



HOT TIMES

The Biogeographic Seminars are a great opportunity for NGOs to make a difference for nature

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WWF International from an original presentation from *Christoph Walder*,
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Topics

What is a biogeographic seminar?

How does it work?

What is needed for NGOs?

Planning schedule

Rules for success



Basic! about the Natura 2000 site designation process

- Based on **scientific** background (annexes)
- Includes discussion with stakeholders in a **transparent** procedure: the Biogeographic seminars

Site designation follows

- 4 phases
 - Proposal of Member states
 - Evaluation in biogeographic seminars (1- 3 loops)
 - Improvement of National Lists
 - Bilateral negotiations (member states and EC)

Biogeographic Process

1. Member state send pSCI (NL) -> EC
2. pSCI pre-evaluated by ETC/Paris
3. Results of pre-evaluation sent to all participants
4. Pre-evaluation is basis at seminar

Biogeographic Seminars I

- 1-4 days of intensive work
- Takes place in the biogeographic region (normally)
- Evaluation of National Lists
- No discussion on shadow lists, area, boundaries, politics (normally...)
- Only expert opinion is required

Aim of seminar

- To clarify methodology and rules of decisions
 - > **general questions/issues**
- To decide, which hab & spec are relevant
 - > **reference list**
- To decide, if member state proposal is sufficient or insufficient
 - > **quantity/quality/coherence of sites**
- Ask for (scientific) revision
 - > **more investigations or revision of proposals**

Who is there?

1. EC (P. Murphy) facilitator/leader of seminar
2. ETC (D. Evans / C. Romao): EC's scientific experts, responsible for scientific approach/data
3. MS: representing their countries
4. Independent Experts: scientific knowledge
5. NGO: nature's advocates and watchdogs
6. Land users organisations: observers, sometimes with inputs
7. Neutral observers

Procedure

- Each *hab*, each *spec* is tackled separately
- ETC explain results of their assessment
- MS defend/argue their proposal
- Experts and NGO give comments
- EC: make DECISION
- **NO LONG DISCUSSION**

What NGOs need

- Clever NGO Representative/country
- Direct and continuous connections to EC, ETC, Scientists, NGOs
- Adequate data format
- Some understanding, how to act at seminar
- Enough time for preparation

Time schedule

- See Excel sheet/Check List for NGO preparation for the biogeographic seminars

Toolkit

- Should help to prepare NGOs for the seminar
 - planning & evaluating national proposals
 - Present NGO proposals
 - Influence the process
- Based on first hand NGO experience
- Benefit for NGO, not additional work

The biogeographic language

1. Reference Lists
2. General questions
3. Sufficiency/Insufficiency
4. Scientific reserve

Reference list

- The reference list will be sent to you
- Check, if the evaluation of *habs/spec* are correct
- Note those which you want to discuss at the seminar
- For missing *habs/spec* on the ref. list, show the scientific basis
- Delete *habs/spec* if necessary!

General questions

- Will appear...
- Note: most of them have been decided at previous meetings...
- So ask your desk officer in the EC, Doug Evans from ETC or other NGOs
- Put questions and results in the toolkit so that all your friends can learn from your knowledge
- The EC loves NGOs, because we are always well prepared!!

Sufficiency

- The most important part of seminars
- Pre-evaluation will be sent to you
- Pre-evaluation should be more or less your evaluation already!
- Some cases are easy, most of them are difficult – lack of data!

Sufficiency II

- Quantity of sites: → 20% - 60% rule
- Quality of sites: the best sites
- Coherence of network
- For priority/rare/ndangered etc.
habs/spec ask for more!

Rules for success I

- No academic discussion, a conservation “court room”
- 45 seconds to 1 min for statement
- EC has to take decisions and needs your help – they count on you!
- You have an equal voice as your government – use this chance!

Rules for success II

- Be aware: nobody at the seminar knows more than you!!!
- Most cases are scientifically difficult
- Always use language of the biogeographic seminars (glossary) - they are very formal!
- Don't be vague, like: “it is not easy to say”, “someone should”, “probably”
- Remember: be clear, say Yes or No!

Rules for success III

- Governments will maybe lobby you!
- Be open, explain your statements, NGOs have nothing to hide
- Use breaks and evenings to lobby your government
- Be careful not to lobby the EC at seminar; wrong time for NGOs
- Arrange post-seminar procedures with your government – best time now, when they recognize NGO power!

Rules for success IV

- Strategy: do not always oppose the National Proposal
- Strategy: sometimes it might be better to avoid a SUF with a SCI RES
- Only react to scientific issues and always in the biogeographical language (glossary)

Results of earlier seminars

Continental

- Czech Republic:
 - IN MAJ 2
 - IN MOD 51
- Poland:
 - IN MAJ 25
 - IN MOD 118
- Slovenia:
 - IN MAJ 6
 - IN MOD 52

Boreal

- Estonia:
 - IN MAJ 0
 - IN MOD 7
- Lithuania:
 - IN MAJ 2
 - IN MOD 23
- Latvia:
 - IN MAJ 0
 - IN MOD 9

Results of earlier seminars

Pannonian Seminar - Czech Republic

- proposal on Reference List was rejected
- Habitats: majority of NGO proposals were accepted
- Species: good results for animals, but total loss for plants. 3 plant species were insufficient according NGO proposal, but all of them were judged sufficient.

Results of earlier seminars

Pannonian Seminar - HUNGARY

- Habitats: except for one, all NGO proposals accepted
about 15% of habitat types were judged insufficient, only one NGO proposal rejected (additional sites proposed by NGOs were regarded too scattered)
- Species: almost all NGO proposals accepted
Insufficient: 30% of plant species, about 10% of mammals and invertebrates, < 10% of fish, amphibians and reptiles

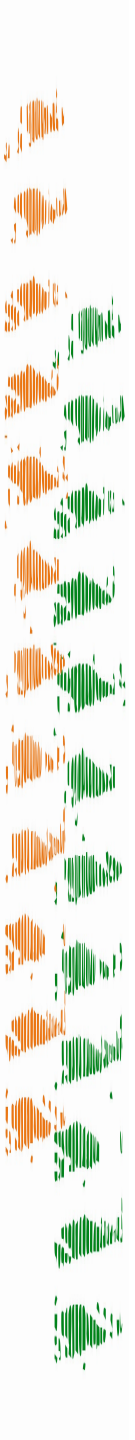


Results of earlier seminars

Pannonian Seminar - HUNGARY

One of the reasons for insufficiencies was that Hungarian Government refused to propose military areas as pSCIs, although many of these areas hosts valuable populations of habitats and species of community interest.

After the Seminar the designation of areas actively used for military trainings was started!



Good Luck!!