

The Guide to Multi-Benefit Cohesion Policy Investments in Nature and Green infrastructure





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Objective

- to help authorities and stakeholders in the Member States and regions with **practical support** to enable an efficient and **successful implementation of measures on nature and green infrastructure** through Cohesion Policy
- Use of **case studies/good practices** to show way ahead

Potential users

All stakeholders working on Cohesion Policy, namely programme developers and implementers

A cooperation between DG Regional and Urban Policy, DG Environment (European Commission), the Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP) and Milieu



Three main questions

01

Why investing in nature and biodiversity?

02

What's the Cohesion Policy's role?

03

How can it be done?

01

Why investing in nature and biodiversity?

Ecosystem services: the benefits from nature

Ecosystem services

Flow of benefits that people obtain from ecosystems

- **Provisional services** (e.g. food, raw materials, fresh water)
- **Regulating services** (benefits arising from ecosystem processes that regulate air quality, local climate...)
- **Cultural services** (e.g. recreation, tourism, aesthetic, spiritual and ethical values)
- **Supporting services** (e.g. soil formation, photosynthesis,...)

01

Why investing in nature and biodiversity? Ecosystem's important contribution

Ecosystem services contribute to...

- **Water management:** water cycle, water security
- **Carbon cycle** and carbon storage and sequestration solutions
- **Climate change adaptation**
- **Food security**
- **Human health**
- **Energy security**
- **Identity and spiritual values**
- **e.g.**

01

Why investing in nature and biodiversity?

Values of nature in the Cohesion Policy context

Interfaces between Cohesion Policy and nature issues

- Invest in environmental infrastructure to comply with legislation and regulation
- Minimise losses and avoid inappropriate trade-offs
- Proactive approaches to risk management
- Investment in natural capital to get synergies between Cohesion Policy and biodiversity policy
- Measures for eco-efficiency and wider resource efficiency
- Decoupling the economy from resource

02

What's the Cohesion Policy's role? Europe 2020

Implementing Europe 2020 goals

- **Europe 2020, the strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth defines important environmental and climate change goals to be reached by 2020, including on resource efficiency (nature...)**
- **Cohesion Policy is one of the key policies helping Member States and the European Union to reach those goals**



02

What's the Cohesion Policy's role?

Direct and indirect funding opportunities

Thematic objective 6: Protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency

- **Protecting biodiversity, soil conservation and promoting ecosystem services including Natura 2000 and green infrastructure**

Integration of biodiversity & nature related aspects in other Thematic Objectives

- **Links with T01 (innovation)**
- **Links with T05 (adaptation to climate change)**
- **Links with T04 (mitigation relevant adaptation and also urban development)**

02

What's the Cohesion Policy's role? Direct funding opportunities

Project examples

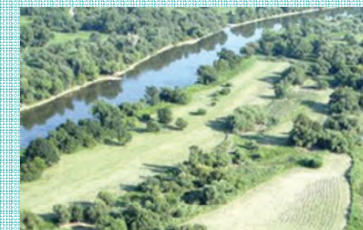
Danubeparks

Cross-border cooperation to enhance the environmental status of Danube river basin



Cross-border green infrastructure

Identify and implement a range of measures necessary to preserve the ecological integrity of the Alpine-Carpathian Corridor



02

What's the Cohesion Policy's role? ***Integrated approaches***

Cross-cutting initiatives and territorial cooperation

- **Community Led Local Development (CLLD):** integration of sub-regional and local concerns into national planning
- **Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI):** coordination of priority interventions supported by all ESI funds
- **Sustainable urban development (SUD)**
- **European Territorial Cooperation (ETC):** support cooperation between different regions
- **Coordination and complementarity with other EU instruments (EAFRD)**
- **Prioritised action frameworks (PAFS):** identify priorities and strategic planning

03

How can it be done?

Strategic planning and programming

Programming, implementing, monitoring

- Biodiversity and ecosystem services as a **horizontal principle**
- **Developing a biodiversity-smart operational programme**
 - SWOT analysis
 - Priority axis objectives
 - Activities
 - Indicators
- Assessment procedures in biodiversity-smart OP: **Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)**
- **Biodiversity and Partnership**

03

How can it be done? **Project development**

Information and support

- **Awareness-raising and publication of project opportunities:** Communication, promotion activities
- **Targeting the right applicants**
- **Designing biodiversity-smart projects:** communicate benefits to officials in charge, provide technical assistance, provide tailored guidance and access to relevant resources
- **Developing a support mechanism for biodiversity-smart projects**

03

How can it be done? **Project eligibility**

Project appraisal and Selection

- **Setting minimum requirements: eligibility criteria**
 - Integration of the principle of sustainable development
 - Involvement of key environmental stakeholders
 - Assurance that no (net) negative impacts will be incurred
 - Presentation of alternative options
- **Selecting the right projects:** nature and biodiversity duly taken into account

03

How can it be done? **Implementation**

Monitoring and evaluation

- **Applying indicators, milestones and targets**
 - Direct and indirect objectives and milestones
 - Set of common indicators proposed by the Commission
 - Need for programme-specific indicators
 - Output and result indicators needed
- **Monitoring, reporting and evaluation mechanism:** nature and biodiversity duly taken into account

Indicator Examples

Output

- Number of completed projects aimed at protection of Natura 2000 areas
- Number of developed protection programmes

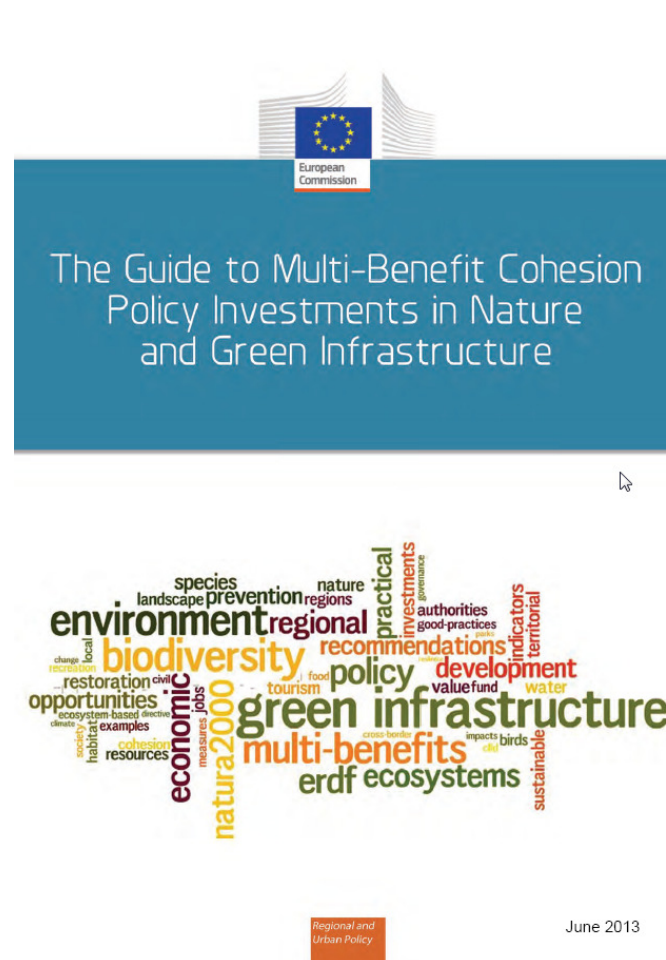
Result

- Surface area of habitats in better conservation status


Further information

Download the Guide on:

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/studies/pdf/guide_multi_benefit_nature.pdf



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environment regional practical investments authorities good-practices indicators territorial development water value fund policy recommendations prevention regions nature species landscape restoration civil society cohesion resources economic jobs natura2000 multi-benefits erdf ecosystems green infrastructure

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European
Commission

Thank you!

