

Forests & forest ecosystems in the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030

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#EUGreenDeal



“Making nature healthy again is key to our physical and mental wellbeing and is an ally in the fight against climate change and disease outbreaks. It is at the heart of our growth strategy, the European Green Deal, and is part of a European recovery that gives more back to the planet than it takes away.”

Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission



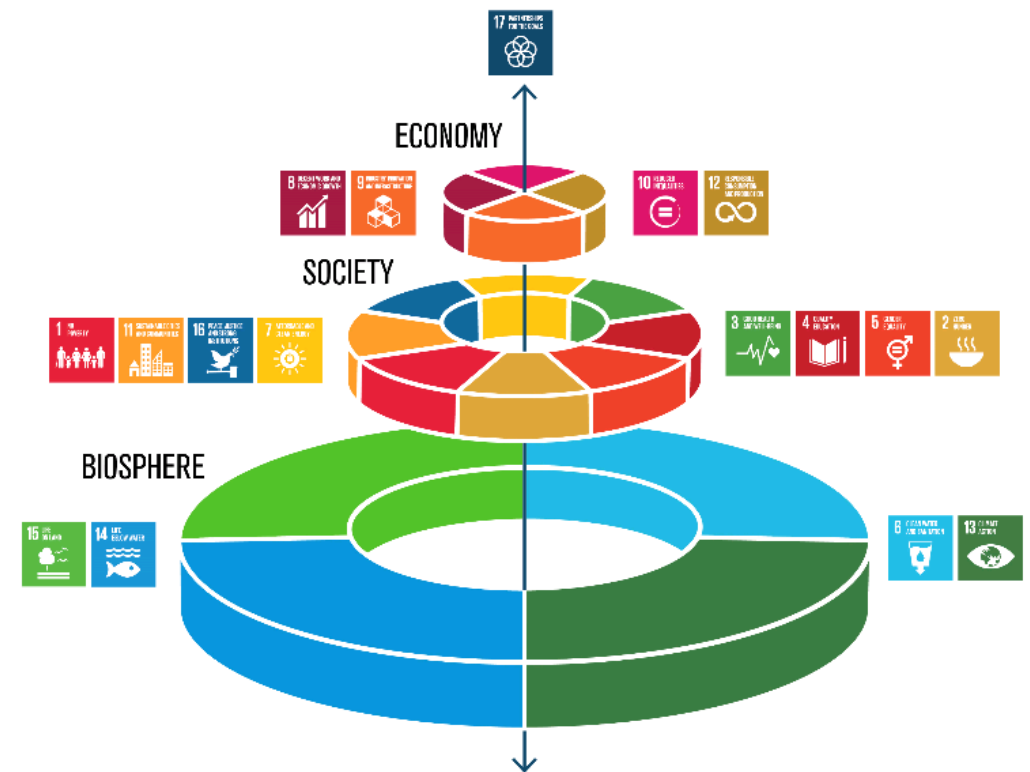
Climate change, the unprecedented loss of biodiversity, and the spread of devastating pandemics are sending a clear message: it is time to fix our broken relationship with nature.

The Biodiversity Strategy will put Europe's biodiversity on the path to recovery by 2030, for the benefit of people, climate and the planet.



| Biodiversity underpins sustainable development

- Biodiversity loss: key threats for humanity
- Almost half of global GDP is linked to nature
- Connections between biodiversity loss, climate change and pandemics
- Restoring biodiversity core part of recovery



| Elements of the EU Biodiversity Strategy



Protect Nature



Enable Transformative
Change



Restore Nature



EU For An Ambitious
Global Agenda



| Protect Nature



Protect 30% of EU land and sea

- Based on Natura 2000 and nationally designated areas
- EU wide target, take into account specific situation in MS
- Integrate ecological corridors to build coherent network

Strictly protect a third of these areas

- Covering areas of very high biodiversity value & important for mitigation and adaptation to climate change, **including all primary and old growth forest***

*** OGF have to be defined and mapped**



| Restore Nature



EU Restoration Plan, with 2030 commitments:

- ✓ Legally binding nature restoration targets to be proposed in 2021
- ✓ No deterioration of any protected habitats and species by 2030: trend to be positive for at least 30%
- ✓ Agroecology: Organic farming >25%
- ✓ Biodiverse landscape features >10%
- ✓ 50% reduction of use and risk of pesticides
- ✓ Reduction of pollution from fertilisers by 50% and by 20% their use
- ✓ **Plant 3 bn additional trees, respecting ecological principles**
- ✓ Reverse decline in pollinators
- ✓ ...



| Further provisions on forests (1)

- **Foresters** have a key role to play in ensuring sustainable forest management and in restoring and sustaining biodiversity in forests.
- Increase the **quantity, quality and resilience** of EU forests, notably against fires, pests and other disturbances
- All forests need to be preserved in **good health** to retain their functions for biodiversity and climate, as well as to provide materials, products and services for the circular bio-economy
- **EU Forest Strategy in 2021**, building on the EU Biodiversity Strategy
- Further development of the **Forest Information System for Europe (FISE)**, linking all EU forest-data web-platforms



| Further provisions on forests (2)

Afforestation, reforestation and tree planting

- Plant at least **3 billion additional trees** in the EU by 2030 in full respect of ecological principles, special focus on cities and agroforestry => **Roadmap** to be published together with the new Forest Strategy
- To be promoted via the **CAP strategic plans** and the **cohesion policy funds** + new **European Urban Greening Platform** and **LIFE**
- Commission to develop, in parallel with new EU forest strategy, **guidelines on biodiversity-friendly afforestation and reforestation**



| Further provisions on forests (3)

Forest management:

- The share of forest areas covered by **management plans** should cover all managed public forests and an increased number of private forests
- Biodiversity-friendly practices such as **closer-to-nature forestry** should continue and be further developed
- Commission to develop, in parallel with the new EU Forest Strategy, **guidelines on closer-to-nature forestry practices**



| Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystem and their Services (MAES)

- A specific action setting-up the analytical framework at EU level, with the aim of providing a more **harmonized approach**.
- For forests 80 indicators were developed of which 20 are policy relevant to establish forest condition, these indicators highlight which ecosystem services forests provide, which can feed into the debate on **payment for ecosystem services**.
- The **first ever EU-wide Ecosystem Assessment** was released on 21 October 2020
- More info:
https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/knowledge/ecosystem_assessment/index_en.htm



| EU for an ambitious global agenda



EU's position for the post-2020 biodiversity framework

- 2050 goals in line with UN vision: *“living in harmony with nature”*
- Ambitious global 2030 goals and targets
- Improved means of implementation: finance, capacity, research, know-how and technology
- Much stronger implementation, monitoring and review
- A fair and equitable share of the benefits from the use of genetic resources linked to biodiversity.
- Equality, rights of IPLCs, involvement of all stakeholders



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!



More info at:

https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/strategy/index_en.htm

