

# The EU Biodiversity strategy to 2020

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commissioned by BirdLife Europe and Central Asia



## 6 targets

ecosystems and their services, agriculture and forestry, the marine environment, invasive alien species and global biodiversity loss



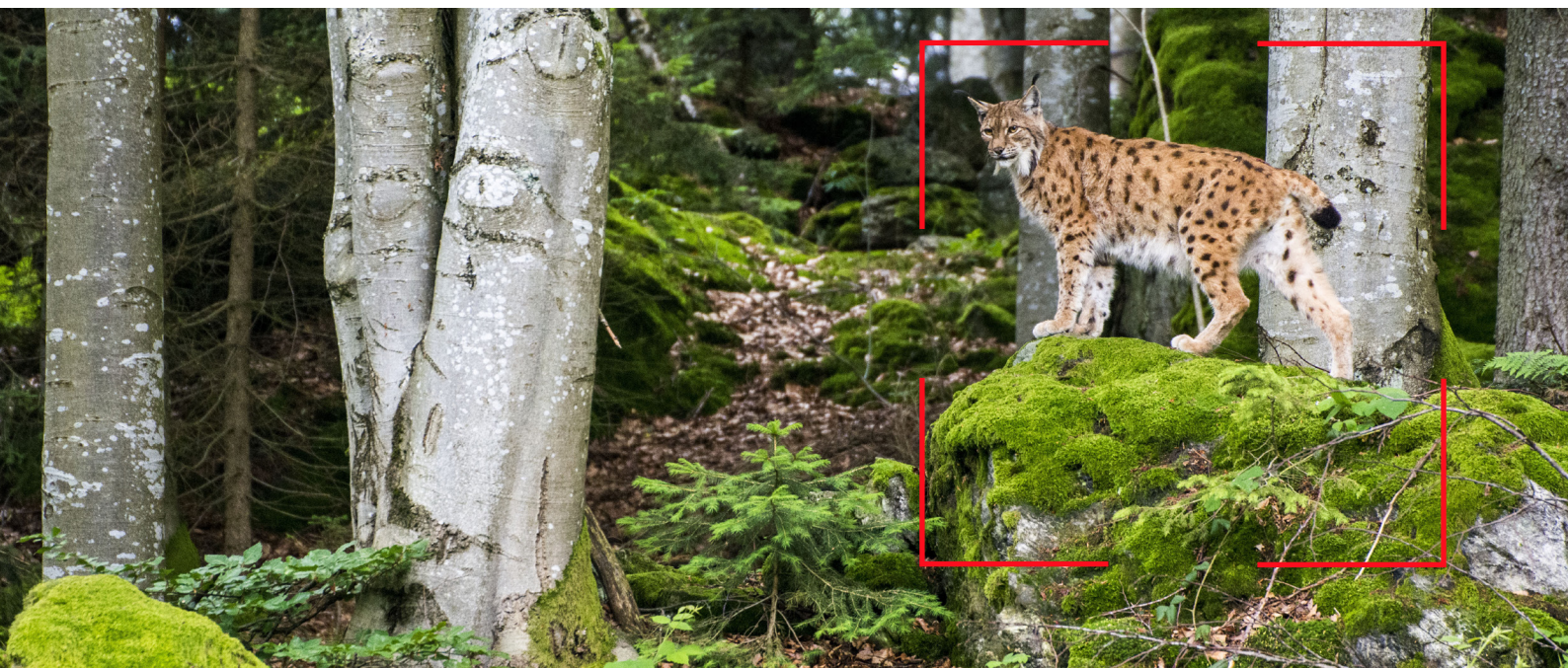
## Executive summary

The EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020, adopted in 2011, provides a framework of action for halting biodiversity loss and the degradation of ecosystems and sets out the contribution needed by the EU to halt global biodiversity loss. To achieve this, the Strategy has six targets covering EU nature legislation, ecosystems and their services, agriculture and forestry, the marine environment, invasive alien species and global biodiversity loss. The targets are accompanied by detailed actions for the European Commission and the EU Member States.

However, for the most part, the implementation of the Strategy has been a failure. There has been little progress in four targets, and the situation of biodiversity in agricultural and forest ecosystems has worsened since 2010. Indeed, the majority of actions saw little progress or outright failure. In particular, the implementation of actions that required new legislation, financing and implementation or enforcement of existing legislation was poor, suggesting a lack of high-level political commitment.

Substantial progress was made in only a few areas, mainly the ones under direct control of DG Environment. The adoption of the Regulation on Invasive Alien Species was a major step forward. Other important achievements are the increasing EU contribution to financing action on biodiversity worldwide and the expansion of the Natura 2000 network, in particular in the marine environment.





It is very clear the EU will miss its 2020 targets and that **bold and radical** action needs to be taken. BirdLife calls on the Commission and the Member States to adopt a new post-2020 strategy with concrete, legally binding targets. The next Biodiversity Strategy will need to be stronger, as the Strategy suffered from both a lack of commitment and structural weaknesses. In particular, the Strategy should have a clear intervention logic, a way to track implementation, and clear responsibilities for the European Commission and the EU Member States.

In the meantime, there is plenty of room for action until 2020, in particular by the Commission. The following actions should be their **immediate** priorities as we cannot afford to wait post 2020.

1. The Commission should **progress existing infringement procedures** on the management and protection of the Natura 2000 network.
2. The Commission should restart work on **restoring degraded ecosystems**, by strengthening the linkages to climate change mitigation and restoration.
3. The Member States should **roll out emergency agri-environmental measures** for species with Species Action Plans.
4. The Commission should take emergency measures to put **overfished populations on track to Maximum Sustainable Yield**, and to **eliminate incidental catches** for priority seabirds and marine mammals.
5. The Commission should start the process to **add all priority species to the EU list of invasive Alien Species**.
6. The Commission and the EU Member State should start the work on an **inventory of environmentally harmful subsidies in the EU**.
7. The Commission should identify priority commodities to address in terms of the effects of **EU consumption patterns on biodiversity inside and outside the EU**.
8. In addition the Commission needs **to improve the tracking of financing for biodiversity and financing for Natura 2000** in its budget.



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