

Management instruments for Natura 2000 areas; Use or modify the old or develop something new ?

Irene Bouwma¹ & R. van Apeldoorn¹

¹Alterra, Landscape Centre
PO Box 47
6700 AA Wageningen
The Netherlands

Abstract:

The Habitats Directive gives Member States considerable freedom in how to arrange the management of the Natura 2000 areas – through ‘*appropriate management plans specifically designed for the site or integrated into other development plans and appropriate statutory, administrative or contractual measures*’. Given the freedom in implementation it can be expected that domestic factors and existing repertoire of institutional procedures, technologies and organisational forms (Lenschow et al, 2005) have a considerable impact on the ways countries choose to arrange the management. So which instruments (e.g. management plans, contractual arrangements, hunting plans forestry plans, regulations) did they choose and how much were they modified in order to address the requirements of Natura 2000?.

The presentation will show that the obligation to arrange the management of N2000 areas by MS leads to 3 types of responses;

> *Using the old:* existing policy instruments are used without much adaptation. The analysis shows that several countries indeed tend to use the pre-existing instruments for addressing the management of Natura 2000 areas.

> *Filling the gaps:* apparently the pre-existing policy instruments are only partly capable of addressing the new management challenge of ‘Natura 2000’. Therefore additional instruments are developed which are used parallel to pre-existing ones..

> *Developing the new:* The Habitats Directive also leads to the development of new instruments in some EU Member States.

(Kruk et al, 2010; Bouwma et al, 2010)

However there is no preference for one of the three types amongst the EU Member States. In the presentation a reflection will be given on the reasons for the different choices of Member States and what the possible implications are of choosing one of the 3 identified responses.

References:

- Lenschow A. D. Liefferink, S. Veenman, When the birds sing. A framework for analysing domestic factors behind policy convergence. *Journal of European Public Policy* 12:5 October 2005: 1–20
- Kruk R.W. , G. De Blust, R.C. Van Apeldoorn, I.M. Bouwma and A.R.J. Sier, 2010. NATURA 2000; Information and communication on the designation and management of Natura2000 sites; Main Report 2: Organizing the management in 27 EU Member States. 98 pp. Alterra report 2044.
- Bouwma. I.M., R. van Apeldoorn, D.A. Kamphorst, 2010. Current practices in solving multiple use issues of Natura 2000 sites: Conflict management strategies and participatory approaches. Alterra, Wageningen, the Netherlands