



**EUROPARC**  
F E D E R A T I O N

# Partnerships for biodiversity:

## European policies and the role of Protected Areas

Seminar-dialogue with DG Environment

**Tuesday 13.06.2017** (h. 15:00 – 18:00)

*EUROPARC Federation Office, Boulevard L. Boulevard Louis Schmidt 64, 1040 Brussels*

**Wednesday 14.06.2017**, (h. 09:00 – 16 :00)

*DG Environnement, Avenue de Beaulieu 5, 1160 Brussels*



# Policy and Advocacy

## Context

European Protected Areas make a valuable contribution for the implementation of several EU policies:

nature and biodiversity, regional  
cooperation, climate, sustainable  
development, agriculture, tourism,  
education, health...



# Policy and Advocacy

## Aims

**Represent** members interests at EU level;  
Increase **recognition** for PAs;  
Contribute to **EU policies**;  
Provide **expertise**, share case studies;  
**Information**: from and to members/EU;  
**Resources** for PAs effective management;  
**Implementation** of policies.



# How do we work



## Being member of & contributing to EU institutional groups

Coordination Group for Biodiversity and Nature - CGBN;  
Natura 2000 management expert group – EC, DG Env;  
Green Infrastructure working group – EC, DG Env;  
European platform for the coexistence between human and large carnivores;  
Representation within the EU Nature Directors Meetings;  
Sustainable Tourism group of DG Growth;

# How do we work

## Close cooperation with EU institutions:

### European Commission:

High level meetings with **EC officials**;

Close cooperation and regular meetings with  
**DG Environment**: Nature unit, Biodiversity unit,  
LIFE unit, Agriculture unit, Marine department;

Close cooperation with **DG Growth**: Sustainable  
Tourism Unit;





# How do we work

## Close cooperation with EU institutions:

### European Parliament:

Cooperation established with **MEPs**;

Regular participation and contribution to **events** and conferences in the EU Parliament;

Contributions to EP recommendations and official documents

Cooperation with Intergroups: Climate Change – Biodiversity – Sustainable Development and with Tourism Intergroup;

Organisation of events within the EU Parliament about PAs: e.g. **Charter Awards**.



# How do we work



## Close cooperation with other institutions & organisations:

**Committee of the Regions;**

**Council of Europe** in Strasbourg (diploma on Protected Areas, Emerald Network);

European Habitats Forum - **EHF**;

Sustainable Food and Farming Platform (**SFFP**);

EU **NGOs CAP** working group

**Wild Europe** network;

**MOU** with: NPS, IRF, Redparques, Slow Food, IUCN - WCPA, Lake Baykal...



# Some achievements

- ✓ EU institutions better understand the role of PAs;
- ✓ Recognition of the value of our collective work, increase of the knowledge and visibility of the European PAs and of EUROPARC;
- ✓ EC officials regularly attending EUROPARC events;
- ✓ New EU Interreg programs: priorities for Protected Areas and Sustainable Tourism;
  - ✓ Recognition of the role of MPAs in EP recommendations;
  - ✓ Effective inputs for the Nature legislation Fitness Check;
  - ✓ Updates on relevant policies and funding on website and e-news;
  - ✓ PAs perspective included in some of the EU main debates;





# Some achievements

- ✓ PAs recognised as key element for Green Infrastructure strategy;
- ✓ Natura 2000 Biogeographical seminar process;
- ✓ Natura 2000 Awards;
- ✓ Presentations at EC Natura 2000 expert group;
- ✓ Annual Charter awards at the EU Parliament;
- ✓ Working on CAP post 2020;
- ✓ **RECOGNITION OF THE ROLE OF PAs IN EU POLICIES**
- ✓ **CONTINUE AND POSITIVE DIALOGUE WITH THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS**





Welcome message from  
**Karmenu Vella**  
**EU Commissioner for**  
**Environment, Maritime Affairs**  
**and Fisheries**

for the EUROPARC Conference  
2016

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9FZiQMnGUBw>

# SEMINAR / DIALOGUE



**EUROPARC**  
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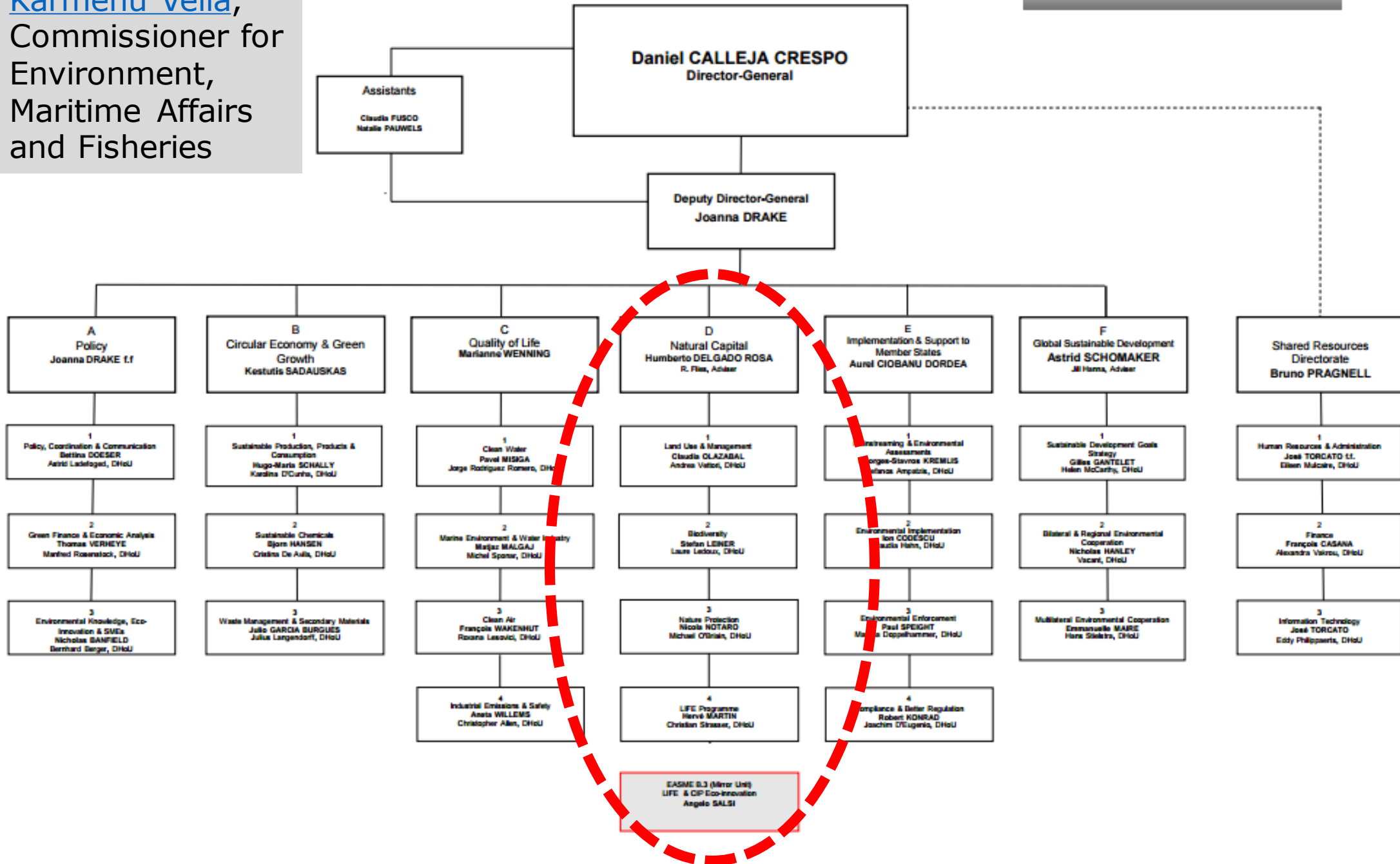
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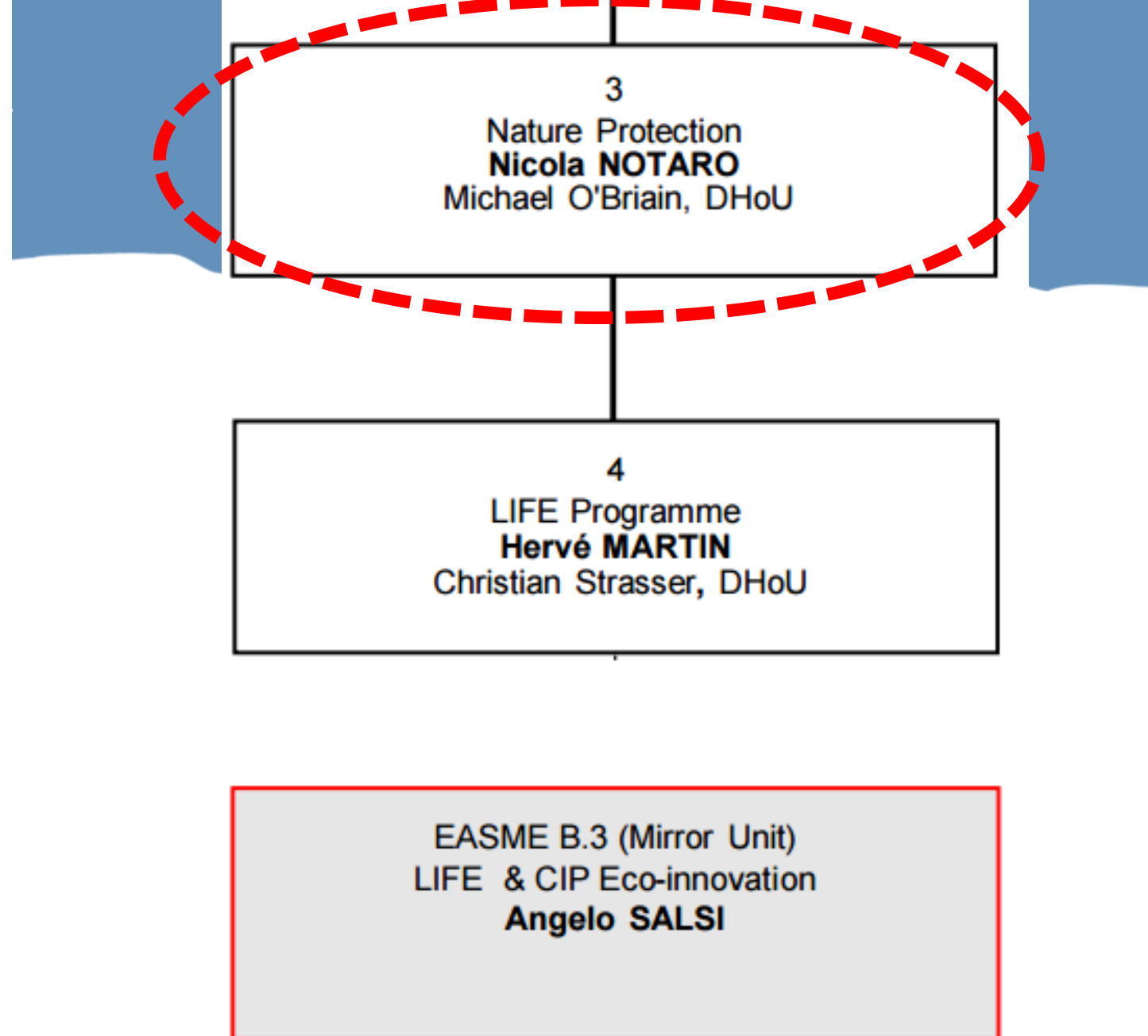
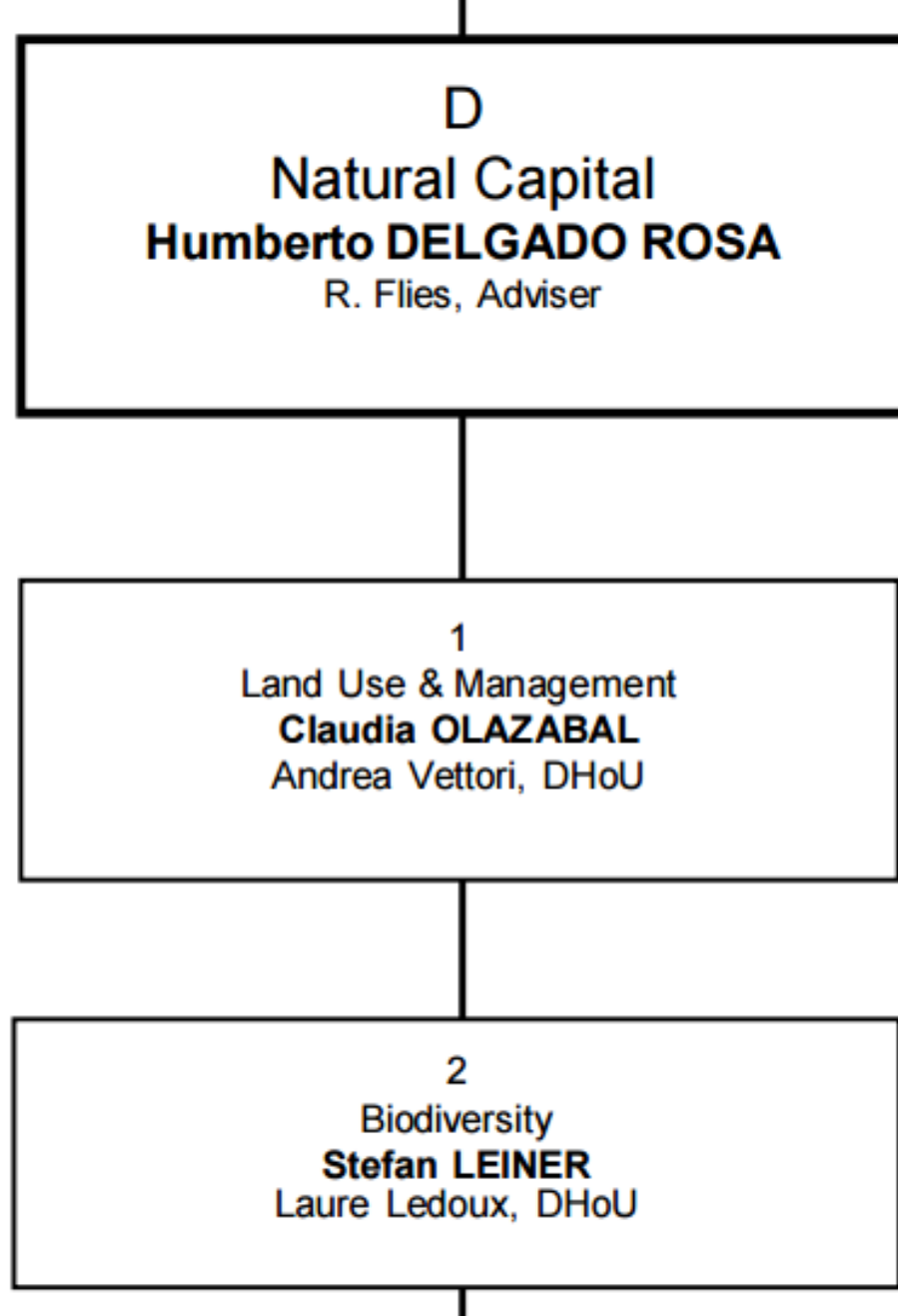
**INTRODUCTION TO THE  
SEMINAR / DIALOGUE  
WITH DG ENVI**

Karmenu Vella,  
Commissioner for  
Environment,  
Maritime Affairs  
and Fisheries

DG ENVIRONMENT







# EU Biodiversity Strategy



## In a nutshell

The EU Biodiversity Strategy aims to halt the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the EU and help stop global biodiversity loss by 2020.

It reflects the commitments taken by the EU in 2010, within the international Convention on Biological Diversity.

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

# EU Biodiversity Strategy



## In practice

In 2011, the EU adopted an ambitious strategy setting out 6 targets and 20 actions to halt the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the EU by 2020

On 16 December 2015, the Environmental Council adopted Conclusions on the mid-term review of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020.

On 2 February 2016, the European Parliament adopted a Resolution on the mid-term review of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020.

# EU Biodiversity Strategy



**EUROPARC**  
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## **Protect species and habitats - Target 1 ►**

By 2020, the assessments of species and habitats protected by EU nature law show better conservation or a secure status for 100 % more habitats and 50 % more species.

## **Achieve more sustainable agriculture and forestry - Target 3 ►**

By 2020, the conservation of species and habitats depending on or affected by agriculture and forestry, and the provision of their ecosystem services show measurable improvements

## **Combat invasive alien species - Target 5 ►**

By 2020, invasive alien species are identified, priority species controlled or eradicated, and pathways managed to prevent new invasive species from disrupting European biodiversity.

## **Maintain and restore ecosystems - Target 2 ►**

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

## **Make fishing more sustainable and seas healthier - Target 4 ►**

By 2015, fishing is sustainable. By 2020, fish stocks are healthy and European seas healthier. Fishing has no significant adverse impacts on species and ecosystems.

## **Help stop the loss of global biodiversity - Target 6 ►**

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



# EU Biodiversity Strategy



## Horizontal measures

[Financing](#): The Commission aims to track EU expenditure for biodiversity and proof all EU spending against adverse effects on biodiversity. It also provides funding for biodiversity , e.g. LIFE

[Partnerships](#): To support the objectives of the strategy, partnerships with private stakeholders and the civil society are needed, e.g. the B@B platform

[Knowledge base](#): The strategy contains several actions to improve monitoring and reporting, to build on the biodiversity knowledge base and fill research gaps.

# EU Biodiversity Strategy



## **Protect species and habitats - Target 1**

### What the strategy says

To prevent further loss and restore biodiversity in the EU, the Birds and Habitats Directives must be fully implemented in all Member States. This means reaching a favourable conservation status of all habitats and species of European importance and adequate populations of naturally occurring wild bird species. By 2020, the assessments of species and habitats protected by the EU nature law must show better conservation or a secure status for 100 % more habitats and 50 % more species.

# EU Biodiversity Strategy



## Protect species and habitats - Target 1

In practice

4 specific actions to help us conserve and restore nature:

**Action 1:** Complete the Natura 2000 network and ensure its good management

**Action 2:** Make sure Natura 2000 sites get sufficient funding

**Action 3:** Raise awareness of Natura 2000, get citizens involved and improve the enforcement of the nature directives

**Action 4:** Make the monitoring and reporting of the EU nature law more consistent, relevant and up-to-date; provide a suitable ICT tool for Biodiversity

# EU Biodiversity Strategy



## **Maintain and restore ecosystems – Target 2**

### What the strategy says

In the EU, many ecosystems and their services have been degraded and nearly 30 % of the EU territory is moderately to very highly fragmented. Target 2 is that, by 2020, ecosystems and their services are maintained and enhanced by including green infrastructure in spatial planning and restoring at least 15 % of degraded ecosystems. This will contribute to the EU's sustainable growth and help mitigate and adapt to climate change. It will promote economic, territorial and social cohesion and safeguard our cultural heritage. It will also ensure ecosystems are better connected, within and between Natura 2000 areas as well as in the wider countryside.



## Maintain and restore ecosystems – Target 2

In practice

3 specific actions to ensure that ecosystems and their services are both restored and enhanced.

**Action 5:** Map and assess the state and economic value of ecosystems and their services in the entire EU territory; promote the recognition of their economic worth into accounting and reporting systems across Europe

**Action 6:** Restore ecosystems, maintain their services and promote the use of green infrastructure

**Action 7:** Assess the impact of EU funds on biodiversity and investigate the opportunity of a compensation or offsetting scheme to ensure that there is no net loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services

# EU Biodiversity Strategy



## **Achieve more sustainable agriculture and forestry – Target 3**

### What the strategy says

The EU has already made efforts to integrate biodiversity into the development and implementation of other policies. However, given the benefits that biodiversity and ecosystem services bring to sectors such as agriculture and forestry, these efforts are still not sufficient. By 2020, there must be a measurable improvement, compared to the EU2010 baseline, in the conservation of species and habitats depending on or affected by agriculture and forestry, and in the provision of their ecosystem services.

## Achieve more sustainable agriculture and forestry – Target 3

In practice

5 actions to ensure that agriculture and forestry help maintain biodiversity.

- **Action 8:** Enhance CAP direct payments to reward environmental public goods such as crop rotation and permanent pastures; improve cross-compliance standards for GAEC (Good Agricultural and Environmental Conditions) and consider including the Water Framework in these standards
- **Action 9:** Better target Rural Development to biodiversity needs and develop tools to help farmers and foresters work together towards biodiversity conservation
- **Action 10:** Conserve and support genetic diversity in Europe's agriculture
- **Action 11:** Encourage forest holders to protect and enhance forest biodiversity
- **Action 12:** Integrate biodiversity measures such as fire prevention and the preservation of wilderness areas in forest management plans

# EU Biodiversity Strategy



## **Make fishing more sustainable and seas healthier – Target 4**

### What the strategy says

The EU strives to integrate biodiversity into the development and implementation of other policies. However, given the benefits that biodiversity and ecosystem services bring to many sectors, these efforts are still not sufficient. Target 4 requires that, by 2015, fishing is sustainable and that, by 2020, fish stocks are healthy. Fishing must have no significant adverse impacts on species and ecosystems so that all European oceans and seas can be ecologically diverse and dynamic, as well as clean, healthy and productive by 2020.



# EU Biodiversity Strategy



## Make fishing more sustainable and seas healthier – Target 4

In practice

2 specific actions to deliver healthier fish stocks and seas.

**Action 13:** Ensure that the management plans of the Common Fisheries Policy are based on scientific advice and sustainability principles to restore and maintain fish stocks to sustainable levels.

**Action 14:** Reduce the impact of fisheries by gradually getting rid of discards and avoiding by-catch; make sure the Marine Strategy Framework Directive is consistently carried out with further marine protected areas; adapt fishing activities and get the fishing sector involved in alternative activities such as eco-tourism, the monitoring of marine biodiversity, and the fight against marine litter.

## **Combat invasive alien species – Target 5**

### What the strategy says

Invasive alien species (IAS) pose a significant threat to biodiversity in the EU, and this threat is likely to increase in the future unless drastic action is taken at all levels to control the introduction and establishment of these species and address those already introduced. Target 5 requires that, by 2020, invasive alien species are identified, priority species controlled or eradicated, and pathways managed to prevent new invasive species from disrupting European biodiversity.

## Combat invasive alien species – Target 5

In practice

2 specific actions to tackle the threat of invasive species.

- **Action 15:** Make sure that the EU Plant and Animal Health legislation includes a greater concern for biodiversity.
- **Action 16:** Provide a legal framework to fight invasive alien species

# EU Biodiversity Strategy



## **Help stop the loss of global biodiversity – Target 6**

### What the strategy says

The EU has pledged to meet the international 2020 biodiversity goals and objectives agreed to under the CBD. Target 6 requires that, by 2020, the EU steps up its contribution to avert global biodiversity loss by greening its economy and endeavouring to reduce its pressure on global biodiversity.

## Help stop the loss of global biodiversity – Target 6

In practice

4 specific actions to step up our contribution in the fight against global biodiversity loss.

- **Action 17:** Reduce the impacts of EU consumption patterns on biodiversity and make sure that the EU initiative on resource efficiency, our trade negotiations and market signals all reflect this objective.
- **Action 18:** Target more EU funding towards global biodiversity and make this funding more effective.
- **Action 19:** Systematically screen EU action for development cooperation to reduce any negative impacts on biodiversity.
- **Action 20:** Make sure that the benefits of nature's genetic resources are shared fairly and equitably.

*Inputs for the debate :*

The role of PAs in implementing the Strategy  
and the connection with other policies – marine, CAP etc...

The added value of EUROPARC networking

How to improve the collaboration between EC and PAs  
(maybe it is not only a matter of money...)