

Roadmap towards nature credits

INTPA seminar with EU delegations, Brussels, 9 July 2025

env-nature-credits@ec.europa.eu

Roadmap towards nature credits

Introduction

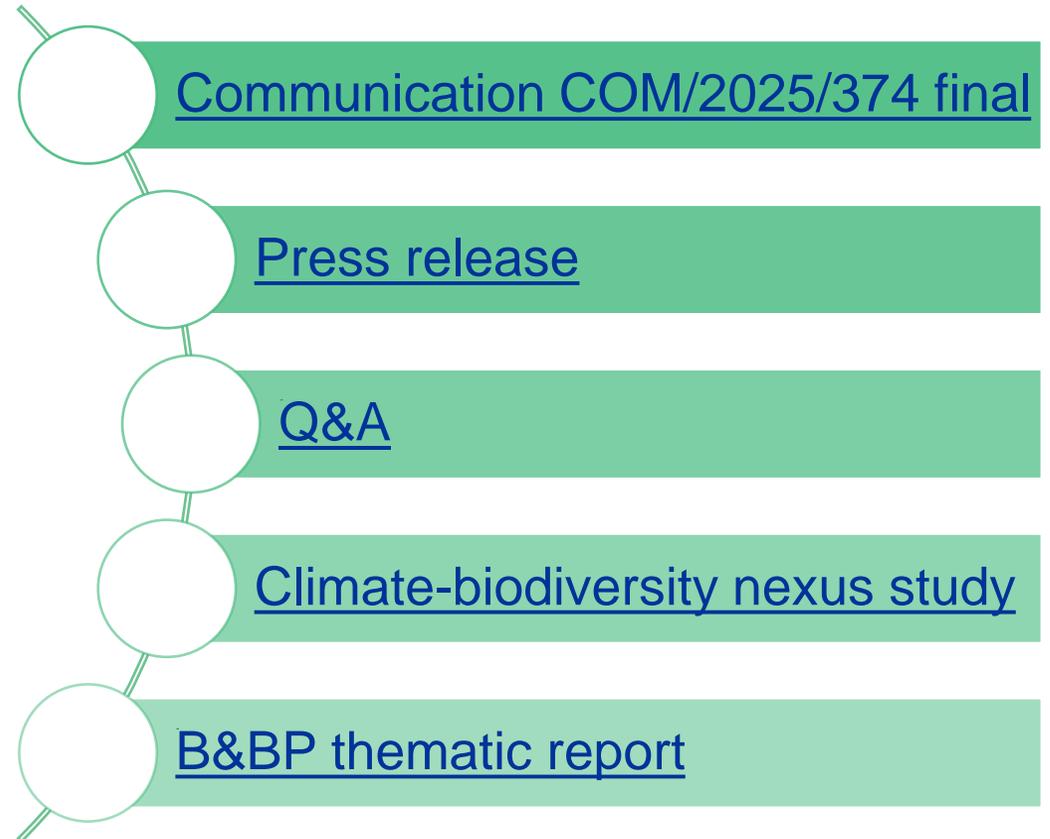
1. The economic and business case for nature-positive action

2. Nature credits

3. Learning from and building on experience with carbon markets

4. Developing nature credits

Conclusion



Introduction

Protecting nature and supporting European business go hand in hand. Nature credits will give our farmers and financial communities the confidence that investing in nature is a sound decision. Nature credits will lead to a cleaner, more sustainable and prosperous Europe for all.

President von der Leyen, 7 July 2025

Nature as a foundation for prosperity

Nature sustains essential ecosystem services

- Regulates water retention and prevents floods
- Supports soil fertility and enables food production
- Facilitates pollination and pest control

Plays a vital role in climate adaptation and resilience

- Buffers extreme weather and disaster risks
- Stores carbon through healthy ecosystems
- Mitigates temperature extremes in urban areas

Shapes economic and financial system dynamics

- Influences creditworthiness and loan risk profiles
- Affects corporate access to capital, scrutinised by supervisors

Local actors are on the frontline of stewardship

- Farmers, foresters, fishers
- Landowners and land managers
- Local communities and conservation staff

Markets can reward those protecting nature

- Nature should be seen as an economic asset
- Incentives must align with sustainability outcomes
- Nature-positive contributions must be valued



Marty Mayne, Urban Treasures EEA

Towards a new tool for nature finance

Public funding remains essential but insufficient

- EU commits 10% of its budget to biodiversity (2026–27)
- External funding doubled to €7bn
- Still far from €65 billion EU annual gap

Need for additional sources of finance

- Attract private investment
- Complement result-based public funding

Can unlock value for actors working with nature

- Reward nature-positive agriculture and forestry
- Support forest multifunctionality, food security and blue economy,
- Finance conservation in protected areas

Roadmap defines a pathway toward EU action

- Frames a consultative, exploratory phase
- Anchors nature credits in EU context
- Connects pilot work to policy development

Kunming-Montréal Global Biodiversity Framework



Target 18 - reduce harmful incentives by at least \$500 billion per year, and scale up positive incentives for biodiversity



Target 19 - Mobilize \$200 billion per year for biodiversity from all sources, including \$30 billion through international finance

The economic and business case for nature-positive action

Economic dependence on nature

Nature supports the functioning of our economy

- Two-thirds of EU economic value relies on ecosystem services
- Global supply chains are deeply nature-dependent
- Agriculture, forestry, and fisheries are especially exposed

Nature loss drives financial and macroeconomic risks

- Causes supply chain disruptions and cost volatility
- Undermines asset values and collateral
- Exacerbates climate and environmental shocks

Loss of ecosystem services remains unpriced

- Market signals rarely reflect ecological degradation
- Nature's contribution is externalised
- Leads to chronic underinvestment in protection

Ecosystem accounts show significant value

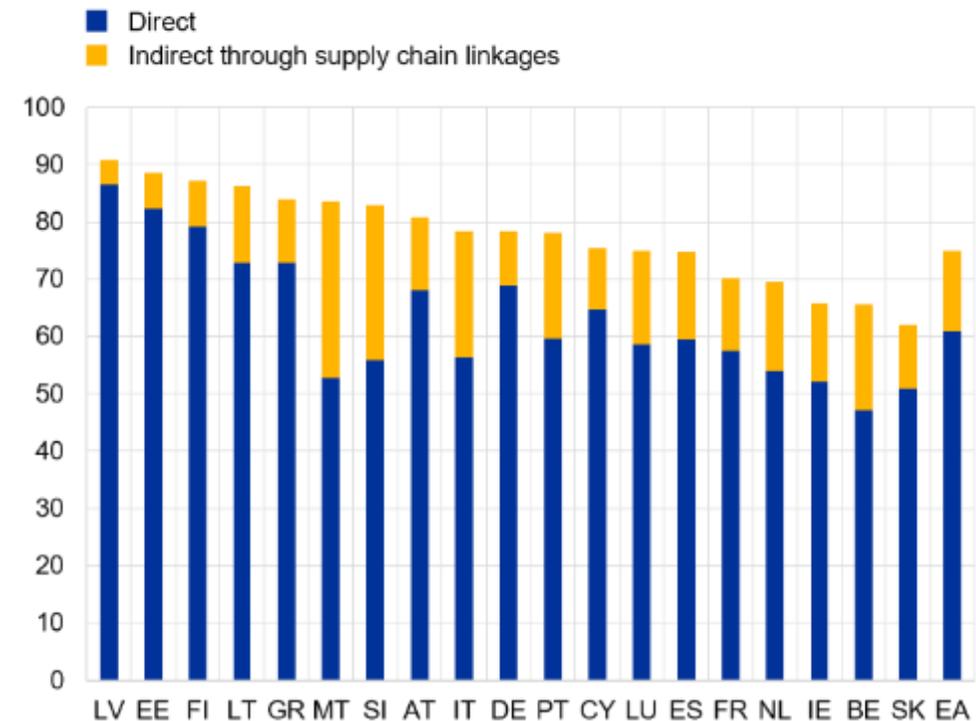
- Ten EU ecosystem services valued at €234bn/year
- These estimates remain conservative
- Highlight nature's underappreciated contribution

Business and policy must act on risk exposure

- Nature-risk disclosures are expanding
- Board-level attention is growing
- Rating agencies and insurers are integrating biodiversity

Share of corporate loans from banks to companies with a high dependency score for at least one ecosystem service.

(percentages, December 2021)



[The economy and banks need nature to survive |](#)

[European Central Bank](#)



Public finance is essential but insufficient

EU biodiversity spending has scaled up

- Targets 10% of total EU budget for biodiversity
- €7bn for external action via NDICI
- LIFE, Horizon and InvestEU contribute

Public funds must be protected and prioritised

- Address long-term needs with limited returns
- Support public goods and equity concerns
- Fund monitoring, enforcement, and governance

Cannot bridge the biodiversity finance gap alone

- EU: €65bn/year needed, €37,4bn/year financing gap ([EIR 2025](#))
- Global gap is around \$700bn/year
- Private finance must be mobilised at scale

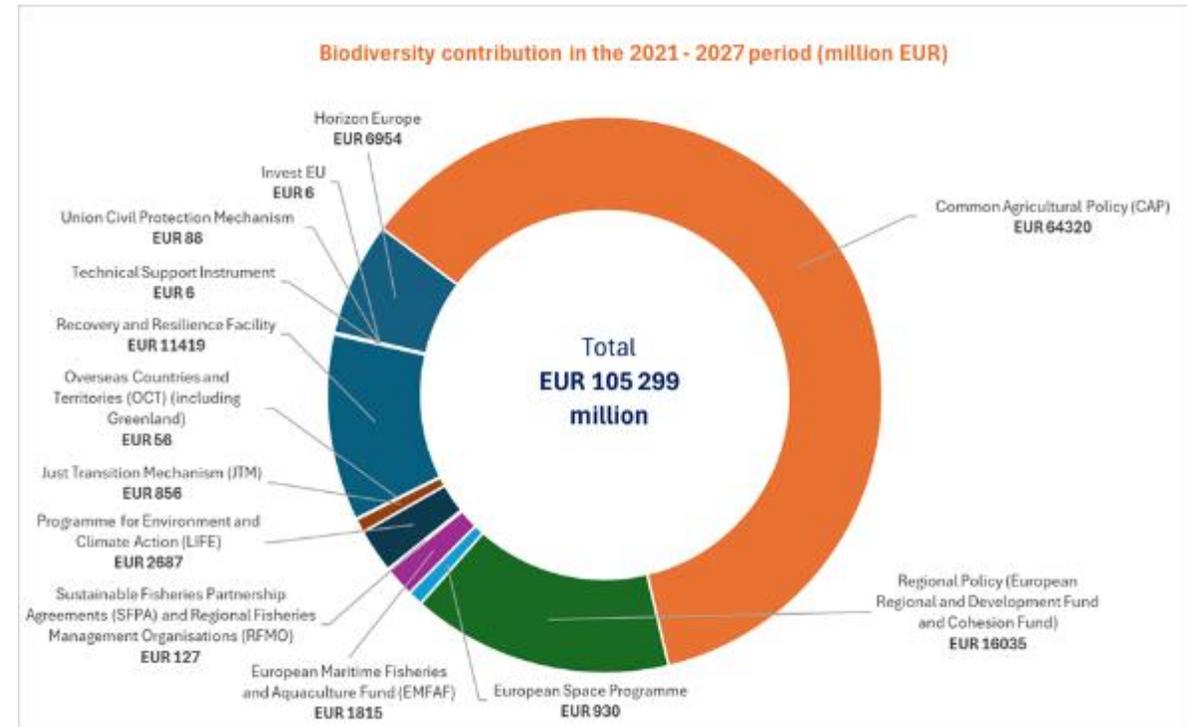
Leverage role of regulation and co-financing

- Combine public and private sources in blended structures
- Use public guarantees to de-risk private investment

Financing gaps persist across ecosystems

- Underfunding affects marine and freshwater systems
- Urban green infrastructure lacks support
- Landowners lack incentives to conserve habitats

Breakdown of MFF 2021-27 funding for biodiversity per EU programme



Draft EU Budget 2025, Statement of Estimates



Business cases identified

Nature-positive models build long-term value

- Improve product quality and traceability
- Create differentiation and competitive advantage
- Foster brand loyalty and investor confidence

Risk management is a key driver

- Nature protection/restoration ensure productive land
- Nature positive action decreases
- Contributes to alleviating reputational and regulatory risks.

Financial institutions are adapting their models

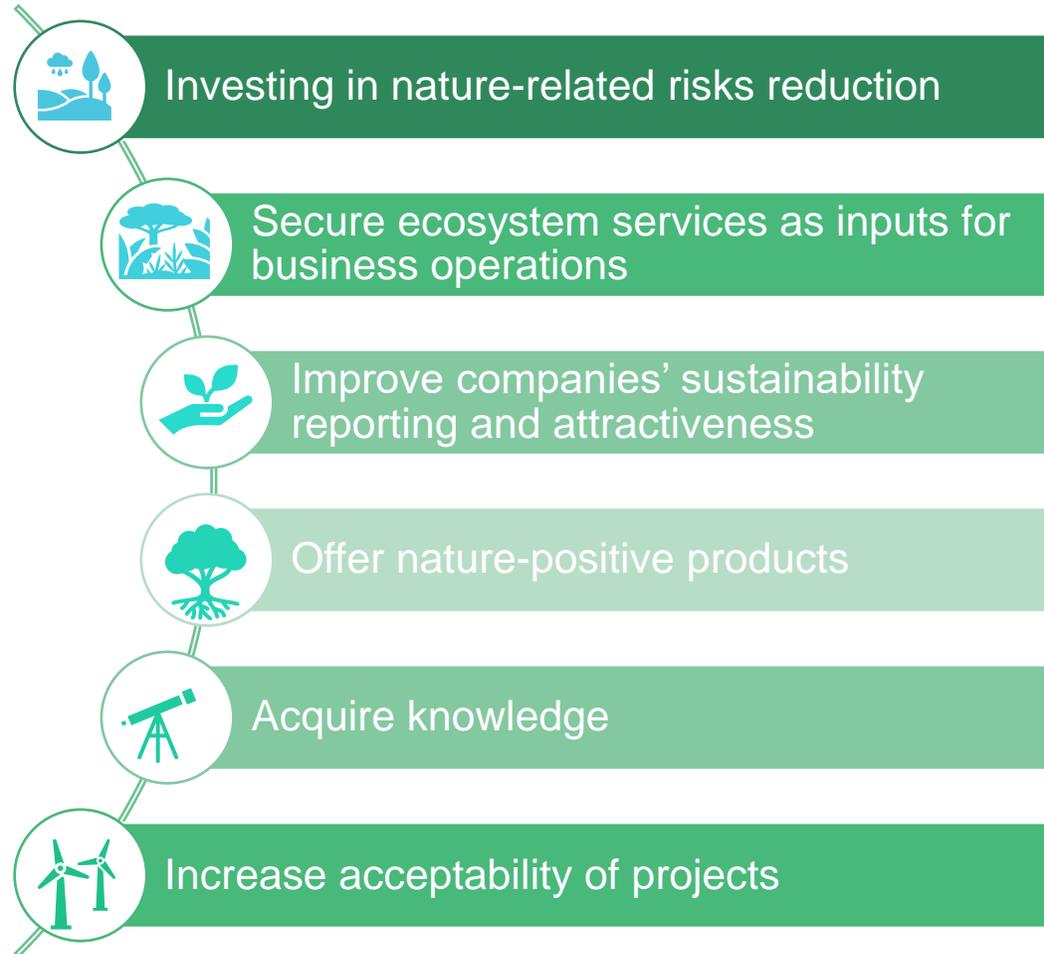
- Biodiversity risks affect loan performance
- Nature loss is now seen as a systemic financial risk
- Climate-nature integration is gaining ground

Reporting frameworks reinforce demand

- CSRD requires biodiversity materiality assessments
- SFDR asks funds to disclose nature-related risks
- EU Taxonomy incorporates ecosystem protection

Companies explore new revenue models

- Regenerative agriculture and agroecology
- Insurance-linked nature investments
- Nature-positive investments to increase social acceptability



Barriers to scale nature credit markets

Data gaps hinder confidence in outcomes

- Biodiversity metrics are complex and contextual
- Few global benchmarks exist
- Uncertainty deters investment

Upfront costs can be significant

- Restoration takes time to show results
- Certification requires technical expertise
- Monitoring can be resource-intensive

Benefits may take years to materialise

- Time lags in ecosystem recovery
- Delayed returns make private capital hesitant
- Need for pre-financing or guarantees

Regulatory clarity is still emerging

- Fragmented approaches across countries
- No mutual recognition of schemes
- Governance gaps remain

Investors need clearer incentives

- Tax breaks, procurement criteria, ESG labels
- Risk-sharing instruments
- Visibility for biodiversity early-movers



stock.adobe.com



Nature credits

What are nature credits?

Nature credits value nature-positive action

- Recognise restoration and maintenance efforts
- Go beyond individual legal obligations and mitigation hierarchy
- Can value individual contributions to national obligations

Units represent verified biodiversity outcomes

- Based on agreed science-based indicators and metrics
- Adapted to ecosystem type and context
- Reflect real, measurable change

Designed to complement policy tools

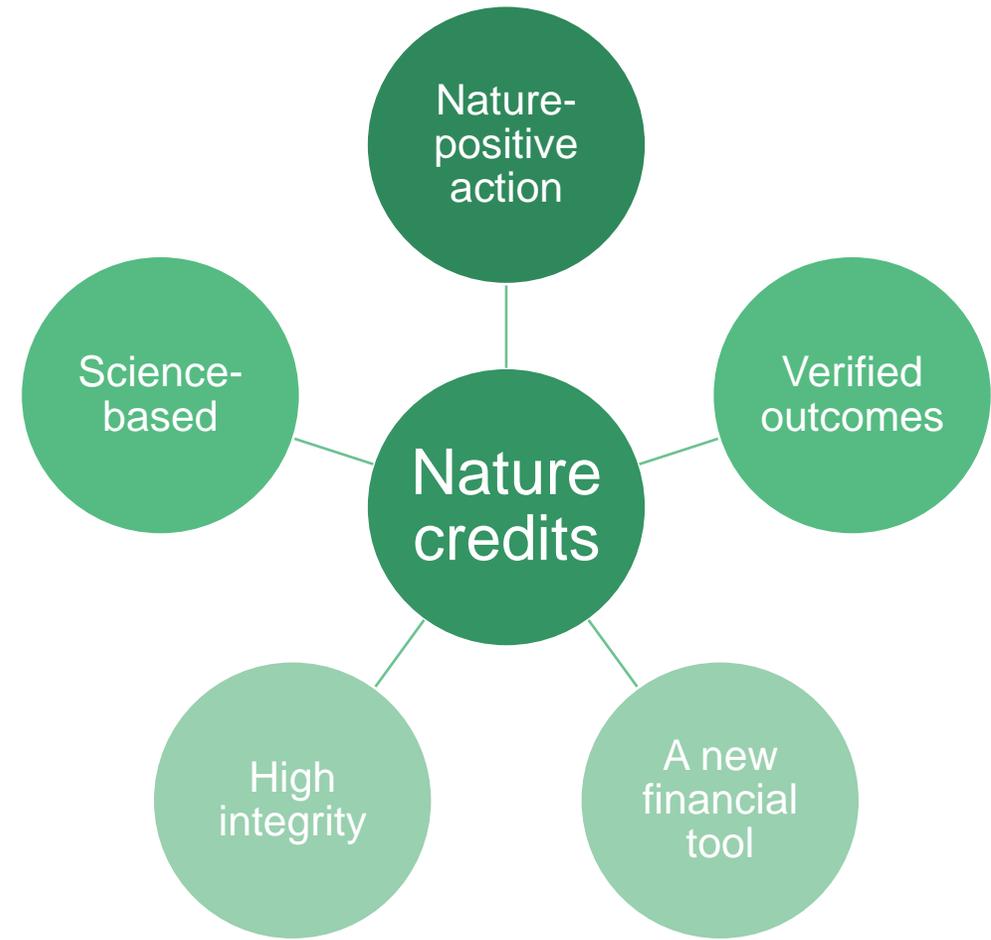
- Can inform national targets under the Nature Restoration Regulation
- Useful for disclosures, sustainable finance, support schemes

Emphasis on high integrity and credibility

- Robust metrics and independent certification
- Transparent issuance and registries
- Governance safeguards and role separation

Not a commodification of nature

- Recognise stewardship, not asset trading
- Aligned with EU values and subsidiarity



From certification to credit issuance

Certification as a proof of quality

- Assesses project design and implementation
- Provides verified assurance to funders

Credits can be issued based on certified outcomes

- Represent progress in maintenance or restoration over time
- Tied to specific indicators and metrics

Two-step model enhances investor trust

- Helps structure contracts and impact investment
- Builds early confidence and scales finance
- Support progress over time

Enables innovative financial instruments

- Pre-investment via certificates, monetisation through crediting
- Seed public financing and blending
- Structured finance and aggregation possibilities

Adapted to local ecosystem characteristics

- Different metrics for forests, peatlands, wetlands, etc.
- Flexible but aligned with overarching EU standards
- Can build on MAES and SEEA-EA frameworks

Certificate

Recognise that a nature-positive project meets high-quality standards

Issued after assessing project design, methods, and expected outcomes

Provide upfront assurance — serve as a mark of quality and credibility to investors and funders

Assigned revenues - Can unlock early-stage finance

Credit

Represent verified biodiversity outcomes over time

Issued based on monitoring of actual results

Quantified units that can be traded or reported by buyers

Enable result-based payments for nature restoration

Turn ecosystem improvement into transferable value



An illustrative case on wetlands

Land managers ready to commit

- Improve wetland condition
- Maintain good practices over time

Demand actors ready to invest

- E.g. agrifood companies, in order to secure supply chains
- E.g. insurance companies, in order to reduce nature-related risks

Certification verifies planned action and methods

- Reviews design, stakeholder involvement, expected outcomes
- Issues a certificate, allowing upfront investments

Credits issued progressively as results are verified

- Monitoring tracks science-based biodiversity indicators
- Milestones unlock partial credit issuance

Value chain includes multiple stakeholders

- Public entities supporting early investment
- Aggregators, registries, technical providers

Benefits include reward and visibility

- Revenue opportunities for land managers, possibly intermediated
- Recognised support for nature-positive investment
- Contribution to national/regional biodiversity plans



The sponge approach. [Otterman et al. \(2017\)](#)

Benefits for supply actors

Nature credits provide new revenue streams

- Reward for maintaining or converting to nature-positive actions
- Income diversification, especially for smallholders

Strengthen ecosystem services and resilience

- Boost pollination, water retention, and soil health
- Reduce dependence on costly external inputs
- Improve climate resilience and yield stability

Enhance reputation and trust among stakeholders

- Public recognition of stewardship efforts
- Easier access to funding and support
- Greater integration into green supply chains

Reduce environmental and economic risks

- Combat land degradation and biodiversity collapse
- Help meet national and EU restoration targets
- Foster generational continuity in rural areas



Benefits for demand actors

Supports biodiversity disclosure

- Complies with CSRD and SFDR requirements
- Contributes to EU Taxonomy alignment
- Shows pro-active nature-related risk management

Enhances supply chain resilience and traceability

- Incentivises nature-positive sourcing practices
- Reduces exposure to risks
- Offer a verified and standardized format for investment

New business models and green products emerge

- Nature-aligned insurance products
- Biodiversity-linked investment instruments
- Consumer-facing biodiversity claims

Stronger investor confidence and market access

- Attract nature-oriented capital
- Strengthen relationships with institutional investors
- Reinforce creditworthiness and long-term resilience

Contributes to climate and nature objectives

- Integrates net-zero nature-positive strategies
- Supports regenerative value creation
- Signals leadership in corporate sustainability



Ensuring integrity, avoiding greenwashing

Nature credits must meet high quality standards

- Based on rigorous, science-based certification
- Transparent methodologies and registries
- Auditable, traceable and clearly attributed

Third-party verification is essential

- Separation of project, certification, and registry roles
- Avoid conflicts of interest and self-certification risks
- Maintain independence and credibility

Transparency at all stages of the value chain

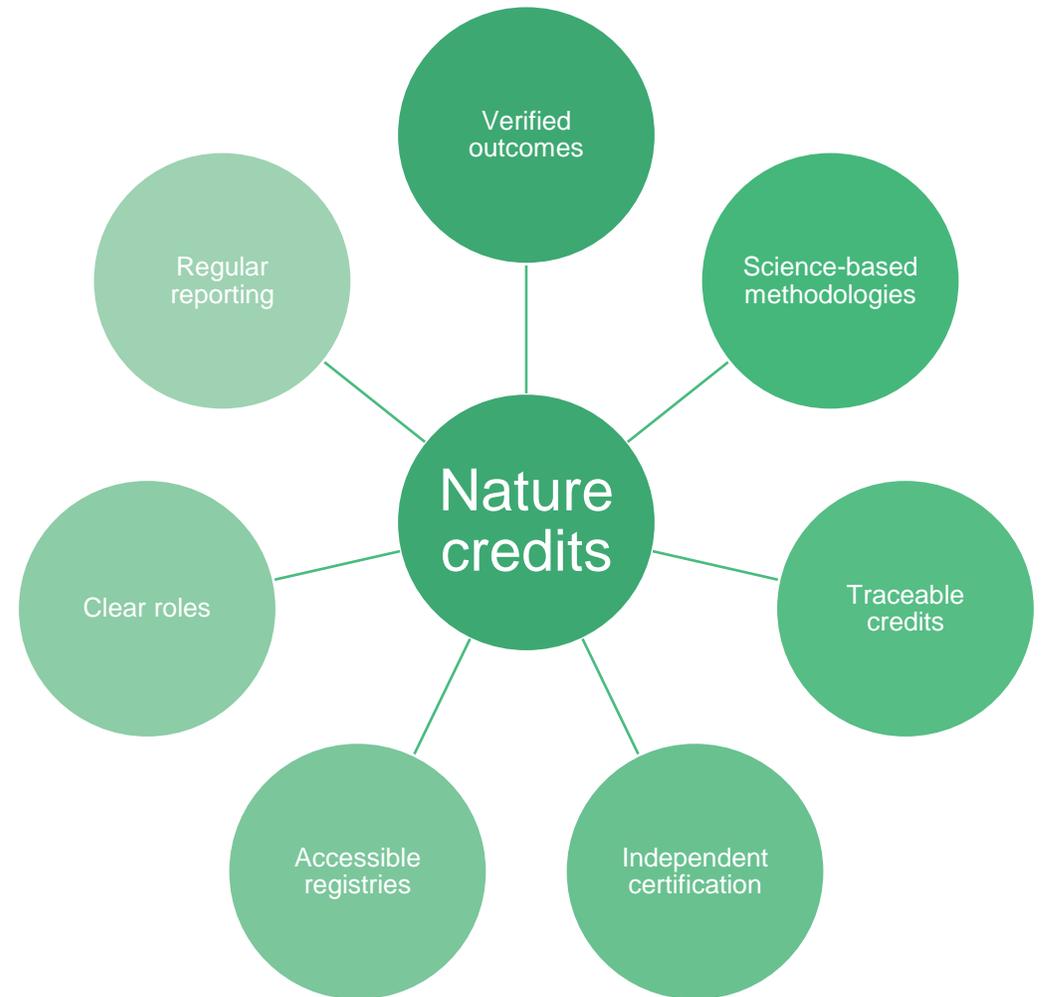
- Credits must be traceable to specific interventions
- Disclose methods, locations, metrics used
- Open access to certification and monitoring records

Avoid reputational risks through safeguards

- Prevent double counting or over-claiming
- Apply permanence and non-reversal criteria
- Ensure do-no-significant-harm and allow co-benefits

Draw on lessons from existing markets

- Build governance early to avoid “green hushing”
- Engage NGOs and experts in oversight
- Set high expectations from the start



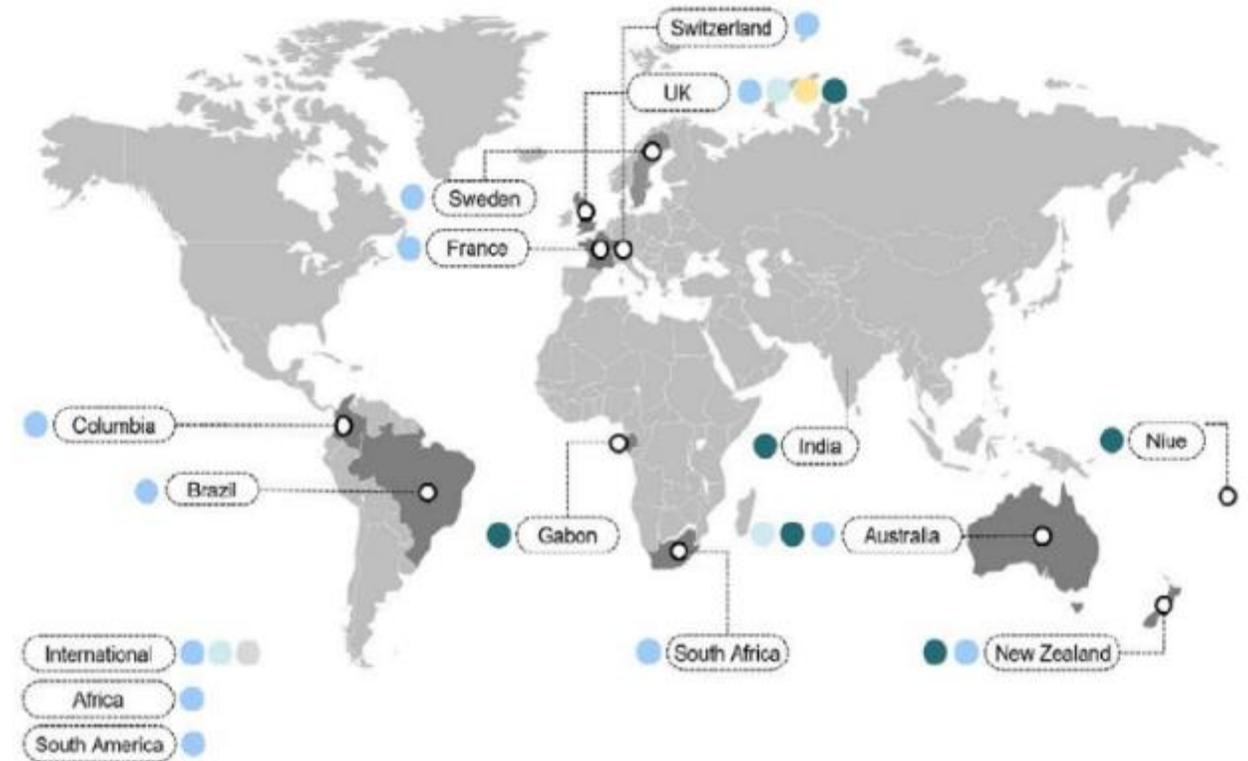
International developments

Growing number of initiatives

- Most advanced countries: UK, Australia
- Government-led programs: e.g. FI, FR, IE
- Private sector-led programs
- Academic-led programs
- International standard setter

International structuration

- **Biodiversity Credits Alliance (BCA)**
- **International Advisory Panel on Biodiversity Credits (IAPB)**
- World Economic Forum (WEF)
- Taskforce on Nature-Related Financial Disclosures (TNFD)
- Science-Based Targets Network (SBTN)
- International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)



[Understanding the current state of voluntary biodiversity markets \(pollinationgroup.com\)](https://pollinationgroup.com) (2023)



Learning from and building on experience with carbon markets

Insights from voluntary carbon markets

Voluntary carbon markets saw rapid growth

- Triggered by net-zero targets and climate awareness
- Attracted major corporate and investor interest
- Supported project-based removals and reductions

Significant integrity and trust challenges

- Some credits lacked additionality or permanence
- Projects over-claimed impacts or lacked transparency
- Trust erosion led to market contraction

Lessons applicable to nature credits

- Design systems for trust from the outset
- Focus on high-quality interventions and MRV
- Balance flexibility with clear integrity principles

High-quality demand remains strong

- Buyers seek co-benefits and credible stories
- Nature-based solutions continue to attract interest
- Opportunity to capture early market leadership

High integrity and governance are key

- Market architecture matters as much as metrics
- Avoid race to the bottom
- Prioritise systemic credibility and long-term trust

Voluntary carbon market size by value of traded carbon credits, pre-2005 to 2024



[2025 State of the Voluntary Carbon Market \(SOVCM\) - Ecosystem Marketplace](#)



Carbon credits and nature credits

Nature credits address biodiversity, not carbon

- Site-specific and multi-metric outcomes
- Cannot rely on CO₂-equivalent proxy

Carbon and nature credits can complement

- Carbon farming with biodiversity co-benefits
- Integrated projects with dual certification
- Shared registries and verification tools

Distinct challenges and opportunities

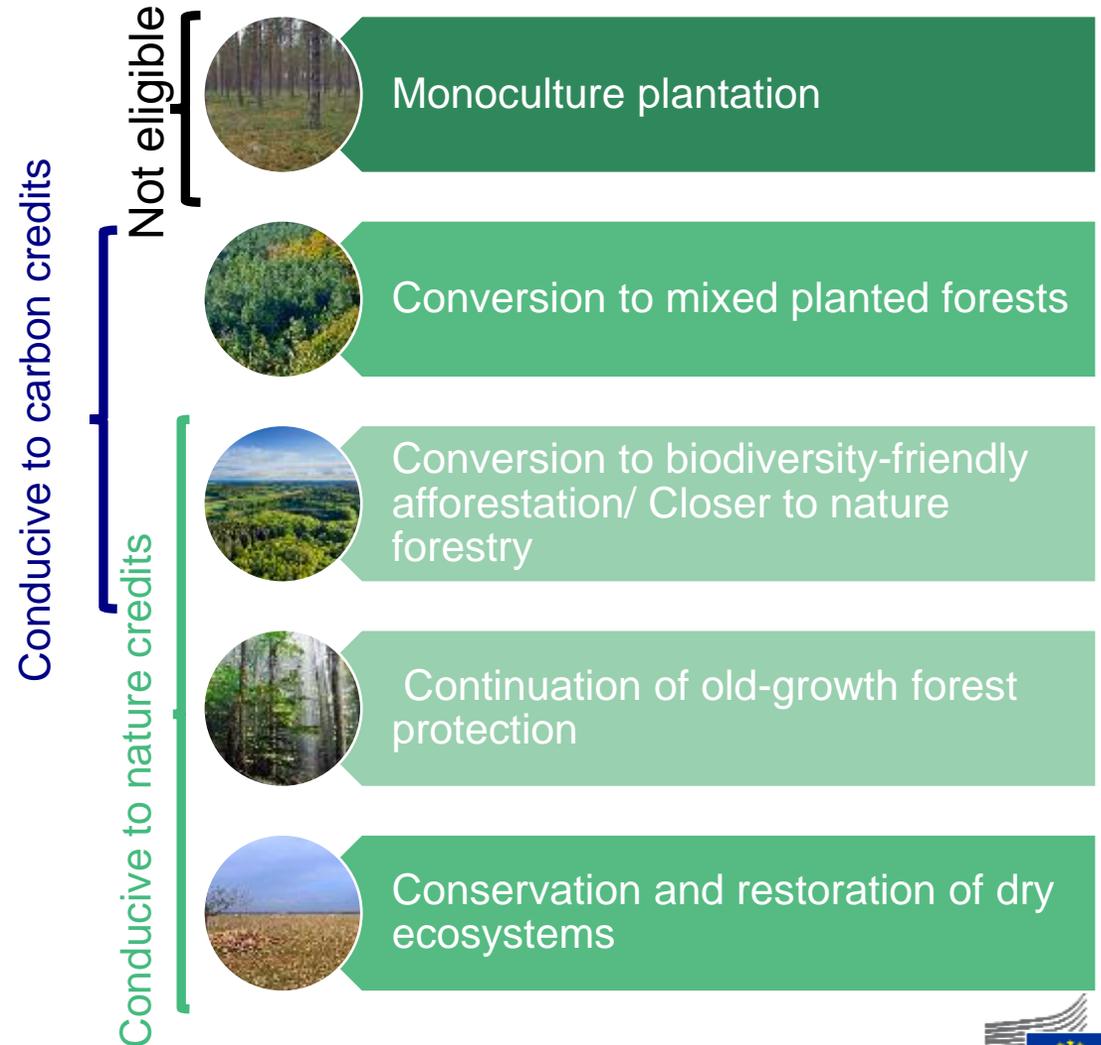
- Biodiversity baselines are more complex
- Results may take longer to manifest
- Impacts are local, not global

Co-design can reduce costs and complexity

- Harmonise indicators where possible
- Coordinate MRV platforms and standards
- Offer bundled or linked crediting options

Enlarged scope of environmental markets

- Recognise intrinsic and functional values of biodiversity
- Unlock action where carbon has limited relevance
- Drive funding to high-nature-value but low-carbon ecosystems



CRCF, a relevant precedent

EU Carbon Removals Certification Framework (CRCF)

- Voluntary certification of carbon removals
- Applies to farming, forestry, wetlands, etc.
- Anchored in strict MRV and additionality criteria

Mandates biodiversity and ecosystem co-benefits

- Carbon farming cannot harm nature
- Encourages integration of biodiversity metrics
- Supports multifunctionality of land use

Introduces a two-step approach

- Certificates of compliance
- Certified units based on verified removals
- Improves investment readiness and credit access

Builds robust architecture for environmental credits

- Legally backed methodology development
- Provisions for liability and reversal risk
- Science-based tools for permanence assessment

A precedent for voluntary high-integrity schemes

- Familiarises stakeholders with performance certification
- Opens space for biodiversity-focused approaches
- Informs governance design for nature credits

What are carbon removals?



PERMANENT
STORAGE



CARBON
FARMING



CARBON
STORAGE IN
PRODUCTS

Why this proposal?

Incentivise
high-quality
removals



Fight greenwashing
and build trust



Tailored
certification rules



Harmonise
market
conditions

What does the proposal include?

QU.A.L.I.TY criteria

- QUantification
- ADditionality
- LONG-term storage
- SUSTAINABIL-ITY

+ tailored certification methodologies for the different types of carbon removal activities (next step)

To be eligible, carbon farming activities have to at least generate co-benefits for protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems

Certification rules

- Third-party verification
- Reliable certif. schemes
- Public registries

+ Commission recognises the certification schemes that can certify compliance with QU.A.L.I.TY criteria

[Carbon Removals and Carbon Farming - European Commission \(europea.eu\)](https://europea.eu)



Developing nature credits

Roadmap actions for 2025–2027

Set up collaboration with Member States and stakeholders

- Build a shared EU understanding of nature credits
- Include local, national and international experience
- Ensure cross-sector participation from the start

Develop methodologies with a focus on usability

- Keep metrics simple but credible
- Allow flexibility across ecosystems
- Ground approaches in science and experience

Ensure governance frameworks are robust and inclusive

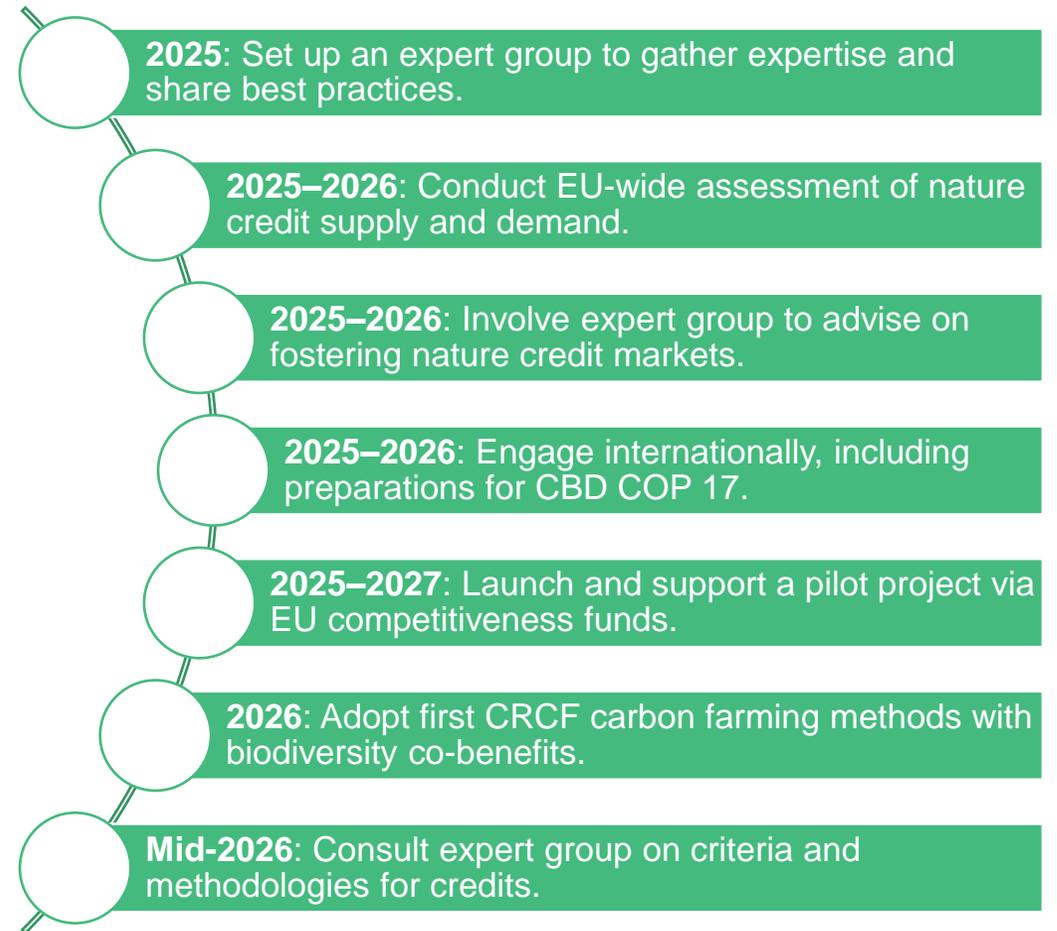
- Define ownership, transfer, and registry rules
- Build trust through transparency and traceability
- Consider smallholder and SME accessibility

Identify demand and supply across EU

- Map existing actors and capacities
- Understand investment drivers
- Highlight bottlenecks and entry barriers

Lay foundations for future action

- Pilot tools and refine approaches
- Evaluate alignment with existing EU policies
- Decide on next steps based on outcomes and demand



Expert group on nature credits

Continuous open call

- Deadline for 1st selection: 10/09/2025
- Draws on diverse expertise and lived experience
- All types of experts: membership from MS, public entities, individual experts, organization, shared and common interests

Tasks include advising on certification methodologies

- Share knowledge and technical input
- Reflect ecosystem-specific challenges
- Ensure environmental integrity and usability

Explore governance models for EU framework

- Discuss registry design and market operation
- Identify safeguards and risk mitigation tools
- Align with digital tools and EU data systems

Help identify synergies with existing EU schemes

- Carbon farming and CRCF
- Organic farming and agri-environmental measures
- Mapping and assessment of ecosystem conditions

Inform preparatory work for future policies

- Input on Commission works
- Help structure options for a common EU approach
- Support consultation and coordination with stakeholders



Register of Commission Expert Groups and Other Similar Entities

[Home](#) [Expert Groups](#) [Meetings](#) [Members](#) [Calls for application](#) [News](#)

[Register of Commission Expert Groups](#) > [Expert Groups](#) > [Details](#)

GROUP | E04006

Expert group on nature credits (E04006)

ACTIVE

[Register of Commission expert groups and other similar entities](#)

- Continuously open call
- Deadline for 1st application: 10/09/2025



Pilot and exploratory projects

Pilots to test on ground from onset

- Wetlands in France: public-sector led with basin-level approach
- Forests in Estonia: private-led, multistakeholder governance

Green Assist, LIFE, Horizon Europe, Interreg

- Provide technical and financial guidance
- Link science to real-world implementation
- Reduce entry barriers for early actors

Restore/Peru as a first international partnership

- EU-global links for companies funding biodiversity abroad
- Supports compliance with corporate disclosures
- Explores benefit-sharing and safeguards abroad

Innovation on monitoring, reporting and verification

- Geospatial and remote sensing tools
- Digital certification and satellite validation
- Data integration with EU monitoring systems

Lessons inform broader EU practice

- Help define scalable models
- Clarify MRV methodologies
- Support expert group and roadmap implementation



[French wetlands](#)



[Estonian forests](#)



[Restore/Peru](#)



[Peatland Finance Ireland](#)



[CDC Biodiversité](#)



[Merlin](#)



[Restcoast](#)



[Superb](#)



[Waterlands](#)



[Biofin](#)



[LEON](#)



[Artemis](#)



[BiodivCrew](#)



[Metamorphosis](#)



[Olivares Vivo](#)



[Biorgest](#)



[B4B](#)



[Pollinaction](#)



[Adaptablues](#)



[3Bee](#)



Enabling market conditions and uptake

EU-wide market potential assessment planned

- Understand who can supply credits and at what cost
- Identify sectors and actors most ready to buy
- Evaluate motivations and expected impacts

Address supply-side challenges

- Transaction costs and administrative burden
- Technical assistance and aggregation needs
- Financing early-phase activities

Explore demand drivers and incentives

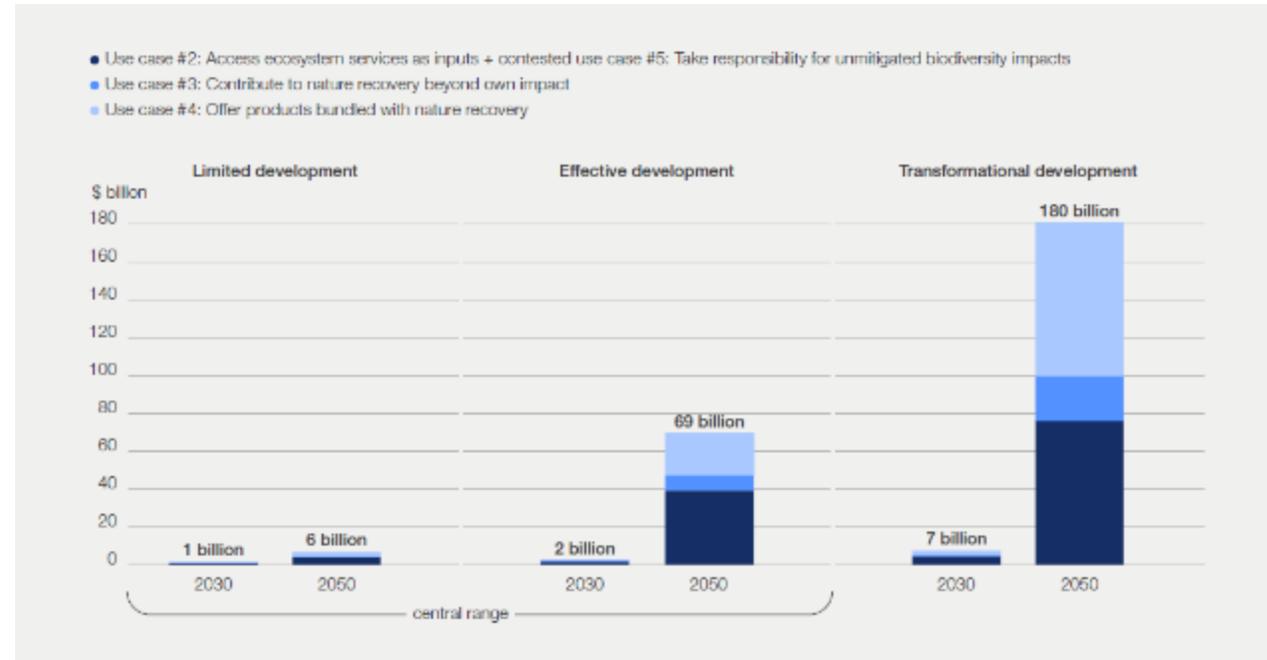
- Reporting and procurement requirements
- Tax incentives or accounting guidance
- Sectoral targets and voluntary commitments

Nature Restoration Regulation as demand signal

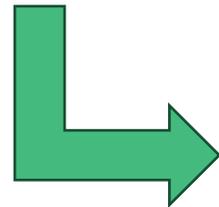
- Creates obligations and restoration targets
- Predictable pipeline of eligible actions
- Nature credits can complement public funding

Foster readiness and ecosystem of enablers

- Registry development and access to standards
- Financial intermediaries and credit facilitators
- National platforms and local governance models



Depending on the share of Fortune 500 companies adopting nature-related targets and the part played by biodiversity credits in nature strategies. [World Economic Forum and McKinsey & Company \(2023\) Biodiversity Credits: Demand Analysis and Market Outlook.](#)



What supplies and demands in the EU ?



Conclusion

With this roadmap, we are taking a bold step to recognise nature as a strategic asset for Europe's future. Nature credits have the potential to attract essential private investment, while also rewarding those who are the custodians of our land and seas, including farmers, foresters and local communities. Our goal is clear: working hand in hand with nature and turning this into an opportunity for a resilient and competitive economy.

Commissioner Jessika Roswall, 7 July 2025



A stepwise, inclusive and high-integrity path

The roadmap defines a consultative phase

- Focused on learning, trust-building and experimentation
- Rooted in subsidiarity, proportionality and simplicity

Expert group will help shape future options

- Key vehicle for co-creation and guidance
- Strong emphasis on inclusion and transparency

Progress will inform which EU action is needed

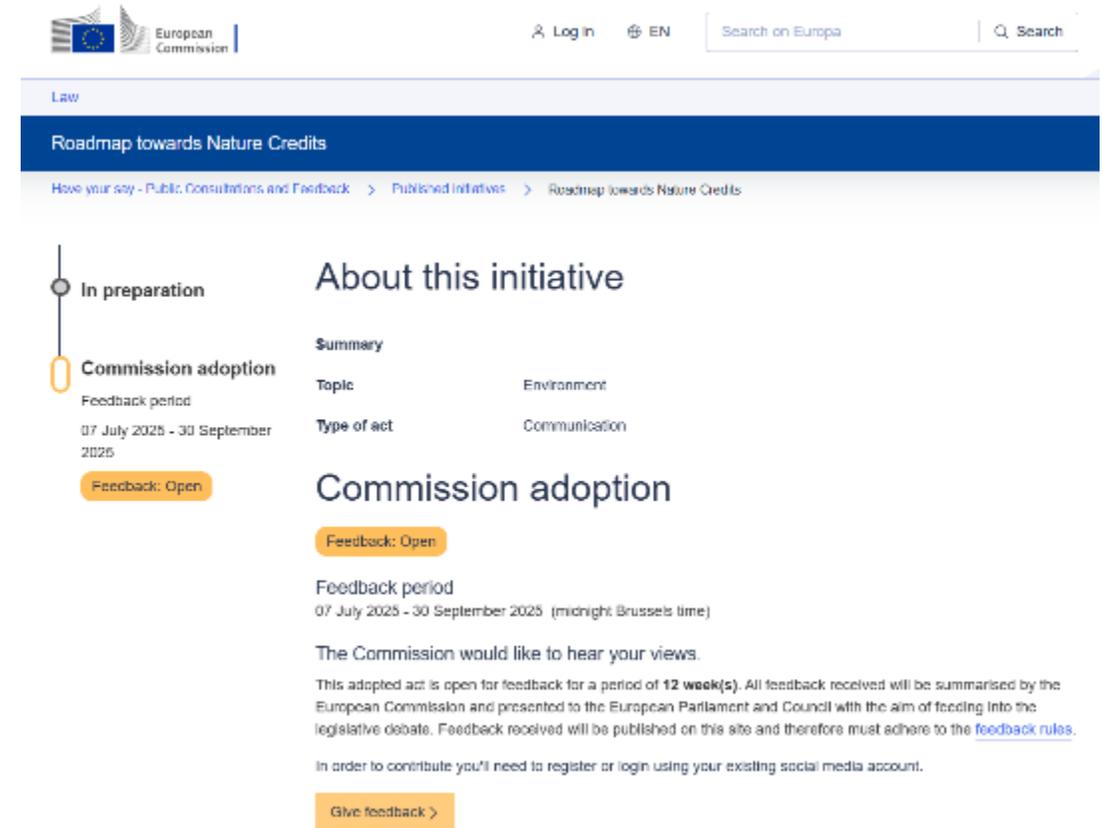
- Based on lessons from pilots and consultations
- Aligned with other EU frameworks
- Grounded in feasibility and added value

Nature credits must remain credible and equitable

- Environmental integrity is non-negotiable
- Governance must be trustworthy and accessible
- Outcomes must deliver for nature and people

Stakeholders are invited to shape the outcome

- Provide feedback on the roadmap
- Contribute ideas, innovations, and critical input



The screenshot shows the European Commission website for the 'Roadmap towards Nature Credits' public consultation. The page is titled 'Law' and 'Roadmap towards Nature Credits'. It features a navigation bar with 'Log in', 'EN', and a search box. The main content area includes a timeline with 'In preparation' and 'Commission adoption' (07 July 2025 - 30 September 2025) marked with a 'Feedback: Open' button. The 'About this initiative' section provides a summary with 'Topic: Environment' and 'Type of act: Communication'. Below this, the 'Commission adoption' section also has a 'Feedback: Open' button and details the feedback period (07 July 2025 - 30 September 2025, midnight Brussels time) and the invitation for stakeholders to provide feedback. A 'Give feedback >' button is located at the bottom of the feedback information.

Roadmap towards Nature Credits

- Deadline for feedback: 30/09/2025



Thank you



© European Union 2025

Unless otherwise noted the reuse of this presentation is authorised under the [CC BY 4.0](#) license. For any use or reproduction of elements that are not owned by the EU, permission may need to be sought directly from the respective right holders.

Slide xx: [element concerned](#), source: [e.g. Fotolia.com](#); Slide xx: [element concerned](#), source: [e.g. iStock.com](#)





Unlocking Global Gateway investments in nature and the green economy

Brussels, July 7-10



Biodiversity Credit Methodologies and Standards



Setting the Scene: Why Biodiversity Credit Methodologies Need Careful Scrutiny





Why Biodiversity Credit Methodologies Need Careful Scrutiny

Markets for biodiversity credits are still at an early stage, with many models seeking recognition.

No internationally agreed rulebook;

Technical blueprints exist (e.g. IAPB-BCA/WEF High Level Principles), yet no formal adoption at plurilateral, multilateral, or EU level.

Support to pilots may represent a conscious or unconscious choice among a broad menu of options:

- Methodologies by standard setters vs. project implementers
- Measurement approaches – outcome-based vs. practice-based.
- Metrics and Spatial scope– species, habitat, ecosystem services; site-specific vs landscape-level.
- Duration and Permanence.
- Benefit-sharing and safeguards – IPLC rights.
- Additionality & MRV

Recommendation: approach opportunities with prudence, and request specialised analysis before committing.

Avoid committing to specific methodologies.



Review of Selected Biodiversity Credit Methodologies and Standards



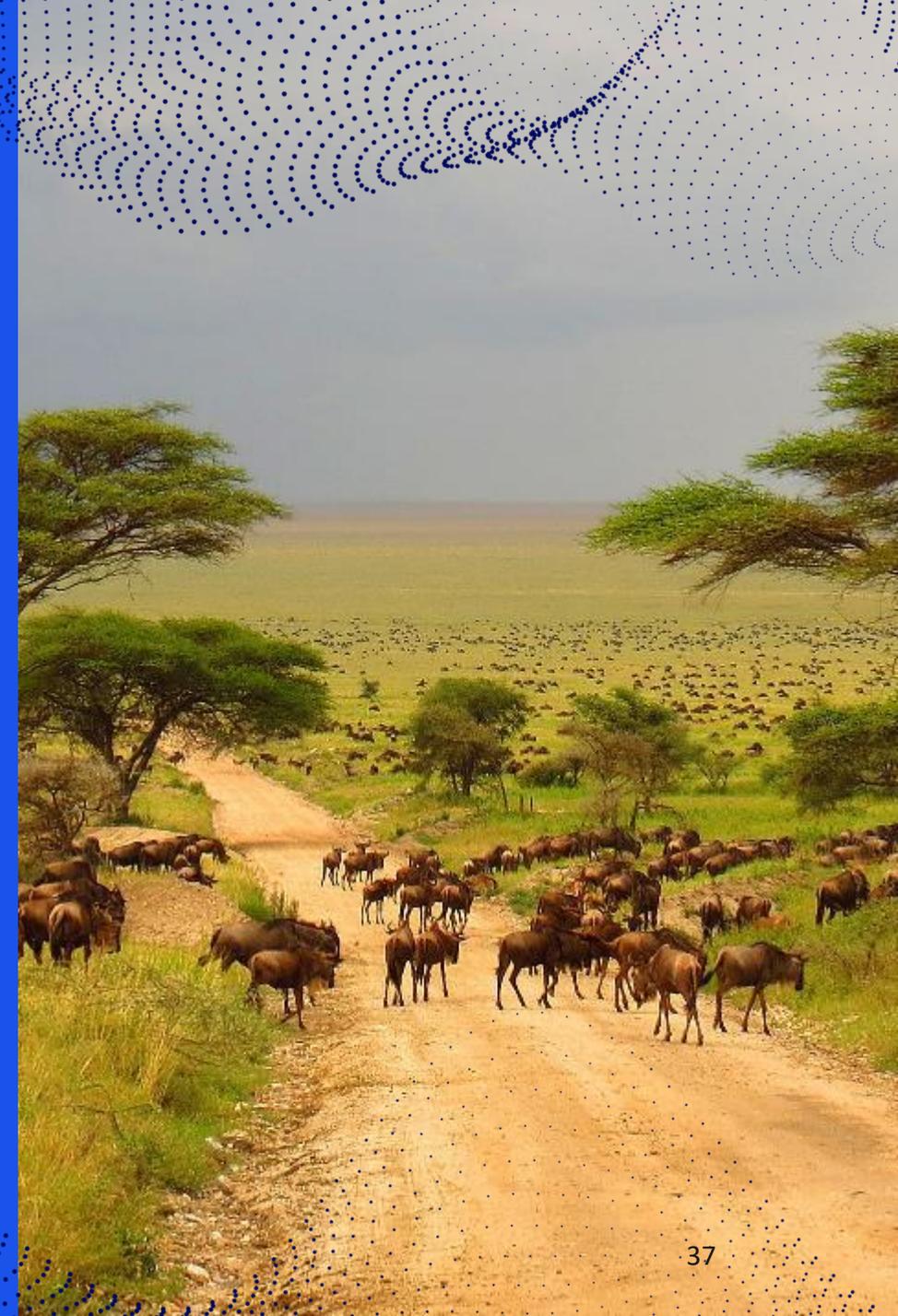
Measurement Approaches

WWF (World Wildlife Fund)	Outcome-based
HIFOR/WCS (High Integrity Forest Inv. Initiative + Wildlife Conservation Society)	Outcome-based
FSC (Forest Stewardship Council)	Hybrid: Outcome-based + responsible forest management practices (practice-based).
OBC (Organization for Biodiversity Certificates)	Practice-based complemented with some outcome-based approach.
African Parks	Outcome-based
NARIA by CreditNature (Nature Accounting and Reporting for Impact Assessment)	Hybrid: Outcome-based and Practice-based
Plan Vivo	Outcome-based
Terrasos	Hybrid : Outcome-based (payment for results) + preservation/restoration actions (practices).
Verra	Outcome-based
Wallacea	Outcome-based



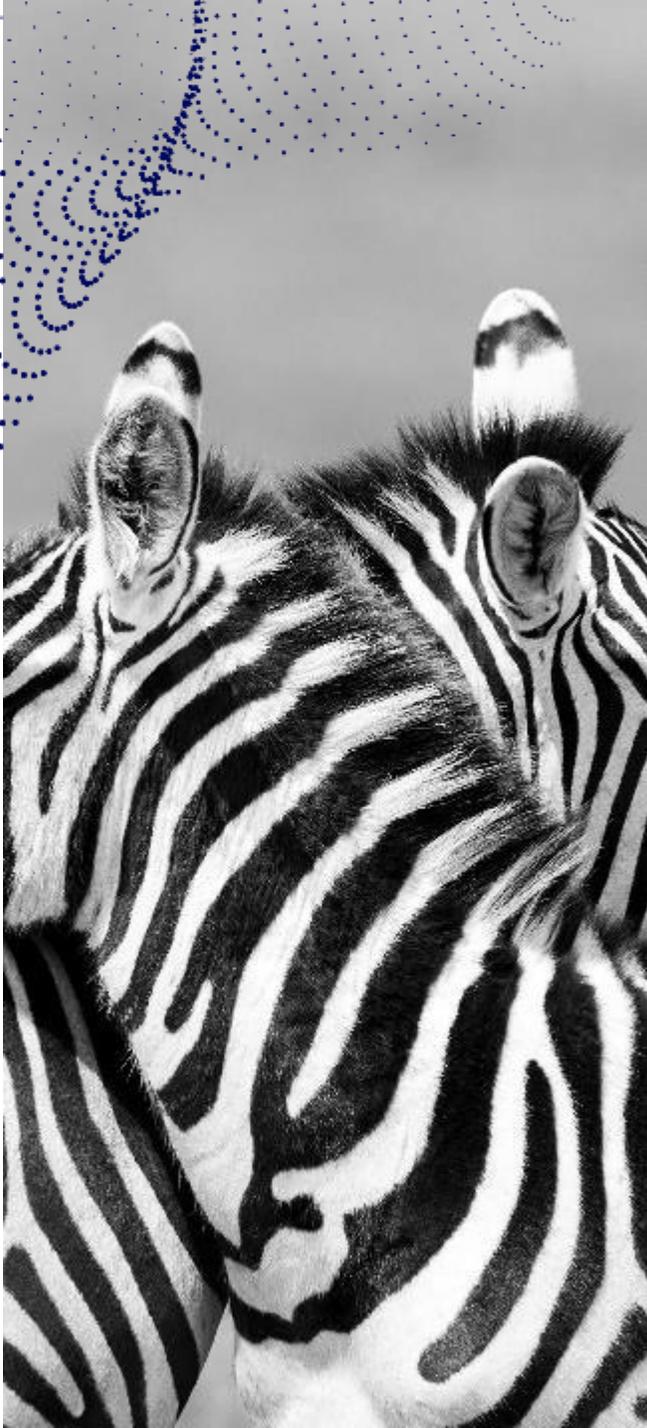
Metrics and Spatial scope

	Metrics	Spatial scope
WWF	No specific metrics prescribed	Site-specific credit generation
HIFOR/ WCS	Forest Landscape Integrity Index (FLII)	Confined to project + landscape angle (10 km buffer)
FSC	Specific list of outcome indicators	Focuses on project + impacts on the surrounding landscape
OBC	Biodiversity Index Assessment Method (BIAM)	Limited to project + influence of external factors
Afr. Parks	Assemblage of indicator species	Site-specific VNU generation
NARIA	Ecosystem Condition Index (ECI), Ecos. Mgmt Rating (EMR), Ecos. Service Metric Portfolio (ESPM)	Limited to project + higher-order natural processes
Plan Vivo	5 pillar metrics: species richness, species diversity, taxonomic dissimilarity, habitat health, and habitat spatial structure	Project area (site-level)- Global significance through metadata
Terrasos	5 specific “differential factors”	Project area
Verra	3 dimensions: Extent, Condition and Significance	Area-based unit + impacts beyond the direct project extent
Wallacea	Min. 5 metrics covering all ecosystem services	Project-specific



Duration and permanence

WWF	Not specified, but suggestion of long-term commitments.
HIFOR/WCS	Min. 30 years, max 100 years.
FSC	Not specified.
OBC	Not specified, but the document mentions the need of permanence (with certificates placed in a reserve).
African Parks	Not specified
NARIA	Not specified
Plan Vivo	10 to 50 years. Need to mitigate risks to the maintenance of Biodiversity Benefits for a period of at least 50 years- Long-term benefits are expected to continue beyond the length of the Crediting Period
Terrasos	Min. 30 years, max 50 years.
Verra	Min. 30 years, max 100 years. (and Min 40 if the program is seeking also certification under the Verified Carbon Standard)
Wallacea	At least 20 years in duration, and preferably 25 – 30 years



Benefit sharing with IPLCs and Safeguards

WWF	Public benefit-sharing arrangements with IPLCs, Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), Social Safeguards
HIFOR/WCS	Equitable benefit distribution mechanism, FPIC - avoidance negative social impacts. Safeguard principles.
FSC	Revenue-sharing agreements. Social and environmental safeguards.
OBC	<i>Not available</i>
African Parks	Respecting and upholding human rights, particularly IPLCs - grievance mechanism
NARIA	<i>Not available</i>
Plan Vivo	Long-term socioeconomic benefits to IPLCs, FPIC process, grievance mechanism
Terrasos	Requirement of equitable treatment and safeguards- No grievance mechanism
Verra	Emphasizes equity, respect, safeguards and FPIC - grievance procedure
Wallacea	Benefit sharing with IPLCs. No info on FPIC Process nor on grievance mechanism



Additionality and verification

	Additionality	Verification
WWF	Explicitly required	Third-party verification & robust MRV
HIFOR/WCS	<i>Not applicable.</i>	Third-party validation and verification
FSC	Implicitly (maintenance or enhancement)	Third-party verification
OBC	Explicitly required.	Independent auditing by accredited third parties.
African Parks	<i>Not available</i>	Third-party verification
NARIA	<i>Not available</i>	Independent scientific panel or accredited third-party
Plan Vivo	Explicitly required	Third-party verification
Terrasos	Explicitly required	Third-party verification
Verra	Explicitly required	Third-party validation and verification
Wallacea	Implicitly	Three-stage independent academic peer-review process

Take-Home Messages



Partner
logo-flag



Take-Home Messages

- Treat current methodologies as work-in-progress.
- In case support is explored, check for benefit-sharing, sound treatment of IPLCs, and social safeguards.
- Seek support from experts regarding methodologies, metrics, permanence claims, additionality, IPLC, safeguards, and high integrity.



**What are the
opportunities for
international
partnerships?**





BIODIVERSITY AND DEVELOPMENT FINANCE 2015-2021

Progress towards Target 19 of the Kunming-Montreal
Global Biodiversity Framework

December 2023

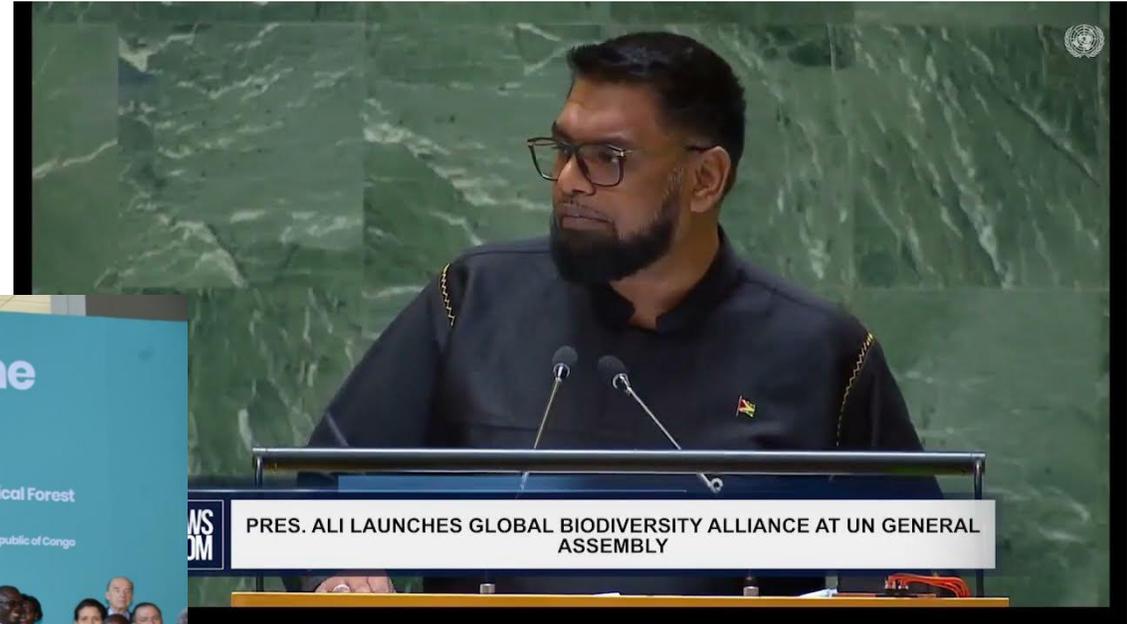
Mobilising private finance is key for closing the biodiversity funding gap

- Private finance mobilised by official providers more than quadrupled from USD 165 million in 2020 to USD 749 million in 2021
- Despite increasing, figures are relatively small for biodiversity, reflecting less than 1% of total private finance mobilised over 2017-21 (as a reference, private finance mobilised for climate action represented 34% of total private finance mobilized at USD 15.5 billion on average over the period)

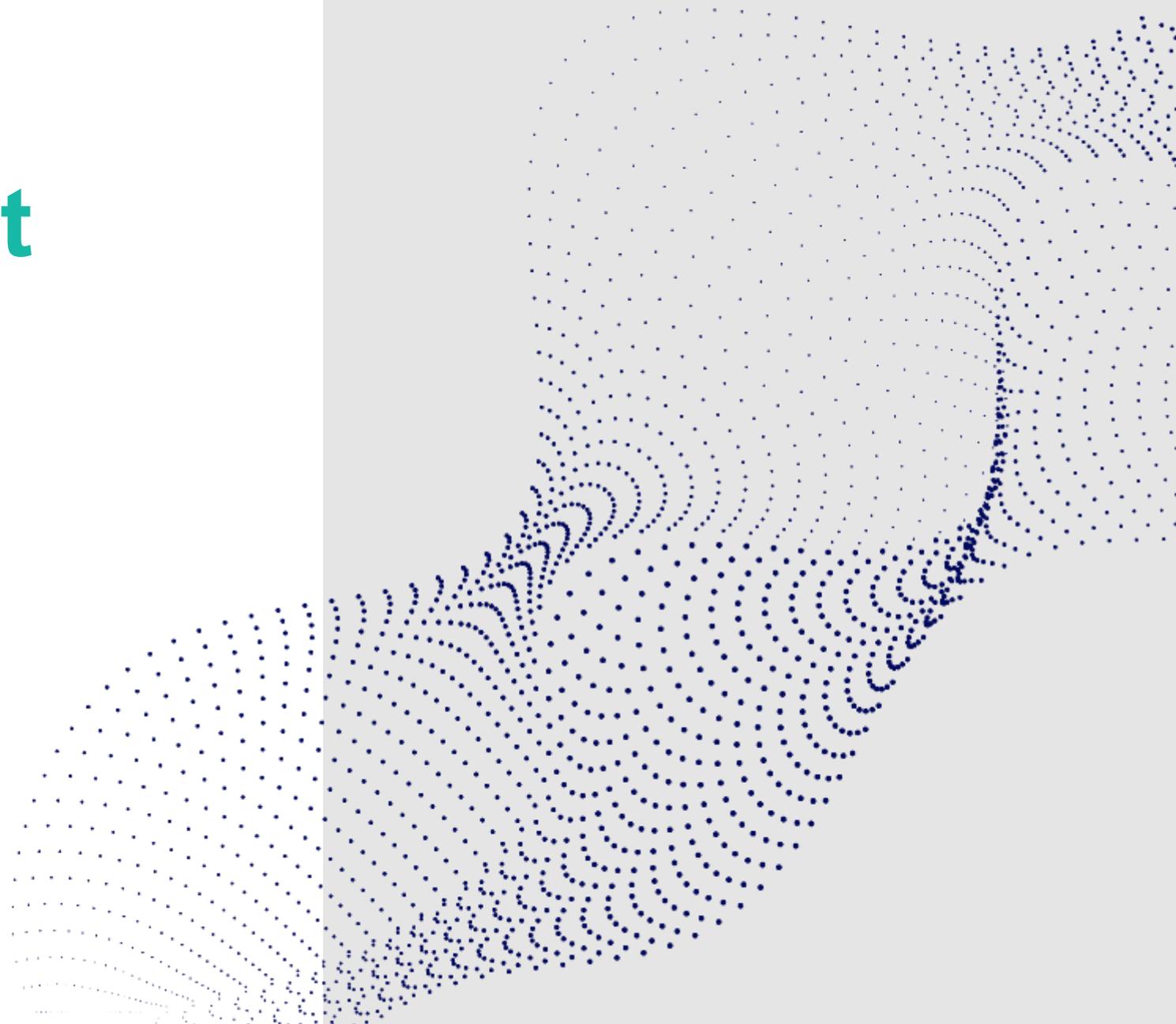
EU's foreign nature-related impacts and dependencies

- USD 20 trillion of ecosystem services lost between 1997 and 2011, equal to global GDP growth in the same period ([Costanza et al., 2014](#))
- Half of global GDP directly dependent on nature ([WEF, 2020](#))
- Biodiversity stress tests: nature-related risks in key economic sectors in Africa are of the same scale as climate-related risks ([McKinsey, 2022](#))
- 72% of companies and 75% of loans in the eurozone highly dependent on at least one ecosystem service ([ECB, 2023](#))
- At least a third of biodiversity impacts from euro-zone companies occur outside of the EU, notably in emerging markets ([ECB, 2024](#))

The HFLD « climate justice » argument



State of play at international level



State of play at international level

- Regulated voluntary schemes in Colombia, Australia, the UK, France, Finland, and more.
- One Forest Summit and Summit for a New Global Financing Pact
- BCA, WEF, IAPB
- TNFD, SBTN, NPI, ...
- G20



Early actions across EU external funding



Joining the BCA as Donor, alongside SE and DE



Funding to the BCA Secretariat and to the International Environment Guardianship (IP&LC advisory group)

EU Support Programme on Biodiversity Finance



Biodiversity credit country readiness studies, incl. in Peru and Gabon, as well as capacity-building to improve comprehension of what are biodiversity credits, e.g. in Kyrgyzstan and Mexico

Adjusting nature-positive metrics for finance applications



Support to the publication of two new science papers, aiming to adjust existing methodologies for STAR and ecosystem condition to ground-level monitoring, for use in biodiversity finance applications, with 6 pilots in Latin America, Africa and Asia, in articulation with the Nature Positive Initiative

Finance for Forests programme



Exploring the potential of biodiversity credits and other finance solutions for forests in 15 countries

NaturAfrica



Some of NaturAfrica implementing partners are piloting their own biodiversity credit methodologies, in NaturAfrica sites

SWM/Biomonitoring technologies



SWM SUSTAINABLE WILDLIFE
MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

Testing innovative biomonitoring equipments (eDNA, soundscapping, AI) and methodological options to combine with traditional/local ecological knowledge (in Guyana, Cameroun and DRC)

TA component of ADB's NSFH



Technical assistance for ADB to develop their own concept of biodiversity credit

Towards guidance for EU Delegations



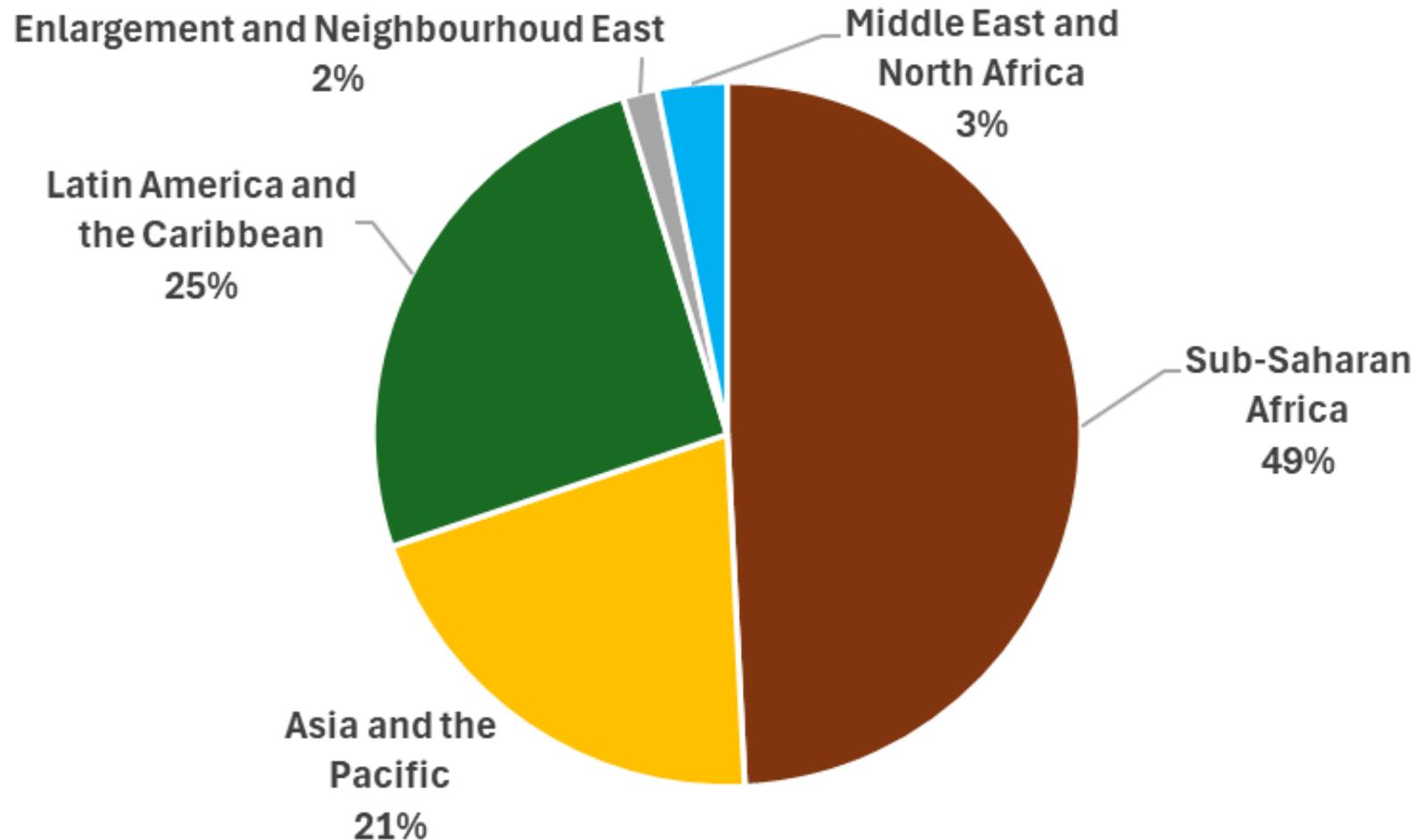
Results of a survey with EU Delegations

How many delegations have had interactions with external partners in their country of posting on biodiversity credits?

What was the nature of those interactions?

What guidance would they like to support those interactions?

Region of posting of the respondents



What was the nature of those interactions?

- 85 Respondents from 70 EU Delegations responded to the survey
- 40 EUDs reported interactions with external partners, among which:
 - 82% with technical partners (NGOs, CSOs, ...)
 - 68% with public partners (ministries, administrations, ...)
 - 38% with financial partners (other donors, financial institutions, ...)

What guidance would they like?

Analysis of risks and opportunities

Ready-to-use lines-to-take

Identify key players

Step-by-step approach for supporting robust frameworks

Comparison and link to carbon credits

Basic definitions

Examples (including domestic EU examples)

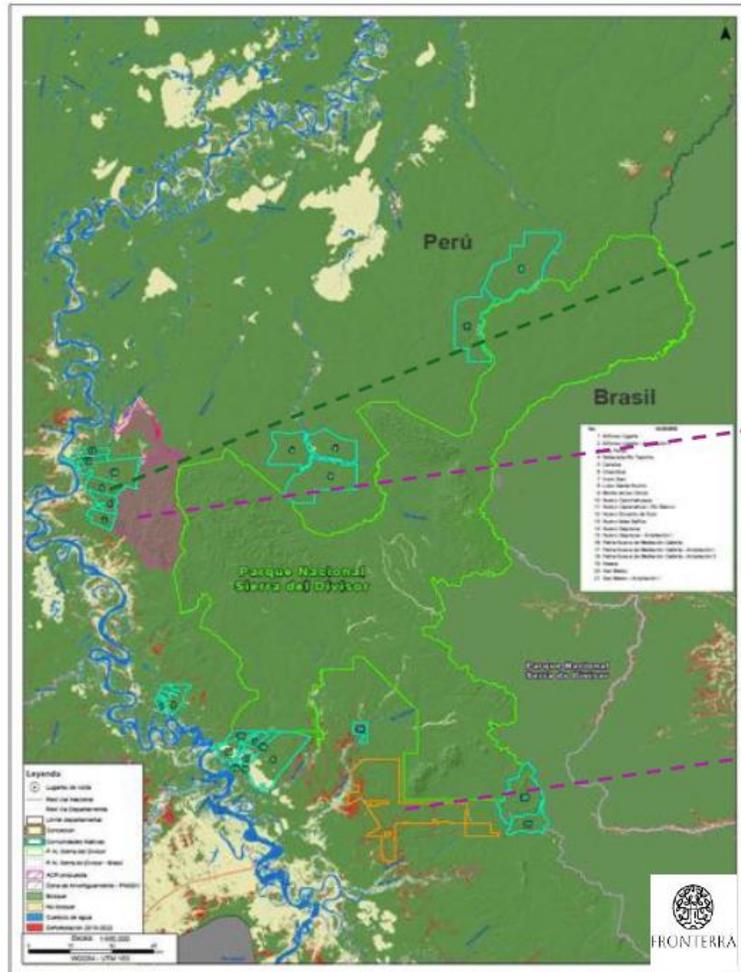
**Commission
international
preparatory project
in the Sierra del
Divisor, Peruvian
Amazon**



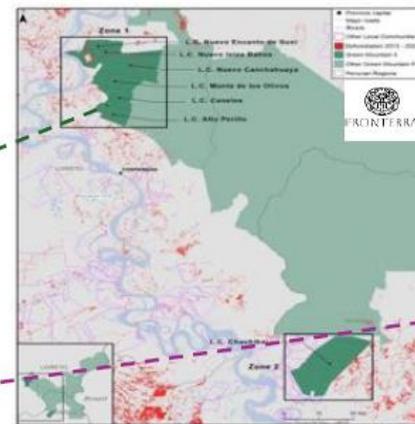
COP-16 events at EU's and Peru's pavilions



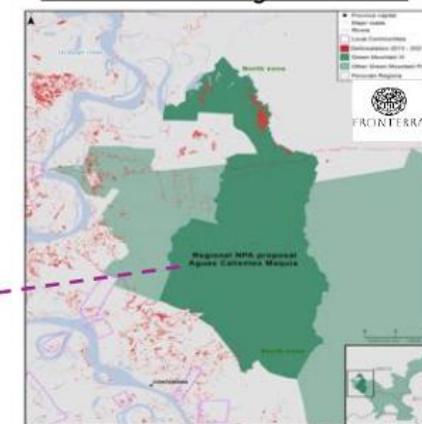
A landscape approach



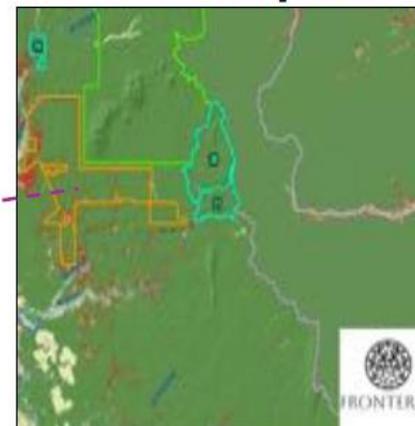
Instance 2 - Communities



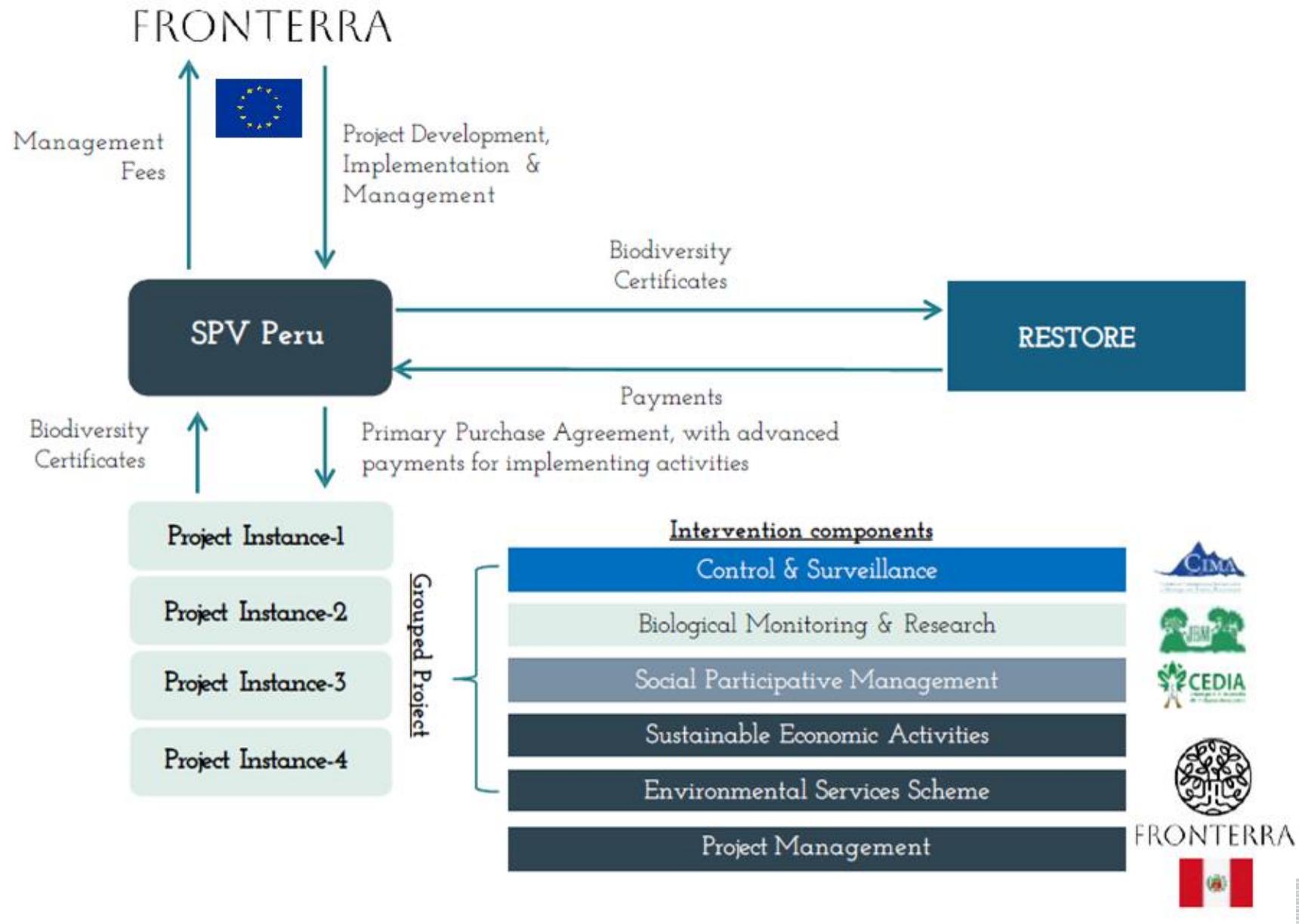
Instance 3 - Regional Park



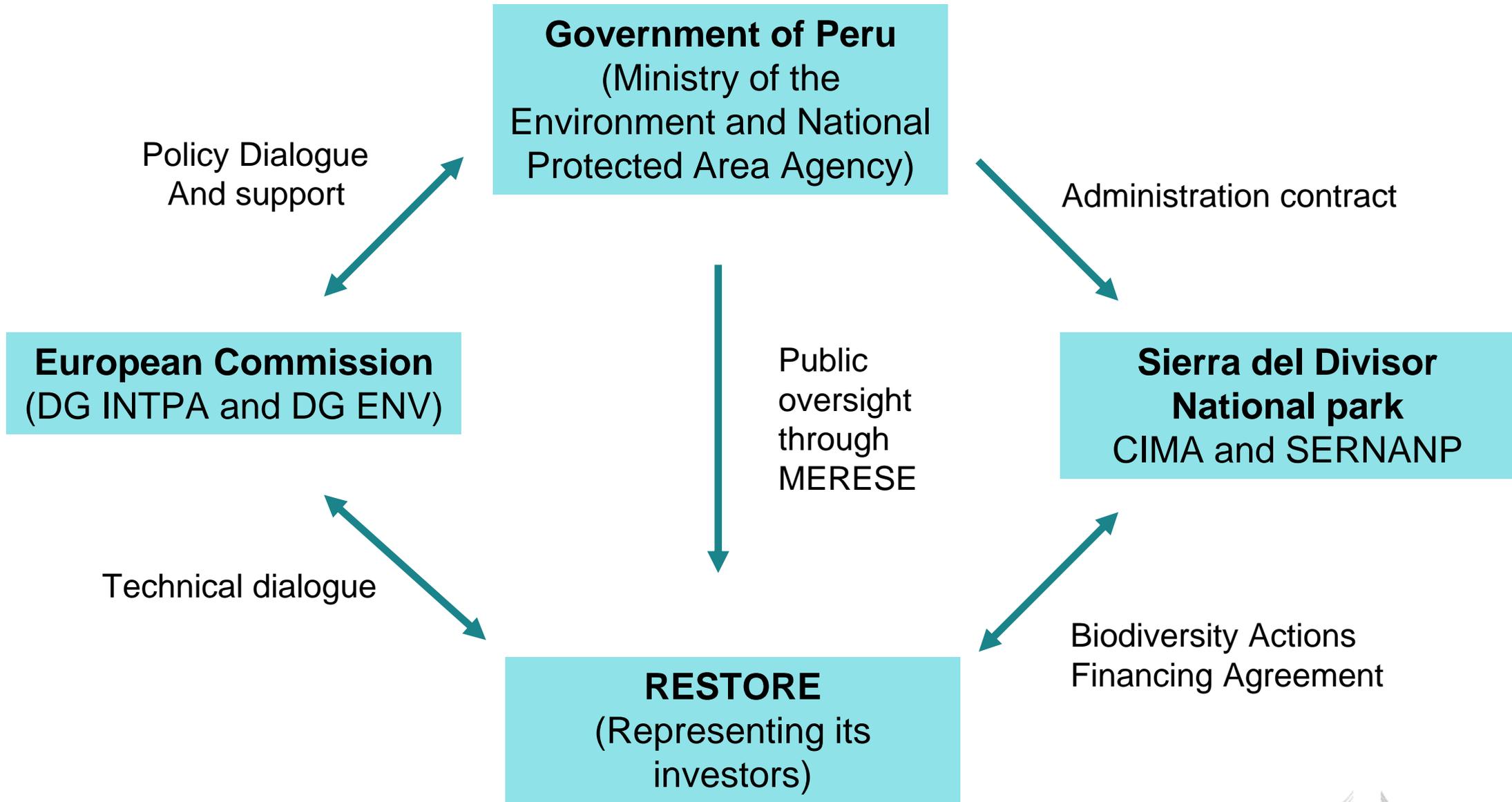
Instance 4 - Forestry Concession



Project Instance	Hectares (ha)
National Park (Pi-1)	1,354,485
Communities (Pi-2)	66,424
Regional Park (Pi-3)	98,100
Concession (Pi-4)	71,500
Total	1,590,509



European Commission



A draft bilateral roadmap of collaboration under preparation



DRAFT UNDER PREPARATION



Support to public supervision schemes in the partner country

Support exchange of experience and interoperability with EU

Support and lessons learnt from field pilots

Thank you!



© European Union 2025

Unless otherwise stated, reuse of this presentation is authorized under the [CC BY 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/) license. Any use or reproduction of elements not owned by the EU may require permission directly from the respective rights holders.

Annex – Backup slides



BCA Definition of a biodiversity credit



« A certificate that represents a measured and evidence-based unit of positive biodiversity outcome that is durable and additional to what would have otherwise occurred »

An umbrella term that can refer to multiple different instruments

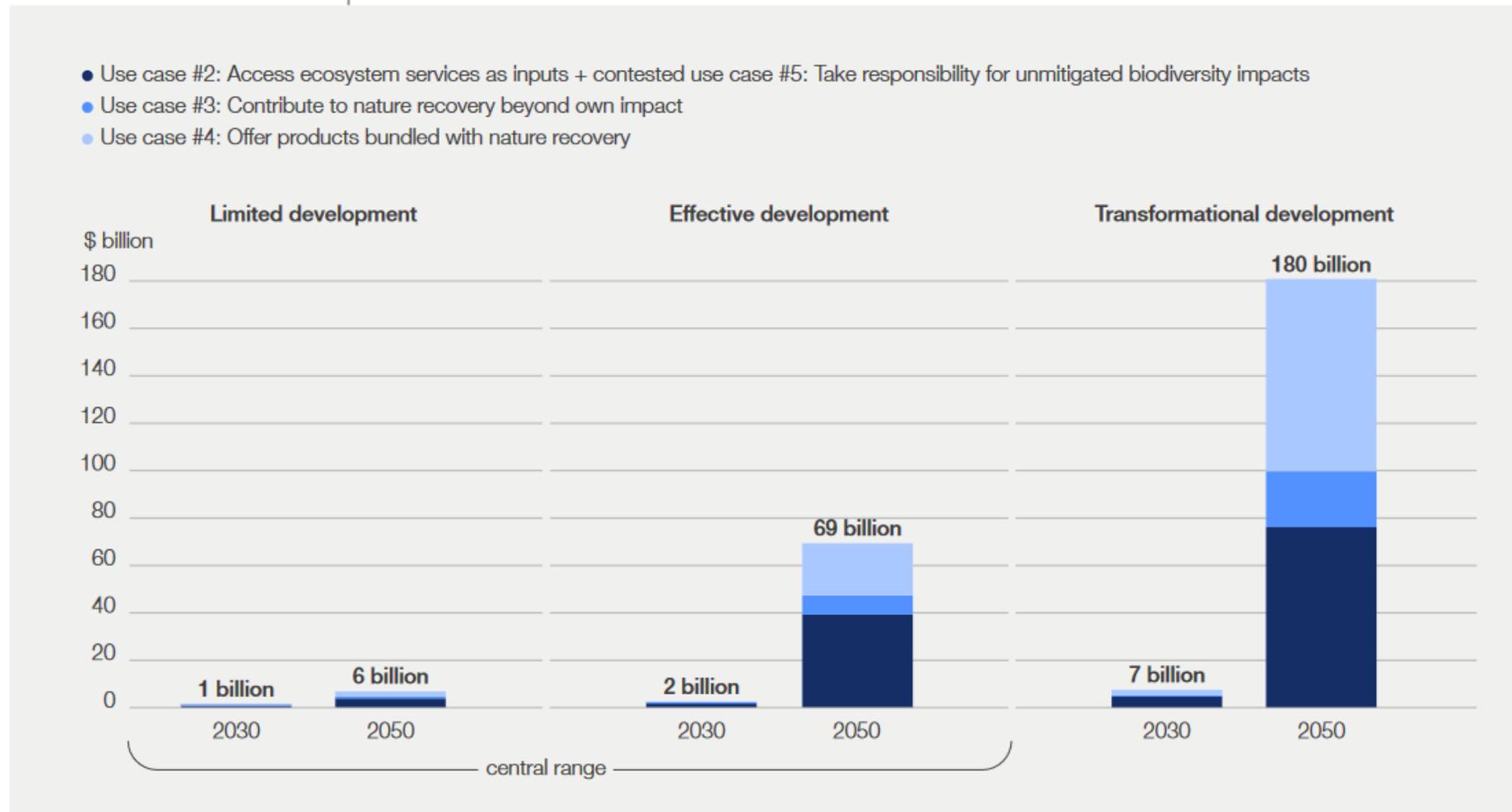
- « Habitat Banking » schemes
- Philanthropic claims
- Insetting credits (ecosystem services)
- Biodiversity-linked carbon credits
- Biodiversity certificates / voluntary « nature-positive » contribution credits

Different possible biodiversity outcomes

- Uplift or restoration (GBF Target 2)
- Conservation/maintenance (GBF Target 3)
- Productive ecosystems (GBF Target 10)
- NBS in urban environments (GBF Target 11)

Growth scenarios for biodiversity credits

FIGURE 6: Three demand scenarios: contributions by use case (\$ billion by 2030 and 2050)



Source: WEF, Biodiversity Credits: Demand Analysis and Market Outlook, 2023.

Corporate motivations to purchase nature credits



Value chain dependency

A large proportion of the products marketed are dependent on nature, which leads to proactive actions by companies to make their supplies resilient.



Reputation

The CSR policy contributes to the establishment of the brand's value and its ability to operate.



Regulation

Companies are subject to multiple reporting constraints (CSRD, Green Claims), and soon compliance.



Financial impact

Environmental performance has a direct impact on the company's ability to access financing at the best cost.