

Biodiversity Breakthrough 2020

How the Fitness Check of the
EU Nature Directives can become a “game changer”

EU-NaturExchange

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Project supported by the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation with funding from the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety



Bundesministerium
für Umwelt, Naturschutz,
Bau und Reaktorsicherheit

Overcoming the resource gap in nature conservation

What EU level initiatives could become game changers for biodiversity?



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Project supported by the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation with funding from the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety



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1990



2015



Lapwing: - 75%

1990



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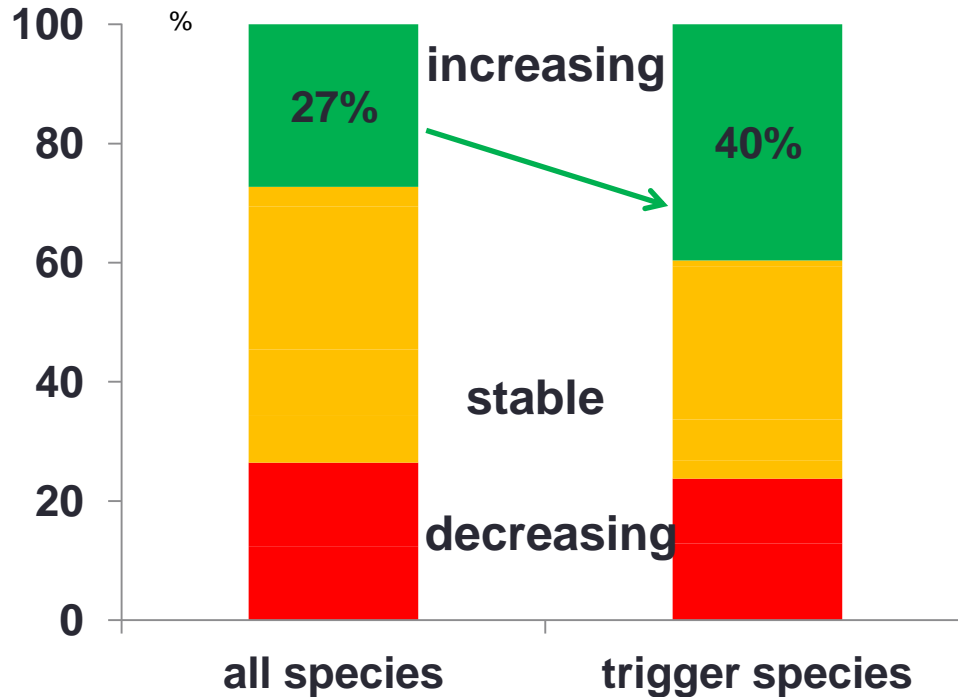
2015



Grey Partridge: - 94%

Hope: EU Nature Directives work

12 years trends of birds in Germany
Sudfeldt C. et al, 2014.: Vögel in Deutschland 2013



= Birds Directive Annex I + threatened migratory species



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➔ Where properly implemented and financed the EU Nature Directives have started to turn the trend (from local to EU level)

Emerging Findings of the Fitness Check: Costs and Benefits

- *“Overall assessments indicate that the annual costs of full implementation of the Natura 2000 network would be approximately EUR 5.8 billion”*
- *“The Natura 2000 network has been estimated to deliver annual benefits of EUR 200-300 billion across the EU by supporting valuable ecosystem services.”*
- *“Overall evidence from cost-benefit assessments suggests that the benefits of the Directives greatly exceed the costs at EU, national and local scales.”*

Emerging Findings of the Fitness Check: Funding shortages

- *“All groups of stakeholders emphasise ... a severe shortage of funding and different constraints in uptake of funding (EU funding especially)...”*
- *“Funding shortages are highlighted across all Member States, and are particularly apparent with respect to the ongoing management and monitoring of the Natura 2000 network”*
- *“Funding constraints on authorities have affected the establishment of the Natura 2000 network, as well as ... stakeholder engagement, management planning, permitting and enforcement measures.”*

Emerging Findings of the Fitness Check: “Recommendation”

➤ *“The existing evidence strongly indicates that the funding gap is so large that achievement of the objectives of the Directives will not be possible without a very significant increase in funding”.*

***WHAT DOES A “FUNDING GAP” IN
NATURE CONSERVATION MEAN IN
PRACTICE?***

Missing (or low quality of) site conservation objectives and management plans



Konstantin Kreiser, NABU

Lack of active management and investment in Natura 2000 sites



Claus Mayr, NABU

Lack of incentives, advise and involvement for land users (limiting “voluntary approach”)



Hinrich, NABU

Weak enforcement of the law



BirdLife Malta

Low quality and/or lengthy and/or inconsistent permission procedures



NABU, Thomas Krumenacker

Low uptake of EU funding (lacking capacities to apply, administer and co-finance)



Hartmut Mai

Not really a new story...

European Commission Staff Working Paper on Financing Natura 2000 (12. December 2011), based on Art. 8 Habitats Directive :

- Only 9-19 % of Nature 2000 costs covered by EU budget
- Reasons for low EU funding:
 - Limited availability at EU level
 - Programming and priorities at Member State level
 - Eligibility, controllability, administration
 - Lack of capacities for uptake and co-financing

The EU funding period 2014-2020 has not significantly improved this situation!

How to get out of the vicious circle?

Move biodiversity action up the political priority ladder!

⇒ EC infringement procedures as last but important option

Invest in people and sustainable projects

⇒ Create capacities that will help mobilise more funding

Reform the EU budget

⇒ ring fencing of funding or stand alone fund

⇒ free funds from CAP Pillar 1 and use it efficiently for EU priorities

⇒ adapt EU funding approaches to biodiversity needs (what does this mean...?)

First step: Make EU funding fit to the requirements of biodiversity action

- 1) **Efficient nature action needs permanent management measures and structures, not only “innovative” and “pilot” projects**
- 2) **Efficient nature action is not always quick and easy:** controls must be outcome-oriented and consider long-term effects
- 3) **Efficient nature action needs flexibility and reliability:** allow reaction to unexpected or short term developments (e.g. availability of land) as well as long-term reliability (e.g. in forest systems)

First step: Make EU funding fit to requirements of biodiversity action

4) Efficient nature action requires specific measures to be eligible (e.g. land purchase, permanent management, care takers, ...)

5) Efficient nature action requires simplification of application and administration procedures

Game Changer 1: Site Care Takers

Invest 0.5 billion EUR from EU budget annually in supporting local **Natura 2000 site care takers**

- Create 25.000 jobs and training opportunities in rural areas
- Trigger a step-change for Natura 2000 management, monitoring and supervision
- Create a strong network of Natura 2000 ambassadors
- Build upon and complement volunteer approaches



Game Changer 2: Nature Stations

EU support for creation and running of **permanent “nature stations”**

- publicly supported facilities at county/regional level
- Natura 2000 management, conflict prevention/resolution
- Advise for land users, development of support schemes
- Training, education, public awareness
- Mobilisation of additional funds (e.g. LIFE projects) for additional human resources



DACHVERBAND
BIOLOGISCHE STATIONEN
NORDRHEIN-WESTFALEN



Game Changer 3: TEN-G

Effective and sufficient EU support for creation and maintenance of priority **transeuropean green infrastructure(TEN-G)**

- Large landscape scale investments benefitting biodiversity, ecosystem restoration, flood protection, ...
- Regional development and jobs (sustainable tourism, agriculture, construction, management...)
- Links to non-EU countries (EMERALD network)



Klemens Karkow, NABU

Conclusions

As a follow-up of the Fitness Check, the European Commission should:

- 1) Make sufficient funding available from the EU budget and ensure Member States are using it.
- 2) Adapt funding support rules to the requirements of biodiversity action.
- 3) Support the exchange and replication of existing best practice at a large scale.
- 4) Invest in people, people, people.

Thank you for your attention!

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[www.NABU.de /eu-naturschutzfinanzierung](http://www.NABU.de/eu-naturschutzfinanzierung)

