

Priorities for protecting biodiversity in livestock systems

**LIVESTOCK AND BIODIVERSITY IN EUROPE –
NATURE AS SOLUTION IN GRAZING SYSTEMS?**

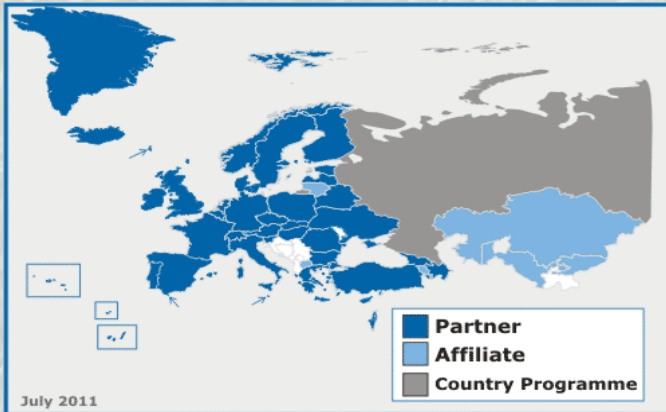
Copenhagen, August 2022

*Marilda Dhaskali, EU Agriculture & Bioenergy Officer,
BirdLife Europe and Central Asia*

BirdLife International & BirdLife Europe

BirdLife International

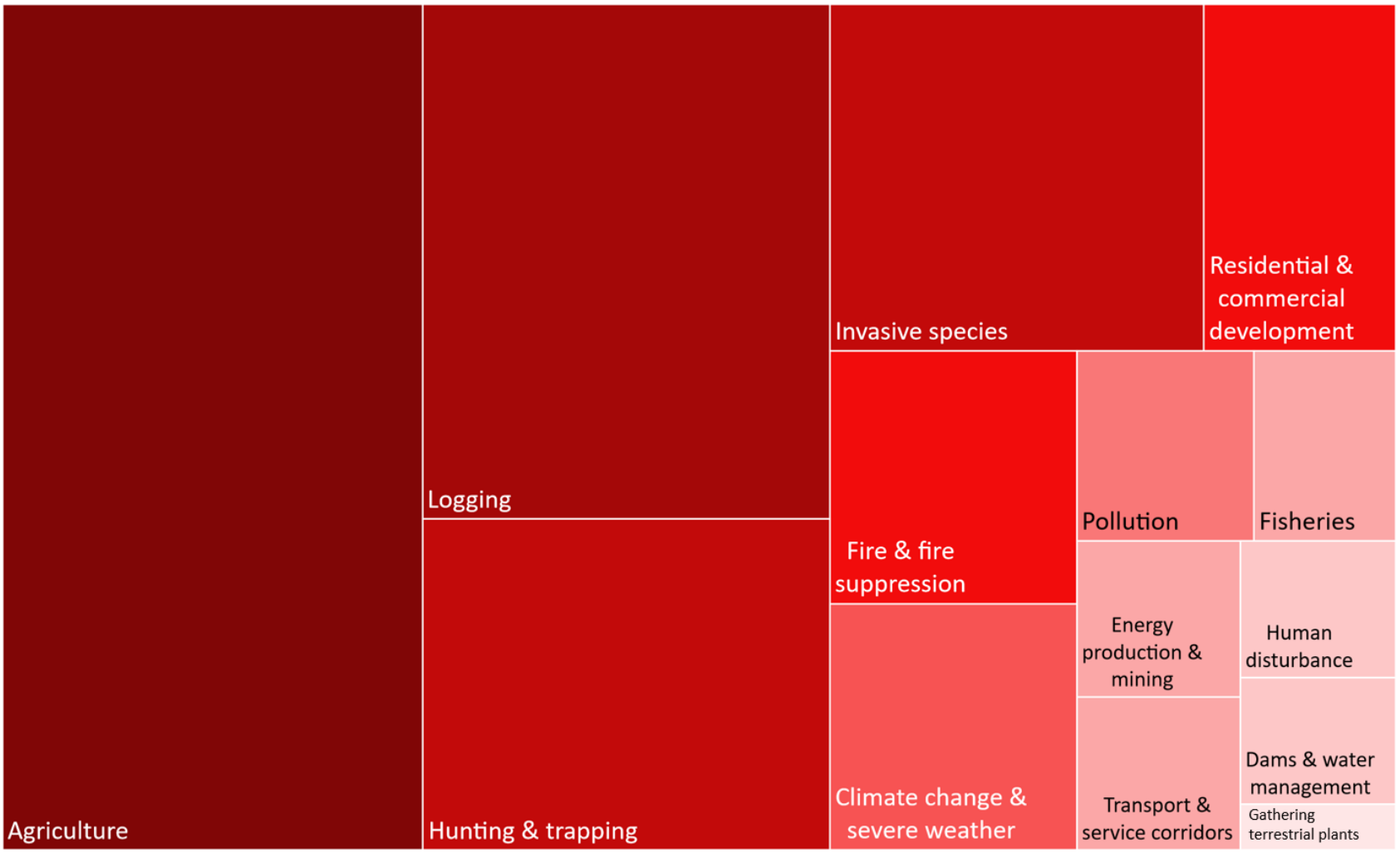
The world's largest nature conservation Partnership (119) is driven by belief that local people, working for nature in their own places but connected nationally and internationally through our global Partnership, are the key to sustaining all life on this planet. We are recognised as the world leader in bird conservation.



BirdLife Europe

Supports the partnership of Europe and Central Asia, present in 47 countries, of which the 28 EU Member States.

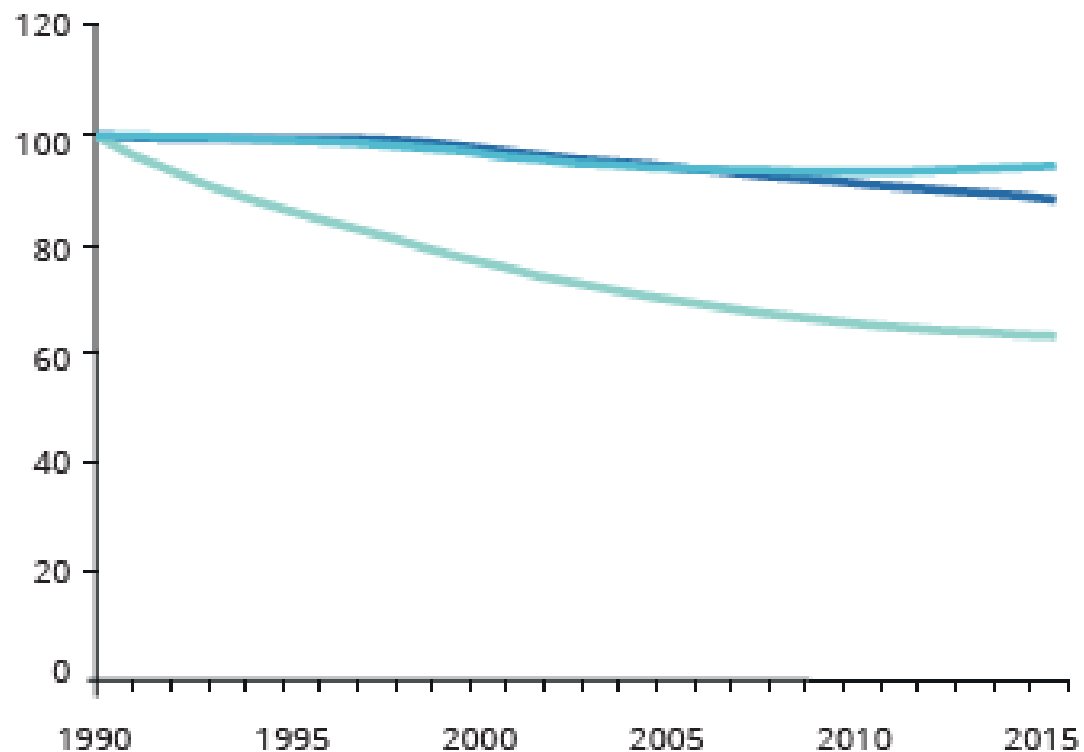
Agriculture is the first driver for biodiversity loss



Common farmland birds are facing the biggest decrease

Common birds population index

Population index (1990 = 100)



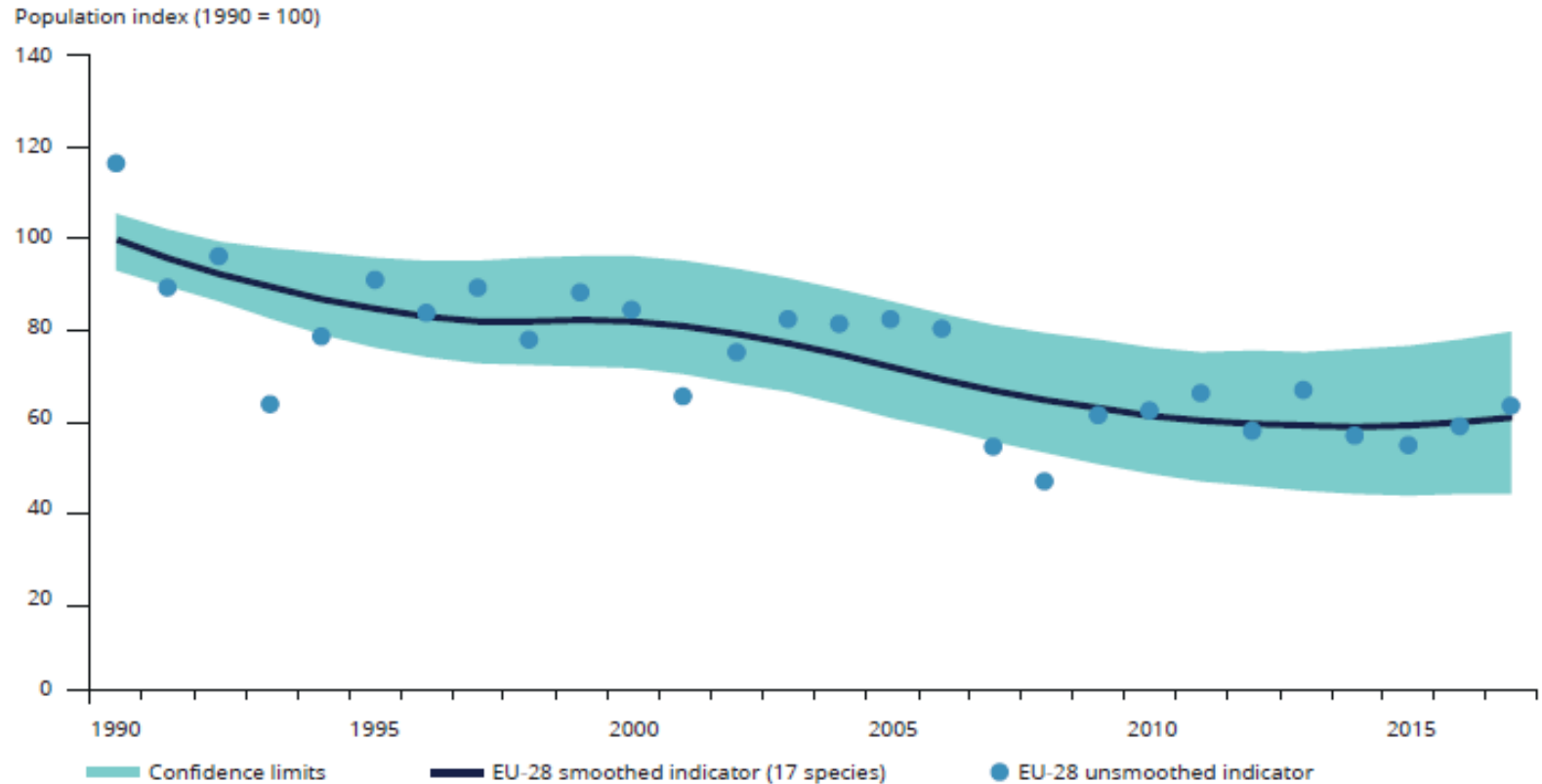
■ All common birds in Europe (168 species)

■ Common forest birds in Europe (34 species)

■ Common farmland birds in Europe (39 species)

...but not only birds

FIGURE 3.6 Grassland butterflies population index, 1990-2017



Agriculture involves land use changes

- Land clearing/agriculture expansion
- Agricultural intensification
- Agricultural abandonment



High Nature Value Farming

Traditional farming landscape



High Nature Value Farming

Maintain open habitats



High Nature Value Farming

Maintain open habitats for birds' conservation

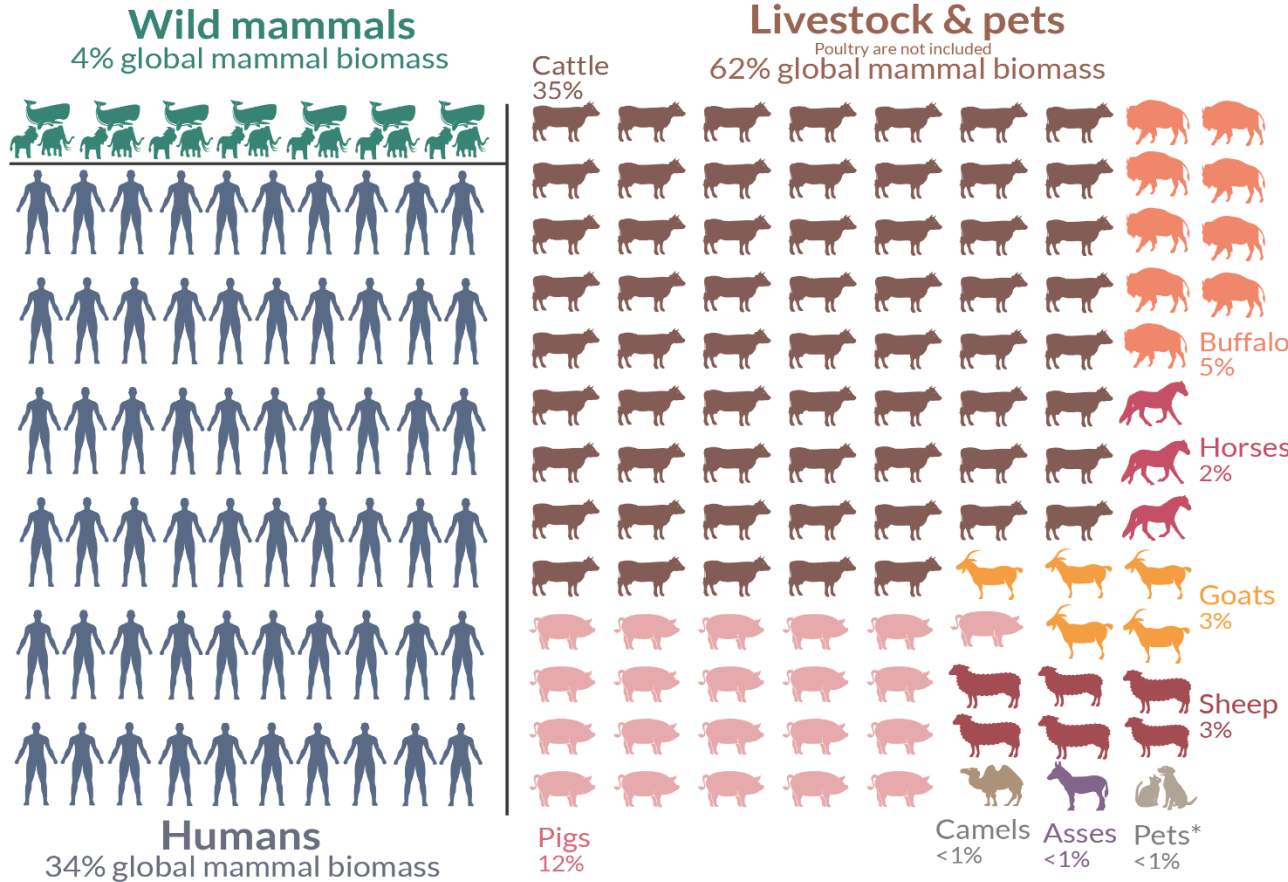


Paradox of too many cows and facing under grazed habitats

Distribution of mammals on Earth

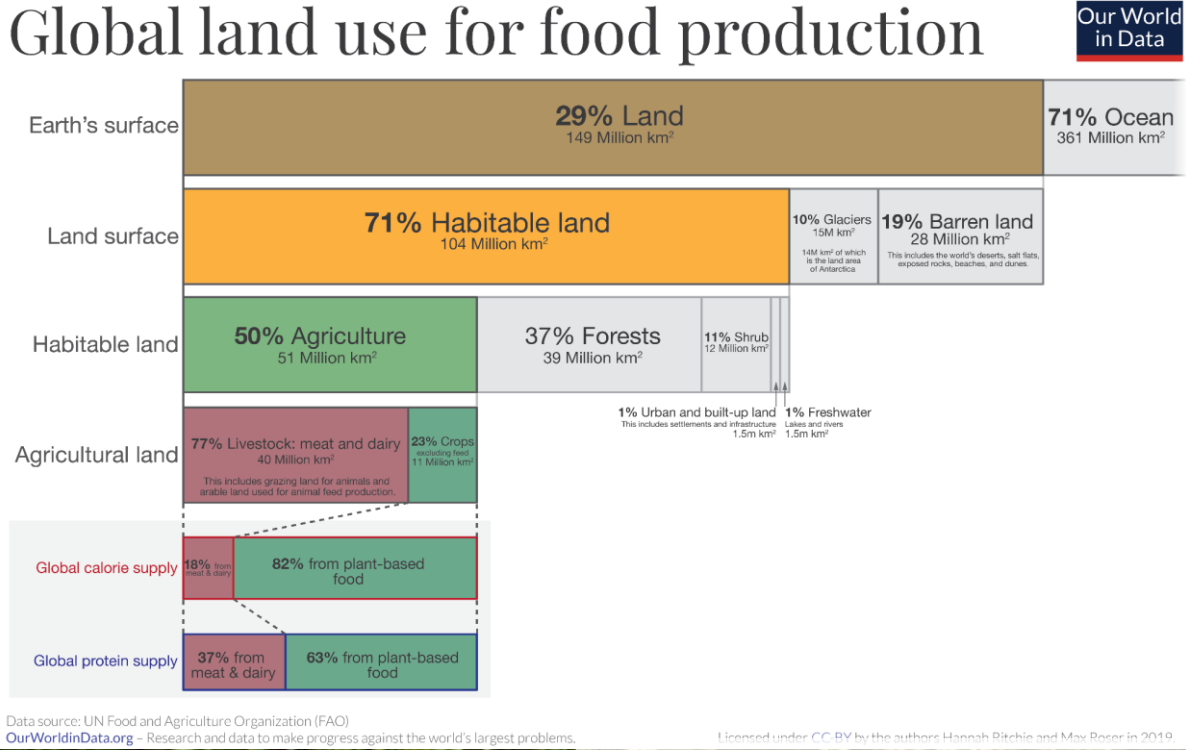
Our World in Data

Mammal biomass is shown for the year 2015.  or  or  = 1 million tonnes carbon (C)



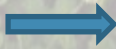
*Bar-On et al. (2018) provide estimates of livestock only, without estimates of mammalian pets (e.g. cats and dogs). Pets have been added as an additional category based on calculations from estimates of the number of pets globally and average biomass.
Data source: Bar-On et al. (2018). The biomass distribution on Earth. Images sourced from the Noun Project.
OurWorldinData.org - Research and data to make progress against the world's largest problems. Licensed under CC-BY by the author Hannah Ritchie.

Unsustainable livestock densities



- Ireland current LU: 4.9 millions
- Ireland LU needed to maintain HD Annex I from Halada et al.: 0,09 millions

2%!!



What do we need?

- Shift to healthier diets including less animal proteins (WHO recommendation are 0,83g/kg/day)
- Maintain HNV habitats BUT with low density livestock that would not jeopardize the conservation of biodiversity
- Stop coupled support that incentivize industrial farming
- AECM giving good results but smaller envelop
 - increase AECM budgets



Partnership for
nature and **people**

Thank you!

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