

Nature restoration law

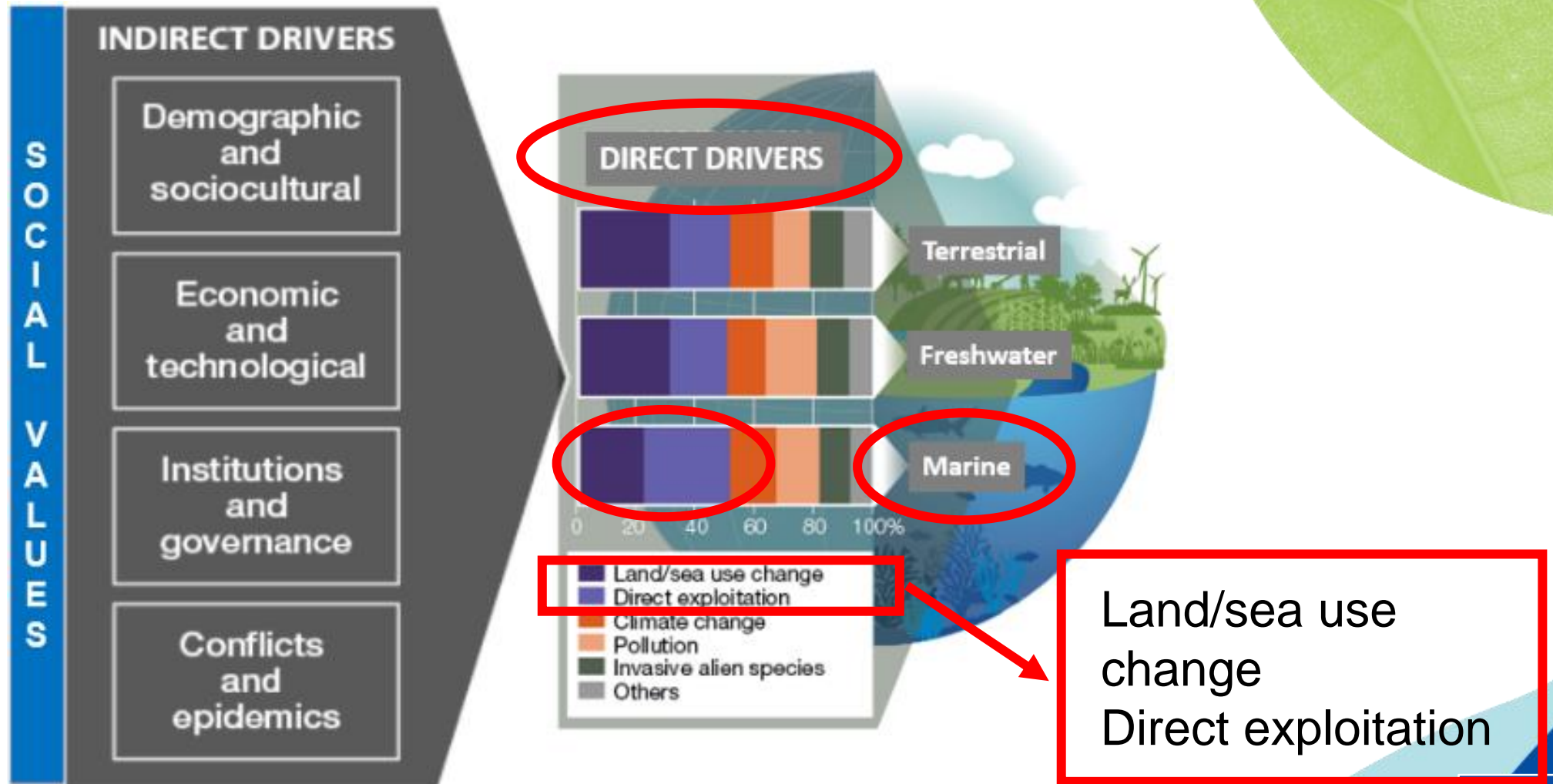
NWWAC horizontal working group, item 4 - 02 July 2024

European Commission, DG Environment



Why do we need the NRL?

We face a global biodiversity crisis



International commitments: Kunming-Montréal Global biodiversity framework (GBF)

2050 vision: **outcome**-oriented goals

- Goal A: ‘The **integrity, connectivity and resilience** of all ecosystems are maintained, enhanced, or restored, **substantially increasing the area of natural ecosystems by 2050**; [...]’

2030 mission: **action**-oriented targets

- Target 2: ‘Ensure that **by 2030 at least 30 %** of areas of degraded terrestrial, inland water, and **coastal and marine ecosystems** are under **effective restoration**, in order to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, ecological integrity and connectivity.’



What about the EU context? Green Deal



What about the EU context?

Existing marine environmental legislation

The implementation of existing legislation* has resulted in **few marine restoration efforts**



The state of EU seas requires restoring **substantial marine areas**

No deadline in the Habitats directive



We need **time-bound** targets

Habitats directive's habitats are **too broadly defined** (e.g. reefs)



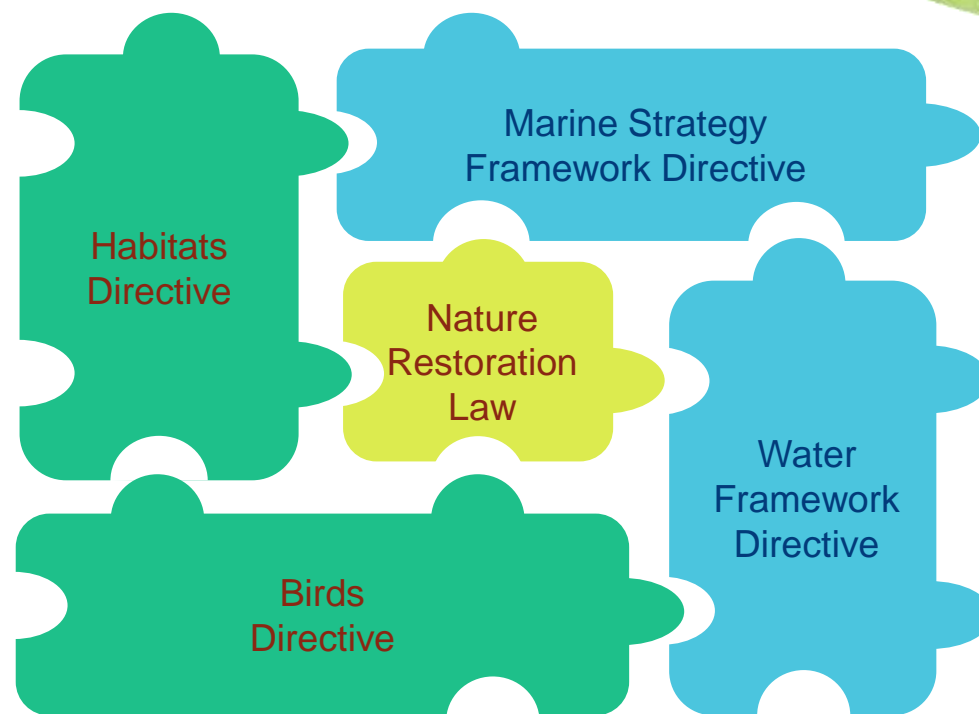
Restoration is needed **at the meaningful level of habitats** where there is ecological knowledge and restoration know-how

** In particular: Birds and habitats directive (BHD) and Marine strategy framework directive (MSFD)*



| Nature restoration law (NRL)


- Continuing ecosystem degradation and biodiversity loss across the EU: **large-scale restoration** is needed
- **The NRL complements and builds on existing policies:** Water framework directive, Birds and Habitats directives and Marine strategy framework directive




Legislative process

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- 22 June 2022 – [Commission proposal](#) for a Nature Restoration Regulation

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- 20 June 2023 – [Council's general approach](#)
 - 12 July 2023 – [Parliament's amendments](#)

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- 19 July 2023 – 1st trilogue: kick-off of co-legislators negotiations
 - 5 October 2023 – 2nd trilogue: guidance on remaining political issues
 - 9 November 2023 – 3rd trilogue: political agreement reached

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- 22 November 2023 – COREPER endorsement (Member States)
 - 27 February 2024 – Parliament's [adoption](#)
 - 17 June 2024 – Council's [adoption](#)

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- Next
- Pending - Publication in the Official Journal
 - Pending - Entry into force



Nature restoration law: structure

Overarching objective

Restoration targets

Implementation framework

National
Restoration Plans

Monitoring and
Reporting



Overarching objective

To contribute to:

- biodiverse, resilient nature across the EU through the restoration of degraded ecosystems
- climate change mitigation and adaptation, **food security**
- meeting the EU's international commitments

Member States to put in place restoration measures covering:

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



Restoration targets for...

Protected
Habitat Types



Habitats of
protected
species



Marine
Habitats



Urban
ecosystems



River
connectivity



Pollinators



Agro-
ecosystems



Forest
ecosystems



3 billion
additional
trees by 2030



Article 5
Annex II and Annex III



Restoration targets based on existing legislation (Art. 4 – terrestrial and 5 – marine) - 1

1) Restoration measures

- **Habitat types** in Annex I (terrestrial) and **Annex II (marine)**
 - ✓ **improve the condition** (measures on at least 30% by 2030, 60% by 2040, 90% by 2050) - ***until 2030: prioritise areas in Natura 2000 sites***
 - ✓ **re-establish habitats** (measures on at least 30% of additional area by 2030, 60% by 2040, 100% by 2050) – *example oyster beds North Sea*
- **Habitats of species:** improve quality and quantity, re-connect

2) Restoration results

- continuous improvement and non-deterioration
- 90 % of habitat area in good condition + favourable reference area
- increasing trend towards sufficient quality and quantity of habitats of species



Restoration targets **based on existing legislation** (Art. 4 – terrestrial and 5 – marine) - 2

Derogations and flexibilities for Member States

- ✓ **restoration and re-establishment**: derogations (lower target) possible by 2050
- ✓ **derogation** for causes of force majeure including natural disasters, unavoidable habitat transformation directly caused by climate change, projects or plans of overriding public interest, action/inaction by third country
- ✓ **effort-based obligation** (not outcome-based)



| Annex II NRL

- These habitat types are covered by **the BHD and the MSFD**. Member States should build on **the extensive work done under existing legislation**
- **Habitat type groups:** 1) Seagrass beds, 2) Macroalgal forests, 3) Shellfish beds, 4) Maerl beds, 5) Sponge, coral and coralligenous beds, 6) Vents and seeps and 7) Soft sediments (above 1000 meters of depth)



Implementation framework

National Restoration Plans (NRP)

Preparation

- quantify and map **areas in need of restoration**
- identify **synergies** with climate change mitigation/adaptation and renewable energy development

Content

- quantify and describe restoration measures
- non-deterioration measures and timing for implementation
- financing and **support to affected stakeholders**
- **interplay with the CFP** and climate & energy plans



Implementation framework

Process

- public/**stakeholder participation**
- submit to Commission after 2 years, Commission makes observations

Monitoring and reporting

- Member States to **monitor** and **report** on implementation of NRP, on putting in place restoration measures and results achieved



Timeline for the national restoration plans

3 months after entry into force	COM draft implementing act to establish a uniform format
24 months after entry into force	Draft national restoration plan, strategic overview beyond June 2032
30 months after entry into force	Assessment by the Commission of the draft national restoration plans
36 months after entry into force	Final national restoration plan to be finalised by Member States
July 2032	Revision of national restoration plans, strategic overview beyond June 2042



Research and innovation on biodiversity under Horizon Europe

Horizon 2020

- **EU investments** in biodiversity-related research (5%, € 3.5 billion)
- **Green Deal Call** includes **ecosystems restoration** (€ 72 million)

Horizon Europe

- Expected investment on biodiversity: **7.5% by 2024 and 10% by 2026 and 2027**
- **Cluster 6:** Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment
- **Horizon Europe Missions:** Restore our Oceans and Waters
- **Biodiversa+**
 - [BiodivRestore knowledge hub](#)

In total

- > 441 Million euros on **nature-based solutions portfolio**



| Some final thoughts

- The NRL has strong links with **protected area targets**, in particular with **10% strict protection** (EU biodiversity strategy), as the restoration in the marine environment will be mainly **passive**.
- Need to **significantly step up mapping, monitoring and research**.
- Need for **regional cooperation**, including to significantly **speed up the regionalisation process for implementation of fisheries management measures** that will be needed for restoration.
- **Benefits** to society and economic sectors, **including fisheries**.



Thank you for your
attention!

| More info: https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/nature-and-biodiversity/nature-restoration-law_en

