

MEETING REPORT SELNAT

Project:	SELNAT: HOW TO MAKE NATURA 2000 WORK PROPERLY?		
Subject:	meeting research team – special meeting with Rink Kruk (INBO)		
Meeting date:	14-11-2008		
Place:	Leuven		
Participants:	Valérie Grogna, Steve Meuris, Julien Taymans, Rink Kruk		
Distribution:	All		
Reporters:	Julien Taymans	Document reference:	
Date report:	25-11-2008	Version number:	1

1 Goal and agenda of the meeting

The main goal was to exchange information with Rink Kruk, studying Natura 2000 at the INBO.

- Presentation of SELNAT
- Presentation of survey 2 results
- Presentation of the project of Rink Kruk
- Answers to Rink Kruk questions
- Discussion

This agenda wasn't really respected during the meeting. It was more a global discussing between each other.

2 Rink Kruk study presentation

Rink Kruk explains the goals of his project, with a PPT presentation (see in annex.). His study is financed by the European Commission. It's a 1-year international project conducted by INBO (Belgium), Alterra (Netherlands) and CEH (UK).

The main goals are:

- Reporting on the different approaches of EU member states concerning the process of designation of N2000 areas;
- Providing 10 examples of good practice in integrated management of N2000 sites;
- Establishing a platform for knowledge exchange about N2000;
- Elaborating a "Natura2000 Partner of the year Award"

The study began in July 2008 (end in June 2009), so it's too early to have concrete results already. There will be no "field research" but information is to be collected by means of a literature review and by contacting people and institutions from each Member state.

This study should answer some research questions (for each member state):

- What kind of ownership characterize the sites in this country?
- What can be the advantages of N2000 for stakeholders, and what can they give for the management of N2000 sites?
- What was the planning/timing of the designation phase?
- Designation of sites and establishment of management plan are sometimes separated. What does it influence?
- How are objectives/goals for sites formulated?
- How are decisions and procedures made in relation to the characteristics of each member state?
- How are different legislations integrated or arranged hierarchically?
- How is it possible to convince people to implement management measures if it is not legally obligatory?

Rink shows some examples of integrated management plans (see PPT).

3 Presentation of the SELNAT-project

Short presentation of the goals of the study, what has been done, and some results : bottlenecks from WP1, WS2,...

4 Discussion with Rink Kruk

4.1 General remarks ("in bulk")

According to Rink, the Walloon region is a special case in Europe because there is a possibility (theoretically) for the government to take measures on a private site even when there is not an agreement with the landowner.

France is a typical example of participative management of sites. There is a specific organizer for each site. It is relatively expensive but it seems to be very effective.

In the Netherlands, it exists a compensation system between sites. When a site achieve an improved state of conservation (more than required by the HD), it permits to compensate for a site where things are worse.

In the Brussels region, it is now necessary to change the law because there wasn't any public participation in the current procedure.

According Habitat directive, a specific Natura 2000 site management plan is not obligatory, but it is recommended. Some countries use existing (former) plans but the majority created new ones.

The prosecution of illegal practices in the scope of Natura 2000 lacks power, most of the cases never lead to legal action.

Depending on the member state, it's sometimes either an NGO, a consultancy office or the authorities that establish a management plan. In some countries, NGO's have a big importance for the establishment of management plans – they have a critical view of sites and are very effective for public sensibilisation.

In Luxemburg, government is waiting after the elections before launching first designation decree/management plan, in order not to lose their electorate.

In Wallonia (but also everywhere), they should absolutely show examples of good projects to convince people.

4.2 Answers to questions of Rink Kruk submitted by email

1. *Could you give some examples (names) of areas that have been cancelled (large areas) in the process of identification of Natura 2000 areas, which causes now incoherencies in the Natura 2000 network?*

→ Some examples are given by Julien, with illustrating maps allowing a comparison between the scientific selection of sites and the final politic decision.

2. Which good examples of integrated management you know of nature reserves, or of Natura 2000 areas. Best would be examples where people, organisations make profit out of their nature management activities (so that the state does not have to pay anything, or just relatively little for the management). Also if you know of other good examples of good cooperation between the stakeholders, tell me about it then! Just a short description is fine.

→ Some examples are given:

- a. Nature reserves where environment opening is done by people who need firewood.
- b. Removal of fish (carps) by fishermen societies in natural reserves ponds.
- c. A lot of private natural reserves are managed by farmers which concludes AES contracts.
- d. "Plateau de Saint-Hubert" : integration of nature conservation with hunters interests
- e. Contrats de rivière in Walloon region : a kind of integrated plans for rivers management

4.3 Questions to Rink Kruk

4.3.1 Process of designation

How could you define the kind of designation process applied in Belgium? Is it different from other countries?

→ There is apparently a lack with regard to stakeholders participation, but I didn't contact any person yet.

In which countries Natura 2000 is already well implemented, which are the best examples? Which are the worst examples? Why?

→ In general, Natura 2000 is already well implemented in countries where N2000 areas are mainly public properties. In these cases, public administration do a good job but with less participation (example : Greece). The approach depends on each country (traditions).

4.3.2 Instruments

Did you find studies about evaluation of implementation instruments in the scope of nature conservation?

→ It's really difficult to find something more global. In general, studies concern specific cases or third world countries.

Considering your experiences, what is the best kind of instruments to set up N2000?

→ In my opinion, participation is very important, mainly in the beginning of a project, in order to highlight the potential conflicts. People have to feel responsible and become involved in the project. Compensation alone is boring and insufficient. Give people ideas and let them change their behaviour. Yet, some guidance must be incorporated. If no results are reached within a certain time limit (eg 1 year), the government must take over.

4.3.3 Integrated management plan

What are, in your opinion, the most important principles to keep in mind when implementing management plans?

→ You must use good criteria (of good practices) and adapt the approach for each specific case.

Do you know effective examples of integrated management plan?

→ There exist for example cases of ecological vineyard, of restoration rivers drained in the past,... (+ examples PPT)

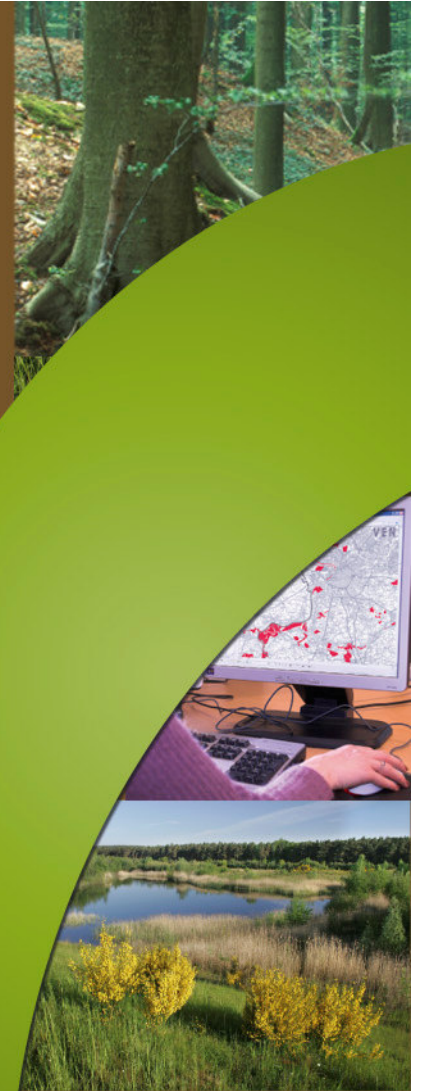
4.4 After meeting...

Back to home, the SELNAT-workers promised to send the useful information to Rink and vice-versa.

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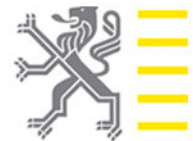
Designation and Integrated Management

of Natura 2000 sites in the EU
member states



inbo

Instituut voor Natuur- en Bosonderzoek
Research Institute for Nature and Forest



www.inbo.be

Who?

Consortium INBO, Alterra, CEH



Geert De Blust, **Rink W. Kruk** (INBO)

Rob van Apeldoorn (Alterra)

Andrew Siers (CEH)

Under authority of EC-DG ENV

Aim of project

- Report on the different approaches of EU member states
- Provide 10 examples of good practice in **integrated** management
- Platform for knowledge exchange
- Natura2000 Partner of the year Award

Report

As inspiration and guidance to member states

- Resume on the different approaches
- Pro ´s and Con ´s, Pitfalls
- Bottlenecks and solutions
- Examples of good Practices of **integrated** management

Data collection

- Questionnaire
- Contacted Institutions and organisations at National and EU level
 - Universities, Scientific Institutes and Governmental Agencies
 - National, regional and local governments
 - Interest groups (Landowners, Hunting, etc.)
 - Industry (including harbours, tourism, etc.)
 - Nature organizations
- Literature study
 - Scientific publications
 - Review of laws
 - Websites, reports, publications, etc
- Conferences and meetings

Questions

- **Ownership of sites** does it cause problems with designation and management?
- **How are ecological goals formulated?**
Systematic (NL) or at site level (many)
- **Planning/timing the designation phase**
Capacity problems?
- **Integration of legislation**

Questions

- Who is responsible, who draws MPs?
- How are stakeholders involved in designation process? Kind; Problem or facilitating; When
- Participation slows or speeds up MP?
- Problems solved by NGOs, Consultancy?

Questions

- Detail of regulations on Management Plans (MP)?
- Ecological effectiveness of management
Output/effort
- Support by socio-economic stakeholders
(how?)
- Striking differences in MP (why? meaning?)

Questions (Management)

- Who is responsible for the management approaches/measures to be taken?
- Who writes and how socially accepted? (how is the process organized, who participating)
- MP legally binding? If not how the management can be enforced?
- Monitoring (Coordination, Money, Existing schemes)

Criteria for good practice?

- Successful in reaching N2K targets
- Feasibility (with regard to [financial] resources)
- Goodwill and support from socio-economic stakeholder
- Socio-economic stakeholder does not loose on management activity
- Not directly paid for management activity
- ...

Examples of integrated management

- PAN Parks (tourism, local development)
- Weerribben (tourism, education)
- Po plain (agriculture)
- South Coast Finland (industry, agriculture and water management)

South Coast Finland



Reed for biodiversity: Industry, Agri, WaterM

- Reed cutters
- Farmers
- Bio-energy sector
- Nature NGOs

Government provides
Licence and Management
framework



Fair price for reed (roofing, fuel, etc)
Patches of meadow for bio-cattle
Favourable Conservation Status
Cleaning Baltic Sea water quality

Protected Area Networks (PAN) Parks - WWF

Tourism, local development for biodiversity

Tourism enterprises
Local, regional authorities
Forestry, Hunting
NGOs
Small/Medium Enterprises

Formal agreement
*support and commitment
to conservation goals and
monitoring*

Nature conservation
Attractive status (for visitor)
Sustainable regional development

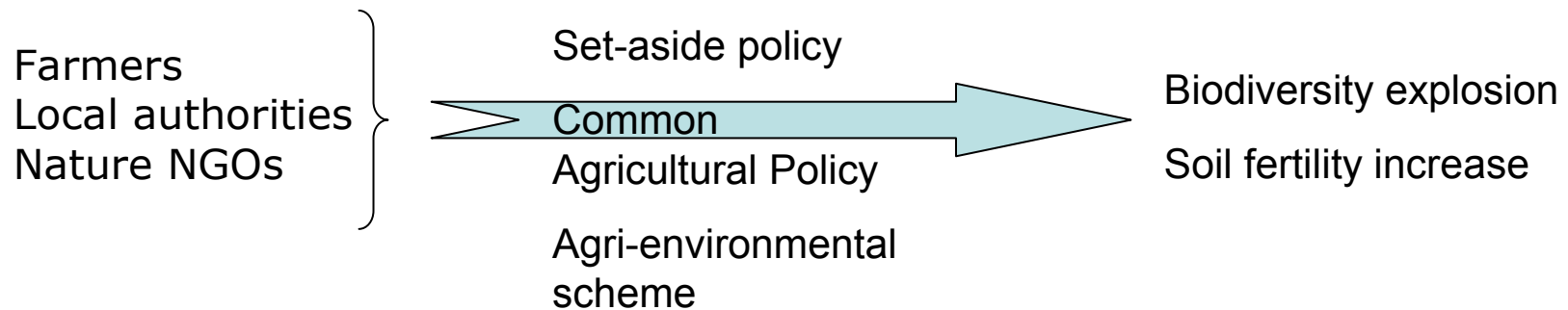
*Examples: Retezat National Park (NP) (RO)
Bieszczady NP (PL), 6 more.*



Po plain



Agriculture for biodiversity – La Cassinazza (Italy)



Weerribben

Tourism for biodiversity

- Adaptation of camp sites, sanitary and nature trails for minimal impact
- Natura 2000 ambassador for competitors
- Promotion change of public behaviour



Work to do...

- Answer our questions
- Collect good practices of socio-economic stakeholder participation
- ...