



# 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

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

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

**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

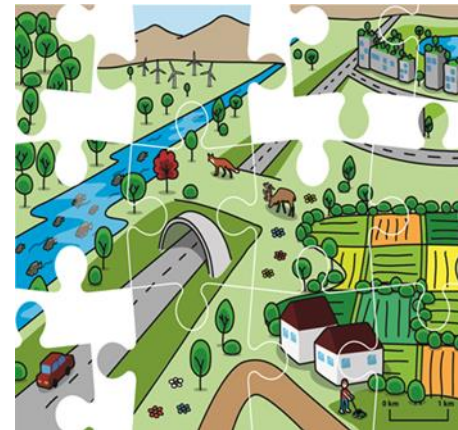
- Policy context: **EU Biodiversity strategy to 2020; 7<sup>th</sup> EAP** (1<sup>st</sup> priority "to protect, conserve and enhance the Union's natural capital")
- **The EU GI Strategy** (2013) is made up of four main elements:
  - I. **Promoting Green Infrastructure in main EU policy areas**
  - II.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





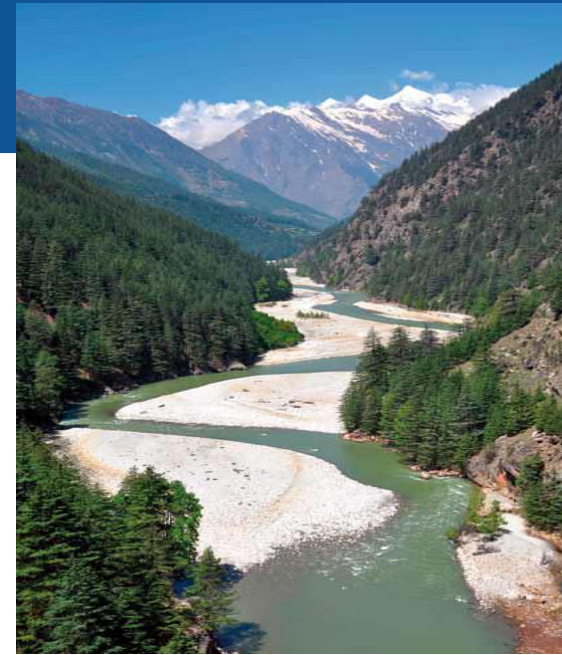
## I) Promoting Green Infrastructure through EU's main policy areas: ex: Urban GI

- *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).*



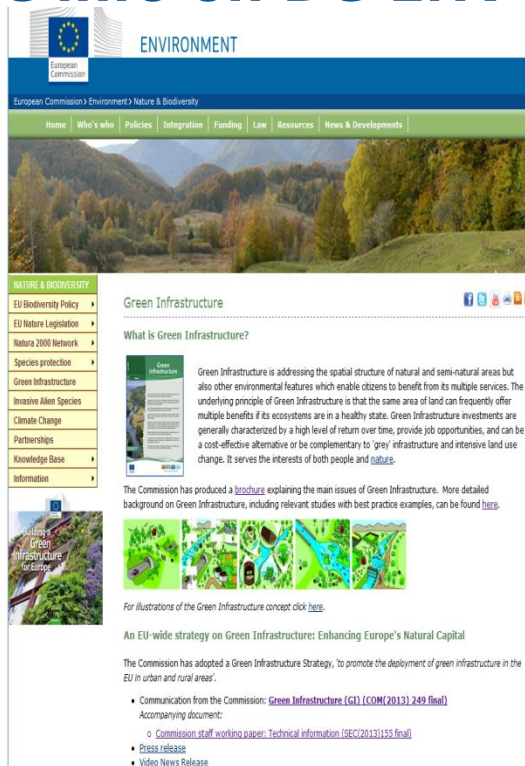
## 4) Improving information and promoting innovation (1)

- **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.'*

## More info on DG ENV & BISE webpages



[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>



**Thank you for your attention**