



Annex 1: guidance for completing the PAF

Note: all texts in red in the **current** PAF format are for guidance purposes only and should either be replaced or deleted in the final document

A. Introduction

A.1 General introduction

The content of this section of the PAF should not be modified.

A.2 Structure of the current PAF format

The content of this section of the PAF should not be modified.

A.3 Introduction to the specific PAF of [Member States at national and or regional level]

PAFs are to be submitted by national authorities. However one PAF does not have to cover all administrative regions of the Member States. For this reason, provide a precise description of the geographic scope of the PAF.

In addition, provide any other information that is deemed useful to be presented here. This may include, for example:

- information about the administrative set-up and organisation of Natura 2000 management in the Member state and/or region(s) concerned
- information about the national/regional bodies involved in elaboration of this PAF;
- any stakeholder consultation processes related to elaboration of the PAF, and their results;
- a description of existing national or regional strategies in relation to green infrastructure;
- information about any particular challenges encountered in completing the PAF.

B. Summary of priority financing needs for the period 2021-2027

This section of the PAF shall provide a summary of all financing needs for the period 2021-2027. Figures should be based on a compilation of the financing needs identified in section E of this PAF.

C. Current state of the Natura 2000 network

C.1. Area statistics of the Natura 2000 network

Provide a brief description of the current progress in terms of site selection and establishment of the Natura 2000 network in the Member State or region(s) covered by this PAF. Is the network considered to be complete or is there still a need for identifying and proposing any additional sites?

In the table in this section, provide all relevant area statistics for the network.

For PAFs covering multiple administrative regions, a breakdown per region is recommended if regional-level EU funding programmes are expected under the next MFF.

C.2. Map of the Natura 2000 network in [the Member State or region(s) concerned]

In this section, provide a map of the Natura 2000 network, showing the location and extent of sites designated under the EU Birds and Habitats Directives. If available, this or a separate map shall also show the location and extent of any regional green infrastructure (GI) network, provided this network is designed to contribute to the coherence of Natura 2000.

D. EU and national financing of the Natura 2000 network during the period 2014 – 2020

In the tables in this section, indicate financing relevant for Natura 2000 from the various EU funds and national sources, during the period 2014–2020.

If no funding was available under the specific measure or category of expenditure, please leave empty.

If no precise data on funding exists (particularly in relation to indirect funding, i.e. under measures or projects, which do not primarily target Natura 2000 but which provide co-benefits for nature protection), provide approximate figures, using for example percentage values. The guidance documents on definition and criteria for biodiversity expenditure in the EU, developed for the European Commission¹, provide a methodological background for such analysis. In each case, in the comments section, indicate how the figure was calculated.

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/financing_en.htm

Under individual measures or categories of expenditure indicate only the part relevant for Natura 2000 (e.g. under M10 'agri-environment climate measures' extract and aggregate only these sub-measures and actions that are relevant for Natura 2000).

For PAFs covering multiple administrative regions, a breakdown per region is recommended if submission of regional EU funding programmes is foreseen for the MFF 2021–2027.

For individual EU funds provide the following information:

EAFRD

- total current allocation to individual measures (EU contribution and national co-financing);
- current allocation to measures relevant for Natura 2000 (e.g. under M10 'agri-environment climate measures' extract and aggregate only these sub-measures and actions that are relevant for Natura 2000). If no funding was available under the specific measure or category of expenditure, please leave empty;
- current spending on measures relevant for Natura 2000 (EU contribution and national co-financing);
- information on the relevance of the measure for maintenance and restoration of Natura 2000 sites (to what extent these measures are tailored to the needs of Natura 2000; to what extent it was possible to secure financing for Natura 2000 under these measures; if changes in allocation levels have been made since adoption the programmes, provide information on their character and justification); provide comments on how the experience with the use of these measures could be useful for programming funds in the next MFF.

ERDF/CF:

- total current allocation to category of expenditure 85 and 86 (EU contribution and national co-financing);
- spending on category 85 and 86 (EU contribution and national co-financing);
- allocation and spending on other measures relevant for Natura 2000 only in so far as they contribute to maintenance and restoration of Natura 2000 (e.g. category 87 adaptation to climate change or 88 risk prevention);
- information on the relevance of the measure to maintenance and restoration of Natura 2000 sites (to what extent these measures are tailored to the needs of Natura 2000; to what extent it was possible to secure financing for Natura 2000 under these measures; if changes in allocation levels have been made since adoption the programmes provide information on their character and justification); provide comments on how the experience with the use of these measures could be useful for programming funds in the next MFF.

EMFF:

Allocations in the EMFF OPs are made at EU priority level. There are six priorities, two of which are particularly relevant for Natura 2000: (1) promoting environmentally sustainable, resource-efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge-based fisheries and (2) fostering environmentally sustainable, resource-efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge-based aquaculture. These priorities are implemented by pursuing, among others, the following specific objectives:

- 1(b) protection and restoration of aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems;
- 2(c) the protection and restoration of aquatic biodiversity and the enhancement of ecosystems related to aquaculture and the promotion of resource-efficient aquaculture.

These objectives are implemented by specific measures, several of which are relevant for Natura 2000 (particularly the ones listed in Articles 40, 44, and 54).

List measures that contribute to maintenance and restoration of the Natura 2000 sites and indicate funding allocated to these measures. Provide information on the relevance of the measure to maintenance and restoration of Natura 2000 sites (to what extent these measures are tailored to the needs of Natura 2000; to what extent it was possible to secure financing for Natura 2000 under these measures; if changes in allocation levels have been made since adoption the programmes provide information on their character and justification); provide comments on how the experience with the use of these measures could be useful for programming funds in the next MFF.

LIFE:

List those LIFE projects co-financed under the current MFF that contribute to maintenance and restoration of Natura 2000 sites and indicate funding allocated to these projects. Explain how the experience with these projects could be useful for programming funds in the next MFF.

Other EU funds including Interreg:

If relevant, provide information about other EU funds contributing to maintenance and restoration of the Natura 2000, wider biodiversity including protected species of EU interest and green infrastructure.

Other national financing for the Natura 2000 network, green infrastructure and species protection in 2014-2020:

Provide information about national financing for the Natura 2000 network, green infrastructure and species protection, other than national co-financing allocated to EU funds.

E. Priority measures and financing needs for 2021–2027

Note on prioritisation of Natura 2000 site related measures: Taking into account the provisions of Article 6(2) of the Habitats Directives, i.e. the obligation to prevent deterioration of the sites, it is expected that any financing needs for those management measures that are required to avoid deterioration of species and habitats in the sites should be identified as priorities in any PAF. This would in particular apply to any Natura 2000-related measures targeting species and habitats that require an active agricultural management (e.g. "agri-environmental measures").

Further priority measures should be identified with the aim to achieve measurable improvements in the conservation status of species and habitats that are currently in an unfavourable conservation status. Taking into account that the EU nature directives do not provide any further guidance on prioritization, it is for to the national or regional authorities to decide on the improvement-related measures that are considered as priorities for the next MFF period.

Note on allocation of financing needs to EU financial instruments: the allocation of financing needs to certain EU programmes will only be possible once the architecture of the future MFF in relation to the structure of the different funds will be known. Therefore, PAFs can only reliably identify the specific future EU programmes from which co-funding is being sought once the scope and their funding rules are being known. As long as this is not the case, the relevant column (on allocation of

needs to financing instruments) in the tables listing priority measures and their costs should be left empty.

E.1. Horizontal measures and administrative costs related to Natura 2000

E.1.1. Site designation and management planning

Current status and progress made so far in terms of site identification, designation and management planning (situation: DD/MM/YY)

Provide a synthetic description of the process that has been leading to legal site designation, setting of site level conservation objectives and setting of site-level conservation and restoration measures. Is this process completed or is it still ongoing? Are objectives and measures updated on a regular basis? How detailed and specific are site-level conservation objectives and measures? What is the status of objectives and measures? Etc.

In the table in this section, provide the most up-to-date statistics of the Natura 2000 network of sites, in terms of progress with legal (SAC) designation of sites, setting of conservation objectives and setting of site-level conservation measures, in the frame of management plans or equivalent instruments.

Further measures needed

Describe any additional measures (both in terms of continuation of existing measures, and in terms of any new measures) that are expected to be necessary after 2020 to support designation of Natura 2000 sites and establishment or updating site-level conservation objectives and measures.

Prioritization of measures to be implemented during the next MFF period

Priority measures are those that should be implemented during the next MFF period (2021-2027). If relevant, explain the criteria for prioritization of measures.

(Alternatively, you may indicate that all measures in this specific section are considered a priority)

List of prioritized measures to be carried out, and estimated costs for these measures

In the table in this section, list all prioritized measures to be carried out during the next MFF period. The level of detail in the description of each of the measures should be sufficient to understand how the cost was calculated. Quantified targets should be provided in the description of the measure, whenever available.

For PAFs covering multiple administrative regions, a breakdown of the measures per region is recommended if the use of regional-level EU funding programmes is anticipated under the next MFF.

Expected results

Indicate the expected impact (not to be confused with a description of the measures themselves) of full implementation of the listed prioritized measures.

E.1.2. Site administration and communication with stakeholders

Current status and progress made so far in terms of site administration and communication with stakeholders

Describe the current situation (mid-2018) in terms of the administration of the Natura 2000 network of sites, and communication with relevant stakeholders. If relevant, describe any existing communication strategies or approaches to promote stakeholder engagement, incl. through the use of modern communication technologies.

Further measures needed

Describe any additional measures (both in terms of continuation of existing measures, and in terms of any new measures) that are expected to be necessary after 2020 to ensure effective site administration and communication with stakeholders.

Prioritization of measures to be implemented during the next MFF period

Priority measures are those that should be implemented during the next MFF period (2021-2027). If relevant, explain the criteria for prioritization of measures.

(Alternatively, you may indicate that all measures in this specific section are considered a priority)

List of prioritized measures to be carried out, and estimated costs for these measures

In the table in this section, list all prioritized measures to be carried out during the next MFF period. The level of detail in the description of each of the measures should be sufficient to understand how the cost was calculated. Quantified targets should be provided in the description of the measure, whenever available.

For PAFs covering multiple administrative regions, a breakdown of the measures per region is recommended if the use of regional-level EU funding programmes is anticipated under the next MFF.

Expected results

Indicate the expected impact (not to be confused with a description of the measures themselves) of full implementation of the listed prioritized measures.

E.1.3. Monitoring and reporting

Current status and progress made so far in terms of monitoring and reporting

Describe the current situation (mid-2018) in terms of compliance with monitoring and reporting requirements, including site level monitoring and reporting, monitoring and reporting under Article 17 Habitats Directive, Article 12 Birds Directive, etc.

Further measures needed

Describe any additional measures (both in terms of continuation of existing measures, and in terms of any new measures) that are expected to be necessary after 2020 to ensure compliance with monitoring and reporting requirements under the EU Nature directives.

Prioritization of measures to be implemented during the next MFF period

Priority measures are those that should be implemented during the next MFF period (2021-2027). If relevant, explain the criteria for prioritization of measures.

(Alternatively, you may indicate that all measures in this specific section are considered a priority)

List of prioritized measures to be carried out, and estimated costs for these measures

In the table in this section, list all prioritized measures to be carried out during the next MFF period. The level of detail in the description of each of the measures should be sufficient to understand how the cost was calculated. Quantified targets should be provided in the description of the measure, whenever available.

For PAFs covering multiple administrative regions, a breakdown of the measures per region is recommended if the use of regional-level EU funding programmes is anticipated under the next MFF.

Expected results

Indicate the expected impact (not to be confused with a description of the measures themselves) of full implementation of the listed prioritized measures.

E.1.4. Remaining knowledge gaps and research needs

Current status

Describe the current situation (mid-2018) in terms of knowledge used for the implementation of the EU Nature directives and Natura 2000.

Further measures needed

Describe any additional measures (both in terms of continuation of existing measures, and in terms of any new measures) that are expected to be necessary after 2020 to fill remaining knowledge gaps.

Prioritization of measures to be implemented during the next MFF period

Priority measures are those that should be implemented during the next MFF period (2021-2027). If relevant, explain the criteria for prioritization of measures.

(Alternatively, you may indicate that all measures in this specific section are considered a priority)

List of prioritized measures to be carried out, and estimated costs for these measures

In the table in this section, list all prioritized measures to be carried out during the next MFF period. The level of detail in the description of each of the measures should be sufficient to understand how the cost was calculated. Quantified targets should be provided in the description of the measure, whenever available.

For PAFs covering multiple administrative regions, a breakdown of the measures per region is recommended if the use of regional-level EU funding programmes is anticipated under the next MFF.

Expected results

Indicate the expected impact (not to be confused with a description of the measures themselves) of full implementation of the listed prioritized measures.

E.1.5. Natura 2000-related communication and awareness raising measures, education and visitor access

Current status

Describe the current situation (mid-2018) in terms of Natura 2000 related general communication and awareness-raising measures, education, access to visitors, etc.

Further measures needed

Describe any additional measures (both in terms of continuation of existing measures, and in terms of any new measures) that are expected to be necessary after 2020 for Natura 2000-related general communication and awareness-raising measures, education, access to visitors, etc.

Prioritization of measures to be implemented during the next MFF period

Priority measures are those that should be implemented during the next MFF period (2021-2027). If relevant, explain the criteria for prioritization of measures.

(Alternatively, you may indicate that all measures in this specific section are considered a priority)

List of prioritized measures to be carried out, and estimated costs for these measures

In the table in this section, list all prioritized measures to be carried out during the next MFF period. The level of detail in the description of each of the measures should be sufficient to understand how the cost was calculated. Quantified targets should be provided in the description of the measure, whenever available.

For PAFs covering multiple administrative regions, a breakdown of the measures per region is recommended if the use of regional-level EU funding programmes is anticipated under the next MFF.

Expected results

Indicate the expected impact (not to be confused with a description of the measures themselves) of full implementation of the listed prioritized measures.

E.1.6. References (for horizontal measures and administrative costs related to Natura 2000)

Provide a list of key references (if possible with web-links) to underpin the above information about current situation, additional needs, prioritization, cost estimates and expected results.

E.2 Site-related maintenance and restoration measures, within and beyond Natura 2000

Note on the level of detail of information to be provided in the PAF: When presenting the requested information on current situation, additional measures needed, prioritization and listing of priority measures, national/regional authorities completing the PAF are advised to remain sufficiently synthetic, so as to avoid that the PAF becomes an excessively long document.² Simplification can be achieved for example by grouping measures and financing needs for several habitat types and species into "measure clusters" with similar types of management requirements and similar costs per hectare. When creating such clusters, care should be taken to provide the most relevant information on area to be covered by the measure.

Note on allocation of habitat types, species, priority measures and associated costs to large ecosystems categories: An essential component of the current PAF format is the required breakdown of the Natura 2000 and green infrastructure-related conservation and restoration measures per broad ecosystem category. The proposed ecosystem typology of 8 classes is very largely based on the MAES typology, which was established as a conceptual basis for an EU wide ecosystem assessment. A comprehensive database allocating individual species and habitat types of EU importance to the MAES ecosystems is available for download from the European Environment Agency website³. It is recommended that the allocation of measures and costs to ecosystem types should wherever possible follow this typology⁴.

Current status of habitats and species, conservation measures taken until now and their impact so far, remaining pressures and threats

Provide a synthetic overview of the current status of species and habitats for which Natura 2000 sites are designated (you may refer to relevant web-links such as the EEA's Article 17 web tool <https://bd.eionet.europa.eu/article17/reports2012/> or the Article 12 web tool <https://bd.eionet.europa.eu/article12/>). Provide a brief description of measures already undertaken, and of their impacts.

Relevant elements for this summary are notably available from the following information sources:

- information on conservation status, trends and favourable reference values (based on Article 17 and 12 data, national, regional or site-level conservation objectives);
- total area of a habitat/ total population of a species (based on Article 17 and 12 data);

² Any more detailed documentation about priority measures and their costs can be added as annexes to the PAF.

³ Linkages of species and habitat types to MAES ecosystems <https://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/data/linkages-of-species-and-habitat#tab-european-data>

⁴ For example, Natura 2000-related measure targeting the maintenance or restoration of species living in orchards shall be listed under the section on "Other agroecosystems (including croplands)".

- % coverage of habitats/ species by the Natura 2000 network of sites (based on Article 17 and 12 data; Natura 2000 database, etc.);
- key pressures and threats to be addressed.

Measures needed to maintain or restore favourable conservation status

Describe any measures (both in terms of continuation of existing measures, and in terms of any new measures) that are expected to be necessary after 2020 to maintain or restore favourable conservation status of species and habitats for which Natura 2000 sites are designated. Insofar as possible, use figures in line with the Favourable reference values, as reported in the most recent report according to Article 17 of the Habitats Directive.

Prioritization of measures to be implemented during the next MFF period

Priority measures are those that should be implemented during the next MFF period (2021-2027). If relevant, explain the criteria for prioritization of measures.

List of prioritized measures to be carried out, and estimated costs for these measures

In the tables in this section, list all prioritized measures to be carried out during the next MFF period. The level of detail in the description of each of the measures should be sufficient to understand how the cost was calculated. Quantified targets should be provided in the description of the measure, whenever available.

For Natura 2000 sites in relation to which site management plans or other relevant planning documents have established the necessary maintenance or restoration measures, a full coherence of priority measures listed in the PAF with these documents shall be ensured.

In the tables in this section, ensure a clear distinction between Article 6.1 measures (i.e. measures required for achieving site-level conservation objectives for species and habitat types for which the sites are designated, incl. measures for bird species in SPAs) and wider green infrastructure measures.

For PAFs covering multiple administrative regions, a breakdown of the measures per region is recommended if the use of regional-level EU funding programmes is anticipated under the next MFF.

Expected results for targeted species and habitat types

Indicate the expected impact of full implementation of the listed prioritized measures on the targeted habitat and species, using for example parameters such as range and area of the habitat, structures and functions, future prospects (for habitat types), or range, population size, habitat of the species and future prospects (for species).

Expected results: other benefits

Indicate the expected results of full implementation of the listed prioritized measures, taking into account any additional socio-economic (jobs and growth, recreational and tourism, education, etc.) and environmental benefits (ecosystem services, climate change mitigation, etc.).

E.2.10. References for site-related maintenance and restoration measures within and beyond Natura 2000

Provide a list of key references (if possible with web-links) to underpin the above information about current situation, additional needs, prioritization, cost estimates and expected results.

E.3. Additional species-specific measures not related to specific ecosystems or habitats

E.3.1. Species-specific measures and programmes not covered elsewhere

Note: this section is specifically designed for the identification and listing of priority measures and associated costs for species protection measures covering species of EU importance under the EU Birds and Habitats Directive, other than those measures related to Natura 2000 or associated wider green infrastructure. Possible examples of measures that could be covered under this section include species protection measures for species covered by Annex IV of the Habitats Directive (e.g. agri-environment programmes or measures for the hamster), any horizontal measures in the wider countryside benefiting widespread species such as skylark or turtle dove, etc.

Current status of the species

Summarize the current status of relevant species not covered elsewhere in this PAF (incl. species listed in Annex IV and V of the Habitats Directive) and provide a brief description of the measures undertaken already and of their impact. Relevant elements for this summary are notably available from the following information sources:

- total population of a species (based on Article 17 and 12 data);
- information on conservation status, trends and favourable reference values (based on Article 17 and 12 data, national, regional or site-level conservation objectives);
- key pressures and threats to be addressed.

Measures needed to maintain or restore favourable conservation status

Describe any additional measures (both in terms of continuation of existing measures, and in terms of new measures) that are expected to be necessary after 2020 to maintain or restore favourable conservation status of these species.

Prioritization of measures to be implemented during the next MFF period

Priority measures are those that should be implemented during the next MFF period (2021-2027). If relevant, explain the criteria for prioritization of measures.

List of prioritized measures to be carried out, and estimated costs for these measures

In the tables in this section, list all prioritized measures to be carried out during the next MFF period. The level of detail in the description of each of the measures should be sufficient to understand how the cost was calculated. Quantified targets should be provided in the description of the measure, whenever available.

For PAFs covering multiple administrative regions, a breakdown of the measures per region is recommended if the use of regional-level EU funding programmes is anticipated under the next MFF.

Expected results for targeted species

Indicate the expected impact of full implementation of the listed prioritized measures on the targeted species, in relation to parameters such as species' range, population size, habitat of the species, or any other relevant parameters.

Expected results: other benefits

Indicate the expected results of full implementation of the listed prioritized measures, taking into account any additional socio-economic (jobs and growth, recreational and tourism, education, etc.) and environmental benefits (ecosystem services, climate change mitigation, etc.)

E.3.2. Prevention, mitigation or compensation of damage caused by protected species

Note: this section is specifically designed for the listing of priority measures and their associated costs related to prevention mitigation or compensation of damage caused by species that are protected under the EU Birds and Habitats Directives. Typical examples of measures under this section include measures for preventing damage caused by large carnivores, cormorants, herons, etc., compensatory or mitigation measures for damage to private property caused by beavers, etc. Both the actual measures and their administrative costs may be presented under this section.

Current status in terms of prevention, mitigation and compensation for damages

Summarize the current status of implementation of prevention, mitigation and compensation measures for damage caused by species that are protected under the EU Birds and Habitats Directives. For each of the species or species groups that are subject to such measures, describe briefly:

- key pressures and threats to be addressed;
- the main measures taken and their annual costs;
- the effectiveness so far of the measures undertaken in terms of prevention, mitigation or compensation of damage;
- the impact of the measures on the conservation status taken of the species / species group.

Measures needed

Describe any measures (both in terms of continuation of existing measures, and in terms of any new measures) that are expected to be necessary after 2020 to prevent, mitigate or compensate damage by protected species.

Prioritization of measures to be implemented during the next MFF period

Priority measures are those that should be implemented during the next MFF period (2021-2027). If relevant, explain the criteria for prioritization of measures.

List of prioritized measures to be carried out, and estimated costs for these measures

In the tables in this section, list all prioritized measures to be carried out during the next MFF period. The level of detail in the description of each of the measures should be sufficient to understand how the cost was calculated. Quantified targets should be provided in the description of the measure, whenever available.

For PAFs covering multiple administrative regions, a breakdown of the measures per region is recommended if the use of regional-level EU funding programmes is anticipated under the next MFF.

Expected results for targeted species

Indicate the expected impact of full implementation of the listed prioritized measures on the targeted species, in relation to parameters such as species' range, population size, habitat of the species, or any other relevant parameters.

Expected results: other benefits

Indicate the expected results of full implementation of the listed prioritized measures in terms of socio-economic impact and stakeholder acceptance.

E.3.3. References for species-specific measures not related to specific ecosystems or habitats

Provide a list of key references (if possible with web-links) to underpin the above information about current situation, additional needs, prioritization, cost estimates and expected results.

B. Further added values of the prioritized measures

List all additional benefits (not already covered elsewhere) that would be achieved through a full implementation of the prioritized measures identified through this PAF (e.g. on sustainable tourism, employment and other socio-economic impacts, ecosystem services, climate change mitigation and adaptation, air and water quality, disaster risk prevention and management, health, research, education, knowledge and promotion of co-operation (including cross-border)). Please quantify, if possible.