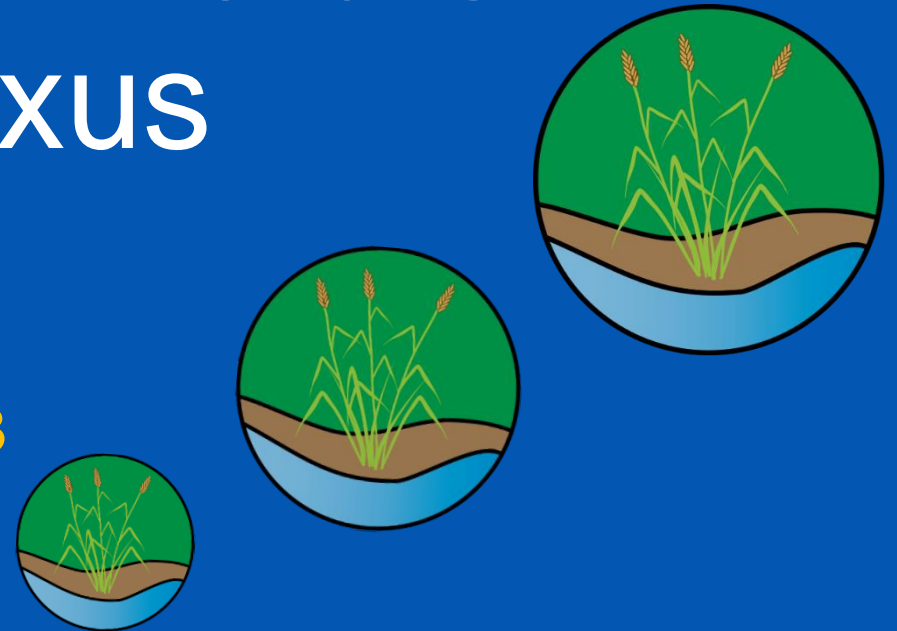




EU policy priorities on nature & climate change nexus

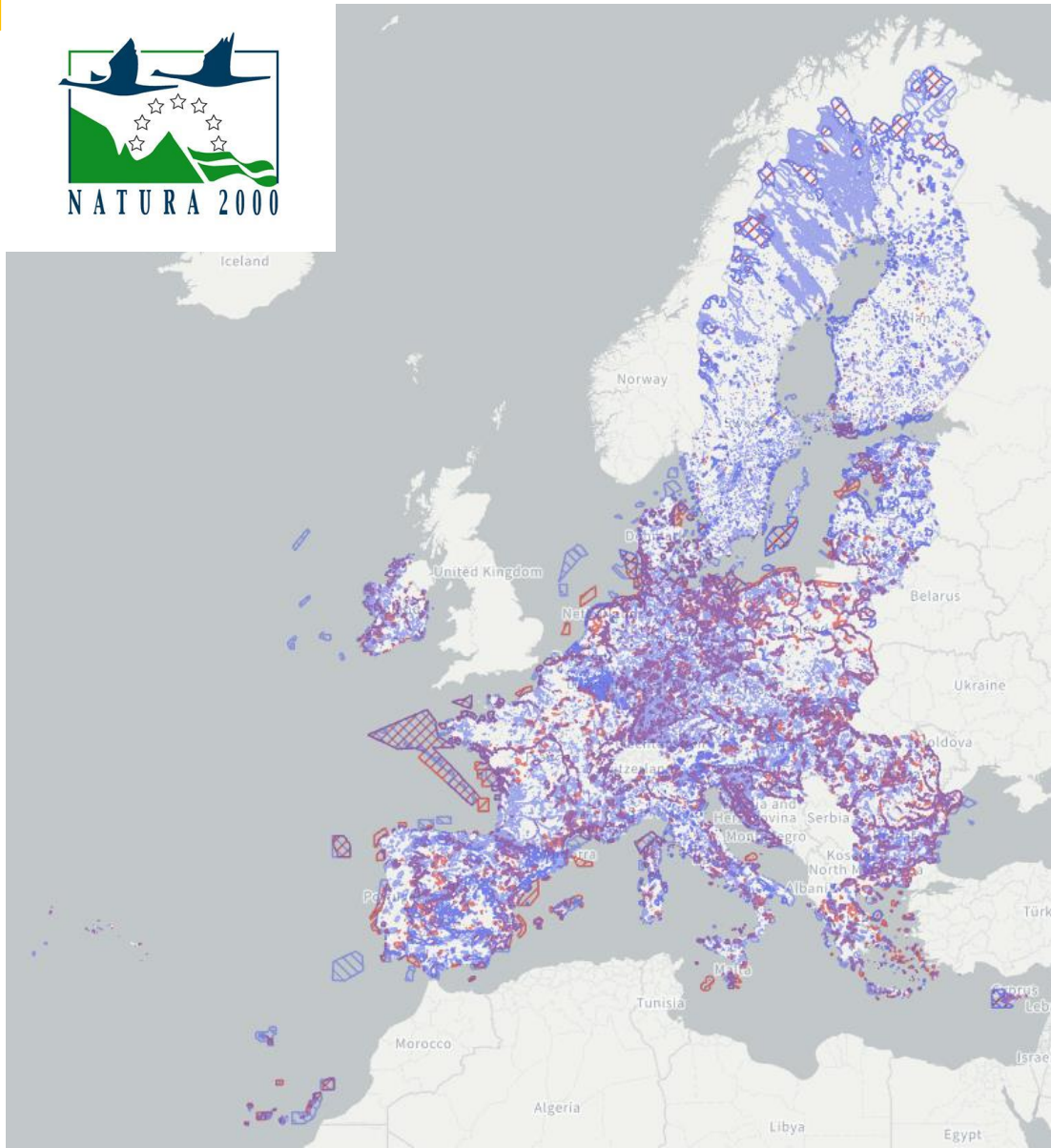
Natur'Adapt online seminar, 20 June 2023



Stefania Charisiadou

Nature Conservation Unit, DG ENV D3

Natura 2000 network

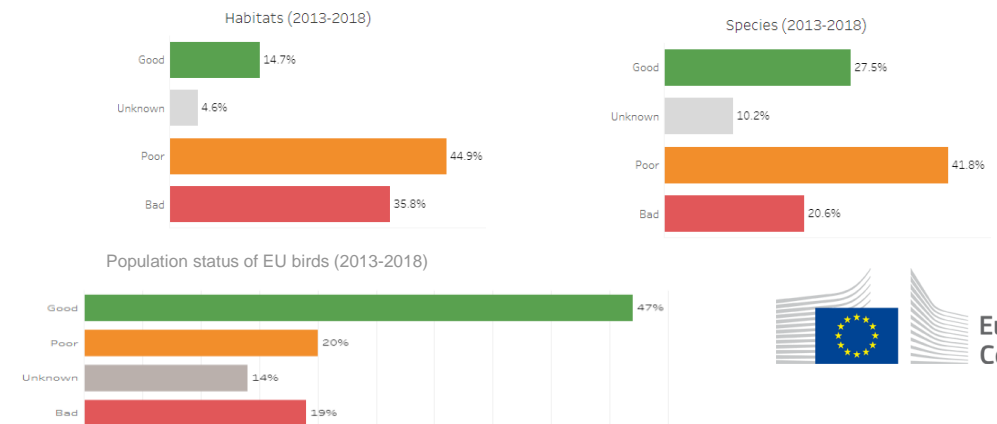


➤ **Largest coordinated network of protected areas** designated under the:

- **Birds Directive (2009/147/EC)**
- **Habitats Directive (43/92/EEC)**

✓ Ensures **long-term survival** of Europe's most valuable and threatened species and habitats

- **27,027 sites** in the EU
- About **18% of EU terrestrial area**
- About **9% of EU marine area**





EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030

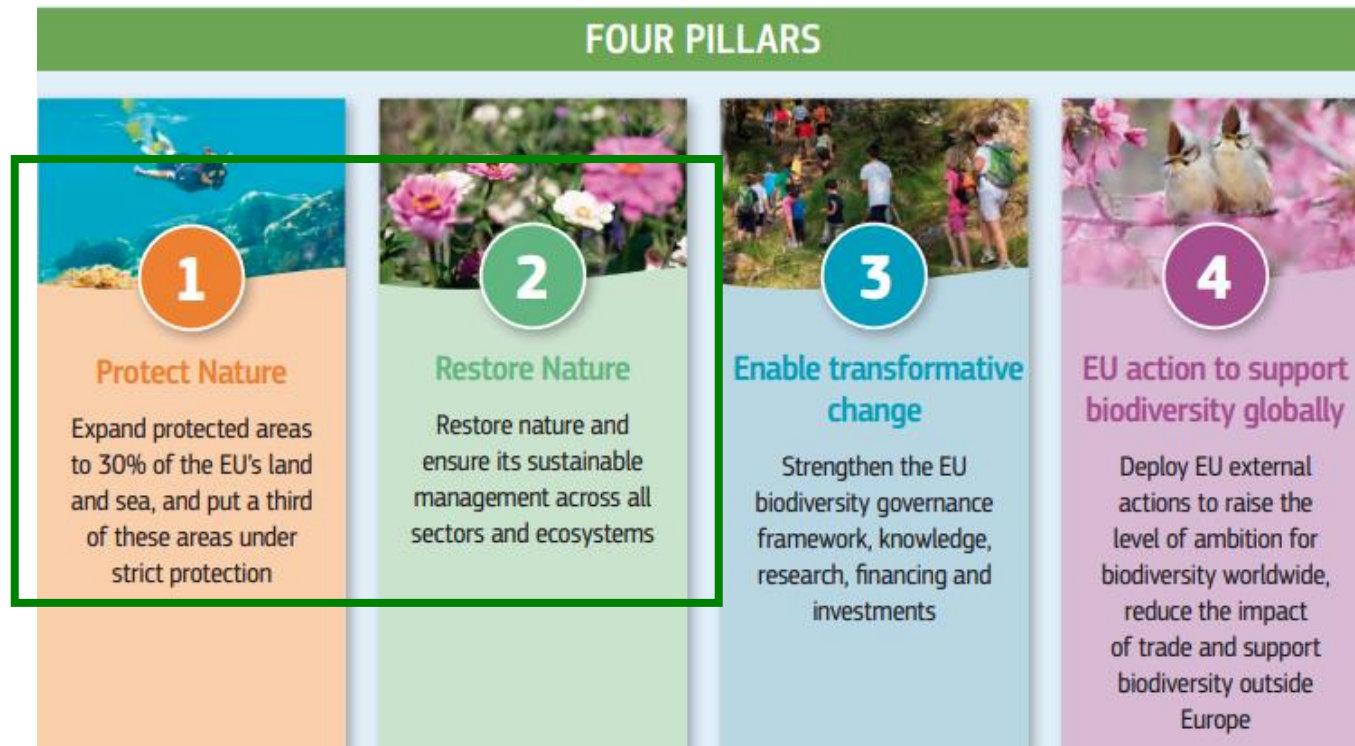
“Bringing nature back into our lives”

2050 Vision

All the world's ecosystems are restored, resilient, and adequately protected

2030 Target

Put Europe's biodiversity on the path to recovery for the benefit of people, the planet, the climate and our economy



EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030

Protected area target: key commitments for 2030

1. **Legally protect** a minimum of **30% of the EU's land area** and **30% of EU's sea area** as part of a true Trans-European Nature Network and integrate **ecological corridors** to allow for **species migration and climate adaptation**.
2. **Strictly protect** at least **10% of EU land and sea area**, including **all primary and old-growth forests** as well as **other carbon rich ecosystems**, such as peatlands, grasslands, wetlands and seagrass meadows.
3. **Effectively manage** all protected areas, with clear conservation objectives and conservation measures, and monitor these areas appropriately.

EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030

EU Nature Restoration Plan: key commitments for 2030

1. Ensure **no deterioration in conservation status of habitats and species**; at least **30 %** of those not in favourable conservation status should **reach that category or show a positive trend by 2030**.
2. **Restore significant areas of degraded and carbon-rich ecosystems.**
3. Reverse the decline in pollinators.
4. Reduce the risk and use of chemical pesticides and reduce the use of more hazardous pesticides is reduced by 50%.
5. At least 10% of agricultural area is under high-diversity landscape features.
6. At least 25% of the EU's agricultural land is under organic farming management, and the uptake of agroforestry is increased.
7. At least 3 billion new trees are planted in the EU.
8. Significant progress is made in the remediation of contaminated soil sites.

...

Protected area and status improvement targets

- **30% and 10% strictly protected area targets:** To be achieved in **each EU biogeographical region** and each sea basin – All MSs expected to contribute
- **Conservation status improvement target: national-level target** that each MSs should individually achieve
- **Member States** to submit their **initial pledges** by March 2023

Pledges available in Reportnet3:

PA target: <https://reportnet.europa.eu/public/dataflow/703>

Conservation status: <https://reportnet.europa.eu/public/dataflow/705>

- **Discussion of MSs pledges within the framework of the biogeographical seminars during 2023**
- Development of **dashboards** on submitted pledges + first **evaluation** of pledges (by Commission and EEA)

EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030



- Ecosystem degradation and biodiversity loss across the EU continues
 - **Protection is not enough**
 - Voluntary targets of the 2020 EU Biodiversity Strategy: **not met**

→ **a reinforced approach is needed**

- The Commission came forward with a proposal for legally binding **EU nature restoration targets** to restore degraded ecosystems, **in particular those with the most potential to capture and store carbon and to prevent and reduce the impact of natural disasters.**

Proposal for an EU Nature Restoration Law

Proposal for an EU Nature Restoration Law

Overarching objective

Restoration targets

Implementation framework

National
Restoration Plans

Monitoring and
Reporting

Lays down rules to contribute to:

- A continuous, long term and sustained **recovery of biodiverse and resilient nature across the EU** land and sea areas **through the restoration of ecosystems**
- Achieve **EU climate change mitigation and adaptation** objectives
- Meeting the **EU's international commitments** (SDGs, CBD, UNFCCC, CCD, UN Decade on Restoration,...)
- ✓ By **2030** → **restoration measures** will cover **20%** of EU's land and sea
- ✓ By **2050** → measures in place for **ALL ecosystems** in need of restoration

Specific restoration targets

**Protected
Habitat Types
(Annex I HD)**



**Habitats of
protected
species (BHD)**



**Marine
Habitats
(beyond HD)**



**Urban
ecosystems**



**River
connectivity**



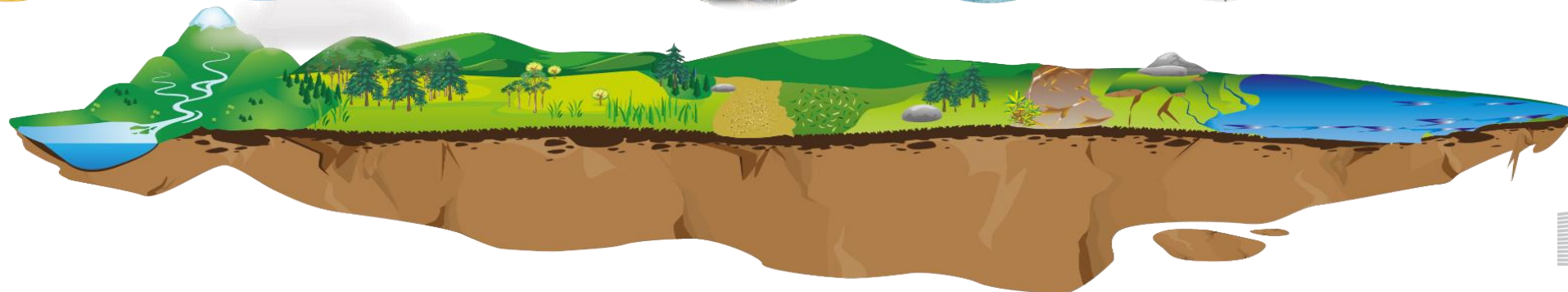
Pollinators



**Agro-
ecosystems**



**Forest
ecosystems**



European
Commission

National Restoration Plans

Implementation framework

National
Restoration Plans

NRP preparation and content

- Identify measures for all targets
- Quantify & map restoration areas
- **Identify synergies with CC mitigation, adaptation and disaster prevention**
- Include estimated **co-benefits and synergies with national adaptation strategies & interplay with national energy and climate plans**

Expected timeline

First half of 2023

- The Council of the EU aims at reaching its general approach on 20 June.
- The European Parliament aims at adopting its report in the summer. Vote in plenary will take place mid July.

Second half of 2023

- Trilogues (tbc)

EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change

- Progress in **adaptation planning and implementation** remains **slow**
- **Acceleration of the rollout of adaptation solutions** is urgently needed to help farmers and land managers tackle climate risks

➤ *The Commission will:*

“integrate adaptation in the update of Natura 2000 and climate change guidance, and in guidelines on biodiversity-friendly afforestation and reforestation, and in the forthcoming Forest Strategy”

EU forests: Adoption of new guidelines

➤ **Guidelines on Biodiversity-Friendly Afforestation, Reforestation and Tree Planting**

- Practical recommendations for authorities, landowners, managers and civil society
- Milestone to implement the **3 billion additional trees pledge by 2030**
- Afforestation in agricultural land, reforestation in forest land including restoration actions and tree planting in urban/peri-urban environments and agricultural land (agroforestry)

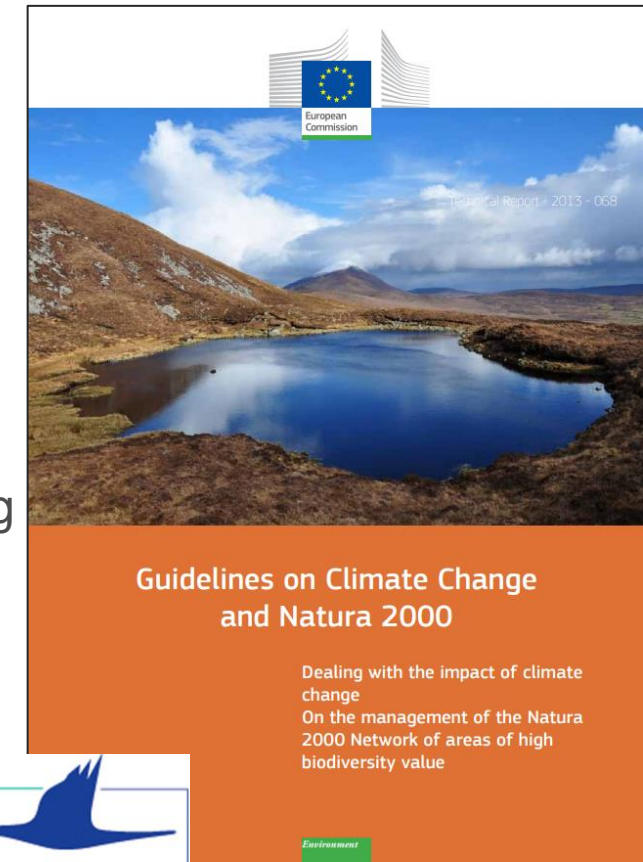
➤ **Guidelines for Defining, Mapping, Monitoring and Strictly Protecting EU Primary and Old-Growth Forests**

- Practical guidance to national authorities to identify and protect remaining primary and old-growth forest
- Criteria for identification of primary and old-growth forest and a suggested timeline for mapping and strict protection



Update of climate change & Natura 2000 guidelines

- Update the 2013 Guidelines on climate change and Natura 2000 building on:
- **Practical guidance & advice for Natura 2000 managers and nature authorities on CC adaptation** to refine their conservation approaches and strategic planning:
 - Climate Change **adaptation principles – framework** for decision making
 - Recommended practical actions based on case studies
 - Funding opportunities for Natura 2000
- **Expected timeline:** Aim for adoption at the end of 2023/ 2024





Climate change and biodiversity loss – two parts of the same challenge

Thank you!

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