



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 TARGET 1

10.15 – 11.30 am, Room JDE 52

BACKGROUND NOTE

TARGET 1: Fully Implement the Birds and Habitats Directives

To halt the deterioration in the status of all species and habitats covered by EU nature legislation and achieve a significant and measurable improvement in their status so that, by 2020, compared to current assessments:

- 100% more habitats assessments and 50% more species assessments under the Habitats Directive show an improved conservation status, and
- 50% more species assessments under the Birds Directive show a secure or improved status

Action 1. Complete the establishment of the Natura 2000 Network and ensure good management

- 1a.** Complete the establishment of Natura 2000, including in the marine environment, by 2012.
- 1b.** Further integrate species and habitat protection and management requirements into key land and water use policies, both within and beyond Natura 2000 areas.
- 1c.** Ensure that management plans or equivalent instruments which set out conservation and restoration measures are developed and implemented in a timely manner for all Natura 2000 sites.
- 1d.** Establish by 2012 a biogeographical process to promote the sharing of experience, good practice and cross-border collaboration on the management of Natura 2000.

Action 2. Ensure adequate financing for Natura 2000 sites

Provide the necessary funds and incentives for Natura 2000, including through EU-funding instruments, under the Multi-annual Financial Framework.

Action 3. Increase stakeholder awareness and involvement and improve enforcement

- 3a.** 3a. Develop and launch a major communication campaign on Natura 2000 by 2013.
- 3b.** 3b. Improve cooperation with key sectors and continue to develop guidance documents to improve their understanding of the requirements of EU nature legislation and its value in promoting economic development.
- 3c.** 3c. Facilitate enforcement of the nature directives by providing training on Natura 2000 for judges and public prosecutors, and by developing better compliance promotion capacities.

Action 4. Improve and streamline monitoring and reporting

4a. 4a. Develop a new EU bird reporting system, further develop the reporting system under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive and improve the flow, accessibility and relevance of Natura 2000 data.

4b. 4b. Create a dedicated ICT tool for access to data as part of the Biodiversity Information System for Europe.

2. STATE OF IMPLEMENTATION



2015 - Progress towards target but at an insufficient rate

Considerable progress has been made in the implementation of the nature Directives particularly the terrestrial component of the Natura 2000 network (now 18.2% of the EU's land area), the legal protection of Natura 2000 sites and the protection and sustainable use of species. Progress with the establishment of the marine component of the Natura 2000 network has sped up and (now 9.2% of the EU's marine area). However, some Natura 2000 sites continue to be damaged (e.g. from pollution, and the intensification of agricultural and forest management). Furthermore, although 70% of Natura 2000 sites have management plans, or equivalent instruments, the implementation of management measures within the sites is often inadequate, largely due to limited funding. As a result, many habitats and species continue to have an unfavourable conservation status. Nevertheless, where properly implemented at sufficient scale, the Directives have reduced pressures on biodiversity, slowed declines and, with time, led to some recoveries of habitats and species. An action plan, produced in 2017, presents 15 actions to be carried out before 2020 to rapidly improve their implementation.

3. SESSION OBJECTIVES AND QUESTIONS

This session aims to obtain stakeholder input for the assessment of key aspects of the implementation of Target 1. 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 the **main achievements** to date under Target 1? How has your organisation 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 Target/implementing the actions? What have been the likely **key factors and root causes** of failure?
3. What are the **lessons learned**?
4. *If time allows, one question can be left open for the audience to propose and vote (using sli.do)*

4. SESSION SETUP

Chair: Nicola Notaro, Head of Nature Unit, DG ENV of the European Commission

Short presentation on state of play by: Luisa Samarelli, Policy Officer, Nature Unit, DG ENV

Panellists:

- Noelia Vallejo Pedregal, Spanish Ministry for Ecologic Transition
- Roderick Enzerink, Public Affairs Manager, FACE
- Ana Rocha, Senior Policy Officer, ELO
- Sue Collins, European Environmental Policy Advisor, Butterfly Conservation Europe, member of the European Habitats Forum.