

Italy

Mid-term review of the National Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 (*Courtesy translation*)

RECALLING the agreement on the National Biodiversity Strategy (NBS) expressed by the Permanent Conference for relations between the State, Regions and Autonomous Provinces of Trento and Bolzano on 7 October 2010; for

RECALLING that the Ministerial Decree of 6 June 2011, establishes the governance bodies of the NBS;

RECALLING the agreement on the first programmatic guidelines needed to NBS implementation until 2015 expressed by the Permanent Conference for relations between the State, the regions and the Autonomous Provinces of Trento and Bolzano on 10 July 2014; ;

TAKING NOTE of the approval of the 2th report (2013-2014) on NBS implementation;

CONSIDERING that the NBS provides for an agreed in-depth review in 2015 focused on the setting's efficacy and possible need for adjustments;

RECALLING the "Charter of Rome on the natural and cultural capital" as a tool, shared at European level by the EU Environment Council of 17 December 2014, aimed at strengthening the synergies between Natural and Cultural Capital into policy sectors, also in view of the development of a more and more green economy;

CONSIDERING the 7th European Action Program for Environment until 2020 "Living well within the limits of our planet ", and in particular the first of three thematic objectives "protect, conserve and improve the Union's natural capital ";

CONSIDERING the EU Regulation No. 511/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council on 16 April 2014 on compliance measures for users resulting from the Nagoya Protocol on access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their Union utilization;

CONSIDERING that the European Union approved the Nagoya Protocol on access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity on 16 May 2014;

TAKING NOTE that the Nagoya Protocol entered into force on 12 October 2014;

HAVING REGARD to the Commission proposal to Parliament and the Council on the "Mid-term review of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020" [COM (2015) 478 final] which shows that it is essential to intensify the implementation of measures in relation to all the objectives of the EU Biodiversity Strategy;

HAVING REGARD to the execution Regulation (EU) of the European Commission of 13 October 2015 n. 1866 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Regulation (EU) No 511/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the register of collections, monitoring user compliance and best practices;

CONSIDERING the Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020 which dedicates one of the six chapters of expense to the "Natural Resources";

RECALLING the National Partnership Agreement 2014 -2020, and in particular the Thematic Objective 6 "Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting efficient use of resources", which were intended more than 4.4 billion euro of EU funds;

CONSIDERING the report of the European Court of Auditors, according to which the resources provided for in the regional operational programs of the 2007-2013 program for the implementation of measures in favor of biodiversity have not been fully utilized;

CONSIDERING the National Law no. 221 of 28 December 2015 "Environmental provisions to promote the green economy measures and the excessive use containment of natural resources";

RECALLING the Conclusions of the Environment Council of 16 December 2015 on the Mid-Term Review of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020;

HAVING REGARD to commitments made in the *Charter of Milan*, the cultural legacy of *Expo Milano 2015*, related to the conservation of biodiversity, respect of soil and natural resources and environmental sustainability of production processes, so as to ensure equity with the current and next generations and the right to food;

CONSIDERING that the Objectives for Sustainable Development (SDGs) and the Agenda of the United Nations Post 2015 ("2030 ASD") represent a new opportunity to mainstream biodiversity and its values in national policies and reaching more strongly goals of the *Strategic Plan for biodiversity 2011-2020* and the *Aichi biodiversity Targets*;

WHILE WELCOMING the efforts and achievements already made as recognized in the fourth *Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO 4)*, IS DEEPLY CONCERNED about the globally insufficient progress in the implementation of the Biodiversity Strategic Plan to achieve most of the *Aichi Biodiversity Targets* by 2020;

HAVING REGARD to the Commission Regulation (EU) No. 511/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 became applicable upon the entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol October 12, 2014;

TAKES NOTE the XXI Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change has stressed the importance of ensuring the integrity of ecosystems and the protection of biodiversity in contrast to Climate Change;

CONSIDERING that the SOER 2015 "Europe's Environment - Report on the state and prospects for 2015" recognized that Europe's natural capital is not yet protected, maintained and improved to the level necessary to achieve the ambitions at Community level of 7th European action Program for the environment;

CONSIDERING that Italy is committed to achieve the six key objectives of the European Biodiversity Strategy Biodiversity 2020 (COM (2011) 244);

CONSIDERING that the 2th NBS Report (2013-2014) recognizes that many actions have been taken or initiated, but for the full achievement of the strategic and specific objectives a renewed and increased efforts are need at all levels institutional and that more effort is essential for communication and interaction between public and private entities, in consideration of the opportunities offered by the green economy;

CONSIDERING that the new programmatic guidelines and commitments that derive from them are to be implemented by the Administrations involved in the context of the planned institutional

locations, and that can be identified other comparison and deepening locations with the social partners and stakeholders;

CONSIDERING also that the conclusions of the 2nd NBS Report confirm the validity of the NBS and its structure in delineating the national reference framework for the protection of biodiversity and its integration into policy sectors;

WHEREAS as part of EXPO 2015 several events and exchanges of experience have affirmed the importance of the link between "food and biodiversity" as an expression of ecosystem goods and services provided by biodiversity and as an essential component for a transition to the circular economy;

CONSIDERING that the NBS identifies the Permanent Conference for relations between the State, Regions and Autonomous Provinces as a forum for discussion and political decision on the strategy and the Joint Committee as body that support of the State-Regions Conference, composed of representatives of the Administrations central and the Regions and Autonomous provinces;

APPROVES

the following programmatic guidelines for the implementation of the NBS to 2020.

Biodiversity and ecosystem services

- Give full and appropriate implementation of existing legislation for the protection of biodiversity and ecosystem services, even through the reduction of Community contentious matter;
- Increase the transparency, accountability and respect for the laws about environmental issues and related to the use of biodiversity, its components, and the ecosystem services it offered, at various levels and in all sectors;
- Strengthen communication, understanding, awareness and knowledge of policy makers, stakeholders and citizens on the NBS;
- Ensure full implementation of the objectives of the Natura 2000 network, especially with regard to the identification of sites in the marine environment, to the designation of Special Areas of Conservation offshore or onshore, to the effective implementation of conservation measures and to the achievement of the conservation status satisfactory for habitats and species;
- Intensify the process of dialogue which started between the competent authorities to strengthen the transparency, effectiveness and efficiency of the impact assessment, even by the development of national guidelines, the implementation of information systems and dedicate websites;
- Increase the spatial protection measures of coastal and marine environment, in order to achieve the goal of protecting at least 10% of that environment, as provided by Aichi Target 11 and by the Marine Strategy Framework Directive;
- Strengthen governance and local partnerships to ensure the achievement of the environmental quality objectives set by the Habitats and Birds Directives, by the Water Framework Directive and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, even on the basis of information provided by guideline document "Guidelines for the identification of specific additional objectives for areas designated for the protection of habitats and species for which the quality of water is important for their conservation", prepared by the Ministry of the Environment with the support of ISPRA (2015);

- Maximize synergies between the monitoring and reporting activities required by the Habitats and Birds Directives, the Water Framework Directive, the Marine Strategy framework Directive, and International agreements and conventions related to the biodiversity, even through the sharing of information online, in order to make available data and information which together describe the progress of the NBS;
- Develop the cooperation needed to effectively implement the EU Regulation 1143/2014 laying down provisions designed to prevent and manage the introduction and spread of invasive alien species and for the eradication and control of invasive alien species relevant for the Community;
- Establish national rules for the ratification and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol, in order to make operational the provisions relating to compliance with the Protocol of the users of genetic resources in the Union introduced with Reg (EU) 511/2014 and Reg. (EU) 1866/2015; ensure adequate communication and awareness action on the issue.

Biodiversity and climate change

- Develop restoration and defragmentation of ecosystems as part of spatial planning to promote the contribution of biodiversity to climate change mitigation, for the prevention of the negative effects of climate change on economic activities and for the minimization of the damage associated with them;
- Promote the creation and consolidation of green infrastructure for a sustainable use of natural resources and to strengthen the resilience of ecosystems to climate change;
- Support the development of urban green areas and their continuity with the surrounding rural and forest areas in order to protect biodiversity and ecosystems in the cities and ensure provision of the services they provide, including the mitigation of the effects of climate change.

Biodiversity and economic policies

- Mobilize and use efficiently and effectively both EU and national financial resources from all possible sources, including innovative financial mechanisms, in order to ensure adequate levels of funding to meet the goals of the NBS;
- Improve monitoring and evaluation of the measures taken in favor of biodiversity in order to ensure transparency and accountability of the resources used and the measurement of their effectiveness;
- Ensure the achievement of the conservation objectives, the protection and the efficient use of resources provided for in the National Partnership, or as part of an appropriate management of the Natura 2000 network (consistent with the provisions in Prioritised Action Framework - PAF), both in relation to other policy areas, including tourism, and related EU funds;
- Continue the implementation of sectoral policies for agriculture, fisheries and forestry, favoring a more effective integration of biodiversity in the financial planning tools, in decision-making in view of their effects on ecosystem services and natural capital, as outlined in conclusions of the Environment Council of 16 December 2015 on the mid-term review of the EU biodiversity Strategy to 2020;
- Make the best use of the opportunities for strengthening governance and to achieve sustainable agriculture, as part of the territories of protected areas and sites of the Natura 2000 network, offered by the National Rural Network Program 2014/2020, about the instruments of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and development rural and the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity and its ecosystem services;
- Ensure the coherence of sectoral policies with national and international commitments on biodiversity, phasing out incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity and support for sustainable development policies;

- Develop forms of collaboration between governments and involvement of private sectors and other stakeholders to support the transition to a green economy, promoting green jobs, taking advantage of synergies between natural and cultural capital, and the spread of good practices;
- Promote the adoption of participative tools such as certifications, also in view of a growing demand for transparency and accountability on the part of governments and companies;
- Strengthen efforts to achieve sustainable fisheries and the protection of marine ecosystems, in line with the guidelines and objectives laid down in the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive;
- Increase the involvement of the business sector, including trade associations, in the adoption of sustainable production patterns and the use of dedicated funds and instruments, such as the Natural Capital Financing Facility (NCFF) and the European Business and Biodiversity (B @ B) Platform;
- Give full effect to the provisions of Chapter XI of the Law n. 221 of 28 December 2015 relating to natural capital, management and enhancement of biodiversity.