



Miljøministeriet
Naturstyrelsen

Management Planning for Natura 2000 sites

Lars Rudfeld

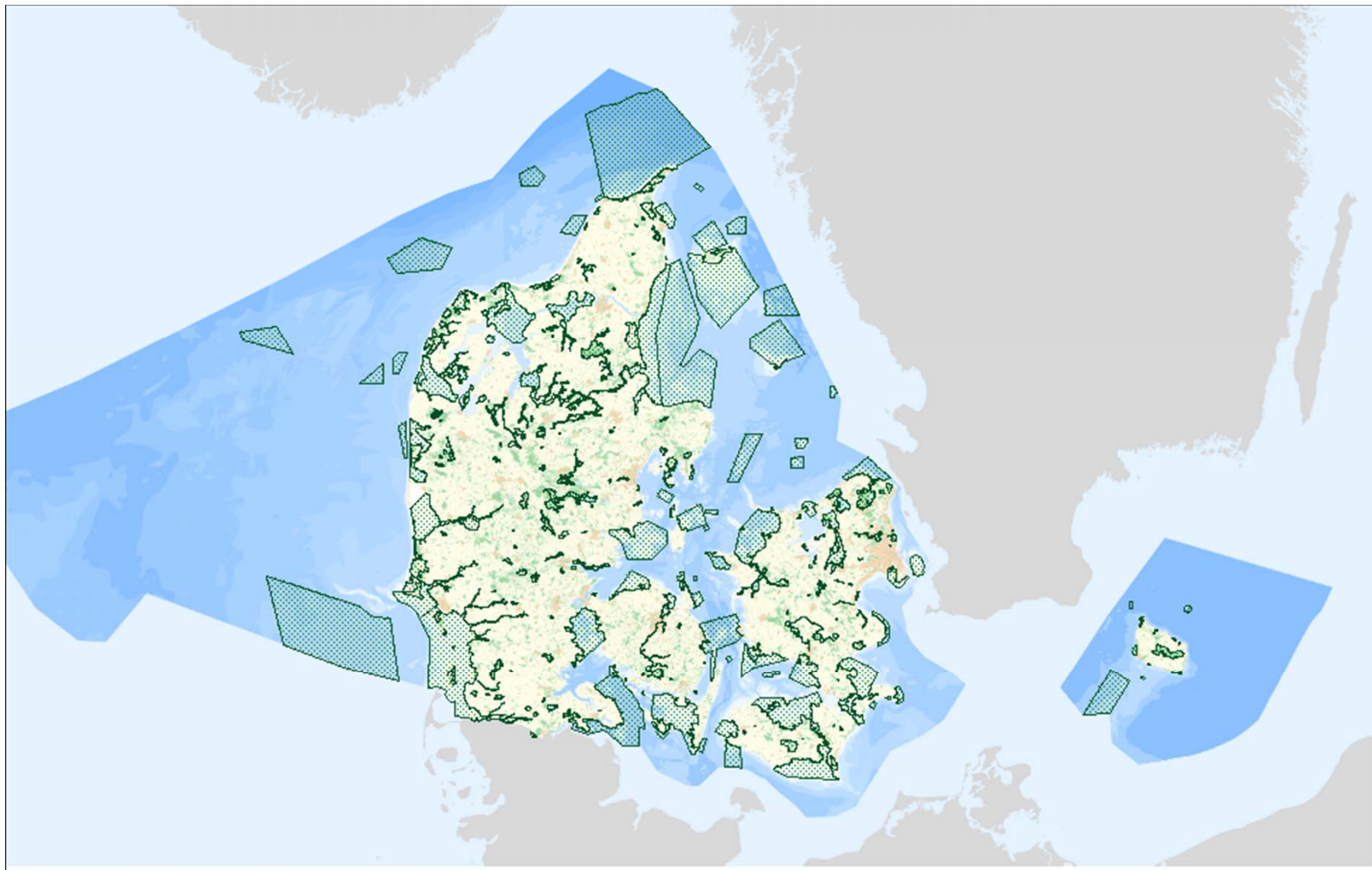
The Danish Nature Agency

Natura 2000 in the EU landscape

- **Natura 2000 is a core instrument (“the backbone”) in EU biodiversity policy**
- **Designation of sites is almost finalised throughout the EU**
- **Management of the sites is a major challenge in terms of identifying conservation status and appropriate measures**



Natura 2000 in Denmark



246 sites
8,4 % of terrestrial area
17 % of marine area
Min. 75 % overlap in SAC's/SPA's

Management plans and conservation measures

The Habitats Directive calls for the EU Member States to set up the necessary conservation measures. The Danish model copies the principles of the iterative management planning process provided by the Water Framework Directive, including

- a baseline analysis
- Site specific objectives
- An action programme,
coordinated with WFD-actions

The elaboration of plans is framed by guiding principles given by the state authorities. The plans are legally binding and financing provided.



Natura 2000 Planning Process

2006 Baseline analysis for each Natura 2000-site

2007 1. consultation of the public

Political agreement Green Growth



2010 Technical consultation of authorities

2010 Public consultation on draft plan

2011 [Finalising the plans]

[Adoption of a 6 year management plan (forests 12 year) with management action programme]

2012 [Municipalities adopt implementation plans]

2013 ff [Revision of plans and action programmes]

Implementation
period
2011-15



Bridging science and management – providing data on habitats and species

The Habitats and Birds Directives focus on specific species and habitats of European Union interest.

Standardised and validated data on the occurrence and range of the species and habitats is crucial for the designation and management.

The mapping of occurrence has been used for the designation of sites and as a part of the assessment of conservation status at national level.



Bridging science and management II– scientifically based tools for the assessment of conservation status

The Habitats Directive delivers a political framework for the conservation of biodiversity. The overall objective of the directive is *favourable conservation status*.

The implementation of the directive requires ”operational standards”.

Aarhus University, Institute of Bioscience, and its predecessor, has together with the Ministry of the Environment developed practical, innovative and broadly accepted methods to assess conservation status of habitats under the Habitats Directive.



Assessing conservation status

The assessment of conservation status is based on aggregated standardised data collected on-site, e.g.

- Occurrence of species (characteristic and annex 2 species)
- Estimated structural parameters (hydrology, succession state, vegetation height, degree of fragmentation etc.)
- The individual importance of the different parameters are weighed against each other and the actual conservation status can be calculated, based on the standardized degree of importance.

The method for the assessments has been broadly accepted by NGO's.



Conclusions

The Danish implementation of the proactive provisions of the Nature Directives has included

- Improved knowledge of the distribution of species and habitats
- New methods for assessing conservation status
- A new legally binding management planning system





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Thank you for your attention!

Haraldsgade 53
DK-2100 København Ø
Denmark
Tlf: + 45 72 54 30 00
E-mail: nst@nst.dk
www.naturstyrelsen.dk

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