



**ESMERALDA Final Conference  
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# **EU guidance on integrating ecosystems and their services into decision-making**

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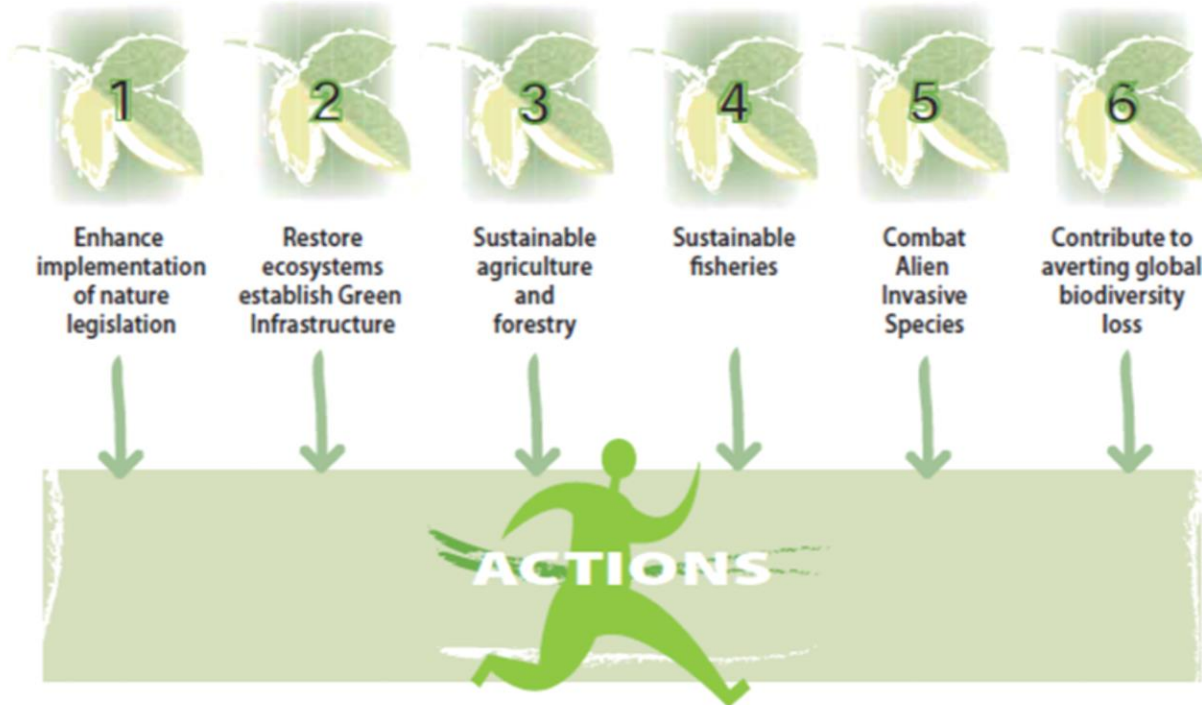
## Structure of the EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy

### 2050 VISION

2020 headline target

*halt biodiversity loss – restore ecosystem services – global contribution*

### SIX TARGETS



## Mid-term review 2015: not mid-way to the 2020 targets



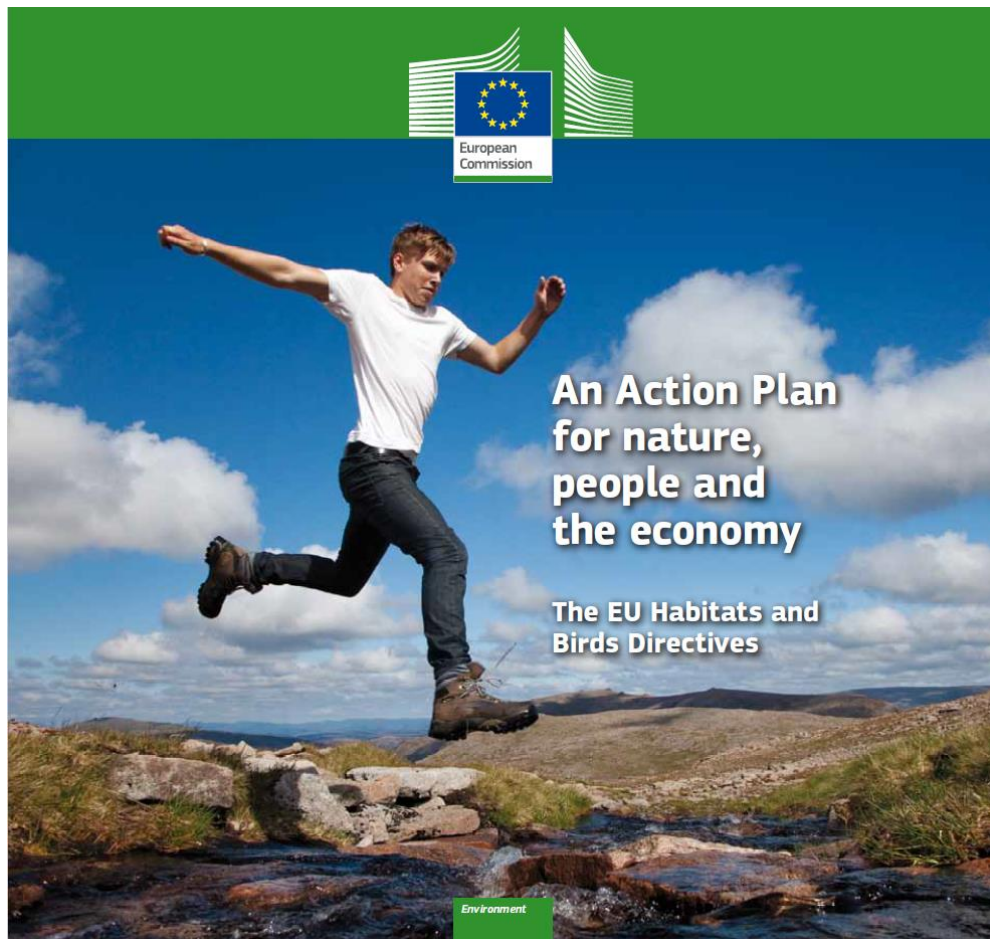
"While some ecosystem services (in particular provisioning) are increasing, others such as pollination are decreasing..."

"... Achieving the 2020 biodiversity objectives will require strong partnerships and the full engagement and efforts from key actors at all levels [...] and **recognizing our natural capital throughout the EU.**"

# Fitness Check of the EU Nature Directives



## Follow-up: Action Plan for nature, people and the economy



- Priority A: improve guidance, knowledge and coherence with broader socio-economic objectives
- Action 1: Update, develop and actively promote EU guidance in all EU languages.

**1b) Guidance to support the integration of ecosystems and their services into planning and decision-making processes (in 2018)**

- **Non-binding** guidance for decision-makers and planners (envisaged for publication in late 2018)
- Building on a growing **knowledge base: EU MAES – KIP/INCA**
- **Objective:** encourage **sector integration of ecosystem services** by:
  - Raising awareness of synergies between preserving and enhancing ecosystems & socio-economic objectives
  - Providing guidance for policy uptake of knowledge and tools
  - Encouraging learning by doing.
- Envisaged adoption: late **summer 2018**





- **Guiding principles**
- The **policy** and **planning cycle**: entry points for integrating ecosystems and their services
- Knowledge, decision-making and implementation **tools** and **instruments** for integrating ecosystems and their services
- **Governance** aspects (including stakeholder engagement)
- Focus on **decision-making contexts**: implementation of EU environmental legislation and sector policies, spatial planning, business sustainability
- **Follow-up actions**: dissemination; workshops; further work in key areas

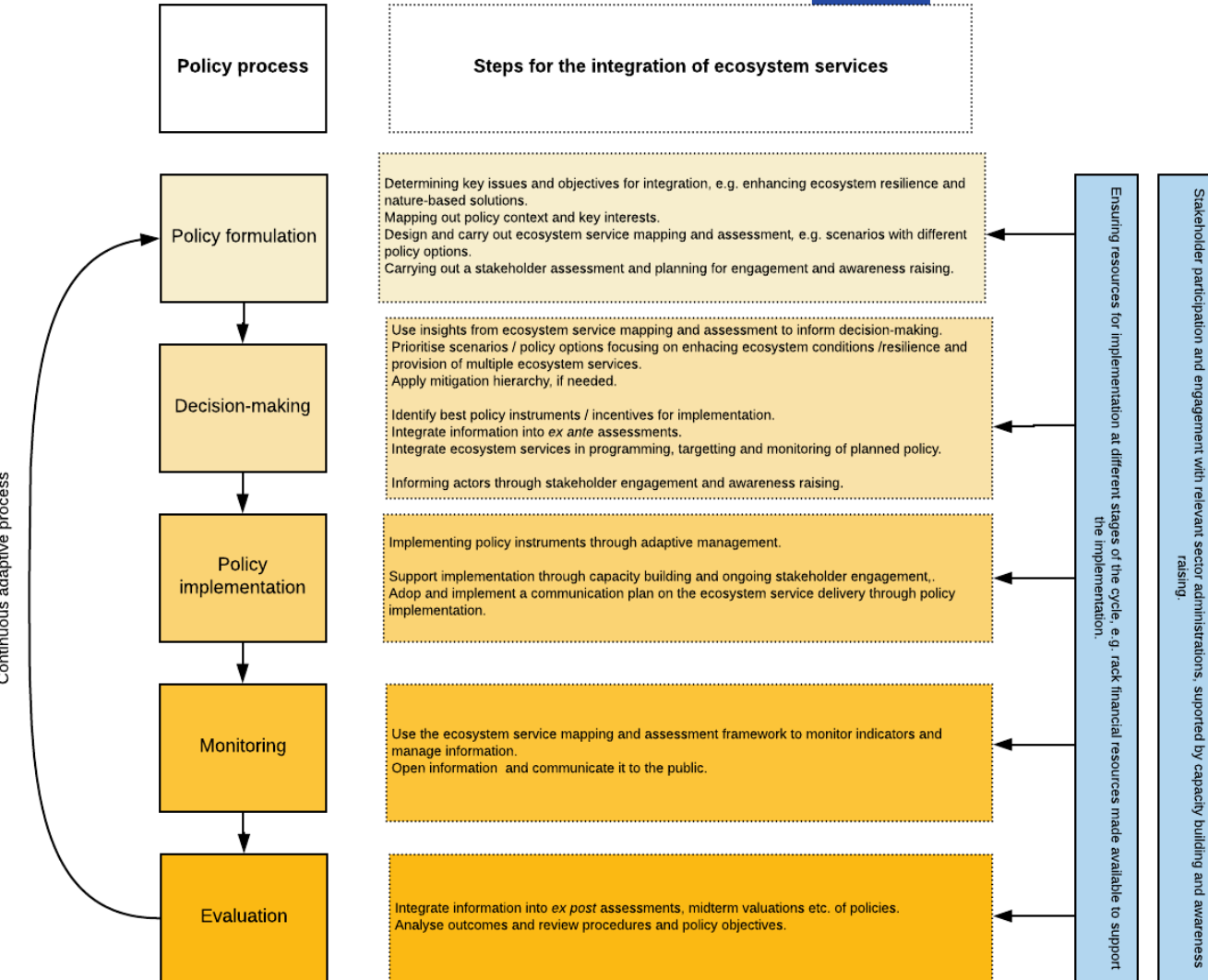


- Respect for legislation and conservation objectives in force
- Precautionary principle
- Focus on biologically diverse, resilient ecosystems that can provide a range of benefits (rather than maximising single services)
- Enhance resilience - avoid damage - mitigate - compensate
- Attention to synergies, trade-offs, fairness and inter-generational justice
- A long-term perspective
- Decision-making through appropriate levels and processes, and adaptive management





European Commission



MAES underpins all stages





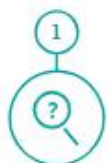
Welcome to the Guidance on Ecosystem Service Mapping and Assessment by ESMERALDA, a support and coordination action funded under the Horizon 2020 programme for research and innovation of the European Commission.

This website provides guidance which explains the process of how to map and assess ecosystem services as required by Action 5 of the [EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020](#). Action 5 foresees that the European Commission helps countries set up a knowledge base on ecosystems and ecosystem services and to use this knowledge in policy and decision-making at different levels of governance.

ESMERALDA worked closely together with the working group [MAES](#) on Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystems and their Services to develop guidance which is tailored to the member states of the EU.

Start exploring the guidance by clicking on one of the entry points below:

## Questions and Themes



**What kind of questions do stakeholders have?**



**Identification of relevant stakeholders**



**Network creation and involvement of stakeholders**



**Mapping and assessment process**



**MAES case study applications**



**Dissemination and communication**



**Implementaion**

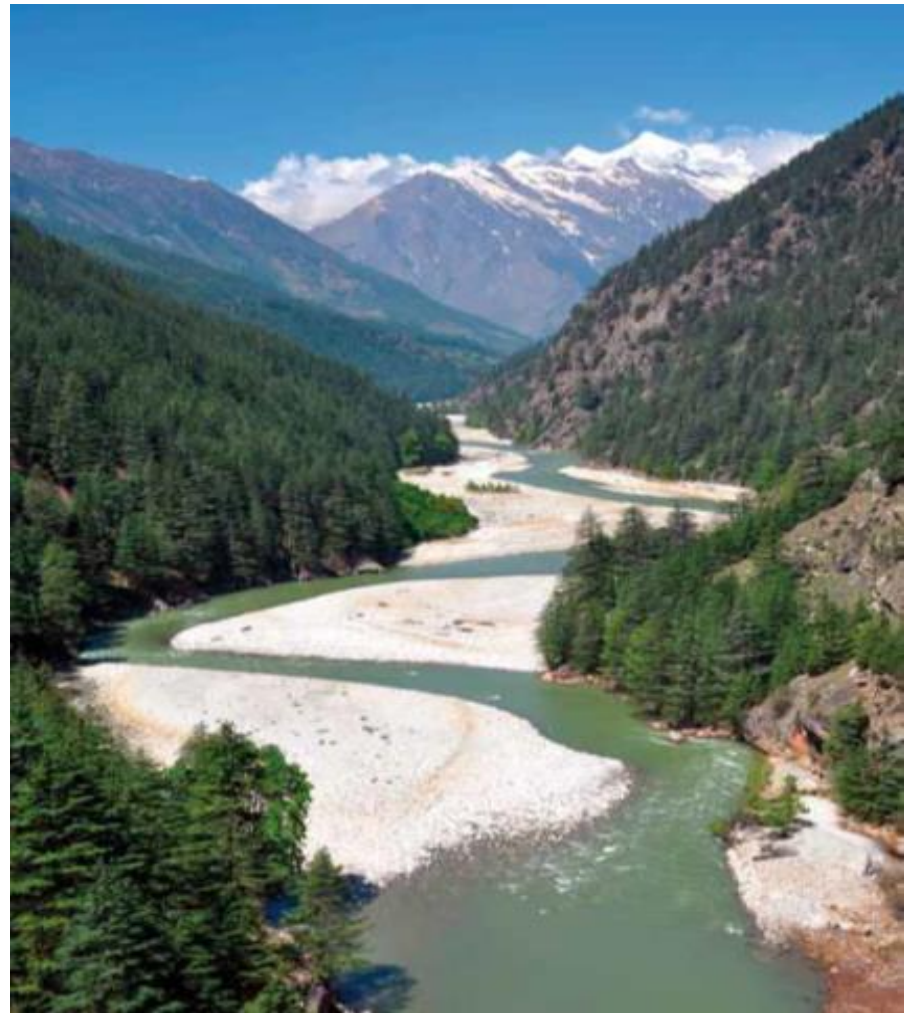
- **Dissemination in all EU languages;**
- **Dedicated workshops;**
- **Further work in key areas**



## Some further relevant EU initiatives:

- Guidance on **strategic EU-level green and blue infrastructure** (exp. Q3 2018)
- **EU Pollinators** initiative (published on 1 June)

- Addressing **GI benefits**
- Taking stock of **GI strategy review**
- Puts forward **criteria** for EU level strategic GI projects
- Outlines EU **support tools**
- Envisaged **adoption: summer 2018**



# EU Pollinators Initiative



- Published on 1 June 2018
- Addressing the decline of **wild pollinators**
- **Public consultation:**  
66,579 responses
- **Key themes** for action:
  - Improve knowledge
  - Address drivers of decline
  - Raise awareness
  - Engage stakeholders



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**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION**