



Restoring nature, restoring our future: From global goals to local gains

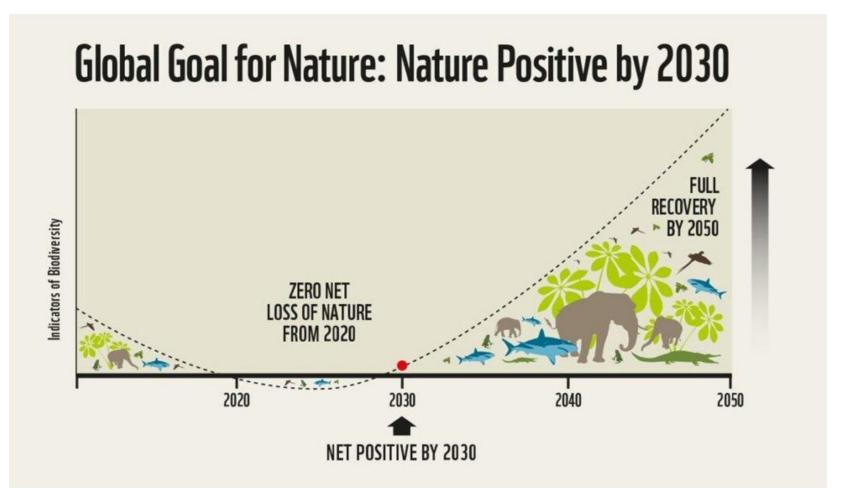
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Vilm, 4 August 2025 (online)

From crisis to recovery: Time to "bend the curve"

Almost ¾ of monitored wildlife populations have been lost in just 50 years (WWF Living Planet Report 2024)



Leclère et al., 2020

Time to act: Restoration as a cornerstone of recovery



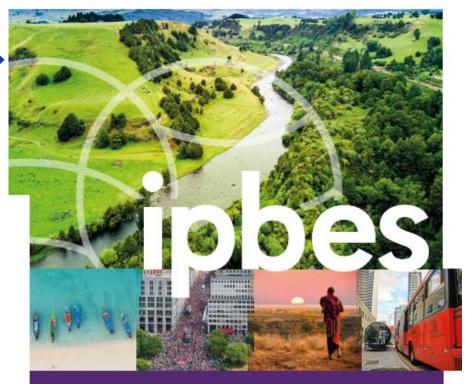
Fig. 1. The mitigation hierarchy (adapted from Glasson and Therivel, 2019).

International efforts to biodiversity restoration



- Adopted in August 2022 (UN CBD COP15)
- Target 2: Restore at least 30% of all degraded ecosystems by 2030 (30x30)
- Countries are currently updating their NBSAPs to include the GBF targets





The thematic assessment report on

THE UNDERLYING CAUSES OF BIODIVERSITY
LOSS AND THE DETERMINANTS OF
TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE AND OPTIONS
FOR ACHIEVING THE 2050 VISION
FOR BIODIVERSITY



Transformative change: From incremental to systemic shifts

- Transformative change is "a fundamental, system-wide reorganization across technological, economic and social factors, including paradigms, goals and values"
- Four principles to guide transformative change:
 - 1. Equity and justice
 - 2. Pluralism and inclusion
 - 3. Respectful and reciprocal human-nature relationships
 - 4. Adaptive learning and action



Restoration provides a key entry point for transformative change but requires action and support at *local level* and *across society*

IPBES, 2025

Restoration for people and planet: The role of Nature-Based Solutions (NbS)

Linking ecosystem restoration with societal resilience, human health and well-being



- "Actions to protect, conserve, restore, sustainably use and manage natural or modified terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems...
- ...address **social, economic and environmental challenges** effectively and adaptively
- ...simultaneously providing human well being, ecosystem services and resilience and biodiversity benefits."

When designed restoratively, NbS can:



Enhance climate resilience and disaster risk reduction:

- → Restored wetlands reduce flood risks and buffer storms.
- → Coastal mangroves mitigate erosion and storm surges.



Support **climate mitigation**:

- \rightarrow Restored forests act as **carbon sinks**, sequestering CO₂.
- → Urban green areas help **cool cities** and reduce heat stress



Promote human health and well-being:

- → Urban green spaces improve **air quality, physical activity, and mental health**.
- → Access to nature supports **stress reduction** and **social cohesion**.



Strengthen agri-food systems:

- → Agroecological systems improve **soil fertility**, **biodiversity**, and produce **healthier food**.
- → NbS are a strategic communications tool





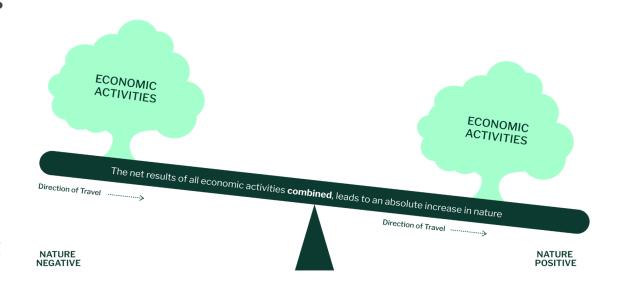
What is a Nature-Positive Economy

Investing in restoration = investing in the future

An economy where the **net** result of **all economic activities combined** lead to an absolute **increase in nature**,

to the point of full recovery.

- Priorities are to increase social prosperity, restore ecological conditions, and increased uptake of diverse values of nature.
- Full recovery means that nature recovers so that thriving ecosystems continue to support future generations.
- The economy undergoes a transition away from naturenegative activities towards more nature-positive activities.



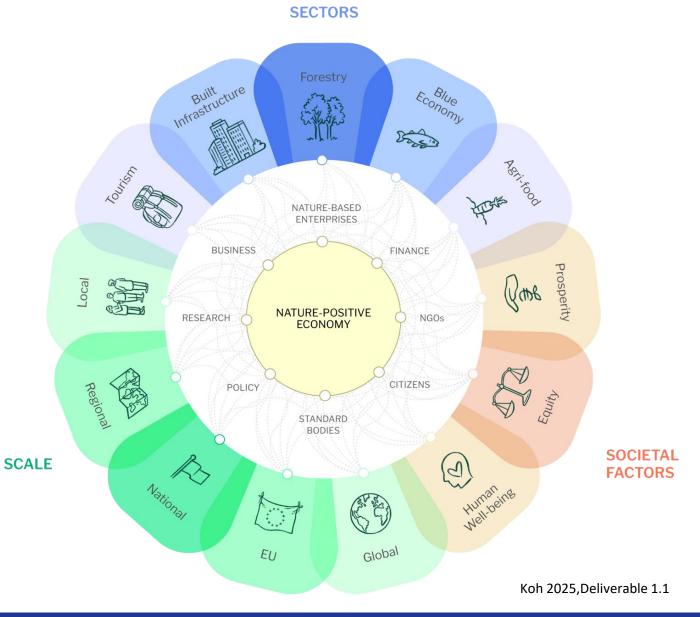
Koh 2025, Deliverable 1.1



How do we **operationalise** the Nature-Positive Economy?

Through **5 key elements**:

- 1. Actors
- 2. take action
- 3. across multiple scales and
- 4. sectors
- 5. to improve social well-being and equity.



Understanding the EU policy landscape: Where are we now?



Crosssectoral approach











Mapping

1. Policy landscape:

Longlist of >60 policy instruments; shortlist of 20

2. Co-operative initiatives:

Selection of 20 global and EU initiatives

Assessment

- Reduce harmful activities
- Create additional nature
- Increase knowledge
- Support transformative change

Synthesis

Barriers, gaps, and opportunities for sectoral and systemic change

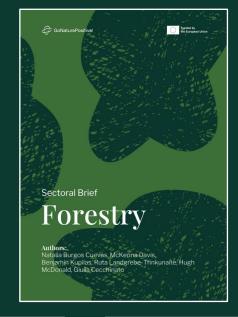
Final products, available for download:

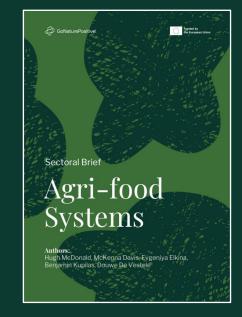
Main report and five sectoral briefs





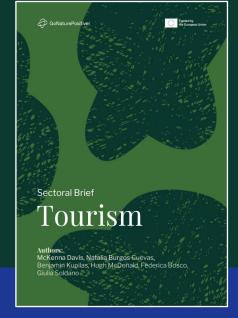












EU Nature Restoration Regulation

- Landmark legislation aimed at restoring degraded ecosystems across Europe
- First continent-wide, legally-binding restoration law across all ecosystems
- Adopted in August 2024, following a two-year negotiation process
- The proposed law was at risk of failure several times
- It received strong backlash from agriculture, forestry and fisheries lobby groups



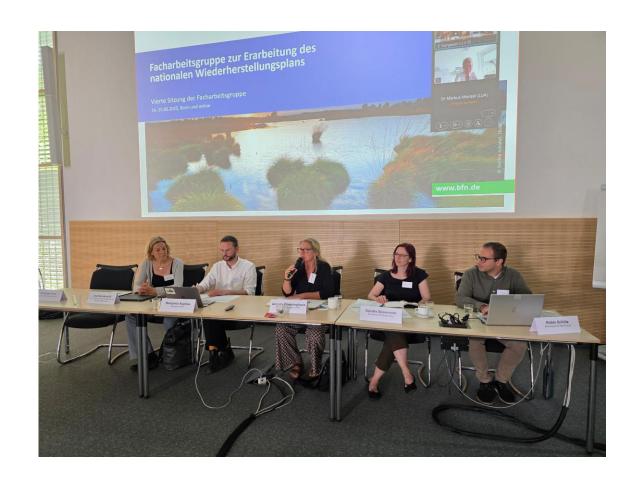
Main objectives:

By 2030, at least 20% of the EU's land and sea areas are restored.

By 2050, restoration measures are in place for **all ecosystems** that need restoration.

National-Level Action

- EU Member States are now drafting their National Restoration Plans (NRPs), with draft submission due by September 2026
 - Plan defines short-, medium-, and long-term goals for all degraded ecosystems
 - Federal and state authorities jointly develop the first draft of Germany's National Restoration Plan
 - Alpine Nature Restoration Workshop (Sept 4, 2025)
 Fostering cross-border exchange and synergies in developing National Restoration Plans for the Alpine region
 - Ecologic Institut assists the BfN with the development of the NRP



Local level: Turning ambition into action

- Implementation will ultimately happen locally: in municipalities, regions, and landscapes.
- Stakeholder engagement is critical for success, including: landowners, farmers, NGOs, and communities.
- Local action is where global targets become visible and benefits are tangible: cleaner water, cooler cities, flood protection, and biodiversity.





Urban Governance Atlas (UGA)

A collection of more than **250 policy instruments** supporting nature-based solutions and ecosystem restoration





Aims to:

- Foster ecologically coherent, inclusive planning for urban ecosystem restoration and green space planning
- Inspire global action through good practice instruments, including lessons learned
- Represent diverse contexts (institutional/ geographic) – bottom up & top down



Thank you!

Let's turn plans into thriving nature for people, the economy, and our future.

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