



Biodiversity proofing and seeking for biodiversity criteria in EU funding – roles and opportunities

CEEweb Conference

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Budapest, 3/11/2014



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The EU mandate (March 2010)

- Adoption of a **long term (2050) vision**

*By 2050, European Union biodiversity **and the ecosystem services it provides – its natural capital – are protected, valued and appropriately restored** for biodiversity's intrinsic value and for their essential contribution to human well-being and economic prosperity, and so that catastrophic changes caused by the loss of biodiversity are avoided*

- Adoption of a **mid term (2020) headline target**

*Halting the loss of biodiversity **and the degradation of ecosystem services in the EU by 2020, and restoring them in so far as feasible**, while stepping up the EU contribution to averting global biodiversity loss*

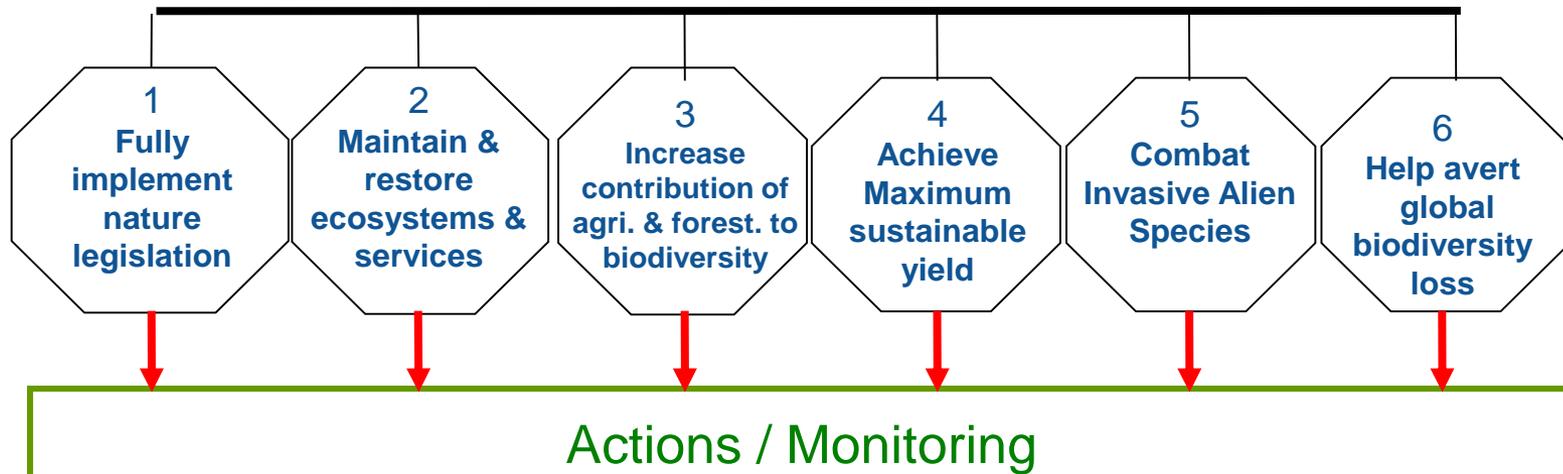


EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020

2050 Vision

2020 headline target

6 Targets:





Target 2 in the Biodiversity Strategy

- Target 2 and related measures

- *"By 2020, ecosystem services are maintained and enhanced by establishing Green Infrastructure and restoring at least 15% of degraded ecosystems."*
 - **Map** and **assess** state of ES by 2014, **value** and **integrate** in National Accounts by 2020 (A.5)
 - **Green Infrastructure** Strategy by 2012 to encourage investments in GI (Action 6)
 - Ensure **no net loss** of biodiversity and ecosystem services (Action 7)

- Action 7: Ensure no net loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services

- Methodology for assessing the impacts of EU funded projects, plans and programmes on biodiversity (**Biodiversity Proofing**)
- Commission to propose by 2015 an initiative to ensure there is **No Net Loss** of ecosystems and their services (e.g. through compensation or offsetting schemes)



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Biodiversity Proofing



Background to Biodiversity Proofing

- **The EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020**

2020 Headline Target

Halting the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services in the EU by 2020 [...]

- This means measures need to be taken to reduce:
 - Environmental degradation, habitat loss and fragmentation, land use intensification, disturbance and pollution (of land, water and air)
- EU Budget is a key tool to achieve the Headline Target:
 - Provides important funding for measures that benefit biodiversity e.g. through the LIFE programme and aspects of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)
- But some EU policies and funds can create pressures on Biodiversity:
 - This could happen with relation to e.g. Cohesion Policy and specific funds promoting fisheries, transport and energy developments.
- Background study launched in 2011:
 - To investigate what funds could be harmful to biodiversity and what tools can prevent can prevent harmful spending



What is Biodiversity Proofing?

- **Ensure that spending under the EU budget is not harmful to biodiversity:**

Definition according to Background Study

A structured process of ensuring the effective application of tools to maximise the biodiversity benefits of spending and avoid or minimise harmful impacts. It applies to all spending streams under the EU budget, across the whole budgetary cycle and at all levels of governance, and should contribute to a significant improvement in the state of biodiversity according to the 2010 baseline and agreed biodiversity targets.

- BD Proofing is a step-wise process in the early steps of the mitigation hierarchy:
 - **Directly - (1) avoidance of impacts; (2) reduction of negative impacts;**
 - Indirectly - (3) rehabilitation/ restoration measures; (4) compensation measures for significant adverse residual impacts.
- Main focus is on avoiding negative impacts of fund spending:
 - A secondary focus is on highlighting and enhancing spending that is positive for biodiversity



Tools for Biodiversity Proofing

- **Biodiversity related EU Law:**

- All spending programmes under the EU budget should be compliant with the;
 - Birds Directive – conservation status
 - Habitats Directive – conservation status
 - Water Framework Directive – ecological status
 - Marine Strategy Framework Directive – environmental status

- **Procedural Instruments supporting the Directives**

- Environmental Impact Assessment
- Strategic Environmental Assessment

- **Other tools fill in the gaps and help reinforce the process:**

- Environmental selection criteria for projects, cost-benefit analysis taking into account ecosystem services values, the setting of environmental targets and indicators, and mid-term and ex post policy evaluations.

- **Aim is to develop a 'best frame of actions':**

- Based on holistic and integrated processes with interventions at all stages of the policy cycle, applying relevant Directives and Tools



Funds and Policies for Biodiversity Proofing

- **A number of EU funds and policies are most relevant to biodiversity proofing:**
 - **The Common Agricultural policy** - limited opportunity for Pillar 1, main focus on Pillar 2; EU funds for land management with positive biodiversity impacts. Positive aspects in agri-env measures
 - **Cohesion Policy** – Biodiversity and GI are priority actions for the ERDF and Cohesion Fund under the thematic objective "protecting the environment and promoting RE"
 - **Connecting Europe Facility Energy** – numerous "Projects of Common Interest" (PoCIs) that could be funded by the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) and TEN-E fund.
 - **Connecting Europe Facility Transport** – Expected significant investment in TEN-T infrastructure in the 2014-2020 programming period. CEF sets rule for granting funds to TEN-T projects.
 - **Maritime and fisheries policy** – Important that European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) Regulation for the 2014-2020 programming period is ambitious in terms of biodiversity consideration.
 - **Research and Innovation** - Horizon 2020, the new financial instrument implementing the Innovation Union 2014-2020; €80 billion budget and significant funding for ecosystems and BD projects.
 - **LIFE Programme** – LIFE+ (2007-13) and post-2014 is the main pro-biodiversity funding instrument for the Commission especially supporting implementation of the Habitats and Birds Directives.



Follow-up contract: Common Framework for Biodiversity Proofing the EU Budget

- Aim: build on background study to prepare specific biodiversity proofing guidance documents
- Biodiversity proofing guidance documents available on following:
 - **General Guidance**
 - **Cohesion Policy Funds**
 - **Common Agricultural Policy funds** (EAGF and EAFRD)
 - **Connecting Europe Facility** (TEN-E and TEN-T)
 - **European Maritime and Fisheries Fund**
- General guidance = a standardised approach that can be applied to most EU funds by national and regional authorities in Member States
- It does not apply to centralised and non-programmed funds (does not cover Pillar 1 of the CAP)



Follow-up contract: Common Framework for Biodiversity Proofing the EU Budget

- General guidance also includes "Guidance on proofing the policy cycle" targeted for Commission services (e.g. for mid-term review of MFF)
- Fund-specific guidance docs focus on proofing the project cycle:
 - **Calls for proposals**
 - **Project development and selection**
 - **Project execution**
 - **Project monitoring and evaluation**
- All guidance documents target national and regional authorities in Member States.



Thank you

For more information on biodiversity proofing and the [guidance documents](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/comm2006/proofing.htm) visit:
ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/comm2006/proofing.htm



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Backup



Step-by-step approach to the Proofing Process

ILLUSTRATIVE

- Support material includes:
 1. **Screening check-list** (for step 1 and 2)
 2. **Guide for intervention** in case of possible negative impacts (for step 3)
 3. **Information to support the analysis** (for all steps to guide thinking and assessment)
- **Step 1** – use screening checklist to identify whether the programme or planned project could have negative impacts to biodiversity
- **Step 2** – determine if intervention is needed based on output of step 1 in order to ensure that negative impacts are avoided/minimised/compensated
- **Step 3** – use the guidance for intervention to identify the available/possible entry points for intervention and possible outcomes



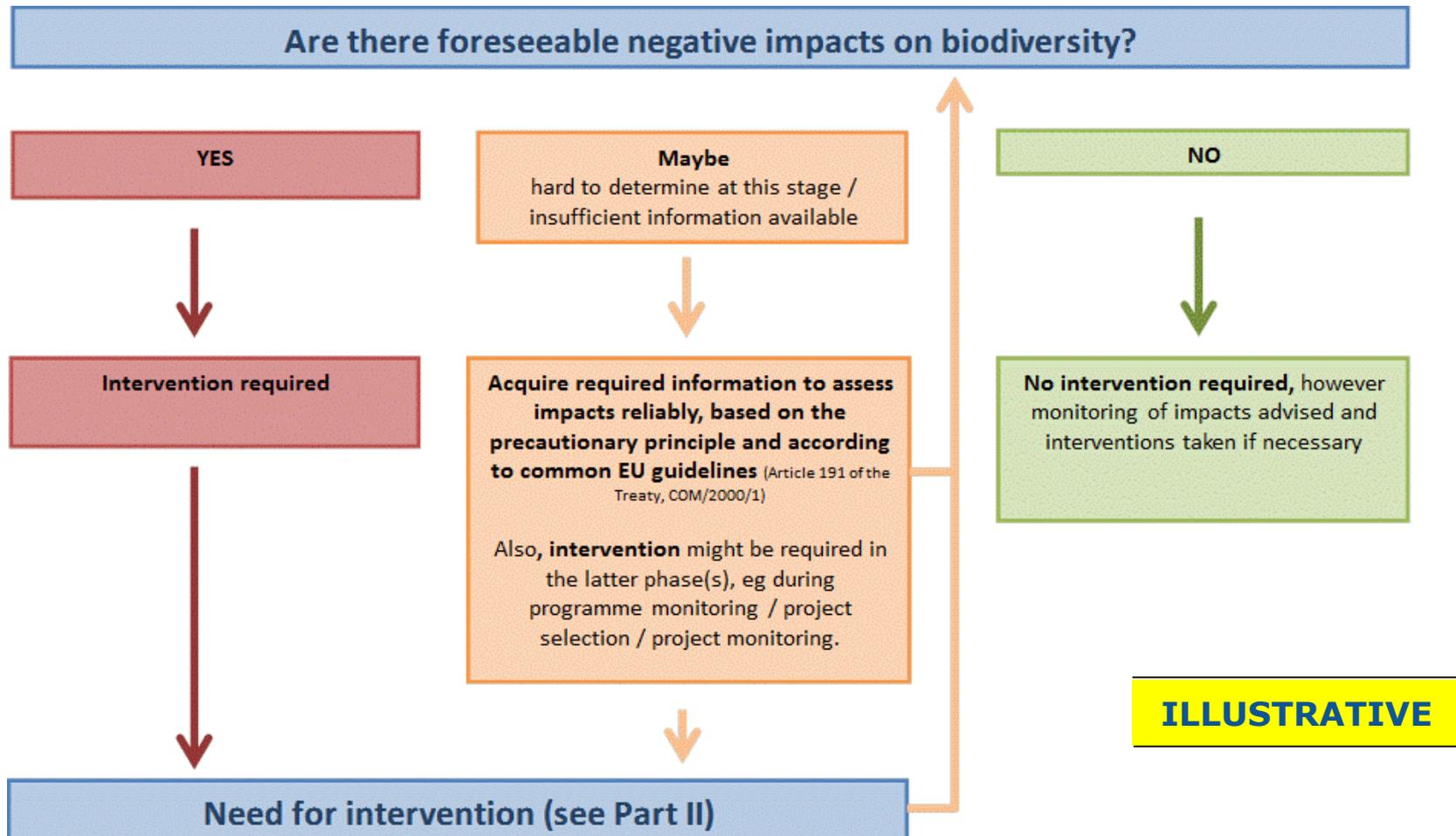
The screening checklist

ILLUSTRATIVE

Programming phase (including ex-ante evaluation and / or evaluations while monitoring implementation of programme)			
Criteria for screening programmes	Your assessment	Comments	Information to support your assessment
Are there projects in the core network corridors targeted by the Work Programme that have risks of adverse impacts on biodiversity?		In order to biodiversity-proof the Work Programme, it is essential to understand whether, and if so where, the projects potentially-funded under the Work Programme risk adversely affecting biodiversity.	See the ex-ante evaluation of the CEF/TENT programme
Has the requirement that projects should effectively protect biodiversity by avoiding damage, or if not mitigating, or at worst compensating for any damage caused to biodiversity, been included in the Work Programme?		There is always a risk that the construction and use of transport infrastructure has an adverse impact on biodiversity. The challenge is to ensure that potential impacts have been identified. Otherwise, damage cannot be avoided, or mitigated or in the worst case compensated if damage is unavoidable.	See Biodiversity Risk table in supporting information See the draft Regulations
Project / proposal selection phase (ex-ante and / or ex-post)			
Criteria for screening project proposals	Your assessment	Comment	Information to support your assessment
Has the project proposal demonstrated that the potential impacts on biodiversity have been assessed, eg as part of the EIA? What evidence has been provided? Is this convincing?		As transport infrastructure requires land, it is likely that there will be some impact on biodiversity. Hence, the potential impact should be assessed.	See Biodiversity Risk table for preliminary supporting information. In addition, seek project-specific information and expertise (eg area, species, habitat etc specific assessments and expert information) to support your assessment.
Has the project application made reference to there being no impact on Nature 2000 sites and other sites of importance listed in the respective national biodiversity action plans?		At the most basic level, these plans should be checked to ensure that there are no important nature and biodiversity sites in the way of, or near, the proposed route.	Also, see EIA guidance such as IAIA (2005), Duke and Aycrigg (2000), Netherlands



Decision tree for interpreting screening results





Guidance for Intervention – Best Frame of Actions

ILLUSTRATIVE

