Designation and management of Habitat Directive sites in Flanders – ABSTRACT
Presentation for Polish Delegation, Brussels, 23/06/03

Nota IN A.03.130
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Method for sites designation

1. Detecting presence of habitats and species
   - Habitats: translation of ecotope codes of biological valuation map to habitat
typology (problems!: different typology + confusing habitat manual by EU);
   additionally: expert knowledge
   - Species: different species distribution data bases; additionally: expert knowledge

2. Problems with mapping scale
   - legal security: detailed mapping (1/10.000)

3. Additional criteria for selection of sites
   - neighbouring areas with good possibilities for habitat/species
     restoration/development
   - buffer zones, enabling sustainable management of the site: topological logic
     borders, avoiding enclaves, other important habitats

⇒ Advice to Flemish government: 108.738 ha

Official designation by Flemish government

1. Screening of conflicting agricultural use on the level of the Ministry of environment and
   agriculture ⇒ removal of (part of) sites, if biological value is low

2. Screening of conflicting land use or land use projects on the level of the Flemish
   Government ⇒ removal of (part of) sites, if biological value is low

⇒ Final proposal to EU: 101.891 ha

Management of sites

1. Conservation objectives for habitats and species
   - Flemish manual with description of habitats and species and global preconditions
     for sustainable management, restoration en maintaining favourable conservation
     conditions
     Contents: photo, description, key species, abiotic preconditions, distribution
     in Flanders, threats, management, restoration possibilities, similarities with
     (different) code(s) of biological valuation map, legal protection, references
   - Pilot project: conservation objectives for Natura2000 sites in coastal area (local
     scale): more detailed distribution maps of habitats and species, indicators for
     maintaining favourable conservation status
   - Future: Nature Directive Plans

2. Implementation in Flemish Nature Decree

3. Instructions for other sectoral activities (f.i. public works): procedure for analysis of
   impacts and necessary measures