




NATURE SCORE CARD



Denmark

Denmark has been a member of the European Union since 1973. Its Natura 2000 network consists of 350 sites, covering 22647km². Terrestrial sites are covering 3594km² (8.34% of the land area) while marine N2000 sites are covering 19053km². The below analysis and recommendations suggest that national authorities still need to make further efforts in order to fully implement the Birds and Habitats Directives and effective conservation of threatened species and habitats to be achieved on the ground.

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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transposition • Habitats and species monitoring |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site designation • Management of sites • Avoid deterioration of sites, disturbance of species and implementation of appropriate assessments • Promotion of research • Non-native species • Stakeholder engagement, public participation and communication • Funding & resources |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Species protection • Landscape connectivity |

ACTION PLAN FOR NATURE IN DENMARK

Transposition and designation

- Designate larger proportion of land area to increase connectivity or reduce fragmentation.

Prevention of negative impacts

- More attractive types of agreements for management of sites are strongly needed, in particular, compensation levels in the schemes proposed need to be increased to make these more attractive to landowners.

Active management to achieve favourable conservation status

- Mapping the extent of known threats to habitat nature types such as invasive alien species and address these through adequate measures in the management plans.
- Site specific criteria for achieving "favourable conservation status" should be developed and integrated into management plans, supported with adequate measures in order to move towards the identified objective.

Funding

- Producing additional species action plans and making more funds available for their implementation is urgently needed.
- Include costs and specific financing plans in the Management plans for each designated area. As a first step Danish authorities should update with financing the needs for Natura 2000 in the context of the update of the PAFs.
- The inclusion in national and regional budgets of the value of N2000 and the benefits the network delivers (e.g. TEEB-type analysis) is strongly needed to give a balanced picture of costs associated with meeting Natura 2000 obligations.

Monitoring and research

Stakeholder engagement

- Awareness raising activities on Natura 2000 are needed.

The information in this scorecard is based on expert analysis from Danmarks Naturfredningsforening
Full details on the following pages.

| LEGAL REQUIREMENT | STATUS IN DENMARK |
|--|---|
| Transposition | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transposition of the Birds and Habitats Directives into national legislation is complete. |
| Site designation Designate and establish sites that form the Natura 2000 network of protected areas <i>Habitats Directive, art. 3 & 4</i> <i>Birds Directive, art. 3 & 4</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Danish terrestrial Natura 2000 network is extremely fragmented, and consists of mostly small sites. Denmark has the smallest part of land area designated as Natura 2000 within the EU. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Danish government considers the network complete but not by green stakeholders: there is little prioritisation or only part of areas has been designated. The Government has denied requests to designate new N2000 sites which would be targeted at nature types that Denmark has designated less than what is generally required (min 40% priority nature types, min 20% of not-priority) - There is major revision of the boundaries of individual sites taking place this is expected to result in a decrease of the overall area designated. At present the government has proposed to exclude 23,000 hectares of the 330,000 hectares in designated area. A formal process with the Commission is planned to take place in 2018. - It should be noted that excluded area is farmland and infrastructure. NGOs are at present considering how to address the EU Commission on this. - BirdLife Denmark considers the designation of terrestrial SPAs unsatisfactory as well as for some marine SPAs. • The Natura 2000 sites are integrated in Denmark protected areas' system. |
| Management of sites Establish site protection measures in Natura 2000 sites <i>Habitats Directive, art. 6(1)</i> <i>Birds Directives, art. 4(1) & 4(2)</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation objectives have been set. These objectives at the site level adequate. Management Plans have been developed, consisting of two elements. An action program that sets overall targets for the specific site produced by the ministry. Within these set targets, the municipality makes an action plan for the site. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Danish management plans are limited on a number of levels. Danish legislation prevents municipalities from defining measures that would identify specific locations within the plans. This is a source of difficulties in reaching targets through voluntary agreements with landowners. The purpose of this vagueness is to prevent conflict with landowners who would otherwise be reluctant in participating depending on the measures. - Management plans are partly implemented. First generation plans are now to be evaluated and second generation plans are under way. Expectations are that targets will not be met on an overall national level. - The designated management authorities for Natura 2000 sites are municipalities for private land, ministry for state owned land. |
| Species protection Ensure species protection <i>Habitats Directive, art. 12-16</i> <i>Birds Directive, art. 5-9</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are approved species action plans for protected species for most annex IV species yes, but not all annex IV / V species, such as species on the national redlist (e.g. pine marten on annex V). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There are 2262 species of plants, animals and sponges are on the national red list. Of these, 893 species are not in the annexes of the Habitats or Birds Directives. No management targets nor obligations have been set for these and are not covered within the action plans. • There are derogations for activities impacting protected species being issued and published. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In Denmark hunting is allowed on bird species on the EU Redlist. This is not in accordance with the EU Hunting Guide, as also confirmed by the European Commission. - BirdLife Denmark has concerns that Danish legislation is not in accordance with the Birds Directive with regard to trade with stuffed birds. |

Avoid deterioration of sites, disturbance of species and appropriate assessment

Ensure no deterioration of habitats and disturbance to species in Natura 2000 sites

Habitats Directive, art.6(2)

Ensure that plans or projects likely to affect Natura 2000 sites are subject to appropriate assessment

Habitats Directive 6(3)

Ensure that developments affecting the integrity of the site are not approved unless there are no alternative solutions, and for imperative reasons of overriding public interest and if compensatory measures are taken

Habitats Directive 6(4)

- Management under article 6(3) procedures of sites is not satisfactory in regard to the slow deterioration especially by nitrogen deposition. Monitoring shows deterioration for several nature types on a national scale.
- Article 6 procedures to assess projects and plans implemented are adequately implemented.
 - Assessments are generally taken serious and are thoroughly conducted by competent experts.
 - Danish law lists in annexes what projects or permissions that must undergo assessment. Hence some types of projects may not be included, as the annex may not be complete.
 - There have been several cases where evaluators are not qualified. Most of these cases are laid before a board, through complaints. And hence improved afterward.
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 - Effects are generally correctly held against objectives. But possible cumulative effects are usually not included or considered.
 - The precautionary principle has not been applied.

Landscape connectivity

Encourage the management of landscape features to improve the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 network

Habitats Directive art. 3(3) & 10

- The Danish network is extremely fragmented; landscape connectivity is not integrated within the Natura 2000 management documents and later implementation.
 - Municipalities are obliged to designate areas to be part of "Grønt Danmarkskort" ("Green map of Denmark") as to improve landscape connectivity. The Grønt Danmarkskort will include N2000 sites and supplementary areas, but no obligations to convert farmland to nature have been set, nor any funds.
 - In Denmark specially protected so called "fredede", protected areas sites should all be included to cover this requirement.

Funding and resources

Identify funding needs

Habitats Directive, art. 8

- Denmark has not elaborated a Prioritized Action Framework (PAF), costs of reaching conservation objectives in individual sites has not been quantified. Estimated overall costs are to some extent related to EU funding.
 - Not all funds for agreements with landowners are used; this is due to the fact that the kinds of agreements are not attractive to landowners due to compensation levels are set too low.
- Denmark has a dedicated budget (from national or European Funds) to cover Natura 2000 needs, but the funds targeted for both forests- and other nature types are way too low to achieve targets.
- Staffs employed for national plans located in ministries are close to sufficient, but those working at a municipal level conducting action plans are less effective. This is especially in the case of talking to landowners to formulate concrete management agreements.

Habitats and species monitoring

Undertake monitoring of the conservation status of habitats and species of Community importance

Habitats Directive, art.11

- A national monitoring system "NOVANA" has been established for biogeographical, habitat, species and site level, but is insufficient to get a satisfactory resolution - especially in defining the conservation status of species.
- The assessment in determining the conservation status are predominantly of good status and available to the public.

Promotion of research

Encourage research and scientific work

Habitats Directive, art. 18

Birds Directive, art. 10

- The current levels of support for scientific community for research projects to assess the status of threatened species are not encouraging.

Non-native species

Ensure that introductions of non-native species do not prejudice native habitats and species

Habitats Directive, art. 22

Birds Directive, art. 11

- Measures are foreseen through the implementation of the new Regulation on invasive species.
 - It should be noted though those distributions of the invasive species are not satisfactory known. At many sites there is severe lack of knowledge. Efforts are late and unsatisfactory due to lack of resources.

Stakeholder engagement, public participation and communication

Stakeholder engagement and public participation are key to ensuring effective implementation

- Formally there is adequate stakeholder participation in the site designation process. However, the present public participation on excluding 23,000 hectares will most likely not decrease the amount of land excluded.
 - Inclusion of new areas has been refused.
 - A national "board" of stakeholders ("Grønt Fremdriftsforum") under the ministry meets 2-3 times a year to discuss implementation.
 - Draft plans must be sent in for public consultation before approval.
 - There is adequate stakeholder participation and public consultation on the granting of authorisations under Article 6. Complaints on decisions can be presented to a national board. But no formal consultation in advance.
 - There is full transparency and 'formal' participation, but no real influence on larger project which may impact nature such as road planning.
 - No awareness raising activities have been conducted on Natura 2000 at the national or regional level.
- There is no Natura 2000 communication strategy for the local level (site level), no public communication, but all landowners are individually contacted regarding changes of designated areas. Management plans are announced publicly when drafted and public consultation initiated.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DENMARK

1. Designate new sites for certain nature types and species.
2. Designate larger proportion of land area to increase connectivity or reduce fragmentation.
3. Producing additional species action plans and making more funds available for their implementation is urgently needed.
4. More attractive types of agreements for management of sites are strongly needed, in particular, compensation levels in the schemes proposed need to be increased to make these more attractive.
5. Awareness raising activities on Natura 2000 are needed
6. The inclusion in national and regional budgets of the value of N2000 and the benefits the network delivers (e.g. TEEB-type analysis) is strongly needed to give a balanced picture of costs associated with meeting Natura 2000 obligations.
7. Mapping the extent of known threats to habitat nature types such as invasive alien species and address these through adequate measures in the management plans.
8. Include costs and specific financing plans in the Management plans for each designated area. As a first step Danish authorities should update/ come up with financing needs for Natura 2000 in the context of the update of the PAFs.
9. Site specific criteria for achieving "favourable conservation status" should be developed and integrated into management plans, supported with adequate measures in order to move towards the identified objective.