

EU

Natural ecosystems and their vital services are under pressure from urban sprawl, intensive agriculture, pollution, invasive species and climate change.

The European Union has been committed to the protection of nature since the adoption of the Birds Directive in April 1979. It provides comprehensive protection to all wild bird species naturally occurring in the territory of European Union. The Habitats Directive was adopted in 1992 to help maintain biodiversity - it protects over 1000 animals and plant species and over 200 types of habitats. It also established the EU-wide Natura 2000 network of protected areas.

Natura 2000 sites have been designated specifically to protect species, their habitats and habitat types from the Habitats and Birds Directives. In total, there are around 2000 species and 230 habitat types for which those sites need to be designated as Natura 2000 sites.

The EU reinforced the role of zoos in the conservation of biodiversity (Zoos Directive) and, in the wake of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020, committed to protect native biodiversity and ecosystem services against invasive alien species (Regulation on the invasive alien species) and regulates certain aspects of wildlife trade (CITES Regulation).

Over the last 25 years EU have built the largest network of protected areas in the world - Natura 2000, which includes over 27,000 sites and covers over 18% of the EU's land area and more than 6% of its sea territories.

SERBIA

Serbia is a country of rich ecosystem and species diversity. The total number of known species in Serbia is 4,082. Covering less than 2% of the whole European territory it is home to:

74% of European bird fauna

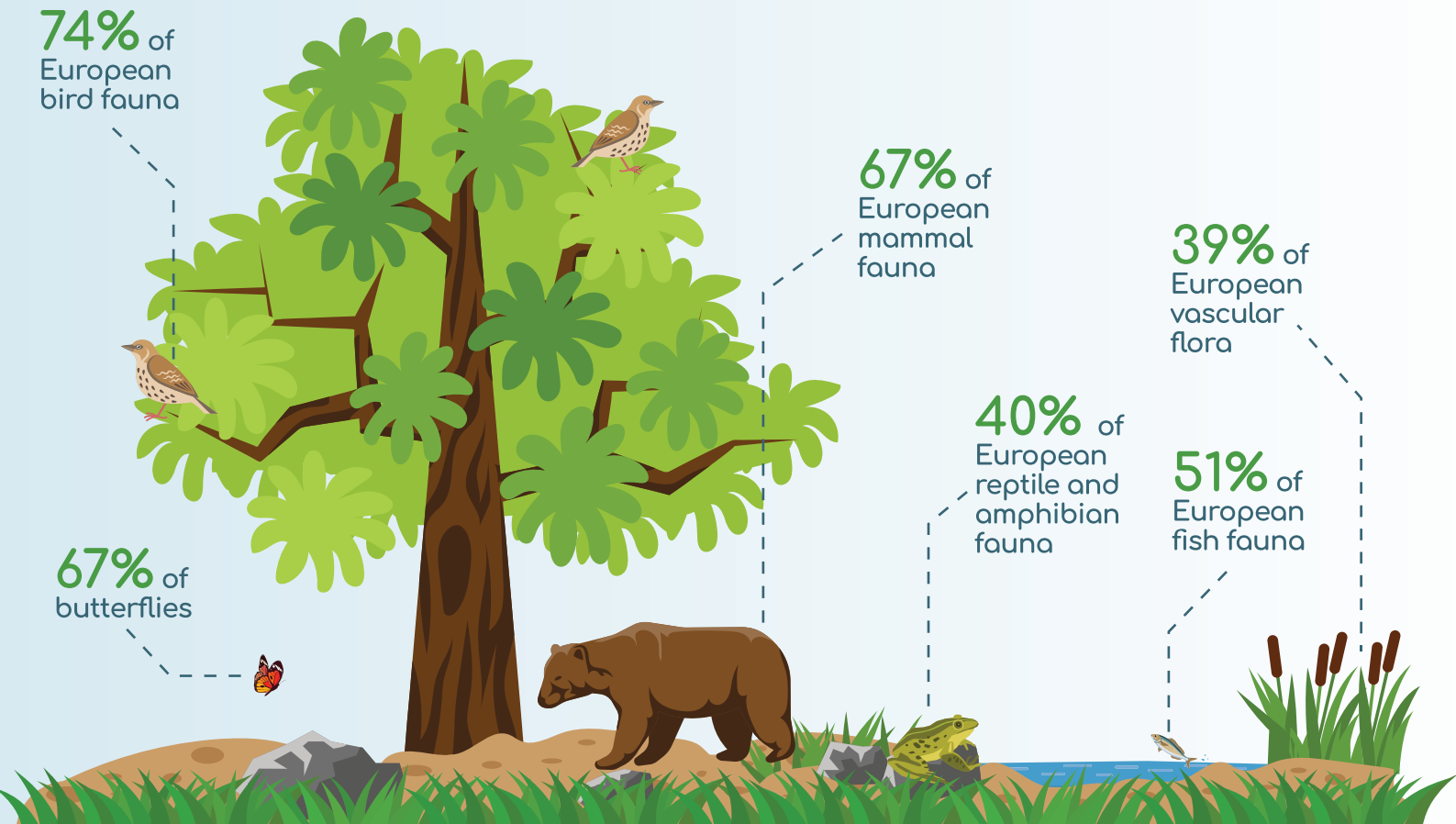
67% of butterflies

67% of European mammal fauna

40% of European reptile and amphibian fauna

39% of European vascular flora

51% of European fish fauna



NATURE PROTECTION

In accordance with current Serbian legislation, there are 1760 strictly protected and 868 protected species of wild species of plants, animals and fungi.

The current area under protection, i.e. the protected areas, covers about 673.835 ha or 7,61% of the territory of Serbia.

Ecological network includes 101 international and national ecological important sites connected with ecological corridors and covers 20,93% of territory of the Republic of Serbia.

Implementation of the provisions of the EU requirements is in progress.

Preliminary list of Special Protected Areas under Birds Directive includes 43 sites and are established as an integrated part of ecological network.

It is foreseen, that, in addition to the national projects implemented for the establishment of Natura 2000, with the support of EU, Serbia will finalise identification and establishment of Natura 2000 territories in two stages, including:

- During 2019-2020, designation planned for at least 80% of Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and at least 50% of proposed Sites of Community Importance (pSCIs), developing of information system, data base and GIS for NATURA 2000 development, completion of alignment of national legislation with EU directives.

- During 2021 – 2023 – continuation of designation of SPAs and completion of the list of potential pSCIs, finalisation of the Natura 2000 network.

In order to protect Serbia's nature and enrich EU biodiversity, Serbia proposes to EU additional three natural habitat types whose conservation requires the designation of special areas of conservation, revised description to five existing habitat type with the aim of adapting to national conservation requirements and 10 species for protection in all EU MS.

Regarding the bird species, Serbia proposes one additional species to be the subject of special conservation measures and for 8 species more stringent measures by introduction of hunting ban on Serbian territory.

At the same time, Serbia is asking for possibility to manage number of Balkan parts of Serbian populations of Gray wolf and European wildcat and population of Balkan chamois.

Proposal for these geographical adaptations was widely discussed with scientific and NGOs community.

We all depend on nature for our food, air, water, energy and raw materials.

Nature and biodiversity along with the ecosystem services it provides, make life possible, provide health and social benefits and drive our economy.

Healthy ecosystems can also help us cope with the impacts of climate change.

Serbia is determined in protecting and enriching EU biodiversity through strengthening the institutional and technical capacity to fulfil the requirements of EU nature protection acquis.

