



Proposal for a regulation on nature restoration

NGO analysis of the draft report by Rapporteur MEP César Luena
December 2022

The proposal for a Nature Restoration Law is a huge opportunity to bring nature back to Europe, benefiting biodiversity, climate, and people alike. The restoration of ecosystems such as peatlands, forests, and seagrass meadows can help reduce emissions and sequester millions of tonnes of carbon each year. Nature restoration is also our best insurance policy for climate adaptation as it will increase our resilience to droughts, floods and other extreme weather events and it is crucial for our long-term food security.¹ Restoring and preserving nature will bring many socio-economic benefits such as sustainable jobs, recreation opportunities, and broader human health benefits. Therefore, nature restoration is undoubtedly one of the best investments we can make.

We are counting on the European Parliament to support the proposal for a regulation on nature restoration, in line with its position in the own-initiative report on the 2030 Biodiversity Strategy², and to strengthen the proposal where needed to ensure that it can fulfill its potential.

The draft report of MEP César Luena expresses strong support for the legal proposal. It proposes several changes that will make the proposal stronger and more effective to tackle the twin crises of nature loss and climate change. It is a good basis to further strengthen the Nature Restoration Law.

In particular, we welcome the following amendments:

- The overarching objective (Art.1(2)) is strengthened in line with the EP position³ to put effective, area-based restoration measures in place on at least 30% of the EU land and sea areas by 2030 (AM 46).
- The coherence with the Common Fisheries Policy when adopting marine restoration measures is strengthened (AMs 98, 129 and 130).
- A new article on the preservation of the effects of restoration measures was added to ensure that investments in nature restoration have a long-term effect (AM 96 and also AMs 121, 56 and 69).
- A new Chapter on Funding is included to ensure that implementation is not hampered by lack of financing (AM 163).

1 [NGO briefing on nature restoration and food security](#) (June 2022) and [IEEP report on nature restoration as a driver for resilient food systems](#) (December 2022)

2 [2020/2273 \(INI\)](#)

3 https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2021-0277_EN.html

In addition, we call on the European Parliament to strengthen the proposal according to the following recommendations:

- The governance of the overarching objective (Art.1(2)) needs to be strengthened, to ensure that each Member State contributes fairly to it. To ensure restoration plans are effective and adequate to implement the targets and overarching objective, a power for the Commission to reject inadequate restoration plans should be added in Art.14(6).
- For river restoration, a quantified, time bound target to remove barriers instead of a reference to “contribute” to the 25,000 km Union objective is needed. Member States should be required to restore 15% of river length (178,000 km across the EU) into free flowing rivers by 2030.
- The draft report aims to slightly improve the restoration targets for drained peatlands, but not at the level needed to ensure that these vulnerable wetlands effectively play their role in capturing carbon and water. These restoration targets should be expanded to all non-residential land use on drained peatlands, which should be fully rewetted (Art. 9(4)).
- The ambition level of the targets in Articles 4 and 5 needs to be increased, including by bringing forward the timeline for putting in place restoration measures to not delay action.
- It is good that a clear reference to the 10% high-diversity landscape feature objective was added (AM 87), but a Member State level target for the 10% landscape features, broken down to the utilised agricultural area, is needed to ensure this objective is reached.

More information on NGO priorities for a strong and effective nature restoration law can be found in the [NGOs’ general analysis of the proposal](#) and a [joint marine NGO position paper](#).



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