

# A mapping and monitoring programme supporting the Natura-2000 management plans

Jesper Fredshavn, Bjarne Søgaard, Bettina Nygaard, Knud Erik Nielsen, Rasmus Ejrnæs, Stefan Pihl, Jesper Bladt, Poul Nygaard Andersen, Christian Damgaard, Flemming Skov

Aarhus University, Institute of Bioscience

## Abstract

Scientists, administrators and managers have developed a Danish mapping and monitoring system for species and habitats over the past eight years. Across the programs a common core set of identical indicators are used. Data on species abundance, species composition, vegetation structure, tree and scrub cover, hydrology and current landscape management of the surveyed habitats are thus available across the monitoring programs allowing comparative analysis of data. High quality geo-referenced field data are continuously collected and stored in a central, and publicly available national database, [www.Naturdata.dk](http://www.Naturdata.dk), providing a solid foundation for decision making and landscape management by the Danish authorities. The data are also available for research groups and students as well as the public in general. However, interpretation of the datasets is complex and often requires expert knowledge, and to support proper decision making in governmental agencies and authorities, Aarhus University and the Danish Ministry of the Environment have developed an assessment system to be used in the NATURA-2000 nature management plans. The homepage <http://prior.dmu.dk> shows maps with an intuitive and quick overview of the biological conditions in the mapped NATURA-2000 areas. Based on biological and structural indexes the nature management requirements can be deployed for the specific areas. This knowledge can easily be transformed to general as well as specific recommendations in the national and regional NATURA-2000 management plans.

## References:

- Fredshavn, J.R. & Ejrnæs, R. 2009. Naturlig tilstand i habitatområderne. Habitatdirektivets lysåbne naturtyper. Danmarks Miljøundersøgelser, Aarhus Universitet. 76 s. – Faglig rapport fra DMU nr. 735. <http://www.dmu.dk/Pub/FR735.pdf>
- Pihl, S., Ejrnæs, R., Søgaard, B., Aude, E., Nielsen, K.E., Dahl, K. & Laursen, J.S. Habitat and Species Covered by the EEC Habitats Directive. A Preliminary Assessment of Distribution and Conservation Status in Denmark. Report from the National Environmental and Research Institute, 121 pp.