



Draft Programme 2013-16 Regional Office for Europe

The present document is a draft and will be reviewed in light of the adoption of the IUCN Global Programme in September 2012 and the changes in the Regional Office for Europe in late 2012.

Introduction

The IUCN European Programme 2013-2016 developed by the Regional Office for Europe in consultation with IUCN members, Commission experts, National Committee representatives and Secretariat staff, is designed to deliver distinctly European knowledge and results on the ground, along with support to governing the environment and policy influencing in line with the proposed IUCN Programme 2013-16 and the Business Model. Because of the importance of Europe with regards to global biodiversity policy, a fourth section in the European Programme focuses on influencing biodiversity policies.

IUCN has two statutory Regions in Europe: “West Europe” and “East Europe, North and Central Asia”. This document covers both regions, and uses the term “Europe” to describe the full geographical scope.

This document describes the current situation in Europe, articulates and justifies what the European Programme will deliver in the intersessional period 2013-16 and describes how this will be accomplished.

1 The Programme Purpose and Niche of IUCN

IUCN is the global authority on conserving nature and natural resources for people’s livelihoods, setting international standards and fostering innovation in addressing global challenges for biodiversity and sustainable development. During 2013-16, IUCN aims to integrate the work of communities engaged in biodiversity conservation, nature-based solutions and sustainable development. Each element of the Programme bridges the biodiversity, sustainability and development communities and addresses nature’s benefits to people’s livelihoods. During 2013-16, IUCN will:

- Expand efforts to halt the loss of biodiversity and link-up with efforts for poverty reduction and sustainable development
- Develop and promote nature-based solutions to global, regional and local development challenges, providing tangible livelihood benefits and conserving biodiversity
- Support and influence the implementation of the CBD Strategic Plan to reach the 20 Aichi targets, and use the Plan to advance development goals that apply nature-based solutions to enhance people’s livelihoods

IUCN’s unique features enable the Union to bring together its diverse membership of States, government agencies and civil society in common efforts for a strategy for sustainable development. With a mandate on connecting nature and people, IUCN utilizes this niche to produce and disseminate science-based, applied knowledge on biodiversity and its conservation, drawn from its 1,200 Members, its six thematic Commissions, with more than 11,000 Commission members, and the Secretariat, with 1,000 staff. The knowledge -> policy -> action link, achieved jointly through the Union, makes IUCN the world’s authority on biodiversity conservation, nature-based solutions and related policy development and environmental governance. Four features summarize how IUCN works as a Union:

1. IUCN generates and disseminates credible and trusted knowledge on conservation and sustainable development
2. IUCN convenes and builds partnerships for action across governments and civil society
3. IUCN bridges local, regional and global policy and action
4. IUCN develops standards, influences practices and builds capacity for conservation and sustainable development.

Taken together, these features make IUCN distinct from others in the conservation, environment and sustainable development arena and enable the Union to deliver a common Programme. Many organizations share the focus on knowledge-based policy-making, standard-setting and action on the ground, but none with a membership and a science-foundation as robust and diversified as that of IUCN.

2 The IUCN Programme Framework

IUCN's Programme builds on the Vision, *a just world that values and conserves nature*, and has been organized into three Programme Areas (see Figure 1, below).¹

The two Programme Areas *Valuing and conserving nature* and *Effective and equitable governance of nature's use* represent the heartland of IUCN's work. These are essential for biodiversity conservation and for influencing the economic, social and political processes that determine biodiversity loss, ecosystem management, nature-based livelihoods, and rights and responsibilities for nature. Under *Valuing and conserving nature*, IUCN will develop and use its world-class knowledge on biodiversity, and its associated tools and planning standards, to influence policy and action on the ground. Under *Effective and equitable governance of nature's use*, IUCN will consolidate its experience from working with people and institutions, addressing how public and private decisions on nature and ecosystems affect biodiversity and livelihoods. This will lead to a set of principles, standards and tools for nature-related rights, responsibilities, governance and equity.

¹ The 1st draft Programme (May 2011) contained five Programme Areas. In response to advice and comments received, the distinction between core and thematic Programme Areas was dropped, and the three thematic Programme Areas were consolidated into one ("Deploying Nature-based Solutions to Global Challenges in Climate, Food, Economy"), which emphasizes IUCN's specialization within nature-based solutions. The substance is retained, and the Programme framework has been made simpler. Subsequently, between the 2nd and 3rd draft, "economy" was changed to economic and social development, or development in brief.

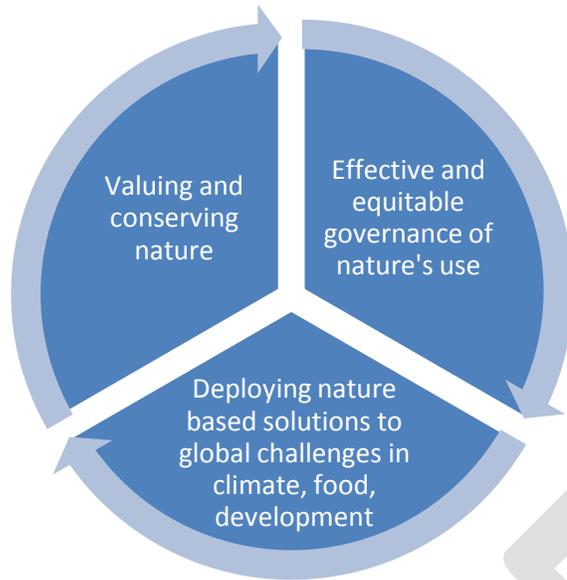


Figure 1: IUCN's Programme framework 2013-16

The third Programme Area – *Deploying nature-based solutions to global challenges in climate, food and development* – concerns the application of IUCN’s knowledge to sustainable development, empowerment and poverty reduction. Healthy nature is fundamental to societal and economic resilience. The Programme focuses on nature based-solutions as IUCN’s particular strength, not because nature provides the only solutions, but because this specialization allows IUCN, in partnerships with others, to address a wide range of global development challenges. Nature-based solutions offer multiple benefits simultaneously and therefore efficiently. This Programme Area focuses initially on nature-based solutions to climate change (including disaster risk reduction), food security, and economic and social development, but will over the course of the four-year Programme explore opportunities to broaden this approach to sectors such as health and access to energy.

Figure 1 shows IUCN’s integrated work on nature, from the deep knowledge of biodiversity, through equitable governance of nature’s use, to the practical solutions for people and nature, and again to valuing and conserving nature. The knowledge -> policy -> action link is found within each of the three Programme Areas. Through their Regional Programmes 2013-16, IUCN’s nine Regions will adapt and apply the Programme framework in accordance with the region-specific needs and work environments as well as the views expressed by Members and Commission members at the Regional Consultation Fora undertaken in 2011. The European Regional Conservation Forum took place in early September 2011, and involved Members, Commissions, National Committees, staff and partners of IUCN in Europe. Further consultation was facilitated through email and internet communication.

The Programme framework shows both continuity and change relative to the 2009-12 Programme. The continuity is the focus on nature conservation and natural resources – IUCN is not a broad environment and development organization. The change vis-à-vis the current Programme consists of:

- More emphasis on *valuing* nature in the first Programme Area, addressing direct financial, broader economic and other intangible values.
- Compiling and profiling IUCN's work on *decision-making, management and governance* of nature's use and natural resources in a central Programme Area.
- Consolidating IUCN's work on *nature-based solutions* to global challenges, allowing IUCN to offer standards and methodologies for nature-based approaches eventually in many sectors.

3 The Situation in Europe

Physically and geologically, the European region is the westernmost peninsula of Eurasia. It is bounded to the north by the Arctic Ocean, to the west by the Atlantic Ocean, to the south by the Mediterranean Sea, and to the southeast by the Black Sea and the Caucasus Mountains. In the east, Europe is separated from Asia by the Ural Mountains and by the Caspian Sea. Europe is the second-smallest continent in the world in terms of area, covering approximately 10,400,000 square kilometers (4,010,000 square miles) or 2% of the Earth's surface. In terms of human population, it is the third-largest continent (after Asia and Africa) with a population of some 710,000,000 or about 11% of the world's population. Europe is the most urbanized and, together with Asia, the most densely populated continent in the world.

The European Union, comprising 27 Member States, is Europe's largest political and economic entity by area and population; while the Russian Federation (excluding the portion in Asia), a country, is the second largest entity. The European Union has the world's largest economy with an estimated nominal GDP in 2006 of 14.2 trillion US dollars. The EU's 27 Member States stretch from the Arctic Circle in the north to the Mediterranean in the south, and from the Atlantic coast in the west to the Pannonian steppes in the east. This area encompasses a great diversity of natural habitats and a wealth of flora and fauna, including several thousand types of habitats.

IUCN's European Region is the largest programmatic region and the geographical scope of IUCN in Europe incorporates Eastern Europe, the Russian Federation, Southern Caucasus, Turkey and Central Asia, and includes overseas entities of European countries. It stretches from Greenland to the Kamchatka Peninsula and the Mediterranean, including a vast diversity of biomes and ecosystems. The Pan-European region harbors rich cultural and environmental diversity. The environmental and biodiversity conditions and issues vary greatly across this vast region and it is also highly varied in terms of social, cultural, economic and political characteristics. This region contains two global biodiversity hotspots: The Mediterranean basin and the Caucasus, however overseas entities include three additional biodiversity hotspots: The Caribbean Islands, Madagascar and India Ocean islands and Caledonia.

The Pan-European Programme covers the whole of Europe, including the overseas entities that belong to European countries. The European Union (EU) includes 34 overseas territories (thereafter Europe Overseas): 9 Outermost Regions (ORs) and 25 Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs). They cover an area of 4.4 million km², equivalent in size to continental Europe, and have a combined Exclusive Economic Zone of over 15 million km², the largest in the world. Europe overseas has more endemic

animal and plant species than are found on the whole of continental Europe i.e New Caledonia alone has a number of endemic species comparable to the entire European continent.

Drivers of change in the European region

Habitat fragmentation, degradation and destruction due to the land use changes continue to be among the main drivers causing biodiversity loss across Europe, according to the EU biodiversity baseline of the European Environment Agency². In the last decades, vast areas have been transformed into urban zones or cut up by transport, while traditional land use practices – especially in agricultural and forestry-have been replaced by more intensive, mechanized and industrial-scale activities.

➤ ***Indirect drivers of biodiversity change***

Population and economic growth are major factors fuelling increased demand on resources, and contributing to global environmental change in terms of the atmosphere, land, water and biodiversity.

- Demographic change - In Europe (EEA, 2006), around 75 % of the population lives in urban areas and this is projected to increase to about 80 % by 2020. Consequently, assuming constant consumption patterns, pressures on natural resources and impacts on the environment will become more severe. The movement of people from rural areas to urban centres is also increasing pressures on ecosystems nearby urban areas.
- Economic change - Economic inequalities continue to be significant within the Pan-European region. While there is often a trade-off between economic growth and environmental quality, there is also a strong synergy between a more equitable distribution of wealth and the conservation of biological diversity. Trade today represents one of the most significant pressures affecting biodiversity and the environment in general, with increasing pressure of markets on natural resources and ecosystems. Conversely, trade may also be positive if it provides incentives for the sustainable use of biodiversity, or disincentives for its unsustainable use.

➤ ***Direct drivers of biodiversity change***

European biodiversity has declined dramatically in the last two centuries. The CBD identifies five main direct threats to biodiversity globally:

Climate change: Human induced climate change is the direct driver expected to have the most significant impact in the future on biodiversity, ecosystems and ecosystem services, not only in Europe but in the entire world.

² <http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/eu-2010-biodiversity-baseline>

Habitat loss and degradation: Habitat loss and degradation has been the single greatest pressure on biodiversity worldwide (GBO-3, 2010). Pressures on habitats include modifying and fragmenting freshwater ecosystems; losing and fragmenting natural habitats through land conversion; intensified agriculture; and land abandonment.

Invasive alien species: Invasive alien species are still a major threat to all types of ecosystems and species (GBO-3, 2010). The number of alien species in Europe continues to rise, posing an increasing risk for biodiversity (EEA, 2009a).

Pollution and nutrient load: Pollution from nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorous) and other sources threatens biodiversity in terrestrial, water and coastal ecosystems (GBO-3, 2010). During the last two decades, pollution has fallen inland significantly in numerous European rivers (EEA, 2010a) but micropollutant contamination is an issue of increasing concern. Nitrogen deposition to terrestrial and coastal ecosystems remains a significant threat to European biodiversity.

Overexploitation and unsustainable use: Overexploitation and destructive harvesting practices exert significant pressure on biodiversity globally (GBO-3, 2010). Pressures include rising demand for limited freshwater resources (e.g. from agriculture or tourism), overexploitation of fish stocks and other marine organisms, and unsustainable forest management.

4 IUCN's niche in Europe

In Europe, IUCN has 25 State Members and 39 Government agencies, representing 48 countries. In addition, we have more than 250 NGO members in Europe, including 50 international NGOs that have a focus on European and/or international biodiversity issues. NGO members include academic institutions, policy think tanks, museums, zoos and aquaria, as well as organisations that carry out work on the ground. During the 2013-2016 inter-sessional period resources will be sought so that European thematic meetings can be organised to promote interaction between Members with a common background.

17 countries have established National Committees, networks of IUCN Members within a country, which focus on national biodiversity issues. National Committees typically provide inputs into the national political discussions about biodiversity conservation, they provide a platform for nature conservation debates, they often engage with local authorities and companies in the country, and they generally engage with stakeholders from outside the conservation community. Not all National Committees have the same influence, but the concept is unique. During the coming inter-sessional period, the Regional Office for Europe will devote special efforts to engage actively with National Committees, preferably through Secretariat personnel who speak the national language.

The six scientific IUCN Commissions of experts are equally well represented, with European Vice-Chairs for CEC, CEM, CEESP and WCPA. Members of the Commissions are a source of expert advice that can be deployed in policy discussions, scientific studies, capacity building and fieldwork. During the 2013-2016 inter-sessional period, the Regional Office for Europe will appoint Secretariat focal points for each Commission, to enhance the integration between the work of Secretariat and Commissions in Europe.

IUCN's unique features enable the Union to bring together Governments, NGOs, scientists, politicians and private sector representatives in support of biodiversity conservation and sustainable ecosystem management in Europe. In addition, IUCN is one of the few biodiversity organisations that operate at the national and local level, at the European level and at the international level, and another component of the niche is this practice-policy link in the field of biodiversity. Finally, IUCN provides the scientific basis for some of the world's standards in biodiversity conservation and management of natural resources, and is the author for numerous academic publications on biodiversity and ecosystem management in Europe.

The IUCN Secretariat is a key component of this network, as its role is to facilitate the effective and efficient functioning of this web of institutions and individuals. The European Programme has Secretariat offices in Gland, Brussels, Belgrade and Tbilisi. In addition IUCN global Headquarters are based in Gland, Switzerland, and outposted offices are located in Bonn, Germany (Environmental Law Centre), Cambridge, UK (Species Programme) and Malaga, Spain (Mediterranean Coordination Centre).

The IUCN Programme for Europe has a dual purpose. Most of the programme is focused on enhancing biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of ecosystem services throughout Europe, through leveraging the combined forces of IUCN's network in Europe. Another aspect aims to influencing EU international policies and programmes and providing a gateway to European development assistance (ODA) for supporting the implementation of the IUCN global Programme.

5 Valuing and conserving biodiversity

IUCN's strength and uniqueness in biodiversity conservation lies in the ability to develop and apply global standards for biodiversity and ecosystems assessments, conservation planning and action (see figure 2). However, in Europe, many standards already exist for assessing the status and threats to species and ecosystems, prioritizing the most important areas for conservation action and deploying conservation tools. IUCN's role in Europe must be to learn from the successes of European conservation practice, while bringing global standards and good practice into European policy-making and practice.

Under **Valuing and Conserving Biodiversity**, the European Programme will build on existing Red Listing of species and protected areas work, emphasizing action on the ground in Eastern Europe and EU overseas territories and synthesizing experience in Europe. The European region will play a strong role in the development of a global Red List of Ecosystems and a global Key Biodiversity Areas standard, and will support the application of these standards to a European context. It should be noted that Europe Overseas Countries and Territories are not subject to EU directives and standards. The 2011 European

Parliament Preparatory Action on a Voluntary Scheme for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in the Territory of Europe (BEST) aims to address this policy gap.

There is a strong assumption underpinning the work on valuation and conservation, that standards on Red Lists and Key Biodiversity Areas cannot become truly global without taking into account the experience from existing European standards. At the same time there is recognition that they will not be adopted in Europe without strong participation of European stakeholders in their development, but that we also need lobbying and convincing of key decision makers in Europe to integrate the new global standards in European policies and plans.

European Programme Result for Valuing and Conserving Biodiversity

Conservation standards for assessments, planning and action (Red List assessments of species and ecosystems, Key Biodiversity Areas, marine and terrestrial Protected Areas) adopted in policy and practice in Europe, including its overseas territories.

Management of biodiversity outside of protected areas, particularly through forest governance and forest landscape restoration, is presented in the subsequent Programme Area sections.

What IUCN is proposing in Europe is on the one hand, to gather and synthesize the European conservation experience to inform global standard setting. On the other hand, IUCN will ensure that the global standards on Red Listing of Species and Ecosystems, Key Biodiversity Areas and protected area management influence policy and practice in Europe.

Key to gathering experience and influencing policy and practice will require a close working relationship with European nature conservation policy-makers and practitioners, many of whom are IUCN Members. Capacity building will also be essential to deliver results on the ground for species and ecosystems conservation, particularly through protected areas management training and technical assistance.

Specific targets for programme implementation will include support to Red List processes, protected areas and the Key Biodiversity Areas standard. These targets are described in more detail below.

Red List of Threatened Species assessments

Following the successful publication of the results of a number of European Red List assessments in the past years, Red List assessments of European species will be continued in close partnership with the IUCN Global Species Programme, relevant IUCN Members in Europe and technical experts from the Species Survival Commission. This work will focus not only on European Union Members States, but will also include species in Eastern Europe, Russia and Central Asia. In addition, the European Programme will provide coordination support for the implementation of Mediterranean Red Lists.

IUCN will support the development of national Red Listing processes and contribute to applying the IUCN Red List criteria in Europe. IUCN will also provide training and capacity development to these countries in planning and implementing conservation action.

The aim of the Red List work is to ensure that a growing portion of European species will be assessed and re-assessed, while influencing European policies at regional and national level to adopt the Red List Criteria as the standard for species assessments.

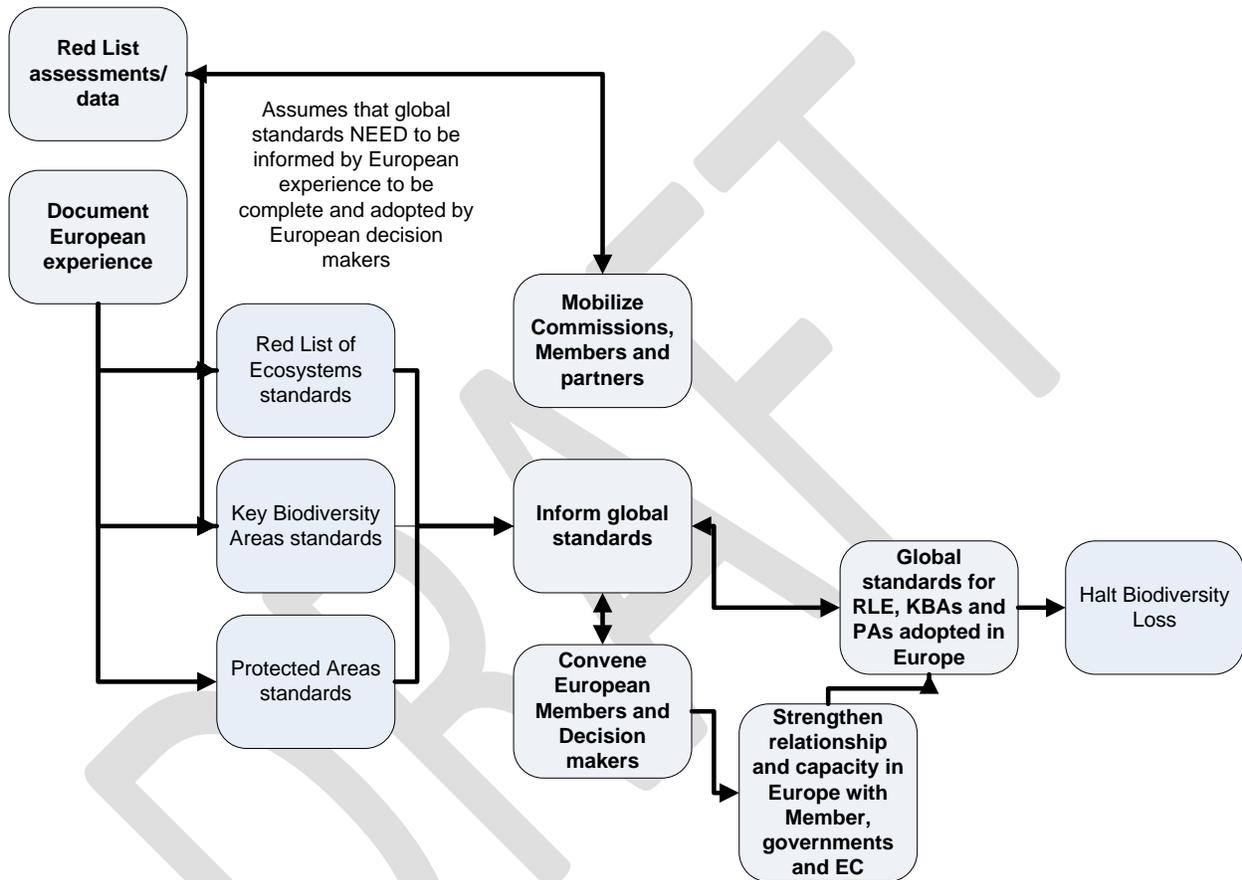


Figure 2: Valuing and Conserving Biodiversity in Europe

New Standards for the Red List of Ecosystems and Key Biodiversity Areas

Global standards for Red List of Ecosystems assessments and Key Biodiversity Areas should take into account the already existing work in Europe on assessments and conservation planning. IUCN will focus on documenting the experience in Europe as an input to the global discussions on the new standards.

Over the past decade, there have been trends of increasing reference to sites or areas that are most important for biodiversity and its conservation. The need to identify and protect these locations is widely recognized, but there is no agreement on a global list of important sites, nor is there an agreed

methodology for identifying and documenting these sites, leading to a proliferation of different techniques and methodologies. IUCN is in a position to lead a discussion of global standard setting, which should result in a consolidated approach to identifying Key Biodiversity Areas.

The intention of this work is to ensure that the European experience in ecosystem assessment, both within the EU through its Natura 2000 network, the EU Bird and Habitat Directives and outside the EU through the Emerald network as well as national nature protection schemes, is well reflected in any global standards. This will be achieved by ensuring that experiences are documented and disseminated, and that European stakeholders are represented in key decision making processes.

Applying global Protected Areas Standards in Europe

For well developed standards such as the IUCN Protected Areas and Management Effectiveness tools, IUCN will seek to work with European policy-makers at regional and national levels to ensure adoption at policy level and for use by planners and protected areas managers. The EU has a well established network of Natura 2000 sites, and outside the EU are the Emerald sites and national nature protected sites, but these are established to support the conservation status of habitats and species, and do not relate to the strict management criteria³ that are prescribed by the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA). IUCN will work towards a better integration of the European Protected Area governance mechanisms and the WCPA management criteria. The development of global IUCN standards around protected areas is ongoing and there is much to be learned from the experience to date in Europe and already existing protected areas standards that are used in Europe.

In Eastern Europe, there will be an emphasis on strengthening the policy development and governance, consolidating effective protected areas networks and building capacity of protected areas managers to strengthen management practices.

IUCN is reviewing marine conservation efforts, including Marine Protected Areas, in Europe overseas to inform EU future policies and programmes and ensure global standards are met. IUCN is also encouraging the implementation of marine spatial planning and networks of marine protected areas in those regions where EU overseas are located (Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Ocean, and the Caribbean). Europe overseas could play a critical role in sharing expertise and lessons learnt with neighbouring islands.

6 Governing Nature's Use and Sharing its Benefits Equitably

In addition to protected area governance, described above, IUCN Europe will focus on governance of forest and coastal resources, as well as natural resources in and around urban areas. We will do this by demonstrating the European experience in natural resources governance, while building and testing specific tools and generating the economic case for improved management approaches in these three

³ http://www.iucn.org/about/work/programmes/pa/pa_products/wcpa_categories/

areas. This work will build on Forest Law Enforcement and Governance field action in Eastern Europe and coastal management experiences in the Mediterranean and Europe Union Overseas Territories, and will have a strong component of synthesizing and learning from Members' experiences throughout Europe.

It is expected that IUCN will work on a scale of approximately ten landscapes, including those in and around urban areas, deploying Forest Landscape Restoration, governance and coastal management tools in order to test and learn. Each of these demonstration landscapes will deliver measurable results on the ground in terms of biodiversity conservation (highlighting ecosystem functioning and benefits) and livelihoods, and IUCN will disseminate the results widely.

The recently published European Forest Outlook Survey indicates that the amount of forested land is increasing in Europe, but at the same time there is evidence that illegal use of forest resources is growing. Throughout Europe, natural resources governance structures are becoming increasingly decentralized, and this has come with its own challenges, as local capacity struggles to cope with new obligations with regard to natural resource management.

Europe, as the largest marine Exclusive Economic Zone in the world (25 million kms) has developed a number of policies and programmes related to the effective management and protection of its coastal and marine resources. Fisheries represent a critical part of its economic activity. Despite the importance of marine resources to the economy of Europe and the wellbeing of Europeans, awareness of the importance of the marine environment is lacking, and IUCN will work with relevant Members and partners to improve this situation.

In 2011, the world population reached 7 Billion and it is expected that by 2020, there will be 8 Billion inhabitants on this planet. In 2006, the European Environment Agency estimated that three quarters of the population in the EU lived in urban areas, and this is estimated to increase to 80% by 2020. During the past years, IUCN Europe has worked on biodiversity issues with urban authorities through the joint ICLEI-IUCN Local Action for Biodiversity initiative. This work will be focused during the coming inter-sessional period, by working with pilot local authorities in Europe on green infrastructure within the city boundary and urban-rural biodiversity and ecosystem management issues in the wider planning context.

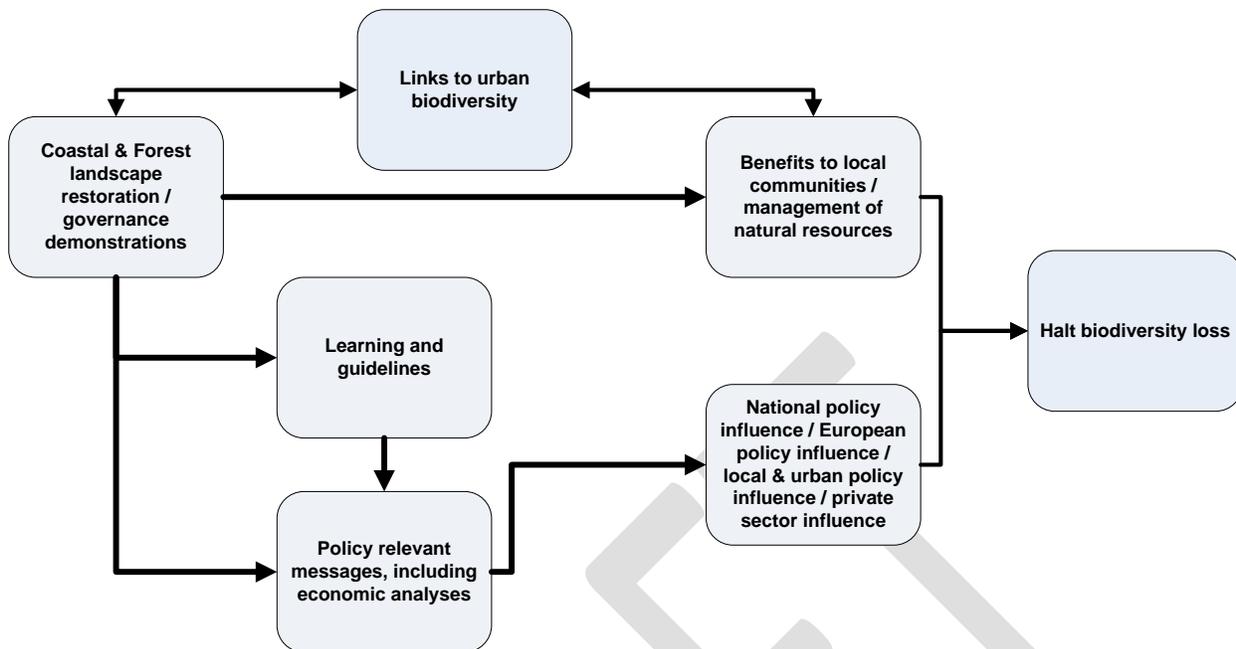


Figure 3: Governing Nature's Use and Sharing its Benefits Equitably in Europe

The experience from the demonstration projects and the work of IUCN Members in Europe will generate policy relevant knowledge, applicable to European policy making, both at regional and national level. IUCN will also be able to develop European specific tools and best practices for natural resource governance of forests, coastal zones and urban areas.

European Programme Result for Governing Nature's Use and Sharing its Benefits Equitably

Europe's approach to biodiversity and governance is documented in multiple landscapes, synthesized into guidelines and advice notes that can be used for European policy influencing.

Forest Governance

To achieve the result of understanding and deploying refined approaches to forest governance, IUCN Members, with the help of the other components of the Union, will seek to develop at least ten demonstration projects across Europe. These will serve both as a means of delivering tangible benefits to local communities, improved governance arrangements and policy influence, but also as a means of creating a platform for learning about what works in local governance arrangements.

This learning will feed into global efforts to develop a robust natural resources governance framework as outlined in the global IUCN Programme 2013-16, ensuring that the European experience is well-reflected in global standards and good practice on natural resource governance. IUCN will use these

demonstration projects to develop European specific standards and tools that best reflect the European conservation experience.

Demonstration projects, lesson learning and tool development are worthy ambitions, however, the real payoff will be in the form of policy relevant messages and ultimately policy influence in European states and the European Union.

Coastal governance and management

IUCN will continue its work on coastal resources in overseas territories, by supporting the regional round table on overseas territories, and providing support to the European Commission and relevant Member States. IUCN will also engage with continental Europe, especially in raising awareness about coastal and marine resources, but also in providing scientific information about biodiversity and management of coastal resources. IUCN Members and National Committees will be involved in consultation and conflict resolution between different uses of the coastal and marine resource base.

Europe's overseas territories being mostly islands are highly vulnerable to invasive species, identified as the single most important threat to island biodiversity. Understanding the impacts of invasive species in Europe overseas and the legal and management regime operating in those territories is critical to protect their unique biodiversity. IUCN Members, the Commission experts and the Secretariat will have a major input into the implementation of the EU Invasive Alien Species strategy to be released in 2012. and also facilitate regional collaboration on combating invasive species

Urban biodiversity

In Europe around 75% of the population lives in urban areas, and in some countries it is estimated to grow to 80% by 2020 (European Environment Agency, 2009). With increasing population densities and mounting development pressures, large tracks of land in the immediate surroundings of urban areas are undergoing a process of urbanisation.

Residents of urban communities depend heavily on rural biodiversity, notably for the provisioning of food, clean air, drinking water, climate regulation and recreation, but also for many other services and thus have a vested interest in the protection of biodiversity well beyond urban boundaries.

The dependence of urbanized areas on the surrounding landscape and its biodiversity and the interactions between urban and rural areas present a knowledge gap that needs to be bridged. Europe presents a unique opportunity to understand this dynamic and increase the robustness of IUCN's approach to natural resource governance.

IUCN is in a unique position to advise local authorities and cities in Europe on the value of the biodiversity and ecosystems by offering biodiversity assessments and developing guidelines for the conservation, management and restoration of natural areas to improve resilience of the urban living environment. Partnerships between IUCN and local and regional authorities can help to strengthen

knowledge development, facilitate sharing of lessons-learnt, transmit best practices, promote the mainstreaming of biodiversity, and enhance the benefits for local governments and cities for investing in natural capital.

7 Deploying Nature based Solutions to Global Challenges

IUCN’s global programme on Nature based Solutions focuses on climate change and economic and social development. In Europe, IUCN will focus mainly on the challenges of climate change and economic and social development. There will be a strong emphasis on intended influencing over non-conservation sectors, particularly partners and actors with a strong role to play in climate change adaptation, and economic and social development.

IUCN Members in Europe will be requested to present case studies that will be translated into standards and tools, while developing messages for policy influence in Europe. Through demonstration and aggregation of experience, IUCN will have a strong knowledge base showing how nature does provide solutions and a sound basis from which to develop policy messages.

European Programme Result for Nature based Solutions to Global Challenges

Nature based solutions, using ecosystem services as a means of providing solutions to climate change mitigation and adaptation and economic development is demonstrated and then adopted by European partners and policy.

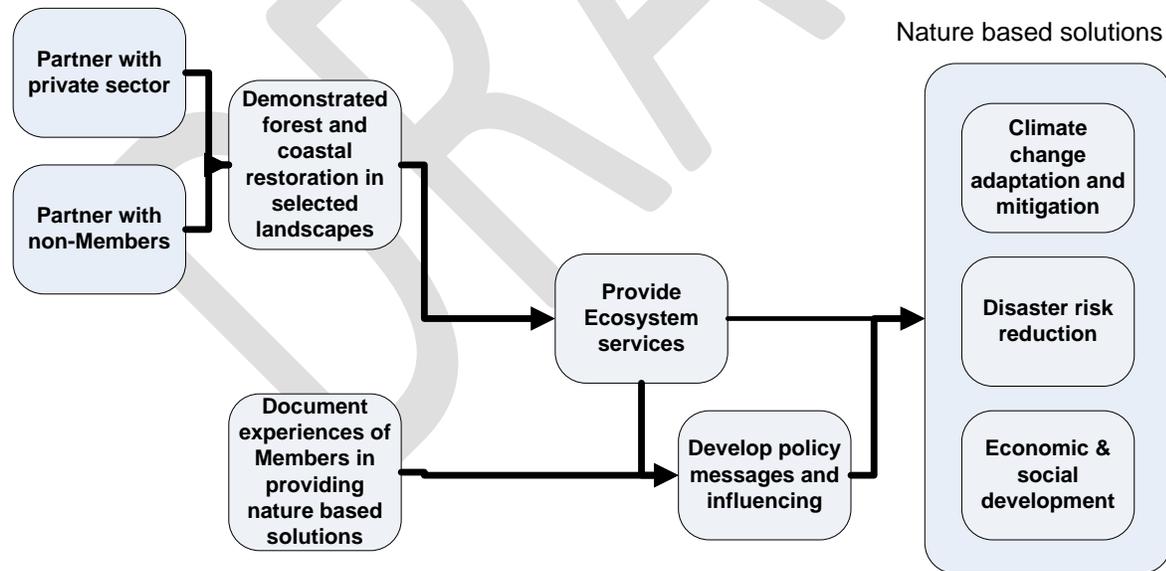


Figure 4: Nature based Solutions to Global Challenges in Europe

Nature based Solutions to Climate Change

Europe overseas territories are highly vulnerable to climate change impacts, including sea level rise, drought and extreme events such as cyclones and flooding with significant impacts on natural resource depended economies. They provide excellent opportunities to demonstrate the place of ecosystem based approaches to adaptation and mitigation in national and local adaptations plans and strategies. Building the resilience of coastal ecosystems such a coral reefs, mangroves and seagrass through integrated management tools can provide both adaptation (e.g. coastal protection) and mitigation (e.g. blue carbon) benefits.

IUCN work will inform the development of the EU Climate Change Adaptation Strategy to be released in 2013 as well as informing the IUCN global policy position in international climate negotiations, in particular the implementation of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change “Nairobi Work Programme” and the “Cancun Adaptation Framework”.

Nature based Solutions to Economic and Social Development

A key effect of good governance of natural resources is the improvement of conditions for economic and social development. For rural communities, sound governance of natural resources and development go hand-in-hand. Through its work on forest and coastal resources governance and restoration, IUCN will seek to demonstrate this relationship between nature conservation and socio-economic development at the local level.

The other key aspect of this particular component of the programme deals with business and biodiversity, following the objectives of the 2012 IUCN Business Engagement Strategy. IUCN Europe has extensive experience in working with business in Europe, and national initiatives like Leaders for Nature and Nature in the Netherlands and Groupe Entreprises et Biodiversité in France have provided extensive case studies of companies that have used biodiversity and ecosystem management as a key to their business operations.

During the coming inter-sessional period, IUCN will continue to work with companies at a European level, by strengthening the Regional networks and platforms and linking this to global Business and Biodiversity initiatives. One of the aims is to integrate the work at national level in this European framework, and to provide scientific information, expert advice and general guidance on business biodiversity action plans for a number of selected key companies or industry associations.

8 Policy Influence in Europe

Because of the important role that IUCN plays with regards to the biodiversity policies in Europe, both within the continent and in the rest of the world, the IUCN European Programme has a fourth component, that is specifically focused on influencing policy.

The European Union responded comprehensively to the United Nations Convention on Biodiversity (CBD), adopting a Biodiversity Strategy in 1998, which provided a wider framework for the nature directives — the Birds Directive (EC, 2009) and the Habitats Directive (EC, 1992). The Strategy led to the adoption of four Biodiversity Action Plans addressing major policy sectors impacting biodiversity: conservation of natural resources, agriculture, fisheries and economic and development cooperation. In 2011, the European Commission has adopted an ambitious new strategy to halt the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the EU by 2020. There are six main targets, and 20 actions to help Europe reach its goal.

IUCN's policy work in Europe cross-cuts the European Programme and will focus on three specific biodiversity policy targets: the European Union Biodiversity Strategy, the Council of Europe Bern Convention and the UNEP Pan European Biodiversity Strategy (formerly Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy –PEBLDS). The policy influence will also target two of the main EU Policies that have an impact on biodiversity: Common Agricultural Policy and EU development cooperation policy.

The strategy for European policy influencing focuses on using IUCN's understanding of international policy processes, the expert knowledge of the Union (Secretariat, Commissions and Members) and the lessons learned from on the ground experiences. The Secretariat will build on its niche as a convener of multi-stakeholder interests to coordinate and provide timely information and policy analysis to EU institutions.

European Programme Result on Policy Influencing

Three European biodiversity strategies (EU Biodiversity Strategy; Council of Europe Bern Convention; UNEP Pan-European Biodiversity Strategy), and EU sector policies on agriculture and development cooperation influenced to properly integrate and act on biodiversity conservation and nature based solutions

Focusing on only four or five policies and strategies will allow IUCN to work strategically .by using the following means of influence:

- Convening targeted partners to form coalitions for policy influence;
- Providing technical and scientific information to policy makers, translated into targeted and refined knowledge products;
- Participating in working groups and sub-committees of the relevant policy institutions.

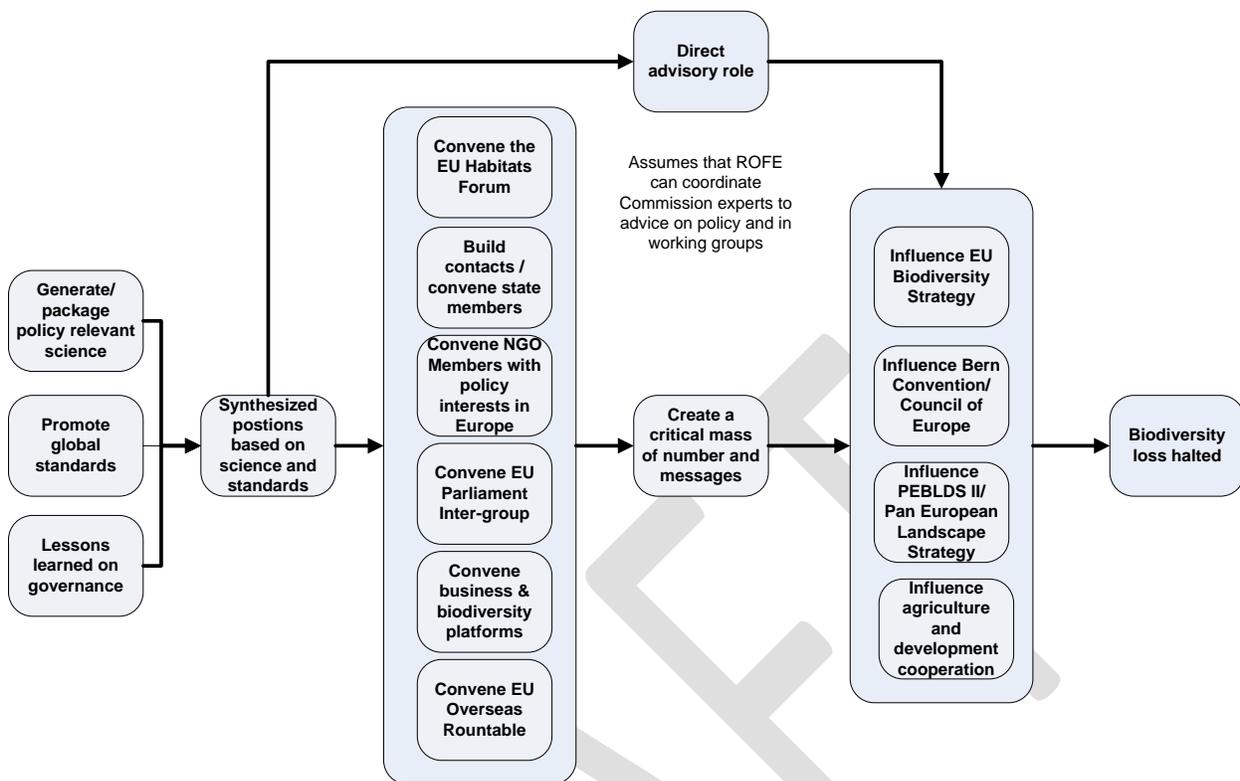


Figure 5: Policy influence in Europe

The fora that IUCN convenes at EU level include the European Parliament Intergroup on Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development, the European Habitats Forum, the EU Overseas Roundtable on Biodiversity and Climate Change, the EU Business and Biodiversity Platform, and new groups of IUCN Members (see fig 5)

An important aspect of influencing EU policies and programmes is to leverage political support for biodiversity conservation. Key institutions in the EU policy process are the European Parliament, the European Council, the European Commission and the Committee of the Regions. IUCN is working with all of these institutions, including the joint secretariat with IUCN Member European Bureau for Conservation and Development (EBCD) of the European Parliament Intergroup on Climate change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development.