



# EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030

## *Protected areas targets*

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# EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030

- On 20<sup>th</sup> May 2020 the European Commission adopted **the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030**
- **Overall goal:** to put biodiversity on the path to recovery by 2030
  - **Protecting and restoring nature and ecosystems in the EU**
- **Headline targets:**
  1. Establish a larger **coherent EU-wide network of protected areas**
  2. Develop a **EU Nature Restoration Plan**
- The Strategy was **endorsed by Member States** through Council Conclusions in October 2020

# Protected area targets

## A larger and coherent EU-wide network of protected areas (PA):

- **Legal protection** for at least  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 30\% \text{ of EU land area} \\ 30\% \text{ of EU sea area} \end{array} \right.$ 
  - ↳ **Strict protection** for at least  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 10\% \text{ of EU land area} \\ 10\% \text{ of EU sea area} \end{array} \right.$
- All protected areas have clearly defined conservation objectives and measures and are:
  - effectively managed
  - appropriately monitored

# Protected area targets

- The target for 30% of legally protected areas includes
  - Natura 2000 sites
  - Existing protected areas under national schemes
  - New protected areas
- The Trans-European Nature network should integrate ecological corridors to
  - prevent genetic isolation and allow species migration
  - maintain and enhance healthy ecosystems
  - ensure connectivity among protected areas
- Restored areas should also be included

# Protected area targets

→ Who should do what?

## European Commission

- in agreement with Member States, puts forward **criteria and guidance** for:
  - identification and designation additional protected areas
  - definition of “strict protection” and “old-growth and primary forests”
  - appropriate management planning

## Member States

- **identify potential areas to be protected**
- **designate additional protected areas**
  - to complete the Natura 2000 network
  - under national protection schemes
- **demonstrate significant progress by 2023**

# Protected area targets

## → “Strict protection” – Definition still being discussed

- strictly protected areas need to be legally protected (just like other protected areas)
- **should include**
  - all old-growth and primary forests
  - significant areas of other carbon-rich ecosystems
  - other ecosystems that require strict protection
- **natural processes** are left essentially **undisturbed** → not necessarily incompatible with some human activities
- **authorised activities** will depend on conservation objectives and will need to be **reviewed** regularly
- **functionally meaningful areas** → sufficient size on their own or together with buffer zones

# Protected area targets

## → How to achieve the target?

- identify and designate **additional protected areas**:
  - to complete the gaps in Natura 2000 network
  - under national protection schemes
- **establish and implement appropriate conservation objectives and measures**
- **every Member State** should do its fair share of the **effort** based on ecological criteria
- **financing through** EU funds, national public funds and private funds

# Protected area targets

## → How to achieve the target?

- Identify and designate **additional protected areas**:
  1. complete any remaining gaps in the Natura 2000 network, in particular for marine species and habitats
  2. identify species and habitats that require additional areas to be protected (first at EU level, then at national or regional level)
  3. select the most suitable areas to be designated for the protection of those species and habitats

# Protected area targets

## → Mechanism for designating new protected areas

**1. Initial pledges** for new areas to be designated should be submitted by MS to the Commission

- explain {  
the **criteria used** for the identification  
the **scientific evidence** that is being used for the designation

**2. Discussion** of the MS's **pledges within the framework of the biogeographical meetings**

- focus on both {  
the natural value of individual sites to be designated  
the global coherence and completeness of the network

# Protected area targets

## → Mechanism for designating new protected areas

The **Commission** has a **tentative planning for undertaking this work under the biogeographical process** divided in 3 steps:

	What?	When?	What for?
	1 Virtual introductory meeting	early 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ launch the process</li><li>▪ clarify what Member States are expected to submit in terms of pledges</li><li>▪ discuss how the contribution of each MS should be ensured</li></ul>
	2 Face-to-face biogeographical seminar	1 <sup>st</sup> semester 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ discuss MS pledges and review them at biogeographical level</li><li>▪ possibly leading MS to revising their pledges</li></ul>
	3 Virtual meeting	late 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ assess progress in view of an interim evaluation of the implementation of the Strategy</li></ul>

# Protected area targets

## → How to achieve them?

- Establish and implement **appropriate conservation objectives and measures:**
  1. Defining clear conservation objectives and clear conservation measures to achieve them
  2. Including monitoring as it is crucial for an effective protection
  3. Ensure no deterioration
  4. Measuring management effectiveness

# Protected area targets

→ The following may contribute to the PA's targets:

- **Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs)**
    - May include areas protected for other reasons different from habitats and species protection
    - Indirectly promote the conservation of biodiversity
  - **Greening of cities**
    - Need to **integrate healthy ecosystems**, green infrastructure and nature based solutions in urban planning
    - **Specific measures focused on connectivity**
- **Both are taken into account** in the **Commission guidance** and should be **counted for the target** if they include effective management and involve legal protection

# The process

- **Draft technical note on criteria were presented** to Member States and stakeholders on 22 October 2020 in a **NADEG meeting**
- **Version 2 of the draft technical note discussed** in ad-hoc NADEG meeting on 18 February 2021
- Extensive periods provided for written comments
- Version 3 currently being prepared, for discussion in ad-hoc NADEG meeting on 21 June 2021
- Works towards a **common definition and mapping of “primary and old-growth forest”** is ongoing in the Working Group on Forest and Nature

# Funding opportunities

- **Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)**
  - **L'Instrument Financier pour l'Environnement (LIFE)**
  - **European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)**
  - **European Maritime and Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF)**
  - **Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF)**
- **Prioritized Action Frameworks (PAFs)** do already prioritize actions and financing needs for habitats and species during the next MFF, but might need revision in view of the new targets
- National/regional authorities encouraged to apply for **LIFE**, in particular through **Strategic Nature Projects (SNAPs)**, to secure additional resources for planning and implementation of targets, and transnational coordination
- Look out for synergies with funding for **climate adaptation and mitigation** !



Thank you for your attention !