



Ministry of Environment, Luxembourg – Eurosites Workshop

Natura 2000 Site Managers: their key role, profile and importance for Europe's nature

Dates: 6 to 8 October 2010

Cost: Free

Working Language: English

Location: Schengen, Luxembourg – (<http://www1.hostelworld.com/hosteldetails.php/Youth-Hostel-Schengen/Schengen/30235/directions>)

Target Audience: Staff from Statutory Agencies & NGOs – specifically:

- Site Managers working especially on Natura 2000 sites;
- Staff working in outreach / public information functions (Interpretation and Access) in Natura 2000 areas;
- Managers of Site Managers;
- Human Resource staff working directly to support recruitment, training and professional development of Natura 2000 site managers.

Workshop Aims:

The main aim of this workshop is to discuss practical ways to support transfer of knowledge and innovation between practitioners across Europe about the key role of site managers in implementing Natura 2000 and contribute to improving site management effectiveness. Drawing upon the experience and knowledge of participants, the workshop will enable comparison and benchmarking of approaches in different countries around Europe. In addition, it will establish contact between site management practitioners and support service staff. There are 5 case study contributions being planned – each case study will describe actual sites and present 'real life' useful experiences:

- To discuss, exchange and compare practical experiences of Natura 2000 site managers working around Europe in protecting, maintaining and enhancing Europe's nature:
 - What does being a Natura 2000 site manager entail?
 - How does being a Natura 2000 site manager differ from site managers in other protected areas?
 - What are the specific challenges and critical success factors required to ensure improved and more effective site management?
- To build understanding about the core roles and responsibilities of site managers in practice implementing Natura 2000;
- To exchange ideas about the profile attached to Natura 2000 site managers, especially in terms of local coordination and stakeholder involvement and site-based staff training and professional development functions.

Generously hosted by the Environment Ministry of Luxembourg, there is no fee to attend this workshop - all meals and local transport for site visits, will be covered by the Ministry. The only costs are individual's own transport to Luxembourg and two-nights accommodation costs.

Planned Outcomes

- To have discussed core information, essential to support improved structure and knowledge exchange about European site (protected area) management;
- To have commenced scoping of learning outcomes and training needs related to core activities delivered by site (protected area) managers, in order to compare and innovate professional development programmes.

Programme Overview

Effective implementation of the Natura 2000 network of sites is essential to halt the loss of Europe's biodiversity: in turn, this requires effective site management and site managers. Site managers are key players, central to realising the intent of the Birds and Habitats Directives, the core legislation underpinning Natura 2000. Understanding who site managers are, what they do, how they work and why they work in particular ways, is critical to the achievement of nature conservation priorities in Europe now and in the future.

This workshop gives practicing site managers, their managers, other site-based staff and human resources specialists the opportunity to compare practices and approaches in different countries, build understanding about the challenges and define critical success factors involved in effective site management practice. The workshop acknowledges that, to achieve effective on-site site management, integrated approaches are required within and between different departments and other organisations. In particular, the workshop will:

- Draw on the experience of practicing site managers to gain understanding about their roles and responsibilities within different sites across Europe – focus will be given to core functions required for site management practice today and the future;
- Define core competencies, skills, training and professional development needs essential to support and enable site managers to perform effectively in their core functions;
- Give opportunities to look at specific needs in areas such as forest management, outreach work, communication and education;
- Discuss means and methods to support more integrated approaches to site management, as that is increasingly required to achieve nature conservation goals.

National experts and international speakers will focus on one or more of these key topics, presenting their sites and sharing their management experiences. Emphasis will be placed on drawing out and confirming best practice, as that will be useful for all participants, as well as wider audiences through the workshop report – the workshop will help them to compare approaches, learn and, where necessary, improve standards.

Building on the results and key findings of Days 1 & 2, the final morning of the workshop will focus on refining and agreeing key messages identified during the workshop: there will also be a session to discuss the potential to develop a LEONARDO project as a key output and as a means to take forward results.

Location & Site Visits

The workshop will take place in Shengen, a small winemaking village and commune in far South Eastern Luxembourg, near the point where the borders of Germany, France, and Luxembourg meet. Other villages within the commune include Remerschen and Wintrange. Description of site visits to follow. As a Eurosite workshop, great emphasis is placed on the value of on-site learning and exchange of practical experience 'in the field'. During the course of the three-days, there will be a mix of presentations, interactive discussions, group work sessions and site visits. .

DRAFT v 4 Oct 2010

Eurosite Workshop Outline Programme – all timings indicative only

DAY 1 - WEDNESDAY 6TH OCTOBER 2010

Venue:

Auberge de Jeunesse Remerschen/ Remerschen Youth Hostel,
31, Wäistrooss, L-5440, REMERSCHEN

Click link for map:

http://youthhostels.lu/auberges-de-jeunesse-luxembourgeoises/schengen-remerschen/acces/10_114_133_FR.html

- 12:30 Arrivals, registration & buffet lunch
- 13:45 Welcome to Luxembourg! The workshop will be co-chaired by Frank Wolff, Ministry of Environment, Luxembourg & Neil McIntosh, Eurosite
- Introduction to Eurosite, the workshop, its purpose and planned outcomes;
 - Welcome by Minister Schank of the Ministry for Sustainable Development & Infrastructure, Luxembourg
 - Overview of Natura 2000 Luxembourg – Frank Wolff
 - Participants introductions
- 14:30 **Site visit 1** – by foot, in the local area – understanding the issues and priorities
Haff Réimech Nature Reserve
- A former gravel extraction site and, in the 1970s, a candidate site for the construction of a nuclear plant, Haff Réimech stands for the perseverance of the pioneers of nature conservation in Luxembourg, who fought for its designation as a protected area. Today, Haff Réimech is the prime bird conservation area in Luxembourg, a special protection area and Ramsar site. Eurasian penduline tit, great crested grebes and great reed warbler are some of the species commonly observed in Haff Réimech. In autumn Haff Réimech represents an important resting site for migrating birds. Chances are that species like osprey, ferruginous duck, western great egret, little egret, purple heron may be observed. Haff Réimech is situated in close vicinity of the workshops main location. An early guided tour will be organised, lead by a local birdwatcher.
- 18:00 Free-time/ check into accommodation
- 19:00 Evening meal at 'A Possen' in Bech-Kleinmacher

DAY 2 - THURSDAY 7TH OCTOBER 2010

Venue: Centre D'Accueil/ Visitors' Centre "Ellergronn"
Situating close to the Rue Jean-Pierre Bausch, L-4114, ESCH/ ALZETTE

Click link for map:

http://www.environnement.public.lu/conserv_nature/publications/Centre_d_accueil_Ellergronn/Ellergronn_dep_FR.pdf

The venue for Day 2 of the workshop is a former mining building, recently transformed into the visitor and educational centre, Ellergronn.

- 09:00 – 09:15 Introduction to Day 2
- 09:15 – 09:45 **Case study 1 - UK**
Managing National Nature Reserves in Scotland: *Chris Donald, Scottish Natural Heritage*
- 09:45 – 10:30 **Case study 2 - Croatia**
Natura 2000 in Croatia – towards implementation and management: *Ivana Plavac & Biljana Ivičić, State Institute for Natura Conservation, Croatia.*
- 10:30 – 11:15 Questions & discussion. There will also be a coffee break and a chance to view display material in the Visitors' Centre
- 11.15 – 12:00 **Case study 3 – Luxembourg**
Jan Herr, from the Nature and Forestry Administration, Luxembourg, will talk about specific issues facing Natura 2000 site managers in Luxembourg.
- 12:00 – 13:00 Questions & discussion – key messages emerging?
- 13:00 – 14:00 Lunch
- 14:00 – 14:30 **Case study 4**
LIFE+: how can site managers use it today and what for? How may this key funding instrument change in the future?
Angelo Salsi, DG Env. LIFE Nature Unit
- 14.30 – 18:00 **Site visit 2** – Haardt in Dudelange
A guided tour with representatives of the national administration for nature and forest - Ellergronn together with a series of former open landmines in the southern part of Luxembourg, represents another astonishing example on how nature is capable of reclaiming heavily modified landscapes to a point that today they represent some of the most biodiverse regions of the whole country. Known for its extraordinary diversity of insects, Ellergronn also harbours thriving populations of reptiles, amphibians and birds, not to mention the characteristic flora associates with dry meadows and early succession stages. Management of these sites is crucial in order to prevent natural succession to slowly transform them into forested landscapes. A number of established and innovative techniques are being put into practice to maintain this rich but fragile ecosystem.
- 18:00 – 19:30 Evening meal at 'Bei der Giedel', Lasauvage, followed by return to Schengen

DAY 3 - FRIDAY 8TH OCTOBER 2010

Venue: Auberge de Jeunesse Remerschen/ Remerschen Youth Hostel,
31, Wäistrooss, L-5440, REMERSCHEM

Click link for map:

http://youthhostels.lu/auberges-de-jeunesse-luxembourgeoises/schengen-remerschen/acces/10_114_133_FR.html

This is the same venue as Day 1.

OPTIONAL - Pre-workshop guided bird-watching tour – Haff Réimech. Departs 7.30 a.m.

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| 09:00 – 09:15 | Re-cap/ review by Chair |
| 09:15 – 09:45 | Key feedback from recent Eurosite projects & events relevant to this workshop:
<i>Nicole Nowicki, Eurosite</i> |
| 09:45 – 10:15 | <u>Case study 5</u>

Presentation of the challenges of managing the meadows in the Krkonose Mountains: <i>Stanislav Brezina, The Krkonose Mountains National Park</i> |
| 10:15 – 10:45 | Questions/ discussion |
| 10:45 – 11:15 | Coffee/ Tea |
| 11:15 – 12:30 | Designing “Super Site Manager”! – transferring knowledge/ scoping a potential LEONARDO project, factoring in the Luxembourg workshop discussions:
<i>Naik Faucon, ATEN, France - defining core roles, skills, responsibilities etc.</i> |
| 12:30 – 13:00 | Summary conclusions and agreed next steps |
| 13:00 – 14:00 | Lunch, followed by departure |