

Needs for new incentives for private land conservation in the EU



Joseph van der Stegen

Nature Protection Unit - DG ENVIRONMENT – EU Commission

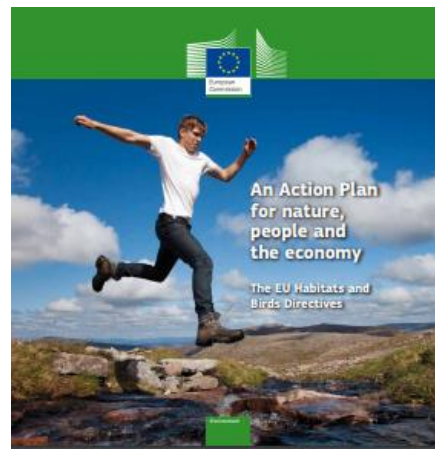
**LIFE ELCN Workshop on Incentives for Private Land Conservation
Madrid 5-7 October 2018**

Outline

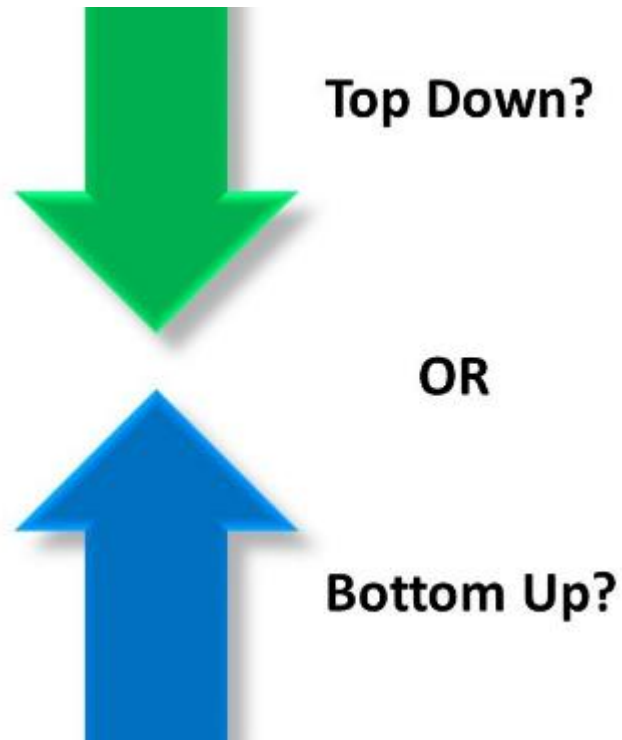
- 1. Fitness check and Nature Action Plan**
- 2. Why involving private landowners and managers?**
 - a. Administrative reasons**
 - b. Historical and biological reasons**
 - c. Psychological and pragmatic reasons**
 - d. Economic and financial reasons**
 - e. International context**
- 3. What can help?**
- 4. What could be achieved?**

1. The Framework: Fitness check and Nature Action Plan

- a) Need to boost the implementation of the Directives
- b) Strengthening investment in Natura 2000.
Action C8c: Stimulate private sector investment in nature projects



2. Why involving private landowners and managers?



a. Administrative reasons

- i. Large share of **Natura 2000 network privately owned**
- ii. Large share of the **rural environment privately owned**



- i. **Many public authorities also private landowners** => Some recipes for private lands also applicable to publicly-owned land

b. Biological and historical reasons

- i. **60s & 70s:** the loss of biodiversity concerned mainly rare or specialized species (species depending on certain specific habitats).
 - Most nature reserves on public lands
=> private landowners **not concerned**. Nature conservation = NGO and authorities' concern
Still, few scattered private initiatives (e.g. Zwin in Belgium).
- ii. **70s, 80s & 90s:** Natura 2000: focus on rare and threatened species, but not only: wild birds protected on the whole EU territory + « *management of features of the landscape which are of major importance for wild fauna and flora* » (art. 10 HD)
 - => private landowners/managers **concerned but not always (fully) involved**.
- iii. **Since 2000:** Wider loss of biodiversity affecting the wider countryside and common species
 - => private landowners/managers **at the forefront**.



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b. Biological and historical reasons



c. Psychological and pragmatic reasons

- i. Some landowners/managers have a **long-term vision** for their land that matches well the long-term vision necessary for nature conservation
- ii. Landowners often jealous of their freedom, not keen on impositions. On the other side, some (willing to) act for nature and keen to do more

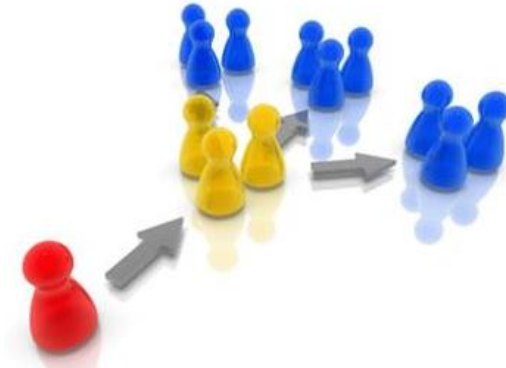
=> Let's complement existing/traditional tools (grants, legal protection, land purchase, etc.) with **tools** (binding or not) **fulfilling their demand** (rewards, labels, easements, voluntary commitments, etc).
- iii. Top-down approach (designation of protected areas) = a first necessary step. Second step = management of the high-nature value land (protected or not). Natura 2000: **nature conservation in partnership.**



=> **Let's do it together** and develop a bottom-up dynamic!

c. Psychological and pragmatic reasons

- iii. Recognition of efforts, developing a sense of pride for the piece of nature the landowner/manager is looking after
=> possible spill-over effect, **strong leverage** (ambassadors, imitation by peers)



c. Psychological and pragmatic reasons

- d) The more nature conservation management measures concern **productive land**, the more it can have an impact on its economic viability
=> higher need to involve landowners/managers
- e) On the opposite, **land abandonment** = a concern for nature and landowners/managers. Nature-friendly management can be an opportunity for the economic viability of some territories (new activities).
- f) Some landowners are far away from their land and do not manage it but would be willing to conserve it for nature (urban landowner inheriting a plot lost somewhere in the countryside)

=> There are needs and opportunities!

d. Economic and financial reasons

- i. **Insufficient public resources** for managing the N2000 network and restoring/managing habitats in general.
- ii. **Alternative sources** of funding for nature:
 - Landowners/managers keen to invest in their own land for nature,
 - New opportunities for collecting private money for nature (foundations, donations, crowd funding, etc.).

d. Economic and financial reasons

- i. Often, landowners prone to invest in nature conservation/habitats if they can have **co-benefits** (landscape, tourism, hunting, organic agriculture, etc.) – integrated management.



- ii. Necessity to develop tools that will enable, at the same time, **to reach fixed strategic goals** (e.g. N2000 conservation objectives) and **fulfill the needs of the different types of landowners.**

e. International context

- i. **Convention on Biological Diversity** (Aichi Target 11):
*“By 2020 at least 17% of terrestrial (...), especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas, and **other effective area-based conservation measures**, and integrated into the wider landscape and seascape”*
- ii. => Some areas not currently recognized and reported as protected areas also contribute to the effective and sustained *in-situ* conservation of biodiversity

3. What can help?

- a) Develop tools (binding or not) **tailored to the different needs:**
 - Different types of landowners: small-large, urban-rural, NGO-company-private person-foundation, etc.
 - Different starting points: from degraded lands with potential for nature (restoration) to high nature value lands (maintenance),
- b) Build tools that are **complementary** to the existing ones. The goal should be to do more for nature,
- c) Build new tools fulfilling the willingness of landowners to invest/to commit themselves on a **voluntary basis**,
- d) Take into account **psychology**: satisfaction, recognition, non-financial benefits (beauty of nature), etc.
- e) Money is also time and manpower (cf. volunteering),

3. What can help? (cont.)

- a) Empower people and build trust,
- b) Train people and exchange experience,
- c) Develop partnerships => will help to be innovative,
- d) Be pragmatic (different tools – same goal) and open-minded,
- e) Encourage and support any improvement (be positive),
- f) Be fair (stick to commitments from all sides),
- g) Be accountable and transparent,
- h) Look at the existing schemes (in and outside EU) and exchange experience,
- i) Give more visibility to private protection in policy discussions,
- j) Be in line with the international agenda (CBD, Sustainable Development Goals).



4. What could be achieved?

- a) More resources for nature, **inside and outside protected areas**
- b) More nature on areas previously managed with one main goal.
Integrated management => more nature in the wider countryside,
- c) New partnerships between different types of people (NGOs, private landowner, authorities, foundations, etc.) => More creativity => **new solutions,**
- d) Better mutual understanding & trust => **higher efficiency,**
- e) Development of a **network** of people proud to work for nature in different ways on different types of areas,
- f) More people working on the land (new **jobs** in rural areas).

=> More biodiversity requires a **diversity of approaches** towards nature management

There is a **need** is and there is a **demand!**

=> **Let's find and develop the right incentives!**

Every effort contributing to the same goal counts!



Thank you for your attention

For more information:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/index_en.htm

joseph.van-der-stegen@ec.europa.eu

