

Response charts for 'Protecting our natural capital: an EU strategy to conserve biodiversity and ensure the provision of ecosystem services by 2020'

▶ Current search:

Query definition

All data requested

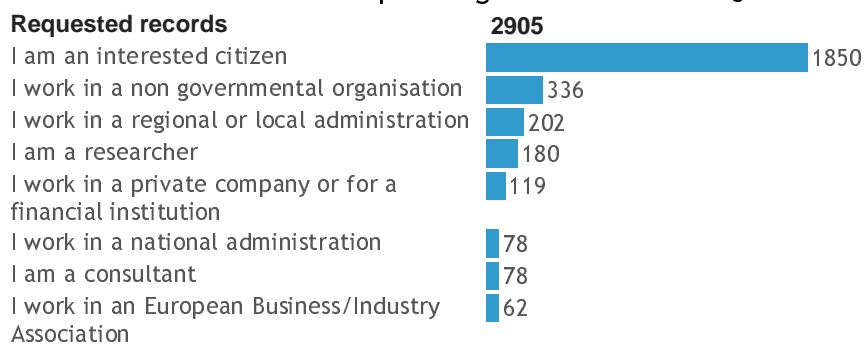
Result pages

▶ There are **2905** responses matching your criteria of a total of **2905** records in the current set of data.

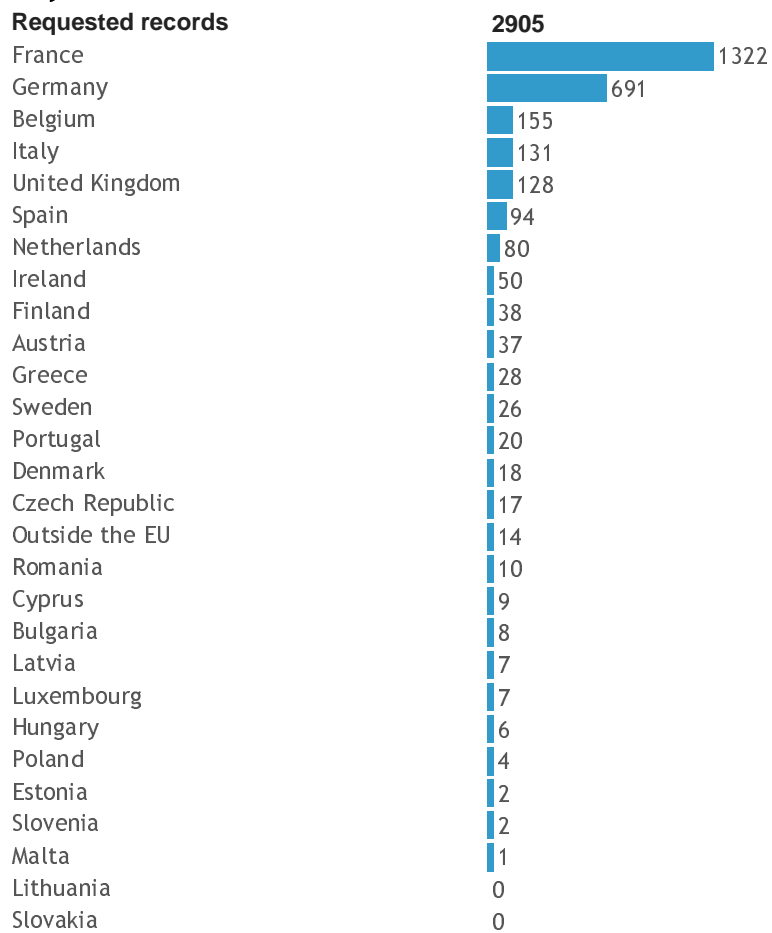
Profile of the respondent.

This section provides us with some basic information about the background of the respondent.

Status confirmation - I am responding on behalf of: -single choice reply- (compulsory)



Country: -single choice reply- (compulsory)



Introduction to the main questionnaire

Many authoritative reports confirm that global biodiversity is under severe threat, with extinction rates occurring at 100 to 1000 times the normal rate. More than a third of species assessed face the risk of extinction and an estimated 60% of the Earth's ecosystems have been degraded in the last 50 years, with consequences for the ecosystems services that depend on them. Marine biodiversity is also under pressure, and approximately 90% of the planet's biomass lives in the ocean. Habitat destruction, fragmentation and degradation caused by land-use change, over-exploitation, unsustainable practices (e.g. overfishing), invasive species, ocean acidification, pollution and, increasingly, climate change are the strongest pressures on biodiversity.

In 2001, the EU set itself the target to halt biodiversity loss in the EU by 2010. Efforts to tackle biodiversity loss were subsequently stepped up, and an EU Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) was adopted by the Commission in 2006 to accelerate progress.¹ Despite the efforts to date, however, there are clear indications that the EU has not achieved its target.

In March 2010, The EU adopted a new biodiversity target that aims at *halting the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services in the EU by 2020, and restoring them in so far as feasible, while stepping up the EU contribution to averting global biodiversity loss.*

The European Commission is working on the development of a new EU biodiversity strategy to enable the 2020 target to be met. The objective of this consultation is to gather input from a wide range of stakeholders on possible policy options for this strategy. This public consultation takes into account the results of a first stakeholder consultation held in Brussels on 3 June, as well as the results of a recent Eurobarometer Survey of Attitudes of European towards the issue of Biodiversity.²

1. http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/comm2006/bap_2006.htm

2. http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/flash/fl_290_en.pdf

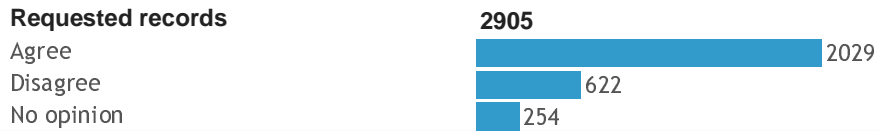
A) General questions

1. The EU's 2010 biodiversity target was not reached because...

Measures taken were not sufficiently ambitious. -single choice reply- (compulsory)



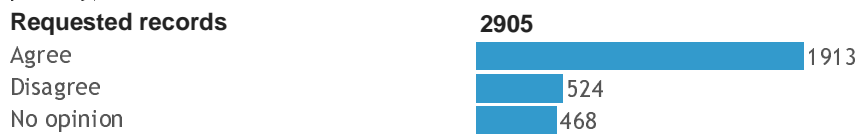
Measures taken did not address the main drivers of biodiversity loss. -single choice reply- (compulsory)



The relevant legislation (Birds and Habitats Directives, Water Framework Directive, Marine Strategy Framework Directive, etc.) has not been sufficiently implemented. -single choice reply- (compulsory)



The level of funding directed towards this end was not adequate. -single choice reply- (compulsory)



The target itself was unrealistic. -single choice reply- (compulsory)

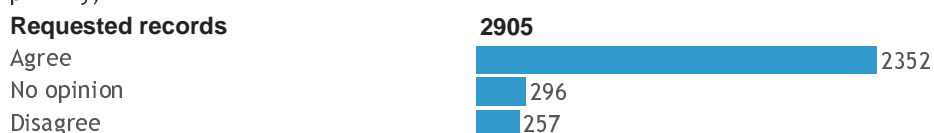


2. The EU's approach to tackling the biodiversity challenge so far has not enabled the EU to reach its 2010 target because...

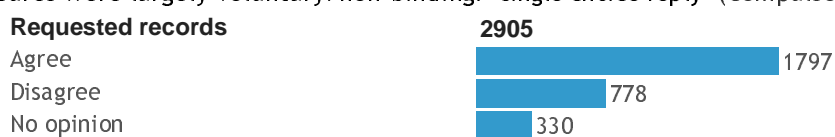
It lacked a baseline and measurable targets against which progress could be measured. -single choice reply- (compulsory)



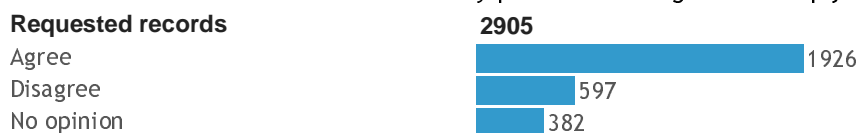
Measures did not have the necessary buy-in from other sectoral actors. -single choice reply- (compulsory)



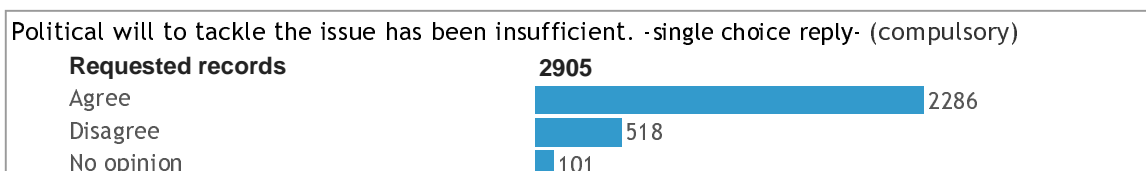
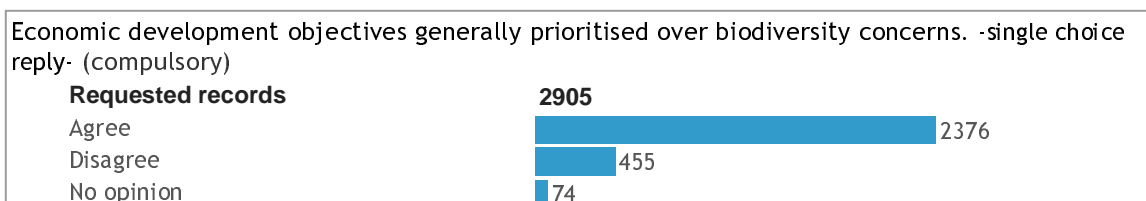
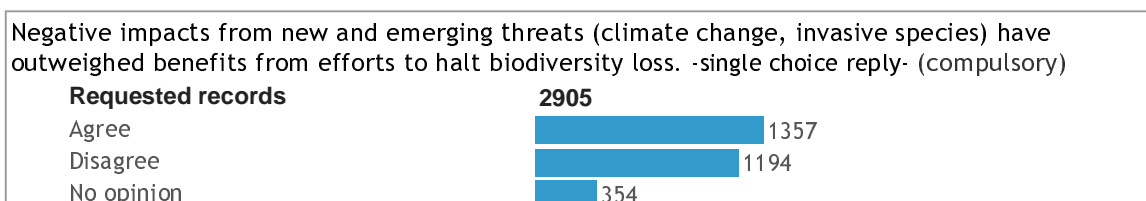
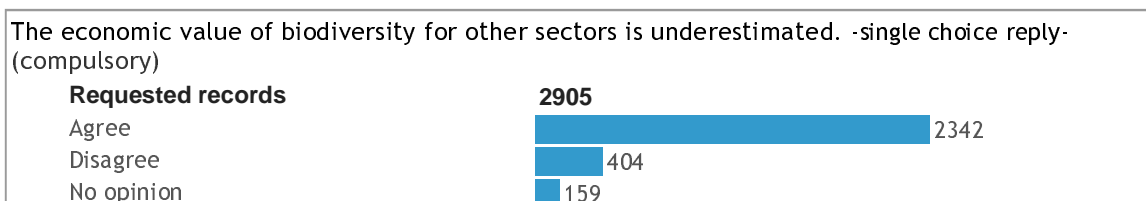
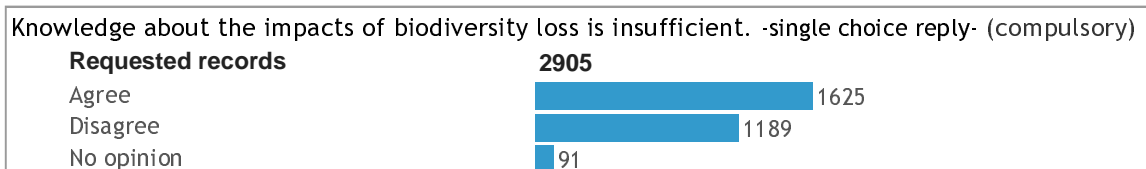
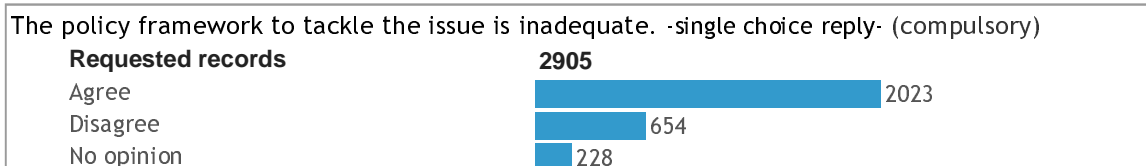
Measures were largely voluntary/non-binding. -single choice reply- (compulsory)



Measures were too diffuse and not sufficiently prioritised. -single choice reply- (compulsory)

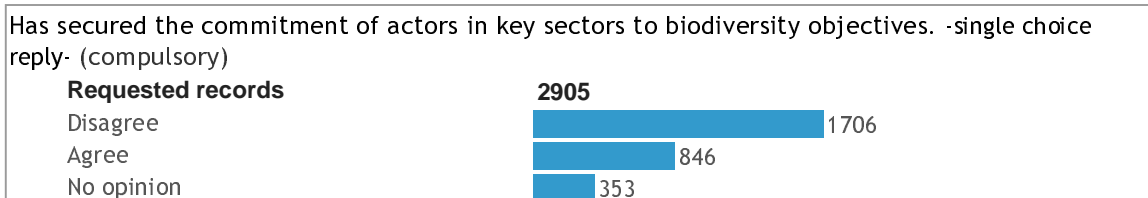
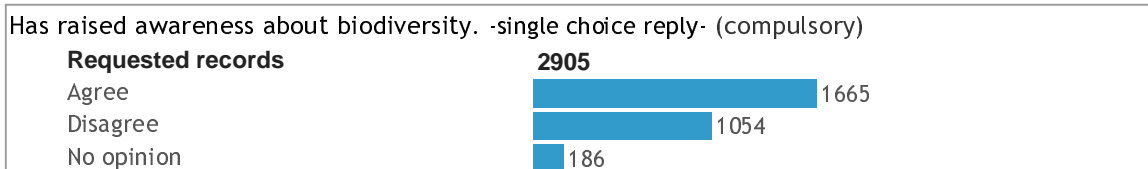
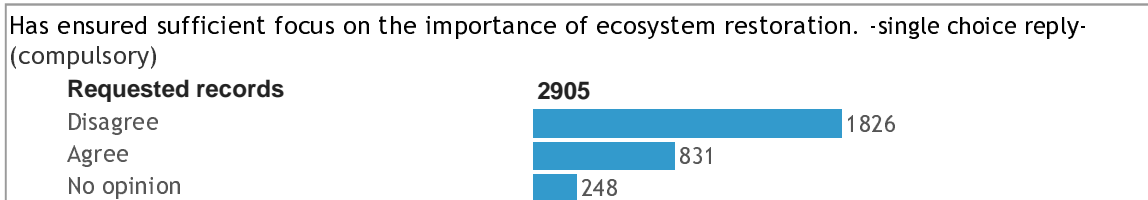
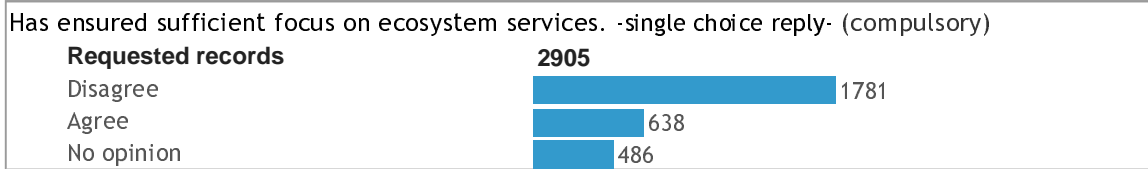
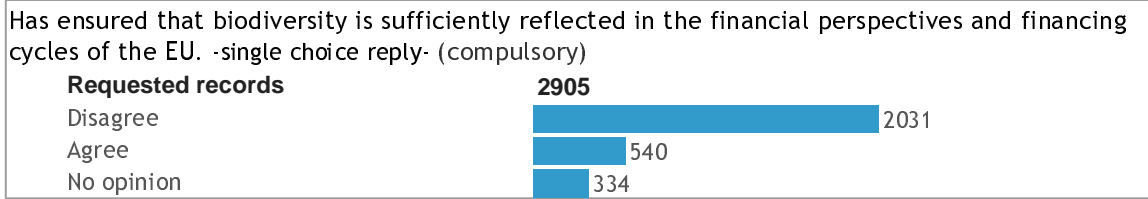


3. Biodiversity in the EU continues to be lost because...

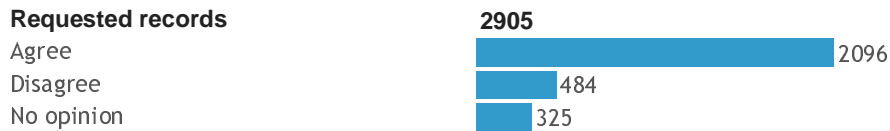


4. The EU biodiversity policy framework until now...

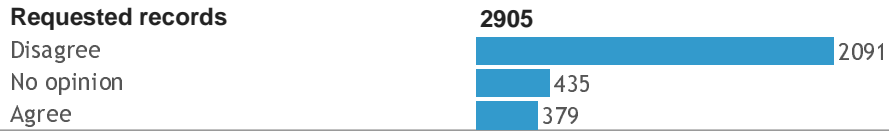
Has ensured the sufficient integration of biodiversity concerns into other policy areas. -single choice reply- (compulsory)



Has suffered from policy gaps in certain areas. -single choice reply- (compulsory)

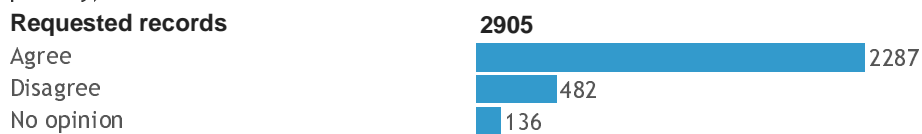


Has made sufficient use of economic incentives and economic instruments. -single choice reply- (compulsory)

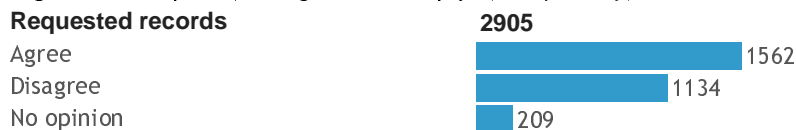


5. Future efforts to halt biodiversity loss in the EU should...

Include measures and actions that go beyond nature conservation. -single choice reply- (compulsory)



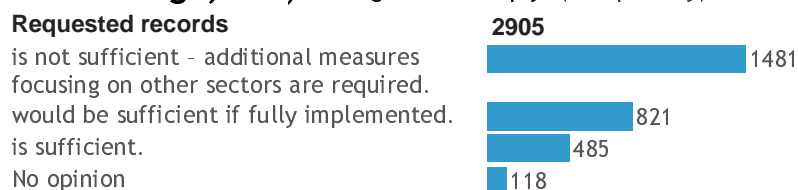
Focus on a limited number of direct and indirect drivers of biodiversity loss (those having the most significant impacts). -single choice reply- (compulsory)



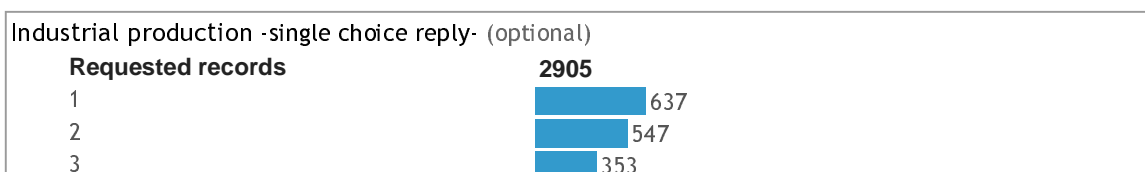
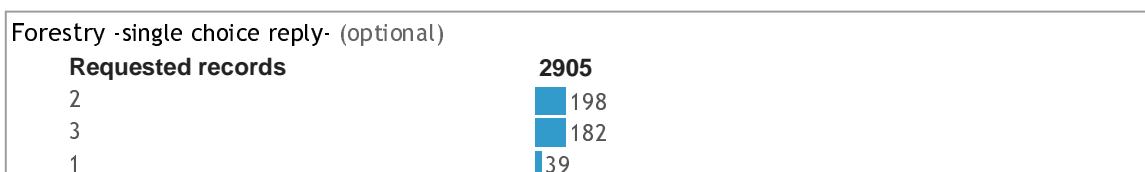
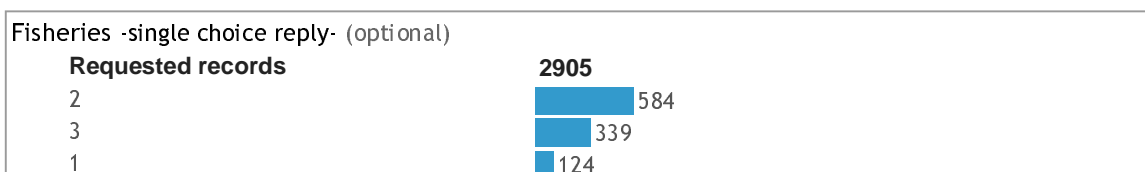
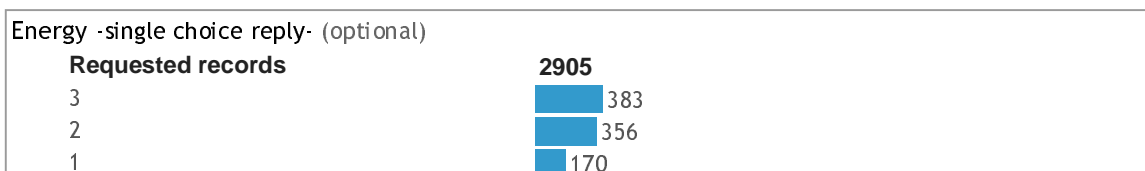
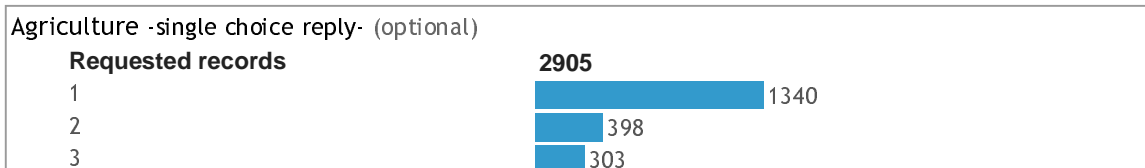
Address the full range of drivers and pressures. -single choice reply- (compulsory)

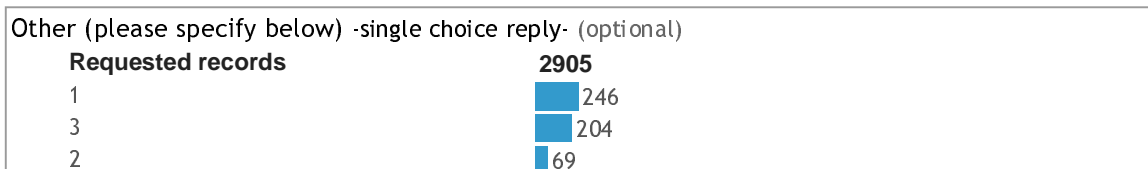
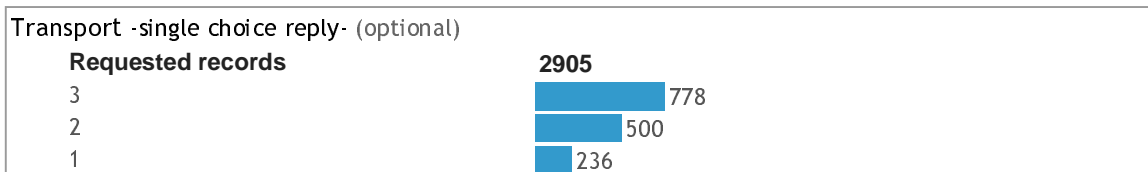
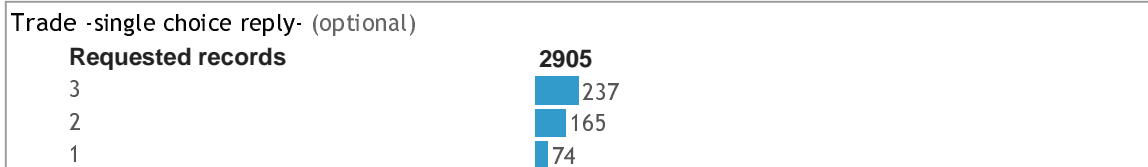


6. To reach the EU's 2020 biodiversity target, existing EU environmental legislation (e.g. nature, air, water, chemicals, climate change, etc)... -single choice reply- (compulsory)

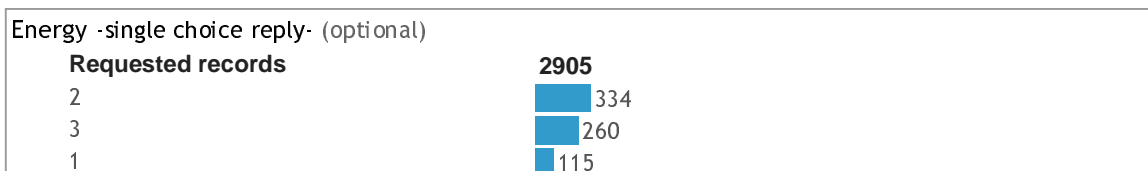
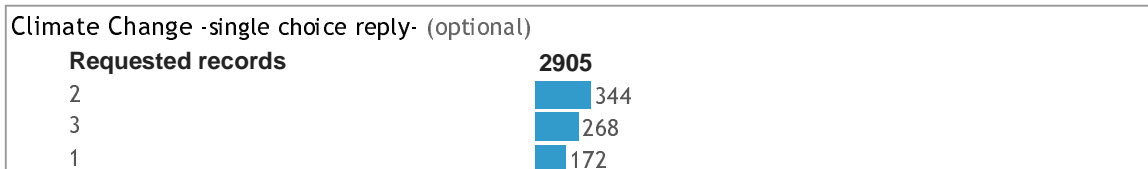
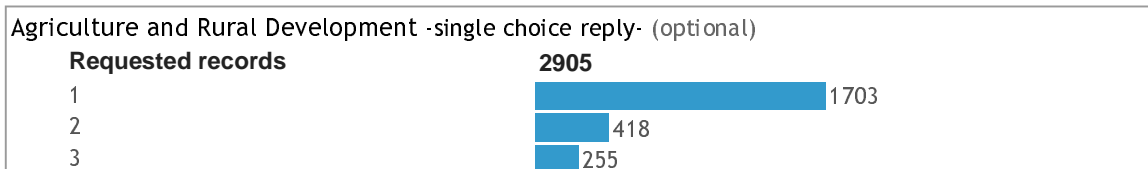


7. Of the following sectors, which 3 in your view have the most significant negative impacts on biodiversity? Please rank them in order of importance (1 being the most important)

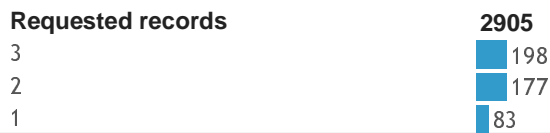




8. Given that there are EU policies addressing several of the previous sectors, which 3 of the following policy areas have the most potential to bring benefits for biodiversity? Please rank them in order of importance (1 being the most important)



Health and Consumers -single choice reply- (optional)



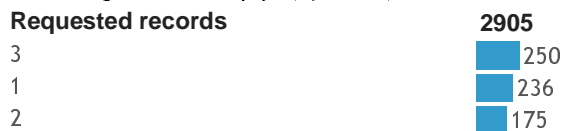
Maritime and Fisheries -single choice reply- (optional)



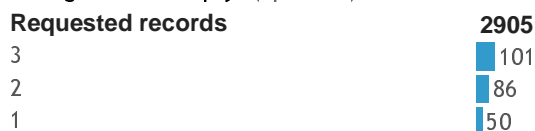
Regional Policy -single choice reply- (optional)



Research -single choice reply- (optional)



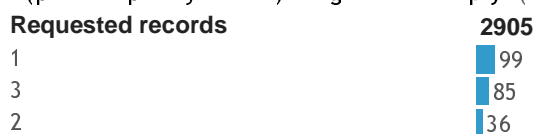
Trade -single choice reply- (optional)



Transport -single choice reply- (optional)



Other (please specify below) -single choice reply- (optional)



B) THE PROPOSED APPROACH

To date, the EU's approach towards halting biodiversity loss has tended to be comprehensive, covering a broad range of sectors and actions with little prioritisation. The current biodiversity strategy, the 2006 Biodiversity Action Plan, includes some 160 actions. From the various assessments of the BAP undertaken to date³, it can be concluded that with this approach the EU has not met its objective of halting biodiversity loss in the EU by 2010. The Commission is therefore exploring the possibility to build the post-2010 strategy around a new, prioritised approach. The strategy would contain a limited number of measurable and strategic sub-targets (ST). The topics to be covered by those sub-targets currently under consideration are:

ST1 - sustainable land management - agriculture and forestry

ST2 - sustainable use of natural resources- fisheries

ST3 - protecting habitats and species - nature conservation

ST4 - working with nature and investing in natural capital - Green Infrastructure

ST5 - preventing the introduction and spread of invasive species

ST6 - the EU's contribution to global biodiversity

In this approach, it is assumed that the policy baseline, which includes EU nature legislation (Birds and Habitats Directives), water and marine legislation (in particular the Water Framework Directive and Marine Strategy Framework Directive), the Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment Directives, the Climate and Energy Package; and pollution-related legislation (nitrates, pesticides, air, REACH, industrial emissions, waste...) will deliver substantial improvements for biodiversity. For this reason, the proposed sub-targets should focus on remaining gaps. For each sub-target, feasible and cost-effective measures and actions will need to be elaborated. The strategy should also seize upcoming opportunities to further integrate biodiversity into other policies arising from the forthcoming reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and Common Fishery Policy (CFP), and developments in Regional and Cohesion Policy.

3. http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/comm2006/index_en.htm

ST1 – SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT - Agriculture and Forestry

Rural areas and agriculture account for 80% and over 40% respectively of the total EU land area. Unsustainable agriculture and forestry are one of the main pressures on biodiversity because of growing intensification on the one hand, and land abandonment on the other hand. Moreover, while traditional farming and forestry practices have often generated species rich habitats, these are declining across the EU. Given the agricultural sector's dependence on a range of ecosystem services such as pollination, biological control, soil formation, water availability, and genetic diversity, it has a direct stake in efforts to ensure biodiversity conservation.

9. In your view, how necessary is it to have a sub-target on agriculture and forestry?

-single choice reply- (compulsory)

Requested records

2905

Necessary

2271

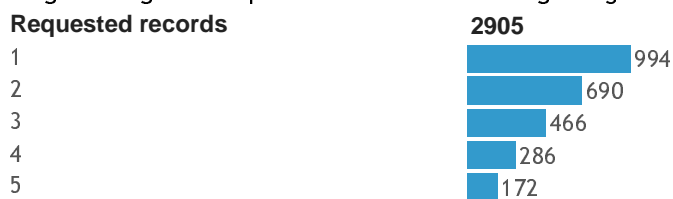
Somewhat necessary	417
Not necessary	165
No opinion	52

10. Please rank the following options according to their importance in ensuring conservation of biodiversity in the agriculture and forestry sectors (1 being most important):

Preserving and/or expanding extensive agriculture and High Nature Value areas. -single choice reply- (optional)



Reducing the negative impacts of intensive farming. -single choice reply- (optional)



Increasing the total land area devoted to organic farming in the EU. -single choice reply- (optional)



Increasing the share of funding for biodiversity-related agri-environment measures. -single choice reply- (optional)



Other (please specify below) -single choice reply- (optional)

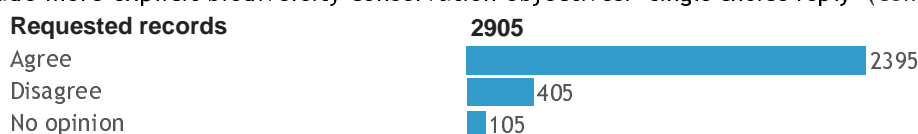
Requested records

2905

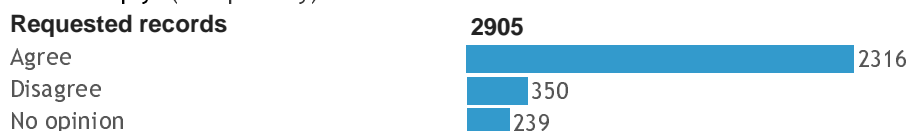


11. In order to contribute to a better conservation of biodiversity, the reformed Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) should...

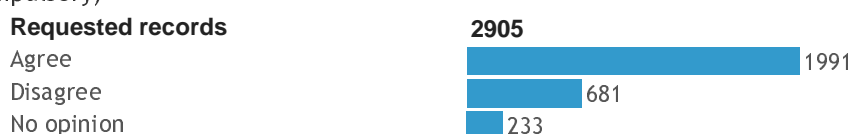
Include more explicit biodiversity conservation objectives. -single choice reply- (compulsory)



Integrate the Biodiversity Strategy's agriculture & forests sub-target into its own objectives. -single choice reply- (compulsory)



Include obligatory biodiversity monitoring and reporting requirements. -single choice reply- (compulsory)



Include voluntary biodiversity monitoring and reporting requirements. -single choice reply- (compulsory)



ST2 – SUSTAINABLE USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES - Fisheries

88% of EU fish stocks are overfished, making fisheries the most representative example of overexploitation of natural resources in Europe. Pressure from unsustainable fishing is also a major cause of degradation of marine ecosystems and the other services they provide. Yet, as with the agricultural sector, the long-term viability of the fisheries sector depends on healthy ecosystems. The April 2009 Green Paper on the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy⁴ highlights the main challenges facing the sector, including those relating to marine biodiversity.

4. <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2009:0163:FIN:EN:PDF>

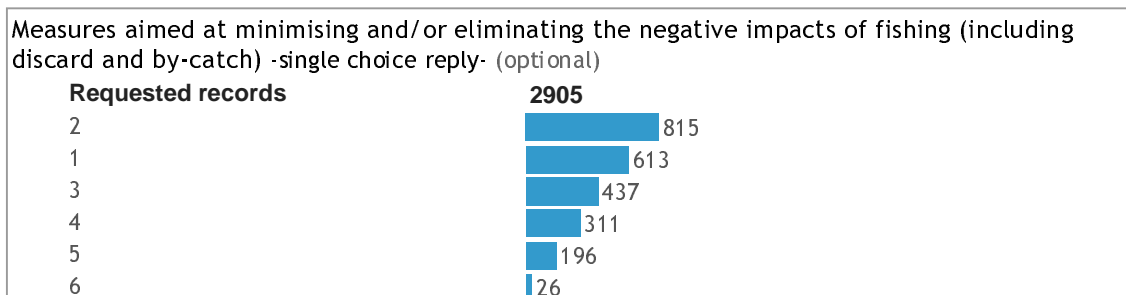
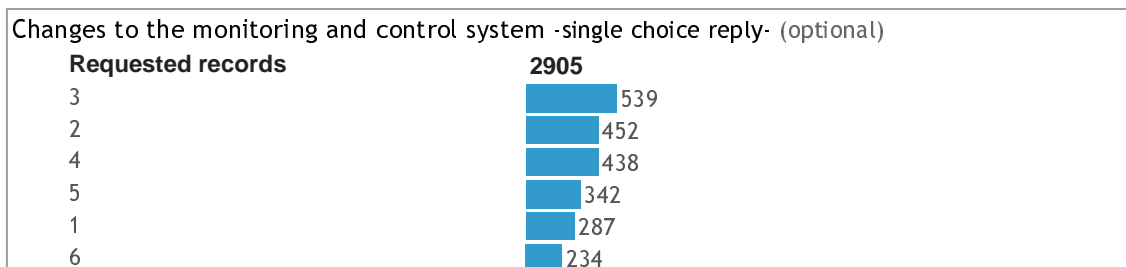
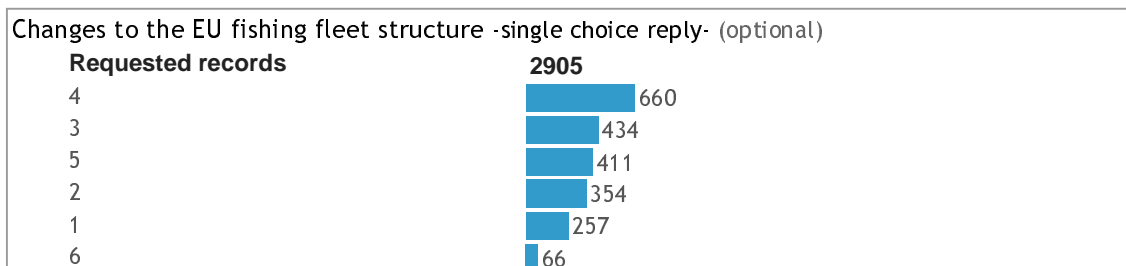
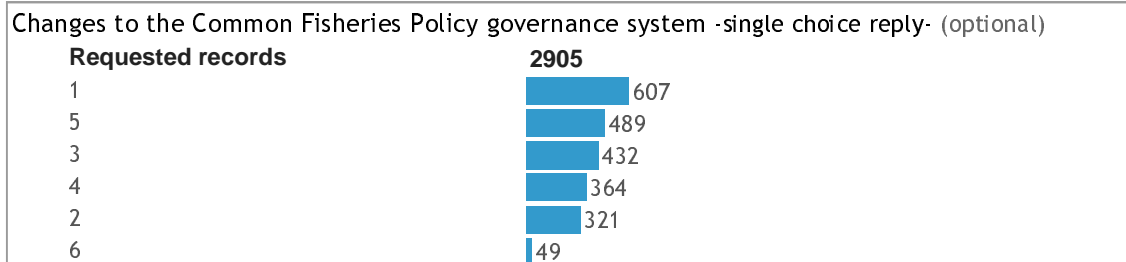
12. In your view, how necessary is it to have a sub-target on fisheries? -single choice reply- (compulsory)



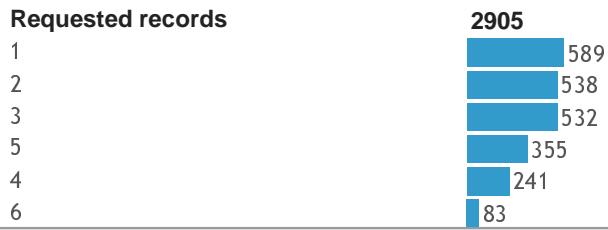
Not necessary
No opinion

109
107

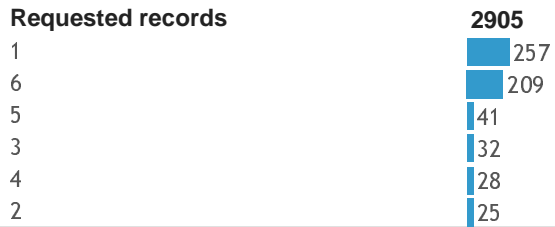
13. Please rank the following options according to their importance in ensuring conservation of biodiversity in the fisheries sector (1 being most important):



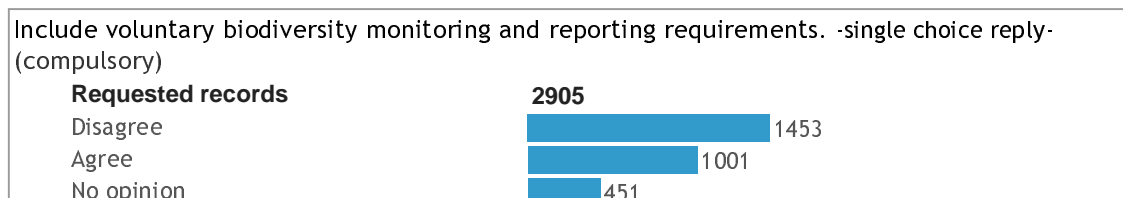
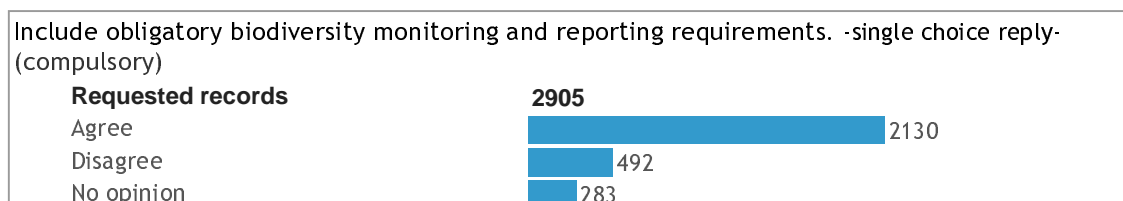
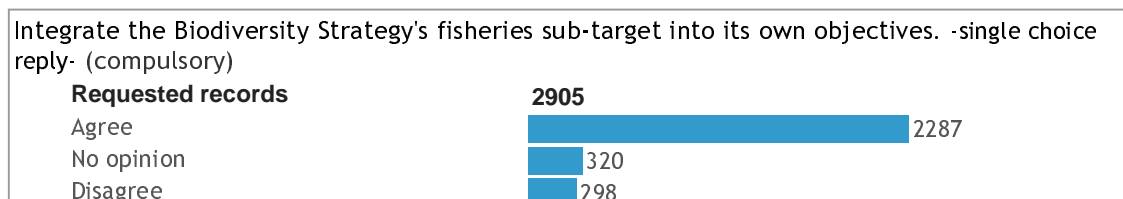
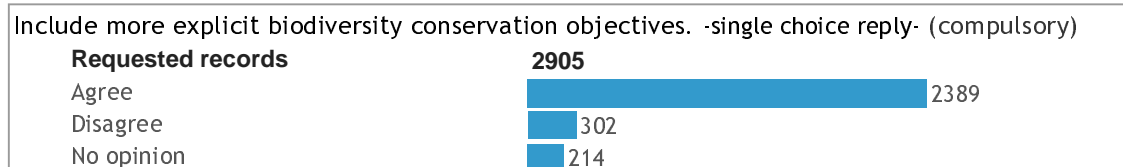
Expanding marine protected areas -single choice reply- (optional)



Other (please specify below) -single choice reply- (optional)



14. In order to contribute to a better conservation of biodiversity, the reformed Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) should...



ST3 – PROTECTING HABITATS AND SPECIES - NATURE CONSERVATION

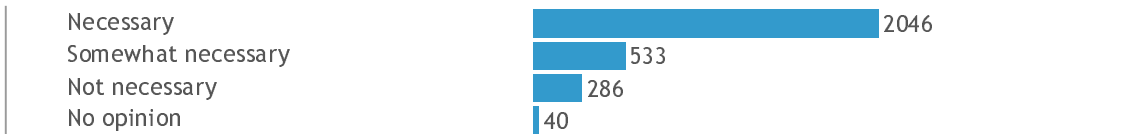
The Birds and Habitats Directives are key legal instruments dedicated to habitat and species conservation at EU level. Together with other environment legislation such as the Water and Marine Strategy Framework Directives, the Birds and Habitats Directives form the backbone of the EU biodiversity policy.

The Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC was adopted in 1992. The overall aim of this Directive is to promote the maintenance of biodiversity, taking account of economic, social, cultural and regional requirements. The main objective of the Directive is to achieve a favourable conservation status of over 1.000 animals and plant species and over 200 so called "habitat types" (e.g. special types of forests, meadows, wetlands, etc.), which are of particular European importance. The Habitats Directive also establishes the EU wide Natura 2000 ecological network of protected areas. For these areas it provides a high level of safeguards against potentially damaging developments.

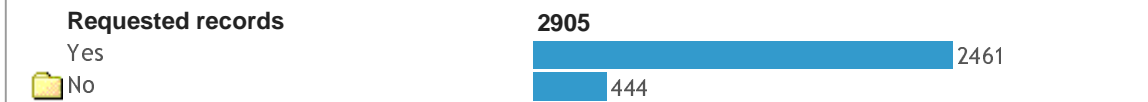
The Birds Directive 2009/147/EC was originally adopted in 1979. This Directive ensures far-reaching protection for all of Europe's wild birds, identifying 194 species and sub-species among them as particularly threatened and in need of special conservation measures. Member States are required to designate Special Protection Areas (SPAs) under the Birds Directive and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) under the Habitats Directive, which are critical for the survival of the targeted species and habitats. They together form the EU Natura 2000 network.

At present, approximately 18% of EU territory is designated as protected areas under the Natura 2000 network. However, recent assessments show that only 17% of known protected habitats and species are in favourable conservation status.

15. In your view, how necessary is it to have a sub-target on nature conservation? -single choice reply- (compulsory)

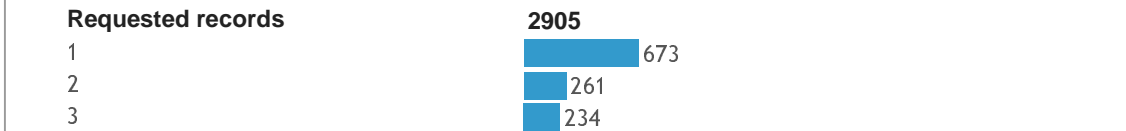


16. In your view, should this sub-target focus on an improved conservation status of species and habitats of community interests? -single choice reply- (compulsory)

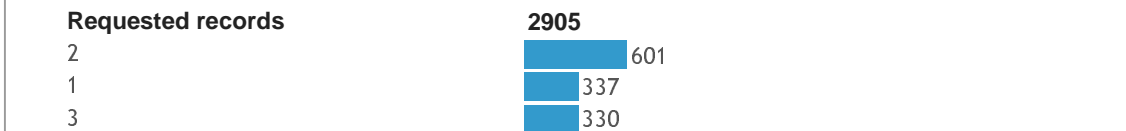


17. What are in your view the 3 most important measures to improve the implementation of the Birds and Habitats Directive and the favourable conservation status of habitats and species?

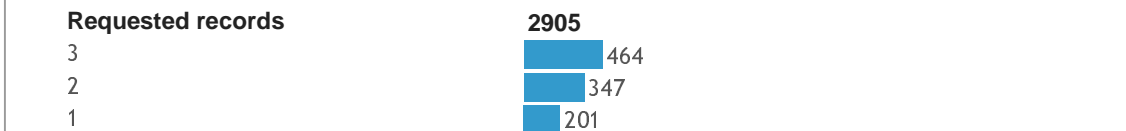
Improved knowledge of the conservation status of species and habitats. -single choice reply- (optional)



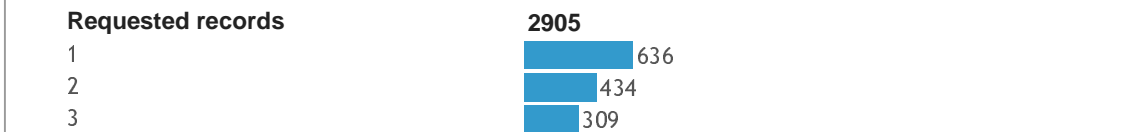
Adequate funding for the management of the Natura 2000 networks. -single choice reply- (optional)



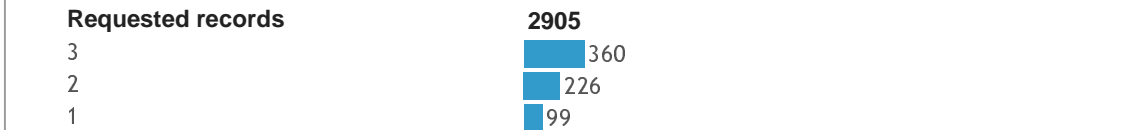
Appropriate management of Natura 2000 sites. -single choice reply- (optional)



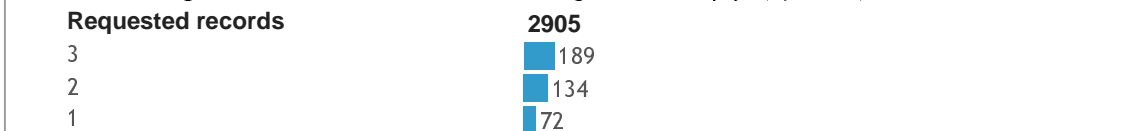
Better integration of - and respect for - the EU Birds and Habitats Directives in other EU policy areas (e.g. Agriculture, Regional Development & Cohesion, Transport, Energy, Maritime & Fisheries,...). -single choice reply- (optional)

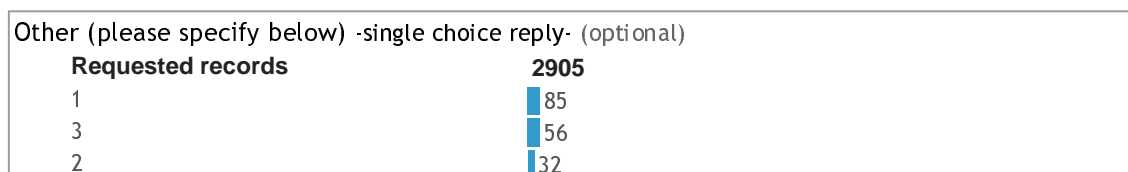
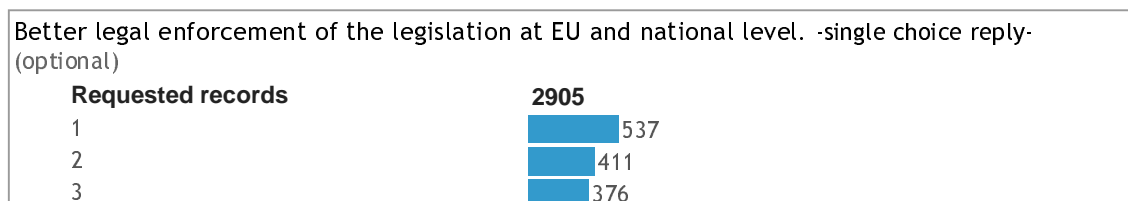
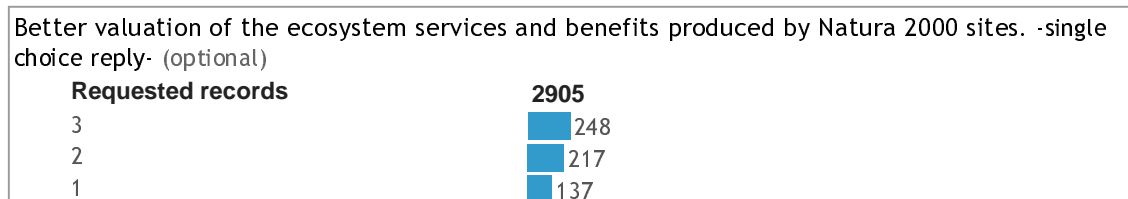


Better Communication and Public Awareness about the EU Birds and Habitats Directives and Natura 2000. -single choice reply- (optional)



Additional designations of Natura 2000 sites. -single choice reply- (optional)



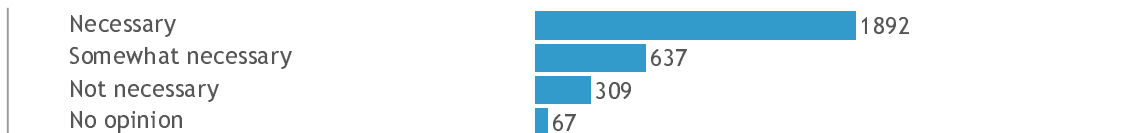


ST4 – WORKING WITH NATURE AND INVESTING IN NATURAL CAPITAL - Green Infrastructure (5)

Ensuring adequate protection of biodiversity both within and outside of protected areas and investing in natural capital are vital to sustain the long-term functioning of ecosystems. Europe has undergone more habitat and ecosystem fragmentation than any other continent to date. European ecosystems are literally cut to pieces by urban sprawl and a rapidly expanding transport network. Fragmentation reduces the opportunities for organisms to disperse and affects their ecological needs (e.g. access to specific habitats, sufficient area for food and breeding). It also affects the ability of ecosystems to provide the services we need. Overcoming these challenges requires putting in place so-called 'Green Infrastructure' to re-establish connections between areas with high biodiversity or importance for ecosystem functionality, and to improve the permeability of landscapes (e.g. buffer zones and corridors, green urban areas and eco-bridges to reconnect natural areas divided by transport infrastructure), as well as to ensure the continued provision or re-establishment of ecosystem services (e.g. natural coastal protection through marshes/flood plains; natural water cycling; urban cooling solutions such as tree planting, etc). These measures, which depend on integrated land management, can also make a valuable contribution to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

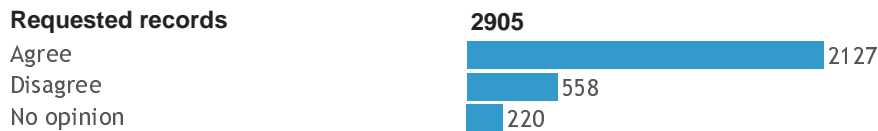
5. http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/ecosystems/index_en.htm

18. In your view, how necessary is it to have a sub-target on Green Infrastructure? -single choice reply- (compulsory)

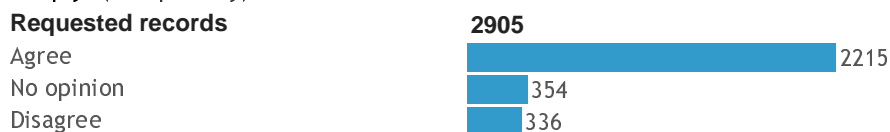


19. A sub-target on Green Infrastructure should primarily seek to...

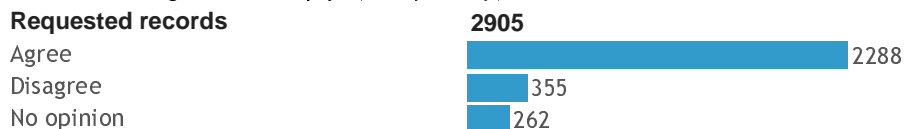
Ensure connectivity between protected areas, e.g. Natura 2000 sites, and between ecosystems within and outside protected areas. -single choice reply- (compulsory)



Maintain and increase the resilience of ecosystems and their continued service delivery. -single choice reply- (compulsory)



Restore ecosystems that contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation and disaster risk reduction. -single choice reply- (compulsory)

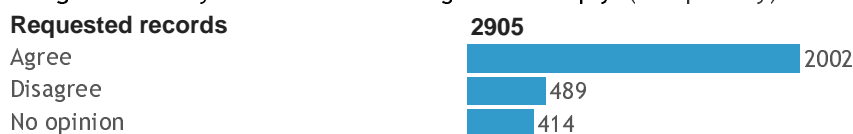


Ensure systematic compensation of biodiversity loss (“no net loss”). -single choice reply- (compulsory)

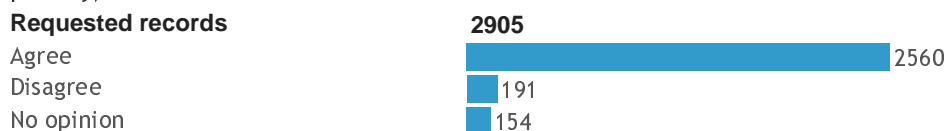


20. Measures under this sub-target should focus on...

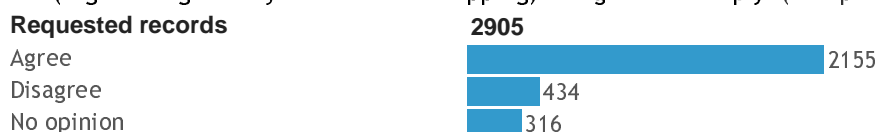
Increasing biodiversity in urban areas. -single choice reply- (compulsory)



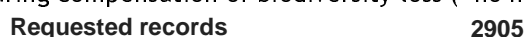
Mitigating the adverse effects of transport and energy infrastructure. -single choice reply- (compulsory)

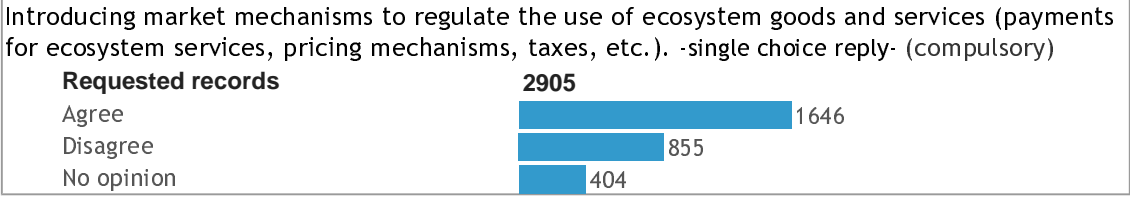
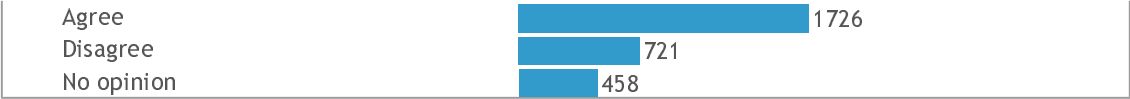


Promoting integrated spatial planning that fully takes into account ecosystems and ecosystem services (e.g. through ecosystem service mapping). -single choice reply- (compulsory)

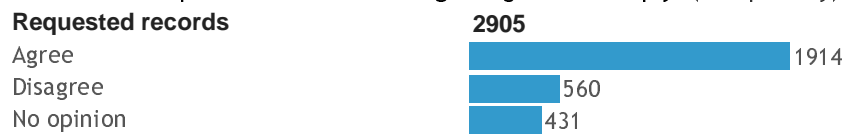


Ensuring compensation of biodiversity loss (“no net loss”). -single choice reply- (compulsory)

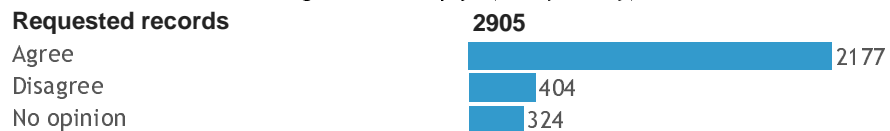




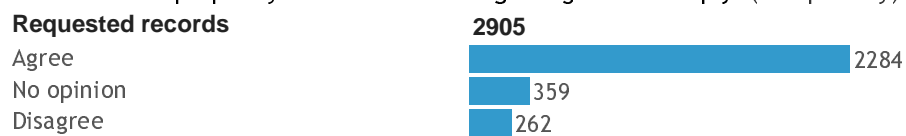
Introducing specific biodiversity provisions in relevant impact assessment tools (e.g. Environmental Impact Assessment Directive⁶, Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive) as a condition for the provision of EU funding. -single choice reply- (compulsory)



Increasing the rate of public and private investments in natural capital maintenance/restoration. -single choice reply- (compulsory)



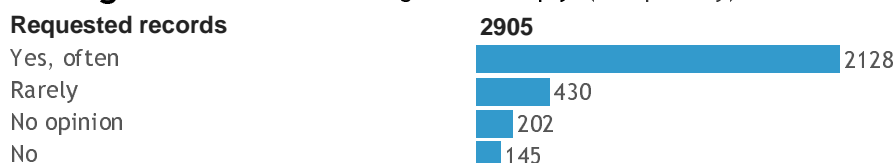
Developing stronger linkages between biodiversity and territorial cohesion objectives/ landscape policy and their financing. -single choice reply- (compulsory)



footnote

6. Please note that a separate public consultation on the review of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive is being carried out from 28 June to 24 September 2010.

21. Do you believe that working with nature (i.e. nature-based solutions) can be more cost-effective than man-made or technological solutions? -single choice reply- (compulsory)



22. In the context of competing demands for land, how important is it to ensure the provision of ecosystem services (water purification, carbon sequestration, pollination...) as compared to other economic and social considerations? -single choice reply- (compulsory)

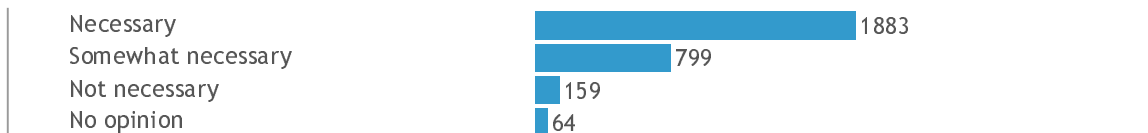


ST5 – INVASIVE SPECIES

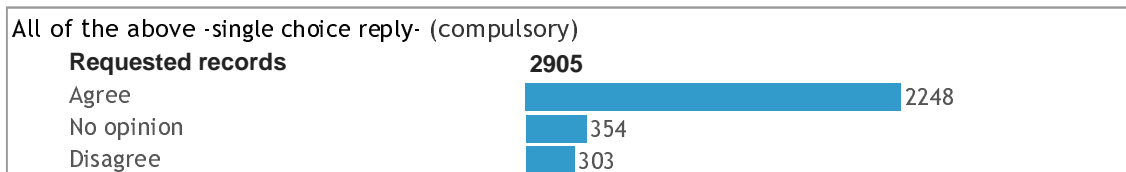
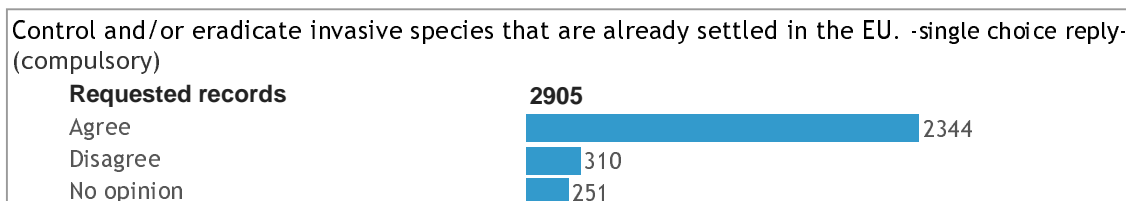
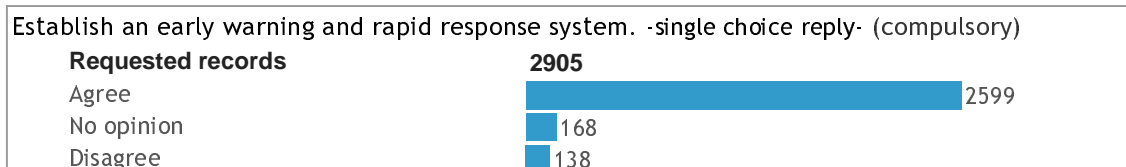
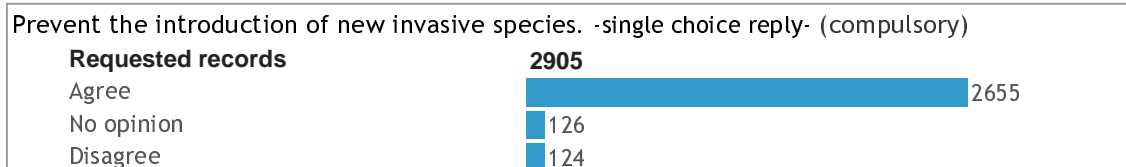
Invasive Species are recognised as a major and growing driver of biodiversity loss in the EU, and the costs arising from economic and social impacts are estimated at least 12 billion euros per year in Europe. In 2008 the Commission adopted a Communication entitled “Towards an EU Strategy on Invasive Species” [COM(2008)789]. A public consultation on Invasive Alien Species was organised in 2008. Results can be consulted via the following link:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/invasivealien/docs/results_consult.pdf

23. In your view, how necessary is it to have a sub-target on invasive species? -single choice reply- (compulsory)



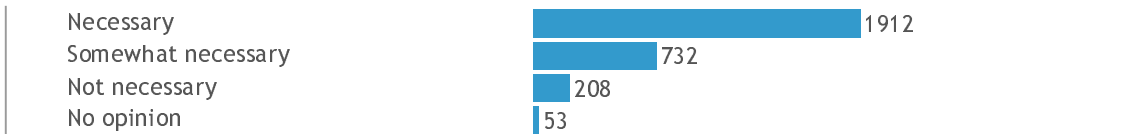
24. A sub-target on invasive species should primarily seek to...



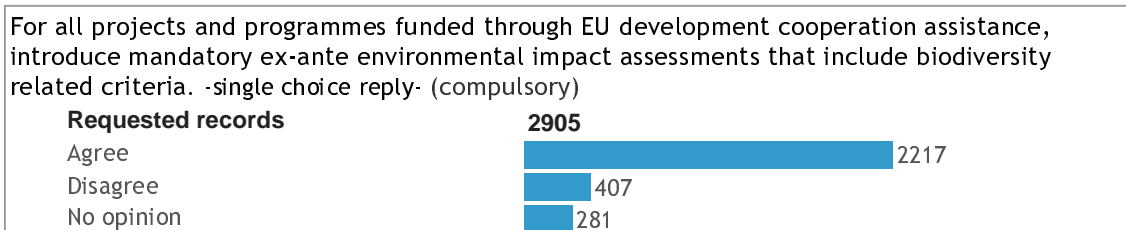
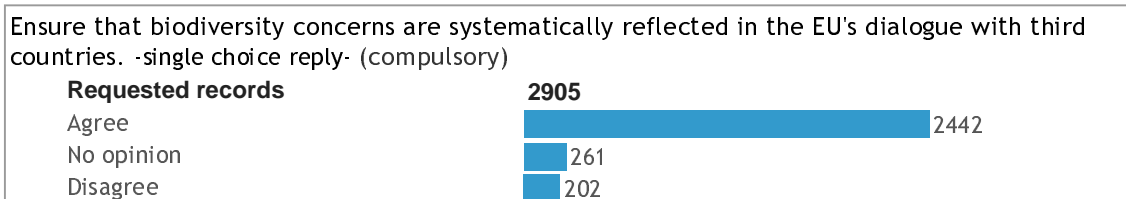
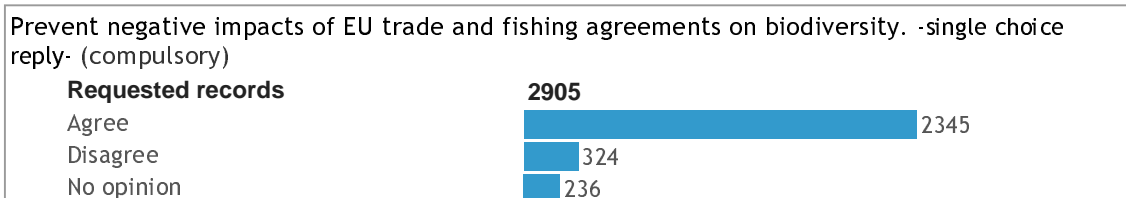
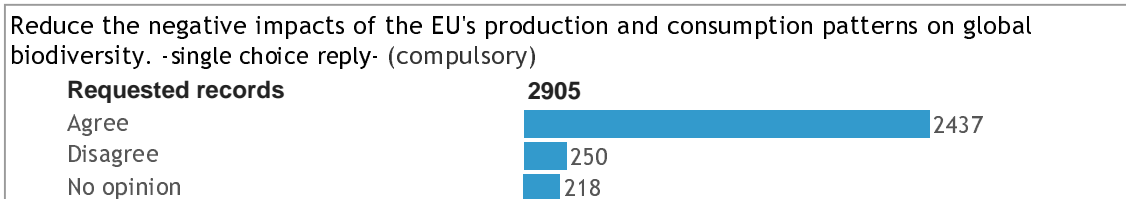
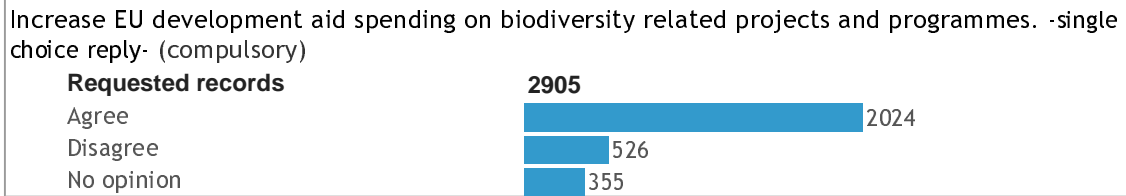
ST6 – EU CONTRIBUTION TO GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY

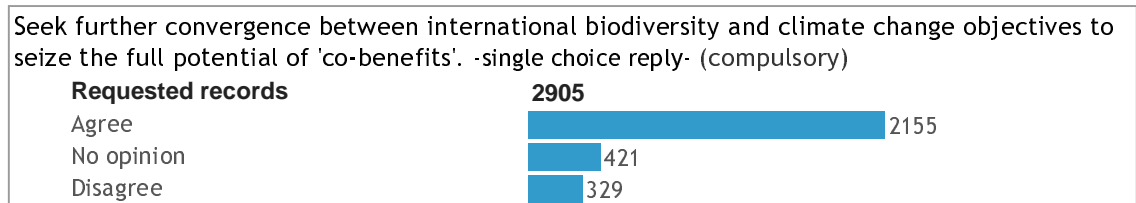
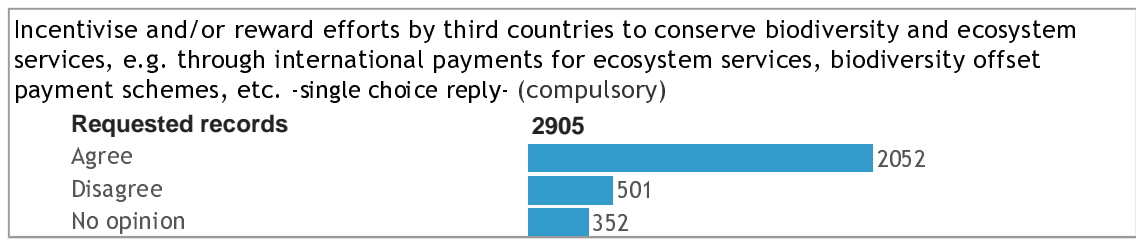
The EU's 2020 biodiversity target explicitly includes a global dimension, calling for the EU to step up its contribution to averting global biodiversity loss. We depend on biodiversity elsewhere for many of our needs and have a degree of responsibility for the global loss of biodiversity on account of our consumption and production patterns. Biodiversity and ecosystems play a crucial role in mitigating climate change (e.g. by absorbing carbon emissions) and enabling species - including humans - to adapt to its impacts. Given that the livelihoods of a large part of the population in many developing countries is directly dependent on biodiversity and healthy and functioning ecosystems, the protection of biodiversity is also very closely linked to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

25. In your view, how necessary is it to have a sub-target on the EU contribution to global biodiversity? -single choice reply- (compulsory)

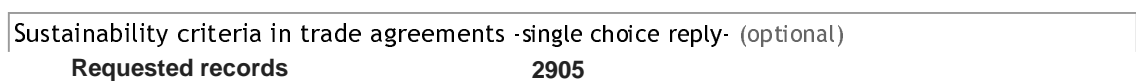
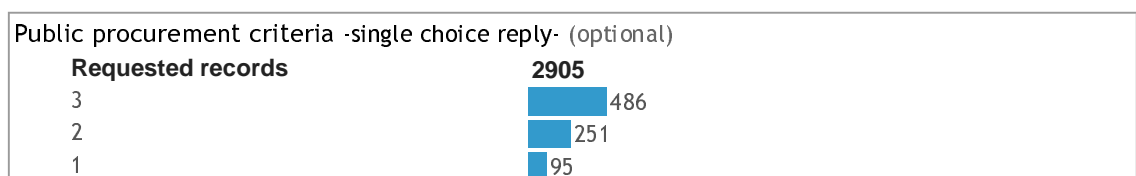
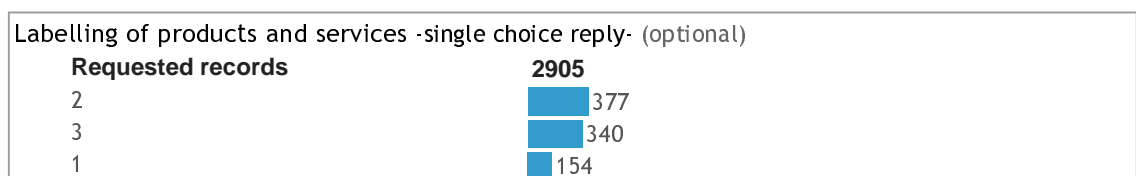
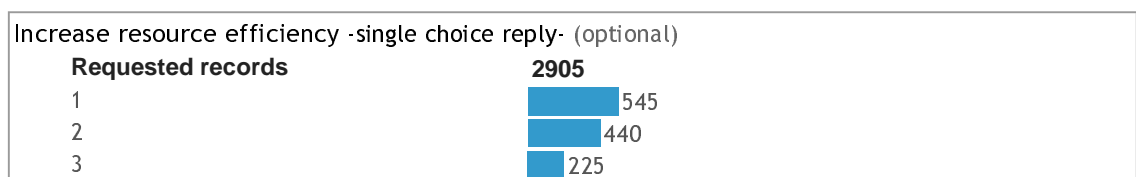
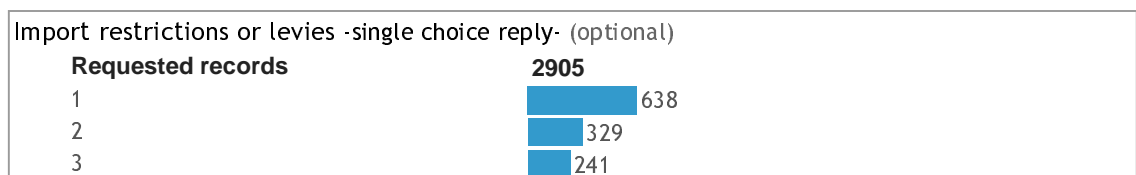
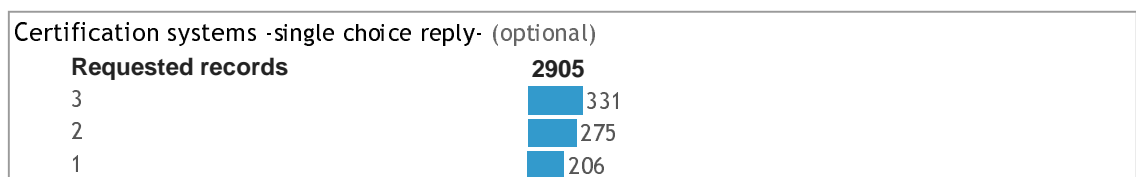
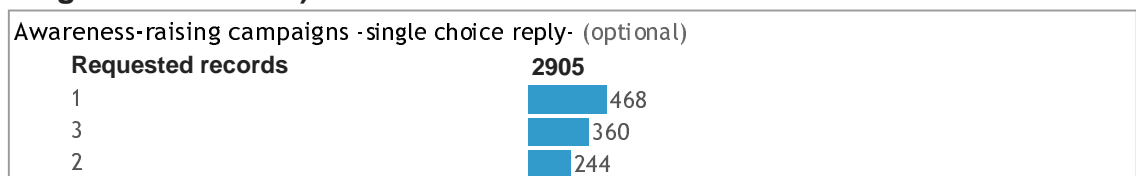


26. A sub-target on the EU contribution to global biodiversity should primarily seek to...





27. Of the following list of measures, which three do you believe would be the most effective in reducing the impact of the EU's Ecological Footprint (7) on global biodiversity? Please rank them in order of effectiveness (1 being most effective).



2	619
1	426
3	424

Taxation -single choice reply- (optional)

Requested records	2905
3	218
1	173
2	161

Other (please specify below) -single choice reply- (optional)

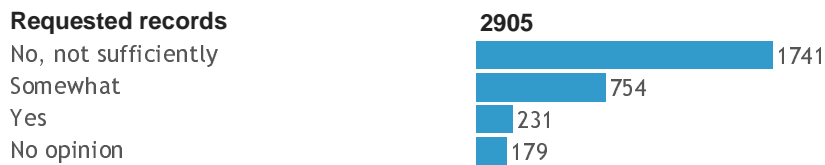
Requested records	2905
1	62
3	24
2	9

footnote

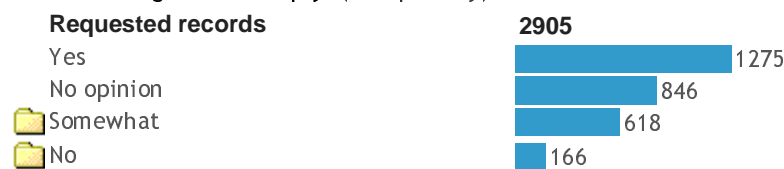
7. The ecological footprint compares human demand with planet Earth's ecological capacity to regenerate. Key features of the footprint include the overexploitation of marine resources (unsustainable catches), forestry (unsustainable management) and species (unsustainable hunting). The EU's ecological footprint is 4.7 global hectares per person, whereas its available bio capacity is only 2.2 global hectares per person. The EU's footprint has increased by approximately 16% in the last decade.

28. Do you believe that the EU's development policy currently contributes sufficiently to the protection of global biodiversity? -

single choice reply- (compulsory)



29. Do you agree with the proposed approach as broadly outlined above? -single choice reply- (compulsory)

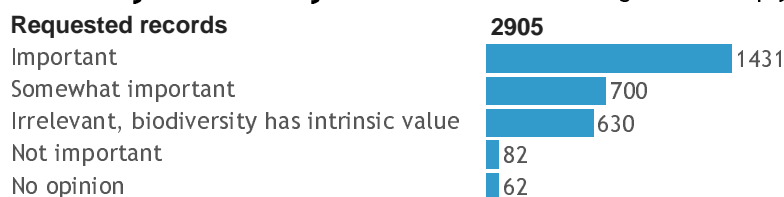


C) THE ECONOMICS OF BIODIVERSITY

The loss of biodiversity and degradation of ecosystems has already had serious economic consequences. The annual loss of ecosystem services under a business-as-usual scenario is estimated to be equivalent to around €50 billion, while by 2050 the accumulated welfare losses could be equivalent to 7% of annual consumption, according to an international study on 'The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity' (TEEB), which is analyzing the global economic benefit of biological diversity, the costs of the loss of biodiversity and the failure to take protective measures versus the costs of effective conservation.⁸

8. <http://www.teebweb.org>

30. How important do you think it is to assign an economic value to biodiversity and ecosystem services? -single choice reply- (compulsory)

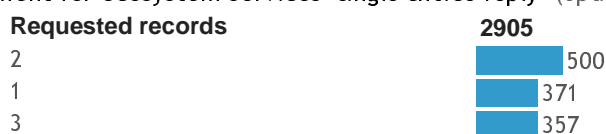


31. Do you believe that the value of natural assets should be accounted for in national budgeting systems, e.g. National Accounting Standards? -single choice reply- (compulsory)

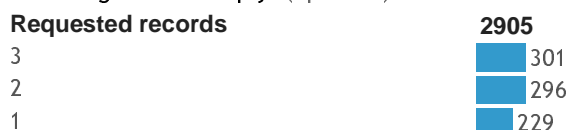


32. Which three out of the following market based instrument would you consider most effective to enhance biodiversity and halt biodiversity loss? Please rank them in order of effectiveness (1 being most effective)

Payment for ecosystem services -single choice reply- (optional)



Taxation -single choice reply- (optional)



Systems of off-sets, credits and compensation for damage and restoration of biodiversity -single choice reply- (optional)



Reform or elimination of harmful subsidies -single choice reply- (optional)



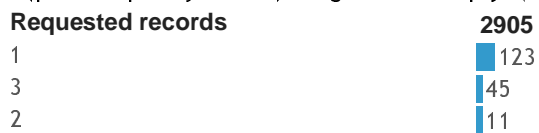
Pricing of natural resources or products on the basis of their impacts on biodiversity -single choice reply- (optional)



Certification and labelling schemes -single choice reply- (optional)



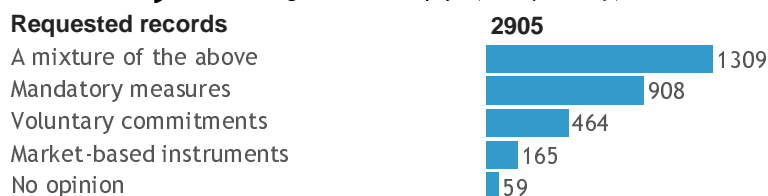
Other (please specify below) -single choice reply- (optional)



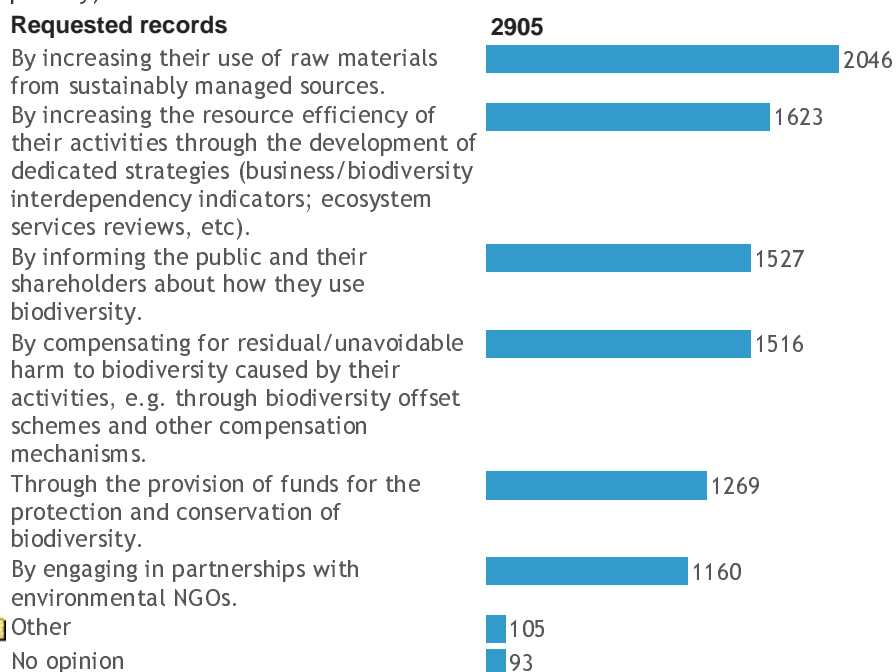
D) GOVERNANCE

As Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, the 27 EU Member States are obliged to adopt National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans. The EU, as a Party, must also develop such a plan. Many of the issues that need to be covered in these Plans often fall within the competences of local and regional authorities.

34. In your opinion, the implementation of the strategy should be based mainly on? -single choice reply- (compulsory)



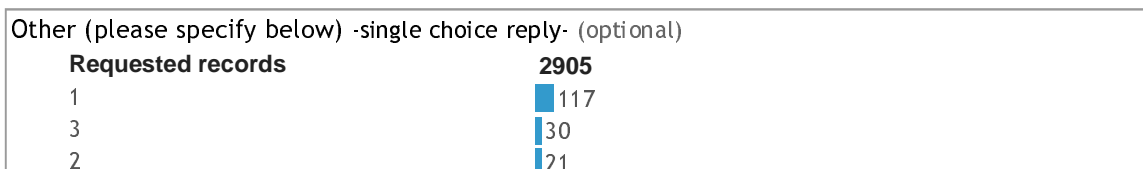
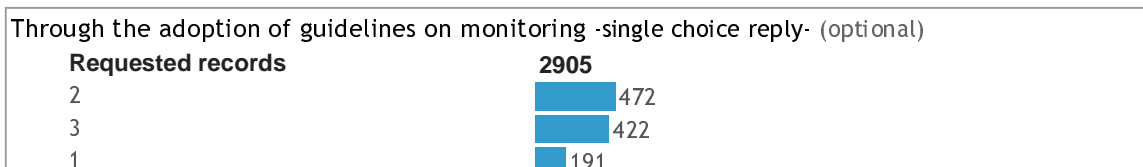
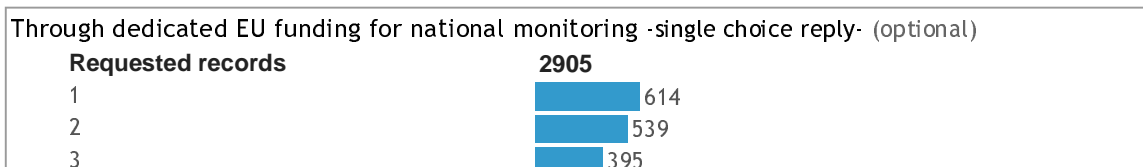
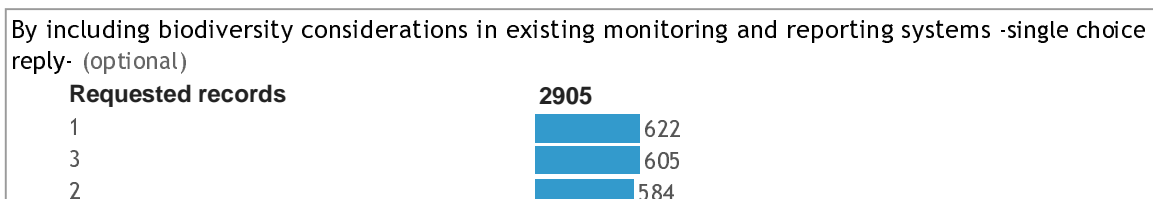
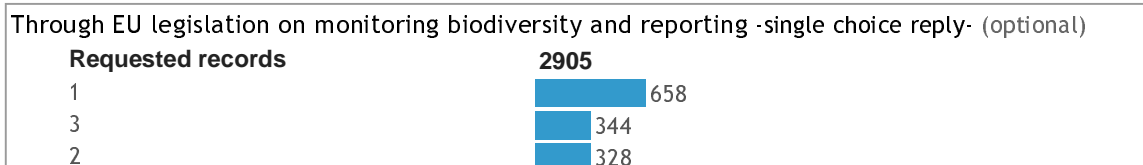
35. How do you think the private sector could increase its contribution to the protection of biodiversity? -multiple choices reply- (compulsory)



E) MONITORING OF BIODIVERSITY

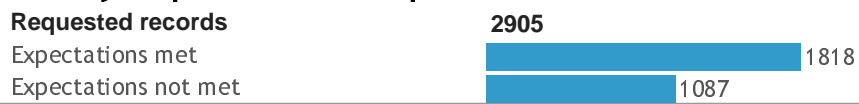
It is very important to increase the knowledge base on biodiversity for the formulation of science based policies, as well as to be able to measure progress. Over the past years a lot of progress has been made in gathering data and information on biodiversity, but more needs to be done to fill in remaining knowledge gaps.

36. From the following list, which 3 options would be the most effective for increasing the knowledge base? Please rank them in order of effectiveness (1 being most effective)



Thank you for answering this questionnaire.

How did you perceive the questionnaire? -single choice reply- (compulsory)



Why? -single choice reply- (optional)

