a	Bilateral cooperation between maritime regions, through the financing of networks and of actions conducive to integrated territorial development on: water management, with a clear trans-national dimension, including <b>protection and management of river basins, coastal zones, marine resources, water services and wetlands</b>	European territorial cooperation for transborder cooperation (see Art 19)	Areas need to be connected to river basin/wetland/marine/coastal areas	Could be opportunities to produce material in relation to capacity-building and networking for authorities - sharing experience, providing mentoring from 'old' states to 'new' states, developing networks for regional site management.
6(3)	Promoting <b>networking and exchange of experience</b> among regional and local authorities focusing on biodiversity and Natura 2000, including cooperation network programmes; actions involving studies, data collection, and the observation and analysis of development trends in the Community.	European territorial cooperation for transborder cooperation (see Art 19)		
<b>ESF</b>				
3(1)aii	Increasing adaptability of workers and enterprise, eg development of specific employment, training and support services to workers in the context of company and sector restructuring.		Context: Job creation (eg in case of sector restructuring)	Could use in context of job creation projects to develop educational materials for people moving into work in Natura sites, or in related enterprises.
3(2)bi	Strengthening institutional capacity and the efficiency of public administrations and public services on <b>good policy and programme design</b> , monitoring and evaluation, through studies, statistics and expertise, support to interdepartmental coordination and dialogue between relevant public and private bodies	Convergence objective regions		Could be opportunities to produce material in relation to capacity-building and networking for authorities - sharing experience, providing mentoring from 'old' states to 'new' states, developing networks for regional site management.
3(2)bii	Strengthening institutional capacity and the efficiency of public administrations and public services in capacity building in the <b>delivery of policies and programmes</b>	Convergence objective regions		Opportunities at high strategic level, and operational level.
<b>CF</b>				
none				

<sup>13</sup> ERDF financing is targeted for productive investment (e.g. infrastructure). Therefore, activities related to Natura 2000/Natura sites need to be integrated in a broader development context.

## Activity 4: PILOT PROJECTS

### ACTIVITY 4: PILOT PROJECTS

Fund	Description	Target groups	Land types	Area restrictions	Notes/other restrictions	Examples	
<b>EAFRD</b>							
63	Leader	All possible (within rural areas)	All selected rural areas	none	Refer to Arts 61-65.	Pilot community involvement in nature management, education scheme, scheme to increase tourism or to develop areas surrounding Natura site. Must be integrated into local development strategy.	
<b>EFF</b>							
26(1) (a)	the diversification of activities with a view to promoting multiple jobs for fishers;	fishermen	measure not specific to land type	none	none	Pilot scheme to encourage development of eco-tourism led by fishers, including some retraining in customer service and small business management, and leading to reduction of fishing effort and more sustainable resource use.	
26(1) (c)	schemes for retraining in occupations outside sea fishing;	fishermen	measure not specific to land type	none	none		
34(a)	contribute sustainably to better management or conservation of resources;	fishermen, others	coastal, marine, inland waters, wetlands	none	Art 34: Collective actions: must be implemented with the active support of operators themselves or by organisations acting on behalf of producers or other organisations recognised by the Member State...		
34(b)	promote selective fishing methods or gears and reduction of by-catches;	fishermen, others	coastal, marine, inland waters	none	Art 34: Collective actions: must be implemented with the active support of operators themselves or by organisations acting on behalf of producers or other organisations recognised by the Member State...		Pilot of new nature-friendly fishing gears to assess impact on bycatch and suitability for use within Natura 2000 sites. [porpoise]
34(c)	remove lost fishing gears from the sea bed in order to combat ghost fishing;	fishermen, others	coastal, marine, inland waters	none	Art 34: Collective actions: must be implemented with the active support of operators themselves or by organisations acting on behalf of producers or other organisations recognised by the Member State...		Pilot project to investigate feasibility of gear removal from certain Natura 2000 sites.
34(g)	develop, restructure or improve aquaculture sites;	fishermen, others	coastal, marine, inland waters, wetlands	none	Art 34: Collective actions: must be implemented with the active support of operators themselves or by organisations acting on behalf of producers or other organisations recognised by the Member State...		Pilot nature-friendly aquaculture techniques.
34(i)	upgrade professional skills, or develop new training methods and tools;	fishermen, others	measure not specific to land type	none	Art 34: Collective actions: must be implemented with the active support of operators themselves or by organisations acting on behalf of producers or other organisations recognised by the Member State...		Pilot training scheme for fishers on Natura 2000 sites, benefits for communities, and including tourism opportunities.
34(j)	promote partnerships between scientists and operators in the fisheries sector;	fishermen, others	coastal, marine, inland waters, wetlands	none	Art 34: Collective actions: must be implemented with the active support of operators themselves or by organisations acting on behalf of producers or other organisations recognised by the Member State...	Pilot a scheme to aid cooperation between scientists and fishers, eg promoting data collection and analysis projects that could benefit the community and Natura 2000 site management.	



Fund	Description	Target groups	Land types	Area restrictions	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
<b>EFF</b>						
38(2) (b)	Pilot projects: to enable tests to be carried out on management plans and fishing effort allocation plans, including, if necessary, the establishment of no-fishing zones, in order to evaluate the biological and financial consequences and experimental restocking	fishermen, others, SMEs	coastal, marine, inland waters, wetlands	none	38(1) pilot projects to be carried out by an economic operator, a recognised trade association or any other competent body designated for that purpose by the Member State, in partnership with a scientific or technical body.	Project to assess fish stock levels inside and outside Natura site under different management regimes.
38(2) (c)	Pilot projects: to develop and test methods to improve gear selectivity, reduce by-catches, discards or the impact on the environment, in particular on the sea bottom	fishermen, others, SMEs	coastal, marine, inland waters	none	38(1) pilot projects to be carried out by an economic operator, a recognised trade association or any other competent body designated for that purpose by the Member State, in partnership with a scientific or technical body.	Pilot of new nature-friendly fishing gears to assess impact on bycatch and suitability for use within Natura 2000 sites.
41(1) (c)	diversifying activities through the promotion of multiple employment for fishers through the creation of jobs outside the fisheries sector	workers in fisheries or linked sectors	measure not specific to land type	Ref Arts 40(3),(4)	Ref: Articles 40(3),(4) and 41(4) for details on requirements for areas and beneficiaries.	Pilot scheme to encourage development of eco-tourism led by fishers, including some retraining in customer service and small business management, and/or Natura site management.
<b>LIFE+</b>						
none						
<b>FP7</b>						
2(2)f	Environment, eg climate change, pollution and risks; conservation and sustainable management of natural and man-made resources (eg protection and management of biodiversity); environment and technologies (eg environmental restoration)	all possible	measure not specific to land type	Transnational cooperation	Context: research	Research project to trial new management method eg compare grassland management regimes to determine which give better benefits to native butterflies and moths across Europe.
2(2)g	Theme: transport (eg greening of surface transport)	all possible	measure not specific to land type	Transnational cooperation	Context: research on adaptation/improvement of transportation infrastructure to mitigate effect to Natura sites	Research on effectiveness of low-impact transport infrastructure eg effectiveness of underpasses for reptiles.

ACTIVITY 4: PILOT PROJECTS

Fund	Description	Area restrictions	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
<b>ERDF 14</b>				
4(3)	Supporting modernisation and diversification of regional economic structures. Priority: Environment, including <b>promotion of biodiversity and nature protection</b>	Convergence objective regions		Pilot rehabilitation of contaminated land to provide business facilities alongside habitat restoration - eg planting new woodland/developing wetland areas/providing water treatment with benefit to habitats and species at neighbouring Natura 2000 site.
4(4)	<b>Prevention of risks</b> , including development and implementation of plans to prevent and cope with natural and technological risks	Convergence objective regions	Context: developing plans and measures for risk management	Pilot habitat restoration through planting of low fire-risk native trees (large areas); or restoration of wetland, estuarine or coastal species to reduce flood and erosion risk. Would need to be included in larger project context.
4(7)	Energy: including trans-European networks, which contribute to <b>integrating environmental considerations</b> , improvement of energy efficiency and the development of <b>renewable energies</b>	Convergence objective regions	Context: renewable energies	Could fund pilot project to investigate feasibility of using floodplain restoration and management to provide hydro-electricity, or to investigate the benefits of small-scale biomass plants at nature reserves. In context of regional plans for renewable energy use.
4(8)	<b>Education investments</b> contributing to increasing the attractiveness and quality of life in regions	Convergence objective regions	Context: broader education framework	Develop and pilot education programme to increase environmental awareness and improve quality of life.
5(2)b	Priority: environment and risk prevention: stimulating energy efficiency and <b>renewable energy</b> production	Regional competitiveness and employment objective regions	Context: renewable energies	Could fund pilot project to investigate feasibility of using floodplain restoration and management to provide hydro-electricity, or to investigate the benefits of small-scale biomass plants at nature reserves. In context of regional plans for renewable energy use.
5(2)d	<b>Environment and risk prevention</b> : developing plans and measures to prevent and cope with natural and technological risks.	Regional competitiveness and employment objective regions	Context: developing plans and measures for risk management	Pilot habitat restoration through planting of low fire-risk native trees (large areas); or restoration of wetland, estuarine or coastal species to reduce flood and erosion risk. Would need to be included in larger project context.
6(1)a	Encouraging entrepreneurship and, in particular, the development of SMEs, tourism, culture, and cross-border trade	European territorial cooperation for transborder cooperation (see Art 19)	Context: job creation (eg tourism)	Pilot eco-tourism network including trans-border cooperation focussed on Natura 2000 sites.
6(1)b	Assistance on the development of cross-border economic and social activities through joint strategies for sustainable territorial development, primarily: encouraging the <b>protection and joint management of the environment</b>	European territorial cooperation for transborder cooperation (see Art 19)		Pilot job-creation scheme at Natura 2000 sites, in context of development of environmentally sustainable job opportunities in a region.

<sup>14</sup> ERDF financing is targeted for productive investment (e.g. infrastructure). Therefore, activities related to Natura 2000/Natura sites need to be integrated in a broader development context.

Fund	Description	Area restrictions	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
6(1) end	In addition, promoting the integration of cross-border labour markets, local employment initiatives, equal opportunities, <b>training</b> and social inclusion, and sharing of human resources and facilities for R&TD.	European territorial cooperation for transborder cooperation (see Art 19)		Pilot cross-border labour market for nature professionals to facilitate skill-sharing and resource use. In context of overall development of sustainable and environmentally friendly employment.
6(2)a	Bilateral cooperation between maritime regions, through the financing of networks and of actions conducive to integrated territorial development on: water management, with a clear trans-national dimension, including <b>protection and management of river basins, coastal zones, marine resources, water services and wetlands</b>	European territorial cooperation for transborder cooperation (see Art 19)	Areas need to be connected to river basin/wetland/marine/coastal areas	Pilot project for environmentally sustainable river basin management, including Natura 2000 site management. Could include consideration of ecosystem services from Natura site, and pilot economic tools to facilitate adequate recognition of benefits from such services.
6(3)	Promoting <b>networking and exchange of experience</b> among regional and local authorities focusing on biodiversity and Natura 2000, including cooperation network programmes; actions involving studies, data collection, and the observation and analysis of development trends in the Community.	European territorial cooperation for transborder cooperation (see Art 19)		Pilot programme for education and skill sharing amongst authorities involved in Natura 2000 management.
9	Economic diversification of rural areas and areas dependent on fisheries including: development of new economic activities outside the agricultural and fishery sectors; development of tourism and rural amenities	Only rural areas and areas dependent on fisheries.	Context: economic diversification	Pilot eco-tourism initiative, including cetacean and seabird watching tourism initiative run by ex-fishermen.
10	Financing of investments aimed at improving accessibility, promoting and developing economic activities related to the cultural heritage, promoting the sustainable use of natural resources, and stimulating the tourism sector.	Only areas with natural handicaps.		Pilot eco-tourism initiative, including descriptions of cultural and natural heritage and access improvement eg development of environmentally sensitive new coastal walkway or cycleway through heritage areas, including Natura 2000 sites and visiting areas with natural handicaps.
<b>ESF</b>				
none				
<b>CF15</b>				
2(2)	Achievement of the objectives of Article 174 of the Treaty falling within the priorities assigned to the Community environmental protection policy under the policy and action programme on the environment.	Convergence objective regions		Could develop small pilot projects alongside larger development projects - eg trial new fish corridors alongside dam developments.
2(3)	Areas that can be developed on a sustainable basis and clearly present environmental benefits, eg energy efficiency, renewable energy and transport sector	Convergence objective regions	Context: Infrastructure and investment related to renewable energy and transport	Pilot new methods of developing nature-friendly/low-risk transport corridors (eg new technology for over-passes and under-passes). Could only be done as a part of larger transport network projects.

<sup>15</sup> Activities related to Natura 2000/Natura sites need to be often integrated in a broader development context.

Activity 5: PREPARATION OF MANAGEMENT PLANS, STRATEGIES AND SCHEMES

ACTIVITY 5: PREPARATION OF MANAGEMENT PLANS, STRATEGIES AND SCHEMES

Fund	Description	Target groups	Land types	Area restrictions	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
<b>EAFRD</b>						
52(b)(iii)	conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage	all possible	measure not specific to land type	none	57: The support referred to in article 52(b)(iii) shall cover: (a) the drawing-up of protection and management plans relating to Natura 2000 sites and other places of high natural value, environmental awareness actions and investments, associated with maintenance, restoration and upgrading of the natural heritage and with the development of high natural value sites; [...]	Could fund development of management plan for a large site in any rural area - eg a national park with forest, wetland, riverine areas. Could include management of productive land. [flowers]
63	Leader	All possible (within rural areas)	All selected rural areas	none	Refer to Arts 61-65.	Local Action Groups could include the development of site management plans as an objectives of local development. strategy. Projects could then be developed that encourage the sustainable management of environmentally sensitive habitats.
<b>EFF</b>						
none						
<b>LIFE+</b>						
3	Eligibility criteria	all possible	all possible	none	LIFE+ shall not finance measures which fall within the eligibility criteria of, or receive assistance for the same purpose from, other Community financial instruments (see Art 10). Eligible if meet the added value criteria of article 3 and measures of annex 1.	
<b>FP7</b>						
none						

Fund	Description	Area restrictions	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
<b>ERDF<sup>16</sup></b>				
4(4)	<b>Prevention of risks</b> , including development and implementation of plans to prevent and cope with natural and technological risks	Convergence objective regions	Context: developing plans and measures for risk management	Could fund development of management plan, but only where management of the Natura 2000 site is crucial for risk management (eg flood prevention).
5(2)d	<b>Environment and risk prevention</b> : developing plans and measures to prevent and cope with natural and technological risks.	Regional competitiveness and employment objective regions	Context: developing plans and measures for risk management	Could fund development of management plan, but only where management of the Natura 2000 site is crucial for risk management (eg flood prevention).
6(1)b	Assistance on the development of cross-border economic and social activities through joint strategies for sustainable territorial development, primarily: encouraging the <b>protection and joint management of the environment</b>	European territorial cooperation for transborder cooperation (see Art 19)	Context: individual Natura sites as part of a broader network	<b>Could include development of management plans for a cross-border network of sites, or individual cross-border site (eg river basin, coastal zone). Should be in context of wider regional development plans. [bear]</b>
6(2)a	Bilateral cooperation between maritime regions, through the financing of networks and of actions conducive to integrated territorial development on: water management, with a clear trans-national dimension, including <b>protection and management of river basins, coastal zones, marine resources, water services and wetlands</b>	European territorial cooperation for transborder cooperation (see Art 19)	Areas need to be connected to river basin/wetland/marine/coastal areas	
6(2)c	<b>Maritime regions risk prevention</b> , including the promotion of maritime security and protection against flooding, marine and inland water pollution, prevention of and protection against erosion, earthquakes and avalanches.	European territorial cooperation for transborder cooperation (see Art 19)	Areas need to be connected to river basin/wetland/marine/coastal areas	Could fund development of management plan, but only where management of the Natura 2000 site is crucial for risk management (eg flood prevention).
<b>ESF</b>				
3(2)bi	Strengthening institutional capacity and the efficiency of public administrations and public services on <b>good policy and programme design</b> , monitoring and evaluation, through studies, statistics and expertise, support to interdepartmental coordination and dialogue between relevant public and private bodies	Convergence objective regions		Could fund capacity building for staff in administrations who will be responsible for developing management plans (for individual sites, or regional networks of sites).
<b>CF</b>				
none				

<sup>16</sup> ERDF financing is targeted for productive investment (e.g. infrastructure). Therefore, activities related to Natura 2000/Natura sites need to be integrated in a broader development context.

**Activity 6: ESTABLISHMENT OF MANAGEMENT BODIES**

**ACTIVITY 6: ESTABLISHMENT OF MANAGEMENT BODIES**

Fund	Description	Target groups	Land types	Area restrictions	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
<b>EAFRD</b>						
52(d)	Skills acquisition and animation measure with a view to preparing and implementing a local development strategy	All possible	Measure not specific to land type	none	Refer to Art 59(e)	
63	Leader	All possible (within rural areas)	All selected rural areas	none	Refer to Arts 61-65.	In the context of a local development strategy, site-specific Natura management bodies could be established, perhaps as public/private partnerships.
<b>EFF</b>						
none						
<b>LIFE+</b>						
none						
<b>FP7</b>						
none						

Fund	Description	Area restrictions	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
<b>ERDF<sup>17</sup></b>				
4(3)	Supporting modernisation and diversification of regional economic structures. Priority: Environment, including <b>promotion of biodiversity and nature protection</b>	Convergence objective regions		Could support establishment of regional management body to promote sustainable use of biodiversity and nature protection.
6(1)d	Establishment and development of transnational cooperation, through the financing of networks and of actions conducive to integrated territorial development on: developing collaboration, capacity and joint use of infrastructures in particular in sectors such as health, culture and education.	European territorial cooperation for transborder cooperation (see Art 19)	Context: broad transboundary networking initiatives	Could enable establishment of trans-boundary management body - would contribute to management of Natura sites, but from perspective of health, culture, education etc.
6(2)a	Bilateral cooperation between maritime regions, through the financing of networks and of actions conducive to integrated territorial development on: water management, with a clear trans-national dimension, including <b>protection and management of river basins, coastal zones, marine resources, water services and wetlands</b>	European territorial cooperation for transborder cooperation (see Art 19)	Context: broad transboundary networking initiatives. Areas need to be connected to river basin/wetland/marine/coastal areas	Could establish transboundary body with responsibility for managing transboundary river basin/wetland/coastal zone. Would primarily relate to water body management and/or risk management, but would include Natura site management as part of this.
6(2)c	<b>Maritime regions risk prevention</b> , including the promotion of maritime security and protection against flooding, marine and inland water pollution, prevention of and protection against erosion, earthquakes and avalanches.	European territorial cooperation for transborder cooperation (see Art 19)	Context: broad transboundary networking initiatives. Areas need to be connected to river basin/wetland/marine/coastal areas	
<b>ESF</b>				
3(2)bi	Strengthening institutional capacity and the efficiency of public administrations and public services on <b>good policy and programme design</b> , monitoring and evaluation, through studies, statistics and expertise, support to interdepartmental coordination and dialogue between relevant public and private bodies	Convergence objective regions		Could enable restructuring of administrative systems/bodies in order to create good structures for regional environmental management (including management of Natura 2000).
<b>CF<sup>18</sup></b>				
none				

<sup>17</sup> ERDF financing is targeted for productive investment (e.g. infrastructure). Therefore, activities related to Natura 2000/Natura sites need to be integrated in a broader development context.

<sup>18</sup> Activities related to Natura 2000/Natura sites need to be often integrated in a broader development context.

Activity 7: CONSULTATION AND NETWORKING - PUBLIC MEETINGS, NETWORKING, LIASON WITH LANDOWNERS

ACTIVITY 7: CONSULTATION AND NETWORKING - PUBLIC MEETINGS, NETWORKING, LIASON WITH LANDOWNERS

Fund	Description	Target groups	Land types	Area restrictions	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
<b>EAFRD</b>						
52(d)	Skills-acquisition and animation measure with a view to preparing and implementing a local development strategy	All possible	measure not specific to land type		Refer to Art 59.	Could support networking and capacity building as far as this can be linked to an environmental objective in the local development strategy.
63	Leader	All possible (within rural areas)	All selected rural areas		Refer to Arts 61-65.	Could support networking on a regional or wider basis (in relation to local development plans) to encourage uptake of best practice. Could be used (for example) to share experiences of rural communities in managing Natura; highlight commercial and social opportunities; or to disseminate information to landowners. [flowers]
<b>EFF</b>						
34(i)	upgrade professional skills, or develop new training methods and tools;	fishermen, others	measure not specific to land type	none	Art 34: Collective actions: must be implemented with the active support of operators themselves or by organisations acting on behalf of producers or other organisations recognised by the Member State...	Could facilitate development of information-sharing networks to disseminate information on low-impact fishing techniques/nature-friendly aquaculture etc.
34(j)	promote partnerships between scientists and operators in the fisheries sector;	fishermen, others	coastal, marine, inland waters, wetlands	none	Art 34: Collective actions: must be implemented with the active support of operators themselves or by organisations acting on behalf of producers or other organisations recognised by the Member State...	Could fund participation of scientists in fishing networks and development of ideas for fishing/science partnerships.
41(1)(h)	promoting inter-regional and trans-national cooperation among actors in fisheries areas, mainly through networking and disseminating best practice	public admins, SMEs, others	measure not specific to land type	Ref Arts 40(3),(4)	Ref: Articles 40(3),(4) and 41(4) for details on requirements for areas and beneficiaries.	Could support inter-regional and trans-national networking in relation to nature-friendly fishing practices and the role of fishers and aquaculturalists in relation to Natura 2000. [porpoise]
41(1)(i)	acquiring skills and facilitating the preparation and implementation of the local development strategy.	public admins, SMEs, others	measure not specific to land type	Ref Arts 40(3),(4)	Ref: Articles 40(3),(4) and 41(4) for details on requirements for areas and beneficiaries.	Could support networking and capacity building as far as this can be linked to an environmental objective in the local development strategy.



Fund	Description	Target groups	Land types	Area restrictions	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
<b>LIFE+</b>						
3	Eligibility criteria	all possible	all possible	none	LIFE+ shall not finance measures which fall within the eligibility criteria of, or receive assistance for the same purpose from, other Community financial instruments (see Art 10). Eligible if meeting the added value criteria of article 3 and measures of annex 1.	
<b>FP7</b>						
2(2)f	Environment, eg climate change, pollution and risks; conservation and sustainable management of natural and man-made resources (eg protection and management of biodiversity); environment and technologies (eg environmental restoration)	all possible	measure not specific to land type	Transnational cooperation	Context: as a part of the research project when stakeholder engagement is needed	Research project on Natura management could include consultation of stakeholders, assessment of acceptability of management practices, benefits arising from Natura sites etc.

Fund	Description	Area restrictions	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
<b>ERDF<sup>19</sup></b>				
4(3)	Supporting modernisation and diversification of regional economic structures. Priority: Environment, including <b>promotion of biodiversity and nature protection</b>	Convergence' objective regions	Context: as a part of the project/initiative when stakeholder engagement is needed	Could support regional networking, sharing of positive experiences to communicate economic benefits of Natura sites.
4(4)	<b>Prevention of risks</b> , including development and implementation of plans to prevent and cope with natural and technological risks	Convergence' objective regions	Context: as a part of the project/initiative when stakeholder engagement is needed (risk management)	Could fund networking in relation to 'Natura contributing to risk prevention'. Could include engagement with neighbouring landowners.
4(5)	<b>Tourism</b> , including promotion of natural and cultural assets as potential for the development of sustainable tourism, protection and enhancement of the cultural heritage in support of economic development, aid to improve the supply of tourism services through new higher value-added services	Convergence' objective regions	Context: as a part of the project/initiative when stakeholder engagement is needed (tourism)	Could support networking to assist development of regional tourism plan, including discussions of benefits and opportunities from Natura 2000 at local and regional levels.
4(8)	<b>Education investments</b> contributing to increasing the attractiveness and quality of life in regions	Convergence' objective regions	Context: as a part of the project/initiative when stakeholder engagement is needed (education)	Regional networking and consultation on environmental education, using Natura 2000 network as an education resource.

<sup>19</sup> ERDF financing is targeted for productive investment (e.g. infrastructure). Therefore, activities related to Natura 2000/Natura sites need to be integrated in a broader development context.

**ACTIVITY 7: CONSULTATION AND NETWORKING - PUBLIC MEETINGS,  
NETWORKING, LIASON WITH LANDOWNERS**

Fund	Description	Area restrictions	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
4(10)	Direct aid to investment in SMEs contributing to <b>creating and safeguarding jobs</b>	Convergence' objective regions	Context: as a part of the project/initiative when stakeholder engagement is needed (job creation)	Could enable networking of SMEs active at Natura 2000 sites, to share experience and involve local and regional actors involved in job creation.
5(2)a	Priority environment and risk prevention: stimulating investment for the rehabilitation of contaminated sites and land, and promoting the <b>development of infrastructure linked to biodiversity and Natura 2000</b> contributing to sustainable economic development and diversification of rural areas.	Regional competitiveness and employment objective regions	Context: as a part of the project/initiative when stakeholder engagement is needed	Could include consultation of local stakeholders who would be affected by the construction of infrastructure at Natura 2000 sites.
5(2)d	<b>Environment and risk prevention:</b> developing plans and measures to prevent and cope with natural and technological risks.	Regional competitiveness and employment objective regions	Context: as a part of the project/initiative when stakeholder engagement is needed (risk management)	Could fund networking in relation to 'Natura contributing to risk prevention'. Could include engagement with neighbouring landowners.
6(1)a	Encouraging entrepreneurship and, in particular, the development of SMEs, tourism, culture, and cross-border trade	European territorial cooperation for transborder cooperation (see Art 19)	Context: as a part of the project/initiative when stakeholder engagement is needed	Could support networking to assist development of regional tourism plan, including discussions of benefits and opportunities from Natura 2000 at local and regional levels.
6(1)b	Assistance on the development of cross-border economic and social activities through joint strategies for sustainable territorial development, primarily: encouraging the <b>protection and joint management of the environment</b>	European territorial cooperation for transborder cooperation (see Art 19)	Context: as a part of the project/initiative when stakeholder engagement is needed	Could assist in development of cross-border networks to draft regional plans for sustainable environmental management, education, and/or nature protection including management of Natura 2000.
6(1)d	Establishment and development of transnational cooperation, through the financing of networks and of actions conducive to integrated territorial development on: developing collaboration, capacity and joint use of infrastructures in particular in sectors such as health, culture and education.	European territorial cooperation for transborder cooperation (see Art 19)	Context: broad transboundary education initiatives (education)	
6(1)end	In addition, promoting the integration of cross-border labour markets, local employment initiatives, equal opportunities, <b>training</b> and social inclusion, and sharing of human resources and facilities for R&TD.	European territorial cooperation for transborder cooperation (see Art 19)	Context: as a part of the project/initiative when stakeholder engagement is needed	Could support cross-border networking to enable effective use of regional human resources for Natura 2000.
6(2)a	Bilateral cooperation between maritime regions, through the financing of networks and of actions conducive to integrated territorial development on: water management, with a clear trans-national dimension, including <b>protection and management of river basins, coastal zones, marine resources, water services and wetlands</b>	European territorial cooperation for transborder cooperation (see Art 19)	Context: as a part of the project/initiative when stakeholder engagement is needed. Areas need to be connected to river basin/wetland/marine/coastal areas	Could support consultation and networking in relation to cross-border management plans and/or risk management plans for river basins/wetlands/coastal areas, including aspects of Natura 2000 management.

Fund	Description	Area restrictions	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
6(2)c	<b>Maritime regions risk prevention</b> , including the promotion of maritime security and protection against flooding, marine and inland water pollution, prevention of and protection against erosion, earthquakes and avalanches.	European territorial cooperation for transborder cooperation (see Art 19)	Context: as a part of the project/initiative when stakeholder engagement is needed (risk prevention). Areas need to be connected to river basin/wetland/marine/coastal areas	
6(3)	Promoting <b>networking and exchange of experience</b> among regional and local authorities focusing on biodiversity and Natura 2000, including cooperation network programmes; actions involving studies, data collection, and the observation and analysis of development trends in the Community.	Requirement 'European territorial cooperation' for transborder cooperation (see Art 19)		Could support development of large networks in relation to Natura 2000 management to enable sharing of experiences, expertise, and information. Could facilitate regional cooperation and mentoring and capacity-building for 'new' Member States.
8	<b>Rehabilitation of the physical environment</b> , e.g. preservation and development of the historical and cultural heritage with measures to promote entrepreneurship, local employment and community development		Context: as a part of the project/initiative when stakeholder engagement is needed. Requirement: Urban dimensions.	Could fund community/stakeholder consultation for urban Natura 2000 sites that are located within a broader urban rehabilitation project.
9	Economic diversification of rural areas and areas dependent on fisheries including: development of new economic activities outside the agricultural and fishery sectors; development of tourism and rural amenities	Only rural areas and areas dependent on fisheries.	Context: as a part of the project/initiative when stakeholder engagement is needed (economic diversification)	Could support networking of ex-fishers who are now becoming involved in Natura site management activities, or who have moved into activities (eg eco-tourism) that are based at Natura 2000 sites.
10	Financing of investments aimed at improving accessibility, promoting and developing economic activities related to the cultural heritage, promoting the sustainable use of natural resources, and stimulating the tourism sector.	Only areas with natural handicaps.	Context: as a part of the project/initiative when stakeholder engagement is needed	Networking of areas with natural handicaps, to facilitate sharing of experience and ideas on how Natura 2000 could contribute to the economic growth of the region.
<b>ESF</b>				
3(2)bi	Strengthening institutional capacity and the efficiency of public administrations and public services on <b>good policy and programme design</b> , monitoring and evaluation, through studies, statistics and expertise, support to interdepartmental coordination and dialogue between relevant public and private bodies	Convergence objective regions		Networking between public and private bodies, departments, public administrations and public services etc. in relation to environmental management and in particular Natura 2000.
3(2)bii	Strengthening institutional capacity and the efficiency of public administrations and public services in capacity building in the <b>delivery of policies and programmes</b>	Convergence objective regions	Context: as a part of the project/initiative when stakeholder engagement is needed	
<b>CF<sup>20</sup></b>				
none				

<sup>20</sup> Activities related to Natura 2000/Natura sites need to be often integrated in a broader development context.

**Activity 8: REVIEW OF MANAGEMENT PLANS, STRATEGIES AND SCHEMES**

**ACTIVITY 8: REVIEW OF MANAGEMENT PLANS, STRATEGIES AND SCHEMES**

Fund	Description	Target groups	Land types	Area restrictions	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
<b>EAFRD</b>						
52(b)(iii)	conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage	all possible	measure not specific to land type	none	57: The support referred to in article 52(b)(iii) shall cover: (a) the drawing-up of protection and management plans relating to Natura 2000 sites and other places of high natural value, environmental awareness actions and investments, associated with maintenance, restoration and upgrading of the natural heritage and with the development of high natural value sites;	
63	Leader	All possible (within rural areas)	All selected rural areas	none	Refer to Arts 61-65.	Could support review of schemes where this is relevant for local development goals - eg revisit management plans to enable a greater focus on community engagement and educational opportunities (in partnership with relevant authorities).
<b>EFF</b>						
none						
<b>LIFE+</b>						
3	Eligibility criteria	all possible	all possible	none	LIFE+ shall not finance measures which fall within the eligibility criteria of, or receive assistance for the same purpose from, other Community financial instruments (see Art 10). Eligible if meeting the added value criteria of article 3 and measures of annex 1.	
<b>FP7</b>						
2(2)f	Environment, eg climate change, pollution and risks; conservation and sustainable management of natural and man-made resources (eg protection and management of biodiversity); environment and technologies (eg environmental restoration)	all possible	measure not specific to land type	Trans-national cooperation	Context: research	<b>Research programmes aimed at determining effectiveness of original management plans and developing ideas to be included in future management of sites and the Natura network in a broader context. [bear]</b>

Fund	Description	Area restrictions	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
ERDF <sup>21</sup>				
4(4)	<b>Prevention of risks</b> , including development and implementation of plans to prevent and cope with natural and technological risks	Convergence objective regions	Context: developing plans and measures for risk management	Review of Natura site plans in context of contribution to regional risk management.
5(2)d	<b>Environment and risk prevention</b> : developing plans and measures to prevent and cope with natural and technological risks.	Regional competitiveness and employment objective regions	Context: developing plans and measures for risk management	Review of Natura site plans in context of contribution to regional risk management.
6(1)b	Assistance on the development of cross-border economic and social activities through joint strategies for sustainable territorial development, primarily: encouraging the <b>protection and joint management of the environment</b>	European territorial cooperation for transborder cooperation (see Art 19)	Context: individual Natura sites as part of a broader network	Review of plans to enable cross border synergies - eg reviewing plans relating to sites (eg river basins, coastal zones) near the border between neighbouring countries.
6(2)a	Bilateral cooperation between maritime regions, through the financing of networks and of actions conducive to integrated territorial development on: water management, with a clear trans-national dimension, including <b>protection and management of river basins, coastal zones, marine resources, water services and wetlands</b>	European territorial cooperation for transborder cooperation (see Art 19)	Areas need to be connected to river basin/wetland/marine/coastal areas	
9	Economic diversification of rural areas and areas dependent on fisheries including: development of new economic activities outside the agricultural and fishery sectors; development of tourism and rural amenities	Only rural areas and areas dependent on fisheries.	Context: economic diversification	Review Natura 2000 management plans to enable contributions to eco-tourism and participation of agricultural or fishing communities following restructuring.
ESF				
none				
CF <sup>22</sup>				
none				

<sup>21</sup> ERDF financing is targeted for productive investment (e.g. infrastructure). Therefore, activities related to Natura 2000/Natura sites need to be integrated in a broader development context.

<sup>22</sup> Activities related to Natura 2000/Natura sites need to be often integrated in a broader development context.

**Activity 9: RUNNING COSTS OF MANAGEMENT BODIES**

**ACTIVITY 9: RUNNING COSTS OF MANAGEMENT BODIES**  
(maintenance of buildings and equipment)

Fund		Target groups	Land types	Area restrictions	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
EAFRD						
52(d)	Skills acquisition and animation measure with a view to preparing and implementing a local development strategy	All possible	Measure not specific to land type	none	Refer to Art 59(e)	
EFF						
none						
LIFE+						
none						
FP7						
none						

Fund	Area restrictions	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
ERDF <sup>23</sup>			
none		Funding not available for continuous activities	
ESF			
none		Funding not available for continuous activities	
CF			
none		Funding not available for continuous activities	

<sup>23</sup> ERDF financing is targeted for productive investment (e.g. infrastructure). Therefore, activities related to Natura 2000/Natura sites need to be integrated in a broader development context.

Activity 10: MAINTENANCE OF FACILITIES FOR PUBLIC - ACCESS TO AND USE OF SITES

ACTIVITY 10: MAINTENANCE OF FACILITIES FOR PUBLIC ACCESS TO AND USE OF SITES

Fund	Description	Target groups	Land types	Area restrictions	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
<b>EAFRD</b>						
36(a)(iv)	agri-environment payments	farmers, land managers	agricultural land	none	Refer to Art 39 and Art 51. Recipient must respect cross compliance and certain mandatory standards in national legislation.	Promotion of public access may be included in agri-environment measures, payment may include sums for, eg, ensuring public pathways remain uncultivated in MS where this is not a requirement of cross-compliance.
36(b)(v)	forest-environment payments	private forest owners, municipalities	forests	Eligibility varies depending on area: refer to article 42.	Refer to Art 47 and to Art 51. Recipient must respect cross compliance.	Promotion of public access may be included in forest-environment measures, payment may include sums for maintenance of pathways, bridges etc.
52(b)(iii)	conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage	all possible	measure not specific to land type	none	57: The support referred to in article 52(b)(iii) shall cover: (a) the drawing-up of protection and management plans relating to Natura 2000 sites and other places of high natural value, <b>environmental awareness actions and investments, associated with maintenance, restoration and upgrading of the natural heritage and with the development of high natural value sites;</b>	
63	Leader	All possible (within rural areas)	All selected rural areas	none	Refer to Arts 61-65.	In the framework of a local development strategy, public access facilities could be maintained with the aim of facilitating education, eco-tourism, or environmental benefit.
<b>EFF</b>						
41(1)(b)	restructuring and redirecting economic activities, in particular by promoting eco-tourism, provided these actions do not result in an increase in fishing effort;	workers in fisheries or linked sectors	measure not specific to land type	Ref Arts 40(3),(4)	Ref: Articles 40(3),(4) and 41(4) for details on requirements for areas and beneficiaries.	Could be used for maintenance or improvement of public access facilities for use at coastal sites, to facilitate development of eco-tourism.
41(1)(e)	supporting small fisheries and tourism related infrastructure for the benefit of small fisheries communities	public admins, SMEs, others	measure not specific to land type	Ref Arts 40(3),(4)	Ref: Articles 40(3),(4) and 41(4) for details on requirements for areas and beneficiaries.	Could fund tourism-related public-access infrastructure at any Natura site where access could benefit the targeted communities (eg through ongoing or increasing eco-tourism activities).



Fund	Description	Target groups	Land types	Area restrictions	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
<b>LIFE+</b>						
none						
<b>FP7</b>						
none						

Fund	Description	Area restrictions	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
<b>ERDF<sup>24</sup></b>				
4(3)	Supporting modernisation and diversification of regional economic structures. Priority: Environment, including <b>promotion of biodiversity and nature protection</b>	Convergence objective regions		Could fund maintenance/modernisation of infrastructure in place for public access eg upgrade of walkways. [flowers]
5(2)a	Priority environment and risk prevention: stimulating investment for the rehabilitation of contaminated sites and land, and promoting the <b>development of infrastructure linked to biodiversity and Natura 2000</b> contributing to sustainable economic development and diversification of rural areas.	Regional competitiveness and employment objective regions		
6(1)b	Assistance on the development of cross-border economic and social activities through joint strategies for sustainable territorial development, primarily: encouraging the <b>protection and joint management of the environment</b>	European territorial cooperation for transborder cooperation (see Art 19)		
<b>ESF</b>				
none				
<b>CF</b>				
none				

<sup>24</sup> ERDF financing is targeted for productive investment (e.g. infrastructure). Therefore, activities related to Natura 2000/Natura sites need to be integrated in a broader development context.

**Activity 11: ONGOING STAFF COSTS**

**ACTIVITY 11: ONGOING STAFF COSTS**

Fund	Description	Target groups	Land types	Area restrictions	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
EAFRD						
EFF						
none						

Fund	Description	Target groups	Land types	Area restrictions	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
LIFE+						
3	Eligibility criteria	all possible	all possible	none	LIFE+ shall not finance measures which fall within the eligibility criteria of, or receive assistance for the same purpose from, other Community financial instruments (see Art 10). Only eligible in the circumstances foreseen in Article 5(5)(b), and then only if activities would meet the EU added value criteria in article 3.	
FP7						
none						

Fund	Description	Area restrictions	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
ERDF <sup>25</sup>				
none			Funding not available for continuous activities	
ESF				
none			Funding not available for continuous activities	
CF				
none			Funding not available for continuous activities	

<sup>25</sup> ERDF financing is targeted for productive investment (e.g. infrastructure). Therefore, activities related to Natura 2000/Natura sites need to be integrated in a broader development context.

Activity 12: CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT - HABITATS

Fund	Description	Target groups	Land types	Area restriction	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
EAFRD						
36(a)(i)	natural handicap payments to farmers in mountain areas	farmers	agricultural land	Areas must be designated - refer to Art 50.	Refer to Art 37. Applies to UAA only. . Refer to Art 51 on Reg. 1782/2003.This is a compensation payment and no environmental compliance criteria are attached other than those set out in the statutory management requirements (which include the Birds and Habitats Directives) and GAEC standards (which might include standards relating to a minimum level of maintenance) associated with Pillar 1 payments. The only other requirements on recipients is to continue farming for at least 5 years. Conservation management will therefore be dependent on the type of farming activity undertaken by the farmer.	Payments could be used to support traditional extensive sustainable agricultural practice in areas where this is necessary for maintenance of valuable habitat - eg grazing of alpine meadows or open steppe. Note that no environmental compliance criteria are attached other than those pertaining to cross compliance. It is therefore important to integrate this payment with agri-environment schemes or advisory activity in order to ensure the most appropriate land management activity is undertaken. [flowers]
36(a)(ii)	payments to farmers in areas with handicaps other than mountain areas	farmers	agricultural land	Areas must be designated - refer to Art 50.	Refer to Art 37. Applies to UAA only. Refer to Art 51 on Reg. 1782/2003 and above note on environmental compliance.	
36(a)(iii)	Natura 2000 payments and payments linked to Directive 2000/60/EC;	farmers	agricultural land	Areas must be designated - refer to Art 50.	Refer to Art 38. Applies to mandatory actions and to UAA only. A payment for costs incurred and income foregone. Refer to Art 51 on Reg. 1782/2003.	Many possible uses: eg phased mowing, restrictions on new drainage systems, requirements in relation to hedgerow management. The actions taken will be dependent on the site management plan as implemented by the national authority with responsibility for managing the Birds and Habitats Directives nationally. The payment the farmer/landowner receives is for costs incurred e.g. the cost of a reduced output resulting from the requirement to have a lower stocking density. Environmental benefits are therefore dependent on the site management plan as linked to this Natura 2000 payment. [agrifor, agri-aqua].
36(a)(iv)	agri-environment payments	farmers, land managers	agricultural land	none	Refer to Art 39 and Art 51. Recipient must respect cross compliance and certain mandatory standards in national legislation. Payments must be for measures that go beyond the requirements of cross compliance. Payments are for income foregone and costs incurred; i.e. there is no incentive included in the payment.	<b>Payments for maintaining areas of bear food plants near to the margins of forest habitat. [bear]</b> There are many options open to Member States and agri-environment schemes can be designed to be adaptable to differing regional requirements. As agri-environment payments are designed to achieve environmental objectives they could be promoted to those receiving compensatory payments through Articles 36 (a) i, 36 (a) ii and 36 (a) iii. Agri-environment schemes could be targeted at agricultural land between key Natura 2000 sites in order to develop wildlife corridors linking important habitats. [agrifor, agri-aqua]

Fund	Description	Target groups	Land types	Area restriction	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
36(a)(vi)	support for non-productive investments [agricultural land]	farmers, land managers	agricultural land	none	Refer to Art 41.	Temporary fencing for grazing management, restricting public access or other agricultural activities; construction of stable for goats [flowers]; Fencing to keep stock away from waterways [agri-aqua]
36(b)(i)	first afforestation of agricultural land	All possible	agricultural land	Areas must be designated - refer to Art 50.	Amounts payable depend on category of beneficiary - refer to Art 43. Covers establishment costs, maintenance costs for 5 years and payment for income foregone for up to 15 years. Once afforested, land would presumably no longer be eligible for the Single Farm Payment. Refer to Art 51 - recipient must respect cross compliance.	Could fund restoration of native forests where these have been lost; could link to other restoration projects to facilitate creation of a contiguous network of Natura 2000 sites (art 10 habitats Directive). Careful consideration of biodiversity interest needs to be given in cases of afforestation as the biodiversity value of an area could decrease following afforestation, depending on what has been replaced. Afforested land could be eligible for a forest-environment payment to ensure sustainable forest management. Afforested land could help develop wildlife corridors between Natura sites.
36(b)(ii)	first establishment of agro-forestry systems on agricultural land	Farmers	agricultural land	Eligibility varies depending on area: refer to article 42.	Refer to Art 44. Only covers establishment costs. Therefore there is a need to ensure ongoing maintenance through an agri-environment scheme, for example. There is a question as to whether agro-forestry systems would also be eligible for the Single Farm Payment. For this purpose, Member States shall ensure the continuation of the agricultural use of the land (max. number of trees planted per hectare...)	Could enable restoration of traditional agro-forestry systems such as dehesa/montado in areas where these have been lost. NB: Careful consideration of biodiversity interest needs to be given in cases of afforestation as the biodiversity value of an area could decrease following afforestation, depending on what has been replaced.
36(b)(iii)	first afforestation of non-agricultural land	all possible	other terrestrial land	Areas must be designated - refer to Art 50. Art 45 also refers to abandoned farmland.	Refer to Art 45, support varies depending on land type and category of beneficiary.	Could facilitate the restoration of native forests in areas where these have been cleared - should note that afforestation of some land types (eg bogs) may not be desirable for nature conservation.
36(b)(iv)	Natura 2000 payments; [forests]	private forest owners and associations thereof	forests	Eligibility varies depending on area: refer to article 42. Areas must be designated - refer to Art 50.	Refer to Art 46 and to Art 51 - recipient must respect cross compliance. A payment for costs incurred and income foregone.	Restoring old growth forest: creation and management of large reserves (greater than 50ha) without any forest management.
36(b)(v)	forest-environment payments	private forest owners, municipalities	forests	Eligibility varies depending on area: refer to article 42.	Refer to Art 47 and to Art 51 - recipient must respect cross compliance.	Retention of dying / old trees in selectively logged forests, at a rate of 10% per hectare.; wide spacing between trees; mixing species to be planted [river, agrifor]

Fund	Description	Target groups	Land types	Area restriction	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
36(b)(vi)	restoring forestry potential and introducing prevention actions;	all possible	forests	Areas must be designated - refer to Art 50.	Refer to Art 48.	Prevention actions could include planting of native trees where these are fire-resistant.
36(b)(vii)	support for non-productive investments [forests]	all possible	forests	none	Refer to Art 49. Must be linked to forest-environment payments.	Support establishment of small vegetated ponds in forest areas
52(b)(iii)	conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage	all possible	measure not specific to land type	none	Refer to Art 57. Refers to the investments associated with maintenance, restoration and upgrading of the natural heritage and the development of high natural value sites.	Restoration of local wetlands through modification of waterways and restorative planting. [agri-aqua]
63	Leader	All possible (within rural areas)	All selected rural areas	none	Refer to Arts 61-65.	Management of local habitats to facilitate objectives of local development plan eg cleaning of waterways to facilitate otter reintroductions as part of 'green waterways' campaign. [agri-aqua]
<b>EFF</b>						
28(1)(b)	implementation of aquaculture methods substantially reducing negative impact or enhancing positive impact on the environment when compared with normal practice in the aquaculture sector;	SMEs	coastal, marine, inland waters, wetlands	none	28(2) Investment aid shall be reserved for [micro and small] enterprises.	Funding to enable aquaculturalists to support techniques that involve low/no chemical use, leading to cleaner waterways and higher nature values downstream. [agri-aqua]
28(1)(c)	support for traditional aquaculture activities important for preserving and developing both the economic and social fabric and the environment;	SMEs	coastal, marine, inland waters, wetlands	none	28(2) Investment aid shall be reserved for [micro and small] enterprises.	Support for maintenance of traditional fishponds which may represent important habitat. [agri-aqua]
29(2)(a)	forms of aquaculture comprising protection and enhancement of the environment, natural resources, genetic diversity, and management of the landscape and traditional features of aquaculture zones;	fishermen	coastal, marine, inland waters, wetlands	none	aquaculture areas only, can compensate for Natura location - see (4)(d)	
29(2)(d)	sustainable aquaculture compatible with specific environmental constraints resulting from the designation of Natura 2000 areas in accordance with Directive 92/43/EEC	fishermen	coastal, marine, inland waters, wetlands	none	aquaculture areas only, can compensate for Natura location - see (4)(d)	
34(a)	contribute sustainably to better management or conservation of resources;	fishermen, others	coastal, marine, inland waters, wetlands	none	Art 29(2)(c)	Introduction of organic standards, marketing for organic products from within Natura sites (where organic aquaculture is compatible with site objectives).
34(c)	remove lost fishing gears from the sea bed in order to combat ghost fishing;	fishermen, others	coastal, marine, inland waters	none	Art 34: Collective actions: must be implemented with the active support of operators themselves or by organisations acting on behalf of producers or other organisations recognised by the Member State...	Removal of fishing gear from marine protected area, leading to enhanced quality habitat

Fund	Description	Target groups	Land types	Area restriction	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
34(g)	develop, restructure or improve aquaculture sites;	fishermen, others	coastal, marine, inland waters, wetlands	none	Art 34: Collective actions: must be implemented with the active support of operators themselves or by organisations acting on behalf of producers or other organisations recognised by the Member State...	Improve existing habitats through improvements at aquaculture sites - eg planting of aquatic vegetation.
34(j)	promote partnerships between scientists and operators in the fisheries sector;	fishermen, others	coastal, marine, inland waters, wetlands	none	Art 34: Collective actions: must be implemented with the active support of operators themselves or by organisations acting on behalf of producers or other organisations recognised by the Member State...	Could be used to facilitate development of new habitat management measures assisted by scientific input (in particular, this could apply to development of measures for management of marine sites).
35(2)(a)	the construction or installation of static or moveable facilities intended to protect and develop aquatic fauna and flora	fishermen, others	coastal, marine, inland waters, wetlands	none	Art 35(3) The actions must be implemented by public or semi-public bodies, recognised trade associations, or other bodies appointed for that purpose by the Member State.	Installation of 'cages' in order to protect fragile benthic species and habitats (eg sea grass beds, sea fans).
35(2)(b)	the rehabilitation of inland waters, including spawning grounds and migration routes for migratory species	fishermen, others	inland waters	none	Art 35(3) The actions must be implemented by public or semi-public bodies, recognised trade associations, or other bodies appointed for that purpose by the Member State.	Management of water quality could enable restoration/return of freshwater invertebrates. Replanting of riverside vegetation could increase spawning success.
35(2)(c)	where they directly concern fishing activities, to the protection and enhancement of the environment in the framework of N2K, excluding operational costs	fishermen, others	coastal, marine, inland waters, wetlands	none	Art 35(3) The actions must be implemented by public or semi-public bodies, recognised trade associations, or other bodies appointed for that purpose by the Member State.	Enhancement of Natura 2000 sites that include spawning areas or habitat for fish/shellfish.
38(2)(b)	Pilot projects: to enable tests to be carried out on management plans and fishing effort allocation plans, including, if necessary, the establishment of no-fishing zones, in order to evaluate the biological and financial consequences and experimental restocking	fishermen, others, SMEs	coastal, marine, inland waters, wetlands	none	38(1) pilot projects to be carried out by an economic operator, a recognised trade association or any other competent body designated for that purpose by the Member State, in partnership with a scientific or technical body.	Establishment of no-fishing zones within Natura 2000 sites to allow monitoring of the effects of no fishing on habitats and species. [porpoise]
38(2)(c)	Pilot projects: to develop and test methods to improve gear selectivity, reduce by-catches, discards or the impact on the environment, in particular on the sea bottom	fishermen, others, SMEs	coastal, marine, inland waters	none	38(1) pilot projects to be carried out by an economic operator, a recognised trade association or any other competent body designated for that purpose by the Member State, in partnership with a scientific or technical body.	Pilot project to develop and test method to fish with lower impact on the sea bottom (eg to fish without damaging sea grass beds).
41(1)(c)	diversifying activities through the promotion of multiple employment for fishers through the creation of jobs outside the fisheries sector	workers in fisheries or linked sectors	measure not specific to land type	Ref Arts 40(3),(4)	Ref: Articles 40(3),(4) and 41(4) for details on requirements for areas and beneficiaries.	Creation of jobs in habitat improvement (eg revegetation of riverine and estuarine habitats).
41(1)(f)	protecting the environment in fisheries areas to maintain its attractiveness, regenerating and developing coastal hamlets and villages with fisheries activities and protecting and enhancing the natural and architectural heritage	public admins, SMEs, others	measure not specific to land type	Ref Arts 40(3),(4)	Ref: Articles 40(3),(4) and 41(4) for details on requirements for areas and beneficiaries.	Improving environment through restoration of coastal habitats.

Fund	Description	Target groups	Land types	Area restriction	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
<b>LIFE+</b>						
3	Eligibility criteria	all possible	all possible	none	LIFE+ shall not finance measures which fall within the eligibility criteria of, or receive assistance for the same purpose from, other Community financial instruments (see Art 10). Eligible if meeting the added value criteria of article 3, measures of annex 1 and not "recurring".	
<b>FP7</b>						
2(2)f	Theme Environment, eg climate change, pollution and risks; conservation and sustainable management of natural and man-made resources (eg protection and management of biodiversity); environment and technologies (eg environmental restoration)	all possible	measure not specific to land type	Transnational cooperation	Context: research	Research project could lead to development of more effective management measures for specific sites or biotypes.

Fund	Description	Area restriction	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
<b>ERDF<sup>26</sup></b>				
4(3)	Supporting modernisation and diversification of regional economic structures. Priority: Environment, including <b>promotion of biodiversity and nature protection</b>	Convergence objective regions		Could fund one-off sediment removal and deepening from a river delta area to enable long-term habitat restoration and ecotourism.
4(4)	<b>Prevention of risks</b> , including development and implementation of plans to prevent and cope with natural and technological risks	Convergence objective regions	Context: developing plans and measures for risk management	Large-scale tree planting of native species that have low fire risk.
4(6)	Transport investments, including trans-European networks and integrated city-wide strategies for clean urban <b>transport</b> , which contribute to reducing environmental impacts.	Convergence objective regions	Context: adaptation/improvement of transportation infrastructure to mitigate effect to Natura sites	Where there is existing transport infrastructure (eg roads, rail corridors) improvements could be made to reduce its fragmentation effects (eg through addition of underpasses/overpasses).
5(2)a	Priority environment and risk prevention: stimulating investment for the rehabilitation of contaminated sites and land, and promoting the <b>development of infrastructure linked to biodiversity and Natura 2000</b> contributing to sustainable economic development and diversification of rural areas.	Regional competitiveness and employment objective regions		Could fund one-off sediment removal and deepening from a river delta area to enable long-term habitat restoration and ecotourism.

<sup>26</sup> ERDF financing is targeted for productive investment (e.g. infrastructure). Therefore, activities related to Natura 2000/Natura sites need to be integrated in a broader development context.

Fund	Description	Area restriction	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
5(2)d	<b>Environment and risk prevention:</b> developing plans and measures to prevent and cope with natural and technological risks.	Regional competitiveness and employment objective regions	Context: developing plans and measures for risk management	Large-scale tree planting of native species that have low fire risk.
5(3)a	<b>Transport and telecommunication</b> services of general economic interest, specifically strengthening secondary networks	Regional competitiveness and employment objective regions	Context: adaptation/improvement of transportation infrastructure to mitigate effect to Natura sites	Where there is existing transport or telecommunications infrastructure (eg roads, rail corridors) improvements could be made to reduce its fragmentation effects (eg through addition of underpasses/overpasses).
6(1)b	Assistance on the development of cross-border economic and social activities through joint strategies for sustainable territorial development, primarily: encouraging the <b>protection and joint management of the environment</b>	European territorial cooperation for transborder cooperation (see Art 19)		
6(2)a	Bilateral cooperation between maritime regions, through the financing of networks and of actions conducive to integrated territorial development on: water management, with a clear transnational dimension, including <b>protection and management of river basins, coastal zones, marine resources, water services and wetlands</b>	European territorial cooperation for transborder cooperation (see Art 19)	Areas need to be connected to river basin/wetland/marine/coastal areas	Could fund cross-border initiatives such as river-basin restoration including sediment removal, removal of large infrastructure such as dams. Could also include development of water quality schemes including treatment for industrial pollutants. [river, agri-aqua]
6(2)c	<b>Maritime regions risk prevention</b> , including the promotion of maritime security and protection against flooding, marine and inland water pollution, prevention of and protection against erosion, earthquakes and avalanches.	European territorial cooperation for transborder cooperation (see Art 19)	Areas need to be connected to river basin/wetland/marine/coastal areas	
8	<b>Rehabilitation of the physical environment</b> , e.g. preservation and development of the historical and cultural heritage with measures to promote entrepreneurship, local employment and community development		Requirement: Urban dimensions. Context: historical/cultural heritage	Within urban areas, could support redevelopment of Natura sites to promote local use and community development.
ESF				
none				
CF <sup>27</sup>				
2(2)	Achievement of the objectives of Article 174 of the Treaty falling within the priorities assigned to the <b>Community environmental protection policy</b> under the policy and action programme on the environment.	Convergence objective regions		Construction of water treatment plant with result of improved water quality at Natura site. [porpoise]

<sup>27</sup> Activities related to Natura 2000/Natura sites need to be often integrated in a broader development context.



Activity 13: CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT - SPECIES

Fund	Description	Target groups	Land types	Area restrictions	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
EAFRD						
36(a)(i)	natural handicap payments to farmers in mountain areas	farmers	agricultural land	Areas must be designated - refer to Art 50.	Refer to Art 37. Applies to UAA only. . Refer to Art 51 on Reg. 1782/2003.This is a compensation payment and no environmental compliance criteria are attached other than those set out in the statutory management requirements (which include the Birds and Habitats Directives) and GAEC standards (which might include standards relating to a minimum level of maintenance) associated with Pillar 1 payments. The only other requirements on recipients is to continue farming for at least 5 years. Conservation management will therefore be dependent on the type of farming activity undertaken by the farmer.	Payments to support continued farming that maintains open fields which in turn enable breeding of alpine butterflies [flowers].
36(a)(ii)	payments to farmers in areas with handicaps other than mountain areas	farmers	agricultural land	Areas must be designated - refer to Art 50.	Refer to Art 37. Applies to UAA only.	Maintenance of pastures in flooded state to encourage wading birds.
36(a)(iii)	Natura 2000 payments and payments linked to Directive 2000/60/EC;	farmers	agricultural land	Areas must be designated - refer to Art 50.	Refer to Art 38. Applies to mandatory actions and to UAA only.	No harvesting or mowing within a 50m protected zone of nest; incentive for cutting non-grazed parts of grassland once a year [flowers]
36(a)(iv)	agri-environment payments	farmers, land managers	agricultural land	none	Refer to Art 39.	Traditional animal species with low livestock loading promotion on permanent grasslands [flowers]
36(a)(vi)	support for non-productive investments [agricultural land]	farmers, land managers	agricultural land	none	Refer to Art 41.	Artificial nests and nest boxes installation; Perching poles installation.
36(b)(i)	first afforestation of agricultural land	All possible	agricultural land	Areas must be designated - refer to Art 50.	Amounts payable depend on category of beneficiary - refer to Art 43. Covers establishment costs, maintenance costs for 5 years and payment for income foregone for up to 15 years. Once afforested, land would presumably no longer be eligible for the Single Farm Payment. Refer to Art 51 - recipient must respect cross compliance.	<b>Replanting with native trees to restore lost forest ecosystems and eventually encourage return of rare species. [bear]</b>

ACTIVITY 13: CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT - SPECIES

Fund	Description	Target groups	Land types	Area restrictions	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
36(b)(ii)	first establishment of agro-forestry systems on agricultural land	Farmers	agricultural land	Eligibility varies depending on area: refer to article 42.	Refer to Art 44. Only covers establishment costs. Therefore there is a need to ensure ongoing maintenance through an agri-environment scheme, for example. There is a question as to whether agro-forestry systems would also be eligible for the Single Farm Payment. For this purpose, Member States shall ensure the continuation of the agricultural use of the land (max. number of trees planted per hectare...)	Could enable restoration of traditional agro-forestry systems such as dehesa/montado in areas where these have been lost.
36(b)(iii)	first afforestation of non-agricultural land	all possible	other terrestrial land	Areas must be designated - refer to Art 50. Art 45 also refers to abandoned farmland.	Refer to Art 45, support varies depending on land type and category of beneficiary.	
36(b)(iv)	Natura 2000 payments; [forests]	private forest owners and associations thereof	forests	Eligibility varies depending on area: refer to article 42. Areas must be designated - refer to Art 50.	Refer to Art 46 and to Art 51 - recipient must respect cross compliance. A payment for costs incurred and income foregone.	Installation of nesting boxes for small forest mammals.
36(b)(v)	forest-environment payments	private forest owners, municipalities	forests	Eligibility varies depending on area: refer to article 42.	Refer to Art 47 and to Art 51 - recipient must respect cross compliance.	Retention of dying / old trees in selectively logged forests, at a rate of 10% per hectare [flowers].
36(b)(vi)	restoring forestry potential and introducing prevention actions;	all possible	forests	Areas must be designated - refer to Art 50.	Refer to Art 48.	Prevention actions could include planting of native trees where these are fire-resistant.
36(b)(vii)	support for non-productive investments [forests]	all possible	forests	none	Refer to Art 49. Must be linked to forest-environment payments.	Support establishment of small vegetated ponds in forest areas
52(b)(iii)	conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage	all possible	measure not specific to land type	none	Refer to Art 57.	Restoration of local riverine species through removal of modifications to waterways, and restorative planting.
63	Leader	All possible (within rural areas)	All selected rural areas	none	Refer to Arts 61-65.	Management of species to facilitate objectives of local development plan eg reintroduction of water voles into river systems to fulfil objective of eco-tourism along rivers.

EFF						
26(1)(a)	the diversification of activities with a view to promoting multiple jobs for fishers;	fishermen	measure not specific to land type	none	none	Development of a small-scale employment programme for ex-fishers in relation to species management measures - eg tagging and releasing fish species to allow monitoring.
26(1)(c)	schemes for retraining in occupations outside sea fishing;	fishermen	measure not specific to land type	none	none	Retraining schemes aimed at teaching ex fishers skills in species management.
28(1)(b)	implementation of aquaculture methods substantially reducing negative impact or enhancing positive impact on the environment when compared with normal practice in the aquaculture sector;	SMEs	coastal, marine, inland waters, wetlands	none	28(2) Investment aid shall be reserved for [micro and small] enterprises.	Support for aquaculture techniques aimed at using local species.
28(1)(c)	support for traditional aquaculture activities important for preserving and developing both the economic and social fabric and the environment;	SMEs	coastal, marine, inland waters, wetlands	none	28(2) Investment aid shall be reserved for [micro and small] enterprises.	Support to maintain local historic fishponds which may be important for migrating birds and/or amphibians and reptiles. [agri-aqua]
29(2)(a)	forms of aquaculture comprising protection and enhancement of the environment, natural resources, genetic diversity, and management of the landscape and traditional features of aquaculture zones;	fishermen	coastal, marine, inland waters, wetlands	none	aquaculture areas only, can compensate for Natura location - see (4)(d)	
29(2)(d)	sustainable aquaculture compatible with specific environmental constraints resulting from the designation of Natura 2000 areas in accordance with Directive 92/43/EEC	fishermen	coastal, marine, inland waters, wetlands	none	aquaculture areas only, can compensate for Natura location - see (4)(d)	Incentives for maintaining water levels to suit migratory/breeding bird species.
34(a)	contribute sustainably to better management or conservation of resources;	fishermen, others	coastal, marine, inland waters, wetlands	none	Art 34: Collective actions: must be implemented with the active support of operators themselves or by organisations acting on behalf of producers or other organisations recognised by the Member State...	Could be used to contribute to sustainable management of marine and freshwater species, eg enhancement of spawning grounds to improve stock numbers.
34(b)	promote selective fishing methods or gears and reduction of by-catches;	fishermen, others	coastal, marine, inland waters	none	Art 34: Collective actions: must be implemented with the active support of operators themselves or by organisations acting on behalf of producers or other organisations recognised by the Member State...	For example, promotion of use of gears that reduce bycatch [porpoise].
34(g)	develop, restructure or improve aquaculture sites;	fishermen, others	coastal, marine, inland waters, wetlands	none	Art 34: Collective actions: must be implemented with the active support of operators themselves or by organisations acting on behalf of producers or other organisations recognised by the Member State...	Improvement of aquaculture sites by replanting of riverine vegetation eg reeds and rushes to create new habitat for invertebrates, small mammals and reptiles. [agri-aqua]

ACTIVITY 13: CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT - SPECIES

34(j)	promote partnerships between scientists and operators in the fisheries sector;	fishermen, others	coastal, marine, inland waters, wetlands	none	Art 34: Collective actions: must be implemented with the active support of operators themselves or by organisations acting on behalf of producers or other organisations recognised by the Member State...	Could be used to facilitate development of new species management measures assisted by scientific input (in particular, this could apply to development of measures for management of marine species).
35(2)(a)	the construction or installation of static or moveable facilities intended to protect and develop aquatic fauna and flora	fishermen, others	coastal, marine, inland waters, wetlands	none	Art 35(3) The actions must be implemented by public or semi-public bodies, recognised trade associations, or other bodies appointed for that purpose by the Member State.	Installation of 'cages' in order to protect fragile benthic species and habitats (eg sea grass beds, sea fans).
35(2)(c)	where they directly concern fishing activities, to the protection and enhancement of the environment in the framework of N2K, excluding operational costs	fishermen, others	coastal, marine, inland waters, wetlands	none	Art 35(3) The actions must be implemented by public or semi-public bodies, recognised trade associations, or other bodies appointed for that purpose by the Member State.	Specific management actions affecting species that are commercially fished and also relevant to Natura - eg restoration of spawning grounds for salmon.
38(2)(b)	Pilot projects: to enable tests to be carried out on management plans and fishing effort allocation plans, including, if necessary, the establishment of no-fishing zones, in order to evaluate the biological and financial consequences and experimental restocking	fishermen, others, SMEs	coastal, marine, inland waters, wetlands	none	38(1) pilot projects to be carried out by an economic operator, a recognised trade association or any other competent body designated for that purpose by the Member State, in partnership with a scientific or technical body.	Establishment of no-fishing zones within Natura 2000 sites to allow monitoring of the effects of no fishing on habitats and species.
41(1)(c)	diversifying activities through the promotion of multiple employment for fishers through the creation of jobs outside the fisheries sector	workers in fisheries or linked sectors	measure not specific to land type	Ref Arts 40(3),(4)	Ref: Articles 40(3),(4) and 41(4) for details on requirements for areas and beneficiaries.	Creation of jobs in species management (eg monitoring, protection and breeding of freshwater fish such as salmon and sturgeon).
<b>LIFE+</b>						
3	Eligibility criteria	all possible	all possible	none	In principle ineligible except for the circumstances foreseen in article 5(5)(b) and then only if such activities would meet the EU added value criteria of article 3 and specifically the reference to "recurring activities".	For example, reintroduction scheme for endemic crayfishes into river system being restored. [river]
<b>FP7</b>						
2(2)f	Theme Environment, eg climate change, pollution and risks; conservation and sustainable management of natural and man-made resources (eg protection and management of biodiversity); environment and technologies (eg environmental restoration)	all possible	measure not specific to land type	Transnational cooperation	Context: research	Research project could lead to development of more effective management measures for specific species. [porpoise]

Fund	Description	Area restrictions	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
<b>ERDF<sup>28</sup></b>				
4(3)	Supporting modernisation and diversification of regional economic structures. Priority: Environment, including <b>promotion of biodiversity and nature protection</b>	Convergence objective regions		Could fund one-off reintroduction of threatened species in the framework of future planned ecotourism linked to these species.
4(6)	Transport investments, including trans-European networks and integrated city-wide strategies for clean urban <b>transport</b> , which contribute to reducing environmental impacts.	Convergence objective regions	Context: adaptation/improvement of transportation infrastructure to mitigate effect to Natura sites	<b>Where there is existing transport or telecommunications infrastructure (eg roads, rail corridors) improvements could be made to reduce its effects on certain species affected by fragmentation (eg through addition of underpasses/overpasses). [bear]</b>
5(3)a	<b>Transport and telecommunication</b> services of general economic interest, specifically strengthening secondary networks	Regional competitiveness and employment objective regions	Context: adaptation/improvement of transportation infrastructure to mitigate effect to Natura sites	
6(1)b	Assistance on the development of cross-border economic and social activities through joint strategies for sustainable territorial development, primarily: encouraging the <b>protection and joint management of the environment</b>	European territorial cooperation for transborder cooperation (see Art 19)		Could fund one-off trans-boundary reintroduction programme for threatened species.
8	<b>Rehabilitation of the physical environment</b> , e.g. preservation and development of the historical and cultural heritage with measures to promote entrepreneurship, local employment and community development		Requirement: Urban dimensions. Context: historical/cultural heritage	Could fund measures in relation to 'flagship' species within or bordering urban areas, to foster community involvement in conservation. Would need to be part of a broader initiative for regional branding.
<b>ESF</b>				
none				
<b>CF<sup>29</sup></b>				
none				

<sup>28</sup> ERDF financing is targeted for productive investment (e.g. infrastructure). Therefore, activities related to Natura 2000/Natura sites need to be integrated in a broader development context.

<sup>29</sup> Activities related to Natura 2000/Natura sites need to be often integrated in a broader development context.

**Activity 14: CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT - Invasive Alien Species**

**ACTIVITY 14: CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT  
- Invasive Alien Species**

Fund	Description	Target groups	Land types	Area restrictions	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
<b>EAFRD</b>						
36(a)(iii)	Natura 2000 payments and payments linked to Directive 2000/60/EC;	farmers	agricultural land	Areas must be designated - refer to Art 50.	Refer to Art 38. Applies to UAA only.	Removal of invasive aquatic plants from waterways. [agri-aqua]
36(a)(iv)	agri-environment payments	farmers, land managers	agricultural land	none	Refer to Art 39.	
36(a)(vi)	support for non-productive investments [agricultural land]	farmers, land managers	agricultural land	none	Refer to Art 41.	Control of invasive plants (eg ragweed, giant hogweed) to prevent further spread.
36(b)(iv)	Natura 2000 payments; [forests]	private forest owners and associations thereof	forests	Eligibility varies depending on area: refer to article 42. Areas must be designated - refer to Art 50.	Refer to Art 46 and to Art 51 - recipient must respect cross compliance. A payment for costs incurred and income foregone.	Control, eradication or prevention of spread of invasive forest pests (eg wood boring beetles).
36(b)(v)	forest-environment payments	private forest owners, municipalities	forests	Eligibility varies depending on area: refer to article 42.	Refer to Art 47 and to Art 51 - recipient must respect cross compliance.	Removal of invasive plant species that degrade native plants and forest structure. [agrifor]
36(b)(vii)	support for non-productive investments [forests]	all possible	forests	none	Refer to Art 49. Must be linked to forest-environment payments.	Introduction of forest pest prevention and detection scheme (eg monitoring system using moth traps). [agrifor]
52(b)(iii)	conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage	all possible	measure not specific to land type	none	Refer to Art 57.	Removal of invasive aquatic plants from waterways in the context of broader environmental restoration programmes.
63	Leader	All possible (within rural areas)	All selected rural areas	none	Refer to Arts 61-65.	Management of invasive species to facilitate objectives of local development plan eg removal of invasive aquatic plants and fish from river systems to fulfil objective of eco-tourism (focussed on native wildlife) along rivers.
<b>EFF</b>						
26(1)(c)	schemes for retraining in occupations outside sea fishing;	fishermen	measure not specific to land type	none	none	Retraining in habitat restoration/ as rangers to work on Natura sites, including invasive species management.
29(2)(a)	forms of aquaculture comprising protection and enhancement of the environment, natural resources, genetic diversity, and management of the landscape and traditional features of aquaculture zones;	fishermen	coastal, marine, inland waters, wetlands	none	aquaculture areas only, can compensate for Natura location - see (4)(d)	Funding for aquaculture that includes maintenance of native emergent vegetation at fishponds, and control of invasive plant species.

Fund	Description	Target groups	Land types	Area restrictions	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
29(2)(d)	sustainable aquaculture compatible with specific environmental constraints resulting from the designation of Natura 2000 areas in accordance with Directive 92/43/EEC	fishermen	coastal, marine, inland waters, wetlands	none	aquaculture areas only, can compensate for Natura location - see (4)(d)	Compensation for farmers for additional costs due to restrictions.
34(g)	develop, restructure or improve aquaculture sites;	fishermen, others	coastal, marine, inland waters, wetlands	none	Art 34: Collective actions: must be implemented with the active support of operators themselves or by organisations acting on behalf of producers or other organisations recognised by the Member State...	Funding for removal of invasive aquatic plants from aquaculture ponds. Improvement of aquaculture sites, including the reduction of environmental impacts
34(j)	promote partnerships between scientists and operators in the fisheries sector;	fishermen, others	coastal, marine, inland waters, wetlands	none	Art 34: Collective actions: must be implemented with the active support of operators themselves or by organisations acting on behalf of producers or other organisations recognised by the Member State...	Promotion of partnerships between scientists and operators in relation to research on prevention of spread, and/or removal and control of invasive species.
35(2)(a)	the construction or installation of static or moveable facilities intended to protect and develop aquatic fauna and flora	fishermen, others	coastal, marine, inland waters, wetlands	none	Art 35(3) The actions must be implemented by public or semi-public bodies, recognised trade associations, or other bodies appointed for that purpose by the Member State.	Construction of artificial reefs.
35(2)(b)	the rehabilitation of inland waters, including spawning grounds and migration routes for migratory species	fishermen, others	inland waters	none	Art 35(3) The actions must be implemented by public or semi-public bodies, recognised trade associations, or other bodies appointed for that purpose by the Member State.	Rehabilitation of inland waters, including obstacles to fish migrations.
35(2)(c)	where they directly concern fishing activities, to the protection and enhancement of the environment in the framework of N2K, excluding operational costs	fishermen, others	coastal, marine, inland waters, wetlands	none	Art 35(3) The actions must be implemented by public or semi-public bodies, recognised trade associations, or other bodies appointed for that purpose by the Member State.	Improvement of Natura in marine areas.
41(1)(c)	diversifying activities through the promotion of multiple employment for fishers through the creation of jobs outside the fisheries sector	workers in fisheries or linked sectors	measure not specific to land type	Ref Arts 40(3),(4)	Ref: Articles 40(3),(4) and 41(4) for details on requirements for areas and beneficiaries.	Diversify employment through the creation of jobs in reserve management, including control of IAS.
41(1)(f)	protecting the environment in fisheries areas to maintain its attractiveness, regenerating and developing coastal hamlets and villages with fisheries activities and protecting and enhancing the natural and architectural heritage	public admins, SMEs, others	measure not specific to land type	Ref Arts 40(3),(4)	Ref: Articles 40(3),(4) and 41(4) for details on requirements for areas and beneficiaries.	Protection and enhancement of the environment through control of IAS, eg restoration of coastal dunes through removal of invasive plants, restoration of aquatic ecosystems through removal of invasive species.
<b>LIFE+</b>						
3	Eligibility criteria	all possible	all possible	none	Ineligible in its own right but may be partly eligible if part of a conservation project set out at points 12 or 13 and meeting the added value criteria of article 3 and not "recurring"	

**ACTIVITY 14: CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT**  
**- Invasive Alien Species**

Fund	Description	Target groups	Land types	Area restrictions	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
FP7						
2(2)f	Theme Environment, eg climate change, pollution and risks; conservation and sustainable management of natural and man-made resources (eg protection and management of biodiversity); environment and technologies (eg environmental restoration)	all possible	measure not specific to land type	Transnational cooperation	Context: research	Development of new measures for control/management/eradication of IAS, especially in relation to Natura 2000 sites.
2(2)g	Theme: transport (eg greening of surface transport)	all possible, however	measure not specific to land type	Transnational cooperation	Context: research on adaptation/improvement of transportation infrastructure to mitigate effect to Natura sites	Development of new measures for preventing spread of IAS through transport networks.



Fund	Description	Area restrictions	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
<b>ERDF<sup>30</sup></b>				
4(3)	Supporting modernisation and diversification of regional economic structures. Priority: Environment, including <b>promotion of biodiversity and nature protection</b>	Convergence objective regions		Could be used to fund a one-off eradication or control programme for an IAS with significant negative economic/social/environmental effects.
4(4)	<b>Prevention of risks</b> , including development and implementation of plans to prevent and cope with natural and technological risks	Convergence objective regions	Context: developing plans and measures for IAS risk management	Development of IAS risk management plans for all Natura sites within a region (as part of wider regional risk management).
4(6)	Transport investments, including trans-European networks and integrated city-wide strategies for clean urban <b>transport</b> , which contribute to reducing environmental impacts.	Convergence objective regions	Context: adaptation/improvement of transportation infrastructure to mitigate IAS effect to Natura sites	Establishment of regional monitoring/management systems for IAS eg early detection systems at ports, along transport corridors, at airports.
5(2)d	<b>Environment and risk prevention</b> : developing plans and measures to prevent and cope with natural and technological risks.	Regional competitiveness and employment objective regions	Context: developing plans and measures for IAS risk management	Development of IAS risk management plans for all Natura sites within a region (as part of wider regional risk management).
5(3)a	<b>Transport and telecommunication</b> services of general economic interest, specifically strengthening secondary networks	Regional competitiveness and employment objective regions	Context: adaptation/improvement of transportation infrastructure to mitigate IAS effect to Natura sites	Establishment of regional monitoring/management systems for IAS eg early detection systems at ports, along transport corridors, at airports.
6(1)b	Assistance on the development of cross-border economic and social activities through joint strategies for sustainable territorial development, primarily: encouraging the <b>protection and joint management of the environment</b>	European territorial cooperation for transborder cooperation (see Art 19)		Could fund trans-boundary programmes for control or eradication of IAS, including development of measures to prevent spread.
6(2)a	Bilateral cooperation between maritime regions, through the financing of networks and of actions conducive to integrated territorial development on: water management, with a clear trans-national dimension, including <b>protection and management of river basins, coastal zones, marine resources, water services and wetlands</b>	European territorial cooperation for transborder cooperation (see Art 19)	Areas need to be connected to river basin/wetland/marine/coastal areas	
6(2)c	<b>Maritime regions risk prevention</b> , including the promotion of maritime security and protection against flooding, marine and inland water pollution, prevention of and protection against erosion, earthquakes and avalanches.	European territorial cooperation for transborder cooperation (see Art 19)	Areas need to be connected to river basin/wetland/marine/coastal areas	Could fund eradication or control of IAS where these were increasing flood risk (eg by increasing siltation or canalising waterways).
8	<b>Rehabilitation of the physical environment</b> , e.g. preservation and development of the historical and cultural heritage with measures to promote entrepreneurship, local employment and community development		Requirement: Urban dimensions. Context: historical/cultural heritage	Within urban areas, could support redevelopment of Natura sites (including eradication of IAS) to promote local use and community development.
<b>ESF</b>				
none				
<b>CF<sup>31</sup></b>				
none				

<sup>30</sup> ERDF financing is targeted for productive investment (e.g. infrastructure). Therefore, activities related to Natura 2000/Natura sites need to be integrated in a broader development context.

<sup>31</sup> Activities related to Natura 2000/Natura sites need to be often integrated in a broader development context.

Activity 15: IMPLEMENTATION OF MANAGEMENT SCHEMES AND AGREEMENTS

ACTIVITY 15: IMPLEMENTATION OF MANAGEMENT SCHEMES AND AGREEMENTS

Fund	Description	Target groups	Land types	Area restrictions	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
EAFRD						
36(a)(i)	natural handicap payments to farmers in mountain areas	farmers	agricultural land	Areas must be designated - refer to Art 50.	Refer to Art 37. Applies to UAA only. . Refer to Art 51 on Reg. 1782/2003. This is a compensation payment and no environmental compliance criteria are attached other than those set out in the statutory management requirements (which include the Birds and Habitats Directives) and GAEC standards (which might include standards relating to a minimum level of maintenance) associated with Pillar 1 payments. The only other requirements on recipients is to continue farming for at least 5 years. Conservation management will therefore be dependent on the type of farming activity undertaken by the farmer.	Payments to maintain traditional farming practices that lead to the ongoing persistence of alpine meadows.
36(a)(ii)	payments to farmers in areas with handicaps other than mountain areas	farmers	agricultural land	Areas must be designated - refer to Art 50.	Refer to Art 37. Applies to UAA only.	Support for maintenance of traditional farming practices that lead to the maintenance of lowland water meadows, eg, through grazing of cattle.
36(a)(iii)	Natura 2000 payments and payments linked to Directive 2000/60/EC;	farmers	agricultural land	Areas must be designated - refer to Art 50.	Refer to Art 38. Applies to UAA only.	<b>Payments to allow keeping of mountain dogs to guard stock against large predators. [bear]</b>
36(a)(iv)	agri-environment payments	farmers, land managers	agricultural land	none	Refer to Art 39.	<b>Maintaining native plant species that are of food value to native wildlife, especially in buffer zone around Natura site. [bear]</b>
36(b)(iv)	Natura 2000 payments; [forests]	private forest owners and associations thereof	forests	Eligibility varies depending on area: refer to article 42. Areas must be designated - refer to Art 50.	Refer to Art 46 and to Art 51 - recipient must respect cross compliance. A payment for costs incurred and income foregone.	Payments relating to retention of dead trees in forests, both on the ground, and standing - compensation for lost revenue.
36(b)(v)	forest-environment payments	private forest owners, municipalities	forests	Eligibility varies depending on area: refer to article 42.	Refer to Art 47 and to Art 51 - recipient must respect cross compliance.	<b>Enhancing forest habitats by planting understorey species, or reintroducing forest floor species. [bear]</b>
63	Leader	All possible (within rural areas)	All selected rural areas	none	Refer to Arts 61-65.	<b>Ongoing management to facilitate objectives of local development plan, eg development and sale of wildlife-friendly products. [bear]</b>

Fund	Description	Target groups	Land types	Area restrictions	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
EFF						
28(1)(b)	implementation of aquaculture methods substantially reducing negative impact or enhancing positive impact on the environment when compared with normal practice in the aquaculture sector;	SMEs	coastal, marine, inland waters, wetlands	none	28(2) Investment aid shall be reserved for [micro and small] enterprises.	Restore abandoned fish ponds.
29(2)(a)	forms of aquaculture comprising protection and enhancement of the environment, natural resources, genetic diversity, and management of the landscape and traditional features of aquaculture zones;	fishermen	coastal, marine, inland waters, wetlands	none	aquaculture areas only	Introduction of temporal and/or spatial restrictions on changes to water levels. Payments can compensate for economic losses due to prolonged drainage or flooding.
29(2)(d)	sustainable aquaculture compatible with specific environmental constraints resulting from the designation of Natura 2000 areas in accordance with Directive 92/43/EEC	fishermen	coastal, marine, inland waters, wetlands	none	aquaculture areas only, can compensate for Natura location - see (4)(d)	Limit removal of trees/shrubs except where necessary for infrastructure maintenance; temporal restrictions on essential cutting.
34(a)	contribute sustainably to better management or conservation of resources;	fishermen, others	coastal, marine, inland waters, wetlands	none	Art 34: Collective actions: must be implemented with the active support of operators themselves or by organisations acting on behalf of producers or other organisations recognised by the Member State...	Set minimum conditions for maintenance and management of emergent vegetation and other related features.
34(b)	promote selective fishing methods or gears and reduction of by-catches;	fishermen, others	coastal, marine, inland waters	none	Art 34: Collective actions: must be implemented with the active support of operators themselves or by organisations acting on behalf of producers or other organisations recognised by the Member State...	Promotion of use of certain gears within Natura 2000 sites, through provision of economic incentives.
34(c)	remove lost fishing gears from the sea bed in order to combat ghost fishing;	fishermen, others	coastal, marine, inland waters	none	Art 34: Collective actions: must be implemented with the active support of operators themselves or by organisations acting on behalf of producers or other organisations recognised by the Member State...	Ongoing programme of gear removal within Natura 2000 sites - eg removal of lost lobster pots.
34(g)	develop, restructure or improve aquaculture sites;	fishermen, others	coastal, marine, inland waters, wetlands	none	Art 34: Collective actions: must be implemented with the active support of operators themselves or by organisations acting on behalf of producers or other organisations recognised by the Member State...	Restoration or new creation of emergent vegetation.
35(2)(b)	the rehabilitation of inland waters, including spawning grounds and migration routes for migratory species	fishermen, others	inland waters	none	Art 35(3) The actions must be implemented by public or semi-public bodies, recognised trade associations, or other bodies appointed for that purpose by the Member State.	

**ACTIVITY 15: IMPLEMENTATION OF MANAGEMENT SCHEMES AND AGREEMENTS**

Fund	Description	Target groups	Land types	Area restrictions	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
<b>LIFE+</b>						
none						
<b>FP7</b>						
2(2)f	Environment, eg climate change, pollution and risks; conservation and sustainable management of natural and man-made resources (eg protection and management of biodiversity); environment and technologies (eg environmental restoration)	all possible	measure not specific to land type	Transnational cooperation	Context: research	Could fund research on effectiveness of management agreements with land/resource owners, and how these could be improved in future.

Fund	Description	Area restrictions	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
<b>ERDF</b>				
none				
<b>ESF</b>				
none				
<b>CF</b>				
none				

**Activity 16: PROVISION OF SERVICES, COMPENSATION FOR RIGHTS FOREGONE AND LOSS OF INCOME**

Fund	Description	Target groups	Land types	Area restrictions	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
<b>EAFRD</b>						
36(a)(iii)	Natura 2000 payments and payments linked to Directive 2000/60/EC;	farmers	agricultural land	Areas must be designated - refer to Art 50.	Refer to Art 38. Applies to UAA only.	Compensation for loss of income due to reduced use of fertilisers and pesticides, assistance with marketing Natura-friendly products and services [bear].
36(a)(iv)	agri-environment payments	farmers, land managers	agricultural land	none	Refer to Art 39.	Compensation for loss of income related to maintaining wildlife friendly vegetation in Natura buffer zone, eg food plants for wildlife. [bear]
36(b)(iv)	Natura 2000 payments; [forests]	private forest owners and associations thereof	forests	Eligibility varies depending on area: refer to article 42. Areas must be designated - refer to Art 50.	Refer to Art 46 and to Art 51 - recipient must respect cross compliance. A payment for costs incurred and income foregone.	Compensation payments for maintaining open areas in forests, or managing invasive species that lead to a closed canopy and ecosystem changes
36(b)(v)	forest-environment payments	private forest owners, municipalities	forests	Eligibility varies depending on area: refer to article 42.	Refer to Art 47 and to Art 51 - recipient must respect cross compliance.	Compensation payments for maintaining a certain amount of dead wood in forests.
63	Leader	All possible (within rural areas)	All selected rural areas	none	Refer to Arts 61-65.	Compensation for rights foregone in order to fulfil objectives of and monitor progress with local development plan.
<b>EFF</b>						
29(2)(a)	forms of aquaculture comprising protection and enhancement of the environment, natural resources, genetic diversity, and management of the landscape and traditional features of aquaculture zones;	fishermen	coastal, marine, inland waters, wetlands	none	aquaculture areas only, can compensate for Natura location - see (4)(d)	Limit stocking densities, set a rotation in which a proportion of fish ponds must be used extensively for a given period (eg 2 years).
29(2)(d)	sustainable aquaculture compatible with specific environmental constraints resulting from the designation of Natura 2000 areas in accordance with Directive 92/43/EEC	fishermen	coastal, marine, inland waters, wetlands	none	aquaculture areas only, can compensate for Natura location - see (4)(d)	Define optimum structure and composition of fish populations.

ACTIVITY 16: PROVISION OF SERVICES, COMPENSATION FOR RIGHTS FOREGONE AND LOSS OF INCOME

**ACTIVITY 16: PROVISION OF SERVICES, COMPENSATION FOR RIGHTS FOREGONE AND LOSS OF INCOME**

Fund	Description	Target groups	Land types	Area restrictions	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
LIFE+						
none						
FP7						
none						

Fund	Description	Area restrictions	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
ERDF				
none				
ESF				
none				
CF				
none				

## Activity 17: MONITORING AND SURVEYING

Fund	Description	Target groups	Land types	Area restrictions	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
<b>EAFRD</b>						
52(d)	a skills-acquisition and animation measure with a view to preparing and implementing a local development strategy	All possible	measure not specific to land type		Refer to Art 59.	Undertake a baselining study in order to help determine and then the implement local development strategy.
63	Leader	All possible (within rural areas)	All selected rural areas	none	Refer to Arts 61-65.	Projects could be developed that include a biodiversity monitoring component alongside the rest of project activity. Development of monitoring systems for biodiversity in order to fulfil objectives of and monitor progress with local development plan.
<b>EFF</b>						
34(j)	promote partnerships between scientists and operators in the fisheries sector;	fishermen, others	coastal, marine, inland waters, wetlands	none	Art 34: Collective actions: must be implemented with the active support of operators themselves or by organisations acting on behalf of producers or other organisations recognised by the Member State...	Research into monitoring methods for aquatic species, carried out through cooperation between fishers and scientists (eg tag and release programmes) [porpoise]
<b>LIFE+</b>						
3	Eligibility criteria	all possible	all possible	none	LIFE+ shall not finance measures which fall within the eligibility criteria of, or receive assistance for the same purpose from, other Community financial instruments (see Art 10). Eligible if meeting the added value criteria of article 3, measures of annex 1 and not "recurring".	
<b>FP7</b>						
2(2)f	Theme Environment, eg climate change, pollution and risks; conservation and sustainable management of natural and man-made resources (eg protection and management of biodiversity); environment and technologies (eg environmental restoration)	all possible	measure not specific to land type	Transnational cooperation	Context: research	Research into developing new monitoring and surveying methods. [bear, river]

Fund	Description	Area restrictions	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
ERDF <sup>32</sup>				
4(3)	Supporting modernisation and diversification of regional economic structures. Priority: Environment, including <b>promotion of biodiversity and nature protection</b>	Convergence objective regions	Context: financing the development of monitoring activities/methods/equipment	Could support development of monitoring plans for sites within the broader context of regional environmental monitoring eg to report progress in relation to indicators for progress to meeting the 2010 goal of halting biodiversity loss.
4(4)	<b>Prevention of risks</b> , including development and implementation of plans to prevent and cope with natural and technological risks	Convergence objective regions	Context: financing the development of monitoring activities/methods/equipment (risk management)	Development of plans to cope with risks such as oil or chemical spills that could affect Natura sites. [agri-aqua]
5(2)a	Priority environment and risk prevention: stimulating investment for the rehabilitation of contaminated sites and land, and promoting the <b>development of infrastructure linked to biodiversity and Natura 2000</b> contributing to sustainable economic development and diversification of rural areas.	Regional competitiveness and employment objective regions	Context: financing the development of monitoring activities/methods/equipment	Could include investments in monitoring infrastructure eg remote sensing equipment such as fixed towers for radio telemetry, development of a database for data storage.
5(2)d	<b>Environment and risk prevention</b> : developing plans and measures to prevent and cope with natural and technological risks.	Regional competitiveness and employment objective regions	Context: financing the development of monitoring activities/methods/equipment (risk management)	Development of plans to cope with risks such as oil or chemical spills that could affect Natura sites.
6(1)b	Assistance on the development of cross-border economic and social activities through joint strategies for sustainable territorial development, primarily: encouraging the <b>protection and joint management of the environment</b>	European territorial cooperation for transborder cooperation (see Art 19)	Context: developing monitoring and surveying strategies/methods	
6(2)a	Bilateral cooperation between maritime regions, through the financing of networks and of actions conducive to integrated territorial development on: water management, with a clear trans-national dimension, including <b>protection and management of river basins, coastal zones, marine resources, water services and wetlands</b>	European territorial cooperation for transborder cooperation (see Art 19)	Areas need to be connected to river basin/wetland/marine/coastal areas	Development of cross-border monitoring plans and systems in relation to Natura 2000 eg monitoring strategies for pollution/nutrication of waterways or coastal areas. [agri-aqua]
6(2)c	<b>Maritime regions risk prevention</b> , including the promotion of maritime security and protection against flooding, marine and inland water pollution, prevention of and protection against erosion, earthquakes and avalanches.	European territorial cooperation for transborder cooperation (see Art 19)	Areas need to be connected to river basin/wetland/marine/coastal areas	
6(3)	Promoting <b>networking and exchange of experience</b> among regional and local authorities focusing on biodiversity and Natura 2000, including cooperation network programmes; actions involving studies, data collection, and the observation and analysis of development trends in the Community.	European territorial cooperation for transborder cooperation (see Art 19)	Context: data collection and monitoring trends	Cooperation programme to facilitate regional networking in relation to development of regional monitoring or surveying plans and activities.

<sup>32</sup> ERDF financing is targeted for productive investment (e.g. infrastructure). Therefore, activities related to Natura 2000/Natura sites need to be integrated in a broader development context.



Fund	Description	Area restrictions	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
<b>ESF</b>				
3(2)bi	Strengthening institutional capacity and the efficiency of public administrations and public services on <b>good policy and programme design</b> , monitoring and evaluation, through studies, statistics and expertise, support to interdepartmental coordination and dialogue between relevant public and private bodies	Convergence objective regions	Context: training	Capacity building at public institutions in relation to monitoring and surveying - eg development of monitoring plans through interdepartmental processes.
3(2)bii	Strengthening institutional capacity and the efficiency of public administrations and public services in capacity building in the <b>delivery of policies and programmes</b>	Convergence objective regions	Context: training	Capacity building for public institutions in relation to carrying out monitoring and surveying of Natura 2000 sites.
<b>CF<sup>33</sup></b>				
2(2)	Achievement of the objectives of Article 174 of the Treaty falling within the priorities assigned to the Community environmental protection policy under the policy and action programme on the environment.	Convergence objective regions		Developing a regional environmental monitoring/surveying plan, including monitoring of Natura 2000 sites. As part of broader regional sustainability plans.

<sup>33</sup> Activities related to Natura 2000/Natura sites need to be often integrated in a broader development context.

**Activity 18: RISK MANAGEMENT**

**ACTIVITY 18: RISK MANAGEMENT**

Fund	Description	Target groups	Land types	Area restrictions	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
<b>EAFRD</b>						
20(b)(ii)	improving the economic value of forests	private forest owners, municipalities	forests	Eligibility varies depending on area: refer to article 27.	Refer to Art 27 for details of restrictions.	Improving economic value through better risk management - achieved through planting of native trees with higher fire resistance - eg evergreen oaks.
20(b)(vi)	restoring agricultural production potential damaged by natural disasters and introducing appropriate prevention actions	farmers	agricultural land	none	none	Introducing of prevention actions for floods through wetland restoration and management.
36(a)(iii)	Natura 2000 payments and payments linked to Directive 2000/60/EC;	farmers	agricultural land	Areas must be designated - refer to Art 50.	Refer to Art 38. Applies to UAA only.	Payments to compensate for using a water management regime that reduces flood risk at Natura sites.
36(a)(iv)	agri-environment payments	farmers, land managers	agricultural land	none	Refer to Art 39.	Agri-environment payments to encourage transhumance or grazing under forest, reducing fire risk by reducing build-up of dried understorey vegetation.
36(a)(vi)	support for non-productive investments [agricultural land]	farmers, land managers	agricultural land	none	Refer to Art 41.	Support for investments in wetland restoration to combat flood risk.
36(b)(vi)	restoring forestry potential and introducing prevention actions;	all possible	forests	Areas must be designated - refer to Art 50.	Refer to Art 48.	
36(b)(vii)	support for non-productive investments [forests]	all possible	forests	none	Refer to Art 49. Must be linked to forest-environment payments.	
63	Leader	All possible (within rural areas)	All selected rural areas	none	Refer to Arts 61-65.	Development of biodiversity-friendly risk management systems in order to fulfil objectives of and monitor progress with local development plan.
<b>EFF</b>						
none						

Fund	Description	Target groups	Land types	Area restrictions	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
<b>LIFE+</b>						
3	Eligibility criteria	all possible	all possible	none	LIFE+ shall not finance measures which fall within the eligibility criteria of, or receive assistance for the same purpose from, other Community financial instruments (see Art 10). Eligible if meeting the added value criteria of article 3, not "recurring" and part of a conservation management project for habitats or species.	
<b>FP7</b>						
2(2)f	Theme Environment, eg climate change, pollution and risks; conservation and sustainable management of natural and man-made resources (eg protection and management of biodiversity); environment and technologies (eg environmental restoration)	all possible	measure not specific to land type	Transnational cooperation	Context: research	Research into novel and improved risk management plans, methods and measures, especially in relation to the requirements of Natura 2000 areas.
2(2)g	Theme: transport (eg greening of surface transport)	all possible, however	measure not specific to land type	Transnational cooperation	Context: research on adaptation/improvement of transportation infrastructure to mitigate risks to Natura sites	Research into methods to reduce the risks of transport to the environment, especially to Natura 2000 sites (eg reducing risk of spreading IAS).

ACTIVITY 18: RISK MANAGEMENT

Fund	Description	Area restrictions	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
<b>ERDF<sup>34</sup></b>				
4(4)	<b>Prevention of risks</b> , including development and implementation of plans to prevent and cope with natural and technological risks	Convergence objective regions		Could provide assistance for development of plans and measures to avoid risks to sites such as wildfire, shipping risks such as oil spills, etc.
4(6)	Transport investments, including trans-European networks and integrated city-wide strategies for clean urban <b>transport</b> , which contribute to reducing environmental impacts.	Convergence objective regions	Context: adaptation/improvement of transportation infrastructure to limit risks to Natura sites	Could be used specifically to develop plans in relation to transport risks (such as pollution of inland waters, oil spills, introduction of IAS etc).
5(2)a	Priority environment and risk prevention: stimulating investment for the rehabilitation of contaminated sites and land, and promoting the <b>development of infrastructure linked to biodiversity and Natura 2000</b> contributing to sustainable economic development and diversification of rural areas.	Regional competitiveness and employment objective regions		Development of infrastructure for risk management - eg for vessel cleaning in relation to removal of IAS; for rapid response to chemical or oil spills or wild fires.
5(2)d	<b>Environment and risk prevention</b> : developing plans and measures to prevent and cope with natural and technological risks.	Regional competitiveness and employment objective regions		Could provide assistance for development of plans and measures to avoid risks to sites such as wildfire, shipping risks such as oil spills, etc.
6(1)b	Assistance on the development of cross-border economic and social activities through joint strategies for sustainable territorial development, primarily: encouraging the <b>protection and joint management of the environment</b>	European territorial cooperation for transborder cooperation (see Art 19)		Could provide assistance for development of cross-border plans and measures to avoid risks to sites such as wildfires and erosion, etc.
6(2)c	<b>Maritime regions risk prevention</b> , including the promotion of maritime security and protection against flooding, marine and inland water pollution, prevention of and protection against erosion, earthquakes and avalanches.	European territorial cooperation for transborder cooperation (see Art 19)	Areas need to be connected to river basin/wetland/marine/coastal areas	Could provide assistance for development of plans and measures to avoid shipping risks such as oil spills, etc.
<b>ESF</b>				
3(2)bi	Strengthening institutional capacity and the efficiency of public administrations and public services on <b>good policy and programme design</b> , monitoring and evaluation, through studies, statistics and expertise, support to interdepartmental coordination and dialogue between relevant public and private bodies	Convergence objective regions	Context: training	Capacity building at public institutions in relation to developing risk management plans.
3(2)bii	Strengthening institutional capacity and the efficiency of public administrations and public services in capacity building in the <b>delivery of policies and programmes</b>	Convergence objective regions	Context: training	Capacity building for public institutions in relation to carrying out regional risk management activities.
<b>CF<sup>35</sup></b>				
2(2)	Achievement of the objectives of Article 174 of the Treaty falling within the priorities assigned to the Community environmental protection policy under the policy and action programme on the environment.	Convergence objective regions		Development of regional capacity for rapid response to environmental hazards affecting Natura 2000 sites eg chemical spills, floods, forest fires, avalanche etc.

<sup>34</sup> ERDF financing is targeted for productive investment (e.g. infrastructure). Therefore, activities related to Natura 2000/Natura sites need to be integrated in a broader development context.

<sup>35</sup> Activities related to Natura 2000/Natura sites need to be often integrated in a broader development context.

**Activity 19: (ONGOING) SURVEILLANCE OF SITES**

Fund	Description	Target groups	Land types	Area restrictions	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
<b>EAFRD</b>						
63	Leader	All possible (within rural areas)	All selected rural areas	none	Refer to Arts 61-65.	Ongoing surveillance at sites as necessary to fulfil objectives of and monitor progress with local development plan.
<b>EFF</b>						
none						

<b>LIFE+</b>						
none						
<b>FP7</b>						
2(2)f	Theme Environment, eg climate change, pollution and risks; conservation and sustainable management of natural and man-made resources (eg protection and management of biodiversity); environment and technologies (eg environmental restoration)	all possible	measure not specific to land type	Transnational cooperation	Context: research/as a part of a research project	<b>Research project could include ongoing surveillance at sites over a set period, depending on aims. [bear]</b>

Fund	Description	Area restrictions	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
<b>ERDF</b>				
none			Funding not available for continuous activities	
<b>ESF</b>				
none			Funding not available for continuous activities	
<b>CF</b>				
none			Funding not available for continuous activities	

**Activity 20: PROVISION OF INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY MATERIAL**

**ACTIVITY 20: PROVISION OF INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY MATERIAL**

Fund	Description	Target groups	Land types	Area restrictions	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
<b>EAFRD</b>						
20(a)(i)	vocational training and information actions, including diffusion of scientific knowledge and innovative practise, for persons engaged in the agricultural, food and forestry sectors	Farmers, foresters	measure not specific to land type	none	Art 21: Support shall not include courses which form part of normal programmes or systems of agricultural and forestry education at secondary or higher levels.	<b>Production of training materials for farmers and foresters, describing bear-friendly farming and forestry methods [bear].</b>
52(a)(iii)	encouragement of tourism activities	all possible	measure not specific to land type	none	Refer to Art 55.	Natura 2000 sites could be promoted through tourism marketing brochures. [flowers]
52(b)(iii)	conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage	all possible	measure not specific to land type	none	Refer to Art 57.	
52(d)	a skills-acquisition and animation measure with a view to preparing and implementing a local development strategy	All possible	measure not specific to land type		Refer to Art 59.	Provision of training materials for skills acquisition. [flowers, agri-aqua]
63	Leader	All possible (within rural areas)	All selected rural areas	none	Refer to Arts 61-65.	Develop any information necessary for realisation of the local development strategy (eg regional promotion in relation to Natura 2000). [agrifor]
<b>EFF</b>						
34(i)	upgrade professional skills, or develop new training methods and tools;	fishermen , others	measure not specific to land type	none	Art 34: Collective actions: must be implemented with the active support of operators themselves or by organisations acting on behalf of producers or other organisations recognised by the Member State...	Developing training materials for fishers in relation to Natura 2000. [porpoise]
41(1)(b)	restructuring and redirecting economic activities, in particular by promoting eco-tourism, provided these actions do not result in an increase in fishing effort;	workers in fisheries or linked sectors	measure not specific to land type	Ref Arts 40(3),(4)	Ref: Articles 40(3),(4) and 41(4) for details on requirements for areas and beneficiaries.	Promoting and developing environmentally friendly products linked to Natura 2000 sites.
41(1)(c)	diversifying activities through the promotion of multiple employment for fishers through the creation of jobs outside the fisheries sector	workers in fisheries or linked sectors	measure not specific to land type	Ref Arts 40(3),(4)	Ref: Articles 40(3),(4) and 41(4) for details on requirements for areas and beneficiaries.	Production of information for training , and about the possibilities for employment in association with Natura 2000.

Fund	Description	Target groups	Land types	Area restrictions	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
41(1)(h)	promoting inter-regional and trans-national cooperation among actors in fisheries areas, mainly through networking and disseminating best practice	public admins, SMEs, others	measure not specific to land type	Ref Arts 40(3),(4)	Ref: Articles 40(3),(4) and 41(4) for details on requirements for areas and beneficiaries.	Funding of networking to discuss best practice in Natura 2000-friendly aquaculture and fisheries activities. [agri-aqua]
41(1)(i)	acquiring skills and facilitating the preparation and implementation of the local development strategy.	public admins, SMEs, others	measure not specific to land type	Ref Arts 40(3),(4)	Ref: Articles 40(3),(4) and 41(4) for details on requirements for areas and beneficiaries.	Preparation of information to feed into the local development strategy.
<b>LIFE+</b>						
3	Eligibility criteria	all possible	all possible	none	LIFE+ shall not finance measures which fall within the eligibility criteria of, or receive assistance for the same purpose from, other Community financial instruments (see Art 10) Eligible if meeting the added value criteria of article 3, measures of annex 1 and not "recurring".	
<b>FP7</b>						
2(2)f	Theme Environment, eg climate change, pollution and risks; conservation and sustainable management of natural and man-made resources (eg protection and management of biodiversity); environment and technologies (eg environmental restoration)	all possible	measure not specific to land type	Transnational cooperation	Context: research	Research projects could result in development of information materials, and design of new and more effective communication methods (eg interactive fora for education).
2(2)g	Theme: transport (eg greening of surface transport)	all possible, however	measure not specific to land type	Transnational cooperation	Context: research on adaptation/improvement of transportation infrastructure to mitigate risks to Natura sites	Research project could result in development of information on greener transport networks, including links to the Natura 2000 network.

ACTIVITY 20: PROVISION OF INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY MATERIAL

Fund	Description	Area restrictions	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
ERDF <sup>36</sup>				
4(2)	Theme: information society, including development of local content, services and applications, improvement of access to and development of on-line public services, aid and services to SMEs to adopt and effectively use information and communication technologies (ICTs)	Convergence objective regions	Context: information transfer systems/equipment on Natura 2000/sites	Could be used for the acquisition of IT equipment and the organisation/operation of internet information hubs and databases.
4(5)	<b>Tourism</b> , including promotion of natural and cultural assets as potential for the development of sustainable tourism, protection and enhancement of the cultural heritage in support of economic development, aid to improve the supply of tourism services through new higher value-added services	Convergence objective regions	Context: promoting/developing tourism	Development of information material needed to promote ecotourism at the site. [agrifor]
4(8)	<b>Education investments</b> contributing to increasing the attractiveness and quality of life in regions	Convergence objective regions	Context: education	<b>Development of information resources needed for participation of the site in regional education programmes. [bear]</b>
4(10)	Direct aid to investment in SMEs contributing to <b>creating and safeguarding jobs</b>	Convergence objective regions	Context: job creation	Development of information material needed for SMEs to promote ecotourism at the site [agri-aqua].
6(1)a	Encouraging entrepreneurship and, in particular, the development of SMEs, tourism, culture, and cross-border trade	European territorial cooperation for transborder cooperation (see Art 19)	Context: job creation (eg tourism)	
6(1)b	Assistance on the development of cross-border economic and social activities through joint strategies for sustainable territorial development, primarily: encouraging the <b>protection and joint management of the environment</b>	European territorial cooperation for transborder cooperation (see Art 19)	Context: developing employment initiatives and training	<b>Development of information in relation to cross-border site networks to promote broader ecotourism. [bear]</b>
6(1)end	In addition, promoting the integration of cross-border labour markets, local employment initiatives, equal opportunities, <b>training</b> and social inclusion, and sharing of human resources and facilities for R&TD.	European territorial cooperation for transborder cooperation (see Art 19)	Context: developing employment initiatives and training	Development of information resources needed for participation of the site in regional training programmes. [agri-aqua]

<sup>36</sup> ERDF financing is targeted for productive investment (e.g. infrastructure). Therefore, activities related to Natura 2000/Natura sites need to be integrated in a broader development context.



Fund	Description	Area restrictions	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
6(1)d	Establishment and development of transnational cooperation, through the financing of networks and of actions conducive to integrated territorial development on: developing collaboration, capacity and joint use of infrastructures in particular in sectors such as health, culture and education.	European territorial cooperation for transborder cooperation (see Art 19)	Context: broad transboundary education initiatives (education)	Development of information resources needed for participation of the site in regional health, culture and education programmes. [river]
10	Financing of investments aimed at improving accessibility, promoting and developing economic activities related to the cultural heritage, promoting the sustainable use of natural resources, and stimulating the tourism sector.	Only areas with natural handicaps.		Development of information material needed to promote ecotourism at the site. [river]
<b>ESF</b>				
3(2)bi	Strengthening institutional capacity and the efficiency of public administrations and public services on <b>good policy and programme design</b> , monitoring and evaluation, through studies, statistics and expertise, support to interdepartmental coordination and dialogue between relevant public and private bodies	Convergence objective regions	Context: training	Production of information for capacity-building/training programmes for public administrations.
3(2)bii	Strengthening institutional capacity and the efficiency of public administrations and public services in capacity building in the <b>delivery of policies and programmes</b>	Convergence objective regions	Context: training	
<b>CF</b>				
none				

Activity 21: TRAINING AND EDUCATION

ACTIVITY 21: TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Fund	Description	Target groups	Land types	Area restrictions	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
EAFRD						
20(a)(i)	vocational training and information actions, including diffusion of scientific knowledge and innovative practise, for persons engaged in the agricultural, food and forestry sectors	farmers, foresters	measure not specific to land type	none	Art 21: Support shall not include courses which form part of normal programmes or systems of agricultural and forestry education at secondary or higher levels.	Training and education in relation to innovative practice in nature-friendly farming, marketing of Natura 2000 products, etc.
52(b)(iii)	conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage	all possible	measure not specific to land type	none	Refer to Art 57.	Training to facilitate maintenance and conservation of rural heritage.
52(c)	a training and information measure for economic actors operating in the fields covered by axis 3	all possible (within rural areas)	measure not specific to land type	none	Refer to Art 58. Can only be used for Axis 3 measures.	Training to encourage development of an ecotourism industry [agrifor]
52(d)	a skills-acquisition and animation measure with a view to preparing and implementing a local development strategy	All possible	measure not specific to land type		Refer to Art 59.	Training to enable implementation of local development strategy - eg in marketing of Natura products, or to enable development of an ecotourism industry. [flowers]
63	Leader	All possible (within rural areas)	All selected rural areas	none	Refer to Arts 61-65.	<b>Any training necessary for realisation of the local development strategy (eg regional promotion in relation to Natura 2000). [bear]</b>
EFF						
26(1)(a)	the diversification of activities with a view to promoting multiple jobs for fishers;	fishermen	measure not specific to land type	none	none	Training in order to facilitate diversification of activities - eg training in small business management to facilitate eco-tourism, or site management skills.
26(1)(c)	schemes for retraining in occupations outside sea fishing;	fishermen	measure not specific to land type	none	none	Training in order to facilitate diversification of activities - eg training in small business management to facilitate eco-tourism, or site management skills.
34(i)	upgrade professional skills, or develop new training methods and tools;	fishermen, others	measure not specific to land type	none	Art 34: Collective actions: must be implemented with the active support of operators themselves or by organisations acting on behalf of producers or other organisations recognised by the Member State...	Training in order to facilitate diversification of activities - eg training in small business management to facilitate eco-tourism, or site management skills. Training programmes in partnership between scientists and operators -eg programmes in fish and bird identification to promote ecotourism while assisting with scientific monitoring.

Fund	Description	Target groups	Land types	Area restrictions	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
41(1)(b)	restructuring and redirecting economic activities, in particular by promoting eco-tourism, provided these actions do not result in an increase in fishing effort;	workers in fisheries or linked sectors	measure not specific to land type	Ref Arts 40(3),(4)	Ref: Articles 40(3),(4) and 41(4) for details on requirements for areas and beneficiaries.	Training to enable fishers to move into ecotourism at Natura sites.
41(1)(c)	diversifying activities through the promotion of multiple employment for fishers through the creation of jobs outside the fisheries sector	workers in fisheries or linked sectors	measure not specific to land type	Ref Arts 40(3),(4)	Ref: Articles 40(3),(4) and 41(4) for details on requirements for areas and beneficiaries.	Creation of jobs in Natura site management, supported by adequate training and education [porpoise].
41(1)(i)	acquiring skills and facilitating the preparation and implementation of the local development strategy.	public admins, SMEs, others	measure not specific to land type	Ref Arts 40(3),(4)	Ref: Articles 40(3),(4) and 41(4) for details on requirements for areas and beneficiaries.	Training and education for preparation and implementation of the development strategy.

<b>LIFE+</b>						
3	Eligibility criteria	All	Measure not specific to land type.	none	LIFE+ shall not finance measures which fall within the eligibility criteria of, or receive assistance for the same purpose from, other Community financial instruments (see Art 10) Eligible if meeting the added value criteria of article 3 and not "recurring".	
<b>FP7</b>						
none						

ACTIVITY 21: TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Fund	Description	Area restrictions	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
ERDF <sup>37</sup>				
4(5)	<b>Tourism</b> , including promotion of natural and cultural assets as potential for the development of sustainable tourism, protection and enhancement of the cultural heritage in support of economic development, aid to improve the supply of tourism services through new higher value-added services	Convergence objective regions	Context: promoting/developing tourism	Training programmes to support establishment of tourism industry in areas where this has not been in place before (eg those with high dependence on industries that are in recession). Training could target potential providers of high-end tourism services.
4(8)	<b>Education investments</b> contributing to increasing the attractiveness and quality of life in regions	Convergence objective regions		Education in sustainable management, to contribute to improved quality of life and environment.
6(1)a	Encouraging entrepreneurship and, in particular, the development of SMEs, tourism, culture, and cross-border trade	European territorial cooperation for transborder cooperation (see Art 19)	Context: job creation (eg tourism)	<b>Development of cross-border training and education programmes based on sharing experience, especially in relation to eco-tourism at Natura sites/networks. [bear, agrifor]</b>
6(1)b	Assistance on the development of cross-border economic and social activities through joint strategies for sustainable territorial development, primarily: encouraging the <b>protection and joint management of the environment</b>	European territorial cooperation for transborder cooperation (see Art 19)		
6(1)end	In addition, promoting the integration of cross-border labour markets, local employment initiatives, equal opportunities, <b>training</b> and social inclusion, and sharing of human resources and facilities for R&TD.	European territorial cooperation for transborder cooperation (see Art 19)		Providing training to promote cross-border labour markets in relation to management of the Natura network, eg, training in nature-friendly forestry practices.
6(2)a	Bilateral cooperation between maritime regions, through the financing of networks and of actions conducive to integrated territorial development on: water management, with a clear trans-national dimension, including <b>protection and management of river basins, coastal zones, marine resources, water services and wetlands</b>	European territorial cooperation for transborder cooperation (see Art 19)	Areas need to be connected to river basin/wetland/marine/coastal areas	Training in relation to trans-national river basin management and marine resources (in connection to Natura site management).
6(3)	Promoting <b>networking and exchange of experience</b> among regional and local authorities focusing on biodiversity and Natura 2000, including cooperation network programmes; actions involving studies, data collection, and the observation and analysis of development trends in the Community.	European territorial cooperation for transborder cooperation (see Art 19)		Training programmes for regional and local authorities, focused on exchange of experience and best practice in relation to biodiversity and Natura 2000.

<sup>37</sup> ERDF financing is targeted for productive investment (e.g. infrastructure). Therefore, activities related to Natura 2000/Natura sites need to be integrated in a broader development context.

Fund	Description	Area restrictions	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
<b>ESF</b>				
3(1)aii	Increasing adaptability of workers and enterprise, eg development of specific employment, training and support services to workers in the context of company and sector restructuring.		Context: Job creation (eg in case of sector restructuring)	Providing training for workers in sectors being restructured to provide prospects for alternative employment in sustainable enterprises linked to Natura (eg production of Natura-friendly products).
3(2)bi	Strengthening institutional capacity and the efficiency of public administrations and public services on <b>good policy and programme design</b> , monitoring and evaluation, through studies, statistics and expertise, support to interdepartmental coordination and dialogue between relevant public and private bodies	Convergence objective regions		Training for public administrations In relation to good management of Natura 2000 - could include sharing of experience and best practice between MS. [porpoise]
3(2)bii	Strengthening institutional capacity and the efficiency of public administrations and public services in capacity building in the <b>delivery of policies and programmes</b>	Convergence objective regions		<b>Training of public admin staff to deal with wildlife projects. [bear]</b>
<b>CF<sup>38</sup></b>				
2(2)	Achievement of the objectives of Article 174 of the Treaty falling within the priorities assigned to the Community environmental protection policy under the policy and action programme on the environment.	Convergence objective regions		Training as a small component of infrastructure investment projects - eg training local people in efficient use of water to complement building of water-related infrastructure.

<sup>38</sup> Activities related to Natura 2000/Natura sites need to be often integrated in a broader development context.

**Activity 22: FACILITIES TO ENCOURAGE VISITOR USE AND APPRECIATION OF NATURA 2000 SITES**

**ACTIVITY 22: FACILITIES TO ENCOURAGE VISITOR USE AND APPRECIATION OF NATURA 2000 SITES**

Fund	Description	Target groups	Land types	Area restrictions	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
<b>EAFRD</b>						
36(a)(vi)	support for non-productive investments [agricultural land]	farmers, land managers	agricultural land	none	Refer to Art 41.	Construction and instalment of interpretive signs at Natura sites. [agrifor]
36(b)(vii)	support for non-productive investments [forests]	all possible	forests	none	Refer to Art 49. Must be linked to forest-environment payments.	
52(a)(i)	diversification into non-agricultural activities	farmers and household members	measure not specific to land type	none	Refer to Art 53.	Support for improvement of visitor facilities on agricultural Natura sites, to encourage ecotourism.
52(a)(iii)	encouragement of tourism activities	all possible	measure not specific to land type	none	Refer to Art 55.	<b>Construction of facilities to encourage visitor use of Natura sites, eg pathways and signs. [bear, agrifor]</b>
63	Leader	All possible (within rural areas)	All selected rural areas	none	Refer to Arts 61-65.	Installation of facilities for visitor use of Natura sites in order to encourage visitor use and achieve aims of the local development strategy.
<b>EFF</b>						
41(1)(b)	restructuring and redirecting economic activities, in particular by promoting eco-tourism, provided these actions do not result in an increase in fishing effort;	workers in fisheries or linked sectors	measure not specific to land type	Ref Arts 40(3),(4)	Ref: Articles 40(3),(4) and 41(4) for details on requirements for areas and beneficiaries.	Promotion of eco-tourism through provision of visitor facilities at Natura sites - eg interpretive information, seating, pathways.
41(1)(e)	supporting small fisheries and tourism related infrastructure for the benefit of small fisheries communities	public admins, SMEs, others	measure not specific to land type	Ref Arts 40(3),(4)	Ref: Articles 40(3),(4) and 41(4) for details on requirements for areas and beneficiaries.	Provision of facilities for marine and coastal eco-tourism, eg signs, maps, shelters, jetties etc.
<b>LIFE+</b>						
3	Eligibility criteria	all possible	all possible	none	LIFE+ shall not finance measures which fall within the eligibility criteria of, or receive assistance for the same purpose from, other Community financial instruments (see Art 10). Eligible if meeting the added value criteria of article 3 and not heavy infrastructure (ERDF) or for maintenance of facilities.	
<b>FP7</b>						
none						

und	Description	Area restrictions	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
ERDF <sup>39</sup>				
4(2)	Theme: information society, including development of local content, services and applications, improvement of access to and development of on-line public services, aid and services to SMEs to adopt and effectively use information and communication technologies (ICTs)	Convergence objective regions	Context: information transfer systems/equipment on Natura 2000/sites	Development of websites and databases that could be used for promotion of Natura-based tourism.
4(3)	Supporting modernisation and diversification of regional economic structures. Priority: Environment, including <b>promotion of biodiversity and nature protection</b>	Convergence objective regions		Construction of visitor facilities eg car parks, networks of pathways, jetties, visitors centres. [river, agri-aqua]
4(5)	<b>Tourism</b> , including promotion of natural and cultural assets as potential for the development of sustainable tourism, protection and enhancement of the cultural heritage in support of economic development, aid to improve the supply of tourism services through new higher value-added services	Convergence objective regions	Context: promoting/developing tourism	
5(2)a	Priority environment and risk prevention: stimulating investment for the rehabilitation of contaminated sites and land, and promoting the <b>development of infrastructure linked to biodiversity and Natura 2000</b> contributing to sustainable economic development and diversification of rural areas.	Regional competitiveness and employment' objective regions		
6(1)a	Encouraging entrepreneurship and, in particular, the development of SMEs, tourism, culture, and cross-border trade	European territorial cooperation for transborder cooperation (see Art 19)	Context: job creation (eg tourism)	
9	Economic diversification of rural areas and areas dependent on fisheries including: development of new economic activities outside the agricultural and fishery sectors; development of tourism and rural amenities	Only rural areas and areas dependent on fisheries.	Context: economic diversification	<b>Improvement of visitor facilities in order to assist diversification of rural areas through improved opportunities for eco-tourism. [bear]</b>
10	Financing of investments aimed at improving accessibility, promoting and developing economic activities related to the cultural heritage, promoting the sustainable use of natural resources, and stimulating the tourism sector.	Only areas with natural handicaps.		Investments aimed at improving tourist access to Natura sites, eg, installing ramps and pathways for wheelchair access. [agri-aqua]
ESF				
none				
CF <sup>40</sup>				
2(2)	Achievement of the objectives of Article 174 of the Treaty falling within the priorities assigned to the Community environmental protection policy under the policy and action programme on the environment.	Convergence objective regions		Development of visitor facilities/complexes in relation to Natura - eg regional environment centre with education materials relating to the Natura 2000 network. [agri-aqua]

<sup>39</sup> ERDF financing is targeted for productive investment (e.g. infrastructure). Therefore, activities related to Natura 2000/Natura sites need to be integrated in a broader development context.

<sup>40</sup> Activities related to Natura 2000/Natura sites need to be often integrated in a broader development context.

**Activity 23: LAND PURCHASE, INCLUDING COMPENSATION FOR DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS**

**ACTIVITY 23: LAND PURCHASE, INCLUDING COMPENSATION FOR DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS**

Fund	Description	Target groups	Land types	Area restrictions	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
<b>EAFRD</b>						
	In theory, possible in relation to activities under any Article, subject to limitations in Article 71(3)(c)	dependent on specific Article	dependent on specific Article		Purchase of land usually only eligible where this is less than 10% of the total expenditure on the operation concerned. In exceptional circumstances, a higher percentage can be fixed for operations concerning environmental conservation. See Art 71(3)(c).	
<b>EFF</b>						
none						
<b>LIFE+</b>						
3	Eligibility criteria	all possible	all		LIFE+ shall not finance measures which fall within the eligibility criteria of, or receive assistance for the same purpose from, other Community financial instruments (see Art 10). Eligible if meeting the added value criteria of article 3 and compensation for change of land use (unless rural development) and not for development rights. For conditions on land purchase, see Annex 1, 2(g)(v).	For example, purchase of land to enable river basin restoration [river]
<b>FP7</b>						
none						

Fund	Description	Area restrictions	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
<b>ERDF 41</b>				
	In theory, possible in relation to activities under any Article, subject to general limitations in Regulation, and specific limits in Article 7(c).			
<b>ESF</b>				
none				
<b>CF<sup>42</sup></b>				
2(2)	Achievement of the objectives of Article 174 of the Treaty falling within the priorities assigned to the Community environmental protection policy under the policy and action programme on the environment.	Convergence objective regions		
2(3)	Areas that can be developed on a sustainable basis and clearly present environmental benefits, eg energy efficiency, renewable energy and transport sector	Convergence objective regions	Context: renewable energy and transport	

<sup>41</sup> ERDF financing is targeted for productive investment (e.g. infrastructure). Therefore, activities related to Natura 2000/Natura sites need to be integrated in a broader development context. Purchase can be max 10% of the total eligible expenditure for the operation concerned.

<sup>42</sup> Activities related to Natura 2000/Natura sites need to be often integrated in a broader development context. Purchase can be max 10% of the total eligible expenditure for the operation concerned.



**Activity 24: INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDED FOR THE RESTORATION OF HABITAT OR SPECIES**

	Description	Target groups	Land types	Area restrictions	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
<b>EAFRD</b>						
36(a)(vi)	support for non-productive investments [agricultural land]	farmers, land managers	agricultural land	none	Refer to Art 41.	<b>Support for infrastructure to protect stock from large predators eg electric fences. [bear]</b>
36(b)(vii)	support for non-productive investments [forests]	all possible	forests	none	Refer to Art 49. Must be linked to forest-environment payments.	Support for infrastructure for habitat restoration, eg, construction of nursery to grow native plants for restoration project.
52(b)(iii)	conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage	all possible	measure not specific to land type	none	Refer to Art 57.	Support for installation of infrastructure to encourage recolonisation by rare species eg nesting boxes, bat roosts, etc.
63	Leader	All possible (within rural areas)	All selected rural areas	none	Refer to Arts 61-65.	Development of infrastructure for restoration of habitats and species in order to achieve aims for local development.
<b>EFF</b>						
34(g)	develop, restructure or improve aquaculture sites;	fishermen, others	coastal, marine, inland waters, wetlands	none	Art 34: Collective actions: must be implemented with the active support of operators themselves or by organisations acting on behalf of producers or other organisations recognised by the Member State...	Introduction of infrastructures to reduce disturbance to native species associated with aquaculture sites (eg reduce disturbance to birds).
35(2)(b)	the rehabilitation of inland waters, including spawning grounds and migration routes for migratory species	fishermen, others	inland waters	none	Art 35(3) The actions must be implemented by public or semi-public bodies, recognised trade associations, or other bodies appointed for that purpose by the Member State.	Modification of waterway by installation of infrastructure to alter water flows or enable fish movements for the benefit of aquatic ecosystems [river].
35(2)(c)	where they directly concern fishing activities, to the protection and enhancement of the environment in the framework of N2K, excluding operational costs	fishermen, others	coastal, marine, inland waters, wetlands	none	Art 35(3) The actions must be implemented by public or semi-public bodies, recognised trade associations, or other bodies appointed for that purpose by the Member State.	

**ACTIVITY 24: INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDED FOR THE RESTORATION OF HABITAT OR SPECIES**

ACTIVITY 24: INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDED FOR THE RESTORATION OF HABITAT OR SPECIES

	Description	Target groups	Land types	Area restrictions	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
<b>LIFE+</b> 3	Eligibility criteria	all possible	all possible	none	LIFE+ shall not finance measures which fall within the eligibility criteria of, or receive assistance for the same purpose from, other Community financial instruments (see Art 10). Eligible if meeting the added value criteria of article 3 and part of a conservation management project for habitats or species.	
<b>FP7</b>						
2(2)f	Theme Environment, eg climate change, pollution and risks; conservation and sustainable management of natural and man-made resources (eg protection and management of biodiversity); environment and technologies (eg environmental restoration)	all possible	measure not specific to land type	Transnational cooperation	Context: as a part of research setup/facilities	

	Description	Area restrictions	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
<b>ERDF<sup>43</sup></b>				
4(3)	Supporting modernisation and diversification of regional economic structures. Priority: Environment, including <b>promotion of biodiversity and nature protection</b>	Convergence objective regions		<b>Diversification of regional economies through construction of facilities to improve commercial use of certain Natura sites - eg breeding centres and/or rehabilitation centres for endangered species that can act as foci for ecotourism. [bear]</b>
5(2)a	Priority environment and risk prevention: stimulating investment for the rehabilitation of contaminated sites and land, and promoting the <b>development of infrastructure linked to biodiversity and Natura 2000</b> contributing to sustainable economic development and diversification of rural areas.	Regional competitiveness and employment objective regions		Could include development of ballast water treatment facilities at ports to prevent introduction of IAS through shipping; introduction of physical barriers in freshwater to prevent spread of IAS from one water body to another.
6(1)b	Assistance on the development of cross-border economic and social activities through joint strategies for sustainable territorial development, primarily: encouraging the <b>protection and joint management of the environment</b>			Construction of infrastructure for water treatment in order to improve water quality (and therefore habitat quality) at Natura 2000 sites. [agri-aqua]
8	<b>Rehabilitation of the physical environment</b> , e.g. preservation and development of the historical and cultural heritage with measures to promote entrepreneurship, local employment and community development		Requirement: Urban dimensions. Context: historical/cultural heritage	Construction of infrastructure for water treatment in order to improve water quality (and therefore habitat quality) at Natura 2000 sites.
<b>ESF</b>				
none				
<b>CF<sup>44</sup></b>				
2(2)	Achievement of the objectives of Article 174 of the Treaty falling within the priorities assigned to the Community environmental protection policy under the policy and action programme on the environment.	Convergence objective regions		Construction of infrastructure for water treatment in order to improve water quality (and therefore habitat quality) at Natura 2000 sites.

<sup>43</sup> ERDF financing is targeted at productive investment (e.g. infrastructure). Therefore, activities related to Natura 2000/Natura sites need to be integrated in a broader development context.

<sup>44</sup> Activities related to Natura 2000/Natura sites need to be often integrated in a broader development context.

**Activity 25: INFRASTRUCTURE FOR PUBLIC ACCESS**

**ACTIVITY 25: INFRASTRUCTURE FOR PUBLIC ACCESS**

Fund	Description	Target groups	Land types	Area restrictions	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
<b>EAFRD</b>						
36(a)(vi)	support for non-productive investments [agricultural land]	farmers, land managers	agricultural land	none	Refer to Art 41.	<b>Support for investments in signage, maps, shelters. [bear]</b>
36(b)(vii)	support for non-productive investments [forests]	all possible	forests	none	Refer to Art 49. Must be linked to forest-environment payments.	
52(a)(i)	diversification into non-agricultural activities	farmers and household members	measure not specific to land type	none	Refer to Art 53.	Investments in infrastructure to enable diversification into tourism, eg construction of tourist accommodation, information centres, etc.
52(a)(iii)	encouragement of tourism activities	all possible	measure not specific to land type	none	Refer to Art 55.	
63	Leader	All possible (within rural areas)	All selected rural areas	none	Refer to Arts 61-65.	Development of infrastructure for public access in order to achieve aims for local development.
<b>EFF</b>						
41(1)(b)	restructuring and redirecting economic activities, in particular by promoting eco-tourism, provided these actions do not result in an increase in fishing effort;	workers in fisheries or linked sectors	measure not specific to land type	Ref Arts 40(3),(4)	Ref: Articles 40(3),(4) and 41(4) for details on requirements for areas and beneficiaries.	Development of infrastructure for public access and tourism, eg, jetties for tourist boats.
41(1)(c)	diversifying activities through the promotion of multiple employment for fishers through the creation of jobs outside the fisheries sector	workers in fisheries or linked sectors	measure not specific to land type	Ref Arts 40(3),(4)	Ref: Articles 40(3),(4) and 41(4) for details on requirements for areas and beneficiaries.	Construction of visitors centres/complexes at Natura sites in order to increase opportunities for commercial activities at Natura 2000 sites. [porpoise]
41(1)(e)	supporting small fisheries and tourism related infrastructure for the benefit of small fisheries communities	public admins, SMEs, others	measure not specific to land type	Ref Arts 40(3),(4)	Ref: Articles 40(3),(4) and 41(4) for details on requirements for areas and beneficiaries.	Construction of tourism-related infrastructure such as signs, paths for walkers and cyclists, visitors centres etc.
<b>LIFE+</b>						
3	Eligibility criteria	all possible	all	none	LIFE+ shall not finance measures which fall within the eligibility criteria of, or receive assistance for the same purpose from, other Community financial instruments (see Art 10). Only for small infrastructure creation and upgrades of existing infrastructure if part of a conservation management project for habitats or species.	
<b>FP7</b>						
none						

Fund	Description	Area restrictions	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
ERDF <sup>45</sup>				
4(3)	Supporting modernisation and diversification of regional economic structures. Priority: Environment, including <b>promotion of biodiversity and nature protection</b>	Convergence objective regions		
4(5)	<b>Tourism</b> , including promotion of natural and cultural assets as potential for the development of sustainable tourism, protection and enhancement of the cultural heritage in support of economic development, aid to improve the supply of tourism services through new higher value-added services	Convergence objective regions	Context: promoting/developing tourism	Support to diversification of economic structures through construction of infrastructures to facilitate and promote eco-tourism activity.
4(10)	Direct aid to investment in SMEs contributing to <b>creating and safeguarding jobs</b>	'Convergence' objective regions	Context: job creation (eg tourism)	
5(2)a	Priority environment and risk prevention: stimulating investment for the rehabilitation of contaminated sites and land, and promoting the <b>development of infrastructure linked to biodiversity and Natura 2000</b> contributing to sustainable economic development and diversification of rural areas.	Regional competitiveness and employment objective regions		<b>Could be used for developing parking centres, access roads, visitors centres, fencing, education paths inside sites. Facilitating cooperation with neighbouring regions. [bear, agrifor]</b>
6(1)a	Encouraging entrepreneurship and, in particular, the development of SMEs, tourism, culture, and cross-border trade	European territorial cooperation for transborder cooperation (see Art 19)	Context: job creation (eg tourism)	Development of infrastructure to promote cross-border nature tourism eg signage, visitors centres and shelters, tracks for walking and cycling.
6(1)b	Assistance on the development of cross-border economic and social activities through joint strategies for sustainable territorial development, primarily: encouraging the <b>protection and joint management of the environment</b>			
6(1)d	Establishment and development of transnational cooperation, through the financing of networks and of actions conducive to integrated territorial development on: developing collaboration, capacity and joint use of infrastructures in particular in sectors such as health, culture and education.	European territorial cooperation for transborder cooperation (see Art 19)	Context: broad transboundary education initiatives	Creation of joint infrastructures for promotion of transboundary areas of the Natura network, eg visitors centres and information centres located near to regional or national boundaries.

<sup>45</sup> ERDF financing is targeted for productive investment (e.g. infrastructure). Therefore, activities related to Natura 2000/Natura sites need to be integrated in a broader development context.

ACTIVITY 25: INFRASTRUCTURE FOR PUBLIC ACCESS

Fund	Description	Area restrictions	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
9	Economic diversification of rural areas and areas dependent on fisheries including: development of new economic activities outside the agricultural and fishery sectors; development of tourism and rural amenities	Only rural areas and areas dependent on fisheries.	Context: economic diversification	<b>Developing parking centres, access roads, visitors centres, fencing, education paths inside sites. Facilitating cooperation with neighbouring regions. [bear]</b>
10	Financing of investments aimed at improving accessibility, promoting and developing economic activities related to the cultural heritage, promoting the sustainable use of natural resources, and stimulating the tourism sector.	Only areas with natural handicaps.		Development of infrastructure for accessibility, eg pathways and cycleways, modification of buildings to facilitate access by the disabled.
<b>ESF</b>				
none				
<b>CF<sup>46</sup></b>				
2(2)	Achievement of the objectives of Article 174 of the Treaty falling within the priorities assigned to the Community environmental protection policy under the policy and action programme on the environment.	Convergence objective regions		Development of public access infrastructure such as car parks, pathways. [river]

<sup>46</sup> Activities related to Natura 2000/Natura sites need to be often integrated in a broader development context.

## 7. REFERENCES, KEY PUBLICATIONS, KEY WEBSITES

For further information, see the following documents and websites:

### **In relation to specific European Funds**

NB: For most of the funds, the Regulations were not finalised at the time of publication of this Handbook.

#### **European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development**

Council Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005 of 20 September 2005 on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD). OJ L 277/2 21.10.2005; Community Strategic Guidelines for Rural Development. OJ L.55/20 25.02.2006

See also DG Agriculture website: [http://europa.eu.int/comm/agriculture/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/agriculture/index_en.htm)

#### **European Fisheries Fund**

Legally binding version not yet published. See DG Fisheries and Maritime Affairs website for latest information:

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/fisheries/policy\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/fisheries/policy_en.htm)

#### **European Regional Development Fund, European Social Fund, and Cohesion Fund.**

Legally binding versions not yet published. See DG Regional Policy website for latest information:

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/regional\\_policy/sources/docoffic/official/regulation/newregl0713\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/official/regulation/newregl0713_en.htm)

#### **Financing Instrument for the Environment (LIFE+)**

Legally binding version not yet published. See DG Environment website for latest information:

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/life/home.htm>

#### **7th Research Framework Programme (FP7)**

Legally binding version not yet published.

See Cordis website for latest information: <http://www.cordis.lu/fp7/>

### **Additional References**

CEC (2005) Handbook for Environmental Project Funding. DG-Environment. Available at:

[http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/environment/funding/pdf/handbook\\_funding.pdf](http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/environment/funding/pdf/handbook_funding.pdf)

WWF (2005) EU funding for the Environment: A handbook for the 2007-2013 programming period Available at:

<http://assets.panda.org/downloads/eufundingforenvironmentweb.pdf>

WWF, Natuur en Milieu, and LUPG (2005) Rural Development Environmental Programming Guidelines: A manual based on the findings of the Europe's living countryside project. Available at:

[http://www.panda.org/about\\_wwf/where\\_we\\_work/europe/what\\_we\\_do/epo/initiatives/agriculture/common\\_ag\\_policy/publications/index.cfm?uNewsID=23855](http://www.panda.org/about_wwf/where_we_work/europe/what_we_do/epo/initiatives/agriculture/common_ag_policy/publications/index.cfm?uNewsID=23855)

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