

2018-2019 BI-ANNUAL STRATEGIC PLAN: HIGHLIGHTS

In 2013, the BirdLife global Partnership adopted a new overarching strategy that guides the common work of all BirdLife Partners. The BirdLife Europe strategy is structured around Policy and Conservation Teams, headed by the Regional Director and supported by Communication, Fundraising and Administration Teams. The EU strategy of BirdLife Europe is to use our network and expertise to inform and influence the development and implementation of EU policies and practices and to support, guide and deliver conservation actions in support of the following BirdLife Programmes:

Preventing extinctions; Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas; Migratory Birds and Flyways; Invasive Alien Species; Marine; Agriculture and forests; Climate Change; Local Engagement and Empowerment and Capacity Development.

For the purposes of this Framework Agreement, BirdLife Europe has divided its strategy into six work areas: **Area 1** – biodiversity policy; **Area 2** – agriculture; **Area 3** – marine conservation; **Area 4** – climate change; **Area 5** – communications: mobilise public opinion, civil society and decision makers. **Area 6** – Role of the EU in Environmental Protection. This is a new Area recognising that the broader BirdLife Europe mission is increasingly dependent on and should contribute to the health of the EU itself, an overarching political body reflecting the borderless nature of wildlife, nature and birds.

Main objectives

Area 1 – BIODIVERSITY POLICY (primarily Environmental Objectives). BirdLife Europe will:

- Objective 1 – Improve the knowledge base for the conservation of birds in Europe.
- Objective 2 – Support the development of a robust post 2020 biodiversity policy.
- Objective 3 – Support the EC and Member States in the implementation of the Birds and Habitats Directives, with a focus on the Natura 2000 network and bird protection.
- Objective 4 – Improve conservation of migratory birds in the EU, particularly through addressing illegal killing and other human induced mortality and through support of wetland conservation projects in the Mediterranean.
- Objective 5 – Promote best practice and safeguards in corporate environmental management for biodiversity protection, ecosystem restoration and green infrastructure
- Objective 6 – Support EC and Member States in rolling out green infrastructure and achieving the 15% restoration target
- Objective 7 – Support the EC and Member States in achieving a robust roll out of the EU Regulation on Invasive Alien Species
- Objective 8 – Strengthen conservation capacity in the EU neighbouring countries (particularly the Western Balkans and Caucasus)

Area 2 – AGRICULTURE (primarily Environmental, but also Climate Objectives). BirdLife Europe will:

- Objective 1 – Promote a transition towards sustainable land management and food production that delivers for biodiversity conservation and climate mitigation and adaptation in Europe.
- Objective 2 – Support the continued implementation of the new Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) to ensure it delivers more for biodiversity, climate action and the environment
- Objective 3- Promote a reform of the post 2020 CAP to support biodiversity conservation, climate action and resource efficiency as well as an effective agriculture system.

Area 3 – MARINE CONSERVATION (primarily Environmental Objectives). BirdLife Europe will:

- Objective 1 – National and EU fisheries policies promote sustainable fisheries and marine biodiversity, including minimising the negative impact of fisheries on the wider environment.
 - In relation to bycatch, effective mitigation measures identified, proposed and adopted in member states will significantly reduce seabird bycatch for long-line fisheries, and identified and proven for gillnet fisheries
- Objective 2 – Complete the identification of coastal and offshore marine IBAs in the EU and encourage their legal protection and effective management as SPAs within the Natura 2000 network.
- Objective 3 – Marine IBAs on the high seas identified and delineated, and included within national and international networks and/or plans for protected or environmentally sensitive areas.

- Objective 4 – Understand and tackle the impacts of human pressures (e.g. aquaculture, marine pollution, and renewable energy) on seabirds (including cumulative impacts) and on wider biodiversity including ensuring that the Integrated Maritime Policy implements the ecosystem based approach, especially in marine spatial planning.

Area 4 – CLIMATE CHANGE (primarily Climate, but also Environmental Objectives). BirdLife Europe will:

- Objective 1 – Ensure EU policies contribute to ambitious and effective climate change mitigation, especially in agriculture, forests and other land use, in ways that are compatible with environmental protection.
- Objective 2 – Support the development and implementation of policies for ambitious deployment of renewable energy and related infrastructure in harmony with the natural environment

Area 5 – COMMUNICATIONS: MOBILISE PUBLIC OPINION, CIVIL SOCIETY AND DECISION MAKERS. (Environmental and Climate Objectives). BirdLife Europe will:

- Objective 1 – Increase citizens' understanding, awareness and support for the conservation of biodiversity and the role of the EU in the protection of nature.
- Objective 2 - Ensure that EU and national decision makers and stakeholders are aware, informed and mobilised for biodiversity conservation, climate action and environmental protection.
- Objective 3 - Strengthen the EU wide network of grassroots conservation organisations through the BirdLife Partnership and promote its coordination within the global BirdLife network.

Area 6 – ROLE OF THE EU IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION. (Environmental and Climate Objectives)

- Objective 1 – Engage with the Brexit process to ensure that any outcome does not undermine environmental protection
- Objective 2 – Engage with the future of Europe debate to ensure that the EU remains a strong player in environmental protection
- Objectives 3 – Strengthen the EU role in global biodiversity conservation efforts through its development policy and its engagement with Multilateral Environmental Agreement (MEAs).