

EBMS-EU Policy Context



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Butterfly Conservation Europe

EBMS Coordinators Meeting
Laufen
Friday 2 December 2022

Overview of Session 6 - EU Policy Context

EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030 and targets

EU Nature Restoration Law
Pollinator Recovery Target
EU Pollinators Initiative Revision

Sue Collins

EU Forest Strategy

Strategy Aims and key issues for BCE
Forest Monitoring and Strategic Plans and EU Guidelines

Aidan Whitfield

Question and Answer Session - All

Use of Butterfly Indicators and data

Improving conservation and restoration of Lepidoptera

Sue Collins

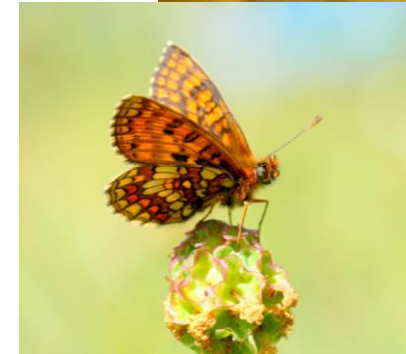
EU MS Pledges: Habitats Directive Art 17 Reports

Holly Mynott

Talking with Member States - Xavier Mestdagh Luxemborg, Lars Pettersson Sweden, Simona Bonelli Italy and **Discussion** - All

BCE - Policy Recommendations made in 2020

- ▶ Set binding EU Pollinator recovery target
- ▶ Set Binding Ecosystem restoration targets
- ▶ Use eBMS butterfly data and Indicators to strengthen EU policy design, evaluation and Member States's
 - *CAP Strategic Plans*
 - *Forestry , Urban and Regional Plans*
 - *Natura 2000 Management Plans and measures*
 - *Prioritised Action Frameworks (PAFs) for assessing funding needed for Natura 2000 measures*
- ▶ ABLE Project Policy Brief



BCE 2020 Policy Recommendations (continued)

- ▶ Roll out the EU Pollinator Monitoring Scheme across EU MSs
- ▶ Invest at scale to:
 - reduce pesticide use and nitrogen deposition
 - reverse semi natural grassland abandonment
 - restore abandoned meadows
 - Increase butterfly larval plant resources
- ▶ create more open habitats, edges in forests and woods
- ▶ encourage butterfly friendly urban greenspaces
- ▶ Invest in climate action to reduce threats
- ▶ Monitor and report biodiversity outcomes and increase effective restoration



EU Policy Context - EUBDS 2030 - May 2021

EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030 with “soft” Targets

- ▶ Ecosystem Recovery
- ▶ Reverse declines in wild pollinators by 2030
- ▶ Protected Area network increased to 30% EU area, including for Red Listed species
- ▶ Halt deterioration of all Habitats Directive (HD) listed species - including butterflies and their habitats
- ▶ Improve Conservation Status trends by 2030 for 30% of occurrences of HD listed habitats and species
- MS “Pledges” needed



EUBDS 2030: EU level Protected Area “soft” targets

Protected Area (PA) Targets

- Protected Areas across 30% of EU land
- Strictly Protected Areas across 10% of EU land, including semi-natural grasslands which need managing to meet ecological requirements

Better Management of PAs essential

- ▶ Conservation Objectives and measures needed

EU Member States expected to fill data gaps and improve quality of MS HD Article 17 Reports due in 2024

- ▶ Field monitoring of biodiversity is required - becomes a binding requirement under draft EU Nature Restoration Law - post 2026



EU BDS 2030 Species and Habitat Improvement Targets

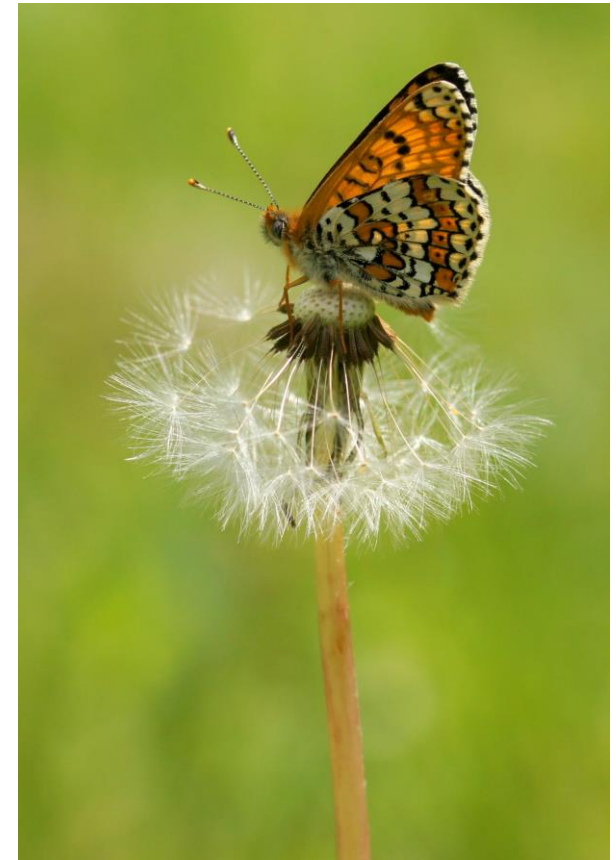
Member State voluntary “Pledge” Process

The Commission requests and supports Member States to raise the level of implementation of existing legislation within clear deadlines.

EU Commission requests Member States Pledges to:

- ▶ Increase PA protection eg for RL species
- ▶ ensure **no deterioration** in conservation trends and status of all HD protected habitats and species by 2030.
- ▶ ensure that at least 30% of species and habitats not currently in favourable status are in that category or show a strong positive trend by 2030.

BCE and DG Environment organised a **Pledge networking event** for MS and experts, in March 2020, to help MSs include butterflies in their Pledges. Slow progress - **further talks with MSs needed**



Pledge Process Networking Event Presentations

Networking Event Presentations

- ▶ The **Pledge process** – Frank Vassen, DG-Env
- ▶ **Status and trends for butterflies and their habitats and MS's Conservation Status Improvement targets and Pledges** – Sue Collins, BCE
- ▶ **Protected Areas targets** – Simona Bonelli, BCE and Turin University
- ▶ **Improving management for butterflies** – Sam Ellis, BCE
- ▶ **Monitoring for butterflies and their habitats** – Chris van Swaay, BCE
- ▶ **Developing and implementing National and Regional Species Action Plans for butterflies in France** - Xavier Houard - OPIE & Camille Gazay - MNHN



<https://www.vlinderstichting.nl/butterfly-conservation-europe/eu-policy-and-butterflies/eu-biodiversity-strategy-2030-targets/target-and-pledges>

Draft EU Nature Restoration Law

Overarching objectives

- By 2030 → restoration measures will cover **20%** of EU's land and sea
- By 2050 → measures in place for **ALL ecosystems in need** of restoration

Some of the Binding Requirements

- Reversal of declines in Pollinators by 2030
- Monitoring of Pollinators by Member States
- MS Nature Restoration Plans
- Indicators for Agroecosystems



Draft NRE Law Article 8: Restoration of pollinator populations

1. Member States shall reverse the decline of pollinator populations by 2030 and achieve thereafter an increasing trend of pollinator populations, measured every three years after 2030, until satisfactory levels are achieved, as set out in accordance with Article 11(3).
2. The Commission shall adopt implementing acts to establish a method for monitoring pollinator populations. Those implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 21(2).
3. The method referred to in the paragraph 2 shall provide a standardised approach for collecting annual data on the abundance and diversity of pollinator species and for assessing pollinator population trends.

Draft NRLaw - Targets for Agroecosystems

Draft NRLaw: Annex 4

- ▶ Achieve an **increasing trend in indicators** (until satisfactory levels are achieved):
 - **Grassland butterfly index;**
 - Stock of organic carbon in cropland mineral soils;
 - **Share of agricultural land with high-diversity landscape features;**
 - Farmland bird index at national level (with specified index improvements)
- ▶ Restore & partly rewet certain shares of **drained peatlands** under agricultural use.



Binding EU Pollinator Recovery Target

Benefits of a Binding Target

- ▶ Gives substance and teeth to implementation of EU BDS 2030 commitment to reverse declines in wild pollinators by 2030
- ▶ Identifies need for funding by agriculture, urban and other sectors
- ▶ Reinforces need to include funded measures in Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) implementation eg MS CAP Strategic Plans
- ▶ **Encourages main streaming of field monitoring of pollinators**
- ▶ Resonates with the public



EU Pollinators Initiative



Existing Initiative 2018 - **wild pollinators focus**

► Three themes:

1. Improving knowledge of pollinator declines
2. Understanding its causes and consequences
3. Raising awareness, engaging society-at-large and promoting collaboration

Reviewed 2021 - consensus that **action needs strengthening**

EU Expert Workshops 2021/2022

- **Pollinators and Protected Areas; Agriculture; Climate change; Pesticides -**
- **Recommendations to EU and MSs**

EU Pollinators Expert Group - 2022/23 - BCE a member

Monitoring pollinators - acknowledged as a key action by EU and MSs

Revised Initiative expected early 2023

Thank you to all volunteers,
eBMS coordinators, BCE Board,
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UK Centre for
Ecology & Hydrology



HELMHOLTZ
Centre for Environmental Research

