

Habitat connectivity and coherence in the Birds Directive

International Workshop: „Ecological networks and coherence according to art. 10 of the Habitats Directive“, Isle of Vilm, 9. – 13. May 2005



by
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Mai 2005



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I. Scientific needs for connectivity and coherence:

- **General aim is to raise biological diversity**
- **Meet the needs of all bird species and ecological groups**
- **Make sure representation of the range of distribution of all species and their habitats**
- **Support population dynamics (gene pools)**
- **Minimise vulnerability, e.g. against loss of resources by**
 - **local impacts / man made threats (motorways, forest cutting, river deterioration...),**
 - **natural threats (fire, flooding, diseases), and**
 - **long term trends (Climate change)**
- **Improve the buffer capacity of species, populations and habitats.**



II. Legal framework – international:

- **Ramsar Convention, 1971**
- **Bonn Convention (CMS), 1979**
- **including AEWa (1995)**
- **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), 1992**

II. Legal framework – international:

Ramsar Convention, 1971:

CoP 7, 1999, Strategic Framework:

“The vision of the Ramsar List

6. The Convention on Wetlands has adopted the following vision for the List of Wetlands of International Importance.

To develop and maintain an international network of wetlands which are important for the conservation of global biological diversity and for sustaining human life through the ecological and hydrological functions they perform.

7. Such an international network of wetland sites has to be built from coherent and comprehensive networks of Wetlands of International Importance established within the territory of each Contracting Party to the Convention. „



II. Legal framework – international:

Bonn Convention (CMS), 1979:

“Art. V.5

Where appropriate and feasible, each Agreement should provide for but not be limited to:

...

b) co-ordinated conservation and management plans;

...

f) maintenance of a network of suitable habitats appropriately disposed in relation to the migration routes;...”



II. Legal framework – international:

African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA), 1995:

“The Parties shall take measures to conserve migratory waterbirds, giving special attention to endangered species as well as to those with an unfavourable conservation status. To this end, the Parties shall:

Art III. 2.d

Coordinate their efforts to ensure that a network of suitable habitats is maintained or, where appropriate, re-established throughout the entire range of each migratory waterbird species concerned, in particular where wetlands extend over the area of more than one Party of this Agreement;...”



II. Legal framework – international:

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), 1992:

CBD CoP 7 (2004), decision No. 28 on Protected Areas:

“The Conference of the Parties ...

...13. invites Parties to consider options, in the context of implementing the programme of work, such as ecological networks, ecological corridors, buffer zones and other related approaches in order to follow up the WSSD Plan of Implementation and the conclusions of Inter-Sessional Meeting on the Multi-Year Programme of work of the Conference of the Parties up to 2010”



Further decisions: „Agenda 2010“

2001, European Council, Göteborg:

2002, WSSD, Johannesburg:

**„take all necessary measures to halt biodiversity loss by
2010“**

**2002, declaration of El Teide of the European
Commission and the member states:**

**„We...commit ourselves to...finalise in the shortest
delays the full implementation of the Natura 2000
network...“**



III. Legal framework – EU level:

- **Council Directive of 2 April 1979 on the conservation of wild birds (Birds Directive 79/409/EEC)**
- **Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (Habitats Directive)**
- **Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy (Water Framework Directive)**

III. Legal framework - EU level:

Council Directive of 2 April 1979 on the conservation of wild birds (Birds Directive 79/409/EEC) :

Reasons of consideration, No. 9:

“Whereas the preservation, maintenance or restoration of a sufficient diversity and area of habitats is essential to the conservation of all species of birds; whereas certain species of birds should be the subject of special conservation measures concerning their habitats in order to ensure their survival and reproduction in their area of distribution; whereas such measures must also take account of migratory species and be coordinated with a view to setting up a coherent whole”



III. Legal framework - EU level:

Art. 3:

„1. In the light of the requirements referred to in Article 2, Member States shall take the requisite measures to preserve, maintain or re-establish a sufficient diversity and area of habitats for all the species of birds referred to in Article 1.

2. The preservation, maintenance and re-establishment of biotopes and habitats shall include primarily the following measures:

- a) creation of protected areas;
- b) upkeep and management in accordance with the ecological needs of habitats inside and outside the protected zones;
- c) re-establishment of destroyed biotopes;
- d) creation of biotopes.”

III. Legal framework - EU level:

Art. 4 Abs. 1, sentence 1:

“1. The species mentioned in Annex I shall be the subject of special conservation measures concerning their habitat in order to ensure their survival and reproduction in their area of distribution.”

Art. 4 Abs. 2:

“2. Member States shall take similar measures for regularly occurring migratory species not listed in Annex I, bearing in mind their need for protection in geographical sea and land area where this Directive applies, as regards their breeding, moulting and wintering areas and staging posts along their migration routes. To this end, Member States shall pay particular attention to the protection of wetlands and particularly to wetlands of international importance.”



III. Legal framework - EU level:

Art. 4 Abs. 3:

“Member States shall send the Commission all relevant information so that it may take appropriate initiatives with a view to the coordination necessary to ensure that the areas provided for in paragraphs 1 und 2 above form a coherent whole which meets the protection requirements of these species in the geographical sea and land area where this Directive applies.”

III. Legal framework - EU level:

**Decision of the ORNIS committee, 1989,
concerning „Ornithological criteria to guide the
selection of Special Protected Areas“:**

„Breeding sites

**4. Sites of particular importance for marginal or
isolated breeding population in the Community,
with criteria based on specific characteristics of
dispersion and habitat preference of the species.“**

10. dto for „Areas other than breeding areas“

III. Legal framework - EU level:

Conclusions of the Bergen op Zoom-Conference, November 2004:

„1. Urgently complete the terrestrial network of SPAs by 2005, fully extend...and establish an effective protection regime for all SPAs, with management objectives in place and initiated for all sites by 2010.

2. Ensure that the overall SPA network is functionally coherent and resilient to future changes and pressures, including the development and implementation where appropriate of tools for achieving ecological connectivity“

III. Legal framework - national level in Germany:

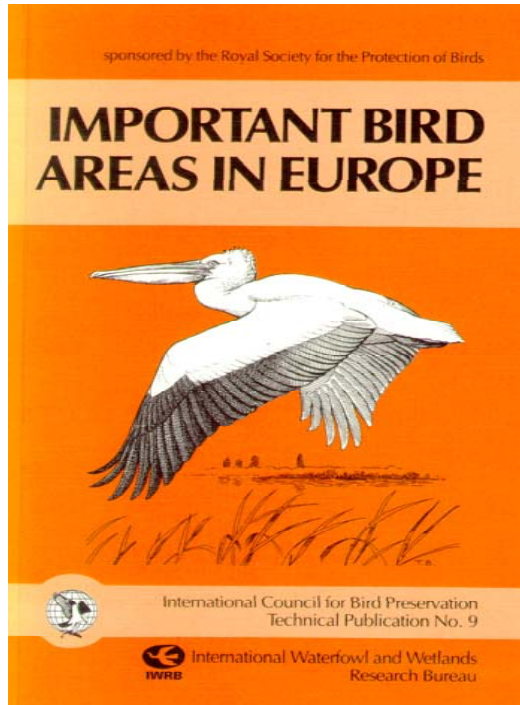
§ 3 BNatSchG Abs. 1 und 2

Abs. 1. „ The Federal Laender shall establish a network of interlinked biotopes (Biotopverbund) covering at least 10% of the total areas of each Federal Land. The establishment of the network of interlinked biotopes shall be performed by the Federal Laender on an interregional basis. To this end, the Federal Laender shall consult with each other.”

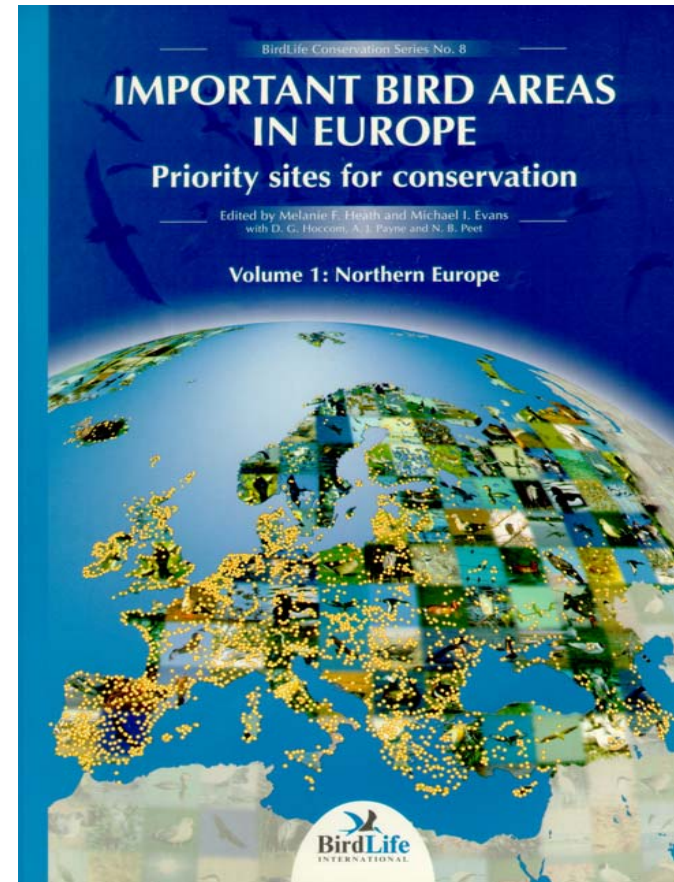
Abs. 2. “The network of interlinked biotopes is designed to safeguard on a lasting basis native fauna and flora species and their respective populations, as well as their habitats and biocoenoses, and to preserve, restore and develop functioning ecological interrelationships.”



IV. Coherence in the SPA-network ?



1989



2000

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**The new
complete
IBA-
inventory
for
Germany

(2002)**

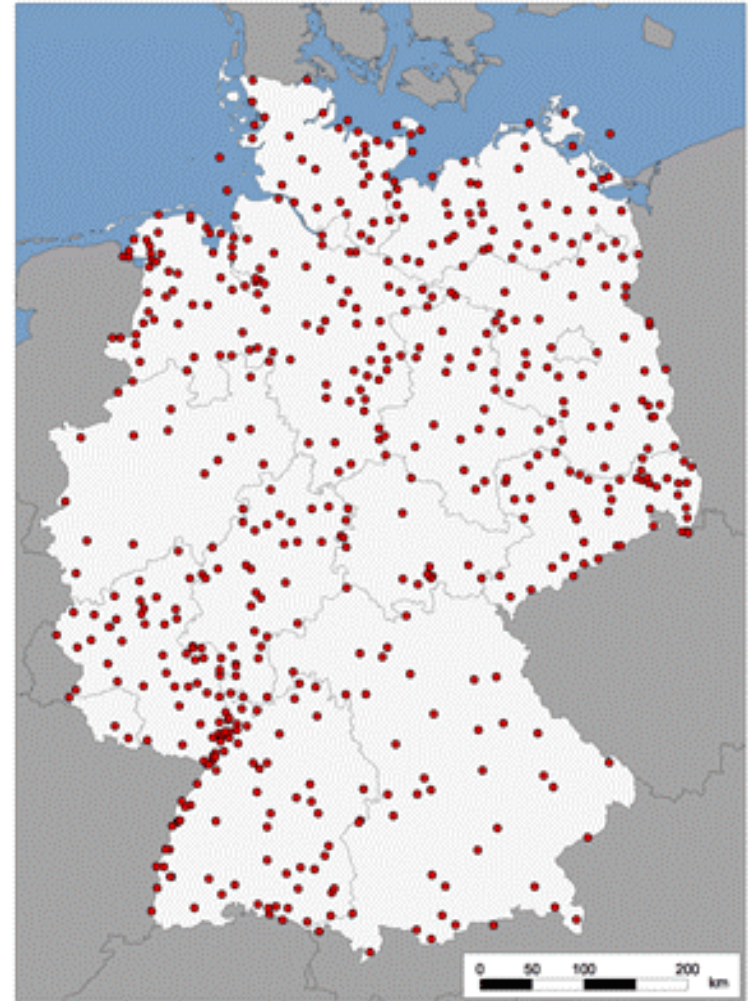
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**Important
Bird
Areas
(IBA)
in
Germany

(2002)**



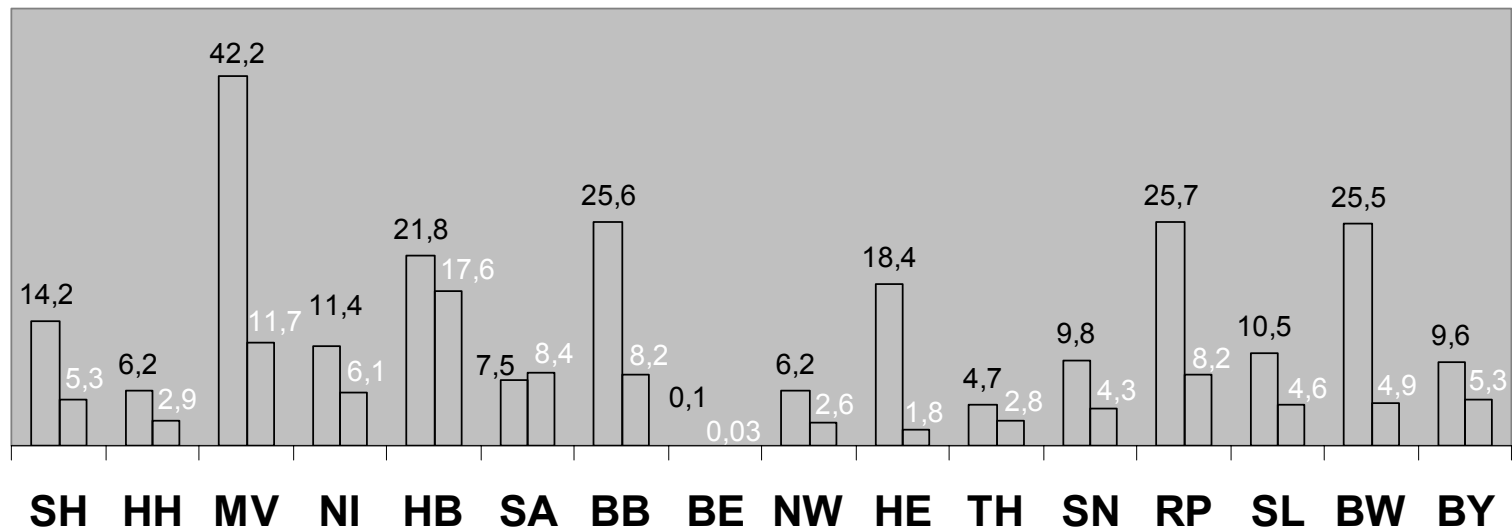
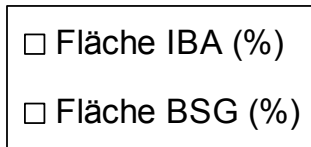
IBA und BSG in Deutschland (Stand 13.02.2002)

Bundesland	Anzahl IBA	Fläche (%)	Anzahl BSG	Fläche (%)
Schleswig-Holstein	38	14,2	73	4,3
Hamburg	4	6,2	7	2,9
Mecklenburg-Vorp.	42	42,2	15	11,8
Niedersachsen	98	11,4	50	2,6
Bremen	5	21,8	8	18,2
Sachsen-Anhalt	27	7,5	23	6,0
Brandenburg	48	25,6	12	7,6
Berlin	1	<0,1	1	<0,1
Nordrhein-Westfalen	20	6,2	15	2,6
Hessen	40	18,4	38	1,2
Thüringen	11	4,7	9	1,5
Sachsen	49	9,8	10	4,3
Rheinland-Pfalz	58	25,7	42 (6)	4,7
Saarland	4	10,5	14	3,5
Baden-Württemberg	69	25,5	73	4,9
Bayern	43	9,6	58	5,2
Summe	542	15,8	448	4,7

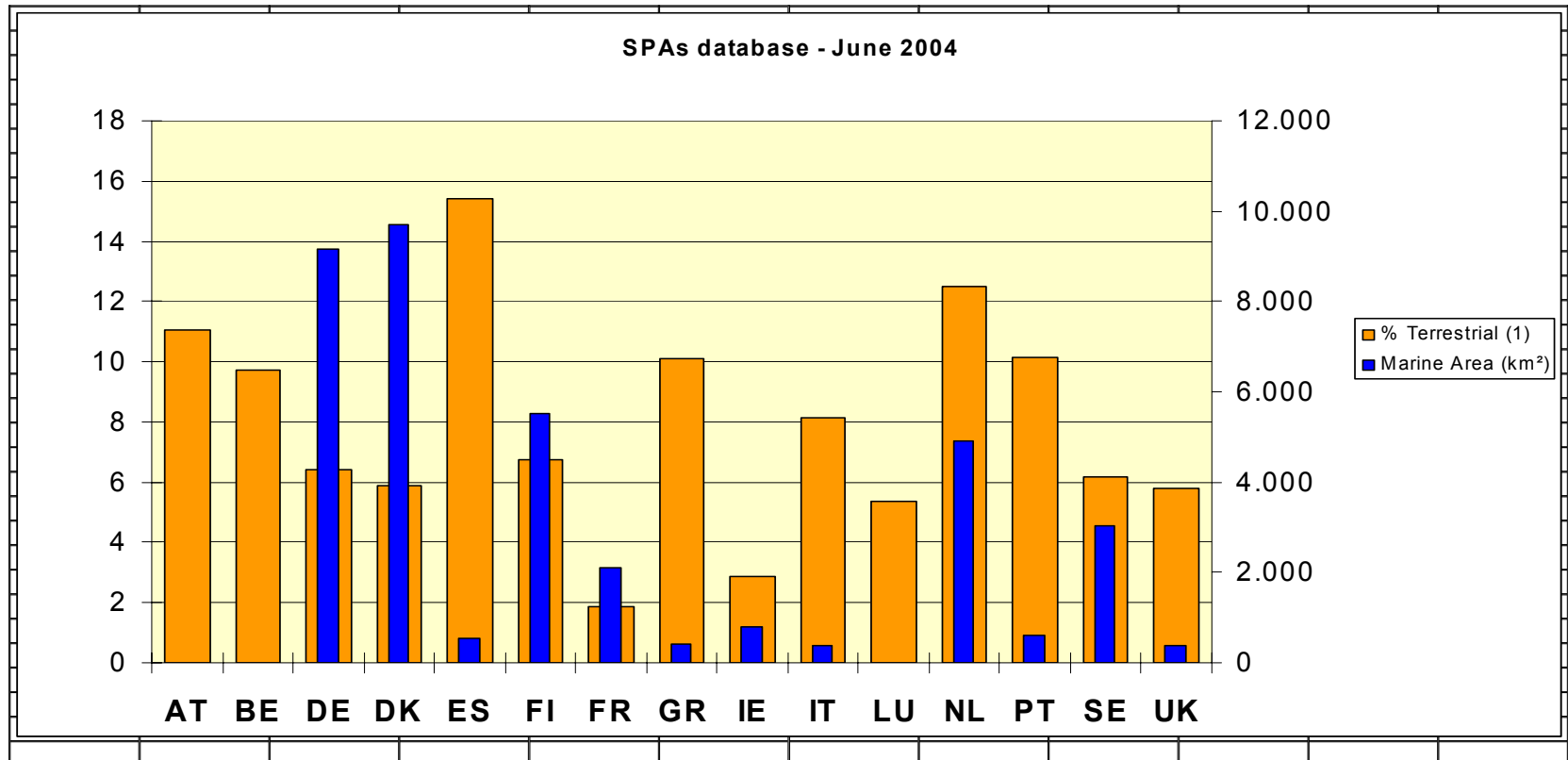


IBA and SPA in %, February 2004:

**Flächenanteil (%) von IBA und BSG
in den Bundesländern
(Stand Februar 2004)**



SPA in the EU 15, in %, June 2004



SPA in the new Member States, 10/04

Member state	SPA – list finished	SPA – IBA coverage (%)
Estonia	yes	90
Latvia	yes	94
Lithuania	yes	90
Malta	(yes)	-
Poland	yes	50
Slovakia	yes	88
Slovenia	yes	90
Czech Republic	no (still ?)	-
Hungary	yes	80
Cyprus	no (still ?)	-



IV. Coherence in the SAC-network in Germany ?

Situation in the German Laenders (total):

Number 15.12. 2002	Number 31.01. 2005	Area 15.12. 02 (ha)	Area 31.01. 05 (ha)	Area 15.12. 02 (%)	Area 31.01. 05 (%)
3.535 (terr.)	4.588	2398864	3276161	6,7	9,3
0 (EEZ)	8	0,0	945.297	0,0	28,6



IV. Coherence in the Natura 2000-network; Germany:

- **After 26 years Birds Directive only SPAs with about 6 % of terr. area = 1/3 of IBA-area !**
- **SD-sheets partly still incomplete, protection under nat. law unsecure, no management plans and monitoring in place !**
- **After 15 years Habitats Directive still proposals for SACs with about 10 % of terr. area = 2/3 of NABU's proposals (EU average 15 %) !**
- **Still no implementation of art. 10 !**



IV. Coherence in the Natura 2000-network; Germany:

Further questions to be answered / problems to be solved:

- **Completion of the SPA-network in the Länders, following NABU's proposals for IBAs (infringement procedure 2001/5117, following NABU-complaint) !**
- **Completion of the pSCIs (Lower Saxony ! What happens in Schleswig-Holstein with new government ?)**
- **National concept for the implementation of art. 10 !**
- **Financing mechanisms, monitoring !**



V. Further work to do – demands of BirdLife International and NABU:

- **Completion of the Natura 2000-network under the Birds and Habitats Directives !**
- **Designation of all IBAs as SPAs !**
- **Development of an EU-wide concept for a coherent network of protected sites and corridors, based on a solid scientific and functional basis, under art. 10 of the HD !**
- **Implementation of the concept, installation of management and monitoring procedures !**



Further informations:

**www.NABU.de, topic „Naturschutz in Europa“:
www.NABU.de/m06/m06_04/**

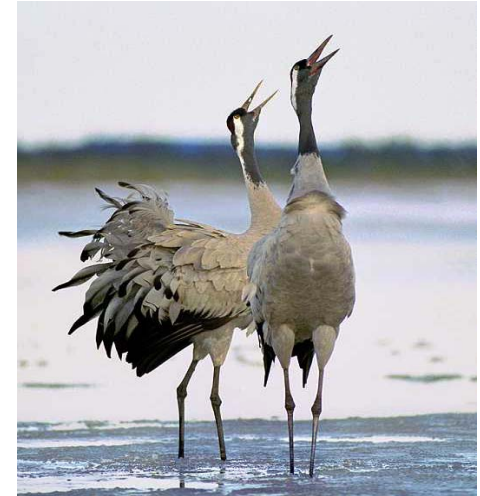
BirdLife International:

www.birdlife.org

European Commission, GD ENV:

**[http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/nature/
home.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/nature/home.htm)**





**Thank you very much
for your attention!**



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