

Working together on local and regional partnerships for people and biodiversity

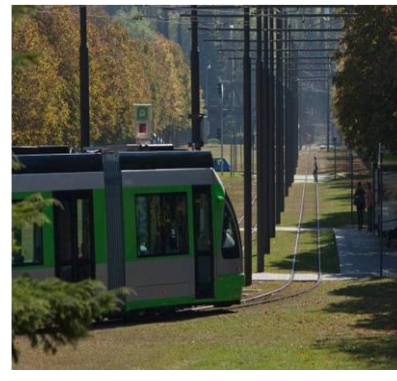


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CONTEXT

About IUCN



- IUCN is a **membership Union** that is composed of 1400 member organizations including states and government agencies, large and smaller NGOs, scientific and academic institutions and business associations. It now also includes a new category of membership for Indigenous peoples' organisations
- Since its creation in 1948, IUCN has become the **world's largest and most diverse environmental network**, harnessing the knowledge of some 16,000 experts organized in 6 Commissions
- Its broad membership allows IUCN to develop **best practices, tools and international standards** that enable human progress, economic development and nature conservation to take place together.
 - *E.g. IUCN Red List of Threatened Species; IUCN Red List of Ecosystems; Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas; Key Biodiversity Areas*



About IUCN

- Working with many partners and supporters, **IUCN implements a large and diverse portfolio of conservation projects worldwide.** IUCN also recently got accredited as project agency for UN GEF (Global Environmental Facility) and GCF (Green Climate Fund) boosting IUCN's impact on biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration and sustainable development around the world.
- IUCN has a **prominent role in support of national, European and international policies related to biodiversity**
- Through its 2017-2020 Global Programme, IUCN is also strongly contributing to the **2030 Agenda towards Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change**

About IUCN



- IUCN Global Programme: 2017-2020

IUCN's Programme Framework

Figure 1A: 2013-2016

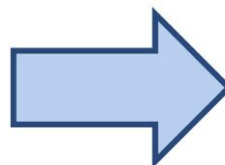
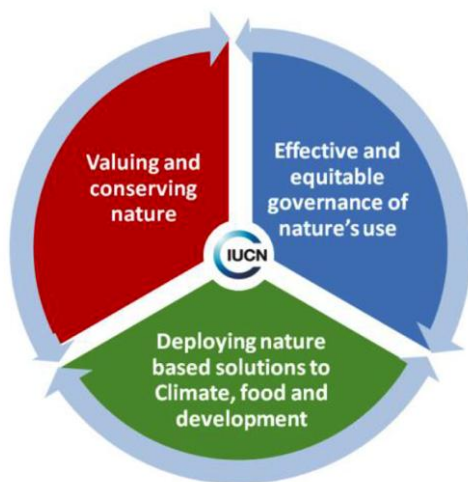


Figure 1B: 2017-2020





Current status of EU Nature Policy

- The EU has committed to halt the loss of biodiversity by 2020 and to restore it as insofar as possible. The main tool: **EU Biodiversity Strategy** with six main targets. The cornerstone of wildlife and nature conservation in the EU: **Birds and Habitats Directives**.
- “**Fitness check**” of the EU Nature Directives calling for enhanced implementation
- Further actions needed to ensure that the **Natura 2000 network** of protected areas is fully implemented, include:
 - completion in the marine environment
 - management of the sites still needs a strong push
 - need for increased financial resources (private & public)

>> Increased implementation will require more action on the ground, and enhanced conservation capacity of regional and local authorities



Potential of Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) in tackling societal challenges

- **What?:**
 - “actions to protect, sustainably manage and restore natural or modified ecosystems, which address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, while simultaneously providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits” (Cohen et al. 2016)
 - “living solutions inspired by, continuously supported by and using nature, which are designed to address various societal challenges in a resource-efficient and adaptable manner and to provide simultaneously economic, social and environmental benefits” (EC 2015)
- NBS are on their way to be **mainstreamed in national and international policies and programmes**

>> compelling opportunities are available for restoring the natural strength of the planet, in collaboration with local and regional governments



MAIN CHALLENGES



Challenges for successful implementation of NBS

The socio-economic and environmental challenges confronting society today are complex and far from clear-cut! A few key principles for successful deployment of NBS:

- NBS should **account for multiple interests** (in particular environmental, societal and economic ones) and promote sustainability;
- Strong need for a **shared understanding** of land use, ecosystem relationships, benefits of investment in natural capital, key policies, development strategies and legal frameworks, and rights and responsibilities over resources;
- **Fostering integrated, cross-sectoral approaches** is required for many NBS to be successful. This may involve a variety of training, capacity building and communication efforts, but new and innovative partnerships and governance structures may also be required;



Key principles for successful implementation of NBS

- Need to recognize that NBS are determined by **site-specific natural and cultural contexts** that include traditional, local and scientific knowledge;
- Need to recognize that NBS are **not ‘the one and only possible way’**. Instead, they are an integral part of the overall design of policies, and measure or actions, to address a specific challenges;

>> Bringing together diverse stakeholders such as national and regional governments, NGOs, scientists, businesses, local communities and indigenous peoples groups, and donor agencies can help to address these challenges in a comprehensive and inclusive way: **Inclusive and integrated approaches (multidisciplinary partnerships)** as a key driving force for successful conservation action



Working together on local and regional partnerships for people and biodiversity

IUCN's vision & mandate



- IUCN acknowledges the crucial role that subnational governments play in supporting the **implementation of the international and European nature conservation policies**
 - IUCN recognizes that **new forms of collaboration will be required to mainstream NBS** into urban and regional sustainable development and investment decisions.
 - IUCN recognizes that **engaging with the private sector** will be key to achieve this transition. *e.g. the Coalition for Private Investment in Conservation*
 - IUCN recognizes that subnational governments can be **champions and leaders** in making the transition towards a more sustainable planet, and in upscaling NBS
- >> **Resolution WCC-2012-006:** Cooperation with local and regional government authorities in the implementation of the IUCN Programme 2013–2016

Examples

- **NBS Case study from Rwanda: Forest landscape restoration as a national priority** (for details: Cohen et al. 2016)
 - Problem: Due to high population growth, there is a strong pressure on Rwanda's forest ecosystems with natural forest being converted to agricultural land and small woodlots being overexploited for fuel wood. Also loss of genetic diversity, resulting in increased vulnerability for pest and disease outbreaks
 - Result: High levels of poverty (forestry major contributor of GDP!); higher disaster risk; lower water supply etc.
 - Solution: Set-up of a “national forest restoration policy” through a collaborative & iterative process between government, regional and local authorities (input & feedback) + implementation in a very participatory manner

Examples



- **World Environmental Hub** (IUCN & the Jeju Govern): global initiative to establish a system for evaluating and certifying cities and regions which place environmental sustainability, biodiversity, and ecosystem services at the heart of urban and regional development. Objectives include:
 - To develop a framework for recognizing cities and regions which place biodiversity and ecological functions at the core of their urban and regional development strategies by developing and implementing NBS;
 - To demonstrate how sub-national governments can use NBS to tackle the challenges of urbanization and show that investing in nature can enhance economic prosperity and social well-being;
 - To encourage cities and regions around the world to implement NBS to a range of societal challenges.



Examples

- **IUCN National Committee France**
- Recognize that regional biodiversity strategies provide the ideal practical framework for meeting the challenges of sustainable development at regional level
- 2010: inventory >> advocating reinforcement by publishing guidelines to facilitate their further development and implementation throughout France
- Key principles – e.g.
 - Governance: Identify the most appropriate coordination strategy, favouring a system of joint coordination between Regions and State; Define a participative system of governance for drawing up, implementing, and monitoring regional biodiversity strategies.

Examples

- Content: perform a shared strategic diagnosis of regional biodiversity before defining the common framework for strategic action; biodiversity should be integrated across sectors and policies (agriculture, infrastructure, the economy ...); ...
- Implementation: favour implementation tools that help create and formalize new partnerships and solidarity dynamics between the various local stakeholders; ...



Concluding remarks

- Regional and local authorities are key to the **implementation of the international and European nature conservation policies**; and **champions** for upscaling NBS
- **Increased capacity building, knowledge sharing and financial support** is required for assessing and integrating the value of biodiversity and ecosystems in urban and regional planning, and for upscaling NBS
- In order to mobilize all relevant actors, we need to **demonstrate** how nature-based solutions (NBS) provide benefits for the environment, economy and society
- Need to **strengthen the scientific basis** of NBS – e.g. to assess how it can be better integrated into urban and land-use planning
- **New partnerships needed to make large-scale restoration viable and credible**

Thank you !

