



# Recent developments of the EU Biodiversity and Nature Policy

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## PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- I. Wider context for the EU Biodiversity Policy
- II. The EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy: targets and actions
- III. Implications for Site Managers





## Wider Context

- **Europe 2020 smart, sustainable and inclusive growth**
- **Economic and Financial Crisis**
- **Pressures growing**
  - **Low carbon economy, Energy 2020 targets, Biofuels, Biomass, Windmills, Tidal, Grids, ...**
  - **Transport, Tourism**
  - **Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries?**
- **Biodiversity loss not halted**
- **Political opportunities**
  - **New EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy**
  - **Economic value of ecosystem services better known**
  - **Nature legislation in place**
  - **People care for nature**
  - **Reforms of key sectoral policies under way (CAP, CFMP, CRP)**





# Rationale for action

## 1. Political

- IYB 2010: New 2050 vision and 2020 target endorsed by European Council, EP, EESC, etc...
- CBD COP 10 in Nagoya, Japan

## 2. Environmental

- EU still losing biodiversity
- Key role of biodiversity in ensuring ecosystem functions
- See EEA baseline

## 3. Economical

- Cost of inaction (e.g. IAS: € ~12 billion vs 40-190 million/y)
- Value of natural assets - e.g. insect pollination worth ~ 15 billion; Global business opportunities from investments in biodiversity US\$2-6 trillion by 2050 (TEEB)
- Correcting market failures: reflecting values in accounting and reporting systems





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## Adopted: 3 May 2011 (COM(2011)244 final) Documents

### Substance:

- ❖ Communication
- ❖ Summary of the Impact Assessment
- ❖ Impact Assessment

### Outreach:

- ❖ Press release
- ❖ Memo (Q&A)
- ❖ Citizens' Summary

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/comm2006/2020.htm>





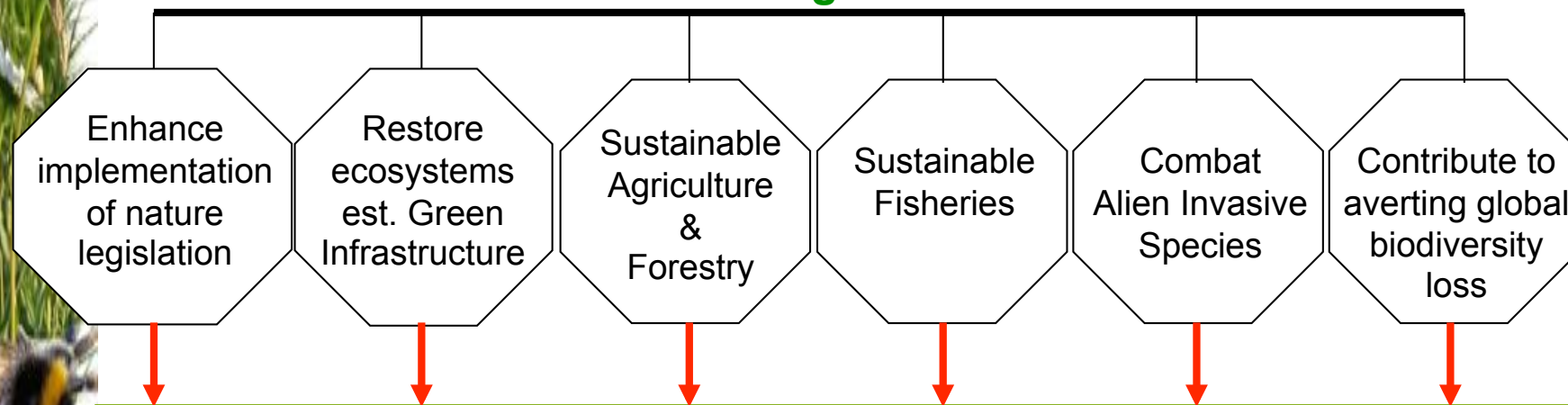
# STRUCTURE OF THE STRATEGY

2050 Vision

2020 headline target

*Halt biodiversity loss – restore ecosystem services – global contribution*

## 6 Targets:



ANNEX OF ACTIONS





## EU MANDATE



### A 2050 VISION

European Union biodiversity and the ecosystem services it provides – its natural capital – are protected, valued and appropriately restored for biodiversity's **intrinsic value** and for their essential contribution to **human wellbeing** and **economic prosperity**, and so that **catastrophic changes** caused by the loss of biodiversity are **avoided**.

### A 2020 HEADLINE TARGET

**Halt the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the EU and restore them insofar as feasible, and step up the EU's contribution to averting global biodiversity loss.**





# 1. Nature conservation

*To halt the deterioration in the status of all species and habitats covered by EU nature legislation and achieve a significant and measurable improvement in their status so that, by 2020, compared to current assessments:*

- (i) 100% more habitat assessments and 50% more species assessments under the Habitats Directive show an improved conservation status;*
- (ii) 50% more species assessments under the Birds Directive show a secure or improved status.*

**Example:**

<u>HABITATS</u>	Favourable status	Inadequate status	Bad status	Unknown*
2007	17%	28%	37%	18%
2020	30%	26%	26%	(18%)





# 1. Nature conservation

## Actions:

### •Complete Natura 2000 network and ensure good management

- Network largely completed by 2012 incl. marine,
- Integration in wider landscape
- management plans developed and implemented for all sites
- **New Biogeographic process**

### •Ensure adequate financing of Natura 2000 sites

(MFF, CAP, EFF, Cohesion, LIFE, PAFs)

### •Increase stakeholder awareness and involvement and improve enforcement

- New Communication Campaign on Natura 2000
- Cooperation with key sectors, guidance documents
- Facilitating enforcement (link to upcoming Communication on implementation)

### •Improve and streamline monitoring and reporting

- New EU bird reporting system,
- improved Article 17 reporting, (new Art 17 reporting framework adopted)
- improved flow, accessibility and relevance of Natura 2000 data (new SDF adopted)
- Creation of a dedicated ICT tool as part of BISE





## 2. Ecosystem maintenance and restoration

*By 2020, ecosystems and their services are maintained and enhanced by establishing green infrastructure and restoring at least 15 % of degraded ecosystems.*

### Actions:

- Improve knowledge of ecosystems and their services in the EU (ES mapping and assessment, valuation)
- Set priorities to restore and promote the use of green infrastructure (→ GI Strategy 2012)
- Ensure no net loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services (bd screening, no net loss initiative by 2015)



<http://biodiversity.europa.eu>





## 3A. Sustainable Agriculture



*3A) Agriculture: By 2020, maximise areas under agriculture across grasslands, arable land and permanent crops that are covered by biodiversity-related measures under the CAP so as to ensure the conservation of biodiversity and to bring about a measurable improvement<sup>(\*)</sup> in the conservation status of species and habitats that depend on or are affected by agriculture and in the provision of ecosystem services as compared to the EU2010 Baseline, thus contributing to enhance sustainable management.*

*(\*) Improvement is to be measured against the quantified enhancement targets for the conservation status of species and habitats of EU interest in Target 1 and the restoration of degraded ecosystems under target 2.*

### Actions:

- Enhance **direct payments** for environmental public goods in the EU Common Agricultural Policy
- Better target **Rural Development** to biodiversity conservation
- Conserve Europe's agricultural genetic diversity





## 3B. Sustainable Forestry



*B) Forests: By 2020, Forest Management Plans or equivalent instruments, in line with Sustainable Forest Management (SFM), are in place for all forests that are publicly owned and for forest holdings above a certain size\*\* (to be defined by the Member States or regions and communicated in their Rural Development Programmes) that receive funding under the EU Rural Development Policy so as to bring about a measurable improvement(\*) in the conservation status of species and habitats that depend on or are affected by forestry and in the provision of related ecosystem services as compared to the EU 2010 Baseline.*

*(\*) Improvement is to be measured against the quantified enhancement targets for the conservation status of species and habitats of EU interest in Target 1 and the restoration of degraded ecosystems under target 2.*

*(\*\*) For smaller forest holdings, Member States may provide additional incentives to encourage the adoption of Management Plans or equivalent instruments that are in line with SFM.*

### Actions:

- Encourage forest holders to protect and enhance forest biodiversity (e.g. establish and fund Management Plans)
- Integrate biodiversity measures in forest management plans





## 4. Sustainable Fisheries



*Achieve Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) by 2015. Achieve a population age and size distribution indicative of a healthy stock, through fisheries management with no significant adverse impacts on other stocks, species and ecosystems, in support of achieving Good Environmental Status by 2020, as required under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.*

### Actions:

- Improve the management of fished stocks (→ MSY)
- Eliminate adverse impacts on fish stocks, species, habitats and ecosystems (e.g. eliminate discards, by-catch)





## 5. Combat Alien Invasive Species

*By 2020, Invasive Alien Species (IAS) and their pathways are identified and prioritised, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and pathways are managed to prevent the introduction and establishment of new IAS*

### Actions:

- Strengthen the EU Plant and Animal Health Regimes (2012)
- Establish a **dedicated EU level instrument on Alien Invasive Species** (2012)



## 6. Global biodiversity

*By 2020, the EU has stepped up its contribution to averting global biodiversity loss.*

### Actions:

- Reduce indirect drivers of biodiversity loss (consumption, resource efficiency, trade-related impacts)
- Resource mobilisation for global biodiversity (CBD COP-10 follow up)
- 'Biodiversity proof' EU development cooperation
- Regulate access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their use (ratify & implement ABS Protocol by 2015)





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# Eurosite Members as key partner

1.

## Expertise

- Help providing the science and information (e.g. Climate change & Natura 2000 guidelines, wilderness guidance)
- Contribute to new Natura 2000 biogeographical management seminars and discussions in the Natura 2000 management working group
- Organise thematic seminars, training for managers etc.

2.

## Local anchor

- Continue to provide an effective interface with local communities and stakeholders on the ground
- Act as local ambassadors for Natura as a tool for sustainable development

3.

## Promoter of integrated approaches

- Facilitate cross-sectoral discussions (e.g. Brest meeting)
- Promote more systematic use of SEAs and application of Art 6 HD

4.

## Political ally and awareness builder

- Advocate the EU Nature legislation as a worldwide unique, flexible and key tool to achieve the biodiversity target and sustainable growth
- Help us celebrate 20 years of the Habitats Directive and LIFE
- Help promote benefits of Natura 2000 & that it is a central/practical tool for wider ecosystem/green economy approach
- Help making the case for 'investing in Natura 2000' – development of PAFs, cooperation with other fund managers







Thank you for your attention



[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/index_en.htm)