Member states contribution to the mid-term review of the EU biodiversity strategy to 2020

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# Background Information

In an effort to streamline reporting at global and regional level, it was agreed between the European Commission (EC) and the EU Member States (MS) that the EC would extract relevant information from the 5th national reports (5NR) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to be used for reporting on progress made with regard to the EU biodiversity strategy to 2020.

As parties to the CBD, EU MS and the EU had to report on progress in implementing their national biodiversity strategies or actions plans (NBSAPs) – the main instrument for the implementation of the convention - and assess progress in reaching the 20 Aichi Targets in their 5NR by 31 March 2014 (CBD COP decision X/10). This information has been used to report and assess progress on EU biodiversity strategy Targets and Actions.

In execution of this task the consultants were able to extract a broad range of information from the reports related to the Targets and Actions of the EU biodiversity strategy to 2020. A challenge in the execution of this task was the fact that many MS did not report in time to the CBD and not in a comprehensive manner with regard to the EU biodiversity strategy.

A first synthesis of 5NR had been shared with MS at the Coordination Group on Biodiversity and Nature (CGBN) meeting in August 2014. At the time of submission of the first report, 16 EU MS had submitted their 5NR to the CBD. Following the meeting MS had the opportunity to review their country’s 5NR synthesis and provide comments. A revised version of the synthesis – incorporating feedback provided as well as a synthesis of additional 5NR that had been submitted in the meantime – was presented at the last CGBN meeting in March 2015. The following countries reviewed their 5NR synthesis: Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Malta, Latvia, Slovakia and Spain. At the time of submission of this report, 23 EU MS had submitted their 5NR to the CBD (<http://www.cbd.int/reports/nr5/>):

1. Austria
2. Belgium
3. Bulgaria
4. Croatia
5. Cyprus
6. Czech Republic
7. Denmark
8. Estonia
9. Finland
10. France (in French)
11. Germany
12. Hungary
13. Ireland
14. Italy
15. Latvia
16. Luxembourg (in French)
17. Netherlands
18. Poland
19. Romania
20. Slovakia
21. Spain (in Spanish)
22. Sweden
23. United Kingdom

In addition, Slovenia provided the Executive Summary of the country’s 5NR to the CBD.

This compilation also includes information on **Greece, Malta, Portugal and Lithuania**. Please note that this information is based on input provided by the four countries to the EC prior to the finalisation of their 5NRs.

# Note on the Methodology

The 5NR were examined for information that could be used for the reporting on selected actions under Target 1-6 of the EU biodiversity strategy to 2010. The information was collected per country and the focus is on information that is particular to the respective MS rather than referencing EU wide information. In addition, only information that is not directly reported to the EC by MS was retrieved from the reports.

**Structure of the table for each EU Target:**

**Column 1**: EU Target or Action

As briefly outlined above only information related to particular actions under EU Targets that require additional information from MS was extracted for this analysis.

**Column 2**: Information from 5NR to CBD and data links (additional source provided in the 5NR)

Copy of the relevant paragraphs from the 5NR in the original language (both qualitative and quantitative)

*Explanatory remarks*

According to the suggested structure for 5NR from the CBD, part III of the 5NR shall outline the progress towards the 2015 and 2020 Aichi Biodiversity Targets (and contributions to the relevant 2015 Targets of the Millennium Development Goals). The analysis therefore focused on this part of the reports. Referring to the following BISE website: <http://biodiversity.europa.eu/policy/target-1-and-related-aichi-targets>, where the EU Targets are mapped against the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, it was assumed that most of the information related to actions under a specific EU Target, could be found in the section of the 5NR that make a reference to the related Aichi Biodiversity Target. In reflection of this approach, the 2nd column indicates to which Aichi Biodiversity Target the retrieved information was mapped to by the respective country.

In many 5NR there are no explicit references between EU Targets and Actions and Aichi Biodiversity Targets. In such cases the information extracted has been allocated to EU Actions based on professional judgement.

The text highlighted in yellow (e.g. xxx) is information that has not been retrieved from the respective 5NR, but information that was provided by the respective country as “additional information” after the review of their 5NR synthesis. Such additional information was only included in the synthesis, if it was mapped against an EU Target and Action by the country.

# Austria

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| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 1** *(Please note that information from EU Member States in relation to Action 1a is supplied to the European Commission via other reports. To avoid duplication of reporting, information relating to Action 1a has not been included in this report)* |
| **Action 3a:**  **Stakeholder awareness and enforcement** | * The campaign vielfaltleben was launched in 2009 by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management in cooperation with many partner organisations – in particular nature and environment NGOs – and has grown ever since. * A national network of local governments contributing to the conservation of biodiversity has been established. * According to information from the Austrian Naturschutzbund, a total of 5 million people have been reached by means of the campaign. 45,000 people received the campaign newsletter; 55,000 persons visited the website, with a total of 1.7 million hits. * Every year, a "Week of Biodiversity” is being organised in cooperation with more than 100 partners, staging more than 200 events on biodiversity across Austria. Many other events have been carried out aiming at strengthening the awareness of society on biodiversity. * The Austrian Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development (2008) aims to support a transformation of awareness toward sustainability among teachers and learners alike and also to interlink the actors involved. |
|  | The National Biodiversity Strategy 2005 was evaluated in 2013 using a questionnaire with the goal of gathering knowledge and experiences of Austrian biodiversity stakeholders. The results of the evaluation show that stakeholders consider the Strategy as very relevant for their field of activities. |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 2** |
|  | Within the new Austrian Biodiversity Strategy 2020 and Beyond, Aichi Target 15 corresponds to the objective: Conservation status of species and habitats is improved, with the following specific targets:   * The conservation status of 36% of habitats and 17% of species of the Habitat Directive in relation to 2007 is improved (2020) * The status of threat according to priority settings is improved (2020+) * 15% of degraded ecosystems are improved or restored (2020+) * Natural processes take place at 2% of Austria's total area (2020+) * Climate mitigation measures are set, measures of the Austrian Climate Change Adaptation Strategy in relation to biodiversity are implemented (2020) |
| **Action 6a & 6b:**  **Ecosystem restoration and green infrastructure** | Within the new Austrian Biodiversity Strategy 2020 and Beyond, Aichi Target 5 corresponds to the objective: The conservation status of species and habitats has improved, with the following specific targets:   * The conservation status of 36% of habitats and 17% of species of the Habitat Directive in relation to 2007 are improved (2020) * The status of threat according to priority setting is improved (2020+) * A quantitatively adequate, functional habitat connectivity is established (2020+) * 15% of degraded ecosystems have improved or are being restored (2020+)   Re objective: Biodiversity and ecosystem services are taken into account in spatial planning, with the following specific targets:   * Ecological infrastructure is implemented in spatial planning (2020+) * Un-fragmented areas and migration corridors are preserved (2020) * Ecological permeability has significantly increased for main roads (2020) Species and habitat conservation measures are the traditional instruments in the management toolbox.   Most activities are executed at the local or federal province level, funded by different sources including EU support. A selection of species protection success stories is provided in chapter 2.3.3. Reducing fragmentation and improving functional connectivity is an agreed goal at the European level. A selection of activities to restore functional connectivity of habitats is provided in chapter 2.3.5. |
|  | Within the new Austrian Biodiversity Strategy 2020 and Beyond, Aichi Target 8 corresponds to the objective: Pollution is reduced, with the following specific targets:   * The exceedance of critical loads is reduced (2020) * Surface water and groundwater will have a good chemical status by 2015 or 2021/2027. For more information on groundwater pollution in Austria see Chapter 1.3, on acidification and eutrophication see Chapter 1.3.5 and on light pollution see Chapter 1.3.6. |
|  | Within the new Austrian Biodiversity Strategy 2020 and Beyond, Aichi Target 11 corresponds to the objective: Conservation status of species and habitats is improved, with the following specific targets:   * The conservation status of 36% of habitats and 17% of species of the Habitat Directive in relation to 2007 is improved (2020) * A quantitatively adequate, functional habitat connectivity is established (2020+) * 15% of degraded ecosystems are improved or restored (2020+) * Approximately 27% of the territory of Austria is protected under various nature conservation categories: 16% as Natura 2000 sites, national parks or nature conservation areas and 12% as less strictly protected sites, such as landscape conservation areas or biosphere parks. * In 2013, the high level of water quality was confirmed (e.g. 99% of bathing localities fulfil EU water quality standards) according to the 10th Austrian State of the Environment Report. Remediation priorities up to 2015 include measures for the removal of barriers to fish migration and improving the structures of bodies of water, e.g. by restoring them to their natural state. |
|  | Within the new Austrian Biodiversity Strategy 2020 and Beyond, Aichi Target 14 corresponds to the objective: Conservation status of species and habitats is improved, with the following specific targets:   * The conservation status of 36% of habitats and 17% of species of the Habitat Directive in relation to 2007 improved (2020) * The status of threat according to priority setting is improved (2020+) * 15% of degraded ecosystems are improved or restored (2020+) * Natural processes take place at 2% of Austria's total area (2020+)   Based on the work of the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment, the Environment Agency Austria has established an inventory of Final Ecosystem Goods and Services in the Austrian agricultural sector. The applied classification was suggested by the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and the Common International Classification of Ecosystem Goods and Services (CICES). |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 3** |
| **Target 3a: Agriculture** | In total, managed grassland accounts for around 50 % of the agricultural area. Grassland is one of the habitats that are of special importance for preserving biodiversity in Austria. Particular attention has to be paid to extensive grassland that is particularly rich in species but endangered. It includes lowland moors, dry grassland, Nardus grassland, rough pastures and meadows as well as rich meadows with numerous species (mown twice a year at most) in valleys and on mountains. These types of grassland are threatened by intensification (e.g. afforestation) and abandonment (and, thus, overgrowing by scrub or trees).  The Alpine forage area has decreased continuously over the past years. This decrease is for the most part due to the more detailed registration of land which has been implemented step by step since the year 2000. For the areas of meadows mown once, rough meadows and scattered meadows the decline is significantly lower. |
| **Target 3a & 3b** | Aichi Target 7 is also corresponding to the objective: Agriculture and forestry support conservation and improvement of biodiversity, with the following specific targets: Increase of areas with biodiversity-related agri-environmental measure by 5% (2020)  • Improvement of the conservation status of 100% of the habitats and 50% of the species of the Habitat Directive in agricultural landscapes and forests compared to 2007 (2020) • 50% of status reviews of bird species of agricultural landscape and forests in 2020 show a stable or improved condition • The status of threat to 15% of species of agricultural landscape and forests is improved (2020+) • Turnaround in Farmland Bird Index (2020) • Amount of deadwood, especially in the previously low-appointed natural areas of the Alpenvorland, Mühl- und Waldviertel and in the Eastern parts is increased (2020+)  • The analysis of population trends of breeding birds according to Article 12 of the Bird Directive revealed a stable trend for 54% of the species within the 2008-2012 reporting period (Fig. 8). Increases and decreases balance each other out for 33 species. Remarkably, the ratio between singing birds and non-singing birds is exactly opposite. While population trends in non-singing birds more often increased (22 vs. 11 species), the opposite was true for singing birds, with negative trends prevailing (again, 22 vs. 11 species). This may be an indication that non-singing birds respond better to specific measures (improving habitat quality, targeted conservation projects), while the more common singing birds benefit less from individual measures but are more affected by general trends in agriculture and forestry.  • Between 2001 and 2012, more than 1,040 km² of agricultural area were lost in Austria. This decrease in agricultural area does not yet take into account the loss of areas for agricultural management in Alpine areas and for vineyards. Almost one third of the agricultural areas are turning into forests, more than two thirds are being converted into living and transport areas (see indicator BO 1a). Due to the growing of unwelcome forests on these former agricultural areas, forest-covered land has increased by more than 380 km² since 2001.  Any interpretation of the results according to regional information has to bear in mind that data are not updated continuously but only in the framework of large-scale projects and on occasion. Therefore, over certain periods of time regional information does not reflect the actual situation.  The trend of the loss of agricultural areas has been found in all Federal Provinces except Vorarlberg.  **Note:** More [supporting] information can be found in chapters 1.2, 1.3, and 2.3. |
| **Target 3b: Forestry** | * The naturalness of the composition of tree species provides key information for assessing the human influence on forests in the form of forest management. The results show that the majority of Austrian forests have a natural or semi-natural composition of tree species. This applies especially to coniferous forest areas out of which a total of around 72% fall into these categories. In contrast, this value only amounts to 56% for mixed broadleaf and broadleaf forests. 14% of the forest area belongs the special case of the spruce-fir-beech forest where only one out of the three tree species shaping the forest community is absent. Across all forest communities, the area covered by a natural composition of tree species reaches 31% and with 30% only a little less falls into the category "semi-natural composition of tree species”. For 25% only, the tree species composition considerably differs from the natural one. * These analyses do not cover floodplain forests as the potential natural vegetation was not identified for this type of forest. Inaccessible protection forests without yield had to be left out of account, too. However, these forests are likely to be in a semi-natural state almost without exception. |
| **Action 10: Agricultural genetic diversity** | Within the new Austrian Biodiversity Strategy 2020 and Beyond, Aichi Target 13 corresponds to the objective: Agriculture and forestry support conservation and improvement of biodiversity, with the following specific targets: • The total stock of rare livestock breeds is stable to slightly rising (2020) • The number of bee hives has increased to 400,000 (2020) Local varieties of cultivated plants and farmed animals are increasingly popular in Austrian society. The sustainable use of these local breeds is supported by measures at the governmental, retail trade and private levels. Some 4,900 farmers have joined the ÖPUL "Conservation of rare breeds of farm animals” compaign, ensuring the conservation of 31 endangered breeds in Austria. The Austrian Association for Rare Endangered Breeds (ÖNGENE) aims to survey the endangered breeds, take action for their conservation (in private farms, agricultural schools, research institutes, ex-situ conservation) and support scientific work on the genetical structure and the adaptability to changing environments. Austrian botanic gardens started documenting their ex situ collections of Austrian rare and endangered plant species in 2003 in order to establish a coordinated approach to secure all Austrian threatened species ex situ in botanic gardens (in living collections as well as in seed banks). Recent results (2010) showed that 779 of the 1,798 endangered species are present in ex situ collections, 406 of those with documentation of their origin. The diversity of local and regional varieties of plants and animals, and hence genetic diversity, has decreased over the last decades. There are governmental and private attempts and campaigns to restore accessibility of such breeds and secure traditional knowledge for future generations but the danger of losing traditional knowledge in various fields of expertise is still imminent (related to Aichi Target 18). |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 4** |
| **Action 13a & 13b: Fish stock management** | Within the new Austrian Biodiversity Strategy 2020 and Beyond, Aichi Target 6 corresponds to the objective: Game and fish stocks are adapted to carrying capacity/habitats, with the following specific targets:   * The fishing sector is sustainable (2020+) |
|  | In order to satisfy its demand, Austria depends, to a large extent, on imports of marine and freshwater fish. In recent years, Austria has consistently developed a high-quality fish production. The "Aquaculture 2020” strategy should give a strong impetus to considerably increasing the production of Austrian freshwater fish.  The strategy has the following goals:   * Raising the rate of self-sufficiency for freshwater fish from presently about 34% to 60% by the year 2020. This corresponds to a production increase by 2,400 tonnes to 5,500 tonnes annually.   + Trout production: Increase from 2,200 t to 4,000 t   + Carp pond farming: Increase from 750 t to 1,000 t   + Recirculation systems: Increase from 150 t to 500 t |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 5** |
|  | Positive developments were locally observed concerning alien species |
|  | * Much progress has been achieved in the last years regarding awareness raising (public exhibitions and conferences, media coverage, dissemination to relevant practitioners, production of leaflets and flyers), scientific research (number of publications increased) and IAS management (control measures and eradication campaigns on the ground, specifically in protected areas). |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 6** |
| **Action 17a & 17b: Drivers of biodiversity loss** | * The negative impact of tourism on biodiversity loss is also acknowledged in the most recent national strategy for tourism (2010), but biodiversity goals are not explicitly integrated into this strategy which has focuses more o n economic aspects. * The transport of goods and people is of high significance to society and economy, yet causes considerable impact on the environment due to land use, fragmentation, pollution and noise. The national Transport Plan (2012) formulates goals and guidelines of the Austrian transportation policy leading up to 2025. |
|  | * The aim of the Austrian Energy Strategy (2010) is to develop a sustainable energy system that makes energy services available for private consumption as well as for businesses in the future whilst implementing EU rules. * The Austrian Action Plan on Resource Efficiency (REAP) (2012) aims to increase resource efficiency to decouple the environmental impact of material use from economic growth. |
| **Action 17c: Drivers of biodiversity loss** | * Financial incentives with negative impacts on biodiversity are avoided, with the following specific target: Relevant incentives including subsidies are being adapted to become biodiversity-friendly (2020+). * Beside legal requirements, incentives and the allocation of subsidies allow the monitoring, timing and steering of measures. |
|  | * Changes in national consumer behaviour (e.g. increase use of local products) and production efficiency (e.g. water and energy consumption) will contribute to safeguard biodiversity. |
|  | * Some subsidies may have unwanted negative side effects for biodiversity and should be suspended or reduced. * The Strategy suggests that several measures should be worked out in the near future, e.g. the development of criteria to identify subsidies that are harmful to biodiversity and proposes to analyse impacts of subsidies (including socio-economic aspects) and develop incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. |
| **Action 18a: Resources for global biodiversity conservation** | * It is envisaged that synergies with other funding sources (e.g. climate change mitigation and adaptation) and reducing the effects of harmful subsidies will benefit biodiversity. * Cooperation with the business and private sectors are increasingly implemented (e.g. Public Private Partnerships – PPP, Payment for Ecosystem Services – PES). * Supporting bilateral environmental measures and conservation projects in partner countries lies within the responsibility of the Austrian Development Agency (ADA), which is the operational unit of the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC; Österreichische Entwicklungszusammenarbeit OEZA). * Some 500 programmes and projects are implemented each year and in 2011, 17% of these activities were related directly to conserve and protect biodiversity. |
|  | * The Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC) supports countries in Africa, Asia, South Eastern and Eastern Europe as well as the Caribbean in their sustainable development. * The Austrian Development Cooperation aims at reducing poverty, conserving natural resources and promoting peace and human security in partner countries. * The ultimate goal is to bring about a sustainable improvement in conditions of life. The Austrian Development Agency (ADA), the operational unit of ADC, is implementing these together with public institutions, non-governmental organisations and enterprises as well as other public actors. |
|  | * The full implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 needs increased and better allocation of financial resources from all sources, including national contributions to global biodiversity targets |
| **Action 18a &18b: Resources for global biodiversity conservation** | Since 2012, cooperation with the Österreichische Entwicklungsbank AG (Development Bank of Austria) has been providing additional financial investments for business partnerships and projects of private companies in developing countries and emerging markets.   * Austria joins the European Commission and other international donor countries and foundations in making strategic investments that assist developing countries to achieve the goals and targets in the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. In 2013, the Austrian government provided a funding package worth 1.6 million Euros through the LifeWeb Initiative (http://lifeweb.cbd.int) to help implement the CBD in four countries:   1. Democratic Republic of Congo: Rehabilitation of the Yangambi Biosphere Reserve. 431,000 Euros to conduct baseline biodiversity assessments, develop stronger management planning involving local communities and building the capacity of ranger patrols.   2. People’s Democratic Republic of Lao: Strengthening and enlarging the Protected Area System of Eastern Bolikhamxay Province. 500,000 Euros to build community outreach efforts and strengthen anti-poaching control in a location that plays an important strategic role in Eastern Bolikhamxay, linking three conservation forests.   3. Bangladesh: Protection of threatened river dolphins in Sundarbans Mangrove Forest. 318,000 Euros to conserve the Ganges River dolphin.   4. Ethiopia: Protection and restoration of wild coffee species and the Yayu forest where they are growing. 368,000 to protect the genetic diversity of wild coffee varieties in Western Ethiopia through forest protection, restoration of degraded lands and promotion and marketing of forest coffee products. |
| **Action 20: Access to genetic resources and sharing of benefits** | Austria has signed the Nagoya Protocol in 2011 and its ratification is expected in 2014 or 2015. |

# Belgium

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| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 1** *(Please note that information from EU Member States**in relation to Action 1a is supplied to the European Commission via other reports. To avoid duplication of reporting, information relating to EU Action 1a has not been included in this report)* |
| **Action 1b: Natura 2000 (and other protected areas)** | ***Flemish region:***  Extensive participatory process and consultations on Natura 2000 management programme and conservation objectives and implementation with other authorities and stakeholders aim to enhance the integration of species and habitat protection into land and water use policies and spatial planning. Specific cooperation agreements are being developed with each of those actors.  Consultation for a have been established with other administrations and with stakeholders on regional level and on site level. In the first fase to establish the conservation objectives for each habitat, species and site and now in the second fase for development of management plans, identify measures and actors. The designation acts including the conservation objectives and priority measures were adopted by the Government of Flanders and have been published in October 2014 – these objectives and measures are now being screened in other plans: water, spatial planning and land use policies, existing nature and forest management plans.  ***Brussels-Capital Region****:*  The Regional Nature Plan (in development) foresees the following measures:   * Promote the participative management of public green spaces; * Adopt an operational action plan for the conservation and the development of the brussels ecological network * Install a ‘nature facilitator’ service aimed towards the developers of plans and projects; * Promote good management practices of the green spaces. * Adopt multifunction management plans for all regional parcs   ***Walloon Region***:  Depuis leur sélection en 2002, les sites Natura 2000 bénéficient d'un régime de protection primaire prévu par :   * la protection des espèces animales et végétales, précisée dans la LCN (art. 2 (protection des oiseaux), art 2bis (protection des autres groupes d’espèces animales), art 3 (protection des espèces végétales)) * la protection des habitats naturels, due à une disposition particulière du CWATUPE (art 84 §1 er 12°): permis d’urbanisme pour défrichement et modification de la végétation dans les Habitats d’intérêt communautaire (HIC) tant qu’ils ne sont pas couverts par un AD. * le principe de la conditionnalité des aides agricoles qui porte sur le respect de certaines directives européennes dont la Directive Oiseaux et la Directive Habitats, desquelles découlent Natura 2000. * La législation générale sur l’évaluation des incidences comme prévu par le permis d’environnement/permis unique (du décret du 11 mars 1999 relatif au permis d’environnement) et le permis d’urbanisme (CWATUPE). De plus, l’étude appropriée des incidences (EAI) est appliquée de part l’Effet direct de l’art. 6.3. de la directive Habitats lorsqu’il y a risque d’impact significatif d’un projet ou d’un plan sur un site Natura 2000. * L’avis du DNF est également requis dans le cadre général des demandes des permis d’urbanisme, d’environnement et des permis uniques.   De plus, **depuis le 13 janvier 2011**, suite à une modification de la Loi sur la Conservation de la Nature, un ensemble de mesures générales s'appliquent à **tous les sites sélectionnés** (art. 28bis de la LCN relatif au régime de protection primaire).   * l’interdiction générale de détériorer les habitats naturels et de perturber les espèces (art. 28, §1er LCN) * les interdictions générales et autres mesures préventives générales (art. 28, § 2, 4, 5, 6 et 7 LCN) * l’application de l’art 29§2 de la LCN sur l’étude appropriée des incidences (et donc non plus par l’effet direct de la Directive habitats)   Les mesures générales ont été révisées via l’AGW du 24 mars 2011 afin de préciser une série d’actes soumis à interdiction (par ex : plantation de résineux), autorisation (ex : labour de prairies permanentes) ou notification (par ex : l’implantation d’un hébergement temporaire dans le cadre des mouvements de jeunesse) ainsi que les dispositions concernant les ilots de conservation.  Les mesures de gestion des 59 sites désignés sont inclues dans leur Arrêté de designation.  Le code forestier, en son art. 57, prévoit que tous les bois et forêts publiques, d’une superficie supérieure à vingt hectares d’un seul tenant, sont soumis à un plan d’aménagement devant contenir le rappel des mesures de conservation liées au réseau Natura 2000.  Les zones protégées en vertu du §18 du code de l’eau comprennent les sites Natura 2000 pertinents. Pour ces zones protégées, il est prévu d’établir un ou plusieurs programmes de surveillance systématique (art. D19). De plus, l’Art. D.22 prévoit, en rendant opérationnels les programmes de mesures prévus dans les plans de gestion, d'assurer le respect de toutes les normes et de tous les objectifs pour les aires protégées au plus tard le 22 décembre 2015.  Le plan de gestion des wateringues prévu par le code de l’eau intègre les objectifs de gestion et interdictions établis par les arrêtés, pris en vertu de la LCN, portant désignation du ou des sites Natura 2000.  Les mesures du Programme wallon de développement rural 2007-2013 : telles   * Dans l'axe 3, la mesure « Conservation et mise en valeur du patrimoine rural » (mesure 323) vise la restauration de milieux ouverts ainsi que l’exploitation de résineux en vue d’avoir un impact positif sur les paysages et aussi sur la biodiversité. * Dans l’axe 2, les mesures 214 « paiements agro environnementaux », 213 « indemnité Natura 2000 pour les agriculteurs », et 224 « indemnités Natura 2000 pour les forestiers ».   Le PDR 2014-2020 est en discussion avec la Commission et sera adopté en 2015, il prévoit également des indemnités et des subventions à la restauration  **Data links:**  <http://www.natura2000.vlaanderen.be/>  <http://www.natuurenbos.be/nl-BE/natuurbeleid/natuur-en-natura-2000/natura_2000/Aanwijzingsbesluiten> |
| **Action 1c: Natura 2000 (and other protected areas)** | ***Flemish Region***:  To finalise the realisation of the Natura 2000 network and provide good management of the Natura 2000 sites:   * The conservation objectives and measures were established in consultation with the concerned actors; * The Agency for Nature and Forests manages its own green spaces with focus on the realisation of the conservation objectives; * Stop the decline of species of European conservation concern and stimulate their recovery to achieve a favourable conservation status through the development of species protection plans and support to species protection measures. * The Agency for Nature and Forests tries to align its policy in relation to green spaces and elements in the city with the societal needs (GidS project: Groen in de Stad – replaced by the programme ‘natuur in je buurt’) and supports and realises urban and suburban green projects. * Implementation of Natura 2000 through development of Strategic Site Management Plans and Management Contracts, priority setting for acquisition of land, protocols for cooperation (e.g. with ministry of Defence, Port Authorities), agri-environment contracts, financial support of nature development and management projects of local authorities and Regional Landscape Organisations and private land owners.   The designation acts including the conservation objectives and priorities have been approved on 24/04/2014 for all SCI and overlapping SPA, together with an overall plan for implementation to realise the priorities set for 2020 for the habitats and the species of European concern, to tackle environmental pressures on the sites, and to enhance cooperation with other actors and stakeholders. The Decree for Nature Conservation has been adapted to include the concept of Integrated Nature Management Plan as uniform plan system for nature, forest, park areas; and a renewed system for financial support of private owners cooperating in nature management plans.  ***Walloon Region***:  Core areas with official protection status, or effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas: the Nature  Department of the Walloon Region continues to strictly protect natural sites through the following status: government nature reserve (Réserves Naturelles domaniales (RND)), chartered nature reserve (Réserves Naturelles agréees (RNA)), forest reserve (Réserves Forestières (RF)), wetlands of biological interest (Zones Humides d’Interêt Biologique (ZHIB)), and underground cavity of scientific interest (Cavités Souterraines d’Interêt Scientifique (CSIS ), in order to protect important sites for species and habitats.  59 Natura 2000 sites (25 351,18ha) have had their designation orders adopted and have thus, in addition to the general measures applied to all Natura 2000 sites, specific measures wich count for their managament plan.   * Les mesures générales consistent en une série d'interdictions et d'actes soumis à autorisation ou à notification prévues par l’AGW du 24 mars 2011. * Des mesures particulières prévues par l’arrêté dit « arrêté catalogue » fixent les types d’unités de gestion susceptibles d’être délimitées au sein d’un site Natura 2000 ainsi que les interdictions et mesures préventives particulières qui y sont applicable (AGW du 19 mai 2011). Cet arrêté « catalogue » complète le régime de protection des sites Natura 2000 par des mesures particulières aux habitats et espèces après désignation. * Des mesures spécifiques aux habitats et espèces présents dans les sites qui seront comprises dans les arrêtés de désignation. Ces arrêtés sont en cours de finalisation. Ils se baseront sur l’arrêté catalogue dans la mesure où ce dernier contient la « légende » de la cartographie des unités de gestion et des mesures qui s’y appliquent. La cartographie des unités de gestion est en effet nécessaire à leur désignation. Celle ci est en cours de finalisation.   La désignation officielle du reste des sites natura 2000 est en cours.  ***Brussels Capital Region***  The Regional Nature Plan (in development) foresees the following measures:   * Conformément aux procédures définies aux articles 44, 50 et 52 de l’ordonnance du 1er mars 2012 relative à la conservation de la nature, le Gouvernement adoptera les arrêtés de désignation des trois zones Natura 2000, les 48 plans de gestion et le cas échéant, conclura des contrats de gestion avec les propriétaires et occupants concernés * Ensure the implementation of the ecological network; * To optimise the articulation between the different systems for the protection of green spaces; * The different policy levels competent for the ecological management of public green spaces should adopt a common language; * Develop and implement plans for multifunctional management of green spaces; * Develop and implement an ecological management plan for the railway verges and green spaces related to roadways.   ***Federal level****: North Sea*:  The ‘MMM’ (Marien Milieu Marin) act of 20 January 1999 on the protection of the marine environment in sea areas under Belgian jurisdiction establishes the legal basis for the protection of the Belgian part of the North Sea against sea-related pollution and for the conservation, restoration and development of nature.  The Royal Decree of 14 October 2005 establishes five marine protected areas (Trapegeer Stroombank, Vlakte van de Raan, SBZ1, SBZ2 and SBZ3), all part of the Natura 2000 network. In 2008, the Vlakte van de Raan designation is nullified by the Court of Justice. The Royal Decree of 5 March 2007 establishes a 0.6 km2 marine reserve (Baai van Heist); the Royal Decree of 5 November 2012 increases the Natura 2000 to approx. 1000 km2 under the new site name “Vlaamse Banken”). In 2009 management plans have been approved for the then designated protected areas. In 2013 zoning restriction are being proposed in the site Vlaamse Banken; this is part of the proposed Marine Spatial Plan.  **Data links:**  <http://www.natuurenbos.be/natura2000>  <http://www.natura2000.vlaanderen.be/>  <https://www.inbo.be/nl/natuurindicator/oppervlakte-natura-2000>  [www.natuurinjebuurt.be](http://www.natuurinjebuurt.be) |
|  | ***Flemish Region***:   * The species protection plans that are being implemented concern various bat species under the LIFE project BatAction (also including awareness raising, restoration of habitats in forts), hamster (re-introduction programme with 60 specimens and monitoring of the population, cooperation with farmers), and some indicator butterfly and plant species of heath habitats. * Species protection plans for fish species have been evaluated and reviewed, and for the eel pilot projects are running and a monitoring scheme has been developed. * Development and implementation of species action plans, contracts with land owners for species protection measures (meadow birds, hamster, farmland birds), financial support for birds rehabilitation centres, research for re-introduction projects (e.g. fish species). * Priority species of European concern have been listed for development and implementation of species action programmes   ***Brussels-Capital Region:***  The Regional Nature Plan (in development) foresees the following measure: to develop and implement action plans for the restoration and development of species population with a regional or community interest, with priority given to wetland and aquatic species.  ***Walloon Region:***   * Chapter II of the law on the conservation of nature protects a list of animal and plant species. * The law on the conservation of nature allows also that municipalities take more stringent measures for the protection of animal and plant species. This could be a good way to protect particular sites such as the migration routes of amphibians. Unfortunately, municipalities rarely use this possibility. * Action plans for species are runningfor the sand lizard (Lacerta agilis), the common European adder (Vipera berus), the natterjack toad (Bufo calamita), the marsh fritillary (Euphydryas aurinia) and the yellow-bellied toad (Bombina variegata). * More localised actions are implemented for the freshwater pearl mussel (Margaritifera margaritifera) and the whinchat (Saxicola rubetra). * Other projects aim to improve the status of threatened populations of fish species. * Several LIFE-project and restoration projects are favourable to populations of threatened species (three butterfly species are also targeted: Euphydryas aurinia, Lycaena helle and Lycaena dispar). * Study and scientific monitoring in order to restore populations of the Atlantic salmon; inventory of obstacles for fish circulation in the hydrographical network, etc.   ***Federal level:***  As part of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, an environmental objective has been defined for the harbour porpoise in the Belgian part of the North Sea. This objective aims to reduce by 2020 the annual bycatch levels of this species to levels below 1.7% of its population size (which is also the OSPAR Ecological Quality Objective EcoQO).  **Data links for status and trends on main species groups:**  <http://www.biodiversityindicators.be>  <https://www.inbo.be/nl/natuurindicator/de-staat-van-instandhouding-van-de-soorten-van-de-habitatrichtlijn>  <https://www.inbo.be/nl/natuurindicator/oppervlakte-beheerovereenkomsten-met-natuurdoelen>  **Data links for information on projects:**  <http://www.natura2000.vlaanderen.be/> |
| **Action 1d: Natura 2000 (and other protected areas)** | ***Flemish Region***:  Transboundary cooperation is taken up to finalise the realisation of the Natura 2000 network and provide good management of the Natura 2000 sites:   * Together with the Netherlands: transboundary ecological planning processes. * Together with France: conservation measures for the coastal zone.   To enhance participation in implementation land and forest owners receive technical and financial support for training sessions.  Exchange of information and experience is promoted through specific websites.  ***Walloon Region:***  The Walloon Region supports this and participates in the process.  A l’échelle wallonne, l’asbl Natagriwal a également pour mission de communiquer sur les possibilités de restauration et peut accompagner les propriétaires et gestionnaires à élaborer leurs projets  **Data links:**  <http://www.natura2000.vlaanderen.be/>  <http://www.ecopedia.be/> |
| **Action 2: Adequate financing of Natura 2000** | ***Flemish region***  On yearly basis project calls are launched to enable local authorities and landowners to carry out small-scale restoration and management actions in Natura 2000. Projects under the LIFE and INTERREG programme are promoted as leverage to enhance cooperation, awareness raising and long-term conservation actions.  **Data link:**  <http://www.natura2000.vlaanderen.be/projecten> |
| **Action 3a: Stakeholder awareness and enforcement** | ***Flemish Region***:  Awareness campaigns are organised on regular basis (by the regional nature authority, local authotities and NGOs) on the needs to involve all sectors in the conservation of nature values:   * Organisation of campaigns i.e. in relation with port development, transport infrastructure, military domains; * Information sessions for stakeholders, other administrations and local authorities on Natura 2000 and the process for development of conservation objectives; * Training sessions for local authorities for the management of parks and green spaces; * Organisation of project calls for afforestation projects, Natura 2000 management actions, and competition for the best project idea for greening cities. * Communication and awareness actions under each of the LIFE projects   ***Brussels-Capital Region:***  The Regional Nature Plan (in development) also proposes initiatives to increase comprehension of issues of nature and the city, and to encourage adoption of practices that facilitate their coexistence.  The proposed plan provides for developing informative initiatives to promote the image of Brussels - green city, nature city - and to strengthen partnerships with the numerous associations active in protection and raising awareness of nature.  Finally, participatory management of local green spaces will also be supported to encourage public adoption and involvement.  ***Walloon Region:***  Several actions to raise awareness on biodiversity and Natura 2000 are undertaken:   * Awareness campaigns by the administration (many brochures, media campaigns, informative sessions, etc.) * The website ‘La biodiversité en Wallonie’: <http://biodiversite.wallonie.be/fr/accueil.html?IDC=6>   L’asbl Natagriwal : A l’échelle wallonne, l’asbl Natagriwal a également pour mission de communiquer sur les possibilités de restauration et peut accompagner les propriétaires et gestionnaires à élaborer leurs projets. <http://www.natagriwal.be/>  The network of ‘Centres Régionaux d’Initiation à l’Environnement’ (CRIE) is made of centres for environmental education and awareness; their actions are mainly (but not exclusively) oriented towards school children aged 6-12   * One of the objectives of the natural parks is to inform their visitors and raise awareness on biodiversity * Most LIFE projects include public awareness activities * Naturalists’ associations organise public awareness and education activities oriented towards nature conservation (e.g. excursions, visits of nature reserves, management of nature reserves, publications, etc.) or towards specific thematic areas (e.g. forests, quality of watercourses, etc.) * Through partnerships such as the river contracts, ‘Plans Communaux de Développement de la Nature’, the road verges operation, the 'Semaine de l'Arbre', etc. * Through the 'Plan Maya' on bees and pollinators * The TV program 'Jardin extraordinaire' of the French Community addresses nature and biodiversity topics from Belgium and worldwide * Other associations such as GAWI (integrated and biological fruit production) and CARI (protection of pollinators) receive support from the Walloon Region to raise awareness on biodiversity   Television information spots on Natura 2000: <http://biodiversite.wallonie.be/fr/08-01-2013-capsules-tv-natura-2000.html?IDD=3605&IDC=3429>  La Société Royale Forestière (SRF), la Fédération wallonne de l’agriculture (FWA), Nature Terre et Forêts (NTF).  Le DNF organise deux fois par an des rencontres avec le collège des magistrats. Le DNF a prévenu les notaires pour ce qui est des dispositions en matière d’exonération liée à Natura 2000. |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 2** |
|  | ***Flemish Region:***  Information available on Natura 2000 progress on page 119 of Belgium 5NR regarding the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites and of species of European interest wide spread, restoration and re-development projects which have been carried out mainly through LIFE projects, and will be further initiated through the implementation plan for Natura 2000 and the Prioritised Action Framework including:   * Agri-environment measures support to restore the connectivity between sites, to enhance habitat quality of species dependent on agricultural landscapes, to prevent erosion problems. * Specific measures for river banks also contribute to connectivity aspects and to improving water quality in general. * Through afforestation projects and restorarion of peatlands and wetlands contribution to fixation of carbon is enhanced   The Environment and Nature Policy plan includes measures to reduce air, water and soil pollution.  The action plan for sustainable use of pesticide was adopted on 1 March 2013.  The state of the environment is reported in a 2-yearly report MIRA –  In 2009, on 74 % of the Flemish nature area (forest, heathland and species-rich grassland) the critical load for eutrophication was exceeded. For forest, the figure is 100 %. For heathland and species-rich grassland, it is 90 % and 16 % respectively. Besides tackling deposition rates by general measures a specific programme on nitrogen issues has been initiated under the implementation of Natura 2000, the programmatic approach for nitrogen (PAS). Main aims in the first phase of this programme are to develop and refine deposition scans, identify zones with highest vulnerabilities and zones imperative for nature conservation, list possible restoration measures. Measures to improve environmental quality at local level will be focused on vulnerable and threatened habitat types and on Natura 2000 to contribute to reaching or improving conservation status of habitats and species of European concern.  ***Walloon Region:***  Information available on Natura 2000 progress on page 119 of Belgium 5NR regarding the resilience of ecosystems to climate change is improved by the protection and restoration measures listed in relation to Aichi Targets 10, 11 and 14. The contribution of ecosystems to the capture of carbon is also improved through these measures. The restoration of degraded ecosystems is mainly done through Life projects, restoration projects in nature reserves, AEM; There is a Walloon working group on restoration.  In 2007, about 6% of the forest surface and almost the entire surface of open spaces (heathlands, swamps, peat bogs,) in the Walloon Region was affected by nitrogenous depositions superior to the acceptable level of eutrophying nitrogen. At the forest level, the situation improved substantially thanks to a reduction of atmospheric fallout of nitrogen. This is not the case for the other semi-natural ecosystems (in particular oligotrophic environments) which remain extremely vulnerable to such perturbations.  Concerning acidification, the situation is now far less problematic given the fact that the affected forest surfaces went from 90% (1990) to 10% (2007). This evolution proves the positive effects of measures implemented to reduce the atmospheric emissions of acidifying pollutants of 50 to 60% (between 1990 and 2010) in the Walloon Region and Europe.  List of Walloon tools and measures in place for this target:   * The Forestry Code forbids the utilisation of pesticides. The only exceptions are defined by the Walloon government to combat certain diseases or invasive alien species that threaten the indigenous fauna and flora. * The Forestry Code also offers the possibility to impose the utilisation of vegetal oil for chain saws and other forestry exploitation tools. * The use of herbicides is forbidden in some public areas such as parks, waterways, ponds and lakes, road verges and ditches. * The Water Code and some resulting plans and programs:   - the ‘Plans d’Assainissement par Sous-bassin Hydrographiques’ PASH define the decontamination and clean up regime for the relevant areas  - the programme for the sustainable management of nitrogen is the application of the Nitrate Directive (part of the Water Framework Directive)   * The Environment Code and certain resulting dispositions:   - the environmental permit and ‘permis unique’  - studies about the impact on the environment   * The evaluation of incidences is imposed for all plans and projects that could affect a Natura 2000 site in a significant way. * 159 municipalities have signed the ‘Plan Maya’ thereby committing themselves 1) to put in place a plan to reduce the use of pesticides and 2) to manage green spaces more ecologically. * In the framework of the implementation of the Walloon decree on soil management, an inventory of (potentially) polluted soils is currently in development. * Reduction in the use of inorganic and organic fertilizers and pesticides: the utilisation of phytopharmaceutical products and of nitrogenous and phosphorus fertilisers is decreasing. Concerning the fertilisers, this tendency results from a more rational use of fertilisers and from the implementation of measures of the programme of sustainable management of nitrogen in agriculture. The Walloon authorities have elaborated a pesticides reduction programme to further decrease their use.   Micropollutants in surface waters: evaluations performed during the period 2005-2010 indicated that about 30% of the Walloon surface waters are in a bad chemical situation. To remediate this, additional measures are foreseen in the Walloon programme for the reduction of pesticides and in the projects of the hydrographical districts management plans. They aim, among others, to install buffer zones along surface waters and to re-evaluate and better control environmental permits.  ***Brussels-Capital Region:***  The Regional Nature Plan (in development) foresees the following measures:   * To ensure an adequate protection and management of the sites with a high biological value and to ensure the implementation of the ecological network * To develop an integrated vision for the preservation and restoration of (ancient) agricultural zones and sites * To strengthen the presence of nature in public spaces and spaces associated with transport infrastructure * To strengthen the presence of nature on and around buildings * To implement the management plans within the protected sites * The different policy levels competent for the ecological management of public green spaces should adopt a common language * To develop and implement plans for the multifunctional management of green spaces * To develop and implement an ecological management plan for the railway verges * To develop and implement an ecological management plan for green spaces related to roadways   ***Federal level:***  The Belgian science policy office finances the project COBIMFO aiming at: (i) providing a baseline reference data on the C-balance and biodiversity in pristine and intervened dense tropical forests of the Congo Basin and (ii) increasing understanding in the relationship between both variables as a function of forest management and degradation: <http://www.belspo.be/belspo/fedra/proj.asp?l=en&COD=SD/AR/01A>.  In 2012, the increase of the ecosystems resilience is one of the underpinning elements of the implementation of the Marine Strategy Directive (Belgische Staat 2012. Omschrijving van Goede Milieutoestand en vaststelling van Milieudoelen voor de Belgische mariene wateren. Kaderrichtlijn Mariene Strategie – Art 9 & 10. BMM, Federale Overheidsdienst Volksgezondheid, Veiligheid van de Voedselketen en Leefmilieu, Brussel, België, 34 pp.).  A federal plan to adapt to climate change is finalised and is still waiting adoption by the government.  Strong efforts are made to reduce air pollution from transportation and settelments.  **Data links:**  <http://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/viewaceitem?aceitem_id=400>  <https://www.inbo.be/nl/natuurindicator/oppervlakte-beheerovereenkomsten-met-natuurdoelen>  <http://www.natuurenbos.be/nl-BE/over-ons/projecten/scheldeproject>  <http://www.lne.be/themas/beleid/actieplanpesticiden>  <http://www.milieurapport.be/en/facts-figures/environmental-themes/eutrophication/>  <http://www.natuurenbos.be/nl-BE/natuurbeleid/natuur-en-natura-2000/natura_2000/PAS> [to be updated by the Member State]  <http://etat.environnement.wallonie.be>  <http://www.environnement.brussels/thematiques/air-climat/laction-de-la-region/air?view_pro=1&view_school=1>  <http://www.bruxellesmobilite.irisnet.be/articles/la-mobilite-de-demain/en-quelques-mots>  <http://www.environnement.brussels/thematiques/air-climat/laction-de-la-region/energie?view_pro=1&view_school=1>  <http://www.lne.be/themas/beleid/mina4> [to be updated by the Member State] |
| **Action 5: Knowledge of ecosystems and their services** | **At *national level:*** formal establishment of **BEES** (in 2012)  This Belgium Ecosystem Services (BEES) network is a community of practice aiming to connect different societal actors involved in ecosystem services research, practice and policy-making.  The BEES community of practice aims to:   * Develop ecosystem services concepts, tools and practices that help to adapt human activity and clarify ecosystem thresholds in order to preserve the actual and potential well-being of present and future generations; and to stop ecosystem and biodiversity degradation, and improve their status. * Develop mainstreaming & policy tools to promote the integration of ecosystem services concepts in policy and management, business and society. * Facilitate capacity building, exchange of expertise and experience: including methodologies and transfer of knowledge on Belgian ecosystem services to policy and share the needs from policy makers on this issue, to enable involvement of Belgian actors in national and international initiatives and build the capacity to conduct assessments of ecosystem services. * Provide overviews of state of the art knowledge and good practices.   <http://www.beescommunity.be/en-us/> [to be updated by the Member State]  ***Flemish Region:***  The knowledge base on ecosystem services is enhanced through various projects in cooperation with relevant departments and research institutes under the MINA plan 4.  A summary overview of the methodology on the valuation of ecosystem services: <http://www.lne.be/themas/beleid/milieueconomie/linken/publicaties/Brochure%20ESD.pdf>  The nature values explorer has been refined and updated and includes now an online tool and manual in English also: ([www.natuurwaardeverkenner.be](http://www.natuurwaardeverkenner.be)).  A study report on the benfits of Natura 2000 in Flanders highlights the values for 13 ecosystem types: ['Estimate of the benefits delivered by the Flemish Natura 2000 network'](http://www.natuurenbos.be/~/media/Files/Themas/Natuur/Natura%202000/NEWBroekx%20et%20al%202013%20%20abstract%20estimate%20benefits%20Natura%202000%20%20EN%20nov%202013.pdf)  [to be updated by the Member State]  The INBO nature report ‘NARA-T’ describes the state and trends of ecosystems and their services in Flanders and will be published by the beginning 2015. This report consists of a technical report and a synthesis report. The technical report is a scientific background document and consists of two series of chapters. In the first series, the different components of the conceptual framework are described for 16 separate ecosystem services. Each of the ecosystem services are mapped at regional scale (Flanders) using biophysical data. The mapping contributes to the reporting about the state of ecosystem services by Member States that is required under Action 5 of the European biodiversity strategy. In the second series of chapters, a set of key questions is answered. These chapters rely on the findings and data of the first series of ES-chapters. Key questions:   * Which ecosystem services (ES) are provided by which ecosystems and what organisms, processes and structures play a role? * What is the state of the ecosystems? * What is the role of biodiversity in the provision of ES and how is biodiversity affected by the use of ES? * What is the current state and trend in the demand, supply and use of ES and how they are spatially distributed? * What are the direct and indirect drivers that influence ES demand, supply and use? * How does ES contribute to wellbeing, how are these contributions valued and who are the ES-beneficiaries? * To what extent can ES be delivered together and under what conditions can ecosystems provide multiple services in a sustainably? * How is the ES governance structured in Flanders, and how can the ES-concept be applied to support sustainable use of ecosystems and their services?   The synthesis report is written for a wide audience of decision makers and other stakeholders.  ***Walloon Region:***  WALES : Instauration en septembre 2014 d’une plateforme régionale chargée d’accompagner le développement et la diffusion d’outils d’aide à la décision publique basés sur le concept de services écosystémiques. La plateforme constitue une large structure fédératrice qui regroupe tous les services de l’administration régionale (SPW) et les universités francophones du pays. Les principaux résultats attendus après la première année de fonctionnement (septembre 2015) sont : 1. l’établissement et l’adoption d’un cadre conceptuel régional commun ; 2. la réalisation d’une première évaluation et cartographie des services écosystémiques à l’échelle régionale sur base d’une approche biophysique ; 3. l’accompagnement du développement de certains outils d’aide à la décision spécifiques selon les besoins manifestés par les services de l’administration (cf. études ci-dessous).  Elaboration d’une méthodologie d’évaluation des incidences sur l’environnement de l’aménagement foncier s’appuyant sur la notion de services écosystémiques. L’étude doit déboucher sur le développement d’un outil permettant de : 1. Identifier et hiérarchiser les SE susceptibles d’être impactés par un projet d’aménagement foncier (ex-remembrement, échelle communale); 2. Etudier les incidences potentielles des aménagements projetés sur ces SE via une approche par scenarii; 3.  Formuler des recommandations pour promouvoir les SE et éviter/limiter/compenser leur détérioration. Les résulats de l’étude sont attendus pour mi-2016.  BIOECOSYS: Projet de recherche du CRA-W visant à évaluer qualitativement et quantitativement les services écosystémiques rendus par l’agroécosystème prairial en fonction de son mode de gestion et de son contexte territorial, y compris mesures de  terrain. Les résultats de la recherche sont attendus pour mi-2016.  L’étude Ec-eau Wall a permis d’évaluer la valeur actuelle des bénéfices non marchands liés aux activités récréatives ainsi que la valeur économique totale résultant de l’atteinte du bon état écologique des eaux de surface wallonne.  Le Réseau wallon de développement rural a un groupe de travail sur Services éco systémiques, biens publics et métabolisme du territoire ; Ce GT mène plusieurs réflexions et travaux sur les thèmes suivants :   * Analyse de la disposition des (jeunes) agriculteurs à adopter de nouveaux outils de gestion de l'environnement * Etude et diffusion des notions de biens publics et de services environnementaux en lien avec 1) l'agriculture, 2) la forêt multifonctionnelle et 3) les services environnementaux fournis par les entreprises et les systèmes de paiements mis en place. * Evaluation économique des services écosystémiques (SES) produits dans le cadre de la réhabilitation de carrière.   Le GT poursuit un travail de sensibilisation des acteurs ruraux aux thèmes "Services Eco-Systémiques, Biens Publics et métabolisme de territoire". Le GT se penchera également sur les méthodes d'évaluation de la valeur des biens publics environnementaux à travers l'analyse d'études menées sur ce thème et la diffusion de leurs résultats ainsi que sur les mécanismes de compensations CO2.  Etude de la Conférence permanente de développement territorial: La biodiversité en Wallonie sous l'angle des dynamiques écosystémiques; La recherche vise à trouver les voies et moyens de favoriser l’avenir de la biodiversité régionale en identifiant les conditions biophysiques et les gestionnaires permettant le déploiement des différentes communautés végétales et animales, ainsi que les perturbations anthropiques qui en pilotent l’évolution.  **Data links:**  <http://www.beescommunity.be/en-us/> [to be updated by the Member State]  <http://www.natuurwaardeverkenner.be>  <http://www.lne.be/themas/beleid/milieubeleidsplan/leeswijze/projecten/ecosysteemdiensten/introduceren-van-het-concept-2018ecosysteemdiensten2019>  <http://www.natuurrapport.be/natuurrapport-2014> |
| **Action 6b: Ecosystem restoration and green infrastructure** | ***Flemish Region:***  Contributions to the development and management of green infrastructure are included in several programmes:   * Management and nature development measures under the Natura 2000 programme within and outside the sites, and especially the species protection plans for species having wider distributions and high mobility * ‘Nature in your neighbourhood’ to promote greening elements in urban and residential areas * Cooperation projects with private sector and business to promote greening of industrial zones * Cooperation with the administration for Roads & Traffic to enhance nature oriented management of road verges and restore main connectivity zones between nature areas with a focus to Natura 2000 * Agri-environment schemes within and around nature areas, and especially (sub)-zones of Natura 2000 and species distribution areas * Water course management plans * Forest management plans and implementation of regulation protecting all forests * Subsidies to local authorities promoting greening the environment, eg. Green roofs, nature oriented park devemoopment and management, development of community gardens * NGO activities for nature areas, organising campaigns for greening urbanised zones and stimulating for natural gardens   ***Walloon Region:***  Many measures contribute to the green infrastructure in the Walloon region via tools and measures in place to preserve and restore natural habitats (threatened habitats as well as the more common ones):   * The Law on nature conservation * All measures related to the Natura 2000 network * The Water Code * Agri-environmental measures * The Forestry Code * The 'Circulaire Biodiversité en Forêt' * PEFC certification of forests * 'Plans Communaux de Développement de la Nature', delayed mowing, River contracts * Agreements with the private sector (quarries, electricity companies, railroad companies...) * The natural zones, green spaces and forests under the ‘Code wallon de l’Aménagement du Territoire, de l’Urbanisme et du Patrimoine’ * Species action plans * Catalogue of actions of the ‘réseau Wallonie nature’ * Life Projects * The Walloon strategy to adapt to climate change * Some agreements with the quarries, energy… sectors. * Projet biodibap: Le Ministre Wallon du Développement durable a lancé un projet invitant les gestionnaires de bâtiments publics à introduire la biodiversité dans et aux alentours de leurs locaux. Des écoles, des communes, des CPAS, des sociétés de logement public ont reçu une aide financière et un accompagnement afin de concrétiser un projet en lien avec la promotion de la biodiversité: pose de nichoirs, toitures et murs végétaux, gestion écologique des abords, etc. * One of the objectives of the 'Plan Pluie' is to arrange the beds of rivers and alluvial plains to take into account the meteorological and hydrological features while respecting and promoting the natural habitats   The Water Code and some resulting plans and programs:   * The ‘Plans d’Assainissement par Sous-bassin Hydrographiques’ PASH define the decontamination and clean up regime for the relevant areas * The programme for the sustainable management of nitrogen is the application of the Nitrate Directive (part of the Water Framework Directive) * Les plans de gestion par bassin hydrographiques ; * Les PARIS (programmes d’actions sur les rivières par approche intégrée et sectorisée): projet visant à intégrer les exigences diverses de la DCE, de NATURA 2000, de la Directive Inondation, … dans la gestion courante des cours d’eau en planifiant les interventions à réaliser à court et à moyen terme.   One of the objectives of the Regional Development Scheme (CWATUP) is the valuation of the patrimony and the protection of resources: protection and development of the natural patrimony for a sustainable development of the Walloon Region, integration of the landscape dimension in the management practices, sustainable protection and management of the resources.  A recent study estimated the fragmentation level of the Walloon territory based on an effective maze size indicator.  <http://etat.environnement.wallonie.be/index.php?mact=tbe,mdb1bf,default,1&mdb1bfalias=Fragmentation-du-territoire_1&mdb1bfreturnid=43&page=43>  ***Brussels-Capital Region:***  The Regional Nature Plan (in development) foresees the following measures:   * To ensure an adequate protection and management of the sites with a high biological value and to ensure the implementation of the ecological network * To develop an integrated vision for the preservation and restoration of (ancient) agricultural zones and sites * To implement the management plans within the protected sites the different policy levels competent for the ecological management of public green spaces should adopt a common language * To develop and implement plans for the multifunctional management of green spaces   The Blue Network Programme: this programme aims to have an integrated, durable and ecologically justified management of open waterways in Brussels. The "blue network" is made up of small rivers, ponds and marshes. It is dedicated to the enhancement of natural values and biodiversity while maintaining the access of the public to the areas concerned.  A Plan for water management adopted by the BCR in 2012 is in line with this programme (See chapter II, item 4.4 on water management).  **Data links:**  <http://www.natuurenbos.be/nl-BE/natuurbeleid/groen> [to be updated by the Member State]  <http://natura2000.wallonie.be/>  <http://etat.environnement.wallonie.be/index.php?mact=tbe,mdb1bf,default,1&mdb1bfalias=Fragmentation-du-territoire_1&mdb1bfreturnid=43&page=43> |
|  | ***Flemish Region:***  Several projects have been carried out for the defragmentation of roads dividing important natural areas by construction of ecoducts, and on river systems by installations resolving fish migration barriers. A more comprehensive approach and action plan to map and prioritise fragmentation by road infrastructure is being developed in cooperation with the administration for Roads & Trafic.  Monitoring and reporting of pressures due to fragmentation are given in the 2-yearly reports NARA and MIRA  ***Walloon Region:***  The evaluation of the conservation status of natural habitats is performed by biogeographical region. The conservation status of the continental habitats (covering 70% of the Walloon territory) is considered to be bad for 85% of the concerned surface. A recent study estimated the fragmentation level of the Walloon territory based on an effective maze size indicator. Walloon Region: (action 6 is mainly covered by what’s above under Aïchi Target 11)  ***Brussels-Capital Region:***  In addition to adoption of management plans for Natura 2000 sites and nature reserves, specified by the ordinance of 1 March 2012 on nature conservation, the Regional Nature Plan (in development) provides for production of infrastructures to re-establish connectivity between the various parts of the Forêt de Soignes.  ***Federal level:***   * Joint Implementation and Clean Development Mechanism projects: * Federal Reduction Plan for Pesticides 2013-2017 (FRPP) (see also chapter II, 4.1). * Biological quality of water courses: in 2010, 55% of the controlled surveillance sites showed a good to very good biological water quality. The number of sites with a good to very good water quality increased the last ten years mainly thanks to a decrease of diffuse pollution, an increase of the purification of used water and the ecological restoration of certain water courses. Despite the slowness of ecosystem recovery, a progressive improvement is expected for the entire water network following the implementation of additional measures foreseen in the projects of the hydrographical districts management plans.   SEA procedures include biodiversity criteria and refer to relevant national policy documents such as the Belgian Biodiversity Strategy, the CBD and biodiversity-related conventions and agreements.  **Data links:**  <https://www.inbo.be/nl/natuurindicator/gesaneerde-vismigratieknelpunten-prioriteitsklasse-1>  <https://www.inbo.be/nl/natuurindicator/ontsnippering-langs-vlaamse-transportwegen>  <http://etat.environnement.wallonie.be/index.php?mact=tbe,mdb1bf,default,1&mdb1bfalias=Fragmentationdu-territoire_1&mdb1bfreturnid=43&page=43> [to be updated by the Member State] |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 3** |
| **Target 3a: Agriculture** | Between 1980 and 2010, the surfaces dedicated to permanent grasslands registered the biggest decline with an average loss of 1,920 ha per year.  ***Flemish region:***  A new mapping exercise of permanent grasslands has been finalised. Management measures and legal regulations are in development and consultation procedure.  ***Walloon region:***  By the end of 2010, 54% of the Walloon farmers (28% of the agricultural surface) subscribed to one or more agri-environmental measures. In 2010, 5% of the Walloon agricultural surface was dedicated to the preservation of biodiversity (ecological compensation surface). Note that a percentage of 7% is considered as globally very favourable to the preservation of the wild fauna. **En Région wallonne, Améliorer sensiblement l’état de conservation des espèces et habitats tributaires de l’agriculture d’ici à 2020 sera un grand défi qui sera au moins partiellement réalisé de part les actions citées ci dessous. Le plan 100% nature pourra grandement y contribuer.**  **Data links:**  <http://etat.environnement.wallonie.be/index.php?mact=tbe,mdb1bf,default,1&mdb1bfalias=Indicateursstructurels-environnementaux_2&mdb1bfreturnid=43&page=43> [to be updated by the Member State] |
| **Action 9a & 9b: Rural development and biodiversity** | ***Flemish region:***  Enhance contribution to biodiversity of agro-environmental measures under the Rural Development Programme  The Flemish rural development program consists of support for some agro-environmental measures having direct effect on biodiversity: - organic agriculture - planting and maintenance of orchards with tall fruit trees - preservation of local breeds - mechanical weed control - confusion technique in fruit cultivation - cultivation of Leguminosae - agroforestry  The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries also financed some demonstration projects with direct positive effects on the (agro-) biodiversity, such as the project on genetic diversity in vegetables ... where information is gathered and shared to stimulate farmers in growing their own seed of their own local varieties.  **Data link:**  <https://www.inbo.be/nl/natuurindicator/oppervlakte-beheerovereenkomsten-met-natuurdoelen>  [http://www.zelfzadentelen.be](http://www.zelfzadentelen.be/)  [www.vlm.be](http://www.vlm.be) |
| **Action 10: Agricultural genetic diversity** | Contribute to the preservation of the genetic diversity of the European agriculture (see also Flemish contributions on Target 13). |
|  | For plant genetic resources, a ‘National Committee on Plant Genetic Resources’ has been created in January 2011.  In June 2012, Belgium officially notified its public collections to join the Multilateral System of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture ... and signed the Memorandum of Understanding for the Establishment of a European Genebank Integrated System.   In 2005, Belgium prepared its first national report to FAO on animal genetic resources and in 2014-2015 the report on biodiversity for food and agriculture.  ***Walloon Region for the entire action 11:***   * A measure aims to protect threatened local livestock species. * A collection of ancient fruit tree varieties is managed by the Walloon Agricultural Research Centre. * Other actions undertaken to preserve or develop genetic resources: the cultivation of spelt and a barley variety, the conservation and valorisation of the genetic patrimony of the mixed type of the Belgian Blue and of the 'poule ardennaise'.   The mission of the 'Comptoir Forestier' is to collect seeds among all the major and secondary tree species and to commercialize these seeds through an annual catalogue. Priority is given to species of great economical value for the Walloon Region and to obtain a high genetic diversity.  **Data links:**  <http://www.planttreaty.org/inclusions>  <http://aegis.cgiar.org/about_aegis.html>  <http://agriculture.wallonie.be/apps/spip_wolwin/IMG/pdf/RapportNationalFAO.pdf> |
| **Action 11a & 11b: Forest holders and biodiversity** | ***Flemish Region:***  Nature conservation policy measures: extension of surface and numbers of nature and forest reserves, development and implementation of Nature Objectives Plans, site or species specific management plans for nature and forest areas, management agreements with local authorities and land users (+ cross-compliance), introduction of criteria for sustainable forest management; legal framework for protection scheme for FEN and Natura 2000 sites, establishment of Natura 2000 conservation objectives and development of implementation plan in cooperation with stakeholder groups.  To enhance integration of biodiversity concerns into forest management and into approaches for multifunctionality of forests, several guidelines and instruments have been developed - especially to support private forest owners: criteria of sustainable forest management, mulitifunctionality approaches, FSC certification…  <http://www.natuurenbos.be/nl-BE/natuurbeleid/bos/duurzaam_bosbeheer>  Local authorities and private forest owners receive technical and financial support to develop forest management plans that comply with sustainable forest management criteria. Subsidies for re-afforestation and forest management measures are also included under the new operational programme of EAFRD, so as to enhance maintenance and restoration of ecosystem services, and to contribute to improving conservation status of EU forest habitats.  The Flemish forest policy is based upon multifunctional and sustainable forestry. Promotion and granting of FSC-label to forest: about 20 000 ha are granted the FSC label publication of criteria for sustainable forest management and technical/financial support for the implementation these criteria by private forest owners.  ***Walloon Region:***  One of the objectives of the Forestry Code is to combat climate change and to preserve biodiversity. It stipulates that the sustainable development of woodlands and forests implies the application of certain principles:  - The preservation and improvement of forestry resources and their contribution to the carbon cycle  - The preservation of the health and vitality of forest ecosystems  - The preservation, conservation and improvement of biodiversity in forest ecosystems  - The preservation and improvement of the protective functions of forest among others related to the water and the soil  - The preservation and improvement of other socio-economic benefits and conditions (preservation of an equilibrium between resinous and broad-leaved trees and promotion of a mixed forest type with a diversified age composition, adapted to climate change and able to mitigate some of its effects; restriction of areas where trees are cleared; for public owners: preservation of dead, damaged or biologically interesting trees, preservation of at least 1 tree of special biological interest per 2 ha, the preservation of shrubby hedges, ban on the planting or resinous trees next to water courses; the planning tool for public forests within the Forestry Code takes measures for the promotion of biodiversity into account; the Forestry Code imposes that 3% of the broad-leaved forests with a surface of more than 100 ha are to be delimited as integral reserves)  - The use of pesticides as well as the burning of branches is forbidden in all forests  - All artificial regeneration actions using tree varieties which are not optimal or tolerated following the 'ecological tree varieties registry' are forbidden.  Many tools are available to improve sustainable forest management:  . The ‘Circulaire relative aux aménagements dans les forêts soumises au régime forestier’ is a normative tool for the management planning in public forests (255,000 ha in Wallonia). At this stage, about 65% of the forest area is covered by new management plans following this circulaire. The remaining area should be covered by 2013,  . About 150,000 ha of forests are included in Natura 2000 areas. Management contracts will be concluded between the authorities and the owners, to implement the objectives of each site.  . PEFC certification: owners engage themselves voluntarily to diversify their forest, to maintain dead wood, to maintain patches where trees can grow old, etc (51.8% of the Walloon forests).  . Pro Sylva: research about and promotion of a close-to-nature sylviculture based on natural processes.  ***Federal level:***  These following actions are not directly addressed to forest holders but could stimulate sustainable wood sector:  . Adoption of a sectoral agreement in the wood sector to stimulate the production and sell of sustainable wood products.  . Development of a federal public procurement policy to promote SFM (circular letter in 2005); a methodological guide supports federal purchasing authorities; promotion and follow-up of forest certification.  . An information campaign was set up to inform the public on SFM and related certification (2006 and 2007)  . Adoption of the 'products plan: towards an integrated product policy'.  . The development of biofuel production pathways/chains is conditioned by the application of a system of sustainability criteria (European directives on Renewable Energy and Fuel Quality 2009/28/CE published in June 2009). Those criteria represent the main measures to allow reasonable use of biofuels while limiting negative impacts on biodiversity. According to the law of 10 June 2006, which promotes biofuels in Belgium, the approval of biofuel production units is based on certain criteria, such as: (1) a short distance between biomass cultivation site and biofuel production unit; (2) the most favourable CO2 balance; (3) the energetic efficiency of the production unit; and (4) reduced use of fertilizers and/or pesticides. Decision rules with respect to the approval of production units also take into account the global CO2 balance, in order to assure that biofuel production leads to a significant reduction of greenhouse gases. However, apart from the use of fertilizers and/or pesticides, no biodiversity-related criteria are included in the attribution criteria.  **Data links:**  <https://www.inbo.be/nl/natuurindicator/oppervlakte-bosbeheerplan>  <https://www.inbo.be/nl/natuurindicator/oppervlakte-bosreservaat>  <http://www.natuurenbos.be/nl-BE/natuurbeleid/bos/wetgeving_en_vergunning/bosdecreet>  Set of indicators (in English)<http://www.milieurapport.be/en/facts-figures/sectors/agriculture/> |
| **Action 11a: Forest holders and biodiversity** | L’Art. 57 du code forestier prévoit que tous les bois et forêts des personnes morales de droit public, d'une superficie supérieure à vingt hectares d'un seul tenant, sont soumis à un plan d'aménagement. Ce plan contient notamment :  1° la description de l'état des bois et forêts concernés et l'identification de zones à vocation prioritaire de protection afin de maintenir la qualité de l'eau et des sols ainsi que de zones à vocation prioritaire de conservation, […];  2° la détermination et la hiérarchisation des objectifs spécifiques de gestion durable des bois et forêts, y compris l'équilibre entre la faune et la flore;  3° le rappel des mesures de conservation liées au réseau Natura 2000 et aux autres espaces naturels protégés, le cas échéant;  4° la planification dans le temps et dans l'espace des actes de gestion en vue d'assurer la pérennité des bois et forêts et, le cas échéant, de promouvoir une forêt mélangée et d'âges multiples;  6° des mesures liées à la biodiversité;  9° les modes d'exploitation envisagés dans les peuplements, en ce compris le débardage au cheval, en vue d'assurer la protection des sols et des cours d'eau;  10° des mesures liées à l'intérêt paysager des massifs forestiers et à leurs éléments culturels.  Document Simple de Gestion (ou DSG), version simplifiée du plan d'aménagement. En forêts certifiées, un tel DSG est imposé, en public comme en privé. |
| **Action 11b: Forest holders and biodiversity** | Le financement des mesures du Programme wallon de développement rural 2007-2013: L'axe 2 (Amélioration de l’environnement et de l’espace rural) Vise à préserver un espace rural agricole et forestier de qualité, en recherchant un équilibre entre les activités humaines et la préservation des ressources naturelles et des paysages. Cet axe comprend la mesure, « indemnités Natura 2000 pour les forestiers » (mesure 224) qui a déjà été engagées pour les 8 sites désignés et pourra, dès 2011, l’être pour tous les sites.  Dans l'axe 3 « attractivité du milieu rural et diversification de l’économie rurale », la mesure « Conservation et mise en valeur du patrimoine rural » (mesure 323) vise la restauration de milieux ouverts (pelouses et landes) ainsi que l’exploitation de résineux en vue d’avoir un impact positif sur les paysages et aussi sur la biodiversité |
| **Action 12: Biodiversity in forest management plans** | ***Flemish Region:***  The Flemish forest policy is based upon multifunctional and sustainable forestry and applied through development of a management vision consisting of:   * Specific and concrete guidelines for a close-to-nature forest management, * A framework to assess the forest functions, * A method for quality control, * Promotion and granting of FSC-label to forest,   Publication of criteria for sustainable forest management and technical/financial support for the implementation these criteria by private forest owners (see chapter III, area with management plan according to the criteria for sustainable forestry).  To enhance integration of biodiversity concerns into forest management and into approaches for multifunctionality of forests, several guidelines and instruments have been developed - especially to support private forest owners: criteria of sustainable forest management, mulitifunctionality approaches, FSC certification,…  Aspects relating to biodiversity concerns include: higher levels of deadwood, ecosystem-based measures including protection of water and soil systems, enhance multi-species variation. Concrete management aspects for EU forest habitat types are under development.  If complying with the criteria for sustainable forest management private forest owners and local authorities receive technical and financial support to develop and implement the management plan for their forest.  ***Walloon Region:***  La région wallonne intègre des mesures de biodiversité dans les plans de gestion des forêts via :   * The 'Circulaire Biodiversité en Forêts' recommends integrating measures with a more biodiversity friendly dimension within the objectives of forest management. One of the objectives of the Forestry Code is to combat climate change and to preserve biodiversity. It stipulates that the sustainable development of wood(land)s and forests implies the application of certain principles.[T]he ‘Circulaire relative aux aménagements dans les forêts soumises au régime forestier’ is a normative tool for the management planning in public forests (255,000 ha in Wallonia). At this stage, about 65% of the forest area is covered by new management plans following this circulaire. The remaining area should be covered by 2013. About 150,000 ha of forests are included in Natura 2000 areas. Management contracts will be concluded between the authorities and the owners, to implement the objectives of each site. * The Forest code (see under action 11) dont un des 5 objectifs est de lutter contre le réchauffement climatique et sauvegarder la biodiversité ; son article 1er stipule que le développement durable des bois et forêts implique la nécessité d’appliquer notamment le maintien, la conservation et l’amélioration de la diversité biologique dans les écosystèmes forestiers; Ceci entre parfaitement dans les orientations paneuropéennes sur le niveau de gestion durable des forêts. * Pour les propriétaires publics, le code forestier demande le maintien d’arbres morts, cassés ou biologiquement intéressants, à raison de 2 bois par hectare, le maintien d’au moins un arbre d’intérêt biologique exceptionnel par superficie de 2 hectares. * Enfin, le code forestier impose dorénavant que 3% des forêts feuillues publiques de plus de 100 hectares soient classées en réserves intégrales. * Selon l’art. 57 du code forestier, tous les bois et forêts des personnes morales de droit public, d’une superficie supérieure à vingt hectares d’un seul tenant, sont soumis à un plan d’aménagement. Ceux ci contiennent des mesures liées à la biodiversité, un rappel des mesures de conservation liées au réseau Natura 2000 et aux autres espaces naturels protégés, le cas échéant; * L’Art. 14 du code forestier prévoit que le Gouvernement peut temporairement limiter ou interdire la circulation en cas de risque d’incendie. * Un plan de prévention incendie visant à établir une coordination entre le DNF et les Services d’Incendie pour une intervention rapide et efficace des pompiers lors d’incendies de forêts est en développement. * La certification forestière PEFC * Pro sylva (17.437 ha end 2014) * Zones forestières avec plan d'aménagement spécifique à la biodiversité (7.634 ha in 2014) * Protection sols Hydromorphes (73.667 ha in 2014)   ***Brussels-Capital Region:***  The Sonian Forest management plan already fulfill the EU objectives  **Data link:**  <http://www.natuurenbos.be/nl-BE/natuurbeleid/bos/duurzaam_bosbeheer> [to be updated by the Member State]  <http://www.environnement.brussels/thematiques/espaces-verts-et-biodiversite/action-de-la-region/plan-de-gestion-pour-la-foret-de?view_pro=1&view_school=1> |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 4** |
| **Action 13b: Fish stock management** | In 2012, the “Good Environmental Status” and associated objectives for the descriptor “commercial fish species” (MSY by 20120) was defined and agreed  **Source:** Belgische Staat 2012. Omschrijving van Goede Milieutoestand en vaststelling van Milieudoelen voor de Belgische mariene wateren. Kaderrichtlijn Mariene Strategie – Art 9 & 10. BMM, Federale Overheidsdienst Volksgezondheid, Veiligheid van de Voedselketen en Leefmilieu, Brussel, België, 34 pp. |
| **Action 14a: Adverse impacts on fish stocks, species, habitats and ecosystems** | In relation to the marine fishery: continued structural and *ad hoc* consultations with the Department for Agriculture and Fisheries as well as with the Institute for Agricultural and Fisheries Research on the improvement of the management of fish stocks, and the elimination of the negative effects on fish stocks, species, habitats and ecosystems.  Codes of good practices have been developed and are being applied or are under review. |
|  | ***Federal level:***  *North Sea*  . Sand and gravel extraction, dredging and dumping of dredge spoil are subject to licences. Zero tolerance policy in relation to oil pollution.  . Development of a cleaning policy of the North Sea through the ‘fishing for litter programme’.  . Measures regulating coastal fisheries in protection of marine mammals.  . Ongoing actions in order to reduce import of nutrients and hazardous substances into the North Sea |
|  | ***Federal level:***  The Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences develops through the Management Unit of the North Sea Mathematical Models and the Scheldt estuary (<http://odnature.naturalsciences.be/coherens/applications>) a mathematical model to better understand fragile ecosystems such as coastal areas and mangroves in Asia (Vietnam) and Latin America (Peru) in order to be better able at developing integrated management plans taking into account the protection of sensitive areas.  A federal plan to adapt to climate change will be finalised in 2014. (To be updated in the next phase of this mid-report)  **Data link:**  <http://odnature.naturalsciences.be/coherens/applications>  [http://cebios.naturalsciences.be](http://cebios.naturalsciences.be/) |
| **Action 14b: Adverse impacts on fish stocks, species, habitats and ecosystems** | Following the adoption of the European Maritime and Fishery Fund (EMFF, 2014-2020) the Flemish administration in charge of the Fishery Policy and the federal administration in charge of the protection of the marine environment are currently preparing the Operational Programme so as to facilitate the use of EMFF for the restoration of the marine Natura 2000 areas and to support the implementation of measures of the EU-Marine Strategy Directive. |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 5** |
|  | At the national level, resulting of a collaboration between the federal and regional authorities, a code of conduct in relation to invasive plants has been elaborated in the framework of the AlterIAS-project: Alternatives for invasive plants.  In March 2014, the “*Alien Alert* - Horizon scanning for new pests and invasive species in Belgium and neighbouring areas” project, funded by the Belgian Science Policy Office, came to an end. The project was realized by a consortium of eight Belgian scientific institutions, coordination of which was provided by the [Belgian Biodiversity Platform](http://www.biodiversity.be). Central to this project was the development of a framework to analyze the risk of emerging and potentially invasive non-native species, and an analogue for emerging infectious diseases. A concluding symposium was held on March 12th as to present the project’s outcome within the broader frame of rapid response measures towards invasive species (“*Aliens on the Horizon - Prioritisation, prevention & rapid response for invasive species in Belgium*”). The resulting risk assessment tools package includes the following:   * [Harmonia+](http://ias.biodiversity.be/harmoniaplus) is a first-line risk assessment scheme for potentially invasive species. * [Pandora+](http://ias.biodiversity.be/protocols/form/1b0cbb81-e5e4-479b-91ae-4464e60b1d33) is a first-line risk assessment scheme for pathogenic or parasitic (micro) organisms that may be of concern to environmental, plant, animal or human health. It refers directly to a particular host organism, and as such, is designed to support assessments within Harmonia+. * [Pandora](http://ias.biodiversity.be/protocols/form/0cac0ab4-11f4-424e-8ff1-55502d676860) is a first-line risk assessment scheme for the risks posed by pathogenic and parasitic (micro) organisms. It is the counterpart of Harmonia+ for potentially invasive (macro) organisms.   The whole package was implemented as a web-based tool and launched end of March 2014. *Harmonia+* and *Pandora+* have been picked up by several external initiatives, and recognizedas key assessment methods for the identification of invasive alien species for EU Concern.  ***Flemish Region:***  The Agency for Nature and Forests developed a first strategy including a special instrument for invasive alien species; to conduct an invasive species policy focussed on awareness and prevention, as well as combating IAS when necessary, taking also into account control actions and horizontal needs (such as policy framework, communication and knowledge / research. The reports of 2013 indicate a total number of 89 exotic species on the “signal list” of problematic species. At least 41 of these species are recorded as being invasive: 16 plant species, 5 fish, 4 mammals, 4 crustaceans and 4 bird species. The Executive Act on species protection published in 2009 includes the legal basis for preventing the introduction, establishment and spread of invasive alien species in Flanders.  There is a program in which rare, colonial and introduced breeding bird species are being monitored in Flanders.  For the main IAS an information form on description, location and measures for control or eradication are published of the Agencies’ and NGO’s websites.  For some species groups, such as invasive exotic geese control measures are being carried out on yearly basis.  In cooperation with the research institute INBO and NGO Natuurpunt an early warning testing study is being carried out.  ***Walloon Region:***  In the Walloon Region, 375 exotic species of ornamental plants and 21 exotic species of vertebrates were considered as naturalised in 2011. Of these, 29 species of plants and 11 species of vertebrates are known to cause considerable environmental damage and are mentioned on the black list.  Preventive and control actions against invasive alien species are coordinated through a dedicated interdepartmental unit that has been established in 2009 within the strategic plan of the Administration. This unit is in charge of the following tasks:  . Identify priority pathways and develop preventive and regulatory measures accordingly, including guidelines for plantations, soil movement, green waste management, etc.  . Prepare a coherent legislative framework to regulate preventive and control actions against invasive alien species in Wallonia.  . Set up an early warning system in cooperation with the other regions in the country and nature conservation NGOs.  . Identify and disseminate best practices for the management of invasive alien plants and animals;  . Coordinate control action plans against priority species like giant hogweed, Japanese mosquito, Canada goose or muskrat.  . Conduct studies to assess non-native species invasiveness in the field and compile information for risk analyses of priority species.  . Communicate and develop capacity building actions towards field managers and the general public.  . Nature Parks, many River Contracts and cities which have either a Municipality Plan for Nature Conservation or a ‘Roadside management plan’ actively manage invasive alien species at a local scale.  . The introduction of non-indigenous species or indigenous species of non-indigenous origin in nature is forbidden except for species used for agriculture and forestry.  ***Brussels-Capital Region:***  En Région de Bruxelles-Capitale, la plupart des groupes d'espèces comptent au moins une ou plusieurs espèces exotiques. La part d'espèces exotiques est particulièrement élevée chez les reptiles, les plantes et les oiseaux. Parmi les plantes exotiques observées à Bruxelles, plusieurs sont invasives. Les plus répandues sont la renouée du Japon (Fallopia japonica), la berce du Caucase (Heracleum mantegazzianum) et le cersisier tardif (Prunus serotina). Parmi les oiseaux, les espèces invasives les plus répandues sont l'Ouette d'Egypte, la Bernache du Canada et 3 espèces de perruches vertes. The the Regional Nature Plan (in development) also aim to reduce nuisances caused by problematic species, in particular invasive exotic species and foresees diverses measures to do so.  ***Federal level:***  Action 18 of the second Federal Plan for Sustainable Development is devoted to biodiversity and focuses on sectoral integration of biodiversity in key federal sectors (transport, economy, development cooperation and scientific policy). The action plan ‘Integration of biodiversity in the four federal key sectors’, adopted in November 2009 was evaluated in 2014. Some specific actions were dedicated to IAS.  Actions foreseen in this action plan included:  . Economy: the consultation of key sectors in order to increase awareness and understanding of the issue and the identification of the most appropriated measures (such as e.g. labelling, substitution, information, etc.) (see AlterIAS LIFE project above) and the review, actualization and extension of existing legislations at federal level are still under discussion in order to be in line with the new EU legislation but some meausres were already taken:  - Renforcement de l’expertise scientifique notamment dans l’élaboration des procédures d’évaluation des risques ;  - The federal law of 1973 on nature conservation has been modified in 2012 and in 2014 in order to update the general legal framework related to the federal competences concerning the importation, exportation and transit of non indigenous species, including invasive alien species. New provisions include i.e. the possibility to take different measures on invasive alien species like to prohibite, suspend or regulate them as well as sanctions applying in case of non compliance.  . Science: the establishment of an early warning system on IAS and the development of a system based on molecular barcoding to identify organisms of policy concern (including IAS) for use by Transport (see for example the Alien-Alert project above).  . Transport: the control and management of ballast water. La ratification de la Convention de la gestion des eaux de ballast est réalisé au niveau fédéral, de la Région de Bruxelles et de la Wallonie. Il est attendu que l’entrée en vigueur se fasse fin 2015 ou au premier semestre 2016. Les travaux préparatoires pour l’implémentation sont déjà en cours  The Belgian Law of 20.01.1999 (MMM law) forbids the intentional introduction of non-indigenous species in the marine environment without special license (Art. 11, §1).  A royal decree will be adopted in the second part of 2009 to implement the Council Regulation dealing specifically with alien species in aquaculture (708/2007/CE) with regard to marine species.  The Royal Decree of 9 April 2003 foresees measures related to the commercialisation of species listed in annex A (excepted for specimens bred in captivity, with CITES certificate).  In 2012, the “Good Environmental Status” and associated objectives for the descriptor “invasive species” was defined and agreed.  **Data links:**  <http://www.alterias.be>  Vision and action plan (in Dutch) available at:  <http://www.natuurenbos.be/nl-BE/Natuurbeleid/Soortenbeleid/Overlast_schade/door_uith_soorten/Visie%20ANB.aspx> [to be updated by the Member State]  <https://www.inbo.be/nl/natuurindicator/aantal-uitheemse-en-invasieve-uitheemse-soorten-op-een-signaallijst>  <https://www.inbo.be/nl/natuurindicator/bedreiging-door-nieuwe-uitheemse-diersoorten>  <https://www.inbo.be/nl/natuurindicator/bedreiging-door-uitheemse-plantensoorten>  <https://www.inbo.be/nl/natuurindicator/aantal-rosse-stekelstaarten-vlaanderen>  <http://documentation.bruxellesenvironnement.be/documents/NARABRU_20120910_FR_150dpi.pdf?langtype=2060>  <http://www.environnement.brussels/thematiques/espaces-verts-et-biodiversite/action-de-la-region/le-plan-nature?view_pro=1&view_school=1>  Belgische Staat 2012. Omschrijving van Goede Milieutoestand en vaststelling van Milieudoelen voor de Belgische mariene wateren. Kaderrichtlijn Mariene Strategie – Art 9 & 10. BMM, Federale Overheidsdienst Volksgezondheid, Veiligheid van de Voedselketen en Leefmilieu, Brussel, België, 34 pp. |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 6** |
| **Action 17a, 17b & 17c: Drivers of biodiversity loss** | ***Flemish Region:***   * Implementation of the Water Framework Directive and the Nitrates directive to protect aquatic environment and to reach good ecological status. * Many different projects focussing on sustainable food production and consumption, i.a. direct selling and CSA-farming (Flemish Strategic Plan), organic farming (Flemish Strategic Plan), prevent food waste… * Biodiversity conservation measures e.g. on high nature value pastures prevent degradation of biodiversity rich grasslands (see conditionality principle Wallonian contribution). * Integrated pest management in the fruit sector (see Wallonian contribution). * Projects to stimulate a circular economy: reuse and recycling of food and other organic waste, mainly in the agrofood business complex, often combined with renewable energy production. + Actions of Target 3.   Incentives are provided for the use of criteria for sustainable forest management in the management planning and implementation – also for projects to promote sustainable forest management in developing countries though the Flelmish Fund for Tropical Forests.  Organised and controlled hunting in Wildlife Management Units (WMU) is promoted so that hunters can act as joint managers of the open space. Principles, criteria and indicators are being developed to evaluate the sustainability of the implementation and hunting plans and to review policies.  ***Walloon Region***:   * Many tools are available to improve forest biodiversity and sustainable forest management:   - 53% of the Walloon forest area is PEFC certified  - About 150.000 ha of forests are included in Natura 2000; management contracts will be concluded between the authorities and the owners, to implement the objectives of each site  - The‘Circulaire relative aux aménagements dans les forêts soumises au régime forestier’ is a normative tool for the management planning in public forests (270,000 ha in Wallonia, including regional nature reserves)  -The application of the 'ecological tree varieties registry' allows to optimise sylvicultural practices as well as to improve ecosystem functioning, the mineral and water cycles, and the biodiversity of the undergrowth.   * The Walloon Region has adopted the Water Code (Code de l’Eau) on 27 May 2004 to implement the Water Framework Directive. One of its objectives is to prevent additional degradations and to preserve and improve the state of the aquatic ecosystems as well as of the terrestrial ecosystems and wetlands depending on them. * Agri-environmental methods foresee incentives for a better consideration of nature in agricultural areas. * Organic farming: this type of agriculture forbids synthesized fertilizers and pesticides, excludes GMOs and has a particular attention for the well-being of cattle and the soil quality. In 2011, approximately 6.9% of the Walloon agricultural area was covered by organic farming. * The strategic plan for the development of biological agriculture to 2020 has been approved by the Walloon Gouvernment in December 2012. It aims to promote production and consumption of Walloon bio products. * Integrated pest management aims to limit as much as possible the use of synthesized fertilisers and phytopharmaceutical products, mainly in the fruit production sector. At the end of 2008, the main label gathered 25% of the Walloon producers, equalling 45% of the production. * The conditionality principle in relation to grants for agriculture entered into force on 01.01.2005. It is linked with several European directives, among others the Bird and Habitat Directives. The conditionality principle contains following points:   + It is forbidden to remove indigenous hedges without an urban permit   + It is forbidden to drain Natura 2000 areas without the permission of the DGARNE. * The non-profit organisation ECOCONSO promotes environment-friendly and healthy consumption patterns, among others in relation to water, gardening, pesticides ... The campaign 'Achats verts' is directed towards municipalities and public communities. It aims to implement a more ecological way of consumption within local policies and to improve purchasing practices.   ***Brussels-Capital Region***:   * In the Brussels-Capital Region, much attention is paid to the ecological management of the green spaces, the use of pesticides is therefore prohibited: <http://www.bruxellesenvironnement.be/Templates/Particuliers/Informer.aspx?id=1834&langtype=2060>. [to be updated by the Member State] * Forest exploitation in the Brussels Capital Region is in line with the FSC and PEFC certification criteria:   http://www.foret-de-soignes.be/de-la-foret/partenaires/partenaires-economiques/.   * New buildings but also restoration of buildings tends to be more and more nature friendly. One of the more used indicators to measure this is the BAF (biotope area factor): http://www.sustainablecity.be/themas/sustainable-building, http://www.bruxellesenvironnement.be/guide\_batiment\_durable/. [to be updated by the Member State] * Much effort is also made in the field of sustainable food and supply chain: http://www.sustainablecity.be/themas/sustainable-consumption. * The Regional Nature Plan (in development) foresees the following measures: * To develop an integrated vision for the conservation and restoration of agricultural relict zones * To develop an indicator to evaluate the taking into account of nature into projects * To strengthen the taking into account of impacts of plans and projects onto the ecological network and the green spaces   ***Federal level:***   * Adoption of a sectoral agreement in the wood sector to stimulate the production and sell of sustainable wood products. * Results of both ‘Business and biodiversity’ and ‘Consumers and biodiversity’ studies (see action 17a below). * An information campaign was set up to inform the public on SFM and related certification   The development of biofuel production pathways/chains is conditioned by the application of a system of sustainability criteria (European directives on Renewable Energy and Fuel Quality 2009/28/CE published in June 2009). Those criteria represent the main measures to allow reasonable use of biofuels while limiting negative impacts on biodiversity.  **Data link:**  <http://www.bruxellesenvironnement.be/Templates/Particuliers/Informer.aspx?id=1834&langtype=2060> [to be updated by the Member State] |
| **Action 17a: Drivers of biodiversity loss** | ***Federal level****:*  Business and biodiversity: Two studies were carried out in 2012-2013 in order to better integrate biodiversity in key market players (business, consumer, civil society).   * ***"Consumers and biodiversity"*** study: This study analyzes the consumption patterns of consumers and their knowledge and sensitivity to biodiversity. The internet survey covered 1.219 Belgian consummers. The main conclusions are: Regarding the preservation of the environment and biodiversity, it is extremely difficult to identify ‘homogeneous’ consumer groups since one can find very engaged and very disengaged consumers in all categories of the population. This study shows also how the federal government can encourage biodiversity, ecosystems and ecosystem services, adopting measures to alter the demand for goods and services to consumers and citizens. This study is line with the ‘Biodiversity barometer’ of the UEBT. * ***"Business and biodiversity"*** study: This study aims to encourage market participants to provide models of sustainable consumption and production and to consider the potential for sustainable use of biodiversity for economic, social gain, and environmental. This study proposes a list of instruments that can be supported by the federal government.   The output of those studies was presented during a workshop in December 2013, which initiated also some positive debate with the stakeholders. |
| **Action 17c: Drivers of biodiversity loss** | ***Flemish Region***:   * CAP direct payments under cross compliance to ensure compliance with i.a. biodiversity legislation and some supplementary rules (for example measures to counter erosion, obligation to maintain amount of permanent grasslands on farm level). . Code of good agricultural practices nature and biodiversity to stimulate farmers to take into account biodiversity in their operations. * Research and projects to test, demonstrate and stimulate sustainable use of biodiversity in farming context. * Local projects are promoted to i.a. increase green farm sites, create pools, prune trees and hedges…   ***Walloon Region***:   * Financing of several measures of the Walloon rural development program has a direct positive effect on biodiversity:   + Measures in relation to agri-environmental subsidies   + Natura 2000 remunerations for the farmers   + Natura 2000 remunerations for the forestry sector   + Conservation and valorisation of the rural patrimony * Subsidies for biological agriculture. * Supplementary subsidies for agri-environmental measures in Natura 2000 sites and in the main ecological structure areas (SEP). * Subsidies for the planting of hedges, tree rows and orchards. * Subsidies attributed through the 'Plan Communal de Développement de la Nature', for delayed mowing, for the program 'combles et clochers', within river contracts, for the Maya Plan, for natural parks, for the action 'Semaine de l'Arbre', etc. * Subsidies for the regeneration of broadleaved and conifer species. * Subsidies for the acquisition of land that will be designated as nature reserve. . Dispensation of property tax and of succession and donation rights within Natura 2000. * Natura 2000:   + Agricultural compensations are available to farmers; they can be cumulated with agri-environmental measures   + Compensations are also available to forest owners   + Restoration and acquisition subsidies are available for all Natura 2000 sites and SEP sites, for all owners and farmers   + Subsidies for the management of open spaces are also available. * Non financial incentives:   + PEFC label   + BIO label   ***Brussels-Capital Region:***   * The new nature ordinance foresees several cases where positive incentives may be accorded by the Government: public awareness and information (art. 4), scientific research (art. 5), protected areas management and ground purchases (art. 35, 55), management and development of urban biotopes and other key elements of the ecological network (art. 66), actions in favour of protected species (art. 72). * The Regional Nature Plan (in development) foresees inter alia the following measure: to co-ordonate and to guide nature support mecanisms.   ***Federal level:***   * Following the adoption of the European Maritime and Fishery Fund (EMFF, 2014-2020) the Flemish administration in charge of the Fishery Policy and the federal administration in charge of the protection of the marine environment are currently preparing the Operational Programme so as to facilitate the use of EMFF for the restoration of the marine Natura 2000 areas and to support the implementation of measures of the EU-Marine Strategy Directive. |
| **Action 18a: Resources for global biodiversity conservation** | The Rio Marker system was not designed to provide accurate information on expenditures. For this reason Belgium will not use this system for reporting on its biodiversity-related expenditures, and is reflecting on possible alternative methodologies to the Rio Markers based on the OECD/DAC CRS.  **Data link:**  [http://cebios.naturalsciences.be](http://cebios.naturalsciences.be/) |
| **Action 18b: Resources for global biodiversity conservation** | ***Federal level:***  BE is funding the CEBioS programme, housed at the Royal Belgian Institute for Natural  Sciences to mainstream conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in development cooperation and hence contribute to global biodiversity conservation. CEBioS has a ten year strategy (2014-2023), with a first five year programme of 6 M Euro (2014-2018). |
| **Action 20: Access to genetic resources and sharing of benefits** | In order to prepare the ratification and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol (NP) in Belgium, an impact study was issued by the four competent authorities. This study is publicly available and can be found on the Belgian CBD CHM: <http://www.biodiv.be/implementation/cross-cutting-issues/abs/20130321-final-report-np-abs-be.pdf>.  Based on the results of the study, a phased approach was adopted by the relevant Belgian regional and federal authorities for the national implementation of the Nagoya Protocol. Its purpose is to maintain the necessary flexibility in order to allow integration of future developments that will result from ongoing European and global discussions, while still allowing a timely ratification to allow Belgium to participate as a Party to the Nagoya Protocol at COP/MOP1.  The phased approach follows a three step process:  Step 1: political agreement to support timely ratification.  Step 2: legal measures implementing the political agreement, based on currently available guidance.  After expressing their clear political commitment to implement the core obligations of the Nagoya Protocol, within the limits of the decisions already taken at the international and European level at the time of the agreement, the competent authorities will proceed with developing legal measures to achieve the following:  . Establishment of PIC and benefit-sharing as general legal principles.  . Designation of four Competent National Authorities (CNAs) as well as one centralized input system for the four CNAs.  . Enforce that Genetic Resources (GR) utilized within Belgian jurisdiction have been accessed by PIC and MAT, as required by provider country legislation, and to address situations of non-compliance.  . Making the PIC documents available in the ABS Clearing-House (ABS C-H) as checkpoint.  . Designation of the Belgian CBD CHM, managed by the Royal Belgian Institute for Natural Sciences (RBINS), as the Belgian contribution to the ABS C-H.  Step 3: further implementation upon availability of new elements.  Once further decisions are taken at European and/or global level regarding the implementation of different provisions of the Nagoya Protocol, these will be gradually integrated into the national policies.  Work under step 1 and 2 is ongoing and progressing as fast as possible, aiming for the June 2014 ratification deadline. It must however be kept in mind that for ratification by Belgium, due to the extent of competences covered to implement the Nagoya Protocol, probably 9 parliaments will need to give their consent.  **Data link:**  <http://www.biodiv.be/implementation/cross-cutting-issues/abs/20130321-final-report-np-abs-be.pdf> |

# Bulgaria

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| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 1** *(Please note that information from Member States in relation to Action 1a is supplied to the European Commission via other reports. To avoid duplication of reporting, information relating to Action 1a has not been included in this report)* |
| **Action 1b: Natura 2000 (and other protected areas)** | A National priority Action Framework for Natura 2000 in Bulgaria for the period 2014-2020 was elaborated in 2013. It identifies the priority measures to be implemented by 2020 in order to improve the conservation status of species and habitats that are within Natura 2000 network. The document ‘Regimes for Sustainable Management of Forests in Natura 2000’ is elaborated for the forest areas. It outlines the appropriate silvicultural practices for each forest habitat in protected areas with the purpose of preservation and restoration. |
| **Action 1c: Natura 2000 (and other protected areas)** | The Biological Diversity Act regulates the procedures for the development of management plans and development pans and projects. The law postulates that any development plans, regional development plans for forest areas, forest management plans and programs, national and regional programs developed under other laws must comply with the management plans of protected sites from Natura 2000 network, as well as with the measures that aim at preventing deterioration of the natural habitats and habitats of species, and of the threats and the disturbance of species for the conservation of which the relevant protected sites are declared. |
|  | Management plans of protected areas or Natura 2000 sites have been elaborated and implemented. For 2009-2013 14 management plans were elaborated: five for nature parks, two for managed reserves, two for protected sites and four for reserves.  Altogether 87 terms of references for elaboration of management plans were approved: three for national parks, three for nature parks, 25 for managed reserves, four for protected sites, four for natural landmarks and 48 for reserves. |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 2** |
|  | A National Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change is in preparation in order to establish the necessary adaptation measures in sensitive sectors to abnormal temperatures in the region and climate zone. The indicator Greenhouse gas emissions (in CO2 equivalent) per capita is used to assess the amount of greenhouse gases (CO2 equivalent) emitted per capita in a given territorial unit (municipality, region, country) and what changes are needed in the regional development policies. A decrease in the partial hydrogen equivalent per capita has been registered in some municipalities for the period 2008–2010 |
|  | Within the framework of the National System for Environmental Monitoring is developed and maintained a National Biodiversity Monitoring System, monitoring of forest ecosystems and monitoring of environmental factors – air quality, surface water, land, soil, etc. The indicator Proportion of areas with anthropogenic impact (infrastructure, residential areas, industrial sites) (Fig. 25) is used to assess the degree of anthropogenic pressure, causing degradation of natural habitats and accelerating biodiversity loss, and what changes in regional planning are required. The results show that the areas with anthropogenic impact are 5% of the total territory of the country.  Bulgaria is one of the 28 countries in the European network ‘European Atmospheric Heavy Metals Using Mosses – UN/ECE ICP Vegetation, UK’.  The National Plan for the Protection of the Most Important Wetlands in Bulgaria 2013–2022 includes specific measures for specific wetlands in the country.  **Note:** Changes in the number and territory of protected areas in the period 1992–2013: light blue – surface area; dark blue – number (Source: EEA/MOEW) |
| **Action 6a: Ecosystem restoration and green infrastructure** | The implementation of activities under this objective is fully in line with the operational objective of the National Biodiversity Conservation Plan 2005–2010. According to the Biological Diversity Act Bulgaria is obliged to establish a National Ecological Network that encompasses the Special Areas of Conservations (SACs, under Habitats Directive) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs, under Birds Directive) from the European ecological network Natura 2000 and protected areas that might be or might not be part of the Natura 2000 network. The National Ecological Network gives priority to CORINE sites, Ramsar sites, Important Plant Areas and Important Bird Areas. |
|  | A number of activities related to different measures in the National Biodiversity Conservation Plan 2005–2010 have been implemented, e.g. the development of the legal framework, development of plans, strategies and methodologies, monitoring.  Main activities from the measure Restoration and maintenance activities have been conducted, such as:  · Protection of ecosystems and natural habitats and maintenance of viable populations of species in the natural environment;  · Restoration of degraded ecosystems and habitats and support for the restoration of the populations of threatened species;  · Assessment of the conditions in riparian habitats and analysis of the impact on biodiversity of the adjustments of watercourses in the lower parts of the rivers |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 3** |
| **Target 3a: Agriculture** | There has been a sustained reduction in grasslands, most of which are semi-natural, and in 2012 the decrease was 4.2% (72 035 ha) compared to 2009.  About 56% of the semi-natural grasslands are owned by the municipalities in Bulgaria. |
|  | About 65% of the agricultural land is threatened by water erosion and about 24% by wind erosion. |
| **Target 3b: Forestry** | The analysis of the implementation of the Strategic Plan for the Development of the Forestry Sector 2007–2011 in 2012 shows that the implementation of measures and activities dedicated to the conservation of biological diversity, forest reproductive material and forest certification is at good level. Wooded area in Bulgaria has increased beyond the target of 500 ha per year set up in the Strategic Plan. To assess the implementation of the measures related to management activities various indicators have been used – forest area, tree species composition, forest regeneration, etc.  In 2012, the total forest area is 4 163 415 ha, of which 3 795 338 ha forested areas (including dwarf pine 23 953 ha), which represents 34% of the country. Coniferous forests cover an area of 1 113 789 ha (29.5%) and deciduous forest – 2 657 596 ha (70.5%) of the total forest area excl. dwarf pine.  Some unfavourable trends have been registered, e.g. actions to improve forest protection are insufficient, hence more efforts are needed, including new methods to control the effectiveness of protection of forests and wildlife.  **Note:** Total forest area (in ha) according the type of woodlands for the period 2009–2012 (Source: EFA) |
| **Target 3a & 3b** | The indicator Ratio between forest, agricultural and urban areas will be used to assess the impact of different types of land use on biodiversity and what part of the forest and agricultural lands are consumed in the process of urbanization, and hence what changes in regional planning are required (Figs. 18 and 19). The indicator shows the relative share of forest, agricultural and urban areas in the total area of the country. The results show that the largest part corresponds to the agricultural land (about 52%), followed by forest areas (about 43%) and urban areas (5%).  **Source:** MRDPW |
| **Action 8a: Environmental public goods in the CAP and GAEC cross-compliance** | Two measures have been launched in the Rural Development Program 2007–2013, related to the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable production in agriculture [one measure relevant to this action is]: - Measure 214 “Agri-environmental payments” was launched in 2008 and it provides financial assistance for the implementation of agricultural activities aimed at improving the environment. A gradual increase in approved applications over the years has been observed, e.g. in 2011 58% more applications were approved compared to 2008. The payments from this measure are in support of high nature value farmlands, which, according to the estimates by the European Environment Agency are 2 578 005 ha. |
|  | A National Strategy for Sustainable Development of Agriculture in Bulgaria 2014–2020 has been elaborated. The measures and activities in this sector are funded under the Rural Development Programme 2007–2013 – primarily under Priority Axis 2 – Improving the environment and nature, which includes agri-environmental payments, and payments for Natura 2000 and the Water Framework Directive (for farmlands). Measure 214 “Agri-environmental payments” was launched in 2008 and provides financial support for agricultural activities aimed at improving the environment. For 2008–2012 9292 applications were submitted of which 8084 were approved with a total value of public spending 50 926 457.14 Euro. Of these, 98.40% (50 115 307.70 Euro) were paid by 01/08/2013. |
| **Action 9a & 9b: Rural development and biodiversity** | According to the Forestry Act (2011) the Executive Forest Agency (EFA) implements policies for conservation and sustainable use of forests, promotes innovations in forestry among workers in the sector, forest owners and the public. Companies are due to promote and provide the means and conditions for training of their employees. There is a need to update the communication strategy and plan for public relations, including the necessary means for their implementation. There is a need to strengthen ties with partners and implement more effectively joint media campaigns with NGOs. |
| **Action 10: Agricultural genetic diversity** | The conservation of genetic diversity of cultivated plants and their wild relatives, including species with socio-economic and cultural value is carried out mainly by the National Seed Genebank, Institute of Plant Genetic Resources (IPGR) in Sadovo. The Genebank has developed a methodology for long-term storage ensuring the identity of the stored plant genetic resources.  The preservation of forest genetic resources is one of the indicators for sustainable forest management adopted at the EU level. Conservation of forest genetic resources is legally regulated (Section V ‘Preservation and conservation of forest genetic resources’ of Ordinance № 21 of 12/11/2012 on the terms and conditions for the determination, approval, registration and cancellation of the sources of forestry seeds, the collection and extraction of forest reproductive material, their evaluation, trade and imports). A “gene bank” is planned to be established to preserve forest genetic resources, to carry out monitoring and research, and to timely restore genetic resources that are degraded or destroyed by natural impacts.  Regarding the animal genetic resources ... Executive Agency for Selection and Reproduction in Animal Breeding (EASRAB).  A positive development is registered in tribal farming for the period 2009–2013. The number of the preserved indigenous +breeds has increased – the number of animals and the farms where they are grown. The number of animals bred by the breeding organizations in the period 2009–2013 has increased, e.g. over 5 times with horses, with 52.5% more cattle, with 22.8% more sheep, with 21.1% more buffalos and with 5.6% more pigs (Table 21). A significant decline was observed in poultry breeding and less in bee-keeping. Along with the increased number of controlled animals increases their productivity, which is a result of the implementation of the existing breeding programs. EASRAB has started operating an information system for monitoring of the biodiversity of farm animals – EFABIS, which is part of the global network FABISnet.  A 4-year Bulgarian-Swiss project To Link Conservation with Sustainable Rural Development started in 2012 in order to protect rare local breeds. The project will build a web-based information system of the indigenous breeds of farm animals in Bulgaria, as well as a DNA laboratory where 27 Bulgarian rare breeds will be studied. This will help to preserve the genetic purity of the local breeds and will contribute to the improvement of the existing subsidy schemes.  **Note:** Dynamics of animal genetic resources in the period 2009–2013 (Source: EASRAB) |
| **Action 11a & 11b: Forest holders and biodiversity** | New tools based on sustainable management of forest ecosystems have been developed in order to achieve a balance between the functions and services of the forests.  LIFE+ Programme of the EU has funded 18 projects in Bulgaria on different topics, each of them including activities related to the promotion of biodiversity and its sustainable use. Of these, 10 projects are managed by NGOs, 4 by national or regional government institutions, one of by a research institution and 3 – by business entities.  **Data link:**  <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/project/Projects/> |
| **Action 12: Biodiversity in forest management plans** | The Biological Diversity Act regulates the procedures for the development of management plans and development plans and projects. The law postulates that any development plans, regional development plans for forest areas, forest management plans and programs, national and regional programs developed under other laws must comply with the management plans of the protected sites from Natura 2000 network, as well as with the measures that aim at preventing deterioration of the natural habitats and habitats of species, and of the threats and the disturbance of species for the conservation of which the relevant protected sites are declared. |
|  | A new National Strategy for the Development of the Forestry Sector in R. Bulgaria for the period 2013–2020 has been elaborated. It contains four priorities and 20 measures. In implementing the priority of maintaining healthy, productive and multifunctional forest ecosystems, contributing to the mitigation of climate change, are envisaged the following measures and activities aimed at the conservation and sustainable use of forest resources: · Increase of woodlands, the tree stock and the carbon stock in forest areas – through afforestation of abandoned agricultural lands, deforested areas, eroded and threatened by erosion areas;  · Improvement of the forest management – it will help to maintain vibrant and multifunctional forest ecosystems, to increase the productivity of forests, to improve their resistance to diseases, pests, natural disasters and other biotic and abiotic factors; · Increasing of the efficiency of forest fire prevention and combating illegal activities in the forests. |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 4** |
| **Action 13b: Fish stock management** | Measures from the programs and strategic plan in the fisheries sector have been implemented. The main strategic goal of the National Strategic Plan for Fishery and Aquaculture 2007–2013 is the sustainable exploitation of fish resources. Measures to meet this objective include: control of fishing activities in order to prevent overfishing and the use of prohibited fishing devices; regulation of catches, fishing effort and fishing licenses; management and adaptation of the fishing effort – through modernization of the fleet and its alignment with the state of fish stocks; by introducing measures for the conservation of fish resources, including the improvement of fishing devices and methods for selectivity in order to use environmentally friendly devices, etc.  The measures from the plan are funded under the Operative Program for Development of the Fishery Sector 2007–2013. By 20.08.2013 the program has funded a total of 134 projects, fully paid are 92 projects with a total value of EUR 22 670 549.44 Euros. The table below presents the measures and activities which have a direct or indirect impact on biodiversity. A total of 152 contracts have been signed. Table 12 showing Measures and activities from the Operative Program for Development of the Fishery Sector 2007–2013 with direct or indirect impact on biodiversity conservation and with contracts signed by 20.08.2013.   |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Measures** | **Activities** | **Number of projects/ contracts** | **Funding (Euro)** | | Axis 1. Measures for adaptation of the Bulgarian fishing fleet | | | 2 990 734 | | 1.1. Permanent termination of fishing | Adaptation of the fishing ship for tourism activities, education or creation of artificial riffs | 65 |  | | 1.3. On-board investments in fishing ships and selectivity; 06. Equipment for selective fishing | Activities related to selective fishing | 6 |  | | 1.4. Small-scale coastal fishing | Activities related to reduction of fishing efforts and preservation of resources as well as promotion of the use of technological innovations which do not increase the fishing effort | None |  | | Axis 2. Aquaculture, inland fishing, processing and marketing of fish and aquaculture products | | | 23,164, 471.90 | | 2.1. Production investments in aquacultures | Diversification of production by using of new species and cultivation of species with good market potential; application of production methods that significantly reduce the negative impact and increase the positive impact on the environment; support for traditional aquaculture activities which allow preservation and development of economic and social aspects and preserve environment; equipment against wild predators and improvement of the conditions of labour and safety | 58 |  | | 2.2. Aqua-ecological measures | Implementation of aquaculture production methods in favour of the environment and preservation of resources. Compensation payments for fish farms within Natura 2000 within 2 years after the proclamation of the protected areas | 2 | No payments | | 2.5. In-land fishing | Activities related to the reduction of the negative impact and increase of the positive impact on the environment, as well as improvement of the selectivity of fishing equipment | None |  | | 2.6. Investments in processing and marketing of products from fishing and aquaculture | Some activities can be related to biodiversity | 9 |  | | Axis 3. Measures of common interest | | | 931,186.34 | | 3.1. Collective activities | Improved management of preservation of resources; promotion of the use of selective fishing equipment and methods | 6 |  | | 3.2. Measures aimed at preservation and development of the water flora and fauna | Protection or development of the water flora and fauna, for instance through construction of artificial riffs | None |  | | 3.6. Change of use of the fishing vessels | Adaptation of fishing vessels for education, and research in the field of fishery | None |  | | Axis 4. Sustainable development of the fishery areas | | | 15,888,715.89 | | 4.1. Financial support for local strategies for development and covering of operational expenses of the |  | 6 |  | |
|  | A Draft Program for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries 2014–2020 was elaborated in 2013. |
| **Action 14a & 14b: Adverse impacts on fish stocks, species, habitats and ecosystems** | The National Program for the Sustainable Development of Fish Resources 2008– 2013 includes general measures for conservation, restoration and protection of resources and provides the basis for developing annual programs to support sustainable fish populations and research activities, ensuring effective management of fish resources. Its activities are focused in the following two directions with the corresponding results:   * The control on unregulated fishing, the use of illegal tools of fishing and illegal seizure of natural resources in water bodies is improved; * Restocking and other activities have been conducted in order to support and maintain stable populations of fish and other aquatic organisms that are consistent with the results from the research on their state.   In terms of fishing restrictions each year a ban on catching fish and other aquatic organisms is being imposed. The restrictions are year-round or during the breeding season of the species in the Black Sea, the Danube and the inland waters in order to protect biodiversity and create conditions for natural reproduction of the populations. A long-term ban on sturgeon fishing is introduced because its populations are in a critical condition – the fishing of the following species is forbidden in Bulgarian waters of the Danube and Black Sea: Acipenser guеldenstaedtii, A. ruthenus, A. stellatus and Huso huso for a period of 4 years from 01/01/2012 (Order, MAF, 20/01/2012). Due to the highly reduced stocks of turbot in the Black Sea the annual catch quotas for the species identified by the Council of the EU for the period 2009–2013 have been reduced from 50 tons to 43.2 tons (in 2009 – 50 tons; 2010 – 48 tons; 2011–2013 – 43.2 tons). Restocking activities in the Danube and other inland rivers were conducted according to the Program in the period 2009–2010 and data are shown in Table 13. After 2010 due to lack of funding the implementation of the Program has been stopped.  Table 13. Restocking of the Danube and the inland rivers until 01/02/2010 within the National Program for the Sustainable Development of Fish Resources 2008–2013 (Source: EAFA).   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Species** | **Average single weight (grams)** | **Quantity (number of individuals)** | | *Acipenser guеldenstaedtii* | 4 | 10 000 | | *Huso huso* | 5 | 5400 | | *Cyprinus carpio* | 30–40 | 750 000 | | *Cyprinus carpio* | 500 | 15 000 | | *Ctenopharingodon idella* | 70–100 | 60 000 | | *Hypophthalmichthys molitrix* | 70–100 | 20 000 | | *Salmo trutta fario* | 0.3–0.5 | 1 300 000 | | *Salvelinus fontinalis* | 1 | 200 000 | | *Silurus glanis* | 3 | 75 000 | | *Silurus glanis* | 100 | 20 000 | | *Sander lucioperca* | 100 | 22 000 | |
|  | The National Plan for the Protection of the Most Important Wetlands in Bulgaria 2013–2022 provisions a horizontal measure that should be implemented at national level: 71 Control of poaching. Initially, the measure was considered as a specific measure for certain areas, but because of the national dimension of the phenomenon it is finally formulated on a nationwide level. A number of projects have been launched and implemented in order to collect relevant data and support the conservation and management of fish resources. Trawl photos were made in the period 2009–2010 for stock assessment of turbot along the Bulgarian coast of the Black Sea. Trawl photos and stock assessment of turbot in Black Sea Community waters (Bulgaria and Romania) were done in the period 2010–2013. A pilot study on the use of sonar method for the inventory of the resources and distribution of pelagic fish species in certain areas of the Bulgarian and the Romanian coast of the Black Sea Community waters was implemented in 2010. A stock assessment of pelagic fish in Community waters applying the same method was carried out in 2011. Biological and population parameters of economically valuable fish and non-fish resources in the Bulgarian Black Sea coast were measured in the period 2010–2013. To support the implementation of the Action Plan for Sturgeons in the Bulgarian Waters of the Danube River and Black Sea (2004) was launched a project financed by the Operational Programme “Environment 2007–2013” – Implementation of activities of the Action Plan for Sturgeons to improve the status and protect sturgeons in Bulgaria (2012– 2015). The main objective of the project is the conservation of sturgeons in the Bulgarian section of the Danube and improvement of their conservation status by implementing direct conservation measures to strengthen their populations. Among its objectives is the improvement of the existing legal regulations and recommendations for updating the Plan.  The field studies cover the real breeding habitats, providing a minimum population size for the survival of the species and restoring the natural reproduction, development of tripartite management measures to ensure the reproduction of sturgeon, creating an electronic database and online portal for sturgeon. Bulgaria participates in the project Joint efforts to raise awareness on the overexploitation of the sturgeons populations in the Danube in Romania and Bulgaria (2012– 2015) financed by Life+ Program. The project aims to stop the exploitation of the critically endangered sturgeon species in the Danube River in the region of Bulgaria and Romania and to ensure long-term survival of these species and preserving their natural and high economic value. Bulgaria participates in the Danube Sturgeon Task Force (DSTF) network, and in developing programs for the conservation and restoration of the sturgeon in the Danube “Sturgeon 2020” under the Strategy for the Danube Region. |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 5** |
|  | A National Strategy and Action Plan for the invasive alien species in Bulgaria need to be elaborated. In the National Report on the State and Protection of the Environment (2012, ExEA) is published a list of invasive and potentially invasive plants, animals and fungi in Bulgaria, but the data are based on studies carried out until 2006. Moreover, these lists are not regularly updated. Measures to mitigate the impact of invasive species are embedded in some sectoral plans and programs. With the active participation of Bulgaria was established the East and South European Network on Invasive Alien Species (ESENIAS, www.esenias.org). The aim of the network is to create a single information portal to facilitate access and exchange of information, identification of new invasive species, assessment and risk management, monitoring and control of the established species, and to enhance cooperation between the institutions, and experts from Southeast Europe working in this field. So far, 12 countries have joined the network.  Within ESENIAS and the International Association for Danube Research (IAD) the project Potential Threats to Sustainable Development in the Danube and Black Sea Region: the Danube – a Corridor of Invasive Alien Species (2012–2017) is carried out. The Bulgarian part of the river is/will be monitored each year during the project. |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 6** |
| **Action 17c: Drivers of biodiversity loss** | Sustainable use of natural resources is envisaged in the Strategy for Development of Research at Sofia University “St. Kilment Ohridski” (2009-2014) |
|  | The environment assessment of OP “Regional Development 2007-2013” shows that the measures envisaged support projects that provide implementation of : technology and know-how that does not threaten the environment; water, energy and material saving technologies; creation of green systems subordinated with the existing landscape categories; limitation of dust emission, noise and vibration; compliance with recreation norms and the status of the territory in projects related to the development of tourism and sustainable tourism is preferred, e.g. cultural tourism, ecotourism, rural tourism, spa, etc.  The National Plan for the Protection of the Most Important Wetlands in Bulgaria 2013-2022, envisages the introduction of economic mechanisms for the protection of wetlands, inventory and valuation of ecosystem services, introduction of the compensatory mechanisms for the sustainable management of Natura 2000 areas, agro-ecological and aqua-environmental measures in the operational programs for the period 2014-2020, supporting private investments by introducing mechanisms for payment for ecosystems services (direct payments “business-business” or “state-business” subsidies). |
| **Action 18a: Resources for global biodiversity conservation** | For the period 2009–2013, Bulgaria implemented policies to increase financial flows and co- financing for projects pertaining to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. The main financial mechanisms used are OPs, Life+ Programme of the EU, 7th Framework Programme of the EU, the Norwegian Programme, UNDP, FM EEA, Scientific Research Fund, Environmental Protection Fund, etc.  The following financial resources are reported now:   * The state budget   NGOs and private donors have reported 538 395 Euro spent for the period 2012–2013. |
| **Action 20: Access to genetic resources and sharing of benefits** | Bulgaria fulfils its commitments to the Nagoya Protocol.  At *administration level the following is implemented*:   * Meetings with stakeholders in relation to the necessary coordination at national level for the implementation of subsequent obligations; * Review of existing national legislation in the field of genetic resources; * Participation in the first meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for genetic resources in Montreal, 2011; * Participation in the expert meetings of the European Union on issues related to signing, ratification and further implementation of the Protocol.   At the *administrative level needs*:   * To continue the consultations with all research institutes, holders of gene banks; * To formulate the inter-institutional mechanism and to organize relevant meetings, consultations, identification and appointment of competent authorities for the implementation of the Protocol; * To share the degree of responsibility of the relevant national institutions (MOEW, MAF, Patent Office) and their regional structures; * To establish checkpoints and monitor the use of genetic resources; * To amend the national legislation so that the Nagoya Protocol can be effectively implemented; * To ratify the Nagoya Protocol and present a set of documents to the Secretariat of theCBD; * Create an information mechanism under the Protocol to the existing Clearing House * Mechanism to the Convention (http://chm.moew.government.bg).   At *scientific level is expected*:   * Inventory and cataloguing of genetic resources in the country, development of methodologies and technologies for their conservation and sustainable use; * Review and use of existing information and documentation in order to prepare new documents, certificates, contracts to support the management authorities; * Scientific papers, studies, databases, maps, visual and video information, environmental and biological descriptions responding to the administrative needs at different stages after the ratification; * Development of scientific criteria for valuation of genetic resources in the country.   At the *business level are expected*:   * Integration of the requirements set by the Protocol in the activities and business practices associated with genetic resources; * Financial support and participation together with the administration and scientific institutions in the assessment and valuation of genetic resources in the country;   Integration of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the corporate activities. |

# Croatia

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| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 1** *(Please note that information from Member States in relation to Action 1a is supplied to the European Commission via other reports. To avoid duplication of reporting, information relating to Action 1a has not been included in this report)* |
| **Action 1b: Natura 2000 (and other protected areas)** | There is the obligation, according to the Nature Protection Act (NPA), that all physical planning documents and sectorial management plans for use of natural resources, incorporate nature protection requirements issued by the Ministry of Environmental and Nature Protection (MENP); trend in implementation since 2010 is positive as new sectors are included in the process, like water management (annual program of works) and partly agriculture (tenders for use of agriculture land). However, in some sectors, like marine and freshwater fisheries, their implementation needs to be improved.  Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) procedure for policy strategies is obligatory from 2013. Ecological Network Impact Assessment and Environmental Impact Assessment procedures are obligatory and are regularly being implemented. |
| **Action 1c: Natura 2000 (and other protected areas)** | Having in mind that Republic of Croatia entered the EU on 1 July 2013, in the previous period it was mostly focused on the establishment of the ecological network Natura 2000. There are 780 sites of ecological Network Natura 2000 covering 29.38% of the total surface of Croatia (including the sea).  Conservation objectives and conservation measures for birds in the SPAs are defined by Ordinance adopted in 2014. In the upcoming period Croatia will focus more on implementation of the defined conservation measures for SPAs and identification of the most appropriate conservation measures for species and habitat types that are target features of pSCIs/SCIs, in line with the provisions of the Habitats Directive.  Process of adoption and/or revision of management plans for protected areas and preparation of adequate management framework for the sites of ecological network have significantly intensified. |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 2** |
|  | The issue of ecosystem services is still quite new for Croatia. The topic has been indirectly integrated in the NBSAP 2008 within the chapter Protection of biodiversity and Sustainable use of natural resources. Although no specific activities were envisaged by NBSAP 2008, it can be stated that ecosystems contributing to carbon stocks (e.g. forests, wetlands, Posidonia beds) in Croatia are generally in good condition to perform this function.  The relatively new issue of ecosystem services in Croatia is being mainstreamed in revised National Biodiversity and Action Plan for Nature Protection (NBSAP). One of the NBSAP Targets is the detailed mapping of ecosystem services with the aim of their economic valorization and improvement of their services through cooperation with different relevant sectors and stakeholders.  The project called “Freshwater Ecosystem Services in Croatia” was one of the first steps towards comprehending this matter. In January 2015 Croatian Environmental Agency has published the baseline study on ecosystems and their services in Croatia. The preliminary map of ecosystems in Croatia, estimated state of ecosystems based on the available data and the corresponding national indicators were established in this study.  Spatial overview of terrestrial habitats of the Republic of Croatia in the form of a spatial database in a cartographic scale of 1:25,000 (currently in a scale of 1:100,000) is underway and a detailed map will be available by April 2016. With this new detailed habitat map it will be possible to undertake a more comprehensive mapping and assessment of ecosystems and their services in Croatia, which is envisaged to start in 2017 within the framework of ESI funds. |
|  | Total consumption of mineral fertilizers has decreased by 30% during the last 5-years period. There is no precise data on consumption of pesticides. A National plan for sustainable use of pesticides was adopted in 2013. Environmental, water management, agriculture, forestry, energy and industry sectors have set up standards for prevention of environmental pollution. |
| **Action 6a: Ecosystem restoration and green infrastructure** | Information available on Natura 2000 data covering the total surface of Croatia (including the sea). Process of preparation and designation of management plans for protected areas and sites of ecological network has significantly intensified. |
|  | A number of activities related to assessment of the values of biodiversity and economic valuation of its ecosystem services have been initiated recently through implementation of different projects and studies. Evaluation of progress on this issue cannot still be performed. Sustainable use of natural resources has been ensured through different mechanisms. |
| **Action 6b: Ecosystem restoration and green infrastructure** | The most of natural HTs are decreasing: watercourses and adjacent wetlands due to regulation works; coastal habitats due to building and tourism related activities; grasslands overgrowing due to ceasing of traditional use - mowing and grazing. Fragmentation of habitats was increased due to increased building of highways and other roads.  Although the construction of roads and other transport routes results in habitat fragmentation, potential threats to large carnivores from highway construction have been reduced through the construction of green bridges, serving as animal corridors. Today there are 11 such crossings, which are regularly monitored, including the use of camera traps that document what is happening on individual crossings. Monitoring proves that crossings are highly effective and used regularly by large carnivores and other animals.  Having in mind that roughly one third of Croatian Natura 2000 network important for biodiversity is agricultural land, within the Programme of Rural Development of the Republic of Croatia for the period 2014-2020 submeasure “Support for non-productive investments linked to the achievement of agri-environment-climate objectives” was developed. Within this submeasure, restoration of habitats important for biodiversity conservation, like meadows, pastures and ponds for livestock watering, can be financed. Additionally, in order to ensure maintenance and preservation of the valuable habitats, submeasure “Payment for agri-environment-climate commitments” was developed. |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 3** |
| **Target 3a: Agriculture** | Area under organic production is growing - from 0.8% of utilized agricultural area in 2008 to 3.12% in 2013, while the number of organic farmers increased from 632 in 2008 to 1609 in 2013. |
| **Action 9a & 9b: Rural development and biodiversity** | New incentives for biodiversity conservation have been designed as a part of submeasure “Payment for agri-environment-climate commitments”, as well as submeasure “Support for non-productive investments linked to the achievement of agri-environment-climate objectives” under EAFRD and are incorporated into Rural Development Programme of the Republic of Croatia for the period 2014-2020. |
| **Action 10: Agricultural genetic diversity** | 27 indigenous breeds of domesticated animals are recognized and preserved in Croatia. Threat assessment for 26 indigenous breeds of domesticated animals has been done using adjusted version of IUCN classification Operational Program for Establishment of Gene Bank of Domesticated Animals in the Republic of Croatia has been prepared. National Program of Conservation of Indigenous and Protected Breeds of Domesticated Animals was adopted in 2010 and partly implemented National Program of Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture has been adopted but not implemented.  Submeasure “Support to conservation of genetic resources in agriculture” is incorporated into Rural Development Programme of the Republic of Croatia for the period 2014-2020. The genetic potential in Croatia is very valuable, especially from the biodiversity view and the need of agriculture to adapt to obvious climate change conditions. The priority is not only to preserve the traditional plant and animal species adapted to local conditions but all those varieties and breeds that, although they have no economic value, could be used as the basis for creating new or improving the performance of existing varieties of agricultural plants and domestic animal breeds. Support will be provided to beneficiaries who prevent the erosion of plant and animal genetic resources and contribute to the improvement of their sustainable use, development and conservation aiming to achieve global food safety, sustainable agriculture and biodiversity conservation.  As a part of measure “Payment for agri-environment-climate commitments” operation “Preservation of endangered native and protected breeds of domestic animals” will be financed. Support for their preservation will be provided with the aim to reduce the risk of their extinction. During the same period, preservation of native and protected breeds of plants will be financed with national resources. |
| **Action 12: Biodiversity in forest management plans** | Croatian Forests Ltd, that manages all state-owned forests (2,018,987 ha or 35.67% of Croatia), has renewed in 2012 the FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) for the whole area under their management, for the next 5 years; forests also cover 35% of Natura 2000 area.  Since 2003 there is an obligation, according to the NPA, that all forest management plans incorporate nature protection requirements. |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 4** |
| **Action 13a: Fish stock management** | Trends in biomass are being registered. In some segments of fishing fleet, catch per unit effort decreased. In some segments of fishing fleet, fishing effort increased. |
| **Action 13b: Fish stock management** | Preparation of management plans for individual fishing tools or fishing areas in order to establish long-term sustainable exploitation and to ensure the protection of marine biological resources has started.  • Management plan for bottom trawl fisheries and Management plan for surrounding purse seine nets have been adopted by Government.  Given that the scope of the EMFF includes support for the CFP (for the conservation of marine biological resources, protection and restoration of aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems, as well as the ecological network Natura 2000) and support to Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP), biodiversity-related measures are incorporated in the draft of sectoral operational programme. |
| **Action 14a: Adverse impacts on fish stocks, species, habitats and ecosystems** | In order to reduce the negative impacts of fisheries on strictly protected marine species, education of fishermen how to deal with accidentally caught cetaceans and sea turtles has started. In order to improve MPA management at local level through filling gaps in fisheries knowledge, fieldwork on the assessment of coastal fisheries resources was performed;  Assessment and monitoring of coastal fisheries resources and socio-economic research of local fisheries at selected areas of Primorje-Gorski Kotar County” (Fishery study)  The NETCET project (Network for the Conservation of Cetaceans and Sea Turtles and the Adriatic) which has begun with activities implementation in 2012 also has organized the workshops with the local fisherman and divers with the aim to educate them in the cases of accidentally catching or finding dead, sick or injured strictly protected marine animals. |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 5** |
|  | The number of registered invasive alien species is increasing, but due to lack of data the trend can still not be determined. Control and eradication of some invasive animal and plant species is conducted. Public awareness is increasing due to improved information activities (web page http://www.invazivnevrste.hr/?lang=en, publications etc). The national survey of public awareness about nature protection from 2013 showed awareness of problem of invasive alien species; suggested priority actions relate to the need for further education, strengthening of prevention and timely detecting of invasive species. The NPA from 2013 was improved by regulating the criteria for import and placement on the market of the alien species, as well as their introduction into the nature, taking into consideration the risk assessment protocols in order to predict their invasiveness. Preparation of new Invasive Alien Species Act is underway. Also, under the Operational Programme Competitiveness and Cohesion 2014-2020, activities related to the inventarization, prioritization, eradication and controlling of IAS are envisaged. |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 6** |
| **Action 17c: Drivers of biodiversity loss** | Croatia has positive experience regarding Environmental fiscal reform (EFR) referring to a range of taxation and pricing measures based on “polluter pays principles”. Environmental Protection and Energy Efficiency Fund was established in 2004, in order to secure additional funds to finance projects, programs and similar activities in the field of conservation, sustainable use, protection and improvement of the environment and nature. National parks (and few nature parks) collect entrance fees, and such income represents at the same time a significant part of their own income. Nature parks collect fees mainly for other services (guided tours, schools in nature, special programs, etc.). Another mechanism that exists is vignettes that marine vessels need to purchase when entering Croatia by sea. Part (10%) of the income from vignettes goes to the marine national and nature parks (5 parks in total), in accordance with the Sojourn Tax Act.  As a new EU Member State, in the next programming period 2014-2020 Croatia is planning to fully implement agri-environment programme, in addition to demands of cross-compliance in agriculture, contributing in this way to sustainable agriculture, i.e. linking incentives with good agricultural practice, rather than overall agricultural production. In addition, incentives for fisheries and aquaculture will also be related to environment friendly and resource efficient practices, e.g. starting from 2014 Croatia introduced incentives for the temporary cessation of fishing activities supporting in this way recovery of fish stocks. |
| **Action 18a: Resources for global biodiversity conservation** | As the youngest MS, Croatia until recently had the status of country with economy in transition and therefore has received international funding and contributions from international organizations for biodiversity-related activities. In the upcoming period, Croatia will further define modalities for international contributions, taking into consideration the Croatia’s recent experience of EU accession and similarities in terms of species and habitat types with the countries in the region. |
| **Action 20: Access to genetic resources and sharing of benefits** | The Nature Protection Act has provisions for fair and equitable use of research and development finding resulting from the use of genetic resources, and prevents anyone from becoming an owner of genetic material created from genetic material of wildlife taxa. For access to use of genetic material of native wild species in situ, legal and natural persons must obtain permission from the MENP and meet the conditions for access and /or use of the genetic material.  Ratification of Nagoya Protocol in Croatia is expected in 2015, with preparations underway. |

# Cyprus

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| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 1** *(Please note that information from Member States in relation to Action 1a is supplied to the European Commission via other reports. To avoid duplication of reporting, information relating to Action 1a has not been included in this report)* |
| **Action 1b: Natura 2000 (and other protected areas)** | Management plans of PAs have been integrated in territorial planning and in the rural (countryside) policy as well as other large scale plans such as renewable energy plan.  Data links:  <http://www.moi.gov.cy/moi/tph/tph.nsf/page07_gr/page07_gr?OpenDocument>,  <http://www.moa.gov.cy/moa/environment/environment.nsf/All/35A023DEB9FE371FC22578B800356FEC?OpenDocument> (Environment department webpage will be updated shortly)  <http://www.moa.gov.cy/moa/environment/environment.nsf/All/F819D936E48D0D13C22578A40036973B?OpenDocument> (Environment department data will be updated shortly) |
|  | The value of biological diversity has been recognized and will be integrated in sectoral policies and strategies of the Island by 2020, and will be incorporated into projects such as Integrated Projects (IP) and Operational Programmes (OP).  Biological diversity is integrated into a number of strategies and policies and is included in programs such as the agriculture rural development plan, structural fund, regional development fund, fisheries fund, etc.  Data links:  <http://www.moa.gov.cy/moa/da/da.nsf/0/3f2ae25455b0302bc2257d2000345cd0/$FILE/ATT6SZ77/%CE%A0%CF%81%CE%BF%CF%83%CF%87%CE%AD%CE%B4%CE%B9%CE%BF%20%CE%A0%CE%91%CE%91%202014_2020%2024%20%CE%99%CE%BF%CF%85%CE%BB%CE%AF%CE%BF%CF%85%202014.pdf>  <http://www.structuralfunds.org.cy/default.aspx?NewsID=2726&typeid=20> [to be updated by the Member State] |
| **Action 1c: Natura 2000 (and other protected areas)** | Among measures and actions in NBS, target and priorities, of N2K network, special attention has been given to the management of protected areas and to the need to enhance a new approach for adequate funding towards improvement of scientific knowledge and socio economic aspects, in order to support policy and decision making process.  Data links:  <http://www.moa.gov.cy/moa/environment/environment.nsf/All/CE0747F45EB24725C2257B2F002D1685?OpenDocument>  (Environment department data will be will be update shortly)  <http://www.structuralfunds.org.cy/default.aspx?articleID=2385> [to be updated by the Member State] |
|  | All Natura 2000 areas have management plans that include measures and actions for PAs (habitats and species). PAs has been designed for the main biodiversity element of the island and is a tool to halt the decline in biological diversity.  The Environment department along with the other competent authorities is protecting and restores natural habitats and species with actions and measures that are taken in the sites. |
| **Action 2: Adequate financing of Natura 2000** | Cyprus completed Prioritized Action framework (PAFs) for Natura 2000 in order to effectively achieve conservation and protection of the N2K areas.  There have been efforts to include Biodiversity issues in the Structural Funds. The final amount is yet to be defined. The LIFE and RDF program also gives opportunity for funding.  Data link:  <http://www.structuralfunds.org.cy/default.aspx?articleID=2385> [to be updated by the Member State] |
|  | Current funds (horizon 2014-2020) will contribute significantly to the establishment of more - cohesive - natural landscapes, and to prevent further fragmentation and natural destruction of natural habitats.  Data link:  <http://www.structuralfunds.org.cy/default.aspx?articleID=2385> [to be updated by the Member State] |
|  | * The Environment Department has secured funds from Structural Funds, which will be contributing for the Natura 2000 areas. * The LIFE Program (the Financial Instrument for the Environment) is the EU’s financial instrument supporting environmental and nature conservation projects throughout the EU. A total of € 6.182.040 have been granted during 2007-2013 for projects for Nature in Cyprus. Efforts are being made in order to be able to have access to funds from the new LIFE Program. * The Ministry of Agriculture Natural Resource and Environment (MANRE) are committed to implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity. Mobilization of financial resources for the Implementation of NSB will be take place during 2015.   Data link:  <http://www.structuralfunds.org.cy/default.aspx?articleID=2385> [to be updated by the Member State] |
| **Action 3a: Stakeholder awareness and enforcement** | Work has been carried out in Cyprus in many areas to increase public awareness of the values of the biological diversity. Seminars for several Life projects as well as consultation for PAs focus on the biodiversity and its value and the added value of the N2K in the local Communities. The following activities have been launched:   * Evaluation of plans and large scale projects * Improvement of Conservation Status * Information/ Consultation seminar for NBS with all stakeholders * Information seminar on Climate Change and biodiversity * Information seminar on Desertification and biodiversity * Presentation of the results of Life Nature and Information Projects * Presentation of financing Natura (PAs) and Biodiversity * Environmental education mainly for Schools   Stakeholder’s awareness – general seminars for public, use of internet media etc.  Data links:  <http://www.plantnet.org.cy/home.html>,  <http://www.plantnet.org.cy/workshops-presentations.html>,  <http://www.moa.gov.cy/moa/icostacy/icostacy.nsf/index_en/index_en?OpenDocument>  <http://www.moa.gov.cy/moa/icostacy/icostacy.nsf/All/14B3D5ABE5E93CF5C22578DC002D1870?OpenDocument>  <http://adaptationcy.blogspot.com/p/cyadapt.html>  <http://adaptationcy.blogspot.com/p/blog-page_15.html> |
| **Action 4a: Monitoring and reporting** | During 2012 Cyprus established a monitoring system for both marine and terrestrial habitats and species. The monitoring system comprises different sub contractor for monitor, evaluate and analyze habitats and species in PAs. NBS (Biodiversity 2020) sets out Cyprus’s priority actions in order to achieve targets. Actions are focus to improve biodiversity components of the Island. |
|  | Cyprus has initiated a monitoring system (2012) for all types of natural habitat and species. The system is designed to provide an understanding of the status of natural habitats and species and the environment in the country.  Data link:  <http://www.moa.gov.cy/moa/environment/environment.nsf/All/0748C45EF555E692C2257C3D0047D1E1?OpenDocument> |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 2** |
|  | The Department of Environment has the responsibility for the control and prevention of water and soil pollution arising from the operation of wastewater treatment plants and the discharge of the treated urban wastewater according to the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive 91/271/EEC. In Cyprus, the UWWTD 91/271/EEC and the control of sewage discharges to ground and surface waters is implemented via the Water Pollution Control Law as well as Regulations and Ministerial Decrees issued under the provisions of this Law as well as the Sewerage Law.  For the effective enforcement of the above Laws, Waste Discharge Permits are issued by the Minister of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment. Each permit includes specific conditions regarding measures that must be taken by operator. Most commonly, measures refer to the following:   * Discharge method, quantity, areas, crops irrigated etc. * Sludge Management. * Self monitoring of effluent quality and quantity and record keeping.   Compliance with relevant quality requirements.  Data link:  <http://www.moa.gov.cy/moa/environment/environment.nsf/de08_gr/de08_gr?OpenDocument> (Environment department web page and data will be will be update shortly) |
|  | Cyprus formulated the National Action Plans for the three RIO Conventions. Implementation of National Action Plans for Climate Change, Desertification and Biodiversity will be implemented after their approval from the National Council of Ministries by the end of 2014. All three National Action Plans include measures for conservation and restoration of habitats their function and structure, focusing to reverse biodiversity loss, to implement climate changes adaptation scheme and to combat desertification as well as integration to other sectors, policies and strategies.  Data links:  <http://www.moa.gov.cy/moa/environment/environment.nsf/All/CE0747F45EB24725C2257B2F002D1685?OpenDocument> (Environment department data will be will be update shortly)  <http://www.moa.gov.cy/moa/environment/environment.nsf/All/35A023DEB9FE371FC22578B800356FEC?OpenDocument> (Environment department data will be will be update shortly)  <http://adaptationcy.blogspot.com/p/cyadapt.html> |
| **Action 6a & 6b: Ecosystem restoration and green infrastructure** | Cyprus's N2K areas represent 28% including both SCIs and SPAs. Some of the most significant LIFE projects focused on the improvement of conservation and restoration of the N2K areas for ecosystems, habitats and species. Currently the Environment Department has paid significant attention on designation of Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and general protection of the habitats and wildlife (flora and fauna) and, conservation of the sites integrity. Specific attention has been given to wetlands coastal habitats and rivers. Current funds (horizon 2014-2020) will contribute significantly to the establishment of more - cohesive - natural landscapes, and to prevent further fragmentation and natural destruction of natural habitats. Landscape elements have been incorporated in the Rural Development Plan (2014-2020) for protection, conservation and rehabilitation.  Data link:  <http://www.structuralfunds.org.cy/default.aspx?articleID=2385> [to be updated by the Member State] |
|  | Actions and measures include:  Nature protection of natural habitat types and species covered by the EU's habitat and bird protection directive, protection of natural habitat areas.   * Woodland planting and an increase in wooded areas help towards CO2 retention and thus make a positive contribution to the CO2 accounts, protect groundwater and ensure high quality drinking water. * Restoration of coastal habitats * Restoration and maintain species habitats * Restoration of river ecosystems and wetlands * Continuation of monitoring scheme * Initiation of mapping of both habitats and species * Promotion of green infrastructure for landscape connectivity * Designation of HNVf areas * Within the LIFE Program, Projects have been launched for both habitats and species * Raising of Local communities awareness   Data links:  <http://www.moa.gov.cy/moa/da/da.nsf/page54_gr/page54_gr?OpenDocument>  <http://www.moa.gov.cy/moa/da/da.nsf/All/A806626727775C81C2257A4000367471?OpenDocument>  <http://www.pap-thecoastcentre.org/about.php?blob_id=30> |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 3** |
| **Target 3a & 3b** | The majority of Cyprus rural areas is natural habitats and are found or linked to farming and forested areas. A new Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and RDP for 2014-2020 is being compiled, and focus on "greening" concerning consideration of the nature, protection of habitats and species that depend on agriculture practices.  Cyprus areas that are utilized for agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed towards a sustainable way. Policies for the three sectors set targets in order to integrate and ensure conservation of biodiversity components.  Axe 2 of RDP includes most significant actions for environment to make possible a sustainable management of agricultural and forested land as well as conservation of biodiversity. Measures have been proposed for the new RDP 2014-2020, foreseeing to be implementing in the N2K areas.  Data link:  <http://www.moa.gov.cy/moa/da/da.nsf/0/3f2ae25455b0302bc2257d2000345cd0/$FILE/ATT6SZ77/%CE%A0%CF%81%CE%BF%CF%83%CF%87%CE%AD%CE%B4%CE%B9%CE%BF%20%CE%A0%CE%91%CE%91%202014_2020%2024%20%CE%99%CE%BF%CF%85%CE%BB%CE%AF%CE%BF%CF%85%202014.pdf> |
| **Action 8a & 8b: Environmental public goods in the CAP and GAEC cross-compliance** | Agriculture activities are currently managed to ensure more environmental friendly practices e.g. biological products.  Data link:  <http://www.moa.gov.cy/moa/da/da.nsf/All/FDF8F732CA3A5924C2257A4000357773?OpenDocument> |
| **Action 10: Agricultural genetic diversity** | The Institute of Agricultural Research (IAR) created a gene bank for plant material and domesticated animals of traditional breed. A programme has been taking place to locate and register the wild relatives of crops and their preservation status carried out for some species with foreign Universities and institutes (e.g. Spain).  Data link:  <http://www.moa.gov.cy/moa/ari/ari.nsf/index_gr/index_gr?opendocument> |
| **Action 11a & 11b: Forest holders and biodiversity** | Some of the most significant LIFE projects focused on the improvement of conservation and restoration of the N2K areas for ecosystems, habitats and species.  Current funds (horizon 2014-2020) will contribute significantly to the establishment of more - cohesive - natural landscapes, and to prevent further fragmentation and natural destruction of natural habitats. Landscape elements have been incorporated in the Rural Development Plan (2014-2020) for protection, conservation and rehabilitation.  The LIFE Program (the Financial Instrument for the Environment) is the EU’s financial instrument supporting environmental and nature conservation projects throughout the EU. A total of € 6.182.040 have been granted during 2007-2013 for projects for Nature in Cyprus. Efforts are being made in order to be able to have access to funds from the new LIFE Program.  Data link:  <http://www.moa.gov.cy/moa/environment/environment.nsf/de23_gr/de23_gr?OpenDocument> |
| **Action 12: Biodiversity in forest management plans** | The Natura 2000 network has almost been completed and major efforts are directed towards an efficient manage the areas (habitats and species). For all areas have been prepared management plans that include conservation measures for each site.  Cyprus completed Prioritized Action framework (PAFs) for Natura 2000 in order to effectively achieve conservation and protection of the N2K areas.  Data link:  <http://www.moa.gov.cy/moa/environment/environment.nsf/All/C616AEA921159FBAC22578010040DBF9?OpenDocument> |
|  | The state forests in Cyprus are management for the protection biodiversity and the ecosystems services, and in a sustainable way.  The main object of the State Forest Policy is the development through sustainable management, maintain its multiple use, biodiversity conservation and upgrading and promotion/ utilization of all functions of forest ecosystems, aiming at providing a longer and better quality life to society and preserving at the same time the forests for future generations.  Data link:  <http://www.moa.gov.cy/moa/fd/fd.nsf/DMLreserves_gr/DMLreserves_gr?OpenDocument> |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 4** |
| **Action 13a, 13b & 13c: Fish stock management** | The Governmental policy in the Fisheries Resources Sector aims at sustainable and balanced management of the resources, the increased contribution of fisheries in the domestic production of fish and in the improvement of professional fishermen’s work conditions.  The management of fisheries resources is achieved through fisheries research, the collection of fishery data and their utilisation for the exploitation of the Cyprus fisheries stocks, as well as the development of the Government’s fisheries policy.  The data collected concern the following:  1. Biology of the economically most important species of fish  2. Fishing fleet activity  3. Fishing capacity of fishing vessels (capacity, power)  4. Fishing effort (days at sea, type and quantity of fishing gear)  5. Catches (quantitative and qualitative data for marketed and non-marketed species)  6. Economic situation of the fisheries sector  Data links:  <http://www.moa.gov.cy/moa/dfmr/dfmr.nsf/DMLindex_gr/DMLindex_gr?OpenDocument> [to be updated by the Member State]  <http://www.moa.gov.cy/moa/dfmr/dfmr.nsf/DMLcontrol_data_gr/DMLcontrol_data_gr?OpenDocument> [to be updated by the Member State]  <http://www.moa.gov.cy/moa/dfmr/dfmr.nsf/DMLSea_gr/DMLSea_gr?OpenDocument> [to be updated by the Member State] |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 5** |
|  | Several projects within the Framework of the LIFE Programs have focussed on the eradication of invasive alien species such as Acacia spp., aquatic water tortoise, etc.  Additionally, the upcoming EU legislation (regulation) on Invasive Alien Species (IAS) will be implemented and strengthen towards this target.  Data links:  <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/project/Projects/index.cfm?fuseaction=search.dspPage&n_proj_id=2652>  <http://www.moa.gov.cy/moa/environment/environment.nsf/All/A3554096694795AAC2257D0B002D604F> |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 6** |
| **Action 17a: Drivers of biodiversity loss** | A new Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and RDP for 2014-2020 is being compiled, and focus on "greening" concerning consideration of the nature, protection of habitats and species that depend on agriculture practices.  Data link:  <http://www.moa.gov.cy/moa/da/da.nsf/0/3f2ae25455b0302bc2257d2000345cd0/$FILE/ATT6SZ77/%CE%A0%CF%81%CE%BF%CF%83%CF%87%CE%AD%CE%B4%CE%B9%CE%BF%20%CE%A0%CE%91%CE%91%202014_2020%2024%20%CE%99%CE%BF%CF%85%CE%BB%CE%AF%CE%BF%CF%85%202014.pdf> |
| **Action 20: Access to genetic resources and sharing of benefits** | The protocol was ratified by the UN in 2012, and agreement reached in the EU on a new directive to fulfill its provisions. Cyprus singed the Protocol and is foreseeing to ratify the Nagoya Protocol by end of 2014. |

# Czech Republic

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| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 1** *(Please note that information from Member States in relation to Action 1a is supplied to the European Commission via other reports. To avoid duplication of reporting, information relating to Action 1a has not been included in this report)* |
| **Action 1b: Natura 2000 (and other protected areas)** | Creation of a legislative framework regulating zonal planning and land use changes is one of the objectives for optimisation of legislative tools for nature and landscape protection. |
| **Action 1c: Natura 2000 (and other protected areas)** | Improved management plans and the optimisation of the system of Special Protected Areas (SPA) from the perspective of representative share and quality of reasons and objectives for protection are one of the objectives of the State Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection Programme of the Czech Republic (SNCLPP). |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 2** |
|  | In general, the Aichi Target 8 is implemented quite well in national strategies, especially in the updated version of SEP (a number of proposed measures and selected objectives). This progress is closely linked to the fact, that the Czech Republic as one of the EU Member States has transposed a number of directives and regulations into its own national legislation. The main focus of these measures is on air and water pollution. Heat and light pollution remain yet to be sufficiently addressed. |
| **Action 6a & 6b: Ecosystem restoration and green infrastructure** | In order to monitor landscape fragmentation such indicators shall be set which show the extent of fragmentation/connectivity of natural and semi-natural ecosystems, rate of forest fragmentation and which can evaluate the rate of fragmentation and regulation of watercourse systems as well. The revised national objectives concerning Aichi Target 5 shall include new indicators, allowing more efficient monitoring of trend changes and achieving of objectives. It also will allow comparison of larger territorial units. |
|  | Aichi Target 14 is relatively well incorporated into national strategic and planning documents. This is because the protection of ecosystems, their interconnection and their sustainable use is an obligation of the Czech Republic arising also from other international conventions and EU legislation. Fulfilling these obligations is also in line with priorities of the Czech Republic itself in the field of nature and landscape protection. Aichi Target 14 is reflected especially in national documents such as State Environment Policy (2012), NBSAP (2005) and updated SNCLPP (2009). However it should be noted, the objectives in national documents tend to have the character of general recommendations without specification, how to achieve them. The updated version of NBSAP (2015 – 2025) shall include the methodology of national assessment of ecosystems and their services and also a clear set of objectives in this matter. |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 3** |
| **Target 3a & 3b** | The assessment of Aichi Target 7 implementation is clearly limited by setting suitable indicators allowing verification of its fulfilment and of the adopted measures efficiency. NBSAP does not have indicators, which would allow an overall assessment of this target. In this respect the updated NBSAP shall clearly define the objectives and indicators, which should be achieved at the national level. |
| **Target 3a: Agriculture** | For areas related to agriculture there are clear indicators, which should be used to monitor how the Aichi Target 7 is being fulfilled. These are indicators tied to farming methods, e.g. nitrogen balance in agrarian systems, soil quality, genetic diversity of domestic animals, population changes in commercially exploited species and also changes in the volume of harvested materials and their production. An interesting indicator could also be monitoring of diversity of produced food. Ecological farming is also an indicator used to show trends in nature-friendly farming. |
| **Target 3b: Forestry** | The key component for the forest ecosystem assessment is continuing monitoring of changes in forest types and their composition. It is also necessary to certify the forest areas managed in a sustainable way. Other important indicators are level of forest degradation and changes in the forest production (in meaning of production of wood). |
| **Target 3a & 3b** | There are also other important indicators connected in general to all the three above areas [agricultural, aquatic and forest ecosystems]: land use changes, share of products from sources managed in sustainable way, wellbeing and/or perception of existential security/poverty by the communities directly dependent on ecosystem services, rate of involvement of public and private sector into nature conservation measures etc. Most of these indicators shall be incorporated into the updated NBSAP. |
| **Action 8a & 8b: Environmental public goods in the CAP and GAEC cross-compliance** | The EU biodiversity strategy 2020 intends to strengthen Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES). In the past there were attempts to at least partially assess the impact of environmentally harmful subsidies. The review of the EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) has shown that a lot of subsidies harmful to biodiversity subsidies occur especially in agriculture. This is why the standards of Good Agricultural and Environmental Conditions (GAEC) are introduced, setting fixed conditions for disbursement of direct payments. However there is no complex analysis of harmful subsidies identifying potential conflicts, or overlap of subsidies programmes negatively affecting biodiversity. No assessment of the existing programmes from the perspective of negative impacts on biodiversity has been conducted.  Systematic remedy of harmful subsidies requires not only their identification, but also their adjustment. In the view of this objective, the updated NBSAP 2015-2025 shall provide a basic overview of all identified harmful subsidies and shall provide details about the individual steps to eliminate them. |
| **Action 9b: Rural development and biodiversity** | NBSAP supports the features, which define landscape character and it defines it as a powerful tool for landscape affected by man. It intends to realise the remaining composition parts of TSES and to limit landscape fragmentation caused by migration barriers. |
| **Action 10: Agricultural genetic diversity** | At the national level, Aichi Target 13 is fulfilled by two basic legislative norms – the act No. 148/2003 Coll. about conservation and use of genetic resources of plants and micro-organisms important for food and agriculture and about change in the act No. 368/1992 Coll., about administrative fees, as amended (Plant and Microorganism Genetic Sources Act) and act No. 154/2000 Coll., about cultivation, breeding and registry of farm animals and about change of some related acts (e.g. Breeding Act). The conditions in all these acts and their implementing regulations are carried out within the National Programme on Conservation and Utilisation of Plant, Animal and Microbial Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.   The act No. 148/2003 Coll., about genetic resources of plants and microorganisms defines the conditions and procedures for protection, conservation and exploitation of genetic sources of plants and microorganisms in the Czech Republic and are important for food and agriculture, to maintain biological and genetic diversity of world natural heritage and to allow their use for the needs of present and future generations. These conditions and procedures are defined in the National Programme on Conservation and Utilisation of Plant, Animal and Microbial Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture for 2012 – 2016. |
|  | NBSAP shall also focus on monitoring of trends of density and distribution of selected species of animals and plants and on monitoring their genetic diversity. |
| **Action 11a & 11b: Forest holders and biodiversity** | NBSAP makes an independent assessment of forests including creation of a database of natural forests and a database of occupancy and types of biotopes of lower and higher plants and it intends to conserve or increase the present area of forests as a minimum basis to cover the needs of forest biodiversity conservation while safeguarding all the other forest functions. |
| **Action 12: Biodiversity in forest management plans** | Aichi Target 7 is reflected in the relevant national objectives of NBSAP, especially in the section which determines practical principles and a detailed manual of sustainable use of biodiversity components, as well as in the section which applies principles of ecosystem approach in the basic ecosystems and habitats in the Czech Republic into strategic materials of the Ministry of the Environment (MoE) and Ministry of Agriculture (MoA). NBSAP also requested monitoring and assessment of the impact of economic interference, conservation programmes and management plans on biodiversity, with a focus on forests, agriculture and aquatic ecosystems.  For the area of forest biodiversity exploitation, NBSAP defines, how the ecosystem approach principle should be applied, whereas also other, e.g. socio-economic aspects shall be considered. The defined objective was to prepare a strategy for further procedure, when alleviating the negative impacts o on forest biodiversity. Using the outcomes of the already commissioned study, methodology of status description and monitoring of forest ecosystem biodiversity shall be completed. |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 4** |
|  | Not applicable. |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 5** |
|  | Inclusion of Aichi Target 9 into national strategic documents of the Czech Republic seems sufficient to some extent (even though they do not explicitly mention year 2020 as a deadline for extermination or suppression of the priority invasive alien species), but on the other hand, a number of measures are defined quite generally and not very specifically. The problem of invasive alien species is reflected in some legislative documents of the Czech Republic, for example the act. No. 114/1992 Coll. about protection of nature and landscape, act No. 326/2004 Coll., about herbal medicine, act No. 289/1995 Coll., about forests, act No. 449/2001 Coll., about hunting, act No. 254/2001 Coll. about water, act No. 99/2004 Coll. about fishing, public notice No. 215/2008 Coll. about measures against introduction and spreading of harmful organisms, plants and plant products. The baseline is the fact that the question of invasive alien species is not covered by a specialised act in Czech legislation yet. The basic indicator of Aichi Target 9 is the number of documented invasive alien species on the territory of the Czech Republic. This indicator is also defined in the State Environment Policy (indicator: invasive species), where it reflects the total amount of invasive alien species and also the share of dangerous invasive species including the share of the species, against which measures are taken. |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 6** |
| **Action 17c: Drivers of biodiversity loss** | In 2013, the Ministry of the Environment commissioned a study aiming at a methodology to identify and tackle environmentally harmful subsidies.  Systematic remedy of harmful subsidies requires not only their identification, but also their adjustment. In the view of this objective, the updated NBSAP 2015-2025 shall provide a basic overview of all identified harmful subsidies and shall provide details about the individual steps to eliminate them. |
| **Action 18a: Resources for global biodiversity conservation** | As far as the volume of funding is concerned, the most significant source of financing for environment protection in the Czech Republic is provided by the government in the form of subsidies, no-interest lease and guarantees for commercial loans.  Other significant sources of funding for environmental conservation are the State Environmental Fund of the Czech Republic, regional budgets as well as budgets of municipalities and regions. Environmental spending is monitored by the Czech Statistical Office (investments and non-investment costs for environmental conservation, economical benefit from activities to protect environment) and Ministry of Finance (expenses for environment protection from public budgets) (SEF 2011).  Due to Aichi Target 20 the updated NBSAP strategy shall contain a communication strategy and methodology for using available innovative financial mechanisms and involvement of private sector into the biodiversity conservation financing. |
| **Action 20: Access to genetic resources and sharing of benefits** | At present legislative steps are being prepared, which are necessary to ratify the Nagoya Protocol and its subsequent implementation at the national level. |

# Denmark

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| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 1** *(Please note that information from Member States in relation to Action 1a is supplied to the European Commission via other reports. To avoid duplication of reporting, information relating to Action 1a has not been included in this report)* |
| **Action 1b: Natura 2000 (and other protected areas)** | Biological diversity is integrated into a number of strategies and policies, and represents a central element of physical planning (see also chapter 1 and 2). Nature is one of the major elements of the government's new strategy for sustainable development "Sustainable development - development on balance”  Consideration for biodiversity is integrated in several parts of the Danish legal and physical planning systems. There has been a special focus on integration of the requirements following from the Habitats and Birds Directives into the sector legislation.  **Data link:**  <http://www.fm.dk/publikationer/2014/et-baeredygtigt-danmark-udvikling-i-balance/~/media/Publikationer/Imported/2014/Et%20b%C3%A6redygtigt%20danmark/et%20b%C3%A6redygtigt%20danmark_udvikling%20i%20balance_web_a.pdf> |
| **Action 1c: Natura 2000 (and other protected areas)** | Presently, a first generation of Nature Plans for Nature 2000 areas (for the period 2009-2015) is under implementation and supports the achievements of several of the nature-related goals. Preparations for the second generation of nature plans for the period 2016-2020 are in progress. The first generation of River Basin Management Plans is adopted and will further contribute to the achievement of these. The plans include substantial nature restoration objectives and management measures.  **Data link:**  <http://naturstyrelsen.dk/vandmiljoe/vandplaner/vandplaner-(2009-2015)/vedtagne-vandplaner-2009-2015/> [to be updated by the Member State] and <http://naturstyrelsen.dk/nyheder/2014/dec/6-6-mia-kroner-til-renere-vand-og-bedre-natur/> |
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| All Natura 2000 sites have management plans designed to halt the decline in biological diversity and to maintain and restore conservation status for species and habitats.  **Data link:**  <http://naturstyrelsen.dk/naturbeskyttelse/natura-2000/natura-2000-planer/natura-2000-planer-2009-15/> |
| Denmark's obligation to protect and manage Natura 2000 sites in accordance with the EU Directives has resulted in six-year Natura 2000 plans for each individual Natura 2000 site (there is an exception for woodlands and forests protected by Danish protected forest regulations, which are managed through 12-years plans). The management plans were adopted (slightly delayed) in 2011.  Natura 2000 planning processes are provided for by law. These plans are subject to wide public consultations and include a baseline analysis, long-term goals for the individual Natura 2000 area and a legally binding action program for the coming 6 years to be implemented by local and state authorities.    **Strategy and actions**  The first-generation Natura 2000 plans (for the period 2010-2015) stipulate first and foremost that initiatives are targeted to halt the decline in species and habitats indicated in their Natura 2000 designation. The basic initiatives are the first inevitable steps towards meeting the Directive's goal to secure or re-establish favourable conservation status. Standard initiatives comprise not only comprehensive management measures (grazing etc) but also "one-off" events, e.g. improved hydrology, reducing disturbances and taking steps to prevent the destruction of forest habitats and marine reefs.  The Natura 2000 plans for the first plan period (2010-2015) stipulate in all the following:   * Management of about 130,000 hectares (grazing, mowing etc. - all registered open natural habitats including peripheral fragmented areas, etc.). * The restoration of natural hydrology to be established in a further 14-16,000 hectares (in particular raised bogs, fens and salt marshes). * 30-34,000 hectares will be cleared with a view to subsequent improvements of hydrology or in preparation for ongoing management (grazing etc.). * 20,000 hectares of forest are protected from felling, and extensive forestry is ensured (all registered forest areas). Initiatives will continue until the end of 2021. * Disturbances reduced for birds and marine mammals by establishing new or enlarged sanctuaries in 12 Natura 2000 sites. * Marine reefs will be protected from bottom-contacting gear (Fisheries Act). * Impact of ammonia will be reduced (Livestock approval legislation was toughened in 2011).   Further to this, substantial contribution to the restoration of conservation status will come from the River Basin Management Plans (reduction of nutrients leak and restoration of watercourses) which is especially relevant, as > 80 % of the Danish sites are aquatic, mainly marine. The next generation of River Basin Management Plans is launched for public consultation on 22 December 2014. Locam water councils have been involved in the drafting of the plans.  Measures for management and restoration include voluntary subsidy schemes under the auspices of the Rural Development Programme, establishing subsidies for grazing and cutting, to improve hydrology and to encourage more extensive forestry and protection of woodland habitats. A number of large nature restoration projects have been initiated and concluded. The allocation of financing for this active management of Natura 2000 sites following from the first generation of Natura 2000 plans was decided at a cost level of totally about DKK 1.8 billion. It is too early to evaluate the effect of the plans as implementation is ongoing.  Draft second-generation Natura 2000 plans (for the period 2016-2021) are launched for public consultation by 19nd December 2014, including further measures to support and improve the conservation status of species and habitats. |
| **Action 2: Adequate financing of Natura 2000** | Based on the Danish Parliament’s agreement on green growth from 2010 1,8 billion Dkr have been earmarked for financing for measures to support the achievement of the Natura 2000 conservation objectives in the first planning period. The financing comes mainly from the rural development funds and from the LIFE programme.  Further to this the new Danish Nature Conservation Plan a national nature preservation foundation was established in 2014 with 500 mio DKK as a start capital from the government and additional private funding. Establishment of new nature areas will benefit the environment, the climate and flora and fauna.  Decisions on the allocation of financing for the second generation of Natura 2000 management plans have been adopted. |
| **Action 3a: Stakeholder awareness and enforcement** | Information and involvement of stakeholders (public consultation) is an integrated part of the of the Natura 2000 management plan regime. |
| **Action 3b: Stakeholder awareness and enforcement** | In Denmark there is an ongoing open dialogue between the authorities, key stakeholder groups including farmers and fishermen and NGO’slocal authorities on nature protection including the management of Natura 2000 sites. |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 2** |
|  | The River Basin Management Plans have as an overall target to reduce nitrate by 7800 tons by 2021 by different measures (wetlands, restoration of watercourses, stop for cultivation etc in special areas etc.). The designation of 25,000 ha with 9 metre-wide buffer zones along their edges in which pesticides, fertilisation and cultivation is banned along all watercourses and lakes with a surface area of over 100 m2 will contribute to the reduction. |
| **Action 4a: Monitoring and reporting** | A monitoring system for certain types of natural habitats and species is implemented (NOVANA) |
| **Action 5: Knowledge of ecosystems and their services** | A national project on ecosystem mapping and ecosystem assessing and accounting will be finalised by the end of 2015. A comprehensive registration of all sites subject to protection under paragraph 3 in the national Nature Protection Act will be completed in 2015. These areas will be further protected through prohibiting the use of pesticides and fertilizers. A pilot project has been conducted in 2014  **Data link:**  <http://naturstyrelsen.dk/naturbeskyttelse/national-naturbeskyttelse/beskyttede-naturtyper-3/opdatering-af-3-natur/> |
| **Action 6a & 6b: Ecosystem restoration and green infrastructure** | Further to the conservation, restoration and management of the Natura 2000 sites mentioned above, Denmark focuses heavily on the protection and conservation of existing biodiverse habitats and ecosystems, and a large element of existing efforts is aimed at retaining and improving them. Establishment of 25,000 hectares of pesticide, cultivation and fertiliser free buffer zones along watercourses and lakes, plus the establishment of wetlands and woods.  Due to the Nature Plan Denmark a biodiversity map has been developed.  **Data link:**  <http://naturstyrelsen.dk/naturbeskyttelse/biodiversitet/hvordan-bevarer-vi-biodiversiteten/danmarks-biodiversitetsstrategi-2014-2020-naturplan-danmark/> |
|  | In the new Danish Nature Conservation Plan[[1]](#footnote-1) further 25.000 hectares will be developed into nature areas including 3.400 hectares of forest. The Nature Strategy also focus on biodiversity in forests, and on improving/restoring biodiversity in state owned forests. All state owned forest is already managed through careful nature management.  **Data link:**  <http://naturstyrelsen.dk/naturbeskyttelse/biodiversitet/hvordan-bevarer-vi-biodiversiteten/danmarks-biodiversitetsstrategi-2014-2020-naturplan-danmark/> |
|  | Denmark has designated a large number of protected sites at land and in the sea, following with the Natura 2000 programme. On land, over 9% of the total area is protected as Natura 2000 areas. 18% of territorial waters are protected. |
|  | Denmark focuses heavily on protection of habitats and ecosystems, and a large element of existing efforts is aimed at retaining and improving them. |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 3** |
| **Action 8a: Environmental public goods in the CAP and GAEC cross-compliance** | The development of more nature-friendly farming and organic farming has been promoted by financial subsidy schemes. 5 year environment and organic schemes have been promoted for management of grassland and natural areas, including 1-year subsidy schemes for extensive farming. Substantial parts of the schemes have been targeted to Natura 2000 sites. |
|  | The government has defined a target of doubling the existing area (by 2011) of organic farming before 2020. Today organic farming covers 7% of the agricultural areas.  **Data link:**  <http://fvm.dk/landbrug/indsatsomraader/oekologi/oekologisk-handlingsplan-2020/> [to be updated by the Member State] |
| **Action 8b: Environmental public goods in the CAP and GAEC cross-compliance** | A long-term target within forestry is the doubling of woodland areas within a tree generation, to extent the amount of afforested land to 20-25% of Denmark’s area. Further to this special forest protection schemes for Natura 2000 sites are developed. |
|  | A national forest programme will be launched early 2015. The programme will put focus on mapping and registration of valuable nature and rich biodiversity areas with the aim of maintaining these areas.  All state owned forests have forest management plans. The planning ensures sustainable management and includes restoration and biodiversity concerns. In the new generation of management plans currently being developed a broad range of biodiversity projects are being implemented. The new Nature Strategy and the upcoming revision of the national forest program will ensure further actions on improving biodiversity in the state owned forests. |
| **Action 8a & 8b: Environmental public goods in the CAP and GAEC cross-compliance** | “Nature’s Day” is held every year and focuses on public awareness of nature and biodiversity. The initiative also includes education and is supported by private funds (5,3 mio DKK). Beside “Nature’s Day” other initiatives with a focus on public awareness such as “The Wild Flowers Day” and “The Biodiversity Day” are held.  To promote public debate on nature and biodiversity, the Ministry of the Environment published "Biodiversity, a Public Issue" in 2011. |
|  | Denmark has established several schemes and regulations to reduce harmful subsidies and to provide positive economic incentives of importance for biodiversity. |
|  | Denmark's natural landscape areas represent 26% of the total, of which woodlands account for around 14%, but both types of area are on the increase. |
| **Action 9a & 9b: Rural development and biodiversity** | Specific subsidy schemes under the national Rural Development Programme have been set up for protection of threatened species living on open land and in woodland. Stewardship of 110,000 ha including clearing of 34,000 ha and creation of 11,000 ha natural waterlevel-  The Nature Agency has set up an advisory scheme with information on the national subsidy schemes under the RDP, and a special campaign for highly endangered species was launched in early 2014  **Data link:**  <http://naturstyrelsen.dk/media/nst/8798564/Truede%20dyrearter-enkelt.pdf> |
|  | The newly established national nature preservation foundation and Danish Nature Conservation Plan contribute to the establishment of more - and more coherent - natural landscapes, to restore natural habitats and to prevent further fragmentation of natural habitats.  **Data link:**  <http://naturstyrelsen.dk/naturbeskyttelse/biodiversitet/hvordan-bevarer-vi-biodiversiteten/danmarks-biodiversitetsstrategi-2014-2020-naturplan-danmark/> |
|  | Denmark has decided to utilize funds from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (RDP) which contains several schemes for financing of nature management, nature restoration activities and for protection of threatened species. |
| **Action 10: Agricultural genetic diversity** | The state forests (18% of Denmark's total forest area) are managed based on near-natural principles, and certified to FSC and PEFC standards. |
|  | Denmark has ratified the FAO's international treaty on genetic plant resources for agriculture, and has signed the FAO’s Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources and the Interlaken Declaration.  Strategies for the preservation of plant and animal genetic resources are described in: The Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries' action plan 2011-13 for agriculture's plant genetic resources, The Gene Resource Committee's strategy 2009-2012 for preservation of genetic resources for Danish livestock and in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries bee breeding strategy 2009 – 2013.  The Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries has earmarked specific funds for the preservation of agriculture's genetic resources. Funds have also been obtained from other sources, such as via the ministry's agreement with Aarhus University on consultancy.  A gene preservation programme for trees and shrubs has been set up, to ensure the preservation and use of genetic resources. A total of 81 species are the subject of a network of preservation zones on the Nature Agency's areas, approx. 2900 ha have been registered as gene preservation zones, approx. 1550 ha are designated for seed supply, and around 32 seed nurseries have been set up through the Nature Agency's seed programme since 2000. A new national committee has been established for Conservation of Animal Genetic Resources and Rare Danish Breeds. The committee is to coordinate and take care of all genetic resources conservation activities, including a gene bank, breeder support and information activities. The committee has been tasked to develop a new national strategy for conservation of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture in 2014.  **Data link:**  <http://naturstyrelsen.dk/80760> |
| **Action 11a: Forest holders and biodiversity** | "Woodland's Day" is held every year in private and public-owned woodlands, designed to increase awareness of the diversity of woodland, and sustainable exploitation of their resources. (The Danish Forest Association, private and public-owned woodland, supported by private funds). |
| **Action 11b: Forest holders and biodiversity** | The Green Growth Agreement from 2009 included the protection of 20,000 ha of particularly valuable woodland in Natura 2000 sites against felling and conversion.  State-owned forests have been tasked with ensuring natural values and biodiversity as a key operational objective. Areas of untouched woodland or traditional management have been designated, equivalent to around 12% of the state forests.  The state forests are being converted to close-to-nature management, including giving more consideration to nature, biodiversity, groundwater protection and recreation.  According to the Danish Plan for Nature Conservation the state owned forest areas will be carefully managed to improved biodiversity i.a. through various measures.  **Data link:**  <http://naturstyrelsen.dk/naturbeskyttelse/biodiversitet/hvordan-bevarer-vi-biodiversiteten/danmarks-biodiversitetsstrategi-2014-2020-naturplan-danmark/> |
|  | Hunting is a popular pursuit/hobby in Denmark, and generates around DKK 88 million in licence fees, of which a large portion goes to financing programmes to conserve and improve specific species and natural landscapes.  The 2004 Danish Woodlands Act was designed to promote sustainable forestry, including the preservation and increase of biological diversity. Along with certification of the state forests, the act means that Danish woodlands are run in a more sustainable manner now than 10 years ago to the benefit of biodiversity. |
| **Action 12: Biodiversity in forest management plans** | The majority of Danish woodlands are subject to a preservation order, protecting them against conversion to other purposes. |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 4** |
| **13a: Fish stock management** | Conservation status of important species of fish in Danish waters. Assessments are based on the volume of spawning biomass. (√) indicates that the spawning biomass exceeds the threshold required for good conservation status and (÷) indicates that biomass is under the required threshold. Grey indicates that we have insufficient data to assess conservation status or that there are no stock present in the waters.   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | *Cod* | *Haddock* | *Saithe* | *Norway Pout* | *Herring* | *Sandeel* | *Sprat* | *Mackerel* | *Plaice* | *Common Sole* | | *North Sea and Skagerrak* | **÷** | **√** | **÷** | **√** | **√** | **√** |  | **√** | **√** | **√** | | *Kattegat* | **÷** | **√** | **÷** | **√** | **√** |  |  |  |  | **÷** | | *Western part of the Baltic* | **√** |  |  |  | **÷** |  | **√** |  |  |  | |
| **14a: Adverse impacts on fish stocks, species, habitats and ecosystems** | The Blue Reef Habitat Restoration Project has restored and protected a large reef (covering almost 7 hectares) at Læsø Trindel in a Natura 2000-designated area 11 kilometres north-east of the island of Læsø in northern Kattegat. An area of about 6 hectares of the pre-existing reef is now stabilised. 86,000 tons of rock were deposited on the reef during the project, which was completed in April 2013. The aim was to rehabilitate the reef and provide good living conditions for creatures living on the benthic (seabed-dwelling) algae and fish.    Total numbers of seaweeds and fish as well as sessile and motile animals at three depth intervals and at all three depths totally were investigated at Læsø Trindel in 2007 and 2012. Animal species were divided into four sub-groups: sessile, motile, infauna and epifauna. |
|  | The total number of harbour seals in Danish waters based on aerial counts made in August. The figures for 1976-1978 are estimates (due to non-standard methods of counting). The figures stated for 1993, 1995, 1997 and 1999 are the result of interpolation. Red arrows indicate epidemic years. Source: Henriksen et al. 2011 |
|  | Distribution of porpoise in the period 1997-2007. The figure shows density of satellite-tracked porpoise. Green colour denotes porpoise from the population in inner Danish waters. Blue colour denotes porpoise from the North Sea population. There are black lines around high-density areas |
| **14b: Adverse impacts on fish stocks, species, habitats and ecosystems** | Denmark's Marine Strategy (2012) sets targets for good environmental status in the sea by 2020. Programmes will be defined in 2015. |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 5** |
|  | Denmark has concentrated for many years on combating invasive species through targeted campaigns at species level, more long-term management and the provision of information. Via the NOBANIS network, information on problem species on their way into the region is shared. Denmark therefore has a good idea of which species could be in the process of introducing themselves into the country. The Nature Agency runs regular information campaigns on invasive species and will conclude a project in 2014 that gives a detailed understanding of the spreading routes used by them. · An amendment to the Executive Order on combating giant hogweed (2009) means improved opportunities for effective eradication of this invasive species. Denmark became a signatory to the International Maritime Organisation's Ballast Water Convention in 2012, designed to reduce the discharge of invasive species from ship ballast water. Denmark's Marine Strategy sets targets concerning programmes to combat invasive species. Programmes will be defined in 2015. |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 6** |
| **17a: Drivers of biodiversity loss** | In 2013, the present government adopted a "Green Transition agreement” as part of the 2014 Finance Act. This agreement provides funds of DKK 200 mill. annually in 2014-2017 for development of environmentally friendly technologies, organic farming and other activities that can contribute to the green transition. |
|  | Negative incentives such as subsidies for draining have been removed from agricultural grant schemes, and subsidies for draining and building roads in woodlands under the woodland improvement scheme have been stopped.   * Pesticide tax has been reallocated to stimulate the reduced use of those pesticides resulting in the highest load with respect to human health and the environment.   Specific subsidy schemes under the national Rural Development Programme have been set up for protection of threatened species living on open land and in woodland. |
|  | Denmark has established several schemes and regulations to reduce harmful subsidies and to provide positive economic incentives of importance for biodiversity. Among other endeavours Denmark is active in the EU negotiation on establishment of a greener subsidy system for the agricultural sector. |
| **18a: Resources for global biodiversity conservation** | Through its national contribution to IUCN, Denmark has provided financial support to the international TEEB programme (The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity), which has helped create the scientific and practical foundation to be able to appreciate the value of natural resources with the aim of compiling green accounts and other measures.  Financial support has been granted for the development of green national accounts in collaboration with the World Bank.  Consideration for biological diversity and combating poverty is an integrated element in Danish foreign aid policies. |
|  | The latest Danish report to the Biodiversity Convention Secretariat on resource mobilisation for nature preservation purposes states and annual contribution of DKK 2.3 billion, equivalent to USD 390 million p.a. (average for 2006-2010). This amount corresponds to approx. DKK 410 per person per year, or 0.13% of GNAs such, Denmark's contribution per capita is one of the very highest compared to other developed nations. In addition, ratification and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol plays a vital role, as implementation will facilitate benefit-sharing with the developing countries supplying the genetic resources for new medicines, enzymes, cosmetics etc. |
| **Action 20: Access to genetic resources and sharing of benefits** | Denmark has been one of the leading proponents for ratification of the Nagoya Protocol within the EU and internationally. We will continue to strive nationally, within the EU and globally to ensure the goal can be reached.  Parliament passed a new law in December 2012 on regulation of the use of genetic resources from abroad by domestic consumers (businesses and scientists). The law is designed to protect developing countries from exploitation of their genetic resources from rainforests, coral reefs etc. for the development of medicines, enzymes, cosmetics, food products etc. without their prior consent or agreement on benefit-sharing.   * + The government has supported African countries in negotiations on the Nagoya Protocol, and continues to support focus on the development of good governance in this area in developing countries, with a subsidy of DKK 15 million for the period of 2013-2015. The subsidy is managed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the form of co-financing of an ABS Capacity Development Initiative.   + A survey of Danish businesses and academic institutions affected was performed in 2013, and the Nature Agency is currently preparing to implement the new national legislation, plus new EU and UN rules within this area as from late 2014.   Denmark is well down the road to support and prepare the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol. |

# Estonia

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| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 1** *(Please note that information from Member States in relation to Action 1a is supplied to the European Commission via other reports. To avoid duplication of reporting, information relating to Action 1a has not been included in this report)* |
| **Action 1b: Natura 2000 (and other protected areas)** | In 2012, NCDP was completed, which includes the Global Biodiversity Strategy objectives and objectives of EU biodiversity strategy that were prepared accordingly.  Several horizontal strategies and development plans relating to the objectives of the biodiversity strategy were renewed or being renewed, including the most important: RDP, Fisheries Strategy, recreational fisheries development plan, forestry development plan, the Estonian Research and Development and Innovation Strategy and the accompanying Estonian Environmental Protection and Technology Program, National Tourism Development Plan, National Waste Management Plan, Oil Shale Development Plan, Transport Development Plan. |
| **Action 1c: Natura 2000 (and other protected areas** | 46.5% of Natura SCIs are covered with management plans that make 16.6% of the country’s territory. (01 January 2014)  58 species action plans, 2 protection and management plans and 1 management plan of alien species (01 January 2014) has been drawn up. |
| **Action 2: Adequate financing of Natura 2000** | Various environmental subsidies are paid in the framework of RDP, some of which are designed to directly support biodiversity (Natura payments for private forestland, Natura payments for agricultural land, subsidies for the management of semi-natural habitats, subsidies for endangered breeds of livestock, subsidies for growing plants of local varieties).  For the funding of the preservation of biodiversity see chapter 2.3.4.  Since 2008 Natura payments have increased 6.7 times (payments for private forest land were added)  Payments for semi-natural habitats management have increased 1.6 times since 2008 due to the increase of the managed area. |
|  | Natura 2000 subsidy for private forestland is paid to compensate for nature conservation restrictions of forest management for lost revenue. Subsidy rate is 110 EUR/ha per year, or 60 EUR/ha per year, depending on the extent of the restrictions. In 2012, subsidies were paid for 55,000 ha in total of 3.7 million euros. The total budget for 2007–2013 is 25.5 million euros. |
| **Action 3: Stakeholder awareness and enforcement** | Activities, which may result in a negative impact on the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 network or integrity of the site, Natura 2000 impact assessment (EIA / SEA) in accordance with the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC Article 6, paragraph 3. Analyses and guidelines for the assessment and improvement of the practice of assessment have been prepared.  Latest EIA, SEA and Natura assessment analyses based on the estimates of parties were completed in 2010 (SEIT). The conclusion of the assessment analysis is that the main problems have remained the same compared to five years earlier analysis. Different parties consider the initiation of the EIA/SEA through the discretion decision and its motivation.  In analysing Natura assessments, it was concluded that the assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive has also improved: the quality of impact assessments has improved since 2007 mainly regarding the Natura assessment. Driven by the guide for assessing Natura impacts was amended in 2013 and this is expected to improve the quality of assessment even more.  Ministry of Environment as the EIA/ SEA supervisor estimates that the quality of the impact assessment has improved compared to 2007. |
| **Action 4a: Monitoring and reporting** | State-regulated monitoring of species and their habitats is being carried out.  All of the species of the protected category I and their habitats are monitored. Most species under category II ja III are monitored. 70% of the 215 regularly breeding birds are being monitored. |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 2** |
|  | About 3000 ha of semi-natural communities are being restored, about 25,000 ha are managed. - More than 1600 ha of natural hydrological regime of marshes and about 200 ha of cut-over peat land have been restored or being restored. |
|  | The ecological status of most of the small lakes is good. During the period of 2008–2013 sulphur dioxide (SO2) emissions decreased by 41%, the amount of volatile organic compounds decreased by 8%. - Groundwater status is mainly good. The content of nitrogen in Central Estonian intensive agricultural areas in nitrate vulnerable zones exceeds the limits in some places. Trend is variable and depends primarily on the weather - In 2012, 99.6% of the wastewater that needed purification was purified. |
| **Action 5: Knowledge of ecosystems and their services** | The principle of the ecosystem approach has been introduced to all major national programs, strategies and development plans, but there is no methodology how it should work in practice. The planning is based directly on the law, or indirectly on the restrictions set for the nature protection. At the same time several system service evaluation and determination projects have been prepared or under preparation.  Work is ongoing. |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 3** |
| **Target 3b: Forestry** | About 9% of forests are under strict protection, 25.4% on protected areas.  About 5% of woodland key habitats situated on private lands are protected with relevant agreements. Woodland key habitats on the state land are protected by the order of the Minister of the Environment. |
| **Action 9a: Rural development and biodiversity** | Share of organic farming is steadily rising. As of 01 January 2014, 12.5% of arable land was organic. 43% of agricultural land was covered with the environmentally friendly production support.  Biodiversity targets are integrated part of new Rural area RDP. |
| **Action 10: Agricultural genetic diversity** | Development plan "Collection and preservation of Plant Genetic Resource 2007–2013. Development plan for the period 2014–2020 has been drawn up.  Despite the subsidies paid in the framework of the RDP, the indigenous varieties and breeds are still in danger, but the target isbeing achieved.  The transition to the use of Internet-based databases. As of July 1, 2013 the data management system SESTO has stored information about 2,960 specimens. |
| **Action 11a: Forest holders and biodiversity** | As of 01 January 2014, 75% of forests are managed forests.  9% of the forests are strictly protected; approximately 25.4% of forest is protected.  Development plans and their strategies. RDP 2014–2020, Nature Conservation Development Plan, Forestry Development Plan 2010–2020. |
|  | Woodland key habitats on private land are also funded from the state budget. A landowner can enter into a 20-year notarial agreement, under which the compensation is paid to the landowner for loss of earnings. As of 01.01.2014, the area of woodland key habitats on commercial forest area was 8,900 ha, about 5% of key habitats on private land were covered with key habitat protection agreements and payments were made for 148,000 euros (in 2007: 54,000 euros).  Natura 2000 subsidy for private forestland is paid to compensate for nature conservation restrictions of forest management for lost revenue. Subsidy rate is 110 EUR/ha per year, or 60 EUR/ha per year, depending on the extent of the restrictions. In 2012, subsidies were paid for 55,000 ha in total of 3.7 million euros. The total budget for 2007–2013 is 25.5 million euros. |
| **Action 12: Biodiversity in forest management plans** | State forests are managed by RMK that has FSC and PEFC certificates.  95% of state forests and 74% of private forests have been covered with timely inventory data.  Subsidies to Natura 2000 private forestlands are paid in the framework of NDP.  Woodland key habitats located in private forests are protected under the Forest Act through notarized voluntary agreements, which are the basis for the payments. Outside of all protected areas, there were 4859 areas characterized as key habitats as at 01.01.2014, covering 9414 ha (Estonian Environmental Board, the environmental register). A bit less than half of those key habitats are on private land. Approximately 5% of all key habitats situated on private land are protected via 20-year contracts between the state and the landowners. See more about key habitats in 2.3.6.  The protection of biodiversity in forests is regulated in addition to the Nature Conservation Act also by the Forest Act. Forest Act provides also the obligation to leave trees (to preserve the biodiversity) in case of the clear-cutting for the purposes of maintaining biodiversity; it is necessary to ensure that the total volume of at least 5 m3 of timber per hectare. |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 4** |
| **13a: Fish stock management** | Overview of internationally regulated fish stocks in the Baltic Sea on the basis of the recommendations of ICES (2012) has been drawn up. As of the year 2012, 43% of fish stocks are in good condition. Improvement in comparison with 2006 is 5%.  Data link:  <http://www.envir.ee/orb.aw/class=file/action=preview/id=1191961/I+vahearuanne+2012_Viimane_1.pdf> [to be updated by the Member State] |
|  | The European Fisheries Fund Implementation plan for Estonia 2007–2013 has been drawn up, to organize the sustainable management of the most important fish stocks.  Data link:  <http://www.agri.ee/public/juurkataloog/KALAMAJANDUS/EKF/EKF_rakenduskava_261107.pdf> [to be updated by the Member State] |
| **13b: Fish stock management** | Estonian Fisheries Strategy 2007–2013, the Estonian Fisheries Strategy 2014– 2020 and its Implementation plan has been drawn up. |
|  | Recreational Fishing Development Plan for 2010–2013 has been drawn up. |
|  | For every year, a plan for regulating fishing is prepared. |
|  | Action Plan for crayfish for 2002–2010 and Eel Management Plan has been drawn up. |
|  | National Eel Restoration Plan has been approved. 50-80% of the total catch of eel (CITES species) is based on introduction.  Data link:  <http://www.envir.ee/orb.aw/class=file/action=preview/id=1110096/ANGERJA+TAASTAMISKAVA+L%DCHIKOKKUV%D5TE.pdf> [to be updated by the Member State] |
|  | Estonia's Development Strategy for Aquaculture sector 2014–2020 has been drawn up.  Data link:  <http://www.agri.ee/public/vesiviljelus_2020.pdf> [to be updated by the Member State] |
| **14a: Adverse impacts on fish stocks, species, habitats and ecosystems** | Programme “Protection of fish species needing state protection and endangered species and restocking of fish resources 2002–2010 (2006)”. In 2014 a new program with the perspective for eight years will be drawn up.  Data link:  <http://www.envir.ee/orb.aw/class=file/action=preview/id=402882/taastootmiseprogramm+2006+uuendus.pdf> [to be updated by the Member State] |
|  | Atlantic sturgeon reproduction was started in 2013. |
|  | In 2012 a regulation “Temporary restrictions on fishing, recreational fishing charge, the maximum number of recreational fishing gear in 2012” was adopted.  Data link:  https://www.riigiteataja.ee/akt/106032012007 |
|  | Fishing Act amendments that control illegal fishing |
|  | With the drawing up of Põlula Fish Farming Centre Development Plan for 2008–2011 the foundation for the systematic reproduction of fish resources was laid. Estonian rivers are populated every year with salmon and sea trout fish juveniles, inland bodies of water with eel, carp and crayfish juveniles.  Salmon introductions has been successful. Introduced salmons have returned to Selja, Pirita, Purtse and Valgejõgi and spawned there, which shows that it is possible to restore the salmons there. Catch of introduced salmon at coastal fishing at the Gulf of Finland has been in some areas more than 70% of the total catch.  Data link:  Kalakasvatuse veesaaste arvutusmetoodika välja arvutamine (2012)  <http://www.envir.ee/orb.aw/class=file/action=preview/id=1203397/Veesaaste_metoodika_uuring_aruanne_final.pdf> [to be updated by the Member State] |
|  | Restoration of spawning areas and opening up of fish migration routes has been started in watercourses, which is the basis and prerequisite for the restoration of fish resources. |
|  | Cormorant Conservation and Management Action Plan" was approved in 2008, and its objective was the prevention and reduction of damage caused by cormorants in fish farms and fishing gear, without endangering the cormorant population in the nature |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 5** |
|  | The list of alien species contains 953 species, 63 of them are invasive and 73 potentially invasive species 73. - In 2013, 1,976 ha of hogweed colonies were being controlled. Despite this their coverage increases (control in 2007 was 1,169 ha).  Estonia has nationally repelled the alien species (Sosnovski, Giant and Persian hogweed) of hogweed. Hogweed has been repelled in Estonia since 2005. In 2013, 1976 ha of hogweed were being repelledd. Two main targets in hogweed control are to reduce the seed bank in soil and to prevent the creation of new seeds. Three control plans of hogweed have been drawn up; the latter was for the period 2011–2015. 908,200 euros were allocated for controlling hogweed for the period 2013–2014.  In addition to the above, the following activities have been carried out in controlling alien species: control plans of raccoon dogs and Impatiens glandulifera Royle have been prepared; Pacifastacus leniusculus is being actively fished from Riksu creek to prevent its further spreading in the area.  Estonia has acceded the International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-Fouling Systems.  Accession with the Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments is being prepared. |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 6** |
|  | - In 2012, NCDP was completed, which includes the Global Biodiversity Strategy objectives and objectives of EU biodiversity strategy that were prepared accordingly.  - Several horizontal strategies and development plans relating to the objectives of the biodiversity strategy were renewed or being renewed, including the most important: RDP, Fisheries Strategy, recreational fisheries development plan, forestry development plan, the Estonian Research and Development and Innovation Strategy and the accompanying Estonian Environmental Protection and Technology Program, National Tourism Development Plan, National Waste Management Plan, Oil Shale Development Plan, Transport Development Plan (for additional information see 2.4.4.) |
| **Action 17a, 17b & 17c: Drivers of biodiversity loss** | - The most important benefits of biodiversity (natural resources) are gathered in national registries and databases.  - When preparing strategies, development plans and plannings (green network and valuable landscapes) biodiversity, and conservation requirements are taken into account.  - Registers / databases (such as EELIS) have been developed and they are the the basis of paying different subsidies, planning activities and determining resource charges.  - Regarding mapping and assessment of ecosystems see target 14, regarding resources to support biodiversity resources, see target 20, regarding genetic resources, see target 13.  - National registries / databases have a very good level of information available about the biodiversity and natural resources, such as forests, fish, wild game, ground water, surface water, semi-natural communities, non-renewable natural resources, SCIs and SPAs, species of the Habitats Directive Annex II and the Bird Directive, habitats of the Habitats Directive Annex I and nationally protected species and natural objects.  - Information in registers is the basis for paying the subsidies. |
| **Action 17c: Drivers of biodiversity loss** | - Occurrence of subsidies harmful to biodiversity is analysed in SEA-s prepared for sectorial development plans and, if needed in EIA reports of planned activities.  - Environmental charges and the environmental subsidies that are directed back to protect the biodiversity are expected to increase significantly from 2016.  - During the period of 2014–2020 the amount of support from the EU funds to support biodiversity conversation will increase.  - Regarding nationally paid biodiversity subsidies, see target 20. |
| **Action 18a: Resources for global biodiversity conservation** | The implementation of NCDP measures presumes the increasing of resources directed for the conservation of biodiversity resources.   * Environmental Charges Act was adopted in 2006 (i.e. Environmental charges make 2.8 percent of GDP). * Various environmental subsidies are paid in the framework of RDP, some of which are designed to directly support biodiversity (Natura payments for private forestland, Natura payments for agricultural land, subsidies for the management of semi-natural habitats, subsidies for endangered breeds of livestock, subsidies for growing plants of local varieties) i.e. Since 2008 Natura payments have increased 6.7 times (payments for private forest land were added). * Money from the environmental is directed back into the environment through the EIC. * The preservation of biodiversity is funded via different EU structural funds. * The protection of woodland key habitats on private land is funded from the state budget. In 2013. The amount of payment per hectare increased by 21%.  |  | | --- | | * Preservation of biodiversity is also funded through other funds, such as LIFE, LIFE+, INTERREG, EMP etc. | |
| **Action 20: Access to genetic resources and sharing of benefits** | The protocol is being ratified - there is a NCDP which includes the objectives of the Convention on Biodiversity and the goals of other conventions on biodiversity.  - For additional information see section 1.2.2; regarding agricultural crops and genetic resources of local breeds and regarding forestry crops seed orchards see section 1.3.2.  As of July 1, 2013 the data management system SESTO has stored info about 2960 specimen. |

# Finland

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| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 1** *(Please note that information from Member States in relation to Action 1a is supplied to the European Commission via other reports. To avoid duplication of reporting, information relating to Action 1a has not been included in this report)* |
| **Action 1b: Natura 2000 (and other protected areas)** | In 2012, the Finnish Government approved a resolution on the sustainable and responsible use and protection of mires and peatlands. The decision directs new land use that would significantly alter mires to peatlands that have been drained or whose natural state has otherwise been significantly changed. It is also used to implement sectoral policies and measures for sustainable use, and it is used to improve the status of the existing network of protected peatlands. As a part of the resolution, a long-term peatland protection and restoration programme will be carried out by 2025. |
| **Action 1c: Natura 2000 (and other protected areas)** | **Protected areas are suitably managed.**  New management plans have been approved for over 100 Natura 2000 sites 2009–2013, area coverage of statutory management plans is over 80%. Participatory planning methods have been developed using new internet technologies for example.  Management effectiveness of all 35 national parks was evaluated in 2010. Natura 2000 site condition assessment of over 100 sites has been conducted since 2010, including all 37 national parks. Coverage is now about 40% of the Natura 2000 network area and the aim is to have complete coverage by 2018. A PA system level management effectiveness evaluation is planned in 2015.  Establishment of Natura 2000 protected areas has complimented the existing national network and notably increased the protection of still inadequately protected marine habitats and inland waters. Five new marine Natura 2000 sites were proposed in 2012. These are awaiting approval and will extend the BSPA network.  National Ramsar working group has been established and 11 new Ramsar sites have been proposed but not yet designated.  The Green Belt of Fennoscandia is developed into a model area where conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are supported through transboundary cooperation between Finland, Russia and Norway. Its core is formed of national parks and protected areas on the territories of all three nations. Three countries will apply the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, for example, as concerns the mainstreaming of biodiversity across government and society and sustaining the ecosystem services. In 2014 the Ministry of the Environment has appointed a national working group to promote the development of the Green Belt in Finland. |
| **Action 1d: Natura 2000 (and other protected areas)** | Finland has initiated the boreal biogeographical process and cooperation at the region. |
| **Action 2: Adequate financing of Natura 2000** | Financing of the PA network through the state budget has remained stable. Financial sustainability is also ensured in the proposed national budget for 2015-2018, though cuts to the present level are foreseen.  Finland has prepared Prioritized Action Plan (PAF) according to the current NBSAP in order to increase possibilities under the new multi-annual financial framework.  The Forest Biodiversity Programme METSO 2008–2020 aims to halt the ongoing decline in the biodiversity of forest habitats and species, and establish stable favorable trends in Southern Finland’s forest ecosystems. The objective of the programme is to ensure that Finnish forests will continue to provide suitable habitats for endangered and declining species. METSO-programme is also an example of payment of ecosystem services (PES). The voluntary approach of METSO is highly valued by forest owners and the possibility to retain their property rights. |
| **Action 3a: Stakeholder awareness and enforcement** | The communication programme for the National strategy and action plan for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity 2013–2020 was updated in 2013. The programme now corresponds with the policies of the global biodiversity strategy and action plan. To support this update, an analysis was conducted of the state of biodiversity communication in Finland.  The communication programme has six theses for influential communication as well as core messages (directed to companies, decision-makers, scientific communities and citizens as well as globally) offer practical tools for more influential communication on biodiversity. The communication programme can be freely used by anyone and is available on the homepage of the Ministry of the Environment [(www.ym.fi](http://www.ym.fi/) /en-US). |
| **Action 3b: Stakeholder awareness and enforcement** | Business and Biodiversity Finland seeks to create public awareness and offers information about best practices concerning biodiversity management as well as tools for companies to implement in their own operations. The B@B network help companies to identify and manage their own impacts on nature. The initiative encourages companies to integrate biodiversity and ecosystem services in all environmental and sustainability management systems and practices. The programme is executed by FIBS in cooperation with the Ministry of Environment.  National *Guidelines for applying the IUCN Protected Area management categories in Finland* were approved in 2013 as one of the first countries in Europe; classification of established State-owned PAs has been completed in March 2014.  Over 90% of the network is owned by the state and is managed by the Metsähallitus Natural Heritage Services, working as a nationwide organization divided into three regional units. The data on protected areas has been updated in the UNEP-WCMC database on PAs. Also guidelines and GIS databases for management planning have been developed 2009–2013.  **Data link:**  <http://www.fibsry.fi/fi/fibs25-en> |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 2** |
|  | The 2013 ecological assessment of surface waters accords a good or high status to 85% of the surface area of Finnish lakes, and 65% of rivers. Only a quarter of coastal waters achieved the same status. Overall inputs of nutrients have decreased since the inception of the Action Plan, by 9% for nitrogen (N) and 10% for phosphorus (P) comparing to the BSAP baseline years (1997–2003). In the longer time perspective, since 1994, the reductions have been even larger – inputs of N and P to the Baltic Sea have been cut by 18% and 16%, respectively. |
| **Action 5: Knowledge of ecosystems and their services** | The Economics of Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity Finland (2013–2014) - project aimed to systematically incorporate the value of ecosystem services into all levels of decision-making. The project’s goal to identify Finland's most important (key) ecosystem services and propose methods to assess their current status and future trends.  **Data link:**  <http://www.syke.fi/en-US/Research__Development/Research_and_development_projects/Projects/National_Assessment_of_the_Economics_of_Ecosystem_Services_in_Finland_TEEB_Finland/National_Assessment_of_the_Economics_of_(16944)> |
| **Action 6a: Ecosystem restoration and green infrastructure** | Metsähallitus has under the METSO programme restored forests and mires in protected areas nearly 16 000 hectares between 2008 and 2013 and more than 26 000 hectares before 2008. The restored area covers approximately 0.1% of Finland’s surface area.  Finland has established a national restoration prioritization working group, the prioritization plan is expected to be ready by the beginning of 2015.  In addition, Finland together with the other Nordic countries and the Nordic Council of Ministers supported have launched a project to produce specific inputs on how the countries can formulate strategies for management and political authorities to approach restoration target. |
| **Action 6b: Ecosystem restoration and green infrastructure** | The Finnish Environment Institute had a Green infra - The dependence of ecosystem services and biodiversity on the green infrastructure -project and a follow up project, which final report is due to beginning of 2015.  **Data links:**  <http://www.syke.fi/en-US/Research__Development/Research_and_development_projects/Projects/Green_infra__The_dependence_of_ecosystem_services_and_biodiversity_on_the_green_infrastructure> |
| **Action 6a & 6b: Ecosystem restoration and green infrastructure** | National target 5: The loss of all natural habitats has been halted, and the degradation and fragmentation of natural habitats have been significantly reduced. Finland has invested in the development of the IUCN Red List of Ecosystems assessment method. The method was first introduced in September 2012, at the IUCN world congress in South Korea, and the development work will continue (Consolidation of the IUCN Red List of Ecosystems  **Data link:**  <http://portals.iucn.org/docs/2012congress/motions/en/M-072-2012-EN.pdf> |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 3** |
| **Target 3a: Agriculture** | Finland´s Agri-environmental scheme supports the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity by providing positives incentives to the farmers. In particular, two voluntary special support forms – traditional biotopes and other measures to enhance biodiversity – have had positive impacts on biodiversity. |
| **Target 3b: Forestry** | FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) So far, a bit less than 500 000 hectares of forests have been certified. Approximately 20.7 million hectares of Finnish production forests are certified under the Finnish PEFC system.  **Data link:**  <http://fi.fsc.org/index.htm> |
| **Action 10: Agricultural genetic diversity** | In Finland, there are three gene bank herds for native cattle and sheep breeds.  **Data link:**  <http://valtioneuvosto.fi/ajankohtaista/tiedotteet/tiedote/fi.jsp?oid=386980> |
|  | The national strategy for conserving the crop wild relatives was published in 2013 (Heli Fizgerald, MTT Report 121).  Preliminary strategy for preserving perennial ornamental plants was also done (Juhanoja et al. 2013)  **Data links:**  <http://jukuri.mtt.fi/bitstream/handle/10024/481549/mttraportti121.pdf>  <http://jukuri.mtt.fi/bitstream/handle/10024/481713/mttraportti123.pdf> |
| **Action 11a & 11b: Forest holders and biodiversity** | The Forest Biodiversity Programme METSO 2008–2020 aims to halt the ongoing decline in the biodiversity of forest habitats and species. The objective of the programme is to ensure that Finnish forests will continue to provide suitable habitats for endangered and declining species. METSO-programme is also an example of payment of ecosystem services (PES). The Finnish Government funds the METSO programme approx. 38 MEUR/year, which allows it to deliver annual yields of about 7 500 hectares of permanently protected areas, with temporary agreements signed to protect 6000 hectares a year. Biodiversity values of key biotopes in commercially managed forests are enhanced by nature management of about 1 500 hectares a year. |
| **Action 12: Biodiversity in forest management plans** | PEFC (Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes) promotes ecologically, socially and economically sustainable forestry throughout the world. The PEFC system includes requirements for forest management and use, verification of origin of wood raw material, as well as for the independence and competence of the auditors. |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 4** |
| **Action 13a: Fish stock management** | * The aim of the Fishing Act reform is to promote the natural reproduction of fish and to create a new regulation system for the sustainable use and management of fish stock that is based on information. In addition, the new act will simplify the fishing permit system, strengthen regional participation, clarify the roles of the different actors and increase cooperation between them. Regulation is proposed as the most important tool for fish stock management. The following new means of regulation are proposed to be included in the act, among others: * Adipose fin clipping of salmonoid and the related fish release requirement, * Introducing a maximum landing size for fish, * Approving the maximum sustainable yield and the amount of traps allowed, and * Banning the sale of fish caught by anyone other than professional fishermen   Efforts are being made to enhance the protection of depleted and threatened fish stock, in particular. The regulation of fishing would be based on regional and national management plans. The regulation would be put into effect by decrees and by the administrative decisions of the Centres for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment.  Government resolution on national Fish Passage Strategy was accepted in 2012. The purpose of the strategy and the priority axes proposed in it is to promote measures to reinforce, in particular, the natural reproduction of the threatened migratory fish stocks. |
| **Action 14a: Adverse impacts on fish stocks, species, habitats and ecosystems** | The National aquaculture spatial plan will be completed in 2014. The aim of spatial planning is to minimise the load of aquaculture in areas that are environmentally and recreationally vulnerable. The production is allocated to areas with better tolerance of emissions. The aim of spatial planning is to move the production to the outskirts of the water systems, which would also reduce the conflicts between other water system uses, such as leisure housing, recreational use and nature conservation. |
|  | The proposal for the new guidelines for environmental protection in fish farming was completed in 2013. The guidelines for environmental protection in fish farming are general guidelines on best practices in fish farming for ensuring environmental protection. The objective of the guidelines is to streamline the authorities’ operations and monitoring. In Finland, the starting point for the development of fish farming is the reconciliation of business and environmental policies. Aquaculture production will increase in Finland in the future. The aim is to create the prerequisites required for an ecologically and economically sustainable increase of production.  **Data link:**  <http://www.ym.fi/download/noname/%7BE7852D64-F250-49CF-9AFA-1A18547CB62E%7D/52538> |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 5** |
|  | Finland’s National Strategy on Invasive Alien Species was completed in April 2012. The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry has established the Finnish Advisory Board for Invasive Alien, which acts as the expert body on questions and policies concerning invasive alien species. One of the most important tasks of the Finnish Advisory Board for Invasive Alien Species is to coordinate and follow the implementation of the National Strategy on Invasive Alien Species. |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 6** |
| **Action 17c: Drivers of biodiversity loss** | The national work ongoing in Finland aims at having concrete results in 2014 on the assessment of the main values of ecosystem services, for instance, efforts underway are a project on identifying harmful subsidies and the work under the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). |
| **Action 18a: Resources for global biodiversity conservation** | Finland submitted its **Resource mobilisation strategy** to the Secretariat in March 2014 (CBD notification 2013-50). This submission builds upon the initial report in 2012 and the submission in response to notification 2012-023. The report for Finland differs from the previous because of increased reliance on Official Statistics. For the private sector only statistics on environmental expenditure in industry are reported. For the public sector the environmental protection statistics expenditure is allocated to environmental domains according to CEPA 2000 classification (Classification of Environmental Protection Activities and Expenditure)  Environmental protection expenditure allocated to biodiversity and landscape protection in the statistics is reported in the category *’Directly related to biodiversity’*. Expenditure allocated to waste management, waste water management and water protection or other environmental protection is reported in the category *’Indirectly related to biodiversity’*. Additionally, statistical data are specified in accordance with reporting requirements.  Statistical data on public sector environmental protection expenditure are consolidated. That is, money transfers between the government and municipalities have been taken into account in calculations to avoid double counting.  **Data link:**  <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/ramon/nomenclatures/index.cfm?TargetUrl=LST_NOM_DTL_LINEAR&StrNom=CEPA_2000&StrLanguageCode=EN> |
| **Action 20: Access to genetic resources and sharing of benefits** | Finland signed the **Nagoya Protocol** in June 2011 and has concluded and published a national study on the implications of the Nagoya Protocol on access and utilization of genetic resources in June 2012. The study contains administrative and legislative proposals for the implementation and ratification of the Nagoya Protocol including proposals for amendments to existing legal acts as well as a proposal for a new ABS Act. The legislation and administrative measures needed for ratifying the ABS protocol is prepared by a national ABS working group which started its work in 2013. Finland has designated a National ABS Focal Point and has an existing authority in relation to patent applications. Finland still needs to establish a National ABS Clearing House mechanism and checkpoints in line with the Protocol (e.g. research funding agencies). Finland is aiming to ratify the ABS protocol as soon as possible. |

# France

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| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 1**  *(Please note that information from Member States in relation to Action 1a is supplied to the European Commission via other reports. To avoid duplication of reporting, information relating to Action 1a has not been included in this report)* |
| **Action 4: Monitoring and reporting** | **Mesures nationales contribuant à l’Objectif d’Aichi 1**  **1. Mise en place d’un Observatoire National pour la Biodiversité**  L’ONB est l’outil de suivi des effets de la société sur la biodiversité et sur les interfaces entre la biodiversité et la société tels que présentés dans la stratégie nationale pour la biodiversité (SNB). À ce titre, il est chargé de proposer des indicateurs et de les mettre à la disposition de tous. L’ONB a pour objet le suivi de l’état et des tendances d’évolution de la biodiversité (infra-spécifique et individuelle, spécifique, écosystémique, fonctionnelle) et de ses interactions avec la société (services écosystémiques, ressources naturelles, conception de la relation société-biodiversité).  **Résultats** 🡪 Observatoire créé en 2009 et lancé en 2011 - 60 indicateurs SNB élaborés 246 consultations du public sur des sujets ayant trait à la biodiversité réalisées en ligne par le ministère en charge de l’écologie sur la période 2012-2014 (219 sur des projets de textes réglementaires – 28 sur des documents techniques dont 17 plans nationaux d’action).<http://indicateursbiodiversite.naturefrance.fr/> [to be updated by the Member State] |
| **Action 3: Stakeholder awareness and enforcement** | **2.** **Insertion de questions sur la perception de la biodiversité dans** l’**enquête permanente du Centre de recherche pour l'étude et l'observation des conditions de vie (CREDOC) sur « les Conditions de vie et les Aspirations»**.  Questions insérées dans deux enquêtes du CREDOC (2010 et 2013). Une majorité des Français dit savoir ce qu’est la biodiversité (62%), soit 3 points de plus qu’en 2010. De plus, en 2013, les Français disent que les atteintes à la biodiversité ont déjà un impact sur leur vie quotidienne (soit 7 points de plus par rapport à 2010). |
|  | **3.** **Mobilisation de la société civile sur la biodiversité par le biais de la SNB**  (orientation A : Susciter l’envie d’agir pour la biodiversité) notamment au travers de l’engagement des ONG de protection de la nature ou d’éducation à l’environnement, des têtes de réseaux (organisations professionnelles et think tanks) et syndicats.  **Résultats** 🡪 En octobre 2014, 160 associations, 154 entreprises/organisations professionnelles, 48 établissements publics, 47 collectivités territoriales et 2 syndicats adhérents à la SNB. |
| **Action 3: Stakeholder awareness and enforcement**  **Action 4: Monitoring and reporting** | **4. Sciences participatives**  Les sciences participatives sont des programmes de collecte d’informations impliquant une participation du public dans le cadre d’une démarche scientifique.  L’application des sciences participatives au domaine de la biodiversité se décline en 3  objectifs : (i) obtenir des données sur la nature et la biodiversité pour étudier son état de santé (monitoring de long terme) ; (ii) produire des outils de sensibilisation et d’éducation à la nature et à la biodiversité et (iii) former une communauté et mobiliser autour d’enjeux liés à la nature.  **Résultats** 🡪 Au moins 37 409 participants actifs en 2012 contre au moins 25 988 en 2011 (la valeur 2011 ayant été consolidée en 2012), soit + 44 % de participants actifs entre 2011 et 2012  *(This information is mapped against Action 3 and 4)* |
| **Action 1: Natura 2000 (and other protected areas)** | **Mesures nationales contribuant à l’Objectif d’Aichi 11**  **1. Stratégie de création des aires protégées terrestres métropolitaines (SCAP)**  La stratégie nationale de création des aires protégées terrestres métropolitaines (SCAP), qui vise à renforcer le réseau des espaces protégés, contribue à répondre à l'engagement de la feuille de route pour la transition écologique de faire de la France un pays exemplaire en matière de reconquête de la biodiversité. La SCAP vise à identifier les lacunes du réseau actuel et à faire des propositions de projets éligibles à partir d’un diagnostic patrimonial conduit sous la coordination scientifique du Muséum national d’histoire naturelle, puis sous l’égide des préfets de région dans un cadre régional d’actions. Son objectif est de placer, d’ici 2019, 2% au moins du territoire terrestre métropolitain sous protection forte au moyen d'outils réglementaires.  **Résultats 🡪** Identification des aires protégées permettant de montrer les zones les plus importantes en matière de biodiversité.  Au 1er juin 2013, la surface en aires protégées terrestres dans l’hexagone s'établit à 1,32% soit une surface de 7238 km², et de 28,64% dans les outre-mer, soit 25 737 km².  Il existe actuellement en France dix parcs nationaux qui couvrent près de 8 % du territoire français (49 147 km²). Par ailleurs, 172 réserves naturelles représentent environ 2 833 000 ha, sur terre et en mer |
| **2. Stratégie de création et de gestion des aires marines protégées (SCGAMP)**  La stratégie nationale pour la création et la gestion des aires marines protégées (SCGAMP), adoptée le 18 avril 2012 doit permettre d’atteindre l’objectif fixé par le Gouvernement de placer 20% sous protection des eaux sous juridiction française à l’horizon 2020, dont la moitié en zones de conservation halieutiques. Cette stratégie s’appuie sur une méthode pour la création et la gestion des aires marines protégées de façon concertée. Elle cerne des priorités par éco-régions marines, et détaille quelques principes transversaux pour le réseau des AMP. Cette stratégie permet d’accélérer le processus de mise en oeuvre d’un réseau cohérent, représentatif et efficace d’aires marines protégées sur l’ensemble des eaux françaises.  **Résultats 🡪** Le réseau de parcs naturels marins, espaces protégés spécifiquement dédiés aux milieux marins comporte au 30 juin 2014 six parcs couvrant environ 130 000 km². |
| **3. Mise en place du dispositif « Trames verte et bleue » (TVB)** :outil permettant un aménagement durable des territoires tout en assurant la préservation et la remise en bon état des continuités écologiques et en oeuvrant par là même à la conservation de la biodiversité. **Mise en place des schémas régionaux de cohérence écologique (SRCE),** nouveaux schémas d'aménagement du territoire et de protection de certaines ressources naturelles (biodiversité, réseau écologique, habitats naturels) visant le bon état écologique de l'eau imposé par la directive cadre sur l'eau.  **Résultats 🡪** Environ 30% du linéaire total de cours d’eau de l’hexagone (hors Corse et DOM) préservés de toute construction d’un nouvel obstacle à la continuité écologique (seuils et barrage en lit mineur, grands endiguements)  Environ 11% de ce même linéaire total est soumis à une obligation de restauration, dans les 5 ans, de la continuité écologique sur les seuils et barrages existants (plusieurs milliers d’ouvrages concernés). |
| **4. Mesures de protection des cours d’eau**  **Résultats 🡪** Voir ci-dessus résultats pour la Mise en place du dispositif TVB. |
| **5. Dispositions relatives aux aires protégées figurant dans la plupart des conventions et protocoles internationaux** (conventions mer régionales et leurs protocoles annexes, Convention de Berne et plans d’action liés, conventions thématiques Ramsar, CMS, AEWA, UNESCO, etc.) |
|  | **Mesures nationales contribuant à l’Objectif d’Aichi 12**  **1. Rédaction et mise en oeuvre de plans nationaux de restauration ou d’action** pour la protection des espèces de faune ou de flore menacées  **Résultats 🡪** 60 plans nationaux de restauration ou d’action en cours dont 47 dans l’hexagone et 13 dans les outre-mer. |
| **Action 3: Stakeholder awareness and enforcement** | **2.** **Mise en oeuvre des conventions internationales portant sur les espèces**  **Résultats 🡪** *CITES* : Délivrance d’environ 100 000 permis et certificats CITES par an – Engagement sur un plan national d’actions aux niveaux national, européen et international : « Lutte contre le braconnage d’éléphants et contre le trafic d’ivoire et d’autres espèces protégées ». Déclaration des parties en décembre 2013.  *CMS* : *1. AEWA* : Organisation de la MoP 5 en 2012 - soutien à l’initiative africaine (programme spécifique de l’AEWA pour l’Afrique, financement d’une unité de soutien technique à cette initiative - réalisation de projets de terrain en Afrique – signature d’un MoU sur les oiseaux de proie migrateurs d’Afrique-Eurasie.  *2. Eurobats* : Mise en oeuvre du deuxième plan d’action pour la conservation des chauves-souris de la part du Ministère chargé de l’écologie en 2009 ; renforcement des sites de protection et conservation des chauves-souris ; action de sensibilisation du grand public à travers la publication de nombreux carnets, brochures et affiches; depuis 2009, organisation chaque année de l’« European Bat Night » ; amélioration du système de recherche de données, analyse, compréhension et divulgation. Protection affective au niveau international de l’espèce Myotes escalerai (Murin d’Escalera) (Pyrènes Orientales) découverte en 2009. Arrêté ministériel du 15.09.2012 et arrêté ministériel du 23.04.2007, liste protection mammifères en France, L-411-1 du Code de l’Environnement  *3. Mémorandum « dugong »* : rédaction d’un plan national d’action pour la réunion - mise en oeuvre du plan d’action en Nouvelle Calédonie.  *4. ACAP* : rédaction d’un plan national d’action sur l’albatros d’Amsterdam – mise en place d’un plan de réduction des captures accidentelles dans les Terres australes et antarctiques françaises (TAAF) – réalisation d’un suivi scientifique continu dans les TAAF.  *5. IOSEA* : Finalisation d’un plan national d’action pour les tortues marines de l’océan. |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 2** |
| **Action 5: Knowledge of ecosystems and their services**  **Action 7: No net loss** | **Mesures nationales contribuant à l’Objectif d’Aichi 12**  **1. Volet biodiversité du plan national d’adaptation au changement climatique :**  <http://www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/Avancement-de-la-fichethematique,33263.html> [to be updated by the Member State]  Étudier les conséquences actuelles et futures des changements climatiques en poursuivant et valorisant les démarches déjà initiées dans les réseaux d’espaces protégés  Deux objectifs (i) l’identification d’espèces et de milieux particulièrement sensibles qui pourraient constituer des bons indicateurs de suivi des changements climatiques et (ii) le recensement de l’ensemble des sites d’observation des effets du changement climatique présents dans les espaces protégés afin de réfléchir à la mise en place de paramètres communs et à la bonne représentativité des milieux naturels.  *(This information is mapped against Action 5 and 7)* |
| **Action 6: Ecosystem restoration and green infrastructure**  **Action 7: No net loss** | **2. Trames verte et bleue :** outil permettant un aménagement durable des territoires tout en assurant la préservation et la remise en bon état des continuités écologiques et en oeuvrant par là même à la conservation de la biodiversité. **Mise en place des schémas régionaux de cohérence écologique (SRCE),** nouveaux schémas d'aménagement du territoire et de protection de certaines ressources naturelles (biodiversité, réseau écologique, habitats naturels) visant le bon état écologique de l'eau imposé par la directive cadre sur l'eau.  **Résultats 🡪** *1. Adoption d’un plan d’action national* contribuant à l’atténuation du changement climatique et à l’adaptation à celui-ci, notamment avec un volet centré sur la préservation de la biodiversité.  *2.* *Protection des habitats :*  - Accompagner les exploitants forestiers pour qu’ils privilégient la plantation d’espèces adaptables au climat futur;  - *Soutien aux pratiques économes en eau* à travers l’adaptation les cultures agricoles à la rareté de l'eau en s'appuyant sur les Mesures AgroEnvironnementales Territorialisées (MAET) ;  *3. Accompagnement et soutien financier aux exploitants forestiers* pour qu’ils privilégient la plantation d’espèces adaptables au climat futur ;  *4. Renforcement au soutien en faveur d’une gestion intégrée des territoires* prenant en compte les effets du changement climatique sur la biodiversité, notamment à travers:  - la mise en oeuvre de la Trame Verte et Bleue ;  - l’identification et préservation d’un réseau écologique d'outre-mer (REDOM - BEST) ;  - prise en compte du changement climatique dans la stratégie de création d'aires protégées et dans les modalités de gestion des aires protégées existantes et à venir ;  - la généralisation, conformément aux lois Grenelle, des documents de planification intégrateurs des enjeux de développement durable d'un territoire et par-là même soucieux de la préservation de la biodiversité dans un contexte de changement climatique.  *(This information is mapped against Action 6 and 7)* |
| **Action 7: No net loss** | **Mesures nationales contribuant à l’Objectif d’Aichi 14**  **1. Définition d’une politique de conservation des habitats** après structuration de la connaissance des végétations naturelles et semi-naturelles permettant de mieux cerner les enjeux en termes de conservation des végétations naturelles et des paysages associés.  **Résultats 🡪** Mise en oeuvre du projet CarHAB (Cartographie des végétations naturelles et semi-naturelles de la France). |
| **Action 5: Knowledge of ecosystems and their services** | **2. Lancement de l’évaluation française des écosystèmes et des services écosystémiques (EFESE)** en 2012 par le ministère en charge de l’écologie.  **Résultats 🡪** Définition d’un cadre conceptuel compatible avec celui de MAES.  Premier rapport d’évaluation prévu pour 2015 sur 5 écosystèmes clefs.  Évaluation du service de pollinisation réalisée à l’échelle nationale et départementale. |
| **Action 7: No net loss** | **3. Mise en oeuvre du plan d’actions zones humides**  **Résultats 🡪** Réalisation du 2ème plan d’action zones humides 2010 – 2013.  3ème plan d’action milieux humides adopté en mai 2014. |
|  | **4. Réalisation de listes rouges des écosystèmes** (UICN)  **Résultats 🡪** Réalisation d’une première étude de cas sur les zones humides de France métropolitaine –Lancement d’une étude d’application de la méthodologie sur quelques écosystèmes forestiers métropolitains. |
| **Action 6: Ecosystem restoration and green infrastructure** | **Mesures nationales contribuant à l’Objectif d’Aichi 8**  **1. Plan Ecophyto**  À la suite du Grenelle de l’environnement, le plan Ecophyto constitue l’engagement des parties prenantes – qui l’ont élaboré ensemble – à réduire l’usage des pesticides au niveau national. Le plan Ecophyto vise notamment à réduire la dépendance des exploitations agricoles aux produits phytosanitaires, tout en maintenant un niveau élevé de production agricole, en quantité et en qualité. Il est en cours de révision sur proposition du député Potier qui a remis son rapport au gouvernement fin 2014, pour renforcer son efficacité en termes de réduction des doses utilisées.  **Résultats 🡪** En tendance, entre 2011 et 2012, le recours aux insecticides et aux herbicides a diminué de 11%, tandis que le recours aux fongicides a augmenté de 6%.  Concernant les quantités de substances actives vendues (hors traitements de semences et produits de la liste "biocontrôle vert"), au global, elles sont quasiment stables (-0,1%) entre la période 2008-2010 (moyenne des valeurs des années 2008, 2009 et 2010) et la période 2010-2012 (moyenne des valeurs des années 2010, 201 et 2012).  Baisse substances problématiques pour la santé humaine classées CMR 1A et 1B (cancérigènes, mutagènes ou toxiques pour la reproduction) connaît une baisse de 63% entre 2008 et 2012.  Élaboration d’indicateurs de risque et d'impact ont été calculés pour les compartiments eau et alimentation.  Près de 300 000 professionnels ont déjà obtenu leur Certiphyto.  3 400 bulletins de santé du végétal ont été publiés en 2013 sur l'ensemble des régions grâce au réseau de surveillance biologique du territoire 40 systèmes de culture économes et performants ont été identifiés à partir des 183 systèmes suivis dans les fermes entrées dans le réseau DEPHY. |
|  | **2. Mise en oeuvre de la DCE**  La directive 2000/60/CE du 23 octobre 2000 (DCE) établissant un cadre pour une politique communautaire dans le domaine de l’eau (destinée à remplacer un certain nombre de directive, dont la directive 76/464/CEE en 2013) fixe plusieurs objectifs : (i) atteindre un bon état des eaux en 2015, sauf dérogations ; (ii) réduire progressivement les rejets, émissions ou pertes pour les substances prioritaires et (iii) supprimer les rejets d’ici à 2021 des substances prioritaires dangereuses.  **Résultats 🡪** En application de la directive cadre, une première liste de 33 substances a été adoptée comprenant des métaux, des pesticides, des hydrocarbures, (décision n° 2455/2001/CE du 20 novembre 2001), complétée par une directive (D 2008/105/ce) qui fixe des normes de qualité environnementale, applicables à 8 autres produits supplémentaires. |
| **Action 5: Knowledge of ecosystems and their services**  **Action 7: No net loss** | **Mesures nationales contribuant à l’Objectif d’Aichi 10**  **1. Plan d’action national 2006-2010 et 2010-2015 de l’Initiative**  **Française pour les récifs coralliens (IFRECOR)**  <http://www.ifrecor.org/sites/default/files/ged/11_ifrecor_planaction_2011-15.pdf> [to be updated by the Member State]  La troisième phase (2011-2015) est actuellement en cours.  **Résultats 🡪** 55 000 km² de récifs coralliens et de lagons recensés dans les eaux françaises, soit 10 % des surfaces mondiales (Onml). La deuxième phase de 2006 à 2010 a permis :  - De réaliser quatre analyses écorégionales (AER) ou analyse stratégique régionale (ASR)  - D’identifier, de cartographier et de décrire plus d’une centaine de sites remarquables  - De créer le parc naturel marin de Mayotte (68 381 km²) en 2010, tandis que l’îlot de M’Bouzi a été déclaré réserve naturelle et les plages de ponte de tortues, en arrêté de protection de biotope.  - De réaliser un travail d’analyse de l’ensemble des suivis écologiques développés dans les AMP du réseau IFRECOR  - D’explorer plus d’une dizaine de sites récifaux encore inconnus qui ont fait l’objet d’inventaires globaux  - Un document d’état des lieux des mangroves a été réalisé, sous la coordination du Conservatoire du littoral  - Poursuivre la mise en place dans toutes les collectivités d’outre-mer du réseau de suivi de l’état de santé des récifs coralliens.  - Réaliser l’évaluation de la valeur socio-économique des écosystèmes coralliens et écosystèmes associés  - Produire l’atlas des récifs des collectivités d’outremer  Du 1er juillet 2009 au 31 décembre 2011, la France a assuré conjointement avec les Samoa le secrétariat de **l’Initiative Internationale pour les récifs coralliens** (ICRI). |
|  | **2. Suivi régulier de la santé des récifs coralliens**  L’objectif global est la surveillance des écosystèmes récifaux et associés et de leur milieu environnant, comme aide à la décision pour le maintien des fonctions écologiques et socio-économiques de ces écosystèmes.  **Résultats 🡪** Réseau d’Observation des Récifs Coralliens (RORC) : opérationnel en Nouvelle Calédonie depuis 2003.  Développement d’une base de données CoReMo dans le cadre d’IFRECOR pour la bancarisation des données de suivi qui va évoluer vers une base nationale : BD récifs, totalement interopérable avec les systèmes d’information et référentiels nationaux et internationaux (élaboration en cours d'une plateforme pilote à l’échelle de l’océan Indien, appelée à être ensuite étendue à tous les outre-mer).  *(This information is mapped against Action 5 and 7)* |
| **Action 7: No net loss** | **3. Création et gestion des aires marines protégées** : La stratégie nationale pour la création et la gestion des aires marines protégées (SCGAMP), adoptée le 18 avril 2012 doit permettre d’atteindre l’objectif fixé par le Gouvernement de placer 20% sous protection des eaux sous juridiction française à l’horizon 2020, dont la moitié en zones de conservation halieutiques. Cette stratégie s’appuie sur une méthode pour la création et la gestion des aires marines protégées de façon concertée. Elle cerne des priorités par éco-régions marines, et détaille quelques principes transversaux pour le réseau des AMP. Cette stratégie permet d’accélérer le processus de mise en oeuvre d’un réseau cohérent, représentatif et efficace d’aires marines protégées sur l’ensemble des eaux françaises.  **Résultats 🡪** En juin 2014, les plus de 390 aires marines protégées (AMP) désignées, pour toutes les catégories d’AMP, représentaient 3,8 % des eaux sous juridiction française, soit 391 000 km². Au 1er janvier 2014, 40% des aires marines protégées étaient pourvues d’un document de gestion. |
|  | **4. Mise en oeuvre des protocoles des conventions mers régionales**  4.1 : Convention OSPAR (Atlantique du Nord-Est)  4.2 : Convention de Barcelone et ses protocoles (Méditerranée)  4.3 : Convention de Carthagène et ses protocoles (Caraïbes)  4.4 : Convention de Nairobi et ses protocoles (Océan Indien)  4.5 : Programme régional océanien de l’environnement (PROE) et convention de Nouméa (Océan Pacifique)  **Résultats 🡪** Afin de prévenir toute autre perte de biodiversité marine en mers régionales, la France a signé 6 conventions couvrant l’ensemble du territoire marin sous sa juridiction. |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 3** |
| **Action 9: Rural development and biodiversity**  **Action 12: Biodiversity in forest management plans** | **Mesures nationales contribuant à l’Objectif d’Aichi 7**  **1. Directive habitats faune flore et directive Oiseaux**  Les sites du **réseau Natura 2000** couvrent essentiellement des terrains agricoles et forestiers. L'objectif d'amélioration de l'état de conservation des habitats et espèces présents sur les sites Natura 2000 conduit, en sus de l'application des bonnes conditions agro-environnementales et du corpus du code forestier destiné à assurer la gestion durable des peuplements forestiers (documents cadre soumis à évaluation environnementale, documents de gestion ou code de bonnes pratiques sylvicoles), à mettre en place des mesures de restauration de milieux ou d'amélioration de la gestion réalisée.  **Résultats 🡪** 17% des terrains agricoles en zone Natura 2000 ont fait l’objet de mesures agro-environnementales.  *(This information is mapped against Action 9 and 12)* |
| **Action 9: Rural development and biodiversity** | **2. Projet agro-écologique**  Depuis 2012, le Ministère chargé de l’Agriculture (MAAF) a défini un nouveau projet pour l’agriculture visant à concilier la performance économique et la performance environnementale tout en prenant en compte la dimension sociale des exploitations agricoles. Ce projet agro-écologique vise ainsi à produire autrement en repensant nos systèmes de production afin qu'ils soient favorables à l'environnement et à la biodiversité notamment. Tous les opérateurs sont impliqués depuis les agriculteurs, les acteurs de la formation, du développement et de la recherche. A titre d’exemple la mise en place de l’IBEA, outil de diagnostic portée par des opérateurs publics ou associatifs visant à évaluer l’impact des pratiques agricoles sur la biodiversité.  La loi d’avenir agricole et forestier promulguée en septembre 2014 met en place les outils nécessaire la transition vers l’agro-écologie, en créant par exemple les GIEE (groupement d’intérêt économique et environnemental), qui permettront de mobiliser les exploitants agricoles dans des projets visant la triple performance, économique, environnementale et sociale. Enfin, dans le cadre de ses engagements dans la SNB, le MAAF développe l'Observatoire Agricole de la Biodiversité en vue de construire des indicateurs nationaux sur l'état de la biodiversité sauvage et soutient la mise en place d'une plateforme d'échange et de capitalisation des pratiques favorables à la biodiversité regroupant une centaine de partenaires.  **Résultats 🡪** Juin 2013 :1ère réunion nationale du Comité national de suivi de l'agro-écologie 11 mars 2014 : première réunion du comité de pilotage du projet agro-écologique Objectif : établir un plan d’action d’établissement les actions à conduire, leurs responsables (pilotes) et leur calendrier de réalisation.  7 plans d'actions permettent une mise en œuvre concrète des objectifs du plan agro-écologique en matière de réduction de l'utilisation des produits phytosanitaires, de soutien à l'agriculture biologique ou encore de développement durable de l'apiculture et de systèmes agroforestiers.  Un soutien financier à été apporté à une centaine de projets labellisés « Mobilisation collective pour l'agro-écologie » permettant d'enclencher des dynamiques locales sur le terrain.  Lancement officiel du projet agroécologique (« an 1 de l’agro-écologie ») en janvier 2015 par le ministre Le Foll. |
| **Action 11: Forest olders and biodiversity**  **Action 12: Biodiversity in forest management plans** | **3. Gestion durable des forêts**  La loi d’avenir agricole et forestier comprend un volet sur la mise en oeuvre d’indicateurs de gestion durable dans le Plan national Forêt Bois et leur déclinaison régionale, dans les Plans Régionaux Forêt-Bois.  **Résultats 🡪** *Forêt publique* : 100% des forêts domaniales (1,7 Mha) – 95% des forêts des collectivités publiques (2,9 Mha).  *Forêt privée* : 3,13 M d’hectares sous DGD, dont 2,9 M ha sous Plan Simple de Gestion – surface forêts>25 ha) - (30 % de la totalité de la surface forestière privée sont couverts - 82 % de la surface où ils sont obligatoires).  *PEFC* : 7,9 Mha dont (5,5 France métropolitaines et 2,4 Mha Guyane).  *FSC* : 18 000 ha  *(This information is mapped against Action 11 and 12)* |
| **Action 8: Environmental public goods in the CAP and GAEC cross-compliance** | **Mesures nationales contribuant à l’Objectif d’Aichi 13**  **1. Mise en oeuvre de la politique agricole commune** : *Mise en oeuvre des mesures agro-environnementales et climatiques (MAEC) second pilier de la PAC.* Deux MAEC portent sur la préservation des ressources génétiques, l'une sur les espèces végétales, qui a pour objectif de favoriser la culture de variétés végétales adaptées aux conditions locales et régionales et menacées d’érosion génétique, l'autre sur les espèces animales : la protection des races à petits effectifs vise à conserver sur les exploitations (et autres structures à définir) des animaux des espèces asine, bovine, équine, ovine, caprine, porcine ou avicoles appartenant à des races qui nécessitent, du fait de leurs petits effectifs et de la dynamique de la population des mesures spécifiques pour leur conservation. Mesure pertinente et conservée pour la prochaine programmation de la PAC. La liste des espèces éligibles sera laissée à l'appréciation des régions.  **Résultats 🡪** *Sur les espèces végétales*, mesure ouverte seulement dans 4 régions en 2013. L'objectif est d'étendre la mesure à partir de 2015.  *Sur les espèces animales*, 1 600 éleveurs ont bénéficié de la mesure en 2011. L'objectif pour la prochaine programmation est aussi d'étendre le dispositif. |
| **Action 10: Agricultural genetic diversity** | **2. Engagement de la France dans le Traité international sur les ressources phytogénétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture (TIRPAA).** La France est membre du TIRPAA depuis 2005. L'évolution future de l'agriculture et la sécurité alimentaire mondiale dépendent de la possibilité pour les agriculteurs, les sélectionneurs et les chercheurs d'avoir un accès facile aux ressources phytogénétiques nécessaires afin d'affronter les nouveaux enjeux agricoles et environnementaux, notamment l'accès aux informations, aux ressources techniques et financières ainsi qu'aux capacités nécessaires pour utiliser au mieux ces ressources. Le système mis en place par le Traité répond à l'interdépendance des États en matière de ressources génétiques. |
| **Action 9: Rural development and biodiversity**  **Action 12: Biodiversity in forest management plans** | **Mesures nationales contribuant à l’Objectif d’Aichi 5**  **1. Mise en oeuvre de la DHFF – DO – réseau Natura 2000**  Le réseau Natura 2000 est un ensemble de sites naturels européens, terrestres et marins, identifiés pour la rareté ou la fragilité des espèces sauvages, animales ou végétales, et de leurs habitats. Natura 2000 concilie préservation de la nature et préoccupations socio-économiques. Ce réseau mis en place en application de la Directive "Oiseaux" de 1979 et de la Directive "Habitats » de 1992 vise à assurer la survie à long terme des espèces et des habitats particulièrement menacés, à forts enjeux de conservation en Europe. Il est constitué d’un ensemble de sites naturels, terrestres et marins, identifiés pour la rareté ou la fragilité des espèces de la flore et de la faune sauvage et des milieux naturels qu’ils abritent.  **Résultats 🡪** Le réseau Natura 2000 regroupe 1758 sites représentatifs pour les habitats et espèces d’intérêt communautaire. Il est considéré comme stabilisé pour sa partie terrestre (6,9 Mha; 12,6% du territoire métropolitain); sa partie marine couvre actuellement plus de 4,1 Mha, sous réserve de compléments au large.Des plans de gestion (documents d’objectifs) sont achevés ou en cours de réalisation pour plus de 95% des sites. Il compte :  **-** 131 types d’habitats d’intérêt communautaire (57% des 231 retenus dans l’annexe I de la directive « habitats-faune-flore ») dont 28 prioritaires ; 66 se situent en zone alpine, 82 en zone atlantique, 65 en zone continentale, 91 en zone méditerranéenne (un habitat peut être présent dans plusieurs régions biogéographiques) ;  - 123 oiseaux sauvages d’intérêt communautaire (63% des 191 espèces d’oiseaux visées par l’annexe I de la directive « Oiseaux ») ;  - 159 autres espèces animales et végétales d’intérêt communautaire, incluant 93 espèces animales, dont 24 prioritaires (24% des 632 autres espèces animales et végétales visées par l’annexe II de la directive « habitats-faune-flore »).  Cf résultats du rapportage au titre des directives. |
|  | **2. Mise en place du dispositif « Trames verte et bleue » (TVB)** :outil permettant un aménagement durable des territoires tout en assurant la préservation et la remise en bon état des continuités écologiques et en oeuvrant par là même à la conservation de la biodiversité. **Mise en place des schémas régionaux de cohérence écologique (SRCE),** nouveaux schémas d'aménagement du territoire et de protection de certaines ressources naturelles (biodiversité, réseau écologique, habitats naturels) visant le bon état écologique de l'eau imposé par la directive cadre sur l'eau.  **Résultats 🡪** Socle législatif et réglementaire de la TVB inscrit au code de l’environnement. Décret adoptant les orientations nationales pour la préservation et la remise en bon état des continuités écologiques adopté le 20 janvier 2014. 7 régions ont adopté leur schéma régional de cohérence écologique au 31 décembre 2014. Le reste des régions poursuit les travaux d’élaboration et de concertation dans un calendrier qui devrait permettre à la totalité des schémas d’être adoptés en 2015.  Mobilisation des financements européens pour la période de programmation 2014-2020 : inscription dans les objectifs de l’accord de partenariat et des programmes de mise en œuvre Échange d’expérience et de bonnes pratiques au niveau européen sur les continuités écologiques et les infrastructures naturelles. (Communication de mai 2013 et groupes d’experts).  *(This information is mapped against Action 9 and 12)* |
| **Action 8: Environmental public goods in the CAP and GAEC cross-compliance** | **3. Mise en oeuvre de la DCSMM**  La directive-cadre stratégie pour le milieu marin 2008/56/CE du 17 juin 2008 (DCSMM) établit un cadre d’action communautaire dans le domaine de la politique pour le milieu marin. Elle a été publiée le 25 juin 2008. Elle constitue le pilier environnemental de la politique maritime intégrée de l’Union européenne. Ce cadre législatif doit renforcer la cohérence entre les différentes politiques et favoriser l’intégration des préoccupations environnementales dans d’autres politiques telles que la politique commune de la pêche (PCP).  **Résultats 🡪** 25 % des habitats naturels de l'annexe 1 de la Directive Habitats présents en France sont des habitats spécifiquement littoraux (34 sur 136) 75 % des habitats naturels littoraux de l'annexe 1 de la Directive Habitats cités en Europe sont présents en France (34 sur 45).  2 600 ha (CLC, 2006) de surface de milieux naturels artificialisés entre 2000 et 2006 122 sur 486 espèces et sous-espèces végétales listées dans le livre rouge présentes dans les communes littorales métropolitaines. |
|  | **4. Mise en oeuvre de la DCE :**  En 2000, la directive cadre sur l’eau a établi une base juridique destinée à protéger et à améliorer l’état des eaux européennes, ainsi qu’à assurer leur usage durable à long terme. L’objectif général de la DCE est de faire en sorte que toutes les eaux de l’UE, qu’il s’agisse des plans d’eau, des cours d’eau, des eaux littorales ou des nappes phréatiques, atteignent, sauf dérogations, un bon état d’ici à 2015.  **Résultats 🡪** Pour les masses d’eaux de surface (11 523) le bon état écologique est atteint à 43% en 2013, Pour les eaux souterraines (574) l’état quantitatif est atteint à 90% et le bon état chimique est atteint pour 65% des masses d’eau en 2013. |
| **Action 9: Rural development and biodiversity** | **5. Mise en oeuvre des conventions internationales**  **Résultats 🡪** Appui technique de la France à la mise en œuvre de la convention de Ramsar. Travaux de l’association « la Tour du Valat » pour la conservation et la gestion durable des zones humides. |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 4** |
| **Action 13: Fish stock management** | **Mesures nationales contribuant à l’Objectif d’Aichi 6**  **1. Politique Commune de la Pêche : Gestion durable des stocks et de l’activité de pêche**  Le développement d’une pêche et d’une aquaculture durables se conduit essentiellement par la mise en oeuvre de la nouvelle Politique Commune de la Pêche (PCP) adoptée le 11 décembre 2013. Celle-ci fixe les objectifs de rendement maximal durable (RMD) et de pêche durable d’une manière plus large. Le RMD garantit un faible risque d’épuisement d’un stock. Il. doit être atteint d’ici 2015 pour les stocks le permettant et au plus tard en 2020 pour l’ensemble des espèces ciblées.  **Résultats 🡪** Dans les zones de pêche de l’Atlantique du Nord-Est gérées dans le cadre de l’Union européenne, le nombre de stock des espèces commerciales pour lesquels les données recueillies permettent de déterminer le rendement maximal durable (RMD) ou permettent de rendre un avis scientifique est en nette progression. Parmi les stocks dont le RMD est connu, le nombre d’entre eux qui sont exploités au taux garantissant le RMD est passé de 5 (14% des stocks dont le RMD a été déterminé) en 2009 à 25 (61 %) en 2013. |
|  | **2. Engagements Grenelle de la mer** (Engagements 17 et 18 sur la pêche durable) Les plans pluriannuels établissent des objectifs en vue d’une gestion durable des stocks et précisent les moyens pour les atteindre. Ils permettent de maintenir l’exploitation des ressources à un niveau qui assure un rendement optimal à long terme (le rendement maximal durable) et de reconstituer les stocks surexploités.  Chaque plan pluriannuel détermine les limites de captures et l’effort de pêche maximal pour les années à venir, sur la base de données scientifiques chiffrées. |
| **Action 14: Adverse impacts on fish stocks, species, habitats and ecosystems** | **3. Mise en oeuvre de la DCSMM**  La directive-cadre stratégie pour le milieu marin 2008/56/CE du 17 juin 2008 (DCSMM) établit un cadre d’action communautaire dans le domaine de la politique pour le milieu marin. Elle a été publiée le 25 juin 2008. Elle constitue le pilier environnemental de la politique maritime intégrée de l’Union européenne. Ce cadre législatif doit renforcer la cohérence entre les différentes politiques et favoriser l’intégration des préoccupations environnementales dans d’autres politiques telles que la politique commune de la pêche (PCP).  **Résultats 🡪** 25 % des habitats naturels de l'annexe 1 de la Directive Habitats présents en France sont des habitats spécifiquement littoraux (34 sur 136) 75 % des habitats naturels littoraux de l'annexe 1 de la Directive Habitats cités en Europe sont présents en France (34 sur 45).  2 600 ha (CLC, 2006) de surface de milieux naturels artificialisés entre 2000 et 2006 122 sur 486 espèces et sous-espèces végétales listées dans le livre rouge présentes dans les communes littorales métropolitaines. |
| **4. Mise en place d’approche écosystémique par les Organisations Régionales de Gestion de la Pêche (ORGP)**  La Commission des Pêches de l’Atlantique du Nord-Est (CEPANE/NEAFC) ainsi que la Commission Générale des Pêches pour la Méditerranée (CGPM) ont mis en oeuvre des mesures de protection des écosystèmes marins vulnérables (EMVs) tels les coraux et les éponges. Ces mesures vont des règles de déplacement à la fermeture de zones à la pêche en cas de présence significative d’EMVs. |
| **5. CITES**  **Résultats 🡪** *CITES* : Délivrance d’environ 100 000 permis et certificats CITES par an – Engagement sur un plan national d’actions aux niveaux national, européen et international : « Lutte contre le braconnage d’éléphants et contre le trafic d’ivoire et d’autres espèces protégées ». Déclaration des parties en décembre 2013. |
|  | **Mesures nationales contribuant à l’Objectif d’Aichi 7**  **1. Directive habitats faune flore et directive Oiseaux**  Les sites du **réseau Natura 2000** couvrent essentiellement des terrains agricoles et forestiers. L'objectif d'amélioration de l'état de conservation des habitats et espèces présents sur les sites Natura 2000 conduit, en sus de l'application des bonnes conditions agro-environnementales et du corpus du code forestier destiné à assurer la gestion durable des peuplements forestiers (documents cadre soumis à évaluation environnementale, documents de gestion ou code de bonnes pratiques sylvicoles), à mettre en place des mesures de restauration de milieux ou d'amélioration de la gestion réalisée.  **Résultats 🡪** 17% des terrains agricoles en zone Natura 2000 ont fait l’objet de mesures agro-environnementales. |
| **Action 13: Fish stock management**  **Action 14: Adverse impacts on fish stocks, species, habitats and ecosystems** | **2. Projet agro-écologique**  Depuis 2012, le Ministère chargé de l’Agriculture (MAAF) a défini un nouveau projet pour l’agriculture visant à concilier la performance économique et la performance environnementale tout en prenant en compte la dimension sociale des exploitations agricoles. Ce projet agro-écologique vise ainsi à produire autrement en repensant nos systèmes de production afin qu'ils soient favorables à l'environnement et à la biodiversité notamment. Tous les opérateurs sont impliqués depuis les agriculteurs, les acteurs de la formation, du développement et de la recherche. A titre d’exemple la mise en place de l’IBEA, outil de diagnostic portée par des opérateurs publics ou associatifs visant à évaluer l’impact des pratiques agricoles sur la biodiversité.  La loi d’avenir agricole et forestier promulguée en septembre 2014 met en place les outils nécessaire la transition vers l’agro-écologie, en créant par exemple les GIEE (groupement d’intérêt économique et environnemental), qui permettront de mobiliser les exploitants agricoles dans des projets visant la triple performance, économique, environnementale et sociale. Enfin, dans le cadre de ses engagements dans la SNB, le MAAF développe l'Observatoire Agricole de la Biodiversité en vue de construire des indicateurs nationaux sur l'état de la biodiversité sauvage et soutient la mise en place d'une plateforme d'échange et de capitalisation des pratiques favorables à la biodiversité regroupant une centaine de partenaires.  **Résultats 🡪** Juin 2013 :1ère réunion nationale du Comité national de suivi de l'agro-écologie 11 mars 2014 : première réunion du comité de pilotage du projet agro-écologique Objectif : établir un plan d’action d’établissement les actions à conduire, leurs responsables (pilotes) et leur calendrier de réalisation.  7 plans d'actions permettent une mise en œuvre concrète des objectifs du plan agro-écologique en matière de réduction de l'utilisation des produits phytosanitaires, de soutien à l'agriculture biologique ou encore de développement durable de l'apiculture et de systèmes agroforestiers.  Un soutien financier à été apporté à une centaine de projets labellisés « Mobilisation collective pour l'agro-écologie » permettant d'enclencher des dynamiques locales sur le terrain.  Lancement officiel du projet agroécologique (« an 1 de l’agro-écologie ») en janvier 2015 par le ministre Le Foll. |
|  | **3. Gestion durable des forêts**  La loi d’avenir agricole et forestier comprend un volet sur la mise en oeuvre d’indicateurs de gestion durable dans le Plan national Forêt Bois et leur déclinaison régionale, dans les Plans Régionaux Forêt-Bois.  **Résultats 🡪** *Forêt publique* : 100% des forêts domaniales (1,7 Mha) – 95% des forêts des collectivités publiques (2,9 Mha).  *Forêt privée* : 3,13 M d’hectares sous DGD, dont 2,9 M ha sous Plan Simple de Gestion – surface forêts>25 ha) - (30 % de la totalité de la surface forestière privée sont couverts - 82 % de la surface où ils sont obligatoires).  *PEFC* : 7,9 Mha dont (5,5 France métropolitaines et 2,4 Mha Guyane).  *FSC* : 18 000 ha  *(This information is mapped against Action 13 and 14)* |
| **Action 14: Adverse impacts on fish stocks, species, habitats and ecosystems** | **Mesures nationales contribuant à l’Objectif d’Aichi 10**  **1. Plan d’action national 2006-2010 et 2010-2015 de l’Initiative**  **Française pour les récifs coralliens (IFRECOR)**  <http://www.ifrecor.org/sites/default/files/ged/11_ifrecor_planaction_2011-15.pdf> [to be updated by the Member State]  La troisième phase (2011-2015) est actuellement en cours.  **Résultats 🡪** 55 000 km² de récifs coralliens et de lagons recensés dans les eaux françaises, soit 10 % des surfaces mondiales (Onml). La deuxième phase de 2006 à 2010 a permis :  - De réaliser quatre analyses écorégionales (AER) ou analyse stratégique régionale (ASR)  - D’identifier, de cartographier et de décrire plus d’une centaine de sites remarquables  - De créer le parc naturel marin de Mayotte (68 381 km²) en 2010, tandis que l’îlot de M’Bouzi a été déclaré réserve naturelle et les plages de ponte de tortues, en arrêté de protection de biotope.  - De réaliser un travail d’analyse de l’ensemble des suivis écologiques développés dans les AMP du réseau IFRECOR  - D’explorer plus d’une dizaine de sites récifaux encore inconnus qui ont fait l’objet d’inventaires globaux  - Un document d’état des lieux des mangroves a été réalisé, sous la coordination du Conservatoire du littoral  - Poursuivre la mise en place dans toutes les collectivités d’outre-mer du réseau de suivi de l’état de santé des récifs coralliens.  - Réaliser l’évaluation de la valeur socio-économique des écosystèmes coralliens et écosystèmes associés  - Produire l’atlas des récifs des collectivités d’outremer  Du 1er juillet 2009 au 31 décembre 2011, la France a assuré conjointement avec les Samoa le secrétariat de **l’Initiative Internationale pour les récifs coralliens** (ICRI). |
|  | **2. Suivi régulier de la santé des récifs coralliens**  L’objectif global est la surveillance des écosystèmes récifaux et associés et de leur milieu environnant, comme aide à la décision pour le maintien des fonctions écologiques et socio-économiques de ces écosystèmes.  **Résultats 🡪** Réseau d’Observation des Récifs Coralliens (RORC) : opérationnel en Nouvelle Calédonie depuis 2003.  Développement d’une base de données CoReMo dans le cadre d’IFRECOR pour la bancarisation des données de suivi qui va évoluer vers une base nationale : BD récifs, totalement interopérable avec les systèmes d’information et référentiels nationaux et internationaux (élaboration en cours d'une plateforme pilote à l’échelle de l’océan Indien, appelée à être ensuite étendue à tous les outre-mer). |
|  | **3. Création et gestion des aires marines protégées**:La stratégie nationale pour la création et la gestion des aires marines protégées (SCGAMP), adoptée le 18 avril 2012 doit permettre d’atteindre l’objectif fixé par le Gouvernement de placer 20% sous protection des eaux sous juridiction française à l’horizon 2020, dont la moitié en zones de conservation halieutiques. Cette stratégie s’appuie sur une méthode pour la création et la gestion des aires marines protégées de façon concertée. Elle cerne des priorités par éco-régions marines, et détaille quelques principes transversaux pour le réseau des AMP. Cette stratégie permet d’accélérer le processus de mise en oeuvre d’un réseau cohérent, représentatif et efficace d’aires marines protégées sur l’ensemble des eaux françaises.  **Résultats 🡪** En juin 2014, les plus de 390 aires marines protégées (AMP) désignées, pour toutes les catégories d’AMP, représentaient 3,8 % des eaux sous juridiction française, soit 391 000 km². Au 1er janvier 2014, 40% des aires marines protégées étaient pourvues d’un document de gestion. |
| **Action 13: Fish stock management**  **Action 14: Adverse impacts on fish stocks, species, habitats and ecosystems** | **4. Mise en oeuvre des protocoles des conventions mers régionales**  4.1 : Convention OSPAR (Atlantique du Nord-Est)  4.2 : Convention de Barcelone et ses protocoles (Méditerranée)  4.3 : Convention de Carthagène et ses protocoles (Caraïbes)  4.4 : Convention de Nairobi et ses protocoles (Océan Indien)  4.5 : Programme régional océanien de l’environnement (PROE) et convention de Nouméa (Océan Pacifique)  **Résultats 🡪** Afin de prévenir toute autre perte de biodiversité marine en mers régionales, la France a signé 6 conventions couvrant l’ensemble du territoire marin sous sa juridiction.  *(This information is mapped against Action 13 and 14)* |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 5** |
| **Action 16: Instrument on Invasive Alien Species** | **Mesures nationales contribuant à l’Objectif d’Aichi 9**  **1. Définition d’une stratégie nationale de lutte contre les espèces exotiques envahissantes (EEE)**  Constitution d’un réseau de surveillance des invasions biologiques ; Développement de la réglementation et de la police de la nature ; Mise en place de plans de lutte contre les espèces exotiques envahissantes ; Sensibilisation du public.  Réalisation d’une analyse des coûts des mesures de gestion et de lutte contre les EEE à l’échelle nationale et évaluation des bénéfices attendus.  **Résultats 🡪** Rédaction de deux plans nationaux de lutte en 2009 (écureuil à ventre rouge, herbe de la pampa), rédaction d’un nouveau plan en 2013 (érismature rousse).  Développement d’un programme spécifique pour l’outre mer : mise en place d’une stratégie de lutte contre les espèces exotiques envahissantes à la Réunion.  Différentes actions de communication : problématique des espèces exotiques envahissantes choisie comme thème de la journée internationale de la biodiversité en 2009.  Réalisation d’une exposition en vue d’informer le grand public. |
| **2. Mise en œuvre du règlement UE de lutte contre les espèces exotiques envahissantes** prévoyant un dispositif de surveillance, d’alerte et de lutte, conte les espèces exotiques envahissantes. |
| **3. Lancement d’un appel à projet SNB sur la lutte contre les espèces exotiques envahissantes terrestres et marines dans les départements et collectivités d’outre-mer**  **Résultats 🡪** 13 projets retenus entre 2011 et 2013 pour un montant global d’environ 800 k€. |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 6** |
|  | **Mesures nationales contribuant à l’Objectif d’Aichi 2**  **1. Travaux sur la comptabilité du capital naturel** (suites des travaux de la commission Stiglitz, Sen, Fitoussi)  **Résultats 🡪** Comptes de la forêt française : intégration des biens et services marchands et non marchands fournis par la forêt. |
|  | **2. Évaluation française des écosystèmes et des services écosystémiques (EFESE)**  **Résultats 🡪** Élaboration du cadre conceptuel; production des valeurs du service de pollinisation à l’échelle nationale et à l’échelle départementale. |
| **Action 19: Biodiversity in development cooperation** | **3. Définition d’un cadre d’intervention transversal (CIT) biodiversité par l’AFD**  <http://www.afd.fr/webdav/site/afd/shared/L_AFD/L_AFD_s_engage/documents/2013-08-28-CIT%20BIODIVERSITE-VF.pdf>  Le CIT Biodiversité constitue la contribution de l’AFD au volet international de la Stratégie Nationale française pour la Biodiversité. En mettant la conservation des écosystèmes au service du développement économique, social et institutionnel des pays en développement, l’AFD entend participer à enrayer la perte de biodiversité mondiale. Pour atteindre cet objectif stratégique, l’AFD engagera sur la période 2013 – 2016 des actions visant les trois objectifs suivants : (i) un objectif dédié : protéger, restaurer, gérer les écosystèmes et partager équitablement les bénéfices de leur mise en valeur ; (ii) un objectif transversal à toute l’activité de l’AFD : intégrer la conservation des écosystèmes dans les politiques de développement et dans toutes leurs dimensions sectorielles et (iii) un objectif de contribution à la gouvernance mondiale de la biodiversité : renforcer les partenariats entre acteurs publics, privés, associatifs et académiques des pays d’intervention de l’AFD et leurs homologues français.  **Résultats 🡪** Sur la période 2013-2016, le volume annuel moyen des engagements financiers pondérés de l’AFD sera porté à un minimum de 160M€, contre 80M€ sur la période de référence de 2006 à 2010 retenue par la COP11 d’Hyderabad. Les engagements financiers de l’AFD seront répartis entre l’objectif 1 (75 % soit 120M€), l’objectif 2 (21% soit 34M€) et l’objectif 3 (4% soit 6 M€). Ces engagements bénéficieront en priorité à l’Afrique subsaharienne et à la Méditerranée. |
| **Action 17: Drivers of biodiversity loss** | **Mesures nationales contribuant à l’Objectif d’Aichi 3**  **1. Grenelle 1 (articles 26 et 48)** : état des mesures fiscales défavorables à la biodiversité et proposition de nouveaux outils permettant un basculement progressif vers une fiscalité mieux adaptée aux nouveaux enjeux environnementaux.  Quatre dispositifs ont été réformés dans les domaines suivants :  **Résultats 🡪** Reparamétrage des redevances des agences de l’eau ;  Modification du « dispositif Scellier » dans le domaine de l'immobilier locatif ;  Suppression du taux réduit de TVA sur des produits phytosanitaires ;  Modification du droit annuel de francisation et de navigation (DAFN) acquitté par les bateaux de plaisance. |
| **Action 19: Biodiversity in development cooperation** | **2. Rapport du centre d’analyse stratégique** sur “Les aides publiques dommageables à la biodiversité” : <http://www.strategie.gouv.fr/system/files/rapport_43_web.pdf> [to be updated by the Member State] |
| **Action 20: Access to genetic resources and sharing of benefits** | **Mesures nationales contribuant à l’Objectif d’Aichi 16**  **1. Ratification du protocole de Nagoya sur l’accès aux ressources génétiques et le partage juste et équitable des avantages découlant de leur utilisation (APA).**  **Résultats 🡪** Signature du protocole par la France en septembre 2011. Commencement des travaux préparatoires en vue de la ratification du Protocole dès que possible.  **2. Participation à la négociation d’un Règlement du Parlement européen et du Conseil de l’UE sur les mesures de respect par les utilisateurs dans l’Union du Protocole de Nagoya**  **Résultats 🡪** Adoption du Règlement européen imminente en avril 2014.  **3. En complément du Règlement européen, insertion envisagée dans le projet de Loi « biodiversité » d’un titre spécifique sur l’APA réglementant l’accès aux ressources génétiques et aux connaissances traditionnelles associées sur le territoire français**  **Résultats 🡪** Adoption en conseil des ministres en mars 2014 du projet de loi « biodiversité », contenant un volet APA, Examen en juin 2014 par la Commission du développement durable de l’Assemblée nationale. Projet à l’ordre du jour de l’Assemblée Nationale en mars 2015. |
| **Action 17: Drivers of biodiversity loss**  **Action 18: Resources for global biodiversity conservation** | **Mesures nationales contribuant à l’Objectif d’Aichi 17**  **1.Élaboration de la SNB 2011-2020** : Tirant les enseignements de la stratégie 2004-2010, s’inspirant des nouveaux objectifs internationaux pour 2020, l’élaboration de la nouvelle stratégie a été pilotée par le « Comité de révision de la SNB » (7 collèges), et a donné lieu à une consultation du public.  **Résultats 🡪** La SNB 2011-2020 a été adoptée officiellement le 19 mai 2011.  **2. Mise en oeuvre de la SNB 2011-2020** : Tous les acteurs de la société sont dans un premier temps invités à adhérer à la Stratégie. Les adhérents sont ensuite incités à soumettre un projet d’engagement volontaire à la reconnaissance SNB à l’occasion de sessions annuelles (Cf. annexe II.6 du 5ème rapport national à la CDB : Le bilan des engagements). Le suivi des effets de la SNB sur la biodiversité est assuré grâce à un l’élaboration d’un jeu d’indicateurs par l’Observatoire national de la biodiversité (ONB).  **Résultats 🡪** En octobre 2014, 411 structures ont signé « l’adhésion à la SNB » : 160 associations, 154 entreprises/organisations professionnelles, 48 établissements publics, 47 collectivités territoriales et 2 syndicats, la reconnaissance SNB a été attribuée à 55 projets portés par 33 adhérents. 60 indicateurs SNB ont été élaborés par l’ONB.  **3. Engagements de l'État 2011-2013 :** L'État s’est impliqué dans la mise en oeuvre de la SNB au travers de 58 engagements dont le lancement d’appels à projets SNB.  **Résultats 🡪** 115 projets ont été retenus, dont près du quart dans les Outre-Mer pour un montant de 17 millions d’euros. Les autres engagements de l'État ont été tenus ou repris, à partir de 2013, dans les lettres de cadrage issues de la Feuille de route pour la transition écologique (voir ci-dessous).  **4. Définition de feuilles de route annuelles pour la transition écologique (FRTE)** à la suite d’une conférence environnementale : Des lettres de cadrage, qui déclinent la feuille de route sont envoyées à chaque ministère ; elles concernent, en autre, la mise en oeuvre de la SNB.  **Résultats 🡪** 24 mesures « biodiversité » issues de la table ronde « Faire de la France un pays exemplaire en matière de la reconquête de la biodiversité » ont été inscrites dans la FRTE 2013. 62 % de ces actions ont été mises en oeuvre ou sont en cours de réalisation conformément au calendrier prévu. La deuxième feuille de route pour la transition écologique qui a fait suite à la conférence environnementale des 20 et 21 septembre 2013 comporte 15 mesures biodiversité définies lors des tables rondes « Biodiversité marine, mer et océans » (10 mesures) et « Politique de l’eau » (5 mesures).  **5. Projet de « Loi biodiversité »**  La loi prévoit la création du Comité national de la biodiversité, instance consultative sociétale qui se prononcera sur tous les sujets centrés sur la biodiversité et en particulier sur le suivi de la Stratégie nationale pour la biodiversité.  **Résultats 🡪** Adoption en conseil des ministres en mars 2014 du projet de loi « biodiversité ». Examen en juin 2014 par la Commission du développement durable de l’Assemblée nationale. Projet à l’ordre du jour de l’Assemblée Nationale en mars 2015.  *(This information is mapped against Action 17 and 18)* |
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| **Action 18: Resources for global biodiversity conservation** | **Mesures nationales contribuant à l’Objectif d’Aichi 20**  **1. Stratégie de mobilisation des ressources** : rapportage piloté par le ministère des affaires étrangères : engagement COP XI de la CDB visant le doublement des flux financiers internationaux d’ici à 2015 sur la base de la moyenne entre 2006 et 2010 et le maintien de ce niveau jusqu’en 2020.  **Résultats 🡪** La France a commencé un travail de comptabilisation des ressources mobilisées en faveur de la biodiversité à l’international, à partir d’une méthodologie agréée au niveau français et permettant de recenser la part de financement contribuant à promouvoir la biodiversité, qu’il s’agisse d’actions directes ou indirectes concernant certains secteurs (foresterie durable, agriculture durable, assainissement, etc.) (cf Cadre d’intervention transversal biodiversité de l’Agence française de développement).  **2. Cadre d’intervention transversal de l’agence française pour le développement**  **Résultats 🡪** Lignes **"Bilateral ODA"** (Aide publique au développement bilatérale ou APD).  **3. Contributions obligatoires et volontaires de la France aux conventions internationales sur la biodiversité**  **Résultats** 🡪 Lignes "**Multilateral ODA**" (Aide publique au développement multilatérale ou APD), celles-ci comptabilisent la contribution française au volet biodiversité du Fonds pour l'environnement mondial (FEM). La France verse des contributions obligatoires aux principales organisations internationales et accords multilatéraux environnementaux en lien avec la biodiversité (environ 10 millions d'euros par an).  **4. Financement de programmes de coopération technique**  **Résultats** 🡪 Sur la période 2013-2016, le volume annuel moyen des engagements financiers pondérés de l’AFD sera porté à un minimum de 160M€, contre 80M€ sur la période de référence de 2006 à 2010 retenue par la COP11 d’Hyderabad. Ces engagements bénéficieront en priorité à l’Afrique subsaharienne et à la Méditerranée.  **5. Mobilisation des ressources au niveau national (Rapport annuel de la commission des comptes et de l’économie de l’environnement)** |

# Germany

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| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 1** *(Please note that information from Member States in relation to Action 1a is supplied to the European Commission via other reports. To avoid duplication of reporting, information relating to Action 1a has not been included in this report)* |
| **Action 1c: Natura 2000 (and other protected areas)** | A well functioning management for all major protected areas and notified Natura 2000 areas is an important foundation for safeguarding the habitat diversity typical of the natural region and for conserving and restoring a favourable conservation status. The efforts to conserve and develop protected areas frequently involve restrictions on use. To ensure continued acceptance of nature conservation measures by society, especially among those who own or manage land, there is a need for a well functioning management system drawn up in close cooperation with local users to cater not only for users' interests, but also for those of nature conservation.  Management or maintenance and development plans also exist for many of the more than 5000 Natura 2000 areas, and others are in preparation. The necessary maintenance and development measures are being implemented in many areas, e.g. as part of agro-environmental measures.  The ten Natura 2000 areas in the EEZ are managed by the federal authorities. Management plans setting out the necessary conservation measures are currently being drawn up for these areas.  For the German Natura 2000 areas in marine waters it is crucial that fishery activities be designed to be compatible with the protection objectives in these areas. Protected area ordinances and appropriate management plans are under development for the Natura 2000 areas in the Exclusive Economic Zone.  To achieve a significant improvement in the conservation status of all Habitats Directive habitat types, there is a general need to continue the process of management planning and implementation for Natura 2000, while taking account of specific concerns and findings from scientific and practical sources. |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 2 *(Part III of the fifth national report simply cross references to other parts of the report. Only cross links to Target 2 are presented here due to time limitations)*** |
| **Action 6a & 6b: Ecosystem restoration and green infrastructure** | The importance of ecosystem services is discussed at various points in the National Biodiversity Strategy from 2007; some of them are covered in the 5NR:   * building up a network of connected biotopes; Federal Defragmentation Programme (p. 60, p. 108/109) * peatlands (p. 71) * Green Strips along the former Iron Curtain (p. 106)   **Data link:**  <http://www.naturkapital-teeb.de/en/about-teeb-de/overview.html> |
| **EU Target or Action** | ***EU Target 3 (Part III of the fifth national report simply cross references to other parts of the report. Only cross links to Target 3 are presented here due to time limitations)*** |
|  | In 2010 the area covered by farmland in Germany totalled 18.7 million ha (52.3%); the majority of this consisted of arable land with a share of 11.8 million ha and permanent pasture with a share of 4.7 million ha. Agriculture, with more than half the total area, is the most important form of land use in Germany.  In 2010 the area covered by organic farming operations accounted for 5.9 per cent of total farmland.  The share of total farmland accounted for by organic farming shows a continuous increase from 1.6% in 1994 to 5.9% in 2010, as can be seen from the indicator "Organic farming" (see Chapter E 2). In 2010 the area under organic farming increased by 4.6 per cent on the year before. If the trend remains unchanged, it will take many years to achieve the target of increasing the organic farming share to 20 per cent of total farmland.  In November 2007 the German Ministry of Agriculture (Bundesministerium für Ernährung, Landwirtschaft und Verbraucherschutz) put forward an agrobiodiversity strategy under the title “Conservation of Agricultural Biodiversity, Development and Sustainable Use of its Potentials in Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries”.it contributes to more eco-friendly agriculture and forestry and the conservation of genetic resources in agriculture. It contributes to more eco-friendly agriculture and forestry and the conservation of genetic resources in agriculture. At the same time, implementation of the following measures and activities under this strategy is to be expedited to achieve the objectives of the Agrobiodiversity Strategy:   * Further development of agrarian use systems, partly by gearing agroenvironmental measures to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity * Promotion of set-aside or buffer strips, e.g. managed fallow strips with ecological greening, green protective strips to prevent erosion, extensive pasture, organic farming and genetic resources * Development of new instruments to compensate for encroachments on or impairment of nature and landscape, in order to upgrade ecosystems, enrich their (agro)biodiversity and reduce land use conflicts * Expansion of the agrobiodiversity research network, among other things in the interests of long-term conservation and innovative use of genetic resources * Communication strategy on agrobiodiversity that also includes use and consumer aspects.   In September 2011 the German Government adopted the Forest Strategy 2020 put forward by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture. The Forest Strategy 2020 seeks to develop an appropriate, viable balance between the growing demands on forests and their sustainable functioning that will meet future requirements. In nine action areas (including climate change, ownership, resources, biodiversity, silviculture, hunting, recreation, research) the strategy sets out challenges and opportunities, analyses possible conflicts of objectives, and offers appropriate solutions.  Conservation and sustainable use of agrobiodiversity (BMEL)  The Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) considers it has a special responsibility for the conservation and sustainable use of agrobiodiversity and genetic resources, which among other things provide the basis for agriculture, forestry, fisheries and the food industry. Since 2005, therefore, the BMEL has been assisting model and demonstration projects in the field of food and innovative, sustainable use of biodiversity in agriculture, forestry, fisheries and the food industry, and also inventories and non-scientific surveys in the field of biological diversity. Moreover, the goals of the National Strategy on Biological Diversity are supported by other BMEL programmes, and especially, for example, the “Federal programme for organic farming and other forms of sustainable agriculture” (BÖLN). |
| **Target 3b: Forestry** | 57 per cent of Germany's forests are owned by the public sector (federal: 4%, Länder: 29%, municipalities: 20%, trustee forest: 4%).  With the introduction of sustainable forestry combined with strict legislation on forests, there has since been a marked increase in the area under forest in Germany. About 77 per cent of the forests in Germany stand on land which has been continuously under forest for at least 200 years. Today about one third of Germany's land area (11.1 million ha) consists of forest. Compared with other forms of land use, forest management is extensive, which supports the conservation and development of forest-typical biological diversity. On the whole, the ecological status of forest stands in Germany has improved in recent decades, mainly as a result of near-natural forest management, increased conversion of spruce monocultures to mixed deciduous forest, and targeted assistance measures (e.g. contract-based nature conservation). This has also been supported by a growing understanding of ecosystem relationships and increasing awareness of the importance of biological diversity among politicians, forest owners and the public.  In recent decades Germany has made successful progress with establishing varied and stable mixed forests with tree species endemic to the location. Although the share of conifers in old stands is still around 62 per cent, in new stands it is only about 29 per cent. About 80 per cent of young stands are the result of natural rejuvenation. The proportion of dead wood, an indicator of the nature conservation quality of forests, has increased by 19 per cent to 14.7 m3/ha in the last six years – with the aid of dead wood programmes for targeted biotope and habitat maintenance.  Certification is a voluntary undertaking on the part of forestry operations to go beyond the minimum legal requirements and comply with additional minimum standards in environmental, economic and social fields. In Germany there are currently three certification systems that play a part in forest management: PEFC (Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Schemes), FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) and “Naturland”. As shown by the “Sustainably forestry” indicator, at the end of 2011 some 70% of Germany's forest area was certified under PEFC and about 5% under FSC (incl. approx. 0.5% Naturland). The total figure is close to the target figure of 80 per cent.  When it comes to the conservation and development of forests as habitats for animal and plant species, the German forestry sector has many synergies with the goals of nature conservation, especially if the principles of near-natural forest management are observed. As a rule, measures to conserve and protect biological diversity are integrated in forest use, in other words there is basically no division into 100% economic forests and 100% protected forests. The Forest Strategy 2020 envisages further improvements in the already high level of biological diversity in forests in line with the targets of the National Strategy on Biological Diversity, e.g. by leaving areas unmanaged, increasing the percentage of dead wood, creating more small cells of natural forest, and implementing and networking Natura 2000 areas in forests. Forests owned by the public sector, and especially state forests, can play a model role here. In recent years a total of around 100,000 hectares of federal land have been transferred to the Länder and nature conservation associations and foundations as National Natural Heritage. Preparations have been made for transferring a further 25,000 hectares. Two thirds of the natural heritage areas consist of forest.  No precise figures are yet available on the percentage area with natural forest development. It is therefore impossible at present to state the extent to which the target in the National Strategy on Biological Diversity of increasing the percentage of forests with natural forest development to 5 per cent has been achieved. The proportion of forest areas certified to high ecological standards (PEFC, FSC) has steadily grown. What matters now is to raise public awareness of the importance of certified forest stands. |
| **Action 8a: Environmental public goods in the CAP and GAEC cross-compliance** | The voluntary agro-environmental programmes of the Lander, which offer farmers agro-environmental measures and incentives to maintain or reintroduce extensive forms of farming, are of direct importance for the conservation and development of biological diversity. The programmes can be co-financed by EU funds under the second pillar of the Common Agricultural Policy (EAFRD – European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development), and also to some extent at national level by federal funds under the Joint Agreement on Improving Agricultural Structures and Coastal Protection (GAK). The area receiving assistance was around 5.4 million hectares in 2010, which was almost as high as the previous record level of 5.5 million ha in 1997. At the same time assistance funds rose again slightly to €577 million in 2010. |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 4** |
| **Action 13a: Fish stock management** | Despite the size of the seas, their resources are limited, as is their capacity to absorb human influences. Increasing use of the seas, climate change and land-based pollution have already caused major changes in the natural dynamics and the status of the ecosystems in our seas. These factors also present threats to the diversity of species and habitats. According to the 2006 Red List of endangered biotope types, 133 of the 153 marine biotope types in the German North Sea and Baltic Sea (87%) are endangered to a greater or lesser extent. When it comes to the management of stocks, a large number of commercially used fish stocks are found to have been overfished for many years. The yardstick here is the “maximum sustainable yield” (MSY), i.e. the quantity of fish that can be caught on a long-term basis without endangering the fish populations.  In 2012 an assessment of the stock situation in the North-East Atlantic was only possible for about 35 per cent of stocks. This low percentage applies to the whole of Europe. In most cases this is due to lack of catch information, incomplete surveys or faulty sampling. Of the 38 stocks that it was possible to assess in the North East Atlantic and adjacent waters in 2012, the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) rated 18 as overfished, and the remaining 20 as sustainably fished. This means the positive trend of recent years in the North East Atlantic has been maintained: in the third of stocks that were assessed, the share of non-sustainably fished stocks fell from 94% (2005) to 47% (2012).  In the Baltic Sea, according to the Johann Heinrich von Thunen Institute (vTI), 4 out of 14 known commercially used fish stocks were overfished, 5 stocks were sustainably fished, and no assessment was possible for 5 stocks. In the Mediterranean Sea, some 80 per cent of stocks are overfished. |
|  | With regard to the NBS target of achieving good environmental status for marine waters by 2021, substantial progress has already been achieved in the North Sea and Baltic Sea on reducing inputs of nutrients and hazardous substances. There has also been a reduction in pollution resulting from gas and oil production. Despite the input reductions already achieved, however, it is still not possible to give the “all clear” with regard to pollutant loads and impacts. In future greater attention is also to be paid to preventing oil pollution from exploration wells. |
| **Action 14b: Adverse impacts on fish stocks, species, habitats and ecosystems** | Further progress has also been made with implementing integrated coastal zone management (ICZM) since the adoption of the National ICZM Strategy in 2006. The aim of ICZM is to help develop and maintain the coastal region as an ecologically intact and economically flourishing habitat. A wide variety of activities undertaken in the coastal Lander and at federal level show that applying the ICZM approach to concrete plans or projects can help to avoid, reduce or find un-bureaucratic solutions to conflicts by means of timely informal participation (National ICZM Report of March  2011).  **Data link:**  <http://www.ikzm-strategie.de/> |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 5** |
|  | Relates to Germany's NBS target: Prevent the genetic diversity of wild fauna and flora from being adulterated by the introduction and propagation of non-endemic animal and plant species.  **Data link:**  <https://www.bfn.de/fileadmin/MDB/documents/themen/recht/leitfaden_gehoelze_.pdf>  <http://www.genres.de/en/agrobiodiversity/> |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 6** |
| **Action 18a: Resources for global biodiversity conservation** | Germany provided an additional 500 million EUR for the period 2009 to 2012 and will provide a regular annual sum of 500 million EUR from 2013 onwards for the conservation of forests and other ecosystems around the world - according to the announcement of Chancellor Merkel at the 9th COP of CBD.  **Data link:**  Page 6 (last paragraph), Part IV, Page 116, 117 |
| **Action 20: Access to genetic resources and sharing of benefits** | Germany and the EU signed the Protocol in July 2011 and are now working on its implementation and ratification. The process of ratifying, fleshing out and implementing this protocol has started.  **Data link:**  Part II, Section 6.4, Page 100 |

# Greece

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| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 1** *(Please note that information from Member States in relation to Action 1a is supplied to the European Commission via other reports. To avoid duplication of reporting, information relating to Action 1a has not been included in this report)* |
| **Action 1c: Natura 2000 (and other protected areas)** | The Natura 2000 network in Greece consists of 241 SCI-SAC and 202 SPA, covering 27,2% of land and 6,1% of territorial waters.  28 Management Bodies (MB) for Natura 2000 sites currently operate, covering in total appr. 30% of the surface area of the sites. In Natura 2000 sites with designated MB, conservation, monitoring, environmental education, public awareness activities etc were co-funded during the reporting period by the European Fund for Regional Development and national funds.  The Biodiversity Law in 2011 consolidated the N2K sites in the national system of protected areas through their designation as “Habitats and Species Protection Areas” – distinguished in Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and/or Special Protection Areas (SPAs). Around 25% of the surface area of SAC has been additionally designated as a protected area of a different type (National Park, Nature Reserve Area). An additional percentage of the surface area is legally protected by forest legislation (National Forests, Aesthetic Forests, Wildlife Refuges, Protected Monuments). In addition, for certain sites, statutory and administrative measures, including the suspension of construction works and the protection of mountain massifs have been legally established in 2011.  By Law no 3937/2011 (Official Journal 60/A/2011) on biodiversity conservation (art. 4., par. 1a), 239 out of the total 241 SCIs have been designated as SACs. The two remaining SCIs were included in the community list in 2012.  Creation of one new protected area and respective Management Body took place in 2012.  General regulations aiming to protect and conserve the Natura 2000 network have been set in Law 3937/2011. Therein, the general regulations applied for the construction of buildings in land plots located outside urban settlements have been restricted when these land plots are within the Natura 2000 network providing them with a safety net over the pressure of urban sprawling. According to this law, driving vehicles off the road is prohibited in areas that host priority habitat types, or are considered as ecologically vulnerable (e.g. seasonal wetlands, sand dunes, streams, pastures, forests) and aquacultures have also been prohibited over posidonia beds within Natura 2000 sites. Moreover, small island wetland areas in SACs have benefited from a Presidential Decree (no 229/2012), that protects and highlights the values of small island wetlands.  The Coast Guard of the Ministry of Mercantile Marine patrols the marine area against illegal activities and addresses potential pollution incidents, for which there are contingency plans and equipment available.  Forests and forested areas, including sclerophyllous scrub, grasslands, temperate heath and scrub, are protected by forest legislation and are sustainably managed by Forest Services, through the application of forest management plans. Provisions for sustainable forest management are included in Law 3208/2003 (Official Journal 303/A/2003). Moreover, Forest Services apply each year a specific program to combat illegal loggings and to address threats from fires, encroachments, land clearings, illegal hunting, etc.  With regard to measures for water dependent habitats and species, 12 out of 14 river basin management plans according to the Water Framework Directive have been approved by competent authorities and the remaining 2 are in the process of public consultation and approval. With law no 3983/2011 (Official Journal 144/Α/2011) the Greek legislation was harmonized with the Marine Strategy Framework Directive 2008/56/ΕC.  Biodiversity knowledge has been enhanced during the period. The percentage of species of community interest with unknown conservation status has dropped significantly from 48% to 11%, due to fieldwork efforts.  Pursuant to national legislation (Law 4014/2011), environmental licensing in Natura 2000 sites requires the drafting of an extra issue of Special Ecological Assessment, in order to incorporate the requirements of Article 6.3 of the Habitats Directive. |
| **Action 2: Adequate financing of Natura 2000** | Progress in biodiversity conservation was made since 2010 with the National Operational Program “Environment – Sustainable Development 2007 – 2013”, which included a specific section on the “Protection of natural environment and biodiversity” (Priority axis 9). Through this program and also through Regional Operational Programs and National Funding the operation of the 28 Management Bodies for protected areas and their actions for biodiversity conservation was supported. Through the national Operational Program projects for surveillance of conservation status of habitat types and species of community interest were also funded.  Implementation of the program generated significant knowledge and valuable experience for the Ministry of Environment and allowed the continuation of work of the first Management Bodies in protected areas.  A number of management projects were carried out with funding from Life – Nature. These projects were mainly implemented by NGOs, stakeholders and institutes.  The Greek Prioritized Action Framework was completed in December 2014. |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 2** |
| **Action 6a: Ecosystem restoration and green infrastructure** | Protected areas cover around 12% of the terrestrial part (in–situ conservation), as reported to the European Common Database of Designated Areas. The Natura 2000 sites include 163 Special Protection Areas (SPAs) according to the Birds Directive and 239 Sites of Community Importance (SCIs) according to the Habitats Directive covering more than 21% of the terrestrial part of the country. |
|  | Restoration and/rehabilitation of degraded habitats and species was carried out within some protected areas. Examples are the big restoration project for Lake Carla that was funded by the National Operational Program “Environment – Sustainable Development 2007 – 2013” and the restoration of burned fir forest in Parnitha National Park. Other restoration projects were funded by Life-Nature, like the Restoration and Conservation of the Priority Habitat Type \*9562 Grecian Juniper Woods in Prespa National Park, Greece. |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 3** |
| **Target 3a: Agriculture** | With regard to the mainstreaming of biodiversity concerns into agricultural policy, it should be noted that Greece implements the Operational Programme for Rural Development 2000 – 2009. As part of its contribution to achieving the objectives of policy related to agriculture and the environment, the axis 3 of the Operational Programme includes a number of agri-environmental measures with the broader following aims  The application of farming practices which are compatible with the protection and improvement of environment, natural resources, soil and genetic diversity.  The reduction of negative impacts of farming on the environment and particularly on water quality, soil and biodiversity.  The introduction of sustainable practices, beyond the normal for soil protection and control of physical, chemical and biological degradation. |
| **Action 8a & 8b: Environmental public goods in the CAP and GAEC cross-compliance** | Good Agricultural Practice codes and regulations and standards of cross-compliance are applied, that promote environmentally friendly production together with specific actions for the conservation of biodiversity. Regarding agriculture, Greece implements the Regulation (EC) No 1782/2003 that consider, inter alia, to avoid the abandonment of agricultural land and to ensure that will maintain land in good agricultural and environmental condition.  With regard to agricultural cross-compliance measures, Greece has included a number of GAEC Minimum Level of Maintenance measures (as referred to in article 5 of. Council Regulation (EC) No 1782/2003), that may help to protect biodiversity within farmland habitats. These include minimum stocking density levels for pasture land (which are set at 0.2 LU/hectare for all categories of animal, unless more specific rules exist at regional level).  The ploughing of permanent pasture is also prohibited (except in cases where an environmental or archaeological need is demonstrated) and farmers must not destroy terraces, walls, dykes and natural banks bordering parcels.  The Rural Development Programmes (RDP), the Axis 2 budget of the RDP accounts for about 33.8 % of public RDP expenditure (i.e. EAFRD allocations plus co financing). The majority of Axis 2 funds are focused on agri-environment payments. |
| **Action 10: Agricultural genetic diversity** | Greece, with its rich biodiversity in genetic level, has a high responsibility for conserving genetic resources and has taken relevant actions. The current framework includes PD 80 (OJ 40/A/1990) on the protection of plant genetic material of the country, PD 434 (OJ 248/A1995), which provides measures for the conservation and protection of indigenous breeds of livestock.  Greece has ratified the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture Organization (Law 3165/2003) and implements its provisions. There are also action plans and commitments of the Food and Agriculture Organization (eg the Global Plan of Action for the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, the Global Plan of Action on Genetic Resources of Farm Animals) and national reports and strategies to FAO that set out priorities for action (eg The Greek strategy for the sustainable management of genetic resources of domestic animals 2003, 2nd national report on the status of plant genetic resources for food and Agriculture 2006).  Greece implements the Community Regulation 870/2004, laying down a Community program for the conservation, characterization, collection and utilization of genetic resources in agriculture and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1467/94. The regulation applies to plant, animal and microbial genetic resources that are or could be used in agriculture.  The Bank of genetic material that the National Agricultural Research Institute holds since 1981 should be mentioned. The Ministry of Agriculture, through the National Agricultural Research Foundation, in collaboration with research institutions and commitments under the Food and Agriculture Organization, is implementing inventory, characterization, documentation and evaluation of plant genetic resources and genetic resources of livestock. The country is committed to continue the effort with a view to setting up a database with lists of genetic resources held today a) in situ, including for conservation of genetic resources in situ / on farm b) collections of ex situ (gene banks) and the average in situ (resources). |
| **Target 3b: Forestry** | Sustainable management practices of forests in Greece have been introduced gradually since 1920, especially in terms of logging and grazing, and there is strong legal protection for forests and woodlands. Management plans are implemented for 10 years for forest complexes, by the pertinent Forest Services. These plans ensure that the principles of sustainable forest management are applied, together with the protection of forests from fires. Moreover, the implementation of the EU Action Plan on Forests and the optimal use of available measures under the reformed Common Agricultural Policy, among other things, support the implementation of the above.  Greece participates in the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE) which is a high-level political initiative (www.mcpfe.org) for the protection and sustainable management of forests in Europe. |
| **Action 12: Biodiversity in forest management plans** | Should be noted that there is also a small allocation of funding for Natura 2000 forest measures (0.2 % of total EAFRD expenditure). A significant amount of funding is allocated for first afforestation measures on agricultural land (2.8 % of total EAFRD expenditure) or non-agricultural land (0.6 % of EAFRD). |
|  | The natural environment and biodiversity in Greece have been severely hit by fires, those of July and August 2007 being of dramatic proportions. Fires in the Peloponnese, Attica and Euboea burnt a total of around 275,000 hectares, of which more than 150,000 hectares were forest land and more than 30,000 ha Natura 2000 sites. Species, such as Abies cephalonica the Greek fir, and important habitat types and protected species populations were heavily affected. The forest fires did not only affect the burnt areas themselves. They affected the situation of the Natura 2000 network and the conservation status of habitat types and species in Greece and maybe across Europe, to the extent that these areas host important, unique and rare species and habitats.  Greece has assessed the situation and has started its efforts to restore the burnt forests. Natural regeneration is foreseen in many areas with mediterranean pine forests such as those with Pinus halepensis, Pinus brutia and in evergreen – broadleved forests. In other cases restoration is underway. It should be mentioned that on Mount Parnonas, in the Peloponnese, the mediterranean pine forests with black pine (priority habitat according to the EC Habitats Directive) will be restored through a structured approach, taking into account biodiversity concerns with EC cofinancing (LIFE +). This approach will then be demonstrated in other areas as well. |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 4** |
| **Action 13a: Fish stock management** | In fisheries, Regulation (EC) No 1967/2006 for the sustainable management of fisheries resources in the Mediterranean is applied. In Greece legal restrictions are imposed regarding the use of fishing gear and methods, years of fishing, types of fishing vessels, and restrictions on the size of various species of fish, molluscs, gastropods, crustaceans, and stricter measures are applied for tuna, swordfish, shells and corals. |
| **Action 14b: Adverse impacts on fish stocks, species, habitats and ecosystems** | According to the Decision 167378/07, (OJ 241/D/2007), fishing with towed gear is prohibited in areas with Posidonia medows (priority habitat type according to the Habitats Directive, among others) |
|  | The newly adopted EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) requires the progressive development of certain marine strategies in order to achieve “Good Environmental Status” in all European seas by 2020. Greece is in the process of establishing the appropriate National Plans in order to follow the strict time schedule of MSFD implementation plan. |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 5** |
|  | The country prohibits the import of all alien species to be farmed/used as baits, and regulates trade in some alien species through CITES regulations. Furthermore, the Sanitary Committee may decide to control introduced animal species.  As regards IAS research, a lot has been done by the Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (HCMR) on marine IAS, including the publication of an updated list of marine alien species in Hellenic waters. A network of marine researchers working on marine IAS has been set up under the name ELNAIS including nine research Institutes / Universities and more than 34 Greek scientists currently carrying out relevant research.  In November 2012 the Ellenic Network on Aquatic Invasive Species (ELNAIS), joined EASIN, the European Alien Species Information Network (EASIN), that was created with the aim to provide easy access to accurate information on alien species in Europe. EASIN allows the retrieval of spatial information from existing online data providers in order to produce integrated georeferenced distribution maps of alien species in Europe; this has significantly increased the available georeferenced information on marine/estuarine alien species in Greek waters.  Terrestrial invasive alien species, research has been carried out by individual researchers, with 21 listed as experts under the project “Delivering Alien Invasive Species for Europe (DAISIE)” |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 6** |
|  | * The figures for CITES permits for 2005 and 2006 indicate the comparably high level of trade in CITES species. The number of import documents issued in 2005 and 2006 was 639 and 797 respectively. * Ten (10) permit applications were denied in 2005 and one (1) in 2006. * The number of seizures increased from 8 in 2003/04 to 15 in 2005/06. * National capacity was built through hiring of more staff, purchase of technical equipment for monitoring/enforcement and computerisation. * Microchip-reading devices were purchased and disseminated to all the regional management authorities for facilitating controls. * Advice/guidance and training was provided to the Management Authority, training was provided to the public and written advice/guidance was provided to the staff of enforcement authorities and traders. |
| **Action 18a: Resources for global biodiversity conservation** | * With regard to supporting developing countries, several programmes and projects have been implemented in the framework of the Bilateral Programme of Development Assistance and Cooperation by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. * Its bilateral aid programme is focused on 21 priority countries, with a high concentration in the Balkan and the Black Sea region. The country is already considering possibilities for increasing its development aid activity in the Middle East and Sub-Saharan Africa. * Greece’s bilateral programme is focused on a limited number of sector priorities, which are in line with its overall objective of poverty reduction. |

# Hungary

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| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 1** *(Please note that information from Member States in relation to Action 1a is supplied to the European Commission via other reports. To avoid duplication of reporting, information relating to Action 1a has not been included in this report)* |
| **Action 1c: Natura 2000 (and other protected areas)** | After the extension of the Hungarian Natura 2000 network in 2010, the Commission concluded that no further site designation is needed for any of the Natura 2000 trigger species or habitat types. Therefore, the Natura 2000 network can be considered complete in Hungary.  Management plans lay the foundation of the management intervention to ensure the maintenance and restoration of the conservation status of species and habitats. In addition to the management plans specifically designed for SACs, the Natura 2000 aspects are incorporated into the updated or new management plans of nationally protected areas, and into the updated forest plans. Natura 2000 management plans: Until 2013, 40 management plans for Natura 2000 sites have been elaborated, and further 243 Natura 2000 management plans have been financed from EARDF sources. This new, large package of management plans will be finalised by May 2015, for a total SAC area of 480.000 hectares. Those sites were targeted that overlap less than 50% with nationally protected areas (for which national management plans are or will be in place) and are predominantly non-forested sites. In addition, a further package of management plans are drafted for 12 sites from the Swiss Contribution. Thanks to these efforts, the coverage of the Natura 2000 sites with site-specific management plans has grown from 7.8% in 2012 to 46.28% in December 2014 and will reach 56.19% in 2015. In Natura 2000 forests, the new forest plans also incorporate Natura 2000 management obligations since 2011. |
| **Action 2: Adequate financing of Natura 2000** | From the EU financial package for 2015-2020 Hungary allocated a substancial amount of resources to implement actions aiming to improve the conservation status of species and habitats of Community interest. As a result of interventions co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (habitat restoration measures and investments to improve management infrastructure) the conservation status of at least 10% of habitat types and species is expected to improve by the end of the period (2023). The target area of direct conservation interventions will cover at least 100 000 hectares, representing app. 5% of the national Natura 2000 network.  In Natura 2000 grasslands, farmers are compensated for land use restrictions that apply under Government Decree 269/2007 since the 2007/2008 economic year. The compensation is 38 EUR/ha/year. The scheme has been well received by farmers, it is spreading and compensation is paid for a total Natura 2000 grassland area of 250 thousand hectares.  In Natura 2000 forests, the new forest plans incorporate Natura 2000 management obligations since 2011. The compensation for these obligations is based on Decree No. 41/2012 (IV.27.) *on the detailed rules for compensation to be granted for forestry management on Natura 2000 forest sites from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development*. In some cases, this compensation may amount to 230 EUR/ha/year. This compensation has been applied in 90 thousand hectares of Natura 2000 forest by private foresters.  The second level of the subsidy scheme is based on the voluntary agri-environmental scheme and the related investment type land use measures. Farmers operating in Natura 2000 areas are favoured by the scheme, and thus 330 thousand hectares where agri-environmental payments have been made in 2009-2014 belong to the Natura 2000 network. The operation of the Environment and Energy Operational Program was one of the main funding sources for nature conservation development projects in 2007-2013.  184 projects were launched, which covered more than 130 thousand hectares of Natura 2000 and nationally protected areas, with a total value of over 120 million euros.  In addition, the LIFE+ program has a traditionally important role. Between 2010-2014, 13 projects gained a total of 32.6 million euros of EU co-financing, mainly for large-scale habitat restoration projects and comprehensive species protection programmes. |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 2** |
|  | Management plans lay the foundation of the management intervention to ensure the maintenance and restoration of the conservation status of species and habitats. Other plans based on the relevant legislation may also be prepared, which have a nature conservation purpose or influence conservation activities (e.g. forest plans, spatial plans, river basin management plans, game management plans). |
| **Action 6b: Ecosystem restoration and green infrastructure** | The backbone of green infrastructure in Hungary is the National Ecological Network, which incorporated protected areas and Natura 2000 sites complemented with other natural and semi-natural adjacent areas that would account for 36% of the total area of the country.  The zone of the National Ecological Network is entrenched in the spatial planning of settlements. The Act No. XXVI. of 2003 on National Spatial Plan (its amendment entered into force in 2014.) states, that the core areas and ecological corridor areas of the ecological network can not be considered as areas to be built in settlement processes.  In order to safeguard ecosystem services, it is important to know their status and changes in these services. Based on a large-scale vegetation mapping carried out between 2003 and 2006 across the micro-regions of Hungary, the Natural Capital Index (NCI) was evaluated in 2008. Under the Environment and Energy Efficiency Operational Programme (EEEOP) mapping and assessment of ecosystem services are planned to be supported in the period of 2014-2020 in order to get better understanding of the status of ecosystems and their services. |
|  | Based on the survey of the European Environmental Agency published in 2011, Hungary’s habitats are moderately fragmented in comparison with the EU average. There are significant differences between regions, the areas around the capital (Budapest) are the most fragmented and south-east Hungary is the least fragmented.  **Data link:**  Level of habitat fragmentation in Europe (Source: EEA/FOEN, 2011)  <http://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/figures/landscape-fragmentation-in-nuts-x/landscape-fragmentation-in-nuts-x/image_original> |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 3** |
| **Target 3a & 3b** | In Hungary, the proportion of agricultural area (57.4 %) is much higher, while the proportion of forest area is lower than the EU average. The area affected by fishing activities is small, the bulk of which is natural inland fishing. In Hungary the extent of areas withdrawn from cultivation as well as the extent of forests and forest plantations, reeds and fishponds have increased between 2000 and 2013 (the total of managed forested area was 1.917.633 ha in 2000, 2.055.633 ha in 2013), while the rest of the cultivated areas have decreased. Areas withdrawn from cultivation include artificial surfaces, roads and other infrastructure elements but wetlands are also counted into this category. The largest part of this expansion is mainly from the expansion of artificial surfaces due to infrastructural development and the expansion of settlements. The proportion of forested area in Hungary is 20,8%, from which 57,5% is consisted of native species.  **Data link:**  <https://www.nebih.gov.hu/szakteruletek/szakteruletek/erdeszeti_igazgatosag/kozerdeku_adatok/adatok> |
| **Target 3a: Agriculture** | A number of measures have been taken to promote sustainable consumption and production (e.g. environmental education, encourage environmentally friendly transportation, organic food consumption, efficient resource use) but still much more effort is needed to achieve efficient and sound use of natural resources at all levels. Therefore, the issue of sustainable consumption is addressed in details by the fourth National Environmental Programme (2015-2020). |
|  | The extent of grasslands of the total agricultural land has shrunk to 8.2% from 12.9% in 20 years. This ratio is less than half of the EU average. However, the proportion of grasslands under protection (included in the Natura 2000 network) is more than double of the EU average. Decreasing number of grazing animals and under-grazing often result in problems in the maintenance of grasslands. Due to the distorting effect of agricultural subsidies and the decrease in the number of grazing animals made farmers turn grasslands to arable lands. |
| **Target 3b: Forestry** | Due to awareness-raising, information dissemination and legislative requirements native species are more often used for afforestation. The coverage of native tree species has increased by more than 1 200 ha annually. The proportion of forests with management aiming at continuous forest cover has been increasing (102 000 ha in 2011) but further increase is needed (until reaching 26-27%). Forest section with primarily nature conservation function are (453 685 ha in total in 2011), Since the beginning of the last decade those types of forests are increasing. Forest reserves account for 0.63% (13 000 ha) of the total forest area. In these areas only special forest intervention and management – where appropriate – may be permitted. |
| **Action 9a: Rural development and biodiversity** | Rural development, including agriculture is one of the sectors, where incentives and subsidies have a significant role. The National Rural Development Strategy 2012-2020 sets a target to maintain financial schemes that support agricultural biodiversity and to revise harmful subsidies. Although the revision and elimination of harmful subsidies can be observed in certain important strategic documents, the success of these targeted actions certainly lies in their effective implementation. |
|  | In recent years the extent of agricultural area joining the agri-environmental programme has increased to 20% (of the total agricultural area). **Farmers operating in Natura 2000 areas are favoured by the scheme, and thus 330 thousand hectares where agri-environmental payments have been made in 2009-2014 belong to the Natura 2000 network**. |
| **Action 10: Agricultural genetic diversity** | Special emphasis is put on maintaining the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals, therefore the two national institutions are coordinating and harmonizing the relevant technical activities:  - the Research Centre for Farm Animal Gene Conservation (Gödöllő, Hungary) regarding farmed and domesticated animals, and - the Center for Plant Diversity (Tápiószele, Hungary) regarding cultivated plants and the ex situ conservation of wild plant species. There are several other gene banks and institutes dealing with gene conservation activities in the country. Two technical advisory bodies have been assisting the activities on gene conservation: the Committee for Plant Genetic Resources and the Committee for Indigenous Domesticated Animal Breeds. The Hungarian Ministry of Rural Development – with the involvement of the Committee for Plant Genetic Resources – prepared a Strategy for the Conservation of Plant Genetic Resources for Food (2014-2020), which was endorsed in 2013. The vision of this technical strategy is “to safeguard on the long-term the diversity of domestic plant and microorganism genetic resources for food without their genetic erosion, and if possible, to explore their real economic values and widely promote their sustainable use under in-situ (on-farm) circumstances as well as to promote their use in research, education and national plant breeding activities”. In order to raise awareness an agrobiodiversity sub-website was established in 2010 under the national CHM. The building of a safety vault was finished in the end of 2014.  **Data links**:  [http://genmegorzes.hu/](http://genmegorzes.hu/%20)  [http://www.nodik.hu/english/?page\_id=42](http://www.nodik.hu/english/?page_id=42%20%20%20%20%20%20%20)  [to be updated by the Member State]  [http://www.biodiv.hu/hazai-genmegorzes/hazai-strategia-genetikai-eroforrasok-megorzeserol](http://www.biodiv.hu/hazai-genmegorzes/hazai-strategia-genetikai-eroforrasok-megorzeserol%20)  <http://www.biodiv.hu/hazai-genmegorzes> |
| **Target 3a & 3b** | Instead of traditional fishing recreational fishing became more popular in recent years. Recreational fishing (angling) can play a key role in sound management of fish stocks by shifting to native species and excluding non-native fish-species in fish stocking. The modification of fish management plans towards more sustainable fishing (angling) can contribute towards sustainable management of fish stocks. |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 4** |
|  | Not applicable. |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 5** |
|  | Controlling invasive species and preventing their further spread in the country is an important conservation objective for Hungary. The collection of reliable data on invasive alien species has been going on for a while. National legislation prohibits the unauthorized introduction of new invasive organisms and regulates that agricultural lands must be maintained free of weeds. Currently 13.1% of natural and near-natural habitats have been heavily infested with invasive species. Implementation of the Regulation (EU) No 1143/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Concil on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species started in 2015. |
| **Action 16: Instrument on Invasive Alien Species** | Under the coordination of the Ministry of Agriculture, the non-official national list of invasive alien species has been developed. Out of them 17 terrestrial plant species are classified as posing particularly high ecological risk. As for animals, the list includes 35 species, 4 mammals, 13 fish, 1 bug, 3 crayfish and 12 molluscs.An additional list includes 19 species that have not yet entered the country but could pose ecological risk to native species. This informal list gives a good basic for the Hungarian position filling the list of invasive alien species of Union concern specifies by the Article 4 of the Regulation (EU) No 1143/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 6** |
| **Action 17c: Drivers of biodiversity loss** | Several parts of the NBS deal directly or indirectly with eliminating harmful subsidies or minimizing their negative impacts, these include for instance the following:   * With regard to ecosystem services: NBS includes actions such as: “Incorporating the economic valuation of ecosystem services into impact assessments and cost-benefit analysis” or “Integrating aspects of the conservation and enhancement of ecosystem services in infrastructure developments having direct effect on the quality of ecosystem services”; * With regard to multifunctional agriculture: NBS includes actions such as: “Review and if necessary modify financial support systems adversely affecting agrobiodiversity conservation”, “Maintenance and operation of financial and payment systems serving the conservation of agricultural biodiversity”.   Although the revision and elimination of harmful subsidies can be observed in certain important strategic documents, the success of these targeted actions certainly lies in their effective implementation. |
| **Action 18a: Resources for global biodiversity conservation** | In March 2014 the Government adopted the International Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid Strategy of Hungary for the period of 2014-2020. According to this strategy Hungary tries to assist the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Subject to its capacity and other conditions, Hungary tries to play a role in international donor activities by taking into account issues such as responsible management of natural resources and environmental health considerations. |
| **Action 20: Access to genetic resources and sharing of benefits** | Hungary signed the Nagoya Protocol in June 2011. In order to be among those states, whose ratification counts to the entry into force of the Protocol, the Hungarian Promulgation Act of the Nagoya Protocol (Act No. VIII of 2014) was approved on 4 February 2014 and entered into force on 12 February 2014. Hungary deposited its ratification instrument on 29. April 2014. The preparation of the user legislation is in progress.  Due to its relatively high biodiversity, Hungary is a provider and a user at the same time. Therefore it is considered important to prepare access legislation as well. The two regulations are being prepared in parallel, and. both are expected to be completed by October 2015. |

# Ireland

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| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 1** *(Please note that information from Member States in relation to Action 1a is supplied to the European Commission via other reports. To avoid duplication of reporting, information relating to Action 1a has not been included in this report)* |
| **Action 1b: Natura 2000 (and other protected areas)** | Both the transposition of the Habitats Directive into the Planning and Development Act 2010 and the EC (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 are under ongoing review. DAHG continues to draft amendments further supporting implementation and enforcement, clarifying administrative procedures and related issues that have arisen in the course of operation. It has not been possible due to staffing constraints to commence a full review of the Wildlife Acts. In 2014 NPWS commissioned Invasive Species Risk Assessments on species known to be traded which are listed in the Third Schedule to the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011, to enable commencement of Regulation 50 of the EC (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011. |
|  | The provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2010 Part XAB, the Environment (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2011 ensure that both plans and individual projects are compliant with the Habitat and Birds Directives. The DECLG is the competent authority in executing the Planning and Development Act and DAHG the statutory consultee in relation to plans or projects that may impact on Natura 2000 sites and species |
|  | While some dedicated Local Biodiversity Plans are being produced, most recently in Co. Clare, biodiversity actions by the local authorities generally have been incorporated into the Heritage Plan process. Heritage Plans were produced by 29 local authorities since the start of 2000, usually with an operational period of four or five years. There are 10 Heritage Plans that are current for 2014 and subsequent years, but many local authorities still use the older Heritage Plan as the framework for progressing heritage (including biodiversity) actions. Local authorities that have current Heritage Plans are Clare, South Dublin, Fingal, Galway (county), Mayo, Monaghan, Offaly, Roscommon, South Tipperary and Wicklow |
|  | Positive incentive measures have been included in the draft new rural development programme (RDP) which is currently awaiting Commission approval. A Strategic environmental assessment and an appropriate assessment have been carried out on the draft programme to ensure there are no adverse effects on biodiversity from the measures when implemented. The draft RDP includes provision for the continuation and expansion of the Burren Farming for Conservation Programme (see action 5.06). The AranLIFE project, funded by the EU LIFE+ funding programme (75%) and DAHG, Teagasc, The Heritage Council, DAFM, Galway Co. Council and Fáilte Ireland (25%), is a demonstration project operating on three Aran Islands from 2014-2017. It will seek to develop and demonstrate the best conservation management practices of local farmers on the designated Natura 2000 sites. Specifically, farm management plans detailing grazing practices, field access, scrub control, access to water for stock and grassland nutrient management will be developed for ca. 70 farms.  The Natterjack Toad Scheme continues to pay farmers in Co. Kerry to provide pond habitat for the expansion of the toad’s range and population.  The European Parliament has endorsed the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF). With a budget of €6.5 billion for 2014-2020, the fund will finance projects to implement the new reformed Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and provide financial support to fishermen, fish farmers and coastal communities to adapt to the changed rules. The Fund will also finance projects to boost 'blue' growth and jobs under the EU's Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP). The new EMFF will provide investment and funding opportunities to help reduce the impact of fisheries on the marine environment and to rebuild fish stocks. The fund will also help eliminate discarding practices – a key aspect of the new policy. It will also assist the coordination of the Integrated Maritime Policy. Funding will focus on initiatives that benefit multiple sectors such as maritime spatial planning, integrated maritime surveillance and marine knowledge. The Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine is the consenting authority in relation to the main forestry operations of afforestation, forest road construction, thinning, clearfelling and replanting, and the aerial fertilisation of forests. Through core forestry legislation and related environmental legislation (e.g. national legislation transposing the Habitats Directive and the Water Framework Directive), the Forest Service assesses the environmental impact of any particular proposal and will only issue consent where that proposal is compatible with the protection of the environment. This is achieved through a system of GIS-based and field inspections, the application of AA Screening and screening for EIS, referral with statutory consultees, the application of various mandatory 'guidelines', requirements and protocols, and the attachment of environmental conditions to any licence or consent issued, as required. Various measures are also in place to actively promote biodiversity, ranging from the necessity to include 15% Areas of Biodiversity Enhancement within all new afforestation projects, to the development and implementation of the Native Woodland Scheme, a specific Forest Service funding package developed in partnership with NPWS, Inland Fisheries Ireland, Woodlands of Ireland and others, and aimed specifically at protecting, enhancing and expanding native woodland and the delivery of associated eco-system services (see 5.07). |
|  | The Forestry Act was passed into law on the 26 October, 2014. Once commenced, the Forestry Act 2014 (Act No. 31 of 2014) will replace the current 1946 Forestry Act. The primary purpose of the Act is to reform and update the legislative framework relating to forestry and to support the development of a modern forest sector, which operates in accordance with good forest practice and with a view to the protection of the environment. The Act sets out the specific role of Minister of Agriculture, Food and the Marine in safeguarding the environment; includes overarching provisions relating to the protection of the environment; integrates the requirements and procedures under the EIA Directive, the Birds and Habitats Directives, and the Water Framework Directive; creates greater flexibility to the Minister in term of attaching environmental conditions to an approval or licence, and enforcing those conditions; and enables the Minister to produce supplementary regulations, if needed to give effect to the principles and policies set down in the Act, under various headings, including " (y) protection of the environment, habitats and biodiversity; A number of provisions are included (under Sections 5, 7, 11, and 30) which are designed to integrate the protection of the environment and associated legal requirements under various relevant EU Directives and transposing national legislation into the central decision-making processes regarding the granting of approvals and licences etc. by the Department. |
|  | The Water Framework Directive National Monitoring Program is in place. Water Framework Directive Programs of Measures project ongoing which is aimed at standardising WFD data and getting it into a common information system for management. New governance arrangements are almost finalised. The Water Framework Directive Governance is being reconsidered with the potential that the responsibilities between DECLG, EPA and LAs would be revised for 2nd cycle of RBM planning. Implementation of cycle 1 Programmes of Measures by DECLG is ongoing. Preparations for the second cycle of river basin management planning is underway. New governance arrangements are being put in place and a work programme for delivery of new RBMPs will be published for public consultation in June 2014. |
|  | Licensing of waste water regime is now in place and septic tank inspections are being carried out with a target of 1,000 risk-based inspections p.a. Ireland's 3rd Nitrates Action Programme was given legal effect in January by the European Union (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2014. Implementation is on-going. It will be reviewed by end 2017 as required by the Nitrates Directive. |
|  | A Multi Criteria Analysis (MCA) framework is being developed which will guide the selection of options to manage flood risk. This MCA will be used for the options appraisal phase in 2015 as a component of the flood risk management plans and will account for environmental objectives including habitats and species in tandem with technical, social and economic objectives. |
|  | The OPW are continuing to ensure that all significant drainage, including both initial drainage and maintenance drainage, is assessed for its implications for biodiversity and particularly for wetlands. Under the national Environmental River Enhancement Programme 2013-2017, fisheries type enhancement works are carried out on a series of arterial drainage channels annually. These enhancement works create a more natural and diverse channel form which benefits not only fish, but the broader biodiversity of the river corridor. |
|  | The draft National Peatlands Strategy was issued for public consultation in 2014. DAHG is currently examining the submissions received, which number over 1,500 to date. The Peatlands Council and the Peatlands Strategy Implementation Group will advise on changes to the draft Strategy in advance of its submission to Government for adoption and aim for publication early in 2015. See also action 1.14 above. |
|  | Informed by the draft Action plans developed by BirdWatch Ireland, identify and implement a suite of agreed measures for the protection of categories of endangered bird species in the wider countryside. This will be delivered through the engagement and participation of all relevant stake-holders across the public, private and voluntary sectors.   * + - These draft Action Plans are under review in the context of the proposed Rural Development Plan. |
|  | Provide and implement guidelines for local authorities and other planning bodies on the protection of species listed in Annex IV of the Habitats Directive   * + - Guidelines have been drafted but require finalisation and circulation |
| **Action 1c: Natura 2000 (and other protected areas)** | Detailed site-specific conservation objectives have been published for 65 SACs and 32 SPAs, mainly coastal and marine sites. A draft National Peatlands Strategy, Raised Bog SAC Management Plan and Review of the Raised Bog NHAs were published in early 2014. Part of the approach is that Site-specific management plans will be put in place for all Raised Bog SACs and the intention is that this will be the case for Raised Bog NHAs in the future. No full management plans have been completed |
|  | The Prioritised Action Framework for Natura 2000 establishing conservation priorities for the next financial cycle (2014-2020) has been approved by Government and submitted to the EU. Since 2011, five EU Life projects have been successfully funded such as the Aran LIFE and Burren GeoparkLIFE projects, the LIFE Kerry Freshwater Pearl mussel conservation project (commenced in 2014) and the Raptor LIFE project focussing on connecting and restoring habitats for Hen Harrier, Merlin, Atlantic salmon and Brook Lamprey |
| **Action 1d: Natura 2000 (and other protected areas)** | There are frequent meetings on policy and technical issues between the relevant Departments/Agencies in both jurisdictions. Recent meetings have focussed on the potential for joint approaches for cross border conservation management programmes |
| **Action 3a: Stakeholder awareness and enforcement** | Notice Nature is Ireland's public awareness campaign on biodiversity The aim of the campaign is to raise awareness of the importance of biodiversity and to encourage everyone to play their part in its protection. This website links to other important initiatives such as the Green Schools Programme and the National Parks and Wildlife Service education centres.  The national biodiversity forum was re-established in 2014 and includes environmental NGOs and landowners.  **Data link:**  [www.noticenature.ie](http://www.noticenature.ie) |
| **Action 3b: Stakeholder awareness and enforcement** | The National SEA Forum has been established with all five environmental authorities (DAHG, DECLG, DAFM, DCENR, EPA) represented, with regional SEA/AA Fora established in association with the regional authorities. Fora meet annually with the full participation of local authorities in each region. The SEA Effectiveness Review and Action Plan was published in 2012, indicating that implementing legislation in Ireland is broadly appropriate and no significant difficulties arose with interpretation to date that would warrant substantial changes. In 2013, the EPA compiled and published a SEA Pack which provided guidance, checklists and reference material for use in the SEA and Plan making process, as well as a SEA Environmental Integration Guidance Document to assist Planning Authorities in the preparation and implementation of SEA for Plans, Programmes and Strategies in Ireland to comply with the SEA Directive. With regard to specific public bodies, Fáilte Ireland is undertaking a SEA of the development of Discovery Points along the Wild Atlantic Way, and DAFM is undertaking SEAs in relation to the preparation of the Seafood Operational Programme 2014 - 2020 and the National Strategic Plan for Aquaculture 2014 – 2020. The Minister for Agriculture Food and the Marine announced the start of SEA for the national Rural Development Plan in May 2014. |
|  | In 2011, the EPA produced guidance on the European Communities (Environmental Liability) Regulations 2008 and continue to enforce the regulations as required. In 2013, the EPA published the research reports of the ECORISK project exploring the potential for economic valuation of ecosystem services in the context of the Environmental Liability Directive and enforcing remediation, and in 2014 the EPA published guidance on systematically assessing and costing environmental liabilities |
|  | DAHG developing guidelines on screening for AA for Planning Authorities, prepared jointly with DECLG. The EPA are also developing best practice guidance for use of GIS in SEA, for cumulative effects assessment in SEA and for better practice in SEA for the Energy Sector. |
|  | Forest Service Appropriate Assessment Procedure Information Note (Consolidated version March 2013) , setting out how the procedure is applied by the Forest Service to applications for afforestation, forest road construction, thinning, clearfelling / replanting, and aerial fertilisation of forests. As set out in the Information Note, specific procedures are in place regarding Hen Harrier and Freshwater Pearl Mussel, and guidance given regarding the compilation of NATURA Impact Statements. The Forest Service is currently not issuing approvals for afforestation within Hen Harrier SPAs, pending the formulation of the Threat Response Plan for the species, led by NPWS. The Forest Service currently drafting Catchment Forest Management Plans for the priority 8 Freshwater Pearl Mussel Catchments. Based on the Forest Service AAP and a forestry operations options matrix, the plan will ensure that all forestry operations regulated by the Forest Service in these catchments is compatible with the protection and conservation of FPM and its habitat. Revision of forestry environmental guidelines by the Forest Service, DAFM, underway. These include guidelines directly related to biodiversity, and guidelines indirectly related (e.g. water quality guidelines). Revision to fully integrate requirements under Birds & Habitats Regs., Water Framework Directive, etc. and to reformulate the guidelines around specific operations, for clarity and ease of use.  To receive a payment under the Single Payment Scheme farmers must follow a variety of regulations including environmental regulations. This system is known as Cross Compliance. The regulations to follow are called Statutory Management Requirements (SMRs). There are two (main) SMR types with regard to farming and biodiversity and these have been updated from 2015 onwards: SMR2 - Conservation of Wild Birds and SMR3 - Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Flora and Fauna. Guidance has been produced for farmers to assist in understanding these requirements. Any clear breaches of cross compliance in relation to SMR 2 and 3 encountered by DAHG staff are reported to DAFM. |
| **Action 3c: Stakeholder awareness and enforcement** | A nominated officer of Revenues Customs Service is a member of the EU Wildlife Trade Enforcement Group and attends each of the bi-annual meetings at the EU Commission.  The agenda covers major developments as regards trends in legal and illegal trade, significant seizures and confiscations, court cases and other enforcement and training related issues. There was a National Wildlife Crime Conference held in September 2013 attended by representatives from Department, Customs, Garda Siochána and UK Wildlife Crime experts |
|  | Ensure adequate training in Wildlife Crime detection and enforcement is provided to all NPWS enforcement staff.   * + - Training courses have been arranged for Department’s authorised officials on courtroom skills and expert witness procedures |
|  | Since 2011, the Revenue Customs service has made 59 seizures, of which only two were of live species, Giant Clams and Red-eared Slider Turtles. The Revenue Customs service had one prosecution during the period. Two men were convicted of illegally importing eight Rhino horns at Shannon Airport in January 2010. They were each fined €500.  Joint operations have been undertaken and are continuing between An Garda Síochána and the Department which has resulted in a number of successful prosecutions for breaches of the Wildlife Acts |
|  | Continue to enforce the Wildlife Acts and Regulations   * + - In the period 2011 to 2013 some 100 prosecution cases were taken by the Department under the Wildlife Acts and Habitats Regulations, of which 74 were successful |
| **Action 4a & 4b: Monitoring and reporting** | A set of indicators has been developed by NPWS and NBDC. The NBDC has developed a website to host the national biodiversity indicators and will release the completed indicators for consultation in early 2015. |
|  | The inter-agency INSPIRE/Irish Spatial Data Infrastructure steering committee (involving NPWS, EPA, DECLG, MI, OSI, Geological Survey of Ireland, National Transport Authority, Met Eireann, Local Authority GIS Users Group and the Property Registration Authority of Ireland)has been established and is progressing work on common data standards. The priority of this group is to implement the INSPIRE directive and habitats are covered under the 3rd annex, which has the latest deadlines. The committee is currently focussing more on Annex 1. The OSI have built a national geoportal for access to INSPIRE data, released in 2012. EPA and NPWS are currently working together to update the Water Dependant Habitat parts of the WFD Article 6 register of protected areas |
|  | The inter-agency INSPIRE/ISDI steering committee aims to finalise in 2014 an action plan for the implementation of the directive and the development of shared standards from data capture to data publishing, and develop metadata catalogues to interoperability of data across public bodies. |
|  | Monitoring programmes have been developed and initiated for upland, grassland, hard water lake, turlough, woodland, dune, saltmarsh, limestone habitats. Countryside Birds, Wintering Waterbirds, East Coast breeding Terns, Bats, Vertigo species, Seals, Crayfish, Petalwort, Sickle moss, Killarney fern, Clubmosses, Marsh Saxifrage, Marsh Fritillary, Otter, Irish hare, Frog and Natterjack toad (NPWS) and Salmon (IFI). Biodiversity elements are monitored as part of WFD monitoring undertaken by the EPA e.g. Crayfish. The NBDC undertake butterfly, bumblebee, and vascular plant monitoring programmes. Many different approaches are being considered including the development of specific apps (e.g. bats), the use of citizen science (e.g. butterfly), and real-time surveillance (NPWS Site Inspection Reporting programme). Monitoring of fish species trends is being undertaken by IFI under various programmes including the National Eel Monitoring Programme, the EU Habitats Directive (Fish) Programme which monitors ‘conservation fish species’, including the shads, lampreys, smelt, char, pollan and Atlantic salmon, and the Water Framework Directive Fish Monitoring programme which monitors fish populations at fixed sites using inter-calibrated techniques in river, lake and transitional waters. These programmes are delivered on a rolling basis delivering for target species and providing general fish biodiversity data. An extensive tagging programme contributes to monitoring elasmobranch distribution, movement, growth and exploitation, and coarse fish and pike are regularly monitored through direct stock assessment and tagging programmes. The use of technology (app/website) and targeted surveys of invasive fish, plant and other species contribute to identifying risks and protection of biodiversity. |
|  | Assessments completed for 2013 deadline for all habitats and species listed on the Habitats Directive, although not all assessments are underpinned by monitoring programmes. Current round of monitoring and investigation (2013 - 2018) is underway |
|  | Funded by DAHG, The Heritage Council, NIEA and EPA, and coordinated by BirdWatch Ireland, the Bird Atlas 2007-2011 provides an up to date picture of the distribution and relative abundance of Ireland’s birds and reveals how they have fared since the early 1970s.  The Bird Atlas 2007 – 2011 combined with single species surveys (e.g. Hen Harrier, Common Scoter) and with data from the on-going bird monitoring programmes of the Countryside Bird Survey (CBS) and the Irish Wetland Bird Survey (I-WeBS) formed the basis for Ireland’s reporting under Article 12 of the Birds Directive for the period 2008 – 2012.   These data sources also provided robust data to inform the second revision of the Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland. In total, 185 species were assessed, 37 were placed on the Red list and 90 on the Amber list. BirdWatch Ireland developed group Species Action Plans for Irelands "priority, migratory and dispersed", birds based on their habitat requirements. The focus of the project are species that are Red or Amber listed in “Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland”, as well as regularly occurring birds in Ireland found in Annex I of the European Birds Directive, and a few additional bird species needing protection. |
|  | The 2013 report to the EU under Article 17of the Habitats Directive provides information on status, trends and distribution of habitats and species listed in the Directive. Meanwhile, the report submitted in early 2014 under Article 12 of the Birds Directive provides information on the trends and range ofbirds. These data are currently being analysed. Many of the assessments are underpinned by scientific research. PhDs are ongoing or recently completed for Turloughs, Petrifying springs, Killarney fern and Protected Bryophytes. Detailed vegetation analysis has been undertaken for Uplands, grasslands, limestone, turlough and Juniper habitats. Scientific papers on trends and/or assessment methodologies have been published on Turloughs, Bats, Otter and Frog. Recent surveys have also been undertaken on Bees, Butterflies, Rare plants and semi-natural grasslands. Inland Fisheries Ireland have put in place an investigative programme on conservation fish in place for 2013 – 2018. Furthermore, both IFI and MI contributed to Red Data Book on fish, amphibians and reptiles in 2011, and sharks, skates and rays in 2014. The COFORD funded PLANFORBIO research programme involving UCC, TCD and WIT relating to sustainable forest management and monitoring was completed in 2013. |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 2** |
|  | There has been very little change in the quality of lakes, rivers and transitional waters in the last 10 years with approximately half considered to be in good status  The percentage number of high quality river sites has almost halved in the last 21 years from almost 30 per cent of the total sampled in the 1987-1990 period to less than 17 per cent in 2007-2009.  Investment in waste water infrastructure has resulted in significant improvements in the treatment of urban waste water. 94 per cent of urban waste water at areas >500 population equivalents (p.e.) now receive at least secondary (biological) treatment compared to less than 30 per cent in 2001. However, urban waste water still poses a threat to the quality of receiving waters in some areas.  A review of the Good Agricultural Practice Regulations was completed in 2014 with the updating of the regulations, under S.I. 31 of 2014. The regulations include increased setback distance for the application of chemical fertiliser to land in the vicinity of a watercourse (to 2 metres). In the case of organic feritilisers and soiled water, new site specific and risk-based approach to be used by Local Authorities in setting setback distances around drinking water abstraction points. The Nitrogen and Phosphorus allowances have also been adjusted in certain circumstances to match inputs more closely with crop requirements/outputs. |
|  | A limited amount of work on peatland restoration has been carried out during the reporting period, and an escalation of such work is planned. |
| **Action 5: Knowledge of ecosystems and their services** | The EPA funded a new project on natural capital as part of the 2014 Research Call. Funded through the Beaufort Marine Research Award and in partnership with Teagasc and the Marine Institute, the Socio-economic Marine Research Unit of NUIG is leading a project on the valuation of the benefits derived from marine ecosystem services, including non-market or recreational values associated with Irish lakes, rivers and seas and direct values of provisioning services such as fishing, aquaculture and shipping.  Following a conference on entitled “Natural Capital: Ireland’s Hidden Wealth”, in May 2014, a Natural Capital Forum will be established with the support of public and private agencies to assist in prioritising action and coordination regarding the integration of natural capital in national accounting. |
|  | A national working group of public bodies was established in 2012 to progress the development of a national landcover and habitat map. The group includes representatives of Environmental Protection Agency, Heritage Council, Ordnance Survey of Ireland, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine and Teagasc. A proposal for the development of a national landcover mapping programme is being prepared by the Grouptaking into account the emerging National Spatial Data Strategy and national Landscape Strategy. The technical specifications for a national landcover mapping programme have been developed using County Roscommon as a case study. The Integrated Mapping for the Sustainable Development of Ireland’s Marine Resource (INFOMAR) programme is creating a range of integrated mapping products of the physical, chemical and biological features of the seabed in the near-shore area. |
|  | The EPA Ecorisk project examines the prospects for quantifying the economic value of ecosystem services for use within the Environmental Liability Directive (ELD), namely for compensatory remediation. However, other outputs include a review of ecological research that has been conducted in Ireland relevant to the assessment of ecosystem services, in combination with national and international reviews of economic valuations of ecosystems or environmental goods. This information will be developed into a database whereby policy makers and practitioners would be able to search for data and advice on the methods needed to assess various levels of environmental risk or damage, indicating also the types and sources of data required. The project will also propose, with examples, valuation methods that are appropriate for particular circumstances and make recommendations for the future application and refinement of methods within the context of the ELD and other policy needs.  Additionally, the EPA funded SIMBIOSYS Project completed in 2013 affirmed the positive relationship between species richness and ecosystem functioning, and identified scenarios where both ecosystem health and socioeconomic outputs could be maximised across three disparate system: bioenergy crops, landscaped road corridors and aquaculture.  Ireland is also involved in European projects that have relevance to ecosystem service valuation, namely OPERAs (Operationalising Ecosystem Service Values) for which UCD is a partner. UCD is also a partner of TURAS (Transitioning Towards Urban Resilience and Sustainability). In addition, UCD, UL, UCC and Teagasc are contributing to EcoValue, a one year assessment of the ecosystem service value of Ireland's forests (biodiversity, water, carbon, recreation and health) for DAFM. The NESC have completed an exploratory study cataloguing environmental data within Ireland in 2014. The study produced a National Environmental Data Map identifying 265 data items and indicators organised by type, focus and source to identify the most policy-relevant data and data gaps for future natural capital and ecosystem service valuation exercises. The COFORD funded FORECON project, completed in 2011, provided an economic evaluation of the relative benefits of forest management practice with regards to recreation, biodiversity, landscape, water quality and carbon sequestration. The relative public benefits of public and private forestry were assessed, as well as the direct and indirect contribution of tradable goods and services of forestry to the national and regional economies. Completed in 2011, the DAFM funded project “An ecological economic analysis of agrobiodiversity in the Irish uplands”, investigated the provision of agrobiodiversity in the Irish uplands under the reformed Common Agricultural Policy. This study used detailed ecological and socio-economic on-farm surveys in order to: evaluate the impact of the REPS and CFP schemes on agrobiodiversity loss; investigate the economic behaviour and attitudes of farm households in relation to agrobiodiversity; and make recommendations to enhance the efficacy of REPS and CFP in supporting the provision of agrobiodiversity on farms in the uplands. A report commissioned by Woodlands of Irelands in March 2014 entitled “The Natural Capital Values of Ireland’s Native Woodland”, outlines a methodology for estimating the economic value of native woodlands in terms of a public amenity, tourism, public health, biodiversity utility, water quality, flood and erosion control, carbon storage and sequestration, and timber and wood fuel. The current estimate for existing native woodlands (0.17% land area) is €100-143 million p.a. The Environment Protection Agency issued a call in June 2014 for proposals for research, including under the theme of Natural Capital. See entry under 1.12 above. |
|  | The status assessment report to the EU under Article 17of the Habitats Directive, and the species trends report under Article 12 of the Birds Directive provide an overview of the leading pressures impacting the selected habitats and species and also lists any conservation measures undertaken. These data are currently being analysed. There is ongoing research into the impacts of water abstraction and pollution on dune slacks & petrifying springs (NPWS funded PhDs). The EPA BOGLAND project, completed in 2011, demonstrated the compelling evidence of the importance of Ireland’s peatland resource in terms of: being an extensive carbon store, the negative potential for habitat degradation to augment the greenhouse effect, their positive role sequester carbon, watershed management and their contribution to national biodiversity. The EPA funded SIMBIOSYS Project, completed in 2013 involved the field assessment of the effects of land-use on biodiversity three systems: bioenergy crops, landscaped road corridors and aquaculture; the ECO-Plan project integrating the ecosystems approach, green infrastructure and spatial planning in Ireland. The Co-ordination, Communication and Adaptation for Climate Change in Ireland (COCO-ADAPT) project, completed in 2013 and funded by the EPA, provided a framework to develop adaptation tools, strategies and option to cope with expected climate change. The project identified gaps in existing information and seeks to address these with focused projects, especially in key areas such as urban emissions, sea-level change and impacts on key economic sectors. Barriers to fish passage are major issue for dispersal of diadromous fish. IFI has established a database to compile national GIS-based inventory of structures/barriers to fish passage to enable assessment of risk and strategies to ameliorate barrier to dispersal. Red Lists for Mayflies and Bryophytes were published in 2012 bringing the total number of all-Ireland Red Lists to 8. Further publications are due in 2014, with the development of Red Lists for Elasmobranchs, sea-weeds, vascular plants and moths well underway. |
|  | DAFM through its publically funded forest research programme continues to support research across a range of areas of importance to forest biodiversity and climate change. |
| **Action 6a: Ecosystem restoration and green infrastructure** | Progress with this target requires detailed examination of recent land cover data; this data is currently being processed. Coastal systems are dynamic and stable with very minor losses reported. Peatlands continue to be eroded and extracted. Scrub and heath are likely to be expanding in the west due to abandonment. Woodland cover is increasing, however this is mainly conifer plantation which is at the expense of grassland and heath. The rate of loss of natural habitats is much less than the losses sustained 30-40 years ago following extensive periods of drainage and agricultural intensification.  Significant efforts have been made to reduce degradation by addressing, inter alia, inappropriate grazing regimes in upland habitats, reduction of pollutants, removal of invasives.  Government has recently approved a draft National Landscape strategy 2014-2024. The Strategy will establish principles for protecting and enhancing the landscape while positively managing its change. It will provide a high-level policy framework to achieve balance between the management, planning and protection of the landscape and ensure fragmentation is reduced. |
|  | Ireland has completed the 1st cycle of River Basin Management Planning under the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) and is planning the 2nd cycle based on the experiences derived from the 1st cycle. Ireland has taken substantial steps to protect peatlands, especially raised bogs, since 2010. |
|  | Detailed site-specific conservation objectives have been published for 57 SACs and 27 SPAs, mainly coastal and marine sites and a further 36 are scheduled for completion by the end of 2014. A draft National Peatlands Strategy, Raised Bog SAC Management Plan and Review of the Raised Bog NHAs were published in early 2014. Part of the approach is that Site-specific management plans will be put in place for all Raised Bog SACs and the intention is that this will be the case for Raised Bog NHAs in the future. |
| **Action 6b: Ecosystem restoration and green infrastructure** | The procedures adopted by the NRA in the planning of the national road schemes are designed to avoid or minimise impacts on protected areas. These procedures are enshrined in current best practice documents.  The coherence, connectivity and resilience of the protected areas network are considerations in the selection procedures for Natura 2000 sites and for NHAs. Some raised and blanket bog NHAs have been designated by NPWS on the basis of their support function to nearby sites and to for their contribution towards a coherent national network of protected areas.  In 2012 the DECLG developed a medium to long-term framework for advancing sustainable development and the green economy in Ireland entitled "Our Sustainable Future". The framework aims to integrate sustainable development into key areas of policy, to put in place effective implementation mechanisms and to progress sustainable development. With regards to connectivity and resilience of protected areas network, the framework prioritises action on the development of an integrated approach to green infrastructure into sectoral polices and the creation of green corridors to enhance biodiversity.  Following Government approval, DAHG published a draft National Landscape Strategy for Ireland for public consultation in 2014. The strategy outlines a suite of national initiatives to recognise the importance of all landscapes in Ireland, implement the European Landscape Convention, promote sustainable development, and enhance and protect the environment. Following the consultation, the Strategy has been amended in preparation for submission to Government. The Waterways Ireland Corporate Plan 2011-2013 includes the aim of promoting and developing the waterways as educational and environmental assets, highlighting their natural heritage. As part of the programme to develop and restore the waterways network, key actions include the development of policies and programmes to deliver compliance with environmental legislative Directives, and evaluate natural heritage assets along the waterways. |
| **Action 7a: No net loss** | The Irish Prioritised Action Framework (November 2014) recommends "that monitoring measures are built into all funding allocations, schemes, projects etc. so that progress and value for money can be adequately assessed". This should facilitate a strategic evaluation of measures delivered through Operating Programmes in the future. However, the extent to which this scientific underpinning has been provided in the relevant programmes remains unclear. In addition, it was recommended that "the PAF priority measures should be explicitly referenced" in the design of Operating Programmes that will run until 2020. While programmes may have been informed by the PAF priorities, specific priorties do not appear to have been overtly referenced.  All public authorities that authorise or give consent to programmes, plans or projects, pursuant to Regulations 27 and 42 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, must uphold the provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive, and in so doing, to undertake screening for appropriate assessment, and appropriate assessment as may be required to ensure that there is no negative impact arising in Natura 2000 sites. Strategic Environmental Assessments are also to be undertaken, and Environmental Impact Assessment/AA may be required for activities in the wider countrysid or at the project level. |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 3** |
| **Target 3a: Agriculture** | The new Rural Development Programme up to 2020 includes a substantial commitment for a new agrienvironment scheme (building up approx. 50,000 participant farmers). It is envisaged that the programme will be agreed by the end of 2014, with implementation of measures commencing in 2015. A number of biodiversity actions are being considered for inclusion within the new agri-environment scheme, including specific actions for vulnerable habitats and threatened species, as well as some general actions which would have wider biodiversity benefits. A number of biodiversity related output-based schemes have also being proposed. |
|  | A review of the Good Agricultural Practice Regulations was completed in 2014 with the updating of the regulations, under S.I. 31 of 2014. The regulations include increased setback distance for the application of chemical fertiliser in land in the vicinity of a watercourse (to 2 metres). In the case of organic fertilisers and soiled water, new site specific and risk-based approach to be used by Local Authorities in setting seback distances around drinking water abstraction points. The Nitrogen and Phophorus allowances have also been adjusted in certain circumstances to match inputs more closely with crop requirements/outputs. |
| **Action 8a: Environmental public goods in the CAP and GAEC cross-compliance** | Ireland secured €2.2bn in EU funding for the new rural development programme up to 2020 and DAFM has committed substantial national funding, giving an overall total of over €4bn, thus demonstrating a strong commitment for both rural development and the environment as it includes a substantial commitment for a new agri-environment scheme, GLAS (building up to approx. 50,000 participant farmers over the period of the programme). The scheme is opened to applicants in 2015 and implementation of measures will commence in the latter part of 2015. A number of biodiversity actions are included within the new agri-environment scheme, including priority actions targeted at vulnerable habitats and threatened species, as well as some general actions which will have wider biodiversity benefits. The new Scheme will also have a water quality and climate action focus which will have added benefits for ecosystem services. A number of biodiversity related output-based measures will also be incorporated into the RDP over the period of the programme. The CAP reform process which falls within the responsibility of DAFM, has been finalised, with input/ advice/training provided by NPWS, as requested. The NPWS farm plan scheme has assisted in trialling prescriptions that can now be mainstreamed in DAFM schemes and EU financed operating programmes. NPWS would like to see this role formalised through a Memorandum of Understanding for Natura lands in particular.  The LEADER elements of the Rural Development Programme (RDP) will be programmed by DECLG under Priority 6: Promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas however there are also 3 cross cutting objectives of innovation, environment and climate change which can also be integrated into these locally funded projects where relevant. |
|  | DAFM was actively engaged in identifying priorities, through the PAF and Habitats and Birds Directive reporting, to be addressed in the new agri-environmental schemes. An increased number of targeted actions have been included within the new agri-environment scheme. In association with DAHG, a number of targeted actions for priority habitats and species have been included as mandatory actions, where applicable to the farm (based on spatial data). Costings for prescriptions were calculated in accordance with EU guidelines. |
| **Action 8b: Environmental public goods in the CAP and GAEC cross-compliance** | Key actions within Ireland’s Actions for Biodiversity 2011-2016:   * Ensure effective implementation of cross-compliance, statutory management requirements and forest service guidelines/requirements to ensure conservation of biodiversity. |
| **Action 10: Agricultural genetic diversity** | Key actions within Ireland’s Actions for Biodiversity 2011-2016:   * All public bodies will endeavour to use native species, landraces and breeds and the public will be encouraged to do so. |
|  | The National Biodiversity Data Centre established a National Crop Wild Relative (CWR) database in 2010 to support in-situ conservation through the identification of threatened CWR hotspots. The database continues to be updated. Ex-situ collections of plant genetic resources are held by the DAFM with additional supplementary collections held by Trinity College Dublin and the Irish Seed Savers Association. Additionally, the grant aid scheme for the Conservation of Genetic Resources Grant Aid Scheme for Food and Agriculture (DAFM) continues to fund projects to identify, inventory, and conserve threatened plant genetic resources in Ireland.  Developed by the European Federation of Animal Science (EAAP) from 2007-2010, the European Farm Animal Biodiversity Information System (EFABIS) project merged two pre-existing databases on the status of animal breeds in Europe into a unified Open Source farm animal biodiversity information system (FABISnet). DAFM manages the national version of the EFABIS database as a communication and information tool that provides stakeholders a searchable database of breed related information, management tools and reference library. Censuses are primarily conducted by the relevant breed societies, but the Kerry, Irish Maol and Dexter cattle, Irish Draught horse, Connemara pony, Kerry Bog Pony and Galway sheep are designated as endangered, therefore DAFM directly implement management schemes for these breeds. Since 2011, 42 of 170 breeds present in Ireland have had their population data updated. Of the 72 breeds that have national-level risk assessment using FAO criteria, 1 is extinct, 16 are considered critical, 26 are endangered and 29 are not at risk.  Key actions within Ireland’s Actions for Biodiversity 2011-2016:   * Continue to update, identify and create inventories of important genetic resources for food and agriculture, both in situ and ex situ as appropriate, in particular those genetic resources whose survival is threatened and which may not have been identified or quantified to date. * Strengthen measures to ensure conservation, and availability for use, of genetic diversity of crop varieties, livestock breeds and races, and of commercial tree species and promote in particular their in situ conservation. |
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|  | The grant aid scheme for the Conservation of Genetic Resources Grant Aid Scheme for Food and Agriculture (DAFM) fund projects to identify, inventory, and conserve threatened genetic resources in Ireland. A National Genetic Conservation Strategy Document for animal genetic resources was published in 2013 by DAFM. Ireland lists seven populations of livestock as endangered. These include three populations of cattle, three populations of equines and one population of sheep. The 2013 strategy provides recommendations to ensure the conservation and use of animal genetic resources in Ireland. |
| **Action 11a: Forest holders and biodiversity** | The Forest Service currently drafting Catchment Forest Management Plans for the priority 8 Freshwater Pearl Mussel Catchments. Based on the Forest Service AAP and a forestry operations options matrix, the plan will ensure that all forestry operations regulated by the Forest Service in these catchments is compatible with the protection and conservation of FPM and its habitat. |
|  | The Forest Service Native Woodland Scheme (NWS), developed and implemented in partnership with NPWS, Woodlands of Ireland, Inland Fisheries Ireland and others, is aimed at protecting and expanding Ireland's native woodland resource. Two separate elements under the scheme provide funding to landowners for: (i) the appropriate restoration management of existing native woodlands (including conversion of non-native forest to native woodland) (NWS Conservation) and (ii) the creation of new native woodland on 'greenfield' sites (NWS Establishment). The NW Conservation has been suspended over the recent years. However, the reopening of this element is proposed under the new forestry programme 2014-2020, and a clear role for it is envisaged under the Freshwater Pearl Mussel-focused KerryLIFE project and the Top 8 FPM Catchment Forest Management Plans, specifically to fund the conversion of conifer forests into native woodlands at key points along FPM watercourses. NWS Establishment has remained opened and has undergone two major reviews in (Aug11 and Feb13), to increase its attractiveness and uptake. With support from NPWS, Woodlands of Ireland, Inland Fisheries and others, the Forest Service reached agreement with Ireland's EPA to amend the existing protocol regarding afforestation in acid sensitive areas, to facilitate the creation of new native woodlands in these areas, for (inter alia) water protection. A 2-day NWS training Course, aimed at foresters, landowners and personnel from relevant statutory bodies, was held in December 2014 in Co. Wicklow, and was attended by over 50 participants. The revised NWS proposed under the Forestry Programme 2014-2020 will be based on ecologically-driven criteria regarding the identification of priority sites in terms of native woodland ecosystems, wider habitat linkage, and relevant eco-system service delivery (e.g. water quality). Compatible wood production using close-to-nature silviculture will remain a key element, where appropriate. Various new measures will also be developed, including a component for emergent native woodland ('scrub'). |
|  | The following initiatives will involve the promotion of alternative and traditional silvicultural management practices aimed at the delivery of (inter alia) biodiversity benefits, including those relating to aquatic habitats and species: Freshwater Pearl Mussel-focused KerryLIFE project; the Top 8 FPM Catchment Forest Management Plans; and the proposed Native Woodland Scheme and agro-forestry measure under the incoming forestry programme. Each of these will involve the provision by the Forest Service and others (e.g. Woodlands of Ireland) of guidance (publications, training) to forest owners and foresters, regarding management practices and decisions. |
| **Action 11b: Forest holders and biodiversity** | Key actions within Ireland’s Actions for Biodiversity 2011-2016   * Develop and use the means to integrate the economic value of biodiversity and ecosystems into national accounts, national and local development strategies and planning processes. |
|  | The Forest Service policy is to ensure that, at a national level, 30% of afforestation comprises broadleaf species. This is pursued through various measures, including: (i) the heightened level of grant and premiums available for broadleaf planting under the afforestation grant and premium schemes; (ii) the requirement to include 10% broadleaves (where site quality allows) within all new individual afforestation projects, and (iii) the Native Woodland Establishment Scheme, focused on creating new native woodlands primarily comprising native broadleaf species. It is proposed to maintain this 30% broadleaf target in the new forestry programme. |
| **Action 12: Biodiversity in forest management plans** | Woodland cover is increasing, however this is mainly conifer plantation which is at the expense of grassland and heath. The rate of loss of natural habitats is much less than the losses sustained 30-40 years ago following extensive periods of drainage and agricultural intensification. |
|  | Aquaculture and forestry licence procedures incorporate a comprehensive environmental analysis in all applications. |
|  | Key actions within Ireland’s Actions for Biodiversity 2011-2016:   * Consider and develop guidance on alternative forestry management options which aim to deliver additional biodiversity benefits. |
|  | Key actions within Ireland’s Actions for Biodiversity 2011-2016   * Introduce revised forest legislation which will support the conservation, protection and sustainable management of forest biological diversity. |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 4** |
| **Action 13a: Fish stock management** | Common Fisheries Policy stocks are managed within a Minimum Sustainable Yield (MSY) framework in accordance with CFP and MSFD targets. Harvest control rules are in place to bring stocks to MSY in 2015 where possible. There has been a strong reduction in fishing pressure of fish stocks in Irish waters in the last decade. The Marine Institute Stock Book 2013 indicated that of the marine fish stocks in Irish waters which are fully assessed, 59% are now fished at or below MSY, while 60% of stocks are within safe biomass limits. |
|  | Common Fisheries Policy Spatial fisheries management measures are in place in the Irish EEZ to protect vulnerable marine habitats in offshore NATURA 2000 sites (e.g. corals); spawning aggregations, juvenile fish and depleted stocks. The management measures range from the prohibition of fishing with bottom impacting fishing gear to temporal closures of fishing for different species and/or with different gears. No take zones for benthic impacting fishing gears are currently being considered in inshore Natura 2000 sites (managed nationally) to protect sensitive habitats and associated biodiversity. The new CFP reform contains a commitment to continue and further strengthen conservation measures in biologically sensitive areas with spawning grounds and high populations of juvenile fish including off the South and West coast of Ireland. |
|  | The Sea-Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA) is mandated under EU and National Law to take action against Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing activities. The Sea-Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006 places primary responsibility for the regulation of sea-fisheries conservation law with the SFPA. In order to carry out this remit, the SFPA produces an annual National Fisheries Control Plan. This plan is used for the management of monitoring, surveillance and control of sea-fisheries at sea by the Naval Service, through aerial surveillance by the Air Corps and at landing ports in Ireland by SFPA staff. This plan outlines the benchmark requirements for inspections both at sea by the Naval Service and ashore by the SFPA. The annual plan uses agreed risk management strategies to develop these benchmarks which produce baseline inspection benchmarks for all vessels operating in the Irish EEZ |
| **Action 13b: Fish stock management** | All CFP stocks are managed within MSY framework in accordance with CFP and MSFD 2015 and 2020 targets. For stocks fished in Irish EEZ, there are a number of long term management plans and recovery plans such as for West of Scotland Cod, Irish Sea Cod and Northern Hake, NEA mackerel, NEA Blue whiting, Herring VIaN, North Sea and west of Scotland Saithe and HerringVIIaSVIIgj. Management plans are currently prepared or in the evaluation phase for other stock without formal agreement yet: e.g. west of Scotland Haddock, Rockall Haddock, Celtic Sea Cod, Herring VIaS, VIIbc, western Horse Mackerel, NEA Boarfish. Ireland has played a key role in initiating and developing some of these plans. In addition, Ireland is involved in Scientific support and coordination of the NWWRAC development of a mixed-fisheries management plan for the Celtic Sea (VIIf, g) and the NWWRAC initiative for a skates and rays management plan. The new CFP demands that in order to reach the objective of progressively restoring and maintaining populations of fish stocks above biomass levels capable of producing maximum sustainable yield (MSY), the maximum sustainable yield exploitation rate shall be achieved by 2015 where possible and, on a progressive, incremental basis at the latest by 2020 for all stocks. The new CFP provides for the development of multi-annual plans that shall contain conservation measures to restore and maintain fish stocks above MSY level. These plans may cover single species or multi-species for mixed fisheries. The CFP also promotes the development of fish stock recovery areas in areas of biological sensitivity, including areas where there are heavy concentrations of juvenile fish. |
|  | The new Common Fisheries Policy provides for measures to be put in place to adjust the fishing capacity of the fleets to levels of fishing opportunities consistent with MSY targets with a view to having economically viable fleets without overexploiting marine biological resources. Ireland will be reporting on the balance on an annual basis. If those reports show an imbalance, an action plan for adjustments must be put in place. Capacity adjustment is an integral part of the reformed CFP (article 22) and MS need to balance capacity and fishing opportunities. There has been an overall decrease in the in Gross tonnage and kW of the Irish fleet which is mainly attributed to the decommissioning of larger vessels. A reduction in fishing effort occurred in the demersal fleet due to effort management schemes associated with e.g. management plans of cod. Fishing capacity (GTs, KWs or licences) is ring-fenced for certain non-TAC species of shellfish (scallop, cockles, oysters) in order to balance fishing opportunity, socio-economic value and available stocks and also to avoid escalation of activity in Natura 2000 sites. |
| **Action 14a: Adverse impacts on fish stocks, species, habitats and ecosystems** | Effects of marine fisheries on the marine ecosystem are being evaluated in relation to fisheries impact on Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems, bycatch (e.g. cetaceans and seabirds) and fish biodiversity. Risk assessments and mitigation plans for fisheries in and close to Natura 2000 sites are ongoing.  Completed assessments for Natura 2000 sites and mitigation plans are published online at [www.fishingnet.ie](http://www.fishingnet.ie). Risk assessment of sea-fisheries interactions with protected habitats and species for the rest of the Irish coast (within 12 nautical miles) is close to completion. Mitigation strategies are being developed and will undergo consultation prior to conclusion and implementation. A number of Natura 2000 sites are closed on a precautionary basis to certain fishing practices.  **Data link:**  [www.fishingnet.ie](http://www.fishingnet.ie) |
| **Action 14b: Adverse impacts on fish stocks, species, habitats and ecosystems** | The first step in the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD), an Initial Assessment of Ireland’s marine waters, was completed in 2013. A national report which provides narrative information on the status of Irish marine waters was subsequently prepared and published in November 2013 along with Ireland’s Marine Atlas. The second step in the implementation of the MSFD, the development of a Marine Monitoring Programme in accordance with Article 11, was completed in April 2015 following a public consultation process. This has been submitted to the Commission on EIONET. |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 5** |
|  | Invasive Species Risk Assessments have been undertaken for 41 high risk species.  The EU LIFE+ Project CAISIE (Control of Aquatic Invasive Species and Restoration of Natural Communities in Ireland) concluded in January 2013. The broad objective of the project was to contribute to the halting of biodiversity loss in Ireland by preventing further impacts on native biodiversity from high impact aquatic invasive species.  Initiated through Invasive Species Ireland, there is good national coordination of information flows on Invasive Species in Ireland as a prerequisite for delivery of a Rapid Response system. Agreement has been reached by the key national bodies on sharing of information on newly recorded species, a process coordinated by the National Biodiversity Data Centre. A team of national experts has been identified who provide verification of records of newly arrived sightings of invasive species, and following verification of reported sightings, species alerts are issued by the National Biodiversity Data Centre. |
|  | Invasive Species Ireland produced biosecurity guidance in the form of Codes of Practice for key activities that are known to facilitate the introduction of invasive species to Ireland and Northern Ireland. Codes of Practice were developed specifically for Aquaculture, Marina Operators, Water Users and Horticulture. Invasive Species Risk Assessments were carried out for 41 species subject to trade to enable the full implementation of Regs. 50 and 79 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011. Some state bodies have very proactive biosecurity protocols to mitigate the threat posed by invasive species, in particular Inland Fisheries Ireland and National Roads Authority. The National Biodiversity Data Centre published a report on the “Invasive and Non-native Species in Ireland - Trends in Introductions”, which was the first review of the arrival dates of non-native species in Ireland. Part of this work involved a horizon scanning exercise to identify potential new invaders to Ireland to assist policy formulation and introduction of mitigation measures. In 2013 IFI hosted an international conference on Freshwater Invasives – Networking for Strategy (FINS). Resulting from this meeting and workshop sessions a paper entitled ‘Tackling Invasive Alien Species in Europe: the Top 20 Issues’ was published in the journal Management of Biological Invasions. The EU LIFE+ Project CAISIE (Control of Aquatic Invasive Species and Restoration of Natural Communities in Ireland) concluded in January 2013. The broad objective of the project was to contribute to the halting of biodiversity loss in Ireland by preventing further impacts on native biodiversity from high impact aquatic invasive species. |
|  | Progress was made with the control and eradication of some recently arrived invasive species. Inland Fisheries Ireland has an active work programme and devotes resources to the control, eradication and containment of aquatic and riparian invasive species. Ongoing work has been undertaken to eradicate Chub (Leuscisus cephalus) and Water primrose (Ludwigia grandifolia) from Irish waters. The CAISIE project has resulted in Lagarosiphon being brought back to manageable levels in Lough Corrib, and in the process, new and novel control techniques have been developed. Inland Fisheries Ireland continues to research methods for the control of Asian clam (Corbicula fluminea), which has spread from River Barrow to the River Shannon. The National Botanic Gardens has been running an intensive eradication program along with Conservation Volunteers and the Heritage Council of the Hottentot Fig (Carpobrotus edulis) on Howth Head. This project has met with remarkable success. Other state bodies and local authorities have recognised the threat posed by invasive species and have on-going projects. NPWS continues to clear Rhododendron ponticum in National Parks. Substantial progress has been made. |
|  | Initiated through Invasive Species Ireland, there is good national coordination of information flows on Invasive Species in Ireland as a prerequisite for delivery of a Rapid Response system. Agreement was reached by the key national bodies on sharing of information on newly recorded species, a process coordinated by the National Biodiversity Data Centre. A team of national experts has been identified who provide verification of records of newly arrived sightings of invasive species, and following verification of reported sightings, species alerts are issued by the National Biodiversity Data Centre. Since 2011, alerts for three species, Japanese Kelp, Squirrel Pox Virus and Raccoon, have been issued by the National Biodiversity Data Centre. For the freshwater environment, Inland Fisheries Ireland has a very proactive response to invasive species and has provided basic training for its staff in respect of aquatic and riparian invasive species identification and how to report new sightings in an accurate and timely manner. A dedicated Invasive Species Group, comprising personnel from each of the River Basin Districts, was established by IFI. Member of the group will be trained in rapid reaction and related methods. IFI has produced a dedicated invasive species App for use on smart ‘phones and that this is being widely used by IFI staff and others to record and document records of invasive species. |
|  | Invasive Species Ireland launched a 'Be Plant Wise' awareness campaign to highlight the threat posed by plants to the aquatic environment. It involved promotion of a campaign video, guidance for retailers, gardeners and pond owners, and an information leaflet. The information focussed on alerting to the potential threat posed by five aquatic plants, New Zealand Pygmy Weed, Floating Pennywort, Curly Waterweed, Water Fern and Parrot's Feather. The National Biodiversity Data Centre initiated a project to raise awareness amongst the horticulture section of the threat posed by invasive species. It launched a 'Spot the Alien' awareness campaign and recording initiative focussed on three species for which horticulture is the major pathway, namely: red lily beetle, New Zealand flatworm and Harlequin ladybird. The work on Invasive Species Risk Assessments described under Action 8.01 includes a public consultation exercise about implementation of Regs 50 and 74 of the regulations and engagement with the horticultural and other sectors highlighting the potential threat posed by invasive species, in particular, aquatic plants. B and Q, the DIY company, produced a company policy covering Ireland as well as the UK, on invasive species. An iphone ‘Invasives Ireland’ app was developed by Longford County Council with Heritage Council funding and with support by the National Biodiversity Data Centre is now available for download from i-Tunes. The android version will be released shortly. Records submitted via the app will be processed by the Data Centre and added to the National Invasive Species Database. Once the android app is published a media launch of the app is planned. IFI has produced a large number of information, educational and advocacy materials that include identification sheets for 10 aquatic and riparian species, key ring identification units, USB keys, best practice for control guides for 6 species, biosecurity protocols for specific stakeholder groups (e.g. anglers, boaters, divers, paddle sports), among others. IFI released an Invasive Species App in 2012 to aid identification of invasive species and facilitate the submission of georeferenced photographs to the IFI server. |
|  | The Roads Division of DTTAS places the use of native planting in landscaping national road schemes as an integral part of the NRAs landscaping policy documentation which incorporates the requirements of the National Biodiversity Action Plan.Guidance on landscaping with native species was collated and published by Woodlands of Ireland and the Heritage Council on the ecolandscapes.ie website, funded by DAHG and DAFM. |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 6** |
|  | Legislation relating to the conservation of biodiversity is now incorporated into the 2010 Planning & Development Act. |
| **Action 17c: Drivers of biodiversity loss** | Positive incentive measures are currently being considered under the on-going development of the new rural development programme (RDP). Parallel strategic environmental assessments and appropriate assessment on the forthcoming programme will ensure there are no adverse effects on biodiversity from the measures when implemented.  Results based payments are being facilitated through the Burren Farming for Conservation Programme, the AranLIFE project and the Natterjack Toad Scheme for habitat protection, creation and improvement. Further output-based measures are also being considered as part of the new RDP |
|  | “Our Sustainable Future” famework was published in 2012. The framework identifies a number of national policies and programmes relating to areas such as: sustainable consumption and production, and conservation and management of natural resources. |
| **Action 18a & 18b: Resources for global biodiversity conservation** | Biological diversity is a key part of sustainable food production which is a priority issue when addressing hunger in many developing countries. In May 2013 Ireland launched a new policy for International Development "One World One Future" which places importance on Biodiversity as part of the priority area for action on Climate Change and Development. The policy commits Ireland to support developing countries to conserve and sustainably use their biodiversity and to secure local ecosystems. In 2013 Irish Aid allocated grants totalling €27,626,000 in respect of activities that were biodiversity relevant or had biodiversity elements. Of this funding approx. €13,000,000 was substantively biodiversity relevant. In addition, grants totalling €300,000 where allocated for biodiversity specific projects. Activities include developing sustainable seed systems, agroforestry using indigenous trees, promoting the growing local woodlots, watershed management and protection of natural resources, protection of habitats, support for sustainable food and energy systems particularly for indigenous and pastoralist groups, community involvement in protecting forests and ecotourism. |
| **Action 20: Access to genetic resources and sharing of benefits** | Ireland has signed the Protocol and the development of administrative arrangements for its operation has begun. |
|  | Nagoya Protocol and EU Regulations giving effect to it have been adopted by the EU Commission. DAHG is represented on a Committee established by the commission to assist in the implementation of the Regulations. A decision on ratification has not yet been made in Ireland. |

# Italy

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| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 1** *(Please note that information from Member States in relation to Action 1a is supplied to the European Commission via other reports. To avoid duplication of reporting, information relating to Action 1a has not been included in this report)* |
| **Action 1b: Natura 2000 (and other protected areas)** | National Action Plan to promote a sustainable use of phythosanitary products  The Plan was approved by the Ministerial Decree of 22 January 2014 and published in the Official Gazette, General Series n. 35 of 02.12.2014; the guidelines set by the NAP are being prepared, in accordance with article 12 of the Directive on the limitation, replacement and removal of plant protection products in certain sensitive areas, including the sites of the Natura 2000 network and protected areas.  **Data link:**  http://www.minambiente.it/pagina/piano-dazione-nazionale-sulluso-sostenibile-dei-pesticidi |
| **Action 1c: Natura 2000 (and other protected areas)** | 1011 Sites of Community Importance (42,72%) in which they were adopted or approved management plans or conservation measures (updated to 2012)  **Data link:**  <http://www.sinanet.isprambiente.it/it/Reporting_Dir_Habitat/rapporto/rapporto_2014_194> |
|  | Shifting from SCIs (Sites of Community Importance) to SACs started in three Regions. Valle d’Aosta (27 areas, 34,606 ha), Friuli Venezia-Giulia (56 areas, 132,175 ha) and Basilicata (20 areas, 30,824 ha). By the end of 2013 Natura 20000 network comprises 2585 areas (Table 13), of which 92 are entirely marine, and 216 are partially marine. |
| **Action 1d: Natura 2000 (and other protected areas)** | Italy is participating in the new biogeographic process. They have been involved regions, the management bodies of Natura 2000 sites and scientists involved in the management. |
| **Action 2: Adequate financing of Natura 2000** | Planning of EU funds 2014-2020 in already in progress, and drafting of documents and Operational Programs have been action of pivotal importance in order to integrate biodiversity in sectorial policies. Reference document in this process is Partner Agreement where an explicit mention of ecosystem service has been done, and conservation actions in Natura 2000 areas proposed in Prioritized Action framework by Regions.  In the partnership agreement (approved by the Commission in October 2014) Objective THEME 6 (PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT AND PROMOTE THE EFFICIENT USE OF RESOURCES) contains actions for the implementation of the Prioritized Action Framework (PAF) and Plans management of the Natura 2000 network; actions to reduce habitat fragmentation and maintain the link ecological and functional; measures to safeguard the recovery and improvement of biodiversity.  **Data link:**  http://www.dps.gov.it/it/AccordoPartenariato |
| **Action 3a: Stakeholder awareness and enforcement** | The Ministry of the Environment continues the publication of the newsletter "Natura 2000 Italia infora," available online in English and Italian.  **Data link:**  <http://www.minambiente.it/sites/default/files/archivio/allegati/rete_natura_2000/natura2000_ita> [to be updated by the Member State] |
|  | The Ministry of Environment has funded a project Life to raise awareness of the agricultural sector on issues of Natura 2000.  **Data link:**  <http://www.lamiaterravale.it/it/il-progetto> |
|  | 2013: Implementation of web portal NaturaItalia aimed both common people and specialist to disseminate about biodiversity topics  **Data link:**  <http://www.naturaitalia.it> |
| **Action 3b: Stakeholder awareness and enforcement** | 2011: Guidelines for the protection of wetlands have been defined, it based on integration of both Ramsar and CBD Convention with the Bird and Habitat Directives, Water Framework Directive and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.  **Data links:**  [http://www.isprambiente. gov.it/en/publications/rep orts/contributi-per-la- tutela-della-biodiversita- delle-1](http://www.isprambiente.gov.it/en/publications/reports/contributi-per-la-tutela-della-biodiversita-delle-1)  [http://sgi2.isprambiente.it](http://sgi2.isprambiente.it/)  /zoneumide/allegati/Rapp orto%20107%20bassa.pdf [to be updated by the Member State] |
|  | On December 2013 the Ministry of Environment organized in Rome a national conference on "The Nature of Italy. Biodiversity and Protected Areas: the green economy for restarting the Country", which was attended by the European Commissioner for Environment Janez Potočnik. In preparation for the Conference two workshops have been organized on October: in Milan, on "Green infrastructure and natural capital", and in Palermo, on the theme "Parks as development places for green economy and green society". During these initiatives the importance of our natural capital for the development of a green economy has been stressed.  **Data link:**  <http://www.minambiente.it/pagina/la-natura-delitalia> |
|  | The Ministry for the Environment has published "The Measures of compensation in the Habitats Directive" as a reference tool for technicians and authorities involved in the implementation of Article. 6 of the Directive.  **Data link:**  <http://www.minambiente.it/pagina/le-misure-di-compensazione-nella-direttiva-9243cee> |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 2** |
|  | National Strategy for Climate Change Adaptation  **Data link:**  <http://www.minambiente.it/notizie/elementi-una-strategia-di-adattamenti-climatici> |
|  | Database on prohibited or restricted substances on the basis of Regulation REACH. Legislative decree on sustainable use of plant protection product and to reduce the risks and impact on human health, environment and biodiversity  **Data links:**  http://www.dsa.minambiente.it/restrizionisostanze/ <http://www.minambiente.it/sites/default/files/archivio/normativa/dlgs_14_08_2012_150.pdf> |
| **Action 6a & 6b: Ecosystem restoration and green infrastructure** | Italian contribution to global target: Increase in coverage of protected areas at land and sea; 31 March 2014: Protected land area 21,6%, protected marine area 19,1% of total Italian territory (see Table 15), Approval of planning/management tools of the national and regional protected areas: From 2009 to date planning instruments in force in national park have increased by 12.5% to 33% 2013: Environmental accounting in National Park. In 2009 ECST certification was achieved by only one national Park. By the end of 2013, with Federparchi’s support, ECST certification has been achieved by 4 more National Parks. Procedure is underway for other 4 national Parks and one more Marine protected Areas, whit 4 more national parks with an ongoing procedure.  **Data link:**  <http://www.minambiente.it/sites/default/files/archivio/comunicati/Attuazione_Interno_VI_bozza_okx7x_Layout_1.pdf> |
|  | Identification of eight river basin districts and preparation of related management plans, Information System for Water Protection in Italy (SINTAI), Italian node of the system Water Information System for Europe (WISE) made with open source technologies, for reporting to the WFD 200/60/CE |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 3** |
| **Target 3a: Agriculture** | National Action Plan to promote a sustainable use of phythosanitary products.  **Data link:**  <http://www.minambiente.it/sites/default/files/archivio/normativa/dlgs_14_08_2012_150.pdf> |
| **Target 3a, 3b** | Integration of ecological network in planning: key action performed by Public Administration to tackle land fragmentation and to protect prime natural elements even outside protected areas |
| **Target 3b: Forestry** | Framework program for forestry.  Traceability production chain for 2012-2014, aimed at support an economy of forestry that take into account environment protection and land management.  **Data links:**  [http://www.reterurale.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/416  http://www.politicheagricole.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/5728](http://www.reterurale.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/416%20http://www.politicheagricole.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/5728) |
| **Action 8a & 8b: Environmental public goods in the CAP and GAEC cross-compliance** | 2012: National guidelines for the in-situ conservation, on-farm and ex-situ biodiversity of plant, animal and microbial agricultural interest.  **Data link:**  <http://www.reterurale.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/9580> |
| **Action 9a & 9b: Rural development and biodiversity** | 2007-2013: expenditure concerning Axe 2 totalled approximately 6 billion Euros, with measure “agricultural-environmental payments” ranking as the most significant more incisive at local level, favouring the sustainable utilization of agricultural land with about 3 billion provided.  **Data link:**  http://www.reterurale.it |
| **Action 10: Agricultural genetic diversity** | December 2013: National Network on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.  Recognition and evaluation of germplasm banks of wild flowers considered in danger of extinction.  **Data link:**  HTTP://PLANTA-RES.ENTECRA.IT  <http://www.isprambiente.gov.it/it/temi/biodiversita/accordi-multilaterali/nazionali/convenzione-ispra-ribes-201cvalutazione-delle-collezioni-ex-situ-in-banche-del-germoplasma-di-specie-minacciate-della-flora-italiana201d> |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 4** |
| **Action 14b: Adverse impacts on fish stocks, species, habitats and ecosystems** | Implementation of Barcelona Convention implementation of land based sources protocol In the framework of GFCM red coral monitoring program  **Data link:**  <http://www.minambiente.it/pagina/convenzione-di-barcellona> |
|  | Establishment of new PAs according to SPAMI protocol (Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance): from 7 PAs in 2009 to 10 PAs in 2012  **Data link:**  http://www.minambiente.it/pagina/aree-specialmente-protette-di-importanza-mediterranea-aspim |
|  | In 2011 decrease trend initiated in 2000 went on, with a shrinking of fishing fleet both in term of number of vessels (-1.2% with respect to 2010) and in fishing capacity (-2.6% with respect to 2010. Also tonnage went through a negative trend (-4% with respect to 2010). Fishing efforts, in a negative trend since 2005, increased from 25.2 in 2008 to 26.5 in 2009, and again decreased from 2009 to 2011 reaching to 23.9; Catch Per Unit of Effort (CPUE) with 8.8 kg/die, are on the same place as last two years (Table 7).  **Table 7. Fisheries (source: IREPA – Institute of Economic surveys for fisheries and aquaculture – MIPAAF – Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and fisheries).**   |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | **2009** | **2010** | **2011** | **2012** | | **Fishing effort (Gross tonnage x average days of fishing)** | 26,5 | 25,5 | 23,9 | 22,8 | | **CPUE (Catch Per Unit of Effort,)** | 8,8 kg/die | 8,7 kg/die | 8,8 kg/die | 8,8 kg/die | |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 5** |
|  | 2010: Inventory of terrestrial alien species of vascular plants, IAS eradication projects in small islands, IAS containment projects: status improving  **Data links:**  <http://www.minambiente.it/sites/default/files/archivio/biblioteca/protezione_natura/dpn_flora_alloctona.pdf>  <http://www.montecristo2010.it/> |
|  | IAS containment projects: Silurus glanis (es. Consorzio dell’Oglio, 2011 - “Plan for Containment of catfish (Silurus glanis L.) in the waters of F. Oglio Sublacuale” |
|  | Up-date of the EC-SQUARE Life Project  **Data link:**  <http://www.rossoscoiattolo.eu/> |
|  | Start of U-SAVEREDS Life project (October 2014): The main goal of LIFE USAVEREDS is the conservation of the European red squirrel (Sciurus vulgaris) in Umbria and the biodiversity in the Apennine ecosystem.  **Data link:**  <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/project/Projects/index.cfm?fuseaction=search.dspPage&n_> [to be updated by the Member State] |
|  | June 2014: Development and update of a national database of alien species (all taxa are covered) that include data on: Taxonomy; Status; ccurrence; invasiveness and type of introduction; arrival data; pathways of introduction; distribution at regional level. Data on status and distribution are available online at the site of National Network of Biodiversity:  **Data link:**  <http://193.206.192.106/portalino/home_it/dati.html> |
|  | Many Italian institutions participating in the BALMAS project (Ballast water management system for Adriatic Sea protection). The overall objective of the project is to provide the basis for building a common cross-border control and management of ships' ballast water and sediments, through collaboration among institutions in the Adriatic region.  **Data link:**  <http://www.balmas.eu/> |
|  | Amendments to the Decree of June 16, 2010 concerning the national procedures for the issuance of the certification of approved facilities for the treatment of ballast water, produced by Italian companies.  **Data link:**  http://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/atto/serie\_generale/caricaDettaglioAtto/originario?atto.dataPubbl [to be updated by the Member State] |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 6** |
| **Action 17c: Drivers of biodiversity loss** | The Italian Ministry of Environment Land and Sea has set up an inter-ministerial Table on the Strategy for Resource Mobilization so as to fulfil the global commitments made at CBD COP10 in Nagoya, especially to achieve Aichi Target 20.  In the course of its activity the inter-ministerial Table has started the process for the elaboration of a national strategy for resource mobilization. In addition, the Table committed to bring the issue of resource mobilization into other areas closely related, for example putting the matter on the agenda of the National Biodiversity Committee, as well as in the preliminary discussion about EU Structural Funds Programmes for the period 2014-2020. |
|  | State incentives for energy efficiency.  **Data link:**  <http://efficienzaenergetica.acs.enea.it/index.html> [to be updated by the Member State] |
| **Action 18a: Resources for global biodiversity conservation** | International flows data (ODA – Official Development Assistance) are provided by the Italian Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Environment. Both bilateral and multilateral flows were taken into account. |
| **Action 19: Biodiversity in development cooperation** | General Direction for Cooperation and Development (Ministry of Foreign Affairs), in its planning 2011-2013, identified the environment as priority and cross-cutting sector of intervention, promoting several projects, and giving particular consideration on biodiversity issues.  **Data link:**  <http://www.cooperazioneallosviluppo.esteri.it/pdgcs/italiano/cooperazione/PrioritaSviluppoSostenibile.html> [to be updated by the Member State] |

# Latvia

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| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 1** *(Please note that information from Member States in relation to Action 1a is supplied to the European Commission via other reports. To avoid duplication of reporting, information relating to Action 1a has not been included in this report)* |
| **Action 1b: Natura 2000 (and other protected areas)** | * The Land Use Policy Concept (adopted in 2010) is a medium term policy planning document defining targets, principles and results of land use policy, problems to be solved and necessary actions. * This Concept includes biodiversity issues to some extent, for example, issues on biodiversity conservation in agricultural lands which are not used for agricultural purposes and issues of land fragmentation (particularly forest lands) are highlighted in a descriptive part of the Concept. * Conservation of biologically valuable territories is highlighted as one of the policy results. |
| **Action 1c: Natura 2000 (and other protected areas)** | Since the EPC is a new document there is no overview available of progress made in implementation of priority activities so far. In 2014, there were 332 Natura 2000 sites in Latvia with the total area of 1 224 137 hectares from which 787 730 hectares are terrestrial sites (325 sites), and 436 407 hectares – 7 marine sites. Terrestrial Natura 2000 sites cover ca. 12 % of the country’s area; marine Natura 2000 sites cover ca.34 % of the coastal marine area of Latvia and ca.1% of exclusive economic zone of Latvia. Total coverage of specially protected nature territories (including biosphere reserve) is ca.17% of the territory of Latvia.   * For example – the network of protected territories of European importance Natura 2000 was established, appropriate monitoring programme of Natura 2000 site was developed and is being implemented, species conservation plans and management plans of protected territories have been and are being developed constantly. |
|  | * In 2007-2012 nature management plans have been adopted for 53 Natura 2000 sites (18,5% of the total area of Natura 2000 sites). * Until December 31, 2014 nature management plans have been adopted for 126 Natura 2000 sites (54% of the total area of Natura 2000 sites). During this period, eight species protection plans have been adopted. * Related actions of The Environmental Policy Concept (2014 – 2020) are:   + National mapping of the distribution of the species and biotopes of the EU concern; − respective target setting for their protection;   + Development and implementation of protection plans for species, biotopes and nature territories;   + Restoration of biotopes according to Natura 2000 management programme.   + Integration of the management plans into land use plans of the local municipalities. |
| **Action 2: Adequate financing of Natura 2000** | Attraction of funding from the EU LIFE Nature and EU ERDF programs can be mentioned as another great success. From 2001 (when funding from the LIFE program became available for Latvia) till 2014, 27 LIFE projects were implemented for the protection of biodiversity. A lot of different habitat and species habitat management and restoration activities in different protected territories have been implemented through these projects, informational/educational materials published, management plans elaborated. |
|  | * It is planned to use different types of funding resources (state budget, EU funding and private sector funding) to implement the activities enlisted in Environmental Policy Concept (EPC). * It is considered that due to economical situation in country, there will be not enough financial resources for co-financing in the near future and therefore only the most prior activities will be implemented. * In 2012 Latvia has elaborated first draft of the Prioritised action framework as provided in the Article 8 of the EU Habitats directive. The Prioritised action framework includes listing of the priority actions to be implemented as well as estimates of the necessary funding and possible sources. The findings and information of the PAF have be used for the planning of the usage of the EU Structural funds 2014–2020 and the state budget. |
|  | * A lot of different habitat and species habitat management and restoration activities in different protected territories have been implemented through the LIFE projects, informational/educational materials published, management plans elaborated, etc. * Local municipalities, land owners and other stakeholders were largely involved in implementation of these projects through development of management plans for protected territories, through implementation of practical management activities etc. * Also significant number of tourism infrastructure elements (information centers, nature trails, view towers, information signs etc.) were created within the EU LIFE and EU ERDF projects. |
| **Action 3a, 3b & 3c: Stakeholder awareness and enforcement** | Research, technological development and innovation: Smart Specialization Strategy, research and development initiatives (2014 – 2020)  Latvian policy for the Smart Specialization Strategy – principles:   * Effective coordination between knowledge specialization and capabilities of industry to leverage on such specialization, ensuring that building of excellence in research and development is partly led by and followed by “entrepreneurial discovery”, taking into account existing capacity of embedded sectors and their potential for growth; -   + Increasing the knowledge pool in the areas of specialization through focusing, international cooperation and knowledge acquisition;   + Economic policy that promotes the absorption of knowledge in companies and stimulates private research, development and innovation investments;   + Promoting knowledge transfer and closer cooperation between universities, research institutions and enterprises;   + Promoting social innovation at all levels of government and society in general. |
| **Action 3a: Stakeholder awareness and enforcement** | * Overall environmental education and education for sustainable development are parts of school and universities programmes according to Environmental Protection Law. * Nature territories, nature education centres, museums, national funds for nature projects and NGO ensure a large part of the general nature protection awareness of the public.   + E.g. Every person is welcome to report on wild flora and fauna observations on special home page – http://dabasdati.lv/en/ created by NGO`s since 2008. As well as to engage in public monitoring programme for nature objects coordinated by Nature Conservation Agency. * Nature Concerthall is aimed at raising public awareness about the importance of different species in our environment and our responsibility to take care of and to maintain biodiversity. This is achieved by using a multidisciplinary approach involving scientists and professional artists from many sectors. As a specific annual outdoor relaxing and educational multimedia performance since 2006, Nature Concerthall was named as best environmental campaign of the European Union 2012 by the EU “Green Spider Network”. * In 2010, the book “Protected habitats of Community Importance in Latvia – Identification manual” was released, with 2nd revised version in 2013 also in English. In this book, the criteria and methods are specified, facilitating the development of unified understanding among experts and inventory process. |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 2** |
|  | National policy documents and legal acts necessary for the implementation of the European Union waste, air, soil, water policy largely are in place. In the same time a full achievement of the Target will depend on practical realization of the policy and its effect on the environment. Additionally an effect of the environment around country and historic pollution are factors of influence, too. |
| **Action 6a: Ecosystem restoration and green infrastructure** | The operational program for the use of the EU Structural funds 2014-2020 provides funding for the restoration of the most affected ecosystems – grasslands, wetlands, dunes and forests. Priorities for the restoration will be set within the framework of the LIFE+ funded project: NAT-PROGRAMME - National Conservation and Management Programme for Natura 2000 Sites in Latvia (LIFE11 NAT/LV/000371). |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 3** |
|  | * [Aichi] Target implementation status (Low/Medium/High): Medium * Assessment of the rate of progress in reaching this target (A/B/C): B   Most of the sectoral policies can indicate a process of implementation of the nature protection measures stated into their policy documents and legal acts. Including an environmental impact assessment of the sectoral policy documents and projects as a horizontal takeover. Estimation of the nature protection interrelation and progress between these policy sectors still needs to be developed. There are legal regulations prescribing requirements for protection of certain structures, e.g.:   * Protection of sea shores and rivers with their banks; * Requirements for fishery - catching, utilization, research, conservation, enhancement and monitoring of fish resources in inland and territorial marine waters; * Requirements for forestry – preservation of dead wood and trees from previous forest stand generation, restrictions for cutting of forest patches allocated in certain distance from forest massifs, limited cutting on river banks; * Hunting conditions – to ensure the protection and preservation of the population of game animal species and their habitat; * Legislation on agriculture and rural development to facilitate sustainable agriculture and rural development; * Requirements for species reintroduction for the preservation and restoration of the species; * Protection of alleys etc. |
| **Target 3a: Agriculture** | Regarding agricultural ecosystems - Latvian Farmland Bird index (LFBI) is important complex indicator which describes biodiversity in Latvian rural landscape. After 2004 LFBI was decreasing and there was a concern that negative changes are related to intensification of rural farming and insufficient activities in improvement of environment conditions in agricultural lands. In overall LFBI has been changing around same level as in 1995. [3] Natural and extensively managed grasslands are biologically the most important, but nowadays they cover only 0.3% from the country’s territory. These territories traditionally were managed by grazing and mowing, the extent of which has significantly reduced. Main threats to biodiversity in agricultural lands are: polarization of agricultural landscape, overgrowing due to lack of management, melioration etc. |
| **Target 3b: Forestry** | As to the forests - indicators show that the total forest area and area of stocked forest land is increasing which is mainly related to overgrowing of agricultural land. There is also disproportion in age structure for the dominant tree species – young and middle aged stands are proportionally more than old stands. Such stand age structure does not ensure presence of uneven-aged trees in forest and continuity of plant and animal species related to them. In many cases forest is seen as the only income for inhabitants of the countryside, and this approach leads to unsustainable use of forests. Other factors with negative impact on forest biodiversity: melioration, construction of forest roads, lack of natural disturbance (e.g. burning) in particular forest habitats. |
| **Action 8: Environmental public goods in the CAP and GAEC cross-compliance** | * [Aichi] Target implementation status (Low/Medium/High): Low * Assessment of the rate of progress in reaching this target (A/B/C): A * Related actions of The Environmental Policy Concept (2014 – 2020) are: * National mapping of the distribution of the species and biotopes of the EU concern; * Respective target setting for their protection; * Development and implementation of protection plans for species, biotopes and nature territories; * Restoration of biotopes according to Natura 2000 management programme. * Integration of the management plans into land use plans of the local municipalities   An important policy area to sustain the biodiversity within the agriculture land will be the implementation of the greening of the European Union Common Agriculture Policy payments.  *(information is also included under EU Target 1)* |
| **Action 11a & 11b: Forest holders and biodiversity** | Although the proportion of land area covered by forests shrank worldwide to 30% in 2000, in Latvia 45% of the territory is covered by forests. Latvia is one of the most wooded countries in Europe, with per capita forest area exceeding the European average 4.5 times. Forests play a major role in the Latvian economy, they reduce the concentration of CO2 in the atmosphere, and they provide opportunities for recreation.  The main objectives of Latvia’s forest policy are:   * To protect the biological diversity and quality of Latvia’s forests in order to maintain a positive climate and water regimen, and to prevent soil desiccation; * To support afforestation of non-arable land in order to increase absorption of carbon dioxide (to purify the air); * To promote exploitation of wood and wood products; * To educate forest owners, managers and the public about the biological diversity and ecological importance of forests. |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 4** |
| **Action**  **14a & 14b: Adverse impacts on fish stocks, species, habitats and ecosystems** | National implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy of the European Union is an everyday process and national policy documents and legal acts largely are in place. In the same time a full achievement of the Target will depend on practical implementation of the policy and ecosystem based approaches.  A full implementation of existing national river basin management plans and their development for 2016-2021 as well as elaboration of Marine Strategy are planned by Environmental Policy Concept (2014 – 2020). |
|  | There are legal regulations prescribing requirements for protection of certain structures, e.g.:   * Protection of sea shores and rivers with their banks; * Requirements for fishery - catching, utilization, research, conservation, enhancement and monitoring of fish resources in inland and territorial marine waters. |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 5** |
|  | Target will be approached according to new regulation of the European Union, the EU biodiversity strategy and by use of the existing national experience and data of the monitoring and research. |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 6** |
| **Action 17a: Drivers of biodiversity loss** | There are no specific national targets and indicators developed to evaluate overall realization of the [Aichi] Target 3. Incentives related to Target can be viewed as part of nature protection policy itself and its integration into sectoral policies (including [Aichi] Target 2, 7 as well as actions planned by EU biodiversity strategy to 2020). A green budget reform including right subsidies is suggested by „Sustainable Development Strategy of Latvia until 2030”. The Environmental Policy Concept (2014 – 2020) plans for more direct use of the finances of the natural resources tax to the environmental benefit. Financial compensations for having strict nature protection zones and EU payments for management of the biologically valuable grasslands and Natura 2000 forests for land owners are part of activities dedicated for the Target. |
|  | The EPC includes also the target for the resource mobilization for the implementation of the biodiversity related measures in Latvia. The EPC envisages the increase of the funding for the protection of biodiversity from 14 euro/ha/year (in 2013) to 50 euro/ha/year (in 2020), taking into account all available sources of funding. |
|  | The capitalization of nature resources is suggested by Sustainable Development Strategy of Latvia until 2030. |
| **Action 18a: Resources for global biodiversity conservation** | An annual development assistance (contributions to international nature protection agreements and international development projects) of about 30 000 Euro can be reported in the period from 2006 to 2010. |
| **Action 20: Access to genetic resources and sharing of benefits** | * [Aichi] Target implementation status (Low/Medium/High): Medium * Assessment of the rate of progress in reaching this target (A/B/C): B   The existing policy implementation of the international agreements and national policy for genetic diversity will be supplemented with the measures of the Nagoya Protocol. |
|  | The Nagoya Protocol will be implemented according to respective regulation of the European Union and to the Protocol itself. |

# Lithuania

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| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 1** *(Please note that information from Member States in relation to Action 1a is supplied to the European Commission via other reports. To avoid duplication of reporting, information relating to Action 1a has not been included in this report)* |
| **Action 1b: Natura 2000 (and other protected areas)** | In April, 2015 new National Environmental Strategy was adopted. It is a long term document for further integration of environmental aspects, such as biodiversity and ecosystems, into different areas. The strategy sets national environmental protection vision until 2050 and targets until 2030. The strategy indicates four main priority areas: sustainable use of natural resources and waste management, improvement of environmental quality, protection of ecosystem, mitigation and adaptation to climate change.  Additionally, in January, 2015 Action Plan on Conservation of Landscape and Biodiversity for the period of 2015–2020 was adopted. This Plan mainly focuses on conservation of protected species and habitats, management of invasive species, sustainable use of fauna, flora and genetic resources, as well as on mapping and economic evaluation of ecosystems and their services, development of green infrastructure.  Several horizontal strategies and development programmes relating to the objectives of the EU biodiversity strategy were renewed or being renewed for the financial period of 2014-2020, including the most important: National Progress Programme (adopted in November, 2012), Rural Development Programme (adopted in February, 2015), Operational Programme of the Fisheries Sector for 2015-2020 (adopted August), National Forestry Development Programme (adopted in May, 2012), National Renewable Energy Development Programme, National Transport Development Programme (adopted in December 2014), National Climate Change Strategy (adopted in May, 2013) National Tourism Development Programme (adopted in March 2014), Baltic Sea Environmental Protection Strategy (adopted in August, 2010) and etc. Considerations of biodiversity is also integrated in national legal acts with respect to planning of economic and others activities, for example, requirements for environmental impact assessment are renewed. |
| **Action 1c:** **Natura 2000 (and other protected areas)** | At present the list of SPAs under the directive 2009/147/EB comprises 83 sites (including 3 marine sites) of the total area over 626 000 ha or 9 % of the territory of Lithuania. The list of proposed SCIs under the directive 92/43/EEC consists of 410 areas (including 2 marine sites) covering 667 000 ha or 10% of the territory of Lithuania. The established SPAs and proposed SCIs overlap to a great extent. The area of overlapping is about 385 000 ha.  With establishment of last marine SPA in July 2015 Lithuanian network of SPAs is being considered as completed (notification to the European Commission is scheduled for last quarter of 2015).  Lithuania has made a huge progress in designation of marine protected areas and is focusing now on strengthening implementation of management measures. Appropriate monitoring programme for Natura 2000 sites was developed and is being implemented; species conservation plans and management plans of protected territories have been and are being developed constantly. There are 82 management plans for Natura 2000 sites adopted and 143 management plans are in preparation process. Since the start of implementation of Natura 2000 network in Lithuania in 2004, Lithuanian public institutions implemented more than 400 individual nature management actions covering more than 14 thousand ha of natural habitats or habitats of the species.  In addition, action plans for 29 protected species, including those protected under Habitats or Birds Directives were adopted. In 2013-2015 conservation measures for 23 protected species were implemented in 129 localities. |
| **Action 1d:** **Natura 2000 (and other protected areas)** | Lithuania has participated in the boreal biogeographical process initiated by European Commission and Finland since 2012. Regular exchange of experience in Natura 2000 network management is taking place and network of Natura 2000 specialists is constantly growing. |
| **Action 2: Adequate financing of Natura 2000** | Preliminary needs of financing biodiversity at national level are indicated in the Action Plan on Conservation of Landscape and Biodiversity for the period of 2015–2020.  Biodiversity conservation is mainly funded via different EU funds and state budget, but also from European Economic Area financial instrument.  Financing of the protected areas management from the state budget decreased in 2010 and remained stable in 2011-2015. Financial sustainability is ensured in the proposed national budget for 2016-2018, though some cuts from present level are foreseen.  Substantial financial flows for biodiversity conservation come from European Structural Funds (mainly for one-off investments) and European Rural Development Fund (for one-off investments, as well as for recurring management activities and compensations for land managers in Natura 2000 areas for their income foregone due to restrictions set on the land use). Lithuanian Rural Development Programme 2014 to 2020 sets priority No 4 “Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry” and allocates 28.9 % of total public expenditure of the programme to this priority area or 571 535 thousand Eur for this programming period.  Projects as under the LIFE and INTERREG programme are promoted as leverage to enhance cooperation, awareness raising and long term conservation actions. National co-financing for best LIFE project ideas is being granted on project ideas competition base.  Financial compensations for Natura 2000 land managers and EU payments for management of the high nature value grasslands and Natura 2000 forests are part of activities dedicated for the Target 3. |
| **Action 3a: Stakeholder awareness and enforcement** | Overall environmental education and education for sustainable development are parts of school and universities programmes.  Protected areas administrations, nature education centres, museums, national funds for nature projects and NGO ensure a large part of the general nature protection awareness of the public. Network of visitor centres and of nature schools in 35 protected areas administrations is under constant development. In 2015 new package of 25 different nature education programmes for nature schools will be prepared.  A special event for International Biodiversity Day is organised by Vilnius University Botanic Garden annually.  Most of the European funds projects have an awareness raising component. |
| **Action 4a & 4b: Monitoring and reporting** | Environmental Protection Agency ensures continuous and complex environmental monitoring, evaluation, forecast of and information on environmental quality and nature resources use in accordance with State Programme on Environmental Monitoring in 2011-2017. The State Service for Protected Areas under the Ministry of Environment coordinates activities of protected areas administrations in protected areas, including in Natura 2000 sites.  Essential element of Natura 2000 site management plan is a monitoring scheme.  Incomplete individual monitoring schemes exist for 173 sites. Incompleteness is mainly due to lack of monitoring elements for some of the species present on the site. 299 is the total number of Natura 2000 sites where species are among conservation objectives.  National monitoring methodologies exist for 62 species of Community interest. 101 is the total number of species of Community interest, which conservation status needs to be evaluated and monitoring methodologies created.  In 2015 monitoring guidance documents for species of Community interest will be either developed or improved depending on documents current status. Development or/and improvement of monitoring guidance documents includes training of specialists as well.  Since 2009 series of projects on inventory of natural habitats of Community interest in terrestrial part and in marine environment of Lithuania and on development of their monitoring programme has been implemented. Methodological base for monitoring of natural habitats of Community interest will be fully developed by the end of 2015. |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 2** |
|  | In general, Lithuania meets air quality requirements and air quality could be assessed as satisfactory or good. The limits of air pollutants are not exceeded with some exceptions in bigger cities, where the limits of particular matters are exceed several days per year.  Diffuse source agricultural pollution can account for 45-80% of all the load of nitrogen pollution washed to waterbodies. In Lithuania, due to non-point source pollution 222 surface water bodies out of 1177 do not meet the criteria of good ecological status. This accounts for 19% of the total number of all water bodies.  In 2007, the society was introduced with the main water protection issues in Nemunas, Venta, Lielupė and Dauguva river basin districts. Later the management plans and action programmes of measures were prepared for the aforementioned river basin districts. These documents were approved by the resolutions of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania in 2010. The river basin districts management plans are updated every six years. The first management plans will be implemented during the period from 2010 to 2015.  Based on the information submitted in the first river basin districts management plans during the period from 2005 to 2009, 17% of 832 river waters bodies were of high ecological status, 24% – of good, 50% – of moderate status, 8% – of poor and 1% of bad ecological status. In 2015, the renewed management plans for Nemunas, Venta, Lielupė and Dauguva river basin districts will be finally drafted and it will include the assessment of the ecological status of rivers and its change during the period from 2010 to 2014.  In 2006–2011, high and good ecological status was determined for 79–89% of all examined water bodies in terms of total phosphorus. Based on the total nitrogen, approx. 82% of lakes and reservoirs that were examined during the period from 2004 to 2011 have met the requirements of high or good ecological status.  When summarising the results obtained in 2004–2011, no essential tendencies of the changes of average concentrations of total phosphorus and total nitrogen, salinity, oil hydrocarbons were observed. |
| **Action 5: Knowledge of ecosystems and their services** | Lithuania started the preparation of the National study on the distribution and state of the main ecosystem services on Lithuanian territory. Main data and other information collection and analysis supposed to be performed during 2015, while the final report is planned to be issued on the first quarter of 2016.  It is planned, that the Study will cover the following main elements:  - Assessment provided for the status of at least 24 main ecosystem services;  - At least 40 national maps of the distribution of the main ecosystem services in Lithuania territory produced;  - Methodological basis for the mapping and assessment of ecosystem services on national level created;  - Suggestions provided on the main ways and measures to foster the integration of the ecosystem services approach into the sectorial policies, important for the maintaining or improving the state of ecosystem services;  - National conference for the stakeholders organized;  - Popular publication, introducing ecosystem services concept and first results of the Study to policy makers, academia and general public, issued.  It is expected, that the Study results will considerably increase knowledge of ecosystem services in Lithuania and improve integration of the biodiversity considerations into the sectorial policies. |
| **Action 6a & 6b: Ecosystem restoration and green infrastructure** | Action Plan on Conservation of Landscape and Biodiversity for the period of 2015–2020 sets a strategic goal to halt biodiversity loss and degradation of ecosystems and their services and, where possible, to restore them. The actions indicated in this Plan focuses on protection of ecosystems and natural habitats and maintenance of viable populations of species in the natural environment, restoration of degraded ecosystems and habitats and support for the restoration of the populations of threatened species; initiation of mapping of ecosystems and their services, promotion of green infrastructure.  Process of preparation and implementation of management plans for protected areas as well as action plans for protected species is ongoing.  The backbone of green infrastructure in Lithuania is the national legislation on ecological network (nature carcass), which requires to incorporate protected areas and other ecologically and biologically valuable areas into spatial planning processes with the aims to protect biodiversity, landscape and natural recreational resources, to make interlinkages among the most ecologically valuable habitats, to form migration corridors, to enhance areas of forests, to regulate development of urbanization and agriculture. |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 3** |
| **Target 3a: Agriculture** | There are 1,52 Mio hectares of high nature value areas, including protected areas, natural grasslands, protected areas, various types of wetlands in Lithuania. That comprises ~23 percent of the whole territory.  Farmland Bird index shows common decrease of wild birds population on farmland from 2000. Nevertheless, from 2006 until 2013 (in shorter period) Farmland Bird Index remained stable.  Participation of farmers in biological diversity conservation schemes proposed by national rural development programme is considered as not sufficient. In 2007-2013 only 7.5 percent of whole farmland was covered by rural development measures designed for biodiversity conservation.  New Rural Development Programme for 2014-2020 continues supporting broad measures of landscape and biodiversity conservation, water and soil protection, including conservation of Natura 2000 areas and areas with natural constraints or with high nature value farming. Programme addresses the problem of land abandonment in areas with natural and other specific constraints by supporting maintenance of farming in these areas. Programme also supports restoration and yearly specific management of habitats of globally endangered bird species Aquatic warbler. Further more specific species and habitats conservation schemes are still needed and are under development.  The Programme foresees measures in arable land to protect waterbodies and/or avoid soil erosion. |
| **Target 3b: Forestry** | One third (32,6 percent) of Lithuania‘s territory is covered by forests (2174 thousand hectares). State forests constitute 49,6 percent (1077,7 thousand hectares), private forests 39,2 percent (852,6 thousand hectares). According to national law, Lithuanian forests attributed to 4 different management groups (the criterion of this differentiation is the main function of the forest). I group of strictly protected (with no management) forests covers 26,3 thousand hectares (1,2 percent of all forest). Forest ecosystems develop here naturally and any economic activity is forbidden in these forests. II group of forests covers 266,8 thousand hectares (12,3 percent) and serves for biodiversity conservation and recreation purposes. Age of final felling is substantially postponed here; other use of forests is strictly regulated. III group of other forests is mainly designated along waterbodies and in other forests with prevailing protective function. Economic activity here is less restricted, these forests cover 331,4 thousand hectares (15,2 percent). IV group of forests or commercial forests are managed for economic purposes comprises and constitute 1 549,2 thousand hectares or 71,3 percent of the whole forest area.  National Forestry Development Programme among other objectives aims at protection and enhancement of sustainability of forest ecosystems.  National legislation requires a forest management plan for each forest holding. Only limited activity is allowed without forest management plan. Requirements for forest management plan content and its preparation procedure oblige to take duly account of biodiversity features in the area when forest management measures are planned. |
| **Action 10: Agricultural genetic diversity** | Lithuania has ratified the FAO's international treaty on genetic plant resources for agriculture  Plant genetic resources and domesticated animals genetic resources are regulated separately in national legal acts in Lithuania.  Two national institutions are coordinating and harmonizing the relevant technical activities with respect to genetic resources: Plant Gene Bank and National Farm Animal Genetic Resources Coordinating Centre. There are several other institutes dealing with plant genetic resources conservation activities in the country.  The general principle is that plant genetic resources can be freely accessed for plant selection and other bona fide targets as scientific research, seed collecting, reproduction, exchange of plant genetic resources, for human needs (food, medicines). The plant genetic resources should be used in a way that genetic resources are not damaged or destroyed and biodiversity is conserved. Regulations on protected species and other relevant legal acts on biodiversity conservation should be followed.  At the moment there are about 4000 objects that are treated as plant genetic resources. The number is increasing every year.  Every year the Ministry of Environment allocates some funds for preservation of collections of plant genetic resources |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 4** |
| **Action 13a: Fish stock management** | Operational Programme of the Fisheries Sector for 2015-2020 identifies the need for reduction of the fishing effects on marine environment, including the avoidance and reduction, as far as possible, of unwanted catches:   * using innovations related to marine biological resources; * improving, adapting and implementing new fishing gears and methods; * adapting fishing ports and landing sites to facilitate the compliance with the obligation to land all catches; * implementing conservation measures; * supporting collection of waste from the sea.   The protection and restoration of aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems by implementing measures aimed at protection and enhancement of inland fauna and flora.  It is envisaged that about one-fifth of EMFF investments for Lithuania will be allocated for achieving a greater resource-efficiency and minimising the environmental impact. During the period of 2014−2020 it is planned to adapt in the Lithuanian fisheries the fishing gears that increase selectivity or that minimise the negative impact of fishing activities on the marine and inland waters ecosystems, to provide the infrastructure for landing or processing of unwanted catches, and marine litter collection from the sea. Measures of such type are targeted towards a greater resource-efficiency, by reducing unwanted by-catches and discards of fish as well as negative impact on the environment and stocks. This will directly contribute to the implementation of the objective to ensure efficient use of resources set in the Europe 2020 strategy.  Special attention should be devoted to the fact that pond aquaculture farms are the sites where many rare species of birds nest, settle and stay during migration and habitats of rare species of amphibians and therefore it is important to ensure the continuity of activities of such farms. Sometimes the change in fish growing techniques in such farms can have significant impact on animal species finding shelter within such farms and on Natura 2000 sites located in the same river basin. Therefore, support will be provided to pond aquaculture farms that have to adapt in Natura 2000 sites to higher standards of operation or incur losses due to established additional requirements for the activities of such farms. According to the data of 2013, in Lithuania three pond aquaculture farms fall within the bird habitat protection sites under Natura 2000.  The Operational Programme will contribute to the implementation of the sustainable development objective, which also aims at the climate change mitigation and adaptation policy in the following main areas:   * implementing sustainable principles in business: supporting the development, adaptation and implementation of energy and resource efficient processes (e.g., management systems or energy audits) and technologies in fisheries enterprises and fish landing sites; * promoting the coherent use of resources: implementing precautionary measures provided for in the CFP regulation, supporting investments in more selective fishing techniques and gears reducing physical and biological impact on the environment, ensuring the conservation of landscape and biodiversity and improvement of condition, including aqua-biodiversity and functioning of ecosystems; and ensuring effective collection of data and fishing control; * consulting fisheries enterprises on the matters of environmental sustainability. |
| **Action 13b:** **Fish stock management** | Other documents and actions with respect to fisheries:  Cormorant Management Action Plan was approved in 2013, and its objective was the prevention and reduction of damage caused by cormorants in fish farms as well as for forestry, without endangering the cormorant population in the nature  Lithuanian aquaculture sector development plan for 2014-2020.  Eel Resources Management Plan, In the period of recent 4 years about 2 Mio 154 thousand glass eels were introduced into more than 110 inland water bodies.  National Atlantic Sturgeon Population Restoration Programme for 2012-2020 was started to implement in 2011.  Lithuanian water bodies are populated every year with salmon, eel, sea trout, carp, pike, zander, tench, cray fish juveniles.  Fines for illegal fishing are considerable. |
| **Action 14a:** **Adverse impacts on fish stocks, species, habitats and ecosystems** | Restoration of spawning areas and opening up of fish migration routes has been started in watercourses, which is the basis and prerequisite for the restoration of fish resources. |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 5** |
|  | Invasive species, introduced due to the expanding trade, tourism and cross-border freight traffic pose a serious threat to Lithuania's biodiversity and ecosystems. This threat is increasing - plant and animal species introduced into new habitats may threaten ecosystems by disturbing fragile balance between native flora and fauna. Climate change accelerates shifts in species ranges therefore problem of invasive alien species become more significant. The effects of climate change in Lithuania have been started to explore just a few years ago and so far its research is of a general nature.  The national list of invasive species contains 39 species (plants and animals). The list is constantly review and complemented by new invasive species. The Invasive Species Control Council which consists of representatives of public and scientific institutions has constative role on the invasive species issues. There are general recommendations for eradication of invasive species adopted.  Measures for control of invasive alien species (IAS) have to be planned and undertaken in order to minimise their impact on species and habitats of Community interest. 7 invasive alien species are in focus of current project under implementation with assistance of EU structural funds: 2 mammal species (Nyctereutes procyonoides, Mustela vison), 1 fish species (Perccottus glenii), 1 crustacean species (Orconectes limosus) and 3 plant species (Acer negundo, Heracleum sosnovskyi, Lupinus polyphyllus). 660 ha of plant invasive species were managed.  At the moment Lithuania is working on proper implementation of EU Invasive Species regulation by improving national legislation. |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 6** |
| **Action 18a: Resources for global biodiversity conservation** | Biodiversity conservation is mainly funded via different EU funds and state budget (Environmental Protection Support Programme), but also from European Economic Area Financial instruments.  Rather considerable part of income comes from Hunting and Fisheries Licence fees (about 3 Mio euros)  The implementation of NCDP measures presumes the increasing of resources directed for the conservation of biodiversity resources. Other significant sources of funding for environmental conservation are the Environmental Protection Support Programme, as well as budgets of municipalities and regions.  Law on Charge of State Nature Resources was adopted in 1991.  Various environmental subsidies are paid in the framework of RDP, some of which are designed to directly support biodiversity (Natura payments for private forestland, Natura payments for agricultural land, subsidies for the management of semi-natural habitats, subsidies for endangered breeds of livestock, subsidies for growing plants of local varieties) i.e. The preservation of biodiversity is funded via different EU structural funds.  Preservation of biodiversity is also funded through other funds, such as LIFE, LIFE+, INTERREG, EMP etc.  Currently, national parks (and few nature parks) collect entrance fees, and such income represents at the same time a significant part of their own income. Nature parks collect fees mainly for other services (guided tours, schools in nature, special programs, etc.). |
| **Action 20: Access to genetic resources and sharing of benefits** | Lithuania signed Nagoya Protocol in 2011. At the moment preparation for implementation of EU ABS regulation and ratification of Nagoya Protocol is ongoing. |

# Luxembourg

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| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 1** *(Please note that information from Member States in relation to Action 1a is supplied to the European Commission via other reports. To avoid duplication of reporting, information relating to Action 1a has not been included in this report)* |
| **Action 3: Stakeholder awareness and enforcement** | **Mesures contribuant à l’Objectif national 1: mettre pleinement en œuvre les directives « Oiseaux » et « Habitats »**  *NB : L’objectif national 1 du Luxembourg correspond à l’Objectif 1a de l’UE et seules les mesures touchant à l’ensemble des objectifs nationaux ont été reproduites ci-dessous.*  1) Implication de la population dans le processus décisionnel des parcs naturels.  **Résultat 🡪** Observatoire de la nature comme organe externe consultatif d’experts et de parties prenantes.  **🡪** Inscription des droits des communautés locales dans la Loi du 10 août 1993 relative aux parcs naturels. |
| **Action 3: Stakeholder awareness and enforcement**  **Action 4: Monitoring and reporting** | **Mesures contribuant à l’Objectif national 1: mettre pleinement en œuvre les directives « Oiseaux » et « Habitats »**  2) Etendre les stations biologiques sur le terrain national.  **Résultat 🡪** Stations biologiques étendu sur 73% du territoire national.  **🡪** Un service « Conseil Nature » est offert aux institutions publiques, communes, associations et aux personnes privées par les Stations biologiques. |
|  | **Mesures contribuant à l’Objectif national 6 : Assurer la sensibilisation**  1) Etendre les stations biologiques sur le terrain national.  **Résultat 🡪** Couverture actuelle des stations biologiques est d’environ 73 % du territoire national (augmenté de 485,2 à 1.885,2 km2 entre 2011 et 2015).  2) Inventaire des biotopes sur le niveau national ; développement d’un cadastre des biotopes du milieu ouvert.  **Résultat 🡪** Cadastre des biotopes nationaux en ligne depuis 2014.  *(This information is mapped against Action 3 and 4)* |
| **Action 3 : Stakeholder awareness and enforcement** | **Mesures contribuant à l’Objectif national 6 : Assurer la sensibilisation**  3) Lancement d’un programme commun d’envergure nationale visant la sensibilisation du grand public.  **Résultats 🡪** Les stations biologiques organisent une multitude d’activités de sensibilisation visant enfants et adultes : « Nature for People » ; « Fit by Nature »…  **🡪** Un service « Conseil Nature » est offert aux institutions publiques, communes, associations et aux personnes privées par les Stations biologiques.  4) Réunions d’information publiques sur tous les projets majeurs du Ministère.  **Résultat 🡪** Réunions d’information organisées : Mesures du PNPN ; projets infrastructurels majeurs ; orientation des parcs naturels ; Nouveaux sites Natura 2000  5) Création d’une stratégie nationale pour l’éducation à l’environnement et au développement durable.  **Résultat 🡪** Stratégie nationale disponible [en ligne](http://www.men.public.lu/catalogue-publications/themes-pedagogiques/education-developpement-durable/apprendre-developpement-durable/fr.pdf).  6) Ratification du protocole de Nagoya sur l’accès aux ressources génétiques et le partage juste et équitable des avantages découlant de leur utilisation.  **Résultats 🡪** Le Protocol de Nagoya a été signé le 23 Juin 2011.  **🡪** Loi du 29 mars 2013 portant approbation du Protocole additionnel de Nagoya – Kuala Lumpur au niveau national.  7) Elaboration du PNPN 2 se basant sur les enseignements de la stratégie 2007-2012, et adaptant les objectifs de la stratégie Biodiversité UE.  **Résultat 🡪** Un Plan National pour la Protection de la Nature (PNPN) existe depuis 2007 et est renouvelé tous les 5 ans.  8) Implication des parties prenantes dans le développement du PNPN2.  **Résultat 🡪** [« Workshop »](http://www.environnement.public.lu/conserv_nature/dossiers/PNPN/) organisé pour consulter les acteurs impliqués sur les mesures précises à prendre.  **🡪** L’Observatoire de l’environnement naturel fonctionne comme organe consultatif dans les sujets environnementaux se constitue de représentants des stations biologiques, des organisations sans but lucratif, de scientifiques… Ceci garanti une participation de la population dans la politique environnementale.  9) Implication de la population dans le processus décisionnel des parcs naturels.  **Résultat 🡪** Observatoire de la nature comme organe externe consultatif d’experts et de parties prenantes.  **🡪** Inscription des droits des communautés locales dans la Loi du 10 août 1993 relative aux parcs naturels. |
| **Action 3 : Stakeholder awareness and enforcement**  **Action 4 : Monitoring and reporting** | **Mesures contribuant à l’Objectif national 6 : Assurer la sensibilisation**  10) Programmes de surveillance d’espèces.  **Résultats 🡪** Rapportage espèces poissons.  **🡪** Programme de surveillance des oiseaux nicheurs et programme de surveillance globale des papillons de jour, depuis 2009 et 2010.  **🡪** Programmes de surveillance de différentes espèces de la directive « Habitat » : fougères ; Sangsue médicinale ; les écrevisses et les libellules ; les amphibiens et reptiles ; chauves-souris et le muscardin.  **🡪** Autres Programmes de surveillance : surveillance des lichens (2011) ; surveillance des mousses (2012) ; Surveillance de l’Escargot Bourgogne (2011) ; Chat sauvage (2011) ; Martre des pins (2011).  11) Inventaire des services écosystémiques au plan national.  **Résultat 🡪** Etablissement d’un cadre conceptuel sur les services écosystémiques compatible avec celui de MAES en 2015.  12) Etudes scientifiques par les stations biologiques.  13) Création d’un programme de recherche pluriannuel « biodiversité/ressources naturelles » dans le cadre du Fonds National de la Recherche).  14) Création d’une plateforme commune pour la recherche sur la biodiversité et la biologie de la conservation.  **Résultat 🡪** Etudes scientifiques sur l’environnement naturel publiées par le CRP Lippmann.  *(This information is mapped against Action 3 and 4)* |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 2** |
| **Action 7 : No net loss** | **Mesures contribuant à l’Objectif national 2: préserver et rétablir les écosystèmes et leurs services**  1) Finalisation du Réseau Natura 2000 et des plans de gestion.  **Résultats 🡪** 18% de la surface du Luxembourg est couvert par des zones Natura 2000.  🡪 Etablissement de 6 nouveaux sites Natura 2000 en 2015.  🡪 Elaboration des Plans de Gestion des zones Natura 2000 pour 2016.  🡪 Des 48 Sites « Habitat », 14 sont munis de plans de gestion ; Des 12 Sites « Oiseaux », 3 sont munis de plans de gestion.  2) Etendre le réseau des réserves naturelles.  **Résultats 🡪** 43 zones, soit 2,3% du territoire national sont classé sous forme de réserve naturelle.  🡪 Lenteur pour le classement de zones protégées nationales, procédures lourdes.  🡪 Groupe ad hoc « zones protégées » constitué, qui au sein de l’Administration de la Nature et de Forêts veillera à la désignation d’au moins 5 sites par an. |
| **Action 6 : Ecosystem restoration and green infrastructure**  **Action 7 : No net loss** | **Mesures contribuant à l’Objectif national 2: préserver et rétablir les écosystèmes et leurs services**  3) Restauration de la trame-verte- et-bleue est priorisée dans le PNPN2.  **Résultats 🡪** Gestion de 5000ha par des contrats biodiversité.  🡪 Trame-Verte et Bleue : Identification des Noyaux et tampons importants et des projets à réaliser.  *(This information is mapped against Action 6 and 7)* |
| **Action 7 : No net loss** | **Mesures contribuant à l’Objectif national 2: préserver et rétablir les écosystèmes et leurs services**  4) Programmes pour restauration de 15% des zones humides, paysages semi-ouverts et les pelouses sèches et landes seront intégrés dans le PNPN2.  **Résultats 🡪** “Nouveaux sites « LIFE »:   * « Resto-unio - Restauration de rivières *Unio crassus* dans les Ardennes luxembourgeoises » LIFE11 NAT/LU/000857 ; * « Life Orchis – Restauration de pelouses calcaires dans l’Est du Luxembourg » (LIFE13 NAT/LU/000782) ; * « LIFE prairies Luxembourg – Conservation et gestion de prairies riches en espèces par des autorités locaux » LIFE13 NAT/LU/000068.   **🡪** Projet réalisé sur les zones de rétention d’eau et/ou restauration écologique des cours d’eau.  **🡪** Uniquement 2% des corps d’eau de surface se trouvent dans un bon état écologique et par conséquent 98% dans un état moyen à mauvais.  **🡪** La renaturation des cours d’eau a connu des délais dans la stratégie biodiversité.  **🡪** Diminution de paysages formés par les pelouses sèches dans la même période (32,9ha).  5) Plans d’action pour espèces et habitats.  **Résultats 🡪** La plupart des populations d’espèces rares connait toujours un déclin malgré les plans d’action (p.ex : *Lanius excubitor* ; *Vanellus vanellus*…).  6) Partie Contractante (et Collaboration) d’autres traités internationaux liés à la Conservation de l’environnement.  **Résultats 🡪** CITES ; CMS (AEWA ; EUROBATS) ; RAMSAR ; Convention de Berne |
| **Action 5 : Knowledge of ecosystems and their services** | **Mesures contribuant à l’Objectif national 2: préserver et rétablir les écosystèmes et leurs services**  7) Etude de cartographie des services écosystémiques au terrain national.  **Résultats 🡪** Etablissement d’un cadre conceptuel sur les services écosystémiques compatible avec celui de MAES en 2015. |
| **Action 7 No net loss** | **Mesures contribuant à l’Objectif national 2: préserver et rétablir les écosystèmes et leurs services**  8) D’ici 2020, l’objectif des 5% de la forêt soumise sous régime de libre évolution sera atteint.  **Résultats 🡪** Efforts considérables dans la désignation des forêts à libre évolution (2,5% des forêts).  9) Implication de la population dans le processus décisionnel des parcs naturels.  **Résultat 🡪** Observatoire de la nature comme organe externe consultatif d’experts et de parties prenantes.  **🡪** Inscription des droits des communautés locales dans la Loi du 10 août 1993 relative aux parcs naturels. |
| **Action 5 : Knowledge of ecosystems and their services**  **Action 7 : No net loss** | **Mesures contribuant à l’Objectif national 2: préserver et rétablir les écosystèmes et leurs services**  10) Etendre les stations biologiques sur le terrain national.  **Résultat 🡪** Stations biologiques étendu sur 73% du territoire national.  **🡪** Un service « Conseil Nature » est offert aux institutions publiques, communes, associations et aux personnes privées par les Stations biologiques. |
| **Mesures contribuant à l’Objectif national 3: réduire considérablement la consommation foncière et la fragmentation des paysages**  1) Restauration de la trame-verte- et-bleue est priorisée dans le PNPN.  **Résultats 🡪** 5 ouvrages prioritaires à entamer pour (r)établir la trame-verte sont définis dans le PNPN 2.  🡪 Définition des Coupures vertes primordiales à conserver et Inscription dans le PNPN2.  *(This information is mapped against Action 5 and 7)* |
| **Action 7 : No net loss** | **Mesures contribuant à l’Objectif national 3: réduire considérablement la consommation foncière et la fragmentation des paysages**  2) Finalisation du Réseau Natura 2000 et des plans de gestion.  **Résultats 🡪** Etablissement de 6 nouveaux sites Natura 2000 en 2015.  🡪 Le réseau Natura 2000 regroupe actuellement 60 sites « Habitat » et « Oiseaux » d’intérêt communautaire.  🡪 Des 48 Sites « Habitat », 14 sont munis de plans de gestion ; Des 12 Sites « Oiseaux », 3 sont munis de plans de gestion. |
| **Mesures contribuant à l’Objectif national 3: réduire considérablement la consommation foncière et la fragmentation des paysages**  3) D’ici 2020, l’objectif des 5% de la forêt soumise sous régime de libre évolution sera atteint.  **Résultats 🡪** 8 zones forestières en libre évolution à poursuivre.  4) Implication de la population dans le processus décisionnel des parcs naturels.  **Résultat 🡪** Observatoire de la nature comme organe externe consultatif d’experts et de parties prenantes.  **🡪** Inscription des droits des communautés locales dans la Loi du 10 août 1993 relative aux parcs naturels. |
| **Action 5 : Knowledge of ecosystems and their services**  **Action 7 : No net loss** | **Mesures contribuant à l’Objectif national 3: réduire considérablement la consommation foncière et la fragmentation des paysages**  5) Etendre les stations biologiques sur le terrain national.  **Résultat 🡪** Stations biologiques étendu sur 73% du territoire national.  **🡪** Un service « Conseil Nature » est offert aux institutions publiques, communes, associations et aux personnes privées par les Stations biologiques.  **Résultat pour l’objectif dans son ensemble 🡪** Mesures prises jusqu’à présent sont incapables de freiner la fragmentation du paysage.  *(This information is mapped against Action 5 and 7)* |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 3** |
|  | **Mesures contribuant à l’Objectif national 4: renforcer la contribution de l’agriculture et de la sylviculture au maintien et à l’amélioration de la biodiversité**  1) Coopération avec le Ministère de l’agriculture de la viticulture et de la Protection des consommateurs (MAVPC).  **Résultat 🡪** Coopération avec le MAVPC dans le développement de la nouvelle stratégie agricole. |
|  | 2) Etude d’inventaire des services écosystémiques au terrain national.  **Résultats 🡪** Elaboration d’indicateurs écosystémiques en cours. |
| **Action 9: Rural development and biodiversity** | **Mesures contribuant à l’Objectif national 4: renforcer la contribution de l’agriculture et de la sylviculture au maintien et à l’amélioration de la biodiversité**  3) LEADER (Liaison Entre Actions de Développement de l'Economie Rurale) : initiative pour l’intégration économique des régions rurales.  **Résultats 🡪** Biodiversité intégrée dans le Plan national pour un développement durable (PNDD).  **🡪** Un Plan National pour la Protection de la Nature (PNPN) existe depuis 2007 et est renouvelé tous les 5 ans.  🡪 Evaluation environnementale stratégique pour tous les projets d’une certaine catégorie. |
| **Action 8: Environmental public goods in the CAP and GAEC cross-compliance**  **Action 9: Rural development and biodiversity** | **Mesures contribuant à l’Objectif national 4: renforcer la contribution de l’agriculture et de la sylviculture au maintien et à l’amélioration de la biodiversité**  4) Réévaluation du PDR pour éliminer les subsides néfastes pour l’environnement.  **Résultats 🡪** Subventions remaniées dans le PDR pour 2016.  🡪 Minimum 5% des surfaces agricoles comme «zones d’intérêt écologique» en 2015 (« Greening »).  🡪 L’agriculture conventionnelle a encore des influences négatives sur la biodiversité.  🡪 L’entrée de nitrates dans le système est toujours très élevée. Ceci est largement dû à des pratiques d’agricultures trop intensives.  🡪 Généralement, les pratiques agricoles sont encore un obstacle majeur à un bon fonctionnement écologique.  *(This information is mapped against Action 8 and 9)* |
| **Action 11: Forest holders and biodiversity** | **Mesures contribuant à l’Objectif national 4: renforcer la contribution de l’agriculture et de la sylviculture au maintien et à l’amélioration de la biodiversité**  5) Promotion de pratiques de plans de gestions durables pour les forêts.  **Résultats 🡪** A présent 33 Communes ont signé un accord avec FSC et gèrent leurs forêts communales de façon durable. |
| **Target 3a** | **Mesures contribuant à l’Objectif national 4: renforcer la contribution de l’agriculture et de la sylviculture au maintien et à l’amélioration de la biodiversité**  6) Les Stations biologiques épandues sur le territoire national s’occupent de conseiller les agriculteurs dans le domaine de techniques agricoles durables.  7) Un Conseiller agricole, cofinancé par le MAVPC a été mis en place pour guider les agriculteurs vers une agriculture durable.  **Résultats 🡪** En 2012, 66 exploitations certifiées « agriculture biologique » ; 16 exploitations en cours de conversion.  🡪 En 2012, 82 exploitations agricoles issues de l’agriculture biologique, soit 3,1% du nombre total des exploitations agricoles et 2,7% de la surface agricole utilisée des exploitations issues de l’agriculture biologique dans l’ensemble.  🡪 L’utilisation de fertilisants n’a pas pu être freinée ces dernières années.  🡪 L’agriculture conventionnelle a encore des influences négatives sur la biodiversité. |
| **Target 3** | **Mesures contribuant à l’Objectif national 4: renforcer la contribution de l’agriculture et de la sylviculture au maintien et à l’amélioration de la biodiversité**  8) Restauration de la trame-verte- et-bleue est priorisée dans le PNPN.  **Résultats 🡪** 5 ouvrages prioritaires à entamer pour (r)établir la trame-verte sont définis dans le PNPN 2.  🡪 Définition des Coupures vertes primordiales à conserver et Inscription dans le PNPN2.  9) Finalisation du Réseau Natura 2000 et des plans de gestion.  **Résultats 🡪** Etablissement de 6 nouveaux sites Natura 2000 en 2015.  🡪 Le réseau Natura 2000 regroupe actuellement 60 sites « Habitat » et « Oiseaux » d’intérêt communautaire.  🡪 Des 48 Sites « Habitat », 14 sont munis de plans de gestion ; des 12 Sites « Oiseaux », 3 sont munis de plans de gestion.  🡪 Elaboration des Plans de Gestion des zones Natura 2000 pour 2016.  🡪 18% de la surface du Luxembourg est couvert par des zones Natura 2000. |
| **Action 11: Forest holders and biodiversity**  **Action 12: Biodiversity in forest management plans** | **Mesures contribuant à l’Objectif national 4: renforcer la contribution de l’agriculture et de la sylviculture au maintien et à l’amélioration de la biodiversité**  10) D’ici 2020, l’objectif des 5% de la forêt soumise sous régime de libre évolution sera atteint.  **Résultats 🡪** Efforts considérables dans la désignation des forêts à libre évolution (2,5% des forêts).  *(This information is mapped against Action 11 and 12)* |
| **Action 9: Rural development and biodiversity** | **Mesures contribuant à l’Objectif national 4: renforcer la contribution de l’agriculture et de la sylviculture au maintien et à l’amélioration de la biodiversité**  11) Plans d’actions sont mis en place comprenant des mesures spécifiques pour chaque habitat/espèce.  **Résultats 🡪** Gestion de 5000ha de surfaces agricoles sous contrats de biodiversité.  12) Etendre les stations biologiques sur le terrain national.  **Résultat 🡪** Couverture actuelle des stations biologiques est d’environ 73 % du territoire national (augmenté de 485,2 à 1.885,2 km2 entre 2011 et 2015).  **🡪** Un service « Conseil Nature » est offert aux institutions publiques, communes, associations et aux personnes privées par les Stations biologiques. |
| **Action 10: Agricultural genetic diversity** | **Mesures contribuant à l’Objectif national 4: renforcer la contribution de l’agriculture et de la sylviculture au maintien et à l’amélioration de la biodiversité**  13) Projets initiés par les stations biologiques (p.ex. Programmes de plantation de variétés locales d’arbres fruitiers) Plan d’action « Bongert »…  **Résultats 🡪** Elaboration d’un Cadastre « Vergers ».  🡪 Projets spécifiques dans différents vergers.  🡪 Mise en place d’un Conseiller spécialiste pour les variétés locales d’arbres fruitiers.  14) Paiements de primes pour par animal pour différentes races endommagées : « cheval de trait ardennais », la « Pie rouge » et le « mouton ardennais ». |
| **Action 9: Rural development and biodiversity**  **Action 11: Forest holders and biodiversity** | **Mesures contribuant à l’Objectif national 4: renforcer la contribution de l’agriculture et de la sylviculture au maintien et à l’amélioration de la biodiversité**  15) Implication de la population dans le processus décisionnel des parcs naturels.  **Résultat 🡪** Observatoire de la nature comme organe externe consultatif d’experts et de parties prenantes.  **🡪** Inscription des droits des communautés locales dans la Loi du 10 août 1993 relative aux parcs naturels.  *(This information is mapped against Action 9 and 11)* |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 4** |
|  | Not applicable. |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 5** |
| **Action 16: Instrument on Invasive Alien Species** | **Mesures contribuant à l’Objectif national 5: lutter contre les espèces allogènes envahissantes**  1) Proposition législative de la Commission sur les espèces exotiques envahissantes.  **Résultat 🡪** Règlement UE N° 1143/2014 du PE du 22 octobre 2014 relatif à la prévention et à la gestion de l’introduction et de la propagation des espèces exotiques envahissantes  2) Coordination de l’élaboration d’un plan d’action unique au niveau de la Grande-Région.  3) Groupe d’experts mis en place pour l’implémentation de l’Annexe sur les espèces envahissantes exotiques et complémentation de la liste avec espèces envahissantes du plan national.  **Résultats 🡪** Elaboration de deux « Listes noires » d’espèces à surveiller au niveau national : [Liste des plantes vasculaires](http://www.snl.lu/publications/bulletin/SNL_2013_114_015_021.pdf) (2013) ; [Liste des vertébrés](http://www.snl.lu/publications/bulletin/SNL_2014_115_195_201.pdf) (2014)  **🡪** Mesures déjà en place pour differentes espèces, notamment la berce du Caucase (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*).  4) Implication de la population dans le processus décisionnel des parcs naturels.  **Résultat 🡪** Observatoire de la nature comme organe externe consultatif d’experts et de parties prenantes.  **🡪** Inscription des droits des communautés locales dans la Loi du 10 août 1993 relative aux parcs naturels.  5) Etendre les stations biologiques sur le terrain national.  **Résultat 🡪** Stations biologiques étendu sur 73% du territoire national.  **🡪** Un service « Conseil Nature » est offert aux institutions publiques, communes, associations et aux personnes privées par les Stations biologiques. |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 6** |
|  | **NB : Ces mesures sont pertinentes pour l’ensemble des objectifs nationaux du Luxembourg.**  1) Contributions aux conventions internationales sur la biodiversité.  **Résultat 🡪** CITES ; CMS (AEWA ; EUROBATS) ; RAMSAR ; Convention de Berne… |
| **Action 18: Resources for global biodiversity conservation** | 2) Aide au développement pour des projets axés sur l’environnement et le principe du développement durable.  **Résultat 🡪** Le Luxembourg est l’un des pays les plus actifs au niveau mondial dans le domaine de la mobilisation de ressources, octroyant 1% de son RNB à la coopération.  Une coopération plus étroite avec le Ministère des Affaires Etrangères aidera à encore mieux cibler les aides au développement pour des projets liés à l’environnement. |

# Malta

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| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 1** *(Please note that information from Member States in relation to Action 1a is supplied to the European Commission via other reports. To avoid duplication of reporting, information relating to Action 1a has not been included in this report)* |
| **Action 1b: Natura 2000 (and other protected areas)** | Current mainstreaming of biodiversity considerations in the National Environment Policy, and in policies adopted by key sectors that are beneficiaries of ecosystem services and that may also act as drivers of biodiversity change.  Aspects of mainstreaming are included in the following Malta’s NBSAP Measures addressing the sectors:   * *Agriculture & Rural Development* – NBSAP Measures GR1, NR1, NR2, NR3, NR4, PC2, PC3, SI2 and SI3; * *Aquaculture* – NBSAP Measures PC3 and SI4; * *Fisheries* – NBSAP Measures SH5, BR2, and PC3; * *Hunting* - NBSAP Measures SH5, BR5, PC3, and EF4; * *Energy* – NBSAP Measure SI7; * *Spatial Planning* – NBSAP Measures EN2, EN3, NR2, EF3, EA1, EA2, SI5, and SI6; * *Landscaping* – SH8, BR1, and CB3; * *Waste* – NBSAP Measure SI9; * *Tourism* – NBSAP Measure SI8; * *Water –* NBSAP Measures NR4, NR5, and NR6; * *Businesses –* NBSAP Measures BE1 and BE2; * *Financing & Accounting -* NBSAP Measures BE3 and FB2; * *Trade* - NBSAP Measures BR3 and BR4; * *Climate Change* – NBSAP Measures CC1 and CC4; and * Risk Prevention and Preparedness – NBSAP Measure SI10.   *Malta’s NBSAP Target 4*: Sustainable production and consumption as well as considerations of biodiversity issues are increasingly being integrated in sectoral policies that benefit from ecosystem services, such as the provision of food and other natural resources, including supporting services, such as relevant to the fisheries and agriculture sectors.  **Data links:**  National Environment Policy: <https://secure2.gov.mt/tsdu/environment-nep?l=1> [to be updated by the Member State]  National Strategy on Adaptation for Climate Change: <https://msdec.gov.mt/en/Document%20Repository/Malta%20Climate%20Change%20Adaptation%20Strategy/National%20Adaptation%20Strategy.pdf>  RDP 2014-2020: <http://eufunds.gov.mt/en/Information/Pages/Launch-of-the-Public-Consultation-process-on-the-Environmental-Report-of-the-Strategic-Environmental-Assessment-of-the-Rura.aspx>  Aquaculture Strategy for the Maltese Islands – Towards Sustainability: <https://msdec.gov.mt/en/Document%20Repository/Aquaculture%20Strategy%202014-25.pdf>  National Tourism Policy 2012-2016: <https://secure2.gov.mt/tsdu/downloads/tp12-16.pdf> [to be updated by the Member State]  Waste Management Plan for the Maltese Islands – A resource Management Approach (2014-2020): <https://msdec.gov.mt/en/Document%20Repository/Waste%20Management%20Plan%202014%20-%202020%20-%20Final%20Document.pdf>  Strategic Plan for the Environment and Development” (SPED) - <http://www.mepa.org.mt/sped> |
| **Action 1c: Natura 2000 (and other protected areas)** | *Malta’s NBSAP Measures EN1, EN2, and EN6:* Efforts have continued in line with NBSAP Measure EN1 to ensure that Malta’s National Ecological Network constitutes a comprehensive and ecologically representative national system of protected areas via the designation of additional marine protected areas, not to mention the three related LIFE+ projects which are expected to lead to the designation of further marine Natura 2000 sites, namely LIFE+ Seabirds (on marine IBAs and SPAs), LIFE+ Migrate (on marine SCIs for the loggerhead turtle and the bottlenose dolphin) and LIFE+ BAHAR (on marine SCIs for marine habitat types). The management planning process for all terrestrial Natura 2000 sites of the Maltese Islands has been completed through an EARDF funded project, which resulted in the preparation of a complement of 22 draft management plans and 8 draft conservation orders. The latter are specific legal instruments setting up the objectives and measures for Natura 2000 sites which do not require management plans due to their small size. The proposed Strategic Plan for the Environment and Development (SPED) recognises the need to safeguard protected areas, strengthening the links within the ecological network and enabling activities aimed at enhancing management objectives under Thematic objective 8. Various governance types for the management of protected areas are in place, and it is expected that with the formal adoption of the management plans for protected areas, the range of governance types for long term management of protected areas is explored. This matter is also being considered in the structuring of the planned Environment and Resources Authority, aimed to be set up in 2015.  *Malta’s NBSAP Target 10*: Malta has maintained its 13% land area covered by terrestrial Natura 2000 sites and has designated four new marine protected areas in 2010. Additional designations in the marine environment will be subject to findings of ongoing LIFE projects (Life Baħar, Life Seabirds and LIFE Migrate).  **Data links:**  EAFRD Project on Natura 2000 : <http://www.mepa.org.mt/eafrd_natura2000>  LIFE Malta Seabird Project (LIFE10 NAT/MT/000090) <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/project/Projects/index.cfm?fuseaction=search.dspPage&n_proj_id=4055>  LIFE MIGRATE Project (LIFE11 NAT/MT/001070)  <http://lifeprojectmigrate.com>  LIFE Baħar for N2K (LIFE12 NAT/MT/000845)  <http://lifebahar.org.mt>  Strategic Plan for the Environment and Development” (SPED) - <http://www.mepa.org.mt/sped> |
|  | *Malta’s NBSAP Measure SH2 and NBSAP Target 11*: Species of European Community and National Importance (which also include species protected in line with relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements) are afforded protection via Legal Notice 311 of 2006, as amended and via Legal Notice 79 of 2006, as amended, which respectively transpose the EC Habitats and Birds Directives. The list of terrestrial species of Community importance found in Malta has been extended since the first assessment carried out in 2007 to two more species, these being pipistrelles - *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* and *Hypsugo savii –* two bat species whichhave recently been confirmed from Malta. Additionally, through new data, another bat species which was previously considered occasional is most probably found as a resident in small numbers, while being a migrant species; further information would be required to confirm this or otherwise. When comparing the assessments of 2007 with those of 2013, overall there is an increase of 20% of species being in a favourable conservation status, from 20 to 40%, when considering all of the species reported on. However, one should note that such positive increase is not necessarily a result of genuine changes in the status, but mostly due to more accurate data or due to the use of different thresholds. On the other hand, according to the findings of Malta’s latest report in line with Article 12 of the Birds Directive, 14 of the species/populations assessed had a positive population trend throughout both the short- and long-term interims (17 species/populations had positive populations trends during the short term trend, whilst 18 species/populations had positive population trends during the long term-trend).  **Data links:**  Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Regulations, 2006, as amended (Legal Notice 311 of 2006, as amended): <http://www.justiceservices.gov.mt/DownloadDocument.aspx?app=lom&itemid=11550&l=1>  Conservation of Wild Birds Regulations, 2006, as amended (Legal Notice 79 of 2006, as amended): <http://www.justiceservices.gov.mt/DownloadDocument.aspx?app=lom&itemid=11548&l=1> |
| **Action 1d: Natura 2000 (and other protected areas)** | The biogeographical process, among others, allows for the exchanging of experiences, development of management tools and promotion among stakeholders. This process will provide us with more relevant information and knowledge on how to adopt a uniform or common approach to certain issues related to the governance of Natura 2000 sites. Through this process EU Targets mainly those emanating from the Habitats and Birds Directive respectively will be achieved. These include the establishment of conservation objectives and measures for protected features, the assessment of the conservation status of the same and the inclusion of stakeholders in the management planning process. For terrestrial Natura 2000 sites, Malta has compiled management plans and conservation orders, as appropriate, that include these goals.  *Malta’s NBSAP Target 10*: See information provided above for this target. |
| **Action 3a: Stakeholder awareness and enforcement** | *Malta’s NBSAP Measure PA3*: The Natura 2000 Information Campaign was undertaken as part of the co-financed EAFRD Project completed in April 2014. As part of this project the website <http://natura2000malta.com/> [to be updated by the Member State] was launched. Various Natura 2000 public exhibitions and talks were held consisting of a number of posters explaining the management planning process for Natura 2000 sites, presentation of leaflets and also a comments box. Moreover, a Facebook page entitled Natura 2000 Malta was also put up as part of the communication strategy, while a series of television and radio adverts were also aired during the implementation lifetime of the project. An interpretation manual for marine habitats has been compiled as part of the MedPAN North Project (under the Programme Med). Under this project, two underwater trails, one at Għajn Tuffieħa, and a second at Ramla tal-Mixquqa (popularly known as Golden Bay) were set up for use in Summer 2013. Through the same project, Malta has also assessed innovative financing opportunities for marine Natura 2000 sites.  Additional information on specific issues related to marine habitats and species and Natura 2000 were also covered by communications campaigns and related information under the LIFE+ Baħar projects.  *Malta’s NBSAP Target 1:* Several awareness-raising and educational initiatives are being undertaken at a national level by the Malta Environment and Planning Authority (MEPA), NGOs and schools. Such initiatives target the general public and more targeted audiences, such as local councils, children, and scout-groups. Initiatives comprise biodiversity tours in protected areas, TV educational programmes, educational programmes in schools, biodiversity talks and quizzes, as well as publication and distribution of popular material. According to the findings of the Eurobarometer survey undertaken in 2013, 28% of Maltese respondents knew what the term biodiversity was. This translates in a 10% increase from the 2010 survey, where only 18% of Maltese respondents knew what this term meant. In 2013 18% of Maltese heard of the Natura 2000 network and knew what this term means. In 2010 the statistics stood at only 9%, whilst in 2007 only 5% knew what Natura 2000 was. MEPA held biodiversity tours in selected protected areas during the years 2010, 2011, and 2012 with 7 tours held each year. Number of attendees increased from 100 persons in 2010 to 370 persons in 2012. 21 tours were held since 2010 which were attended by a total of approximately 820 persons. There has also been a steady increase in schools participating in EkoSkola, Dinja Waħda projects together with other related projects such as YRE/LEAF. Indeed during 2012/2013 100 schools participated in EkoSkola, 37 of which achieved the Green Flag status; 93 primary schools participated in Dinja Waħda, 45 of which achieved the Gold Award. A total of 130 local projects participated in the YRE initiatives with four participants achieving international awards.  **Data links:**  EAFRD Project on Natura 2000 : <http://www.mepa.org.mt/eafrd_natura2000>  MedPAN North Project: <http://www.mepa.org.mt/med_medpannorth>  LIFE MIGRATE Project (LIFE11 NAT/MT/001070)  <http://lifeprojectmigrate.com>  LIFE Baħar for N2K (LIFE12 NAT/MT/000845)  <http://lifebahar.org.mt>  Eurobarometer 2010 & 2013 surveys: <http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/flash/fl_379_en.pdf> AND <http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/flash/fl_290_en.pdf>  IBD Celebrations: <http://www.cbd.int/idb/2014/celebrations/mt/>  Dinja Waħda: <http://www.birdlifemalta.org/Content/teachers/dinja_wahda/AboutDinjaWahda/1059/#.VD5CCGddVMc>  Ekoskola: <http://www.ekoskola.org.mt/>  Biodiversity Tours in Protected Areas: <http://www.mepa.org.mt/mepatours> |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 2** |
|  | *Malta’s NBSAP various measures:* The element of restoration is covered by several measures in the NBSAP with respect to species, habitats, impact and threat mitigation, restoration of rural structures important as elements of green infrastructure (e.g. dry stone walls), and habitat restoration to increase resilience and adaptation to climate change. Such measures include but are not limited to: SH1, SH3, SH4, SH6, EN3, and CC2.  In March 2013, MEPA adopted ‘Guidelines on Managing Non-Native Plant Invaders and restoring Native Plant communities in terrestrial settings in the Maltese Islands’. A component of these Guidelines addresses what considerations to make when planning and implementing native species reintroduction or reinforcement programmes aimed at restoring plant communities. This guidance document integrates the guidelines on undertaking conservation translocations as adopted by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) at the end of 2012. Measures for the safeguard of key habitats (as well as priority species, including endemic ones) are included in management plans for protected areas and also addressed in the implementation of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) and Marine Strategic Framework Directive (MSFD). Work on Malta’s prioritised restoration framework is currently based on the restoration targets set by Natura 2000 sites’ management plans.  *Malta’s NBSAP Target 14*: The PARK and Initiatives Directorate implements afforestation projects in various sites in order to create areas for habitat restoration, recreation and to contribute to a healthy environment. Management and restoration of habitats is integrated in the management plan framework for protected areas.  **Data link:**  Guidelines on Managing Non-Native Plant Invaders and restoring Native Plant communities in terrestrial settings in the Maltese Islands: <http://www.mepa.org.mt/file.aspx?f=9658> |
|  | *Malta’s NBSAP Measures NR3, NR4 and NR6:* The Pesticides Framework Directive has been transposed by the “Sustainable Use of Pesticides Regulations, 2011” (Legal Notice 489 of 2011). A National Action Plan for the Sustainable Use of Pesticides for Malta (2013-2018) has been developed as a strategy to minimise human and environmental health impacts resulting from the use of pesticides and as a requisite of the Directive. The Maltese Islands were designated as one whole Nitrate Vulnerable Zone, meaning that the measures outlined in the Nitrates Action Programme are mandatory for all farmers. The Ministry for Sustainable Development, the Environment and the Climate Change coordinated the LIFE InfoNitrates Project (LIFE10 INF/MT/000092; project duration 01-SEP-2011 to 31-DEC -2013). The project aimed to communicate to Malta’s farmers and livestock breeders their key obligations under the Nitrates Action Plan.  *Malta’s NBSAP Target 8:* Measures included under the Nitrates Action Programme 2011 and the Water Catchment Management Plan 2011 (the former tackling agricultural sources, the latter dealing with agricultural, industrial and municipal sources) are currently being implemented. Nutrient monitoring under the Water Framework Directive and Nitrates Directive has also been carried out in 2012/2013. Under the latter eutrophication risk assessments in selected bays prone to nutrient enrichment have also been carried out. Malta’s national water policy is currently being updated. Preparation is also underway to compile the second Water Catchment Management Plan, and in so doing, fill those gaps identified by the comprehensive monitoring carried out in 2012/13 in coastal and protected inland surface waters. Malta, as part of its initial assessment in line with the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, drew up a report on nutrient enrichment in the marine environment. This report provides a description of the levels of nutrients and the occurrence and effects of nutrient enrichment in Malta, with a view to determine status in terms of this pressure, in line with Article 8 of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive. All effluents discharged to the marine environment require an environmental permit, which contains emission limit values for substances discharged into the water and all other environmental requirements, thus ensuring an integrated approach. The Aquaculture Strategy for Malta includes improved environmental monitoring that will ensure carrying capacity limits for each aquaculture area. This will provide clear Environmental Quality Standards (EQS) by which adverse impacts can be judged, and an Allowed Zone of Effects (AZE) over which such impacts can be allowed.  **Data links:**  Sustainable Use of Pesticides Regulations, 2011” (Legal Notice 489 of 2011): <http://justiceservices.gov.mt/DownloadDocument.aspx?app=lom&itemid=11822&l=1>  National Action Plan for the Sustainable Use of Pesticides for Malta (2013-2018): <http://www.mccaa.org.mt/loadfile/40320fba-c5da-459b-9776-e5aec52ef72c>  LIFE InfoNitrates Project (LIFE10 INF/MT/000092): <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/project/Projects/index.cfm?fuseaction=search.dspPage&n_proj_id=4027>  Nitrates Action Programme 2011: [www.agric.gov.mt/file.aspx?f=1224](http://www.agric.gov.mt/file.aspx?f=1224)  Water Catchment Management Plan: <http://www.mepa.org.mt/topic-wcmp>  Malta’s Initial Assessment in line with the MSFD requirements: <http://www.mepa.org.mt/water-msfd>  Aquaculture Strategy for the Maltese Islands – Towards Sustainability: <https://msdec.gov.mt/en/Document%20Repository/Aquaculture%20Strategy%202014-25.pdf> |
| **Action 5: Knowledge of ecosystems and their services** | *Malta’s NBSAP Measures SH1 & BE3*: The MAES exercise is integrated in the NBSAP Measure SH1. The ecosystem assessment exercise is expected to be initiated this year bearing in mind however existing and ongoing data gathering projects that may contribute to this exercise. At present, the National Statistics Office is producing data on environmental taxes, environmental protection expenditure and air emission accounts.  *Malta’s NBSAP Target 2*: Biodiversity and ecosystems are recognised as a long-term sustainability issue by the National Environment Policy adopted by the Government, where biodiversity is highlighted as a long-term sustainability issue and as one of the strengths in the SWOT analysis.One of the actions of the NEP is that based on the ecosystems approach, environmental change related to biodiversity will be reflected in national accounts and across sectors within the umbrella of green accounting.  **Data link:**  National Statistics Office: <http://nso.gov.mt/en/Pages/NSO-Home.aspx>  National Environment Policy: <https://secure2.gov.mt/tsdu/environment-nep?l=1> [to be updated by the Member State] |
| **Action 6a & 6b: Ecosystem restoration and green infrastructure** | *Malta’s NBSAP Measures EN4 and SI6, and SH7:* Green infrastructure is addressed in measures EN4 and SI6 of Malta’s NBSAP in the context of resource and spatial planning. Certain elements of green infrastructure are protected via national legislation e.g. dry stone walls (otherwise known as rubble walls) which serve as an important ecological corridor and a refuge for a number of endangered terrestrial fauna are covered by the “Rubble Walls and Rural Structures (Conservation and Maintenance) Regulations (LN 160 of 1997, as amended)”. The restoration of rubble walls is recognised as a management measure for protected species, particularly reptiles (Article 12 of the Habitats Directive), the need to ensure coherence in Natura 2000 sites (Article 10 of the Habitats Directive), but also to reduce soil loss and erosion, water loss and to reduce desertification and land degradation. The conservation of important valley watercourses, another type of ecological corridor, is being addressed via the implementation of the Habitats Directive and through the scheduling of valley systems around Malta and Gozo thereby contributing toward their protection as natural hydrological pathways. Principles of connectivity through a green infrastructure are already adopted in Malta. For instance, connectivity is achieved in relation to the fact that the boundaries of certain protected areas overlap and protected areas are also accompanied by buffer zones. The Għajnsielem Municipality as one of the Partners of the Interreg IVC Co-financed Green Infranet Project. GI proposals in the context of the Rural Development Programme for 2014-2020 will focus on several key areas ranging from water scarcity and conservation issues, climate change mitigation and adaptation whilst promoting resource efficiency and supporting the shift towards a low carbon economy.  NBSAP Measure SH7 deals with urban biodiversity but is also relevant to green infrastructure. “Greening the Community Initiative” was launched on 16 May 2014 by the Environment Minister. This is a government pilot project that shall allocate funds to four localities with the aim of providing larger green spaces and hence raise the quality of life for both the residents of these localities, as well as for visitors. The Structure Plan for the Maltese Islands of 1990 shall be replaced by the Strategic Plan for the Environment and Development (SPED). The latter includes Urban Objective 3: To identify, protect and enhance the character and amenity of distinct urban areas by *inter alia* protecting and green open spaces, reducing soil sealing and supporting biodiversity with a view of developing ecological corridors. The University of Malta is participating in the LifeMedGreenRoof project (LIFE12 ENV/MT/000732; project duration: 01-JUL-2013 to 31-JUL-2017). The demonstration green roof on the University of Malta's Faculty for the Built Environment campus building will demonstrate the benefits of green roofs for meeting environmental and biodiversity targets.  Malta’s NBSAP Target 10: Malta has maintained its 13% land area covered by terrestrial Natura 2000 sites and has designated four new marine protected areas in 2010. Additional designations in the marine environment will be subject to findings of ongoing LIFE projects (Life Baħar, Life Seabirds and LIFE Migrate).  **Data links:**  Rubble Walls and Rural Structures (Conservation and Maintenance) Regulations (LN 160 of 1997, as amended): <http://www.justiceservices.gov.mt/DownloadDocument.aspx?app=lom&itemid=11490&l=1>  Interreg IVC Co-financed Green Infranet Project: <http://www.greeninfranet.org/index.php?page=about-the-project> [to be updated by the Member State]  Strategic Plan for the Environment and Development” (SPED) - <http://www.mepa.org.mt/sped>  LifeMedGreenRoof project (LIFE12 ENV/MT/000732): <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/project/Projects/index.cfm?fuseaction=search.dspPage&n_proj_id=4748> |
|  | *Malta’s NBSAP Target 13*: When considering terrestrial habitats of EU community importance found in Malta, there is an overall improvement in conservation status in 2013 when compared to 2007. When considering the marine habitat types, only 1 had been assessed in 2007 (as favourable); in 2013 all 4 marine habitat types were assessed, and all have been defined to have a favourable conservation status. Work on Malta’s prioritised restoration framework is currently based on the restoration targets set by Natura 2000 sites’. |
|  | *Malta’s NBSAP Target 5*: Malta has strong land use pressures and high land use intensity in view of its inherent small size, growing population and very high population density (highest in the EU). The island’s territory is 26 % artificialised and 13 % sealed. When comparing land cover data for the years 2006 and 2012, there has been no change for the following:   * continuous urban fabric (CLC Code – 111) = 388.6 HA * discontinuous urban fabric (CLC Code – 112) = 6658.3 HA * industrial or commercial units (CLC Code 121) = 839.4 HA * port areas (CLC Code – 123) = 231.8 HA * airports (CLC Code – 124) = 371.8 HA * mineral extraction sites (CLC Code 131) = 358.6 HA * green urban areas (CLC Code – 141) = 181.1 HA * sport and leisure facilities (CLC Code – 142) = 216.7 HA * non-irrigated arable land (CLC Code – 211) = 121.6 HA * vineyards (CLC Code 221) = 56.5 HA * complex cultivation patterns (CLC Code – 242) = 1071.3 HA * land principally occupied by agriculture, with significant areas of natural vegetation (CLC Code – 243) = 14996.6 HA * coniferous Forest (CLC Code – 312) = 66.8 HA * mixed Forest (CLC Code – 313) = 143.0 HA * sparsely Vegetated Areas (CLC Code – 333) = 811.9 HA * salines (CLC Code – 422) = 25.1 HA * sea and Ocean (CLC Code 523) = 460941.1HA   There has been a change in the following:   * dump sites (CLC Code – 132) = From 40.7 HA in 2006 to 61.3 HA in 2012 (+20.6 HA) * sclerophyllous vegetation (CLC Code 323) = From 4971.6 HA in 2006 to 4951.0 HA in 2012 (-20.6 HA).   The latter changes are due to the land fill classified area at Għallis/Magħtab, which increased by approx 20.6Ha which in turn means that the surrounding area classified as sclerophyllous vegetation has decreased by the same amount. The CORINE Land Cover Data of 2006 for “forests and semi-natural areas” is 19.1%, while of 2012 is 18.9%.  67% (20 out of 30) of Annex I habitats of EU Community Importance in Malta are 75 – 100% covered by the Natura 2000 Network, whilst the remaining 33% (10 out of 30) are 25 – 75% covered. None of the habitats assessed is less than 25% covered by the network. This is the first time that this assessment has been done, and is considered to show positive results, also keeping in mind that Malta has a high degree of sufficiency when considering the designation of terrestrial Natura 2000 sites.  **Data links:**  European Commission (2011): *Report on best practices for limiting soil sealing and mitigating its effects*. Technical Report 2011-050. 229pp.  <http://www.eea.europa.eu/soer/countries/mt/land-use-state-and-impacts-malta>  <http://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/figures/state-of-progress-by-member-states-in-designating-sufficient-protected-areas-to-provide-for-habitats-directive-92-43-eec-annex-i-habitats-and-annex-ii-species> |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 3** |
| **Target 3a: Agriculture** | *Malta’s NBSAP Measure NR1*: Agriculture land, which is fully converted to organic farming totals 32.1804Ha, while 4.81Ha are in the conversion period from conventional to organic farming. There are currently 12 organic agricultural producers, 4 processors and 2 Importers. Harvested production of organic products amount to 20.3456 tons.  See also information provided on NBSAP Measures PC2, SI2 & SI3 below.  *Malta’s NBSAP Target 7*: In 2012, over 25% of the registered farmers had an agri-environmental measure commitment, with the total area under agri-environmental payments being 2,052.6ha. All farmers who have a Less Favoured Area commitment and or receive support under the direct aid are obliged to observe the cross compliance rules. These farmers amount to over 6000 farmers. |
| **Action 9a & 9b: Rural development and biodiversity** | *Malta’s NBSAP Measures PC2, SI2 & SI*3: Through measure PC2, Malta’s NBSAP calls for encouraging the positive and active role of Maltese farmers as stewards of agrobiodiversity and in the maintenance of the countryside and rural environment. This role is recognised and encouraged in Malta’s Rural Development Plan. Farmers are encouraged to maintain the agricultural land and avoid land abandonment through the less favoured measures. Farmers may go above the cross-compliance obligation and enter in a five year commitment under the agri-environmental measures. Under the RDP, farmers are also encouraged to receive advisory support through the use of the Farm Advisory Services (FAS). The NBSAP measures SI2 and SI3 respectively deal with the integration of biodiversity goals into future RDPs and compliance with Good Agricultural and Environmental Conditions (GAECs) and Statutory Management Requirements (SMR) in line with EU and national legislation. The 2014-2020 RDP is the product of 2 years of consultation with stakeholders. Five priorities emerged, one of which was landscape and environment, which envisages agriculture supporting the environment as a public good. In this regard it supports farmers in carrying out measures that have a positive impact on the landscape and the environment. Malta’s RDP (2014-2020) takes into account Malta’s NBSAP and national biodiversity targets that are relevant to the issues addressed by the RDP. The following agri-environment-climate measures are proposed in the RDP (2014-2020):   * AEM 1: Measure to control weeds in orchards and vineyards; * AEM 2: Measure for the planting of trees – Sub-measure A on support for the removal of invasive species with endemic and indigenous tree species; Sub-measure B on support for the planting of endemic and indigenous tree species on terraced fields and Sub-measure C on support for the control of *Arundo donax* in valley systems; * AEM 3: Measure supporting the introduction of bee boxes on holdings; * AEM 4: Measure for the implementation of an integrated pest management plan targeting vineyards and orchards; * AEM 5: Measure for the implementation of a soil management and conservation plan on a holding level * AEM 6: Measure for the integration and maintenance of autochthonous Maltese farm species –Sub-measure (A) on Maltese black chicken; Sub-measure (B) on Maltese rabbit “Tax-Xiber”; Sub-measure (C) on Maltese ox and Sub-measure (D) on holm oak, carob and mulberry.   *Malta’s NBSAP Target 7:* See information provided above for this target.  **Data link:**  Rural Development Programme: <https://secure2.gov.mt/mrra-ma/rural-dev-programme?l=1> |
|  | *Malta’s NBSAP Target 3*: There are no Environmentally Harmful Subsidies in place in the current Rural Development Programme (RDP) for Malta, and no such measures are foreseen for the next RDP. |
| **Action 10: Agricultural genetic diversity** | *Malta’s NBSAP Measure GR1*: Malta’s Rural Development Plan (2007-2013) addressed agricultural biodiversity where mention was made of the loss/erosion of local genotypes through the introduction of modern varieties of livestock and plants. Similar information is also provided in the RDP (2014-2020). The RDP (2007-2013) included under Axis II the agri-environment measure: support for the conservation of genetic resources in agriculture (conservation of endangered breeds such as the Maltese ox, and endangered plant species Holm oak, ‘Bidnija’ and ‘Maltese’ olive varieties, all varieties of carob and mulberries, and citrus - oranges (sweet orange, sour orange, common orange, blood orange, navel orange, orange with a thin rind); lemons (sweet lemon, perpetual lemon); lime (sweet and non-sweet); mandarin; and grapefruit. Conservation-type operations (such as actions promoting the *ex situ* and *in situ* conservation, characterisation, collection and utilisation of genetic resources in agriculture, training courses etc.) were also offered support. When considering the RDP (2014-2020), the agri-environmental climate measures for Malta aim to enhance cultivation methods adapted to the environment and the features of landscapes, and specifically to enhance Maltese biodiversity and ecosystem services; promote water conservation and water quality improvement; and contribute to climate change adaptation and mitigation principally by increasing efficiency of input use and improving soil management. Measures (6 in total, with 3 sub-measures for AECM 2, and 4 sub-measures for AECM 6) have been selected on the basis of performing multiple functions in an agro ecosystem context. All AEMs would have a positive impact on biodiversity, enhancing the countryside and promoting practices which work in harmony with our unique ecosystems. In overview, they will cover the following 8 goals: increasing the population of pollinators; enhancing soil conservation; supporting the control of invasive alien species; increasing tree cover and greening of landscapes; protecting and enhancing nature-rich valley systems; reducing contamination of water by pesticides and nutrients; supporting biological and mechanical pest control (in place of chemical methods) and promoting agricultural/genetic biodiversity conservation through support for rare, indigenous breeds of plants and livestock. As regards AEM 6 - Measure for the integration and maintenance of autochthonous Maltese species - the aim is to promote the protection, maintenance and enhancement of the autochthonous Maltese farm species. Its specific objectives are to encourage an increased level of awareness and responsibility amongst those farmers applying under this measure. This measure will aim at focusing on 3 species of livestock: the Maltese Ox, Maltese rabbit and the Maltese black chicken. In addition to the prior it will also provide support for Holm Oak/ Carob/ Mulberry.  The National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy includes the action: *The Department of Agriculture will work with appropriate stakeholders to study and recommend how local breeds and crop varieties together with new species and hybrids could play an important role in agricultural adaptation.*  The EAFRD project “The Study and Sustainable Conservation of Varieties of Plants” is an initiative of the Plant Health Directorate. The targets are the following:   * An increase in the importance and awareness of fruit sectors; * An increase in the efficiency of the local nursery sector to satisfy the high demand for plant propagation material, in terms of quantity and quality; * The control of the incessant introduction from abroad of new varieties, which are gradually substituting the local germplasm; * Intervention for the safeguard of the local fruit producing plant’s germplasm through its conservation and, where necessary, its enhancement by clonal selection programs and utilisation through certification programmes;   *Malta’s NBSAP Target 7:* The total area of agricultural land under agri-environment schemes increased from 1831.0ha in 2011, to 2052.6ha in 2012.  **Data links:**  Rural Development Programme: <https://secure2.gov.mt/mrra-ma/rural-dev-programme?l=1>  National Strategy on Adaptation for Climate Change: <https://msdec.gov.mt/en/Document%20Repository/Malta%20Climate%20Change%20Adaptation%20Strategy/National%20Adaptation%20Strategy.pdf> |
|  | *Malta’s NBSAP Measure GR1:* See the information provided above  *Malta’s NBSAP Target 12*: Under the current agri-environmental measures, farmers receive support for the conservation of ancient trees and local livestock breeds. Farmers are requested to keep and maintain these species and furthermore livestock breeders are recommended to increase the herd. |
| **Action 11a & 11b: Forest holders and biodiversity** | *Malta’s NBSAP Measures SH2 and Target 5:* The following forest-related habitats fall within the Natura 2000 network in Malta and are hence protected and covered by the management planning process for terrestrial sites:  **92A0 - *Salix alba* and *Populus alba* galleries (U2= status in 2013);**  **92D0 - Southern riparian galleries and thickets (Nerio-Tamaricetea) (U1- status in 2013);**  **5230 -** Arborescent matorral with *Laurus nobilis* (**U1= status in 2013);**  **9320 - *Olea* and *Ceratonia* forests (FV status in 2013);**  **9340 - *Quercus ilex* forests (U1= status in 2013); and**  **9540 - Mediterranean pine forests with endemic Mesogean pines (U1= status in 2013).** |
|  | *Malta’s NBSAP Measure SH4:* No specific habitat action plans have yet been drawn up. Nevertheless measures for the safeguard of key habitats (as well as priority species, including endemic ones) are included in management plans for protected areas and also addressed in the implementation of the WFD and MSFD.  *Malta’s NBSAP Target 7:* The national target does not include forestry since this is not practised in Malta. When considering CORINE land cover data (2006) the proportion of land area covered by forest is 0.2% coniferous forest and 0.5% mixed forest. This has remained as is in the context of the 2010 CLC data.  **Data links:**  EAFRD Project on Natura 2000 : <http://www.mepa.org.mt/eafrd_natura2000>  Natura 2000 in Malta: <http://natura2000malta.com/> [to be updated by the Member State] |
| **Action 12: Biodiversity in forest management plans** | *Malta’s NBSAP Measure CC4:* This measure calls for forestation activities to take into account the Pan-European Guidelines for Afforestation and Reforestation. Afforestation areas in Malta include ‘Foresta 2000’ in Mellieħa, Salina National Park, Ta’ Qali National Park, Xrobb l-Għaġin Park, rehabilitation of the closed Magħtab landfill and various other projects in conjunction with Local Councils, schools and other entities. In the period between 2004 and 2011 approximately 107,520 trees and shrubs where planted. Three afforestation projects on both public and private land have been undertaken as part of an Italia-Malta EU-funded project (Acronym: SIMBIOTIC). The Ministry responsible for the Environment has recently commissioned the development of a National Afforestation Plan. Forest-related habitats fall within the Natura 2000 network in Malta and are hence protected and covered by the management planning process for terrestrial sites.  *Malta’s NBSAP Target 7:* See information provided above  **Data link:**  National Afforestation Plan: <https://www.gov.mt/en/Government/Press%20Releases/Pages/2014/August/16/pr141847.aspx> |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 4** |
| **Action 13a: Fish stock management** | *Malta’s NBSAP Measures BR2 and RD3:* Data on fish populations is generated through the implementation of Malta’s National Fisheries Data Collection Programme (NFDCP) in line with EU’s Council Regulation 199/2008. The most relevant data for assessing fish populations is generated through the scientific surveys carried out as part of the Data Collection Framework namely the Mediterranean International bottom trawl survey (MEDITS) and the Pan-Mediterranean pelagic survey (MEDIAS). NBSAP Measure RD3 deals with cooperation in areas beyond national jurisdiction. In the fisheries sector, management plans have been implemented for certain types of fisheries in order to safeguard extraction beyond sustainable limits. Management Plans are based on scientific data in aid of achieving sustainable fishing activities. The “Implementation and Enforcement of Certain Fisheries Management Plans Order, 2013” (Legal Notice 354 of 2013) adopts the management plans for the Lampuki fishery, Lampara fishery and Bottom Trawling which were recently approved by the European Union.  *Malta’s NBSAP Target 6:* For the marine environment, pressure-targets were established for the purposes of the MSFD in relation to benthic habitats, seabirds and marine reptiles. For benthic habitats the focus is on minimising impacts from bottom-impacting activities, particularly trawling. The latter is being regulated through the adoption of Fisheries Management Plans by the Fisheries Department. Malta’s target on fisheries cross-refers to the measures adopted in such management plans. The mentioned Fisheries Management Plans lay down provisions to limit overfishing through gear selectivity, temporal closures and spatial limitations for specific gear such as trawling. This ensures that practices do not jeopardize any measures that safeguard sustainability. For seabirds, the focus is on minimising disturbance while for marine reptiles the proposed target relates to the collection of data on incidentally captured turtles with a view to provide sound information for management purposes.  **Data links:**  Implementation of the MSFD in Malta: <https://www.mepa.org.mt/water-msfd>  “Implementation and Enforcement of Certain Fisheries Management Plans Order, 2013” (Legal Notice 354 of 2013): <http://www.justiceservices.gov.mt/DownloadDocument.aspx?app=lom&itemid=12111&l=1> |
| **Action 14a & 14b: Adverse impacts on fish stocks, species, habitats and ecosystems** | *Malta’s NBSAP Measure SH5:* In terms of incidental capture or by-catch, it should be noted that discards in Maltese fisheries are generally not significant mainly as a result of quotas being used up. Data on discards is currently collected for bottom otter trawlers targeting demersal species and for drifting longlines targeting large pelagic fish. The amount of discards generated by set longline fishery is negligible, so no discard information is collected for this fishery. Discards generated by the bottom otter trawl fishery mainly constitute commercial species, which were either below marketable size or too damaged to be sold. Discards generated by longlines are mainly non-commercial species, with discards of commercial species being negligible. The majority of the non-target by-catch of tuna longline fishery constitutes specimens of *Caretta caretta*, which in most cases are released in accordance with current legislation and are only landed for rehabilitation purposes. As part of the completed EU Life Yelkouan Shearwater Project, studies were carried out to investigate the magnitude of seabird by-catch by Maltese bottom and surface longliners. From the studies carried out so far, by-catch does not seem to be of concern for the Yelkouan shearwater, which may due to a number of mitigating factors, such as the night setting, the side setting, the weight of the snood and the bait, which has been defrosted.  *Aichi Target 10* - The EU Annex I Habitat Type - **1170 Reefs under the Habitats Directive is afforded legal protection in Malta and is covered by marine protected areas.** The current distribution of 170km2 (utilising 1x1km grid cells presence/absence method) is based on various assessments related to the distribution of *Cystoseira* spp. and *Lithophyllum lichenoides*. Known records for *Astroides calycularis* and *Dendropoma petraeum* were also considered. **Coral species are also afforded strict protection through national legislation.** Pressures on these reef habitats/communities such as fishing and harvesting aquatic resources; discharges and penetration/disturbance below surface of the seabed are deemed of medium importance, while depositing of dredged deposits is of low importance. *Reef Communities in Maltese waters* were assigned an unknown status in 2007 and overall favourable conservation status in 2013 when considering the Article 17 report prepared as required under the auspices of the EC Habitats Directive.  **Data links:**  Implementation of the MSFD in Malta: <https://www.mepa.org.mt/water-msfd>  EU Life Yelkouan Shearwater Project: <http://www.lifeshearwaterproject.org.mt/uploads/items/158.pdf> [to be updated by the Member State] |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 5** |
|  | *Malta’s NBSAP Measures BI1 to BI4:* Implementing legislation is being drafted to address those provisions of Member States competence in the EU Regulation No. 1143/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Prevention and Management of the Introduction and Spread on Invasive Alien Species. Malta also implements the European Strategy on IAS as adopted under the Bern Convention Framework. Implementing measures are regularly reported to the Bern Convention Secretariat in the run up to meetings of the Expert Group on IAS which Malta attends. MEPA adopted the “Guidelines on Managing Major Plant Invaders and Restoring Native Plant Communities within Terrestrial Settings in the Maltese Islands” in March 2013. The Guidelines have been drawn up to: (1) assist the planning and implementation of management programmes, aimed at counteracting the spread of existing plant invaders; and (2) assist the design and implementation of native plant reintroductions or reinforcements, aimed at reinstating native plant communities to a favourable conservation status. Eradication or control activities are currently identified on an *ad hoc* basis, and are focussed on priority cases. Activities are undertaken following specific method statements that are drawn up on a case-by-case basis as the need arises. The “Protection of Animals offered in Pet Shops (Minimum Standards) Regulations, 2014” (SL439.16) issued in July 2013 include the concept of contingency with regards to escapees and in cases of emergency.  *Malta’s NBSAP Target 9:* For the marine environment, this NBSAP target was reinforced through the adoption of a similar target for the purposes of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive, in line with its Article 10. In order to facilitate the achievement of this latter target through management of vectors/ pathways, a second target calling for the assessment of the effectiveness of current measures targeted at the prevention of introduction of non-indigenous species was also established. These two targets will pave the way for the implementation of management measures targeted at the prevention of the introduction and establishment of alien species in particular those that are invasive.  MEPA also participated in the EU co-financed MedPAN North project. One of the activities of this Project involved the gathering of data via surveys for selected marine alien species in Malta’s five Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) with the involvement of divers and assisted by the Department of Biology within the University of Malta.  **Data links:**  MEPA Guidelines: <http://www.mepa.org.mt/guidelines-alienplants>  “Protection of Animals offered in Pet Shops (Minimum Standards) Regulations, 2014” (SL439.16): <http://www.justiceservices.gov.mt/DownloadDocument.aspx?app=lom&itemid=12084&l=1>  MSFD NIS Report: <http://www.mepa.org.mt/file.aspx?f=10344>  MedPAN North Project: <http://www.mepa.org.mt/med_medpannorth> |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 6** |
| **Action 18a: Resources for global biodiversity conservation** | *Malta’s NBSAP Measure FB1:* Work on the drafting of a national biodiversity financing plan as required by the CBD by 2015 has commenced.  *Malta’s NBSAP Target 19:* Various initiatives have been taken or are ongoing to help strengthen Malta’s capacity to implement Multilateral Environmental Agreements and EU Policy at a national level in the fields of for instance combating wildlife crime and environmental monitoring. Member States, including Malta, that acceded to the EU in or after 2004 promised to strive to spend 0.17% of their GNI on ODA by 2010 and 0.33% by 2015. Malta's Official Development Assistance consists of:  - a financial contribution to the EU budget's external assistance instruments  - a financial contribution to the European Development Fund (EDF)  - financial contributions to other bilateral or multilateral organisations in accordance with the rules established by the OECD-DAC. This may include, *inter alia*, financial commitments in relation to climate change, biodiversity and sustainable development.  The Ministry for Foreign Affairs, through its Development Unit, coordinates an annual national exercise to collect data information and expenditures that may be eligible as ODA according to the rules established by the OECD DAC. The ten areas of focus in theOfficial Development Assistance Policy document for Malta are:   * Democratisation and Good Governance * Migration and Asylum * Education, Training and Human Capacity Development * Health * Gender Equality * Vulnerable Groups * Climate Change * Water * Information and Communication Technologies and Research * Trade and Investment   **Data link:**  MFA Portal on ODA: <http://foreignaffairs.gov.mt/en/Pages/Official%20Development%20Assistance.aspx> |
| **Action 20: Access to genetic resources and sharing of benefits** | *Malta’s NBSAP Measure GR3 and Malta’s NBSAP Target 15*: Malta currently implements the requirements of Article 15 of the CBD via the “Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations, 2006, as amended” (Legal Notice 311 of 2006, as amended) by requesting access to be on the basis of prior informed consent (PIC), where applicable. A permit application for access to Malta’s natural genetic resources within the scope of Article 15 is available online. Malta’s NBSAP calls for a strengthened national ABS Regime. National preparations are underway in order to be in a position to implement the access pillar of Nagoya Protocol at a national level. The compliance pillar will be implemented through the EU Regulation No. 511/2014 on compliance measures for users resulting from the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization in the Union. The implementing legislation to address provisions of the EU Regulation that are of Member State competence is also being drafted.  **Data link:**  Application forms for Nature Permits: <http://www.mepa.org.mt/nature-permitting> |

# The Netherlands

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| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 1** *(Please note that information from Member States in relation to Action 1a is supplied to the European Commission via other reports. To avoid duplication of reporting, information relating to Action 1a has not been included in this report)* |
| **Action 1b: Natura 2000 (and other protected areas)** | The measures under the EU Water Framework Directive and the so-called Delta Program will also enhance the resilience of wetlands in the Netherlands. The ambitious policy for the great waters of the Netherlands Delta (Min. EZ, 2013g) aims at restoring natural processes, improving biodiversity and adaptation to climate change. A process which goes beyond 2020.   * Forests and peat lands are the main ecosystems for potential carbon sequestration. Only 10.6% of the Netherlands land surface is forested (Probos, 2012). All forests are legally protected and sustainably managed. * Restoration of peat lands in Natura 2000 sites are part of policy plans to contribute to Aichi target 15. * Sensitive grasslands within the Natura 2000 sites will be protected by the new Common Agricultural Policy. |
| **Action 1c: Natura 2000 (and other protected areas)** | Many efforts are being carried out to complete and manage the National Ecological Network (NEN), including all Natura 2000 sites. This means restoration or reconversion of land into natural ecosystems and defragmentation of natural habitat.  The nature management plans and all efforts to minimise the anthropogenic pressures will eventually enhance the resilience of ecosystems. |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 2** |
|  | The implementation of activities under this objective is fully in line with the operational objective of the National Biodiversity Conservation Plan 2005–2010. According to the Biological Diversity Act Bulgaria is obliged to establish a National Ecological Network that encompasses the Special Areas of Conservations (SACs, under Habitats Directive) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs, under Birds Directive) |
|  | The Dutch government and the provincial governments prepare the Programmatic Approach Nitrogen (PAS) in order to reduce nitrogen pollution mainly by intensive livestock breeding. Measures will be taken to reduce nitrogen emissions on the one hand and nature restoration measures on the other hand. Also, Member States of the EU are obliged to renew their action programme under the Nitrates Directive (ND; 91/676/EEG) every four years. |
| **Action 6a: Ecosystem restoration and green infrastructure** | Despite the current focus on essential ecosystem services in the Netherlands their analysis and valuation is still at an early stage, as is the process towards their restoration and safeguarding. |
| **Action 6b: Ecosystem restoration and green infrastructure** | The on-going development of the National Ecological Network (NEN) has led to defragmentation of habitat and the development of new natural areas and has turned habitat loss into a habitat increase. Habitat loss by degradation is significantly reduced, mainly due to an improvement in environmental conditions such as desiccation and nutrient enrichment. However, environmental and spatial conditions are still insufficient to meet the biodiversity target set by the European Union for the Natura 2000 network of habitat types. About two thirds of nature reserves suffer from at least one pressure and mostly from a combination of nitrogen deposition and desiccation. |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 3** |
| **Target 3a: Agriculture** | * With 60% of land-use, the agricultural sector dominates the landscape in the Netherlands (CBS et al. 2009). It is a highly mechanised and productive sector. The high productivity is however accompanied by high levels of external inputs like mineral fertilizer, manure, pesticides and energy, which also rank among the highest in the world (Wageningen UR, 2008). As such the agricultural sector is mainly responsible for the loss of natural habitat and decrease of environmental conditions in the Netherlands. (p.50) * Since 1975 the Dutch government has supported biodiversity protection on agricultural land (‘relatienota’) and agricultural nature management remains an important part of the Dutch nature policy (Min. EZ & Min. I&M, 2013). The agri-environmental schemes are however currently being reconsidered. The policy to actively integrate nature management with intensive farming turned out to be not effective enough (Rli, 2013). Biodiversity on intensive farmland decreased dramatically, despite the efforts taken by many stakeholders involved to improve the situation (Rli, 2013). The Dutch Government generally acknowledged the conclusions from the RLi and, anticipating the forthcoming 2014 Nature Vision, it introduced five tracks, including one for agricultural nature conservation (2.5). (p.50) * Several organisations consider the implementation of core areas for meadow birds as the only way to stop the dramatic population decline (Teunissen et al., 2012). Loss of biodiversity on farmland is a trend that can also be observed throughout Europe (fig. 8) and the EU CAP for 2014 – 2020 has therefore shifted its focus on animal and environmental care. Over the past three decades Dutch society has become more and more critical about the impact of the increasinglyintensified agriculture on landscapes, natural habitats and biodiversity. The Dutch generally not only expect the agricultural sector to produce sufficient and healthy food at acceptable prices, but this also has to be done in attractive rural area that allow people to enjoy recreate pursuits and to value nature (Wageningen UR, 2008). This changing attitude is among others reflected in an increasing demand for organic food products and consequently an increasing area of land used for organic farming (fig. 24). (p.50) * The Dutch government regards organic agriculture as a good example of sustainable production and it is actively stimulating the growth of a professional organic agriculture sector (Wageningen UR, 2008). The Ministry of Economic Affairs assigned the Skal foundation as the certification and inspection body for organic production. The European logo for organic products was introduced in July 2010. In 2012 48.4 thousand hectares of land were used for organic farming which is still only 2.6% of the total land used within the agricultural sector (CBS et al., 2013e). As yet the principles of organic farming (SKAL eco label) include no targets or measures to support biodiversity conservation, in contrast to other labels like that of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC6). Organic farming on average shows small positive effects on a number of individual flora and fauna species but the results are ambiguous. (p.51) * The Netherlands give a high priority to greening of the EU common policies on agriculture and fisheries. This should eliminate, phase out or reform incentives that are harmful to biodiversity, while positive incentives are developed and applied. Time will show if this strategy has been effective. In 2010, large environmentally harmful subsidies were found particularly in the energy, transport and agricultural sectors, representing between 5 and 10 billion euros (PBL, 2011a). The Dutch Government could abolish certain environmentally harmful subsidies at a national level, but for competition reasons this would require agreements at a European or global scale. Examples are subsidies and tax breaks related to delivery vans, red diesel (used in forestry, agriculture, mobile machinery, railways, inland navigation and heating) and the low VAT tariffs on meat, dairy and fish (PBL 2011a). The tax break on red diesel was abolished on 1 January 2013 with the exception of ships other than recreational vessels. * Besides these existing harmful incentives there are also a few new incentives harmful for biodiversity. The European Commission and a majority of European Agriculture Ministers for instance are now looking to gradually dismantle the European milk quota system by 2015. This will further increase agricultural production in the Netherlands and because there is a negative relationship between an increase of agricultural production and biodiversity (Kleijn, 2013) it is expected to have a negative impact on biodiversity if no compensation or mitigation measures are taken. The Dutch manure policy will be strengthened to mitigate the effects of an increase of agricultural production. * Caribbean Netherlands - There has been no concrete reform of incentives to date. However, the Nature Policy Plan for the Caribbean Netherlands 2013-2017 (Min. EZ, 2013a) aims at mainstreaming of nature conservation and sustainable use in all sectors of society, such as the support for development of sustainable agriculture on the islands. This will require the reform of incentives harmful for biodiversity. (p.61) |
|  | * CBL has also formulated sustainability criteria for the generic pork and poultry meat assortment for the Dutch market. There is still a long way to go however before all meat offered in the Dutch market complies with sustainability standards. |
|  | * The population of birds on farmland is still decreasing and considerable efforts are being made to find a new system to improve biodiversity on farmland. * Substantial progress could however be made by halving the consumption of meat and dairy products and less wastage of food in combination with more efficient production and improvement of animal welfare. This would result in an expected 30% less land-use compared to 2010 (PBL, 2013). The presently dominant position of agriculture in the Dutch landscape and the associated negative impacts on biodiversity make it clear that considerable efforts are still needed towards Aichi Target 7. |
|  | * The information provided under §2.4 illustrates that sustainability and biodiversity are more and more integrated within the agriculture, aquaculture and forestry sectors. For Aichi Target 7 the forestry (§2.4.2) and aquaculture (§2.4.4) sectors made considerable progress towards 2020. The agriculture sector is however less well developed in terms of reaching sustainability, in spite of all positive and substantial efforts such as the Common Agricultural Policy and Agri-Environmental schemes (§2.4.1). * The Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency has drawn up the balance of progress made in the livestock sector over the past ten years. Unquestionably, the sector is moving towards greater sustainability in production and consumption, but developments are slow. The emissions of nitrogen and phosphates into the environment have decreased but are still above the critical limits (PBL, 2010b). |
| **Target 3b: Forestry** | * On June 20th 2013 the Green Deal ‘Promoting Sustainable Forest Management’ (“Bevorderen Duurzaam Bosbeheer”) was signed. As many as 27 public and private parties have collaborated in order to increase the proportion of wood from sustainably managed forests sold within the Dutch market. * The Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment (Min. I&M) regards timber products as being sustainably produced if they carry a certification label approved by the Timber Procurement Assessment Committee (TPAC). To date the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes (PEFC), Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme (MTCS) and Timber Legality & Traceability Verification (TLTV) are the only TPAC approved certification systems in the Netherlands. The forest area with a FSC label has been steadily increasing in the Netherlands from 35% in 2004 to 48% in 2011 (fig. 25). In 2011, 171.176 hectares of Dutch forests were being managed according to the FSC-standard7, including all forests managed by Staatsbosbeheer. (p.52) * The self-sufficiency of Dutch forestry is rather low with only 8.0% of timber products coming from Dutch forests (Probos, 2012); meaning that the remaining 92% needs to be imported. The share of imported timber from sustainably managed forests is increasing. The government aimed for a 50% share of sustainably produced timber products (native and imported) within the Dutch market from 2011 onwards. This target was achieved; in 2011 65.7% of timber products available on the Dutch market was certified (23.7% FSC, 42% PEFC; Oldenburger et al., 2013). Most of it however originates from non-tropical forests. The tropical forests are generally regarded as biodiversity hotspots that can benefit from proper certification, while the amount of certified timber products from them is relatively low. However, the amount of certified timber products from tropical forests increased form 15 % in 2008 up to 39% in 2011 (Oldenburger et al., 2013). Tropical non-certified timber products often originate from illegally logged forests. (p.52) |
| **Action 9a: Rural development and biodiversity** | * Currently the impacts of pesticides on nature, especially on bees, receive special attention. The ‘Agenda Natural Capital 2013’ (Min. EZ & Min. I&M, 2013) drafts some concrete actions in relation to this matter. The Dutch government stimulates farmers to create arable field margins with wild flowers specially designed to facilitate functional agro-biodiversity, stimulates the use of nonchemical methods and farmers are required to use emission reducing techniques. Together with stakeholders the Dutch government will develop and implement an action plan regarding bee health. * The Dutch government and the provincial governments prepare the Programmatic Approach Nitrogen (PAS) to reduce this pollution, mainly caused by agriculture (§2.3.3).On one hand measures are taken to reduce n+itrogen emissions, for instance by tightening the rules for building stables. On the other hand, nature restoration measures are taken to mitigate the effects on biodiversity such as additional vegetation management or improvement of the hydrology. * Under Rural Development Plan 3 (RDP3), a significant sum of money will be set aside to help achieve ND and WFD goals. |
|  | * Many species are protected by specific measurements taken by NGO’s and many volunteers such as the protection of meadow bird nests against agricultural activities or to help toads cross the roads on their migration to mating places. |
| **Action 9b: Rural development and biodiversity** | * Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels are taking steps to achieve sustainable production and consumption. The Dutch government cooperates with the private sector through initiatives such as the Platform Biodiversity, Ecosystems and Economics (Platform BEE; a partnership involving government, companies and NGO’s), and the Green Deals programme. Major steps have also been taken to keep the impacts of use of natural resources within safe ecological limits, though concern still exists about the reform of the agricultural sector and the ecological footprint of the Netherlands, especially abroad. * Caribbean Netherlands - Several studies have been carried out on aspects of some of the bigger issues in order to find out whether, for example, sustainable production of livestock fodder on Bonaire can be achieved through optimising the compost mixture for maximum production and a pilot agriculture project has been conducted. Due to the lack of (reasonably priced) fodder for the goats, the general practice is to let the goats roam free resulting in erosion and desertification of the land. The expectation is that when goat owners can feed their livestock for a reasonable price, they will be less inclined to let their goats roam free, thus decreasing the effects of overgrazing. * Caribbean Netherlands - The Ministry of EZ is supporting the islands in developing small scale sustainable agriculture in order to reduce dependence on expensive importation of food, as well as to improve livestock management in order to reduce the numbers of free roaming livestock and reduce the serious impacts on nature of overgrazing. |
| **Action 10: Agricultural genetic diversity** | * The recent establishment of ‘Veldleeuwerik’, a coalition of farmers, biological seeds breeding companies and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) specialists, farm sector organisations, agri-businesses like Heineken Beer and provincial authorities aiming to promote sustainable agriculture, is considered a break through and an example of what can be accomplished in a short period of time in terms of increasing production and productivity when biological sub-sector players join forces. This can also create a new export market e.g. for biological seed breeding companies and IPM specialists. (p.51) * The Centre for Genetic Resources, the Netherlands (CGN10) and the Dutch Rare Breed Survival Trust (SZH11) are the main organizations for the conservation of agro-genetic biodiversity. In 2002, the policy document Sources of Existence (Min. LNV et al., 2002) described the strategy and policy development in relation to genetic resources management. * The Centre for Genetic Resources is responsible for the genetic resources programme. This programme aims at the conservation of ex situ resources of plants and animals, supports conservation of in situ resources, and stimulates the use of genetic resources on behalf of breeding and research as part of our cultural heritage. * The status and trends on agro-genetic biodiversity in the Netherlands (§1.2.2) make clear that most cattle, horse, sheep, goat and other native breeds are currently still at risk in terms of their population size. * As for livestock, a few commercial crops dominate the production process. Since 1970, a small number of crops have almost disappeared from production systems, including rye, oats, pulses, caraway, and fodder beets. The number of farms cultivating these crops and the number of varieties offered in the market has decreased to a similar extent. Whereas this trend commenced in the 1970s, a final reduction has taken place over the last decade. Substantial traditional crop diversity however is currently maintained in gardens, rather than on farms, and in-garden conservation of traditional varieties has been shown to represent a robust conservation system. The genetic diversity of crops that have almost completely disappeared from the Dutch farming systems is now largely conserved in ex situ collections in the Netherlands and abroad. Aichi Target 13 is still a concern. Though considerable efforts have been carried out to conserve the native livestock breeds and crops, many are still at risk. * Caribbean Netherlands, Aruba, Curacao and Saint Maarten- Agro-genetic biodiversity is not an issue in the Caribbean Netherlands, nor Aruba, Curacao or Saint Maarten (see 1.2.2). |
| **Action 11a and 11b: Forest holders and biodiversity** | * In order to halt biodiversity loss, the Dutch provinces acquire land to be reconverted and developed for natural areas in order to enlarge and defragment the currently small and isolated ecosystems. The government subsidises nature management in natural and agricultural areas. Nature conservation organisations and, to a lesser extent, the agricultural sector and several other parties also cover part of the costs of nature and landscape conservation. Other financial sources for nature organisations are for example donations and lottery. Efforts aimed at increasing sources of finances are particularly focused on the development, wider implementation and acceptance of Innovative Financing Mechanisms (IFM‘s) and the mobilization and use of private funding sources. This is consistent with the principles of corporate social responsibility and sustainable production and consumption (the polluter pays principle) pursued by the Netherlands. * Its main goal is to raise awareness among businesses of the importance of biodiversity and ecosystems and mainstreaming natural capital in company policy. |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 4** |
| **Action 14a: Adverse impacts on fish stocks, species, habitats and ecosystems** | The Netherlands Government stimulates (technical) innovations which aim at more sustainable fisheries, while management plans for marine Natura 2000 sites are currently being developed to conserve marine biodiversity (for measures for shell fish, such as cockles and mussels. A pilot action is foreseen in 2015 to bring back shell banks in one of the protected sites, in order to restore biodiversity and the nursery function for fish species (Min. EZ & Min. I&M, 2013). In 2016 there will be a complete ban on bottom trawling in the coastal Natura 2000 sites of the North Sea Coastal Zone and Vlakte van de Raan, while shrimp fishing operations will be limited (VIBEG agreement). |
|  | **Caribbean Netherlands**  Since 2011 the biodiversity and fisheries resources of the waters surrounding the islands of the Caribbean Netherlands, from the outer borders of the marine protected areas surrounding the islands to the outer borders of the Exclusive Economic Zone, are being jointly managed through a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) between the islands and the Netherlands. Fisheries monitoring programs have been initiated on the Saba Bank, Saint Eustatius and Bonaire to develop effective ecosystem-based management. Reasonable progress has been made on this target.  **Aruba, Curacao and Saint Maarten Aruba:**  **Aruba** actively contributed to a joint EEZ management plan funded and endorsed by the Ministry of Economic Affairs (Meesters et al., 2010). Aruba also has some fisheries laws in place but no recent advances have been made in terms of measures towards sustainable management of marine resources.  **Curacao:** Fisheries legislation is in place to reduce or forbid some of the most destructive gear and practices; however, no effective fishery monitoring or management is in place. The sport fishermen voluntarily release bill fish during tournaments to help conserve the species. Taking of turtles is forbidden by law. Enforcement of fisheries laws by the Coastguard is effective. Curacao actively contributed to a joint EEZ management plan funded and endorsed by the Ministry of Economic Affairs (Meesters et al., 2010).  **Saint Maarten:** Saint Maarten has recently instituted a marine park and has declared a shark fishing moratorium to protect this important resource for tourism. Enforcement of marine fisheries law and marine park protection by Coastguard and marine park wardens is good. Saint Maarten is an active partner towards a joint EEZ management plan as funded by the Ministry of Economic Affairs (Meesters et al., 2010). |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 5** |
|  | The number of alien plant and animal species in the Netherlands still increases. Because it is not clear when an alien species becomes invasive and it is difficult to eradicate them once settled, Dutch policy, since 2007, is focused on prevention. Prevention is mainly achieved by agreements (e.g. on the sale of invasive water plant species), and complementary to this, the Dutch Flora and Fauna Act prohibits the release of animal and plant species in the wild which makes it possible to act if invasive alien species are introduced. In some cases eradiction actions have been undertaken. In September 2013 the European Commission published a dedicated legislative instrument (regulation) on Invasive Alien Species. The Netherlands supports this initiative and will work together with the European Member States on the establishment of a list of invasive alien species of European interest. |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 6** |
|  | The Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency (PBL) has mapped the degraded areas worldwide. In cooperation with companies and other potential funders at least two pilot restoration projects will be implemented before 2015 (Min EZ & Min I&M, 2013). These pilots have to prove that businesses can and will contribute to ecosystem restoration and that degraded areas can be converted into a productive and biodiverse system with a well-balanced water table.  The Ministry of Foreign Affairs promotes TEEB internationally and supports the World Bank to implement the WAVES programme, which aims to integrate Natural Capital Accounting in national accounts. |
| **Action 17a, 17b & 17c: Drivers of biodiversity loss** | In 2011 green taxes contributed almost 14% to the total tax revenue of the Netherlands. The revenues from green taxes have more than doubled since the late eighties (CBS et al, 2013a). In the policy note ‘Green Growth: for a strong, sustainable economy’ (Min. EZ, 2013c) the government aims for smart use of market incentives. Prices of goods and services should increasingly reflect the external impacts of production and consumption on nature and the environment. A smart combination of pricing (for example in taxation or the Emission Trading Scheme, ETS), innovation policy and selective public procurement will promote more sustainable production and will create markets for sustainable products and services. |
|  | **Caribbean Netherlands**  The Nature Policy Plan for the Caribbean Netherlands 2013-2017 (Min. EZ, 2013a) aims at mainstreaming of nature conservation and sustainable use in all sectors of society, such as the support for development of sustainable agriculture on the islands. This will require the reform of incentives harmful for biodiversity.  Several studies have been carried out on aspects of some of the bigger issues in order to find out whether, for example, sustainable production of livestock fodder on Bonaire can be achieved through optimising the compost mixture for maximum production and a pilot agriculture project has been conducted.  The Ministry of EZ is supporting the islands in developing small scale sustainable agriculture in order to reduce dependence on expensive importation of food, as well as to improve livestock management in order to reduce the numbers of free roaming livestock and reduce the serious impacts on nature of overgrazing.  **Aruba:** Between 35 and 40 % of cardboard, aluminium and ferro metals are recycled; 18 % of electricity production is by wind and there has been an increase in solar energy production.  **Aruba, Curacao and Saint Maarten** actively contributed to a joint EEZ management plan funded and endorsed by the Ministry of Economic Affairs (Meesters et al., 2010). |
| **Action 17a: Drivers of biodiversity loss** | The information under Section 2.4 of the 5NR on the mainstreaming of biodiversity illustrates that a lot has been achieved in relation to consumption and production within relevant sectors like agriculture, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture. The Natural Capital Agenda is aimed at sustainable agriculture, fisheries and forestry by 2020.  Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels are taking steps to achieve sustainable production and consumption. The Dutch government cooperates with the private sector through initiatives such as the Platform Biodiversity, Ecosystems and Economics (Platform BEE; a partnership involving government, companies and NGO’s), and the Green Deals programme.  The Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs also supports the Fair Green Global Alliance (with Both ENDS, SOMO, Milieudefensie and others) contributing to poverty alleviation, advocating at various levels for more sustainable consumption and production and strengthening civil society organisations in (sub-)tropical developing countries.  The Dutch Food Retail Association (CBL), representing the food retailers and foodservice companies in The Netherlands, invest heavily in sustainability. In an action plan on fish the supermarkets agreed to sell only sustainable fresh and frozen fish by 2011. This means that all fish caught from 2011 had to comply with the standards of the MSC or equivalent. According to CBL about 85% of the freshly caught fish offered in the Dutch market is now MSC certified (or equivalent). Another aim is that by 2016 all farmed fish in the grocery stores meet the sustainability standard of the Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC) or equivalent. CBL has also formulated sustainability criteria for the generic pork and poultry meat assortment for the Dutch market. There is still a long way to go however before all meat offered in the Dutch market complies with sustainability standards. |
| **Action 17c: Drivers of biodiversity loss** | The Netherlands gives a high priority to greening of the EU common policies on agriculture and fisheries. This will eliminate, phase out or reform incentives that are harmful to biodiversity, while positive incentives are developed and applied. Large environmentally harmful subsidies are especially found in the energy, transport (red diesel) and agricultural sectors (low VAT on meat and dairy), in 2010, in the Netherlands, representing between 5 and 10 billion Euros (PBL, 2011a). The Dutch Government could abolish certain environmentally harmful subsidies at a national level, but for competition reasons this would require agreements at a European or global scale. |
|  | In the Netherlands in 2010, large environmentally harmful subsidies were found particularly in the energy, transport and agricultural sectors, representing between 5 and 10 billion Euros (PBL, 2011a). The Dutch Government could abolish certain environmentally harmful subsidies at a national level, but for competition reasons this would require agreements at a European or global scale.  The European Commission and a majority of European Agriculture Ministers for instance are now looking to gradually dismantle the European milk quota system by 2015. This will further increase agricultural production in the Netherlands and because there is a negative relationship between an increase of agricultural production and biodiversity (Kleijn, 2013) it is expected to have a negative impact on biodiversity if no compensation or mitigation measures are taken. The Dutch manure policy will be strengthened to mitigate the effects of an increase of agricultural production. |
| **Action 18a: Resources for global biodiversity conservation** | Regional governments have incorporated the NEN in their spatial plans since ca.1995, have organised financial compensation for nature management since 2007 and have developed a monitoring system to evaluate the efforts made. |
|  | The Netherlands has compiled data on biodiversity related Official Development Assistance ODA spending for the period 2006-2010 for the EU Monterrey Accountability Report. These figures can also be used to calculate the ODA component of the Dutch baseline for the CBD agreement on resource mobilization to support poor countries for the protection and sustainable use of their biodiversity. |
|  | Efforts aimed at increasing sources of finances are particularly focused on the development, wider implementation and acceptance of Innovative Financing Mechanisms (IFMs) and the mobilization and use of private funding sources. This is consistent with the principles of corporate social responsibility and sustainable production and consumption (the polluter pays principle) pursued by the Netherlands.  Its main goal is to raise awareness among businesses of the importance of biodiversity and ecosystems and mainstreaming natural capital in company policy. So far however, it has not been easy to assess the amount of private sector funding. The Netherlands has prepared the 2006-2010 baseline report in the framework of the CBD agreements on resource mobilization.  Current actions by the Netherlands are in line with the agreements made at COP 11 in terms of stabilising the level of spending for global biodiversity. In the coming years The Netherlands will develop a methodology to estimate the contributions of non-governmental players to the accomplishment of the Aichi targets. |
| **Action 20: Access to genetic resources and sharing of benefits** | The Netherlands signed the Nagoya Protocol in 2011 and the Dutch government supports initiatives in relation to Access and Benefit Sharing cooperation with third countries. The Nagoya protocol is expected to be in force and operational by 2015. |

# Poland

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| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 1** *(Please note that information from Member States in relation to Action 1a is supplied to the European Commission via other reports. To avoid duplication of reporting, information relating to Action 1a has not been included in this report)* |
| **Action 1c: Natura 2000 (and other protected areas)** | The sub-objectives included in the draft 2014-2020 Programme, which fit into the Aichi Target 11, involve the conservation and restoration of valuable natural habitats, strengthening the management system of protected areas and the protection of areas of high natural value. Some of the measures particularly important in view of these objectives are: the implementation of conservation plans or management plans to provide a consistent Natura 2000 site management system, the creation of new and expansion of the existing national parks, the completion of the nature reserve network and the establishment of a system of wildlife corridors with an operational and management scheme. |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 2** |
|  | Based on available data on wood resources, the carbon content of tree biomass in Polish forests has been estimated at 1,099 million tonnes, including 26 million in dead wood (State of Europe’s Forests 2011). Moreover, the quantity of CO2 sequestrated by forests (along with soils and taking into account the use of forests) has been estimated at 51.9 million tonnes, which corresponds to approx. 14.2 million tonnes of carbon. The restoration of degraded ecosystems and their services is one of the objectives of the draft 2014-2020 Programme. This objective is to be implemented through the identification of priorities for the restoration of degraded ecosystems and the development and implementation of programmes for the restoration of degraded ecosystems and their services. |
|  | Poland has been making diverse efforts to limit environmental pollution (mainly of air and water) with potentially negative impacts on ecosystems and biological diversity. Deciding on a level harmless to ecosystem and biodiversity functions is another question in hand.  The draft 2014-2020 Programme refers to the issue of reducing pollution only indirectly within activities towards sustainable agriculture. However, binding EU regulations (i.e., the Water Framework Directive, the Nitrates Directive, the Urban Waste Water Directive, the Industrial Emissions Directive, the CAFE directive) guarantee that Poland will take serious action towards reducing pollutant emissions. |
| **Action 6b: Ecosystem restoration and green infrastructure** | A project of wildlife corridors connecting protected areas into a spatially coherent system – despite the lack of applicable legislation – has already been developed and is being taken into account in the Concept of National Spatial Planning, planning studies, and EIA procedures. Experience gained in this field will significantly facilitate the implementation of this undertaking. The draft 2014-2020 Programme includes activities such as the demarcation of a system of wildlife corridors with its operational and management system and an amendment of the Nature Conservation Act to take into account the management principles of wildlife corridors. |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 3** |
| **Target 3a: Agriculture** | Poland has introduced the Code of Good Agricultural Practices; the share of organic farms is growing continuously (though their % share is still low, at 3.5% of total farmland in Poland). Although the fragmented farming structure supports biodiversity conservation, changes and trends, the growing use of fertilisers and the intensification of agricultural production need to be constantly monitored. |
| **Target 3b: Forestry** | In 2009-2012, the rate of forest cover growth was similar as in the preceding four years (2004-2008) and came to 0.075% per year. If this rate is maintained until 2020, the cover will reach 29.9%. It should be noted that land in Natura 2000 sites is excluded from afforestation until management plans for these sites are developed. As a result of distortions to the species composition of Polish forests due to former forestry management, which favoured quickly growing coniferous tree species, these species have dominated large areas of the country (70.8%), while, in the forest habitat structure, pine, spruce and fir forest stands merely account for slightly more than half of the habitats (52.1%). In accordance with the State Forest Policy (1997), Polish forests have seen a restoration of forest stands aimed at increasing the share of deciduous species and diversifying the age of forest stands and the species structure. In 2009-2012, the area of forest stands that had been restored totalled 40,900 hectares. |
| **Action 8a & 8b: Environmental public goods in the CAP and GAEC cross-compliance** | An example of negative subsidies is subsidising farmland drainage, which is in conflict with the national environmental and water policy and which neutralises other positive steps towards aims such as small-scale water retention. From the point of view of biodiversity conservation objectives, water management on farmland should include mainly the irrigation functions of melioration systems and measures that enhance water retention. In 2010, among 6,421,000 hectares of meliorated land in Poland only 414,000 (6.4%) had water retention equipment and irrigation was conducted only on 105,000 hectares. In 2011, the situation was no different. |
| **Action 9a: Rural development and biodiversity** | The impact of the RDP agro-environmental scheme on the agricultural sector should be regarded as significant. One example of this impact is the doubling of organic farmland surface area in the last five years: from approx. 315,000 hectares in 2008 to approx. 661,000 hectares in 2012. |
| **Action 9b: Rural development and biodiversity** | Despite numerous measures taken against the fragmentation of natural habitats and towards the restoration of the continuity of wildlife corridors, land ownership structure in Poland (high fragmentation), imperfections in the spatial planning system, and transportation and urban development, may pose a significant barrier in reaching this target by 2020. |
| **Action 10: Agricultural genetic diversity** | Poland is an exceptional example of a Central European country where, thanks to the fragmented agricultural structure, local forms of crop plants have been preserved to this day.  Ex situ protection of national genetic resources of cultivated plants has been carried out through harvesting and preserving still existing local varieties of crops and related species in the Gene Bank at the Plant Breeding and Acclimatisation Institute (IHAR) in Radzikow. |
| **Action 11a: Forest holders and biodiversity** | In recent years, the use of Polish forestry resources has been below the level of natural capabilities determined according to the Forest Principles and the principle of increasing forestry resources. Since 2009, State Forests (approx. 78% of all forests) are subject to certification under the PEFC system (aside from the previously used FSC system). In comparison to other EU countries, Poland has the largest share of certified forests in the total forest area. |
|  | Forests cover nearly 30% of Poland, with 78% owned by the State Treasury and managed by the SFNFH. It can be presumed, therefore, that they are managed in a sustainable way. In accordance with the Forest Act in force, the main task of the State Forests is to engage in long-term sustainable forestry management practices, implemented with forest management plans. |
| **Action 12: Biodiversity in forest management plans** | In accordance with the Forest Act in force, the main task of the State Forests is to engage in long-term sustainable forestry management practices, implemented with forest management plans, with special attention to the following objectives: preservation of forests and maintaining their positive impact on the climate, air, water, soil, living conditions, human health, and natural balance; conservation of forests, especially those forest ecosystems which constitute natural elements of the native environment or which are particularly valuable from the perspective of environmental diversity, forest genetic resources, landscape features and scientific needs; protection of soils and land particularly vulnerable to destruction or damage and of special social significance; conservation of surface water and groundwater and water retention in catchment areas; production of timber, raw materials and minor forest products based on rational forest management. Certification in the FSC system applies to all Regional Directorates of State Forests (RDSF) in Poland except for Krosno, while certification in the PEFC system is applicable to all RDSFs. |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 4** |
| **Action 13b: Fish stock management** | One of the objectives of the draft 2014-2020 Programme is to support biological diversity through sustainable fishery management. This objective is to be implemented through, inter alia: the development of long-term management plans which take into account the environmental impact of fish harvesting and restocking for all commercially exploited stocks, the introduction of regulations aimed at restricting discards, and the development and implementation of EIA rules for fisheries and aquaculture.  **Data link:**  <https://www.minrol.gov.pl/pol/content/download/39850/221066/file/SZRWRiR%20przyj%C4%99ta%20Uchwa%C5%82%C4%85%20Nr%20163%20RM%20z%20dn%2025%20kwietnia%202012r.pdf> |
| **Action 14a: Adverse impacts on fish stocks, species, habitats and ecosystems** | Since 2006, the National Marine Fisheries Research Institute has been implementing the Incidental Catches of Cetaceans Monitoring Programme, based on obligations arising from Regulation (EC) 812/2004. Since 2011, the programme has also included incidental catches of seabirds and endangered fish species, such as the twaite shad (*Alosa fallax*), or fish originating from reintroduction programmes, such as the Atlantic sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrhynchus*). From the beginning of the programme's existence, no incidental catch of cetaceans or other marine mammals has been recorded and protected fish species were not found in the monitored catches either. |
|  | In 2008-2011, with the NFEP&WM's support, a project involving active protection of harbour porpoises (*Phocoena phocoena*) against catching was implemented. It consisted in installing a line barrier of acoustic deterrents in the mouth of the Bay of Puck (*Zatoka Pucka*) in order to prevent porpoises from swimming into the fishing grounds of high net density. |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 5** |
|  | In 2009-2013, scientific studies on invasive alien species with the creation of a central database of these species, as well as numerous projects for limiting their impact and for their removal from nature reserves and national parks were conducted in Poland. One of the strategic goals of the draft 2014-2020 Programme is to limit the pressure of invasive and conflicting species, and operations planned to help reach this objective involve raising awareness, developing and implementing an action plan and creating an invasive alien species monitoring system. |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 6** |
| **Action 17c: Drivers of biodiversity loss** | Data on economic incentives harmful to biodiversity are incomplete. The majority of institutions do not carry out such analyses. |
| **Action 18a: Resources for global biodiversity conservation** | Financial incentives conducive to biodiversity conservation in agriculture will also be provided under the 2014-2020 agro-environmental and climatic programme of the RDP. Moreover, the draft programme includes: pilot support for biodiversity-friendly enterprises, the development and implementation of programmes for job creation in services for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, and the implementation of instruments that support traditional practices of sustainable use of biodiversity resources by local communities. |
|  | In 2013, draft methodology for gathering and converting data on financial resources for broadly defined biodiversity protection activities was developed within efforts to implement the Strategy for Resource Mobilization in support of the achievement of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity. In 2006-2010, these resources were estimated in order to establish the initial level to which needs and expenses could be compared in future years. The estimation covered both expenditure on supporting biodiversity in developing countries (approx. USD 1.5 million) and national expenditure from, i.e., the budget, EU funds and environmental protection and water management funds, on activities pertaining directly and indirectly to biodiversity in various industry sectors (approx. USD 560 million per year).  In 2014-2020, Poland will have access to financial resources for biodiversity conservation from EU funds, where the most significant financial contribution is anticipated under the agro-environment-climatic scheme of the RDP.  Also the NFEP&WM has planned priority programmes for biodiversity conservation –approx. PLN 150 million (about USD 48 million) for 2014-2015. The operational programme *Protection of biodiversity and ecosystems* of the European Economic Area Financial Mechanism 2009-2014 envisages approximately EUR 20 million (approx. USD  27.5 million) for 2013-2016 for activities towards: an increase in the effectiveness of Natura 2000 site management and monitoring, an increase in the resistance of native ecosystems to the pressure of invasive alien species, raised public awareness of biological diversity, better education in this area linked with the issues of climate change and the economic value of ecosystems, and an increased potential of NGOs to promote biological diversity.  As an innovative financing instrument, an objective of the draft 2014-2020 National Programme is to initiate a pilot financial support mechanism for biodiversity-friendly enterprises.  The period after 2020, when similar-scale EU funding will not be available, may witness problems with financing biodiversity conservation. |
| **Action 20: Access to genetic resources and sharing of benefits** | In 2013, the Ministry of the Environment has published the contents of the Nagoya Protocol in Polish, conducted a wide consultation with stakeholders, and organised a conference on the implementation of the Protocol and proposed regulations. |

# Portugal

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| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 1** *(Please note that information from Member States in relation to Action 1a is supplied to the European Commission via other reports. To avoid duplication of reporting, information relating to Action 1a has not been included in this report)* |
| **Actions 1: Natura 2000 (and other protected areas)** | The National System of Classified Areas (SNAC) consists of the National Network of Protected Areas (RNAP), the Classified Areas of Natura 2000 and other Classified Areas under international commitments.  In mainland Portugal the total area classified under the RNAP and Natura 2000, in late 2013, was about 22% of the land territory. About 190,000 ha of marine area are also classified.  Between 2010 and 2014 three new Ramsar sites were classified. In March 2014 there were 31 Ramsar sites in Portugal with an area of 132,487.7 ha.  Two new protected areas with 214.67 ha and 24,767.46 ha were included in the RNAP.  Until May 2014, Portugal has designated 97 Natura 2000 SCI/SAC, with a total area of 16844 km², amounting to 17.4% of the land area of the country. 30 sites have marine areas; amounting to 1173 km² of marine area of SCI. 59 SPAs are designated with a total area of 11486 km², amounting to 10.7% of the land area of the country. 10 SPAs are marine, with an area of 762 km².  The insufficient SCI designation is being addressed through technical proposals for the terrestrial and marine environments.  In the marine and coastal environment the main action was the extension of the SPA Ilhas Berlengas in 2012, covering a wide marine area around the archipelago as a result of new data on the distribution in the sea of breeding population of Cory's shearwater (*Calonectris diomedea*) and including important feeding and resting areas for the species. To improve management, non-extractive areas were identified or marked as required. The project LIFE+ Berlengas - Conservation of endangered habitats and species in the SPA Berlengas through sustainable management (2014-2018) is ongoing. Further evaluation of three new SPAs on the mainland coast of Portugal is taking place. Their focus is the migratory and wintering population, very threatened, of the Balearic-shearwater (*Puffinus mauretanicus*). This process is based on several of projects co-financed by the LIFE programme and European Economic Area (EEA) Grants.  Projects oriented for acquisition of knowledge in support of the enlargement of Natura 2000 to the marine environment:   * Project FAME - *Future of the Atlantic Marine Environment* (2010-2012). It has among its objectives: to develop recommendations on the designation and management of marine protected areas; to map areas essential for the survival of endangered/protected seabirds; to assess the impact of human activities (including fisheries and renewables) in areas of high ecological importance; to produce recommendations on the management of these areas for the benefit of endangered/protected seabirds; to recommend marine areas for future protection; * Project Interreg MESH Atlantic (2010-2012). * Projeto LIFE+ MarPro (2011-2015) for the acquisition of knowledge on the interaction between fisheries and marine natural values and to contribute to the definition of *offshore* Natura 2000 sites (contiguous to mainland Portugal).   In Madeira Autonomous Region, the Natura 2000 consists of 11 SACs and 5 SPAs. SACs have an area of 47,000 ha, about 30% of the terrestrial part of the Region. During 2014 the SPAs were classified, the integration of Garajau Partial Natural Reserve in the SAC Pináculo and the integration of Marine Protected Areas Network of Porto Santo in the SAC “Ilhéus do Porto Santo” were proposed. It was proposed to include areas of occurrence of cetaceans in the Natura 2000.  The project LIFE IBAS marinhas identified 2 marine IBAs in surrounding areas of Ilhas Desertas (PTM16) and of Ilhas Selvagens (PTM17) used by important colonies of pelagic seabirds of the North Atlantic.  In the Azores Autonomous Region the Regional Network of Protected Areas (RFCN) promotes an integrated view of protected natural heritage and integrates the Natura 2000, the protected areas of regional importance, the Ecological Reserve and the Regional Agricultural Reserve. The Protected Areas network integrates the management units Island Natural Park, the Azores Marine Park and local Protected Areas. The 9 island parks integrate Natura 2000 areas and areas classified under international conventions. The island parks and marine park include respectively 123 and 11 Classified Areas.  **Strategies, Action Plans and Projects**   * Action Plan for the Conservation of the Iberian Lynx (2008). Its implementation is ongoing. In 2014 reintroduction actions were initiated and several measures of habitat management and promotion of prey were taken.   Portugal takes part on PCESLI - *Ex Situ* Conservation Programme of Iberian Lynx, to ensure the conservation of 85% of its genetic variability and providing individuals for reintroduction in previously selected areas   * Programme for the conservation of Spanish imperial eagle. In place since 2008. In 2011 a multiyear plan of activities was elaborated. A monitoring plan is obtaining detailed information on the breeding success of each pair, as well on the main threats on the population. The Portuguese and Spanish working groups have produced a draft *Iberian Strategy for the Imperial Eagle*; * Action Plan for the Conservation and Monitoring of the resident population of bottlenose dolphins in the Sado Estuary. Published in 2009; * Regional Action Plan for the Conservation of the Black Vulture (*Aegypius monachus*); * Regional plan to mitigate the use of poison in the regions of Mourão/Moura/Barrancos and Vale do Guadiana (under LIFE project “Promoting Iberian lynx and black vulture habitat in southeastern Portugal” (2010-2013); * Action Plan” (Action Plan for the Conservation of tree-nesting populations of Bonelli's Eagle *Aquila fasciata* of Portugal - Strategic Lines under LIFE Nature Project “Conservation of tree-nesting Bonelli's Eagle populations in Portugal” (2006-2011); * Action plan for jarabujo (*Anaecypris hispanica*) 2012-2016. Concluded in September 2011; * Strategy for the conservation of scavenger birds in Portugal (*in prep.*).   The following projects should be noted:   * LIFE+ Promoting Iberian lynx and black vulture habitat in southeastern Portugal (2010-2013); * LIFE+ Iberlince - Recovering the historic distribution range of the Iberian lynx (*Lynx pardinus*) in Spain and Portugal(2011 a 2016); * LIFE+ IMPERIAL – Conservation of Spanish imperial eagle (*Aquila adalberti*) in Portugal (2014 a 2018); * LIFE+ Saramugo – Conservation of jarabujo (*Anaecypris hispanica*) in Guadiana basin (Portugal) (2014 a 2018); * LIFE+ Berlengas – Conservation of threatened habitats and species in SPA Berlengas through a sustainable management (2014 a 2018); * LIFE+ ECOTONE - Management of riverine habitats for the of invertebrates threatened with extinction (2012 a 2016); * Reintroduction of the Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) in Portugal (2011-2015) * LIFE+ Steppic Birds - Great Bustard, Little Bustard and Lesser Kestrel conservation in cereal steppes in Alentejo (2009-2012) (2009-2012); * LIFE+ Conservation of tree-nesting Bonelli's Eagle populations (*Aquila fasciata*) in Portugal (2006-2011); * Kestrel’s colony recovery project in the Special Protection Area of S. Vicente.   Measures were also taken to mitigate o the illegal use of poisons and mortality caused by infrastructures of distribution and transmission of energy:   * Project LIFE+ Innovative actions against illegal poisoning in EU Mediterranean pilot areas (2010-2015), focusing on the poisoning of wild species considered as harmful for game species management; * Antídoto Portugal Programme: a public and private platform aiming to combat the illegal use of poison and to contribute to a better understanding of its consequences on the wildlife; * Cooperation Protocols between an electric energy company, NGOs and the Environmental Authorities has provided the technical knowledge and institutional basis for the company commitment to implement mitigation measures in new lines, especially within the Natura 2000, Important Bird Areas and Protected Areas. Guidelines on Good Environmental Practices were produced. * LIFE Ilhéus do Porto Santo (LIFE09 NAT/PT/000041) - Halting the loss of European biodiversity through restoration of habitats and species of islets of Porto Santo and surrounding marine area; * LIFE Maciço Montanhoso (LIFE11/NAT/PT/327) - Restoration and conservation of species and habitats in Maciço Montanhoso Central da Madeira; * LIFE RECOVER NATURA (LIFE12 NAT/PT/000195) - Restoration and conservation of terrestrial species and habitats in the Natura 2000 sites of Ponta de São Lourenço and Ilhas Desertas; * LIFE Fura-bardos - Conservation of Fura-bardos (*Accipiter nisus granti*) e Laurissilva habitat on Madeira Island; * LIFE Cetáceos - Madeira II (LIFE07 NAT/P/000646) - Identification of critical marine areas for the bottlenose dolphin and surveillance of cetacean conservation status in Madeira Archipelago; * LIFE IBAS marinhas (LIFE04 NAT/PT/00023) – Important areas for seabirds in Portugal. * LIFE12 NAT/PT/000527 Terras do Priolo (*Pyrrhula murina*) (2013 a 2018) intends to contribute to the management of the SPA Pico da Vara/Ribeira do Guilherme. * *Species Action Plan for the Azores Bullfinch* (*Pyrrhula murina*) *in the European Union* (2009 – 2019). * LIFE07 NAT/P/000649 Sanctuary Islands for Seabirds (2009 a 2013), oriented to the conservation of seabird colonies in the Azores (habitat restoration and control and eradication of invasive alien species). |
|  | For the period 2014-2020 the partnership agreement for the implementation of the European a Structural Investment Funds adopted in 2014 integrates major priorities related to Birds and Habitats Directives and Natura 2000, according to the Prioritized Action Framework approved in 2013. An in-depth integration of nature (and biodiversity) in the reformed Common Agriculture and Fisheries Policies took place in order to ensure the most adequate programming of rural development and fisheries funding of the investment and recurrent management needs of Natura 2000. |
| **Action 2: Adequate financing of Natura 2000** | In January 24, 2014, the WWF and the ICNF, IP, promoted a **workshop on "Financing Natura 2000 Network** - More and better opportunities from EU funds for 2014-2020", where the Portuguese Priority Action Framework (PAF) was presented.  PAF identifies priority conservation measures to be implemented until 2020, consisting of a concise, objective and realistic action plan, rather than a comprehensive set of measures, which may be relevant, but beyond the administrative, technical and scientific and financial implementation capacity of the country in coming years.  The identified priority measures are general but structural (e.g. mapping of natural habitats and the assessment and monitoring of protected natural values) and strategic (e.g. agricultural and forest management of RN2000 and the valuation of ecosystem services), aiming to integrate at the appropriate levels of programming of EU funds, access to finance by public and private entities, with a view to implement key measures of biodiversity policy and to pursuit the goals and commitments and legal and political obligations of Portugal, at all levels, national, EU and global.  In order to mobilize funding for the Autonomous Regions, PAF were developed for the RN2000 of Azores and Madeira, for the period 2014-2020.  In addition to regional funds, other European funds, such as LIFE, the EAFRD, ERDF and ESF, contribute to finance biodiversity conservation actions. The European Fisheries Fund (EFF) and Horizon 2020, for research and development are also relevant. |
|  | Also on Action 2 of the EU Strategy, for the period 2014-2020 the partnership agreement for the implementation of the European an Structural Investment Funds adopted in 2014 integrates major priorities related to Birds and Habitats Directives and Natura 2000, according to the Prioritized Action Framework approved in 2013. An in-depth integration of nature (and biodiversity) in the reformed Common Agriculture and Fisheries Policies took place in order to ensure the most adequate programming of rural development, fisheries and Cohesion funding of the investment and recurrent management needs of Natura 2000. |
| **Action 3a: Stakeholder awareness and enforcement** | The evaluation from 2013 (Eurobarometer) contains the results of a survey to citizens with answers to the following questions:   * importance and seriousness of biodiversity loss * personal efforts to tackle biodiversity loss * Natura 2000 and the importance of nature protection areas * measures the EU should take to protect biodiversity   The 3rd International Environmental Education Congress of Portuguese Speaking Countries and Communities will be held in July 2015. Under the guidance of the Treaty of Environmental Education for Sustainable Societies and Global Responsibility and the Earth Charter, it is organized around 10 Main Themes.  The LIFE+ project BIO+SINTRA *Enhancing Biodiversity in Sintra, Europe's First Cultural Landscape* (2010-2013) to promote active public participation in the conservation of key natural values of the Serra de Sintra and dissemination of causal relationships between daily activities, carbon emissions, climate change and biodiversity loss, to promote the adoption of environmentally friendly behavior. The LIFE+ project ECOCOMPATÍVEL (LIFE09 INF/EN/00045) intends to establish links among the socio-economic, human recreational activities and biodiversity in RN2000 sites in Madeira.  The Regional Plan for Education and Environmental Awareness of Azores (PRESAA) is in force since 2011 and combines all the campaigns, projects and actions promoted in this issue by the regional government. Authorities, businesses, NGOs and local associations also contribute to its implementation. The "Azorean Biodiversity Kit", was published in 2012 under this Plan and it was distributed in 1st cycle schools.  Every year the program “Parque Escolar” is held In the Azores. It is a set of activities in the a class-room context with field trips to protected areas, with biodiversity, geodiversity, waste prevention, climate change and good practices of environmental citizenship as main themes.  The Partner Program for Sustainable Development promotes a nature oriented culture in order to raise awareness on appreciation biodiversity among the public.  The portal “Sentir e Interpretar o Ambiente dos Açores - SIARAM”, created in the International Year of Biodiversity (2010), is regularly updated. Its content (multimedia, texts, videos, photos and audio, with testimonials from researchers form the University of the Azores and other experts) can be freely used for educational and non commercial purposes.  The Nature Conservation and Natural Parks portals of the Azores contain the description of the natural values that can be found in each protected area. Relevant information can also be accessed in the Environmental Monitoring Portal – AzMoniAmb.  Relevant internet sites, created or maintained by the Biodiversity Group of the University of Azores in the last 6 years:   * Grupo da Biodiversidade dos Açores; * Portal da Biodiversidade dos Açores; * Galeria da Biodiversidade dos Açores; * Base de dados ATLANTIS; * Aranhas dos Açores; * Térmitas dos Açores; * E.D.E.N – Habitats dos Açores. |
|  | **Biological and genetic material banks**  A protocol between ICNF, I.P., and the Botanical Garden of the National Museum of Natural History (at Lisbon University) aims to the *ex situ* conservation of threatened native flora.  Until the end of 2013, the seeds of 53% of plant *taxa* legally protected by the Habitats Directive were already conserved on a long-term in a germplasm bank, with 23% of these species included in a DNA bank. These actions contribute to the fulfillment of the target 8 of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation. |
| **Action 4: Monitoring and reporting** | The implementation of the Birds and Habitats Directives requires a periodic review of the conservation status of many relevant species and habitats.  The Spatial Plans and Management Plans of Protected Areas and Classified Areas of Natura 2000 may integrate a monitoring program to regularly evaluate the implementation of the proposed measures and actions. Also EIA processes involve monitoring key environmental indicators (including fauna, flora and vegetation) potentially affected by the project implementation.  In mainland Portugal biodiversity monitoring is among the priorities in the Priority Action Framework 2014-2020 for Natura 2000. Essential biodiversity indicators are not identified, but various monitoring programs have been implemented for certain species of high nature value or regarded as representatives of a given taxonomic group, which may integrate the set of progress indicators towards significantly reducing the rate of biodiversity loss. National biodiversity indicators should be defined (based on SEBI) and approaches and methodologies for monitoring of species and habitats should be identified and operationalized.  Long-term monitoring programs for various species and groups of birds are implemented:   * National Monitoring Programme of Wintering Waterfowl, oriented to species highly dependent of wetland areas. This programme is ongoing since 1976 and it involves the yearly evaluation of population abundance and distribution of species of Anseriforms and Gruiforms; * Constant Effort Sites ringing scheme. It aims to monitor the population changes of widespread passerine and near-passerine species, through a programme of systematic summer mist-netting in specific habitats.   Specific monitoring action are implemented at regional level:   * Monitoring scheme of rupicolous birds (*Gyps fulvus, Neophron percnopetrus, Hieraaetus fasciatus, Aquila chrysaetos, Ciconia nigra, Bubo bubo, Oenanthe leucura*) breeding at the Parque Natural da Serra de S. Mamede; * Annual monitoring scheme of birds of prey at the Reserva Natural das Lagoas de Santo André e Sancha; * Monitoring scheme of Collared Pratincole (*Glareola pratincola*) and Little Tern (*Sterna albifrons*) breeding at the Reserva Natural do Estuário do Tejo; * Monitoring scheme of Audouin's Gull (*Larus audouinii*) breeding at the Reserva Natural do Sapal de Castro Marim e Vila Real de Santo António; * Monitoring scheme of Bonelli's Eagle (*Hieraaetus fasciatus*), Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), Alpine swift (*Apus melba*), European Shag (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*) and Eurasian Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*) at the Parque Natural de Sintra-Cascais; * Monitoring scheme of rupicolous birds (Griffon Vulture (*Gyps fulvus*), Egyptian Vulture (*Neophron percnopetrus*), Bonelli's Eagle (*Hieraaetus fasciatus*), Golden Eagle( *Aquila chrysaetos*), Black Stork (*Ciconia nigra*) and Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)) breeding at the Parque Natural do Douro Internacional; * Monitoring scheme of Bonelli's Eagle (*Hieraaetus fasciatus*) breeding at the Vale do Guadiana and Castro Verde SPAs and surrounding areas;- * Monitoring scheme of Black Stork (*Ciconia nigra*) breeding at the Vale do Guadiana SPA; * Autumn and spring counts of Black-bellied Sandgrouse (*Pterocles orientalis*) at the Vale do Guadiana and Castro Verde SPAs; * Monitoring scheme of Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) breeding at Costa Sudoeste SPA; * Monitoring scheme of Common Crane (*Grus grus*) wintering at the Vale do Guadiana and Castro Verde SPAs and surrounding areas; * Monitoring scheme of Yellow-legged Gull (*Larus michahellis*), European Shag (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*) and Common Guillemot (*Uria aalge*) at Ilhas Berlengas SPA; * Monitoring scheme of sea birds at the Reserva Natural das Lagoas de Santo André e Sancha.   At national level, since 2010, monitoring projects were implemented focusing on several taxonomic groups:   * A monitoring programme of the cave-dwelling bat species is in progress since 1987 and involves the estimation of bat numbers present in the most important wintering and maternity roosts. Annually surveys are carried out in most of the roosts. A recent analysis of the data collected between 1988 and 2012 includes population trends of seven species calculated with software TRIM. The use of updated criteria to evaluate roosts of national importance showed that currently there are 76 important roosts (3 important all-year round, 43 *hibernacula* and 40 maternities); * CAC (Censo de Aves Comuns): the Common Bird Census is a long term monitoring programme of common breeding birds and their habitats, in Portugal. It was launched by SPEA (NGO) in 2004 in mainland Portugal and Madeira and later in 2007 in the Azores. This census is integrated into the Pan-European Common Bird Monitoring Scheme (PECBMS).   The Common Birds Indexes (IACZA, IACZF) are published until 2009;   * CANAN (Contagens de Aves no Natal e Ano Novo): farmland’s wintering birds monitoring scheme; * NOCTUA-Portugal: night birds monitoring scheme; * RAM (Rede de observação de Aves e Mamíferos Marinhos): observation network of Marine Birds and Mammals; * Arenaria: distribution, abundance and population trends of the Portuguese coastal marine birds during winter; * Monitoring scheme of Great Bustard (*Otis tarda*); * Monitoring scheme of Spanish Imperial Eagle (*Aquila adalberti*). * Monitoring vertebrate mortality in Portuguese roads: since 2010, a joint project of the University of Lisbon and Estradas de Portugal, S.A aims to minimize road mortality and improve road permeability by mapping high mortality spots and improving drainage culverts for animal crossing; * As contributions to the establishment of a reference framework for natural species, we should refer the Atlas of Bats of Portugal (ICNF 2013), the Atlas of Wintering and Migratory Birds, the Atlas of Breeding Birds in Madeira Archipelago and the Atlas and the Atlas of Breeding and Passing Birds in Portugal (*in prep.*).   The Atlas of Portuguese Bats (mainland Portugal) project involved around 150 volunteers and the main goals were to map the present distribution of the 25 bats species known to occur in mainland Portugal, to populate a database to make available this information to all interested parts and, in conjunction with the campaign 2011-2012 Year of the Bat, to mobilize and stimulate bat professionals into educating human populations regarding the importance of bats in the ecosystems.  The implementation of management measures under the Rural Development Programme is evaluated through the following items:   * Index of common farmland birds; * Agricultural area of high natural value; * Monitoring Programme of natural values in the Integrated Territorial Intervention of the Costa Sudoeste: the monitoring of bird communities and the characterization of flora and amphibians of temporary ponds took place in 2010. It covered the Natura 2000 areas Costa Sudoeste Site of Community Importance (SCI) and Costa Sudoeste Special Protection Area (SPA); * Monitoring of steppic birds, during spring of 2010 and winter 2010-11. It covered the Natura 2000 area Castro Verde Special Protection Area.   In Madeira Autonomous Region the following monitoring programmes should be referred:   * Artropodofauna at vale da Castanheira, on Desertas islands; * Malacofauna at vale da Castanheira, on Desertas islands; * Conservation state of *Monachus monachus*, on Desertas islands; * Conservation state of *Pterodroma deserta*, on Desertas islands; * Population of *Pelagodroma marina hypoleuca*, on Selvagem Grande island; * Populations of *Tarentola boettgeri bischoffi* and of *Teira dugesii selvagensis*), on Selvagem Grande island; * Restauration of the population of *Tarentola boettgeri bischoffi*; * Flora and marine in Selvagens islands; * Restauration of terrestrial on Selvagem Grande island; * Population of *Calonectris diomedea borealis*, on Selvagem Grande island; * Conservation state of *Columba trocaz*; * Conservation state of *Pterodroma madeira*; * Monitoring and identification of entomofauna, on Desertas islands; * Monitoring and control of *Larus michahellis*.   In Azores Autonomous Region the following monitoring programmes are in place:   * Common Bird Census (CAC) - since 2007; * Census of - Since 1990. The current methodology (158 points) started in 2008 and is held annually. Every 4 years is complemented by a simultaneous counting of more 149 points for a total of 307 points for the project Atlas do Priolo; * *Pyrrhula murina* Juveniles Recruitment Census - Held biannually in 2010 and 2012; * Census of *Buteo buteo rothschildi* and *Buteo buteo harterti*: seeks basic information on the populations in the Azores and Madeira. It is held annually, since 2006; * Monitoring of *Scolopax rusticola* populations. Since 2001, it is now held on most of the islands. It is based on a rooding census; * Monitoring of *Coturnix c. conturbans* populations - a) Census on São Miguel island, of birds per hectare before and after the hunting season with the aid of dogs (since 2002); b) Census of calling males per linear kilometer, along transects in June-July (since 2006); * Monitoring of *Gallinago gallinago* - Monitoring of abundance through census held during the reproduction season, recording birds in exhibition (drumming, vocalizing, etc.) at fixed observation points; * Monitoring of the abundance of hunting species during the hunting season - with information collection from hunters in hunting days, estimating an index of abundance (number of birds observed per hour per hunter) which complements the annual monitoring and the systematic surveillance of the conservation status. * Census of bats.   **Red lists and books**  The Atlas and Red Book of Threatened Bryophytes of Portugal was published in 2013. There are 704 bryophyte *taxa* (including species, subspecies and several varieties with taxonomical significance) in mainland Portugal, comprising about 40% of European species and almost 65% of all Iberian bryophytes.  In the Madeira Autonomous Region, the red list of bryophytes of Madeira was published in 2014. |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 2** |
| **Action 5: Knowledge of ecosystems and their services** | It should be referred the program in which Coca-Cola Portugal - Refrige voluntarily pays forest owners, under a partnership mediated by WWF that aims to promote the voluntary market for payment for ecosystem services in the world's largest area of cork oak which is situated over the largest Iberian aquifer.  The Coca-Cola Portugal - Refrige consumes 500,000 m3 of water from the Tagus aquifer annually. The group of forest owners adopted certified (by FSC) sustainable forest management practices in 16,000 ha. About 600 ha are considered critical for biodiversity and for recharging the Tagus aquifer.  A pilot project launched by nature conservation authorities on mapping and assessment of ecosystems and ecosystem services was concluded in 2014 for a NUT II region (Alentejo). Methodologies for mapping and the assessment of ecosystems, and indicators were developed tested taking into account EU-JRC MAES analytical framework. A study on the economics of ecosystems in a natural park /Natura 2000 site was also carried on. A national level MAES, including the valuation ecosystem services will be contracted in 2015/2016 up to 2018/19.  It is in course a TEEB for marine ecosystems under the Oceans Initiative promoted by the private Gulbenkian Foundation. |
|  | In mainland Portugal, in relation to the management of bathing water quality, in 2013, 543 bathing water were monitored (446 coastal or transitional waters and 97 inland waters). The tendency remained positive, with the quality of 97.8% of coastal bathing and transition waters obtaining a rating of "acceptable" or higher, with 91.9% "excellent", and the quality of 84.5% of inland bathing waters to achieve a rating of "acceptable" or higher, with 59 8% "excellent". Even if it is not a specific monitorization of evaluate water pollution, it tells us that the evolution of water quality is positive.  In 2010, under the management plans of river basin regions (PGRH 2009-2015), the status of water bodies, based on data collected from monitoring programs, was classified. In cases of lack of data modeling and expert analysis were used. It was concluded that 52% of water bodies has good quality or better.  In 2010 the ecological status of natural surface waters (rivers, transitional and coastal waters) in the various river basin regions was good or better between 42% and 73%. The chemical status was largely unknown. The majority of groundwater reached good condition.  It is projected that by 2027 the status of 100% of surface and groundwater will be good or better (except for one of the eight river basin regions where a value of 82% for surface water is foreseen). |
| **Action 6b: Ecosystem restoration and green infrastructure** | Green infrastructures are integrated in Cohesion policy and in the national operational programs for the period 2014-2020. |
|  | Several natural habitats in an unfavourable conservation status (9580\* Mediterranean *Taxus baccata* woods, 3170\* Mediterranean Temporary Ponds, 4020\* Temperate Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica ciliaris* and *Erica tetralix*, 6230\* Species-rich *Nardus* grasslands, on silicious substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas in Continental Europe), 6110\* Rupicolous calcareous or basophilic grasslands of the *Alysso-Sedion albi* e 8240\* Limestone pavements) were object of financial support by the LIFE programme:   * Projeto LIFE+ Taxus - Restoring yew thickets (2013-2016); * Projeto LIFE+ Conservation of Temporary Ponds in the Southwest Coast of Portugal (2013-2017); * Projeto LIFE+ NAT/PT/000043 Higro (2010-2014); * Projecto LIFE+ NAT/PT/000040 Habitats Conservation (2010-2014).   In Madeira Autonomous Region 5 LIFE projects are ongoing in 3 of the 4 islands, covering in a significant way the priority habitats of the habitats directive in the archipelago.  Restoration of natural habitats and sensitive areas has been carried out in the Azores Autonomous Region, with invasive species control and plantation of characteristic native species to the local habitats, propagated in nurseries. At the Ponds of Pedro Miguel, in Faial island, invasive species were removed and the endemic *Juniperus brevifolia* were planted. Using the LIFE program in Graminhais-Northeast on the island of São Miguel natural forest and peatland areas of RN2000 were restored. The Scientific Project Renaturalisation and Valorization of the Forest Nucleus of Negro Lagoon (Lagoa do Negro) was implemented, whereby ecological processes promoting the regeneration of the Azores peatlands after anthropogenic pressure were studied, as ecological restoration model where management and active restoration measures are applied. |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 3** |
|  | **Agricultural and agro-forestry ecosystems**  **Mainland Portugal**  The implementation of the Sectoral Plan of the Natura 2000 is in progress, through its integration in Instruments of Land Management (municipal land use plans (PMOT) and special land use plans (PEOT)).  Financial instruments - ITI (Integrated Territorial Interventions), supported by rural development, remain in force, and are related with the maintenance and promotion of conservation status of habitats and species. Local Support Structures were created to support, guide and provide information to farmers and forest managers. Good practice guides on forest and farming management were developed, as well as demonstrative actions for farmers.  At national level, the sales of plant protection products, which are currently the best indicator to estimate the use of such products, have been consistently declining and has decreased around 15% between 2012 and 2011.  The agricultural area under organic farming in mainland Portugal, between 1994 and 2012, increased from 0.2% to 6.1% of the total utilized agricultural area. In 2012, on the mainland Portugal, the predominant type of crop was pastures (61.8% of the area). In terms of animal production, in 2012, in mainland Portugal, sheep and cattle were the main species under organic farming representing approximately 36.5% and 27.5% of the respective national total. |
| **Action 12: Biodiversity in forest management plans** | **Forest ecosystems**  **Mainland Portugal**  The national legal system provides a framework for forest planning and management that includes 3 levels:   * I. Regional Forest Management Plans (PROF) are sectorial policy instruments for the regional level. They are binding to administrative authorities at all levels. * II. Forest Management Plans (PGF) are tools for managing forest areas at the unit/holding level, according to the guidelines defined in the respective forest regional plan. * III. Specific Forest Intervention Plans (PEIF) are tools with specific intervention measures in forest areas with major biotic (e.g. invasive plants or pest or diseases outbreaks) or abiotic problems (e.g. very high risk of forest fire).   All publicly owned forests need a PGF and all community forest lands must have a PGF (or a plan for the utilization of community lands), prepared by the public administration.  Forest Management Plans are mandatory for privately owned forests when they:   * meet the area conditions of their PROF; * integrate Forest Intervention Zones and, in this case, or they adopt the plan of the whole Zone or they have a specific PGF. * are granted public financial support (EU or other) for forest management or afforestation. This was compulsory for all projects until February 2014. Since then it became mandatory only for projects with areas above the ones defined in their PROF.   In these cases PGF are prepared by the management entity and approved by the national forest authority.  When the forest holding overlaps with a Natura 2000 site or a national level Protected Area, the PGF must include a Biodiversity Management Program (BMP) to ensure the compatibility and contribution of the forest management to the conservation of protected species and habitats. Guidance was produced to support the land owners and forest managers.  Roughly, around 25% of the area under PGF fall within the national system of classified areas (protected areas, Natura 2000 sites and others, e.g. Biosphere Reserves, Ramsar sites, etc.) and therefore include a BMP. |
|  | At the end of 2013, over 200000 ha of forest were certified under PEFC system and over 300000 ha under FSC system.  In Madeira Autonomous Region the Forest Inventory (IFRAM1) integrates biodiversity indicators in particular the characterization of the structure of vegetation which the laurel forest, and the analysis of their specific diversity.  The awareness, advice and technical guidance of the main actors on biodiversity issues have received special attention in forest investments. Forestry projects have contributed to the control of invasive species and to the increase of biodiversity.  In the Region the following ones are considered Forest Areas of High Natural Value:   * ZEC PTMAD0001 – Laurel forest of Madeira: 15367 ha; * ZEC PTMAD0002 – Central Mountain Massif of Madeira Island: 6224 ha; * ZEC PTPOR0002 – Pico Branco - Porto Santo: 127 ha.   In Azores Autonomous Region the PGF must promote, among others, the soil and hydrological network protection, the biodiversity conservation and the production of timber.  In the rural development programme of the action Valorization of the sustainable use of forest land was composed by the measures:   * Natura 2000 payments in forest lands; * Forest-environmental payments, in response to increased demand for ecosystem services; * Support to non-productive investments; * Support to restoring forestry potential and introducing of prevention measures.   A management model that enables a regional standard for forest certification through the FSC system is being implemented. A Best Practices Manual for the Forest Management on Azores was produced.  In Madeira Autonomous Region the ISOPlexis Germoplasm Bank has contributed to reduce the loss of the genetic diversity of cultivars plants. Identification, collection and testing of regional varieties of actions were undertaken.  In Azores Autonomous Region the rural development programme has financially supported the conservation of traditional orchards of the Azores and the protection of the autochthonous land race “Ramo Grande”. In 1996 the total number of adult bovine of “Ramo Grande” was 227. Currently it is greater than 1900.  In mainland Portugal, Integrated Territorial Interventions, under the Rural Development Programme and preventive regulations (such as environmental assessment procedures and Habitats and Birds Directives) are in force. |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 4** |
|  | **Aquaculture production**  **Fresh waters ecosystems**  Aquaculture with freshwater species is residual, with a decreasing trend. The development of aquaculture activities in fresh water in RN2000 and Protected Areas depends on licensing, which ensures compatibility between conservation objectives and exploration units.  **Marine and coastal ecosystems**  In mainland Portugal the aquaculture production has increased with 10,317 tonnes in 2012, 12.2% more than in 2011. The production of fish (60%) and bivalve molluscs (40%) in brackish and marine waters corresponds to 95.4% of the total production.  In Protected Areas, aquaculture development with marine species is accompanied by ICNF, I.P., in the Inspection Commission. Compliance of the aquaculture management with the protected area conservation objectives is ensured by this procedure and through regular visits to exploration units. |
| **Action 13: Fish stock management** | The goals of the National Strategic Plan for Fisheries 2007-2013 are:   * Ensuring the sustainable exploitation of living aquatic resources, adjusting the levels of fishing effort to obtain the maximum sustainable yield, diversifying the techniques and methods of production and promoting the quality of production, ensuring that biological limits are not exceeded for each fishing resource and that the quotas set by the common fisheries policy (CFP) at the EU level are respected; * Promote a development of fisheries production compatible with environmental preservation and with the remaining uses of the marine environment and living resources; * Protect sensitive habitats and marine species from destructive fishing practices.   Several measures were taken in reaction to the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) having considered below safe biological limits the stocks of sardine (*Sardina pilchardus*), monkfish, hake (*Merluccius merluccius*) and Norway lobster (*Nephrops norvegicus*). In 2013, the impact of the measures under the Management Plan for Fisheries Sardine allowed a rapid recovery of biomass and increased recruitment, and the certification by the Marine Stewardship Council, regarding sustainable sardine fishery was recovered. The Recovery Plan for Hake, adopted by Regulation (EC) 2166/2005 of 20 December, seeks to recover by 2016, the stock of hake to a spawning biomass of 35 tons. The biomass of the stock of hake has increased, having reached 21,000 tons in 2012.  The Marine Strategy for mainland subdivision establishes a set of goals, five of which relate to the sustainable exploitation of resources:   * Recover the biomass levels of sardine stock; * Recover the biomass levels of hake stock; * Explore in a sustainable way the stock of Angler; * Explore in a sustainable way the stock of four spots megrim; * Explore in a sustainable way the stock of shortfin mako. |
| **Action 14: Adverse impacts on fish stocks, species, habitats and ecosystems** | The National Strategy for the Sea (ENM) presents the vision of Portugal for the period 2013-2020, with a development model based on the conservation and sustainable use of resources and services of marine ecosystems.  The Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) (2008/56/EC) states that to achieve good environmental status of the marine environment, Member States shall draw up marine strategies for the marine waters under national sovereignty or jurisdiction.  The marine waters of Portugal are part of the region of the Northeast Atlantic and the sub-region of the Bay of Biscay and Iberian Coast.  Portugal has defined four marine strategies for the continent's subdivisions, the Extended Continental Shelf, the Azores and Madeira.  The Marine Strategy for the subdivision of the continent features the environmental state of the sea in Portugal and the impacts of socio-economic activities (fishing, aquaculture or maritime transport and port activities). 14 targets are established to be achieved by 2020.  Ordinance 114/2014 of 28th May, creates more favorable conditions for the protection of the seabed from the adverse impacts of fishing activity, by banning the use and keeping on board of fishing gear likely to cause negative impacts on deep sea ecosystems, and by requiring the registration and communication on captured sponges and corals. Bottom trawling and bottom gillnets are prohibited to the national fleet, in an area of over 2 million square kilometers of the North Atlantic Ocean, which include areas of the EEZ and extended continental shelf of Portugal under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. This legislation complements the EU regulation (EC) No 1568/2005.  Bycatch of seabirds and marine mammals during fishing activities has been one of the concerns of SAFESEA projects - Sustainable local fisheries and promotion of a safe sea for cetaceans (with the support of the EEA Grants) and MarPro (co-financed by LIFE).  Protection zones, Professional Fishing Areas and Fishing Concessions were created in fresh inland waters, with specific regulations for sustainable fisheries.  Measures (fishing ban, ban use as live bait, migration windows, closed seasons, fishing effort reduction, strengthening fishing of alien species) were taken to manage inland fisheries for the following species *Cobitis calderoni*, *Cobitis palúdica*, *Alosa Alosa*, *Alosa fallax*, *Petromyzon marinus*, *Anguilla anguilla* and *Anaecypris hispanica*.  The following projects deserve to be mentioned:   * POCI FISHPASS - *Migratory ecology of iberian inland fishfauna and improvement of fish pass performance*; * BIOMANIPULAÇÃO - *Angling in reservoirs of the center and south of Portugal: Contribution of biomanipulation for the reduction of eutrophication*; * ALBUFEIRAS – Ecological quality and Integrated Management of Reservoirs; * AQUARIPORT – National programme for monitoring fish resources and evaluating the ecological quality of rivers; * National Fish Charter.   In the Azores, Protected Areas with marine areas are tools for the conservation of natural resources and marine ecosystems. Capture and trade in marine species subject to exploitation is regulated.  The Azorean fishing fleet is small scale, with characteristics that limit the autonomy and type of fishing technology that can be used and operates in an artisanal regime. It is subject to regional, national and EU legislation, measures to reduce bycatch, sustainable fishing methods, stock management measures, establishment of catch limits, fishing quotas and minimum capture sizes for some species.  The elasmobranch catches of Azores (ICES sub-area X) are mostly bycatch. For the protection of these species, the capture of deep water sharks is prohibited in the Azores since 2010 (Reg (EC) No 1359/2008). |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 5** |
|  | A report was prepared summarizing the actions and projects (including the legal framework) on alien species in Portugal during 2011 to 2012.  The following projects are ongoing in mainland Portugal:   * LIFE+ BRIGHT - *Bussaco´s Recovery from Invasions Generating Habitat Threats* (2011 until 2016). * LIFE+ Biodiscoveries - *Invasive species control through public participation* (2014 until 2019). * LIFE+ Trachemys – *Techniques for the eradication of alien turtles* (2011 until 2013). * LIFE+ INVASEP - *Combating Invasive Species within the Tagus and Guadiana River Basins in the Iberian Peninsula* (2012-2016).   Control and eradication of invasive plants and the restoration of natural ecosystems continues in the Autonomous Region of Madeira, particularly in PA, accompanied by awareness raise next to local communities, managers and users of natural spaces and others involved in the sector of production and sale of plants.  Actions to eradicate invasive mammals has allowed vegetation to increase in targeted areas and the reappearance of characteristic plant species, a reduction in predation of “freira-do-bugio” eggs (*Pterodroma deserted*) and an increase of abundance and distribution area of the terrestrial mollusc *Idiomela subplicata*.  Actions to eradicate invasive alien species are foreseen in the LIFE projects: Ilhéus do Porto Santo, RECOVER NATURA, Fura-bardos and Maciço Montanhoso.  The Handbook of good Practices for Rodent Control was developed in the Azores Autonomous Region, in 2012, and technical requirements of integrated control plans were published. Control of invasive plants in sensitive areas of all islands of the Azores continues. From 2011 until 2013 about 1200 ha were subject to interventions. |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 6** |
|  | **The National Strategy for Nature Conservation and Biodiversity (ENCNB)** was adopted by the Council of Ministers Resolution 152/2001 of 11 October. In its lifetime, between 2001 and 2010, ENCNB was a strategic tool of great importance at national level with three main objectives:   * Conserve nature and biodiversity, including the notable elements of geology, geomorphology and paleontology; * Promote the sustainable use of biological resources; * Contribute to the achievement of the objectives pursued by international cooperation processes in the area of nature conservation in which Portugal is involved, in particular the objectives set out in CBD;   Ten Strategic Options operationalize the mentioned goals, each yielding a set of Action Directives, of which some had deadlines and identified actors.  The implementation of ENCNB 2001-2010 was evaluated in 2009 and is currently under review following the results of this evaluation and relevant developments at international level such as the adoption of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and EU biodiversity strategy 2020.  The national targets to be set in the context of ENCNB the review will take into account the EU Targets set out in its biodiversity strategy 2020 and consistently with the priorities and objectives of the reform of the common agricultural and fisheries policies on environment and biodiversity, and of cohesion policy for the EU in 2014-2020.  Although the validity of ENCNB ceased in 2010, some of its goals will continue to be pursued. |
|  | **National and regional level Synergies with other Agreements and Conventions in the implementation of the CBD**  In Portugal, the competences related to global or regional conventions on biodiversity (CBD, CITES, Ramsar Convention, CMS, EUROBATS, AEWA, ACCOBAMS, Bern Convention) are mainly concentrated in a single administration body (ICNF, IP), which facilitates synergies in their implementation. The implementation of the UNCCD is also the responsibility of the ICNF, IP.  Regarding the UNFCCC, Portugal adopted in 2010 the Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change. Biodiversity is one of nine priority sectors identified. Between 2010 and 2013 efforts focused on identifying impacts and in the definition of adaptation measures. In 2013 the first progress report on the implementation of this strategy was developed.  In the RAA, Regional Decree Law 15/2012/A, of April 2nd, transposes international and EU policy, promoting and strengthening synergies between various international conventions on biodiversity, especially the Convention on Biological Diversity, Bern, Bonn and Ramsar, and also establishes the necessary measures for compliance with and implementation of CITES and associated Regulations, the EUROBATS and AEWA in the Azores territory. |
| **Action 17: Drivers of biodiversity loss** | **National Ecological Reserve**  REN is a biophysical structure which integrates areas with ecological value and sensitivity or that are exposed and susceptible to natural hazards. It is a public utility restriction that limits the occupancy, use and transformation of soils to uses and actions consistent with its goals. Looking to improve its links with other legal regimes, REN's legal framework was revised in 2012. National and regional level policy guidance was approved including guidelines and criteria for the delimitation of REN areas at the municipal level.  **Land-use Planning**  The land-use planning policy (and associated regional development) is a key instrument for sectorial integration of biodiversity. Articulation between the Institute for Nature Conservation and Forests (ICNF, IP) and other entities in the elaboration of relevant territorial management instruments (IGT) is guaranteed by law. Until 2012 the former Institute for Nature Conservation and Biodiversity (ICNB, IP), followed the development of IGT whose territorial scope crossed with classified areas. Thereafter the ICNF, IP, started to follow all IGT which are not limited to urban areas.  **Environmental Assessment**  Environmental Assessment (EA) for programs and plans, under national legislation since 2007, is a powerful tool for integrating environmental concerns into other sectors, but its use is still far from efficient and its aims are not achieved yet. In 2010, ICNB, IP, established guidelines for the assessment of biodiversity in the EA of plans and programs, in accordance with the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2001/42/EC) and national best practices. These guidelines include thematic indicators of integrity and coherence of RN2000 as well as of the National System of Classified Areas (SNAC), conservation status of species and habitats and the cumulative effects of plans or programs.  **Environmental Impact Assessment**  The ICNF, IP also elaborated specific guidelines for project EIA, aiming target groups or species. These guidelines include a set of mitigation and compensation measures that should be considered in the EIA process according to the type and level of predicted impacts of each project. Specific monitoring plans are often implemented as measures prescribed in the EIA. In this context, the MoBiA Project aims to evaluate how effective are (i) the approach of EIA with regard to biodiversity and (ii) the contribution of associated monitoring programs for a national monitoring network.  In the Autonomous Region of Madeira (RAM) biodiversity issues occupy a leading role in regional planning, integrating a number of strategic documents, regional plans, programs and policies. Land-use planning takes into account a set of mechanisms that trigger protection and safeguarding biodiversity. It is mandatory to observe a set of legislation related to protected and classified areas which include SACs and SPAs of RAM, the Natural Park of Madeira and Nature Reserves. Further, the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity is always taken into account in SEA processes.  The Autonomous Region of Azores (RAA) has made efforts to integrate biodiversity into other sectorial policies (agriculture, forestry, rural development, tourism, etc.). The legal regime of nature conservation and biodiversity states that public policies should develop strategies, plans and programs for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and adapt to those purposes existing strategies, plans or programs which shall reflect, inter alia, the relevant measures set out in CBD, and integrate, as appropriate, the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity plans, programs and sectorial or cross-sectorial policies.  Biodiversity values are considered and integrated into operational programs such as the Rural Development Programme (PRORURAL) where rural development involves the enhancement of environmental area.  The initiative "Partnership for Sustainable Development" was developed, a partnership program between Natural Parks of the Island (PNI) and regional companies to disseminate the natural values and promote an economic development compatible with biodiversity conservation.  Biodiversity concerns have been integrated in land management and planning instruments to prevent likely changes related to urbanization, infrastructure, accessibility, tourism, mining and quarrying, recreation and leisure. The integration of biodiversity concerns in the context of regional land-use planning is done through the development of the land management system.  At the stage of admissibility of applications to the Azores Operational Programme for Convergence (PROCONVERGENCIA), in the 2007-2013 period, procedures to verify environmental norms conformity were applied. In Incentive Scheme for the Regional Development of Azores, while analyzing applications, and whenever they contemplate environmental issues, the opinion of the Regional Direction of the Environment is requested and decisive regarding the eligibility of the application. During checks and monitoring actions compliance with national and Community legislation is verified, in particular, compliance with environmental norms.  **Regional and local level**  Biodiversity values and concert have also been integrated into development strategies and regional and local planning processes in mainland Portugal. As an example, we present information on North and Alentejo regions.  In the Northern Region of Portugal the importance given to biodiversity issues has evolved positively. A broad range of initiatives, aimed at the conservation of nature and biodiversity, some of which are funded by the EU, are promoted by local authorities, universities, regional development associations, citizens' associations and NGOs.  Examples of ongoing projects, include:   * Project of 100,000 trees in Porto Metropolitan Area - an initiative of the CRE Porto (Regional Centre of Excellence in Education for Sustainable Development of the Porto Metropolitan Area); * Campaign 50 Endangered Green Spaces and 50 Green Spaces to preserve in Porto Metropolitan Area - an initiative of the Association Campo Aberto, covering nine counties.   In Alentejo, the elaboration of the Regional Plan for Land-use Planning (PROTAlentejo) was articulated with the provisions of other statutory and territorial management instruments in particular the National Strategy for the Conservation of Nature and Biodiversity (ENCNB) and the Special Plans of Land-use Planning (PEOT), such as Land-use Plans of Protected Areas and the Natura 2000 Network Sectorial Plan (PSRN2000).  At the local level, the implementation of delimitation guidelines of regional environmental protection and enhancement structures (ERPVA) for municipal ecological networks, the implementation of measures contained in PSRN2000, Agenda 21 processes and the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) are important measures for integrating the objectives of nature conservation and biodiversity policies. |
|  | In 2013, the value of **environmentally related taxes** in Portugal was 4494 million euros, a decrease of 10.7% compared to 2012 and the lowest value since 2006. From 2006 until 2012 there was a reduction in tax revenue from environmental taxes, estimated at over 1.6 billion euros, mainly due to the decrease in revenue from taxes on energy and on transport, of which the tax on oil and energy products and car tax / vehicle tax (ISV) are the most relevant.  Also in 2013, and as in previous years, most of the revenue resulted from energy taxes (49%), of which stands out the tax on oil and energy products, followed by pollution taxes (31%), coming almost exclusively from the tobacco tax. Taxes on transportation (shared between car tax and the single circulation tax) accounted for 19% of revenues, while taxes on resources (hunting and fishing licenses and the rate of water resources) totaled only 1% of the total revenue collected.  Decrease in revenues from environmentally related taxes, coupled with the increase in tax revenue and the nominal increase of the Gross Domestic Product during 2013, made the weight of Environmentally related taxes in total tax revenues and social contributions decrease from 11.8% in 2006 to 7.7% in 2013. Similarly, the weight of environmentally related taxes in GDP decreased from about 4% in 2006 to 2.6% in 2013.  Recently the Parliament approved a draft Law on Green Taxation Reform, which aims to "promote a new taxation framework by developing mechanisms for the internalization of environmental externalities" in a tax neutral basis.  In Autonomous Region of Madeira under the PRODERAM, Natura 2000 payments to compensate beneficiaries for the additional costs and loss of income resulting from the application of the Birds and Habitats Directives and the agri-environment payments have provided positive incentives for the conservation and use sustainable biodiversity.  In Autonomous Region of Azores **s**ince agriculture is the dominant economic activity, incentives are granted for the conservation of biodiversity by EAFRD through the PRORURAL. Support is provided for reducing or eliminating the use of fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides, to reduce the stock density, to maintain areas with native vegetation, conserve traditional orchards of the Azores and to protect the autochthonous breed Ramo Grande.  The legal regime of nature conservation and biodiversity creates additional regional mechanisms to compensate landowners and farmers in areas covered by the application of the Birds and Habitats Directives, contributing to the effective management of RN2000, establishing technical and financial support for the maintenance and recovery of biodiversity, in particular for the maintenance and recovery of relevant habitats for biodiversity protection, priority protected species, afforestation and reforestation of Protected Areas and buffer strips of watercourses and maintenance and rehabilitation of protected areas classified as protected landscape. |
| **Action 18: Resources for global biodiversity conservation** | As regards the international aspect of resource mobilization, over the last years and until the beginning of 2014, Portuguese cooperation directed its activities in accordance with the provisions of the "Strategic Vision for Portuguese Cooperation" approved by Council of Ministers Resolution 196/2005 of 22nd December which defines the following fundamental principles:   * Historic and cultural relationship with Portuguese Speaking African Countries (PALOP) and Timor-Leste; * Promotion of portuguese language; * Strengthening of Portugals’ role in international coordination mechanisms.   Portuguese development cooperation has recently undergone changes with emphasis on the merge of the Portuguese Institute for Development Aid (IPAD) and the Instituto Camões, completed in July 2012, and the subsequent reorganization and rationalization of services, and creation of Camões Institute for Cooperation and Language (Camões, IP).  Decree-Law 21/2012 of 30th January, establishing the Camões, IP, ensures the maintenance of the principles, rules and procedures, organization and management of portuguese cooperation, thereby keeping it in the service of promoting the development of partner countries. The search for efficiency, mutual accountability and a results oriented management underlie the functioning of the new institution.  In the period 2010-2013, coordination efforts by country were anchored in Indicative Cooperation Programmes (PIC) in order to prevent dispersion. PIC remained as the main instrument of Portuguese cooperation with partner countries (PALOP and Timor-Leste, mostly Least Developed Countries and fragile states), ensuring alignment and aid predictability.  As a Member State of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the OECD, Portugal accounts for its ODA according to the statistical report policies of development finance flows, according to the CRS format (Creditor Reporting System) and applies the Rio markers, namely the marker environment and the biodiversity marker.  Between 2010 and 2012, the evolution of Portuguese ODA maintained a generally positive trend. Although still with preliminary figures, it has decreased in 2013 compared to 2010. The period of public deficit control and fiscal consolidation along with the fact that Portugal was, in a big part of the period under review, under an Economic and Financial Assistance Programme explains this decrease.  In terms of sectors, the priorities of the Portuguese Cooperation obey two fundamental criteria: the first reflects the priorities established by the partner countries in their national development strategies. The second criteria results from the added value of Portuguese Cooperation which gives Portugal specific potential, especially with regard to common language and history, thus pointing to a concentration in the areas of education and training, and institutional capacity building, from the enhancement of administrative capacity to the promotion of good governance.  This prioritization justifies the low values of environmental ODA and biodiversity ODA in the face of total ODA. Between 2010 and 2013 environmental ODA varied between 14.7% and 8.1% while biodiversity ODA was between 1.1% and 0.6% of total ODA.  Portuguese cooperation has been making an effort to improve ODA values related to environment and biodiversity through a set of actions, among which:   * Strengthening the application of the biodiversity marker, which aims to qualify ODA with regard to the implementation of CBD objectives; * Integrate environmental issues in development cooperation, and in this regard the creation of the Network of Portuguese-Speaking Countries for Impact Assessment was supported in 2010 and training activities were conducted with partners of PALOP and East Timor and Portuguese cooperation personnel, including from the most relevant ministries with regard to EIA and SEA; * In September 2010, support was provided to the workshop on CITES for CPLP partners; * In 2013 new rules for applications and new criteria for analysing, Programmes, Projects and Actions (PPA) to be financed by the Portuguese cooperation were promoted in order to integrate environmental issues, including biodiversity   Under the Rio markers, Portugal does not apply any weighting system. To the whole Portuguese bilateral ODA the marker biodiversity is applied, so it can be assumed that the remaining bilateral aid was examined in the light of the biodiversity marker and was considered not oriented to the objectives of the CBD.  Since March 7, 2014 is the Strategic Concept of Portuguese Cooperation is in force, approved by Council of Ministers Resolution 17/2014, it is the guiding document of Portuguese cooperation for the period 2014-2020. This document takes into account the changes that have taken place at international level within the framework of development cooperation, seeking to provide guidance on necessary adjustments, ensuring continuity on the main priorities and added value of Portuguese Development Cooperation and promoting compliance with commitments made at international level. |
| **Action 20: Access to genetic resources and sharing of benefits** | Portugal took part in the negotiations within the CBD and the EU which led to the adoption of the Nagoya Protocol in 2010. In January 2010, an ABS focal point was nominated. In January 2011, the same person was assigned to accumulate the Focal Point functions for the Intergovernmental Committee for the Nagoya Protocol. The Nagoya Protocol was signed by Portugal on 20th September 2011.  In June 2012, among others, the ICNF, IP was mandated to "propose regulations on access to wild genetic resources and sharing of benefits arising from their utilization and promote the application of the resulting legal and administrative regime in coordination with other competent authorities in this matter."  Since October 2012, Portugal was actively involved in the development of the EU Regulation on mandatory aspects of the Nagoya Protocol, namely on compliance by users of genetic resources.  With the adoption of Regulation (EU) 511/2014 on ABS, in April 14, 2014, the ICNF, IP, triggered the mechanisms leading to the conclusion of the Nagoya Protocol ratification process.  The EU Regulation on ABS enables Portugal to implement compliance measures of the Nagoya Protocol.  Notwithstanding, Portugal does not exclude the possibility of developing access measures in accordance with the provisions of the Nagoya Protocol. In order to establish an informed decision making process regarding the possibility of developing access measures and additional compliance measures to the ones provided for in the EU Regulation on ABS, an Inter-Ministerial Working Group on ABS was created with two main tasks:   * Develop the terms of reference for a study on the impact of the development of national regime on access to genetic resources and sharing of benefits arising from their utilization, including the regulation of access to genetic resources under national jurisdiction and additional compliance measures with the Nagoya Protocol; * Propose the legal-administrative model for the implementation of Regulation (EU) 511/2014 on ABS, including the identification of responsibilities of the different bodies in the Public Administration.   Outcomes of the Inter-Ministerial Working Group on ABS may lead to the development of additional legislation to the one which will have to be adopted in view of the proper application of Regulation (EU) 511/2014 in Portugal. In any case the work of the Inter-Ministerial Working Group on ABS contributes to the operationalization and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in Portugal. |

# Romania

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| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 1** *(Please note that information from Member States in relation to Action 1a is supplied to the European Commission via other reports. To avoid duplication of reporting, information relating to Action 1a has not been included in this report)* |
| **Action 1b: Natura 2000 (and other protected areas)** | * The Direction no. 2 of Romanian NBSAP 2014 – 2020 aims to “Integrate the biodiversity conservation policy into all the sectorial policies by 2020”. |
| **Action 1c: Natura 2000 (and other protected areas)** | * In 2012, NEPA started to implement the project POS Environment Priority Axis 4 “Integrated Management and Awareness System in Romania of Natura 2000 network” – SINCRON that had as a specific goal to improve efficiency in management of Natura 2000 sites by implementing a national registry for the implementation of management plans that would allow the increase of transparency regarding decision making for natural, cultural and historic patrimony protection, adopted by the managers of natural protected areas. |
|  | * One of the most important achievements of the current reporting period is the strengthening of the administrative system in Natura 2000 sites, resulting from establishment of management structures. * According to Romanian’s legislation the management of protected areas is outsourced (externalized) to custodians for small sized protected areas and administrators for large protected areas (e.g. national parks, national parks and others). These custodians could be public institutions and companies, universities, research institutes, NGOs etc. Their mandate is mainly to assure the management of protected areas, establish the rules and drafting management plans in agreement to local stakeholders and conservation objectives of each protected area. |
|  | * One of the most important achievements of the current reporting period is the strengthening of the management system in Natura 2000 sites. * Even if capacities of public authorities are decreasing, especially in term of staff, the management of protected areas has been improved by involving the administrators and custodians. These are represented by different stakeholders, and have obligation to ensure the management of protected areas according to legislation and draft management plans. * Currently 11 management plans were adopted. The management plans of protected areas of national interest included also management measures for Natura 2000 sites that are overlapped. * In the period 2010-2012 a new project “Integrated Management System and Awareness of Natura 2000 in Romania” was developed. In this project new guidelines for management plans for protected areas were elaborated. These new guidelines reflect the characteristics of all protected area categories in Romania and focus on conservation measures for species and habitats. * Another task of this project was the development of an IT application for management plans. The purpose of this application is to centralize all management plans while using the same template. The IT application and the guidelines were tested by developing 9 management plans for 9 Natura 2000 sites (3 SPAs and 6 SCIs). |
| **Action 2: Adequate financing of Natura 2000** | * Biodiversity conservation is mainly funded via different EU funds and state budget, but also from other sources: Swiss Funds, Norwegian Funds. Romania has completed the Prioritized Action Framework for Natura 2000 network. * Since 2007, the EU has significantly increased funding for biodiversity funding. Another modification with respect to the previous reporting period was a significant increase in the amount of financial resources allocated to biodiversity conservation. Biodiversity conservation measures have been financed from the following programs and funds:   + Rural Development Programme   + Operational Programme Environment   + Operational Programme Fisheries   + LIFE + Programme |
|  | * Financial compensations for Natura 2000 sites on a voluntary basis and EU payments for management of the biologically valuable grasslands and Natura 2000 forests for land owners are part of activities dedicated for the Target 3. |
|  | * Currently, the amount of financing for biodiversity conservation projects and the management of protected natural areas are low. * The nongovernmental sector is very active and has the necessary expertise in biodiversity conservation, but is currently limited by the too strict rules for accessing the available funds (eligibility, reporting, co-financing, pre-financing of project activities, covering of non-eligible costs (VAT), etc. * After accession, the large corporations and companies in Romania have become more careful about environmental problems, including aspects of biodiversity conservation, and developed and funded corporate social responsibility projects. |
| **Action 3a: Stakeholder awareness and enforcement** | Target group oriented communication is of central importance to achieving the biodiversity conservation targets and successfully implementing a strategy as complex and ambitious as the National Strategy on Biological Diversity. |
|  | * Work has been carried out in Romania in many areas to increase public awareness of the values of the biological diversity. Most of the European funds projects have a raising awareness component. * Additionally, Romania has implemented in 2010 – 2013 a dedicated project, “The national campaign to promote the awareness and the importance of Biodiversity through Natura 2000 Network in Romania” with the objective of raising awareness of the importance of biodiversity and Natura 2000 network in Romania. |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 2** |
|  | The extension and modernization of the water and wastewater infrastructure continue to be one of the most important priorities in improving Romanian living standards, especially in rural areas. Waste management is still far short of European standards with low levels of re-use, recycling and energy recovery. Concerning water pollution from agriculture, the use of agricultural fertilisers and pesticides decreased, leading to an improvement in the quality of the surface waters. However, given the levels of nitrates accumulated (Romania's territory designated as Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, increased from 58% to 100% of the territory), particularly in groundwater, further soil and water conservation measures will be needed, particularly by implementing good agricultural practices. This will be particularly important in the context of the transition to more intensive agriculture, agricultural practices underway in some parts of the sector foreseen in the next period. |
|  | Action concerning adaptation to climate change will be developed in the framework of The National Climate Change Strategy for 2013-2020, adopted in July 2013 and to be complemented by the National Action Plan for Climate Change. The strategy encompasses a comprehensive overview and proposes key measures and actions for various sectors falling under mitigation and adaptation objectives and has two main directions for action:   * Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and depletion of the soil carbon stock; * Adaptation to the negative effects of climate change through actions at national and sectoral level.   Adaptation to climate change will be also addressed in agricultural sector by a range of actions related to improve knowledge transfer and information on: energy efficiency in agricultural equipment, adaptation tools, including environmentally sustainable new practices, climate change risks information. |
| **Action 6b: Ecosystem restoration and green infrastructure** | Current funds (horizon 2014-2020) will contribute significantly to the establishment of more -cohesive - natural landscapes, and to prevent further fragmentation and natural destruction of natural habitats. |
|  | * So far there has been no assessment at national level of the impact of biodiversity loss and the loss of ecosystem services. Nevertheless, several EU funded projects were implemented in this field. For example, Fundatia ADEPT’s work in the Târnava Mare area won the prize for the best project in Europe for bringing Socio-Economic Benefits to farmers in protected Areas (Natura 2000 sites). * Fundatia ADEPT’s project as 'an impressive example of Natura 2000 providing economic growth and sustainable livelihoods in rural areas. The project enables farmers to make a better living by working sustainably on High Nature Value farmland, while also preserving a unique landscape with rich biodiversity. Thanks to the project, 2300 farming families in the region generate income of more than €2.5 million annually, and similar ideas are now being applied in other parts of Romania'. * Also, a Norwegian funds funded project regarding the assessment of ecosystem services was already approved in 2013 and it is expected to start at the end of 2014. |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 3** |
|  | The implementation of activities under this Target is in line with the Strategic Objective “Sustainable use of biological diversity components” from NBSAP 2014 - 2020. Ex situ conservation for agriculture in Romania is provided by the Gene Bank in Suceava that has acquired genetic resources considered valuable for agriculture, under governmental programs and bilateral agreements with different countries. Through the Gene Bank in Suceava, Romania participates with strands and hybrids of Romanian crop plants in community programs for the conservation of genetic resources. Before 1989 there were a number of institutions nationally with the necessary facilities for the conservation of various native breeds and strands, but nowadays, some 90% thereof have been closed down, with the irretrievable loss of many native breeds and strands. In a disorganised fashion, and only thanks to the preservation of traditions, Romanian farmers have expressed the willingness to practice on farm conservation, for the products and services they provide. |
| **Target 3b: Forestry** | In Romania, forest management is based on the sustainable management principles established by the Forestry Law – Law No. 46/ 2008 as subsequently amended, as follows: Promote practices that ensure the sustainable management of forests; Ensure the integrity of the forest stock and forest permanence;  Increase forest coverage;   1. Stabilize long-term forestry policies; 2. Ensure the appropriate level of legal, institutional and operational continuity in forest management; 3. Primordiality of ecological objectives in forestry; 4. Enhanced role of forestry in rural development; 5. Promote the fundamental natural forest types and ensure the biological diversity of forests; 6. Harmonise forestry relations with other areas of activity; 7. Support to the forest owners and incentives for their association; 8. Prevent irreversible degradation of the forests caused by human action and destabilizing environmental factors.   53% of the Romanian forests (Total area of the Romanian national forest is 6,519,470 ha and represents 27.7% of the country - National Institute of Statistics) are protected and different forest management regimes are applied according to their function. Measures need to be developed to enhance the value of forest protection function. Also, measures for the integrated management of mountain forests and watercourses need to be established (torrents correction, landslides mitigation, avoiding clogging of water course). In the same vein is needed to use sustainable forest management (SFM) approaches for sequestering carbon, such as sustainable management of production forests, sustainable management of protection forests - protected areas, and afforestation. Out of 2,4 million ha of the High Nature Value (HNV) grassland identified, 1,2 million ha have been protected under the current Rural Development program by granting financial compensation to farmers who undertook commitments to apply management requirements. Besides HNV grassland protection, agricultural land management measures were designed and implemented with European funds financially support, covering an area of aprox. 84,000 ha, to protect a number of 4 threatened farmland bird species and 4 subspecies of butterflies. With regard to aquaculture, both the preservation of aquatic eco-systems and the application of safety measures to prevent escapes from farms that could affect wild species biodiversity are taken into consideration. |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 4** |
| **Action 14: Adverse impacts on fish stocks, species, habitats and ecosystems** | The marine environment of the Black Sea has been the focus of environmental policies (particularly in the Danube Basin) for the past 20 years and has experienced a slow but continuous recovery:   * Reduced nutrient inputs has resulted in a reduction of algal bloom but * this phenomena is still present; * Benthic species biodiversity has improved, increasing from 20 (in the * 1990s) to almost 40 at present; * Zooplankton has been recovered particularly in offshore area, but is still vulnerable in the shallow; * Fish fauna is still in a critical situation (sardines, blue mackerel, bonito fish etc.) even if the Romanian fishing capacity decreased tremendous after 1990.   Romania aims to support the fishing sector and related activities in reducing its environmental impact in line with the reformed Common Fisheries Policy. The use of selective fishing tools, gears and methods will contribute to the preservation of the aquatic habitat, accompanied by measures to strengthen the administrative capacity (especially activities regarding data collection, inspection and control in order to deter IUU fishing and to protect the environment).  Even if Romanian fisheries produces a low number of unwanted catches and discards, in order to further diminish the unwanted catches, measures to support sustainable fishing activities are still needed. |
|  | With regard to aquaculture, both the preservation of aquatic eco-systems and the application of safety measures to prevent escapes from farms that could affect wild species biodiversity are taken into consideration. |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 5** |
|  | * There is no clear national record of the number of invasive species, with the only summary of data and information provided to the European database, the PanEuropean Inventory of Alien Species – DAISE) on a voluntary basis, by the researchers. * Romania is trying to finalise this year a national black list of invasive species, through a project in partnership with Fribourg University form Switzerland. * At the national level, a number of research programs have been conducted, among which Invasive Species Monitoring and Early Detection System – 2010 and Identification of Alien Invasive and Potentially Invasive Plants in Romania and Assessment of Their Impact on Natural and Semi-Natural Habitats in View of Initiating Prevention and Control Measures and the most recent - Alien plants in Danube Delta; risk assessment and management – which was finalized in 2011. |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 6** |
| **Action 17a: Drivers of biodiversity loss** | * One of the operational objectives is the “Identification and inclusion of incentives for the sustainable use of biodiversity components and removal of those with a negative impact”. There are no specific national indicators developed to evaluate overall realization of the Target 3. |
|  | * Strategic documents deals with sustainable production and consumption only to some extent but the impact of resource use on biodiversity and ecosystem services is not yet covered as it should. * The implementation of Aichi Target 4 thus appears to be one of the biggest gaps in the present biodiversity conservation at the national level as it is not sufficiently covered by national strategic documents. |
|  | After accession, the large corporations and companies in Romania have become more careful about environmental problems, including aspects of biodiversity conservation, and developed and funded corporate social responsibility projects. |
| **Action 20: Access to genetic resources and sharing of benefits** | Romania has signed the Nagoya Protocol in 2011 and its ratification is expected by the end of 2014 or in 2015. |

# Slovakia

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| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 1** *(Please note that information from Member States in relation to Action 1a is supplied to the European Commission via other reports. To avoid duplication of reporting, information relating to Action 1a has not been included in this report)* |
| **Action 1d: Natura 2000 (and other protected areas)** | Re-evaluation of the categories of protected areas (national parks and protected landscape areas), development of management plans for protected areas and proposals for the zoning of national parks. |
| **Action 3a: Stakeholder awareness and enforcement** | Measures for the sustainable use of agricultural soil include:   * Financial compensation for the management of agricultural land in upland and montane areas; * Agri-environment payments; * Payments within the Natura 2000 scheme, etc. |
|  | Awareness-building:   * Operation of Information Centres for Nature Conservation (Informačné Strediská Ochrany Prírody) in ca 10 cities; * Operation of the Information System Natura 2000; * Organisation of exhibits and seminars for various audiences and the “Envirofilm” film festival; * Operation of the outdoor nature conservation educational centre in Varín; other outdoor activities for the public. |
|  | * Educational projects for private land-owners by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development: “Nature-friendly forest management”; “Establishment of Forests in Changing Ecological Conditions”; “Management of Forests in Various Ecological Conditions” (all of the above included seminars and publications for private forest owners) * Public courses on the following topics: the use of permaculture, alternative practices of grassland and pastures management (Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra) |
|  | * Operation of the outdoor nature conservation education centre in Varín for schools and educators. * Short programs, including interviews and debates in national and local television and radio networks. |
| **Action 3c: Stakeholder awareness and enforcement** | Organize regular workshops and training sessions for the employees of designated authorities, including the workshop on the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol and the use of the Biosafety Clearing House; training on microarray techniques, sampling and analysis of DNA for the detection of GMOs. |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 2** |
|  | Slovakia has met its obligations for the reduction of air pollution under international conventions. Further improvement is required with regards to the pollution of aquatic ecosystems. |
|  | A formal expert group for the mapping and the assessment of ecosystem services in Slovakia (MAES – SK) has been established in 2014. In addition, assessments of ecosystem services for selected ecosystems had been performed in four national parks – Slovenský raj, Tatra, Veľká Fatra and Muránska planina – before the establishment of the expert group, as independent initiatives. Slovakia is committed to finalize the pilot phase of MAES – SK by the end of 2014.  Table 16 Tasks related to ecosystem services included in the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Updated National Strategy for Biodiversity to 2020:   |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Task** | **Target year** | | Develop a catalogue of ecosystem services focusing on services provided by protected areas | 2015 | | Develop a methodology for the assessment of ecosystem services and implement it in model areas (pilot projects) | 2016 | | Assess ecosystem services in Slovakia (outside of model areas) | 2018 | | Prepare a national report on the state of ecosystems, create an online Internet portal on ecosystems, organize exhibits on ecosystem services for the public | 2019 | | Develop a methodology on the quantification of the value of ecosystem services | 2016 | | Propose a system of payments for ecosystem services | 2016 | | Conduct case studies on the evaluation of ecosystem services, focusing on protected areas | 2020 | | Re-evaluate the social value of biotopes of European and national importance based on the economic evaluation of ecosystem services | 2016 | |
| **Action 6: Ecosystem restoration and green infrastructure** | Slovakia has met the target with respect to terrestrial ecosystems, as over 25% of the area of the country has been protected by law. However, the protection of some protected areas, including some national parks, in practice is insufficient and does not comply with international standards. More progress needs to be done in the protection of inland waters |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 3** |
| **Target 3b: Forestry** | The area of forests has been increasing in Slovakia; however, the proportion of forests (trees) showing signs of poor health has increased, too. Likewise, there appears to be a large proportion of sites in inadequate condition for most types of biotopes, with no/little progress within the last decade. |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 4** |
|  | Not applicable. |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 5** |
|  | * Priority invasive species (see the section on invasive species above) have been removed from protected and non-protected areas using Guidelines developed in the previous period of the implementation of the Updated Action Plan (2003 - 2007); * Research on the ecology of weeds (agricultural pest species): “Restoration of grasslands invaded by weeds”, “Restoration of pastures in Slovak national parks invaded by ruderal species”, “Diversity, distribution and biology of threatened archaeophyte weeds in Slovakia”; * Research on the effect of invasive species on biodiversity of native plant species: monitoring at permanent monitoring site on the 42 floodplain of the Morava River. |
|  | * The latest and most complete list of alien and invasive plant species of Slovakia was published in 2002, containing 125 species of archaeophytes and neophytes. The State Nature Conservacy (ŠOP SR) compiles data and manages a database of the distribution of 30 species of invasive plants (as of October 2014). * The maps of their recorded distribution can be accessed at http://www.sopsr.sk/publikacie/invazne/index.php?id=mapy. * However, Slovakia does not have an effective plan for the removal or management of invasive species in place. * Slovakia revised its National Strategy for Invasive Alien Species in 2012 and sections of the Nature and Landscape Protection Act No. 543/2002 dealing with invasive species will need to be amended to comply with new EU legislation on invasive species adopted in 2014 (Regulation (EU) No 1143/2014). |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 6** |
| **Action 20: Access to genetic resources and sharing of benefits** | Slovakia has taken steps towards the accession to the Nagoya Protocol. |

# Spain

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| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 1** *(Please note that information from Member States in relation to Action 1a is supplied to the European Commission via other reports. To avoid duplication of reporting, information relating to Action 1a has not been included in this report)* |
| **Action 1b: Natura 2000 (and other protected areas)** | El Plan Hidrológico Nacional en vigor se aprobó mediante la Ley 10/2001, de 5 de julio, del Plan Hidrológico Nacional, siendo modificado posteriormente por la Ley 53/2002, de 30 de diciembre, la Ley 62/2003, de 30 de diciembre, el Real Decreto-Ley 2/2004, de 18 de junio, y la Ley 11/2005, de 22 de junio. El Plan Hidrológico Nacional tiene como objetivos garantizar el buen estado de las masas de agua, gestionar la oferta del agua y satisfacer las demandas presentes y futuras a través de un aprovechamiento racional, sostenible y equitativo del agua que permita garantizar a largo plazo la protección de los recursos hídricos disponibles. El Plan regula también las medidas necesarias para la coordinación de los diferentes Planes Hidrológicos de cuenca.  En cumplimiento de la Directiva Marco del Agua (DMA), los planes hidrológicos de cuenca identifican las zonas protegidas declaradas objeto de una protección especial en virtud de una norma comunitaria específica relativa a la protección de sus aguas superficiales o subterráneas o a la conservación de los hábitats y las especies que dependen directamente del agua. Además de la identificación, los planes establecen la asociación existente entre las masas de agua y las zonas protegidas, determinan en esas masas requerimientos adicionales a los establecidos por la DMA para el cumplimiento de los objetivos de la zona protegida (en particular los exigidos por las Directivas Hábitat y Aves en las zonas de Red Natura 2000), valoran el cumplimiento de esos objetivos o requerimientos adicionales, y plantean las medidas adecuadas para alcanzar los objetivos. |
| **Action 1c: Natura 2000 (and other protected areas)** | Respecto a la gestión de los espacios naturales en España, se trabaja en promover diversas líneas de trabajo conjuntas y coordinadas con las comunidades autónomas, a través del Comité de Espacios Naturales Protegidos o de grupos de trabajo de la Comisión Estatal para el Patrimonio Natural y la Biodiversidad.  Con respecto a la Red Natura 2000, continúa impulsándose su desarrollo de acuerdo con los requerimientos comunitarios, entre otros, la declaración de las Zonas de Especial Conservación y la adopción de sus medidas de conservación, así como la subsanación de las últimas insuficiencias en la representación de tipos de hábitat y especies de interés comunitario detectadas por la Comisión Europea. España actualmente cuenta con 1.858 sitios (LIC, ZEC y ZEPA), de los que aproximadamente un 30% cuenta con algún instrumento específico de gestión (normalmente planes de gestión de espacios Red Natura2000).  En la actualidad, se está llevando a cabo la identificación y la declaración de los espacios marinos de la Red Natura 2000 de competencia estatal de acuerdo con la Ley 42/2007. En el marco de este proceso, hasta el momento se han declarado 26 Zonas Especiales de Conservación marinas y se han aprobado sus correspondientes planes de gestión y medidas de conservación. Por otra parte se han declarado 39 Zonas de Especial Protección para las Aves marinas en España, se han propuesto 9 nuevos Lugares de Importancia Comunitaria marinos y se está ultimando la propuesta de uno más. Así mismo, se está trabajando en la aprobación de los planes de gestión de 7 ZEPA marinas en la región mediterránea, la declaración como ZEC de 16 Lugares de Importancia Comunitaria en esta misma región y la aprobación de sus correspondientes planes de gestión. |
|  | La Ley 42/2007, de 13 de diciembre, del Patrimonio Natural y de la Biodiversidad, establece que se deberá aprobar una estrategia de conservación para aquellas especies amenazadas presentes en más de una Comunidad autónoma, dando prioridad a los taxones con mayor grado de amenaza, así como estrategias de lucha contra las principales amenazas para la biodiversidad. Estas Estrategias constituyen además el marco orientativo de los Planes de Recuperación y Planes de Conservación que han de aprobar las comunidades autónomas para las especies consideradas “en peligro de extinción” y “vulnerables”.  En la actualidad existen 16 estrategias de conservación a nivel nacional, se trabaja en la elaboración de la “Estrategia de Conservación de la tortuga boba Caretta caretta y de otras tortugas marinas” y se han incluido las poblaciones mediterráneas de 10 especies de tiburones y rayas en el listado de especies silvestres en Régimen de Protección Especial y en el Catálogo Español de Especies Amenazadas. Actualmente, se está trabajando en la actualización de la Estrategia para la Conservación de la Pardela balear (Puffinus mauritanicus) y la elaboración del Plan de Conservación de la orca del Estrecho y del Golfo de Cádiz. |
| **Action 2: Adequate financing of Natura 2000** | Con el fin de asegurar la adecuada financiación de la Red Natura 2000 conservación de la biodiversidad destaca la elaboración del Marco de Acción Prioritaria para la financiación de la Red Natura 2000 para el periodo 2014-2020, que define las prioridades estratégicas, las medidas necesarias y las posibles fuentes de financiación para asegurar la conservación de los hábitats naturales y las especies a los que da cobertura esta Red. En este contexto, se han iniciado los trabajos para diseñar un sistema de aplicación de mecanismos financieros innovadores en esta Red en España con especial énfasis en los pagos por servicios ambientales.  En el periodo 2009-2012, el Ministerio de Agricultura, Alimentación y Medio Ambiente impulsó acciones en Red Natura 2000 en varias comunidades autónomas, por un importe total de cerca de 55 millones de Euros con cargo al Fondo Europeo de Desarrollo Regional (FEDER) |
| **Action 3: Stakeholder awareness and enforcement** | El Inventario Español del Patrimonio Natural y la Biodiversidad, establecido por la Ley 42/2007, de 13 de diciembre es el principal instrumento para el conocimiento del patrimonio natural y de la biodiversidad. Permite «conocer el estado de conservación del patrimonio natural y de la biodiversidad y las causas que determinan sus cambios, para diseñar las medidas que proceda adoptar». El principal objetivo de este Inventario, regulado por el Real Decreto 556/2011, de 20 de abril, es disponer de una información objetiva, fiable y comparable a nivel estatal, a partir de la cual se podrá:  • Elaborar políticas de conservación, gestión y uso sostenible.  • Difundir a la sociedad los valores del Patrimonio Natural y de la Biodiversidad.  • Contribuir como fuente de información para atender a los requisitos de información de los compromisos internacionales  El Inventario Español del Patrimonio Natural y de la Biodiversidad lo integran tres instrumentos: por una parte, sus componentes que reúnen inventarios, catálogos, registros, listados y bases de datos útiles para conocer el estado de la biodiversidad; por otro lado, un sistema de indicadores que permita evaluar de forma sintética su estado y evolución; y por último, un informe anual para difundir toda la información relevante y actualizada.  Con carácter complementario, se incorpora en el Inventario documentación técnica y administrativa relacionada con la conservación y el uso del patrimonio natural y la biodiversidad tales como: aspectos legislativos; de planificación y gestión; de instituciones, órganos y otras entidades; de uso público, educación, comunicación y divulgación; financieros y de inversión y procedimentales administrativos para actividades en el patrimonio natural.  Con el objetivo de organizar, llevar a cabo un seguimiento, actualizar y difundir la información sobre el estado del patrimonio natural y de la biodiversidad, desde el 2009 se publica anualmente el Informe del Inventario Español del patrimonio natural y de la biodiversidad, donde se recopila y analiza la información sobre el estado y las tendencias del patrimonio natural y de la biodiversidad en el territorio español y sus cambios más relevantes. El informe incluye también recomendaciones con objeto de facilitar a las autoridades competentes la adopción de medidas para la recuperación del patrimonio natural y la biodiversidad, especialmente cuando los valores de los indicadores traspasen umbrales definidos.  En cumplimiento de lo dispuesto en el artículo 10 de la Ley 42/2007, de 13 de diciembre, se está trabajando en el establecimiento de un Sistema de Indicadores que permita conocer de forma sintética el estado, las variaciones y tendencias del patrimonio natural y la biodiversidad. Los indicadores deben mostrar de forma simple y directa información relevante sobre la distribución, la abundancia, el estado de conservación, la dinámica de poblaciones o el uso de los elementos del patrimonio natural y la biodiversidad española, entre otros. Se articulará de manera que la información pueda transmitirse fácilmente al conjunto de la sociedad e incorporarse al proceso de toma de decisiones.  **Data link:**  <http://www.magrama.gob.es/es/biodiversidad/servicios/banco-datos-naturaleza/default.aspx> |
|  | En cuanto a la difusión del conocimiento, a través de la Web del Ministerio de Agricultura Alimentación y Medio Ambiente, del Banco de Datos de la Naturaleza y de la Plataforma Biodiversia se pone a disposición de los ciudadanos la información oficial generada por el Inventario Nacional del Patrimonio Natural y Biodiversidad, lo que contribuye a asegurar el carácter público de la información.  Junto con esto, se está trabajando en la mejora del acceso a la información mediante el desarrollo de visores gráficos y aplicaciones móviles, como por ejemplo la aplicación Naturaleza, creada por el MAGRAMA que ofrece servicios de visualización, consulta y análisis de información geográfica para particulares y profesionales del sector, publicando cartografía relacionada con temas de la naturaleza, el medio natural, los espacios protegidos, los montes, la Red Natura 2000, etc. |
|  | Las Directrices de Conservación de la Red Natura 2000, han sido aprobadas y se dispone de una propuesta técnica preliminar de Directrices para la Ordenación de los Recursos Naturales, así como de un documento de orientación de Directrices de Conservación de las Áreas Protegidas por los instrumentos internacionales. Estas directrices constituirán el marco orientativo para la planificación y gestión de dichos espacios y serán aprobadas mediante acuerdo de la Conferencia Sectorial de Medio Ambiente, tal y como se establece en la Ley 42/2007, de 13 de diciembre. |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 2** |
|  | Mediante la creación del registro de huella de carbono, compensación y proyectos de absorción de dióxido de carbono, aprobado por Real Decreto 163/2014, de 14 de marzo, se busca promover acciones para mejorar las absorciones por los sumideros de carbono  Otras actuaciones que contribuyen a esta meta son las relacionadas con el desarrollo y aplicación del Programa de Acción Nacional contra la Desertificación, entre las que cabe mencionar la elaboración del Protocolo para la restauración de zonas quemadas en España, así como el análisis de los procesos de desertificación en función de los escenarios climáticos y el establecimiento de indicadores de seguimiento y evaluación de la desertificación a través del Mapa de Condición de la Tierra en España. Todos estos trabajos finalizarán a lo largo de 2014. |
|  | La mejora de la calidad del agua y la reducción de la contaminación están plenamente integradas en la planificación hidrológica. En ese contexto se está avanzando en la consecución de los objetivos medioambientales de la Directiva Marco del Agua a medida que se ejecutan actuaciones previstas por las distintas administraciones competentes en los diferentes planes y programas, que responden a las principales presiones identificadas sobre las masas de agua, entre ellas las que producen contaminación, habiéndose concluido el proceso de unificación de los inventarios. A escala nacional, los últimos datos disponibles prevén que las masas de agua superficial y subterráneas identificadas cumplirán los objetivos medioambientales previstos para a finales de 2015  Respecto a la contaminación en el medio marino, en 2012, se completó la evaluación del estado ambiental del medio marino junto con la evaluación de las presiones e impactos sobre el mismo, de conformidad con la Ley 41/2010, de 29 de diciembre, de protección del medio marino. Los documentos de análisis de presiones e impactos se han desarrollado de acuerdo con la Directiva Marco sobre la estrategia marina de la Unión Europea, para cada demarcación marina, incluyendo la elaboración de un Sistema de Información Geográfica con toda la información existente y el análisis espacial de zonas de acumulación potencial de presiones. El Ministerio de Agricultura, Alimentación y Medio Ambiente ha concluido la evaluación inicial del estado ambiental actual y del impacto de las actividades humanas en el medio marino de cada demarcación marina. |
| **Action 5: Knowledge of ecosystems and their services** | En relación con la consecución de esta meta, en España, siguiendo con la iniciativa de Naciones Unidas, se ha llevado a cabo el proyecto “Evaluación de Ecosistemas del Milenio de España”, un proyecto interdisciplinar impulsado por la Universidad Autónoma de Madrid con la Fundación Biodiversidad del Ministerio de Agricultura, Alimentación y Medio Ambiente, que proporciona información científica validada sobre el estado y las tendencias de los servicios de los ecosistemas españoles y sobre la relevancia que éstos tienen para el bienestar de la sociedad española.  La segunda fase de este proyecto está abordando la valoración económica de determinados servicios de los ecosistemas.  Existen varias experiencias previas para evaluar y conocer el valor económico y social de los ecosistemas, entre ellas la Valoración de los Activos Naturales en España (VANE). Este proyecto, elaborado por la Universidad de Alcalá identifica los activos naturales de España y establece modelos físicos de asignación de valor económico, elaborando un sistema de información territorial del capital natural, que permite la presentación cartográfica de la información y los resultados obtenidos. |
| **Action 6: Ecosystem restoration and green infrastructure** | 1. Conservación y restauración de ecosistemas y hábitats acuáticos  La Estrategia Nacional de Restauración de Ríos trata de impulsar las acciones necesarias para alcanzar en los ríos el buen estado ecológico de acuerdo con lo establecido en la Directiva Marco del Agua. En la página Web del Ministerio de Agricultura, Alimentación y Medio Ambiente se pueden consultar las actuaciones y los principales resultados de esta Estrategia, de la que se hace un seguimiento publicándose informes periódicos.  Por otra parte, se cuenta también con el Plan Estratégico Español para la Conservación y el Uso Racional de los Humedales, que promueve así mismo la restauración o rehabilitación de aquellos que hayan sido destruidos o degradados.  2. Restauración de dunas y hábitats costeros  En lo que se refiere a la conservación y restauración de los ecosistemas dunares, el Ministerio de Agricultura, Alimentación y Medio Ambiente, a través de la Dirección General de Sostenibilidad de la Costa y del Mar, lleva años dedicado a profundizar en el conocimiento de la función territorial de los sistemas dunares y cordones litorales, en los mecanismos de su dinámica, y en la comprensión de su biodiversidad, y ha acumulado una amplia experiencia práctica a través de numerosas intervenciones en los diversos sistemas de dunas que existen en las costas de España.  3. Seguimiento, conservación y mejora del estado de los bosques  El Plan Nacional de Actuaciones Prioritarias de Restauración Hidrológico-Forestal incluido en el Plan Forestal Español 2002 – 2030, constituye el marco general para el desarrollo de los trabajos de restauración, conservación y mejora de la cubierta vegetal protectora, que se vienen ejecutando desde hace años. Los objetivos generales del plan son la restauración, conservación y mejora de la cubierta vegetal protectora, el mantenimiento y mejora de la función protectora de los bosques sobre los recursos suelo y agua, el control de la erosión, la mejora del régimen hídrico y regulación de caudales. Para conocer la consecución de estos objetivos prosiguen los trabajos relativos al Inventario Nacional de Erosión de Suelos (INES), Inventario Forestal Nacional (50 aniversario), Mapa Forestal de España y las Redes Europeas de Daños en los Bosques.  4. Restauración ecológica y mejora de la conectividad ambiental  Con la finalidad de promover la restauración ecológica, la conectividad ambiental del territorio y la protección del paisaje, se está elaborando un borrador de Estrategia de restauración ecológica y conectividad de ecosistemas y se está avanzado en el establecimiento de mecanismos para el seguimiento de la conectividad ecológica del territorio y la situación de la fragmentación de hábitats.  Teniendo en cuenta que uno de los principales inductores de la fragmentación de los hábitats son las infraestructuras de transporte, está constituido un Grupo de Trabajo sobre fragmentación de hábitats causada por estas infraestructuras con el objeto de abordar esta problemática. |
|  | En los últimos años se han realizado en España diversos estudios orientados a identificar los ecosistemas vulnerables a los efectos del cambio climático, con el fin de identificar las estrategias y medidas adecuadas para paliar dichos efectos. En este contexto, la “Evaluación Preliminar de los Impactos en España por Efecto del Cambio Climático” analiza los principales impactos sobre los distintos tipos de ecosistemas y elabora recomendaciones para afrontarlos.  En el marco del Plan Nacional de Adaptación al Cambio Climático, el proyecto “Evaluación de los Impactos, Vulnerabilidad y Adaptación al Cambio Climático de la Biodiversidad en España” ha llevado a cabo una evaluación de los efectos potenciales y la vulnerabilidad al cambio climático de la biodiversidad de la España peninsular a lo largo del siglo XXI, empleando técnicas de modelización espacial sobre la mejor información disponible sobre el cambio climático y la distribución de las especies objetivo.  Como resultado de este proyecto, se publicaron en 2011 el Atlas de impactos del cambio climático sobre la fauna ibérica española y el Atlas de impactos y vulnerabilidad al cambio climático sobre la flora y la vegetación en España, en los que se sintetizan los principales resultados obtenidos en el proyecto y se presentan en un conjunto de mapas las proyecciones por efecto del cambio climático de la distribución actual y futura de los taxones y hábitats, así como un listado preliminar de medidas de adaptación a considerar en virtud de los resultados de los modelos. |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 3** |
|  | Con el fin de mejorar la sostenibilidad e integrar la conservación de la biodiversidad en las políticas y las prácticas agrarias, se han puesto en marcha diversas acciones entre las que destacan: la identificación, caracterización y cartografía de los sistemas agrarios y forestales de alto valor natural; la identificación de prácticas agrarias compatibles con la conservación de la biodiversidad y de aquellas que producen impactos significativos sobre la misma; la participación en el grupo de trabajo de  agricultura y biodiversidad de la Comisión Europea; la puesta en marcha del Programa de Desarrollo Rural Sostenible y la regulación del contrato territorial como instrumento para el desarrollo sostenible del medio rural. Por último, en relación con la agricultura, el Ministerio de Agricultura, Alimentación y Medio Ambiente ha aprobado, en 2012, el Plan de Acción Nacional para el uso sostenible de productos fitosanitarios, mediante el que se establecen objetivos, medidas, calendarios e indicadores para introducir criterios de sostenibilidad en el uso de productos fitosanitarios para el periodo comprendido entre los años 2013 a 2017.  Respecto a la sostenibilidad de la silvicultura, la actual Ley de Montes (Ley 43/2003, de 21 de noviembre, y la Ley 10/2006, de 28 de abril, por la que se modifica la Ley 43/2003) se inspira en unos principios que vienen enmarcados en el concepto fundamental de la gestión forestal sostenible, así como en la conservación y restauración de la biodiversidad de los ecosistemas forestales. Dicha Ley establece, por tanto, la base para que los montes sean gestionados de forma sostenible, integrando los aspectos ambientales con las actividades económicas, sociales y culturales, con la finalidad de conservar el medio natural al tiempo que se genera empleo y se contribuye al aumento de la calidad de vida y expectativas de desarrollo de la población rural.  En el 2015 se inició la revisión del Plan Forestal Español 2002-2032, estableciendo un amplio procedimiento de participación para convertir este plan en el instrumento básico de la política forestal nacional. |
| **Action 10: Agricultural genetic diversity** | En cumplimiento del Tratado Internacional sobre los recursos fitogenéticos para la alimentación y la agricultura,España desarrolla el Programa Nacional de Conservación y Utilización Sostenible de los Recursos Fitogenéticos para la Agricultura y la Alimentación, regulado por la Ley 30/2006, de 26 de julio, de semillas y plantas de vivero y de recursos fitogenéticos. Este programa tiene como objetivos: a) evitar la pérdida de la diversidad genética de especies y variedades agroalimentarias en desuso y de aquellas otras cuyo potencial genético es susceptible de utilización directa o de ser empleado en la mejora genética de especies vegetales; b) caracterizar y documentar este material vegetal para facilitar y fomentar su utilización sostenible; c) establecer una adecuada estructura de bancos de recursos fitogenéticos que encauce la necesaria cooperación nacional e internacional en la materia.  La Red de colecciones del Programa Nacional de Recursos Filogenéticos es una red descentralizada y coordinada por más de 30 instituciones, dependiente de la Administración Central, las administraciones autonómicas y las universidades. Está constituida por las colecciones de recursos fitogenéticos mantenidas «ex situ», en forma de semilla o con material de reproducción vegetativa, por organismos pertenecientes a las Administraciones públicas que participan de las acciones permanentes del Programa Nacional de Conservación y Utilización Sostenible de los Recursos Fitogenéticos para la Agricultura y la Alimentación. El Centro Nacional de Recursos Fitogenéticos, creado en 1993 y gestionado por el Instituto Nacional de Investigación Agraria(INIA), es el centro de conservación de las colecciones base de semillas, en el que deberá depositarse un duplicado de todas las colecciones de semillas que integran la Red de colecciones del Programa Nacional.  Por otra parte, la Estrategia Española para la Conservación y el Uso Sostenible de los Recursos Genéticos Forestales trata de promover la cooperación y la integración de las iniciativas llevadas a cabo desde distintas administraciones y organismos en este ámbito. La Estrategia se lleva a cabo mediante el desarrollo de cuatro planes de actuación: Plan Nacional de Conservación de Recursos Genéticos Forestales, Plan Nacional de Poblaciones Amenazadas, Plan Nacional de Mejora Genética Forestal, y Plan Nacional de Seguimiento de la Estrategia. Entre las actuaciones de esta Estrategia destacan la puesta en marcha del Banco de Germoplasma Forestal de la red, actividades del Laboratorio Molecular de referencia o actividades de la Red Nacional de Ensayos, entre otras.  Como desarrollo de esta Estrategia se está elaborando una norma nacional, que regulará la autorización de unidades de conservación in situ y ex situ y el Registro Nacional de Unidades de Conservación.  Por otra parte, se han producido avances sustanciales en el programa nacional de recuperación de los olmos ibéricos, con la obtención, tras más de 25 años de trabajo, de clones de la especie autóctona Ulmus minor resistentes a la enfermedad.  Es de destacar también en este mismo genéro (Ulmus), la determinación como especie autóctona de Ulmus laevis, que hasta ahora se consideraba introducida. Este hecho supone un reto importante para la gestión de esta especie cuyas poblaciones, que han demostrado presentar mayores índices de variabilidad de toda el área de distribución, se encuentran en riesgo de desaparición. |
| **Action 11: Forest holders and biodiversity** | A principios de 2014 se ha aprobado y puesto en marcha un Plan de Activación Socioeconómica del Sector Forestal que responde a la necesidad de incrementar, preservar, mejorar y asegurar el patrimonio forestal y que tiene como objetivos aprovechar la capacidad del sector forestal para impulsar la actividad socioeconómica y contribuir a la diversificación de la actividad económica del medio rural. |
| **Action 12: Biodiversity in forest management plans** | Se están actualizando las Directrices Básicas Comunes de Ordenación y Aprovechamiento de Montes. Tanto en la Ley de Montes como en la Estrategia Forestal Española, en el Plan Forestal Español y en el Plan Estratégico del Patrimonio Natural y la Biodiversidad se establece que es preciso avanzar hacia modelos forestales multifuncionales y sostenibles por lo que la planificación y gestión forestal sostenible se configura como el principal medio para el logro de estos objetivos.  Entre otras actuaciones para este fin se está llevando a cabo la promoción de buenas prácticas asociadas a la gestión forestal sostenible en las fincas y centros adscritos al Organismo Autónomo de Parques Nacionales. |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 4** |
| **Action 13: Fish stock management** | Con el fin de alcanzar un equilibrio entre explotación y conservación de los recursos naturales marinos, garantizando un nivel de capturas sostenible, se está trabajando en la elaboración y puesta en marcha del manual de procedimientos para la aplicación del Reglamento europeo que establece un sistema para prevenir, desalentar y eliminar la pesca ilegal, no declarada y no reglamentada |
|  | La Secretaria General de Pesca ha fomentado, en el ámbito de sus competencias, y mediante regulación interna de sus pesquerías, derivada de las obligaciones nacionales, comunitarias, e internacionales, la introducción de métodos pesqueros sostenibles.  En el ámbito de la pesquería del atún rojo, se ha colaborado con el sector para el desarrollo de técnicas avanzadas de control de la pesquería, en aplicación del Plan de recuperación del Atún Rojo de la Comisión Internacional para la Conservación del Atún Atlántico (ICCAT), que promueve una sensible reducción del esfuerzo y en un control riguroso de la actividad pesquera, con excelentes resultados sobre el estado del stock. En este sentido, las medidas de control mediante cámaras estereoscópicas garantizan un estricto control de las capturas de la especie. Asimismo, el establecimiento de documentos electrónicos de trazabilidad de ejemplares de cara a su comercialización contribuye igualmente a hacer de esta pesquería la más controlada del mundo, con los consiguientes resultados sobre la mejora del stock y la disminución de las incertidumbres científicas. |
| **Action 13: Fish stock management** | Se están desarrollando planes de gestión para el Caladero Nacional, los cuales incluyen medidas técnicas para mejora de la sostenibilidad de la explotación y la conservación de especies, así como medidas para adaptar la capacidad pesquera a la posibilidad de pesca con el fin de conseguir límites seguros y sostenibles de explotación. |
| **Action 14: Adverse impacts on fish stocks, species, habitats and ecosystems** | La flota española ha ido incorporando progresivamente programas de observadores científicos a bordo de los buques, en aquellas flotas en los que no existían previamente, en aplicación de las distintas recomendaciones y planes regionales aprobados en las diferentes organizaciones regionales de pesca. Se llevan a cabo también acciones para  reducir al mínimo los descartes, las capturas accidentales de cetáceos, aves y tortugas marinas y los efectos sobre los hábitats y ecosistemas en particular en relación con la protección de Ecosistemas Marinos Vulnerables, contando para ello con la participación de los sectores y colectivos implicados.  Asimismo, se están realizando estudios que mejoren la selectividad de las artes de pesca con el fin de evitar al máximo las capturas no deseadas para cumplir con la reglamentación comunitaria e internacional en materia de aves y tortugas marinas y de cetáceos y continuando con la identificación y portección de los Ecosistemas Marinos Vulnerables. Se ha reforzado también el control de la actividad pesquera mediante la implantación del sistema diario electrónico de abordo, y se ha llevado a cabo un plan de formación de pesquerías con el fin de minimizar las lesiones y reducir la mortalidad por captura accidental de tortugas marinas.  Se han introducido medidas de gestión de las interacciones con especies accesorias y con especies protegidas (aves y tortugas marinas, etc.). Por un lado, se ha fomentado la utilización de dispositivos de agregación de peces que evitan su enmallamiento en artes de pesca y se ha facilitado formación a los pescadores para llevar a cabo la liberación de capturas accidentales |
| **Action 14a: Adverse impacts on fish stocks, species, habitats and ecosystems** | La Secretaria General de Pesca ha fomentado, en el ámbito de sus competencias, y mediante regulación interna de sus pesquerías, derivada de las obligaciones nacionales, comunitarias, e internacionales, la introducción de métodos pesqueros sostenibles. A título de ejemplo, en la regulación de la pesquería del palangre de superficie se han transpuesto las medidas de gestión derivadas de compromisos internacionales (vedas espacio-temporales). En aguas internacionales no reguladas por una ORP, se han limitado las zonas de pesca con artes demersales a zonas en las que se ha demostrado la no existencia en sus fondos de ecosistemas marinos vulnerables. De manera horizontal, la flota española ha ido incorporando progresivamente programas de observadores científicos a bordo de los buques, en aquellas flotas en las que España no tenía tradicionalmente estos programas en aplicación de las distintas recomendaciones y planes regionales aprobados en las diferentes organizaciones regionales de pesca. Se llevan a cabo también acciones para reducir al mínimo los descartes, las capturas accidentales de cetáceos, aves y tortugas marinas y los efectos sobre los hábitats y ecosistemas contando con la participación de los sectores y colectivos implicados. Asimismo, se están realizando estudios que mejoren la selectividad de las artes de pesca con el fin de evitar al máximo las capturas no deseadas para cumplir con la reglamentación comunitaria e internacional en materia de aves y tortugas marinas y de cetáceos. Se ha reforzado también el control de la actividad pesquera mediante la implantación del sistema diario electrónico de abordo, y se ha llevado a cabo un plan de formación de pesquerías con el fin de minimizar las lesiones y reducir la mortalidad por captura accidental de tortugas marinas.  Se han introducido medidas de gestión de las interacciones con especies accesorias y con especies protegidas (aves y tortugas marinas, etc.). Por un lado, se ha fomentado la utilización de dispositivos de agregación de peces que evitan su enmallamiento en artes de pesca y se ha facilitado formación a los pescadores para llevar a cabo la liberación de capturas accidentales. Los resultados de estas acciones que confirman el descenso de las interacciones, han sido monitorizados por observadores científicos del Instituto Español de Oceanografía (IEO), con el que, junto con otros organismos científicos, se mantiene una estrecha colaboración con el fin de conseguir artes y métodos de pesca más sostenibles con el medio ambiente. La colaboración con el sector pesquero es muy activa de cara a incentivar las modificaciones necesarias de las artes y métodos de pesca para adecuarlas a la gestión sostenible de los recursos pesqueros. |
|  | Se trabaja también en la aplicación del Reglamento europeo relativo a las medidas de gestión para la explotación sostenible de los recursos pesqueros en el Mar Mediterráneo., llevándose a cabo acciones destinadas a la protección y recopilación de información cartográfica y bionómica existentes sobre los montes submarinos de Mallorca, así como la elaboración de una propuesta para proteger los ecosistemas vulnerables detectados. En el ámbito de la pesca en aguas internacionales, y en especial en el sector atunero, se ha elaborado un plan de gestión de FADs (Fish Agregating Devices) y una estrategia destinada a la sustitución progresiva de los FADs tradicionales por otros con menor impacto sobre especies asociadas y no pesqueras (eco-FADs). |
|  | España, integrante de la delegación europea que es parte contratante de las Organizaciones Regionales de Pesca (ORP), viene defendiendo activamente la introducción de resoluciones y recomendaciones vinculantes que establecen medidas de gestión de los diferentes stocks regulados por las diferentes organizaciones regionales de pesca. En las organizaciones regionales atuneras de pesca, se ha defendido, de manera especial, la adopción de medidas destinadas a prohibir las actividades de pesca de especies vulnerables, la prohibición del cercenamiento de las aletas de tiburones, el establecimiento de medidas de gestión de los dispositivos de agregación de peces en la pesca del atún, el establecimiento de tallas mínimas para la pesca de determinadas especies de atún, un ambicioso plan de recuperación del atún rojo centrado en el control de la pesquería y una exigencia reforzada en materia de control e inspección por parte de estados de pabellón y estados costeros, así como una necesidad de mayor transparencia en las condiciones de acceso a los caladeros de terceros estados. En las ORP internacionales con competencias en especies tranzonales, tales como la Comisión de Pesca del Atlántico Nordeste (CPANE/NEAFC) y la Organización de Pesquerías del Atlántico Noroeste (OPANO/NAFO), la Organización de Pesquerías del Atlántico Sureste (SEAFO), la Organización Regional de Gestión de Pesquerías del Pacífico SUR (SPRFMO),España ha defendido igualmente la elaboración de planes de recuperación de determinadas especies en situación vulnerable, vinculando los totales de capturas autorizadas a los estados de los stocks (bacalao, fletán, raya, gallineta, etc.)y las interacciones de otras pesquerías sobre los mismos. También ha colaborado activamente en la protección de Ecosistemas Marinos Vulnerables y ha defendido la eliminación de artes dañinos como las redes de enmalle profundas |
| **Action 14b: Adverse impacts on fish stocks, species, habitats and ecosystems** | En la Red de Reservas Marinas, la presión pesquera (ejercida por la flota artesanal) se encuentra dentro de límites sostenibles mediante el censo de pescadores profesionales y las autorizaciones de pesca recreativa.  Esta red de reservas marinas pesqueras, creada en el marco de la Ley 3/2001, con el fín de apoyar la pesca artesanal es gestionada por la Secretaría General de Pesca (DG Recursos Pesqueros y Acuicultura) y supone una aplicación del enfoque ecosistémico de la pesca. Protege con medios de vigilancia y seguimientos in situ 100 000 ha de las cuales 10 000 ha son reservas integrales. Los seguimientos muestran la regeneración de los recursos pesqueros de fondo, el apoyo de los pescadores profesionales que conviven con centros de buceo de recreo que perciben la mejoría del medio. Asimismo las reservas, como lugares emblemáticos para los seguimientos, muestran la mejora de la biodiversidad pero también los efectos del cambio global. La SGP lleva 13 años realizando un seguimiento del cambio global y de algas invasoras en la reserva de las Islas Columbretes, con una de las series de datos más antiguas del mediterráneo, información que se comparte con la OECC. Asimismo las acciones de visibilidad desde la red de reservas permiten aumentar la sensibilización. La red de reservas está formada por espacios de B.E.A. y aportan información de peso para el seguimiento de las estrategias marinas. Son todas zonas Red natura 2000 y como tal son zoans ZEC de alto nivel de gestión. En el marco de un proyecto financiado por la Unión Europea (LIFE+ INDEMARES) se han realizado también estudios para la determinación de la huella pesquera en áreas marinas de la Red Natura 2000 y una propuesta de medida para hacer compatible la actividad pesquera tradicional con la conservación en dichas áreas, con la colaboración y el acuerdo de las cofradías de pesca que operan en ellas. |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 5** |
|  | Con la finalidad de identificar las especies exóticas invasoras y establecer mecanismos para la prevención de la entrada, detección, erradicación y control de dichas especies, se aprobó en 2013 el Catálogo Español de Especies Exóticas Invasoras, regulado por el Real Decreto 630/2013, de 2 de agosto. El objetivo principal del Catálogo es dar a conocer aquellas especies que suponen una amenaza para las especies autóctonas, los hábitats o los ecosistemas, la agronomía o para los recursos económicos asociados al uso del patrimonio natural, limitar su uso, controlar, en la medida de lo posible, su expansión en el medio natural, y en concreto, establecer:  a. las características, contenidos, criterios y procedimientos de inclusión o exclusión de especies en el Catálogo y el Listado.  b. las medidas necesarias para prevenir la introducción de especies exóticas invasoras y para su control y posible erradicación.  c. las características y el contenido de las Estrategias de gestión, control y posible erradicación de las especies exóticas invasoras.  El Ministerio de Agricultura, Alimentación y Medio Ambiente ha puesto en marcha un Grupo de Trabajo de Especies Exóticas Invasoras con el objetivo de promover la coordinación entre las administraciones, impulsar el intercambio de información, así como la evaluación y diagnóstico en las estrategias de control de las especies más problemáticas. El sistema de alerta temprana está funcionado en el marco del Comité de Flora y Fauna Silvestres de la Comisión Estatal para el Patrimonio Natural y la Biodiversidad. |
|  | Con el fin de contribuir a la lucha contra las especies exóticas invasoras de medios acuáticos, se llevan a cabo, de forma ordinaria, labores de prevención y lucha contra las mismas, a la vez que se participa en foros sobre la erradicación de estas especies. Las labores de prevención del mejillón cebra, lucha contra el jacinto del agua y otras especies invasoras son ya labores ordinarias de los distintos organismos de cuenca. Por otra parte, dentro de la Estrategia Nacional de Restauración de Ríos, se ha elaborado un estudio sobre erradicación de la caña común, y se acaba de publicar un manual elaborado en coordinación con la Generalitat Valenciana |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 6** |
|  | En cuanto a la consideración de la biodiversidad en las actividades privadas, cabe destacar la “Iniciativa Española Empresa y Biodiversidad”, puesta en marcha en mayo de 2013 por el Ministerio de Agricultura, Alimentación y Medio Ambiente a través de la Fundación Biodiversidad, que busca impulsar, junto con el sector empresarial, un desarrollo económico compatible con la conservación de la biodiversidad. La Iniciativa facilita un marco sólido de cooperación entre las grandes empresas, ONG, asociaciones y la Administración, aunando esfuerzos para integrar el capital natural en la política y gestión empresarial, poner en valor la contribución de las grandes empresas a la conservación del patrimonio natural y canalizar la financiación privada para conservar la biodiversidad. |
| **Action 17: Drivers of biodiversity loss** | Entre las acciones que pueden contribuir a la consecución de esta meta, se incluyen así mismo las medidas para evaluar el comercio internacional de vida silvestre en España, mejorar la aplicación del Convenio sobre el Comercio Internacional de Especies Amenazadas de Fauna y Flora Silvestre (CITES) y promover la elaboración de una legislación sancionadora específica para infracciones en el ámbito de este Convenio.  En lo que respecta a la comercialización de madera, de máxima prioridad en la aplicación de CITES, se trabaja para establecer los mecanismos necesarios para el control y cumplimiento de las obligaciones impuestas por el Reglamento FLEGT, que requiere el establecimiento de un sistema de licencias aplicable a las importaciones de madera en la Comunidad Europea y el Reglamento EUTR que establece las obligaciones de los agentes que comercializan madera y productos de la madera. |
| **Action 17c: Drivers of biodiversity loss** | En respuesta al artículo 5 de la Ley 42/2007, de 13 de diciembre, se ha trabajado en un examen metodológico para el análisis de incentivos contrarios a la conservación de la biodiversidad, cuyo objetivo es fundamentar y difundir las implicaciones de ciertos incentivos sobre los bienes públicos ambientales y la necesidad de promover su supresión o reforma, definir un conjunto de criterios que faciliten la identificación del incentivo contrario a la biodiversidad, así como diseñar una herramienta de análisis que permita concluir si la supresión o modificación de un incentivo puede beneficiar a la biodiversidad.  Por otra parte, en cuanto a los incentivos positivos, cabe citar la Ley 49/2002,de 23 de diciembre, de régimen fiscal de las entidades sin fines lucrativos y de los incentivos fiscales al mecenazgo en España, que establece algunos incentivos, como las deducciones por cesión de usufructo a entidades sin ánimo de lucro que no estén sujetas a contraprestación, la exención del Impuesto de Bienes Inmuebles o el de Transmisiones Patrimoniales para adquisición de tierras para la conservación, la deducción del 25% sobre el Impuesto de la Renta de las Personas Físicas (IRPF) o del 35% sobre el Impuesto de Sociedades por donaciones para entidades que se dediquen a la conservación, o la exención del Impuesto de Transmisiones Patrimoniales para permutar terrenos entre una entidad conservacionista y un particular. Además, los gastos derivados de convenios de colaboración empresarial en actividades de conservación tendrán la consideración de gasto deducible a efectos de la determinación de la base imponible de los Impuestos sobre Sociedades y del rendimiento neto de las actividades económicas en el Impuesto sobre la Renta de las Personas Físicas, suprimiendo los límites que fijaba la ley anterior.  Algunas comunidades autónomas han establecido incentivos fiscales para inversiones en el patrimonio natural, como es el caso de Castilla y León que prevé deducciones sobre el IRPF de las cantidades destinadas por los titulares de bienes naturales ubicados en espacios naturales y lugares integrados en la Red Natura 2000 siempre que estas actuaciones hayan sido autorizadas o informadas favorablemente por el órgano competente de la Comunidad autónoma.  Así mismo, las ayudas agroambientales (financiadas por los fondos europeos de la Política Agrícola Comunitaria destinados al Desarrollo Rural) son incentivos monetarios positivos para la provisión de bienes y servicios ambientales por parte de las explotaciones agrarias, mediante cambios en las prácticas agrarias |
| **Action 18: Resources for global biodiversity conservation** | El Plan Estratégico de Patrimonio Natural y Biodiversidad, aprobado por el Real Decreto 1274/2011 de 16 de septiembre de 2011, recoge diversos objetivos a través de los cuales se pretende asegurar la adecuada financiación de la política de conservación de la biodiversidad. El Plan a su vez desarrolla acciones para ayudar a terceros países a la conservación y uso sostenible de su biodiversidad y reducir el impacto de las actividades de España sobre la biodiversidad y los recursos naturales de terceros países.  Con este fin, se han puesto en marcha distintas iniciativas y mecanismos, entre las que destacan la elaboración del Marco de Acción Prioritaria para la financiación de la Red Natura 2000 para el periodo 2014-2020, que define las prioridades estratégicas, las medidas necesarias y las posibles fuentes de financiación para asegurar la conservación de los hábitats naturales y las especies a los que da cobertura esta Red. En este contexto, se han iniciado los trabajos para diseñar un sistema de aplicación de mecanismos financieros innovadores en esta Red en España con especial énfasis en los pagos por servicios ambientales.  Citar también la “Iniciativa Española Empresa y Biodiversidad” promovida por la Fundación Biodiversidad del Ministerio de Agricultura, Alimentación y Medio Ambiente, que pretende canalizar la financiación privada para la conservación de la biodiversidad.  En respuesta a los compromisos contraídos con el Convenio sobre Diversidad Biológica, se ha llevado a cabo una evaluación del gasto en biodiversidad para el periodo 2006-2012 y se ha incluido la información relativa a la aplicación en España del marco de información preliminar sobre la Estrategia de Movilización de Recursos en la respuesta a la Notificación 2013-050 de la Secretaría del CDB.  Por último, la nueva Ley 21/2013, de 9 de diciembre, de Evaluación Ambiental incluye como novedad la creación de Bancos de conservación de la naturaleza como instrumento de mercado de carácter voluntario que puede utilizarse para compensar o reparar la pérdida de biodiversidad en las situaciones regladas por la Ley de Evaluación de Impacto Ambiental, la Ley de Responsabilidad Medioambiental, y la Ley del Patrimonio Natural y de la Biodiversidad. |
| **Action 20: Access to genetic resources and sharing of benefits** | Con respecto a la regulación del acceso a los recursos genéticos y el reparto justo y equitativo de los beneficios derivados de la utilización de los mismos, España firmó el Protocolo de Nagoya en 2011 y está poniendo especial énfasis en las cuestiones relacionadas con los mecanismos de coordinación interadministrativos y con los trabajos técnicos destinados a la aplicación del Protocolo.  La Ley 42/2007, de 13 de diciembre, del Patrimonio Natural y de la Biodiversidad habilita la regulación al acceso a los recursos genéticos procedentes de taxones silvestres y el reparto de beneficios derivados de su utilización, de acuerdo con lo dispuesto en el Convenio sobre la Diversidad Biológica y sus instrumentos de desarrollo y, en su caso, en el Tratado Internacional sobre Recursos Fitogenéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura de la Organización Mundial para la Alimentación y la Agricultura.  Con el objeto de llevar a cabo el desarrollo y seguimiento de la aplicación de las medidas relacionadas con el acceso a los recursos genéticos y participación en los beneficios derivados de su utilización, se ha constituido un grupo de trabajo con representantes de distintas unidades del Ministerio de Agricultura, Alimentación y Medio Ambiente y de otros departamentos ministeriales, que contribuye a facilitar a los distintos sectores un mejor conocimiento sobre las obligaciones derivadas del Protocolo de Nagoya.  La aplicación en España de las medidas de cumplimiento del Protocolo se hará efectiva con la aprobación del Reglamento europeo. |

# Sweden

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| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 1** *(Please note that information from Member States in relation to Action 1a is supplied to the European Commission via other reports. To avoid duplication of reporting, information relating to Action 1a has not been included in this report)* |
| **Action 1b: Natura 2000 (and other protected areas)** | A report presented in 2012 contained an overall survey of policy instruments for achieving Sweden’s environmental quality objectives. The survey established what market failures exist in the area of each objective, and describes whether there are policy instruments in place to correct these market failures. The survey showed that many policy instruments are already in place, but that additional or improved instruments will be needed if the environmental quality objectives are to be achieved.  A separate study of policy instruments was performed as part of a planned national strategy for the building of a green infrastructure. The report presented about a hundred different relevant existing policy instruments. There is a need to revise some instruments, as well as to create new instruments. Policy instruments that regulate the current use of land and water bodies need to be strengthened to achieve sustainable use in a landscape perspective. |
| **Action 1c: Natura 2000 (and other protected areas)** | The Swedish EPA has laid down a programme for administration and management of protected areas and conservation management plans has been laid down by the regional county boards for the Natura 2000 sites. Mechanisms for assessing management effectiveness are under development. |
| Implementation of the EU Habitats and Birds Directives continues. Sweden, as well as other EU Member States, has experienced difficulties where environmental and fisheries competences mix, for example within marine Natura 2000 areas. Work on appropriate management measures has progressed, however, including with a national report on how fisheries management measures in Natura 2000 sites can be introduced |
| The needs of the majority of species are addressed through general habitat management measures, sustainable use and protected areas. More than 400 species have however been identified, that need further action, above that offered by the basic conservation instruments. By the end of 2012 a total of 121 action programmes for such species had been adopted, and a further 54 programmes are being developed. |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 2** |
|  | Important ecosystem services in Sweden have been preliminary identified and classified. A planned national strategy for the building of a green infrastructure will constitute a tool for a more detailed identification of ecosystem services, and for the management of landscape structure and function that will promote the continued delivery of ecosystem services. |
| **Action 5: Knowledge of ecosystems and their services** | In all ecosystems significant and valuable actions against the loss and degradation of habitats have taken place. For example, within the marine environment, steps have taken to implement the Marine Framework Strategy Directive, the Helcom Baltic Sea Action Plan, the Water Framework Directive, the Habitats and Birds Directives, and many efforts have been invested to reform the EU Common Fisheries Policy. |
| **Action 6: Ecosystem restoration and green infrastructure** | In terrestrial ecosystems, the proposed national strategy for the building of a green infrastructure includes a landscape analysis of the spatial distribution and connectivity of important habitats, with the aim to maintain and restore sufficient natural habitats for the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services. As shown by a range of different indicators, the amount of protected land and water area increases steadily. A relatively large proportion of the mountain area is already protected, but not all habitats are represented equally well. Many lakes and streams are included in protected areas, but only 2% of nature reserves were established specifically to protect valuable limnic environments. Of the sites identified as requiring protective measures in the Mire Protection Plan for Sweden, for example, 350 have still to be safeguarded. The area of protected forests increases steadily, but the area covered by habitat protection and agreements increases slowly, due to a shortage of funds for compensation to land owners.  A separate study of policy instruments was performed as part of a planned national strategy for the building of a green infrastructure. The report presented about a hundred different relevant existing policy instruments. There is a need to revise some instruments, as well as to create new instruments. Policy instruments that regulate the current use of land and water bodies need to be strengthened to achieve sustainable use in a landscape perspective. |
|  | A preliminary report on Sweden’s most important ecosystem services has been produced. The inventory also considered pressures and driving forces that have an impact on the ecosystem services. |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 3** |
| **Target 3a: Agriculture** | In the agricultural landscape natural and cultural values are threatened by abandonment, or by intensified agriculture practices. In some areas there is a lack of grazing livestock, which are needed to keep grasslands open. Several bird species now have a negative trend. On the southern and central agricultural plains there is a lack of small-scale habitats, i.e. small areas of land or water that are important for different plants and animals. |
| **Target 3b: Forestry** | The status of several types of forest is unfavourable. The area of oldgrowth forest increases, but there is a regional imbalance. In southern Sweden the area of oldgrowth forest is very restricted and fragmented. The amounts of dead wood and deciduous trees in forest have increased. The area of mainly broad-leaved deciduous oldgrowth forest is however not increasing. Forests of very high nature conservation value are still being logged. There are about 400 000 hectares of identified woodland key habitats, and the estimated total area is twice that area. Around 500 hectares of woodland key habitats are logged annually, of which a third were identified and known prior to the logging. From satellite surveys it is estimated that in total 2000 hectares of high-value cores are being felled every year. The area of damaged high-value cores due to thinning activities is unknown. |
| **Action 8a: Environmental public goods in the CAP and GAEC cross-compliance** | There is a wide range of economic incentives available to the agricultural and forestry sectors that are judged to be positive for biodiversity. Examples include agri-environmental payments for management of semi-natural pasture, mown meadows, buffer zones and catch crops to limit nutrient leaching, and restoration of wetlands. In the forestry sector subsidies are issued for broad-leaved forest, measures for the preservation of nature and cultural heritage, preserving and developing of biodiversity in forest, and promoting biodiversity of broad-leaved deciduous forest. There is also compensation to landowners for habitat protection and nature conservation agreements. |
| **Action 9a: Rural development and biodiversity** | The EU Rural Development Programme has a key part to play in slowing the negative trend regarding natural and cultural values of the farmed landscape. The action being taken within the Programme is however probably not sufficient. The growing emphasis on environmental measures in the EU Common Agricultural Policy will be beneficial in terms of achieving the environmental quality objectives. |
| **Action 10: Agricultural genetic diversity** | The genetic diversity of crops, including the associated indigenous knowledge, is addressed through a national programme that will meet the target regarding cultivated plants. Ex situ collections have been, or are in the process of being, extensively established. Complementary collecting of red-listed crop wild relatives has been carried out, although insufficiently. Genetic characterization has been done in some plant groups but much work remains. |
| **Action 11a: Forest holders and biodiversity** | A vast majority of the Swedish forest owners have a Forest Management Plan (FMP). Today all commercial established FMPs in Sweden include a detailed forest inventory including economical as well as environmental aspects. The plan describes forest condition, show environmental values in the forest, and lists planned management activities. Forestry Certification takes place within the Forest Steward Council (FSC) system and/or Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC). More than 60 percent of forest areas are certified. The major forestry companies are all certified and certain enterprises are double-certified. The standard which is set within the framework of the certification system has been, in addition to the regulatory framework and other national policy instruments, an important factor for the environmental care of forestry and voluntary agreements. |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 4** |
| **Action 13a: Fish stock management** | As one of the overall objectives in the present fishing program, it was established that the capacity of the Swedish fishing fleet will be reduced, so that fishing effort can be adapted to a sustainable stock situation and profitability in the industry can increase |
| **Action 14a: Adverse impacts on fish stocks, species, habitats and ecosystems** | Sweden has over the years made some important strategic priorities when working with CITES. One of the most important ambitions has been to have the European Eel (*Anguilla anguilla*) listed on CITES. Preparing for CoP14 in Hague in 2007 Sweden was working intensively to develop drafts for discussion, and to get other member states to take an active stand in this issue. The work succeeded and from 2009 on the European Eel is listed in Appendix II |
|  | Action programmes for threatened species have been produced for the three seal species, the harbour porpoise and the European eel. For the seals the situation is improving. For the eel and the harbour porpoise the situation looks less favourable. A management plan for the Baltic salmon has been proposed but not adopted. |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 5** |
|  | The number of alien species in Sweden increases steadily, especially in the freshwater and marine environments, and alien species are expected to pose an increasing threat. Sweden has achieved a high level of protection against invasive alien species that could threaten crops, livestock and human health. Most intentional releases of such species are strictly regulated, and risk analysis and permit systems are in place. Alien species that could threaten wild fauna and flora or ecosystem functioning are much less well regulated. Many pathways of unintentional introductions are still not controlled, for example ballast water transportation. There is no comprehensive organisation to monitor or control invasive species outside the agricultural and forestry sectors. In 2009, the Swedish Forest Agency proposed to the Government an amended national legislation concerning forestry with alien tree species. This proposal is still under consideration. Scientific studies have addressed the identification and management of ecological risk of using potentially invasive alien species in Swedish forestry. Such studies highlight the complexity of benefits, risks, cost and uncertainties involved. It is unclear which tree species, pathogens and pests that may be classified as invasive on the EU or national level, as a result of the proposed new EU regulation. |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 6** |
| **Action 17c: Drivers of biodiversity loss** | There is a wide range of economic incentives available to the agricultural and forestry sectors that are judged to be positive for biodiversity. Examples include agri-environmental payments for management of semi-natural pasture, mown meadows, buffer zones and catch crops to limit nutrient leaching, and restoration of wetlands. In the forestry sector subsidies are issued for broad- leaved forest, measures for the preservation of nature and cultural heritage, preserving and developing of biodiversity in forest, and promoting biodiversity of broad-leaved deciduous forest. There is also compensation to landowners for habitat protection and nature conservation agreements. |
|  | Sweden will report on the implementation of the CBD Strategy for resource mobilization in accordance with Notification 2013-050 of the CBD Secretariat.  Sweden has developed a clear policy for its international development cooperation that includes biodiversity issues. A wide range of cooperative programmes and projects constitute Sweden’s contribution to this goal. Financial resources as well as technology and knowledge are routinely transferred to developing countries. |
| **Action 18a: Resources for global biodiversity conservation** | In March 2014 the Government adopted a bill laying down a strategy for biodiversity and ecosystem services until 2020. The strategy may later be updated based on ongoing analyses in the Cross-party committee on environmental quality objectives regarding, for example sustainable use of land areas and freshwater and marine issues. The main content of the bill is outlined in section 2.2. |
| **Action 20: Access to genetic resources and sharing of benefits** | Sweden has signed the Nagoya Protocol. As a Member of the EU the rules of the Protocol will be in force as soon as the EU Regulation is agreed upon. |

# United Kingdom

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| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 1** *(Please note that information from Member States in relation to Action 1a is supplied to the European Commission via other reports. To avoid duplication of reporting, information relating to Action 1a has not been included in this report)* |
| **Action 1b: Natura 2000 (and other protected areas)** | Examples of mainstreaming biodiversity in sectoral programmes include:  • Spatial planning legislation and policies in all the four countries of the UK include  safeguards for biodiversity and ecosystems, as well as requirements for  Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) of some developments. |
| ***Wales:***  The Welsh Government is currently preparing proposals to establish a legal framework for the sustainable management of natural resources, including embedding a process of integrated natural resource management within our existing delivery mechanisms. This process is based on the CBD Ecosystem Approach principles. |
| ***England:***  A number of actions have been initiated and taken forward in England to improve water quality, manage floods and erosion, and tackle unsustainable water abstractions which have benefits for biodiversity. More detail of actions on the ground is in Case Study H. Additional work to develop evidence to inform better implementation includes:   * The establishment and evaluation of 64 pilot river catchment partnerships, to test the impact of better local engagement around water, on biodiversity (Cascade Consulting 2013). * Using the knowledge gained from the pilot across England better to support wider ecosystem function, including biodiversity. * A catchment approach with partnerships across all of England’s 89 river catchments. * Ongoing development of river-basin management plans which aim to increase the proportion of water bodies in good ecological status from 26 per cent to 32 per cent. Since 2009, over 12,000 investigations have been undertaken by the Environment Agency to provide evidence for these plans. * The development of a strategy, which is expected to be published by March 2014, to identify and address the most significant diffuse sources of water pollution from non-agricultural sources. * Research to review and improve methods to reduce agriculture’s impact on the water environment (Defra 2010). * The establishment of a rolling programme to restore or create new wildlife habitat; with further research on how flooding and erosion can be reduced through working with natural processes (Environment Agency 2012). * Research and catchment case studies to underpin the impact assessment of options to reform the abstraction regime. |
|  | 8.3.1 Biodiversity duty  An important driver for mainstreaming in each of the countries is legislation which places a ‘statutory duty’ on all public bodies to have regard to biodiversity conservation. The relevant Acts are:   * The Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act (England and Wales) 2006; * Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011; * The Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004.   Each country has now listed priority habitats and species which should be the subject of the duty, and some produce further guidance. For example, Wales carries out annual reviews of local authorities’ and National Park authorities’ performance with respect to the duty and appointment of member-level Biodiversity Champions (Wales Biodiversity Partnership, 2014).  ***England:***  Spatial Planning  The planning system has a crucial role to play in the successful delivery of biodiversity outcomes in England. The National Planning Policy Framework and associated guidance includes safeguards for biodiversity and ecosystems, as well local green spaces that have significant importance to local communities (Department for Communities and Local Government 2012, 2013a, b).  Government is developing marine plans which integrate economic, social, and environmental considerations, and which will guide decision-makers when making any decision that affects or might affect a marine area. Following public consultation on East of England inshore and offshore marine plans in July 2013, the final plans will be adopted in early April 2014.  Biodiversity Offsetting  Biodiversity offsets are conservation activities that are designed to give biodiversity benefits to compensate for losses. In April 2012, Government launched a biodiversity offsetting pilot scheme to test an approach to biodiversity offsetting in England (Defra 2013d). The six pilots finished at the end of March and will require several months of analysis before they can fully inform our thinking. In September 2013, Government launched a consultation on biodiversity offsetting and is considering responses.  ***Scotland:***  A key mechanism for habitat and species protection is spatial planning and development management. The Central Scotland Green Network (CSGN) is a designated ‘National Development’ in Scotland’s National Planning Framework (NPF2). The objective of the CSGN is to achieve a step-change improvement in the environment of central Scotland. The proposed NPF3 includes a key action to implement the provisions of the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy, including completing the suite of protected places and improving their connectivity through a national ecological network centred on these sites. National guidance Green Infrastructure, Design & Place-making (Scottish Government 2011b) sets out how planners and developers are expected to incorporate linked areas of semi-natural habitats into new developments to deliver a range of benefits for nature and people. This is one of a number of ways Government is promoting a place-making culture that recognises that green infrastructure has a key role in helping make distinctive and sustainable places. Recently revised guidance on Strategic Environmental Assessments and Habitats Regulations Appraisals seeks to embed good practice in considering impacts on biodiversity at the early stages of development plan-making.  Strategic and local plans are identifying green networks on maps, applying robust policies to protect them and identifying opportunities to enhance them, with potential benefits to wildlife and people. An increasing number of planning authorities have adopted supplementary guidance (guidance linked to the spatial plan) that sets out how decision makers will take account of biodiversity in assessing development proposals. Most development plans in Scotland now how robust policies that provide protection to statutory and non-statutory wildlife designations.  The Scottish Borders Biodiversity Offset scheme is an example of work that aims to compensate for the residual impacts of renewable development, in line with a ‘no net loss’ policy in the local development plan. This has delivered improved habitats for Black Grouse at a range of locations. |
|  | All four UK countries have development planning policies which protect biodiversity. For example the English National Planning Policy Framework and associated guidance specifically references the role of ecosystem services and includes safeguards for biodiversity and ecosystems (Target 2). |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 2 *(Reporting is structured around 5 "goals" rather than each of the 20 Aichi Targets)*** |
|  | Work to restore habitats and improve ecosystem services at a landscape scale is proceeding throughout the UK. For example, 48 new Local Nature Partnerships (LNPs) have been established around England to provide a local approach to managing the natural environment in an integrated way.  Following a national competition, in 2012 £7.5 million funding was awarded to 12 new Nature Improvement Areas (NIAs) in England, generating significant additional investment from other sources.  In Scotland, Green Networks and Green Infrastructure projects aim to improve the environment by creating integrated habitat networks, and mapping of ecosystem health will inform targeted action (Targets 14, 15).  Peatlands are vitally important to help secure climate change, biodiversity and water benefits, but they are threatened and many are degraded. In the last few decades, several peatland restoration initiatives have taken place across the UK and more are planned; the Peatland Code allows businesses to quantify the benefits of restoring damaged peat bogs (Targets 14, 15) |
|  | Levels of both air pollution and marine pollution (indicator B5) are decreasing (Target 8), though air pollution remains at a high level. ·There has been a decline in the number of European habitats in favourable or improving condition (indicator C3; Targets 5, 7). However, some of this decrease is due to new evidence on the impact of airborne pollution, and cannot be attributed to a real decrease in condition. |
| **Action 6: Ecosystem restoration and green infrastructure** | The current extent of protected terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems in the UK exceeds 17%, further work is needed to determine whether these areas fully meet the criteria in Target 11.  The proportion of Areas or Sites of Special Scientific Interest (A/SSSIs) in favourable condition has decreased slightly since 2005 (indicator C1). However the proportion in recovering condition – where management has been put in place to address the reasons for unfavourable condition – has increased, indicating that progress is being made towards effective management of sites |
|  | The contribution that nature and landscapes can make to health and quality of life is increasingly recognised, and the provision of good quality green space and associated green networks is an important component of policies in all four countries of the UK (Target 14). Work to restore habitats and improve ecosystem services at a landscape scale is proceeding throughout the UK. For example, 48 new Local Nature Partnerships (LNPs) have been established around England to provide a local approach to managing the natural environment in an integrated way.  Following a national competition, in 2012 £7.5 million funding was awarded to 12 new Nature Improvement Areas (NIAs) in England, generating significant additional investment from other sources.  In Scotland, Green Networks and Green Infrastructure projects aim to improve the environment by creating integrated habitat networks, and mapping of ecosystem health will inform targeted action (Targets 14, 15).  Peatlands are vitally important to help secure climate change, biodiversity and water benefits, but they are threatened and many are degraded. In the last few decades, several peatland restoration initiatives have taken place across the UK and more are planned; the Peatland Code allows businesses to quantify the benefits of restoring damaged peat bogs (Targets 14, 15).  The UK Government funds and leads the Ecosystem Services for Poverty Alleviation (ESPA) research programme, to provide new knowledge demonstrating how ecosystem services can reduce poverty and enhance well-being for the world’s poor (Target 14). |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 3** |
|  | As part of the new Rural Development Programme in England, at least £3.5 billion will be invested into environment and rural development schemes over the next seven years.  Both agriculture and forestry are major land uses in the UK, and agricultural intensification has in the past have been linked to declines in wildlife. However, there has been substantial recent progress in integrating biodiversity considerations into agriculture and forestry, for example through increases in the area of agricultural and forestry land managed for biodiversity (indicator B1; Target 7).  Substantial progress is being made on mainstreaming biodiversity objectives in sustainable agriculture, forestry and fisheries. Further research and development of associated indicators will enhance our ability to measure and report progress. |
| **Action 8a: Environmental public goods in the CAP and GAEC cross-compliance** | England: Over £3.1 billion will be available between 2014 and 2020 to protect and enhance biodiversity through the New Environmental Land Management Scheme (NELMS). |
| **Action 10: Agricultural genetic diversity** | Good progress is being made with conserving the genetic resources of plants and domesticated animals.  The UK has a diverse farm animal genetic resource, including 235 native breeds of farm animals, despite some historic losses. The measure indicating resilience of genetic diversity in UK cattle breeds is increasing, and there has been no reported UK extinction of any breed of sheep or cattle since 2001 (indicator C9; Target 13). Collection of seeds of native species within the UK and across the world by the Millennium Seed Bank Partnership increased rapidly up to 2010, as reflected in the plant genetic resources Enrichment Index (indicator C9; Target 13). |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 4** |
| **Action 14a: Adverse impacts on fish stocks, species, habitats and ecosystems** | Indicator D1 is a measure of fish sizes in the Northern North Sea. This measure responds to fishing impacts, because when fish communities are more heavily fished, the proportion of large fish is expected to fall. The indicator demonstrates that the proportion of large fish in the North Sea rose from a low of 2.1 per cent in 2001 to 10 per cent in 2011, showing a steady increase, although the value in 2011 is less than the value in 1983 of 23 per cent. The indicator suggests that although sustainability of UK fishing declined in the 1980s and 1990s, in the last ten years it has started to improve, contributing to a range of ecosystem services.    **Data link:**  <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-4248> |
|  | **Figure 2.2** Healthy and biologically diverse seas – species.  **Data link:**  For more detailed information from Charting Progress 2 on the status and trends of UK marine habitats and species, see the Healthy and Biologically Diverse Seas Feeder Report: <http://chartingprogress.defra.gov.uk/healthy-and-biologically-diverse-seas-feeder-report> [to be updated by the Member State] and associated summaries, which cover benthic habitats, microbes, plankton, fish, seals, turtles, cetaceans and marine birds. |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 5 *(reporting is structured around 5 "goals" rather than each of the 20 Aichi Targets)*** |
|  | Invasive species pose a growing threat to native biodiversity in the UK (indicator B6), but efforts are underway to manage and reduce the threat (Target 9). |
| **EU Target or Action** | **EU Target 6** |
| **Action 17c: Drivers of biodiversity loss** | ***England***  The Natural Environment White Paper (NEWP) (Defra 2011b) was published in June 2011.  The NEWP outlined the Government’s vision for the natural environment, shifting the emphasis from piecemeal conservation action towards a more integrated landscape-scale approach, and how we can better value the natural environment in decision-making.  The core focus of the NEWP was on the importance of taking account of the value of nature.  The NEWP contained 92 commitments, of which two-thirds have now been taken forward, putting in place important foundations for the longer term. Examples of commitments  delivered under the NEWP include:   * The Office of National Statistics (ONS) is undertaking world-leading work to incorporate natural capital into our national statistics alongside measures such as GDP. * New Treasury guidance, supplementing the Green Book, has been produced to help government departments take account of the value of nature as part of policy appraisal (Dunn 2012). * Following a national competition, in 2012 £7.5 million funding was awarded to 12 new Nature Improvement Areas (NIAs), generating significant additional investment from other sources. * The Natural Capital Committee and the Ecosystem Markets Task Force (2013). |
|  | Case Study C: Payment for ecosystem services  Ecosystem markets  The independent business-led Ecosystem Markets Task Force was set up ‘to review the opportunities for UK business from expanding green goods, services, products, investment vehicles and markets which value and protect nature’s services’. The Task Force reported to Government in March 2013 setting out opportunities for the natural environment and growth. The Government Response (published in September 2013) covers all 22 recommendations made by the Task Force, including their top five priorities: biodiversity offsetting (see Section 8.3); bio-energy and anaerobic digestion; sustainable local woodfuel; nature-based certification and labelling; and water-cycle catchment management.  Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES)  PES schemes enable the beneficiaries, or users, of ecosystem services to provide payment to the stewards, or providers of those services. They are about identifying practical ways to deliver new and additional investment in the natural environment, as well as seeking better targeting and value for money of existing funding streams.  In support of these schemes Defra published the PES Action Plan and Best Practice Guide in May 2013. The Action Plan promotes practical and innovative development of PES schemes and considers the actions that can be taken to enable them. It considers capacity- building actions for Government, the key policy areas of opportunity for PES and the monitoring and evaluation needs of PES schemes. The Best Practice Guide collates a number of instructive domestic and international case studies demonstrating the various challenges and solutions associated with a PES approach.  Defra is also supporting a number of PES pilot research projects to demonstrate the approach exploring the potential for PES in the domestic context. One of these pilot projects has funded the development of a pilot UK Peatland Code (see Case Study D) targeted at business investment in peatland restoration. The peatland code was launched by the IUCN in September 2013. |
| **Action 18a: Resources for global biodiversity conservation** | Several approaches to payment for ecosystem services are being tested, and the UK Government contributes to positive global incentives through its payments to mechanisms such as the Global Environment Fund (GEF), the Reduction in Emissions from Degradation and Deforestation (REDD+) programme, the International Climate Fund (ICF) and the Darwin Initiative (Target 3). DFID also contributes to the World Bank Wealth Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystems Services (WAVES) programme which aims to include the value of natural capital within the national accounting systems of partner countries. This is intended to increase the incentive for partners to manage their natural resource assets sustainably. |
|  | In 2012-13, UK public sector funding for international biodiversity totalled £56 million, an increase by 74 per cent since 2000-1 in real terms, and a small increase since 2009-10.  The UK Government funds projects under the Darwin and Darwin Plus initiatives, which assist countries that are rich in biodiversity but poor in financial resources, and UK Overseas Territories, to build capacity and meet their objectives under the three major biodiversity conventions.  Since 2009-10, overseas spending on biodiversity has benefitted from the UK’s significant International Climate Fund (ICF) spend on climate change adaptation and forestry. 20% of the 2011–2016 £3.87 billion ICF spend will be on forestry with biodiversity conservation and enhancement as a key co-benefit of these programmes. The UK also provides support to the Global Environment Facility (GEF), through DFID which has contributed £210 million to the 5th replenishment from 2010–2014. Approximately 30% of the overall GEF spend supports biodiversity-related programmes. |
|  | The UK Government maintains funding of £8 million (GBP) per annum for projects under the Darwin Initiative, which assists countries that are rich in biodiversity but poor in financial resources, and Darwin Plus, focussed on the UK Overseas Territories, to meet their objectives under the three major biodiversity conventions. The UK’s International Climate Fund (ICF) has been launched to provide, by 2015, £3.87 billion (GBP) to help the worlds poorest adapt to climate change and to promote cleaner, greener growth. All ICF forestry projects, which represent 20% of the total spend, must deliver biodiversity and poverty benefits (JNCC & Defra 2012).  The UK also provides support to the Global Environment Facility (GEF), through DFID which has contributed £210 million to the 5th replenishment from 2010–2014. Approximately 30% of the overall GEF spend supports biodiversity-related programmes in developing countries. |
| **Action 20: Access to genetic resources and sharing of benefits** | The UK aims to ratify the Nagoya Protocol by October 2015 (Target 16). |
|  | The UK has taken an active role in the negotiations of the European Regulation on access and benefit sharing (ABS), pushing for early agreement of a balanced overall package. In parallel the UK is preparing the domestic measures required to enable ratification. A consultation on the domestic measures was launched in March 2014 with a view to UK ratification taking place in time for the first Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol in October 2015. |

1. The Danish Government has noticed a service check of the former governments “Danish Nature Policy” (the national strategy on biodiversity). It is not decided (September 2015) which measures will be included in a revised nature policy. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)