BioSpace25 - Biodiversity insight from Space
10 - 14 February 2025 | ESA-ESRIN | Frascati - Italy

Summary: Assessing nature restoration targets established by European and international policies

Thursday, 13 February, 15:00-18:30

Speakers

Panel

Yelena Finegold
FAO

Wojciech Mroz
Eurosite

Moderators & presenters

Jan-Erik Petersen
European Environment Agency

Roland Krämer
Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, Germany

Branimir Radun
Oikon

Leon Wiesner
EARSC

Michelle Hermes
EARSC

Ruuta Skujina
Evenflow / ESA SEF

Rob Hendriks
Biodiversa + / Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food security and Nature, The Netherlands

You

Objectives

Discuss national reporting for the Global Biodiversity Framework:

- Help countries prepare their national reports due in February 2026.

Discuss drafting of National Restoration Plans:

- Assist EU countries in developing draft National Restoration Plans for the Nature Restoration Regulation later in 2026.

Understand how requirements at different levels of governance fit together and complement one another

- Restoration is often local, with policies at all levels of governance including EU and international.

Foster collaboration among stakeholders:

- Bring together end-users, EO downstream industry, and stakeholders at European, international, and national levels.

Maximize impact and success:

- Identify strategies for achieving the best outcomes in biodiversity and nature restoration efforts.

Address blocking points:

- Highlight and tackle potential challenges that could hinder progress in effective policy implementation and meeting these deadlines.

Key Messages from Speakers

- The Nature Restoration Regulation (NRR) presents an opportunity to **harmonize data reporting across countries**. Implementation challenges remain. Many aspects of the NRR remain difficult to put into practice due to a lack of clear methodologies and guidelines.
- Easily **measurable indicators** and standardized data are essential for cross-country comparisons.
- **Targeted support** is needed to help partners implement restoration efforts effectively.
- Advances in monitoring and **well-defined metrics** on what countries report should prevent inconsistencies seen in the Habitat Directive by ensuring clear methodologies.
- We need clear insights globally into the status, locations, and impact areas of restoration efforts, including their **connections to nature and to people** .
- More **in situ data and well-funded standardization efforts** are necessary, fostering collaboration among diverse stakeholders.
- National stakeholders require **additional resources and a stronger policy mandate** to implement restoration initiatives.
- Stronger partnerships between the Earth Observation industry and public institutions are key, built on **trust, mutual understanding, and capacity building.**

Recommendations

- Strengthen multi-stakeholder dialogue: having continued and iterative conversations and collaboration between Member States, NGOs, institutions, the EO industry (including ground data expertise), and public and private users with interests in restoration activities complementing existing structures like Eionet → **need for “facilitators of knowledge” for a "continued process of knowledge co-creation"** → role for ESA?
- Facilitate policy implementation: provide **targeted guidance** to support policy implementation at the Member State level.
- For the Nature Restoration Regulation, create clear methodologies for monitoring which allow for the **provision of uniform data.**
- Create a knowledge-sharing platform: develop a dedicated space for **exchanging best practices** and lessons learned.
- Act with urgency: proactive action **now** will prevent future inefficiencies and challenges.
- Ensure ambitious coordination: maintain **strong collaboration** between national and European entities to effectively contribute to global frameworks.
- Involve countries in tool development: engage Member States in **designing implementation tools** to ensure they are practical and fit for purpose.

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THANK YOU!

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