

ANNEX

Form for submission of information to the European Commission according to Art. 6(4) of the Habitats Directive

Member State: *Italy*

Date: *20/12/2023*

Information to the European Commission according to Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)

Documentation sent for:

information
Art. 6(4).1

opinion
Art. 6(4).2

Competent national authority:

Regione Autonoma della Sardegna - Direzione generale della difesa dell'ambiente

Address:

Via Roma, 80 - 09123 Cagliari (CA)

Contact person:

Tel., fax, e-mail:

difesa.ambiente@pec.regione.sardegna.it

Is the notification containing sensitive information? If yes, please specify and justify

1. PLAN OR PROJECT

Name of the plan/project:

ADJUSTMENT AND SAFETY OF THE SS131 FROM km 108+300 to km 209+500 - resolution of critical road junctions - 1st and 2nd sections

Promoted by:

ANAS Direzione Generale

Via Monzambano, 10 – 00185 Roma

anas@postacert.stradeanas.it

Summary of the plan or project having an effect on the site:

the project provides for the elimination of the level intersections present on Highway 131 that result in a high level of danger due to left turn maneuvers with a high risk of collision with vehicles stopped in what a few meters before was the passing lane. To solve these problems, 6 new road junction infrastructures (staggered level intersections) will be built at Paulilatino, Macomer, Mulargia, Bonorva, Cossoine and Codrongianos. The part that has interference with the site natura 2000 is the Macomer road junction that fall within SCI ITB021101 - "Altopiano di Campeda, instead the coplanar roads fall within SPA ITB023050 - "Piana di Semestene, Bonorva, Macomer e Bortigali". The area of the junction roads occupies an area of 140000 square meters and does not affect any habitats. The coplanar road occupies an area aprox. 70.000 SM and affect some parts of habitats 6220, 9330, 5330

Description and location of the elements and actions of the project having potential impacts and identification of the areas affected (include maps):

The entire perimeter of the Macomer road junction does not interfere on habitats and is located on already man-made areas. The coplanars are developed in the ZPS area and interfere on habitats mapped in the regional database, but not in the SIC or ZPS management plan.



2. ASSESSMENT OF NEGATIVE EFFECTS¹

Name and code of Natura 2000 site(s) affected:

ITB023050 - "Piana di Semestene, Bonorva, Macomer e Bortigali"

This site is:

a SPA under the Birds directive

a SCI/SAC under the Habitats directive

hosting a priority habitat/species

priority habitats/species are affected

Site's conservation objectives and key features contributing to the site integrity:

Preservation and maintenance of the present ornithic population, especially the tetrax tetrax population. Preservation of grassland habitats.

Habitats and species that will be adversely affected (e.g. indicate their representativity, if applicable their conservation status according to Art.17 on national and biogeographic level and degree of isolation, their roles and functions in the site concerned).

The coplanar road occupies an area aprox. 70.000 SM and affect some parts of habitats 6220, 9330, 5330.

cod	Sup. Ha
6220	3,1
9330	1.2
5330	1

Habitat						Site assessment			
Code	PF	NP	Cover [ha]	Cave [n°]	Data quality	A B C D	A B C		
						Representativity	Relative Surface	Conservation	Global
<u>91AA</u>			31.5		P	D			
<u>3120</u>			4.382		G	B	B	B	B
<u>3130</u>			8.77		G	B	B	B	B
<u>3170</u>			8.77		G	B	B	B	B
<u>3260</u>			5.191		G	B	C	B	B
<u>5230</u>			4.29		M	C	C	C	C
<u>6220</u>			203.48		M	B	C	C	C
<u>6310</u>			1119.79		M	A	C	B	A
<u>6420</u>			37.18		M	B	C	B	B

¹ NB.: focus on the adverse effects expected on the habitats and species for which the site has been proposed for the Natura 2000 network. Include all the information that may be relevant in each case, depending on the impacts identified for the species and habitats affected.

9330		1236.95		M	A	C	B	A
<p>Importance of the site for the habitats and species that will be affected (e.g. explain the role of the site within the national and biogeographical region and in the coherence of the Natura 2000 network).</p> <p>the site is surveyed for the presence of <i>Tetrax tetrax</i>, so conservation of grassland habitats is important, the portion of the habitat involved is very small and fragmented, positioned along the highway and therefore with a low ecological importance</p> <p>Description of adverse effects expected (loss, deterioration, disturbance, direct and indirect effects, etc.); extent of the effects (habitat surface and species numbers or areas of occurrence affected by the project); importance and magnitude (e.g. considering the affected area or population in relation to the total area and population in the site, and possibly in the country) and location (include maps).</p> <p>adverse effects expected consist of habitat consumption for the portion affected by the coplanars roads, the total area involved is 5.3 hectares. No species listed on the form were censused in this area, the magnitude and importance of the affected tract are very low in relation to the site as a whole</p> <p>Potential cumulative impacts and other impacts likely to arise as a result of the combined action of the plan or project under assessment and other plans or projects.</p> <p>no cumulative impacts are present</p> <p>Mitigation measures included in the project (indicate how these will be implemented and how they will avoid or reduce negative impacts on the site).</p> <p>The start of the work will be timed so as not to interfere with the nesting and mating periods of the species present in the intervention area. against the planned felling of 30 units of <i>Quercus suber</i> it is planned to plant 90 cork trees in the areas conterminous to the construction of the coplanar so as to contextualize them to the habitat crossed</p>								

3. ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS

Identification and description of possible alternative solutions, including the zero option (indicate how they were identified, procedure, methods)

several solutions for the construction of the road junction were evaluated at the EIA stage, the one chosen has the least impacts on ecosystems.
the zero option leaves the significant risks of traffic accidents untouched, plus after upgrading the highway it would remain the only road junction with flush intersections making it even more dangerous

Evaluation of alternatives considered and justification of the alternative chosen (reasons why the competent national authorities have concluded that there is absence of alternative solutions)

the alternatives considered involved only the geometry and location of the road junction; the zero option was not considered because of the high risks of car accidents

4. IMPERATIVE REASONS OF OVERRIDING PUBLIC INTEREST

Reasons to carry out this plan or project in spite of its negative effects

- Imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature (in the absence of priority habitats/species)
- human health
- public safety
- beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment
- other imperative reasons of overriding public interest

Description and justification of the reasons and why they are overriding²:

state highway 131 is the main thoroughfare in all of Sardinia, the presence of level crossings makes some sections very dangerous. Once the work on the rest of the road is finished, the Macomer road junction will remain the only level intersection, making it dangerous beyond all tolerance.

it should also be considered that the assessment on the presence of habitats is very conservative and concerns marginal areas that have little or no correlation with the areas of ecological interest that characterize the protected site
furthermore, it concerns habitats inserted in an SPA that does not have an approved and validated management plan

² Different level of detail may be required depending on whether the notification is submitted for information or for opinion.

5. COMPENSATORY MEASURES³

Objectives, target features (habitats and species) and ecological processes/functions to be compensated (reasons, why this measures are suitable to compensate the negative effects)

consistently with the indications of the LIFE program and with the programming of the Sardinia region, land has been identified with the aim of reconstituting the priority habitat 6220*. The choice is linked to the typology of the SCI and the SPA which are oriented towards the specific protection of species identified at risk and where the most urgent mitigation measures refer to the fauna and in particular to the most threatened grassland species.

The mitigation measures envisaged for this project refer to the protection of an area of approximately 43 ha in which to protect the habitat using the same actions as the LIFE project. The areas were quantified according to the provisions of art. 2 of the guidelines for the drafting of the VINCA. Following this scheme, a ratio of 2:1 would be sufficient to carry out sufficient and effective compensation, but it was decided to bring the compensation to a higher ratio in order to put in place a form of protection of protected areas of a higher level and quality.

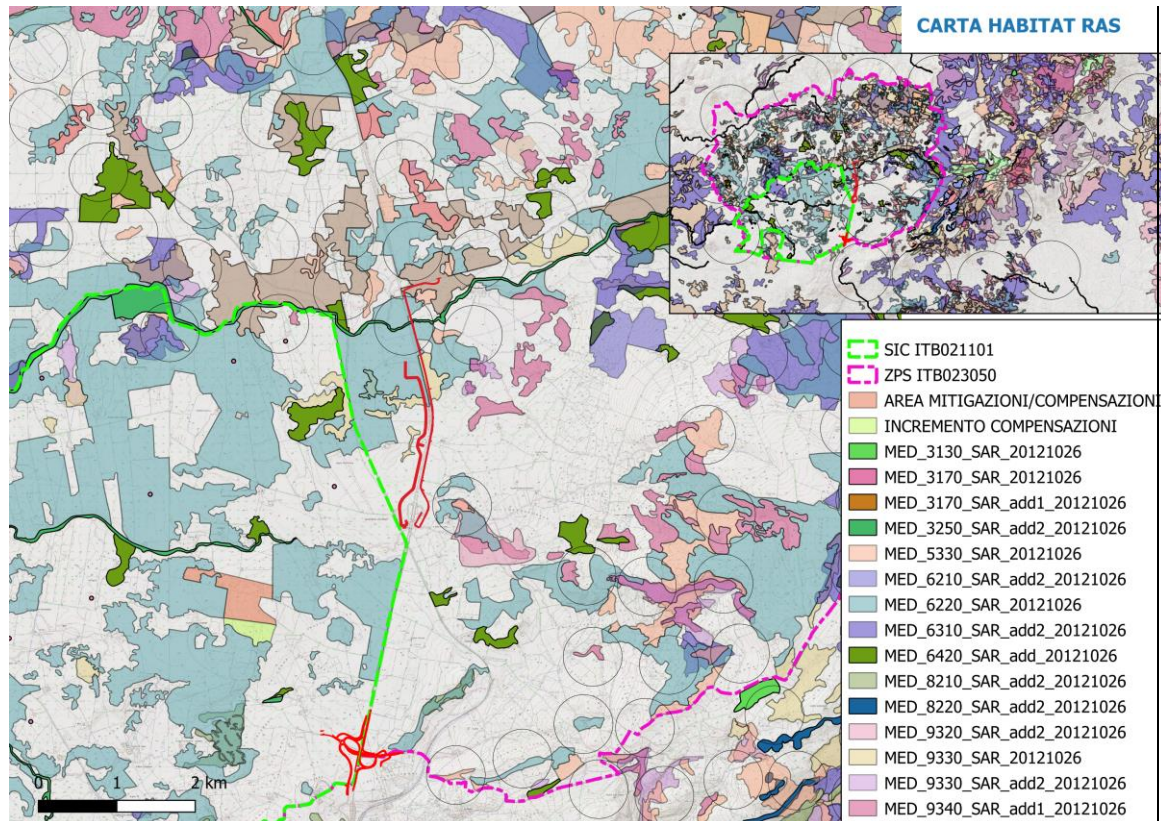
Extent of the compensatory measures (surface areas, population numbers)

the total surface area to be allocated to the reconstruction of habitat 6220 is equal to 43 hectares

Identification and location of compensation areas (including maps)

the identified compensation areas complete a 6220 habitat area and eliminate a fragmentation present

³ Different level of detail may be required depending on whether the notification is submitted for information or for opinion.



The overlay map was made on RAS cartography as taken from the PDG of the SPA, in blue the mapped distribution of 6220 is identified, which shows the presence of an area of habitat disruption 6220, with this intervention, following the indicated guidelines, the aim is to restore the ecosystem continuity by creating a homogeneous area of protection.

Former status and conditions in the compensation areas (existing habitats and their status, type of land, existing land uses, etc.)

the areas identified are extensive grazing area that have characteristics of suitability for habitat restoration both in terms of botanic and location. These areas are land normally used as pasture and are placed in continuity with other areas covered by habitat 6220.

Expected results and explanation of how the proposed measures will compensate the adverse effects on the integrity of the site and will allow preserving the coherence of the Natura 2000 network

Threats to the conservation of grassland species consist mainly of habitat destruction. The introduction of heavy mechanization and new techniques of intensive agricultural land use, with the replacement of traditional cultivars with early maturing ones, resulting in earlier mowing, have caused disturbance and loss of broods. Current trends toward crop specialization-particularly increases in cereal and legume cultivation and decreases in fallow (both short and long rotation), with the loss of fallow land-as well as the planting of perennial crops lead to a loss of habitat diversity.

The mitigation measures that have been envisaged are in continuity with those indicated in the LIFE action plan already partially implemented with LIFE funds and continued by the Sardinia Region with the PSR 2007/2013 - measure 214 "Agri-environmental payments," action 7 "Protection of the habitat of the meadow hen." In this context,

farmers are incentivized with premiums to leave the land for grazing without tillage so as to protect the relevant habitat.

For the choice of the mitigation/compensation areas we started from both the botanical and ecological characteristics of the land and the needs of the species subject to protection in order to select and delimit areas that present satisfactory characteristics in terms of species suitability. In particular, the suitability characteristics for reproduction, nesting and trophism of the little bustard, the target species of both the SCI and the SPA, were assessed. Furthermore, an attempt was made to identify land that constituted an element of fragmentation between contiguous habitats in order to restore contiguity and at least partially eliminate the mosaic effect that distinguishes the distribution of priority habitat 6220* in this area.

in relation to the very limited subtraction of dubious habitats, the compensation measures lead to a notable increase, eliminating the mosaic effect

Time schedule for the implementation of the compensatory measures (including long-term implementation), indicating when the expected results will be achieved.

the time required is approximately 12 months

Methods and techniques proposed for the implementation of the compensatory measures, evaluation of their feasibility and possible effectiveness

farmers are incentivized with premiums to leave the land for grazing without tillage so as to convert grassland in habitat or protect habitat. they are historically approved techniques and already implemented in various life programs

Costs and financing of the proposed compensatory measures

the costs are entirely borne by ANAS and amount to approximately 300 euros/hectare per year

Responsibilities for implementation of compensatory measures

ANAS

Monitoring of the compensatory measures, where envisaged (e.g. if there are uncertainties concerning the effectiveness of the measures), assessment of results and follow-up

the monitoring will be carried out on behalf of ANAS by specialized personnel on a six-monthly basis, the results will be shared with the Sardinian region as site manager