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# The EU Green Infrastructure Strategy

## Update on EU actions



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## 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

**addressing main drivers of biodiversity loss and aiming to reduce key pressures**

### ACTIONS

**specific, partly time-bound measures**





## Target 2 maintain and restore ecosystems and their services

***Objective:** By 2020, maintain and enhance ecosystems and their services, within and beyond protected areas, by:*

- Improving **knowledge of Ecosystems and their services** in EU (Action 5)
- **Restoring at least 15% of degraded ecosystems** (Action 6a)
- Establishing '**Green Infrastructure**' throughout the EU (Action 6b)
- Ensure **no net loss** of biodiversity and ES



## Action 6b: The EU's Green Infrastructure Strategy

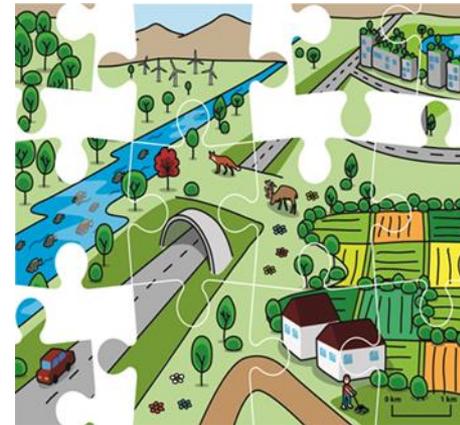
- Policy context: **EU Biodiversity strategy to 2020; 7<sup>th</sup> EAP** (1<sup>st</sup> priority "to protect, conserve and enhance the Union's natural capital")
- **The EU GI Strategy (2013)** is made up of four main elements:
  - I. **Promoting Green Infrastructure in main EU policy areas**
  - II. **Supporting EU-level GI projects**
  - III. **Improving access to finance for GI projects**
  - IV. **Improving information and promoting innovation**

# What is Green Infrastructure

➤ A strategically planned network of natural and semi-natural areas with other environmental features designed and managed to deliver 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

***Spatial and functional structure delivering nature benefits to people***





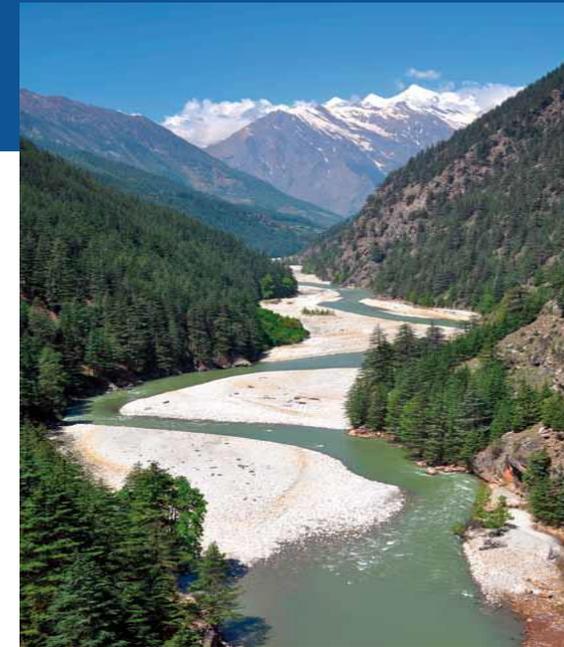
## I) Promoting Green Infrastructure through EU's main policy areas: ex: Urban GI

- *Urban GI provides multiple solutions in cost-effective way*
- *EU develops knowledge on urban GI: already proposes **flexible indicator framework** to support assessment of urban ecosystems condition and their services in cities across the EU:*  
[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/knowledge/ecosystem\\_assessment/pdf/102.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/knowledge/ecosystem_assessment/pdf/102.pdf)
- *Next phase: testing further the methodology with more cities across the EU (2017-18): 'EnRoute' project*



## 2) Supporting EU-level GI projects

- **Action Plan for nature, people and the economy** COM(2017) 198 final
- 4 priority areas of Action (2017-2019)
- Improving guidance and knowledge and ensuring better coherence with broader socio-economic objectives
- Building political ownership and strengthening compliance
- Strengthening investment in Natura 2000 and improving synergies with EU funding instruments
- Better communication and outreach, engaging citizens, stakeholders and communities



Major rivers and transboundary mountain ranges are obvious candidates for EU-level GI projects.

**N2000:** Backbone of a possible future EU-level GI network.

**The Green Belt Initiative :** very good regional illustration of what a GI network should achieve at wider EU scale

## Action 12: Provide guidance to support the deployment of GI for better connectivity of N2000 Network

- *Nature Fitness Check: N2000 alone cannot deliver Directives' objectives. GI measures needed, incl. to ensure coherence of N2000 network, whilst delivering multiple benefits through enhanced ecosystem services*
- *COM to develop **guidance** for further supporting **EU-level Green Infrastructure projects** that contribute to the goals of the Nature Directives, so as to enhance the delivery of essential ecosystem services throughout EU territory (by mid-2018).*

## 4) Improving information and promoting innovation (1)

- **To Improve the knowledge of ecosystems and their services in EU:** *Action 5 of the Biodiversity Strategy*
- Member States, with assistance of the Commission, are required to **map** and assess state of **ecosystems** and their **services** in their national territory by 2014, assess economic value of such services, and promote integration of these values into accounting and reporting systems at EU and national level by 2020.  
<http://biodiversity.europa.eu/maes>

## 4) Improving information and promoting innovation (2)

- *'The Commission will also assess the contribution technical standards, particularly in relation to physical building blocks and procedures, could make to 'growing the market' for GI-friendly products.'*



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# More info on DG ENV & BISE webpages

**ENVIRONMENT**

European Commission Environment Nature & Biodiversity

Home | Who's who | Policies | Integration | Funding | Law | Resources | News & Developments

**NATURE & BIODIVERSITY**

- EU Biodiversity Policy
- EU Nature Legislation
- Natura 2000 Network
- Species protection
- Green Infrastructure
- Invasive Alien Species
- Climate Change
- Partnerships
- Knowledge Base
- Information

**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 or be complementary 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](#) [COM(2013) 249 final]
- Accompanying document:
  - Commission staff working paper: [Technical information](#) [SEC(2013)145 final]
- Press release
- Video News Release

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**EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020**

**Our life insurance, our natural capital**

The protection, conservation and enhancement of the Union's natural capital is one of the 9 priority objectives of the 7th General Union Environment Action Programme to 2020: Living well, within the limits of our planet.

BISE is contributing to the improvement of the knowledge and evidence base for the European Union's environmental policy.

**BISE Highlights**

- Towards the 2020 biodiversity targets: Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystems and their Services (MAES)
- BISE - CRMs network of Europe
- Interactive presentation of EU Biodiversity Strategy Overview

**2184** days to meet the EU Biodiversity Strategy targets

**BISE CATALOGUE**

Other European information systems

- BISE
- CLIMATE-ADAPT

**ACCESS TO FULL CATALOGUE**

**News - Europe**

- LIFE, 07 Jan 2015: Finnish Samois Seal LIFE project was successfully awarded
- LIFE, 06 Jan 2015: Call for ideas - Pilot / demonstration projects Horizon 2020: Climate Action, Environment, Resource Efficiency and Raw Materials
- LIFE, 05 Jan 2015: Red-breasted goose links Bulgarian and Hungarian LIFE projects
- LIFE, 01 Jan 2015: Red-breasted goose links Bulgarian and Hungarian LIFE projects
- EC, 01 Jan 2015: AVE-dispersant drug affects wild sturgeon feeding behaviour
- EC, 01 Jan 2015: Deeper seafloor habitats most at risk from bottom trawling

**News - World**

- CBD, 16 Jan 2015: How to protect biodiversity for the rest of a cup of coffee
- CBD, 16 Dec 2014: 5 ways to 'let' soil toward democratic natural resources management
- CBD, 19 Dec 2014: Development urges on, but at what cost?
- CBD, 07 Jan 2015: Exploit organic agriculture, Uganda advised
- CBD, 18 Dec 2014: Farmers in New South Wales give measured response to biodiversity policy review recommendations

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European Union | European Environment Agency | GEM | United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/ecosystems/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/ecosystems/index_en.htm)  
<http://biodiversity.europa.eu/bise-catalogue> > Green Infrastructure  
<http://www.nwrn.eu>



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**Thank you for your attention**