Justification for de-designating Natura 2000 sites –

Purpose of this form

Each Natura 2000 site is defined by a polygon in the Natura 2000 geospatial database. If the site borders are changed so that some areas of land (or sea) are not covered anymore, it is understood that you propose to de-designate these areas.

In this case, and also in the case you need to complete delete a site, please **fill in the attached justification form** (1 form per changed site) and submit it along with your next update for the Natura 2000 geospatial database.

⚠ If your proposed change is only related to an improved spatial identification or representation of the site borders – and is not proposing any de-designation of land (or sea) "on the ground" – you should fill in the **technical correction form**[1] instead of this form.

To check the principles governing de-designation, established by the EU Court of Justice, see NADEG document 19-05-03 "Natura 2000: de-designation of sites or parts of sites – conditions & justifications"[2] . Your proposed de-designation **must fall within one of these 3 cases**:

- correcting a genuine scientific error
- reflecting a change linked to a natural evolution
- reflecting a change linked to the application of the article 6(4) of the Habitats directive.

How to fill in the form

Please submit the de-designation form together with the update of your national database. The form filename should begin with the site code (e.g. AB1234567_dedesignation.docx). The explanatory texts should be kept short and focussed on the justifications for the proposals for de-designation and their consequences.

Send us the form in **Word or PDF** format – preferably in **English** – including the following:

- **overlaid maps** of the site borders, before and after the correction. If the site spans over a large domain, please provide a general view and zoomed views.
- (if available) **aerial photographs**, with the site borders overlaid:
  – 1 from the time of the initial proposal for Natura 2000 designation
  – 1 from the time of the proposed changes.
- (if available) **habitat maps** used for the site initial proposal for designation and habitats maps used to define the proposed de-designation.
- A **link to the resources** used in the supporting documents (either to download data or OGC compliant or ESRI web-service endpoints).

[1] https://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/fcb355ee-7434-4448-a53d-5dc5d1dac678/library/dba81322-4f18-4602-bd12-46eb61dae328/details

[2] https://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/fcb355ee-7434-4448-a53d-5dc5d1dac678/library/8555aa28-9fb6-411f-8228-f8c99b296564/details

1. Site identification

Code	*Check the site code carefully (copy/paste it into the Natura 2000 viewer)*
Name	*This helps us double check the site identification.*
Type	*A, B, C* *A: designated under the Birds directive* *B: designated under the Habitats directive* *C: both*
Objectives and measures	*URL or reference to an attached document*

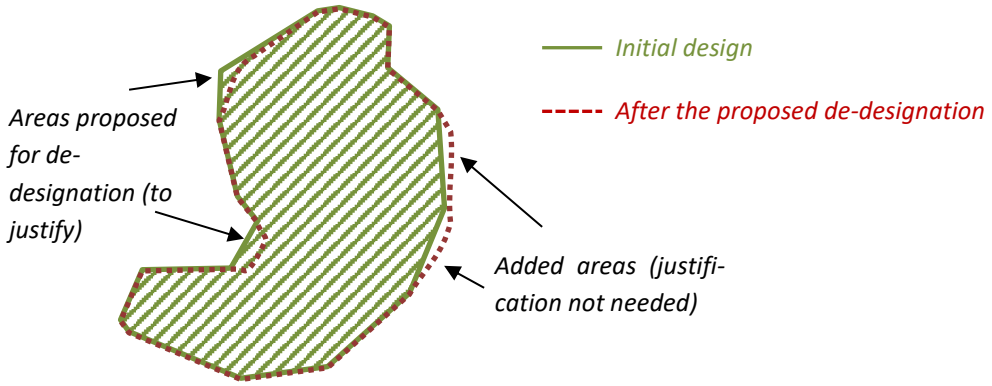
2. Category of de-designation

Indicate with an 'x' the category to which the proposed change belongs:

- ☐ Correction of a genuine scientific error
- ☐ Change resulting from a natural evolution
- ☐ Change related to the application of the article 6(4) of the Habitats directive

3. Overview of the proposed deletions

Please provide a map of the site, clearly distinguishing the existing borders and the proposed new borders. Please indicate the proposed areas for deletion (sum of areas left uncovered after the proposed de-designation) and the current site area as referred to in the last valid EU List.



1	Total area proposed for de-designation	_____ha

List area cover per protected feature (Annex I type, habitat of Annex II species, habitats of SPA trigger birds species, etc.)

2.a	When it was initially proposed for designation	Protected feature 1, area *Eg. 6120* Xeric sand calcareous grasslands, 3 ha* Protected feature 2, area Protected feature n, area
2.b	At the time of the proposed de-designation	Protected feature 1, area *Eg. 6120* Xeric sand calcareous grasslands, 0 ha* Protected feature 2, area Protected feature n, area

List area coverage not corresponding to a protected features, per land cover and land use (LCLU)

3.a	When it was initially proposed for designation	LCLU 1, area *Eg. Ray grass field used as a buffer zone, 2.5 ha* LCLU 2, area *Eg. build area, technical infrastructure, 0.5 ha* LCLU n, area
3.b	At the time of the proposed de-designation	LCLU 1, area

	Eg. Ray grass field used as a buffer zone, 0.5 ha LCLU 2, area *Eg. build area, technical infrastructure, 0 ha* LCLU n, area	
Is the area proposed for de-designation important for the integrity of the site or for reaching any of the conservation objective set, or for implementing the conservation measures for the site:		
4.a	Does the area have the role of a buffer zone?	YES/NO
4.b	Is the area a potential restoration area?	YES/NO
4.c	Does the area now or – potentially – in the future provide any other important function for the protection of the site or for reaching its conservation objectives?	YES/NO

4. Justification for de-designating the area

Fill the relevant sections below.

4.1. Justification for a genuine scientific error

The justification should cover at least the following: show that the case corresponds to a scientific error as listed in the NADEG document of 19-05-03, point 2a "Scientific errors – summary of conditions to be met for de-designation":

i. It can be scientifically proven that the area was not of value for habitats/species of EU-interest[3] for which the Natura 2000 site was initially proposed for designation.

ii. It can be scientifically proven that the area has not become in the meantime important for habitats/species of EU-interest – not only the ones for which the Natura 2000 site was initially proposed for designation but also others (even if not yet mentioned in the standard data form).

iii. The area is not necessary for the integrity of the site (e.g. is not a buffer zone, a forthcoming restoration area or providing other important functions)

iv. It does not have a substantial interest, including a potential to help achieve the objectives of the Nature directives, both at national level and EU level, by e.g. providing important areas for restoration or recreation of habitat types or habitats.

In particular, your justification should give more information about the nature of the error committed when initially proposing the site for designation, and the nature of the correction made, and provide details about the information summarised under section 3.

4.2. Justification for a natural evolution

The justification should cover at least the following: show that the case corresponds to a natural evolution as defined under section 2.b in the NADEG Document of 19-05-03:

> *"Natural developments are those that are not man-made (or global phenomena that cannot be mastered only locally such as climate change) and whose negative impact on habitats/species of EU interest cannot be prevented and lead to a situation where a site can definitively no longer contribute to the conservation of natural habitats and of the wild fauna and flora of EU interest. For example, the washing away of a breeding island by the sea or the loss of habitats by sea-level rise would fall under this category. It should be noted however that such developments go beyond the normal (regular and often necessary) natural dynamics sites might face. Should such natural developments occur that justify a*

[3] Annex I habitat types/ Annex II species' habitats for sites under the Habitats Directive, Annex I bird species or migratory species habitats for sites under the Birds Directive.

> *de-designation of a site or parts of a site, it should be assessed in how far the impact of such losses could be balanced by proposing a new site(s) or by enlarging a site(s).*
> *What cannot be regarded as natural developments are situations were habitats and species deteriorate through man-made activities (inside or outside of Natura 2000 sites) or through the absence of adequate management (e.g. of semi-natural grasslands).”*

The justification should give details about the natural event that led the change of the site borders and explain why it is necessary to remove the area from the site.

If Annex I habitats and/or habitats of Annex II species and/or habitats of SPA trigger birds species were impacted by the natural event, please provide information. Have measures been taken to avoid these impacts? Which ones and why were they not effective?

4.3. Justification for applying article 6(4) of the habitats directive

Summarise the case and explain why a de-designation is a necessary consequence. Indicate the status of the project leading to the habitat/species destruction (authorised, implemented, etc.) and the status of the implementation of the compensation measures.

Give reference to the article 6(4) notification, and – if relevant – any Commission comments received (ideally refer to the European commission ARES reference or attach a document and list them under section 5).

5. Supporting documents

Please provide references to additional documents, such as shapefiles, documents (reports, photos, etc.) attached to this form. If you provide documents in a language other than English, be sure that the document allows copy/paste operations, so we can paste the text into an automated translation service, or provide a translation.

Name used in this form	**Filename**	**Description**
The name to which you refer in this document	*The document file name, as it is provided*	*The document content, in a few words.*
Eg. Old borders shapefile	*Site_MS2435668_2015_01_23.[shp, dbf, dbx, shx]*	*A shapefile of the sites borders without the proposed de-designation.*
Eg. Report A	*Report_mapping_differences.docx*	*A report on the difference between the original and the new site borders, with descriptions.*