



# Integrating biodiversity in poverty eradication policies

**Good practices from Europe**

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# Outline







## *1. Within Europe*

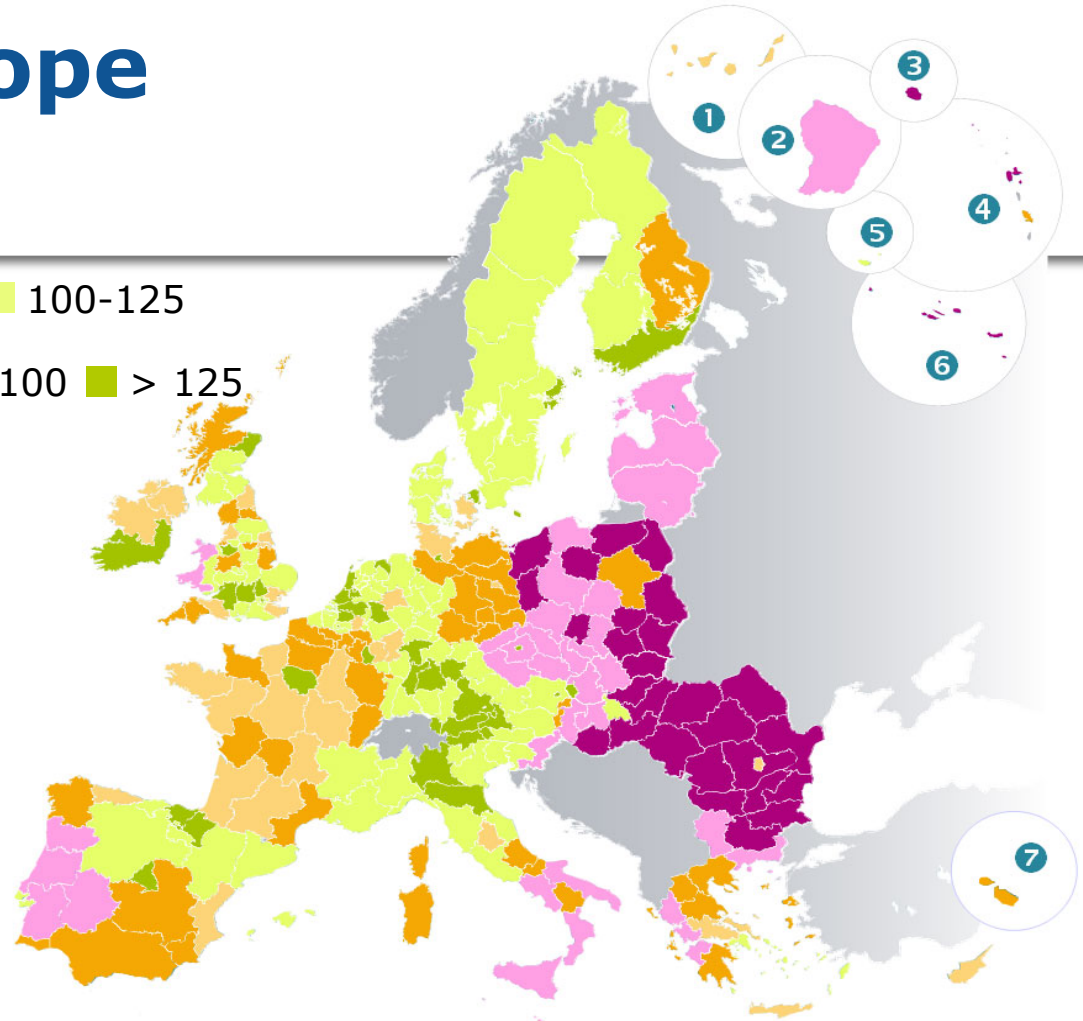
- **B&ES and livelihood of the poor: little evidence**
- **Biodiversity/poverty in EU cohesion policy?**
- **Biodiversity/poverty in EU biodiversity strategy?**
- *(Valuation of ecosystem services: ex. in Sweden)*

## *2. Outside Europe*

- **B&ES and livelihood of the poor: largely documented**
- **EU response: Biodiversity Strategy to 2020**
- **EU response: Development Cooperation policy**

# 1. Within Europe

**GDP/capita\***     < 50     75-90     100-125  
\*index EU27=100     50-75     90-100     > 125



# Poverty in Europe

*20% of the EU population (i.e. ~120 million people) is at risk of poverty or social exclusion*

*9% of all EU population live in severe material deprivation*

*No such evidence (as in developing countries) of interdependence between livelihood of the poor and biodiversity/ecosystem services*

- **European landscape is largely urbanised and artificialised.**
- **Most people in disadvantaged conditions live in major urban centres.**
- **Yet rural and geographically isolated areas and communities in some member-states undergo a high poverty risk → rural development policy**



# EU cohesion policy

*Aims to reduce disparities between member-states and between regions*

*Contains significant poverty reduction/social inclusion dimension*

*Instruments:*

- **European Social Fund – ESF**

Invests in human resources, skills and knowledge, institutional capacity, social inclusion.

- **European Regional Development Fund – ERDF**

Invests in health and social infrastructure, support to SME,

- **Cohesion Fund – CF**

Invests in trans-European transport networks and in transport and energy sectors with environmental benefits

**Europe 2020 Strategy :  
20% of ESF to PR/SI**



# EU cohesion policy: how to integrate biodiversity (IEEP research)

Looking for **multi-benefit investments** (soc.-econ.-env.):

- *Improving environmental security through ecosystem restoration*
- *Promoting nature-based sustainable tourism, agriculture, fishery*
- *Role of green spaces in mental health and well-being, nature-based therapy and care*
- *Green spaces → natural noise control, natural cooling, reducing particulate pollution → public health*

## Poverty in Europe:

- *Not that much affected by biodiversity loss*
- *Hardly any ref. to social cohesion in EUBS-2020*
- *Generalised social security systems in European countries have had a significant effect on reducing poverty, including mitigating the negative impacts of environmental degradation.*
- *Government insurance system exist to protect vulnerable populations from natural hazards.*
- **However:** *the viability of such safety nets is currently at risk of being undermined by the economic downturn, particularly in Southern Europe → increasing role of biodiversity in some regions?*

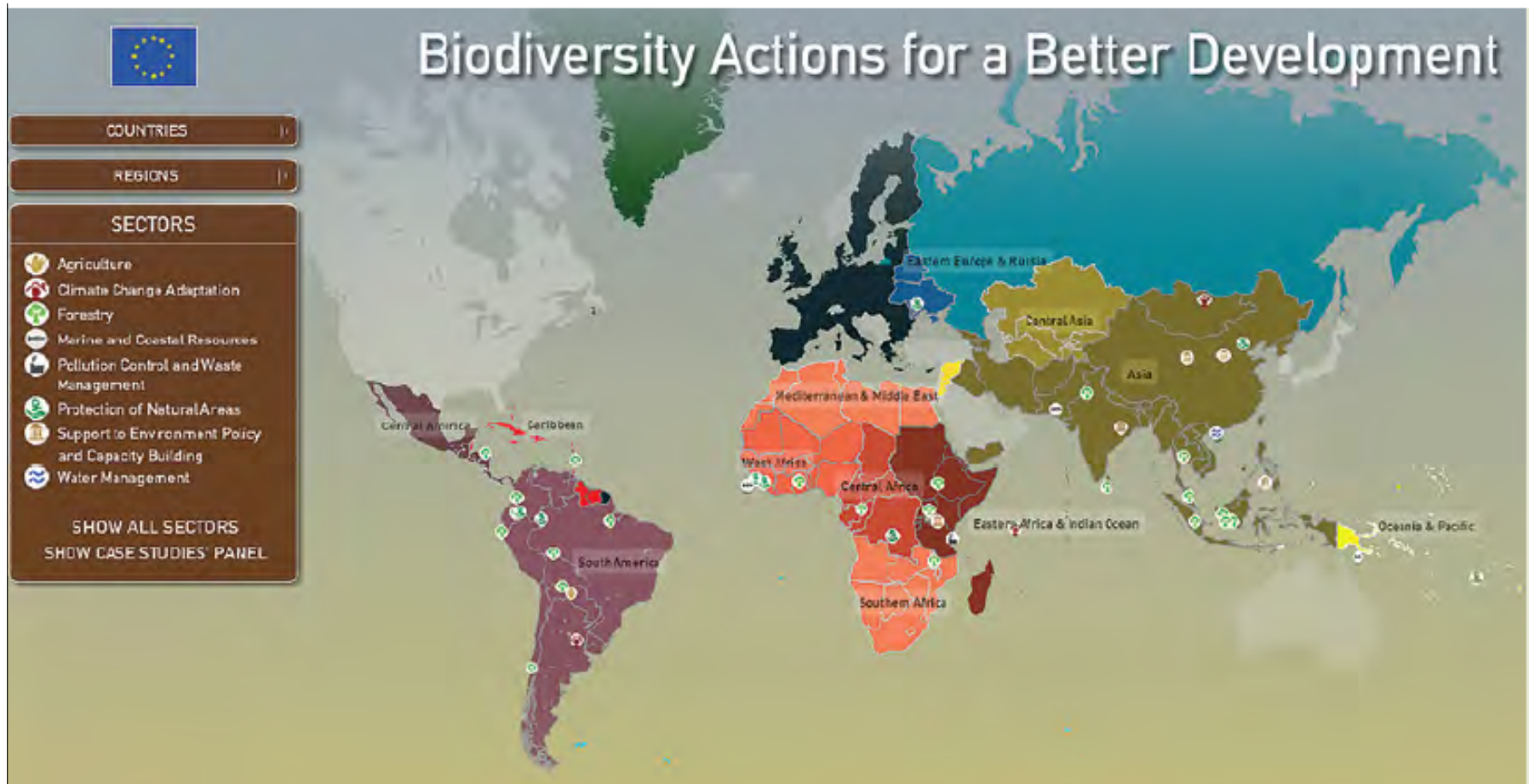


# **Integrating biodiversity into development policies at Member- State Level**

*Sweden: Making the value of  
ecosystem visible.*



## 2. Outside Europe



<http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/biodiversity-actions>

# Biodiversity is crucial to development

High dependency of the rural poor to the provision of services from natural capital



# The EU response (biodiversity policy)

- Active involvement under the CBD
  - (October 2010) **COP-10 in Nagoya:**
    - Agreement on a Global Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020
    - 20 « Aichi » targets along 5 main goals
  - (October 2012) **COP-11 in Hyderabad:**
    - Commitment on doubling total biodiversity-related international finance resource flows to developing countries by 2015 / Maintaining it until 2020 / *"Considering funds from a variety of sources"*.



# The EU response (biodiversity policy)

(May 2011) **EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020.**

→ **Target 6:** the EU to contribute to averting global biodiversity loss.

Action 17: Reduce indirect drivers of biodiversity loss

(--> A.T. 2, 3, 4)

Action 18: Mobilize additional resources for global biodiversity conservation ( --> A.T. 20)

Action 19: Biodiversity-proof EU development cooperation

( --> A.T.17)

Action 20: Regulate Access to genetic resources and ABS ( --> A.T. 16)



# The EU response (development cooperation policy)

## (Oct. 2011) **Agenda for Change**

- 2 priorities :
  - Human rights, democracy and governance
    - > support to governance reforms that promote the sustainable and transparent management of natural resources.
  - Sustainable and inclusive growth for human development
    - > sustainable agriculture that includes the safeguarding of ecosystem services.
- Says :
  - « *Development is not sustainable if it damages the environment, biodiversity or natural resources* ».
  - « *EU dvpt policy should promote a green economy that can generate growth, create jobs and help reduce poverty by valuing and investing in natural capital, including through (...) and reducing unsustainable use of natural resources.* »

# The EU response (Development cooperation policy)

(March 2013) ***A Decent Life for All – Post-2015: Ending poverty and giving the world a sustainable future.***

- Convergence of the development and sustainable development agendas
- Sustainable Development Goals to integrate the Millennium Development Goals in a single, comprehensive set of goals.
- Calls upon synergy and coherence with existing internationally agreed goals and targets (climate change, biodiversity, disaster reduction, social protection floors).



## EuropeAid's approach

- 1) Saving habitats, protected areas and productive landscapes, including through capacity building.
- 2) Mainstreaming biodiversity in affine cooperation sectors: *climate change, agriculture, forestry, marine resources.*
- 3) "Biodiversity-proofing" dev.coop.: *guidelines for mainstreaming in PCM, environmental screening, SEA/EIA.*
- 4) Facilitating policy development on biodiversity

- Lessons from past experience: need to improve efficiency, have a coherent strategy, to have a better coordination between global, regional and local activities (less scattered activities), to strengthen more the link between biodiversity and poverty eradication.
  - new approaches for the new multilateral financial framework (2014-2020):
  - a new "flagship initiative": **EUBLI**  
(**European Union Biodiversity for Livelihood Initiative**)





**END**

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