Curriculum | Natura 2000 Manager

Status: 10.2025 | For the 2025-2026 course

Note on the time information: The pure duration of the course unit is given without follow-up time and exam preparation.

No.	Content	Speakers	Institution	Format	Duration of presentation with sound, etc.
A	**Basics of Natura 2000**				**11 h 30 min**
A1	Basic Principles and Legal Mandate • Know the genesis and objectives of Natura 2000 • be able to classify Natura 2000 in the German and European nature conservation context	Dr. Axel Ssymank	Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN)	presentation with sound	Part1: 1 h Part2: 1 h
A2	Habitat Protection Law and Species Protection Law • Know the legal obligations of the Habitats Directive, Birds Directive and species protection in water bodies, forests, open land, agriculture and settlement areas • Identify implementation stages of FFH impact assessment	Dr. Andreas Lukas	Geisenheim University	presentation with sound	40 min
A3	Natura 2000 and Environmental Planning - Species Protection in Planning Practice • Know planning instruments • Know the objectives and implementation of the FFH impact assessment • Know typical conflicts in connection with the FFH impact assessment • Know the objectives and implementation of a special species protection assessment	Dr. Benjamin Hill	PGNU - Planungsgesellschaft Natur und Umwelt mbH (planning company nature and environment)	presentation with sound	40 min
A4	Monitoring and Reporting Obligations under the Habitats Directive • Get an understanding of processes and requirements for mandatory reporting (varies in different federal states) • Knowledge on how conservation status monitoring is carried out • Know how to create standard data sheets	Heiko Uthleb, Annett Hahn	Thuringian State Office for the Environment, Mining and Nature Conservation	presentation with sound	Part 1: 1 h 15 min Part 2: 30 min
A5	Natura 2000: Administration and Responsibilities • Know the relevant institutions and responsibilities of Natura 2000 management at federal and state level	Rolf Knebel	Friends of the Earth, Department Thuringia, Germany (BUND Thüringen)	presentation with sound	1 h 30 min

A6	Natura 2000 Management Planning for Habitat and Bird Protection Areas in Germany • Know the objectives and requirements of Natura 2000 management plans • Knowledge of how Natura 2000 management plans are drawn up	Frank Meyer	RANA - Office for Ecology and Nature Conservation	**online lecture**	1 h 30 min
A7	Landuse Conflicts and Their Social Handling: Arguments, Orders, Incentives • Know the interests of relevant stakeholders and potential conflicts arising from them • Know socio-economic conditions and possible conflicts arising from them • Know control options for dealing with conflicts	Dr. Jens Jetzkowitz	Martin-Luther-University Halle-Wittenberg	presentation with sound	40 min
A8	Natura 2000 in an International Overview • Gain insight into the implementation of Natura 2000 in selected countries • Know best practice examples from other countries	Dr. Axel Ssymank	Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN)	presentation with sound	45 min
A9	Biodiversity Strategy 2030 – Innovations and Gaps in Implementing the EU Nature Conservation Directive • Know the objectives of the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030 and their significance for Germany • Knowing the Restoration Law as part of the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030	Dr. Axel Ssymank	Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN)	presentation with sound	1 h 10 min
A10	*Voluntary: Economy and Natural Heritage*	*Prof. Dr. Martin R. Stuchtey*	*The Landbanking Group*	*recorded lecture*	*50 min*
B	**Ecological Basics**				**8 h 40 min**
B1	*Voluntary: Material Cycles* • *Knowing and understanding the term ecosystem* • *Know what primary and secondary production is* • *Know energy flows and material cycles*	*Prof. Dr. Stefan Brunzel*	*University of Applied Sciences Erfurt*	presentation with sound	*50 min*
B2	Biogeography • Know distribution patterns and the processes that influence them • Be able to explain the terms "species", "speciation" and "extinction"	Prof. Dr. Stefan Brunzel	University of Applied Sciences Erfurt	presentation with sound	1 h 55 min
B3	Population Ecology • Understanding population dynamics and population growth • Understanding density-dependent and density-independent influences	Prof. Dr. Niko Balkenhol	Georg-August-University Göttingen	presentation with sound	50 min

B4	Habitat Connectivity • Be able to define "biotope network" • Know implementation options for the conservation of species • Be able to classify the drastic loss of biotopes and their associations and their effects	Dr. Katrin Vogel	Wildtierland Hainich gGmbH	presentation with sound	40 min
B5	Neobiota • Be able to explain the term "neobiota" • Knowing when species are invasive and how invasiveness is assessed • Be able to explain the impact of invasive species on plant communities • Know measures for the management of invasive species	Prof. Dr. Stefan Brunzel	University of Applied Sciences Erfurt	presentation with sound	1 h 25 min
B6	Climate Change and Natura 2000 • Raise awareness of the impact of climate change on Natura 2000 sites, their protected assets and the consequences for their allocation and management	Prof. Dr. Stefan Brunzel	University of Applied Sciences Erfurt	presentation with sound	1 h 30 min
B7	Biodiversity • Know and understand important patterns and processes related to biodiversity • Know functional aspects of species and living communities	Prof. Dr. Stefan Brunzel	University of Applied Sciences Erfurt	presentation with sound	1 h 30 min
C	**Ecology of Species and Habitats of the Habitats Directive and Birds Directive**				**26 h 35 min**
C1	Ecology and Management of Selected Open Land Habitat Types (LHT=Listed Habitat Type) • Obtain an overview of the 93 habitat types occurring in Germany (in particular habitat types 6510 and 5420) and their characteristics • Know the protective measures of the LRT	Prof. Dr. Barbara Stammel	Bayerische Akademie für Naturschutz und Landschaftspflege (ANL) (Bavarian Academy for Nature Conservation and Landscape Management)	presentation with sound	25 min 45 min 40 min 15 min 50 min
C2	Ecology and Management of Forest Habitat Types • Have an overview of the listed forest habitat types in Germany and know and get information on what needs to be considered for good management	Arnim Scheiblhuber	Bayerische Landesanstalt für Wald und Forsten (LWF) (The Bavarian State Institute for Forestry)	presentation with sound	1 h
C3	Addressing, Delimitation and Assessment of Habitat Tpyes On-Site • Know how to recognize and distinguish habitat types in the field • Know the basics of mapping and assessing FFH species	Prof. Dr. Stefan Brunzel	University of Applied Sciences Erfurt	presentation with sound, 1-day **excursion** (Oct), 2-day **excursion** (May)	1 h 20 min 15 h

C4	Ecology and Management of Mammals of the Habitats Directive • Gain knowledge about the ecology of relevant mammals of the Habitats Directive • Know methods of managing these FFH species	Prof. Dr. Fiona Schönfeld	University of Applied Sciences Erfurt	presentation with sound	50 min
C5	Ecology and Management of Bats under the Habitats Directive • Gain knowledge about the ecology of relevant bat species of the Habitats Directive • Know methods of managing these FFH species	Dr. Markus Dietz	Institut für Tierökologie und Naturbildung (Institute for Animal Ecology and Nature Education)	presentation with sound	1 h
C6	Ecology and Management of Amphibians and Reptiles of the Habitats Directive • Gain knowledge about the ecology of relevant amphibians and reptiles of the Habitats Directive • Know methods of managing these FFH species	Ulrich Scheidt, Konrad Kürbis	Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Thuringia e.V. (ART e.V.), Natural History Museum of Erfurt	presentation with sound	1 h 45 min
C7	Ecology and Management of Invertebrates of the Habitats Directive • Gain knowledge about the ecology of relevant invertebrates of the Habitats Directive • Know methods of managing these FFH species	Dieter Schneider	naturgucker.de	presentation with sound	1 h
C8	Ecology and Management of Birds of the Birds Directive • Gain knowledge about the ecology of relevant birds of the VSRL • Know methods of managing these species	Prof. Dr. Fiona Schönfeld	University of Applied Sciences Erfurt	presentation with sound	35 min
C9	Ecology and Management of Fish and Cyclostomes • Gain knowledge about the ecology of relevant cyclostomes of the Habitats Directive • Know methods of managing these FFH species	Dr. Egbert Korte	INGA – Institut für Gewässer und Auenökologie (Institute for River and Floodplain Ecology GbR)	presentation with sound	1 h 10 min
D	**Restoration ecology**				**4 h 17 min**
D1	Basics of Restoration Ecology • Know the definition, objectives and types of restorations • Know forms of implementation (application, funding, background)	Prof. Dr. Johannes Kollmann	Technical University of Munich	presentation with sound	45 min
D2	Restoration of Grassland (Lowland Meadows) • Know the implementation methods for the restoration of habitat type 6510	Dr. Martin Sommer	Deutscher Verband für Landschaftspflege (DVL) (German Association for	presentation with sound	35 min

			Landscape Conservation)		
D3	Restoration of Rough Grassland and Heaths • Know measures for the renaturation of nutrient-poor grasslands and heaths • Know the main conflicts during implementation and possible solutions	Prof. Dr. Stefan Brunzel	University of Applied Sciences Erfurt	short film	10 min
D4	Restoration of Watercourses • Get an overview of watercourse species • Know measures for the renaturation of watercourses • Know the main conflicts during implementation and possible solutions and how to deal with conflicts	Dr. Kathrin Januschke	University of Duisburg-Essen	presentation with sound, short film	45 min 06 min
D5	Restoration of Peatlands • Know bog types and differentiation criteria • Know measures for the renaturation of moors • Know the ecological background • Knowing the main conflicts during implementation and possible solutions	Dr. Łukasz Kozub	University of Warsaw	presentation with sound	1 h 50 min
D6	Re-Introduction of Species • Understanding the added value of re-introduction of species • Know forms of implementation and success factors of re-introduction projects	Prof. Dr. Stefan Brunzel	University of Applied Sciences Erfurt	short film	06 min
E	**Natura 2000 and Agriculture**				**9 h 45 min**
E1	Basics of Agriculture: • Gain an overview of operational processes • Learn the basics of agricultural law • Gain insight into the economic tensions farmers face	Martin Hirschmann	Thüringer Bauernverband (Thuringian Farmers Association)	presentation with sound	50 min
E2	History of Agriculture and Cultural Landscape in Central Europe • Know changes in the natural and cultural landscape in Central Europe and their impact on biodiversity	Dr. Martin Sommer	German Association for Landscape Conservation (DVL)	presentation with sound	50 min
E3	Common Agricultural Policy of the EU (CAP)	Prof. Dr. Sebastian Lakner	University of Rostock	recorded lecture	1 h 10 min

	• know the instruments of the 1st pillar of EU agricultural policy and their basic requirements • Know the instruments of the 2nd pillar of EU agricultural policy and their basic requirements • Know agri-environmental measures • Be able to name conflicts of use in agriculture				
E4	2. Pillar of EU Agricultural Policy (CAP) / The EAFRD • Be able to name the EAFRD Structural Fund and Pillar 2 instruments	Dr. Jan Freese	German Networking Agency for Rural Areas (DVS) at the Federal Office for Agriculture and Nutrition (BLE)	presentation with sound, **online talk**	1 h 45 min 1 h
E5	Nature Conservation in Agriculture: Compensation and Landscape Conservation • Get an overview of the legal basis and funding outside of EU funds	Dr. Martin Sommer	German Association for Landscape Conservation (DVL)	presentation with sound	50 min
E6	Practice: Soil Cultivation and Soil Ecology • Know techniques, challenges and implementation in arable farming • Get an overview of soils and their suitable use as well as their upgrading and degrading	Dr. Martin Schädler	Helmholtz Center for Environmental Research (UFZ)	presentation with sound	45 min
E7	Practice: Large-Scale Grazing Systems • Know selected forms of animal husbandry and their effects on nature and the landscape • Understanding the effects of grazing systems on grazing-sensitive protected assets • Know suitable and endangered animal breeds • Know future models and funding opportunities for large- scale grazing systems	Prof. Dr. Stefan Brunzel	University of Applied Sciences Erfurt	presentation with sound	1 h 20 min
E8	Organic Farming and Natura 2000 • Know the basics of soil cultivation, tillage and production on organic farms • Know the guidelines of organic farming and different labels • Know the added value of cultivation for climate protection, nature conservation and society	Prof.Dr.Birgit Willhelm	University of Applied Sciences Erfurt	presentation with sound	30 min
F	**Natura 2000 and Forest**				**5 h 05 min**

F1	Principles of Silviculture • Know the objectives, players, instruments and legal obligations of forestry in Germany • Overview of "good professional practice" and forms of implementation in forestry operations • Obtain an overview of ownership structures in forestry operations • Know common areas of conflict and the legal basis for conflicts of interest	Ronny Eckhardt	Thuringia Forestry - Oberhof Forestry Office	presentation with sound, script (optional)	1 h 20 min
F2	Natura 2000 in Forestry Operations: Ecology and Management of Natura 2000 Assets in Forests • Know what legal obligations the Habitats Directive and the Birds Directive entail in relation to forestry • Know how the boundaries between open land habitats and forest habitats are drawn and what the respective responsibilities are	Dr. Axel Buschmann, Andreas Schabel, Philipp Riedel	Albert-Ludwigs-University Freiburg, Forest Research Institute Baden-Württemberg, ö:concept Freiburg	presentation with sound	35 min 30 min 45 min
F3	Practice: Process Protection and Commercial Forests and Natura 2000 • Know for which Natura 2000 assets process protection is necessary • Knowledge of how Natura 2000 protected assets are managed in commercial forests • Know the practice and phases of process protection and commercial forests	Prof. Dr. Jörg Müller	Bavarian Forest National Park Administration, Julius-Maximilians-University Würzburg	presentation with sound	30 min
F4	Practice: Special Forms of Use and Their Effects (Light Forest, Middle Forest Use) • Know different forms of forest use and their effects on Natura 2000 protected assets • Know which forms of management are particularly suitable for preserving valuable habitat types	Dr. David Vollmuth	Bavarian State Office for the Environment (LfU)	presentation with sound	50 min
F5	Natura 2000 and Hunting • Know huntable Natura 2000 species • Know the advantages/disadvantages of hunting as a management method for Natura 2000 sites • Know areas of conflict in connection with Natura 2000 and hunting	Prof. Dr. Fiona Schönfeld	University of Applied Sciences Erfurt	presentation with sound	35 min
G	**Natura 2000 and Water Bodies**				**2 h 20 min**
G1	Basics of Water Ecology and Water Management • Be able to define water management and know what tasks it involves • Know the challenges and typical areas of conflict in water management	Prof. Dr. Daniel Hering	University of Duisburg-Essen	presentation with sound	45 min

G2	Natura 2000 and Water Bodies: Water Framework Directive and Blue Belt • Knowledge of the legal obligations arising from the Habitats Directive and the Birds Directive in the area of water bodies • Know the objectives and implementation of the WFD and the Blue Belt and their intersections with Natura 2000 • Knowing conflicts of use in the implementation of Natura 2000, WFD and Blue Belt	Dr. Kathrin Januschke	University of Duisburg-Essen	presentation with sound	50 min
G3	Natura 2000 and Water Development Planning • Know the objectives of water development planning • Know the objectives and interrelationships with water development concepts as a basis for planning measures under the EU WFD	Thomas Schmidt	WAGU - Company for water management, aquatic ecology and environmental planning mbH	presentation with sound	45 min
H	**Natura 2000 and Recreational Use**				**1 h**
H1	Natura 2000 and Recreational Planning • Know the potential impact of sporting and tourist leisure activities and major events on Natura 2000 • Know the legal requirements for recreational use in Natura 2000 areas • Maintain sensitivity to potential conflicts	Prof. Dr. Ulrike Pröbstl- Haider	BOKU University of Vienna	presentation with sound	1 h
K	**Project Management**				**5h 40 min**
K1	General Overview on Financing Options in Nature Conservation • Get an overview of funding opportunities in nature conservation including foundations, federal states, districts and crowd funding	Adrian Johst	Naturstiftung David	presentation with sound	35 min
K2	Funding Acquisition at EU level: LIFE Funding Program • Know the objectives and funding guidelines of the LIFE funding program	Ruth Brauner	ZUG (Zukunft - Umwelt – Gesellschaft gGmbH)	presentation with sound	1 h 30 min
K3	Funding Acquisition at Federal Level: Federal Biodiversity Program • Know the objectives, funding criteria and priorities of the "Federal Biodiversity Program" • Know the structure of the application procedure	Dr. Jörg Petermann, Alexandra Kiefer	German Aerospace Center (DLR)	presentation with sound	30 min
K4	Nature Conservation Projects - Application and Implementation • Get an overview of how to calculate and apply for nature conservation projects	Adrian Johst	Naturstiftung David	presentation with sound	1 h 15 min

K5	Tendering and Awarding - Basics • Knowing the award types • Assign services to the correct award type and structure and implement the service award in accordance with the rules	Gerd Tschersich	University of Applied Sciences Erfurt	**online lecture**	1 h 30 min
K6	Tendering and Awarding - Special Consideration of Nature Conservation Services • Introduction of special features in the context of nature conservation tenders	Frank Meyer	RANA - Office for Ecology and Nature Conservation	recorded lecture	20 min
L	**Press and Public Relations**				**6 h 60 min**
L1	Press and Public Relations Work for Nature Conservation • Knowing the goals and tools for successful PPE work • Writing press releases and using them successfully	Tobias Staufenberg	Independent consultant and coach	**classroom seminar**	6 h
L2	Social Media Guide • Know the functions and objectives of social media channels • Know instruments for expanding the reach of accounts • Being able to use social media as a research tool	Lotta Willing	Friends of the Earth, Department Thuringia, Germany (BUND Thüringen)	presentation with sound	50 min
M	**Social Skills**				**6 h**

M1	Arguing in Nature Conservation • Know the basics of argumentation • The competence to understand different perspectives by asking questions and to remain confident in difficult contacts	Dr. Thorben Prenzel	Prenzel-Communications	**classroom seminar**	6 h
S	**Miscellaneous**				**3 h**
S1	Online Consultation	Selected speakers		**online event**	1 h
S2	Online Exam Preparation	Project coordination		**online event**	1 h
S3	Online Exam (First Date, Second Date)	Project coordination		**online event**	1 h

Total Processing Time: Approx. 90h 42 Minutes
Processing Time with Follow-Up Work, Exam Preparation and Self-Study of Habitat Types (360-Degree Panoramas on natura2000manager.de): max. 290h

Face-to-face events:

- November: Kick-Off Seminar "Argumentation in nature conservation" (M1); Nature Conservation Excursion "Recognizing forest habitat types" (C2)
- May: Nature Conservation Excursions "Recognizing and Delimiting Habitat Types in Forests" and Open Land and Deriving Nature Conservation Measures" (C2); Seminar "Press and Public Relations" (L1),

Online events:

- Natura 2000 Management Plans (A6)
- Tendering and Awarding - Basics (K5)
- CAP and Natura 2000 (on E3 and E4)
- Online Consultation
- Exam Preparation

- Examination
- Examination Alternative Date