



The EU Biodiversity Strategy

Protected area targets

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Understanding OECMs to achieve the 30 by 30 target

EBCD, Brussels, 29 September 2023

EU policy context



- **Legal obligations: EU Birds and Habitats Directives** - designate and effectively manage Natura 2000 sites and protect species; the **MSFD** - achieve good environmental status; the **CFP regulations**
- **EU Biodiversity strategy for 2030:** legally and effectively protect **30%** of EU seas, strictly protect **10%**, EU nature restoration plan
- **Global biodiversity framework** (Kunming-Montreal) targets
- **Nature restoration law proposal:** legally binding targets for restoration of marine ecosystems
- **Fisheries package:** fisheries and oceans pact
- **Marine action plan:** conserve sensitive species and protect the seabed
- **Climate policy and climate law**

EU Biodiversity strategy – targets for 2030

- **Coherent trans-European nature network:**
 - Legally protect **at least 30%** of the European Union's sea area
 - **Strictly protect** at least a third of the EU's marine protected areas
 - **Effectively manage** all protected areas, defining clear conservation objectives and measures, and monitoring them appropriately
- **Nature restoration plan:**
 - Stronger action to restore degraded marine ecosystems, including **carbon-rich ecosystems** and **important fish spawning and nursery areas**
 - **Nature restoration law proposal** - legally binding restoration targets, including for the marine environment

EU Action Plan: Protecting and restoring marine ecosystems for sustainable and resilient fisheries

Why?

- **State of seas** and **sustainability** of fisheries
- Bridge **fisheries** and **environment** worlds
- Builds on **existing fisheries** and **environmental** legislation

What?

- Improve **gear selectivity** and address **bycatch** of **sensitive species**
- Protect the **seabed**
- **Transition** and **knowledge**
- **Governance**

Global Biodiversity Framework

- Effective conservation and management of **at least 30% of the world's** lands, inland waters, **coastal areas and oceans**, with emphasis on areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functioning and services. The GBF prioritizes **ecologically-representative, well-connected and equitably-governed systems of protected areas** and other **effective area-based conservation**, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories and practices.
- Have **restoration completed or underway on at least 30% of degraded** terrestrial, inland waters, and **coastal and marine ecosystems**.

MPAs and OECMs

- **Marine protected areas** are the fundamental tool for conservation of marine biodiversity. **OECMs** are also increasingly recognised as a tool to contribute to that objective.
- **MPAs cover 12% of EU seas. 75% of MPAs are part of the Natura 2000 network** under EU nature legislation; additional areas protected under regional seas conventions or national law. **No wide use of OECMs so far.**
- Existing MPA network **not sufficiently large/coherent** to safeguard biodiversity.
- **Effective management is essential** to ensure protection and restoration of marine ecosystems and to deliver **important socio-economic benefits** through enhanced ecosystem services.

Biodiversity strategy - protected area targets

- **Criteria and guidelines** for identification and designation of additional protected areas (SWD(2022)23 final).
- Need for new protected areas to concentrate on **areas of very high biodiversity value or potential**.
- Designation of additional protected and strictly protected areas, either to complete the Natura 2000 network or under national protection schemes, including the spatial protection measures to comply with the Water and Marine Strategy Framework Directives, will be a **responsibility of the Member States**.
- All protected areas should have **clearly defined conservation objectives and measures**.

OECMs and Biodiversity strategy targets

- OECMs to be designated/recognised by Member States **in accordance with the CBD criteria and existing guidance** (e.g. IUCN).
- **OECMs can be counted towards the EU target if:**
 - the area is covered by a national or international legislative or administrative act or a contractual arrangement **aiming to achieve long-term conservation outcomes;**
 - **conservation objectives and measures** are in place; and
 - **effective management and monitoring** of the biodiversity in the area is in place.

Pledges for Biodiversity strategy targets

- The initial **pledges of Member States** related to protected areas designations/OECMs will be discussed in the framework of regional biogeographical seminars with the participation of national authorities, relevant stakeholders and experts.
 - Atlantic and Macaronesia: 11-13 October, Ireland
 - Baltic Sea: 8-10 November, Latvia
 - Mediterranean and the Black Sea: beginning 2024 (tbc)
- The Commission will **evaluate the progress by 2024** and decide whether stronger action, including EU legislation, is needed.

Pledges for protected area targets

- Until 22/09/2023, six Member States have provided pledges for the Biodiversity strategy targets: Cyprus, Denmark, Germany, Luxembourg, Spain and Sweden.
- Only Denmark and Sweden have made pledges for the Protected Area targets.
- No existing marine OECMs reported, no new OECMs proposed.

Thank you



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