



EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 & EU Farm to Fork Strategy:

EU plans to encourage sustainable
development in mountain areas

Webinar on “Smart Mountains : How can biosphere reserves
contribute to the Green Deal?”, 14.02.2021

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European Green Deal

- **EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030**
 - **Trans-European Nature network**
 - **EU Restoration Plan**
- **EU Farm to Fork strategy**
 - **Labelling of sustainable food products**

Identifying priority financing needs for nature and biodiversity (Prioritized Action Frameworks)

LIFE program 2021-27 for nature & biodiversity



A coherent "Trans-European Nature Network"



Trans-European Nature Network

- EU Protected areas' targets for 2030:
 - **30% of EU land and 30% of EU seas under legal protection,**
 - **of which 1/3 (10%) under strict protection**
- PAs will form a coherent **Trans-European Nature Network;**
- Protected areas will be **effectively managed**, with clear conservation objectives and measures
- Protected areas will be **appropriately monitored**
- additional **ecological corridors** may be needed
- Criteria and guidance to be put forward by the Commission and agreed with Member States by the end of 2021

Trans-European Nature Network:

1. Natura 2000
2. Existing protected areas under national schemes
3. Newly designated areas

new protected areas:

1. Prioritise areas that contribute to the coherence and connectivity of Natura 2000
2. Identify species & habitats that require new protected areas (EU level)
3. Select areas to be designated for the protection of those species and habitats
4. Identify species and habitats that require new protected areas (national or regional level)

Trans-European Nature Network:

- Particular attention should be given to:
 - Restored areas
 - Relationship with climate change
- “Other Effective Area-based measures” OECMs and urban/peri-urban areas may count if they fulfil criteria
- New designations through legal designations or administrative or contractual means (incl. through “private land conservation”?) <-> OECMs
- Long-term commitment, minimum duration of contracts?

Strictly protected areas (1)

- Strict protection for 1/3 of all protected areas (min. 10% of EU land and sea area)
- Strict protection means natural processes are left essentially undisturbed, not necessarily incompatible with some human activities
- Activities authorised will depend on conservation objectives, and will need to be regularly reviewed
- Functionally meaningful areas, sufficient size on their own or together with buffer zones

Strictly protected areas (2)

- Strict protection is not meant for areas that need active management (under discussion)
- Strict protection is for:
 - all remaining old-growth and primary forests
 - significant areas of other carbon-rich ecosystems
 - other ecosystems that require strict protection

Improving effectiveness of managing protected areas

“All protected areas will need to have clearly defined **conservation objectives** and measures”

*The concept of **Biosphere Reserves** in this context:*



- 1) are (protected) areas **designated under national jurisdiction**
- 2) have **transition areas and buffer zones** with some degree of protection from deterioration
- 3) have core areas that are **strictly protected** under national legislation
- 4) need to have **clearly defined conservation objectives**

Further process:

NADEG: Guidance to be put forward by the Commission and agreed with Member States by the end of 2021

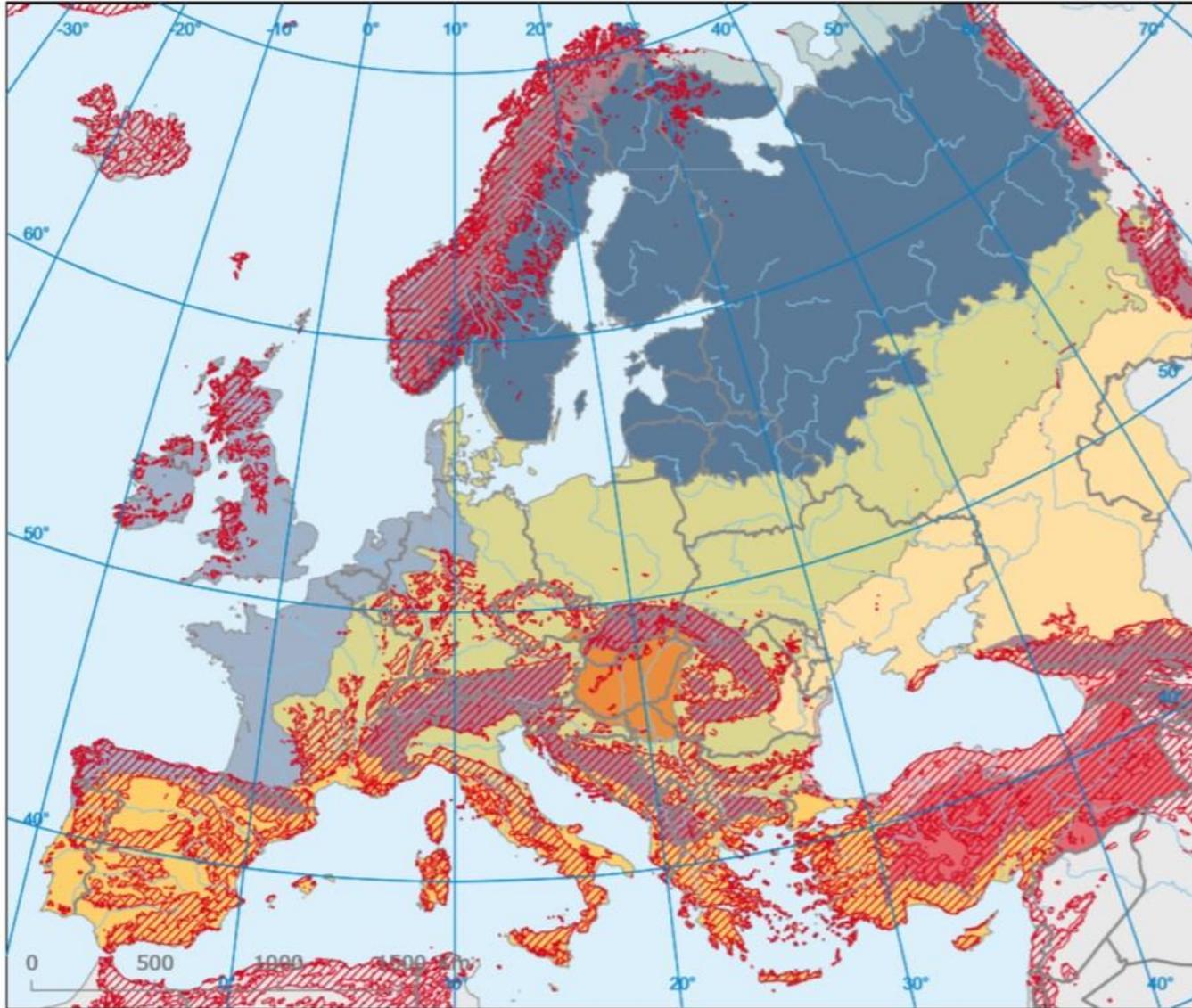
Meetings at biogeographical level in early 2022: clarification of what Member States are expected to submit as pledges and discussion on how Member States/stakeholders would contribute

Biogeographical seminars in the first semester of 2023: peer review (Commission, EEA, stakeholders) of national pledges at biogeographical level, agreement on steps to ensure completeness and coherence of new designations, facilitate implementation

Meetings at biogeographical level in late 2023: assessment of progress



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Biogeographic regions with overlay of mountain area

 Mountains

Biogeographic region

-  Alpine
-  Anatolian
-  Arctic
-  Atlantic
-  Black Sea
-  Boreal
-  Continental
-  Macaronesia
-  Mediterranean
-  Pannonian
-  Steppic
-  Outside data coverage





***EU Nature
Restoration Plan:
restoring ecosystems
across land and sea***



“EU nature restoration target”

*The Commission will request and support Member States to raise the level of **implementation of existing legislation** within clear deadlines.*

*It will in particular request Member States to ensure **no deterioration in conservation trends and status of all protected habitats and species by 2030.***

*In addition, Member States will have to ensure that **at least 30% of species and habitats not currently in favourable status are in that category or show a strong positive trend.***

The Commission and the European Environmental Agency will provide guidance to Member States in 2020 on how to select and prioritize species and habitats.

Measuring target achievement by 2030

Close link to the reporting under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive and Article 12 the Birds Directive

Sub-target 1: no further deterioration in conservation trends and status by 2030

- HD: 6-y conservation status trend neither unknown nor declining
- BD: 12-y “short term” population trend neither unknown nor declining

Sub-target 2: improving (“strongly positive”) trends for 30% of species and habitats in unfavourable/non-secure status by 2030

- HD: not FV in 2019 and 6-y conservation status trend reported as improving or FV
- BD: not Secure at EU-level in 2020, and 12-y “short term” population trend reported as improving

The overall target

- Applies to each Member States **individually**
- (Only) covers species/habitats protected under Birds and Habitats Directives
- Baseline for HD species and habitats: national biogeographical conservation status assessment in the national reports of 2019 – for species/habitats in FV status
- Baseline for birds: EU level status assessment in the EU Red list of Bird species (2020) – for species in Secure status

CRITERIA FOR SELECTING SPECIES AND HABITATS TO BE RESTORED

- the overall target applies to **all species and habitats** covered by the EU Nature Directives
- the Guidance mentioned in the Strategy is about selecting **species and habitats to be improved by 2030**
- Whereas guidance is on **national prioritization**, we also need to **identify transnational/transboundary coordination needs** (migratory species, transboundary pressures, etc.)

Biodiversity-related prioritization criteria

Species and habitats in “worst conservation status”, to be identified based on EU nature directive reporting and European Red Lists

National responsibility based on: “share of global or EU occurrence”, “within-species genetic diversity”, “within-habitat species diversity”, etc.

Umbrella effect on biodiversity: positive impacts on other species or habitats (incl. not covered by EU nature directives).

Synergies with environmental/climate targets

Climate change mitigation: habitats that capture and store CO₂

Climate change adaptation: river restoration, flood prevention, etc.

Restoration targets under the Biodiversity Strategy:

- reversing the decline of pollinators
- planting three billions of new trees in the EU
- 10% of agricultural area under high-diversity landscape features
- **restoring 25,000 km of free-flowing rivers**
- reducing the negative impacts of by-catch
- improving the environmental status of sea-beds

Processes aimed at supporting target achievement

- **European Environment Agency** could develop possible indicators or prioritized lists of habitats and species
- **Prioritized Action frameworks (PAFs)** already identify priority measures and financing needs for conservation and restoration
- **Natura 2000 biogeographical** process will support Member States, including in relation to identifying transnational priorities for site protection and restoration
- National/regional authorities encouraged to apply for **LIFE Strategic Nature Projects (SNAPs)**, to secure additional resources for planning and implementation of targets, and transnational coordination



***Food labelling
under the
Farm to Fork Strategy***

- The Commission will examine ways to harmonize voluntary green claims and create a labelling framework that covers ... nutritional, climate, environmental and social aspects of food products.
 - Commission will consider to propose the extension of mandatory origin or provenance indications to certain (food) products.
 - The EU will lead the work on international sustainability standards and environmental footprint calculation methods
- ➔ To make it easier for consumers to choose **healthy and sustainable diets** that will benefit their health and quality of life, and reduce health-related costs.
- ➔ Certification and labelling on sustainability performance of food products **will progressively raise sustainability standards**



2022 - Review of Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 on the provision of food information to consumers

- Mandatory harmonized rules on food labelling
- Extension of food labelling
- Review of durability rules

Inception impact assessment:

public consultation ongoing until 3 February 2021

2024 – Proposal for a new EU framework legislation for “sustainable food labelling” → Paradigm shift !

Current focus on food safety & animal welfare → widened scope incl. environmental sustainability & socio-economic aspects

Public consultation will start later

***Identifying financing
needs for nature:
Prioritized Action
Frameworks***

Prioritized Action frameworks (PAFs)

- EU Member States/Regions identify their priority **financing needs for maintaining and restoring protected species and habitats**, both inside and outside Natura 2000, for 2021-27
- The information is reported in a specific format, **indicating the type and nature of the priority need, the amount and the potential EU or national financing sources (e.g. CAP, ERDF, MFF, LIFE, etc.)**
- Current data indicate a total financing need of ca. **13 Billion €/year** for a full implementation of EU Nature directives (EU27)
- PAF data are being used to ensure sufficient funding for priority needs is available in different EU programs, in particular in the **CAP strategic plans**



LIFE Program 2021-27
financing EU nature and
biodiversity targets



- **Program adopted recently, overall budget increase & increased share for LIFE Nature & Biodiversity:**
 - **SAPs: traditional projects** for implementing EU legislation (BHD, IAS) or EU Biodiversity Strategy targets, restoring or improving protection (outcome-based)
 - **higher EU co-funding (75%)** for habitats/species that are either in “unfavourable-bad” status (U2-) or Endangered according to an EU Red List
 - **SNAPs: Strategic projects** for national or regional authorities implementing PAFs and other planning tools
- **Additional funding opportunities under other LIFE strands (peatland restoration, river restoration, etc.)**



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION