

EU Roadmap towards Nature Credits

Fit for Biodiversity Conference – Solutions for the Agri-food sector
Brussels, 6-7 October 2026

env-nature-credits@ec.europa.eu
https://green-forum.ec.europa.eu/green-business/nature-credits_en

1. Why nature credits?

"We have to put nature on the balance sheet. That's exactly what nature credits do."

President von der Leyen, 7 July 2025

What they aim to do

Make nature-positive outcomes visible and measurable

Address the current lack of economic recognition of biodiversity actions

Reward farmers and foresters committing to restore and maintain ecosystems in good conditions

How they can work

Reward measurable outcomes on the ground

Provide credible entry points for private investment

Translate biodiversity into investable propositions

Policy roles

Complement existing frameworks (CAP, NRR)

Help connect public action with private finance

Support scaling of nature-positive practices

Key conditions

High integrity and robust methodologies

Transparent governance and clear claims

Building trust from the outset

Roadmap

Stepwise and exploratory approach (2025–2027)

High integrity, robust methodologies and testing

Building on pilots, Member States' experiences and international convergence



2. What are we doing?

Roadmap actions

Set up an expert group to gather expertise and share best practices.

Consult expert group on criteria and methodologies for nature credits.

Involve expert group to advise on fostering nature credit markets.

Conduct EU-wide assessment of nature credit supply and demand.

Launch pilot projects, from market design to scale up.

Adopt first CRCF carbon farming methods with biodiversity co-benefits.

Engage internationally, including preparations for CBD COP 17.

1. Methodologies and metrics
2. Governance and integrity
3. Market readiness and finance
4. Policy coherence
5. International cooperation

Expert group



- Scoping study, including EU-wide market and gap analysis
- Core infrastructure, including
 - on registries and digital MRV,
 - on methodologies and metrics

Analytical work



- Biodiversity co-benefits
- Certification, MRV and registries
- Ensuring clear claims
- Draft CRCF delegated acts (feedback on 01–02/2026)

Synergies with carbon farming



- Engagement with international organisations
- Preparation for CBD COP 17 and UNFCCC COP 31
- Exchange of best practices
- Supporting global convergence

International outreach



3. What are we learning?



[French wetlands](#)



[Estonian forests](#)



[Restore/Peru](#)



[Peatland Finance Ireland](#)



[CDC Biodiversité](#)



[Merlin](#)



[Restcoast](#)



[Superb](#)



[Waterlands](#)



[Biofin](#)



[LEON](#)



[Artemis](#)



[BiodivCrew](#)



[Metamorphosis](#)



[Olivares Vivo](#)



[Biorgest](#)



[B4B](#)



[Pollinaction](#)



[Adaptablues](#)



[3Bee](#)

Growing momentum

- **Rapidly increasing number of pilots and exploratory projects** across the EU and beyond
- **Supported by various EU instruments:** Green Assist, LIFE, Horizon Europe, Interreg, EIC, EIB
- **Diversity of approaches:** ecosystems, scale, public-led/private-led, multi-stakeholder governance, international partnerships (incl. corporate value chains)

What these projects are testing

- **Methodologies and governance models** in real conditions
- **Monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV)**
- **Business models and investor engagement**

Key messages

- Projects provide **technical and financial** proofs of concepts and **reduce entry barriers**
- **Lessons already feeding EU-level work:** we are not starting from zero



4. Where are we going?

Structuring the next phase - scalability

- Moving from individual projects → coherent portfolio → operational testing
- Testing how methodologies, MRV, registries and business models interact

Role of Member States to connect and scale approaches

- Already exploring multiple experience to mobilise private finance, including:
 - project-based approaches rewarding biodiversity outcomes
 - complement with existing instruments (biodiversity compensation, PES, CAP, State aid)
 - development of sustainable finance frameworks
 - synergies with carbon farming and voluntary carbon schemes

Potential EU added value

- Providing a common space for learning and exchange
- Supporting the development of methodologies and infrastructure
- Ensuring coherence with EU frameworks (NRR, CAP, CRCF)
- Helping structure and connect emerging approaches, without prejudging development

Key future challenges

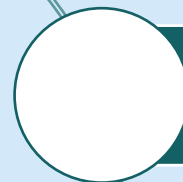
- Need to structure demand and reduce fragmentation
- Gradually building a more coherent framework through testing and experience



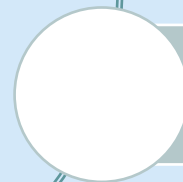
Guiding questions on nature credits

- 1. How do you see the potential of nature credits to mobilise additional private finance for biodiversity?*
- 2. What can we learn from pilots and emerging national experiences, including challenges and limitations?*

Thank you!



Nature Credits [DG ENV webpage](#)



[Roadmap towards nature credits](#)



For more information: env-nature-credits@ec.europa.eu

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