

EU Nature Restoration law; a summary of EGU's Response

To ensure the Nature Restoration Law is successful, the EGU Biodiversity Task Force recommends seven key points to be added, amended, or strengthened throughout the document.

Recommendation 1: Prepare for a resilient future

To ensure the impacts of climate change are adequately considered by EU Member States during the creation of their individual Restoration Plans, the EGU Biodiversity Task Force recommends removing Sections 8b and 9b from Articles 4 and 5. Member States should instead use the best available scientific evidence to predict areas of likely unavoidable habitat transformations resulting from climate change and integrate them into their planning.

Recommendation 2: Incorporate remediation into the Nature Restoration Law

Europe has 2.5 million estimated potential contaminated sites that could impact biodiversity restoration efforts. Significant progress on the remediation was listed as one of the key EU Nature Restoration Plan commitments in the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 but are not discussed in the current version. The EGU Biodiversity Task Force recommends including the role of remediation in restoring biodiversity in Article 4.

Recommendation 3: Include soil as a restoration target

Soil biodiversity supports clear air, enhances the entry and storage of water, reduces flooding and erosion, and increases carbon sequestration and resilience to climate change. The EGU Biodiversity Task Force recommends that soil biodiversity be included in Articles 6 and 9 as an additional target.

Recommendation 4: Strengthen and clarify ecosystem targets

The EGU Biodiversity Task Force recommends increasing the targets within Article 6 beyond a 3% increase in the national area of urban green space by 2040 and beyond 10% urban tree canopy cover by 2050. These increases are likely to reduce flooding, heat stress, and both air and noise pollution.

Recommendation 5: Connecting ecosystems and promoting multidisciplinary

The EGU Biodiversity Task Force encourages the Nature Restoration Law to go beyond establishing ecosystems of good condition and additionally consider species and forest ecosystems that will generate greater biodiversity, provide more ecosystem services, and be resilient to future threats.

Recommendation 6: Knowledge transfer and documentation

The EGU Biodiversity Task Force welcomes the science-based approach used throughout the Nature Restoration Law but recommends that it also outline mechanisms that will promote knowledge sharing among Member States.

Recommendation 7: Effectively engage with society

The Task Force recommends that citizen engagement be prioritised and driven by evidence-informed methods and with the support of experts to mitigate unintended negative outcomes from conservation actions. This includes empowering local people with knowledge.

Further information and continued support

The Task Force is also available to answer any questions and to support policymakers in translating scientific research, writing fact sheets, and providing summary documents on relevant, ground-breaking research. For more information, please visit <https://www.egu.eu/policy/biodiversity/> or email policy@egu.eu for detailed information on each of the recommendations above.