

# Biodiversity: a complex system but we cannot ignore it!

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# BirdLife Europe

- European and Central Asian Partnership of BirdLife International
- 48 countries
- 2 million members
- Tens of thousands of volunteers and supporters
- Owns or manages more than 5 800 sites totalling 320 000 hectares in Europe and Central Asia
- Work on EU Policy: mainly related to environment and biodiversity

# Bio-what ? What diversity?

Biological diversity: number, variety and variability of living organisms

UNEP: Synonym for 'Life on Earth'

Diversity: genetic  
species  
ecosystems



Mr. Nagy

# Key threats to biodiversity

- Unsustainable harvesting of natural resources
- Loss, degradation or fragmentation of ecosystems through land conversion
- Invasive non-native or 'alien' species being introduced to ecosystems to which they are not adapted
- Pollution
- Climate change

# Doesn't policy deal with this?

- Birds and Habitats Directive and biodiversity strategy
  - Strong on paper
  - Implementation still in progress
- Other environmental legislation
  - WFD, Nitrates, SUD
  - IAS
  - EIA
  - Climate and energy package

# A green CAP?

- The idea was: integration
- The outcome
  - Cross compliance weakened
    - BD elements removed
    - Not updated on latest policies (water, pesticides)
  - Greening below BAU with many exemptions
    - EFA: too little quantity, no guaranteed quantity
    - Grassland protection hollow
    - Crop diversification also works for monocultures
  - Rural Development
    - Budget is shrinking
    - Double funding / baseline did not increase

# People care!

- 26% of consumers bases its purchasing decisions partly on ethical criteria
- 87% of shoppers expect grocery companies to be constantly checking that their suppliers are acting responsibly towards the environment and health issues



# Biodiversity and certification?

- Complexity of biodiversity
  - Different regions = different standards
  - Monitoring and advise is key
  - Look beyond the farm
- Beyond green marketing
  - Needs to go beyond existing legislation
  - Needs to be more than voluntary measures
  - Governance
- Proliferation of schemes
  - Meta standards ( assurance of quality)

# A joint project in the Czech Republic

## 1. Setting a standard

- Biodiversity plan
- EFAs, rotation, ...

## 2. Engagement with farmers

- Biodiversity and economic aspects
- Farmers interviews

## 3. Comparative study

# Conclusions

- Sustainability includes biodiversity
- If people want it and policy does not deliver it, then certification can step up to fill the gap
- Certification could push up the bar
- It cannot just become green marketing
- The complexity of biodiversity needs to be taken into account



**Thank you**

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