



Nature conference

Riga, Latvia

May 26-27, 2015

Natura 2000 and Forests



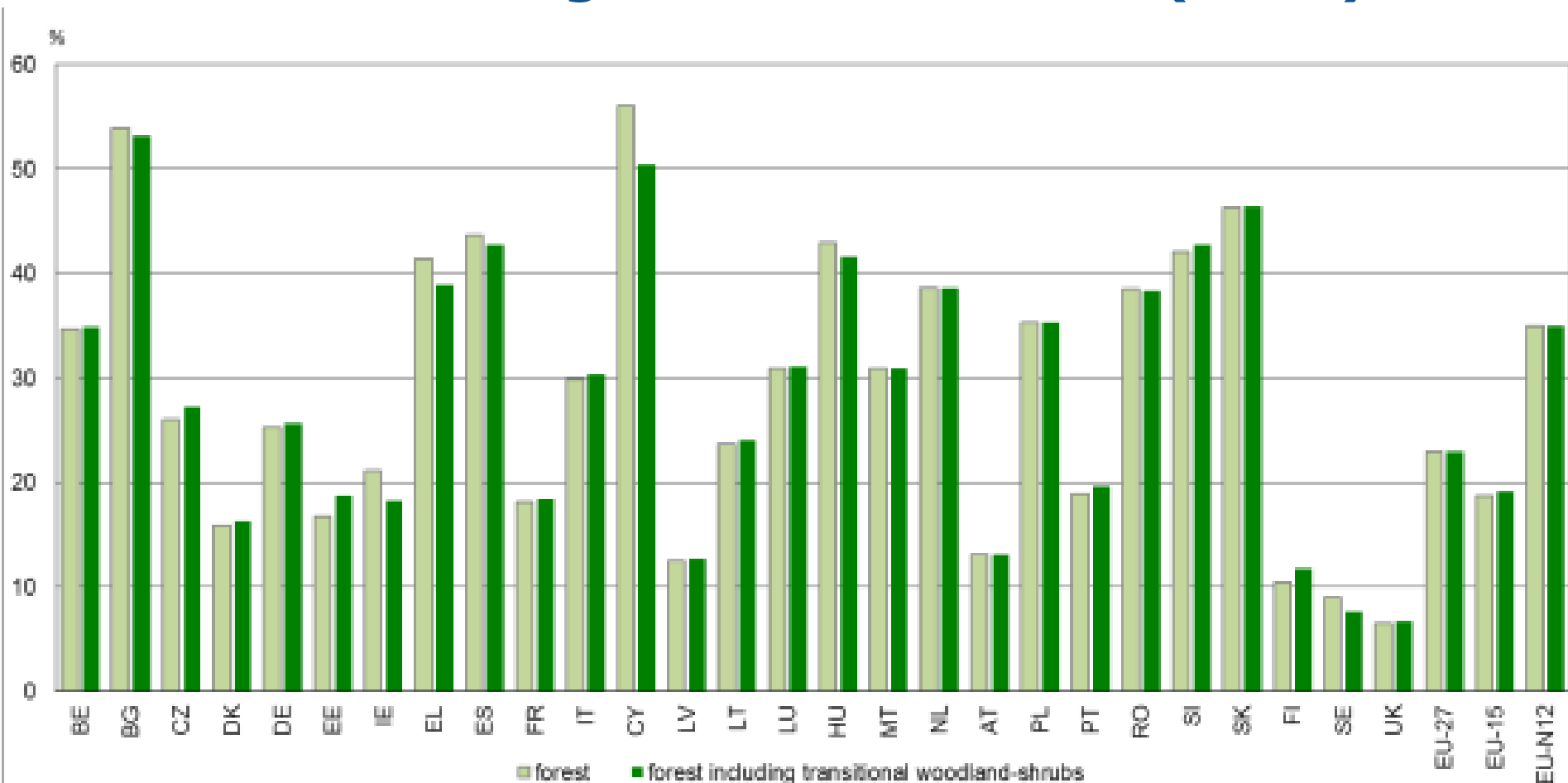
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Natura 2000 and Forests

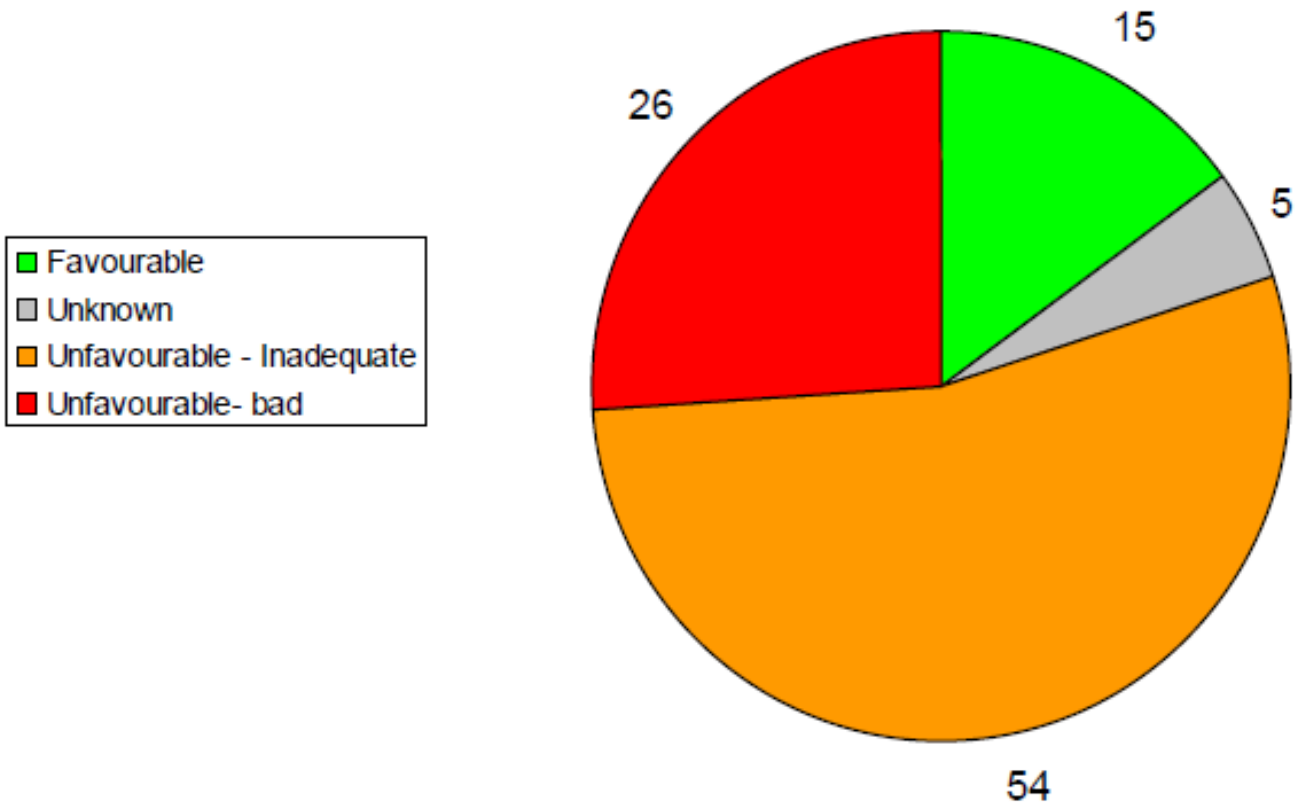
- 375,000 km² of forests included in the Natura 2000 Network = **21%** of the total EU forest area
- **50%** of the total terrestrial Natura 2000 area



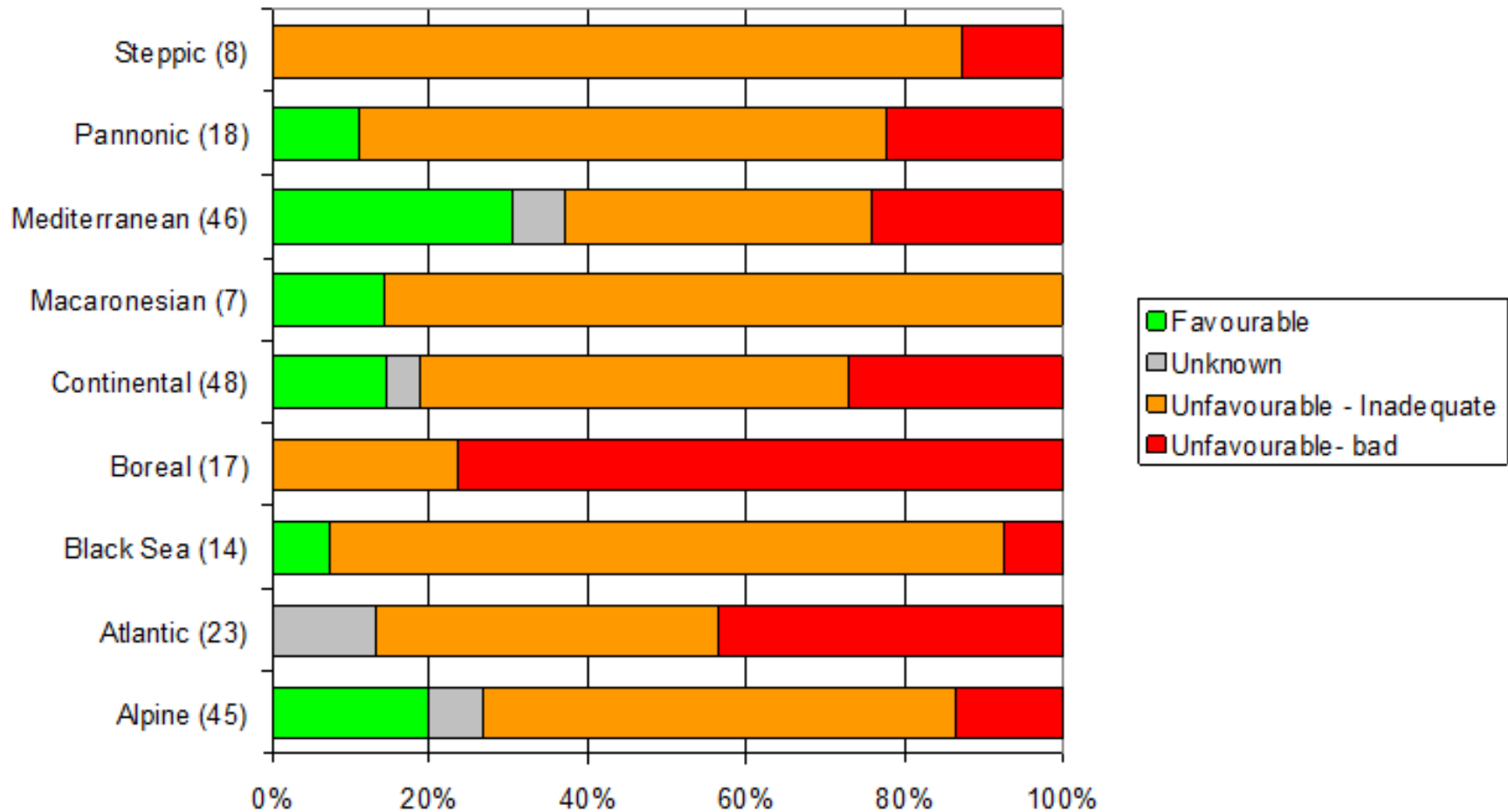
Percentage of forest under Natura 2000 according to Member States (2012)



Conservation status of forest habitats 2007-2012



Conservation status of forest habitats 2007-2012



Preparation of the guide

- Two workshops
- Four meetings of an ad-hoc working group
- > 50 experts from different Member States and organisations,
- support by contractor (the 'N2K GROUP' Atecma S.L & Ecosystems LTD)
- Close cooperation between DG ENV and DG AGRI



The new guide on Natura 2000 and forests addresses

- **concerns** raised by both forest owners and nature conservationists over the management of forests in Natura 2000 sites
- **false perceptions** and 'myths' on legitimate concerns on both sides, and
- it benefits from a **frank discussion** on the aims of Natura 2000 and its implications for forest owners and managers (Bottom-up approach)



It also...

- **explains** the key provisions of Natura 2000 in a forestry context
- **answers** frequently asked questions on forest management in Natura 2000
- **promotes** the integration of Natura 2000 conservation objectives into forest management
- **encourages** mutual information, understanding and cooperation between all parties involved



The Guide's intent and target groups

- not prescriptive in its intent
- source of information and advice for a better understanding and implementation of the Nature Directives.
- addressed to nature and forest authorities, site managers and the interested civil society
- serves as a basis for continued dialogue and enhanced cooperation and may still be extended and adapted according to future needs



The guide's content

- I. **Overview** of Natura 2000 in the context of forests, incl. conservation status, EU Forest Strategy, etc.
- II. **Frequently asked questions** about the protection and the management of forests in Natura 2000
- III. **Case studies** on managing forests in Natura 2000 across the EU
- **Annexes**: Glossary, references, etc;



Part I - Introduction to Natura 2000

- concise overview of Natura 2000 in the context of forests.
- Natura 2000 network, site selection, designation and management, conservation objectives and conservation measures.
- EU Forest Strategy and the EU biodiversity strategy
- major EU financing tools for Nature 2000 forests



Part II - The core of the document

- more targeted explanations to some of the most frequently asked questions (FAQs) about the protection and the management of forests in Natura 2000.
- explains the legal provisions for Natura 2000 and what they mean in practice for the forest owner or manager.



Some key messages

- SFM and Natura 2000 are compatible , they can and should mutually support each other
- A lot still needs to be done for achieving FCS of forest related species and habitat types in the EU
- Forests and foresters play a major role in achieving Natura 2000 and EU Biodiversity objectives
- Synergies need to be enhanced through better dialogue, partnerships and cooperation
- Forest and Natura 2000 management plans should where appropriate be better integrated
- Clear conservation objectives and measures essential
- Opportunities for EU support to establish appropriate incentives should be better used



> 70 Frequently Asked Questions

- Site designation
- Setting conservation objectives
- Implementing conservation measures
- Ensuring non-deterioration
- Forest management requirements
- Financing conservation and management
- Planning new activities
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Communication, Co-operation - Involvement of stakeholders
- Species and habitats protection outside Natura 2000 sites
- ...



Part III and Annexes

- Part III: good practice examples and experiences from different Member States in managing forests in Natura 2000
- Example: **Ecoforests in Latvia**
- Annex 1: Glossary of key terms and acronyms
- Annex 2: List of the forest habitat types and species of Community interest requiring the designation of Natura 2000 sites
- Annex 3: Main threats and pressures on forests



What next ?

- Summer 2015: Publication of the Guide
- Autumn 2015: Translations available
- 1 October 2015: Meeting of the ad-hoc Working Group: Presentation of the Guide and continuation of the 'dialogue'

