

LIFE Natura 2000 Programme for Wales

August 2015

The LIFE Natura 2000 Programme is producing a strategic plan for the management and restoration of all Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) in Wales, both on land and at sea, for the period 2014 to 2020 and beyond. The project is run by Natural Resources Wales (NRW) and is financially supported by the EU LIFE+ fund.

Thematic Action Plans

Draft Thematic Action Plans are now available to partner organisations wishing to provide input and feedback. These outline proposed strategic actions to address major issues and risks affecting Natura 2000 sites, habitats and species across the network in Wales. The draft actions have been generated from a series of issue specific workshops and meetings with NRW and Welsh Government specialists and other representatives, and we are now seeking a wide as possible engagement.

If you wish to provide comments, please contact the team (email address below) indicating which plans are of interest (see overleaf).



Invitation to August workshops

There will also be an opportunity to discuss and comment on the Thematic Action Plans at two events for partner organisations in August. These workshops will also include a presentation on the findings of the LIFE N2K Programme and a chance to discuss over-arching priorities for the N2K series.

- 19 August: Natural Resources Wales Maes y Ffynnon offices
- 25 August: Garwnant Visitor Centre near Merthyr Tydfil.

If you are interested in attending one of these events, please contact us on the email below. Please note that places are limited.

Prioritised Improvement Plans (PIPs)

PIPs for every Special Area of Conservation and Special Protection Area in Wales have now been drawn up, based on information from NRW site officers with input from organisations which are responsible for delivering actions or own N2K land, and European Marine Site Officers. Many thanks to all who contributed. We are now in the process of incorporating feedback and finalising costings.

We are able to provide access to the PIPs for other organisations with specific interests that wish to comment. However, PIPs will not be published online since many contain sensitive information. Please contact us on the email below, stating which sites are of interest.

The PIPs are live documents which can be updated by site officers at any time, so the process of incorporating feedback from partners can continue beyond the duration of the LIFE N2K Programme.

Contact details : To register your interest please email life2000@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk.

Reports Online

The following reports are now available on the Reports section of the LIFE N2K Programme web pages (see link below).

The **Natura 2000 Funding in Wales** report explores the existing and potential funding options for Natura 2000 in Wales and seeks to provide options for diversifying funding sources in order to address funding gaps.

The **Inventory of Ecosystems Services** report seeks to provide an initial assessment of the ecosystem services provided by Natura 2000 sites and habitat and species features in Wales.

Thematic Action Plans

- Access and recreation
- Air pollution: Atmospheric nitrogen
- Climate change and habitat fragmentation
- Diffuse water pollution
- Flood and coastal erosion risk management
- Grazing and livestock management
- Non-native invasive species and pathogens
- Man-made changes to hydraulic conditions
- Marine litter
- Sea fisheries
- Woodland management
- Cross cutting actions



Wales Biodiversity Partnership Conference

We will be presenting the results of the LIFE N2K Programme on 9th September at this year's WBP Conference in Aberystwth. This will be followed by a workshop on 10th September where there will be a chance to provide feedback and explore how the biodiversity community can work together to deliver the plan of action. There will also be an associated Welsh Government workshop on future LIFE funding for Natura 2000.

For further information on the conference, please go to the [Wales Biodiversity Conference](#) web page.

External Competitive funding

Natural Resources Wales has announced £1.2 million of funding to invest over the next two years for projects to improve the environment across Wales. The money will be available for third sector organisations and local authorities for projects on sites designated as Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservation.

It can be used to match-fund projects that tackle key issues affecting these sites, focusing on five key areas, invasive species, habitat fragmentation, inadequate or inappropriate management of woodlands, marine litter, and managing access and recreation to avoid harm.

For more information and details on how to apply please go the funding section of the NRW website: <http://naturalresources.wales/about-us/funding>



To contact the LIFE Natura 2000 Programme for more information on any of the items in the newsletter, or to join our mailing list, please email: life2000@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk.

Alternatively go to our website: www.naturalresources.wales/LIFEN2K or like our [Facebook](#) page.

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