

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: European Commission Launches Public Consultation on Future Nature Restoration Targets

Country: European Union

Post: Brussels USEU

Report Category: Agriculture in the News

Prepared By: Sophie Bolla

Approved By: Lisa Allen

Report Highlights:

The European Commission launched a public consultation on its upcoming proposal on EU nature restoration targets, which was announced in the EU's Biodiversity Strategy. The European Commission wants to use these targets as a way to restore degraded ecosystems as well as improve climate regulation, water regulation, soil health, pollination and disaster prevention. Interested stakeholders have until April 5, 2021 to partake in the consultation.

General Information

THIS REPORT CONTAINS ASSESSMENTS OF COMMODITY AND TRADE ISSUES MADE BY USDA STAFF AND NOT NECESSARILY STATEMENTS OF OFFICIAL U.S. GOVERNMENT POLICY

The EU's [Biodiversity Strategy](#) aims to step up the protection and restoration of nature in the European Union. To do so, the Commission wants to develop an EU Nature Restoration Plan. As part of this Plan, the Commission announced that it would put forward a proposal for legally-binding EU nature restoration targets in 2021. The aim of these targets is to restore degraded ecosystems, in particular those with the most potential to capture and store carbon.

The Commission is currently working on an impact assessment to inform this upcoming legislative proposal. The impact assessment will analyze the possibility of an EU-wide methodology to “map, assess and achieve good condition of ecosystems so they can deliver benefits such as climate regulation, water regulation, soil health, pollination and disaster prevention and protection”.

As part of the impact assessment exercise, the Commission is carrying out a [public consultation](#) to gather information and feedback from stakeholders on the implementation of the EU's 2011-2020 Biodiversity Strategy as well as to inform the upcoming Commission's proposal for binding EU nature restoration targets. The consultation wants input from stakeholders on how to reduce key pressures such as pollution or over-exploitation to help ecosystems recover and if just reducing pollution is sufficient to restore biodiversity.

In the consultation's questionnaire, the Commission stated that according to the [2020 State of Nature in the EU report](#), 39 percent of wild bird species assessments and 63 percent of protected non-bird species' assessments show poor or bad status. Additionally, the Commission noted that most ecosystem types in the EU (urban, agroecosystems, woodland and forests, heathland and shrub, sparsely vegetated lands, wetlands, freshwater and marine ecosystems) show deteriorating trends. The report concluded that the current potential of ecosystems to deliver flood protection, crop pollination, timber and nature-based recreation is equal to or lower than it was in 2010.

U.S. Stakeholders who would like to comment can do so at the following page:
<https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12596-Protecting-biodiversity-nature-restoration-targets/public-consultation>

The deadline for input is 12:00 a.m. Brussels (Universal Time Coordinated + 01:00) on April 5, 2021. All comments provided through this consultation process may be released as public information. Please note there is a single questionnaire that can be accessed from the website of either the evaluation of the 2020 Strategy or the initiative on legally binding EU nature restoration targets. You should fill in this questionnaire only once.

Attachments:

No Attachments.