Ecological Restoration in the European Union

Work on the table!

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Policy Framework for Restoration in the EU

The EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020


National legislation & policy

2010 International Year of Biodiversity

Convention on Biological Diversity

COP10/MOP5
AICHI-NAGOYA
JAPAN 2010
Restoration in the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2020: overview of main targets and tools

Main targets
1. Natura 2000 network: improve the quality of the largest ecological network in the world
2. Establishing more « Green Infrastructure »
3. 15% restoration of degraded ecosystems and their ecosystem services

Main supporting tools
1. Monitoring and reporting Natura2000
2. Mapping Ecosystems and their Ecosystem Services (MAES)
3. Biodiversity Information System Europe (BISE)
4. EU financial support to member states
1. Fully implement Natura 2000 (Birds and Habitats Directives)

Largest coordinated network of protected areas in the world for:
- 231 rare/endangered habitat types
- 1400 rare/endangered species
- 26,000 sites
- 751,150 km² terrestrial (17.5% of EU)
- 199,000 km² marine

**Legal obligation**: all habitats and species in **good conservation status** in the different EU biogeographical regions
1. Fully implement Natura 2000 (Birds and Habitats Directives)

By 2020: Halt the deterioration in the conservation 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**; and

(ii) **50% more species assessments under the Birds Directive show a secure or improved status.**

EU member states need to invest in restoration and conservation, amounting to an estimated total cost of €6 billion a year.
1. Fully implement Natura 2000 (Birds and Habitats Directives)

Target: 100% more habitat assessments green!!
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Target: 50% more species assessments green!!
2. By 2020, ecosystems and their services are maintained and enhanced by establishing green infrastructure (Soft Law)
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By 2020, ecosystems and their services are maintained and enhanced by restoring at least 15% of degraded ecosystems. (Soft Law)

- 15% of degraded terrestrial + 15% of marine systems
- Natura2000 obligations included
- Each member state: development of a Strategic Restoration Framework by 2014, to set priorities for ecosystem restoration at sub-national and national level.
- Prioritisation is result of stakeholder-based consensus building, underpinned by data, evidence, science and knowledge
- Definition of restoration in EU-guidance: each step-wise improvement in the ecological quality level of an ecosystem (“4-level concept”)!
### Level 1
Satisfactory abiotic conditions.
Key species, properties and processes of ecosystem patches and their functions are in good to excellent condition (both at site and landscape level)
e.g. wilderness areas, *Natura2000 habitats and species in favourable conservation status* (FCS), rivers and lakes in *good ecological status* (GES), marine ecosystems in GES

### Level 2
Satisfactory abiotic conditions, some disrupted ecological processes and functions, either at site or landscape level (or both).
Reducing or declining diversity and key species (compared to L1), but retains stable populations of some native species.
e.g. *Natura2000 habitats and species not in FCS*

### Level 3
Highly modified abiotic conditions, many disrupted ecological processes and functions, either at site or landscape level (or both).
Dominated by artificial habitats but retains some native species and stable populations.
e.g. *non-protected rural areas, not including intensive agriculture*

### Level 4
Highly modified abiotic conditions, severely reduced ecological processes and functions, both at site and landscape level.
Dominated by artificial habitats with few and/or declining populations of native species; traces of original habitats/species present.
*heavily modified ecosystems: e.g. intensive agriculture, build urban areas, roads, airports, brownfield areas, heavily modified water bodies*
Other targets, part of Biodiversity Strategy 2020

- Target 3: Increase the contribution of **agriculture and forestry** to maintaining and enhancing biodiversity
- Target 4: Ensure the sustainable use of **fisheries** resources
- Target 5: Help combat **Invasive Alien Species**
- Target 6: Help avert **global biodiversity loss**
- Action 7: ensure no net loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services (biodiversity proofing of EU budget, offsetting, roadmap to resource efficient Europe etc.)

Other targets, part of EU Water Framework Directive

- achieve good chemical and **ecological status of all water bodies** (including marine waters up to one nautical mile from shore) by 2015
MAIN TOOLS TO PROMOTE AND SUPPORT RESTORATION

1. Mainstreaming **ecosystem services** into **policy** and **decision making** by **mapping ecosystem services** (MAES)
Ecosystem services partnership visualization tool
http://esp-mapping.net/

Carbon sequestration and storage
MAIN TOOLS TO PROMOTE AND SUPPORT RESTORATION

2. Biodiversity Information System for Europe (BISE)
http://biodiversity.europa.eu/
MAIN TOOLS TO PROMOTE AND SUPPORT RESTORATION


Member States have obligation to monitor and report on the conservation status of habitats and species.
Factsheets on species and habitats

Brown bear - *Ursus arctos* Linnaeus, 1758

**Quick facts**
- Threat status: Europe: Least Concern (IUCN)

**Threat and conservation status**

**IUCN Red List status of threatened species**

The IUCN Red List threat status assesses the risk of extinction.

- **World Least Concern**
- **Europe Least Concern**
- **EU Near Threatened**

**Distribution**

**Threat and conservation status**

**Natura 2000 sites**

**Legal status**

**Common names and synonyms**

**Other resources**

**EU conservation status**

Conservation status assesses every six years and for each biogeographical region the condition of habitats and species compared to the favourable status as described in the Habitats Directive. The map shows the 2013 assessments.

Sources:
- European Red List
- IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria

Image from the web: Saxifraga-Mark Zekhuis
Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix

Description (English)
Humid, peaty or semi-peaty heaths, other than blanket bogs, of the Atlantic and sub-Atlantic domains.
Plant text: Erica tetralix.

Quick facts
- EU Habitats Directive Annex I habitat type (code 4010)
- Priority habitat: No
- Protected in 656 Natura 2000 sites

Distribution

Distribution map from Article 17

Conservation status
EU's Habitats Directive conservation status assesses if a habitat type has a favourable conservation status.

Sources:
- Conservation status 2006 – summary (pdf)
- Conservation status 2012 - Experts web tool
WISE is a partnership between the European Commission (DG Environment, Joint Research Centre and Eurostat) and the European Environment Agency, known as "the Group of Four" (Go4). The main roles and responsibilities of the partners are:

- **DG Environment** leads the policy and strategic aspect of WISE. It liaises with Member States, especially on official reporting requirements of EU water legislation. For more information: [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/index.html](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/index.html)


- Eurostat is collecting and disseminating water statistics, also as a part of WISE data and themes, and provides significant input in the development of the GIS part of WISE and in particular ensuring the link to INSPIRE. For more information: [http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/)

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**News**

- **DG ENV, 19/05/2014**: Largest Antarctic ice sheet more sensitive to ocean warming than previously thought
- **DG ENV, 15/05/2014**: European flooding costs could increase almost five-fold by 2050
- **DG ENV, 27/03/2014**: Sea turtle by catch: Atlantic albatross areas located
- **EEA, 13/05/2013**: River Rhine commended for river basin management
- **EEA, 28/07/2013**: Blue-green algae - check the water before you swim
- **EEA, 05/05/2013**: Flood risk in Europe: the long-term outlook
- **EEA, 21/05/2013**: Europe’s bathing waters continue to improve
- **EEA, 27/12/2012**: EEA reviews new findings from 2012, the Year of Water
THANK YOU!

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