



The European Natura 2000 Award

2024 edition selection criteria

for

Working together for nature category

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	2
Effectiveness criterion (40% of total evaluation).....	3
Originality criterion (5% of total evaluation).....	4
Durability criterion (20% of total evaluation).....	5
Cost-benefit criterion (15% of total evaluation).....	6
Replicability criterion (20% of total evaluation).....	7

Introduction

Applications to the Natura 2000 Award are independently evaluated against five key aspects (criteria):

1. Effectiveness
2. Originality
3. Durability
4. Cost-benefit
5. Replicability

Below, we provide some suggestions for the kinds of information that could be provided in the application form for each criterion in the Working together for nature category. Applications providing descriptive yet to-the-point qualitative and quantitative information for each criterion are likely to score better.

In addition to the suggested information, you can provide links to background, contextual or other relevant materials (websites, documents, etc.), but the evaluation will mainly be based on the information provided in the application form itself.

You can also find good examples of how to fill out the application form in the [Good examples for Working together for nature applications](#) document.

Working together for nature category

This award recognises:

- The creation of socio-economic benefits for local stakeholders resulting from activities linked to a Natura 2000 site such as a Natura 2000 label, nature-based tourism activities, increased revenue for specific stakeholder groups, or creation of new jobs, etc.; and / or
- Conflict resolution efforts that have brought together different stakeholders in a way that has benefitted Natura 2000, focusing on an evolution from a polarised situation to an honourable compromise, with mechanisms in place for the various stakeholders to work together.

The stakeholder groups targeted may be (but are not limited to) land or resource users, local communities, economic actors, or non-traditional actors (military, church, private companies, etc.).

More information on all categories can be found on the [Award website](#). For any questions, you can contact the [Award Secretariat](#).

Effectiveness criterion (40% of total evaluation)

How effective are / were your activities?

This criterion assesses how successful the activities have been in one of the following cases:

1. Creating socio-economic benefits stemming from Natura 2000 (new jobs, increased revenues, integration of disadvantaged groups, creation of a new label, etc.) for specific stakeholders. The socio-economic benefit must be explicitly linked to Natura 2000, even if only by means of a label or brand (for products or services, for example). The public must be aware that the derived benefit is connected to Natura 2000; and / or
2. Resolving a conflicting situation between stakeholders with differing interests directly or indirectly related to a Natura 2000 site, a species or a habitat. This may imply involving “uncommon” stakeholders who may have initially opposed interests (e.g., landowners, hunters, livestock owners, resource users, etc.), in the active conservation of Natura 2000 sites.

Suggestions on what to include in your application:

- What was the situation before you started work?

Explain why the specific set of actions was required and what were the problems addressed.

How was the situation related to the protection or management of the Natura 2000 site(s), or targeted habitat type(s) or species?

- Which stakeholder groups were specifically targeted by – or involved in – your activities?

- How have things changed since the start?

Focus on changes in both the conservation status of the Natura 2000 site, as well as the impacts on the targeted stakeholders.

Please provide quantitative (figures) and qualitative (description) information about, for example:

- Changes in socio-economic conditions
- Number of jobs created
- Amount of increased revenues
- Number and type of new economic activities created
- New stakeholders involved
- Changes in attitudes / perceptions
- How previously opposed stakeholder groups have been involved
- Etc.

Originality criterion (5% of total evaluation)

How original are / were your activities?

Originality can be at various levels:

- Technical (e.g., new tool / method developed);
- Contextual (e.g., existing tool / method used for a different /new stakeholder group); and / or
- Geographical (e.g., existing tool/method used for first time in specific geographic area: EU level / Member State level / regional level, etc.).

Suggestions on what to include in your application:

- In what way were your actions original or innovative?
- If your activities were original, was this to do with:
 - A new technology or technique,
 - A new methodology,
 - The first time the activities had been implemented in this context or area (country or region), and / or
 - Some other original feature?

Durability criterion (20% of total evaluation)

How long-lasting are / were your activities and how sustainable are their results?

This criterion concerns the durability of the results and the durability of the actions.

This criterion is related to:

- a) The durability of actions and their impact over time; and
- b) The steps that have actually been put in place to ensure recurring management / recurring actions, where this is necessary.

In the case of socio-economic benefits actions, the criterion relates to the permanence and future prospects of the new socio-economic activities started / supported through the implemented activities. Schemes / activities that generate a profit and are thus self-sustaining would score higher than those relying on subsidies. Commercial benefits (jobs, sales of products, increased tourism, etc.) must have been showing a positive trend over some years to judge the positive trend, on the basis of reliable data.

In the case of conflict resolution, durability over time can be enhanced through the existence of organised structures, creation of new processes and / or joint commitments.

Suggestions on what to include in your application:

- Will any of your activities continue in the future? If so, please explain how.
- Describe any measures or conditions that are in place to make sure your activities will continue to have an impact in the future.

In the case of socio-economic benefits actions, this can include, for example:

- The trend of commercial benefits (jobs, sales of products, increased tourism, etc.) over the duration of your initiative.
- The trend of social benefits (e.g., involvement of non-traditional stakeholders).
- Etc.

In the case of conflict resolution actions, this can include:

- How the new consensus was organised.
- The mechanisms that were put in place to guarantee long-lasting reconciliation.
- How committed the partners are, and if the commitment has been secured through a binding agreement/collaboration.
- How you see the attitudes evolving in the future.
- Etc.

- Are the activities self-financing / self-sustaining now?

If yes, please explain how. If not, please explain what the future funding needs are and how they will be covered.

Cost-benefit criterion (15% of total evaluation)

How cost-effective are / were your activities?

This criterion assesses the costs of the activities undertaken against the concrete and measurable benefits (results) derived from the socio-economic or conflict-resolution activities.

The first level of a cost-benefit analysis would be to match the cost of the actions with the number / type / population size of stakeholders involved.

The second level would be to match the cost with the effectiveness of the actions:

- In the case of socio-economic benefits, assess the level of newly created incomes / jobs / new opportunities, compared to the incurred costs.
- In the case of conflict resolution, assess the changes in attitudes and perceptions of the target stakeholder groups, compared to the incurred costs.

Suggestions on what to include in your application:

- How much did your socio-economic or conflict resolution activities cost (in €)?
- How many and what types of stakeholders were reached?
- Explain how effective your activities have been, in view of the money spent.

This can include, for example:

- Size of socio-economic change.
- Impact of reconciled interests / changed perceptions.

Please include details on the impact on the Natura 2000 site(s), species and/or habitat types concerned.

Please provide figures (quantitative data) for this criterion wherever possible.

Replicability criterion (20% of total evaluation)

Is it possible to replicate your activities in other places or contexts? Have you done so?

This criterion concerns the replication potential of an action / method: an added value which has not widely been thought of or used yet, or a particularly successful business / partnership model that ought to be disseminated to others who could use it. In addition to the potential of replicability it is of interest to know whether specific steps have been made to actually disseminate the results and to replicate them.

Suggestions on what to include in your application:

- Have your activities been – or could they be - implemented elsewhere (by other colleagues, partners, in other regions, etc.)?
- Are there any real or potential barriers (cultural or financial) to using the methods / schemes elsewhere? If so, please explain how they can be overcome.
- Please explain what efforts you made to share your work with others, to allow them to implement them elsewhere.

For example, did you disseminate the results or present the results / findings in a format that other professionals can use (e.g., a manual, toolbox, guidelines), or did you present your results at a conference or workshop, etc.?