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COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT

**Investment needs and priorities for Natura 2000 and green infrastructure – EU-wide
assessment based on Member States' prioritised action frameworks**

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COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT

Investment needs and priorities for Natura 2000 and green infrastructure – EU-wide assessment based on Member States' prioritised action frameworks

1 Introduction

This staff working document presents the most up-to-date information about the financing needs of the Natura 2000 network of protected areas and its supporting green infrastructure. The calculation and assessment of needs are based on the prioritised action frameworks (PAFs) prepared by the Member States pursuant to Article 8 of the Habitats Directive¹. This document follows up on the commitment made by the Commission in the Biodiversity Strategy for 2030² to update the estimate of the financing needs of the Natura 2000 network. The annex to this document presents aggregated funding needs for EU27 ('EU-level PAF') and summaries of the priority financing needs of each Member State, based on their PAFs.

The previous estimate was presented 2011 in the Commission staff working paper 'Financing Natura 2000, Investing in Natura 2000: Delivering benefits for nature and people'³. It was the first comprehensive calculation of the costs of management and restoration of Natura 2000. Building on the results of a questionnaire completed by 25 Member States, it was then estimated that the annual costs of the network amounted to EUR 5.8 billion per year for EU27. It was further estimated that 33% of the costs were one-off investments (e.g. investment in infrastructure and land purchase) and 67% were recurrent annual costs (e.g. habitat management and planning).

The aggregation of data provided in the PAFs for 2021-2027 allows us to present a major update of the management and restoration costs of the Natura 2000 network and the funding needs for its supporting green infrastructure and species protection.

1.1 Policy context

The EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 highlighted that investing in nature protection and restoration is critical for Europe's recovery from the COVID-19 crisis. This is not only because biodiversity conservation reduces the risk of zoonotic diseases⁴ but also because over half of global GDP depends on nature and the services it provides⁵. Biodiversity protection and restoration is also a key element of the implementation of the European Green Deal⁶, the EU's new growth strategy aiming to transform the EU into a fair and prosperous society, with a modern, resource-efficient and competitive economy where there are no net emissions of greenhouse gases by 2050 and where economic growth is decoupled from resource use. The EU has earmarked unprecedented resources to support this transition mainly through the

¹ Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, OJ L 206, 22.7.1992, p. 7.

² Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, Bringing nature back into our lives, COM(2020) 380 final.

³ SEC(2011) 1573 final.

⁴ EP Study: 'The link between biodiversity loss and the increasing spread of zoonotic diseases', December 2020.

⁵ WEF: New Nature Economy Report, 2020.

⁶ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, The European Green Deal, COM(2019) 640 final.

EU's recovery plan, i.e. NextGenerationEU⁷, and the long-term EU budget for 2021-2027 (the multi-annual financial framework 'MFF') as well as through InvestEU, which aims at unlocking private investments.

The Biodiversity Strategy emphasises that nature conservation is not only vital for safeguarding our natural world, but it also brings direct economic benefits to many sectors of the economy. It has been estimated that investing 1 EUR in nature restoration brings 8 EUR in return in economic benefits⁸. The ecosystem services provided by Natura 2000 have been estimated at between 200 and 300 billion EUR per annum, amounting to around 1.7-2.5% of EU GDP⁹, which by far exceeds the estimated costs of managing the network.

For instance, Natura 2000 sites support insect pollination services, which are currently under threat, providing an important contribution to food security. The pollination services delivered to the agricultural production in the EU have been estimated at EUR 4.517 billion in 2012¹⁰. Other benefits include clean water provision, air purification, climate change mitigation and adaptation, tourism and recreation. A valuation carried out in 2010 indicated that the total carbon value of all Natura 2000 habitats as a whole lies in between EUR 607 and 1 130 billion, depending on the choice of carbon prices¹¹. The total expenditure provided by tourism and recreation on the other hand supports between 4.5 and 8 million full time employment (FTE) jobs according to a 2011 study¹². Socio-economic benefits of Natura 2000 conservation and restoration measures are also confirmed in the PAFs, where Member States were asked to link these measures with the provision of wider ecosystem services.

The EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 recognises that tackling biodiversity loss and restoring ecosystems will require significant public and private investments at national and European level. It emphasises that this will mean making the most of all relevant EU programmes and financing instruments. The strategy underlines that to meet its objectives, including investment priorities for Natura 2000 and green infrastructure, at least EUR 20 billion a year should be unlocked for spending on nature¹³. The strategy indicates that the Commission will update the estimate, notably based on Member States' Prioritised Action Frameworks

⁷ Council Regulation (EU) 2020/2094 of 14 December 2020 establishing a European Union Recovery Instrument to support the recovery in the aftermath of the COVID-19 crisis, OJ L 433I , 22.12.2020, p. 23–27.

⁸ Commission Staff Working Document, Impact assessment accompanying the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on nature restoration, SWD(2022) 167 final.

⁹ ten Brink, P., Badura, T., Bassi, S., Daly, E., Dickie, I.A., Ding, H., Gantioler, S., Gerdes, H., Kettunen, M., Lago, M., Lang, S., Markandya, A., Nunes, P., Pieterse, M., Rayment, M., and Tinch, R. *Estimating the overall economic value of the benefits provided by the Natura 2000 network*, Institute for European Environmental Policy, Brussels, 2011.

¹⁰ Vysna, V., Maes, J., Petersen, J.E., La Notte, A., Vallecillo, S., Aizpurua, N., Ivits, E., Teller, A., Accounting for ecosystems and their services in the European Union (INCA). Final report from phase II of the INCA project aiming to develop a pilot for an integrated system of ecosystem accounts for the EU. Statistical report. Publications office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2021.

¹¹ ten Brink, P., Bassi, S., Badura, P., Gantioler, S., Kettunen, M., Mazza, L., Hart K., Rayment, M., Pieterse, M., Daly, E., Gerdes, H., Lago, M., Lang, S., Markandya, A., Nunes, P., Ding, H., Tinch, Dickie, I., *Estimating the Overall Economic Value of the Benefits provided by the Natura 2000 Network, Final Synthesis Report to the European Commission*, , Brussels 2011.

¹² Shailendra, M. et al., *Estimating the Economic Value of the Benefits Provided by the Tourism/Recreation and Employment Supported by Natura 2000*, Brussels, 2011.

¹³ The cost estimate was based on the 2018 Impact Assessment of the LIFE Regulation (SWD(2018) 292), a Study on the costs of implementing the Target 2 of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 and data submitted by 16 Member States under Article 8(1) of the Habitats Directive.

submitted pursuant to the Habitats Directive. With this staff working document the Commission is honouring this commitment.

In the strategy the Commission recognised that meeting the spending target would require mobilising private and public funding at national and EU-level. The strategy acknowledged, however, that since nature restoration makes a major contribution to the climate objectives, a significant proportion of the 30% of the EU budget currently dedicated to climate action will also be invested in biodiversity and nature-based solutions¹⁴.

The Natura 2000 network can only truly function as a network in which species and habitats persist and recover from pressures, and migrate in response to climate change, if the sites are connected by suitable habitat corridors and steppingstones, and if the sites are buffered against pressures from surrounding land uses. This is why the Member States were asked to include in their PAFs for 2021-2027 investments in the green infrastructure¹⁵ in so far as they underpin the functioning of the Natura 2000 network.

The Nature Directives fitness check¹⁶ found that EU funding (particularly from the LIFE programme) plays an important role in implementing the Directives, but also that constraints on the level of funding and/or access to funding were a major obstacle to their effectiveness. Similarly, a 2017 study on the integrated financing approach to biodiversity in the EU¹⁷ identified some successes in applying EU funding to nature and biodiversity, but also highlighted significant gaps and challenges. Further efforts are therefore needed to improve the application of EU funds to Natura 2000 and the level of uptake of these funds in the current financing period.

Lastly, in December 2022, the 15th Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP15) adopted the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework¹⁸, committing the Parties to double biodiversity finance from all sources (domestic and international, public and private) from ca. USD 100 billion per year in 2020 to USD 200 billion USD per year in 2030 as well as to align public and private financial flows with biodiversity objectives. This SWD on the Natura 2000 investment needs and priorities contributes to this commitment by identifying the key funding opportunities and gaps as regards financing EU biodiversity hotspots.

1.2 EU funding: multiannual financial framework and NextGenerationEU

The investments needed to manage and restore the Natura 2000 network include one-off investments in the designation of sites, stakeholder engagement and management planning

¹⁴ The Commission defines nature-based solutions as ‘inspired and supported by nature, which are cost-effective, simultaneously provide environmental, social and economic benefits and help build resilience.’ https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/research-area/environment/nature-based-solutions_en

¹⁵ Green infrastructure is a strategically planned network of natural and semi-natural areas with other environmental features designed and managed to deliver a wide range of ecosystem services and improve the connectivity of Natura 2000 sites. Green infrastructure includes elements going beyond Natura 2000 connectivity such as green roofs, green walls, city parks, etc. These elements were not included in the PAFs.

¹⁶ Milieu, IEEP and ICF, *Evaluation Study to support the Fitness Check of the Birds and Habitats Directives*, Brussels, 2016.

¹⁷ Kettunen, M., Illes, A., Rayment, M., Primmer, E., Verstraeten, Y., Rekola, A., Ring, I., Tucker, G., Baldock, D., Droste, N., Santos, R., Rantala, S., Ebrahim, N., ten Brink, P., *Integration approach to EU biodiversity financing: evaluation of results and analysis of options for the future. Final report for the European Commission*, Institute for European Policy, Brussels/ London, 2017.

¹⁸ <https://www.cbd.int/article/cop15-final-text-kunming-montreal-gbf-221222>

activities and ongoing expenditures on the maintenance, restoration and monitoring of sites and their species and habitats. While the main responsibility for financing Natura 2000 lies with the Member States, Article 8 of the Habitats Directive commits the EU to co-financing necessary conservation measures for Natura 2000.

The 2021-2027 multiannual financial framework (MFF) and NextGenerationEU, the recovery instrument, form the largest financial package ever provided through the EU budget. The NextGenerationEU recovery package provides EUR 750 billion in loans and grants during 2021 to 2023, through the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF), ReactEU, the Just Transition Fund, Rural Development, InvestEU, rescEU, and Horizon Europe contributing to the green transition¹⁹. The Recovery and Resilience Facility provides EUR 672.5 billion in loans and grants, for which Member States have agreed national recovery and resilience plans for spending up to 2026. A dedicated natural capital and circular economy initiative has been established under InvestEU to mobilise at least EUR 10 billion of public/private blended finance over the next 10 years. It will provide an EU budget guarantee to support and mobilise public and private investment and access to finance in the EU.

The 2021-2027 MFF, adopted by the Council of the European Union and endorsed by the European Parliament in December 2020²⁰, makes EUR 1.074 trillion available for beneficiaries of EU funding during the seven years; 30% of programmes under the 2021-2027 MFF and NextGenerationEU are expected to support climate action, for example through cohesion policy, the common agricultural policy, and the LIFE programme for climate and environment. Most of these funds are also expected to contribute directly or indirectly to the EU's biodiversity ambition.

In recognition of the important role of biodiversity, the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission have agreed on a biodiversity spending ambition in the 2021-2027 MFF, which would provide at least 7.5% of annual spending in 2024 and 10% in 2026 and 2027 to biodiversity objectives (considering overlaps between climate and biodiversity goals). Article 16 of the Interinstitutional Agreement on operation of the budget from 2021 to 2027²¹ commits the Commission to report annually on biodiversity expenditure and progress towards this ambition, in accordance with sectoral legislation.

While the Member States' contribution to the biodiversity ambition will be counted at the level of the MFF, all the relevant programmes will have a role to play to reach the targets. The current estimates show that the EU is on track to reach 8% in 2024 but only ca. 9% in 2026/2027²², which demonstrates the need to increase biodiversity mainstreaming in relevant EU funds.

With this in mind, the Commission is aiming at ensuring that Member States dedicate sufficient funding to biodiversity under the EU funds. To make sure that sufficient funding is

¹⁹ The expected contribution per programme can be found in Commission Staff Working Document 'Climate Mainstreaming Architecture in the 2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework' SWD(2022) 225 final.

²⁰ Council Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2020/2093 of 17 December 2020 laying down the multiannual financial framework for the years 2021 to 2027.

²¹ Interinstitutional Agreement of 16 December 2020 between the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission on budgetary discipline, on cooperation in budgetary matters and on sound financial management, as well as on new own resources, including a roadmap towards the introduction of new own resources.

²² https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/statement-estimates-2023_en

made available to biodiversity, all relevant funds have specific objectives for funding biodiversity and nature conservation:

- The CAP, under the Regulation establishing rules on support for strategic plans (CAP Strategic Plans Regulation), has a specific objective to contribute through both of its pillars (the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund ‘EAGF’ and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development ‘EAFRD’) to the protection of biodiversity, to enhance ecosystem services and to preserve habitats and landscapes²³;
- The European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) has ‘the restoration and conservation of aquatic biological resources’ among its priorities and ‘contributing to the protection and restoration of aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems’ among its specific objectives²⁴;
- The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the Cohesion Fund (CF) aim at contributing to ‘enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution’²⁵;
- LIFE, the programme for the environment and climate action, should contribute to halting and reversing biodiversity loss and tackling the degradation of ecosystems, including by supporting the implementation and management of the Natura 2000 network²⁶;
- Horizon Europe, the EU research and innovation fund, does not have a specific biodiversity objective but one of its components, called clusters, is ‘Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment’ and biodiversity is listed among its areas of intervention²⁷;
- The European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) does not have a specific objective related to biodiversity but its broader goals to support Member States and regions to achieve high employment levels, fair social protection, and a skilled and resilient workforce²⁸ can include actions that directly or indirectly exert positive impact on nature.

2 The prioritised action frameworks (PAFs) for 2021-2027

The prioritised action frameworks (PAFs) are strategic multiannual planning tools aimed at providing a comprehensive overview of the measures needed to implement the EU-wide Natura 2000 network and its associated green infrastructure, specifying the financing needs for these measures and linking them to the corresponding EU funding programmes. In line with the objectives of the Habitats Directive²⁹, on which the Natura 2000 network is based, the measures to be identified in the PAFs should mainly be designed to maintain and restore, at a favourable conservation status, natural habitats and species of EU importance, whilst taking account of economic, social and cultural requirements and regional and local characteristics.

²³ Regulation 2021/2115, Article 6(1)(f).

²⁴ Regulation 2021/1139, Article 3(1) and 14(1)(f).

²⁵ Regulation 2021/1058, Article 3(1)(b)(vii).

²⁶ Regulation 2021/783, Article 3(1).

²⁷ Regulation 2021/695, Article 4(1)(b)(vi) and Annex I.

²⁸ Regulation 2021/1057, Article 3(1).

²⁹ Article 2(2)-(3) of the Habitats Directive.

The legal basis for the PAFs is Article 8(1) of the Habitats Directive³⁰, which requires that Member States send to the Commission their estimates relating to the EU co-financing needs associated to the implementation of conservation measures for the Natura 2000 sites.

PAFs therefore focus on the identification of those financing needs and priorities that are directly linked to the specific conservation measures established for Natura 2000 sites, in view of achieving the site-level conservation objectives for those species and habitat types for which the sites have been designated. Given that the Natura 2000 network also includes the special protection areas (SPAs) designated pursuant to the EU Birds Directive³¹, the financing needs and priority measures associated with bird species in SPAs are also included in the PAFs.

In its special report No 1/2017 on Natura 2000³² the European Court of Auditors concluded that the first completed PAFs (for the MFF period 2014-2020) did not present a reliable picture of the actual costs of the Natura 2000 network. The report highlighted the need for updating the PAF format and providing further guidance for improving the quality of information that Member States provide in their PAFs. Moreover, the Council conclusions³³ on the EU action plan for nature, people and the economy³⁴ recognised the need for further improving the multiannual financial planning for investments in nature. The importance of better forecasting the financing needs for Natura 2000 was also recognised in a resolution by the European Parliament³⁵.

This is why the Commission, in consultation with the Member States, developed a new PAF format, which was finalised in 2018. The new format for 2021-2027 requires presentation of information in a systematic way to give:

- an overview of the current state of the Natura 2000 network;
- a summary of the EU and national funding for Natura 2000 that occurred during the 2014-2020 financial period and;
- a detailed description of priority measures identified for the financial period 2021-2027.

This last part requires information on the financial needs in relation to:

- horizontal measures and administrative costs related to Natura 2000: such as site designation, management planning, site administration and communication with stakeholders, monitoring and reporting, filling knowledge gaps and research needs, communication, education, and awareness raising measures;

³⁰ Article 8(1): ‘In parallel with their proposals for sites eligible for designation as special areas of conservation, hosting priority natural habitat types and/or priority species, the Member States shall send, as appropriate, to the Commission their estimates relating to the Community co- financing which they consider necessary to allow them to meet their obligations pursuant to Article 6 (1).’

³¹ Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds, OJ L 20, 26.1.2010, p. 7.

³² Special Report No 1/2017: More efforts needed to implement the Natura 2000 network to its full potential.

³³ <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2017/06/19/conclusions-eu-action-plan-nature/>

³⁴ COM(2017) 198 final: An Action Plan for nature, people and the economy
http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/fitness_check/action_plan/communication_en.pdf

³⁵ European Parliament resolution of 15 November 2017 on an Action Plan for nature, people and the economy (2017/2819(RSP)) <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=TA&language=EN&reference=P8-TA-2017-0441>

- site-related maintenance and restoration measures within Natura 2000 and measures necessary for green infrastructure supporting the network, broken down according to nine ecosystem types, i.e. (1) marine and coastal waters; (2) heathlands and shrubs; (3) bogs, mires, fens and other wetlands; (4) grasslands; (5) other agro-ecosystems including croplands; (6) woodlands and forests; (7) rocky habitat, dunes and other sparsely vegetated lands; (8) freshwater habitats (rivers and lakes) and (9) others (e.g. caves);
- any additional species-specific measures not related to specific ecosystems or habitats, or measures for the prevention, mitigation or compensation of damage caused by protected species.

For each of the main ecosystem types the PAF must include information on:

- the current status of habitats and species, conservation measures taken and their impact so far, as well as remaining pressures and threats;
- the measures needed to maintain or restore habitat types and species to favourable conservation status;
- a prioritisation of measures to be implemented during the period 2021-2027;
- a breakdown of measures to be carried out within and outside Natura 2000 sites, distinguishing between recurring (e.g. annual) or one-off measures and including for each measure a set target (e.g. number of hectares) as well as an estimated annualised cost and an indication of the possible source of funding including EU co-financing;
- the additional expected benefits from the measures, such as improvement of wild pollinator populations or other socio-economic benefits.

Green infrastructure measures must be included in the PAF where they contribute to the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 network, including in a cross-border context, and to the objective of maintaining or restoring the targeted species and habitats to favourable conservation status.

Similarly to 2014-2020, Member States could choose to develop a PAF for the whole country or at the regional level.

2.1 Submission and revision of the PAFs

Before finalising their PAFs, Member States were invited to submit their draft PAFs to the European Commission by early 2019. Most Member States submitted a single national PAF covering their whole territory. Some Member States (Belgium, Italy, Portugal and Spain) opted, however, for PAFs setting out financing needs in individual regions.

To ensure as far as possible that the PAFs give a comprehensive and consistent assessment of financing needs across the EU, the Commission checked each draft PAF for completeness, coherence and sufficiency in terms of identified measures. The Commission then sent feedback to the Member State authorities, with a view to their submitting revised PAFs.

To date the Commission has received 70 PAFs (national or regional) from all 27 Member States³⁶. Twenty-five Member States have submitted revised PAFs.

The data in the PAFs were aggregated to provide overall estimates of financing from different sources in the 2014-2020 period, as well as estimated financing needs at EU level for the period 2021-2027. These data form the basis of the analysis in this report.

2.2 Financing provided for Natura 2000 in 2014-2020

In the PAFs, Member States assessed the EU and national funding sources used for Natura 2000 in the 2014-2020 financing period from the following funds: European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and Cohesion Fund (CF), European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF), LIFE Programme, other EU programmes, if relevant, as well as the remaining (mainly national) funding.

The PAF template asked for estimates of the overall value of each funding source, allocations to Natura 2000, and actual expenditures relevant to Natura 2000. While most PAFs included the above-mentioned data, these tend to be less comprehensive than the figures on future financing needs. The PAFs for the Netherlands, France, Luxembourg and Romania include partial data, with notable gaps for the EAFRD, while data are missing in the PAFs for some Italian and Spanish regions. Moreover, because many of the PAFs were completed before the end of the 2014-2020 financing period, data on actual expenditures and national funding often do not cover the entire period and should be treated with caution. Therefore, the aggregation of the data provided in this analysis, due to data gaps, should be taken as minimum estimates of funding relevant to Natura 2000 in the 2014-2020 period.

Based on the assessed PAFs it can be concluded that the largest levels of EU funding for Natura 2000 in the 2014-2020 period came from the EAFRD (at least EUR 24.7 billion including 16.3 billion from the EU), followed by ERDF³⁷/CF (EUR 5.8 billion including EUR 4.6 billion from the EU), LIFE (EUR 1.7 billion including EUR 1 billion from the EU), EMFF (EUR 0.6 billion including EUR 0.4 billion from the EU), and other EU programmes, mainly Interreg (EUR 1.5 billion including EUR 1.3 billion from the EU). Overall, the figures indicate total EU funding under these programmes amounting to EUR 23.8 billion over the 7-year period, an average of EUR 3.4 billion per year³⁸. This was supplemented by co-funding and national programmes amounting to at least EUR 22.9 billion (an annual average of EUR 3.3 billion).

Overall, the figures indicate that actual funding for Natura 2000 is likely to have been around EUR 46.7 billion for the whole period, which corresponds to EUR 6.7 billion annually. Approximately 50% of this funding was provided by the EU, and 50% by the Member States. This is much larger than previous estimates³⁹, but indicates a continuing gap between the

³⁶ Denmark has submitted only limited data.

³⁷ Excluding Interreg.

³⁸ As a whole, in the 2014-2020 period, biodiversity-related expenditure reached EUR 85 billion, or 8 % of overall expenditure https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/statement-estimates-2023_en

³⁹ In 2011 Kettunen et al. estimated the available funding at 550 – 1150 million EUR/year in 2007-2013 MFF. They included in their analysis only funding sources for which there was strong evidence of direct contribution to Natura 2000 (the lower bound) i.e. EAFRD Natura 2000 payments and LIFE + Natura and Biodiversity. For the higher bound they added an estimated 50 per cent of the annual allocations under ERDF category 51 (protection of biodiversity and nature protection), 25 per cent of EAFRD agri-environment payments and 1 per

2014-2020 levels of funding and the 2021-2027 annual needs of approximately EUR 10 billion identified in the PAFs (see the next section).

In practice, it is likely that some funding identified as being allocated to Natura 2000 benefits the network indirectly but does not meet its specific needs. For example, only a limited part of the funding provided by the EAFRD under measures such as those covering basic services and village renewal, payments to areas facing natural constraints and organic farming measures (identified in the PAFs as relevant for Natura 2000) may contribute to address the specific needs of the network. Hence, the scale of the funding gap is likely to be greater than that mentioned above.

2.3 Financing needs for Natura 2000 in 2021-2027

Some points should be noted in interpreting the figures presented in this section:

- Data are missing for Denmark.
- Poland gave an estimate of total financing needs of EUR 4.5 billion over the 2021-2027 period, but some costs are provided on two-yearly basis. The annual figures for Poland have therefore been scaled down in the aggregated calculation to align them with the total estimated financing needs for the period.
- While most Member States gave a single estimate of financing needs, Slovenia presented minimum and maximum estimates. The analysis below includes the upper estimate.
- Germany did not give separate estimates for green infrastructure, but included these in the Natura 2000 management and restoration cost estimates (the estimates cover the Natura 2000 needs plus an additional 10% of this area as a buffer, which includes both non-Annex I habitats within Natura 2000 sites and areas outside the network).
- Most Member States gave complete estimates of costs for different categories of measures and ecosystem types required by the PAF. However, it is likely that these are influenced by variations in data availability, estimation methods and assumptions employed, which affects the reliability of the required management actions costs. Very few PAFs provided unit costs for actions (costs per ha or km) to justify the calculation.

Overall, the estimates of the costs of implementing the Natura 2000 network over the 2021-2027 indicate that at the end of 2022:

- Annual financing needs for the 26 Member States⁴⁰ for which data is available amount to EUR 10.1 billion per year.
- The best estimate of financing needs for the EU27 (i.e. extrapolating from EU26 to EU27)⁴¹ is EUR 10.1 billion annually, of which EUR 6.6 billion (65%) are annual costs and EUR 3.5 billion (35%) are annualised one-off costs.

cent of the European Fisheries Fund axis 3 funding (Kettunen, M., Baldock, D., Gantioler, S., Carter, O., Torkler, P., Arroyo Schnell, A., Baumueller, A., Gerritsen, E., Rayment, M., Daly, E., Pieterse, M., *Assessment of the Natura 2000 cofinancing arrangements of the EU financing instrument. A project for the European Commission - final report*, Institute for European Environmental Policy, Brussels, 2011).

⁴⁰ Denmark did not provide data in the agreed format allowing aggregation with other Member States' PAFs.

- The annual EU27 financing needs for the maintenance and restoration of the Natura 2000 network amount to EUR 4.8 billion (47%), additional green infrastructure measures beyond Natura 2000 to EUR 2.5 billion (25%), horizontal and administrative measures to EUR 2.1 billion (20%), and species-specific measures to EUR 0.8 billion (8%). See Annex I for more details.
- The costs average EUR 132/ha across the terrestrial area of the network and 7 EUR/ha in the marine area, which amounts to the average of EUR 85/ha across for the total terrestrial and marine area.
- The balance between annual running costs and one-off investment costs also varies between Member States. The Netherlands stands out in estimating much larger one-off costs than annual running costs. This reflects plans to make substantial investments in restoring habitats such as wetlands, grasslands and forests within Natura 2000, as well as enhancing green infrastructure outside Natura 2000 sites.
- The largest annual cost estimates in absolute terms are for Germany (EUR 1.5 billion), Spain (EUR 1.4 billion) and Netherlands (EUR 0.9 billion).

Table 1 below provides an overall estimate of financing needs across the EU27.

Table 1: Estimated Natura 2000 financing needs in 2021-2027 in million EUR

Member State	Annual running costs	Annual one-off costs	Total annual costs
Austria	98.2	18.8	117.0
Belgium	165.0	177.8	342.8
Bulgaria	77.8	24.5	102.3
Croatia	123.3	103.7	227.0
Cyprus	2.0	5.5	7.4
Czechia	94.5	55.2	149.7
Denmark	-	-	-
Estonia	17.3	26.2	43.5
Finland	763.5	98.9	862.4
France	442.3	209.7	652.0
Germany	1,170.4	377.0	1,547.4
Greece	123.9	24.7	148.5
Hungary	193.8	167.8	361.6
Ireland	139.1	23.5	162.6

⁴¹ Denmark accounts for 1.9% of the EU27 Natura 2000 area, 0.5% of the terrestrial area and 4.3% of the marine area. To estimate financing needs for the EU27, the cost estimates can be upscaled on an area basis. The estimated financing needs for terrestrial habitats were therefore upscaled by 0.5%, for marine habitats by 4%, and horizontal and species measures by 2%.

Italy	229.6	261.3	490.9
Latvia	92.6	22.6	115.2
Lithuania	92.7	29.1	121.8
Luxembourg	15.6	43.8	59.4
Malta	25.3	0.7	25.9
Netherlands	163.1	739.0	902.2
Poland	377.1	312.0	689.1
Portugal	177.3	29.4	206.7
Romania	393.7	150.0	543.7
Slovakia	199.3	43.1	242.4
Slovenia	56.8	29.1	85.9
Spain	1,139.1	269.3	1,408.4
Sweden	212.0	294.6	506.6
Total EU	6,585.2	3,537.2	10,122.4

Note: Data from Denmark are missing. The annual figures for Poland have been scaled down to align them with the total estimated financing need for the period.

2.4 Breakdown of financing needs by groups of measures

Table 2 presents a breakdown of the overall financing needs for the EU27 across the different priority measures listed in the PAFs. The totals are upscaled to account for the missing data for Denmark, while the data for Poland are scaled down to align the itemised annual financing needs with the total estimated financing needs for the 2021-27 period.

As mentioned in the previous section, the largest costs concern Natura 2000 site-related maintenance and restoration measures for species and habitats, followed by additional green infrastructure measures outside Natura 2000, horizontal measures and administrative costs relating to Natura 2000, and species-specific measures.

The largest habitat costs in Natura 2000 relate to grasslands, woodlands and forests, reflecting the large areas of these habitats designated within the network. Freshwater habitats, as well as grasslands, woodlands and forests, account for a large share of financing needs relating to green infrastructure outside the Natura 2000 network.

Table 2: Estimated (upscaled) annual financing needs for Natura 2000 in 2021-2027 in million EUR

	Annual running costs	One-off / project costs	Total annual cost
1. Horizontal measures and administrative costs related to Natura 2000			
1.1 Site designation and management planning	428.7	364.8	793.5
1.2 Site administration and communication with	560.3	63.8	624.1

stakeholders			
1.3 Monitoring and reporting	184.4	29.0	213.3
1.4 Remaining knowledge gaps and research needs	47.6	201.8	249.4
1.5 Natura 2000 related communication and awareness raising measures, education and visitor access	115.2	99.3	214.5
Sub-total	1,336.1	758.6	2,094.8
2a. Natura 2000 site-related maintenance and restoration measures for species and habitats			
2.1a Marine and coastal waters	79.4	115.1	194.4
2.2a Heathlands and shrubs	244.9	101.6	346.5
2.3a Bogs, mires, fens and other wetlands	207.8	211.4	419.2
2.4a Grasslands	909.1	371.8	1,280.9
2.5a Other agroecosystems (incl. croplands)	803.1	125.7	928.8
2.6a Woodlands and forests	677.4	365.7	1,043.1
2.7a Rocky habitats, dunes and sparsely vegetated lands	38.5	65.8	104.3
2.8a Freshwater habitats (rivers and lakes)	153.5	293.8	447.3
2.9a Others	9.1	8.2	17.3
Sub-total	3,122.9	1,659.0	4,781.9
2b Additional green infrastructure measures beyond Natura 2000 (further improving coherence of the Natura 2000 network, including in a cross-border context)			
2.1b Marine and coastal waters	132.9	7.8	140.7
2.2b Heathlands and shrubs	83.7	66.6	150.3
2.3b Bogs, mires, fens and other wetlands	37.3	127.4	164.7
2.4b Grasslands	375.5	294.7	670.2
2.5b Other agroecosystems (incl. croplands)	225.8	116.6	342.4
2.6b Woodlands and forests	138.8	154.1	292.9
2.7b Rocky habitats, dunes and sparsely vegetated lands	8.1	51.4	59.5
2.8b Freshwater habitats (rivers and lakes)	549.2	87.8	637.0
2.9b Others	7.4	49.6	57.0
Sub-total	1,558.8	956.0	2,514.8
3. Additional species-specific measures not related to specific ecosystems or habitats			
3.1 Species-specific measures and programmes not covered elsewhere	471.9	184.9	656.8
3.2 Prevention, mitigation or compensation of damage caused by protected species	163.4	14.1	177.5

Sub-total	635.4	199.0	834.3
Annual total	6,653.1	3,572.6	10,225.7

2.5 Changes in financing needs since 2010

An EU-wide study of investment needs, which included a survey of the EU Member States conducted in 2010, estimated that the costs of managing the Natura 2000 network were in the order of EUR 5.8 billion per year for the EU27⁴². It was estimated that around two thirds of these costs related to the on-going management activities at existing sites with one third of the costs being linked to one-off investments such as infrastructure and land purchase. This figure was deemed an underestimate, as most countries focused on historic and/or budgeted expenditures, with few providing information on future needs. For instance, the cost of achieving favourable conservation status was only captured to a limited extent. In addition, the cost of managing marine Natura 2000 sites was under-represented.

In 2010, the total costs, averaged over the terrestrial area of the network, amounted to EUR 63 per hectare per year. However, there was considerable variation around this average. A key reason for the relatively low estimates made by some Member States was that many appeared to be based on the resources available for the network rather than estimates of the cost of completing, restoring and managing the network without resource constraints.

The current figures indicate that annual Natura 2000 financing needs have increased by 75% for 23 Member States⁴³, from EUR 4.9 billion in 2010 to EUR 8.6 billion for the 2021-27 period.

The largest recorded increases are in Poland (+459%) and Slovakia (+684%), both of which made very low estimates of financing needs relative to their Natura 2000 area in the 2010 assessment. In contrast, five Member States (Cyprus, Estonia, Ireland, Luxembourg and Spain) estimate lower financing needs than in the earlier assessment. The largest decrease relates to Cyprus, which previously made very large estimates of costs for its Natura 2000 area (assuming, among other things, widespread land purchases).

Some further adjustments are needed, however, to make the data comparable:

- The 2010 figures covered Natura 2000 only, and did not assess financing needs for wider green infrastructure;
- The figures also need to be adjusted for inflation, taking account of a 15% increase in general prices over the period 2010 to 2020.

After removing green infrastructure costs, and adjusting for inflation, the figures suggest a real terms increase of 24% in overall financing needs since the previous assessment. This increase may result from more systematic collection and presentation of data inspired by the new PAF format as well as better identification of the conservation and restoration needs of

⁴² Gantioler, S., Rayment, M., Bassi, S., Kettunen, M., McConville, A.J., Landgrebe, R., Gerdes, H., ten Brink, P., *Costs and Socio-Economic Benefits associated with the Natura 2000 Network, Final Report to the European Commission*, Brussels, 2010.

⁴³ Denmark (lack of/ incomplete data in this assessment) is not taken into account. Moreover, the figures exclude Croatia, Finland and Romania (no data provided for last assessment) and the United Kingdom.

the habitats and species protected within the Natura 2000 network, particularly in marine areas, which in the past were largely overlooked.

2.6 Per hectare financing needs

The overall financing needs of EUR 10.2 billion detailed in the PAFs amount to an average of EUR 132 per hectare, when averaged over the terrestrial area of the Natura 2000 network, or EUR 85 per hectare across the total (terrestrial + marine) Natura 2000 area. The average cost of management of marine Natura 2000 is approximately EUR 7 per hectare (based on total cost of measures for marine and coastal waters, not including horizontal and species related measures).

Per hectare costs vary widely between Member States, and there are also great differences in average costs per terrestrial hectare and per overall hectare. The highest costs per terrestrial hectare are in Malta (6 071 EUR/ha) followed by the Netherlands (1 457 EUR/ha) and Belgium (880 EUR/ha), all densely populated countries in which land is managed relatively intensively. However, each of these countries also has extensive marine Natura 2000 networks, such that average per hectare costs are much lower when calculated across their entire Natura 2000 area (in case of Malta it is 62 EUR/ha).

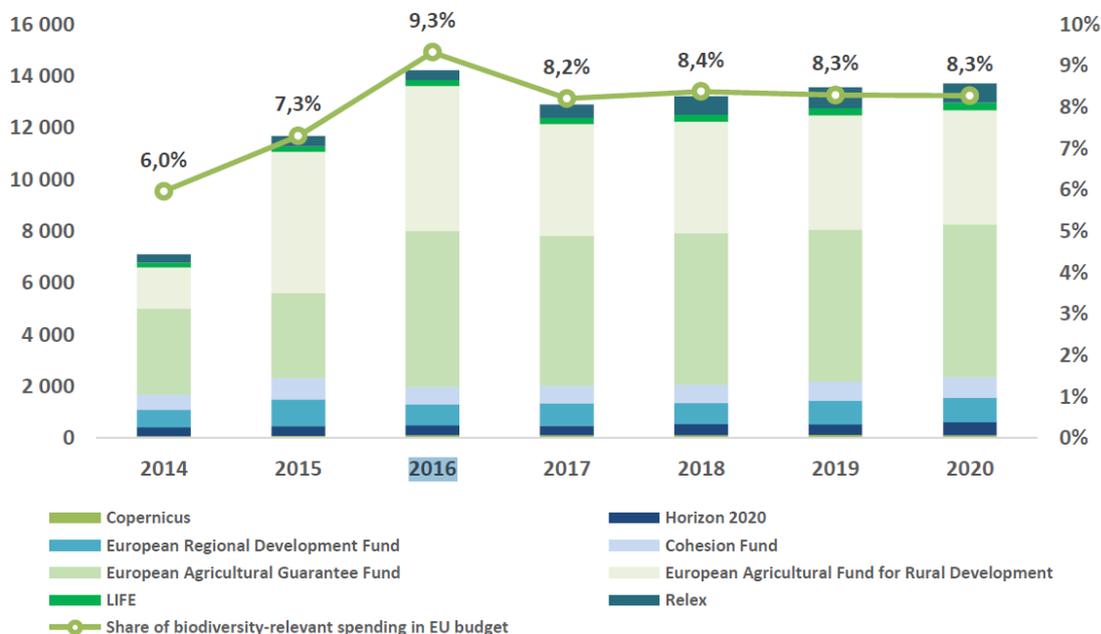
While there are significant variations across Member States, average financing needs per hectare tend to be higher in the densely populated countries of North-West Europe (Belgium, Germany, Luxembourg and the Netherlands) where land is relatively intensively managed, and lower in the Mediterranean countries (notably Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Italy and Spain). Some variations in per hectare costs are more difficult to explain (e.g. the variations across the three Baltic States).

Previous studies (including Gantioler et al. 2010) suggest that protected areas offer economies of scale, such that larger networks of protected areas tend to have lower costs per hectare. However, while some countries with relatively small Natura 2000 networks have relatively high per hectare costs (e.g. Luxembourg and Belgium), and others with large Natura 2000 networks (e.g. Spain) have relatively low costs per hectare, there is no clear pattern across the EU, suggesting that other factors also influence cost estimates. It should also be noted that economies of scale are likely to be related to the average size of Natura 2000 sites, and not just the overall area of the network in each Member State.

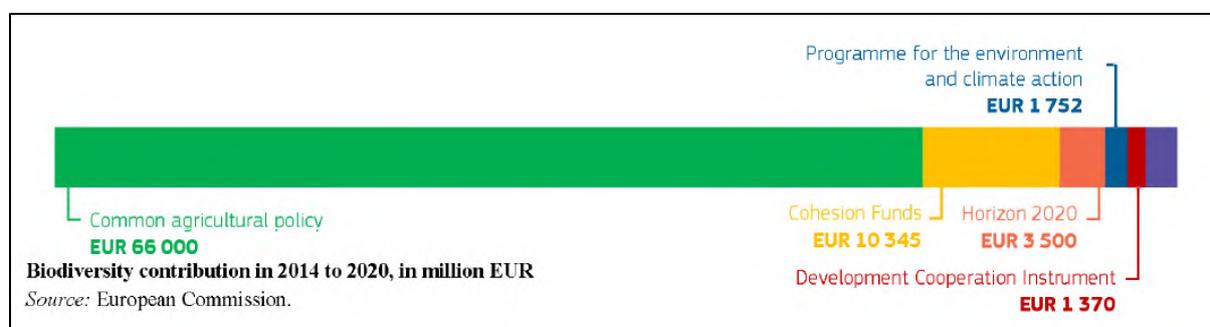
The 2010 assessment suggested that differences in estimates of financing needs could only partially be explained by differences in the costs of management, and that other factors, such as the methods and assumptions used in the assessment and the level of ambition applied in estimating financing needs, helped to explain differences between Member States. It is likely that these factors continue to play a role, although it is also likely that improved knowledge and experience, and improved guidance, are helping to enhance the robustness of cost assessments over time.

3 Biodiversity financing in the 2021 – 2027 MFF

The 2014-2020 MFF already had a strong biodiversity dimension, as shown in Graph 1 below which presents the contribution from the EU budget to biodiversity expenditures⁴⁴ (in EUR million and % of budget).



Graph 2⁴⁵ shows the contribution of each major EU fund to the overall biodiversity expenditure in the EU budget over the 2014-2020 period.



It should be noted, however, that the accuracy of these calculations has been put into question, particularly with regard to the CAP contribution. Specifically, the European Court of Auditors in its special report 13/2020 ‘Biodiversity on farmland CAP contribution has not halted the decline’ found that the way the Commission tracks biodiversity expenditure in the EU budget was unreliable⁴⁶. To address these gaps the European Commission is developing a

⁴⁴ European Commission (2020) Draft General Budget of the European Union for the financial year 2021: Working Document Part I Programme Statements of operational expenditure. COM(2020)300, European Commission, Brussels.’ https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/eu-budget-performance_en

⁴⁵ European Commission (2020) Draft General Budget of the European Union for the financial year 2021.

⁴⁶ [Special Report 13/2020: Biodiversity on farmland: CAP contribution has not halted the decline \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/special-report-13-2020-biodiversity-on-farmland-cap-contribution-has-not-halted-the-decline_en)

new methodology for tracking biodiversity-related expenditure and estimating the funding needs and gaps to implement the Biodiversity Strategy to 2030⁴⁷.

The updated methodology addresses some of the shortcomings of the previous approaches e.g. by focusing more on expected impacts, wherever possible, rather than only on the stated objectives of expenditure. The Commission's methodology on biodiversity tracking continues to be based on marking specific activities for their expected benefit for biodiversity as principal (which are marked at 100%), significant (40%) or not targeted (0%). As regards the EAGF and the EAFRD, the forecasts provided for 2023-2027 are still established on the basis of the previous methodology and will be updated in the near future following the adoption of the CAP strategic plans⁴⁸.

The PAFs identify the specific needs for those measures that deliver for Natura 2000 and related green infrastructure, which are a subset of the overall biodiversity needs to be covered by the biodiversity related expenditure tracked across the EU budget. To achieve effective mainstreaming of Natura 2000 in the EU budget and reap the benefits of the biodiversity earmarking in the EU budget it is therefore important to identify as much as possible the specific Natura 2000 needs to be covered by relevant EU funds and secure the sufficient allocations for nature related investments in these funds.

3.1 Analysis of Natura 2000 needs from main EU funds

The analysis presented in this section is based on the PAFs submitted by 22 Member States⁴⁹, which have indicated the intended funding sources for the proposed priority measures. Due to lack of sufficient information quantification of funding needs for individual funds unfortunately is not possible. This is because the Member States often indicated more than one relevant funding programme for the identified conservation measures in their PAFs. As a consequence, any attempt of aggregation of funding needs per EU fund is fraught with the risk of double or even triple counting. On the other hand, lack of data from the 5 Member States that have not submitted information on funding sources in their PAFs could lead to underestimation of the overall needs.

In spite of these shortcomings, information presented in the PAFs gives a good idea of the relevance of the main EU funds for Natura 2000 and the expected areas of intervention for the common agricultural policy, cohesion and regional funds, EMFAF, LIFE, Horizon Europe and the ESF+.

⁴⁷ The work on the new methodology was kickstarted by the publication of the study *Biodiversity financing and tracking: Final Report* (Nesbit, M., Whiteoak, K. et al., Institute for European Environmental Policy and Trinomics, Brussels, 2022) but further work is necessary particularly as regards tracking biodiversity expenditure in the CAP.

⁴⁸ https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/eu-budget/performance-and-reporting/mainstreaming/biodiversity-mainstreaming_en

⁴⁹ AT, BG, CY, CZ, EE, EL, ES, FI, FR, HU, IE, IT, LT, LU, LV, LU, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI.

The list of two letter country codes can be found at

<https://publications.europa.eu/code/pdf/370000en.htm#:~:text=The%20two%2Dletter%20ISO%20code,the%20abbreviation%20EL%20is%20recommended.>

3.2 The common agricultural policy (CAP)

CAP funding is indicated in the PAFs as the most important source of support for nature in most of the Member States. The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) is the financial source most often referred to in the PAFs, including agri-environment-climate and forest-environment measures, but also investment measures and Natura 2000 payments. The European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF), on the other hand, has the potential to fund conservation interventions through eco-schemes, but it has only been referred to in a few cases, probably because the PAFs had been prepared before the CAP Strategic Plans Regulation was finalised and the opportunities under this kind of schemes were not well known at that time.

The EAFRD is indicated as possible funding source for conservation of grasslands, other agroecosystems, heathlands and shrubs and to benefit freshwater. To a lesser extent, it is also proposed to finance conservation measures in other habitats such as bogs and dunes, as well as species that depend on these habitat types and horizontal measures for the network.

3.2.1 CAP measures for grasslands

The EAFRD is the primary financing source for the majority of conservation measures planned for grassland habitats and species in the PAFs. All the analysed Member States indicated in their PAFs their goal to maintain and/or restore through the use of the EAFRD good conservation status of grassland habitats and associated species and prevent further area loss and deterioration. The bulk of the measures and investments are needed inside Natura 2000. Bulgaria proposed measures only inside Natura 2000 and some Member States (Netherlands, Estonia and Greece) identified only one or two measures outside the network.

Support to extensive livestock grazing and mowing, and the implementation of specific measures and practices that favour the conservation of particular grassland habitats are proposed for many natural and semi-natural grassland habitat types of Community interest, in particular those which are in unfavourable status. Species associated with grasslands, including plants, birds⁵⁰, butterfly species and small mammals⁵¹, that are threatened and protected in the EU, are also targeted by agri-environmental or investment measures.

Development and testing of result-based payments are proposed in a few Member States for agri-environment-climate commitments in grasslands⁵². Other measures, such as increasing the area of managed semi-natural grasslands, limiting nitrogen fertilization and promoting organic farming have also been proposed to be funded through EAFRD agri-environment-climate commitments, as well as specific practices like prescribed burning or pollarding.

At least half of the PAFs considered in this analysis have proposed specific restoration measures for grasslands, in addition to recurring management measures. These include removal of invasive alien species and vegetation control via burning or cutting to be funded

⁵⁰ E.g. *Vanellus vanellus*, *Burhinus oediconemus*, *Ciconia ciconia*, *Falco vespertinus* and *Otis tarda*.

⁵¹ E.g. *Spermophilus citellus* and *Microtus cabrerarum*.

⁵² E.g. Ireland has two result-based programmes that have proven to be very successful: the Burren Programme and the Aran Islands EIP-AGRI. The first one is currently active and has been extended for the 2023-2027 period with EAFRD co-funding. According to Latvia's PAF, support of the creation of semi-natural grassland outside Natura 2000 is going to be applied in the form of a pilot result-based payment programme to be funded by EAFRD. Another Member State that has included a result-based (results-oriented) programme is Lithuania, aiming to improve the condition of grassland habitats associated with birds.

by the EAFRD (e.g. through investments under Article 73 of the CAP Strategic Plans Regulation). Reintroduction of mowing practices and purchase of technical equipment to prevent or reduce loss of or damage to wildlife during mowing are also planned.

Species-focused restoration measures for butterflies⁵³ and birds⁵⁴ include cutting self-seeding trees, predator control and creation of wildlife infrastructure like ponds or management of forest edges to enhance heterogeneity. Promotion of organic farming, support of studies on livestock density, monitoring plans and pasture management plans have also been proposed by some Member States.

A few Member States (e.g. Czechia, Hungary, Romania and Spain) have proposed payments for area-specific disadvantages imposed by requirements resulting from the implementation of the Habitats Directive, i.e. so called Natura 2000 payments, to be funded by the EAFRD (under Article 72 of the CAP Strategic Plans Regulation), in order to compensate for limitations on livestock density and for restrictions in management.

Some Member States also aim to promote other, wider, benefits stemming from the management of grasslands, such as developing of green label schemes for products from semi-natural grasslands, protecting cultural heritage and making it visible and offering outdoor recreation opportunities.

Finally, some PAFs also include measures with possible EAFRD support to prepare grazing plans or action plans for grasslands restoration to provide advice to grasslands' managers.

3.2.2 CAP measures for other agroecosystems (including croplands)

Most of the analysed PAFs include measures to be funded by the EAFRD in agroecosystems other than grasslands (e.g. for arable land and permanent crops). Three Member States, however, have not proposed any measures for this type of agroecosystems (Poland, Slovenia and Sweden). In general, there are more measures planned inside Natura 2000 than outside, and some Member States have not included any measures outside Natura 2000 (e.g. Bulgaria, Slovenia and Sweden).

These measures aim to promote agricultural practices that favour the conservation of habitat types and species of Community interest, which could be financed by the EAFRD by means of agri-environment-climate commitments (Article 70 of the CAP Strategic Plans Regulation).

Many of these measures are focused on the conservation of farmland birds⁵⁵, and aim to preserve breeding and feeding habitats of bird species in different agroecosystems. They include harvest delay, crop rotation, maintenance of stubble and fallow land and reduction in the size of agricultural parcels. Limitations on the use of pesticides and fertilisers as well as promotion of organic farming and sustainable practices have been proposed by several Member States. Some PAFs specifically mention the reduction of pesticide use as a measure to improve the situation of pollinators and insect biodiversity. Control and elimination of invasive alien species are also proposed in some PAFs.

⁵³ E.g. *Euphydryas aurinia*, *Maculinea nausithous* and *Maculinea teleius*.

⁵⁴ E.g. *Crex crex* and *Tetrao tetrix*.

⁵⁵ E.g. *Anser albifrons*, *A. fabalis*, *A. anser*, *Circus cyaneus*, *Emberiza hortulana*, *E. citronella*, *Otis tarda*, *Perdix perdix* and *Falco vespertinus*.

Analysed PAFs include many measures that aim to improve the agricultural landscape, promote refuge areas and ecological corridors for fauna. The creation and management of hedgerows, small woods, flower strips and ponds are proposed to be financed by the EAFRD and could be supported as non-productive investments (Article 73 of the CAP Strategic Plans Regulation). Investments in fire prevention and firefighting equipment in agroecosystems are also planned to be supported by the EAFRD.

Payments to compensate for the limitation of livestock density and the reduction of the use of pesticides and fertilisers are also proposed as compensatory payments (Article 72 of the CAP Strategic Plans Regulation). Other proposed compensatory payments include more specific requirements related to the conservation needs of different species⁵⁶.

3.2.3 CAP measures for heathland and shrubs

Some PAFs include measures for the conservation of heathland and shrub habitats and their associated species to be funded by the EAFRD (e.g. through agri-environment-climate commitments under Article 70 of the CAP Strategic Plans Regulation). Similarly to other ecosystem types, for heathland and shrubs more measures and investments are planned inside Natura 2000 than outside.

These measures are mostly focused on controlling the growth and expansion of woody vegetation, including promotion of extensive grazing, mowing and manual vegetation control and are focused on specific heath and shrub protected habitats⁵⁷. Managing of livestock, prescribed burning and limitations of fertiliser and pesticide use are other relevant measures included in the PAFs for these habitats. For species conservation, most measures are focused on birds breeding in heathlands, such as the red grouse, golden plover, hen harrier and include extensive grazing and low fertiliser input.

Control and elimination of invasive alien species⁵⁸ and reintroduction of native species have also been proposed by some Member States and could be supported as investments under the EAFRD (Article 73 of the CAP Strategic Plans Regulation). Other investments are focused on improving some specific habitats, e.g. by removal of other scrub from heaths and *Juniperus* formations. There are also investments to improve connectivity with the creation of hedgerows, ponds, and to protect high biodiversity areas by the establishment of fences. As for agroecosystems, investments in fire prevention and firefighting equipment are also planned to be supported by the EAFRD. Finally, some payments are proposed to compensate the limitation of the use of certain areas.

3.2.4 CAP measures in woodlands and forests

Most of the analysed PAFs proposed measures in woodlands and forests to be funded by the EAFRD.

Conservation measures for the maintenance and enhancement of forest habitats and species of Community interest could be funded through agri-environment-climate commitments (Article 70 of the CAP Strategic Plans Regulation). These include the management of forest by

⁵⁶ E.g. *Ciconia ciconia*, *Aquila heliaca*, *Circus aeruginosus*, *Circus pygargus*, *Falco cherrug*, *Falco vespertinus*, *Perdix perdix*, *Coturnix coturnix*, *Otis tarda*, *Grus grus*, *Glareola pratincola*, *Vanellus vanellus*, *Asio flammeus*, *Coracias garrulus*, *Alauda arvensis*, *Anthus campestris*, *Lanius minor* and *Miliaria calandra*.

⁵⁷ E.g. European heaths (habitat types 4030, 4010 and 4060) as well as *Juniperus* formations (5130).

⁵⁸ E.g. *Campylopus introflexus* and *Rosa rugosa*.

creating and maintaining the structural diversity of forest habitats (including the preservation of deadwood and the creation of gaps of various sizes), which often also aim to provide suitable habitats for forest species, mainly birds (e.g. *Tetrao urogallus*) and saproxylic insects. Pilot projects for the implementation of special management practices, including different forestry and felling methods to develop optimal age structure, improve habitat suitability for species and connectivity at landscape level are also proposed.

The EAFRD is also suggested as a possible co-funding source for measures aimed at the restoration of forest habitats, through reforestation with typical species and by promoting species regeneration and reconversion of plantations into native forests, which can be funded as investments (Article 73 of the CAP Strategic Plans Regulation). The establishment and regeneration of agro-forestry systems are also proposed in some PAFs. The EAFRD is proposed to co-finance the removal of invasive alien species in native forests. Support for private forest owners is provided to develop forest management plans in view of making forestry activity more nature friendly.

Finally, measures to compensate for area-specific disadvantages imposed by requirements of the EU nature legislation in forest use and forestry activities are planned in some of the PAFs. These could be financed through the EAFRD (Article 72 of the CAP Strategic Plans Regulation – payments for area-specific disadvantages imposed by requirements resulting from the implementation of the Habitats Directive). These payments are planned to be used for instance for the recovery of protected forest habitats that are in an unfavourable conservation status, and to preserve nesting habitats of birds through limiting forest management in certain periods and areas. Compensation payments for private forest owners in Natura 2000 sites to set up micro reserves are also planned.

The measures to be funded by the EAFRD in woodland and forests are proposed both inside and outside Natura 2000 in most of the PAFs analysed but in general are more numerous inside Natura 2000. Measures to preserve forest habitats outside Natura 2000 with EAFRD co-funding are also proposed to improve connectivity for forest species.

Some of the countries considered in this assessment, however, did not include the EAFRD as possible funding source for the measures in woodland and forests (e.g. Czechia, Luxembourg, Slovenia and Sweden) but propose the use of other funds for such measures (mainly LIFE and ERDF).

3.2.5 CAP measures for freshwater habitats

Eleven Member States have indicated in their PAFs the EAFRD as possible EU co-funding source for conservation measures in freshwater habitats (rivers and lakes). These include restoration measures to improve the condition of freshwater habitats' structure and function, and to reduce the effects of pollution in order to improve the conservation status of rivers, lakes and associated species, which could be funded with agri-environment-climate commitments (Article 70 of the CAP Strategic Plans Regulation). Measures to limit the use of fertilisers and pesticides or modifications of some interventions that can affect the conservation status of river and lake species and habitats are included in some PAFs. Measures for restoring the natural water management regime and controlling invasive alien species are also proposed to be co-funded by the EAFRD.

For example, support for the creation of protective unfertilised grass strips is planned to improve water quality and to reduce eutrophication, in particular in areas including freshwater habitats of Community interest. Pilot measures for the construction of small water treatment plants, e.g. on mountain farms, which could be funded as investments under the EAFRD (Article 73) are also proposed to enhance the conservation status of freshwater habitats. Creation of ponds that can become habitats of Community interest (e.g. habitat types 3130, 3140, 3150) and habitats of protected species (e.g. *Triturus cristatus*, *Alytes obstetricans* and *Hyla arborea*) are proposed to be funded by the EAFRD, as well as measures to promote ecological connectivity between existing populations of freshwater species (e.g. *Triturus cristatus*).

3.2.6 CAP measures for other habitats

Planned EAFRD funding for other habitats (e.g. peat bogs, dunes and other coastal habitats) is less significant than for grasslands, other agroecosystems and forests, but some countries have included measures for these ecosystems in their PAFs, for which the EAFRD is indicated as a possible co-funding source.

In relation to bogs, mires, fens and other wetlands, typical measures include removal of drainage, creation of open waters, mowing, cutting of self-seeding trees and shrubs, and removal of invasive species, which can be funded with EAFRD agri-environment-climate commitments and investments (Articles 70 and 73 of the CAP Strategic Plans Regulation).

On dunes and areas with sparse vegetation, extensive grazing, eradication of invasive exotic plant species and promotion of their replacement by native species are also typical measures proposed in some PAFs to be co-financed by the EAFRD.

3.2.7 CAP measures for species protection

Measures to improve habitat connectivity, for instance through maintenance and restoration of hedgerows and other landscape features, are typical measures proposed in PAFs to be co-financed by the EAFRD, which can be supported through agri-environment-climate commitments (Article 70) and investments (Article 73).

The maintenance of agricultural land mosaic to favour protected species, the creation of feeding habitats and placement of nests for protected species are also proposed in some PAFs. Other species-specific measures proposed to be co-financed by the EAFRD include predator and rodent control and the reduction of poisoned bait use.

Compensation and prevention measures for damage caused by protected species are also typical measures proposed in some PAFs to be co-financed by the EAFRD. This includes electric fences and shepherd dogs to protect livestock from the large carnivores or fences to protect beehives from bears funded as investments under Article 73 of the CAP Strategic Plans Regulation. Some PAFs have also proposed measures for the control of invasive alien species including predators such as the raccoon dog or the American mink. Advice and guidance for reducing damage from wildlife, is also planned in some PAFs to be co-financed by the EAFRD.

3.2.8 CAP measures for horizontal actions

The EAFRD is indicated as potential funding source for horizontal actions in many of the analysed PAFs, including for management planning (e.g. elaboration of management plans

for agriculture in protected areas, grazing and silvo-pastoral plans, forest plans, plans for management of invasive species); for communication with stakeholders and advice on agricultural and forest management practices that favour biodiversity; for capacity building of agriculture advisory services on implementing adapted agricultural practices with positive effects on species/habitat types and biodiversity (e.g. in Slovenia); for monitoring, survey and mapping of habitats and species (e.g. birds and butterflies) and studies needed for their management and conservation (e.g. studies on carrying capacity, ecological requirements of habitats and species, ecological connectivity and green infrastructure, invasive species); for cooperation and awareness raising of farmers and other stakeholders.

Monitoring the effects of agri-environmental schemes and other measures implemented with CAP funding is also planned (with the EAFRD as possible funding source) in some countries (Finland, Hungary and Romania). Finally, the establishment of a national certification system for agricultural products in line with nature conservation is proposed in some PAFs (e.g. in Greece). All these measures can be funded as investments under Article 73 of the CAP Strategic Plans Regulation.

3.3 European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the Cohesion Fund (CF)

20 out of 22 analysed Member States⁵⁹ have indicated the ERDF as possible funding source for the measures proposed in their PAFs. Only Luxembourg and the Netherlands have not proposed any measure to be financed by the ERDF. Member States have often indicated more than one fund for individual measures. In particular, the countries eligible for the Cohesion Fund⁶⁰ usually did not distinguish between measures to be funded by the ERDF and by the Cohesion Fund. In addition, in many cases other EU funds (such as EMFAF, LIFE or EAFRD) were also indicated as possible funding source in the PAFs.

The ERDF and CF funding is proposed for measures aimed at the conservation and restoration of habitats and species in all ecosystem types. In all the PAFs considered in this analysis, the ERDF and CF are proposed to finance horizontal measures for Natura 2000.

The ERDF and CF funding is largely proposed to finance measures for freshwater habitats (rivers and lakes). A variety of measures is planned, which include the management of water to maintain or improve the condition of freshwater habitats and species, restoring river continuity, improving habitats for aquatic species and other species associated with water (e.g. birds), and the control and removal of invasive species.

The ERDF and CF are also proposed to finance measures in woodland and forests to a significant extent and to a lesser extent in heathlands and shrubs. These measures are mostly aimed at the restoration of degraded habitats. Some Member States have also included measures for marine and coastal habitats and species to be funded with the ERDF and CF. However, these measures are not very numerous. Moreover, in most cases, these measures are also proposed to be funded by the EMFAF. Even fewer measures are proposed for the ERDF and CF funding in relation to habitats and species in other agroecosystems and other ecosystems, including bogs, mires and fens, dunes and caves.

⁵⁹ AT, BG, CY, CZ, EE, ES, EL, FI, FR, HR, HU, IE, IT, LT, LV, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI.

⁶⁰ BG, CY, CZ, EE, EL, HR, HU, IT, LT, LV, MT, PL, PT, RO, SI, SK.

Species protection measures are, on the other hand, proposed to be funded by the ERDF and CF in many PAFs. They include measures related to prevention, mitigation or compensation of damage caused by species protected under the EU Birds and Habitats Directives. Typical examples of measures under this section involve preventing damage caused by large carnivores and some bird species as well as compensatory or mitigation measures in relation to damage to private property caused by beavers.

3.4 LIFE

The Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE)⁶¹ provides funding to support the implementation of EU environmental and climate legislation and policy, either through direct interventions or by supporting the integration of the fund's objective in other policies. The LIFE programme is divided into the fields of Environment and Climate Action, with two sub-programmes in each. The one most relevant to Natura 2000 is the sub-programme Nature and Biodiversity.

All the Member States considered in this analysis have proposed measures to be financed by LIFE. The planned conservation and restoration measures concern all ecosystem types, with a relatively higher number of measures for woodlands and forests and for freshwater habitats (rivers and lakes).

A variety of measures are proposed, from typical conservation measures to more innovative ones aimed at the restoration of habitats and populations in unfavourable status. The latter include, for instance, ex-situ conservation with the creation of gene banks of endangered plant species, captive breeding of threatened animal species and reintroduction or reinforcement of populations.

Typical horizontal measures to be funded by LIFE include studies, inventories, surveys, action plans and strategies for habitats and species, elaboration and update of management plans for Natura 2000 sites. Improving governance of Natura 2000 through communication and cooperation with stakeholders and raising local awareness are also the focus of many measures earmarked for LIFE funding. Dissemination activities and wider awareness campaigns on Natura 2000 and species and habitats conservation are also frequent measures proposed to be funded by LIFE.

3.5 European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF)

19 Member States⁶² have proposed measures in their PAFs for which EMFAF is indicated as possible funding source. Ireland has proposed only one measure on research to fill knowledge gaps. Two decentralised states (Italy and Spain) proposed to fund several hundred measures each, whereas the rest of Member States are proposing around 10-30 measures each to be funded with EMFAF.

⁶¹ Regulation (EU) 2021/783 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2021 establishing a Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE), and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1293/2013 (Text with EEA relevance) (LIFE Regulation) Recital 3.

⁶² BG, CY, CZ, EE, EL, ES, FI, FR, HR, HU, IE, IT, LT, LV, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI.

EMFAF measures for conservation and restoration of habitats and species

Measures aimed at the protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems (Article 25 of the EMFAF Regulation) are by far the most numerous type of measures proposed for EMFAF funding in the PAFs; they concern over half of the measures. They include: (i) preparation and updating of management plans; (ii) implementation of conservation and restoration measures in Natura 2000; (iii) surveillance and monitoring of marine species and habitats; (iv) adaptation and regulation of fishing activity in Marine Protected Areas; and (v) studies and research to guide the conservation of protected habitats and species and Natura 2000 sites.

Many PAFs include measures for the conservation and restoration of protected coastal and marine habitats (e.g. reefs, Posidonia beds, coastal lagoons) and species (e.g. cetaceans, turtles, seabirds). The protection of marine habitats and species is expected to be promoted through fisheries management plans, incentives and compensation payments for regulation and adaptation of fisheries techniques and gears. Some PAFs also propose the installation of artificial reefs to enhance biodiversity and prevent the impact of some fisheries activities (e.g. trawling). The collection and disposal of fishing gear such as ghost nets and marine litter is included in some PAFs in order to improve the conservation status of seabed habitats and species.

Restoration of inland waters is also covered in some PAFs including the restoration of river habitats and lakes, restoring fish spawning grounds, elimination of small dams and obstacles for the recovery of fish migration, use of new technologies such unmanned surface and undersea vehicles as well as drones to improve the surveillance, monitoring and control of activities in marine Natura 2000 sites.

Finally, measures to prevent the arrival of invasive alien species and for their early detection, control and eradication are also proposed in some PAFs, including the implementation of pilot actions and specific monitoring in Natura 2000 sites.

3.5.1 EMFAF measures for improving knowledge and monitoring of Natura 2000 sites, habitats and species

EMFAF is expected to contribute to improve knowledge of marine ecosystems (Article 32 of the EMFAF Regulation) and to support the collection of biological and environmental data in the fisheries sector (Article 23 of the EMFAF Regulation).

Many PAFs have proposed to finance various studies and monitoring activities that are necessary for the designation and management of Natura 2000 sites, the implementation of appropriate conservation measures and the mitigation of adverse impacts of fishing activities.

EMFAF is proposed to fund studies and data collection for the development and updating of Natura 2000 sites management plans. Other measures include the mapping of marine habitats, monitoring of deep-sea habitats, species monitoring (mainly seabirds, cetaceans and turtles) and studies for assessing the main pressures on them.

Several measures address the impact of human activities on habitats and species, in particular in the Natura 2000 sites. This includes control of activities in the Natura 2000 sites using new technologies, monitoring of by-catch of protected species, capacity studies for recreational

activities in marine protected areas, studies on invasive alien species and on the effects of climate change on marine ecosystems.

3.5.2 EMFAF measures to reduce the impact of fisheries on marine ecosystems

Measures for managing the impacts of fisheries in marine Natura 2000 sites can be supported under Article 21 of the EMFAF Regulation.

In many of the analysed PAFs, measures are proposed to reduce the impact of fisheries on marine habitats (e.g. sandbanks, mudflats, shallow bays, reefs) and species, including the assessment of impacts and management of fishing activities and gears in some areas.

Compensation for temporary cessation of fishing activities in Natura 2000 sites is also proposed in some PAFs (e.g. in Croatia, Italy and Portugal) in order to improve conservation of marine habitats and species.

Many Member States have also proposed technical measures and development of plans to reduce accidental catches of protected species (seabirds, turtles, marine mammals and elasmobranchs) in fishing gear, including risk analysis, monitoring of by-catch and the promotion of methods and devices to reduce the impact of fishing on protected species (e.g. pingers).

3.5.3 EMFAF measures for aquaculture

EMFAF funding can support the promotion and the sustainable development of aquaculture, including freshwater and marine aquaculture (Article 27 of the EMFAF Regulation).

Such measures have been proposed by several Member States (Croatia, Estonia, Hungary, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden). As regards marine aquaculture, some Member States have proposed measures to encourage the adaptation of aquaculture methods in marine Natura 2000 sites to reduce eutrophication pressure and marine pollution from this activity, and to analyse the interactions between aquaculture and key habitats and species.

For inland aquaculture, different measures are included, e.g. to improve environmental performance of aquaculture to promote conservation and recovery of freshwater habitats and species and to educate companies about environmental sustainability. Many Member States have proposed payments, both in marine and freshwater aquaculture, as a compensation for damage caused by protected species (e.g. cormorants and seals).

3.5.4 Other measures to be funded by EMFAF

A few Member States (Greece, Italy, Portugal, Spain) have proposed measures related to 'community-led local development' (Article 30 of the EMFAF Regulation), including studies about new income sources for the fishing sector based on sustainable management of marine resources and Natura 2000 management (Spain), and socio-economic studies devoted to coastal communities dependent on the sea (Portugal).

Some PAFs have proposed collaboration agreements between public administrations and users (mainly diving centres and fishing sector) in order to regulate their activities for conservation purposes.

Training activities and advice on good practices are also proposed for the fishing sector to minimise incidental capture of protected species (birds and turtles) and to promote their participation in the management of Natura 2000 sites.

Only three Member States (Greece, Spain, Sweden) have proposed to fund maritime surveillance (Article 33 of the EMFAF Regulation), including measures for surveillance and monitoring of pressures and impacts of fishing activities on marine ecosystems and improving coordination among national authorities.

The EMFAF can also support coastguard cooperation (Article 34 of the EMFAF Regulation). Two Member States (Portugal and Spain) have proposed measures to purchase equipment for surveillance and inspection at sea, and to improve the coordination between law enforcement authorities to prevent the deterioration of natural habitats and species.

A few Members States (Greece, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden) have proposed measures to promote ‘clean and healthy seas and oceans’ (Article 49 of the EMFAF Regulation), which include: (i) strategies for removing marine litter and eradicating invasive alien species; and (ii) developing and implementing plans against marine pollution.

Blue economy and maritime policy can also be funded by EMFAF (Article 51 of the EMFAF Regulation). A few measures have been proposed in this regard, such as support of local development initiatives to promote economic activity and employment linked to biodiversity, actions to control and promote the sustainable use of marine resources in Marine Protected Areas and the development and application of maritime spatial planning instruments.

With regard to the support to international ocean governance (Article 54 of the EMFAF Regulation), one Member State (Spain) included measures to develop transnational collaboration to improve management of activities that may entail pressures for the conservation of marine habitats and species, and agreements between administrations and other countries to implement the Natura 2000 network objectives.

3.6 Horizon Europe

Horizon Europe is the EU research and innovation programme for 2021-2027. It funds research and innovation activities carried out in the Member States. Horizon Europe may provide funding for research in protected areas related to the development and testing of new management approaches and/or evaluation of the past Natura 2000 management schemes. In principle, all types of Natura 2000 sites and EU habitats and species can be funded, as Horizon Europe does not place restrictions on types of research. Horizon Europe is best suited to meeting the Natura 2000 and green infrastructure financing needs for addressing the knowledge gaps and research.

11 out of the 22 Member States considered in this analysis have proposed measures to be funded by Horizon Europe in their PAFs. Most of the countries have considered Horizon Europe as a possible funding source for research and monitoring related to the conservation of habitats and species of Community interest. Most of these measures are proposed inside Natura 2000.

The rest of the measures are aimed at supporting the conservation and restoration of habitats and species of Community interest, mainly through studies, analysis and testing of new methods. The number of measures proposed is broadly similar for all of ecosystem types, with the exception of freshwater habitats (rivers and lakes), for which a slightly higher number of measures have been proposed.

3.7 The European Social Fund Plus (ESF+)

The European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) aims to support Member States and regions to achieve high employment levels, fair social protection, and a skilled and resilient workforce ready for the future world of work, as well as inclusive and cohesive societies aiming to eradicating poverty and delivering on the principles set out in the European Pillar of Social Rights. It aims to contribute to a greener, low carbon Europe through the improvement of education and training systems necessary for the adaptation of skills and qualifications, the upskilling of all, including the labour force, and the creation of new jobs in sectors related to the environment, climate, energy, the circular economy and the bio-economy.

Seven⁶³ out of the 22 Member States considered in this analysis have proposed measures to be funded by the ESF+.

Almost all the measures proposed are horizontal measures, mainly for Natura 2000 related communication and awareness raising, education and visitor access and also for site administration and communication with stakeholders. A smaller number of measures are devoted to monitoring and improving knowledge and to site designation and management planning.

Conservation and restoration in Natura 2000 are also covered and include mainly information, training, awareness raising, stakeholder cooperation, studies, inventories and monitoring to support the conservation of particular species and habitats in all the ecosystem types.

Green infrastructure measures beyond Natura 2000 and species-specific measures not related to particular ecosystems or habitats are represented by a smaller number of measures, which are mostly dedicated to information, training and awareness-raising activities.

4 Conclusions

The aggregation of data provided in the PAFs for 2021-2027 allows us to present a major update of the management and restoration costs of the Natura 2000 network and the funding needs for its supporting green infrastructure and species protection.

Based on the available data, the annual financing needs for the 26 Member States which submitted PAFs amounts to EUR 10.1 billion per year. When extrapolated to EU27, the best estimate of financing needs is EUR 10.2 billion annually (of which EUR 6.6 billion, i.e. 65%, are annual recurring management costs and EUR 3.5 billion, 35%, are annualised one-off costs). This total is 82% higher than the amount estimated in 2011. When adjusted for inflation and after removing green infrastructure costs (which were not assessed in 2010), the

⁶³ BG, EL, ES, HR, IT, PT and SI.

figures suggest a like-for-like real terms increase of 24% in overall financing needs since 2010. This increase can be explained by more comprehensive collection and presentation of data required by the new PAF format as well as by better knowledge of the conservation and restoration needs of habitats and species, including in the marine areas.

The costs of maintenance and restoration of the Natura 2000 network now amount to EUR 4.8 billion (47%), additional green infrastructure measures beyond Natura 2000 to EUR 2.5 billion (25%), horizontal and administrative measures to EUR 2.1 billion (20%), and species-specific measures to EUR 0.8 billion (8%). It should be noted that these costs overlap to a large extent with those associated to the implementation of the proposed Regulation on Nature Restoration⁶⁴.

The average annual costs are EUR 132/ha across the terrestrial area of the network and EUR 85/ha if averaged across the total terrestrial and marine area. This is also a substantial increase (33%) in comparison to 2010 when the average cost was assessed at 63 EUR per hectare per year. When adjusted for inflation the increase amounts to 16%.

Although the main responsibility for financing Natura 2000 lies with the Member States, Article 8 of the Habitats Directive commits the EU to co-financing the necessary conservation measures for Natura 2000. In their PAFs, the Member States indicated the most important conservation measures to be carried out in 2021-2027 as well as their costs and the indicative sources of funding, including the main EU programmes. On the basis of the analysis of the PAFs, the CAP emerges as a fund best suited to finance measures for grasslands, other agroecosystems and forests, while cohesion policy funds are largely proposed to finance measures for management and conservation of a wide range of habitat types and species as well as for horizontal measures such as site management. LIFE funding is planned for conservation and restoration of all relevant ecosystems and species-specific needs. The EMFAF is mainly indicated in relation to the conservation of marine habitats and species as well as to horizontal measures, mainly to improve knowledge of the marine environment and the management of marine Natura 2000 sites. Horizon Europe is mostly proposed for horizontal measures to improve knowledge and monitoring of protected habitats and species. Finally, the ESF+ is mainly planned to finance horizontal measures on capacity building and training for site management, communication with stakeholders and to promote green business and employment in relation to the management and appreciation of Natura 2000 sites.

Due to the limitations of available data, it is not possible to estimate the necessary funding from each EU programme, however, from the information provided by Member States in their PAFs, it can be broadly concluded that the biggest contribution is expected from the CAP, cohesion and regional funds, EMFAF and LIFE. Horizon Europe and ESF+ will also have a role to play in Natura 2000 management.

Currently, the process of negotiating the MFF programmes is coming to an end. It is too early to make any final conclusions on the achievement of the EU ambition of allocating 7.5% of the MFF to biodiversity in 2024, and 10% in 2026 and 2027, however, some first conclusions on the contribution of the PAFs to reaching this objective can already be made.

⁶⁴ Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and the Council on nature restoration COM(2022) 304 final, adopted by the European Commission on 22.06.2022.

Based on needs identified in the PAFs, the CAP will remain the main funding source for Natura 2000. The agri-environment-climate and forest-environment measures, as well as Natura 2000 payments and support for non-productive investments are appealing and well known to farmers and other stakeholders and will continue to play a key role in financing the network. However, the broader reorientation of the agricultural policy, among others through the Farm to Fork Strategy⁶⁵, towards protection of biodiversity, enhancement of ecosystem services and preservation of habitats and landscapes, which is operationalised e.g. by including the 1st pillar EAGF payments in the CAP strategic plans (as opposed to the rural development programmes adopted in the previous MFFs, which only covered the 2nd pillar EAFRD support) and by the creation of eco-schemes, has not been fully captured in the PAFs. This is probably because the environmental authorities have been drafting PAFs before and/or in parallel to the development of the CAP strategic plans, when these new opportunities were not yet well known. It may also indicate a lack of sufficient involvement of agricultural authorities in the development of the PAFs, as they may still not see PAFs as a key tool for the delivery of the CAP objectives, and, vice-versa, a lack of sufficient involvement of environmental authorities in the development of the CAP strategic plans.

Similarly, the funding opportunities from the NextGenerationEU plan which includes funding from the Recovery and Resilience Facility (under the Recovery and Resilience Plans) and InvestEU among others were also not reflected in the PAFs, probably as they became available only in the second half of 2020 when many Member States had already prepared their draft PAFs. Also, the novelty of these programmes and their focus on financial instruments proved to be hard to integrate into Natura 2000 financing activities, which traditionally rely on well-tested programmes and grants.

Lack of sufficient integration can also be seen in the cohesion policy funds. Although it is encouraging to see that average allocations tend to be higher than in the previous programming period, when only 4% of the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund were allocated to finance biodiversity, there is still a need to strengthen efforts to increase biodiversity investments (preliminarily estimated at 6.1% of all ERDF and Cohesion Fund allocation⁶⁶).

The analysis carried out for the purpose of this staff working document shows that in addition to the CAP and cohesion policy funds, LIFE funding is of strategic importance for nature and biodiversity. Due to the focus of the LIFE programme on Natura 2000, its flexibility and high co-funding rates, there is a big demand for its assistance as expressed by a high number of measures in relation to which LIFE funding was indicated as a possible source of funding. Unfortunately, due to the very limited budget of the LIFE programme (EUR 2 143 billion for the subprogramme ‘Nature and Biodiversity’ for 2021-2027, i.e. approximately 306 million EUR/year) these needs cannot be fully met.

Now as the funding programmes for 2021-2027 have been largely adopted, the Commission services intend to assess the level of integration of the Natura 2000 needs in these programmes, including in the Recovery and Resilience Plans. This will be done through a dedicated study to be tendered in 2023. The study will look into the successes of the integration approach as well as its limitations and will analyse alternative solutions to funding nature protection and restoration.

⁶⁵ COM(2020) 381 final.

⁶⁶ DG REGIO assessment, October 2022.

The need to look outside the box of the current integration system also results from the growing calls for a dedicated and targeted funding for biodiversity at the European level. The ministerial declaration signed at the conference held in Strasbourg by the French Presidency on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the Natura 2000 network, specifically calls for ‘simplifying and facilitating access to funding as well as earmarking funds for biodiversity’ and supports the initiative to ‘launch discussions on the advisability and possibilities for a fund dedicated to biodiversity.’ The ministers also ‘recommend a reflection on options of more effective funding for biodiversity at European level, without prejudging future negotiations on the next Multiannual Financial Framework post-2027 and the programmes thereunder’⁶⁷.

The calls for such a dedicated fund come also from the European Parliament⁶⁸, the European Economic and Social Committee⁶⁹ and the European Committee of the Regions⁷⁰ in the context of negotiations on the proposed Regulation on nature restoration. This is because when adopted by the co-legislators, the implementation of the Regulation would require substantial funding, largely overlapping with the funding needs highlighted in the PAFs. The impact assessment study estimated the investment that needs to be mobilised at around EUR 6-8 billion annually until 2030, excluding costs for marine, urban ecosystems as well as pollinators⁷¹. This will require mobilising private and public funding at national and EU level, including through a range of different programmes in the long-term EU budget. Yet, it should be noted that under the MFF 2021-2027, around EUR 100 billion are available for biodiversity spending, which is equivalent to EUR 14 billion annually, of which a meaningful percentage could be used for restoration, provided the Member States have decided so in their programming documents.

The proposed Regulation also provides for preparation of national restoration plans. These plans should include among others ‘estimated financing needs for the implementation of the restoration measures, which shall include the description of the support to stakeholders affected by restoration measures or other new obligations arising from this Regulation, and the means of intended financing, public or private, including (co-) financing with Union funding instruments.’ The proposed scope of these plans overlaps to a large extent with the scope of the PAFs. Once the Regulation is adopted coordination between the Commission and the Member States will be needed on the two planning processes to avoid duplications. Decisions would have to be taken before the next MFF and should draw from the experience of integrating the biodiversity funding in the MFFs to date. The analysis of the funding needs of the Natura 2000 network carried out in the framework of this staff working document should be one of the key elements supporting this discussion.

⁶⁷ https://presidence-francaise.consilium.europa.eu/media/n3xpjy4x/25-02-2022_declaration_strasbourg_en.pdf

⁶⁸ Draft report on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on nature restoration; [PR_COD_1amCom \(europa.eu\)](#)

⁶⁹ Opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee ‘Nature restoration targets under EU biodiversity strategy’.

⁷⁰ Opinion of the European Committee of the Regions ‘EU Nature Restoration Law’.

⁷¹ Commission Staff Working Document, Impact Assessment Accompanying the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on nature restoration, SWD(2022) 167 final.

Annex I: Financial needs for the whole EU based on aggregated PAFs (extrapolated for EU27) in million EUR

		Priority financing needs 2021-2027	
		Annual running costs (Euros / year)	One-off / project costs (Euros / year)
1.	Horizontal measures and administrative costs related to Natura 2000		
1.1.	Site designation and management planning	428.7	364.8
1.2.	Site administration and communication with stakeholders	560.3	63.8
1.3.	Monitoring and reporting	184.4	29.0
1.4.	Remaining knowledge gaps and research needs	47.6	201.8
1.5.	Natura 2000-related communication and awareness raising measures, education and visitor access	115.2	99.3
	Sub-total	1,336.1	758.6
2.a	Natura 2000 site-related maintenance and restoration measures for species and habitats		
2.1.a	Marine and coastal waters	79.4	115.1
2.2.a	Heathlands and shrubs	244.9	101.6
2.3.a	Bogs, mires, fens and other wetlands	207.8	211.4
2.4.a	Grasslands	909.1	371.8
2.5.a	Other agroecosystems (incl. croplands)	803.1	125.7
2.6.a	Woodlands and forests	677.4	365.7
2.7.a	Rocky habitats, dunes and sparsely vegetated lands	38.5	65.8
2.8.a	Freshwater habitats (rivers and lakes)	153.5	293.8
2.9.a	Others	9.1	8.2
	Sub-total	3,122.9	1,659.0
2.b	Additional green infrastructure measures beyond Natura 2000 (further improving coherence of the Natura 2000 network, including in a cross-border context)		
2.1.b	Marine and coastal waters	132.9	7.8
2.2.b	Heathlands and shrubs	83.7	66.6
2.3.b	Bogs, mires, fens and other wetlands	37.3	127.4
2.4.b	Grasslands	375.5	294.7
2.5.b	Other agroecosystems (incl. croplands)	225.8	116.6
2.6.b	Woodlands and forests	138.8	154.1
2.7.b	Rocky habitats, dunes and sparsely vegetated lands	8.1	51.4
2.8.b	Freshwater habitats (rivers and lakes)	549.2	87.8
2.9.b	Others (caves, etc.)	7.4	49.6
	Sub-total	1,558.8	956.0
3.	Additional species-specific measures not related to specific ecosystems or habitats		
3.1	Species-specific measures and programmes not covered elsewhere	471.9	184.9
3.2.	Prevention, mitigation or compensation of damage caused by protected species	163.4	14.1
	Sub-total	635.4	199.0
	Annual total	6,653.1	3,572.6
	Total annual running and one-off		10,225.7
	Total (2021-2027)		71.580,05

Annex II: Financial needs per Member State - Austria

		Priority financing needs 2021-2027	
		Annual running costs (Euros / year)	One-off / project costs (Euros / year)
1.	Horizontal measures and administrative costs related to Natura 2000		
1.1.	Site designation and management planning	4.426.193	1.301.355
1.2.	Site administration and communication with stakeholders	7.445.300	185.000
1.3.	Monitoring and reporting	2.233.199	-
1.4.	Remaining knowledge gaps and research needs	476.400	5.245.411
1.5.	Natura 2000-related communication and awareness raising measures, education and visitor access	6.424.842	1.638.571
	Sub-total	21.005.934	8.370.337
2.a	Natura 2000 site-related maintenance and restoration measures for species and habitats		
2.1.a	Marine and coastal waters	-	-
2.2.a	Heathlands and shrubs	75.820	38.750
2.3.a	Bogs, mires, fens and other wetlands	142.349	1.014.585
2.4.a	Grasslands	15.099.652	1.769.714
2.5.a	Other agroecosystems (incl. croplands)	8.369.157	15.857
2.6.a	Woodlands and forests	5.186.625	284.856
2.7.a	Rocky habitats, dunes and sparsely vegetated lands	69.255	7.500
2.8.a	Freshwater habitats (rivers and lakes)	291.157	4.371.570
2.9.a	Others	1.660.895	45.250
	Sub-total	30.894.910	7.548.082
2.b	Additional green infrastructure measures beyond Natura 2000 (further improving coherence of the Natura 2000 network, including in a cross-border context)		
2.1.b	Marine and coastal waters	-	-
2.2.b	Heathlands and shrubs	14.000	11.000
2.3.b	Bogs, mires, fens and other wetlands	62.500	129.000
2.4.b	Grasslands	33.718.531	1.470.285
2.5.b	Other agroecosystems (incl. croplands)	3.473.662	5.000
2.6.b	Woodlands and forests	3.943.070	78.571
2.7.b	Rocky habitats, dunes and sparsely vegetated lands	9.500	9.500
2.8.b	Freshwater habitats (rivers and lakes)	997.872	65.500
2.9.b	Others (caves, etc.)	18.750	250
	Sub-total	42.237.885	1.769.106
3.	Additional species-specific measures not related to specific ecosystems or habitats		
3.1	Species-specific measures and programmes not covered elsewhere	1.699.886	895.143
3.2	Prevention, mitigation or compensation of damage caused by protected species	2.359.848	210.000
	Sub-total	4.059.734	1.105.143
	Annual total	98.198.463	18.792.668
	Total annual running and one-off		116.991.131
	Total (2021-2027)		818.937.917

Belgium

		Priority financing needs 2021-2027	
		Annual running costs (Euros / year)	One-off / project costs (Euros / year)
1.	Horizontal measures and administrative costs related to Natura 2000		
1.1.	Site designation and management planning	695.000	300.143
1.2.	Site administration and communication with stakeholders	43.908.675	4.233.000
1.3.	Monitoring and reporting	7.696.990	676.571
1.4.	Remaining knowledge gaps and research needs	6.537.000	9.553.571
1.5.	Natura 2000-related communication and awareness raising measures, education and visitor access	4.842.305	1.593.436
	Sub-total	63.679.970	16.356.721
2.a	Natura 2000 site-related maintenance and restoration measures for species and habitats		
2.1.a	Marine and coastal waters	28.824	7.002.673
2.2.a	Heathlands and shrubs	6.889.328	13.157.864
2.3.a	Bogs, mires, fens and other wetlands	1.949.723	1.921.878
2.4.a	Grasslands	19.814.606	12.255.434
2.5.a	Other agroecosystems (incl. croplands)	-	50.000
2.6.a	Woodlands and forests	3.601.338	10.074.876
2.7.a	Rocky habitats, dunes and sparsely vegetated lands	389.672	925.881
2.8.a	Freshwater habitats (rivers and lakes)	1.747.180	6.790.371
2.9.a	Others	-	-
	Sub-total	34.420.671	52.178.977
2.b	Additional green infrastructure measures beyond Natura 2000 (further improving coherence of the Natura 2000 network, including in a cross-border context)		
2.1.b	Marine and coastal waters	3.703	137.962
2.2.b	Heathlands and shrubs	114.883	1.130.207
2.3.b	Bogs, mires, fens and other wetlands	1.014.837	1.867.263
2.4.b	Grasslands	26.518.740	3.473.532
2.5.b	Other agroecosystems (incl. croplands)	9.216.000	60.000
2.6.b	Woodlands and forests	1.457.570	16.894.423
2.7.b	Rocky habitats, dunes and sparsely vegetated lands	62.083	150.489
2.8.b	Freshwater habitats (rivers and lakes)	665.305	14.872.981
2.9.b	Others (caves, etc.)	5.800.000	21.823.992
	Sub-total	44.853.121	60.410.849
3.	Additional species-specific measures not related to specific ecosystems or habitats		
3.1	Species-specific measures and programmes not covered elsewhere	20.863.813	48.630.873
3.2	Prevention, mitigation or compensation of damage caused by protected species	1.150.000	250.000
	Sub-total	22.013.813	48.880.873
	Annual total	164.967.575	177.827.419
	Total annual running and one-off		342.794.994
	Total (2021-2027)		2.399.564.961

Bulgaria

		Priority financing needs 2021-2027	
		Annual running costs (Euros / year)	One-off / project costs (Euros / year)
1.	Horizontal measures and administrative costs related to Natura 2000		
1.1.	Site designation and management planning	-	3.235.714
1.2.	Site administration and communication with stakeholders	2.028.571	2.028.571
1.3.	Monitoring and reporting	1.457.143	0
1.4.	Remaining knowledge gaps and research needs	-	1.474.286
1.5.	Natura 2000-related communication and awareness raising measures, education and visitor access	-	4.741.429
	Sub-total	3.485.714	11.480.000
2.a	Natura 2000 site-related maintenance and restoration measures for species and habitats		
2.1.a	Marine and coastal waters	869.329	227.857
2.2.a	Heathlands and shrubs	900.000	-
2.3.a	Bogs, mires, fens and other wetlands	79.320	22.286
2.4.a	Grasslands	26.962.800	7.579.429
2.5.a	Other agroecosystems (incl. croplands)	31.530.000	-
2.6.a	Woodlands and forests	11.611.429	317.914
2.7.a	Rocky habitats, dunes and sparsely vegetated lands	288.000	344.000
2.8.a	Freshwater habitats (rivers and lakes)	2.021.429	3.235.100
2.9.a	Others	-	55.714
	Sub-total	74.262.306	11.782.300
2.b	Additional green infrastructure measures beyond Natura 2000 (further improving coherence of the Natura 2000 network, including in a cross-border context)		
2.1.b	Marine and coastal waters	-	-
2.2.b	Heathlands and shrubs	-	-
2.3.b	Bogs, mires, fens and other wetlands	-	-
2.4.b	Grasslands	-	-
2.5.b	Other agroecosystems (incl. croplands)	-	-
2.6.b	Woodlands and forests	-	-
2.7.b	Rocky habitats, dunes and sparsely vegetated lands	-	-
2.8.b	Freshwater habitats (rivers and lakes)	-	-
2.9.b	Others (caves, etc.)	-	-
	Sub-total	-	-
3.	Additional species-specific measures not related to specific ecosystems or habitats		
3.1	Species-specific measures and programmes not covered elsewhere	0,00	1.055.000,00
3.2.	Prevention, mitigation or compensation of damage caused by protected species	98.571,43	172.142,86
	Sub-total	98.571	1.227.143
	Annual total	77.846.591	24.489.443
	Total annual running and one-off		102.336.034
	Total (2021-2027)		716.352.240

Croatia

		Priority financing needs 2021-2027	
		Annual running costs (Euros / year)	One-off / project costs (Euros / year)
1. Horizontal measures and administrative costs related to Natura 2000			
1.1.	Site designation and management planning		15.562.805
1.2.	Site administration and communication with stakeholders	13.110.000	3.714.290
1.3.	Monitoring and reporting	3.713.480	248.600
1.4.	Remaining knowledge gaps and research needs	-	2.271.390
1.5.	Natura 2000-related communication and awareness raising measures, education and visitor access	428.550	12.017.146
	Sub-total	17.252.030	33.814.231
2.a Natura 2000 site-related maintenance and restoration measures for species and habitats			
2.1.a	Marine and coastal waters	-	2.936.572
2.2.a	Heathlands and shrubs		20.000
2.3.a	Bogs, mires, fens and other wetlands	90.200	300.000
2.4.a	Grasslands	25.835.600	500.900
2.5.a	Other agroecosystems (incl. croplands)	3.253.000	11.500
2.6.a	Woodlands and forests	32.200.000	20.500.000
2.7.a	Rocky habitats, dunes and sparsely vegetated lands	50.000	200.000
2.8.a	Freshwater habitats (rivers and lakes)		15.322.857
2.9.a	Others		160.000
	Sub-total	61.428.800	39.951.829
2.b Additional green infrastructure measures beyond Natura 2000 (further improving coherence of the Natura 2000 network, including in a cross-border context)			
2.1.b	Marine and coastal waters		395.000
2.2.b	Heathlands and shrubs		
2.3.b	Bogs, mires, fens and other wetlands		
2.4.b	Grasslands	25.088.280	214.290
2.5.b	Other agroecosystems (incl. croplands)	1.566.500	11.500
2.6.b	Woodlands and forests	13.050.000	300.000
2.7.b	Rocky habitats, dunes and sparsely vegetated lands		
2.8.b	Freshwater habitats (rivers and lakes)		393.000
2.9.b	Others (caves, etc.)		22.730.000
	Sub-total	39.704.780	24.043.790
3. Additional species-specific measures not related to specific ecosystems or habitats			
3.1	Species-specific measures and programmes not covered elsewhere	1.329.840	5.470.710
3.2	Prevention, mitigation or compensation of damage caused by protected species	3.580.000	376.100
	Sub-total	4.909.840	5.846.810
	Annual total	123.295.450	103.656.660
	Total annual running and one-off		226.952.110
	Total (2021-2027)		1.588.664.770

Cyprus

		Priority financing needs 2021-2027	
1.	Horizontal measures and administrative costs related to Natura 2000	Annual running costs (Euros / year)	One-off / project costs (Euros / year)
1.1.	Site designation and management planning	462.000	305.043
1.2.	Site administration and communication with stakeholders	35.000	379.605
1.3.	Monitoring and reporting	100.000	185.668
1.4.	Remaining knowledge gaps and research needs	100.000	591.645
1.5.	Natura 2000-related communication and awareness raising measures, education and visitor access	35.000	624.327
	Sub-total	732.000	2.086.288
2.a	Natura 2000 site-related maintenance and restoration measures for species and habitats	Annual running costs (Euros / year)	One-off / project costs (Euros / year)
2.1.a	Marine and coastal waters	24.285	544.324
2.2.a	Heathlands and shrubs	90.000	91.208
2.3.a	Bogs, mires, fens and other wetlands	114.285	211.705
2.4.a	Grasslands	40.000	237.142
2.5.a	Other agroecosystems (incl. croplands)	105.000	216.000
2.6.a	Woodlands and forests	80.000	163.571
2.7.a	Rocky habitats, dunes and sparsely vegetated lands	20.000	115.000
2.8.a	Freshwater habitats (rivers and lakes)	30.000	215.000
2.9.a	Others	20.000	40.000
	Sub-total	523.570	1.833.950
2.b	Additional green infrastructure measures beyond Natura 2000 (further improving coherence of the Natura 2000 network, including in a cross-border context)	Annual running costs (Euros / year)	One-off / project costs (Euros / year)
2.1.b	Marine and coastal waters	15.000	57.142
2.2.b	Heathlands and shrubs	40.000	124.285
2.3.b	Bogs, mires, fens and other wetlands	40.000	100.000
2.4.b	Grasslands	40.000	100.000
2.5.b	Other agroecosystems (incl. croplands)	60.000	230.000
2.6.b	Woodlands and forests	20.000	10.000
2.7.b	Rocky habitats, dunes and sparsely vegetated lands	7.142	-
2.8.b	Freshwater habitats (rivers and lakes)	40.000	40.000
2.9.b	Others (caves, etc.)		10.000
	Sub-total	262.142	671.427
3.	Additional species-specific measures not related to specific ecosystems or habitats	Annual running costs (Euros / year)	One-off / project costs (Euros / year)
3.1	Species-specific measures and programmes not covered elsewhere	18.142	276.000
3.2	Prevention, mitigation or compensation of damage caused by protected species	434.000	600.000
	Sub-total	452.142	876.000
	Annual total	1.969.854	5.467.665
	Total annual running and one-off		7.437.519
	Total (2021-2027)		52.062.633

Czechia

		Priority financing needs 2021-2027	
		Annual running costs (Euros / year)	One-off / project costs (Euros / year)
1.	Horizontal measures and administrative costs related to Natura 2000		
1.1.	Site designation and management planning	-	820.000
1.2.	Site administration and communication with stakeholders	540.000	520.000
1.3.	Monitoring and reporting	2.164.000	-
1.4.	Remaining knowledge gaps and research needs	-	680.000
1.5.	Natura 2000-related communication and awareness raising measures, education and visitor access	-	240.000
	Sub-total	2.704.000	2.260.000
2.a	Natura 2000 site-related maintenance and restoration measures for species and habitats		
2.1.a	Marine and coastal waters	-	-
2.2.a	Heathlands and shrubs	453.400	431.840
2.3.a	Bogs, mires, fens and other wetlands	2.662.520	771.640
2.4.a	Grasslands	26.049.080	6.675.640
2.5.a	Other agroecosystems (incl. croplands)	90.000	-
2.6.a	Woodlands and forests	11.345.680	5.816.200
2.7.a	Rocky habitats, dunes and sparsely vegetated lands	60.280	133.640
2.8.a	Freshwater habitats (rivers and lakes)	4.797.160	25.547.680
2.9.a	Others	120.560	654.360
	Sub-total	45.578.680	40.031.000
2.b	Additional green infrastructure measures beyond Natura 2000 (further improving coherence of the Natura 2000 network, including in a cross-border context)		
2.1.b	Marine and coastal waters	-	-
2.2.b	Heathlands and shrubs	320.680	28.080
2.3.b	Bogs, mires, fens and other wetlands	919.640	101.280
2.4.b	Grasslands	26.737.720	5.063.880
2.5.b	Other agroecosystems (incl. croplands)	277.520	1.960
2.6.b	Woodlands and forests	8.513.480	396.240
2.7.b	Rocky habitats, dunes and sparsely vegetated lands	16.360	36.200
2.8.b	Freshwater habitats (rivers and lakes)	439.920	4.168.000
2.9.b	Others (caves, etc.)	122.720	2.441.920
	Sub-total	37.348.040	12.237.560
3.	Additional species-specific measures not related to specific ecosystems or habitats		
3.1	Species-specific measures and programmes not covered elsewhere	5.255.040	520.720
3.2	Prevention, mitigation or compensation of damage caused by protected species	3.584.560	200.000
	Sub-total	8.839.600	720.720
	Annual total	94.470.320	55.249.280
	Total annual running and one-off		149.719.600
	Total (2021-2027)		1.048.037.200

Estonia

		Priority financing needs 2021-2027	
		Annual running costs (Euros / year)	One-off / project costs (Euros / year)
1.	Horizontal measures and administrative costs related to Natura 2000		
1.1.	Site designation and management planning		407.500
1.2.	Site administration and communication with stakeholders		574.000
1.3.	Monitoring and reporting	1.565.000	119.500
1.4.	Remaining knowledge gaps and research needs	-	1.602.000
1.5.	Natura 2000-related communication and awareness raising measures, education and visitor access		1.751.100
	Sub-total	1.565.000	4.454.100
2.a	Natura 2000 site-related maintenance and restoration measures for species and habitats		
2.1.a	Marine and coastal waters		459.500
2.2.a	Heathlands and shrubs	125.000	158.643
2.3.a	Bogs, mires, fens and other wetlands		1.000.000
2.4.a	Grasslands	7.900.000	7.736.500
2.5.a	Other agroecosystems (incl. croplands)		303.000
2.6.a	Woodlands and forests	6.455.000	7.368.000
2.7.a	Rocky habitats, dunes and sparsely vegetated lands		59.700
2.8.a	Freshwater habitats (rivers and lakes)		2.267.000
2.9.a	Others		28.000
	Sub-total	14.480.000	19.380.343
2.b	Additional green infrastructure measures beyond Natura 2000 (further improving coherence of the Natura 2000 network, including in a cross-border context)		
2.1.b	Marine and coastal waters		
2.2.b	Heathlands and shrubs		
2.3.b	Bogs, mires, fens and other wetlands		
2.4.b	Grasslands	600.000	
2.5.b	Other agroecosystems (incl. croplands)		28.000
2.6.b	Woodlands and forests		50.000
2.7.b	Rocky habitats, dunes and sparsely vegetated lands		
2.8.b	Freshwater habitats (rivers and lakes)		250.000
2.9.b	Others (caves, etc.)		
	Sub-total	600.000	328.000
3.	Additional species-specific measures not related to specific ecosystems or habitats		
3.1	Species-specific measures and programmes not covered elsewhere		1.850.000
3.2.	Prevention, mitigation or compensation of damage caused by protected species	650.000	188.600
	Sub-total	650.000	2.038.600
	Annual total	17.295.000	26.201.043
	Total annual running and one-off		43.496.043
	Total (2021-2027)		304.472.301

Finland

		Priority financing needs 2021-2027	
1.	Horizontal measures and administrative costs related to Natura 2000	Annual running costs (Euros / year)	One-off / project costs (Euros / year)
1.1.	Site designation and management planning	3.000.000	52.628.000
1.2.	Site administration and communication with stakeholders	117.560.000	1.715.000
1.3.	Monitoring and reporting	3.066.286	3.710.000
1.4.	Remaining knowledge gaps and research needs	790.000	2.015.000
1.5.	Natura 2000-related communication and awareness raising measures, education and visitor access	1.450.000	4.070.000
	Sub-total	125.866.286	64.138.000
2.a	Natura 2000 site-related maintenance and restoration measures for species and habitats	Annual running costs (Euros / year)	One-off / project costs (Euros / year)
2.1.a	Marine and coastal waters		885.000
2.2.a	Heathlands and shrubs	200.000	
2.3.a	Bogs, mires, fens and other wetlands	140.000	1.560.000
2.4.a	Grasslands	16.675.884	3.752.858
2.5.a	Other agroecosystems (incl. croplands)	303.720	
2.6.a	Woodlands and forests	70.000	840.000
2.7.a	Rocky habitats, dunes and sparsely vegetated lands	1.291.000	43.650
2.8.a	Freshwater habitats (rivers and lakes)		413.000
2.9.a	Others		
	Sub-total	18.680.604	7.494.508
2.b	Additional green infrastructure measures beyond Natura 2000 (further improving coherence of the Natura 2000 network, including in a cross-border context)	Annual running costs (Euros / year)	One-off / project costs (Euros / year)
2.1.b	Marine and coastal waters	69.060.000	
2.2.b	Heathlands and shrubs	100.000	
2.3.b	Bogs, mires, fens and other wetlands	280.000	5.840.000
2.4.b	Grasslands	26.635.088	6.703.122
2.5.b	Other agroecosystems (incl. croplands)	6.800.000	
2.6.b	Woodlands and forests	560.000	1.940.000
2.7.b	Rocky habitats, dunes and sparsely vegetated lands	1.140.000	
2.8.b	Freshwater habitats (rivers and lakes)	500.000.000	3.770.500
2.9.b	Others (caves, etc.)		
	Sub-total	604.575.088	18.253.622
3.	Additional species-specific measures not related to specific ecosystems or habitats	Annual running costs (Euros / year)	One-off / project costs (Euros / year)
3.1	Species-specific measures and programmes not covered elsewhere	6.747.352	7.928.540
3.2	Prevention, mitigation or compensation of damage caused by protected species	7.650.000	1.076.500
	Sub-total	14.397.352	9.005.040
	Annual total	763.519.330	98.891.170
	Total annual running and one-off		862.410.500
	Total (2021-2027)		6.036.873.500

France

		Priority financing needs 2021-2027	
		Annual running costs (Euros / year)	One-off / project costs (Euros / year)
1.	Horizontal measures and administrative costs related to Natura 2000		
1.1.	Site designation and management planning	1.000.000	2.700.000
1.2.	Site administration and communication with stakeholders	43.500.000	
1.3.	Monitoring and reporting	22.300.000	
1.4.	Remaining knowledge gaps and research needs	1.900.000	2.800.000
1.5.	Natura 2000-related communication and awareness raising measures, education and visitor access		
	Sub-total	68.700.000	5.500.000
2.a	Natura 2000 site-related maintenance and restoration measures for species and habitats		
2.1.a	Marine and coastal waters	47.000.000	
2.2.a	Heathlands and shrubs	24.600.000	18.000.000
2.3.a	Bogs, mires, fens and other wetlands	3.400.000	4.100.000
2.4.a	Grasslands	37.600.000	40.000.000
2.5.a	Other agroecosystems (incl. croplands)	36.500.000	36.500.000
2.6.a	Woodlands and forests	14.300.000	4.500.000
2.7.a	Rocky habitats, dunes and sparsely vegetated lands	3.000.000	4.700.000
2.8.a	Freshwater habitats (rivers and lakes)	15.000.000	28.500.000
2.9.a	Others	200.000	200.000
	Sub-total	181.600.000	136.500.000
2.b	Additional green infrastructure measures beyond Natura 2000 (further improving coherence of the Natura 2000 network, including in a cross-border context)		
2.1.b	Marine and coastal waters	29.000.000	
2.2.b	Heathlands and shrubs		
2.3.b	Bogs, mires, fens and other wetlands	7.000.000	7.000.000
2.4.b	Grasslands	28.500.000	28.500.000
2.5.b	Other agroecosystems (incl. croplands)	6.400.000	6.400.000
2.6.b	Woodlands and forests	12.400.000	12.400.000
2.7.b	Rocky habitats, dunes and sparsely vegetated lands		
2.8.b	Freshwater habitats (rivers and lakes)	8.700.000	8.700.000
2.9.b	Others (caves, etc.)		
	Sub-total	92.000.000	63.000.000
3.	Additional species-specific measures not related to specific ecosystems or habitats		
3.1	Species-specific measures and programmes not covered elsewhere	60.000.000	4.500.000
3.2	Prevention, mitigation or compensation of damage caused by protected species	40.000.000	200.000
	Sub-total	100.000.000	4.700.000
	Annual total	442.300.000	209.700.000
	Total annual running and one-off		652.000.000
	Total (2021-2027)		4.563.900.000

Germany

		Priority financing needs 2021-2027	
		Annual running costs (Euros / year)	One-off / project costs (Euros / year)
1.	Horizontal measures and administrative costs related to Natura 2000		
1.1.	Site designation and management planning	262.340.000	
1.2.	Site administration and communication with stakeholders		
1.3.	Monitoring and reporting		
1.4.	Remaining knowledge gaps and research needs	-	-
1.5.	Natura 2000-related communication and awareness raising measures, education and visitor access		
	Sub-total	262.340.000	-
2.a	Natura 2000 site-related maintenance and restoration measures for species and habitats		
2.1.a	Marine and coastal waters		48.250.000
2.2.a	Heathlands and shrubs	42.838.000	22.249.000
2.3.a	Bogs, mires, fens and other wetlands	133.470.000	69.320.000
2.4.a	Grasslands	183.128.000	108.431.000
2.5.a	Other agroecosystems (incl. croplands)	204.000.000	30.000.000
2.6.a	Woodlands and forests	58.710.000	58.710.000
2.7.a	Rocky habitats, dunes and sparsely vegetated lands	4.023.000	4.023.000
2.8.a	Freshwater habitats (rivers and lakes)	10.000.000	36.000.000
2.9.a	Others		-
	Sub-total	636.169.000	376.983.000
2.b	Additional green infrastructure measures beyond Natura 2000 (further improving coherence of the Natura 2000 network, including in a cross-border context)		
2.1.b	Marine and coastal waters	Included in 2.1.a	Included in 2.1.a
2.2.b	Heathlands and shrubs	Included in 2.2.a	Included in 2.2.a
2.3.b	Bogs, mires, fens and other wetlands	Included in 2.3.a	Included in 2.3.a
2.4.b	Grasslands	Included in 2.4.a	Included in 2.4.a
2.5.b	Other agroecosystems (incl. croplands)	Included in 2.5.a	Included in 2.5.a
2.6.b	Woodlands and forests	Included in 2.6.a	Included in 2.6.a
2.7.b	Rocky habitats, dunes and sparsely vegetated lands	Included in 2.7.a	Included in 2.7.a
2.8.b	Freshwater habitats (rivers and lakes)	Included in 2.8.a	Included in 2.8.a
2.9.b	Others (caves, etc.)		
	Sub-total	-	-
3.	Additional species-specific measures not related to specific ecosystems or habitats		
3.1	Species-specific measures and programmes not covered elsewhere	231.900.000,00	
3.2	Prevention, mitigation or compensation of damage caused by protected species	40.000.000,00	
	Sub-total	271.900.000	-
	Annual total	1.170.409.000	376.983.000
	Total annual running and one-off		1.547.392.000
	Total (2021-2027)		10.831.744.000

Greece

		Priority financing needs 2021-2027	
		Annual running costs (Euros / year)	One-off / project costs (Euros / year)
1.	Horizontal measures and administrative costs related to Natura 2000		
1.1.	Site designation and management planning	-	1.802.573
1.2.	Site administration and communication with stakeholders	194.858	1.602.142
1.3.	Monitoring and reporting	3.397.658	2.624.858
1.4.	Remaining knowledge gaps and research needs	25.714	2.423.656
1.5.	Natura 2000-related communication and awareness raising measures, education and visitor access	2.438.567	54.858
	Sub-total	6.056.797	8.508.087
2.a	Natura 2000 site-related maintenance and restoration measures for species and habitats		
2.1.a	Marine and coastal waters	1.365.144	1.531.400
2.2.a	Heathlands and shrubs	58.001	432.285
2.3.a	Bogs, mires, fens and other wetlands	285.657	1.210.856
2.4.a	Grasslands	1.437.142	473.713
2.5.a	Other agroecosystems (incl. croplands)	78.711.143	428.571
2.6.a	Woodlands and forests	1.645.710	2.317.996
2.7.a	Rocky habitats, dunes and sparsely vegetated lands	610.559	1.999.431
2.8.a	Freshwater habitats (rivers and lakes)	137.143	2.526.463
2.9.a	Others		
	Sub-total	84.250.499	10.920.715
2.b	Additional green infrastructure measures beyond Natura 2000 (further improving coherence of the Natura 2000 network, including in a cross-border context)		
2.1.b	Marine and coastal waters		188.573
2.2.b	Heathlands and shrubs	-	278.570
2.3.b	Bogs, mires, fens and other wetlands	-	347.998
2.4.b	Grasslands	13.714	245.141
2.5.b	Other agroecosystems (incl. croplands)	16.728.571	257.143
2.6.b	Woodlands and forests	34.286	274.284
2.7.b	Rocky habitats, dunes and sparsely vegetated lands	-	403.713
2.8.b	Freshwater habitats (rivers and lakes)	-	29.143
2.9.b	Others (caves, etc.)		
	Sub-total	16.776.571	2.024.565
3.	Additional species-specific measures not related to specific ecosystems or habitats		
3.1	Species-specific measures and programmes not covered elsewhere	3.871.601	2.110.144
3.2	Prevention, mitigation or compensation of damage caused by protected species	12.897.942	1.089.324
	Sub-total	16.769.543	3.199.468
	Annual total	123.853.410	24.652.835
	Total annual running and one-off		148.506.245
	Total (2021-2027)		1.039.543.716

Hungary

		Priority financing needs 2021-2027	
		Annual running costs (Euros / year)	One-off / project costs (Euros / year)
1.	Horizontal measures and administrative costs related to Natura 2000		
1.1.	Site designation and management planning	-	1.730.000
1.2.	Site administration and communication with stakeholders	16.670.000	3.120.000
1.3.	Monitoring and reporting	2.798.125	1.382.800
1.4.	Remaining knowledge gaps and research needs	-	2.395.000
1.5.	Natura 2000-related communication and awareness raising measures, education and visitor access	350.250	1.810.300
	Sub-total	19.818.375	10.438.100
2.a	Natura 2000 site-related maintenance and restoration measures for species and habitats		
2.1.a	Marine and coastal waters	-	-
2.2.a	Heathlands and shrubs	94.169	171.391
2.3.a	Bogs, mires, fens and other wetlands	112.646	794.003
2.4.a	Grasslands	78.141.443	48.855.858
2.5.a	Other agroecosystems (incl. croplands)	55.216.044	22.517
2.6.a	Woodlands and forests	26.071.756	86.182.101
2.7.a	Rocky habitats, dunes and sparsely vegetated lands	13.339	13.403
2.8.a	Freshwater habitats (rivers and lakes)	2.771.257	5.736.551
2.9.a	Others	14.892	645.482
	Sub-total	162.435.546	142.421.306
2.b	Additional green infrastructure measures beyond Natura 2000 (further improving coherence of the Natura 2000 network, including in a cross-border context)		
2.1.b	Marine and coastal waters	-	-
2.2.b	Heathlands and shrubs	24.573	51.728
2.3.b	Bogs, mires, fens and other wetlands	2.808	135.904
2.4.b	Grasslands	2.036.713	6.253.959
2.5.b	Other agroecosystems (incl. croplands)	6.598.499	3.829
2.6.b	Woodlands and forests	105.528	3.371.625
2.7.b	Rocky habitats, dunes and sparsely vegetated lands	-	-
2.8.b	Freshwater habitats (rivers and lakes)	1.929.044	214.385
2.9.b	Others (caves, etc.)	-	38.295
	Sub-total	10.697.165	10.069.725
3.	Additional species-specific measures not related to specific ecosystems or habitats		
3.1	Species-specific measures and programmes not covered elsewhere	609.752	4.916.504
3.2	Prevention, mitigation or compensation of damage caused by protected species	193.000	
	Sub-total	802.752	4.916.504
	Annual total	193.753.838	167.845.635
	Total annual running and one-off		361.599.473
	Total (2021-2027)		2.531.196.311

Ireland

		Priority financing needs 2021-2027	
		Annual running costs (Euros / year)	One-off / project costs (Euros / year)
1.	Horizontal measures and administrative costs related to Natura 2000		
1.1.	Site designation and management planning	11.705.525,00	171.000
1.2.	Site administration and communication with stakeholders	40.765.000	140.000
1.3.	Monitoring and reporting	3.543.900	-
1.4.	Remaining knowledge gaps and research needs	3.000.000	-
1.5.	Natura 2000-related communication and awareness raising measures, education and visitor access	1.103.000	71.000
	Sub-total	60.117.425	382.000
2.a	Natura 2000 site-related maintenance and restoration measures for species and habitats		
2.1.a	Marine and coastal waters	570.000	324.800
2.2.a	Heathlands and shrubs	22.708.491	228.571
2.3.a	Bogs, mires, fens and other wetlands	8.375.035	6.517.623
2.4.a	Grasslands	8.042.222	49.817
2.5.a	Other agroecosystems (incl. croplands)	4.365.000	8.571
2.6.a	Woodlands and forests	487.962	313.049
2.7.a	Rocky habitats, dunes and sparsely vegetated lands	-	-
2.8.a	Freshwater habitats (rivers and lakes)	15.025.000	185.550
2.9.a	Others	-	-
	Sub-total	59.573.710	7.627.981
2.b	Additional green infrastructure measures beyond Natura 2000 (further improving coherence of the Natura 2000 network, including in a cross-border context)		
2.1.b	Marine and coastal waters	-	-
2.2.b	Heathlands and shrubs	5.179.500	35.714
2.3.b	Bogs, mires, fens and other wetlands	8.164.285	13.925.657
2.4.b	Grasslands	138.579	17.857
2.5.b	Other agroecosystems (incl. croplands)	1.902.500	-
2.6.b	Woodlands and forests	1.430.824	177.205
2.7.b	Rocky habitats, dunes and sparsely vegetated lands	-	-
2.8.b	Freshwater habitats (rivers and lakes)	-	1.285.714
2.9.b	Others (caves, etc.)	-	-
	Sub-total	16.815.688	15.442.147
3.	Additional species-specific measures not related to specific ecosystems or habitats		
3.1	Species-specific measures and programmes not covered elsewhere	2.567.530	28.190
3.2	Prevention, mitigation or compensation of damage caused by protected species	-	-
	Sub-total	2.567.530	28.190
	Annual total	139.074.353	23.480.318
	Total annual running and one-off		162.554.671
	Total (2021-2027)		1.137.882.697

Italy

		Priority financing needs 2021-2027	
		Annual running costs (Euros / year)	One-off / project costs (Euros / year)
1.	Horizontal measures and administrative costs related to Natura 2000		
1.1.	Site designation and management planning	148.586	4.813.720
1.2.	Site administration and communication with stakeholders	20.565.181	6.396.242
1.3.	Monitoring and reporting	19.042.316	1.750.036
1.4.	Remaining knowledge gaps and research needs	1.100.401	12.964.351
1.5.	Natura 2000-related communication and awareness raising measures, education and visitor access	6.340.580	7.182.726
	Sub-total	47.197.064	33.107.075
2.a	Natura 2000 site-related maintenance and restoration measures for species and habitats		
2.1.a	Marine and coastal waters	2.132.485	8.490.948
2.2.a	Heathlands and shrubs	5.515.892	5.353.363
2.3.a	Bogs, mires, fens and other wetlands	1.268.495	5.536.215
2.4.a	Grasslands	22.525.459	27.866.421
2.5.a	Other agroecosystems (incl. croplands)	66.008.164	14.357.508
2.6.a	Woodlands and forests	30.104.765	43.066.055
2.7.a	Rocky habitats, dunes and sparsely vegetated lands	5.382.544	15.377.939
2.8.a	Freshwater habitats (rivers and lakes)	7.619.205	34.117.673
2.9.a	Others	4.000	874.573
	Sub-total	140.561.009	155.040.695
2.b	Additional green infrastructure measures beyond Natura 2000 (further improving coherence of the Natura 2000 network, including in a cross-border context)		
2.1.b	Marine and coastal waters	400.000	2.544.570
2.2.b	Heathlands and shrubs	3.909.640	1.970.939
2.3.b	Bogs, mires, fens and other wetlands	1.042.773	1.653.156
2.4.b	Grasslands	4.036.558	1.513.600
2.5.b	Other agroecosystems (incl. croplands)	6.115.475	24.227.797
2.6.b	Woodlands and forests	3.100.456	7.014.197
2.7.b	Rocky habitats, dunes and sparsely vegetated lands	71.429	3.011.429
2.8.b	Freshwater habitats (rivers and lakes)	774.733	14.188.723
2.9.b	Others (caves, etc.)	-	266.663
	Sub-total	19.451.064	56.391.074
3.	Additional species-specific measures not related to specific ecosystems or habitats		
3.1	Species-specific measures and programmes not covered elsewhere	11.264.899	10.893.617
3.2.	Prevention, mitigation or compensation of damage caused by protected species	11.125.927	5.866.521
	Sub-total	22.390.826	16.760.138
	Annual total	229.599.963	261.298.982
	Total annual running and one-off		490.898.945
	Total (2021-2027)		3.436.292.615

Latvia

		Priority financing needs 2021-2027	
		Annual running costs (Euros / year)	One-off / project costs (Euros / year)
1.	Horizontal measures and administrative costs related to Natura 2000		
1.1.	Site designation and management planning	3.260.000	1.821.470
1.2.	Site administration and communication with stakeholders	4.894.440	1.157.160
1.3.	Monitoring and reporting	1.379.290	614.290
1.4.	Remaining knowledge gaps and research needs	680.000	2.774.310
1.5.	Natura 2000-related communication and awareness raising measures, education and visitor access	75.000	6.857.150
	Sub-total	10.288.730	13.224.380
2.a	Natura 2000 site-related maintenance and restoration measures for species and habitats		
2.1.a	Marine and coastal waters	150.000	628.310
2.2.a	Heathlands and shrubs	340.400	157.790
2.3.a	Bogs, mires, fens and other wetlands	20.000	757.140
2.4.a	Grasslands	4.880.000	500.010
2.5.a	Other agroecosystems (incl. croplands)	-	428.570
2.6.a	Woodlands and forests	7.000.000	2.857.150
2.7.a	Rocky habitats, dunes and sparsely vegetated lands	60.000	128.580
2.8.a	Freshwater habitats (rivers and lakes)	465.000	957.150
2.9.a	Others	-	-
	Sub-total	12.915.400	6.414.700
2.b	Additional green infrastructure measures beyond Natura 2000 (further improving coherence of the Natura 2000 network, including in a cross-border context)		
2.1.b	Marine and coastal waters	18.120.000	49.010
2.2.b	Heathlands and shrubs	52.000	-
2.3.b	Bogs, mires, fens and other wetlands	30.000	-
2.4.b	Grasslands	6.450.000	-
2.5.b	Other agroecosystems (incl. croplands)	42.902.000	71.430
2.6.b	Woodlands and forests	-	71.430
2.7.b	Rocky habitats, dunes and sparsely vegetated lands	30.000	57.120
2.8.b	Freshwater habitats (rivers and lakes)	235.000	-
2.9.b	Others (caves, etc.)	-	-
	Sub-total	67.819.000	248.990
3.	Additional species-specific measures not related to specific ecosystems or habitats		
3.1	Species-specific measures and programmes not covered elsewhere	60.000	2.714.300
3.2.	Prevention, mitigation or compensation of damage caused by protected species	1.500.000	-
	Sub-total	1.560.000	2.714.300
	Annual total	92.583.130	22.602.370
	Total annual running and one-off		115.185.500
	Total (2021-2027)		806.298.500

Lithuania

		Priority financing needs 2021-2027	
1.	Horizontal measures and administrative costs related to Natura 2000	Annual running costs (Euros / year)	One-off / project costs (Euros / year)
1.1.	Site designation and management planning	5.000.000	2.890.000
1.2.	Site administration and communication with stakeholders	1.000.000	257.200
1.3.	Monitoring and reporting	3.020.000	285.700
1.4.	Remaining knowledge gaps and research needs	-	754.500
1.5.	Natura 2000-related communication and awareness raising measures, education and visitor access	2.000.000	
	Sub-total	11.020.000	4.187.400
2.a	Natura 2000 site-related maintenance and restoration measures for species and habitats	Annual running costs (Euros / year)	One-off / project costs (Euros / year)
2.1.a	Marine and coastal waters	20.000	475.700
2.2.a	Heathlands and shrubs	535.400	115.400
2.3.a	Bogs, mires, fens and other wetlands	5.700.000	1.900.000
2.4.a	Grasslands	12.300.000	1.780.000
2.5.a	Other agroecosystems (incl. croplands)		8.500
2.6.a	Woodlands and forests	205.000	2.800.000
2.7.a	Rocky habitats, dunes and sparsely vegetated lands	1.700.000	950.000
2.8.a	Freshwater habitats (rivers and lakes)	2.700.000	521.000
2.9.a	Others		
	Sub-total	23.160.400	8.550.600
2.b	Additional green infrastructure measures beyond Natura 2000 (further improving coherence of the Natura 2000 network, including in a cross-border context)	Annual running costs (Euros / year)	One-off / project costs (Euros / year)
2.1.b	Marine and coastal waters		53.600
2.2.b	Heathlands and shrubs	92.700	43.400
2.3.b	Bogs, mires, fens and other wetlands	3.300.000	785.700
2.4.b	Grasslands	18.000.000	8.600.000
2.5.b	Other agroecosystems (incl. croplands)	28.900.000	2.500.000
2.6.b	Woodlands and forests	1.300.000	1.300.000
2.7.b	Rocky habitats, dunes and sparsely vegetated lands	900.000	1.500.000
2.8.b	Freshwater habitats (rivers and lakes)	2.800.000	695.700
2.9.b	Others (caves, etc.)		-
	Sub-total	55.292.700	15.478.400
3.	Additional species-specific measures not related to specific ecosystems or habitats	Annual running costs (Euros / year)	One-off / project costs (Euros / year)
3.1	Species-specific measures and programmes not covered elsewhere	270.000	249.000
3.2	Prevention, mitigation or compensation of damage caused by protected species	3.000.000	600.000
	Sub-total	3.270.000	849.000
	Annual total	92.743.100	29.065.400
	Total annual running and one-off		121.808.500
	Total (2021-2027)		852.659.500

Luxembourg

		Priority financing needs 2021-2027	
		Annual running costs (Euros / year)	One-off / project costs (Euros / year)
1.	Horizontal measures and administrative costs related to Natura 2000		
1.1.	Site designation and management planning	30.000	75.000
1.2.	Site administration and communication with stakeholders	1.450.000	0
1.3.	Monitoring and reporting	2.072.740	0
1.4.	Remaining knowledge gaps and research needs	160.000	50.000
1.5.	Natura 2000-related communication and awareness raising measures, education and visitor access	110.000	55.000
	Sub-total	3.822.740	180.000
2.a	Natura 2000 site-related maintenance and restoration measures for species and habitats		
2.1.a	Marine and coastal waters	0	0
2.2.a	Heathlands and shrubs	74.075	1.140.935
2.3.a	Bogs, mires, fens and other wetlands	1.200	104.675
2.4.a	Grasslands	5.223.030	1.583.075
2.5.a	Other agroecosystems (incl. croplands)	1.676.610	82.510
2.6.a	Woodlands and forests	15.400	6.820.298
2.7.a	Rocky habitats, dunes and sparsely vegetated lands	267.900	20.000
2.8.a	Freshwater habitats (rivers and lakes)	279.250	14.099.850
2.9.a	Others	0	200.600
	Sub-total	7.537.465	24.051.943
2.b	Additional green infrastructure measures beyond Natura 2000 (further improving coherence of the Natura 2000 network, including in a cross-border context)		
2.1.b	Marine and coastal waters	0	0
2.2.b	Heathlands and shrubs	7.900	359.100
2.3.b	Bogs, mires, fens and other wetlands	2.200	140.200
2.4.b	Grasslands	2.771.200	1.174.125
2.5.b	Other agroecosystems (incl. croplands)	1.307.000	138.300
2.6.b	Woodlands and forests	0	5.721.850
2.7.b	Rocky habitats, dunes and sparsely vegetated lands	14.075	0
2.8.b	Freshwater habitats (rivers and lakes)	34.500	7.817.450
2.9.b	Others (caves, etc.)	0	144.900
	Sub-total	4.136.875	15.495.925
3.	Additional species-specific measures not related to specific ecosystems or habitats		
3.1	Species-specific measures and programmes not covered elsewhere	79.350	4.112.750
3.2	Prevention, mitigation or compensation of damage caused by protected species	10.000	0
	Sub-total	89.350	4.112.750
	Annual total	15.586.430	43.840.618
	Total annual running and one-off		59.427.048
	Total (2021-2027)		415.989.336

Malta

		Priority financing needs 2021-2027	
		Annual running costs (Euros / year)	One-off / project costs (Euros / year)
1.	Horizontal measures and administrative costs related to Natura 2000		
1.1.	Site designation and management planning	500.000	35.000
1.2.	Site administration and communication with stakeholders	5.201.571	51.715
1.3.	Monitoring and reporting	1.112.159	53.571
1.4.	Remaining knowledge gaps and research needs	610.000	75.716
1.5.	Natura 2000-related communication and awareness raising measures, education and visitor access	1.532.600	342.142
	Sub-total	8.956.330	558.144
2.a	Natura 2000 site-related maintenance and restoration measures for species and habitats		
2.1.a	Marine and coastal waters	3.654.700	-
2.2.a	Heathlands and shrubs	1.256.350	8.572
2.3.a	Bogs, mires, fens and other wetlands	988.550	71.472
2.4.a	Grasslands	1.019.900	5.286
2.5.a	Other agroecosystems (incl. croplands)		
2.6.a	Woodlands and forests	2.254.585	2.858
2.7.a	Rocky habitats, dunes and sparsely vegetated lands	1.294.750	4.428
2.8.a	Freshwater habitats (rivers and lakes)		
2.9.a	Others		
	Sub-total	10.468.835	92.616
2.b	Additional green infrastructure measures beyond Natura 2000 (further improving coherence of the Natura 2000 network, including in a cross-border context)		
2.1.b	Marine and coastal waters	-	5.000
2.2.b	Heathlands and shrubs	8.260	-
2.3.b	Bogs, mires, fens and other wetlands	3.800	-
2.4.b	Grasslands	7.500	-
2.5.b	Other agroecosystems (incl. croplands)		
2.6.b	Woodlands and forests	413.700	-
2.7.b	Rocky habitats, dunes and sparsely vegetated lands	1.086.600	-
2.8.b	Freshwater habitats (rivers and lakes)		
2.9.b	Others (caves, etc.)		
	Sub-total	1.519.860	5.000
3.	Additional species-specific measures not related to specific ecosystems or habitats		
3.1	Species-specific measures and programmes not covered elsewhere	4.334.500	-
3.2	Prevention, mitigation or compensation of damage caused by protected species		
	Sub-total	4.334.500	-
	Annual total	25.279.525	655.760
	Total annual running and one-off		25.935.285
	Total (2021-2027)		181.546.995

Netherlands

		Priority financing needs 2021-2027	
		Annual running costs (Euros / year)	One-off / project costs (Euros / year)
1.	Horizontal measures and administrative costs related to Natura 2000		
1.1.	Site designation and management planning	37.086.000	1.010.000
1.2.	Site administration and communication with stakeholders	5.631.000	-
1.3.	Monitoring and reporting	6.975.000	-
1.4.	Remaining knowledge gaps and research needs	2.099.000	259.000
1.5.	Natura 2000-related communication and awareness raising measures, education and visitor access	4.367.000	-
	Sub-total	56.158.000	1.269.000
2.a	Natura 2000 site-related maintenance and restoration measures for species and habitats		
2.1.a	Marine and coastal waters	1.601.000	22.850.000
2.2.a	Heathlands and shrubs	1.590.000	17.446.000
2.3.a	Bogs, mires, fens and other wetlands	2.624.000	90.828.000
2.4.a	Grasslands	4.743.000	52.203.000
2.5.a	Other agroecosystems (incl. croplands)	2.172.000	37.522.000
2.6.a	Woodlands and forests	2.458.000	36.841.000
2.7.a	Rocky habitats, dunes and sparsely vegetated lands	1.525.000	29.580.000
2.8.a	Freshwater habitats (rivers and lakes)	7.010.000	29.773.000
2.9.a	Others	-	120.000
	Sub-total	23.723.000	317.163.000
2.b	Additional green infrastructure measures beyond Natura 2000 (further improving coherence of the Natura 2000 network, including in a cross-border context)		
2.1.b	Marine and coastal waters	-	69.000
2.2.b	Heathlands and shrubs	1.206.000	50.071.000
2.3.b	Bogs, mires, fens and other wetlands	1.637.000	65.833.000
2.4.b	Grasslands	37.577.000	99.796.000
2.5.b	Other agroecosystems (incl. croplands)	30.504.000	75.345.000
2.6.b	Woodlands and forests	6.332.000	73.331.000
2.7.b	Rocky habitats, dunes and sparsely vegetated lands	760.000	44.442.000
2.8.b	Freshwater habitats (rivers and lakes)	5.251.000	37.000
2.9.b	Others (caves, etc.)	-	-
	Sub-total	83.267.000	408.924.000
3.	Additional species-specific measures not related to specific ecosystems or habitats		
3.1	Species-specific measures and programmes not covered elsewhere	-	11.333.000
3.2	Prevention, mitigation or compensation of damage caused by protected species	-	344.000
	Sub-total	-	11.677.000
	Annual total	163.148.000	739.033.000
	Total annual running and one-off		902.181.000
	Total (2021-2027)		6.315.267.000

Disclaimer from Netherlands: The assessment of financial needs in the Dutch PAF was based on financial needs for implementing the established policies at the time the PAF was compiled. Recently, significant additional national investments have been made available to reduce atmospheric nitrogen emissions and further the goals of the Nature Directives. These are not yet included in this overview.

Poland

		Priority financing needs 2021-2027	
		Annual running costs (Euros / year)	One-off / project costs (Euros / year)
1.	Horizontal measures and administrative costs related to Natura 2000		
1.1.	Site designation and management planning		3.819.942
1.2.	Site administration and communication with stakeholders		1.273.680
1.3.	Monitoring and reporting	4.482.539	-
1.4.	Remaining knowledge gaps and research needs	-	206.618.026
1.5.	Natura 2000-related communication and awareness raising measures, education and visitor access		29.330.984
	Sub-total	4.482.539	161.352.989
2.a	Natura 2000 site-related maintenance and restoration measures for species and habitats		
2.1.a	Marine and coastal waters	635.482	1.996.910
2.2.a	Heathlands and shrubs	15.069.227	272.632
2.3.a	Bogs, mires, fens and other wetlands	33.784.991	2.066.258
2.4.a	Grasslands	287.204.963	2.493.221
2.5.a	Other agroecosystems (incl. croplands)		
2.6.a	Woodlands and forests	333.450.311	2.235.067
2.7.a	Rocky habitats, dunes and sparsely vegetated lands	1.230.746	159.162
2.8.a	Freshwater habitats (rivers and lakes)	32.056.043	37.756.386
2.9.a	Others	4.524	1.169.119
	Sub-total	703.436.287	48.148.754
2.b	Additional green infrastructure measures beyond Natura 2000 (further improving coherence of the Natura 2000 network, including in a cross-border context)		
2.1.b	Marine and coastal waters		
2.2.b	Heathlands and shrubs		
2.3.b	Bogs, mires, fens and other wetlands		52.663.506
2.4.b	Grasslands		238.361.585
2.5.b	Other agroecosystems (incl. croplands)		
2.6.b	Woodlands and forests		22.362.319
2.7.b	Rocky habitats, dunes and sparsely vegetated lands		
2.8.b	Freshwater habitats (rivers and lakes)		
2.9.b	Others (caves, etc.)		
	Sub-total	-	313.387.410
3.	Additional species-specific measures not related to specific ecosystems or habitats		
3.1	Species-specific measures and programmes not covered elsewhere	37.670.399	19.663.802
3.2	Prevention, mitigation or compensation of damage caused by protected species	6.350.000	
	Sub-total	44.020.399	19.663.802
	Annual total	751.939.225	541.444.111
	Total annual running and one-off		689.102.602
	Total (2021-2027)		4.823.718.216

The totals for Poland do not always add up as some costs are calculated on two-yearly basis.

Portugal

		Priority financing needs 2021-2027	
		Annual running costs (Euros / year)	One-off / project costs (Euros / year)
1.	Horizontal measures and administrative costs related to Natura 2000		
1.1.	Site designation and management planning	1.370.495	1.652.359
1.2.	Site administration and communication with stakeholders	3.950.650	10.751.643
1.3.	Monitoring and reporting	6.773.211	775.812
1.4.	Remaining knowledge gaps and research needs	2.440.267	5.910.090
1.5.	Natura 2000-related communication and awareness raising measures, education and visitor access	585.368	3.557.143
	Sub-total	15.119.992	22.647.047
2.a	Natura 2000 site-related maintenance and restoration measures for species and habitats		
2.1.a	Marine and coastal waters	1.745.357	1.329.050
2.2.a	Heathlands and shrubs	26.285.612	143.000
2.3.a	Bogs, mires, fens and other wetlands	7.799.329	213.900
2.4.a	Grasslands	8.116.219	428.571
2.5.a	Other agroecosystems (incl. croplands)	53.536.766	-
2.6.a	Woodlands and forests	43.488.580	216.650
2.7.a	Rocky habitats, dunes and sparsely vegetated lands	3.804.894	439.600
2.8.a	Freshwater habitats (rivers and lakes)	9.175.596	457.600
2.9.a	Others	22.500	21.500
	Sub-total	153.974.853	3.249.872
2.b	Additional green infrastructure measures beyond Natura 2000 (further improving coherence of the Natura 2000 network, including in a cross-border context)		
2.1.b	Marine and coastal waters	187.143	281.429
2.2.b	Heathlands and shrubs	364.286	113.571
2.3.b	Bogs, mires, fens and other wetlands	100.078	14.300
2.4.b	Grasslands	-	-
2.5.b	Other agroecosystems (incl. croplands)	-	-
2.6.b	Woodlands and forests	1.000.129	177.857
2.7.b	Rocky habitats, dunes and sparsely vegetated lands	75.000	-
2.8.b	Freshwater habitats (rivers and lakes)	10.000	214.500
2.9.b	Others (caves, etc.)	-	-
	Sub-total	1.736.635	801.657
3.	Additional species-specific measures not related to specific ecosystems or habitats		
3.1	Species-specific measures and programmes not covered elsewhere	5.415.277,00	2.711.428,57
3.2	Prevention, mitigation or compensation of damage caused by protected species	1.015.229,43	0,00
	Sub-total	6.430.506	2.711.429
	Annual total	177.261.986	29.410.005
	Total annual running and one-off		206.671.990
	Total (2021-2027)		1.446.703.932

Romania

		Priority financing needs 2021-2027	
		Annual running costs (Euros / year)	One-off / project costs (Euros / year)
1.	Horizontal measures and administrative costs related to Natura 2000		
1.1.	Site designation and management planning	60.617.143,00	45.028.572,00
1.2.	Site administration and communication with stakeholders	14.350.000,00	1.200.000,00
1.3.	Monitoring and reporting	300.000,00	4.340.000,00
1.4.	Remaining knowledge gaps and research needs	2.200.000,00	5.810.000,00
1.5.	Natura 2000-related communication and awareness raising measures, education and visitor access	1.250.000,00	7.500.000,00
	Sub-total	78.717.143	63.878.572
2.a	Natura 2000 site-related maintenance and restoration measures for species and habitats		
2.1.a	Marine and coastal waters	5.340.000,00	1.950.000,00
2.2.a	Heathlands and shrubs	2.005.000,00	0,00
2.3.a	Bogs, mires, fens and other wetlands	15.450.000,00	7.450.000,00
2.4.a	Grasslands	91.550.000,00	24.100.000,00
2.5.a	Other agroecosystems (incl. croplands)	82.700.000,00	1.550.000,00
2.6.a	Woodlands and forests	36.935.000,00	12.050.000,00
2.7.a	Rocky habitats, dunes and sparsely vegetated lands	265.000,00	785.000,00
2.8.a	Freshwater habitats (rivers and lakes)	18.000.000,00	11.290.000,00
2.9.a	Others		
	Sub-total	252.245.000	59.175.000
2.b	Additional green infrastructure measures beyond Natura 2000 (further improving coherence of the Natura 2000 network, including in a cross-border context)		
2.1.b	Marine and coastal waters	8.400.000,00	1.200.000,00
2.2.b	Heathlands and shrubs	1.000.000,00	0,00
2.3.b	Bogs, mires, fens and other wetlands	6.750.000,00	350.000,00
2.4.b	Grasslands	14.675.000,00	2.365.000,00
2.5.b	Other agroecosystems (incl. croplands)	6.700.000,00	1.600.000,00
2.6.b	Woodlands and forests	12.540.000,00	320.000,00
2.7.b	Rocky habitats, dunes and sparsely vegetated lands	0,00	50.000,00
2.8.b	Freshwater habitats (rivers and lakes)	10.000.000,00	8.450.000,00
2.9.b	Others (caves, etc.)	0,00	0,00
	Sub-total	60.065.000	14.335.000
3.	Additional species-specific measures not related to specific ecosystems or habitats		
3.1	Species-specific measures and programmes not covered elsewhere	120.000,00	10.700.000,00
3.2	Prevention, mitigation or compensation of damage caused by protected species	2.550.000,00	1.900.000,00
	Sub-total	2.670.000	12.600.000
	Annual total	393.697.143	149.988.572
	Total annual running and one-off		543.685.715
	Total (2021-2027)		3.805.800.005

Slovakia

1.	Horizontal measures and administrative costs related to Natura 2000
1.1.	Site designation and management planning
1.2.	Site administration and communication with stakeholders
1.3.	Monitoring and reporting
1.4.	Remaining knowledge gaps and research needs
1.5.	Natura 2000-related communication and awareness raising measures, education and visitor access
	Sub-total

2.a	Natura 2000 site-related maintenance and restoration measures for species and habitats
2.1.a	Marine and coastal waters
2.2.a	Heathlands and shrubs
2.3.a	Bogs, mires, fens and other wetlands
2.4.a	Grasslands
2.5.a	Other agroecosystems (incl. croplands)
2.6.a	Woodlands and forests
2.7.a	Rocky habitats, dunes and sparsely vegetated lands
2.8.a	Freshwater habitats (rivers and lakes)
2.9.a	Others
	Sub-total

2.b	Additional green infrastructure measures beyond Natura 2000 (further improving coherence of the Natura 2000 network, including in a cross-border context)
2.1.b	Marine and coastal waters
2.2.b	Heathlands and shrubs
2.3.b	Bogs, mires, fens and other wetlands
2.4.b	Grasslands
2.5.b	Other agroecosystems (incl. croplands)
2.6.b	Woodlands and forests
2.7.b	Rocky habitats, dunes and sparsely vegetated lands
2.8.b	Freshwater habitats (rivers and lakes)
2.9.b	Others (caves, etc.)
	Sub-total

3.	Additional species-specific measures not related to specific ecosystems or habitats
3.1	Species-specific measures and programmes not covered elsewhere
3.2	Prevention, mitigation or compensation of damage caused by protected species
	Sub-total

Annual total	
Total annual running and one-off	
Total (2021-2027)	

Priority financing needs 2021-2027

Annual running costs (Euros / year)	One-off / project costs (Euros / year)
80.000	1.428.571
3.360.000	52.857
3.762.500	571.429
3.137.000	326.429
1.610.000	742.857
11.949.500	3.122.143

Annual running costs (Euros / year)	One-off / project costs (Euros / year)
833.000	50.000
3.827.000	42.857
892.900	16.429
44.120.000	520.000
25.000	12.857
40.919.000	14.285.714
113.000	-
498.000	3.876.857
55.000	-
91.282.900	18.804.714

Annual running costs (Euros / year)	One-off / project costs (Euros / year)
650.000	18.857
6.698.000	47.143
454.000	8.571
47.256.000	293.143
340.000	104.286
3.655.000	-
51.000	-
132.000	3.862.429
118.000	100.000
59.354.000	4.434.429

Annual running costs (Euros / year)	One-off / project costs (Euros / year)
43.837.000	17.136.143
395.000	71.429
44.232.000	17.207.572

206.818.400	43.568.858
	250.387.258
	1.752.710.806

Slovenia

1.	Horizontal measures and administrative costs related to Natura 2000
1.1.	Site designation and management planning
1.2.	Site administration and communication with stakeholders
1.3.	Monitoring and reporting
1.4.	Remaining knowledge gaps and research needs
1.5.	Natura 2000-related communication and awareness raising measures, education and visitor access
	Sub-total

2.a	Natura 2000 site-related maintenance and restoration measures for species and habitats
2.1.a	Marine and coastal waters
2.2.a	Heathlands and shrubs
2.3.a	Bogs, mires, fens and other wetlands
2.4.a	Grasslands
2.5.a	Other agroecosystems (incl. croplands)
2.6.a	Woodlands and forests
2.7.a	Rocky habitats, dunes and sparsely vegetated lands
2.8.a	Freshwater habitats (rivers and lakes)
2.9.a	Others
	Sub-total

2.b	Additional green infrastructure measures beyond Natura 2000 (further improving coherence of the Natura 2000 network, including in a cross-border context)
2.1.b	Marine and coastal waters
2.2.b	Heathlands and shrubs
2.3.b	Bogs, mires, fens and other wetlands
2.4.b	Grasslands
2.5.b	Other agroecosystems (incl. croplands)
2.6.b	Woodlands and forests
2.7.b	Rocky habitats, dunes and sparsely vegetated lands
2.8.b	Freshwater habitats (rivers and lakes)
2.9.b	Others (caves, etc.)
	Sub-total

3.	Additional species-specific measures not related to specific ecosystems or habitats
3.1	Species-specific measures and programmes not covered elsewhere
3.2	Prevention, mitigation or compensation of damage caused by protected species
	Sub-total

	Annual total
	Total annual running and one-off
	Total (2021-2027)

Priority financing needs 2021-2027

Annual running costs (Euros / year)	One-off / project costs (Euros / year)
800.000	1.020.000
14.370.000	1.650.000
3.599.000	1.351.000
1.147.000	4.361.000
2.906.000	940.000
22.822.000	9.322.000

Annual running costs (Euros / year)	One-off / project costs (Euros / year)
961.000	508.000
100.000	
292.000	1.403.000
14.595.000	2.720.000
5.079.000	
287.000	555.000
4.250.000	8.835.000
2.000.000	500.000
27.564.000	14.521.000

Annual running costs (Euros / year)	One-off / project costs (Euros / year)
4.300.000	
	125.000
150.000	450.000
	360.000
4.450.000	935.000

Annual running costs (Euros / year)	One-off / project costs (Euros / year)
160.000	4.300.000
1.800.000	
1.960.000	4.300.000

56.796.000	29.078.000
	85.874.000
	601.118.000

Spain

		Priority financing needs 2021-2027	
		Annual running costs (Euros / year)	One-off / project costs (Euros / year)
1.	Horizontal measures and administrative costs related to Natura 2000		
1.1.	Site designation and management planning	25.152.991	7.952.328
1.2.	Site administration and communication with stakeholders	129.926.461	20.093.033
1.3.	Monitoring and reporting	53.176.472	9.249.649
1.4.	Remaining knowledge gaps and research needs	16.259.761	8.065.448
1.5.	Natura 2000-related communication and awareness raising measures, education and visitor access	48.264.440	14.121.519
	Sub-total	272.780.126	59.481.977
2.a	Natura 2000 site-related maintenance and restoration measures for species and habitats		
2.1.a	Marine and coastal waters	8.236.218	6.217.577
2.2.a	Heathlands and shrubs	91.691.744	19.493.551
2.3.a	Bogs, mires, fens and other wetlands	2.952.293	2.495.871
2.4.a	Grasslands	76.047.182	13.787.098
2.5.a	Other agroecosystems (incl. croplands)	170.475.209	3.534.340
2.6.a	Woodlands and forests	165.798.056	40.021.818
2.7.a	Rocky habitats, dunes and sparsely vegetated lands	9.152.863	3.969.242
2.8.a	Freshwater habitats (rivers and lakes)	32.613.055	28.959.524
2.9.a	Others	4.950.934	4.062.729
	Sub-total	561.917.553	122.541.750
2.b	Additional green infrastructure measures beyond Natura 2000 (further improving coherence of the Natura 2000 network, including in a cross-border context)		
2.1.b	Marine and coastal waters	1447128,967	1.298.518
2.2.b	Heathlands and shrubs	62.385.952	11.818.314
2.3.b	Bogs, mires, fens and other wetlands	335.309	612.720
2.4.b	Grasslands	38.609.495	6.618.421
2.5.b	Other agroecosystems (incl. croplands)	54.795.175	5.031.382
2.6.b	Woodlands and forests	67.651.328	16.178.875
2.7.b	Rocky habitats, dunes and sparsely vegetated lands	3.115.311	1.249.416
2.8.b	Freshwater habitats (rivers and lakes)	13.000.579	13.230.177
2.9.b	Others (caves, etc.)	1.327.667	1.444.230
	Sub-total	242.667.946	57.482.053
3.	Additional species-specific measures not related to specific ecosystems or habitats		
3.1	Species-specific measures and programmes not covered elsewhere	49.444.718	29.146.939
3.2	Prevention, mitigation or compensation of damage caused by protected species	12.337.049	649.076
	Sub-total	61.781.767	29.796.015
	Annual total	1.139.147.391	269.301.794
	Total annual running and one-off		1.408.449.186
	Total (2021-2027)		9.859.144.299

Sweden

		Priority financing needs 2021-2027	
		Annual running costs (Euros / year)	One-off / project costs (Euros / year)
1.	Horizontal measures and administrative costs related to Natura 2000		
1.1.	Site designation and management planning	2.980.000	207.342.000
1.2.	Site administration and communication with stakeholders	59.318.000	2.193.000
1.3.	Monitoring and reporting	23.471.000	500.000
1.4.	Remaining knowledge gaps and research needs	4.150.000	21.980.000
1.5.	Natura 2000-related communication and awareness raising measures, education and visitor access	26.947.000	13.219.000
	Sub-total	116.866.000	245.234.000
2.a	Natura 2000 site-related maintenance and restoration measures for species and habitats		
2.1.a	Marine and coastal waters	1.140.000	4.549.000
2.2.a	Heathlands and shrubs	3.916.000	2.073.000
2.3.a	Bogs, mires, fens and other wetlands	850.000	9.799.000
2.4.a	Grasslands	28.775.000	4.904.000
2.5.a	Other agroecosystems (incl. croplands)	-	-
2.6.a	Woodlands and forests	850.000	6.448.000
2.7.a	Rocky habitats, dunes and sparsely vegetated lands	4.036.000	973.000
2.8.a	Freshwater habitats (rivers and lakes)	2.238.000	9.365.000
2.9.a	Others	-	-
	Sub-total	41.805.000	38.111.000
2.b	Additional green infrastructure measures beyond Natura 2000 (further improving coherence of the Natura 2000 network, including in a cross-border context)		
2.1.b	Marine and coastal waters		1.130.000
2.2.b	Heathlands and shrubs	1.795.000	190.000
2.3.b	Bogs, mires, fens and other wetlands	5.936.000	1.542.000
2.4.b	Grasslands	29.915.000	1.332.000
2.5.b	Other agroecosystems (incl. croplands)	-	-
2.6.b	Woodlands and forests	624.000	2.134.000
2.7.b	Rocky habitats, dunes and sparsely vegetated lands	740.000	136.000
2.8.b	Freshwater habitats (rivers and lakes)	1.350.000	4.616.000
2.9.b	Others (caves, etc.)	-	-
	Sub-total	40.360.000	11.080.000
3.	Additional species-specific measures not related to specific ecosystems or habitats		
3.1	Species-specific measures and programmes not covered elsewhere	2.289.000	90.000
3.2	Prevention, mitigation or compensation of damage caused by protected species	10.720.000	50.000
	Sub-total	13.009.000	140.000
	Annual total	212.040.000	294.565.000
	Total annual running and one-off		506.605.000
	Total (2021-2027)		3.546.235.000