

Thematic report on protected areas or areas where special measures need to be taken to conserve biological diversity

Please provide the following details on the origin of this report.

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Please provide summary information on the process by which this report has been prepared, including information on the types of stakeholders who have been actively involved in its preparation and on material which was used as a basis for the report.

1. This report about Danish protected areas was prepared by The Danish Forest and Nature Agency, Ministry of the Environment. The report is primarily based on Danish legislation, EC Directives and national biodiversity strategies, which all included a broad range of stakeholder involvement and participation.
2. The first Danish Biodiversity strategy "Biological Diversity in Denmark – status and strategy" was presented in 1996. The strategy was prepared by The Danish Forest and Nature Agency, Danish Ministry for Environment and Energy. During the process of preparation it was regularly discussed by a consultative committee with participants from relevant ministries and authorities, research institutes and NGO's. The draft report was submitted to a wider range of stakeholders for comments and amendments. The strategy covered all major landscape and nature types in Denmark, the sea, the coasts, fresh waters, the rural areas, the forest, urban areas species, genetic diversity, science, information and public awareness and international efforts. In each chapter a target areas are listed.
3. In 2001 the Wilhjelms Committee named after the chairman issued in unanimity the report "Danish nature- status trends and recommendations for future biodiversity policies" as a basis for a government action plan on biodiversity and nature conservation. The committee had 35 members representing farmer's, fishermen's and forester's associations, different nature protection organisations, research institutes, ministries and local government associations. The report and a series of background reports described the state of the Danish nature and biodiversity and the most important trends and threats to biodiversity. The report contains more than 100 specific and targeted actions to protect and improve the state of biodiversity in Denmark. The actions are grouped under the headlines: Better protection of existing nature; More nature – more space and better coherence; A better basis for target-specific nature management; Continued strengthening and focusing of sectoral efforts; Better interplay between local and national interests in nature; Continuation of international efforts. The report can be found at www.sns.dk/wilhjelm.
4. The Danish Forest and Nature Agency; Ministry of the Environment is preparing a new biodiversity action plan for the government in a consultative process with the ministries of Food and Agriculture, Traffic and Defence. The strategy will be sent in a public hearing later in the year 2003.
5. The main legislation for protected areas in Denmark is The Danish Nature Protection Act from 1992. In this act areas are protected mainly in three different ways:
 - a) conservation orders for designated areas. This has been an important instrument for protection of landscapes and habitats of plant and animals since the first Danish Nature conservation Act entered into force in 1917. Conservation orders make it possible to specify provisions for the protection and management of an area. Areas protected by Conservation orders covers about 4% of Denmark's land area. Conservation orders can also be used at sea to protect natural habitats.
 - b) by general protection of nature types covering lakes, watercourses, heathland, bogs, moors, coastal meadows and salt marshes, meadows and commons above certain size. About 9 % of Denmark's area and about 28.000 km of watercourses has been covered by this general conservation scheme developed since 1972. This scheme implies that all activities having a negative impact on the actual condition of the area requires a permit from the county council in advance. As a result of the intensification of farming practices and urban and infrastructural development the scheme has been extended on several occasions – most recently in 1992.
 - c) dune conservation areas along the Danish west coast in which it is prohibited to alter the state of these designated areas. The scheme were traditionally made to prevent sand drifting, but are also protecting the sand dune areas against development etc.
6. International Nature Protection Areas or Natura 2000 Areas have been designated pursuant to The EC Bird Protection directive of 1979, the Ramsar Convention and the EC Habitats Directive of 1994. 112

Bird protection Areas have been designated covering 6 % of the Danish land area and 9% of the Danish sea area. The bird protection areas cover all the 27 Ramsar sites. 254 habitat areas have been designated covering 7.4% of the Danish land area and 7.5% of the Danish sea area.

7. The Forest Act's management scheme is partly directed towards protection of biodiversity e.g. safeguarding natural forest and oak coppices. In the state owned forests, biodiversity values and natural forest is designated for protection and management.
8. Approximately 100 areas covering coastal waters, fjords and land have been designated as Nature and Game Reserves in order to protect wildlife with different sets of restriction of hunting or special hunting practices, public access etc.
9. Ecological networks have been planned for by the county councils in their regional plans for physical planning leading to a nation-wide interconnected mosaic of nature areas. The implementation and management of the networks is still developing.
10. Nature-restoration and re-establishment. For the last 10 years a number of Danish nature areas especially lakes, coastal meadows, bogs, heath and watercourses have been restored for the benefit of biodiversity and the public.
11. For the next two years a number of pilot projects will investigate the possibilities to establish national parks in Denmark as recommended by the Wilhjelms Committee (see above). The objective of establishing large-scale natural areas – national parks- is to increase the size of natural and semi-natural areas in order to create links and coherence between the natural habitat types as well as to ensure a favourable conservation status for natural habitat types and species in the area. This will include steps to safeguard continuity. This will also offer nature better opportunities for developing and evolving freely (free dynamics) within the larger areas. This will increase the quality of nature and promote natural adaptability. In these areas, protection of nature must take priority over cultivation. At the same time, the objective of the national natural areas is to improve the general public's opportunity for enjoying outdoor recreation.
12. A more comprehensive Danish program for monitoring nature and the environment named NOVANA will enter into force by 2004 and improve especially terrestrial monitoring.
13. A system of Nature Quality Planning is being developed as a tool for assigning priorities to specific nature-management efforts. The system will make it possible to set targets for all Danish nature areas and link these to the monitoring system.

The above mentioned percentages of protected areas will be overlapping and can not just be summed up.

Numbers given on the following pages will refer to the above paragraphs.

Protected areas or areas where special measures need to be taken to conserve biological diversity

System of protected areas

1. What is the relative priority afforded to development and implementation of a national system of protected areas in the context of other obligations arising from the Convention and COP Decisions?					
a) High	x	b) Medium		c) Low	
2. Is there a systematic planning process for development and implementation of a national system of protected areas?					
a) no					
b) in early stages of development					
c) in advanced stages of development					
d) yes, please provide copies of relevant documents describing the process					X 5,6
3. Is there an assessment of the extent to which the existing network of protected areas covers all areas that are identified as being important for the conservation of biological diversity?					
a) no					
b) an assessment is being planned for					
c) an assessment is being undertaken					
d) yes, please provide copies of the assessments made					X 2,3,12

Regulatory framework

4. Is there a policy framework and/or enabling legislation in place for the establishment and management of protected areas?	
a) no	
b) in early stages of development	
c) in advanced stages of development	
d) yes, please provide copies of relevant documents	X see introduction 5,6 and others
5. Have guidelines, criteria and targets been adopted to support selection, establishment and management of protected areas?	
a) no	
b) in early stages of development	
c) in advanced stages of development	X 12,13
d) yes, please provide copies of guidelines, criteria and targets	X e.g. 5,6

6. Does the management of protected areas involve the use of incentive measures, for instance, of entrance fees for park visitors or of benefit-sharing arrangements with adjacent communities and other relevant stakeholders?	
a) no	
b) yes, incentive measures implemented for some protected areas (please provide some examples)	X e.g. maintain extensive grazing on meadows
c) yes, incentive measures implemented for all protected areas (please provide some examples)	

Management approach

7. Have the principal threats to protected areas and the biodiversity that they contain been assessed, so those programmes can be put in place to deal with the threats, their effects and to influence the key drivers?	
a) no	
b) an assessment is being planned for	
c) an assessment is in process	X 12
d) yes, an assessment has been completed	X 3
e) programs and policies to deal with threats are in place (please provide basic information on threats and actions taken)	X 2,3,4
8. Are protected areas established and managed in the context of the wider region in which they are located, taking account of and contributing to other sectoral strategies?	
a) no	
b) yes, in some areas	
c) yes, in all areas (please provide details)	X PAs are an integrated part of the county councils physical planning process together with other sectors and in the wider regional perspective part of the EU Natura 2000 Network.
9. Do protected areas vary in their nature, meeting a range of different management objectives and/or being operated through differing management regimes?	
a) no, most areas are established for similar objectives and are under similar management regimes	X e.g. 5,6

b) many areas have similar objectives/management regimes, but there are also some exceptions	
c) yes, protected areas vary in nature (please provide details)	
10. Is there wide stakeholder involvement in the establishment and management of protected areas?	
a) no	
b) with some, but not all protected areas	X
c) yes, always (please provide details of experience)	
11. Do protected areas established and managed by non-government bodies, citizen groups, private sector and individuals exist in your country, and are they recognised in any formal manner?	
a) no, they do not exist	
b) yes, they exist, however are not formally recognized	
c) yes, they exist and are formally recognised (please provide further information)	X will be protected by e.g. 5,6

Available resources

12. Are the human, institutional and financial resources available adequate for full implementation of the protected areas network, including for management of individual protected areas?	
a) no, they are severely limiting (please provide basic information on needs and shortfalls)	
b) no, they are limiting (please provide basic information on needs and shortfalls)	X The coming years will require a strengthened effort for management of PAs including management of areas covered by the EU Natura 2000 network. This will require further financial resources,. see 3.
c) Available resources are adequate (please provide basic information on needs and shortfalls)	
d) yes, good resources are available	
13. Has your country requested/received financial assistance from the Global Environment Facility or other international sources for establishment/management of protected areas?	
a) no	X
b) funding has been requested, but not received	

c) funding is currently being requested	
d) yes, funding has been received (please provide copies of appropriate documents)	

Assessment

14. Have constraints to implementation and management of an adequate system of protected areas been assessed, so that actions can be initiated to deal with these constraints?	
a) no	
b) yes, constraints have been assessed (please provide further information)	X 3,6,12
c) yes, actions to deal with constraints are in place (please provide further information)	
15. Is a program in place or in development to regularly assess the effectiveness of protected areas management and to act on this information?	
a) no	
b) yes, a program is under development (please provide further information)	X 12
c) yes, a program is in place (please provide further information)	
16. Has any assessment been made of the value of the material and non-material benefits and services that protected areas provide?	
a) no	
b) an assessment is planned	
c) an assessment is in process	
d) yes, an assessment has been made (please provide further information)	X e.g. river Skjern restoration project

Regional and international co-operation

17. Is your country collaborating/communicating with neighbouring countries in the establishment and/or management of transboundary protected areas?	
a) no	
b) yes (please provide details)	X Natura 2000 is setting up a transboundary network
18. Are key protected areas professionals in your country members of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas, thereby helping to foster the sharing of information and experience?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
c) information is not available	

19. Has your country provided information on its protected areas to the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre in order to allow for a scientific assessment of the status of the world's protected areas?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
20. If your country has protected areas or other sites recognised or designated under an international convention or programme (including regional conventions and programmes), please provide copies of reports submitted to those programmes or summaries of them.	
21. Do you think that there are some activities on protected areas that your country has significant experience that will be of direct value to other Contracting Parties?	
a) no	
b) yes (please provide details)	X e.g. physical planning, general protection, ecological corridors, nature restoration

Further comments

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