

Part 1 - General questions

1. How important is nature conservation to you?

Very Important

2. How familiar are you with EU nature conservation measures?

Quite/Very Familiar (to all)

3. How important to nature conservation are the Birds and Habitats Directives?

Very Important

4. Are the Directives' strategic objectives appropriate for protecting nature in the EU?

Very Appropriate

5. Is the approach set out in the Directives an appropriate way to protect species and habitats in the EU?

Very Appropriate

6. Have the Directives been effective in protecting nature?

Very Effective

6 b. If you think the Directives have not been effective or have only been somewhat effective, is this mainly due to:

Do not answer (implementation issues should be raised by experts in the free text question)

7. How important is the Natura 2000 network for protecting threatened species and habitats in the EU?

Very Important

8. How do the costs of implementing the Birds and Habitats Directives compare with the benefits from their implementation?

The benefits of implementation far exceed the costs

9. While the Directives are primarily focused on conserving nature, to what extent have the following been taken into account in implementing them?

Enough (to all)

10. Do EU policies in the following areas generally support the objectives of the Birds and Habitats Directives?

Agriculture & rural development: No

Fisheries & maritime: Could Contribute More

Cohesion (regional): Could Contribute More

Energy: No

Transport: No

Environment: Yes

Industry/enterprise: Could Contribute More

Climate change: Could Contribute More

Health: Could Contribute More

Research & innovation: Could Contribute More

11. To what extent have the Directives provided more value than could have been achieved through national or regional laws in this area?

Significant Added Value

12. To what extent have the Directives added value to the economy (e.g. job creation, business opportunities linked to Natura 2000)

Significant Added Value

13. To what extent have the Directives brought additional social benefits (e.g. health, culture, recreation, education)?

Significant Added Value

14. Is there still a need for EU legislation to protect species and habitats?

Yes

Part 2 - specific questions

15. How effective have the Birds and Habitats Directives been in:

Protecting threatened bird species: Very Effective

Protecting all wild bird species: Very Effective

Protecting threatened species (other than birds): Very Effective

Protecting Europe's most threatened habitat types: Very Effective

Establishing a system to protect species: Very Effective

Ensuring that species are used sustainably (e.g. hunting, fishing): Very Effective

Establishing an EU-wide network of protected areas (the Natura 2000 Network): Very Effective

Managing & restoring sites in the Natura 2000 network: Very Effective

Ensuring proper assessment of risks to Natura 2000 sites from new plans & projects: Very Effective

Regulating the impact of new plans & projects on Natura 2000 sites: Very Effective

Encouraging the management of landscape features outside Natura 2000 sites: Not Very Effective

16. To what extent do the Directives help meet the EU Biodiversity Strategy objectives?

Protecting species & habitats: A very significant contribution

Maintaining & restoring degraded ecosystems & their services: Significant/Very Significant

Conserving & improving biodiversity on agricultural & forested land: Significant

Ensuring sustainable use of fisheries resources: Small

Combating the introduction & spread of invasive alien species: Small

Helping conserve biodiversity worldwide: Significant

17. How effective overall have the Directives been so far?

Very Effective (to both)

18. Where the Directives have succeeded, to what extent have the following contributed?

The Directives are clearly worded: Major Contribution

Effective enforcement: Major Contribution

Effective EU-level coordination: Major Contribution

Effective national coordination: Major Contribution

Effective regional coordination: Moderate Contribution (Major in federal countries)

Effective local coordination: Major Contribution

Guidance & best practice on implementation: Major Contribution

Sufficient scientific knowledge of species & habitats: Major Contribution

Dedicated funding: Major Contribution

Appropriate human resources: /Major Contribution

Stakeholder involvement: Major Contribution

Public awareness & support: Major Contribution

Nature conservation is well integrated into other policies: Major Contribution

Appropriate management of protected areas: Major Contribution

International cooperation to protect species & habitats: Moderate Contribution

19. To what extent are the following limiting progress towards the Directives' objectives?

The Directives are not clearly worded: Not Restricting Progress

Ineffective enforcement: Significantly Restricting Progress

Ineffective EU-level coordination: Not Restricting Progress

Ineffective national coordination: Significantly Restricting Progress

Ineffective regional coordination: Significantly Restricting Progress

Ineffective local coordination: Significantly Restricting Progress

Insufficient guidance & best practice on implementation : Somewhat Restricting Progress

Unclear guidance & best practice on implementation: Somewhat Restricting Progress

Gaps in scientific knowledge of species & habitats: Somewhat Restricting Progress

Insufficient funding: Significantly Restricting Progress

Insufficient human resources: Significantly Restricting Progress

Insufficient stakeholder involvement: Significantly Restricting Progress

Low public awareness & support: Somewhat Restricting Progress

Insufficient integration into other policies: Significantly Restricting Progress

Lack of appropriate management of protected areas: Significant Restricting Progress

Lack of or limited international cooperation to protect species & habitats: Somewhat Restricting Progress

20. How significant are the benefits associated with the Directives?

All Major

21. How significant are the costs associated with the Directives?

Natura 2000 site management costs: Minor

Costs of protecting species of birds: Minor

Costs of protecting species other than birds: Minor

Administrative costs: Insignificant

Opportunity costs: Minor

22. Are these costs proportionate, given the benefits associated with the Directives?

Proportionate (to all)

23. On the basis of experience to date, to what extent have the following caused any inefficiency?

How the Directives are written: Not at all

How compliance is enforced at EU level: To some extent

How the Directives are implemented nationally: To a large extent

How the Directives are implemented regionally: To some extent (To a large extent
In federal countries)

How the Directives are implemented locally: To a large extent

Interaction with other EU law & policies: To a large extent

24. Have any of the following become more or less efficient over time?

How the Directives are managed at EU level: More efficient

How the Directives are implemented nationally: More efficient

How the Directives are implemented regionally: More efficient

How the Directives are implemented locally: More efficient

Interaction with other EU law & policies: More efficient

Interaction with other national law & policies: More efficient

25. Overall, how well are funding needs for implementing the Directives being met?

Insufficient funding, efficiently used

25. How important are the Directives to safeguarding Europe's biodiversity?

Very Important (to both)

26. How important are the Directives to protecting species and habitats from the following pressures and threats?

Loss or fragmentation of habitats: Very important

Unsustainable use of species & habitats: Very important

Pollution: Important

Introduction & spread of non-native plants & animals: Important

Climate change: Very important

27. How well do the Directives cover the habitats and species that most need conservation in the EU?

Sufficiently/Very well (to both)

28. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?

Totally agree (to all)

29. Are there any significant gaps, overlaps or inconsistencies between the Birds and Habitats Directives and the following EU environment legislation that limit the extent to which the Directives can be effectively implemented?

No (to all)

30. To what extent have the EU Birds and Habitats Directives helped improve the following, over and above what could have been achieved through national or regional legislation?

Significant Contribution (to all)

31. If the EU nature Directives did not exist, would the overall state of species and habitats in the EU be...

Much worse

Final remarks

Start by mentioning the relevance of the EU Nature Directives for protection of biodiversity in your country, then highlight specific implementation issues in your country/field, if they exist, point out sectors/lobbies/interests that have been an obstacle to implementation (eg highlight negative role of intensive farming/agri policy), and highlight need for enforcement.

(Text of 1 to 2000 characters will be accepted)

