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### Introduction & Goal

To halt the increasing biodiversity loss, the EU set up a legal framework for an ecological network of Special Protected Zones, known as the Natura 2000 network. In Belgium, the delineation of the Natura 2000 sites has come to an end, but many questions arise concerning the management of these areas. The **multiple use of the space** gives rise to many conflicts of interest. In the SELNAT-project, we try to couple socio-economical principles with ecological objectives to organize a **sustainable use of the environment in the Natura 2000 sites**. In particular, feasibility and effectiveness of considered implementation instruments, social support, inequality between beneficiaries and payers, compatibility of ecological and socio-economic development are studied in this **multidisciplinary research**.

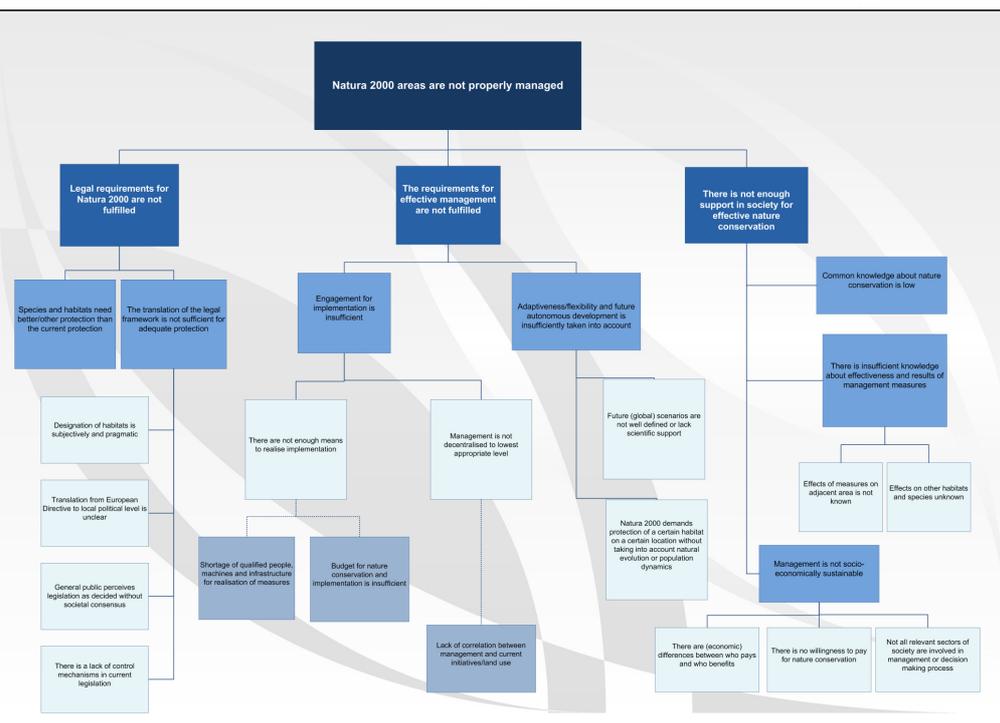


Fig. 1: Problem tree of Natura 2000 – Synthesis of the main bottlenecks for the implementation of the Natura 2000 network in Belgium

→ **Assessment of effectiveness and feasibility of some instruments** for N2000 implementation by means of a literature review and 2 surveys of experts and local stakeholders

**Survey 1 Questions:**  
 -How do stakeholders perceive "feasibility" and "effectiveness" terms?  
 -How do they score different instruments on their feasibility and effectiveness?  
**Target public:** stakeholders at the regional/national level

**Survey 2 Question:** -What does make instruments for Natura 2000 feasible for users?  
**Target public:** local users from different sectors (forestry, agriculture, nature protection, municipalities, tourism, industry) in 2 study sites: the Demer valley, in Flanders, and the Lesse valley, in Wallonia

→ Goal of the instruments assessment = Providing guidelines and recommendations for the elaboration of a **good management plan**. This one should:  
 - comprise **different strategies**, including a set of instruments adapted to different specific situations,  
 - be **adaptive** (allowing changes in priority and timing of implementation of instruments in relation to the future evolution of environment and society)

### Work package 1

**Goal:**

- Multidisciplinary analysis of the implementation of European directives and highlighting of legal, social, economical & ecological bottlenecks of the Belgian Natura 2000 policy.

**Result:** General assessment of actual Natura 2000 network (fig. 1)

### Work package 2

**Goal:**

- Socio-economic, legal and ecological evaluation of instruments

**Research questions:**

- How to adopt adaptive management in the planning and implementation process of Natura 2000?
- What is the effectiveness and feasibility of different instruments for the implementation of Natura 2000?

WP2 currently in progress

→ **Ecosystem Approach** = a framework for an integrated and sustainable management of Natura 2000 sites (fig. 2)

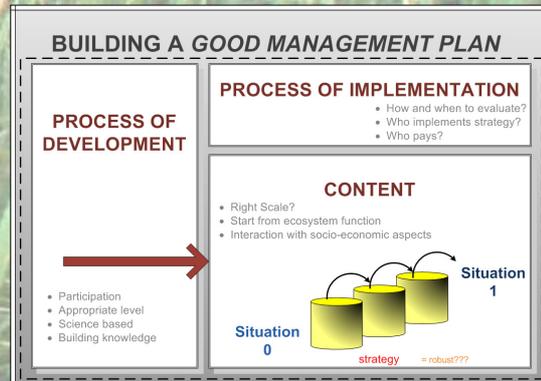


Fig. 2: Building of a good adaptive management plan for Natura 2000 sites, in regard to the ecosystem approach principles

### Work package 3

Making of policy recommendations concerning the better functioning of the Natura 2000 network, taking the socio-economical context into account.