Outline

- EU targets for 2020
- Lessons learned
- Elements for post-2020
- Science & sciences
State of nature in the EU
Results from reporting under the nature directives 2007-2012

THE EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT STATE AND OUTLOOK 2020

SEBI - Streamlining European Biodiversity Indicators

The Pan-European SEBI initiative was launched in 2003. Its aim was to develop a European set of biodiversity indicators – based on those already existing, plus new indicators as necessary – to assess and inform about progress towards the 2010 targets. From its inception SEBI linked the global framework set by the Convention on Biological Diversity with regional and national indicator initiatives.

SEBI is a partnership between the EEA (the European Environment Agency), the GLOBIO (Global Biological Diversity and Environmental Change) of the United Nations Environment Programme, the European Commission, the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (IUCN), and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Secretariat. The strategic orientation of this work has been undertaken by a Coordination Team with representatives from the above organisations.

Since 2003, the Coordination Team has set up several Expert groups involving more than 120 experts from European countries as well as Non-Governmental Organizations. Supported by expert contributions, the first set of 26 SEBI indicators was chosen at the end of 2006.

One of the principal working methods of SEBI is to build on current monitoring and available data to avoid duplication of efforts and to complement and not replace other activities to describe, model and understand biodiversity and the pressures upon it. This means that a large part of the 26 SEBI indicators originates from various external ongoing programmes and processes at the national, European and global levels.

From the very beginning, the proposed set of indicators has been seen holistically, stressing mutual relationships among the individual indicators and their power to deal with uncertainty. Special attention was paid to the task of producing user-friendly indicators. Furthermore, SEBI aimed at improving the provision of information to policy-makers along the DPSIR chain (Drivers, Pressures, States, Impact, Responses) in support of policy effectiveness.

While SEBI is pan-European in scope, some of the indicators specifically link to the community policy framework that exists for EU Member States.

Moving forward towards 2020, it will be important to transparently measure progress towards the new European and global 2020 biodiversity targets. SEBI is in a strong position to contribute to this.

- Streamlining European biodiversity indicators 2020: Building a future on lessons learnt from the SEBI 2010 process (2013)
- Access to SEBI indicators
- SEBI – EU biodiversity indicators and related EU targets (simplified overview)
Diagnose – what will we (bluntly) say in 2020

- **Target 1** – Natura 2000 😊 management/financing 😐
  Conservation status: successes mostly small scale

- **Target 2** – mostly process... restoration 😐 😐

- **Targets 3** (agri-forest) & 4 (fish) – mainstreaming: 😐

- **Target 5** – regulation 😊  IAS 😐 😐

- **Target 6** – slim progress €€€, huge EU footprint

- **Headline** –
Headline target – stop biodiversity loss

- Conservation status 😞
- Extinction risk (IUCN Red Lists) 😞
- Abundance of common species (indicators) 😞 😞
- Pollinators 😞
- Local success cases 😊
- Comeback of several flagship species 😊
Conclusions i)
The biosphere and atmosphere, upon which humanity as a whole depends, have been deeply reconfigured by people.

- 75% of the land area is very significantly altered;
- 66% of the ocean area is experiencing increasing cumulative impacts;
- >85% of wetland area has been lost.

adapted from IPBES Global Assessment 2019
River fragmentation by dams
Of all the mammals on Earth, 96% are livestock and humans, only 4% are wild mammals.

- 60% are livestock
- 36% are humans
- 70% of birds are chickens and other poultry
- 30% are wild
- 4% are wild mammals


Infographics: courtesy of The Guardian
And after 2020?
Conclusions ii)

• Current strategy / business as usual

• What would be needed
Conclusions iii)

1. Step-up the scale
2. Fundamental systemic changes
3. Urgency
4. EU budget (2021-2027 & beyond)

"Sea to Summit" by David Wrangborg; Category: NATUREinspires (© David Wrangborg, NATURE@work /EEA)
Additional, fundamental development

not sustainable

not sustainable

Climate Change

making it worse

Human life support CRISIS

FOOD
ENERGY
MOBILITY
...

AIR

SOIL

WATER

SEA

BIODIVERSITY

The sixth mass extinction

degradation & depletion of natural resources
Conclusions iv)

• Habitat loss & degradation, soil erosion, fragmentation
• Pollution: fertilisers, CO$_2$, methane, pesticides, ...
• Overexploitation
• Invasive alien species
• Climate change
Three approaches for solutions

Better implementation

Mainstreaming biodiversity

Systems and transitions
Better implementation requires

Individual directive/regulation

Synergies & mainstreaming across environment

- **Birds**
- **Habitats**
- **Invasive species**

- **Climate**
- **Nature**
- **Water**
- **Air**
- **Marine**
EU common policies & budget (examples)

• Common policies, two focus:
  1. Support to implementation: effective, measurable, ring-fenced,…
  2. Much more sustainable, less toxic
• Common policies, two time frames:
  1. What can be done in 2021-2027
  2. What can be planned for post-2027
A biodiversity strategy in a broader context

EC reflection paper: Towards a sustainable Europe by 2030
Science and sciences

Trend: increasing specialisation

Need: multidisciplinarity

Systemic
Complexity
Uncertainty
Thank you for your attention
• Additional slides on the outcome of the mid-term review of the EU biodiversity strategy
• Data for Natura 2000 updated as of December 2018
Target 1 – conservation status

Status in 2015, not likely to change much in 2020

- **FAVOURABLE**
- **UNFAVOURABLE**
Target 1 – Natura 2000

- 27,863 sites = 1,336,151 km²
  - Terrestrial = 18.0 %  
    - Target = 17 %
  - Marine = ca. 9 %  
    - MPAs = over 10 %  
      - Target = 10 %

- Designation 😊
- Management 😐
- Financing 😕!
- Too many ‘paper parks’
Target 2 – ecosystems and services

• Green Infrastructure... guidance
• 15 % restoration?... difficult to assess
• Ecosystem assessment and ecosystem services... EU level assessment on the make...
  MS very patchy
• Mostly ‘process activities’
Target 3 - Agriculture

- Conservation status of agricultural species & habitats only marginally improving
- Farmland birds & butterflies not recovering
- Negative impacts persisting: intensive practices & abandonment
- Use of CAP to support biodiversity: limited, patchy, difficult to quantify
Target 3 - Forestry

• Conservation status of forest species & habitats only marginally improving
• Forest birds not decreasing
• Sustainable forestry and forest management plans largely unused
• Payment for ecosystem services... rare
Target 4 - fisheries

• Many marine species and habitats with poor conservation status
• Significant % of fish stocks not sustainably fished (~ 40 %)
• Uneven policy implementation
• Discards & by-catch not sufficiently addressed
• Data is improving, but still patchy and insufficient
Target 5

• IAS Regulation into force and first list of species approved 😊
• Implementation ?
• Ballast Water Convention, very few ratifications
• 1st reports in 2019
• IAS still a significant problem and a major pressure to biodiversity
Target 6

• Biodiversity impacts of EU consumption patterns not sufficiently addressed
• EU ecological footprint ~ 2.5 times
• Studies on palm oil, deforestation,...
• More EU money for global biodiversity (CBD)