



Institute for
European
Environmental
Policy

Building back better with nature

*Scaling-up nature-based approaches through
EU Regional Policy (in SMART ways!)*

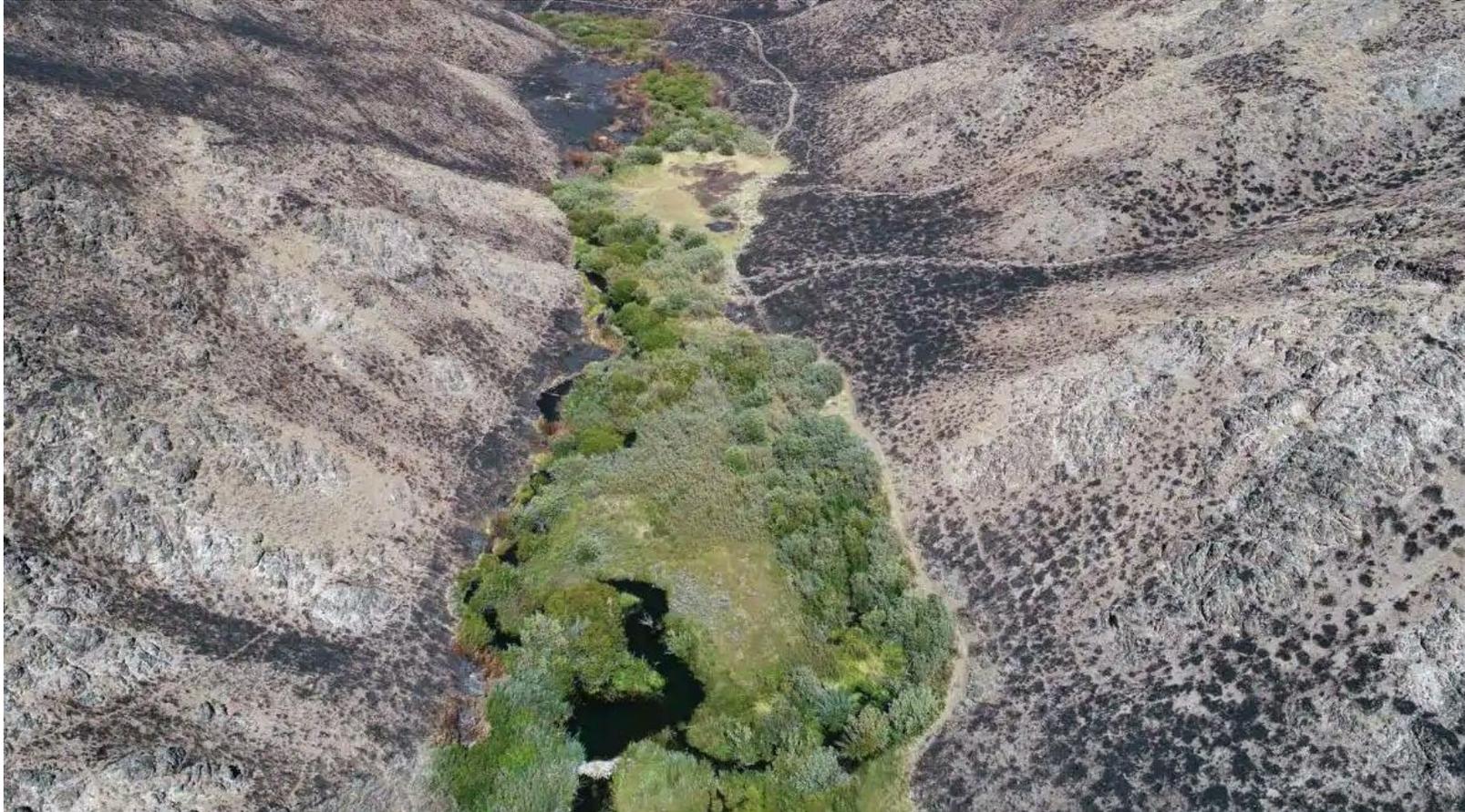
Erik Gerritsen, 20 October 2020, Interreg Europe webinar 'Better regional policies to protect and restore nature'



Overview

- Why is biodiversity relevant to regional policy?
- Current spending and investment needs
- Nature-proofing regional policy
- If time: One inspiring example

Some ecosystems bounce back quickly once degraded...



...others can take ages to restore (literally).



Prevention better than cure



NATURA 2000 - EUROPEAN UNION
Birds Directive sites (SPAs)
Habitats Directive sites (pSCL, SCL, SAC)
Sites - or parts of sites - belonging to both Directives

European Environment Agency



- 26% of Europe's terrestrial territory and inland waters designated as national protected area (EEA members)
- 18% of EU terrestrial territory and inland waters designated as protected area under the EU Birds- and Habitats Directives -> **Natura 2000 network**
- Over 27,500 sites, the ecological backbone of European development

EU conservation success factors

- Clear policy framework and governance
- Sufficient short- and longer term funding including from EU sources and access to it
- Scientific basis to inform objectives and measures
- Dedicated habitat- and species action plans
- **Inter-regional cooperation**
- Monitor, evaluate and enforce measures in agriculture and forestry
- Implementation supporting policy such as the EU Water Framework Directive
- Stakeholder involvement



The image shows the cover of a report. At the top left is the logo of the Institute for European Environmental Policy, featuring a green leaf and yellow stars. To its right is the text 'Institute for European Environmental Policy'. Below this is the title 'Study on identifying the drivers of successful implementation of the Birds and Habitats Directives'. Underneath the title is the text 'under contract ENV.F.1/FRA/2014/0063' and 'Final Report'. The date '20 August 2018' is also present. On the right side, there are two photographs: the top one shows a bumblebee on a purple thistle flower, and the bottom one shows a field of white and pink flowers. At the bottom of the cover, there are several logos: 'eco logic', 'ICF', 'Deloitte.', 'denkstatt sustainable thinking', 'PBL Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency', and 'BirdLife INTERNATIONAL'. A small number '1' is at the bottom center.

Institute for European Environmental Policy

Study on identifying the drivers of successful implementation of the Birds and Habitats Directives

under contract
ENV.F.1/FRA/2014/0063

Final Report

20 August 2018

Institute for European Environmental Policy

eco logic

ICF

Deloitte.

denkstatt
sustainable thinking

PBL Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency

BirdLife INTERNATIONAL

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Interreg and Natura 2000 (2020)

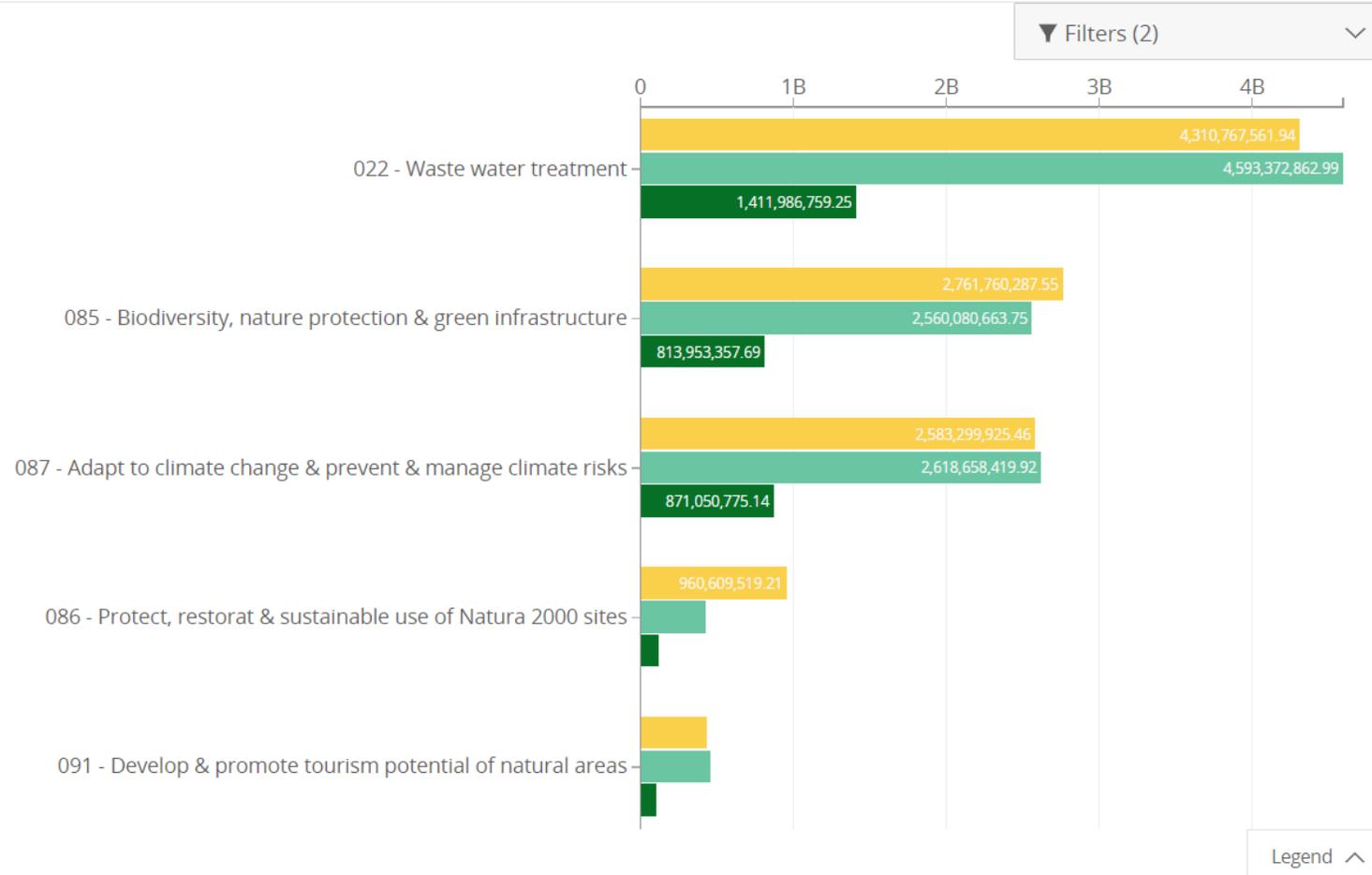
Identified over 200 projects and described 18 in detail. Found that Interreg:

- ...is improving the effectiveness of EU nature legislation
- ...has played a major role in establishing integrated cross-border management
- ...has promoted the coherence and connectivity of Natura 2000 and encouraged species conservation across frontiers



Tracking regional policy investment (1/2)

2014-2020 Biodiversity tracking cohesion policy funds - Intervention fields (filters per year/fund/MS)



Tracking regional policy investment (1/2)

2014-2020 Biodiversity tracking - Cohesion policy funds (filter by year)

TIPS: Float your cursor over the chart elements to see details; Use the year filter to see the changes year on year; filter by fund. Click on the "view source data" to see a full screen...



Nature investment needs 2021-2027

- EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2030: *'To meet the needs of this strategy ... at least €20 billion a year should be unlocked for spending on nature.'*
- First review of 22 available **Prioritized Action Frameworks** (PAF's) shows:
 - Regional investment in Natura 2000 (2014-2020): €760 million/y (or 22%)
 - Priority investment needs (2021-27): €8.8 billion/y, of which €5.7 bn (65%) annual costs and €3.1 bn (35%) annualised one-off costs
 - Includes €1.8 billion for Green Infrastructure (20%), Natura 2000 investment needs ~38% higher compared to previous estimate
 - **Large differences between Member States, large unmet potential in most!**

Future investment still possible in 2021-2027?

Article 4 of the new Common Provisions Regulation (ERDF, ESF+ CF and EMFF) reads:

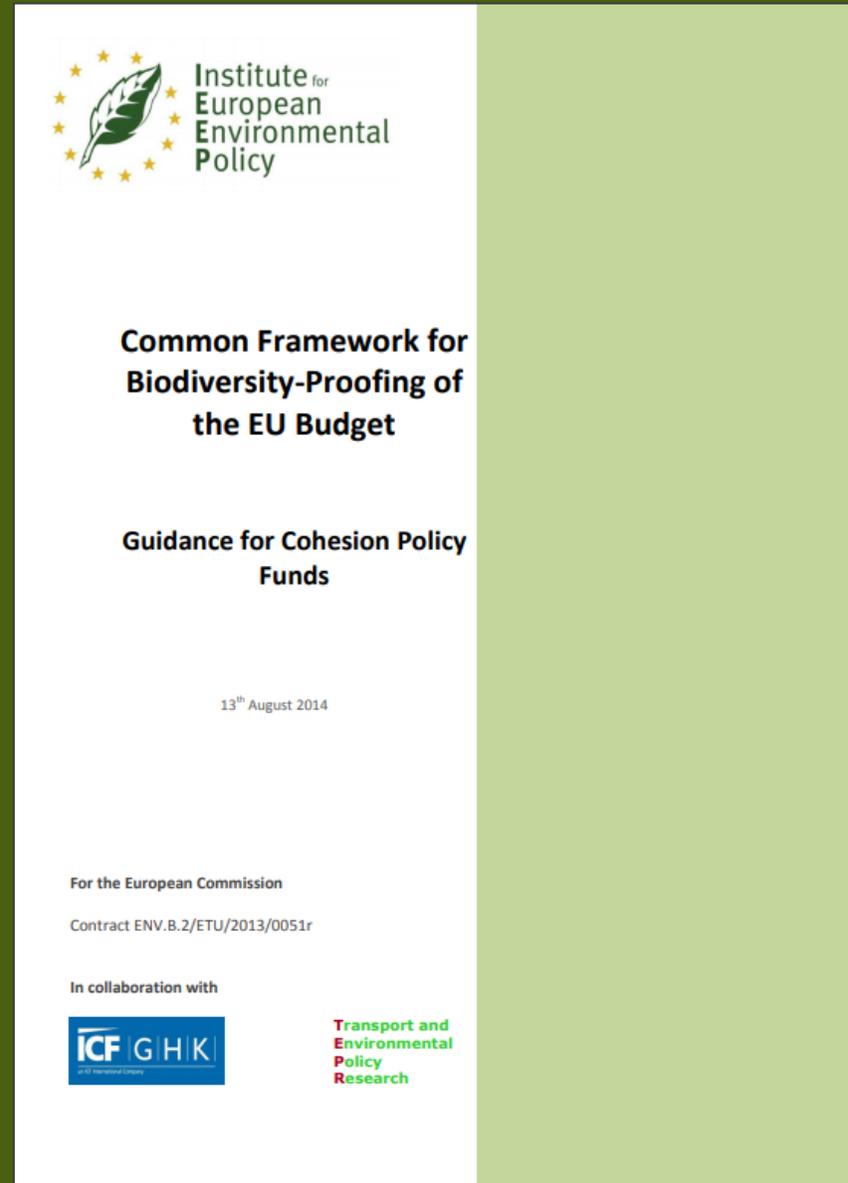
- PO 1: A smarter Europe by promoting innovative and smart economic transformation;
- **PO 2: A greener, low-carbon Europe by promoting clean and fair energy transition, green and blue investment, the circular economy, climate adaptation and risk prevention and management;**
- PO 3: A more connected Europe by enhancing mobility and regional ICT connectivity;
- PO 4: A more social Europe implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights;
- PO 5: A Europe closer to citizens by fostering the sustainable and integrated development of urban, rural and coastal areas and local initiatives.

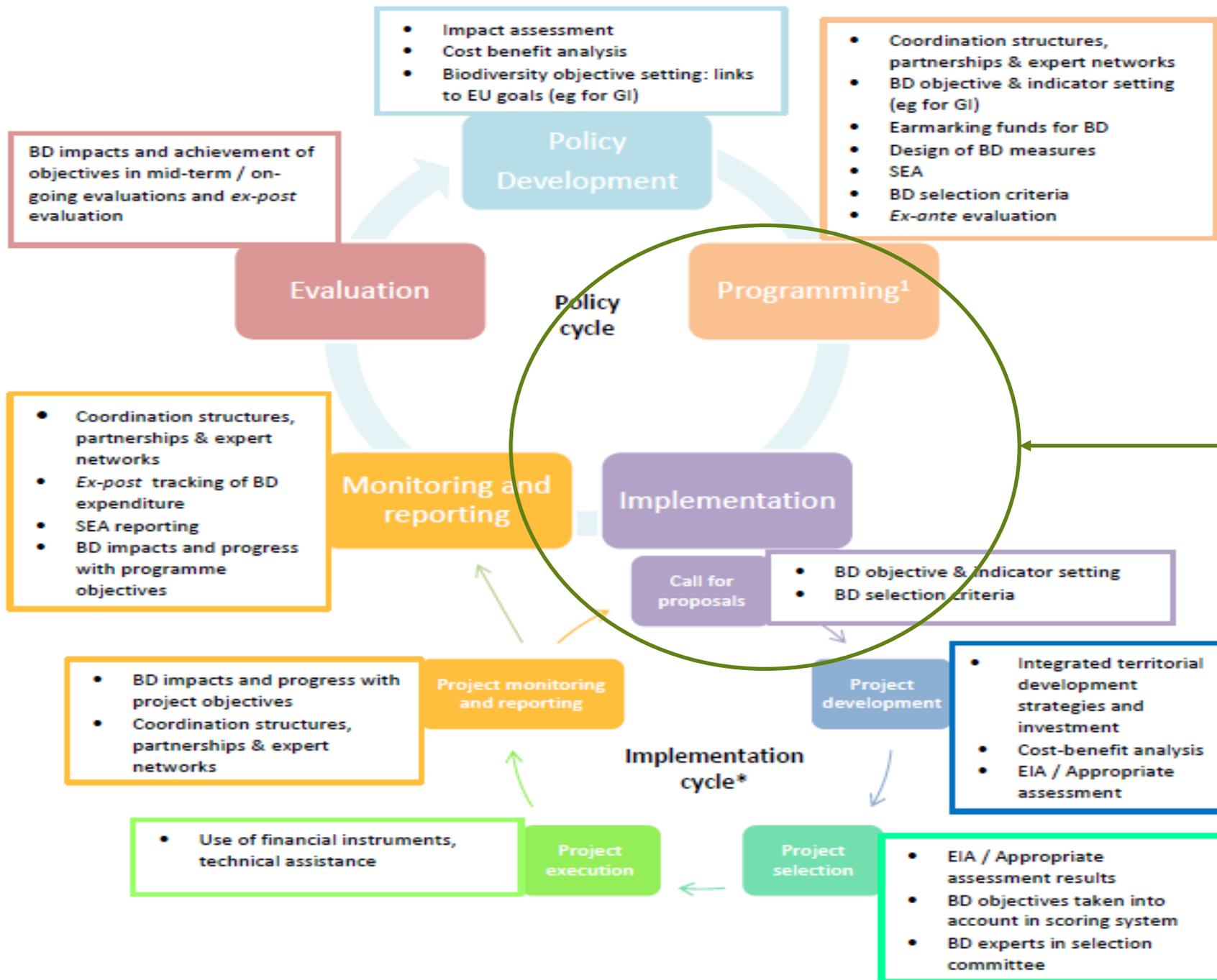
How do ERDF/CF/ESF objectives relate to Natura 2000 objectives?

- ERDF & CF: **PO 2.(b)(vii) enhancing biodiversity, green infrastructure in the urban environment, and reducing pollution**
- **Enabling condition for funding:** obligation that the PAF has:
 - 1) all the elements required by the template for the priority action framework for 2021-2027 agreed by the Commission and the Member States and
 - 2) provides the identification of the priority measures and an estimate of financing needs
- However, EU-wide tracking indicator will only measure Natura 2000 surface area
- **With broad objectives and generic indicator, SMART operational planning & project selection by national/regional authorities will be KEY!**

Biodiversity-proofing

- Guidance for management authorities on how to biodiversity-proof Cohesion Policy Funds (2014)
- Provides detailed advice on how to integrate the achievement of biodiversity objectives in different steps of both policy- and implementation cycles
- Still very relevant today, both to increase size and effectiveness

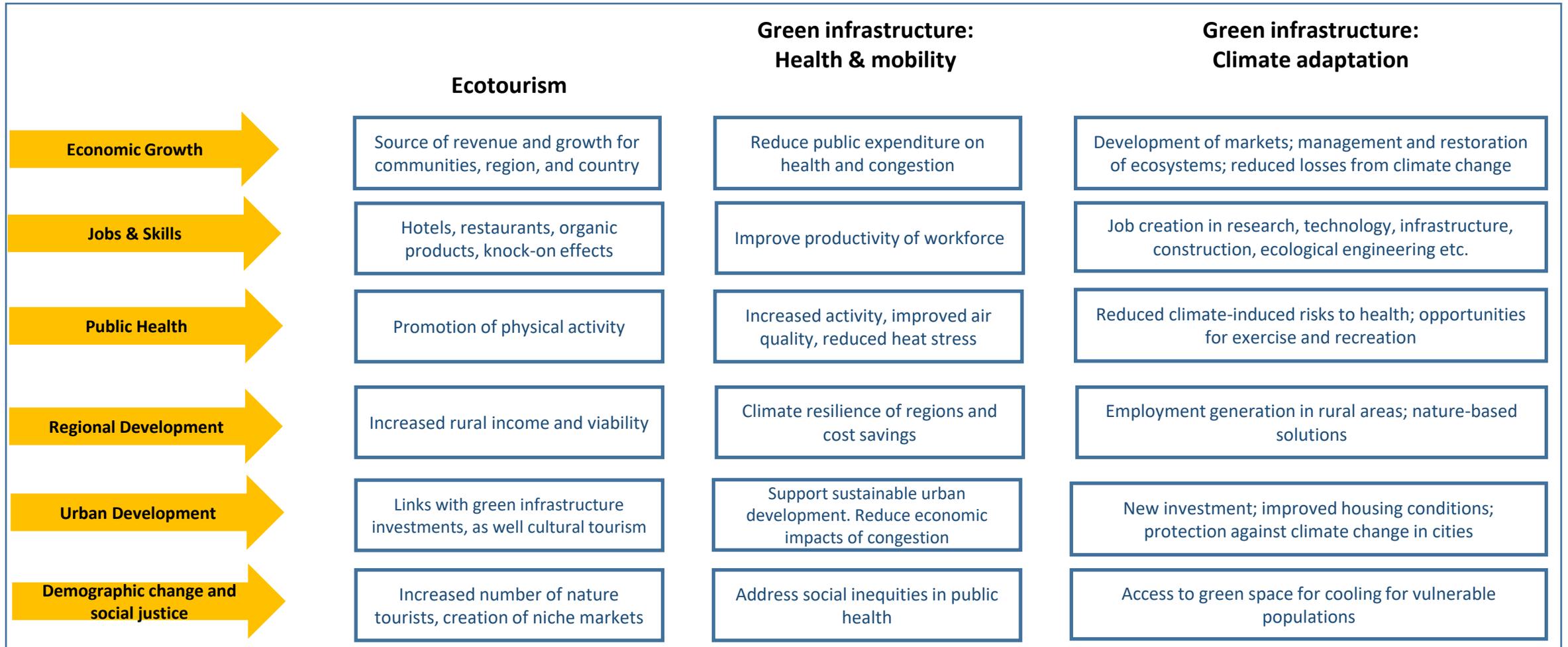




Objectives
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Measures
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Indicators
 ↓
Project selection criteria

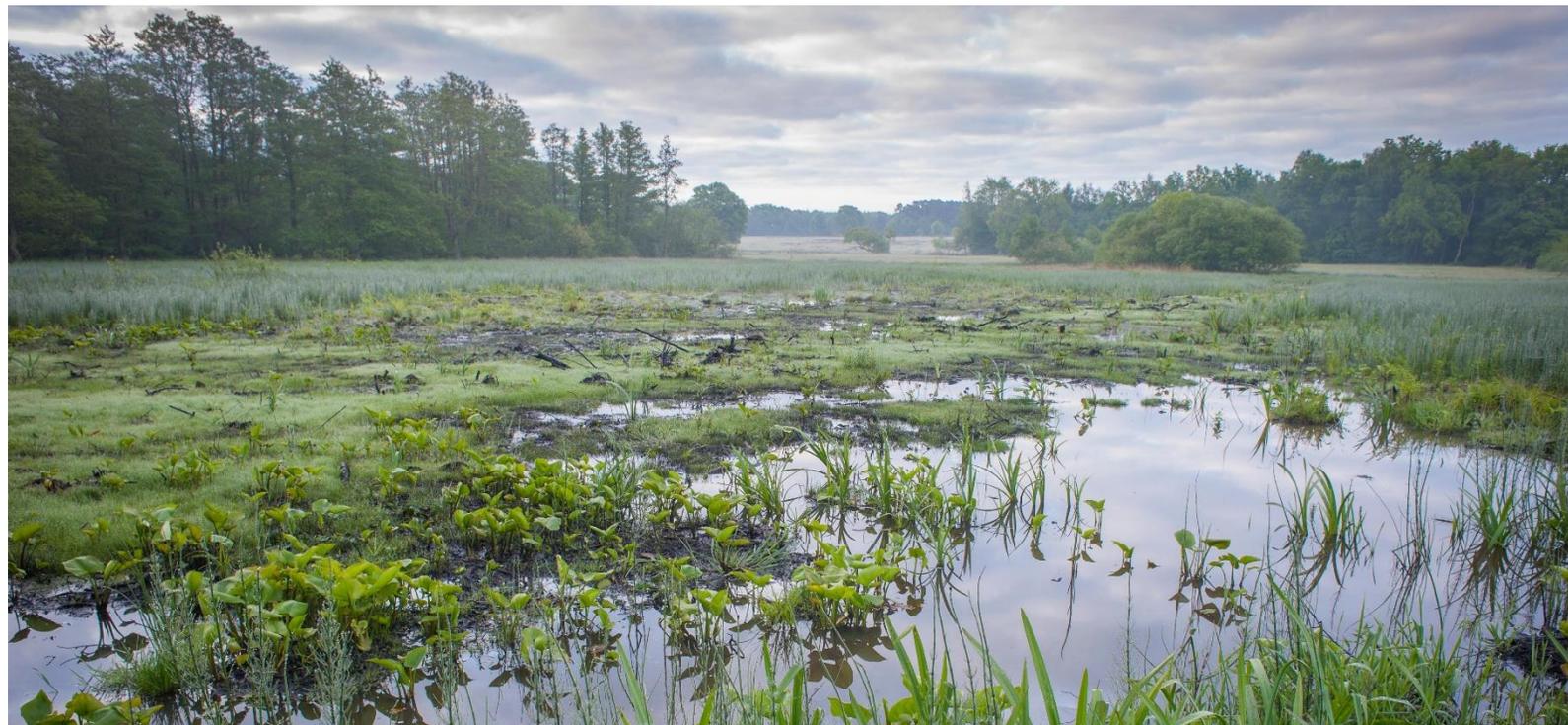
Be SMART!

Identifying win-wins with development objectives!

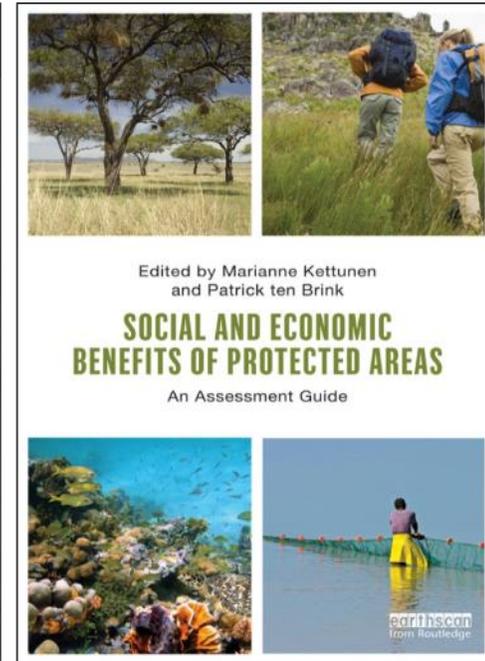
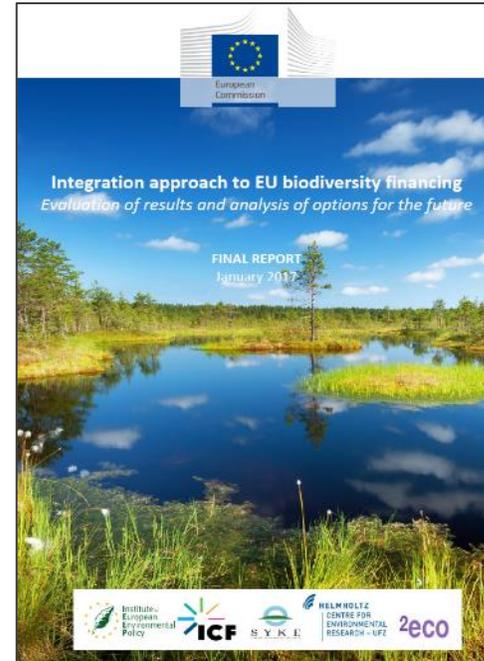
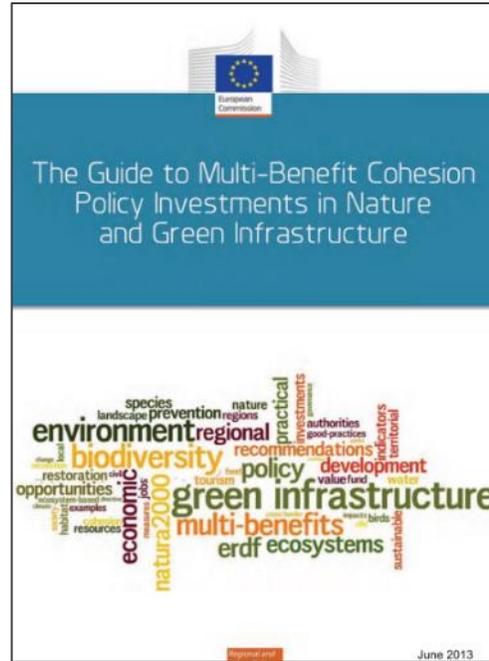
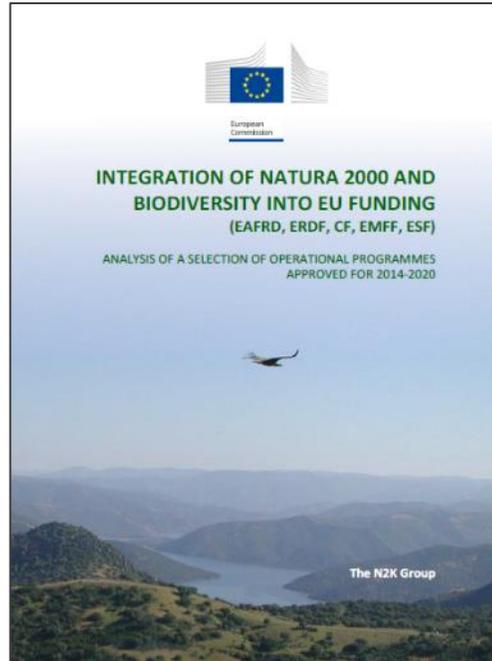
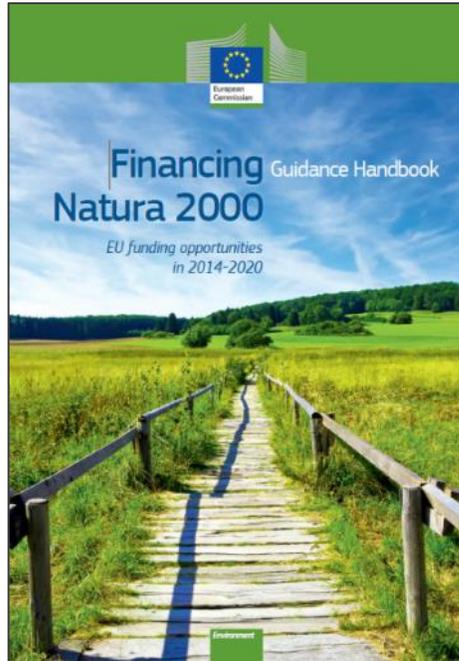


One of many inspiring on-going projects: Care-Peat

Interreg 
North-West Europe
Care-Peat
European Regional Development Fund



Sources / further guidance & examples





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<https://ieep.eu/work-areas/biodiversity>

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