



OCEANIC
RENEWABLES
SUMMIT

*Achieving
renewable energy
targets while
protecting and
restoring nature*

LISBOA
FUNDAÇÃO
CHAMPÁLIMAUD
17.04.24



APREN



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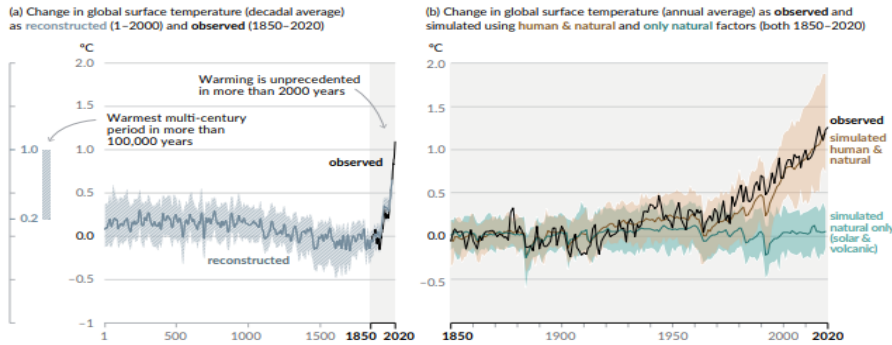
Nature Conservation Unit,
DG Environment,
European Commission

***Achieving renewable energy
targets while protecting and
restoring nature***

Climate and biodiversity crises

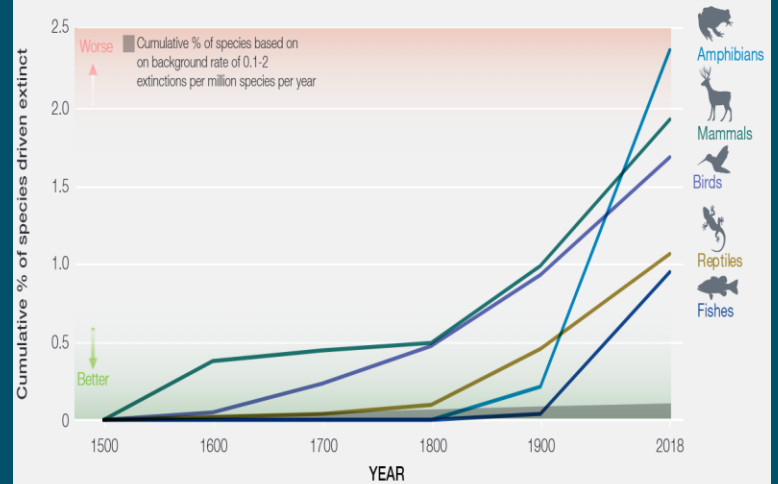
Human influence has warmed the climate at a rate that is unprecedented in at least the last 2000 years

Changes in global surface temperature relative to 1850-1900



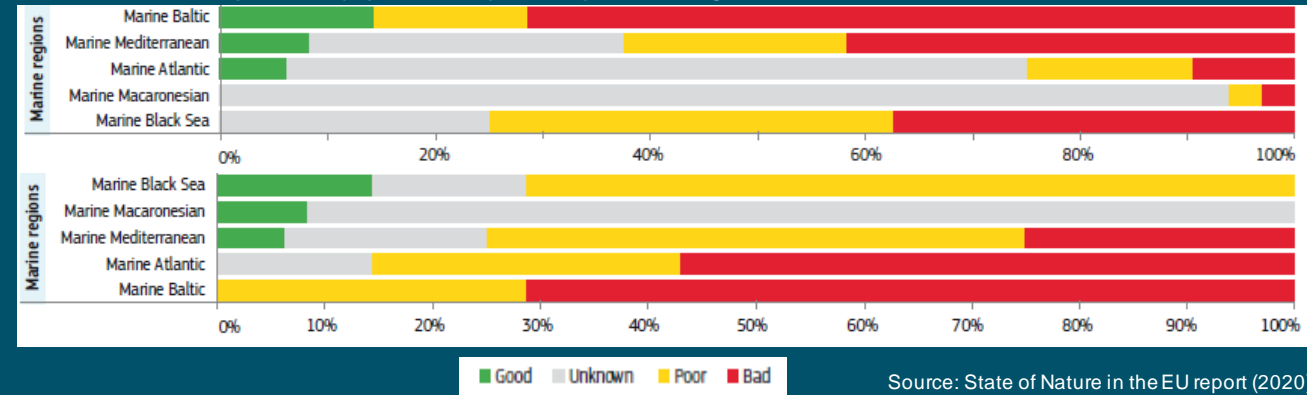
Source: IPCC, 2021: Summary for Policymakers. In: Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis. Contribution of Working Group I to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

Extinctions since 1500



Source: IPBES Global assessment 2019

Conservation status of protected a) species and b) habitats per marine region



Source: State of Nature in the EU report (2020)

EU policy context



EU policy context

EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030 "Bringing nature back into our lives"

2050 Vision

All the world's ecosystems are restored, resilient, and adequately protected

2030 Target

Put Europe's biodiversity on the path to recovery for the benefit of people, the planet, the climate and our economy



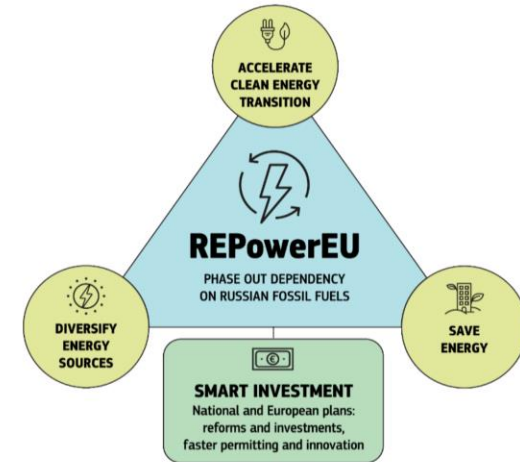
- ❖ EU environmental legislation in the marine environment: **the Birds and Habitats Directives & the Marine Strategy Framework Directive**
- ✓ **EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030:**
 - **30%** protected area target of which **10%** strictly
 - **30%** conservation status improvement target
 - EU Nature Restoration Plan
 - **Nature Restoration Law proposal**
 - By **2030** → **restoration measures** to cover jointly **20%** of EU's land and its sea
 - By **2050** → **measures** in place **for all ecosystems** in need of restoration
 - MSs shall prepare **Nature Restoration Plans**
- ✓ **Marine Action Plan**

Existing environmental legislation relevant for RES

- The EU legislation (SEA, EIA, HD, WFD, MSFD, MSPD) already provide **tools to avoid conflicts** between renewables and biodiversity including through **environmental assessments** at plan and project level.
- The EU nature legislation allows for effective deployment of renewable energy infrastructure and its **coexistence with nature protection**.
- The Habitats Directive (Article 6.3) allows implementation of projects **if they do not harm the integrity of the Natura 2000 sites**.
- **Flexibility** (Article 6.4): projects affecting the integrity of the sites can be carried out, if it is proven that there are **no alternatives, appropriate compensatory measures** have been put in place, and the plan or project is of **'overriding public interest'** - OPI (RES are *presumed* as OPI under the revised RED).

Legislative developments supporting the energy transition

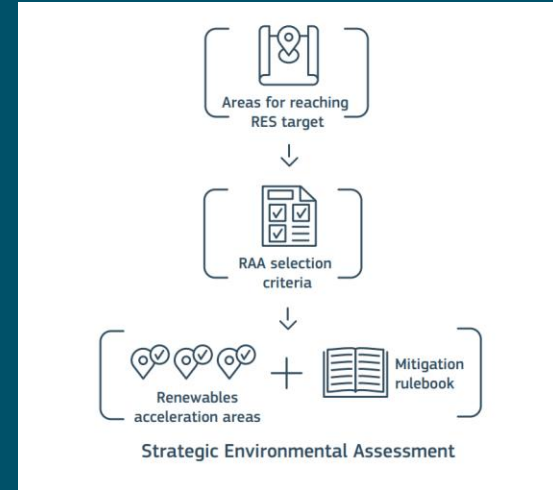
- The **REPowerEU plan** was adopted in May 2022 to accelerate the implementation of the European Green Deal and the clean energy transition
- **Revised Renewable Energy Directive (RED)** – entered into force 20 Nov 2023
 - Sets an **EU binding target of 42.5% share by 2030** and an aspiration to reach 45%
- Sets a more strategic approach to spatial planning for RES
- Promotes multi-use of space



Revised Renewable Energy Directive

➤ MSs to adopt plan(s) by 21 Feb 2026 designating **Renewable Acceleration Areas (RAAs)** where RES are **not expected to have significant environmental impacts:**

- Priority to artificial and built areas
- Exclusion of Natura 2000 sites, nationally protected areas, major bird and marine mammal routes and other areas with exceptions (i.e. artificial and built surfaces therein)
- Use of appropriate and proportionate mapping tools and datasets



- Establish appropriate rules including **effective mitigation measures**
- Plan(s) must be subject to **SEA** (and AA under HD if relevant), public and reviewed periodically
 - targeted **exceptions from EIA/ AA at project level**

➤ Similar optional provision for the designation of **Dedicated Infrastructure Areas (DIAs)** for grids

Wind Power Package



Published in Oct 2023

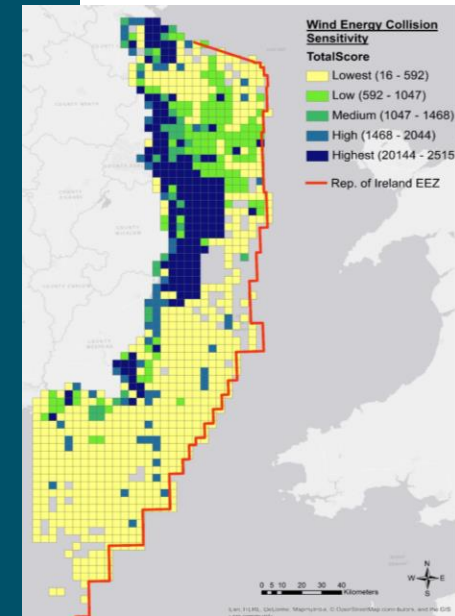
- **'Accele-RES'** - frontloading transposition and implementation of the revised RED
- Improved **auction design**
- Support **integrated Maritime Spatial Planning and regional cooperation** at sea basin level
- Reinforce **research and innovation** through Horizon Europe → address **cumulative environmental and socio-economic impacts** of offshore renewables
- **In the coming weeks**, the Commission will:
 - **Issue Guidance** on the designation of Renewables Acceleration Areas
 - **Issue Recommendation and Guidance** on the design of renewable energy auctions including on the use of non-price criteria
 - **Update** the Recommendation and Guidance on speeding up permit-granting procedures for renewable energy projects

Strategic planning of RES and impact mitigation

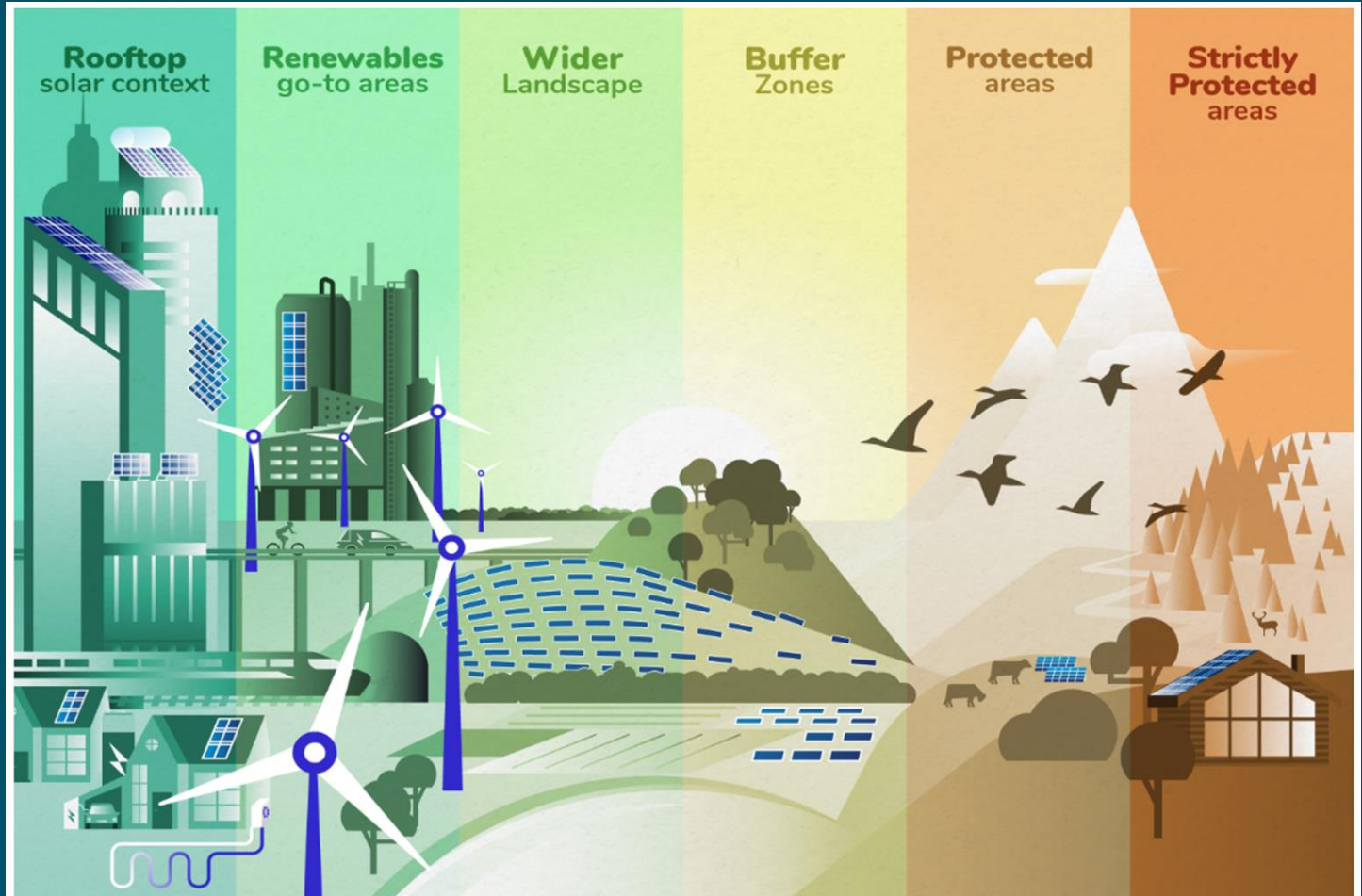
- Strategic spatial planning to select areas with low sensitivity and high resource potential and to avoid conflicts with other users
- Maritime spatial plans must integrate nature protection/restoration, energy, fisheries, aquaculture and all other uses of the sea
- Strategic planning through **sensitivity mapping**
 - identify areas where RES could adversely impact biodiversity
- **EC guidance documents:**
 - Guidance on wind energy developments and EU nature legislation
 - Wildlife sensitivity mapping manual



Guidance document on
wind energy developments and
EU nature legislation

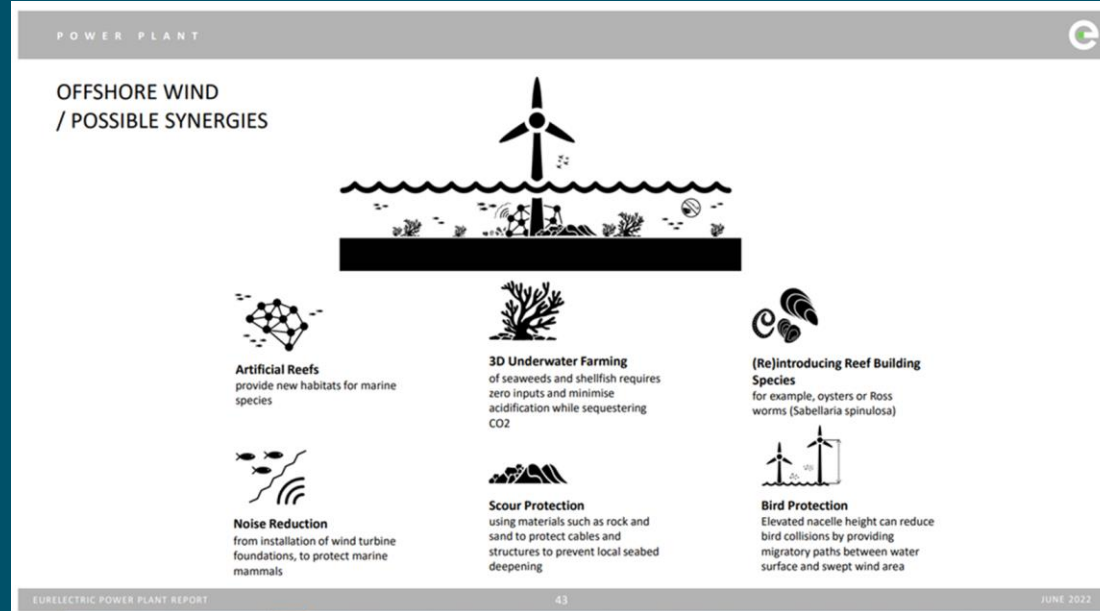


Need to support win-win solutions



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- Support RES that deliver on multiple objectives of the EGD
- Incorporate the mitigation hierarchy
- Support biodiversity targets (beyond compliance with existing environmental legislation)
- Monitor impacts and support data collection in the marine environment



Source: Eurelectric, Power Plant report <https://www.eurelectric.org/powerplant/reports>

- Potential positive impacts and **win-win solutions**:

e.g. artificial reef effect & habitat creation, mussel and oyster reef restoration, combination with aquaculture...

Obrigada!
Thank you!

