

**The dune roadmap for knowledge exchange**  
**Update May 2022**  
**LIFE DUNIAS expert workshop**

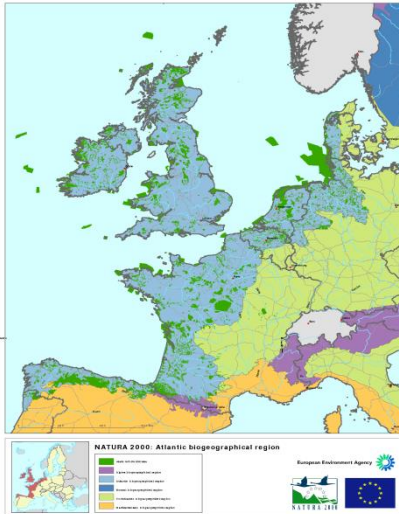


John Houston

## Quick reminder of Natura 2000 biogeographic process

- Habitats Directive adopted in 1992
- A biogeographical region approach was adopted from the start
- The Natura 2000 network is central to this approach
- When selection phase was nearing completion attention turned to management of the network through:
  - Prioritised Action Frameworks
  - Site Management Plans
  - LIFE Integrated projects
- State of Nature reports are published every 6 years with overall aim for favourable conservation status at biogeographical level
- **Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process** launched in 2012 to encourage networking, knowledge exchange and transnational cooperation at biogeographical level
- Biogeographical regional seminars held every four years to bring Member States together

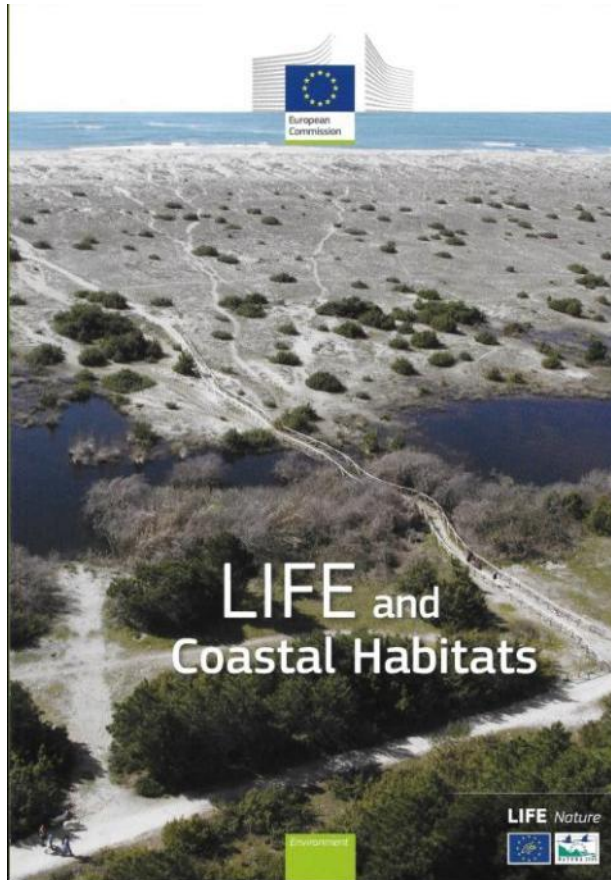
# Atlantic Biogeographical Region



- 20 Natura 2000 habitats were identified by the Member States Steering Committee for the first Atlantic seminar in 2012
- Three dune habitats were identified as priority
- A workshop on dunes and estuaries at the first seminar in 2012 was chaired by Jean-Louis Herrier of ABN
- Issues were identified and recommendations made
- These have now been further developed through the 'Roadmap' for networking and knowledge exchange

Habitat	% in Atlantic	Conservation Status	European Red List
2120 mobile dunes	44%	U1 =	Near threatened
2130 fixed dunes	57%	U2 x	Vulnerable
2190 dune slacks	58%	U1 =	Vulnerable

The dune roadmap is a grassroots approach – from nature conservation agencies, scientists and managers



Many LIFE projects have contributed to the Roadmap including:

- LIFE09-NL: Dutch Dune Revival
- LIFE11-NL: Amsterdam Dunes
- LIFE12-DK: REDCOHA-LIFE
- LIFE12-DK: LIFE WETHAB
- LIFE12-BE: LIFE FLANDRE
- LIFE13-ES: LIFE+ARCOS
- LIFE13-DK: REWETDUNE-LIFE
- LIFE17-UK: Dynamic Dunescapes
- LIFE17-UK: Sands of LIFE
- LIFE20-BE: LIFE DUNIAS

## Developing a dune roadmap - steps 2012-2022



- ❖ 2012 – First Atlantic workshop and seminar- Netherlands (workshop)
- 2015- LIFE Dynamic Dunes conference
- 2016- LIFE Platform on coastal and inland dunes
- ❖ 2016 – Second Atlantic seminar- Ireland (workshop and Version 1 of roadmap)
- 2018 – LIFE FLANDRE international workshop (Version 2)
- ❖ 2019 – Third Atlantic seminar – Belgium - (presentation and Version 3)
- ❖ 2019 – Sands of LIFE international workshop
- ❖ 2022 – LIFE DUNIAS expert workshop

## Dune roadmap: eight key topics

1. Dynamics and favourable conservation status
2. Coastal change and dune habitats
3. Interpretation / management guidelines for habitats
4. Need for connectivity in fragmented dunes
5. Protection and management of fixed dunes
6. Focus on habitats where short term results are possible
7. Transnational research themes
8. **Early warning for IAS / sharing practical experience**

## **Recommendations were given at 3<sup>rd</sup> Atlantic seminar 2019**

- Recommendations for European Commission and Member State action included:
  - The need for a European Habitat Action Plan for 2130\* fixed dunes (following two pilots for 6210 dry grasslands and 4030 dry heaths)
  - The value of the Management Models for dune slacks and fixed dunes- one could be done for mobile dunes and the value of bare sand
  - The need to support networking in sharing information on IAS

## Current text in the roadmap relating to IAS – to be updated following the LIFE DUNIAS workshop

Action	Description	Relevance	Type	Timing	Lead	Support	Progress
8. Early warning system for Invasive Alien Species (IAS) and sharing of practical control methods with costs	Development of a 'black list' for Atlantic dunes	Evidence of S-N spread of invasive species. Guidelines and advice should be disseminated through national networks.	G	Proposals have developed at Littoral 2017 and 2018 meetings.	Scientific lead from Maike Isermann	Funding support from national authorities to bodies such as OBN, INBO, ATEN, CEH, Quercus etc	☑ Increasing interest in need to establish early warning system.
	Best practice examples of control of IAS	Knowledge can be made available through the Natura 2000 process	D	Presentations/ workshops at key events such as EUCC-France field workshops, Littoral 2017 and LIFE-FLANDRE	Case studies published by site managers and LIFE projects. Field meetings held, e.g. on <i>Prunus serotina</i> .	Information made available on web-sites	☑ Well published case studies and development of local programmes
	Specific review of experience in the control of <i>Rosa rugosa</i> with details of costs and development of national programmes	<i>Rosa rugosa</i> recognised as a serious threat to dune sites in NW Europe. Evidence of its rate of spread.	S	Scientific report in 2017 and management study in 2018 (presented at LIFE-FLANDRE meeting)	Scientific lead from Maike Isermann with experience from DK, DE, NL and Baltic States	From LIFE projects and national authorities. Removal of <i>Rosa rugosa</i> a key target in DuneLIFE LIFE17 NAT/UK/000570	☑ Interest in sharing experiences



## Expected next steps following the LIFE DUNIAS workshop

- John Houston will prepare version 4 of the roadmap with the assistance of experts from the Atlantic region
- LIFE DUNIAS will focus on the section relating to IAS
- The roadmap should be published on the web pages for the Natura 2000 biogeographic process  
[https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/platform/index\\_en.htm](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/platform/index_en.htm)
- ABN should be able to ensure the roadmap is reported at the next Atlantic seminar
- Contact [houstonjohn37@gmail.org](mailto:houstonjohn37@gmail.org)

## Link to version 2 of the roadmap

<https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/platform/documents/Roadmap%20for%20dunes%20of%20the%20Atlantic%20Region-%20V2-%20LIFE%20FLANDRE%20Conference.pdf>