

Article – How to preserve biodiversity: EU policy



The EU's 2020 Biodiversity Strategy

- [The Habitats Directive](#) ensures the conservation of a wide range of rare, threatened or endemic animal and plant species, including some 200 rare and characteristic habitat types
- [Natura 2000](#) is the largest network of protected areas in the world, with core breeding and resting sites for rare and threatened species, and rare natural habitat types
- The [EU Pollinator's Initiative](#) aims to address the decline of pollinators in the EU and contribute to global conservation efforts, focusing on improving knowledge of the decline, tackling the causes and raising awareness

Additionally, the [European Life programme](#) brought for example the Iberian

Lynx and the Bulgarian lesser kestrel back from near extinction.

[Learn about endangered species in Europe.](#)

The final assessment of the 2020 strategy has yet to be concluded, but according to the [midterm assessment](#), [approved by Parliament](#), the targets to protect species and habitats, maintain and restore ecosystems and make seas healthier were making progress, but had to speed up.

The objective to combat the invasion of alien species was well on track. In strong contrast, the contribution of agriculture and forestry to maintain and enhance biodiversity had made little progress.

The Natura 2000 network of protected nature areas in Europe has increased significantly over the past decade and now covers more than 18% of the EU land area.

Between 2008 and 2018, the marine Natura 2000 network grew more than fourfold to cover 360,000 km². Many bird species have recorded increases in population and the status of many other species and habitats has significantly improved.

Despite its successes, the scale of these initiatives is insufficient to offset the negative trend. The main drivers of biodiversity loss – loss and degradation of habitat, pollution, climate change and invasive alien species – persist and many are on the increase, requiring a much greater effort.

The EU's 2030 Biodiversity Strategy

An important part of Commission President Ursula von der Leyen's Green Deal commitments, the Commission launched the [2030 Biodiversity Strategy](#), to go hand in hand with the [Farm to Fork Strategy](#).

For the next 10 years, the EU will focus on an EU-wide network of **protected** areas on land and at sea, concrete commitments to **restore** degraded systems, enable **change** by making the measures workable and binding and take the lead in tackling biodiversity on a **global** level.

The new strategy outlining the EU ambition for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework was due to be adopted at the 15th UN Convention on Biological Diversity in October 2020 in China, which has been postponed.

Once adopted, the Commission plans to make concrete proposals by 2021.