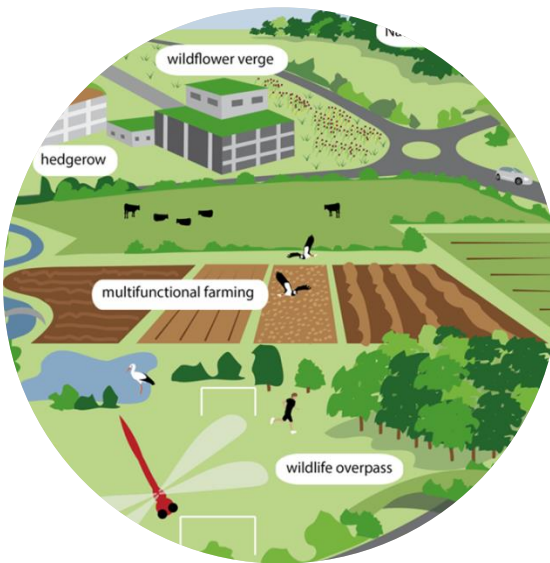


# Is Ecosystem Services policy working?

What progress has been made and how do we measure success?

Rob Bugter



# When is something 'working' and a 'success'?

Depends on the targets!



# Biodiversity Strategy 2020 mid-term review

Headline target:

*'Halt the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services in the EU by 2020, and restore them in so far as feasible, while stepping up the EU contribution to averting global biodiversity loss'.*

**No significant progress towards the target**

Target 2:

*'Maintain and restore ecosystems and their services'*

**Progress but at insufficient rate**

# Where is target 2 progress insufficient?

## Progress

- Policy and knowledge improvement actions
- Some restoration activities in Member States

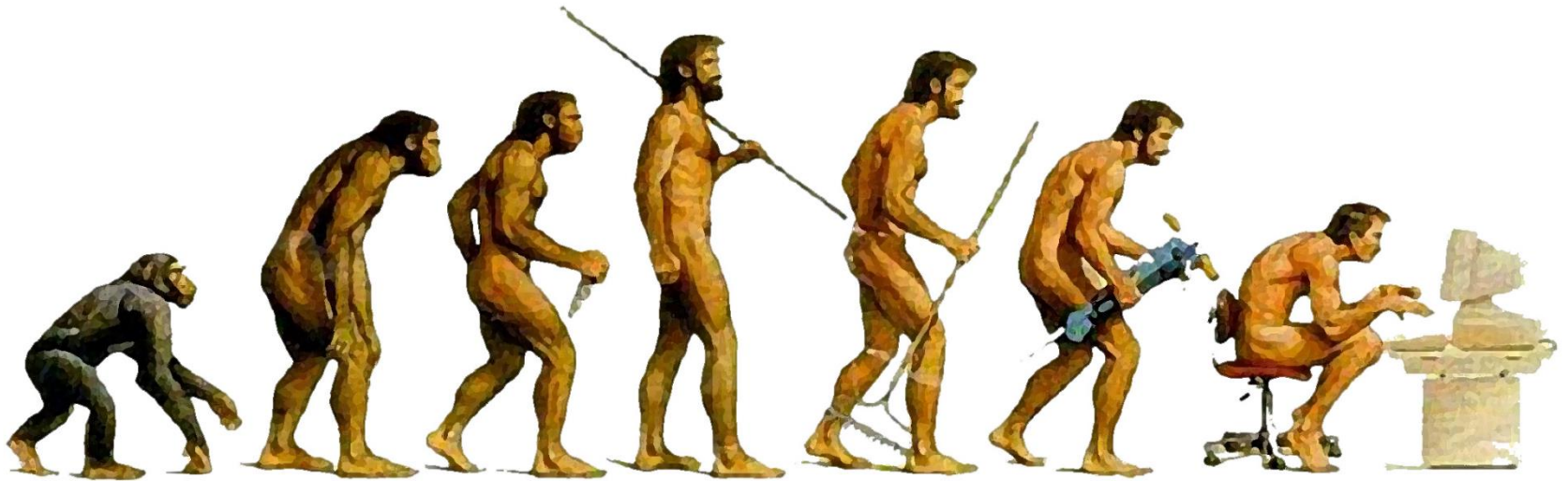
## Insufficient progress

- The trend of degradation of ecosystems and services has not yet halted
- National and regional frameworks to promote restoration and green infrastructure need to be developed and implemented
- A lot remains to be done to halt the loss of ordinary biodiversity outside the Natura 2000 network

# Why is progress insufficient?

First suspect:

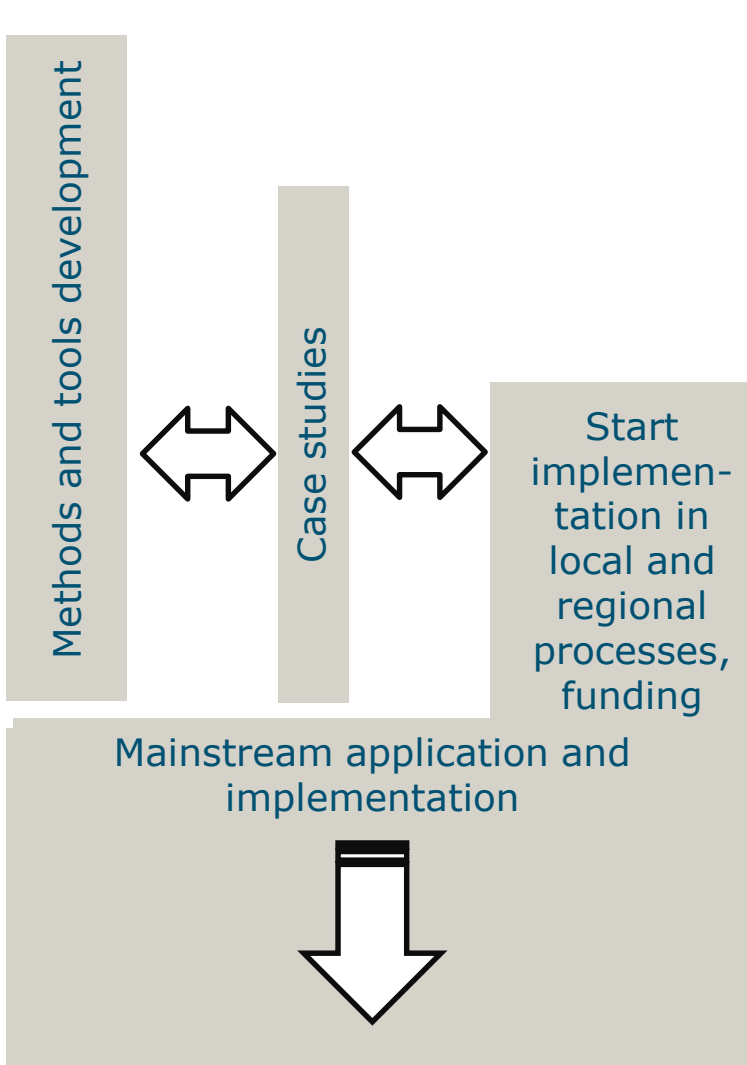
## Unrealistic expectations



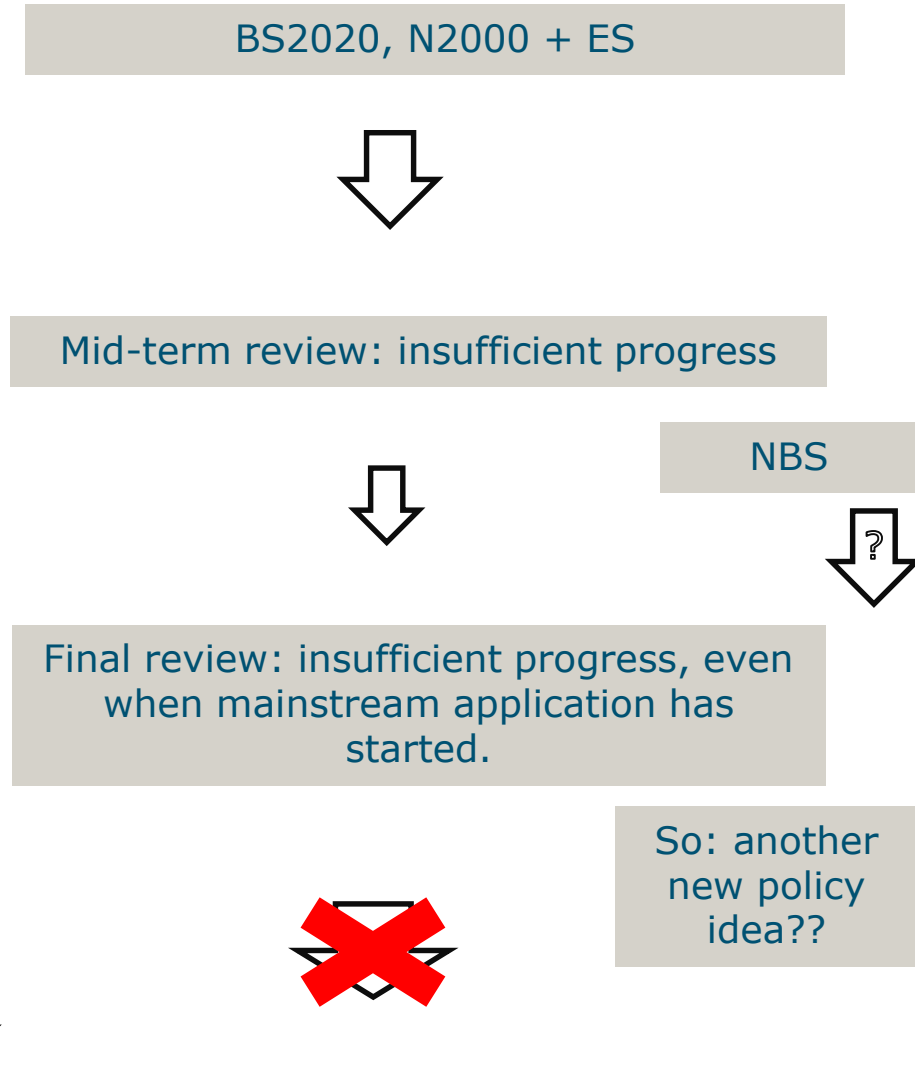
How much time did this take?

# Stop decline of biodiversity and its services

## ES development process



## ES policy process



Time

Decline is stopped (with HELP of ES policy)

# Why is progress insufficient?

Second suspect:

Competition instead of cooperation, enhanced by failing communication



# What was the idea of ES policy?

- Increased awareness of (overexploitation of) Ecosystem services was meant to give additional incentives for stopping decline (MEA)
- In BS2020, target 2 is a complementary track, for ordinary biodiversity outside N2000, but contributing to the same goal.



# Protection for intrinsic or economic value?

Bulldozing biodiversity: The economics of offsets and trading-in Nature

Clive L. Spash

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*Editorial*

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**The “New Conservation”**

**Nature: the many benefits  
of ecosystem services**

## *The value of valuing nature*

Valuing nature in economic terms is not always  
beneficial for biodiversity conservation

*By W. M. Adams*

## A call for inclusive conservation

Heather Tallis, Jane Lubchenco and 238 co-signatories  
petition for an end to the infighting that is stalling  
progress in protecting the planet.

# Monetary value is attractive to policy makers ....



- Result: biodiversity protection increasingly needs to be justified with economic, often monetary arguments

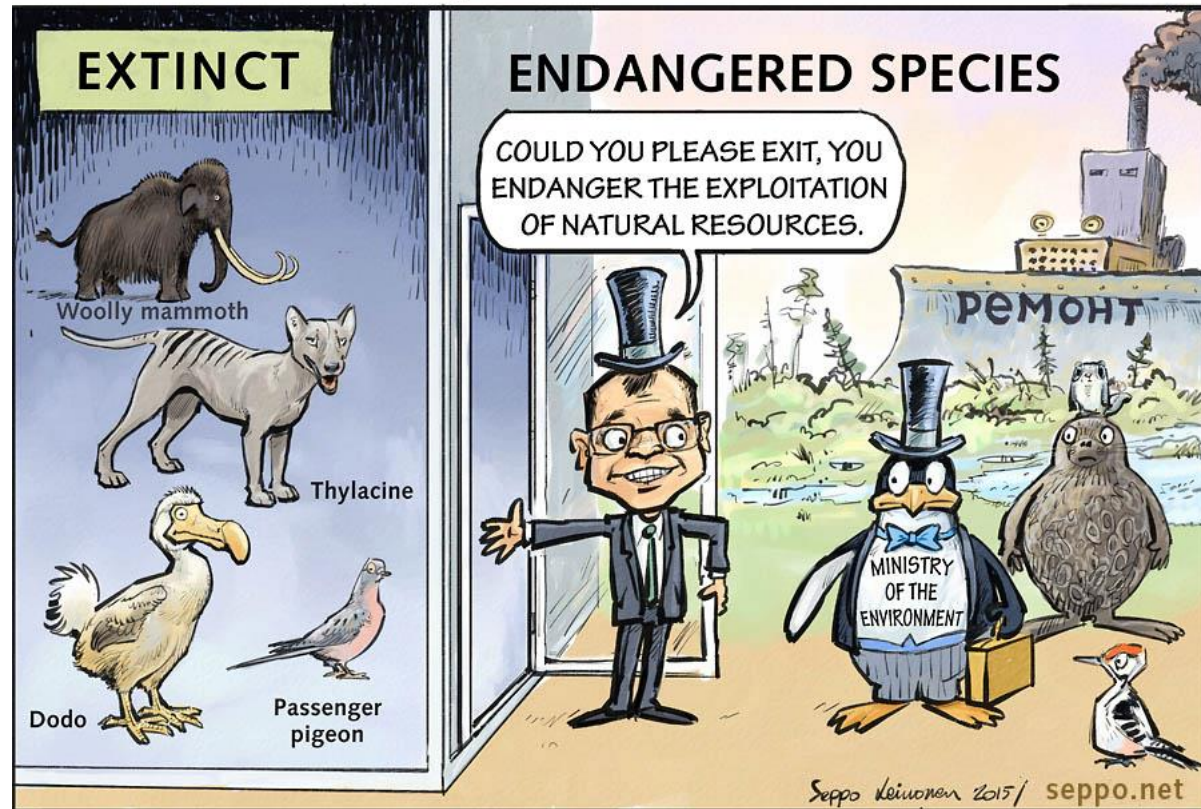


.... and so is the prospect of free services!



- Use of these 'free' services seen as a target in itself

## Finnish PM Sipilä aims to finish the Ministry of the Environment



# BS2020:

- Explicitly separates Intrinsic value from Economic value
- Explicitly separates N2000 from the ES-economic rest (the first we merely finish, the second now gets all the attention)

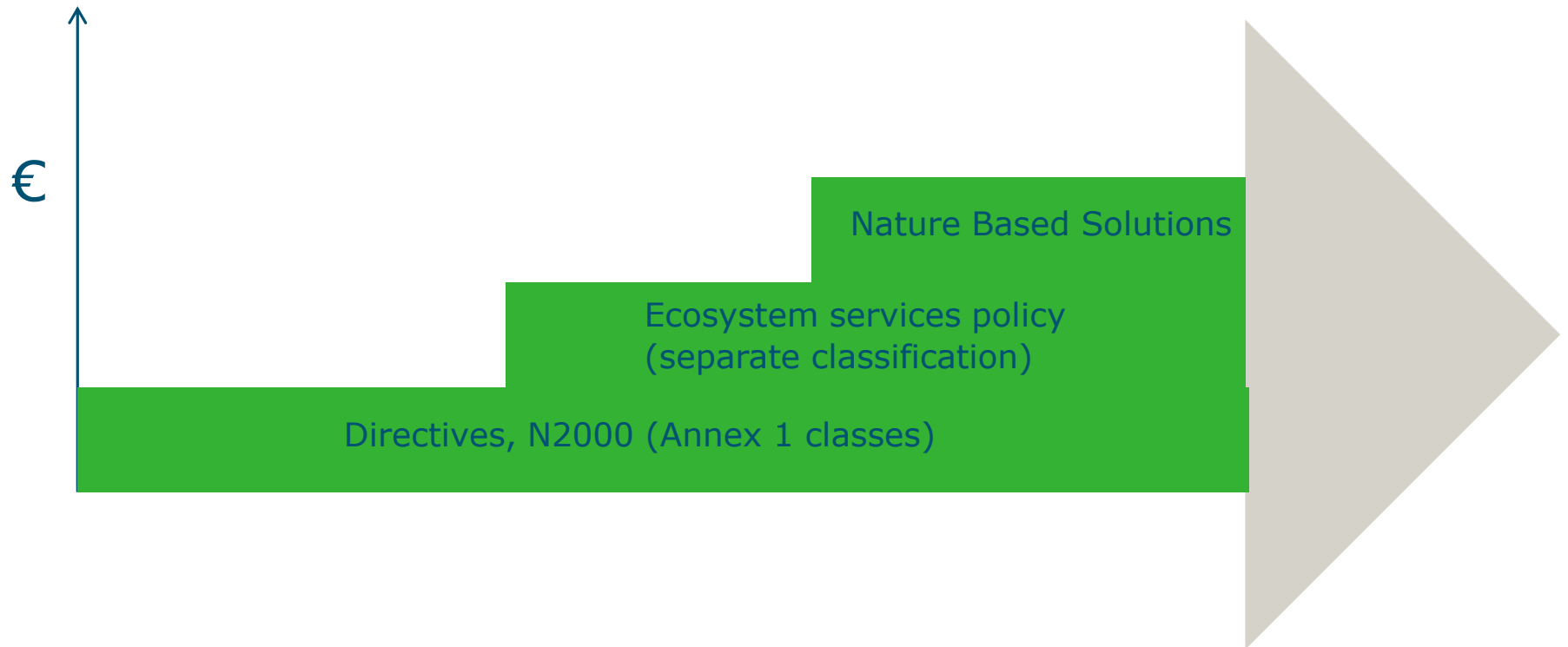
For some people, protecting intrinsic value is NOT the obvious thing to do

$$1 + 1 = 2$$

N2000 = intrinsic value = not essential

ES = economic value = essential

# Perception: Separate tracks for separate targets, separate effort and funding



Result: tracks limit each other

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# Success can only be measured if it's there

- National and regional frameworks to promote restoration and green infrastructure need to be developed and implemented
- A lot remains to be done to halt the loss of ordinary biodiversity outside the Natura 2000 network

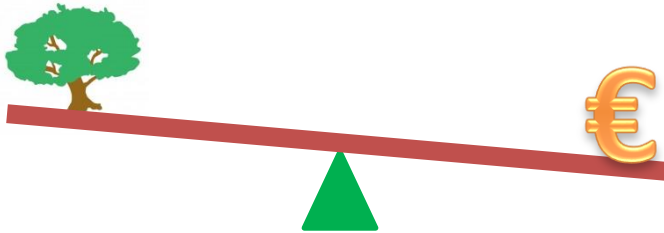
Societal partners needed for that, so can't be achieved by top-down action

How do Ecosystem Services fit in?

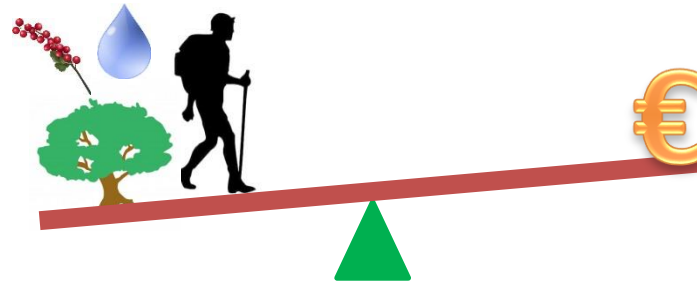


# ES arguments can address conflicts with economic interests

Biodiversity only



Biodiversity + ES



**The social and economic value of ecosystem services can tip the balance in favour of biodiversity protection and restoration**

## UK water industry – catchment management

- Ecosystem service arguments (water quality, recreation, carbon storage, flood management, etc.) persuaded the water price regulator to approve water company investment in restoring & protecting catchments.
- Found to be six times cheaper than conventional water treatment.
- Ecosystem service arguments now an integral part of UK water industry planning.



# Ecosystem service arguments can shift the conservation model

## Sierra Nevada national park

- Cultural and environmental services provided by traditional livestock grazing were recognised.
- Ecosystem service concept showed that land could be managed sustainably with socio-economic benefits for local communities.
- This helped to shift from an 'island model' of conservation to a more integrated model

### Island model

- Conservation just in protected areas.
- Human use restricted
- Intrinsic /moral/legal arguments only

*Ecosystem services*

*Sustainable management*

### Integrated model

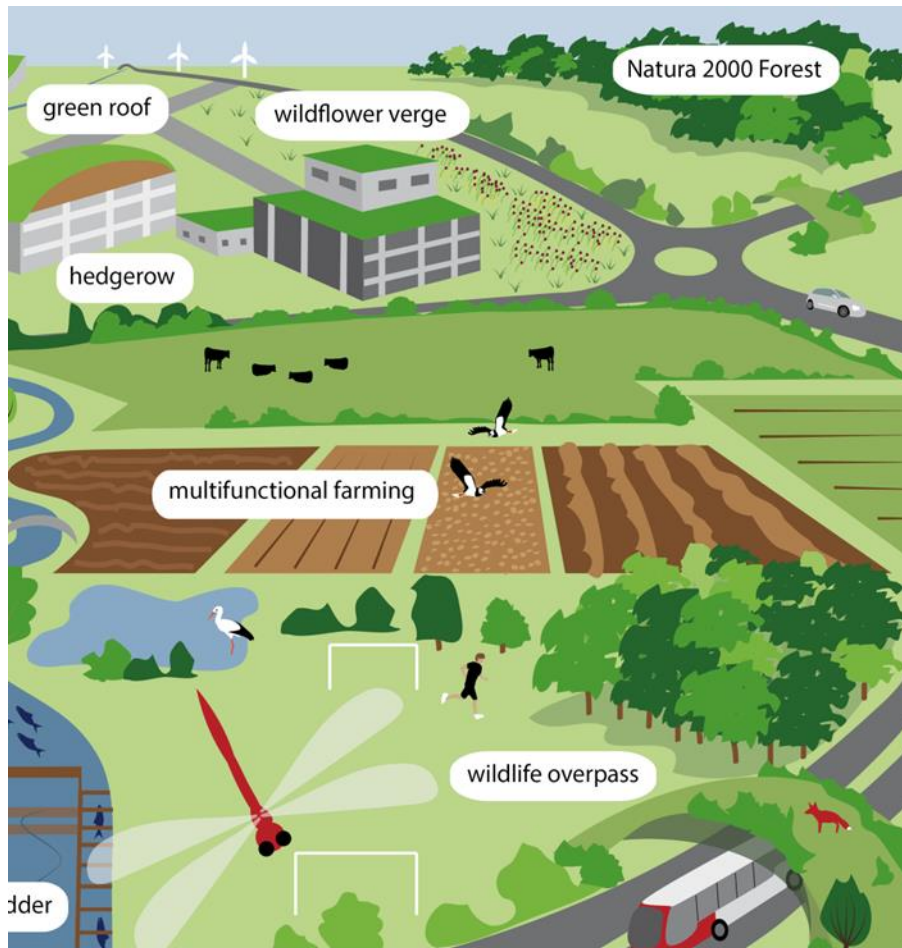
- Whole region
- Benefits for both nature and humans
- Both intrinsic and ecosystem service arguments





# It's all one system !!!

- Increase awareness that conservation and sustainable ecosystem service management enhance each other



# Conclusions: How to do better?

- Integration, clear communication, a consistent message (Antwerp declaration) and a realistic time perspective.
- Focus on where actual progress needs to come from
  - Local and regional development processes
  - For ES: outside (but in between!) N2000 (but still largely depending on Nature Values!)
- Concentrate on who need to do it
  - Societal partner, public
  - Stakeholders
  - Motivated key figures
- Be aware of different role for authorities



Thank you