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Explanatory notes in support to the National Restoration Plan uniform format

Contents

Introduction

Article 15(7) of Regulation (EU) 2024/1991 on nature restoration ("NRR" or "the Regulation")[1] provides that the Commission, by means of an implementing act[2], establishes a uniform format for the National Restoration Plans (NRP) which must be prepared by each Member State (MS). The uniform format includes the elements listed in Article 15(3) to 15(6).

The uniform format supports MS in their planning in view of implementing Articles 4 to 13 of the NRR and thereby reaching the corresponding restoration targets by the deadlines set in the Regulation. It allows for the structured presentation of the necessary data and information in a step-by-step manner. The uniform format also reflects the flexibility that MS have in deciding when and where to put in place restoration measures according to their national circumstances, by allowing a bottom-up approach to filling in those parts of the uniform format dedicated to concrete restoration measures, allowing MS to explain the underlying considerations for their planning choices in a limited number of short free text fields or providing the option to limit the planning exercise to a strategic overview for the period after 2032 in accordance with Article 15(2) NRR.

For restoration planning and preparing the NRP, MS can reuse information that is available from the Nature Directives, Water Framework Directive, Marine Strategy Framework Directive, EMODNET and maritime spatial plans, integrated national energy and climate plans, long-term climate strategies, and Eurostat datasets. Where possible, links to such resources will be provided in the relevant fields of the explanatory notes. Furthermore, MS are encouraged to *make the best possible use of the results of Union-funded research and innovation projects, new technologies and surveillance, such as in-situ monitoring and remote sensing using space data and services delivered under the ENOS, Galileo and Copernicus components of the Union Space Programme, established by Regulation (EU) 2021/696 of the European Parliament and of the Council. The EU missions 'Restore Our Ocean and Waters', 'Adaptation to Climate Change', and 'A Soil Deal for Europe', set out in the communications from the Commission of 29 September 2021 on European Missions shall support the implementation of the restoration targets* (recital 73 NRR).

The present document provides an overview of the structure of the uniform format for NRPs and an explanation of its content to guide MS when filling-in the different parts of the format.

The uniform format consists of three parts: A (Information across targets), B (National approach to meeting restoration targets and fulfilling obligations, by article), and C (Measures).

Fields in the NRP are mandatory, conditional, or optional. Conditional fields become mandatory under certain conditions. Optional fields are marked in the uniform format (both through colour coding and in the text). Conditional fields are not marked as optional in the uniform format, but could not be mandatory either, as they are only applicable under certain conditions, e.g. fields that refer to a derogation are only applicable if the MS has reported that the derogation is applied. MS are strongly encouraged to make full use of the optional fields,

[1] http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1991/oj

[2] Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/912: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2025/912/oj

drawing on the best available evidence at the time of planning. Incorporating information from existing plans, EU monitoring frameworks, and relevant data sources will enhance coherence and the delivery of evidence-based national strategies. Filling in these optional fields—alongside the required ones—is a proportionate effort with significant long-term benefits, helping to create a comprehensive and forward-looking planning tool. Even for targets beyond 2032, where uncertainties may arise, MS are encouraged to adopt a long-term vision, ensuring their plans are adaptable in the face of future challenges. Taking this approach will facilitate a smoother implementation and policy integration as new knowledge and data become available. It is important to note that even in free-text fields, the use of "should" or "may" indicates important information, even if not always mandatory.

The colour coding of fields of the NRP Format reflects:

- Light blue: optional fields.
- Light green: fields for which existing data may be used.
- Light grey: titles and explanations on the fields.

For free text fields, the maximum number of characters includes spaces.

In addition to these explanatory notes, a technical reporting manual will be developed once the reporting platform Reportnet 3 is set up. This technical reporting material will complement these Explanatory Notes with information on the technical details of, for example, tabular and geospatial information. The final reporting format when transferred in the reporting platform may undergo small adjustments to accommodate technical solutions. These adjustments will not impact the content of the reporting format.

The present document has been developed by the European Environment Agency (EEA) with support of their European Topic Centre for Biodiversity and Ecosystems, in collaboration with the Directorate-General for Environment and in consultation with the Nature Restoration Regulation Expert Group. This document aims to assist Member States' authorities in filling-out the uniform format for the national restoration plan, pursuant to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/912. It should not be considered as representing an official position of the European Commission and is without prejudice to any potential future Commission guidance on the interpretation of the relevant provisions. It is not legally binding and does not replace, add to, or amend the provisions of applicable Union law. Only the Court of Justice of the European Union is competent to authoritatively interpret Union law.

1. Basic information

1.1 Member State: two-digit code corresponding to MS submitting the NRP (according to the drop-down code list of MSs). Only one plan can be submitted for each MS.

1.2 Date of submission of the plan: date of plan submission in Reportnet 3, indicated with Full year-Month-Day, in numbers, i.e. YYYY-MM-DD.

1.3 Responsible or coordinating body/bodies: free text field, suggested max. 3000 characters. Provide the names of the coordinating bodies, institutions, or units responsible for developing and managing the NRP, along with their official organizational contact information (such as general email addresses, main phone numbers, or postal addresses). Do not include personal details or contacts for individual staff. This field does not refer to the lead reporter that manages access rights in Reportnet 3.

1.4 Is this a revised version of the NRP? (Art.19): Select from "Yes" or "No".
"No" should be selected for the draft plan due on 1 September 2026, while "Yes" should be used when submitting the final restoration plan after the assessment of the European Commission. When selecting "Yes", MS should complete the section "Additional Information I".

1.5 Summary of the NRP: Free text field, suggested max. 10000 characters.
In this section, MS should provide a summary of their NRP, addressing key elements that contribute to its development and implementation. The NRP summary shall cover the period up to 2050, with intermediate deadlines corresponding to the targets and obligations set out in Articles 4 to 13, and may include:

- National context, including policy, economic, environmental, and social factors influencing the plan's content and execution
- Governance and administrative structures in place or to be established (e.g., national and/or federal coordination bodies, scientific and advisory committees, inter-sectoral working groups, regional agencies, stakeholder engagement, monitoring units)
- Coordination mechanisms beyond those described in field 1.3
- National restoration priorities and their alignment with the NRP
- Key measures and actions to achieve restoration outcomes
- General financial overview for implementing the plan

Part A – Information across targets

Part A of the format contains information that is transversal to the different targets of the NRR. Its objective is to provide basic information on the national context in which the NRP is developed and on the general considerations. Furthermore, it aims at providing an overview of the links and co-benefits of the implementation of the NRP for other important policies, which will help MS to better plan the use of resources from different sources. Finally, this section includes financial, monitoring and assessment information segments.

2. Preparing and establishing the NRP

2.1 Public participation (Art.14(20) and Art.15(3)(w))

According to Art. 15(3)(w), the NRP must include a summary of the process for preparing and establishing the NRP, including information on public participation and of how the needs of local communities and other relevant stakeholders have been considered.

According to other relevant provisions, *Member States shall ensure that the preparation of the restoration plan is open, transparent, inclusive and effective and that the public, including all relevant stakeholders, is given early and effective opportunities to participate in its preparation. Consultation shall comply with the requirements set out in Directive 2001/42/EC* (Art. 14(20)). Additionally, *Member States should promote a fair and cross-society approach in the preparation and implementation of their national restoration plans* (recital 83). *They should put in place the necessary measures to engage local and regional authorities, landowners and land users and their associations, civil society organisations, business community, research and education communities, farmers, fishers, foresters, investors and other relevant stakeholders and the general public, in all phases of the preparation, review and implementation of the national restoration plans, and to foster dialogue and the diffusion of science-based information about biodiversity and the benefits of restoration* (recital 83).

MS are encouraged to use transboundary and multi-level cooperation mechanisms when preparing their NRP, ensuring synergies across and within regions and countries.

2.1.1 Summary of the preparation process, outcome of public participation and stakeholders' engagement: Free text, suggested max. 3000 characters.

MS should briefly describe the process for preparing and establishing the NRP. Several aspects such as type and number of public participatory event(s), organising institution(s) and invited and participating stakeholders and sectors, timing and duration of the consultation process(es), the identified local needs and feedback, the consideration of local needs in the NRP and specific support and advice from stakeholders may be described. MS may consider explaining how the following stakeholders have been involved in the preparation process (according to recital 83 of the Regulation):

- *Local and regional authorities*
- *Landowners*
- *Land users and their associations*
- *Farmers*
- *Fishers and other sea users*
- *Foresters*
- *Civil society organisations*

- *Business community*
- *Research and education communities*
- *Investors*
- *General public*
- *Urban green professionals*
- *Other relevant stakeholders*

MS can make use of this space to provide any other indications they consider relevant to the process of public participation in their territory. The use of key references (e.g., research publications, academic and/or NGO reports, official government documents and reports, stakeholder meeting reports, press releases, news articles, survey results) and web links that evidence the development of the public participation process and its results is encouraged and, whenever possible, DOIs should be used.

2.2 Considerations of the diversity of situations in various regions (Art. 14(16)(c) and 15(6))

In accordance with Art. 14(16)(c) and Art. 15(6), MS should *take into account the diversity of situations in the various regions of the Union, in accordance with Article 191(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), such as social, economic and cultural requirements and regional and local characteristics, including population density* (recital 70).

2.2.1 Considerations of the diversity of regional characteristics in regions, including their social, economic and cultural requirements and population density (Art. 14(16)(c) and Art. 15(6)) (optional): Optional field in which MS may outline specific considerations relating to the development of the NRP in varied regions. MS may input at national or sub-national level, if applicable. Information can (a) be provided at a cross-cutting level, i.e., across targets (free text, suggested max. 3000 characters) and/or (b) detail specific considerations for specific Articles of the regulation, by selecting one or more articles from the code list and (c) providing a free text description (free text, suggested max. 3000 characters). If at least one article is specified in (b), (c) must be filled in.

2.3 Considerations of the specific situation of the outermost regions (if applicable) (Art. 14(16)(c) and 15(3)(o))

According to Art. 15(3)(o), if applicable, MS must provide information in the NRP on tailored restoration measures in their outermost regions. Under Art. 14(16)(c), where appropriate, the specific situation of the Union's outermost regions, such as their remoteness, insularity, small size, difficult topography and climate, as well as their rich biodiversity and the associated costs for protecting and restoring their ecosystems, should be considered.

Recital 71 of the NRR further specifies: "*It is appropriate to take into account the specific situation of the Union's outermost regions, as listed in Article 349 TFEU, which provides for specific measures to support those regions. As envisaged in the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, particular focus should be placed on protecting and restoring the outermost regions' ecosystems, given their exceptionally rich biodiversity value. At the same time, the associated costs for protecting and restoring those ecosystems and the remoteness, insularity, small size,*

difficult topography and climate of the outermost regions should be taken into account, in particular when preparing the national restoration plans. Member States are encouraged to include, on a voluntary basis, specific restoration measures in those outermost regions that do not fall within the scope of this Regulation".

2.3.1 Considerations of remoteness, insularity, small size, difficult topography, and climate in outermost regions: Free text, suggested max. 3000 characters.
Where appropriate, outline specific considerations related to outermost regions, such as geographic remoteness, insularity, small size, challenging topography, and unique climate conditions, that may affect the implementation of restoration efforts.

2.3.2 Considerations of the biodiversity in outermost regions: Free text, suggested max. 3000 characters.
Where appropriate, MS should provide details on the biodiversity found in these areas and how this is taken into consideration for the development of the plan. This may include indications on endemic species, distinct ecosystems, and specific vulnerabilities or conservation challenges due to the factors discussed in 2.3.1.

2.3.3 Considerations of associated costs for protection and restoring the ecosystems of outermost regions: Free text, suggested max. 3000 characters.
Where appropriate, provide an overview of the costs related to protecting and restoring ecosystems in outermost regions. Considerations may include higher logistical, operational, and maintenance expenses due to remoteness, limited infrastructure, and the need for specialized interventions to address unique environmental challenges and preserve biodiversity.

3. Contributions to overarching targets and objectives set out in Article 1

This section contains information on how actions will contribute to the overarching goals and objectives established under Article 1 of the NRR. For example, how restoration actions will contribute to wider commitments e.g., concerning climate change mitigation, climate change adaptation and food security, public health and the specific restoration area targets set out by the Union for 2030 and 2050.

3.1 Contribution to the overarching objectives set out in Article 1(1) (optional): Free text, suggested max. 3000 characters.
In this optional field, MS may provide a qualitative overview of how nature restoration efforts contribute to the overarching objectives established in Article 1(1). This may include, but is not limited to, information on long-term and sustained recovery of degraded ecosystems, achieving the Union's overarching objectives concerning climate change mitigation and adaptation, enhancing food security, and meeting the Union's international commitments.

3.2 Extent of land and sea areas covered by restoration measures by 2030:
This is a mandatory field in which MS should provide indicative best estimates of the land and sea areas that will be covered by area-based restoration measures by 2030, in line with Article 1(2), which sets a Union-wide target to restore at least 20% of land areas (a) and of sea (b)

areas by 2030. Provide the estimate in km^2 ensuring that any overlaps among targets, sub-targets or ecosystems are only accounted once (i.e. no overlaps).

3.3 Extent of land and sea areas that are subject to restoration measures by 2050 (optional): In this optional field, MS can provide indicative estimates of the land areas (a) and of sea areas (b) (in km^2) that will be covered by area-based restoration measures by 2050, in line with Article 1(2), which sets a Union-wide target to restore all ecosystems in need of restoration by 2050. Alternatively, this field may be limited to a strategic overview, in which case MS may provide a range of values (in km^2) instead of specific values. Provide the estimates or ranges ensuring that any overlaps among targets, sub-targets or ecosystems are only accounted once (i.e. no overlaps).

4. General co-benefits, related policies and financial information

This section contains details that are transversal to all targets of the Regulation (i.e., to Articles 4, 5, and 8 to 13). It contains three main sub-sections: 4.1 General co-benefits, 4.2 Policies and measures taken into account and 4.3 Financial information.

4.1 General co-benefits and impacts (Art. 15(3)(r) and (s))

The NRR aims at ensuring the recovery of ecosystems, which at the same time contributes to climate change mitigation and climate change adaptation objectives. This section aims at explicitly identifying how the measures indicated in this national plan will benefit the national and international goals for climate change mitigation, land degradation neutrality, as well as their socio-economic and other potential benefits. In these fields, MS should outline the co-benefits of the restoration actions and may optionally indicate co-benefits specific to articles.

4.1.1 Co-benefits for climate change mitigation (Art. 15(3)(r)): Describe the co-benefits from restoration measures outlined in the NRP for climate change mitigation. NRR Recital (17) specifies: *Regulation (EU) 2021/1119 of the European Parliament and of the Council sets out a binding objective of climate neutrality in the Union by 2050 and negative emissions thereafter, and to prioritise swift and predictable emission reductions and, at the same time, enhance removals by natural sinks*, including urban and peri-urban ecosystems (e.g. parks, green roofs, street trees and wetlands). *The restoration of ecosystems can make an important contribution to maintaining, managing and enhancing natural sinks and to increasing biodiversity while fighting climate change (...)*. NRR Recital (18) further specifies: "(...) *Having a greater number of biodiverse ecosystems leads to higher resilience to climate change and provides more effective forms of disaster reduction and prevention*.

Information on transversal benefits across sectors is mandatory (free text, suggested max. 3000 characters). MS may optionally link co-benefits to specific articles of the regulation by selecting one or more articles from the code list and providing a free text description (free text, suggested max. 3000 characters). If one or more articles are specified in (b), (c) must be filled in.

4.1.2 Co-benefits for land degradation neutrality (Art. 15(3)(r)): Describe the co-benefits from restoration measures outlined in the NRP for land degradation neutrality. NRR Recital (23) specifies: "*The communication of the Commission of 17 November 2021 entitled 'EU Soil*

Strategy for 2030 Reaping the benefits of healthy soils for people, food, nature and climate' outlines the need to restore degraded soils and enhance soil biodiversity. The Global Mechanism, a body set up under the United Nations Convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa, and the secretariat of that Convention have established the Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Programme to assist countries to achieve land degradation neutrality by 2030".
Information on transversal benefits across sectors is mandatory (free text, suggested max. 3000 characters). MS may optionally link co-benefits to specific articles of the Regulation by selecting one or more articles from the code list and providing a free text description (free text, suggested max. 3000 characters). If one or more articles are specified in (b), (c) must be filled in.

4.1.3 Foreseeable socio-economic impacts and estimated benefits of the restoration measures referred to in Art. 4 to 12 (Art. 15(3)(s)): Describe the foreseeable socio-economic impacts and estimated benefits of the restoration measures planned for Art. 4 to 12 (Art. 15(3)(s)). NRR Recital (13) specifies: "*The European Green Deal will lead to a progressive and profound transformation of the economy of the Union and its Member States, which in turn will have a strong bearing on the Union's external action. It is important that the Union uses its trade policy and extensive network of trade agreements to engage with partners on the protection of the environment and biodiversity also globally, while promoting a level playing field"*.

In addition, as stated in NRR Recital (14): *"It is appropriate to set an overarching objective for ecosystem restoration to foster economic and societal transformation, the creation of high-quality jobs and sustainable growth. Biodiverse ecosystems such as wetland, freshwater, forest as well as agricultural, sparsely vegetated, marine, coastal and urban ecosystems deliver, if in good condition, a range of essential ecosystem services, and the benefits of restoring degraded ecosystems to good condition in all land and sea areas far outweigh the costs of restoration. Those services contribute to a broad range of socio-economic benefits, depending on the economic, social, cultural, regional and local characteristics."*
Information on transversal benefits across sectors is mandatory (free text, suggested max. 3000 characters). MS may optionally link co-benefits to specific articles of the Regulation by selecting one or more articles from the code list and providing a free text description (free text, suggested max. 3000 characters). If one or more articles are specified in (b), (c) must be filled in.

4.1.4 Other potential impacts and co-benefits (e.g., list of Sustainable Development Goals, food security, Zero Pollution Action Plan) (optional): In this optional field, MS may describe additional impacts and co-benefits from the restoration measures outlined in the NRP (free text, suggested max. 3000 characters). For example, MS may link co-benefits to the Sustainable Development Goals, food security, the Zero Pollution Action Plan, among other potential co-benefits: The NRR Recital (5) specifies: "*The UN Sustainable Development Goals, in particular goals 11.7, 14.2, 15.1, 15.2 and 15.3, refer to the need to ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands.; (20) As indicated by the communication of the Commission of 23 March 2022 entitled 'Safeguarding food security and reinforcing the resilience of food systems', geo-political developments have further underlined*

the need to safeguard the resilience of food systems. Evidence shows that restoring agro-ecosystems has positive impacts on food productivity in the long-term, and that the restoration of nature acts as an insurance policy to ensure the Union's long-term sustainability and resilience.; *(22) The restoration of ecosystems, coupled with efforts to reduce wildlife trade and consumption, will also help prevent and build up resilience to possible future communicable diseases with zoonotic potential, therefore decreasing the risk of outbreaks and pandemics, and contribute to support the Union's and global efforts to apply the One Health approach, which recognises the intrinsic connection between human health, animal health and a healthy and resilient nature".* MS may optionally link co-benefits to specific articles of the Regulation by selecting one or more articles from the code list and providing a free text description (free text, suggested max. 3000 characters). If one or more articles are specified in (b), (c) must be filled in.

4.2 Policies and measures taken into account

This section contains an overview of how the NRP considers climate change policies (Art. 15(3)(t)(i)), as well as other national strategic plans and policies. MS should outline how restoration programmes will contribute to climate change mitigation and link with existing national strategies.

4.2.1 Consideration of climate change scenarios for the planning of the type and location of restoration measures (Art. 15(3)(t)(i)): Describe how climate change scenarios have been considered in the planning of restoration measures. *It is important that MS prepare detailed national restoration plans based on the best available scientific evidence (65).* For example, *projected changes to environmental conditions due to climate change should inform the determination of favourable reference areas for habitat types (65).* It is suggested to describe the climate projections and models considered (including their temporal scale), the vulnerability of the different ecosystems, the suitability of different locations and the suitable restoration types and techniques, and the considered adaptive management and flexibility strategies. Information on transversal considerations is mandatory (free text, suggested max. 3000 characters). MS may optionally link considerations to specific Articles of the regulation by selecting one or more articles from the code list and providing a free text description (suggested max. 3000 characters). If one or more articles are specified in (b), (c) must be filled in.

4.2.2 Consideration of information available at the time of planning about unavoidable habitat transformations directly caused by climate change (Art. 4(14)(b), Art. 4(15)(b), Art. 4(16)(b), Art. 5(11)(b), Art. 5(12)(b), Art. 5(13)(b), and Article 12(4)(b)) (optional): Free text, suggested max. 3000 characters.

MS may optionally describe how climate change has led to unavoidable habitat transformations and how this influences the planning of restoration measures when addressing the obligations set by the Regulation. Examples may include shifts in species distribution, loss of coastal habitats due to sea-level rise, and changes in ecosystem composition driven by increasing temperatures and extreme weather events. Information available related to large-scale *force majeure*, including natural disasters, unplanned and uncontrolled fire, may be considered.

4.2.3 Consideration of information available at the time of planning about large-scale force majeure, including natural disasters (Art.4(14)(a), Art.4(15)(a), Art.4(16)(a), Art.5(11)(a), Art.5(12)(a), Art.5(13)(a), and Art.12(4)(b)) (optional): Free text, suggested max. 3000 characters.
Describe how the MS takes into account existing knowledge on extreme events and unavoidable habitat transformations when designing and implementing restoration measures. If possible, clarify what types of large-scale force majeure events, historical and recent data, and projected future risks are considered.

4.2.4 Consideration of the potential of restoration measures to minimise climate change impacts on nature, to prevent or mitigate the effects of natural disasters and to support adaptation (Art.15(3)(t)(ii)): Describe how the planned restoration measures contribute to climate resilience, disaster risk reduction and ecosystem-based adaptation. MS may consider including, for example, the role of nature-based solutions; the ecosystem services linked to the restoration measures that contribute to cooling effects, carbon sequestration, water regulation, and increased biodiversity, which are key for long-term climate resilience; how the planned measures prevent landslide and soil erosion, protect coasts and mitigate floods and drought, among other key mitigation and adaptation features. Information on transversal considerations is mandatory (free text, suggested max. 3000 characters). MS may optionally link considerations to specific articles of the Regulation by selecting one or more articles from the code list and providing a free text description (suggested max. 3000 characters). If one or more articles are specified in (b), (c) must be filled in.

4.2.5 Consideration of synergies with national adaptation strategies or plans and national disaster risk assessment reports (Art. 15(3)(t)(iii)): Describe the synergies between the NRP and existing national adaptation strategies or plans e.g., National Recovery and Resilience Plans. Identify common objectives between the restoration plan, adaptation strategies, and disaster risk reduction plans, such as ecosystem-based approaches and nature-based solutions for climate resilience. Ensure that the restoration measures complement national and local adaptation targets (e.g., improving water retention in landscapes for drought management), optimizing resource utilization. Describe the planned multi-benefit measures, and how vulnerable areas and high-risk regions may be prioritised for restoration. Information on transversal considerations is mandatory (free text, suggested max. 3000 characters). MS may optionally link considerations to specific articles of the Regulation by selecting one or more articles from the code list and providing a free text description (suggested max. 3000 characters). If one or more articles are specified in (b), (c) must be filled in.

4.2.6 Overview of the interplay between the measures included in the national restoration plan and the national energy and climate plan (Art. 15(3)(t)(iv)): Present an overview of the interplay, such as alignments and potential conflicts, between the measures included in the NRP with existing national energy and climate plans. Highlight the national energy and climate goals, and how restoration measures, such as forest restoration, wetland restoration, or soil improvement, contribute to carbon sequestration and GHG reduction targets. Consider discussing measures to ensure that renewable energy infrastructure (e.g., solar fields, wind farms, hydropower) does not compromise restored habitats or priority biodiversity areas. MS may indicate how they addressed potential conflicts between land for restoration and energy production. Information on transversal considerations is mandatory (free text, suggested max.

3000 characters). MS may optionally link considerations to specific articles of the Regulation by selecting one or more articles from the code list and providing a free text description (suggested max. 3000 characters). If one or more articles are specified in (b), (c) must be filled in.

4.2.7 Consideration of key EU and national policies with relevance to biodiversity taken into account (Art. 14(14)) (optional): In this optional field, MS may provide an overview of the key EU (e.g., EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, Birds and Habitats Directive, Water Framework Directive, Marine Strategy Framework Directive, Forest Strategy for 2030, Floods Directive, EU Soil Strategy for 2030, EU Pollinators Initiative, Marine Action Plan), and national (e.g., National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, National Land Use Spatial Planning Policies, Forestry Policies and Strategies and other forest related regulations and laws, River Basin Management Plans, Protected Area Management Plans, among others) biodiversity policies taken into account in the NRP. Information may be given as transversal considerations (a) (free text, suggested max. 3000 characters) and/or linked to specific articles of the Regulation by selecting one or more articles from the code list (b) and providing a free text description (c). If one or more articles are specified in (b), (c) must be filled in.

4.2.8 Overview of the interplay with the national common agricultural policy (CAP) strategic plan (Art. 15(5)): Present an overview of how the NRP and the national CAP strategic plan interact and affect each other. Consider the alignment of objectives and practices as well as funding opportunities. MS may also indicate how the two policies will be integrated to address land use conflicts, support rural communities and incentivise farmers' participation. Information on transversal considerations is mandatory (free text, suggested max. 3000 characters). MS may optionally link considerations to specific articles of the Regulation by selecting one or more articles from the code list and provide a free text description (suggested max. 3000 characters). If one or more articles are specified in (b), (c) must be filled in.

4.2.9 Identification of existing agricultural and forestry practices, including CAP interventions, that contribute to the restoration objectives (Art. 14(10) and 15(5)): Identify and describe already existing practices related to the agricultural and forestry sectors, that can contribute to one or more of the restoration objectives mentioned in the Nature Restoration Regulation and addressed in this plan. In section (b), countries should indicate the CAP interventions, together with the farming practices[3], eligible for each intervention, that contribute to the restoration objectives. Countries report both CAP interventions and associated farming practices using the code list of Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) interventions. Other existing practices (for example, those related to Good Agricultural and Environmental Conditions) should be described in (a), mentioning the specific objective (i.e., target or sub-target) that the practice addresses (free text, suggested max. 3000 characters).

4.2.10 Consideration of strategic critical raw material projects (Art. 14(15)) (optional): MS may optionally describe how strategic critical raw material projects were considered when preparing the NRP, ensuring that objectives are harmonised, and balancing the EU's raw material needs with commitments to biodiversity restoration and sustainable development.

[3] European Commission, Joint Research Centre, Angileri, V., Guerrero, I. and Weiss, F., A classification scheme based on farming practices, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2024, https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2760/33560, JRC133862

Consider explaining how to ensure that restoration measures coexist and align with projects deemed strategic under Union law, particularly those related to the extraction, processing, or recycling of critical raw materials vital for the EU's transition to green and digital economies. Information may be given as transversal considerations (a) (free text, suggested max. 3000 characters) and/or linked to specific articles of the Regulation by selecting one or more articles from the code list (b) and providing a free text description (c). If one or more articles are specified in (b), (c) must be filled in.

4.2.11 Synergies with the national restoration plans of other Member States, where possible (Art. 14(17)): *"Member States shall, where possible, foster synergies with the national restoration plans of other Member States, in particular for ecosystems that span across borders or where Members States share a marine region or subregion within the meaning of Directive 2008/56/EC."* Describe the transboundary ecosystems where synergies are undertaken, which measures will be aligned and coordinated, the existing and planned cross-border cooperation mechanisms and structures, including regional sea conventions, and potential stakeholder engagement across borders, among other aspects. Information may be given as transversal considerations (a) (free text, suggested max. 3000 characters). MS may optionally link considerations to specific articles of the Regulation by selecting one or more articles from the code list and provide a free text description (suggested max. 3000 characters). If one or more articles are reported in (b), (c) must be filled in.

4.2.12 Other policies taken into account, where applicable (optional): In this optional field, MS may provide information on any other relevant national or international policies taken into account when developing the NRP, not mentioned in previous fields, e.g., air pollution control programmes. Information may be given as transversal considerations (a) (free text, suggested max. 3000 characters) and/or linked to specific articles of the Regulation by selecting one or more articles from the code list (b) and providing a free text description (c). If one or more articles are specified in (b), (c) must be filled in.

4.3 Summary of financial information

In this section, a general estimation of the financial needs for the implementation of the restoration measures is required, according to Art. 15(3)(u). Additionally, a description of potential negative subsidies is required, according to Art. 15(3)(v). The NRR Preamble (78) specifies: "*To ensure meeting the targets and fulfilling the obligations set out in this Regulation, it is of utmost importance that adequate private and public investments are made in restoration. Member States should therefore integrate in their national budgets expenditure for biodiversity objectives, including in relation to opportunity and transition costs resulting from the implementation of the national restoration plans, and reflect how Union funding is used*".

This summary financial information is highly policy relevant as it could play an important role in the discussion on the future EU financial support for biodiversity and restoration and in the programming phase under future EU funds.

4.3.1 Estimation of financial needs to implement the restoration measures (Art. 15(3)(u))

This section aligns with the financial section included in Part C of the National Restoration Plan, where financial information can be indicated per measure. Financial information in Part

C is optional, while financial information at national level in part A is mandatory. Possibilities for aggregating the information between Parts A and C may be explored, but MS will (whether part C is filled in or not) be responsible for a complete and consolidated estimate of financial needs in Part A. In any case, information from the estimated financial needs of individual measures can be used to estimate the total financial needs to be indicated in Part A. Please consider that all financial data provided should be based on best estimates, according to the best information available at the time of planning (or at the time of revising the plan). Financial needs should account for ongoing and planned measures and may include measures started in the past if relevant, particularly for removals of artificial river barriers (as Article 15(3)(i) explicitly refers to 2020 onwards, but also for restoration measures implemented or started before 18 August 2024 that have not yet reached their full effect.

4.3.1.1 Estimated financial needs (in EUR) to implement the national restoration plan (restoration and non-deterioration measures, horizontal measures): In this field, MS fill in detailed financial information (i.e., numerical costs) for the preparation, establishment and implementation of the National Restoration Plan. Information is to be provided for each of the following time periods:

I) for the period from August 2020 up to July 2024 (optional)
II) for the period from August 2024 to June 2032
III) for the period from July 2032 up to December 2050

Financial information about the preparation and the establishment of the plans can be provided either in horizontal costs or in dedicated optional fields. Financial estimates should be understood as best estimates in EUR, considering the information available at the moment of preparation of the plan or its revised version. For each of the items indicated in the table, costs should be estimated as yearly average of one-off costs in the selected period as well as annual running (i.e. recurring) costs, for the duration of the corresponding period. Optionally, MS may indicate how much of the total indicated costs is to be assigned specifically to the ground implementation of the measure within Natura 2000 sites. According to Art. 15(2), MS can provide a strategic overview for the period from July 2032 up to December 2050, defining ranges of values instead of best estimates and considering indicative estimations based on the best available information at the moment of developing the plan or its revised version.

Information is divided in (A) Horizontal costs for the measure, considered across ecosystems, and (B) Estimated costs for the individual ecosystems, meaning ecosystem-specific costs for the implementation of the measures. If the MS decides to indicate specific costs not referred or related to any of the predefined fields, it is possible to indicate ‘Other Horizontal Measures’ and ‘Other costs’ . If 'Other horizontal costs' or 'Other costs' is selected, further textual information needs to be filled in a free text field (max. 200 characters). Where public funding mechanisms are concerned, MS may also consider public procurement processes as financial support mechanisms to deliver the restoration measures planned under the NRP.

Since the National Restoration Plan’s financial reporting overlaps substantially with the Prioritised Action Framework (PAF) under Article 8 of the Habitats Directive, this section is

structured to allow full integration of PAF requirements. It follows the Typology of Ecosystems (available on the EEA NRR reference portal[4]) and adds optional sub-fields for PAF-specific data—such as costs tied to Natura 2000 sites or measures beyond those directly required by the Nature Restoration Regulation (for example, species population management). MS are encouraged to submit their PAF financial information by filling out these optional fields within the NRP. This approach merges reporting exercises and reduces administrative burden. If a MS completes these optional fields, no other PAF-related information will be requested. However, the Commission may ask Member States who do not fill in these optional fields to submit this information separately.

4.3.1.2 Estimated financial support to the stakeholders affected by restoration measures or new obligations arising from implementation of the Regulation: This field is composed of a free text section (a), with suggested max. 3000 characters, suggested to explain the needed financial support for stakeholders impacted by restoration measures or new obligations arising from implementation of the regulation, as well as a brief indication of how the financial needs were calculated and potential cost-effectiveness assessments. Additionally, sub-field (b) should be used to indicate the (numerical) value of the estimation of the financial support (in EUR). Both the free text field and the value estimates in EUR should be assessed for the following periods: I) for the period from August 2020 up to July 2024 (optional period), II) for the period from August 2024 to June 2032, III) for the period from July 2032 up to December 2050. According to Art. 15(2), MS can provide a strategic overview for the period from July 2032 up to December 2050, defining ranges of values instead of best estimates and considering indicative estimations based on the best available information at the moment of developing the plan or its revised version.

Examples of financial support mechanisms for MS to consider may include:

- Direct financial compensation
- Public financial instruments (including, e.g., European Regional Development Funds, CAP payments, etc.)
- Private financing mechanisms
- Tax incentives
- Risks and catastrophe insurance products
- Innovation and research grants
- Community/cooperatives grants for restoration initiatives

4.3.1.3 Indicative means of intended public financing: As in the previous field, this field is composed of a free text section (a), with suggested max. 3000 characters, to explain the public financing needs and mechanisms that will be employed to finance the actions in the NRP. This may be used to include a brief explanation of how the estimated financing needs have been calculated and potential cost-effectiveness assessments. Additionally, sub-field (b) should be used to indicate the associated (numerical) value, in EUR. Both the free text field and the value estimates in EUR should be assessed for the following periods: I) for the period from August 2020 up to July 2024 (optional period), II) for the period from August 2024 to June 2032, III)

[4] https://biodiversity.europa.eu/europes-biodiversity/nature-restoration/reference-portal-for-nature-restoration-regulation

for the period from July 2032 up to December 2050. According to Art. 15(2), MS can provide a strategic overview for the period from July 2032 up to December 2050, defining ranges of values instead of best estimates and considering indicative estimations based on the best available information at the moment of developing the plan or its revised version.

The NRR Preamble 78 specifies*: "Regarding Union funding, expenditure under the Union budget and Union financing programmes, such as the LIFE Programme, the European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF), established by Regulation (EU) 2021/1139 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF), both established by Regulation (EU) 2020/2220 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the Cohesion Fund, both established by Regulation (EU) 2021/1058 of the European Parliament and of the Council and the Just Transition Fund, established by Regulation (EU) 2021/1056 of the European Parliament and of the Council, as well as Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, established by Regulation (EU) 2021/695 of the European Parliament and of the Council, contributes to biodiversity objectives with the ambition to dedicate 7,5 % in 2024, and 10 % in 2026 and in 2027 of annual spending under the multiannual financial framework for the years 2021 to 2027 laid down in Council Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2020/2093 (the 'MFF 2021-2027') to biodiversity objectives. The Recovery and Resilience Facility, established by Regulation (EU) 2021/241 of the European Parliament and of the Council, is a further source of funding for the protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems. With reference to the LIFE Programme, special attention should be given to the appropriate use of the strategic nature projects as a specific tool that could support the implementation of this Regulation, by way of mainstreaming available financial resources in an effective and efficient way* (recital 78)".

Examples of public financing mechanisms for MS to consider may include:

- Direct national budget allocation
- Other national public funding instruments

4.3.1.4 Indicative means of intended private financing: This field is composed of a free text section (a), with suggested max. 3000 characters, to indicate the private financing needs and mechanisms that will be employed to finance the actions in the NRP, including a brief explanation of how the estimated financing needs have been calculated and potential cost-effectiveness assessments. Additionally, sub-field (b) should be used to indicate the associated (numerical) value, in EUR. Both the free text field and the value estimates in EUR should be assessed for the following periods: I) for the period from August 2020 up to July 2024 (optional period), II) for the period from August 2024 to June 2032, III) for the period from July 2032 up to December 2050. According to Art. 15(2), MS can provide a strategic overview for the period from July 2032 up to December 2050, defining ranges of values instead of best estimates and considering indicative estimations based on the best available information at the moment of developing the plan or its revised version.
The NRR Recital 80 specifies: "A range of Union, national and private initiatives are available to stimulate private financing, such as the InvestEU Programme, established by Regulation (EU) 2021/523 of the European Parliament and of the Council (36), which offers opportunities to mobilise public and private finance to support, inter alia, the enhancement of nature and

biodiversity by means of green and blue infrastructure projects, and carbon farming as a green business-model. Funding nature restoration measures on the ground, through private or public financing, including result-based support and innovative schemes such as carbon removal certification schemes, could be promoted. Private investment could also be incentivised through public investment schemes, including financial instruments, subsidies and other instruments, provided State aid rules are complied with."

Examples of private financing mechanisms for MS to consider may include:

- Corporate social responsibility initiatives
- Sustainability-linked bonds
- Private investments and environmental funds
- Green infrastructure funds
- Land stewardship programs
- Biodiversity offsetting schemes
- Public-private partnerships
- Philanthropy and Non-Governmental Organisations
- Conservation Trust funds
- Carbon markets

4.3.1.5 Intended co-financing and financing with Union funding instruments: Similar as in previous fields, this field is composed of a free text section (a), with suggested max. 3000 characters, to indicate the co-financing needs and financing with Union funding instruments that will be employed to finance the actions in the NRP, including a brief explanation of how the estimated financing needs have been calculated and potential cost-effectiveness assessments. Additionally, sub-field (b) should be used to indicate the associated (numerical) value, in EUR. Both the free text field and the value estimates in EUR should be assessed for the following periods: I) for the period from August 2020 up to July 2024 (optional period), II) for the period from August 2024 to June 2032, III) for the period from July 2032 up to December 2050. According to Art. 15(2), MS can provide a strategic overview for the period from July 2032 up to December 2050, defining ranges of values instead of best estimates and considering indicative estimations based on the best available information at the moment of developing the plan or its revised version.

Examples of Union funding instruments for MS to consider may include:

- LIFE programs
- European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development
- European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund
- European Regional Development Fund
- Horizon Europe
- Just Transition Fund
- Innovation Fund

4.3.2 Subsidies that negatively affect the meeting of the targets and the fulfilment of the obligations set out in the Regulation (Art. 15(3)(v))

4.3.2.1 Indication of the subsidies that negatively affect the meeting of the targets and the fulfilment of the obligations of the Regulation: In this field, MS should provide information on negative subsidies, i.e. those subsidies that have a negative impact on the objectives and targets of the Regulation. This also include information on subsidies that are currently negatively affecting the meeting of the targets of the Regulation, but are set to be phased out, or reformed. MS should identify these subsidies by (a) streamlining information from existing reporting and guidance, or (b) freely indicating negative subsidies and justifying their maintenance. In the case (a) is chosen, the Member State can provide information from: i) fossil fuel subsidies harmful to the environment and other energy subsidies harmful to the environment (identified through reporting under Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 on the Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action) (free text, suggested max. 3000 characters); and from ii) non-energy environmentally harmful subsidies identified in line with the guidance document developed in line with Decision (EU) 2022/591 on a General Union Environment Action Programme to 2030 (free text, suggested max. 3000 characters), and iii) other indications of subsidies that negatively affect the meeting of the targets streamlined with other reporting and guidance (optional, free text, suggested max. 1000 characters).

5. Fields relating to the monitoring, the effectiveness assessment and the revision of measures

This section provides a general overview of how MS plan to monitor the areas subject to restoration in accordance with Articles 4 and 5. Additionally, a general description of the process for assessing the effectiveness of the restoration measures to be put in place under Articles 4 to 12 is required. Where needed, this section should be used to provide a description of how those measures will be regularly revised to ensure that the targets and obligations set out in Articles 4 to 13 are met. Additionally, information is collected on the general approaches for monitoring the effectiveness of restoration measures (Art. 15(3)(p)(q)).

Overall consider that MS' monitoring systems shall *operate on the basis of electronic databases and geographic information systems, and shall maximise the access and use of data and services from remote sensing technologies, earth observation (Copernicus services), in-situ sensors and devices, or citizen science data, leveraging the opportunities offered by artificial intelligence, advanced data analysis and processing* (Art. 20(9)). Member States should describe how these systems are applied in field 5.5.

For marine ecosystems, MS may refer to relevant information reported on the given topic under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) Article 11. *The NRR Preamble 70 specifies: The national restoration plans and the measures to restore habitats, as well as the measures to prevent habitats from deteriorating, should also take into account the results of research projects relevant for assessing the condition of ecosystems, identifying and putting in place restoration measures, and monitoring purposes* (recital 70).

5.1 Description of the monitoring of the condition (and trend) of habitats and quality (and trend) of habitats of species in areas subject to restoration in accordance with Articles 4 and 5 (Art. 15(3)(p)): Describe the transversal considerations relating to the monitoring of the

condition (and trend) of habitat types and the quality (and trend) of habitats of species in areas subject to restoration (free text, suggested max. 3000 characters). This could include a description of the specific monitoring efforts taken for the restoration sites across different habitat types and species, the use of standardized protocols to ensure data comparability, and the application of remote sensing technologies and in-situ methods. Where relevant, Member States are encouraged to utilize monitoring methodologies established under existing directives and regional agreements, such as the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD), HELCOM, and OSPAR, to ensure consistency and integration with broader monitoring frameworks. Additionally, MS may highlight collaboration with scientific institutions, NGOs, and local stakeholders, the use of adaptive management based on monitoring results, and the incorporation of biodiversity indicators to evaluate restoration effectiveness. As specified under Article 3(2) NRR, the concept of 'Habitat of a species' should be used as defined in Article 1, point (f), of Directive 92/43/EEC. Optionally, MS may provide specific descriptions for Article 4 and 5 specific monitoring schemas (fields (b) and (c), respectively), by providing a free text description (free text, suggested max. 3000 characters each).

5.2 Description of the process for assessing effectiveness of restoration measures (Art. 15(3)(p)): Provide a general description of the process for assessing effectiveness of restoration measures included in the plan (free text, suggested max. 3000 characters). This can include a description of methodologies to be employed, such as the use of key performance indicators, ecological and biodiversity assessments, climate change adaptation assessments, and periodic reviews. As an example, MS may refer to the effectiveness towards climate change adaptation in terms of stormwater retention, cooling effects and health and security. Optionally, MS may provide specific descriptions for Article specific monitoring, by selecting one or more articles from a code list (b) and providing a free text description (c) (free text, suggested max. 3000 characters). If one or more articles are selected in (b), (c) must be filled in.

5.3 Approach to the revision of the measures (Art. 15(3)(p)): Provide a general description of the approach to revising measures listed in the plan (free text, suggested max. 3000 characters). Revising the measures of a NRP ensures that the plan remains adaptive and effective in meeting its restoration goals. Consider how monitoring data, stakeholder feedback mechanisms, and new scientific knowledge will be used for this purpose. Highlight the mechanisms for a periodic evaluation against the targets, including potential analyses of cost-effectiveness, synergies and trade-offs, and alignment with evolving policies. MS may provide specific descriptions for Article specific monitoring, by selecting one or more articles from the code list (b) and providing a free text description (c) (free text, suggested max. 3000 characters). If one or more articles are selected in (b), (c) must be filled in.

5.4 Indications on the provisions for ensuring the continuous, long-term and sustained effects of the restoration measures (Art. 15(3)(q)): Free text, suggested max. 3000 characters. Describe the preparations and developments considered to ensure the continuous, long-term and sustained effects of the restoration measures. Consider, for example, legislative frameworks, financing mechanisms (incl. incentives), and capacity building within the MS. Optionally, MS may provide specific descriptions for Article specific requirements, by selecting one or more articles from a code list (b) and providing a free text description (c) (free text,

suggested max. 3000 characters). If one or more articles are selected in (b), (c) must be filled in.

5.5. Indication on the monitoring systems of restoration measures, including how they operate on the basis of electronic databases and geographic information systems, and how they maximise the access and use of data and services from remote sensing technologies, earth observation (Copernicus services), in-situ sensors and devices, or citizen science data, leveraging the opportunities offered by artificial intelligence, advances data analysis and progressing (Art. 20(9)) (optional): MS may optionally provide a description of the monitoring systems established or to be established to track the progress and effectiveness of restoration measures. Explain how these systems utilize electronic databases and geographic information systems (GIS) to manage and analyse data. Highlight the integration of innovative technologies, such as remote sensing, earth observation services like Copernicus, and in-situ devices or sensors, to ensure comprehensive data collection. Indicate the use of citizen science initiatives and the role of advanced tools like artificial intelligence (AI) and data analytics to process and interpret the collected information. Emphasize how these elements work together to maximize efficiency, accuracy, and accessibility in monitoring efforts. Information may be given as transversal considerations (a) (free text, suggested max. 3000 characters). Information linked to specific Articles of the regulation may also be provided by selecting one or more articles from the code list (b) and providing a free text description (c). If one or more articles are specified in (b), (c) must be filled in.

Part B – National approach to meeting restoration targets and fulfilling obligations, by article

Part B of the NRP format addresses the specific targets defined in Articles 4 to 13 of the NRR, each in a separate section. Targets are defined in following articles:

1. Terrestrial, coastal and freshwater ecosystems (Art. 4)
2. Restoration of marine ecosystems (Art. 5)
3. Restoration of urban ecosystems (Art. 8)
4. Restoration of the natural connectivity of rivers and natural functions of the related floodplains (Art. 9)
5. Restoration of pollinator populations (Art. 10)
6. Restoration of agricultural ecosystems (Art. 11)
7. Restoration of forest ecosystems (Art. 12)
8. Planting of three billion additional trees (Art. 13)

The purpose of this section is to specify how to achieve the targets set out in Articles 4, 5 and 8 to 13 on the level of the Member State, including a quantification of the areas to be restored and indicative maps of potential areas to be restored (Art. 15(3)(a)). A description of specific restoration measures is given in Part C 'Measures'.

A definition of 'restoration' is provided in Article 3(3): "*'restoration' means the process of actively or passively assisting the recovery of an ecosystem in order to improve its structure and functions, with the aim of conserving or enhancing biodiversity and ecosystem resilience, through improving an area of a habitat type to good condition, re-establishing favourable reference area, and improving a habitat of a species to sufficient quality and quantity in accordance with Article 4(1), (2) and (3) and Article 5(1), (2) and (3), and meeting the targets and fulfilling the obligations under Articles 8 to 12, including reaching satisfactory levels for the indicators referred to in Articles 8 to 12".*

6. Restoration of terrestrial, coastal and freshwater ecosystems (Art. 4)

This section aims primarily at quantifying the areas to be restored under Article 4. It contains a first general subsection (6.1 National approach and contextual information), as well as specific subsections to detail the plan for addressing the targets and obligations (6.2 Targeted restoration plans, 6.3 Targets after June 2032 and strategic overview). In addition to the estimation of restoration areas for the different habitat groups, a general overview of the measures to prevent significant deterioration is requested (6.4). The habitat groups and their habitat types referred to in these sections can be found in Annex I of the Regulation.

6.1 National approach and contextual information

This subsection is dedicated to general contextual information, in particular (6.1.2) concerning all habitat types referred to in Article 4(1), (4), and (9). It aims at reflecting the general approach of the Member State to meeting the restoration targets and obligations set in Article 4. Where feasible, pre-filling options will be provided to establish links with data and information reported under the Habitats Directive. This contextual information will help MS

to assess the current situation and to ensure that the specific national targets for each of the obligations laid down in Article 4 are in line with the baseline data used.

6.1.1 National approach

6.1.1.1 Descriptive overview of the Member State's approach to meeting restoration targets and fulfilling obligations for terrestrial, coastal and freshwater ecosystems, based on latest scientific evidence (Art. 15(3)(c)) (optional): Free text, suggested max. 3000 characters. It is suggested to refer to the following aspects:

- Approach to different sub-targets and different habitat & species groups
- Prioritisation of habitats, regions and/or species
- Approach for selecting the areas targeted for restoration
- Considerations to enhance connectivity
- Strategy to timely put in place appropriate and effective measures
- Cooperation mechanisms at national and international level

6.1.2 Contextual information of habitat types (Art. 4(1), (4) and (9))

This section provides aggregated information on the current condition of the area covered by all habitat types from Annex I of the Regulation. This section can be pre-filled based on MS reports under the Habitats Directive. To ensure consistency and harmonization of data, it is recommended to use datasets from the same reporting period whenever such data is required. In the most typical scenario, this information will come from the most recent report provided under the Habitats Directive, Art.17 (2019-2024). However, if required for the planning (e.g. due to time constraints in planning, it is not possible to wait for the updated 2025 dataset) MS may establish the plan on the basis of the previous Art.17 report, MS can choose that the pre-filling is undertaken based on the previous data submitted for the reporting period 2013-2018[5]. If need be, other data sources can be used and will need to be justified in detail, e.g. if important new and/or more updated and qualitatively better information have become available. The justification provided in such a situation should show that the data from 'other sources' corresponds to the best available data on habitat condition at the time of entry into force of the Regulation (18 August 2024). In line with Article 14.1, the development of the plan should be undertaken together with the necessary monitoring and research and should take into account the latest scientific evidence. For fields where ranges may be indicated, the mean value of the range will be used for assessing the plan.

6.1.2.1 Total area of all habitat types: Provide a best estimate or range (in km^2) of the total area covered by all Article 4 habitat types. The best estimate or range must be indicated together with only one data source option i.e. data come from (a) the Art. 17 Habitats Directive 2013-2018 data; (b) from the Art. 17 Habitats Directive 2019-2024 data; or (c) data come from another data source.

To ensure consistency and harmonisation of data, it is recommended to use datasets from the same reporting period whenever such data is required.

[5] https://www.eea.europa.eu/en/datahub/datahubitem-view/d8b47719-9213-485a-845b-db1bfe93598d?activeAccordion=1084677

If other data is used, or if the MS has partially adjusted the datasets under the Habitats Directive, MS should indicate the source of the data, the methods and a justification for the additional data or the specific adjustment.

6.1.2.2 Total area of habitat types 'not in good condition': Provide a best estimate or range (in km2) of the total area classified as 'in not good condition' of all Article 4 habitat types, i.e. the sum of the area in not good condition for all habitat types in all biogeographical regions. In the Article 17 Habitats directive reports this information is provided in the parameter 'Structures and Functions.' However, keep in mind that only the target for 2030 (restore 30% of the area) refers to all habitat types together while the targets for 2040 and 2050 refer to each habitat group. I.e. for 2040 and 2050, the Regulation requires to restore 60% and 90% of the area that is 'not in good condition' of each group of habitats, respectively (Art. 4(1)(a)). The best estimate or range must be indicated together with only one data source option (i.e., data come from (a) the Art. 17 Habitats Directive 2013-2018 data; (b) from the Art. 17 Habitats Directive 2019-2024 data; or (c) data come from another data source).

To ensure consistency and harmonization of data, it is recommended to use datasets from the same reporting period whenever such data is required. The data on habitat conditions should primarily come from the national Art. 17 Habitats Directive report.

If other data is used, or if the MS has partially adjusted the datasets under the Habitats Directive, MS should indicate the source of the data, the methods and a justification for the additional data or the specific adjustment.

The data on habitat conditions should primarily come from the national Art. 17 Habitats Directive report report.

6.1.2.3 Total area of habitat types with 'unknown' condition: Provide a best estimate or range (in km^2) of the total area in 'unknown' condition of all Article 4 habitat types. The best estimate or range must be indicated together with only one data source option (i.e., data come from (a) the Art. 17 Habitats Directive 2013-2018 data; (b) from the Art. 17 Habitats Directive 2019-2024 data; or (c) data come from another data source). To ensure consistency and harmonization of data, it is recommended to use datasets from the same reporting period whenever such data is required.

If other data is used, or if the MS has partially adjusted the datasets under the Habitats Directive, MS should indicate the source of the data, the methods and a justification for the additional data or the specific adjustment.

6.1.2.4 Total area to be re-established to reach favourable reference areas: Provide a best estimate or range (in km^2) of the total area of <u>all</u> Article 4 habitat types to be re-established to reach favourable reference areas (FRA), i.e. sum of all additional area across individual habitat types of Annex I necessary to reach the individual FRAs. Keep in mind the targets up to 2030, 2040 and 2050 refer to each habitat group, the Regulation requires to re-establish 30%, 60% and 100% of the area needed to reach the total favourable reference areas for <u>each</u>

group of habitat types as defined in Annex I, respectively (Art. 4(4)). The best estimate or range must be indicated together with only one data source option (i.e., data come from (a) the Art. 17 Habitats Directive 2013-2018 data; (b) from the Art. 17 Habitats Directive 2019-2024 data; or (c) data come from another data source). To ensure consistency and harmonization of data, it is recommended to use datasets from the same reporting period whenever such data is required.

If other data is used, or if the MS has partially adjusted the datasets under the Habitats Directive, MS should indicate the source of the data, the methods and a justification for the additional data or the specific adjustment.

A definition of favourable reference area can be found in Art. 3(8): "*the total area of a habitat type in a given biogeographical or marine region at national level that is considered the minimum necessary to ensure the long-term viability of the habitat type and its typical species or typical species composition, and all the significant ecological variations of that habitat type in its natural range, and which is composed of the current area of the habitat type and, if that area is not sufficient for the long-term viability of the habitat type and its typical species or typical species composition, the additional area necessary for the re-establishment of the habitat type; where the habitat type concerned is listed in Annex I to Directive 92/43/EEC, such re-establishment contributes to reaching favourable conservation status for a habitat and, in marine ecosystems, such re-establishment contributes to achieving or maintaining good environmental status*".

6.1.3 Minimum areas to be restored

This section provides a summary of the minimum targets to be reached under Art. 4, based on information presented in section 6.1.2, and the minimum percentages as defined in the Regulation. Estimated values are to be provided in km^2. For fields where ranges may be indicated, the mean value will be used for assessing the plan.

Please note that areas identified as being in 'not-good' condition are often only partially known and that substantial areas of Annex I habitat types may be in an unknown condition. Therefore, as more information becomes available, particularly in light of the knowledge improvement target under Article 4.9, the actual extent of restoration required is likely to increase beyond what is currently known during the plan's preparation.

This uncertainty should be factored into the strategic targets for 2040 and 2050. A similar challenge applies to the re-establishment of habitat types where no Favourable Reference Area (FRA) was available at the time of planning, as well as to the restoration of species habitats.

6.1.3.1 Minimum area to be improved for all habitat types (Art. 4(1)): This section should include a best estimate single value or range (in km^2) of the total area to be improved for all habitat types (Art. 4(1)). This value should refer to: (a) by 2030, value should correspond to 30% of the total value of field 6.1.2.2; (b) by 2040, value should correspond to 60% of the total value of field 6.1.2.2; and (c) by 2050, value should correspond to 90% of the total value of field 6.1.2.2. For (b) and (c), at the time when the restoration plan is elaborated and for further

updates, all areas known as 'not in good condition' have to be taken into account (e.g., during the revision of the plan, previously unknown areas that are now known as 'not in good condition' will have to be counted).

6.1.3.2 Minimum area to be re-established for all habitat types (Art. 4(4)): This section should include a best estimate single value or range (in km^2) of the total area to be re-established for all habitat types (Art. 4(4)). This value should refer to: (a) by 2030, value should correspond to 30% of the total value of field 6.1.2.4; (b) by 2040, value should correspond to 60% of the total value of field 6.1.2.4; and (c) by 2050, value should correspond to 100% of the total value of field 6.1.2.4.

6.1.3.3 Minimum area for which condition has to be known for all habitat types (Art. 4(9)): This section should include a best estimate single value or range (in km^2) of the total area that has to be known for all habitat types (Art. 4(9)). This value should refer to (a) by 2030 corresponding to 90% of field 6.1.2.1and (b) by 2040corresponding to 100% of field 6.1.2.1.

6.2 Targeted restoration plan

Restoration measures referred to in Art. 4 of the Regulation should be planned for all groups of habitat types indicated in Annex I of the Regulation, or for individual groups, depending on the sub-targets set in the Regulation. For Art. 4, four main sub-targets have been identified: 1) the improvement of habitat area to good condition (Art. 4(1)); 2) the re-establishment of habitat area (Art. 4(4)); 3) the restoration of habitats of species necessary to improve habitats quality and quantity (Art. 4(7)); and 4) the knowledge improvement of habitat condition (Art. 4(9)). For each of these sub-targets, a quantification of the national targets (e.g., total area to be improved or re-established) is expected, taking into account the minimum targets calculated in section 6.1.3. For fields where ranges may be indicated, the mean value will be used for assessing the plan. The determination of the most suitable areas for restoration measures, in accordance with Art. 4(1), (4) and (7) shall be based on the best available knowledge and the latest scientific evidence, and where appropriate taking into account the diversity of situations in various regions (Art. 4(8)).

6.2.1 Derogation based on Art. 4(2)

For very common and widespread habitat types covering more than 3% of the European territory of a Member State, it is possible to set a lower percentage of the area in not good condition to be improved by 2050 (i.e., lower than indicated in Art. 4(1)(b). If the Member State decides to apply the derogation in line with the conditions set out in Art. 4 (2), it has to set a lower percentage.

6.2.1.1 Application of the derogation laid down in Art. 4(2): Indicate whether the Member State applies the derogation from Art. 4(2) by selecting 'Yes' or 'No' from the code list. If 'Yes', the following fields of section 6.2.1 must be completed.

6.2.1.2 If yes, indicate the common and widespread habitat types with more than 3% national cover excluded under Art. 4(2): If 'Yes' is selected in field 6.2.1.1, indicate the common and widespread habitat types (a list of habitat types that qualify under the definition in Art. 3.11 of the Regulation and cover more than 3% of the European territory of a Member

State will be provided by the EEA in the reference portal) to be excluded under the derogation. Select the corresponding habitat types using the code list of all habitat types from Annex I of the NRR.

6.2.1.3 Indicate, for each common and widespread habitat type identified, the estimated percentage chosen pursuant to Art 4(2) and the respective area for 2050: For each habitat type indicated 6.2.1.2, indicate (a) the percentage between 80 and 90% of the area of the habitat type estimated to be 'not in good condition' and to be improved by 2050; and (b) the surface area (in km²) to be improved by 2050, provided as a best estimate.

6.2.1.4 For each common and widespread habitat type, justify how the percentages set do not prevent the habitat type's favourable conservation status from being reached or maintained (Art. 15(3)(e)): Free text, suggested max. 3000 characters. Provide a justification of the percentage chosen in field 6.2.1.3 (a) and how the new percentage will ensure that the favourable conservation status of the corresponding habitat type is reached or maintained.

6.2.2 Improvement of habitat condition by 2030 (Art. 4(1)(a))

For all habitat types in Annex I together, the following section 6.2.2 should be filled in. For this target, please consider that *"Member States shall, as appropriate, until 2030 give priority to restoration measures in areas that are located in Natura 2000 sites"* (Art. 4(1)). For the cases where condition of habitat type is 'unknown', please note section 6.2.6 "Closing knowledge gaps up to 2030". It is possible to prioritise restoration measures within Natura 2000 sites if enough suitable areas exist within these sites to meet the 2030 targets. However, if there are not enough suitable areas for restoration measures inside Natura 2000 sites to reach the 2030 target, measures outside Natura 2000 sites must also be included.

6.2.2.1 Habitat groups (and, optionally, types) subject to restoration measures: Select the habitat groups targeted for restoration from the code list (it includes all the habitat groups from Annex I of the NRR). MS may optionally and additionally select the specific habitat types targeted from the code list of habitat types.

6.2.2.2 Indicative total surface area of the habitats subject to restoration measures (Art. 15(3)(a)): For all habitat groups together, provide a best estimate (in km²) of the habitats area where measures may be put into place. This value should represent a minimum of 30% of the total area of all habitat types that is not in good condition. If the best estimate presents high uncertainty, MS may optionally and additionally indicate a range of surface area where the measures will be put into place.

6.2.2.3 Indicative maps of potential areas subject to restoration measures (Art. 15(3)(a)): Provide geospatial information of potential areas where the restoration measures to improve the condition of habitat types by 2030 may take place. Different types of spatial resolutions and geospatial information formats may be used: NUTS3 references, 10x10 km grids, 1x1 km grids, or isolated polygons. The specific technical details for the submission of this geospatial information will be indicated in due time in a technical reporting manual.

6.2.3 Derogation based on Art. 4(5)

In this sub-section MS provide information on any application of the derogation outlined in Art 4(5). If no derogation is applied (field 6.2.3.1 = 'No'), no further information has to be provided in the following fields of the sub-section.

Art. 4(5) states: *"By way of derogation from paragraph 4 of this Article, if a Member State considers that it is not possible to put in place restoration measures by 2050 that are necessary to reach the favourable reference area for a specific habitat type on 100 % of the surface, the Member State concerned may set a lower percentage at a level between 90 % and 100 % in its national restoration plan as referred to in Article 15 and provide adequate justification. In such a case, the Member State shall gradually put in place restoration measures that are necessary to achieve that lower percentage by 2050. By 2030, those restoration measures shall cover at least 30 % of the additional surface needed to achieve such lower percentage by 2050, and by 2040, they shall cover at least 60 % of the additional surface needed to achieve such lower percentage by 2050."*

6.2.3.1 Use of derogation laid down in Art. 4(5): Indicate if the derogation is used by selecting 'Yes' or 'No'. If the MS selects 'Yes', all fields from section 6.2.3 should be filled in.

6.2.3.2 If yes, indicate the habitat types under derogation according to Art. 4(5): If the MS selects 'Yes' in field 6.2.3.1, select all the habitat types for which the derogation is applied, using the code list of habitat types from Annex I of the NRR.

6.2.3.3 Indicate, for each habitat type identified, the lower percentage chosen pursuant Art. 4(5) and the respective area for 2050: For each one of the habitat types identified in field 6.2.3.2, indicate (a) the percentage (between 90 and 100%) of the area that will be re-established by 2050, and (b) the area to be re-established, as a best estimate, in km².

6.2.3.4 For each habitat type identified, justify why it is not possible to put in place restoration measures by 2050 that are necessary to reach the favourable reference area (FRA) of the specific habitat type, and justify the lower percentage (Art. 15(3)(b)): Free text, suggested max. 3000 characters. For each habitat type identified, provide a justification of the percentage indicated in field 6.2.3.3(a) and explain why it is not possible to reach the favourable reference area of the corresponding habitat type will be reached by 2050.

6.2.4 Re-establishment of habitats area up to 2030 (Art. 4(4))

For **each** group of habitat types in Annex I of the Regulation the requires re-establishment of area, section 6.2.4 should be filled in considering the best information currently available.

6.2.4.1 Habitat group: Select the habitat groups targeted for re-establishment measures by 2030 from the code list of habitat groups from Annex I of the Regulation.

6.2.4.2 Favourable reference area (FRA): Using (a) or (b), provide the favourable reference area for each habitat group selected in 6.2.4.1, as a best estimate or range in km². For this purpose, the FRAs of the individual habitat types within the habitat group should be added up. (a) or (b) can be reported using information from the Art. 17 report under the Habitats Directive (period 2019-2024 or 2013-2018). To ensure consistency and harmonization of data, it is recommended to use datasets from the same reporting period whenever such data is

required. If the Member State considers that information from other sources is more complete and informative, and prefers to indicate another value, they may use field (c). In this case, a justification of the use of such alternative data must be provided together with the methods for the calculation of the value and a justification for the use of this additional data source.

6.2.4.3 List of habitat types where current area is more than 2% smaller than the FRA (i.e., the habitat types for which re-establishment measures are relevant): Select, from the code list of habitat types belonging to the corresponding habitat group selected in field 6.2.4.1, all habitat types in which the current area is more than 2% smaller than the FRA, according to the latest available information (e.g., from the database of Art. 17 report under the Habitats Directive). For these habitat types, the 'Area' parameter is assessed as unfavourable (U1, U2). It is possible to select multiple habitat types.
It is important to highlight that, under the Habitats Directive, current habitat areas that are equal or less than 2% smaller than the FRA are considered "approximately equal to the FRA". Therefore, for these habitats, there is no area re-establishment need. Re-establishment of area should be considered for habitats with current areas being more than 2% smaller than the FRA.

6.2.4.4 Habitat types targeted for re-establishment measures up to 2030 (optional): In this optional field, MS may select from a code list of habitat types belonging to the corresponding habitat group selected in field 6.2.4.1, all habitat types that will be targeted for re-establishment measures up to 2030. It is possible to select multiple habitat types.

6.2.4.5 Indicative total surface area subject to re-establishment measures up to 2030: Provide a best estimate of the total area (in km^2) where re-establishment measures will be put into place. This should represent at least 30% of the additional surface needed to reach the total favourable reference area for the corresponding group of habitat types. If the best estimate presents high uncertainty, MS may optionally and additionally indicate a range of surface area where the measures will be put into place.

6.2.4.6 Indicative maps of potential areas subject to restoration measures (Art. 15(3)(a)): Provide geospatial information of potential areas where the re –establishment measures by 2030 will take place. Different types of spatial resolutions and geospatial information formats may be used: NUTS3 references, 10x10 km grids, 1x1 km grids, or isolated polygons. The specific technical details for the submission of this geospatial information will be indicated in due time in a technical reporting manual

6.2.5 Restoration of habitats of species up to 2030 (Art. 4(7))

In addition to the restoration measures referred to in Art. 4(1) and (4), MS shall put in place restoration measures for terrestrial, coastal and freshwater habitats of the species listed in Annexes II, IV and V of the Directive 92/43/EEC and of wild birds under Directive 2009/147/EC, necessary to improve the quality and quantity of those habitats. For each species or species group identified in field 6.2.5.1, the subsequent fields of section 6.2.5 should be filled in.

The concept "habitat of a species" is defined in Art. 3(2) of the NRR: *habitat of a species as defined in Article 1, point (f), of Directive 92/43/EEC*: "an environment defined by specific abiotic or biotic factors, in which the species lives at any stage of its biological cycle".

6.2.5.1 Species or group of species whose habitat needs restoration according to Art. 4(7): Select one or several species (to create a group) from a list of species from Directives 92/43/EEC (Habitats Directive) and 2009/147/EC (Birds Directive) species. If MS wish to plan restoration measures based on the groups of species, it is suggested to use existing typologies of species groups, such as the ecological groups of species of the Habitats Directive[6].

To be able to identify the selected species or group of species, an identifier should be provided by the Member State, This identifier must:

- have a maximum of 100 characters;
- Use only upper-case Latin letters [A to Z] and digits [0 to 9];
- The only special characters allowed are the underscore character ('_') or the hyphen character ('-') that may be used as separators within the code (not at the beginning and not at the end of the code).

The syntax of the identifier can be checked using the following REGEX expression (see for example https://regex101.com/):
^[0-9A-Z]{1}(?:[0-9A-Z](?!(?:[-_]{2}|\-_))[-_]?){0,100}([0-9A-Z]{1}){0,1}$$

6.2.5.2 Habitat of the species or group of species in need of restoration (and habitat not covered by sections related to Art. 4(1) or (4)): Select one or multiple ecosystem types from the code list of ecosystems, corresponding to the habitat of the species indicated in field 6.2.5.1. All relevant habitats for selected species should be included. If a group of species is selected in 6.2.5.1, habitats should be selected for all species included in the group. The code list of ecosystems is the following:

a) Wetland ecosystems (coastal and inland)
b) Grassland ecosystems
c) River, lake, alluvial and riparian ecosystems
d) Forest and woodland ecosystems
e) Heath, shrubs and scrub ecosystems
f) Rocky, dune and sparsely vegetated ecosystems
g) Cropland ecosystems
h) Urban ecosystems
i) Marine ecosystems
j) Other ecosystems

If 'Other ecosystems' is selected, the type should be further specified in a free text field (max. 200 characters).

[6] https://sdi.eea.europa.eu/catalogue/srv/eng/catalog.search#/metadata/c9d7703d-734d-4471-8467-f768063f38dc

6.2.5.3 Indicative total surface area subject to restoration measures (Art. 15(3)(a)): (a) Provide the total area (in km²) where restoration measures of the habitat(s) of the species will be put into place up to 2030, considering a best estimate. If the MS considers that the best estimated value has high uncertainty, a range of values may be optionally and additionally provided in (b).

6.2.5.4 Indicative maps of potential areas subject to restoration measures (Art. 15(3)(a)): Provide geospatial information of potential areas where the restoration measures by 2030 will take place. Different types of spatial resolutions and geospatial information formats may be used: NUTS3 references, 10x10 km grids, 1x1 km grids, or isolated polygons. The specific technical details for the submission of this geospatial information will be indicated in due time in a technical reporting manual.

6.2.6 Closing knowledge gaps up to 2030 (Art. 4(9))

For **all** habitat types, the following section 6.2.6 should be filled in (Art. 15(3)(d)).

6.2.6.1 Share of area in unknown condition for all habitat types together: Provide a best estimate percentage of area in unknown condition for all habitat types together. A pre-filling option will be considered based on data from the fields 6.1.2.1 and 6.1.2.3.

6.2.6.2 Approach and measures to address knowledge gaps regarding the condition of the area of habitat types: Provide a description of the approach and measures for addressing knowledge gaps up to 2030 (free text, suggested max. 3000 characters). MS may consider mentioning coordinated monitoring frameworks at the national level, expanding in-situ monitoring efforts, and a plan to cover and prioritise temporal and spatial gaps. Other monitoring efforts such as the use of remote sensing and Earth Observation technologies, collaboration plans with stakeholders (e.g. academic institutions, NGOs, local communities), and engagement of citizen science may also be considered.

6.3 Targets after June 2032 and strategic overview (Art. 15(2))

The following section focuses on targets after 2032 (i.e., 2040 and 2050 targets) and can be limited to a strategic overview, though basic information, for example, regarding targets and indicative total area to be restored should be indicated. This section can be revised towards the review of the national restoration plan in June 2032 (Art. 19(1)). For fields where ranges may be indicated, the mean value of the range will be used for assessing the plan.

6.3.1 Improvement of habitat's condition by 2040 and 2050 (Art. 4(1)(b))

For each group of habitat types, the following section 6.3.1 should be filled in considering the current available information and estimations. For the cases where the condition of habitat type is 'unknown', please refer to section 6.3.4 "Closing knowledge gaps up to 2040".

6.3.1.1 Habitat group: Report all relevant habitat group from the code list that includes all the habitat groups from Annex I of the NRR, for which the improvement of the condition is planned for 2040 and 2050. The groups should be selected and reported separately. Information should be provided for all groups applicable.

6.3.1.2 Surface area not in good condition for the habitat types of the habitat group: Provide, for each habitat group, the area in 'not good condition', a best estimate or range of the area (in km²). Data for this field may be pre-filled from one of the specified sources: a) Art 17 Habitats Directive data (2013-2018), b) Art 17 Habitats Directive data (2019-2024) or from another data source (c). To ensure consistency and harmonization of data, it is recommended to use datasets from the same reporting period whenever such data is required. If option c) another data source is selected, the source and the reason for choosing this source must be provided in 6.3.1.2.

6.3.1.3 Indicative habitat types subject to restoration measures (optional): In this optional field, MS may select indicative habitat types targeted for restoration from the list of habitat types for the corresponding habitat group. Habitat types can be provided for a) by 2040, and b) by 2050.

6.3.1.4 Indicative total surface area subject to restoration measures (Art. 15(3)(a)): Provide a best estimate or range (in km^2) of the habitat area where restoration measures will be put into place for the corresponding habitat group a) on at least 60 % by 2040, and b) on at least 90 % by 2050. For fields where ranges may be indicated, the mean value of the range will be used for assessing the plan.

6.3.1.5 Indicative maps of potential areas subject to restoration measures (Art. 15(3)(a)) (optional): Provide geospatial information of potential areas where the restoration measures by (a) 2040 and (b) 2050 will take place. Different types of spatial resolutions and geospatial information formats may be used: NUTS3 references, 10x10 km grids, 1x1 km grids or isolated polygons. The specific technical details for the submission of the geospatial information will be indicated in due time in a technical reporting manual.

6.3.2 Re-establishment of habitats area up to 2040 and 2050

For each group of habitat types, the sections 6.3.2 should be filled in considering the current available information.

6.3.2.1 Habitat group: Select one group of habitats from the code list that includes all the habitat groups from Annex I of the NRR, for which the re-establishment of area is planned for 2040 and 2050.

6.3.2.2 Indicative habitat types subject to re-establishment measures (optional): In this optional field, MS may select the specific habitat types corresponding to the habitat groups targeted for re-establishment measures (and indicated in 6.3.2.1) from the code list of habitat types. Habitat types may be indicated for (a) 2040 and/or (b) 2050.

6.3.2.3 Indicative total surface area subject to re-establishment measures (Art.15(3)(a): For each habitat group indicated in 6.3.2.1, provide best estimates or ranges of the total area (in km²) where re-establishment measures will be put into place, for (a) 2040 and (b) 2050. For fields where ranges may be indicated, the mean value of the range will be used for assessing the plan.

6.3.2.4 Indicative maps of potential areas subject to restoration measures (Art. 15(3)(a)) (optional): MS may optionally provide geospatial information of potential areas where the re-establishment measures by (a) 2040 and (b) 2050 will take place. Different types of spatial resolutions and geospatial information formats may be used: NUTS3 references, 10x10 km grids, 1x1 km grids isolated polygons. The specific technical details for the submission of the geospatial information will be indicated in due time in a technical reporting manual.

6.3.3 Restoration of habitats of species up to 2050 (Art.4)7))

For each species or species group identified in field 6.2.5.1, the subsequent fields in this section may be filled in.

6.3.3.1 Indicative total surface area subject to restoration measures (optional): Provide best estimates (a and b) or ranges (c and d) of the total area (in km²) where restoration of the habitat(s) of the species will be put into place, for 2040 and 2050.

6.3.3.2 Indicative maps of potential areas subject to restoration measures (Art.15(3)(a) (optional): Provide geospatial information of potential areas where the restoration measures by (a) 2040 and (b) 2050 will take place. Different types of spatial resolutions and geospatial information formats may be used: NUTS3 references, 10x10 km grids (1x1 km grids, or vector format, either as a point corresponding to the generalized centre point of the barrier or as isolated polygons). The specific technical details for the submission of the geospatial information will be indicated in due time in a technical reporting manual.

6.3.4 Closing knowledge gaps up to 2040 (Art.4(9))

6.3.4.1 Approach and measures to address knowledge gaps regarding the condition of the areas of habitat types up to 2040 (optional): Free text, suggested max. 3000 characters. MS may optionally provide a description of the approach and measures for addressing knowledge gaps for up to 2040, when the condition of all areas of habitat types listed in Annex I shall be known. MS may consider mentioning coordinated monitoring frameworks at the national level, expanding in-situ monitoring efforts, and a plan to cover and prioritise temporal and spatial gaps. Other monitoring efforts such as the use of remote sensing and Earth Observation technologies, collaboration plans with stakeholders (e.g. academic institutions, NGOs, local communities), and engagement of citizen science may also be considered.

6.4 Measures to prevent significant deterioration (Art. 15(3)(f)(g) and (h))

MS should indicate the measures to comply with Art. 4(11) and (12). Here, an overview of the non-deterioration measures is requested. Where applicable, a detailed description of how Art. 4(13) is applied should be provided (Art 15(3)(g)). The specific non-deterioration measures are to be listed in Part C.

6.4.1 Approach to (i) prevent significant deterioration in areas that are subject to restoration measures and in which good condition has been reached and sufficient quality of the habitats of the species has been reached; (ii) ensuring continuous improvement in the condition of areas subject to restoration measures, in accordance with Art. 4(11) (Art. 15(3)(f)): Free text, suggested max. 3000 characters. Provide an indication of the measures planned to prevent significant deterioration of those areas where the restoration measures

will be put in place, also after they have reached a good condition status. Therefore, these non-deterioration measures should aim at preventing degradation, while ensuring the continuous improvement of condition and ensuring the restored areas remain in good condition.

6.4.2 Approach to prevent significant deterioration of areas where the habitat types listed in Annex I to the Regulation occur and of areas which are in good condition or necessary to meet the restoration targets in accordance with Art. 4(12) (Art. 15(3)(h)): Free text, suggested max. 3000 characters. Provide an indication of the measures planned to prevent significant non-deterioration of all Annex I habitats where they occur. These areas include those where the habitats are already in good condition. Non-deterioration measures should aim at preventing degradation and ensuring those areas remain in good condition.

6.4.3 When Art. 4(13) is applied, provide an explanation of the system of compensatory measures, monitoring and reporting of deterioration (Art. 15(3)(g)(i)): Art. 4(13) indicates: "*With regard to paragraphs 11 and 12 of [Article 4], outside Natura 2000 sites, Member States may, in the absence of alternatives, apply the non-deterioration requirements set out in those paragraphs at the level of each biogeographical region of their territory for each habitat type and each habitat of species, provided that the Member State concerned notifies its intention to apply this paragraph to the Commission by 19 February 2025 and fulfils the obligations set out in Article 15(3), point (g), Article 20(1) point (j), Article 21(1) and Article 21(2), point (b)*". If Art. 4(13) is applied, MS should indicate the plan of compensatory measures for the corresponding biogeographical region, required when significant deterioration cannot be avoided for one or more habitat types or a habitat of species. The corresponding habitat type(s) and/or habitat of species where deterioration cannot be avoided should be indicated in field (a) and/or (b), based on the corresponding code lists (at least (a) or (b) should be identified).
If 'other ecosystems' is chosen in (b), additional information field has to be filled in in a free text field (max. 200 characters). The corresponding biogeographical region(s) where the non-deterioration requirements will be applied should be indicated in (c). The explanation of the system of compensatory measures, monitoring and reporting of deterioration should be indicated in field (d) - free text, suggested max. 3000 characters. MS should describe the planned monitoring systems to detect, assess and track any deterioration of the habitats, ensuring quick responses when needed. Additionally, MS should give indications of the planned reporting of deterioration, e.g., considering standardised and coordinated reporting, format and periodicity, among other aspects.

6.4.4 When Art. 4(13) is applied, provide an explanation of how to ensure that this does not affect meeting the targets (Art. 15(3)(g)(ii)): Free text, suggested max. 3000 characters. Describe how the compensatory measures mentioned in field 6.4.3(d) will ensure that the targets indicated in Art. 4 are fulfilled.

7. Restoration of Marine Ecosystems (Art. 5)

This section aims at quantifying the areas to be restored under Article 5 and is mandatory for coastal countries, but not applicable to others. It contains a first general subsection (7.1 National approach and contextual information) which applies to all marine habitat types, and

habitats of species, as well as specific subsections to detail the plan for addressing the targets and obligations (7.2 Targeted restoration plans, 7.3 Targets after June 2032 and strategic overview). In addition to the estimation of restoration objectives for the different habitat groups and types, a general overview of the measures to prevent significant deterioration is requested (7.4). The habitat groups and their habitat types referred to in these sections can be found in Annex II of the Regulation. Additionally, the "Interpretation manual of the marine EUNIS habitat in Nature Restoration Regulation"[7] provides useful information on these habitat groups, abiotic / biotic characteristics, biogeographical distribution, information on appropriate restoration measures per habitat, and links to the Habitats Directive and Marine Strategy Framework Directive classifications.

7.1 National approach and contextual information

This subsection is dedicated to information concerning all habitat types referred to in Article 5. It aims at reflecting the general approach of the Member State to meeting the restoration targets and obligations set in Article 5, as well as a summary of the areas not in good condition, unknown, targeted to be improved and to be re-established. When possible, the EEA Nature Restoration Helpdesk will provide relevant data and information reported under the Habitats Directive and/or the Marine Strategy Framework Directive. This contextual information will allow MS to assess the current situation and calculate the specific targets for each of the obligations laid down in Article 5.

7.1.1 National approach

7.1.1.1 Descriptive overview of the Member State's approach for meeting restoration targets and fulfilling obligations for marine ecosystems, based on latest scientific evidence (Art. 15(3)(c)) (optional): Free text, suggested max. 3000 characters. In this optional field, MS may refer to the following suggested aspects:

- Different sub-targets and different habitat & species groups
- Prioritisation of habitats, regions and/or species
- Approach for selecting the areas targeted for restoration
- Considerations to enhance connectivity and climate change adaptation
- Ecological requirements of habitats and species
- Strategy to timely put in place appropriate and effective measures
- Cooperation mechanisms at national and international level

7.1.2 Contextual information about habitat types (Art. 5(1), 5(2), and 5(7))

This section provides aggregated information on the current status of the area covered by the habitat types from Annex II (groups 1-6 and 7), based on the best available data at the moment of preparing the national restoration plan or its revised version. For the purpose of this summary, the area of the individual habitat groups 1-6 should be summed up. MS should use the best available information for these indications, including available data from the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) and from the Habitats Directive.

For area estimations of vertically developed benthic habitats (e.g., rocky benthic assemblages and facies on underwater cliffs), which are normally indicated in km on two-dimensional

[7] Annex II Interpretation Manual on the Nature Restoration Portal

maps, it is necessary to convert distances to km^2 (for example, the area considered is calculated along the depth gradient).
For fields where ranges may be indicated, the mean value of the range will be used for assessing the plan.
MS may also use the section "Additional Information II" of the National Restoration Plans to complete the available information for individual habitat groups and/or types, to have a better overview of their condition and needs. This is advisable as it may also enable effective cooperation between the countries in a regional sea basin, for example joint prioritisation and implementation of restoration actions. Thereby, the available contextual information may help to better plan the immediate and future restoration measures.

7.1.2.1 Total area for all habitat types within each group 1-6 (optional): In this optional field, MS may provide a best estimate or range values (in km^2) of the total aggregated area covered by the individual habitat groups 1 to 6. Thereby, MS can have a better estimation of the values to be provided in field 7.1.2.2.

7.1.2.2 Total area of all habitat types of groups 1-6: Provide the best estimate or range values (in km^2) of the total area covered by all habitat groups 1-6 together.

7.1.2.3 Total area of the habitat types of group 7 'soft sediments' (not deeper than 1000 metres): Provide the best estimate or range values (in km^2) of the total area covered by the habitats listed in group 7Here, available information about the corresponding broad benthic habitat types (capped at 1000 m depth) covered by the Marine Strategy Framework Directive will be provided through the EEA Nature Restoration Helpdesk to the MS for verification and use, if requested.

7.1.2.4 Total area of habitat types 'not in good' condition from groups 1-6: Provide the best estimate or range values (in km^2) of the total area classified as "in not good condition" for all the habitat groups 1-6 together.

7.1.2.5 Total area of habitat types in 'not in good' condition from group 7: Provide the best estimate or range values (in km^2) of the total area classified as "in not good condition" for all the habitat types listed in group 7.

7.1.2.6 Total area to be re-established to reach favourable reference areas of habitat types in groups 1-6: Provide the best estimate or range values (in km^2) of the total area to be re-established for the habitat groups 1-6 in order to reach their FRA, i.e. summed area across habitat groups and habitat types needed to reach the individual FRAs of all the habitat types within groups 1-6.

A definition of favourable reference area can be found in Art. 3(8): "*the total area of a habitat type in a given biogeographical or marine region at national level that is considered the minimum necessary to ensure the long-term viability of the habitat type and its typical species or typical species composition, and all the significant ecological variations of that habitat type in its natural range, and which is composed of the current area of the habitat type and, if that area is not sufficient for the long-term viability of the habitat type and its typical species or*

typical species composition, the additional area necessary for the re-establishment of the habitat type; where the habitat type concerned is listed in Annex I to Directive 92/43/EEC, such re-establishment contributes to reaching favourable conservation status for a habitat and, in marine ecosystems, such re-establishment contributes to achieving or maintaining good environmental status".

Additional information e.g. on the type of methodology used to estimate the FRA per habitat type should be made explicit in "Additional Information II" of the National Restoration Plan (fields A2.2.5 and A2.2.6).

7.1.2.7 Total area of habitat types with 'unknown' condition from groups 1-6: Provide the best estimate or range values (in km^2) of the total area classified as "unknown condition" for all the habitat groups 1-6 together.

7.1.2.8 Total area of habitat types with 'unknown' condition from group 7: Provide the best estimate or range values (in km^2) of the total area classified as "unknown condition" for all the habitat types listed in group 7.

For the above fields, in the absence of in situ data, the MS may use risk-based approaches, using proxy data on pressures to determine the marine areas with good or not-good condition.

7.1.3 Minimum areas to be restored

This section provides a summary of the targets to be reached under Art. 5, based on the current information, area estimations of all habitat types (section 7.1.2) and the minimum percentages defined in the Regulation. Estimated values are to be provided in km^2. For fields where ranges may be indicated, the mean value of the range will be used for assessing the plan.

7.1.3.1 Minimum area to be improved for all habitat types of groups 1-6 (Art. 5(1)): This section should include a best estimate single value or range (in km^2) of the total area to be improved for habitat groups 1-6. Here, area target values should be summed for all habitat types of groups 1-6 together. However, for (b) 2040 and (c) 2050, the Regulation requires to restore 60% and 90% of the area of <u>each</u> habitat group with habitat types 'not in good condition', respectively (Art. 5(1)(b)). These values should refer to : (a) by 2030, corresponding to 30% of the total value of field 7.1.2.4; (b) by 2040, corresponding to 60% of the total value of field 7.1.2.4; and, (c) by 2050, corresponding to 90% of the total value of field 7.1.2.4. For (b) and (c), at the time when the restoration plan is elaborated and for further updates of the plan, all areas known as 'not in good condition' must be taken into account e.g., during the revision of the plan, previously unknown areas that are by then known as 'not in good condition' should be counted.

7.1.3.2 Minimum area to be improved for all habitat types of group 7 (Art. 5(1)(c) and (d)): Provide a best estimate single value or range (in km^2) of the total area to be improved for the habitats listed in group 7. Here, the target value is summed for all habitat types of group 7 together. This value should be provided for: (a) by 2040, corresponding to minimum 2/3 of the value indicated in point (b); and (b) by 2050, corresponding to the percentage set in accordance with Article 14(3)). For both (a) and (b), at the time when the restoration plan is

elaborated and for further updates, all areas known as 'not in good condition' must be considered e.g., during the revision of the plan, previously unknown areas that are by then known as 'not in good condition' should be counted.

7.1.3.3 Minimum area to be re-established for all habitat types from groups 1-6 (Art. 5(2)): This section should include a best estimate single value or range (in km^2) of the total area to be re-established for the habitat groups 1-6. Here, the target values are summed for all habitat types of groups 1-6 together. However, keep in mind that the Regulation requires to put in place measures to reach the favourable reference area for each habitat group of habitat types (Art. 5(2)). Values should refer to: (a) by 2030, corresponding to 30% of the total value of field 7.1.2.6; (b) by 2040, corresponding 60% of the total value of field 7.1.2.6; and (c) by 2050, corresponding to 100% of the total value of field 7.1.2.6.

7.1.3.4 Minimum area for which condition of all habitat types of groups 1-6 must be known (Art. 5(7)): This section should include a best estimate single value or range (in km^2) of the total area that has to be known for the habitat groups 1-6. Here, the target values are summed for all habitat types of groups 1-6 together. This value should refer to: (a) by 2030, corresponding to 50% of the total value of field 7.1.2.2; and (b) by 2040, corresponding to the 100% of the total value of field 7.1.2.2.

7.1.3.5 Minimum area for which the condition of all habitat types of group 7 must be known (Art. 5(4)): This section should include a best estimate (in km^2) of the total area that has to be known for the habitat types listed in group 7. Here, the target value is summed for all habitat types of group 7 together. This value refer to: (a) by 2040, corresponding to 50% of the total value of field 7.1.2.3; and (b) by 2050, corresponding to the 100% of the total value of field 7.1.2.3.

7.1.4 Overview of measures linked to the common fisheries policy (Art. 15(4) and 18)

7.1.4.1 Summary of planned measures that require submission of joint recommendations under the common fisheries policy (CFP), where applicable (Art. 15(4)): Free text, suggested max. 3000 characters. *MS whose national restoration plans include conservation measures to be adopted within the framework of the CFP shall make full use of the tools provided therein (Art. 18(1))*. In this field, MS should provide a brief summary of the planned measures that require the submission of joint recommendations under the CFP. Consider including 1) a characterisation of the measures and the specific habitats and habitats of species, areas and marine zones (e.g. territorial waters, **exclusive economic zone**, continental shelf) where they are planned to be put in place, 2) any technical or scientific justifications, and 3) the tools of the CFP that are planned to be used (e.g., CFP basic regulation, technical measures regulation, etc).

7.2 Targeted restoration plans

Restoration measures referred to in Art. 5 of the Regulation should be planned for each group of habitat types indicated in Annex II, or for individual habitat type, depending on the sub-targets set in the Regulation. For Art. 5, four main sub-targets have been identified: 1) The improvement of habitat to good condition (Art. 5(1)); 2) the re-establishment of habitat area

(Art. 5(2)); 3) the restoration of habitats of species necessary to improve habitats quality and quantity (Art. 5(5)); and 4) to improve knowledge of habitat condition (Art. 5(7)). For each of these sub-targets, a quantification of the objectives (e.g., total area to be improved or re-established) is expected, taking into account the minimum targets calculated in section 7.1.3. For fields where ranges may be indicated, the mean value of the range will be used for assessing the plan. The specific list of measures should be provided in Part C.

7.2.1 Improvement of habitats' condition by 2030 (Art. 5(1))

For habitat groups 1-6 of Annex II of the NRR together, the following section 7.2.1 should be filled in. Information reported by MS under MSFD Article 8 could be used where relevant (e.g., for habitat types in 'not good condition'). MS can contact the EEA NRR helpdesk for assistance when preparing this part, the helpdesk can provide extraction of specific information from MSFD Article 8 reporting. MS may also use "Additional Information II" of the National Restoration Plan to indicate further details on the individual habitat types targeted (fields A2.2.7 and A2.2.8). For the cases where habitat condition is 'unknown', please refer to section 7.2.5 "Closing knowledge gaps up to 2030".

7.2.1.1 Habitat groups (and optionally, habitat types) subject to restoration measures: (a) Select all the habitat groups targeted for restoration from the code list of habitat groups 1-6. Multiple selection is possible. Additionally, and optionally, (b) select the targeted habitat types corresponding to the habitat groups indicated in (a), using the corresponding code lists.

7.2.1.2 Indicative total surface area subject to restoration measures (Art. 15(3)(a)): For all habitat groups 1-6 together, (a) provide a best estimate (in km²) of the habitats area where measures will be put into place. This value should represent a minimum of 30% of the total area of all habitat types that is not in good condition. (b) If the best estimate presents high uncertainty, MS may additionally indicate a range of surface area where the measures will be put into place.

7.2.1.3 Indicative maps of potential areas subject to restoration measures (Art. 15(3)(a)): Provide geospatial information of potential areas where the measures by 2030 will take place for habitat groups 1-6. Different types of spatial resolutions and geospatial information formats may be used: 10x10 km grids, or isolated polygons. The specific technical details for the submission of the geospatial information will be indicated in due time in a technical reporting manual.

7.2.2 Derogation under Art. 5(3)

In this sub-section MS may highlight any application of the derogation outlined in Art. 5(3).
Art. 5(3) states: "*By way of derogation from paragraph 2 of this Article, if a Member State considers that it is not possible to put in place restoration measures by 2050 that are necessary to reach the favourable reference area for a specific habitat type on 100 % of the surface, the Member State concerned may set a lower percentage at a level between 90 % and 100 % in its national restoration plan as referred to in Article 15 and provide adequate justification. In such a case, the Member State shall gradually put in place restoration measures that are necessary to achieve that lower percentage by 2050. By 2030, those restoration measures shall cover at least 30 % of the additional surface needed to achieve such lower percentage by 2050, and by*

2040, they shall cover at least 60 % of the additional surface needed to achieve such lower percentage by 2050."

7.2.2.1 Does the MS apply the derogation laid down in Art. 5(3)?: Indicate if the derogation is used by selecting 'Yes' or 'No'. If the MS selects 'Yes', all fields from section 7.2.2 should be filled in.

7.2.2.2 If yes, indicate the habitat types for which the derogation applies: If the MS selects 'Yes' in field 7.2.2.1, select all the habitat types for the derogation is applied, i.e., for which it is not possible to put in place restoration measures by 2050 that are necessary to reach the favourable reference area on 100 % of the individual habitat surfaces (Art. 5(3)). One or more habitat types may be selected from the code list of habitat types from Annex II of the NRR.

7.2.2.3 Indicate, for each habitat type identified, the estimated percentages chosen pursuant Art. 5(3) and the respective area: For each one of the habitat types selected in 7.2.2.2, indicate in (c) the percentage (between 90 and 100%) of the area that will be re-established by 2050, and in (d) the corresponding area in km^2. In (a), indicate the percentage corresponding to 30% of the additional surface needed to achieve (d), and in (b) the corresponding 60% of the additional surface needed to achieve (d).

7.2.2.4 For each habitat type, justify why it is not possible to put in place restoration measures by 2050 necessary to reach the FRA on 100% of the specific habitat type, and justify the lower percentage (Art. 15(3)(b): Free text, suggested max. 3000 characters. For each habitat type identified, provide a justification for the lower percentage indicated in 7.2.2.3(c), and how the new percentage will ensure that the favourable reference area of the corresponding habitat type is reached or maintained.

7.2.3 Re-establishment of habitats' area up to 2030 (Art. 5(2))

For **each** habitat group 1-6 in Annex II of the Regulation, section 7.2.3 should be filled in considering the current information available at the time of planning. Specific information for individual habitat types may be indicated in "Additional Information II" of the National Restoration Plan (e.g. fields A2.2.7 and A2.2.8).

7.2.3.1 Habitat group: Select the habitat groups targeted for re-establishment measures by 2030 from the code list of habitat groups 1-6 from Annex II of the Regulation.

7.2.3.2. Favourable reference area (FRA): Indicate the extent of the favourable reference area for the selected habitat group in 7.2.3.1, as a best estimate or range (in km^2). The FRA should be calculated based on the addition of the FRAs of the habitat types corresponding to the mentioned habitat group.

7.2.3.3 Methodology and source of data for FRA: Free text, max suggested. 3000 characters. Indicate the source of the data used for the FRA indicated in 7.2.3.2 (e.g., data from Art. 17 HD 2013-2018, Art. 17 HD 2019-2024) and how the value(s) has been estimated. Any additional relevant information, e.g. criteria and methods adopted (current range, potential extent, habitat suitability, historical range, area required for variability, model parameters) and related uncertainties should be made explicit.

7.2.3.4 List of habitat types where current area is more than 2% smaller than the FRA (i.e. the habitat types for which re-establishment measures are relevant): Select, from the code list of habitat types belonging to the corresponding habitat group selected in field 7.2.3.1, all habitat types in which the current area is more than 2% smaller than the FRA, according to the latest available information.

7.2.3.5 Habitat types subject to re-establishment measures up to 2030 (optional): Select, from the code list of habitat types belonging to the habitat group selected in field 7.2.3.1, all habitat types that will be targeted for re-establishment measures up to 2030.

7.2.3.6 Indicative total surface area subject to re-establishment measures up to 2030: (a) Provide a best estimate of the total surface (in km^2) where re-establishment measures will be put into place. The area should represent at least 30% of the additional surface needed to reach the total FRA for the corresponding group of habitat types. (b) If the best estimate presents high uncertainty, MS may additionally indicate a range of surface area where the measures will be put into place.

7.2.3.7 Indicative maps of potential areas subject to restoration measures (Art. 15(3)(a)): Provide geospatial information of potential areas where the re-establishment measures by 2030 will take place for habitats 1-6. Different types of spatial resolutions and geospatial information formats may be used: 10x10 km grids, or isolated polygons. The specific technical details for the submission of the geospatial information will be indicated in due time in a technical reporting manual.

7.2.4 Restoration of habitats of species up to 2030 (Art. 5(5)

In addition to the restoration measures referred to in Art. 5(1) and (2), MS shall put in place restoration measures for marine habitats of species listed in Annex III of the Regulation and in Annexes II, IV and V of the Directive 92/43/EEC and for marine habitats of wild birds under Directive 2009/147/EC, necessary to improve the quality and quantity of those habitats, including by re-establishing them, and to enhance connectivity, until sufficient quality and quantity of those habitats is achieved. The information from the reporting under the MSFD (in addition to the one from the Habitats Directive reporting) can be relevant for many species. For each species or species group identified in field 7.2.4.1, the subsequent fields should be filled in.

The concept "habitat of a species" is defined in Art. 3(2): *habitat of a species as defined in Article 1, point (f), of Directive 92/43/EEC.*

7.2.4.1 Species or group of species whose habitat needs restoration: Select one (or several species to create a group) from a list of species from Directives 92/43/EEC (Habitats Directive), 2009/147/EC (Birds Directive) species, and Annex III of the Regulation (as referred in Article 5(5)). If species groups are used, it is suggested to use the MSFD grouping, including:

- Baleen whales
- Benthic-feeding birds
- Birds
- Cephalopods
- Coastal fishes
- Coastal/pelagic fishes
- Coastal/shelf cephalopods
- Commercial species
- Deep-diving toothed cetaceans
- Deep-sea cephalopods

- Deep-sea fishes
- Demersal fishes
- Demersal shell fishes
- Fishes
- Grazing birds
- Pelagic fishes
- Pelagic shell fishes
- Pelagic-feeding birds
- Seals
- Small-toothed cetaceans
- Surface feeding birds
- Turtles
- Wading birds

To be able to identify the selected species or group of species, an identifier should be provided by the Member State, This identifier must:

- have a maximum of 100 characters;
- Use only upper-case Latin letters [A to Z] and digits [0 to 9];
- The only special characters allowed are the underscore character ('_') or the hyphen character ('-') that may be used as separators within the code (not at the beginning and not at the end of the code).

The syntax of the identifier can be checked using the following REGEX expression (see for example https://regex101.com/):
^[0-9A-Z]{1}(?:[0-9A-Z](?!(?:[-_]{2}|\-_))[-_]?){0,100}([0-9A-Z]{1}){0,1}$$

7.2.4.2 For each species or group indicated, indicate the habitat of the species in need of restoration: Select one or more habitats from the code list of EUNIS marine habitats .

7.2.4.3 Indicative total surface area subject to restoration measures: (a) Provide a best estimate (in km^2) of the areas where measures may be put in place by 2030. (b) If the best estimate presents high uncertainty, MS may additionally indicate a range of surface area where the measures will be put into place.

7.2.4.4 Indicative maps of potential areas subject to restoration measures (Art. 15(3)(a)): Provide geospatial information of the areas where restoration measures for the habitat of species may be put in place by 2030. Different types of spatial resolutions and geospatial information formats may be used: 10x10 km grids, or isolated polygons. The specific technical details for the submission of the geospatial information will be indicated in due time in a technical reporting manual.

7.2.5 Closing knowledge gaps up to 2030 (Art. 5(7))

For habitat groups 1-6 listed in Annex II of the Regulation, the following section should be filled in (Art. 15(3)(d)).

7.2.5.1 Approach to addressing knowledge gaps on the condition of habitat types of groups 1-6: Describe the strategies and methods planned or implemented to address knowledge gaps regarding the condition of habitat types in groups 1–6. Describe the approach up to 2030 (minimum 50% of the area of habitat types must have a known condition) (free text, suggested max. 3000 characters). MS may consider mentioning any initiatives aimed at improving data collection, such as field surveys, remote sensing, citizen science, and partnerships with

research institutions. Consider steps to prioritize habitats or regions with significant data deficiencies and outline how progress will be tracked and updated over time. If applicable, indicate how resources like Copernicus services, GIS databases, or other monitoring tools are used to close these knowledge gaps efficiently.

7.2.5.2 List of habitat types from groups 1-6 with condition unknown (Art 5(7)(a)) that will be targeted for closing knowledge gaps by 2030: Select one or more habitat types from the code list of habitat groups 1-6.

7.3 Targets after June 2032 and strategic overview (Art. 15(2))

This section focuses on targets after 2032 (i.e., 2040 and 2050 targets) and can be limited to a strategic overview, though basic information, for example, regarding targets and indicative total area to be restored should be indicated. This section can be revised towards the review of the national restoration plan in June 2032 (Art. 19(1)). For fields where ranges may be indicated, the mean value of the range will be used for assessing the plan.

7.3.1 Improvement of habitats' condition by 2040 and 2050 (Art. 5(1))

For each group of habitat types (1-7), the following section 7.3.1 should be filled in considering the current available information and estimations. Information reported by MS under MSFD Article 8 should be used where relevant (e.g., for habitat types in 'not good condition'). For the cases where habitat condition is 'unknown', please refer to section 7.3.4 "Closing knowledge gaps up to 2040 and 2050".

7.3.1.1 Habitat group: Select one or several habitat groups from the code list of habitat groups 1-7, for which the improvement of condition is planned for 2040 and 2050.

7.3.1.2 Surface area not in good condition for the habitat group: Provide, for each habitat group indicated in 7.3.1.1, the area in 'not good condition', a best estimate or range of the area (in km^2).

7.3.1.3 Indicative habitat types subject to restoration (optional): In this optional field, MS may select indicative habitat types targeted for restoration from the list of habitat types of the corresponding habitat group. Habitat types can be provided for a) by 2040, and b) by 2050.

7.3.1.4 Indicative total surface area subject to restoration measures: Provide a best estimate or range (in km^2) of the habitat area where improvement measures will be put into place for the corresponding habitat group a) by 2040, and b) by 2050.

7.3.1.5 Indicative maps of potential areas subject to restoration measures (optional): Provide geospatial information of potential areas where the improvement measures by (a) 2040 and (b) 2050 will take place. Different types of spatial resolutions and geospatial information formats may be used: 10x10 km grids, or isolated polygons. The specific technical details for the submission of the geospatial information will be indicated in due time in a technical reporting manual.

7.3.2 Re-establishment of habitats area up to 2040 and 2050 (Art. 5(2))

For **each** habitat group (1-6) the following fields should be indicated. Specific information for individual habitat types may be indicated in "Additional Information II - Marine habitat types of information".

7.3.2.1 Habitat group: Select one habitat group from the code list of habitat groups 1-6, for which the re-establishment of area is planned for 2040 and 2050.

7.3.2.2 Indicative habitat types subject to restoration (optional): Select the specific habitat types corresponding to the habitat groups targeted for re-establishment measures (and indicated in 7.3.2.1) from the code list of habitat types. Habitat types may be indicated for (a) 2040 and/or (b) 2050.

7.3.2.3 Indicative total surface area subject to re-establishment measures: For each habitat group indicated in 7.3.2.1, provide best estimates or ranges of the total area (in km²) where re-establishment measures will be put into place, for (a) 2040 (it should represent at least 60% of the additional surface needed to reach the total favourable reference area for the corresponding habitat group), and (b) by 2050 (it should represent 100% of the additional surface needed to reach the total favourable reference area for the corresponding habitat group).

7.3.2.4 Indicative maps of potential areas subject to restoration measures (Art. 15(3)(a)) (optional): Provide geospatial information of potential areas where the re-establishment measures by 2030 will take place. Different types of spatial resolutions and geospatial information formats may be used: 10x10 km grids, or isolated polygons. The specific technical details for the submission of the geospatial information will be indicated in due time in a technical reporting manual.

7.3.3 Restoration of habitats of species up to 2050 (Art.5(5))

For each species or species group identified in field 7.2.4.1, the subsequent fields in this section may be filled in.

7.3.3.1 Indicative total surface area subject to restoration measures (Art. 15(3)(a)) (optional): Provide best estimates (a and b) or ranges (c and d) of the total area (in km²) where restoration of the habitat(s) of the species will be put into place, for 2040 and 2050.

7.3.3.2 Indicative maps of potential areas subject to restoration measures (Art.15(3)(a)) (optional): Provide maps of the areas where restoration measures for the habitat of species may be put in place by (a) 2040 and (b) 2050. Different types of spatial resolutions and geospatial information formats may be used: 10x10 km grids (list or map of 10x10 km grids), or isolated polygons (geospatial information containing isolated polygons). The specific technical details for the submission of the geospatial information will be indicated in due time in a technical reporting manual.

7.3.4 Closing knowledge gaps up to 2040 and 2050 (Art.5(7))

For all corresponding habitat groups listed in Annex II of the Regulation together, the section below may be filled in (Art.15(3)(d)).

7.3.4.1 Approach to addressing knowledge gaps on the condition of habitat types of groups 1-6 up to 2040 (100%) (optional): Describe the strategies and methods planned or implemented to address knowledge gaps regarding the condition of habitat types of groups 1-6 from Annex II of the Regulation up to 2040, when the condition of all areas of habitat types shall be known. If possible, highlight any initiatives aimed at improving data collection, such as field surveys, remote sensing, citizen science, and partnerships with research institutions. Consider steps to prioritize habitats or regions with significant data deficiencies and outline how progress will be tracked and updated over time. If applicable, indicate how resources like Copernicus services, GIS databases, or other monitoring tools are leveraged to close these knowledge gaps efficiently.

7.3.4.2 Approach to addressing knowledge gaps on the condition of habitat types of group 7 (optional): Describe the strategies and methods planned or implemented to address knowledge gaps regarding the condition of habitat types in Group 7, as listed in Annex II. Describe the approach (a) up to 2040 (50% of the area of habitat types in Group 7 should have a known condition) (free text, suggested max. 3000 characters) and (b) up to 2050 (when all areas of the habitat types in Group 7 should be known) (free text, suggested max. 3000 characters). If possible, highlight any initiatives aimed at improving data collection, such as field surveys, remote sensing, citizen science, and partnerships with research institutions. Consider steps to prioritize habitats or regions with significant data deficiencies and outline how progress will be tracked and updated over time. If applicable, indicate how resources like Copernicus services, GIS databases, or other monitoring tools are leveraged to close these knowledge gaps efficiently.

7.3.4.3 List of habitat types from Group 7 with condition unknown (Art 5(7)(c)) that will be targeted for closing knowledge gaps by 2040 (optional): Select one or more habitat types from the code list of habitat types from group 7.

7.4 Measures to prevent significant deterioration (Art. 15(3)(f) and (h))

MS should indicate the measures to comply with Art. 5(9) and (10). Here, an overview of the non-deterioration measures is requested. The specific non-deterioration measures are to be listed in Part C.

7.4.1 Approach to (i) preventing significant deterioration of areas that are subject to restoration measures and in which good condition has been reached and sufficient quality of the habitats of the species has been reached, and (ii) ensuring continuous improvement of areas subject to restoration measures, in accordance with Art. 5(9) (Art. 15(3)(f)): Free text, suggested max. 3000 characters. Provide an indication of the measures planned to prevent significant deterioration of those areas where the restoration measures will be put in place, also after they have reached a good condition status. Therefore, these non-deterioration measures should aim at preventing degradation, ensuring the continuous improvement of condition and ensuring the restored areas remain in good condition. MS may use links to MSFD Programs of Measures (PoM) and Good Environmental Status (GES).

7.4.2 Approach to preventing significant deterioration of areas where habitat types listed in Annex II of the Regulation occur and of areas which are in good condition or necessary to

reach the target, in accordance with Art. 5(10) (Art. 15(3)(h): Free text, suggested max. 3000 characters. Provide an indication of the measures planned to prevent significant deterioration of all Annex II habitats where they occur. These areas include those where the habitats are already in good condition. Non-deterioration measures should aim at preventing degradation and ensuring those areas remain in good condition. MS may use links to MSFD PoM and GES.

8. Urban ecosystems (Art. 8)

This section aims at quantifying the areas to be restored under Article 8. It contains a general subsection (8.1 National approach and contextual information), as well a specific subsection to detail the plan for addressing the targets and obligations (8.2 Targeted restoration plan).

8.1 National approach and contextual information

This subsection is dedicated to information concerning obligations for the restoration of urban ecosystems. It aims at reflecting the general approach of the Member State to meeting the restoration targets and obligations set in Article 8, as well as determining the urban ecosystem areas that will be used as units for planning and monitoring restoration measures. Additionally, the provision of contextual information will allow MS to assess the current situation and calculate the specific targets for each of the obligations laid down in Article 8.

8.1.1 National approach

8.1.1.1 National approach to meeting restoration targets and fulfilling obligations for urban ecosystems, based on latest scientific evidence (Art. 15(3)(c)) (optional): Free text, suggested max. 3000 characters. Describe of the approach to achieving urban ecosystem restoration targets, focusing on two specific time periods:

- Up to June 2032, the described approach may include how to meet the no-net loss objective. For example, MS can consider explaining at what level the management of the total green space and tree canopy cover will be handled (i.e., national, local or individual project level), including an overview of the balance between protection of all green space and trees vs. allowing for compensation measures/restoration, in order to meet obligations.
- Beyond 2032, the described approach may include steps to be taken to ensure an increasing trend in urban green space (nationally) and tree canopy cover (in each urban ecosystem area) towards 2050. MS could consider explaining a system of prioritisation of regions or urban ecosystem areas, the approach for selecting specific measures, considerations to enhance green connectivity, and the ecological requirements of vegetation types, cooperation mechanisms, among other aspects.

8.1.2 Determination of urban ecosystem areas (Art. 8(1) and 14(4))

In this section, MS provide information establishing the chosen Urban Ecosystems Areas (UEA) for all their cities, towns and suburbs, where the targets of Art. 8 will apply. According to Art. 14(4) of the Regulation, the UEA of a city or of a town and suburb shall include:

(a) the entire city or town and suburb; or
(b) parts of the city or of the town and suburb, including at least its urban centres, urban clusters. and, if deemed appropriate by the Member State concerned, peri-urban areas.

As “entire city or town and suburb”, the NRR refers to the whole territory of a Local Administrative Units (LAU) classified as either a city, a town or suburb, according to the “degree of urbanisation” classification. LAUs are low-level administrative subdivisions of the NUTS 3 regions covering the entire economic territory of the MS (EUROSTAT, 2003 – Regulation (EC) 1059/2003[8]). The countries’ administrative units equivalent to LAUs are set out in Annex III of the Regulation 1059. The 'degree of urbanization’ classification is based on the geographical contiguity of population grid cells, which describes the distribution of population in space. Each LAU can only be assigned to one of these three classes: 1) cities, 2) towns and suburbs and 3) rural. In the scope of Art. 8 of the Nature Restoration Regulation, only LAUs classified as cities and as towns and suburbs are considered. These are defined in Art. 4b of the above referenced legal act and in the corresponding implementing Regulation (EUROSTAT, 2019a - (EU) 2019/1130[9]) as follows:

- **Cities**: densely populated areas where at least 50% of the population lives in one or more urban centres, where urban centres (or high-density clusters) are identified as groups of grid cells with a population density of at least 1,500 inhabitants/ km² and collectively a population of at least 50,000 inhabitants
- **Towns** and suburbs: intermediate density areas where less than 50% of the population lives in an urban centre and at least 50% of the population lives in an urban cluster- (moderate-density cluster): a cluster of contiguous grid cells of 1 km² (including diagonals) with a population density of at least 300 inhabitants per km² and a minimum population of 5,000 inhabitants.

If the Member State decides to define UEAs as (a) entire cities or towns and suburbs, available information from EUROSTAT may be used in the NRP to map these UEAs, including the vector polygons and tabular data of Local Administrative Units.

On the other hand, if the Member State decides to define at least one UEA as (b), these must be identified considering at least all the urban centres and clusters falling within the LAUs classified as cities, towns and suburbs. Urban centre and clusters are defined on the basis of specific characteristics of population density and geographical contiguity (EUROSTAT, 2003; EUROSTAT 2019a):

- Urban centres: also named high-density clusters, consists of contiguous grid cells with a density of at least 1,500 inhabitants per km2. An urban centre has population of at least 50,000 inhabitants.
- Urban clusters: also termed moderate-density clusters, consist of contiguous grid cells with a density of at least 300 inhabitants per km2 and a population of at least 5,000 inhabitants in the cluster.

Urban centres and clusters are updated every 10 years based on official census data. The latest update of urban centres and clusters, relative to the year 2021, is now available on the

[8] EUROSTAT, 2003. Regulation (EC) No 1059/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 May 2003 on the establishment of a common classification of territorial units for statistics (NUTS), http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2003/1059/2024-01-01

[9] EUROSTAT, 2019a. Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1130 of 2 July 2019 on the uniform conditions for the harmonised application of territorial typologies pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 1059/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council, http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2019/1130/oj

EUROSTAT GISCO website. This 2021 data set defining the urban centres and urban clusters may be used for the NRPs. From the mentioned website, both urban centres and urban clusters may be downloaded. The two datasets may be combined because together delineate they the total area of urban centres and clusters.
The boundaries of the LAUs and the attribute 'degree of urbanization' classification are updated every year. Therefore, to establish the final baselines MS will need to use the data for 2024 when in becomes available. Until then the 2023 data will need to be used.

Seeing as MS are free to establish their urban ecosystem area (UEA) boundaries anywhere within the LAU - as long the UAE consists of at least the urban centres and urban cluster – there is no obligation to set any specific peri-urban area (at 1 km, or any other distance).It is, however, recommended that a peri-urban area is included around the built-up area of the city to avoid any unwanted displacement of development to an area just outside the current built-up area.

It is important to highlight that the UEAs defined in the draft NRP should remain stable and may only be adjusted during the revision of the plan in 2032 or in future revisions.

If the Member State decides to define at least one UEAs as (b), in order to determine and map these UEAs, section "Additional Information III" to the National Restoration Plan must be filled in for all UEAs, based on data which is not directly available from the EUROSTAT sources mentioned before.

Further details on Eurostat methodologies for defining territorial typologies can be found in the dedicated manual (EUROSTAT, 2019b[10])

8.1.2.1 Type of urban ecosystem area chosen: Indicate the type of urban ecosystem area (UEA) to be used, based on Art. 14(4). MS can choose between UEAs defined as (a) entire cities or towns and suburbs, in all cases; and (b) at least one urban ecosystem area includes parts of the city or of the town and suburb, including at least its urban centres, urban clusters and, if appropriate, peri-urban areas. This second alternative allows for a mixed approach, where a Member State may define some UEAs as 'entire cities or towns and suburbs', and some other as 'parts of the city or of the town and suburb, including at least its urban centres, urban clusters and, if appropriate, peri-urban areas'. If **one or more** UEAs will be determined as (b), please select (b). Alternative (a) can only be selected if **all** the countries UEA are defined as entire cities or towns and suburbs. If (b) is selected, further information to map and determine these UEAs should be provided in "Additional information III" of the NRP.

8.1.2.2 Aggregated urban ecosystem areas: According to Art. 14(4), *MS may aggregate the urban ecosystem areas of two or more adjacent cities, or two or more adjacent towns and suburbs, or both, into one urban ecosystem area common to those cities, or towns and suburbs, respectively.* If the Member State decides to use this aggregation for at least one case, select 'Yes'. If no urban ecosystem areas will be aggregated, select 'No'. If 'Yes' is selected,

[10]European Union, 2019. Methodological manual on territorial typologies, 2018 Edition. https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-manuals-and-guidelines/-/ks-gq-18-008

additional information regarding which UEAs are to be aggregated should be provided in "Additional information III" of the NRP.

8.1.2.3 If a) is selected in 8.1.2.1, list of LAUs classified as 'city' or 'town and suburbs', according to Art. 14(4)(a): If the Member State defines **all** urban ecosystem areas as 'entire cities or towns and suburbs', this field should be filled in, uploading the full list of GISCO IDs of Local Administrative Units (LAUs). This will allow for the use of already existing data for these LAUs for the purposes of mapping the urban ecosystem areas (Art. 14(4)) and easily accounting urban green area and urban green canopy cover in the following sections. The specific technical details for the submission of this list will be indicated in due time in a technical reporting manual.

8.1.2.4 If b) is selected in 8.1.2.1, map of urban ecosystem areas. In this case, information in Additional Information III should also be provided: If the Member State decided to define at least one urban ecosystem area as 'parts of the city or of the town and suburb' (field 8.1.2.1(b)), geospatial information of all urban ecosystem areas should be provided. The specific technical details for the submission of the geospatial information will be indicated in due time in a technical reporting manual. Additionally, "Additional information III" of the National Restoration Plan should be filled in.

8.1.3 Contextual information (Art. 8(1)):

MS shall provide information on the total areas of urban green space and tree cover, required to establish the baseline for monitoring and assessing the urban targets.
Art. 3(20) and 3(21) provide definitions of urban green spaces and urban tree canopy cover:
Urban green space means the total area of trees, bushes, shrubs, permanent herbaceous vegetation, lichens and mosses, ponds and watercourses found within cities or towns and suburbs, calculated on the basis of data provided by the Copernicus Land Monitoring Service under the Copernicus component of the Union Space Programme, established by Regulation (EU) 2021/696, and, if available for the Member State concerned, other appropriate supplementary data provided by that Member State.
Urban tree canopy cover means the total area of tree cover within cities and towns and suburbs, calculated on the basis of the Tree Cover Density data provided by the Copernicus Land Monitoring Service under the Copernicus component of the Union Space Programme, established by Regulation (EU) 2021/696, and, if available for the Member State concerned, other appropriate supplementary data provided by that Member State.
Considering that areas of cities, towns and suburbs may change in time, meaning the shares of urban green space and urban tree canopy cover may also change, contextual information and targets could be adjusted when revising the national restoration plan in 2032.

8.1.3.1 Supplementary data beyond Copernicus were used for the estimate of urban green space and/or tree canopy cover: If the Member State decides to supplement the Copernicus datasets with other sources, for example, in the case of newer datasets or other relevant datasets, select 'Yes'. If the Member State will use the existing Copernicus datasets offered by the EU Commission without modifications, select 'No'. If 'Yes' is selected, the corresponding geospatial information should be submitted/uploaded. If 'Yes' is selected,

Additional information III of the National Restoration Plan should be filled in.

Supplementary data can be used to **improve or complement the information already included in the official datasets**. In order to determine whether data beyond Copernicus can be used, Member States could consider the following characteristics:

- **consistency over time**: data are available in 2024 (baseline), 2030 and maintained for the future monitoring
- **consistency over space**: the data are maintained to cover over time the area for which they are used, during all stages of the regulation implementation. There are different types of spatial coverage:
    - At national level: across all urban areas in a MS in case there is already in place a monitoring system at national level for urban green spaces and/or tree canopy cover that provides more accurate and reliable data than official datasets
    - At urban ecosystem level: when there are monitoring systems in place in some cities or towns
    - At site level: when there are systematic trees inventories that can provide more accurate data on tree locations
- Data derived from **systematic monitoring** in which the methodology can be clearly described.
- Allowing an increase of data quality in terms of:
    - **Precision:** in the case of urban green or urban trees, data identified with a higher spatial resolution
    - **Accuracy (reliability):** refers to how close a measurement is to the true value. It measures the correctness and reliability of spatial data in relation to real-world values.

The use of the supplementary data should be justified, and spatial data should be provided in all cases to ensure a consistent reporting aligned with real spatial data. If different local data sets are used, MS should compile all this information and present it as a single unified and fully justified data set in the subfield (b). (i.e. multiple local data sets should not be sent/included). The increased quality of the assessment should be quantified with respect to the information provided by the Copernicus Land Monitoring Service datasets.

8.1.3.2 Area and map of national share of urban green space in urban ecosystem areas at the time of entry into force of the Regulation: (a) Provide the area (in km^2) of national urban green space in urban ecosystem areas by 18 August 2024. (b) Provide the maps of the urban green space in urban ecosystem areas.

For the implementation of the NRR, the reference dataset to identify the baseline and for the monitoring of urban green spaces is the Copernicus Land Monitoring Service's (CLMS) CLCplus Backbone product. In addition to the CLMS data, MS may also use supplementary data to define their baseline, however this should align with the 2023 reference year for UEAs. The latest update for reference year 2023 was released in June 2025 on the CLMS website. As the 2023 version aligns with the NRR baseline for urban green space, it can now be used to assess the levels of urban green spaces and to identify where the share of urban green space in the urban centres and urban clusters exceeds 45 %, for urban ecosystem areas to be exempted

from the no-net loss rule (together with information on tree cover density as described below).

This dataset is at high spatial resolution (pixel size 10 m x 10 m), pan-European wall-to-wall layer containing 11 thematic classes. Urban green spaces are defined by the NRR as the total area of the following classes: trees (classes 2, 3 and 4), bushes, shrubs (class 5), permanent herbaceous vegetation (class 6), lichens and mosses (class 8), and water (class 10).

Further specific technical details for the submission of the maps will be indicated in due time in a technical reporting manual.

8.1.3.3. Area and map of national tree canopy cover in urban ecosystem areas at the time of entry into force of the Regulation: (a) Provide the area (in km^2) of national tree canopy cover in urban ecosystem areas by 18 August 2024. (b) Provide the maps of the urban tree canopy cover in urban ecosystem areas.

For the implementation of the NRR, the reference dataset to identify the baseline and for the monitoring of tree cover density is the Copernicus Land Monitoring Service's (CLMS) High Resolution Layer Tree Cover Density (HRL TCD) product. In addition to the CLMS data, MS may also use supplementary data to define their baseline, however this should align with the 2024 reference year for Tree Canopy Cover. The latest version of HRL TCD currently available is for reference year 2021 and is available on the CLMS website. The 2022 and 2023 reference years will be available in October 2025 and the definitive tree canopy cover data for NRR implementation reference year 2024, will be available as early as Q4 2025 (but as late as Q2 2026). For now, the 2021 version can be used to assess the baseline levels of tree cover density and to identify where the share of urban tree canopy cover in the urban centres and urban clusters exceeds 10 %, for urban ecosystem areas to be exempted from the no-net loss rule, if they also present more than 45 % of urban green spaces. The layer provides the percentage of tree cover for every 10 m x 10 m pixel. The total amount of tree canopy cover in an urban ecosystem area can be calculated by computing the total percentage of all the pixel values within the urban ecosystem area.

Further specific technical details for the submission of the maps will be indicated in due time in a technical reporting manual.

8.1.3.4 Exclusion of urban ecosystem areas in which the share of urban green space in the urban centres and urban clusters exceeds 45% and the share of urban tree canopy cover exceeds 10% (Art. 8 (1)): For the target indicated in Art. 8(1), i.e. ensuring no net loss in the total national area of urban green space and of urban tree canopy cover in urban ecosystem areas, *M*S may exclude from those total national areas the urban ecosystem areas in which the share of urban green space in the urban centres and urban clusters exceeds 45% and the share of urban tree canopy cover exceeds 10%. If the Member State will use this indication, select 'Yes'. If all urban ecosystem areas will be used for the purpose of the Art. 8(1) targets, without exceptions, select 'No'.

8.1.4 Satisfactory levels

Not applicable to the first plan. To be used only after the release of guidance by the EU Commission.

8.2 Targeted restoration plan

Restoration measures should be planned to ensure reaching the targets and obligations set in Art. 8. For this Article, three main sub-targets have been identified:

1. no net loss in the total national area of urban green space and urban tree canopy cover in urban ecosystem areas by 2030 (Art. 8(1));
2. an increasing trend in the total national area of urban green space (from 1 January 2031 onwards), until a satisfactory level is reached (Art. 8(2));
3. an increasing trend of urban tree canopy cover within each ecosystem area (from 1 January 2031 onwards) until a satisfactory level is reached (Art.8(3)).

For each of these sub-targets, a quantification of the objectives (e.g., total area under restoration measures) is expected, based on the contextual information provided in section 8.1.3. The specific list of measures should be provided in Part C.

Considering that areas of cities, towns and suburbs may change over time, meaning the shares of urban green space and urban tree canopy cover may also change, contextual information and targets may need to be adjusted when revising the national restoration plan. For this reason, always use the latest available datasets from Copernicus.

8.2.1 No net loss by 2030 (Art. 8(1))

Article 8(1) indicates that by the end of 2030 "*Member States shall ensure that there is no net loss in the total national area of urban green space and urban tree canopy cover in urban ecosystem areas*". For this target, it's important to acknowledge that restoration measures may still be necessary to achieve 'no net loss', for example, as part of a compensation in the case of planned losses in the urban green space and/or urban tree canopy cover, or as preventive measures. Additionally, under this section, MS may already plan restoration measures up to 2030 that would benefit the overall target of increasing trends in the mentioned variables (Art. 8(2) and (3)). In this sense, the efforts towards increasing trends after 2030 does not limit the emplacement of restoration measures before 2030.

8.2.1.1 Indicative total surface area of land subject to restoration measures to ensure no net loss (Art. 15(3)(a)): (a) Provide a best estimate (in km^2) of the area where measures will be put into place for ensuring no net loss of urban green space and of urban tree canopy cover in urban ecosystem areas at national level. (b) If the best estimate presents high uncertainty, MS may additionally and optionally indicate a range of surface area where the measures will be put into place. If no measures to 'achieve no net loss' are needed, field 8.2.1.1 must indicate zero, and no indicative maps are needed.

8.2.1.2 Indicative areas or description of areas subject to restoration measures to meet the restoration target of 'no net loss' (Art. 15(3)(a)): Provide (a) geospatial information of potential areas where the measures by 2030 will take place and/or (b) a text description clearly describing where the measures will take place (free text, suggested max. 3000 characters). The specific technical details for the submission of the geospatial information geospatial information will be indicated in due time in a technical reporting manual.

8.2.2 Increasing trend after 2030 (Art. 8(2) and (3))

This section focuses on targets after 2030 and can be limited to a strategic overview, though basic information, for example, indicative total area to be restored, should be indicated. This section can be revised towards the review of the national restoration plan in June 2032 (Art. 19(1)). For fields where ranges may be indicated, the mean value of the range will be used for assessing the plan.

8.2.2.1. Indicative surface area subject to restoration measures to achieve an increasing trend in the total national area of urban green space (Art. 8(2)): Provide a best estimate or range (in km^2) of the area where measures will be put into place for increasing the trend in urban green space by 2050 (b). Optionally, MS may indicate an intermediate target area (in km^2) by 2040 (a).

8.2.2.2 Indicative areas (maps or description) subject to restoration measures to achieve an increasing trend in the total national area of urban green spaces (Art. 15(3)(a)) (optional): (a) Provide geospatial information of potential areas where the measures for increasing the total national area of urban green space by 2050 will be implemented. Alternatively, (b) MS can provide a free text description (suggested max. 3000 characters) of the areas subject to restoration, indicating, for example, the corresponding administrative units (regions, provinces, urban ecosystem areas and/or zones) targeted and any relevant distribution feature (e.g., connectivity). For maps, different types of spatial resolutions and geospatial information formats may be used: NUTS3 references, 10x10 km grids, or isolated polygons. The specific technical details for the submission of the geospatial information will be indicated in due time in a technical reporting manual.

8.2.2.3. Indicative surface area subject to restoration measures to achieve an increasing trend in the urban tree canopy cover for each urban ecosystem area (Art. 8(3)): Provide a best estimate or range (in km^2) of the area where measures will be put into place for increasing the trend in urban tree canopy cover by 2050 (b). Optionally, MS may indicate an intermediate target area (in km^2) by 2040 (a).

8.2.2.4 Indicative areas (maps or description) subject to restoration measures to achieve an increasing trend in the urban tree canopy cover for each urban ecosystem area (Art. 15(3)(a)) (optional): (a) Provide geospatial information of potential areas where the measures for increasing the urban tree canopy cover within each urban ecosystem area by 2050 will be implemented. Alternatively, (b) MS can provide a free text description (suggested max. 3000 characters) of the areas subject to restoration, indicating, for example, the corresponding administrative units (regions, provinces, urban ecosystem areas and/or zones) targeted and any relevant distribution feature (e.g. connectivity). For maps, different types of spatial resolutions and geospatial information formats may be used: NUTS3 references, 10x10 km grids, or isolated polygons. The specific technical details for the submission of the geospatial information will be indicated in due time in a technical reporting manual.

9. Restoration of the natural connectivity of rivers and natural functions of the related floodplains (Art. 9)

This section aims at quantifying the areas to be restored under Article 9. It contains a general subsection (9.1 National approach), as well as a more specific subsection to detail the plan for addressing the targets and obligations (9.2 Targeted restoration plans). The inventory of artificial barriers to the connectivity of surface waters is to be provided in section "Additional Information IV" of the NRP.

Art. 3(22) defines free-flowing river as a river or a stretch of river of which the longitudinal, lateral and vertical connectivity is not hindered by artificial structures forming a barrier and the natural functions of which are largely unaffected.

9.1 National approach

This subsection is dedicated to information concerning obligations for the natural connectivity of rivers and natural functions of the related floodplains. It aims at reflecting the general approach of the Member State to meeting the restoration targets and obligations set in Article 9.

9.1.1 National approach to meeting restoration targets and fulfilling obligations for the natural connectivity of rivers and natural functions of the related floodplains, based on latest scientific evidence (Art. 15(3)(c)) (optional): Free text, suggested max. 3000 characters. In this optional field, MS will outline their national strategy for restoring river connectivity and floodplain functions. MS will consider detailing strategies for removing physical barriers and restoring hydrological regimes, ensuring the connectivity between rivers and floodplains, emphasizing that these measures are in line with the definition of "restoration" in Article 3(3). MS may elaborate on the prioritisation of rivers to restore and removal of associated barriers, how the planned measures are expected to restore longitudinal, lateral and vertical connectivity (Article 9 (2)), and to re-establish the natural functions of floodplains (Article 9(3)). MS may specify the timeline and targets for the restoration of rivers and floodplains, referring to Article 9 of the NRR and explain how the measures will contribute to, or not interfere with, the goal of restoring 30% of the areas by 2030, 60% by 2040, and 90% by 2050, linking directly to Article 4(1). MS may elaborate how they will contribute to the EU's overarching target of restoring at least 25,000 km of free-flowing rivers by 2030 and highlight cooperation mechanisms at national and international level. It is recommended that MS refer to the *Criteria for identifying free-flowing river stretches for the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030* (Van de Bund et al 2024) when developing their strategies. Please note that this document is currently under revision, with an updated version expected by the end of 2025. This new version will be published in the BISE Nature Restoration Reference Portal[11] once the new version is available.

[11] Nature Restoration Regulation Reference Portal | Biodiversity Information System for Europe

9.2 Targeted restoration plans

In this section, MS should provide information about the plan to reach the Art. 9 targets and obligations, including the removal of barriers and any other measures to improve and re-establish the natural functions of floodplains (Art. 15(3)(i)). The inventory of barriers and the identified barriers for removal (Art. 15(3)(i)) should be addressed in section "Additional Information IV" of the NRP. The specific list of measures should be provided in Part C of the Uniform Format.

9.2.1 Plan for the removal of artificial barriers up to 2030 (Art. 9(2)), Art. 15(3)(i))

This subsection provides specific details related to the plan for river connectivity (i.e. longitudinal, lateral and vertical connectivity), including the removal of longitudinal, lateral and vertical barriers and the restoration of floodplains. A definition of "free-flowing river" is provided in Art. 3(22): *a river or a stretch of river the longitudinal, lateral and vertical connectivity of which is not hindered by artificial structures forming a barrier and the natural functions of which are largely unaffected*.

9.2.1.1 Indicative net additional total length of free-flowing rivers to be achieved by 2030 resulting from the removal of existing artificial barriers from 2020, taking also into account the loss of free-flowing river length related to the construction of new barriers after 2020 (Art. 15(3(i)): (a) Provide a best estimate (in km) of the net total length of free-flowing rivers to be achieved by 2030. The net value should consider both the additional length gained by barriers removal as well as the length reduction caused by the construction of new barriers built after 2020 or yet to be built, since the target of achieving 25 000 km free-flowing rivers is in addition to the 2020 baseline; (b) Indicate a range of net kilometres gained (optional); (c) Provide the estimated length, in kilometres, which were not free-flowing in 2020 and which are planned to become free-flowing by 2030 due to the removal of barriers, and (optional); (d) Provide the estimated length, in kilometres, which were free-flowing in 2020 and which are planned to lose their free-flowing status by 2030 due to the construction of new barriers after 2020 (optional).

9.2.1.2 Indicative map of potential free-flowing rivers to be restored from 2020 to 2030 (Art. 15(3)(a)):

Provide a map of the potential free-flowing rivers to be achieved by the removal of artificial barriers by 2030. The geospatial information provided should be in vector format either as a centre lines, datasets or model (Hydro ID) in line with the Water Framework Directive's river network (when applicable) to allow an EU wide reference of the rivers in their longitudinal dimension. MS may also use the hydrological units provided by AMBER Barrier Atlas and, when available, the upcoming Copernicus Land Monitoring Service pan-European reference dataset for hydrography "EU-Hydro" version 2.0". The specific technical details for the submission of the geospatial information will be indicated in due time in a technical reporting manual.

9.2.1.3 Best estimate of free-flowing rivers in 2020: Indicate, in km, the baseline distance of free-flowing rivers existing by 2020. This value will be used for the assessment of net additional length of free-flowing rivers towards the target of 25,000 km of additional free-flowing rivers compared to 2020 and towards restoration targets by 2050.

9.2.1.4 Indicative map of free-flowing rivers baseline in 2020: Provide a map of the free-flowing rivers baseline in 2020. The geospatial information provided should be in vector format either as a center lines, datasets or model (Hydro ID) in line with the Water Framework Directive's river network (when applicable) to allow an EU wide reference of the rivers in their longitudinal dimension. MS may also use the hydrological units provided by AMBER Barrier Atlas and, when available, the upcoming Copernicus Land Monitoring Service pan-European reference dataset for hydrography "EU-Hydro" version 2.0". The specific technical details for the submission of the geospatial information will be indicated in due time in a technical reporting manual.

9.2.2 Improvement of the natural functions of related floodplains up to 2030 (Art. 9(3))

This section focuses on the plan to address the sub-target indicated in Art. 9(3) on complementing the removal of artificial barriers with measures to improve the natural functions of the related floodplains.

9.2.2.1 Indicative total surface area subject to restoration measures necessary to improve the natural functions of related floodplains (Art. 15(3)(a) and (i)): (a) Provide best estimate (in km^2) of the total potential surface area where measures may be put in place to improve the natural functions of the related floodplains by 2030. (b) If the best estimate presents high uncertainty, MS may additionally indicate a range of surface area (in km^2) where the measures will be put into place (optional).

9.2.2.2 Indicative map of areas subject to restoration measures (Art. 15(3)(a)): Provide geospatial information of potential areas where the measures to improve the natural functions of the related floodplains by 2030 may take place. Geospatial information should be provided in vector format, as isolated polygons. The specific technical details for the submission of the geospatial information will be indicated in due time in a technical reporting manual.

9.2.3 Maintenance of the natural connectivity of rivers and natural functions of the related floodplains (Art.9(4))

This section focuses on the plan to address the sub-target indicated in Art. 9(4) on the maintenance of the natural connectivity (i.e. longitudinal, lateral and vertical connectivity) of rivers and the natural functions if the related floodplains restored.

9.2.3.1 Summary of the measures planned to ensure that the natural connectivity of rivers and natural functions of the related floodplains restored are maintained (Art. 15(3)(i) and Art. 9(4)): Free text, suggested max. 3000 characters. Provide a summary of measures for monitoring and maintaining restored ecosystems, ensuring that the connectivity of rivers and the natural functions of floodplains are preserved over time. MS may describe:

- the measures to maintain or improve connectivity of restored rivers, including measures for the free movement of sediments
- the strategies for monitoring river connectivity and preventing the construction of new barriers
- the plan to maintain and manage restored floodplains, the associated vegetation and hydrological processes

- links to measures addressing other targets of the Regulation (e.g. habitat re-establishment measures, non-deterioration measures)
- stakeholder engagement and local collaboration plans

9.3 Targets after June 2032 and strategic overview

This section focuses on targets after 2032 (i.e., 2040 and 2050 targets) and can be limited to a strategic overview. This section can be revised towards the review of the national restoration plan in June 2032 (Art. 19(1)). For fields where ranges may be indicated, the mean value of the range will be used for assessing the plan.

9.3.1 Plan for the removal of artificial barriers after June 2032

9.3.1.1 Indicative net additional total length of free-flowing rivers to be achieved by 2040 and by 2050, as compared to 2020, by the removal of existing artificial barriers from 2020, taking also into account the loss of free-flowing river length related to the construction of new barriers after 2020 (Art. 15(3(i)): (a) Provide a best estimate (or range of values) in km of the net total length of free-flowing rivers to be achieved by 2050. The net value should consider both the additional length gained by barriers removal as well as the length reduction caused by the construction of new barriers built after 2020 or yet to be built, since the target of achieving 25000 km free-flowing rivers is in addition to the 2020 baseline. (b) Providean intermediate target of the net kilometres gain by 2040, as best estimate or range (optional); (c) Provide the estimated length, in kilometres, which were not free-flowing in 2020 and which are planned to become free-flowing by 2050 due to the removal of barriers (optional), and (d) Provide the estimated length, in kilometres, which were free-flowing in 2020 and which are planned to lose their free-flowing status by 2050 due to the construction of new barriers after 2020 (optional).

9.3.1.2 Indicative maps of potential free-flowing rivers after June 2032 (optional): Provide geospatial information of the potential free-flowing rivers to be achieved by the removal of artificial barriers by 2050. The geospatial information provided should be in vector form either as a center lines, datasets or model (Hydro ID) in line with the Water Framework Directive's river network (when applicable) to allow an EU wide reference of the rivers in their longitudinal dimension. MS may also use the hydrological units provided by AMBER Barrier Atlas and, when available, the upcoming Copernicus Land Monitoring Service pan-European reference dataset for hydrography "EU-Hydro" version 2.0". The specific technical details for the submission of the geospatial information will be indicated in due time in a technical reporting manual.

9.3.2 Improvement of the natural functions of related floodplains after June 2032

9.3.2.1 Indicative total surface area subject to restoration measures necessary to improve the natural functions of related floodplains after June 2032 (Art. 15(3)(a) and (i)): (a) Provide best estimate (in km^2) of the total potential surface area where measures may be put in place to improve the natural functions of floodplains by 2040 (optional); (b)Provide an intermediate target by 2050.

9.3.2.2 Indicative maps of potential areas subject to restoration measures to improve the natural functionals of related floodplains (Art. 15(3)(a)) (optional): Provide geospatial information of potential areas where the measures to improve the natural functions of related floodplains after 2032 may take place by (a) 2040 and (b) 2050. Geospatial information should be provided in vector format, as isolated polygons. The specific technical details for the submission of the geospatial information will be indicated in due time in a technical reporting manual.

10. Pollinator diversity and populations (Art. 10)

This section aims at quantifying the areas to be restored under Article 10. It contains a general subsection (10.1 National approach and contextual information), as well as specific subsections (10.2 Targeted restoration plans).).

10.1 National approach and contextual information

This section aims at reflecting the general approach of the Member State to meeting the restoration targets and obligations set in Art. 10, as well as summarizing the satisfactory levels to be reached for pollinator populations (Art. 14(5)(a)).

10.1.1 National approach

10.1.1.1 National approach to meeting restoration targets and fulfilling obligations for pollinator diversity and populations, based on latest scientific evidence (Art. 10) (optional): Free text, suggested max. 3000 characters. Describe the approach to achieving pollinator restoration targets, focusing on two specific time periods: For the period up to 2030, and after 2030. The approach could include a description of how the Member State will improve pollinator diversity and achieve an increasing trend of pollinator populations. MS may refer to the prioritisation of different habitats, regions or species, the pollinator ecological requirements, measures related to the use of pesticides, biocides, among other aspects.

10.1.2 Satisfactory levels

This section is not applicable to the submission of the first plan. Guidance on the satisfactory levels will be published by the Commission.

10.1.3 Assessing the effectiveness of the restoration measures (Art. 15(3)(p))

10.1.3.1 Process for assessing the effectiveness of the restoration measures put in place (optional): Free text, suggested max. 3000 characters. MS may provide a general description of the process for assessing effectiveness of restoration measures (Art. 15(3)(p)). MS may describe the process for the implementation of a method for collecting annual data on the abundance and diversity of pollinator species (Art. 10 (3)). MS may additionally provide information on the representativeness of the monitoring data (Art. 10 (4)).

10.2 Targeted restoration plan

In this section, MS should provide information of the plan to reach the Art. 10 targets and obligations.

10.2.1 Improving diversity and reversing the decline of pollinator populations by 2030 (Art. 10(1))

10.2.1.1 Indicative total surface area subject to restoration measures (Art. 15(3)(a)): (a) Provide a best estimate (in km²) of the area where restoration measures will be put in place by 2030 to improve pollinator diversity and reverse the decline of pollinator populations. (b) If the best estimate indicated in (a) has a high level of uncertainty, MS may, additionally and optionally, indicate an area range (in km^2).

10.2.1.2 Indicative maps of potential areas subject to restoration measures (Art. 15(3)(a)): Provide geospatial information of potential areas where the measures by 2030 will take place. Different types of spatial resolutions and geospatial information formats may be used: NUTS3 references, 10x10 km grids, or isolated polygons. The specific technical details for the submission of the geospatial information will be indicated in due time in a technical reporting manual.

10.2.2 Achieving an increasing trend of pollinator populations after 2030 (Art. 10(1))

This section focuses on targets after 2032 (i.e., 2040 and 2050 targets) and can be limited to a strategic overview. This section can be revised towards the review of the national restoration plan in June 2032 (Art. 19(1)). Where ranges may be indicated, the mean value of the range will be used for assessing the plan.

10.2.2.1 Indicative total surface area subject to restoration measures (Art. 15(3)(a)): Provide a best estimate or a range of the indicative total surface (in km^2) of the area where restoration measures will be put in place by 2050 (b) to achieve an increasing trend of pollinator populations. MS may also optionally indicate an intermediate target area up to 2040 (a).

10.2.2.2 Indicative maps of potential areas subject to restoration measures (Art. 15(3)(a)) (optional): Provide geospatial information of potential areas where the measures by 2050 will take place (b). MS may also optionally include geospatial information for the intermediate target area up to 2040 (a). Different types of spatial resolutions and geospatial information formats may be used: NUTS3 references (list or map of NUTS 3), 10x10 km grids (list or map of 10x10 km grids), or isolated polygons (geospatial information containing isolated polygons). The specific technical details for the submission of the geospatial information will be indicated in due time in a technical reporting manual.

11. Agricultural ecosystems (Art. 11)

This section aims at quantifying the areas to be restored under Article 11. It contains a general subsection (11.1 National approach and contextual information), as well a specific subsection to detail the plan for addressing the targets and obligations (11.2 Targeted restoration plan).

11.1 National approach and contextual information

11.1.1 National approach to meeting restoration targets and fulfilling obligations for agricultural ecosystems, based on latest scientific evidence (Art. 15(3)(c)) (optional): Free text, suggested max. 3000 characters. MS may refer to the approach for achieving the agricultural ecosystems' targets, including the following suggested aspects:

- Different sub-targets (i.e. the diversity in agricultural ecosystems, the common farmland index, other indicators for agricultural ecosystems, the restoration of organic soils in agricultural use constituting drained peatlands)
- Prioritisation of agricultural ecosystems (and/or habitats), regions and/or species
- Identification and mapping process of agricultural areas in need of restoration due to intensification or other management factors (Art. 14(6).
- Approach for selecting the areas targeted for restoration
- Considerations to enhance connectivity and biodiversity
- Ecological requirements of habitats and species
- Contribution to reducing greenhouse gas net emissions
- Considerations for rewetting drained peatlands to restore organic soils
- Cooperation mechanisms at national and international level

11.1.2 Information on indicators at national level for agricultural ecosystems (Art. 11(2))

11.1.2.1 Selected indicators: Indicate the chosen indicators for which an increasing trend at national level will be measured and for which measures will be put in place. Select at least two of the three indicators (a) grassland butterfly index, (b) stock of organic carbon in cropland mineral soils, (c) share of agricultural land with high-diversity landscape features. Details about these indicators can be found in Annex IV of the Regulation.

11.1.2.2 Account of the indicators for agricultural ecosystems chosen and their suitability to demonstrate the enhancement of the biodiversity in agricultural ecosystems within the Member State (Art.15(3)(j)): Free text, suggested max. 3000 characters per indicator. For each selected indicator in field 11.1.2.1, explain the rationale for selecting it and its suitability to demonstrate enhanced biodiversity in agricultural ecosystems in the Member State. MS may refer to the relevance of the indicators for the specific agricultural and habitat ecosystems, existing scientific basis and evidence, the suitability for improvements, feasibility and cost-effectiveness, synergies with other targets of the Regulation and/or other policies, stakeholders and/or expert consultations, among other aspects. Indicators not selected in 11.1.2.1 should be left empty.

11.1.2.3 Baseline level for each indicator (optional): For each of the selected indicators in field 11.1.2.1, provide the baseline level (value) at the time of entry into force of the Regulation (18 August 2024). Indicators not selected in 11.1.2.1 can be left empty.

11.1.2.4 Baseline level for the mandatory indicator "common farmland bird index" (optional): Provide the national baseline level (index value) for the "common farmland bird index" on 1 September 2025.

11.1.3 Satisfactory levels at national level for each of the indicators

This section is not applicable to the submission of the first plan. Guidance on the satisfactory levels will be published by the Commission.

11.1.4 Organic soils in agricultural use constituting drained peatlands

To correctly assess the MS' plan for restoring organic soils under Art. 11(4), basic contextual information of the area constituting organic soils in agricultural and other use and the area that shall be rewetted is necessary. In the following section, consider estimations based on the best available knowledge at the time of planning.

11.1.4.1 Information about organic soils in agricultural use constituting drained peatlands, peatland extraction, and under other uses. (Art.11(4)): Indicate the current estimated surface area (in km^2) of (a) organic soils under agricultural use constituting drained peatlands. Optionally, MS may also indicate the current estimated surface area of (b) peat extraction sites and (c) organic soils that constitute drained peatlands under land uses other than agricultural use and peat extraction.

11.1.4.2 Plan to rewet drained peatlands under agricultural use to a lower proportion than set out in Art. 11(4)(a): MS may reduce the extent of the rewetting of peatland under agricultural use to less than required under Art. 11(4)(a), (b) and (c), if such rewetting is likely to have significant negative impacts on infrastructure, buildings, climate adaptation or other public interests and if such rewetting cannot take place on land other than agricultural land. Any such reduction shall be determined in accordance with Article 14(8). If the Member State decides to rewet peatland on a lower proportion than as set out in Art. 11(4), 'Yes' should be selected. Otherwise, select 'No'. If 'Yes is selected, a justification is required (free text, suggested max. 3000 characters).

11.2 Targeted restoration plan

In this section, MS should provide information of the plan to reach the Art. 11 targets and obligations, including measures to enhance biodiversity in agricultural ecosystems (Art. 11(1)), increasing the trends of agricultural indicators (including the common farmland bird index) (Art. 11(2) and (3)), and restoring organic soils in agricultural use constituting drained peatlands (Art. 11(4)). Importantly, this section should not refer to specific restoration plans for Annex I agricultural habitats that are covered under Article 4 targets and obligations. Nonetheless, it is possible that broad restoration measures under the targets of Article 11 overlap with restoration plans for other Articles of the Regulation. The specific list of measures should be provided in Part C.

11.2.1 Targets and obligations by 2030 (Art. 11(1), (2), (3) and (4))

11.2.1.1 Indicative total surface area subject to restoration measures (Art. 15(3)(a)): (a) Provide a best estimate (in km^2) of the area where measures will be put into place to achieve the targets set in Art. 11(1) to (3) by 2030. For this estimation, ensure that any overlaps among targets, sub-targets or ecosystems are only accounted once (i.e. no overlaps) . Individual target estimations, i.e. for each of the sub-targets (Art. 11(1), (2) and (3)) may optionally be provided in sub-fields (b), (c) and (d), respectively. Additionally, MS should provide a best estimate of the surface area where measures will be put in place to achieve the targets set in Art. 11(4) by 2030 (e) and particularly where rewetting measures under Art. 11(4) will be put in place by 2030 (f). Finally, MS should also provide (g) a best estimate of the area where restoration measures to rewet organic soils that constitute drained peatlands under uses other than agricultural use and peat extraction sites, by 2030. If the Member State wishes to make separate references to the areas that constitute drained peatlands under land uses other than

agricultural use from the areas of peat extraction sites, this indication may be provided in the national approach under field 11.1.1.

11.2.1.2 Indicative maps of potential areas subject to restoration measures (Art. 15(3)(a)): Provide geospatial of potential areas where the measures by 2030 will take place. Different types of spatial resolutions and geospatial information formats may be used: NUTS3 references, 10x10 km grids or isolated polygons. The specific technical details for the submission of the geospatial information will be indicated in due time in a technical reporting manual.

11.2.1.3 Contributions of the restoration measures that consists in rewetting peatlands to reducing greenhouse gas net emissions up to 2030 (Art. 11(4)) (optional): *Restoration measures that consist in rewetting peatland, including the water levels to be achieved, shall contribute to reducing greenhouse gas net emissions.* Provide a best estimate value of the reduction of greenhouse gas net emissions (in $ktCO_2e$) up to 2030, to be achieved by the implementation of the measures related to peatland rewetting.

11.2.2 Targets and obligations beyond 2032 and strategic overview (Art. 11(4))

The following section refers to Art. 11(1) to (4) targets after 2032 (i.e., 2040 and 2050 targets) and can be limited to a strategic overview, though basic information regarding targets and indicative total area to be restored should be indicated. This section can be revised towards the review of the national restoration plan in June 2032 (Art. 19(1)). For fields where ranges may be indicated, the mean value of the range will be used for assessing the plan.

11.2.2.1 Indicative total surface area subject to restoration measures up to 2040 (Art. 15(3)(a)): (a) Provide a best estimate or range (in km^2) of the area where measures will be put into place to achieve the targets set in Art. 11(1) to (3) by 2040. For this estimation, ensure that any overlaps among targets, sub-targets or ecosystems are only accounted once (i.e. no overlaps). Individual target estimations (best estimations or ranges) for each of the sub-targets (Art. 11(1), (2) and (3)) may optionally be provided in sub-fields (b), (c) and (d), respectively. Additionally, MS should (e) provide a best estimate of the surface area where measures will be put in place to achieve the targets set in Art. 11(4) by 2040 and (f) particularly where rewetting measures under Art. 11(4) will be put in place by 2040. Finally, MS should also provide (g) a best estimate of the area where restoration measures to rewet organic soils that constitute drained peatlands under uses other than agricultural use and peat extraction, by 2040.

11.2.2.2 Contribution of the restoration measures that consists in rewetting peatlands to reducing greenhouse gas net emissions up to 2040 (Art. 11(4)) (optional): *Restoration measures that consist in rewetting peatland, including the water levels to be achieved, shall contribute to reducing greenhouse gas net emissions.* Provide a best estimate value of the reduction of greenhouse has net emissions (in $ktCO_2e$) up to 2040, to be achieved by the implementation of the measures related to peatland rewetting.

11.2.2.3 Indicative total surface area subject to restoration measures up to 2050 (Art. 15(3)(a)): (a) Provide a best estimate or range (in km^2) of the area where measures will be put into place to achieve the targets set in Art. 11(1) to (3) by 2050. For this estimation, ensure

that any overlaps among targets, sub-targets or ecosystems are only accounted once (i.e. no overlaps). Individual target estimations (best estimations or ranges) for each of the sub-targets (Art. 11(1), (2) and (3)) may optionally be provided in sub-fields (b), (c) and (d), respectively. Additionally, MS should (e) provide a best estimate of the surface area where measures will be put in place to achieve the targets set in Art. 11(4) by 2050 and (f) where rewetting measures under Art. 11(4) **may** be put in place by 2050. Finally, MS should also provide (g) a best estimate of the area where restoration measures to rewet organic soils that constitute drained peatlands under uses other than agricultural use and peat extraction, by 2050.

11.2.2.4 Contribution of the restoration measures that consists in rewetting peatlands to reducing greenhouse gas net emissions up to 2050 (Art. 11(4)) (optional): *Restoration measures that consist in rewetting peatland, including the water levels to be achieved, shall contribute to reducing greenhouse gas net emissions*. Provide a best estimate value of the reduction of greenhouse has net emissions (in $ktCO_2e$) up to 2050, to be achieved by the implementation of the measures related to peatland rewetting.

11.2.2.5 Indicative maps of potential areas subject to restoration measures (Art. 15(3)(a)) (optional): Provide geospatial information of potential areas where the measures by (a) 2040 and (b) 2050 will take place. Different types of spatial resolutions and geospatial information formats may be used: NUTS3 references, 10x10 km grids, or isolated polygons. The specific technical details for the submission of the geospatial information will be indicated in due time in a technical reporting manual.

12. Forest ecosystems (Art. 12)

This section aims at quantifying the areas to be restored under Article 12. It contains a general subsection (12.1 National approach and contextual information), as well as a specific subsection to detail the plan for addressing the targets and obligations (12.2 Targeted restoration plan). For a classification of forest ecosystems MS can see The Typology of Ecosystems.

12.1 National approach and contextual information

This subsection aims at reflecting the general approach of the Member State to meeting the restoration targets and obligations set in Article 12, as well as a summary of the indicators to be used to track the restoration of forest ecosystems. Additionally, contextual information such as current baselines and satisfactory levels will allow MS to assess the current situation and plan the restoration targets to fulfil the obligations laid down in Article 12. For a classification of forest ecosystems MS can refer to the Typology of Ecosystems.

12.1.1 National approach

12.1.1.1 National approach to meeting the restoration targets and fulfilling obligations for forest ecosystems, based on latest scientific evidence (Art. 15(3)(c)) (optional): Free text, suggested max. 3000 characters. Provide a free-text description of the approach to achieving forest ecosystem restoration targets. Information provided could cover, among other aspects:

- General approach to meeting the different sub-targets (Art. 12 (2) and (3))
- Prioritisation of regions and different forest ecosystems

- Approach for selecting the areas targeted for restoration
- Considerations to enhance connectivity and biodiversity
- Ecological requirements of habitats and species
- Strategy to ensure timely putting into place appropriate and effective restoration measures.
- Cooperation mechanisms at national and international level

12.1.2 Information on indicators at national level for forest ecosystems (Art. 15(3)(l))

12.1.2.1 Selected forest indicators (Art. 15(3)(l)): Select at least six of the seven forest indicators listed in Art. 12(3)(a) to (g). These can be selected from the code list of biodiversity forest indicators:

- Standing deadwood
- Lying deadwood
- Share of forests with uneven-aged structure
- Forest connectivity
- Stock or organic carbon
- Share of forests dominated by native tree species
- Tree species diversity

Details about these indicators can be found in Annex VI of the Regulation.

12.1.2.2 Account of the indicators for forest ecosystem chosen and their suitability to demonstrate the enhanced biodiversity in forest ecosystems in the Member State (Art. 15(3)(l)): Free text, suggested max. 3000 characters per indicator. For each selected indicator in field 12.1.2.1, explain the rationale for selecting it and its suitability to demonstrate enhanced biodiversity in forest ecosystems in the Member State. MS may refer to how closely the chosen indicators are linked to biodiversity in forest ecosystems in the MS concerned, the relevance of the indicators for the local forest ecosystems, existing scientific basis and evidence, the suitability for improvements in biodiversity, feasibility and cost-effectiveness, synergies with other targets of the Regulation and/or other policies, stakeholders and/or expert consultations, among other aspects.

12.1.2.3 Baseline levels for each of the selected indicators (optional): For each of the selected indicators in field 12.1.2.1, provide the baseline level (value) at the time of entry to force of the Regulation (18 August 2024). Indicators not selected in 12.1.2.1 should be left empty.

12.1.2.4 Baseline level for the mandatory indicator "common forest bird index" (optional): Provide the national baseline level (value) for the "common forest bird index" at the time of entry into force of the Regulation (18 August 2024) using the index year 1990. Details about this index can be found in Annex VI of the Regulation.

12.1.3. Satisfactory levels at national level

12.1.3.1 Satisfactory levels at national scale for each of the selected indicators (optional): This field may be revised in future versions of the national restoration plan, if and when the Commission establishes a guiding framework. However, based on the best available information at the time of developing the plan, MS can specify the values corresponding to

indicative satisfactory levels for each of the indicators selected in 12.1.2.1. An Indicator not selected in 12.1.2.1 should be left empty.

12.1.3.2 Satisfactory levels at national scale for the mandatory indicator "common forest bird index" (optional): This field may be revised if and when the Commission establishes a guiding framework. However, based on current information available at the time of developing the national restoration plan, specify the value corresponding to the satisfactory level for the indicator "common forest bird index". Details about this index can be found in Annex VI of the Regulation.

12.2 Targeted restoration plan

Restoration measures for forest ecosystems should be planned in addition to the areas subject to restoration measures pursuant to Art. 4(1), (4) and (7). The restoration measures should facilitate increasing trends of the "common forest bird index" (Art. 12(2)) and the chosen forest ecosystem indicators (Art. 12(3), field 12.1.2.1). The specific list of measures should be provided in Part C.

12.2.1 Enhance biodiversity and increasing trend for indicators by 2030 (Art. 12(1), (2) and (3))

12.2.1.1 Indicative total surface area subject to restoration: (a) Provide a best estimate of the total area (in km^2) where restoration measures will be put in place by 2030 to reach the targets set out in Art. 12(1) to (3). MS may optionally also provide indicative surface areas targeting Art. 12(1) to (3) individually in sub-fields (b), (c) and (d), respectively.

12.2.1.2 Indicative maps of potential areas subject to restoration measures (Art. 15(3)(a)): Provide geospatial information of potential areas where the measures by 2030 will take place. Different types of spatial resolutions and geospatial information formats may be used: NUTS3 references, 10x10 km grids, or isolated polygons. The specific technical details for the submission of the geospatial information will be indicated in due time in a technical reporting manual.

12.2.2 Enhance biodiversity and increasing trend for indicators by 2040 and 2050 (Art. 12(1), (2) and (3))

This section focuses on targets after 2032 (i.e., 2040 and 2050 targets) and can be limited to a strategic overview. This section can be revised towards the review of the national restoration plan in June 2032 (Art. 19(1)). Where ranges may be indicated, the mean value of the range will be used for assessing the plan.

12.2.2.1 Indicative total surface area subject to restoration measures (Art. 15(3)(a)): Provide (b) a best estimate or range of the total area (in km^2) where restoration measures will be put in place by 2050 to reach the targets set out in Art. 12(1) to (3). MS may optionally also provide (a) an intermediate area goal (in km^2) for restoration measures by 2040.

12.2.2.2 Indicative maps of potential areas subject to restoration measures (Art. 15(3)(a)) (optional): Provide geospatial information of potential areas where the measures by (a) 2040 and (b) 2050 will take place. Different types of spatial resolutions and geospatial information

formats may be used: NUTS3 references, 10x10 km grids, or isolated polygons. The specific technical details for the submission of the geospatial information will be indicated in due time in a technical reporting manual.

13. Planting three billion additional trees (Art. 13)

This section covers MS commitment to planting three billion additional trees. It includes a field on the total number of additional trees, and the approach to planting them.

13.1 Description of the contribution to the commitments referred to in Art. 13 (Art. 15(3)(m))

13.1.1 Number of additional trees to be planted through restoration measures under Art. 4 and 8 to 12 (Art. 13(1)): (a) Provide a best estimate value of the total number of trees that the MS plans to plant as a contribution to the commitment of planting at least three billion additional trees by 2030 at Union level. This value should represent a national value, avoiding double counting of any trees that fall under two or more targets of the Regulation, i.e., the sum of the values provided per article does not necessarily match the national value. Optionally, MS can also provide a number of trees planted in the frame of specific Articles of the Regulation. For that, (b) select the corresponding Article from the code list of Articles, and (c) indicate the specific value for each one of the Articles selected in (b).

This pledge should be aligned with the ecological principles highlighted in the Commission Staff Working Document "The 3 Billion Tree Planting Pledge for 2030"[12], particularly considering the Principle of Additionality (section 1.1.3). Accordingly, only tree planting that is planted and implemented in line with the additionality principles below will be counted towards the pledge, including:

- Trees planted or planting committed since adoption of the biodiversity strategy (May 2020).
- Trees planted following the guidelines on biodiversity-friendly afforestation developed by the Commission or similar/equivalent guidelines on biodiversity-friendly afforestation existing in the MS.
- Trees that are not planted as a result of a legal obligation such as obligatory regeneration after harvesting or obligatory planting of trees to prevent soil erosion or landslides, or replanting after fires or other disturbances..
- Trees planted and not to be harvested for several decades (to be mentioned in the declaration of honour)
- Trees that grow from natural regeneration, in compliance with the conditions mentioned above, but in areas that have been newly set aside for this purpose in response to this initiative.
- New trees detected through remote sensing imagery, provided that they exceed the baseline number of new trees in that country.
- Planting of trees for short rotation coppicing, Christmas trees or fast-growing trees for energy production shall not be counted.

[12] Commission Staff working document The 3 Billion Tree Planting Pledge For 2030 Accompanying the document Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions New EU Forest Strategy for 2030. https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52021SC0651&qid=1696330072891

Member State should make use of the online tree counter available as a tool to record contributions to and progress on the commitment.

13.1.2 Approach to ensure that the planting of additional trees (i) is achieved in full respect of ecological principles, (ii) aim to increase ecological connectivity and (iii) is based on sustainable afforestation, reforestation and tree planting and the increase of urban green space (Art. 13(2)): Provide an explanation on how the mentioned obligations will be achieved. Consider addressing the *overall principle of planting and growing the right tree in the right place and for the right purpose* (recital 64), the prioritisation of the native species to be planted, regards on the conservation of soils and water resources, regional and local-specific approaches considering their ecological characteristics, the strategy for the selection of sites and urban ecosystems, ecological connectivity, long term maintenance plans, community involvement, integration into urban planning, among other aspects. Reflect how the tree planting action will contribute to each of the restoration targets of the Regulation.

Part C – Measures

Part C of the format aims at identifying and planning the specific measures that will be put in place to achieve the targets and fulfil the obligations set by the Regulation. It is structured based on “Measures” (with field 14.1.1 “Name of measure” including unique measure ID as headline). For each such indicated measure, a standardised approach is provided for describing the measure in terms of scale, location, timing, targets, methods, type of measure(s), as well as financial information. Since a measure may be relevant to targets and obligations of different articles, the description of measures also includes specifying these different contributions.

14. Measures Art. 15(3)(c)

14.1 Basic information

14.1.1 Name of the measure: (a) Free text, suggested max. 200 characters. Provide a descriptive, meaningful name for the measure freely defined by the MS. Additionally, (b) provide a unique measure identifier (free text, max. 100 characters but suggested max. 20 characters), that will allow a fast identification of the measure by labels and link the information of the following fields. Each measure indicated here can have different scope and scale, meaning it can be defined as for example a specific or individual measure, as a set or programme of measures with a common target, as a local restoration project, as a regional approach of restoration measures, or even as a national one for a specific ecosystem.
The identifier must:

- Start with the ISO 3166-1 alpha-2 country code, except for Greece ('EL');
- Be followed by the nationally defined code, with a maximum of 100 characters;
- Use only upper case Latin letters [A to Z] and digits [0 to 9];
- The only special characters allowed are the underscore character ('_') or the hyphen character ('-') that may be used as separators within the code (but not to separate the country code from the national code, and not in the end of the code).

The syntax of the identifier can be checked using the following REGEX expression (see for example https://regex101.com/):
^[A-Z]{2}[0-9A-Z]{1}(?:[0-9A-Z](?!(?:[-_]{2}|\-_))[-_]?){0,98}([0-9A-Z]{1}){0,1}$$

14.1.2 Main ecosystem type concerned: Measures may in specific circumstances aim at restoring more than one broad ecosystem but will usually target at one main ecosystem. Therefore, it is valuable for consultation and other processes to identify the ‘main’ ecosystem targeted. For each measure indicated in 14.1.1, select therefore the main ecosystem that the measure targets from the code list of ecosystem types:

- Wetland ecosystems (coastal and inland)
- Grassland ecosystems
- River, lake, alluvial and riparian ecosystems
- Forest and woodland ecosystems
- Heath, shrubs and scrub ecosystems
- Rocky, dune and sparsely vegetated ecosystems
- Cropland ecosystems

- Urban ecosystems
- Marine ecosystems
- Other ecosystems

In the case the measure addresses more than one ecosystem type, the 'main ecosystem' should be understood as the one in which the concrete action is predominantly targeting. If 'Other ecosystems' is selected, the type should be further specified in a free text field (max. 200 characters). If additional ecosystem types are relevant, these can be mentioned in field 14.1.3.

14.1.3 Other ecosystem types concerned (optional): If the measure indicated in 14.1.1 targets or affects, besides the main one indicated in 14.1.2 additional ecosystems, indicate which additional ecosystems, are concerned. One or more ecosystems from the code list of ecosystem types may be selected. If 'Other ecosystems' is selected, the type may be further specified in a free text field (max. 200 characters).

14.1.4 Scale of planning: Indicate the scale that best responds to the restoration measure defined in field 14.1.1, taking into consideration the spatial area over which the measure extends. Select one of the options from the following code list:

- National
- Sub-national NUTS1 (if this is selected, MS should indicate the region(s) concerned, from the country's NUTS1 code list)
- Sub-national NUTS2 (if this is selected, MS should indicate the region(s) concerned, from the country's NUTS2 code list)
- Local NUTS3 (if this is selected, MS should indicate the name of the relevant locality from the country's NUTS3 code list)
- Transnational (if this is selected, MS should indicate the code of other MS(s) involved)

Additionally, the MS may indicate a more detailed scale in the free text field (optional, max. suggested 3000 characters).

14.1.5 Current status of implementation: Indicate the status of implementation of the restoration measure defined in field 14.1.1 at the moment of drafting the plan, by selecting the corresponding options from the following list (multiple selection possible):

- Planned
- Adopted plan
- Ongoing implementation
- Already implemented in the past but full recovery has not yet been reached, or removal of barriers to the connectivity of surface waters between 2020 and 2024.

Under 'planned' measures Member States could include those that have been identified and outlined in strategic or operational documents but have not yet been (formally) adopted, permitted or initiated, and can include official national, regional, or local planning documents that outline restoration measures, including those intended for the National Restoration Plan. These measures may still be under discussion, evaluation, or awaiting approval and allocation of resources.

Measures with **'adopted plans'** could include those that have been (formally) approved, permitted and where relevant integrated into national, regional, or local plans or policies. These measures are ready for implementation, with necessary resources, governance frameworks, and timelines defined.

Measures with **'ongoing implementation'** could include those that are currently being carried out, with activities taking place on the ground (land or sea). This includes measures where initial steps have been taken, and progress is being made toward achieving the restoration objectives.

Measures **'already implemented in the past but effects have not yet been fully reached'** are those that were completed in the past but require more time for the full ecological recovery to materialise. This category accounts for the lag time between implementation and the achievement of measurable outcomes, such as biodiversity recovery or ecosystem functioning. Additionally, this category should also be used in the case of measures related to the removal of artificial barriers between 2020 and 2024.

14.2 Information about timing

14.2.1 Implementation timeframe for the measure: Indicate the timeframe when the measure indicated in 14.1.1 will be (or is being) implemented on the ground. Select one of the options from the following code list:

- The measure only covers the period up to 30 June 2032 (Art. 15(2))
- The measure covers the period up to 2040 or 2050 (Art. 15(1)) with intermediate deadlines corresponding to the targets and obligations set out in the corresponding Article(s)
- The measure only covers a specific period, different from those above (specify YYYY-YYYY) – here the MS can indicate the specific years between which the measure will be implemented.

If the measure covers a period beyond 2050, the option 'the measure covers the period up to 2040 or 2050' should still be selected, and further information may be indicated in the measure's main description (field 14.3.1). Measures, i.e. one-off measures that will be implemented in a specific period (e.g. the building activities of re-meandering a river) , should be indicated using the option 'the measure only covers a specific period, different from those above' and further information may be indicated in the measure's main description (field 14.3.1).

14.3 Description and contribution to targets and obligations

14.3.1 Description of the measure: Free text, suggested max. 3000 characters. Description of the measure named in field 14.1.1. Consider including an overview of the measure's characteristic, objective and scope, the detailed planned activities and implementation methods (the description shall be specific and go more in-depth than the types of measures as listed in the typology), evidence-based justifications, the anticipated ecological benefits. Do not repeat any information that is asked in other fields already.

14.3.2 Contributions to targets and obligations: (a) Indicate the articles that are addressed by the measure indicated in 14.1.1, by selecting one or more options from the code list of articles:

- Article 4
- Article 5
- Article 8
- Article 9
- Article 10
- Article 11
- Article 12
- Article 13

(b) Indicate the sub-targets addressed by the measure indicated in 14.1.1, by selecting one or more options from the code list of sub-targets (see below). Whenever linking a measure to sub-targets, consider that the measure should be relevant for improving the corresponding indicators or strongly applies to the specific obligation of the sub-target. Indicating highly indirect effects of a measure on a certain sub-target should be avoided.

Article 4

- 4.1. Improvement of habitats' condition
- 4.4 Re-establishment of habitats area
- 4.7. Improvement of quality, quantity and connectivity of species' habitats
- 4.9 Filling of knowledge gaps
- 4.10 Improvement of connectivity between habitat types
- 4.11-4.12 Aiming at preventing significant deterioration

Article 5

- 5.1. Improvement of habitats' condition
- 5.2 Re-establishment of habitats area
- 5.5. Improvement of quality and quantity of species' habitats
- 5.7 Filling of knowledge gaps
- 5.8 Improvement of ecological coherence and connectivity between habitat types
- 5.9-5.10 Aiming at preventing significant deterioration

Article 8[13]

- 8.1.a No net loss of urban green space
- 8.1.b No net loss of urban tree canopy cover
- 8.2 Increase in urban green space
- 8.3 Increase in urban tree canopy cover

Article 9

- 9.1 Restoring at least 25 000 km of rivers into free-flowing rivers in the Union by 2030
- 9.2. Removal of artificial barriers
- 9.3 Improvement the natural functions of floodplains
- 9.4 Maintenance of natural connectivity of rivers and natural functions of floodplains

[13]The numbering has been modified to match the relevant paragraphs in article 8 of the Nature Restoration Regulation (EU) 2024/1991.

Article 10

- 10.1 Improvement of pollinators diversity and abundance

Article 11

- 11.1 Enhancement of biodiversity in agricultural ecosystems
- 11.2.a Aiming at increase of the indicator “grassland butterfly index”
- 11.2.b Aiming at increase of the indicator “stock of organic carbon in cropland mineral soils”
- 11.2.c Aiming at increase of the indicator “share of agricultural land with high-diversity landscape features”
- 11.3 Aiming at increase of the indicator “common farmland bird index”
- 11.4a Aiming at restoring organic soils in agricultural use constituting drained peatland
- 11.4b Aiming at rewetting of organic soils in agricultural use constituting drained peatland
- 11.4c Aiming at rewetting of areas of peat extraction sites
- 11.4d Aiming at rewetting of organic soils constituting drained peatland under land use other agricultural use and peat extraction

Article 12

- 12.1 Enhancement of biodiversity in forest ecosystems
- 12.2 Increase in the common forest bird index
- 12.3.a Increase in the indicator “standing deadwood”
- 12.3.b Increase in the indicator “lying deadwood”
- 12.3.c Increase in the indicator “share of forests with uneven-aged structure
- 12.3.d Increase in the indicator “forest connectivity”
- 12.3.e Increase in the indicator “stock of organic carbon”
- 12.3.f Increase in the indicator “share of forests dominated by native tree species”
- 12.3.g Increase in the indicator “tree species diversity”

Article 13

- 13.1 Planting at least three billion additional trees

14.3.3 Pressures addressed by the measure (optional): Indicate the pressures that the measure indicated in field 14.1.1 addresses, by selecting one or more pressures from the code lists of pressures of the already existing reporting frameworks (from the Habitats Directive, Water Framework Directives and Marine Strategy Framework Directive). The list of pressures will be provided, including information about the directive(s) associated with each pressure. Since crosslinks among these lists of pressures exist, consider using the list of pressures that better fits the purpose of the measure.

14.4 Uniform description of measures

To improve policy alignment within and across MS, the free-text field 14.3.1 (description of measure) is combined with a standardised non-exhaustive typology of measures in field 14.4.1. This combination ensures a consistent categorisation of measures, making it easier to aggregate information for reporting and reducing ambiguity regarding the planned measure. Additionally, it facilitates future analyses, enabling the comparison of efforts, identification of trends and evaluation of progress. The typology of measures is based on existing lists of measures (from the Habitats Directive, the Water Framework Directive and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive), facilitating alignment with other European policies. The

typology does not replace the title and description of measures in fields 14.1.1 and 14.3.1, which should hold more specific information.
The Typology of Measures to be used by MS is available as an accompanying technical background note to the NRP uniform format on the reference portal (link).

14.4.1 Uniform description of measures (Art. 15(3)(c)): (a) For each measure identified in field 14.1.1, select one or several types of measures from the Typology of Measures, that correspond best with the measure. MS have the possibility of selecting pre-defined types of measures from the typology but may (also) indicate 'other' measures, if it is considered that the measure indicated in field 14.1.1 is not covered by any of the already existing measures in the typology. If 'other' is selected, it is necessary to specify and describe this 'other' measure, using the corresponding free text field (max. suggested 1000 characters). Alternatively, MS may indicate that the measure indicated in field 14.1.1 is 'undefined', in which case an explanation should be provided in the free text field (max. suggested 1000 characters) MS are strongly encouraged to limit the use of 'other' and 'undefined' measures for the reasons given above. (b) For measures targeting Art. 4 or Art. 5, MS may additionally and optionally indicate the habitat types targeted by the measures selected from the typology, using the code lists of habitat types.

14.5 Spatial information

Fields from this section are to be completed for each measure identified in field 14.1.1.

14.5.1 Estimated surface area or length subject to the measure (Art. 15(3)(a)) (optional): (a) Provide a best possible estimate of the surface area (or length) where the measure will be put in place (on ground – land/freshwater/marine - implementation). (b) The unit 'km^2' should be used in all cases, except for river measures, where the unit 'km' can be used for length estimations. Estimates may be given in the form of a single value or a range (min-max). If a range is indicated, the mean value of the range will be used for assessing the plan. For this value estimation, please consider referring to the area directly affected by the restoration measure put in place.. In case the estimation is, at the moment of planning the restoration measure, not possible at all, MS may indicate that the estimated surface or length subject to restoration is unknown.

14.5.2 Indicative map of potential areas subject to the measure (optional): Provide information on where the measure will be applied in the form of indicative geospatial data. Different types of spatial resolutions and geospatial information formats may be used: NUTS3 references, 10x10 km grids, or isolated polygons. The specific technical details for the submission of the geospatial information will be indicated in due time in a technical reporting manual.

14.5.3 Location relative to Natura 2000 (Art. 15(3)(c)): (a) Indicate where the measure is taking place in relation to Natura 2000 sites by selecting one of the options from the following code list:

- Measures are planned within Natura 2000
- Measures are planned outside of Natura 2000
- Measures are planned both inside and outside of Natura 2000

(b) In situations where a measure takes place inside a Natura 2000 site, MS may optionally provide the code(s) of the Natura 2000 site(s) where the measure will take place.

14.5.4 Tailored programme in outermost regions (Art. 15(3)(o)): This is a mandatory field only for countries with outermost regions. For each measure, indicate whether it applies to outermost regions, selecting either 'Yes' (measure is to be applied in an outermost region) or 'No' (measure does is not planned to be applied in an outermost region).

14.6 Financial information (Art. 15(3)(u)) (optional)

This section aims at estimating the implementation costs, financing needs and funding sources of the specific measures planned by the MS. The section aligns with the financial section included in Part A of the National Restoration Plan, allowing using the information from Part C to complete Part A. By identifying the financial needs of the individual measures, MS can have a better approach to the total financing needs for the implementation of the complete National Restoration Plan. Please consider that all financial data provided should be based on best estimates, according to the best information available at the time of planning or revising the national restoration plan.
All fields of this section may optionally be filled in for each measure indicated in 14.1.1.

14.6.1 Estimated financial needs (EUR) to implement the measure (optional): In this field, MS may fill in the table including detailed financial information (i.e., numerical costs) for the implementation of the measure. The information can be provided once for each of the following time periods:

I) for the period from August 2020 to July 2024, best estimates
II) for the period from August 2024 to June 2032, best estimates
III) for the period from July 2032 to December 2050, best estimates or ranges

Financial estimates should be understood as best estimates in EUR, considering the information available at the moment of preparation of the plan or its revised version. For each of the items indicated in the table, costs should be estimated the yearly average of one-off costs in the selected period as well as annual costs for the implementation of the measure for the duration of the corresponding period. MS may also indicate how much of the total indicated costs is to be assigned specifically to the ground implementation of the measure within Natura 2000 sites. Information is divided in (A) Horizontal costs for the measure, considered across ecosystems in case the measure covers more than one ecosystem, and (B) Estimated costs for the ecosystem targeted by the measure, meaning ecosystem-specific costs for the implementation of the measure. If the measure targets more than one ecosystem, more than one row (i.e. ecosystem) can be used. If the MS decides to indicate specific costs not referred or related to any of the predefined fields, , 'Other Horizontal Measures' and 'Other costs' can be used. If 'Other horizontal costs' or 'Other costs' is selected, further textual information needs to be filled in a free text field (max. 200 characters).
14.6.2. Estimated financial support to support the stakeholders affected by restoration measures or new obligations arising from implementation of the Regulation (optional): This field is composed of a free text section (a), with suggested max. 3000 characters, to explain the needed financial support for stakeholders impacted by the restoration measure. Additionally, section (b) may be used to indicate the (numerical) value of the estimation of the financial support (in EUR). Both the free text field and the value estimates in Euros should be

assessed for the following periods: I) for the period from August 2020 up to July 2024, II) for the period from August 2024 to June 2032, III) for the period from July 2032 up to December 2050. Example financial support mechanisms for MS to consider may include:

- Direct financial compensation
- Public financial instruments (including, e.g., European Regional development Funds, CAP payments, etc.)
- Private financing mechanisms
- Tax incentives
- Risks and catastrophe insurance products
- Innovation and research grants
- Community/cooperatives grants for restoration initiatives

14.6.3. Indicative means of intended public financing (optional): Similar as in the previous field, this field is composed of a free text section (a), with suggested max. 3000 characters, to explain the public financing mechanisms that will be employed to finance the measure, and a numerical section (b) to indicate the associated value, in EUR. Both the free text field and the value estimates in Euros should be assessed for the following periods: I) for the period from August 2020 up to July 2024, II) for the period from August 2024 to June 2032, III) for the period from July 2032 up to December 2050.
Example public financing mechanisms for MS to consider may include:

- Direct national budget allocation
- EU structural investment funds
- Cohesion fund
- Common Agricultural Policy
- LIFE Programme
- Just Transition Fund
- European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund
- European Union Solidarity Fund
- Connecting Europe Facility – Green infrastructure
- European Development Fund
- Green Bonds (European Investment Bank)

14.6.4. Indicative means of intended private financing (optional): This field is composed of a free text section (a), with suggested max. 3000 characters, to indicate the private financing mechanisms that will be employed to finance the measure, and a numerical section (b) to indicate the associated value, in EUR. Both the free text field and the value estimates in Euros should be assessed for the following periods: I) for the period from August 2020 up to July 2024, II) for the period from August 2024 to June 2032, III) for the period from July 2032 up to December 2050.
Example private financing mechanisms for MS to consider may include:

- Corporate social responsibility initiatives
- Sustainability-linked bonds
- Private investments and environmental funds
- Green infrastructure funds
- Land stewardship programs

- Biodiversity offsetting schemes
- Public-private partnerships
- Philanthropy and Non-Governmental Organisations
- Conservation Trust funds
- Carbon markets

14.6.5. Intended co-financing and financing with Union funding instruments (optional): Similar as in previous fields, this field is composed of a free text section (a), with suggested max. 3000 characters, to indicate the co-financing and financing with Union funding instruments that will be employed to finance the measure, and a numerical section (b) to indicate the associated value, in EUR. Both the free text field and the value estimates in Euros should be assessed for the following periods: I) for the period from August 2020 up to July 2024, II) for the period from August 2024 to June 2032, III) for the period from July 2032 up to December 2050. Example Union funding instruments for MS to consider may include:

- LIFE programs
- European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development
- European Regional Development Fund
- Horizon Europe
- Just Transition Fund
- Innovation Fund

14.7 Information about implementation of the measure under other policies, if applicable

For each measure indicated in 14.1.1, MS should fill in the following fields.

14.7.1 Description of the conservation and management measures to be adopted under the common fisheries policy, where applicable (Art. 15(4), Art. 18(2)): Describe and, where possible, explain the conservation measures adopted under the CPF at the (a) national and/or (b) regional cooperation level (i.e. joint recommendation on conservation measures) as per Article 18 of the Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013. Consider including an overview of the measure's characteristic, objective and scope, the detailed planned activities and implementation methods, this may include e.g. evidence-based justifications, the anticipated ecological benefits etc. Each of these two fields allows for free text entries with max. 3000 characters each. In scenarios where the measure defined by MS in field 14.1.1 is not adopted under the CFP, MS may write N/A. Information should be reported for measures related to Art.5 sub targets and *N/A* should be filled in case of no links to Common Fisheries Policy measures.

14.7.2 Planning of measures to be adopted using the regionalisation procedure under the common fisheries policy (Art. 15(4), Art. 18(2) and Art. 18(3)) (if relevant according to 14.7.1): If the plan includes measures that require submission of joint recommendations under the framework of the CFP (Art. 18 of the Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013), i.e. if field 14.7.1.b is other than N/A, provide the estimated timing: (a) of the consultation with other MS and the relevant Advisory Councils (indicated as months and years of the consultation period), and (b) of the submission of any joint recommendations (indicated as months and years of the period corresponding to the submission). MS may also optionally (c) indicate one

or more habitat types involved in the joint measure, using the code list of habitat types, and/or (d) specify the fisheries involved (free text field, max 3000 characters). In scenarios where the measure defined by the Member State in field 14.1.1 is not adopted under the CFP, MS should leave this field empty.

14.7.3 Measures adopted under the common agricultural policy (CAP) (Art. 15(5)) (optional): If the measure indicated in 14.1.1 includes specific measures related to the CAP strategic plans, MS may optionally provide an overview of the interplay between such measures (free text, max. 3000 characters).

14.7.4 Measure in synergy with measures planned in the restoration plans of other MS (Art. 14(17)): If the measure is in synergy with measures planned in the national restoration plan of one or more other MS, indicate the Member State(s) concerned. Select one or more from the code list of MS.

Additional information

Additional information I – Observation on and revision of the draft NRP (Art. 19)

If the Member State has indicated 'Yes' in field '**1.4 Is this a revised version of the NRP? (Art.19**)', this section should be filled in. This section is not applicable for the submission of the draft NRP due on 1 September 2026.

A1.1 Indicate how the observations from the Commission on the draft NRP have been taken into account (Art.15(3)(x)): *The Member State shall take account of any observations from the Commission in its final national restoration plan.* Indicate how these observations have been taken into account and, if the Member State does not address an observation or a substantial part thereof, provide its reasons. Transversal considerations may be addressed in sub-field (a). Optionally, for field-specific comments, select the corresponding field of the National Restoration Plan from the code list of fields (b) and address the comment in sub-field (c) (free text, suggested max. 3000 characters).

Additional information II – Information per marine habitat type (optional)

MS may use these additional information fields to organise and complement information per marine habitat type. This can help the planning of restoration measures for the corresponding habitat types or habitat groups in a marine region. Whenever possible, MS should use the best information available from the implementation of the Habitats Directive and Marine Strategy Framework Directive (in particular, information reported under Art.8 of the latter). These additional information fields may be used to indicate specific restoration targets and measures for individual habitat types, as complementary information to fields 7.1.2, 7.2.1 and/or 7.2.3.

A2.1 Habitat types present in the territory of the Member State

This section aims at identifying the habitat groups and types from Annex II of the Regulation that are present in the Member State, as a first step before identifying restoration targets. Identifying these habitat groups and types does not imply that MS shall fill in the individual information for each of them (A2.2), however, it is encouraged to provide any information available that can be useful for planning.

A2.1 Habitat types present in the territory of the Member State: (a) Indicate one or more habitat groups that are present in the Member State from the code list of marine habitat groups. (b) For each of the marine habitat groups indicated in (a), indicate the habitat types present in the Member State from the corresponding code lists of habitat types.

A2.2 Habitat type individual information

In the following section, MS are encouraged to provide the current available information of marine habitat types present in their territories (i.e., under the MS' jurisdiction). All fields of this section are optional. For each habitat indicated in field A2.2.1, the following fields may be filled in.

A2.2.1 Group and name of the habitat type: (a) Indicate one habitat group from the code list of habitat groups from Annex II of the Regulation. (b) Indicate one habitat type corresponding to the habitat group indicated in (a) from the corresponding code list of habitat types.

A2.2.2 Total estimated area of the habitat type: Indicate a best estimate or range (in km^2) of the area of the habitat type mentioned in A2.2.1(b) present in the national territory.

A2.2.3 Distribution: Provide (a) a description (free text, suggested max. 3000 characters) or (b) geospatial information of the known national distribution of the habitat type indicated in A2.2.1(b). For maps, different types of spatial resolutions and geospatial information formats may be used: NUTS3 references (list or map of NUTS 3), 10x10 km grids (list or map of 10x10 km grids), or isolated polygons (geospatial information containing isolated polygons). The specific technical details for the submission of the geospatial information will be indicated in due time in a technical reporting manual.

A2.2.4 Condition: (a) Based on the guidance for the determination of habitat condition under the framework of Directive 92/43/EEC, indicate the condition of the habitat type by selecting one of the following alternatives from the code list:

- Good
- Good, based on low risk
- Not good
- Unknown
- Unassessed

(b) If a descriptive condition is available, a free text can also be provided (suggested max. 3000 characters).

A.2.2.5 Favourable reference area (FRA): *'Favourable reference area' means the total area of a habitat type in a given biogeographical or marine region at national level that is considered*

the minimum necessary to ensure the long-term viability of the habitat type and its typical species or typical species composition, and all the significant ecological variations of that habitat type in its natural range, and which is composed of the current area of the habitat type and, if that area is not sufficient for the long-term viability of the habitat type and its typical species or typical species composition, the additional area necessary for the re-establishment of the habitat type. Provide the favourable reference area for the habitat type selected in A2.2.1.b, as a best estimate or range in km².

A2.2.6 References (i.e. literature): Free text, suggested max. 3000 characters. Provide any references (i.e., data sources, methodologies) used for the quantification of the favourable reference area indicated in A2.2.5.

A2.2.7 Will the habitat type be subject to restoration to improve habitat condition and/or to re-establish the habitat area?: For each targeted period (a), (b) and/or (c), indicate whether the habitat type will be subject to restoration (improvement in habitat condition and/or re-establishment) measures in the frame of Art. 5.

A2.2.8 Indicative total surface areas where the measures are planned to be put in place: If restoration (improvement in habitat condition and/or re-establishment) measures are planned to be put in place (given the information provided in field A2.2.7), provide a best estimate or range of the total area (in km^2) where restoration measures will be put in place for the different target periods.

Additional information III – List of urban ecosystem areas when following an approach different from using whole local administrative units

MS have the option to determine one or more urban ecosystem areas (UEAs) with an approach different from using whole local administrative units (LAUs), i.e. including parts of a city or town and suburbs, and/or including peri-urban areas. Where a Member State deviates from the LAU = UEA approach for even a single LAU, all UEAs—regardless of method—should be reported in Additional Information III. MS using this approach should provide the data described in these additional information fields.Similarly, this Additional Information should be filled in also if supplementary data beyond Copernicus were used for the estimate of urban green space and/or tree canopy cover, or if a Member State decides to exclude one or more UEA according to Art.8(1).Likewise, this Additional Information should be filled in if one or more LAUs are aggregated for the purpose of defining one or more urban ecosystem areas. Fields should be completed for each urban ecosystem area identified.

A3.1 Unique identifier of the urban ecosystem area (UEA): Free field, max. 100 characters but suggested max. 20 characters. Provide a unique identifier for the UEA, which will be used for associating and linking the information of the following fields. I The identifier must:

- Start with the ISO 3166-1 alpha-2 country code, except for Greece ('EL');
- Be followed by the nationally defined code, with a maximum of 100 characters;
- Use only upper case Latin letters [A to Z] and digits [0 to 9];

- The only special characters allowed are the underscore character ('_') or the hyphen character ('-') that may be used as separators within the code (but not to separate the country code from the national code, and not in the end of the code).

The syntax of the identifier can be checked using the following REGEX expression (see for example https://regex101.com/):
^[A-Z]{2}[0-9A-Z]{1}(?:[0-9A-Z](?!(?:[-_]{2}|\-_))[-_]?){0,98}([0-9A-Z]{1}){0,1}$$

A3.2 More than one LAUs are aggregated with other adjacent cities, towns and suburbs into this urban ecosystem area: *MS may aggregate the urban ecosystem areas of two or more adjacent cities, or two or more adjacent towns and suburbs, or both, into one urban ecosystem area common to those cities, or towns and suburbs, respectively (Art. 14(4)).* If the Member State decides to use this aggregation for the urban ecosystem area indicated in A3.1, select 'Yes'. If no urban ecosystem areas will be aggregated, select 'No'. If 'Yes' is selected, field A3.3 should be filled in.

A3.3 Unique identifiers of the LAU(s) included in this urban ecosystem area: If 'Yes' has been indicated in A3.2, indicate the LAUs that have been aggregated in the specific UEA indicated in A3.1. List the GISCO_IDs of the corresponding LAUs.

A3.4 Degree of urbanisation of the UEA: Indicate whether the urban ecosystem area indicated in A3.1 corresponds to (a) a city or (b) a town and suburbs.

A3.5 Urban ecosystem area type: If (b) has been indicated in field 8.1.2.1, indicate whether the urban ecosystem area indicated in A3.1 includes (a) only urban centres and urban clusters, or (b) parts of the city or town beyond urban centres and clusters.

A3.6 Area and share of urban green space in the UEA (only within urban centres and clusters): For the UEA indicated in A3.1, indicate (a) the value (in km^2) and (b) the share (in %) of urban green space within urban centres and clusters, based on the latest information available at the moment of developing the plan or its revised version.

A3.7 Area and share or tree canopy cover in the UEA (only within urban centres and clusters): For the UEA indicated in A3.1, indicate (a) the value (in km^2) and (b) the share (in %) of tree canopy cover within urban centres and clusters, based on the latest information available at the moment of developing the plan or its revised version.

A3.8 Exclusion of UEAs exceeding 45% of urban green space and 10% of urban canopy tree cover (Art.8(1)): For the target indicated in Art. 8(1), i.e. ensuring no net loss in the total national area of urban green space and of urban tree canopy cover in urban ecosystem areas, *MS may exclude from those total national areas the urban ecosystem areas in which the share of urban green space in the urban centres and urban clusters exceeds 45% and the share of urban tree canopy cover exceeds 10%.* If the Member State will use this indication for the UEA indicated in A3.1, select 'Yes'. Otherwise, select 'No'.

Additional information IV – Inventory of artificial barriers to the connectivity of surface waters (Art.15(3)(i) and (n))

A4 Barriers basic information

This additional information section should be used by MS to fulfil the obligation set in Art. 9(1) to "make an inventory of artificial barriers to the connectivity of surface waters and, taking into account the socio-economic functions of the artificial barriers, identify the barriers that need to be removed to contribute to meeting the targets set out in Art. 4 of the Regulation and fulfilling the objective of restoring at least 25 000 km of rivers into free-flowing rivers in the Union by 2030 [...]".

For future updates of the National Restoration Plan, MS should update this inventory including potential new artificial barriers to the connectivity of surface waters built between the last version of the plan and the revised version.

A4.1 Barrier ID: Free field, max. 100 characters. Provide a unique identifier for the artificial barrier to the connectivity of surface waters. This ID will be used for associating and linking the information of the following fields. The identifier must:

- Start with the ISO 3166-1 alpha-2 country code, except for Greece ('EL');
- Be followed by the nationally defined code, with a maximum of 100 characters;
- Use only upper case Latin letters [A to Z] and digits [0 to 9];
- The only special characters allowed are the underscore character ('_') or the hyphen character ('-') that may be used as separators within the code (but not to separate the country code from the national code, and not in the end of the code).

The syntax of the identifier can be checked using the following REGEX expression (see for example https://regex101.com/):

^[A-Z]{2}[0-9A-Z]{1}(?:[0-9A-Z](?!(?:[-_]{2}|\-_))[-_]?){0,98}([0-9A-Z]{1}){0,1}$$

A4.2 Water body information: Provide information to identify the water body to which the barrier mentioned in A4.1 is associated, if any. MS can provide i) the unique identifier of the water body, if the barrier is linked to any Water Framework Directive water body, indicating one or more IDs. It is recommended that MS include measures planned under the third River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs, 2022–2027) in their NRPs. Accordingly, the list of surface water bodies from the third RBMP cycle should be used as the reference dataset in the NRPS, as these plans are valid for the 2022–2027 period. MS are also encouraged to integrate NRR restoration measures, particularly barrier removal, into the fourth RBMPs (2028–2034). While coordination with RBMPs is important, implementation of NRR measures need not wait for RBMP updates. To ensure coherence and avoid duplication (Article 14(13)), existing RBMPs should be considered when drafting NRPs, with future RBMP cycles offering opportunities to incorporate new restoration actions.

A4.3 Location of the barrier: Provide the geospatial information of the location of the barrier indicated in A4.1. Data can be provided in vector format, either as a point corresponding to the generalized centre point of the barrier, or as a line or as an isolated polygon. The location

of the barrier should be provided by using the latitude and longitude of the nearest location over the reference hydrography (i.e. the centrelines).
Data should be in line with the reporting information of the Directive 2007/2/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 March 2007, establishing an Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community (INSPIRE), of the Water Framework Directive, and of other relevant legislations, when applicable.
MS may also use the upcoming Copernicus Land Monitoring Service pan-European reference dataset for hydrography "EU-Hydro" version 2.0. Other specific technical details for the submission of these spatial data will be indicated in due time in a technical reporting manual.

A4.4 Barrier type: For the barrier indicated in A4.1, indicate one barrier type from the code list of barrier types, based on the Joint Research Centre classification.
For weirs and crossings, MS may provide additional information identifying the sub-type of barrier. For weirs and crossings, MS may provide additional information identifying the sub-type of barrier. For combined barriers, information is required to be provided separately for each barrier with different IDs (A4.1). Although the option for “Other” is included in the code list of barrier types, it is strongly recommended to use the official classification developed by the ECOSTAT core group on free-flowing rivers “Criteria for identifying free-flowing river stretches for the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030” (Van de Bund et al 2024). Please note that this document is currently under revision, with an updated version expected by the end of 2025. The link provided below will be updated accordingly once the new version is published.

A4.5 Connectivity dimension of the barrier impacts (optional): For the barrier indicated in A4.1, indicate the connectivity dimension(s) that the barrier is currently impacting. Select one or more dimensions from the code list of connectivity dimensions.

A4.6 Obsoleteness of barrier: For the barrier indicated in A4.1, indicate whether the barrier is obsolete or no at the time of developing the NRP. If the obsoleteness is unknown or there is no information available, indicate ‘unknown’.

A4.7 Use of the barrier (optional, and only applicable if ‘no’ is selected in A4.6): If the barrier is not obsolete, indicate the current use of the barrier. Select one or more alternatives from the code list of barrier uses.

A4.8 Plan for the removal of the artificial barriers (Art.9(2), Art.(15(3)(i))

This section aims at identifying which barriers, from the inventory of barriers developed by the Member State, are potentially planned to be removed in accordance with Art.9(2).

A4.8.1 Is the barrier planned to be potentially removed?: Indicate whether and when the barrier is planned to be removed. Select one of the following alternatives of the code list:

a) Yes, by 2030: the barrier is planned to be removed during the period up to 2030;
b) Yes, between 2031-2040: the barrier is planned to be removed between 2031 and 2040;
c) Yes, between 2041-2050: the barrier is planned to be removed between 2041 and 2050;
d) The barrier has already been removed (after 2020): the barrier was removed between 2020 and the time of preparation of the NRP;

e) No: the barrier is not planned to be removed in the frame of the NRR;
f) Unknown: At the time of preparing the NRP, it is unknown whether the barrier will be removed;
g) Under study: At the time of preparing the NRP, the removal of the barrier in the frame of the NRR is being evaluated.

A4.8.2 If the barrier is not planned to be removed, indicate whether effective mitigation measures to ensure upstream and downstream migration of native fish species are in place or are planned, as required to achieve good ecological status/potential as referred to in the Water Framework Directive (optional): If barrier type is "dam", "weir", "sluice", "crossing" or "ramp and bed sill" as per field A.4.4, and "No" has been indicated in field A4.8.1, indicate if effective mitigation measures are in place or are planned to ensure migration of native fish species and achieve a good ecological status or potential of the corresponding associated water bodies. Select two alternatives from the code list of barrier mitigation measures, one upstream and one downstream. If no mitigation measures are in place nor planned for upstream and/or downstream migration but there is adequate justification for this, you may select g) rather than c) for upstream migration, and h) rather than f) for downstream migration. This will give you the possibility to enter written inputs to indicate one of the following justifications: i) good ecological status/potential is already achieved and there is no risk of deterioration associated with the lack of mitigation measures to ensure upstream and downstream migration of native fish species, or ii) mitigation measures would generate significant adverse effect on use or iii) mitigation measure would only generate a slight ecological improvement (free text, max. suggested 3000 characters each).

A4.8.3 If the barrier is planned to be removed or has already been removed, indicate to which objective removing the barrier contributes (optional): If 'Yes' (a, b or c) or 'the barrier has already been removed (after 2020)', were selected in A4.8.1, indicate the objective of the removal of the barrier. Select one or more objective from the code list of removal targets. If the alternative 'other' is selected, provide a short description of the objective (free text, max. suggested 3000 characters).