

NATURA 2000 AWARDS

ORGANIZED BY THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

The [2018 edition of the European Natura 2000 Award](#) was launched by the European Commission on 15 May 2017. The deadline for submitting applications is the 29 September 2017 and the six winners will be announced at a high level ceremony in Brussels in May 2018.



The Natura 2000 Award was launched in 2014 to reward excellence in the management of Natura 2000 sites and showcase the added value of the network for local economies. It pays tribute to all those who are working tirelessly on making Natura 2000 an operational success whilst drawing public attention to its substantial achievements.



The [Natura 2000](#) Network works to ensure the long-term survival of Europe's most valuable and threatened species and habitats, and is the centrepiece of the EU's nature and biodiversity policy. It is made up of over 27,000 sites so far. In total, they cover almost a fifth of Europe's land area and an important part of the surrounding seas, making it the largest coordinated network of conservation areas anywhere in the world.



The aim of the award is to demonstrate what the network is, what it does to preserve Europe's biodiversity, and how it benefits us all.

The Natura 2000 award is open to everyone: businesses, authorities, NGOs, volunteers, land owners, educational institutions and individuals.

There are five categories of award: Conservation, Communication Socio-economic benefits Reconciling interests /perceptions Cross-border cooperation and networking. In addition to the five category winners, the public can vote online for their favourite finalist application. The finalist receiving the most votes is rewarded with the "European Citizens' Award".



The first three years of the Natura 2000 Award highlighted the astonishing array of initiatives on and dedication to Natura 2000 management and promotion taking place right across Europe. The Benchmarking reports from [previous](#)

[Award editions](#) also include important tips for potential applicants.

To know more and participate

[Natura 2000 Awards](#)

[Information to apply](#)

[Winning sites from 2016 Award](#)

[Winning sites from 2014 Award](#)

