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COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT

**European Union's 7th National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity on
progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity
Framework**

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1. BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

1.1. The UN Convention on Biological Diversity

The **UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)** is the second-largest global environmental agreement by number of Parties, after the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Its three main objectives are to: (i) conserve biodiversity, (ii) ensure its sustainable use and (iii) promote the fair sharing of the benefits arising from the use of genetic resources. Currently, the CBD has 196 Parties, including all EU Member States and the EU.

In 2022, the 15th Conference of the Parties to the CBD (COP15) adopted the **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM GBF)** that sets four **4 global Goals**, to be achieved by 2050, and **23 action-oriented targets**, to be reached by 2030. CBD COP15 and CBD COP16 (February 2024) adopted further decisions to make key elements of the KM GBF operational. Among them, the **GBF Monitoring Framework**⁽¹⁾ specifies the indicators that all Parties must use in their progress reporting to the CBD. A [Decision on Mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review](#) sets out an enhanced approach to monitoring and reporting to improve the implementation of the Convention and the KM GBF, and a [Decision on Resource mobilisation](#) outlines a strategy for mobilising resources to implement the KM GBF.

The GBF Monitoring Framework

When reporting on their progress towards the KM GBF targets and goals, CBD Parties have to use the indicators agreed in the KM GBF monitoring framework. These include ‘headline’ indicators that Parties have to develop and use in their reporting and binary indicators that will be compiled at the global level on the basis of questions that Parties have to answer in their reporting. Parties are also encouraged to develop and use a set of optional (‘component’ and ‘complementary’) indicators. Parties may also supplement their reporting with additional, national or subnational indicators that they consider relevant to their targets for the GBF.

A [global database of indicators for the KM GBF](#) has been put in place by UNEP-WCMC that lists the headline, binary, component and complementary indicators related to each global goal and target. For each indicator, it provides a summary of its global methodology (‘metadata’), including the computation methods, guidance on possible disaggregations, information on data compilation processes, available data sources, and additional references and guidance material.

⁽¹⁾ As set out in CBD COP Decisions [CBD/COP/DEC/15/5](#) and [CBD/COP/DEC/16/31](#).

1.2. Implementation and reporting on the Kunming-Montreal GBF

To deliver on their commitments under the KM GBF, CBD Parties must adopt **National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)**. Parties are expected to include in their NBSAPs **national targets** aligned with the KM GBF, or submit such targets separately to the CBD, and to regularly report on their implementation progress, using the agreed common indicators in the KM GBF Monitoring Framework.

Following the adoption of the KM GBF, CBD Parties have been expected to include in addition their NBSAP national targets aligned with KM GBF, or submit such targets separately to the CBD.

CBD Parties are due to report to the CBD on their progress in implementing the KM GBF by February 2026, using for the first time the global indicators in the KM GBF Monitoring Framework. Parties must submit these **7th National Reports (7NR)**² via the CBD **Online Reporting Tool**. The 7NR are based on a reporting template consisting of five sections, as well as the submission of the indicator data used in the assessment.

The Parties' 7th National Reports will provide the basis for the CBD Secretariat to prepare a **global report on collective progress** which, in turn, will provide the basis for a **global review of collective progress in the implementation of the KM GBF**. The first global review will be conducted at COP17 in October 2026 and may lead to recommendations by the COP with a view to achieving the goals and targets of the KM GBF.

1.3. Objectives and structure of this document

This Commission Staff Working Document presents the findings on the EU's progress towards the 4 Goals and 45 EU targets and the KM GBF. It contains the information that will be uploaded on the CBD Online Reporting Tool (ORT) as the EU's 7th National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity on EU progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, as follows:

- **Annex I** presents the information that will be uploaded on the ORT under **section I** of the CBD reporting template
- **Annex II** presents the information that will be uploaded on the ORT under **section II** of the CBD reporting template
- **Annex III** presents the information that will be uploaded on the ORT under **section III** of the CBD reporting template

² The previous six national reports (in 1998, 2001, 2005, 2009, 2014 and 2018) have provided information on national biodiversity, CBD implementation measures undertaken and progress achieved to earlier CBD targets (such as the [Aichi Biodiversity Targets](#) to 2020).

- **Annex IV** presents the information that will be uploaded on the ORT under **section IV** of the CBD reporting template
- **Annex V** presents the information that will be uploaded on the ORT under **section V** of the CBD reporting template.

The EU indicator data, for the available EU indicators referenced in this report, will be uploaded in the CBD Online Reporting Tool together with the EU's 7 National Report.

1.4. Status of the EU's NBSAP and targets in alignment with the KM GBF

(i) *The EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030*

The [EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030](#) (adopted by the European Commission in May 2020) is the EU's revised NBSAP for the period 2020-2030. In October 2020, the [Environment Council adopted conclusions](#) endorsing the objectives of the EU biodiversity strategy for 2030. In June 2021, the [European Parliament adopted a resolution that welcomed the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030](#) and the level of its ambition. The preparation of the EU Strategy took place in parallel with an [Evaluation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020](#), which allowed for reflection on options for future action in light of the lessons learned from past implementation.

Experts from national and sub-national authorities in the EU Member States, citizens and stakeholders (including civil society organisations, representatives of land and sea use sectors, research and academia and business) had the opportunity to provide written input through an online public consultation on the evaluation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020, a call for evidence on the upcoming EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, discussions in the framework of the Coordination Group for Biodiversity and Nature (EU expert group), and a dedicated EU Biodiversity Conference in 2019.

The EU Biodiversity Strategy's main objective is to put Europe's biodiversity on a path to recovery by 2030. It sets measurable, time-bound targets to protect and restore nature, manage ecosystems in a sustainable manner and tackle the main drivers of biodiversity loss, as well as measures to enable implementation and transformative change. It defined the EU's global biodiversity ambition towards 2030 and announced commitments to support global biodiversity through the EU's external actions. As such, its ambition is well aligned with the KM GBF.

(ii) *EU submission of 45 targets aligned with the KM GBF*

Following the adoption of the KM GBF, CBD Parties have been expected to include in addition to their NBSAP, national targets aligned with KM GBF, or submit such targets separately to the CBD. In August 2024, the European Commission submitted to the CBD [45 EU targets](#) that draw on existing objectives in EU policy and legislative instruments, across a broad range of policy areas, and that are aligned with the KM GBF targets.

Progress to each of these EU targets is to be assessed by using the globally agreed common indicators in the KM GBF monitoring framework (see next sections for more information on indicators).

(iii) Progress tracking under the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030

The European Commission's Knowledge Centre for Biodiversity (EC-KCBD)³ has developed two online tools to track progress in the implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030: (i) an online [action tracker](#) which provides up-to-date information on the state of implementation of the Strategy's actions, and (ii) a [target dashboard](#) which is gradually being completed with indicators to show EU progress to the quantified biodiversity targets set by the Strategy.

1.5. Overview of the process of preparation of the EU's 7th National Report to the CBD

The EU's 7NR draws on an assessment of progress towards each of the 45 EU targets aligned with the KM GBF, as submitted to the CBD in August 2024. Each target report highlights the main actions undertaken since 2020, the results achieved and the challenges faced and provides a progress assessment on the basis of either the indicators available and used for each target, or on a qualitative assessment where indicators are not yet available. A dedicated section in the reporting template offers the opportunity for Parties to include examples illustrating good practices and effective implementation approaches. Annex III to this Staff Working Document includes all the EU target reports.

The drafting of the EU's 7NR entailed (i) identifying and summarising relevant EU-level information on implementation actions undertaken since 2020; (ii) the identification and, where needed and possible, development of EU indicators aligned with the GBF monitoring framework, and (iii) the assessment of progress under each EU target.

(i) Summarising relevant EU-level implementation actions

Commission services were engaged in the process from the early stages and provided information and examples of key implementation actions undertaken across policy areas since 2020 that contribute towards the EU targets for the GBF.

(ii) Preparation of EU indicators aligned with the KM GBF monitoring framework

The EU has identified and developed EU indicators for reporting to the CBD. The EC-KCBD has coordinated a comprehensive overview of EU indicator availability vis-à-vis the

³ The [Knowledge Centre for Biodiversity](#) is a European Commission initiative, in close cooperation with the [European Environment Agency \(EEA\)](#), on better knowledge management for policy-making on biodiversity.

indicators of the KM GBF Monitoring Framework. Various versions of this overview have been shared and discussed with EU knowledge-for-policy providers including the European Environment Agency (EEA), the statistical office of the EU (Eurostat) and other Commission services, as well as with experts in the EU Member States. Based on this work, for this first report, the EU is reporting on eight out of the 22 KM GBF headline indicators for which there is a global methodology. For 5 further headline indicators, the methodology is yet to be finalised at the global level. Work is ongoing to provide the remaining EU-level indicators aligned with the requirements of the global methodology. This work will continue beyond the EU's 7NR, with the aim to develop a complete EU Monitoring Plan for future EU reporting to the CBD. Upcoming monitoring and reporting under the [Nature Restoration Regulation](#), [ecosystem accounting](#) and other EU processes will help to gradually improve data availability. In line with the EU's broader efforts to streamline reporting and reduce reporting burdens, the development of EU-level indicators can also support Member States in their reporting, while increasing coherence, for example by allowing for the disaggregation of some indicators developed at the EU level for possible use in national reporting.

(iii) Assessment of progress towards the EU targets

Where available, the assessment of EU progress has taken into account EU indicators for the GBF. However, as explained above, a limited set of headline indicators is available for the 7NR. Therefore, the assessment of EU implementation progress in the 7NR also draws on selected other indicators that already exist at the EU level and that are used to monitor progress under various EU policies relevant to GBF implementation ('other EU' indicators). Furthermore, existing policy assessments, studies and evaluation reports have been systematically used to complement the picture emerging from available indicators. All these sources of information collectively provide a robust basis for the findings in this report.

(iv) Consultation and stakeholder engagement

The EU's targets – and subsequently the EU's 7NR on progress in their implementation – have been developed in a comprehensive approach engaging Commission services across policy areas, with input from the EEA. Both the EU monitoring plan with indicators for GBF reporting (in development) and the approach to preparing the EU's 7NR have been regularly presented and discussed with experts from national authorities and stakeholders at the [EU Biodiversity Platform](#) and its subgroups. The EU also organised, in September 2025, a Regional Dialogue for the Western European and Others Group (WEOG) Region and all EU Member States, at which Parties and stakeholder representatives exchanged experience in the preparation of their 7NR and monitoring plans.

Key challenges encountered during the drafting process arise from the broad scope of the KM GBF which required extensive coordination and consultations to identify and interpret relevant information and assess the level of EU progress to each target. As highlighted above, limited availability of Headline Indicators (including those for which an accepted global methodology, an EU methodology or data are not yet available) also made the assessment of progress towards some targets challenging. Further challenges are uniquely inherent to the EU: the scope of some GBF targets falls within the competence of EU Member States rather than that of the EU, while for many others, the EU provides the legal and policy framework but the availability of data depends on reporting by Member States and/or other actors under those policy frameworks. For these reasons, the EU's report needs to be read together with those prepared by the EU Member States, which provide complementary information.

2. SUMMARY OVERVIEW OF EU IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

2.1. Main actions undertaken since 2020

The main actions undertaken by the EU since 2020⁴ with regard to the EU-level legislative and policy framework for biodiversity protection, restoration and sustainable use are the following:

- The [EU Nature Restoration Regulation](#) (2024) aims to restore at least 20% of the EU's land and sea areas by 2030, setting legally binding targets for ecosystem restoration to combat biodiversity loss and enhance climate resilience.
- The [Soil Monitoring and Resilience Directive](#) (2025) aims to enable the EU to improve the knowledge base and make progress towards healthy soils by 2050.
- The [EU Pollinators Initiative](#) (2023) includes a range of actions to reverse the decline of pollinators by 2030.
- The [EU Forest Strategy for 2030](#) (2021) aims to enhance forest protection, restoration and resilience, while contributing to climate neutrality and biodiversity goals. The [EU Deforestation Regulation](#) (2023) aims to reduce the impact of EU consumption on deforestation and forest degradation in the EU and globally.
- The [Zero Pollution Action Plan](#) (2021) sets pollution reduction targets for 2030 and includes flagships and actions to achieve them. The [Mid-term review of the Zero Pollution Action Plan](#) (January 2026) updates on progress and highlights further activities in terms of pollution prevention and reduction.
- The new [Environmental Crime Directive](#) (2024) strengthens the legal framework for prosecuting environmental crimes that pose significant threats to ecosystems, public health and the economy.
- Biodiversity and ecosystems are at the core of the [EU Climate Adaptation Strategy](#) (2021). The 2024 [Communication on managing climate risks](#) sets out how the EU can effectively get ahead of the growing climate-related risks and build greater resilience to the impacts of climate change, including for natural ecosystems.
- The [EU sustainability disclosure framework](#) is a fundamental pillar of the EU Sustainable Finance Agenda, and fully applicable since January 2023.
- The [EU Water Resilience Strategy](#), launched in 2025, will support measures to protect and restore the water cycle, while the [European Ocean Pact](#) (2025) brings together EU ocean policies and actions to create a coordinated plan, including for protecting and restoring ocean health.
- The new EU [Bioeconomy Strategy](#) (2025) charts a way forward to build a clean, competitive and resilient European economy in sectors such as agriculture, forestry,

⁴ The assessment covers progress in the period since 2020, in line with the GBF monitoring framework.

fisheries, aquaculture, biomanufacturing and biotechnologies, and encourages innovations that benefit the climate, nature and society.

- In order to incentivise and reward private investments in nature, the Commission launched, in 2025, a [Roadmap towards nature credits](#).

Implementation of existing EU legislation and policies that are key for delivering on the EU and global biodiversity targets was strengthened as well:

- This concerned, for example, the [Birds](#) and [Habitats](#) Directives, the [Invasive Alien Species Regulation](#), the [Marine Strategy](#) and the [Water](#) Framework Directives: to support their implementation, the Commission has provided technical guidance on the [designation of new protected areas](#), on [prioritising species and habitats for restoration](#) to achieve good conservation status, on the [removal of barriers to free-flowing rivers](#), and other supporting documents and tools. It has further provided guidance on sustainable land use such as on [biodiversity-friendly afforestation, reforestation and forest restoration](#), on [closer-to-nature forestry](#), and on the [development of urban nature plans](#).
- Under the [8th Environment Action Programme](#), the Commission has also developed voluntary guidance and invited Member States to report on non-energy [environmentally harmful subsidies](#).
- An [EC Knowledge Centre for Biodiversity](#) – already referred to in earlier sections of this document – was set up to enhance the provision of relevant knowledge for biodiversity policy, and to track progress under the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030.
- The Commission has also strengthened engagement and dialogue with Member States's authorities and stakeholders through the [EU Biodiversity Platform](#) set up in 2022. The [EU Business and Biodiversity Platform](#) supports business engagement on a range of biodiversity topics.

Key EU policies and their related financing instruments offer biodiversity support measures, in line with the EU target to invest 7.5% of the EU budget in biodiversity in 2024, and 10% in 2026 and 2027. This includes biodiversity support measures under the [Common Agricultural Policy](#), the [Common Fisheries Policy](#), [Cohesion Policy](#) as well as the EU's [Horizon Europe programme](#). The European Commission has worked with Member States to encourage the uptake of these opportunities in national programming.

Action is also being taken to mainstream biodiversity considerations in business investment decisions and to scale up nature-positive finance. In this context, the European Commission's nature credits initiative aims to help incentivise private investment in biodiversity and ecosystem restoration by providing a framework to support nature-positive actions. The European Commission and the European Investment Bank are exploring innovative financial approaches to help mobilise private capital and improve market conditions for investment in biodiversity. Taken together,

these efforts aim to strengthen incentives for sustainable business practices and contribute to narrowing the biodiversity financing gap.

In order to support countries in implementing the KM GBF, the European Commission’s Knowledge Centre for Biodiversity launched, in September 2025, a **European Subregional Technical and Scientific Cooperation Support Centre (TSCC)** in partnership with the Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN Med) and the Royal Belgian Institute for Natural Sciences. The European Subregional TSCC will support 44 countries by facilitating technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer. It will incorporate Knowledge Hubs for each of the KM GBF 23 targets.

2.2. Main results achieved

Available indicators in several areas show positive trends, such as a gradual increase in the coverage of [terrestrial](#) and [marine](#) protected areas (Figure 1), an increase in [land area under organic farming](#) and an increase in the [number of assessed fish stocks that are exploited at sustainable levels in the EU](#), as well as some improvement in the population abundance of the common [forest bird index](#) (Figure 2) in certain areas in recent years.

Figure 1. Coverage of protected areas in the EU-27 land area in 2011-2023

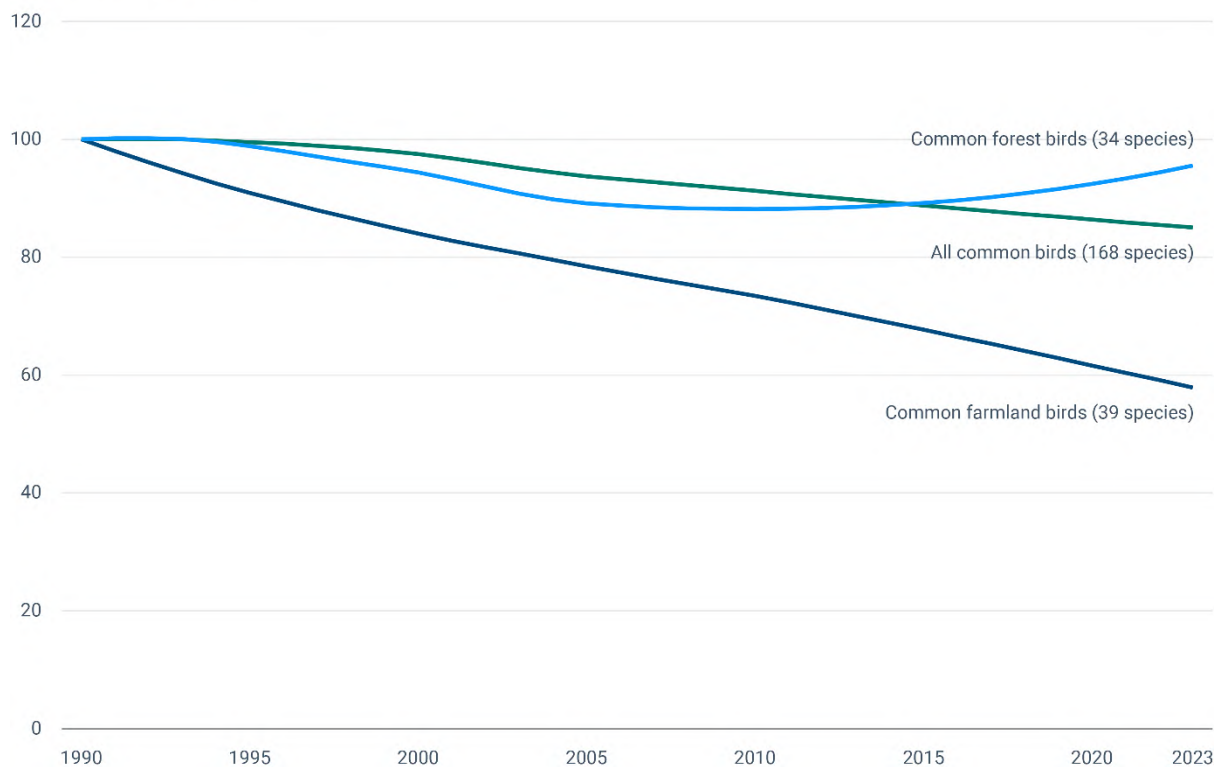


Source: [European Environment Agency \(EEA\)](#)

However, following a good head start, there is a need to step up implementation and increase the rate of these improvements to achieve most EU targets by 2030. The [conservation status of EU habitats and species](#) remains a major concern, and the [common farmland birds](#) (Figure 2) and [grassland butterflies](#) indices show continued decline.

Figure 2. Common bird index in the EU, 1990-2023

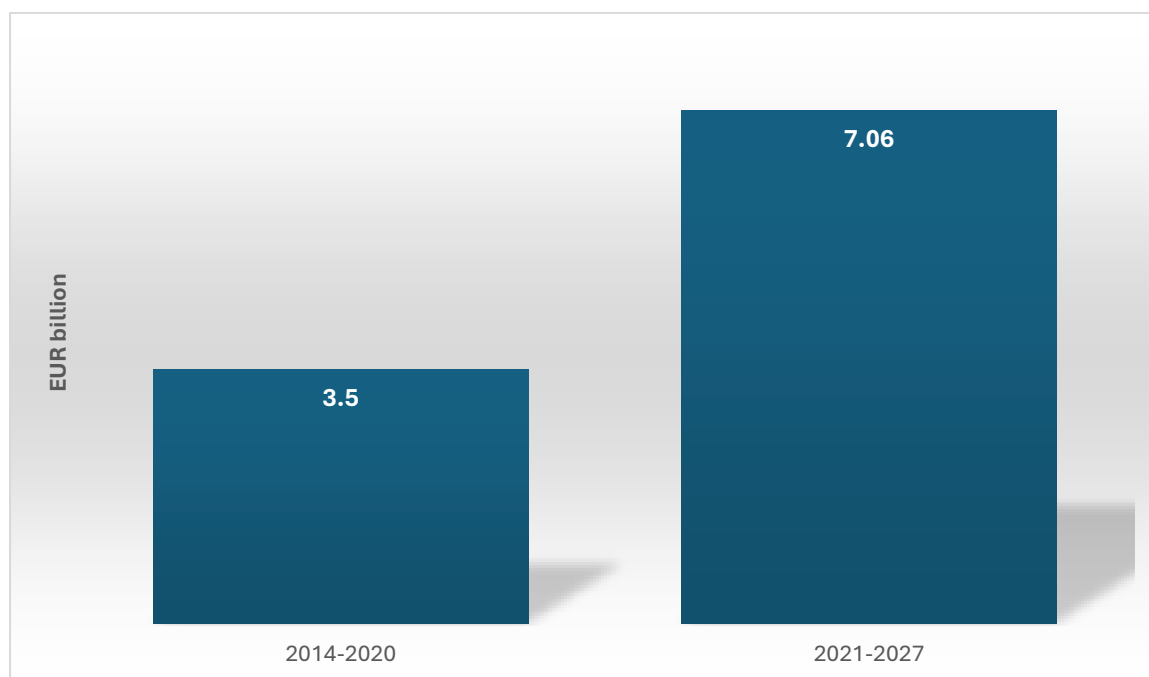
Population index (1990=100)



Source: [European Environment Agency](#) (EEA)

The EU and its Member States together are the largest provider of international biodiversity financing to developing countries, in particular to the most vulnerable countries. The EU is fully on track to deliver on its commitment to **double EU international biodiversity financing**, in particular for the most vulnerable countries, compared to the previous financial framework (from EUR 3.5 bn for the 2014-2020 budget period, to EUR 7 bn for the 2021-2027 budget period) (Figure 4). The EU thereby provides substantial financing and investments in third countries and contributes to many global biodiversity initiatives.

Figure 3. EU external biodiversity financing

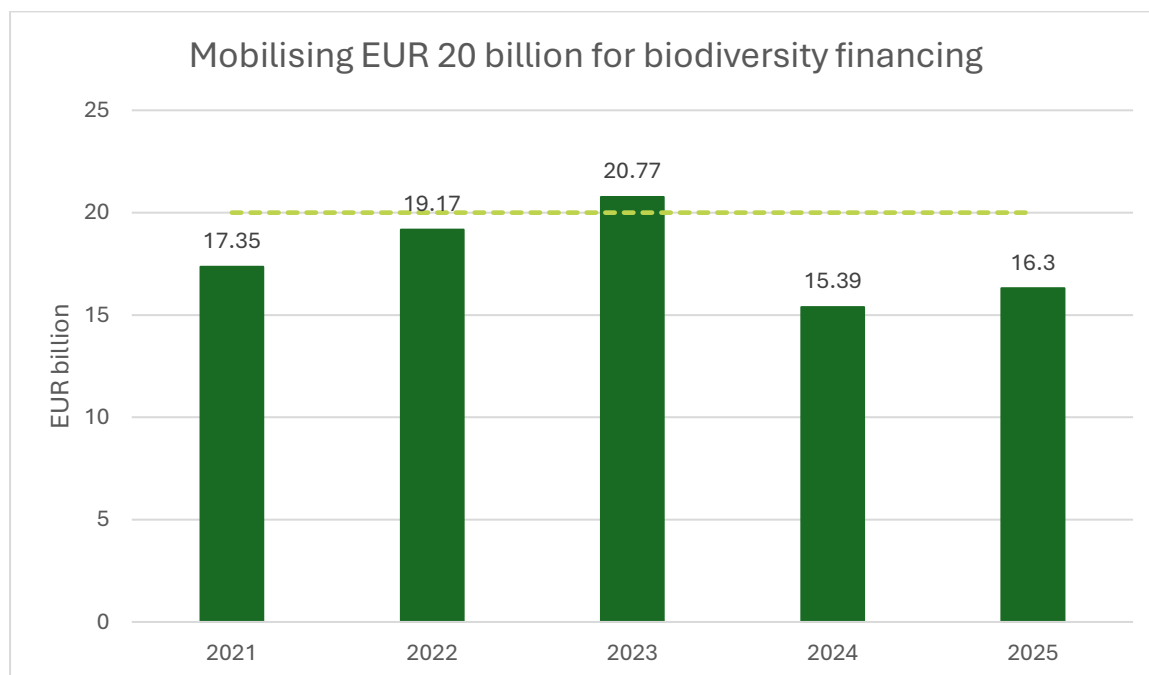


Source: [2026 Statement of estimates of the European Commission](#).

In order to mobilise the necessary financing for biodiversity in the EU, the EU budget for 2021-2027 sets a target to invest 7.5% of the total budget in biodiversity in 2024, rising to 10% in 2026 and 2027. The EU has exceeded the 7.5% spending target in 2024 (7,6% allocated to biodiversity, i.e. EUR 14.4 billion) and in 2025 (7,9%, EUR 15.18 billion). Estimates from budgetary planning for 2026 and 2027 indicate that financing for biodiversity from the EU budget is projected to be around 7.8% and 8%, respectively.

The EU has also made significant progress on increasing the level of financial resources for biodiversity from all sources. The EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 estimates the financing needs for its implementation at EUR 20 billion per year, to be mobilised from both the EU budget and co-financing from Member States, the private sector and multilateral development banks. However, later estimates suggest significantly higher investment needs, taking into account the implementation of new legislation adopted after the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 (notably the EU Nature Restoration Regulation (2024) and the EU Soil Monitoring and Resilience Directive (2025)). The EUR 20 billion mark was almost achieved in 2022, and overachieved in 2023, drawing on EU budget spending as well as Next Generation EU, and the related mobilised co-financing from national budgets and private finance (which, however, does not cover funding from all sources due to insufficient data at the EU level). EU-mobilised funding from these sources has decreased in 2024 and 2025 (see figure 4 below).

Figure 4: Financing for biodiversity from the EU budget, related co-financing from national budgets and private finance mobilised via the Invest EU instrument.



Source: [Joint Research Centre](#)

Efforts are underway to increase funding levels for biodiversity by mobilising finance from all sources, with close monitoring of progress. Such efforts include, for example, the EU’s Nature Credits initiative that aims to create a framework for the financing of biodiversity-positive actions, by incentivising private investments in biodiversity and ecosystem restoration, as well as work under the Finance for Biodiversity Community of Practice of the [EU Business and Biodiversity Platform](#).

2.3. Main implementation challenges encountered, and approaches to tackle them

Key challenges identified across targets relate to facilitating effective implementation and include ensuring financing, resources, capacities and continuous support for implementation, while tackling competing interests and addressing trade-offs.

The wider context in which EU environmental policy is being implemented has also shifted. At a time of global instability and new security challenges, investing in nature and building resilience are essential for Europe’s future. It also makes strong business sense, as every euro invested can yield strong returns.

A challenging but essential task in this context has been to deliver on the ambition of EU environmental policies, further integrate the value of biodiversity into socio-economic development strategies and measures and help authorities and stakeholders to comply with EU requirements in a way that eliminates unnecessary burden. Dialogue with

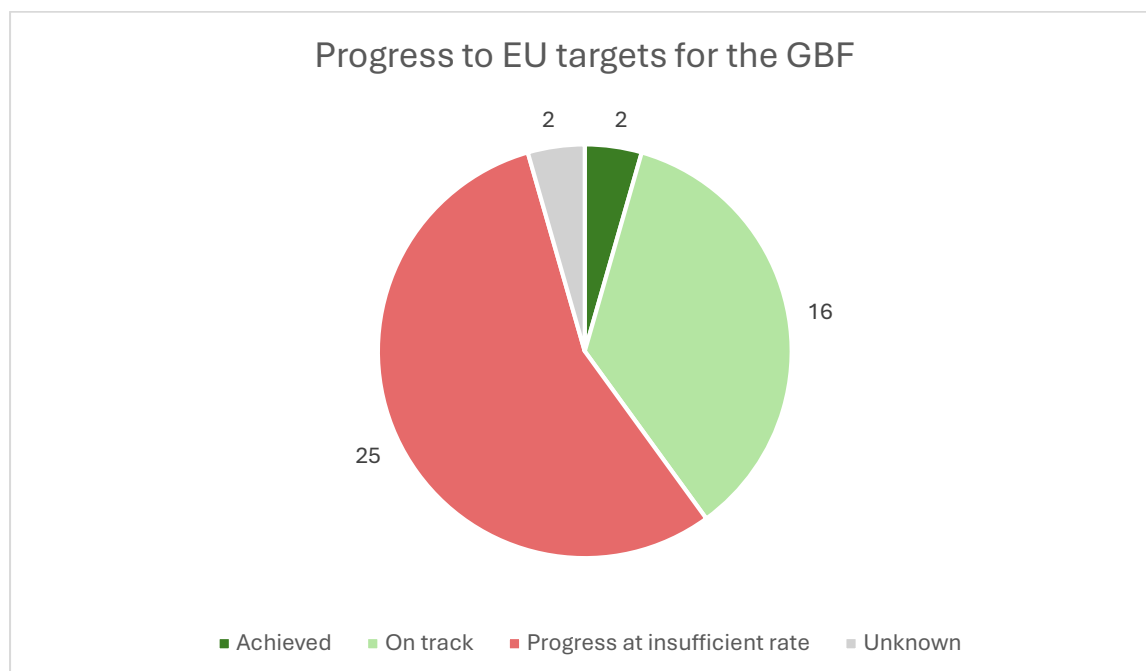
authorities and stakeholders in the Member States continues in order to tackle difficulties and ensure broad support for implementation. Finally, for achieving the GBF targets, Member States need to continue prioritising the implementation of relevant EU policies and legislation.

2.4. Overall progress towards the EU targets for the KM GBF

The EU has made progress in putting in place a comprehensive policy and legal framework for biodiversity. Delivering on the EU and global biodiversity targets will ultimately depend on the full implementation of existing legislation and policy. A certain time lag can be expected between putting in place the policy framework and its implementation, between implementation and improvements on the ground, and between improvements on the ground and data reporting.

In a number of areas, assessments show progress in implementation and improvements on the ground, but at a rate that would need to be increased to deliver on the EU's targets for the KM GBF by 2030. This report indicates that the EU has so far fully achieved 2 of its targets for the GBF and is on track to deliver on 16 further EU targets. However, at the current rate, 25 out of the 45 targets risk not to be met by 2030. For two targets, the level of progress could not be assessed for the 7NR because of insufficient of EU-level data or global methodology.

Figure 5: Progress to EU targets for the GBF



Annex III to this Staff Working Document provides a detailed target-by-target assessment of EU progress towards each of the biodiversity targets for 2030.

3. CONCLUSIONS ON EU PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING THE KM GBF

Significant progress has been made in strengthening the EU-level legislative and policy framework for biodiversity protection, restoration and sustainable use. Overall, a solid start was made in implementing this framework and now it needs to be fully implemented on the ground to deliver all the desired results. While results are encouraging on a number of fronts, in several areas available indicators suggest that the current rate of implementation needs to be stepped up in order to achieve all 45 EU targets for the KM GBF by 2030. Key challenges across targets concern effective implementation: ensuring financing, resources, capacities and stakeholder support, while tackling competing priorities in the current geopolitical climate, reconciling policy objectives at all levels and integrating the immense value of healthy ecosystems and their services into socio-economic strategies and measures. The EU and its Member States lead on providing international biodiversity funding and continue efforts to protect nature and reverse the degradation of ecosystems.

European Union's 7th National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity on progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

Note: Annexes I to V below present the content of the EU's 7th National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity on progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, as it will be uploaded on the CBD Online Reporting Tool.

- Annex I corresponds to the content of the EU's report under Section I of the CBD reporting template.
- Annex II corresponds to the content of the EU's report under Section II of the CBD reporting template.
- Annex III corresponds to the content of the EU's report under Section III of the CBD reporting template.
- Annex IV corresponds to the content of the EU's report under Section IV of the CBD reporting template.
- Annex V corresponds to the content of the EU's report under Section V of the CBD reporting template.

ANNEX I. BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE PROCESS OF PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT

This section of the EU's 7NR to the CBD is contained in sub-chapter 1.5 above.

ANNEX II. STATUS OF THE EU'S NBSAP IN ALIGNMENT WITH THE KUNMING-MONTREAL GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

1. Has your country revised or updated its national biodiversity strategy and action plan in alignment with the Framework?

- Yes
- No
- In progress

2. Did your country involve and engage stakeholders in revising or updating its national biodiversity strategy and action plan?

- Yes
- No
- In progress
- If the answer is “yes”, please select among the following (drop-down menu):
 - Indigenous peoples and local communities
 - Women
 - Youth
 - Local and/or subnational government
 - Private sector
 - Other stakeholders**

Please specify other stakeholders:

Experts from national and sub-national authorities in the EU Member States, citizens and stakeholders (including civil society organisations, representatives of land and sea use sectors, research and academia and business) had the opportunity to provide written input through an online public consultation on the [evaluation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020](#), a [call for evidence](#) on the upcoming EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, discussions in the framework of the Coordination Group for Biodiversity and Nature (EU expert group), and in other contexts, including a dedicated EU Biodiversity Conference in 2019.

3. Has your country's revised or updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan been adopted as a policy or a legal instrument, and/or integrated into other strategies?

- Yes
- No
- In progress
- Other

4. If the answer to question 3 is “yes”, indicate how your country's revised or updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan has been adopted.

- Adopted through legislation or other by parliament

- Adopted by the Council of Ministers, the Office of the President or of the Prime Minister, or an equivalent body
- Adopted by the Ministry of the Environment or another sectoral ministry
- Integrated into the poverty reduction strategy, sustainable development strategy, national development plan or another related strategy or plan

Other (please specify)

Adopted by the European Commission, endorsed in Council Conclusions and European Parliament Resolution

5. Briefly describe the national biodiversity monitoring system and how it tracks progress in the implementation of the national biodiversity strategy and action plan.

This section of the EU's 7NR to the CBD is contained in sub-chapters (iii) and (ii) above.

ANNEX III: EU TARGET-BY-TARGET PROGRESS ASSESSMENT

This report focuses on actions undertaken since 2020. The EU [target submission](#) provides an overview of applicable measures and tools that contribute to achieving each EU target. Separate submissions of EU Member States will set out further actions for the implementation of each target at the national level.

EU Target 1: Biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning

Support biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning, notably as regards marine and coastal areas, cities and for fostering nature-based solutions and for achieving no net land take by 2050.

i. Main actions undertaken since 2020 to implement the target

In the EU, the competences for spatial planning lie at the national (Member States), sub-national or local level. The EU itself has no general competence in this field. Nevertheless, EU legal, policy and funding instruments can significantly influence spatial planning and developments in the Member States.

Under the [EU Habitats Directive](#), EU Member States are required to set site-specific conservation objectives, as well as management and restoration measures for each site within the EU's Natura 2000 network of protected areas. Such active conservation measures have an impact on other land use decisions. Article 6 further requires the prevention of environmental damage by all sectors, and the assessment of the impact of plans and projects (including zoning plans) on Natura 2000 sites. The Habitats Directive also requires Member States to endeavour, in their land-use planning and development policies, to encourage the management of landscape features of major importance for wild fauna and flora. This provision will be reinforced by the implementation of the EU Nature Restoration Regulation (see below), for example through the restoration of river connectivity and the functions of floodplains.

The EU adopted, in 2024, a [Nature Restoration Regulation](#) with the aim to put in place effective area-based restoration measures that cover, by 2030, at least 20% of the EU's land and sea areas and, by 2050, all ecosystems in need of restoration. In order to achieve this objective, the NRR sets time-bound restoration targets for different ecosystems, including terrestrial, coastal, freshwater, marine, urban, river, agriculture and forest ecosystems, as well as for pollinator populations. Member States are required to develop national restoration plans including the areas to be restored to reach these restoration targets, indicative maps of potential areas to be restored, and a description of restoration measures put in place or planned. In the context of these plans, Member States are to consider other measures taken to protect, conserve and restore nature, measures in the areas of agriculture and forestry, actions in the area of climate change and disaster prevention, as well as synergies with the build-up of renewable energies. The Regulation provides that each Member States must submit a draft national restoration plan by 1 September 2026. In order to support implementation by the Member States, the Commission published, in 2025, an [Implementing Regulation](#) on a uniform format for national restoration plans.

The EU [Maritime Spatial Planning Directive](#) (MSPD) aims to promote the sustainable development of maritime economies and sustainable use of marine resources. It

requires Member States to establish and implement maritime spatial plans (MSP) that set out where and how activities like shipping, fishing, energy, aquaculture and conservation take place, while considering land-sea interactions and applying an ecosystem-based approach. The [EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030](#) also aims to ensure consistency of MSP with the EU's biodiversity objectives. Out of the 22 EU Member States with marine areas, 20 have submitted to the Commission maritime spatial plans under the MSPD, and the remaining two are in the process of adoption. The Commission further provides administrative and technical support to EU Member States in implementing the MSPD, for example via the [European MSP Platform](#). In 2021, the Commission published [Guidelines for implementing an ecosystem-based approach in maritime spatial planning](#). In 2022, it published a [progress report](#) under the MSPD and an assessment of [MSPD relevance in the context of the European Green Deal](#). In 2023, the [European Blue Forum](#) was launched to facilitate a dialogue between offshore operators, stakeholders and scientists on synergies between maritime activities, and to reconcile sea uses. The Commission also maintains online resources such as [MSP tools and guidance](#), a [Best practice database](#), [FAQ](#) and [MSP Studies](#) on different topics in the EU's marine regions (such as on implementing Strategic Environmental Assessments, engaging Indigenous Peoples and local communities in MSP, and synergies among policy objectives). The EU has also supported transboundary maritime spatial planning with funding from the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund, amounting to EUR 41 million for 30 projects until 2023.

The EU [Marine Strategy Framework Directive \(MSFD\)](#) requires EU Member States to achieve or maintain Good Environmental Status (GES) of EU marine waters by 2020 and beyond. In line with the MSPD, the MSFD reflects the requirement for Member States to apply an ecosystem-based approach to the management of human activities, as well as to ensure that the collective pressure of human activities is kept within levels compatible with the achievement of GES, and that the capacity of marine ecosystems to respond to human-induced changes is not compromised. Member States must adopt marine strategies defining environmental targets and programmes of measures. The European Commission published an [evaluation of](#) the MSFD in March 2025. While recognising its achievements, the evaluation highlighted the continued decline of the marine environment and biodiversity, and certain inefficiencies and complexities in the way the Directive operates. The EU [Water Resilience Strategy](#) and the [European Ocean Pact](#), published in June 2025, announced the [revision of the MSFD](#).

The EU [Water Framework Directive \(WFD\)](#) aims to protect and restore rivers, lakes, transitional and coastal water bodies, as well as groundwater, as well as to promote sustainable water use, improve the aquatic environment, reduce pollution and mitigate the effects of floods and droughts. These objectives are implemented through [River Basin Management Plans \(RBMP\)](#). RBMP have a spatially explicit planning component that interacts with, and sets prescriptions for, land use planning. The EU [Floods Directive](#) requires [flood risk assessments and management plans](#) which influence zoning and development as part of integrated river basin management. To support the integration of

nature-based solutions into flood risk management, the European Environment Agency (EEA) published, in 2021, a report on [Nature-based solutions in Europe: Policy, knowledge and practice for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction](#). The EEA also maintains a [flood risk areas viewer](#), presenting the areas in the EU which, according to national authorities, carry a potentially significant flood risk. The [7th WFD Implementation Report](#) was published in 2024 and provides an assessment of the implementation of the WFD by Member States in their third RBMPs (covering the period 2022-2027), and of the implementation of the Floods Directive in their second flood risk management plans. This will pave the way for structured bilateral dialogues between the Commission and each Member State in the course of 2025 and 2026, in order to discuss the deficiencies identified and consider measures to overcome them. On 3 December 2025, in the context of the [RESourceEU Action Plan](#), the Commission announced the revision of the Water Framework Directive.

The EU [Strategic Environmental Assessment \(SEA\) Directive](#) aims to ensure a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations in plans and programmes, including in relation to land use, transport, energy, waste and agriculture. It requires that certain plans and programmes prepared by public authorities undergo environmental assessment before adoption, in order to integrate environmental considerations into the early stages of decision-making. In 2025, the Commission published a [Study supporting the preparation of the Commission's third report on the application and effectiveness of the SEA Directive](#) (see Section iii).

The EU [Regulation on land, land use change and forestry \(LULUCF\)](#) requires Member States to manage land so as to protect and increase Europe's natural carbon sinks. It covers all land uses and the impacts of policies and activities in various sectors that affect natural carbon sinks. Member States must integrate land use considerations into their [National Energy and Climate Plans \(NECPs\)](#) and [CAP Strategic Plans](#), ensuring alignment with the targets set in the Regulation. The LULUCF Regulation was amended in 2023 as part of the [Fit for 55](#) package to implement the more ambitious 2030 target set under the [EU Climate Law](#). The amendments include strengthened synergies with biodiversity monitoring and reporting which can help identify priority areas with the potential to contribute to climate action and biodiversity. To support Member States in designing and implementing land sector policies, the EEA and the European Commission's Directorate-General for Climate Action published in 2024 a [LULUCF handbook](#) with practical tips, examples and case studies from Member States. It includes chapters on synergies between LULUCF, the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 and the EU Nature Restoration Regulation, the EU Forest Strategy and proposed forest legislation, the EU Soil Strategy and proposed soil legislation, as well as the EU Regulation on deforestation-free products.

The [EU Soil Strategy](#) establishes that the EU should achieve no net land take by 2050. Member States should set, by 2023, national, regional and local targets to reduce net

land take by 2030, and report on progress, as well as integrate the land take hierarchy into Urban Nature Plans. The Commission is developing guidance to mitigate soil sealing and land take. The [Directive on Soil Monitoring and Resilience](#) adopted in 2025 includes land take mitigation principles in line with the land take hierarchy, which should be taken into consideration by Member States at the appropriate spatial level in case of new soil sealing and soil removal. Furthermore, the Directive provides a framework for the monitoring of soil sealing, soil removal and land take, and requires the Commission and the EEA to develop remote sensing solutions. The Directive sets out that the Commission is to draw up documents and develop scientific tools to help Member States carry out their obligations, including in relation to determining the values of soil sealing and soil removal, and identifying the resulting loss of ecosystem services.

The [Territorial Agenda 2030 of the European Union](#), paragraph 54 calls for supporting nature-based solutions and green and blue infrastructure networks that link ecosystems and protected areas in spatial planning, land management and other policies; and paragraph 56 calls for empowering local and regional communities to protect and restore landscapes, enhancing integrated territorial or local development.

The integration of biodiversity support measures and nature-based solutions in spatial planning and management can be supported by key EU funding instruments, for example those under the common agricultural policy and the common fisheries policy, cohesion policy funds (notably the European Regional Development Fund and the Cohesion Fund) and the LIFE Programme. Furthermore, the Do-No-Significant-Harm (DNSH) principle aims to ensure that EU policies and programmes do not have a negative impact on the EU's climate and environmental objectives, including on the protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems. For more information on the application of the DNSH principle in the EU, see Target 18b.

The [EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030](#) aims to ensure that all cities with more than 20,000 inhabitants will have an ambitious urban greening plan by 2030. To support authorities in this work, the Commission published, in 2021, [technical guidance](#) on urban nature, and set up an [EU Urban Nature Platform](#) (see also [Action Tracker](#)). The [Nature Restoration Regulation](#), adopted in 2024, sets a target to ensure no net loss of urban green space and urban tree canopy cover at national level by 2030, and an increasing trend thereafter in each urban ecosystem area. For more information, see the report on Target 12.

The [Offshore Renewable Energy Strategy](#) (2020) and the [Communication “Delivering on the EU offshore renewable energy ambition”](#) (2023) encourage a holistic approach to national maritime spatial planning (MSP) as regards the development of energy infrastructures, notably through the inclusion of areas for multiple uses when revising national MSPs. This would facilitate permitting processes and co-existence of offshore developments, notably with nature protection measures. The Commission has developed a [tool](#) to map and help identify suitable [areas](#) where accelerated permitting

for renewable energy projects would not be expected to have significant environmental effects (giving priority to man-made environments, and excluding Natura 2000 sites, national protected areas, bird and marine mammal migratory routes, and other areas identified based on sensitivity maps). The [revised TEN-E Regulation](#) (2022) introduced mandatory sustainability criteria and coordinated offshore grid planning to ensure cross-border energy infrastructure development minimizes biodiversity impacts through early, integrated spatial planning. The [Renewable Energy Directive III revision](#) (2023) requires Member States to map renewable potential and designate low-impact renewable acceleration areas, embedding biodiversity considerations directly into renewable energy spatial planning and permitting. A [Commission Recommendations on innovative technologies and forms of renewable energy deployment](#) (2025) supports this goal by promoting innovative forms of deployment, such as agrisolar and floating solar, that optimise the utilisation of space by combining multiple activities on the same piece of land or water, and by integrating offshore renewables into Maritime Spatial Plans that coordinate with biodiversity conservation. A [Commission communication on the establishment of grid and storage infrastructure areas](#) (2025) promotes a biodiversity-conscious approach to spatial planning by instructing Member States to designate areas where energy projects have no significant environmental impact, or where any such impacts can be duly mitigated or compensated for. The [Grids Package](#) (2025) proposes amendments to REDIII that prohibit the designation of large areas where the installation of renewable energy plants and their related infrastructure is restricted due to environmental reasons, and allows for the repowering of sites that occupy the same land surface to be exempt from screening requirements.

Under the EU Horizon Europe Programme that supports research and innovation, [Cluster 6](#) (Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment) supports, among other intervention areas, research and innovation for biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning, developing ecological continuity and increased effectiveness of protected areas, developing ecological continuities (see [CORDIS](#) database).

ii. Current level of progress towards the target

- On track to achieve target
- Progress made but at an insufficient rate
- No significant progress
- Not applicable
- Unknown
- Achieved

iii. Summary of progress towards the target and main outcomes achieved

Spatial planning is ultimately national competence, and the individual 7th national reports of the 27 EU Member States are likely to provide much more detail on national-level progress, impacts on the ground and challenges encountered.

Nevertheless, several EU legal and funding instruments support the integration of biodiversity into spatial planning in the Member States (see Part 1), and since 2020, the relevant EU legal framework has been further enhanced, notably with the adoption of the [Nature Restoration Regulation](#), the [revised LULUCF Regulation](#) and the [Directive on Soil Monitoring and Resilience](#).

Most of the EU's territory is subject to some form of spatial planning at national, regional or local levels. For example, Maritime Spatial Plans under the EU Maritime Spatial Planning Directive have been put in place in all but two of the [EU Member States that have marine areas](#). These plans cover almost all coastal and marine waters in the EU, and most include protected areas designation measures, buffer and exclusion zones for activities near sensitive habitats, or cumulative impact assessments of human uses on ecosystems. Under the MSFD, Member States were due to submit updated programmes of measures by March 2022. By the time of publication of the Commission [assessment of the Member States' programmes of measures](#) (2025), 17 of the 22 Member States with marine areas had submitted such reports. Under the EU Water Framework Directive and the EU Floods Directive, twenty Member States had adopted and reported their third RBMPs, and twenty-one Member States had adopted and submitted their second FRMPs by 2025.

The share of Natura 2000 sites that have a management plan increased by 8.7 percentage points between 2020 (when 11,378 out of the 26,935 designated Natura 2000 sites, or 42.2%, had a management plan) and 2023 (when 13,831 out of the 27,165 designated sites, or 50.9%, had a management plan). However, there is no EU requirement to adopt a management plan for every Natura 2000 site, nor to report to the EU on site-specific objectives and measures. This means that the Natura 2000 management plans reported by Member States to the EU only give an indication of the scale of national efforts in setting site-specific conservation objectives and measures. Much more information may be available in national databases.

A [Study on the application and effectiveness of the EU Strategic Environmental Assessment \(SEA\) Directive](#) reported that, according to stakeholders, the SEA Directive had contributed to environmental protection, particularly by addressing biodiversity. The study has found that the number of SEAs carried out between 2015 and 2021 varied considerably between Member States, with estimates ranging from 13 to around 21,000, and an average of around 2,500 per Member State over the period. Most SEAs focused on land use and spatial planning, including modifications to such plans.

The European Commission has also been providing assistance for the integration of biodiversity into spatial planning through guidance and technical support (for example on applying the ecosystem-based approach in Maritime Spatial Planning, or on urban

greening plans), facilitating experience exchange, encouraging the integration of biodiversity support measures and the DNSH principle as part of national programming of EU funding instruments (under the common agricultural policy, the common fisheries policy, cohesion policy funds and the LIFE Programme), and by supporting relevant research under [Horizon Europe Missions](#) (on healthy soils, ocean and water restoration, climate adaptation, smart cities).

iv. Summary of key challenges encountered and approaches for further implementation

Further work is needed to ensure the implementation of relevant EU provisions. Notably, two EU Member States have yet to submit Maritime Spatial Plans that were due in 2021 under the Maritime Spatial Planning Directive.

A [Study on the application and effectiveness of the EU SEA Directive](#) (2025) identifies common challenges that include integrating SEA into planning processes, assessing cumulative and long-term effects, and how to assess the potential impacts of generic plans. Resource constraints, such as lack of qualified staff and high demand for SEAs, are reported to exacerbate these problems, resulting in costs and delays. Over a third of Member States report difficulties in assessing cumulative and synergistic effects. Challenges described by Member States in baseline reporting include data availability, quality and fragmentation, as well as overly general or overly long descriptions that lack relevance to the specific plan or programme.

A recent evaluation of the EU [Marine Strategy Framework Directive \(MSFD\)](#) (March 2025) concluded that the ecosystem-based approach had not been fully applied to ensure sustainable spatial planning and the management of human activities at sea. Based on these findings, the Commission has announced that it would review the MSFD to improve its effectiveness, while reducing unnecessary administrative burden.

The EU Member State average rate of [net land take](#) increased by about 32% in cities and their commuting zones, from 410km²/year during 2012-2018 to 540km²/year in 2018-2021. According to the [State of Europe's Environment 2025 report](#) by the EEA, between 2005 and 2023, the settlement area in the EU-27 increased by about 14%. Most conversions affected cropland and pastures, followed by forests. As demand for land is expected to increase and land resources are limited, the report concludes that the EU target of 'no net land take by 2050' is unlikely to be met, and stresses the need to limit trade-offs and encourage multifunctional land use planning, for example by combining nature conservation and carbon sequestration.

v. *Examples of effective implementation*

Under the Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) Directive, Member States have to adopt and implement Maritime Spatial Plans. The [European Maritime Spatial Planning Platform](#) provides a central information and communication gateway offering information and support to EU Member States' officials, planners and stakeholders in their efforts to implement MSP. It provides information on the MSP process in each of the [European Sea Basins](#), and on national MSP processes on its [Country pages](#). The [MSP Library](#) includes [studies](#), [best practices](#), [tools](#), [guidance](#) and [videos](#), while a [co-existence and multi-use of activities](#) page provides extensive information about the challenges, enablers and real-life multi-use case studies in [a dedicated database](#).

vi. *Relevance to Sustainable Development Goals or other related agreements*

The implementation of this target contributes to the implementation of SDGs 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), 13 (Climate Action), 14 (Life Below Water) and 15 (Life on Land).

vii. *Indicators to assess progress towards the target*

Headline:

- A.1 Red List of Ecosystems (under development)
- A.2 Extent of natural ecosystems (partly reported - terrestrial)
- 1.1 Percentage of land and sea area covered by biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning (pending global methodology)

Binary indicator 1.b (see **Binary question 1.b** in Annex VI for detail on EU responses)

- 1.b Number of countries using participatory, integrated and biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning and/or effective management processes addressing land- and sea-use change to bring the loss of areas of high biodiversity importance close to zero by 2030

EU Target 2: Restoring degraded ecosystems

Restore degraded ecosystems throughout the EU, notably through putting in place effective and area-based restoration measures that cover, by 2030, at least 20% of the EU's land and 20% of EU's sea areas and, by 2050, all ecosystems in need of restoration, thereby, inter alia, by 2030, improving to good condition 30% of identified habitat types that are not in good condition.

i. Main actions undertaken since 2020 to implement the target

In 2024, the EU adopted a [Nature Restoration Regulation](#) (NRR) with the general objective to put in place effective area-based restoration measures that cover, by 2030, at least 20% of the EU's land and sea areas and, by 2050, all ecosystems in need of restoration. Articles 4-12 of the Regulation set binding targets for the restoration of protected terrestrial and marine habitats, agricultural, forest, freshwater, coastal, marine and urban ecosystems, as well as pollinators. Member States are required to develop and submit, by 1 September 2026, draft national restoration plans (NRP) including the areas to be restored to reach these restoration targets, indicative maps of potential areas to be restored and a description of restoration measures put in place or planned. A [uniform format](#) for the national restoration plans was published by the European Commission in May 2025. Member States must also monitor and report on their progress in implementing the regulation, based on EU-wide biodiversity indicators. To support these efforts, the Commission published, in 2025, [EU guidance on developing monitoring methodologies on high-diversity landscape features](#), and [a science-based method for monitoring pollinator diversity and populations](#). The adoption of the NRR delivers on Target 4 of the [EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030](#). It also sets in legislation several ecosystem-specific restoration targets of the EU Biodiversity Strategy (see [biodiversity Action Tracker](#)).

The revision of the EU [Regulation on land, land use change and forestry \(LULUCF\)](#) (2023) aimed, among others, to enhance governance and promote transparency and links between climate and environmental protection measures, including synergies between climate and biodiversity. When preparing their national restoration plans under the NRR, Member States have to identify synergies with climate change mitigation, climate change adaptation, land degradation neutrality and disaster prevention, and prioritise restoration measures accordingly, taking into account their integrated national energy and climate plans (as referred to under Article 3 of the [Regulation on the Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action](#)). The Commission monitors the progress of the EU as a whole, in particular as part of the annual [State of the Energy Union report](#). Member States report on progress made in implementing their energy and climate policies, including their national energy and climate plans, every two years. They reported for the first time in March 2023. The Commission [report on the functioning of the Governance](#)

[Regulation](#) (2024) highlighted that there is scope to enhance coherence and synergies with other policy areas, including biodiversity.

The EU [Habitats Directive](#) and the [Birds Directive](#) include provisions on habitat conservation measures, including restoration. EU Member States produce Prioritised Action Frameworks (PAFs) to define their funding needs and priorities for implementation. Based on national PAFs for 2021-2027, the Commission produced, in 2023, an [EU level](#) assessment of investment priorities and needs to maintain and restore the EU Natura 2000 network of protected areas, further develop green infrastructure and implement species-specific measures.

Under the [Water Framework Directive \(WFD\)](#), Member States develop River Basin Management Plans (RBMP) every six years. These RBMP include, among other elements, programmes of measures to achieve or maintain good ecological status of surface waters. Such measures can include the restoration of floodplains and wetlands and the re-naturalisation of water regimes. The European Commission published, in 2025, the [WFD implementation assessment reports](#) that provide an overview of the already submitted Member States' third national RBMPs (2022-2027). On 3 December 2025, in the context of the [RESourceEU Action Plan](#), the Commission announced the revision of the Water Framework Directive. All RBMP assessed have reported a variety of measures to reduce the negative impacts of hydro-morphological pressures in all river basin districts, by improving flow regimes, restoring river continuity, and/or ensuring ecological flows. In 2022, the European Commission produced a [technical note](#) to support Member States in the identification and removal of obsolete barriers to restore free-flowing rivers. This supports the implementation of the Nature Restoration Regulation, as well as Target 11 of the [EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030](#) (see biodiversity [Action Tracker](#)). In June 2024, the European Commission's Joint Research Centre published [Criteria for identifying free-flowing river stretches for the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030](#). In June 2025, the European Commission published a [Water Resilience Strategy](#) that aims to work towards water resilience, including by restoring and protecting the water cycle from source to sea, and encourages green infrastructure development. A [Water Resilience Strategy Actions Tracker](#) provides information on progress in the implementation of its main actions.

In 2025, the Commission reported on its [assessment of the reports from Member States](#) under the [Marine Strategy Framework Directive \(MSFD\)](#). The Commission found areas where progress had been made but also highlighted gaps in efforts to reduce marine pollution and to protect and restore marine biodiversity. The EU [Water Resilience Strategy](#) and the [European Ocean Pact](#) Communications announced that the Commission would revise the MSFD. In addition, the European Ocean Pact seeks to set out a unified approach for managing the ocean. It builds around six priorities, including restoring ocean health and productivity, and strengthening EU ocean diplomacy and international ocean governance.

Under the Horizon Europe Research and Innovation Framework Programme, the [EU Mission: restore our Oceans and Waters](#) tackles one of our most pressing challenges: restoring the health of the ocean, seas, and inland waters-by-2030. Through research and innovation, public engagement, and targeted blue investments, this Mission takes a systemic approach to protect and restore marine and freshwater ecosystems and biodiversity, prevent and eliminate pollution of our ocean, seas and waters, and make the sustainable blue economy carbon-neutral and circular.

Under the EU [Common Fisheries Policy](#) (CFP), the European Commission presented, in February 2023, a package of measures to improve the sustainability and resilience of the EU's fisheries and aquaculture sector. Among them, the [EU Action Plan: Protecting and restoring marine ecosystems for sustainable and resilient fisheries](#) includes actions to reduce the impact of fishing on the seabed both inside and outside marine protected areas, thus contributing to the restoration of seabed habitats, as well as transitioning to more selective gear and protecting sensitive species, among other actions.

The [Common Agricultural Policy \(CAP\) Strategic Plans Regulation](#) for the period 2023-2027 includes a specific objective to contribute to halting and reversing biodiversity loss, enhance ecosystem services and preserve habitats and landscapes. In their CAP Strategic Plans, Member States are encouraged to integrate biodiversity support measures such as the establishment and retention of landscape features and fallow land, high nature value farming systems and agroecological practices. These measures can be supported through eco-schemes and agri-environment-climate interventions under rural development. This also contributes to the implementation of the targets and actions set in the [EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030](#) to restore and ensure the sustainable management of agroecosystems (including target 5 to reduce the decline of pollinators, and target 7 to restore high-diversity landscape features on at least 10% of agricultural land – for more information on these actions, see the biodiversity [Action Tracker](#)).

The [revised EU Pollinators Initiative: A new deal for pollinators](#) delivers on target 5 of the [EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030](#). Under Priority II (Improve pollinator conservation and tackle the causes of their decline), it envisages actions to restore pollinator habitats in agricultural landscapes and in urban areas. This will be further supported by the implementation of measures to reverse the decline of pollinator populations by 2030, as required under the Nature Restoration Regulation.

The [EU Soil Strategy for 2030](#) was adopted in 2021 and sets out a framework and concrete measures to protect and restore soils, and ensure that they are used sustainably. It sets a vision and objectives to achieve healthy soils by 2050, with concrete actions by 2030 (see biodiversity [Action Tracker](#)). The [Directive on Soil Monitoring and Resilience](#), adopted in 2025, aims to achieve healthy soils by 2050. The new law includes provisions to identify and investigate potentially contaminated sites and to address unacceptable risks from contaminated sites. Member States have to encourage and support

landowners and managers to improve soil health and soil resilience. Member States also have to report every 6 years on progress. The [EU Mission: A Soil Deal for Europe](#) under Horizon Europe funds research and innovation on soil health and soil monitoring, with the aim to co-create knowledge, test solutions and demonstrate their value in real-life conditions.

The [EU Forest Strategy for 2030](#) (2021) includes actions to protect, restore and enlarge forests in the EU to combat climate change, reverse biodiversity loss and ensure resilient and multifunctional forest ecosystems. In 2023, the Commission published voluntary guidelines on [biodiversity-friendly reforestation and afforestation](#) and on [closer-to-nature forestry](#).

The [Environmental Liability Directive](#) includes provisions on remediating damage to species and natural habitats protected under the [Birds Directive](#) and [Habitats Directive](#), jointly qualified as ‘biodiversity damage.’ The ELD provides for damage remediation in kind, through primary, complementary and compensatory measures.

ii. Current level of progress towards the target

- On track to achieve target
- Progress made but at an insufficient rate
- No significant progress
- Not applicable
- Unknown
- Achieved

iii. Summary of progress towards the target and main outcomes achieved

Since 2020, the EU legal and policy framework for biodiversity restoration has been strengthened, notably with the adoption of the Nature Restoration Regulation, the provision of guidance for restoration measures in different ecosystems (free-flowing rivers, urban nature, forests) and opportunities to finance restoration measures under EU funding instruments such as those under the common agricultural policy and the common fisheries policy, cohesion and regional development funds, and support for research under Horizon Europe.

Continued progress to the target will depend on implementation of the legal provisions in the Member States. As a first step, Member States are due to submit to the European Commission draft national restoration plans by September 2026. Member States must put in place effective area-based restoration measures that cover, by 2030, at least 20% of the EU’s land and sea areas and, by 2050, all ecosystems in need of restoration.

iv. Summary of key challenges encountered and approaches for further implementation

While restoration efforts are already ongoing in all Member States (see examples below), there is no full EU-level overview of the current scale of these efforts. More information on restoration efforts and challenges is likely to be available in the individual Member States' 7th national reports to the CBD. As of 2028, and at least once every 3 years thereafter, Member States will report on areas subject to restoration measures (among other data to be provided), and the EEA will produce technical overview reports on this basis. As of 2031, Member States will report on a 6-year basis on the implementation of their national restoration plans, and the EEA will produce technical progress reports.

Biodiversity indicators, such as those on birds and grassland pollinators, reveal continuing declining trends. The EU's carbon sink related to land use, land use change and forestry has declined by about 30% compared to the last decade. Measures to improve the state of species and restore habitats require time and resources.

The investment needs at EU level are estimated at EUR 11.8 - 13.1 billion annually. As noted in the [Roadmap towards nature credits](#) (2025), a combination of public and private finance is crucial to achieve the necessary scale and speed.

v. Examples of effective implementation

Streamlined [format for National Restoration Plans](#) under the EU Nature Restoration Regulation (NRR): Under the NRR, each EU Member State has to prepare and submit a draft national restoration plan by 1 September 2026. The Commission has published a uniform format for these plans, developed in consultation with experts in the Member States and with the assistance of the EEA. To ensure complete, coherent and structured planning of restoration measures, the uniform format allows Member States to make full use of information gathered through existing planning and reporting obligations under EU legislation and policies. The aim is to ensure that such information is directed and exchanged with the relevant linked digital reporting systems, such as ReportNet of the EEA.

[Success stories - European Commission](#) provides examples of successful restoration projects across different ecosystem types in Europe (peatland, rivers and floodplains, marine, forests, agroecosystems, grassland, urban). [Restoring nature](#) illustrates restoration approaches, measures, costs and benefits, and key elements of successful restoration projects.

Four EU-financed research projects [SUPERB](#), [MERLIN](#), [WaterLANDS](#) and [REST-COAST](#) support the aims and implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 and the Nature Restoration Regulation. These projects, worth a total budget of EUR 85 million in research and innovation investment, aim to implement and promote large-scale

restoration across a wide range of European territories and pave the way for further upscaling and replication activities in the years to come. See also: [REA projects help restore Europe's forests, freshwater sources, coasts and wetlands](#) and [Supporting the development of national restoration plans](#).

vi. Relevance to Sustainable Development Goals or other related agreements

The implementation of this target contributes to the implementation of SDGs 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), 14 (Life Below Water) and 15 (Life on Land).

vii. Indicators to assess progress towards the target

Headline:

- 2.1 Area under restoration (under development)

Other EU indicators:

- [Grassland butterfly index](#)
- [Stock of organic carbon](#)
- [Stock of organic carbon in cropland mineral soils](#)
- [Share of agricultural land with landscape features](#)
- [Common birds index per type of species](#) (common, farmland, forest)
- [Forest connectivity in Europe](#)
- Share of green areas in cities (under development)
- Standing deadwood and lying deadwood (under development)
- Share of forests with uneven-aged structure (under development)
- Net additional length of free-flowing rivers (in km) gained as compared to 2020, taking into account both the removal of existing barriers and the construction of new ones (under development)
- Urban tree canopy cover (under development)

EU Target 3: Protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures

Legally protect a minimum of 30% of the EU's land area and a minimum of 30% of the EU's sea area, and integrate ecological corridors, as part of a true Trans-European Nature Network; strictly protect at least a third of the EU's protected areas, including all remaining EU primary and old-growth forests; and effectively manage all protected areas.

i. Main actions undertaken since 2020 to implement the target

Under the EU [Birds Directive](#) and the EU [Habitats Directive](#), Member States must designate, protect and manage a European ecological network of special areas of conservation, [Natura 2000](#).

The [EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030](#), adopted in 2020, further sets the target to establish a coherent network of ecologically connected, effectively managed protected areas covering 30% of the EU's land area and 30% of the EU's sea area, and to strictly protect a third of these areas, including all primary and old-growth forests remaining in the EU, by 2030. Both Natura 2000 areas and protected areas designated under national legislation will count towards the target, provided that these areas have biodiversity conservation objectives. OECMs that benefit biodiversity will also count towards the 30% target.

To support Member States in delivering on these targets, the Commission published, in 2022, [criteria and guidance](#) for identifying and designating additional protected areas and for their appropriate management planning. In 2023, it published [guidelines for defining, monitoring and strictly protecting EU primary and old-growth forests](#). Both documents result from extensive consultations with Member States' authorities, experts and stakeholders. Member States' [pledges for the designation of additional protected areas](#) have been discussed with authorities and stakeholders at a series of [biogeographical region-level seminars](#).

A [technical briefing](#) on management effectiveness in the EU's Natura 2000 network of protected areas and a [study](#) on Natura 2000 in cities were published in 2020 and an updated [guidance document](#) on assessing plans and projects in relation to Natura 2000 sites was finalised in 2022.

The [Marine Strategy Framework Directive](#) (MSFD) requires Member States to submit updated programmes of measures to achieve or maintain good environmental status, including spatial protection measures towards a coherent and representative networks of marine protected areas. In 2025, the Commission published an [assessment of the reports from Member States](#). In June 2025, the [Water Resilience Strategy](#) and the [European Ocean Pact](#) Communications announced that the Commission would revise

the MSFD to deal with implementation challenges and improve its effectiveness while reducing burden.

The [EU Action plan: Protecting and restoring marine ecosystems for sustainable and resilient fisheries](#), adopted in 2023, contains actions to protect marine ecosystems, amongst others by creating marine protected areas. It also includes recommendations such as phasing out mobile bottom fishing in marine protected areas by 2030, or introducing less damaging fishing gears or techniques, increasing selectivity, protecting sensitive species, supporting a just and fair transition in the fisheries sector, strengthening the knowledge base, research and innovation, improving implementation, monitoring and enforcement, and improving governance, stakeholder involvement and outreach. For further detail, see EU reporting under the sustainable fisheries target.

The [Water Framework Directive](#) (WFD) establishes a framework to protect and restore aquatic ecosystems, promote sustainable water use, improve the aquatic environment, reduce pollution and mitigate the effects of floods and droughts. The [7th WFD Implementation Report](#) (February 2025) provides an assessment of the implementation of the WFD by Member States in their third RBMPs (covering the period 2022-2027), and of the implementation of the [Floods Directive](#) in their second flood risk management plans. This will pave the way for structured bilateral dialogues between the Commission and each Member State in the course of 2025 and 2026, in order to discuss the deficiencies identified and consider measures to overcome them. On 3 December 2025, in the context of the [RESourceEU Action Plan](#), the Commission announced the revision of the Water Framework Directive.

The EU [Common Agricultural Policy Strategic Plans Regulation](#) for the period 2023-2027 was published in 2021. Article 6.1(f) of the Regulation includes a specific objective to contribute to halting and reversing biodiversity loss, enhance ecosystem services and preserve habitats and landscapes. Article 13 puts obligations on Member States to ensure that all agricultural areas are maintained in good agricultural and environmental condition. For further detail, see EU reporting under EU target 10a on sustainable agriculture.

The EU Horizon Europe Programme, [Cluster 6](#) (Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment) supports, among other areas, research and innovation for biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning, increased effectiveness of protected areas and the development of ecological continuity.

ii. Current level of progress towards the target

- On track to achieve target
- Progress made but at an insufficient rate
- No significant progress

- Not applicable
- Unknown
- Achieved

iii. Summary of progress towards the target and main outcomes achieved

The EU-wide [terrestrial protected area coverage](#) increased from 24.3% in 2011 to 26% in 2020 (baseline year), and to 26.4% in 2023 (1.077 million km²), mainly through the designation of new Natura 2000 sites. [EU-wide marine protected area coverage](#) increased from 5.9% in 2012 to 11% in 2020 (baseline year), and to 13.7% in 2023, which is the result from both the expansion of the Natura 2000 network and protected areas established through complementary national designations. It also includes protected areas designated under the [Regional Seas Conventions \(RSC\)](#), namely the Barcelona Convention, HELCOM & OSPAR. Although these trends are positive, further expansion will be needed to reach the target of legally protecting at least 30% of EU's land and seas by 2030. Current protected area coverage also varies quite significantly among Member States.

There is no officially endorsed indicator yet to assess progress towards the EU's target to strictly protect 10% of land and sea areas, including all primary and old-growth forests. In 2020, at the time of adoption of the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, 3% of EU land and less than 1% of marine areas were estimated as strictly protected in the EU. The EEA is working to develop a possible indicator on strictly protected areas based on dataflows from Member States on nationally designated areas and an ongoing pledge-and-review process. Gaps that still exist in the mapping of primary and old-growth forests make it presently impossible to evaluate the outlook of having all of them strictly protected by 2030.

Between 2020 and 2023, the share of Natura 2000 sites with management plans increased by 8.6 percentage points, and more than half of all sites had a management plan in 2023.

iv. Summary of key challenges encountered and approaches for further implementation

The designation of new protected areas is the responsibility of Member States. The [8th Environment Action Programme \(8th EAP\) Progress Report](#) indicates that the current pace of designation will have to more than double to reach the 30% protection target at EU level by 2030.

One of the key challenges in the initial period is the major preparatory work needed before a new site can be designated: scientific assessments, stakeholder engagement, planning, administrative procedures and financing decisions. Considerable efforts are necessary to identify and resolve competing land and sea use interests. The Commission continues to provide technical and financial support to Member States.

v. *Examples of effective implementation*

Since 1992, the EU [LIFE Programme](#) has supported over 6,000 environmental and climate projects across and beyond Europe, including over 1,800 nature and biodiversity projects under its [sub-programme on Nature and Biodiversity](#). Despite the programme's small size (accounting for less than 1% of the EU budget), the €2.2 billion invested so far in nature and biodiversity projects has done much to implement the EU [Birds](#) and [Habitats](#) Directives, the [Invasive Alien Species](#) Regulation and other biodiversity policies. The LIFE programme played a crucial part in establishing Natura 2000, supporting the designation and management of its sites. Since 2006, the European Commission hosts the [LIFE Awards](#) to celebrate the most innovative, impactful and inspiring projects completed over the past year. Finalists are selected in several categories, one of which is Nature Protection and Biodiversity. In addition to these awards, two special honours are given to a winner of the Citizens' Prize, voted online by over 10,000 people.

In addition, the EU [Natura 2000 Award](#) rewards excellence in the management of [Natura 2000](#) protected sites, and showcases the added value of conserving nature for local communities and economies across the European Union. It gives recognition to the efforts of people and organisations protecting and managing the network. Finalists get invited to a half-day networking event and to the Award Ceremony in Brussels. Their achievements are promoted via European Commission channels, and in particular through the [Citizens' Award](#) public vote. Finalists are also offered a complementary training on social media by a communications expert, and receive tailor-made visuals that they can use to communicate. Winners receive, in addition to the above benefits, a small financial prize to put towards their conservation activities, and support from the European Commission to organise a local event to celebrate their win.

Since 2012, the European Commission has facilitated the [Natura 2000 biogeographical process](#) to assist Member States and key stakeholders to manage Natura 2000 as a coherent ecological network. The Natura 2000 biogeographical process is a multi-stakeholder cooperation process that includes regional seminars, workshops and cooperation activities at the level of the EU's biogeographical regions. It aims to enhance the implementation, management, monitoring, financing and reporting of the Natura 2000 network. Since the adoption of the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, the process has also supported exchanges on the pledge and review of progress in designating further protected areas, and in improving the conservation trends of protected species and habitats.

[Horizon Mission Ocean and Water 2025 Programme: Discover the calls! | Research and Innovation](#)

The EU's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme contributes to filling scientific and knowledge gaps on biodiversity, by [funding research on a range of biodiversity topics](#). The [EU Blue Parks](#) initiative under the Horizon Europe [Mission Ocean and Waters](#) is dedicated to science-based solutions for setting and managing marine

protected areas, Natura 2000 marine and coastal sites and other designated marine conservation zones. It is a platform for EU Member States' authorities, practitioners, researchers and other stakeholders to collaborate on marine protection to protect 30% and strictly protect 10% of EU sea areas by 2030.

vi. Relevance to Sustainable Development Goals or other related agreements

The implementation of this target contributes in particular, but not only, to the achievement of SDGs 14 (Life Below Water) and 15 (Life on Land).

vii. Headline indicators to assess progress towards the target

Headline:

- [3.1 Coverage of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures](#) (covering only protected areas)

Other EU indicators:

- [Marine protected area coverage \(Natura 2000 and nationally designated protected areas\)](#)
- [Natura 2000 sites designated under the EU Habitats and Birds Directives](#)
- [Terrestrial protected area coverage \(Natura 2000 and nationally designated protected areas\)](#)
- [Natural area connectivity on land](#)
- [Forest connectivity in Europe](#)

EU Target 4a: Urgent species management actions

Foster Member States and stakeholders to implement urgent species management actions, including by setting out the legislative framework for achieving biodiversity outcomes.

i. Main actions undertaken since 2020 to implement the target

The EU [Birds Directive](#) covers the protection, management and control of all species of wild birds and aims to preserve, maintain or re-establish a sufficient diversity and area of their habitats. The [Habitats Directive](#) aims to ensure that protected species and habitat types are maintained or restored to a favourable conservation status within the EU. For the protected species in the Natura 2000 sites designated under the Habitats Directive, Member States are also required to establish site-specific conservation objectives and conservation measures. They are also required to set up and implement a strict protection regime for species listed in Annex IV of the Directive. In 2021, the European Commission provided a [guidance document](#) with interpretations and clarifications of the legal provisions for a strict protection regime, as well as information and advice on good practices.

The EU encourages specific measures under the Habitats Directive to support the [recovery of large carnivores](#) in the EU, and supports the development and updates of [European Species Action Plans](#) and the IUCN [European Red List of Threatened Species](#). In October 2021, the Commission adopted a [guidance document](#) providing legal interpretation and clarifications on Articles 12 and 16 of the [Habitats Directive](#). The document also includes information, advice and good practices to help national authorities address conflicts between strictly protected species and human activities.

The EU has supported the development of [Single Species Action Plans](#) under the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) with actions for the protection and recovery of specific migratory species, aiming to improve their conservation status.

In support of the Birds and Habitats Directives' implementation, target 4 of the [EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030](#) aims to ensure that, by 2030, protected habitats and species show no deterioration in conservation status and trends, and that at least 30% of those currently not in favourable conservation status would reach such status by 2030, or at least show positive trends. In 2021, the Commission issued a [technical guidance note](#) for the selection and prioritisation of species and habitats for improvements under that target. Progress to this target will be measured through the six-yearly reporting on status and trends of species and habitats, which all Member states need to submit under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive and Article 12 of the Birds Directive. Based on the national reports that were due in 2025, the EEA will provide a first indication of the progress achieved under these targets in the next State of Nature Report, due in late 2026.

Furthermore, Target 5 of the [EU Biodiversity Strategy](#) aims to reverse the decline of pollinators. Actions to achieve this target are set out in the revised [EU Pollinators Initiative](#) (2023), and the [Nature Restoration Regulation](#) (2024) made this target binding. Progress has been made in extending [butterfly monitoring](#) to a greater number of EU Member States and in developing and field-testing an [EU-wide Pollinator Monitoring Framework](#). Knowledge on the drivers of pollinator decline has been further enhanced with projects such as [Insignia](#) (on monitoring pesticides in samples collected by honeybees), and EMBAL (on monitoring the ecological quality of agricultural habitats).

The EU [Nature Restoration Regulation](#) (NRR), adopted in 2024, includes requirements for the restoration and non-deterioration of habitats of protected species, for effective restoration measures to reverse the decline of common farmland bird species and of pollinator populations, as well as for the restoration of forest, marine, agricultural and urban ecosystems, the connectivity of rivers and the functions of related floodplains. Under the Regulation, Member States are to develop national restoration plans and to monitor and report on progress based on EU-wide biodiversity indicators. In line with the Regulation, the Commission published, in 2025, [EU guidance on developing monitoring methodologies on high-diversity landscape features](#), and a [science-based method to monitor pollinator diversity and populations](#).

Standards for good agricultural and environmental condition under the [common agricultural policy](#) for the period 2023-2027 include a ban on cutting hedges and trees during the bird breeding and rearing season, and a ban on converting or ploughing permanent grassland designated as environmentally-sensitive permanent grassland in Natura 2000 sites. In their CAP strategic plans, Member States can include measures to support genetic diversity and/or Natura 2000 areas under eco-schemes or environmental, climate and other management commitments.

The [Marine Strategy Framework Directive](#) sets out requirements for the protection of marine species and habitats, for maintaining biological diversity and ensuring that non-indigenous species introduced by human activities are at levels that do not adversely alter the ecosystems. The [EU Action Plan: protecting and restoring marine ecosystems for sustainable and resilient fisheries](#) (2023) aims to improve gear selectivity and reduce the impact of fisheries on sensitive species, amongst other objectives.

Under the [Common Fisheries Policy](#), a range of conservation and management tools (including the fishing opportunities and technical measures) are set in order to ensure that the exploitation of living marine biological resources is done in a way that allows for the recovery and maintenance of populations of harvested fish species above levels which can produce the maximum sustainable yield. (For further detail, see reporting on the EU sustainable fisheries target).

[The European Eel Regulation](#) establishes a framework for the protection and sustainable use of critically endangered European eel population. It sets rules and objectives for a

recovery of eel stock in the long-term. Concerned Member States were required to establish national eel management plans adapted to local and regional conditions. Those plans may contain conservation measures such as fishing restrictions, restocking, structural measures for making rivers passable and improving river habitats, measures related to aquaculture and combatting predators, and other measures and actions. Moreover, at the EU level under the [fishing opportunities regulations](#), a fishing closure period is required to be set by Member States to help rebuilding the eel stock. Furthermore, since December 2010 the EU does not allow trade of eels from and to the EU, whereas the internal marketing in the EU is allowed. More information on the conservation and management of eels is available on [Eel - Oceans and fisheries - European Commission](#)..

The [Water Framework Directive](#), notably Article 6, requires Member States to keep a register of protected areas designated for the protection of economically significant aquatic species as well as areas designated for the protection of habitats and species where the maintenance or improvement of the status of water is an important factor in their protection. River basin management plans reported by Member States and other information about implementing the Water Framework Directive [are available here](#) and under [implementation reports](#). On 3 December 2025, in the context of the [RESourceEU Action Plan](#), the Commission announced the revision of the Water Framework Directive.

Under the [Invasive Alien Species Regulation](#), the [list of IAS of Union Concern](#) was updated in 2022 and in 2025. For more information on actions taken under the IAS Regulation, see the EU report on target 6.

The EU [Zoos Directive](#) promotes the role of zoos in conservation, education, and research on wild species. In order to strengthen implementation, the Commission organised, in 2022 and 2023, [pilot training courses](#) for Member States' competent authorities, zoo management and zoo associations.

In July 2023, the Commission tabled a [proposal for a Regulation on plant reproductive material](#) and a [proposal for a Regulation on forest reproductive material, effectively revising the Plant Reproductive Material Marketing Directives](#), to introduce specific provisions relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, and for forests. The proposals are still under negotiation by the European Parliament and the Council.

ii. Current level of progress towards the target

- On track to achieve target
- Progress made but at an insufficient rate
- No significant progress

- Not applicable
- Unknown
- Achieved

iii. Summary of progress towards the target and main outcomes achieved

Thanks to legal protection under the EU Birds and Habitats Directive, many species that had previously been threatened through direct persecution have seen significant population and range recoveries since the entry into force of the directives in 1979 and 1992. This includes all large carnivore species (bear, wolf, wolverine, lynx and golden jackal), beavers, otters, seals, most species of birds of prey, several species of vultures, cranes, storks, herons, cormorants, etc.

Certain threatened species have also seen their status improving thanks to targeted conservation interventions, financed in particular under the EU LIFE programme (for example the European bison, the Mediterranean monk seal and the Iberian lynx).

While for many rare or threatened species, conservation successes have been achieved locally, through tailor-made conservation investments and interventions, these efforts have not been sufficient to reverse the overall decline of these species at EU levels. Examples include ground-nesting birds such as the [Black-tailed godwit](#). Long-term trends of [grassland butterflies](#) and of [common farmland birds](#) in the EU reveal significant population declines.

Thanks to the conservation and management measures undertaken by the EU and Member States, the steep decline of the European eel population has been halted, however it remains in a critical condition and at a historically low level. Thus, more urgent efforts are needed to help rebuilding this stock.

iv. Summary of key challenges encountered and approaches for further implementation

As noted in the [Europe's environment 2025 report \(EEA\)](#) (Chapter [1.Biodiversity and ecosystems](#)), major pressures persist including habitat deterioration, pollution, climate change and invasive alien species; while measures to improve the state of species and restore habitats require time and resources.

For some species (large carnivores, cormorants), efforts for their conservation are now increasingly focused on ensuring coexistence with humans (EU stakeholder platforms, damage prevention measures, etc.). For example, a [targeted amendment to the Habitats Directive annexes](#), that came into force in July 2025, moves the Wolf from Annex IV (strict protection) to Annex V (species whose taking in the wild and exploitation may be subject to management measures). For more information on measures to ensure human-wildlife

coexistence, please see the reporting on EU target 4.b. Managing human-wildlife interactions.

One key challenge in relation to managing migratory fish species that live in marine and inland waters, in EU and international waters, is ensuring appropriate cooperation between various administrations responsible for implementation at national, regional and local levels, as well as the coordination of actions between Member States and regions to bring conservation benefits.

v. [Examples of effective implementation](#)

The [LIFE Lynx project](#) has brought together conservationists, hunters and local communities to successfully reverse the decline of the Alpine Lynx in the Dinaric Alps.

The [EU Pollinators Initiative](#) is the first EU framework to tackle the decline of wild pollinators. The revised EU Pollinators Initiative (2023) aims to (i) improve knowledge of pollinator decline, its causes and consequences; (ii) improve pollinator conservation and tackle the causes of pollinator their decline and (iii) mobilise society and promote strategic planning and cooperation at all levels. The [Pollinators Hive](#) provides a platform to facilitate information sharing and collaboration between key actors. In 2023, the European Commission mandated the development of [three targeted action plans](#) to tackle pollinator decline by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in collaboration with the IUCN Species Survival Commission, the Invertebrate Conservation Committee, the Hoverfly Specialist Group, and Buglife. For example, [Species Action Plan for the Canarian Islands' Pollinators](#) were developed to safeguard the unique and endemic pollinators found in this region.

vi. [Relevance to Sustainable Development Goals or other related agreements](#)

The implementation of this Target contributes to SDGs 2 (Zero Hunger), 14 (Life under Water) and 15 (Life on Land).

vii. [Indicators to assess progress towards the target](#)

[Headline](#)

- A.3 Red List Index (under development)
- A.4 The proportion of populations within species with an effective population size greater than 500 (under development)

[Component](#)

- 4.CT.4 [Proportion of local breeds classified as being at risk of extinction](#)

[Other EU indicators](#)

- [Grassland butterfly index](#)

- [Common birds index per type of species](#) (common, farmland, forest)
- Conservation status of [habitats](#) and [species](#) protected under the Habitats Directive

EU Target 4b: Managing human-wildlife interactions

Minimise conflicts between human interests and wildlife, in particular large carnivores and cormorants.

i. Main actions undertaken since 2020 to implement the target

Europe is home to six large carnivore species: the Brown bear (*Ursus arctos*), Wolf (*Canis lupus*), Eurasian lynx (*Lynx lynx*), the highly threatened Iberian lynx (*Lynx pardina*), Wolverine (*Gulo gulo*) and Golden jackal (*Canis aureus*). All mainland EU countries host at least one large carnivore species. Under the [EU Habitats Directive](#), Member States are required to set up and implement a strict protection regime for species listed in Annex IV across the whole of the EU, both inside and outside protected areas. The exploitation of species in Annex V of the Habitats Directive may be allowed, subject to regulation measures. Derogations may be allowed in a limited number of circumstances, including (among others) to protect wild flora and fauna and conserve natural habitats, to prevent serious damage to crops, livestock, forests, fisheries and water, in the interests of public health and safety or other overriding public interest. The Directive provides flexibility for the sustainable management of Annex V species that cause damage. A [targeted amendment to the Habitats Directive annexes](#), which moves the Wolf from Annex IV (strict protection) to Annex V (species whose taking in the wild and exploitation may be subject to management measures) entered into force on 14 July 2025.

Under the EU [Birds Directive](#), Member States are required to take measures to establish a general protection regime for all naturally occurring wild birds, and to maintain their populations at healthy levels. The Birds Directive allows for derogations from these requirements to be authorised, if necessary to protect public health and safety or air safety, to mitigate serious damage to crops, livestock, forests, fisheries or water, or to protect flora and fauna. Derogations must be justified, specific, selective, monitored and reported to the Commission on an annual basis. These derogations have been applied in various human-wildlife conflict contexts, for example in relation to damage to fisheries by cormorants.

In 2021, the Commission published [Guidance on the strict protection of animal species of community interest](#) under the Habitats Directive, including examples of good practice in preventing or managing conflicts with wild species.

Several mechanisms have been set up to facilitate dialogue and experience exchange on managing conflicts between human interests and wildlife, in particular large carnivores in the [Large Carnivores Platform](#). A range of EU [Regional to local large carnivore platforms](#) have also been established to engage stakeholders in addressing local conflicts with large carnivores, by considering local circumstances.

Information and resources on Cormorants is available on the Commission’s website on [The Birds Directive](#)). It includes, among others, information on [Cormorant ecology, numbers and distribution in Europe](#), [interactions with fish and fisheries](#) (the most common sources of conflict), [management of cormorant-fishery conflicts](#) and [social, cultural, and legal aspects of cormorant-fishery issues](#). The European Commission is finalising guidance to provide legal clarification and best practices to national and regional authorities in relation to bird protection, which will address in particular conflicts with the Great Cormorant. The Commission has also [invited Member States](#) to engage in a structured dialogue on managing conflicts with cormorants following a call made by several Member States at the Agriculture and Fisheries Council in September 2025 to classify the Great Cormorant as a huntable species and coordinate the management of its populations at the EU level.

The [EU provides financial aid](#) which can be used to protect livestock, hives or crops against large carnivores. The EU LIFE Programme funds human–wildlife coexistence projects testing livestock protection measures, compensation schemes and awareness campaigns. The Common Agricultural Policy can provide financing for livestock guarding dogs, fencing and shepherding, as well as community engagement initiatives under Rural Development. The Horizon Europe research and innovation programme also supports research into tools for managing conflicts and predicting climate-driven shifts in species distributions.

ii. Current level of progress towards the target

- On track to achieve target
- Progress made but at an insufficient rate
- No significant progress
- Not applicable
- Unknown
- Achieved

iii. Summary of progress towards the target and main outcomes achieved

The ongoing recovery of several large carnivore and other ‘conflict’ species in the EU is evidence of the effectiveness of current conservation approaches. While being a conservation success in itself, species recovery, in combination with land-use changes, increases human-wildlife contact and requires measures to deal with conflicts and to enable co-existence. Under EU funding and support schemes, many projects – including under the EU LIFE Programme – have successfully piloted and scaled up non-lethal conflict-mitigation measures. Predation by cormorants is on the EU agenda with Member States invited to a structured dialogue to share experiences and develop coordinated

approaches. The [EU Large Carnivores Platform](#) brings together actors across the board to exchange on different aspects of coexistence with large carnivores, share their concerns and collaborate on solutions, helping to reduce polarisation in debates on key species. Projects and testimonials across Europe (such as [Euro Large Carnivores](#)) indicate that, when supported well, people and large carnivores *can* coexist even in areas with past conflict. In most EU Member States, [funding](#) is available to help livestock keepers protect their stock against attacks by wolves and bears.

However, results across the EU are uneven: in some regions and for some species, coexistence is working well, while in others conflicts persist. This means that delivering peaceful coexistence on the ground remains work in progress, strongly dependent on local conditions, funding and social acceptance.

iv. Summary of key challenges encountered and approaches for further implementation

Protecting wildlife while preventing conflicts and ensuring local acceptance remains a challenge. Stakeholders have pointed to difficulties in aligning national or state-level wildlife management, compensation and preventive measures with EU conservation obligations, and in applying traditional protective measures (such as shepherd dogs or fences) in modern and fragmented landscapes (see e.g. [FACE – European Hunters’ Union – publication on the return of Europe’s large carnivores](#)). Success depends on context-specific implementation, sustained funding, local engagement, and socio-economic support for people living alongside wildlife. Where these conditions are met, coexistence works; where they are absent or weak, conflicts and tensions persist.

v. Examples of effective implementation

The EU [Large Carnivores Platform](#), in cooperation with regional platforms and the [EuroLargeCarnivores](#) project, have worked together to gather experiences resulting in a [Toolkit](#) and accompanying [toolbox](#) on establishing national and regional/local platforms on large carnivores. It also includes lessons learned and good practice. It builds on experiences and lessons learned from various stakeholders, providing a valuable resource for conservation efforts. A notable example of implementation on the ground can be seen in the Carpathian Mountains, where the Large Carnivore Platform has been instrumental in facilitating coexistence between humans and large carnivores such as bears, wolves, and lynx. For instance, in Romania, the platform has worked with local communities to develop and implement effective measures, such as providing compensation for livestock losses and promoting the use of bear-proof waste management systems. Similarly, in Slovenia, the platform has supported the development of a national action plan for large carnivore conservation, which includes measures for habitat protection, research, and education.

vi. Relevance to Sustainable Development Goals or other related agreements

The Implementation of this Target contributes to the implementation of SDG14 (Life below Water) and SDG15 (Life on Land).

vii. Indicators to assess progress towards the target

Other EU indicators:

- Conservation status of [habitats](#) and [species](#) protected under the Habitats Directive

EU Target 5a: Sustainable and legal wildlife trade

Ensure that trade in wildlife to and from the EU is legal and does not threaten the survival of species.

i. Main actions undertaken since 2020 to implement the target

The ongoing work under the [EU Wildlife Trade Regulation](#) and [implementing acts](#) contributes to protecting species of wild fauna and flora and to guarantee their conservation by regulating trade therein. The [most recent suspension Regulation](#) was adopted in January 2025 and prohibits the introduction into the EU of specimens of certain species of wild fauna and flora. For more information on EU and international measures to protect endangered species from illegal trade, please see also: [Wildlife trade - European Commission](#).

The revision of the [EU Action Plan against trafficking in wildlife](#) was published in November 2022 and provides a comprehensive framework for the EU action against wildlife trafficking, built around 4 priorities: Preventing wildlife trafficking and addressing its root causes; strengthening the legal and policy framework against wildlife trafficking; enforcing regulations and policies to fight wildlife trafficking effectively; strengthening the global partnership of source, consumer and transit countries against wildlife trafficking.

The EU adopted several legislative measures on [Anti-money laundering \(AML\) and countering the financing of terrorism \(CFT\)](#), including the [Revision of the Regulation on Transfer of Funds](#) in 2023 and the [AML/CFT Regulation](#) as well as the [6th AML/CFT Directive](#) in 2024. These measures provide further tools to fight financial crime in the EU, including that associated with wildlife trafficking.

The [new Environmental Crime Directive](#) was adopted in April 2024, replacing [Directive 2008/99/EC](#). Compared to the previous Directive, the new instrument introduces several new offence categories and updates the existing ones including wildlife offences, it also introduces specific types and levels of penalties for natural and legal persons, as well as measures strengthening the enforcement chain. The new Environmental Crime Directive requires Member States to ensure that when unlawful and intentional or carried out with at least serious negligence, the killing, destruction, taking of, possession, sale or offering for sale of a specimen or specimens of a species of wild fauna or flora, as well as the trading in specimens of protected wild fauna or flora species or parts or derivatives thereof constitutes a criminal offence, except where such conduct concern a negligible quantity of such specimens. The Directive also establishes minimum rules concerning the type and level of applicable criminal sanctions for these offences, consisting of: (i) a maximum term of imprisonment of at least three years for natural persons, and (ii) 3 % of the total worldwide turnover or an amount corresponding to EUR 24 000 000 for legal persons.

The Directive needs to be transposed by Member States by May 2026. To enable the correct and smooth transposition and implementation of this instrument, the European Commission has organised two transposition workshops with Member States (i.e., October 2024, June 2025). The transposition table created for the purposes of such workshops includes notably an explanation of the wildlife offences and details its novelties compared to the wildlife offences of the previous Directive.

The EU's [Directive on Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence](#) was published in 2024 and covers in its annex provisions related to the import and export of species listed on the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). The Directive requires companies to conduct general due diligence on their supply chains regarding the potential adverse environmental impacts resulting from the breach of these provisions. The Directive applies to companies operating in the EU. Companies are expected to conduct risk assessments, monitor their supply chains, and report on their due diligence efforts to comply with the Directive's requirements. In April 2025, the CSDDD was amended by [Directive 2025/794](#), postponing its application to the first group of largest companies in its scope by one year to give them more time to prepare. In December 2025, a [provisional agreement](#) was reached on the [Omnibus package](#) that contains amendments to the CSDDD, which aim to enable companies to stay firmly on course toward our sustainability goals, including decarbonisation and broader environmental, social and human rights objectives, while simplifying the rules and minimising regulatory burden as much as possible.

The EU's [Digital Services Act \(DSA\)](#) is fully applicable as from 17 February 2024 and requires platforms to remove content that violates EU Member State laws, which may include offers to sell or trade endangered species, and cooperate with law enforcement and conservation organisations. The DSA introduces transparency and accountability measures that are more stringent for larger designated online platforms and search engines, such as reporting obligations and audits. The EU is working with international partners to develop guidelines and best practices in this policy area. These efforts will contribute to the disruption of online wildlife trade and protect endangered species. The DSA's enforcement is expected to have a significant impact on preventing online wildlife trade and promoting conservation, protecting wildlife and preventing illegal activities.

ii. Current level of progress towards the target

- On track to achieve target
- Progress made but at an insufficient rate
- No significant progress
- Not applicable
- Unknown

Achieved

iii. Summary of progress towards the target and main outcomes achieved

With regard to the implementation of the EU Action plan against wildlife trafficking, it can be noted that the EU Member States have made notable strides in raising awareness about wildlife trafficking, strengthening their legal and policy frameworks. There have also been successes in enforcement – including significant cases prosecuted and improved information sharing. The report from the implementation of the Action plan in 2023 can be found here: [Progress report for 2023](#). The adoption of the 2025 suspension Regulation, the new Environmental Crime Directive and the Directive on Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence, amongst other measures, contribute to further strengthening the EU legal framework to fight illegal wildlife trafficking.

Nevertheless, the Report indicates that although with the implementation of the EU Action plan against wildlife trafficking offenders are being prosecuted, convictions for financial crimes remain limited, statistical data covering all the stages of the administrative and criminal proceedings appears to be scarce, and cross-border investigations, especially concerning online illegal wildlife trade, are still rather low. Moreover, more focused efforts are needed to tackle the root causes of wildlife trafficking, such as consumer behaviour and Indigenous Peoples and local communities will need to be involved more in the management and conservation of wildlife. The Report concludes that while progress has been made, there are still several gaps that the EU and its Member States need to address to enhance their efforts to tackle wildlife trafficking.

iv. Summary of key challenges encountered and approaches for further implementation

The EU Action Plan against wildlife trafficking [Progress report for 2023](#) indicates that challenges include convicting offenders of financial crimes, insufficient statistical data that covers all the stages of the administrative and criminal proceedings, and too few cross-border investigations.

In the [overview of seizures of CITES-listed wildlife in the EU in 2023](#), it is highlighted that EU Member States had reported 5,195 seizure records, involving over 1 million specimens. A substantial portion of these specimens (around 86%) were European eels, most of which were reported by weight. The number of seizure records covering all species reported by EU Member States has fluctuated strongly since 2017. To exemplify, in 2017, 4945 seizures were reported, 6150 in 2019, 4301 in 2020 and 5195 in 2023. Nevertheless, it is difficult to deduct whether this fluctuation is a result of changes in wildlife trade patterns or of changes in enforcement.

For more information, the report from the implementation of the Action plan in 2023 can be found here: [Progress Report](#)

v. *Examples of effective implementation*

Europol has been coordinating a [joint operation ‘Operation Lake’](#) on fighting wildlife trafficking, since 2016. From October 2022 to June 2023 this operation led to the arrest of 256 persons responsible for the trafficking of 25 tonnes of live glass eels’ worth around EUR 13 million. From October 2024 to June 2025, the operation led to 16,131 inspections carried out across Europe, 26 arrests and 22 tonnes of glass eels seized. This brought together 11 Member States, 6 partner countries and several EU institutions and agencies. Operation Lake is Europol’s flagship action against glass eel trafficking and one of the longest-running international operations tackling environmental crime. Since its launch, it has resulted in over 850 arrests and 109 tonnes of glass eels seized or prevented from being smuggled.

vi. *Relevance to Sustainable Development Goals or other related agreements*

The Implementation of this Target contributes to the implementation of SDGs 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), 14 (Life Below Water), 15 (Life on Land) and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

vii. *Indicators to assess progress towards the target*

[Binary indicator 5.b \(see **Binary question 5.b** in Annex VI for detail on the responses\)](#)

- 5.b Number of countries with legal instruments or other policy frameworks for regulating trade in wild species

EU Target 5b: Sustainable management of wild species

Accelerate the deployment of a sustainable and circular European bioeconomy and ensure that any taking in the wild of specimens of listed species of wild fauna and flora as well as their exploitation is compatible with their being maintained at a favourable conservation status and that the hunting of birds complies with the principles of wise use and ecologically balanced control of the species concerned.

i. Main actions undertaken since 2020 to implement the target

The EU [Habitats](#) and [Birds](#) Directives are the main instruments to ensure that the taking in the wild of specimens of species of certain wild fauna and flora, as well as their exploitation, is compatible with their being maintained at a favourable conservation status. Measures may include surveillance and the application of hunting and fishing rules that take account of the conservation of populations (see e.g. [Sustainable hunting under the Birds Directive](#)). The [Guide to sustainable hunting under the Birds Directive](#) provides guidance on national measures to regulate hunting (see also [webpage](#)). To guarantee complete protection of huntable species during the periods of reproduction and migration to their breeding areas, the Commission updates the best available information on these periods at regular intervals. The latest update was published in 2021.

As of February 2023, the [Commission Regulation restricting the use of lead gunshot in wetlands](#) bans carrying or using lead gunshot within 100 metres from wetlands. This will help protect wetlands and prevent around 1 million birds dying of lead poisoning each year.

The [Trade in Seal Products Basic Regulation](#) prohibits the placing of seal products on the EU market, with an exception concerning seal products made by Inuit or other indigenous communities (see also [Factsheet on EU rules on trade in seal products](#)). The Commission reports every four years on the implementation of the EU Regulation. The [latest \(second\) Commission report](#) was published in 2023. The [Seal Pups Directive](#) requires Member States to take measures to ensure that the skin of certain seal pups and products derived therefrom are not commercially imported. In May 2024, the Commission launched a Fitness Check of EU rules on trade in seal products. A summary of the public consultation results is available on the [Have Your Say portal](#). The Commission will publish its report in 2026.

For progress towards sustainable fisheries management under the EU [Common Fisheries Policy](#) (CFP), see Target 10c.

In November 2025, a [new Bioeconomy Strategy](#) was adopted, charting a way forward to build a clean, competitive and resilient European economy. With the Strategy, the EU will support activities that provide sustainable practical solutions using biological resources in various key sectors, including agriculture, forestry, fisheries

and aquaculture. The Strategy recognises that Europe’s bioeconomy depends on the health and resilience of its natural environment and that biomass production and use should maintain and improve ecosystem services.

The EU [Environmental Crime Directive](#) adopted in 2024 applies in case of serious breaches of EU environmental legislation, including legislation related to habitats, wild fauna and flora, and invasive alien species. Member States are required to ensure that, among others, the following conducts constitute a criminal offence when unlawful and intentional, or carried out with at least serious negligence:

- (i) the killing, destruction, taking, possession, sale or offering for sale of a specimen or specimens of a species of wild fauna or flora,
- (ii) any conduct causing the deterioration of a habitat within a protected site, or the disturbance of animal species,
- (iii) unlawful conduct related to invasive alien species of Union concern constitute a criminal offence.

The Directive establishes minimum rules concerning criminal penalties applicable to these offences. Prior to the adoption of the new Environmental Crime Directive, the Commission published, in 2021, a [Guidance](#) on combatting environmental crime.

ii. Current level of progress towards the target

- On track to achieve target
- Progress made but at an insufficient rate
- No significant progress
- Not applicable
- Unknown
- Achieved

iii. Summary of progress towards the target and main outcomes achieved

The implementation of the EU Birds and Habitats Directives has reduced pressures from hunting and illegal killing, and provides a harmonised framework for the protection of huntable species. A number of huntable ungulate species populations have improved, including for example the Roe deer, Wild boar and Red deer.

The [latest Communication](#) on the state of EU fisheries (June 2025) indicates that overall, more fish stocks are being fished at sustainable levels but that further efforts are needed to ensure resilient and sustainable fisheries. In its report on [Europe’s Environment 2025](#), the EEA highlights continued over-exploitation of water, fish and other resources, as well as detrimental practices such as trawling.

While fish stocks in the North East Atlantic are on average within healthy ranges, several key stocks remain under pressure, including from climate change. In the Mediterranean and the Black Seas, seven stocks having reached sustainable levels, but fishing mortality is still too high for other key stocks. Fish stocks in the Baltic Sea are declining further under various pressures. The latest data on fish stocks included in the report is from 2023. In June 2025, the Commission published an [independent study](#) assessing the performance of the landing obligation. Five years after its full implementation, the study concludes that the landing obligation has not reached its full potential. The results will feed into the evaluation of the CFP Regulation.

iv. Summary of key challenges encountered and approaches for further implementation

Some of the key challenges include insufficient or uneven data on species distribution and use, enforcement capacities and resources, and reconciling conservation with socio-economic use objectives.

v. Examples of effective implementation

In 2022, the European Commission set up a [Task Force on the Recovery of Huntability Birds in Unsecure Status](#), a collaborative effort to conserve and manage bird species that are hunted and are currently in an unsecure conservation status. It focuses on developing and implementing conservation measures to improve the population trends of these species, such as habitat restoration and protection, research on population dynamics, and engagement with stakeholders, including hunters and conservation organisations.

The Turtle Dove (*Streptopelia tortur*) has been identified as a test case species for the task force. The species has experienced significant declines in its population due to various threats, including habitat loss, hunting and climate change. A test case [Task force on the recovery of the Turtle Dove](#) is working on the implementation of an [international Action plan for the Turtle Dove](#).

vi. Relevance to Sustainable Development Goals or other related agreements

The Implementation of this Target contributes to the implementation of SDGs 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) 14 (Life Below Water), and 15 (Life on Land).

vii. Indicators to assess progress towards the target

Headline:

- 5.1 Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels (under development)

- 9.1 Benefits from the sustainable use of wild species (pending clarification of global methodology)
- 9.2 Percentage of the population in traditional occupations (pending global methodology)

[Binary indicator 5.b \(see **Binary question 5.b** in Annex VI for detail on the responses\)](#)

- 5.b Number of countries with legal instruments or other policy frameworks for regulating trade in wild species

[Binary indicator 9.b \(see **Binary question 9.b** in Annex VI for detail on the responses\)](#)

- 9.b Number of countries with policies to manage the use of wild species sustainably, providing social, economic and environmental benefits for people, and to protect and encourage customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities

[Other EU indicators:](#)

- Conservation status of [habitats](#) and [species](#) protected under the Habitats Directive
- [Common birds index per type of species](#)

EU Target 5c: Sustainable forest management, enhancing forest biodiversity and increasing forest cover

Protecting and improving the health of existing natural and managed forests, especially primary forests and old-growth forests, while significantly increasing sustainable, biodiverse forest coverage worldwide.

i. Main actions undertaken since 2020 to implement the target

See [EU policies on forests](#) and the [EU Forest Strategy for 2030](#).

The [EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030](#) aims to strictly protect all remaining EU primary and old-growth forests. To support Member States in this work, the Commission published, in 2023, [Guidelines](#) for defining, mapping, monitoring and strictly protecting EU primary and old-growth forests, and is promoting their use by public authorities in the target regions (e.g. in the Boreal Region).

As announced in the EU Biodiversity Strategy, the Commission adopted, in 2021, a new [EU Forest Strategy for 2030](#) with the aim to protect forests and the value of the many ecosystem services they provide, contribute to a modern, climate-neutral, resource-efficient and competitive economy, and preserve lively rural areas. In line with a tree-planting target set in the EU Biodiversity Strategy, the EU Forest Strategy was accompanied by a [Roadmap](#) for planting at least 3 billion additional trees in the EU by 2030 in full respect of ecological principles. A [MapMyTree](#) viewer shows tree-planting initiatives that contribute to this target, without being representative of the scale of the planting effort (because not all stakeholders involved in tree planting are aware of this tool or use it to report).

To support more sustainable forestry practices, the Commission published, also in 2023, guidelines on [biodiversity-friendly afforestation and reforestation](#), on [closer-to-nature forestry](#) and on and on the [development of public and private payment schemes for forest ecosystem services](#). The Commission is promoting the use of the guidelines by relevant stakeholders. (See also the [biodiversity action tracker](#)). A review of the implementation of the EU Forest Strategy for 2030 is envisaged in early 2026.

The [Forest Information System for Europe \(FISE\)](#) has been updated with new content and design to match the policy needs under the EU Forest Strategy for 2030. EU-level work on additional indicators and thresholds for sustainable forest management is in an early preparatory phase. The EU Forest Strategy further seeks to move from wildfire suppression to increased fire prevention and climate resilience of forests. The [European Forest Fire Information System \(EFFIS\)](#) provides near-real-time information on forest fires in Europe, and on wildfire risk. The Commission publishes [annual forest fire reports](#) for Europe, Middle East and North Africa (see [2023](#), [2022](#), [2021](#), [2020](#)).

The EU [Nature Restoration Regulation](#) (NRR) entered into force in September 2024. It includes a general obligation to improve biodiversity in forest ecosystems and to measure the fulfilment of that obligation on the basis of a set of indicators. Member States are required to achieve an increasing trend at national level for at least six out of the seven indicators listed in the Regulation, until satisfactory levels, to be set by the Member States, are reached. All Member States are to achieve such an increasing trend for the common forest bird index. Article 12(4) sets out a derogation for large-scale force majeure (including wildfires) and unavoidable habitat transformations due to climate change. Under Article 13, Member States should aim to contribute to planting at least three billion additional trees in the EU by 2030, in full respect of ecological principles. (See EU reporting under EU Target 2 (restoration) and Target 3 (protected areas and OECMs) for implementation actions).

The [Common Agricultural Policy](#) 2023-2027 can support the preservation and sustainable management of forests. Member States' [CAP Strategic Plans](#) may include measures such as support for the afforestation of land, fire prevention, creation and regeneration of agroforestry systems, protection, restoration and improvement of forest resources taking into account adaptation needs, as well as investments to enhance forest conservation and resilience and the provision of forest ecosystem services.

The [EU Deforestation Regulation \(EUDR\)](#) entered into force in June 2023, with the aim to ensure that products sold in the EU do not contribute to deforestation or forest degradation. The Regulation requires any operator or trader who places commodities like cattle, wood, cocoa, soy, palm oil, coffee, rubber and some of their derived products on the EU market, or exports from it, to be able to prove that these products do not originate from deforested land, and that they have not contributed to forest degradation after 31 of December 2020. In May 2025, the Commission adopted an [Implementing Regulation under the EUDR](#) that classifies countries according to their risk of deforestation as well as a [Staff Working Document](#) outlining the methodology used. On 19 December 2025, an [amending Regulation](#) was adopted to simplify EUDR reporting obligations and to postpone its entry into application to 30 December 2026 for medium and large operators, and to 30 June 2027 for most micro- and small enterprises. Additional tools, platforms and measures have been developed to support implementation, such as:

- An [April 2025 simplification package](#), including an updated [Guidance Document](#) and [FAQs](#) to provide further simplifications and reduce the administrative burden for implementing the EUDR
- [EUDR Information System](#)
- [A Multistakeholder Platform on Protecting and Restoring the World's Forests](#)
- [EU observatory on deforestation and forest degradation](#)

- [Team Europe Initiative on Deforestation-free Value Chains](#)
- The [Sustainable Cocoa Initiative](#)
- [Factsheet for SMEs](#) and [EUDR Myth Buster](#)

The EU continues to work with partner countries and companies to ensure a successful transition to deforestation-free supply chains via its [Team Europe Initiative on Deforestation-free Value Chains](#) and the [Sustainable Cocoa Initiative](#).

The revised [Environmental Crime Directive](#) (2024) requires Member States to establish serious violation of the Deforestation Regulation as a criminal offence.

The [Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade \(FLEGT\) Regulation](#) allows for the control of the entry of timber to the EU from countries entering into bilateral [Voluntary Partnership Agreements](#) (VPA). The Commission has been providing annual overview reports on implementation since 2016 (see [2023](#), [2022](#), [2021](#), [2020](#), [2019](#), [2018](#), [2017](#), [2016](#)).

The revised (2024) [Regulation on Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry](#) (LULUCF) encourages forest conservation, restoration and resilience and promotes transparent monitoring and reporting. Member States must integrate land use considerations into their [National Energy and Climate Plans](#) and [CAP Strategic Plans](#). To support Member States, the EEA and the Commission published a [LULUCF handbook](#) in 2024.

The [revised Renewable Energy Directive](#) (2023) tightens the sustainability criteria for the use of forest biomass for energy and includes a provision to ensure that support schemes from Member States respect the cascading principle (i.e. prioritising woody biomass according to its highest economic and environmental added value), while prohibiting direct financial support for the use for energy of certain categories of forest biomass such as saw logs, veneer logs, industrial grade roundwood, stumps and roots.

Following a [Commission Communication](#) on Sustainable Carbon Cycles (2021), the [Regulation on Carbon Removals and Carbon Farming](#) (2024) sets out a voluntary EU-wide framework to certify carbon removals generated in Europe. It covers practices such as reforestation respecting ecological principles for biodiversity and sustainable forest management. The Commission, together with national experts and stakeholders, is working to develop methodologies for certifying carbon removals from afforestation and forest management.

Under the EU Horizon Europe Programme that supports research and innovation, (Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment) supports, among other intervention areas, research and innovation for agriculture, forestry and rural areas (see e.g. [Research corner | Forest Information System of Europe](#)). The [European partnership: Forests and Forestry for a Sustainable Future](#) supports research, innovation and

cooperation between public organisations in EU Member States and Associated Countries on diverse forest-related challenges, with the participation of a wide range of stakeholders. Cluster 6 (Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment) supports, among other intervention areas, research and innovation for agriculture, forestry and rural areas (see e.g. [Research corner | Forest Information System of Europe](#)). The [European partnership: Forests and Forestry for a Sustainable Future](#) supports research, innovation and cooperation between public organisations in EU Member States and Associated Countries on diverse forest-related challenges, with the participation of a wide range of stakeholders.

ii. Current level of progress towards the target

- On track to achieve target
- Progress made but at an insufficient rate
- No significant progress
- Not applicable
- Unknown
- Achieved

iii. Summary of progress towards the target and main outcomes achieved

The EU forest bird index has stabilised and, in some regions, improved over the past years. Significant policy measures have been put in place at EU level to enhance forest biodiversity protection, restoration and sustainable management. Further efforts will be necessary to implement these measures and see impacts on the ground.

The adoption of the EU [Deforestation Regulation](#) (EUDR) has already generated positive developments and actions on the ground. Many countries have developed new traceability and certification schemes. Several countries are also scaling up forest monitoring tools and strengthening their standards to better tackle deforestation, and mapping farmers to ensure inclusion to international markets. A growing number of industry initiatives are offering traceability solutions, and several industry players have declared being ready for EUDR compliance.

As described in the 2025 JRC report on [EU Biomass supply, uses, governance and regenerative actions](#) (page 81), forests used and managed to varying degrees of intensity have replaced almost all of Europe's natural forests. At present, primary and old-growth forests account for less than 3% of Europe's forests area, and 77% of the forest area and 84% of the growing stock of European forests are available for wood supply.

The [EEA report on Europe's Environment 2025](#) notes (page 10) that the EU's carbon sink related to land use, land use change and forestry has declined by about 30% compared to the last decade, due to a combination of factors such as ageing forests, more frequent and widespread tree felling, and the increasing impacts of climate change and severe natural disturbances, including forest fires, droughts and pests. The report further lists (page 64), among the key pressures on biodiversity based on reporting under the Nature Directives, forestry activities representing 11% of all pressures, particularly affecting forest habitats and woodland species. Moreover, the [EEA reports](#) that the EU's average forest connectivity decreased with 0.8 percentage points from 2018 to 2021. It notes that although the EU has effective policies to promote forest connectivity, the effects of such policies take time to appear due to pest and fire outbreaks, which are intensified with climate change and lead to immediate, though often temporary, losses in connectivity. The EEA therefore concludes that forest connectivity is unlikely to increase by 2030.

iv. Summary of key challenges encountered and approaches for further implementation

As presented in the [JRC report assessing progress in monitoring and implementing the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030](#), gaps in the mapping of primary and old growth forests make it impossible to evaluate the outlook of having all such forests under strict protection by 2030. The EEA is exploring possibilities to develop an indicator on the percentage of remaining primary and old-growth forests under strict protection regime, for which first the mapping has to be completed.

v. Examples of effective implementation

The [Guidelines on biodiversity-friendly afforestation, reforestation and tree planting and the Guidelines on closer-to-nature forest management](#) promote biodiversity-friendly and adaptive forest management for forest multifunctionality, climate change resilience and socioeconomic benefits. They aim to assist competent authorities and stakeholders in the development and promotion of biodiversity-friendly and adaptive practices in forest management.

The [Forest Information System for Europe \(FISE\)](#) is the first common database on forest information in Europe. The web portal provides tailor-made information and data on EU forests to national, EU and international policymakers, experts working in the forest industry, forest owners and conservationists, as well as scientists and researchers.

The [European Forest Fire Information System](#) provides near-real time and reliable information on wildfires in Europe in support of European Commission services and authorities in charge of the protection of forests against fires in the EU and neighbouring countries. [The EU Civil Protection Mechanism](#), upgraded with [rescEU](#), coordinates pan-European assistance in times of crises, including in response to wildfires.

The adoption of the EU [Deforestation Regulation](#) EUDR has already generated positive developments and actions on the ground. Many countries have developed new traceability and certification schemes: Malaysia and Indonesia for palm oil and rubber, Thailand for rubber, Côte d'Ivoire for cocoa, Argentina for soy. Several countries are also scaling up forest monitoring tools and strengthening their standards to better tackle deforestation. A lot of progress by governments can be observed in terms of mapping farmers to ensure inclusion to international markets. Looking at the industry, a growing number of initiatives are offering traceability solutions. Several industry players have declared being ready for EUDR compliance.

The EU [LIFE](#) programme funds environment and climate projects, including in the field of sustainable forest management. For example, the [WOOD4LIFE](#) project (running 2024-2028) is developing tools and business models that will support the forest sector in mitigating climate change and valuing and remunerating ecosystem services. The [LIFE Platform Meeting on Forest Restoration in Europe – Carpathia](#) focused on urgent priorities in European forest restoration and management, including ecological restoration and natural regeneration, forests and climate change, agro-forestry and silvo-pastoral systems, and socio-economic opportunities and financial tools.

vi. Relevance to Sustainable Development Goals or other related agreements

The Implementation of this Target contributes to the implementation of SDGs 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) and 15 (Life on Land).

vii. Indicators to assess progress towards the target

[Headline](#)

- 10.2 Progress towards sustainable forest management

[Binary indicator 5.b \(see **Binary question 5.b** in Annex VI for detail on the responses\)](#)

- 5.b Number of countries with legal instruments or other policy frameworks for regulating trade in wild species

[Binary indicator 9.b \(see **Binary question 9.b** in Annex VI for detail on the responses\)](#)

- 9.b Number of countries with policies to manage the use of wild species sustainably, providing social, economic and environmental benefits for people, and to protect and encourage customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities

[Complementary:](#)

- A.CY.1 Forest area as a proportion of total land area

[Other EU indicators:](#)

- [Number of trees planted in the EU as part of the 3 billion trees pledge](#)
- [Common birds index per type of species \(forest\)](#)
- [Forest connectivity in Europe](#)
- Standing deadwood and lying deadwood (under development)
- Share of forests with uneven-aged structure (under development)

EU Target 5d: Health-sanitary measures in wildlife trade

Reduce the risk of pathogen spill-over associated with the use, harvesting and trade of wild species.

i. Main actions undertaken since 2020 to implement the target

Since 2020 the EU has developed and enacted a comprehensive harmonised legal framework to duly mitigate risks for animal and public health stemming from transmissible animal diseases and related, among others, to wild animals and their trade. That framework comprises the [EU Animal Health Law](#) together with a large number of subsequent Commission delegated and implementing acts, applicable since 21 April 2021. That framework is based on decades of experience in, and on past EU legislation for, handling health risks, on latest science supplied by risk assessments by the [European Food Safety Authority](#) (EFSA) and conforms to international standards by the [World Organisation for Animal Health](#) (WOAH). The framework provides for a robust, but flexible instrument where the EU and its Member States can mitigate any arising health risks via various legal measures. The EU further supported the roll-out of that framework with ample training in the context of [Better Training for Safer Food](#) (BTSF) and by developing a range of other information material. Comprehensive further information can be found on the [Animal Health Law](#) page.

Under the [Directive on the monitoring of zoonoses and zoonotic agents](#), EU Member States are required to collect relevant and, when applicable, comparable data on zoonoses, zoonotic agents, antimicrobial resistance and foodborne outbreaks (FBOs). Based on reporting by Member States, and 10 non-Member States, the European Food Safety Authority published [the European Union One Health 2023 Zoonoses report](#) in December 2024. The report concluded that reported cases of zoonotic diseases in humans increased, but foodborne outbreaks saw a slight decline.

The European Food Safety Authority has [Interactive tools on foodborne outbreaks](#).

The [EU4Health Programme](#) (2021-2027) supports One Health activities and defines the ‘One Health approach’ as a multisectoral approach which recognises that human health is connected to animal health and to the environment.

The EU undertakes fact-finding missions in relation to Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) and COVID to improve the cooperation between veterinary services and nature authorities in case of outbreaks in wild animal populations.

Within the One Health Approach, the EU supports, through the [Medical Countermeasures \(MCM\) Strategy](#) and the recast [Urban Wastewater Directive](#), the establishment and implementation of Wastewater surveillance as an important intelligence gathering and early warning tool that enables and strengthens the timely detection of pathogens - including zoonotic ones - circulating in human and animal -

including wildlife - communities, and assists in the timely deployment of mitigation measures to protect both human and animal health.

The European Commission funded the “[Safety across Asia For the global Environment](#)” (SAFE) project, implemented by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in collaboration with FAO and UNEP, focusing on the connection between wildlife trafficking and zoonotic disease transmission with the aim to prevent future pandemics.

Under the [EU Horizon Europe Programme](#) that supports research and innovation, [Cluster 6](#) (Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment) supports, among other intervention areas, research and innovation on the effect of nature restoration on zoonotic diseases spread.

ii. Current level of progress towards the target

- On track to achieve target
- Progress made but at an insufficient rate
- No significant progress
- Not applicable
- Unknown
- Achieved

iii. Summary of progress towards the target and main outcomes achieved

The European Union has enhanced relevant legislative frameworks and supports the [One Health approach](#), and deploys its principles in various policy areas, including in wastewater surveillance.

iv. Summary of key challenges encountered and approaches for further implementation

The [European Union One Health 2023 Zoonoses report](#) highlighted that the most reported zoonoses in humans were campylobacteriosis and salmonellosis, for which an increase in the absolute number of cases was observed in comparison with 2022. *L. monocytogenes* and West Nile virus infections were the most severe zoonotic diseases, with the highest percentage of hospitalisations among cases and the highest case fatality rates. All 27 Member States reported a slight decrease in foodborne outbreak in 2023 overall in comparison with 2022, although the overall number of reported human cases and hospitalisations increased.

Nevertheless, whereas the Zoonoses report mainly covers zoonoses, zoonotic agents and foodborne outbreaks involving farmed animals, no conclusions can be drawn as to whether the risk of pathogen spill-over associated with the use, harvesting and trade of wild species is reduced.

There is a general lack of information on the risk of pathogen spill-over associated with the use, harvesting and trade of wild species at the EU level. EU Member States may provide further information on pathogen spill overs in their national reports.

v. Examples of effective implementation

The EU-funded [Safety across Asia For the global Environment](#)” (SAFE) project in Thailand, Laos, State of Sabah in Malaysia and Viet Nam is a good example of effective actions. In particular, the project strengthened the regulatory frameworks on licencing and management of wildlife facilities; raised awareness of private sector actors and wider public; developed guidelines on biosafety, biosecurity and sanitation; built capacity for and improved cooperation between law enforcement authorities; and it improved disease reporting mechanisms and registration process for wildlife facilities.

vi. Relevance to Sustainable Development Goals or other related agreements

The Implementation of this Target contributes to the implementation of SDGs 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), 14 (Life Below Water), 15 (Life on Land) and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

vii. Indicators to assess progress towards the target

[Binary indicator 5.b \(see **Binary question 5.b** in Annex VI for detail on the responses\)](#)

- 5.b Number of countries with legal instruments or other policy frameworks for regulating trade in wild species

EU Target 6: Reducing the impacts of invasive alien species

Prevent, minimise and mitigate the adverse impact on biodiversity of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species (IAS) within the Union and reduce by 50% the number of Red List species threatened by IAS.

i. Main actions undertaken since 2020 to implement the target

The [EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030](#) Target 12 aims to reduce by 50 % the number of Red List species threatened by Invasive Alien Species (IAS). This is to be achieved by stepping up the implementation of EU IAS Regulation.

The EU [IAS Regulation](#) sets out rules to prevent, minimise and mitigate the adverse impacts on biodiversity arising from the introduction and spread within the Union of IAS. A List of IAS of Union Concern was first published [in 2016](#), and was subsequently updated in [2017](#), [2019](#), [2022](#) and [2025](#). Each update has added new species, to a total of 114 at present. A consolidated version of the Union list is available [here](#).

The European Commission has established the [European Alien Species Information Network \(EASIN\)](#) to support the implementation of the IAS Regulation. The platform includes a [notification system](#) (NOTSYS) through which Member States notify the Commission and other Member States of new detections of IAS of Union concern, related eradication measures and their effectiveness, official control detections, and derogations from the obligation of rapid eradication, in line with the Regulation's provisions. Additionally, for each new species added to the Union list, a [baseline report](#) is prepared to monitor the changes in its distribution across the EU, support the establishment of national surveillance programmes and facilitate collaborations. The JRC will publish the baseline for the latest IAS added to the Union list ([Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2025/1422](#)) in 2026. In 2021, the Commission published its [first report](#) on the application of the IAS Regulation. Member States reported in June 2025 on their implementation of the IAS Regulation and on activities they have conducted up to December 2024. The Commission will publish an EU-level analysis of these reports in 2026.

The Commission has funded several projects on managing and eradicating IAS through the LIFE programme, including several projects on island ecosystems such as in the EU's Overseas Countries and Territories. It has further tasked the IUCN with the setting up of a [rapid response fund](#) to provide small grants for rapid IAS eradication actions. Two Horizon Europe projects have been launched to strengthen monitoring and modelling of IAS in the EU, both in terrestrial and in aquatic ecosystems. Finally, a [horizon scanning study](#) published in April 2025 aims to identify which IAS are a priority for future listing. Several workshops have been organised to provide Member States with management experiences to facilitate eradication and management actions.

The [EU4Health Programme](#) (2021-2027) supports One Health activities and defines the ‘One Health approach’ as a multisectoral approach which recognises that human health is connected to animal health and to the environment. Under EU4Health, the Commission has supported coordinated action for scaling up national vector threat detection systems and control capacities to improve the surveillance and control in the EU of invasive mosquito species, which are largely responsible for the rise in cases of vector-borne diseases in recent years.

Guidance, tools and other information on the IAS Regulation and its implementation is available on the European Commission’s [Invasive Alien Species](#) webpage and [EASIN](#).

The new [Environmental Crime Directive](#) adopted in 2024 introduced a criminal offence consisting in breaching IAS Regulation on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of IAS, and causing serious injury to persons or substantial damage to biodiversity.

Provisions on IAS are also included in the [Marine Strategy Framework Directive](#) (MSFD) which makes explicit reference to the IAS Regulation and includes a specific descriptor on non-indigenous species (Descriptor 2) linked to three assessment criteria. Data and methodological approaches on the assessment of the good environmental status for the MSFD Descriptor 2 is available on the [EASIN webpage](#).

The [Council Regulation concerning use of alien and locally absent species in aquaculture](#) establishes a framework governing aquaculture practice in relation to alien and locally absent species to assess and minimise the possible impact of these and any associated non-target species on aquatic habitats. For more information, see the report on the EU target on sustainable aquaculture.

The [EU Regulation on protective measures against pests of plants](#) establishes rules to determine the phytosanitary risks posed by any species, strain or biotype of pathogenic agents, animals or parasitic plants injurious to plants or plant products and measures to reduce those risks to an acceptable level. Pursuant to the [Common Agricultural Policy Strategic Plans Regulation](#), Member States can establish optional measures to prevent the introduction of invasive plant species. The proposed [Forest Reproductive Material \(FRM\) regulation](#) aims to ensure the marketing of high-quality, traceable, and suitable FRM for forestry, while supporting climate adaptation and biodiversity conservations.

ii. Current level of progress towards the target

- On track to achieve target
- Progress made but at an insufficient rate
- No significant progress
- Not applicable

Unknown

Achieved

iii. Summary of progress towards the target and main outcomes achieved

In line with the IAS Regulation, most Member States have adopted Pathway management action plans to tackle those pathways of IAS introduction that are the most relevant to them. When the list of IAS of Union concern gets updated, Member States build upon this action plan to tackle the pathways of introduction relevant for these added species.

Member States have also set up surveillance systems to identify new introductions so that they can be eradicated early enough to prevent new IAS from establishing in the EU.

iv. Summary of key challenges encountered and approaches for further implementation

The Commission [report](#) on the application of the IAS Regulation (2021) has shown that resource allocation is amongst the main challenges to implementation. EU funding remains important to complement national funding under various sources (e.g. the European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund for IAS in the marine environment; Horizon Europe for relevant research; the common agricultural policy for the management of relevant IAS, etc.) to achieve full and effective implementation. Work is underway to highlight the costs of inaction, in order to make key stakeholders aware that the consequences from not managing IAS are more costly than measures to manage them. The Commission [report](#) further highlighted the scope for improvement in the implementation of the action plans to address priority pathways, in the comprehensiveness of surveillance systems' coverage and in official control structures in many Member States, as well as for greater coordination between neighbouring countries in tackling common species of national concern. Lack of administrative capacity, especially at the local and regional levels, has been identified as another significant challenge in several Member States, as well as knowledge gaps, for example on the implications of climate change for the establishment and spread of IAS, or on novel methods for IAS management, in particular measures addressing a broad range of IAS taxa at pathway level.

A key challenge in assessing progress towards Target 6 is the reliability of estimates, which relies on the quality and relevance of the data from surveillance and monitoring, and information on activities to prevent and manage IAS. Enhanced cooperation between Member States and Commission services, such as in the context of EASIN, can reinforce the sharing of up-to-date data and investments in collecting explicit measurements of IAS survey efforts.

v. *Examples of effective implementation*

The [European Alien Species Information Network \(EASIN\)](#) is an online platform of information on invasive alien species set up with the aim to help implement EU IAS policy. EASIN provides a comprehensive dataset on invasive alien species (IAS) in Europe, including their distribution, ecology and impacts on native species and ecosystems. By providing access to standardised and harmonised data, EASIN enables policymakers, researchers, and practitioners to make informed decisions on preventing the introduction and spread of IAS, as well as on managing their impacts. For example, EASIN has been used to inform the development of the EU's list of invasive alien species of Union concern, which prioritises species that pose the greatest threats to biodiversity and ecosystem services. Additionally, EASIN has supported the implementation of EU-funded projects, such as the under the LIFE programme, which has funded initiatives to control the spread of IAS like the American bullfrog or the signal crayfish. By facilitating knowledge and best practice exchange, EASIN is helping to protect Europe's biodiversity and ecosystem services from the threats posed by invasive alien species. EASIN is beneficiary of two Horizon-Europe projects: GuardIAS and OneSTOP.

[Species Search and Mapping tool](#) - database of alien species currently on the Union List in Europe and their distribution.

[IAS notification system](#) - EU countries notify the Commission about new observations of IAS of Union concern, detection at borders and measures.

The European Commission's Joint Research Centre has developed an application for citizen scientists who want to help monitor IAS in their region ([Apple iTunes Store](#) [Google Play Store](#)).

Furthermore, building on EASIN's tools and function the JRC launched a [Knowledge Hub on Target 6](#) to offer tailored assistance in response to requests from CBD Parties to the European Subregional Technical and Scientific Cooperation Support Centre (TSCC).

vi. *Relevance to Sustainable Development Goals or other related agreements*

The implementation of this target contributes to the implementation of SDGs 3 (Good Health and Well-being), 14 (Life Below Water), and 15 (Life on Land), and can strengthen the implementation of CITES and EU-level work on plant health.

vii. *Indicators to assess progress towards the target*

[Headline:](#)

- 6.1 rate of invasive alien species establishment

[Binary](#)

- Binary indicator 6.b Number of countries adopting relevant regulations, processes and measures to reduce the impact of invasive alien species ([see Binary question 6.b in Annex VI for detail on the responses](#))

Other EU indicators:

- [Marine non-indigenous species in Europe](#)
- [Rate of introduction of non-indigenous species for marine good environmental status assessment.](#)

EU Target 7a: Reducing nutrient losses

By 2030, reduce by 50% nutrient losses from agriculture while ensuring that there is no deterioration in soil fertility and reduce by 25% the EU ecosystems where air pollution threatens biodiversity

i. Main actions undertaken since 2020 to implement the target

The [Zero Pollution Action Plan](#), adopted in 2021, contains the overall target of reducing, by 2050, air, water and soil pollution to levels that are no longer considered harmful to health and natural ecosystems, and that respect the boundaries our planet can cope with, thus creating a toxic-free environment. It further includes the specific targets of reducing nutrient losses from agriculture by 50% by 2030 and reducing by 25% the EU ecosystems where air pollution threatens biodiversity. About 90% of the actions announced in 2021 have been completed (see [action tracker](#)). The 2nd [Zero Pollution Monitoring and Outlook](#) report published by the EEA on 3 March 2025 provides an overview of progress, including on achieving the above-mentioned EU nutrient targets. The [Mid-term review](#) of the [Zero Pollution Action Plan](#) outlines the need for efforts in implementation, investments and integration as well as innovation, digitalisation and skills, in addition to the actions listed below.

The [Vision for Agriculture and Food](#) (2025) highlights the importance of tackling nutrient (and other) pollution and sets out a number of additional measures, such as support to farmers. A Vision for 2040 on Fisheries and Aquaculture is also under preparation and expected to be presented in late 2026, as a follow-up to the [Evaluation](#) of the [Common Fisheries Policy](#) that is currently ongoing. The [European Water Resilience Strategy](#) (2025) and the [European Ocean Pact](#) (2025) have highlighted the importance of tackling marine and freshwater pollution (including from nutrients) for improving the resilience of the water cycle. The Water Resilience Strategy announces many flagship actions aiming to restore and protect the water cycle, including the launch, by 2027, of an Assistance Toolbox to support Member States' actions to reduce nutrients pollution, including through enhanced modelling, interactive maps and exchanges of best practices.

The [Water Framework Directive](#) establishes a framework for the protection of inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwaters. In 2022, the Commission proposed [amendments to the Directive](#) to revise the list of pollutants. Political agreement has been reached, and formal adoption is expected in early 2026. Moreover, the Commission will present a proposal for a revision of the Water Framework Directive in 2026.

The [implementation report for the 3rd River Basin Management Plans](#), published in February 2025, recommends actions that Member States should take to, *inter alia*, reduce nutrient pollution.

The [Marine Strategy Framework Directive](#) (MSFD), including [Commission Decision \(EU\) 2017/848](#), establishes a framework requiring EU Member States to implement measures to achieve or maintain good environmental status in the marine environment, including eutrophication. The implementation report on the [2nd programme of measures under the MSFD](#) was published in February 2025. It recommends actions that Member States should take to, *inter alia*, reduce excess nutrient loading in enclosed marine ecosystems. The [evaluation of the MSFD](#) was published in March 2025. In June 2025, the Commission announced that it would review the MSFD to improve its effectiveness and reduce administrative burden.

The [Nitrates Directive](#) lays down rules to reduce water pollution caused or induced by nitrates from agricultural sources, and to prevent further such pollution. Member States must (i) designate Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZ) on their territories (current status can be seen on a [map viewer](#)), (ii) establish voluntary codes of good agricultural practice and compulsory programmes within NVZ (for the latter, national action programmes are accessible in the [NAPINFO database](#)), (iii) limit the application of nitrogen from manure (with derogations given to the [Netherlands](#) in 2022 (until 2025), [Ireland](#) in 2022 and [Denmark](#) (in 2020, until 2024), and (iv) identify polluted water, or waters at risk of pollution.

Every four years, EU Member States report on progress, based on which the Commission produces a report on the implementation of the Directive. The latest report is from 2021 (see [report](#), [staff working document](#) and [Q&A](#)). An [evaluation of the Nitrates Directive](#) is ongoing.

The [Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive](#) concerns the collection, treatment and discharge of urban wastewater and the treatment and discharge of wastewater from certain industrial sectors. The [recast Urban Wastewater treatment Directive](#), adopted in 2024, will contribute to further reducing nutrient releases from non-agricultural sources, and will include more stringent limit values to treat nitrogen and phosphorus.

In 2024, the EU adopted an amended [Industrial and Livestock Rearing Emissions Directive \(IED 2.0\)](#). This is the main EU instrument to reduce emissions into air, water and land, and to prevent waste generation from large industrial installations and intensive livestock farms (pig and poultry). The IED 2.0 provides for the Commission to adopt, by September 2026, Uniform Conditions for Operating Rules for large pig and poultry installations within the scope of the IED 2.0. These rules are being developed together with Member States and stakeholders in a science-based and transparent process. Farmers will have time to implement these rules, as compliance will be phased in gradually by 2030-2032, depending on farm size. IED 2.0 includes a review clause, whereby the Commission is mandated to report, by December 2026, on the need for Union action to address more comprehensively the emissions from livestock, in particular from cattle. It will also assess the feasibility of action to ensure that imported livestock products do not pollute more than those produced in the EU. An [Innovation](#)

[Centre for Industrial Transformation and Emissions \(INCITE\)](#) will be set up to gather information on innovative pollution control solutions and transformative technologies, helping to speed up their development.

The EU also adopted, in 2024, a [European Industrial Emission Portal Regulation](#) that sets out rules on the reporting of environmental data from industrial installations.

The [National Emission Reduction Commitments \(NEC\) Directive](#) sets emission reduction commitments for five main air pollutants that have a significant negative impact on human health and the environment: SO₂, NO_x, NMVOC, NH₃ and PM_{2.5}. Article 9 concerns the monitoring of air pollution impacts on ecosystems. The [second Commission report](#) on the implementation of the NEC Directive and the [evaluation of the Directive](#) were published in 2024 and 2025 respectively. Overall, Member States are partially on track of meeting their reduction commitments with most compliance challenges still relating to reducing ammonia emissions.

The recast [Drinking Water Directive](#) aims to protect human health from the adverse effects of drinking water contamination. Article 4(2) requires Member States to ensure that their measures do not lead to an increase in pollution of waters used for the production of drinking water. The Directive (Article 8) also introduces a preventive, risk-based approach favouring actions to reduce pollution at source.

In November 2025, the EU adopted the [Directive on Soil Monitoring and Resilience](#). It aims to put in place a soil monitoring framework, to continuously improve soil health in the Union, and to achieve healthy soils by 2050. Member States have to address excess nutrient content in soil.

Under the EU Horizon Europe programme for research and innovation, an [EU Mission: A Soil Deal for Europe](#) aims to set up 100 living labs and lighthouses to lead the transition towards healthy soils by 2030. These living labs and lighthouses will co-create knowledge, test solutions and demonstrate their value in real-life conditions, developing a harmonised framework for soil monitoring in Europe, and raising awareness on the vital importance of soils. The first 25 Living Labs started in 2024 with more than 250 real-life sites involving farmers across Europe, and 20 more Living Labs started in 2025, to reach 100 by 2027.

The [EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030](#) sets a target to reduce by 50% the losses of nutrients from fertilisers, resulting in the reduction of the use of fertilisers by at least 20%. This target was reflected in the [Zero Pollution Action Plan](#) (see above). The Biodiversity Strategy and the [Circular Economy Action Plan](#) contain a commitment to develop an [Integrated Nutrient Management Plan](#) to ensure more sustainable application of nutrients and stimulating the markets for recovered nutrients. The Integrated Nutrient Management Plan has been postponed while the evaluation of the Nitrates Directive is taking place.

ii. Current level of progress towards the target

- On track to achieve target
- Progress made but at an insufficient rate
- No significant progress
- Not applicable
- Unknown
- Achieved

iii. Summary of progress towards the target and main outcomes achieved

According to the 2nd [Zero Pollution Monitoring and Outlook](#) of March 2025, progress towards the two national targets is as follows:

- No data on nutrient losses exist but the average nitrate concentration in EU groundwaters did not change significantly from 2000 to 2022 — oscillating around 21 mg NO₃/l. The status and past trend indicate that the EU is unlikely to meet the target by 2030. Results from a high ambition model scenario show that potential nutrient load reductions are substantial, but still below the 2030 target.
- The EEA's [Nutrients in Europe's transitional, coastal and marine waters](#) indicator shows an overall decreasing trend in 14% of the nitrogen time series, an increase in 2%, while 84% shows no significant trend. 11% of the phosphorus time series shows a decrease, with 7% having an increase and 82% showing no significant changes between 2017-2021. Analysis of chlorophyll in Europe's transitional, coastal and marine waters indicates that 95% of the monitoring points do not show significant changes in nutrient levels and chlorophyll. In summary, eutrophication is slightly decreasing in certain areas but remains largely unchanged in Europe's seas.
- Between 2005 and 2023, the total area of ecosystems at risk of eutrophication due to nitrogen deposition in the EU-27 Member States fell by almost 14% ([Eutrophication caused by atmospheric nitrogen deposition in Europe](#)). The [4th Clean Air Outlook](#) presented in March 2025 indicates that the area of ecosystems affected by eutrophication due to nitrogen deposition would diminish by 19% by 2030 with baseline policies.

iv. Summary of key challenges encountered and approaches for further implementation

Evaluations of key policies (i.e. Nitrates Directive and National Emission reduction Commitments Directive) are taking place to identify challenges and possible need for different approaches.

v. *Examples of effective implementation*

HELCOM (Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission) is an intergovernmental organisation and a regional sea convention in the Baltic Sea area. The [HELCOM nutrient input reduction scheme](#) is a regional approach to sharing the burden of nutrient reductions to achieve the common goal, as agreed by the Baltic Sea countries, of a Baltic Sea unaffected by eutrophication. The scheme has two main components: maximum allowable inputs of nutrients, and nutrient input ceilings. Progress towards reaching the maximum allowable inputs is assessed annually, and national input ceilings every second year.

The EU-funded [SEACURE](#) research project (2024 – 2028) aims to demonstrate and scale up innovative solutions for nutrient management to prevent, reduce, and remediate nutrient pollution through sustainable land practices, improved wastewater treatment, and nature restoration actions. The project will focus on six regions in Spain, Italy, and Greece. SEACURE will also act on governance levers to upscale the effective strategies at regional level and replicate them across the Mediterranean and other sensitive European basins.

vi. *Relevance to Sustainable Development Goals or other related agreements*

The Implementation of this target contributes to the implementation of SDGs 3 (Good Health and Well-being), 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), 14 (Life Below Water) and 15 (Life on Land).

vii. *Indicators to assess progress towards the target*

Headline:

- 7.1 Index for coastal eutrophication (under development)

Other EU indicators:

- [Eutrophication caused by atmospheric nitrogen](#)
- [Marine waters affected by eutrophication](#)
- [Inorganic fertiliser consumption in agriculture](#)
- Organic fertiliser consumption in agriculture (under development)
- [Nutrients in Europe's transitional, coastal and marine waters](#)

EU Target 7b: Reducing pesticide use and risk

By 2030, reduce the overall use and risk of chemical pesticides by 50% and the use of more hazardous pesticides by 50%

i. Main actions undertaken since 2020 to implement the target

The [Zero Pollution Action Plan](#), adopted in 2021, contains the overall target of reducing by 2050 air, water and soil pollution to levels that are no longer considered harmful to health and natural ecosystems, and that respect the boundaries our planet can cope with, thus creating a toxic-free environment. It further includes the specific target of reducing the overall use and risk of chemical pesticides by 50%, and the use of more hazardous pesticides by 50% by 2030, which mirrors the target set in the [EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030](#). The [2nd Zero Pollution Monitoring and Outlook](#), published in March 2025, provides an overview of progress on achieving these targets as well as other indicators and evidence regarding pesticide pollution. As regards the targets, new data from 2023 have been published since then (see: [Pesticide reduction targets](#)). The [Mid-term review](#) of the [Zero Pollution Action Plan](#) outlines the need for efforts in implementation, investments and integration as well as innovation, digitalisation and skills in addition to the actions listed below.

The [Vision for Agriculture and Food](#) highlights the importance of tackling pesticides (and other) pollution and sets out a number of additional measures such as better access to biopesticides.

The [European Water Resilience Strategy](#) and the [European Ocean Pact](#) highlight the importance of tackling marine and freshwater pollution, including from pesticides, for improving the resilience of the water cycle.

On July 8, 2025, the European Commission presented an [Action Plan for the Chemicals Industry](#) to strengthen the competitiveness and modernisation of the EU chemical sector. The Action Plan is accompanied by a [simplification omnibus on chemicals](#) to further streamline and simplify key EU chemicals legislation. Under this plan, the Commission put forward a [simplification omnibus on food and feed](#) in December 2025, including a [proposal for a Regulation](#) on the simplification and strengthening of food and feed safety requirements that would, amongst others, facilitate biocontrol in farming. Some aspects, such as facilitated market access for biopesticides, will also be relevant to the chemical industry.

The [Regulation concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market and related legislation](#) lays down rules for the authorisation of such products to ensure a high level of protection of human and animal health and the environment. The pesticide risk assessment is currently in the process of being strengthened by implementing more stringent risk assessment procedures for bees and other organisms.

The [Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive](#) establishes a framework to achieve a sustainable use of pesticides by reducing the risks and impacts of pesticide use on human health and the environment, and promoting the use of integrated pest management and of alternative approaches or techniques such as non-chemical alternatives to pesticides.

Under the [Water Framework Directive](#), the [implementation report](#) and [overview](#) for the 3rd River Basin Management Plans, published in February 2025, recommends actions that Member States should take to, *inter alia*, reduce pesticide pollution.

The [2022 Commission proposal on water pollutants](#) aims to improve the environmental quality of European freshwaters and protect the environment from the adverse effects of hazardous chemicals including selected pesticides. Political agreement has been reached, and formal adoption is expected in early 2026. (See also [Better protection of surface and groundwater to strengthen EU water resilience](#).)

The [Drinking Water Directive](#) aims to protect human health from the adverse effects of any contamination of drinking water, and Article 4(2) requires Member States to ensure that their measures do not lead to the increase in pollution of waters used for the production of drinking water. The Directive also introduces a preventive and risk-based approach, favouring actions to reduce pollution at source (Article 8).

The [Marine Strategy Framework Directive](#) (MSFD) (including [Commission Decision \(EU\) 2017/848](#)) establishes a framework within which Member States shall take the necessary measures to achieve or maintain good environmental status in the marine environment. The implementation report for the [2nd programme of measures under the MSFD](#) was published in February 2025. It recommends actions that Member States should take to, *inter alia*, reduce land-based pollution and in particular contaminants such as pesticide pollution, where relevant. An [evaluation of the MSFD](#) was published in March 2025. The Commission has announced in the European Water Resilience Strategy that the MSFD will be revised by 2027.

The [Strategic Plans Regulation](#) under the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP), notably Article 31 on eco-schemes and Article 70 on environment, climate-related and other management commitments, requires Member States to establish schemes which can financially support farmers committing to implement farming practices beneficial for sustainable and reduced use of pesticides, and going beyond the legal requirements. In 2024, 29% of the EU's agricultural area was concerned by such support schemes having a direct objective of pesticides reduction. A number of other support schemes may also have an indirect benefit for pesticides reduction, such as for instance promoting crop rotations or the maintenance of biodiversity-rich areas. Under the CAP, this financial support for farming practices may also be complemented by financial support for investments, risk management, collective approaches in certain sensitive sectors (for

example fruits and vegetables or wine) and knowledge transfer, in particular through advice. All these instruments are also relevant for the objective of pesticide reduction.

The [Directive on Soil Monitoring and Resilience](#), adopted in 2025, aims to put in place a soil monitoring framework and to achieve healthy soils by 2050, including by reducing soil contamination to levels no longer considered harmful to human health and the environment.

The revised [EU Pollinators Initiative - A new deal for pollinators](#) aims, amongst other objectives, to mitigate the impacts of pesticide use on pollinators.

As part of the EU's Zero Pollution ambition, the [Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability](#) aims, amongst other actions, to develop an indicator framework on chemicals including pesticides. The EEA, the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) and the European Commission developed and published the [EU indicator framework for chemicals](#) in 2024. It includes a dashboard organized according to the toxic free hierarchy: “safe and sustainable chemicals”, “minimise and control the risks” and “eliminate and remediate chemical pollution”.

The amendment to the [Regulation on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures \(CLP Regulation\)](#) was adopted in 2024. It provides for improved hazard information and labelling, reinforces hazard criteria relevant to human and environmental health, and sets out clearer rules on aspects such as refill, bulk sale and online sale.

ii. Current level of progress towards the target

- On track to achieve target
- Progress made but at an insufficient rate
- No significant progress
- Not applicable
- Unknown
- Achieved

iii. Summary of progress towards the target and main outcomes achieved

The 2nd Zero Pollution Monitoring and Outlook published on 3 March 2025 provides an overview of progress also on achieving the above-mentioned EU pesticides targets as well as other indicators and evidence regarding pesticides pollution. As regards the targets, new data from 2023 have been published since then (see: Pesticide reduction targets). In 2023, approximately 292,000 tonnes of pesticides were sold in the EU, the

lowest level since the start of the data series in 2011. This marked a 9% reduction compared to 2022, and an 18% drop compared to 2021 (see [here](#)). Exceedances of pesticides thresholds are still found in 12% in groundwater and 23 % of river water bodies (2023 data, see [Pesticides in rivers, lakes and groundwater in Europe | Indicators | European Environment Agency \(EEA\)](#)).

The EU is not yet monitoring its progress in line with headline indicator 7.2. as the global methodology for this indicator is being finalised. Two existing EU indicators show an overall decrease at EU level of 58% in the use and risk of chemical pesticides, and a decrease of 27% in the use of more hazardous pesticides between the reference baseline period 2015-2017 and the period 2018-2023. However, both EU indicators have their shortcomings as they are not adequately assessing risks for biodiversity.

A study [Increasing applied pesticide toxicity trends counteract the global reduction target to safeguard biodiversity](#) (February 2026, covering data for the period 2013-2019) indicates that, while total applied toxicity (TAT) decreased in parts of Europe, no improvements are observed in other European regions – highlighting that TAT trends are heterogenous, and overall progress is not yet satisfactory. The study can support the setting of a baseline for the assessment of global progress to this target. The Commission is committed to developing more sophisticated indicators in future, and in particular the KM GBF headline indicator 7.2. Aggregated Total Applied Toxicity (ATAT), pending finalisation of its global methodology. ATAT will provide improved weightings that take hazard properties for biodiversity into account.

iv. Summary of key challenges encountered and approaches for further implementation

Based on existing EU indicators, there is an overall downward trend in pesticide risk that suggests that both 50% reduction targets can be achieved by 2030. However, this trend has to be validated also in relation to biodiversity risks (which are less well-covered by the existing EU indicators). This will be possible once the ATAT indicator becomes operational. There are also indications that risks in the environment are still high, for example levels of exceedances of pesticide limits in waters. Further efforts, in particular as regards implementation of existing instruments, are still needed.

A JRC [report from an expert workshop](#) (2024) highlights the need for alternative business models to reduce pesticide use in agriculture, while maintaining food security. It notes that the lack of EU-level data on actual pesticide use and risk for different geographic areas and crops presents a challenge to evaluating the costs, benefits and feasibility of pesticide reductions under alternative business models. A [mapping and analysis of national Strategic Plans for the CAP \(2023\)](#) found no eco-schemes prioritising areas with high pesticide use and risk.

v. *Examples of effective implementation*

A number of EU-funded projects aim to promote integrated pest management and improve pesticide monitoring.

The [IPMWORKS project](#) (2020-2025) promoted the adoption of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies. An EU-wide network of farmers progressing in IPM practices helps to show other farmers the benefits of holistic IPM, demonstrating low reliance on pesticides with better pest control, reduced costs and enhanced profitability. The project has also organised training and produced training material.

The [IPM Decisions project](#) provides a “one stop shop” for decisions support in integrated pest management. The web-based [IPM Decisions Platform](#) provides farmers, advisors and researchers a wide range of decision support systems from across Europe through a set of four dashboards.

The [SmartProtect Platform](#) is a thematic network focusing on SMART IPM solutions for farmers, advisors, experts, researchers, technology providers, and any other interested end-user.

The [INSIGNIA-EU](#) project aimed to design and test an innovative citizen science environmental monitoring protocol using honeybee colonies for the detection of pollutants, including pesticides, microplastics, heavy metals, and air pollutants.

The [AGROWISE](#) project aims at supporting Member States in the development of crop- or farm-specific rules for integrated pest management.

The [SPRINT](#) project explores innovative transition pathways towards more sustainable plant protection that can reduce crop protection costs, while reducing pesticide pollution of air, water and soil and producing healthier foods.

Smart farming applications can reduce pollution and save costs by helping farmers to match agricultural inputs (fertilisers, pesticides, water) with what crops actually needs ([SQAT](#), [DINOSAR](#), [TerraMetallum](#)).

vi. *Relevance to Sustainable Development Goals or other related agreements*

The implementation of this target contributes to the implementation of SDGs 3 (Good Health and Well-being), 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), 14 (Life Below Water) and 15 (Life on Land).

vii. *Indicators to assess progress towards the target*

Headline:

- 7.2 Aggregated Total Applied Toxicity (pending finalisation of global methodology)

Other EU indicators:

- Target/indicator on EU trends in the use and risk of chemical pesticides
- Target/indicator on EU trends in the use of more hazardous pesticides

EU Target 7c: Reducing pollution

Reduce by 2050 air, water and soil pollution to levels no longer considered harmful to health and natural ecosystems and that respect the boundaries our planet can cope with, thus creating a toxic-free environment, including through reducing by 50% the sale of antimicrobials for farmed animals and in aquaculture, phase out mercury, reduce emissions of air pollutants and set environmental quality standards for priority hazardous substances in water.

i. Main actions undertaken since 2020 to implement the target

The [Zero Pollution Action Plan](#) was published in 2021 to reduce by 2050 air, water, and soil pollution to levels no longer considered harmful to health and natural ecosystems and that respect the boundaries our planet can cope with, thus creating a toxic-free environment. The Action Plan integrates pollution reduction targets set in the [EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030](#).

About 90% of the actions announced in 2021 have been completed, see [action tracker](#). These include amongst many others:

- A [revision of the Ambient Air Quality Directive](#) (2024) which aims to progressively improve air quality to levels no longer considered harmful to human health, natural ecosystems and biodiversity
- Introduction of more stringent emission limits for motor vehicles (through the [Euro 7 standard proposal](#))
- [Launch of Zero Pollution dashboard for regions and cities](#)

Many of the developments set out below are actions under the Zero Pollution Action Plan.

The [2nd Zero Pollution Monitoring and Outlook](#) published in March 2025 provides an overview of progress also on achieving the EU pollution reduction targets in the above-mentioned areas. The [Mid-term review](#) of the [Zero Pollution Action Plan](#) outlines the need for efforts in implementation, investments and integration as well as innovation, digitalisation and skills in addition to the actions listed below.

The [Industrial Emissions Directive](#) was [revised in 2024](#) to improve the Directive's effectiveness in preventing or minimising the emissions of pollutants by agro-industrial installations at source and support the transition towards their use of safer or less toxic chemicals, amongst others.

The European Industrial Emission Portal Regulation was [revised in 2024](#) and sets out rules on the reporting of environmental data from industrial installations.

The upcoming Industrial Accelerator Act aims to increase decarbonised and resilient industrial production in the EU manufacturing industry, with special attention to energy intensive industries and clean technologies.

The [Evaluation](#) of the [National Emission reduction Commitments Directive](#) was finalised on 1 December 2025 and assesses to what extent the Directive has reached its objective of protecting human health and the environment by reducing national emissions of the five main air pollutants (SO₂, NO_x, NMVOC, NH₃ and PM_{2.5}).

The 2020 [Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability](#) proposes measures to further phase out the most harmful chemicals, like endocrine disruptors and persistent substances. Most of the 80 actions in the strategy have been completed, see [action tracker on the implementation](#). Some of the developments outlined below are actions under the Strategy.

In July 2025, the Commission presented an [Action Plan for the Chemicals Industry](#) to strengthen the competitiveness and modernisation of the EU chemical sector. The Action Plan is accompanied by a [simplification omnibus on chemicals](#) to further streamline and simplify key EU chemicals legislation. Specifically, the Plan covers, amongst others, promoting affordable energy and decarbonisation. In addition, the Action Plan reaffirms the Commission's efforts to minimise per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) emissions through a robust, science-based restriction, on the basis of the [European Chemicals Agency's opinion on the Universal PFAS restriction dossier](#), while ensuring continued use in critical applications under strict conditions. For more information on the European Chemicals Agency's process for the Universal PFAS restriction, please see [Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances \(PFAS\) - ECHA](#).

The [Revision](#) of the [Regulation on classification, labelling and packaging of chemicals](#) was adopted in 2024 and aims to clarify the rules on labelling chemical substances and the required information for chemicals sold online.

In December 2025, the [Regulation establishing a common data platform on chemicals](#), the [Regulation on the re-attribution of scientific and technical tasks and improving cooperation among Union agencies](#) and the [Directive on the re-attribution of scientific and technical tasks to the European Chemicals Agency](#) were published. These measures are part of the [one-substance one-assessment package](#), which aims to streamline assessments of chemicals across EU legislation; strengthen the knowledge base on chemicals; and ensure early detection and action on emerging chemical risks.

The [Biocidal Products Regulation](#) concerns the making available on the market and use of biocidal products in the EU. Biocidal products are used, among other, to control pests (such as rodenticides) or to prevent the spread of diseases (such as surface or hand disinfectants). The regulation aims to protect human health, animal health, and the environment from the potential risks associated with biocidal products. It governs the approval of active substances (which takes place at the EU level) and the authorisation of biocidal products (which takes place mostly at the Member State level). The regulation requires biocidal products to undergo a rigorous evaluation and authorisation process to ensure their safety and efficacy. It also establishes rules for the labelling, packaging, and

advertising of biocidal products. Various implementing and delegated acts have been published since 2020, including on the approval of active substances. For more information on the Biocidal Products Regulation, please see [BPR - ECHA](#). An [Evaluation](#) of the Biocidal Products Regulation is currently ongoing and expected to be adopted in early 2027.

The [update](#) to the [Recast Regulation on persistent organic pollutants](#) entered into force at the end of 2022, further restricting the manufacturing, placing on the market and use of substances harmful to human health and the environment.

The [revision](#) of the [Mercury Regulation](#) was adopted in 2024 and sets out rules as regards dental amalgam and other mercury-added products subject to manufacturing, import and export restrictions.

The [implementation report for the 3rd River Basin Management Plans](#) under the [Water Framework Directive](#) was published in February 2025 ([COM\(2025\)2](#) and [SWD\(2025\)13](#)). It includes recommendations on how Member States can make further progress in better implementing the Water Framework Directive and the [Floods Directive](#).

The [implementation report for the 2nd programme of measures](#) under the [Marine Strategy Framework Directive](#) was published in February 2025 ([COM\(2025\)3](#) and [SWD\(2025\)1](#)). It identifies recommendation for actions that Member States should take to, *inter alia*, reduce pollution, where relevant. An evaluation of the MSFD was published in March 2025 ([SWD\(2025\)50](#)). It concluded that the Directive has put in place an ambitious framework to better monitor the state of our seas and protect marine life from pollution and unsustainable practices. It has, however, not fully achieved its good environmental status objectives, which were originally due in 2020, and there is clear scope for the reduction of administrative burden through regulatory simplification and enhanced data management.

The [Recast Drinking Water Directive](#) of 2020 aims to protect human health from the adverse effects of any contamination of water intended for human consumption and includes provisions on e.g. monitoring pollutants and establishing the minimum requirements on materials that come into contact with drinking water.

Implementation of the recast Directive is advancing with the following relevant actions since 2020 (see [details here](#)):

- Minimum hygiene requirements for materials that come into contact with water intended for human consumption
- Methodology to measure microplastics
- Methods of analysis for monitoring 'PFAS Total' and 'Sum of PFAS'

The [Revision](#) of the [Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive](#) was adopted in 2024 and includes a requirement for the removal of a broad spectrum of micro-pollutants (substances or their breakdown products considered hazardous to human health or the

environment, as set out in Part 3 and Part 4 of Annex I to the REACH Regulation) from urban wastewaters by means of quaternary treatment.

The [2022 Commission proposal on water pollutants](#) aims to improve the environmental quality of European freshwaters and protect the environment from the adverse effects of hazardous chemicals including selected pesticides. Political agreement between the co-legislators has been reached, and formal adoption is expected by the end of 2025 or early 2026. (See also [Better protection of surface and groundwater to strengthen EU water resilience](#).)

As of February 2023, the [Commission Regulation restricting the use of lead gunshot in wetlands](#) bans carrying or using lead gunshot within 100 metres from wetlands. This will help protect wetlands and prevent around 1 million birds dying of lead poisoning each year.

The [Waste Framework Directive](#) was last [revised](#) in September 2025 to further address waste, including food waste, reduction and the environmental impact of waste management. A key feature of the revised Directive is its common set of rules which will increase sustainability for businesses and consumers and harmonise the single market for used and waste textiles.

The [Environmental Noise Directive](#) of 2002 is the main EU law to identify noise pollution levels and act on them. The Commission published its [third implementation report](#) in 2023. The report indicated that Noise exposure has remained relatively stable and has not decreased despite 20 years of implementing the Directive and other national noise policies and national noise limits.

The [Soil Monitoring and Resilience Directive](#) was adopted in 2025 and aims to establish a solid and coherent soil monitoring framework to reduce soil contamination to levels no longer harmful to human health and the environment, amongst other objectives.

In November 2025, a [new Bioeconomy Strategy](#) was adopted, charting a way forward to build a clean, competitive and resilient European economy. With the Strategy, the EU will support activities that provide sustainable practical solutions using biological resources in various key sectors, including agriculture, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture. The Strategy recognises that Europe's bioeconomy depends on the health and resilience of its natural environment and that biomass production and use should maintain and improve ecosystem services. Circularity is to become a core principle of the European bioeconomy. Resource use will become more efficient by keeping materials in productive use for longer and making better use of residues and by-products, hereby reducing pollution.

The [Regulation on Ecodesign for Sustainable Products](#) (ESPR) was adopted in 2024 to replace the [2009 Ecodesign Directive](#) and enhances the framework for setting eco-design requirements for specific product groups. The ESPR enables the setting of mandatory performance and information rules – known as 'ecodesign requirements' – for almost all

categories of physical goods including the limitation of waste through recycling initiatives, enhancing energy efficiency, durability and reusability and improving the information available on product sustainability.

In April 2025, the first [ESPR and Energy Labelling Working Plan](#) was published. The working plan identifies the first set of key priorities for final products, intermediate products and horizontal requirements that need to be addressed. The priorities for the working plan 2025-2030 are textiles/apparel, furniture, tyres, mattresses, iron and steel, aluminium, reparability (including scoring) and recycled content of electrical and electronic equipment. In parallel, it paves the way to cover more product groups in the future by conducting preliminary scoping studies and detailed assessments of the potential impacts and improvements.

The [Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive](#) (CSDDD) was adopted in June 2024 and entered into force in July 2024. The CSDDD's due diligence requirements require large companies in its scope to identify, assess and address environmental adverse impacts, related to international conventions listed in its annex, which may include the reduction of pollution as part of appropriate measures that these companies will need to take, for instance in situations where pollution is linked to endangering biodiversity or where it is causing measurable degradation substantially adversely affecting ecosystem services contributing directly or indirectly to human wellbeing. In April 2025, it was amended by [Directive 2025/794](#), postponing the CSDDD application to the first group of largest companies in its scope by one year to give them more time to prepare. In December 2025, a [provisional agreement](#) was reached on the [Omnibus package](#) that contains amendments to the CSDDD, which aim to enable companies to stay firmly on course toward our sustainability goals, including decarbonisation and broader environmental, social and human rights objectives, while simplifying the rules and minimising regulatory burden as much as possible.

ii. Current level of progress towards the target

- On track to achieve target
- Progress made but at an insufficient rate
- No significant progress
- Not applicable
- Unknown
- Achieved

iii. Summary of progress towards the target and main outcomes achieved

The [2nd Zero Pollution Monitoring and Outlook](#) published on 3 March 2025, complemented by the [2025 8th EAP Progress Report](#), provides an overview of progress on achieving the EU pollution reduction targets in the above-mentioned areas, in particular:

- Between 2005 and 2023, the number of premature deaths in the EU attributable to PM2.5 fell by 57%
- The area of habitats affected by atmospheric nitrogen deposition decreased by 13% between 2005 and 2022, indicating some progress, but the pace of change is too slow to reach the target of a 25% reduction by 2030.
- In 2022, almost a third of Europe's agricultural lands were exposed to ozone levels above the threshold value set to protect vegetation; the more ambitious long-term objective was met in only 11.2% of agricultural lands.
- Ground-level ozone reduces growth rates and crop yields and is estimated to cause at least EUR 2 billion in damage to food crops every year in Europe.
- In 2022, the sales of veterinary antimicrobials for food-producing animals in the EU fell by 28% compared to 2018. This is due to the efforts of Member States and the implementation of the [Council Recommendation on stepping up EU actions to combat antimicrobial resistance in a One Health approach](#).
- A slight decrease (2%) in the population affected by harmful noise levels is estimated between 2017 and 2022 as a result of the [Environmental Noise Directive](#) and the related source legislation for the different transport modes, see [Report COM \(2023\) 139](#).

As regards, residual municipal waste (as defined by the Waste Framework Directive), the trend had been decreasing but has reached a plateau since 2015: with a 16% decrease between 2004 and 2022, the decrease between 2018 and 2022 has been slight (-1.5%). The [EEA's Report on Europe's environment 2025](#) states that EU pollution reduction shows mixed results, with progress in some areas and challenges in others.

- 77% of the area of Europe's groundwater was reported to be in good chemical status for the period 2016-2021. The major pollutants of groundwater are nitrates and pesticides.
- 29% of Europe's surface waters were in good chemical status in the period 2016-2021, which is slightly lower than the 2009-2015 period. This figure in surface waters rises to 77% if ubiquitous, persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic substances (uPBTs) are excluded.

These figures relate to the implementation of the Water Framework Directive ([COM\(2025\) 2](#)). Urban wastewater treatment has improved but on the other hand new types of contaminants, including chemicals, microplastics, pharmaceuticals and personal care products, are found in aquatic systems. Legacy pollutants persist in marine waters and emerging contaminants give additional pollution concerns. Some

hazardous substance levels and beach litter have decreased but eutrophication persists and underwater noise is increasing.

iv. Summary of key challenges encountered and approaches for further implementation

The [2nd Zero Pollution Monitoring and Outlook](#) reports that 29% of Europe's surface waters were in good chemical status in the period 2016-2021, which is slightly lower than the 2009-2015 period. The failures in surface water bodies were due primarily to a small number of persistent pollutants such as brominated flame retardants and mercury. Mercury is also a problem in air and soil.

An increasing problem are PFAS and other persistent organic pollutants. PFOS, the most studied PFAS, is widely present in European waters. The exceedance of the annual average environmental quality standards for PFOS over the period from 2018 to 2022 ranged from 51% to 60% for rivers, 11% to 35% for lakes, and 47% to 100% for transitional and coastal waters.

Regarding soil pollution, local and proximity pollution (e.g. from industry, waste) as well as diffuse agricultural inputs continue to cause high concentrations of metals and organic pollutants in soil and introduce potential AMR drivers and excess nutrients. Pesticide residues were found in 75% of EU soils monitored in the 2018 Land Use and Land Cover (LUCAS) survey.

The number of potentially contaminated sites across the EU is high, yet likely underestimated. Over 50% of sites are unregistered or not risk assessed. While recent trends in managing contaminated sites are positive, national actions vary significantly across the EU and the rate at which contaminated sites are being remediated still needs to increase. The recently adopted [Directive on Soil Monitoring and Resilience](#) will help address this problem.

In general, [the EEA's Report on Europe's environment 2025](#) concludes that although some chemical emissions and concentrations are decreasing in the sea and air, pollution still poses a serious threat to ecosystems due to legacy pollutants, excess nutrients, pesticides, emerging contaminants and microplastics. It notes that further reductions in chemical and plastic pollution, as well as air deposition are expected, but meeting the EU policy targets for 2030 is unlikely for most thematic areas.

It notes that effectively implementing EU legislation alongside innovative tools, such as non-target screening and machine learning, will be crucial for tracking and reducing pollutant inputs.

v. Examples of effective implementation

The launch of the [Zero Pollution Dashboard](#) contributes to the advancement of the EU's commitment to reducing pollution and fostering sustainability. This innovative tool aggregates and presents detailed regional data on key pollution indicators such as air

quality, water quality, noise levels, and soil contamination, providing a comprehensive overview tailored to local contexts. By offering real-time insights and trends, the dashboard enables regional and city authorities to pinpoint pollution hotspots, assess the impact of existing policies, and prioritise interventions for maximum impact. The platform also serves as a hub for exchanging knowledge and best practices, facilitating collaboration across regions to tackle common challenges. Additionally, it supports compliance with EU regulations by providing benchmarks and performance metrics, thereby enhancing accountability and transparency. Through these capabilities, the Zero Pollution Dashboard empowers decision-makers to devise effective strategies that contribute to the EU's overarching goal of a cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable environment for its citizens.

vi. Relevance to Sustainable Development Goals or other related agreements

The Implementation of this target contributes to the implementation of SDGs 3 (Good Health and Well-being), 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), 14 (Life Below Water) and 15 (Life on Land).

vii. Indicators to assess progress towards the target

Component indicator

- 7.CT.4. Red List Index (impact of pollution) (under development)

Other EU indicators:

- Sale of antimicrobials
- Good Chemical Status in Surface Water (under the Water Framework Directive)
- Progress in the management of contaminated sites
- Generation of waste by hazardousness
- Recycling rate of municipal waste
- Recycling rate of all waste excluding major mineral waste
- Waste generation and treatment
- Exposure of Europe's vegetation to ozone

EU Target 7d: Reducing plastic pollution

By 2030, reduce by 50% plastic litter at sea and by 30% microplastics released into the environment.

i. Main actions undertaken since 2020 to implement the target

The [Zero Pollution Action Plan](#) was published in 2021 to reduce by 2050 air, water, and soil pollution to levels no longer considered harmful to health and natural ecosystems and that respect the boundaries our planet can cope with, thus creating a toxic-free environment. It includes the specific target of reducing by 50% plastic litter at sea and by 30% microplastics released into the environment.

The [2nd Zero Pollution Monitoring and Outlook](#) published in March 2025 by the EEA provides an overview of progress also on achieving the EU pollution reduction targets in the above-mentioned areas. The [Mid-term review](#) of the [Zero Pollution Action Plan](#) outlines the need for efforts in implementation, investments and integration as well as innovation, digitalisation and skills, in addition to the actions listed below.

Under the [Plastics Strategy](#), which aims to transform the way plastic products are designed, produced, used and recycled in the EU to protect our environment and reduce marine litter, greenhouse gas emissions and our dependence on imported fossil fuels, most of the 43 actions set in the strategy have been delivered. While circularity of plastics increased, it is still at a low level. More efforts are needed to reduce plastic pollution, and to increase the competitiveness of the EU plastic industry.

The [Directive on single-use plastics](#) aims to prevent and reduce the impact of certain plastic products on the environment. In 2023, secondary legislation on rules on recycled content and standard for tethered caps were adopted. The [extended producer responsibility \(EPR\) guidelines for litter clean-up](#) were adopted in October 2025 and is finalising [new rules on recycled content and chemical recycling](#). In addition, the [evaluation](#) of the Directive has started with the aim to finalise it by July 2027.

In December 2025, the Commission presented a [new package of measures](#) to boost circular economy and strengthen Europe's plastic recycling. The package contains pilot measures including a set of concrete short-term actions to support circularity in particular in the plastics sector, while encouraging investment and innovation more broadly. This includes a [draft implementing act](#) to create EU-wide end-of-waste criteria for plastics under the Waste Framework Directive, and plans to relaunch and strengthen the [Circular Plastics Alliance](#).

The [revised Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation](#) was adopted in February 2025. It aims to establish requirements for the entire life cycle of packaging as regards environmental sustainability and labelling. The Regulation includes provisions setting a

minimum percentage of recycled content per packaging, on plastic carrier bags, and recycling targets.

Since 2020, the EU has implemented the [Directive on Port Reception Facilities](#) through various measures. Member States have established and upgraded port reception facilities to ensure adequate waste management for ships. The European Maritime Safety Agency has conducted inspections and provided guidance to ensure compliance with the Directive. The EU has also developed a [database on port reception facilities](#), which provides information on their availability and capacity. Additionally, the EU has implemented stricter controls on ships and ports to prevent illegal waste disposal. These measures aim to reduce marine pollution and promote sustainable shipping practices. The Directive's implementation is subject to regular monitoring and evaluation to ensure its effectiveness in reducing ship-generated waste.

The [Delegated Regulation on plastic waste shipments](#) under the [Waste Framework Directive](#) was adopted in 2020, to align EU legislation with decisions of the Basel Convention and the OECD. The rules on the export of plastic waste were further strengthened in the [new Waste Shipment Regulation](#), adopted in 2024, including a prohibition of such exports to non-OECD countries as from 21 November 2026. These rules should end the export of plastic waste to third countries that often do not have the capacity and standards to manage it in a sustainable manner, while ensuring strong controls where the transboundary shipment of such waste is still allowed.

Under the [Marine Strategy Framework Directive](#) (including [Commission Decision \(EU\) 2017/848](#)), a threshold value for the amounts of marine litter on the coastline has been set to 20 items per 100m. Other such threshold values are being set for macro and micro-litter items on the seafloor, in the water column and on the water surface.

The [implementation report for the 2nd programme of measures](#) under the [Marine Strategy Framework Directive](#) was published in February 2025 ([COM\(2025\)3](#) and [SWD\(2025\)1](#)). It identifies recommendation for actions that Member States should take to, *inter alia*, reduce plastics pollution, where relevant.

Additionally, the JRC published [European Coastline Macro Litter Trends 2015-2021](#) in February 2025, which covers methodology development and trend results

An [evaluation of the MSFD](#) was published in March 2025. On plastics litter, it illustrated the added value of the MSFD in bringing about effective measures on this issue are the result of a very strong push from public opinion to act and high-level political commitments to stop the problem. It also helped create a solid legal basis for authorities to take action (MSFD, Single-Use Plastic Directive, Port Reception Facilities Directive) and improved quality of data.

The [Recast Drinking Water Directive](#) was published in 2020 and aims to protect human health from the adverse effects of any contamination of water intended for human

consumption and includes provisions to address emerging compounds of concern such as microplastics.

Under the Directive, a [drinking water watch list](#) was adopted in 2022, and [hygiene standards](#) for materials that come into contact with water intended for human consumption and [methodology to measure microplastics](#) were adopted in 2024.

The Council and European Parliament reached a provisional agreement on the [Commission proposal on water pollutants](#), which contains amendments to allow including microplastics in the next watch list and add microplastics to the indicative list of main pollutants.

The [Revision](#) of the [Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive](#) was adopted in 2024 and contains new provisions on monitoring the presence of microplastics.

The [Commission Regulation concerning the REACH restriction of synthetic polymer microparticles](#) was adopted in 2023 and aims to restrict intentionally added microplastics.

In November 2025, a [Regulation on preventing plastic pellet losses to reduce microplastic pollution](#) was published. The Regulation lays down obligations for the handling of plastic pellets at all stages of the supply chain to prevent losses.

The [Transition Pathway for the Textiles ecosystem](#), co-created with stakeholders, was published in June 2023. It identifies 50 specific actions to help make the textiles ecosystem greener, more digital and to ensure its long-term resilience and competitiveness.

ii. Amongst others, the [EU Textiles Ecosystem Platform](#) was created, a digital space designed to support the stakeholders in this ecosystem towards increased sustainability, digitalisation, competitiveness and resilience. It provides overviews of relevant stakeholder pledges, best practices, projects, legislative developments, funding opportunities etc., as well as offering space to connect and engage in discussions with other industry stakeholders, interactive workshops and webinars. Current level of progress towards the target

- On track to achieve target
- Progress made but at an insufficient rate
- No significant progress
- Not applicable
- Unknown
- Achieved

iii. Summary of progress towards the target and main outcomes achieved

The [2nd Zero Pollution Monitoring and Outlook](#) published in March 2025 provides an overview of progress also on achieving the EU pollution reduction targets in the above-mentioned areas.

The publication [EU coastline macro litter trends](#) shows that in the EU, beach litter decreased by 29% between 2015 and 2021. This stems from new data that have been assessed for the first time. The [EEA's Report on Europe's environment 2025](#) concludes that the EU is likely to meet the target of reducing plastic litter at sea by 50% by 2030.

On microplastics, collected data show a slight increase (approximately 7-9%) in microplastic releases between 2016-2022. This stems from new data that have been assessed for the first time. This estimated increase has a high level of uncertainty, but there is no evidence to suggest a decrease in emissions. The [EEA's Report on Europe's environment 2025](#) therefore concludes that the EU is currently off track to meet the target of reducing by 30% the microplastics released into the environment by 2030. A proxy indicator on [Microplastic releases to the environment | European zero pollution dashboards \(EEA\)](#) is updated when new data is available.

Similarly, the [ETC HE Report 2024/15: Microplastic releases in the European Union](#) defines a composite indicator which shows a 7.5-8.6% increase in emissions over between 2016 and 2022. Specifically, indicators for emissions from tyre abrasion rose by 12.3%, from plastic pellets by 7%, and from paint by 5%. Despite uncertainties in estimates, the findings suggest that microplastic emissions have not decreased since 2016.

iv. Summary of key challenges encountered and approaches for further implementation

Plastic waste continues to accumulate in our oceans, and microplastics is a growing health concern.

The [2nd Zero Pollution Monitoring and Outlook](#) underlines that microplastics end up in the air, soil and water and can stay there for long periods. Depending on the particles' properties and environmental conditions, microplastics can travel long distances, even in remote regions. Gaps in monitoring microplastics remain and efforts to standardise methodologies across different media are ongoing. Improved data reporting, remote sensing and harmonised pollutant monitoring strategies are essential for better understanding and mitigating pollution impacts in the EU.

The EEA suggests that the Regulation preventing pellet losses to reduce microplastic pollution and the REACH restrictions [are expected to facilitate reducing microplastic pollution](#).

v. *Examples of effective implementation*

Various projects co-funded by the European Union help clean up the European sea regions, these include:

- [Free LitterAT](#) in the North-East Atlantic region; the project aims to achieve litter-free coastal communities by combining knowledge, tools and technology with pilot actions with multi-stakeholder engagement
- [Circular Ocean](#) in the Baltic region; the projects aims to identify challenges and opportunities for collecting, recycling and reusing ocean-bound plastic waste in the region, with pilot activities conducted in several coastal cities in the South Baltic Sea region and with the engagement of small and medium-sized enterprises.

vi. *Relevance to Sustainable Development Goals or other related agreements*

The implementation of this target contributes to the implementation of SDGs 3 (Good Health and Well-being), 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), 14 (Life Below Water) and 15 (Life on Land).

vii. *Indicators to assess progress towards the target*

Component indicator

- 7.CT.4. Red List Index (impact of pollution) (under development)

Other EU indicators:

- [Beach/Coastline litter](#)
- [Recycling rate of municipal waste \(sdg_11_60\)](#)
- [Recycling rate of all waste excluding major mineral waste](#)

EU Target 8a: Minimising the impacts of climate change on biodiversity

The EU is committed to becoming climate-neutral by 2050, and reduce GHG emissions by 55% by 2030, including by accelerating implementation of nature-based solutions.

i. Main actions undertaken since 2020 to implement the target

The [European Climate Law](#) was adopted in 2021 and provides, inter alia, for the restoration of ecosystems to assist in maintaining, managing and enhancing natural sinks and promote biodiversity.

In the framework of the [European Climate Law](#), the 2024 [Communication on managing climate risks](#) sets out how the EU can effectively get ahead of the growing climate-related risks and build greater resilience to the impacts of climate change. It also sets out EU actions in the main impact clusters examined in the 1st [European Climate Risk Assessment report](#), including natural ecosystems.

The [revised LULUCF Regulation](#) of 2023 has enhanced governance, promoted transparency, and strengthened the link between climate mitigation and environmental protection measures, including as regards synergies between climate and biodiversity.

Under the [Regulation on the Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action](#), the Commission monitors the progress of the EU as a towards the EU's climate and energy objectives, in particular through the annual [State of the Energy Union report](#). Member States report on the progress made in implementing their energy and climate policies, including their national energy and climate plans, every two years. They reported for the first time in March 2023. In 2024, the Commission published a [report on the functioning of the Governance Regulation](#). In 2024, the Commission published a [report on the functioning of the Governance Regulation](#). It also provides insights that will feed into the Regulation's ongoing implementation and any possible future revision. In particular, the report highlighted that there is also scope to enhance coherence and synergies with other policy areas, including biodiversity.

The [Carbon Removal and Carbon farming Regulation](#) as adopted in 2021 aims to provide incentives for reducing emissions from and enhancing carbon sequestration by terrestrial ecosystems. In particular, its objective is to facilitate and encourage the deployment of permanent carbon removals, carbon farming and carbon storage in products by operators or groups of operators, as a complement to sustained emission reductions across all sectors.

The [Nature Restoration Regulation](#) as adopted in 2024 aims to contribute to achieving the EU's overarching objectives concerning climate change mitigation, climate change adaptation and land degradation neutrality. When elaborating their national restoration plans, Member States shall identify synergies with climate change mitigation, climate

change adaptation, land degradation neutrality and disaster prevention and prioritise restoration measures accordingly. The Nature Restoration Regulation requires to integrate adaptation in all policy areas and promote ecosystem-based adaptation and nature-based solutions. Restoration measures should also be planned in such manner that they address climate change mitigation and climate change adaptation and the prevention and control of the impact of natural disasters, as well as land degradation.

In November 2025, a [new Bioeconomy Strategy](#) was adopted, charting a way forward to build a clean, competitive and resilient European economy. With the Strategy, the EU will support activities that provide sustainable practical solutions using biological resources in various key sectors, including agriculture, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture. The Strategy recognises that Europe's bioeconomy depends on the health and resilience of its natural environment and that biomass production and use should maintain and improve ecosystem services (such as carbon sinks, or water retention). It therefore stresses the need for sourcing biomass responsibly, ensuring that forests, soils, water, and ecosystems are managed within their ecological limits.

The [recast of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive](#) entered into force in December 2024 and aims to progressively eliminate greenhouse gas emissions and improve the energy balance of urban wastewater collection and treatment activities and sets a binding national target of energy neutrality for the sector at Member State level in Article 11, which would lead to a reduction of GHG emissions of around 46% by 2040.

The 2021 [Commission Communication](#) on the EU Climate Adaptation Strategy promotes nature-based solutions. Under this Strategy, the EU is working on a comprehensive action plan on adaptation where nature-based solutions are an integral part.

The 2024 [Commission Communication on Managing Climate Risks](#) highlights that ecosystems need to be protected and managed comprehensively for effective management of critical existing and future climate risks.

Under the [EU Forest Strategy for 2030](#), the Commission has implemented various actions that contribute achieving the EU's greenhouse gas emission reduction target of at least 55% in 2030, protecting, restoring and enlarging EU's forests to combat climate change, and boosting forest-based bioeconomy with sustainability boundaries, including:

- Publication of [guidelines](#) on mapping and protection of primary and old-growth forests.
- Adoption of the Nature Restoration Regulation (see above).
- Adoption of the [Taxonomy Regulation](#) which aims to promote sustainable investments into forest activities which significantly contribute to climate mitigation

- Adoption of [Carbon Removal and Carbon farming Regulation](#) which aims to provide incentives for enhanced carbon sequestration in forests
- Promotion of tree planting through the [3 billion tree initiative](#) and [Guidelines on biodiversity-friendly afforestation and reforestation](#)

The [Commission Recommendation](#) on Union disaster resilience goals was presented in 2023. The goals are a non-binding common baseline to support prevention and preparedness actions in the event of disasters which cause or are capable of causing multi-country transboundary effects, to improve the capacity of the EU and its Member States to face such disasters and withstand their effects. The goals identify priority areas and related specific objectives to strengthen the disaster resilience of the Union Mechanism and of the Member States.

The EU [LIFE](#) programme funds [environment and climate projects](#), including on tackling the impacts of climate change on individual species (e.g. [LIFE LWfG Climate project](#) (2020-2026)) or ecosystems (e.g. [LIFE MIDMACC](#) (2019-2024)) in the EU and in Outermost Regions and Overseas Countries and Territories (e.g. LIFE [BIODIV/France](#) (2024-2032), [BEST LIFE 2030](#) (2023-2031)).

Under [Horizon Europe Research Programmes](#), significant support has been provided to R&I on biodiversity and climate, as well as through [EU Missions: “A Soil Deal for Europe”](#), [“Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030”](#), [“climate neutral and smart cities”](#) and [“Adaptation to Climate Change”](#). Specific projects include:

- Fostering Carbon Farming Practices through Living LAbS in the Mediterranean and Southern EU for the healthy future of European soils (see [link](#))

[Horizon Europe supports nature-based solutions](#) including through the European Partnership [BIODIVERSA+](#). In September 2023, Biodiversa+ launched its [BiodivNBS](#) call, inviting proposals for three-year research projects to explore the tipping points, trade-offs, and mechanisms influencing Nature-based Solutions (NbS) and their effective implementation. The 34 funded projects, with a combined total budget of over €40M, started their work in early 2024.

In addition, Horizon Europe supports nature-based solutions knowledge and practice through the [EU CSA NetworkNature](#), which has established – and continues to do so - an NbS community and space for exchange, dialogues, best practices and capacity building, ultimately contributing to the evidence base on these solutions and their contributions to biodiversity and climate (adaptation and mitigation). To date, NetworkNature collaborates with 105 EU-funded NbS projects.

Additionally, through Horizon Europe, the Commission has amongst other initiatives funded an [online training course on nature-based solutions](#) on how to regenerate nature to make neighbourhoods more liveable biodiversity and resilient to climate change.

Recent publications on nature-based solutions include:

- The 2020 [Report](#) on biodiversity and nature-based solutions
- The 2021 [Handbook for practitioners](#) and [summary for policy makers](#) on Evaluating the impact of nature-based solutions
- The 2021 EEA [report](#) on Nature-based solutions in Europe: policy, knowledge and practice for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction
- The 2023 European Investment Bank's [report](#) on Investing in nature-based solutions,
- The 2023 [report](#) on Harnessing the power of collaboration for nature-based solutions
- The 2025 [factsheet](#) on EU-funded NbS research projects tackle the climate and biodiversity crisis

More publications can be found here: [Nature-based solutions research policy](#)

The [Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive](#) (CSDDD) was adopted in June 2024 and entered into force in July 2024. In April 2025, it was amended by [Directive 2025/794](#), postponing the CSDDD application to the first group of largest companies in its scope by one year to give them more time to prepare. In December 2025, a [provisional agreement](#) was reached on the [Omnibus package](#) that contains amendments to the CSDDD, which aim to enable companies to stay firmly on course toward our sustainability goals, including decarbonisation and broader environmental, social and human rights objectives, while simplifying the rules and minimising regulatory burden as much as possible.

Under the [Destination Earth initiative \(DestinE\)](#), the [Climate Change Adaptation Digital Twin \(Climate DT\)](#) will provide simulations of climate scenarios from global to national and sub-national levels. The Digital Twin of the Ocean will enable better understanding of processes such as sea-level rise, ice-melting, coastal erosion, the carbon cycle and changes in biodiversity (see also [Use Cases Catalogue](#) for examples of the provision of actionable information and decision support, such as [Forest Biodiversity - Destination Earth](#)). The [BioDT](#) project (“Biodiversity Digital Twins and the Destination Earth Ecosystem”) explores how cutting-edge biodiversity digital twins can integrate with the initiative to support EU climate and biodiversity goals.

ii. Current level of progress towards the target

- On track to achieve target
- Progress made but at an insufficient rate
- No significant progress

Not applicable

Unknown

Achieved

iii. Summary of progress towards the target and main outcomes achieved

The [total greenhouse gas net emissions in the EU](#) have reduced from 4,635,248 kt CO₂ equivalent in 1990 to 2,907,204 kt CO₂ equivalent in 2023. The [2025 EU Climate Action Progress Report](#) concludes that the EU made progress by cutting net greenhouse gas emissions in 2024 by 2.5% from 2023. The [emissions cut from 2022 to 2023 was 8%](#), which was the largest cut in several decades (excluding the exceptional fall during 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic). The 2025 report further states that the EU is on track to achieve its 2030 emission reduction target of a 55% decrease compared to 1990 levels provided existing and planned policy measures are fully implemented by the EU and Member States.

Other EU indicators include '[drought impacts on ecosystems](#)'. The EEA concludes that after a devastating drought in 2022, drought impact on European ecosystems eased in 2023. Excess precipitation at the end of summer counterbalanced the effects of soil moisture deficit and heatwaves over the spring and summer in many places. The 2023 drought impacted area was 143,000 km². This is slightly above the average annual impact in the period 2000-2020 when ca. 141,229km² (3.5%) of EU land was affected by droughts.

iv. Summary of key challenges encountered and approaches for further implementation

The [2025 EU Climate Action Progress Report](#) concludes that climate hazards are undermining Europe's competitiveness, security and prosperity, and climate resilience should urgently become an integral part of all European policies. It announces work to create an integrated EU framework for climate resilience, to be proposed in 2026, with resilience by design as a central principle. This means all investment vulnerable or exposed to climate impacts must be designed to face and withstand climate risks that could materialise in their lifetime, without unacceptable loss of their value or utility. The report notes that EU Member States have made significant progress in developing resilience and adaptation policy over the last year, albeit not yet measuring up to the required transformational changes – and that significant further attention is needed to prepare and implement adaptation actions in all sectors.

Since the 1980s, Europe has been warming twice as fast as the global average, making it the fastest-warming continent.

Moreover, according to the [EEA](#), based on the recurrent and increasingly strong drought events during the period 2000-2023, drought impacted areas may not decrease by 2030. It is therefore important that land management practices are adequately adjusted in a timely manner and that the EU and national adaptation strategies are effectively implemented.

The [EEA Report on Europe's Environment 2025](#) reveals an additional challenge: in the LULUCF sector, the contribution of Europe's terrestrial ecosystems to climate mitigation acting as a net carbon sink shows a declining trend. Between 2014 and 2023, the EU's average net annual carbon sink was 30% smaller compared to the decade before, largely due to a combination of interrelated factors in forest land.

v. Examples of effective implementation

The [European Climate Adaptation Platform Climate-ADAPT](#) helps users to access and share data and information on climate change in Europe, current and future vulnerability of regions and sectors, EU, national and transnational adaptation strategies and actions, adaptation case studies and potential adaptation options, and tools that support adaptation planning. It also provides resources and case studies on [biodiversity](#), such as on [the adaptive management of natural habitats](#), or [helping ecosystems in Europe to adapt to climate change](#)

The Horizon Europe '[MaCoBioS](#)' project advanced understanding of how climate change affects marine biodiversity and ecosystem services, establishing a robust framework to assess marine socio-ecological vulnerability. A key achievement is the [MaCoBioS Toolbox](#), a decision-support platform integrating evidence for marine NbS. The project produced influential policy briefs guiding the integration of marine NbS into European policy, and cutting-edge research, including insights on seabed complexity, innovative animal abundance estimation methods, and practitioner perspectives on advancing marine NbS. MaCoBioS paved the way for sustainable, climate-resilient marine management rooted in science and community collaboration.

vi. Relevance to Sustainable Development Goals or other related agreements

The Implementation of this target contributes to the implementation of SDGs 3 (Clean Water and Sanitation), 13 (Climate Action), and 14 (Life Below Water).

vii. Indicators to assess progress towards the target

[Binary indicator 8.b \(see **Binary question 8.b** in Annex VI for detail on the responses\)](#)

- 8.b Number of countries with policies to minimize the impact of climate change and ocean acidification on biodiversity and to minimize negative and foster positive impacts of climate action on biodiversity

Complementary indicator:

- 8.CY.2 [National greenhouse gas inventories from land use, land-use change and forestry](#)

Other EU indicators:

- [Drought impacts on ecosystems](#)
- Conservation status of [habitats](#) and [species](#) protected under the Habitats Directive
- [Global mean surface seawater acidity](#)
- [Carbon dioxide emission footprints \(FIGARO application\)](#)

EU Target 8b: Minimising the impacts of climate action on biodiversity

Minimise negative impacts and fostering positive impacts of EU climate action on biodiversity.

i. Main actions undertaken since 2020 to implement the target

The [European Climate Law](#) was adopted in 2021 and recognises the need for restoration of ecosystems to maintain, manage and enhance natural sinks and promote biodiversity.

The [Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry \(LULUCF\) Regulation](#) was revised in 2023 and requires compliance assessments of synergies and trade-offs between climate change and biodiversity. The Forest Reference Levels, essential for the accounting of removals and emissions, should be consistent with the objective of contributing to the conservation of biodiversity and the sustainable use of natural resources, as set out in the EU forest strategy, Member States' national forest policies, and the EU biodiversity strategy.

The [Nature Restoration Regulation](#) adopted in 2024 lays down rules to restore ecosystems and achieve the EU's overarching objectives concerning climate change mitigation, climate change adaptation and land degradation neutrality. When elaborating their national restoration plans, Member States shall identify synergies with climate change mitigation, climate change adaptation, land degradation neutrality and disaster prevention and prioritise restoration measures accordingly. Action to restore nature may often qualify as nature-based solutions. The Nature Restoration Regulation requires to integrate adaptation in all policy areas and promote ecosystem-based adaptation and nature-based solutions. Restoration measures should also be planned in such manner that they address climate change mitigation and climate change adaptation and the prevention and control of the impact of natural disasters, as well as land degradation. The [revised TEN-E Regulation](#) (2022) introduced mandatory sustainability criteria and coordinated offshore grid planning to ensure cross-border energy infrastructure development minimizes biodiversity impacts through early, integrated spatial planning.

A large percentage of the renewable energy consumed in the EU comes from biomass (60% in 2021 and 46% in 2024). This large amount could have negative implications in terms biodiversity loss, carbon sinks and stocks loss, as well as forest degradation and deforestation, in the EU and abroad. This is why, under the [Renewable Energy Directive III revision](#) (2023), in order to be accounted as renewable energy, and to be allowed to receive financial support from Member States, bioenergy must comply with sustainability criteria. These criteria protect highly primary forests, biodiverse ecosystems, heathlands and areas with high-carbon stock like wetlands, from the conversion into agricultural biomass for energy use, and aim to minimise negative

impacts from forest biomass through a so-called “risk-based approach”. These criteria apply to solid biomass fuels in installations producing electricity, heating and cooling with a total rated thermal input of 7.5 MW or more and to gaseous biomass fuels in installations producing electricity, heating and cooling with a total rated thermal input of 2MW or more. Moreover, Member States are required to apply the waste hierarchy and cascading principle in their financial support schemes for bioenergy.

Effectively, the [Renewable Energy Directive III revision](#) (2023) requires Member States to map renewable potential and designate low-impact renewable acceleration areas, embedding biodiversity considerations directly into renewable energy spatial planning and permitting. A 2025 [Commission Recommendations on innovative technologies and forms of renewable energy deployment](#) supports this goal by promoting innovative forms of deployment, such as agri-solar and floating solar, that optimise the utilisation of space by combining multiple activities on the same piece of land or water, and by integrating offshore renewables into Maritime Spatial Plans that coordinate with biodiversity conservation. A [Commission communication on the establishment of grid and storage infrastructure areas](#) (2025) promotes a biodiversity-conscious approach to spatial planning by instructing Member States to designate areas where energy projects have no significant environmental impact, or where any such impacts can be duly mitigated or compensated for.

The [Grids Package](#) was presented in December 2025. It contains a [proposal for a Regulation](#) revising the 2022 [TEN-E Regulation](#) and a [proposal for a Directive](#) amending REDIII, the [Electricity Market Design Directive](#) and the [Gas Directive](#) that granted status of overriding public interest to Projects of Common and Mutual Interest, Renewable Energy Standards and grid infrastructure and introduces provisions that under certain conditions allow derogations from environmental assessment requirements.

The 2020 [Offshore Renewable Energy Strategy](#) and the 2023 [Communication “Delivering on the EU offshore renewable energy ambition”](#) encourage a holistic approach to national maritime spatial planning (MSP) as regards the development of energy infrastructures, notably through the inclusion of areas for multiple uses when revising national MSPs. This would facilitate permitting processes and co-existence of offshore developments, notably with nature protection measures. The Commission has developed a [tool](#) to map and help identify suitable [areas](#) where accelerated permitting for renewable energy projects would not be expected to have significant environmental effects (giving priority to man-made environments, and excluding Natura 2000 sites, national protected areas, bird and marine mammal migratory routes, and other areas identified based on sensitivity maps).

The [Environmental Impact Assessment Directive](#) requires Member States to adopt all measures necessary to ensure that, before development consent is given, projects including climate action projects likely to have significant effects on the environment by

virtue, inter alia, of their nature, size or location are made subject to a requirement for development consent and an assessment with regard to their effects on the environment. In this context, a [Commission notice](#) regarding the application of the EIAD to changes and extension of projects was published in 2021, an [updated Recommendation and guidance](#) on speeding up permit-granting for renewable energy and related infrastructure was published in 2024 and a [guidance document](#) on the interpretation of definitions of certain project categories under the EIAD was also published in 2024. Nevertheless, there are derogations to the requirement of conducting environmental impact assessments, particularly under the [Renewable Energy Directive III revision](#). Member States may for instance exempt certain renewable energy projects, as well as grid and storage projects which are necessary to integrate renewable energy into the electricity system, from the environmental impact assessment in the specific designated areas under the condition that a strategic environmental assessment has been concluded, mitigation measures have been set and the projects have adopted measures that are in line with the pre-set mitigation measures.

In 2021, the Commission published [guidance on sensitivity mapping](#) in accordance with Article 6 of the [Habitats Directive](#). The guidance aids to ascertain whether any plan or project may affect the management of a Natura 2000 site, its conservation objectives and its integrity, taking into account any mitigation measures. If despite a negative assessment, a developer considers that the plan or project should still be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, this is only possible if there are no alternative solutions, the reasons of overriding public interest are fully justified, and if suitable compensatory measures are adopted to ensure that the overall coherence of Natura 2000 is protected.

In the framework of the 2021 [Commission Communication](#) on the EU Climate Adaptation Strategy, the EU is working on a comprehensive action plan on adaptation where nature-based solutions are an integral part.

Under the [Regulation on the Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action](#), the Commission monitors the progress of the EU as a whole, in particular as part of the annual [State of the Energy Union report](#). Member States report on the progress made in implementing their energy and climate policies, including their national energy and climate plans, every two years. They reported for the first time in March 2023. In 2024, the Commission published a [report on the functioning of the Governance Regulation](#). It also provides insights that will feed into the Regulation's ongoing implementation and any possible future revision. In particular, the report highlighted that there is also scope to enhance coherence and synergies with other policy areas, including biodiversity.

The [Taxonomy Regulation](#), published in 2020, establishes criteria to determine whether an economic activity qualifies as environmentally sustainable. The aim is to help investors compare opportunities for environmentally sustainable investments across

borders, and to incentivise companies to make their business models more environmentally sustainable. Under the taxonomy, two Delegated Acts, [the Climate Delegated Act of 2021](#) and the [Environmental Delegated Act of 2023](#), set out the technical screening criteria that economic activities must meet to contribute substantially to at least one of the six EU climate and environmental objectives, without significantly harming any of the others: climate change mitigation, climate change adaptation, sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources, the circular economy, pollution prevention and control, and the protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems. The Climate Delegated Act defines the criteria for activities contributing to climate change mitigation or adaptation, including “do no significant harm” (DNSH) requirements, one of which relates to the protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems.

Under the [EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030](#), the Commission published a [study](#) on the sustainability of the use of forest biomass for energy production, [Commission operational guidance](#) on the new sustainability on forest biomass for energy and regularly assesses [EU and global biomass supply and demand](#).

Under [Horizon Europe Research Programmes](#), significant support has been provided to R&I on biodiversity and climate, as well as [EU Missions](#): “[A Soil Deal for Europe](#)”, “[Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030](#)”, “[climate neutral and smart cities](#)” and “[Adaptation to Climate Change](#)”.

Through Horizon Europe, the Commission has amongst other initiatives funded an [online training course on nature-based solutions](#) on how to regenerate nature to make neighbourhoods more liveable biodiversity and resilient to climate change.

Recent publications on nature-based solutions include:

- The 2020 [Report](#) on biodiversity and nature-based solutions
- The 2021 [Handbook for practitioners](#) and [summary for policy makers](#) on Evaluating the impact of nature-based solutions
- The 2021 EEA [report](#) on Nature-based solutions in Europe: policy, knowledge and practice for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction
- The 2023 European Investment Bank’s [report](#) on Investing in nature-based solutions,
- The 2023 [report](#) on Harnessing the power of collaboration for nature-based solutions
- The 2025 [factsheet](#) on EU-funded nature-based solutions research projects tackle the climate and biodiversity crisis

More publications can be found here: [Nature-based solutions research policy](#).

Under the EU [LIFE](#) programme, several projects have been funded to address the impact of energy development on birds and international conservation studies. These projects

include [SafeLines4Birds](#), [LIFE EUOKITE](#) and [LIFE Great Bustard](#). Amongst others, these projects aim to reduce bird mortality through collisions with and electrocutions by power lines and other human infrastructure.

Biodiversity and ecosystems are at the core of the [EU Climate Adaptation Strategy](#), which was adopted in 2021 and, in turn will be positively affected by increased climate resilience, Nature-based solutions are recognised for their high potential to address both the climate and biodiversity crisis and hence their deployment shall be scaled and accelerated.

The [Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive](#) (CSDDD) was adopted in June 2024 and entered into force in July 2024. In April 2025, it was amended by [Directive 2025/794](#), postponing the CSDDD application to the first group of largest companies in its scope by one year to give them more time to prepare. In December 2025, a [provisional agreement](#) was reached on the [Omnibus package](#) that contains amendments to the CSDDD, which aim to enable companies to stay firmly on course toward our sustainability goals, including decarbonisation and broader environmental, social and human rights objectives, while simplifying the rules and minimising regulatory burden as much as possible.

ii. Current level of progress towards the target

- On track to achieve target
- Progress made but at an insufficient rate
- No significant progress
- Not applicable
- Unknown
- Achieved

iii. Summary of progress towards the target and main outcomes achieved

The EU's legislative framework on climate change mitigation and adaptation has improved significantly since 2020, with increasing focus on the links between biodiversity and climate change.

Amongst others, the [Taxonomy Regulation](#) and its [Climate Delegated Act](#), as well as the requirement of conducting an assessment with regard to their effects on the environment under the [Environmental Impact Assessment Directive](#) before development consent is given for certain public and private projects, including those related to climate action, contribute to reducing the impact of climate action on biodiversity. Nevertheless, derogations to such assessments remain.

Information on the direct impact of climate action on biodiversity and trends therein is currently insufficient to accurately determine the progress towards the target.

iv. Summary of key challenges encountered and approaches for further implementation

However, amongst the challenges for the achievement of the target could be the derogations to the requirement of conducting environmental assessments, particularly under articles 15e (2), 16a and 16d of the [Renewable Energy Directive](#), which allow Member States to exempt certain renewable energy projects from environmental impact assessments under specific conditions aiming to minimise impacts on the environment.

On the other hand, the increased focus on nature-based solutions in e.g. the [EU Climate Adaptation Strategy](#) is expected to contribute to achievement of the target.

v. Examples of effective implementation

The [LIFE BIODIV'France](#) project is a good example of minimising the impacts of climate action on biodiversity. It aims to integrate biodiversity considerations into climate mitigation and adaptation efforts across various sectors. By developing and promoting best practices, the project ensures that climate actions such as renewable energy deployment, land-use changes, and infrastructure development do not adversely affect ecosystems and species. The initiative works closely with local stakeholders, including policymakers, conservationists, and industry leaders, to assess potential impacts and identify strategies that balance climate objectives with biodiversity preservation. Additionally, LIFE BIODIV'France provides tools and resources for monitoring and evaluating the effects of climate actions on biodiversity, helping to inform policy decisions and adaptive management practices. Through these efforts, the project enhances the resilience of ecosystems, supports species conservation, and contributes to achieving climate goals in harmony with preserving natural habitats.

vi. Relevance to Sustainable Development Goals or other related agreements

The implementation of this target contributes to the implementation of SDGs 13 (Climate Action), and 14 (Life Below Water).

vii. Indicators to assess progress towards the target

[Binary indicator 8.b \(see **Binary question 8.b** in Annex VI for detail on the responses\)](#)

- 8.b Number of countries with policies to minimize the impact of climate change and ocean acidification on biodiversity and to minimize negative and foster positive impacts of climate action on biodiversity

Complementary indicator:

- 8.CY.2 [National greenhouse gas inventories from land use, land-use change and forestry](#)

Other EU indicators:

- Conservation status of [habitats](#) and [species](#) protected under the Habitats Directive

EU Target 10a: Sustainable management of areas under agriculture

Ensure that all agricultural areas are maintained in good agricultural and environmental condition; contribute to halting and reversing biodiversity loss, enhancing ecosystem services and preserving agricultural habitats and landscapes, in particular through measures under the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP); the CAP subjects financial support to the compliance with Good Agricultural and Environmental Conditions (GAECs), including for biodiversity, and sets a minimum budget for measures with environmental, climate and animal welfare objectives, including on biodiversity; aiming for, among others, increasing the share of agricultural land under organic farming management and under high-diversity landscape features.

i. Main actions undertaken since 2020 to implement the target

This report covers the implementation of the legal framework of the EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), which is currently in force for the period 2023 to 2027. In July 2025, the Commission proposed a new legislative framework for the period 2028-2034, which is yet to be negotiated with the EU co-legislators.

The [EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030](#) aims to bring nature back to agricultural land and sets targets to reverse the decline of pollinators, restore high-biodiversity landscape features on at least 10% of agricultural land, encourage the uptake of agroecological practices and place 25% of agricultural land under organic farming. Many of these targets are reflected in the [EU Farm to Fork Strategy](#) which was adopted together with the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 and aims to make food systems fair, healthy and environmentally friendly.

The core EU policy instrument to achieve these targets is the EU's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) for 2023-2027. The [CAP Strategic Plans Regulation](#) sets a specific objective for the CAP 2023-2027 to contribute to halting and reversing biodiversity loss, enhancing ecosystem services and preserving habitats and landscapes. To this end, CAP payments are linked to a stronger set of mandatory requirements (conditionality rules) related to the implementation of the Birds and Habitats Directives, the retention of landscape features and reductions in pesticide use. The Regulation also stipulates that at least 25% of direct payments should be allocated to [eco-schemes](#) providing incentives for climate and environment-friendly farming practices (including on biodiversity), and animal welfare. At least 35% of rural development funds should be allocated to measures to support climate, biodiversity, environment and animal welfare.

EU countries implement the CAP through national [CAP Strategic Plans](#) (CSP) tailored to national needs. The Commission has provided country-specific [recommendations](#) and engaged in structured dialogues with Member States, encouraging them to fully reflect biodiversity objectives in their CSP, and lay down a minimum set of rules (conditionality) that farmers have to respect to receive full area- or animal-related support.

In November 2023, the Commission published an [assessment of the CSPs'](#) joint contribution to the CAP objectives. In June 2025, the Commission published a report on the [28 CAP Strategic Plans underway: summary of implementation in 2023-24](#).

The Commission published, in February 2025, a [Vision for Agriculture and Food](#) aiming to secure the long-term competitiveness and sustainability of the EU's farming and food sector in several priority areas, with simplification, research, innovation and digitalisation as cross-cutting drivers.

As part of a broader simplification effort, in 2024, a simplification regulation was adopted which introduced flexibility for several GAEC standards which presented difficulties of compliance. In 2025, the CAP was amended to include further flexibility for Member States. Key changes included exemptions for small farmers from certain environmental rules and simplified environmental checks. Certified organic farms would be automatically considered as meeting the EU's environmental requirements (GAEC) for funding. The simplification proposal allows Member States to remove specific GAECs (2 and 9) from calculations for eco-schemes or several rural development support measures, permitting temporary derogations in cases of plant diseases or weather conditions, and exempting farms under 30 hectares from controls and penalties related to crop diversification and rotation.

The [Nature Restoration Regulation](#) (NRR) adopted in 2024 sets a general obligation for Member States to put in place restoration measures as necessary to enhance biodiversity in agricultural (among other) ecosystems. The aim is to achieve an increasing trend in two out of three indicators: (i) grassland butterfly index, (ii) stock of organic carbon in cropland mineral soils and (iii) share of agricultural land with high-diversity landscape features. Regarding the latter indicator, the Commission published, in 2024, [guidance](#) on the monitoring of high-diversity landscape features. The NRR also sets targets for the recovery of common farmland birds. It further requires that at least 30% of drained peatlands under agricultural use should be restored by 2030 (of which at least a quarter should be rewetted). This increases to 40% by 2040 and to 50% in 2050 (of which a third should be rewetted in both cases). Different derogation possibilities apply to this provision and the Regulation further provides that the rewetting targets do not imply an obligation for farmers and private landowners to rewet their land, for whom rewetting remains voluntary without prejudice to rules under national law. The NRR also sets a target to reverse the decline of pollinators by 2030 and maintain positive trends beyond. In September 2025, the Commission adopted a science-based method for monitoring pollinator diversity and pollinator populations.

The EU [Action Plan on Organic Farming](#), adopted in 2021, aims to promote the adoption of organic farming practices, the development of organic products and demand for organic products. In September 2023, the Commission published a [report on the implementation](#) of the Action Plan. The report highlights measures implemented to raise awareness and improve the control system of the EU organic logo, to expand the market

for organic products, improve data collection, research and innovation, support farmers and strengthen their role in the value chain.

In 2025, the EU [Directive on Soil Monitoring and Resilience](#) was adopted obliging Member States to encourage, facilitate and support landowners and land managers to improve soil health and soil resilience. Member States should ensure access to advice, information, training and capacity building, promote research and awareness, and provide at local level information on suitable measures and practices to improve soil health and resilience. Member States should also assess the technical and financial needs to improve soil health and resilience, engage with relevant stakeholders, and assess the expected effects on soil health and resilience of measures taken in the context of other relevant EU policy. The Directive implements the commitment set out in the [EU Soil Strategy for 2030](#).

The Commission supports research on agriculture and biodiversity under the EU Horizon Europe programme for research and innovation, Cluster 6 “[Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources and Environment](#),” and the EU Mission “[A soil deal for Europe](#)” and the EU Mission “[Restore our Ocean and Fresh](#)”.

In November 2025, a [new Bioeconomy Strategy](#) was adopted, charting a way forward to build a clean, competitive and resilient European economy. With the Strategy, the EU will support activities that provide sustainable practical solutions using biological resources in various key sectors, including agriculture, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture. The Strategy recognises that Europe’s bioeconomy depends on the health and resilience of its natural environment and that biomass production and use should maintain and improve ecosystem services (such as carbon sinks, or water retention). It therefore stresses the need for sourcing biomass responsibly, ensuring that forests, soils, water, and ecosystems are managed within their ecological limits.

See also the EU reporting on Target 7 for more information on reducing pollution with nutrients, pesticides and highly hazardous and other chemicals.

ii. Current level of progress towards the target

- On track to achieve target
- Progress made but at an insufficient rate
- No significant progress
- Not applicable
- Unknown
- Achieved

iii. Summary of progress towards the target and main outcomes achieved

[Biodiversity ambition](#) has been significantly stepped up in the design of the EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) 2023-2027, with a specific strategic objective to halt and reverse biodiversity loss, enhance ecosystem services and preserve habitats and landscapes. Despite being a new CAP tool in this programming period, eco-scheme uptake has kept up with planned milestones. According to the European Commission's overview report (June 2025) on the [implementation of the CAP strategic plans in 2023-2024](#), in 2024, the CAP Strategic Plans dedicated 23% of the total direct payments to eco-schemes, and nearly half of the total rural development spending to environmental, climate and other commitments. Nearly 23% of EU agricultural area were covered by commitments for biodiversity conservation and restoration in 2024.

The share of the EU's agricultural land under organic farming increased from 5.9% in 2012 to 10.5% in 2022 (an estimated increase of 7.4 million hectares).

In 2022, the share of agricultural area under landscape features at EU scale was estimated at 5.6%, with different Member States' shares ranging from 3.4% to nearly 9%. While data on the share of high-diversity landscape features is not yet available, just under 21,000 farms (0.21% of the total) have received support for non-productive investments with the aim to improve habitats and the structural diversity of agricultural landscapes through the restoration of landscape features (such as, for example, hedges, trees and small woodlands, ponds, wetlands and dry-stone walls).

iv. Summary of key challenges encountered and approaches for further implementation

Under the CAP 2023-27, Member States' Strategic Plans show considerable variations in the uptake of biodiversity support measures. While eco-scheme uptake under the CAP has generally kept up with the planned milestones at EU-level, there are significant differences between Member States, as well as between the types of eco-schemes that have been supported. Factors such as insufficient farmer awareness and market developments (that have made premia less attractive) have been cited as reasons for a lower-than-foreseen uptake of eco-schemes in several Member States. However, in other Member States, more than 75% of farmers requesting the basic income support have also engaged in eco-schemes. Similarly, the uptake of organic practices varies at Member state level from 0.6 % to 25.7 % of the total agricultural area. Farmers have in some cases perceived stricter environmental requirements as threats to income, productivity or land use flexibility. In response to farmers' concerns, many rules have been simplified to reduce administrative burden.

The [Europe's Environment 2025 Report](#) of the EEA (September 2025) notes that, in Member States' reporting under the EU Birds and Habitats Directives, agriculture has been the most frequently reported pressure on habitats and species. Between 1990 and

2023, the [farmland bird index](#) in Europe has decreased by 42%, and by 6% between 2020 and 2023. Grassland butterflies have declined by 50% since 1990, highlighting a major loss in agricultural biodiversity in Europe. Grassland abandonment and intensification are impacting pollinator species, farmland birds and semi-natural habitats. Furthermore, almost 50% of all reported pressures related to pollution can be attributed to air, water and soil pollution caused by agriculture. The report notes that the upcoming revision of the CAP would represent a key opportunity to further align socio-economic, environmental and climate objectives.

v. Examples of effective implementation

GAEC 9, or Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition 9, is a standard within the EU's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) [conditionality](#) system. Conditionality links income support to the respect for EU legislation. In addition to statutory management requirements, farmers receiving CAP support have to respect EU standards on good agricultural and environmental condition of land (GAEC). The standards set are to:

GAEC 1. Maintain a certain share of permanent grassland of the total agricultural area

GAEC 2. Protect wetlands and peatlands

GAEC 3. Maintain soil organic matter and soil structure through a ban of burning arable stubble

GAEC 4. Protect water from pollution through the establishment of buffer strips along water courses

GAEC 5. Prevent soil erosion through relevant practices

GAEC 6. Protect soil by defining rules for minimum soil cover

GAEC 7. Preserve the soil potential through crop rotation

GAEC 8. Ensure the retention of landscape features, a ban on cutting hedges and trees during the bird breeding and rearing season

GAEC 9. Protect environmentally-sensitive permanent grasslands in Natura 2000 sites.

Under GAEC 9, the conversion or ploughing of environmentally sensitive permanent grasslands located in the EU's Natura 2000 network of protected areas is explicitly banned, with the aim to prevent habitat degradation and conserve biodiversity. GAEC 9 also contributes to maintaining soil structure and preventing erosion, enhancing water retention and quality, and promoting carbon sequestration. It also supports traditional agricultural practices like extensive grazing, which are compatible with conservation goals. Following recent legislation introducing simplification measures under the CAP (2024), Member States may establish specific exemptions and temporary derogations from GAEC 9 requirements under certain conditions. Nevertheless, the exemptions must not significantly hamper habitat and species protection. The 2025 simplification

proposal allows Member States to remove GAEC 9 from calculations for eco-schemes or several rural development support.

The [European \(EU\) CAP Network](#) facilitates the sharing of ideas and good practices for agricultural ecosystems through [thematic work](#) on [eco-schemes](#), the [green architecture](#), and [pollinators](#). The [agricultural European innovation partnership](#) (EIP-AGRI) supports projects, focus groups, and operational groups that transform innovative ideas into practical solutions. For example, the EIP-AGRI [focus group on high nature value farming](#) examined how improved cooperation, technology, and management systems could improve the social and economic sustainability of High Nature Value farming without losing its environmental value.

The [EU Organic Awards](#) acknowledge different actors along the organic value chain that have developed an excellent, innovative, sustainable, and inspiring project producing real added value for organic production and consumption. The Commission also supports the [European Land Owners' soil award](#) and the activities of the Global Soil Partnership.

vi. Relevance to Sustainable Development Goals or other related agreements

The implementation of this target contributes to the implementation of SDGs 2 (Zero Hunger), 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), and 15 (Life on Land).

vii. Indicators to assess progress towards the target

Headline:

- 10.1 Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture (under development)

Other EU indicators:

- [Common birds index per type of species](#) (common, farmland, forest)
- [Grassland butterfly index](#)
- [Area under organic farming](#)
- [Share of agricultural land with landscape features](#)
- [Total productivity factor in agriculture](#)

EU Target 10b: Sustainable management of areas under aquaculture

Ensure the long-term sustainability of EU aquaculture, while ensuring its economic, environmental, and social sustainability to provide a source of healthy food for EU citizens and contribute to food security.

i. Main actions undertaken since 2020 to implement the target

Under the [European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund Regulation](#) (EMFAF), which includes the priority to foster sustainable aquaculture activities, the EU Member States have provided support in their national programmes to the implementation of their national strategic plan for aquaculture, including on actions related to enhancing environmental sustainability of aquaculture.

The [Strategic Guidelines for a more sustainable and competitive EU aquaculture for the period 2021 to 2030](#) were published in 2021. To support the implementation of the Guidelines, an [EU Aquaculture Assistance Mechanism](#) (AAM) was established in 2021. The AAM has established and manages an online knowledge base on all issues related to sustainable aquaculture, including environmental performance. This knowledge base covers scientific literature, legislation, good practices and results of EU funded projects. The AAM also provides support to the Commission by working on documents on various aspects of sustainable aquaculture. The AAM has started working on a document on a circular approach to aquaculture and on a document to address the impact of predators on aquaculture.

Furthermore, the AAM produced two documents on fish welfare: “[Good Husbandry Practices for aquaculture](#)” and a “[Code on fish welfare good practices and indicators](#)”. The stakeholders of the Aquaculture Advisory Council (AAC) are organising webinars to widely disseminate these documents.

The Commission published a [mid-term assessment](#) of the implementation of the Strategic Guidelines in 2025, which also covers Member States’ national strategies on aquaculture and the activities of the AAC - both key actors addressed by the Strategic Guidelines. It assesses progress in developing the recommended actions as well as the efficiency of these actions in achieving the objectives, while identifying areas where adaptation is needed.

The Commission supports research on aquaculture and biodiversity under Horizon Europe Cluster 6 “[Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources and Environment](#),” and the EU Mission “[Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030](#)”.

The Commission published 5 Staff Working documents in 2024 as part of the implementation of the Strategic Guidelines on EU aquaculture. The first three documents on regulatory and space aspects take full consideration of the ecosystem-based approach to aquaculture:

- The [Commission Staff Working Document ‘Regulatory and administrative framework for aquaculture’](#): The Commission has organised dedicated online trainings and prepared an e-learning tool for this document, which is available on the EU aquaculture website.
- The [Commission Staff Working Document ‘Planning of space and access to water for marine aquaculture’](#): The Commission has organised dedicated online trainings and prepared an e-learning tool for this document, which is available on the EU aquaculture website.
- The [Commission Staff Working Document Access to Space and Water for Freshwater and Land-based Aquaculture | EU Aquaculture Assistance Mechanism](#) contains good practices on the planning of space and access to water for freshwater and land-based aquaculture. The Commission has organised dedicated online trainings and an e-learning tool is under preparation.

The two other SWDs relate to [adaptation to climate change](#) and [energy transition](#) of the aquaculture sector.

The Commission published a [study](#) in January 2026 on the ecosystem services of bivalve mollusc farming and extensive pond farming in ponds and wetlands, with the view to promoting the provision by these types of aquaculture of ecosystem and climate services.

The Commission will start work in early 2026 on a future SWD on environmental services of aquaculture on the basis of the results of this study and other sources.

The Commission is working on a SWD on environmental performance, which is expected to be published in early 2026.

The [EU Algae Initiative](#) was published in 2022 to increase the sustainable production, consumption and use of algae and algae-based products in the EU. Algae farming is also considered to have low environmental impact and can offer a number of positive ecosystem services.

In the framework of the Initiative, the EU set up the [#EU4Algae](#), a platform for cooperation for EU algae stakeholders which produced many tools, initiatives, webinars and information items. The EU also funded a comprehensive [EU Algae industry study](#) to fill key knowledge gaps and identify future needs that are integral to enabling a sustainable EU algae sector.

An ongoing study funded under the [European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund](#) (EMFAF) is looking into the potential to scale up the farming of bivalve molluscs and algae in the EU.

The [Nature Restoration Regulation](#) adopted in 2024 sets specific binding and time-bound restoration targets for different ecosystems. The Commission is exploring how certain types of aquaculture (such as the farming of bivalve molluscs, algae and extensive fish

farming in ponds and wetlands) can be part of restoration measures if they contribute a net positive contribution to ecosystems and biodiversity restoration.

The [EU Water Resilience Strategy](#) of June 2025 aims to restore and protect the water cycle from source to sea to ensure resilience against floods, droughts and water scarcity, by effectively implementing the already existing EU laws for freshwater, which would improve and protect the viability of social and economic activities that depend on them, including aquaculture. A Vision for 2040 on Fisheries and Aquaculture is under preparation and expected to be presented in late 2026, as a follow-up to the [Evaluation of the Common Fisheries Policy](#) that is currently ongoing.

ii. Current level of progress towards the target

- On track to achieve target
- Progress made but at an insufficient rate
- No significant progress
- Not applicable
- Unknown
- Achieved

iii. Summary of progress towards the target and main outcomes achieved

Aquaculture is recognised as one of the fastest-growing food production sectors in the world and is an increasingly important contributor to global food supply and economic growth. The growth of the aquaculture sector adds to its role in contributing to the transition to sustainable food systems. The aquaculture sector in the EU has, however, seen little growth. To ensure that the aquaculture production remains sustainable, the Strategic Guidelines set the path for EU aquaculture to become a global reference in environmental sustainability.

The 2025 [mid-term assessment](#) of the implementation of the Strategic Guidelines, concludes that, despite notable progress in terms of implementing actions, overall impact on the ground remains modest. The 2021 Strategic Guidelines have provided a clear and updated framework and mobilised substantial EU and national action. However, progress is uneven, and efficiency limited by persistent structural and other barriers, notably access to space and water, licensing complexity, social acceptance, and slow uptake of innovation.

The assessment report notes that to meet 2030 objectives, actions need to be further adapted and reinforced. In particular, strengthening strategies to support the sector to adapt to climate change impact, increase funding on animal health and welfare and scale up the adoption of renewable energy and of circular economy practices.

The report also notes that given that many national aquaculture strategies were adopted over 2022-2023 and the recent adoption of several initiatives, it is difficult to assess their potential for bringing change to the sector at this stage. Moreover, a [2023 Court of Auditors report](#) concluded that while the EU's strategic policy framework has improved in terms of promoting the sustainable development of the aquaculture sector, there are no reliable indicators to track the sector's sustainability.

iv. Summary of key challenges encountered and approaches for further implementation

Aquaculture is a highly diverse sector both in terms of species and types of production. Moreover, aquaculture is a sector subject to continuous innovation and technological development to better meet existing and emerging challenges. As noted in the [2023 Court of Auditors report](#), there are currently also no reliable indicators to assess the sustainability of the sector.

For example, scientific literature and good practices for spatial planning in freshwater and land-based aquaculture are not as advanced as those for marine aquaculture. However, some of the good practices established for marine aquaculture can be adapted to guide the planning of space for freshwater and land-based aquaculture.

According to the 2023 Court of Auditors report, additional challenges include that while at Member State level, multiannual strategic plans for aquaculture were generally aligned with the Commission's guidelines, some key national strategies for the environment did not take aquaculture into account properly.

Moreover, the [mid-term assessment](#) of the implementation of the Strategic Guidelines reveals a number of systemic obstacles to further develop the sector, including administrative complexity in licensing, funding and the allocation of space to aquaculture.

The future Commission Staff Working Document on environmental performance will provide recommendations, good practices and concrete examples from EU and non-EU countries on the application of these good practices to support Member States and the sector to increase further the environmental sustainability of aquaculture in the EU. This document will take into consideration the results of EU-funded projects related to the environmental performance of aquaculture. It will also reflect on potential environmental performance indicators for aquaculture producers.

Advancing low-trophic, restorative, and regenerative aquaculture is key to meeting EU biodiversity goals, as activities such as algae and bivalve farming provide food while delivering ecosystem services, supporting a shift toward nature-positive and resilient marine production systems.

v. *Examples of effective implementation*

The [EU Aquaculture Assistance Mechanism](#) provides a one-stop-shop for knowledge and practices about sustainable aquaculture in the EU. It provides support to the preparation of documents providing recommendations and good practices to Member States and the aquaculture sector on, among other topics, how to improve environmental performance. The AAM also provides dedicated online training and e-learning modules on the SWDs published by the Commission.

vi. *Relevance to Sustainable Development Goals or other related agreements*

The implementation of this target contributes to the implementation of SDGs 2 (Zero Hunger), 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), and 14 (Life below Water).

vii. *Indicators to assess progress towards the target*

None available

EU Target 10c: Sustainable management of areas under fisheries

Ensure long-term sustainability for fisheries based on clear objectives for the sustainable management of fish stocks (e.g. maximum sustainable yield), the availability of food supplies and a fair standard of living for fisheries communities.

i. Main actions undertaken since 2020 to implement the target

The EU [Common Fisheries Policy](#) (CFP) aims to ensure that fishing is sustainable and fish stocks are maintained at healthy levels while supporting the livelihoods of fishing communities. To this end, it provides a range of conservation and management tools, including setting fishing opportunities allocation and a [landing obligation](#) (“discard ban”) for all catches subject to catch limits or minimum size, and promotes multiannual management plans. The European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) provides financial support for a range of measures, including to help fishers transition to low-impact gear. Under the CFP, the following key initiatives and actions have been undertaken since 2020:

In 2023, the Commission published a [Fisheries policy package](#) of measures to improve the sustainability and resilience of the EU's fisheries and aquaculture sector, which included 4 elements, amongst which:

- A [Communication](#) on the functioning of the CFP, accompanied by the [Staff Working Document](#). It gives an overview of what works and where tangible results were achieved, where implementation is lagging behind and what efforts are still needed in order to reap the full potential of the CFP. At the same time, it also has a forward-looking perspective, providing a vision and a path towards sustainable and resilient fisheries of the future.
- An [EU Action plan on protecting and restoring marine ecosystems](#) for sustainable and resilient fisheries (2023) includes recommendations to phase out mobile bottom fishing in marine protected areas (MPAs) by 2030, introduce less damaging fishing gear and techniques, increase selectivity, protect sensitive species, support the fisheries sector for a just and fair transition by maximising the use of available funds, strengthen the knowledge base, research and innovation, improve implementation, monitoring and enforcement, and enhance governance, stakeholder involvement and outreach. As announced in the Action Plan, a [study](#) was launched in July 2024 to estimate the seabed’s natural carbon sequestration capacity and the impacts of different seabed-disturbing activities. Finally, 3 EU Member States announced their intention to close their Marine Protected Areas to mobile bottom-contacting fishing by 2030.

Every year, the European Commission releases a Communication that provides updates on the state of EU fisheries. The latest Communication on [Sustainable fishing in the EU](#):

[state of play and orientations for 2026](#) (2025) reports on progress towards achieving sustainable practices, assesses the balance between fishing capacity and fishing opportunities, examines the socio-economic performance of the sector and monitors the implementation of the landing obligation. It also initiates a public consultation on the current situation and on the future directions of fishing opportunities for the upcoming year.

In 2024, the Commission launched an evaluation of the [CFP Regulation No 1380/2013](#). A call for evidence and a public [consultation](#), took place from January to April 2025 (see [summary report](#)). The CFP Regulation's evaluation will provide an overview of the performance of the CFP Regulation in the period 2014 to 2024. It will assess, among other aspects, the impact of the CFP Regulation on the conservation of marine biological resources and on the management of fisheries and fleets that rely on them. It will also examine the policy's impacts on the supply chain, consumers, and public authorities across all EU Member States. As a follow-up to the evaluation, a Vision for 2040 on fisheries and aquaculture' is expected to be presented in late 2026.

In January 2025, the Commission presented '[Fishers of the Future](#)', a study that explores different scenarios for the EU fishing sector towards 2050.

In March 2025, the Commission's Joint Research Centre published a [Study supporting the evaluation of the landing obligation](#).

In June 2025, the [European Ocean Pact](#) was published with the aim to protect the ocean, promote a thriving blue economy and support the well-being of people living in coastal areas. Following up on the Ocean Pact, the Commission published [guidelines](#) to help countries support small-scale fishers and enhance transparency in the allocation of fishing opportunities in November 2025.

The [Marine Strategy Framework Directive](#) (MSFD) sets [threshold values](#) (maximum impact levels) for plastic pollution, underwater noise and seabed integrity, applying to all EU Member States. Keeping impact levels below these threshold values is expected to also benefit commercial fish stocks. Work is ongoing to complete the package of EU threshold values, notably for seabed integrity. Its completion will help provide better protection to seabed habitats from the adverse effects of human activities, including mobile-bottom fishing, and to sensitive species, including those incidentally caught in the course of fishing activities. Member States and Regional seas conventions also work, with the EU's support, towards the adoption of regional threshold values, where prescribed in the MSFD.

The [Water Framework Directive](#) establishes a framework for the protection of inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater. The implementation report for the 3rd River Basin Management Plans was published on 4 February 2025 ([COM\(2025\)2](#) and [SWD\(2025\)13](#)). It recommends actions that Member States should take, including measures to reduce barriers for migratory fish.

The [Nature Restoration Regulation \(NRR\)](#) entered into force in August 2024. It provides for the restoration of essential marine habitats, which will also help the recovery of fish stocks. This is expected to generate economic and social benefits for the fishing sector. The NRR provides that the common fisheries policy (CFP) applies where the protection of coastal and marine habitats requires that fishing or aquaculture activities are to be regulated. Member States should make full use of the possibilities provided under the CFP. (For more detail on NRR, see also reporting on EU Target 2).

In October 2025, the Commission published a [guidance on Natura 2000 and fishing](#), to apply certain provisions of the [Birds](#) and [Habitats](#) Directives to marine fishing activities. Under these Directives, Member States are required to designate Natura 2000 sites for specific habitat types and marine species, and protect certain bird species that depend on marine environment and are protected through the Natura 2000 network. The guidance notes that commercial and recreational fishing activities can have a negative impact on habitats and species which are protected in Natura 2000 sites and therefore aims to help Member States to correctly implement relevant provisions of the Birds and Habitats Directives as regards commercial and recreational marine fishing activities.

The European Commission supports research on fisheries and biodiversity under Horizon Europe Cluster 6 on [Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources and Environment](#), and the Horizon Europe Mission [Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030](#).

For information on the conservation and management of European eel, see Target 4a.

ii. Current level of progress towards the target

- On track to achieve target
- Progress made but at an insufficient rate
- No significant progress
- Not applicable
- Unknown
- Achieved

iii. Summary of progress towards the target and main outcomes achieved

As reported in the Commission's latest [Communication on sustainable fishing in the EU](#): state of play and orientations for 2026, overall EU fisheries' sustainability continues to improve, with more fish stocks being fished at sustainable levels.

Furthermore, the EU indicator [Proportion of fish stocks sustainably exploited](#) shows that the percentage of fish stocks sustainably exploited has increased in the period 2020-

2022: from 66% to 71% in the North-East Atlantic and adjacent seas (FAO area 27), from 36% to 48% in the Mediterranean and Black Sea region (FAO area 37) and from 53% to 61% in EU waters overall (FAO areas 27 and 37 pooled together). Additionally, [EEA data](#) (2024) indicate that, in the North Atlantic Ocean and the Baltic Sea, fishing mortality rates have declined to sustainable levels on average, and there are signs of recovery of reproductive capacity.

[EEA data](#) shows that, despite improvements in fisheries' sustainability, the overall status of marine fish situation remains critical. In the Mediterranean and Black Sea, fishing mortality rates have declined in recent years but most stock show no clear signs of improvement, and climate change continues to affect fishing communities. Only 28% of assessed stocks are sustainably fished and in good biological condition, with clear regional disparities. These conditions are met by 41% of stocks in the North-East Atlantic and Baltic Seas, compared to 9% in the Mediterranean and Black Seas.

Overall, with targeted efforts and measures in the common fisheries policy, an increasing number of fish stocks are harvested sustainably, but more effort is needed.

iv. Summary of key challenges encountered and approaches for further implementation

As reported in the Commission's latest [Communication on sustainable fishing in the EU: state of play and orientations for 2026](#), fish stocks in the Baltic Sea continue to be under pressure from sources other than fisheries, including land-based activities such as agriculture and timber industry and related pollution, leading to biodiversity degradation and loss. In addition to these pressures, the report points to challenges in implementing EU rules on catch reporting in the Baltic Sea, and the European eel stock remains in a critical state.

A [Study supporting the evaluation of the landing obligation](#) (March 2025) indicates that the landing obligation has not yet reached its potential. The study notes local successes but also a lack of large-scale reductions in discarding. It identifies key challenges that have hindered implementation, including insufficient data, insufficient control and enforcement, operational complexity, regional disparities and economic factors.

v. Examples of effective implementation

The [Communication](#) on the functioning of the CFP provides an overview of which efforts and measures work and where tangible results were achieved. Recurrent Commission Communications on the CFP state-of-play also provide information about progress in implementing the CFP.

vi. *Relevance to Sustainable Development Goals or other related agreements*

The implementation of this target contributes to the implementation of SDGs 2 (Zero Hunger), 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) and 14 (Life below Water).

vii. *Indicators to assess progress towards the target*

Headline:

- 5.1 Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels (under development)

Other EU indicators:

- Number of stocks by year where fishing mortality is above/below FMSY
- Estimated trends in fishing pressure, by fishing area
- Estimated trends in fish stock biomass, by fishing areas
- Proportion of fish stocks sustainably exploited
- Status of marine fish and shellfish stocks in European seas

EU Target 11: Maintaining ecosystem services

Restore, maintain and enhance ecosystem services in the EU, notably pollination and other regulating ecosystem services.

i. Main actions undertaken since 2020 to implement the target

The EU [Nature Restoration Regulation](#), adopted in 2024, sets binding and time-bound targets for restoring terrestrial, coastal, freshwater, marine, forest, agricultural and urban ecosystems; rivers and floodplains and pollinators. Restoration is expected to result in significant increases in ecosystems' functions and capacities to deliver benefits, including for climate change mitigation and adaptation, disaster risk reduction, cleaner air and water, pollination, healthier soils and contribution to human wellbeing. EU Member States are to submit to the Commission draft national restoration plans by September 2026.

Under the [EU Flood Risk Directive](#) and an encompassing [EU flood policy](#), EU countries are required to assess and map flood risks, as well as to take adequate and coordinated measures to reduce them as an integral part of river basin management. In 2021, the EEA published [Nature-based solutions in Europe: Policy, knowledge and practice for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction](#). The [European Water Resilience Strategy](#), published in June 2025, recognises the potential of nature-based solutions to enhance resilience to droughts and floods, including through the implementation of the Nature Restoration Regulation. Among other areas, it aims to scale up investments in nature-based solutions and to ensure that, by 2033, all EU cities with more than 100,000 inhabitants would set up integrated urban wastewater management plans prioritising nature-based solutions and green-blue infrastructure.

Within the Knowledge Innovation Project on Integrated Natural Capital Accounting ([INCA](#)), the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) has published pilot ecosystem services accounts for crop and wood provision, global climate regulation and flood control (access the full report [here](#)), for habitat and species maintenance, on-site soil retention and water purification (access the publication [here](#)), and crop pollination and outdoor recreation (access the full report [here](#)). Due to varying and sometimes long data update cycles of the different input data sets, the current latest data point for ecosystem services accounts under the INCA project is 2021. Under the [revised EU Regulation on environmental economic accounts](#) (2024), a new [ecosystem accounts](#) module will improve the availability of EU-level data on the extent and condition of ecosystems and the services they provide to society and the economy and with it, higher capacity to assess progress on protecting and restoring ecosystems and their services. Member States will start reporting on ecosystem accounts in 2026.

The newly adopted EU [Soil Monitoring and Resilience Directive](#) will put in place a monitoring framework to continuously improve soil health, prevent and tackle soil

degradation in the EU with a view to achieving healthy soils by 2050, so that they can continue to supply multiple ecosystem services.

The [EU ecosystem assessment report 2020](#) helps bring awareness about the state and trends of ecosystems and their services in the EU. The Commission is preparing a [Second European Assessment on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services \(MAES2IPBES\)](#), building on the [2022 EU-wide methodology to map and assess ecosystem condition](#), while adhering to the UN System of Environmental Economic Accounting - Ecosystem Accounting (SEEA-EA). It will align with, and contribute to, international initiatives like the [Second IPBES Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services](#). The Second European Assessment will include analysis of eight ecosystems (Forest, Urban, Agroecosystems, Heathland and Shrubs, Wetlands, Rivers & Lakes, Soil, and Marine Ecosystem) and their services. A number of so-called "focus assessments" will be dedicated to the contributions of ecosystems to socio-economic objectives (e.g. Agriculture and Ecosystem Services, Bioeconomy, Invasive Alien Species, Climate and Biodiversity, Economic and Financial Interdependencies). The ecosystem assessment will be published by the end of 2026, the focus assessment by March 2027, and the summary for policy-makers by October 2027.

The [EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030](#) includes actions to reverse the decline of pollinators, encourage nature-based solutions (including in [green public procurement](#) and in [urban nature plans](#)). In 2023, the revised [EU Pollinators Initiative - A new deal for pollinators](#) set out measures to improve knowledge on the causes and consequences of pollinator decline, strengthen conservation and tackle these causes, and increase the awareness and engagement of citizens and stakeholders in pollinator conservation. The initiative includes actions for Member States such as to enhance the capacity of farm advisory services for pollinator conservation and restoration, and to implement communication and demonstration activities for pollinator-friendly schemes.

The [EU Forest Strategy for 2030](#) recognises the importance of forest ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration and storage, flood protection, the provisioning of water, food and materials as well as cultural ecosystem services enhancing wellbeing through nature. It aims to protect, restore and enlarge EU's forests to combat climate change, reverse biodiversity loss and ensure resilient and multifunctional forest ecosystems. As part of this, it seeks to develop, among other things, financial incentives, in particular for private forest owners and managers, for the provision of these ecosystem services. The EU fosters forest ecosystem services including through the [Guidance on private and public payment for forest ecosystem service schemes](#). The guidelines were published in 2023 and are being promoted in various forums.

Ecosystem services contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation are fostered inter alia in [the EU Climate Change Adaptation Strategy](#) and the [Regulation on land, land use change and forestry \(LULUCF\)](#), as [amended](#), which sets a target of 310 Mt CO₂ net

removals for the LULUCF sector in 2030. In 2024, the EEA published the first [European Climate Risk Assessment](#) which identified 36 climate risks for Europe’s energy and food security, ecosystems and their services, infrastructure, water resources, financial stability and people’s health. The [Commission’s Communication on managing climate risks](#) sets out key EU actions to tackle the growing climate-related risks and build greater resilience to the impacts of climate change, with a strong focus on future-proof nature-based solutions and climate-resilient landscapes.

Under Horizon Europe, Cluster 6 on “[Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment](#)”; the [EU Mission: Adaptation to Climate Change](#); [EU Mission: Restore our Ocean and Waters](#), and the [EU Mission: Soil Deal for Europe](#), all contribute to the maintenance and restoration of ecosystem services.

ii. Current level of progress towards the target

- On track to achieve target
- Progress made but at an insufficient rate
- No significant progress
- Not applicable
- Unknown
- Achieved

iii. Summary of progress towards the target and main outcomes achieved

The EU-level framework for the maintenance and improvement of ecosystem services has been strengthened, notably through the adoption of legislation such as the EU Nature Restoration Regulation and the EU Soil Monitoring and Resilience Directive, and the implementation of initiatives such as the EU Pollinators initiative, the EU Soil Strategy and the EU Forest Strategy. Significant progress has also been achieved in integrating nature-based solutions into EU instruments dealing with climate change mitigation and adaptation, and flood risk management.

As set out in the [Policy Brief - From nature to numbers: integrating natural capital accounting into decision-making](#) (2025) produced by the JRC Knowledge Centre for Biodiversity (drawing on earlier data from the INCA KIP project), between 2000 and 2021, the average provision of 9 selected ecosystem services in the EU declined by approximately 2%. Specifically, regulating services decreased by around 6%, while provisioning services saw a decline of approximately 3%. Notably, air filtration and carbon sequestration services exhibited the most substantial declines, with reductions of 50% and 19%, respectively. Certain ecosystem services were found to have unmet demand, indicating a vulnerability for society and the sectors dependent on these

services. Approximately 68% of EU land areas lack sufficient ecosystem protection for flood mitigation; around 37% of areas do not have suitable habitats to support wild pollinators; about 19% of on-site soil retention areas are at risk of soil erosion. The estimated value of unmet demand for ecosystem services is EUR 63.1 billion per year, with most of these costs attributable to insufficient flood control and pollination deficit.

iv. Summary of key challenges encountered and approaches for further implementation

Due to varying and sometimes long data update cycles of the different input data sets, the current latest data point for ecosystem services accounts under the INCA project is 2021. Under the [revised EU Regulation on environmental economic accounts](#) (2024), a new [ecosystem accounts](#) module will improve the availability of EU-level data on the extent and condition of ecosystems and the services they provide to society and the economy and with it, higher capacity to assess progress on protecting and restoring ecosystems and their services. Member States will start reporting on ecosystem accounts in 2026.

v. Examples of effective implementation

The EU Nature Restoration Regulation sets out obligations and legal tools to ensure that ecosystem services are considered, quantified, and used to guide restoration. Under Article 11.9, Member States, when preparing their National Restoration Plans (NRP), shall aim to optimise the contribution of ecosystems to the sustainable development of regions and communities. NRP also have to set out the expected benefits of restoration, especially in terms of climate adaptation and mitigation, and to identify synergies with other EU and national policies. NRP must be developed in an open manner, allowing stakeholder input. This can help identify and prioritise ecosystem services of societal value.

The EU Pollinators Initiative - A new [deal for pollinators](#)

The revised EU Pollinators Initiative represents a comprehensive effort to enhance and maintain wild pollinators and the ecosystem services they provide that are crucial for ecosystems and agriculture. The initiative strengthens existing measures and introduces new actions to safeguard pollinators across the EU. This includes measures to increase habitat availability and quality by protecting and restoring natural and semi-natural habitats, encouraging sustainable land use and integrated pest management practices.

The initiative also enhances research and monitoring to improve understanding of pollinator health and the impacts of various pressures. Through citizen science projects and the establishment of pollinator monitoring networks, it aims to build a comprehensive database to inform policy and conservation strategies.

By fostering collaboration between farmers, land managers and planners to create pollinator-friendly landscapes, and providing incentives for pollinator-friendly practices,

the initiative seeks to ensure that these measures are effectively implemented and scaled.

vi. Relevance to Sustainable Development Goals or other related agreements

The implementation of this target contributes to the implementation of SDGs 1 (No Poverty), SDG14 (Life below Water), and 15 (Life on Land).

vii. Indicators to assess progress towards the target

Headline:

- B.1 Services provided by ecosystems (data to be updated)

Other EU indicators:

- Air emissions intensities by NACE Rev. 2 activity
- Ecological status of surface waters
- Water exploitation index, plus (WEI+)
- Grassland butterfly index
- Stock of organic carbon
- Share of green areas in cities (under development)

EU Target 12: Fostering urban biodiversity and green and blue infrastructure

Improve urban biodiversity and foster investment in green and blue infrastructure and, notably, ensure no net loss of urban green space, and of urban tree canopy cover by 2030 and achieve an increasing trend thereafter.

i. Main actions undertaken since 2020 to implement the target

The [EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030](#) aims to ensure that all cities with more than 20,000 inhabitants will have an ambitious urban greening plan by 2030. To support authorities in this work, the European Commission published, in 2021, [technical guidance](#) on urban greening, and set up an [EU Urban Greening Platform](#) (see also [Action Tracker](#)).

Article 8 of the EU [Nature Restoration Regulation](#) (2024) sets obligations for Member States to ensure no net loss in the total national area of urban green space and of urban tree canopy cover by 2030, and to achieve an increasing trend thereafter.

EU cohesion policy funds – notably the European Regional Development Fund and the Cohesion Fund – offer opportunities to support urban biodiversity and nature-based solutions. The [European Urban Initiative](#) provides support for sustainable urban development under the EU’s cohesion policy.

The [Green City Accord](#) is an EU initiative that fosters actions in five priority areas to make cities greener, cleaner and healthier. One of these priority areas focuses on nature and biodiversity, with the aim to conserve and restore urban ecosystems and increase the extent and quality of green areas in cities.

The [European Green Capital and Green Leaf awards](#) recognise and reward local efforts to improve the environment - including biodiversity, green areas, and sustainable land use (alongside six other environmental and climate indicators). The 2025 awards will be announced in October 2025 in Vilnius, the current European Green Capital.

The [New European Bauhaus Initiative](#) supports innovation and creativity for sustainable design. In spring 2022, the [NEB Lab](#) launched a call around the Transformation of Places of Learning to promote new ways of living together without damaging the environment. Up until now, the NEB Lab counts [17 projects](#) that implement the New European Bauhaus through concrete actions. Two editions of the [NEB prizes](#) in 2021 and 2022 received more than 3 000 applications in total. One of the four categories of the prizes is “reconnecting with nature”.

Moreover, in December 2025, the Commission presented its plan for the [future of the New European Bauhaus](#). This was adopted as part of the European Affordable Housing Plan, and contains the [Communication New European Bauhaus - from vision to implementation](#) and its accompanying [proposal for a Council Recommendation](#). The Communication and proposal set out key actions to scale up the New European Bauhaus, including on urban green space, and enhance its role as a driver of the clean transition and innovation in Europe.

The revised [Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive](#) adopted in 2024 sets obligations for the establishment of local integrated urban wastewater management plans to address pollution from urban runoff and storm water overflows. In the development of these plans, nature-based solutions – including natural water retention, vegetation ditches, treatment wetlands, rainwater harvesting, increases in green spaces and reduction of impermeable areas – should be prioritised over those that would require the establishment of grey infrastructure.

The [EU4Health Programme](#) (2021-2027) supports One Health activities and defines the ‘One Health approach’ as a multisectoral approach which recognises that human health is connected to animal health and to the environment.

Horizon Europe supports research and innovation on nature-based solutions under the [EU Mission: Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities](#); Cluster 6 “[Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment](#)”, [EU Mission: Restore Our Ocean and Waters](#) and the [EU Mission: Adaptation to Climate Change](#).

In June 2023, the European Investment Bank and the European Commission published a report on [Investing in nature-based solutions. State-of-play and way forward for public and private financial measures in Europe](#).

ii. Current level of progress towards the target

- On track to achieve target
- Progress made but at an insufficient rate
- No significant progress
- Not applicable
- Unknown
- Achieved

iii. Summary of progress towards the target and main outcomes achieved

The EU has created a solid framework promoting and supporting urban biodiversity and nature-based solutions. There is a high number of successful initiatives in the Member States improving urban nature, integrating nature-based solutions in urban planning, health and climate adaptation strategies.

iv. Summary of key challenges encountered and approaches for further implementation

The EEA briefing on [Who benefits from nature in cities?](#) reviews the evidence of socio-economic and demographic inequalities in access to urban green and blue spaces across Europe. It notes that publicly accessible green areas are estimated to form only 3% of the total city area on average. There are also large variations: in general, cities in the north and west of Europe tend to have more green space than those in the south and East of Europe. The degree of greening varies across urban neighbourhoods, with less and lower quality green space typically found in communities of lower socio-economic status, and showcases examples of green spaces designed to meet the needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged social groups.

According to a [survey carried out by Eurocities in 2023](#), some of the main challenges to the greening of urban areas include competing interests for urban space, planning and selecting resilient native trees, and securing financing for the long-term maintenance of green infrastructure. The European Investment Bank report [Investing in nature-based solutions: State-of-play and way forward for public and private financial measures in Europe](#) investigates financial barriers and opportunities to scale up green actions that protect or restore natural ecosystems while helping to mitigate floods, coastal erosion, overheating cities and other challenges.

v. Examples of effective implementation

The EU's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme supports research on green and blue infrastructure and nature-based solutions. For example, the [BlueHealth](#) pan-European research initiative explores the links between urban blue spaces, climate and health. It has produced a BlueHealth Toolbox to help planners, designers and decision-makers deliver health-promoting urban planning and design. The [DuneFront](#) and [TRANSEATION](#) projects demonstrate the use of blue-grey coastal and marine infrastructure as sustainable, inclusive and aesthetic solutions to ensure coastal safety under climate change. With support under Horizon 2020, the [INTERLACE project](#) (International Cooperation to Restore and Connect Urban Environments in Latin America and Europe) created the [Urban Governance Atlas](#): an interactive online database of over 250 good practice policy instruments that support nature-based solutions and ecosystem restoration. The EU-funded [NetworkNature](#) platform brings together the latest research on natural capital, ecosystem services and nature-based solutions, also feeding into the [Oppla](#) platform.

The [New European Bauhaus Initiative](#) brings citizens, experts, businesses, and institutions together to reimagine and steer transformation towards ways of living that draw on the values of sustainability, resilience, aesthetics and inclusivity, accessibility and affordability. In addition to creating a platform for experimentation and connection,

the initiative supports positive change also by providing access to EU funding for projects. The New European Bauhaus also provides prizes for projects in four well established categories, including on reconnecting with nature, and on shaping a circular industrial ecosystem and supporting life-cycle thinking.

vi. Relevance to Sustainable Development Goals or other related agreements

The implementation of this target contributes to the implementation of SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities).

vii. Indicators used to assess progress towards the target

Headline:

- 12.1 Average share of the built-up area of cities that is green or blue space for public use for all (under development)

Questions for binary indicator 12.b (see **Binary question 12.b** Binary question 12.b for detailed answers)

Other EU indicators:

- Share of green areas in cities (under development)
- 2.1 Area under restoration (under development)
- Urban tree canopy cover (under development)

EU Target 13: Compliance with access and benefit-sharing measures

Compliance with international obligations on access and benefit sharing on genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with it, in particular by ensuring EU users' compliance with ABS requirements and measures, in order to facilitate benefit sharing.

i. Main actions undertaken since 2020 to implement the target

The [EU Access and Benefit Sharing \(ABS\) Regulation](#) establishes compliance measures for users from the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization in the EU. It requires users of genetic resources or traditional knowledge to submit a due diligence declaration proving their compliance to applicable ABS measures.

To support the implementation of the EU ABS Regulation, the Commission facilitates experience exchanges and discussions with the Member States' Competent Authorities on ABS in the ABS Expert Group and with representatives of the private and public sectors, organisations and civil society in the ABS Consultation Forum. Additionally, the EU web-based application [DECLARE](#), through which users submit due diligence declarations that are then sent to the [ABS Clearing House](#), is regularly reviewed and updated to ensure the monitoring of users' compliance with the Nagoya Protocol. Since December 2022, customised trainings on the use of DECLARE has been provided to Member States and to several users of those countries.

Member States will report on the implementation of the EU ABS Regulation by February 2026. An evaluation of the EU ABS Regulation will be conducted in 2026.

The [proposal for a Directive on the implementation of the BBNJ Agreement](#) adopted on 24 April 2025 aims to implement the relevant provisions of the Agreement.

The European Union is regularly promoting, financing and organising initiatives to raise awareness and build capacities about ABS in the EU, including on more recent issues such as Digital Sequence Information. Those initiatives include, inter alia, workshops, webinars, an ABS Helpdesk for Member States (which was discontinued on 31 May 2024), informative documents and material, as well as [several studies](#) on ABS and digital sequence information.

In 2021 and 2022, the EU continued to support partner countries to implement the Nagoya Protocol, through a EUR 5 million contribution to the "[ABS Capacity Development Initiative](#)" implemented by GIZ. This initiative facilitated the design and implementation of national institutional and regulatory ABS frameworks in African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP), as well as the development of few ABS agreements between users and providers.

In 2023 and 2024, the EU adopted two financing decisions earmarking a total of EUR 14 million under the thematic programme on ‘Global Challenges’ of the [Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument \(NDICI\)](#) to support developing countries in accessing and benefitting from the use of terrestrial and marine genetic resources (including genetic resources from the high seas) through capacity development in bioprospection and the development of Nagoya-compliant partnerships with the private sector to bring biodiscoveries to the market.

ii. Current level of progress towards the target

- On track to achieve target
- Progress made but at an insufficient rate
- No significant progress
- Not applicable
- Unknown
- Achieved

iii. Summary of progress towards the target and main outcomes achieved

As regards obligations stemming from the Nagoya Protocol, the EU has achieved this part of the target through its implementation of the EU ABS Regulation. This legislation ensures compliance with the Nagoya Protocol in the EU.

As regards obligations stemming from the BBNJ Agreement, the EU is working to adopt the necessary legislative framework for the implementation of the BBNJ Agreement.

iv. Summary of key challenges encountered and approaches for further implementation

Major challenges in ensuring compliance with relevant international obligations on ABS are user awareness and the complexity of the topic. Additionally, due to the different approaches undertaken by Parties to implement the Nagoya Protocol, users are not always aware of their obligations or struggle to understand them. Therefore, the European Union continues its efforts to raise awareness and build capacity.

The EU has also continued dialogues with the other major donors of the European block in the field of ABS and DSI - BMZ, the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), the UK Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA), and the Dutch ministry of agriculture, fisheries, food security and nature - in order to ensure strategic alignment and coherent

funding decisions to support the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol, the BBNJ Agreement and DSI provisions in partner countries.

v. Examples of effective implementation

The development of the web-based application “DECLARE” allowed users to submit due diligence declarations online. This application has positively contributed to ensure compliance in the EU with user obligations under the Nagoya Protocol. The use of the DECLARE significantly increased from 192 active genetic resource users/organisations in 2020 to 363 in 2025, and from 63 due diligence declarations in 2023 (of which 19 were transmitted to the ABS Clearing House) to 277 in 2025 (of which 147 were transmitted to the ABS Clearing House).

Through the EU funded “ABS Capacity Development Initiative” for African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP countries), the following results have been achieved:

- ABS National Focal Points / Competent National Authorities have been supported to submit drafts to the relevant decision makers for the institutional and legal framework of ABS on the national level in 13 ACP countries
- the support to the establishment of 47 new ABS agreements in ACP countries
- the support to the integration of Biocultural Community Protocols (BCPs) or comparable instruments (CI) in 45 ABS agreements negotiations of ACP countries.

vi. Relevance to Sustainable Development Goals or other related agreements

The implementation of this target contributes to the implementation of SDGs 14 (Life Below Water), 15 (Life on Land) and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

vii. Indicators to assess progress towards the target

Headline:

- C.1 Monetary benefits received in accordance with applicable internationally agreed access and benefit-sharing instruments (EU will not report)
- C.2 Non-monetary benefits arising from applicable international access and benefit-sharing instruments (EU will not report)

Whereas the EU does not regulate access to genetic resources, the EU does not receive benefits and can therefore not report on these indicators. Please note that the EU shares many of the benefits obtained from the use of the genetic resources from third countries.

[Binary indicator 13.b \(see **Binary question 13.b** in Annex VI for detail on the responses\)](#)

- 13.b Number of countries that have taken effective legal, policy, administrative and capacity-building measures at all levels, as appropriate, to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the utilization of genetic resources and from digital sequence information on genetic resources, as well as traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources.

EU Target 14a: Mainstreaming biodiversity

Systematically assess the economic, social and environmental impact of EU policy initiatives, including biodiversity, applying the Do-No-Significant-Harm and Polluter Pays Principles and fostering ‘Do Good’ and ensure strategic environmental assessments and environmental impact assessments are undertaken for all relevant decisions concerning plans, programmes and projects.

i. Main actions undertaken since 2020 to implement the target

The EU’s [‘Better Regulation’ system](#) provides for a systematic assessment of the economic, social and environmental impacts of EU policy initiatives. Following the European Green Deal, it also aims to mainstream the UN Sustainable Development Goals to ensure that every legislative proposal contributes to the 2030 sustainable development agenda, and that the ‘do no significant harm’ (DNSH) principle is applied across all policies. [Better Regulation Toolbox \(Tool 36\)](#) sets out how the DNSH principle should be assessed for different Commission proposals, with a set of guiding questions to identify potential environmental impacts, including on biodiversity and ecosystem services. All legislative proposals and delegated acts have to be accompanied by an explanatory memorandum, with a section explaining how each initiative upholds the DNSH principle.

As of 2025, the Commission also runs a [‘youth check’](#) on its key policy proposals to examine the potential impact of its new policies on young people. This new requirement aims to enhance long-term thinking, intergenerational fairness and sustainability in EU policy-making, while empowering young people to get involved.

The revised [EU Financial Regulation](#) (2024) requires the DNSH principle to be implemented in all programmes and activities financed under the EU’s Multiannual Financial Framework to achieve their set objectives without doing significant harm. The DNSH principle is deployed explicitly across several EU budgetary instruments for 2021-2027: the EU’s Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF), the InvestEU Fund and the cohesion policy funds.

The Commission’s Joint Research Centre has [published an analysis](#) of how the DNSH principle is applied across EU instruments (the EU taxonomy, Recovery and Resilience Facility, the European Rural Development Fund and Cohesion Fund, the Just Transition Fund and InvestEU). This will inform reflections on its full application under the next financial regulations.

In addition, the interinstitutional agreement on the EU budget set out that biodiversity should be mainstreamed in EU programmes to allocate at least 7.5% of annual spending to biodiversity objectives in 2024 and 10% in both 2026 and 2027, while considering the existing overlaps between climate and biodiversity goals. The EU has exceeded the target

for 2024, but is estimated to remain significantly below the target for 2026 and 2027 (for more information on this, see reporting on EU Target 19b).

The [Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union](#) Art. 11 stipulates that environmental protection requirements must be integrated into the definition and implementation of the Union's policies and activities, with a view to promoting sustainable development. Article 191(2) establishes that EU environmental policy shall be based on the Polluter Pays Principle, amongst other principles. This means that polluters should pay for measures to prevent, control and remedy pollution, and for the cost to society of pollution. The [Ensuring that Polluters Pay Toolkit](#) (2021) focuses on making polluters pay for the societal costs of pollution. The Commission is doing a [fitness check](#) that will consider how well the polluters pay principle is applied across a wide range of activities and policies, such as climate change, water policy, air policy, waste policy or environmental liability requirements and sectoral policies.

The [Environmental Impact Assessment Directive](#) requires Member States to adopt all measures necessary to ensure that public and private projects likely to have significant effects on the environment are made subject to a requirement for development consent and that, before consent is given, an assessment is carried out on their effects. The [Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive](#) requires environmental assessments to be carried out for plans and programmes that are likely to have significant effects on the environment. The Commission pursues cases of bad application of EU law and focuses its enforcement action on issues of [systematic failures](#) to comply with EU law, including cases where the requirement for assessment of the environmental impacts of projects, plans or programmes have not been respected. Further information on the enforcement actions undertaken by the Commission is available in the Commission's annual reports on [Monitoring the application of European Union Law](#).

The [EU Taxonomy Regulation](#) establishes criteria for determining whether an economic activity qualifies as environmentally sustainable. Article 17 and the [Technical Screening Criteria Delegated Regulation](#) set out the criteria of the DNSH principle. In February 2025, the Commission adopted an Omnibus package with [proposals to simplify EU rules and boost competitiveness](#), including proposals to the Taxonomy Climate and Environmental Delegated Acts. In addition, the Commission is currently undertaking a comprehensive review of the technical screening criteria in view of simplifying and updating them. Revised Delegated Acts will be adopted in the course of 2026.

The [Directive on corporate sustainability due diligence](#) (CSDDD) was adopted in June 2024 and entered into force on 25 July 2024. In April 2025, it was amended by Directive 2025/794, postponing the CSDDD application to the first group of largest companies in its scope by one year to give them more time to prepare. In December 2025, a [provisional agreement](#) was reached on the [Omnibus package](#) that contains amendments to the CSDDD, which aim to enable companies to stay firmly on course toward our

sustainability goals, including decarbonisation and broader environmental, social and human rights objectives, while simplifying the rules and minimising regulatory burden as much as possible. The CSDDD requires the integration of general supply chain due diligence into corporate policies and management systems. By requiring companies to identify, assess and address adverse environmental impacts, related to international conventions listed in its annex, in their value chains, the Directive thus supports the mainstreaming of biodiversity considerations in the corporate governance of large companies in the scope of the Directive. This helps to ensure that biodiversity preservation is an integral part of business strategies, promoting sustainable interaction with ecosystems

ii. Current level of progress towards the target

- On track to achieve target
- Progress made but at an insufficient rate
- No significant progress
- Not applicable
- Unknown
- Achieved

iii. Summary of progress towards the target and main outcomes achieved

The [annual report of the Commission's Regulatory Scrutiny Board \(2023\)](#) points to improved performance of impact assessments for EU legislation and policies in relation to the DNSH principle. *For biodiversity mainstreaming in specific sectors, see reports on the related EU targets (e.g. sustainable agriculture, forestry, aquaculture).*

A [Study on the application and effectiveness of the EU Strategic Environmental Assessment \(SEA\) Directive](#) reported that, according to stakeholders, the SEA Directive had contributed to environmental protection, particularly by addressing biodiversity. The study has found that the number of SEAs carried out between 2015 and 2021 varied considerably between Member States, with estimates ranging from 13 to around 21,000, and an average of around 2,500 per Member State over the period. Most SEAs focused on land use and spatial planning, including modifications to such plans.

A [study on the implementation of the revised EIA Directive \(2024\)](#) suggests that, based on evidence from case studies, the completion of EIA and screening procedures brings about benefits that are predominantly associated with mitigation measures, and often include avoidance or mitigation of negative impacts of developments on habitats, plants, and species, as well as prevention or mitigation of pollution.

The [Europe's environment 2025 \(EEA\)](#) points to the need for further policy integration into key sectors (agriculture, fisheries, water, land-use), and highlights persistent pressure drivers – over-exploitation, intensive land/sea use, pollution, invasive species and climate change.

iv. Summary of key challenges encountered and approaches for further implementation

The [Europe's environment 2025 \(EEA\)](#) states that mainstreaming biodiversity is hindered by a funding shortfall, gaps between legislation and on-the-ground implementation, entrenched pressure drivers (land-use, pollution, climate change), slow and poorly assessed protected-area expansion, missing quantitative climate-biodiversity targets, and the technical difficulty of reducing pollution across sectors. Addressing these challenges would require stronger financing mechanisms, tighter cross-sectoral integration, faster and better-monitored protection measures, and clearer, binding targets.

JRC [analysis](#) (2023) of the DNSH principle application across EU instruments indicates significant uptake in a relatively short time, across different EU instruments, but with diverging approaches (and related risks), and recommends EU action to ensure coherence (for example by means of a common methodological basis, exclusion list and technical guidance for high priority sectors and investments).

v. Examples of effective implementation

[Assessment of the effects of projects on the environment \(EIA\) | EUR-Lex](#)

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process serves as a tool in mainstreaming biodiversity considerations into project development within the EU. By systematically evaluating the potential environmental effects of proposed projects, EIA ensures that biodiversity impacts are thoroughly assessed and mitigated before projects receive approval. This approach allows for the integration of biodiversity conservation into the early stages of planning and decision-making.

A practical example of this can be seen in infrastructure development projects, such as the construction of highways or industrial facilities. During the EIA process, developers are required to assess potential impacts on local flora and fauna, protected habitats, and ecological networks. This includes identifying sensitive species or habitats at risk and proposing measures to avoid, minimise, or compensate for negative impacts. For instance, projects might be redesigned to include wildlife corridors, minimizing habitat fragmentation and ensuring connectivity for species movement.

Moreover, the EIA process encourages public participation and stakeholder engagement, allowing local communities, environmental organisations, and other interested parties to contribute their knowledge and concerns regarding biodiversity impacts. This

inclusive approach ensures that diverse perspectives are considered, leading to more sustainable and ecologically sensitive project outcomes.

By embedding biodiversity considerations into the EIA framework, the EU promotes an integrated approach to development that supports environmental stewardship and long-term ecological sustainability. This not only helps preserve the region's rich biodiversity but also enhances the resilience of ecosystems and the services they provide, ultimately aligning economic development with ecological integrity.

vi. Relevance to Sustainable Development Goals or other related agreements

The implementation of this target contributes to the implementation of SDG 14 (Life under Water) and SDG 15 (Life on Land).

vii. Indicators to assess progress towards the target

[Binary indicator 14.b \(see **Binary question 14.b** in Annex VI for details on the responses\)](#)

- 14.b Number of countries integrating biodiversity and its multiple values into policies, regulations, planning, development processes, poverty eradication strategies and, as appropriate, national accounts, within and across all levels and across all sectors, and progressively aligning all relevant public and private activities and fiscal and financial flows with the goals and targets of the Framework

[Component indicators:](#)

- 14.CT.1 Integration of biodiversity into national accounting and reporting systems, defined as implementation of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (under development)

EU Target 14b: UN System of Environmental Economic Accounting (UNSEEA)

Ensure the full integration of biodiversity and its multiple values into national accounting.

i. Main actions undertaken since 2020 to implement the target

The European Commission has been supporting Natural Capital Accounting and SEEA EA implementation through the [Integrated Natural Capital Accounting \(INCA\) project](#), developed jointly by Eurostat, DG Environment, DG Research and Innovation, the Joint Research Centre and the EEA. Within INCA, the JRC has published ecosystem services accounts for crop provision, timber provision, global climate regulation, flood control (access the full report [here](#)), water purification (access the publication [here](#)), crop pollination and nature-based recreation (access the full report [here](#)). Due to the varying and sometimes long data update cycles of the different input data sets, the current latest data point is 2021. A GIS-plug-in tool (so called 'INCA tool') was developed to speed up the production of ecosystem services accounts - a prerequisite for a regular data production. All results on INCA ecosystem services accounts, including accounting tables and maps, the INCA tool as well as a catalogue of output datasets and links to input data, are available on the [INCA website](#). A report on [Accounting for ecosystems and their services in the European Union \(INCA\)](#) was published in 2021.

In December 2024, [Regulation \(EU\) 2024/3024](#) entered into force introducing new environmental economic account modules. These comprise a set of accounts on the extent and condition of ecosystems and the services they provide to society and the economy, in line with the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting. The amended Regulation mandates EU Member States to compile ecosystem services accounts at the national level. Starting in 2026, Member States will be reporting to Eurostat data on ecosystem extent accounts, seven ecosystem services accounts and ecosystem condition accounts for five types of ecosystems, using nine indicators, common definitions - as specified in the legal text - and common methods - as developed by the Task force on ecosystem accounting and published at [Eurostat's methodological website on the environment, under tab 'Ecosystem accounts'](#). Based on this, the first official EU-wide data stream on ecosystem accounts will become available as of 2027 and will be updated annually thereafter.

In 2020, the European Commission published the [Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystems and their Services: An EU ecosystem assessment](#) report. It provides an assessment of the key ecosystems in the EU and a baseline for the 2030 biodiversity targets. The Commission is preparing a [Second European Assessment of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services \(MAES2IPBES\)](#), building on the 2022 [EU-wide methodology to map and assess ecosystem condition](#), while adhering to the UN System of Environmental Economic Accounting - Ecosystem Accounting (SEEA-EA).

From 2014 to 2022 the Commission supported the World Bank project [WAVES](#) (Wealth Accounting and the Valuation of Ecosystem Services) and WAVES+: a global partnership that promotes the use of natural capital accounting in national planning. The programme supported the production of environmental accounts and the integration of findings into policy decisions in several non-EU countries. The World Bank is continuing work under its Global Program on Sustainability (GPS).

ii. Current level of progress towards the target

- On track to achieve target
- Progress made but at an insufficient rate
- No significant progress
- Not applicable
- Unknown
- Achieved

iii. Summary of progress towards the target and main outcomes achieved

Significant progress has been made in improving the knowledge base for ecosystem accounting and valuation, notably via the INCA project and the first EU ecosystem assessment, and work is progressing on the second EU ecosystem assessment.

In general, the broader scope of the revised EU Regulation on European environmental economic accounts will bring more complete statistical data and with it, higher capacity to assess progress on biodiversity and wider environmental policies, and to better demonstrate the value of natural capital for economic competitiveness and resilience to climate and environmental impacts.

Member States will start reporting on ecosystem accounts in 2026.

iv. Summary of key challenges encountered and approaches for further implementation

Further efforts will be needed, once data becomes available, to encourage its uptake in policy and business decision-making, for example building on the [EU guidance on integrating biodiversity and ecosystem services into decision-making](#) (2019) . Several Horizon Europe projects, notably [SELINA](#) (2022- 2027), [A-Track](#) (2023-2027) and [CircHive](#) (2022-2027), are further advancing the development and operational use of natural capital accounting by improving methodologies, data integration and decision-support tools. Together, these projects support the uptake of ecosystem and natural capital information in policy, business and finance, contributing to the implementation of EU biodiversity and sustainability objectives.

v. *Examples of effective implementation*

The Integrated System of Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services Accounting (INCA) provides comprehensive data on ecosystem services in Europe. All results, including accounting tables and maps, the INCA tool as well as a [Catalogue](#) of output datasets and links to input data are available on the [INCA website](#).

A notable application of INCA is in developing [Urban Ecosystem accounts following the SEEA EA standard](#). This pilot project helps measure the contributions of urban ecosystems, for example to air quality and recreation, thereby providing standardised and comparable data for environmental and economic analyses.

The incorporation of [Gross ecosystem product in macroeconomic modelling | INCA Platform](#) allows for the valuation of ecosystem contributions to economies, similar to GDP's role in measuring economic activity. This approach offers a more holistic view of economic sustainability by highlighting the economic value of ecosystems.

vi. *Relevance to Sustainable Development Goals or other related agreements*

The implementation of this target contributes to the implementation of SDG 15 (Life on Land).

vii. *Indicators to assess progress towards the target*

[Questions for binary indicator 14.b \(see **Binary question 14.b** for details on the responses\)](#)

- 14.b Number of countries integrating biodiversity and its multiple values into policies, regulations, planning, development processes, poverty eradication strategies and, as appropriate, national accounts, within and across all levels and across all sectors, and progressively aligning all relevant public and private activities and fiscal and financial flows with the goals and targets of the Framework

[Component indicators:](#)

- 14.CT.1 Integration of biodiversity into national accounting and reporting systems, defined as implementation of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (under development)

EU Target 15a: Business biodiversity monitoring, assessment and disclosure

Strengthen corporate sustainability reporting requirements through the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive and the Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation, including through mandatory disclosure requirements.

i. Main actions undertaken since 2020 to implement the target

The [EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030](#) includes measures to promote business engagement for biodiversity, including a [New sustainable corporate governance initiative](#) addressing human rights, environmental duty of care and mandatory due diligence across value chains, continued support for the [EU Business for Biodiversity](#) movement, and further development of methods, criteria and standards to better integrate biodiversity considerations into public and business decision-making and to measure [environmental footprint](#).

The [EU Business and Biodiversity Platform](#) facilitates the exchange of experiences and the development of tools and methods for business to measure their biodiversity dependencies and impacts, and to better integrate biodiversity in business decisions. The Platform works with large corporates, SMEs, financial institutions and business networks. It also develops partnerships with relevant initiatives in the area of biodiversity and natural capital, such as [Business for Nature](#) and the [Capitals Coalition](#). The [annual European Business and Nature Summits \(EBNS\)](#) are flagship high-level events on business and nature in the EU.

In 2022, the EU adopted the [Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive](#) (CSRD) that requires companies above a certain size to disclose information on what they see as the risks and opportunities arising from social and environmental issues, and on the impact of their activities on people and the environment. The CSRD mandates comprehensive biodiversity reporting through the European Sustainability Reporting Standards (ESRS), requiring companies to assess and disclose their impacts on ecosystems and biodiversity. In 2024, [European Sustainability Reporting Standards \(ESRS\)](#) were adopted accompanied by [Q&A](#). In 2024, the Commission published [guidance on interoperability of European and global sustainability reporting standards](#). The first companies subject to the CSRD requirements had to apply the new rules for the first time in 2024 financial year, for reports published in 2025. The [Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation](#) (SFDR) raises the bar for financial investment products by setting strict minimum-disclosure standards to prevent greenwashing. Financial market participants (banks, asset managers, pension funds, etc.) must disclose how sustainability risks are considered in their investment process, what metrics they use to assess ESG factors, and how they consider investment decisions that might result in negative effects on sustainability factors, known as Principal Adverse Impacts (PAIs). As one of the first pieces of EU sustainable finance legislation adopted by the Commission in 2019, the

Regulation is now under review. Between September and December 2023, the Commission carried out a [public consultation](#) on the SFDR implementation.

The [Corporate Sustainable Due Diligence Directive](#) (CSDDD), adopted in 2024, creates due diligence requirements for human rights and environmental adverse impacts related to international conventions listed in its annex, across the global value chains of large European companies and large third-country companies with a significant turnover in the EU. SMEs are excluded from any duty or liability. In April 2025, it was amended by [Directive 2025/794](#), postponing by one year the CSDDD application to the first group of largest companies in its scope, to give them more time to prepare. In December 2025, a [provisional agreement](#) was reached on the [Omnibus package](#) that contains amendments to the CSDDD, which aim to enable companies to stay firmly on course toward our sustainability goals, including decarbonisation and broader environmental, social and human rights objectives, while simplifying the rules and minimising regulatory burden as much as possible.

The [EU taxonomy for sustainable activities](#) is a classification system that defines criteria for economic activities aligned with a net zero trajectory and other environmental goals by 2050. Following the adoption of the [Taxonomy Regulation](#) in 2020, the Commission adopted, in June 2021 and in July 2023 respectively, [Climate](#) and [Environmental](#) delegated acts. The Environmental Delegated Act set, among others, criteria for economic activities making a substantial contribution to the protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystem services.

In February 2025, the Commission adopted an Omnibus package with [proposals to simplify EU rules and boost competitiveness](#) including proposals to postpone the application of some reporting requirements and to amend the CSRD, SFDR, the CSDDD and the Taxonomy Climate and Environmental Delegated Acts. Among other things, the package proposes to apply the CSRD obligations only to companies with more than 1000 employees, focusing on the companies which are more likely to have the biggest impacts on people and the environment, and to simplify due diligence requirements.

In 2023, a [Regulation establishing a European single access point \(ESAP\)](#) was adopted that will provide centralised access to publicly available financial and sustainability-related information about EU companies and EU investment products. In March 2024, two European Commission services (DG Environment and DG FISMA) published a [Study](#) for a methodological framework and assessment by financial institutions of potential financial risks associated with biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation. The aim is to support financial market participants on how they can best integrate nature-related risks into their sustainability frameworks and decision-making processes. The framework is voluntary and can be implemented progressively. These risk assessments rely heavily on available and reliable data, which is often missing. Transparency,

disclosure and reporting obligations (applying to corporates as well as financial companies) can help reduce this information gap over time.

Under the European Horizon Europe programme supporting research and innovation, Cluster 6 “[Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment](#)” includes topics such as ‘Impact and dependence of business on biodiversity’, and ‘Natural capital accounting: Measuring the biodiversity footprint of products and organizations’. A notable project under the Horizon Europe 2023-2024 Work Programme includes [GoNaturePositive](#), which works on developing and testing operational indicators, benchmarks and assessment frameworks that enable companies to measure, track and demonstrate progress towards nature-positive outcomes, supporting evidence-based corporate reporting and decision-making. The 2023/24 calls also included the establishment of bio-economy start-up villages, urban greening and generation projects, circular households and bio-based business models in local communities.

ii. Current level of progress towards the target

- On track to achieve target
- Progress made but at an insufficient rate
- No significant progress
- Not applicable
- Unknown
- Achieved

iii. Summary of progress towards the target and main outcomes achieved

The EU has set up an extensive policy framework for corporate sustainability and has also made significant progress in engaging business in biodiversity monitoring, assessment and disclosure. In response to issues raised by stakeholders regarding the implementation of the EU policy framework for corporate sustainability, the Commission has postponed certain aspects of its implementation, proposed simplified rules and engaged in further dialogue with business stakeholders to find solutions. Changes include removing reporting and due diligence requirements for many companies, introducing more flexibility for companies that remain subject to the mandatory requirements, and protecting smaller companies from excessive information requests from larger companies, all designed to ease business operations while upholding the original policy objectives of the directives. The EU Business and Biodiversity platform brings together more than 400 member organisations striving to embed biodiversity in their daily operations and learning from shared practices.

iv. Summary of key challenges encountered and approaches for further implementation

Stakeholders have raised issues with the implementation of the EU policy framework for corporate sustainability, such as regulatory complexity, resource constraints, data limitations and operational burdens.

v. Examples of effective implementation

The [EU Business and Biodiversity Platform](#), supported by the European Commission, aims to enable businesses to measure and integrate the value of biodiversity into decision-making. It brings together more than [400 member organisations](#) working to embed biodiversity and natural capital considerations in their daily operations. As part of its [activities](#), the platform develops case studies, guidance, tools and other resources, organises webinars and events open to its Community, and works closely with national and regional business and biodiversity platforms and networks. Every year, the Platform organises the [European Business & Nature Summit](#) (EBNS), a high-level political and technical forum to mobilise the business community to take action on nature.

The EU LIFE [Transparent project](#) (2020 to 2023) developed standardised natural capital accounting and environmental management accounting principles for business. The project's results and recommendations can help companies establish environmental management information that is comprehensive, relevant, credible and comparable, and key performance indicators information to support corporate decision-making. The [Align project](#) (2021-2024) was a business-focussed and business-driven project aimed at supporting businesses, financial institutions and other stakeholders in developing standardised natural capital accounting practices by establishing a standardised approach to biodiversity measurement and valuation.

The [SUSTAIN project](#) under the EU's Horizon Europe programme provides businesses, financial institutions, and regulatory bodies with knowledge and resources to better understand, assess, and monitor the dependencies and impacts on nature from activities across different sectors of the economy. The project does so, for example, by financial sector supplement and biodiversity guidance to accompany the Nature Capital Protocol.

vi. Relevance to Sustainable Development Goals or other related agreements

The implementation of this target contributes to the implementation of SDGs 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure) and 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production).

vii. Indicators to assess progress towards the target

[Headline:](#)

- 15.1 Number of companies disclosing their biodiversity risks, dependencies and impacts (under development)

[Questions for binary indicator 15.b \(see **Binary question 15.b** for details on the responses\)](#)

- 15.b Number of countries with legal, administrative or policy measures aimed at encouraging and enabling business and financial institutions, and in particular for large and transnational companies and financial institutions, to progressively reduce their negative impacts on biodiversity, increase their positive impacts, reduce their biodiversity-related risks and promote actions to ensure sustainable patterns of production

EU Target 15b: Business providing information to consumers

Enhance the regulatory framework around the information provided to consumers, to enable them to make informed choices, promoting circular and sustainable consumption.

i. Main actions undertaken since 2020 to implement the target

In March 2022 the European Commission presented the [EU strategy for sustainable and circular textiles](#). The strategy is part of the 2020 [circular economy action plan](#). Developing the [Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation](#) and [Empowering Consumers in the Green Transition Directive](#) (see below for more information) contribute to achieving the Strategy.

Since 2021, the [EU Ecolabel](#) has played a significant part in the [Sustainable Consumption Pledge](#), an initiative that invites companies to take a voluntary pledge to support sustainable consumption beyond what is required by law. By taking the pledge, companies commit to identifying and reducing their carbon footprint by setting clear and measurable targets for the upcoming years. In recent years, the Commission has worked together with Member States and relevant stakeholders to substantially increase uptake and awareness of the scheme, including through collaboration with on-line platforms to have EU Ecolabel goods and services available and visible when purchasing online.

The [Organic Production and Labelling Regulation](#) entered into force on 1 January 2022 and established the principles of organic production and lays down the rules concerning organic production, related certification and the use of indications referring to organic production in labelling and advertising. Numerous secondary legislative measures have been adopted under the Organic Production and Labelling Regulation, including the [Delegated Regulation on the labelling of organic products](#). For a full list, please see [the webpage on legislation for the organics sector](#). The European Commission presented a [proposal for a targeted amendment](#) of the Regulation in December 2025. The proposal would amend the rules to facilitate organic production, labelling, controls and trade across the EU and in third countries and aims to ensure that consumers can make informed choices when buying organic products imported from third countries

The [Revision](#) of the [Regulation on classification, labelling and packaging of chemicals](#) was adopted in 2024 and aims to clarify the rules on labelling chemical substances and the required information for chemicals sold online. Amongst others, labelling will be made simpler by allowing more flexible use of fold-out labels, introducing digital labelling and improving the legibility of labels.

The [Directive Empowering Consumers in the Green Transition](#) was adopted in 2024 and aims, amongst others, to enable better informed transactional decisions by consumers to promote sustainable consumption and eliminate practices that cause damage to the

sustainable economy and mislead consumers away from sustainable consumption choices. Through an [implementing act](#), the design and content of the harmonised label on commercial guarantees of durability offered by producers and of the harmonised notice on the legal guarantee were adopted in September 2025.

The [Recast Energy Performance of Buildings Directive](#) was published in 2024 and aims to decarbonise the EU's buildings fully by 2050. Articles 16, 19 and 26 lay down rules on energy performance certificates, databases for the energy performance of buildings and require Member States to take the necessary measures to inform the owners or tenants on the energy performance of buildings.

The [Regulation on Ecodesign for Sustainable Products](#) (ESPR) was adopted in 2024 to replace the [2009 Ecodesign Directive](#) and enhances the framework for setting ecodesign requirements for specific product groups. The ESPR enables the setting of mandatory performance and information rules – known as ‘ecodesign requirements’ – for almost all categories of physical goods including the limitation of waste through recycling initiatives, enhancing energy efficiency, durability and reusability and improving the information available on product sustainability.

In April 2025, the first [ESPR and Energy Labelling Working Plan](#) was published. The working plan identifies the first set of key priorities for final products, intermediate products and horizontal requirements that need to be addressed. The priorities for the working plan 2025-2030 are textiles/apparel, furniture, tyres, mattresses, iron and steel, aluminium, repairability (including scoring) and recycled content of electrical and electronic equipment. In parallel, it paves the way to cover more product groups in future by conducting preliminary scoping studies and detailed assessments of the potential impacts and improvements.

The [Directive on common rules promoting the repair of goods](#) was published in 2024. Article 6 requires Member States to ensure that producers inform consumers of their obligation to repair. This instrument aims at promoting more sustainable consumption by increasing repair and reuse of goods both within and outside the legal guarantee.

The [revised Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation](#) was adopted in February 2025. It aims to establish requirements for the entire life cycle of packaging as regards environmental sustainability and labelling. It includes provisions on labelling, marking and information requirements (Chapter III).

In 2022, the EU adopted the [Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive](#) (CSRD) that requires companies above a certain size to disclose information on what they see as the risks and opportunities arising from social and environmental issues, and on the impact of their activities on people and the environment. The CSRD mandates comprehensive biodiversity reporting through the European Sustainability Reporting Standards (ESRS),

requiring companies to assess and disclose their impacts on ecosystems and biodiversity. This could inform consumer choices.

The [Renovation Wave Strategy](#) was published in 2020 and proposes stronger regulations, standards and information on the energy performance of buildings. Several of the actions proposed have been implemented through the review of the [Energy Performance of Buildings Directive](#) (see above) and other legislative reviews under the “[Fit for 55](#)” package.

The [Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability](#) was published in 2020. Most of the 80 actions in the strategy have been completed, see [action tracker on the implementation](#). It includes an action on ensuring the availability of information on chemical content and safe use of products by strengthening information requirements.

The [New Consumer Agenda](#) of 2020 aims to equip the EU to tackle the new challenges to consumer rights and opportunities for consumer empowerment brought about by the green and digital transitions, the COVID pandemic and the plans for post-COVID recovery. It addresses consumption patterns in the green transition through specific actions:

- Action 4: Present a legislative proposal to empower consumers for the green transition (see above)
- Action 5: Work with economic operators to encourage voluntary pledges to actions in support of sustainable consumption beyond what is required by law
- Action 6: Assess how to further promote repair and encourage more sustainable circular products.

The [Farm to Fork Strategy](#) adopted in 2020 set out the ambition to [propose harmonised mandatory front-of-pack nutrition labelling](#) and extending further information requirements. Following a public consultation that ran between December 2021 and March 2022 which showed very diverging views on the matter, the proposal has been on hold.

In December 2020, the Commission launched the [Food Labelling Information System](#), [which](#) provides a user-friendly IT solution enabling its users to select the food and automatically retrieve the mandatory EU labelling indications. The system also provides links to the relevant legal provisions and existing guidance documents. The Food Labelling Information System serves purely as a documentation tool and has no legal effect.

The [Recommendation](#) on the use of Environmental Footprint methods for relevant policies and initiatives was published in 2021 to measure, manage and communicate environmental performance, burdens and other information relating to the life cycle of products (goods and services) and organisations. The recommendation encourages

Member States, companies, and organisations to use these methods voluntarily, provides guidelines for data quality, and calls for support to SMEs. The Recommendation is due to be reviewed in 2026 with the aim of ensuring it is in line with the scientific progress, including by enhancing the assessment of impacts on biodiversity.

ii. Current level of progress towards the target

- On track to achieve target
- Progress made but at an insufficient rate
- No significant progress
- Not applicable
- Unknown
- Achieved

iii. Summary of progress towards the target and main outcomes achieved

The EU has put forward various pieces of legislation, as outlined above, that enhance the regulatory framework around the information provided to consumers to enable them to make informed choices, promoting circular and sustainable consumption. In particular, the Directive Empowering Consumers in the Green Transition .

Under the EU Ecolabel scheme, as of September 2025, 3384 licenses have been awarded for 109 096 products comprising goods and services on the European Economic Area market. 57% of the license holders are reported to be SMEs.

Since March 2025, there has been a consistent upward trend in the awarding of licences and products, with most EU Ecolabel product groups experiencing growth. The number of current EU Ecolabel awarded licences and products is the highest ever registered so far. This increase demonstrates a growing and consistent interest in eco-friendly, innovative and competitive products among businesses, retailers and consumers.

iv. Summary of key challenges encountered and approaches for further implementation

Consumer trust in environmental claims is amongst the key challenges to this target. The [2025 Consumer Conditions Scoreboard](#) notes that trust in environmental claims across the EU also declined between 2022 and 2024: half of respondents to the 2024 Consumer Conditions Survey agreed or strongly agreed that most environmental claims about products and services are reliable, a reduction of 6 percentage points since 2022.

v. *Examples of effective implementation*

The [Food Labelling Information System \(FLIS\)](#) is a tool that facilitates compliance with EU food labelling regulations, helping businesses provide accurate and comprehensive information to consumers. By consolidating EU and national labelling requirements, FLIS enables food producers, manufacturers, and retailers to easily access the rules applicable to their specific products, ensuring that labels remain up-to-date and legally compliant.

Key features of the system include a searchable database that simplifies the process of understanding complex labelling standards across Member States. This helps businesses efficiently determine what information must be disclosed on product labels, such as nutritional content, allergens, country of origin, and any specific health claims. The system also helps companies navigate the diverse linguistic requirements of different EU markets, ensuring that labels meet local language criteria.

By streamlining access to labelling information, FLIS assists businesses in maintaining transparency, building consumer trust, and reducing the risk of non-compliance penalties. For consumers, this means receiving clearer and more reliable product information, empowering them to make informed choices based on dietary needs and preferences. Overall, the Food Labelling Information System supports both regulatory compliance and consumer protection within the EU's single market.

vi. *Relevance to Sustainable Development Goals or other related agreements*

The implementation of this target contributes to the implementation of SDGs 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure) and 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production).

vii. *Indicators to assess progress towards the target*

[Binary indicator 15.b \(see **Binary question 15.b** in Annex VI for the responses\)](#)

- 15.b Number of countries with legal, administrative or policy measures aimed at encouraging and enabling business and financial institutions, and in particular for large and transnational companies and financial institutions, to progressively reduce their negative impacts on biodiversity, increase their positive impacts, reduce their biodiversity-related risks and promote actions to ensure sustainable patterns of production

[Other EU indicator:](#)

- [EU ecolabel products](#)

EU Target 15c: Reporting on ABS compliance as applicable

Require users of genetic resources or traditional knowledge falling under the scope of the Nagoya Protocol to submit a due diligence declaration proving their compliance to applicable ABS measures to the Competent Authority of the Member State where utilisation takes place.

i. Main actions undertaken since 2020 to implement the target

The [EU Access and Benefit Sharing \(ABS\) Regulation](#) establishes compliance measures for users from the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization in the EU. It requires users of genetic resources or traditional knowledge to submit a due diligence declaration proving their compliance to applicable ABS measures.

To support the implementation of the EU ABS Regulation, the EU holds regular expert meetings and meetings of the competent authorities and a consultation forum. Additionally, [DECLARE](#), the EU's web-based application through which users submit due diligence declarations, is regularly reviewed and updated to ensure adequate monitoring of users' compliance with the Nagoya Protocol. Customised training on the use of DECLARE has been provided to Member States.

The European Union is regularly promoting, financing and organising initiatives to raise awareness and build capacities about ABS in the EU, including on more recent issues such as Digital Sequence Information. Those initiatives include, inter alia, workshops, webinars, an ABS Helpdesk for Member States until 31 May 2024, informative documents and material, as well as [several studies](#) on ABS and digital sequence information.

Additionally, in 2023 and 2024, the EU adopted two financing decisions earmarking EUR 14 million to support developing countries in accessing and benefitting from the use of terrestrial and marine genetic resources (including genetic resources from the high seas) through capacity development in bioprospection and the development of Nagoya-compliant partnerships with the private sector to bring biodiscoveries to the market.

ii. Current level of progress towards the target

- On track to achieve target
- Progress made but at an insufficient rate
- No significant progress
- Not applicable
- Unknown
- Achieved

iii. Summary of progress towards the target and main outcomes achieved

Due to the implementation of the EU ABS Regulation, the EU has achieved this part of the target as the legislation requires users of genetic resources or traditional knowledge falling under the scope of the Nagoya Protocol, including businesses, to submit a due diligence declaration proving their compliance to applicable ABS measures to the Competent Authority of the Member State where utilisation takes place.

In particular the implementation of Article 6 of the [EU ABS Implementing Regulation](#) is relevant as it requires users, including businesses, to submit a due diligence declaration at the stage of final development of a product (“second check point”) (e.g., upon receiving market approval or placing on the market for the first time of a product developed with the use of genetic resources).

iv. Summary of key challenges encountered and approaches for further implementation

One of the main challenges in ensuring compliance with relevant international obligations on ABS is user awareness. Due to the difficulty of the topic and the different approaches undertaken by different Parties to implement the Nagoya Protocol, users are not always aware of their obligations. Therefore, the European Union continues its efforts to raise awareness and build capacity.

v. Examples of effective implementation

The development of the web-based application “DECLARE” allowed users to submit due diligence declarations online. This application has positively contributed to ensure user compliance with the Nagoya Protocol. The user compliance has led to an increase in due diligence declarations at the stage of final development of a product (“second check point”) from 6 (of which none were submitted to the ABS Clearing House) in 2023 to 46 (of which 3 were submitted to the ABS Clearing House in 2025).

vi. Relevance to Sustainable Development Goals or other related agreements

The implementation of this target contributes to the implementation of SDGs 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure), 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) and 15 (Life on Land)

vii. Indicators to assess progress towards the target

[Binary indicator 15.b](#) (see **Binary question 15.b** [for details on the responses](#))

- 15.b Number of countries with legal, administrative or policy measures aimed at encouraging and enabling business and financial institutions, and in particular for large and transnational companies and financial institutions, to progressively reduce their negative impacts on biodiversity, increase their positive impacts, reduce their biodiversity-related risks and promote actions to ensure sustainable patterns of production

EU Target 15d: Sustainable patterns of production

Lead industry and production processes towards sustainable and circular practices.

i. Main actions undertaken since 2020 to implement the target

The [Circular Economy Action Plan](#) adopted in March 2020 sets out a framework for the EU's transition to a circular economy. It follows a whole lifecycle approach, which means all product life-stages are addressed, to lead to more sustainable consumption and production methods. All 35 actions of the Action Plan have been delivered, including the adoption of the [Regulation on Ecodesign for Sustainable Products](#), which is further outlined below. In May 2023, the European Commission published the revised [Circular Economy Monitoring Framework](#), which reports on production and consumption, waste management, secondary raw materials, competitiveness and innovation and global sustainability and resilience.

The 2022 [Strategy for Sustainable and Circular Textiles](#), a framework for the EU textile industry transition to circularity, aims to address both the reversal of overproduction and overconsumption. The strategy further aims to introduce mandatory and harmonised Extended Producer Responsibility rules for textiles in all Member States and incentivise producers to design products that are more sustainable.

In July 2023, the [New Batteries Regulation](#) was adopted. This update will minimise the environmental impact of the exponential growth of global battery demand through the consideration of new socioeconomic conditions, technological developments, and battery uses. It aims to make batteries sustainable throughout their entire life cycle – from the sourcing of materials to their collection, recycling and repurposing. Targets for recycling efficiency, material recovery and recycled content are gradually being introduced. The methodology for calculation and verification of rates for recycling efficiency and recovery of materials from waste batteries has been established through a [Commission Delegated Regulation](#) adopted in 2025.

Since 2021, the [EU Ecolabel](#) has played a significant part in the [Sustainable Consumption Pledge](#), an initiative that invites companies to take a voluntary pledge to support sustainable consumption beyond what is required by law. By taking the pledge, companies commit to identifying and reducing their carbon footprint by setting clear and measurable targets for the upcoming years.

In recent years, the Commission has worked together with Member States and relevant stakeholders to substantially increase uptake and awareness of the scheme, including through collaboration with on-line platforms to have EU Ecolabel goods and services available and visible when purchasing online. The number of EU Ecolabel products on the European Economic Area market grew by 17% since 2020, reaching the unprecedented result of 102 373 in March 2025.

In addition, the [Directive on empowering consumers for the green transition](#) adopted in 2024 will further support the use of credible sustainability labels, such as the EU Ecolabel.

The [revised Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation](#) was adopted in February 2025. It aims to establish requirements for the entire life cycle of packaging as regards environmental sustainability and labelling. The Regulation includes provisions setting a minimum percentage of recycled content per packaging, on plastic carrier bags, and recycling targets.

The [Regulation on Ecodesign for Sustainable Products](#) (ESPR) was adopted in 2024 to replace the [2009 Ecodesign Directive](#) and enhances the framework for setting ecodesign requirements for specific product groups. The ESPR enables the setting of mandatory performance and information rules – known as ‘ecodesign requirements’ – for almost all categories of physical goods including the limitation of waste through recycling initiatives, enhancing energy efficiency, durability and reusability and improving the information available on product sustainability.

In April 2025, the first [ESPR and Energy Labelling Working Plan](#) was published. The working plan identifies the first set of key priorities for final products, intermediate products and horizontal requirements that need to be addressed. The priorities for the working plan 2025-2030 are textiles/apparel, furniture, tyres, mattresses, iron and steel, aluminium, reparability (including scoring) and recycled content of electrical and electronic equipment. In parallel, it paves the way to cover more product groups in future by conducting preliminary scoping studies and detailed assessments of the potential impacts and improvements.

The [Industrial Emissions Directive](#) was [revised in 2024](#) to improve the Directive’s effectiveness in preventing or minimising the emissions of pollutants by agro-industrial installations at source and supports the transition towards the use of safer or less toxic chemicals, amongst others.

The European Industrial Emission Portal Regulation was [revised in 2024](#) and sets out rules on the reporting of environmental data from industrial installations. It will enhance access to environmental data, allowing citizens to gain insight into permits issued in the EU and on polluting activities in their immediate surroundings.

In May 2020, the European Commission established two pesticide reduction targets, a 50% reduction in the use and risk of chemical pesticides and the 50% reduction of more hazardous pesticides by 2030, as part of the [Farm to Fork Strategy](#). The European Commission releases a report each year on the progress made towards these targets. A proposal to enshrine these targets in a Regulation did not receive enough support in the European Parliament, after which it was withdrawn.

A [communication](#) on critical raw materials published in 2020 outlines how the EU intends to strengthen its global engagement to develop and diversify investment, production, and trade with reliable partners. The EU pursues these objectives in cooperation with third countries through mutually beneficial partnerships, with a view to promoting their own economic development in a sustainable manner while also creating secure, resilient, affordable and sufficiently diversified value chains for the EU.

The [Critical Raw Materials Act](#) was adopted in April 2024 . It establishes a framework for ensuring a secure and sustainable supply of critical raw materials.

In 2024, the [Construction Products Regulation](#) was adopted, which lays down harmonised rules on construction products as regards environmental performance and product requirements. It aims to ensure the free movement of safe and sustainable construction products in the Union and provides the construction sector access to reliable and up to date standards, which will deliver the information needed to assess the environmental performance of buildings, as required by the [Energy Performance of Buildings Directive](#).

The [Recommendation](#) on the use of Environmental Footprint methods for relevant policies and initiatives was published in 2021 to measure, manage and communicate environmental performance, burdens and other information relating to the life cycle of products (goods and services) and organisations. The recommendation encourages Member States, companies, and organisations to use these methods voluntarily, provides guidelines for data quality, and calls for support to SMEs. The Recommendation is due to be reviewed in 2026 with the aim of ensuring it is in line with scientific progress, including by enhancing the assessment of impacts on biodiversity.

The [Transition Pathway for the Textiles ecosystem](#), co-created with stakeholders, was published in June 2023. It identifies 50 specific actions to help make the textiles ecosystem greener, more digital and to ensure its long-term resilience and competitiveness. Reports on stakeholder pledges to help implement the transition pathway and best practices are published on the [EU Textiles Ecosystem Platform](#).

The [Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence \(CSDDD\) Directive](#) was adopted in June 2024. In April 2025, it was [amended](#) to postpone the CSDDD application to the first group of largest companies in its scope by one year to give them more time to prepare. In February 2025, an [Omnibus package](#) was proposed, which aim to enable companies to stay firmly on course toward our sustainability goals, including decarbonisation and broader environmental, social and human rights objectives, while simplifying the rules and minimising regulatory burden as much as possible. The EU co-legislators reached a [provisional agreement](#) on the proposal in December 2025. By requiring the large companies in its scope to identify, assess and address actual and potential environmental adverse impacts, related to international conventions listed in its annex,

the CSDDD strengthens sustainable production practices, in particular through obligations to make necessary financial or non-financial investments in, adjustments or upgrades of, for example, facilities, production or other operational processes and infrastructures and to make necessary modifications to their purchasing practices, design and distribution practices, when these are linked to adverse impacts. This aligns business operations with biodiversity conservation goals, ensuring production processes are sustainable and less harmful to ecosystems.

ii. Current level of progress towards the target

- On track to achieve target
- Progress made but at an insufficient rate
- No significant progress
- Not applicable
- Unknown
- Achieved

iii. Summary of progress towards the target and main outcomes achieved

The EU's legislative framework for sustainable production has been expanded significantly since 2020, with all the measures outlined above, effectively providing companies with guidance on sustainable and circular practices.

The [EEA's Europe's Environment 2025](#) reports EU legislation has introduced an increasing number of circularity requirements for a growing list of products, such as selected electrical and electronic devices, and batteries. Moreover, it states that industrial emissions are expected to continue decreasing amid industrial transformations towards decarbonisation, as well as the implementation of the [Industrial and Livestock Rearing Emissions Directive](#).

According to their [own declarations](#), a very high share of businesses (90-95% of different sizes) carried out some type of energy efficiency measures in 2024. Furthermore, on average, about one third of EU SMEs and nearly half of EU large businesses declared that they offered green products or services in 2024.

As of March 2025, 3 248 [EU Ecolabel licences](#) have been awarded for 102 373 products (comprising goods and services) on the European Economic Area (EEA) market. In 2010, this was 21 301 and in 2020, the total number of awarded products were 75 795.

iv. Summary of key challenges encountered and approaches for further implementation

Although many new measures have been published since 2020 that lead industry and production processes towards sustainable and circular practices, many of these still need to be implemented on the ground. Therefore, many challenges remain.

For instance, the [Eurostat article](#) concludes that the EU is not on track to reach its target for circular material use and the EU's material footprint has only decreased slightly compared with 2018. The EU's raw material consumption level is still above global average, and further efforts are required to reduce environmental pressures alongside economic growth.

Moreover, the [EEA's Europe's Environment 2025](#) concludes that resource productivity has improved and further gains are anticipated, albeit at a slow pace. This is because the EU economy is expected to grow with material use being either stable or growing but at a slower pace than the economy. Thus, resource consumption is likely to remain at an unsustainably high level. It notes that the [Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation](#) (ESPR) has the potential to make many additional products more circular and sustainable. However, the regulation's effect strongly depends on the ambition and pace of its implementation.

The [EEA's Europe's Environment 2025](#) and the [2025 8th EAP Progress Report](#) further indicated that the Circular Material Use Rate (CMUR), the extent to which recycled materials are used in the economy, thereby replacing primary raw materials and reducing their extraction, has made only modest gains in the past decade and is low, with a 2024 rate of only 12.2%. Increases in the CMUR are possible if recently adopted circular economy policies are swiftly and comprehensively implemented. Additional legislation more specifically dedicated to material use, to their reuse and recycling, could further improve the EU's circularity.

v. Examples of effective implementation

The [Regulation on Ecodesign for Sustainable Products](#) is a good example of leading industry and production processes towards sustainable and circular practices. The Regulation aims to significantly improve the sustainability of products placed on the EU market by improving their circularity, energy efficiency, recyclability and durability.

Please see the [Ecodesign for Sustainable Products and Energy Labelling Working Plan 2025-2030](#) for a detailed overview of the work scheduled until 2030.

Another example is the Horizon Europe [RAINFOREST](#) project, which contributes to enabling, upscaling and accelerating transformative change to reduce biodiversity impact of food and biomass value chains. The project will use a combination of

integrated assessment modelling, input-output modelling and life cycle assessment, based on case studies addressing the nexus of agricultural production, processing and transport, retail, as well as consumer preferences and diets.

vi. Relevance to Sustainable Development Goals or other related agreements

The implementation of this target contributes to the implementation of SDGs 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure) and 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production).

vii. Indicators to assess progress towards the target

Binary indicator 15.b (see **Binary question 15.b** for details on the responses)

- 15.b Number of countries with legal, administrative or policy measures aimed at encouraging and enabling business and financial institutions, and in particular for large and transnational companies and financial institutions, to progressively reduce their negative impacts on biodiversity, increase their positive impacts, reduce their biodiversity-related risks and promote actions to ensure sustainable patterns of production

Component indicator:

- 16.CT.2. Material footprint per capita, and per GDP (SDG 8.4.1)

Other EU indicator:

- EU ecolabel products

EU Target 16a: Sustainable consumption and reduction of global footprint of consumption

Advance towards keeping the EU's resource, material and product consumption within planetary boundaries by promoting more sustainable and circular consumption choices and strive to accelerate the transition towards a regenerative growth model that gives back to the planet more than it takes to reduce the EU's consumption footprint.

i. Main actions undertaken since 2020 to implement the target

The [Circular Economy Action Plan](#) adopted in March 2020 sets out a framework for the EU's transition to a circular economy. It follows a whole lifecycle approach, which means all product life-stages are addressed, to lead to more sustainable consumption and production methods. It further commits to regulate the reduction of carbon and environmental footprints. One of the Action Plan's building blocks is empowering consumers and public buyers, which includes actions such as proposing legislative measures for a sustainable product policy initiative, empowering consumers in the green transition and establishing the right to repair. It further includes an action on mandatory green public procurement criteria and targets in sectorial legislation and phasing-in mandatory reporting on green public procurement. These actions are further elaborated below. All 35 actions of the Action Plan have been delivered.

The [8th Environment Action Programme](#) entered into force on 2 May 2022 as the EU's common agenda for environmental policy until 2030 which aims to speed up the transition to a climate-neutral, resource-efficient economy, recognising that human wellbeing and prosperity depend on healthy ecosystems. Its enabling conditions include requiring a significant decrease of the EU's material and consumption footprints through reduction targets and minimising the environmental footprint of digital and data technologies, which are of relevance to achieve EU target 16.c.

The [Communication](#) on the monitoring framework for the 8th Environment Action Programme was published in 2020 and includes indicators on raw material consumption, consumption footprint and indicators on environmental and climate pressures related to EU production and consumption, amongst others. In July 2022, the Commission [adopted a list of headline indicators](#) to monitor progress towards the EU's environment and climate goals, as foreseen in the 8th EAP. A [mid-term review](#) was carried out in March 2024.

The [Directive Empowering Consumers in the Green Transition](#) (amending [Unfair Commercial Practices Directive](#) and [Consumer Rights Directive](#)) was adopted in 2024 and aims, amongst others, to enable better informed transactional decisions by consumers to promote sustainable consumption and eliminate practices that cause damage to the sustainable economy and mislead consumers away from sustainable

consumption choices. Through an [implementing act](#), the design and content of the harmonised label on commercial guarantees of durability offered by producers and of the harmonised notice on the legal guarantee were adopted in September 2025.

In the framework of the [Directive on Single-Use Plastics](#), several implementing acts have been adopted to support its implementation:

- [harmonised marking specifications](#) for certain single-use plastic products that are frequently inappropriately disposed of
- rules for the calculation, verification and reporting of data on the [separate collection of waste single use plastic beverage bottles](#), the [reduction in consumption of plastic food containers and beverage cups](#), and [recycled plastic content in single-use plastic beverage bottles](#)
- format for reporting data and information on [fishing gear](#), [post-consumption waste of tobacco products with filters](#) or filters intended for use with tobacco products
- [harmonised standard](#) for test methods and requirements to demonstrate that plastic caps and lids remain attached to beverage containers

Single-use plastic plates, cutlery, straws, balloon sticks and cotton buds cannot be placed on the markets of the EU Member States from July 2021. The same measure applies to cups, food and beverage containers made of expanded polystyrene, and all products made of oxo-degradable plastic.

In December 2025, the Commission presented a [new package of measures](#) to boost circular economy and strengthen Europe's plastic recycling. The package contains pilot measures including a set of concrete short-term actions to support circularity in particular in the plastics sector, while encouraging investment and innovation more broadly. This includes a [draft implementing act](#) to create EU-wide end-of-waste criteria for plastics under the Waste Framework Directive, and plans to relaunch and strengthen the [Circular Plastics Alliance](#).

In November 2022, the [Policy Framework on Bio-based, Biodegradable and Compostable Plastics](#) was adopted, which clarifies these three types of plastics and sets out the conditions to ensure that the overall environmental impact of their production and consumption is positive.

In July 2023, the [New Batteries Regulation](#) was adopted. This update aims to minimise the environmental impact of the exponential growth of global battery demand through the consideration of new socioeconomic conditions, technological developments, and battery uses. It aims to make batteries sustainable throughout their entire life cycle – from the sourcing of materials to their collection, recycling and repurposing. Targets for recycling efficiency, material recovery and recycled content will be introduced gradually

from 2025 onwards. The methodology for calculation and verification of rates for recycling efficiency and recovery of materials from waste batteries has been established through a [Commission Delegated Regulation](#) adopted in 2025.

The [Deforestation Regulation](#) was adopted in June 2023, and aims to ensure that the products EU citizens consume do not contribute to deforestation or forest degradation worldwide. For more information, see reporting on EU target 5.c.

Since 2021, the [EU Ecolabel](#) has played a significant part in the [Sustainable Consumption Pledge](#), an initiative that invites companies to take a voluntary pledge to support sustainable consumption beyond what is required by law. By taking the pledge, companies commit to identifying and reducing their carbon footprint by setting clear and measurable targets for the upcoming years.

In recent years, the Commission has worked together with Member States and relevant stakeholders to substantially increase uptake and awareness of the scheme, including through collaboration with on-line platforms to have EU Ecolabel goods and services available and visible when purchasing online. The number of EU Ecolabel products on the European Economic Area market grew by 17% since 2020, reaching the unprecedented result of 102 373 in March 2025.

The [Regulation on Ecodesign for Sustainable Products](#) (ESPR) was adopted in 2024 to replace the [2009 Ecodesign Directive](#) and enhances the framework for setting ecodesign requirements for specific product groups. The ESPR enables the setting of mandatory performance and information rules – known as ‘ecodesign requirements’ – for almost all categories of physical goods including the limitation of waste through recycling initiatives, enhancing energy efficiency, durability and reusability and improving the information available on product sustainability.

In April 2025, the first [ESPR and Energy Labelling Working Plan](#) was published. The working plan identifies the first set of key priorities for final products, intermediate products and horizontal requirements that need to be addressed. The priorities for the working plan 2025-2030 are textiles/apparel, furniture, tyres, mattresses, iron and steel, aluminium, repairability (including scoring) and recycled content of electrical and electronic equipment. In parallel, it paves the way to cover more product groups in future by conducting preliminary scoping studies and detailed assessments of the potential impacts and improvements.

The [Directive on common rules promoting the repair of goods](#) was adopted in 2024. Article 6 requires Member States to ensure that producers inform consumers of their obligation to repair. This instrument aims at promoting more sustainable consumption by increasing repair and reuse of goods both within and outside the legal guarantee.

The [New Consumer Agenda](#) of 2020 aims to equip the EU to tackle the new challenges to consumer rights and opportunities for consumer empowerment brought about by the green and digital transitions, the COVID pandemic and the plans for post-COVID recovery. It addresses consumption patterns in the green transition through specific actions:

- Action 4: Present a legislative proposal to empower consumers for the green transition (see above)
- Action 5: Work with economic operators to encourage voluntary pledges to actions in support of sustainable consumption beyond what is required by law
- Action 6: Assess how to further promote repair and encourage more sustainable circular products.

The 2022 [Strategy for Sustainable and Circular Textiles](#), a framework for the EU textile industry transition to circularity, aims to address both the reversal of overproduction and overconsumption. The [Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation](#) and [Empowering Consumers in the Green Transition Directive](#) (see above for more information) contribute to achieving the Strategy.

The [Transition Pathway for the Textiles ecosystem](#), co-created with stakeholders, was published in June 2023. It identifies 50 specific actions to help make the textiles ecosystem greener, more digital and to ensure its long-term resilience and competitiveness.

In May 2023, the European Commission published the revised [Circular Economy Monitoring Framework](#), which reports on production and consumption, waste management, secondary raw materials, competitiveness and innovation and global sustainability and resilience.

The [EU Green Public Procurement criteria](#) aim to reduce the environmental impacts of public purchases. The Commission has developed [voluntary Green Public Procurement criteria](#) for several product groups. Furthermore, following the adoption of the 2020 Circular Economy Action Plan, the Commission is proposing minimum mandatory GPP criteria and targets in sectoral legislation and phase in compulsory reporting to monitor its uptake.

In December 2021, the Commission published a [Recommendation on the use of Environmental Footprint methods](#) for relevant policies and initiatives, to measure, manage and communicate environmental performance, burdens and other information relating to the life cycle of products (goods and services) and organisations.

The Commission developed the [EU consumer footprint calculator](#) to inform on impacts on consumer consumption in five consumption areas, and provides tips for limiting the impacts.

Under the [EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030](#) in particular, the following actions in the [EU Biodiversity Strategy Actions Tracker](#) work to promote positive consumer behaviours:

- Action 76: Develop methods, criteria and standards to better integrate biodiversity considerations into public and business decision-making and to measure environmental footprint (in progress)
- Action 82: [Council Recommendation](#) on learning for environmental sustainability and Competence Framework (completed).

The [Action Plan for the Development of Organic Production](#) published in 2021 aims, amongst others, to stimulate demand and ensure consumer trust in organic products. Through the implementation of this plan, the Commission aims to achieve the European Green Deal target of 25% of agricultural land under organic farming by 2030.

As of 1 January 2022, [the Organic Production and Labelling Regulation](#) is applicable. It establishes the principles of organic production and lays down the rules concerning organic production, related certification and the use of indications referring to organic production in labelling and advertising. Numerous secondary legislative measures have been adopted under the Organic Production and Labelling Regulation, including the [Delegated Regulation on the labelling of organic products](#). For a full list, please see [the webpage on legislation for the organics sector](#). The European Commission presented a [proposal for a targeted amendment](#) of the Regulation in December 2025. The proposal would amend the rules to facilitate organic production, labelling, controls and trade across the EU and in third countries and aims to ensure that consumers can make informed choices when buying organic products imported from third countries.

ii. Current level of progress towards the target

- On track to achieve target
- Progress made but at an insufficient rate
- No significant progress
- Not applicable
- Unknown
- Achieved

iii. Summary of progress towards the target and main outcomes achieved

The [2024 mid-term review of the 8th EAP](#) indicates that all actions under the second [circular economy action plan](#) have been delivered, including the [Ecodesign for](#)

[Sustainable Products Regulation](#), which must now be implemented on the ground. Nevertheless, in general, it is too early to assess their impact on the environment.

[EU Ecolabel facts and figures](#) indicate that as of September 2025, 3 384 licences have been awarded for 109 096 products (comprising goods and services) on the European Economic Area market.

[Eurostat reported](#) (published in 2025, covering data up to 2023 or 2024) that the EU's material footprint has decreased slightly compared with 2018. Over the most recent five-year period from 2018 to 2023, the EU's material footprint fell by 2.8%. The EU consumption footprint has improved 2.4% compared to 2018. Nevertheless, it reports that the EU's consumption footprint considerably transgresses planetary boundaries.

Similarly, the [EEA Europe's Environment 2025](#) reports that since 2010, the EU's consumption-based environmental impacts have increased by only 4% even though the economy grew by 18%. This indicates that there has been a modest relative decoupling of EU economic development from the environmental and climate impacts it causes. However, the years since the COVID-19 pandemic show that environmental impacts are accelerating. The EEA further reports that the Circular Material Use Rate (CMUR), the extent to which recycled materials are used in the economy, thereby replacing primary raw materials and reducing their extraction, has made only modest gains in the past decade and is low, with a 2023 rate of only 11.8%. Increases in the CMUR are possible if recently adopted circular economy policies are swiftly and comprehensively implemented. Additional legislation more specifically dedicated to material use could further improve the EU's circularity.

According to the [2024 EEA report on progress towards the 8th EAP objectives](#), the share of the EU's agricultural land under organic farming increased from 5.9% in 2012 to 10.5% in 2022 (an estimated increase of 7.4 million hectares) as a result of an increasing demand for organic products and policy support. Regarding the share of the EU's agricultural land under organic farming, the pace will need to almost double in the remaining years up to 2030 in order to meet the target. Although the current policies are expected to increase the share of organic farming, this alone will not be enough to reach the set target.

iv. Summary of key challenges encountered and approaches for further implementation

The [2025 Consumer Conditions Scoreboard](#) notes that consumers are less focused on the environmental impact of their purchases than in the past. A sharp decline of environmental impact considerations in consumer choices can be observed from 2022 to 2024. High costs and confusion over which products are genuinely eco-friendly are the biggest obstacles to sustainable consumption. It further concludes that cost and convenience limit sustainable consumer choices related to the repair of durable goods.

The [EEA Europe's Environment 2025](#) indicates that the environmental and climate impacts from EU consumption are very high; they are more than three times higher than the EU's per capita share of planetary boundaries. There is no sign that this will significantly reduce in the near future. To reduce our impacts and stay within planetary boundaries, there need to be major changes in EU consumption. These include a shift towards less environmentally harmful consumption patterns, further improvements in production processes, and reductions in the number of materials and products we consume overall.

It further reports that the main factors driving developments in the global impacts from EU consumption are increasing affluence on the one hand — leading to increasing demand for goods and services and increasing environmental impacts from their production — and improvements in production networks on the other, such as efficiency gains and the energy system decarbonisation which are mitigating environmental impacts.

v. Examples of effective implementation

The [Directive Empowering Consumers in the Green Transition](#) is a particularly relevant piece of legislation that will help achieve EU target 16.a. It will ensure that consumers are provided with better information at the point of sale on the durability and reparability of goods and the consumer's legal guarantee rights. It will also strengthen consumer protection rules against greenwashing and early obsolescence practices.

vi. Relevance to Sustainable Development Goals or other related agreements

The implementation of this target contributes to the implementation of SDGs 4 (Quality education), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure) and 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production).

vii. Indicators to assess progress towards the target

[Binary indicator 16.b \(see **Binary question 16.b** for detail on the responses\)](#)

- 16.b Number of countries developing, adopting or implementing policy instruments aimed at encouraging and enabling people to make sustainable consumption choices

[Component indicator:](#)

- 16.CT.2. [Material footprint per capita, and per GDP](#) (SDG 8.4.1)

[Other EU indicators:](#)

- [Food waste and food waste prevention by NACE Rev 2. activity – tonnes of fresh mass](#)

- [Generation of waste by hazardousness](#)
- [Carbon dioxide emission footprints \(FIGARO application\)](#)
- [Consumption Footprint](#)
- [Recycling rate of municipal waste \(sdg_11_60\)](#)
- [Waste generation and treatment](#)
- [Air emissions intensities by NACE Rev. 2 activity](#)
- [Recycling rate of all waste excluding major mineral waste](#)

EU Target 16b: Reducing food waste by half

Advance towards keeping the EU's resource, material and product consumption within planetary boundaries by promoting more sustainable and circular consumption choices and strive to accelerate the transition towards a regenerative growth model that gives back to the planet more than it takes to reduce the EU's consumption footprint.

i. Main actions undertaken since 2020 to implement the target

The [Waste Framework Directive](#) was [revised](#) in September 2025 and introduces binding food waste reduction targets to be achieved at national level. By the end of 2030, EU countries have to reduce food waste by 10% in processing and manufacturing, and by 30% (per capita), jointly at retail and consumption levels (restaurants, food services and households), compared to the amounts generated in 2020.

In the framework of the current [Waste Framework Directive](#), various actions have taken place:

- Launch of the [EU food Loss and Waste Prevention Hub](#) in September 2021 (see below)
- Launch of the [European Consumer Food Waste Forum](#) project, with the aim to tackle food waste at consumption level (both in- and out-of-home) which ran from October 2021 until June 2024.
- Launch of the [yearly action grants](#), under the Single Market Programme, to help Member States and stakeholders improve food waste measurement and implement food waste prevention actions, in collaboration with the European Health and Digital Executive Agency (HaDEA) in April 2022.
- [European citizens' panel on food waste](#), resulting in 23 recommendations for the Commission, Member States and stakeholders from December 2022 until February 2023
- Publication of the [digital toolkit](#) to support consumer food waste actions, based on the compendium in June 2024
- The 2024 campaign "[Zero Waste, More Taste!](#)" with recipes from chefs across the EU

The [EU Food Loss and Waste Prevention Hub](#) functions as a "one-stop-shop" for stakeholders active in the area of food loss and waste prevention and reduction. It has a resources database, informs on EU funded projects on the matter and keeps an overview of what EU countries are doing.

The JRC published a [technical report](#) on Building evidence on food waste prevention interventions in 2024. The report aims to provide evidence to support stakeholders across the food supply chain in identifying promising strategies to reduce food waste, in order to accelerate progress in this direction.

The [Regulation amending EU food hygiene rules](#) was adopted in March 2021 and aims to facilitate food donations. The Regulation states this will take place through food business operators who shall take responsibility to ensure that food under their supervision is fit for human consumption, and if so, will redistribute food accordingly.

The 2020 [EFSA scientific advice on date marking](#) aims to reduce food waste by tackling misuse and misunderstanding of date marking on food. The methodology was developed with scientific experts and takes a risk-based approach that can be followed by food business operators when deciding what type of date marking to use when setting a products shelf life.

The [Farm to Fork Strategy](#) was published in 2020 with the aim to make food systems fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly. It outlines the EU's commitment to contribute to SDG Target 12.3 and halve per capita food waste at retail and consumer levels by 2030. The Strategy sets out both regulatory and non-regulatory initiatives, with the common agricultural and fisheries policies as key tools to support a just transition.

In November 2024, the Commission's Joint Research Centre published the [EU food system monitoring framework](#) and an [associated dashboard](#) delivering a comprehensive view on the environmental, economic and social impacts of the EU food system, including health impacts of diets.

In June 2020, the Commission published [guidance on food safety management systems for food retail activities, including food donations](#), aiming to support food business operators, such as butchers, bakeries, groceries and ice-cream shops, including food banks and other charities, in their implementation of EU rules to ensure the safe production of food sold to the consumer. Building on the [EU food donation guidelines](#) of 2017, the guidance further facilitates food donation by making recommendations on some simple additional good hygiene practices that contribute to ensuring the safe redistribution of surplus food.

In December 2021, the Commission published a [Recommendation on the use of Environmental Footprint methods](#) for relevant policies and initiatives, to measure, manage and communicate environmental performance, burdens and other information relating to the life cycle of products (goods and services) and organisations.

The Commission published a [Communication](#) on [A Vision for Agriculture and Food](#) in February 2025. The Communication highlights that continuing efforts to reduce food loss and food waste is a key priority for the years to come, and that the EU will continue cooperating with relevant partners to strengthen a stricter implementation of internationally agreed commitments and to increase their ambition.

ii. Current level of progress towards the target

- On track to achieve target
- Progress made but at an insufficient rate
- No significant progress
- Not applicable
- Unknown
- Achieved

iii. Summary of progress towards the target and main outcomes achieved

The [EEA Report 02/2025: Preventing waste in Europe – Progress and challenges, with a focus on food waste](#) reports that the EU and its 27 Member States have made significant progress in setting up the framework and systems used to measure and target food waste prevention. Targets have been set both nationally and on a European level. Moreover, the provisional agreement on the targeted revision of the WFD foresees legally binding targets for each Member State to be achieved by 2030: 10% food waste reduction in food processing and manufacturing and 30% per capita reduction in retail, restaurants, food services and households.

The Report notes that primary production accounted for 9% (equalling 12kg) of food waste generation per capita in 2020. This decreased to 8% (11kg) in 2021 and 8% (10kg) in 2022. In 2020, food processing and manufacturing generated 24kg of food waste per capita, which accounted for 19% of total food waste in the value chain. This amount stayed the same in 2021 and increased slightly to 25kg per capita in 2022. Similarly, retail and other distribution of food accounted for approximately 8% or 10kg of EU food waste per capita in 2020. This figure dropped slightly to 7% (10kg) in 2021, before slightly rising again to 8% (11kg) in 2022 (Eurostat, 2024h). In 2020, the restaurants and food services sector accounted for 9% (representing 12kg) of food waste generation per capita. It increased to 10% (13kg) in 2021 and 11% (15kg) in 2022 (Eurostat, 2024h). More than half of the food waste in the EU-27 is generated by households, accounting for 55% equalling 70kg of food waste per capita in 2020, 56% in 2021 and 55% in 2022.

[Eurostat](#) reports that in 2023, there is 130kg of food waste per inhabitant in the EU. This was 128kg in 2020. It is estimated that households generate more than half of the total food waste (54%) in the EU (accounting for 72 kg per inhabitant), followed by the manufacture of food products and beverages (18%), with 73% of food waste arising at household, food service and retail. At the same time, over 42 million people cannot afford a quality meal (including meat, chicken, fish or vegetarian equivalent) every second day.

iv. Summary of key challenges encountered and approaches for further implementation

[EEA Report 02/2025: Preventing waste in Europe – Progress and challenges, with a focus on food waste](#) reports that measures in national waste prevention programmes in Europe still predominantly rely on soft policy instruments, such as voluntary initiatives, agreements and informational campaigns. Specifically, food waste prevention efforts across Member States primarily focus on awareness-raising and education, which account for 62% of all initiatives. However, market-based measures (4%) and regulatory interventions (1%) remain marginal. Combining multiple instruments could enhance the overall effectiveness of a waste prevention program.

As households are the biggest contributor to food waste, they also present a significant opportunity for reduction. Of the 332 food waste prevention actions by Member States reviewed in 2023, households were the most frequently targeted stage of the value chain with 89 actions. Notably, 51% of all efforts to prevent surplus and avoid food waste directed at households focused on 'informative and educational' measures.

The [revised Waste Framework Directive](#) sets targets to reduce food waste by 10% in processing and manufacturing, and by 30% (per capita), jointly at retail and consumption levels (restaurants, food services and households), compared to the amounts generated in 2020. Although these targets differ from SDG target 12.3, the revised Framework is expected to significantly aid food waste reduction.

v. Examples of effective implementation

The [EU Food Loss and Waste Prevention Hub](#) serves as a central platform to support the EU's objective of halving food waste by 2030. It provides a comprehensive repository of guidelines, toolkits, and case studies designed to help businesses and organisations adopt more effective waste reduction practices across the food supply chain.

The hub facilitates knowledge exchange by sharing successful strategies and innovations from various sectors, promoting scalable solutions to minimise food loss and waste. Additionally, it aids in data collection and monitoring, enhancing the understanding of food waste patterns and informing targeted policy interventions.

By offering these resources and fostering collaboration among stakeholders, the EU Food Loss and Waste Prevention Hub assists in aligning business practices with sustainability goals and contributes to improved food security and resource efficiency across the European Union.

vi. *Relevance to Sustainable Development Goals or other related agreements*

The implementation of this target contributes to the implementation of SDGs 4 (Quality Education), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure), and 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production).

vii. *Indicators to assess progress towards the target*

Binary indicator 16.b (see **Binary question 16.b** in Annex VI for detail on the responses)

- 16.b Number of countries developing, adopting or implementing policy instruments aimed at encouraging and enabling people to make sustainable consumption choices

Other EU indicator:

- Food waste and food waste prevention by NACE Rev 2. activity – tonnes of fresh mass

EU Target 16c: Reducing waste generation

Improve the environmental sustainability of products and promote the transition to a circular economy, hereby significantly reducing waste generation

i. Main actions undertaken since 2020 to implement the target

Many actions outlined below, are set out in the Strategy for sustainable and Circular Textiles and the Circular Economy Action Plan:

The [Strategy for Sustainable and Circular Textiles](#) as published in 2022 is a framework for the EU textile industry transition to circularity, aims to address both the reversal of overproduction and overconsumption. It includes actions on waste challenges, particularly addressing extended producer responsibility, boosting reuse and recycling of textile, and the challenges from the export of textile waste.

The [Circular Economy Action Plan](#) was adopted in March 2020 and sets out a framework for the EU's transition to a circular economy. It follows a whole lifecycle approach, thus all product life-stages are addressed, to lead to more sustainable consumption and production methods. The Action Plan contains a section on 'Less Waste, More Value', which includes actions to enhance waste policy in support of waste prevention and circularity, enhancing circularity in a toxic-free environment, creating a well-functioning EU market for secondary raw materials and addressing waste exports from the EU. Many of these actions are further elaborated below. All 35 actions of the Action Plan have been delivered.

The [Waste Framework Directive](#) was last [revised](#) in September 2025 to further address waste, including food waste reduction and the environmental impact of waste management. A key feature of the revised Directive is its common set of rules which will increase sustainability for businesses and consumers and harmonise the single market for used and waste textiles. It further introduces binding food waste reduction targets to be achieved at national level and requires Member States to set up Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes for certain textile, textile-related and footwear products.

To complement the [Waste Framework Directive](#), additional measures were adopted for specific waste streams. Developments since 2020 include:

- A new [Regulation on waste shipments](#) entered into force in May 2024
- An [Evaluation of the Sewage Sludge Directive](#) took place in 2023
- An [Evaluation of the Ship Recycling Regulation](#) was published in 2025
- An [Implementing Decision](#) laying down technical guidelines for inspections was adopted in the framework of the [Extractive Waste Directive](#)

Relevant measures for other waste streams are set out below:

The [Directive on Single-Use Plastics](#) aims to prevent and reduce the impact of certain plastic products on the environment and promote the transition to a circular economy. In the framework of the [Directive on Single-Use Plastics](#), several implementing acts have been adopted to support its implementation:

- [harmonised marking specifications](#) for certain single-use plastic products that are frequently inappropriately disposed of
- rules for the calculation, verification and reporting of data on the [separate collection of waste single use plastic beverage bottles](#), the [reduction in consumption of plastic food containers and beverage cups](#), and [recycled plastic content in single-use plastic beverage bottles](#)
- format for reporting data and information on [fishing gear](#), [post-consumption waste of tobacco products with filters](#) or filters intended for use with tobacco products
- [harmonised standard](#) for test methods and requirements to demonstrate that plastic caps and lids remain attached to beverage containers.

Single-use plastic plates, cutlery, straws, balloon sticks and cotton buds cannot be placed on the markets of the EU Member States from July 2021. The same measure applies to cups, food and beverage containers made of expanded polystyrene, and all products made of oxo-degradable plastic.

In December 2025, the Commission presented a [new package of measures](#) to boost circular economy and strengthen Europe's plastic recycling. The package contains pilot measures including a set of concrete short-term actions to support circularity in particular in the plastics sector, while encouraging investment and innovation more broadly. This includes a [draft implementing act](#) to create EU-wide end-of-waste criteria for plastics under the Waste Framework Directive, and plans to relaunch and strengthen the [Circular Plastics Alliance](#).

The [revised Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation](#) was adopted in February 2025. It aims to establish requirements for the entire life cycle of packaging as regards environmental sustainability and labelling, and establishes requirements for extended producer responsibility, packaging waste prevention, such as the reduction of unnecessary packaging and the re-use or refill of packaging, as well as the collection and treatment, including recycling, of packaging waste.

Under the framework of the [Directive on Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment \(WEEE\)](#), the following actions to support its implementation have been taken since 2020:

- A [Commission Recommendation](#) on improving the rate of return of used and waste mobile phones, tablets and laptop was published in November 2023.
- An [amending Directive](#) clarifies responsibility for paying certain waste management and disposal costs. It also introduces a review clause requiring the [Commission](#) to assess the need to revise the directive by the end of 2026.
- Country specific [WEEE generated calculation tools](#) have been made available
- [Guidelines](#) on methods for determining the lifetime of electrical and electronic equipment are also available to inform countries on the most reliable methods.

In July 2023, the [New Batteries Regulation](#) was adopted. This update will minimise the environmental impact of the exponential growth of global battery demand through the consideration of new socioeconomic conditions, technological developments, and battery uses. It aims to make batteries sustainable throughout their entire life cycle – from the sourcing of materials to their collection, recycling and repurposing. Targets for recycling efficiency, material recovery and recycled content will be introduced gradually from 2025 onwards. The methodology for calculation and verification of rates for recycling efficiency and recovery of materials from waste batteries has been established through a [Commission Delegated Regulation](#) adopted in 2025.

A [Revision](#) of the [Regulation on Persistent Organic Pollutants \(PoPs\)](#) was published in December 2022. It aims to address the negative consequences of the presence of certain POPs substances in waste and in material that could be recovered from it, ensuring that such waste is managed in an environmentally sound way and that it achieves safer recycling. The waste management should also minimise and eliminate emissions of POPs to air, water and soil.

The [8th Environment Action Programme](#) entered into force in May 2022 as the EU's common agenda for environmental policy until 2030, which aims to speed up the transition to a climate-neutral, resource-efficient economy, recognising that human wellbeing and prosperity depend on healthy ecosystems. Enabling conditions include requiring a significant decrease of the EU's material and consumption footprints through reduction targets and minimising the environmental footprint of digital and data technologies, which are of relevance to achieve EU target 16.c.

The [Communication](#) on the monitoring framework for the 8th Environment Action Programme was published in 2022 and includes an indicator on total waste generation. A [mid-term review](#) was carried out in March 2024.

The [Regulation on Ecodesign for Sustainable Products \(ESPR\)](#) was adopted in 2024 to replace the [2009 Ecodesign Directive](#) and enhances the framework for setting ecodesign requirements for specific product groups. The ESPR enables the setting of mandatory performance and information rules – known as 'ecodesign requirements' – for almost all categories of physical goods including the limitation of waste through recycling

initiatives, enhancing energy efficiency, durability and reusability and improving the information available on product sustainability.

In April 2025, the first [ESPR and Energy Labelling Working Plan](#) was published. The working plan identifies the first set of key priorities for final products, intermediate products and horizontal requirements that need to be addressed. The priorities for the working plan 2025-2030 are textiles/apparel, furniture, tyres, mattresses, iron and steel, aluminium, repairability (including scoring) and recycled content of electrical and electronic equipment. In parallel, it paves the way to cover more product groups in future by conducting preliminary scoping studies and detailed assessments of the potential impacts and improvements.

The [Directive on common rules promoting the repair of goods](#) was published in 2024 and lays down rules on the obligation to repair and establishes an online repair platform to encourage consumers to repair instead of replace broken goods and thereby reducing waste generation. This instrument aims at promoting more sustainable consumption by increasing repair and reuse of goods both within and outside the legal guarantee.

In July 2023, the Commission tabled a [proposal for a Regulation on circularity requirements for vehicle design and management of end-of-life vehicles](#). It aims to lay down circularity requirements on vehicle design and production related to reusability, recyclability and recoverability and the use of recycled content. The proposal is currently being negotiated by the Council and European Parliament.

In December 2021, the Commission published a [Recommendation on the use of Environmental Footprint methods](#) for relevant policies and initiatives, to measure, manage and communicate environmental performance, burdens and other information relating to the life cycle of products (goods and services) and organisations.

The [Transition Pathway for the Textiles ecosystem](#), co-created with stakeholders, was published in June 2023. It identifies 50 specific actions to help make the textiles ecosystem greener, more digital and to ensure its long-term resilience and competitiveness.

ii. Current level of progress towards the target

- On track to achieve target
- Progress made but at an insufficient rate
- No significant progress
- Not applicable
- Unknown
- Achieved

iii. Summary of progress towards the target and main outcomes achieved

The [2023 Commission report](#) identifying Member States at risk of not meeting the 2025 municipal and packaging waste recycling targets and the 2035 landfilling target concludes that EU waste legislation has been driving considerable improvements in waste management, contributing to the EU circularity and zero pollution goals.

The [EEA Report 02/2025: Preventing waste in Europe – Progress and challenges, with a focus on food waste](#) concludes that between 2010 and 2022, the amount of waste generated in the EU increased, but considerably less than the economy. More specifically, the amount of waste generated divided by the EU's economic output declined by 13%, with most of the reduction taking place between 2020 and 2022.

According to [Eurostat](#), during the period 2004-2022, the quantity of waste recovered, in other words recycled, used for backfilling or incinerated with energy recovery, increased by 40.6% from 870 million tonnes in 2004 to 1 223 million tonnes in 2022; as a result, the share of such recovery in total waste treatment rose from 45.9% in 2004 to 61.4% in 2022. The quantity of waste subject to disposal decreased from 1 027 million tonnes in 2004 to 769 million tonnes in 2022, which was a decrease of 25.1%. The share of disposal in total waste treatment decreased from 54.1% in 2004 to 38.6% in 2022.

The EU municipal waste recycling rate increased to 48.7% in 2022, still off the EU target of 55% by 2025. The EU's material productivity improved by more than 20% over the last 3 years, likely due to a combination of efficiency gains and structural changes in the economy.

The [EEA Europe's Environment 2025 report](#) confirms that the EU is seeing an increase in recycling, reaching a 44% share of waste generated in generated in 2022. It notes however that recycling rates are likely to increase as both the push for recycling and the pull for recycled material (driven, respectively, by recycling targets and recycled content requirements) are addressed by EU legislation. More focus is needed, however, on recycling quality. On average, EU Member States are progressing towards the binding waste management targets, but several countries are at risk of missing their targets without additional efforts.

iv. Summary of key challenges encountered and approaches for further implementation

In 2023, the Commission [published a report](#) identifying Member States at risk of not meeting the 2025 municipal and packaging waste recycling targets and the 2035 landfilling target. This is based on the [Member States assessment](#) carried out by the EEA. 9 Member States were found to be on track and 18 at risk. The report noted that the majority of Member States recently carried out or are in the process of implementing waste reforms that will result in increased recycling rates in the years leading to 2025 and beyond.

The report further notes that despite improvements in the EU waste legislation, full implementation is crucial if the EU is to fully reap the environmental and economic benefits of a cleaner and more circular economy and compete in a world of increasingly scarce resources. Further efforts are also essential in the light of the substantial increase in packaging waste, the limited decrease in total waste generation (by 4% between 2010 and 2020), the pollution caused by marine plastic litter, and a relatively stable trend for residual municipal waste, all of which put at risk the achievement of the zero pollution targets by 2030.

The [EEA Report 02/2025: Preventing waste in Europe – Progress and challenges, with a focus on food waste](#) also further notes that sectoral trends in waste generation show considerable variation. This is influenced by multiple policies and further analysis is needed to identify the specific drivers behind these patterns.

The [EEA Europe's Environment 2025 report](#) concludes that both material use and waste generation show no signs of a significant reduction in the EU, which indicates that the EU has not yet transitioned to a low material intensity and less wasteful circular economy. Recently adopted policies addressing product circularity have the potential to break the link between prosperity and high material use, if implemented well and swiftly. However, there are no signs of circular business models scaling up across Europe. It notes that each EU citizen still uses about 14 tonnes of materials and generates 5 tonnes of waste annually, which are unsustainably high levels.

v. Examples of effective implementation

The [Transition Pathway for the Textiles Ecosystem](#) is an initiative aimed at helping to make the textiles ecosystem greener, more digital, resilient and competitive.

Some actions of the pathway involve encouraging the adoption of circular business models and sustainable practices, including recycling, as well as fostering innovation on circular manufacturing processes and technologies.

Furthermore, it seeks to engage stakeholders across the sector, including manufacturers, retailers, and consumers, to drive awareness and create more demand for sustainable products.

Reports on stakeholder pledges to help implement the transition pathway and best practices, contributing to a more sustainable textiles ecosystem, are published on the [EU Textiles Ecosystem Platform](#).

vi. Relevance to Sustainable Development Goals or other related agreements

The implementation of this target contributes to the implementation of SDGs 4 (Quality Education), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure), and 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production).

vii. *Indicators to assess progress towards the target*

[Binary indicator 16.b \(see **Binary question 16.b** for detail on the responses\)](#)

- 16.b Number of countries developing, adopting or implementing policy instruments aimed at encouraging and enabling people to make sustainable consumption choices

[Component indicator:](#)

- 16.CT.2. [Material footprint per capita, and per GDP \(SDG 8.4.1\)](#)

[Other EU indicators:](#)

- [Recycling rate of all waste excluding major mineral waste](#)
- [Consumption footprint](#)
- [Recycling rate of municipal waste \(sdg_11_60\)](#)
- [Waste generation and treatment](#)

EU Target 17: Measures to ensure biosafety

Protect human and animal health and the environment by introducing a safety assessment of the highest possible standards at EU level before any genetically modified organism (GMO) is placed on the market.

i. Main actions undertaken since 2020 to implement the target

Biosafety is mainly ensured through the continuous implementation of the legislation on genetically modified organisms (GMOs). Building blocks of the GMO legislation include:

- [Directive on the deliberate release into the environment of GMOs](#)
- [Regulation on genetically modified food and feed](#)
- [Regulation on traceability and labelling of GMOs and the traceability of food and feed products produced from GMOs](#)
- [Directive on the contained use of genetically modified micro-organisms \(GMMs\)](#)
- [Regulation on transboundary movements of GMOs](#)

The EU legal framework on GMOs is based on a prior risk assessment before authorisation can be given. Any person submitting an application/notification under the authorisation procedures for GMO releases into the environment or placing on the market of GMOs needs to carry out an environmental risk assessment (Directive 2001/18/EC). Applications for GM food and feed also require a human and animal health safety assessment ([Regulation 1829/2003](#)). For applications/notifications for the placing on the market, the risk assessment is assessed by the [European Food Safety Authority \(EFSA\)](#), with an active involvement of Member States, notably as regards the authorisation of GMOs for cultivation, where they carry out the initial risk assessment. See the [GMO Register](#) for detailed information on the authorisation status of GMOs.

In addition to performing the risk assessment of certain GMOs, EFSA follows scientific developments in the area, amongst others assessing the adequacy of existing guidelines for safety assessment. Relevant recent publications by EFSA include:

- EFSA Scientific Opinion (2020) on the evaluation of existing guidelines for their adequacy for the microbial characterisation and environmental risk assessment of microorganisms obtained through synthetic biology.
- [EFSA Scientific Opinion \(2020\)](#) on the adequacy and sufficiency evaluation of existing EFSA guidelines for the molecular characterisation, environmental risk assessment and post-market environmental monitoring of genetically modified insects containing engineered gene drives.
- [EFSA Scientific Opinion \(2020\)](#) on the applicability of the EFSA Opinion on SDNs type 3 for the safety assessment of plants developed using SDNs type 1 and 2 and oligonucleotide-directed mutagenesis.
- [EFSA Scientific Opinion \(2021\)](#) on the evaluation of existing guidelines for their adequacy for the molecular characterisation and environmental risk

assessment of genetically modified plants obtained through synthetic biology.

- [EFSA Scientific Opinion \(2022\)](#) on the evaluation of existing guidelines for their adequacy for the food and feed risk assessment of microorganisms obtained through synthetic biology.
- [EFSA Scientific Opinion \(2022\)](#) on the evaluation of existing guidelines for their adequacy for the food and feed risk assessment of genetically modified plants obtained through synthetic biology.
- [EFSA Updated Scientific Opinion \(2022\)](#) on plants developed through cisgenesis and intragenesis.
- [EFSA Statement \(2022\)](#) on criteria for risk assessment of plants produced by targeted mutagenesis, cisgenesis and intragenesis.
- [EFSA Scientific Opinion \(2024\)](#) on new developments in biotechnology applied to microorganisms.
- [EFSA Scientific Opinion \(2025\)](#) on new developments in biotechnology applied to animals: An assessment of the adequacy and sufficiency of current EFSA guidance for animal risk assessment
- [EFSA Scientific Committee \(2025\) guidance](#) on the characterisation of microorganisms in support of the risk assessment of products used in the food chain

All information related to EFSA's scientific work can be found here: <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/>

The Commission presented a [proposal for a Regulation on plants obtained by certain new genomic techniques](#) (NGTs) in July 2023, on which the co-legislators reached a provisional agreement in December 2025. The proposed measure will lay down rules for the deliberate release into the environment for any other purpose than placing on the market of plants obtained by targeted mutagenesis or cisgenesis, and for the placing on the market of food and feed containing, consisting of or produced from such plants, and of products, other than food or feed, containing or consisting of such plants. Plants and derived products covered by the proposed measure are already regulated under the existing GMO framework but the proposed measure adapts the legislation to scientific and technical progress and to the specific characteristics of plants obtained by NGTs, maintaining the high level of protection of human and animal health and of the environment.

As regards distributing the benefits of biotechnology, see also the EU contribution on capacity building and technical and scientific cooperation, including [international cooperation](#) on research.

ii. Current level of progress towards the target

- On track to achieve target
- Progress made but at an insufficient rate
- No significant progress
- Not applicable
- Unknown
- Achieved

iii. Summary of progress towards the target and main outcomes achieved

The EU has a GMO legal framework in place ensuring that GMOs are released in the environment or placed on the market as products only after a risk assessment has been carried out. The following data refer to authorisations granted at EU level for GM food and feed in accordance with [Regulation 1829/2003](#). EU Member States will report on authorisations at national level for deliberate release for purposes other than placing on the market and for the placing on the market of products other than food and feed, under Directive 2001/18.

Since 2020:

- 34 authorisation decisions and 18 renewal of authorisation decisions have been adopted for the placing on the EU market of GM food and feed
- 35 opinions on applications for authorisation and 18 opinions on applications for renewal of authorisations have been adopted by EFSA

See also [GMO Register](#)

iv. Summary of key challenges encountered and approaches for further implementation

Challenges primarily relate to the fast pace of innovation in biosafety matters. However, workstreams by EFSA are in place to address new biotechnological developments or the application of new or existing biotechnologies to new types of organisms, reacting to this fast pace of innovation in this area. Based on this and other input, the Commission considers whether adaptations to the legal framework to take account of scientific and technical progress are necessary and may adopt legislative proposals to that end.

v. Examples of effective implementation

Under the established framework governing genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in the European Union, the comprehensive environmental risk assessment process plays a pivotal role in ensuring biosafety. This process is a critical component of the authorisation procedure for any new GM applications. The assessments are designed to

evaluate a broad spectrum of potential impacts, considering not only possible adverse effects on human and animal health but also on biodiversity, ecosystem functions, and ecological interactions.

EFSA systematically reviews scientific data submitted by applicants, which include studies on the potential for gene transfer, effects on non-target organisms, and environmental persistence. The authority also considers any uncertainties or knowledge gaps and may request additional data or impose specific conditions to mitigate potential risks.

There has been no necessity to withdraw, suspend or modify any authorisation based on adverse impacts on health or the environment.

The results of monitoring are regularly assessed by EFSA and, where necessary, lead to recommendations to ensure that, for example, uncertainties in data or methodological and reporting issues are addressed in future monitoring.

The detailed outcomes of these assessments, along with the final authorisation status of GMOs, are documented in the GMO Register. This publicly accessible database provides stakeholders, including researchers, policymakers, and the general public, with transparency and accountability regarding which GMOs are approved for use within the EU and under what conditions.

Overall, the rigorous risk assessment process by EFSA or EU Member States upholds high safety standards, ensuring that any authorised GMOs do not pose undue risks to human health, animal welfare, or the environment. This approach not only safeguards biosafety but also fosters informed decision-making and public trust in the regulatory framework governing GMOs in the EU.

vi. Relevance to Sustainable Development Goals or other related agreements

The implementation of this target contributes to the implementation of SDGs 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure) and 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production).

vii. Indicators to assess progress towards the target

[Binary indicator 17.b \(see **Binary question 17.b** for detail on the responses\)](#)

- 17.b Number of countries that have taken action to implement biosafety measures as set out in Article 8(g) of the Convention and measures for the handling of biotechnology and the distribution of its benefits as set out in Article

EU Target 18a: Identifying biodiversity-harmful incentives

Identify biodiversity harmful incentives (including subsidies).

i. Main actions undertaken since 2020 to implement the target

Reporting on actions to phase-out energy subsidies, in particular for fossil-fuels in the EU, is a requirement under the [Regulation on the Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action](#). EU Member States must report every two years on their national objectives to phase out such subsidies in their integrated national energy and climate reports. Moreover, the Commission publishes annual reports on monitoring Member States' progress (see [2022](#), [2023](#) and [2024](#)).

Article 3 of the EU's [Environment Action Programme to 2030](#) (8th EAP) sets out that the attainment of the 8th EAP's priority objectives will require, among others, strengthening environmentally positive incentives as well as phasing out environmentally harmful subsidies. As announced in the 8th EAP, and following input from an Expert Group with the Member States, the Commission has drafted [methodological guidance](#) to support Member States in identifying and reporting to the EU on other – non-energy – environmentally harmful subsidies, with examples of potentially environmentally harmful subsidies in different sectors (such as agriculture, transport, construction). The guidance is considered mature enough to allow Member States to start organising their internal processes for reporting to the EU, without being overly prescriptive. It is ultimately for Member States to decide:

- whether a (non-energy) subsidy is identified as environmentally harmful given their national context
- if and how to reform subsidies given the economic, social and environmental impacts of doing so (including fairness).

While reporting on energy subsidies is mandatory, reporting on non-energy environmentally harmful subsidies under the 8th EAP is voluntary. Reporting for both energy and other environmentally harmful subsidies is underway.

The [EU Nature Restoration Regulation](#) adopted in 2024 provides for a general objective to put in place effective and area-based restoration measures that cover, by 2030, at least 20% of the EU's land and sea areas and, by 2050, all ecosystems in need of restoration. Member States are required to develop national restoration plans which have to include, among other elements, an indication of the subsidies which negatively affect the achievement of the targets and the fulfilment of the obligations set out in the Regulation. A section for Member States to report on such subsidies is included in part 4 of the [uniform format for the national restoration plan](#) published in May 2025, part 4. Member States are to submit draft national restoration plans to the Commission by September 2026.

ii. Current level of progress towards the target

- On track to achieve target
- Progress made but at an insufficient rate
- No significant progress
- Not applicable
- Unknown
- Achieved

iii. Summary of progress towards the target and main outcomes achieved

The evidence on the size of environmentally harmful subsidies is robust for fossil fuel subsidies. Fossil fuel subsidies more than doubled in 2022, reaching EUR 136 billion, following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. In 2023, the latest year covered by currently available statistics, fossil fuel subsidies dropped to EUR 111 billion. Further reduction is likely in 2024 as temporary measures come to an end, but support will continue to be above pre-crisis levels. Ninety-eight percent of fossil fuel subsidies are harmful to the environment (non-harmful ones includes support for reskilling etc).

iv. Summary of key challenges encountered and approaches for further implementation

There is less systematic evidence on non-energy environmentally harmful subsidies, but it points to significant financial support that leads to pollution and other pressures on biodiversity. Insights on their magnitude are expected to emerge from Member States' reporting. In exchanges with the Commission, EU Member States have further highlighted methodological issues, difficulties with classifying mixed subsidies and with the use of the NACE nomenclature for consumption subsidies, as well as concerns about the comparability of figures from countries with different contexts (e.g. different tax exemptions), and how data would be aggregated at the EU level.

v. Examples of effective implementation

Under the [EU Technical Support Instrument \(TSI\) 2024](#), a project contributes to advancing the EU's environmental objectives by offering targeted support to several Member States in identifying and addressing incentives, including subsidies, that are detrimental to biodiversity. The project provides bespoke technical assistance to enhance the capacity of national governments to critically analyse existing financial mechanisms that may inadvertently promote activities harmful to ecosystems. It

encompasses a range of technical support activities, including expert consultations, workshops, and the development of analytical frameworks tailored to the unique contexts of participating Member States. Moreover, the project encourages cross-border collaboration and knowledge-sharing, helping to build a cohesive approach to environmental fiscal policy across the EU.

15 Member States reported in the [2025 European Commission Green Budgeting Survey](#) that they identify budgetary measures that are expected to impact biodiversity and the protection of ecosystems, by tagging their central government budgets. All of them track environmentally favourable expenditure, and 12 also track harmful expenditure items. A minority also consider revenue and tax expenditure items. As methodologies vary, no aggregate figures for the EU can be reported. Moreover, several EU Member States indicate that they examine budgetary impacts on biodiversity and the protection of ecosystems via ex ante Environmental Impact Assessments, and one via ex post evaluations.

vi. Relevance to Sustainable Development Goals or other related agreements

The implementation of this target contributes to the implementation of SDGs 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), 14 (Life Below Water) and 15 (Life on Land).

vii. Indicators to assess progress towards the target

- 18.2 Value of subsidies and other incentives harmful to biodiversity (partial data reported)

EU Target 18b: Reducing biodiversity-harmful incentives

Phase out environmentally harmful subsidies, in particular fossil fuels subsidies, without delay and ensure reporting on all harmful incentives.

i. Main actions undertaken since 2020 to implement the target

The [Regulation on Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action](#) requires:

- Member States to report every two years on the implementation of national objectives to phase out energy subsidies, in particular for fossil fuels, in their integrated national energy and climate progress reports.
- the Commission to report annually on Member States' progress towards phasing out energy subsidies, in particular fossil fuels (see '[2022 Report on Energy Subsidies in the EU](#)', '[2023 Report on Energy Subsidies in the EU](#)' and [2024 Report on Energy Subsidies in the EU](#)).

The [EU Environment Action Programme to 2030](#) (8th EAP) requires phasing out environmentally harmful subsidies, in particular fossil fuel subsidies, at Union, national, regional and local level. The [monitoring framework](#) for the 8th Environment Action Programme includes a request for Member States to report on the identification and efforts to reform non-energy environmentally harmful subsidies. Member States are to use a methodology developed by the Commission to identify the subsidies concerned and report on them regularly to help assess progress on phasing them out (for details on this guidance and ongoing reporting, see reporting on EU target 18a).

Under the [EU Nature Restoration Regulation](#), Member States are to submit national restoration plans to the Commission by September 2026. They should contain information on subsidies harmful to achieving the restoration objectives, and measures to phase out or reform them.

At present, the focus of work is on identifying and reporting on subsidies harmful to biodiversity (energy and non-energy), as a basis for reflection on subsequent measures for their phasing out or reform. Some steps are already being taken, for example by introducing country specific recommendations on phasing out fossil fuel subsidies for several Member States under the European Semester, and enhanced conditionality for direct payments under the CAP.

ii. Current level of progress towards the target

- On track to achieve target
- Progress made but at an insufficient rate
- No significant progress

Not applicable

Unknown

Achieved

iii. Summary of progress towards the target and main outcomes achieved

At EU level, there is a framework for mandatory reporting on environmentally harmful energy subsidies, and guidance for voluntary reporting on non-energy subsidies harmful to the environment. The EU has provided guidance to Member States, and reporting is ongoing (see also EU target 18a). Further information is expected to be available on incentives identified at the national level in the 7th National Reports of EU Member States.

iv. Summary of key challenges encountered and approaches for further implementation

Once information is available on subsidies identified as harmful for biodiversity, it will be a basis for reflection on subsequent measures for their phasing out or reform (see also EU reporting on Target 18a, and Member States' reports to the CBD on national progress).

v. Examples of effective implementation

The European Commission requires Member States to identify, report, and present plans to phase out fossil-fuel subsidies in their National Energy and Climate Plans (NECPs) and, for several Member States, to phase out fossil fuel subsidies through the Country Specific Recommendations of the European Semester.

vi. Relevance to Sustainable Development Goals or other related agreements

The implementation of this target contributes to the implementation of SDGs 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), 14 (Life Below Water) and 15 (Life on Land).

vii. Indicators to assess progress towards the target

- 18.2 Value of subsidies and other incentives harmful to biodiversity (partial data reported)

EU Target 18c: Increasing positive incentives

Strengthen environmentally positive incentives.

i. Main actions undertaken since 2020 to implement the target

The [8th Environment Action Programme](#) is the EU's legally agreed common agenda for environmental policy until 2030. [Article 3 of the action programme](#) sets out the enabling conditions needed to achieve its priority objectives, one of which is to strengthen environmentally positive incentives at Union, national, regional and local level. The methodology for this process is to be set out by the Commission, in consultation with the EU Member States.

Article 11 of the EU [Nature Restoration Regulation](#) requires Member States to incentivise rewetting peatland to make it an attractive option for farmers and private landowners. Member States may also promote the deployment of private or public support schemes to the benefit of stakeholders implementing restoration measures, including land managers and owners, farmers, foresters and fishers. EU Member States are to submit national restoration plans to the Commission by mid-2026, showing how they would deliver on the targets. They are also required to monitor and report on their implementation progress. The EEA will draw up regular technical reports on EU-level progress towards the targets. The Commission, in turn, will report to the European Parliament and to the Council on the implementation of the Regulation.

On 7 July 2025, the Commission published a Communication on a [Roadmap towards Nature Credits](#), developed in cooperation with stakeholders in the Member States, international organisations, industries and financial institutions, including development and commercial banks. The initiative aims to support the development of high-integrity tools – nature credits – that can turn investment in nature into a reliable engine of value creation. By enabling actors and stakeholders to demonstrate their nature-positive action beyond individual legal obligations and the mandatory mitigation hierarchy, the initiative can stimulate a shift from limiting damage to actively reversing the trend of nature loss and complement sources of nature finance such as from public budgets.

Under the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) [Strategic Plans Regulation](#), sustainable agriculture is incentivised through different means. Support to farmers under area- and animal-related measures is conditional on respecting a set of basic rules, including nine Good Agricultural and Environmental Conditions (GAECs). In addition, at least 25% of direct payments under the CAP are to be allocated to eco-schemes providing stronger incentives for climate, environment-friendly farming practices (including on biodiversity), animal welfare and combatting antimicrobial resistance. At least 35% of rural development funds are to be allocated to interventions contributing to the environmental, climate and animal welfare objectives, including on biodiversity.

Under Article 17 of the [Common Fisheries Policy](#) (CFP), Member States when allocating fishing opportunities available to them, shall endeavour , to provide incentives for fishing vessels to deploy selective fishing gear or use fishing techniques that reduce environmental impacts, including habitat damage. The [European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund \(EMFAF\)](#) provides, amongst others, support for developing innovative projects to ensure that aquatic and maritime resources are used sustainably. The programme management is divided between shared management and direct management.

The [Taxonomy Regulation](#), published in 2020, establishes criteria to determine whether an economic activity qualifies as environmentally sustainable. The aim is to help investors compare opportunities for environmentally sustainable investments across borders, and to incentivise companies to make their business models more environmentally sustainable. Under the taxonomy, two Delegated Acts, [the Climate Delegated Act of 2021](#) and the [Environmental Delegated Act of 2023](#), set out the technical screening criteria that economic activities must meet to contribute substantially to at least one of the six EU climate and environmental objectives, without significantly harming any of the others: climate change mitigation, climate change adaptation, sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources, the circular economy, pollution prevention and control, and the protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems. The Environmental Delegated Act establishes the criteria for activities contributing to the protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems, including requirements for “do no significant harm” (DNSH) to the other objectives. Such activities include nature-based solutions for flood and drought risk protection; conservation, including restoration, of habitats, ecosystems and species as well as criteria for hotels, holiday, camping grounds and similar accommodation.

The [EU Ecolabel Regulation](#) lays down rules for the establishment and application of the voluntary EU Ecolabel scheme. The label for environmental excellence is awarded to goods and services with excellent environmental performances throughout their life-cycle. The label guides consumers to make sustainable choices and helps business to take an active part in the green transition by producing goods/offering services with reduced environmental impacts compared to similar products on the markets.

One way to encouraging producers to pledge and achieve results in terms of reducing products’ environmental footprint, increasing circularity and respecting social sustainability, is through awarding products with the [EU Ecolabel](#) and increasing the visibility of products already awarded with the EU Ecolabel. In recent years, the Commission has worked with Member States and stakeholders to substantially increase the uptake and awareness of the scheme, including through collaboration with online purchasing platforms to make EU Ecolabel goods and services available and visible. The number of EU Ecolabel products on the EEA market has grown by 17% since 2020, reaching 102,373 in March 2025.

In 2021, the Commission published a [Communication on Sustainable Carbon Cycles](#) with short-term actions to upscale carbon farming as a business model incentivising management practices that increase carbon sequestration by natural ecosystems, and to foster a new industrial value chain for the sustainable capture, recycling, transport and storage of carbon. A [technical handbook](#) explores key challenges, trade-offs and design options of this business model. Public funding under the CAP and other EU programs such as LIFE, cohesion policy funds and Horizon Europe, can support the rollout of carbon farming practices, cover costs related to monitoring, reporting and verification aspects, or finance projects to fill current knowledge gaps on carbon farming.

The [Carbon Removals and Carbon Farming \(CRCF\) Regulation](#) (2024) created the first EU-wide voluntary framework for certifying carbon removals, carbon farming and carbon storage in products across Europe. By establishing EU quality criteria and laying down monitoring and reporting processes, the CRCF Regulation will facilitate investment in innovative carbon removal technologies, as well as sustainable carbon farming solutions, while addressing greenwashing. The CRCF Regulation covers several activities, including permanent carbon removals from the atmosphere, carbon farming and soil emission reductions, and carbon storage in long-lasting products.

The [Commission guidance](#) on payment schemes for forest ecosystem services (2023) presents a variety of ways in which land managers, including foresters, may derive monetary benefits from the provision of different ecosystem services, on a voluntary basis. The guidance document is intended as a non-prescriptive, user-friendly source of information and advice to help public and private entities and forest owners and managers develop and implement payment schemes for forest ecosystem services.

The [EU Green Bond Standard Regulation](#) (2023) lays down uniform requirements for issuers of bonds that wish to use the designation ‘European green bond’ or ‘EuGB’ for their environmentally sustainable bonds made available to investors in the Union. The Regulation establishes a registration system and supervisory framework for external reviewers of European green bonds. Proceeds of bonds that use the designation ‘European Green Bond’ or ‘EuGB’ should be allocated to economic activities that are either environmentally sustainable and therefore aligned with the environmental objectives set out in the Taxonomy Regulation, or that contribute to the transformation of activities so that they can fulfil the criteria in order to become environmentally sustainable.

The [Regulation on land use, land-use change and forestry \(LULUCF\)](#), revised in 2024, aims to enhance governance, promote transparency, strengthen the link between climate mitigation and environmental protection measures, and create stronger policy incentives to lower greenhouse gas emissions from land activities and improve land-based carbon sinks. In the period 2026 – 2030, the territorial scope of the Regulation will

expand to cover all managed land and introduces the EU-wide net removals target for 2030, aiming to increase EU's net removals by about 15% and reverse declining trends.

ii. Current level of progress towards the target

- On track to achieve target
- Progress made but at an insufficient rate
- No significant progress
- Not applicable
- Unknown
- Achieved

iii. Summary of progress towards the target and main outcomes achieved

The legislative framework to strengthen positive incentives has been significantly improved, and there are good examples of uptake of positive incentives under EU funding instruments. Examples include agri-environment-climate measures (AECMs) and eco-schemes under the common agricultural policy, or support for sustainable fisheries and marine protected areas under the common fisheries policy. The European Commission is further working to develop nature credits to incentivise investments in biodiversity.

iv. Summary of key challenges encountered and approaches for further implementation

Uptake of available incentives is uneven and, in some cases, limited. Factors that influence uptake can include administrative burden, complexity, insufficient knowledge and advice, and low economic attractiveness.

v. Examples of effective implementation

The Horizon Europe Project [GoNaturePositive](#) explores the vision and potential of a nature-positive economy. Notable examples include their report "[Mapping Policy and Co-operative Initiative Landscapes for Systemic Change Towards a Nature-Positive Economy](#)", and the "[Sectoral Briefs: Supporting the Nature-Positive Transition.](#)" These briefs focus on sectors such as agri-food systems, the built environment, forestry, tourism, and the blue economy, outlining key challenges, opportunities, and policy recommendations to drive transformation, aiming to align economic activities with ecosystem health and biodiversity conservation.

Other EU-funded projects such as [BIOFIN-EU](#), [BIO-CAPITAL](#) and [Nature-3B](#) support the strengthening of nature-positive incentives by developing and testing innovative financial instruments, governance frameworks and investment approaches that redirect public and private capital towards nature protection and restoration. These projects contribute

to aligning financial decision-making with biodiversity objectives by reducing investment barriers and improving the attractiveness of nature-positive activities.

The EU [Roadmap towards Nature Credits](#) outlines a step-by-step approach to support the development of high-integrity nature credit schemes in the EU and internationally. It sets out how nature credits could complement public funding and help mobilise additional resources for biodiversity, while ensuring environmental and social safeguards. Nature credits are presented as one possible way to support and value nature-positive action – such as restoring wetlands, maintaining high-diversity landscapes or enhancing soil and pollinator health – and to channel funding towards actors on the ground, such as farmers, foresters, fishers, land managers, landowners and local communities. The approach builds on existing biodiversity policies and aims to ensure coherence with EU legislation, including the Nature Restoration Regulation and the Carbon Removals Certification Framework.

The EU supports pilot projects under [Green Assist](#) to test and refine nature credit models. These include initiatives focused on wetland restoration in France, sustainable forest management in Estonia, and an exploratory project contributing to an international partnership with Peru, among others. Through these pilots, Green Assist helps stakeholders explore governance arrangements, develop reliable monitoring and verification methods, and design financing strategies that ensure both environmental integrity and financial viability. By supporting these early-stage projects, the advisory initiative aims to build a solid foundation for scaling up nature credit schemes across Europe and beyond, ultimately strengthening the EU's leadership in nature-positive finance.

vi. Relevance to Sustainable Development Goals or other related agreements

The implementation of this EU target can support SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 14 (Life under Water), SDG 15 (Life on Land) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

vii. Indicators used to assess progress towards the target

Headline:

- 18.1 Positive incentives in place to promote biodiversity conservation and sustainable use (under development)

EU Target 19a: Increasing biodiversity-related international financial resources

Double external biodiversity financing from EU budget from 3.5 to 7 bn EUR over the period 2021-2027.

i. Main actions undertaken since 2020 to implement the target

The [Multiannual Financial Framework \(MFF\) 2021-2027](#) is made up of 1.211 trillion EUR in current prices (1.074 trillion EUR in 2018 prices).

The EU [committed](#) to double external biodiversity financing, especially for the most vulnerable countries (2021 State of the Union Address), i.e. 7 bn EUR over the period 2021-2027. This includes financing via the [Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument \(NDICI\) Regulation](#) (including the European Fund for Sustainable Development+), and the [Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance \(IPA III\) Regulation](#).

The [Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument \(NDICI\) Regulation](#) establishes the NDICI, including the European Fund for Sustainable Development Plus (EFSD+), and lays down its objectives, the budget for the period 2021-2027, the forms of Union funding and the rules for providing such funding. NDICI aims to address global challenges such as biodiversity protection.

The contribution of the NDICI to international biodiversity finance is disclosed through its [dedicated programme performance website](#).

The [Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance \(IPA III\) Regulation](#) establishes IPA III and lays down its objectives, the budget for the period 2021-2027, the forms of Union assistance and the rules for providing such assistance. IPA III should contribute to support climate and biodiversity objectives.

The contribution of the IPA III to international biodiversity finance is disclosed through its [dedicated programme performance website](#).

The Commission adopted on 16 July 2025 the [proposals for a simpler, more focused and more impactful budget for the 2028-2034 period](#). The next EU budget will continue to support climate and environmental objectives, including financing nature and biodiversity, through several funding instruments. An overall 35% green target will help unlock over EUR 700 billion for climate action and environmental objectives, including nature and biodiversity, and the 'do no significant harm' principle will be applied through a single, simple and proportionate approach across the budget to ensure that EU funded activities do not cause harm to climate and environmental objectives. The Global Europe Instrument is expected to contribute at least 30% of its overall financial envelope to climate and environmental objectives in the next MFF.

ii. Current level of progress towards the target

- On track to achieve target
- Progress made but at an insufficient rate
- No significant progress
- Not applicable
- Unknown
- Achieved

iii. Summary of progress towards the target and main outcomes achieved

[Commission estimates](#) confirm that the EU budget is on track to double its financing towards non-EU countries, compared to the 2014-2020 Multiannual Financial Framework.

As per the figures disclosed in their respective programme performance pages, both for implementation and future estimates, the NDICI and IPA III are collectively on path to deliver on the EU commitment of EUR 7 billion over the period 2021-2027, with a current estimate of EUR 7.06 bn.

iv. Summary of key challenges encountered and approaches for further implementation

The primary challenge will be to maintain a sufficiently high level of ambition for climate and environmental objectives for the period 2028-2034 while ensuring the necessary flexibility for the EU budget to address evolving needs and priorities.

v. Examples of effective implementation

Under the NDICI thematic programme on ‘Global Challenges’, the European Commission has increased its financial support to UNEP with a focus on biodiversity from 11.5 million USD (2018-2020) to 14.3 million USD (2021-2023).

vi. Relevance to Sustainable Development Goals or other related agreements

The implementation of this target contributes to the implementation of SDGs 1 (No Poverty), 10 (Reduced Inequalities), 15 (Life on Land), and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

vii. Indicators to assess progress towards the target

[Headline:](#)

- D.1 International public funding, including official development assistance (ODA) for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems (data update underway)

Other EU indicator:

- Amount of biodiversity finance mobilised through the EU budget

EU Target 19b: Biodiversity spending under the EU budget

Dedicate 7.5% of the EU's 2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework to biodiversity objectives in 2024, and 10% in 2026 and 2027.

i. Main actions undertaken since 2020 to implement the target

The [Interinstitutional Agreement on the EU's long-term budget - Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027 \(MFF\)](#) sets out that the EU would allocate 7.5% of the MFF budget to biodiversity in 2024, and 10% in 2026 and 2027. In 2022, the European Commission developed a methodology to track biodiversity expenditures in the EU budget 2021–2027. The approach assigns three different coefficients (0%, 40%, or 100%) based on a list of possible activities. In 2023 and 2024, the Commission updated the methodology for the Common Agricultural Policy.

The main sources of EU financing for biodiversity are the [common agricultural policy \(CAP\)](#) and cohesion policy funds (of which the [European Regional Development Fund and Cohesion Fund](#) are the most relevant instruments). Further relevant instruments include [Horizon Europe](#), [InvestEU](#), [LIFE](#), the [Recovery and Resilience Facility](#), and the [European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund](#). The [CAP Strategic Plans Regulation](#) of 2021 aims to contribute to halting and reversing biodiversity loss, enhancing ecosystem services and preserving habitats and landscapes. At least 35% of rural development funds under the CAP are to be allocated to agri-environment-climate management commitments, including on biodiversity.

The EU's [common fisheries policy](#), notably Article 17, establishes that, within the fishing opportunities allocated to them, Member States shall endeavour to provide incentives to fishing vessels deploying selective fishing gear or using fishing techniques with reduced environmental impact, such as reduced energy consumption or habitat damage.

The EU [LIFE Programme Regulation](#) supports projects that contribute to a sustainable, circular, energy-efficient, renewable energy-based, climate-neutral and - resilient economy; protect, restore and improve the quality of the environment; halt and reverse biodiversity loss, or tackle the degradation of ecosystems.

[Horizon Europe](#), the EU's key funding programme for research and innovation, integrated the 7.5% and 10% targets into the Key Strategic Orientations of Horizon Europe's Strategic Plan 2021-2024, and under the Strategic Orientation "Green Transition" for 2025 to 2027.

In July 2025, the European Commission presented its [proposal](#) for the EU's next long-term budget (Multiannual Financial Framework 2028-2034). This proposal is under discussion, with a view to its timely adoption before 2028.

ii. Current level of progress towards the target

- On track to achieve target
- Progress made but at an insufficient rate
- No significant progress
- Not applicable
- Unknown
- Achieved

iii. Summary of progress towards the target and main outcomes achieved

The EU has made significant progress in mainstreaming biodiversity financing in its Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2021-2027, with a target to allocate at least 7.5% of the MFF to biodiversity in 2024, and 10% in 2026 and 2027. The EU exceeded the 7.5% spending target for biodiversity in 2024 (7,6% allocated to biodiversity, i.e. EUR 14.4 billion) and in 2025 (7,9%, EUR 15.18 billion). Estimates from budgetary planning for 2026 and 2027 indicate that financing for biodiversity from the EU budget is projected to be around 7.8% and 8%, respectively.

For the 2021-2027 period, a total of EUR 105.56 billion (EUR 15.08 billion per year on average) of the EU financing have been allocated to measures supporting biodiversity protection, restoration and sustainable use. The common agricultural policy (CAP) is the biggest contributor to biodiversity financing from the EU budget, estimated at around 50% of the total EU budget allocation to biodiversity (over EUR 64.5 billion).

iv. Summary of key challenges encountered and approaches for further implementation

Under current estimates, the financing for biodiversity is unlikely to meet the 10% target for 2026 and 2027. The European Commission is working with Member States ensure maximum uptake of financing for biodiversity available under the EU budget.

v. Examples of effective implementation

Examples of initiatives that promote collaborative biodiversity action on farmland funded under the CAP, other EU financing instruments and other sources:

[Biodiversity on farmland - Projects Brochure | EU CAP Network eu-cap-network-tg-biodiversity-actions-at-scale-case-studies-c.pdf](#)

The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the Cohesion Fund are among the most significant. These funds are primarily designed to enhance economic cohesion and

integration across the EU, but they also prioritise environmental sustainability and biodiversity conservation. By financing projects that restore natural habitats, improve water quality, and promote sustainable land management, these instruments help integrate biodiversity objectives into regional and local development plans. For example, the ERDF-financed project on "[Green and Blue Infrastructure for Sustainable Ecosystems](#)" in Flanders aims to enhance regional biodiversity, ecological connectivity and climate resilience by developing a network of parks, wetlands and waterways. By integrating biodiversity conservation into urban planning, it also addresses urban challenges like heat mitigation and sustainable water management.

vi. Relevance to Sustainable Development Goals or other related agreements

The implementation of this target contributes to the implementation of SDGs 1 (No Poverty), 10 (Reduced Inequalities), 15 (Life on Land), and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

vii. Indicators to assess progress towards the target

Headline:

- D.2 Domestic public funding on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems

Other EU indicators:

- [Amount of biodiversity finance mobilised through the EU budget.](#)

EU Target 19c: Mobilising financing for EU biodiversity beyond the EU budget

Mobilise adequate financing for EU Biodiversity from EU Member States, private sector, including the financial sector, and stakeholders, including philanthropies.

i. Main actions undertaken since 2020 to implement the target

The [EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030](#) estimates the financing needs for its implementation at EUR 20 billion per year, to be mobilised from both the EU budget and co-financing from Member States, the private sector and multilateral development banks. Subsequent assessments, integrating the implementation costs of new legislation, reach EUR 65 billion annually. Current public funding, whether from EU, national or local sources, is insufficient to meet these investments needs.

EU Member States report to Eurostat on their domestic expenditures on biodiversity as part of the reporting on general government expenditure under the European System of National Accounts, using the international Classification of the Functions of Government (COFOG). Over the period 2021-2030, Member States' national budgets (EU27) are estimated to allocate ca. EUR 14 billion per year to biodiversity and landscape protection.

15 Member States reported in the [2025 European Commission Green Budgeting Survey](#) that they identify budgetary measures that are expected to impact biodiversity and the protection of ecosystems, by tagging their central government budgets. All of them track environmentally favourable expenditure, and 12 also track harmful expenditure items. A minority also consider revenue and tax expenditure items. As methodologies vary, no aggregate figures for the EU can be reported. Moreover, several EU Member States indicate that they examine budgetary impacts on biodiversity and the protection of ecosystems via ex ante Environmental Impact Assessments, and one via ex post evaluations.

Many EU budget instruments require co-financing from beneficiaries, including from public budgets in the Member States (see EU target 19.b for an overview of biodiversity-related financial resources under the EU budget). The European Commission has developed an EU biodiversity financing indicator including financing mobilised from EU budget funds, co-financing from national budgets and private and public financing mobilized through InvestEU, the most important EU repayable support instrument.

The [InvestEU Regulation](#) that sets up the InvestEU Programme for the period 2021-2027 aims to trigger private investments in EU policy priority areas, including in environment and resources. The [EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030](#) announced that a dedicated natural-capital and circular-economy initiative would be set up under Invest EU, with the aim to mobilise public/private blended finance (see [Action Tracker](#)). To implement this commitment, the [Green Advisory Service for Sustainable Investments Support \(Green Assist\)](#) was set up under InvestEU with the aim to build a pipeline for green investment

projects that have a high impact, and to green more traditional investments. The [EU LIFE Programme](#) provides an additional technical assistance/advisory component (up to EUR 50 million) to support this action. Out of these EUR 50 million, up to EUR 30 million are earmarked for Green Assist, while up to EUR 20 million will finance the “LIFE top-up” to the Sustainable Infrastructure Advisory (financing EIB advisory initiatives in support of green projects). A working Group between the European Commission and the EIB Group is exploring ways to [increase nature-positive investments](#).

Article 10.39(c) of the revised [Emissions Trading System Directive](#) (2023) broadens the use of auction revenues to fund the protection and restoration of ecosystems. In 2023, Member States received EUR 32 billion in auction revenues under the revised [Emissions Trading System Directive](#), from a total of EUR 43,6 billion. EU ETS revenues also support the [Innovation Fund](#), which is one of the world’s largest funding programmes for the demonstration of innovative low-carbon technologies, and which also allows for funding activities linked to biodiversity.

The Finance for Biodiversity Community of Practice under the [EU Business and Biodiversity Platform](#) is developing guidance for financial institutions on how to measure the biodiversity impacts of their portfolios, engage with companies to reduce the impact and showcase best practice in positive impact investments. Under its work stream on [Engaging finance on biodiversity](#), the platform has produced guidance on [Finance for Biodiversity](#) (2022), an updated overview of [Finance and Biodiversity initiatives for financial institutions](#) (2024) and a report on [Business models and investments for nature](#) (2024). This work is in line with The [EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030](#) (see [Action Tracker](#)).

The [EU Taxonomy Regulation](#) aims to direct investments to the economic activities most needed for the green transition, in line with the European Green Deal objectives. The [Environmental Delegated Act](#) (Annex IV) adopted in 2023 includes technical screening criteria for activities contributing to the protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems, with the aim to increase nature- positive investments.

Transparency on corporate biodiversity financing is promoted through the [Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive](#) and the [Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation](#). The [Delegated Regulation](#) supplements the [Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive](#) as regards sustainability reporting standards and includes a dedicated reporting standard on biodiversity and ecosystems. The first companies subject to the [Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive \(CSRD\)](#) had to apply the new rules for the first time in the 2024 financial year, for reports published in 2025. On 26 February 2025, the Commission adopted a [package of proposals to simplify EU rules and boost competitiveness](#). Among other things, the package proposes to apply the CSRD only to the largest companies (those with more than 1000 employees), focusing the sustainability reporting obligations on the companies which are more likely to have the

biggest impacts on people and the environment. Moreover, it seeks to ensure that reporting requirements on large companies do not burden smaller companies in their value chains.

Designing incentives for nature-positive actions and private investment is a priority task as highlighted in the Environment [Commissioner's Mission Letter](#). On 7 July 2025, the Commission published a [Roadmap towards Nature Credits](#). This initiative was developed in cooperation with stakeholders in the Member States, international partners, organisations, industries, and financial institutions, including development and commercial banks. The initiative aims to complement different sources of nature finance such as public funding by supporting the development of high-integrity tools – nature credits – that will turn investment in nature into a reliable engine of value creation. By enabling actors and stakeholders to demonstrate their nature-positive action beyond individual legal obligations and the mandatory mitigation hierarchy, a shift from limiting damage to actively reversing the trend of nature loss can be stimulated.

ii. Current level of progress towards the target

- On track to achieve target
- Progress made but at an insufficient rate
- No significant progress
- Not applicable
- Unknown
- Achieved

iii. Summary of progress towards the target and main outcomes achieved

In recent years, attention has increased on mobilising financing for biodiversity from all sources, and additional initiatives have been put forward to this end.

The European Commission has developed an [EU biodiversity financing indicator](#) including financing mobilised from EU budget funds, co-financing from national budgets, and private and public financing mobilized through InvestEU, the most important EU repayable support instrument. Private finance mobilised through EU official development finance is currently not included in this biodiversity financing indicator.

Many EU budget instruments require co-financing from public budgets in the Member States (see EU target 19.b for an overview of biodiversity-related financial resources under the EU budget). The amounts allocated from the EU budget for biodiversity and co-financing from national budgets, considered together, indicate that the EU almost achieved the biodiversity financing target of EUR 20 billion / year in 2022, and exceeded

it in 2023 (EUR 20.77 billion), however the value of the biodiversity financing indicator for 2024 is down to EUR 15.39 billion, and the projections for the following years indicate that the amounts mobilised are insufficient to achieve the EU target. Over the period 2021-2030, Member States' national budgets (EU27) are estimated to allocate ca. EUR 14 billion per year to biodiversity and landscape protection.

As concerns private and public investments related to biodiversity mobilised via InvestEU, in 2023, the Commission reported a total of EUR 148 million, whereas for 2024 the corresponding figure is EUR 384 million. The increase in 2024 mainly reflects the fact that the start of implementation of InvestEU is still recent (2022) and the reporting of biodiversity-related operations started only in 2023 when there was a small number of biodiversity-related operations.

iv. Summary of key challenges encountered and approaches for further implementation

The European Investment Bank report [Investing in nature-based solutions](#) (2023) notes that “the main challenge of financing the increased uptake of nature-based solutions is that the majority of nature’s benefits currently have no financial market value, despite the fact that nature underpins our collective survival and prosperity”, and that the “public good” dimension reduces the incentive for the private sector to invest. The EU Roadmap towards Nature Credits notes that, “despite pioneering work such as the EU integrated system of ecosystem accounts, which has estimated that ten ecosystem services generated EUR 234 billion benefits annually, ecosystem services remain difficult to monetise and are not adequately reflected in market price signals. This contributes to over-exploitation and chronic underinvestment in nature restoration and protection. As a result, nature restoration and protection mainly rely on public funding.” The Roadmap also notes studies indicating that upfront costs, data gaps and difficulties in measuring biodiversity outcomes can delay short-term returns and deter investment. Innovative instruments and enabling frameworks are necessary to overcome these barriers and scale up nature-positive economy. The Roadmap towards nature credits roadmap aims to support the development of high-integrity tools – nature credits – that will turn investment in nature into a reliable engine of value creation.

The [Interim Evaluation of the implementation of the InvestEU Programme](#) notes that investments in biodiversity and nature-based solutions remain comparatively low. It is also important to highlight that the funding mobilized through InvestEU does not cover most of private philanthropy, private finance mobilized by official development finance, domestic private donations, sustainable commodities, payments for ecosystem services, biodiversity offsets, private benefit-sharing schemes and other instruments, for most of which there is currently insufficient data at EU level.

v. *Examples of effective implementation*

A number of Horizon Europe projects work specifically on related to Biodiversity Financing, notably:

- [Bio-Capital](#) investigates the potential of biodiversity-linked financial products, including biodiversity-linked carbon credits and biodiversity performance-based investment mechanisms. The project develops pilot frameworks for testing biodiversity credits in collaboration with financial institutions and land managers. Bio-Capital tests the integration of advanced geospatial technologies (e.g., satellite analytics) with financial tools to improve biodiversity performance verification. This supports market-based instruments such as biodiversity-linked bonds or insurance products.
- [BIOFIN-EU](#) has examined the enabling conditions necessary for bank lending processes to accommodate the impacts of loan proceeds on natural ecosystems.
- [NATURE-3B](#) will develop innovative financial instruments and methodologies that will bring investment practices in line with critical biodiversity objectives set by the EU and globally. It leverages the EU Taxonomy on Sustainable Finance to craft Nature-Protection and Restoration Benchmarks.

vi. *Relevance to Sustainable Development Goals or other related agreements*

The implementation of this target contributes to the implementation of SDGs 1 (No Poverty), 10 (Reduced Inequalities), 15 (Life on Land), and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

vii. *Indicators to assess progress towards the target*

Headline:

- D.3 Private funding (domestic and international) on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems (to be developed)

Other EU indicator:

- [Amount of biodiversity finance mobilised through the EU budget.](#)

EU Target 20: Capacity-building and technical and scientific cooperation

Foster capacity building and development, and scientific cooperation within the EU and with non-EU countries.

i. Main actions undertaken since 2020 to implement the target

The EU is funding capacity building and technical and scientific cooperation through its research and innovation framework programme Horizon Europe, which encourages international cooperation particularly on biodiversity. Entities in low and middle-income countries are automatically eligible for funding, which is supporting technological transfer. Particularly relevant is the [Cluster on food, bioeconomy, natural resources, agriculture and environment](#) (Cluster 6) with a budget of approximately €900 million/year. Projects recently supported under Cluster 6 of Horizon Europe had the objective to put biodiversity on a path to recovery, and to protect, restore and sustainably use ecosystems and their services. More specifically they improve the knowledge on biodiversity status and trends and on the drivers of biodiversity loss and they develop innovations, methods, pathways, models and tools to protect healthy and resilient ecosystems and to restore degraded ones, ensuring the continuous provision of ecosystem services, including for adaptation and/or mitigation to climate change. These projects have a strong science-policy interface.

The EU has the objective to mainstream biodiversity in all parts of Horizon Europe and has set a target of 10% of the expenditure dedicated to biodiversity-related R&I activities in 2026 and 2027.

The European R&I partnership [Biodiversa+](#) was launched in October 2021 to support biodiversity research with an impact for policy and society. It brings together 81 partners from 40 countries and is co-funded for 30% by the European Commission for the period 2021-2028 (with an EU contribution of €165 million). Among other activities, the partnership has been launching transnational research calls on an annual basis, each supporting over 30 projects on biodiversity related topics involving researchers from Europe and beyond. Biodiversa+ seeks to strengthen the capacity of funded researchers to engage with policy, practice and stakeholders, and to enable researchers to contribute to CBD and IPBES processes.

The project COOP4CBD, which is funded through the Horizon Europe programme, aims to strengthen the role of the EU and European experts in the CBD. The project runs from December 2022 to November 2026 with a budget of 4.4M EUR. Among other activities, COOP4CBD has successfully engaged a diverse range of stakeholders through workshops, surveys, and training sessions. The project also contributes to the development of an effective monitoring and review process for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

The Horizon Europe Missions bring concrete solutions to major challenges and have the objective to deliver concrete results by 2030.

- The [EU Mission: a Soil Deal for Europe](#) leads the transition towards healthy soils by 2030, funding research and innovation with a strong social science component, creating a network of a 100 living labs and lighthouses to co-create knowledge, test and demonstrate the value of solutions in real-life conditions, developing a harmonised framework for soil monitoring in Europe and raising awareness on the vital importance of soils.
- The [EU Mission: restore our Oceans and Waters](#) has the objective to restore the health of the ocean, seas, and inland waters-by 2030. Through research and innovation, public engagement, and targeted blue investments, this Mission takes a systemic approach to protect and restore marine and freshwater ecosystems and biodiversity, prevent and eliminate pollution of our ocean, seas and waters, and make the sustainable blue economy carbon-neutral and circular.

On ocean science diplomacy, the EU established [All-Atlantic Ocean Research and Innovation Alliance](#) (AAORIA) is a shared commitment by the European Union, and various partners to advance marine and polar research and innovation, with a pole-to-pole dimension, on shared priorities ([AAORIA declaration](#)), such as increasing our understanding of the relationship between the ocean and climate, protecting its biodiversity and ecosystem services, and to develop outcome-oriented science for mitigating and adapting to its consequences.

Under the [Programme for the Environment and Climate Action \(LIFE\)](#) 2021-2027, the EU co-finances projects, including capacity-building projects, in the field of environmental protection, with a specific subprogramme on 'Nature and Biodiversity'. For 2021-2027, an investment package of 290 million EUR for new 132 projects was approved, which would mobilise a total investment of 562 million EUR. Since its creation in 1992, the LIFE financing programme has supported over 1,800 nature and biodiversity projects in order to safeguard Europe's nature. Projects commonly address the following topics:

- Development of management plans for given protected areas/Natura 2000 sites or develop action plans for species at regional/national level or even at a flyway scale. Example: The Belgian Nature Integrated Project [LIFE 3.0 - LIFE14 IPE/BE/000002](#) (until 2023, followed up by) the new Strategic Nature Project [LIFE 3.0 - LIFE21-IPN-BE-B4B-LIFE/101069526](#)
- Cross sectoral actions, with farmers, foresters or fishermen involved to develop measures that facilitate the sustainable use of natural resources and the sustainable management of agricultural or forest areas. These measures are often taken up as agro-environmental schemes under the CAP. Example: The Irish Integrated project [LIFE 3.0 - LIFE18 IPE/IE/000002](#) (Project website: <https://www.wildatlanticnature.ie/>)

- Engagement with powerline companies to reduce the risk posed by the electric grid to birds. Example of large scale, transnational project: [LIFE 3.0 - LIFE21-NAT-FR-LIFE-SAFELINES4BIRDS/101073826](#) (project website: <https://www.safelines4birds.eu/>)
- Engagement of the wider public by collecting biodiversity data via citizen science, including the development of a dedicated platform for collecting and publishing such data. Example: [LIFE 3.0 - LIFE22-PLP-ES-EBP-reinforcement/101104367](#) which produced the European Bird Portal [EuroBirdPortal - Home](#).

In line with the external dimension of the [EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030](#), the EU adopted different funding decisions that led to several initiatives aimed at supporting capacity building and promoting technical and scientific cooperation with partner countries. This includes:

- The [Sustainable Wildlife Management programme](#) is one of the largest EU-funded biodiversity which supports capacity building for the development of innovative models of governance and the strengthening of institutional and legal frameworks for the sustainable management of wildlife in EU partner countries. The first phase of the programme was implemented between 2018 and 2024, and the ongoing phase will continue until 2028.
- The [BIOFIN global initiative](#), which provides technical support to countries to develop and implement effective and comprehensive strategies for biodiversity finance. The first phase of EU support to BIOFIN was implemented between 2020 and 2023. The new phase will take place between 2025 and 2029, with the piloting of concrete strategies for the implementation of the national Biodiversity Finance Plans in 15 countries, including through the support to private sector engagement and the repurposing of biodiversity harmful subsidies.
- The EU also supports capacity development in partner countries for wildlife law enforcement and international coordination to fight against organised wildlife crime. From 2018 to 2024, the EU supported joint efforts between the [International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime](#) (ICWC), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime ([UNODC](#)) and the [Interpol](#) to enhance investigative and judiciary capabilities in targeted EU partner countries. In 2024, the EU launched the new [GUARD Wildlife programme](#) (Global United Action to Reduce and Dismantle Organized Wildlife Crime), which will support countries in strengthening information sharing, bolstering national enforcement systems, and putting in place innovative strategies to reduce the demand driving wildlife illicit trade.
- The [Global Ocean Programme](#), launched by the EU in 2025, aiming at enabling involvement of developing countries in the conservation and sustainable use of areas beyond national jurisdiction. The programme will have a dedicated component on enhancing capacity to respond to biodiversity-related processes in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction.

- The [ACP MEAs programme](#), funded by the EU until 2024 to build capacity in countries in Africa, Caribbean, and the Pacific (ACP) regions to support them in fulfilling their obligations as parties to Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs). This included specific trainings to countries' negotiators, awareness raising to foster a shared understanding of GBF targets and their concrete application into the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs), as well as activities to strengthen national and regional capacities for pesticide risk reduction, including through the development of strategies on highly hazardous pesticides.
- In terms of scientific cooperation, the EU, through the [BIOPAMA](#) and the Centres of Excellence programmes, supports and cooperates with three scientific and technical regional observatories on biodiversity, land and forest in Sub-Saharan Africa. The three observatories supported by the EU - the [Observatoire des Forêts d'Afrique Centrale \(OFAC\)](#); the [Regional Centre For Mapping Of Resources For Development \(RCMRD\)](#); and the [Observatoire de la Biodiversité et des Aires Protégées en Afrique de l'Ouest \(OBAPAO\)](#) - have also been selected to host sub-regional technical and scientific cooperation support centres (TSCC) under the CBD.
- The [Biodiversity Information for Development programme](#), implemented by the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF), which supports through EU funds the mobilisation of biodiversity information and the development of data infrastructures in partner countries. The first phase of the programme has been implemented between 2015 and 2023, while the new ongoing phase, with a broader coverage of taxonomic and geographic gaps, will last until 2029.

The [EC Knowledge Centre for Biodiversity](#) (EC KCBD) was established in 2020 by the Commission to monitor progress of the implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy and enhance knowledge management for policy-making on biodiversity. The KCBD has been later appointed by the CBD at COP16 as one of the European sub-regional Technical and Scientific Cooperation Support Centres (TSCCs) to assist 44 European Parties in the implementation of the GBF. Its specific objectives are to strengthen capacities of countries in implementing the GBF. The overall goal of the TSCCs is to promote and facilitate, on a demand-driven basis, technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer among Parties and to enable Parties and relevant organisations to effectively utilise science, technology and innovation to support the implementation of the GBF as detailed [here](#). The European subregional TSCC will further scale up efforts and initiatives developed by the KCBD to cover [44 countries](#), efforts which include:

- [KCBD ticketing system](#) for support requests
- policy summaries and additional resources on how different sectors affect or are affected by biodiversity. New themes are regularly added based on policy priorities and on the development of new analyses.

- The [research-policy link explorer](#) to find links between EU-funded research and specific policy goals. Explore 'Tools' in the top menu.
- Mechanisms for tracking progress in the implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030: an [actions tracker](#) and a [dashboard](#)
- A technical and practitioners' forum, where a limited number of ad hoc groups were providing fast and practical support on priority policy questions.
- A [Global Biodiversity Data Viewer](#) to assess global biodiversity related indicators.

As one of the subregional TSCCs, the KCBD will further collaborate with the other TSCCs to share best practices, under the coordination of the Global Coordination Entity of the CBD.

The [Environmental Implementation Review \(EIR\)](#) is a regular reporting tool designed to improve the implementation of EU environmental laws and policies. The first EIR was adopted in 2017, the second in 2019, the third in 2022, and the fourth in 2025 'The EIR identifies good practices and challenges in the Member States and recommends improvements and solutions as well as "priority actions".'

The EU also provides support to the UN Environment Programme to boost capacity building for monitoring environmental SDGs, under the [Programme Cooperation Agreement III](#) (see also the [Decision on the financing of the multiannual action plan in favour of the NDICI Neighbourhood East Region](#)).

ii. Current level of progress towards the target

- On track to achieve target
- Progress made but at an insufficient rate
- No significant progress
- Not applicable
- Unknown
- Achieved

iii. Summary of progress towards the target and main outcomes achieved

Since 2020, as outlined above, the EU has put in place various instruments, programmes or funding initiatives that contribute to fostering capacity building and development, and scientific cooperation within the EU and with non-EU countries.

The EC KCBD, in its new capacity of European subregional Technical and Scientific Cooperation Centre (TSCC), has strengthened its coordination role as knowledge provider, an appointment which should enhance effectiveness and better targeted support.

iv. Summary of key challenges encountered and approaches for further implementation

The European subregional TSCCs have started deploying a network of 23 Knowledge Hubs to provide targeted support to 44 Parties on each of the GBF Targets. This effort still requires an exhaustive mapping exercise of technical and scientific resources as well as existing mandates that will allow for a coherent support across the region. This effort will have to be made in in close collaboration with various European Agencies, research centres and national services.

v. Examples of effective implementation

The EC Knowledge Centre for Biodiversity, together with the new [Science Service for Biodiversity](#) that is in the process of being set up by the Horizon Europe project [BioAgora](#), has designed and put in place an online ticketing system to facilitate the science-policy interface on biodiversity-related matters. This online form is meant to be used by the services of the European Commission to submit requests for scientific support in a policy context. Outputs of the ticketing system include the following:

- [Deadwood and Fire Risk in Europe](#)
- [A technical and legal analysis of triggers for monetary benefit-sharing from digital sequence information on genetic resources](#)
- [Rapid assessment of human population growth, and natural carbon stocks and fluxes in Key Landscapes for Conservation and Development \(KLCDs\) in Central Africa, in the context of NaturAfrica](#)
- [The EU economy's dependency on nature](#)

The European partnership [Biodiversa+](#) helps to strengthen the capacity of research and innovation actors to engage with policy, practice and stakeholders. For this, Biodiversa+ has produced a series of [guides, handbooks and toolkits](#), and has been organising dedicated [capacity building activities](#) for its funded projects on topics such as stakeholder engagement and science-policy interfacing; science communication; citizen science; and open Science and data management.

The EU-funded project [COOP4CBD](#) has been running a series of [capacity-building and training events](#) for CBD National Focal Points, negotiators, researchers and other experts on CBD processes, meetings and agenda items, and also delivered a training manual and session for the CBD's [Bioland tool](#) supporting national Clearing House Mechanism (CHM) sites.

vi. Relevance to Sustainable Development Goals or other related agreements

The implementation of this target contributes to the implementation of SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals)

vii. *Indicators to assess progress towards the target*

[Binary indicator 20.b \(see **Binary question 20.b** for detail on the responses\)](#)

- 20.b Number of countries that have taken significant action to strengthen capacity-building and development and access to and transfer of technology, and to promote the development of and access to innovation and technical and scientific cooperation

[Other EU indicators:](#)

- [Amount of biodiversity finance mobilised through the EU budget](#)
- [Research & Development personnel by sector](#)

EU Target 21a: Data, information, knowledge, monitoring and research

Enhance the knowledge base, facilitate its sharing and foster cross-sectorial policy dialogue for EU policy making in biodiversity and related fields.

i. Main actions undertaken since 2020 to implement the target

The EEA continues to collect data from Member countries through the online reporting platform [Eionet](#) and the European Environment Information and Observation Network, and provides knowledge on biodiversity and ecosystems including monitoring and reporting activities in support to EU biodiversity, nature, water and marine legislation. The EEA also manages the operation of IT platforms such as the [Water Information System for Europe](#) (WISE), the [Biodiversity Information System for Europe](#) (BISE) and the [Forest Information System for Europe](#) (FISE).

The most important data on status and trends on protected species and habitats in the EU are compiled in the reports that Member States have to submit every 6 years, according to Article 12 of the [Birds Directive](#) and Article 17 of the [Habitats Directive](#). The latest reporting deadline for the Member States was July 2025. Up-to-date EU information on the status and trends of all protected habitats and species (including all bird species) will therefore be made available in 2026. Moreover, the [Nature Restoration Regulation adopted in 2024, requires the additional monitoring and reporting on various habitats and species, including pollinators.](#)

The [EC Knowledge Centre for Biodiversity](#) (EC KCBD) was established in 2020 to enhance knowledge contribution to biodiversity policy-making. As such, it tracks and assesses EU progress, fosters cooperation and partnership and underpins policy development, amongst others through a ticketing system for [policy requests](#). The KCBD has been confirmed as one of the European sub-regional Technical and Scientific Cooperation Support Centres (TSCC) to assist 44 European Parties to the CBD in the implementation of the GBF. For more information see also the reporting on EU target 20.

The [EU Knowledge Centre on Earth Observation](#) (EU KCEO) was established in 2021 and carries out activities aimed at maximizing the uptake of Earth Observation products in support of EU policies. The main activities conducted since 2020 are:

- The [Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda](#) - Development of a strategic research and innovation agenda to guide future research activities in the field of Earth Observation (published in 2024)
- Deep Dive Assessments - In-depth studies evaluating how existing EO products and services align with current policy needs (2022-2025):
 - [Deep Dive on Biodiversity](#) (completed in 2023): Focused on monitoring and implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy targets, identifying specific EO products that could be used for biodiversity monitoring

- [Deep Dive on Climate Adaptation in Urban areas](#) (published in May 2025): Analysed how EO can support cities and regions in adapting to climate change impacts, with focus on urban heat islands, flooding vulnerabilities, and green infrastructure
- [Deep Dive on Compliance Assurance](#) (ongoing): Examining how EO can strengthen environmental compliance assurance by providing evidence for enforcement of environmental regulations across member states
- [Assessment on Reporting Burden Alleviation](#) (ongoing): Identifying where EO could reduce administrative reporting burdens, developing a workflow powered by Large Language Models (LLMs) to match legislation with relevant Copernicus products
- Copernicus for EC Policy (C4EC) Survey – a broad assessment across European Commission departments to collect policy needs and uses of EO products and services (2024). The survey report is expected to be finalised in 2026 Q3.
- [EC4GEO Project](#) with 3 other Joint Research Centre (JRC) units and the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (RTD) (2025-2027) Bridges the gap between EO data availability and policy application. KCEO identifies and prioritises EO application needs and requirements at global scale, extracting targets and indicators from global conventions to develop a fitness-for-purpose matrix.
- Wetlands Project – an initiative focused on monitoring wetlands using Earth Observation in the context of the Habitats Directive (2024-2026)

Under [Horizon 2020](#), the European Commission made €1 billion available for research and innovation under the “Green Deal call” in 2020, the last call under the Horizon 2020 research framework programme, funding 73 projects to support the realisation of the objectives of the European Green Deal, including the preservation and restoration of ecosystems and biodiversity (see [here](#) information about the funded projects, including [here](#) highlighted success stories).

[Horizon Europe](#) is the EU’s key funding programme for research and innovation, with a budget of €93.5 billion for the period 2021-2027. The Horizon Europe Strategic Plan for 2025-2027 sets a mainstreaming target of 10% of funding across the programme to be dedicated to biodiversity. Particularly relevant is the [Cluster on food, bioeconomy, natural resources, agriculture and environment](#) (Cluster 6) and the topics under the Destination biodiversity and ecosystem services.

The Horizon Europe Missions bring concrete solutions to major challenges and have the objective to deliver concrete results by 2030.

- The [EU Mission: a Soil Deal for Europe](#) leads the transition towards healthy soils by 2030, funding research and innovation with a strong social science component, creating a network of a 100 living labs and lighthouses to co-create knowledge,

test and demonstrate the value of solutions in real-life conditions, developing a harmonised framework for soil monitoring in Europe and raising awareness on the vital importance of soils.

- The [EU Mission: restore our Oceans and Waters](#) aims to restore the health of the ocean, seas, and inland waters by 2030. Through research and innovation, public engagement, and targeted blue investments, this Mission takes a systemic approach to protect and restore marine and freshwater ecosystems and biodiversity, in line with the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030, prevent and eliminate pollution of our ocean, seas and waters, in line with the EU Action Plan Towards Zero Pollution for Air, Water and Soil and make the sustainable blue economy carbon-neutral and circular, in line with the proposed European Climate Law and the comprehensive vision outlined in the Sustainable Blue Economy Strategy. The Mission supports regional engagement and cooperation through area-based “lighthouses” in major sea and river basins, which are living labs for demonstrating, deploying and scaling up solutions. The mission developed the [European Digital Twin of the Ocean](#), an innovative, virtual representation of the ocean's multiple components, providing knowledge and understanding of the past and present and create trustable predictions of its future behaviour. This cutting-edge tool will enable real-time monitoring, predictive analysis, and better-informed decision-making for sustainable management of marine and freshwater ecosystems across Europe.
- The EU Mission: [Adaptation to Climate Change](#) aims to support at least 150 regions and local authorities to become climate resilient by 2030. Biodiversity is at the heart of the Adaptation Mission, which often explores nature-based solutions as a priority climate adaptation. For instance, the Mission is funding [NBS4EU](#), a cluster of 7 projects totalling 140 M€ that test and demonstrate nature-based solutions for climate resilience, making it one of the largest investments under Horizon Europe to mainstream nature-based solutions. These projects collaborate directly with the [Nature-based Solutions Task Forces](#) coordinated by [NetworkNature](#), therefore contributing to the wider nature-based solutions cluster of projects.

[EuropaBON](#), the Europa Biodiversity Observation Network, received funding under Horizon Europe to design a new structure for monitoring biodiversity and ecosystem services, modelling essential variables to integrate different reporting streams, data sources and monitoring strategies. This led to a proposal to establish an [EU Biodiversity Observation Coordination Centre \(EBOCC\)](#). A Parliamentary preparatory action with a budget of EUR 7 million will support the design of EBOCC, through a contract managed by Directorate-General Environment of the European Commission to be implemented over the next three years. The aim of EBOCC will be to improve the availability, coherence and access to biodiversity data for policy use at the EU, national and international levels,

while streamlining data flows and reducing administrative burdens in the EU Member States. EBOCC would become a permanent infrastructure that coordinates and fosters the generation and use of high-quality data to underpin the biodiversity knowledgebase used across EU policies, providing guidance and trainings when necessary. It would be based on national biodiversity monitoring hubs and re-use existing networks and communities.

The [Horizon Europe Partnerships](#) are strategic collaborations between the European Commission and various public and private partners aimed at addressing key challenges through research and innovation initiatives.

- In 2021, [Biodiversa+](#), the Horizon Europe co-funded partnership for biodiversity, which brings together 81 partners from 40 countries and is co-funded for 30% by the European Commission for the period 2021-2028 (with an EU contribution of €165 million), was launched. Biodiversa+ aims to bridge science, policy and practice to halt biodiversity loss by 2030 and achieve the 2050 vision of living in harmony with nature. To this end, Biodiversa+ funds calls for research and innovation on biodiversity (see [here](#) more information on the past and upcoming calls), works towards establishing a transnational biodiversity monitoring network (including funding biodiversity monitoring pilots - more information [here](#)) and other activities including efforts to foster the science-policy interface (e.g. knowledge hubs, dialogue events, science-based guidance).

Other relevant partnerships include:

- [European Partnership for Animal Health and Welfare](#) (PAHW) aims to deliver key knowledge, services and products to significantly improve the control of animal infectious diseases and animal welfare in a coordinated way which will sustain animal production and protect public health,
- [European Partnership for Agriculture of Data](#) supports sustainable agriculture in the EU as well as policy monitoring and implementation by using digital and data technologies in environmental observation,
- [European Partnership for a climate neutral, sustainable and productive Blue Economy](#) (SBEP) enables a just and inclusive transition to a climate-neutral, sustainable and productive blue economy through key intervention areas providing for a healthy ocean, the wellbeing of citizens, and a blue economy that is in harmony with nature and whose benefits are distributed fairly,
- [FutureFoodS - European Partnership for Sustainable Food Systems](#) coordinates, aligns, and leverages European and national R&I efforts to future-proof food systems for co-benefits through an integrated and transdisciplinary systems approach, and provides the scientific evidence, as well as the collaborative experience among practitioners and citizens, to support the transformation of local, national, European and global food systems.

- [European Partnership for a Circular bio-based Europe \(CBE JU\)](#) aims to make major contributions to the climate targets, and increase sustainability and circularity of production and consumption systems, sustainable sourcing and conversion of biomass into bio-based products, apply circular economy approaches,
- [European Partnership water security for the planet \(Water4All\)](#) aims to boost systemic transformations across the entire water research – innovation pipeline, fostering the matchmaking between problem owners and solution providers,

The [Environmental Implementation Review \(EIR\)](#) is a regular reporting tool designed to improve the implementation of EU environmental laws and policies. The first EIR was adopted in 2017, the second in 2019, the third in 2022, and the fourth in 2025. The EIR identifies good practices and challenges in the Member States and recommends improvements and solutions as well as "priority actions".

Under the [LIFE Programme Regulation](#) sub-programme on ‘[Nature and Biodiversity](#)’, significant progress has been made in enhancing the knowledge base on habitats and species, often leading to the designation of new Natura 2000 sites, expansion of existing sites, or to add the protection of new species/habitats in sites. Projects commonly address the following topics:

- Development of management plans for given protected areas/Natura 2000 sites or develop action plans for species at regional or national level or even at a flyway scale. Example: The Belgian Nature Integrated Project [LIFE 3.0 - LIFE14 IPE/BE/000002](#) (until 2023, followed up by) the new SNaP [LIFE 3.0 - LIFE21-IPN-BE-B4B-LIFE/101069526](#)
- Cross-sectoral actions, with farmers, foresters or fishermen involved to develop measures that facilitate the sustainable use of natural resources and the sustainable management of agricultural or forest areas. These measures are often taken up as agro-environmental schemes under the CAP. Example: The Irish Integrated project [LIFE 3.0 - LIFE18 IPE/IE/000002](#) (Project website: <https://www.wildatlanticnature.ie/>)
- Engagement with powerline companies to reduce the risk posed by the electric grid to birds. Example of large scale, transnational project: [LIFE 3.0 - LIFE21-NAT-FR-LIFE-SAFELINES4BIRDS/101073826](#) (project website: <https://www.safelines4birds.eu/>)
- Engagement of the wider public by collecting biodiversity data via citizen science, including the development of a dedicated platform for collecting and publishing such data. Example: [LIFE 3.0 - LIFE22-PLP-ES-EBP-reinforcement/101104367](#) which produced the European Bird Portal [EuroBirdPortal - Home](#).

The [TIM dashboard](#), the knowledge management tool that maps interlinkages between EU-funded research projects and EU policy priorities in the context of the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, has been updated in September 2024 with a new dataset.

The Commission tabled a proposal for a [Forest Monitoring Regulation](#) in November 2023 which is currently being negotiated by co-legislators. The proposal aims to establish an EU-wide forest monitoring system that would ensure comparable, timely and consistent data, relying on both ground data monitoring and remote sensing methods.

A [Commission Delegated Regulation](#) was adopted in 2025, which establishes a scientifically sound methodology to quantify trends in pollinator populations, considering the diversity and abundance of pollinator species. This methodology is to be used by the Member States in order to demonstrate progress towards the obligation under the Nature Restoration Regulation to reverse the decline of pollinators by 2030 and beyond.

The EU also adopted the [Directive on Soil Monitoring and Resilience](#) in 2025, which will put in place a solid and coherent soil monitoring framework for all soils in the EU.

Under the [Regulation on the application of the provisions of the Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters to Community institutions and bodies](#), the Commission published a [Communication](#) in 2020 on improving access to justice in environmental matters and [eJustice fact sheets](#) in 2021 to inform the public of the applicable rules in each Member State. Additionally, the [2021 amendment to the Aarhus Regulation](#) allowed for better public scrutiny of EU acts affecting the environment by NGOs and other members of the public.

The [EU Space Programme](#) was established in 2021 to support the EU's space policy, support the EU internal market and address societal challenges such as climate change and technological innovation. It ensures safe and secure European satellite navigation services, advances the commercialisation of [Galileo](#), [EGNOS](#), [Copernicus](#) data and services and engages in [secure SATCOM](#) and [Space Situational Awareness](#). Amongst others, a [Report on Climate, Environment and Biodiversity - User Needs and Requirements](#) was published in December 2024.

The [European Marine Observation and Data network](#) (EMODnet), supported by the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF), operating under an integrated portal since 2021, provides quality controlled, standardised and harmonised marine in-situ data of hundreds of parameters, openly accessible to all. EMODnet includes collections on marine biodiversity data, as well as data and data products on Seabed Habitats.

The EU also continues to provide direct financial support to the [Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services](#) (IPBES) (around 1M EUR per year) contributing to the implementation of the platform's rolling work programme up to 2030, including work on several IPBES assessments, and to the costs of the IPBES secretariat and the meetings of IPBES bodies.

ii. Current level of progress towards the target

- On track to achieve target
- Progress made but at an insufficient rate
- No significant progress
- Not applicable
- Unknown
- Achieved

iii. Summary of progress towards the target and main outcomes achieved

The work conducted by or under Horizon Europe, the LIFE Programme, the EU Knowledge Centre for Biodiversity and the EEA, among others, ensure that significant progress has been made towards enhancing the knowledge base, facilitate its sharing and foster cross-sectorial policy dialogue for EU policy making in biodiversity and related fields.

iv. Summary of key challenges encountered and approaches for further implementation

There remain knowledge gaps in some key areas whilst data quality, availability, access and comparability across policy domains and across different governance levels provide further challenges. While significant progress has been made in the use of digital tracking tools, the major potential of interoperability, open data and automation to support near-real-time biodiversity monitoring, improve consistency and reduce reporting burdens, has not yet been fully used.

The [2020 EU Ecosystem Assessment](#) concludes that knowledge and data on ecosystems and their services have improved significantly but that some major knowledge gaps and data needs remain. Knowledge needs included amongst others, criteria to decide that an ecosystem is in good condition or restored, how to measure the resilience of ecosystem services to cope with the multitude of pressures they face (including climate change and the spread of invasive alien species), how to identify scientifically strategic choices in agricultural land management that minimise trade-offs between biodiversity, ecosystem

services and food production while ensuring a flourishing agricultural sector, what are the carbon fluxes between ecosystems and the atmosphere, what is the awareness of the social, economic, ecological and cultural values of ecosystems, and their crucial importance to build societal resilience in the fight against climate change.

The report further identified a low number of species-based EU-level indicators and general knowledge of marine ecosystem was insufficient to provide a consistent picture across European marine regions to assess the condition of marine ecosystems.

In general, to close the data gaps, new research and monitoring is needed for areas in which data are not available or not accessible. Moreover, in order to harmonise data across the EU, definitions need to be streamlined, classifications aligned, and standards developed. Lastly, data needs to be regularly updated.

A 2nd EU Ecosystem Assessment will be presented in late 2026 and will give further insight on the status of EU biodiversity knowledge and data gaps.

v. Examples of effective implementation

The partnership [Biodiversa+](#), co-funded for 30% by the European Commission (€165 million for 2021-2028) under Horizon Europe incentivised the alignment of national research agendas, pooling resources for biodiversity research and structuring the European and global research community. It [funded research projects](#) (4 calls funded so far 125 projects on biodiversity and ecosystems restoration, protection, biodiversity monitoring and nature-based solutions with over €150 million budget, comprising EC and Biodiversa+ partners contributions, provided actionable knowledge for practitioners, science-policy advice and worked to establish a transnational network of national biodiversity monitoring schemes and deploy Nature-based Solutions and improve the valuation of biodiversity in the private sector.

The EU-funded [RESPIN project](#) seeks to reinforce science-policy interfaces for integrated biodiversity and climate knowledge and policies. RESPIN identifies gaps in knowledge provision and develops strategies to address them, improving the engagement of diverse knowledge holders in IPBES and IPCC processes, with a focus on Europe, Central Africa, Central Asia, and Latin America. Additionally, the project facilitates the uptake of IPBES and IPCC findings within the EU science service for biodiversity, as well as national and subnational decision-making processes.

The EU-funded [NetworkNature](#) project seeks to strengthen the nature-based solutions (NbS) community of actors and works as a reference platform gathering knowledge, resources, case studies as well as capacity building and exchange opportunities on nature-based solutions.

vi. Relevance to Sustainable Development Goals or other related agreements

The implementation of this target contributes to the implementation of SDGs 14 (Life Below Water), and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

vii. Indicators to assess progress towards the target

Headline indicator:

- 21.1 Indicator on biodiversity information for monitoring the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

EU Target 21b: Communication and awareness raising

Communicate on nature and biodiversity and raise awareness, including to ensure that nature is recognised as an essential part of the solution to societal challenges.

i. Main actions undertaken since 2020 to implement the target

Biodiversity and nature are key topics for the communication activities of the European Commission's [Directorate-General for Communication](#) and [Directorate-General Environment](#). The European Commission provides key information on nature and biodiversity policies to European citizens and stakeholders through its many communication channels, including [web](#), social media, press, campaigns and publications.

The European Commission has undertaken the following specific and measurable actions in recent years:

- Two editions of “[#ForOurPlanet](#)” citizen activation campaign (2022 and 2024)
- [#WaterWiseEU](#) awareness raising campaign (2024) including importance of nature-based solutions
- Media partnerships with Euronews: Road to Green and Water Matters (2023 – 2024)
- Launch of Bioblitz (2025)
- Social media promotion under [#3billiontrees](#) and [#ForOurPlanet](#)
- Dedicated newsletters on biodiversity
- Launch of [Natura 2000 chatbot “Flora”](#) - an interactive way for citizens to find Natura 2000 sites near them.
- Publication of several PDF and online publications

These specific actions come in addition to regular posts on social media, engagement with the press, stakeholder groups, and recurrent communication activities, materials and initiatives such as the Natura 2000 Day, the annual EU Green Week and the annual European Maritime Day.

See section v. for further information and data.

ii. Current level of progress towards the target

- On track to achieve target
- Progress made but at an insufficient rate
- No significant progress
- Not applicable

Unknown

Achieved

iii. Summary of progress towards the target and main outcomes achieved

In March 2024, [Special Eurobarometer 550 on “Attitudes of Europeans towards the environment” \(2024 Eurobarometer survey\)](#) found that 84% of EU citizens agree that EU environmental legislation is necessary for protecting the environment in their country. This is in part thanks to communication efforts from the EU and its Member States.

iv. Summary of key challenges encountered and approaches for further implementation

Key challenges include measuring effectiveness of specific communication or awareness raising actions towards achieving the target.

The EU will continue to launch citizen awareness-raising campaigns, increase outreach on key files such as the EU Deforestation Regulation, and closely link nature and health policy communication.

v. Examples of effective implementation

Two editions of “[#ForOurPlanet](#)” citizen activation campaign (2022 and 2024)

- Social media reach through the #ForOurPlanet hashtag: 9.9 million (since 2022, across all Commission channels)
- Number of events organised: more than 70 in 2022, and more than 40 in 2024 across Europe.
- 50,000 webpage views (2022 – 2024)

#WaterWiseEU awareness raising campaign (2024) including importance of nature-based solutions

- DG ENV Social media accounts: 42m+ users reached
- Online support: 700+ organic social media posts across Commission and other accounts generating 13.8m impressions & 75k engagements
- Influencer partnerships from target countries: 732k impressions, 524k reach
- [Website](#): 80,000 page views.

Media partnerships with Euronews: Road to Green (2023 – 2024)

Some relevant episodes from Season 2:

2024: Invasive alien species and EU and Colombia – Making Peace with Nature at COP16.

- These episodes reached an estimated 8 million affluent Europeans. Viewers saw an average of 4 broadcasts.
- Euronews posted 87 content pieces related to these episodes on its social media accounts. They generated together 727K impressions, 380K video views and 2K interactions.

Some relevant episodes from Season 1:

River restoration

Explainer on the EU Deforestation regulation

Bigger and healthier forests

- Over a 42-week period, season 1 reached an estimated 11.2 million affluent Europeans. Viewers saw an average of 11 broadcasts.
- Overall during season 1, Euronews posted 609 content pieces related to The Road To Green on its social accounts. They generated together 6.9M impressions, 1.8M video views and 68K interactions.

Euronews Water Matters partnership including episode on nature-based solutions.

- Series reached an estimated 8.7 million affluent Europeans. Viewers saw an average of 4 broadcasts.
- Series achieved 352K Page views and 49K videos views online.
- Euronews posted 373 content pieces on social media, generating together 2.9M impressions, 15.4K interactions and 593K video views.

Launch of Natura 2000 Bioblitz

- 2024: 68 events across Natura 2000 areas, 5000 participants
- 2025 edition just launched

#3billiontrees

- EU launched #3billiontrees, gaining 3.6m impressions, the total number of times content is displayed or viewed by users, across all major platforms since 2022

Launch of Natura 2000 chatbot “Flora”

- An interactive way for citizens to find Natura 2000 sites near them. Too soon for data collection (April 2025).

Publication of several PDF and online publications

- 52 steps for a Greener City: 20,000 views
- Nature needs you web story: 14,000 views
- Biodiversity Board Game: 19,000
- Know your Pollinators card game: 2,000 copies
- COP page: 23,000 views
- Nature Protection Toolkit for students & teachers: 7,300 views
- Biodiversity Advocacy Toolkit: 1,400 views

Dedicated newsletters on biodiversity

- Special editions of the main Environment newsletter focusing on biodiversity include: [COP16 special edition \(Nov 2024\)](#) – 9773 recipients, and [Deforestation special edition \(Feb 2024\)](#) – 6729 recipients
- There are also dedicated newsletters for biodiversity topics, including EU Deforestation Regulation updates – 8141 subscribers (6 May) and EU Business & Biodiversity Platform Newsletter – 7204 subscribers (6 May)

vi. Relevance to Sustainable Development Goals or other related agreements

The implementation of this target contributes to the implementation of SDGs 14 (Life Below Water), and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

vii. Indicators to assess progress towards the target

N/A

EU Target 21c: Biodiversity-relevant education

Foster education systems embedding sustainability, innovation and life-long learning.

i. Main actions undertaken since 2020 to implement the target

Each EU country is responsible for its own education and training systems, while EU policy is designed to support national action and help address common challenges.

As announced in the [EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030](#), a [Council Recommendation on learning for the green transition and sustainable development](#) was adopted in 2022, calling on EU countries to provide high-quality education and training on sustainability, climate change, environmental protection and biodiversity for all learners, from early years to adult learning. The European Commission supports the implementation of the Council Recommendation through different measures. A [peer group on sustainability in school education](#) facilitates peer learning through discussions and the exchange of good practice. A [European competence framework on sustainability \(GreenComp\)](#) sets out sustainability competence areas for learners. It is being used in national and regional education and training policies and programmes, curriculum review and design, and teacher professional development programmes. The Commission also runs a [GreenComp Community of practice](#) on knowledge, skills and attitudes for sustainable lifestyles. [Funding for sustainability education and training](#) is available under the [Erasmus+ programme](#) and the [European Solidarity Corps](#), with three Erasmus+ teacher academies ([EduSTA](#), [TAP-TS](#) and [CLIMADEMY](#)) focussed on equipping teachers with sustainability competences. [Erasmus+ DiscoverEU Green route](#) inspires young people to plan and discover Europe in a sustainable way. The EU Learning Corner provides [teaching and learning materials on sustainability](#) for primary and secondary schools and researchers to assess and develop their own transversal skills (e.g. [European nature protection toolkit](#)).

In the framework of the Youth4Pollinators pilot project funded by the European Parliament, the European Commission is piloting a toolkit on pollinators for primary and secondary school students. The European Commission is also running a [Young Citizens' Assembly on Pollinators](#).

A series of [educational resources](#) and [learning units](#) on nature-based solutions and concepts offer a user-friendly gateway into nature-oriented thinking and action, tailored to different audiences.

Building on the EU [Skills Agenda](#) published in 2020 and the [European Year of Skills](#) (2023), the European Commission launched, in 2025, the [Union of skills](#): a plan to promote skills at all levels of education, training and learning, at all stages of life and in all settings. A number of new or reinforced actions under several work strands can also support the development of environment and biodiversity competences and skills. These include, for

example, the [STEM Education Strategic Plan](#), the [European competence framework for academic staff](#) and a European Strategy for an attractive and innovative vocational education and training system. A reinforced [Pact for skills](#) can support the efforts of public and private organisations willing to upskill and reskill workers, including through skills intelligence and by forging public-private partnerships to identify and tackle skill gaps.

The [Invest EU Programme Regulation](#) provides opportunities for Member States to access funding for sustainable education infrastructure and the development of skills. Its [Framework Operation #13 for Skills, Education and Training](#) aims to support quality and inclusive education and lifelong learning, reinforce European higher education, and contribute to the green and digital transitions.

In 2024, the Commission published a report on [Monitoring learning for sustainability](#) including a conceptual framework, assessment of existing data, challenges and opportunities as well as recommendations on EU-level monitoring of learning for sustainability. The study '[Greening of the Creative Europe Programme](#)' gives an overview of how the creative and cultural sector can contribute to the EU efforts to mainstream climate actions through the Creative Europe Programme.

Under the [Horizon Europe Programme for Research and Innovation 2021-2027](#), the [IMP>ACT](#) project is developing an assessment framework on the impacts of SCCE policies, curricula and practices (running until 2027).

Further information on EU initiatives on biodiversity and education can be found on [Biodiversity and education | Knowledge for policy](#) and [Learning for the green transition and sustainable development - European Education Area](#).

ii. Current level of progress towards the target

- On track to achieve target
- Progress made but at an insufficient rate
- No significant progress
- Not applicable
- Unknown
- Achieved

iii. Summary of progress towards the target and main outcomes achieved

Each EU country is responsible for its own education and training systems, while EU policy is designed to support national action and help address common challenges.

Since 2000, a significant framework of EU instruments in support of sustainability education and skills has been put in place, with a range of recommendations, guidance, materials, communities of practice as well as EU funding and support opportunities.

iv. Summary of key challenges encountered and approaches for further implementation

Barriers to biodiversity-relevant education are often related to, or exacerbated by, wider challenges faced in the education sector. For example, the [Commission Report on the interim evaluation of the 2021-2030 European Education Area](#) (2025) points to deteriorating basic skills, teacher shortages, insufficient number of STEM graduates, disparities in education access and outcomes, unmet demand for learning mobility, low participation in adult learning, and weakening democratic engagement among young people. The same report puts forward potential approaches to tackle the most persistent and emerging issues, promote lifelong learning and skills development as a horizontal priority, and addressing citizenship education as a strategic priority.

v. Examples of effective implementation

The EU Learning Corner provides [teaching and learning materials on sustainability](#), including a [European nature protection toolkit](#).

The European competence framework on sustainability for lifelong learning ([GreenComp](#)) consists of four interrelated competence areas (embodying sustainability values, embracing complexity in sustainability, envisioning sustainable futures, acting for sustainability) and twelve interlinked competences that can support children, young people and adults to develop knowledge, skills and attitudes to think, plan and act for a greener and more sustainable future. The competence area ‘Embodying sustainability values’ encourages learners to reflect on – and challenge – personal values and world-views in terms of sustainability, advocates for equity and justice for current and future generations, while supporting the view that humans are a part of nature. A [GreenComp community of practice](#) aims to support the uptake of the GreenComp framework. The European Commission has also published [case studies](#) on the use of the GreenComp competence framework across Europe.

The [European Solidarity Corps](#) helps young people between 18 and 30 years of age to take part in projects that enable them to bring positive change, while also developing their skills and competences. This includes volunteering work, solidarity projects and humanitarian aid volunteering, at home or abroad, and in a wide range of areas – including environmental and nature protection.

The [European Ocean Coalition](#) (EU4Ocean) brings together diverse organisations, projects, and individuals dedicated to promoting [ocean literacy](#) and sustainable ocean

management. The EU4Ocean coalition is made up of three components: EU4Ocean platform, Youth4Ocean and Network of European Blue Schools. It also organises an annual Challenge of the Year, which drives key initiatives like the Call for Collective Action, #MakeEUBlue Awards and campaigns for young advocates and Blue Schools. By offering funding and expert support, the Coalition fosters innovation and collaboration, bringing impactful ideas to life.

Ocean literacy is a core enabler of the [EU Mission Ocean and Waters](#) that involves raising awareness and understanding of the ocean's role in our lives, empowering citizens, especially youth, to engage in ocean protection, and supporting initiatives like the European Ocean Days and educational campaigns. The [ProBleu](#) project promotes ocean and water literacy in school communities; the [Sea Change](#) project brings about a fundamental "Sea Change" in the way European citizens view their relationship with the sea by empowering them – as ocean-literate citizens - to take direct and sustainable action towards healthy seas and ocean, healthy communities and ultimately - a healthy planet; the project [Respon-SEA-ble](#) has developed new 'Ocean Literacy' tools that educate, while changing attitudes and behaviours; and the project [SHORE](#) focuses on engaging & mobilizing students, teachers, and schools to implement the EU Mission Ocean objectives to increase ocean literacy with the help of community activities & cooperation.

The [Buzzing Schools](#) project is developing an educational toolkit with teachers and non-formal educators to introduce the topic of pollinators decline and biodiversity to children and young people from 9 to 16 years of age. Fostering a holistic approach to education, the toolkit will integrate STEM and non-STEM knowledge with green skills and competences, immersive technologies, and relatable role models to create a thriving learning ecosystem for students.

The European Innovative Teaching Award selected [50 outstanding projects focused on sustainability](#) in 2022.

The [Education for Climate Coalition](#) community of pupils, students, teachers and organisations on climate change and sustainability. The [Researchers at Schools initiative](#) connects young researchers with teachers and pupils on climate change and sustainable development.

The EU-funded [NbS Edu World](#) and [EnabLs](#) projects both place education at the center of sustainability and innovation. NbS Edu World focused on integrating nature-based solutions into formal and non-formal education by equipping educators, learners, and institutions with knowledge, skills, and learning resources that connect environmental challenges with real-world solutions. Similarly, the EnabLs project emphasizes education for sustainability and systems thinking, empowering learners and educators to engage with complex societal and environmental issues through participatory, interdisciplinary and future-oriented learning approaches. Both projects have been

involved in the launch and coordination of a dedicated [Nature-based Solutions Task Force on Education](#).

vi. Relevance to Sustainable Development Goals or other related agreements

The implementation of this target contributes to all SDGs and in particular to the implementation of SDGs 4 (Quality Education), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), 12 (Sustainable Consumption and Production), 13 (Climate Action), 14 (Life Below Water), 15 (LIFE on Land) and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

vii. Indicators to assess progress towards the target

N/A

EU Target 22a: Inclusive decision-making

Involve citizens, indigenous peoples and local communities and stakeholders in the decision-making process.

i. Main actions undertaken since 2020 to implement the target

The [Better Regulation](#) provides for involving citizens, businesses and stakeholders in the EU decision-making process through consultation. Stakeholder consultation is governed by four general principles: i. Participation: take an inclusive approach by consulting as widely as possible, ii. Openness and accountability: make the consultation process and how it has affected policymaking transparent to those involved and to the general public, including to persons with disabilities, iii. Effectiveness: consult at a time when stakeholder views can still make a difference, taking account of proportionality and specific restraints, and iv. Coherence: ensure the consistency (across all services) of consultation processes, analysis, review and quality control. The [8th Environmental Action Programme](#) also requires proposals for new legislation, where relevant, to be based on impact assessments that build upon wide and transparent consultations.

The Commission established the [EU Biodiversity Platform](#) to assist the Commission in the implementation of the [EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030](#). It brings together the Commission, the EEA, Member State representatives and various stakeholders from land use sectors, business, NGOs and academia to provide advice and exchange experience on the development and implementation of biodiversity legislation and policy initiatives.

The European Commission established The President's [Youth Advisory Board](#) in July 2025 which provides advice on ongoing and future Commission policies and initiatives relevant to young people and brings about an exchange of experience and good practice between young people and the Commission. Additionally, a [Youth Sounding Board](#) is in place to advise the Commissioner and the Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA) on youth participation and empowerment in EU external action.

Under the [Regulation on the application of the provisions of the Aarhus Convention](#) on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters to Community institutions and bodies, the Commission published a [Communication](#) in 2020 on improving access to justice in environmental matters and [eJustice fact sheets](#) in 2021 to inform the public of the applicable rules in each Member State. Additionally, the [2021 amendment to the Aarhus Regulation](#) allowed for better public scrutiny of EU acts affecting the environment by NGOs and other members of the public.

Citizens' democratic engagement is essential to our democracies and to support EU citizenship rights. Initiatives such as those under the 2020 [European Democracy Action](#)

Plan, the [2021 package of measures to reinforce democracy and protect the integrity of elections in the EU](#), and the [2023 Defence of Democracy package](#) provide new tools to reinforce the resilience of democracies and elections in the EU. This has been further strengthened with the adoption of the 2025 Democracy Package, consisting of the [European Democracy Shield](#) and the [EU Strategy for Civil Society](#). This comprehensive package is designed to bolster the fundamental pillars of democracy, foster a more engaged citizens' participation, and empower civil society to play a more effective role in policymaking.

In particular, the December 2023 [Defence of Democracy Package](#) aimed to encourage civic engagement and citizens' participation in our democracies. The Defence of Democracy Package included a [Recommendation on promoting the engagement and effective participation of citizens and civil society organisations in public policy-making processes](#). The Recommendation supports best practices by encouraging Member States to provide more opportunities for citizens and civil society organisations to effectively participate in public policy-making processes. The Defence of Democracy Package also included a [Commission recommendation on inclusive and resilient electoral processes](#), which aims to promote high democratic standards for elections in the EU. The Recommendation provides that Member States and political parties should support the participation in elections, as voters and candidates, of all groups of citizens, taking into account their specific needs and challenges. Member States should, for example, promote measures to support gender equality regarding access to and participation in elections. Member States should also support the electoral participation of persons with disabilities. The [Commission Report on the 2024 elections to the European Parliament](#) assesses the follow-up to this Recommendation.

The Commission also published an [EU Citizenship Package](#) in December 2023, intended to further advance EU citizenship rights and make them more tangible for citizens. This included among others: a [Guide to EU citizenship](#) to support better understanding of the opportunities for democratic engagement for EU citizens, a [Guide of good electoral practices in Member States addressing the participation of citizens with disabilities in the electoral process](#), presenting measures to address the obstacles faced by citizens with disabilities and highlighting the emergence of common references on delivering accessible elections; a [Compendium on e-voting and other ICT practices](#), illustrating the use of information and communication technologies to support electronic democratic participation, and by addressing, inter alia, accessibility for persons with disabilities.

The [Roadmap for Women's Rights](#) was adopted in March 2025 setting out the broad principles for gender equality, with concrete actions being developed for the Gender Equality Strategy 2026-2030. The public and stakeholder groups are being [consulted](#) on this strategy through a call for evidence, a public consultation including accessible

version and targeted stakeholder consultations. The new strategy is expected to be adopted in March 2026.

The [EU anti-racism action plan 2020-2025](#) provides that everyone in the EU should be able to enjoy their fundamental rights and freedoms, and equal participation in society, irrespective of their racial or ethnic origin. As such, the Commission established the Permanent Anti-racism Civil Society Forum in 2021. Members of the Forum are both EU-level and national civil society organisations. The Forum is an important mechanism for consultation and the dialogue and has informed the Commission's work on the implementation of the action plan.

Thematic workshops and discussions are also open to a wider audience of civil society organisations and international organisations. Consultation activities with civil society actors and other stakeholders to prepare for the Anti-racism strategy 2026-2030 started in the end of January 2025. These targeted stakeholder consultations accompanied an [open call for evidence and an open public consultation](#).

The [Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030](#) fosters full political participation, as required by the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which means that persons with disabilities participate in elections as well as in political and decision-making processes on an equal basis with others.

The 2022 [Council Recommendation](#) on ensuring a fair transition towards climate neutrality invites Member States to adopt measures which address the employment and social aspects of climate, energy and environmental policies. It encourages certain actions to support people most affected by the green transition, puts a focus on education and training measures and invites Member States to integrate the employment and social aspects of the green transition in the development and implementation of relevant national strategies.

The [EU Corporate Sustainability and Due Diligence Directive](#) (CSDDD) provides for participation of stakeholders at specific stages of due diligence processes, addressing barriers to engagement, ensuring participants are not subject of retaliation or retribution. In April 2025, it was amended by [Directive 2025/794](#), postponing the CSDDD application to the first group of largest companies in its scope by one year to give them more time to prepare. In December 2025, a [provisional agreement](#) was reached on the [Omnibus package](#), which contained a proposal to enable companies to stay firmly on course toward our sustainability goals, including decarbonisation and broader environmental, social and human rights objectives, while simplifying the rules and minimising regulatory burden as much as possible.

The [Directive on Gender Balance on Company Boards](#) was adopted in 2022, to ensure the application of the principle of equal opportunities between women and men,

achieving a gender-balanced representation in decision-making of listed companies and to ensure equal participation across different sectors of the economy.

The EU's [Critical Raw Materials Act](#) adopted in 2024 stresses the need to ensure engagement in good faith, meaningful and comprehensive consultations with Indigenous Peoples and local communities and relevant social partners, as well as measures to mitigate adverse impacts. Special attention should be paid to the respect for human rights, in particular also where a project involves potential resettlement.

The [EU Arctic Strategy](#) acknowledges the rights and traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples in the Arctic. The EU aims to invest also in more involvement of young people, women and Indigenous Peoples in Arctic decision-making, on issues such as innovation and research, job creation, digital skills and education. The [EU's Research and Innovation Framework Programme](#) has a key role to play in protecting the Arctic, with science and technology supporting evidence-based policy making and offering viable solutions by ensuring better science-society interface, for green, digital, and innovative solutions, engaging indigenous knowledge and supporting an inclusive and sustainable development of the Arctic regions to the benefit of its inhabitants, including future generations, with a particular focus on indigenous peoples, women and the young.

The [EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030](#) as adopted in 2020, commits to strengthen the links between biodiversity protection and human rights, gender, health, education, conflict sensitivity, the rights-based approach, land tenure and the role of Indigenous peoples and local communities in its external actions.

The [EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy 2020-2027](#) guides the EU action on human rights and democracy in its external relations and contains the priority to build resilient, inclusive and democratic societies and aims to empower people, amongst others, through promoting inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making, targeting in particular women and youth. Various elements of the Action Plan are relevant for GBF Target 22:

- It supports regular dialogue with civil society, human rights organisations and the business sector.
- It aims to support indigenous peoples by promoting their participation in relevant human rights and development processes and by upholding the principle to free, prior and informed consent in all decisions affecting them.
It aims to promote active citizenship and full participation of all, without discrimination, in public and political life. It specifies that civic education should particularly target women, children, youth, persons with disabilities, persons belonging to minorities, indigenous peoples, and other persons in vulnerable situations.
- It supports measures to address the high risk and serious impacts of climate change, environmental degradation and biodiversity loss on the exercise of human rights,

such as rights to life, health, safe drinking water and sanitation, food, adequate housing and standard of living, including for climate-induced displaced people.

- It aims to ensure visibility, support activities and raise individual cases related to inter alia legitimate land tenure rights, labour rights, natural resources, environmental issues, freedom of peaceful assembly and association, indigenous peoples' rights as set out in the [UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#), climate change, and those resulting from corporate abuses.
- It aims to continue strengthening the links between human rights, including gender equality, security, environmental degradation and climate change in policy dialogues, conflict prevention, development and humanitarian actions, as well as disaster risk reduction strategies.

The EU applies the [Human Rights Based Approach \(HRBA\)](#) to all EU external actions. It requires all the EU's external funding to respect a set of principles including, especially, participation of stakeholders.

The EU funds relevant programmes and projects in this regard, including [Indigenous Navigator](#). This is a framework and set of tools for and by Indigenous Peoples to systematically monitor the level of recognition and implementation of their rights, thereby enabling them to participate with data and evidence in national or international processes. The tools and approaches have been field tested with diverse communities and adjusted to improve clarity and increase guidance on the correct use of the tools.

Two specific knowledge outputs related to nature-based solutions also specifically address inclusive-decision making:

- The report "[Harnessing the power of collaboration for nature-based solutions](#)" was published in 2023 by the European Commission. It focuses on how local decision-makers can utilise collaborative approaches to promote participatory processes and the creation of nature-based solutions (NbS). The report explores options for overcoming institutional challenges in decision-making related to NbS and demonstrates the value of co-governance using city examples.
- The NetworkNature Knowledge Brief "[Leaving no-one behind: towards inclusive nature-based solutions](#)" provides an overview of the concept of inclusion in the nature-based solutions context, including its relevance to the EU and international policy landscape and the just transition. By raising awareness on the importance of inclusive nature-based solutions in promoting social and environmental sustainability, the brief identifies best practices, key elements to consider and tools to put in place to improve nature-based solutions practice towards more inclusive, equitable and just approaches.

ii. Current level of progress towards the target

On track to achieve target

- Progress made but at an insufficient rate
- No significant progress
- Not applicable
- Unknown
- Achieved

iii. Summary of progress towards the target and main outcomes achieved

Most of the legislative proposals under the [European Green Deal](#) were subject to comprehensive impact assessments, also based on public consultations, in accordance with the [Commission's Better Regulation agenda](#). These were published together with the proposals they accompany and can be accessed from the corresponding [Commission webpage](#) as well as the [Have Your Say portal](#), where all impact assessments of policy proposals are published together with the results of the associated public consultations and the policy proposals themselves. Further emphasis has been added on consultation recently, through the requirement for reality checks and Implementation Dialogues. Moreover, progress has been made in the area of democracy and human rights, corporate decision-making and due diligence processes inclusive and participatory processes in external action.

iv. Summary of key challenges encountered and approaches for further implementation

Whilst comprehensive impact assessments and stakeholder consultations significantly improve progress to the target, challenges include the time consuming nature of these processes and the possibility of delays in presenting and carrying out effective legislative initiatives.

v. Examples of effective implementation

A specific example of an application of the Human Rights-Based Approach that enables indigenous populations to participate in decision-making, is the EU-funded [Indigenous Navigator](#). This is a framework and set of tools for and by Indigenous Peoples to systematically monitor the level of recognition and implementation of their rights, thereby enabling them to participate with data and evidence in national or international processes.

Supported by the EU's Research and Innovation Framework Programme, the [Arctic PASSION](#) project's work relates to enhancing evidence-based decision-making at the local and regional level in the Arctic, with respect to two themes: the state of inclusion of

Indigenous knowledge in sub-national decision-making (including the patterns of interactions between Indigenous Peoples and local/regional policymakers) and data availability, needs and gaps with respect to managing and planning the green transition; project [CAPARDUS](#) emphasises the need for transformative changes in the use of Indigenous knowledge along with science for environmental decision-making in the Arctic, while the project [BIRGEJUPMI](#) - bridging knowledge systems for inclusive, resilient, and prosperous Arctic coastal futures - aims to strengthen community engagement and relational environmental decision-making in Arctic coastal regions by bringing together diverse knowledge systems (Indigenous, Western, and local), grounded in a holistic, ethical, and equitable community-based approach to research with strong Indigenous leadership.

vi. Relevance to Sustainable Development Goals or other related agreements

The implementation of this target contributes to the implementation of SDGs 1 (No Poverty), 5 (Gender Equality), 10 (Reduced Inequalities) and 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions).

vii. Indicators to assess progress towards the target

Headline:

- 22.1 Land-use change and land tenure in the traditional territories of indigenous peoples and local communities (pending finalisation of global methodology)

Binary indicator 22.b (see **Binary question 22.b** for detail on the responses)

- 22.b Number of countries taking action towards the full, equitable, inclusive, effective and gender-responsive representation and participation in decision-making, and access to justice and information related to biodiversity by indigenous peoples and local communities, respecting their cultures and their rights over lands, territories, resources and traditional knowledge, as well as by women and girls, children and youth, and persons with disabilities, and the full protection of environmental human rights defenders

EU Target 22b: Protecting environmental human rights defenders

Provide a framework and set out common rules and principles for Member States to ensure the full protection of environmental human rights defenders.

i. Main actions undertaken since 2020 to implement the target

The EU and its Member States are Party to the [Convention on access to justice, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters](#) (Aarhus Convention). Article 3(8) of the Aarhus Convention obligates Parties to protect environmental defenders from persecution, penalisation and harassment when exercising rights under the Convention. While the [Regulation on the application of the provisions of the Aarhus Convention](#) does not implement Article 3(8) directly, these rights are part of the EU acquis through [Article 216\(2\) of the TFEU](#). Therefore, environmental defenders still enjoy the abovementioned protection when the Aarhus Regulation applies. These rights were subject to an [extensive amendment](#) in 2021, partially expanding access to justice rights at EU level.

The [Whistleblowers Protection Directive](#) adopted in 2019 had to be transposed by Member States by 2021 and aims to guarantee a consistently high level of protection for whistleblowers who report information on breaches of Union law in specific policy areas which they acquired in their work-related activities, by setting European Union-wide minimum standards. The Directive plays a pivotal role in the enforcement of Union law in a number of important policy areas where breaches of Union law may cause harm to the public interest, including environmental protection. The [Commission report of 2024](#) assessed that Member States have transposed the main provisions but the transposition needs to be improved on key areas such as the material scope, the conditions for protection and the measures of protection against retaliation, in particular the exemptions from liability and the penalties.

The anti-SLAPP EU initiative, consisting of a [Directive](#) and a [Recommendation](#), was published in 2024 and protects persons who engage in public participation from manifestly unfounded claims or abusive court proceedings ('Strategic lawsuits against public participation' or SLAPP). The Directive provides procedural safeguards to all persons engaged in public debate, including environmental human right defenders, in cross-border civil proceedings. The [Recommendation](#) sets out guidance for Member States to take measures against SLAPP also in domestic cases, including criminal and administrative ones. Both the Directive and the Recommendation specifically address environmental rights defenders for the important role they play in European democracies.

The [EU Deforestation Regulation](#) requires any operator or trader who places commodities like cattle, wood, cocoa, soy, palm oil, coffee, rubber and some of their derived products on the EU market, or exports from it, to be able to prove that these

products do not originate from deforested land, and that they have not contributed to forest degradation after 31 of December 2020. The Regulation specifies that the country of production needs to comply with human rights protected under international law, citing in the preamble the specific risks environmental human rights defenders are facing (see section 7 for further information). For more information on the Regulation, see also reporting on EU target 5.c.

In 2024, the [EU Corporate Sustainability and Due Diligence Directive](#) (CSDDD) underscored the necessity of protecting human rights and environmental defenders. This includes ensuring that engagement processes with companies in the scope of the Directive are free from retaliation and retribution. In April 2025, it was amended by [Directive 2025/794](#), postponing the CSDDD application for the first group of largest companies in its scope by one year to give them more time to prepare. In December 2025, a [provisional agreement](#) was reached on the [Omnibus package](#), which included a proposal enabling companies to stay firmly on course toward our sustainability goals, including decarbonisation and broader environmental, social and human rights objectives, while simplifying the rules and minimising regulatory burden as much as possible.

The [EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy 2020-2027](#) contains the priority to build resilient, inclusive and democratic societies and aims to empower people, amongst others, through promoting inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making, targeting in particular women and youth. It specifically commits to support and protect human rights defenders and their legal representatives and address the impact of their work on their families. It also aims to ensure assistance via the EU human rights defenders protection mechanisms, taking into account the particular risks that certain human rights defenders face, including women and environmental human rights defenders, and ensure visibility, support activities and raise individual cases related to inter alia legitimate land tenure rights, labour rights, natural resources, environmental issues, freedom of peaceful assembly and association, indigenous peoples' rights as set out in the [UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#), climate change, and those resulting from corporate abuses.

The EU-funded project [Protectdefenders.eu](#) is the world's largest human rights defenders protection mechanism. Environmental rights defenders are statistically the most targeted among human rights defenders at risk of offences from administrative harassment and unlawful arrests to physical attacks including killing., Protectdefenders.eu has helped more than 85,000 human rights defenders worldwide since 2015. Since 2022, 3,215 environmental rights defenders have benefited from the EU's protection assistance, making up 12.5% of the total number of human rights defenders supported by the mechanism.'

The 2025 [EU Strategy for Civil Society](#) builds on this existing work to reinforce the Commission's engagement with civil society, and better support and protect civil society organisations and human rights defenders in their work.

Additionally, the integration of [chapters on Trade and Sustainable Development](#) and human rights clauses in EU Free Trade agreements provides a framework for promoting environmental protection and human rights abroad.

ii. Current level of progress towards the target

- On track to achieve target
- Progress made but at an insufficient rate
- No significant progress
- Not applicable
- Unknown
- Achieved

iii. Summary of progress towards the target and main outcomes achieved

The EU has made important progress in access to justice rights through the 2021 amendments to the Aarhus Regulation, implementing the Aarhus Convention. The recent adoption of the Anti-SLAPP Directive further contributes to safeguarding public participation, including the protection of EHRDs.

iv. Summary of key challenges encountered and approaches for further implementation

The EU currently lacks a dedicated instrument for the protection of environmental human rights defenders. Instead, they are covered under broader human rights frameworks, including the Anti-SLAPP and Whistleblower Directives.

Regarding the Whistleblower Directive, the [Commission report of 2024](#) assessed that Member States have transposed the main provisions but the transposition needs to be improved on key areas such as the material scope, the conditions for protection and the measures of protection against retaliation, in particular the exemptions from liability and the penalties.

v. *Examples of effective implementation*

The [EU Deforestation Regulation](#) notes that environmental human rights defenders, who strive to protect and promote human rights relating to the environment, including access to clean water, air, and land are often the target of persecution and lethal attacks. It specifically highlights that those attacks disproportionately affect indigenous peoples. According to 2020 reports, more than two thirds of victims of those attacks were working to defend the world's forests from deforestation and industrial development. As such, the Deforestation Regulation prohibits cattle, cocoa, coffee, oil palm, rubber, soya and wood and various derivatives from being placed or made available on the EU market or exported, unless they are deforestation-free and amongst other criteria, these have been produced in accordance with the relevant legislation of the country of production. 'Relevant legislation of the country of production' means the laws applicable in the country of production concerning the legal status of the area of production in terms of:

- Land use rights
- Environmental protection
- Forest-related rules, including forest management and biodiversity conservation, where directly related to wood harvesting
- Third parties' rights
- Labour rights
- Human rights protected under international law
- The principle of free, prior and informed consent (FPIC), including as set out in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
- Tax, anti-corruption, trade and customs regulations.

The Regulation further requires operates to conduct a risk assessment, which should take into account amongst others, the presence of Indigenous Peoples, the consultation and cooperation in good faith with Indigenous Peoples in the country of production or part therefore, the existence of duly reasoned claims by Indigenous Peoples based on objective and verifiable information regarding the use or ownership of the area used for the purpose of producing the relevant commodity, concerns in relation to the country of production and origin or parts thereof such as violations of international human rights.

vi. *Relevance to Sustainable Development Goals or other related agreements*

The implementation of this target contributes to the implementation of SDGs 1 (No Poverty), 5 (Gender Equality), 10 (Reduced Inequalities) and 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions).

vii. *Indicators to assess progress towards the target*

Headline:

- 22.1 Land-use change and land tenure in the traditional territories of indigenous peoples and local communities (pending finalisation of global methodology)

[Binary indicator 22.b](#) (see **Binary question 22.b**[Binary question 22.b](#) [for detail on the responses](#))

- 22.b Number of countries taking action towards the full, equitable, inclusive, effective and gender-responsive representation and participation in decision-making, and access to justice and information related to biodiversity by indigenous peoples and local communities, respecting their cultures and their rights over lands, territories, resources and traditional knowledge, as well as by women and girls, children and youth, and persons with disabilities, and the full protection of environmental human rights defenders

EU Target 23: Gender-responsive implementation

Act on the gender dimension of environmental degradation and climate change, and promote girls' and women's participation and leadership in order to ensure gender-responsive strategies to climate mitigation and adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and the inclusive and sustainable management of natural resources.

i. Main actions undertaken since 2020 to implement the target

The [Gender Equality Strategy](#) was adopted in March 2020 for the period 2020-2025. Under the Strategy, the Commission continued to mainstream gender equality across EU policy areas such as health, research and innovation and education. The secretariat of the Commission's Task Force on Equality continued to support gender mainstreaming, as part of broader equality mainstreaming by raising awareness, providing relevant training, and facilitating the work of the Equality Coordinators. These Equality Coordinators, who are active in every Directorate-General (DG) or service of the Commission as well as the European External Action Service, focused on integrating equality considerations into the Commission's policy initiatives and in their internal functioning. Full details can be found under the [2025 report on Gender Equality in the EU](#) of the wide range of actions undertaken by the Commission across all of its policy areas.

The [8th Environment Action Programme](#) entered in force in May 2022 and requires the Commission, Member States, regional and local authorities and stakeholder to mainstream gender throughout climate and environmental policies, including by incorporating a gender perspective at all stages of the policy-making process.

The [EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030](#) as adopted in 2020 commits to strengthening the links between biodiversity protection and gender, amongst others in all of its external actions. This is supported by the GAP III (see below), which commits to a gender-responsive approach in all sectors of external action, including in environmental degradation and climate change.

The [EU Gender Action Plan \(GAP\) III](#) adopted in November 2020 is the EU's policy and operational framework for contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular SDG5, and other international commitments by accelerating progress on gender equality and women's empowerment as a priority of all EU external policies and actions. The GAP III commits the EU to enhance gender mainstreaming, increasing gender-targeted actions and funding. Specific targets have been set in line with the [NDICI-Global Europe Regulation](#), stipulating that, by 2025, 85% of all new external actions shall contribute to gender equality as a significant or principal objective, of which 5 % will target gender equality as a principal objective. The GAP III identifies objectives for gender equality in six key thematic policy areas, including addressing the gender dimension of environmental degradation and climate change, thereby promoting a fair

and inclusive green transition. It is mindful of the specific needs and roles of indigenous women directly relying on natural resources and promotes girls' and women's participation and leadership in order to ensure gender-responsive strategies to climate mitigation and adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and the inclusive and sustainable management of natural resources.

Examples of relevant EU (co-)funded initiatives include the following:

- the [Nationally Determined Contribution Support Programme](#) (2017-2025), which supported strengthening gender equality in climate action as a cross-cutting component. The EU is one of the main donors, alongside the governments of Germany and Spain. For examples of gender milestones see [here](#).
- The [Just Energy Transition in Coal Regions](#) platform, which is co-funded by the EU and implemented by a consortium of six organisations including the GIZ and the ILO. The Just Energy programmes support and accelerate transitions away from coal to renewable energies and other sustainable economic activities in Colombia, Chile, South Africa, Indonesia, Vietnam, Thailand, and Mongolia. The programmes aim to integrate gender-responsive approaches into all capacity building and exchange formats, enhance understanding of gender just transition, and to promote gender mainstreaming in energy planning and policymaking. Actions are taken to ensure women's representation and meaningful participation in dialogues and consultations, both at the national and sub-national levels.
- Numerous [Global Gateway](#) and [Team Europe Initiatives](#) contribute to gender-responsive and inclusive development in partner countries, including through support for women's entrepreneurship and employment in the green, blue and circular economies, including e.g. [Malawi - Green Growth](#), [Burkina Faso Green Deal for Youth](#), [Tropical Forests Team Europe Initiative](#)
- [Regreening Africa](#) contributes to changing perceptions of women's land ownership and supported their leadership in savings groups. Operations in all countries had elements of working with – and through – women's cooperatives and savings groups, see e.g. the [intervention in Ghana](#)
- The [Sustainable Wildlife Management Programme](#) funded by the EU, as part of the [NaturAfrica Initiative](#) with co-funding from the French Facility for Global Environment (FFEM) and the French Development Agency (AFD) aims to improve the conservation of wildlife and ecosystems and their services, as well as the livelihoods and food security of the populations dependent on these resources. Recognizing the importance of gender equality and social inclusion, the programme includes a series of innovative social safeguards to encourage women and men's active participation in community decisions, and to improve women's access to resources and services.

Under the [Global Gateway](#), the EU guarantees that projects and investments be inclusive, notably in terms of gender equality. The EU put in place an important number of financial instruments in order to support gender-lens investments in sustainable energy, in cooperation with partner Development Finance Institutions (DFIs). This includes, for instance, [ElectriFI - an EU-funded impact investment facility](#), which aims to accelerate the development of businesses providing access to clean energy to hundreds of millions of people by 2030. 53% of the ElectriFI portfolio is qualified using the 2X Criteria, which has become widely used as the global industry standard for Gender Lens Investing (GLI). As such, ElectriFI supports amongst others the gender-lens fund [Aruwa Capital](#) to advance gender-lens investing and climate-focused growth by scaling women-led and women focused, high-impact businesses in Nigeria and Ghana.

In terms of capacity building and to jointly enhance the expertise of financial officers on gender-mainstreaming in operations of the [European Fund for Sustainable Development Plus](#) (EFSD+), the European Commission in cooperation with partner DFIs has organised a series of webinars, including on Gender Smart Energy Investments, in partnership with the KfW and on Gender Smart Climate Finance, in partnership with the EIB.

As part of the [GREENA project](#), the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) developed a step-by-step [toolkit](#) to carry out a gender-responsive evaluation of progress towards the gender equality-related objectives set out in policies, programmes and projects for an environmental and sustainable future for all. The toolkit includes examples from four policy areas – transport, energy, agriculture and the circular economy – and helps to identify gender implications of environmental issues.

ii. Current level of progress towards the target

- On track to achieve target
- Progress made but at an insufficient rate
- No significant progress
- Not applicable
- Unknown
- Achieved

iii. Summary of progress towards the target and main outcomes achieved

Gender equality and women's rights have been engrained in the EU Treaties and as such gender equality applies to the entire EU acquis.

The EU set out to strengthen the links between biodiversity protection and gender, which is supported by GAP III, which commits to a gender-responsive approach in all sectors of

external action. As pointed out in the [mid-term report](#) on its implementation, the GAP III has significantly improved policy-programming alignment in external action, resulting in improved gender-mainstreaming across all sectors and instruments. 85% of external actions adopted between 2021 – 2023 under the NDICI-Global Europe instrument are gender responsive. The mid-term report further notes that EU financial commitments with gender equality and women’s empowerment as a policy objective in climate adaptation and mitigation, biodiversity and environment protection increased from an annual average of EUR 1 733 million in 2014 - 2020 to EUR 1 755 million in 2021 and EUR 3 400 million in 2022 (representing respectively 68% and 83% of commitments in these sectors).

Among its key achievements, the GAP III has significantly improved policy-programming alignment, resulting in an increase of gender-responsive EU actions, better gender-lens investments and more funding for gender equality and women and girls’ empowerment.

Moreover, the [proportion of women in national parliaments and national governments](#) in the European Union has increased from 20.4 in 2010 to 33.4 in 2024, demonstrating improvement in gender equality in the number of seats held by women in national parliaments and governments.

iv. Summary of key challenges encountered and approaches for further implementation

Although the EU has mechanisms for facilitating the full, equitable, meaningful and informed participation and leadership of all women and girls at all levels of action, engagement, policy and decision-making, these are not specifically related to biodiversity. The majority of concrete initiatives on gender and biodiversity take place in EU external action.

The initiatives, particularly as part of the Gender Plan of Action III, made EU external actions more gender-responsive, but gender equality and related SDGs have faced multiple challenges, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, conflicts, climate change, risks associated with emerging and disruptive technologies and hybrid threats, and a backlash against women’s and girls’ rights in various parts of the world, according to the [GAP III mid-term report](#).

Although the EU Biodiversity Strategy commits to strengthening the links between biodiversity protection and gender, it does not explicitly apply a gender-responsive approach and recognise the contributions and roles of women and girls in the implementation of the GBF or the Strategy.

While there is a wealth of sex-disaggregated data collected and published at EU level, the EU does not systematically conduct sex-disaggregated data collection and analyses to assess the differential impacts of biodiversity policies and programmes. However, as

part of the Better Regulation guidelines and toolbox, every new initiative and proposal, as well as any review of existing legislation, is subject to an assessment of any significant impacts on gender equality, amongst other criteria.

v. *Examples of effective implementation*

[Regreening Africa](#) is an example of EU-funded intervention which aims at restoring land ecosystems while supporting gender-equitable policies and practices to empower women and girls. Implementing a gender transformative approach. It considers enhancing women's inclusion and agency – that is their capabilities, choices and actions as full citizens and agents of development – to be essential for land restoration and also to benefit the community.

It has identified the following three best practices:

- Implementing a Gender Transformative Approach: Regreening Africa has incorporated interventions that reach and engage women by providing equal opportunities for participation while also adapting tools for addressing underlying causes of gender inequality. One approach to ensure women's social and economic empowerment is to make sure they are included in decision-making, so that they can influence and make land decisions that are reflective of their preferences. The [Gender Transformative Approach](#) (GTA) has been used to design targeted interventions to engage men and women in discussions about unbalanced access to resources, workloads, participation in decision-making and perceptions of women's roles and contributions. This is done in the hope of improving household well-being, and ultimately resilience, from the redistribution of assets, control, and decisions
- Stimulating the economic inclusion of women through a community savings programme: Under Regreening Africa, the EU collaborates with [World Vision Ghana](#), which has supported the economic empowerment of women, through [Savings for Transformation](#) (S4T), allowing them to participate meaningfully in economic and agroforestry practices. It also makes it possible for women and men to access alternative income-generating activities that reduce pressure on forests and forest products, thereby allowing trees and shrubs to regenerate.
- Shifting local perceptions over women's land ownership: Secure land tenure rights not only promote sustainable land management, which improves the effectiveness of efforts to combat and adapt to climate change but are also critical for women's social and economic empowerment. An enabling policy and legal environment boost the scaling process for both land restoration and women's agency. Such policy has for instance benefitted women's groups in Senegal. Accomplishments in product value chains and land restoration by

members of the women's groups have elevated their social standing, allowing them to express their concerns and advocate for their land rights.

vi. Relevance to Sustainable Development Goals or other related agreements

The implementation of this EU target contributes to the implementation of SDG 5 (Gender Equality).

vii. Indicators to assess progress towards the target

Binary indicator 23.b (see **Binary question 23.b** in Annex VI for detail on the responses)

- 23.b Number of countries with legal, administrative or policy frameworks, inter alia, to implement the Gender Plan of Action (2023–2030), to ensure that all women and girls have equal opportunity and capacity to contribute to the three objectives of the Convention, including by ensuring women's equal rights and access to land and natural resources

Other EU indicator

- Seats held by women in national parliaments and governments

ANNEX IV: ASSESSMENT OF EU PROGRESS CONTRIBUTING TO THE GOALS OF THE KUNMING-MONTREAL GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

The KM GBF sets four global goals, to be achieved by 2050, with a set of indicators to monitor progress to each of these goals:

GBF Goal A: Protect and Restore

GBF Goal A covers the following elements:

- The integrity, connectivity and resilience of all ecosystems are maintained, enhanced or restored, substantially increasing the area of natural ecosystems
- Human induced extinction of known threatened species is halted, and, by 2050, the extinction rate and risk for all species are reduced tenfold, and the abundance of native wild species is increased to healthy and resilient levels
- The genetic diversity within populations of wild and domesticated species is maintained, safeguarding their adaptive potential.

Progress to GBF Goal A is to be achieved primarily (but not only) through the delivery of KM GBF Targets 1 to 8, and measured on the basis of the following headline indicators:

[A.1 Red list of Ecosystems](#)

[A.2 Extent of natural ecosystems](#)

[A.3 Red List Index](#)

[A.4 The proportion of populations within species with an effective population size greater than 500](#)

Assessment of EU progress to GBF Goal A: Work is underway to produce the above headline indicators. The EU assessment reveals progress across all relevant KM GBF targets, but at a rate that risks being insufficient to deliver on most of them by 2030. The implementation of the EU Nature Restoration Regulation is expected to be a game-changer, accelerating progress across targets in the coming years.

Goal B: Prosper with Nature

GBF Goal B covers the following elements:

- Biodiversity is sustainably used and managed and nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services, are valued, maintained and enhanced, with those currently in decline being restored, supporting the achievement of sustainable development for the benefit of present and future generations by 2050.

Progress to Goal B is to be enabled primarily (but not exclusively) through the delivery of KM GBF Targets 9 to 12, and measured on the basis of the following indicator:

[B.1 Services provided by ecosystems](#)

Assessment of EU progress to GBF Goal B: Indicator B.1 is currently available for 2018 and 2021. Data suggest that demand for essential ecosystem services (such as pollination) in the EU exceeds the capacity of ecosystems to provide these services. The assessment of the related EU targets for the KM GBF reveals progress in the reduction of key pressures and in ensuring sustainable management, but at an insufficient rate. Full implementation of the EU Nature Restoration Regulation is expected to boost progress to this global Goal by restoring ecosystems and enhancing the services they provide.

Goal C: Sharing Benefits Fairly

GBF Goal C covers the following elements:

- The monetary and non-monetary benefits from the utilization of genetic resources and digital sequence information on genetic resources, and of traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources, as applicable, are shared fairly and equitably, including, as appropriate with indigenous peoples and local communities, and substantially increased by 2050
- Traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources is appropriately protected, thereby contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, in accordance with internationally agreed access and benefit-sharing instruments.

Progress to Goal C is to be enabled primarily (but not only) through the delivery of KM GBF Target 13, and measured on the basis of the following indicators:

[C.1 Monetary benefits received in accordance with applicable internationally agreed access and benefit-sharing instruments](#)

[C.2 Non-monetary benefits arising from applicable international access and benefit-sharing instruments](#)

Assessment of EU progress to GBF Goal C: The above indicators do not apply to the EU level as these only concern Parties that receive benefits bilaterally through access and benefit-sharing measures. The EU does not regulate access to its own genetic resources and therefore does not receive such benefits. Some EU Member States may report on these indicators. The EU assessment of Target 13 indicates that the EU has implemented its obligations stemming from the [Nagoya Protocol](#), a supplementary agreement to the CBD, through the [EU ABS Regulation](#), and is working to raise awareness and build capacity.

Goal D: Invest and Collaborate

GBF Goal D covers the following elements:

- Adequate means of implementation, including financial resources, capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation, and access to and transfer of technology to fully implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework are secured and equitably accessible to all Parties, especially developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, progressively closing the biodiversity finance gap of \$700 billion per year, and aligning financial flows with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the 2050 Vision for biodiversity.

Progress to Goal D is to be enabled primarily (but not exclusively) through the delivery of KM GBF Targets 14 to 23, and measured on the basis of the following indicators:

[D.1 International public funding, including official development assistance \(ODA\) for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems](#)

[D.2 Domestic public funding on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems](#)

[D.3 Private funding \(domestic and international\) on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems](#)

Assessment of EU progress to GBF Goal D: The EU is on track to deliver on its commitment to double financing for global biodiversity, providing a major contribution to the achievement of Goal D. The EU has also made progress in mobilising domestic public funding for biodiversity (from the EU and national budgets), especially in 2022 and 2023. In recent years, attention and efforts have also focused on stepping up investments in biodiversity from all sources, while also identifying and reforming incentives harmful to biodiversity. For example, the EU continues work to develop positive incentives and reward private investments in nature, including in the context of the Roadmap towards nature credits and the Finance for Biodiversity Community of Practice under the [EU Business and Biodiversity Platform](#). Although the headline indicators for Goal D do not provide an assessment of other means of implementation, progress is envisioned amongst others through the recently launched European Subregional Technical and Scientific Cooperation Support Centre (TSCC). The TSCC will provide an important contribution to capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation and transfer of technology, both to Parties in the European Subregion and to other Technical Support Centres.

ANNEX V: CONCLUSIONS ON THE NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY AND THE KUNMING-MONTREAL GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

This section of the EU's 7NR to the CBD is contained in Chapters 2 and 3 of this document.

ANNEX VI: QUESTIONS FOR BINARY INDICATORS

Binary question B.b

Number of countries with policies or action plans for implementing and monitoring the sustainable use of biodiversity and the maintenance and enhancement of nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services.

B.1 Does your country have policies and/or action plans aiming to ensure the maintenance, enhancement and restoration of nature's contributions to people, including of ecosystem functions and services?

- No
- Under development
- Partially
- **Fully**

B.2 Does your country have policies and/or action plans aiming to ensure the sustainable use of biodiversity?

- No
- Under development
- **Partially**
- Fully

B.3 Does your country monitor the sustainable use of biodiversity?

- No
- Under development
- **Partially**
- Fully

B.4 Does your country monitor the maintenance, restoration and enhancement of nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services for the benefit of present and future generations?

- No
- Under development
- **Partially**
- Fully

Binary question 1.b

Number of countries using participatory, integrated and biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning and/or effective management processes addressing land- and sea-use change to bring the loss of areas of high biodiversity importance close to zero by 2030

1.1 Are all areas of your country under integrated and biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning or effective management processes that:

(a) Address land-use (terrestrial) change?

- No
- Under development
- **Partially**
- Fully

(b) Address land-use (inland water) change?

- No
- Under development
- Partially
- **Fully**

(c) Address sea-use (coastal and marine) change? (Will be considered not applicable to landlocked States)

- No
- Under development
- **Partially**
- Fully

1.2. If the answer to any of the questions in 1.1 is not “No”, were the plans created using a participatory process? (Select all that apply, noting that, if your country is a landlocked State, marine spatial planning will be considered as not relevant)

- **For terrestrial spatial planning**
- **For inland water planning**
- **For coastal and marine spatial planning**
- None of the above

Binary question 5.b

Number of countries with legal instruments or other policy frameworks for regulating trade in wild species

5.1 Does your country have legal instruments or other policy frameworks to regulate trade in wild species? (Select all that apply)

- **For terrestrial species**
- **For freshwater species**
- **For marine species**
- **For international trade**
- None of the above

Binary question 6.b

Number of countries adopting relevant regulations, processes and measures to reduce the impact of invasive alien species

6.1 Does your country have regulations and processes empowering relevant institutions to implement the measures necessary for a reduction in the introduction and impact of invasive alien species?

- No
- Under development
- Partially
- **Fully**

6.2 Does your country have measures in place for preventing the introduction and establishment of invasive alien species?

- No

- *Under development*
- *Partially*
- **Fully**

6.3 Does your country have measures in place for eradicating or controlling invasive alien species?

- *No*
- *Under development*
- *Partially*
- **Fully**

Binary question 8.b

Number of countries with policies to minimize the impact of climate change and ocean acidification on biodiversity and to minimize negative and foster positive impacts of climate action on biodiversity

8.1 Does your country's national biodiversity strategy and action plan include actions to prevent or minimize the impacts of the following (select all that apply)

- **Climate change**
- *Ocean acidification*
- *None of the above*

8.2 Do your country's climate change policies address the impacts of climate change on biodiversity?

- *No*
- *Under development*
- **Partially**
- *Fully*

8.3 Do your country's other policies address the impacts of climate change on biodiversity?

- *No*
- *Under development*
- **Partially**
- *Fully*

8.4 Do your country's other policies address the impacts of ocean acidification on biodiversity?

- *No*
- *Under development*
- **Partially**
- *Fully*

8.5 Are the impacts of climate change on biodiversity monitored and reported on?

- *No*
- *Under development*

- **Partially**
- Fully

8.6 Are the impact of ocean acidification on biodiversity monitored and reported on?

- No
- Under development
- **Partially**
- Fully

8.7 Do your country's policies or action plans on the impact of climate change and ocean acidification contain the following types of actions designed to increase biodiversity resilience or reduce impacts (select all that apply):

- **Mitigation**
- **Adaptation**
- **Disaster risk reduction**
- **Nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches**
- Policies to minimize negative and foster positive impacts of climate action on biodiversity
- Other
- None of the above

8.8 Are measures included in your country's policies of actions plans to minimize the negative impacts of climate change on biodiversity?

- No
- Under development
- **Partially**
- Fully

8.9 Are measures included in your country's policies or actions plans to foster positive impacts of climate actions on biodiversity?

- No
- Under development
- **Partially**
- Fully

Binary question 9.b

Number or countries with policies to manage the use of wild species sustainably, providing social, economic and environmental benefits for people, and to protect and encourage customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities

9.1 Does your country have legal instruments or other policy frameworks or administrative measures for the sustainable management and use of wild species?

- No
- Under development
- **Partially**

- *Fully*

9.2 Does your country monitor the sustainable management and use of wild species?

- *No*
- *Under development*
- ***Partially***
- *Fully*

9.3 Does your country monitor the social, economic and environmental benefits derived from the use of wild species for people, in particular those in vulnerable situations and most dependent on biodiversity? (Select all that apply)

- ***No***
- *Under development*
- *Partially*
- *Fully*

If the answer is “fully” or “partially”, disaggregate by all relevant groups of people, as determined at the national level:

- *Women and girls*
- *Children and youth*
- *People with disabilities*
- *Indigenous peoples and local communities*

9.4 Does your country have legal instruments or other policy frameworks to protect and encourage the customary sustainable use of biodiversity by indigenous peoples and local communities, for example, the plan of action on customary sustainable use of biological diversity or other relevant initiatives?

- *No*
- *Under development*
- *Partially*
- *Fully*
- ***Not applicable***

Binary question 12.b

Number of countries with biodiversity-inclusive urban planning referring to green or blue urban spaces

12.1 Does your country have urban areas under biodiversity-inclusive urban planning that incorporates the management of green or blue spaces for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity?

- *No*
- *Under development*
- ***Partially***

- Fully

12.2 Does your country have urban areas under biodiversity-inclusive urban planning incorporating the management of green or blue spaces for ecosystem services and nature's contributions to people?

- No
- Under development
- **Partially**
- Fully

Comments: while the EU has set a target for all towns above 20,000 inhabitants to have an urban greening plan, and has provided guidance, implementation is to take place at the sub-national level. There is currently no monitoring and reporting on progress towards the EU target.

Binary question 13.b

Number of countries that have taken effective legal, policy, administrative and capacity-building measures at all levels, as appropriate, to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the utilization of genetic resources and from digital sequence information on genetic resources, as well as traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources

13.1 Does your country have effective legal, administrative and policy measures to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits that arise from the utilization of genetic resources?

- No
- Under development
- Partially
- **Fully**
- Not applicable

13.2 Does your country have capacity-building measures to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits that arise from the utilization of genetic resources?

- No
- Under development
- Partially
- **Fully**
- Not applicable

13.3 Has your country taken administrative, policy or legislative measures pursuant to the operationalization of the multilateral mechanism in decision 16/2?

- No
- **Under development**
- Partially
- Fully
- Not applicable

13.4 Do the measures mentioned in questions 13.1 and 13.2 include the utilization of traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources?

- No
- Under development
- Partially
- **Fully**
- Not applicable

13.5 Does your country monitor the monetary benefits received from the utilization of genetic resources and/or traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources that were accessed from your country?

- No
- Under development
- Partially
- Fully
- **Not applicable**

13.6 Does your country monitor the non-monetary benefits received from the utilization of genetic resources and/or traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources that were accessed from your country?

- No
- Under development
- Partially
- Fully
- **Not applicable**

13.7 Does your country have measures to ensure the fair and equitable benefit-sharing arising from the utilization of genetic resources and/or traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources that were accessed in another country?

- No
- Under development
- Partially
- **Fully**
- Not applicable

Binary question 14.b

Number of countries integrating biodiversity and its multiple values into policies, regulations, planning, development processes, poverty eradication strategies and, as appropriate, national accounts, within and across all levels and across all sectors, and progressively aligning all relevant public and private activities and fiscal and financial flows with the goals and targets of the Framework

14.1 Does your country integrate biodiversity and its multiple values into policies, regulations, planning, development processes and poverty eradication strategies at all levels of government?

- No
- Under development

- **Partially**
- *Fully*

14.2 *Does your country use environmental economic accounting to quantify the monetary and non-monetary values of biodiversity?*

- *No*
- *Under development*
- **Partially**
- *Fully*

14.3 *Does your country integrate biodiversity and its multiple values into policies, regulations, plans and strategies across all sectors to ensure their mainstreaming?*

- *No*
- *Under development*
- **Partially**
- *Fully*

If fully or partially, list all sectors concerned, as determined at the national level (optional):

- **Agriculture**
- **Fisheries**
- **Forestry**
- **Aquaculture**
- **Finance**
- *Tourism*
- *Health*
- **Infrastructure**
- **Energy**
- **Mining**
- *Manufacturing and processing*
- *Other*

14.4 *Does your country have policies, regulations, strategies or plans in place to progressively align all relevant public and private activities with the goals and targets of the Framework?*

- *No*
- *Under development*
- **Partially**
- *Fully*

14.5 Are policies, regulations, strategies or plans in place to progressively align fiscal and financial flows with the goals and targets of the Framework?

- No
- **Under development**
- Partially
- Fully

Binary question 15.b

Number of countries with legal, administrative or policy measures aimed at encouraging and enabling business and financial institutions, and in particular for large and transnational companies and financial institutions, to progressively reduce their negative impacts on biodiversity, increase their positive impacts, reduce their biodiversity-related risks and promote actions to ensure sustainable patterns of production

15.1 Has your country put in place legal, administrative or policy measures to ensure that large and transnational companies and financial institutions monitor, assess and transparently disclose their risks, dependencies and impacts on biodiversity along their operations, supply and value chains, and portfolios?

- No
- Under development
- **Partially**
- Fully

15.2 Has your country put in place measures to ensure that large and transnational companies and financial institutions provide relevant information to consumers to promote sustainable consumption patterns?

- No
- Under development
- **Partially**
- Fully

15.3 Has your country put in place measures to ensure that large and transnational companies and financial institutions report on compliance with access and benefit-sharing regulations?

- No
- Under development
- Partially
- **Fully**

15.4 Has your country put in place measures to ensure that large and transnational companies and financial institutions progressively reduce their negative impacts on biodiversity and increase their positive impacts?

- No
- Under development
- **Partially**

- *Fully*

15.5 *Does your country monitor whether negative impacts from business on biodiversity have progressively decreased?*

- *No*
- *Under development*
- ***Partially***
- *Fully*

Binary question 16.b

Number of countries developing, adopting or implementing policy instruments aimed at encouraging and enabling people to make sustainable consumption choices

16.1 *Has your country established mechanisms, policy or legislative or regulatory frameworks aimed at supporting sustainable consumption?*

- *No*
- *Under development*
- *Partially*
- ***Fully***

16.2 *Has your country adopted mechanisms to improve awareness or education with regard to the impacts of consumption on biodiversity and access to relevant and accurate information or alternatives supporting sustainable consumption?*

- *No*
- *Under development*
- *Partially*
- ***Fully***

16.3 *Has your country adopted or implemented policy instruments aimed at encouraging and enabling people to make sustainable consumption choices, including by reducing food waste, overconsumption and waste generation?*

- *No*
- *Under development*
- *Partially*
- ***Fully***

Binary question 17.b

Number of countries that have taken action to implement biosafety measures as set out in Article 8(g) of the Convention and measures for the handling of biotechnology and the distribution of its benefits as set out in Article 19

17.1 *Has your country established biosafety-related policy, legal, administrative and other measures as set out in Article 8(g) of the Convention?*

- *No*
- *Under development*

- *Partially*
- **Fully**

17.2 Does your country implement biosafety measures as set out in Article 8(g) of the Convention?

- *No*
- *Under development*
- *Partially*
- **Fully**

17.3 Has your country taken legislative, administrative or policy measures, as appropriate, to provide for the effective participation in biotechnological research activities by those Parties, especially developing countries, that provide the genetic resources for such research, as set out in paragraph 1 of Article 19 of the Convention?

- **No**
- *Under development*
- *Partially*
- *Fully*

Note: Such measures are to be taken at EU Member State level

17.4 Has your country taken practicable measures to promote and advance priority access on a fair and equitable basis by Parties, especially developing countries, to the results and benefits arising from biotechnologies based on genetic resources provided by those Parties, as set out in paragraph 2 of Article 19 of the Convention?

- **No**
- *Under development*
- *Partially*
- *Fully*

Note: Such measures are to be taken at EU Member State level

17.5 Does your country carry out scientifically sound risk assessments on the use and release of living modified organisms?

- *No*
- *Under development*
- *Partially*
- **Fully**

17.6 Does your country provide access to biosafety-related information for the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms?

- *No*
- *Under development*
- *Partially*
- **Fully**

Binary question 20.b

Number of countries that have taken significant action to strengthen capacity-building and development and access to and transfer of technology, and to promote the development of and access to innovation and technical and scientific cooperation

20.1 Does your country have plans, policies or instruments for addressing capacity-building and development needs for biodiversity?

- No
- Under development
- **Partially**
- Fully

20.2 Does your country have measures to ensure the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and girls, children and youth and people with disabilities in capacity-building and development for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity? (Select all that apply)

- **Women and girls**
- **Children and youth**
- **People with disabilities**
- **Indigenous peoples and local communities**
- Others

20.3 Has your country undertaken a national capacity self-assessment or other processes for assessing the capacity needs for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity?

- No
- Under development
- **Partially**
- Fully

The EU-funded project [COOP4CBD](#), in collaboration with the EC KCBD, has been conducting an assessment of the capacity building need of the 44 European countries supported by the European Subregional Technical and Scientific Cooperation Support Centre (TSCC) as well as a series of [capacity-building and training events](#) for CBD National Focal Points, negotiators, researchers and other experts on CBD processes, meetings and agenda items, and also delivered a training manual and session for the CBD's Bioland tool supporting national Clearing House Mechanism (CHM) sites.

20.4 Has your country undertaken a national assessment of the capacity-building and development needs of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and girls, children and youth and people with disabilities for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity? (Select all that apply)

- **Women and girls**
- **Children and youth**
- People with disabilities

- *Indigenous peoples and local communities*
- *Others*

Note: The above assessment conducted by [COOP4CBD](#) , in collaboration with the EC KCBD, has been able to engage only with two of the 4 groups and further assessments should be conducted soon.

20.5 Has your country established partnerships to foster joint technology development and joint scientific research programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and strengthening scientific research and monitoring capabilities, including through South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation?

- *No*
- *Under development*
- *Partially*
- ***Fully***

(Specify for each type of partnership (optional))

Note: The EU has been developing many international partnerships as documented in Section i. The EC KCBD, in its capacity of European subregional Technical and Scientific Cooperation Centre (TSCCs), is further regularly engaging with other subregional TSCCs and in collaboration with the Global Coordination Entity.

Binary question 22.b

Number of countries taking action towards the full, equitable, inclusive, effective and gender-responsive representation and participation in decision-making and access to justice and information related to biodiversity by indigenous peoples and local communities, respecting their cultures and their rights over lands, territories, resources and traditional knowledge, as well as by women and girls, children and youth, and persons with disabilities, and the full protection of environmental human rights defenders

22.1 Does your country have policy, legislative and administrative frameworks at the national and subnational levels that:

(a) Ensure full, equitable, inclusive, effective and gender-responsive representation and participation in biodiversity decision-making related to biodiversity of the following (select all that apply):

- *Indigenous peoples and local communities*
- ***Women and girls***
- ***Children and youth***
- ***People with disabilities***
- *Others*

(b) Respect the following rights and cultures of indigenous peoples and local communities (select all that apply):

- *Culture and practices*
- *Rights over lands and territories*
- *Rights over resources*

- *Rights over traditional knowledge*
- **Not applicable**

(c) *Ensure the full protection of environmental human rights defenders?*

- **No**
- *Yes*

(d) *Ensure public access to information related to biodiversity for the following (select all that apply):*

- **Indigenous peoples and local communities**
- **Women and girls**
- **Children and youth**
- **People with disabilities**
- *Others*

(e) *Provide access to justice for one or more of the following categories (select all that apply):*

- **Indigenous peoples and local communities**
- **Women and girls**
- **Children and youth**
- **People with disabilities**
- *Others*

22.2 *Does your country have operational frameworks and mechanisms related to the policy, legislative and administrative frameworks listed under question 22.1?*

- *No*
- *Under development*
- *Partially*
- **Fully**

22.3 *Does your country monitor the following:*

(a) *The full, equitable, inclusive, effective and gender-responsive representation and participation in biodiversity decision-making of the following (select all that apply):*

- *Indigenous peoples and local communities*
- *Women and girls*
- *Children and youth*
- *People with disabilities*
- **Others**

(b) *The following culture and rights of indigenous peoples and local communities (select all that apply):*

- *Culture and practices*
- *Rights over lands and territories*
- *Rights over resources*
- *Rights over traditional knowledge*
- **Not applicable**

(c) *The full protection of environmental human rights defenders?*

- **No**
- Yes

Binary question 23.b

Number of countries with legal, administrative or policy frameworks, inter alia, to implement the Gender Plan of Action (2023–2030), to ensure that all women and girls have equal opportunity and capacity to contribute to the three objectives of the Convention, including by ensuring women’s equal rights and access to land and natural resources

23.1 Does your country have mechanisms for facilitating the full, equitable, meaningful and informed participation and leadership of all women and girls at all levels of action, engagement, policy and decision-making related to biodiversity?

- No
- Under development
- **Partially**
- Fully

23.2 Has your country adopted legal, administrative or policy measures that explicitly recognize and protect the rights and access of all women and girls to land and natural resources?

- No
- Under development
- Partially
- **Fully**

23.3 Does your country explicitly apply a gender-responsive approach and recognize the contributions and roles of women and girls in its implementation of the Framework through its national reports or its national biodiversity strategy and action plan?

- No
- Under development
- **Partially**
- Fully

23.4 Does your country conduct sex-disaggregated data collection and analyses to assess the differential impacts of biodiversity policies and programmes?

- No
- Under development
- **Partially**
- Fully

ANNEX VII: ABBREVIATIONS

7NR	7 th National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity
AAM	Aquaculture Assistance Mechanism
ABS	Access and benefit-sharing
ABS CH	Access and benefit-sharing Clearing House
ACP	African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States
ATAT	Aggregated Total Applied Toxicity
BBNJ	Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction
BIOFIN	Biodiversity Finance Initiative
BISE	Biodiversity Information System for Europe
CAP	Common Agricultural Policy
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CFP	Common Fisheries Policy
CHM	Clearing House Mechanism
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CMS	Convention on Migratory Species
COOP4CBD	Cooperation for the Convention on Biological Diversity
COP	Conference of the Parties
COVID	Corona Virus Disease
CSP	CAP Strategic Plan
CSRD	Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive
DFI	Development Finance Institution
DG	Directorate-General
DG ENV	Directorate-General for Environment
DG INTPA	Directorate-General for International Partnerships
DNSH	Do-No-Significant-Harm principle
DSA	Digital Services Act
DSI	Digital Sequence Information
8 th EAP	8 th Environment Action Programme
EASIN	European Alien Species Information Network
EBOCC	Biodiversity Observation Coordination Centre
ECHA	European Chemicals Agency
EC KCBD	European Commission Knowledge Centre for Biodiversity
EEA	European Environment Agency
EFSA	European Food Safety Authority
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIB	European Investment Bank
EIONET	European Environment Information and Observation Network
EIR	Environmental Implementation Review
ELD	Environmental Liability Directive
EMFAF	European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund Regulation

EO	Earth Observation
EPR	extended producer responsibility
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund
ESRS	European Sustainability Reporting Standards
ESPR	Regulation on Ecodesign for Sustainable Products
ETS	Emissions Trading System
EU	European Union
EUDR	EU Deforestation Regulation
EUR	Euro (currency)
Eurostat	Statistical office of the EU
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FAQ	Frequently Asked Questions
FISE	Forest Information System for Europe
FISMA	Financial Stability, Financial Services, and Capital Markets Union
FMSY	Fishing Mortality at Maximum Sustainable Yield
GAEC	Good Agricultural and Environmental Conditions (EU standard)
GAP	Gender Action Plan
GBF	Global Biodiversity Framework
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GES	Good Environmental Status
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GM	genetically modified
GMO	genetically modified organism
GPP	Green Public Procurement
GreenComp	European competence framework on sustainability
HELCOM	Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission
IAS	Invasive Alien Species
ICT	Information and communications technology
IED 2.0	Industrial and Livestock Rearing Emissions Directive
INCA	Integrated System of Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services Accounting
IPA	Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IPBES	Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
JRC	Joint Research Centre
KCBD	Knowledge Centre for Biodiversity
KCEO	Knowledge Centre on Earth Observation
KM GBF	Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
LIFE programme	Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (L'Instrument Financier pour l'Environnement)
LULUCF	Regulation on land, land use change and forestry
MAES2IPBES	Second European Assessment on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreement
MFF	Multiannual Financial Framework
MPA	Marine Protected Area
MSFD	Marine Strategy Framework Directive
MSP	Maritime Spatial Planning
MSPD	Maritime Spatial Planning Directive
NACE	European Classification of Economic Activities
NbS	Nature-based Solutions
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NEC	National Emissions reduction Commitments
NDICI	Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument
NGO	Nongovernmental Organization
NRP	Nature Restoration Plan
NRR	Nature Restoration Regulation
ODA	official development assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OECMs	Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures
PAF	Prioritised Action Framework
PFAS	per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (class of chemicals)
PFOS	Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (one chemical from the PFAS class)
PM2.5	particulate matter with a diameter of 2.5 micrometres or less
PoPs	Persistent Organic Pollutants
R&I	Research and Innovation
RBMP	River Basin Management Plans
REA	European Research Executive Agency
REACH	Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals
RRF	Recovery and Resilience Facility
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SEEA-EA	System of Environmental Economic Accounting - Ecosystem Accounting
SFDR	Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation
SLAPP	Strategic lawsuits against public participation
SME	Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
STEM	Science, technology, engineering and mathematics
SWD	EU Commission Staff Working Document
TFEU	Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union
TSCC	Subregional Technical and Scientific Cooperation Support Centre
TSI	EU Technical Support Instrument
UN	United Nations
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
WAVES	Wealth Accounting and the Valuation of Ecosystem Services
WFD	Water Framework Directive
WISE	Water Information System for Europe

