

Webinar

**18** June 2025  
10:00-11:30 CEST

# Financing the Trans-European Nature Network

## Costs, Opportunities and the Road Ahead

Photo: Eloy Revilla, EBD-CSIC



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NaturaConnect receives funding under the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under grant agreement number 101060429





## Financing the Trans-European Nature Network: Costs, Opportunities, and the Road Ahead

Evelyn Underwood and Auriane Flottes de Pouzols

Institute for European Environmental Policy

[eunderwood@ieep.eu](mailto:eunderwood@ieep.eu) , [afdepouzols@ieep.eu](mailto:afdepouzols@ieep.eu)



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# Welcome

## Basic webinar guidance

- ✓ The webinar is being recorded.
- ✓ Write your questions and comments in the chat, indicating the speaker you address.
- ✓ All presentations and recordings will be available at [naturaconnect.eu/past events](https://naturaconnect.eu/past-events) and shared with registered participants.
- ✓ Feel free to rename and state your organisation by clicking on the three dots ... next to your name!
- ✓ Please start/stop your camera at your convenience :)



Riku Lumiaro

# Agenda for today

- 1) **Welcome and introduction to NaturaConnect** – *Evelyn Underwood (IEEP)*
- 2) **What are the different types of costs associated with the extension of a protected area network?** A case study on the Sonian Forest – *Auriane Flottes de Pouzols (IEEP)*
- 3) **An overview of EU public funds and private financing** – *Auriane Flottes de Pouzols (IEEP)*
- 4) **BioClima initiative: Promoting public-private partnerships as a funding opportunity for ecosystem services in Lombardy Region** – *Giulia Amato (Etifor)*
- 5) **What is next with the upcoming MFF?** – *Evelyn Underwood (IEEP)*
- 6) **Open discussion and closing of the webinar** – *Evelyn Underwood*



# Who are we?



Institute for  
European  
Environmental  
Policy

Evelyn Underwood

*Head of Programme - Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services*

[eunderwood@ieep.eu](mailto:eunderwood@ieep.eu)

Auriane Flottes de Pouzols

*Policy Assistant – Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services*

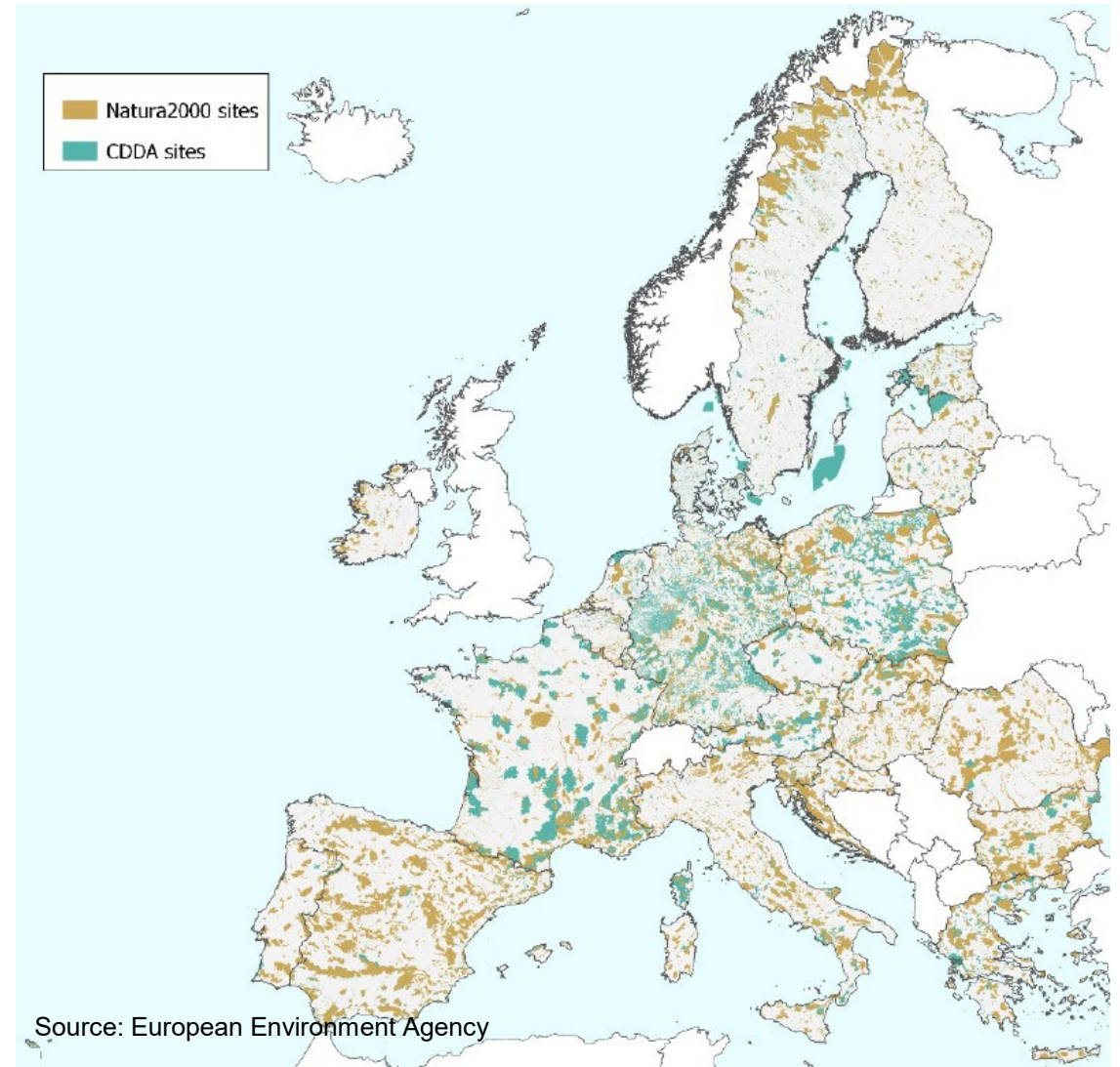
[afdepouzols@ieep.eu](mailto:afdepouzols@ieep.eu)

*Please feel free to contact us!*



# Trans-European Nature Network

Coherent Trans-European Nature Network including ecological corridors  
“to prevent genetic isolation, allow for species migration, and maintain and enhance healthy ecosystems”



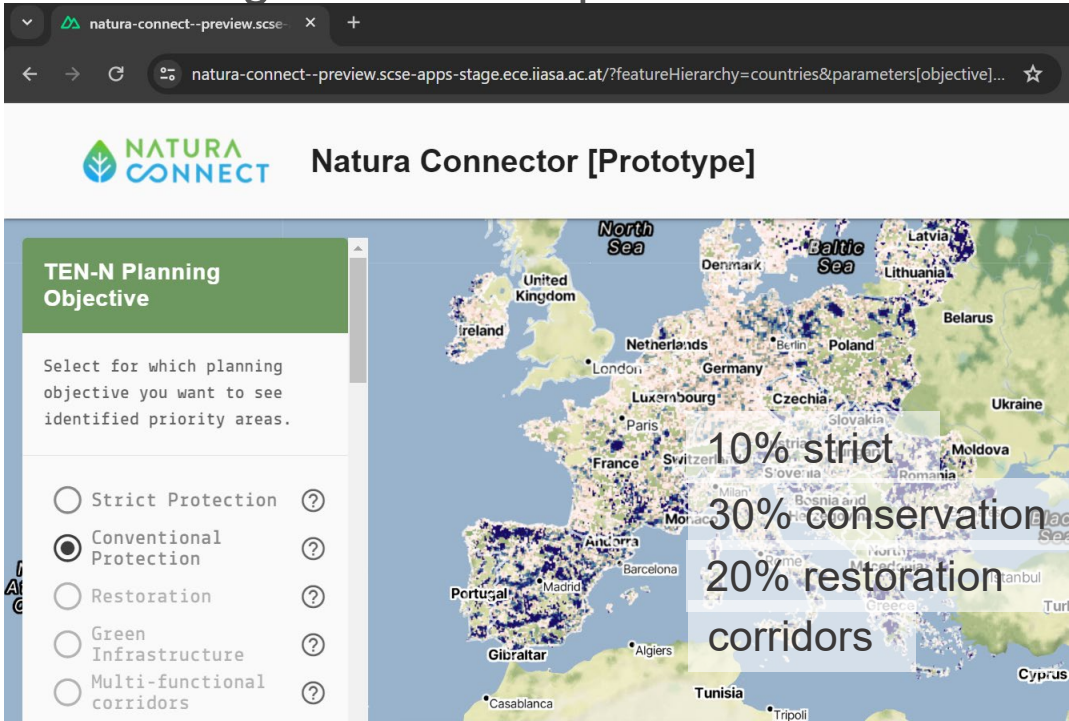


# What will the project offer?

Maps to optimise  
protection decisions

## NaturaConnector

Visualizing scenario outputs



## Guidance

## Data & indicators

September 11, 2024 (v1) Dataset Embargoed

### Preliminary Favourable Reference Values for European species

Davoli, Marco; D'Alessio, Alessandra; Michela, Pacifici

This dataset contains the Favourable Reference Values of European species, divided in 6 tables based on taxonomic groups: mammals, non-Chordata animals, freshwater Chordata, plants, herpetofauna and birds (only species breeding in Europe).



# Resources

 Factsheet Report

 Learning Platform

 Website



## NaturaConnect Learning Platform

The project capacity building hub supports professional development to design and implement the Trans-European Nature Network (TEN-N).

It provides easy access to training modules and learning resources for stakeholder engagement, spatial conservation planning and more.



## Financing options for the Trans-European Nature Network (TEN-N)

D2.2 Factsheets on public, private, and blended financial support options for TEN-N and recommendations for each case study



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**What are the different types of costs associated with protected area networks and ecological connectivity?**

**1**

**Network planning costs**

**2**

**Protected areas establishment costs**

**3**

**Management costs**

**4**

**Communication and awareness costs**



# 1 Network planning costs

Administrative



Spatial planning



Biogeographical  
network planning



# 1 Network planning costs

Stakeholder engagement



Monitoring and reporting  
of the protected area network





## 2 Protected areas establishment costs

### Administrative



### Site/corridor designation & management planning



### One-off establishment actions





## 2 Protected areas establishment costs

Compensation



Land purchase



Remaining  
knowledge gaps & research  
needs



# 3 Management costs

Site (cluster)  
administration

Monitoring and reporting

Protected area  
infrastructure  
maintenance



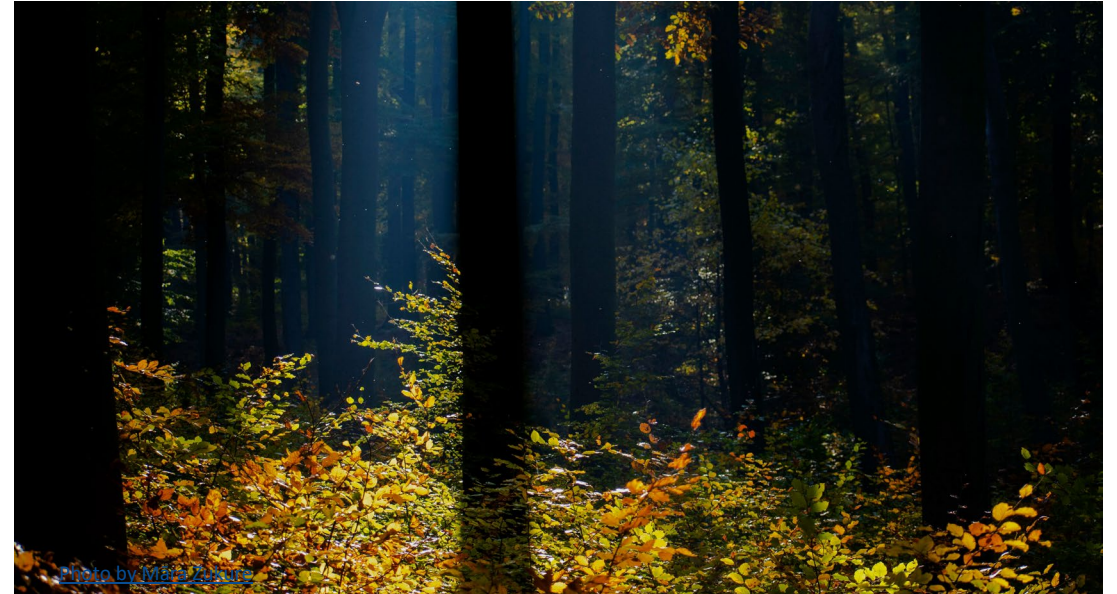


# 3 Management costs

Compliance checking and enforcement



Impact assessment and permits



# 3 Management costs

Additional green infrastructure measures  
(outside protected areas)



Maintenance and restoration measures  
for species and habitats





# 4 Communication and awareness costs

Protected area-related communication and awareness raising measures



Best practice exchange

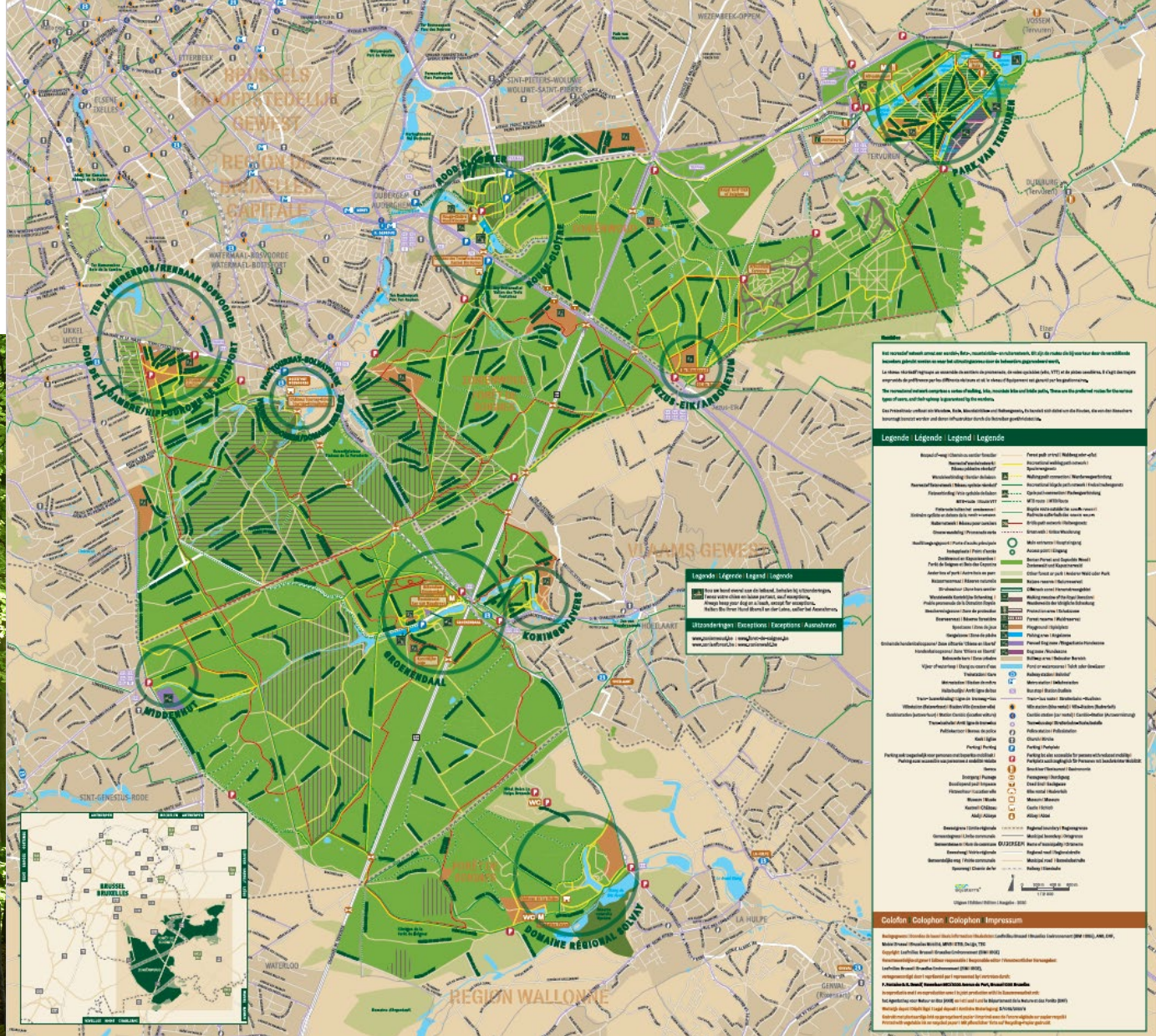




## A photograph of a forest path leading into a dense green forest. The path is a light-colored, unpaved trail that curves slightly to the right in the distance. It is flanked by tall, slender trees with vibrant green foliage. Sunlight filters through the leaves, creating dappled light on the path and the forest floor. The overall atmosphere is serene and natural.



NATURA  
CONNECT



19



## Management costs

- ✓ Staff costs for forestry workers, rangers, watchers and engineers
- ✓ Maintaining forestry equipment
- ✓ Costs of certification

## Network planning costs

- ✓ New Belgian national park Brabantse Wouden

## Communication and awareness costs

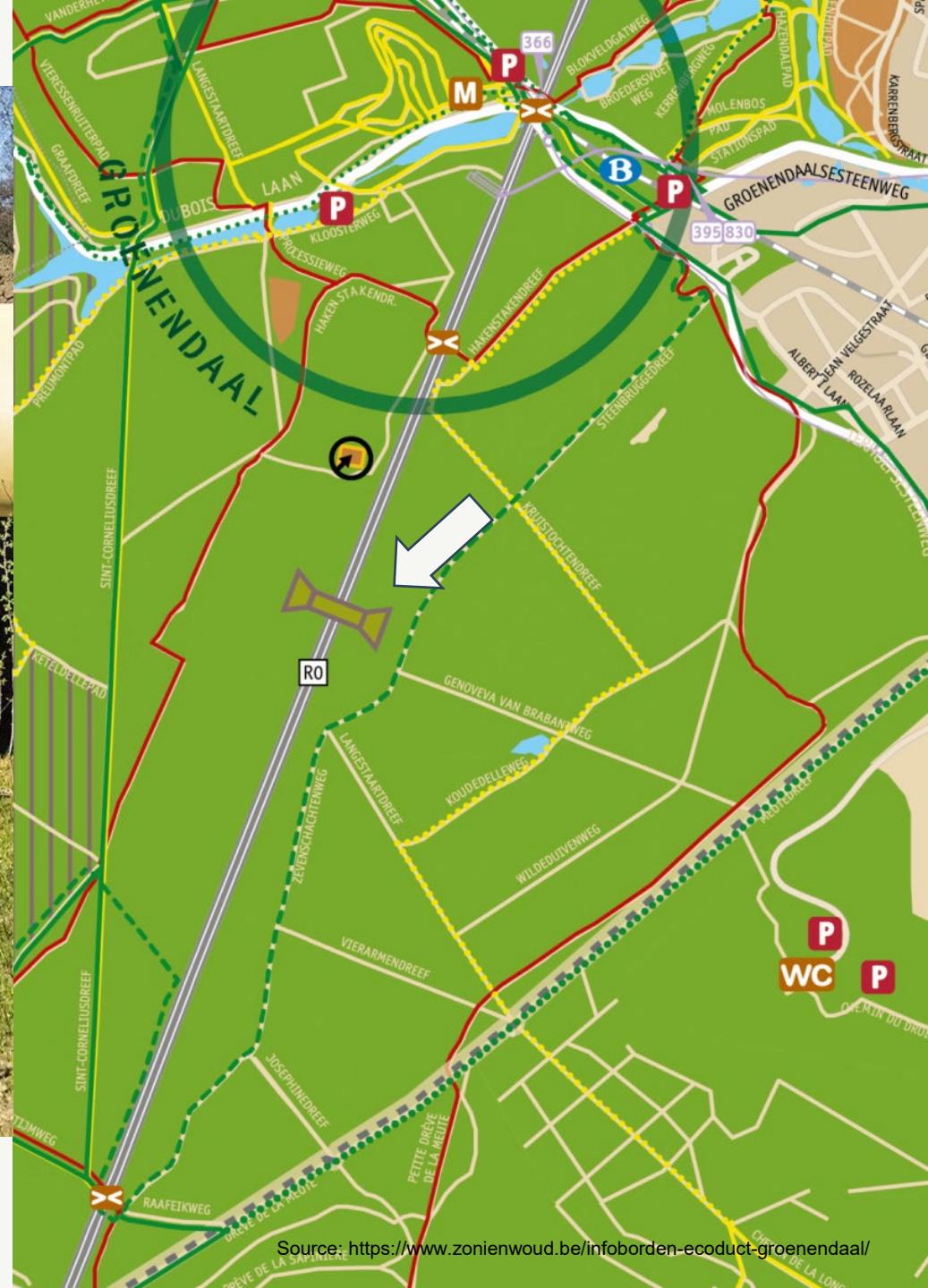
- ✓ Raising awareness on good habits for the Sonian Forest #respectintheforest campaign

## Protected areas establishment costs





Source: <https://ebema.be/nl-BE/groenendaal>



Source: <https://www.zonienwoud.be/infoborden-ecoduct-groenendaal/>

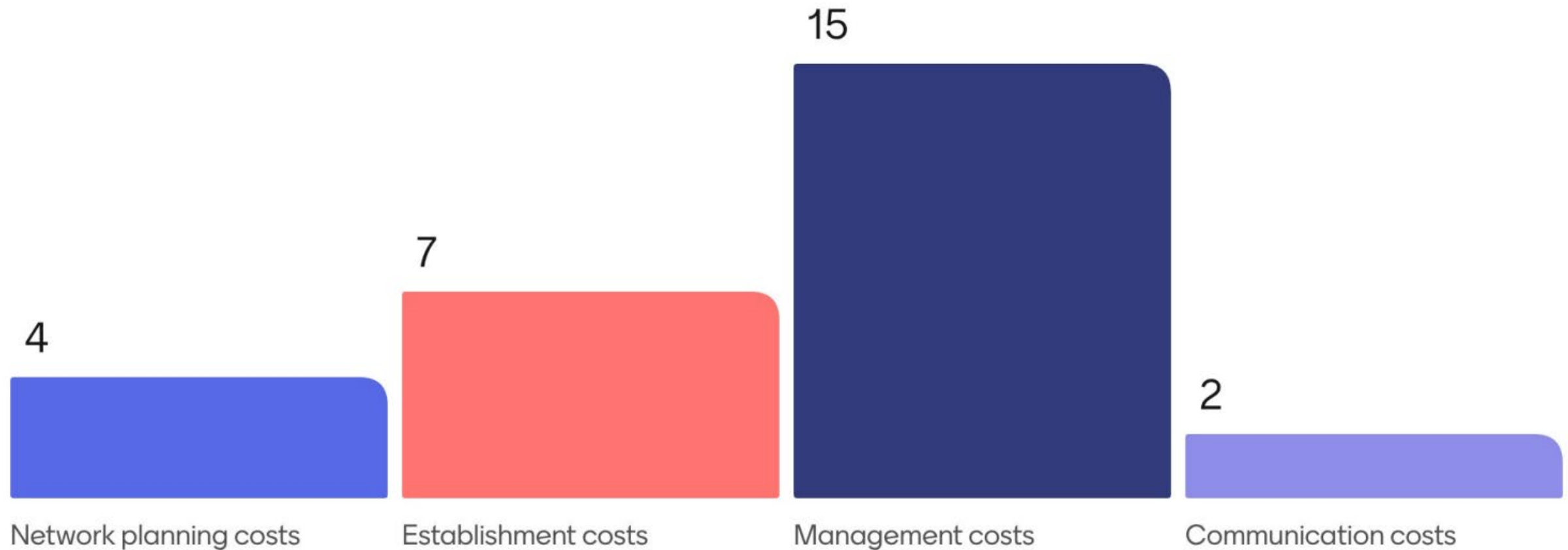




Source: Etienne AULOTTE



From all costs discussed which have you found the most challenging to fund?





# Are there any additional costs that come to mind?



# EU Public funding



Common Agricultural  
Policy (CAP) funds



European Marine Fisheries  
and Aquaculture Fund  
(EMFAF)



LIFE programme



European Regional  
Development Fund (ERDF)  
and Cohesion Fund



Interreg (European  
Territorial Cooperation)  
programme



# Private financing



Payment for ecosystem services:

Financial rewards for environmental stewardship



Blended Finance:

Reduce risk, attract private investment



Biodiversity credits:

Tradable units for conservation



Resilience bonds:

Investments for natural disasters prevention



Green and blue bonds:

Investments for environmental sustainability



User Pays Principle:

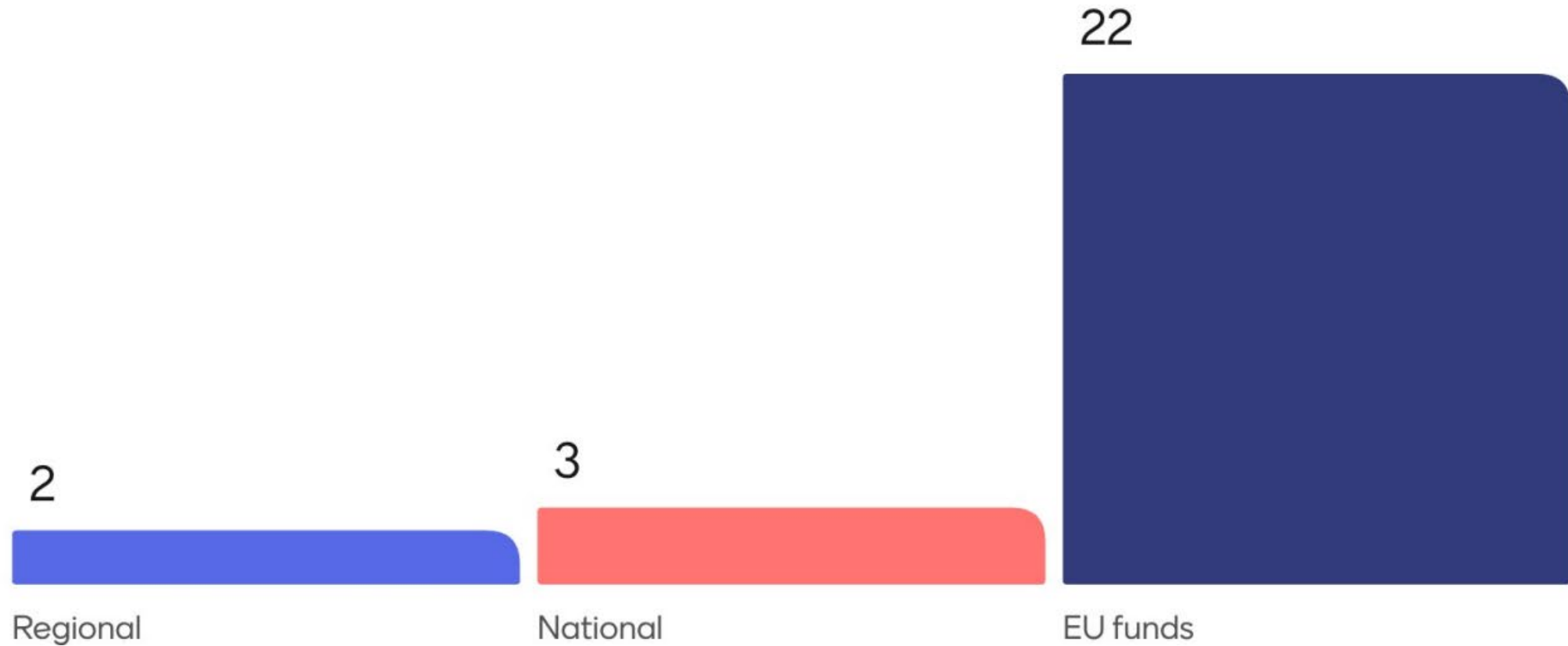
Users bear the cost of resource use

Within public funding which funds have you used the most?





Which type of public funding do you rely on the most: regional, national, or EU funds?



Within private financing which instrument have you used the most?





What have been the biggest challenges when securing funding for protected areas?





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# BioClima initiative: Promoting public-private partnerships as a funding opportunity for ecosystem services in Lombardy Region

**Giulia Amato**

Coordinator at Nature Governance Program

Etifor | Valuing Nature



## ONE PURPOSE

At Etifor,  
**we put nature at the heart of  
decision-making by  
developing science-based  
solutions.**

We are a highly specialised **environmental consulting company**: our multidisciplinary team improves the economic, environmental and social benefits of policies, projects and investments.



# Our services



## Governance of protected areas and stakeholder engagement

Do you want to find out how to improve the management of your natural resources?

[Read More >](#)



## Nature-based solutions for landscape challenges

Do you want to discover how to fight the climate crisis through nature?

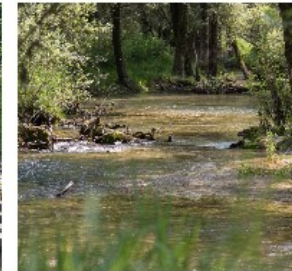
[Read More >](#)



## Economic valuation of ecosystem services

Do you want to find out how to value your natural area?

[Read More >](#)



## Fundraising for nature conservation and EU project design

Do you want to learn more on funding instruments for natural areas?

[Read More >](#)



## Innovative financing and Payments for Ecosystem Services

Do you want to learn out how to find resources for the conservation of natural areas?

[Read More >](#)



<https://www.etifor.com/en/gran-approach/>





# Key actors



E | T | I | F | O | R  
v a l u i n g   n a t u r e

Fondazione  
**CARIPLO**



# The goals

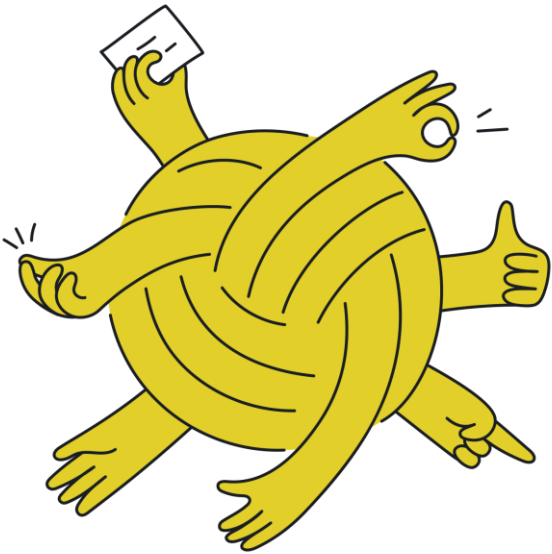
To develop an **innovative financial mechanism** to:

- **Fund** the Prioritized Action Framework for Natura 2000 in Lombardy Region.
- **Implement** the Regional Biodiversity and Sustainable Development Strategy.
- **Involve** the private sector and citizens in nature restoration activities.





# Key elements



## 1. A public grant of 3.5 millions €:

- to incentivise biodiversity conservation and forest climate adaptation measures;
- to leverage private finance for conservation.

## 2. A business model for applicants (N2000 managers):

- to measure ES impacts using FSC procedures;
- to have sponsors committed to support ecosystem services.

## 3. A technical assistance to support regional parks:

- in identifying the right interventions and carry out FSC certification;
- in finding the right sponsors.

# The FSC® ecosystem services procedure

- The **Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC)** is the most **globally trusted and recognized** voluntary, independent and third-party certification system for the **responsible management of the world's forests**;
- In 2018 FSC launched its **Procedure for the certification of Ecosystem Services**: an additional tool for demonstrating and communicating positive impacts on...

**Biodiversity conservation**



**CO2 capture & conservation**



**Watershed services**



**Soil conservation**

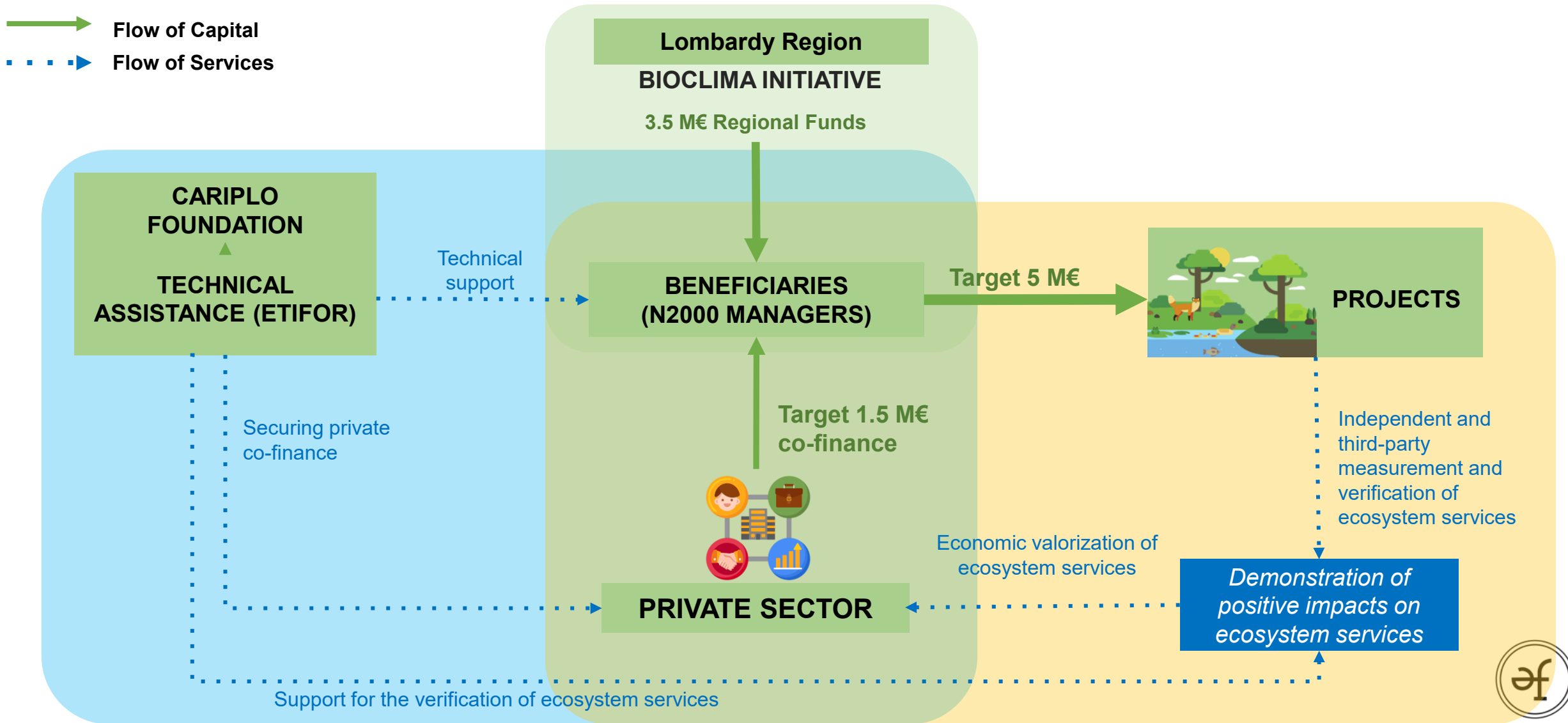


**Tourism & recreational services**



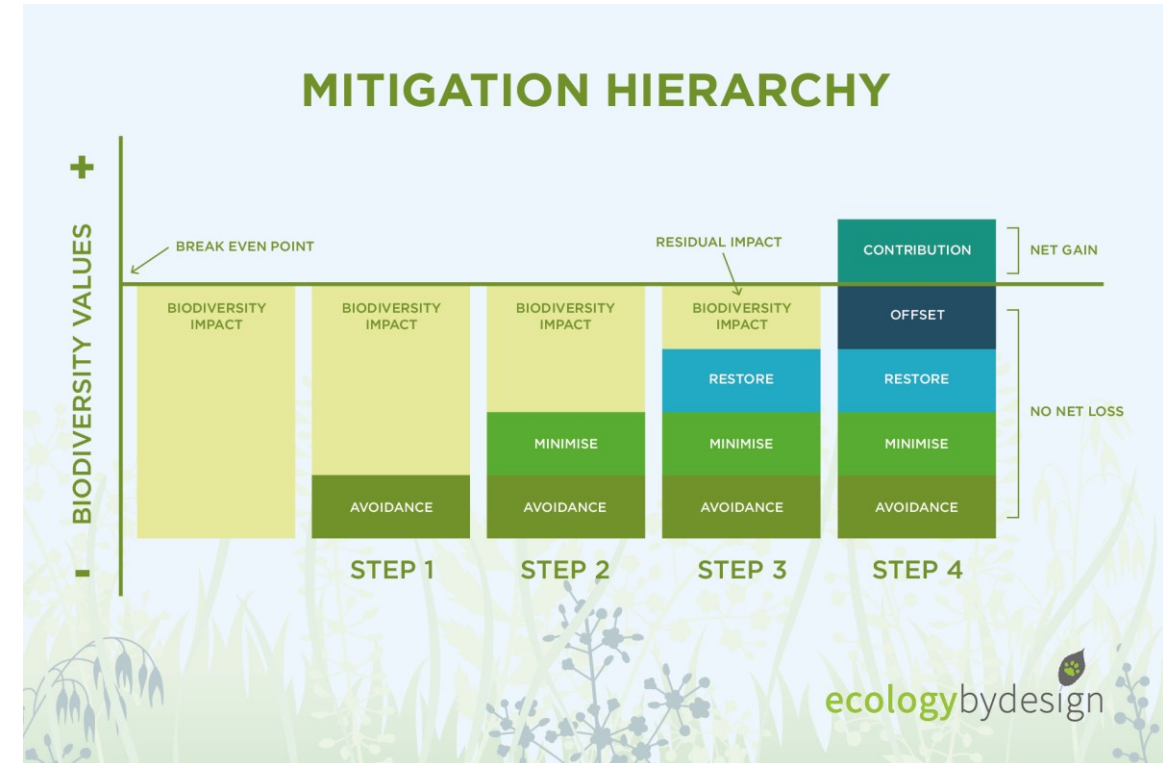


# Public-private finance model



# How do we engage with the private sector

- We ensure all private companies comply with **impact claims** using the FSC standards
- We ensure the use of mitigation hierarchy approach to **avoid greenwashing**
- We engage citizens, employees, & local population through **wownature.eu**





## Key results (1)



30 regional entities expressed interests, 18 applied and **12 regional parks obtained the public financing**

- forest management improvement: 298.7 ha
- reforestation: 20.93 ha
- habitats upgraded: 135.9
- more than 90 plant species (tree, shrub, herbaceous, aquatic, and liana species) planted and 27 species (animals)
- new certified areas under FSC standard: 3.128 ha (10 parks)

## Key results (2)

### River ecosystems



**Parco Lombardo della valle del Ticino**



**Parco Adda Sud**



**Parco Oglio Sud**



**Parco Regionale Oglio Nord**



**Isola Maria Luigia**



**Parco del Serio**



**Riserva Naturale delle Torbiere del Sebino**



**Comune di Canneto sull'Oglio**

### Mountain ecosystems



**Parco Orobie Valtellinesi**



**Parco Campo dei Fiori**



**Parco Spina Verde**



**Riserva Naturale Val di Mello**



<https://www.wownature.eu/aziende/bioclima/>





## Key results (3)

**signed contracts for sponsorships worth 1.3 million euros**  
for certified ecosystem services with 79 private companies

**NEXTENERGY**  
FOUNDATION

**B** BULGARELLI PRODUCTION

DAL 1967  
**SGAMBARO**  
MOLINO E PASTIFICIO

**AMBRO-SOL**  
Your Factory of Aerosol SPRAY

Acque Bresciane  
Servizio Idrico Integrato

**WÜRTH**

**Pomi**

**bancaetica**  
fondazione  
**finanzaetica**  
**etica** SGR  
Investimenti responsabili

**PANGUANETA**  
Plywood For Life

**IBUSFORFUNI**

**AB** A Better Way

**Banca Ifis**

**Econvivo**  
con la natura

**M P**  
MOLINO  
PORDENONE  
dal 1923

**Delta Macchine** S.R.L.

**messengerie libri**

**ANCE** LOMBARDIA

**MUGO**

**DAL LAGO TTC** srl

**Tree-kking**

**Kailas**  
VIAGGI E TREKKING

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## Conclusions

- First attempt of **blended finance** at regional level
  - not easy to set up, not easy to manage, but we learned a lot
- Lombardy Region is planning on **launching a new phase**, involving financial sector as co-financers
- **Great opportunity** for N2000 managers
- Technical assistance is necessary to **fill the gap**



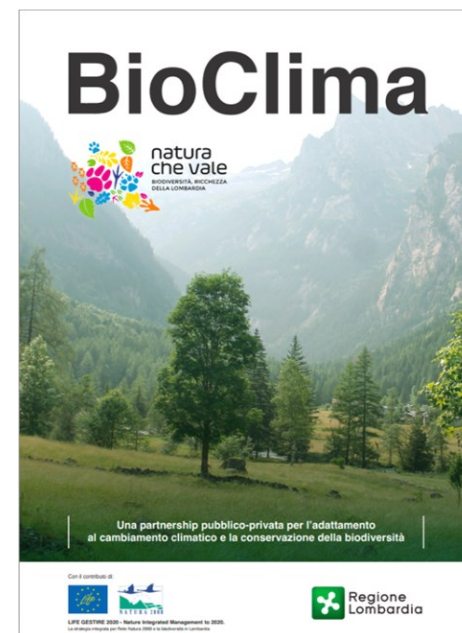


Find out more:

General info page (EN)



For N2000  
managers



Brochure (IT)

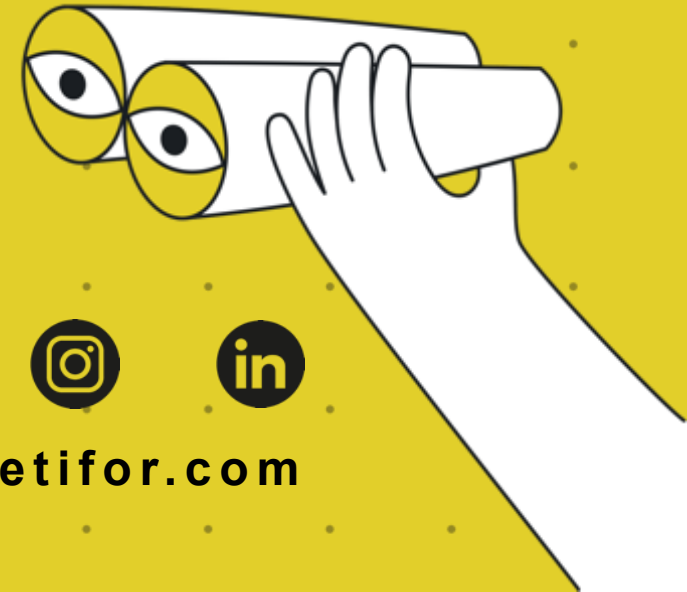


Video (IT)

# Thank you for your attention!

**Giulia Amato**

[giulia.amato@etifor.com](mailto:giulia.amato@etifor.com)



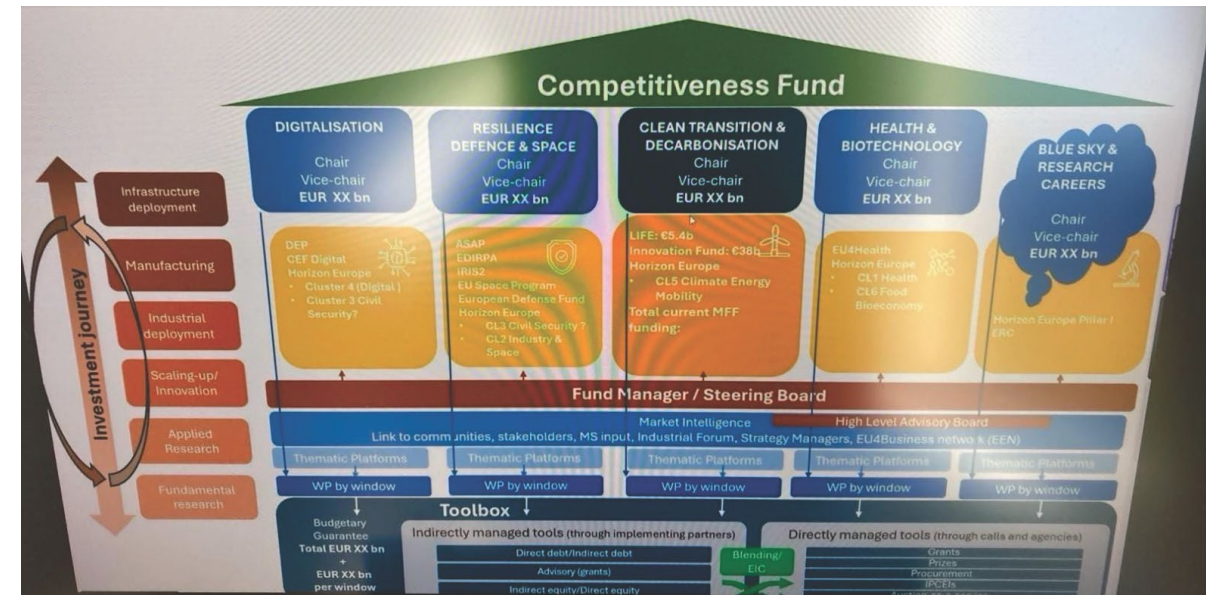
[www.etifor.com](http://www.etifor.com)



# Next EU Multi-Annual Financial Framework MFF

## What will EU funding look like in 2027 to 2032?

- Overall MFF envelope smaller
- New – additional – priorities
- Proposed major changes to structure
- National envelopes – MS choose how to allocate funds to each policy
- LIFE programme split



# Opportunities to mainstream biodiversity

## NaturaConnect submission to MFF consultation & scientists letter

- Importance of LIFE, Interreg, Cohesion opportunities
- Earmarking or minimum spend – link to Prioritised Action Framework for Natura, GI & species
- Performance-based approach
- Better ex-ante and ex-post assessments
- Better tracking
- Better spending categories – how to ensure climate / water / infrastructure spend also delivers for nature
- Better safeguards and proofing – DNSH principle, ex-ante & SEA, ex-post evaluations & learning from them, EIA & rules in EU regulations



# Connect with NaturaConnect!

 [www.naturaconnect.eu](http://www.naturaconnect.eu)

 [naturaconnect@iiasa.ac.at](mailto:naturaconnect@iiasa.ac.at)

 [facebook.com/NaturaConnectProject](https://facebook.com/NaturaConnectProject)

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 <https://bsky.app/profile/naturaconnect.bsky.social>



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# Q&A / Open discussion