



# Landscape features and biodiversity

*What is the role of the CAP in helping to maintain, create, enhance and restore landscape features*

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DG AGRI, Unit B2 Environmental Sustainability

Gregorio Dávila Díaz



# CAP Strategic Plans

# CAP objectives

## General objective

(b) to support and strengthen environmental protection, including biodiversity, and climate action and to contribute to achieving the environmental and climate-related objectives of the Union, including its commitments under the Paris Agreement;

## Specific objective

(f) to contribute to halting and reversing biodiversity loss, enhance ecosystem services and preserve habitats and landscapes;

# Links to Annex XIII legislation

Union legislative acts concerning the environment and climate to whose objectives Member States' Cap Strategic Plans should contribute to, and be consistent with,

- Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds;
- Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora

# Impact indicators linked to biodiversity

- **I.19 Increasing farmland bird populations:** Farmland Bird Index
- **I.20 Enhancing biodiversity protection:** Percentage of species and habitats of Community interest related to agriculture with stable or increasing trends, with a breakdown of the percentage for wild pollinators species<sup>1</sup>
- **I.21 Enhancing provision of ecosystem services:** Share of agricultural land covered with landscape features
- **I.22 Increasing agro-biodiversity in farming system:** Crop diversity

Used for context (baseline) and for evaluations...

# Result indicators linked to biodiversity

For targets and performance review...

- **R.29 (PR) Development of organic agriculture:** Share of utilised agricultural area (UAA) supported by the CAP for organic farming, with a split between maintenance and conversion
- **R.31 (PR) Preserving habitats and species:** Share of utilised agricultural area (UAA) under supported commitments for supporting biodiversity conservation or restoration including high-nature-value farming practices
- **R.32 Investments related to biodiversity:** Share of farms benefitting from CAP investment support contributing to biodiversity
- **R.33 Improving Natura 2000 management:** Share of total Natura 2000 area under supported commitments
- **R.34 (PR) Preserving landscape features:** Share of utilised agricultural area (UAA) under supported commitments for managing landscape features, including hedgerows and trees
- **R.35 Preserving beehives:** Share of beehives supported by the CAP

# Conditionality

- **GAEC 8**

Objective: Maintenance of non-productive features and area to improve on-farm biodiversity

Standards and requirements:

- Minimum share of at least 4 % of arable land at farm level devoted to non-productive areas and features, including land lying fallow
- **Retention of landscape features**
- Ban on cutting hedges and trees during the bird breeding and rearing season
- As an option, measures for avoiding invasive plant species

- + SMR 3: Birds Directive (Art 3, 4)
- + SMR 4: Habitats and Species Directive (Art 6)
- + GAEC 9: Permanent grasslands in N2000 sites

# Eco-schemes

- **Area of action ES**

(e) protection of biodiversity, conservation or restoration of habitats or species, including **maintenance and creation of landscape features** or non-productive areas;

- **Beyond the baseline**

- **Concrete practices:**

- the establishment/creation of new landscape features (e.g. plantation of hedges, trees) beyond the minimum requirement the MS specifies to implement GAEC 8,
- the ecosystem services provided by the preservation (maintenance) of landscape elements (e.g. fallow land, field margins) beyond the minimum requirements of GAEC 8 as implemented by the MS,
- the appropriate ecological management of all landscape features (e.g. appropriate pruning of hedgerows) included those that count for the calculation of the minimum share of landscape features under GAEC 8.



# Rural development interventions

- **AECC:** ecological management of landscape features going beyond baseline
- **Organic farming:** mix of practices beneficial for biodiversity
- **Forestry:** maintenance of agroforestry systems and afforested areas
- **Natura 2000:** farming practices in nature protected sites
- **Non-productive investments:** creation of landscape features or other biodiversity relevant actions (e.g. ponds, wetlands, hedges, afforested buffers)
- **Cooperation:** for instance, large scale ecosystem restoration (mainly peatlands) to deliver (on the same land area) biodiversity/water/climate goals (IE/NL)

# Eco-schemes - LF & non-productive areas

BE-FL	buffer strips
BE-W	Ecological mesh
BG	maintenance and improvement of biodiversity and ecological infrastructure ecological buffer strips
CY	Maintaining uncoupled production for feeding and nesting of birds and animals Conservation landscape elements and biodiversity islands maintenance of small scale stone walls
DE	provision of land to enhance biodiversity and conserve habitats
DK	biodiversity
EL	Extension of the application of EFA Application of EFA for trees
ES	maintenance of unmown margins on grassland areas non-productive areas and landscape features (arable and permanent crops)
FI	biodiversity crops
HR	enhanced maintenance of EFA
IT	Conservation traditional olives groves adapted management for pollinators
LT	maintenance of landscape elements
LU	aid for installation of non-productive areas aid for installation of non-productive strips establishment of refuge areas on mowing meadows
MT	Land parcels dedicated for biodiversity
PL	Areas with melliferous plants maintenance of field trees maintenance of agroforestry systems Destination of 7% of the area to non-productive areas
SI	Conservation of biodiversity in PC Bare soil patches on arable land for Polish gill Protection of lapwing nests

5 billion EUR +  
(based on draft CSP)

# AECC - LF & non-productive areas

BE-FL	Management contracts for the maintenance of woody small landscape features
CZ	AEKO Promotion of biodiversity on arable land
FI	Protection zones
HU	Payment to encourage agro-ecological land-use change
IT	Active management of ecological infrastructure
IT	Set-aside
IT	Support for the management of non-productive investments
LV	Green lanes

130 million EUR +  
(based on draft CSP)



# Nature Restoration Law

## Overarching objective

- 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

Protected  
Habitat Types  
(Annex I HD)



Habitats of  
protected  
species (BHD)



Marine  
Habitats  
(beyond HD)



Urban  
ecosystems



River  
connectivity



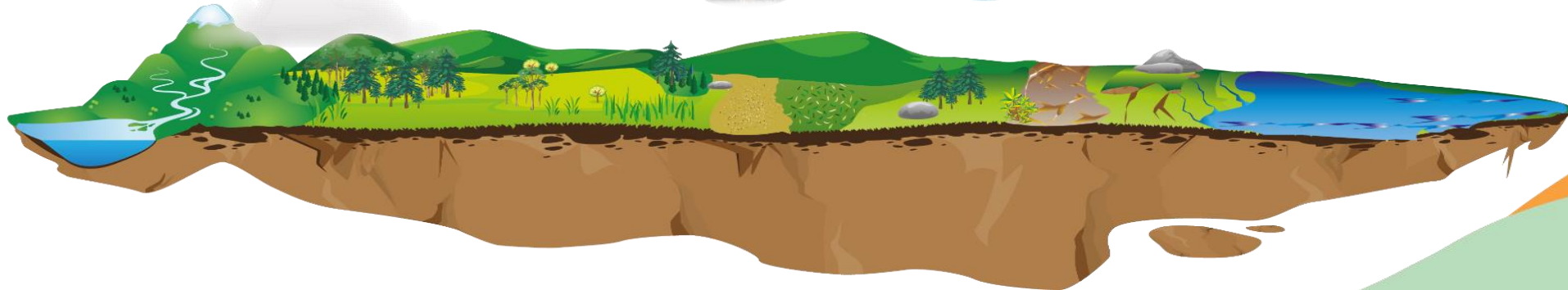
Pollinators



Agro-  
ecosystems



Forest  
ecosystems



# | Pollinator populations - target



- Reverse the decline of pollinator populations by 2030
- Achieve thereafter an increasing trend for pollinator populations (until satisfactory levels), with a methodology for annual monitoring



# | Agricultural ecosystems - targets



Achieve an **increasing trend in indicators** (until satisfactory levels are achieved):

- Grassland butterfly index;
- Stock of organic carbon in cropland mineral soils;
- Share of agricultural land with high-diversity landscape features;
- Farmland bird index at national level (with specified index improvements)

Restore & partly rewet certain shares of **drained peatlands** under agricultural use.

- Flexibility clauses are giving the option to work also on peat extraction sites and other types of drained peatlands.



# | Forest ecosystems - targets



Achieve an **increasing trend in indicators** (until satisfactory levels are achieved):

- Standing deadwood;
- Lying deadwood;
- Share of forest with uneven age structure;
- Forest connectivity;
- Common forest birds index;
- Stock of organic carbon.







European  
Commission

Thanks!