

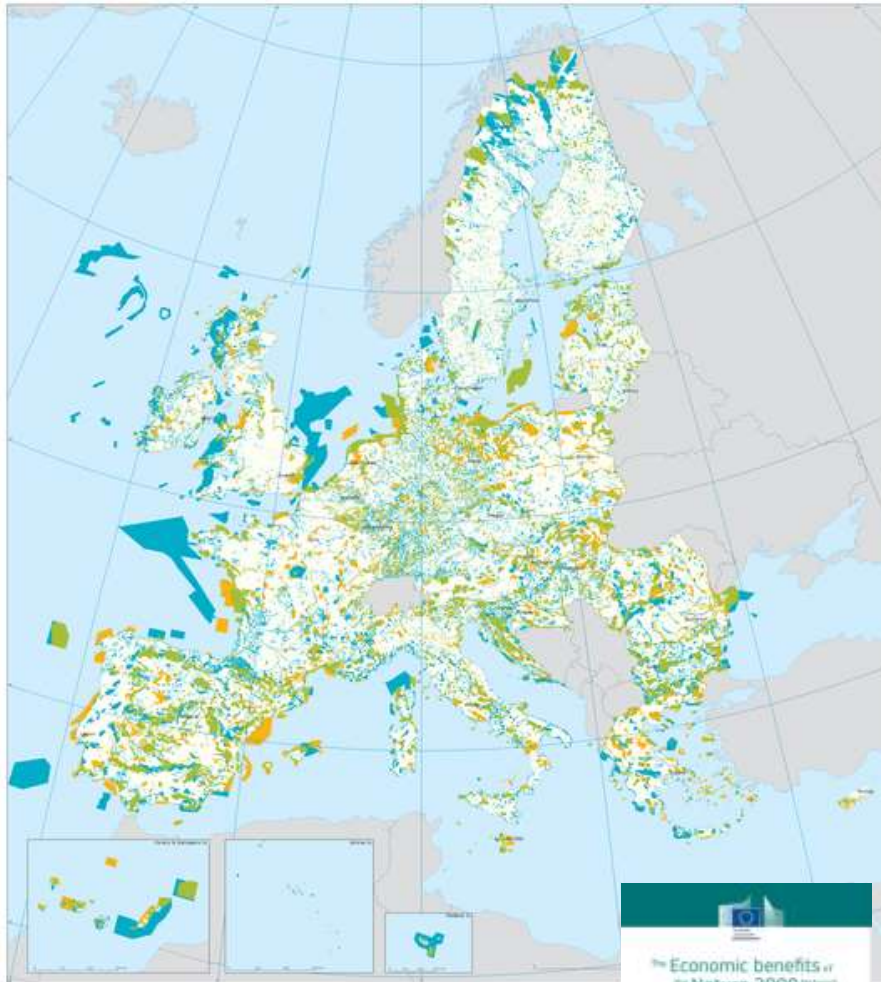


Strengthening investment in Natura 2000 and wider biodiversity under EU funds – the role of Prioritised Action Frameworks (PAFs) and LIFE funding

**Dr. Micheal O'Briain,
Deputy Head of Nature Unit, DG ENVIRONMENT**

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The Natura 2000 network



NATURA 2000 - EUROPEAN UNION
■ Birds Directive sites (SPA)
■ Habitats Directive sites (pSIC, SIC, SAC)
■ Sites - or parts of sites - belonging to both Directives

European Environment Agency 

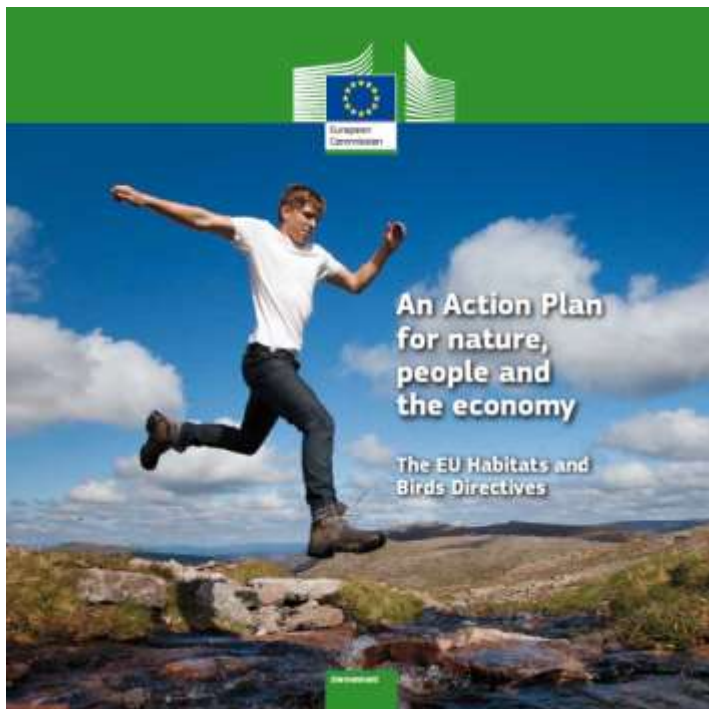
Areas of high biodiversity value managed & protected in a coherent network

- 27 863 sites (18 % EU land & 9 % EU seas)
- Largest co-ordinated protected area network in world
- Sites have strong legal protection but much wider than nature reserves

Key challenges

- ❖ Finalise establishment (esp. gaps for marine)
- ❖ Ensure legal designation & necessary management / restoration measures in place
- ❖ **Ensure sufficient funding & better integration with key sectors (especially CAP)**
- ❖ Optimise the benefits for people & economy (eg rural development, tourism)

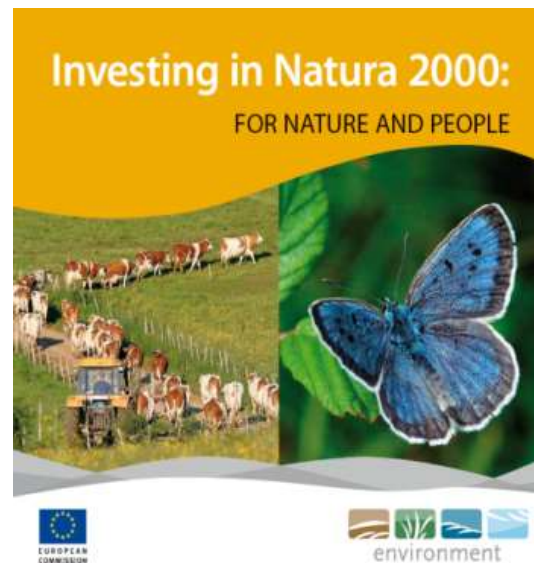




Nature Fitness Check identified insufficient funding & policy integration as key obstacles to achieving EU nature objectives & benefits

Priority of EU Action Plan is “Strengthening investment in Natura 2000 and improving synergies with EU funding instruments”

- including updating of PRIORITISED ACTION FRAMEWORKS (PAFs)



What are PAFs?

- *Strategic multi-annual planning tools providing comprehensive overview of measures needed to implement Natura 2000 and related green infrastructure*
- *Specifying financial needs and priorities and linking to relevant EU funds.*
- *Article 8 of the Habitats Directive already foresees the need to develop PAFs*

Development of the new PAF format

➤ **Why a new format:**

- old format → no systematic information on PAF contribution to the overall objective
- no clear link between priorities and measures
- did not allow aggregation of data
- some info not relevant other important info missing
- European Court of Auditors special audit recommended more harmonised approach to the PAFs

➤ **Requires Member States to identify:**

- *Objectives & priorities for the next 7 years*
- *Measures to achieve these priority objectives*
- *Quantification of priority measures*
- *Estimated costs*
- *possible national or EU (co-)financing sources*



The New PAF Format

Structure:

- A. Introduction
- B. Summary of priority financing needs for the period 2021-2027
- C. Current state of the Natura 2000 network
- D. EU and national financing of the Natura 2000 network during the period 2014 – 2020
- E. Priority measures and financing needs for 2021 – 2027
- F. Further added values of the prioritized measures

Annexes:

- 1. Guidance for completing the PAF
- 2. Fictitious example of a completed section D
- 3. Fictitious example of a completed section E.2.4

B. Summary of priority financing needs

- Maintenance versus restoration (annual versus one-off)
- 3 main types of needs (horizontal, ecosystem-related, species-specific)
- Inside Natura 2000 (Art. 6.1) versus outside Natura 2000 (“green Infrastructure”)
- Ecosystem breakdown according to MAES categories
- No distinction between SCIs/SACs/SPAs



Priority financing needs 2001-2027		
	Yearly running costs (Euros / year)	Annualised one-off / project costs (Euros)
1. Horizontal measures and administrative costs related to Natura 2000		
1.1.	Site designation and management planning	
1.2.	Site administration and communication with stakeholders	
1.3.	Monitoring and reporting for Natura 2000 and the EU Nature Directives	
1.4.	Remaining knowledge gaps and research needs	
1.5.	Natura 2000-related infrastructures for communication and education, visitor access & other socio-economic benefits	
Sub-total		
2.a Natura 2000 site-related conservation and restoration measures for species and habitats		
2.1.a	Marine and coastal waters	
2.2.a	Heathlands and shrubs	
2.3.a	Bogs, mires, fens and other wetlands	
2.4.a	Grasslands	
2.5.a	Other agroecosystems (incl. croplands)	
2.6.a	Woodlands and forests	
2.7.a	Rocky habitats, dunes & sparsely vegetated lands	
2.8.a	Freshwater habitats (rivers and lakes)	
2.9.a	Others	
Sub-total		
2.b Additional "Green infrastructure" measures beyond Natura 2000 (contributing to further coherence of the Natura 2000 network)		
2.1.b	Marine and coastal waters	
2.2.b	Heathlands and shrubs	
2.3.b	Bogs, mires, fens and other wetlands	
2.4.b	Grasslands	
2.5.b	Other agroecosystems (incl. croplands)	
2.6.b	Woodlands and forests	
2.7.b	Rocky habitats, dunes & sparsely vegetated lands	
2.8.b	Freshwater habitats (rivers and lakes)	
2.9.b	Others	
Sub-total		
3. Additional species-specific conservation measures not related to specific ecosystems or habitats		
3.1	Species-specific measures and programmes not covered elsewhere	
3.2.	Management of conflict species	
Sub-total		
Grand total (annual)		

EU funding approach for Nature

- No single large EU dedicated fund for nature
- LIFE is strategic small fund with strong nature/biodiversity component
- Main EU funding is through integration of nature into key sectoral funds (esp CAP, ERDF, EMFF)
- No earmarking for nature but significant opportunities for nature investment in all relevant EU funds (Commission proposals)



Budget: 5.45 billion EUR

Climate (1.95 billion EUR):

- **Climate Adaptation and Mitigation**
- **Clean Energy Transition**

Environment (3.5 billion EUR):

- **Circular Economy and Quality of Life (1.35 billion EUR)**
- **Nature & Biodiversity (2.15 billion EUR).**

Types of project

- Traditional**
- Integrated – including strategic nature projects (SNPs) to implement PAFs**
- Technical assistance**



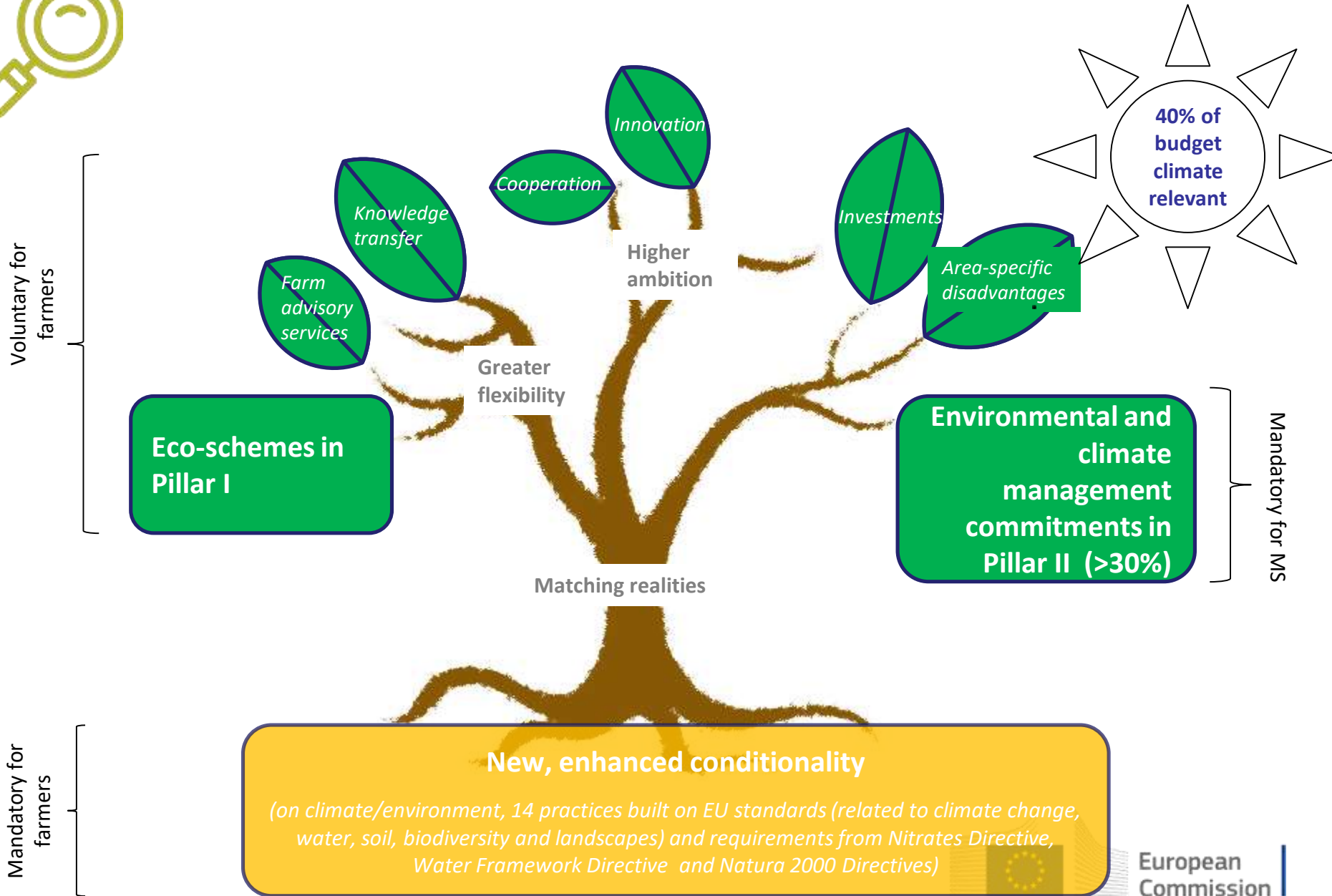
New mechanism:

- CAP to be *'more targeted, more ambitious yet flexible'* ...
- CAP strategic plans (both pillars) – env authorities to be consulted; must be consistent with env planning tools (PAFs)

Two pillars, two funds:

- EAFG:**
 - Direct payments to be reduced
 - Greening to discontinue
 - Eco-schemes
- EAFRD:**
 - More target oriented less compliance oriented
 - 30% for environment
 - Synergies with LIFE to be ensured
 - Common indicators
- Shifts between pillars to be kept

THE NEW CAP GREEN ARCHITECTURE



ERDF/CF



Specific thematic objective:

- **2b(vii) enhancing biodiversity, green infrastructure in the urban environment, and reducing pollution;**
- **Proposed amendment: "enhancing nature protection, biodiversity and green infrastructure, in particular in the urban environment, and reducing pollution".**
- **European Territorial Cooperation (ETC), i.e. Interreg to continue as before :**
 - **cross-border (Interreg A)**
 - **transnational (Interreg B) – multi-regional programmes**
 - **interregional (Interreg C) – one pan-European programme**

THE N2K GROUP



ANALYSIS OF THE USE OF THE
INTERREG PROGRAMME FOR
NATURA 2000 AND
BIODIVERSITY (2000-2020)

Interreg 





4 main objectives, including 3 for env:

- Healthy seas, sustainable fisheries and aquaculture**
- Promoting blue economy**
- International governance, safety and security**

- **Budget: 6.14 billion EUR (Art.5) – 15% less**
- **Art. 22 - the EMFF may support actions for the protection and restoration of marine and coastal biodiversity and ecosystems, including in inland waters:**

- the management, restoration and monitoring of Natura 2000 areas in accordance with the PAFs;
- the protection of species pursuant to the Birds and Habitats Directives.

- **Art. 23 – support for sustainable aquaculture**
- **Art. 26 – Community-led Local Development**
- **Art. 27 – support for collection of data/monitoring**



- proposed allocation - €97.6 bn
- no specific biodiversity or nature objective; but **biodiversity and natural capital** related research can be funded under the „Food and Natural Resources“ cluster
- specific multiannual programme to set out objectives and rules for the implementation;
- funding primarily delivered through calls for proposals;

Key forthcoming EU milestones regarding nature

- *« New Green Deal » a priority for incoming European Commission*
- *New EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030*
- *Need for nature restoration plan with ambitious commitments for protected species/habitat*
- *State of Nature in EU 2020 assessment as baseline for change*
- *PAF key tool to help strategically strengthen investments for nature under EU funds for 2021-2027 period*





For more information, please consult:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/index_en.htm

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment>