



European  
Commission

# Bringing nature back into our lives

## EU 2030 Biodiversity strategy

May 2020  
#EUGreenDeal



*“Making nature healthy again is key to our physical and mental wellbeing and is an ally in the fight against climate change and disease outbreaks. It is at the heart of our growth strategy, the European Green Deal, and is part of a European recovery that gives more back to the planet than it takes away.”*

*Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission*



Climate change, the unprecedented loss of biodiversity, and the spread of devastating pandemics are sending a clear message: it is time to fix our broken relationship with nature.

The Biodiversity Strategy will put Europe’s biodiversity on the path to recovery by 2030, for the benefit of people, climate and the planet.



## Why do we need to protect biodiversity?

- Biodiversity is **essential** for life. Our planet and the economy depend on it. When nature is healthy, it protects and provides.

Biodiversity and ecosystems provide us with food, health and medicines, materials, recreation, and wellbeing. They filter our air and water, help keep the climate in balance, convert waste back into resources, pollinate and fertilise crops and much more.

**Nature provides for businesses:**  
**half of global GDP, €40 trillion,**  
depends on nature.



- We are **losing nature** like never before because of unsustainable human activities.



The global population of wild species has fallen by **60% over the last 40 years.**

**1 million species are at risk** of extinction.

- > Biodiversity loss and the **climate crisis** are interdependent and they exacerbate each other.

Restoring forests, soils and wetlands and creating green spaces in cities is essential to achieve the climate change mitigation needed by 2030.



## The new EU-wide Biodiversity Strategy will:

- > Establish protected areas for at least:



**30%**  
of land in  
Europe



**30%**  
of sea in  
Europe

With stricter protection of remaining EU primary and old-growth forests legally binding nature restoration targets in 2021.

- > Restore degraded ecosystems at land and sea across the whole of Europe by:



Increasing organic farming and biodiversity-rich landscape features on agricultural land



Halting and reversing the decline of pollinators



Restoring at least 25 000 km of EU rivers to a free-flowing state



Reducing the use and risk of pesticides by 50% by 2030



Planting 3 billion trees by 2030

- > **Unlock 20 billion EUR/year for biodiversity** through various sources, including EU funds, national and private funding. Natural capital and biodiversity considerations will be integrated into business practices.

- > Put the EU in a **leading position in the world** in addressing the global biodiversity crisis. The Commission will mobilise all tools of external action and international partnerships for an ambitious new UN Global Biodiversity Framework at the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2021.