Results of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020

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EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020

2020 headline target
*halt biodiversity loss – restore ecosystem services – global contribution*

**SIX TARGETS**

1. Enhance implementation of nature legislation
2. Restore ecosystems establish Green Infrastructure
3. Sustainable agriculture and forestry
4. Sustainable fisheries
5. Combat Alien Invasive Species
6. Contribute to averting global biodiversity loss

**20 ACTIONS**
Halt the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services in the EU by 2020, restore them in so far as possible, and contribute to averting global biodiversity loss

- **Local improvements** as result of action on the ground
- **Climate change** impact on biodiversity is increasing
- **Overall continuing biodiversity loss** in the EU and globally due to increasing pressures
- **Need to scale up** action across all sectors for a measurable impact on the overall negative trends
- Serious implications for the capacity of biodiversity to meet **human needs** in the future
Climate change hitting all ecosystems

- 80% of land: increasing temperatures;
- 33% of land: increasing impacts of (severe) drought
- 30% of land: a longer growing season
Progress in carrying out actions

Natura 2000 almost complete on land (18%), need to expand at sea (10%)

Some species and habitats in improved status (SoN Report 2015)

Many others remain in unfavourable status; and some are deteriorating further

Challenges until 2020: completion of marine Natura 2000, effective management and finance to support Natura 2000, habitat restoration and enhancement of connectivity, reduction of pressures,
Maintain and restore ecosystems and their services

- Progress on policy and knowledge improvement
- Some restoration and connectivity activities in Member States
- Degradation of ecosystems and services continues
- Challenges until 2020: national and regional frameworks to promote restoration and green infrastructure;
- Ensure no net loss of ordinary biodiversity outside Natura 2000.
• **Continued loss** (to agriculture and forestry) and degradation as pressures on wetlands remain high or further increase.

• EU28 extended wetland area: ~370,000 km² (first EU map available)

• Extended definition (cf. Ramsar)

• **Coastal / Marine wetlands** (22%) are a knowledge gap
• In the EU more cities are greening than browning, but mainly in the interface zone

• Urban expansion at the cost of other ecosystems

• Urban biodiversity is disproportionately impacted by invasive alien species
Increase the contribution of agriculture to maintaining and enhancing biodiversity

- **Continuing decline** in the status of species and habitats of EU interest, of common species, and of ecosystems and services associated with agriculture.
- **CAP 2014-2020** provided a range of instruments to support biodiversity – but they need to be taken-up by Member States on a sufficient scale.
- Examples of **sustainable agricultural practices**, if implemented broadly, could put the EU back on track to achieve the target by 2020.
Increase the contribution of forestry to maintaining and enhancing biodiversity

- EU forest area increased - but no signs of improvement in the conservation status of habitats and species of EU importance, and common species
- EU-level data on the status of forest habitats outside Natura 2000 limited
- Primary/old-growth forest covers only 0.7% of EU and needs protection
- The potential of Forest Management Plans for achieving the target remains largely unused.
Ensure the sustainable use of fisheries resources and achieve Good Environmental Status

- Progress in policy framework for sustainable fisheries and GES
- Oceans Governance for more sustainable management of marine resources
- Uneven policy implementation and major challenges remain - not all MSY-assessed stocks fished sustainably
- Multiple pressures and continued decline of marine species, of seabed integrity and ecosystems across Europe's seas
Help combat invasive alien species

- Fast-growing threat to biodiversity
- **IAS Regulation** in force since 2015;
- **49 invasive alien species** of Union concern
- **Next critical steps** report on implementation, revise list

Ratification of the **Ballast Water Convention**, crucial for addressing marine IAS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ecosystem type</th>
<th>% impacted area</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>69.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cropland</td>
<td>46.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grassland</td>
<td>65.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forests</td>
<td>43.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heathland and shrub</td>
<td>16.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sparsely vegetated land</td>
<td>16.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fresh water</td>
<td>36.68</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Help avert global biodiversity loss

- EU and MS: by far the largest donor for biodiversity
- Not sufficient reduction of indirect drivers of global biodiversity loss (trade)
- Insufficient progress in reducing the impacts of EU consumption patterns on global biodiversity.

Ecological footprint per region of the world

Source: EEA (SEBI)
• Biodiversity aspects integrated into key **EU financing instruments**
• **LIFE** has considerable return on investment for nature and biodiversity
• Innovative financing set up: **NCFF**
• New processes: **biodiversity proofing and tracking** biodiversity-related financing in the EU budget
• **EU external instruments** (**B4Life** flagship initiative)
Partnership

- **Cooperation**: Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process
- **Awareness raising**: Natura 2000 Award scheme
- **Private sector engagement**: EU Business and Biodiversity platform
- **Overseas partnership** (BEST)
- **TEEB** and synergies with other conventions
Knowledge

- Streamlined reporting under the Nature Directives
- Towards more integrated assessment (MAES/IPBES)
- Development of indicator-based monitoring and reporting
- Facilitated access to information through BISE
- Support for research (FP6, FP7, Horizon 2020, ERA-Net, SPI) and innovation
- Still major knowledge gaps need to be filled (e.g. marine, ecosystem health, links to services, models & scenarios)
Conclusions

- **Progress** under each target
- A wealth of **positive experience, strong partnerships**
- **Timelag** to see impact on biodiversity
- **Pressures** on biodiversity still increasing

Targets can only be reached if **implementation** and **enforcement** efforts become considerably bolder and more ambitious, and **integration effective**.

At the current rate of implementation, biodiversity loss will continue in the EU and globally, with **significant implications** for the capacity of ecosystems to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and ultimately meet human needs in the future.
Changes in ecosystem services

IPBES, 2018
Institutional responses

1. Strategy Mid-Term Review of 2 October 2015
2. Council Conclusions of 16 December 2015
4. EU Roadmap for enhanced implementation of the EU Biodiversity strategy to 2020, October 2016
5. Results of Fitness check of Nature Directives, 2016
Institutional follow-up

Nature Action Plan

• Guidance on EU-level Green and Blue Infrastructure, 2019

• Guidance document on the integration of biodiversity and ecosystem services into decision-making, 2019
IPBES, 2019

Examples of declines in nature:

**Ecosystem extent and condition**
- Natural ecosystems have **declined by 47 per cent** on average, relative to their earliest estimated states.

**Species extinction risk**
- Approximately **25 per cent of species are already threatened with extinction** in most animal and plant groups studied.

**Ecological communities**
- Biotic integrity—the abundance of naturally-present species—has **declined by 23 per cent** on average in terrestrial communities.*

**Biomass and species abundance**
- The global biomass of wild mammals has **fallen by 82 per cent.*** Indicators of vertebrate abundance have declined rapidly since 1970.

**Nature for indigenous peoples and local communities**
- 72 per cent of indicators developed by indigenous peoples and local communities show **ongoing deterioration** of elements of nature important to them.

* Since prehistory
Transformative change

Integrative, adaptive, informed and inclusive governance approaches including smart policy mixes, applied especially at leverage points

MULTI ACTOR GOVERNANCE INTERVENTIONS (LEVERS)

- Incentives and capacity building
- Cross-sectoral cooperation
- Pre-emptive action
- Decision-making in the context of resilience and uncertainty
- Environmental law and implementation

LEVERAGE POINTS

- Embrace diverse visions of a good life
- Reduce total consumption and waste
- Unleash values and action
- Reduce inequalities
- Practice justice and inclusion in conservation
- Internalize externalities and telecouplings
- Ensure environmentally friendly technology, innovation and investment
- Promote education and knowledge generation and sharing

INDIRECT DRIVERS

- Demographic and sociocultural
- Economic and technological
- Institutions and governance
- Conflicts and epidemics

DIRECT DRIVERS

- Land/sea-use change
- Direct exploitation
- Climate change
- Pollution
- Invasive species
- Others

HUMAN ACTIVITIES

- Examples: Fisheries
- Agriculture
- Energy
- Forestry
- Mining
- Tourism
- Infrastructure
- Conservation etc.
How to address biodiversity loss?

**Main drivers ranked**
- Biodiversity loss at unprecedented scale
- Humans are causing the Earth’s 6th Great Extinction Spasm
- Biodiversity crucial for life, society, economy
- Land & sea use change
- Direct exploitation
- Climate change
- Pollution
- Invasive alien species

**Over 1 million species risk extinction**

Global Deal for Nature needed in 2020

EU to lead towards a ‘Paris-like’ moment for biodiversity

**European Green Deal**

**Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 (and EU commitments within it)**

**Actions**
- Increase and manage effectively protected areas
- Target to improve the conservation status of EU protected species and habitats
- Legal framework for healthy ecosystems to ensure good ecological conditions everywhere
- Ambitious commitments across sectors (agriculture, trade, industry, forestry, fisheries)
- Link to climate change (mitigation, adaptation), embed nature-based solutions
- Address integrated nutrient management to reduce impacts on air, soil, water, seas
- Address EU’s global footprint on forest, land and seas degradation
- Help finance the ecological transition (Nature Restoration Plan)
- Address biodiversity in Farm to Fork, seas & oceans, zero-pollution, circular economy, green financing
Thank you for your attention!

More information on Europa

https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/strategy/index_en.htm