



Generation
Climate
Europe

Generation Restoration

**Youth consultation toolkit for the
National Restoration Plans**

This toolkit is designed to help young people join their country's National Restoration Plans (NRPs) consultations, due to be submitted to the European Commission in September 2026.

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Intro

For decades, nature conservation has been perceived as merely protecting what is left. But in a world facing a dual climate and biodiversity crisis, protection alone is not enough. As young people, we need to move towards a nature-positive future, where extractive habits are replaced by regenerative actions that actively heal our planet (Metzger et al., 2017).

The EU Nature Restoration Regulation is a historic piece of legislation. It is the first legally binding roadmap to bring nature back to life across Europe. But policies are only words on paper: we - the youth - must claim our right to be heard and to be co-authors in the translation of these plans into concrete actions (Silva et al., 2023).

In line with the EU Nature Restoration Regulation, European Member States need to propose National Restoration Plans (NRPs), determining areas to restore and engaging with stakeholders to implement restoration (Grabbe et al., 2025).

We know participation can feel confusing or closed off. This toolkit is here to help you find a way to contribute your valuable ideas and input, whether that means adding your voice in a consultation, joining a campaign, or leading a local project.

Remember, NRPs will only work when people have a shared understanding of what needs to be restored - an understanding that young people can help articulate, validate and further develop.

This toolkit is your guide to moving from a bystander to a co-designer of your country's National Restoration Plan (NRP).

Nature takes time to heal, but our window to act is right now!

Toolkit Roadmap

What's inside?

Welcome to your ultimate guide for **navigating the NRPs public consultations**. The toolkit is separated into four core clusters designed to take you from the “big picture” to direct advocacy backed by the law.

Here are the main issues you'll find in the four clusters:

Cluster 1: The “big picture” - from crisis to recovery

An eye-opening look at the systemic reality of Europe's environment. What our role as young, informed citizens can be, and the specific habitats that urgently need our help.

Cluster 2: What is happening right now?

A pulse-check on nature restoration efforts across Europe, a look at how different countries are managing their timelines, and a dive into the most pressing ecosystem needs.

Cluster 3: The argument builder

Your blueprint for cutting through heavy technical issues, navigating dense bureaucracy, and writing bulletproof consultation submissions.

Cluster 4: My participation rights (the Aarhus Convention)

The legal spine of your advocacy. This section explores the mandatory rights that EU Member States are legally forced to respect and promote.

We've also included an **outro with an invitation on how to strengthen efforts and continue preserving EU nature!**

Cluster 1: The “big picture” – from crisis to recovery

Europe's ecosystem remains under intense stress. From degraded forests to vanishing wetlands, the “restoration gap” between the current state and the desired state of our natural environment persists, with reports showing that **over 80% of European habitats are in poor condition** (Perissi, 2024; NRR, 2024). **Restoration goes far beyond just planting trees or recycling:** it is a complex puzzle of social and ecological systems. When we restore a river or a city park, we are improving the wider living environment, cooling our cities, preventing floods and improving our own mental health (Pastore et al., 2024; Nunes et al., 2016).

Youth input

Ideally, young people should be encouraged to become active, informed citizens involved in democracy and society, yet **their relevant input is often overlooked** (Kotanidis, 2024).

While the EU Youth Strategy does encourage youth participation and empowerment, it does not give young people a legally guaranteed role in influencing or challenging policies related to the environmental degradation inherited from previous generations. **You must proactively engage in order to be an agent of change in addressing these challenges.**

Decisions taken by today's leaders will determine the environmental budget left for our generation. The IEPP estimates that by 2050, every person in Europe will have to reduce the amount of natural resources they use daily by 80% (IEPP, 2019): it is the youth of today who will be most affected by this change.

What needs fixing?

Depending on where you live (as you will see in Cluster 2), the priorities for your National Restoration Plan will differ from others. The Nature Restoration Regulation contains some of the following specific targets:

Peatlands and wetlands

These are our carbon powerhouses! They lock carbon into the soil, clean water, and bring life back to drained landscapes (Schweizer et al., 2021). Despite peatlands covering only 12% of Europe, according to Wetlands International Europe (2025), nearly half of them are in poor or degraded condition. **Restoring them is one of the most cost-effective ways to fight climate change** (Silva et al., 2023).



Forests

Forests function as vital carbon sinks, helping to reduce air pollution by absorbing more carbon than they produce, and giving us oxygen in exchange. Forests cover 38% of EU land, therefore offering great potential for storing carbon. **Broadleaf, coniferous, and mixed forests are capable of storing 9.24 billions tonnes of carbon!** That's roughly equivalent to two years' worth of the United States' CO₂ emissions (BirdLife, 2025).



Urban ecosystems

Most people in Europe live in urban ecosystems, yet these environments are afflicted by air pollutants, land degradation, waste, and temperature increase (BISE, 2023). The solution? Transforming grey cities into green ones. This means more than just a few planters: it requires **'Urban Nature Plans'** that **integrate biodiversity into every building and street** (Pastore, 2024).



Rivers and marine life

These are the lifelines of the planet, supporting biodiversity and providing essential contributions to people and their wellbeing. However, **rivers are increasingly fragmented and degraded** (Stoffers et al., 2026). Removing dams, cleaning sediments, and reviving seagrass meadows all help fish stocks recover, capture carbon, and give space for nature to flow freely again (Rewilding Europe, 2025).



Pollinators

Pollinators are in decline, presenting a real threat to the ecosystems and food systems that depend on them (IUCN, 2026). **80% of EU crop and wildflower species rely on pollinators**. Therefore, reducing the usage of pesticides, monitoring the diversity of wild pollinators, and improving knowledge are fundamental to reversing their decline (EEA, 2025).



Cluster 2: What's happening now?

Across Europe, the race to restore nature has been underway for some time, though progressing at very different speeds in different countries. Some countries have created meaningful opportunities for people to shape the future of their ecosystems, while others are still working to translate technical targets into real action.



But why do EU Member States have to carry out public consultations?

On top of the Aarhus Convention obligations (see Cluster 4), the EU Nature Restoration Regulation specifically compels states to provide the public with early and effective opportunities to participate in the preparation of the plans (Recitals 20 & 64).

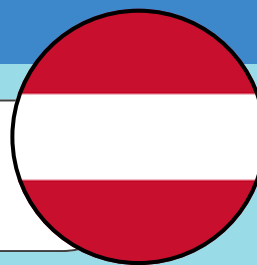
Member States should promote a fair and cross-society approach in the preparation and implementation of their national restoration plans. They should put in place the necessary measures to engage local and regional authorities, landowners and land users and their associations, civil society organisations...and other relevant stakeholders and the general public, in all phases of the preparation, review and implementation of the national restoration plans, and to foster dialogue and the diffusion of science-based information about biodiversity and the benefits of restoration.

- Recital 83 of the EU Nature Restoration Regulation

There are a lot of things EU Member States have to do in order to comply with the Nature Restoration Regulation.



And they have to address them all by 1 September 2026, when the first draft of the National Restoration Plans are due. In this section, you can find relevant info on how, who, where and when consultation processes and restoration actions are taking place in 17 European Member States.



01. What's being restored in Austria?

Rivers: Restoring 25,000 km of rivers to continuity and reestablishing 'free-flowing' rivers by identifying and removing artificial barriers (hydromorphology).

Wetlands: Restoring/rewetting 50% of drained wetlands by 2050.

Agricultural ecosystems: Restoring hedgerows and forestry areas and maintaining & preserving permanent grasslands (biodiversity indicators). Overall at least 30% of total area of damaged habitats must be restored by 2030 (90% by 2050).

Urban areas: Increasing urban greening through desealing, tree planting, and protection of urban green spaces.

02. Consultation Process

Status: closed, unlikely to reopen

The BMLUK held an online event on 5 December 2025: [you can find further further information here.](#) The official consultation process finished on 16 January 2026 and received over 1,000 submissions, which are now being reviewed in working groups. You can access the first drafts of the NRP [here.](#)

Stay updated on potential post-consultation feedback on the [BMLUK](#) page. You might be able to attend local meetings, reach out to representatives and local environmental offices, or submit feedback directly through parliamentary channels.

03. How can I get involved?

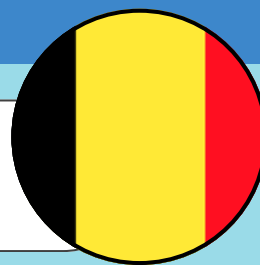
You can **stay informed** and on top of the latest updates by accessing the following resources:

- APG (Austrian Platform for Nature Conservation), [apg.at](#)
- CliMates Austria, [climatesaustria.org](#)
- Sea to Summit Austria, [seatosummit.eu](#)
- ICPDR (Danube River Protection), [icpdr.org](#)

Why not join in some NGO-led projects?

04. Watch out for...

- Lack of updates & best available science.
- No "new" aspirations & goals for the NRP compared to current regulations.
- Delayed plan draft and implementation, deadline on 1st Sept 2026.



01. What's being restored in Belgium ?

Marine ecosystems: Restoring vital sandbanks and gravel beds in the Belgian North Sea using a strictly science-based approach.

Freshwater and wetlands: Rewetting degraded wetlands and reviving fragile river systems to boost the ground's water infiltration capacity, combat prolonged droughts, and control severe flood risks.

Forests: Protecting woodland ecosystems from fires, pests, and invasive species by moving away from vulnerable single-species forests.

02. Consultation Process

Status: closed, likely to reopen

Since 2025, the Department Omgeving has run the Natuurhasten Vlaanderen information portal and opened public hearings under the Flemish Blue Deal and Bossenstrategie.

There were also stakeholder roundtables held from May 2025 to February 2026, involving farmers' organisations, NGOs and municipalities.

In the Brussels Capital Region, the Leefmilieu Brussel held consultations on urban nature connectivity and biodiversity corridors from January to March 2026.

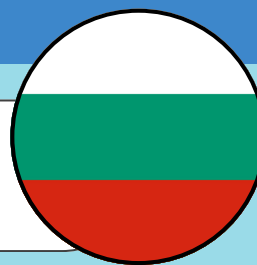
03. How can I get involved?

Belgium's consultation framework does not include a formal youth advisory body for NRP. But no worries! You can still get involved in youth movements, nature groups and citizen science:

- [Youth for Climate Belgium](#).
- [JongNatuurpunt en Milieubeweging](#), where you connect with more people.
- Join citizen Science initiatives, helping monitoring wetlands, pollinators, and local biodiversity.

04. Watch out for...

- Lack of harmony between government levels.
- Limited communication and updates on progress, obscuring transparency issues.
- Slow progress in implementing NRP measures.
- Insufficient use of best available scientific evidence.



01. What's being restored in Bulgaria?

Forests and grasslands: Restoring vulnerable woodlands and grasslands as a top priority, protecting a critical international migration highway for raptors and storks, and supporting populations of threatened species.

Freshwater and wetlands: Linking all restoration actions with the Danube, drastically upgrading regional flood risk planning and cross-border water management.

02. Consultation Process

Status: early stage/to be reopened

Bulgaria has started preparing its NRP, but progress is still ongoing. According to NGO and civil society assessments, the country is one of the Member States where consultation frameworks are not clear.

Bulgaria's Ministry of Energy is launching a public consultation on a new renewable energy programme, expected to open on 18 September.

So far, there is no formal, dedicated, national online consultation portal specified for Bulgaria's NRP.

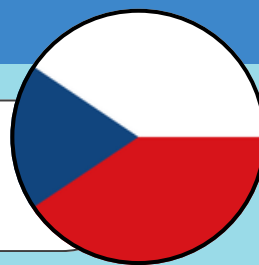
03. How can I get involved?

Although Bulgaria has not yet involved youth in the formulation of its NRP, **some main channels of participation are:**

- Tracking official consultations through strategy.bg and the Ministry of Environment and Water.
- Groups that support citizen input such as [WWF Bulgaria](#) and the [Bulgarian Biodiversity Foundation](#).

04. Watch out for...

- Limited transparency and access to information.
- Short or sporadic consultation deadlines, specially as communication channels are highly unclear.
- Insufficient stakeholder inclusion in both consultation process and decision-making.



01. What's being restored in Czechia?

Rivers, floodplains and streams: Restoring and revitalising streams and river flows, removing barriers and improving the natural function of floodplain areas.

Pollinators and agriculture: Improving pollinator diversity and reversing the decline of their populations by 2030. Increasing the biodiversity of agricultural ecosystems and restoring organic soils on drained peatlands.

Forests: Restoring the Czech forests' biodiversity and tree species diversity, and protecting forest bird species.

02. Consultation Process

Status: closed

The consultation closed on 15 May 2026. Work has already started on drafting the plans, and a [draft has been available to the public for comments](#) since April 2026. [#Restorenature](#) mentioned positively that the Czech Republic NRP consultations process is inclusive.

The plans will now go through the approval process of the Czech government, and the proposal will be sent to the European Commission in September 2026.

[See the timeline here.](#)

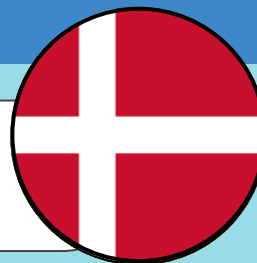
03. How can I get involved?

As the public consultations are already closed, you can try to help nature and biodiversity by joining local activities.

You can get involved with nature organisations such as [International Young Naturefriends \(IYNF\)](#), which has their main office in Prague.

04. Watch out for...

- Low commitment and ambition levels during the creation process and delivery of the Czech NRP, especially this year
- Limited funding and staffing
- Limited resources



01. What's being restored in Denmark?

Freshwater and wetlands: Transforming low-lying, environmentally sensitive agricultural zones back into thriving wetlands to cut greenhouse gas emissions, trap nutrient runoff, and naturally mitigate flood risks.

Forests and wilderness: Reviving wild, untouched forests, which have been cleared out and critically reduced to less than 1% of Denmark's land.

Rivers and hydrology: Opening up buried natural streams and dismantling old agricultural drainage pumps to bring water back to surface, restoring natural flow patterns to the terrain.

02. Consultation Process

Status: open

Denmark has actively progressed in preparing its NRP, emphasising transparency and intersectional dialogue.

The Ministry of Environment has developed public hearings on the Green Tripartite Agreement and the draft of the NRPs (Høring af udkast til bekendtgørelse om den nationale naturgenopretningsplan).

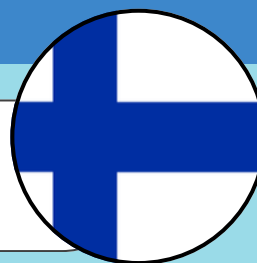
The formal participation is fully operational via the central national online portal ([Høringsportalen](#)), though there are no dedicated youth channels.

03. How can I get involved?

- Volunteering programmes coordinated by [Naturstyrelsen](#), like habitat restoration days, rewetting campaigns (vådområdeprojekter), and afforestation (skovrejsning) initiatives are often open to student and youth groups.
- Participation via nature and youth NGOs such as [Danmarks Naturfredningsforening \(DN\)](#), [NOAH](#) (Friends of the Earth Denmark), and [Dansk Ornitologisk Forening](#) (BirdLife Denmark).

04. Watch out for...

- Limited ambition in certain NRP measures, specially the long-term social and economic challenges.
- Complex legislative procedures, regarding slowing down implementation.
- Insufficient inclusion of young people in decision-making process.



01. What's being restored in Finland?

Wetland habitats (coastal and inland): Restoring mires (peatland wetlands) - around 1,300 hectares restored in 2026 alone via Metsähallitus (state forest and parks authority).

Flowing waters, floodplains and freshwater: Improving streams - approximately 21 kilometres improved in 2026.

Forest habitats: Identifying 200,000 ha of degraded forest habitats for restoration.

Agricultural ecosystems and pollinator populations: Increasing species populations in agricultural areas and improving soil conditions.

02. Consultation Process

Status: closed

A citizens' panel took place in May–June 2025, convened by the Ministry of Environment, co-financed by Sitra and implemented by Motiva. The panel declaration was published August 2025. The draft NRP is in preparation and will be submitted to the Government before August 2026, then to the EU Commission. There are no further open public consultation rounds currently announced.

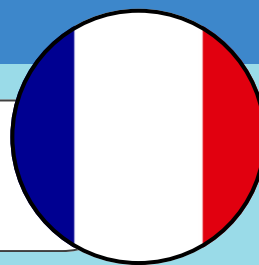
03. How can I get involved?

The main consultation round has closed. You can still engage through channels like:

- Youth environmental NGOs like the Finnish Nature League (Luonto-Liitto), active on biodiversity campaigns.
- Follow updates via ym.fi (Ministry of the Environment).

04. Watch out for...

- Bureaucracy and adult-centric information
- Ensuring citizens' panel declaration is meaningfully reflected in the final NRP text
- Potential pressure to weaken ambition levels (especially on forests and peatlands)



01. What's being restored in France?

Rivers: Protecting 800km of rivers and working towards restoring 'free-flowing' rivers.

Wetlands: Restoring 50,000 hectares of wetlands in the Loire and Camargue.

Agricultural ecosystems: Restoring hedgerows (net gain of at least 50,000km by 2030) and maintaining & preserving permanent grasslands.

Marine ecosystems: As 80% of France's biodiversity is overseas, increasing the % of protected areas in Overseas France through the creation of maritime nature reserves, e.g. Martinique Marine Nature Reserve (2017).

02. Consultation Process

Status: ongoing

The ongoing consultation *Agir pour restaurer la nature* is currently in the second phase, building on last year's consultation and will be open until **30 September 2026**.

You can follow [this link](#) to contribute in the form of a reaction to the government's proposals mentioned in the "project management file" (you can download the file at the bottom of the page), as well as opinions and proposals that you would like to submit (look for the "Submit your comment" button lower on the page).

03. How can I get involved?

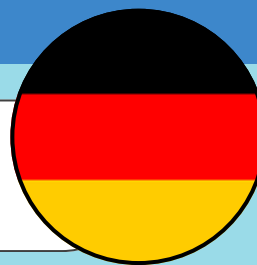
Take part in the ongoing public consultation process and submit feedback through the [government's platform](#).

Join restoration projects and youth actions through these engagement opportunities:

- [Jeunes Nature Expériences](#)
- [NGO Noé](#)
- [Office Français de la Biodiversité \(OFB\)](#)
- [France Nature Environnement \(FNE\)](#)

04. Watch out for...

- Exclusion of the conclusions of the public consultation in the NRP draft.
- Incoherent inter-ministerial coordination efforts.
- Continuation of subsidies for activities that harm restoration efforts.



01. What's being restored in Germany?

Rivers: Aiming to restore river connectivity and remove barriers contributing to the EU river target. Restoring 2,000 km of rivers towards 'free-flowing' rivers, restoring 200,000 hectares of rivers, brooks and riverbank areas.

Wetlands/Peatlands: Rewetting drained peatlands and restoring wetlands (including agricultural and forestry-drained peat soils), 90,000 hectares of wetlands restored.

Agricultural and forest ecosystems: Restoring hedgerows and maintaining & preserving permanent grasslands, restoring degraded forest habitats (deadwood, structural diversity, connectivity).

02. Consultation Process

Status: Ongoing

You can submit specific feedback on content of the NWP-draft **until 25th June 2026** [here](#).

There were and still are a few stakeholder events taking place which you can either find information on or attend. The dates and reports are stated [here](#).

While most events already took place, there is one stakeholder event planned on **Article 4** (Restoration of terrestrial, coastal, and freshwater ecosystems), planned for **November 2026**.

You can find the **[first draft of the NRP here](#)**.

03. How can I get involved?

- **Join NGOs:** Engage with **NABU** (river/peatland), **BUND** (agriculture/biodiversity), **DNR** (umbrella), or your local **Flussverbund** for petitions & citizen dialogues.
- **Act Locally:** Check your **Landesumweltministerium** for regional "Naturschutzkonzepte" and consultations.
- Submit petitions to the **[German Bundestag Petitions Committee](#)**
- Attend **public hearings and town halls**.

04. Watch out for...

- No "new" aspirations & goals for the NRP.
- Explicit inclusion of the conclusions of the public consultation in the NRP draft.
- Limited funding and staffing.
- Subsidies for various activities that harm restoration efforts.



01. What's being restored in Greece?

Marine and coastal ecosystems: Protecting and restoring Posidonia seagrass meadows, which contribute to biodiversity conservation and CO₂ retention.

Forests: Restoring forests to halt biodiversity loss and protect infrastructures from natural disasters.

Wetlands: Restoring degraded agricultural land to help protect and provide habitat for the lesser white-fronted goose, with The Hellenic Ornithological Society.

02. Consultation Process

Status: ongoing

Goulandris National Museum of Natural History (EKBY) is the implementing agency of the NRP.

Initial expert consultation has finished, and public consultation will reopen in **July and August 2026**.

Specific times and dates for the public consultation will be posted on the [website](#) of the Ministry of the Interior.

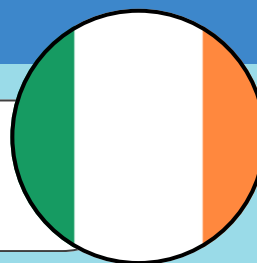
03. How can I get involved?

Learn: Recorded webinar run by ISEA, a marine conservation organisation in Thessaloniki, discussed the NRP and many of the invited speakers are involved in drawing up the plan.

Volunteer: ARCTUROS coordinates volunteer exchange programs in collaboration with the General Secretariat for Youth and the European Voluntary Service EVS.

04. Watch out for...

- The NRP is currently treated as a **compliance** exercise according to #RestoreNatureEU.
- **Transparency** at the inter-ministerial level needs strengthening, and public information on stakeholder engagement is still limited.
- **More knowledge-holders** need to be brought into the process, and dedicated resources and staffing must be secured.



01. What's being restored in Ireland?

Wetlands: Restoring and rewetting of raised bogs by NPWS, aimed at improving the condition of the habitat and re-establishing its extent.

Forests: Managing 50% of Coillte forests 'for nature' by 2050.

Agricultural ecosystems: Reducing nutrient surplus and restoring hedgerows and field margins.

Rivers and Freshwater: Expanding existing river restoration schemes managed by the NPWS and removing unnecessary artificial barriers.

02. Consultation Process

Status: ongoing

Ireland's public consultation on the draft NRP is open until **1 July 2026**. Have your say [here](#).

After an initial public consultation including expert roundtables and community conversations, The Independent Advisory Committee (IAC) submitted recommendations to the government, which formed the basis of the draft NRP. Visit [this website](#) to see their recommendations.

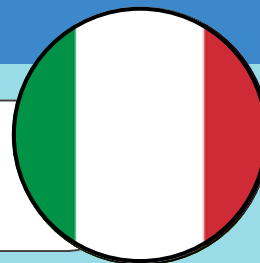
03. How can I get involved?

As well as contributing to the consultation process, you can find some resources here:

- **Rewild Wicklow** runs weekly volunteering days working with the National Parks and Wildlife Service, private landholders, and universities to rewild and restore areas in Wicklow and Dublin.
- **Irish Wildlife Trust** have local branches all around the country running regular events and volunteer days, guided walks etc. They also have a back catalogue of recorded webinars on biodiversity and restoration topics.

04. Watch out for...

- The IAC made 3 priority recommendations to government on the NRP: **fund nature restoration; restore nature on public lands as a priority; support farmers, fishermen and foresters**. Watch for whether these are included in the NRP draft and consultation process.



01. What's being restored in Italy?

Soils and land: Reversing widespread land degradation and systematically improving soil health to rebuild the foundational strength of ecosystems weakened by long-term human pressures.

Biodiversity and connectivity: Reconnecting deeply fractured habitats and protecting native species to allow wildlife to move safely across landscapes.

Forests and woodland: Bringing back native woodlands, reversing centuries of heavy fragmentation caused by urban sprawl and agriculture.

02. Consultation Process

Status: closed

The consultation was open from **23 April to 9 June on the [Partecipa.gov.it](https://partecipa.gov.it) platform.**

Additionally, there have been multiple events:

- 'The Nature Restoration Law: Technical debate for drafting the Italian NRP', held on 30 January 2026.
- Nature Restoration Regulation: what prospects for the Italian landscape from the NRP- held on 6 May 2026.

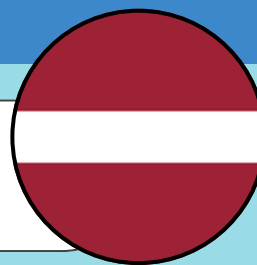
03. How can I get involved?

You can participate by joining youth-led biodiversity actions, or asking for clearer info on the NRPs! **Here are some organisations you can engage with:**

- [Italian Youth Biodiversity Network](#) (*rete giovanile italiana per la tutela della biodiversità*)
- [Forest Stewardship Council Italia](#) (*cura delle foreste*)
- [Youth4Climate](#) and [Ministero dell'Ambiente](#)

04. Watch out for...

- Restricted transparency in decision-making and implementation process, specially under closed doors.
- Limited cross-sectorial participation.
- Struggles or poor coordination across government institutions.



01. What's being restored in Latvia?

Grasslands: All grassland habitats of EU importance in Latvia are currently in an unfavourable/bad conservation status, with a declining trend. The GrassLIFE2 project will restore 1,260 ha of EU priority habitats in 11 Natura 2000 sites.

Wetlands: The LIFE_Wetlands project aims to secure a favourable conservation status for priority bog habitats in protected sites in Latvia.

Marine ecosystems: The Nature Protection Authority is currently developing its conservation plans for Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and the LIFE REEF project is researching the conservation status of marine creatures in MPAs.

02. Consultation Process

Status: unknown

The Ministry of Smart Administration and Regional Development has established a working group to develop the NRP, which must be completed by 1 September 2026.

There has been intensive discussions on specific topics with institutional stakeholders since December 2025 on the NRP.

The Nature Protection Authority has an [events page](#) showing different consultations and events relating to nature conservation and restoration plans.

Specific information on dates for a wider public consultation process is not publicly available.

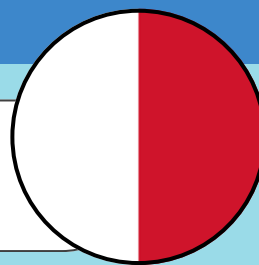
03. How can I get involved?

Stay up to date: The [Nature Protection Authority](#) is currently developing its conservation plans for Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). Updates and consultations can be found [here](#).

The Latvian Fund for Nature (LFN) is one of the most experienced and largest non-governmental nature conservation organizations in Latvia, dedicated to preserving Latvian nature for over 30 years.

04. Watch out for...

- It will be possible to meet some ecosystem targets entirely on state land, but for others, such as grasslands, implementation of the NRP can only be successful with the buy-in and willingness from private landholders. **Effective stakeholder engagement will therefore be key.**



01. What's being restored in Malta?

Marine and coastal ecosystems: Restoring seagrass meadows, sandbanks, and marine protected areas (MPAs).

Terrestrial habitats: Removing invasive alien species and planting indigenous/endemic vegetation, particularly in Natura 2000 sites such as Comino Garrigue and coastal cliff habitats targeted for recovery.

Pollinators: Tracking pollinator diversity through the citizen science programme Malta Pollinator Monitoring Scheme, run by the ERA.

02. Consultation Process

Status: unknown

The ERA (Environment and Resources Authority) launched a public consultation on the Intent and Objectives of Malta's NRP in June 2025, one of the first EU countries to open this phase.

The ERA is now gathering data, mapping degraded areas, and identifying restoration sites and funding.

No public consultation date for the full NRP draft has been announced yet.

03. How can I get involved?

- BirdLife Malta, active in #RestoreNature campaigns and advocacy, has a strong local chapter
- Nature Trust – FEE Malta
- ERA citizen science programmes (all open to the public via era.org.mt).
- ERA's Public Consultations page (era.org.mt/public-consultations)

You can also petition and engage via parliamentary channels.

04. Watch out for...

- No formal youth advisory body in the NRP process.
- Lack of dedicated national restoration funding streams.
- Timeline pressure.



01. What's being restored in Netherlands?

Coastal, freshwater, rivers and floodplains: Restoring the quality of nature on land, along the coast, and in water, and enabling rivers to flow freely with no obstructions by 2030.

Pollinators: Achieving a stable or increasing population trend of pollinating insects by 2030 compared to 2012.

Agricultural ecosystems: Exploring innovations that can contribute to the sustainability of the agricultural sector and nature improvement.

02. Consultation Process

Status: not yet opened

In the Dutch NRP process, NGOs have been able to participate in formal stakeholder and expert meetings.

However, **broader public involvement is still limited, which is particularly important from a youth and inclusion perspective.**

As all Member States, including the Netherlands, will submit their draft NRPs to the European Commission in **September 2026**, it is important to monitor whether and when open public consultations are launched around this stage.

03. How can I get involved?

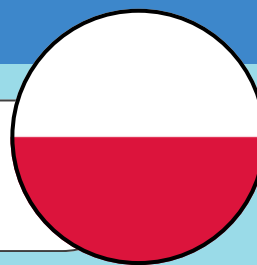
Firstly, it's important to advocate for general public consultations that include youth input, so follow up on this and stay up to date with further developments.

Additionally, you can engage in other activities or youth organisations advocating for Nature Restoration, e.g.:

- [Nationale Jeugdraad](#)
- [Jonge Klimaatbeweging](#)

04. Watch out for...

- Lack of meaningful inclusion of NGOs, regional and local governments.
- Lack of involvement of the general public- not fully inclusive.
- Transparency- lack of information, again, accessibility for the general public (including youth).



01. What's being restored in Poland?

Rivers: 22 river restoration actions planned as part of the NRL, covering at least 1491km of rivers, removing 322 migration barriers and restoring natural river courses.

Peatlands: Restoring 1350 ha of peatland in Słowiński National Park, while introducing 214 dams to re-establish the peat formation process.

Wetlands: Restoring over 6140 ha of wetland habitats within the Kampinos forest.

Forests: Significant efforts in monitoring and mapping of forests, which cover 30% of Poland's area.

02. Consultation Process

Status: not yet opened

In **July 2026**, a formal public consultation is planned to begin through which you should be able to participate!

So far, a series of pre-consultations has been taking place in April and May 2026 dedicated to specific ecosystems e.g. a meeting on the maritime component (Art. 5), took place on 2 April 2026 and a session on pollinators (Art. 10), took place on 13 April 2026. However, only stakeholders with an interest or expertise in the respective ecosystems were invited to participate.

03. How can I get involved?

Look out for the opening of the July public consultation through the [Ministry of Climate and Environment website](#).

Get involved with the following projects:

- Become a [River](#) or [Coastal](#) protection volunteer with [WWF Poland](#).
- Support [Koalicja 10%](#).
- Become a member of the [Youth Climate Council](#).

04. Watch out for...

- Unclear pathways for participation and inaccessible and user-unfriendly tools.
- Insufficient stakeholder dialogue.
- Interrupted and unpredictable funding streams.
- Inconcrete implementation strategies.



01. What's being restored in Spain?

Forests & rural land: Overhauling poor forest management and addressing the challenges of rural abandonment to drastically lower wildfire risks, building resilient woodlands.

Rivers & lagoons: Reviving these highly degraded aquatic habitats by tackling severe biodiversity loss and combating invasive species.

Soils & agriculture: Reclaiming land, which has been heavily degraded by intense farming, livestock production, and soil overuse, to restore ecosystem vitality against climate pressures.

02. Consultation Process

Status: closed

Spain has carried out a highly successful public consultation. The Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge opened a public citizen consultation for the NRP from 21 January to 31 March 2026.

It focused on restoration priorities, including rivers, forests, coasts, agricultural ecosystems and urban nature.

The process received 26,543 valid responses, making it one of the broadest public participation processes in environmental policy.

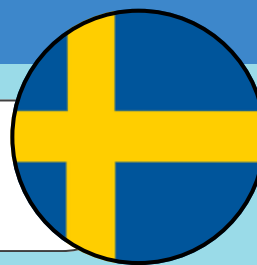
03. How can I get involved?

Spain does not yet have a specific youth advisory council for the NRP process. However, you can participate through existing spaces:

- [SEO BirdLife](#) and [Ecologistas en Acción](#).
- [Fundación Biodiversidad](#), specialising in education and youth-friendly nature initiatives.
- [EU Solidarity Corps](#), with the ecologic restoration project.
- The [Alianza por la Restauración de la Naturaleza en España](#).

04. Watch out for...

- Delays in implementation and decision-making, slowing reforms outlined in the NRP.
- Inadequate inclusion of civil society, particularly youth and NGOs.
- Challenges in multilevel governance coordination.



01. What's being restored in Sweden?

Rivers: Restoring river connectivity and free-flowing conditions. Approx. 2,000 km of rivers targeted for restoration and ~100,000 ha of degraded river/stream habitat identified for action.

Wetlands: National rewetting target of around 1.5 million ha (including ~500,000 ha mires, ~300,000 ha forested peatlands and ~200,000 ha coastal/inland water-logged areas).

Forests: Restoring ~200,000 ha of degraded forest habitats (deadwood, structural diversity, prescribed burning and connectivity measures).

02. Consultation Process

Status: closed and unlikely to reopen

You can find information on the consultation process by the [Swedish Environmental Protection Agency](#) ([Naturvårdsverket](#)).

Additionally, you can watch a [webinar](#) on the NRP proposal.

You can also check in on the [first NRP proposal](#) and submit comments to the [Naturvårdsverket](#). Watch the [Informational webinar](#) on the proposal from 26 February 2026.

03. How can I get involved?

Join in with other environmental NGOs regularly updating on the NRP such as:

- [BirdLife Sweden](#)
- [Fältbiologerna](#)
- [WWF Sweden](#)
- [Naturskyddsföreningen](#)

Take a look at the [mid-term assessment](#) published by WWF Sweden, join local restoration projects (e.g., Ericsson-Sundbyberg model), or contact Swedish Parliament (Riksdag) and Environmental Committee members.

04. Watch out for...

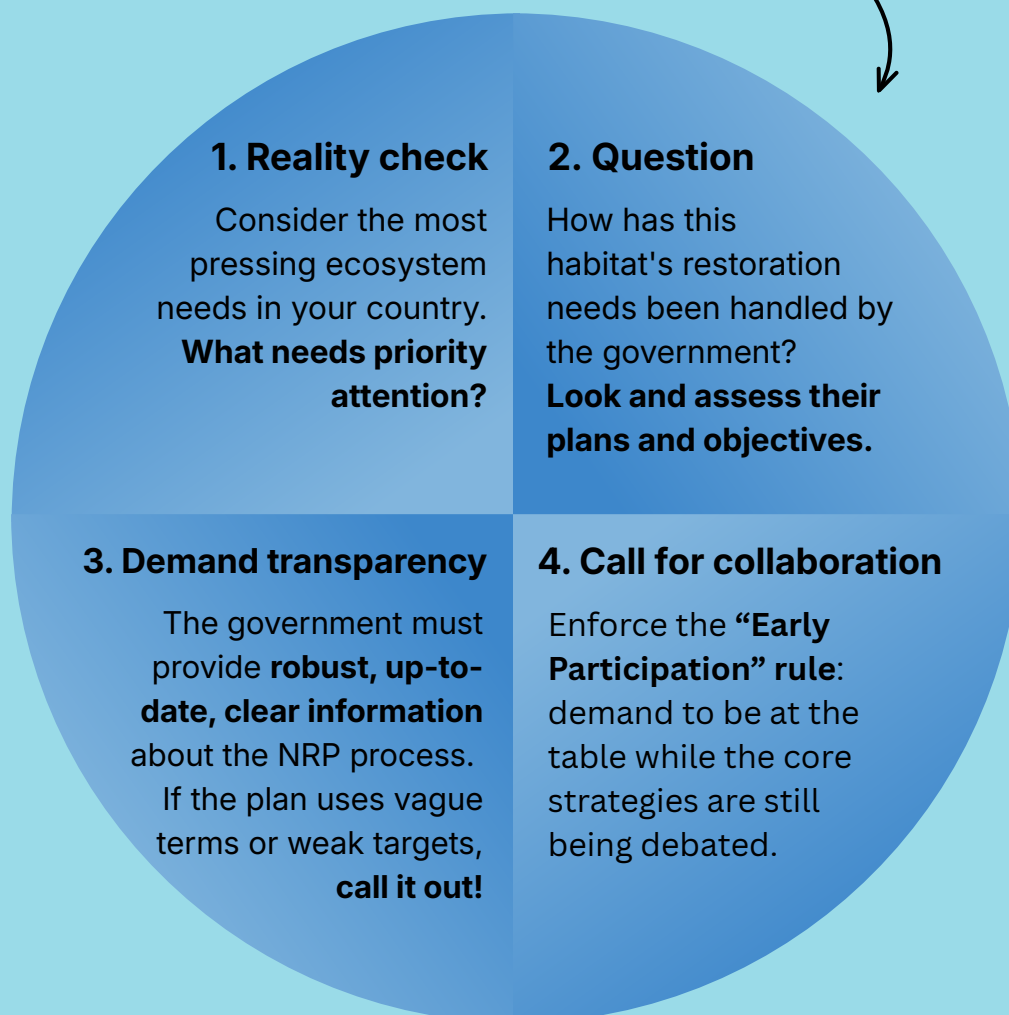
- Lacking a science-based approach (ecologically-based reference areas are not being used and derogations applied).
- Allocation of insufficient resources management of protected areas.
- Policy incoherence (current national policies continue to weaken nature conservation rather than strengthening it).

Cluster 3: The argument builder

We get it! Stepping into a process wrapped in heavy technical jargon, complex systems, and considerable bureaucracy can feel overwhelming. No worries! **This section will help you navigate these barriers so you can feel confident in sharing your ideas and expertise.**

When you think about your submission or speak during consultation panels, you can **structure your perspective** using this simple but powerful framework.

The Acknowledge and Approach formula gives **four steps to broaden your voice and make it tangible**. It goes like this:



Lastly, remember **our voices are the ultimate safeguard for the future**. By stepping into these consultations, you are doing more than commenting on policies: you are proactively enforcing intergenerational contracts!

If we are left out of the conversation, we risk trading away our ecosystems for short-term political or economic convenience. We are the stakeholders of today, stewards of EU ecosystems, and we have **the right to ensure the planet is livable, resilient, and thriving!**

What can it look like in practice?



Latvia: *(focus on landholder cooperation and possible conflicts)*

Get everyone on board! Ecosystem restoration cannot succeed without the active involvement of stakeholders, especially landholders, who may have concerns about how restoration measures affect their land and livelihoods. Stronger communication, backed by clear evidence, can help build understanding of the urgent need for action and the long-term benefits for both nature and communities. Incentives and rewards should also be explored to encourage participation.



The Netherlands *(focus on youth participation)*

The wider public is not an absence to be managed. Citizens, and especially young people, are already active participants in nature conservation, deserving a seat at the table. Opening a genuine public consultation window before the draft goes to Brussels, paired with accessible communication, would turn restoration into a shared national project rather than a closed-room discussion.

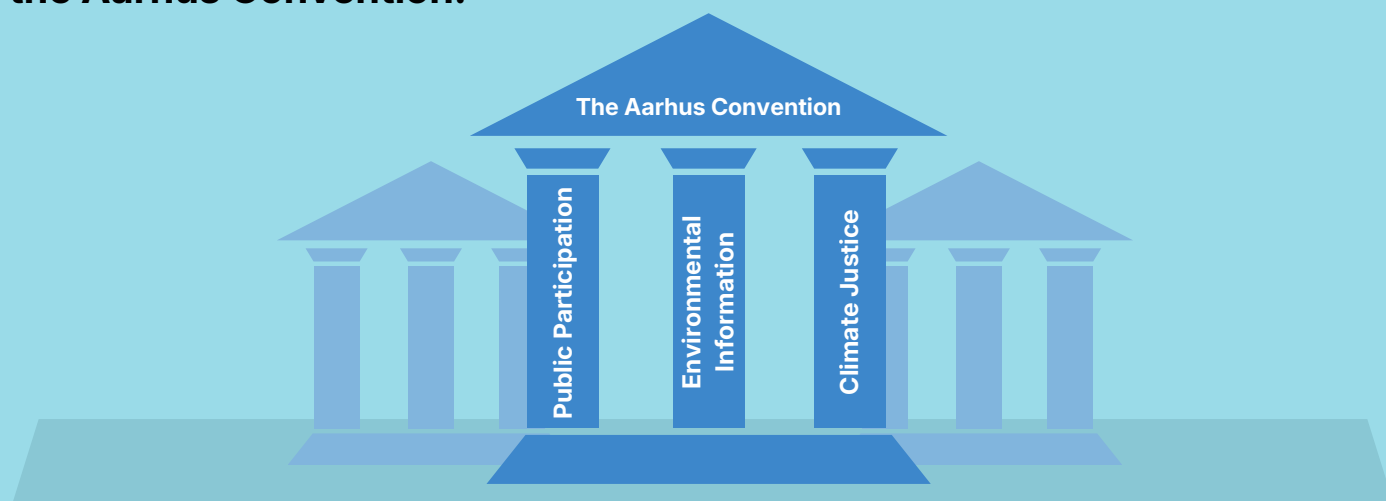
Cluster 4: My participation rights

When you take part in the public consultations, you're not just showing proactivity and advocacy for important restoration issues.



You are exercising a set of major rights that are mandatory for EU Member States to respect and promote.

These rights on public participation, environmental information, and climate justice are protected by a powerful European instrument called: **the Aarhus Convention.**



Think of these rights as **three pillars**, which form the ultimate rulebooks for environmental democracy. **Here, the governments owe a duty to present and future generations to protect the environment.** This involves the restoration of degraded ecosystems.

EU countries are legally bound by this agreement, and therefore, environmental planning cannot happen behind closed doors. Governments cannot simply delay established deadlines or leave young people out of the loop.

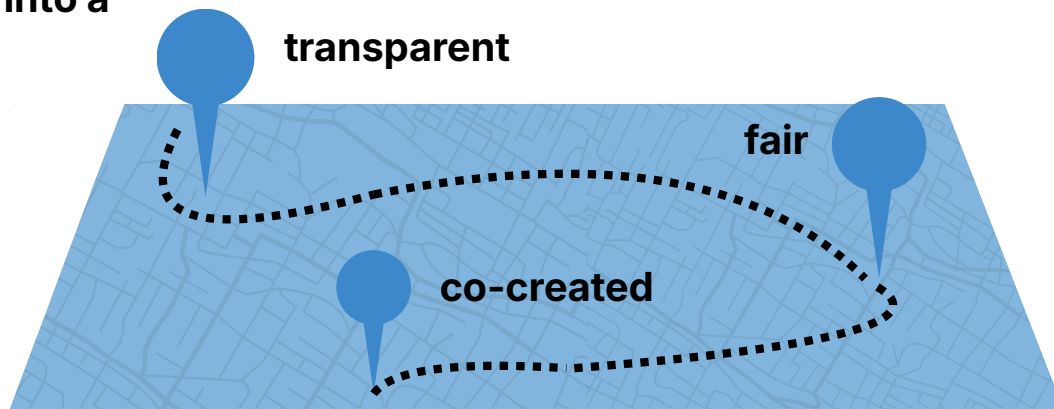


States are required to ensure youth have genuine, impactful voice in the decisions that shape our collective future.



Outro

The NRPs will dictate how our ecosystems look for the incoming decades! By using the Aarhus Convention, we shift from being bystanders and passive recipients of other people's decisions to being agents and architects of the plans! **We turn a top-down government process into a**



roadmap for a wilder, healthier future!

Our push for stronger NRPs aligns perfectly with the **European Commission's Strategy on Intergenerational Fairness**. This approach officially brings long-term thinking into EU policymaking, building around a new Intergenerational Contract.

This strategy introduces mechanisms like **youth checks** to ensure today's environmental and climate decisions do not unfairly burden the future.

This is why our participation in the NRP consultation matters RIGHT NOW.

End word

At **Generation Climate Europe**, we continue to advocate for meaningful youth input, shifting the focus from static legal box-checking to a proactive, future-oriented defence of our planetary resources.

We are holding governments accountable to the highest legal, environmental, and participatory standards for the upcoming NRPs. To be truly effective, these standards must be youth-validated.

We encourage you to be an active driver of this ongoing change. By staying informed and fully aware of your rights and duties as a European citizen, you hold the power to shape tomorrow's landscape.

We invite you to promote public participation within your networks, continue your vital advocacy, and most importantly, claim your rightful seat at the table to shape the world we will inherit!

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