

Workshop Summary: Theme 4, Workshop #3

Prepared by: Charles van Rees

Presenters: Virgilio Hermoso, Anne Lilleb, Kris Decler, Ilse Geijzendorffer

Workshop Ideas & Perspectives:

How can the research/new knowledge be applied to the development of the post2020 EU biodiversity strategy?

- Citizen science and scientist participation can address many knowledge gaps

Recommendations regarding the draft key messages?

- Updateable, agile, adaptive policies and priorities that can change with conservation improvement
- Earmarked funds for conservation to enhance monitoring
- Harmonize policies that apply to freshwater conservation (WFD, Habitats directive)
- Enforce consistent, mandatory wetland management plans across EU member states

What are the knowledge gaps and urgent research questions for the post 2020 period?

- Shortcomings and conflicts among relevant policies (WFD, Habitats Directive)
- Expenditures of conservation funds in different EU countries
- Basic info on distributions of threatened species and their habitats

Lessons learnt

- Citizen science essential for engagement, implementation, ownership
- Scientists need to engage with managers and stakeholders on the ground
- Wetland loss in Europe has been enormous (75% or more in 60 years) and driven by perverse subsidies and poor appreciation for ecosystem services.

Positive notes from the conference for the post 2020 period

- Restoration of wetlands has huge climate and economic benefits
 - Europe contains over 300,000 km² of peatlands which, if re-wetted, could absorb more carbon than equivalent areas of dense tropical forest

- Proper management of small amounts of current protected areas can protect most threatened species
- Conservation policies DO work for wetland fauna (e.g., waterbirds)