The biodiversity-climate change link and opportunities for convergence in implementation of different policies

Karin Zaunberger, European Commission
MORE CLIMATE CHANGE – LESS BIODIVERSITY

LESS BIODIVERSITY MORE CLIMATE CHANGE
LESS BIODIVERSITY – MORE CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS

Mudslides, Sicily, Feb 2010

Drought, Spain – frequent!

Near Brussels, Belgium
14 November 2010

Germany June 2013
how to break the vicious circle?

increase resilience

decrease vulnerability

• *Ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and mitigation*
• *Green Infrastructure*
• *Nature-based solutions*
• *Eco-DRR – ecological disaster risk reduction*
• *Natural water retention measures*
• ... 

use the adaptive forces of nature
involve people and build responsibility
harness multiple benefits at comparable low cost
People citizen want to get involved!
Where are we today?

Ecosystem-based approaches leading to transition

Increasing structuration of activities in local practices

Socio-technical landscape (exogenous context)

Socio-technical regime

Markets, user preferences
Industry
Policy
Technology
Science
Culture

New regime influences landscape

Landscape developments put pressure on existing regime, which opens up, creating windows of opportunity for novelties

New configuration breaks through, taking advantage of ‘windows of opportunity’. Adjustments occur in socio-technical regime

External influences on niches (via expectations and networks)

Niche-innovations

Small networks of actors support novelties on the basis of expectations and visions. Learning processes take place on multiple dimensions (co-construction). Efforts to link different elements in a seamless web

Source: Geels and Schot (2007, p. 401)
CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES
MORE THAN 60% OF THE AREA PROJECTED TO BE URBAN IN 2030 HAS YET TO BE BUILT
The Rosetta Stone  EBA – NBS – GI  eco-DRR – NWRM ...

working with nature for people
Ecosystem-based approaches / Green Infrastructure / Nature-based solutions ... 

- are ready for use and easily accessible
- involve people and build responsibility
- bring multiple benefits
- are cost efficient and make economic sense
- are to be an integral part of the overall adaptation and mitigation effort and disaster risk reduction effort
Policy Framework(s)

- EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy and the Roadmap to Resource Efficiency
- EU Adaptation Strategy
- Green Infrastructure (GI) Enhancing Europe's Natural Capital
- H2020 Focus Area on Nature-based solutions (NbS)
- Water Policy (NWRM) natural water retention measures

Policy signals to decisionmakers, planners, promotors to invest in GI and adaptation projects at local, regional, national and cross-boundary level
In parallel with reducing its greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate climate change, the European Union also needs to strengthen its resilience to the inevitable impacts of climate change, now and for the future. Adapting to climate change is the way to do this.

The success of Europe’s adaptation efforts is critically influenced by the action of cities and local authorities. Those major centres of population and infrastructure are particularly vulnerable to extreme weather events and other effects of climate change.
European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF):
- European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)
- Cohesion Fund (CF)
- European Social Fund (ESF)
- European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)
- European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)

Climate mainstreaming (mitigation + adaptation) in the:
- Legal basis, guidance documents
- Programming (28 Partnership Agreements, ±535 Programmes)
- Implementation (tracking of climate related expenditure)

Preliminary outcome (programming on-going):
- About €110 billion climate related expenditure, ±24-25% of ESIF
- Contributes to: Europe 2020 Strategy, devoting at least 20% of MFF 2014-20 for climate objectives, climate mainstreaming into a range of EU policies
Mainstreaming of climate action - adaptation and mitigation - into EU policies (2)

European Development Funds

- 11th European Development Fund (EDF)
  - Regional and national programmes provide the opportunity to include adaptation measures

- Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI)
  - Global Public Goods and Challenges Programme (GPGC)
    - 2 Flagships:
      - Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA);
      - Biodiversity for Life (B4Life)

More information see links on the final slide of this presentation

- Europe 2020 Strategy, devoting at least 20% of Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2014-20 for climate objectives, climate mainstreaming into a range of EU policies
Financing for Green Infrastructure:

- **2007-2013 budget**
  - Structural Funds/Cohesion Fund – e.g.
    - GRABS: Green and blue space adaptation for urban areas and eco towns
    - SURF: GI - Sustainable Investments for the Benefit of Both People and Nature
  - CAP Funding
  - LIFE+: Brochure with 65 project examples from 17 MS
  - Other sources

- **2014-2020 budget:**
  - New opportunities mainly in ERDF, CF, CAP (pillar 1 and 2)

- Other sources: national governments, EIB, private banks, developers and civil society
  - e.g. development of a Natural Capital Financing Facility with EIB
**TO DO**

- **Divest** from measures which have negative impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem services
- **Invest** in measures which contribute to maintain and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services
  - Use available EU financing instruments to implement NbS, EbA, GI, eco-DRR, NWRM ...!
- **Invest** in working with nature for people
- **Empower** people
- **Encourage** multisectoral partnerships

- **SEEK CONVERGENCE IN IMPLEMENTATION**
Recommendations for the Standing Committee

A revised mandate of the expert group may include:

• Review the implementation of recommendations in different sectors
  • Nature conservation (GI, EbA)
  • Climate change adaptation & mitigation (EbA, GI)
  • Water, Flood protection (NWRM, GI)
  • Urban development (NbS, EbA, GI, NWRM, eco-DRR)
  • DRR (eco-DRR)

• Communicate and multiply 'Bright Spots'