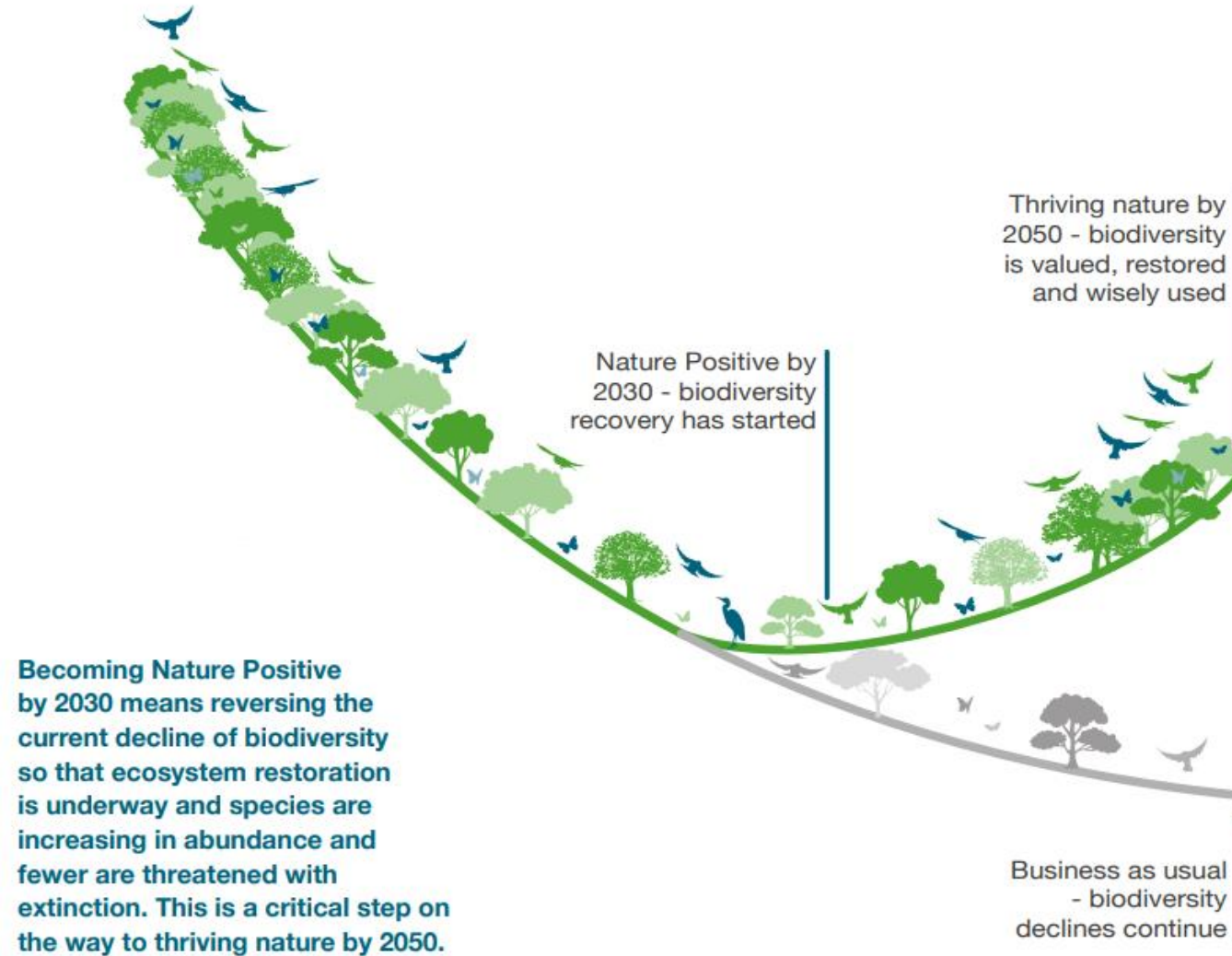


# Europe's biodiversity and pollinator decline on farmland

Anne-Sophie Mulier  
anne-sophie.mulier@elo.org  
30/05/2023

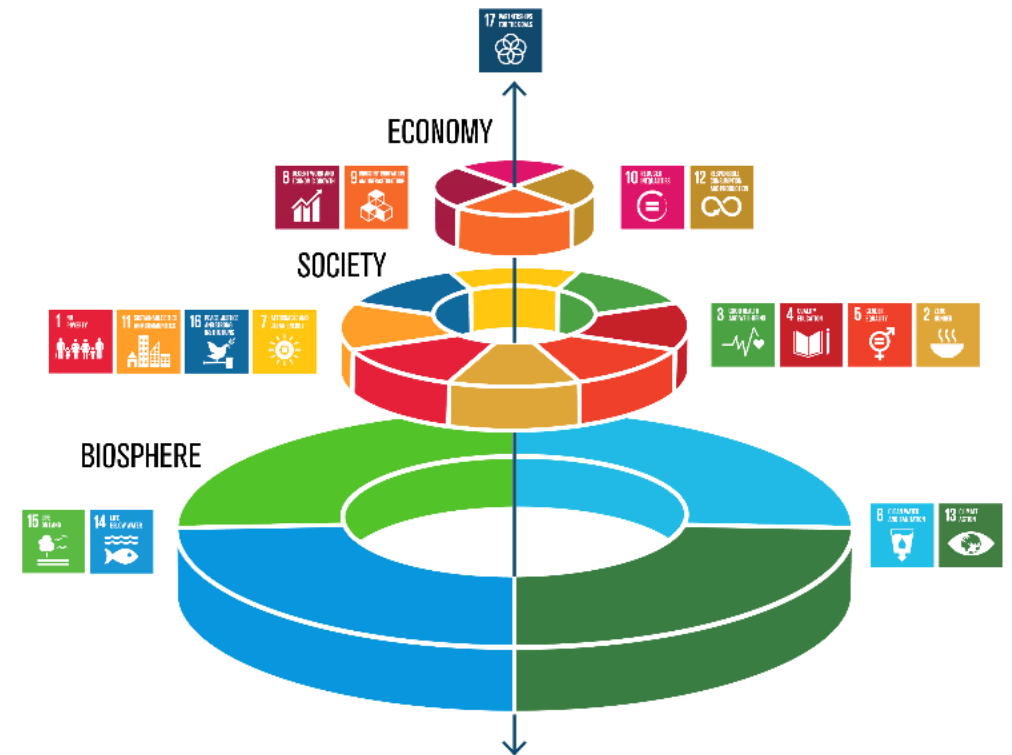


# Nature positive by 2050?



# Biodiversity underpins sustainable development

- Biodiversity loss: key threats for humanity
- Almost half of global GDP is linked to nature
- Connections between biodiversity loss, climate change and pandemics
- Restoring biodiversity core part of recovery



**Habitat fragmentation**

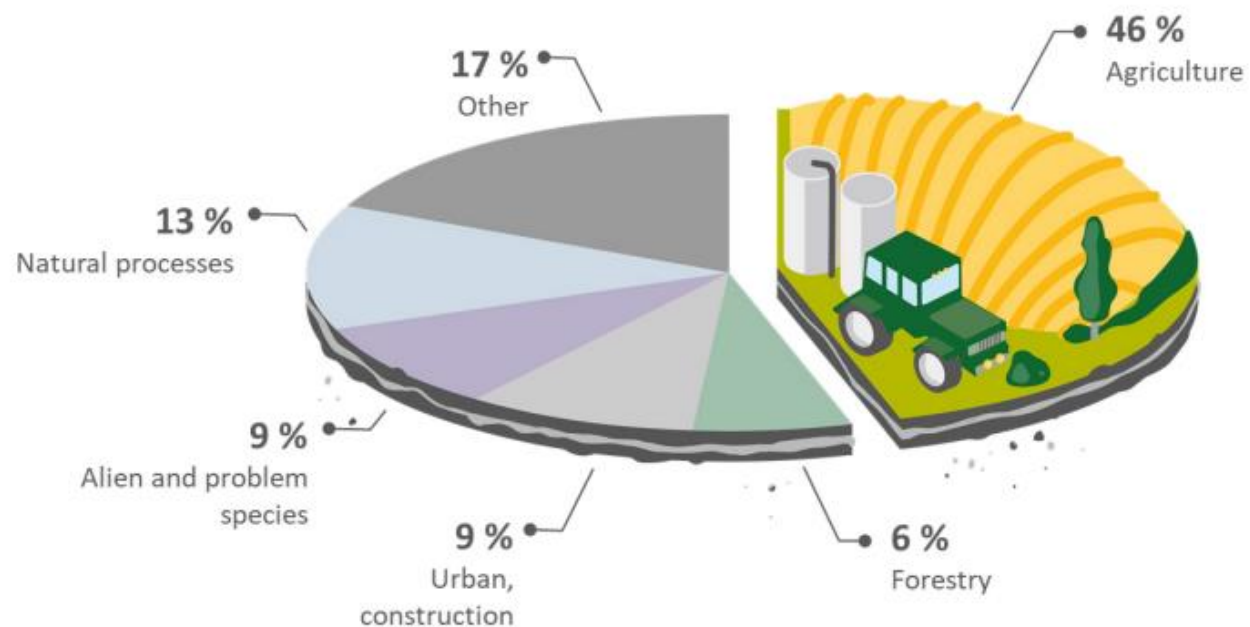
**Climate change**

**Intensive agriculture**

Pollination services  
Pollination richness and abundance

Habitat fragmentation, reduction of patch size and isolation

Key pressures on grassland habitats in Natura2000 areas





European Court of Auditors, ECA



# The European Commission action

Common Agricultural Policy and its reforms

Habitats and Birds Directive

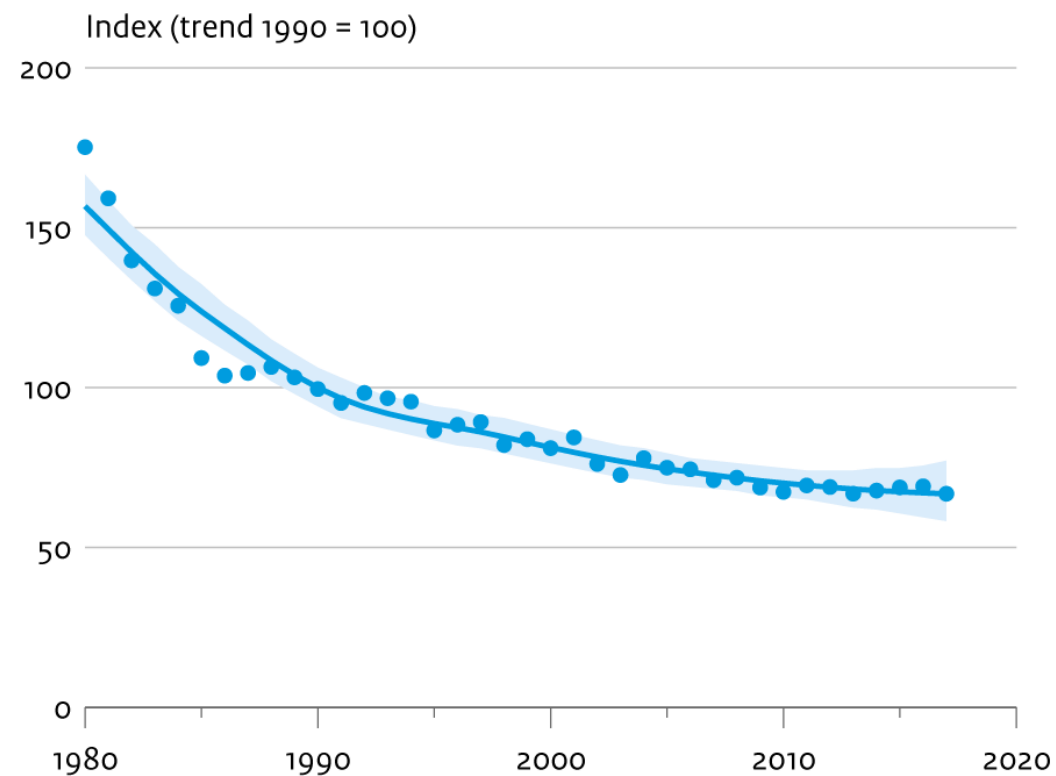
EU Biodiversity Strategy

F2F Strategy

Nature restoration law proposal

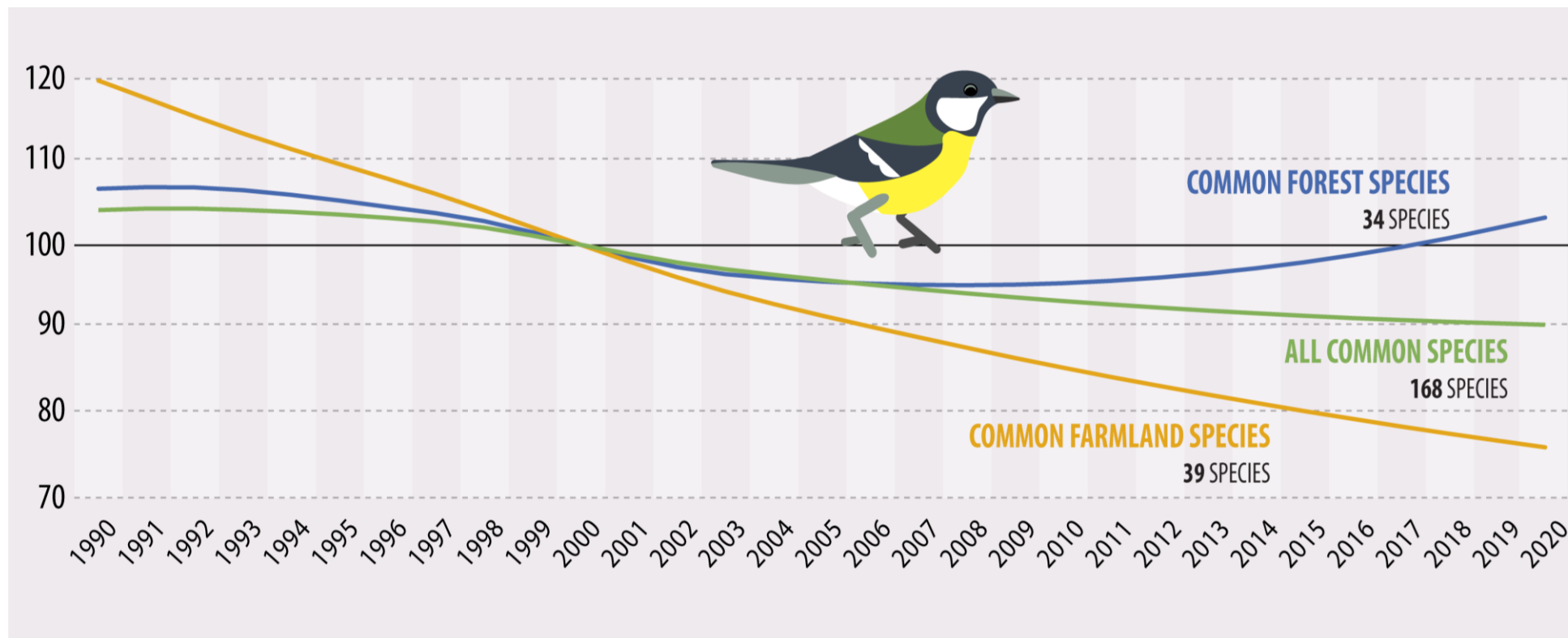
...

## Farmland birds in the European Union



Bron: European Bird Census Council

## Common farmland and forest birds – EU population Index



2020: data are estimated.

Malta: data not available. As a result, the EU indices are based on 26 EU Member States.

Sources: European Bird Census Council (EBCC); national BirdLife organisations;

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB); Czech Society for Ornithology (CSO)

*Perdix perdix* Grey Partridge

CHANGE ^

1980s (EBBA1)

EBBA 1 & EBBA 2

2013–2017 (EBBA2)

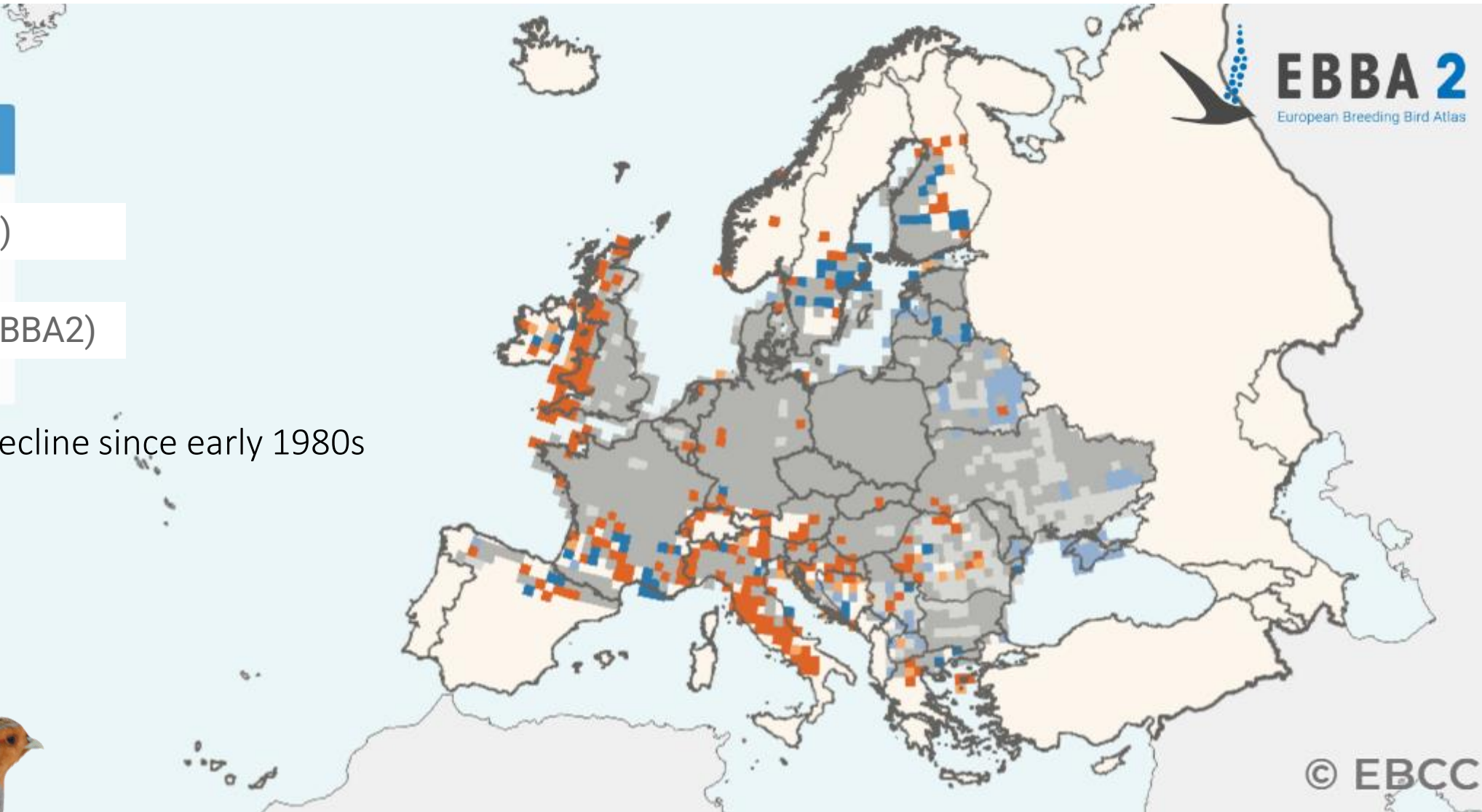
Light colours: insufficiently covered

**EBBA 2**  
European Breeding Bird Atlas

Grey partridge: 94% decline since early 1980s



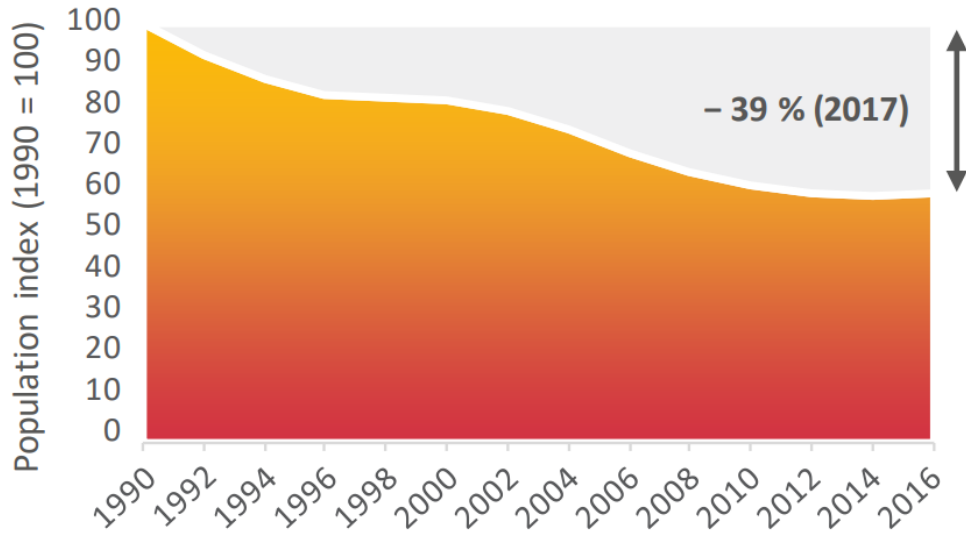
Mia McPherson



© EBCC



## European Grassland Butterfly Index

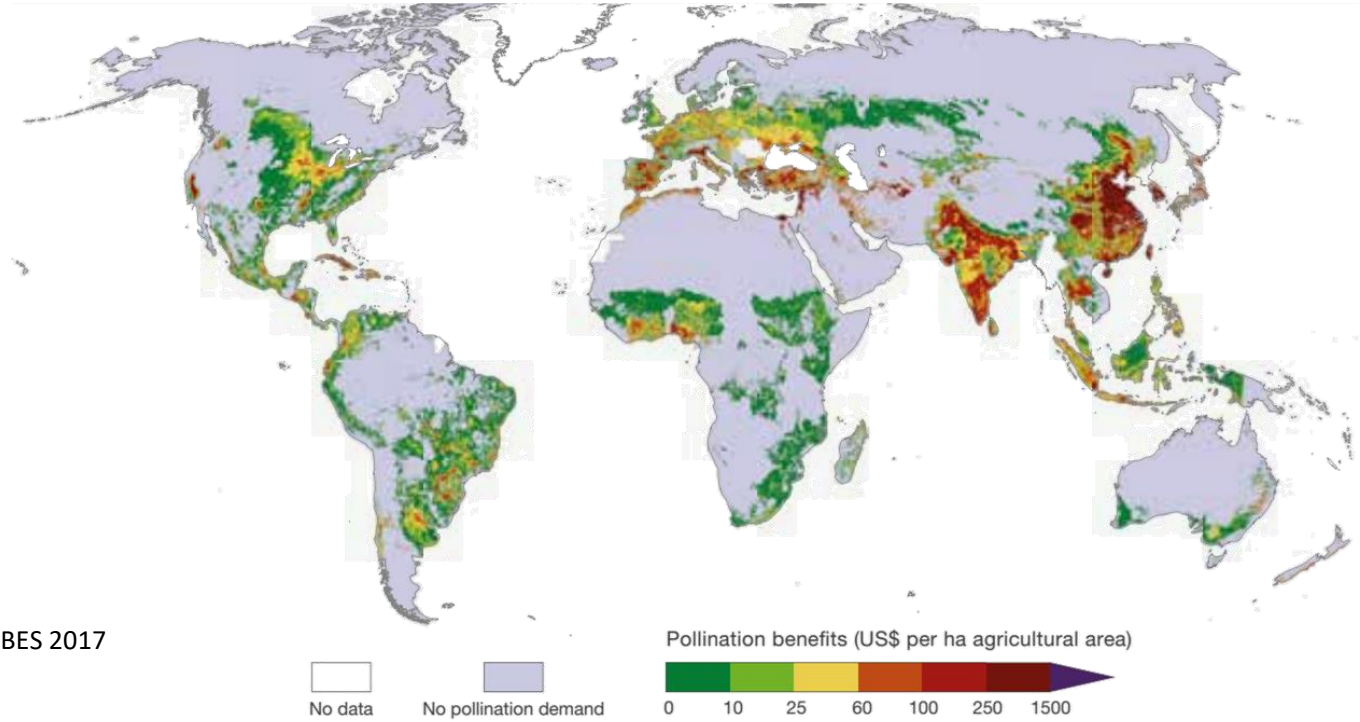


Source: ECA, based on EEA data (2019).



Kasie Raymann

## Pollination service to direct crop market outputs (US\$)



- **€15 billion/year across EU** is the estimated value of insect pollination
- **\$235 - \$577 billion/year** in global crop output is at risk as a result of pollinator loss (IPBES)
- **1/3** of wild bee & hoverfly species have reduced distribution compared to 1980

# Assessments on the CAP impact

**!! Lack of reliable indicators to assess the impact of the CAP on farmland biodiversity**

**!! Lack of CAP measures to support the co-existence of agriculture with biodiversity**

**!! Not sufficient use of the available CAP instruments**

**!! AECMs have been insufficiently attractive**

# CAP indicators: biodiversity

## Impact indicators

- Farmland Bird Index
- Crop diversity
- % species and habitats of related to agriculture with stable or increasing trends
- % agricultural land covered with landscape features

## Result indicators

- Share of utilised agricultural area (UAA):
  - organic farming
  - supporting forest protection and management of ecosystem services
  - supporting biodiversity conservation or restoration e.g. high-nature-value farming practices
  - landscape features, including hedgerows and trees
- Share of farms benefitting from CAP investment support contributing to biodiversity
- Share of total Natura 2000 area under supported commitments
- Share of beehives supported by the CAP

# CAP instruments

- **BASIC PAYMENTS (Annual)**

- Cross-Compliance

- **GAEC 8:**

- Maintenance of non-productive features and area to improve on-farm biodiversity

- Minimum share of non-productive areas or features
      - landscape features
      - ban on cutting hedges and trees during the bird breeding and rearing season

- **GAEC 9:**

- Ban on converting or ploughing permanent grassland designated as environmentally-sensitive permanent grasslands in Natura 2000 sites

- Eco-schemes

- **RURAL DEVELOPMENT INTERVENTIONS**

*Stricter biodiversity requirements*

# Problems related to AECS

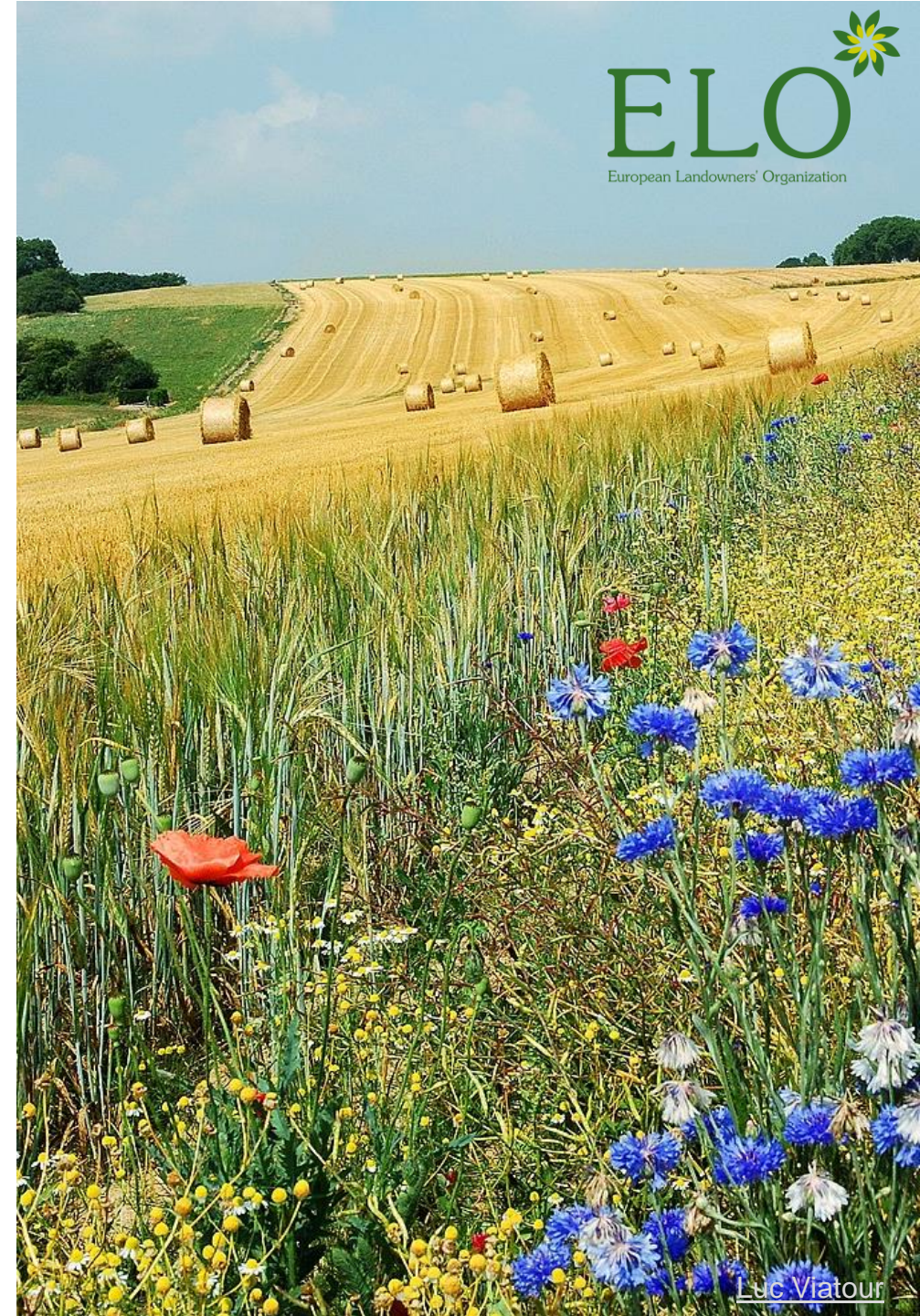
## Lack of:

- Quality and ambition
- Direct stakeholder involvement
- Ownership feeling
- Financing
- Indicators and transparency
- Advice, training, guidance
- ...



## Problems related to AECS The ELO perspective

- Conservation is only sustainable in a context of **economically feasible** land use
- Fit in an (adapted) **business plan** but profitability must be guaranteed
- Government to design **effective AECS**
- AECS must be sufficiently **attractive**
- Farmers need to be **informed** in time about AECS opportunities
- **Menu** of tools



# Thank you

Anne-Sophie Mulier  
[anne-sophie.mulier@elo.org](mailto:anne-sophie.mulier@elo.org)

