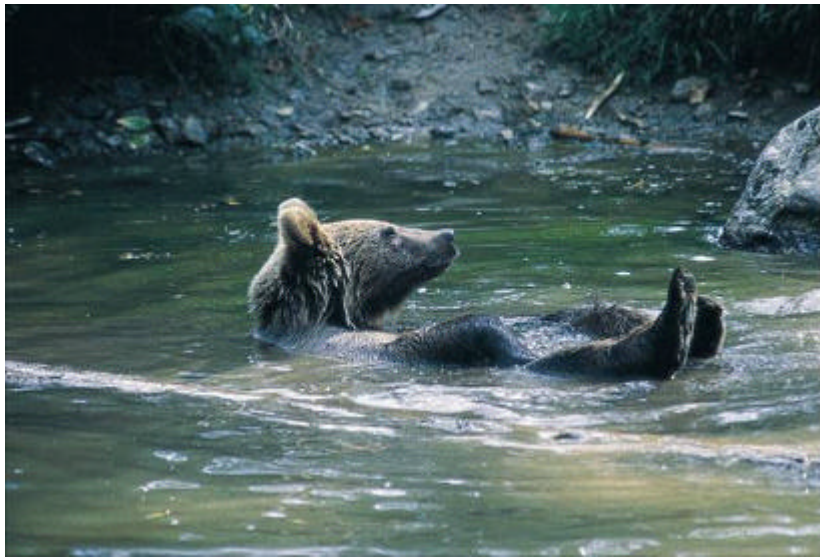
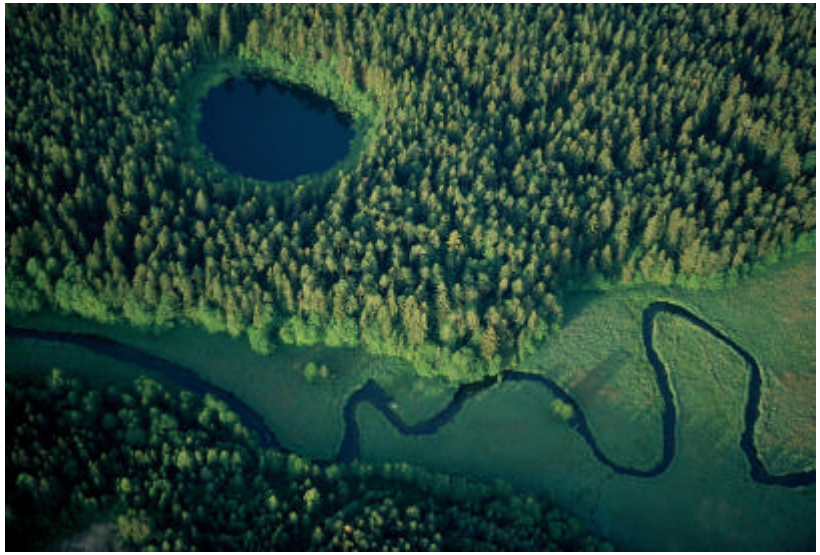
WWF for a living planet®



Biodiversity in Europe and the EEA & Norwegian Financial Mechanisms -

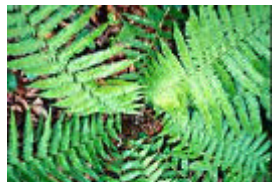


a WWF comment

Stefanie Lang, WWF EPO, Nov 2006









What are we talking about

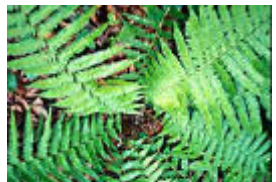
Globally, we are still losing biodiversity
Our ecosystems are overexploited
UK population uses 2,4 globes to sustain it`s lifestyle

1990 in the Eastern Parts of Europe, with the breakdown of communism, biodiversity went up in Eastern Europe – cleaner air, cleaner water, untouched areas, low level of urban sprawl, low level of private transport, strong recycling habits

This is changing now – we are at a turning point!









Depleting our Natural Resources, many species remain threatened (EEA 2005)

42% of native mammals
15% of birds
45% of butterflies
30% of amphibians
40% of reptiles
52% of freshwater fish

Municipal waste generated per person (kg per year)

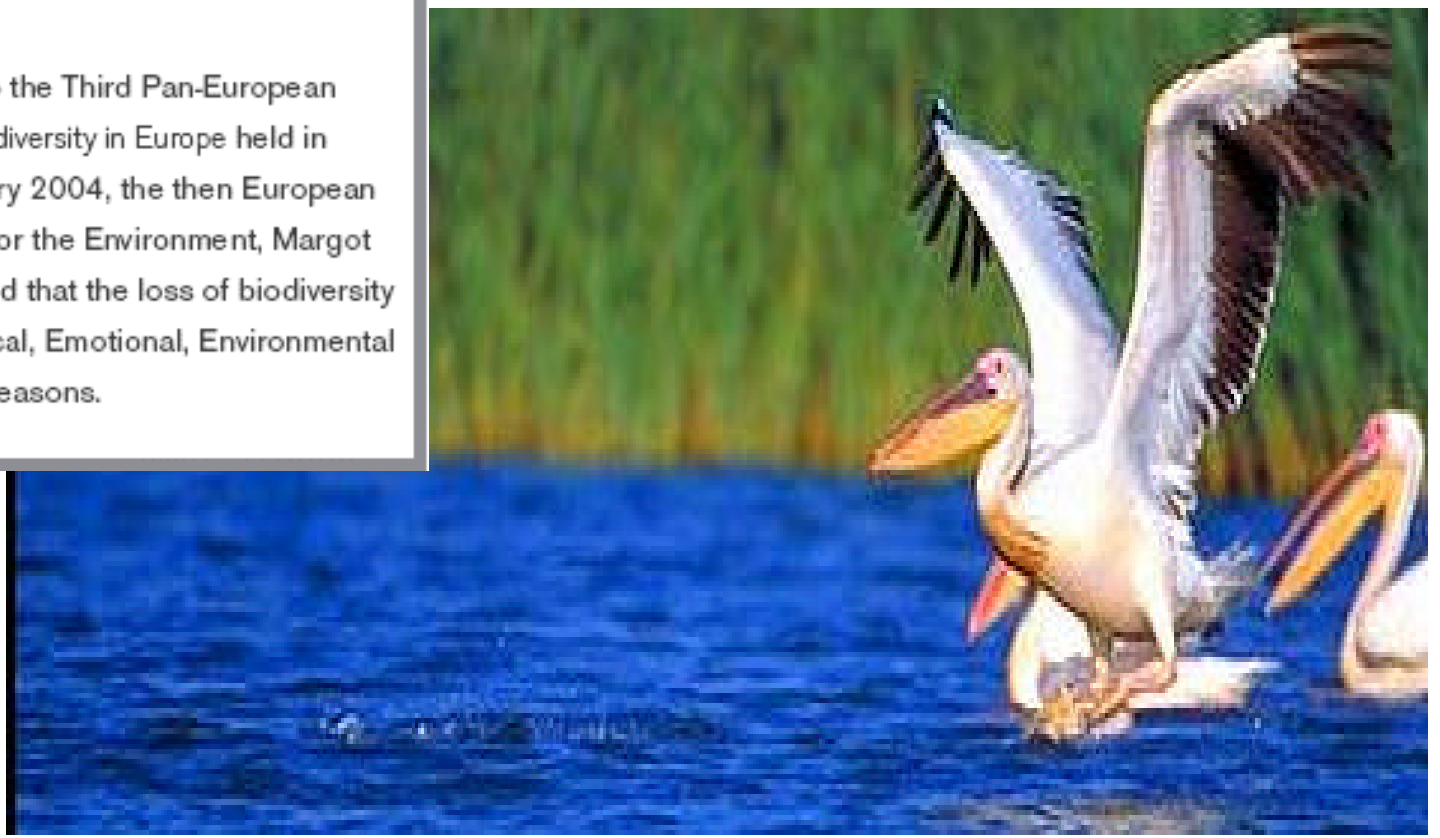


Source: Eurostat 2005



Why does it matter?

In her speech to the Third Pan-European Conference Biodiversity in Europe held in Madrid in January 2004, the then European Commissioner for the Environment, Margot Wallström, stated that the loss of biodiversity matters for Ethical, Emotional, Environmental and Economic reasons.

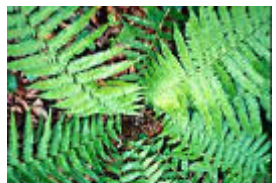


Presentation structure:

1) Why is WWF a stakeholder in this process?
2) What are our experiences with EU Regional Funds and biodiversity?
3) Where WWF sees funding gaps?
4) What does this mean for the EEA & NO mechanisms?







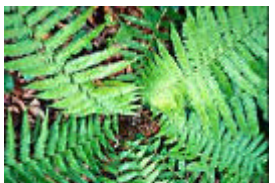


1) Why is WWF a stakeholder in this process?

- **WWF has been commenting the mechanisms.**
- **WWF was involved in EU Regional Funds regulation and guidelines policy work.**
- **WWF has developed two referential funding manuals.**
- **WWF is involved in programming, implementation and monitoring of Regional Funds and Natura 2000 projects.**
- **WWF network is a potential beneficiary of the funds**





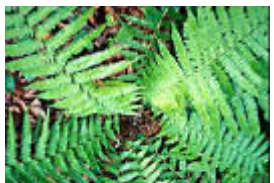




2) What are WWF’s experiences with sustainability and biodiversity in EU Regional Funds?



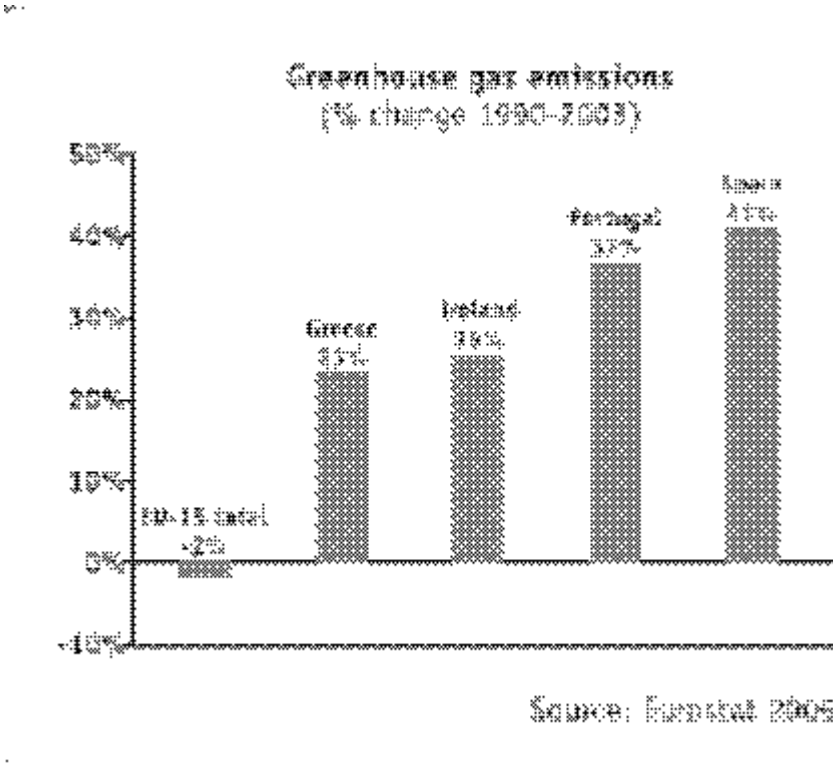




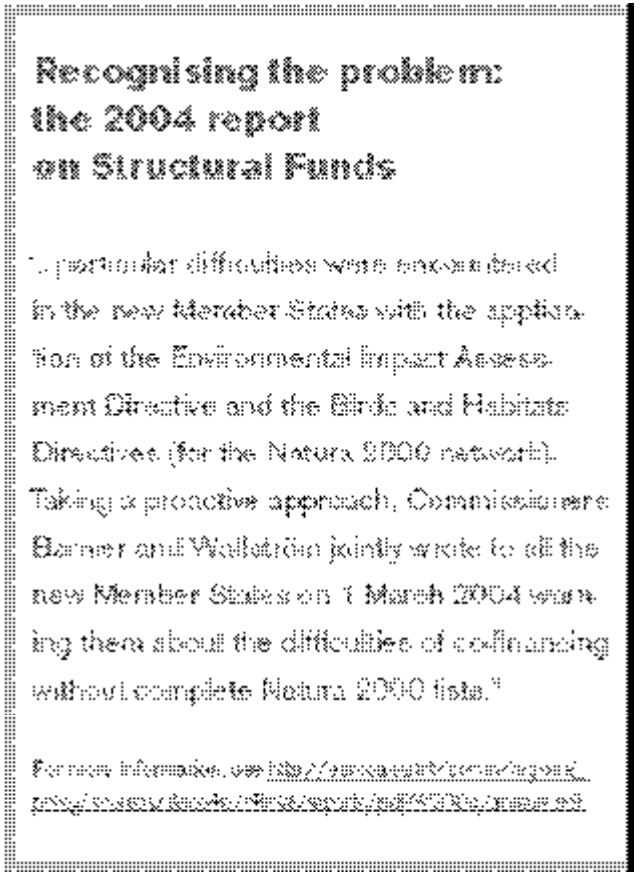


Trend to realise old-fashioned development models

- Building large infrastructures
- A very narrow sectoral approach
- No regional development vision
- Few links between economic, social and environmental objectives



Difficulties to effectively integrate sustainability and biodiversity



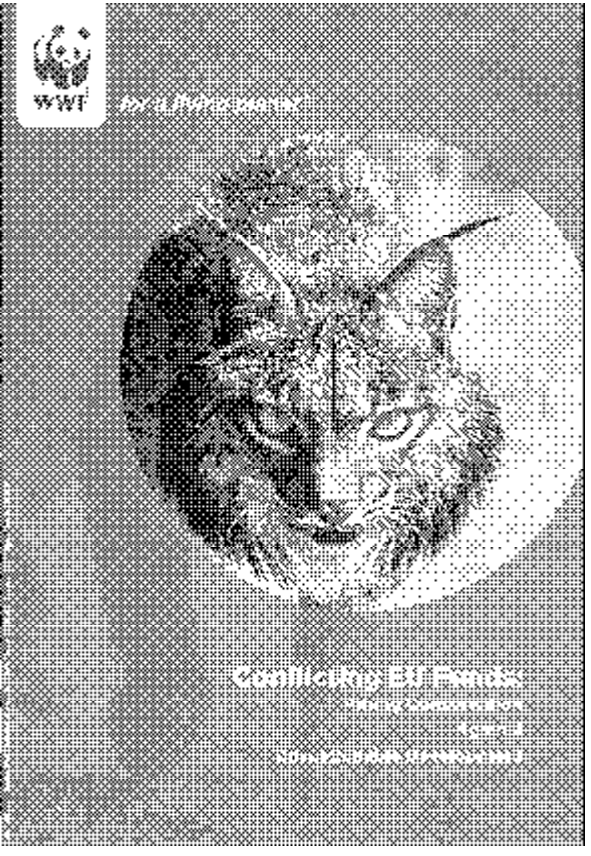
Recognising the problem: the 2004 report on Structural Funds

"...particular difficulties were encountered in the new Member States with the application of the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive and the Birds and Habitats Directives (for the Natura 2000 network). Taking a proactive approach, Commissioners Barnier and Wallström jointly wrote to all the new Member States on 1 March 2004 warning them about the difficulties of co-financing without complete Natura 2000 lists."

For more information see http://www.europarl.europa.eu/workingpapers/budg/pdf/regional_en.pdf

- Only rhetorical dedication to sustainable development and biodiversity
- Gap between development and nature
- No mechanisms or procedures for integration

Money still mainly goes into destructive projects



- Incorrect application of environmental safeguards
- Too much „overriding public interest“
- Funds can not be withhold immediately in case of problems

Lack of control and evaluation



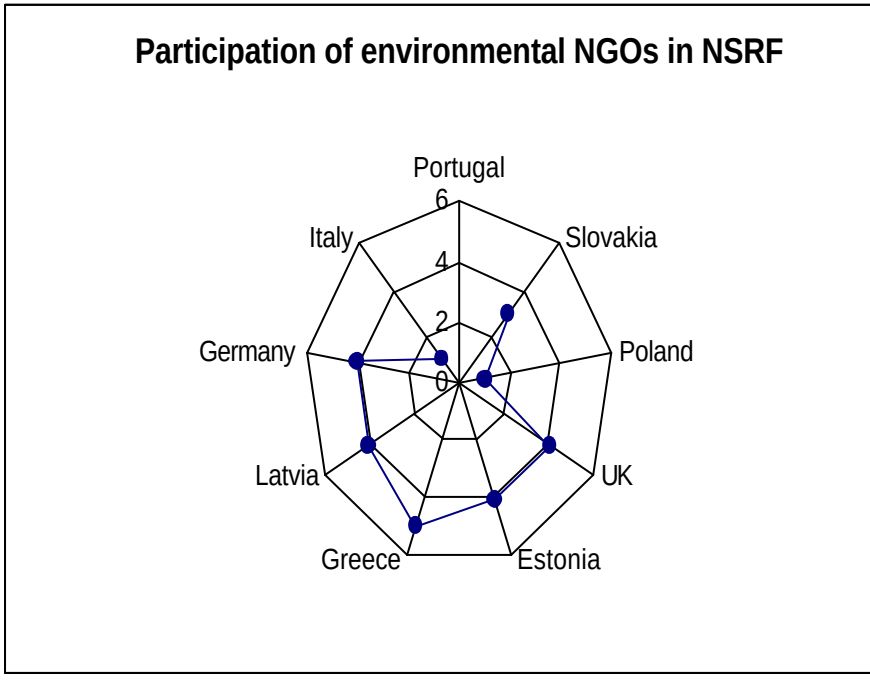
- No monitoring and evaluation of the impacts of the funding policy
- Implementation often does not involve NGOs, other stakeholders or the public
- Lack of transparency in programming and decision-making

Low funding for biodiversity

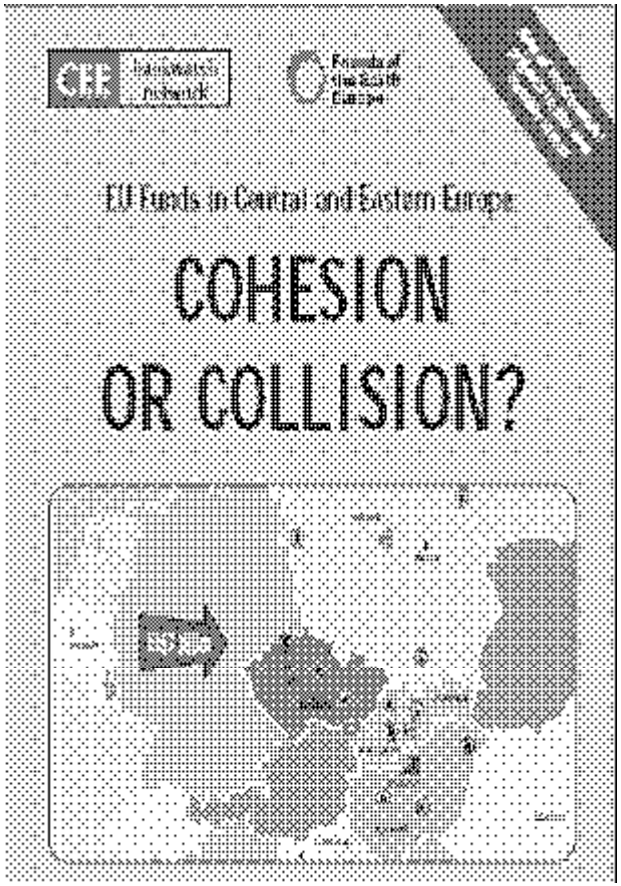
- Low priority for biodiversity amongst fund managers: „We do development, we are not a frog-saving office!“ German regional ERDF responsible in 2006
- „Smaller“ biodiversity projects have still high administrative costs and are therefore unattractive

NGOs can rarely benefit from the Funding

- NGOs are not involved in the programming
- NGOs can rarely be a direct beneficiary, but have to go through public bodies
- NGOs can become vulnerable to political developments
- High risk for NGOs as transfers are delayed

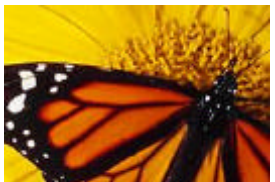


Why are NGOs important here?



>Act as a watchdog
>Voice the worries and perspectives of the local people
>Help to identify and settle conflicts from the start
>Bring new ideas, motivation and innovative thinking



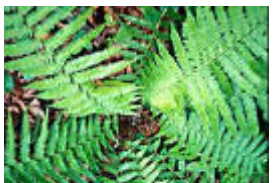






3) Where does WWF see funding gaps for sustainability and biodiversity in Europe?









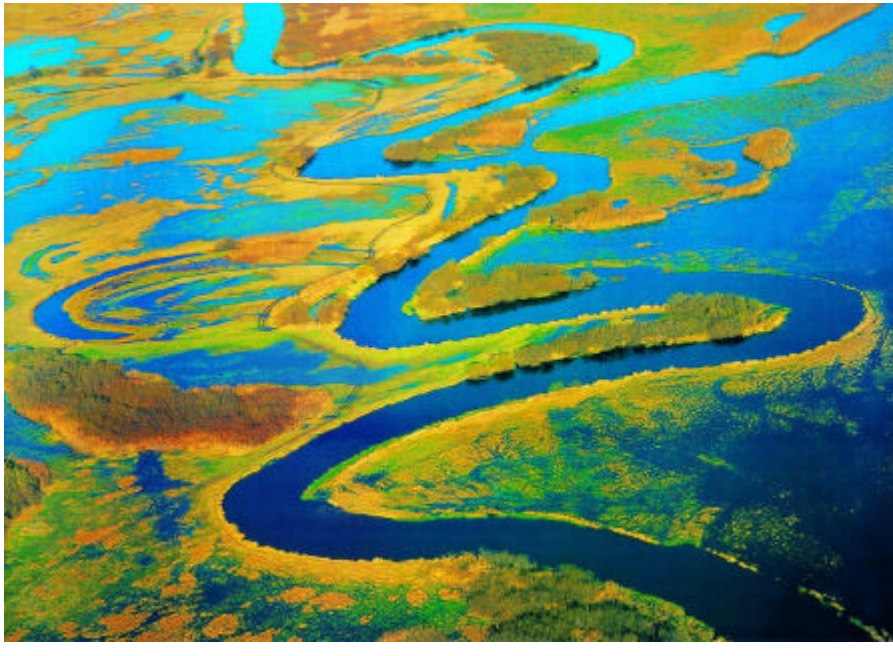
Water bodies, Wetlands, Rivers



- River and floodplain renaturation
- Natural flood protection
- Integrated river basin management
- The Water Framework Directive implementation

Ongoing site management

- Once site management is ongoing, it is very difficult to find the funding
- Lack of qualified staff for in-situ site management
- Soft measures like monitoring

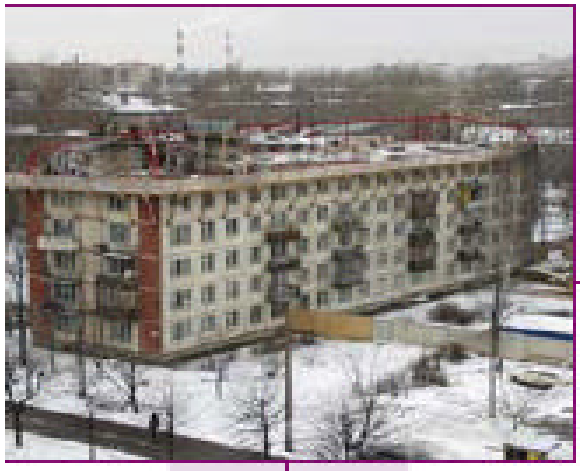


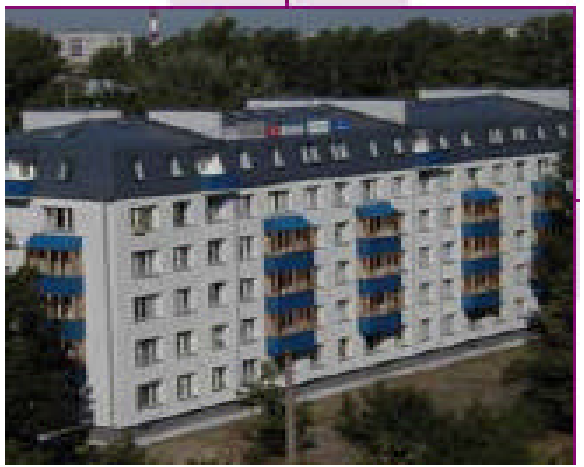
Communication of biodiversity



- Lack of a general discussion and communication about the local impacts of biodiversity loss
- How can nature protection create growth and jobs
- Integrate biodiversity and it`s protection into all other policy sectors

Projects to showcase sustainable development





- Link social and economic benefits to the halt of biodiversity loss and sustainable development
- Sustainable consumption and green jobs

Other funding gaps to be defined regionally

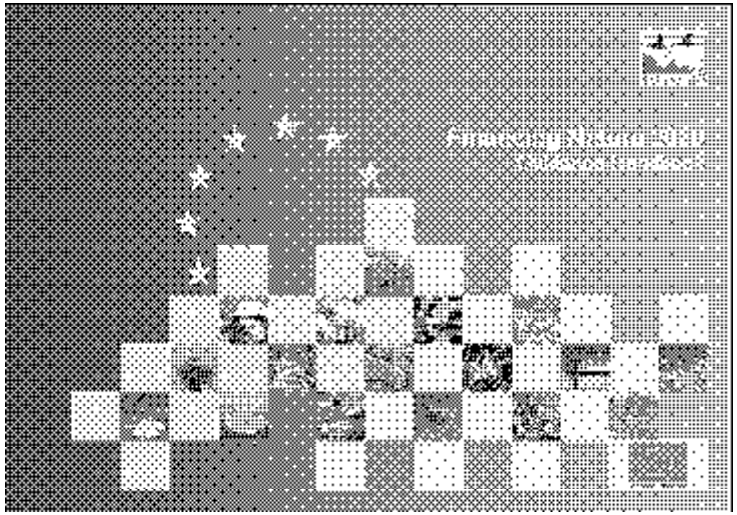
- Funding gaps are not only defined by EU Funding
- Difference between theoretical and practical funding gaps
- Ask the people on the ground!



For more information concerning EU funding possibilities, consult:

http://www.panda.org/about_wwf/where_we_work/europe/what_we_do/epo/initiatives/regional_policy/publications/index.cfm

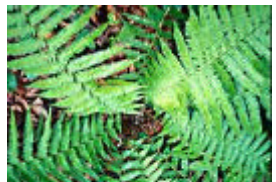




http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/nature_conservation/natura_2000_network/financing_natura_2000/guidance/index_en.htm





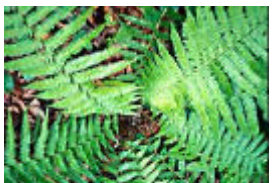




4) What does this mean for the EEA and Norwegian funding mechanism?









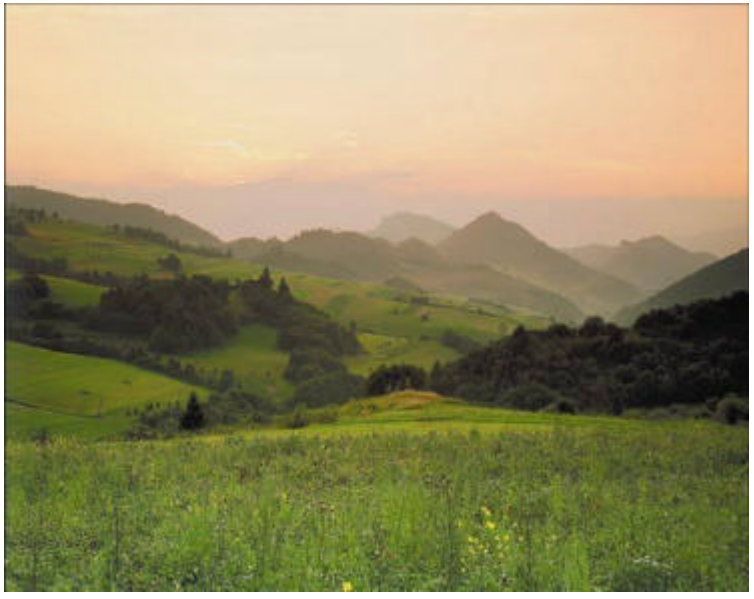
Do not just copy imperfect EU policies



- Dare something different to EU funding, not just an add-on!
- It is „your“ money, not EU money!
- Cut bureaucracy

Use the EEA & NO funds as a laboratory!

Support the *integration* of existing measures and mechanisms to realise sustainability (like green taxation, Natura 2000, polluter-pays-principle, ecosystem services, sustainable energy provision, alternative transport etc.)



Support a visionary approach of regional development

- Encourage (or force) regional actors to think differently about regional development (look at Norway)
- Support the creation of a bottom-up vision of how to develop a sustainable region (regional development workshops with all stakeholders, long-term and inter-sectoral planning)

Change implementation culture



- Emphasise on quality of projects
- Do not only audit financially, but evaluate the impact of programmes
- Apply strict environmental scrutiny
- Cut down bureaucracy

Support NGOs

- Cut red tape and minimise administration
- Put the money as closely and as quickly to the NGOs as possible to not risk their bankrupcy
- Support NGOs as independently from the Member State level as possible
- Get started soon, NGOs are waiting for you!

Avoid frustration

- Project demands are much higher than actual money (Estonia: 6 Mio dedicated, application for 76 Mio)
- Think of a mechanism to reduce project preparation costs at an early stage (project sketches to be shortlisted before a full-fledged project is prepared)
- Cut bureaucracy – implement good practice

Sorry, we never said it would be easy, but we need to make it happen!



Thank you!



www.panda.org/eu

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