



## **Incentives for Biodiversity in Spain**

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## **Measures and mechanisms to account for the values of biodiversity and ecosystem services in decision -making, including the review and updating of NBSAPs<sup>1</sup>**

On 16 September 2011, the Council of Ministers adopted the Strategic Plan for Natural Heritage and Biodiversity 2011-2017, by Royal Decree 1274/2011. This Strategic Plan is the reference tool for planning for the conservation of biodiversity and natural heritage in Spain and incorporates the commitments under the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Strategic Plan for Natural Heritage and Biodiversity includes numerous specific objectives and measures for the development and implementation of elements that encourage the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biological diversity. Sectoral integration of objectives and targets for biodiversity and shared responsibility with the private sector are two of the guiding principles of the Strategic Plan. Thus, this new framework contributes to a greater commitment from the different public and private sectors in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

One of the goals of the Strategic Plan is to promote the integration of biodiversity into sectoral policies. To fulfill this objective, the following actions have emerged:

- Identify agricultural practices that could pose nationally significant impacts on biodiversity and propose and promote measures for its prevention, including the use of incentives to generate positive externalities.
- Follow the effects of the main elements of agricultural policy on biodiversity, and evaluate the effectiveness of their specific support instruments, including compliance and agri-environmental measures.
- Actively collaborate with the fishing industry and encourage the necessary modifications of fishing gear and methods to conform to the sustainable management of fisheries resources.
- Promote sustainable development in the areas of social and economic influence of the Network of National Parks and evaluate the effect of the subsidies for this purpose.
- Include in the assistance granted by the Ministry of Environment, and Rural and Marine Affairs, specific assessment criteria relating to the conservation of biodiversity.

## **National studies**

Another line of action envisaged in the Strategic Plan is to promote the consideration of biodiversity and ecosystem services, including its economic value in the design of public policies and private sector activities, and to establish the Natural Heritage Accounting in the national accounts framework.

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<sup>1</sup> Spain (2011). Submission on incentives, December 2011

The Ministry of Environment and Rural and Marine Affairs prepared the project VANE on Valuation of Natural Assets of Spain , which is a first approximation to the value of goods and services provided by natural resources throughout the Spanish territory, expressed in units of flow (€/year).

More recently Spain has developed the project Millennium Ecosystem Assessment Spain (<http://www.ecomilenio.es/>), sponsored by the Biodiversity Foundation of the Ministry of Environment and Rural and Marine Affairs since 2009. This project has generated robust information, validated scientifically for managers, politicians and the general public, on changes in the Earth's ecosystems that have a direct effect on human welfare. This project has been of great importance to assess the economic and social cost of the loss of biodiversity and associated ecosystem services.

### **Perverse incentives for sectors that can potentially affect biodiversity**

Another line of work opened by the Strategic Plan Natural Heritage and Biodiversity includes measures to promote incentives that contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, such as:

- Develop incentive systems for positive environmental externalities.
- Study fiscal mechanisms that promote biodiversity conservation.
- Analyze state subsidies with detrimental effects on biodiversity and opportunities for its removal or conversion.

### **Positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity .**

The Strategic Plan also provides for studying the establishment of systems of payments for environmental services and study and regulate, if necessary, the implementation of biodiversity banks. This work can contribute to the implementation of effective incentive systems to contribute to the conservation of biodiversity.

### **Collaboration with companies on ways and means to contribute to the national implementation of the Convention**

The Natural Heritage and Biodiversity Strategic Plan paid special attention to fostering partnerships between the private sector and government to contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. The proposed measures include seeking to promote new forms of collaboration with companies through the Corporate Social Responsibility and develop tools to promote consideration of biodiversity in business.

In line with these objectives, the Ministry of Environment and Rural and Marine Affairs has held meetings with representatives of business organizations, to explore options for improving the integration of biodiversity issues in business. Work is also in the dissemination of methodologies and existing guidelines on corporate evaluation of ecosystems, to promote awareness and implementation of these instruments, with the ultimate goal of contributing to the protection of biodiversity and the objectives of the CBD.

## **Sustainable consumption and production for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity**

Spain has a Green Public Procurement Plan of the General Administration of the State and its Public Agencies and the Investment Managers of Social Security, approved by Resolution of the Council of Ministers.

In order to contribute to its implementation and reduce the impact of the purchase and public procurement of biodiversity, MARM is working to develop and promote the Public Procurement Plan, for example by developing specific manuals on the elements to be considered for green purchasing of certain products.

Also, in accordance with the provisions of the Natural Heritage and Biodiversity Strategic Plan, the Green Public Procurement Plan will be reviewed to include specific criteria on biodiversity, in order to ensure that the development and implementation of the Public Procurement Plan appropriately integrate aspects of the protection and conservation of biodiversity.