BirdLife's vision for landscape scale biodiversity conservation in Europe

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Summary

- Commitments and existing legislation
- Why do we still lose biodiversity?
- A vision: Integrated landscape level biodiversity conservation
- Proposals: Green Infrastructure, Restoration, No Net Loss
- Conclusions

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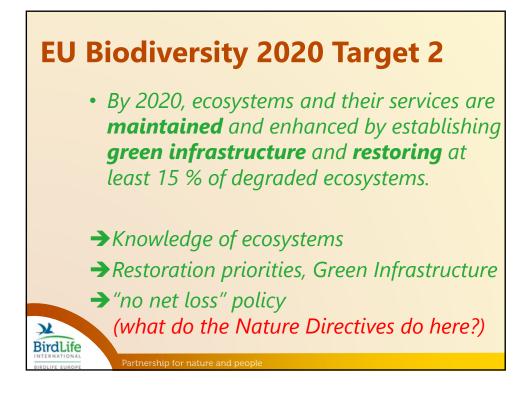# EU Biodiversity Strategy

- ***By 2050****, EU biodiversity and the ecosystem services it provides ...are protected, valued and appropriately restored...*

- *Halting the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services in the EU **by 2020**, and restoring them in so far as feasible...*

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EU Biodiversity 2020 Target 1

- *To **halt the deterioration** in the status of all species and habitats covered by EU nature legislation and achieve a significant and **measurable improvement** in their status...*

  ➜ *By implementing the Birds and Habitats Directives!*
  (& by achieving Strategy Targets 2-5)

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EU Biodiversity 2020 Target 2

- *By 2020, ecosystems and their services are **maintained** and enhanced by establishing **green infrastructure** and **restoring** at least 15 % of degraded ecosystems.*

➔ *Knowledge of ecosystems*

➔ *Restoration priorities, Green Infrastructure*

➔ *"no net loss" policy*
   (what do the Nature Directives do here?)

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EU Nature Directives deliver on ecosystem restoration

- Obligation to **achieve Favourable Conservation /Adequate Status** for species and habitat types **across the landscape**;

- Obligation to bring Natura 2000 sites **in a good status (almost 20% of EU territory)**;

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EU Nature Directives deliver on Green Infrastructure (I)

- BD Art. 3: *"preserve, maintain or re-establish a* **sufficient diversity and area of habitats for all** *the species of birds..."*

- HD Art.3(3): *"... improve the* **ecological coherence** *of Natura 2000 by maintaining, ...***developing, features of the landscape..."**
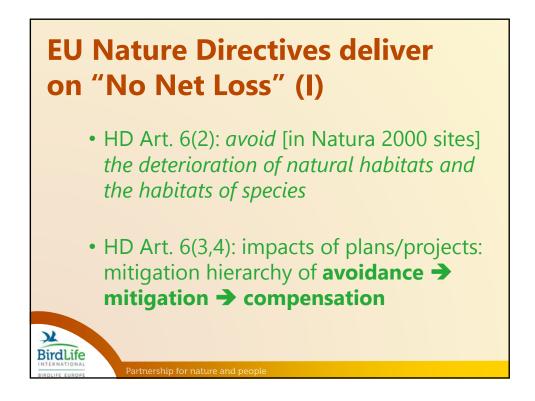
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EU Nature Directives deliver on Green Infrastructure II
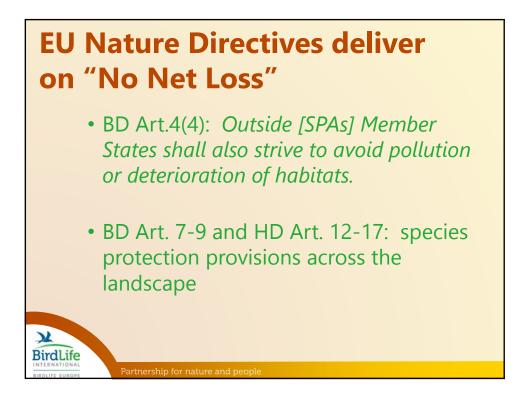
- HD Art.10: *„Member States shall ... in their land-use planning ... encourage the management of* **features of the landscape which are of major importance for wild fauna and flora.** *...which ... are essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species."*

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EU Nature Directives deliver on "No Net Loss" (I)

- HD Art. 6(2): *avoid* [in Natura 2000 sites] *the deterioration of natural habitats and the habitats of species*

- HD Art. 6(3,4): impacts of plans/projects: mitigation hierarchy of **avoidance ➔ mitigation ➔ compensation**

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EU Nature Directives deliver on "No Net Loss"

- BD Art.4(4): *Outside [SPAs] Member States shall also strive to avoid pollution or deterioration of habitats.*

- BD Art. 7-9 and HD Art. 12-17: species protection provisions across the landscape

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Other legislation and policies

- **For Green Infrastructure and Restoration**
  - Water /Marine Framework Directives
  - Ecological Focus Areas, no intervention forest areas, no fishing zones
  - National&regional initiatives and laws

- **For No Net Loss:**
  - Impact and Liability Directives (EIA, SEA, ELD)
  - National & regional legislation
  - Obligatory or voluntary offseting schemes

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Why do we still lose biodiversity across the landscape?

- Huge land/sea-use pressure
- **Insufficient implementation**, financing and acceptance of existing environmental legislation, esp. Natura 2000
- **Lack of effective & sustainable land planning, fragmented policies**
- **EU-legislation gaps**, e.g. on Soil Protection and Inspections

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A BirdLife vision for integrated landscape & ecosystem protection

Matthias Kisling

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Ecological objectives for landscape units

- Combine existing obligations and commitments at landscape level (Natura 2000, river basins, Green Infrastructure, no net loss, ecosystem services, ...)
- Identify synergies, potential conflicts
- Contribute to higher level objectives (e.g. Biogeographic conservation status)

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Landscape level management planning

- Develop integrated management measures and land use priorities with stakeholders/ users to reach objectives
- Adopt spatially explicit intervention plans
- Appoint competent authorities responsible for implementation

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Integrate and finance

- Feed into resourcing strategies (e.g. Natura 2000 PAFs) and specific spatial planning of regions and municipalities
- Aim at "net loss of bureaucracy" by coordinating fragmented environmental processes (objective setting, permission procedures etc.) without compromising environmental standards

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First steps: Green Infrastructure

- Key objective: biodiversity and ecosystem (services) conservation
- Manage Natura 2000 in landscape context, integrate in land use policies
- EU to coordinate and support
  - Guidelines and trainings
  - Integration in other relevant EU policies
  - Trans-European network for nature (TEN-N) generating funding for priority projects.

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First steps: Ecosystem Restoration

- Baseline 2010: Restoration of 15% of areas of ecosystems that were degraded in 2010 (in each Member State)
- Seek highest possible synergies with obligations of the EU Nature Directives (prioritise Natura 2000 sites)
- Main tools: Natura 2000 and Green Infrastructure

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First steps: No net loss

- Proper HD Art.6 implementation (Assessment, Compensation…)
- Properly implement of other provisions of Nature Directives, and overarching obligations
- Strengthen Impact and Liability Directives
- New EU legislation on soil & inspections
- Biodiversity proofing of relevant EU policies, legislation and funding schemes

HOWEVER

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Conclusions

- The EU Nature Directives take us very far across the landscape – better implementation and financing must be the focus now!

- Then we have to arrive at…
  - Further reform of land use policies
  - Filling legislative gaps
  - Sustainable spatial planning
  - "Mitigation hierarchy" across the landscape

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