

Protecting our natural capital: an EU strategy to conserve biodiversity and ensure the provision of ecosystem services by 2020

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Introduction to the main questionnaire	
A) General questions	
1. The EU's 2010 biodiversity target was not reached because...	
Measures taken were not sufficiently ambitious.	Agree
Measures taken did not address the main drivers of biodiversity loss.	Agree
The relevant legislation (Birds and Habitats Directives, Water Framework Directive, Marine Strategy Framework Directive, etc.) has not been sufficiently implemented.	Agree
The level of funding directed towards this end was not adequate.	Agree
The target itself was unrealistic.	Agree
2. The EU's approach to tackling the biodiversity challenge so far has not enabled the EU to reach its 2010 target because...	
It lacked a baseline and measurable targets against	Agree

which progress could be measured.	
Measures did not have the necessary buy-in from other sectoral actors.	No opinion
Measures were largely voluntary/non-binding.	Agree
Measures were too diffuse and not sufficiently prioritised.	Agree

3. Biodiversity in the EU continues to be lost because...

The policy framework to tackle the issue is inadequate.	Agree
Knowledge about the impacts of biodiversity loss is insufficient.	Agree
The economic value of biodiversity for other sectors is underestimated.	Agree
Negative impacts from new and emerging threats (climate change, invasive species) have outweighed benefits from efforts to halt biodiversity loss.	Agree
Economic development objectives generally prioritised over biodiversity concerns.	Agree
Political will to tackle the issue has been insufficient.	Agree

4. The EU biodiversity policy framework until now...

Has ensured the sufficient integration of biodiversity concerns into other policy areas.	Disagree
Has ensured that biodiversity is sufficiently reflected in the financial perspectives and financing cycles of the EU.	Disagree
Has ensured sufficient focus on ecosystem services.	Disagree
Has ensured sufficient focus on the importance of ecosystem restoration.	Disagree
Has raised awareness about biodiversity.	Agree
Has secured the commitment of actors in key sectors to biodiversity objectives.	Disagree
Has suffered from policy gaps in certain areas.	Agree
Has made sufficient use of economic incentives and economic instruments.	No opinion

5. Future efforts to halt biodiversity loss in the EU should...

Include measures and actions that go beyond nature conservation.	Agree
Focus on a limited number of direct and indirect drivers of biodiversity loss (those having the most significant impacts).	Agree

Address the full range of drivers and pressures.	Disagree
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6. To reach the EU's 2020 biodiversity target, existing EU environmental legislation (e.g. nature, air, water, chemicals, climate change, etc)...	is not sufficient - additional measures focusing on other sectors are required.
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7. Of the following sectors, which 3 in your view have the most significant negative impacts on biodiversity? Please rank them in order of importance (1 being the most important)

Agriculture	2
Energy	
Fisheries	3
Forestry	1
Industrial production	
Trade	
Transport	
Other (please specify below)	
Other	

8. Given that there are EU policies addressing several of the previous sectors, which 3 of the following policy areas have the most potential to bring benefits for biodiversity? Please rank them in order of importance (1 being the most important)

Agriculture and Rural Development	1
Climate Change	3
Energy	
Health and Consumers	
Maritime and Fisheries	2
Regional Policy	
Research	
Trade	
Transport	
Other (please specify below)	
Other	

B) THE PROPOSED APPROACH

ST1 – SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT - Agriculture and Forestry

9. In your view, how necessary is it to have a sub-target on agriculture and forestry?	Necessary
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10. Please rank the following options according to their importance in ensuring conservation of biodiversity in the agriculture and forestry sectors (1 being most important):

Preserving and/or expanding extensive agriculture and High Nature Value areas.	
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Reducing the negative impacts of intensive farming.	3
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Increasing the total land area devoted to organic farming in the EU.	1
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Increasing the share of funding for biodiversity-related agri-environment measures.	2
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Other (please specify below)	
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Other	
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11. In order to contribute to a better conservation of biodiversity, the reformed Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) should...

Include more explicit biodiversity conservation objectives.	Agree
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Integrate the Biodiversity Strategy's agriculture & forests sub-target into its own objectives.	Agree
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Include obligatory biodiversity monitoring and reporting requirements.	Agree
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Include voluntary biodiversity monitoring and reporting requirements.	Agree
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ST2 – SUSTAINABLE USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES - Fisheries

12. In your view, how necessary is it to have a sub-target on fisheries?	Necessary
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13. Please rank the following options according to their importance in ensuring conservation of biodiversity in the fisheries sector (1 being most important):

Changes to the Common Fisheries Policy governance system	2
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Changes to the EU fishing fleet structure	5
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Changes to the monitoring and control system	4
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Measures aimed at minimising and/or eliminating the negative impacts of fishing (including discard and by-catch)	3
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Expanding marine protected areas	1
Other (please specify below)	
Other	

14. In order to contribute to a better conservation of biodiversity, the reformed Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) should...

Include more explicit biodiversity conservation objectives.	Agree
Integrate the Biodiversity Strategy's fisheries sub-target into its own objectives.	Agree
Include obligatory biodiversity monitoring and reporting requirements.	Agree
Include voluntary biodiversity monitoring and reporting requirements.	Agree

ST3 – PROTECTING HABITATS AND SPECIES - NATURE CONSERVATION

15. In your view, how necessary is it to have a sub-target on nature conservation?	Necessary
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16. In your view, should this sub-target focus on an improved conservation status of species and habitats of community interests?	Yes
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17. What are in your view the 3 most important measures to improve the implementation of the Birds and Habitats Directive and the favourable conservation status of habitats and species?

Improved knowledge of the conservation status of species and habitats.	
Adequate funding for the management of the Natura 2000 networks.	2
Appropriate management of Natura 2000 sites.	
Better integration of - and respect for - the EU Birds and Habitats Directives in other EU policy areas (e.g. Agriculture, Regional Development & Cohesion, Transport, Energy, Maritime & Fisheries,...).	3
Better Communication and Public Awareness about the EU Birds and Habitats Directives and Natura 2000.	
Additional designations of Natura 2000 sites.	
Better valuation of the ecosystem services and benefits produced by Natura 2000 sites.	

Better legal enforcement of the legislation at EU and national level.	1
Other (please specify below)	
Other	

ST4 – WORKING WITH NATURE AND INVESTING IN NATURAL CAPITAL - Green Infrastructure (5)

18. In your view, how necessary is it to have a sub-target on Green Infrastructure?	Necessary
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19. A sub-target on Green Infrastructure should primarily seek to...

Ensure connectivity between protected areas, e.g. Natura 2000 sites, and between ecosystems within and outside protected areas.	Agree
Maintain and increase the resilience of ecosystems and their continued service delivery.	Agree
Restore ecosystems that contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation and disaster risk reduction.	Agree
Ensure systematic compensation of biodiversity loss (“no net loss”).	Agree

20. Measures under this sub-target should focus on...

Increasing biodiversity in urban areas.	No opinion
Mitigating the adverse effects of transport and energy infrastructure.	Agree
Promoting integrated spatial planning that fully takes into account ecosystems and ecosystem services (e.g. through ecosystem service mapping).	Agree
Ensuring compensation of biodiversity loss (“no net loss”).	Agree
Introducing market mechanisms to regulate the use of ecosystem goods and services (payments for ecosystem services, pricing mechanisms, taxes, etc.).	Agree
Introducing specific biodiversity provisions in relevant impact assessment tools (e.g. Environmental Impact Assessment Directive ⁶ , Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive) as a condition for the provision of EU funding.	Agree
Increasing the rate of public and private investments in natural capital maintenance/restoration.	Agree

Developing stronger linkages between biodiversity and territorial cohesion objectives/landscape policy and their financing.	Agree
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footnote

21. Do you believe that working with nature (i.e. nature-based solutions) can be more cost-effective than man-made or technological solutions?	Yes, often
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22. In the context of competing demands for land, how important is it to ensure the provision of ecosystem services (water purification, carbon sequestration, pollination...) as compared to other economic and social considerations?	Equally important
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ST5 – INVASIVE SPECIES

23. In your view, how necessary is it to have a sub-target on invasive species?	Necessary
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24. A sub-target on invasive species should primarily seek to...

Prevent the introduction of new invasive species.	Agree
Establish an early warning and rapid response system.	Agree
Control and/or eradicate invasive species that are already settled in the EU.	Agree
All of the above	Agree

ST6 – EU CONTRIBUTION TO GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY

25. In your view, how necessary is it to have a sub-target on the EU contribution to global biodiversity?	Necessary
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26. A sub-target on the EU contribution to global biodiversity should primarily seek to...

Increase EU development aid spending on biodiversity related projects and programmes.	Agree
Reduce the negative impacts of the EU's production and consumption patterns on global biodiversity.	Agree
Prevent negative impacts of EU trade and fishing agreements on biodiversity.	Agree

Ensure that biodiversity concerns are systematically reflected in the EU's dialogue with third countries.	Agree
For all projects and programmes funded through EU development cooperation assistance, introduce mandatory ex-ante environmental impact assessments that include biodiversity related criteria.	Agree
Incentivise and/or reward efforts by third countries to conserve biodiversity and ecosystem services, e.g. through international payments for ecosystem services, biodiversity offset payment schemes, etc.	Agree
Seek further convergence between international biodiversity and climate change objectives to seize the full potential of 'co-benefits'.	Agree

27. Of the following list of measures, which three do you believe would be the most effective in reducing the impact of the EU's Ecological Footprint(7) on global biodiversity? Please rank them in order of effectiveness (1 being most effective).

Awareness-raising campaigns	1
Certification systems	
Import restrictions or levies	
Increase resource efficiency	
Labelling of products and services	3
Public procurement criteria	
Sustainability criteria in trade agreements	2
Taxation	
Other (please specify below)	
Other	

footnote

28. Do you believe that the EU's development policy currently contributes sufficiently to the protection of global biodiversity?	No, not sufficiently
29. Do you agree with the proposed approach as broadly outlined above?	Yes

C) THE ECONOMICS OF BIODIVERSITY

30. How important do you think it is to assign an economic value to biodiversity and ecosystem services?	Somewhat important
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31. Do you believe that the value of natural assets should be accounted for in national budgeting systems, e.g. National Accounting Standards?	No opinion
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32. Which three out of the following market based instrument would you consider most effective to enhance biodiversity and halt biodiversity loss? Please rank them in order of effectiveness (1 being most effective)

Payment for ecosystem services	
Taxation	
Systems of off-sets, credits and compensation for damage and restoration of biodiversity	3
Reform or elimination of harmful subsidies	1
Pricing of natural resources or products on the basis of their impacts on biodiversity	2
Certification and labelling schemes	
Other (please specify below)	
Other	

D) GOVERNANCE

33. In your opinion, how can the participation and commitment of local authorities in the implementation of these strategies be enhanced?

The involvement of local authorities can be achieved by: raising awareness on the importance of biodiversity within the administrations through training and internal participatory processes; supporting local biodiversity projects; strengthening governance at local level to ensure the durability of commitments made; strengthening institutional infrastructure to improve national capacity for implementation and delivery of services.

34. In your opinion, the implementation of the strategy should be based mainly on?	A mixture of the above
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35. How do you think the private sector could increase its contribution to the protection of biodiversity?	<p>By informing the public and their shareholders about how they use biodiversity.</p> <p>By increasing the resource efficiency of their activities through the development of dedicated strategies (business/biodiversity interdependency indicators; ecosystem services reviews, etc).</p> <p>By engaging in partnerships with environmental NGOs.</p> <p>By increasing their use of raw materials from sustainably managed sources.</p> <p>Through the provision of funds for the protection and conservation of biodiversity.</p> <p>By compensating for residual/unavoidable harm to biodiversity caused by their activities, e.g. through biodiversity offset schemes and other compensation mechanisms.</p>
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E) MONITORING OF BIODIVERSITY

36. From the following list, which 3 options would be the most effective for

increasing the knowledge base? Please rank them in order of effectiveness (1 being most effective)

Through EU legislation on monitoring biodiversity and reporting	
By including biodiversity considerations in existing monitoring and reporting systems	1
Through dedicated EU funding for national monitoring	2
Through the adoption of guidelines on monitoring	
By encouraging voluntary monitoring by the private sector, stakeholders and citizens	3
Other (please specify below)	
Other	

F) ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

If you have additional comments, please provide them here:

In order to achieve greater progress towards biodiversity conservation there is an urgent need for a set of actions and responses closely linked with ambitious but realistic and measurable short-, medium and long-term post-2010 targets, aiming to tackle sufficiently and effectively the indirect and direct drivers of biodiversity loss. These targets should be based on scientific evidence, taking into account related challenges and opportunities, while actively engaging all stakeholders.

Thank you for answering this questionnaire.

How did you perceive the questionnaire?	Expectations met
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Why?	
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