

Red Lists and Money.

Why EU nature conservation financing has to change.

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1990

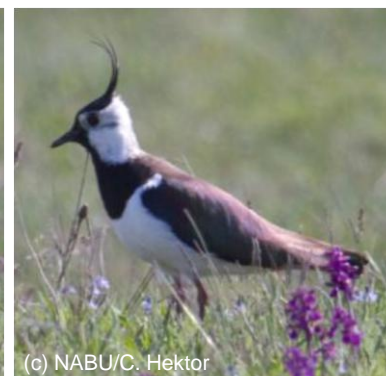
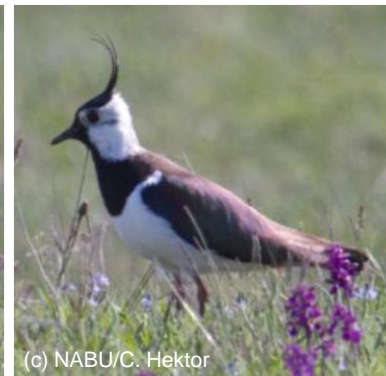
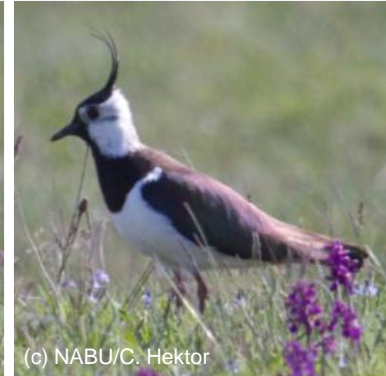


2015



Skylark (Feldlerche): - 34%

1990



2015



Lapwing (Kiebitz): - 75%

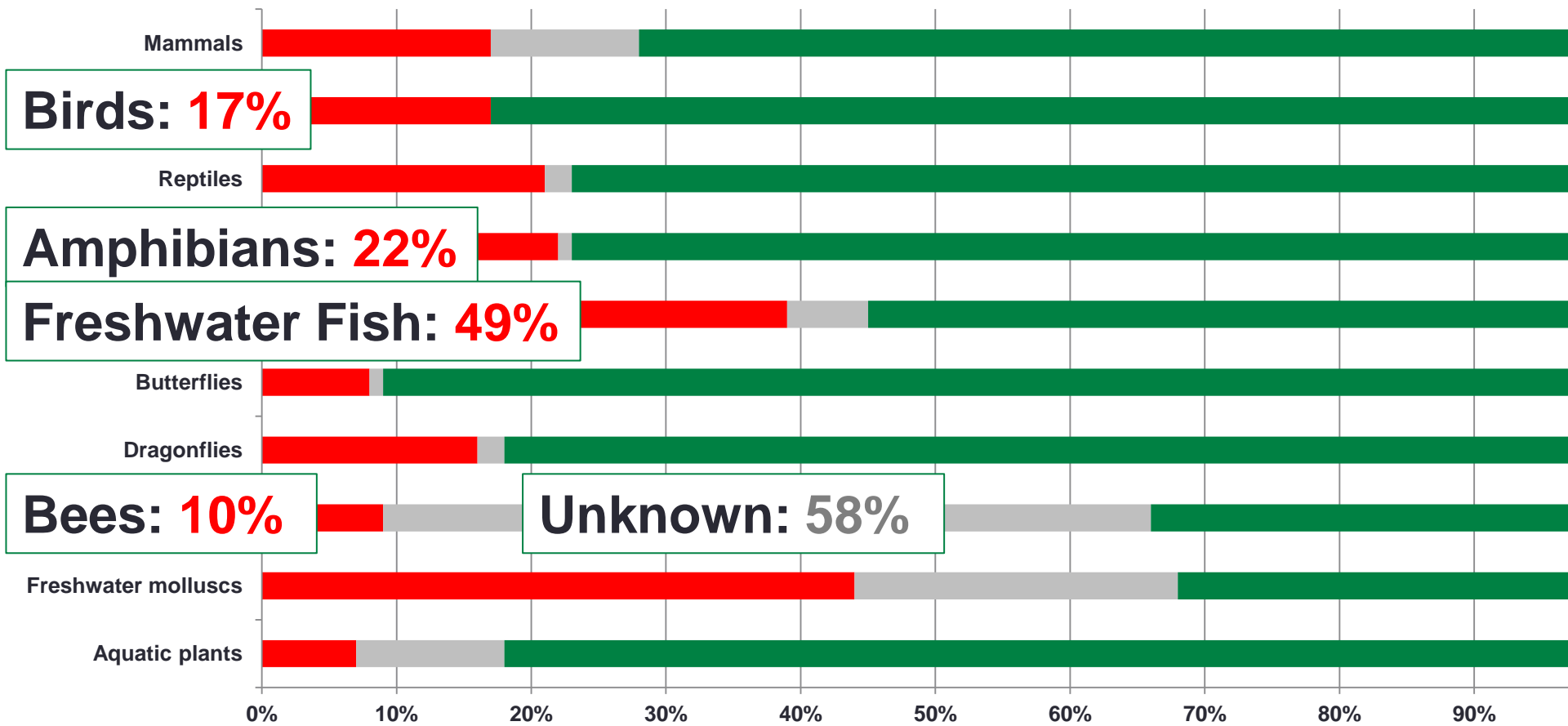
2015



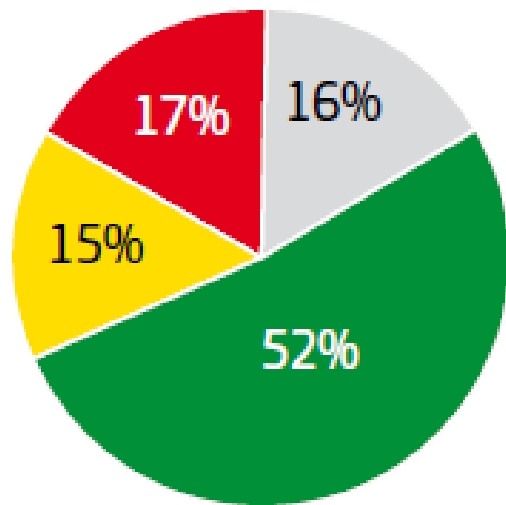
Grey Partridge (Rebhuhn): - 94%

The EU Red Lists

Species threatened with extinction in the EU

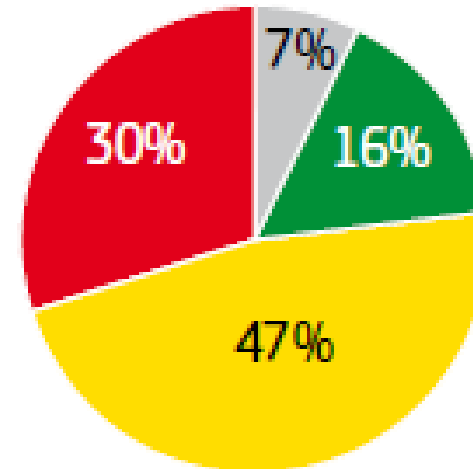


The State of Nature in the EU 2015



- Unknown
- Secure
- Near Threatened, Declining or Depleted
- Threatened

Birds' population status

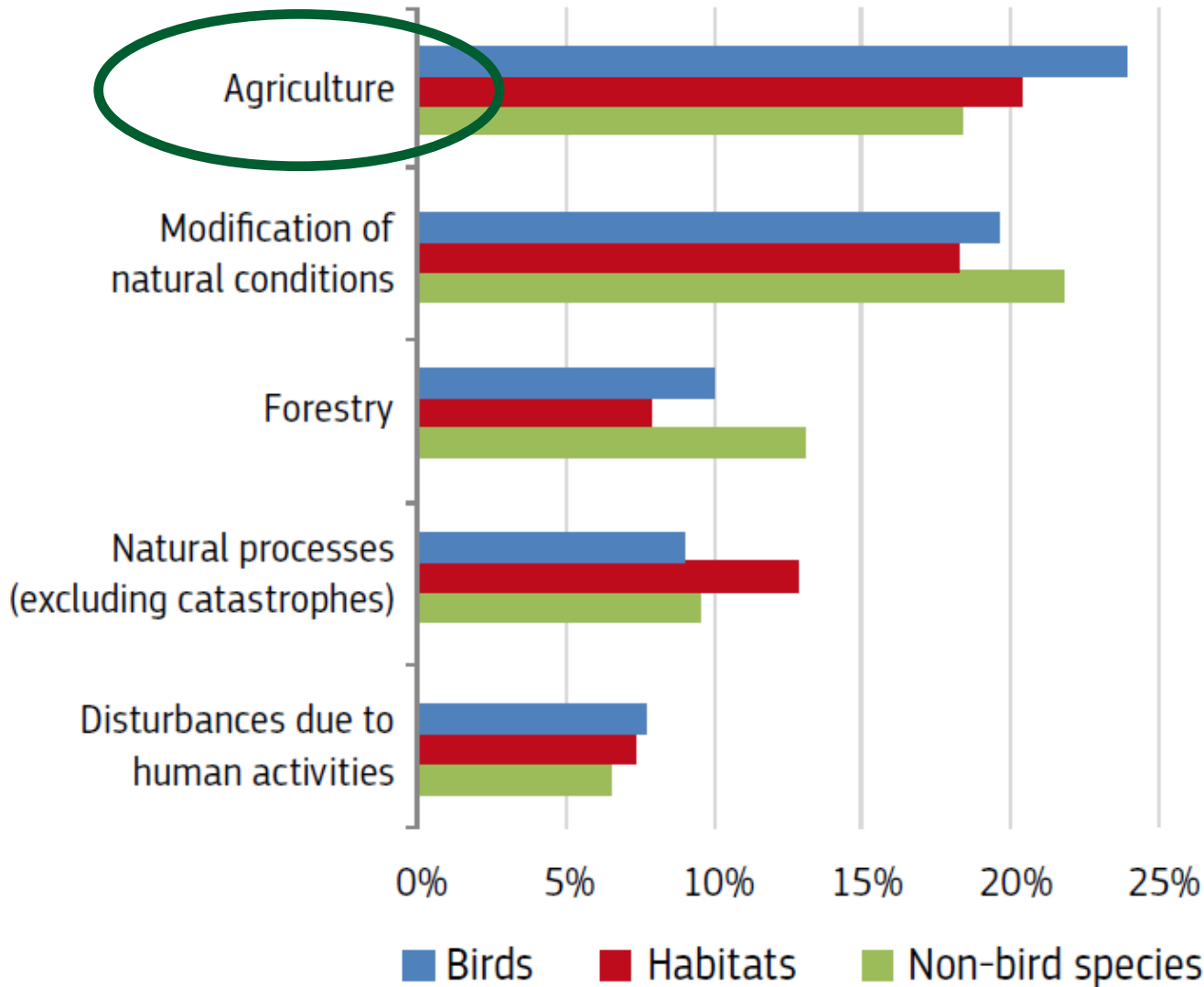


- Unknown
- Favourable
- Unfavourable - inadequate
- Unfavourable - bad

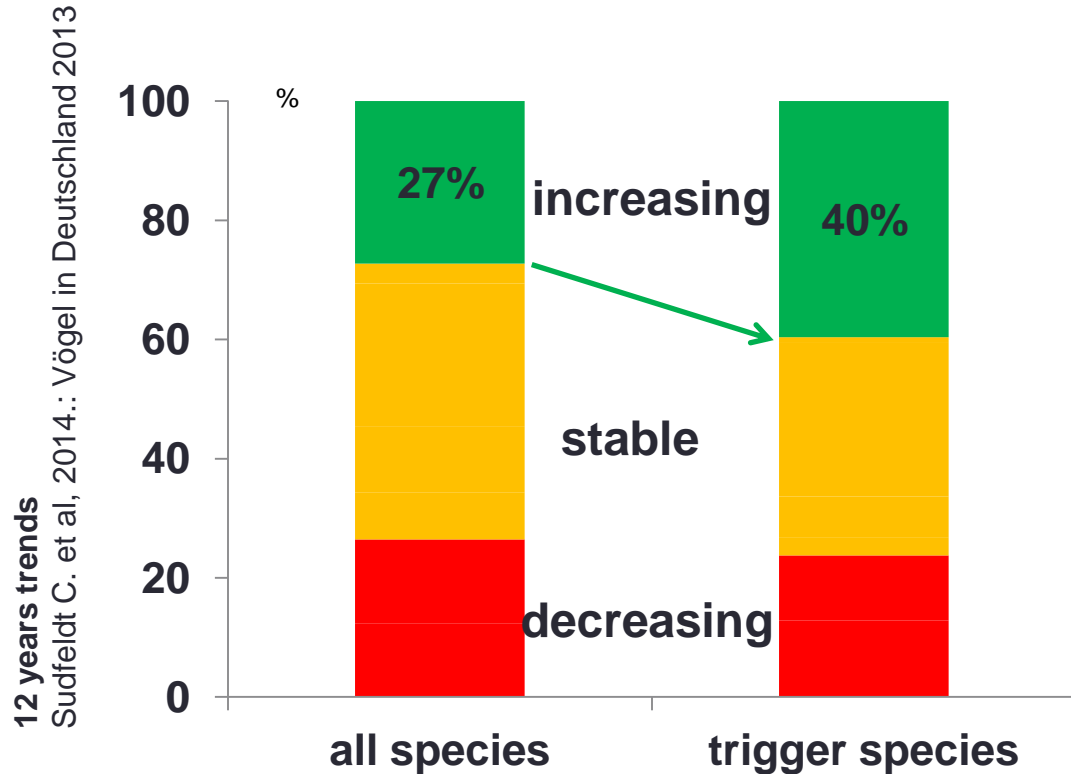
Conservation status of habitats

The main reasons for biodiversity loss

(EU State of Nature Report 2015 based on Member State information)

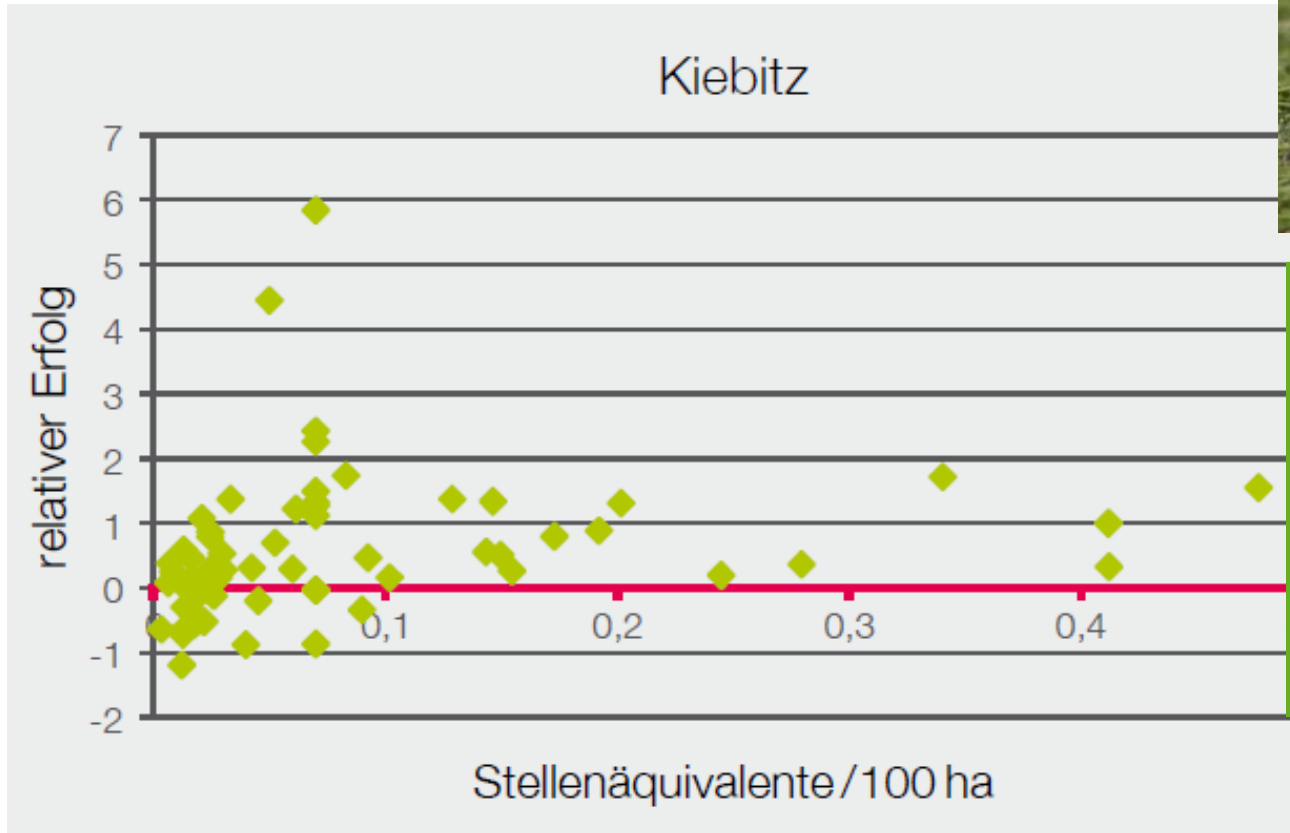


Germany: birds protected by the EU Birds Directive do better



- ➔ But many Natura 2000 sites not properly managed /protected.
- ➔ Lack of funding. Lack of people. Lack of acceptance.

The more personnel involved, the more conservation success



Naturschutz in
der Agrarlandschaft
am Scheideweg
Misserfolge, Erfolge, neue Wege

Relation between success of conservation measures and personnel resources in German protected areas (Lapwing)

Natura 2000 Financing

Annual costs

- EU: approx. **6 billion EUR** (>26.000 sites)
- Germany: approx. **630 million EUR** (>5.000 sites)

EU: Coverage of Natura 2000 costs (-2013)

- EU-cofinancing: **10-20 %** (EC 2011)
- other national/regional/private sources: **< 20% (???)**



➔ **Funding gap: (much?) more than 50%**

The “integration approach”

EU Habitats Directive (Art.8) and EU Biodiversity Strategy:

- co-financing of measures through EU budget

Political agreement:

- no dedicated fund but “horizontal objective”
- Rural Development (2nd Pillar; “ELER” /”EAFRD”)
- Regional Development (“EFRE” /”EFRD”)
- Marine & Fisheries (“EMFF”) and LIFE

Attempts of EC to improve situation for nature from 2014:

- stronger commitments, horizontal strategic instruments
- very weak/no legally binding provisions

The reality for biodiversity funding in 2015

No increase of EU co-financing expected, rather decrease.

Estimated contribution of EU funds to Natura 2000 costs in Germany (and trend):

- 0.0 % ESF (Social Fund) 
- 0.2 % LIFE  ?
- 0.6 % EMFF (Marine & Fisheries) 
- 1-2 % ERDF (Regional Development)  ?
- << 50% ELER (Rural Development)  ?

Why is integration approach failing?

- reduction of **Rural Development Fund** overall
- **no obligatory** biodiversity spending
- **pressure of EC to focus** + political priorities of governments
- governments discouraged (**administrative costs/efforts**)
(e.g. Bavaria, Hessen, Hamburg)
- more „broad and shallow“ - **less targeted „dark green“ support schemes** (reasons: **controllability** issues of EC)
- **1st Pillar Greening did not lift the baseline!**
- even “dark green measures” might fail:
 - financially **not attractive** enough
 - lack of **advisory services**.

Conclusions

- 1) Unprecedented and dangerous crisis of biodiversity.
- 2) EU Nature Directives successes blocked by lack of funding. This undermines acceptance of land users.
- 3) Current integration approach has failed and will fail again 2014-2020.

TIME TO RETHINK

Model I) A new standalone EU fund for nature and environment?

Model II) a co-management of existing funds, obligatory ring-fencing and “equal rights” for environment sector?



The future of EU financing for nature and biodiversity

A discussion paper of NABU (BirdLife Partner in Germany)



Umsetzungsmöglichkeiten
durch die EU-Naturschutzfinanzierung

www.NABU.de/eu-naturschutzfoerderung

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