

Financing peatland restoration across Europe

Successes, lessons learnt and way forward

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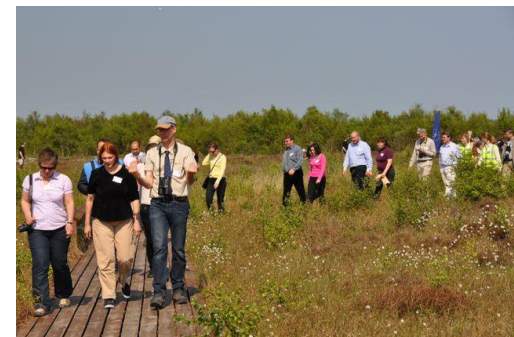


**Joint BES and IUCN UK Peatland
Programme Symposium 2012 Investing in
Peatlands - Demonstrating Success**

28 June 2012

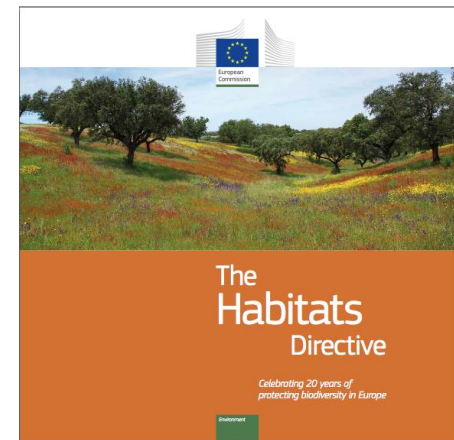


May 2012: Celebrating 20 years of Habitats Directive and LIFE instrument



Thanks to the Habitats Directive & LIFE

- *Nature protected Areas in EU more than tripled*
- *large-scale destruction of high value areas halted*
- *Strong mechanism to protect EU designated areas*
- *Increased knowledge & better, more targeted action*
- *Funding for nature in EU significantly increased*
- *Greater co-operation between countries (EU12-EU 27)*
- *Better mechanisms for local stakeholder engagement*
- *Time-honoured land management practices supported*
- *New opportunities for recreation and tourism*
- *Endangered species are brought back from the brink*



Habitats Directive is main legal base for EU investing in peatlands

7. RAISED BOGS AND MIRES AND FENS

71. *Sphagnum acid bogs*

- 7110 * Active raised bogs
- 7120 Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration
- 7130 Blanket bogs (* if active bog)
- 7140 Transition mires and quaking bogs
- 7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the *Rhynchosporion*
- 7160 Fennoscandian mineral-rich springs and springfens



72. *Calcareous fens*

- 7210 * Calcareous fens with *Cladium mariscus* and species of the *Caricion davallianae*
- 7220 * Petrifying springs with tufa formation (*Cratoneurion*)
- 7230 Alkaline fens
- 7240 * Alpine pioneer formations of the *Caricion bicoloris-atrofuscae*



73. *Boreal mires*

- 7310 * Aapa mires
- 7320 * Palsa mires

The job is not yet done !

- *Natura 2000 establishment phase ending – but only context for future success*
- *All peatland types still in unfavourable status (Article 17 HD)*
- *Damaging activities still going on in some sites & risks to others*
- *Major restoration needed to achieve FCS*
- *Many Natura 2000 sites do not have conservation objectives*
- *Necessary conservation measures not in place (eg man. plans)*
- *Integration opportunities with other objectives such as WFD*



Main Pressures on Atlantic Peatlands and Heaths



Lack of sustained, long-term management
Loss of lowland, pastoral grazing systems
Nitrogen deposition
Artificial drainage
Inappropriate hydrology for restoration
Inappropriate grazing (stocking etc.)
Renewable impacts (footprints + collision)
Lack of landscape context for management
Lack of functional management units
Tree encroachment and coverage
Fragmentation
Management appropriate to site objectives
Lack of clarity over biological outcomes
Lack of knowledge – processes + location
Negative public perceptions
Diffuse pollution – surface + groundwater
Peat extraction/ mining
Uncontrolled/inappropriate burning
Missing policy frameworks
Uniform management
Lack of recognition of habitat type
Visitor pressure
Training opportunities for advisors etc.
Invasive species



European
Commission



Role of LIFE in peatland restoration

- *Practical outdoor laboratory for testing feasibility of restoration – about 260 projects!*
- *50% for Nature & Biodiversity with focus on Natura 2000 – highest value areas & legal certainty*
- *Has targeted the full range of peatland habitats*
 - pump-priming initial heavy investment costs to make long-term management easier
 - providing high-profile models of how conservation objectives can be achieved
- *LIFE projects are a label of excellence*



Types of measures supported under LIFE

Measures	Examples
Preparatory measures	National inventories, management plans, ecological surveys, technical blueprints
Land lease & acquisition	Secure areas for restoration, compensation for loss of rights, land swaps etc.
Non-recurring actions	Investment works to kick-start restoration – closing ditches; felling/removing trees, scrub, IAS; installing fences, etc.
Recurring actions	Actions to improve or maintain habitat condition e.g. sustainable grazing systems
Raising public Awareness	Visitor support, footpaths, brochures, web sites, workshops, etc.

Differences in peatland restoration needs of Member States



Blanket bog UK



Raised bog NL



Aapa Mires FI



Raised Bog Belgium



Alkaline fen IT



Raised Bogs Latvia

Some lessons learnt

- *Restoring eco-hydrology is key action.*
- *Restoration is long term goal (esp. raised bogs)*
- *Response of fauna and flora is not straightforward, neither in time nor in character.*
- *Many best-practice activities but still room for innovation*
- *Share experience but each situation is unique*
- *Partnerships key to success*
- *Develop good local relationships from outset*
- *Need for Monitoring systems, incl. post-project*
- *Develop long term vision/strategies*



Evolving EU biodiversity policy

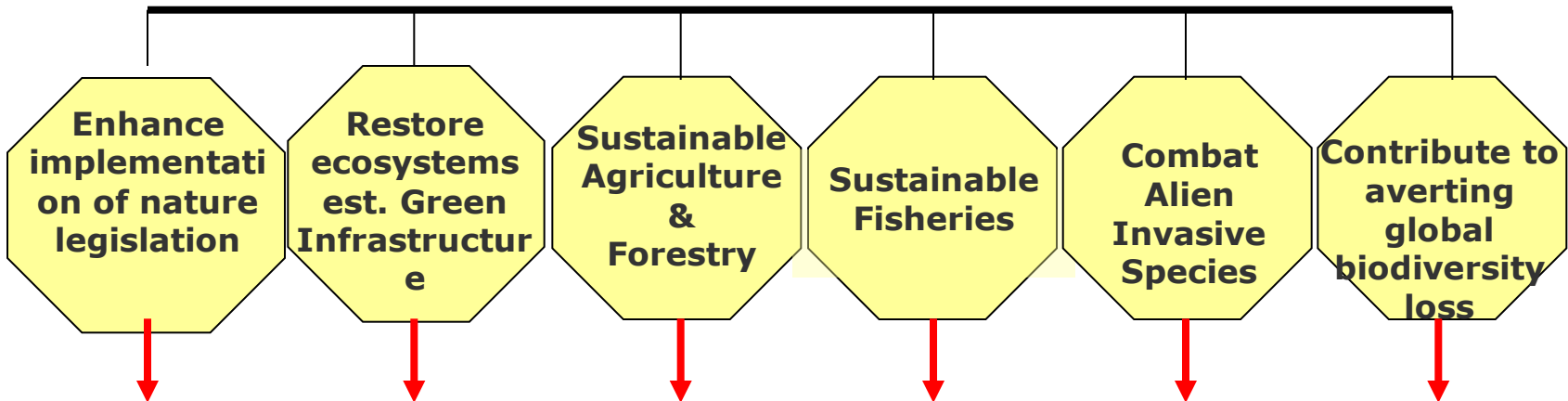
A 2050 VISION

European Union biodiversity and the ecosystem services it provides – its natural capital – are protected, valued and appropriately restored...

A 2020 HEADLINE TARGET

Halt the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the EU and restore them insofar as feasible, and step up the EU's contribution to averting global biodiversity loss.

6 TARGETS



ACTIONS

Future EU Financing

■ Main principles for biodiversity financing outlined in ‘A budget for Europe 2020’ in June 2011, focusing on Europe 2020 Agenda’ and reflecting the main objectives of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020:

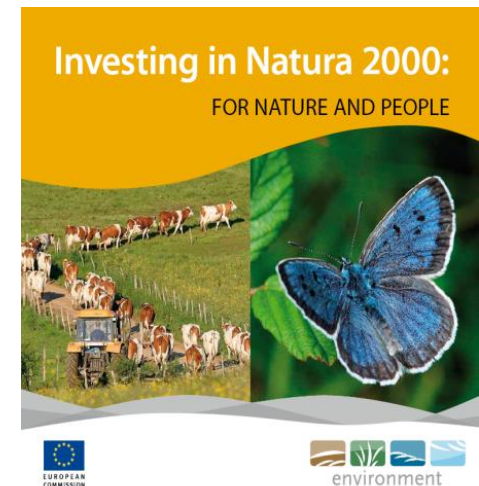
- *Mainstream biodiversity throughout the EU budget*
- *Maximise synergies with climate finance*
- *External action* programmes: Geographic and regional allocations, thematic programme for global public goods.
- *Implementation*: clearly established benchmarks, monitoring and reporting rules; tracking procedure for biodiversity-related expenses

■ Also summarises strategy for financing Natura 2000 “At EU level, a strengthened integrated approach using the various EU sectoral funds, ensuring their consistency with the priorities of Natura 2000 action frameworks, together with an enhanced LIFE Biodiversity strand, will provide a strong basis for the new Natura 2000 financing strategy”



Strategy in COM Staff Working Paper on Financing Natura 2000 SEC (2011) 1573

- *Better strategic planning for financing Natura 2000 by MS and Commission*
- *Improved definition of Natura 2000 management requirements for targeted action*
- *Strengthening awareness about socio-economic benefits from Natura 2000 management*
- *Consider other forms of funding for Natura 2000, including innovative financing*



Benefits of investing in Natura 2000

- *Ecosystem services from Natura 2000 worth €200 to 300 billion/yr;*
- *Natura 2000 stores approx. 9.6 billion tonnes of carbon (equiv. 35 billion tonnes of CO₂) valued at between €607 billion and €1,130 billion;*
- *Estimated between 1.2 to 2.2 billion visitor days/yr to Natura 2000 - recreational benefits € 5 - € 9 billion/yr.*
- *Study on relationship between specific conservation measures and ecosystem services provided by Natura 2000 at local scale underlines need for involving environmental economists*
- *Needs to be trialled and developed further (possible role for LIFE?)*
- *Also guidelines on Natura 2000 and climate change to be issued shortly*



Role of Prioritised Action Frameworks (PAFs)

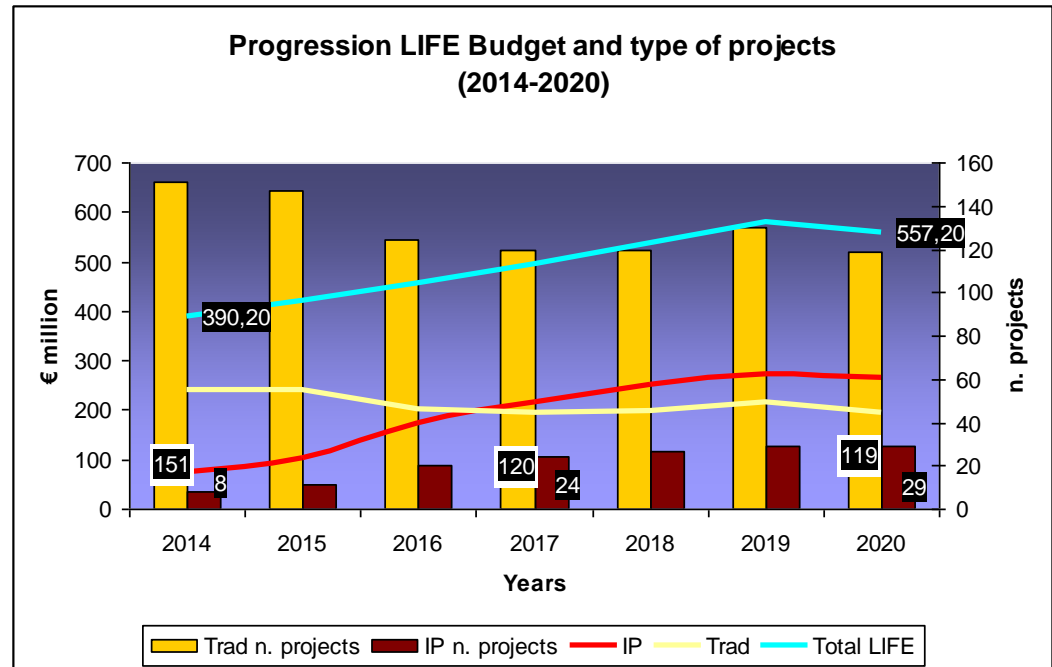
- *PAFs as planning tools:*
 - identifying key priorities;
 - providing an integrated overview of how to achieve them;
 - having regard to financing instruments;
 - to assist MS with partnership contracts and operational programmes for key EU funds
- *MS still need to specify their financing needs for under the relevant plans/programmes.*
- *Aim to ensure consistency of Natura 2000 financing under programmes with PAF*
- *MS asked to submit PAFs by end of 2012*
- *PAFs to be also used for future LIFE Integrated projects*



A budget for achieving LIFE objectives

€3.6 billion for 2014-2020 (only 0.3% of EU budget):

- **€2.7 billion for the sub-programme for Environment.**
- **€0.9 billion for the sub-programme for Climate Action**



Biodiversity in LIFE proposal

- **50% of LIFE Environment allocated to "Biodiversity" strand:**
 - *development of best practices to halt biodiversity loss and restore ecosystem services;*
 - *focus on supporting Natura 2000 sites, especially via integrated projects consistent with Prioritised Action Frameworks;*
- **Concrete objectives: to bring 15% of Natura 2000 sites into adequate management, 3% ecosystems restoration and 25% of habitats and species targeted by LIFE projects improved status;**
- **To lever other EU and domestic funds through promotion of a more programmatic approach particularly via “integrated projects”.**



Integrated Projects aim to

- *Implement plans, programmes or strategies required by EU environmental or climate legislation or pursuant to other acts or developed by MS authorities;*
- *Have a Larger scale, e.g., regional, multiregional, national;*
- *Be primarily in the areas of nature, water, waste, air, climate mitigation and adaptation*
- *Involve, where appropriate, stakeholders (NGOs, private sector, farmers, water companies, transport companies, etc.)*
- *Promote, when possible, coordination with / mobilisation of other EU funds*



Some challenges for peatland community

- *Define clearly restoration potential, priorities and targets for peatlands*
- *Share experience on multiple benefits and ES*
- *Optimise potential of Natura 2000/protected area management & wider integration (eg with WFD)*
- *Engage with wider Green Infrastructure agenda*
- *Contribute to new EU financial process for investment in Natura 2000 – including PAFs*
- *Prepare for future LIFE, incl. Integrated Projects*
- *Follow emerging EU climate financing opportunities*



Thank you for your attention

For more information, please consult

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/index_en.htm

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/index.htm>

