Structure of the EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy

**2050 VISION**

2020 headline target
*halt biodiversity loss – restore ecosystem services – global contribution*

**SIX TARGETS**

1. Enhance implementation of nature legislation
2. Restore ecosystems establish Green Infrastructure
3. Sustainable agriculture and forestry
4. Sustainable fisheries
5. Combat Alien Invasive Species
6. Contribute to averting global biodiversity loss

**ACTIONS**
Knowledge base

**Action 5**
- Mapping and assessment of ecosystems and services (by 2014)
- Economic value assessment and integration into accounting and reporting systems (by 2020)

Policy tools

**Action 6a**
- Restoration and prioritisation framework (by 2014)

**Action 7a**
- Biodiversity proofing methodology (by 2014)

Policy initiatives

**Action 6b**
- Green Infrastructure Strategy (by 2012)

**Action 7b**
- No Net Loss initiative (by 2015)

Target 2
By 2020 ecosystems and their services are maintained and enhanced by establishing green infrastructure and restoring at least 15% of degraded ecosystems

Baseline
Commission Mid Term Review (Oct 2015)

- Mid Term, not Mid Way
- Ongoing loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services
- Many success examples
- Upscaling
Target 2: Maintain and restore ecosystems and their services

- Progress on policy (EU Green Infrastructure Strategy) and knowledge base improvement (MAES)
- Some restoration activities in Member States
- However, degradation of ecosystems and services continues
- Challenges until 2020: develop and implement national and regional frameworks to promote restoration and green infrastructure;
Action 6b
The EU’s Green Infrastructure Strategy

- Issued 2013
- Made up of four main elements:
  - Promoting Green Infrastructure in main EU policy areas
  - Supporting EU-level GI projects
  - Improving access to finance for GI projects
  - Improving information and promoting innovation
What is Green Infrastructure

Green Infrastructure

- A **strategically planned network** of natural and semi-natural areas with other environmental features designed and managed to deliver a **wide range of ecosystem services** (in terrestrial, aquatic, coastal & marine environments)

- The structure enabling healthy ecosystems to deliver their multiple, valuable, economically important goods and services to people, such as: clean water and air, carbon storage, pollination etc., mitigation and adaptation to climate change
Natura 2000 is at the core of GI

- > 27,000 Sites
- > 1,000,000 km²
- > 18% EU terr.
- ~5% EU Marine
National Ecological Networks
Local Initiatives
Transnational Initiatives

*In accordance with UNSCR 1044 and opinion of ICI

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MAES

Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystems and their Services

An analytical framework for ecosystem assessments under Action 5 of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020

Final May 2018

Figure 4.2.1. The key areas of the regional green infrastructure in the Helsinki-Uusimaa Region.

TEEB

KIP-INCA

B@B

NCP
GI relevant for

✓ **Biodiversity** (connecting PAs, priority areas for conservation and restoration)
✓ **Economic Growth**
✓ **Social and Cultural Policy**
✓ **Health**
✓ **Climate Change** *mitigation & adaptation*
✓ **Urban policy**
✓ **Spatial Planning**
✓ ...
- Existing EU Funds
  - LIFE, ENPI, ERDF, INTERREG, EAFRD, Horizon 2020...

- NCFF

- Biodiversity tracking and proofing

- MFF and CAP review

- Innovative Instruments, (PES,...)

- TEN-G?
Possible TEN-G instrument

- Making GI a policy and funding priority inspired by TEN-T or TEN-E and CEF
- Could be an important flagship for promoting GI at national, regional and local levels
- Not yet developed and validated
GI and Green Belt

- **GBI key example of GI and pot. TEN-G**
- **Combining biodiversity, cultural, economic and social benefits**
- **Symbol of for transboundary cooperation to promote Europe’s shared natural and cultural heritage**
Green Infrastructure

What is Green Infrastructure?

Green Infrastructure is addressing the spatial structure of natural and semi-natural areas but also other environmental features which enable citizens to benefit from its multiple services. The underlying principle of Green Infrastructure is that the same area of land can frequently offer multiple benefits if its ecosystems are in a healthy state. Green Infrastructure investments are generally characterized by a high level of return over time, provide job opportunities, and can be a cost-effective alternative to ‘grey’ infrastructure and intensive land use change. It serves the interests of both people and nature.

The Commission has produced a brochure explaining the main issues of Green Infrastructure. More detailed background on Green Infrastructure, including relevant studies with best practice examples, can be found here.

For illustrations of the Green Infrastructure concept click here.

An EU-wide strategy on Green Infrastructure: Enhancing Europe’s Natural Capital

The Commission has adopted a Green Infrastructure Strategy, ‘to promote the deployment of green infrastructure in the EU in urban and rural areas’.

- Communication from the Commission: Green Infrastructure (G)I (COM(2013) 249 Final)
- Accompanying document:
  - Commission staff working paper: Technical information (SEC(2013) 155 final)
- Press release
- Video News Release

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/ecosystems/index_en.htm
http://biodiversity.europa.eu ➔ Topics ➔ Responses ➔ Green Infrastructure