

Feedback opportunity for the work programme 2025

Cluster 6 'Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment'

Destination 1: Biodiversity and ecosystem services

Draft expected impacts:

Strategic Plan 2025-2027 – Expected Impact 28: Putting biodiversity on a path to recovery, and protecting and restoring ecosystems and their services.

Proposals for topics under this destination should set out a credible pathway contributing to “putting biodiversity on a path to recovery, and protecting and restoring ecosystems and their services”, and more specifically to one or more of the following impacts:

- Improved knowledge, innovations, methods, pathways and tools are available to protect healthy ecosystems and to restore degraded ones ensuring the provision of ecosystem services to society, including for adaptation and/or mitigation to climate change.
- The ongoing biodiversity crisis and its consequences, the benefits of ecosystem services and the need to protect and restore them are better understood. Policymakers and all relevant sectors of society are aware and well informed thereof, and fully grasp opportunities of biodiversity protection and restoration. Society is on a path of transformative change.
- Farmers, foresters, fishers and aquaculture producers rely on biodiversity-friendly practices while safeguarding long-term sustainability and food security.
- Progress towards reaching the goals and targets of the Global Biodiversity Framework contributes to reducing the pressure on biodiversity and to ensuring sustainable development worldwide.

Main expected outcomes:

To achieve the above-mentioned impacts, the following expected outcomes will be pursued:

- The taxonomic community (biodiversity identification from molecules, species and populations to ecosystems, including genomes and e-DNA) and its capacity to engage with and support policy and other decision-making are strengthened. Strategic approaches for a systematic reinforcement of expertise on taxonomy and genetic diversity in the EU and in Associated Countries are built.
- In situ biodiversity observations are scaled up and made available with a view to support applied research and innovation, policy development and implementation, business actions and applications, and other use cases across various sectors. Systematic biodiversity observation is established (including citizen science and environmental observations), covering also little-known taxonomic groups and going beyond what the current policy is covering.
- The establishment of satisfactory levels for species diversity and populations, favourable reference values, threshold values for good environmental status and ecological needs of species, including quantity and quality of their habitats, are based on latest available knowledge, inter alia through appropriate modelling approaches. The links between habitats

restoration and species conservation, including as regards connectivity and functionality, and competing needs of species are better understood.

- Socio-economic impacts including estimated benefits of nature restoration are better known, including with improved modelling of trends and integrated scenarios for biodiversity, ecosystem services and good quality of life.
- Actors implementing nature restoration activities, in particular under the proposal for an EU Nature Restoration Law benefit from updated knowledge.
- Integrated approaches to protect and restore connected key marine and coastal ecosystems (e.g., coral reefs and associated ecosystems) are elaborated or further developed.
- Alternative governance and socio-economic models that better integrate all values of biodiversity and nature are designed with the aim to ensure biodiversity protection and restoration, including through application of the non-deterioration principle and innovative market instruments. .
- Transformative change is steered by better understanding civil society perceptions of the biodiversity crisis and its underlying conflicts. Strategies, methods and tools to improve communication, increase people's awareness, stakeholder involvement and citizen engagement are developed.
- Practices and innovations in agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and aquaculture to support and make sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem functions are further developed, tested and spread.
- Mixed production systems are developed and fostered to enhance agrobiodiversity and the delivery of added co-benefits and ecosystem services.
- Land managers have access to a wider range of crops, including protein crops, and breeds with a rich genetic base, supporting biodiversity in agroecosystems and contributing to low-input, competitive and resilient agriculture and climate change adaptation.
- Europe's leadership to reach an ambitious global biodiversity agenda, including the support for the forthcoming global knowledge support service for biodiversity and regional support centres benefit from improved knowledge, knowledge management and innovative solutions to achieve global biodiversity commitments in Europe and beyond.
- Additional activities under the European Biodiversity Partnership Biodiversa+ will continue to support excellent research on biodiversity with an impact for society and policy and will focus on the flagship programmes 2023-2027 according to the partnership's co-created strategic research and innovation agenda for seven years, which includes calls for research projects, biodiversity, and ecosystems monitoring and science-based policy advisory activities.