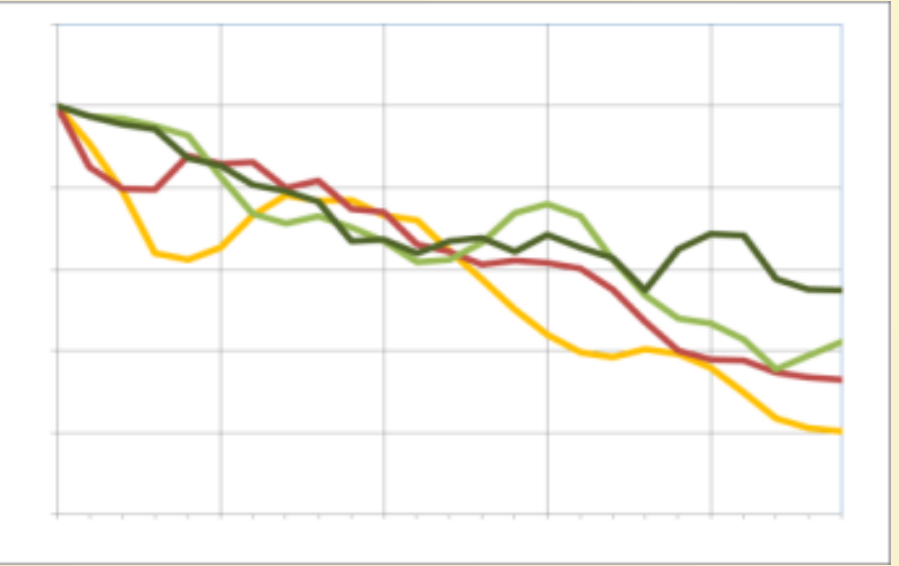


The state of Farmland biodiversity and the political consequences



Trees Robijns - BirdLife Europe

Brussels – 4 May 2016

With input from Jean-Yves Paquet - Aves/Natagora

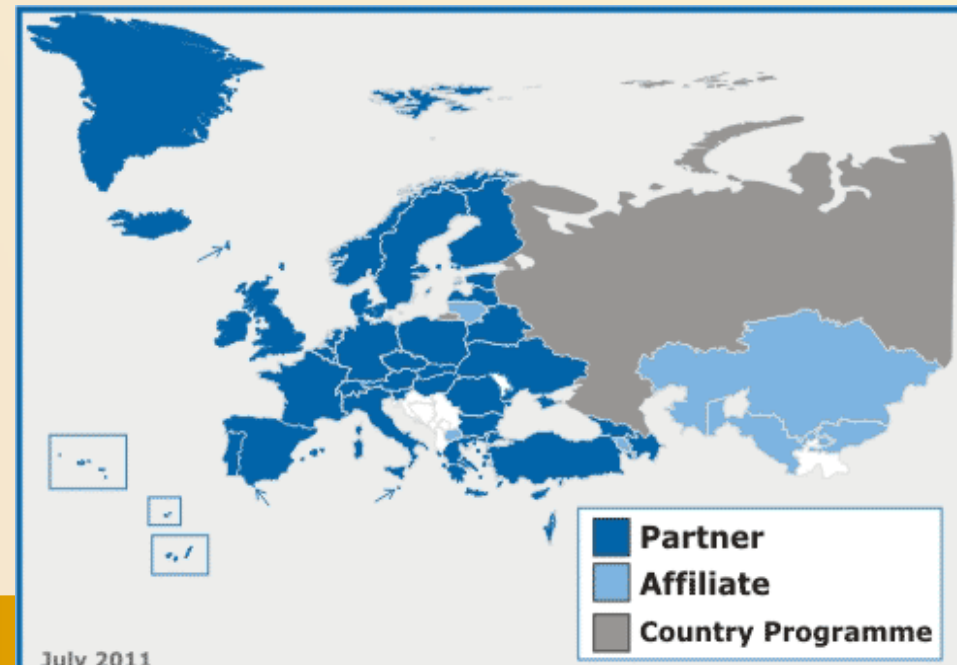
BirdLife International and BirdLife Europe

BirdLife International

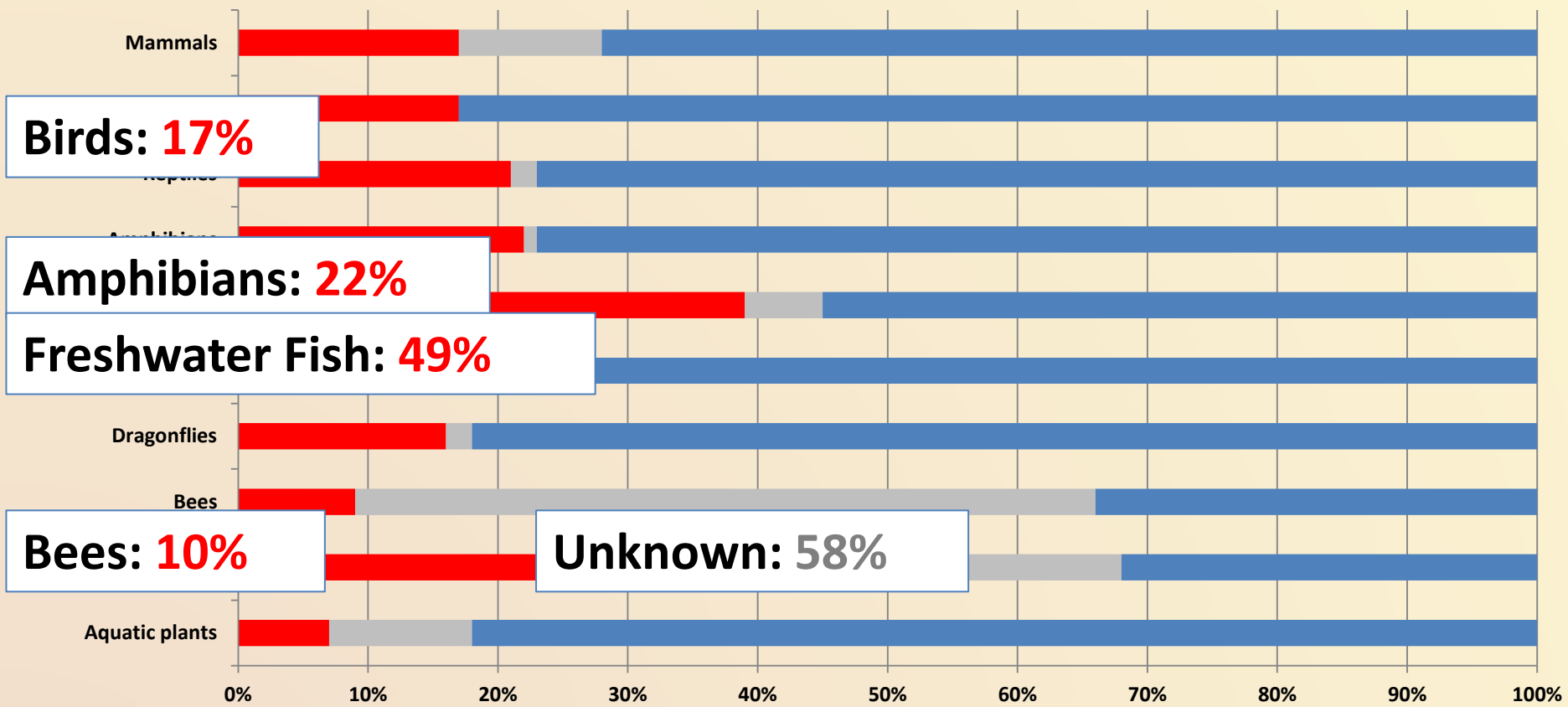
The world's largest nature conservation Partnership (119) is driven by belief that local people, working for nature in their own places but connected nationally and internationally through our global Partnership, are the key to sustaining all life on this planet. We are recognised as the world leader in bird conservation.

BirdLife Europe

Supports the partnership of Europe and Central Asia, present in 47 countries, of which the 28 EU Member States.



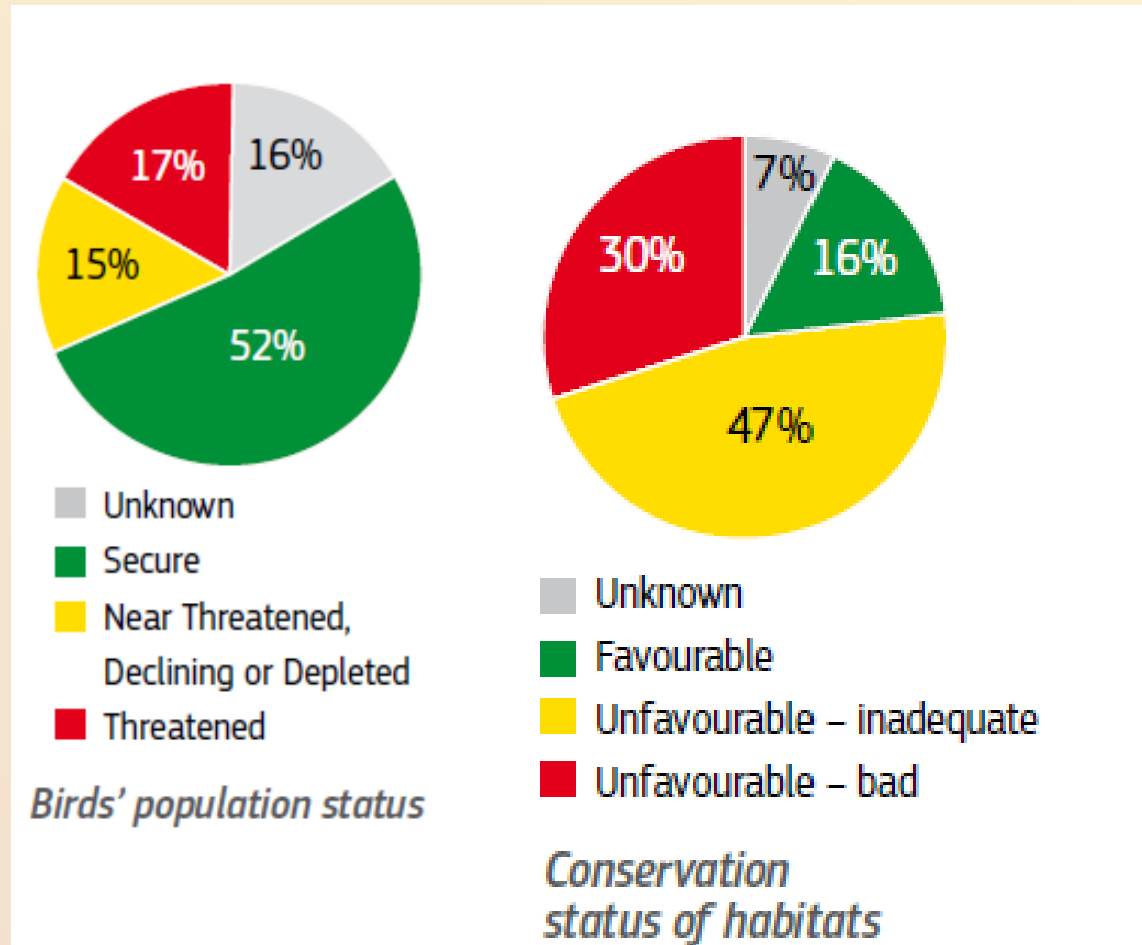
The problem: The EU Red Lists



Extinction risks in the EU (Red: % of Threatened species in taxonomic Red Lists)
BirdLife (2015): Half way there?



The State of Nature

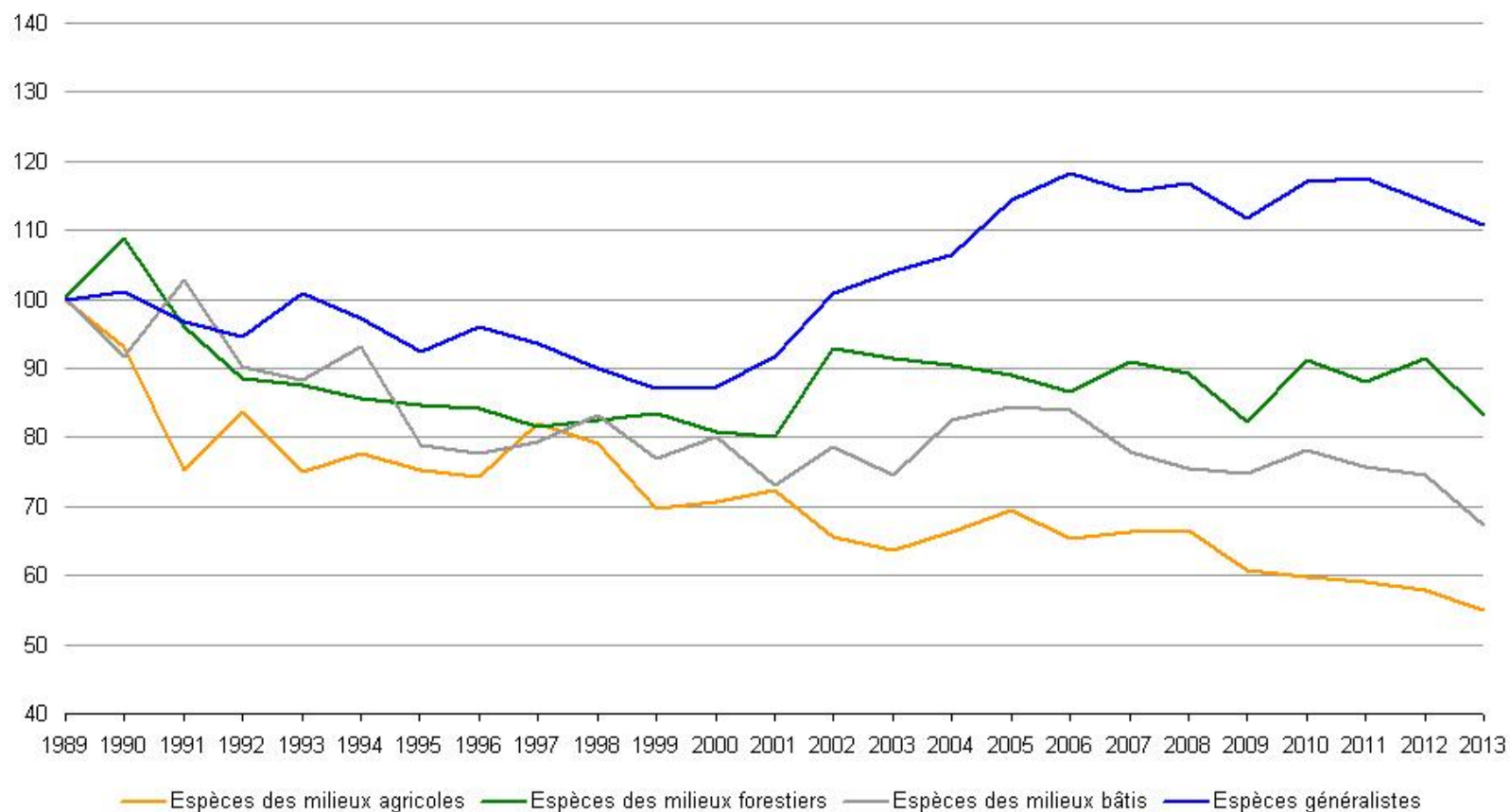


European Commission (2015): The State of Nature in the EU, p.11/19

The « Farmland Bird Index » for France

Official composite index

Indice d'abondance des populations d' "oiseaux communs" du programme STOC*, par type d'habitat

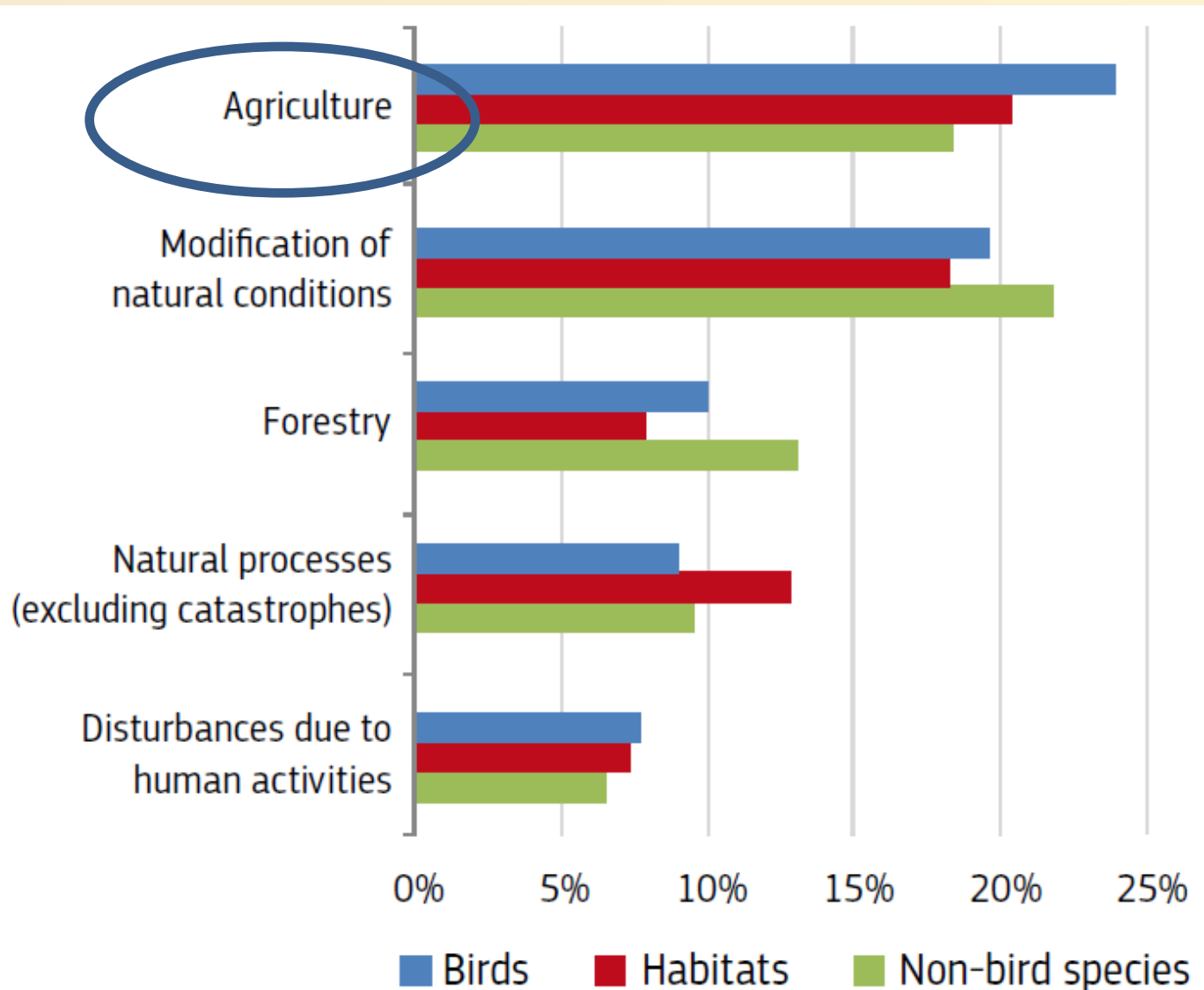


Note : * suivi temporel des oiseaux communs.

Source : MNHN (CRBPO), 2014

Reasons for biodiversity loss

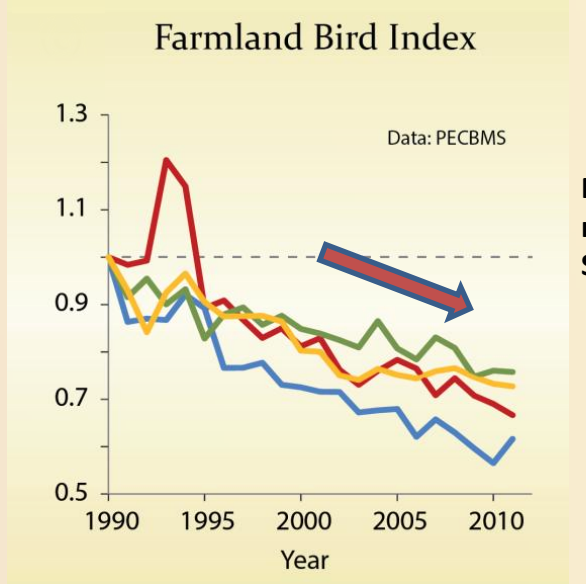
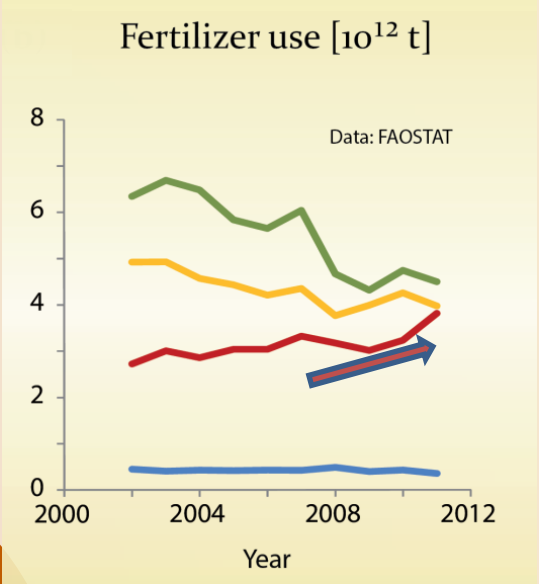
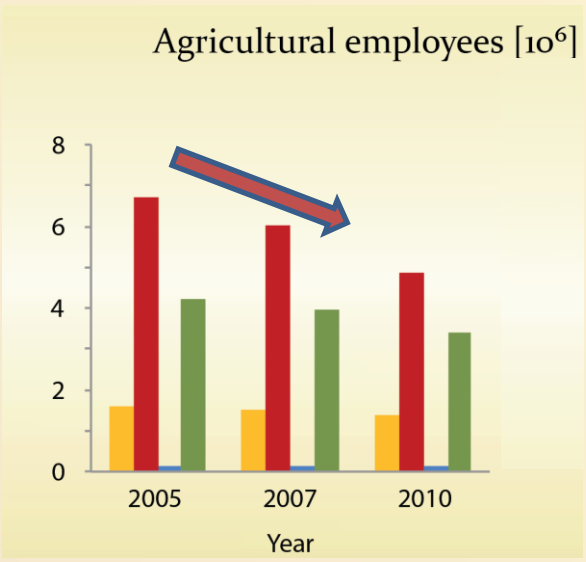
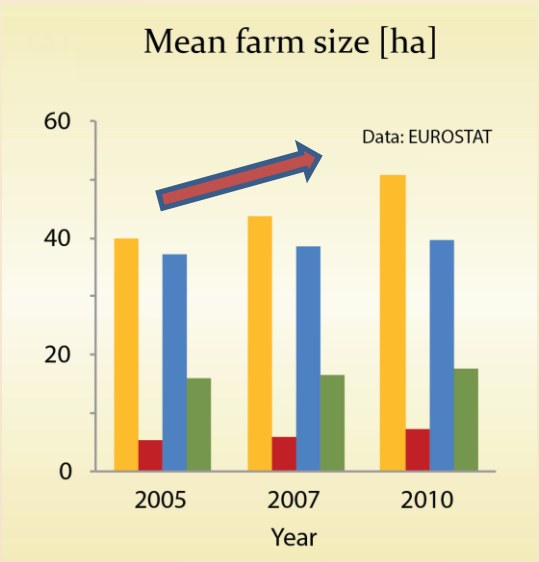
EU State of Nature Report 2015 based on Member State info



European Commission (2015): The State of Nature in the EU, p.32

Reasons: Intensification and abandonment

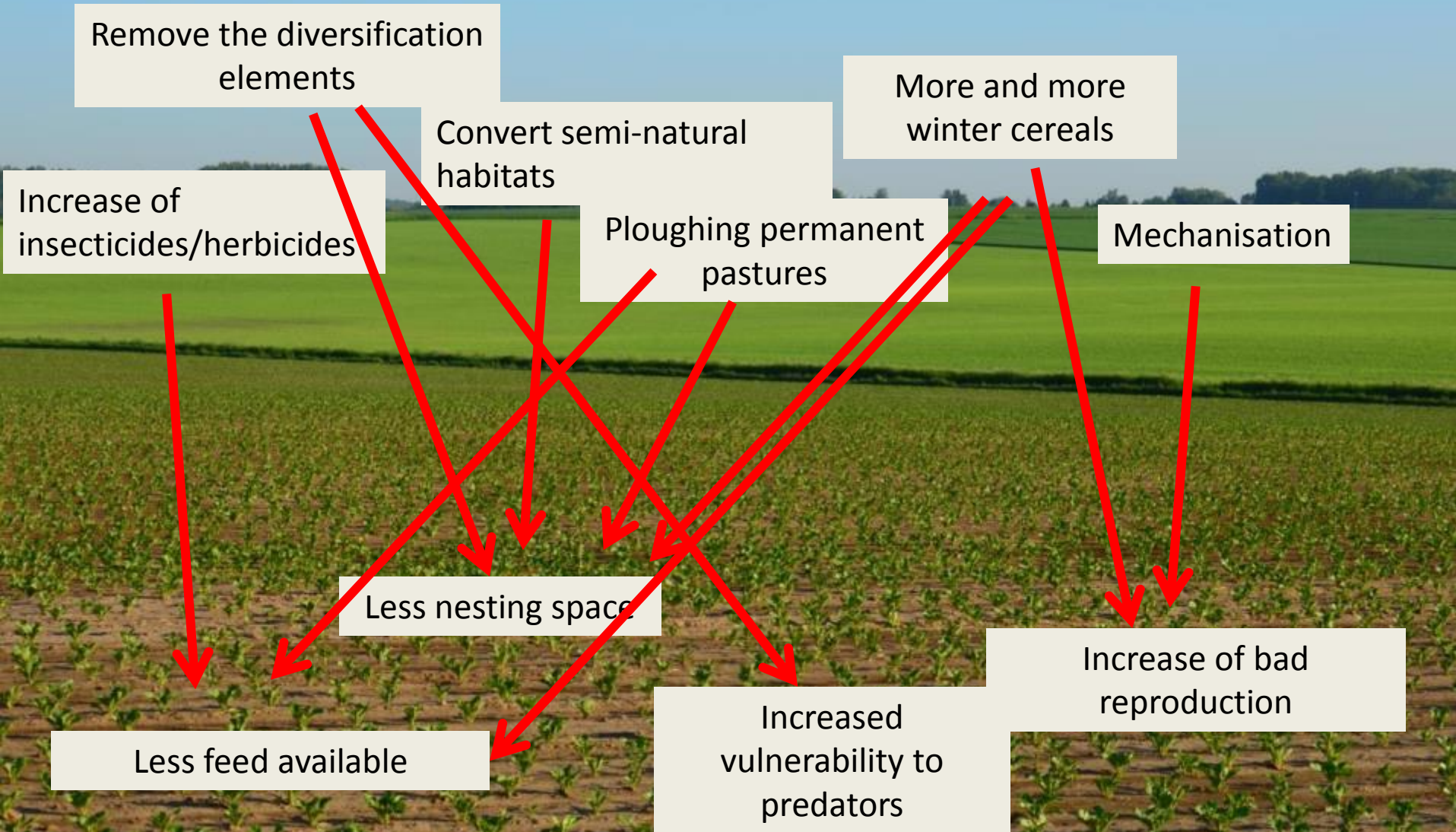
- West
- New MS
- North
- South



Pe'er et al. (2014): EU agricultural reform fails on biodiversity. Science 344: 1090-1092



A crisis where the causes are well identified

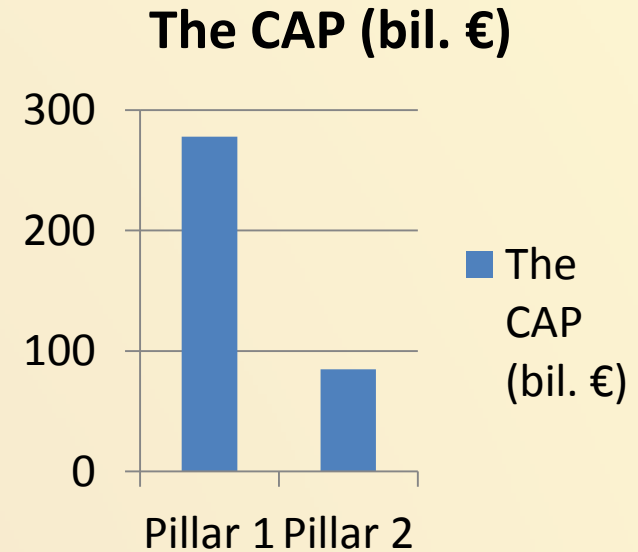


“The Integration approach” for policy

- **EU Habitats Directive (Art.8) and EU Biodiversity Strategy:**
 - co-financing of measures through EU budget
- **Political agreement:**
 - no dedicated fund but “horizontal objective”
 - Rural Development (2nd Pillar)
 - Regional Development
 - Marine & Fisheries and LIFE
- **Attempts of EC to improve situation for nature from 2014:**
 - stronger commitments, horizontal strategic instruments
 - very weak/no legally binding provisions

Common Agricultural Policy – Public money...

- Public money: 37.8% of EU budget (2014-2020 – 2011 prices)
 - **Pillar 1:** Annual direct payments to farmers
 - **Pillar 2:** Multi-annual rural development schemes programmed by Member States based on 6 priorities (including ecosystems, social inclusion, farm viability, ...)
 - **Market measures**



Progressive part of Common Agricultural Policy goes down

- RD budget has been slashed by 13,4 % compared to previous period
- 5 countries (HR, MT, PL, SK, HU) will transfer around 3 billion EUR from 2nd to 1st pillar

The CAP – wishes for public goods

- Three new compulsory **Greening** Measures linked to 30% of payments
 - Ecological Focus Areas of 5%
 - Permanent Pasture (grassland) protection
 - Crop diversification

RETHORIC VERSUS DELIVERY

INSIGHTS | PERSPECTIVES

AGRICULTURE POLICY

EU agricultural reform fails on biodiversity

Extra steps by Member States are needed to protect farmed and grassland ecosystems

*By G. Pe'er, L. V. Dicks, P. Visconti, R. Arlettaz, A. Báldi, T. G. Benton, S. Collins, M. Dieterich, R. D. Gregory, F. Hartig, K. Henle, P. R. Hobson, D. Kleijn, R. K. Neumann, T. Robijns, J. Schmidt, A. Shwartz, W. J. Sutherland, A. Turbé, F. Wulf, A. V. Scott**

declining species and provide important ecosystem services, yet have the worst conservation status among all ecosystems (2). Declines in species richness seem to have slowed for a few taxa in parts of north-western Europe (3), albeit at a biodiversity-impooverished status quo.

Expansion of the EU and its common

Greening – the reality

- Ecological focus areas
 - Only 5% with no quality guarantee
 - Exempting >88% of farmers & >48% of agri land
- Permanent pasture
 - Loss still permitted up to 5% by 2020
 - Intensification is barely stopped
- Crop diversification
 - 3 (>30ha) to 2 (>10ha) crops only needed
 - Exempted: 1/4 arable land, 60% arable holdings

RD - Good intentions & sad reality

- Best part of the CAP: targeted, stakeholders, ...
- 30% min spending on envi & clima measures
- Figures look good on paper:
 - Spending to protection of ecosystems: 43%
 - Agri-environment: 16.8.% of total budget
 - Land under biodiversity contracts: 19%
- What about quality & delivery for biodiversity?
 - AEM budgets reduced and targeted biodiversity schemes missing or underfunded (FI, PL, SI, SK, DE, ...)
 - Decades of conservation work at risk (Emilia Romagna - IT)
- Measures include spectrum from great to awful
- Lack of advisory undermines targeted scheme



Conclusions

- 1) the crisis in biodiversity is important and dangerous**
- 2) on the political level, there might be good will with some actors, but there is not enough action**
- 3) Over 110 NGOs asked for a fitness check of the CAP**

Thank you!



trees.robijns@birdlife.org

<http://europe.birdlife.org> - [@BirdLifeEurope](#)