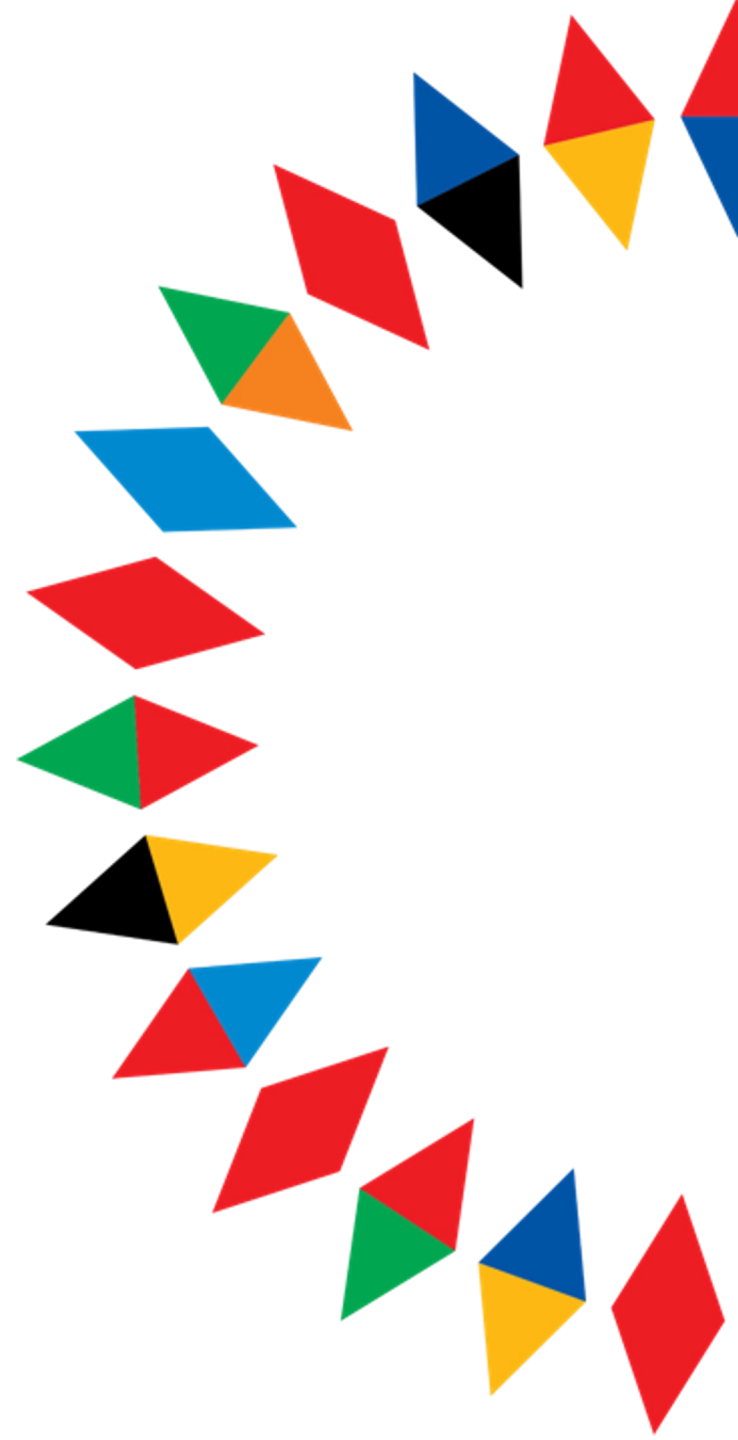


The Presidency of The Council of the EU

Presentation template



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Ministry of the Environment

CZ PRES Priorities

Natura 2000 Users' Forum



Introduction

The Natura 2000 Users Forum supports the overall goal to restore degraded ecosystems, in particular those with the most potential to remove and store carbon and reduce the impact of natural disasters.

Restoration can only be successfully achieved with support from those who own and manage the land and waterways, and whose livelihoods depend on it. For the Restoration Law to work it must be realistic and contribute to socio-economic recovery and growth in rural areas.



1. Involve of users, managers and owners

CBD objectives of biological diversity (ref to users):

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) has 3 main objectives:

- 1/ **The conservation** of biological diversity
- 2/ **The sustainable use** of the components of biological diversity
- 3/ **The fair and equitable sharing of the benefits** arising out of the utilization of genetic resources.

Local, regional, and federal level stakeholders should be engaged from the very beginning of the planning process

Community-based/co-design conservation should involve hunters, farmers, land managers, environmental groups, anglers and others



2. EU Restoration Fund

- Funding should be made available in a clear and coherent framework; be sufficient for the restoration measures expected; and be delivered effectively if the work is to be completed in a cost-effective and timely manner.
- This can only be achieved through a designated funding mechanism designed for restoration of EU habitats; founded through the MFF and Member State consent.
- The use of the CAP budget to fulfilling these financial needs must not be attempted, as it will leave farmers and land managers without the financial supports to actively produce to ensure food and wood-fibre security. CAP cannot be a sacrificial lamb due to a lack of planning.
- We can only hope that the Member States will be able to mobilize the necessary complementary funding and that innovative and private sector financing mechanisms will be looked at and fully unlocked.



3. Restriction of delegated & implementing acts

“We create a law now, we cannot sign a blank cheque for the future”

- We would appreciate further clarification on the procedures on which the European Commission intends to organise a transparent, open and reliable system of furthering the EU Nature Restoration Law targets beyond its promulgation
- Some ecosystems still need to be studied and we are lacking some indicators to be able to monitor them properly.
- All future acts must be done with the full consultation of citizens, stakeholders and other EU institutions who shall be dealing with the effects.



Article 4 - [Complementing the Nature Directives]

Restoration of terrestrial, coastal, and freshwater ecosystems

- Focus should be on improving the condition of Annex I habitat types
 - Will 'good condition' follow the criteria used in Article 17 reporting on specific 'structure and function' of a habitat type?
- Article 4 (3) while most HD Annex II species are also listed in Annex IV, there are also many Annex IV species (from all taxa) which are not in Annex II → This paragraph risks adding unnecessary legal complexity, rather than delivering effective measures to restore ecosystems.



Article 5 - Marine

Article 7 - Rivers & floodplains

Pollution and illegal fishing are of great concern.

- Illegal fishing is likely to increase when more protected areas are established due to lack of monitoring, control and enforcement. Anglers can help with monitoring and reporting.

Take home message:

- The angling and aquaculture community, both with 10s of thousands of volunteers and professionals, deliver conservation and restoration work, monitoring and reporting of pollution and illegalities at little to no cost for society.



River Oder, August 2022



Article 9 - Agroecosystems (drained peatlands)

Climate change is already impacting EU (agro)ecosystems and severely affecting land managers.

- The completion dates for targets must be realistic, and account for climate change effects on the elements which make up the habitat and species protection
 - ⇒ Deadlines arbitrarily set will be doomed to fail to no advantage
- The reality of what peatland restoration vs peatland rewetting are must be explicit for farmers and foresters on the ground before plans go ahead.
- An over-dependence on CAP funding for restoration and maintenance will limit restoration aims, especially when CAP plans are not fully aligned with Restoration aims.
- Restoration is achievable but only with full education of land managers of **where, what, why, and how** restoration will improve their lives, not just their pocket. Talk to them, not at them



Article 10 - Forest ecosystems

- locally suited restoration needs:
 - based on verified field data,
 - taking into account long-term forest cycles
- Indicators and thresholds
 - based on practical needs (e.g. cycle for forest monitoring should be based on management practices reality and existing monitoring, i.e. to an interval of at least between 5 and 10 years)
 - based on existing proven methodologies and definitions
- timespan of reference levels should be carefully considered:
 - forest ecosystems were confronted with many fewer pressures (such as IAS, climate change or game pressures in the past)
- restoration should go hand in hand with sustainable forest management



Practice examples

Restoration of burnt forests in protected areas:
Adapting and mitigating climate change

SPAIN -Junta de Castilla y León

START



On 28 July, 2009, a large forest fire seriously affected (almost 4,000 ha) the Gredos Mountains Natural Park in the Spanish Central System range (Ávila, Castilla y León), which has also been designated a Special Area of Conservation (Habitats Directive 92/43/CEE).

Soil preparation



Since 2015, the regional government of Castilla y León has been working on ecological restoration in the area, adopting solutions using criteria for the mitigation of and adaptation to climate change.

AFTER 3 YEARS



The ultimate goal of restoration is to create a mixed forest that can generate greater stability for the ecosystem and is more resilient to the effects of climate change and other disturbances.

Practice examples

Angling organisations and angling volunteers all over Europe are engaged in inland water- and fish conservation- and restoration programmes since many years.



Now the angling organisations increasingly engage in marine projects as well.

An example: The Danish national angling organisation is in charge of a pioneer project to plant seagrass, reestablishing some removed stone reefs, and reestablishing some mussel reefs - to develop some best practises.

Project, 1 mill EUR: 'Coastal Helpers', 2021-2025

www.sportsfiskeren.dk/kysthjaelper



Danmarks Sportsfiskerforbund

Practice examples



**European Networks for
Private Land Conservation**

Bringing together **European networks** for private land conservation in a partnership of landowners and conservationists, working together to **protect and restore private land for nature and the climate in Europe**

- Tools, funding and incentives
- Trainings and knowledge sharing
- Civic engagement: volunteering and citizen science
- Awareness raising: ambassadors and campaigns

www.enplc.eu



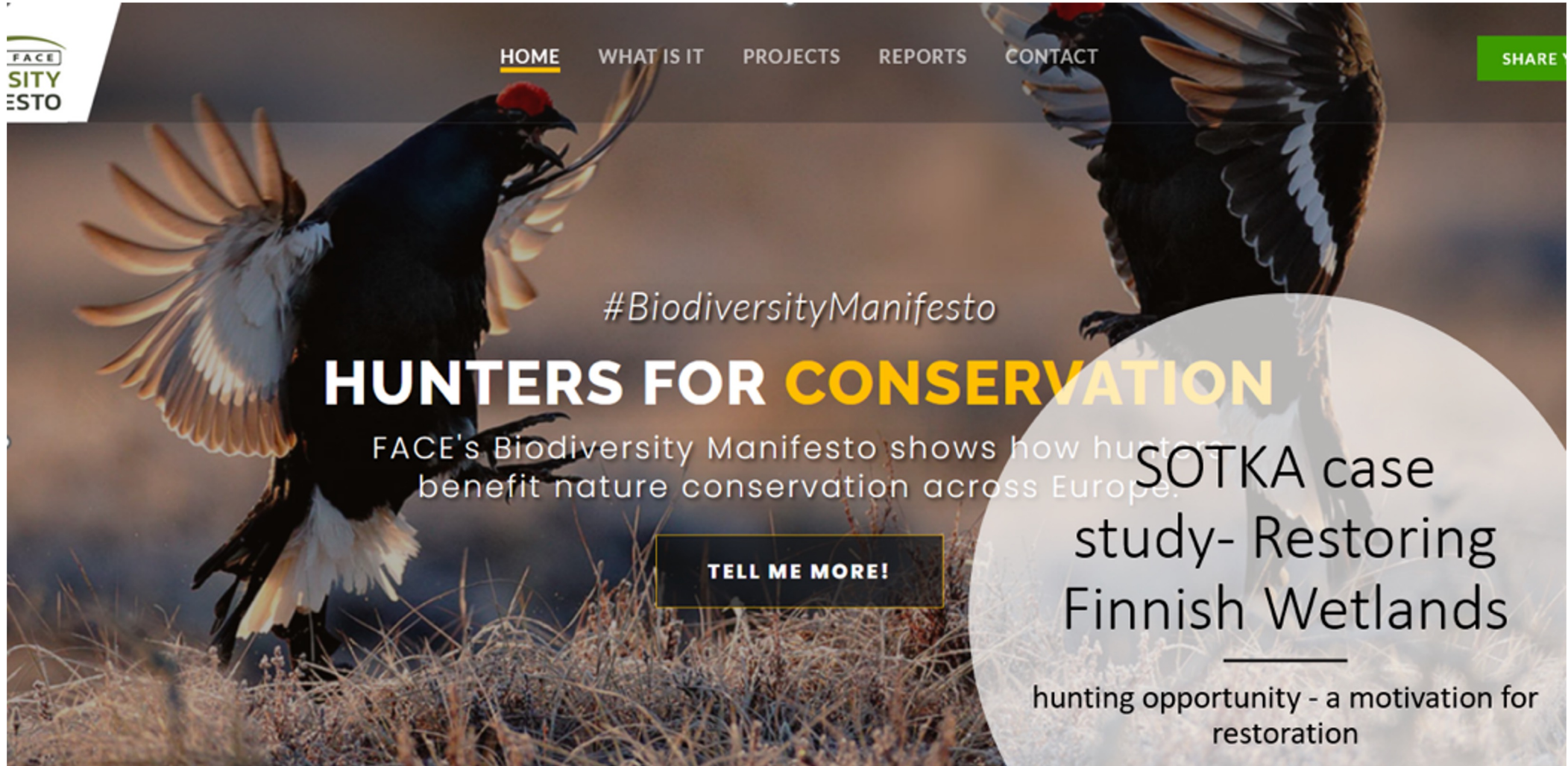
Volunteering campaign
by Federatie Particulier Grondbezit, NL



PLC ambassadors inspiring with good practices,
Ando Eelma EEML, EE



Practice examples



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#BiodiversityManifesto

HUNTERS FOR CONSERVATION

FACE's Biodiversity Manifesto shows how hunters benefit nature conservation across Europe.

[TELL ME MORE!](#)

SOTKA case study- Restoring Finnish Wetlands

hunting opportunity - a motivation for restoration





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