



Nature management challenges in Europe

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beyond 2010 (27-29 May, 2010)
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European Nature

General state of nature in EU is relatively well known:

- Well described
- Most modified/human impact/dependent
- Relatively moderate diversity
- Very low % of preserved virgin/wilderness areas
- Policy, legislation, measures and tools among the most evolved

Nature management: diverse and changing processes



- Evolution over time:
 - protection of the beauty: reserves
 - nature conservation – passive,
 - nature management – active
 - nature restoration, nature creation
- From species to habitats and to ecosystem services and functions
- From rigid and static protection to flexible and dynamic approaches:
“natural processes to run the ecosystem”

EU Policy Framework (1)



- Birds & Habitats Directives: establishment of NATURA 2000 network
 - over 17% of the EU territory covered,
 - about 25 000 sites of different size
- Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
 - integration
 - specific measures (invasive species, FLEGT)
 - economics (TEEB, business & biodiversity)
 - knowledge base, science policy interface
 - international issues (CBD, IPBES, REDD)

EU Policy Framework (2)



- Water Framework Directive
 - river basin management
- Climate Change Policy
 - adaptation
 - mitigation, substitution
- Proposal for a Soil Directive
- Green Paper on Forest Protection
- ...

A lot of challenges, only a few examples:



- Implementation of the NATURA 2000 network
- Adaptation to climate change
- Integration of biodiversity into relevant sector policies
- The economics of biodiversity
- Landscape planning
- Ecosystem goods & services
- Knowledge base, science policy interface
- Communication

NATURA 2000 Network

- Designation phase +/- finished, implementation is now the challenge: management plans for providing multiple benefits and ecosystem services?
- Living landscapes, people and nature: how to organise governance, stakeholder involvement, public participation? How to deal with lobbies, particular interests?
- Financial support for what? What EU budget framework after 2013?
- Monitoring, reporting, art. 17: how to establish regular monitoring of sites? How to collect in addition information on socio-economic benefits and provision of cultural services?

Adaptation to climate change:

Climate change increases urge for functional coherence

- Biodiversity, ecosystems, people and climate change are inter-linked: how to mainstream climate adaptation into key policy areas?
- Added value by an European effort to strengthen the knowledge / evidence base (synergies, saving money)?
- Loss of ecosystem resilience: higher risks on pest outbreaks and diseases! Do we need more "Space for nature": connectivity, corridors, healthy ecosystems?

Integration into relevant policies

- CAP, Rural Development,
- Forestry, SFM, protection measures, monitoring
- Regional development, environmental impact assessment
- Research
- Green Economy
- Trade
- Development cooperation

Capturing the economic value of biodiversity ***Showing the hidden costs of our behaviour!***

- Relevance of economic valuation and information as part of policy decision-making processes (impact assessment, public support)
- Not easy to put figures on it: public goods, need for political will
- But considering public benefits may completely change the choice of policy options
- EEA report, TEEB, IPBES

Landscape pattern and biodiversity values closely related

- Natural ecosystems all over Europe closely linked to historical and current land use! Land use change, notably from agriculture (intensification, biomass..), urban and infrastructure development: coherent regional planning?
- Habitat loss / destruction, fragmentation, over-exploitation, invasive species, pollution: what do we mean by sustainable land use?
- Biodiversity & Climate Change Adaptation: need to develop a "green infrastructure" for higher resilience of ecosystems; restoration measures

Ecosystem goods & services

- What does it mean? How to explain complex issues on ecosystem functions to non-experts? How to design an attractive communication tool towards economic world and public?
- How can ecosystem goods & services be factored into decision-making processes?
- Relevance of business & biodiversity, local economy (organic food, green tourism, green jobs..)?
- Payment of ecosystem services: the silver bullet? Can we make more effective use of existing support measures (agri-env. LFA, LIFE...)? Are more and broader applications possible?

Knowledge base, Science/Policy interface

- Assessment of the current status, trends and pressures on biodiversity, functioning of ecosystems
- Linkages between climate change and biodiversity: landscape management to restore ecological functions and biodiversity

Economics and social science equally important, as for ex.:

- Looking at the EU global footprint and the sustainability of our consumption patterns
- Developing approaches to better involve and engage people with nature
- Analysis of those elements of current policy approaches that work

From landscape knowledge to landscape action (sharing experiences, exchanging information)

Improving our Communication

- "Euro-barometer" opinion: nature protection seen as a priority by public, but...
- Nature legislation seen as too restrictive, inflexible, negative for economic competition, development!
- Too much experts' jargon: biodiversity, ecosystem approach, ecological functions...! Are we ready to speak in simple terms?
- Media stories sometimes like to concentrate on reporting simplified hypochondriac attitudes, naïve denying..!
- A lot of information is collected: do we have the right one, allowing informed choice and decisions?
- Better social responsibility by focusing on more specific local / regional information?

Nature management beyond 2010 (1)

- Are we confident enough to launch a public debate in order to have a more clear picture what kind of nature we want in Europe? What actually do we want to protect: species, habitats, ecosystems..?
- What approaches to take: sector/horizontal integration, broad participatory and coordinated approaches, voluntary agreements, contractual arrangements, public financial incentives, private funds more legislation... and what could be the right mix?

Nature management beyond 2010 (2)

- From biodiversity → ecosystem services?
- New ways of governance focusing on spatial interdependencies to solve conflicts between different interests?
- Stimulating dynamic integrated land use planning to increase connectivity and maintain space for nature?
- Good scientific base & communication tools available to connect biodiversity with society?

Nature management challenges in Europe

I am convinced that this conference provides
some interesting responses to these questions
and

I thank you very much for your attention!