

EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030

- MENDELU
- Faculty of Forestry
- and Wood
- Technology

Objectives

- The biodiversity strategy aims to put Europe's biodiversity on the path to recovery by 2030 for the benefit of people, climate and the planet.
 - the impacts of climate change
 - forest fires
 - food insecurity
 - disease outbreaks - including by protecting wildlife and fighting illegal wildlife trade

Timeline

- 5 July 2023
 - Commission adopts proposal for a Soil Health Law
- March 2023
 - Commission publishes two sets of guidelines on forests
 - Guidelines on Biodiversity-Friendly Afforestation, Reforestation and Tree Planting
 - Guidelines for Defining, Mapping, Monitoring and Strictly Protecting EU Primary and Old-Growth Forests
- 22 June 2022
 - Commission adopts proposal for a Nature Restoration Law
- 9 June 2021
 - European Parliament resolution on the EU biodiversity strategy for 2030
- January - April 2021
 - Public consultation on nature restoration targets
- 23 October 2020
 - Council adopts Conclusions on the EU biodiversity strategy for 2030
- 18 September 2020
 - European Economic and Social Committee adopts Opinion on EU biodiversity strategy for 2030
- 20 May 2020
 - Publication of the EU biodiversity strategy for 2030

**CLIMATE
PACT AND CLIMATE
LAW**

**PROMOTING
CLEAN
ENERGY**



**INVESTING IN
SMARTER, MORE
SUSTAINABLE
TRANSPORT**

**STRIVING
FOR GREENER
INDUSTRY**



**PROTECTING
NATURE**



**FROM FARM
TO FORK**



The European Green Deal

**ELIMINATING
POLLUTION**



**LEADING THE
GREEN CHANGE
GLOBALLY**



**ENSURING
A JUST TRANSITION
FOR ALL**



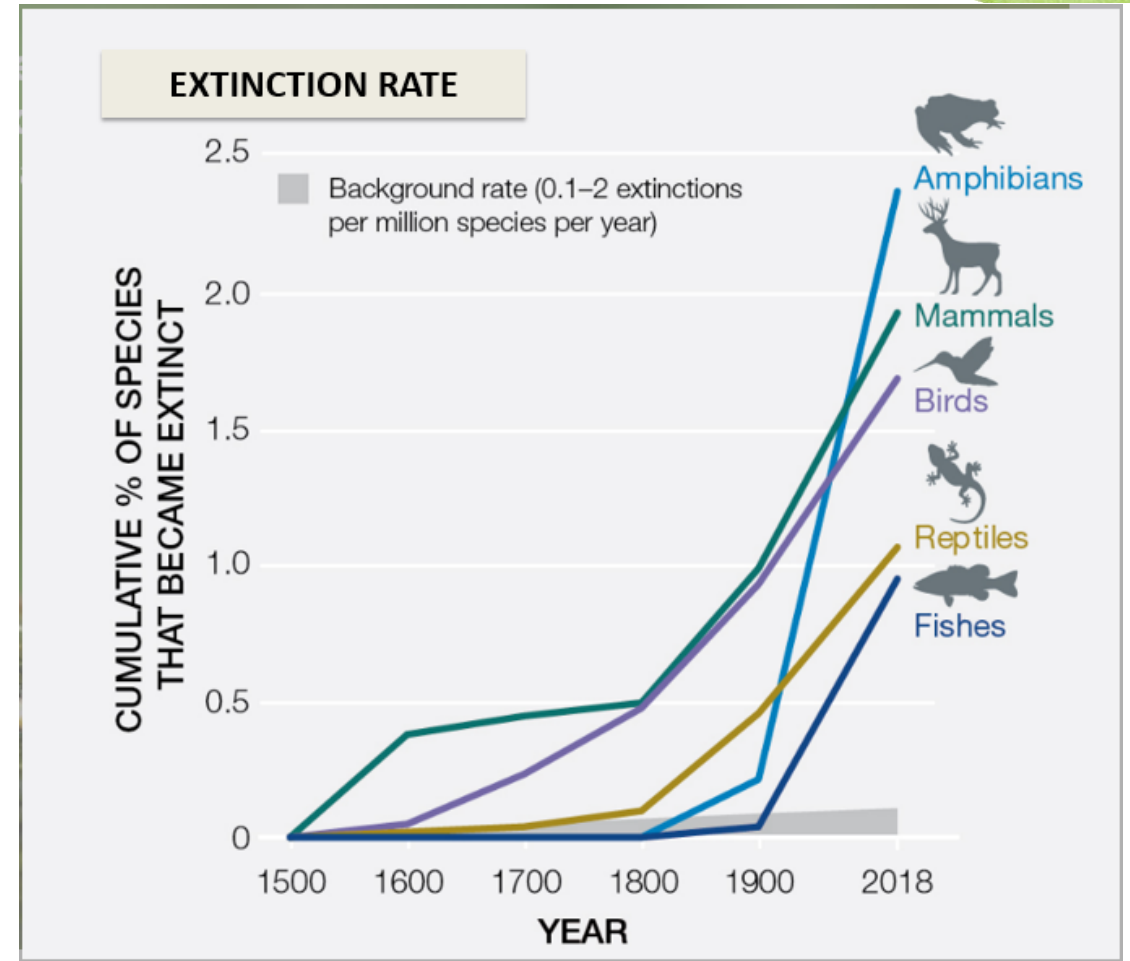
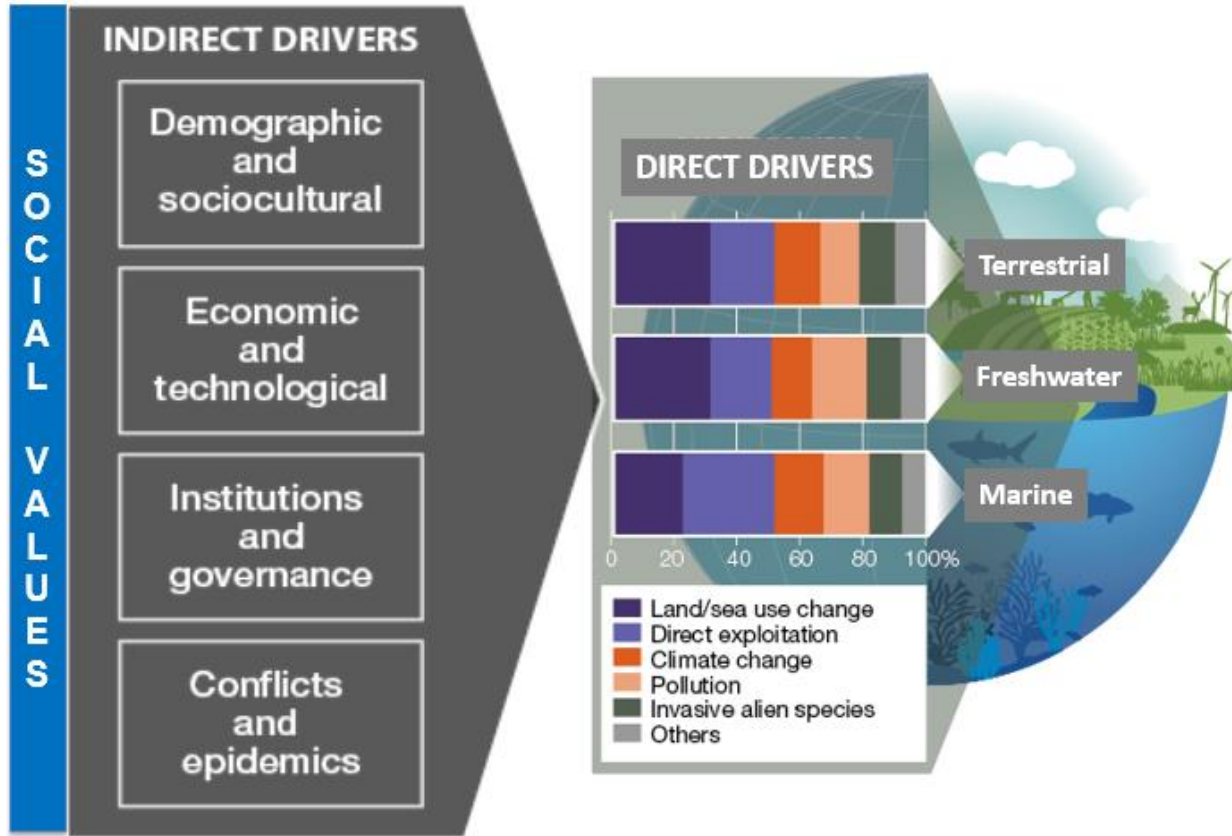
**MAKING
HOMES ENERGY EFFICIENT**



**FINANCING
GREEN
PROJECTS**

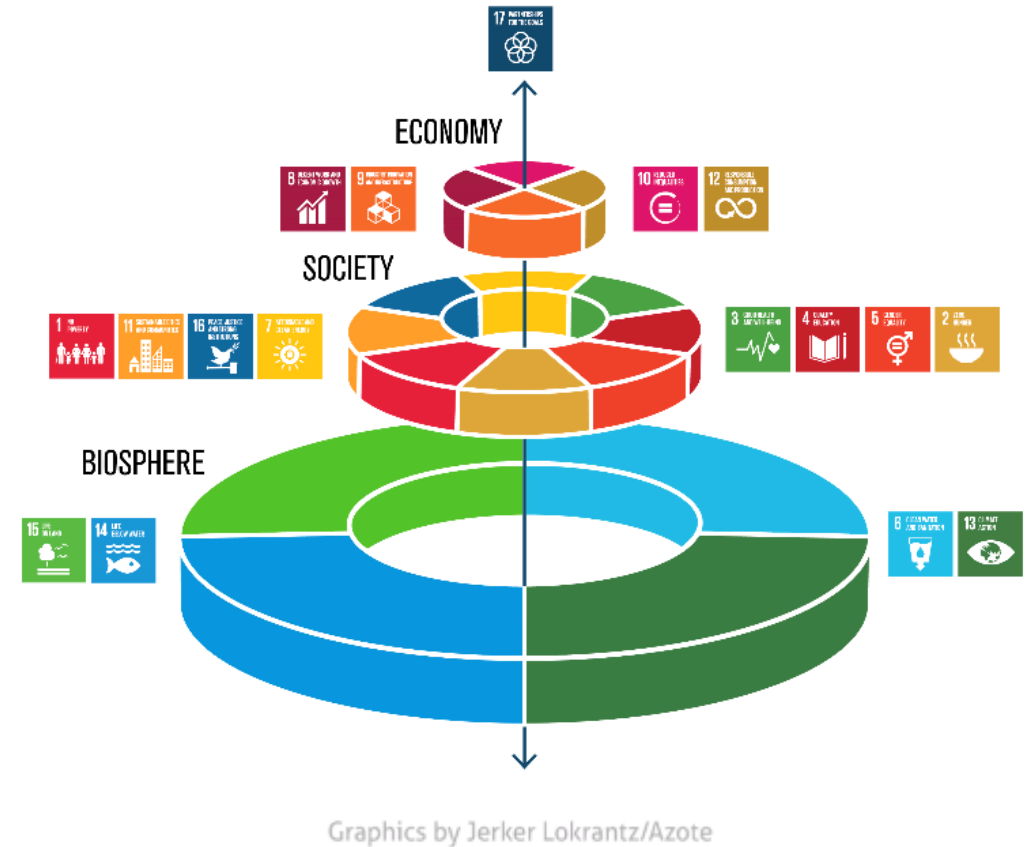


The global biodiversity crisis



Biodiversity underpins sustainable development

- Biodiversity loss: key threats for humanity
- Almost half of global GDP is linked to nature
- Connections between biodiversity loss, climate change and pandemics
- Restoring biodiversity core part of recovery



Why now?



Our role in the world:
EU leadership towards
CBD COP15



Recovery:
Need to
mainstream into
Recovery, MFF,
CAP, etc...



Urgency:
Need to urgently
address the
biodiversity crisis



Elements of the EU Biodiversity Strategy



Protect Nature



Enable Transformative
Change



Restore Nature



EU For An Ambitious
Global Agenda



Protect Nature



Protect 30% of EU land and sea

- Based on Natura 2000 and nationally designated areas
- EU wide target, take into account specific situation in MS
- Integrate ecological corridors to build coherent network

Strictly protect a third of these areas

- Covering areas of very high biodiversity value & important for mitigation and adaptation to climate change, including all primary and old growth forest



Restore Nature



EU Restoration Plan with 2030 commitments (1):

- ✓ Legally binding targets to be proposed in 2021
- ✓ No deterioration of any protected habitats and species by 2030: favourable status or positive trend for at least 30%
- ✓ Agroecology: Organic farming $\geq 25\%$
- ✓ Biodiverse landscape features $\geq 10\%$
- ✓ 50% reduction of use and risk of pesticides
- ✓ Reduction of pollution from fertilisers by 50% and by $\geq 20\%$ their use
- ✓ Plant 3 billion additional trees respecting ecological principles
- ✓ Reverse decline in pollinators



Restore Nature



EU Restoration Plan with 2030 commitments (2):

- Remediate contaminated soil sites
- Restore $\geq 25,000$ km free flowing rivers
- New Urban Greening Platform: the Green City Accord
- Halve the number of 'red list' species threatened by Invasive Alien Species
- Reduction of damage to seabed, elimination/reduction of bycatch



Enable Transformative Change



- Governance framework
- Unlocking financing
- Business engagement
- Knowledge, education
- Promotion of Nature-Based Solutions



EU for an ambitious global agenda



EU's position for the post-2020 biodiversity framework

- 2050 goals in line with UN vision: *“living in harmony with nature”*
- Ambitious global 2030 goals and targets
- Improved means of implementation: finance, capacity, research, know-how and technology
- Much stronger implementation, monitoring and review
- A fair and equitable share of the benefits from the use of genetic resources linked to biodiversity.
- Equality, rights of IPLCs, involvement of all stakeholders



EU for an ambitious global agenda



- SDGs
- Green Diplomacy
- International Ocean Governance
- Trade Policy
- Climate Policy
- International cooperation



Main challenges ahead

- Ensure good Council Conclusions demonstrating EU leadership
- Deliver on annex and other measures in the BDS (around 100 actions !)
- Ensure adequate resources – MFF/recovery in difficult economic context
- CAP reform and strategic plans
- Accountability and review
- Keep global momentum in light of COP 15 postponement (e.g. UNGA biodiversity summit, IUCN WCC)

To remember...

TURN AT LEAST **30%** OF EU'S LAND AND **30%** OF SEAS INTO EFFECTIVELY MANAGED AND COHERENT PROTECTED AREAS

RESTORE **DEGRADED ECOSYSTEMS** AND STOP ANY FURTHER DAMAGE TO NATURE

RESTORE AT LEAST **25 000 KM** OF THE EU'S RIVERS TO BE FREE-FLOWING

REDUCE THE USE AND RISK OF PESTICIDES BY AT LEAST **50%**

TACKLE **BYCATCH** AND SEABED DAMAGE

REVERSE THE DECLINE OF **POLLINATORS**

ESTABLISH BIODIVERSITY-RICH LANDSCAPE FEATURES ON AT LEAST **10%** OF FARMLAND

MANAGE **25%** OF AGRICULTURAL LAND UNDER ORGANIC FARMING, AND PROMOTE THE UPTAKE OF AGRO-ECOLOGICAL PRACTICES

PLANT OVER **3 BILLION** DIVERSE, BIODIVERSITY RICH TREES.



LIFE Programme

- MENDELU
- Faculty of Forestry
- and Wood
- Technology

What is the EU LIFE Programme

- Created in 1992 LIFE is the key European fund for nature conservation
- Today LIFE programme as a whole constitutes a 100% contribution to the objectives and targets of the European Green Deal.
- The only EU programme dedicated exclusively to the environment, nature conservation and climate action.
- For the years 2021-2027, a budget of 5.43 billion €.



**Nature and
Biodiversity**



**Circular
Economy
and Quality of
Life**



**Climate
Change
Mitigation and
Adaptation**



**Clean
Energy
Transition**

Types of activities funded under LIFE

- Grants
 - Action grants:
 - Standard action projects (SAPs) (max 10 years)
 - Strategic Nature Projects (SNAPs) (max 14 years)
 - Strategic Integrated Projects (SIPs)
 - Technical Assistance (TA)
 - Other actions (OA) – including Coordination and Support Actions (CSAs)
 - Operating grants for NGOs
- Other Forms of Funding
- Procurement
 - Prizes
 - Blending

LIFE Nature and Biodiversity

- Saving endangered EU habitats and species
- Identifying and expanding the Natura 2000 network
- Boosting awareness of EU nature legislation
- Improving knowledge of nature's value to the economy, society and our well-being
- Removing Invasive Alien Species
- Reaching out to government, civil society, business
- ... and much more

EU policy priorities for Nature and Biodiversity

Priority 1: The extent to which the proposal contributes to the objectives of EU Nature and Biodiversity legislation in particular under the EU Birds and Habitats Directive (incl. Natura 2000) and Regulation 1143/2014 on Invasive Alien Species

Priority 2: The extent to which the proposal contributes to the targets of the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 for a Trans-European Nature Network and the EU Restoration Plan

Two areas of intervention that require specific and measurable (SMART) outcome based objectives

Intervention area 1: "Space for nature": area-based conservation and restoration measures

Intervention area 2: "Safeguarding our species": measures targeting specific species

Any proposal that falls into at least one of the two areas of intervention and at least one of the two policy priorities could be financed through a Standard Action Project under LIFE Nature and Biodiversity

Policy priority area 1: EU Nature legislation

- Priority is given to proposals for improving the conservation status or trends of species and habitats of EU importance, notably where such projects are implementing objectives and measures as outlined in national or regional Prioritized Action Frameworks (PAFs). In particular:
 - “Space for Nature”: projects that focus their actions on the implementation of conservation objectives for existing Natura 2000 sites, notably where such conservation objectives are clearly established, improving the condition of species and habitats for which the sites are designated.
 - “Protecting our species”: projects that focus their activities on reducing mortality of these species (e.g. poisoning, illegal killing, by-catch), preventing stakeholder conflicts, improving acceptance and promoting co-existence with protected species.
- In addition to the above, priority will also be given to certain habitats and species in unfavourable conservation status (including certain species listed in annex IV and V of the Habitats Directive), under the Biodiversity Strategy-related policy priority for “Implementing EU nature restoration targets for species and habitats”

EU co-funding rates for SAPs

- Up to 75% of total eligible costs for projects that exclusively concern:
 - priority habitat or species as listed in the relevant annexes of the EU Habitats Directive Directive;
 - bird species considered as “priority for funding” by the Ornithological Committee (EU Birds Directive);
 - habitat type or species listed in the annexes of the Habitats Directive, the conservation status of which has been assessed as unfavorable-bad and declining (U2-) in the most recent available EU- and national-level biogeographical region assessments;
 - habitat type or species (other than bird species) the EU-level threat status of which has been assessed as “endangered” or worse in the most up-to-date European species or habitats Red Lists
 - other habitat or species in territories not covered by the European Red Lists, the threat status of which has been assessed as “endangered” or worse in the most up-to date global IUCN Red Lists.
- **Applicants will need to argue in their proposal that all actions are clearly tailored towards benefiting habitats or species that qualify for 75% co-funding.**
- Up to 67% EU co-funding for projects targeting both priority and non-priority habitats and/or species, provided priority species/habitats represent a clear focus of the project.
- Up to 60% of total eligible costs for all other projects.

Policy priority area 1: IAS Regulation

Priority is given to proposals addressing:

- invasive alien species included on the list of invasive alien species of Union concern pursuant to Article 4(1) of the Regulation (EU) No 1143/2014, and/or invasive alien species of Member State or regional concern pursuant to Articles 12 and 11 of the Regulation respectively; or
- other invasive alien species that negatively affect the conservation status or trends of species and habitats of EU importance, other threatened species protected under EU legislation, or listed as threatened species in EU or global red lists (for species groups and/or regions not covered by EU Red lists).



Policy priority area 2: EU Biodiversity Strategy

- Establishing a coherent network of protected areas
- Implementing EU nature restoration targets for species and habitats
- Restoring degraded and carbon-rich ecosystems; prevent and reduce the impact of natural disasters
- Improving the health and resilience of managed forests
- Reversing the decline of pollinators
- Bringing nature back to agricultural land
- Greening urban and peri-urban areas
- Measuring and integrating the value of nature

Policy priority area 2: EU Biodiversity Strategy

Establishing a coherent network of protected areas

- Proposals focused on increasing the share of EU land or marine area under protection (within the definition of “protected areas” in the relevant EU Guidance under the Biodiversity Strategy).
- In this context, priority is also given to the set-up of ecological corridors, such as green and blue infrastructure that reduce land or seascape fragmentation and pressures/ threats, and that directly contribute to the resilience, effective management, and connectivity of protected areas.
- Proposals focused on increasing the share of EU land or marine area under strict protection (within the definition of “strictly protected areas” in the relevant EU Guidance under the Biodiversity Strategy).

Policy priority area 2: EU Biodiversity Strategy

Implementing EU nature restoration targets for species and habitats

- According to the Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, “The Commission will request and support Member States to raise the level of implementation of existing legislation within clear deadlines. It will in particular request Member States to ensure no deterioration in conservation trends and status of all protected habitats and species by 2030. In addition, Member States will have to ensure that at least 30% of species and habitats not currently in favourable status are in that category or show a strong positive trend.”
- Therefore, once Member States have submitted their commitments or pledges in relation to this target, projects that are focused on implementing any such national commitments or pledges, including through trans-national or trans-boundary approaches are given priority for LIFE support.

Policy priority area 2: EU Biodiversity Strategy

Restoring degraded and carbon-rich ecosystems; prevent and reduce the impact of natural disasters

- Project proposals with a focus on restoring degraded and/or carbon-rich ecosystems are given priority for LIFE support. For forests, this includes proposals aimed at forest restoration to primary forest structure, composition and functioning.
- Proposals with a focus on deploying Green and Blue Infrastructure in line with the EU guidance as well as other nature-based solutions and restoration actions that would help prevent or reduce the impact of natural disasters, including river restoration projects, are given priority for LIFE support.



Policy priority area 2: EU Biodiversity Strategy

Improving the health and resilience of managed forests

- Project proposals for demonstrating “closer to nature forestry” practices, meaning practices that try to achieve management objectives with minimum necessary human intervention and combine conservation with productivity objectives, are given priority for LIFE support; these are also defined as continuous cover forestry, reduced impact logging, retention forestry, mimicking natural disturbances. EU guidelines developed pursuant to the Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, once available, will be the reference for closer-to-nature forestry.

Policy priority areas: EU Biodiversity Strategy

Reversing the decline of pollinators

- Project proposals for the restoration of habitats where pollination by animals plays an important role, need to outline how the improvement of their associated pollinator communities is taken into account by the project activities.
- Furthermore, even where proposals do not directly address pollinators, applicants are invited to measure the project's success against, among others, the improvement of pollinator communities. Indicators for improvement could be based, for example, on measuring changes in the diversity or abundance of Apoidea, Syrphidae, Lepidoptera or any other relevant taxonomic groups.
- Project proposals that have a positive impact on pollinator communities based on at least one of the above requirements are given priority for LIFE support.

Policy priority areas: EU Biodiversity Strategy

Bringing nature back to agricultural land

- Project proposals that demonstrate innovative approaches to restoring high-biodiversity landscape features in agroecosystems that also bring benefits for farmers and communities (such as preventing soil erosion and depletion, filtering air and water, and supporting climate adaptation) and communicate such approaches, are given priority for LIFE support.
- LIFE funded actions must complement those to be financed under the CAP strategic plans, hence a focus on the demonstration of innovative approaches

Policy priority areas: EU Biodiversity Strategy

Greening urban and peri-urban areas

- Project proposals for the restoration of healthy and biodiverse ecosystems in urban green areas, as well as for the development of green infrastructure and nature-based solutions that bring about significant benefits for biodiversity while providing solutions to urban challenges and increasing access to nature, are given priority for LIFE support, especially if they implement biodiversity objectives and measures in urban greening plans.

Measuring and integrating the value of nature

- Project proposals that lead to an effective accounting, measurement and integration of biodiversity values into public and private decision-making applying the guidance, methods, criteria and standards developed by the Commission are given priority for LIFE support.

EU nature and biodiversity legislation-related compliance assurance and access to justice

- establishing new or, where in place, enhancing existing cross-border, national or regional networks of compliance assurance practitioners or experts; and/or establishing or, where in place, improving professional qualifications and training to improve compliance with binding EU legal instruments on nature and biodiversity, through promoting, checking and enforcing compliance, or
- applying the polluter pays principle, using a mix of administrative law, criminal law and environmental liability; and/or
- by developing and implementing strategies and policies and/or developing and using innovative tools and actions to promote, monitor and enforce compliance with binding EU instruments on nature and biodiversity, or ensure application of the polluter pays principles through environmental liability; and/or
- improving relevant information systems operated by public authorities; and/or
- engaging with citizens and others to promote and monitor compliance, and ensure application of environmental liability in relation to EU nature and biodiversity legislation.

Strategic Nature Projects (SNAPs)

To support the achievement of Union nature and biodiversity objectives by implementing coherent programs of action in the Member States in order to mainstream these objectives and priorities into other policies and financing instruments, including through coordinated implementation of the Prioritized Action Frameworks (PAF) established pursuant to Directive 92/43/EEC.

The SNAPs will target the following strategies and plans:

- Prioritized Action Frameworks (PAFs) under the EU Habitats Directive and;
Other plans or strategies that implement EU nature and/or biodiversity policy or legislation.

SNAPs: key issues to be considered

Depending on the needs of the given Members States (or regions) as identified in their PAFs or in other nature and biodiversity plans (which must be available by the time a full SNAP proposal is submitted), measures in a SNAP shall include the following:

- institutional support and capacity building actions;
- mobilization and coordination of additional finance, in particular from other EU funding instruments and programs.

In addition, SNAPs may also include concrete conservation measures, in particular if they cannot be supported through other EU funding programs.

The authorities competent for nature and biodiversity and responsible for PAF implementation, shall participate in the SNAP proposals, either as applicant or, in duly justified cases, as associated beneficiaries.

Supporting EU's biodiversity targets by bridging the science-policy divide

- Europe's Earth science and research communities are providing support for the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 and the Nature Restoration Law's ambitious targets by providing key information and solution-oriented scientific advice. This event will outline specific areas where these scientists can be of help to policymakers, highlight the advice provided in the EGU response to the Nature Restoration Law document, and focus on the benefits of taking a solutions-directed, research-based approach.
- This event created a space for scientists and policymakers interested in the Nature Restoration Law, or other biodiversity-related issues, to come together and discuss options to meet the EU's overarching goals, overcome current challenges, and ensure that the EU's biodiversity targets can be effectively implemented.
- This event was organized at the European Parliament, Brussels, and Co-hosted by MEP César Luena, Rapporteur of the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 & Nature Restoration file, and MEP Jutta Paulus, Shadow Rapporteur for the Nature Restoration file.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YfURzQoLbSo>

Introduction to the LIFE Programme

#EULife23 Info Days

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7ptQbCsdB2s>
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XNfoYoEqv_A
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pp24EKO4ofY>