

SCHEDULE 2
SELECTION CRITERIA

Location of projects

2. The environmental sensitivity of geographical areas likely to be affected by projects must be considered, having regard, in particular, to—

- (a) the existing land use;
- (b) the relative abundance, quality and regenerative capacity of natural resources in the area;
- (c) the absorption capacity of the natural environment, paying particular attention to the following areas—
 - (i) wetlands;
 - (ii) coastal zones;
 - (iii) mountain and forest areas;
 - (iv) nature reserves and parks;
 - (v) areas classified or protected under EEA states' legislation; special protection areas designated by Member States under the Wild Birds Directive or the Habitats Directive;
 - (vi) areas in which the environmental quality standards laid down in Community legislation have already been exceeded;
 - (vii) densely populated areas;
 - (viii) landscapes of historical, cultural or archaeological significance.