Mission

Represent the civil society interest in the implementation of the EU Habitats and Species Directives;

Positively influence biodiversity policy and legislation through discussion and partnership with relevant stakeholders.

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Edited in November 2002

European Habitats Forum

13 international NGO networks committed to the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of habitats and species in Europe

Aims

To advise and influence:

- Nature conservation legislation and implementation;
- Practical management and sustainable use of natural resources;
- Monitoring and development of biodiversity indicators;
- Information, education and public awareness about biodiversity in Europe.

To support the implementation of:

- The EU Habitats and Birds Directives and Natura 2000;
- The EU Biodiversity Action Plan.

To promote nature conservation and sustainable use in Europe through:

- The Convention on Biological Diversity;
- The Bern Convention.

To promote communication:

- Between European nature conservation NGOs in order to enhance the effectiveness of their programmes.

How the Forum works

The Forum has developed:

- Constructive communication between the EU and Nature Conservation NGOs working in Europe.

The Forum works by:

- Networking of information via the Secretariat;
- Joint work on priority activities;
- Exchange of information on potential funding sources;
- Regular exchange of publications and newsletters;
- Meetings of the members every six months;
- Representing its membership at key European fora e.g. the Scientific Group advising on the implementation of the EC Habitats Directive and the establishment of Natura 2000, the European Commission Biodiversity Expert Group and the Bern Convention Standing Committee.

Tasks

Main tasks:

- To coordinate the common interests of the members activities to enhance the effectiveness of their programmes;
- To choose a "portfolio" of activities by discussion between the members of the forum at its regular meetings;
- To identify new activities on which the 13 NGOs can work jointly, as 400 protected areas are represented in the forum in more than 30 European countries.