

EU biodiversity policy targets

Key objectives related to livestock systems

Carlos Romão/ WORKSHOP ON LIVESTOCK AND BIODIVERSITY IN EUROPE / 22-08-2022



Overview

1. Policy context – Green Deal
2. 2030 EU biodiversity strategy
3. Semi-natural habitats
(Habitats Directive)
4. Nature restoration regulation
(EC proposal)



The Green Deal – the political programme of the EC

The European Green Deal is about **improving the well-being of people**. Making Europe climate-neutral and protecting our natural habitat will be good for people, planet and economy. No one will be left behind.

The EU will:

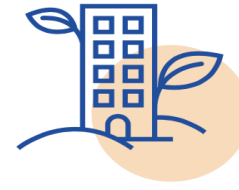
Farm to Fork
strategy



Become
climate-neutral
by 2050



Protect human life,
animals and plants,
by cutting pollution



Help companies
become world leaders
in clean products and
technologies



Help ensure a
just and inclusive
transition

Biodiversity
strategy

*“The European Green Deal is our new growth strategy.
It will help us cut emissions while creating jobs.”*

Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission



*“We propose a green and inclusive transition to help
improve people’s well-being and secure a healthy planet
for generations to come.”*

Frans Timmermans, Executive Vice-President of the European Commission

The Green Deal

Farm to Fork
strategy

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/api/files/attachment/865559/factsheet-farm-fork_en.pdf.pdf



Biodiversity
strategy

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/api/files/attachment/865560/factsheet-EU-biodiversity-strategy_en.pdf.pdf

Moving towards a more healthy and sustainable EU food system, a corner stone of the European Green Deal



Make sure Europeans get healthy, affordable and sustainable food



Tackle climate change



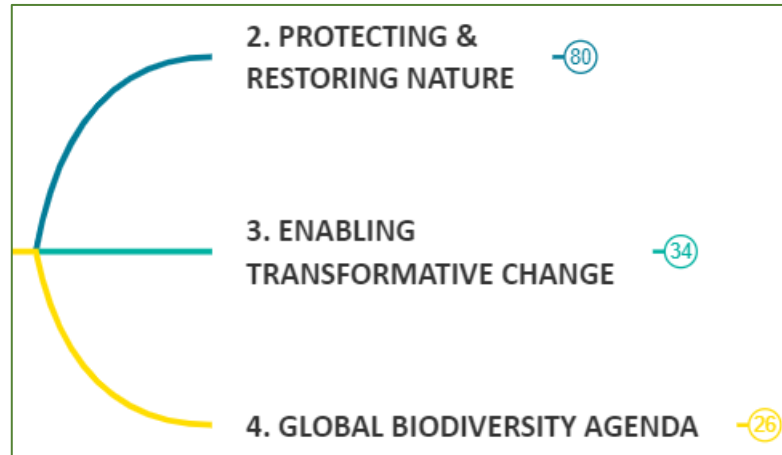
Protect the environment and preserve biodiversity



Fair economic return in the food chain



Increase organic farming



© Galateya Hadzhieva , REDISCOVER Nature /EEA

CLIMATE CHANGE
mitigation/adaptation

European Environment Agency



The EU biodiversity strategy for 2030

EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030 Bringing nature back into our lives

2. PROTECTING & RESTORING NATURE

- 2.1. Trans-European Nature Network
- 2.2. EU Nature Restoration Plan

3. ENABLING TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE

- 3.1. New governance framework ⁴
- 3.2. Stepping up implementation & enforcement
- 3.3. Building on an integrated and whole-of-society approach ¹⁹

4. GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY AGENDA

- 4.1 Raising the level of ambition and commitment worldwide ⁶
- 4.2. Using external action to promote the EU's ambition ¹⁸

TURN AT LEAST **30%** OF EU'S LAND AND **30%** OF SEAS INTO EFFECTIVELY MANAGED AND COHERENT PROTECTED AREAS

RESTORE **DEGRADED ECOSYSTEMS** AND STOP ANY FURTHER DAMAGE TO NATURE

RESTORE AT LEAST **25 000 KM** OF THE EU'S RIVERS TO BE FREE-FLOWING

REDUCE THE USE AND RISK OF PESTICIDES BY AT LEAST **50%**

TACKLE BYCATCH AND SEABED DAMAGE

REVERSE THE DECLINE OF **POLLINATORS**

ESTABLISH BIODIVERSITY-RICH LANDSCAPE FEATURES ON AT LEAST **10%** OF FARMLAND

MANAGE **25%** OF AGRICULTURAL LAND UNDER ORGANIC FARMING, AND PROMOTE THE UPTAKE OF AGRO-ECOLOGICAL PRACTICES

PLANT OVER **3 BILLION** DIVERSE, BIODIVERSITY RICH TREES.



Legal framework for nature restoration

- Raise level of implementation of Birds and Habitats Directives
 - Target:**
 - _ 30 % species & habitats in favourable conservation status or positive trend
 - _ no-deterioration in conservation status and trends
- EC to propose a nature restoration law (done on 22/06/2022)



The 2030 EU biodiversity strategy

EU nature restoration plan

- Bringing back nature to agricultural land
- Addressing land take & restoring soil ecosystems
- Improving quantity, health & resilience of forests
- Win-win solutions for energy generation
- Restoring marine ecosystems
- Restoring freshwater ecosystems
- Greening urban & peri-urban areas
- Reducing pollution
- Addressing invasive alien species

Where livestock systems play an important role



Focus on semi-natural habitats

233 natural and semi-natural habitat types in Annex I of Habitats

Directive:

- In danger of disappearance
- Small range due to regression or intrinsically restricted
- Characteristic of one of the biogeographical regions

Halada et al (2011) *Which habitats of European importance*

depend on agricultural practices (mostly grazing and/or mowing)

- 23 fully dependent
- 40 partially dependent

Revision made for the EEA report 'State of Nature in the EU'

- 23 fully dependent
- 36 partially dependent
- About ¼ of all Annex I habitats

Some examples

Fully dependent: 16 grasslands,
2 sand dunes, 4 heath, 1 forest

6220 Pseudo-steppe with grasses and
annuals of the *Thero-Brachypodietea*

© Georgios Fotiadis, Europear

4030 European dry heaths

© John Janssen, European Red List of Habitats, 2016

6520 Mountain hay meadows

© John Janssen, European Red List of Habitats, 2016

6530 Fennoscandian wooded meadows

© John Janssen, European Red List of Habitats, 2016

Some facts & figures – from 2019 reporting (Art.17 Habitats Directive)

Extent of these 59 habitat types, ca. 369 000 km² (\approx 9 % EU27)

- 51 % fully dependent
- 49 % partially dependent

- Only about 1/3 in Natura 2000

Areas over- or under-estimated depending on habitats and countries

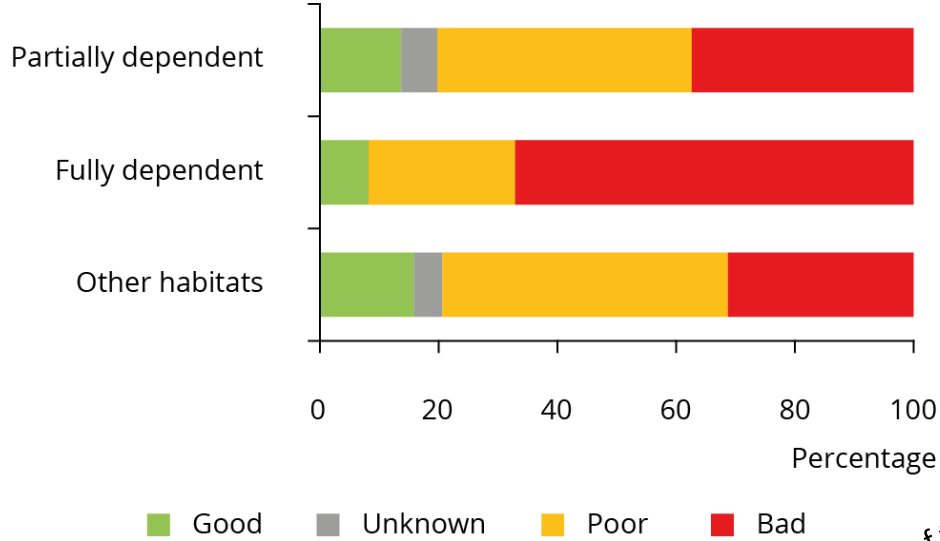
Condition (structure and functions of the habitats)

- 57 % of area in 'good condition' (fully dependent 53 %)
- 13 % of area in 'not-good condition' (fully dependent 18 %)
- 30 % of area 'Unknown condition'

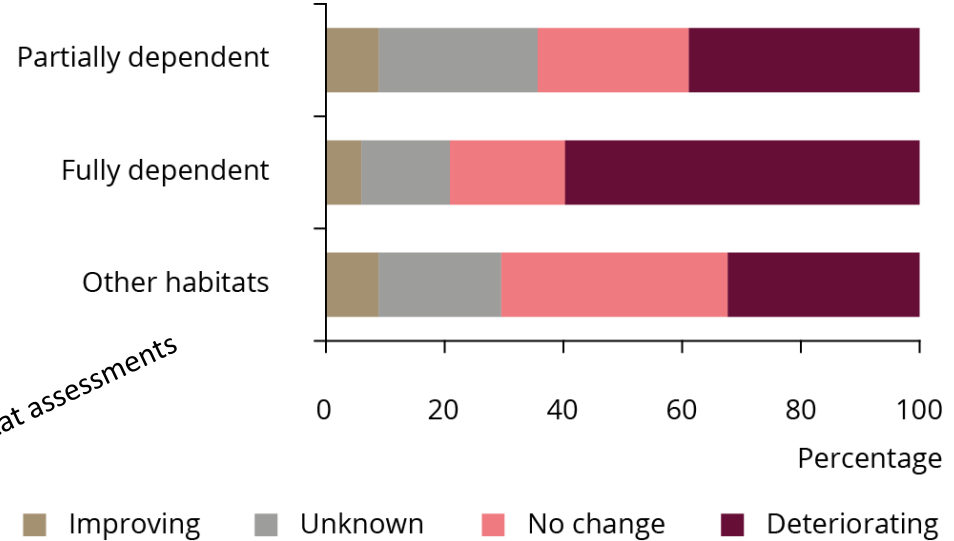


Some facts & figures – from 2019 reporting (Art.17 Habitats Directive)

Habitats conservation status

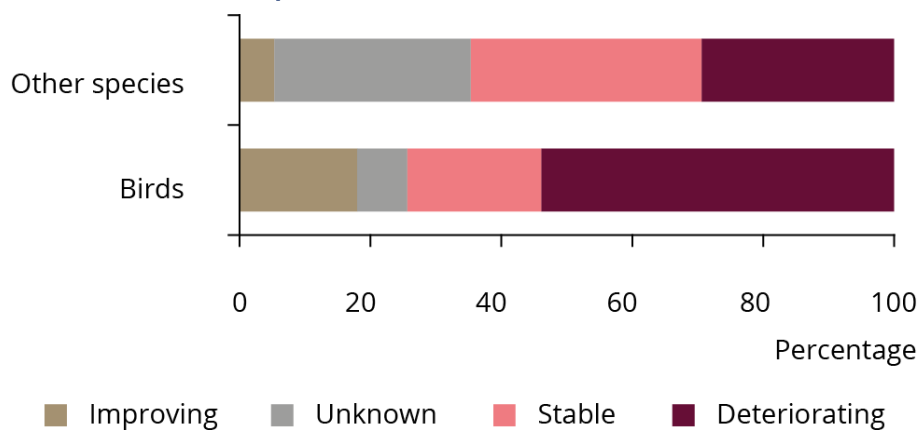


Habitats conservation status trend



Percentage of the number of habitat assessments

Species conservation status trend



Fully dependent, worse status and trends than partially dependent

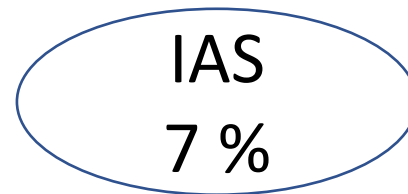
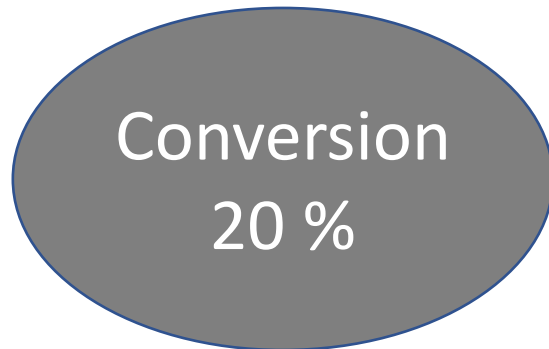
Agricultural dependent habitats, worst status and trends than other habitats



Some facts & figures – from 2019 reporting (Art.17 Habitats Directive)

Which pressures affect these agricultural habitats?

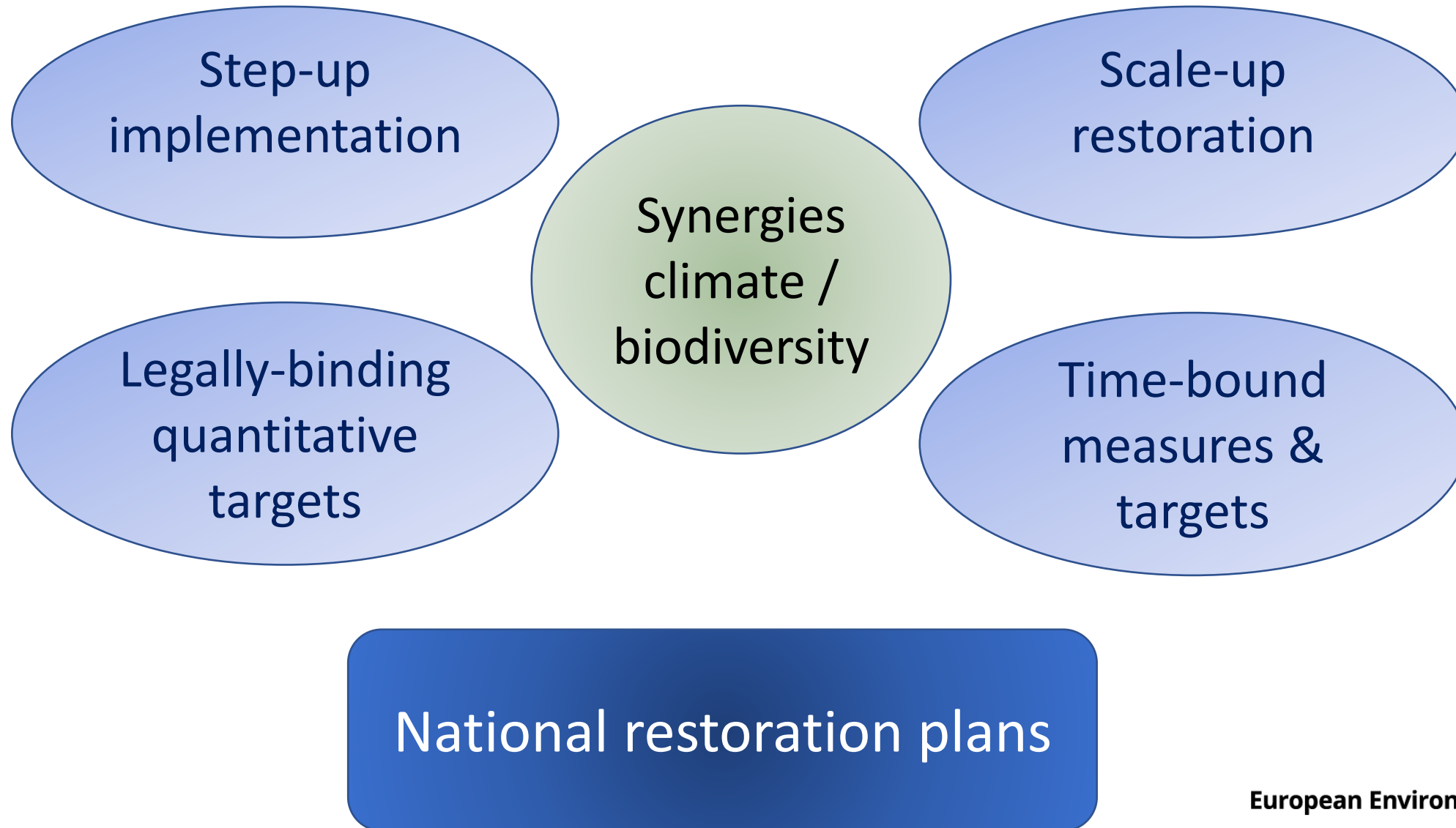
(frequency of reported pressures - % of total pressures)



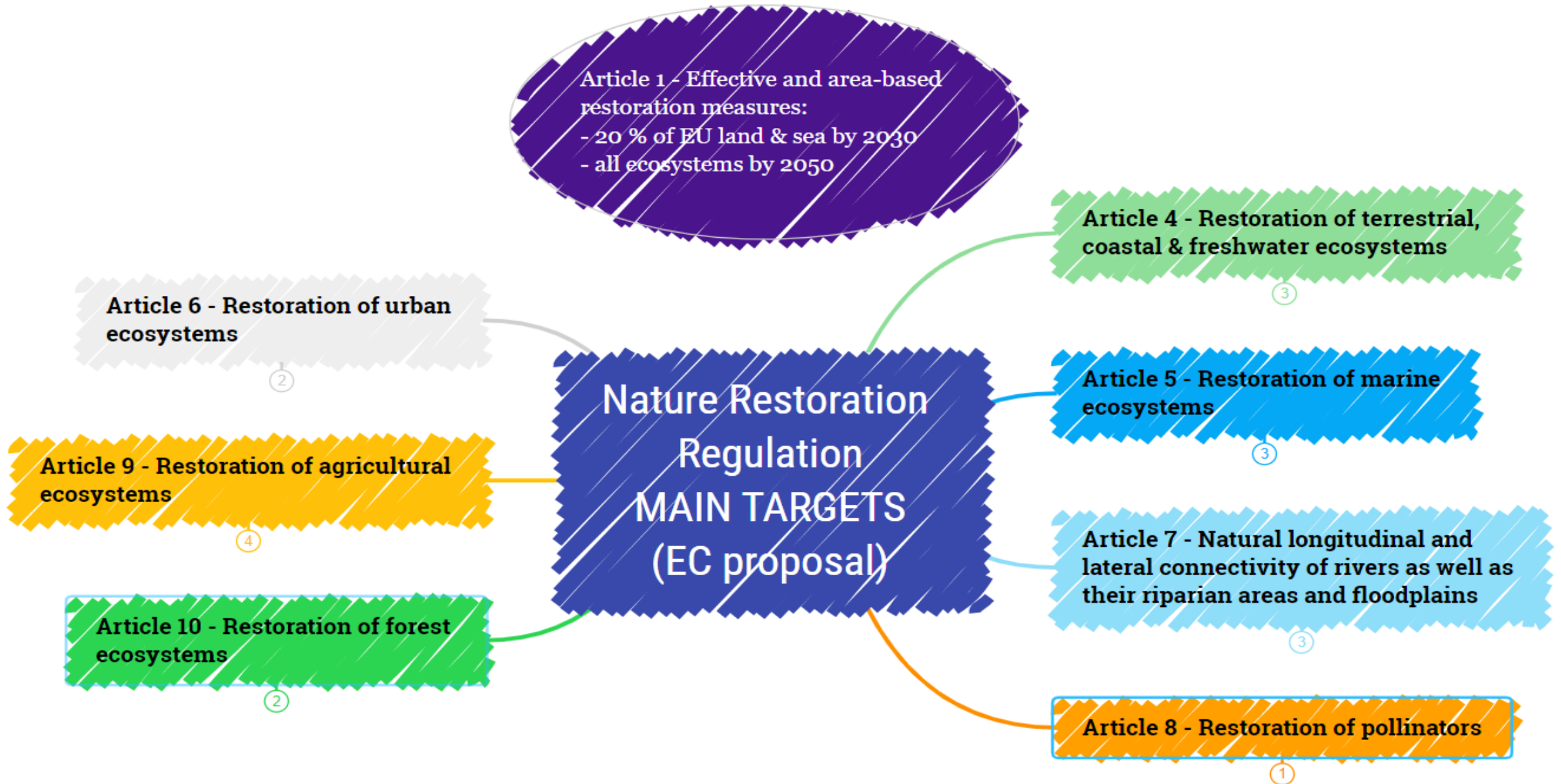
Abandonment of management	20
Natural processes (lack of conservation management)	14
Habitat management	3
Conversion into other agri land	9
Conversion/land take (grey infrastructure)	7
Afforestation	4
Application of fertilizers	4
Pollution from agri activities	3
Pollution from other sources	3
Extensive grazing or undergrazing by livestock	4
Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock	5
Invasive alien species (IAS)	7
Climate change	2



Nature restoration regulation – COM(2022) 304 final



Nature restoration regulation – COM(2022) 304 final



Some conclusions – livestock systems

Instrumental to maintain and restore semi-natural habitats

- Protected

- Non protected

And their related species, including pollinators

Decrease risk and intensity of wildfires

Improve carbon stocks in mineral soils

Maintain local livestock breeds

(over 75 % at risk of extinction in Europe, FAO)

One-size **does not** fit all

Adaptability to **local** conditions

Thank you



Annex I habitats dependent on agricultural practices

Fully dependent

21A0	Machairs (* in Ireland)	6250	Pannonic loess steppic grasslands
2340	Pannonic inland dunes	6260	Pannonic sand steppes
4010	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i>	6270	Fennoscandian lowland species-rich dry to mesic grasslands
4020	Temperate Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica ciliaris</i> and <i>Erica tetralix</i>	6280	Nordic alvar and precambrian calcareous flatrocks
4030	European dry heaths	62A0	Eastern sub-Mediterranean dry grasslands (<i>Scorzoneratalia villosae</i>)
4040	Dry Atlantic coastal heaths with <i>Erica vagans</i>	6310	Dehesas with evergreen <i>Quercus</i> spp
6190	Rupicolous pannonic grasslands (<i>Stipo-Festucetalia pallentis</i>)	6410	Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>)
6210	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (* important orchid sites)	6440	Alluvial meadows of river valleys of the <i>Cnidion dubii</i>
6220	Pseudo-steppe with grasses and annuals of the <i>Thero-Brachypodietea</i>	6450	Northern boreal alluvial meadows
6230	Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe)	6510	Lowland hay meadows (<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i> , <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i>)
		6520	Mountain hay meadows
		6530	Fennoscandian wooded meadows
		9070	Fennoscandian wooded pastures



Annex I habitats dependent on agricultural practices

Partially dependent

1330	Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>)	6110	Rupicolous calcareous or basophilic grasslands of the <i>Alyso-Sedion albi</i>
1340	Inland salt meadows	6120	Xeric sand calcareous grasslands
1530	Pannonic salt steppes and salt marshes	6140	Siliceous Pyrenean <i>Festuca eskia</i> grasslands
1630	Boreal Baltic coastal meadows	6150	Siliceous alpine and boreal grasslands
2130	Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes")	6160	Oro-Iberian <i>Festuca indigesta</i> grasslands
2140	Decalcified fixed dunes with <i>Empetrum nigrum</i>	6170	Alpine and subalpine calcareous grasslands
2190	Humid dune slacks	6180	Macaronesian mesophile grasslands
2250	Coastal dunes with <i>Juniperus</i> spp.	6240	Sub-Pannonic steppic grasslands
2310	Dry sand heaths with <i>Calluna</i> and <i>Genista</i>	62C0	Ponto-Sarmatic steppes
2320	Dry sand heaths with <i>Calluna</i> and <i>Empetrum nigrum</i>	62D0	Oro-Moesian acidophilous grasslands
2330	Inland dunes with open <i>Corynephorus</i> and <i>Agrostis</i> grasslands	6420	Mediterranean tall humid grasslands of the <i>Molinio-Holoschoenion</i>
4060	Alpine and Boreal heaths	6430	Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels
4090	Endemic oro-Mediterranean heaths with gorse	6540	Sub-Mediterranean grasslands of the <i>Molinio-Hordeion secalini</i>
5120	Mountain <i>Cytisus purgans</i> formations	7210	Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i>
5130	<i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands	7230	Alkaline fens
5210	Arborescent matorral with <i>Juniperus</i> spp.	8230	Siliceous rock with pioneer vegetation of the <i>Sedo-Scleranthion</i> or of the <i>Sedo albi-Veronicion dillenii</i>
5330	Thermo-Mediterranean and pre-desert scrub	8240	Limestone pavements
5420	<i>Sarcopoterium spinosum</i> phrygas		
5430	Endemic phrygas of the <i>Euphorbio-Verbascion</i>		