



The  
case  
for  
action  
has  
never  
been  
stronger

# A DANGEROUS GAME



There are 1,7 million different species on earth together, they form our ecosystems



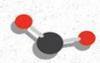
ECOSYSTEMS POSSES QUALITIES ESSENTIAL TO MANKIND



Regulate local climate



Decompose waste



Storage of carbon



Buffer against natural hazards



Maintain soil fertility



Regulate pests and diseases



Pollination of plants & crops

THE BUILDING BRICKS OF ECOSYSTEMS ARE BEING THREATENED



only 52,000 of all species are assessed



80% of all the species contribute to the effective functioning of an ecosystem



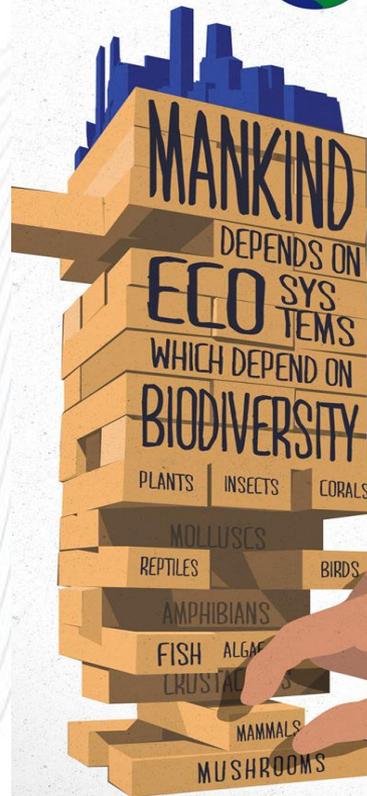
20% Off those 52,000 is endangered



while mankind is on track to lose 75% of all species in just a few centuries



that equals 325,000 species on earth



THE LOSS OF  
BIODIVERSITY WILL BE THE  
DOWNFALL OF MANKIND

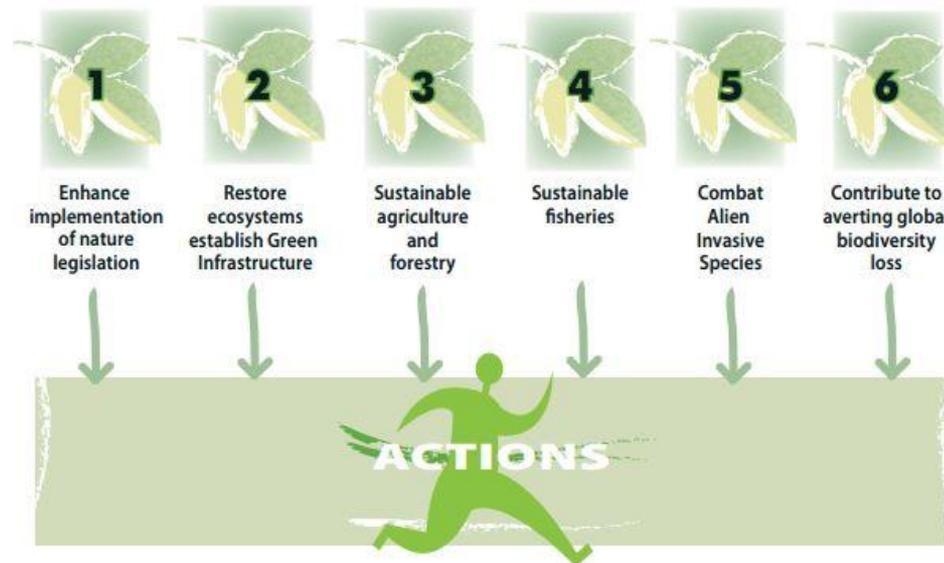


# Introduction (I)

- 2020 headline target: Halting the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services in the EU by 2020, and restoring them in so far as feasible, while stepping up the EU contribution to averting global biodiversity loss.



## SIX TARGETS



## Introduction (II)

- State of Nature (SON) report highlights:
    - dire state of European nature: only 23% of species and 16% of habitats being in a good status
    - when properly protected and managed, nature can recover
  - Our knowledge on the extent to which species and habitats are threatened has improved in many countries – important if the problem is to be effectively addressed
- => More effort is needed at both EU and national levels to effectively protect nature



# Target 1: Enhance implementation of nature legislation: Assessment

- SON confirms that the Birds and Habitats Directives are the main tools that ensure conservation of nature in the EU and that, when properly implemented, they are effective.
- SON suggests that more needs to be done to properly implement the Nature Directives.





# Target 1: Enhance implementation of nature legislation: Recommendations

- MS should **complete the designation of the Natura 2000 sites**, especially in marine environment & **ensure sufficient legal protection and management for all sites**.
- Management plans or other management instruments should be put in place for all Natura 2000 sites and implemented asap.
- EC & MS to improve procedures & tools for **preventing, detecting and sanctioning breaches of conservation laws**.
- EC & MS should **significantly increase funding for the management and restoration of Natura 2000 sites**
- EU should go beyond minimum requirements of the Aarhus Convention and Regulation for **openness**, and **public participation** in decision-making impacting nature (public participation, access to justice, SEA/EIA) and issue a new legislative proposal on access to justice



# Target 2: Restore ecosystems, establish Green Infrastructure: Assessment

- Some progress, in particular re: Green Infrastructure (GI): Strategy adopted in 2013; mainstreaming of GI in Cohesion Policy; launch of natural capital financing facility.
- More progress needed as regards implementation of GI by MS, opportunities not seized, eg in Operational Programmes
- Also some progress as regards knowledge base on ecosystems and their services in the EU (eg MAES process) but progressing more slowly than anticipated.





## Target 2: Restore ecosystems, establish Green Infrastructure: Recommendations

- EC should put in place a coordinated EU level approach to select and implement “**Trans-European priority axes for Green Infrastructure**” (TEN-G) that have the highest ecological value for European biodiversity conservation and ecosystem service provision and that are of transnational importance.
- MS should implement **large scale ecosystem restoration projects** providing simultaneous benefits for various sectors and policies.
- EC and MS should ensure that decision-making processes take full account of the benefits of nature (**new module of ecosystem accounts in 2016**)

# Target 3: Sustainable agriculture & Forestry: Assessment



- Greening of the CAP watered down - has become an empty shell
  - CAP implementation by MS = further watering down key greening elements such as Ecological Focus areas (eg growing of crops and use of pesticides allowed on EFAs)
- ⇒ more efforts to be done to improve coherence between biodiversity and relevant sectoral policies and mainstream biodiversity into relevant policy areas



## Target 3: Sustainable agriculture & Forestry: Recommendations

- The Commission and MS should ensure that a **proper assessment/monitoring of the impacts of the new Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)** on the environment and biodiversity is carried out in order to prepare the fundamental policy change that is urgently needed
- EC and MS should **enforce the Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive** in particular with a view to ensure that MS adopt clear quantitative targets, timetables and measures to minimise pesticide use
- Commission should propose an **EU initiative on Pollinators**, including actions to tackle the impacts of pesticides on pollinators, and to halt the destruction of pollinators' habitats



## Target 4: Sustainable fisheries: Assessment & recommendations

- ❑ New CFP includes some positive elements but fails to end overfishing/ ensure that fish stocks are harvested in a sustainable way
- ⇒ EC and MS should ensure that the implementation of the **CFP** meets its target of halting overfishing through (a) the **achievement of the maximum sustainable yield goal in annual negotiations**, and (b) regional **Multi Annual Plans (MAPs) based on an ecosystem approach**
- ⇒ MS should adopt and implement in line with Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) ambitious and effective **Programmes of Measures of Marine Strategies**, which should include development of an **ecologically coherent network of well managed Marine Protected Areas**

# Target 5: Combat Alien Invasive Species: Assessment & recommendations



Good delivery to date: EU published new Regulation on IAS as foreseen

## **If this target is to be achieved, however, implementation:**

- At EU level:
  - establish first list of species - a list that is not too short and includes all species that represent a serious threat to Europe's biodiversity
- At MS level (once the list is finalised):
  - MS to quickly carry out comprehensive analysis of the pathways of introduction of species listed as of EU concern
  - develop action plans to address the pathways identified as being of priority
  - establish and implement management plans for species of concern that are already in Europe

## Target 6: Contribute to averting global biodiversity loss: Assessment & recommendations



- Progress on some actions, eg legislation implementing the Nagoya protocol on **ABS: regulation adopted 2014**. EU & MS now to put provisions in place for Regulation to be effective.
- Major area where **more effort is needed: « reduce indirect drivers of biodiversity loss »** (action 17):
  - ⇒ Cap on **conventional biofuels** still too high, putting pressure on biodiversity worldwide via ILUC
  - ⇒ **Reform subsidies known to have harmful effects in key sectors** by 2020
    - improving contribution of EU sectoral policies to biodiversity conservation through the mid-term review of MFF in 2016, and evaluations and reporting requirements written into relevant sectoral policies.

# Concluding thoughts/Summary



- New ambition in the **implementation** of the EU Birds and Habitats Directives and proper and effective **integration** of biodiversity considerations in all relevant EU policies, supported by sufficient **investments** in conservation, are needed to prevent **further deterioration of nature** and to ensure that **degraded ecosystems are restored**.
- While progress was made in implementing the strategy, for most of the six targets, **much more is needed**; political commitments made by the EU and its Member States (MS) to **halt biodiversity loss and to achieve recovery of species, habitats and ecosystems by 2020 otherwise unattainable**.

# Ongoing naturealert! campaign



- In the context of the Fitness Check of the Nature Directives EC launched a public consultation on those laws
- EEB, together with Birdlife, FoEE and WWF and their networks launched public campaign two weeks ago
- As of today approx. 140,000 citizens told the Commission they wanted these laws maintained, enforced and not weakened.
- Join us and take part in consultation!

**Nature Alert!**

In Europe, vital laws protect our most precious nature. Our wildlife and most valued natural places all depend on these rules.

Sadly, right now the European Commission is considering undermining these laws, undoing years of progress.

The European Commission is asking for our opinion and now is the time to make our voices heard.

The Commission's consultation asks several questions and below we have suggested the answers that best protect nature.

We must act now and say that we want these laws to be maintained, enforced and not weakened.

To save nature, simply fill in your details and click **Take action now**.

First name  Last name

E-mail-address

Country...

To see the answers we have prepared, please [scroll down](#) this page.

Keep me updated on the campaign.  
 I accept the [privacy policy](#).  
 Allow the Commission to publish my reply.

**Take action now**

139,389 have called to save nature

[www.naturealert.eu/en](http://www.naturealert.eu/en)

# Thank you !



[www.eeb.org](http://www.eeb.org)