



# EU Nature Restoration Law

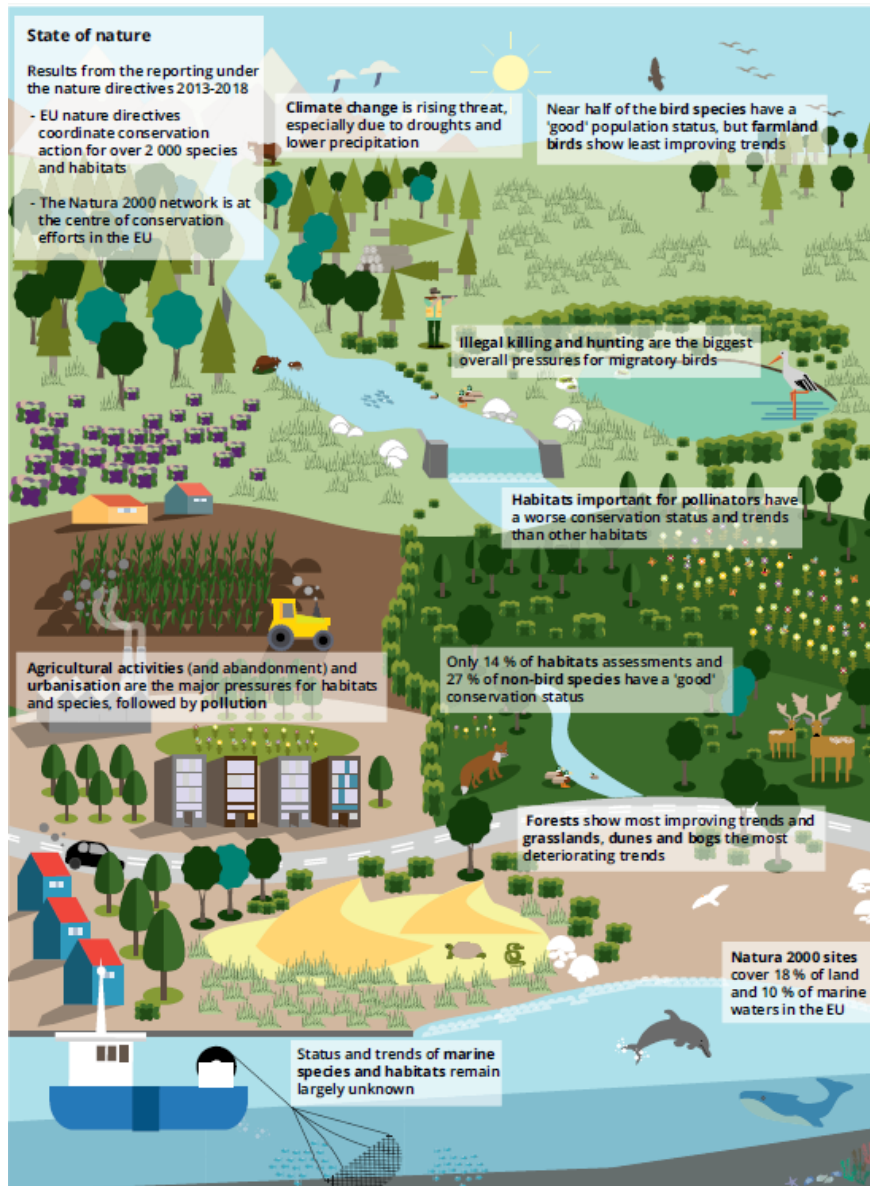
## How to make it game changer for our Mediterranean wetlands?

*4 October 2022*

Sofie Ruysschaert & Szabolcs Nagy

# Nature restoration: why should we care?

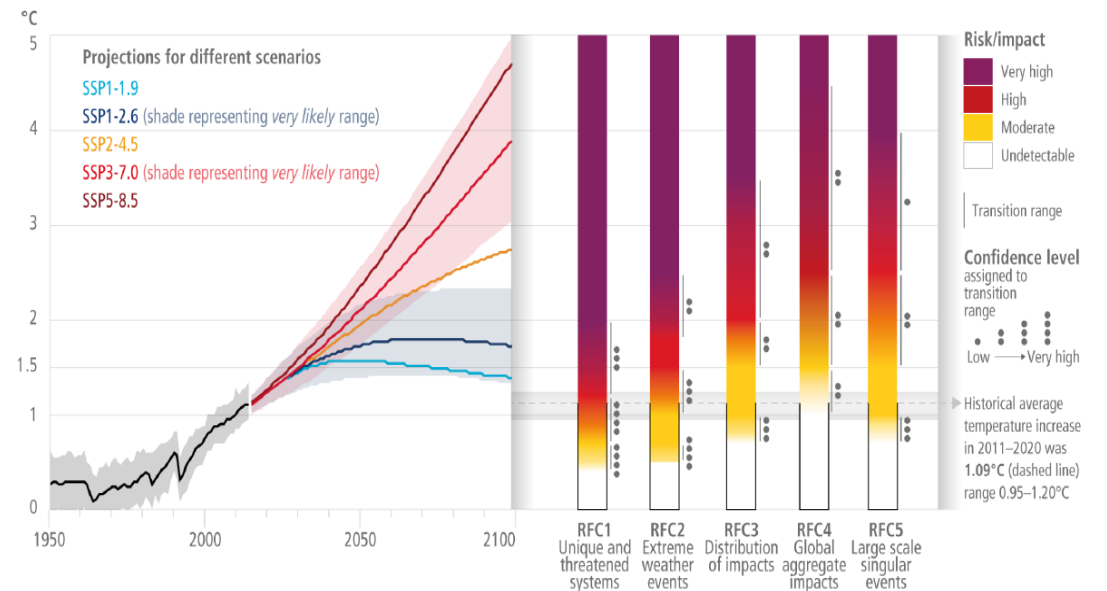
## State of Nature



## IPCC

### Global and regional risks for increasing levels of global warming

(a) Global surface temperature change  
Increase relative to the period 1850–1900

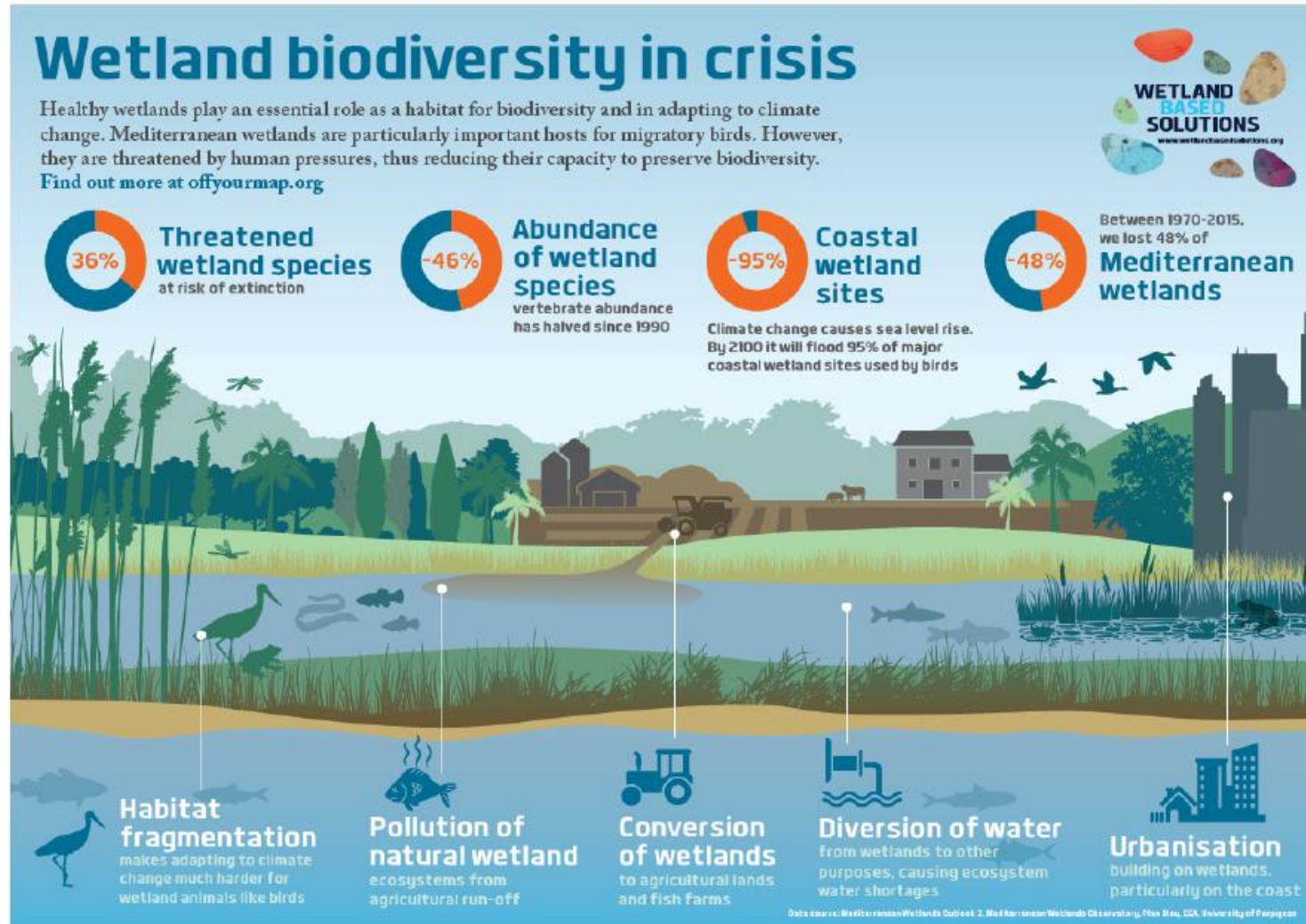


➡ Restoration needs to happen **now**

➡ At **large-scale**

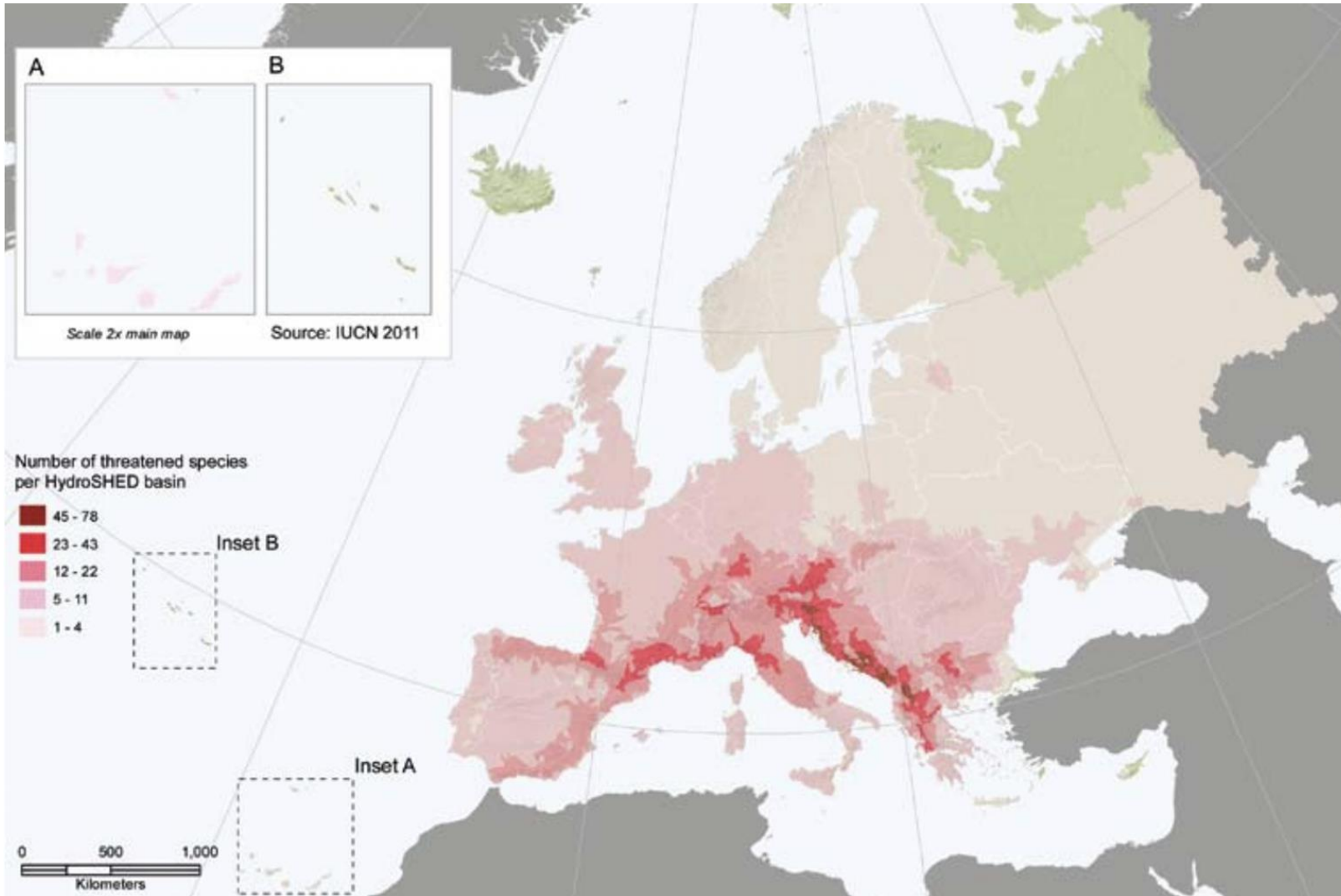
➡ With **effective** measures

# Nature restoration: why should we care?

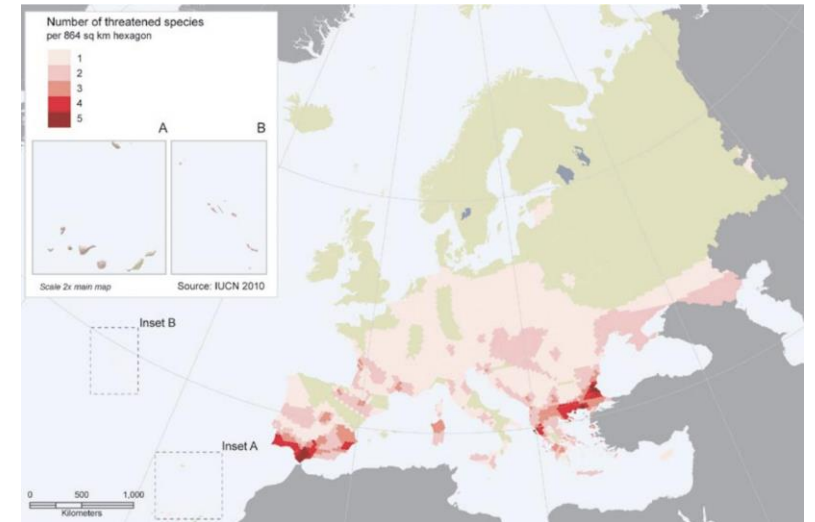


# Threatened freshwater biodiversity

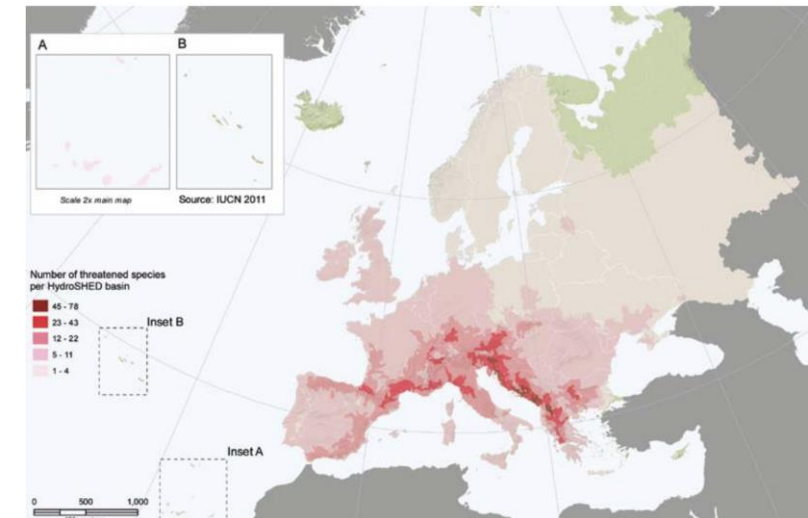
Dragonflies



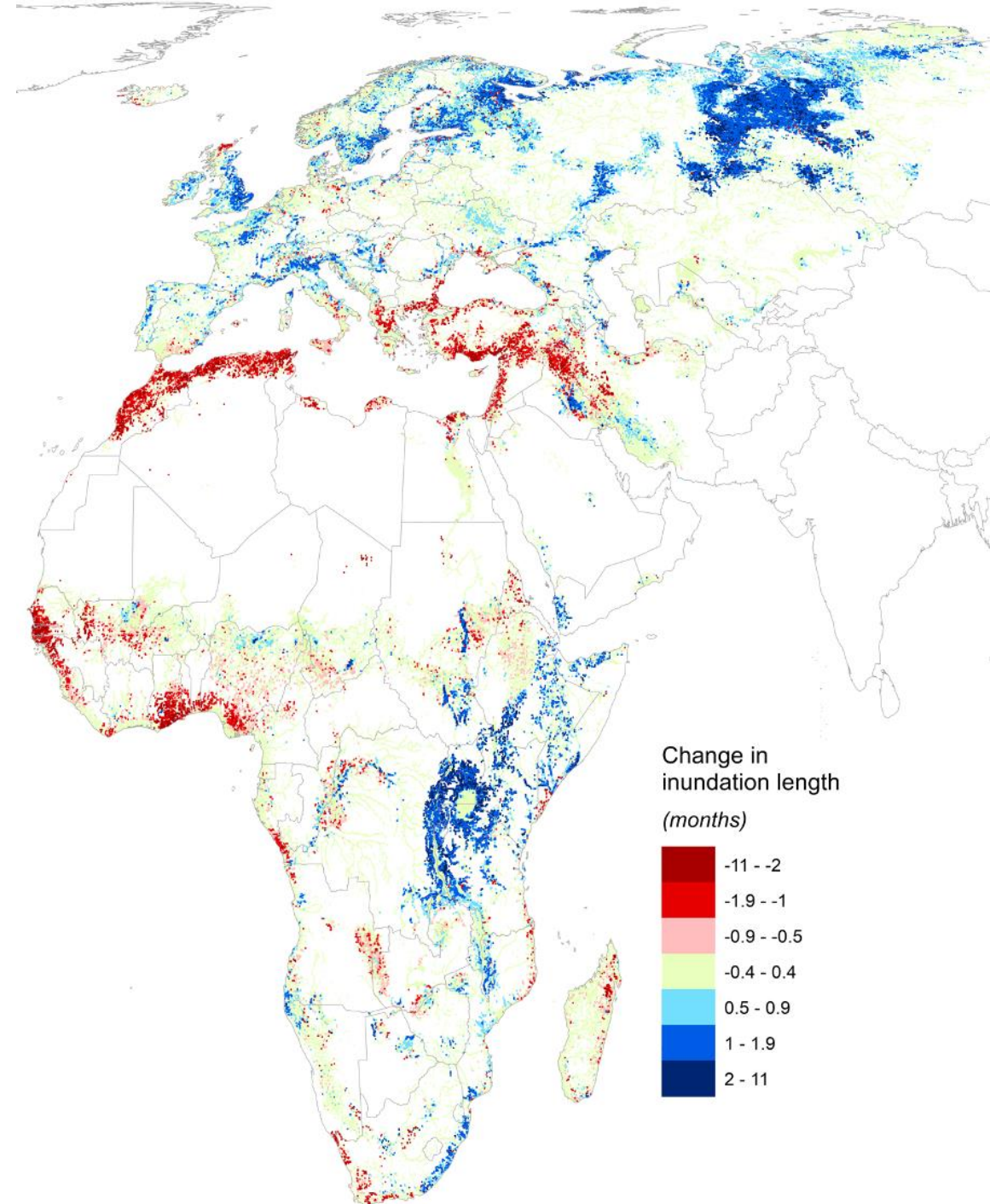
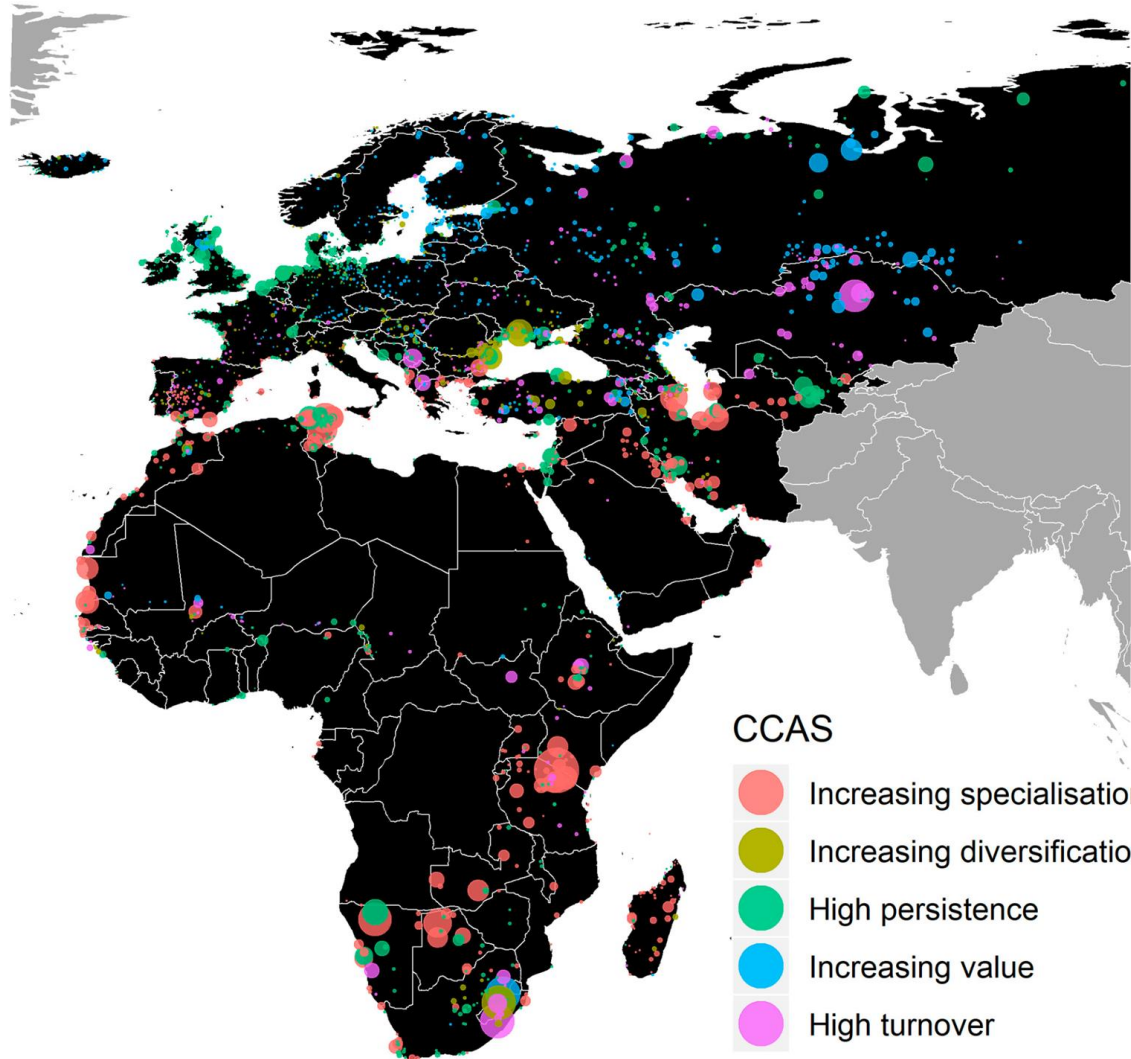
Fish



Molluscs



# Wetland restoration and flyway conservation



# ERA OF NATURE RESTORATION

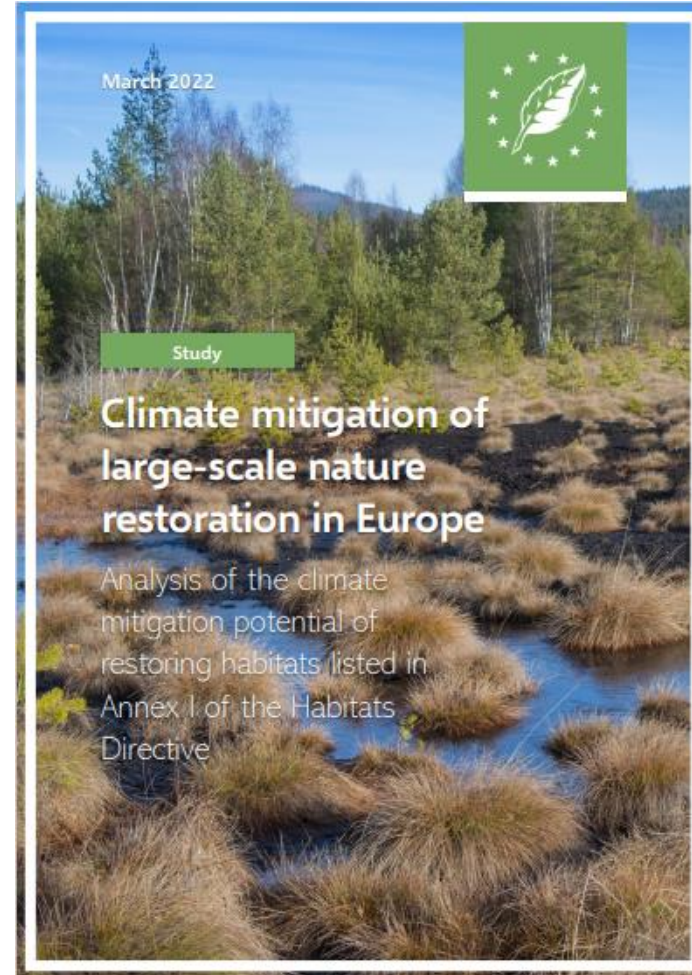
## More than nature



UNITED NATIONS DECADE ON  
**ECOSYSTEM  
RESTORATION**  
2021-2030



Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss



- ✓ Resilient **farmers**
- ✓ Flourishing **wildlife**
- ✓ Opportunities for **landowners**

# Policy context

## Putin's war seduces Europe's farmers away from Green Deal

EU farm ministers say it's now urgent to plant as much animal feed as possible, but greens are aghast.



### Most Read Articles

1. Russia: We've got hundreds of your planes. What you going to do about it?  
MARCH 16, 2022 | 5:09 PM

### EU Commission plays into hands of anti-nature lobbies, ignores citizens by delaying Nature Restoration Law

© 23 March 2022

Today, the European Commission postponed its highly anticipated proposal for an EU Nature Restoration Law without setting a new publication date.

Over the weekend, more than 13,000 EU citizens, 166 environmental NGOs, and a group of environmental ministers sent letters to the European Commission expressing their support of the law and asking for it not to be delayed, but their voices have been ignored.

Legally binding nature restoration targets are urgently needed to address the drastic decline of biodiversity in the EU, to help us mitigate the climate crisis and to build resilience in the face of climate change.

We call on the Commission to set a new date for the proposal to be launched within a month. This law has the opportunity to become a real game-changer against the climate and biodiversity crises, with tangible benefits for people and nature. It must be timely, ambitious and enforceable.

Sabien Leeman, Senior Biodiversity Policy Officer, WWF European Policy Office, said:

"We understand the Commission's delay, but we are not willing to wait any longer. We are celebrating #WorldPeatlandsDay!

Did you know that peatlands cover only 3% of the world's land area but store twice as much carbon as all the trees on Earth combined?



"The farm and the Commission are not listening to the voices of citizens. We are not willing to wait any longer. We are celebrating #WorldPeatlandsDay!

Sadly, 1/2 of peatlands are degraded.

This is why we need an ambitious #RestoreNature law from the @EU\_Commission in 20 days!

One that:

- brings back nature
- brings health, social and economic benefits
- tackles the #ClimateCrisis

Find out more @restorenature.eu

## Europe needs more, not less, nature to overcome the looming food crisis

DISCLAIMER: All opinions in this column reflect the views of the author(s), not of EURACTIV Media network.

By Janez Potočnik

6 May 2022

Advertisement



🌱 We must remove barriers to the internal food production chain, until the impact of the war is fully known.

! The first step is postponing any new legislative initiative under the #Farm2Fork and Biodiversity strategies that may have a negative impact on our food safety.  
#EPP4EU  
Traduire le Tweet



NO further delay to restore nature!  
UEPG, @BirdLifeEurope, @Eurogypsum, @CEMBUREAU & other partners call the #EC to keep their time planning and commitment on #EU legally binding #restoration targets. As the largest non-energy extractive industry, we produce in Europe, for Europe.



What threatens our food security is not environmental action, but attacks on the environment.

The need to restore Europe's nature has never been greater.

Urge the @EU Commission to publish the EU nature restoration law without delay [restorenature.eu](https://restorenature.eu) #RestoreNature



Mark your calendars for **2 June!**

The Commission's proposal for an EU law to #RestoreNature has already been postponed twice — but it won't be delayed any further!

It's a promise, say @vonderleyen and @TimmermansEU



Nature restoration and food security:  
**Why bringing back nature cannot wait**  
June 2022



European Union, [2022] - EP

# NRL: overview of proposal



- **Overarching EU objective:** *effective and area-based* ✓ restoration measures on 20% EU's land and sea area by 2030 (on all ecosystems in restoration need by 2050) - Art.1
- **MS area-based targets** ✓
  - based on Annexes BHDs (terrestrial, freshwater and marine habitats & species, *in and out PAs*) - Art.4+5
  - river restoration (barrier removal & 25,000 km) - Art.7
  - restoration peatlands under agricultural use - Art.9(4)
- **Indicator-based targets** ✓
  - urban ecosystems - Art.6
  - pollinators (reverse decline) - Art.8
  - agricultural and forest ecosystems (enhance biodiversity, increase butterfly index, carbon stock, farmland bird index, high-diversity landscape features) - Art. 9(2)+10
- **Non-deterioration clause** ✓
- **National restoration plans, access to justice provisions, commission assessment and review** - Art.11-15 ✓



# NRL: key elements to improve



**The European Commission's proposal for a regulation on nature restoration – a potential game changer for Mediterranean wetlands**

*NGO and research institutions analysis, August 2022*

## Introduction

On 22 June 2022, the European Commission presented its proposal for the [new Regulation on nature restoration, also called Nature Restoration Law \(NRL\)](#). It aims at contributing to the recovery of biodiverse and resilient nature across the EU's land and sea areas through the restoration of ecosystems, as well as contributing to the EU's objectives concerning climate change mitigation and adaptation.

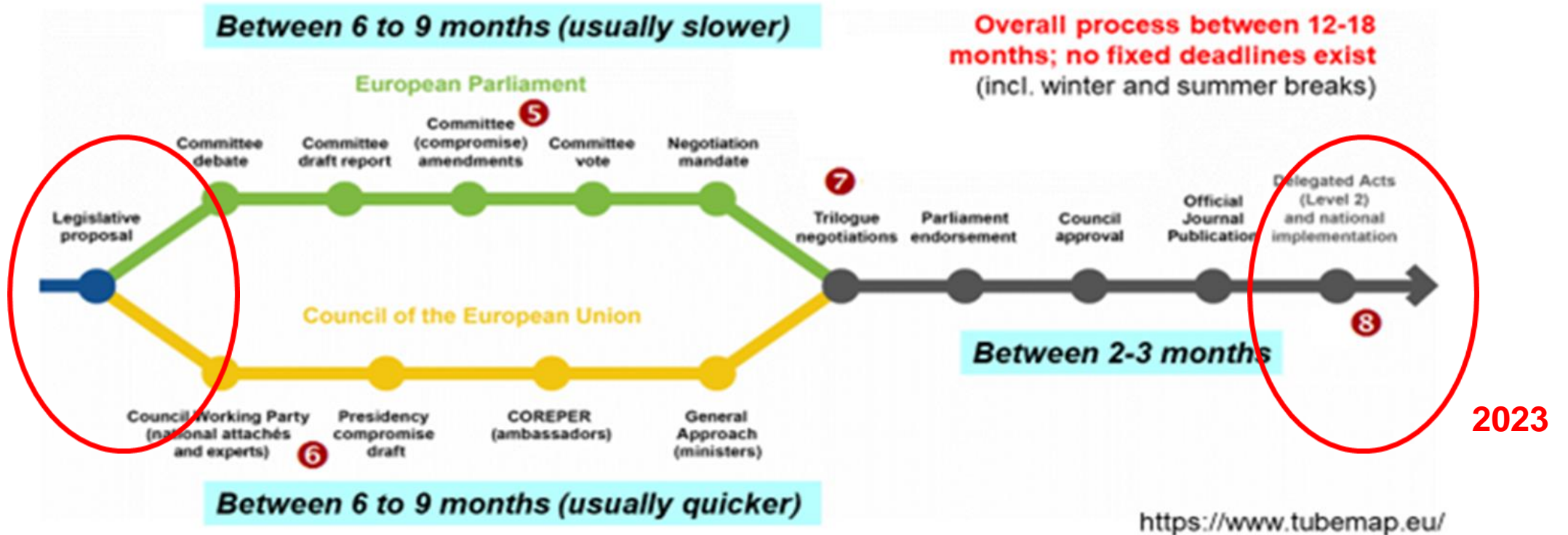
The legal proposal for the NRL is a huge opportunity to bring nature back to Europe, benefiting biodiversity, climate and people. The restoration of ecosystems such as wetlands can help reduce emissions by [sequestering and ensuring the storage of millions of tonnes of carbon each year](#). Nature restoration is our best insurance policy for climate adaptation, as it increases our resilience to droughts, floods and other extreme weather events. Consequently, it also contributes to [long-term food security](#). Restoring and preserving nature can also bring many [socio-economic benefits](#) such as sustainable jobs, recreation opportunities and broader [human health benefits](#). Therefore, nature restoration is undoubtedly one of the best investments we can make. The European Commission's impact assessment concluded that investing in nature restoration adds between €8 to €38 in economic value for each €1 spent, thanks to the diverse ecosystem services provided. For inland and coastal wetlands it is estimated that the monetised benefits from carbon storage alone already exceed the estimated costs of ecosystem restoration.

The legal proposal is therefore an important milestone to reverse the tide of both biodiversity loss and climate change, with the potential to make a real impact at the required scales if implemented in a timely and well-considered manner.

- **Fair & effective contribution MS** to 20% objective
- Increase ambition level **area-based restoration targets** (implement bulk by 2040)
- Implementable **marine targets** (link CFP)
- Time-bound % targets **river restoration**
- Integrate **10% landscape features** objective
- **Full restoration drained peatlands** by rewetting and other effective measures
- **Public participation** in national restoration plans
- Solid provisions for implementation, incl. sufficient **funding**

# How to make it work?

- Get decision makers to **support** ambitious restoration targets, **strengthen** the EC proposal where needed and **not delay** the adoption



# How to make it work?



**Bring in science**



**Coalition  
building at EU  
& national level**

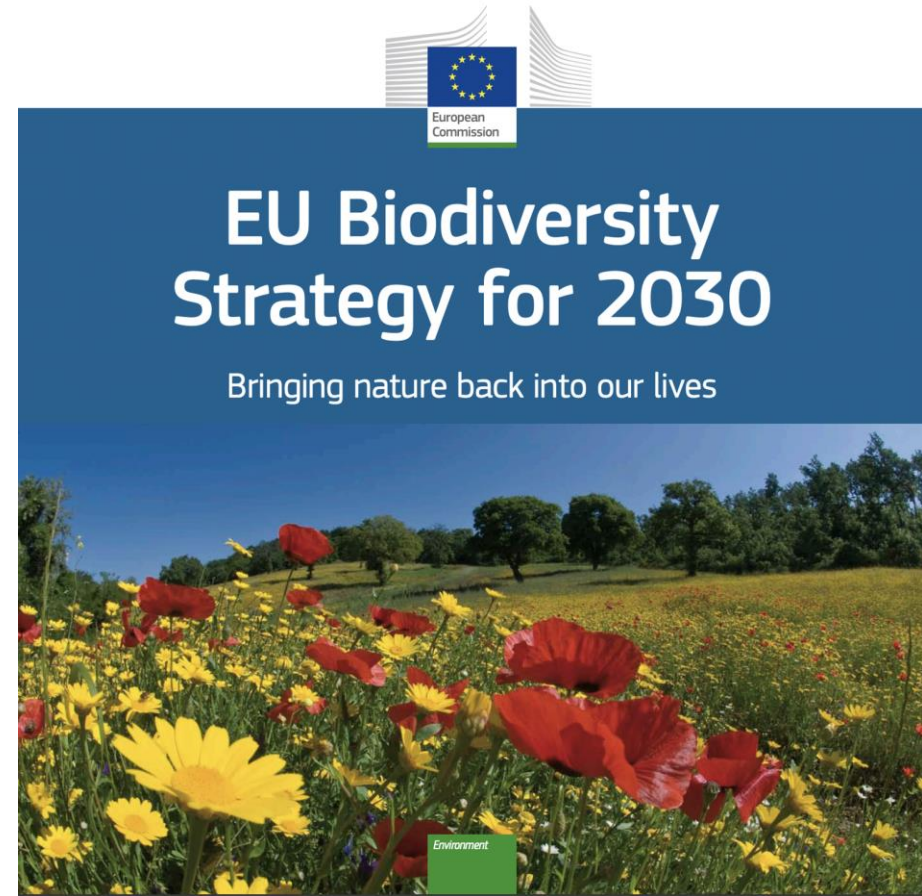


**Stakeholder  
engagement**

# How to make it work?

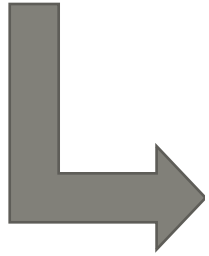
## Policy coherence

- **Species improvements targets:**  
30% of "protected species" in favourable conservation status or recovering
- **National pledges protected areas**  
by end of 2022 (review in 2023)



# How to make it work?

## Awareness raising



### INVITATION - LUNCH SEMINAR Restoring Mediterranean wetlands: from informed policy to implementation

**Date:** 4th October 2022

**Time:** 12.30 – 14.30 (CEST)

**Venue:** Mundo-J, Rue de l'Industrie 10, 1000 Brussels

Increased human pressures have severely affected Mediterranean wetlands and climate in the past decades and continue to do so. Science tells us that we need large-scale nature restoration to reverse biodiversity decline and increase our resilience against floods, droughts and other threats to our daily livelihoods. The European Commission's proposal for the Nature Restoration Law can be a real game-changer for the Mediterranean region, if implemented in a timely and well-considered manner.

In this lunch seminar, we will highlight the ambition and improvements needed for the Nature Restoration Law. We will also present some wetlands tools relevant for the European Commission and Mediterranean countries to prepare the implementation of the Nature Restoration Law.

You are welcome to join us!

Join us for discussion of the new EU Nature Restoration Law – a serious hope of halting biodiversity loss.



Prague, 12–13 October 2022

### Conference on Nature Restoration Law 2022



**Wednesday 12 October 2022**  
– Conference day

- Scientific Basis
- Substance of the New Law
- Implementation

**Thursday 13 October 2022**  
– Field trip

- Josefov Meadows Bird Park – model restoration area

**Information and registration:**  
[birdlife.cz/NatResConf](http://birdlife.cz/NatResConf)

The conference is organized by the Czech Society for Ornithology and WWF Central and Eastern Europe under the auspices of the Minister of Environment and the Minister of European Affairs of the Czech Republic.

**See you at the conference!**



EU2022.CZ

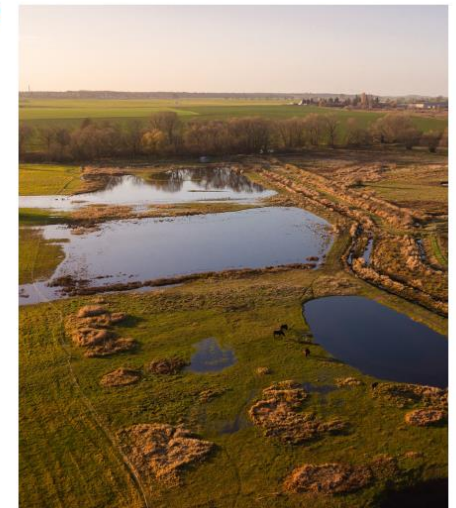
Ministry of the Environment  
of the Czech Republic



NATIONAL  
MUSEUM



BirdLife  
INTERNATIONAL  
EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA



The image features a large, semi-circular graphic that dominates the center. Inside this graphic, there is a light blue sky filled with numerous black silhouettes of birds in flight, scattered across the scene. Below the birds, a range of blue mountains is visible, rendered in a soft, hazy style. The entire graphic is set against a dark green background. The text "Thank you!" is centered within the graphic, positioned above the mountains.

Thank you!

Questions?