



Biodiversity strategy for 2030: policy context for the biogeographical process

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3rd Natura 2000 biogeographical seminar
for the Baltic marine region

Riga, Latvia, 8-10 November 2023

EU policy context



- **the Birds and Habitats Directives, the Marine Strategy Framework Directive**
- **EU Biodiversity strategy for 2030**
- Global biodiversity framework
- **Nature restoration law *proposal***
- **Marine action plan**
- Climate policy and climate law

Biodiversity strategy for 2030

Bringing nature back into our lives

Protect and restore nature

PROTECT NATURE

- Legally protect **at least 30% of the European Union's sea area – coherent trans-European nature network**
- **Strictly protect at least a third** of the EU's marine protected areas (**10%** of sea area)
- **Effectively manage all protected areas**, defining clear conservation objectives and measures, and monitoring them appropriately.
- **Fisheries management measures must be established in all MPAs** according to clearly defined conservation objectives and on the basis of the best available scientific advice.


RESTORE NATURE

- **Nature Restoration Law with legally binding restoration targets**, including for the marine environment.
- Achieving good environmental status of marine ecosystems, including through strictly protected areas, must involve the **restoration of carbon-rich ecosystems** as well as important **fish spawning and nursery areas**.
- **Reduce bycatch** of sensitive species and the impact of bottom fishing **on the seabed**.

Protected area targets

A larger and coherent EU network of protected areas

Legal protection for at least $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 30\% \text{ of EU land area} \\ 30\% \text{ of EU sea area} \end{array} \right.$

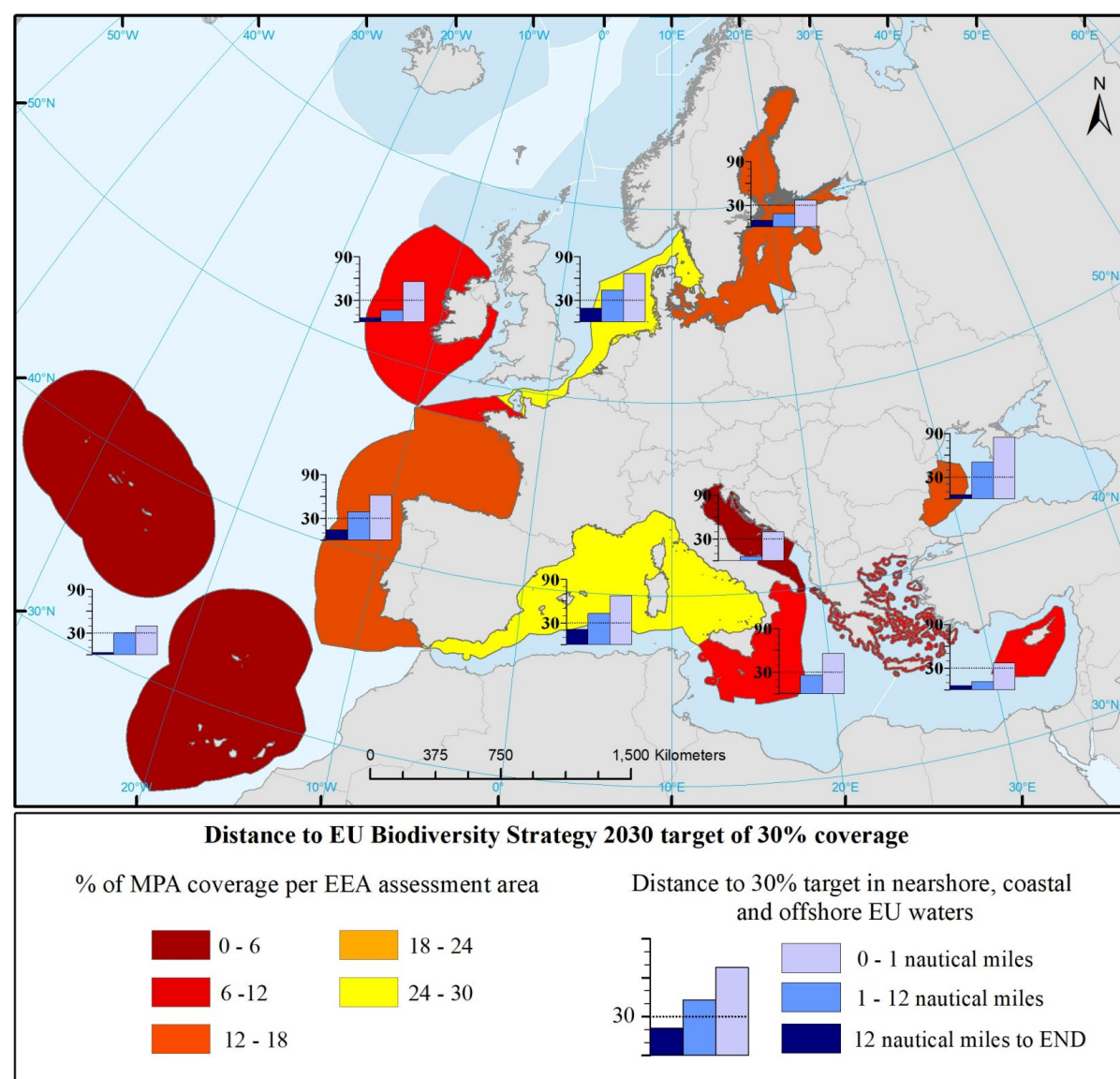
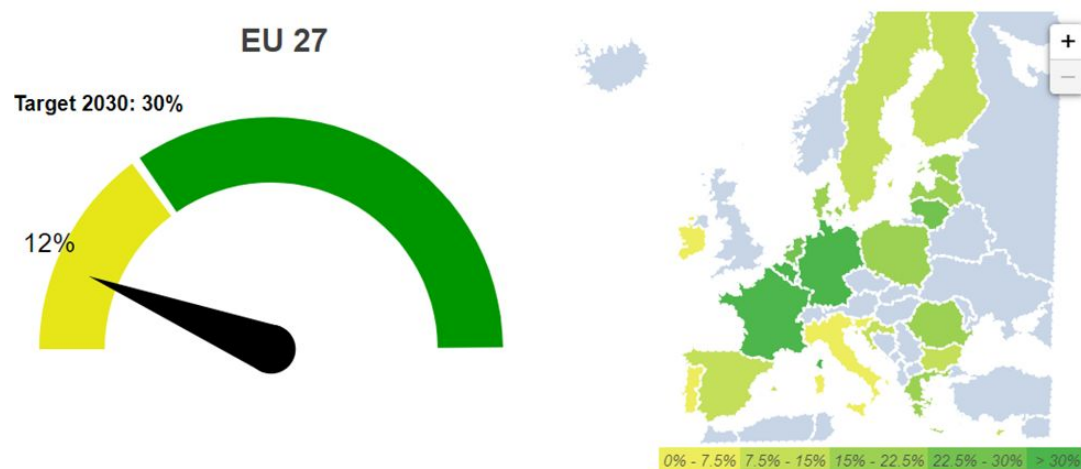
 **Strict protection** for at least $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 10\% \text{ of EU land area} \\ 10\% \text{ of EU sea area} \end{array} \right.$

Integrate **ecological corridors**

All protected areas have clearly defined **conservation objectives and measures** and are **effectively managed** and appropriately **monitored**

Protected areas

- EU MPA network currently covers **12%** of EU seas (Natura 2000 >9%)
- **Less than 1%** strictly protected
- Most MPAs **not effectively managed**



Source: [Spatial Analysis of Marine Protected Area Networks in Europe's Seas III](#)

More information: <https://biodiversity.europa.eu/protected-areas> and <https://biodiversity.europa.eu/countries>

Marine Natura 2000

- **Natura 2000** - the **largest** coordinated network of protected areas in the world
- Covers **9% of EU seas**: main driver of MPA designation (**75%** of all EU MPAs)
- Network is still **not complete**, in particular offshore and in some sea basins
- Strong **legal obligations** for the **designation and management** of sites



NATURA 2000 - EUROPEAN UNION

- Birds Directive sites (SPA)
- Habitats Directive sites (pSCI, SCI, SAC)
- Sites - or parts of sites - belonging to both Directives

European Environment Agency



Source:
-NATURA 2000 - DG ENV, compiled from databases from the Member States;
-Source: background map: © EuroGeoInfo/Eurogeographics and DG ESTRI;
-Validity of NATURA 2000 data for - Europe, updated End 2020;
-Projection: Lambert conformal equal area.

Targets for EU marine regions

- The **protected area targets** are for the EU territory of the 27 Member States (incl. EU outermost regions and sea areas surrounding them)
- The targets should be achieved **in each EU (marine) biogeographical region.**
 - *“All Member States expected to contribute towards reaching the targets, to an extent proportionate to the natural values they host and the potential they have for restoration.”*
- Member States are currently submitting their **initial pledges** for the targets. Pledges will be discussed in 2023/24 at the level of marine biogeographical regions with involvement of stakeholders.

Key challenges

- **Where the additional area needs to be protected** to achieve a coherent (representative, connected, adequate) network that will deliver maximum **benefits for biodiversity and society?**
- What is the role of **other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs)?**
- We are not interested in “paper parks”. **Establish and implement appropriate conservation objectives and measures** and ensure effective management: **governance, financing and stakeholder involvement.**
- How to reconcile the target with **renewable energy and fisheries?**

Main solution → **smart and strategic planning!**

Conservation status improvement target

National target for Member States

- To ensure **no deterioration in conservation trends and status** of all protected habitats and species by 2030 (+closing **knowledge gaps**).
- To ensure that **at least 30% of species and habitats** not currently in favourable status are in that category or **show a strong positive trend**.
- Covers **all species/habitats** reported under Article 17 of **the Habitats Directive** and bird species reported under Article 12 of **the Birds Directive**.

Guidance to Member States on how to select and prioritise species/habitats for the 30% conservation improvement target under the strategy:

<https://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/6f30d1d2-d6f2-4c6e-a4dc-1feb66201929/library/bd8a2cd4-f774-4574-bd88-0b1fa012b725/details>

Selecting species and habitats

Priority: species and habitats **with the highest risk of disappearance**, national responsibility, **umbrella effect**,...

EU-level coordination or transnational coordinated approaches:

- **for transboundary populations**
- **for migratory species** to ensure that efforts taken in one Member State are not imperilled by the lack of measures in another Member State
- in cases where the conservation status or trend of a species or habitat is influenced by **pressures or threats acting at transboundary levels**

Nature restoration law

Pioneering new legislation

Proposal for a nature restoration law



A key initiative of the European Green Deal and the Biodiversity Strategy for 2030:

- **Protection** needs to be strengthened but is not enough
- Need for **large scale restoration effort**
- Complement and **build on existing policy framework** (BHD, MSFD, WFD)
- Focus on the **synergies between climate and nature policy**
- Key global target of the GBF

Regulation on nature restoration: structure

Overarching objective

Restoration targets

Implementation framework

**National
Restoration Plans**

**Monitoring and
Reporting**

By 2030 restoration measures cover 20% of EU's land and sea

By 2050 – all ecosystems in need of restoration

Specific restoration targets

Protected
Habitat Types
(Annex I HD)



Habitats of
protected
species (BHD)



Marine
Habitats
(beyond HD)



Urban
ecosystems



River
connectivity



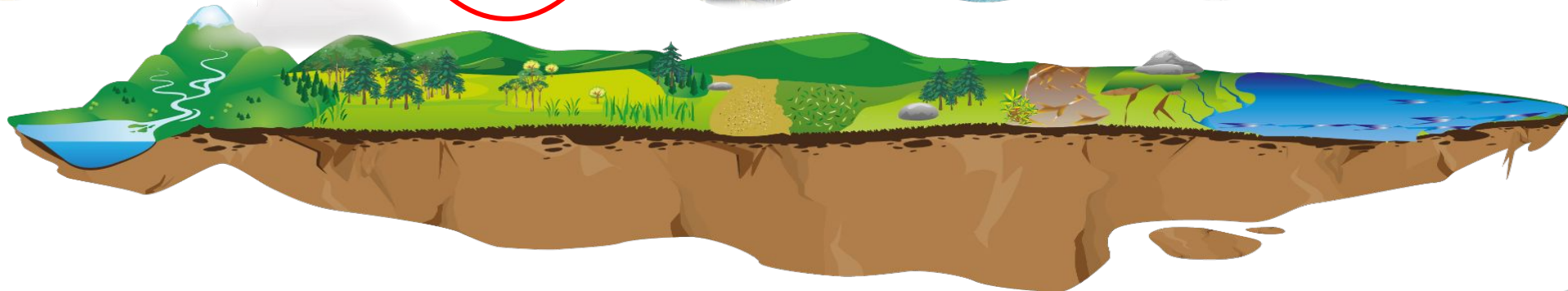
Pollinators



Agro-ecosystems




Forest
ecosystems



Marine action plan

Bringing environment and fisheries worlds together

EU Action plan: Protecting and restoring marine ecosystems for sustainable and resilient fisheries

- State of seas and sustainability of fisheries
- Bring “nature back into our lives”
- Bridge fisheries and environment worlds
- Builds on existing framework
- Improve gear selectivity & address bycatch of sensitive species 
- Protect the seabed 
- Transition & knowledge 
- Governance 

Governance and process

Measures

- Measures for **priority species**
- Transition to **better protection of the seabed**: Natura 2000 sites protecting the habitats and marine species (Habitats Directive)

- Transition to better protection of the seabed in all MPAs
- Protect remaining sensitive species

2023

2024

2030

Governance

New special group established
-
First meeting held on 6 October

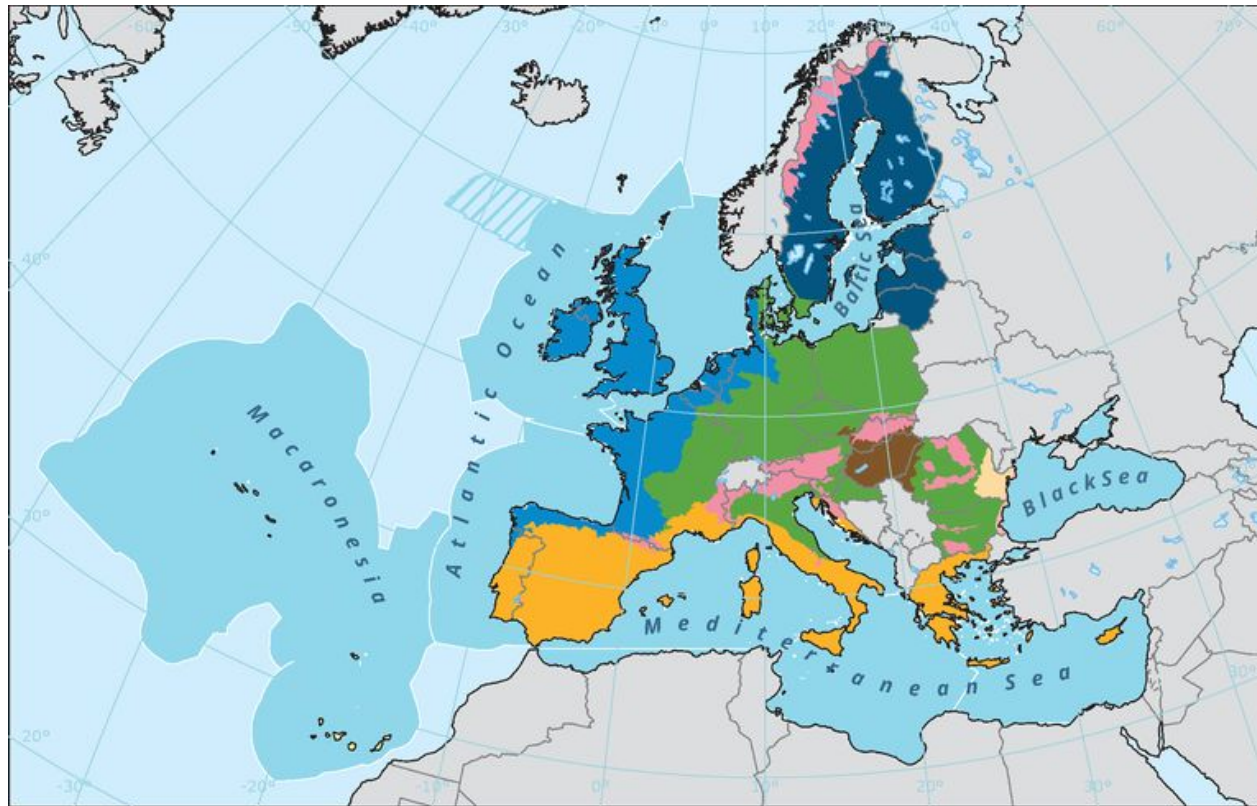
Member States' **roadmaps** prepared & delivered

Implementation of Member States' roadmaps

Biodiversity strategy progress assessment > action plan progress

Natura 2000 biogeographical process

Working together to achieve the targets



- The **Natura 2000** biogeographical process expanded to include the **pledge and review process for Biodiversity strategy targets**
- **Marine Expert Group** is steering the marine biogeographical process
- **Face-to-face biogeographical region-level seminars** to discuss the pledges and Natura 2000 management issues
- Review, finalisation and implementation of pledges

Seminars and networking events



- **Regional marine biogeographical seminars** with the participation of national authorities, relevant stakeholders and experts:
 - **Atlantic and Macaronesia:** 11-13 October, Ireland
 - **Baltic Sea:** 8-10 November, Latvia
 - **Mediterranean and the Black Sea:** France, March 2024 (tbc)
- **Networking events** and workshops
- The Commission will **evaluate the progress by 2024** and decide whether stronger action, including EU legislation, is needed. [[BDS Progress report in spring 2024](#)]

Thank you



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