

WINNERS OF THE NATURA 2000 AWARD

2022 EDITION ORGANIZED BY THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

In May 2022, the six [winners of the 2022 edition of the Natura 2000 Award](#), were announced by the EU General Directorate for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries, on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the creation of the Natura 2000 network.



The six winners, undertaking activities on Natura 2000 sites of the network, include projects from Austria, Bulgaria, Greece, Portugal, Spain and a cross-border project from Germany, Austria, Luxembourg and Switzerland.

The [European Natura 2000 Award](#) was launched in 2014 to recognize conservation success stories across the European Union and to raise awareness about one of Europe's outstanding achievements, the Natura 2000 network of protected areas. The six winners were selected by the high-level Jury from the different categories of the Natura 2000 Award: Conservation, Communication, Socio-economic benefits, Reconciling interests, Cross-border cooperation and networking. In addition, the 2022 Award included the category of Marine Conservation, in order to raise the profile of the many important efforts going on all around the Union to step up protection for marine and coastal species and habitats.

Any organization or individual can apply for the Award, as long as their work is directly linked to one or more Natura 2000 sites. In addition, the public is also invited to choose the winner for the [European Citizens' Award Natura 2000](#) among the finalists.

[The six winners of the 2022 edition of the European Natura 2000 Award](#) are the following projects:

- [Fishermen and seabirds, allies for the sea](#). Winner Marine Conservation. Portugal. [MedAves Pesca – project website](#)
- [Social inclusion and managing invasive alien species](#). Winner Socio-economic benefits. Spain. [LIFE Stop Cortaderia – project website](#).
- [Evaluate the dark side with the CaveLife app](#). Winner Cross-border cooperation. Germany. [VdHK project website](#).



- [Natura 2000 Bulgaria: New Horizons](#). Winner Communication. Bulgaria. [NATURA 2000 in Bulgaria greenbalkans.org – project website](#).
- [Adaptation of Eleonora's falcon to climate change](#). Winner Conservation on land. Greece. [Falco eleonorae & climate change - lifefalcoeleonorae.gr – project website](#)
- The *European Citizens' Award* was won by the project [FLORA: Empowering conservation entrepreneurs in Austria](#). Cross-border cooperation. [Blühendes Österreich – Project website - bluehendesoesterreich.at](#)

The [Natura 2000 Network](#) works to ensure the long-term survival of Europe's most valuable and threatened species and habitats, in the framework of the EU's nature and biodiversity policy. The Network is currently made up of nearly 27.000 terrestrial and marine sites, covering more than 18% of land areas and about 8% of the surrounding seas in Europe. It is also the result of a process of cooperation between stakeholders at national levels, and among EU Member States, which demonstrate the value of EU cooperation. The good management of the EU Natura 2000 Network of protected areas contributes to the ambitious targets of the [Biodiversity Strategy](#) which aims to put biodiversity on a path to recovery by 2030, with benefits for people, climate and the planet.

The European Commission highlights that protecting and restoring the EU's natural heritage and biodiversity is crucial to mitigate and adapt to climate change while preserving life on Earth for generations to come. For the last 30 years, thousands of conservation professionals, volunteers and stakeholders have worked to protect and restore nature, preserving the benefits it brings. These people have made the network Natura 2000 the success it is today.

The EU Commission invites all interested organization to draw inspiration from the strategies adopted by the award-winning practices, helping to expand the impact in nature protection and creating an added value for local economies. The Eu Commission also invites all interested organizations to take part in future editions of the European Natura 2000 Award.

To know more

[Winners of the 2022 edition European Natura 2000 Award](#)

[News in ec.europa.eu website](#)

[Natura 2000 Award \(europa.eu\)](#)

[Nature and biodiversity - Environment - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#)

[Winners Natura 2000 Award editions 2014 – 2020](#)

