




**EU biodiversity policy post-2010**  
**exploring the possibilities for safeguarding  
broader ecosystems**

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### EU bd policy post-2010: intro


- Commission Communication: "Options for an EU vision and target for biodiversity beyond 2010" (Jan 2010) (COM/2010/4)
- EU Council conclusions (Mar 2010) - headline target for post-2010:  
" ...halting the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services in the EU by 2020, and restoring them in so far as feasible, while stepping up the EU contribution to averting global biodiversity loss."

→ **End of year 2010: EU biodiversity strategy / action plan post-2010**



### EU bd policy post-2010: intro

- Current EU biodiversity policy (e.g. 2006 Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan) already introduce the focus on wider ecosystems & ecosystem services.
- Since 2006, ecosystems & their services integral part of "every day" EU biodiversity policy:
  - E.g. Uptake of the 2005 Millennium Ecosystem Assessment
  - The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity – TEEB
  - Increased demand for linking biodiversity with broader EU agendas






## EU bd policy post-2010: intro

However, EU biodiversity policy traditionally species & habitat focused.

**What is missing from the 2006 Bd Action Plan:**

- specific contextual / operational framework for addressing broader ecosystem & ecosystem services (ES)
- explicit targets or measures for ES at the EU or global level
- emphasis on maintaining the overall health and integrity of ecosystems.



## EU bd policy post-2010: scope?

**The “ecology” of addressing broader ecosystems?**


**Announced broader emphasis of EU bd policy post-2010:**

- Ecosystem functioning
- Ecosystem resilience
- Ecosystem services

**Consequently, policy would need to address:**

- Biodiversity
- Functional diversity
- Response diversity
- Ecological connectivity
- Diversity of ecosystem services ...

• **Note:** Conservation of ecosystem services does not automatically conserve biodiversity !








## EU bd policy post-2010: scope?

### What can EU do?

- EU has a solid basis to support conservation of ecosystem & their **M10** services (Articles 3 & 11 of the Lisbon Treaty)
- Also, "precautionary principle"

### What EU cannot do?


- EU needs to add value to Member States actions
  - focus on primarily on the issues of EU-wide importance
- EU no formal authority in some key areas: land-use and spatial planning & forestry
  - Limitations re: EU's capability to tackle some underlying causes for biodiversity loss & ecosystem degradation



## Addressing broader ecosystems: implications?

### Potentials


- Protecting broader ecosystems → addressing underlying pressures & threats to biodiversity
- Addressing broader ecosystems → improving ecological connectivity & resilience
- Highlighting socio-economic benefits of ecosystem services → increased public & policy support
- Links and mutual benefits with other policy agendas (e.g. climate change)



**M10** According to the Treaty, one of the EU's goals is to work for the sustainable development of Europe based, in particular, on a high level of protection and improvement of the quality of the environment (Article 3 of the Lisbon Treaty, entered into force 1 December 2009 ).

Furthermore, since 1997 it has been a requirement under the Treaty that environmental protection requirements must be integrated into the implementation of all the Community's sectoral policies, in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development (Article 11 of the Lisbon Treaty ).

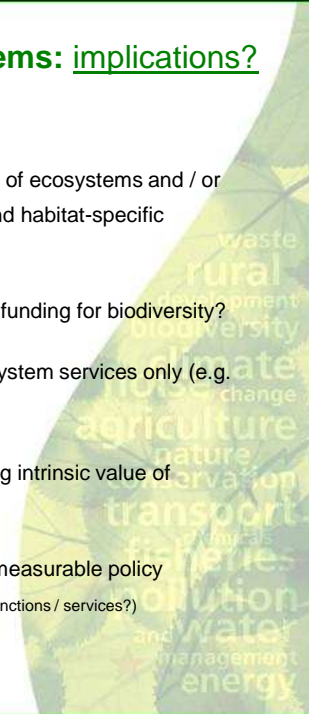
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### Addressing broader ecosystems: implications?

#### Possible risks

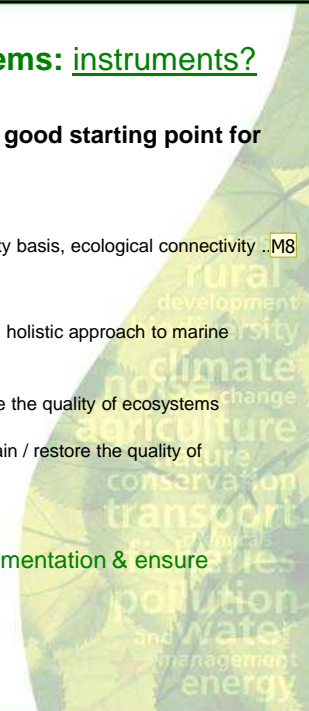
- Focus on maintaining or restoring status of ecosystems and / or their services → overlooking species- and habitat-specific requirements?
- Reduction of already limited resources / funding for biodiversity?
- Narrow focus on few ecosystems / ecosystem services only (e.g. climate regulation)?
- Focus on ecosystem service → forgetting intrinsic value of biodiversity?
- Difficulties in defining implementable & measurable policy targets (i.e. how to measure status of ecosystem functions / services?)



### Addressing broader ecosystems: instruments?

#### Building on existing EU instruments - a good starting point for addressing broader ecosystems

- Birds and Habitats Directives: biodiversity basis, ecological connectivity [M8]
- Water Framework Directive: river basins
- Marine Strategy Framework Directive: holistic approach to marine ecosystems (e.g. ecosystem services)
- EIA and SEA Directives: maintain / restore the quality of ecosystems
- Environmental Liability Directive: maintain / restore the quality of ecosystems (e.g. ecosystem services)
- **Note:** need to improve / redirect implementation & ensure coherence




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- M8** The achievement of favourable conservation status provides broader ecosystem benefits beyond the targeted species and habitats (e.g. reducing generic threats from pollution, hydrological change, over-exploitation, habitat fragmentation).

Consequently, the nature directives can also be seen more broadly as the corner stones for the maintenance of healthy ecosystems in the EU



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### Addressing broader ecosystems: instruments?

**Important: securing integration of biodiversity - a key in safeguarding broader ecosystems !**

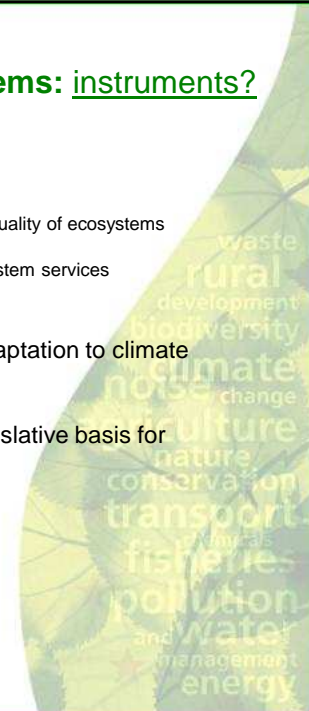
- Common Agricultural Policy (CAP): HNV, increased support to public goods
- Common Fisheries Policy (CFP): effective implementation of the ecosystem-based approach (with Marine Strategy Dir)
- Cohesion Policy: ecosystem and their services as basis for sustainable regional development (e.g. risk prevention, green economy)
- EU budget: increased support to biodiversity & ecosystem services



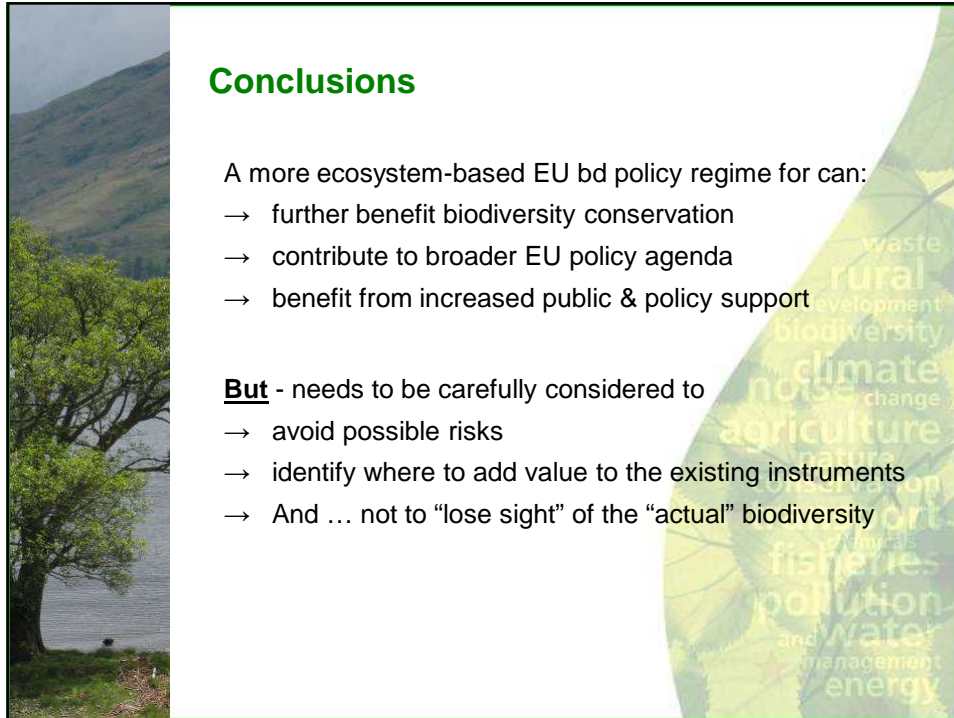
### Addressing broader ecosystems: instruments?

**Possible new instruments?**

- EU IAS Strategy: maintain / restore the quality of ecosystems
- Soil Framework Dir: soil quality & ecosystem services
- Ecosystem-based mitigation of / adaptation to climate change
- Improving / harmonising the EU legislative basis for safeguarding broader ecosystems?







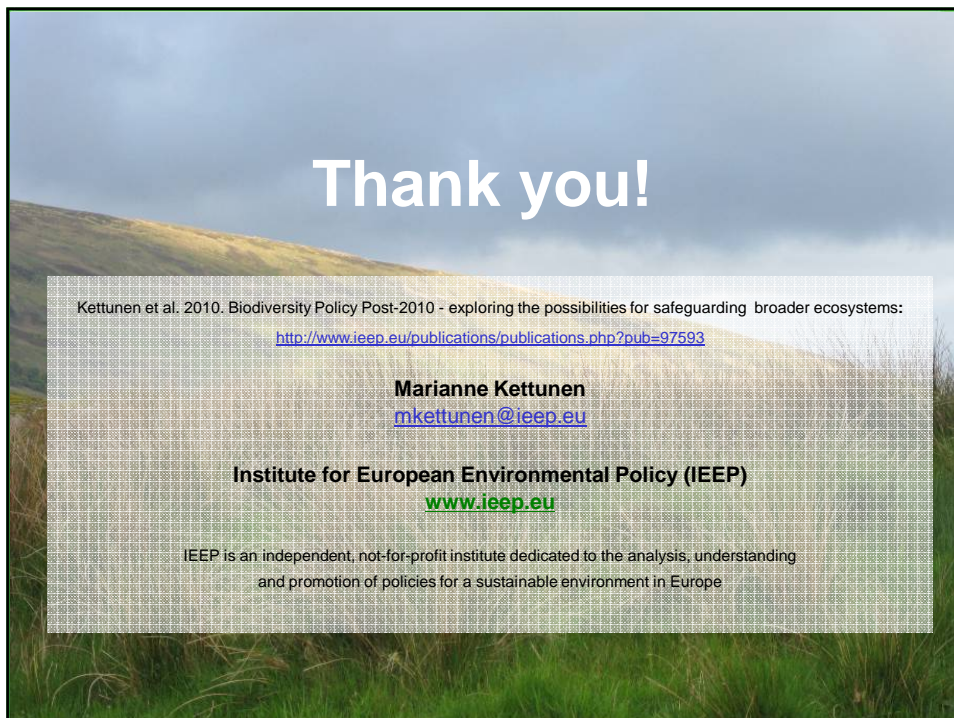
## Conclusions

A more ecosystem-based EU bd policy regime for can:

- further benefit biodiversity conservation
- contribute to broader EU policy agenda
- benefit from increased public & policy support

**But** - needs to be carefully considered to

- avoid possible risks
- identify where to add value to the existing instruments
- And ... not to "lose sight" of the "actual" biodiversity



# Thank you!

Kettunen et al. 2010. Biodiversity Policy Post-2010 - exploring the possibilities for safeguarding broader ecosystems:  
<http://www.ieep.eu/publications/publications.php?pub=97593>

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