



Institute <sup>for</sup>  
European  
Environmental  
Policy

# Biodiversity mainstreaming through EU investment

*A state of play and the challenge of putting money where our mouth is*

Erik Gerritsen, EESC Conference 'Mainstream Biodiversity – the way to go!',  
28 January 2020, Brussels



Goal 15 – target 9: By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts

Goal 15 – target A: Mobilize and significantly increase financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems

# EU biodiversity strategy to 2020

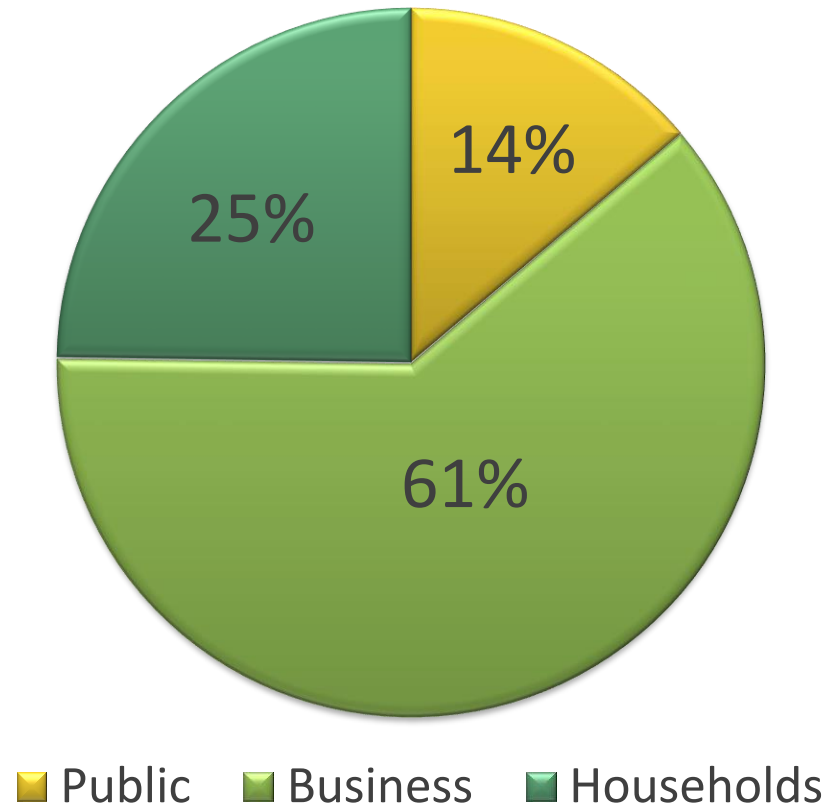
*‘Achieving the objectives of this strategy and ensuring the EU meets its global biodiversity commitments will depend on the availability and efficient use of financial resources ... **Commission and Member States will work to:***

- *Ensure a better uptake and distribution of **existing funds** for biodiversity*
- *Rationalise available resources and **maximise co-benefits** of various funding sources, including funding for agriculture and rural development, fisheries, regional policy and climate change*
- ***Diversify and scale up** various sources of funding*

*Two funding requirements stand out in particular: **Natura 2000 and CBD requirements**’*

# 1/5 Investment in the EU is only partly public

Investment in EU GDP at current market prices (2018)



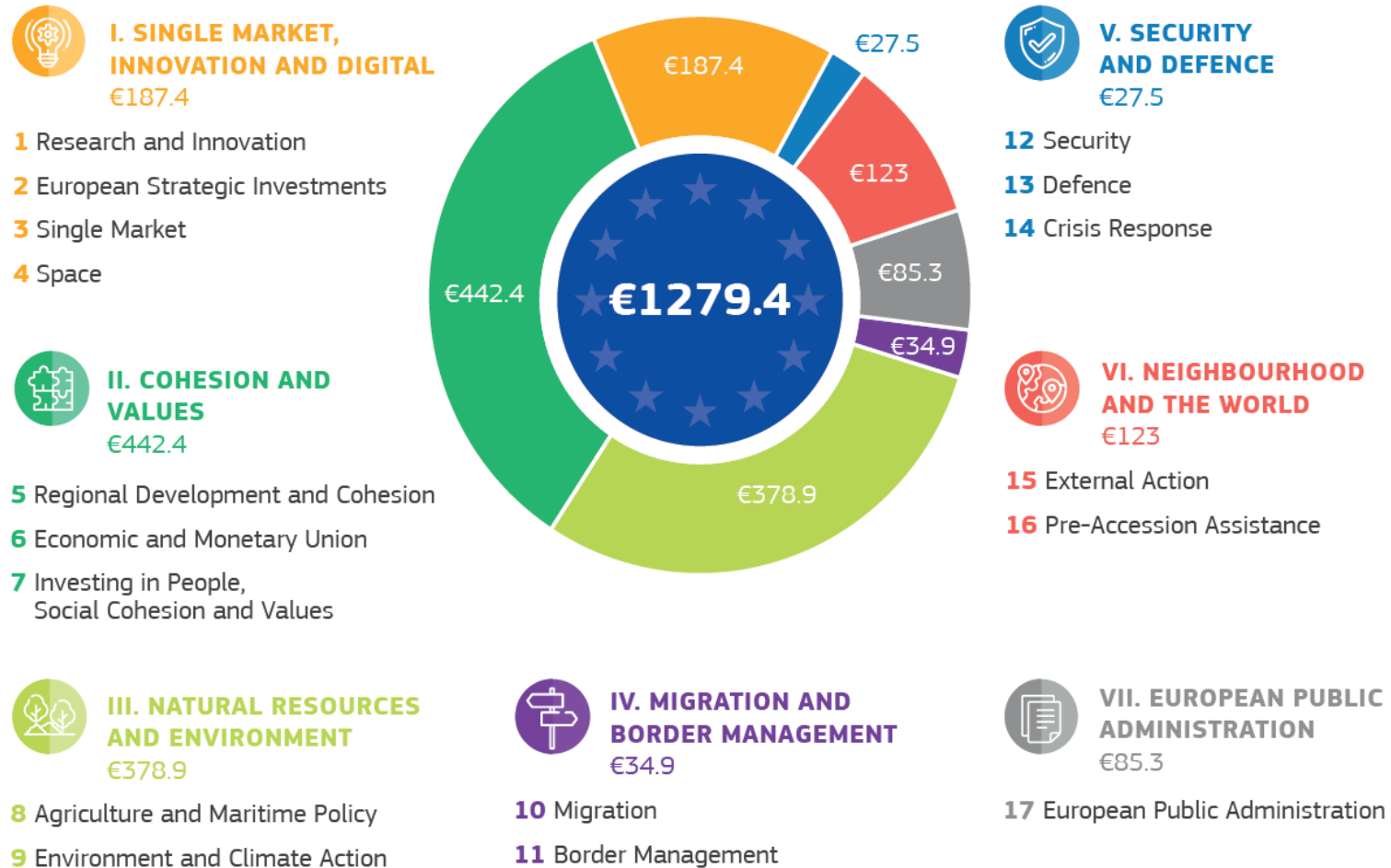
- EU Sustainable Finance Taxonomy includes the protection and restoration of biodiversity & ecosystems as one of six environmental objectives
- Detailed provisions for biodiversity to be adopted by 31 December 2021
- Important criterion: **“No significant harm”**

Despite growing private interest, positive investment in biodiversity continues to rely mostly on public funding – including in the EU!



# THE NEW MULTIANNUAL FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK 2021 - 2027 A BUDGET FOR A UNION THAT PROTECTS, EMPOWERS AND DEFENDS

In billion euro, current prices



# 2/5 MFF – Biodiversity really at par with climate change?



- EP Vice-President Katarina BARLEY (S&D, DE) opens the vote on the resolution and the resolution is adopted by show of hands.

## Common Framework for Biodiversity-Proofing of the EU Budget

### General guidance

13<sup>th</sup> August 2014

For the European Commission

Contract ENV.B.2/ETU/2013/0051r

In collaboration with



Transport and  
Environmental  
Policy  
Research

## Tracking Biodiversity Expenditure in the EU Budget

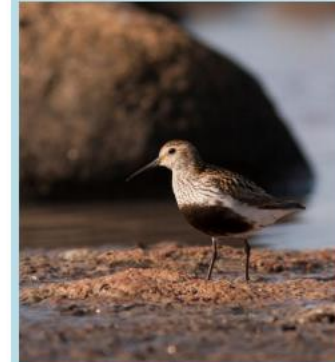
*PART I - Guidance on definition and  
criteria for biodiversity expenditure  
in the EU budget*

### FINAL REPORT

Study on Tracking Biodiversity Expenditure in the  
EU Budget - project number:  
ENV.B.2/ETU/2013/0061r

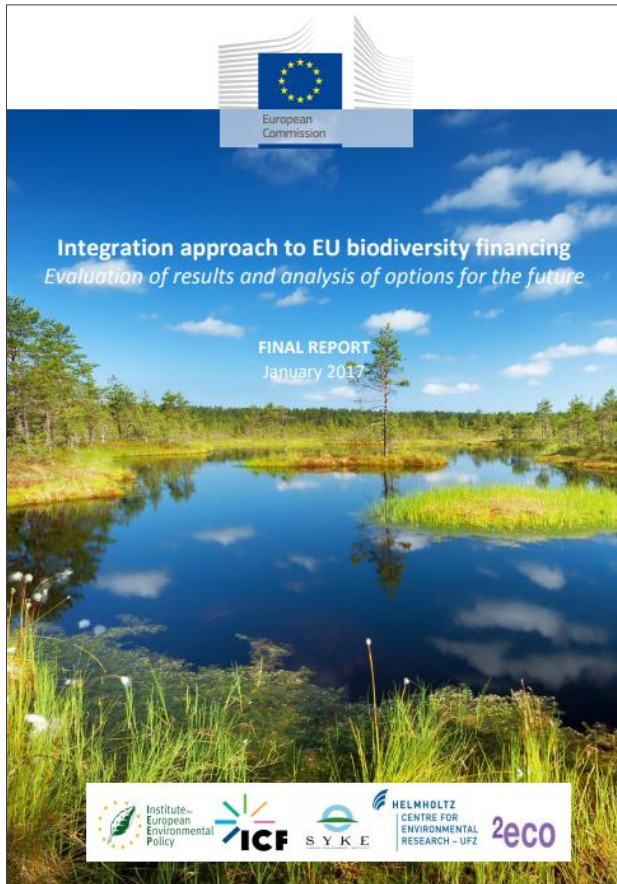
April 2015, Brussels

In collaboration with





# 3/5 Integrated model for biodiversity funding needs a fix

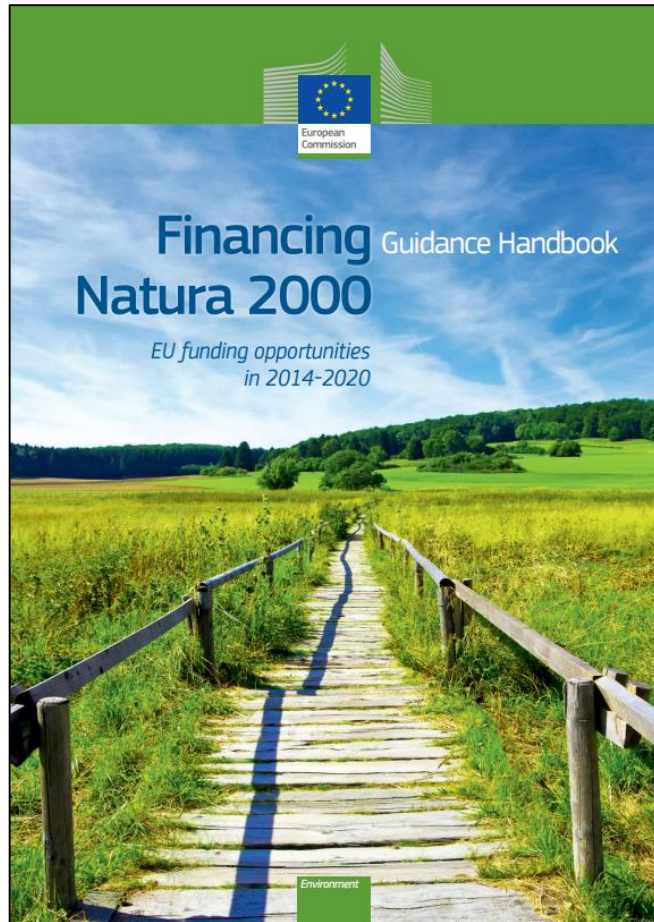


IEEP study in 2017 revealed a range of shortcomings in the EU financing framework limiting the ecological effectiveness, cost-effectiveness and legitimacy of the framework

Improvements to the existing framework required:

- Earmarking expenditure for biodiversity priorities under the sectoral EU funds
- Addressing eligibility gaps
- Improving coordination and coherence
- Reducing the administrative burden
- Improving monitoring
- Continuing efforts in awareness raising and stakeholder cooperation

# 4/5 Natura 2000 investment needs better planning



Article 8 of the EU Habitats Directive deals with investment: EU Member States and Commission coordinate investment needs for nature through the **Prioritized Action Framework** or **PAF**

A big effort was made at the start of the 2014-2020 MFF cycle to help Member State authorities to implement the integrated EU biodiversity model for Natura 2000 e.g. in rural- and regional development plans and the marine- and fisheries operational plans.



EU court of auditors (2017):

- EU funds were not well mobilised to support the management of the Natura 2000 network
- The Prioritised Action Frameworks presented an unreliable picture of the costs of the Natura 2000 network

Making sure the funding requirements in the 2021-2027 PAFs will be covered in the strategic planning and -programming of the relevant EU funds at national and regional level **of critical importance**

(Not only in the CAP Strategic Plans!)

# 5/5 If biodiversity is our #1 Green Deal flagship priority – investment should also address compliance + rule of law



**European Parliament (Jan): Binding targets** for 30% effectively managed protected areas and 30% of restored ecosystems

**Environment Council (Dec):** Urge EU to fully **mainstream** biodiversity into all relevant policies and call for full, effective and coherent **integration** of biodiversity in e.g. MFF, CAP, F2F, climate pact...

**EC Green Deal:** The Commission will adopt a new, more ambitious **EU strategy on adaptation to climate change**. ... Work on climate adaptation should continue to influence public and private investments, including on **nature-based solutions**.



**EC Green Deal:** European farmers and fishermen are key to managing the transition. The **Farm to Fork Strategy** will strengthen their efforts to tackle climate change, protect the environment and **preserve biodiversity**.

**EC Green Deal:** The Commission will identify which measures, including legislation, would help Member States **improve and restore damaged ecosystems to good ecological status**, including carbon-rich ecosystems. ... The Commission will consider drafting a **nature restoration plan** and will look at how provide funding to help Member States to reach this aim.





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