



## 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 PARTNERSHIPS AND FINANCING

3.45 – 5.00 pm, Room JDE 52

### BACKGROUND NOTE

#### HORIZONTAL MEASURES: Partnerships for biodiversity

Achieving the EU 2020 targets requires the full engagement and commitment of a range of stakeholders. The EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 therefore aims to reinforce cooperation and build effective partnerships with key sectors, including business, spatial planners and researchers and society at large;

- the EU outermost regions and overseas countries and territories (through the BEST initiative);
- developing countries (in implementing the TEEB recommendations) and EU candidate countries and
- biodiversity-related Conventions.

#### HORIZONTAL MEASURES: Financing

Achieving the EU biodiversity objectives strategy depends on the availability and efficient use of financial resources. For some targets, the focus is on ensuring a more effective uptake and redistribution of existing resources. For others, the main identified need has been to increase existing and develop new funding sources.

This concerns in particular the uptake and distribution of EU funds under the Multi-annual Financial Framework for 2014-2020, rationalising available resources and maximising the combined benefits of funding for agriculture and rural development, fisheries, regional policy and climate change.

#### 2. STATE OF IMPLEMENTATION

The EU has supported the development of partnerships for biodiversity through the:

- EU Business and Biodiversity Platform, which has provided a platform for business to learn, exchange experience and develop methodologies to better assess their impacts and dependencies on biodiversity
- Support to TEEB (the Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity) and to valuation of biodiversity and ecosystem services in third countries
- Partnership on Sustainable Use of Land and Nature-based Solutions under the Urban Agenda for the EU
- BEST (Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Territories of European Overseas) Preparatory Action and BEST 2.0

**Regarding domestic financing**, an increase in available funding since 2013 is largely attributable to the inclusion of CAP first pillar payments' contribution towards the achievement of biodiversity objectives. Annual financial support provided to domestic biodiversity-related activities was 12,799.1 in 2018. The LIFE programme remains a

small but highly effective funding source for nature and biodiversity, and LIFE funding for nature and biodiversity was increased by 10% in implementation of the Action plan for nature, people and the economy. The Natural Capital Financing Facility has provided important innovative funding for biodiversity conservation measures that also bring socio-economic returns.

**Regarding international financial flows**, the EU had more than doubled its baseline by 2015, with a continued increase thereafter, in particular due to European Development Fund funding (estimated 700 million EUR in 2018). Challenges remain around the financial reporting process.

### 3. SESSION OBJECTIVES AND QUESTIONS

This session aims to obtain stakeholder input on the effectiveness of horizontal measures to build partnerships and mobilise financing for the implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy, both in the EU and globally.

**The discussion will address the following key questions:**

**1. In relation to partnerships:**

- What have been the **main achievements** in establishing partnerships for biodiversity: with which stakeholder groups; driven by what **motivation**?
- What have been the **most challenging aspects** and **barriers** to building partnerships; which key actors have been insufficiently engaged?
- Has EU support for partnerships and platforms added value to learning and mobilisation?

**2. In relation to financing:**

- Were the necessary **financing opportunities provided** in the framework of EU funds and programmes?
- Have potential beneficiaries been able to **take them up** effectively?
- What have been the **main gaps** and **challenges** in securing financing for biodiversity?
- What have been the main gaps and challenges in developing **innovative** funding opportunities?
- Have the EU and its Member States mobilised and ensured the best use of financial resources for global biodiversity?

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

### 4. SESSION SETUP

**Chair:** Anne Burrill, advisor, Natural Capital Directorate, DG Environment

**Panellists:**

- Roby Biwer, First Vice-President of the ENVE Commission, European Committee of the Regions
- Martin Lok, Natural Capital Coalition (tbc)
- Eva Mayerhofer, European Investment Bank
- Sébastien Châtelus, Policy officer DG DEVCO
  
- **Commission resource persons:**
  - Jean-Claude Merciol, Head of LIFE unit DG ENV
  - Karin Zaubner, Biodiversity Policy officer DG ENV Biodiversity Unit