

BirdLife's mid-term assessment of the EU Biodiversity Strategy

How can we turn the tide?

Konstantin Kreiser

NABU /BirdLife in Germany

Conference on Biodiversity and Nature Protection

Riga, 26.05.-27.05.2015





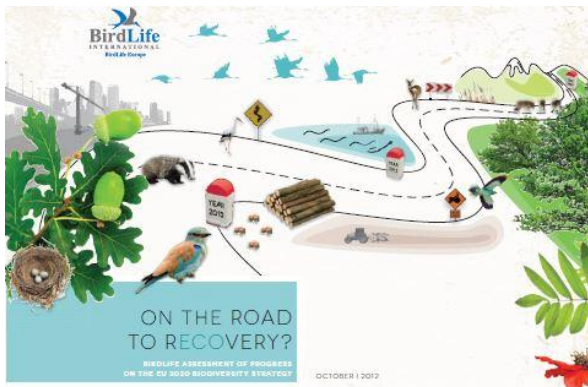
BirdLife Reports on EU Biodiversity Policy

HALFWAY THERE?

MID-TERM ASSESSMENT
OF PROGRESS ON THE EU 2020
BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY MAY 2015

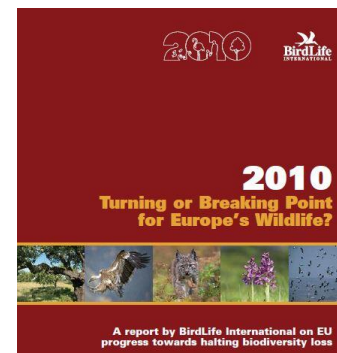


2015



2012

2010



Overall Messages

- The EU has the **right nature legislation**. Where it is implemented and financed declines of species have been turned around.
- But we are **far from halting biodiversity loss**. 20-30% of EU protected species and habitats have deteriorated over the last years.
- Key problems are **poor implementation, enforcement and financing** of EU nature legislation, and the **Common Agricultural Policy**.
- The EU performs well as **largest donor** of biodiversity aid in the world, but **harms the global environment** with its unsustainable production and consumption patterns.



HALFWAY THERE?

MID-TERM ASSESSMENT
OF PROGRESS ON THE EU 2020
BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY MAY 2015



37 Actions of the Strategy:

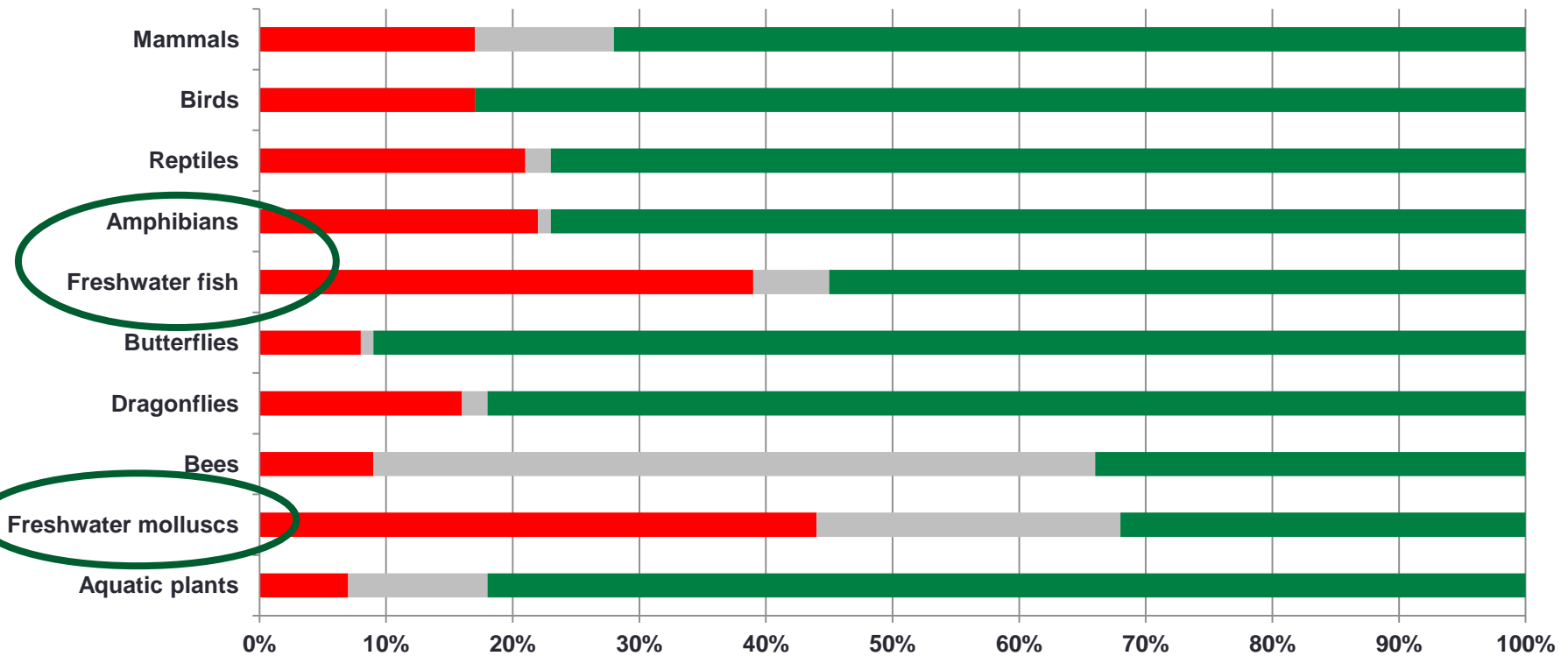
10 Actions: good

16 Actions: insufficient

7 Actions: little/no progress

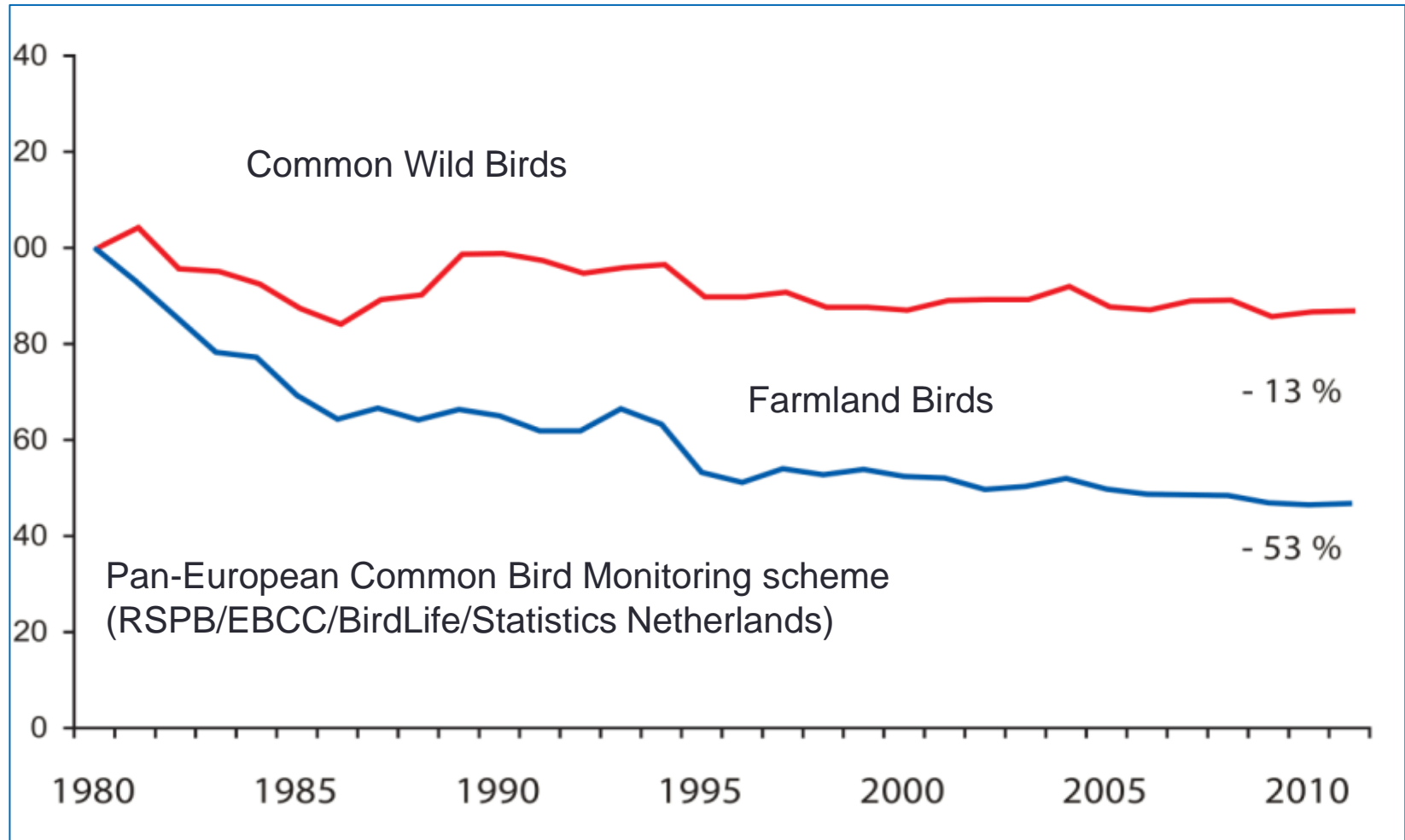
4 Actions: not assessed

Headline Target: Many species threatened with extinction

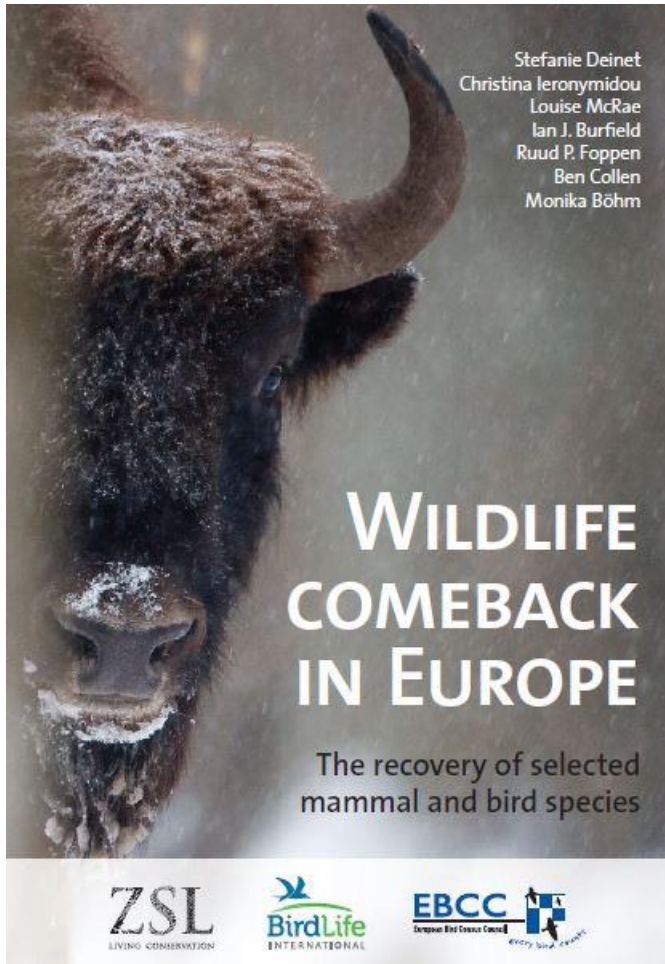


Extinction risks in the EU (Red: % of Threatened species in taxonomic Red Lists)

Headline Target: Common birds becoming less common



Headline Target: Conservation works - if we want it



Target 1: State of nature and the EU Nature Directives

EU Nature Directives have started to save and restore species.

Major progress in state of knowledge and regarding interactions with stakeholders.

But much more needs to be done to achieve the Target:

- marine Natura 2000 site designation
- Natura 2000 protection and management
- reform Natura 2000 financing approach
- surveillance and enforcement of site and species protection rules inter alia through EU legislation on Environmental Inspections and systemic infringement procedures

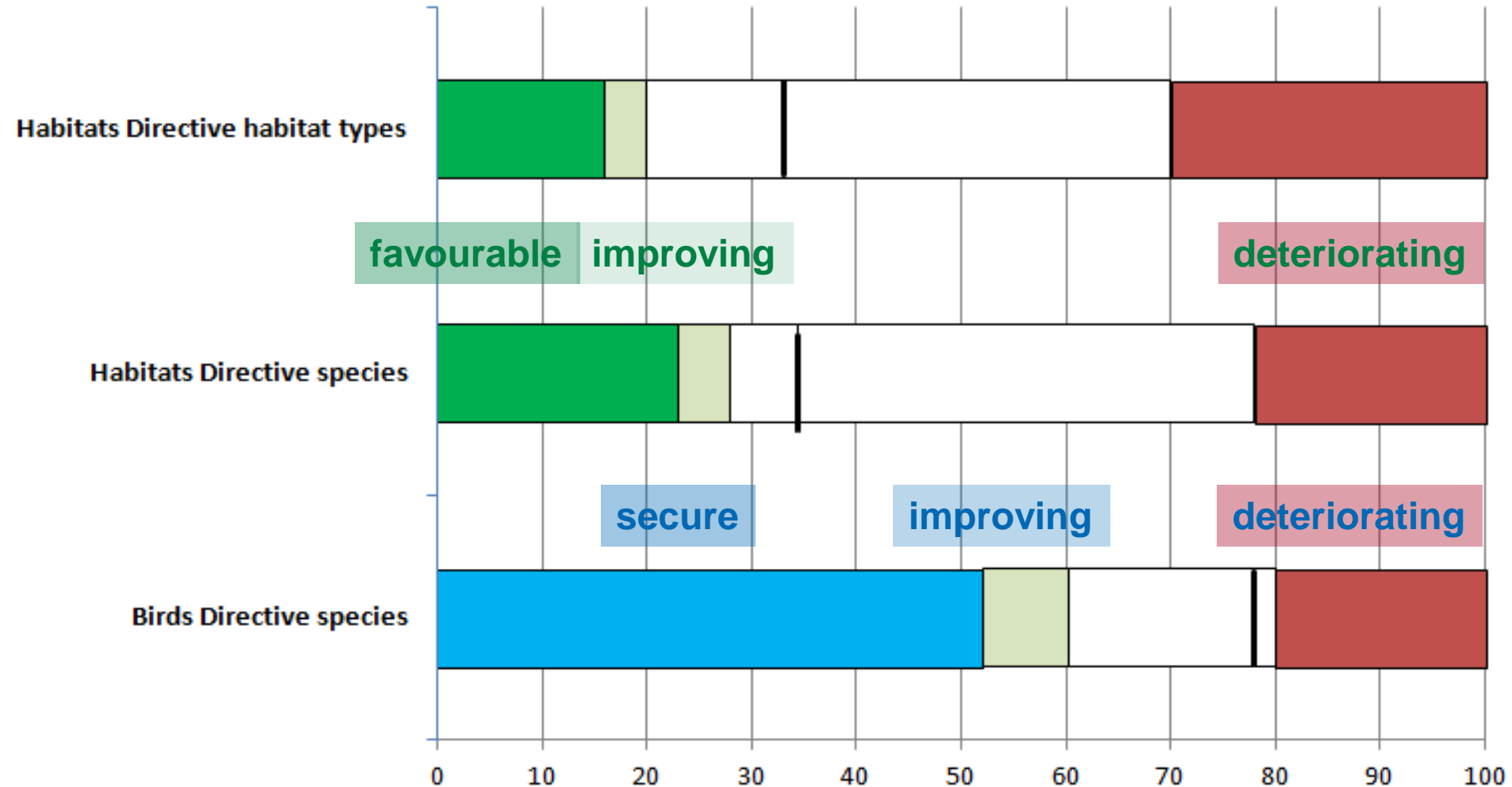


4 Actions: good

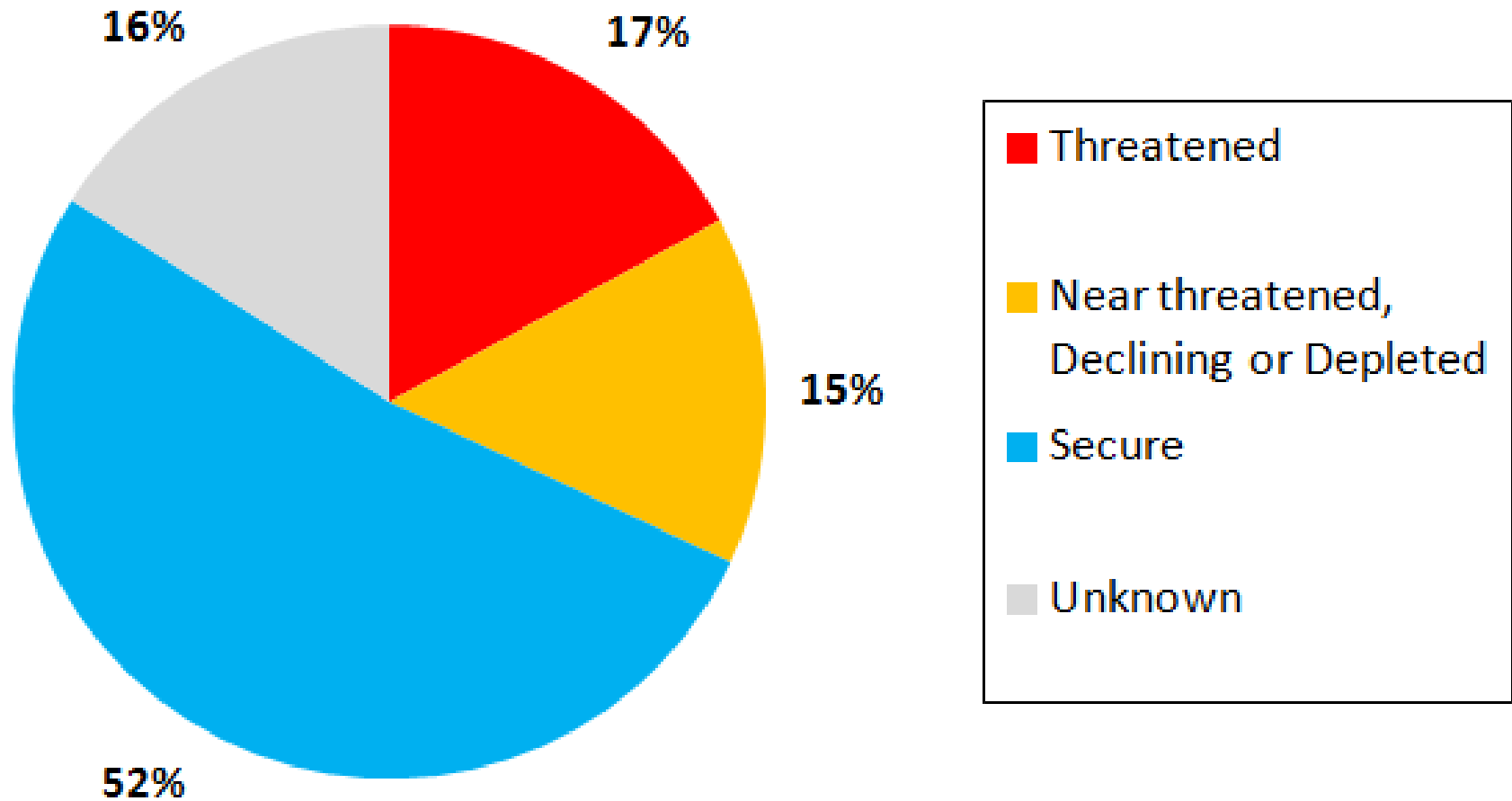
4 Actions: insufficient

2 Actions: little/no progress

Target 1: distance to the 2020 target



Target 1: status of birds



Target 1: Member States responsibilities for threatened bird species

Member State (total number of threatened species)	Bird conservation responsibility score
1. Spain (30)	13,95
2. Finland (43)	13,68
3. Sweden (41)	10,47
4. United Kingdom (29)	8,46
5. Portugal (18)	6,6
6. Poland (23)	3,02
7. Estonia (32)	2,75

Target 1: Member States performance for threatened bird species

1. Cyprus (4) !!	1,53 !!
2. Portugal (18)	1,03
3. Hungary (14)	0,24
4. Lithuania (26)	0,12
5. Czech Republic (16)	0,11
6. Denmark (23)	0,10
<hr/>	
20. Spain (30)	-1,03
21. Estonia (32)	-1,13
22. Poland (23)	-1,64
23. Netherlands (19)	-2,21
24. Sweden (41)	-3,92
25. United Kingdom (29)	-6,97
26. Finland (43)	-7,19

Target 1: Member States performance for species & habitats of Community Interest (Habitats Direct.)

More than 50% of species in favourable status	More than 50% of habitats in favourable status	More than 50% of species in unfavourable status	More than 50% of habitats in unfavourable status
1. Estonia (54%)	1. Romania (63%)	1. Austria (82%)	1. Netherlands (96%)
2. Bulgaria (54%)	2. Estonia (52%)	2. Luxembourg (75%)	2. Ireland (91%)
3. Ireland (52%)		3. Netherlands (73%)	3. Belgium (90%)
		4. Romania (73%)	4. Denmark (90%)
		5. Czech Republic (69%)	5. United Kingdom (90%)
		6. Belgium (68%)	6. Bulgaria (88%)
		7. Lithuania (65%)	7. Latvia (86%)

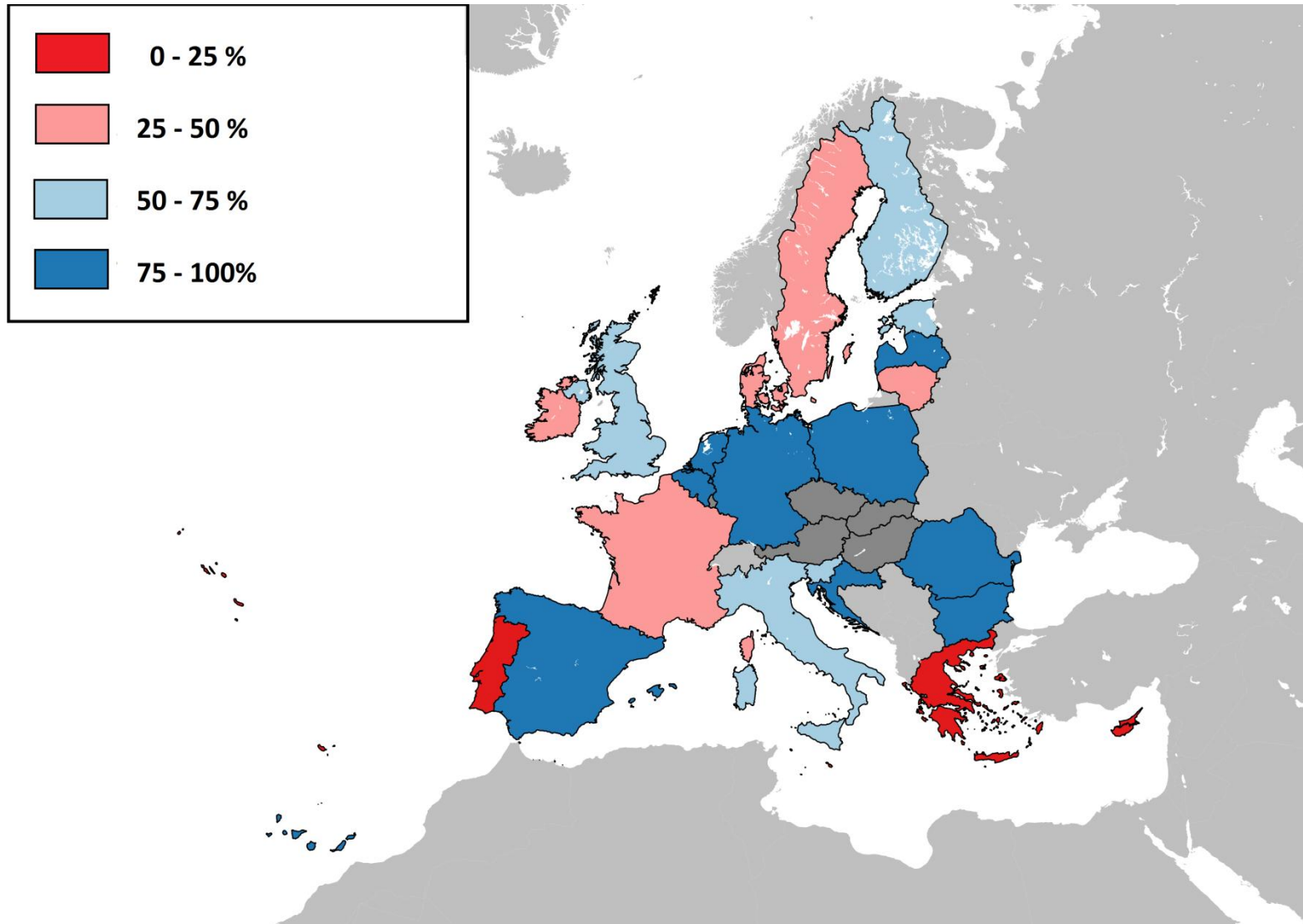
17. Poland (50%)

23. Slovakia (55%)

Target 1: Member States successes in improving status of species & habitats of Community Interest (Habitats Directive)

More than 50% of unfavourable species are improving	More than 50% of unfavourable habitats are improving	More than 50% of unfavourable species are declining	More than 50% of unfavourable habitats are declining
1. Netherlands (55%)	No Member State	1. Italy(79%)	1. Italy (66%)
		2. Bulgaria (73%)	2. Sweden (59%)
			3. Finland (58%)
			4. Latvia (55%)
			5. Slovenia (52%)
			6. Lithuania (51%)

Target 1: marine SPA designation



Target 1: Member States SPA management plans

1. Denmark	112 (99%)
2. Sweden	518 (95%)
3. Slovenia	26 (84%)
4. Austria	68 (69%)
5. Latvia	58 (59%)

22. Bulgaria	0 (0%)
23. Cyprus	0 (0%)
24. Ireland	0 (0%)
25. Poland	0 (0%)
26. Slovakia	0 (0%)

Target 1: Natura 2000 site protection

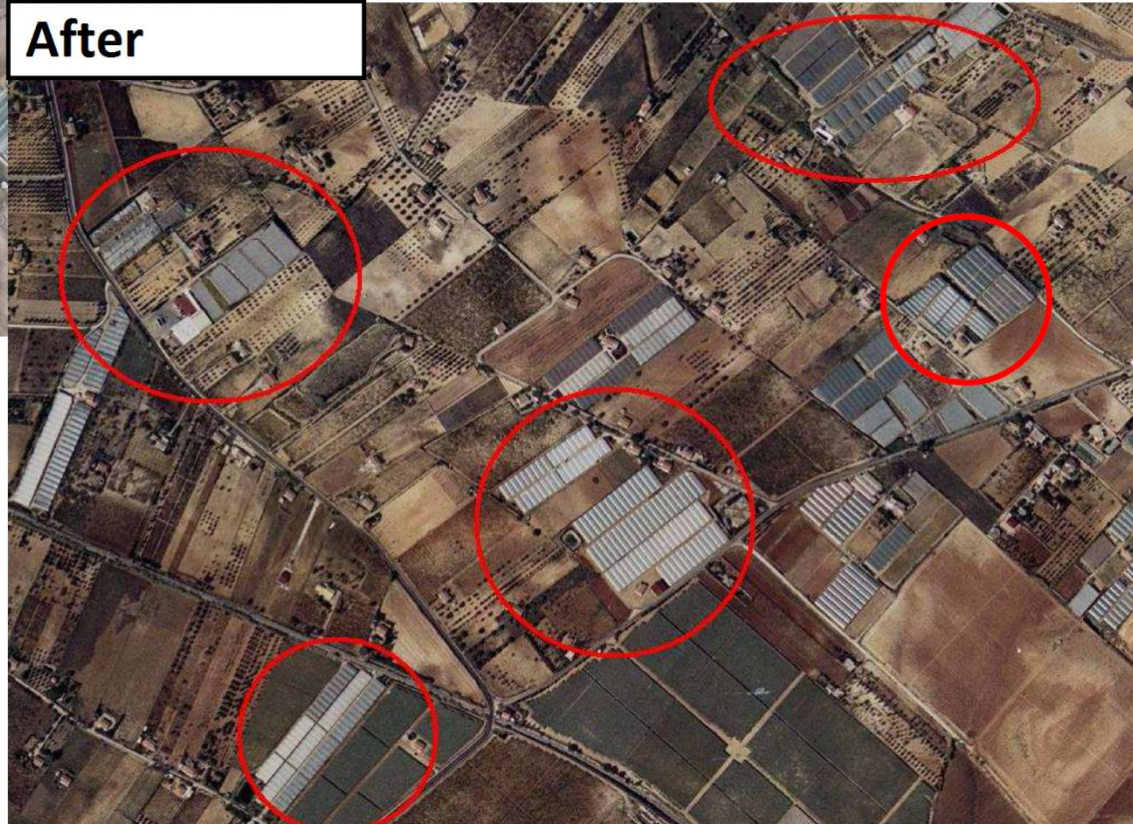
Before



SCI Biviere e Macconi di Gela and SPA Torre Manfredia, Biveiere e Piana di Gela

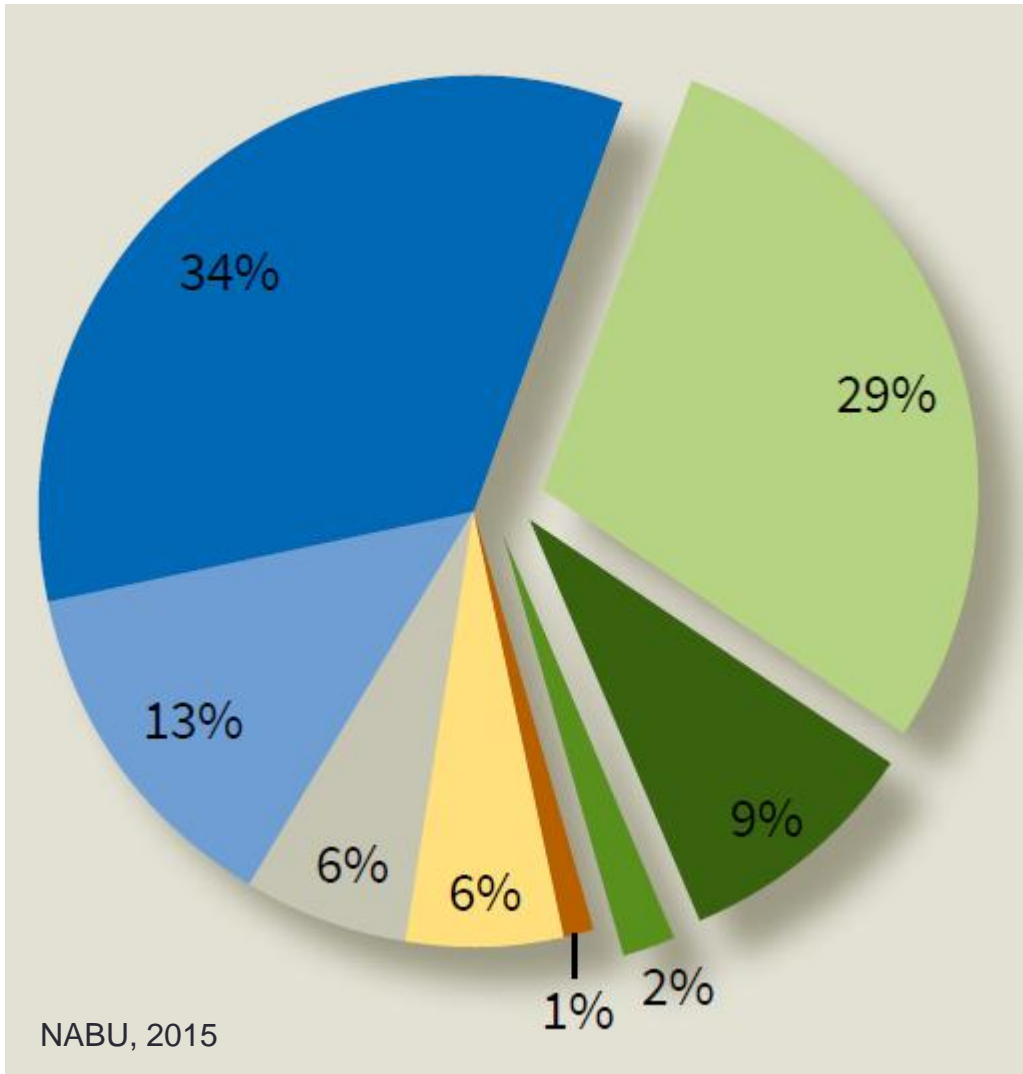
(one of 30 cases compiled by LIPU/BirdLife and WWF Italy)

After



Source: LIPU/BirdLife Italy

Target 1: Financing Natura 2000



**Financing gap is not closing
(estimate of >> 50%).**

- 0.11% of EU budget LIFE-Nature
- options of sectoral funds not used for targeted EU co-financing
- PAFs not sufficiently effective

Fundamental rethinking needed!

EU Budget 2014-2020

Target 2: Ecosystems

Understanding of ecosystem services and biodiversity proofing of EU funded projects is advancing.

The EU is unlikely to make progress on ecosystem restoration without...

- restoration frameworks at EU and national levels
- clear priorities and adequate financing for Green Infrastructure

Delayed “No Net Loss” initiative should...

- focus on implementing existing legislation
- close legislative gaps (inspections, soil)



2 Action: good

2 Actions: insufficient

1 Action: little/no progress

Target 3: Agriculture

Common Agricultural Policy reform failed and contradicts EU Biodiversity Strategy:

- Greening of 1st Pillar payments meaningless
- 2nd Pillar support insufficient and often not effective or even counterproductive

Forthcoming reviews should be used for short-term corrections of...

- Greening (Ecological Focus Areas)
- Cross compliance (bird killing, controls)
- Rural Development (more attractive and targeted measures)



0 Actions: good

4 Actions: insufficient

3 Actions: little/no progress

1 Action: not assessed

Target 4: Fisheries Policy

The reform of the CFP provides the framework to make fisheries sustainable, but implementing legislation and catch limits still need to follow up.

European Seas not in Good Environmental Status and Member States targets are not ambitious enough.



1 Action: good

3 Actions: insufficient

0 Actions: little/no progress

1 Action: not due yet

Target 4: Seabird Bycatch



A threatened Steller's Eider entangled in a fishing net.



A Northern Gannet with a hook in its bill.

Little Progress on non-binding EU Seabird Plan of Action (2012), but taken up in CFP reform. European Commission ignored the issue in Baltic Sea multiannual plan.

Target 5: Invasive Alien Species



1 Action: good

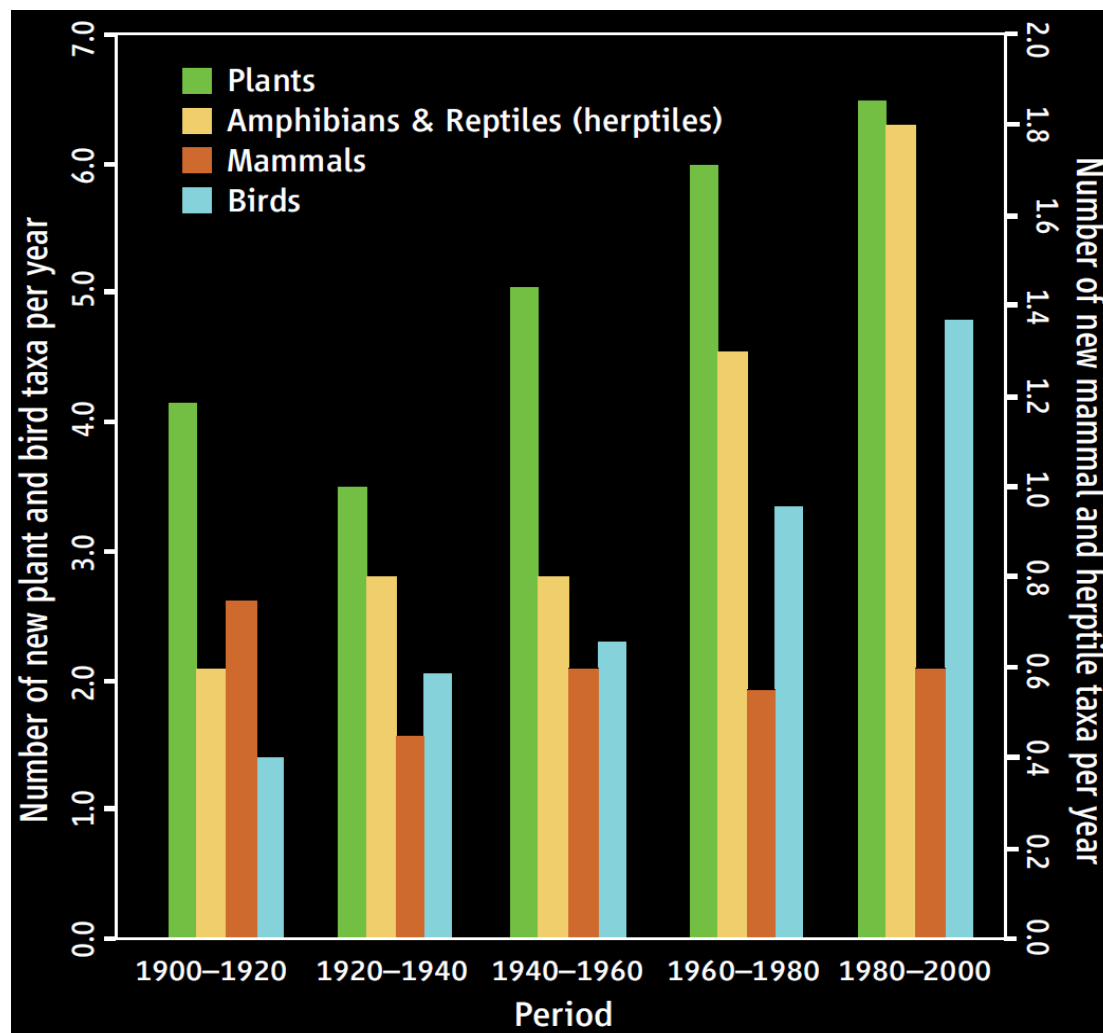
0 Actions: insufficient

0 Actions: little/no progress

1 Action: not assessed

Regulation adopted (prevention, early detection, rapid eradication, management), in line with EU and CBD strategies. **EU now properly equipped** - now adoption of the **list of invasive alien species of EU concern** (focus on prevention). Member States need to adopt **Convention on Ballast Water**.

Target 5: Invasive Alien Species



Hulme P., Pysek P., Nentwig W. and Vila M. (2009) Will threats of Biological Invasions Unite the European Union? Science 2009 324 pp. 40-41.

Target 6: global dimension

Little progress on reducing the detrimental impact of **EU consumption and production**; withdrawal of “circular economy package” major concern.

Some limited progress on mainstreaming biodiversity in **trade and development policies**.

Far too little progress on reforming **environmentally harmful subsidies**.

EU increased expenditure on **international biodiversity aid**, and confirms global leadership in this area.



2 Actions: good

3 Actions: insufficient

1 Action: little/no progress

1 Action: not assessed

Target 6: Harmful subsidies & bioenergy



Despite repeated promises, including at global level (e.g. CBD-COP12), EU fails to eliminate **harmful agriculture subsidies**.

EU Bioenergy Policy still lacking necessary safeguards.

Target 6: Resource mobilisation

13% of bird species globally threatened; only 20% of Important Bird Areas (IBAs) legally protected. Key issue in poor countries is financing.



- At CBD COPs EU committed to **double international aid** by 2016, baseline 2.4 billion EU; plus capacity building
- EU Biodiversity for Life Flagship Initiative (**B4Life**) expected to mobilise 800 Million EUR
- **LIFE Programme** opened for more international projects
- EU adopted **Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing**, but many Member States still need to follow

We can still make it, through...

1. **Not trying to fix something that is not broken** (Nature legislation, Biodiversity Strategy), but to improve things that don't work.
2. Using mid-term reviews of EU-budget for more **EU nature financing** and better staffing of nature administration
3. EU- Legislation on environmental Inspections, and a **stop to illegal destruction of Natura 2000 sites and illegal bird killing.**
4. Serious EU and Member State action to take place on **restoration of ecosystems, species and habitats.**
5. Change course in **EU Agricultural Policy.**
6. Implement and enforce **Common Fisheries Policy** in line with ecosystem approach.
7. Make significant progress on **EU Resource Efficiency and global biodiversity footprint.**

- Check www.BirdLife.org on Tuesday 2nd June
- Launch event in the European Parliament from 16:00 (same day)



- Wouter.Langhout@birdlife.org
- Konstantin.Kreiser@NABU.de



Thank you for your attention!



NABU-Bundesgeschäftsstelle

Kreiser, Konstantin

Charitéstraße 3

10117 Berlin

Tel. +49 (0) 172.4179739

Konstantin.Kreiser@NABU.de

www.NABU.de