



EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030

Way forward on pledges for the 30% protected areas
& status improvement targets

Nature Directives Expert Group (NADEG), online meeting of 14 May 2024
DG.ENV.D3 (Nature Conservation)

EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030

Protected area targets:

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, including all remaining EU primary and old-growth forests.
3. Effectively manage all protected areas, defining clear conservation objectives and measures, and monitoring them appropriately.

Status improvement target for species and habitats:

1. The Commission will request and support Member States to raise the level of implementation of existing legislation within clear deadlines. It will request Member States to ensure no deterioration in conservation trends and status of all protected habitats and species by 2030. In addition, Member States will have to ensure that at least 30% of species and habitats no currently in favourable status are in that category or show a strong positive trend. The Commission and the European Environmental Agency will provide guidance to Member States in 2020 on how to select and prioritise species and habitats.

Questions to NADEG:

1. Considering that only 7 out of 27 Member states have submitted pledges so far, how should the process of pledging continue? How else do you think should commitments in the EU Biodiversity Strategy be achieved?
2. What other approach would help Member States to achieve the same outcome in terms of protected area coverage and effective management of all protected areas by 2030? How do you see *Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures* (OECMs) credibly contributing to the achievement of the protected areas target?
3. How can the Commission further help Member States achieve EU and global commitment in terms of protected areas and of improving the status of species and habitats?