



**EUROPARC Sigger Seminar 2022 OUTPUTS**

# Nature Restoration in Europe: What is the role of Protected Areas?

prepared by Olivier de Sadeleer & Esther Bossink, EUROPARC



breathe in, breathe out



# Who's who

## Participants

- João Melo, Cascais Ambiente, Portugal
- Elliott Lorimer, Forest of Bowland AONB, UK
- James Stuart, Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park / National Parks Partnership LLP, UK
- Trym Holt Rudshaug, Norwegian Parks Association, Norway
- Marju Keis, Environmental Board, Estonia
- Dr. Roland Pietsch, Nationalpark Harz, Germany
- Ben Ross, NatureScot, UK
- Santtu Kareksela, Metsähallitus, Finland
- John van den Berg, Staatsbosbeheer, Ten Netherlands
- Anita Pedersen, Maribo Lakes Nature Park, Denmark
- Frederik Cordes, Maribo lakes Nature Park, Denmark

## Facilitators

- Olivier de Sadeleer, EUROPARC Federation
- Esther Bossink, EUROPARC Federation



**Key learnings from  
the discussion with**

**Angelika Rubin**

**Natura 2000 Unit - ENV B.3**

**DG Environment**

**European Commission**



# Main takeaways

- The EU Nature Restoration Law has been delayed. Publication before the summer of 2022 was still on the card at the time of the seminar.
- The approach behind the proposed law is that the regulation will be **binding and directly applicable by member states**. The focus is on large scale restoration.
- It goes beyond the Annex I of the habitats directive and also includes productive lands such as farmland and periurban and urban areas. There are areas where we can't reach the "good condition" status, like agricultural lands. This does not mean we do nothing, it is still important to **improve these areas**.
- **Monitoring needs to be improved**: the current monitoring for member states is based on the unupdated birds and habitats directives. Monitoring needs to become cheaper and less focussed on specific species.
- There are **no dedicated EU funds** foreseen for the implementation of this regulation. Funds for restoration will need to be allocated by other existing funding schemes such as CAP, LIFE, .... New funds will open up for Climate that can be used for restoration activities as well.
- From a global perspective costs and benefits are in the favor of restoration: 1 euro invested in nature restoration yields an **8 euro return globally**.

**Protected Areas are essential for restoring what was lost,  
and protecting what was restored.**



# Opportunities for Protected Areas

- **Seize the moment:** Even when the “EU Nature Law” has passed, implementation and enforcement of the law will take at least a couple of years. During that time Protected Areas need to up their game. Nature conservation professionals and protected area managers will need to underline to national and regional policy makers how essential nature restoration is to Climate Change Adaptation, Biodiversity and Human health.
- **Spread the message:** Protected Areas are well positioned to raise awareness on the need to restore nature amongst local communities
- **Bridge the Gap:** Protected Areas need to bring the different stakeholders together and be involved in the planning of restoration measures and their implementation..
- **Mobilize the public:** Results of the EU Barometer have shown that nature restoration is a priority for citizens, Protected Areas have the chance to capitalize and build upon this public interest.
- **Look forward:** When speaking about restoration, we often try to restore an area to its former state. The baseline is oftentimes places in the early 1930s. Due to the effects of climate change, this is no longer enough. The goal should be to create future-proof, resilient ecosystems.
- **See the bigger picture:** We need to move complement species protection with process restoration and conservation to restore the adaptive capacity of nature and create resilient ecosystems.



**What are the benefits  
of nature restoration  
for communities?**

Photos - Forêt de Soignes by Frédéric Demeuse

# Benefits of nature restoration for communities?



## Enrich your community's well being with a restored nature

- **Improve health and quality of life**

*Anima sana in corpore sano*

- **Enhance local prosperity**

Restore the virtuous circle of your livelihood

- **Develop a sense of place**

Get "Bolyst", a concept in Norwegian, which evokes community, pride of belonging and sense of place

**Be future proof:** Restored, healthy and diverse ecosystems have a better adaptive capacity and are more robust and resilient to face the adverse effect of climate change than anthropised ones.



# Benefits of nature restoration for communities?

## Improve health and quality of life

*Anima sana in corpore sano*

Restored and healthy ecosystems provide mental and physical health benefits to your community by:

- Contribute to improving air, water and food quality;
- Offering open spaces for relaxation, sport and recreation;
- Helping to lower stress levels and reduce the risk of allergies, illnesses hence increasing life quality and expectancy.

FEEL BETTER



# Benefits of nature restoration for communities?



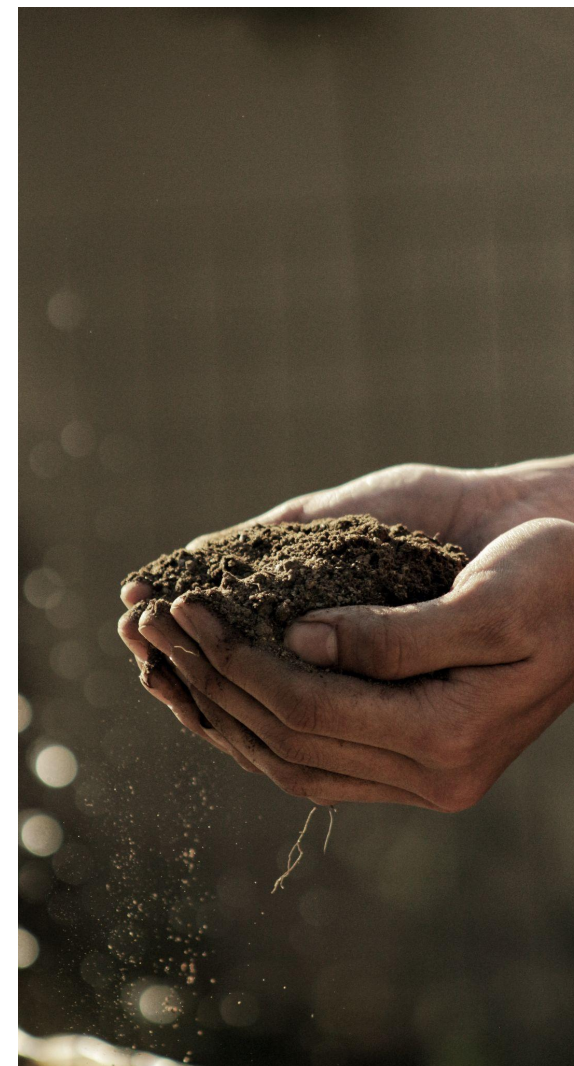
## Enhance local prosperity

*Restore virtuous circles in your livelihood*

Natural resources are the basis of a sustainable and resilient local economy on the long term:

- Healthy and restored ecosystems and balanced land management allow for self-regeneration of natural resources such of air, soil, water, wood, ...
- Healthy and restored ecosystems contribute to a large amount of job opportunities and local small scale business development in primary (local food, wild game, wood, ...), secondary (local processing) and tertiary sectors (sales, tourism and recreation).
- Restoration work itself is a new area of local economic development and job creation

BETTER LOCAL INCOME



# Benefits of nature restoration for communities?

## High *Bolyst*\*

*Pride of belonging and sense of place*

Caring for and looking after a place together strengthens community bonds and ensures continuity:

- Restoring nature offers a way to do your part for the community and to work together on a common target.
- It is a joint investment in the future of our children
- Knowing the qualities of your land, local habitats and species contributes to developing pride and care for the place.
- Transferring that knowledge from one generations to another builds up bonds and local cultural identity.

STRONG COMMUNITY IDENTITY

*\*Bolyst is a norwegian word which evokes something like sense of place*



# Benefits of nature restoration for communities?



## Future-proofing your community

Restored, healthy and diverse ecosystems are more robust and resilient to face the adverse effect of climate change than degraded environments.

They will help communities to better cope with droughts, floods, wildfires, ...

After traumatic climate events, healthy and restored ecosystems recover faster.





**What are the 5 key roles of Protected Areas in restoring nature in and around Protected Areas ?**

# 5 key roles of Protected Areas in Restoring Nature in Europe



1. Protected Area management teams are experienced and skilled ecosystems caretakers. They have the **know-how to support, lead and inspire restoration projects**. They have the ability and governance tools to plan, implement and monitor them to ensure success.
2. Protected Areas **offer high quality reservoirs of diverse species and functional habitats and ecosystems**. They can serve as a model and a source to be connected to restored areas.
3. Protected Areas are, or can be, **living labs for nature restoration projects**. Their features and structures are well suited to incubate pilot projects, demonstrate what is possible to achieve and share learnings and successes.
4. Being a connection between people and nature in living land- & seascapes, Protected Areas can **help communicate and collaborate with communities** to foster ownership, pride and involvement in nature restoration projects at a local level. They can help communities thrive, be rewarded and celebrate success!
5. **Bring in resources and funds for restoration** to drive action. Protected Areas can be a bridge between local, regional, and global activities and networks



# How to set up a restoration project? 10 useful tips & tricks



# 10 useful tips & tricks

1. **Drink coffee and eat cake!** Spend (a lot of) time with stakeholders to develop trust and foster genuine collaboration
2. **Give meaning.** Work with stakeholders to develop restoration projects that respond to community needs and aspiration and benefit nature
3. **Create and share a strong vision.** Explain why restoration is necessary and make sure restoration actions make a difference. Keep an eye on the big picture.
4. **Steal with pride.** Look for other successful examples, visit them, copy them.
5. **Do your homework.** Collate existing data and evidence and commission research where there are evidence gaps.
6. **Be open,** flexible and willing to compromise
7. **Work with friends first.** Start with people who might share your values or vision
8. **Investigate all funding opportunities** - public, private, green finance, philanthropic, crowdfunding. Funding is a way to involve people.
9. **Identify policy links** - biodiversity, tourism, health, education, jobs etc.
10. **MAKE IT FUN FOR EVERYONE!**





# *Thank you!*

If you have any questions, please contact us

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