



To Espoo Point of Contact in:

Norway
Sweden
Germany
The Netherlands

Landscape and Forest
J.nr. 2021-54093
15th of October 2021

Notification in accordance with Article 10 of the protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment to the Espoo convention regarding the plan and Strategic Assessment for Natura 2000-plans (2022-2027) in Denmark

Denmark hereby informs you of the consultation in connection with the scoping phase for the plan and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) regarding the Danish Natura 2000-plans (2022-2027).

The Danish Environmental Protection Agency will conduct a public hearing of the plans 3 weeks in Denmark and consequently a corresponding 4,5 weeks Espoo hearing according to Article 10 of the protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment to the Espoo-convention. The Espoo consultation period will be conducted from **15 October 2021 to 15 November 2021**.

Background

In Denmark the Natura 2000-plans are revised every sixth year. On this occasion, The Danish Environmental Protection Agency is working on revising the Natura 2000-plans for the 257 designated Natura 2000-sites in Denmark. The Natura 2000-plans must undergo a strategic environmental assessment-procedure. The scoping of this strategic environmental assessment is send for consultation to the relevant national authorities in Denmark for 3 weeks. At the same time, the Danish Environmental Protection Agency has decided to send the scoping in 4,5weeks Espoo hearing to the countries, who we assume have an interest in the Danish Natura 2000-planning, which concerns the protection and improvement of habitat types and species that occur in the designated Natura 2000-sites. The Danish Environmental Protection Agency expects to conduct a public hearing of the drafts to Natura 2000-plans at the end of 2021.

The scoping – content and procedure

The content as well as the main purpose of the strategic environmental assessment for the Natura 2000-plans will be outlined in the environmental report, as will the relation to other national plans and programs. Moreover, the strategic environmental assessment will contain a statement for the present environmental status, nature protection goals and relevant existing environmental problems in the different Natura 2000-sites.

The strategic environmental assessment explains and assesses possible and likely effects of the Natura 2000-plan on a number of environmental factors as shown below

- Flora, fauna and biological diversity
- The population
- Human health
- Soil
- Water
- Air
- Climatic factors
- Material goods
- Landscape
- Cultural heritage, including churches and their surroundings as well as architectural and archaeological heritage
- The interrelationship between these factors (a possible cumulative effect on the plan)

The likely impact of the Natura 2000-plan on the different environmental factors will be treated and explained on a level comparable to the degree of detail in the plans and also in relation to the hierarchy in which the plan is placed. In Denmark, the Natura 2000-plans forms the basis for a preparation of more detailed action plans. These action plans will contain a plan for realization of the action program in the Natura 2000-plans.

The action program differs between the Natura 2000-plans, but it will be the same series of actions that, all depending on the location of the different Natura 2000-sites and the habitat types and species that the sites are designated for, will go again across the Natura 2000-plans. A difference in the impact on the various environmental subjects, taking into account the area's location and designation basis, will be reflected in the strategic environmental assessment.

The Danish Environmental Protection Agency has decided that all the above-mentioned environmental subjects, is to be included in the strategic environmental assessments for all Natura 2000 plans.

Assessments in the strategic environmental assessment will be carried out on the basis of existing and available knowledge and data, for example from the basis-analyzes for the Natura 2000 sites, which assesses the condition of the Natura 2000-sites on the basis of data collected in the sites. Also, the strategic environmental assessment will be based on local knowledge and with the inclusion of other relevant knowledge where it is deemed necessary to be able to adequately explain the potential impact of Natura 2000-plans on the various environmental subjects.

Scoping of the environmental report

In the strategic environmental assessment for all plans, an assessment will be made as to whether and how the plan affects each of the above-mentioned environmental subjects.

Objectives and the action programs in the Natura 2000-plans aim to ensure and improve the presence and quality of the habitat types and species for which the Natura 2000-site has been designated. In the event that certain efforts may affect the various environmental subjects in other ways, this will explained in the

strategic environmental assessment, as will alternatives in a section of report, which deals specifically with implementation, priorities and choices. Also the SEA will describe present environmental problems, primarily nature threats in the different Natura 2000-sites, and explain how plan addresses these threats.

Flora, Fauna and Biodiversity

An assessment of the impact on flora, fauna and biological diversity will, in addition to dealing with an impact on the habitat types and species that the Natura 2000-site's is designated for, also relate to an impact on for example national protected nature sites, species listed in Annex IV of the Habitats Directive and threatened species.

The population and human health

The strategic environmental assessment for the individual Natura 2000-plans will assess and explain a probable or potential impact on the population and human health, for example in the form of the public and local people's access to recreational areas as well as opportunities for experiences in and getting further information of nature sites with higher nature quality and biodiversity. In addition, at an overall level corresponding to the level of the Natura 2000-plans, it will be assessed whether the plan is expected to lead to changes in access conditions to nature sites, due to certain parts of the action program, for example establishment of National Nature Park and/or planning for larger areas with undisturbed forest etc.

Soil, air, water and climatic factors

The strategic environmental assessment will include an account of the Natura 2000-plan's impact on soil, air, water (for example by reestablishing natural hydrology) and possibly climatic factors, for example a likely reduction in the release of CO₂ due to a part of the action program concerned with converting lowland soils to nature.

Cultural heritage, including churches, architectural and archaeological heritage

The strategic environmental assessment will include an assessment of a possible impact on landscape and cultural heritage, for example ancient monuments. Material goods related directly to economics are not included in the strategic environmental assessment.

Zero alternatives, remedial actions and surveillance

In addition to the above mentioned, the strategic environmental assessment will consider a zero alternative in relation to the present state of nature in the Natura 2000-sites, as well as suggestions on how to handle a possible negative impact of the plan on environmental subjects. Furthermore, the strategic environmental assessment will explain the monitoring of the Natura 2000-sites in correlation to the adoption of the plans, as well as an assessment of possible transboundary impacts on environmental subjects, including species and Natura 2000-sites across national borders.

Espoo Consultation

Denmark, as Party of origin, kindly asks you to answer to the following no later than **15th November 2021**:

- Please acknowledge receipt of the present notification and let us know if you wish to participate in the SEA-process,
- Please submit any comments you might have concerning the hearing material.

Please kindly send your comments to Espoo@mst.dk with reference to journal number **2021-54093**.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me

Kind regards,

Sif Zimmermann
Espoo Point of Contact
Danish Environmental Protection Agency
+45 21 99 57 45
sizi@mst.dk