

# Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process Mediterranean Region

## Natura 2000 Monitoring *Integrating conservation management and monitoring*

Barcelona, Spain, 19 - 21 October 2015



### A summary report

## Workshop statistics

Title:	<b>Natura 2000 Monitoring - Integrating conservation management and monitoring</b>
Location:	Barcelona, Spain
Date:	19 - 21 October 2015
Biogeographical Region:	Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process <sup>1</sup> Mediterranean Region (showcasing examples from across Europe)
Nr of participants:	60
Member states represented:	15
Nr of speakers:	16
Member states represented:	9
Presentations covered:	Case studies and more general presentations about monitoring and conservation management: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- EU reporting</li><li>- Habitat monitoring (grasslands, inland dunes, mountain meadows)</li><li>- Site Condition Monitoring on mobile devices</li><li>- Remote sensing / Earth Observation</li><li>- Species monitoring (birds, butterflies, plants)</li><li>- Integrating monitoring with conservation management</li><li>- Monitoring the effects of habitat management</li><li>- Working with stakeholders</li></ul>
Workshop elements:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Presentations</li><li>- Q&amp;A sessions and discussions / Interactive discussion (see next pages)</li><li>- Knowledge Market (posters, flyers, etc.)</li><li>- Field trip to the Ter River</li><li>- EuroCocktail (networking / closing)</li></ul>

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<sup>1</sup> ECNC is the lead contractor to support the EC in the development and implementation of the Process. This includes a continuing series of networking events (Seminars, conferences, workshops, ad hoc expert meetings, study visits etc.). ECNC does this with support from our sub-contracted consortium partners (CEEweb for Biodiversity, Eurosite, the European Landowners Organisation, the EUROPARC Federation and ILE-SAS).

For more information about the workshop or the Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process, please visit the Natura 2000 Communication Platform: [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/platform/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/platform/index_en.htm)

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The Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process is an initiative of the



# Main points from the final discussion session of the workshop

## A model for integrating conservation management and monitoring on Natura 2000 sites

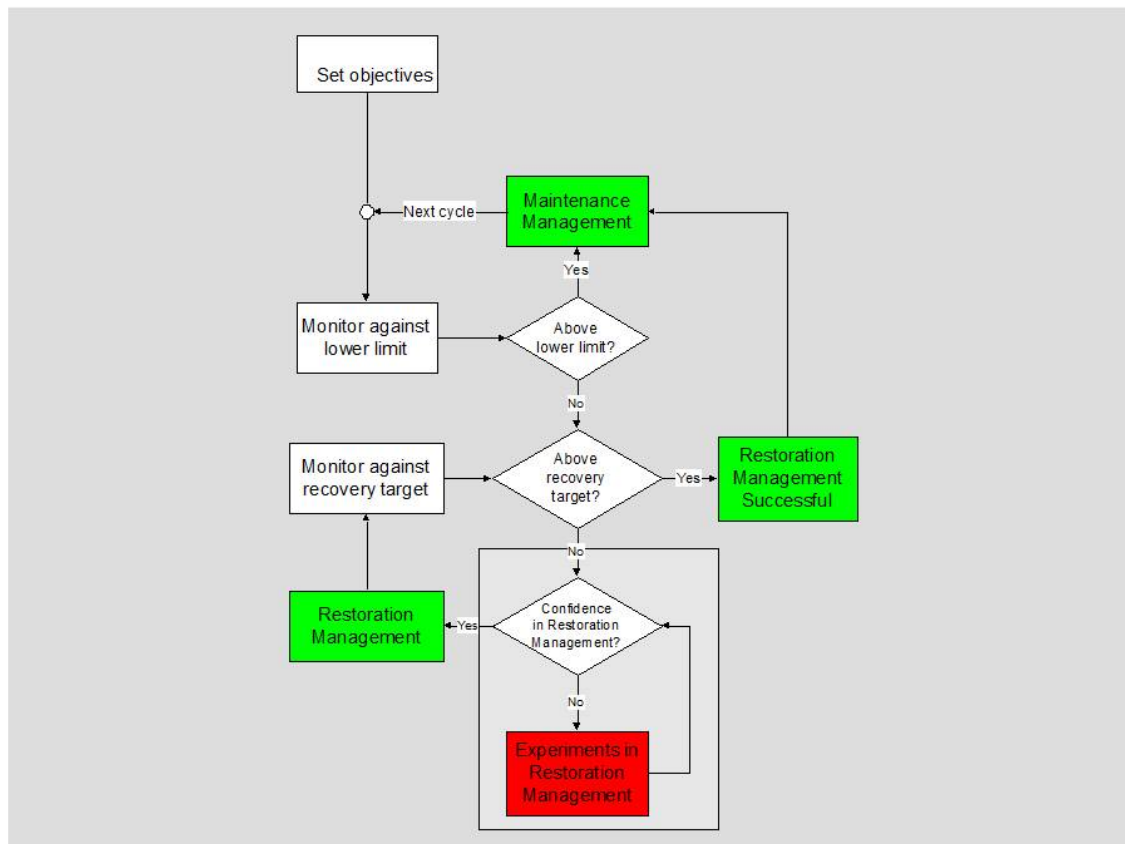


Figure 1. This model was presented at the Eurosite workshop on 'Natura 2000 Monitoring - Integrating conservation management and monitoring', and was put forward as a catalyst for good practice. The model has several strengths. In the first instance, each monitoring event triggers a management response, critically before a situation has become too severe to recover. The model will also create a knowledge base that enables monitoring effort to be prioritised for sites where a) we are investing management resources and b) the condition of the key habitats and species is uncertain.

The model has two distinct cycles (see Figures 2 and 3 below):

1. When the habitats and/or species are achieving the management aims and maintenance management is appropriate; and
2. When the habitats and/or species are failing to meet the management aims and restoration management is needed.

The final session of the Eurosite workshop was dedicated to this subject area and four breakout groups, each involving delegates from a variety of member states, discussed the merits of the model before feeding back on the recommendations to take forward.

Figure 2. Cycle 1 – The maintenance management phase

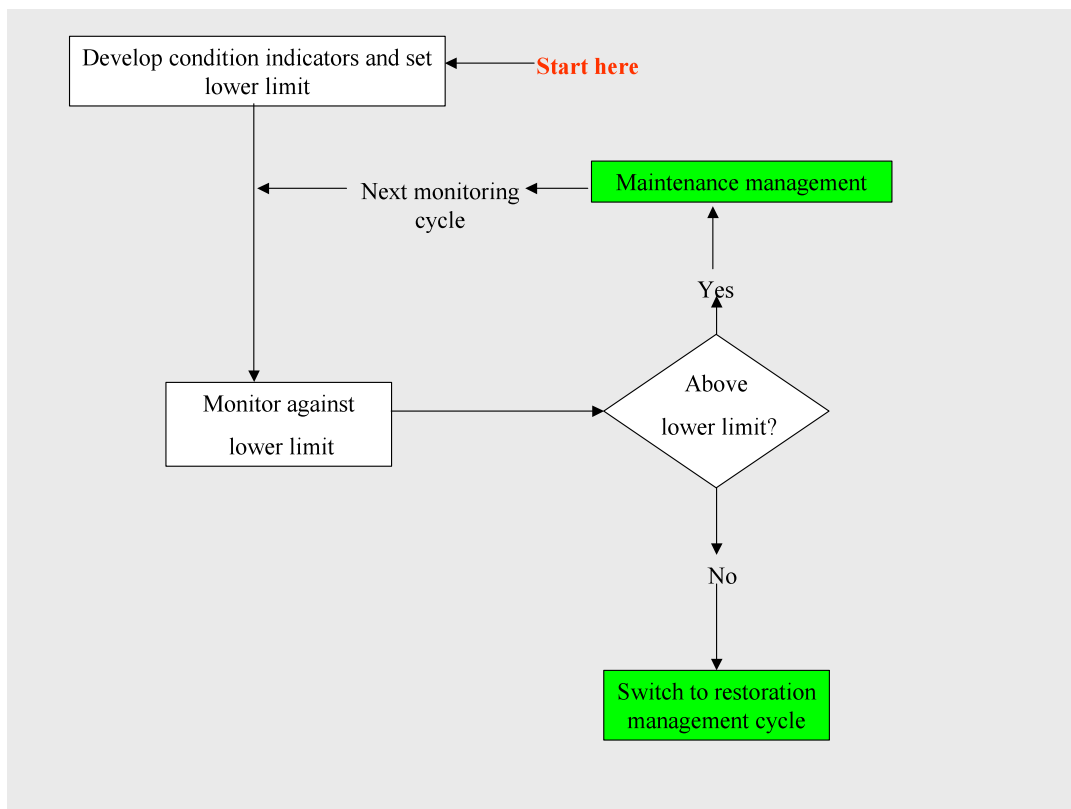
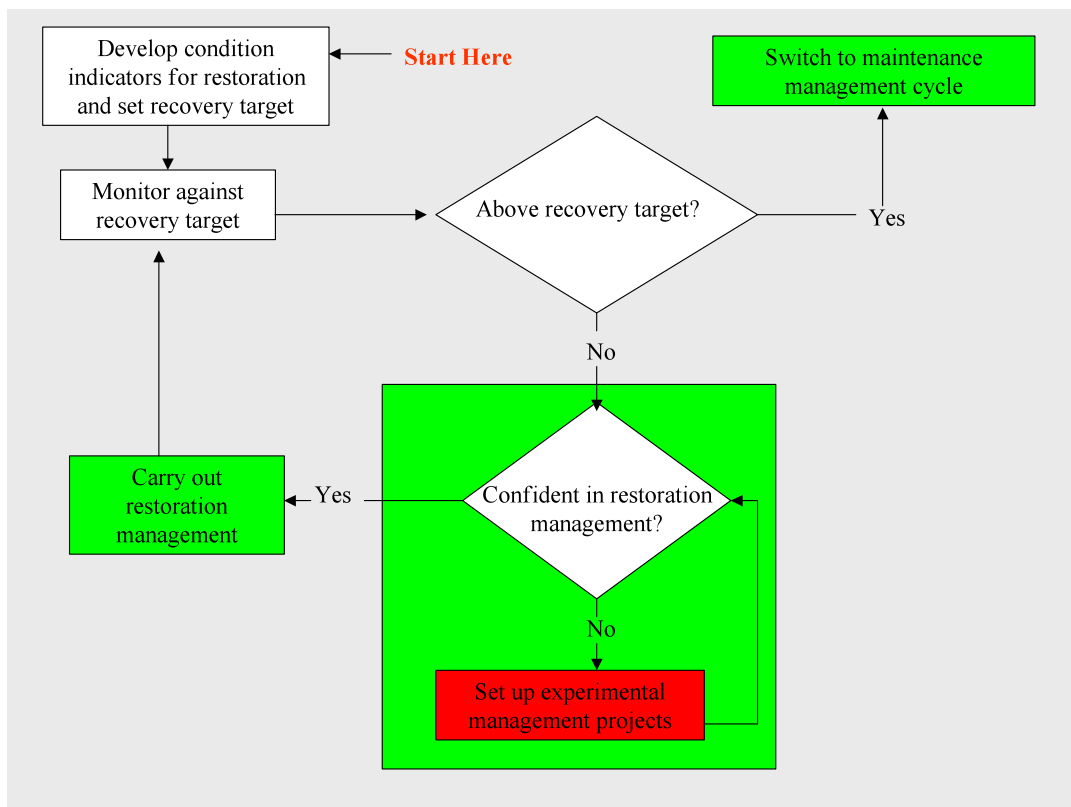


Figure 3. Cycle 2 – The restoration management phase



## Feedback from the delegates at the Eurosite workshop

The response to the model was very positive, though it was felt that guidance would be needed to help with its practical application and that collaboration between government agencies and NGOs would be needed to deliver the work.

The main area of concern was the need to develop clearly defined management goals from the outset and there was a strong recommendation for guidance documents and workshops (both internationally and nationally) to help facilitate this 'objective-setting' phase of the process. The workshop feedback suggested that the principal issues these documents and workshops would need to address are:

- 1) How to ensure, wherever possible, that the site management aims are in keeping with, and make a relevant contribution to, national and international goals for the habitats and species?
- 2) How to develop efficient and reliable monitoring protocols that take into account the factors most likely to impact on the condition of the key habitats and species on the site?
- 3) Whether status and trends data can be combined and how trends information can be incorporated into the monitoring targets?
- 4) How to ensure that the evidence of condition collected during the monitoring event relates to the overall management goal?
- 5) How to involve the different stakeholders constructively in the process of setting good management objectives?
- 6) How to incorporate the ability to modify / adapt the objectives as new information becomes available, perhaps as a response to monitoring feedback?
- 7) How to set limits that allow the monitoring to detect early warnings of problems rather than identify when a habitat or species is severely damaged?
- 8) How to develop efficient monitoring systems that focus on what we need to know (rather than what would be nice to know) and allow the majority of the available resources to be committed to management?
- 9) How to ensure coherence between conservation objectives a) for species and habitats as components of an ecosystem and b) other policy objectives e.g. the Common Agricultural Policy.
- 10) The provision of 'objective-setting case studies' covering a range of different habitats and species.

These are issues that need to be addressed. However, some member states have been developing management objectives and condition indicators over several years now, so good examples already exist that could form the basis for guidance documents and workshops. There is clearly a strong desire for knowledge exchange from the countries with more experience of the process to those just starting out on it.

It was suggested that this model could also be applied at the landscape scale and be equally relevant. In this instance, however, the habitat monitoring would be more reliant on the integration of remote image interpretation and the management responses might differ.

