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# Road map to a functional protected area system



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## Introduction – Why a Road Map?

- Protected areas are core tools for halting biodiversity loss.
- Natura 2000 or Emerald network must be more than a network on paper—it must function effectively.
- A checklist-based road map helps ensure systematic planning, implementation, and monitoring.





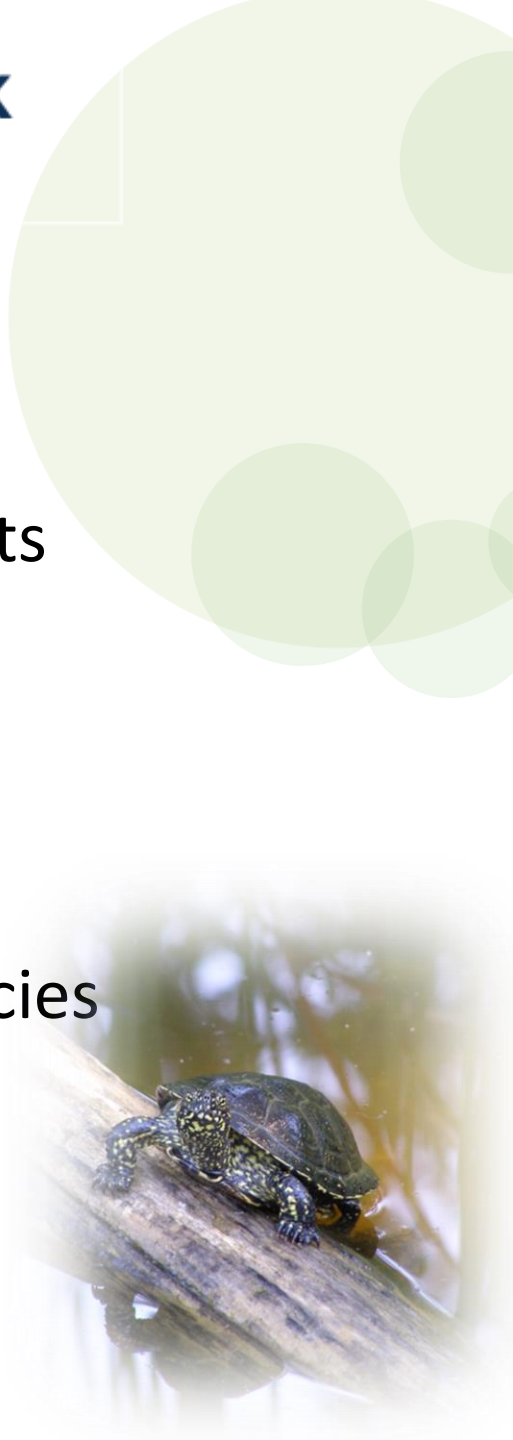
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## Step 1 – Legal & Policy Framework

- ✓ Ensure national legislation aligns with EU Birds and Habitats Directives (idealy also for Emerald network)
- ✓ Designate sites with clear legal protection status
- ✓ Integrate Natura 2000 or Emerald network in sectoral policies (e.g., agriculture, forestry, water)





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## Step 2 - Site Designation & Boundary Delineation

- ✓ Use scientific data to identify and justify site selection
- ✓ Clearly delineate boundaries using GIS and field validation
- ✓ Avoid political or economic bias in site designation





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## Step 3 –Conservation Objectives & Measures

- ✓ Define site-specific conservation objectives based on reference values
- ✓ Develop tailored conservation measures and integrate them into management plans







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## Step 4 – Governance & Stakeholder Engagement

- ✓ Establish clear governance structures with defined roles
- ✓ Ensure participation of local communities, landowners, and stakeholders
- ✓ Promote co-management and conflict resolution mechanisms





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## Step 5 – Resources & Capacity

- ✓ Secure long-term funding for monitoring, site management and staff
- ✓ Build capacity through training and knowledge exchange
- ✓ Develop infrastructure for surveillance and enforcement





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## Step 6 – Monitoring & Adaptive Management

- ✓ Develop systematic monitoring system on permanent monitoring plots for every habitat and species and systematic mapping/remapping of habitats
- ✓ Link monitoring results to policy and management adjustments
- ✓ Report under Article 17 HD and 12 BD effectively and on time







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## Conclusion – From Road Map to Reality

- A functional protected area system is dynamic, inclusive, and science-based.
- The checklist ensures no critical step is overlooked.
- Success depends on integration, investment, and commitment across all levels.





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Thank you for your attention

