



# Proposal for a Nature Restoration Law

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# EU Biodiversity strategy for 2030

- adopted by European Commission on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2020  
<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1590574123338&uri=CELEX:52020DC0380>
- **to put biodiversity on the path to recovery** by 2030, by protecting and restoring nature and ecosystems in the EU
- **headline targets:**
  1. *Establish larger **coherent EU-wide network of protected areas***
  2. *Develop **EU Nature Restoration Plan***
- **endorsed by Member States** through Council Conclusions in October 2020, and by **European Parliament** in an own-initiative report adopted in June 2021



# EU proposal for a regulation on nature restoration

- A key initiative under the European Green Deal & the Biodiversity Strategy to 2030
- Continuing ecosystem degradation and biodiversity loss across the EU
- Voluntary targets of the 2020 EU Biodiversity Strategy: not met
  - **Protection needs to be strengthened but is not enough**
  - **A reinforced approach is needed**
- Conclusion: The Commission needed to come forward with a proposal for legally binding targets for nature restoration



# Legislative train schedule on the NRL



# Nature Restoration Regulation

Overarching objective



Objectives to which the regulation contributes to

- *biodiverse, resilient nature across the EU through the restoration of degraded ecosystems\**
- *climate change mitigation, adaptation, food security, land degradation neutrality\**
- *meeting the EU's international commitments*

Restoration targets

Implementation framework

Framework for effective and area-based restoration measures

- *By 2030 → restoration measures will cover **20%** of EU's land and sea*
- *By 2050 → measures in place for **ALL ecosystems in need of restoration***

National  
Restoration  
Plans

Monitoring and  
Reporting



\* Pending trilogue negotiations

# | So, what is nature restoration?



[Restoring nature - Publications Office of the EU \(europa.eu\)](https://european-council.europa.eu/media/en/press-photos/2024/04/Restoring_nature_-_Publications_Office_of_the_EU_(europa.eu).pdf)

‘restoration’ means... the **process** of actively or passively assisting the **recovery of an ecosystem** towards or to good condition...

This includes....

- Improve condition of habitat types
- Re-establish habitat types
- Increase the quality and quantity of species habitats
- Enhance connectivity habitat types / habitats of species
- Achieve satisfactory levels of a range of indicators
- ...



## Specific restoration targets



\* Pending trilogue negotiations



# Targets based on existing legislation (Art.4 & 5) – EC proposal



- 1) Effort based: Put in place restoration measures
  - ✓ Habitat types in Annexes I and II (**wherever they occur**)
    - ✓ **Quantified & timebound targets;**
  - ✓ Habitats of species
    - ✓ improve quality and quantity, re-connect habitats
- 2) Outcome based:
  - ✓ continuous improvement in areas subject to restoration measures
  - ✓ **non deterioration** (with exceptions) of habitat types in Annexes I and II





# | Urban ecosystem targets (Art.6) – EC proposal



- No net loss of **urban green space** by 2030
- 3% increase in the total national area of **urban green space** by 2040 & 5% increase by 2050
- Minimum of 10 % **urban tree canopy** cover by 2050
- Net gain of urban green space integrated into buildings and infrastructure developments



# | River connectivity target (Art.7) – EC proposal



- Identify and remove barriers that prevent the connectivity of surface waters in order to contribute to...
  - ..the targets for riverine habitats & ecosystems (e.g. floodplains)
  - ...the objective of restoring at least 25 000 km of free-flowing rivers in the EU by 2030



# | Pollinator populations target (Art.8) – EC proposal

- Reverse the decline of pollinator populations by 2030
- Achieve thereafter an **increasing trend** for pollinator populations (until satisfactory levels), with a methodology for annual monitoring



# | Agricultural ecosystems (Art.9) – EC proposal



Put in place **restoration** measures necessary to enhance biodiversity of agricultural ecosystems **in addition to Art 4**

Achieve an **increasing trend in indicators** (until satisfactory levels are achieved):

- Grassland butterfly index;
- Stock of organic carbon in cropland mineral soils;
- Share of agricultural land with high-diversity landscape features;

- **Specific target to enhance the Farmland bird index** by 2030/40/50 at national level
- Put restoration measures on at least 30% by 2030, 50% by 2040 and 70% by 2050 of **drained peatlands under agricultural use**,  $\frac{1}{4}$  (2030) and  $\frac{1}{2}$  (2040 and 2050) of which shall be rewetted.
  - Flexibility clauses are giving the option to work also on peat extraction sites and partly on other types of drained peatlands.



# | Forest ecosystems (Art.10) – EC proposal



Put in place **restoration** measures necessary to enhance forest biodiversity **in addition to Art 4**

Achieve an **increasing trend in indicators** (until satisfactory levels are achieved):

- Standing deadwood;
- Lying deadwood;
- Share of forest with uneven age structure;
- Forest connectivity;
- Common forest birds index;
- Stock of organic carbon.



## Implementation framework

### National Restoration Plans

#### Preparation (Art. 11):

- Monitoring and research to identify measures for all targets
- Quantify & map restoration areas; Identify satisfactory levels for indicators
- Identify synergies with climate change & other plans and strategies

#### Content (Art. 12)

- Quantification & description of the restoration targets and measures, non-deterioration measures & timing for implementation: 2030, 2040, 2050
- Details on how to finance the implementation of the restoration measures → EU, national, public/private
- Public/stakeholder participation in preparing the plans

Timing (Art. 13)  
Submission of  
NRP to COM 2  
years after  
entry into force

COM  
Assessment  
(Art. 14)  
MS review  
(Art. 15)



## Implementation framework

### Monitoring and Reporting

Make use of electronic databases, geographic information systems, maximise use of i.a. remote sensing technologies, earth observation services...

- Member States to monitor condition, trends, areas, indicators, populations (**Art. 17**)
- Member States to report on implementation of NRP, putting in place restoration measures and results achieved (**Art. 18**)
- Commission and European Environment Agency
  - assess progress in implementation and achievement of targets and obligations
  - report to EP/Council every three years



# Thank you