



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 health, 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 as well as climate change adaptation and mitigation goals.



Indicative support measures

Below is an indicative, non-exhaustive list of support measures:

More sustainable land management:

Moving towards a soil and landscape management approach that reflects the multifunctionality of soils and landscapes as complex systems providing multiple ecosystem services, promoting biodiversity and contributing to the mitigation of climate-related risks.

More efficient, sustainable and resilient forests

Improving 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 EU Forest Strategy for 2030.

Promoting biodiversity

Designing and implementing 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

Improving water management practices and strengthening the resilience of the water sector, including by adapting to the impacts of climate change.

Public and private finance for natural resource management

Identifying funding priorities and financing needs to address the biodiversity crisis, as well as designing financial instruments to incentivise biodiversity and nature positive management practices.

