



# Supporting the Resilience of Natural Resources

## Context

The EU is confronted with a dual crisis of climate change and biodiversity loss, leading to a concerning decline in Europe's natural habitats. The majority of EU habitats and soils – including cropland – are in poor condition, and fish populations and pollinators are dwindling. Unsustainable land and water management, overexploitation of natural resources, increased pressures from urbanisation, together with the impacts of climate change and invasive alien species, are some of the main factors leading to the degradation of natural ecosystems and biodiversity.

In response to this crisis, the EU has proposed the [EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030](#), [EU Soil Strategy](#), [Farm to Fork Strategy](#), and EU Forest Strategy for 2030 with the aim to create a “continent reconciled with nature”.

The vitality and resilience of ecosystems is essential for human health and wellbeing, and for vibrant societies and economies. Maintaining ecosystem functions is therefore vital for the bioeconomy, for job creation and livelihoods, and for supporting agricultural production and food security.

The longer ecosystem restoration and the transition to sustainable management is postponed, the more challenging and costly it will be to reverse the loss of natural capital and address its socio-economic impacts. As such, urgent action is needed to halt the degradation of nature and improve the resilience of ecosystems against the impact of climate change. This involves transitioning to new management practices and considering natural systems in a holistic manner in sectoral strategies, public finance, and land use planning.

**Natural resources play a vital role in our lives, impacting both our well-being and the health of our planet.**

## Objectives

The objective of this flagship is to support Member States at national, regional and local level in strengthening natural resources management, in line with agreed global and European biodiversity, climate change adaptation and mitigation goals.

## Indicative support measures

Member State authorities are encouraged to present requests for technical support that promote an integrated approach to natural resources management, for example by selecting and combining support measures from different work packages covered by the flagship. The different work packages include (The below is an indicative, non-exhaustive list of support measures):

### **More sustainable land management:**

This work package aims to support Member States to move towards a soil/landscape management approach that reflects the multifunctionality of soils/landscapes, as complex systems providing multiple ecosystem services, promoting biodiversity, food, water and energy security, and contributing to the mitigation of climate-related risks (e.g. drought, floods, wildfires, and soil and coastal erosion).

### **More efficient, sustainable and resilient forests**

This work package aims to support Member States improve the management and monitoring of forests, with a view to ensure multifunctional forests ecosystems by combining biodiversity objectives, climate change resilience, and socio-economic benefits, in line with the new EU Forest Strategy for 2030.

### **Promoting biodiversity**

This work package aims to support Member States in the design and implementation of biodiversity protection and nature restoration efforts, in line with international commitments under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and objectives set in the EU Biodiversity Strategy.

### **More efficient, sustainable and resilient water sector**

This work package aims to support Member States to improve water management practices and strengthen the resilience of the water sector, including by adapting to the impacts of climate change.

### **Public and private finance** for natural resource management

This work package aims to support Member States to identify funding priorities and financing needs to plan and prevent the biodiversity crisis, as well as to, design financial instruments to incentivise biodiversity and nature positive management practices.

