

Integrating biodiversity into the Common Agricultural Policy

Continued struggle or wishful thinking?

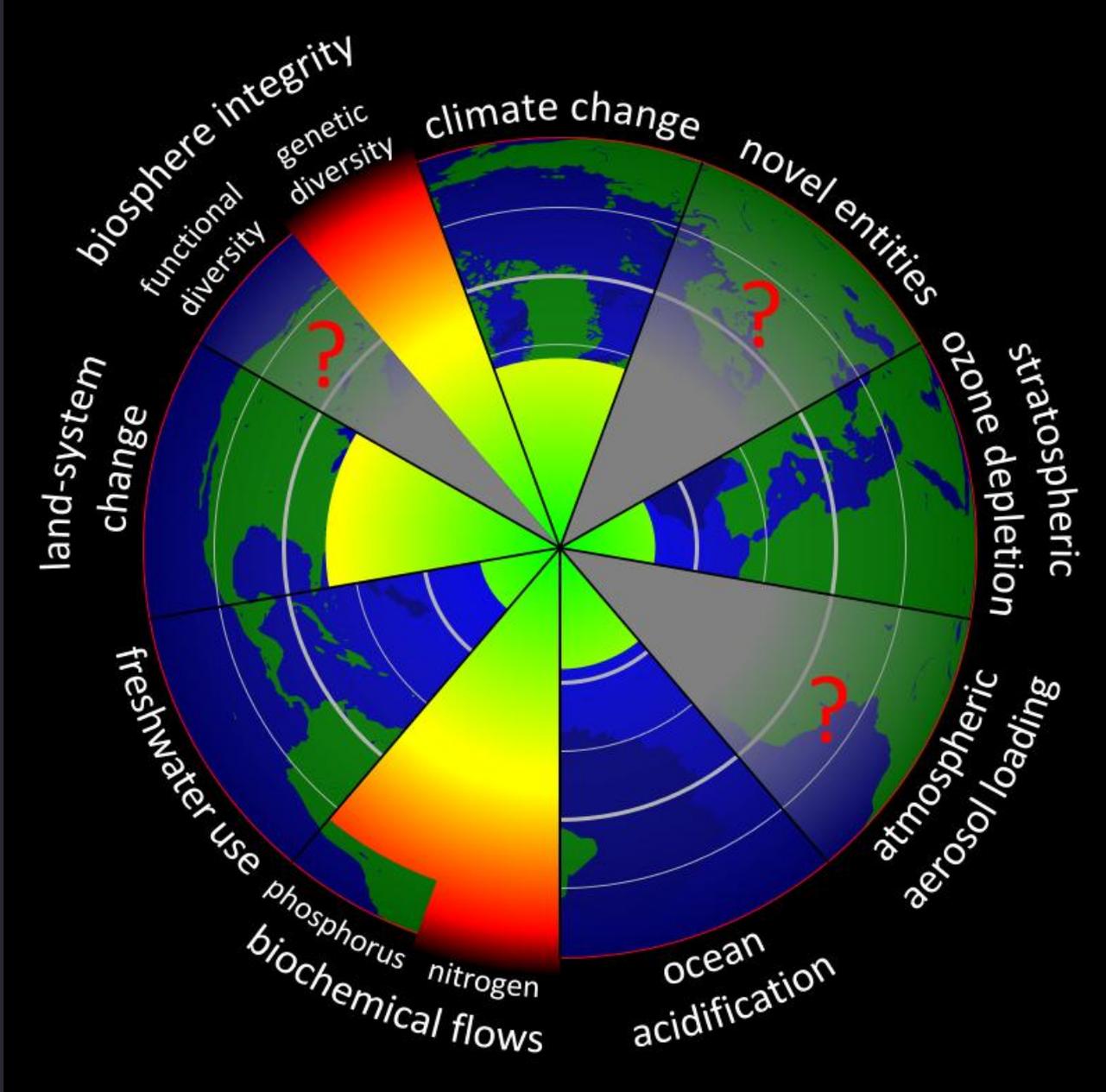
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"Planetary Boundaries 2015" by Ninjatacoshell - This file was derived from: Globe.svg. Licensed under CC BY-SA 4.0 via Wikimedia Commons //Rockström et al. 2009 and Steffen et al. 2015.

Agriculture in the EU

- Agriculture: 47% of EU land area
- 12 million farmers
- 7% of all jobs (farming + food sector), generating 6% of GDP
- EU leading exporter of agricultural products
- **Trends:**
 - 1990-2010: number of farmers halved
 - Productivity increased significantly (intensification & specialisation)
 - Average farm size growing (15ha), but still primarily on small family holdings



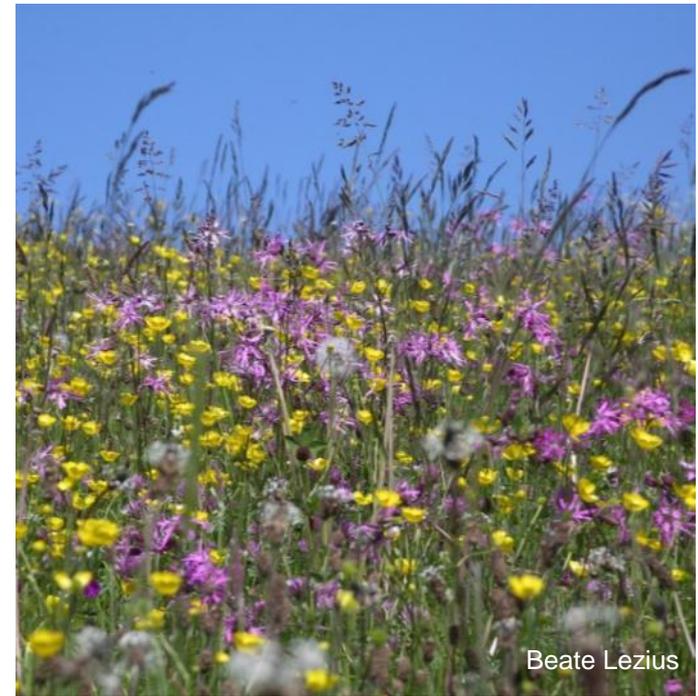
MORE EFFICIENT FARMERS: WHEAT YIELDS IN THE ORIGINAL SIX MEMBER STATES



Yield in tonnes per hectare. Source: European Commission

Agriculture...

- **has a key role in producing public goods** (landscapes, farmland biodiversity, climate stability, resilience to flooding, drought and fire)
- **allowed many species to come to Europe in the last millennia**
- **can put huge pressure on environment** (soil depletion, water shortages and pollution, loss of biodiversity and landscape features)



Beate Lezius

Disaster facts

EU State of Nature Report 2015

Status

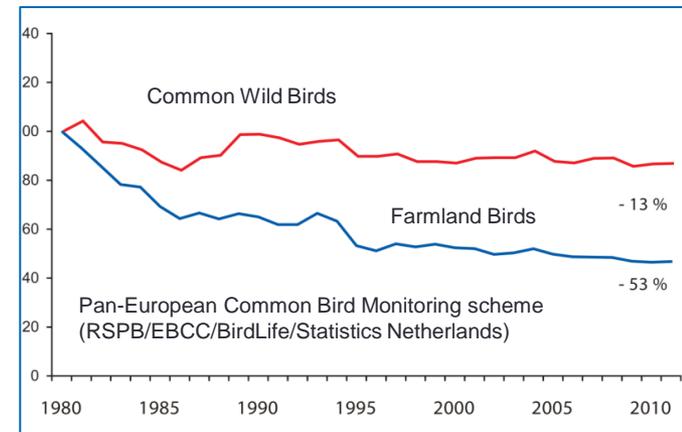
- 64% of grassland species (non-birds) and 86% of grassland habitats unfavourable
- 70% of cropland species (non-birds) unfavourable

Trends 1980 - 2012

- Grassland habitats: massive deterioration
- Common farmland birds and grassland butterflies: approx. **- 50%**
- Black-tailed Godwit: **- 37% (DE -75%)**
- Turtle Dove **- 77% (UK - 95%)**
- Skylark **- 51%**
- Lapwing **- 60% (DE - 75%)**



Gerd Ostermann



Frank Derer

Disaster facts

The insect crisis

EU Red List of Bees

- 9.1 % of species threatened with extinction (30% of these endemic to Europe)
- Trends for 80% of species unknown

Local studies Western Germany

- Locally now around 60% of bumblebees and butterfly species extinct
- Biomass of flying insects declined by 70-80% in 25 years

A major ecological disaster seems to be underway, and agriculture is in the middle of it.



Disaster facts

Agriculture is the greatest threat to EU biodiversity!

- “modification of cultivation practices”
- “abandonment of pastoral systems”
- “fertilization and pesticides”
- “set-aside measures abandoned”

➔ no food, no space!



Commitments: where we started in 2010



UN CBD – Aichi Targets for 2020

3) ... **incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed** in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, ...

7) ... **areas under agriculture** ... are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.

8) **pollution, including from excess nutrients**, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity.

Commitments: where we started in 2010



EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy

Target 1: fully implement and finance the **EU Nature Directives**

Target 3: "...maximise areas under agriculture across grasslands, arable land and permanent crops that are covered by **biodiversity-related measures under the CAP**

Action 8: "Enhance **direct payments for environmental public goods** in the CAP"

Action 9 "Better target **Rural Development** to biodiversity conservation"

The EU Nature Directives and the CAP

- Achieving and maintaining favourable conservation status
- Securing **habitats** and protecting **species** across the landscape
- Protecting and managing **Natura 2000** sites
- **Financing Natura 2000** (Rural Development, 2nd Pillar, main source of funding in many Member States)



The tragedy of the CAP Reform: 1st Pillar

Direct payments should reward & incentivize the delivery of environmental public goods

By 2014 Council and European Parliament had emptied an unambitious Commission proposal of any meaningful content for biodiversity

- 89% of farmers exempted from 5% EFA condition;
- EFAs open for pesticides and fertilizers;
- Most of arable farmers exempted from crop rotation
- Not all grasslands in Natura 2000 area are protected as environmentally sensitive

Pe'er G., Dicks L.V., Visconti P. et al (2014). **EU agricultural reform fails on biodiversity.** Science 2014 6188 (344) pp. 1090-1092.

The tragedy of the CAP reform: 2nd Pillar

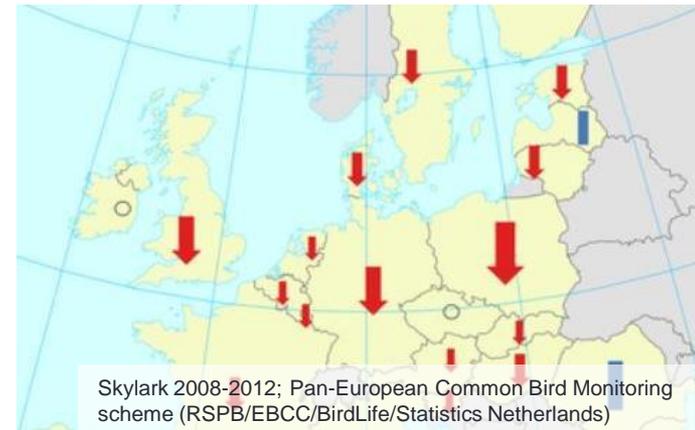
The Commission and Member States will provide the necessary funds and incentives for Natura 2000, including through EU funding instruments, under the next multiannual financial framework.

- **Financial cuts to the Rural Development funds**
- **Member States allowed to move funds from Pillar 2 to Pillar 1**
- **“Greening” does NOT provide a “lifted baseline”**

- **Rural Development Programmes (1/3 adopted): moving away from targeted biodiversity funding**
 - Many options exist, but agri-environment budgets massively reduced, especially for targeted biodiversity schemes (e.g. FI, PL, EE, LV, DE, ...)
 - EU controllability demands support trend to “broad and shallow” schemes
 - Decades of conservation work at risk if schemes become unattractive for farmers (e.g. Emilia Romagna, Italy)
 - Positive exceptions exist, e.g. Austria
 - Lacking advisory services block undermine targeted schemes

Pesticides

- Likely key reason for collapsing farmland insects and bird populations
 - So far little willingness of Member States to agree on standards for Integrated Pest Management
 - ➔ public support given to questionable farming systems
 - 2014 CAP reform missed opportunity for progress on pesticides
 - more support to organic farming
 - no pesticides in Ecological Focus Areas
 - Integrated Pest Management as condition for direct payments
- ... but it did not happen...**



Silver lining

- Little Bustard almost gone from Western France by 2008 (- 98%), due to agricultural intensification and resulting food shortage for chicks
- LIFE project RENF TETRAX of LPO/BirdLife France, designing three targeted agri-environment schemes:
 - growing of alfalfa and grassland (food and nesting habitat)
 - delayed harvesting date (to allow chicks time to fledge)
 - no application of pesticides.
- RESULT: Population in key site from 6 to 30 males (2003-2009)
- HOWEVER: Area of the measures far too low (69 ha), decline continues outside



What can we still do before 2020?

- The **CAP system is broken**, it will not be properly fixed before 2020;
- Use forthcoming policy reviews for **most urgent corrections** (e.g. EFA to 7% and for all farms)
- Halt destruction and ensure restoration of **environmentally important grasslands** through the enforcement of relevant CAP rules and the Birds and Habitats Directives
- Invest more in **targeted Rural Development measures**
- Increase **implementation and enforcement of nature laws** and CAP related provisions

How to prepare for the next reform?

- The 2020 reform of the CAP must mark the end of wasteful, untargeted and damaging payments.
- A new policy must be developed that delivers genuine public benefits in return for public money. An honest policy targeting the conservation of farmland biodiversity must urgently be developed.
- Financing of biodiversity action must be radically reformed

Two NABU/BirdLife Germany models

- **Dedicated EU finance instrument** for biodiversity and ecosystem action (financed from Pillar 1; Merge or rest Pillar 1 and 2)
- OR: **Shared management** of related EU funds with environmental authorities



Thank you for your attention!



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