

Your Voice In Europe: ROADMAP feedback for Communication from the Commission "An Action Plan for nature, people and the economy"

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Related document: Communication from the Commission "An Action Plan for nature, people and the economy"

Feedback:

Comments concerning the Action Plan presented under the scope of the Fitness Check of the Birds and Habitats Directives:

1. Taking into account the following conclusions reached by this Fitness Check:

“...within the framework of broader EU biodiversity policy, the Birds and Habitats Directives are fit for purpose but fully achieving their objectives and realising their full potential will depend on substantial improvement in their implementation.”

“...depletion of our natural capital and further erodes valuable ecosystem services...”

“...insufficient progress towards achievement of the Directives' specific objectives. It particularly highlighted issues related to the:

...

- establishment of the necessary conservation measures for all sites;*
- management and restoration of habitats and landscape features beyond Natura 2000.”*

“...negative consequences for safeguarding ecosystems and the services they deliver to people and the economy such as food, fuel, materials, clean water and air, carbon sequestration, reduced drought and flood risks, recreational and cultural opportunities.”

2. Considering that, among other reasons, the shortcomings of present Directives to fully achieve their objectives is related with the fact that they are just focused on biodiversity and not take into account the importance of geodiversity and their

elements to guarantee healthy habitats and ecosystems;

3. Noting that the depletion of our natural capital and erosion of valuable ecosystem services could be mitigated if geodiversity, including active geological processes, are properly addressed and included in the EU nature conservation strategies;

4. Considering that the international nature conservation community has recognized that nature conservation to be fully accomplished must take into account both interlinked assets: geodiversity and biodiversity. The three IUCN resolutions (attached) clearly show that trying to focus nature conservation efforts just on the biotic component of nature reduces the chance for success, as it was recognized by this Fitness Check.

5. Taking into account that a proper management of geodiversity in Nature 2000 areas is a valuable add-on and not an obstacle to the main aims of both Directives,

The European Association for the Conservation of Geological Heritage (ProGEO) strongly urges the EU to include, once for all, the still forgotten essential component of nature – geodiversity – in nature conservation strategies, if the aim is really to maintain the natural capital and the full ecosystem services in EU countries. As it was clearly proven by this Fitness Check, the present Directives, as they are today, do not have the capacity to fully address the European constraints due to this unjustified biased perspective of nature.

Feedback file:

[IUCN resolutions.pdf](#)