

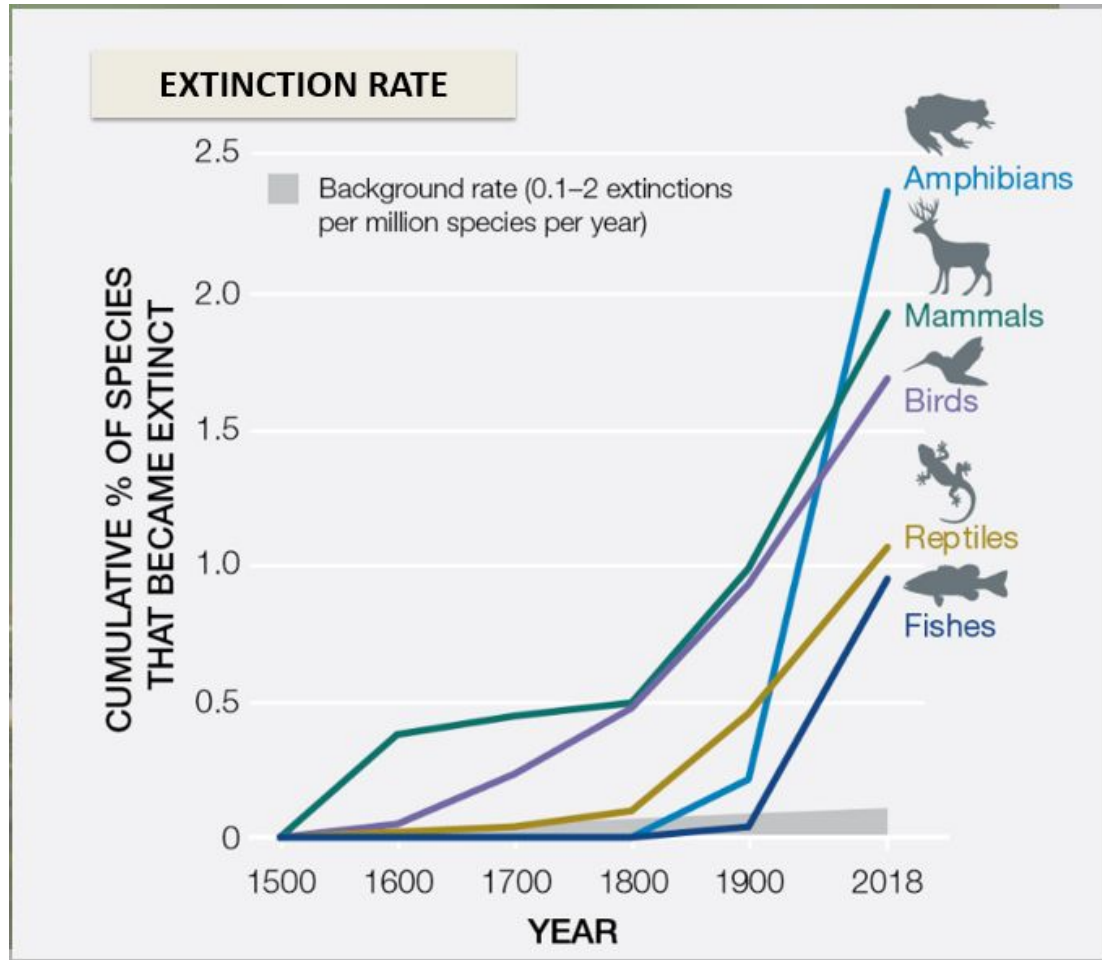
The EU Nature Restoration Law

Restoring ecosystems for people, nature and the climate

European Union



| The global and EU biodiversity crisis



Biodiversity loss and the degradation of ecosystems, continue at an alarming rate, across the broad range of ecosystem types in the EU.

In the EU:

- >80% of habitats in poor condition, peatlands, grasslands and dune habitats worst
- In Western, Central and Eastern Europe wetlands have shrunk by 50% since 1970

| Time is running out

IPCC (2022):

- the world and Europe have a brief, rapidly closing window to secure a liveable future, as the rise in weather and climate extremes has led to some irreversible impacts as natural and human systems are pushed beyond their ability to adapt
- restoring ecosystems will be fundamental in helping to combat climate change and also reduce risks to food security

2022 the World Economic Forum's annual Global Risks Report:

- biodiversity loss as the third most pressing global risk by severity, right after climate action failure and extreme weather.



The European Green Deal

**PROTECTING
AND RESTORING
NATURE**

**PROMOTING
CLEAN
ENERGY**

**CLIMATE
PACT AND
CLIMATE
LAW**

**INVESTING IN
SMARTER,
MORE
SUSTAINABLE
TRANSPORT**

**STRIVING
FOR
GREENER
INDUSTRY**

**ELIMINATING
POLLUTION**

**ENSURING
A JUST TRANSITION
FOR ALL**

**FINANCING
GREEN
PROJECTS**

**MAKING
HOMES ENERGY
EFFICIENT**

**LEADING THE
GREEN CHANGE
GLOBALLY**

**FROM FARM
TO FORK**



EU Biodiversity Strategy - key points:



- Continuing ecosystem degradation and biodiversity loss across the EU ☐
- ☐ **Protection is not enough**
- ☐ Voluntary targets of the 2020 EU Biodiversity Strategy: **not met**
 - ☐ **a reinforced approach is needed**
- Conclusion: The Commission to come forward with a proposal for legally binding targets for nature restoration



Considerations behind the legal proposal

- Use the legal form of a **regulation**
- **Complement & build on existing policy framework**
- Build on the **synergies between climate change & nature**
- Need for **large scale restoration** effort
- Proposed targets that are **area-based or indicator based**



| So, what is nature restoration?



‘restoration’ means... the process of actively or passively assisting the recovery of an ecosystem towards or to good condition... as a means of conserving or enhancing biodiversity and ecosystem resilience;

This can include....

- ...active or passive restoration
- ...improve, re-establish, re-connect ecosystems / habitat types / habitats of species



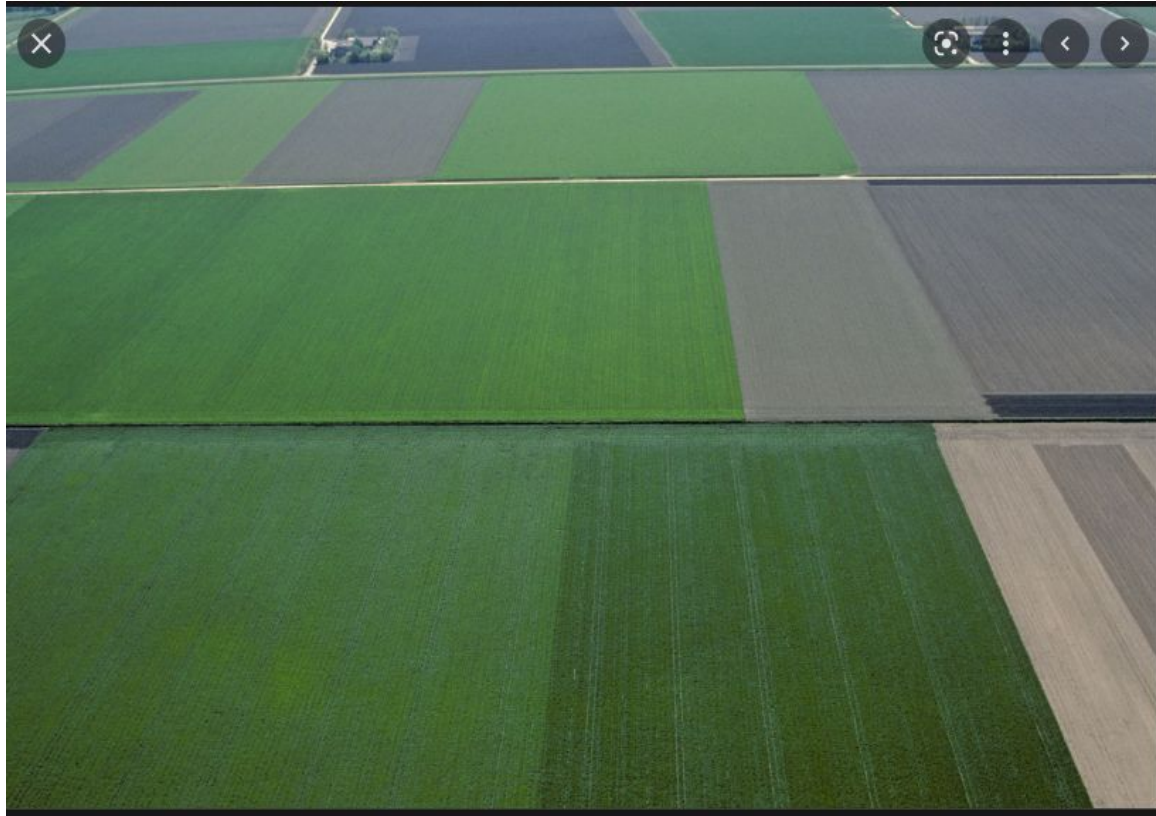


Carrifran in 2004, four years after the project got under way – a few saplings, but not a massive change yet (Borders Forest Trust)



Carrifran in August 2020 : wildflowers and trees in abundance as the valley is brought back to life (Borders Forest Trust)





Nature Restoration Regulation: structure



Overarching objective

- 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

Restoration targets

Habitats
Directive



Marine
Habitats



Urban
ecosystems



Rivers



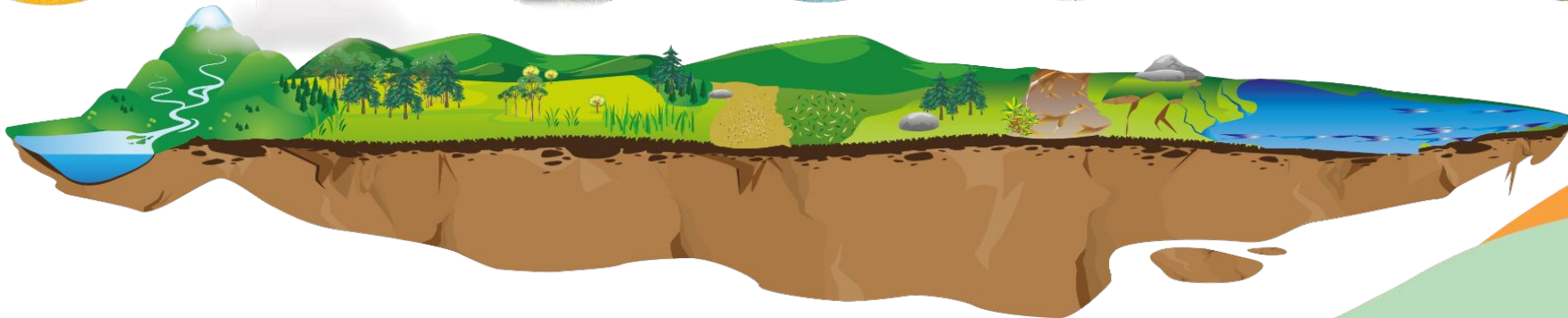
Pollinators



Agro-ecosystems



Forests



Targets based on existing legislation (Art. 4 & 5)



1) Effort based: Put in place restoration measures

- ✓ Habitat types in Annexes I and II
 - ✓ to improve the condition (measures on at least 30% by 2030, 60% by 2040, 90% by 2050)
 - ✓ To re-establish (measures on at least 30% of additional area by 2030, 60% by 2040, 100% by 2050);
- ✓ Habitats of species
 - ✓ to improve quality and quantity, to re-connect

2) Outcome based:

- ✓ continuous improvement in areas subject to restoration measures
- ✓ non deterioration (with exceptions) of habitat types in Annexes I and II
- ✓ 90 % of habitat area in good condition + FRA
- ✓ increasing trend towards the sufficient quality and quantity of habitats of species



| Urban ecosystem targets (Art. 6)



- 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)



- 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)



- 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 targets (Art. 9)



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 targets (Art. 10)



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):

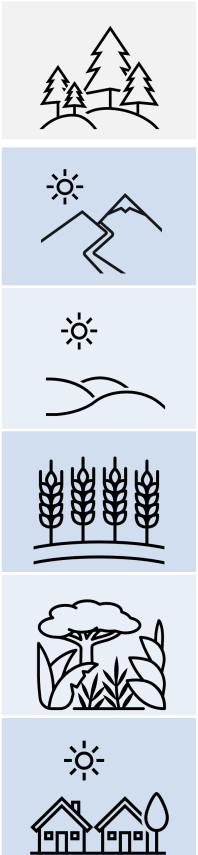
- ☐ Standing deadwood;
- ☐ Lying deadwood;
- ☐ Share of forest with uneven age structure;
- ☐ Forest connectivity;
- ☐ Common forest birds index;
- ☐ Stock of organic carbon.



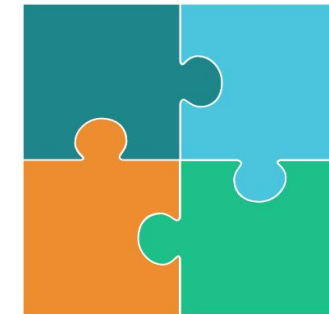
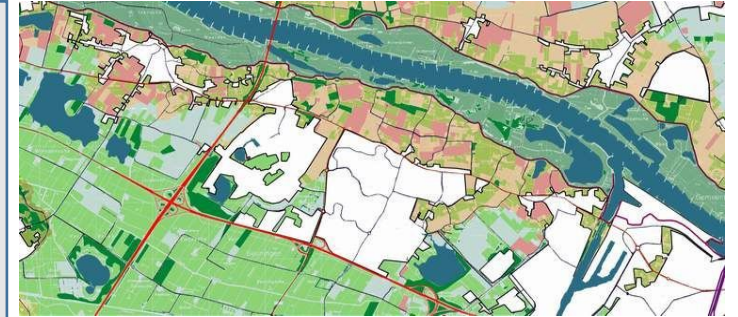


Nature Restoration Regulation

Implementation framework - National Restoration Plans



- ☐ **What, where to restore?** (based on preparatory work: monitoring / research)
- ☐ **How to restore?** (planned restoration measures / by target)
- ☐ **How to finance restoration?** (EU, national, public/private)
- ☐ **How will it link to other land and sea use activities?** (renewables, go-to areas, benefits and co-benefits for climate change mitigation/adaption...)
- ☐ **Public/stakeholder participation** in preparing the plans

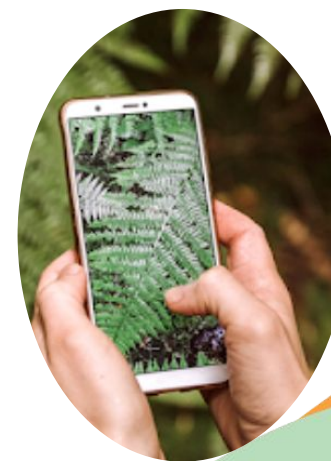
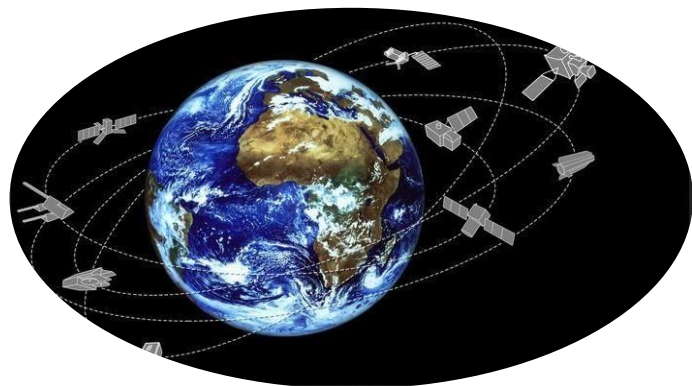


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Implementation framework – Monitoring and Reporting

- Member States to monitor and report on implementation of restoration measures and results achieved
- Commission and European Environment Agency
 - ▢ assess progress in implementation and achievement of targets and obligations



Nature Restoration Regulation: financing

How will restoration be financed?



Under current MFF ? **€100 billion** available for biodiversity spending

- More than **€20 billion** to be 'unlocked' for biodiversity **every year**, as part of the European Green Deal
- EU Multiannual Financial Framework for 2021-2027, biodiversity financing target:
 - **7.5%** of the EU budget dedicated to biodiversity from 2024,
 - **10%** for 2026 and 2027.

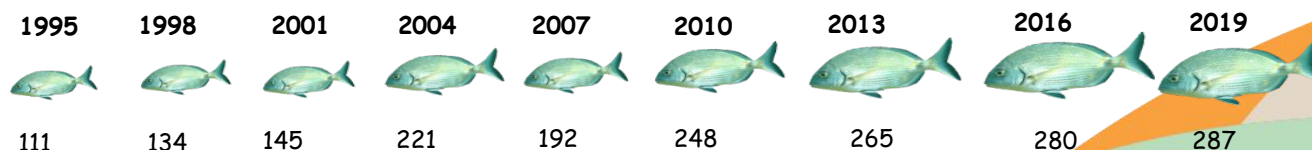
Who will benefit?



Benefits far outweigh the costs - every euro spent on restoration delivers a return on investment of at least €8

Examples:

- *Reversing the decline in pollinators ? **boost agriculture***
- *Biodiverse forests ? **more resilient to climate change***
- *Restoring marine ecosystems ? **fish stocks recover...***



[French marine restoration project Cote Bleue ? Mean weight x 2.6 – Size x 1.4](#)



Nature Restoration Regulation

Progress & next steps

Council well advanced

- CZ Presidency – 10 WPE meetings
- SE Presidency – 10 to 12 WPE planned, presented this file as one of its priorities, ambition to reach general approach at the June 2023 ENV Council.
- Possible adoption 2024, before EP election recess and end of current College.

European Parliament – EP ENVI Committee leading. The AGRI and PECH Committees associated for certain articles/paragraphs. On 5 December 2022, the ENVI Rapporteur César Luena (S&D) issued a draft report on NRL, debated on 30 January 2023. Reports from PECH and AGRI less positive. Vote in Plenary planned for June-July, first trilogues from September onwards.



| Thank you for your attention!

More info:

https://environment.ec.europa.eu/publications/nature-restoration-law_en

[Pioneering proposals to restore Europe's nature by 2050 \(europa.eu\)](#)

