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EU guidance on integrating ecosystems and their services into decision-making

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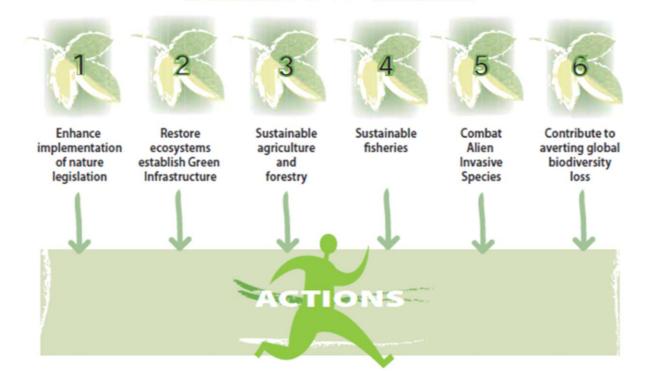
Structure of the EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy

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



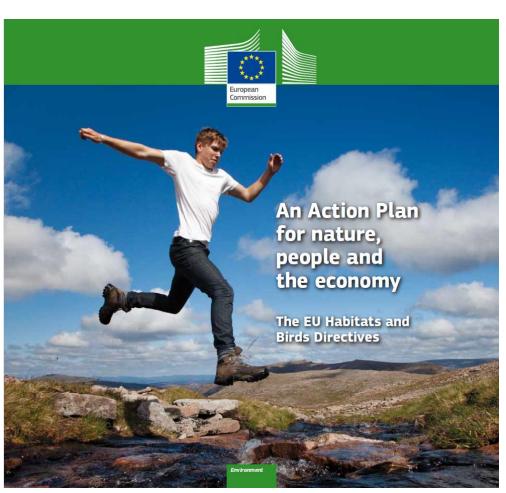
"While some ecosystem services (in particular provisioning) are increasing, others such as pollination are decreasing..."

"... 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)

Ecosystem services initiative



- 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



Ecosystem services guidance



MAIN ELEMENTS

- 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



Ecosystem services guidance



PRINCIPLES

- > 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



Ecosystem services guidance



Commission

POLICY PROCESS

Determining key issues and objectives for integration, e.g. enhancing ecosystem resilience and Design and carry out ecosystem service mapping and assessment, e.g. scenarios with different Carrying out a stakeholder assessment and planning for engagement and awareness raising. Use insights from ecosystem service mapping and assessment to inform decision-making. Prioritise scenarios / policy options focusing on enhacing ecosystem conditions /resilience and Integrate ecosystem services in programming, targetting and monitoring of planned policy. s of the cycle, e.g. implementation. Support implementation through capacity building and ongoing stakeholder engagement, Adop and implement a communication plan on the ecosystem service delivery through policy Use the ecosystem service mapping and assessment framework to monitor indicators and

Policy process

nature-based solutions.

implementation.

manage information.

Mapping out policy context and key interests.

provision of multiple ecosystem services. Apply mitigation hierarchy, if needed.

Integrate information into ex ante assessments.

Identify best policy instruments / incentives for implementation.

Implementing policy instruments through adaptive management

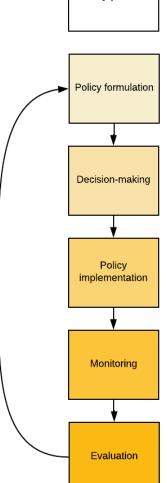
Open information and communicate it to the public.

Informing actors through stakeholder engagement and awareness raising.

Integrate information into ex post assessments, midterm valuations etc. of policies.

Analyse outcomes and review procedures and policy objectives

Steps for the integration of ecosystem services



Continuous adaptive process

Ecosystem services guidance





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





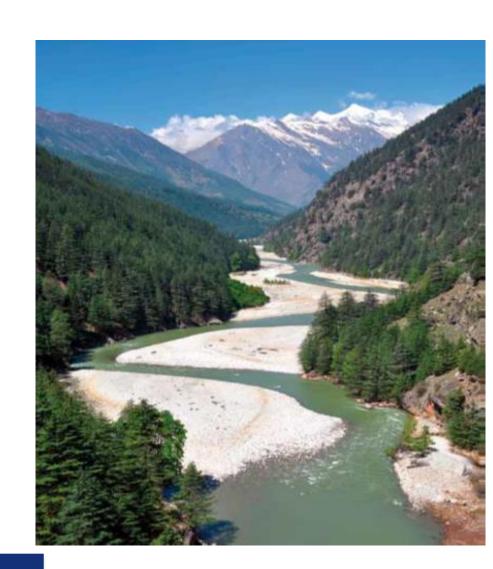
Some further relevant EU initiatives:

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

EU level GI Guidance



- 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







- > 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



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION