



Institute
for
European
Environmental
Policy

Linking Biodiversity to National Social and Economic Priorities in EU Member States

A Study for DG Environment
of the European Commission

Dr Konar Mutafoğlu, Senior Policy Analyst
Expert Group Greening the European Semester and EIR
Brussels, 26 January 2017



Recognising multiple benefits of nature

- Some benefits of nature made way to public policies – e.g. jobs and rural development linked to nature-based tourism
- Potential of benefits not or not fully exploited in many areas – e.g. links between nature and public health
- How can protecting nature and biodiversity contribute to economic and social priorities in EU Member States?

Aim of the study (Dec 2015 – Dec 2017)

- Analyse the role of biodiversity for wider socio-economic priorities in MS
- Relevant priority areas:
 - Economic Growth
 - Jobs, Skills and Innovation
 - Public Health
 - Regional Development
 - Urban Development and Regeneration
 - Demographic Change and Social Justice
- Sectors of interest: Agriculture, forestry, fisheries, tourism, climate, health, built environment (construction, energy, transport)



Study focusses on EU Member States

- What are current socio-economic priorities (jobs, growth etc.)?
- In which promising areas can biodiversity and nature protection contribute to these priorities?
- What is the scale of benefits today and the potential in future?
- What are the drivers and barriers?
- Which measure could address the barriers and realise the potential?

Method: Desk-based analysis, complemented with interviews and workshops

- Reviewing key policy documents and other relevant sources, e.g.

EU level processes:

- European Semester documents including Annual Growth Surveys, Country Specific Recommendations and Staff Working Documents
- ESIF partnership agreements and programming documents

National level:

- National economic and social strategies and policy documents (e.g. national reform plans etc.)
- National biodiversity strategies and action plans
- Other key documents, e.g. sector strategies and action plans



Method: Desk-based analysis, complemented with interviews and workshops

- Targeted, concise interviews with country officials and sector experts
- Regional workshops to share preliminary findings and receive feedback

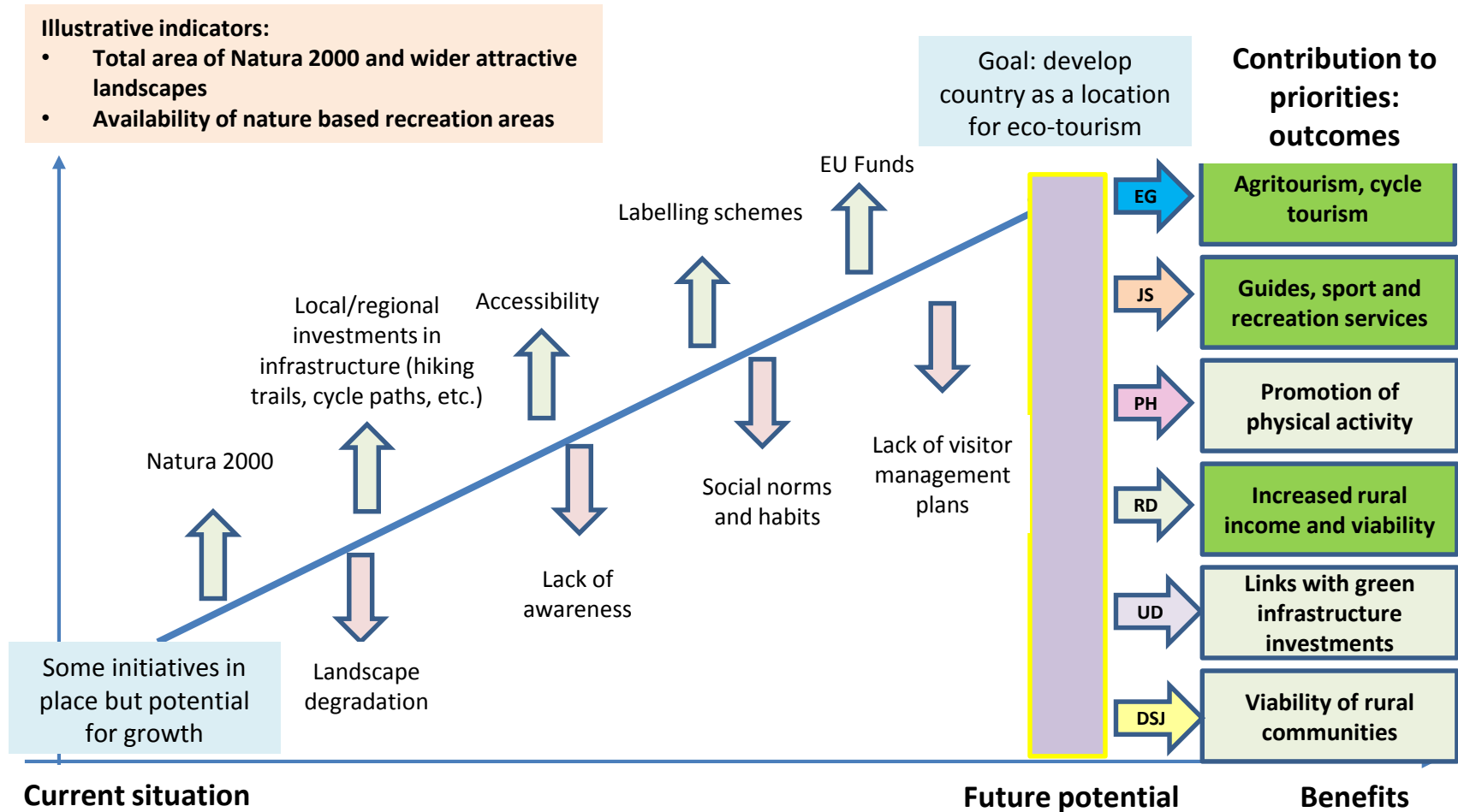


Output: Country analyses for 28 Member States

- Identify 3 to 5 promising areas in sectors where biodiversity and nature protection has a high potential to contribute to the country-specific recommendations
- Recommendations on how to better realise the benefits, including in the European Semester process and for using EU funding



Nature's contributions to countries' socio-economic priorities: An illustration – Eco-tourism



Workshops planned in 2017

- 3 regional workshops:
 - For Mediterranean in Barcelona (March)
 - For Northern & Eastern Europe in Helsinki (April)
 - For Western & Central Europe in Berlin (May)
- Horizontal workshop:
 - Focus on European Semester and EU funding (September)
- Each workshop aiming for around 40 participants from EU Member States (biodiversity experts and non-nature experts)





Institute ^{for}
European
Environmental
Policy

Dr Konar Mutafoğlu
kmutafoglu@ieep.eu

www.ieep.eu



@IEEP_eu