



Institute  
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European  
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Policy

# Biodiversity-proofing the EMFF

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# Introduction

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- Report to DG Environment on biodiversity-proofing the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)
  - General guidance
  - Specific guidance for EMFF
- Opportunities for supporting Natura 2000 under the EMFF
  - Handbook Part I: Funding opportunities
  - Handbook Part II: Measures and case studies

# Biodiversity-proofing the EU Budget

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- IEEP and partners contracted by DG Environment
- To build on a previous DG Environment contracted “Background Study Towards Biodiversity Proofing of the EU Budget” (IEEP et al, 2012)
- What is it?
  - *‘a structured process of ensuring the effective application of tools to avoid or at least minimize harmful impacts of EU spending and to maximise the biodiversity benefits.’*

# Overall goal

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- To contribute to the achievement of the EU's headline target (endorsed by the European Council in 2010) of
  - *Halting the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services in the EU by 2020, and restoring them in so far as feasible, while stepping up the EU contribution to averting global biodiversity loss.'*
- Biodiversity Strategy includes Actions relating to:
  - Promoting Green Infrastructure, eg through better use of EU funding
  - Ensuring no net loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services
  - Phasing out and eliminating harmful subsidies at EU and Member State level and providing positive incentives for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.

# More specifically

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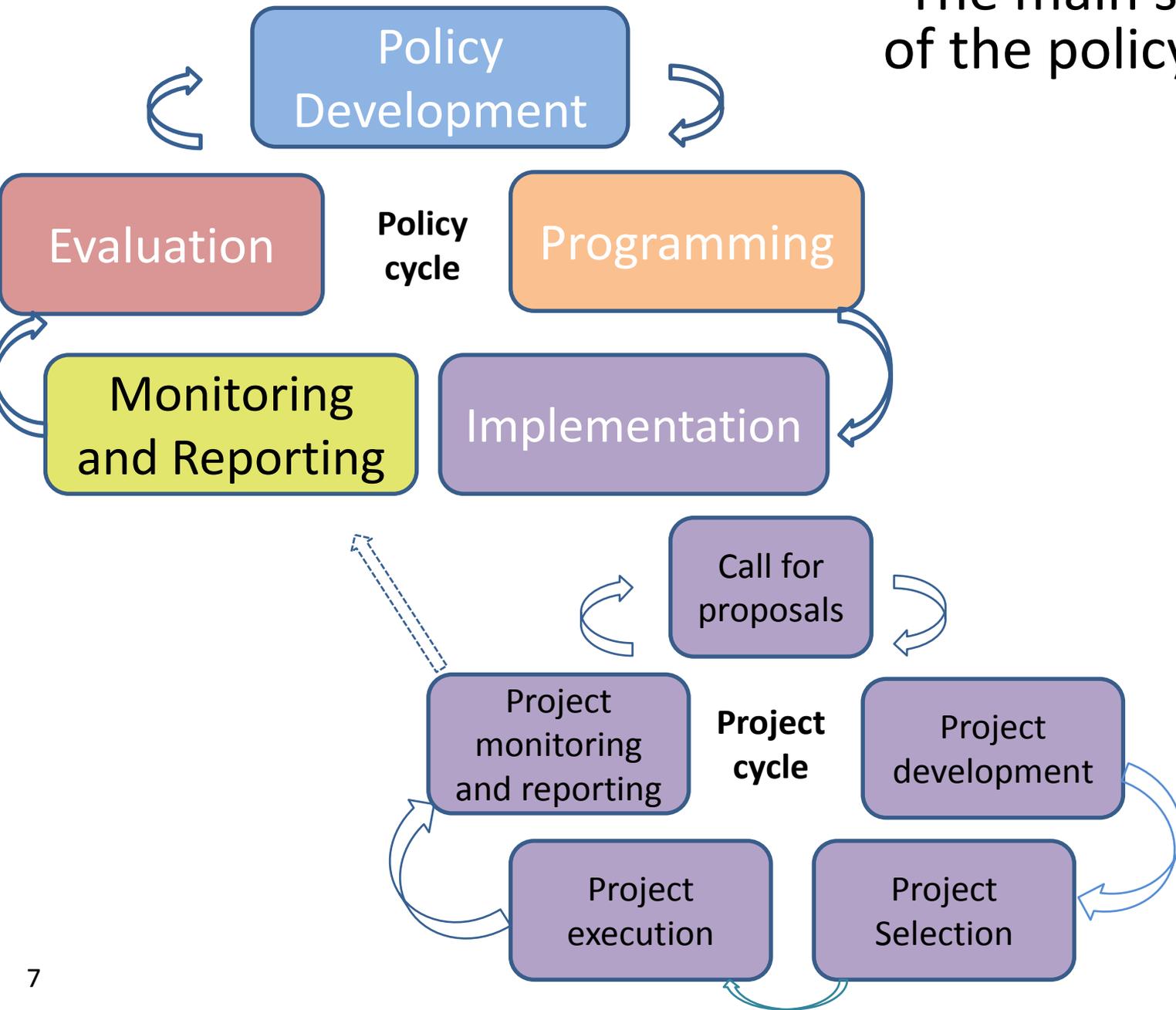
- “To develop and test a Common Framework for biodiversity proofing the EU budget to ensure consistency between the implementation of biodiversity policy and other EU policies....”
- To help Managing Authorities and biodiversity experts to
  - 1) maximise the possibilities presented by the fund (in this case the EMFF) for increasing spending on biodiversity priorities and
  - 2) ensure that detrimental impacts on biodiversity are avoided and minimised as much as possible, and if residual impacts remain, offset requirements to achieve no-net-loss are identified.

# Why create a Common Framework?

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- Biodiversity proofing of the various EU funds should not be carried out in isolation of each other
- Cross-fund coordination of funds under shared management, ie the EAFRD (under the CAP), Cohesion Policy funds (ERDF, ESF, CF) and EMFF, all governed by the Common Provisions Regulation (CPR)
- Increase policy **coherence** and **consistency**, amongst ESI funds, but also others – creating a **level-playing field**
- Increase **clarity** on requirements, so that authorities and stakeholders know what is required, thereby reducing administrative burdens and **facilitating decision making**

# The main stages of the policy cycle



# Common Framework

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- Biodiversity proofing should aim to ensure that, at each stage of the policy and project cycles, decision makers make sure that:
  1. Potential adverse impacts on biodiversity are considered, identified, quantified and communicated, and that appropriate actions are taken to avoid and minimise them, and then, where necessary, to compensate for unavoidable residual impacts in order to achieve no net loss; and
  2. Opportunities for activities to benefit biodiversity are identified and taken forward.

# Biodiversity and the EMFF

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- The EMFF is particularly relevant to biodiversity (direct influence on fisheries & aquaculture industries, & their direct influence on marine ecosystems & biodiversity)
- Previous programming periods had good and bad impacts on biodiversity
- More stringent safeguards under the EMFF

# Maximising beneficial impacts on biodiversity

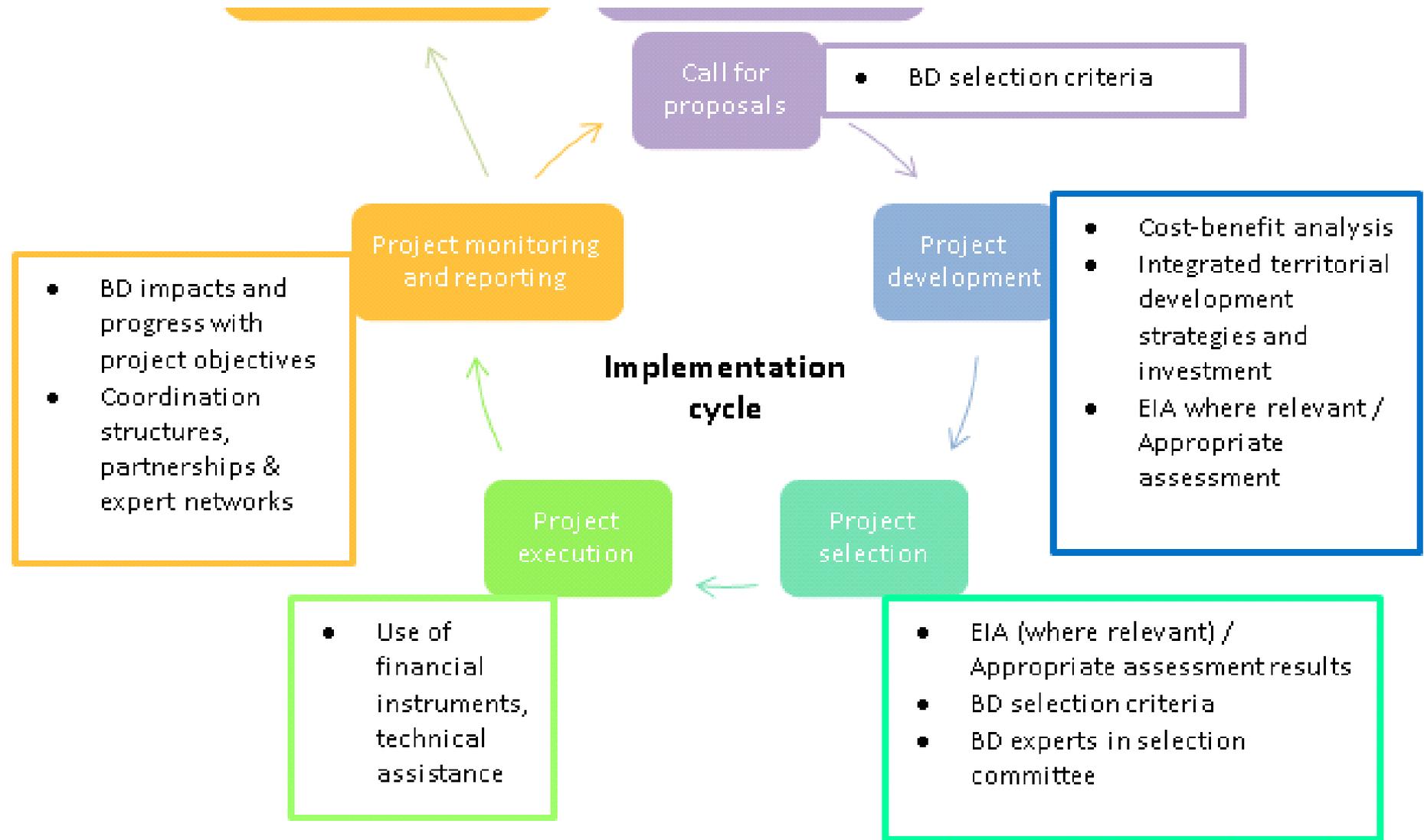
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- Under previous fisheries funds, limited resources have traditionally been allocated to support projects that are designed to have positive effects on marine biodiversity
- Missed opportunities
- EMFF contains such measures as investments in the protection and restoration of marine flora and fauna, improvements to the selectivity of fishing gear, and schemes to improve the environmental performance of aquaculture farms.

# Minimising detrimental impacts

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- Even certain measures designed with good intentions, such as social aims or even environmental aims (eg reducing the size of the fleet), have in practice resulted in perverse outcomes.
- Subsidies for vessel modernisation were commonly used to increase engine efficiency and thereby increase fishing capacity
- More stringent safeguards under EMFF



# Call for proposals

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- Negative impacts on biodiversity have tended to be driven by inadequate policy design or policy interpretation
- EMFF has more stringent safeguards - Managing Authorities must implement these fully and make them clear in the call for proposals
- Stress the potential negative impacts that certain projects may have, and the beneficial results that other projects may obtain for biodiversity
- Screen applications with **biodiversity-related selection criteria**. E.g In Malta the selection criteria for the EFF measure (investments on board vessels) gave preference to projects that increased mesh sizes, improved selectivity...

# Project development

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- ***Environmental Impact Assessment*** (EIA) is required for large aquaculture projects only
- In the absence of EIA, Managing Authorities could require potential beneficiaries to conduct a more **proportionate environmental assessment**
- Require a short qualitative assessment about biodiversity benefits, costs and impacts (“CBA”)
- Develop ***integrated territorial development strategies*** with biodiversity priorities

# Project selection

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- Consider outcomes of EIA, CBA or other proportionate assessment
- Ensure any ***biodiversity-related selection criteria*** are given appropriate weight in the evaluation
- Staff involved in project selection should also be given basic training in the importance of biodiversity protection and restoration, or should be supported, particularly for larger projects (or projects expected to have larger impacts), by **biodiversity experts**.

# Project execution

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- Some investments will entail more process and a greater suite of actions, or in the case of the community-led local development strategies, a series of projects
- Managing Authorities can try to ensure that the national and regional institutions providing technical assistance on the implementation of fisheries projects are also able to provide guidance on biodiversity related issues

# Project monitoring & reporting

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- Managing Authorities could aim to ensure that Monitoring Committees include a degree of ***biodiversity expertise***, given their role in monitoring the quality of programme implementation
- Pay particular attention to measures that have had negative impacts on biodiversity in the past
- For aquaculture projects where an EIA is necessary, biodiversity impacts and the effectiveness of mitigation measures should also be monitored closely.

# Financing Natura 2000 Guidance Handbook

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- Natura 2000 is an EU-wide network of protected areas established pursuant to the Birds Directive and the Habitats Directive
- Member States have to first designate a sufficient number of sites to form a coherent network and subsequently take the necessary conservation measures to ensure the long-term survival of protected habitats and species
- Handbook is aimed at analysing and describing opportunities for financing investments in Natura 2000 in the EU 2014 -2020 budget

# Opportunities for Natura 2000

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- The EMFF provides several opportunities to fund Natura 2000
- The specific needs of Natura 2000 areas and the contribution of the programme to the establishment of a coherent network of fish stock recovery areas should be integrated into the EMFF OPs (Article 18(c) of the Regulation)

# Opportunities for Natura 2000

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- Support is provided for:
  - the management, restoration and monitoring of coastal and marine Natura 2000 sites (Article 40(e))
  - the preparation, including studies, drawing-up, monitoring and updating of protection and management plans for fishery-related activities relating to N2K sites (Article 40(d))
  - the management, restoration and monitoring of other marine protected areas to support the implementation of the MSFD (Article 40(f)).
  - the uptake of aquaculture methods compatible with biodiversity conservation, including N2K management requirements (Article 54).

# Opportunities for Natura 2000

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- More indirect opportunities linked with the broader development of fisheries and/or viability of fishing communities, eg:
  - the establishment of cooperation between scientists and fishermen
  - the diversification of livelihoods in rural communities
- Not necessarily to cater for all management measures relevant to a site, but provide support for carrying out certain activities identified in site specific management plans

*Natura 2000 management categories and types of measures eligible for funding*

Article	Establishment				Management planning							Ongoing habitat management and monitoring								Investment						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
Measures financed under shared management (i.e. Member State-led initiatives, co-funded by the EU budget)																										
Article 27															x											
Article 28		x		x										x				x								
Article 29(1)(a)																								x		
Article 30(1)											x														x	
Article 37(1)(b)								x																		
Article 38(1)(a-d)												x	x		x											
Article 39												x	x		x											
Article 40(1)(a)												x	x													
Article 40(1)(b)												x	x	x												
Article 40(1)(c)									x			x	x	x						x						
Article 40(1)(d)		x		x	x			x												x						
Article 40(1)(e)									x			x	x	x	x				x	x	x					
Article 40(1)(f)									x			x	x	x	x				x	x	x					
Article 40(1)(g)			x					x															x	x		
Article 40(1)(h)																x										
Article 40(1)(i)									x			x	x	x	x					x						
Article 44(3)		x		x											x					x						

# Quick tips for integrating N2K into projects

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- Set appropriate criteria for project selection
- Develop dedicated biodiversity indicators for assessing outputs of projects
- Provide guidance and support to stakeholders interested in accessing EU funds
- Use increasing evidence on the socio-economic benefits of biodiversity and ecosystem services to enhance arguments and attract co-financing
- Explore more innovative funding opportunities
- Ensure cooperation and coordination related to project development at national and/or regional level by establishing permanent or ad-hoc structures that are responsible
- Use and share best practice examples



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Find the reports presented here at:

[www.ieep.eu/work-areas/biodiversity](http://www.ieep.eu/work-areas/biodiversity)

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