

**From:** Victor Boyhan <Victor.Boyhan@Oireachtas.ie>  
**Sent:** 28 October 2017 14:09  
**To:** National Planning Framework  
**Subject:** Submission to the draft National Planning Framework

**Senator Victor Boyhan**

**Submission to the draft National Planning Framework**

**Date: Saturday 28 October 2017**

It is vitally important that the National Planning Framework for Ireland is fully compatible with EU (MAES) and Natura 2000.

### **Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystems and their Services (MAES)**

It is important that the National Planning Framework team and government consider the fourth MAES report. This report provides guidance for mapping and assessing urban ecosystems and includes an indicator framework to assess the condition of urban ecosystems and services, which is used at European, Member State and local level.

The EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 calls Member States to map and assess the state of ecosystems and their services in their national territory with the assistance of the European Commission.

In line with the Millennium Ecosystem assessment (MA), the objective of the EU assessment is to provide a critical evaluation of the best available information for guiding decisions on complex public issues. The work being carried out is important for the advancement of biodiversity objectives, and also to inform the development and implementation of related policies, on water, climate, agriculture, forest, and regional planning. Robust, reliable and comparable data are also important for the planning and implementation of individual projects.

### **Why mapping?**

Maps are useful for spatially explicit prioritisation and problem identification, especially in relation to synergies and trade-offs among different ecosystem services, and between ecosystem services and biodiversity.

Further, maps can be used as a communication tool to initiate discussions with stakeholders, visualising the locations where valuable ecosystem services are produced or used and explaining the relevance of ecosystem services to the public in their territory.

### **Ecosystems**

I refer the NPF team to the EUNIS Habitat Classification, which is a European reference classification of the Habitats Directive.

### **Key documents that need to be considered**

• An analytical framework for ecosystem assessments under Action 5 of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 (Discussion paper – Final, April 2013)

This first MAES report provides an analytical framework.

**• Indicators for ecosystem assessments under Action 5 of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 (2nd Report – Final, February 2014)**

This second MAES report proposes indicators that can be used at European and Member State level to map and assess biodiversity, ecosystem condition and ecosystem services according to the Common International Classification of Ecosystem Services (CICES).

**• Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystem and their services. JRC Science and Policy Report 2015**

The report presents an analysis of the trends in the spatial extent of ecosystems and in the supply and use of ecosystem services at the European scale between 2000 and 2010.

**• Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity. Science for Environment Policy May 2015**

An in-depth report published by the European Commission (DG-ENV).

**• European ecosystem assessment — concept, data, and implementation. EEA Technical Report June 2015**

This report summarises EEA contributions to MAES

**• Mapping and assessing the condition of Europe's ecosystems: progress and challenges EEA contribution to the implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020**

This report synthesises the European Environment Agency's (EEA's) work on ecosystem mapping and assessment over the last few years.

**• Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystems and their Services. Mapping and Assessing the condition of Europe's ecosystems: Progress and challenges**

This third MAES report focuses on the condition of ecosystems. The report synthesises the European Environment Agency's (EEA's) work on ecosystem mapping and assessment over the last few years.

**• Mapping and assessment of forest ecosystems and their services – Applications and guidance for decision making in the framework of MAES.**

The aim of this report is to illustrate by means of a series of case studies the implementation of mapping and assessment of forest ecosystem services in different contexts and geographical levels. Methodological aspects, data issues, approaches, limitations, gaps and further steps for improvement are analysed for providing good practices and decision-making guidance.

**• Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystems and their Services - Urban ecosystems 4th Report**

This fourth MAES report provides guidance for mapping and assessing urban ecosystems and includes an indicator framework to assess the condition of urban ecosystems and services, which is used at European, Member State and local level.

**• Wise use and conservation of wetlands. Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament**

Communication from the European Commission on one of the most threatened habitat types common to all European Union countries, the wetlands.

**The National Planning Framework must be fully compatible with Natura 2000**

Natura 2000 is a network of core breeding and resting sites for rare and threatened species, and some rare natural habitat types which are protected in their own right. It stretches across all 28 EU countries, both on land and at sea. The aim of the network is to ensure the long-term survival of Europe's most valuable and threatened species

and habitats, listed under both the Birds Directive and the Habitats Directive.

The Natura 2000 Viewer is an on-line tool that presents all Natura 2000 sites, provides key information on species and habitats for which each site has been designated, data on their estimated population size, conservation status and allows for various searches.

It is important to note, Natura 2000 is not a system of strict nature reserves from which all human activities would be excluded. While it includes strictly protected nature reserves, most of the land remains privately owned. The approach to conservation and sustainable use of the Natura 2000 areas is much wider, largely centred on people working with nature rather than against it. Member States must ensure that the sites are managed in a sustainable manner, both ecologically and economically.

### **Our Heritage**

Ireland has a rich history and culture, and citizens form emotional, physical and even economic attachments to urban heritage. The preservation of historical buildings, monuments, conservation areas and other heritage sites is therefore important to citizens. Yet a range of factors can potentially threaten historical buildings and sites, including urban development and lack of funding for their protection and preservation. It is vitally important that the National Planning Framework team address this issue in terms of broad support for objectives that promote the re-use of abandoned heritage buildings, urban regeneration recognising heritage buildings potential for local, regional, national and international economic opportunities and employment.

Reference should be made to the **National Inventory of Architectural Heritage** and the need for the Inventory to be completed, so as to inform the National Planning Framework.

END.

Senator Victor Boyhan

Saturday 28 October 2017

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## National Planning Framework

**From:** Victor Boyhan <Victor.Boyhan@Oireachtas.ie>  
**Sent:** 28 October 2017 10:44  
**To:** National Planning Framework  
**Subject:** Submission to National Planning Framework

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Date: Saturday 28 October 2017

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Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystems and their Services (MAES)

It is important that the National Planning Framework team and government consider the fourth MAES report

<[http://catalogue.biodiversity.europa.eu/uploads/document/file/1340/MAES\\_report\\_urban\\_ecosystems.pdf](http://catalogue.biodiversity.europa.eu/uploads/document/file/1340/MAES_report_urban_ecosystems.pdf)> This report provides guidance for mapping and assessing urban ecosystems and includes an indicator framework to assess the condition of urban ecosystems and services, which is used at European, Member State and local level.

The EU Biodiversity Strategy to

2020<<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/comm2006/2020.htm>> calls Member States to map and assess the state of ecosystems and their services in their national territory with the assistance of the European Commission.

In line with the Millennium Ecosystem assessment<<http://www.maweb.org/en/Index.aspx>>

(MA), the objective of the EU assessment is to provide a critical evaluation of the best available information for guiding decisions on complex public issues. The work being carried out is important for the advancement of biodiversity objectives, and also to inform the development and implementation of related policies, on water, climate, agriculture, forest, and regional planning. Robust, reliable and comparable data are also important for the planning and implementation of individual projects.

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Ecosystems

I refer the NPF team to the EUNIS Habitat

Classification<<http://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/biodiversity/eunis/eunis-db#tab-european-data>>, which is a European reference classification of the

Habitats<[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/habitatsdirective/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/habitatsdirective/index_en.htm)> Directive.

Key documents that need to be considered

\* An analytical framework for ecosystem assessments under Action 5 of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 (Discussion paper - Final, April 2013)<[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/knowledge/ecosystem\\_assessment/pdf/MAESWorkingPaper2013.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/knowledge/ecosystem_assessment/pdf/MAESWorkingPaper2013.pdf)>

This first MAES report provides an analytical framework.

\* Indicators for ecosystem assessments under Action 5 of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 (2nd Report - Final, February 2014)<<http://catalogue.biodiversity.europa.eu/uploads/document/file/1230/2ndMAESWorkingPaper.pdf>>

This second MAES report proposes indicators that can be used at European and Member State level to map and assess biodiversity, ecosystem condition and ecosystem services according to the Common International Classification of Ecosystem Services (CICES).

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\* Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity. Science for Environment Policy May 2015<[http://catalogue.biodiversity.europa.eu/uploads/document/file/1226/ecosystem\\_services\\_biodiversity\\_IR11\\_en.pdf](http://catalogue.biodiversity.europa.eu/uploads/document/file/1226/ecosystem_services_biodiversity_IR11_en.pdf)>

An in-depth report published by the European Commission (DG-ENV).

\* European ecosystem assessment - concept, data, and implementation. EEA Technical Report June

2015<[http://catalogue.biodiversity.europa.eu/uploads/document/file/1228/Tech\\_06\\_2015\\_T\\_HAK15006ENN-1.pdf](http://catalogue.biodiversity.europa.eu/uploads/document/file/1228/Tech_06_2015_T_HAK15006ENN-1.pdf)>

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\* Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystems and their Services. Mapping and Assessing the condition of Europe's ecosystems: Progress and challenges<[http://catalogue.biodiversity.europa.eu/uploads/document/file/1328/3rdMAESReport\\_Condition.pdf](http://catalogue.biodiversity.europa.eu/uploads/document/file/1328/3rdMAESReport_Condition.pdf)>

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\* Mapping and assessment of forest ecosystems and their services -

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MAES.<[http://catalogue.biodiversity.europa.eu/uploads/document/file/1329/JRC\\_MAES\\_Forest\\_Report\\_2016.pdf](http://catalogue.biodiversity.europa.eu/uploads/document/file/1329/JRC_MAES_Forest_Report_2016.pdf)>

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Parliament<<http://catalogue.biodiversity.europa.eu/uploads/document/file/1640/4792.pdf>>

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Directive<[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/habitatsdirective/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/habitatsdirective/index_en.htm)>.

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