



Workshop: Towards a Pact for Biodiversity in the Mediterranean

A role for private land conservation
to achieve the EU biodiversity objectives in farmland?

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Policy context: EU Green Deal

- A growth strategy, long term vision, **green recovery**
- **Nature** and climate are essential parts of the equation



Policy context: EU Biodiversity Strategy



Policy context, more concretely:

- “EU Nature Restoration Law” under negotiation
- **Biogeographical process**: assessment of national pledges for (strictly) Protected Areas (additional to Natura 2000 sites)
- “**30% improvement target**” of the Biodiversity Strategy: no deterioration in conservation trends and status of all protected habitats and species by 2030 + 30% of species and habitats which are not in good status to show a positive trend by 2030
- Need to work on **protected areas and beyond**
- More co-ordinated efforts, more partnerships (with NGOs, authorities, etc.) to **integrate nature** in all sectors - Higher contribution from land users (landowners, farmers, foresters, hunters, etc.)
- **More resources**: LIFE, LIFE Strategic Nature Action Projects, CAP, Resilience and Recovery Funds, EU Regional Development Funds



Policy context, more concretely:

- “EU Nature Restoration Law” under negotiation
- **Biogeographical process**: EU platform to steer the achievement of the targets of the Biodiversity Strategy. With stakeholders, NGOs, authorities, etc.
- “**30% improvement target**” of the Biodiversity Strategy (no deterioration in conservation trends and status of all protected habitats and species by 2030 + 30% of species and habitats which are not in good status to show a positive trend by 2030)
- Need to work on **protected areas** (a.o. Natura 2000 sites) **and beyond**
- More co-ordinated efforts, more partnerships (with NGOs, authorities, etc.) to **integrate nature** in all sectors - Higher contribution from land users (landowners, farmers, foresters, hunters, etc.)
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Private Land Conservation

- PLC = a complementary approach to nature conservation
- On-going reflection at EU level on how to **mobilize** private landowners and users for more **voluntary** action for nature on their land
- In this context, “**private landowners**” = landowners whose main objectives are traditionally **not** nature conservation (“individual” private landowners, companies, religious organisations, etc.).
- Focus on private land although some tools can also apply to public land.



Foster voluntary contribution to nature: Why?

- Different objectives but there are **common grounds**: farmers, authorities, NGOs => Need to find the **right match** to mobilize people on a voluntary basis
- Voluntary contribution for nature = a rather new approach that can:
 - Deliver **more biodiversity** and action for the climate
 - **Enlarge** the number of people acting for nature and the surface of high-nature value areas
 - Deliver more thanks to **partnerships** (NGO-landowner, landowner-authority, etc.)
 - Be low cost (sometimes) and trigger **more money** in nature (also from the landowners)
 - Deliver, at the same time, different levels & types of ecosystem services, depending on the contribution (long-term/short term, location, etc.)
 - Support new business opportunities.



Higher voluntary contribution in nature: Where?

Protected areas
(including some
Natura 2000 sites)



Land protected for
other reasons than
biodiversity
(but important for
biodiversity, e.g. protection
of watersheds)



Wider countryside
(non-protected areas)



- Different ecological, economic, and social conditions → diversity of methods to engage farmers



Foster voluntary contribution to nature: How?

- Highest added value when long-term commitments
- Different legal/administrative tools can be envisaged (a.o. land stewardship agreements)
- Need to adapt the tool to the national/regional context: Test new partnerships at local level, such as the two « Pacts for Biodiversity ».
- Share experience.



Higher voluntary contribution in nature: a role for each – build trust!

Landowners:

- Explore new perspectives
- Keep moving towards more biodiversity-friendly practices

Companies and organizations:

- Explore new perspectives
- Support
- Organize
- Finance

National/regional authorities:

- Create the necessary **legal/fiscal framework** for more voluntary action (beyond legal obligations)
- Promote
- Fund: **LIFE** projects, LIFE SNAPs, CAP, RRF, ERDF



NGOs:

- Explore new perspectives
- Create partnerships
- Adapt the offer

EU Commission:

- Support: LIFE EU Networks for Private Land Conservation – EU Conservation Landowners Coalition
- Fund: LIFE, Interreg, etc.
- Promote

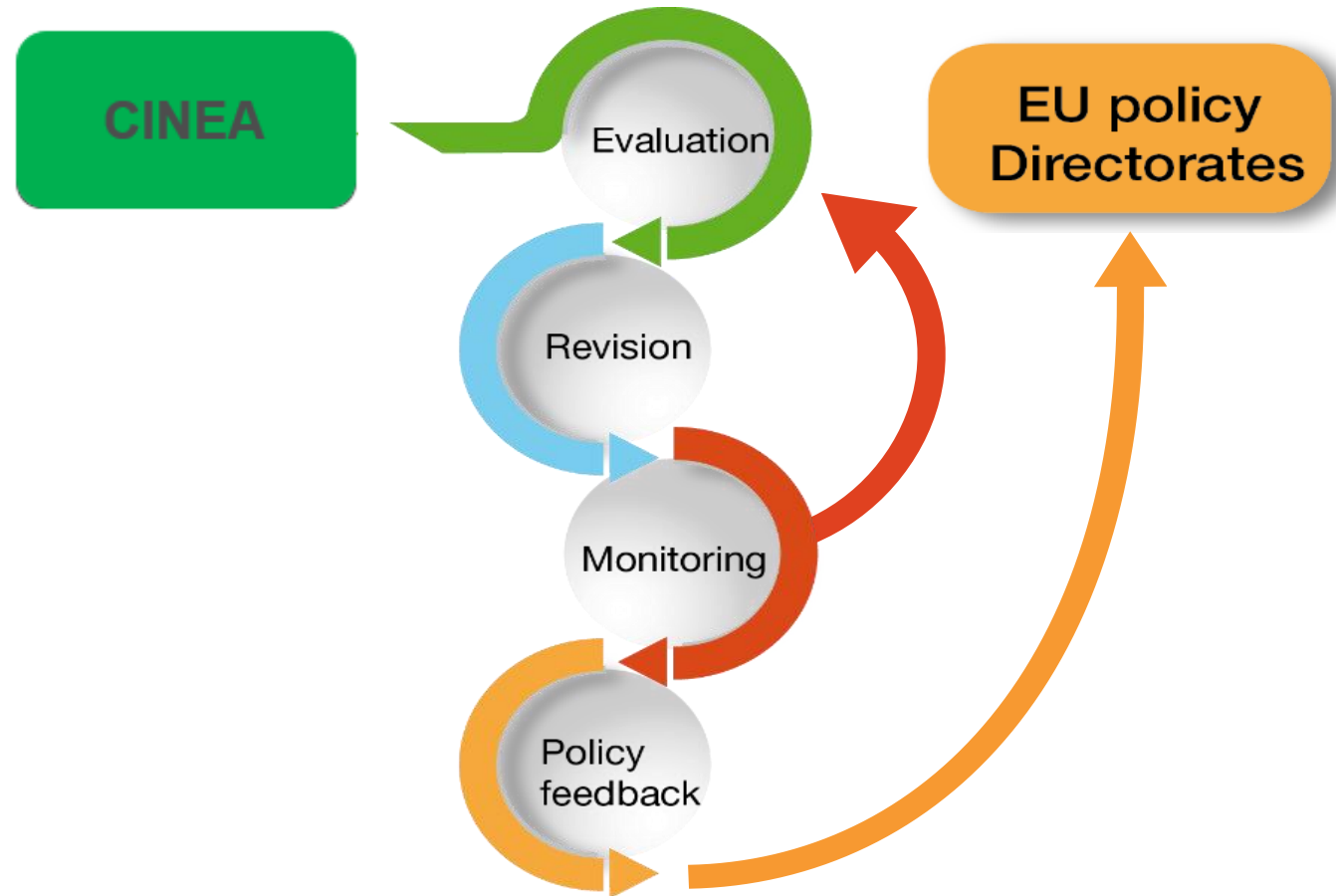
Citizens:

- Participate
- Learn & discover



What is the EU LIFE Programme

- Created in 1992 LIFE is the key European fund for nature conservation
- Today LIFE programme as a whole constitutes a 100% contribution to the objectives and targets of the European Green Deal.
- The only EU programme dedicated exclusively to the environment, nature conservation and climate action.
- For the years 2021-2027, a budget of 5.43 billion €.



Opportunities with LIFE

- LIFE project « *European Network for Private Land Conservation* » (<https://enplc.eu/>) : **till 2024**.
Developing an EU support for Private Land Conservation => important to liaise with them.
- Other past, on-going, and future « traditional » LIFE nature projects with long-term commitments for nature: source of inspiration, sum of experience, networking, etc.
- **Technical Assistance for Replication (TA-R)** projects: additional replication/ transfer efforts and objectives + issues emerging during the predecessor project and could not be addressed before. Expand the “Pact for Biodiversity” beyond where it has been tested?

More info: LIFE Call documents [Funding & tenders \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/life/)



Thank you!

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Call for proposals: #EULife23

