



EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020

11th Concaawe Symposium

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European
Commission



Introduction to Ecosystem Services



Introducing ecosystems, ecosystem services and biodiversity

- **Biodiversity** is the **variability among living organisms** in terrestrial, marine, and other aquatic ecosystems. This includes diversity within species, between species, and of ecosystems.
- **Ecosystems** are a **dynamic complex** of plant, animal, and microorganism communities and their non-living environment.
- **Ecosystem services** include the **benefits that people obtain** from ecosystems. They encompass the direct and indirect contributions of ecosystems to human wellbeing.



Ecosystem services examples and the concept of Natural Capital

- **Three categories of ecosystem services:**
- **Provisioning services** – freshwater provision, food provision, biomass used for energy, material used for the manufacture of goods
- **Regulating services** – erosion control, maintenance of fertile soils, climate regulation, flood management, pollination
- **Cultural services** – recreation (sightseeing), knowing about the existence of exotic plants and animals, beauty of landscapes e.g. beaches and mountains

Natural Capital includes all ecosystems and all living species, from fertile soil and productive land and seas to fresh water and clean air as well as biodiversity that supports it

- All resources can be regarded as natural capital

➡ Crucial to protect and preserve our natural capital



EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 and Target 2



The EU mandate (March 2010, adopted in 2012)

- Adoption of a **long term (2050) vision**

*By 2050, 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 well-being and economic prosperity, and so that catastrophic changes caused by the loss of biodiversity are avoided*

- Adoption of a **mid term (2020) headline target**

*Halting the loss of biodiversity **and the degradation of ecosystem services in the EU by 2020**, and restoring them in so far as **feasible**, while stepping up the EU contribution to averting global biodiversity loss*

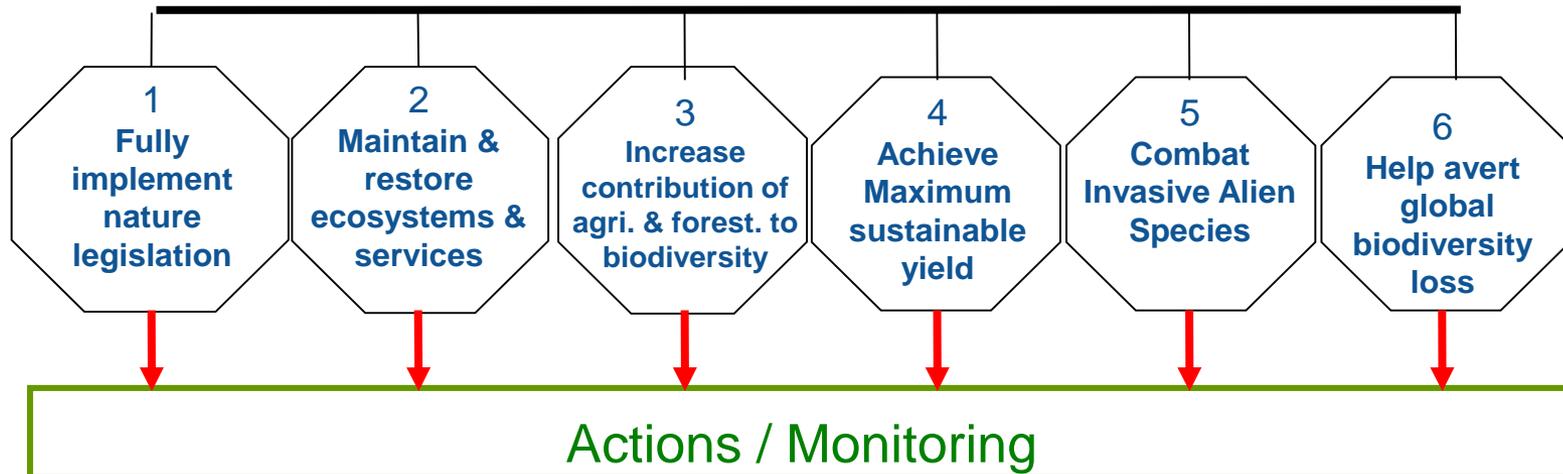


EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020

2050 Vision

2020 headline target

6 Targets:



Cross-cutting issues: Financing, Involvement of the private sector



Target 2

By 2020, **ecosystem services** are maintained and enhanced through the establishment of **Green Infrastructure** and the **restoration of at least 15%** of degraded ecosystems

- *Action 5:* **Improve knowledge about ecosystems and their services in the EU**
- *Action 6:* **Set priorities to restore and promote the use of Green Infrastructure**
- *Action 7:* **Ensure no net loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services**

Action 5: Improve knowledge of ecosystems and their services in the EU

Member States, with the assistance of the Commission, will ***map and assess the state of ecosystems and their services in their national territory by 2014, assess the economic value*** of such services, and *promote the integration of these values into **accounting and reporting systems** at EU and national level by 2020.*

Rubicode matrix – state of EU's ecosystems

Services	Ecosystems	Agro ecosystems	Forests	Grasslands	Heath and scrubs	Wetlands	Lakes and rivers
Provisioning							
Crops/timber		↓	↑			↓	
Livestock		↓	=	=	=	↓	
Wild Foods		=	↓	↓		=	
Wood fuel			=		=		
Capture fisheries						=	=
Aquaculture						↓	↓
Genetic		=	↓	↓	=	=	
Fresh water			↓			↑	↑
Regulating							
Pollination		↑	↓	=			
Climate regulation			↑		=	=	=
Pest regulation		↑		=			
Erosion regulation			=	=	=		
Water regulation			=		↑	↑	=
Water purification						=	=
Hazard regulation						=	=
Cultural							
Recreation		↑	=	↓	↑	↑	=
Aesthetic		↑	=	=	=	↑	=

Trend between periods

↑ Positive change between the periods 1950–1990 and 1990 to present

↓ Negative change between the periods 1950–1990 and 1990 to present

= No change between the two periods

Status for period 1990–present ■ Degraded ■ Mixed ■ Enhanced ■ Unknown □ Not applicable

Setting priorities for ecosystem restoration

Action 6a foresees that by 2014, **'Member States, with the assistance of the Commission, will develop a strategic framework to set priorities for ecosystem restoration at sub-national, national and EU level'**.

A study developing a framework for prioritizing ecosystem restoration work within the EU, including **options for the 15% restoration target** has been completed in 2014 together with a study **estimating the financial needs** for reaching the target.

Green Infrastructure

Under action 6b, 'the Commission will develop a **Green Infrastructure Strategy by 2012** to **promote the deployment of green infrastructure in the EU in urban and rural areas**, including through incentives to encourage up-front investments in green infrastructure projects and the maintenance of ecosystem services, for example through **better targeted use of EU funding streams and Public Private Partnerships**'.

Green Infrastructure: What is it?

Green Infrastructure: a **strategically planned network of natural and semi-natural areas** with other environmental features designed and **managed to deliver a wide range of ecosystem services** (in terrestrial, aquatic, coastal, marine environments).

On land, GI is present in rural and urban settings, and in protected (e.g. Natura2000) and non-protected areas.

Green Infrastructure webpage:
<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/ecosystems/>

*Spatial structure
delivering nature
benefits to people*



No Net Loss

Under action 7b, **'the Commission will carry out further work with a view to proposing by 2015 an initiative to ensure there is no net loss of ecosystems and their services (e.g. through compensation or offsetting schemes)'**.



The Role of the private sector



Natural Capital Financing Facility (NCFF)

- NCFF is a new financial instrument by the Commission and the European Investment Bank
- The aim is to provide **financial support to projects which promote the preservation of natural capital**, including adaptation to climate change, in the Member States.
- It is currently in a pilot phase for 3 to 4 years (2015-2018)
- **Total amount of EUR 125m for the financing of 9 to 12 operations** including a grant support facility of EUR 10m for technical assistance
- In this phase target operations will typically have a size of **EUR 5-15m per project**
- It is expected that the fund will then increase in budget both in the EU and in Member States
- **Leveraging opportunities** with the private sector will become increasingly important



EU Business and Biodiversity (B@B) Platform

- **Launched in 2014 with aim to provide:**
 - Communication and coordination
 - Umbrella function in support of MS Actions
 - Forum for exchange on strategic issues with Business
- **Develop workstreams linked with actions under the EU Biodiversity Strategy**
 - Natural Capital Accounting
 - Innovation for biodiversity and business opportunities
 - Financing for biodiversity
- **Membership**
 - Over 200 members today (+20 MNEs, +90 SMEs)
- **Dedicated Website, Newsletter and Annual Conference**
 - Main communication tool
 - Exchanges and updates via emails

Companies and NGOs/Associations welcome to join:
<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/biodiversity/business/>

Thank you for your attention

EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/policy>