Prospects for the promotion of Green Infrastructure and Ecosystem services in the EU

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Structure of the presentation

I-   The EU policy context

II-   Ecosystem & E. Services (ESS) knowledge

III- Green Infrastructure

IV- Latest developments

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Structure of the EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy

2050 VISION

2020 headline target
halt biodiversity loss – restore ecosystem services – global contribution

SIX TARGETS

1 2 3 4 5 6

addressing main drivers of biodiversity loss and aiming to reduce key pressures

1	2	3	4	5	6
Enhance implementation of nature legislation	Restore ecosystems establish Green Infrastructure	Sustainable agriculture and forestry	Sustainable fisheries	Combat Alien Invasive Species	Contribute to averting global biodiversity loss

ACTIONS

specific, partly time-bound measures

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Target 2
**maintain and restore
ecosystems and their services**

*Objective: By 2020, maintain and enhance
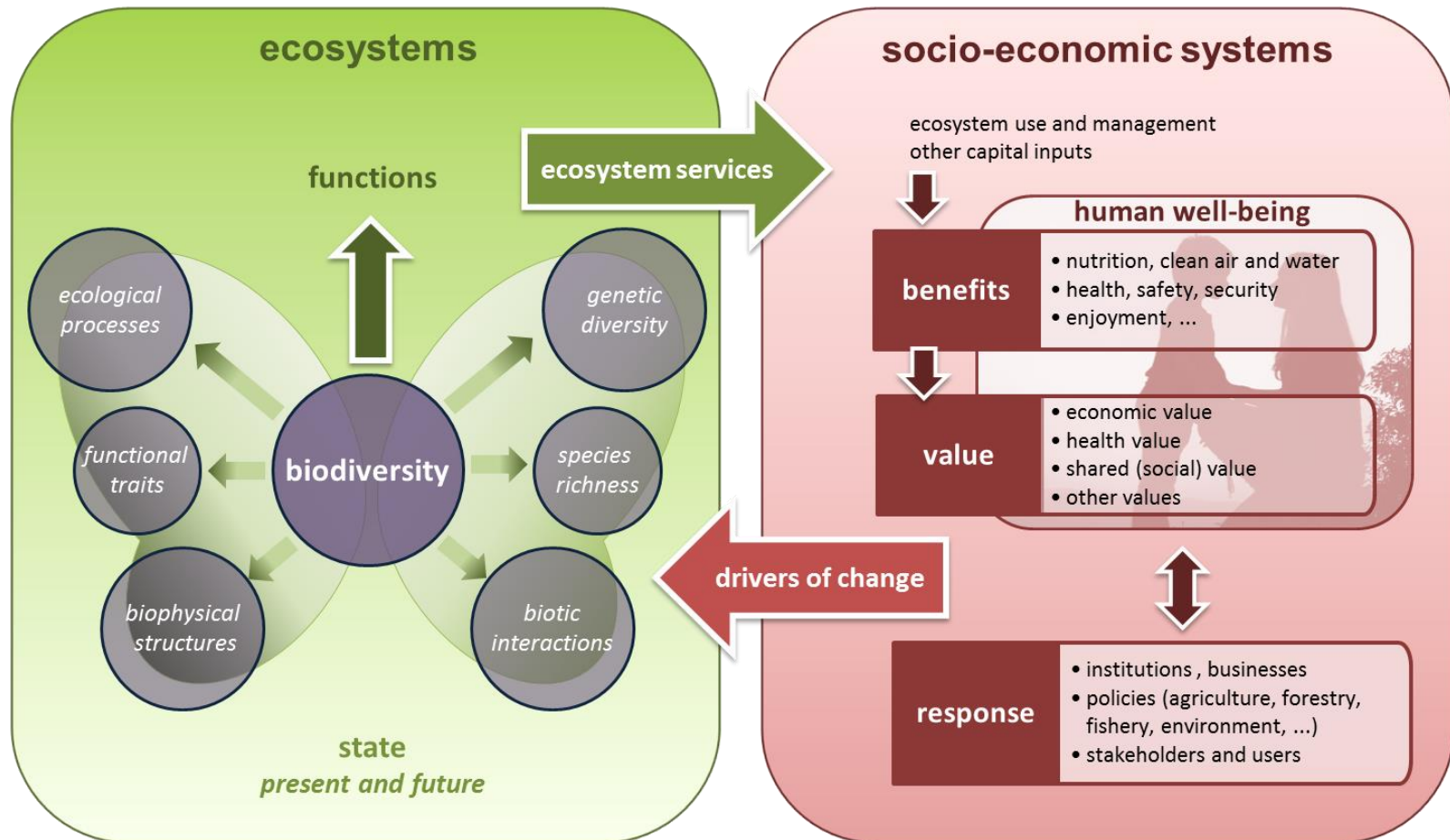ecosystems and their services, within and
beyond protected areas, by*:

•Improving **knowledge of Ecosystems and
their services** in EU (Action 5)

•**Restoring at least 15% of degraded
ecosystems** (Action 6a)

•Establishing '**Green Infrastructure**'
throughout the EU (Action 6b)

•Ensure **no net loss** of biodiversity and ES

Action 5:To Improve the knowledge of ecosystems and their services in EU

- "Member States, with assistance of the Commission, are required to **map** and assess state of **ecosystem**s and their **services** in their national territory by 2014, assess economic value of such services, and promote integration of these values into accounting and reporting systems at EU and national level by 2020."

- Action 5 is one of the keystones of the strategy providing a knowledge base for **Europe's green infrastructure**, the **restoration of 15% of degraded ecosystems** and the **No Net Loss** of biodiversity and ecosystem services initiative.

- http://biodiversity.europa.eu/maes

MAES overall conceptual framework

EU INCA project
(*Integrated Natural Capital Accounting system for ecosystems and their services and associated data sets*)

- Partnership of European Commission services (Environment, Statistical Office, Research, Joint Research Centre) and the European Environment Agency

- Objectives:
  - Support the integration of ecosystem accounts into economic decision making at national and EU level
  - Design and implement an integrated accounting system for ecosystems and their services at EU level
  - Develop EU level "pilot" accounts and support Member States
  - Foundation: common data platform of geo-referenced information

- Implementation: 2016-2020

Action 6b: The EU's Green Infrastructure Strategy

Policy context: **EU Biodiversity strategy to 2020**;

➤**7th EAP** **(1st priority "to protect, conserve and enhance the Union's natural capital")**

➤**The EU GI Strategy** (2013) is made up of four main elements:

I.**Promoting Green Infrastructure in main EU policy areas**

II.**Supporting EU-level GI projects**

III.**Improving access to finance for GI projects**

IV.**Improving information and promoting innovation**

What is Green Infrastructure

> *A strategically planned network of natural and semi-natural areas with other environmental features designed and managed to deliver wide range of ecosystem services (in terrestrial, aquatic, coastal & marine environments)*
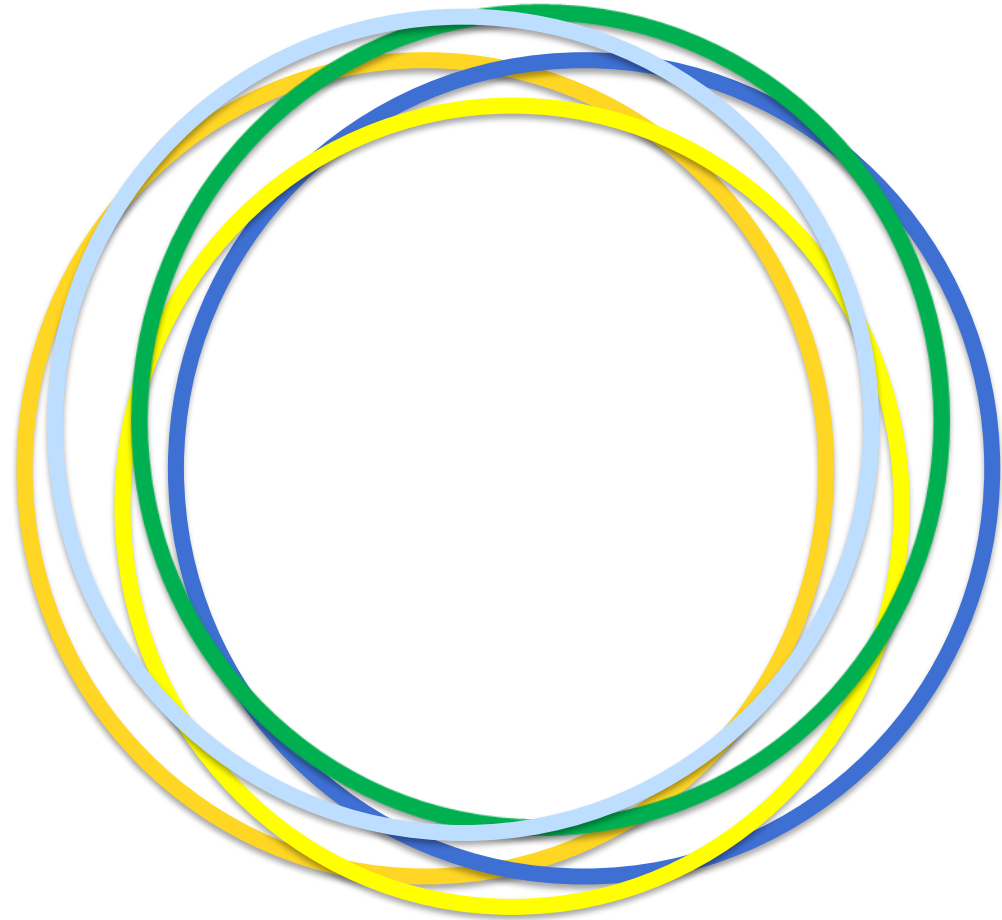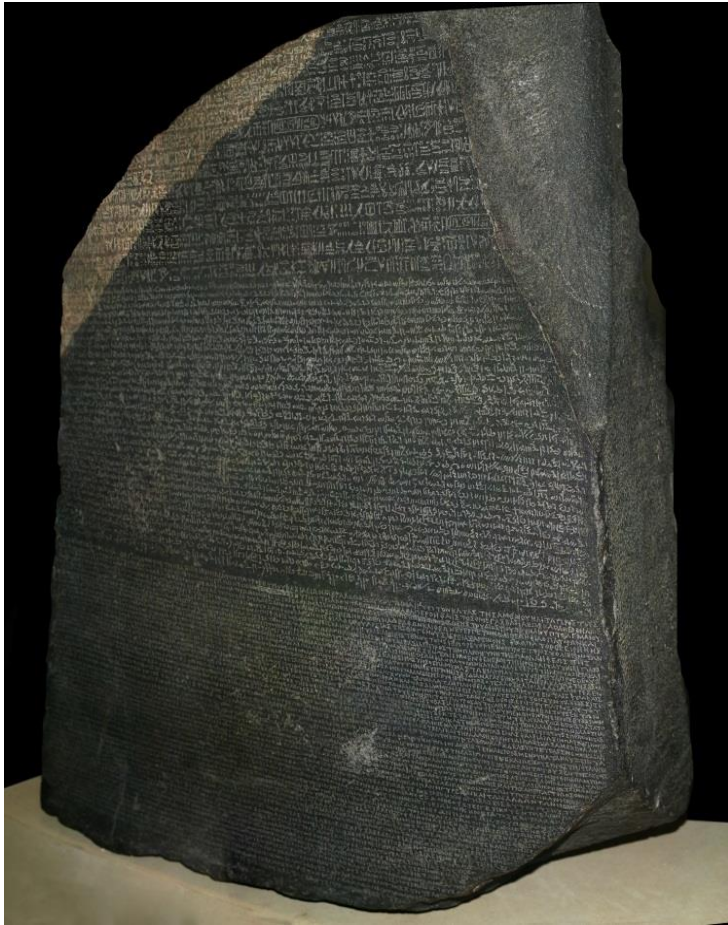
> *The structure enabling healthy ecosystems to deliver their multiple, valuable, economically important goods and services to people, such as: clean water and air, carbon storage, pollination etc., mitigation and adaptation to climate change*

Spatial and functional structure delivering nature benefits to people

The Rosetta Stone

GI - EBA – NBS – eco-DRR - NWRM

working with nature for people

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Urban Green Infrastructure

- *Urban GI provides multiple solutions in cost-effective way*

- *EU develops knowledge on urban GI: we already proposes **flexible indicator framework** to support assessment of urban ecosystems condition and their services in cities across the EU:* http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/knowledge/ecosystem_assessment/pdf/102.pdf

- *Next phase: testing further the methodology with more cities across the EU (2017-18): **'EnRoute' project***

Enhancing **R**esilience **O**f **U**rban **E**cosystems **t**hrough Green Infrastructure ('EnRoute')

(2017-2018)

1. **Implementing and testing the urban MAES framework [19 'city labs' + EU level]**

2. **Science-policy interface (mainstreaming GI in urban policy: governance, community engagement)**

3. **Networking (communities of practise)**

- *Kick off workshop 7/8 March (in Rome)*

•Conference on 'Evidence-based planning for greener cities', in cooperation with EU Maltese Presidency – 13 June in Malta https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/ConferenceEvidenceForGreener Cities

Latest developments on nature, ecosystems services and green infrastructure

- *Thorough evaluation of the Birds and Habitats Directives concluded in 2016*

- ***EU Action Plan for nature, people and the economy*** *(April 2017) to improve Nature Directives' implementation and boost their contribution to EU biodiversity targets for 2020.*

- **AP: four priority areas and 15 actions to be carried out between now and 2019**

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Action 1: Integrating ecosystems and their services into decision-making

- *Ecosystems and their services (i.e. the benefits that flow from nature to people and the economy) not fully considered in policy decisions*

- *Commission, together with MS and stakeholders will:*

  ➢ *Develop guidance and tools to support integration of ESS into planning and decision-making (by 2018)*

  ➢ *Provide capacity building measures for authorities, planners and developers (2018-2019)*

Action 12: Provide guidance to support the deployment of GI for better connectivity of Nature 2000 Network

- *Nature Fitness Check: N2000 alone cannot deliver Directives' objectives. GI measures needed, incl. to ensure coherence of N2000 network, whilst delivering multiple benefits through enhanced ecosystem services*

- *COM to develop **guidance** for further supporting **EU-level Green Infrastructure projects** that contribute to the goals of the Nature Directives, so as to enhance the delivery of essential ecosystem services throughout EU territory (by mid-2018).*

Next steps

- **6 June:** *Conference "An EU Action Plan for nature, people and the economy", Brussels*

- **29 June***: EU Workiking Group on Green Infrastructure and Restoration, Brussels*

- **By end 2017***: Commission report on the review of implementation of the EU GI Strategy*

More info on DG ENV & BISE webpages

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/ecosystems/index_en.htm

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/fitness_check/action_plan/index_en.htm

http://biodiversity.europa.eu/bise-catalogue > Green Infrastructure

http://www.nwrm.eu

Thank you for your attention