

Tuesday, 20 October 2020

OVERVIEW	
14:00 15:30	Opening session: A New Beginning
15:30 – 16:00 Break	
16:00 17:00	How healthy is our nature? The 2020 State of Nature report

Tuesday, 20 October 2020

14.00 15.30	<p>Opening session: A New Beginning</p> <p>As the world begins to recover and rebuild after COVID-19, EU Green Week 2020 will explore how the EU Green Deal and the new EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 can support this process.</p> <p>Recent years have seen a growing awareness of the gravity of the ongoing environmental crisis. Now we have an opportunity to rethink our relationship with nature, to change the activities that are driving biodiversity loss and the wider ecological crisis, and to weigh up the implications for our economy and society.</p> <p>The question now is – what happens next? What lessons can we draw from the crisis? What contribution can biodiversity make to society and the economy, and what role can it play in supporting and stimulating recovery in a post-pandemic world?</p> <p>This opening session will consider the importance of protecting and restoring biodiversity in the new context. Tackling the environmental challenge we face can help support the recovery, boost green growth and jobs, and ensure that our planet is more resilient to future shocks of all kinds.</p> <p>After Covid, we know that radical changes can happen fast. What we don't yet know is how to make the most of this new beginning, for people and nature. Green Week should provide some answers!</p> <p><u>Welcome</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Florika Fink-Hooijer Director-General, Directorate General for Environment, European Commission <p><u>Keynote speech</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virginijus Sinkevičius, Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries, European Commission <p><u>Panel:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mathias Vicherat, Secretary General, Danone • Patricia Zurita, Chief Executive, BirdLife • Nadine Schuller, Founder of Pollinator Ambassadors • Hans Bruyninckx, Executive Director, European Environment Agency <p><u>Closing remarks:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Florika Fink-Hooijer Director-General, Directorate General for Environment, European Commission
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	<p><u>Moderator:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chris Burns, Burnstorm Communications
15.30-16.00 Break	
<p>16.00 17.00</p>	<p>How healthy is our nature? The 2020 State of Nature report Organised by the European Environment Agency</p> <p>This session will present the main findings of the EU State of Nature report. This report, published every six years with all its online supporting material, is the largest and most extensive data gathering and reporting exercise carried out in Europe on the state of nature. It documents the status and trends of habitats and species reported by Member States between 2013-2018 under the Birds and the Habitats Directives, providing an up-to-date overview of the health of nature in the EU. Presentations will outline progress that has been made as well as remaining challenges and opportunities for Europe's nature in the context of the Biodiversity Strategy for 2030. Join the discussion on what actions are needed to successfully protect Europe's biodiversity in the long-term, the role of the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030, and the potential to join forces with the climate community for increased impact.</p> <p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hans Bruyninckx, Executive Director, European Environment Agency • Florika Fink-Hooijer Director-General, Directorate General for Environment, European Commission • Eleni Tryfon, Nature Directives Reporting Expert, European Environment Agency • Zelmira Sipkova-Gaudillat, Biodiversity Officer, European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity (Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle) • Sandra Naumann, Senior Fellow, Coordinator Biodiversity, European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity (Ecologic Institute) <p><u>Moderator:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Humberto Rosa Delgado, Director, Natural Capital, Directorate-General for Environment, European Commission

Wednesday, 21 October 2020

OVERVIEW				
09:30 10:30	1.1 The new EU Biodiversity Strategy targets for protected areas	1.2 Forests rooted! Forests' health and resilience through a soil perspective	1.3 Protecting biodiversity for a healthy and sustainable food system	1.4 Business as (un)usual? Financing nature with cohesion funds beyond 2020
10:30 – 10:45 Break				
10:45 11:45	2.1 Zoonotic diseases, invasive alien species and wildlife trade – is the current EU legislative framework fit for purpose?	2.2 Restoring river continuity in Europe together	2.3 Bringing nature back through LIFE	2.4 Working with nature and with people, for nature and people – a milestone for a resilient recovery
11:45 – 12:00 Break				
12:00 13:00	3.1 Protected areas for social inclusion and economic recovery	3.2 Nature restoration: a win-win for biodiversity and climate	3.3 Mock trials debriefing	3.4 Farming for food and for nature. How farmers can become the actors of the sustainability transition
13:00 – 14:00 Lunch Break				
14:00 15:00	4.1 EU-wide assessment of ecosystems: a baseline for the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030	4.2 The Ocean and COVID-19	4.3 Unlocking finance for biodiversity	4.4 Protecting biodiversity and nature through a circular economy
15:00 – 15:15 Break				
15:15 16:15	LIFE awards ceremony			
16:15 – 16:30 Break				
16:30 17:30	Movie screening: “Free flowing rivers for Europe”	Everything you ever wanted to know about biodiversity (but were afraid to ask): Launching the 'Knowledge Centre for Biodiversity' Part 1		
17:30 – 17:45 Break				
17:45 18:45	Debate: “Free flowing rivers for Europe”	Everything you ever wanted to know about biodiversity (but were afraid to ask): Launching the 'Knowledge Centre for Biodiversity' Part 2		

Wednesday 21/10/2020

9:30 – 10:30

1.1 The new EU Biodiversity Strategy targets for protected areas

The EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 includes several ambitious targets for protected areas:

1. Legally protect a minimum of 30% of the EU's land area and 30% of the EU's sea area and integrate ecological corridors, as part of a true Trans-European Nature Network.
2. Strictly protect at least a third of the EU's protected areas, including all remaining EU primary and old-growth forests.
3. Effectively manage all protected areas, defining clear conservation objectives and measures, and monitoring them appropriately.

In this session, speakers from different backgrounds will share their perspectives about current challenges and opportunities for reaching these targets, and about the importance of the targets for biodiversity and climate change mitigation and adaptation. The contribution of EU protected area targets to the global targets on biodiversity will also be discussed.

Speakers:

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Moderator:

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9:30 – 10:30

1.2 Forests rooted! Forests' health and resilience through a soil perspective

Forests in Europe need to increase in quality and quantity. The role of soils is an often overlooked perspective in the health and resilience of forests, and in the fulfilment of various forest functions, such as reducing risks of floods or land degradation, carbon storage, and as a habitat for wild species. The 2030 Biodiversity Strategy calls for forests to retain their function for both biodiversity and climate, and for forests to be preserved in good health. This session aims at raising more awareness of the importance of soil in forests and the way forest management practices influence soil characteristics, and ultimately the retention of the forest functions.

Speakers:

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Moderator:

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9:30 – 10:30

1.3 Protecting biodiversity for a healthy and sustainable food system

In partnership with DG SANTE

The EU's Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 and its Farm to Fork Strategy are mutually-reinforcing strategies to protect people, the climate and the planet. Food systems are key drivers of climate change and environmental degradation, and have a profound impact on biodiversity. Global data point to decreasing diversity of plant species and varieties in farmers' fields, rising numbers of livestock breeds at risk of extinction and an increasing proportion of overfished fish stocks. Protecting biodiversity, notably by ensuring diversity of seeds, is a key element of sustainable food production and plays a crucial role in building up more resilient EU agriculture and natural ecosystems. Preventing new pests and diseases from harming plants and animals is also needed to preserve and enrich the EU's biodiversity. In doing so, the use of chemicals for pest and disease control can also be reduced.

This session will discuss the vital role that biodiversity plays in achieving a sustainable food

system that protects our planet whilst ensuring food security, food safety and diverse and nutritious diets. Questions to be asked include, How can farmers make more use of different plant species? Can they rely on traditional and locally-adapted varieties (with possible lower yields) while earning sufficient income? Can food producers leverage biodiversity to obtain more diverse and higher quality foods? And how can consumers drive the demand for a more diverse food supply? Speakers and the audience will debate these questions and more, with a view to finding new opportunities for action.

Speakers:

- Marta Messa, Director of the European Office & Member of the International Council, Slow Food
- Christian Huyghe, Directeur Scientifique Agriculture INRAE

Moderator:

- Aminda Leigh, Moderators Europe

9:30 – 10:30

1.4 Business as (un)usual? Financing nature with cohesion funds beyond 2020
In partnership with DG REGIO

The health of economies depends on the state of the natural environment. Protecting nature and conserving biodiversity provides a wide range of benefits, such as reducing urban heat island effects, providing water retention or recreation. Cohesion policy has recognized these benefits by investing billions of euros for conserving nature and biodiversity over the years. For the 2014-2020 period, it earmarked almost four billion euros for this purpose. The funding has helped prepare Natura 2000 management plans, restore green infrastructure, improve the status of freshwater and non-agricultural habitats and improve the overall quality of life of EU citizens.

To protect, conserve and enhance the EU's natural capital is also one of the objectives of the European Green Deal. All EU actions and policies will have to contribute to the Green Deal's objectives. This workshop will debate how cohesion funds could play a part in this new framework. It will encourage participants to share their ideas and proposals for preparing the next funding period, asking for example, Are we getting our nature and biodiversity funding priorities right? and 'What lessons can we draw from the experience?'

Speakers:

- Joanna Drake, Deputy Director-General, Directorate-General for Environment, European Commission
- Sander Happaerts, Policy Analyst, Smart and Sustainable Growth, Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission

Moderator:

- Karen Coleman, Planet Podium

10:30-10:45 Break

10:45 - 11:45

2.1 Zoonotic diseases, invasive alien species and wildlife trade – is the current EU legislative framework fit for purpose?

Trading, consuming and keeping exotic animals – including many taken from the wild – increases the potential for the translocation of invasion alien species affecting biodiversity, as well as zoonotic diseases affecting human and animal health.

While the EU policy on invasive alien species is effectively addressing priority species, action is still scattered on pathways of introduction and spread of invasive alien species such as the pet trade. Measures against wildlife trafficking have become a priority issue in Europe, but more needs to be done. The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of

Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) still meets enforcement problems rendering it less effective than it could be. It is clear that there is room for improvement of current efforts and mechanisms in order to curb negative impacts on biodiversity and health. How can we face today's challenges? Come and hear about it in a series of lightning talks and pose all the questions you have to our experts.

Speakers:

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Moderator:

- Anya Sitaram, Moderators Europe

10:45 - 11:45

2.2 Restoring river continuity in Europe together

In partnership with the JRC

'River continuity' is the possibility for water, sediments and aquatic fauna to circulate freely in different directions. Disrupting river continuity with manmade infrastructure alters natural connectivity and affects many ecological processes depending on it.

The issue is important, because freshwater ecosystems are one of the most affected types of ecosystems on earth, with dramatic decline in aquatic biodiversity and in sediment transport due to human pressures. Europe has the most fragmented rivers in the world with approximately one barrier every two kilometres of river.

The Water Framework Directive aims to achieve good status for all waters. This requires different actions to be put in place, including restoring river continuity. Progress has been made in terms of river protection and restoration, but the issue of continuity has not been tackled to the required extent. To help achieve these objectives, the EU Biodiversity Strategy sets specific targets for Member States to enhance efforts in the implementation of the Water Framework Directive regarding river restoration, and to restore at least 25 000 km of rivers to a free-flowing state by the removal of barriers.

This session will see speakers from different horizons present good practices, tools and instruments to restore river continuity, and discuss concrete solutions to help the EU reach its targets.

Speakers:

- Professor Carlos Garcia de Leaniz, Department of BioSciences, Swansea University
- Professor Kim Aarestrup, Section for Freshwater Fisheries Ecology, Technical University of Denmark
- Pao Fernández Garrido, World Fish Migration Foundation
- Johan Tielman, Environmental Manager, Uniper Hydropower

Moderator:

- Quirin Schiermeier, German Correspondent, Nature Research Journal

10:45 - 11:45

2.3 Bringing nature back through LIFE

In partnership with EASME

Since 1992, the EU LIFE Programme has funded an impressive number of projects that help implement Natura 2000, Europe's network of protected areas, and improve the conservation status of species and habitats at EU and local levels. This session will showcase some of the best project examples and their conservation successes in terms of cooperation with stakeholders, communicating about nature, and mainstreaming conservation ideas in other policies. It will also outline some of the challenges associated with funding for restoration and conservation work in Europe. The audience will share experiences, propose solutions to overcome obstacles, and help formulate recommendations for greater impact.

Speakers:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <p><u>Moderator:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
<p>10:45 - 11:45</p> <p><u>2.4 Working with nature and with people, for nature and people – a milestone for a resilient recovery</u></p> <p>In partnership with DG RTD</p> <p>The session will showcase on-going efforts and initiatives in the follow-up of the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 such as the planned Partnership ‘Rescuing Biodiversity to Safeguard Life on Earth’ and efforts to increase the deployment of urban blue and green infrastructure.</p> <p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <p><u>Moderator:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
<p>11:45-12:00 Break</p>
<p>12:00 – 13:00</p> <p><u>3.1 Protected areas for social inclusion and economic recovery</u></p> <p>Numerous studies have shown the multiple benefits of nature to the economy and to human well-being. Nature provides fresh water, clean air, food, carbon storage, flood management, soil retention, recreation and tourism opportunities. Nature provides places for physical activity, social connection and inspiration, with benefits for mental, physical and spiritual health and well-being.</p> <p>Confinement helped many people realise how our impact on nature and our need for green and protected areas need to be kept in balance.</p> <p>This session will discuss the opportunities and the challenges for conservation action to contribute to social and economic needs of the most vulnerable groups in our societies, presenting inspiring examples that involve young people or concern the development of sustainable tourism initiatives in Natura 2000. Join the discussion about the role of Natura 2000 and protected areas in supporting and stimulating recovery and rebuilding a more sustainable, inclusive and socially just future in a post-pandemic world.</p> <p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <p><u>Moderator:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
<p>12:00 – 13:00</p> <p><u>3.2 Nature restoration: a win-win for biodiversity and climate</u></p> <p>In partnership with the WWF and UNEP</p> <p>The biodiversity and climate crises are inextricably linked. As environmental degradation accelerates, so too does climate change, which in turn presents an existential threat to world wildlife. By the same token, protecting and restoring Europe’s natural ecosystems will help solve the biodiversity crisis and stop climate breakdown, helping us adapt to some changes that are now inevitable. One recent study suggests that ‘nature-based solutions’ could provide over a third of the cost-effective climate mitigation needed between now and 2030 keep warming below 2°C.</p> <p>Join this interactive session to discuss the interlinkages between the twin crises and how EU</p>

policies can bring Europe's nature back.

Speakers:

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Moderator:

- Rene Wyndham, Moderators Europe

12:00 – 13:00

3.3 Mock trial debriefing

As part of the Green Week partner events, virtual Moot Courts on European Environmental Law were organised by Utrecht University, Lyon Catholic University, Ghent University and the French Order of Lawyers of the Brussels Bar. All participating teams worked on the same case study which concerned the granting of a permit for the upgrading and expansion of a pig farm located within a Natura 2000 area with a protected habitat type sensitive to nitrogen deposition. The applicant NGO argued that no more pigs should be allowed in the area as long as the critical nitrogen load of the protected habitats in the area are exceeded.

During this session, students from the participating Universities and young lawyers from the Brussels Bar will share the results of their sessions with the public. The aim is to identify similarities and differences in court structures, standing and procedural rules and practice. Of particular interest is how the same legal conundrum can result in very different outcomes when debated by different legal teams before different arbitration panels.

We will looking to see how these fictional national courts implement EU law: what arguments were put on the table and what was the conclusion of each trial? The interesting thing is the comparison and how it can filter through to different results for the same case, depending at least in part on the national forum in which it is heard.

Speakers:

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Moderator:

- Aurel Ciobanu-Dordea, Director for Implementation & Support to Member States, Directorate-General for Environment, European Commission

12:00 – 13:00

3.4 Farming for food and for nature. How farmers can become the actors of the sustainability transition

With the publication of the Farm to Fork Strategy and the Biodiversity Strategy, Member States have the opportunity to include in their CAP Strategic Plans concrete measures to substantially support farmers in the transition to more resilient and sustainable agriculture. The targets presented in the two strategies for 2030 provide a framework for policy-makers at EU, national and regional level. They provide also opportunities for the introduction of new environmentally friendly practices and targeted measures funded by the future Common Agriculture Policy (CAP), which shall be the key enabler for the achievement of these targets.

Join our interactive session to discuss the potential of the agro-ecological practices and how best to integrate them in the CAP Strategic Plans to achieve maximum benefits for all stakeholders.

Speakers:

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Moderator:

- Rick Thompson, Moderators Europe

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch Break

14:00 – 15:00

4.1 EU-wide assessment of ecosystems: a baseline for the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030

In partnership with the JRC

Europe's ecosystems face unrelenting pressures from land use and climate change, pollution, resource extraction and invasive alien species. Ensuring that ecosystems achieve or maintain a healthy state or a good condition is a key requirement to secure the sustainability of human activities and human well-being. As part of the evaluation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020, the European Commission and the European Environment Agency made an assessment of the condition of Europe's ecosystems. It shows little evidence of significant improvements in ecosystem condition, despite reductions in pressures. Putting these ecosystems on a path to recovery will require further reductions in these pressures, better implementation of existing legislation and large-scale ecosystem restoration.

This session will showcase the results of this study, and make the case for greater efforts to protect and restore our ecosystems, allowing them to continue delivering the wide range of services that are essential to the prosperity of the European Union and the well-being of its citizens.

Speakers:

- Humberto Delgado Rosa, Director, Natural Capital, Directorate-General for Environment, European Commission
- Giovanni De Santi, Director, Sustainable Resources, Joint Research Centre, European Commission
- Hans Bruyninckx, Executive Director, European Environment Agency
- Joachim Maes, Scientific Project manager, Land resources Unit, Joint research Centre, European Commission
- Markus Erhard, Integrated Ecosystem Assessment Expert, European Environment Agency
- Anne Teller, Senior Expert, Biodiversity Unit, Directorate-General for Environment, European Commission

14:00 – 15:00

4.2 The Ocean and COVID-19

The impact of COVID-19 raised many questions about our relationships with nature and biodiversity, including our seas and oceans. Marine ecosystems provide essential services, giving us seafood and half of the oxygen we breathe, trapping our greenhouse gases, and providing a beautiful seascape for our recreation. But these precious habitats are suffering from decades of ill-treatment and neglect. Today, however, seas and ocean are increasingly viewed as part of the solution to our woes, a source of untapped bio-medical opportunities, and home to a blue economic sectors that can help support the economic recovery.

This session will see a panel of speakers reflect on links between the ocean and COVID-19, how the pandemic influenced human uses of the sea and what can we learn from it. The panellists will share their knowledge about marine life and the key human pressures it is facing. They will also reflect on how good management of the marine environment can bring our seas to cleaner, healthier and more productive state. Looking at the positive side of things, the COVID-19 pandemic strengthens the importance of preserving marine ecosystems and biodiversity.

Speakers:

- Vera Coelho, Senior Director, Advocacy in Europe, Oceana
- Brian O'Riordan, Executive Secretary, LIFE Platform (Low Impact Fishers of Europe)
- Monika Gail MacDevette, Chief, Chemicals and Health Branch, Economy Division, UNEP
- Mathew White, University of Exeter/University of Vienna

Moderator:

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14:00 – 15:00

4.3 Unlocking finance for biodiversity

The objective of the session is to explore solutions for biodiversity financing with a view to supporting implementation of the new Biodiversity Strategy and the future Nature Restoration Plan, as well as upscaling biodiversity investments from both public and private sources. The session will look into smart ways of using and combining EU funds and programmes under the next Multiannual Financial Framework and tools to leverage private sector investments, such as InvestEU and the future 10 billion EUR investment initiative on natural capital and circular economy.

Speakers:

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Moderator:

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14:00 – 15:00

4.4 Protecting biodiversity and nature through a circular economy

Over half of global GDP depends on nature and the services it provides. Despite that, more than 90% of biodiversity loss and water stress come from resource extraction and processing of materials, fuels and food. A resource-efficient circular economy, by contrast, would be an important tool to halt biodiversity loss and protect nature. This spring, the Commission adopted three major policies under the European Green Deal: the Circular Economy Action Plan, the Biodiversity Strategy and the Farm to Fork Strategy. Together, they will serve as our roadmap to rebuild our economy in a resilient and green way.

This session will focus on the connection between the circular economy, biodiversity and nature, and will take a closer look at how the circular economy and the new circular economy action plan can help to halt biodiversity loss. This will be an interactive session aiming to leverage all the different perspectives and experience of the people in the room.

Speakers:

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Moderator:

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15:00 – 15:15 Break

15:15 – 16:15

LIFE Awards 2020: celebrating the best environmental and climate action projects

The LIFE Awards recognise the most innovative, inspirational and effective projects that have been co-funded through the EU's LIFE programme for the environment and climate action. Fifteen projects are nominated in 3 categories: nature protection, environment, and climate action. During this ceremony, the high-level jury will announce the 3 winners in these categories. In addition, the "Citizens' prize" will be given to the finalist who receives the highest number of votes in a public voting contest.

Moreover, this year a special award will honour LIFE-funded projects that help communities in their fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

More information on the nominated projects are available on the [LIFE programme website](#)

Speakers & presenters:

- Joanna Drake, Deputy Director-General, Directorate-General for Environment,

European Commission

- Angelo Salsi, Head of Unit, LIFE & CIP Eco-innovation, EASME, European Commission

Moderator:

- Jennifer Baker, Brussels Geek

16:15 – 16:30 Break

16:30-17:30

Everything you ever wanted to know about biodiversity (but were afraid to ask):

Launching the 'Knowledge Centre for Biodiversity' Part 1

In partnership with the JRC

“What gets measured, gets done” said the President of the Commission when presenting the European Green Deal. The EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 calls for sound science, knowledge, monitoring, reporting and assessment to underpin progress. Data on biodiversity and indicators will be improved through better in-situ monitoring, mapping, modelling and the digital transformation. Citizen science will contribute data and knowledge to complement the improvement of the evidence base for policy making. The Commission is launching, in close cooperation with the EEA, a **Biodiversity Knowledge Centre** to track and assess progress and to underpin the integration of biodiversity and ecosystem services into decision-making.

Opening:

- Joanna Drake, Deputy Director-General, Directorate General for Environment, European Commission
- Stephen Quest, Director-General, Joint Research Centre, European Commission

Speakers:

- Virginijus Sinkevičius, Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries, European Commission
- Mariya Gabriel, Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, European Commission (TBC)
- David Cooper, Deputy Executive Secretary, CBD (Convention on Biological Diversity)
- Gregoire Dubois, Project Manager Scientific Research, Joint Research Centre, European Commission
- Hans Bruyninckx, Executive Director, European Environment Agency

16:30-17:30

“Free Flowing Rivers for Europe” Screening of two feature films followed by a debate

Part 1 In partnership with the European Environmental Bureau

Protecting the pathways rivers create and allowing the river to renew itself: this is what river restoration is all about. We believe that the EU needs to protect the last wild rivers and continue with ambitious river restoration agenda through removal of dams and restoration of floodplains and wetlands. With the Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 setting specific targets to protect and restore freshwater ecosystems, specific examples of how to do this are helpful. The evening will present the inspiring examples of the Wild and Scenic Rivers concept in the US and the dam removals on the Elwha river, and discuss the prospects of a growing network of strictly protected rivers across Europe - healthy, dynamic and free-flowing.

Introduction:

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17:30 – 17:45 Break

17:45-18:45

Everything you ever wanted to know about biodiversity (but were afraid to ask):

Launching the 'Knowledge Centre for Biodiversity' Part 2

In partnership with the JRC

“What gets measured, gets done” said the President of the Commission when presenting the European Green Deal. The EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 calls for sound science, knowledge, monitoring, reporting and assessment to underpin progress. Data on biodiversity and indicators will be improved through better in-situ monitoring, mapping, modelling and the digital transformation. Citizen science will contribute data and knowledge to complement the improvement of the evidence base for policy making. The Commission is launching, in close cooperation with the EEA, a **Biodiversity Knowledge Centre** to track and assess progress and to underpin the integration of biodiversity and ecosystem services into decision-making.

Panel:

- John Bell, Director, Healthy Planet, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, European Commission
- Corli Pretorius, Deputy Director of the UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC)

Moderators:

- Humberto Delgado Rosa, Director, Natural Capital, Directorate-General for Environment, European Commission
- Giovanni De Santi, Director, Sustainable Resources, Joint Research Centre, European Commission

17:45-18:45

“Free Flowing Rivers for Europe” – Part 2

In partnership with the European Environmental Bureau

Protecting the pathways rivers create and allowing the river to renew itself: this is what river restoration is all about. We believe that the EU needs to protect the last wild rivers and continue with ambitious river restoration agenda through removal of dams and restoration of floodplains and wetlands. With the Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 setting specific targets to protect and restore freshwater ecosystems, specific examples of how to do this are helpful. The evening will present the inspiring examples of the Wild and Scenic Rivers concept in the US and the dam removals on the Elwha river, and discuss the prospects of a growing network of strictly protected rivers across Europe - healthy, dynamic and free-flowing.

Speakers:

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Moderator:

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Thursday, 22 October 2020

OVERVIEW				
09:30 10:30	5.1 Can law save nature?	5.2 The power of people: How can we live better, lighter and closer to nature?	5.3 It's alive! Why soil is probably the most important habitat you've never thought about.	5.4 Nature and cosmetic products
10:30 – 10:45 Break				
10:45 11:45	6.1 The EU's contribution to achieving global biodiversity goals	6.2 Towards zero air pollution pressure on the ecosystems	6.3 Legal approaches to ecosystem restoration	6.4 Nature is everyone's business - building a business for biodiversity movement
11:45 – 12:00 Break				
12:00 13:00	7.1 Incorporating nature in the heart of business decision-making and disclosure	7.2 Earth observation to protect the planet and the people	7.3 Biodiverse cities and regions post Covid-19	7.4 Lights Off: A Call for Action
13:00 – 14:00 Lunch Break				
14:00 15:30	Closing session: On the road to Kunming			

Thursday 22/10/2020

9:30 – 10:30

5.1 Can law save nature?

The EU has some of the most ambitious environmental protection rules and policies in the world. However, although commonly agreed by EU Member States, rules are not always properly implemented on the ground.

Europe's biodiversity continues to suffer as ecosystems degrade. The most recent State Of the Environment Report from the European Environment Agency showed that 60% of species assessments and 77% of habitat assessments are still in unfavourable conservation status.

EU Environmental laws – enacted inside EU borders and as transborder measures – should offer protection. They give rise to obligations to protect species and habitats by various means ranging from prohibitions to establishing protected areas and management plans. Despite these laws, questions remain. How easy are they to enforce? Do we have sufficient legal means to protect nature? What if nature had rights? And would the creation of intrinsic rights be a solution to reconcile man and nature?

Europe's impact on biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation extends well beyond its borders. Europe has a high ecological footprint and relies heavily on the import of resources and goods from all over the world. How can we ensure that pressures are not transferred to other parts of the world thereby exacerbating global biodiversity loss?

And finally, what of our obligations to future generations?

Speakers:

- Mumta Ito, Founder & CEO of Nature's Rights
- James Thornton, CEO, ClientEarth
- Professor Jaap Spier, University of Amsterdam
- Karl Falkenberg, APCO Worldwide International Advisory Council
- Birgit Van Hout, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
- Jens Benohr, Anthropologist & National Geographic Young Explorer

Concluding remarks:

- Marius Vascega, Head of Cabinet of the Commissioner for the Environment, Oceans and Fisheries, European Commission

Moderator:

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9:30 – 10:30

5.2 The power of people: How can we live better, lighter and closer to nature?

In cooperation with UNEP

In a world under threat from global health concerns, economic challenges and biodiversity loss and climate change, our living and lifestyle decisions will collectively determine our future. This session will ask the big questions about how things can change. How can we better understand our decision impacts and find new ways for everyone to live better, lighter and closer to nature?

Join UNEP and global experts as they offer insights on sustainable living and COVID19 trends, nature-based solutions that are already available and others that are still required, and how media and cultural influencers could drive the transformational changes we need. These insights will set the stage to inspire participants, highlight pathways to more

sustainable living, and provide evidence and messages for action. What more could you ask for?

Speakers:

- Lewis Akenji, Member Hot or Cool, lead author research on sustainable living and lifestyles
- Garrette Clark, Sustainable Lifestyles Programme Officer, UNEP
- Claire Tavernier, Senior content and digital media advisor. Former: Producer American Idol, Got Talent and X Factor; CEO media NGO Girl Effect.
- Marie-Claire Graf, YOUNGO Focal Point at UNFCCC
- Serenella Sala, Deputy Head of Unit for the European Commission's Joint Research Centre

Moderators:

- Karen Coleman, Planet Podium

9:30 – 10:30

5.3 It's alive! Why soil is probably the most important habitat you've never thought about

Soil biodiversity is under increasing pressure from erosion, contamination, salinization and sealing. These threats, coupled with unsustainable land management, lead to negative impacts on soil biodiversity, which is essential for carbon and nutrient regulation. The species richness of earthworms, springtails and mites is an indicator of the health of the soil ecosystem. Healthy soils are key to achieve the objectives of the European Green Deal such as climate neutrality, zero pollution, sustainable food systems and a healthy and resilient environment. Ensuring that ecosystems are in a good condition is essential to secure the sustainability of economic activities and human well-being. This session will offer a broad overview of the issues at stake, looking at areas where greater efforts are required to protect and restore these soils we all depend on.

Speakers:

- Monica Kobayashi, International Consultant on Soil Biodiversity, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- Carlo Petrini, Founder & President of Slow Food
- Alfred Grand, Organic Farmer & Member of the Board of the Mission on Soil, Health & Food
- Carlos António Guerra, Co-Lead of the Global Soil Biodiversity Observation Network

Moderator:

- Aminda Leigh, Moderators Europe

9:30 – 10:30

5.4 Nature and cosmetic products

In partnership with DG GROW

A high level of biodiversity is critical for the Cosmetics industry: without access to renewable supply of natural resources such as plant extracts and natural raw materials, this industry would not exist as we know it today. Production of natural raw materials is also essential in many rural communities in Europe and in the world. The recovery from the Coronavirus crisis will also be possible finding a way to ensure a sustainable use of natural resources and sustainable welfare of rural communities.

This session will showcase best practices and key case studies as regards protecting biodiversity. Presentations will be followed by world café style discussions on the sustainable use of natural resources by the personal care industry. The aim is to inspire and discuss how this industry can become a role model, contributing to the European Green Deal and supporting the post-Covid recovery.

Speakers:

- Nancy Mahon, Senior Vice President, Global Corporate Citizenship & Sustainability, Estée Lauder
- Rachel Barre, Environmental Leadership Director, L’Oreal
- Thierry Roger, Corporate Social Responsibility Manager, Robertet
- Dr Domenico Scordari, President & CEO of N&B “Natural is Better”
- Hans-Jorg Rosch, Team Leader Cosmetic Safety & Information, Biodiversity Representative, Wala Heilmittel GmbH/Dr Hauschka Skin Care
- Philippe Soguel, Founder of Blue Provence Distillery

Moderator:

- Anya Sitaram, Moderators Europe

10:30 – 10:45 Break

10:45 – 11:45

6.1 EU’s contribution to achieving global biodiversity goals**In partnership with DG DEVCO**

The EU aims at an ambitious post-2020 global biodiversity framework for effectively addressing the global ecological crisis while supporting livelihoods, social and economic development and security. This session will consider how international action to address the drivers of biodiversity loss can be scaled up, with a view to achieving and implementing the new deal for nature and people. Panellists and guests will consider how EU Development cooperation can work with partners and stakeholders to contribute to this process.

Speakers:

- Koen Doens, Director-General, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development, European Commission
- Tracey Cumming, Biodiversity Finance Initiative Technical Advisor, UNDP, and Member of the Expert Panel on Resource Mobilisation, CBD
- Felipe Garcia Echeverri, Ambassador of Colombia to Belgium and Luxembourg and Head of Colombia’s Mission to the EU
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Moderator:

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10:45 – 11:45

6.2 Towards zero air pollution pressure on the ecosystems

Air pollution has major negative effects on ecosystems and biodiversity. This session will address the cooperation between EU institutions and relevant international organisations in relation to effects of air pollution on ecosystems and biodiversity.

The aim is to bring together biodiversity and air quality communities from the EU institutions and Member States to discuss ways in which their work could be mutually beneficial in the coming years. Potential crossover areas include establishing monitoring networks, assessing effects of air pollution on ecosystems, revising critical loads for nitrogen, and critical limits for ozone and heavy metals. Key questions to be answered include the importance of addressing the air pollution/biodiversity interface, how work on air pollution prevention and reduction could help the recovery of healthy ecosystems and the recovery after the COVID-19 crisis, gaps that are currently hindering this cooperation, and ways to redress the situation.

Speakers:

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Moderator:

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10:45 – 11:45

6.3 Legal approaches to ecosystem restoration

To reverse biodiversity loss, the new Biodiversity Strategy includes an EU Nature Restoration Plan. One key element of the plan is to strengthen the EU legal framework for nature restoration, and for the European Commission to put forward a proposal for legally binding EU nature restoration targets in 2021 to restore degraded ecosystems.

Given that the new legal instrument proposed in the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 will need to cover both a broad range of ecosystems and be specific, concrete and implementable, the attendees of the session will open discussions on the specific restoration targets, measures and approaches that could be put forward.

Speakers:

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Moderator:

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10:45 – 11:45

6.4 Nature is everyone's business - building a business for biodiversity movement**In partnership with Business for Nature**

Nature is essential to both global economic prosperity and individual business success. Businesses rely on nature for resources such as water, food, fiber, and minerals, ecosystem services such as pollination of crops, water filtration and climate regulation, and healthy and prosperous societies that give them their customers and workforces. Leading companies increasingly recognize that nature is at a tipping point and has become a business priority.

Business for Nature, through its coalition of more than 50 partner organizations, is unifying and amplifying the call from business to governments to adopt ambitious policies to reverse nature loss this decade.

This session will hear from companies that are leading the way with solutions that put nature first, and standing behind [Business for Nature's high-level policy recommendations](#) that place nature at the heart of the global economy. It will also feature a response from policy makers as to how they propose helping reduce these impediments, looking at what's needed to build momentum for change, capitalizing on opportunities presented by IUCN's World Conservation Congress, the One Planet Summit, and COP15 of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The aim is to examine the collective level of ambition and action, to see how the scale and speed of the planetary emergency can be addressed. Speakers will reflect on practical steps, and the critical actions needed to accelerate change.

Speakers:

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Moderator:

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11:45 – 12:00 Break

12:00 – 13:00

7.1 Incorporating nature in the heart of business decision-making and disclosure**In partnership with Capitals Coalition, ACCA and Deloitte**

Business decisions are often based on information that excludes the relationship between nature and people. Businesses struggle to disclose and explain their impacts and

dependencies on natural, social and human capital, making it difficult for investors and customers to appreciate these issues. And this is sometimes exacerbated by inadequate or insufficient regulatory/legislative environments and/or tax and market incentives. As a result, decision-making often fails to deliver sustainable prosperity.

The business ecosystem is driven by tools such as governance, financial management, performance and financial accounting, audit and tax. To better appreciate business impact and dependencies on natural capital, this roundtable will discuss opportunities for improving decision-making by business by incorporating natural capital.

In the light of the EU Green Deal and new EU Biodiversity Strategy it will also discuss and evaluate business reporting and governance tools at each point of the circular business (strategic, managerial and operational) ecosystem, and consider what more can be done, including how different economies are adapting their legislation to support the sustainability initiative, which has grown in importance in the context of the green recovery.

Speakers:

- Andre Jakobs, Senior Advisor Strategy & Sustainability, ABN Amro
- Eric Dugelay, Global Leader Sustainability Services, Deloitte France
- Sirpa Pietikäinen, Member of the European Parliament
- Martin Lok, Deputy Director, Natural Capital Coalition
- Thomas Verheye, Principal Adviser for Green Finance & Investments, Directorate General for Environment, European Commission

Moderator:

- Sharon Machado, Head of Business Reporting, ACCA Global

12:00 – 13:00

7.2 Earth observation to protect the planet and the people

In partnership with the JRC

The European Commission's Joint Research Centre, Copernicus Global Land, FAO, DG Environment and the United Nations Environment Programme join forces in an interactive discussion on Earth Observation to protect biodiversity. Scientists and policy makers will deliver short presentations on trailblazing research and then host an engaging “fishbowl” discussion. Audiences can jump into the conversation with an expert panel as they exchange viewpoints on the future of science to support biodiversity.

This discussion will contain critical research findings by the European Commission and look into the future of satellite and in-situ data for policymaking. Join this session for an insider’s perspective on how our efforts directly enable and inform SDGs, Commission priorities, and the Habitat Directive. Gain insight on how our services are building a knowledge base for biodiversity that integrates Earth Observation data. And explore how our free, open, and analysis-ready data can help you and others to safeguard our planet and people.

Speakers:

- Greet Maenhout, Deputy Head of Unit, Joint Research Centre & Copernicus Global Land, European Commission
- Bruno Combal, Policy Officer, Nature Protection Unit, Directorate-General for Environment, European Commission
- Neville Ash, Director of UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre

Moderator:

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12:00 – 13:00

7.3 Biodiverse cities and regions post Covid-19

In partnership with the Committee of the Regions

The pandemic of Covid-19 showed us that direct and indirect human-induced biodiversity loss and degrading ecosystem services destroys the system that supports human life. The more biodiverse an ecosystem is, the more difficult it is for a pathogen to spread rapidly or dominate. Loss of biodiversity provides an opportunity for the spread of zoonotic diseases. Investing in biodiversity protection and conservation is, therefore, a strategic investment both in the long-term as a preventive measure to feature pandemics and epidemics; but also in the short-term as a socio-economic recovery measure.

This session shares the successful EU cities and regions already committed to halt biodiversity loss and ecosystem services degradation, especially after Covid-19. It is also an invitation to hear from EU cities and regions on their long-term goals and vision for 2030 on biodiversity.

Speakers:

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Moderator:

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12:00 – 13:00

7.4 Lights Off: A Call for Action

In this session, the youth advocacy group *Biodiversity Action Europe* (BAE) will present the Call for Action for a biodiverse planet, refreshing the audience with a unique synesthetic experience. The Call for Action points out the most pressing issues regarding biodiversity in the eyes of European youth, asking for a different kind of commitment and culture. Not only are humans part of nature, but nature itself enables our existence in the world by providing clean air, food, resources for shelter, amenity and regulating our environment. If you need a breath of fresh air, join Biodiversity Action Europe for an unforgettable experience. This last day of the EU Green Week will inspire you to change the world!

Speakers:

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Moderator:

- Beatrice Rios, Moderating.EU

13:00 – 14: 00 Lunch Break

14:00 – 15:30

Closing session: On the road to Kunming

This session will reflect on the main lessons of the week, drawing conclusions from the multitude of speeches, debates and workshops that have shaped Green Week 2020. It will seek to answer the big questions that have arisen, looking for areas in which greater cooperation will deliver the protections we need to safeguard our precious natural resources.

Questions might include, Why is it so difficult to get political leaders to take biodiversity loss seriously, when natural capital plays such a fundamental role in our lives? What are the short-term priorities for action? And what can citizens do to speed the process of change?

As the curtain comes down, participants will discuss how the EU can lead the way on protecting biodiversity, deliver the Green Deal, and pave the way to a genuinely ambitious deal for nature at the upcoming global biodiversity summit Kunming, China.

Welcome

- Florika Fink-Hooijer Director-General, Directorate General for Environment, European Commission

Panel:

- Virginijus Sinkevičius, Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries,

25.09.2020

European Commission

- Jutta Urpilainen, Commissioner for International Partnerships, European Commission
- Inger Andersen, Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Closing speech:

- President Ursula Von Der Leyen

Moderator:

- Chris Burns, Burnstorm Communications