



Project Completion—the challenge continues!

The LIFE Natura 2000 Programme, a major project running from 2012 to 2015, was completed in September 2015. The project has developed a strategic forward plan which sets out the requirements for the management and restoration of the Natura 2000 network in Wales. Led by Natural Resources Wales, the project was supported by the European Union LIFE+ Natura fund.

Key Outputs

During the course of the project we have produced:

- **Prioritised Improvement Plans (PIPs)** for all 112 Natura 2000 (SACs and SPAs) in Wales.
- 11 **Thematic Action Plans** with strategic actions for the priority issues and risks affecting the Natura 2000 series, such as Diffuse Pollution, Invasive Species and Climate Change.
- 5 **Cross-cutting Action Plans**, including Communication and Education, Integration & Funding.
- A set of priorities for **Natura 2000**.
- The **Prioritised Action Framework** for Wales – a statutory document summarising Natura 2000 Programme, Welsh priorities and EU co-funding requirements.
- 13 reports including **Funding of Natura 2000**, and **Ecosystem Services of Natura 2000**.
- Technical development of the **Actions Database** which holds the data on which the PIPs are based.
- 22 **short films** to share the value of Natura 2000 (the 'Natural Wealth of Wales') with the public, decision-makers, and those in other sectors.

For further information on any of the above please see our website www.naturalresources.wales/LIFEN2K

Natural Wealth of Wales—Short Films

The natural wealth of Wales can now be viewed at the click of a mouse. As part of the project we have produced a series of 11 short films each focusing on the importance and beauty of different Natura 2000 habitats and species in Wales. Each film also highlights some of the other benefits that our natural environment provides such as recreation opportunities, income from the tourism industry, flood defences and pollution control. The films can be accessed from our webpage, [facebook](#) page, [twitter](#) account or NRW's [YouTube channel](#). Please do share the videos on your social media channels and spread the word to your friends and colleagues.

www.facebook.com/LIFEN2K

www.twitter.com/LNatura2000



Summary of Results

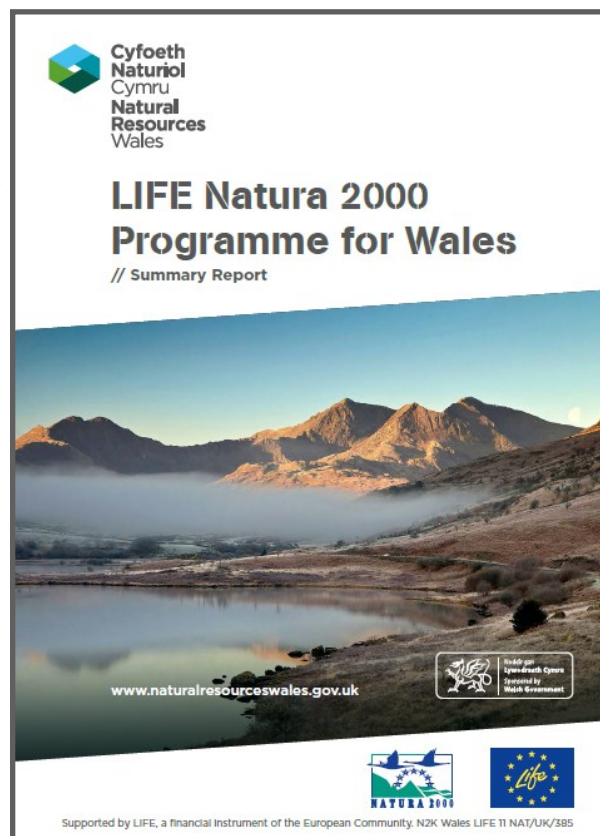
In total nearly 3,600 actions to address issues and risks on Natura 2000 in Wales have been logged both at a site and a management unit level. On average there are 32 unique actions per site and the total estimated cost to address actions across the network is approximately **£120 million**—with an average of **£1 million per site**.

The most frequently logged issues and risks on Natura 2000 sites in Wales are **grazing and livestock management, invasive species** and **man-made changes to hydraulic conditions**.

The most commonly cited mechanisms or measures to address the issues and risks were **direct management, investigation** and **NRW management agreements**.

The Programme engaged with both NRW colleagues and external partners and hosted 38 stakeholder engagement workshops and events attended by over 500 people over the course of the project. Team members also attended over 100 other meetings, reaching over 1800 stakeholders.

Our summary report, which outlines the key findings and results of the Programme has now been published. Hard copies of the report are available for distribution within your organisation. Please email life2000@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk stating how many copies you require. The report can also be downloaded from our webpages at www.naturalresources.wales/LIFEN2K.



After LIFE Plan

The AfterLIFE plan is currently being finalised. The plan will describe how the actions described in the LIFE Natura 2000 Programme will be delivered by the relevant organisations including NRW, Welsh Government and the third sector. In some cases, actions can be delivered through existing work programmes, however in other cases new funding streams will need to be developed.

For more information please contact life2000@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk

Prioritised Action Framework

The LIFE Natura 2000 Programme has produced the Welsh chapter of the revised UK Prioritised Action Framework (PAF).

The PAF summarises the key actions and priorities identified by the LIFE Natura 2000 Programme. Once approved by Welsh Government it will be submitted to Europe along with similar documents from England, Scotland and Northern Ireland. The PAF will inform the EU of our priorities and co-funding needs in the UK, and help them target biodiversity funding over the next five years.

Prioritised Improvement Plans (PIPs)

We have worked with partners and NRW Conservation Officers to better understand the challenges that Natura 2000 sites in Wales face and have produced Prioritised improvement Plans (PIPs) for all Natura 2000 sites.

PIPs are prioritised, costed plans which summarise the proposed actions needed by 2020 to help improve the condition of the designated habitat and species features of the site.

Actions address high and medium priority issues and risks which are preventing the features from reaching favourable condition.

PIPs are live documents, populated by information drawn from the NRW Actions Database (which holds all identified actions). The database will continue to be updated by conservation officers as existing actions are completed or new ones are identified.

Accessing PIPs

Internal NRW staff: PIPs can be accessed through the Actions Database or via a hyperlink. If you require guidance, please email life2000@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk for instructions, a training video is also available.

External organisations and individuals: can request access to the PIPs. This requires a data licence, as they contain sensitive information. Registered users can also access the Actions Database via the NRW Extranet. If you would like to access the PIPs, or if you need to refresh your username and password for the database please email gillian.walker@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk.

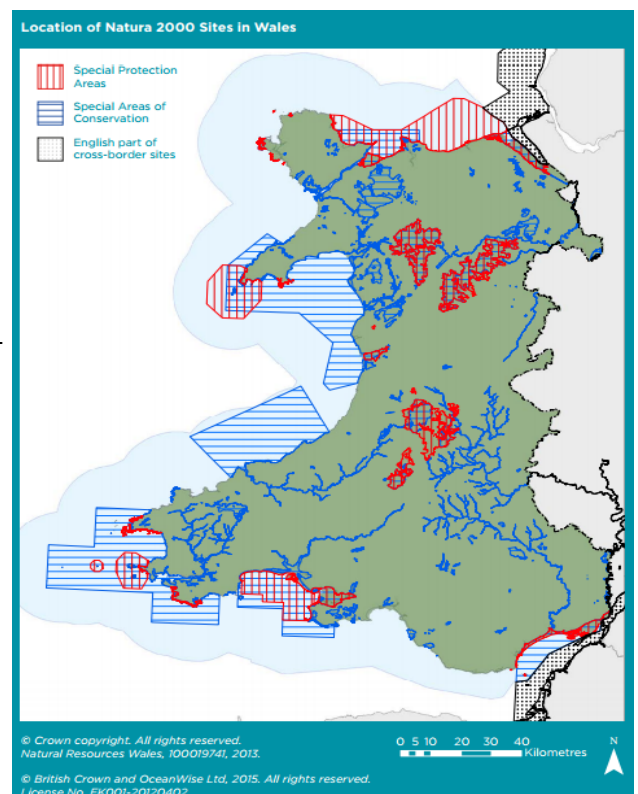
Extranet users are asked to update the status of the actions for which their organisation is responsible (e.g. underway, complete) to ensure we have a record of progress. If you identify new actions or want to change the priority or detail of an action please contact your local Conservation Officer for the site.

Natura 2000 in Wales

There are 112 Natura 2000 sites in Wales, covering nearly 7% of the land area of Wales and nearly 36% of Welsh seas. **This network represents the very best of Wales' wildlife and natural heritage.**

Natura 2000 sites are the cornerstone of biodiversity conservation in Wales, providing the highest level of protection for the best of our wildlife, and delivering out European legal obligations.

There are 123 different habitat and species features designated under Natura 2000 in Wales including active raised bog, western oak woodland, reefs, grey seal, puffin and hen harrier.



Thematic Action Plans

The LIFE Natura 2000 Programme has created 11 Thematic Action Plans which identify priority strategic actions to address major issues and risks which have an adverse impact on Natura 2000 features across the network.

- **Access and recreation management**
- **Air pollution: Nitrogen deposition**
- **Climate change and habitat fragmentation**
- **Diffuse water pollution**
- **Flood and coastal erosion risk management**
- **Grazing and livestock management**
- **Invasive species and pathogens**
- **Man-made changes to hydraulic conditions**
- **Marine litter**
- **Marine fisheries**
- **Woodland management**

The actions have been identified from workshops with professionals with expertise in the field, in consultation with stakeholder organisations.



Cross-cutting Action Plans

A set of cross-cutting actions have also been identified which apply across the Natura 2000 network. They are as follows:

- **Communication and education**
- **Finance and funding**
- **Legislation and policy**
- **Integration**
- **Investigations**

The Thematic Action Plans and Cross-cutting action plans will be available soon on our webpages naturalresources.wales/LIFEN2K or email at life2000@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk

Further Information

The LIFE Natura 2000 Programme is now completed and the outputs of the project are being progressed as part of the ongoing mainstream work of Natural Resources Wales. However you can continue to contact us on life2000@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk or through the general enquiry line on 03000 0653000. For site enquiries, please contact the local Conservation Officer (contact details available from the above enquiry line).

Further information and reports are also available on our website: www.naturalresources.wales/LIFEN2K, and please follow us on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#).

Supported by LIFE, a financial instrument of the European Community: N2K Wales, LIFE 11 NAT/UK/385



Finally, the LIFE N2K Team past and present would like to thank you all for your contributions and input over the last three years. Good-bye and thanks for all the fish, mammals, insects, and crustaceans.

