

# Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services: Arguments for our Future Environment



## PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The general objective of BESAFE is to help to innovate and improve biodiversity protection by providing a framework that summarises the observed and potential effectiveness of alternative ways to argue the case for biodiversity protection, and to make this framework easily accessible and usable through a publicly accessible database and associated toolkit. This system can be used to convincingly demonstrate the value of biodiversity to policy makers and will also provide them with guidance on the use and effectiveness of the various arguments in a range of situations.

## CASE STUDIES

BESAFE will use case studies to investigate how much importance people attribute to alternative arguments for the protection of biodiversity and in particular how this relates to ecosystem services. It will focus on the arguments used by policy makers at different governance levels and in different ecological, socioeconomic, spatial and temporal contexts. BESAFE will examine the interactions of environmental protection policies between governance scales. The Project will consider the contribution that valuing ecosystem services can make in demonstrating the value of biodiversity.

No.	Case name	Partner
1	Invasive species strategies; Germany, Europe	UFZ
2	Large mammals in Norwegian wild-lands	NINA
3	Water company uses of valuation evidence in investment planning	Eftec
4	Nested Socio-Ecological Systems in the Romanian Lower Danube River Catchment	UNIBUC
5	Public controversies surrounding the return of red fox and wild boar to Flanders, Belgium	INBO
6	An underwater tidal electricity turbine; Northern Ireland	PLUS
7	Bialowieza Forest conflict, Poland	SLU
8	National Strategy for Mires and Peatlands; Finland	SYKE
9	Management plans for the Andalusia national parks; Spain	UOXF
10	Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Biodiversity Action Plan; UK	NERC-CEH
11	Long-term management of urban green areas, Finland	SYKE
12	Implementing the Natura 2000 network, EU level, Europe	JRC, Alterra, NERI, SZIU, Eftec

## COMPARATIVE STUDIES

BESAFE will also undertake studies on national implementation of the Biodiversity strategy in Denmark, Germany, Finland, Belgium, the Netherlands, UK, Poland, Norway, Romania, Sweden, Hungary, France and Salzburg region. The study will consist of document analysis as well as targeted interviews.

## PROJECT PARTNERS

NL Wageningen UR (Alterra)  
 UK The Chancellor, Masters and Scholars of the University of Oxford (UOXF-AF)  
 GE Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ)  
 UK Natural Environment Research Council – Centre for Ecology and Hydrology  
 SE Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU)  
 DK National Environmental Research Institute – Aarhus University (NERI-AU)  
 UK Economics For The Environment Consultancy Ltd. (EFTEC)  
 FI Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE)  
 HU Szent István University (SZIU)  
 AU Paris-Lodron University Salzburg (PLUS)  
 BU Pensoft Publishers Ltd. (PENSOFT)  
 BE Research Institute for Nature and Forest (INBO)  
 IT Joint Research Centre - European Commission (JRC)  
 NO The Norwegian Institute for Nature Research (NINA)  
 RO University of Bucharest (UNIBUC)

## EXPECTED RESULTS

The BESAFE cases and comparative studies are covering three governance scales (global/European, national/regional, and local and their interactions). BESAFE will sample the ecological, societal and economic differences, including different ecosystems. A wide range of stakeholder groups will be involved and different issues related to biodiversity protection will be covered.

BESAFE will increase comprehension on the dependency of the effectiveness of arguments on:

- the perception of the policy makers and stakeholders (who),
- the policy implementation phase (when), and
- communication and participation (how).

BESAFE will offer a framework and a toolbox that can be used to guide the development of tailored policies that take multi-scale effects and integration into account, through the whole policy cycle. It will offer insight on the changing effectiveness of different types of arguments along the development trajectory and, therefore, increase the effectiveness of the use of arguments for protection. BESAFE will offer an overview of the potential effectiveness and possibilities of ecosystem services at different spatial and time scales.



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**Consortium:** 15 partners from 13 countries  
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