

An aerial photograph showing a winding river with dark water flowing through a landscape. The left side of the river is lush with green trees and vegetation, while the right side is dominated by brown, cracked, and arid soil. The river meanders across the frame from the top left towards the bottom right.

**RESTORE4Cs**

# Nature Restoration Regulation: Restoration targets and implementation process

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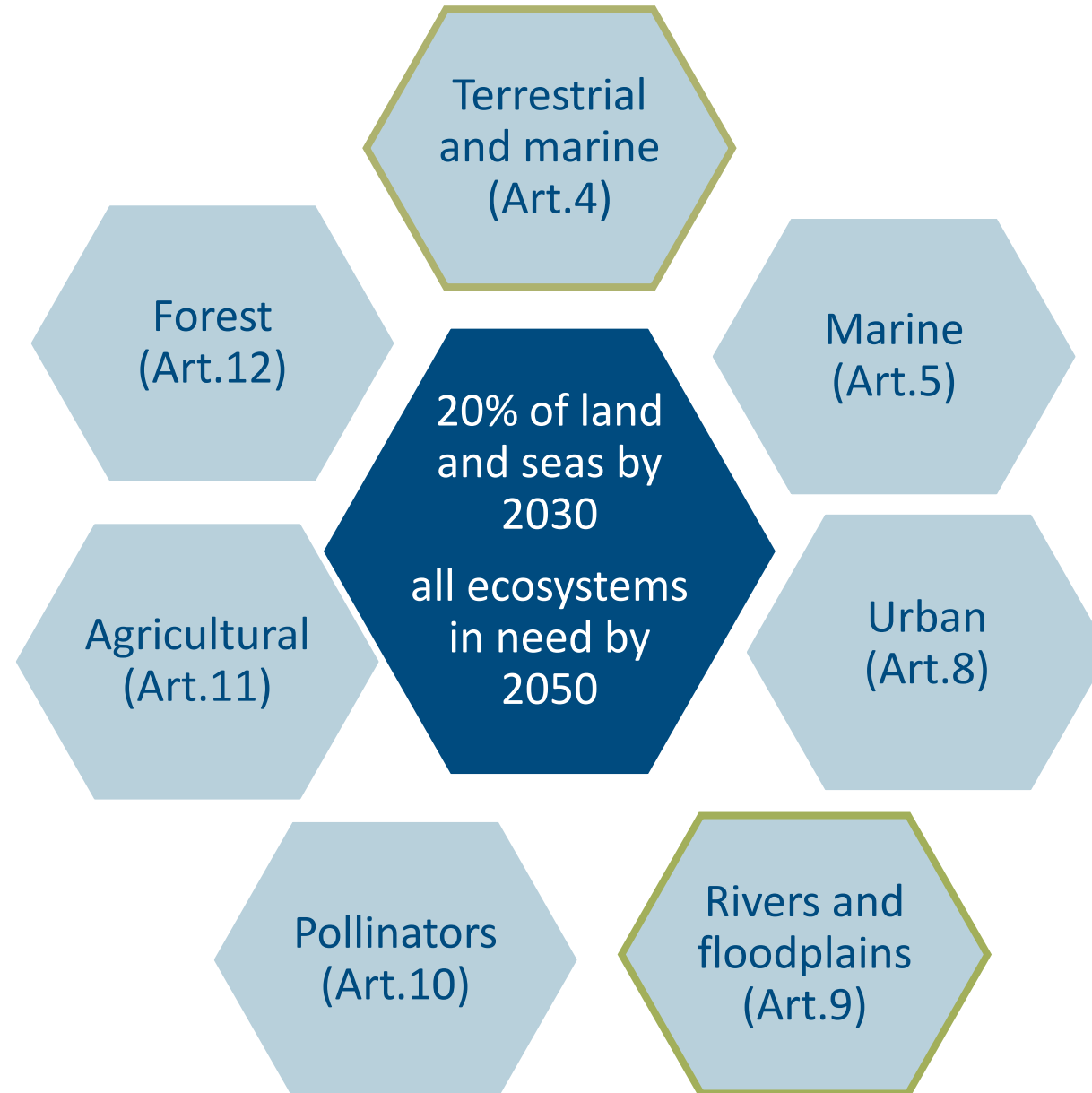
# The Nature Restoration Regulation



20% of EU land and sea by 2030  
All ecosystems in need of restoration by 2050



# Restoration targets and obligations



# Restoration targets and obligations\_Rivers and floodplains (Art. 9)

## Inventory

- All artificial barriers to the connectivity of surface waters

## Restoration targets

- Removals of barriers to contribute to the restoration targets for river-related habitats and habitats of species set out in Article 4
- Removals of barriers to contribute to the objective of at least 25 000 km of rivers into free-flowing rivers in the Union by 2030
- Introduce measures necessary to improve the natural functions of related floodplains

## Maintenance obligations

- Ensure the maintenance of the natural connectivity of rivers and natural functions of floodplains

# Restoration targets and obligations\_Terrestrial and marine (Art. 4)

## Annex I habitats as under the Habitat Directive

- Over 230 habitats in 6 groups
  - wetlands (coastal and inland); grasslands and other pastoral habitats; river, lake, alluvial and riparian habitats; forests; steppe, heath and scrub habitats; rocky and dune habitats

## Improvement to good condition of area not in good condition

- 2030 – at least 30% of total area of all groups
- 2040/2050 – at least 60%/90% of each group

## Re-establishment for reaching favourable reference area

- 2030/2040/2050 – 30%/60%/100% of additional area for each group

## Restoration of habitats of species of nature directives

- Quality, quantity, connectivity

## Knowledge gap filling

- 2030 – 90% of total area of all groups
- 2040 – all areas of all habitat types
- Best available knowledge and the latest scientific evidence

## Non-significant deterioration requirement

- Area where good condition has been reached
- Area in good condition or necessary to reach restoration targets

# Implementation framework\_Timeline

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| <b>March 2025</b>    | Uniform format of the restoration plans (Implementing Act)  |
| <b>August 2026</b>   | Draft restoration plans submitted, strategic overview beyond 2032   |
| <b>January 2027</b>  | Assessment by the EC of the restoration plans (within 6 months from reception of plans)                     |
| <b>August 2027</b>   | Final restoration plans (Article 16)  |
| <b>June 2028</b>     | Report on progress including number of barriers removed. At least every three years thereafter (Article 21) |
| <b>June 2031</b>     | Report on progress. (Article 21)  |
| <b>June 2032</b>     | Union-wide technical report on the progress. And every six years (Article 21)                               |
| <b>July 2032</b>     | Member States prepare revised national restoration plans, strategic overview beyond 2042 (Article 19)       |
| <b>December 2033</b> | EC evaluates the Regulation (Article 26)  |

# Implementation framework



# Free-flowing rivers

## Definition

- ✓ *A free-flowing river means a river or a stretch of river the longitudinal, lateral and vertical connectivity of which is not hindered by artificial structures forming a barrier and the natural functions of which are largely unaffected*

Nature Restoration Regulation Article 3 (22)

- ✓ *River basin district means the area of land and sea, made up of one or more neighboring river basins together with their associated groundwaters and coastal waters, which is identified under Article 3(1) as the main unit for management of river basins*

Water Framework Directive Article 2 (15)

## Targets and obligations (NRR)

- ✓ Inventory of artificial barriers to the connectivity of surface waters;
- ✓ Removal of barriers to contribute to the restoration targets for river-related habitats and habitats of species set out in Article 4 and to the objective of at least 25 000 km of rivers into free-flowing rivers in the Union by 2030;
- ✓ Measures necessary to improve the natural functions of related floodplains.



# Free-flowing rivers

## Knowledge

We don't know it all about barriers

We don't have consolidated pan European geospatial information

What do we know about synergies and trade-offs?

### Wetlands

About 80 % of the European wetlands that existed 100 years ago have been lost

**Verhoeven, J. 2014**

A high proportion of Annex I wetlands habitats has an unfavourable status (89 %) and 51 % are further deteriorating

**State of Nature Report 2020**

### Floodplains

70-90 % of floodplains have been environmentally degraded

**EEA Report No 24/2019**

### Rivers

More than 1,2 million barriers and 99% of barriers small and obsolete

**Belletti et al. 2020**

Fish migratory populations have declined by an average of 75 percent since 1970

**Living Planet Index 2024 Update**

### Surface waters

Less than half of EU surface waters (37%) were in good or high ecological status in 2021

**EEA Report 07/2024**



# Free-flowing rivers

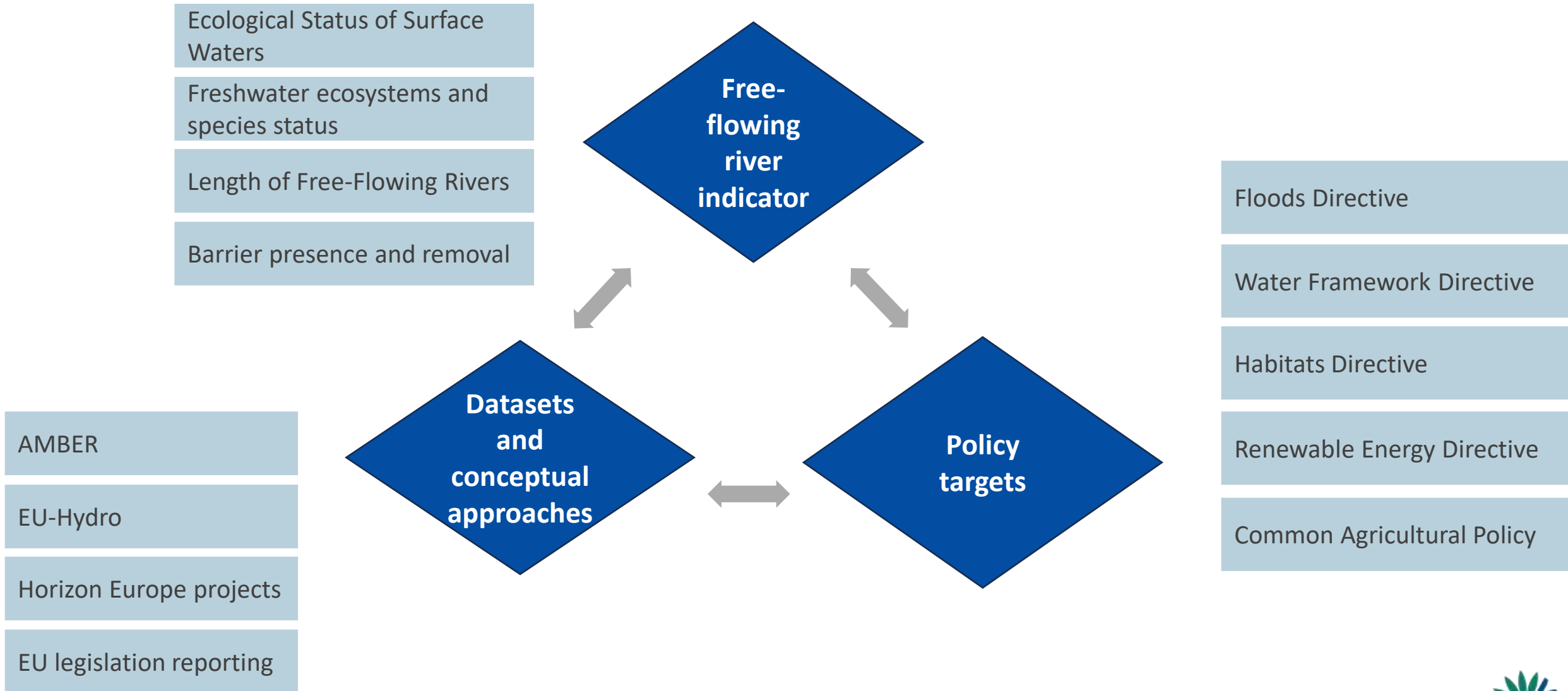
## Information requested to Member States

| Uniform Format   |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| Article 9  | Part C   | Annex IV  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Indicative net additional total length of free-flowing rivers</li><li>• Indicative map of potential free-flowing rivers to be restored</li><li>• Indicative map of areas subject to restoration measures (floodplains)</li><li>• Indicative total surface area subject to restoration measures necessary to improve the natural functions of related floodplains</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Restoration measures</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Barrier identification</li><li>• Water body information</li><li>• Geographic coordinates of the barrier</li></ul> |

### How is the connectivity of rivers addressed in the NRR?

- ✓ Removal of barriers
- ✓ Connecting the river to its floodplain

# Free-flowing rivers\_towards and indicator



# Thanks!

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