

Funding opportunities for biodiversity and nature in the 2014-2020 EU funding regulations

COHESION POLICY

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Current budget period (2007-2013)



Main features related to biodiversity



Opportunities:

- Potentially large amount of funding available, direct support to nature/biodiversity (including N2K) € 3,9 billion (promotion of nature protection, natural assets and biodiversity) in 2007-2013
- Indirect support (e.g. waste water treatment)
- Sustainable development and polluter pays principle horizontal principles
- SEA, EIA
- Incentives (e.g. modulation of co-financing rates possible)

Limitations:

- Potential to improve the use of the available funding in the MS and regions (Strategic report 2010)
- In some cases lack of awareness on the concept of 'ecosystem services' and 'integrated approaches' and co-benefits of biodiversity investments leading to underinvestment (compared with e.g. N2K financing needs)
- Limited capacities in regions to prepare more complex projects
- Potential to increase mainstreaming into all investment, e.g. infrastructure investment
- Limited monitoring and evaluation of biodiversity performance of policy

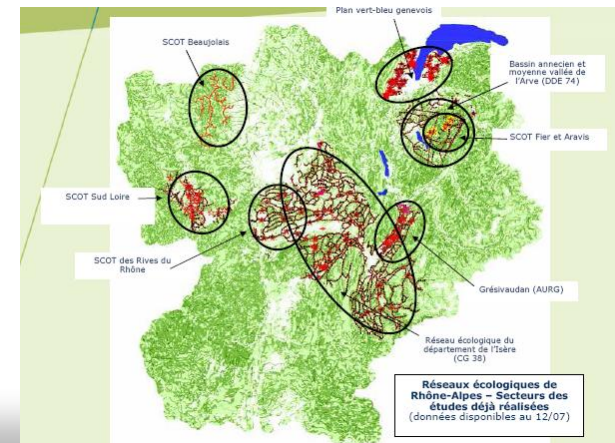
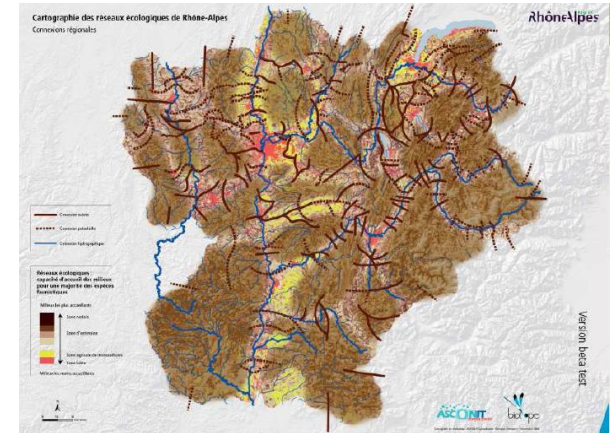


Good examples (1)



Regional development of eco-corridors in Rhone Alpes, France

- Build a regional network of preserved areas based on ecological corridors
- Deployment of territorial contracts on 'biological corridors'
- Extensive work on mapping/land use
- Extensive work with local actors / municipalities / associations / environment and water authorities
- Investments in eco-bridges, restoration of wetlands, trainings in schools and municipalities...
- Planned costs over 5 years : € 3.6 million with 1.28 million ERDF.



Good examples (2)



Sustainable Development of Floodplain (SDF) project

- 7 partners – Interreg IIIB
- January 2003- December 2008
- Reclamation of historical floodplains
- €35 million (€17.5 form ERDF)
- 21 km² of new or reconstituted floodplains
- Extent of dike relocation: 5,900m

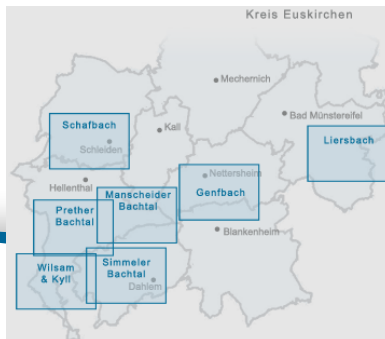


Good examples (3)



Removing barriers in water habitats, Germany

- Project in region of Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany - ERDF co-financed
- Ensure ecological continuity along rivers, water bodies
- Construction of bypasses, removing barriers (pipes...)



Good examples (4)



Managing Natural Assets and Protected Areas as Sustainable Regional Development Opportunities - NATREG

- Transnational cooperation projects: South East Europe Programme (Interreg IVB)
- Connecting six protected areas in the Adria-Alpe-Pannonia territory, namely in Italy, Austria, Slovenia, Croatia and Serbia
- Establish a trans-national and multi-sectoral cooperation network and to develop a Joint Strategy for Integrated Management of Protected Areas
- Make local communities acknowledge, realize and promote the potentials of natural assets and PAs as drivers of rather than obstacles for sustainable regional development
- Trainings and knowledge transfer



Useful links



Regulations:

- http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/information/legislation/index_en.cfm

Community Strategic Guidelines

- <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:32006D0702:EN:NOT>

Communication 'Regional Policy contributing to sustainable growth in Europe 2020':

- <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:52011DC0017:EN:NOT>

Strategic Report 2010:

- http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/policy/reporting/cs_reports_en.htm

Project examples:

- http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/projects/practices/index_en.cfm





Future budget period (2014-2020)



Objectives, structure and main novelties



- EUR 336 bn, 33% of EU budget 2014-2020
- 3 funds: ERDF, ESF and Cohesion Fund
- Policy continues to be under shared management
- Focus remains on poorer regions and MS
- Focus areas include research and innovation, support for SMEs, ICT, transport, climate and energy, environment, employment, skills, social inclusion
- Stronger thematic concentration and alignment with EU priorities, including ringfencing
- Stronger focus on results (reporting, monitoring, evaluation, indicators, performance framework, performance reserve, conditionalities)
- Other changes not relevant to environment (e.g. reduction of administrative burden, macro-economic conditionality, etc.)



Debate outlook



Debate with MS:

- no mention of nature and biodiversity to date in debate
- 1 MS asked for clarification on the meaning of green infrastructure

Response of environmental NGOs (Birdlife, WWF, Bankwatch, EEB):

- extra money to budget items traditionally associated with the EU's environmental policy
- step in right direction, but not ambitious, incremental change
- recognises biodiversity as priority
- however, no funds ring-fenced for biodiversity, weak safeguards for harmful investment



Main features related to biodiversity



Opportunities:

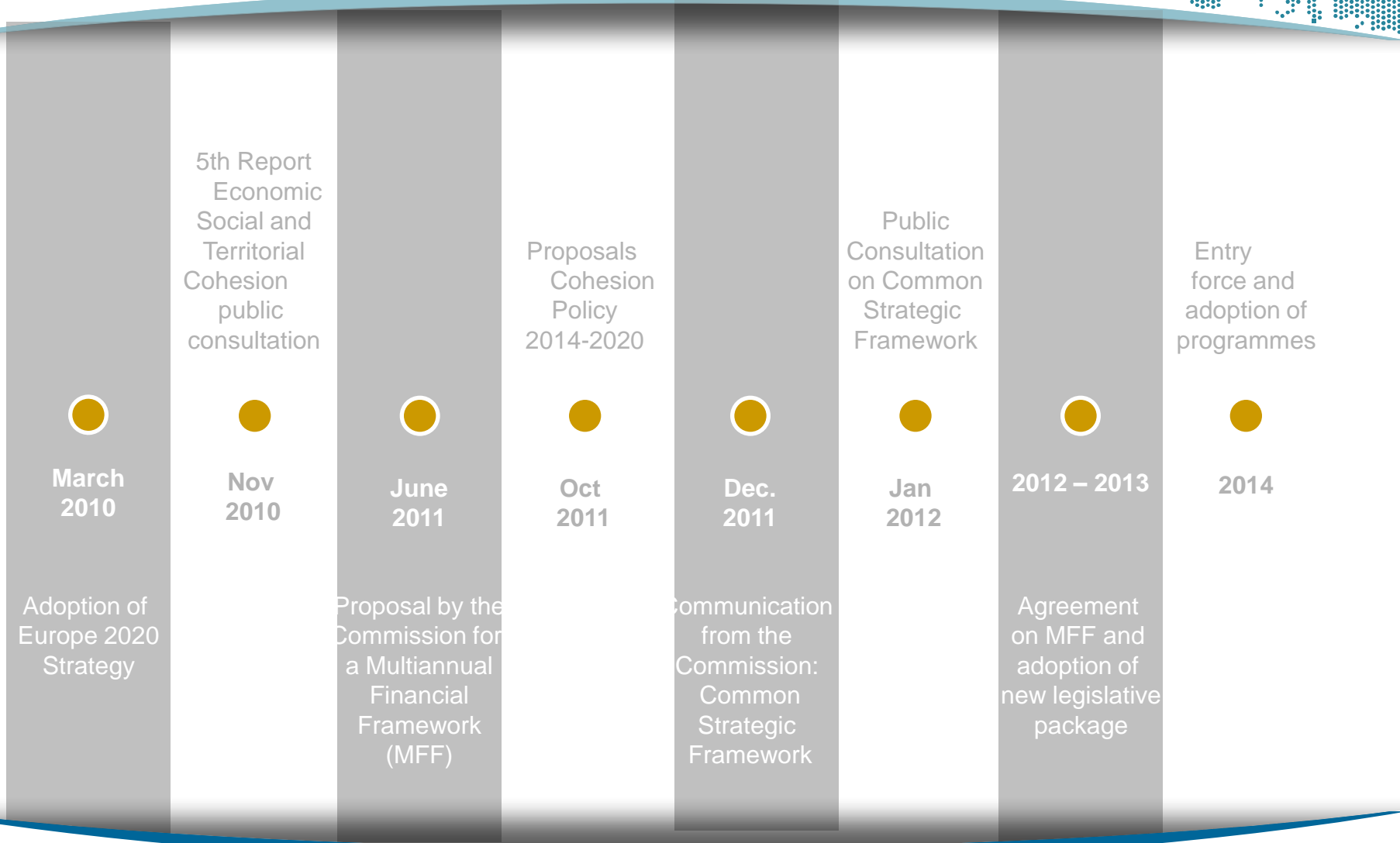
- Biodiversity, N2K, green infrastructure and ecosystem services explicitly mentioned in regulatory proposals
- Stronger role for partnership, including environmental partners
- Alignment with EU2020 step forward for biodiversity compared with alignment with Lisbon Strategy
- Stronger role for COM in negotiations
- OPs to contain a description of specific actions to take into account environmental protection requirements

Limitations:

- Remaining uncertainty about what actions MS and regions will prioritise as no obligation of ring-fencing for biodiversity spending



Work ahead



Useful links



Regulatory proposals and related materials:

- http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/what/future/proposals_2014_2020_en.cfm





Thank you for your attention!

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