

Reply to the public consultation on the Biodiversity Strategy 2030

Water Europe (WE) is the voice and promoter of water-related innovation and RTD in Europe. WE is a membership-based multi-stakeholder organisation representing over 200 members from academia, technology providers, water users, water service providers, civil society, and public authorities. WE activities and positions are guided by its Water Vision “The Value of Water: Towards a Future-Proof European Water-Smart Society”.

Climate change has high impacts on ecosystems and society and is largely mediated through water, thus increasing the already significant effect related to water insecurity.

Water is the critical natural resource which underpins all social and economic activity: without water, cities stop to function, economic activity breaks, green lands become infertile. As demand rises and competition for this precious resource increases, all users across the planet can no longer guarantee uninterrupted access to water supplies and therefore the water-related benefits such as agriculture, energy and health. Preserving biodiversity and the ecosystems can definitely help to achieve sustainable water security and achieve a Water-smart Society, as outlined in the Water Europe Vision.

The loss and degradation of biodiversity generate impacts on human well-being. The benefits gained from ecosystems can be conserved by preserving the loss of biodiversity. Services such as the supply of fresh water and food, the reduction of risk from flooding and drought, the cycling of nutrients and the removal of contaminants from water, the mitigation of the climatic extreme events and the importance for cultural and recreational activities can all be compromised as biodiversity is lost, and water is definitely required to support biodiversity.

The European Green Deal for the European Union and its citizens issued by the European Commission highlights the biodiversity as one of the main policy areas to enable European citizens and businesses to benefit from the sustainable green transition.

In this background, the Water Europe Vision entails that the majority of European cities, regions, and countries needs to develop policies and implement plans for climate change adaptation and mitigation across the various economic sectors. This requires effective water management by integrating, restoring and redeveloping the natural environment and preserve the biodiversity.

The strategy for EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2030 should take into account systems and actions to combine smart water management and preservation of nature, integrating natural systems as an opportunity to redevelop natural areas and restore biodiversity within an integrated grey and green - natural and engineered - water infrastructure.

To deepen the above cited topics, please read our [Vision and SIRA](#).

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