

ROADMAP	
TITLE OF THE INITIATIVE	EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2030
LEAD DG – RESPONSIBLE UNIT	ENV.D2 - Biodiversity
LIKELY TYPE OF INITIATIVE	Non-legislative Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions
INDICATIVE PLANNING	Q1 2020
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/strategy/index_en.htm

A. Context, Problem definition and Subsidiarity Check
Context
<p>This initiative responds to the ambition announced in President von der Leyen’s Agenda for Europe¹ to preserve and restore our ecosystems, set new standards for biodiversity cutting across trade, industry, agriculture and economic policy, and lead the world in the negotiations on a post-2020 global biodiversity framework to be adopted at the 15th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity in October 2020 in Kunming, China. The strategy will outline the proposed EU position for the global negotiations and put forward EU commitments to address the main causes of biodiversity loss by 2030. As an integral element of the European Green Deal², the strategy will also contribute to EU and global efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change and to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. It follows on the EU biodiversity strategy to 2020³.</p>
Problem the initiative aims to tackle
<p>Biodiversity – the variety of life on Earth – underpins resilient nature and human well-being and is a condition of sustainable prosperity. Biodiversity is under immense pressure from human activities. The main direct drivers of biodiversity loss, both globally and in the EU, are changes in land and sea use, direct exploitation of organisms, climate change, pollution and invasive alien species. Globally, a million species are at risk of extinction, many within decades, unless action is taken to reduce the intensity of drivers of biodiversity loss⁴. In the EU, only 16% of the most important natural habitats and 23% of protected species are doing well⁵.</p> <p>Biodiversity loss is affecting the capacity of nature to deliver essential benefits to humans such as pollination, soil formation, ocean productivity, the delivery of clean air and water, the mitigation of disaster risks and carbon sequestration and storage. Pressures on biodiversity are increasing with climate change, demographic growth and evolving trade and consumption patterns in the EU and globally. If left unchecked, this will affect our society’s potential to mitigate and adapt to climate change and to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals⁶.</p>

¹ [A Union that strives for more: my agenda for Europe. Political Guidelines for the next European Commission 2019-2024.](#)

² [COM\(2019\) 640 final](#)

³ Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020 ([COM\(2011\) 244 final](#)).

⁴ Global assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services ([Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, 2019](#)).

⁵ State of Nature in the EU Report ([COM\(2015\) 219 final](#)).

⁶ Global assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services ([Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, 2019](#)).

The EU has an extensive legal and policy framework aimed to protect, restore and sustainably manage its natural habitats, species and ecosystems⁷ and to integrate biodiversity across EU policies and instruments⁸. As Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the EU and its Member States have adopted a series of strategies and action plans aimed at halting and reversing the loss of biodiversity, including the EU biodiversity strategy to 2020⁹. Conservation actions have brought many successes, but their scale is too small to overturn the negative trends¹⁰. The main drivers of biodiversity loss persist and many are on the increase. Funding and capacity are insufficient, and barriers to integration remain. The ongoing evaluation of the EU biodiversity strategy to 2020 will provide further insights into the factors of success and failure by the end of 2020. This will inform the development of targeted implementation instruments and measures in 2021.

Basis for EU intervention (legal basis and subsidiarity check)

EU action in the area of biodiversity is based on Articles 4.2(e), 11 and 191 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and stems from the EU's commitment to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity. EU-level action is indispensable to address the drivers and consequences of biodiversity loss, many of which are of transboundary nature, such as habitat fragmentation, air and water pollution, the spread of invasive alien species and the effects of climate change on species and habitats. These direct drivers are underpinned by production, trade and consumption patterns and technological developments which cannot be addressed by individual Member States alone. The implementation of the EU Birds and Habitats Directives and other environment-related EU legislation is key for halting biodiversity loss in the EU.

B. What does the initiative aim to achieve and how

The strategy will outline the **EU ambition for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework** to be adopted at the 15th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity in October 2020. In order to demonstrate the EU's readiness to lead by example, it will put forward EU commitments and measures to address the main causes of biodiversity loss in the EU. These could include quantified objectives and measures to:

- *protect* nature and increase the coverage and effectiveness of protected areas, building on the Natura 2000 network,
- *restore* damaged ecosystems, including carbon-rich ecosystems, to good ecological status and enhance the flow of essential services that they provide,
- promote the *sustainable use* of forest, agriculture, marine, freshwater and urban ecosystems;
- fully *integrate* biodiversity considerations into other EU policies and address EU impacts on global biodiversity,
- *enable* the implementation of the strategy by securing adequate financial resources, improving knowledge and engaging citizens and stakeholders across sectors.

Following the adoption of the global framework at the 15th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, the Commission will put forward concrete implementation actions by 2021.

⁷ In particular the EU Birds Directive ([2009/147/EC](#)) and Habitats Directive ([92/43/EEC](#)), the EU Water Framework Directive ([2000/60/EC](#)) the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive ([2008/56/EC](#)) and the EU Invasive Alien Species Regulation ([Regulation \(EU\) No 1143/2014](#)).

⁸ Such as the EU policies in the areas of agriculture, fisheries, climate, energy, transport, regional development, research and innovation, development cooperation and trade.

⁹ Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020 ([COM\(2011\) 244 final](#)).

¹⁰ Mid-term review of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 ([COM\(2015\) 478 final](#)); Fitness Check of the EU Nature Legislation ([SWD\(2016\) 472 final](#)); State of Nature in the EU Report ([COM\(2015\) 219 final](#)); The European environment – state and outlook 2020 ([European Environment Agency, 2019](#)).

C. Better regulation

Consultation of citizens and stakeholders

The Commission has invited targeted stakeholder input on possible 2030 EU biodiversity objectives and measures via the Coordination Group for Biodiversity and Nature¹¹ (including Member States' authorities, EU-level stakeholder representatives across a range of sectors and business associations, as well as civil society organisations).

Concrete implementation measures will be elaborated and presented in 2021. Where necessary, they will be accompanied with a comprehensive impact assessment, including a stakeholder consultation.

Evidence base and data collection

The strategy will draw in particular on the following sources of information:

- The European environment – state and outlook 2020 ([European Environment Agency, 2019](#))
- Member States' reporting under the Birds and Habitats Directive (preliminary data) ([European Environment Agency, December 2019](#))
- Global assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services ([Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, 2019](#))
- Regional assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services for Europe and Central Asia by the ([Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, 2018](#))
- EU and Member States' 6th National Reports to the Convention on Biological Diversity ([CBD NR6, 2019](#))
- The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture ([Food and Agriculture Organization, 2019](#))
- Special Report on Climate Change and Land ([Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 2019](#))
- Special Report on Ocean and the Cryosphere in a Changing Climate ([Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 2019](#))
- Natural Resource Use in the Group of 20: Status, trends and solutions ([International Resource Panel, 2019](#))
- Land Restoration for Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals ([International Resource Panel, 2019](#))
- Fitness Check of the EU Nature Legislation (Bird and Habitats Directives) ([SWD\(2016\) 472 final](#))
- Mapping and assessment of ecosystems and their services ([MAES reports since 2013 to date](#))
- Mid-term review of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 ([COM\(2015\) 478 final](#))
- Environmental, social and economic statistics from the statistical office of the European Union ([Eurostat](#)).

¹¹ See Group details in the [Register of Commission Expert Groups](#).