



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 2

11.45 am – 1.00 pm, Room JDE 52

BACKGROUND NOTE

TARGET 2: Maintain and restore ecosystems and their services

By 2020, ecosystems and their services are maintained and enhanced by establishing green infrastructure and restoring at least 15% of degraded ecosystems.

Action 5. *Improve knowledge of ecosystems and their services in the EU*

Member States, with the assistance of the Commission, will map and assess the state of ecosystems and their services in their national territory by 2014, assess the economic value of such services, and promote the integration of these values into accounting and reporting systems at EU and national level by 2020.

Action 6. *Set priorities to restore and promote the use of green infrastructure*

6a. *Develop a strategic framework to set priorities for ecosystem restoration at sub-national, national and EU level.*

6b. *Develop a Green Infrastructure Strategy to promote the deployment of green infrastructure in the EU in urban and rural areas, including through incentives to encourage up-front investments in green infrastructure projects and the maintenance of ecosystem services, e.g. through better targeted use of EU funding streams and Public Private Partnerships.*

Action 7. *Ensure no net loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services*

7a. *Develop a methodology for assessing the biodiversity impact of EU-funded projects, plans and programmes.*

7b. *Carry out further work with a view to proposing an initiative to ensure there is no net loss of ecosystems and their services.*

2. STATE OF IMPLEMENTATION



2015 - Progress towards target but at an insufficient rate

Knowledge of the EU's **ecosystems and their services** has been considerably strengthened. A number of activities have been initiated to enhance the delivery of ecosystem services within the EU, including a strategic framework for the prioritisation of ecosystem restoration, a common framework for 'biodiversity-proofing' EU-funded projects, a green infrastructure strategy, and an EU initiative on pollinators. The first EU-wide ecosystem assessment will be delivered by 2020, enabling the EU to better understand whether ecosystems and their services have been maintained and enhanced.

3. SESSION OBJECTIVES AND QUESTIONS

This session aims to obtain stakeholder input for the assessment of key aspects of the implementation of Target 2. It will focus in particular on actions to encourage **ecosystem restoration**, the deployment of **green infrastructure** and the maintenance of **ecosystem services** in urban and rural areas. 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** in the EU to date in relation to ecosystem restoration, green infrastructure development and the integration of ecosystem services into decision-making?
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 implementing green infrastructure and ecosystem restoration?
What have been the likely **root causes** of failure? Have there been significant **barriers to acceptance and engagement** by key stakeholders?
3. Have the EU level target and related EU support measures and frameworks effectively supported restoration and green infrastructure deployment? 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**?

4. CHAIR AND SPEAKERS

Chair, moderator and rapporteur: Stefan Leiner, Head of Biodiversity Unit, DG Environment

Panellists:

- Holger Robrecht, Deputy Regional Director for Europe, ICLEI – Local Governments for sustainability
- Kris Decler, Senior Scientist Ecosystem Management, Research Institute for Nature and Forest (INBO) and Director-at-large of the Society for Ecological Restoration
- Carolyn Jewell, Biodiversity and Natural Resources Senior Manager, Global Environmental Sustainability, Heidelberg Cement AG
- Andreas Baumüller, WWF European Policy Office