EU Conference on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, 23-24/05/2019, Brussels

Stakeholder conference on the evaluation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020

24 May 2019, European Committee of the Regions, Rue Belliard 99

BREAKOUT DISCUSSION ON KNOWLEDGE

3.45 – 5.00 pm, Room JDE 51

BACKGROUND NOTE

HORIZONTAL MEASURES: Knowledge

Effective policymaking for biodiversity and ecosystem services relies on continuous research and innovation. One of the key enabling measures of the 7th Environment Action Programme (7EAP) is to improve the knowledge and evidence base for EU environmental policy.

With regard to **monitoring, indicators and reporting**, the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 included the following actions:

- the Commission will work with Member States and the European Environment Agency to develop an integrated framework for monitoring, assessing and reporting on progress in implementing the strategy;
- National, EU and global monitoring, reporting and review obligations will be improved and streamlined as far as possible with requirements under other environmental legislation, such as the Water Framework Directive.
- The EU 2010 biodiversity baseline and the updated EU biodiversity indicators[1] will be key components of this framework, which will also draw on other data and information, such as that produced by the Shared Environmental Information System and Global Monitoring for Environment and Security, the European Forest Data Centre and the LUCAS Land Use Cover Area Frame Survey.
- The Biodiversity Information System for Europe (BISE) web portal will be the main platform for data and information sharing.
- The integration of biodiversity monitoring and reporting into EU legislation on nature, the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and, to the extent feasible, Cohesion Policy would help assess the impacts of these policies on biodiversity.

In terms of **research**, the Commission will continue its work to fill key research gaps, including on mapping and assessing ecosystem services in Europe, which will help improve the knowledge of the links between biodiversity and climate change, and the role of soil biodiversity in delivering key ecosystem services, such as carbon

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[1]   http://biodiversity.europa.eu/topics/sebi-indicators. Other relevant indicators include the EU's sustainable development and agro-environmental indicators.

sequestration and food supply. Research funding under the new Common Strategic Framework could further contribute to closing identified knowledge gaps and supporting policy.

Finally, the EU will remain closely involved in and contribute actively to the **new intergovernmental science-policy platform on Biodiversity and ecosystem services** (IPBES), particularly to work on regional assessments, for which an EU-level mechanism may be required to reinforce the science-policy interface.

2. STATE OF IMPLEMENTATION

Good progress has been made in improving the biodiversity knowledge base to underpin policy with up-to-date scientific data and information.

- A 2010 Biodiversity Baselin[2]e has been established with the European Environment Agency, against which progress in reaching the targets has been measured (cf. Mid-Term report of the implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020[3]).
- The EU biodiversity indicators (Streamlining European Biodiversity Indicators - SEBI) have been updated and further developed to fill some gaps. Biodiversity indicators have been promoted in the monitoring framework of Agenda 2030, 7EAP, CAP, etc.
- The Biodiversity Information System for Europe (**BISE**) has been structured around the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020, its targets and actions; it publishes data and information on biodiversity in supporting the implementation of the EU strategy and the Aichi targets in Europe.
- The mapping and assessment of ecosystems and their services (MAES) initiative has substantially strengthened the environment knowledge base at EU and MS level, by integrating outcomes of environment reporting obligations (e.g. Birds and Habitats Directives, Water Framework Directive, Marine Strategy Framework Directive, National Emission Ceiling Directive, etc.) in a consistent manner.
- The EU supported training of Member States in mapping, assessing, and accounting of ecosystems and their services (e.g. TRAIN, Eurostat's grants).
- Research projects (e.g. OPERAs, OpenNESS) and coordinationand support actions (e.g. ESMERALDA) have provided a strong science base for assessing ecosystems and their services, linking biodiversity to ecosystem services, valuation and accounting of ecsoytems and their services.
- Science-policy interfaces (e.g. EKLIPSE, Biodiversa, IPBES) are playing a key role in the reinforcement of a dynamic dialogue between science and policy.

3. SESSION OBJECTIVES AND QUESTIONS

This session aims to obtain stakeholder input for the assessment of key aspects of knowledge. This will help to steer the evaluation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020, which will be delivered by the end of 2020.

The discussion will address the following key questions:

1. What do you consider to be **the main achievements**?

   (*To the panellists also: how has your organisation worked or contributed towards such achievements?*)

   What have been the key **factors of success** and motivation to act?

2. What are the **main gaps** / most challenging aspects in achieving the measures/implementing the actions?

   What have been the likely **key factors and root causes** of failure? Have there been significant **barriers to acceptance** and **engagement** by key stakeholders?

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[2] https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/eu-2010-biodiversity-baseline

[3] https://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/biodiversity/mid-term-review-of-the/view

3. Have the EU level target and related support measures and frameworks effectively contributed to reducing indirect drivers of biodiversity loss? If yes, what has been the main **EU added value**? If not, why not?

4. What could have been done better and what are the **lessons learned?**

5. *If time allows, questions can be left open for the audience to propose and vote (using sli.do)*

4. SESSION SETUP

Chair, moderator and rapporteur: Anne Teller, Senior Biodiversity Expert, Biodiversity Unit, DG ENV

Panellists:

- Prof. Panayotis Dimopoulos, University of Patras, Department of Biology, Greece
- Yann Kervinio, Chargé de mission, Ministère de la transition écologique et solidaire, France
- Sander Jacob, Belgian Biodiversity & Ecosystem Services platform (BEES)
- David Stroud, Chair of Ramsar Scientific Technical review Panel (STRP)