

Project introduction

Linking Biodiversity to National Economic and Social Priorities in the EU Member States

Client: European Commission – DG Environment

Start: December 2015 **End:** December 2017

Project funded by the European Commission, DG Environment

Background and aim

A growing number of studies highlight the substantial economic and social benefits of protecting and promoting biodiversity. They comprise, *inter alia*, contributions to the green economy, value of ecosystem services, opportunities for jobs and skills and benefits for public health and wellbeing.

Some benefits from biodiversity have already made their way into public policies. For example, the links between jobs and rural employment from nature-based tourism are well understood and in many countries high on political and practical priorities. Other well-documented benefits of nature – for example its positive effect on health – are rarely fully exploited through public policies.

The aim of this study is to assess how biodiversity conservation and the enhancement of multiple ecosystem services can, via their integration in a number of relevant sectors, contribute to economic and social priorities in EU Member States. The findings will, *inter alia*, result in recommendations on how to raise the socio-economic profile of biodiversity in Member States, including through the European Semester process and the improved use of EU funding.

The study analyses the role of biodiversity for wider socio-economic priorities in EU Member States:

Economic Growth

Jobs, Skills and Innovation

Public Health

Regional Development

Urban Development and Regeneration

Demographic Change and Social Justice

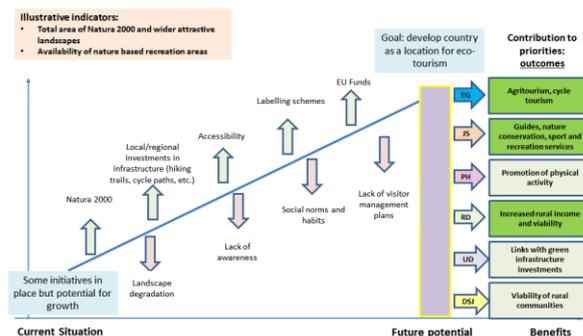
The analysis covers a range of sectors where promoting biodiversity can support socio-economic objectives: Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Tourism, Climate, Health, and Construction, Energy and Transport

The project outputs

This work will provide EU Member State specific analysis of relevant socio-economic priorities and identify synergies between them and national biodiversity objectives. This will cover:

- What is the current state of integration?
- What is the potential for expansion to realise the opportunities?
- What are the benefits to society and the economy?
- What are the drivers and barriers?
- What measures are needed to address the barriers and realise the potential?

Nature's contributions to countries' socio-economic priorities: Current status, future potential, drivers, barriers, policy needs & benefits: An illustration – Eco-tourism



For each EU Member State, 3-4 promising areas will be assessed - via a review of policy documents and wider literature, and a series of workshops. The final output will be 28 country profiles summarising the state of play.

The team are planning four workshops in 2017 to explore provisional findings with country officials and experts, and to develop a vision for a way forward. Three will be regional workshops and one horizontal.

- **Barcelona for the Mediterranean:** May
- **Helsinki for Northern & Eastern Europe:** May
- **Berlin for Western & Central Europe:** June
- **Brussels:** on EU funding, September 2017

Workshops by invitation only - Please get in touch!

The project team

IIEP is project lead, with partners: Ecologic Institute, ICF, LUKE, ENT and Denkstatt.

IIEP project contact: Day-to-day manager: Dr Konar Mutafoglu (kmutafoglu@ieep.eu)