

A wide-angle, high-angle photograph of the European Parliament hemicycle. The room is semi-circular with rows of desks and chairs for members of parliament. The desks are blue with the European Union flag. The ceiling is high with long, recessed light fixtures. The walls are white with large windows. The European Union flag is visible at the far end of the hemicycle.

*Protected Areas in a changing
policy framework
EU Biodiversity Policy:
challenges and
opportunities*

26th October 2015

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WWF European Policy Office



EU BIODIVERSITY POLICY

EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy

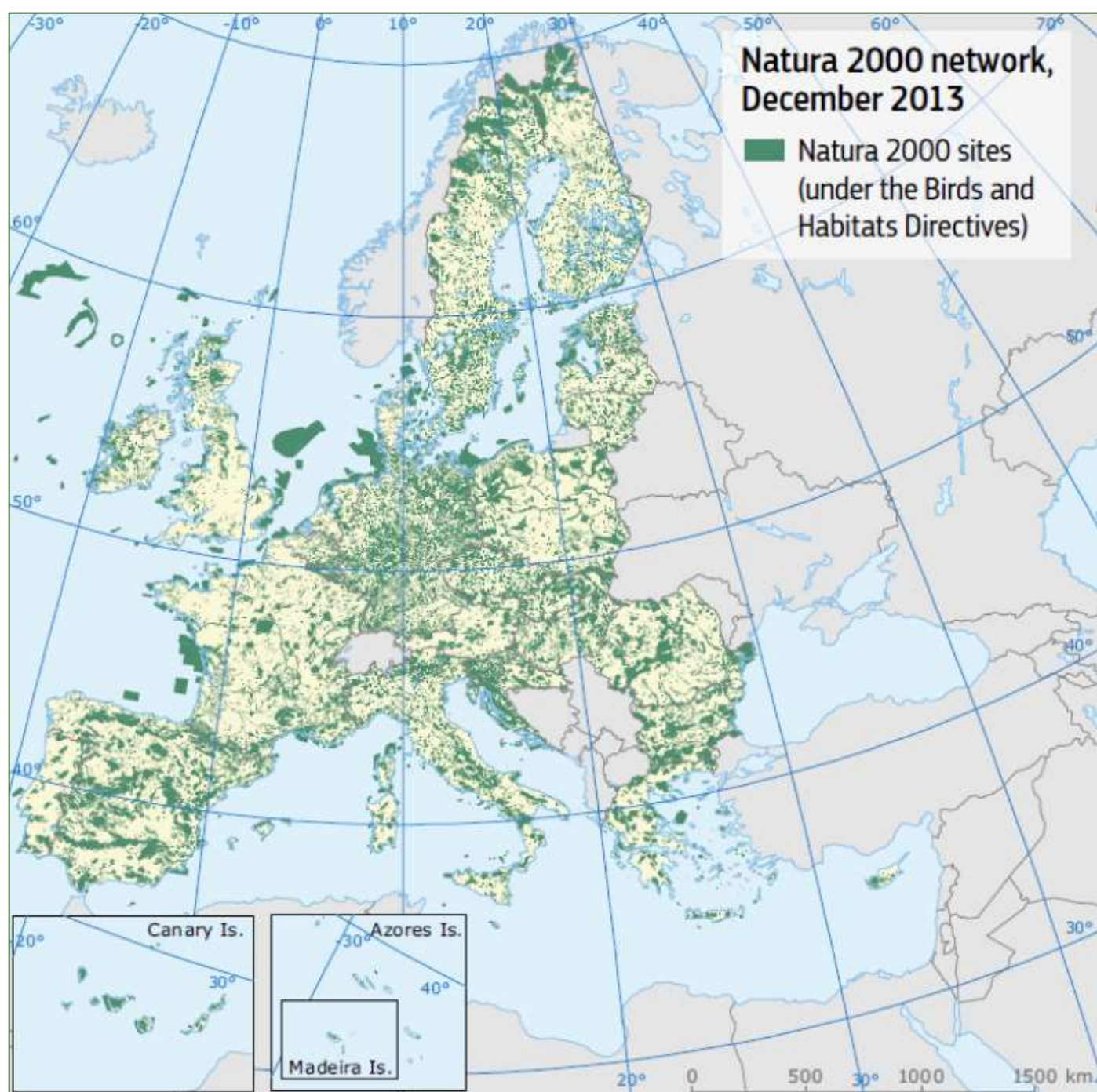
- *2050 vision, 2020 headline target, 6 targets*

Birds Directive (1979) and Habitats Directive (1992)

- *They form the backbone of the EU's internal nature and biodiversity policy*
- *Arguably most powerful legal instruments in EU environmental acquis*



- 27.308 sites
- 1.039.332 km²
- 18.36% EU land
- ~4% EU seas



Source: EC



The Fitness Check of the EU Nature Directives

What is a Fitness Check?

- *“Evaluation” to identify regulatory burdens*
- *Conclusions on the future of the regulatory framework*
- *Context: Smart/Better Regulation – towards more jobs and growth*

Why the EU Nature Directives?

- *Good question*



Evaluations and Fitness Checks: A major outcome of the screening exercise was the identification of areas that need assessment to better identify regulatory burden relief so as to meet EU policy goals at least cost and best achieve the benefits of EU regulation. Sixteen such evaluations and Fitness Checks are ongoing and listed in Annex. To prepare for future legislative initiatives to reduce regulatory burden, 31 evaluations, Fitness Checks and other studies will be launched in 2013 and 2014. This includes seven new Fitness Checks on legislation on the most relevant chemicals not covered by REACH, , Natura 2000¹², the EU Eco label, EMAS, legal migration, consumer rights and advertising and the general food law. Evaluations with a focus on



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Evidence Gathering

Questionnaire

- *Key questions: Effectiveness, Efficiency, Coherence, Relevance, EU added value*
- *Sent to 47 EU level organisations and representative bodies, and 112 stakeholder organizations at MSs*

In depth evaluation: *10 MSs*



Public Consultation

Nature Alert!

In Europe, vital laws protect our most precious nature. Our wildlife and most valued natural places.

Thank you. Grazie. Danke. Merci. Bedankt. Hvala. Благодаря. Gràcies. Díky. Хвала. Diolch. Tak. Tānan. Ευχαριστώ.
Gracias. Gratias. Dėkoju. Köszönjűk. Grazi. Dzięki. Obrigado. Mulțumesc. Vďaka. Kiitos. Tack. Go raibh maith agat.

520,325 have called to save nature!

Your voice matters – we will make sure it gets heard.

#NatureAlert

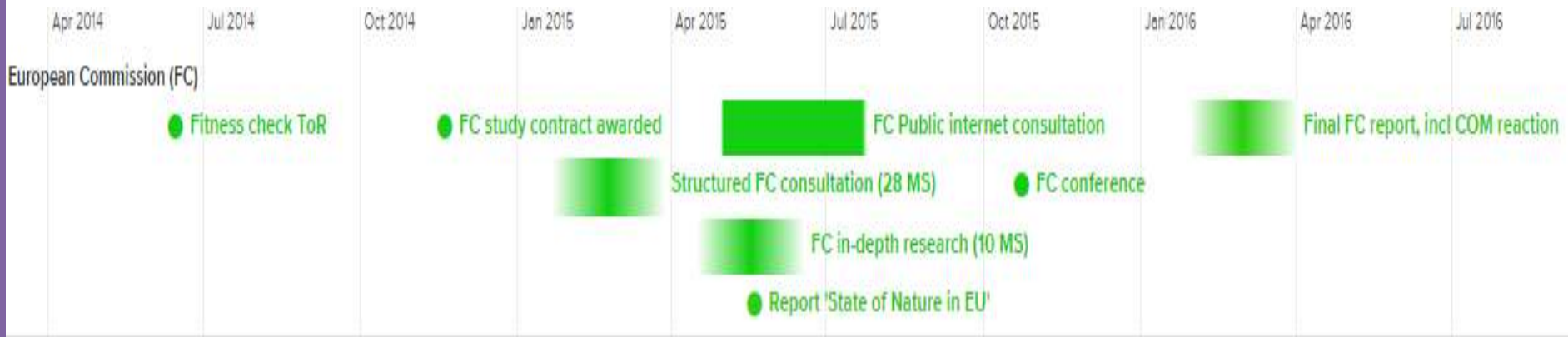
Take action now

To save nature, simply fill in your details and click **Take action now**.

520,325 have called to save nature



Next Steps



- **20th November 2015: FC Conference (Brussels)**
- **Around April 2016 – Final results**





New European Commission 2014-2015 President Juncker's political guidelines



“My agenda will focus on ten policy areas. [...] I want a European Union that is bigger and more ambitious on big things, and smaller and more modest on small things.”

10 priorities of Juncker...

... and environment isn't one of them.

1. A new Boost for **Jobs, Growth and Investment**
2. A Connected **Digital Single Market**
3. A resilient **Energy Union** with a Forward-Looking **Climate Change** Policy
4. A Deeper and Fairer **Internal Market** with Strengthened Industrial Base
5. A Deeper and Fairer **Economic and Monetary Union**
6. A Reasonable and Balanced **Free Trade Agreement with the U.S.**
7. An Area of **Justice and Fundamental Rights** Based on Mutual Trust
8. Towards a New Policy on **Migration**
9. A Stronger **Global Actor**
10. A Union of **Democratic Change**



European
Commission

First Vice-President

Frans Timmermans

*Better Regulation,
Interinstitutional Relations,
Rule of Law & Charter of
Fundamental Rights*

**PRESIDENT
JEAN-CLAUDE JUNCKER**

High Representative

Federica Mogherini

*High Representative of the Union
for Foreign Policy & Security
Policy/Vice-President*

Vice-President

Kristalina Georgieva

Budget & Human Resources

Vice-President

Andrus Ansip

Digital Single Market

Vice-President

Maroš Šefčovič

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Vice-President

Jyrki Katainen

*Jobs, Growth, Investment
& Competitiveness*

Vice-President

Valdis Dombrovskis

*The Euro
& Social Dialogue*

Commissioner

Věra Jourová

*Justice, Consumers
& Gender Equality*

Commissioner

Günther Oettinger

Digital Economy & Society

Commissioner

Pierre Moscovici

*Economic & Financial Affairs,
Taxation & Customs*

Commissioner

Marianne Thyssen

*Employment, Social Affairs,
Skills & Labour Mobility*

Commissioner

Corina Crețu

Regional Policy

Commissioner

Johannes Hahn

*European Neighbourhood Policy
& Enlargement Negotiations**

Commissioner

Dimitris Avramopoulos

*Migration, Home Affairs
& Citizenship*

Commissioner

Vytis Andriukaitis

Health & Food Safety

Commissioner

Jonathan Hill

*Financial Stability,
Financial Services &
Capital Markets Union*

Commissioner

Elżbieta Bieńkowska

*Internal Market, Industry,
Entrepreneurship & SMEs*

Commissioner

Miguel Arias Cañete

Climate Action & Energy

Commissioner

Neven Mimica

*International Cooperation
& Development*

Commissioner

Margrethe Vestager

Competition

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Violeta Bulc

Transport

Commissioner

Cecilia Malmström

Trade

Commissioner

Karmenu Vella

*Environment, Maritime Affairs
& Fisheries*

Commissioner

Tibor Navracsics

*Education, Culture,
Youth & Sport*

Commissioner

Carlos Moedas

*Research, Science
& Innovation*

Commissioner

Phil Hogan

*Agriculture
& Rural Development*

Commissioner

Christos Stylianides

*Humanitarian Aid
& Crisis Management*

**The HRVP may ask this
Commissioner (and other
Commissioners) to deputise
for her in areas related to
Commission competence.*



Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries

- **Karmenu Vella**
- Former Maltese minister for Tourism, S&D family
- Close to no background on environment and fisheries
- “Mission Letter”







Science for Environment Policy

How effectively does the Birds Directive protect birds?

Special conservation measures for bird species are required in EU Member States under Annex I of the Birds Directive. This study measured the efficacy of the Directive by comparing the population trends of these species to those of non-Annex I species. Annex I species had more positive trends in population from 1980–2012, despite extensive climate changes.



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Ruud P. Foppen
Ben Collen
Monika Böhm

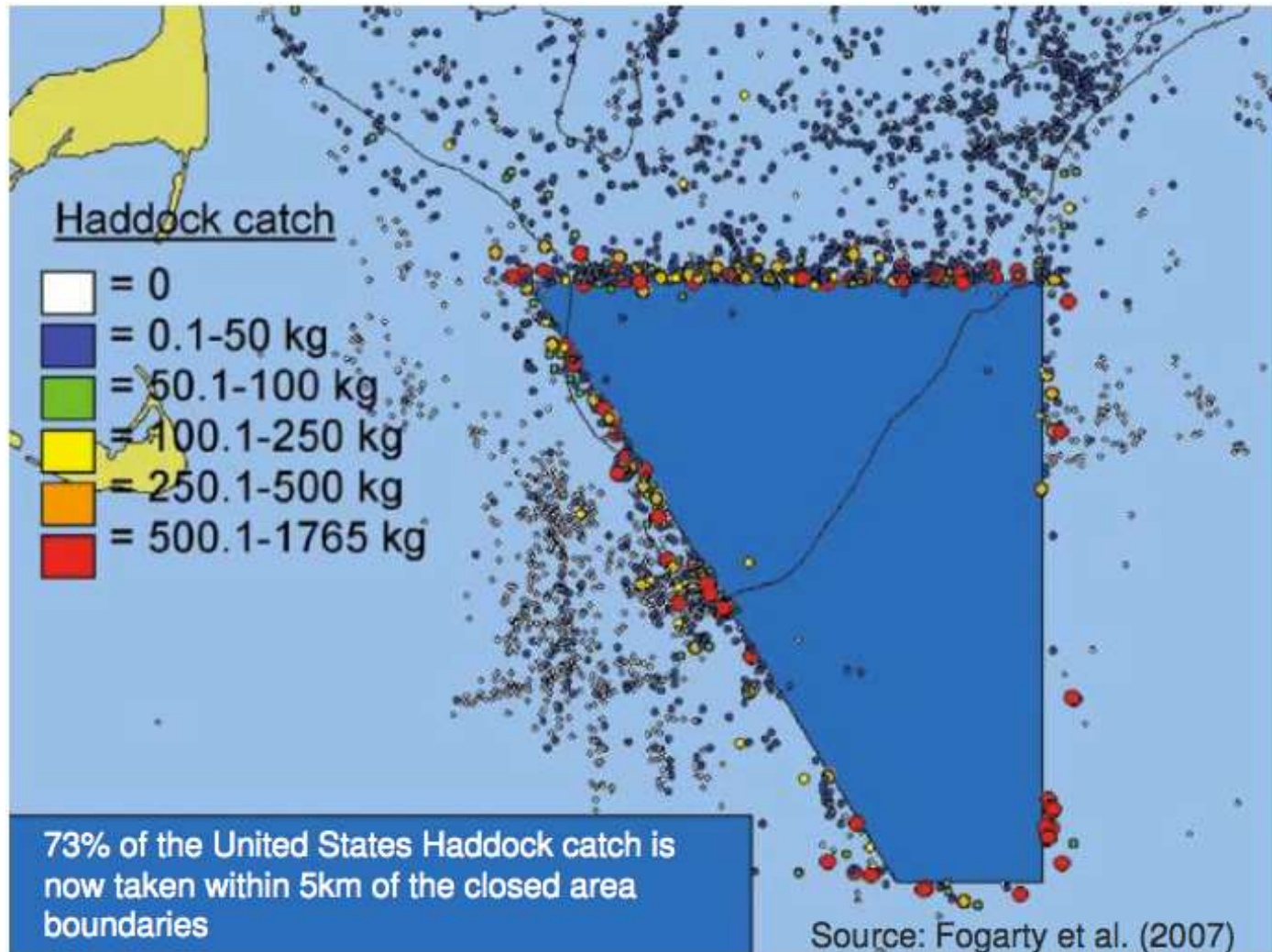
WILDLIFE COMEBACK IN EUROPE

The recovery of selected
mammal and bird species

ZSL
LIVING CONSERVATION

BirdLife
INTERNATIONAL

EBCC
European Bird Census Council
every bird counts





Challenge = opportunity

Highlighting the positive

- *good examples*
- *benefits, services, return of investment*

Focusing the question

- *Better implementation*
- *Addressing the drivers*





THANK YOU

26th October 2015

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