

BALTIC 4th FORUM MSP

1-2 JUNE 2021, ONLINE

WORKSHOP 4: GOOD ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS OF THE BALTIC SEA

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EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030

Bringing nature back into our lives

Biodiversity is essential for life. Our planet and the economy depend on it. When nature is healthy, it protects and provides

- We are losing nature like never before because of unsustainable human activities.**

Objective

The biodiversity strategy aims to put Europe's biodiversity on the path to recovery by 2030 for the benefit of people, climate and the planet.

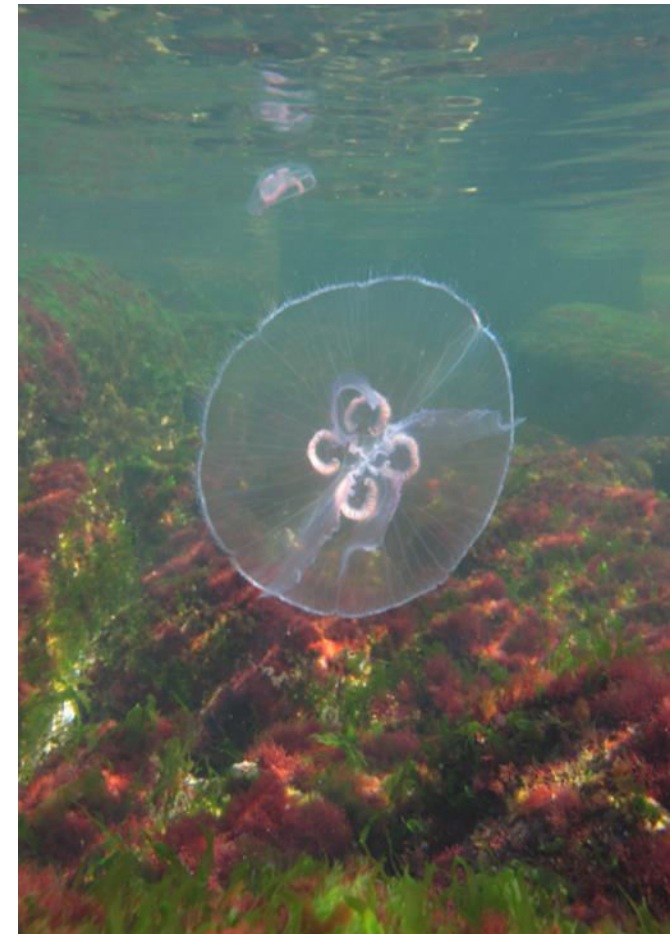


Photo: Metsähallitus

Establishing a larger EU-wide network of protected areas on land and at sea

1. Legally protect a minimum of 30% of the EU's land area and **30% of the EU's sea area** and integrate ecological corridors, as part of a true Trans-European Nature Network.
2. Strictly protect at least a third of the EU's protected areas e.g. 'carbon-rich' ecosystems such as sea-grass meadows are recommended for strict protection at seas.
3. Effectively manage all protected areas, defining clear conservation objectives and measures, and monitoring them appropriately.



Photo: Metsähallitus

Launching an EU nature restoration plan

Through concrete commitments and actions, the EU aims to restore degraded ecosystems by 2030 and manage them sustainably, addressing the key drivers of biodiversity loss.

- As part of this plan, the Commission will propose **binding nature restoration targets by the end of 2021.**

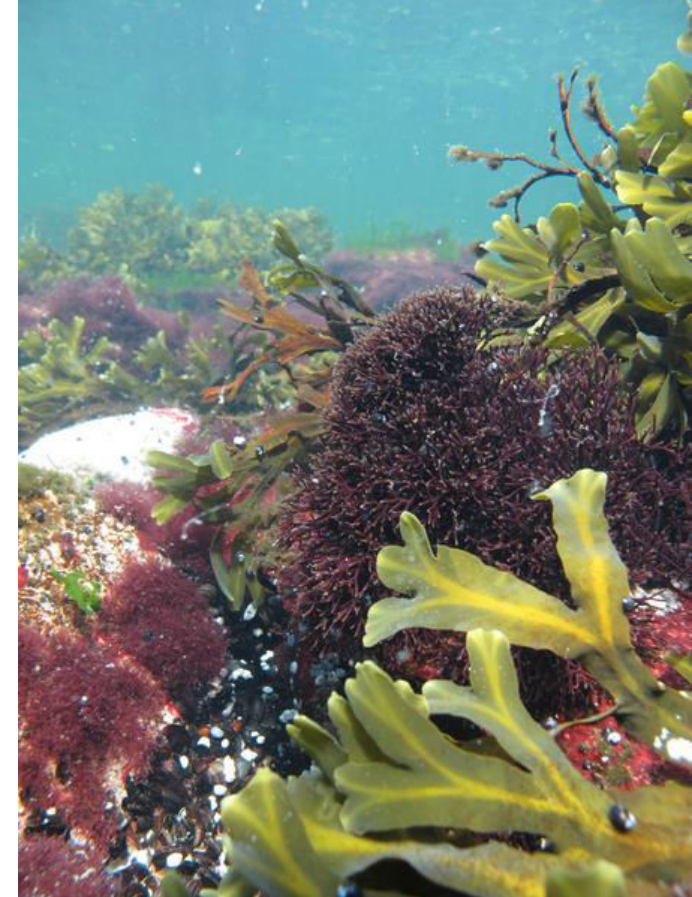


Photo: Metsähallitus



EU Nature Restoration Plan: key commitments by 2030 (marine related)

- 1. Legally binding EU nature restoration targets to be proposed in 2021, subject to an impact assessment. By 2030, significant areas of degraded and carbon-rich ecosystems are restored; habitats and species show no deterioration in conservation trends and status; and at least 30% reach favourable conservation status or at least show a positive trend.**
3. The risk and use of chemical pesticides is reduced by 50% and the use of more hazardous pesticides is reduced by 50%.
8. At least 25,000 km of free-flowing rivers are restored.
9. There is a 50% reduction in the number of Red List species threatened by invasive alien species
10. The losses of nutrients from fertilisers are reduced by 50%, resulting in the reduction of the use of fertilisers by at least 20%.
11. Cities with at least 20,000 inhabitants have an ambitious Urban Greening Plan.
- 13. The negative impacts on sensitive species and habitats, including on the seabed through fishing and extraction activities, are substantially reduced to achieve good environmental status.**
- 14. The by-catch of species is eliminated or reduced to a level that allows species recovery and conservation**

Restoring the good environmental status of marine ecosystems

- **Restored and properly protected marine ecosystems**
- Marine resources must be harvested sustainably and there must be **zero-tolerance for illegal practices**.
- **National maritime spatial plans**, should aim at covering all maritime sectors and activities, as well as area-based conservation-management measures.
- **A new action plan to conserve fisheries resources and protect marine ecosystems by 2021**. Where necessary, measures will be introduced to limit the use of fishing gear most harmful to biodiversity, including on the seabed.



Photo: Essi Lakso/Metsähallitus

Restoring the good environmental status of marine ecosystems

- Healthy fish stocks are key to the long-term prosperity of fishermen and the health of our oceans and biodiversity. This makes it all the more important to **maintain or reduce fishing mortality at or under Maximum Sustainable Yield level**
- The **by-catch of species** threatened with extinction must also be **eliminated or reduced** to a level that allows full recovery
- In addition, **fisheries-management measures must be established in all marine protected areas according to clearly defined conservation objectives** and on the basis of the best available scientific advice.



Photo: Metsähallitus



Introducing measures to enable the necessary transformative change

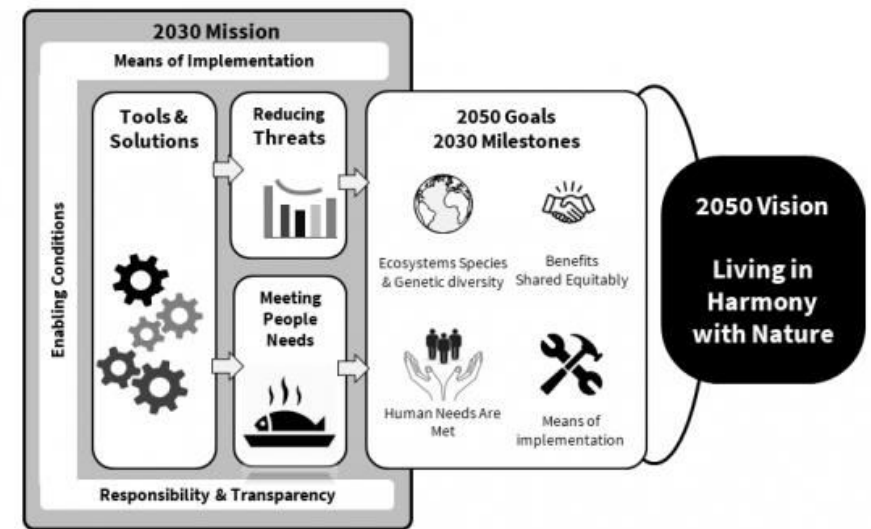
The strategy highlights **unlocking funding** for biodiversity, and setting in motion a new, strengthened governance framework to

- ensure **better implementation** and **track progress**
- improve **knowledge, financing and investments**
- better **respecting nature in public and business decision-making**

Unlock 20 billion EUR/year for biodiversity through various sources, including EU funds, national and private funding. Natural capital and biodiversity considerations will be integrated into business practices.

Introducing measures to enable the necessary transformative change

The Commission will mobilise all tools of external action and international partnerships for an ambitious new UN Global Biodiversity Framework at the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2021.



The role of MSP considering the EU Biodiversity strategy for 2030

- **MPAs are not designated through the MSP processes, not always even area reservations for MPAs**
 - see e.g. Trouillet and Jay (2021) [Marine Policy, 127](#)
- **The 30% conservation goal is a possible game changer also for the MSP**
 - 30% is a lot and 10% strict is very ambitious!
 - Area designations in MSP should not contradict with the conservation targets
 - The most valuable biodiversity areas are typically in shallow/near-shore areas – and so are many of the other interest, too!



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Delivering MSP Interactions and Capacities Across All Levels

