

The EU and Climate. Naturebased solutions for a resilient continent

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« Making nature healthy again is key to our physical and mental wellbeing and is an ally in the fight against climate change and disease outbreaks. It is at the heart of our growth strategy, the European Green Deal, and is part of a European recovery that gives more back to the planet than it takes away. »

Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission

« Losing nature means losing resilience. It is therefore essential to continue to protect our natural world and boost our circular economy across the board to boost our competitiveness and build a healthier planet. (...) I entrust you to ensure that we reach our international biodiversity commitments, notably those taken in the Kunming Montreal Agreement. »

Ursula von der Leyen, Mission letter to candidate Commissioner Roswall



FIGURE C Global risks ranked by severity over the short and long term

"Please estimate the likely impact (severity) of the following risks over a 2-year and 10-year period."



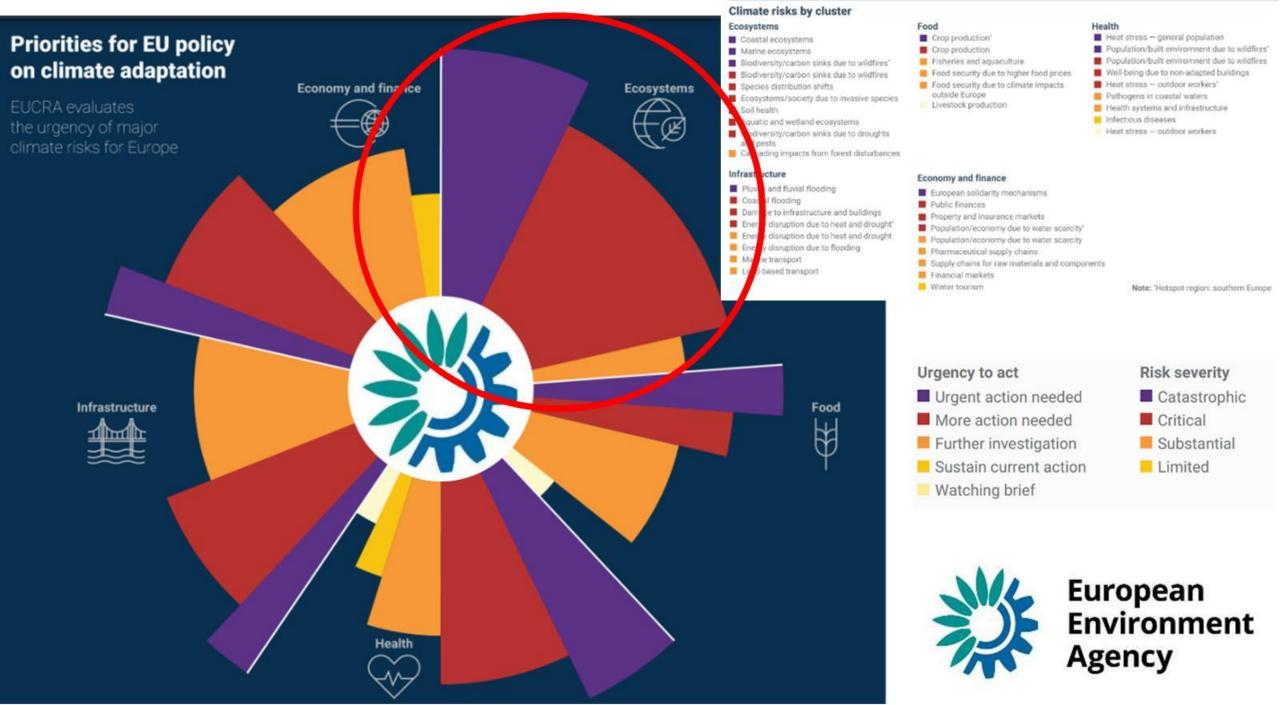
Short term: 2/10

Medium-term: first

4/10

\$44 trillion of economic value generation – over **half** the world's total GDP – is **moderately or highly dependent on nature**.









PROMOTING CLEAN ENERGY



INVESTING IN MORE SUSTAINABLE, SMARTER MOBILITY



PROTECTING NATURE





STRIVING FOR GREENER INDUSTRY

FROM FARM TO FORK



The European Green Deal



ELIMINATING POLLUTION

LEADING THE GREEN CHANGE GLOBALLY



MAKING HOMES ENERGY EFFICIENT



FINANCING GREEN PROJECTS ENSURING A JUST TRANSITION FOR ALL





Progress towards priority objectives Climate change mitigation

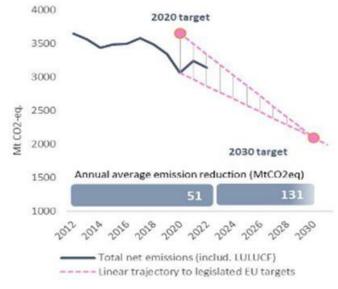
EU's net domestic greenhouse emissions are falling steadily, down by 32.5% (compared to 1990) in 2022

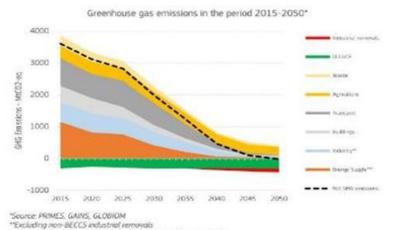
Net GHG removals by carbon sinks from the LULUCF:

-244 Mt CO2-eq in 2022

Key deliverables

Climate Law and 2050 climate neutrality target, 'Fit for 55' package, ETS 1 and 2, Effort Sharing Regulation, revised LULUCF Regulation + RePowerEU, Net-Zero Industry Act, Critical Raw Materials Act







Source: Climate Action Progress Report 2023, COM(2023) 653 final

Key take aways Climate change mitigation



- Recommended EU 2040 climate target: pathway from 2030 target to net-zero emissions by 2050, predictability for investments, to informs the EU's new nationally determined contribution under the Paris Agreement due in 2025.
- Full implementation of the 'Fit for 55' package and mobilising adequate investments are key.
- National energy and climate plans (NECPs): drafts fall 4% short of the Climate Law target of at least 55% less net GHG emissions in 2030 (compared to 1990).
- New targets to protect and restore ecosystems, especially carbon-rich ecosystems
 (e.g. Biodiversity, soil and forest strategies, Nature Restoration Law, planting of trees,
 Regulation on deforestation free products).



Progress towards priorities objectives Climate change adaptation

Heatwaves have caused over 60 000 excess deaths in 2022; over 70 000 in 2003.

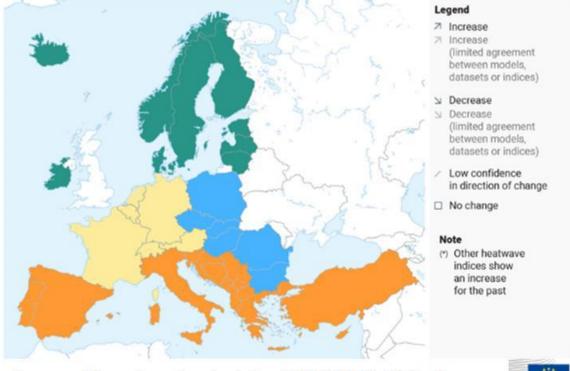
Weather- and climate-related events led to economic losses of EUR 52.3 billion in 2022, in particular due to floods.

Drought-impacted areas have increased, and heatwaves are projected to increase

Key deliverables

2021 EU strategy on adaptation to climate change, national climate risk assessments (required under Climate Law), national adaptation strategies and/or plans and related Commission guidelines, EU Climate risk assessment & Communication

Land regions	Northern Europe			Western Europe			Central-Eastern Europe			Southern Europe			European regional		
	Past	Future		Past	Future		Past	Future		Past	Future		seas	Past	Future
		Low	High		Low	High		Low	High		Low	High			
Mean temperature	71	7	7	7	71	71	7	7	71	7	7	7	Sea surface temperature	71	7
Heat wave days	(*)	7	71	7	71	7.	71	7	7	71	71	7			
Total precipitation	71	21	7	71	1	71	71	71	1	И	71	71	Sea level	7	7
Heavy precipitation	71	71	21	71	71	71	71	71	21	71	71	71			
Drought	71	71	И	7	1	7	71	1	71	71	71	71			



Source: Managing climate risks, COM(2024) 91 final





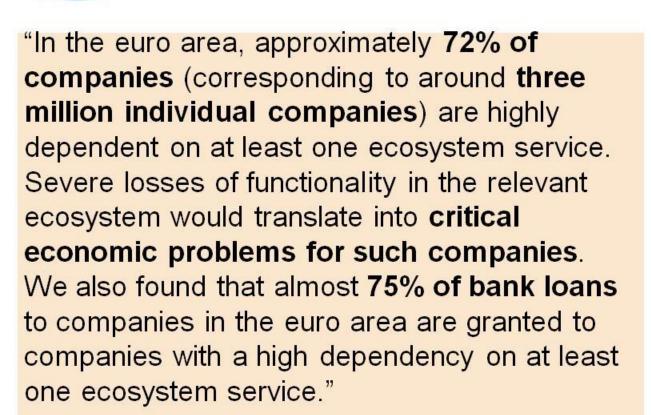
Key take aways Climate adaptation



- EU's 2021 strategy on adaptation to climate change
- EEA scientific European Climate Risk Assessment and Commission Communication on managing EU climate risks (March 2024).
- Increased awareness of climate impacts and need for preparation.
- Improved mainstreaming (e.g. health).
- All Member States have national climate risk assessments and national adaptation strategies and/or plans, but gaps subsists, e.g. coverage of all sectors, nature-based solutions, monitoring, reporting and evaluation mechanisms, assessment of costs for adaptation, financing, reflection in national laws.



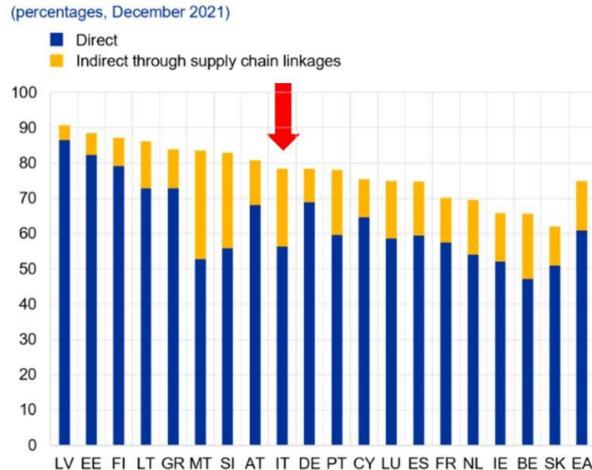
The economy and banks need nature



European Central Bank (ECB) 2023

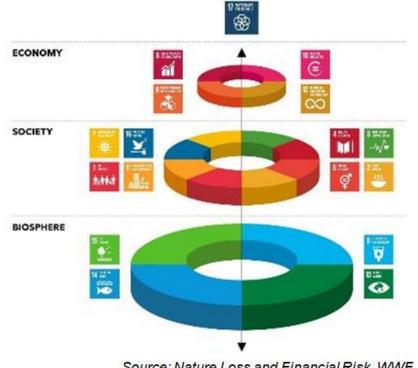
https://www.ecb.europa.eu/press/blog/date/202 3/html/ecb.blog230608~5cffb7c349.en.html





Biodiversity underpins our global livelihood, so we need to act!

- Economic worth of ecosystem services equals 1.5 times the size of global GDP (USD125-140 trillion)
- Earth's biocapacity has been overused by 56%, undermining progress towards 80% of the SDGs (e.g. food security, poverty reduction, etc.)
- Climate goals cannot be achieved without nature



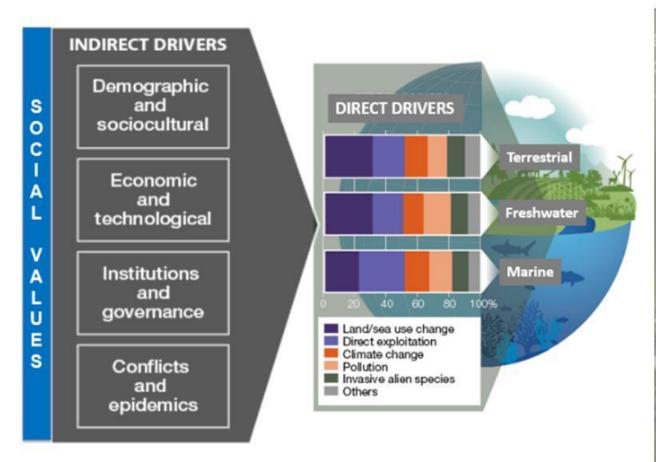
Source: Nature Loss and Financial Risk, WWF

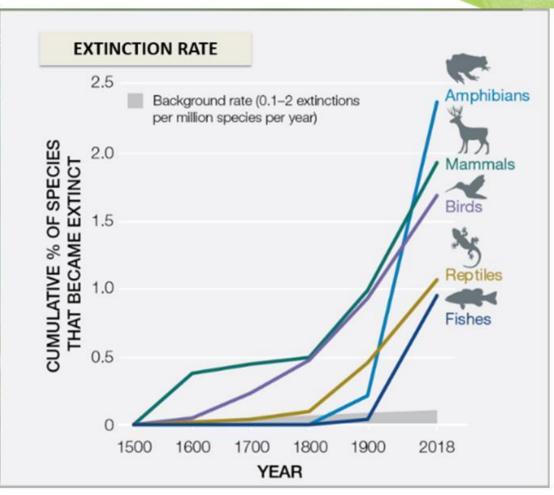


How businesses understand their impacts and dependencies on biodiversity, and how it is integrated into decision-making, will determine our ability to fulfill the 2030 Agenda.



The global biodiversity crisis





Source: IPBES Global assessment 2019

EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 20 May 2020

Elements of the EU Biodiversity Strategy











EU Restoration Plan with 2030 commitments:

- Legally binding targets to be proposed in 2021 => NRL in force since August 2024
- No deterioration of any protected habitats and species by 2030
- Organic farming: at least 25% of agricultural land => OFAP in February 2021
- Landscape features: at least 10% of agricultural land
- 50% reduction of use and risk of pesticides => 2022 SUP proposal withdrawn, new proposal promised
- Reduction of pollution from fertilisers by 50% and by 20% their use
- Plant 3 billion additional trees respecting ecological principles => Forest Strategy in July/2021 + (Forest Monitoring Law Nov/2023)
- Reverse decline in pollinators => EU Pollinators Initiative in January 2023
- Remediate contaminated soil sites => Soil Strategy in Nov/2021 + Soil Monitoring Law Jul/2023
- Restore 25,000 km free flowing rivers (see https://www.euronews.com/green/2023/10/17/restoring-european-rivers-a-win-win-scenario-for-humans-and-nature)
- New Urban Greening Platform: the Green City Accord
- Invasive alien species: half the number on the red list threatened by IAS
- Reduction of damage to seabed, bycatch => Action Plan on Marine Resources in Feb/2023





Natura 2000 Network (Birds & Habitats Directives)

Natura 2000 provides benefits for nature, for people and for the economy



For nature

Protects around 1 200 rare and threatened species and 230 habitat types

Provides a refuge for endangered species and rare habitats

Ensures their long-term survival and recovery



For people

Provides us with vital services like fresh water, pollinating insects and protection against floods and coastal crosion.

Plays a crucial role in tackling climate change

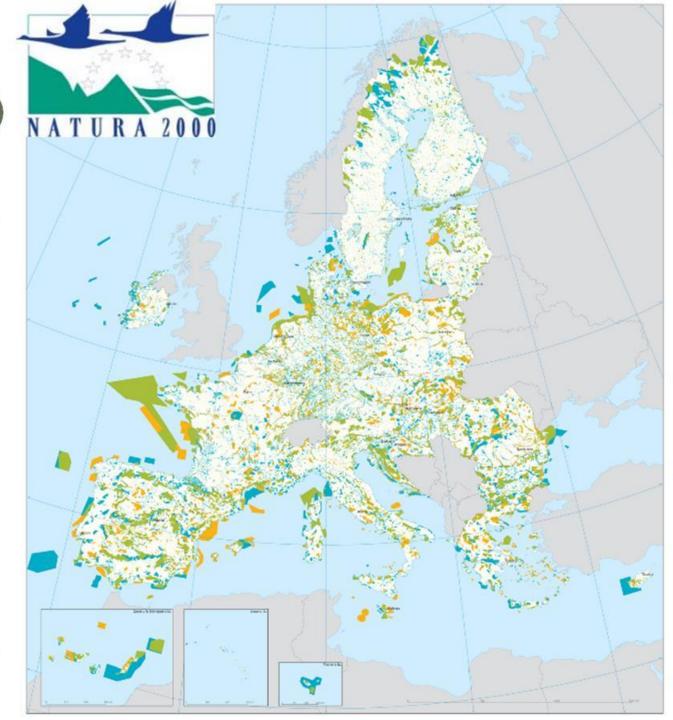
Is accessible - 65% of Europeans live within 5 km of a nature site



For the economy

Provides ecosystem services worth around EUR €200–300 billion per year

Supports livelihoods - 4.4 million jobs depend directly on healthy ecosystems in Europe



NATURA 2000 - EUROPEAN UNION

Birds Directive sites (SPA)

Habitats Directive sites (pSCI, SCI, SAC)

Sites - or parts of sites - belonging to both Directives

A larger and coherent EU-wide network of protected areas

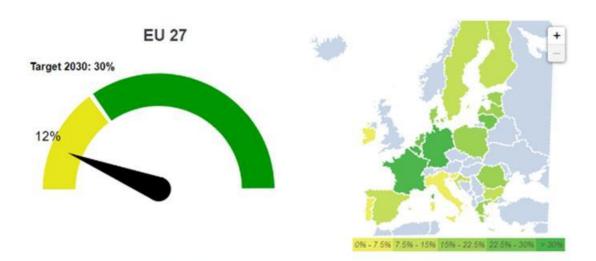
- Legal protection for at least \{ \begin{aligned} 30\% \text{ of EU land area} \\ 30\% \text{ of EU sea area} \end{aligned} \]

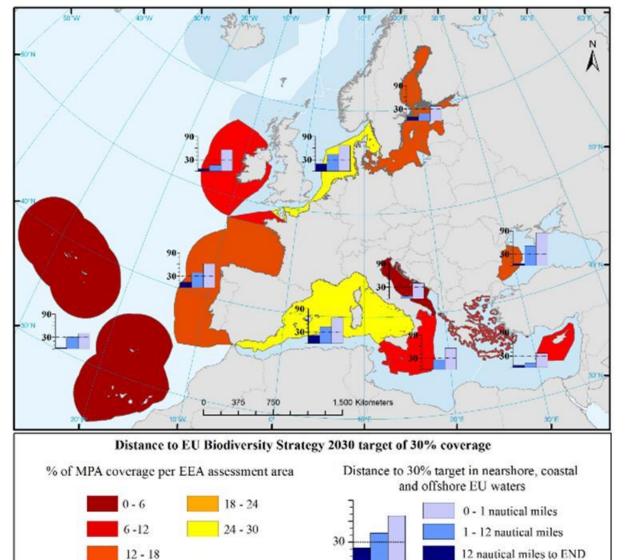
 Strict protection for at least \{ \begin{aligned} 10\% \text{ of EU land area} \\ 10\% \text{ of EU sea area} \end{aligned} \]
- Integrate ecological corridors.
- All protected areas have clearly defined conservation objectives and measures and are effectively managed and appropriately monitored.



Marine Protected areas

- EU MPA network currently covers 12%
 of EU seas (Natura 2000 >9%)
- Less than 1% strictly protected
- Most MPAs not effectively managed





Source: Spatial Analysis of Marine Protected Area Networks in Europe's Seas III





So, what is nature restoration?



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

This can include....

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





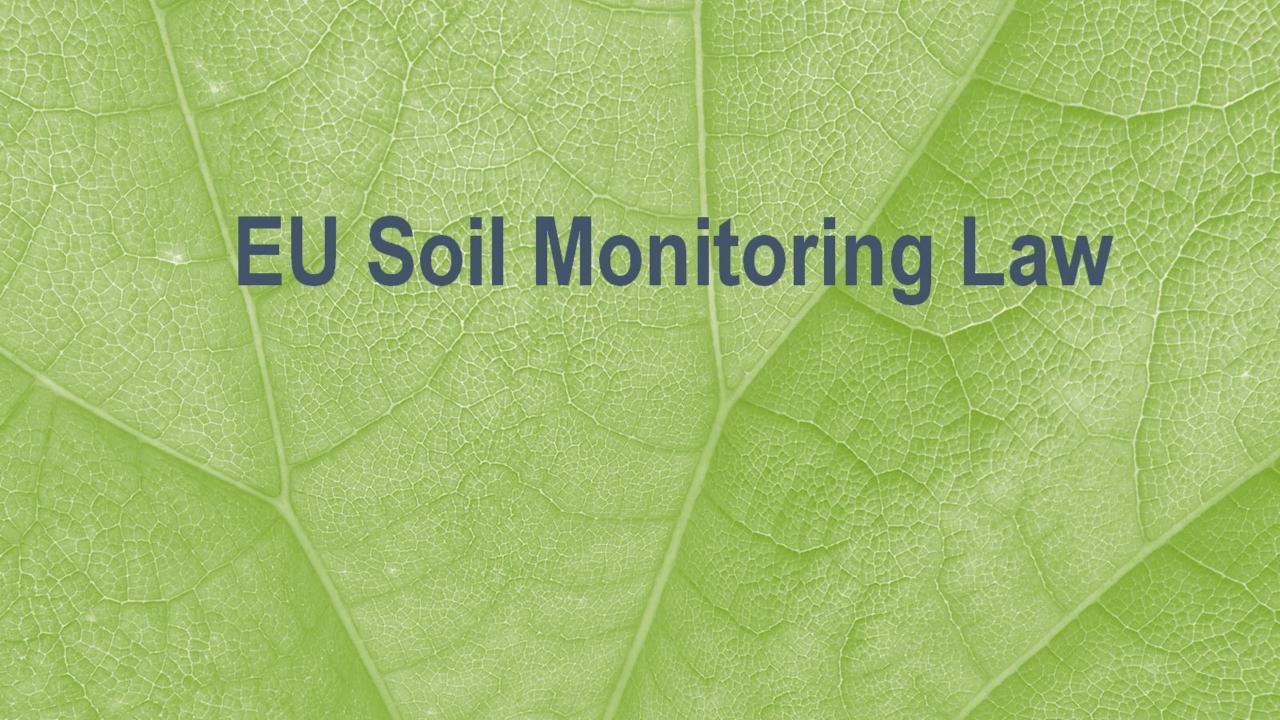


Overarching objective

- Contribution to i.a. international commitments
- By 2030 → restoration measures will cover 20% of EU's land and sea
- By 2050 → measures in place for all ecosystems in need of restoration

Restoration targets





EU Soil Strategy for 2030



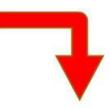
Healthy soils as a solution for the biodiversity crisis



Healthy soils for the circular economy & towards zero pollution



Healthy soils as a solution to fight and adapt to climate change



July 2023 legal proposal on a **Soil Monitoring Law**



Soil Monitoring Law

Directive on soil monitoring and resilience



registration



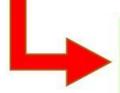


EU forest strategy for 2030



Focus on:

- the multi-functional role of forests: the economic, social and environmental functions
- the contribution of foresters and the entire forestbased value chain for achieving by 2050 a sustainable and climate-neutral economy
- ensuring that forest ecosystems are restored, resilient, and adequately protected.
- Adequate forest monitoring and strategic planning for the future



November 2023 legal proposal on **Forest Monitoring**



Roadmap for planting **3bn additional trees** by 2030









Planting: in forests, agroforestry, cities



Growing and nurturing



Monitoring



ictures:@GettyImages

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

https://environment.ec.europa.eu/index en



