

# EUROPEAN UNION BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY FOR 2030

## BRINGING NATURE BACK INTO OUR LIVES

In May 2020, the European Commission has adopted the new [EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 and an associated Action Plan](#) - a comprehensive, ambitious, long-term plan for protecting nature and reversing the degradation of ecosystems by 2030 with benefits for people, the climate and the planet. The Strategy addresses the main drivers of biodiversity loss, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and with the objectives of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

Launching the Strategy, the European Commission states that Biodiversity demands for urgent action...*From the world's great rainforests to small parks and gardens, from the blue whale to microscopic fungi, biodiversity is the extraordinary variety of life on Earth. We humans are part of, and fully dependent on, this web of life: it gives us the food we eat, filters the water we drink, and supplies the air we breathe. Nature is as important for our mental and physical wellbeing as it is for our society's ability to cope with global change, health threats and disasters. We need nature in our lives.*

This new Strategy was presented by the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions. The Strategy and its Action Plan represent a reference of the greatest importance for all the local experiences that, in European countries, aim at sustainable development, based on the protection and enhancement of the territories' endogenous resources.

The Strategy addresses a wide range of issues: in particular, it involves local communities, engaged in countering the loss of biodiversity. This goal can be achieved, for example, through actions in the area of sustainable and circular economy; the transition from the current agriculture system to agroecology; the implementation of more sustainably sourced renewable energy systems; the implementation of marine and terrestrial ecosystems; greening urban and peri-urban areas, reducing pollution.

In particular, the Strategy contains specific commitments and actions to be delivered by 2030, including:

- Establishing a larger EU-wide network of protected areas on land and at sea, building upon existing Natura 2000 areas, with strict protection for areas of very high biodiversity and climate value. The strategy envisages creating protected areas for at least 30% of the earth's surface and 30% of the seas in Europe.
- An EU Nature Restoration Plan - a series of concrete commitments and actions to restore degraded terrestrial and marine ecosystems across the EU by 2030, and manage them sustainably, addressing the key drivers of biodiversity loss: increasing organic agriculture and the characteristic elements of high biodiversity on agricultural land; arresting and reversing the decline of pollinators; reducing the risks and use of pesticides by 50% by 2030; restoring at least 25 000 km of free flowing rivers in the EU; planting 3 billion trees by 2030.



The Biodiversity Strategy is a core part of the [European Green Deal](#), and plans to articulate its actions with the other initiatives activated to face the climate change challenges. The document highlights that climate change accelerates the destruction of the natural world through droughts, flooding and wildfires, while the loss and unsustainable use of nature are in turn key drivers of climate change. Nature regulates the climate, and *nature-based solutions*, such as protecting and restoring wetlands, peatlands and coastal ecosystems, or sustainably managing marine areas, forests, grasslands and agricultural soils, will be essential for emission reduction and climate adaptation. Planting trees and deploying green infrastructure will help us to cool urban areas and mitigate the impact of natural disasters.

The Strategy is EUs contribution to the international negotiations on the global post-2020 biodiversity framework at the upcoming 15th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The text of the Biodiversity Strategy includes a substantial bibliography and, through the respective links, it is possible to access a wide range of documents that formed the basis for its formulation.

### To know more

[EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030](#)

[EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 in ec.europa.eu website](#)

[Press release in ec.europa.eu website](#)

[Advocacy Toolkit for Nature](#)

[Economic impact of biodiversity](#)

[From farm to fork: Our food, our health, our planet, our future](#)

[European Green Deal in ec.europa.eu website](#)

[15th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in sdg.iisd.org website](#)

[Convention on Biological Diversity website](#)

