

Promoting Natura 2000 & Sustainable Wildlife Use
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Towards a strong EU Biodiversity Rescue Package

Konstantin Kreiser
EU Policy Manager
BirdLife International



Fuglavernd



FUGLAFRÖJEFELAG



Dansk Ornitologisk Forening



Vogelbescherming NEDERLAND



NABU



SEO/BirdLife



BirdLife INTERNATIONAL





The Planet is in trouble.

Biodiversity decline continues dramatically

- **Species loss** 100 to 1,000 times higher than ever before
- **Lost in the last century:** 35% of mangroves, 40% of forests, 50% of wetlands
- **Last 50 years:** 60% of ecosystem services degraded
- **EU today:** only 17% of key species and habitats in favourable status
- **World today:** 80% of the world's fisheries are fully- or over-exploited.
- **Tomorrow?** Critical thresholds are being passed, e.g. coral reefs risk collapse if CO₂ emissions are not urgently reduced.

We are in trouble.



If we do not reverse biodiversity loss...

- ... we will trigger consciously a huge **economic crisis** (14 trillion US\$, 7% of global GDP by 2050 – TEEB, 2008)
- ... we will fail to solve **climate change, poverty and food security**
- ... we will knowingly undermining **human health, well-being, peace and security**
- ... we will deprive future generations of the chance to **enjoy and use wildlife.**

Europe has to act and lead on biodiversity



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- EU is failing its own 2010 target
 - EU has an economic and moral interest to urgently restore its depleted biodiversity and ecosystems
 - EU society and economy depends on a healthy planet
 - EU is responsible for a big part of nature destruction in other parts of the world
 - EU has the resources, tools and experience to act
 - EU has the trust of its citizens

The failure and the opportunity



The year of biodiversity

Once-in-a-decade chance to communicate biodiversity and move it up the political agendas

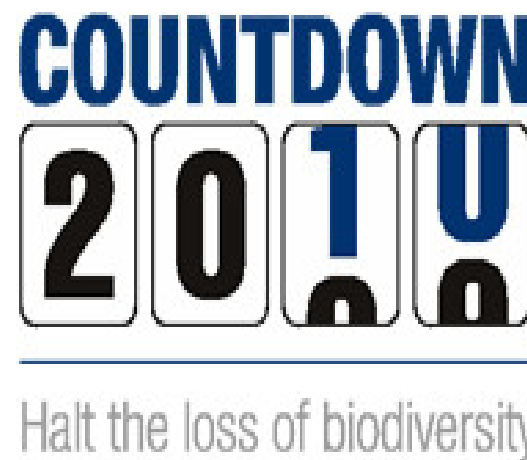
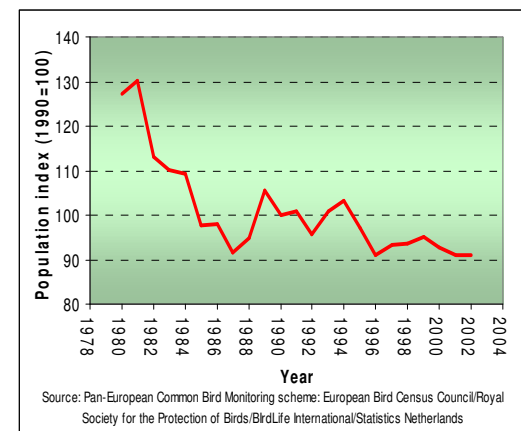
1. Honest analysis of 2010 failure
2. Adoption of new targets and visions (2020/2050, EU and global level) – *EC proposal January 2010*
3. Development of the post-2010 biodiversity strategy (rescue package?)
- *EC proposal December 2010*

[2010-2012: decisions on new EU Budget and policy reforms for post 2013 period]

Why we failed 2010



- Progress: Nature Directives, dedicated funding and measures; limited: CAP, Regional Policy
- 2010 BAP late and poorly implemented
- Slow/insufficient implementation, financing, communication of existing legislation (Birds and Habitats Directives) + plus legislative gaps
- Unsustainable land/sea-use policies;
- Spatial planning/impact assessments insufficient;
- Economic model, income accounts, budgets ignore consumption/preservation of nature
- Human dependence on biodiversity and ecosystems poorly communicated



2020/2050 targets/vision



Proposed EU vision for 2050

Biodiversity is maintained, restored and enhanced by the EU for its intrinsic values and for ensuring human well-being and prosperity.

Proposed EU target for 2020

- halt the loss of biodiversity
- restore species and habitats to favourable conservation status
- ensure resilient and functioning ecosystems



EU biodiversity rescue package (1)



- Has to be more binding, adopted at highest possible level and implemented by all sectors at all levels
- Other targets, strategies and policies have to be in line, not jeopardising
- Sub-targets, indicators and milestones to ensure measurability and accountability
- Special focus on reducing drivers of biodiversity loss, including targets (e.g. land consumption)



EU biodiversity rescue package (2)



Boost implementation of Birds and Habitats Directives, Water and Marine Framework, EIA/SEA Directives

- Complete Natura 2000 (land/sea) and significantly increase efforts to protect, manage, monitor and finance the sites
- Improve enforcement of EU legislation (e.g. site protection, hunting)
- Increase dedicated environmental and ring-fenced sectoral funding for biodiversity within and outside EU
- Improve monitoring and reporting



EU biodiversity rescue package (3)



New legislation and policies to protect biodiversity and ecosystems

- Adoption of Soil Directive
- Legislation on Invasive Alien Species
- Protect biodiversity in EU outermost regions

- Ecosystems and adaptation to climate change:
 - Green Infrastructure
 - Strategic environmental impact assessments
 - Spatial planning



EU biodiversity rescue package (4)



Effectively address key drivers of biodiversity loss

- Reform CAP into a Sustainable Rural Development Policy
- Make environment the prime objective of the Common Fisheries Policy
- Direct EU funds (regional and external) to ecosystem friendly development
- Ecosystem safeguards for energy and transport policy
- Reduce EU's global ecological debt



EU biodiversity rescue package (5)



Move towards a new economic model and to sustainable public budgets

- Factor in consumption of natural capital into national income accounts (promote „beyond GDP“ initiatives)
- Make the new EU budget serving the long-term interest of Europeans in a healthy environment
- Stop environmentally harmful subsidies and incentives
- Create a bigger dedicated environmental fund

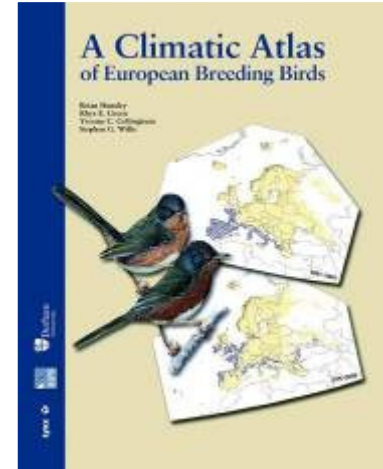


EU biodiversity rescue package (6)



Increase knowledge and communication

- Significantly improve and streamline monitoring and reporting on biodiversity
- Establish international science-policy platform for biodiversity and ecosystem services (IPBES)
- New initiatives in involving land-users, stakeholders, media and citizens into biodiversity protection



Natura 2000



Successful backbone of EU biodiversity policy

- World-class (26,000 sites, 17% of EU territory)
- Contributes to recovery of threatened species
- Saves unique areas from destruction (Rospuda)
- Based on science and stakeholder cooperation
- Provides flexibility and level playing field
- Cost efficient: public benefits three times greater than its costs (Scotland study, TEEB)



Prevented from unfolding its full potential

- Designation still incomplete
- Protection and management by far insufficient
- Insufficient financing
- Insufficient or misleading communication



Natura 2000 and wildlife users



Wildlife users benefit from Natura 2000

- Preservation of Europe's nature for future generations
- Increase and long-term maintenance of target species
- Funding opportunities
- Communication opportunities
- Level playing field across EU27



Users have to support Natura 2000

- Understand and communicate its importance and implications among other users
- Press governments and Commission to designate, protect and finance Natura 2000 sites
- Press for ambitious EU biodiversity policy
- Take action for protection of individual sites
- Accept restrictions and fight against illegal activities



Joining forces for biodiversity



BirdLife International works with all who care for biodiversity, a healthy environment and sustainability (e.g. with FACE and ELO)

BirdLife strictly opposes any attempts to weaken biodiversity protection (e.g. Rospuda valley in Poland, illegal&spring hunting in Malta, ...)



**WORK WITH US
FOR A STRONG
EU BIODIVERSITY RESCUE
PACKAGE !!!**

