Marine Natura 2000 areas and Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP)

Heidi Lusenius, Tua Nylén, Merle Kuris, Ville Karvinen, Suvi Vikström
SYKE.FI/PROJECTS/PLAN4BLUE

KEY MESSAGES

Natura 2000 as a network

• The individual Natura 2000 sites should be considered as part of the site network and of the environment surrounding them, since the connectivity between populations and threats from outside the site boundaries need to be examined.

Influence from outside

• Maritime Spatial Planning should consider the impact of human activities originating both from within and beyond the Natura 2000 sites, since local actions may have far-reaching influence on the surrounding sea. It is hard to define certain safety or buffer distance for all Natura 2000 sites because it is always different depending on protection objectives, activities and location. Some rough buffer zones may be developed for specific sea uses.

The value of Natura 2000 in Maritime Spatial Planning

• The Natura 2000 network offers Maritime Spatial Planning an existing framework for efficiently protecting important nature values, since it covers a wide range of rare species and natural habitats and notable parts of the marine territories of the EU states. Taking the existing Natura 2000 network into account in the national Maritime Spatial Planning process ensures that an important aspect of nature values is incorporated into the planning. However, nature values beyond the Natura 2000 framework must also be considered in spatial planning.
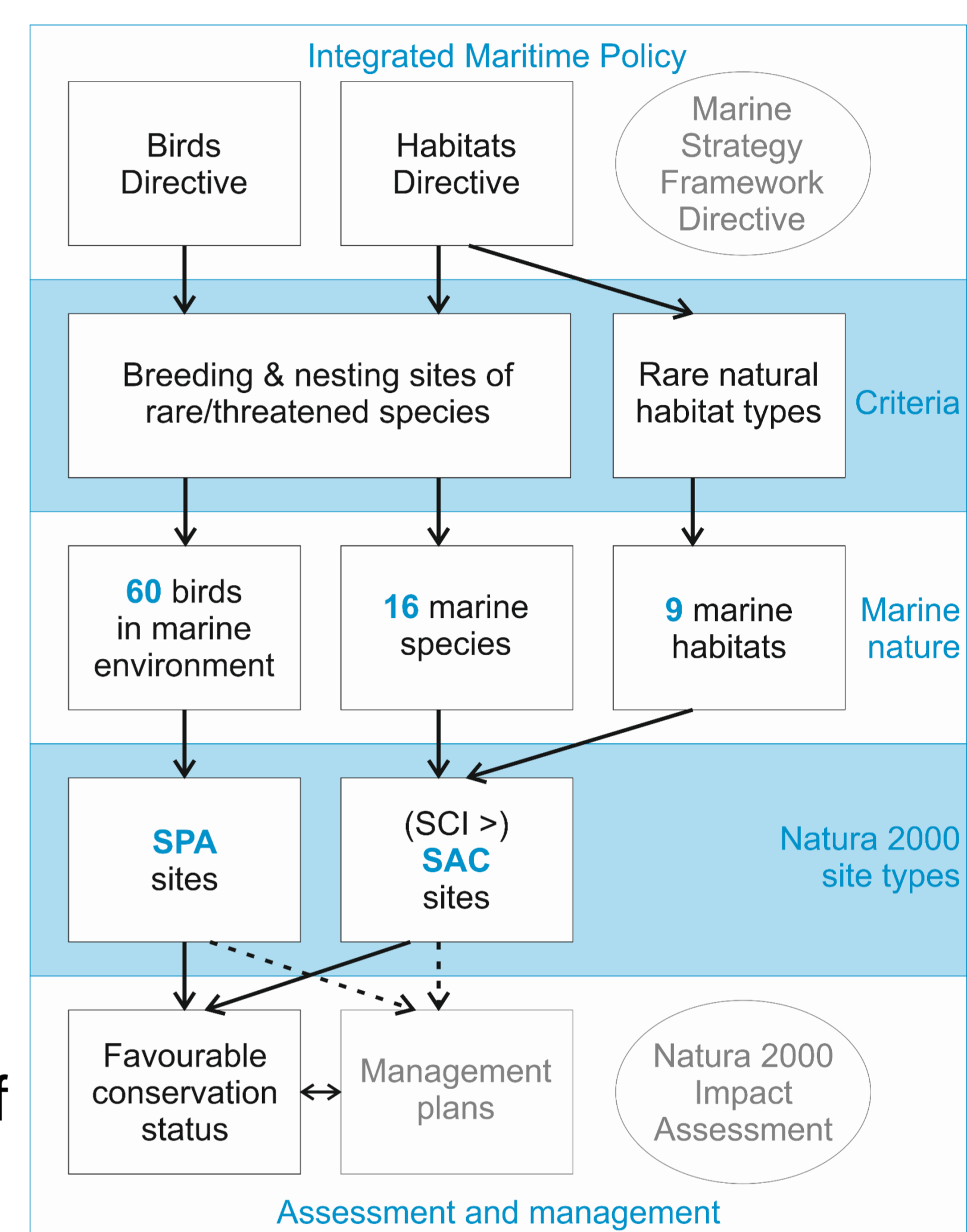
Cumulative impacts

• Cumulative impacts of all planned activities in and close to Natura 2000 sites should be taken into account. More coherent planning and permitting processes would help to see the cumulative impacts on different habitats and species more clearly.

New report on the role of Natura 2000 in MSP: Lusenius H, Nylén T, Kuris M, Karvinen V, Vikström S (2019). Marine Natura 2000 areas and Maritime Spatial Planning. Plan4Blue report. Available online: syke.fi/projects/plan4blue

Role of the Natura 2000 framework in MSP – EU experiences:

• One of the background information in Maritime Spatial Planning
• Detailed impact analysis of sea use scenarios on Natura 2000 sites
• Evaluating and supplementing the Natura 2000 site network
• Preparation of site management plans as part of MSP
• Setting common regulations for Natura 2000 sites.

The Natura 2000 process in general
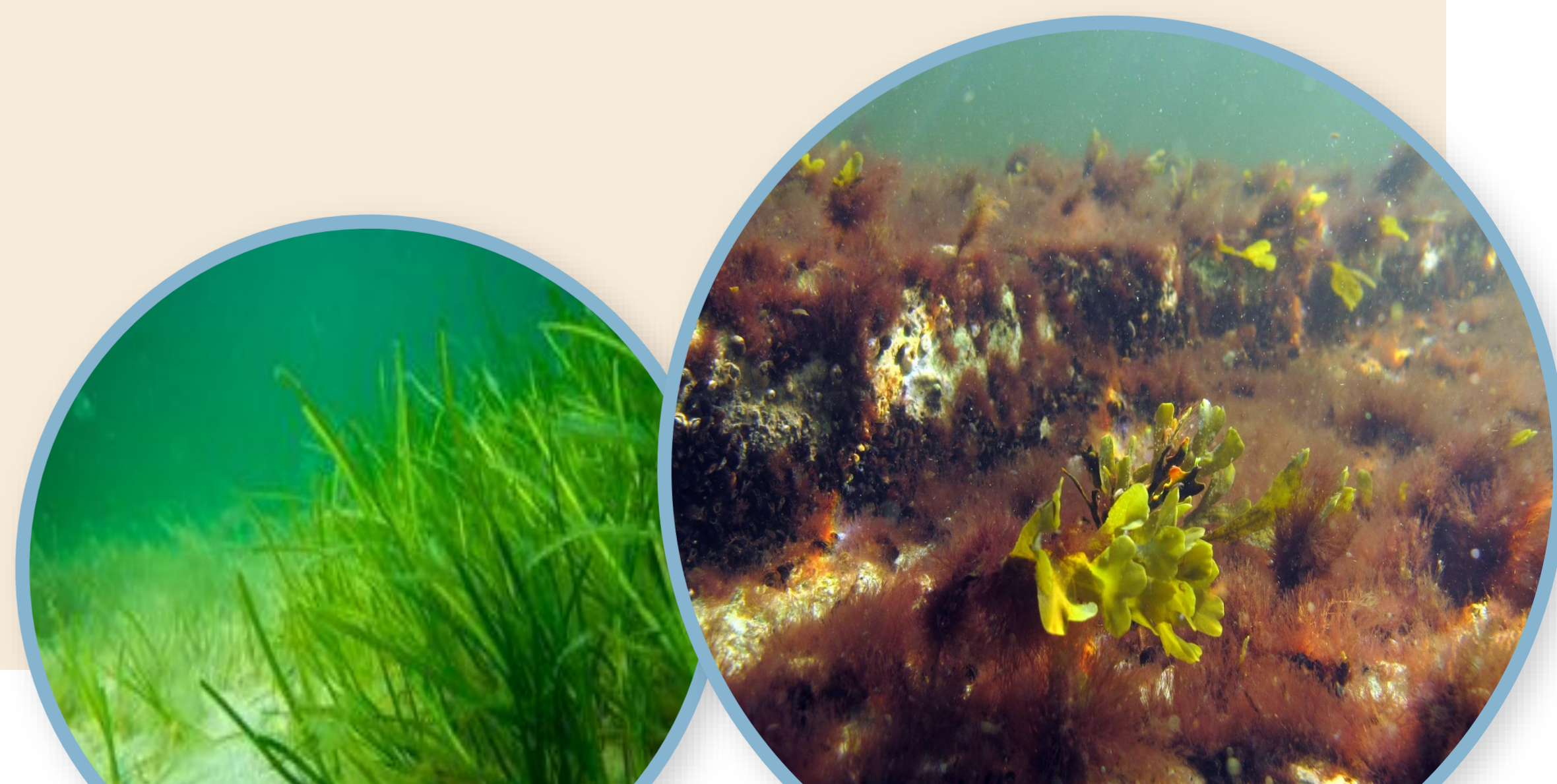
COMMENTS HERE PLEASE

Photo: MH 2015 / Juuso Haapaniemi

Photo: Kaire Kaljurand, Estonian Marine Institute, University of Tartu