

BIODIVERSITY

Reference document: [“EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030: Bringing nature back into our lives”](#)

1. **Nature matters, because...** (trends , threats, opportunities)

- **From the world’s great rainforests to small parks and gardens, from the blue whale to microscopic fungi, biodiversity is the extraordinary variety of life on Earth.** Biodiversity filters our air and water, absorbs vast quantities of carbon, helps keep the climate in balance, converts waste back into resources, pollinates and fertilises crops and much more. It is not only an environmental issue; it is the basis of human life and socio-economic development.
- **Biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse are one of the biggest threats facing humanity in the next decade.** Ecosystems are degrading at an alarming rate. Around 75% of the terrestrial environment and 40% of the marine environment is being severely altered. The five main direct drivers of biodiversity loss – changes in land and sea use, overexploitation, climate change, pollution, and invasive alien species – are making nature disappear quickly.
- **Biodiversity deterioration has immediate consequences** on the resilience of societies and the economy, on our access to food and water, on climate change mitigation and more generally on our well being. There can be no sustainable development without bending the curve of biodiversity loss and natural resources depletion. **The costs of inaction are high and are anticipated to increase.**
- Good news! We can revert the curve. There is **unprecedented mobilisation from youth and civil society organisations**, but also increasing momentum in the **private sector**.
- Biodiversity conservation has potential **direct economic benefits** for many sectors of the economy. For example, conserving marine stocks could increase annual profits of the seafood industry by more than €49 billion, while protecting coastal wetlands could save the insurance industry around €50 billion annually through reducing flood damage losses.

2. **What do we propose with the new biodiversity strategy?**

For the EU

- By 2030, at least 30% of the EU’s land and sea areas are respectively protected; and at least a third of the EU’s protected areas, including primary and old growth forests, are safeguarded.
- Other important targets are: By 2030, the decline in pollinators is reversed, the risk and use of chemical pesticides is reduced by 50% and the use of more hazardous pesticides is reduced by 50%. At least 25% of agricultural land is under organic farming management. Three billion new trees are planted in the EU.

For the rest of the world

- Europe is aiming for world leaders to agree an ambitious global biodiversity framework in 2021 to halt biodiversity loss.
- Step up support to partner countries across the world to achieve the new global targets, fight environmental crime, and tackle the drivers of biodiversity loss.
- In Africa, launch the NaturAfrica initiative to protect wildlife and key ecosystems while offering opportunities in green sectors for local populations
- Promote sustainable agricultural and fisheries practices and actions to protect and restore the world’s forests. Particular attention will also be paid to sustainable water resource management, the restoration of degraded land, and the protection and restoration of biodiverse areas with high ecosystem services and climate mitigation potential.

- **Mainstream biodiversity** in all relevant sectors, such as forestry, agriculture, infrastructure, sustainable energy and green cities, education.
- Make a better **link between climate and the environment**. Invest in nature-based solutions (land, forests, oceans, water) as these provide over a third of climate change mitigation and are crucial for adaptation and disaster risk prevention
- Promote a **Green Deal diplomacy** and cooperation with partner countries, to include the importance of taxation, subsidies, environmental and green business legislation as part of good governance reforms.
- Ensure full implementation and enforcement of the biodiversity provisions in all trade agreements, and further tighten the rules on EU ivory trade later this year.

3. Key messages

- “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.”
- EU engagement paves the way for ambitious and necessary changes that will ensure the wellbeing and economic prosperity of present and future generations in a healthy environment.

4. Examples, success stories

5. Useful documents

Fact sheet: https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/env-20-002_factsheet1-vbo-en-b.pdf

Biodiversity tool kit: https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/biodiversity_en.pdf