



5th EUROPEAN CLIMATE CHANGE
ADAPTATION CONFERENCE

#ECCA2021

WEBINAR

Environmental policy: Helping or hindering NbS?

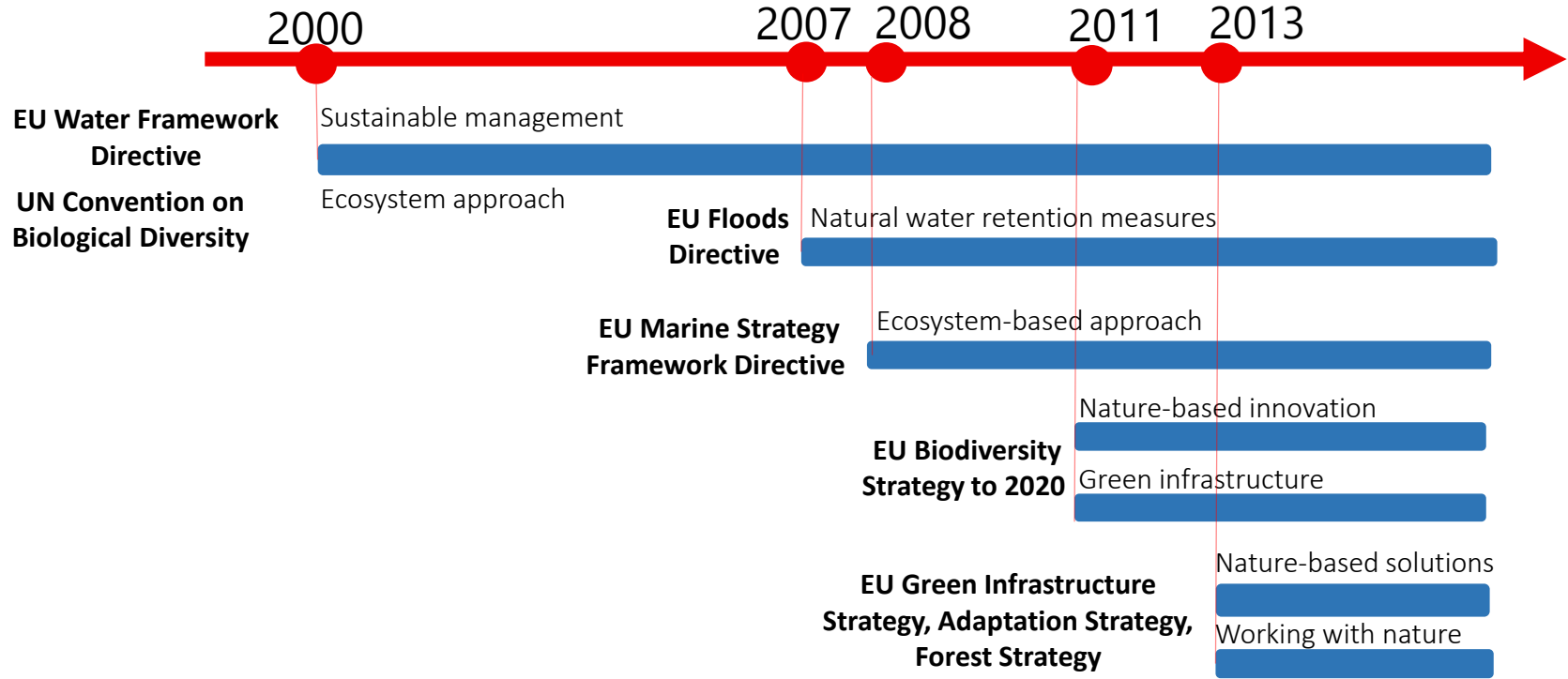
McKenna Davis,
Ecologic Institute

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NbS-related concepts

Timeline of emergence in key policies





Setting the scene: Global policy framework



- NbS as tool to:
 - align the CBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD and SDG missions
 - mainstream nature across sectoral decision-making
 - lever transformative, systemic change
- Increased NbS in policy objectives, actions and instruments
 - e.g. country NDCs (UNFCCC); guidance on ecosystem-based approaches for adaptation (CBD); Delhi Declaration (UNCCD)
- Focus on ecosystem-based approaches, ecosystem-based management/sustainable management and eco-DRR
 - Emphasis on building and investing in *resilience*, e.g. for reducing disaster risk and increasing adaptive capacity
- Upcoming CBD COP15 and UNCCC COP26



United Nations
Framework Convention on
Climate Change



**Convention on
Biological Diversity**



**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS**



United Nations
Convention to Combat
Desertification



EU Policy Framework: Trends

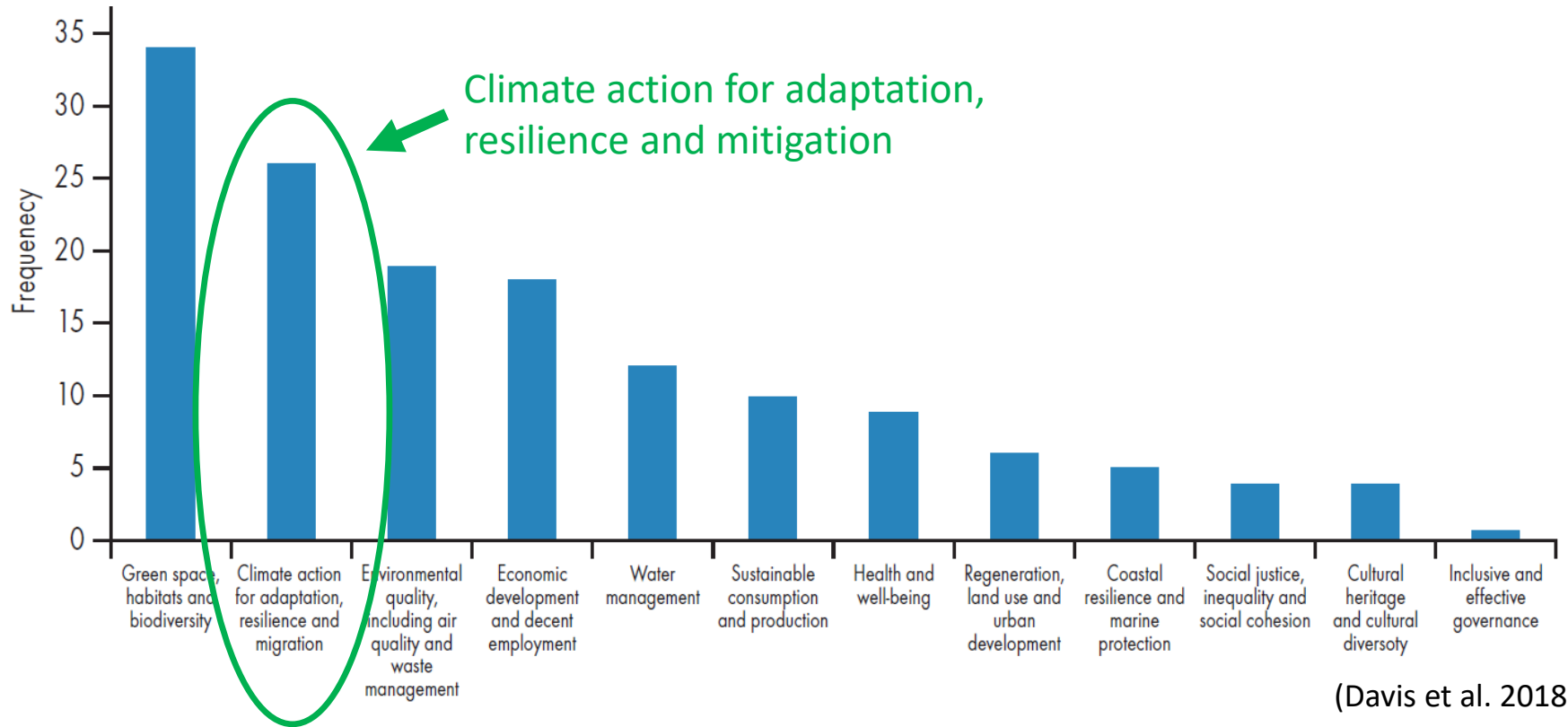
- Evolution of use of NbS-related terms
 - e.g. Bioeconomy Strategy update; new Adaptation Strategy
 - Sustainable management/ecosystem-based management (10), NbS (8), green infrastructure (7) (EEA, 2021)
- Seldom binding; largely do not require action or only encourage voluntary action
- Focus increasingly on restoration
- Low recognition of urban potential

EU policy

(EEA, 2021)

- European Green Deal (2019)
- Bioeconomy strategy (2012) and its update (2018)
- Biodiversity strategy for 2030 (2020)
- Green infrastructure strategy (2013)
- Habitats Directive (1992)
- Birds Directive (1979/2009)
- EU forest strategy (2013)
- LULUCF Regulation (2018)
- Action plan on the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2016)
- Strategy on adaptation to climate change (2013, 2021)
- Farm-to-fork strategy (2020)
- Floods Directive (2007)
- Water Framework Directive (2000)
- Common agricultural policy (2013)
- Nitrates Directive (1991)
- Urban agenda for the EU (i.e. Pact of Amsterdam, 2016)

EU Policy Framework: Societal challenges addressed





KEY BOTTLENECKS




Inadequate
implementation

Lack of coherence



Non-binding nature



Lack of quantitative or
measurable values



Inadequate allocation of
investment



- EU Green Deal provides an improved framework to mobilise implementation and improve financing
 - e.g. 'do no harm' oath; new European Bauhaus initiative; BD2030 goal to unlock 20 billion/year for spending on nature; Post-2020 EU Forestry Strategy (expected 2021); Ecosystem Restoration Plan binding targets
- Boost investment in NbS, e.g.
 - integrate biodiversity commitments in EU climate policy and climate investment, as well as COVID-recovery ('build back better')
 - use public investment as leverage for more / better private investment
- Strengthen existing policies and accelerate implementation of key legal commitments
- Increase coherence between policies, objectives, indicators, etc



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Co-organisers



Receipt



References and further reading



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