

# Forest and NATURA 2000 Network



## CONFERENCE ON FORESTS PROTECTION

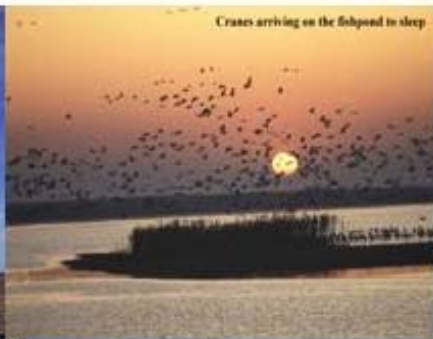
La Granja, 6-7 April 2010

Mariam Sánchez Guisández - DG Environment

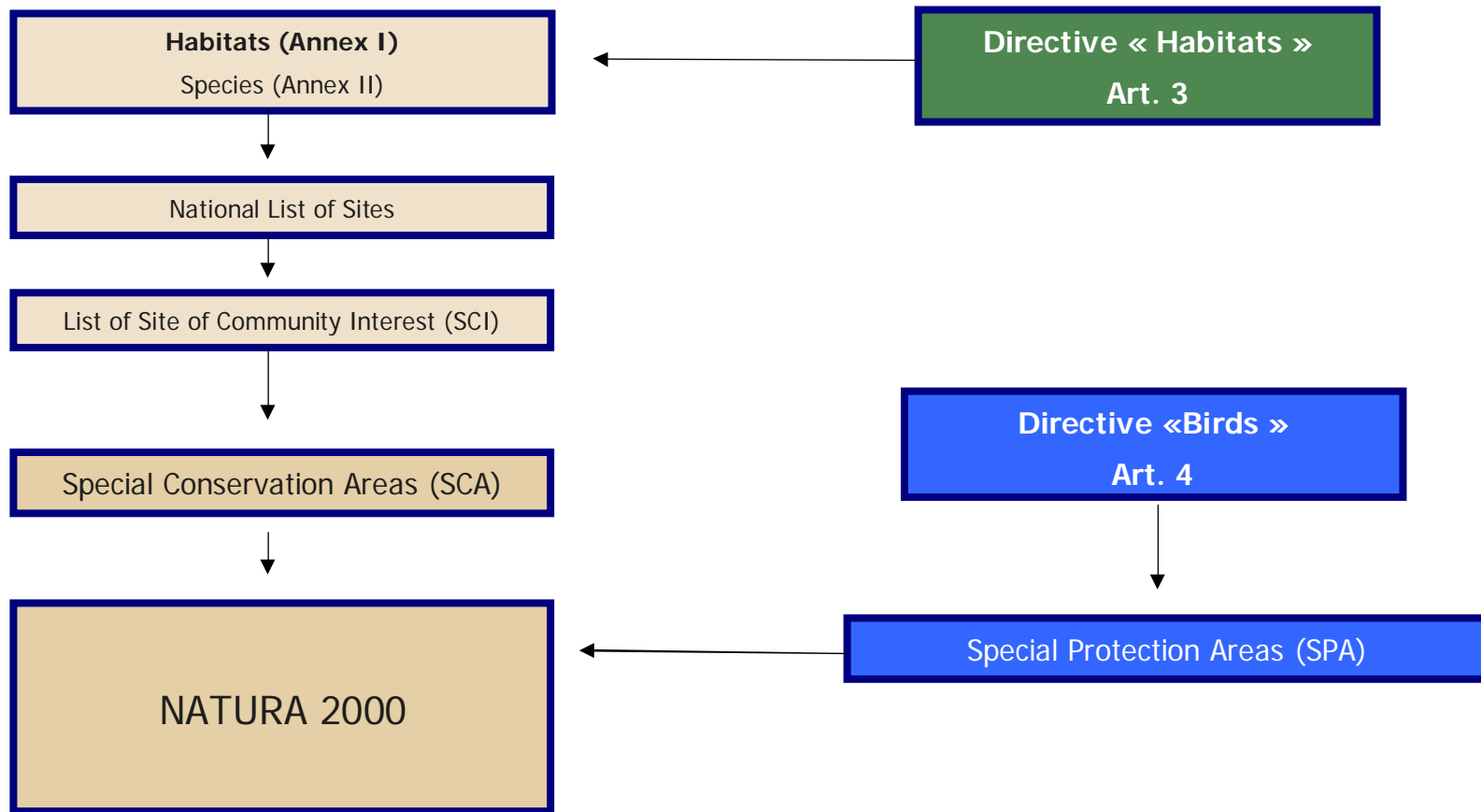
Unit Natura 2000

# Natura 2000

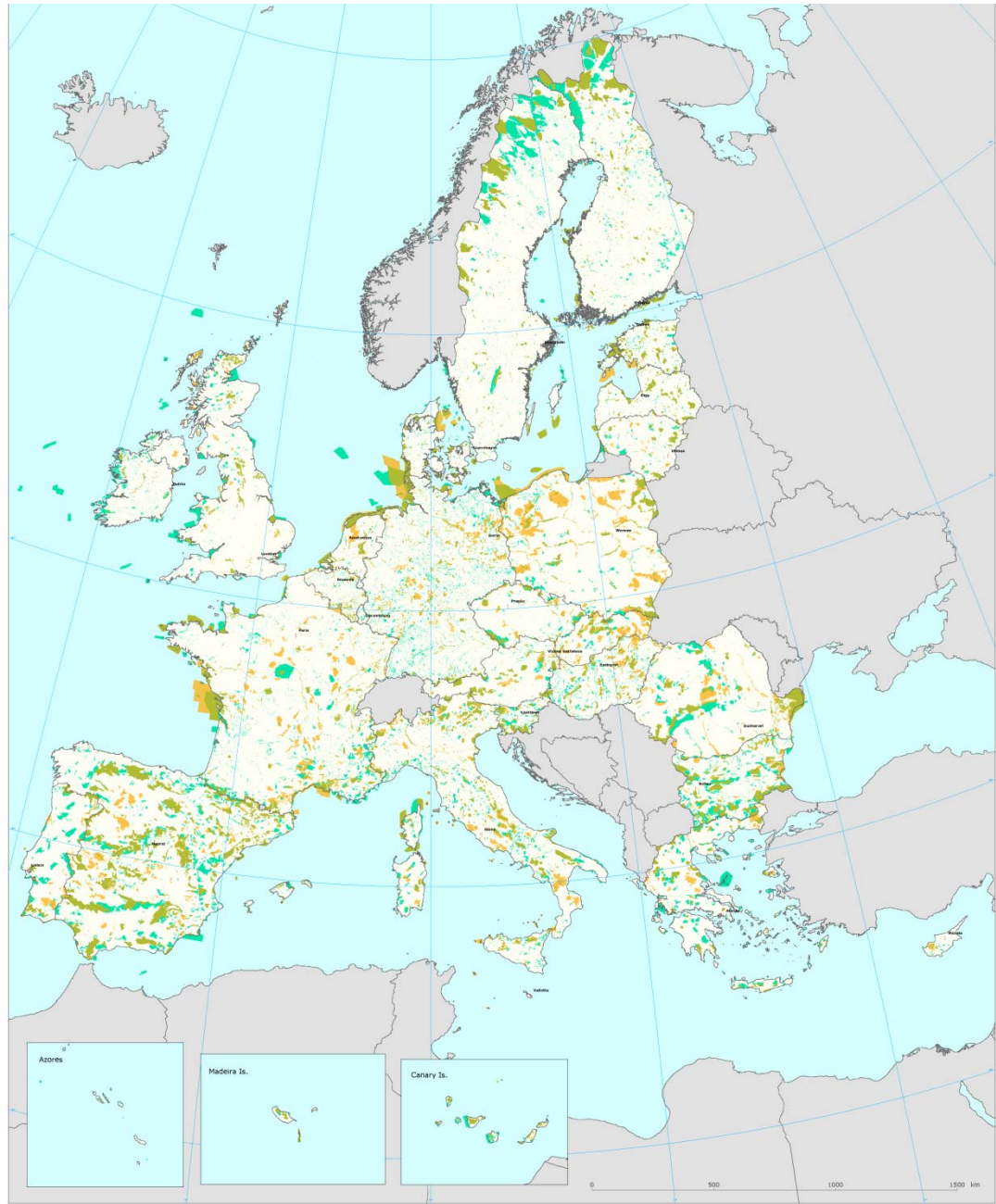
- **The largest network of protected areas in the World**
  - Terrestrial : 17% of Europe - 75,5 M. ha
  - Marine : 16,7 M. ha.
- **Based on science**
  - Objectives defined and scientific selection criteria established
  - Lists of European habitats and species of interest
  - Evaluation performed at site level / selection made at European level
- **2 phases of development:**
  - ➔ Designation of sites (almost finished)
  - ➔ Management of sites (starting)
- **Enacted by 2 Directives: Birds and Habitats Directives**



# Natura 2000:







**NATURA 2000: Birds and Habitats Directives**

NATURA 2000	
	Birds Directive sites (SPA)
	Habitats Directive sites (Natura 2000)

European Environment Agency



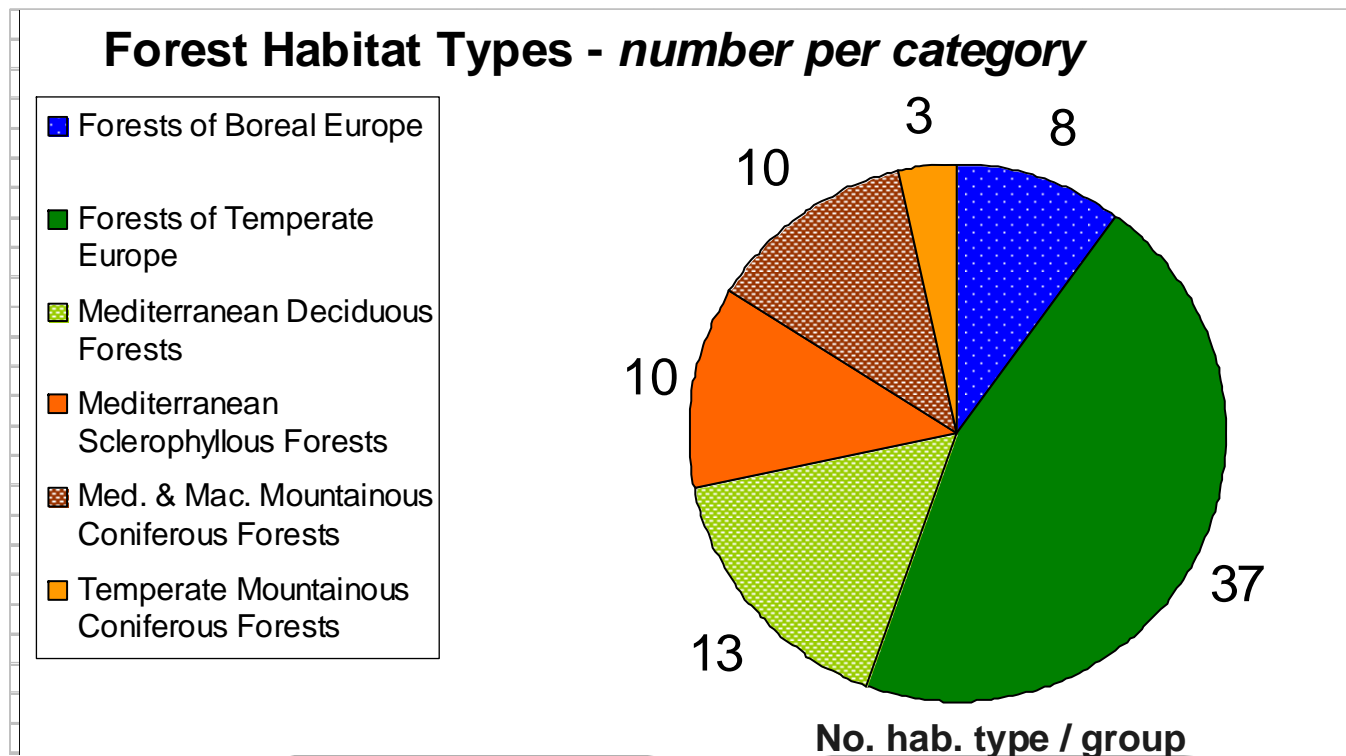
Source: NATURA 2000 - DG ENV, compiled from databases from the Member States.



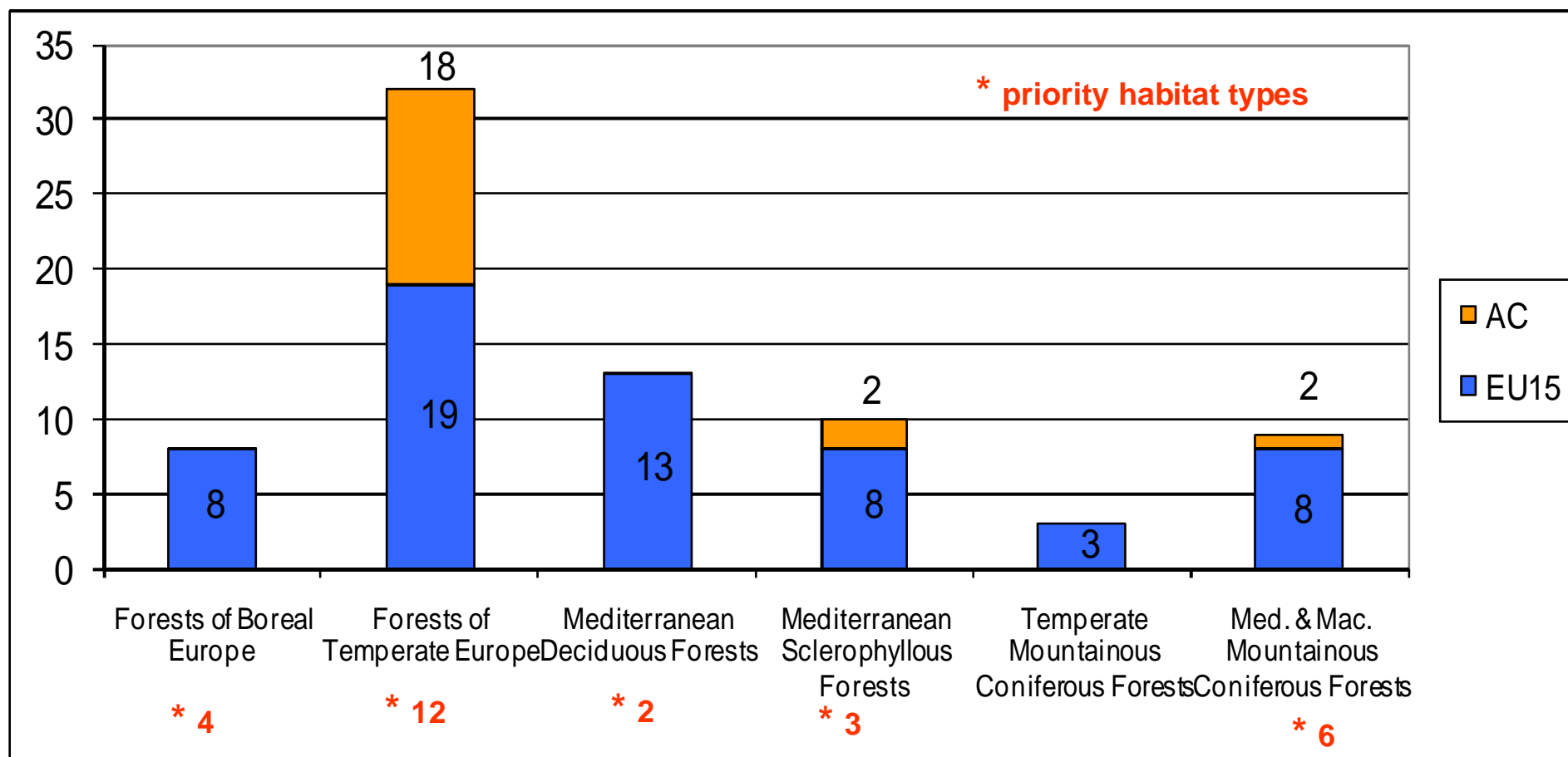
# Forests in Natura 2000

■ Annex I HD : 220 habitat types

81 Forest Habitats in Annex I in 6 groups of Forest Habitats



# Distribution forest habitat types in SCI



# What is being designated?

**14, 25 M ha** (SCI for forest habitats)

- **N2000 : 50 % forest (CLC)**
- **(sub)natural woodland vegetation of native species forming forests of tall trees, with typical undergrowth, and being:**
  - **rare or residual, and/or**
  - **hosting species of Community interest**
- **criteria for identification and selection of sites:**
  - **occurrence of native species**      **high degree of wilderness**
  - **presence of old and dead trees**      **forests with a substantial extension**
  - **forests having benefited from continuous sustainable management over a significant period**



## Natura 2000: EU Commission role

- Monitoring of the implementation of the directives by the MS
- Drafting of guidance manuals and documents
- Exchanging of good practices on managing Natura 2000:

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/gp/index.html>

### **Working Group on Management of Natura2000**

- Funding
- Protection: developments and Natura 2000. Infringements and complaints

# Forest and Natura 2000

## ■ **EU Forest Action Plan:**

Objective 2: Improving and protecting the environment

- KA 7: Towards achieving Community biodiversity objectives for 2010

## ■ **FAP 2008 Work plan:**

- exchange of experiences on nature conservation
- update on the reporting on art. 17 of the Habitats Directive
- presentation of forest parameters in the SEBI system
- implementation of Natura 2000 in forest areas

# Implementation of Natura 2000 in forest areas

- 105<sup>th</sup> SFC: exchange of MS experiences on N2000
- EC proposed an indicative list of issues to address:

- a. Management approach
- b. Acceptance problems
- c. Regulation of economic forestry activities
- d. Conservation measures
- e. Financial returns from forest holdings
- f. Public perception/ acceptance of conservation measures
- g. Impacts/ changes of forest structure and species
- h. Impacts on national - regional forest policies
- i. Critical challenges

# Implementation of Natura 2000 in forest areas

## Preliminary conclusions

- \* Results with a limited vision due to the reduce number of inputs (11)
- \* MP in general accepted and useful tool for forest areas in N2000
- \* Administrative competences not always clear: difficulty to interpret the HD
- \* High variety applying conservation measures (between and within MS)
- \* Frequent use of RD funding for compensation measures
- \* General + response from MS which sent inputs. DE stands apart
- \* FR and IT examples of well designed administrative and technical systems
- \* Partial response to this exercise
  - More inputs?
  - Extended discussion?

# Implementation of Natura 2000 in forest areas

## **Most critical challenges**

- Need of financial resources, human resources, work load
- Spread of competences in MS administrations
- Conflict between nature protection, conservation and forest use
- Decrease of financial returns
- Lack of information on objectives in N2000 sites
- Differences between nature conservation and FCS
- External influences: CCh and natural disasters



# Forest and Natura 2000

## ■ **EU Forest Action Plan:**

Objective 2: Improving and protecting the environment





- KA 7: Towards achieving Community biodiversity objectives for 2010

## ■ **FAP 2008 Work plan:**

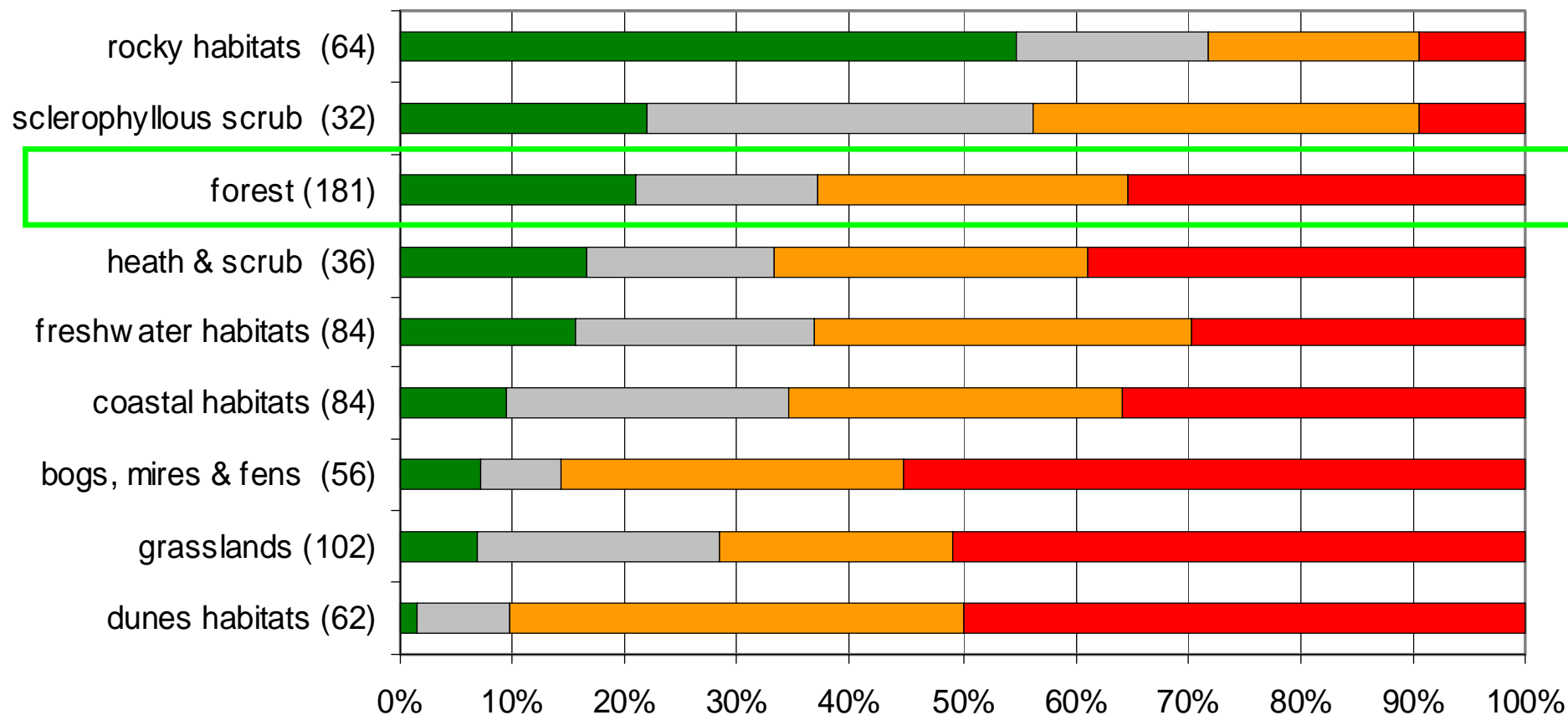
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# Assessing conservation status Art. 17

## **“traffic-light” legend**

-  favourable
-  unfavourable-inadequate
-  unfavourable-bad
-  unknown

## Groups of natural habitat types



# Management of Natura 2000

- NO strict reserves required (**economic use can be essential**)  
**wrong myths!**
- Certain limitations on management (**species used/biocides/logging practices/deadwood....**)
- Subsidiarity applies (**no prescriptions / results count**)
- Examples from MS **show the different approaches**
- Consultation with interest groups **is important**

# Funding Instruments for Natura 2000

## ■ LIFE (pilot projects)

- from 1992 until 2005, many forest related projects were financed
- LIFE+ from 2007-2013 (under development)

## ■ Rural Development **Plans**

- 4,700 M € for forests from 2000 to 2006
- complete set of forestry measures, including N2000 payment for 2007-2013 (RD Plans of MS )
- [Financing Natura 2000 - Guidance Handbook](#)



## To keep in mind ....

- **Implementation in the field is up to MS, not EC**
- **Economic development is not prohibited: meeting point between economic and conservation interests can be found**
- **Exchange of experiences: a success, many reactions**
- **Increased efforts for consultation at the local level are needed. Partnerships**
- **Formulation of conservation objectives needed. Long term vision**



[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/index_en.htm)

**Thanks for your attention!**

