



for a living planet®

The EU and nature conservation

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WWF Danube-Carpathian Programme

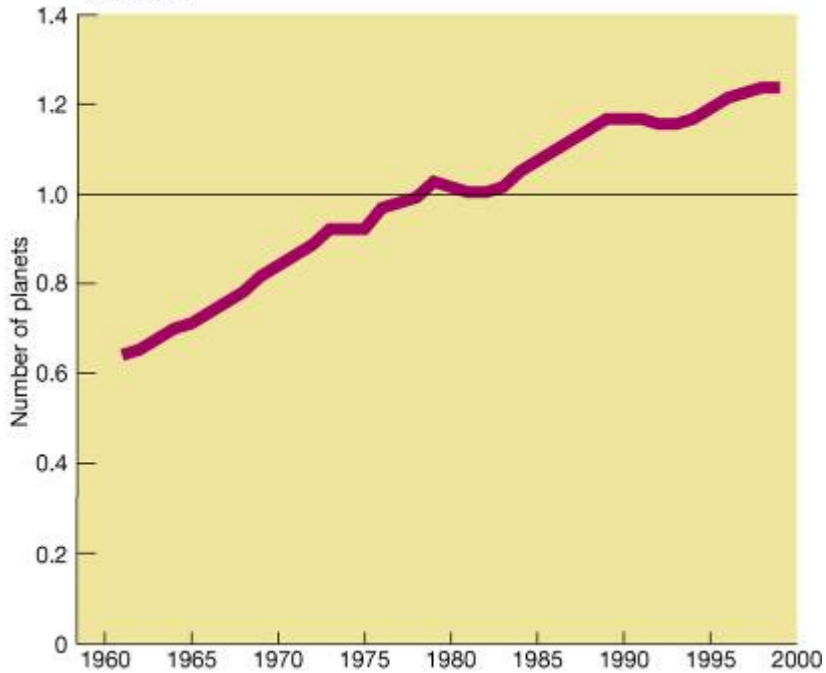




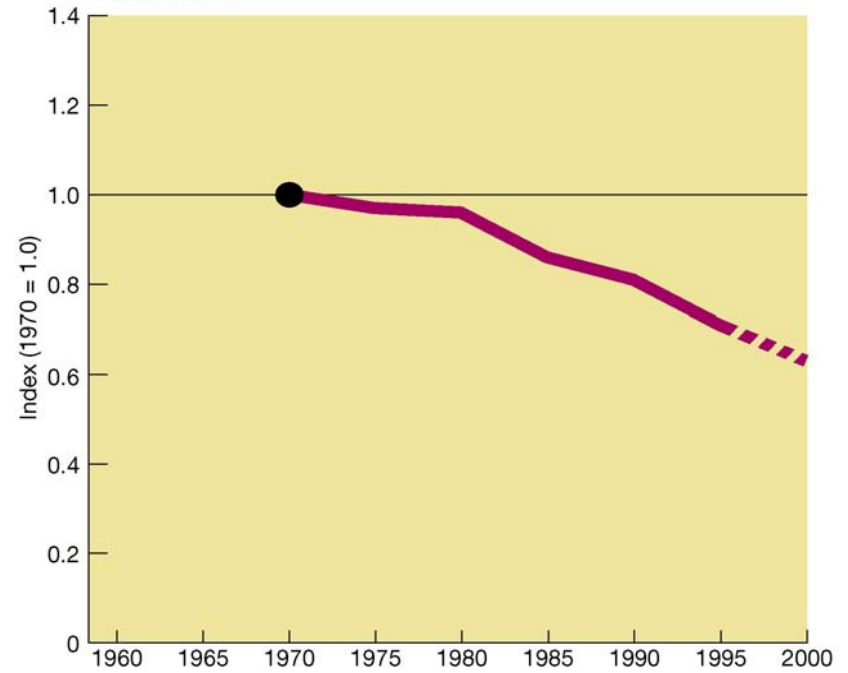


Our challenge

**WORLD ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT,
1961-99**

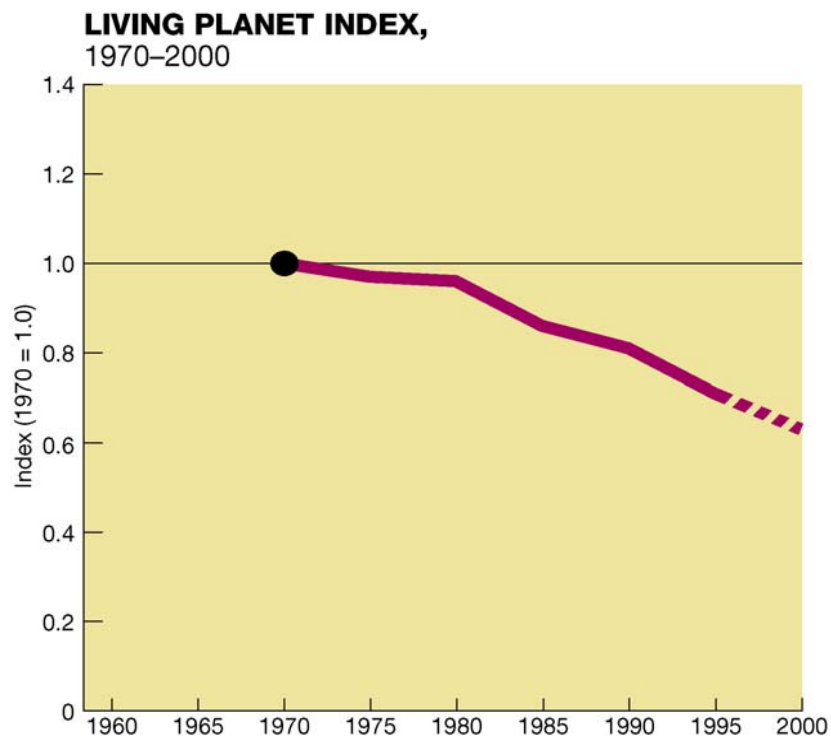


**LIVING PLANET INDEX,
1970-2000**





A global crisis, an EU crisis



1000 x natural extinction rate

In Europe:

- 42% of mammals endangered,
- 80% of Danube wetlands lost
- Collapsing fish stocks





Why should we care?

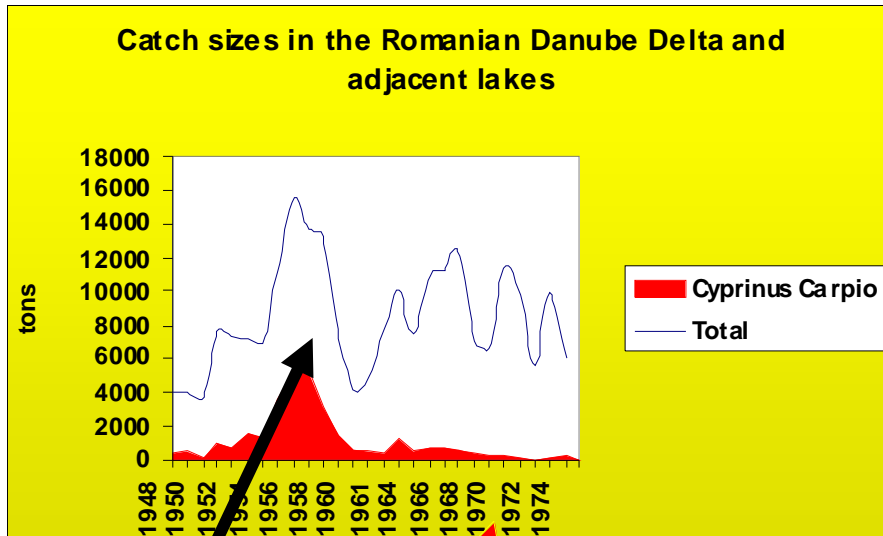
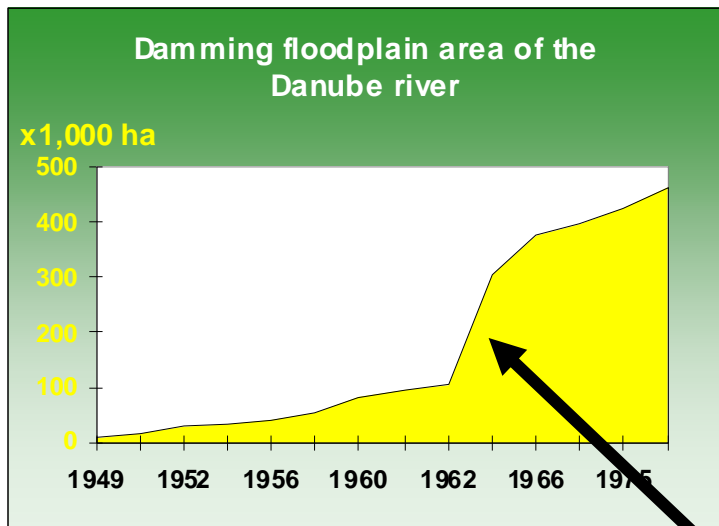


Biodiversity provides crucial...

- Goods (food, wood, fiber...)
- Services (clean water, climate regulation...)
- Genetic reserves – our insurance policy



Loss of wetlands, loss of fish



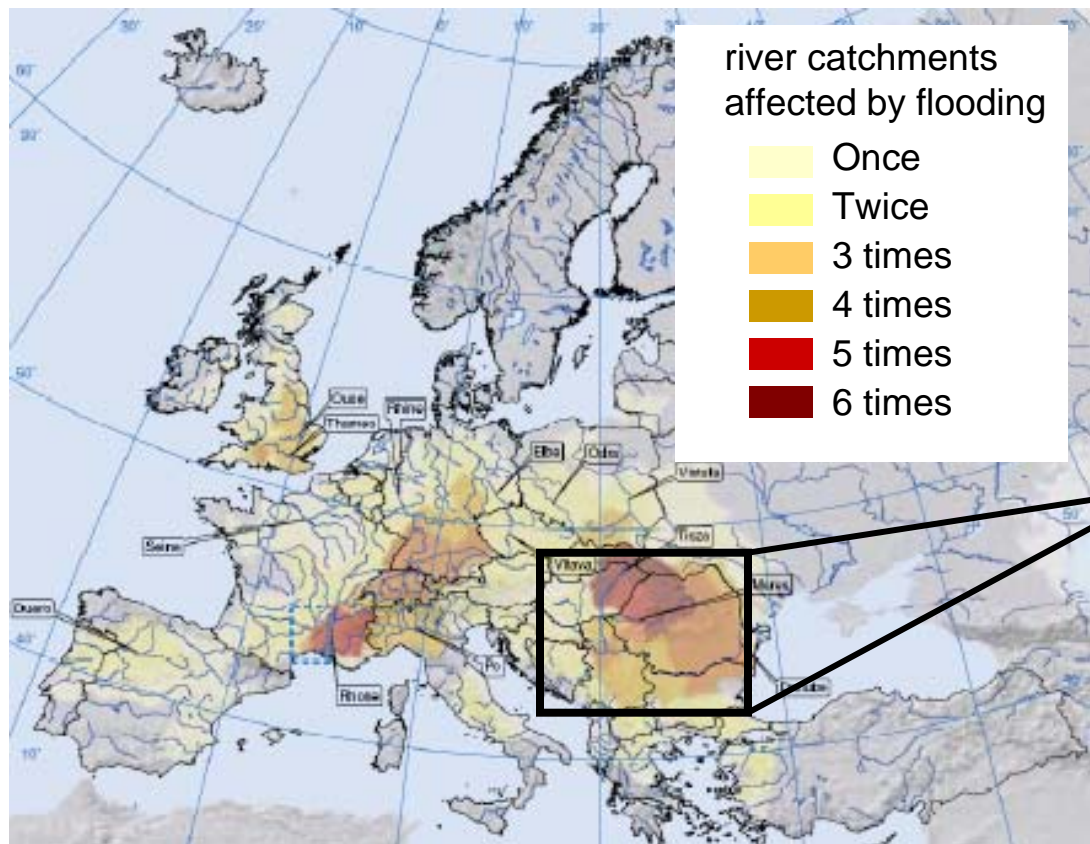
Source: Danube Delta Institute 2007

- corresponding loss of fish breeding areas
- corresponding loss of fish catch in the Danube Delta





Floods in Europe, 1998-2002



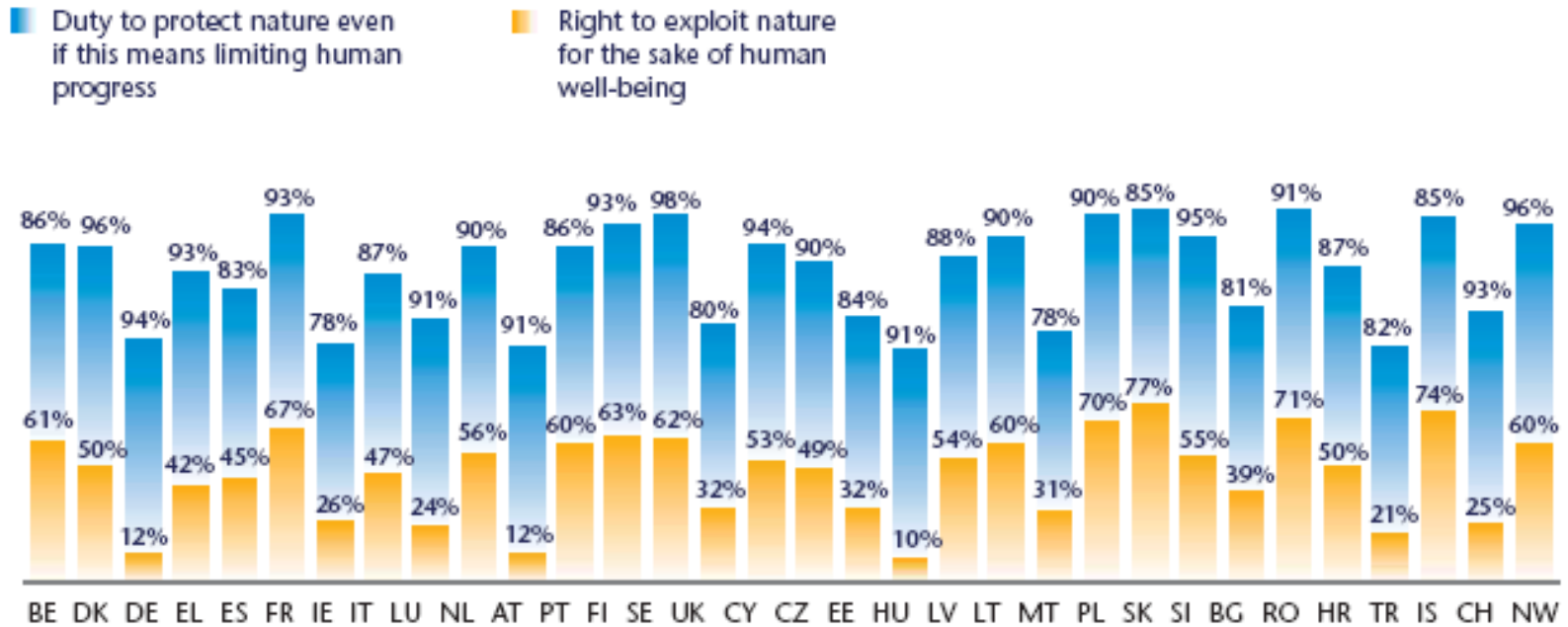
Hungary & Romania were hit the most times by flooding

Source: EEA 2005, refereeing to ETC/TE, 2003





People *do* care



Source: 2005 Eurobarometer survey





EU Commitment



- Long-term sustainable development
- Stop the loss of biodiversity by 2010



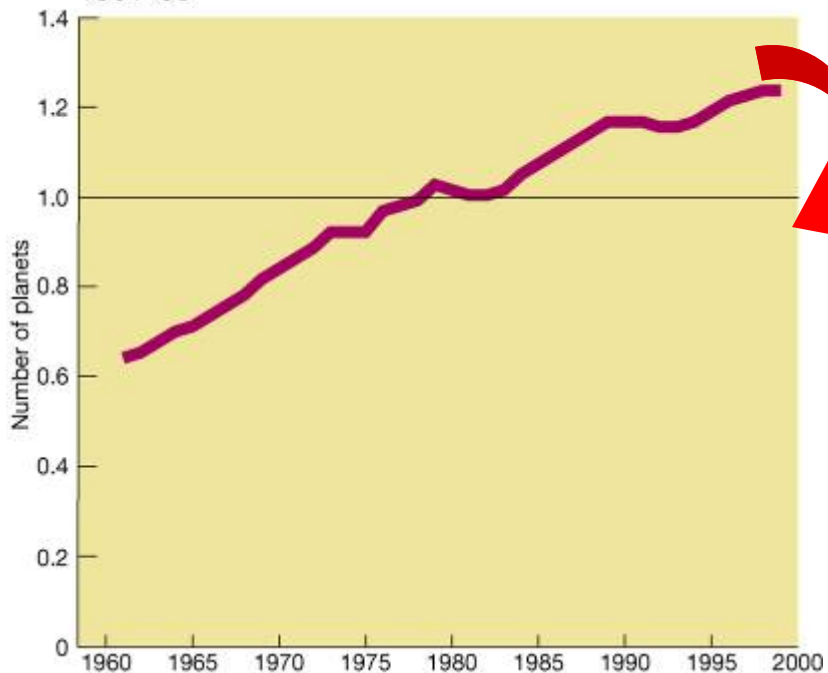


How?

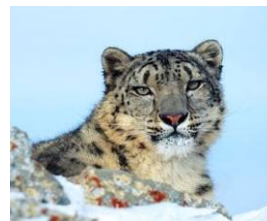
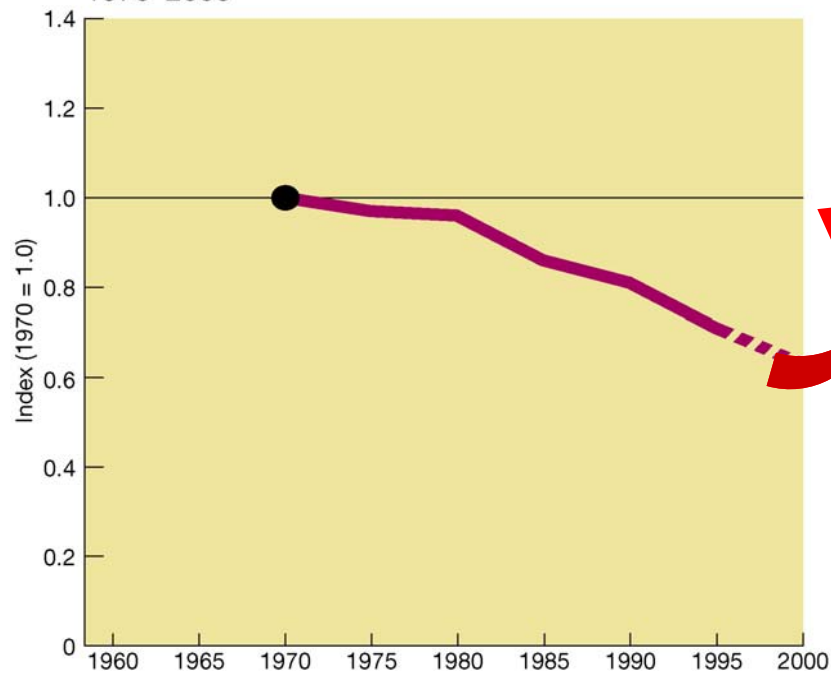


Our challenge

WORLD ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT, 1961-99



LIVING PLANET INDEX, 1970-2000





How?

By reducing our ecological footprint

- e.g. Integrating environment into sectors, e.g. agriculture, transportation, energy...

By creating a “safety net for nature”

- Birds and Habitats Directives – establishing the EU’s Natura 2000 network





EU Birds and Habitats Directives

- The cornerstones of the EU's legislation on nature conservation
- Key instruments for achieving the Community objectives of halting biodiversity loss and long-term sustainable development.
- Provide a mechanism for identifying, maintaining and protecting Europe's most valuable and threatened species and habitats.
- Provide a mechanism for mediating potential conflicts between nature and humans.
- Help to develop win-win solutions that can benefit humans while preserving the natural assets upon which we depend.





Natura 2000

Preserving the web of life
for the benefit of nature *and* humans