

Proposition of contribution to the consultation « Green Deal call area 7: restoring biodiversity and ecosystem services »

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Being that the objective of the call is to develop systemic solutions to maximize synergies among EU priorities we suggest to add in the call a specific mention to transitional socio-ecosystems, also called turquoise infrastructures (mainly wetlands, freshwater riparian zones and coastal ecosystems). Transitional socio-ecosystems are worthy of a specific mention in the call because their restoration and conservation represent an effective way, in both monetary and spatial terms, of addressing several Green Deal issues in a synergetic fashion.

There are solid scientific evidences demonstrating that restoration of transitional systems has a very high benefit/effort ratio. Indeed, the great importance of transitional socio-ecosystems derives from the great proportion of biodiversity and ecosystem services they provide despite being rather limited in their spatial extent. In fact, transitional socio-ecosystems contribute to: climate mitigation and adaptation (carbon storage, cooling of water temperature, balance out droughts), raw material production (wood, fruits, genetic materials), pollution regulation (buffer effect on nutrients and toxic particles) and risk management (flow regulation). Moreover, transitional socio-ecosystems have been heavily degraded, often more severely and extensively than other ecosystems. Therefore, the marginal increase in services provision deriving from a restoration of a transitional system is potentially higher compared to other systems.

Over the last decade the number of transitional socio-ecosystems restoration projects increased but mainly at local scale. A better quantitative assessment of ecosystem services provided by large-scale projects and enhancing the integration of governance, investment or policy tools for such projects remain challenging. Yet, upscaling of local efforts at catchment scale are seldom applied. That's why we propose to add an explicit mention of transitional socio-ecosystems in the call.

Example of formulation :

Page 1 : Replace « The integrity of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems and their capacity to deliver a wide range of essential services to people will be further undermined by the effects of » by « The integrity of terrestrial, aquatic and transitional (ie wetlands, riparian zones, coastal zones) ecosystems and their capacity to deliver a wide range of essential services to people will be further undermined by the effects of »

Page 2 : Replace « focusing on heavily degraded and destroyed terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems and responding to restoration goals enhancing biodiversity. » by « focusing on heavily degraded and destroyed terrestrial, freshwater, marine and transitional (ie wetlands, riparian zones, coastal zones) ecosystems and responding to restoration goals enhancing biodiversity. »

References :

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