



## **" NATURA 2000: A PARTNERSHIP FOR NATURE"**

EL TEIDE DECLARATION. 9<sup>TH</sup> OF MAY 2002

Recognising the commitment of the European Heads of State in the Gothenburg Summit conclusions to take positive action to halt the decline of European Bio-diversity, and the priority given to this in the VI Environmental Action Programme.

Recognising the outstanding importance of Natura 2000 as a network of natural and semi-natural areas dedicated to ensure the conservation of Europe's most valuable Habitats and Wildlife.

Recognising the common responsibility to ensure the protection of these precious resources for the benefit of present and future generations.

Recognising that Natura 2000 is an important contribution of Europe to global nature conservation, and that it highlights the importance of establishing similar ecological networks in other regions and of international co-operation towards nature conservation.

Recognising the importance of the network as vital for our quality of life and as a resource for recreation, education and scientific understanding.

Recognising that the success of Natura 2000 will require the support of European citizens, especially of local people and landowners, and their participation in the decisions on the implementation of the conservation and management of the areas involved.

Recognising that many of our valuable Habitats are the result of traditional land use and that their conservation is dependent on traditional practices and skills.

Recognising and welcoming the recent decision on the list of areas for the Macaronesian region of the Natura 2000 network as a major contribution to this network and as a landmark in its development.

As the Community is moving towards finalisation of the designation of Natura 2000 areas and looking forward towards the extension of the network and enrichment by the contribution of candidates countries,

We the undersigned, considering that a new emphasis is now needed on the management of the network, commit ourselves to:

- Finalise in the shortest delays the full implementation of the Natura 2000 network
- Promote awareness and understanding of Natura 2000.
- Promote the development of partnerships involving the broad range of stakeholders in the conservation and management of Natura 2000 sites.
- Support the sharing of experience and good practice in managing the network.
- Support the sustainable use and management of Natura 2000 areas such as educational and recreation purposes.
- Ensure that the needs of Natura 2000 are effectively implemented in other Community policies.
- Recognise that these objectives require targeted resources.