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**NOTE**

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Delegations

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Subject: EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 – State of implementation and upcoming assessments  
- Information from the Commission

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Delegations will find in the Annex an information note from the Commission on the above subject, to be dealt with under "Any other business" at the Council (Environment) meeting on 20 December 2022.

**EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 – State of implementation and upcoming assessments****- Information from the Commission -**

The EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 aims to halt and reverse the alarming loss of biodiversity for the benefits of nature, people, climate and the economy. The Strategy contains quantified targets for the protection and restoration of biodiversity in the EU, commitments to enable transformative changes and contribute to global efforts, as well as over 100 actions to deliver on them.

The ongoing 15<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Montreal is expected to culminate in the adoption of a post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. The EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 enables the EU to lead by example in the global negotiations.

Since the adoption of the Strategy in May 2020, the Commission has sustained a cross-cutting implementation effort. At present, 34 of the 100+ actions listed in the Strategy have been reported as completed. Actions completed since the last information note from the Commission on the subject (AOB point at the Council (Environment) meeting of 20 December 2021) include notably: the publication of the Commission proposals for a EU Nature Restoration Regulation and for a Sustainable Use of Pesticides Regulation, the revised EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking and several new guidance documents to help Member States achieve the EU biodiversity targets on the ground, such as on the designation of protected areas, on urban greening, on mapping and assessing ecosystem condition, and on the removal of barriers to free-flowing rivers. A [‘Map My Tree’](#) online tool allows organisations to register their contributions towards the pledge of planting three billion additional trees by 2030.

EU initiatives across the policy spectrum - from education and research, to agriculture, energy, trade and climate action - have continued to contribute to the effort through the setting of strengthened objectives, supporting measures and safeguards to protect nature, restore it and use it more sustainably. The Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) for 2021-2027 is set to invest 7.5% of EU budget in biodiversity in 2024, and 10% in 2026 and 2027. In June 2022, the Commission published a biodiversity tracking methodology for all main EU funding instruments (with the exception of the common agricultural policy). Current estimates indicate that the EU is to reach 8% investments in biodiversity in 2024, but only 9% in 2026 and 2027, which is below the political ambition. It is therefore important that Member States fully use the EU funding opportunities to finance biodiversity actions on the ground. The Draft Budget for 2023 reaffirms the Commission's commitment to double international biodiversity finance compared to the 2014-2020 MFF.

The Commission has developed further the EU biodiversity governance framework with a focus on:

- (i) a renewed [EU Biodiversity Platform](#) liaising with expert groups in other policy areas;
- (ii) a fully operational [actions tracker](#), and a [targets dashboard](#) under development, and
- (iii) strengthened arrangements for input from science to policy-making via the work of the [EU Knowledge Centre for Biodiversity](#), with a new Science Service for Biodiversity.

There is still substantial work ahead, with 70 actions in progress. A significant number of these are EU-level actions due in early 2023, including the planned publication of guidance documents on mapping and protecting primary and old-growth forests and on biodiversity-friendly afforestation, reforestation and closer-to-nature forestry; the revised EU Pollinators Initiative; an Integrated Nutrient Management Action Plan, and a new Action Plan to conserve fisheries resources and protect marine ecosystems. As announced in the EU Soil Strategy, the Commission is working on a proposal for a new Soil Health Law, due in 2023. Following the Forest Strategy, a Commission proposal on EU forest observation is also planned for the second quarter of 2023.

Over the coming years, the focus of implementation will increasingly shift from setting the EU level frameworks and instruments, towards protection, restoration and integration efforts on the ground, in the Member States.

Following the adoption of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework at CBD COP15, the EU and its Member States will need to assess the alignment of their frameworks with the global biodiversity targets, monitoring and reporting arrangements, and consider the need for further measures.

Progress monitoring and reporting are crucial to ensure that the EU and its Member States stay on track and deliver the commitments of the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030. This includes checking how all the actors (the Commission, the Member States and stakeholders) carry out the necessary actions, but also, crucially, how nature responds to those actions. Progress monitoring draws on the [actions tracker](#) and a [targets dashboard](#), complemented with regular updates by the Commission to the Council and to the European Parliament. In addition, as set out in the EU Biodiversity Strategy, the Commission plans to launch two policy assessments in 2023, with a view to publishing the results in 2024, within the current Commission's term. These are:

- an assessment of the effectiveness and suitability of the voluntary biodiversity governance approach;
- an assessment of progress in the implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030.

The findings from these assessments, as well as the analysis of alignment with the upcoming new Global Biodiversity Framework, will inform deliberations on possible follow-up measures to achieve the Strategy's objectives and meet the EU's international commitments.

The Commission is fully committed to taking forward the implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030. The Commission also recalls the importance of Member States fully implementing the actions and commitments stemming from the Strategy, and invites them to actively engage in tracking implementation progress.