

EU roadmap towards nature credits

RGI Webinar: 'Connecting Nature Finance: Understanding biodiversity credits and their role in a nature-positive future'

9 October 2025

env-nature-credits@ec.europa.eu

Roadmap towards nature credits, 7 July 2025

Introduction

1. The economic and business case for nature-positive action

2. Nature credits

3. Learning from and building on experience with carbon markets

4. Developing nature credits

Conclusion

[Communication COM/2025/374 final](#)

[Press release](#)

[Q&A](#)

[Climate-biodiversity nexus study](#)

[B&BP thematic report](#)



Public finance is essential but insufficient

EU biodiversity spending has scaled up

- Target of 10% of total EU budget for biodiversity
- Main contributing funds: CAP, Cohesion Funds, InvestEU, Horizon Europe, LIFE

Public funds must be protected and prioritised

- Address long-term needs with limited returns
- Support public goods and equity concerns

Cannot bridge the biodiversity finance gap alone

- EU: €65bn/year needed, **€37.4 bn/year gap** ([EIR 2025](#))
- Global gap is around \$700bn/year
- Private finance must be mobilised at scale

Leverage and co-financing roles for public funds

- Combine public and private sources in blended structures
- Use public guarantees to de-risk private investment

Kunming-Montréal Global Biodiversity Framework



Target 18 - reduce harmful incentives by at least \$500 billion per year, and scale up positive incentives for biodiversity



Target 19 - Mobilize \$200 billion per year for biodiversity from all sources, including \$30 billion through international finance

Business cases identified

Nature-positive models build long-term value

- Create differentiation and competitive advantage

Risk management is a key driver

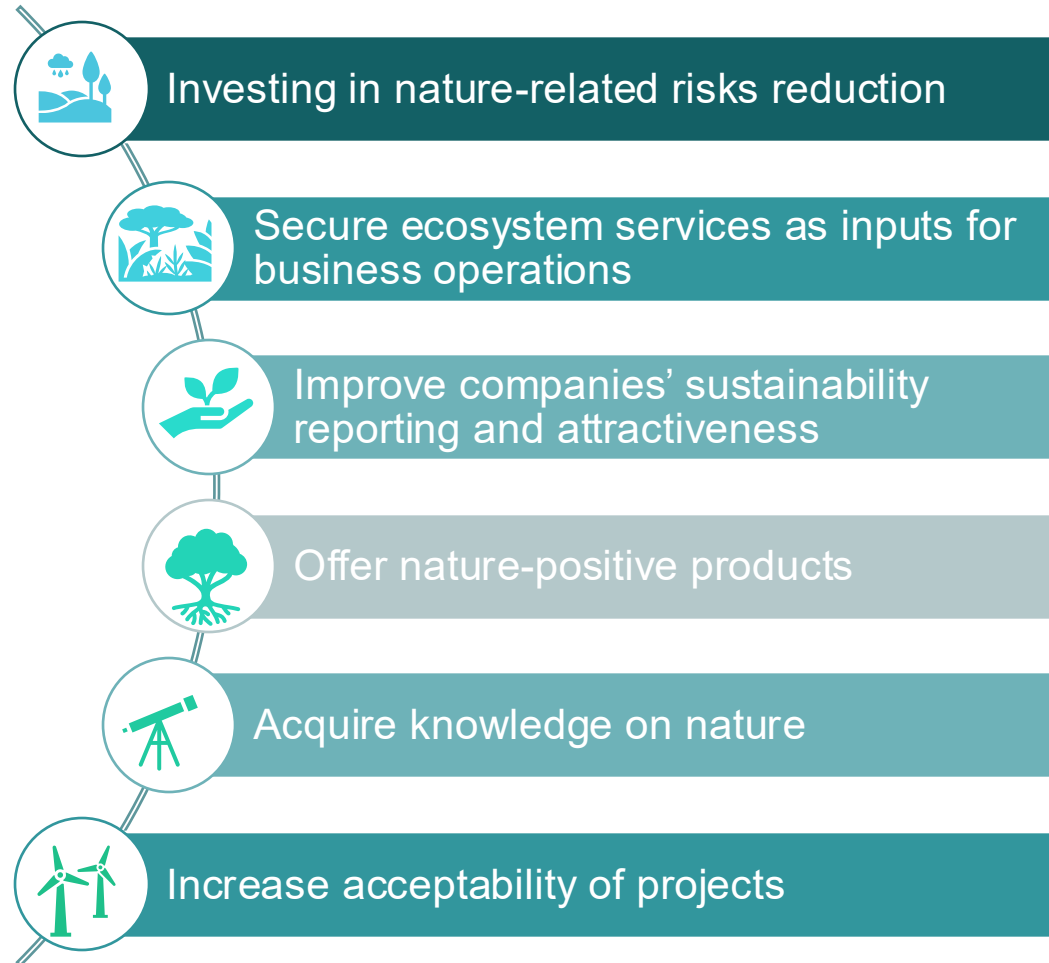
- Financial institutions are adapting their models
- Nature loss is now seen as a systemic financial risk
- Climate-nature integration is gaining ground

Reporting frameworks reinforce demand

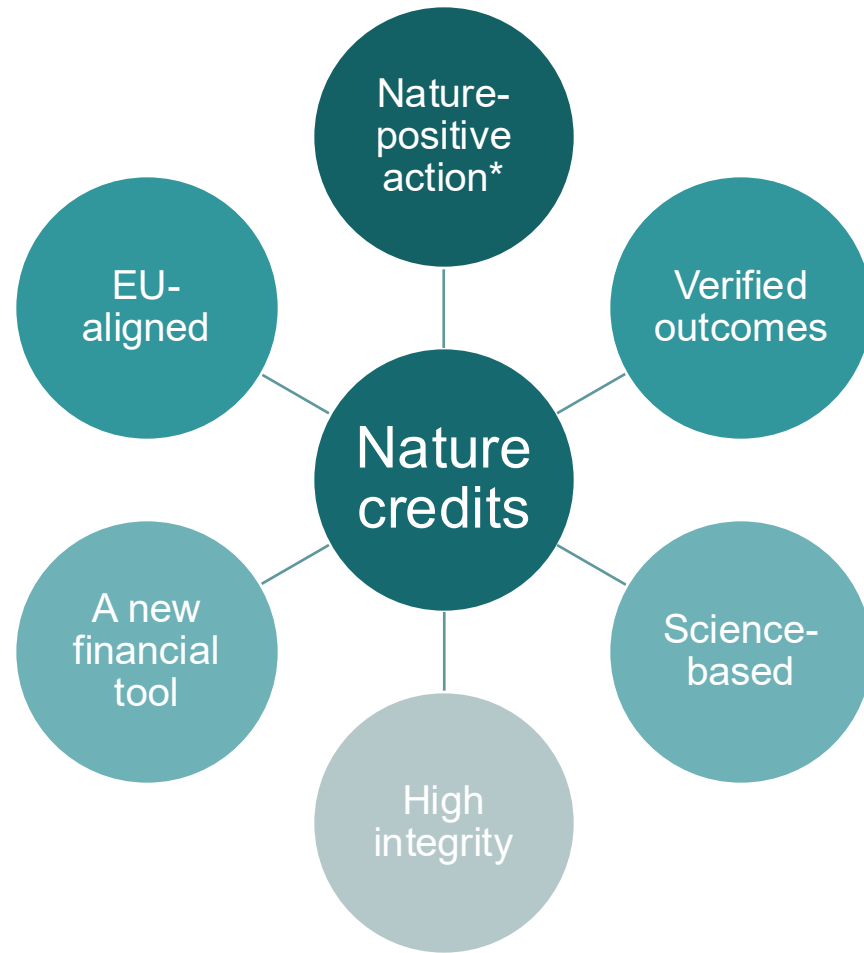
- CSRD requires biodiversity materiality assessments
- SFDR asks funds to disclose nature-related risks
- Taxonomy includes biodiversity criteria and activities

Companies explore new revenue models

- Regenerative agriculture and agroecology
- Insurance-linked nature investments
- Nature-positive investments to increase acceptability



What are nature credits?



Certificate

Recognise that a nature-positive project meets high-quality standards
Issued after assessing project design, methods, and expected outcomes
Provide upfront assurance — serve as a mark of quality and credibility to investors and funders
Assigned revenues - Can unlock early-stage finance

Credit

Represent verified biodiversity outcomes over time
Issued based on monitoring of actual results
Quantified units that can be traded or reported by buyers
Enable result-based payments for nature restoration
Turn ecosystem improvement into transferable value

Nature credits represent an investment into nature-positive actions by a company, a financial institution, a public entity or a citizen, which in return can benefit from cleaner ecosystems, risk reduction, improved reputation and higher social acceptability for its projects. Those nature-positive actions can be valued and certified by an independent organisation, thus providing credibility to investors sponsoring the action through nature credits. The actions supported by nature credits can take different forms; some examples in the EU include restoring wetlands or extending forest areas.

[Questions and answers on Nature Credits Roadmap](#)

* Beyond mitigation hierarchy and individual legal obligations



Barriers to scale nature credit markets

Data gaps hinder confidence in outcomes

- Biodiversity metrics are complex and contextual
- Few global benchmarks exist

Upfront costs can be significant

- Certification requires technical expertise
- Monitoring can be resource-intensive

Benefits may take years to materialise

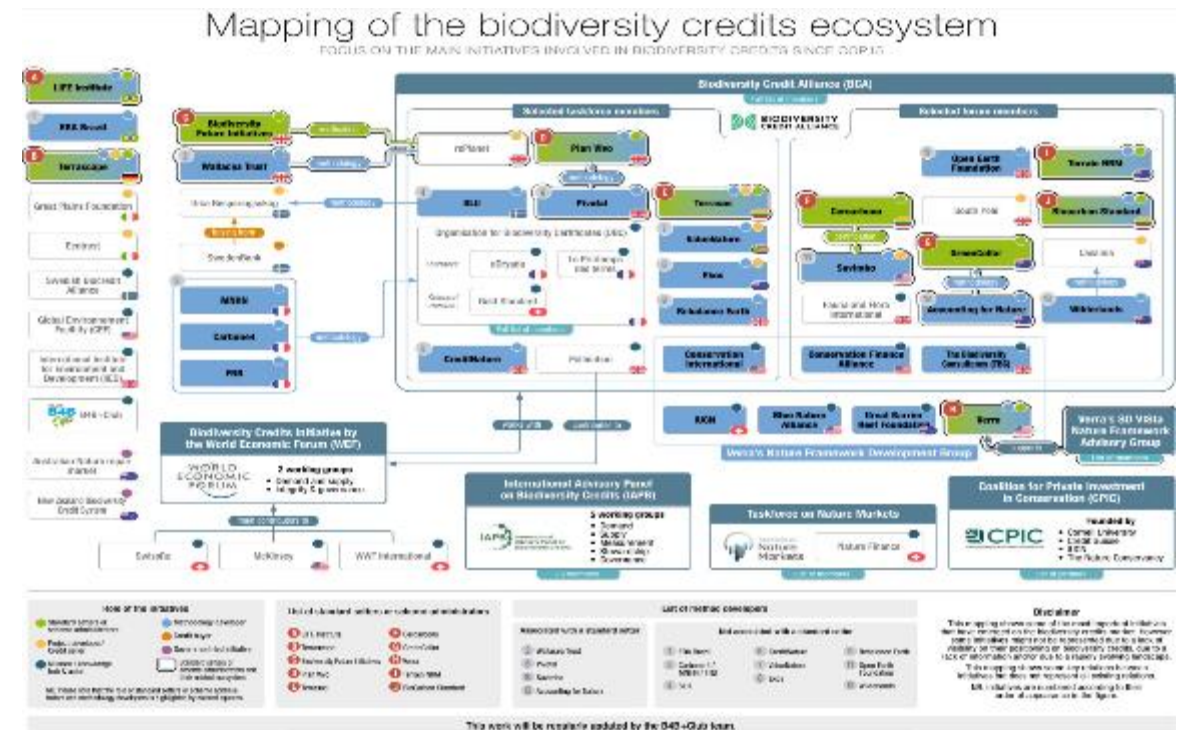
- Time lags in ecosystem recovery
- Need for pre-financing or guarantees

International proliferation of schemes

- Fragmented approaches across countries
- No mutual recognition of schemes

Investors need clearer incentives

- Risk-sharing instruments
- Visibility for biodiversity early-movers



[CDC Biodiversité \(2024\) Biodiversity credits: towards a new nature market in Europe?](#)

Trials of international structuration

- Biodiversity Credits Alliance (BCA)
- International Advisory Panel on Biodiversity Credits (IAPB)
- World Economic Forum (WEF)



Example of metric based on ecosystem condition

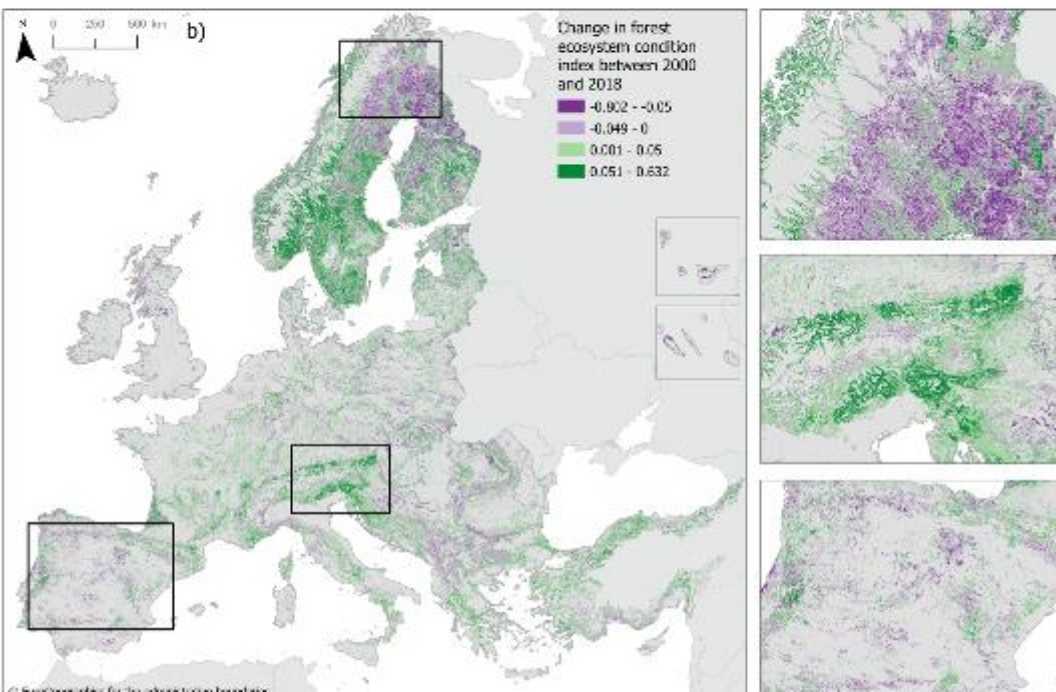
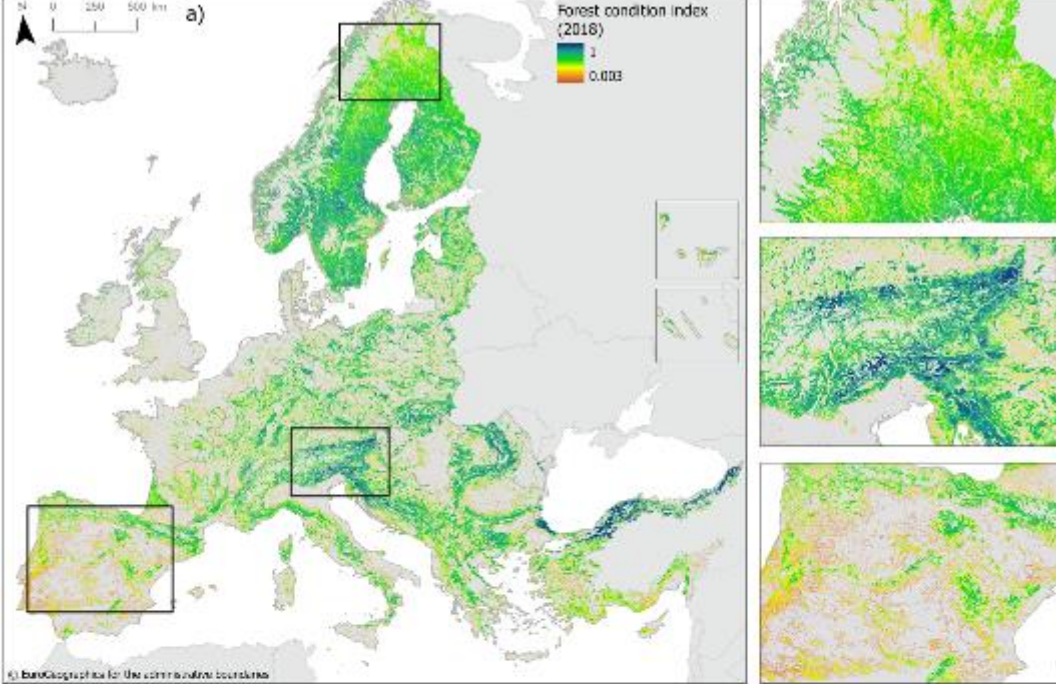
Based on UN System of Environmental-Economic Accounting - Ecosystem Accounting (SEEA EA)

- spatially-based, integrated statistical framework for organizing and tracking biophysical and economic information about ecosystems
- consistent with the System of National Accounts
- unified, international accounting framework for ecosystem condition

An integrated and comparable metric for forest condition

- Across 44 forest types, based on CORINE Land Cover (CLC)
- 7 forest condition variables: vegetation water content, soil organic carbon, species richness of threatened forest birds, tree cover density, forest productivity, forest connectivity, and landscape naturalness
- Aggregation of rescaled indicators that takes values between 0 (degraded forest ecosystem) and 1 (natural, undisturbed forest).
- From 0.566 in 2000 to 0.585 in 2018

Maes, J., Bruzón, A.G., Barredo, J.I. *et al.* Accounting for forest condition in Europe based on an international statistical standard. *Nat Commun* **14**, 3723 (2023).
<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-023-39434-0>



Roadmap actions for 2025–2027



A stepwise, inclusive and high-integrity path

The roadmap defines a consultative phase

- Focused on learning, trust-building and experimentation
- Rooted in subsidiarity, proportionality and simplicity

Expert group will help shape future options

- Key vehicle for co-creation and guidance
- Strong emphasis on inclusion and transparency

Progress will inform which EU action is needed

- Based on lessons from pilots and consultations
- Aligned with other EU frameworks

Nature credits must remain credible and equitable

- Environmental integrity is non-negotiable
- Governance must be trustworthy and accessible

Stakeholders are invited to shape the outcome

- Provide feedback on the roadmap
- Contribute ideas, innovations, and critical input

European Commission

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Roadmap towards Nature Credits

Have your say - Public Consultations and Feedback > Published initiatives > Roadmap towards Nature Credits

In preparation

Commission adoption

Feedback period
07 July 2025 - 30 September 2025

Feedback: Open

About this initiative

Summary

Topic Environment

Type of act Communication

Commission adoption

Feedback: Open

Feedback period
07 July 2025 - 30 September 2025 (midnight Brussels time)

The Commission would like to hear your views.

This adopted act is open for feedback for a period of 12 week(s). All feedback received will be summarised by the European Commission and presented to the European Parliament and Council with the aim of feeding into the legislative debate. Feedback received will be published on this site and therefore must adhere to the [feedback rules](#).

In order to contribute you'll need to register or login using your existing social media account.

Give feedback >

Roadmap towards Nature Credits

➤ 225 feedbacks received.



Thank you



For more information: env-nature-credits@ec.europa.eu

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