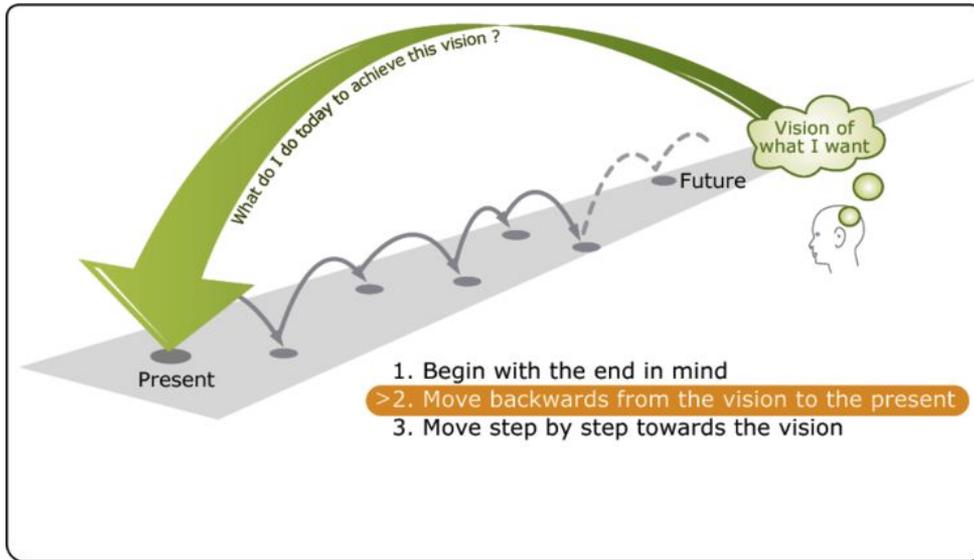


# Setting the scene for Theme 1 Parallel Workshops

## Envisaging plausible futures for 2050 through a Back casting exercise

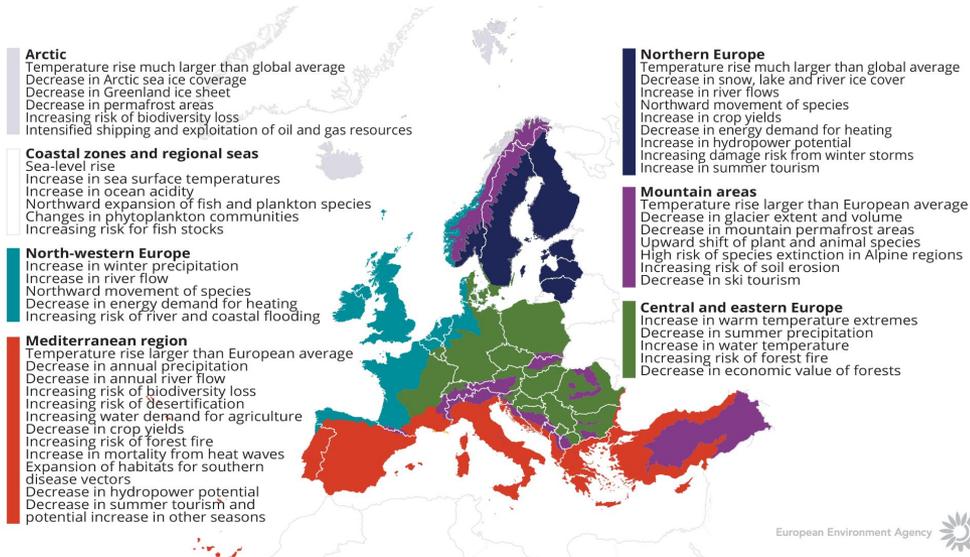


The idea behind this exercise is to begin with the EU Biodiversity Strategy beyond 2020 and **use our imagination to envision the future in tangible, relatable** to our every day life.

Participants were invited to split into four groups following biogeographic climates:

- [1] Mediterranean
- [2] Central and eastern Europe
- [3] North-western Europe
- [4] Northern Europe & Mountain areas

Within each biogeographic climate group participants were invited to share their vision for 2050, and then to identify the actions to be taken to reach that vision.



# Results Theme 1 WS 1 - Mediterranean

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

Set forward Mediterranean cultural values and go back to traditional climate adapted practices: Diet, agriculture, architecture, water uses. Look at wetlands support for environmental flows in the Mediterranean and acknowledge their intrinsic value. Integrate and acknowledge dispersed responsibility of multiple actors (private, public, science, citizens)

- **Recommendations regarding the draft key messages?**

Go for sustainable landscapes; have an holistic view; acknowledge the need for good balance between people and nature (e.g. sustainable-agro-ecosystems, green cities), reduce externalized impacts (e.g. food production) and adapt cities to climate change. Create government systems that are disconnected with government cycles; make nature part of our economic reasoning.

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

Conflicts between people needs from water and Nature needs; Conservation of wetlands and their species; Invasive species; Connectivity of habitats. The elephant in the room (global means) is: i) Birth control, gender and education and ii) Climate change.

- **COMMON DREAM**

People should feel part of nature, not just visitors. kinship with nature: see yourself as part of the mutual. Be in HARMONY with nature.

- **Positive notes from the conference for the post 2020 period.**

Look for good existing examples from other semi arid systems (e.g. Australia experience in environmental flows). If we do what we promised regarding Nature Based Solutions, regulation private sector (e.g. urban planning, tourism), sustainable agriculture, education and communication; circular economy, we are in the good way.

# Results Theme 1 WS 1 - North-western Europe

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

A new understanding of what makes a good life; dominant values in society – from individuals to policy – reflected by more sustainable life and lifestyles.

- **Recommendations regarding the draft key messages?**

Politicians, media and educators strongly emphasise the importance of ecosystems. Citizens understand the connection between their wellbeing and ecosystems, and feel emotionally attached to Nature. Corporate Social Responsibility for private sector; Strengthen spatial planning (e.g. cities, green playgrounds). Encourage collective decision-making and provide non-consumptive cultural opportunities. Experience-based learning which involves being in nature

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

Broader understanding of functional diversity – research priority; Climate adapted Natura 2000 network, also at national and European scale; vertical farming and other low-land-use ways of creating food (e.g. with more ‘closed-loop’ farms). Develop more appropriate metrics used to evaluate and assess companies and governments (e.g. Natural Capital Accounts, G.N. Happiness).

- **KEY MESSAGES FOR VISION**

Sustainable lifestyles and sustainable landscapes, and land use: Greener urban areas; perception of sustainable life, wellbeing and biodiversity; Re-examine food production and consumption patterns;

- **Positive notes from the conference for the post 2020 period.**

Celebrate and share learning from existing good examples – cities, farms etc.

# Results Theme 1 WS 1 - Central and Eastern Europe

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

Based on recent research insights we should aim at rewarding sustaining ecosystem services, including through economic incentives (including removal of perverse subsidies) for sustainable management; along side there is a need to change the discourse in the perceptions of nature and social incentives facilitating a transformation of the social and economic system.

- **Recommendations regarding the draft key messages?**

It should be highlighted that the windows of opportunity are becoming smaller (less options as time runs out). We also agreed it is crucially to acknowledge that different types of nature require different approaches (i.e. highly protected areas versus areas used for recreation or other purposes)

- **THE VISION OF THE GROUP**

Nature should be recognised as a life support system, it should be protected and sustainably used. We envision people to be proud of nature, be aware of and recognise its importance. Accordingly, decisions should be made based on the best science and based on participatory approaches. It was also highlighted that relatively pristine areas in Eastern and Southeastern Europe should be particularly preserved and protected. Another important point was that costs and impacts that are currently externalised urgently need to be internalised (e.g. biofuels, wood)

- **Positive notes from the conference for the post 2020 period.**

Networks of protected areas as part of larger adaptive multi-functional landscapes that consider the impact of climate change and evolving biodiversity (including new ecosystems) should be seen as means to strengthen the ability to adapt and mitigate in the face of global change.

# Results Theme 1 WS 1 - Northern Europe & Mountain areas

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

Promote collaborative management and planning. Run society as if humans are part of nature.

- **Recommendations regarding the draft key messages?**

Improved land management and wildlife management; change human consumption patterns of food; green cities to save energy and green infrastructures. New paradigm on capacity building. Teach / educate people to respect nature. The good environmental laws we have need to be better executed and implemented. Collective visions from what we want from our landscapes.

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

Comprehensive safety studies before implementation of new technologies; Need exercises and capacity building to open minds to alternative systems and options.

- **THE VISION OF THE GROUP**

People will live in harmony with nature; more voices given to nature and less to economic gain in the political arena; collaborative management and policies with local communities; re-wildness of nature. Successful nature-based solutions and technologies will be up scaled & implemented, where harmful ones will be restricted.

- **Positive notes from the conference for the post 2020 period.**

Learn from successful nature-based solutions and technologies; Existing of good environmental laws. Good examples by big companies.