

Environmental Opportunities in Rural Development 2007/13



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Major CAP (first pillar) changes pre 1980 to 2005

➤ Pre 1980s:

- Freedom to produce.
- Highly protected Community markets.
- Elimination of internal border restrictions -> prelude to single market.
- Leading to substantial increase in output and emerging budgetary problems.
- Environment a local issue but not on European level.

➤ Post 2005:

- "Largely" freedom to produce (or not).
- Much less protected Community markets.
- Direct historically related producer support within tightening budget framework and cross-compliance.
- Cross-compliance to other policies including environment.
- Leading to be seen???

In between is very interesting.

Intervening CAP reforms

- Supply management (milk quota 1984)
- Support quotas (beef, sheep, arable incl. set-aside 1992)
- Transfer of support from product to producer (notably 1992, 1999)
- Stricter budgetary control (1984, 1987 stabiliser, 1992, 1999)
- Greater recognition of world trade issues since 1986

with

- Gradual recognition of environmental issues mid 80s and notably in 1992 with introduction of very tentative cross-compliance, some environmental elements in sectoral policies and agri-environment measures as part of farming.

and finally

- More formal approach to rural development from 1999.

Farming through policy period

Farming developed within this pre 1980s framework

and

has adjusted to the intervening partial reforms

but

the environmental consequences of early production certainties and absence of environmental baseline then are still visible.

Environmental problems raised by changing farming situation and practice

Water: Nitrates, phosphates, pesticides, depletion due to irrigation, sedimentation.

Air: Ammonia, greenhouse gases (methane and nitrous oxide), pesticides.

Soil: Erosion, declining organic matter, contamination, compaction.

Biodiversity: Habitat disturbance and destruction, decline in farmland birds.

Landscape: Threatened by intensification and land abandonment. Removal/change of features contributing to protection of water, soil, biodiversity.

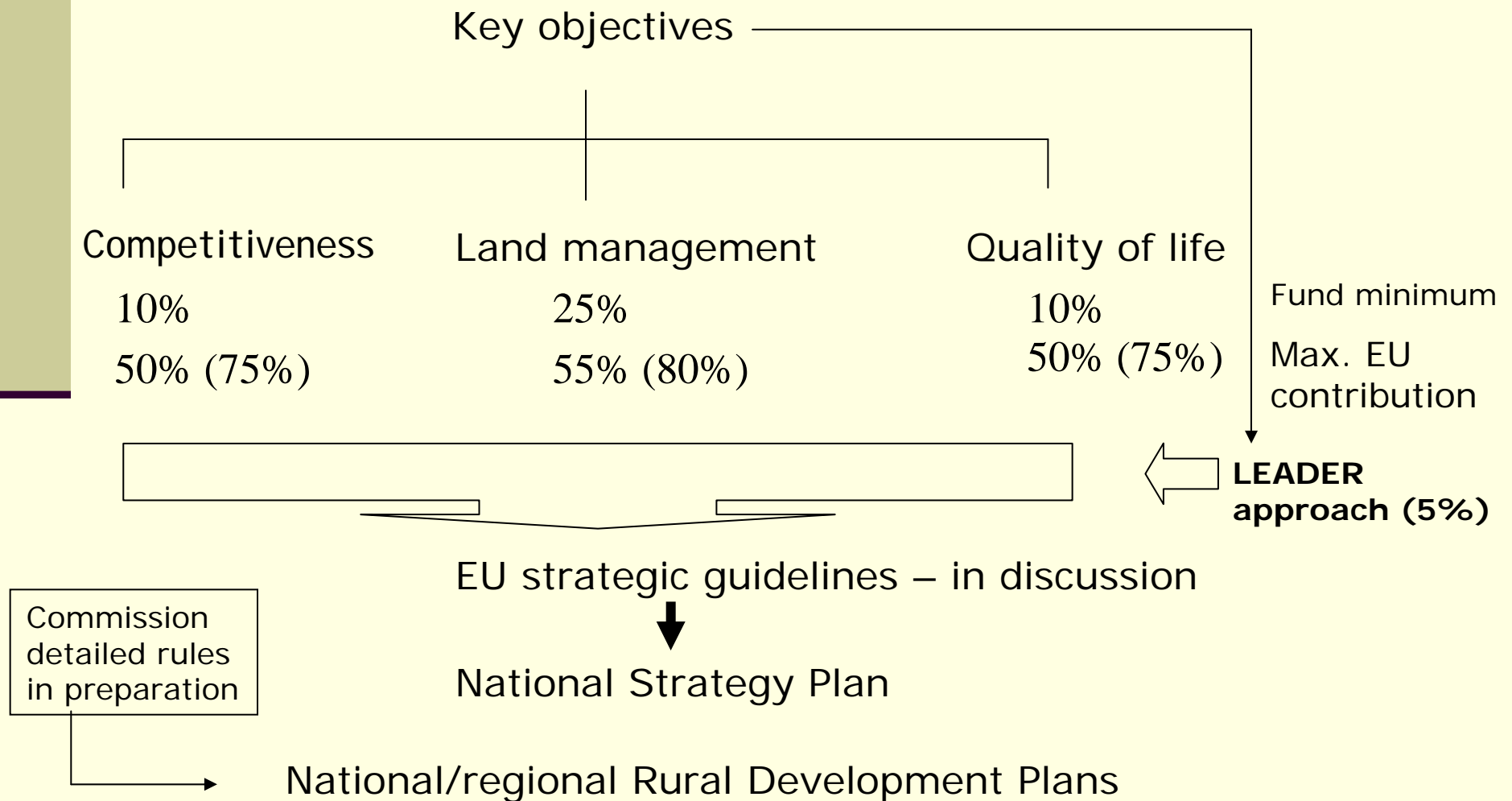
NB: Many positive aspects: CO₂ sequestration, soil protection, protection of landscape etc.

AND

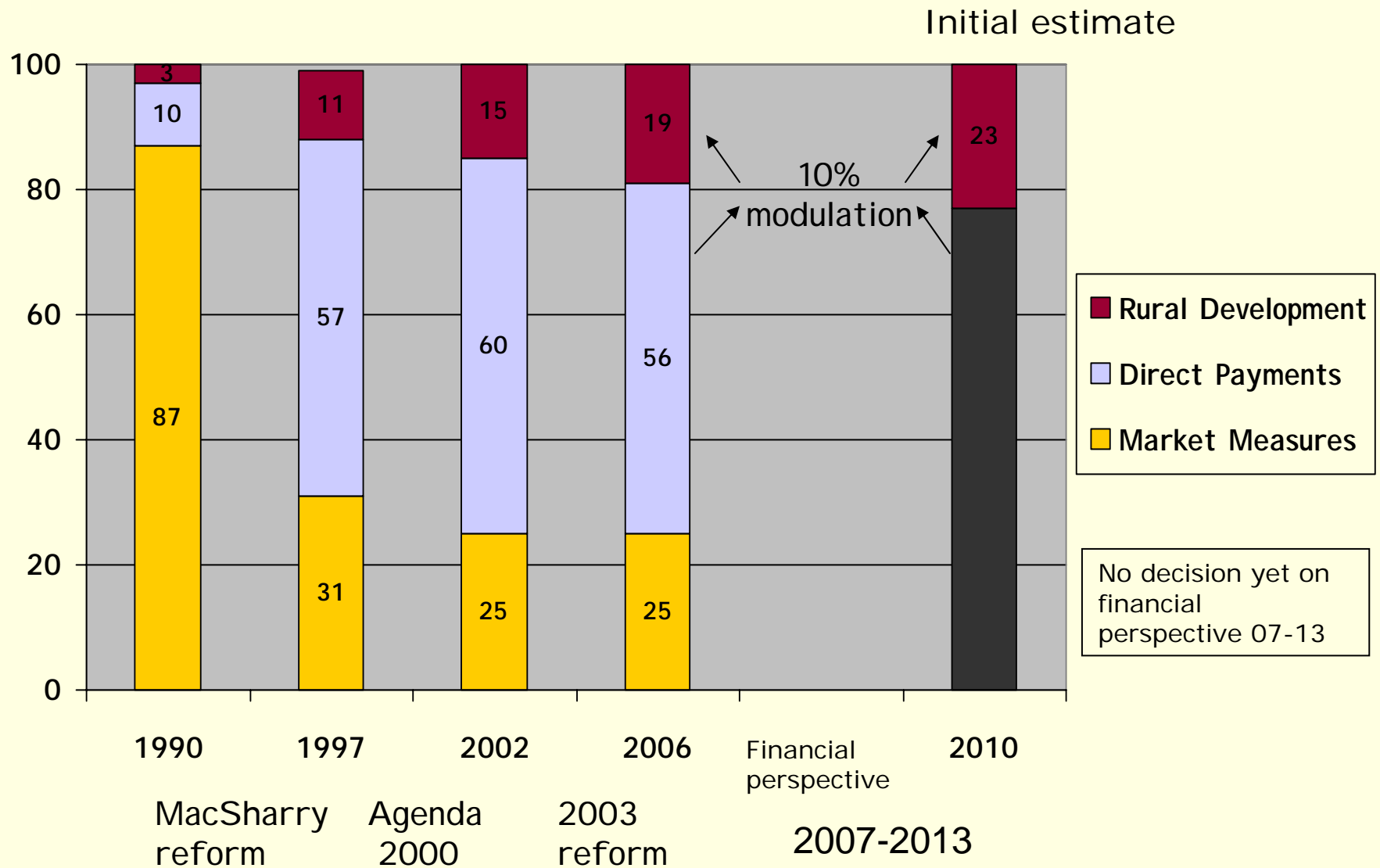
Don't forget – we need food

-> 6.3 billion people now, 9 billion by 2050 (?)...Agricultural land is scarce accounting for just 15.7% of Earth's surface.

Rural development 2007-2013 – Council regulation



Estimate of CAP % spending (EAGGF Guarantee + Guidance)

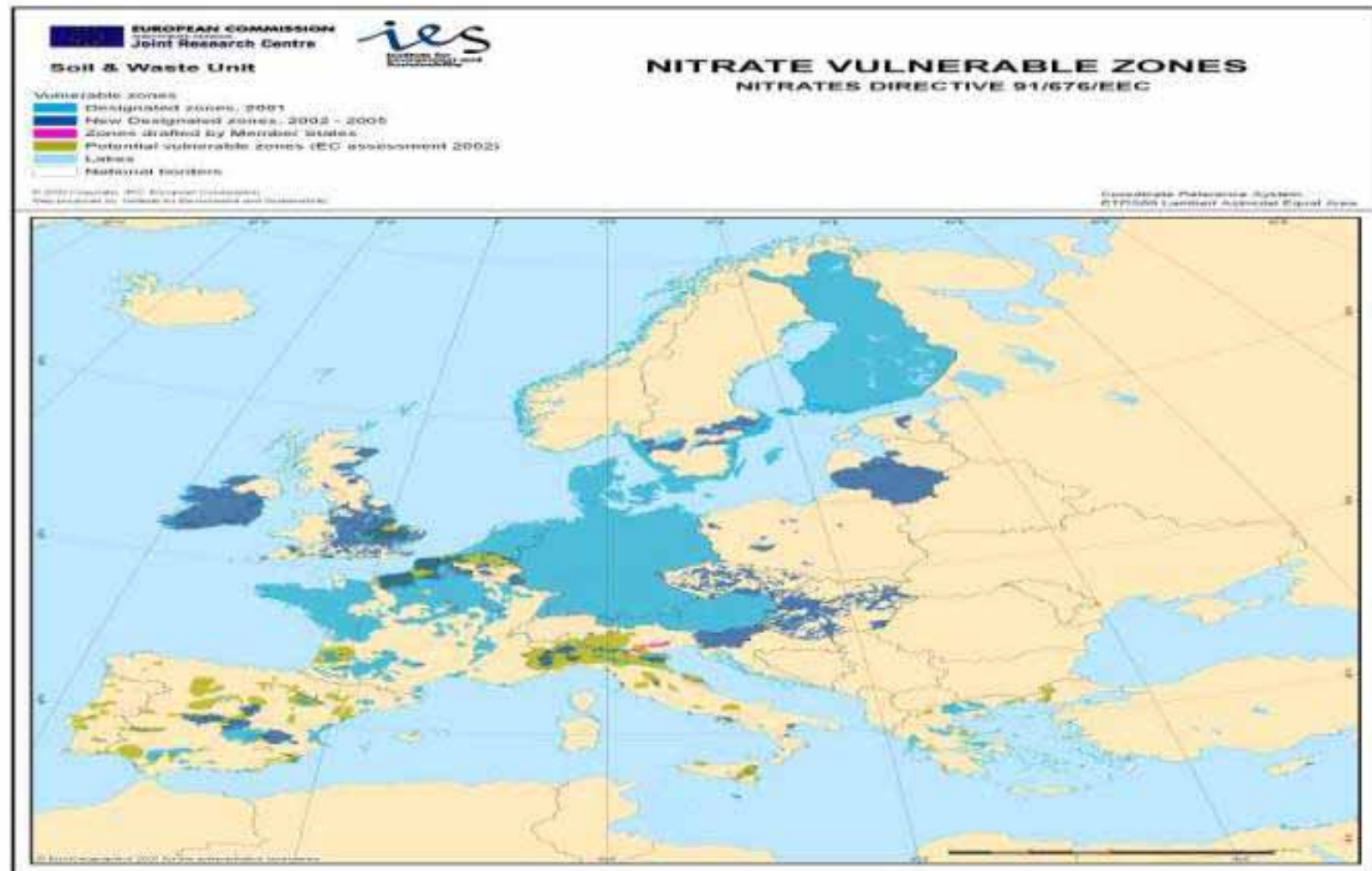


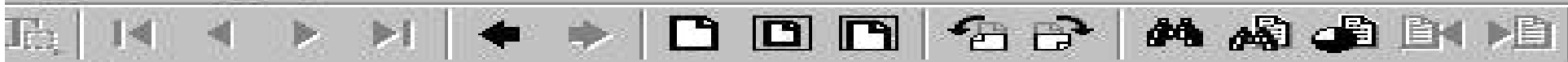
Current environmental themes

- Water protection – mainly implementation of nitrates and water framework directive from 2009.
- Biodiversity – implementation of NATURA 2000 and reversal of biodiversity decline trend by 2010.
- Climate/Air – Implementation of Kyoto and beyond and of National Emissions Ceilings directive and beyond via thematic strategy.
- Soil – Preparation of Commission proposal for thematic strategy with possible framework directive.

AND natural resources, pesticides and waste strategies in preparation.

Nitrates Directive, Nitrate vulnerable zones (September 2005)





CATCHMENT-BASED INFORMATION SYSTEM

European Catchments and River Network



100 0 100 200 300 400 500 600 700 Kilometers

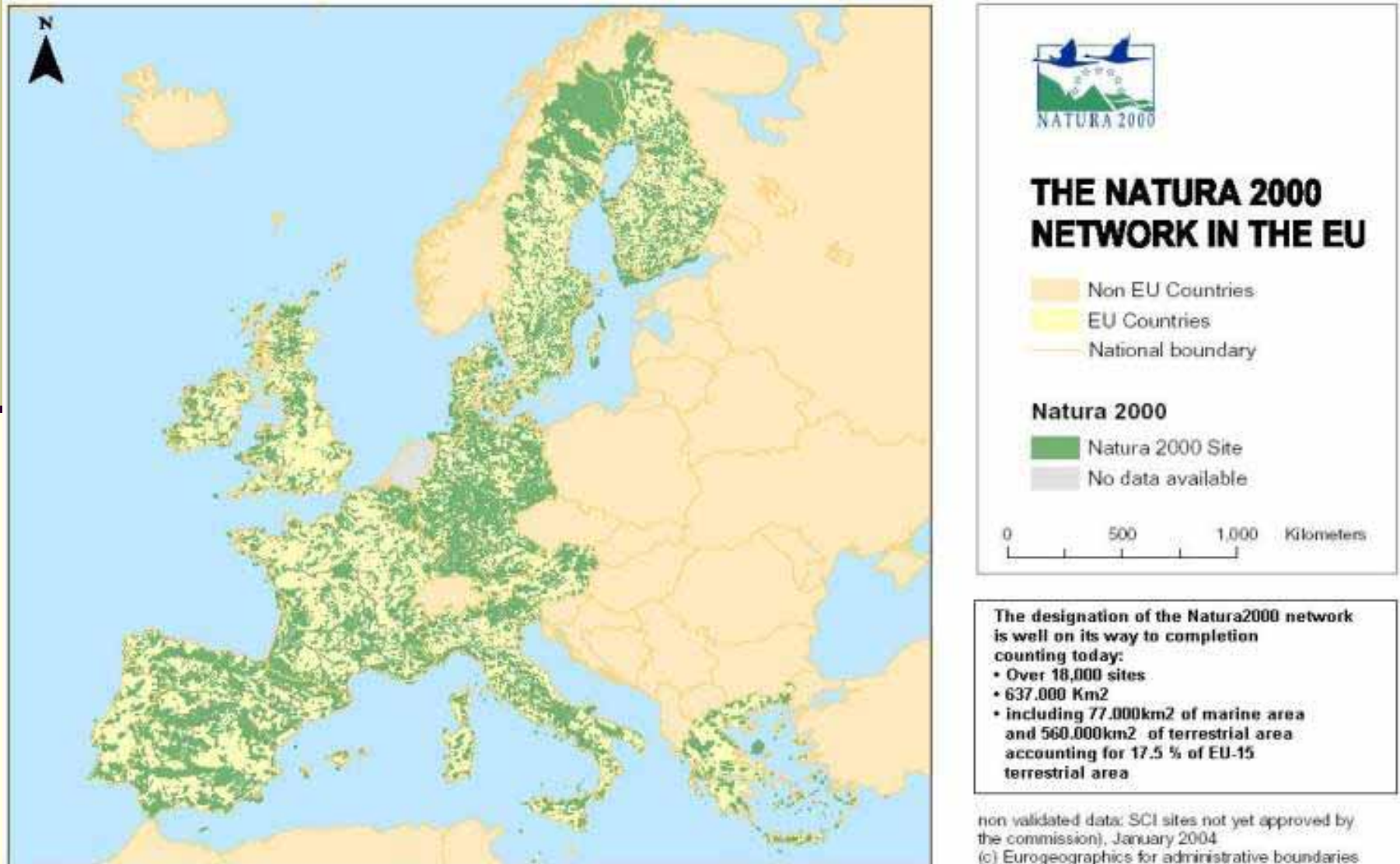
2000/04/22/07



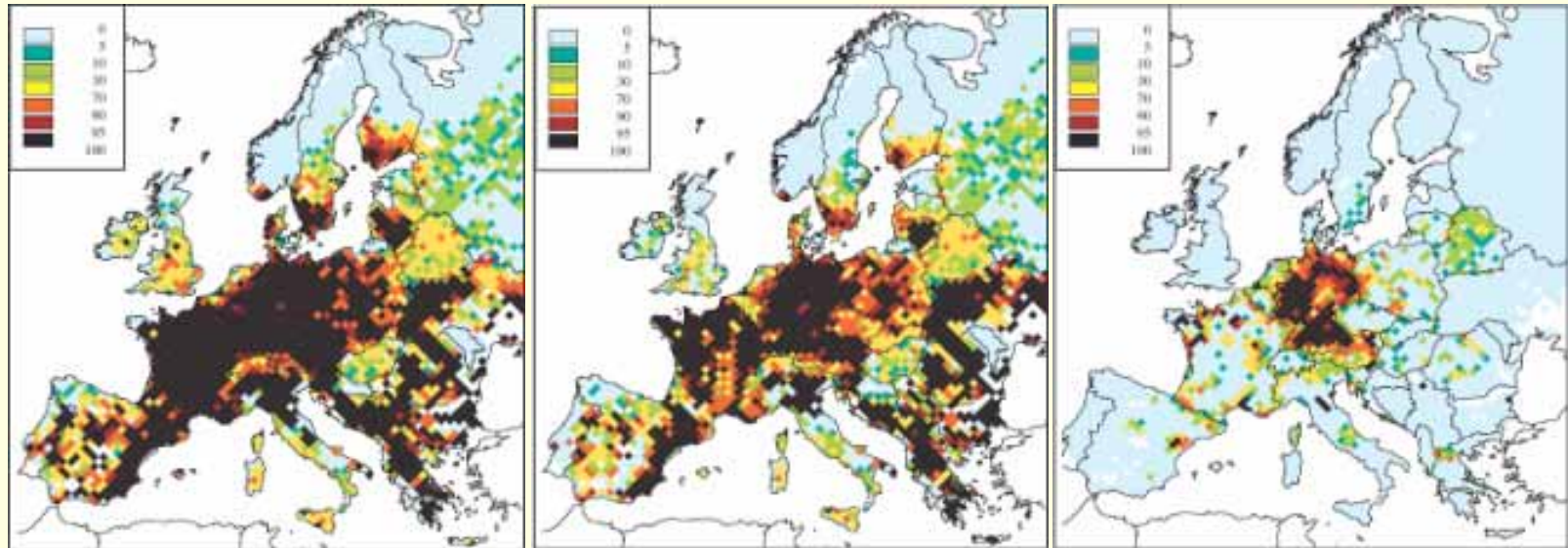
44,15 x 62,42 in



Map of NATURA 2000 network in EU15



Excess of critical loads for eutrophication



2000

2010

2020

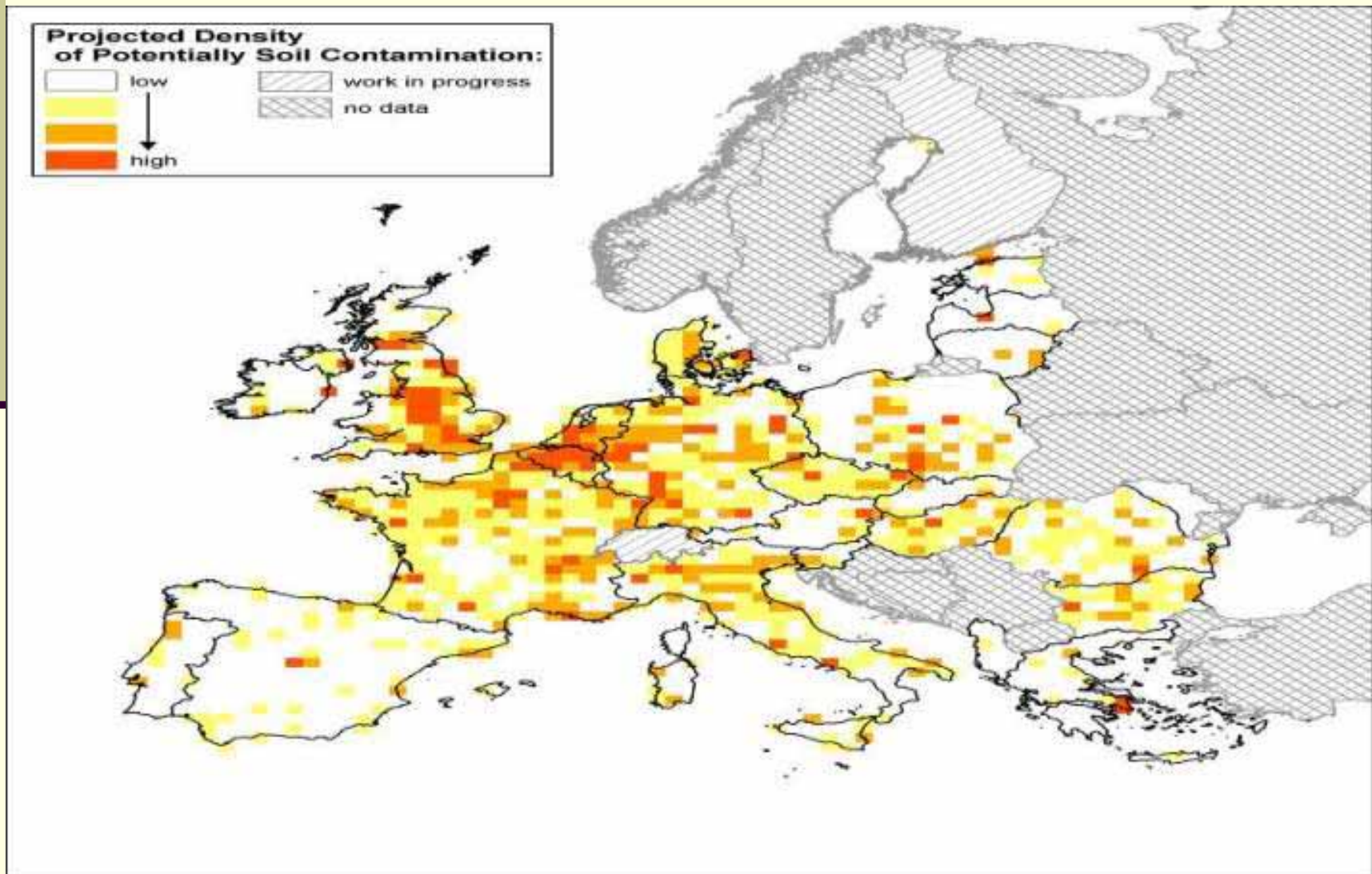
Current legislation

Max. feas. reductions

Percentage of ecosystems area with nitrogen deposition above critical loads using grid-average deposition. Calculation for 1997 meteorology.



23/11/2005



Importance of cross-compliance

First to second CAP pillars

- Central role with respect to environmental and other legislative relationships of agriculture.
- Pivotal role with respect to:
 - Excessive concentration and intensification
 - Avoiding land abandonment.
- Farmer – general society relationship.
- Replacing good farm practice in rural development 2007-13 with however strengthened basis for agri-environment.

But

Remainder of environmental legislation STILL APPLIES.

Environmental dimension to rural development

- 3 priorities
 - NATURA implementation + biodiversity trend reversal
 - Water protection
 - Contribution to climate change mitigation

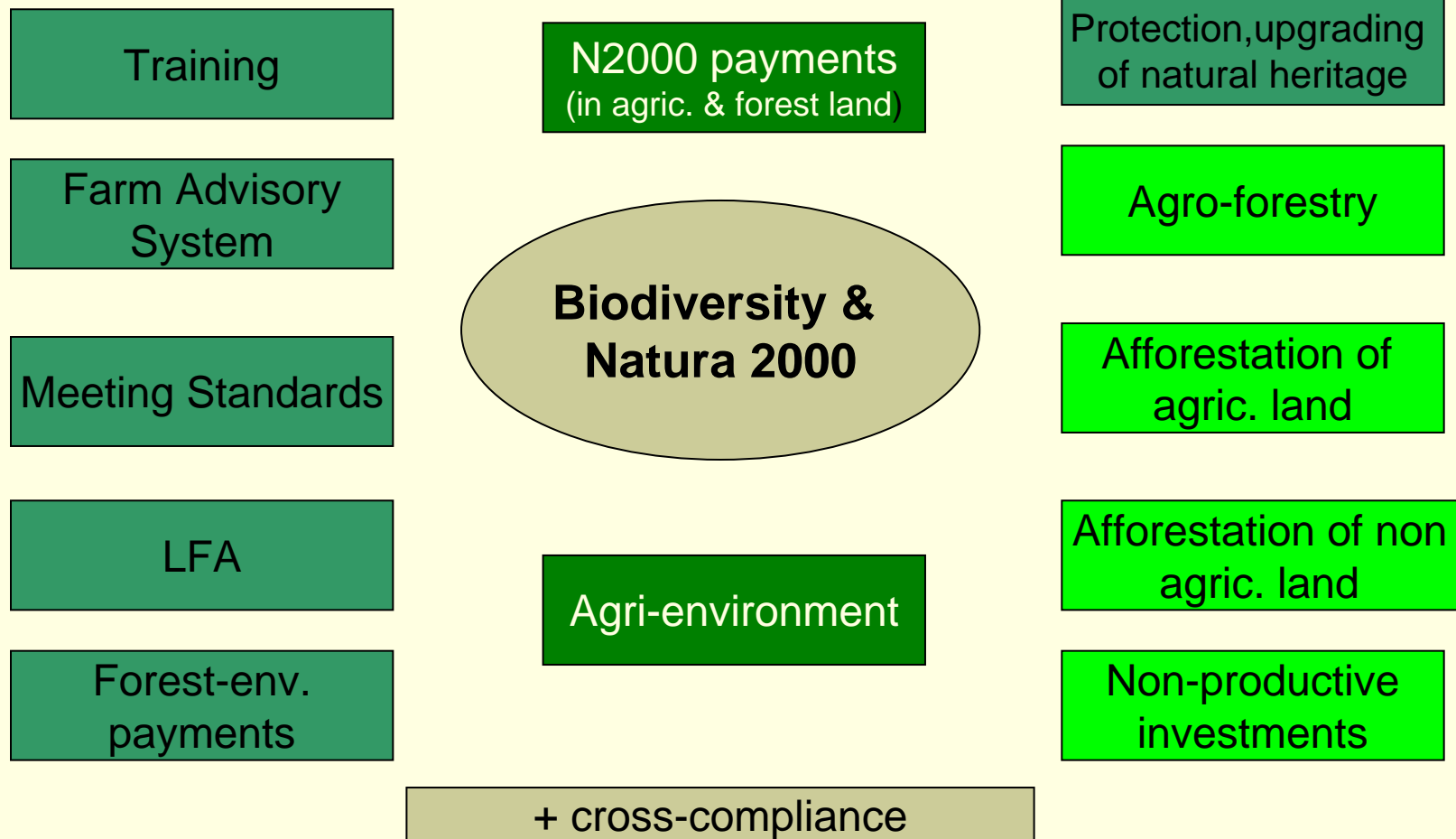
Critical to have good baseline of farm practice to ensure delivery of these goals.

Otherwise, we pay to reach a level of basic performance rather than a serious contribution to achieving aims.

Biodiversity & NATURA 2000 (1)

- The EU network of ~ 18.000 sites = 17.5% of the EU-15
- Aim: to maintain and enhance the biological diversity via promoting sustainable development
- Putting into practice - policy responses:
 - Göteborg conclusions: halt of loss of biodiversity
 - Biodiversity action plan for agriculture
 - Message from Malahide with its roadmap
 - A real RD challenge: designing & putting the mgt plans into place

Biodiversity and NATURA 2000 (2)

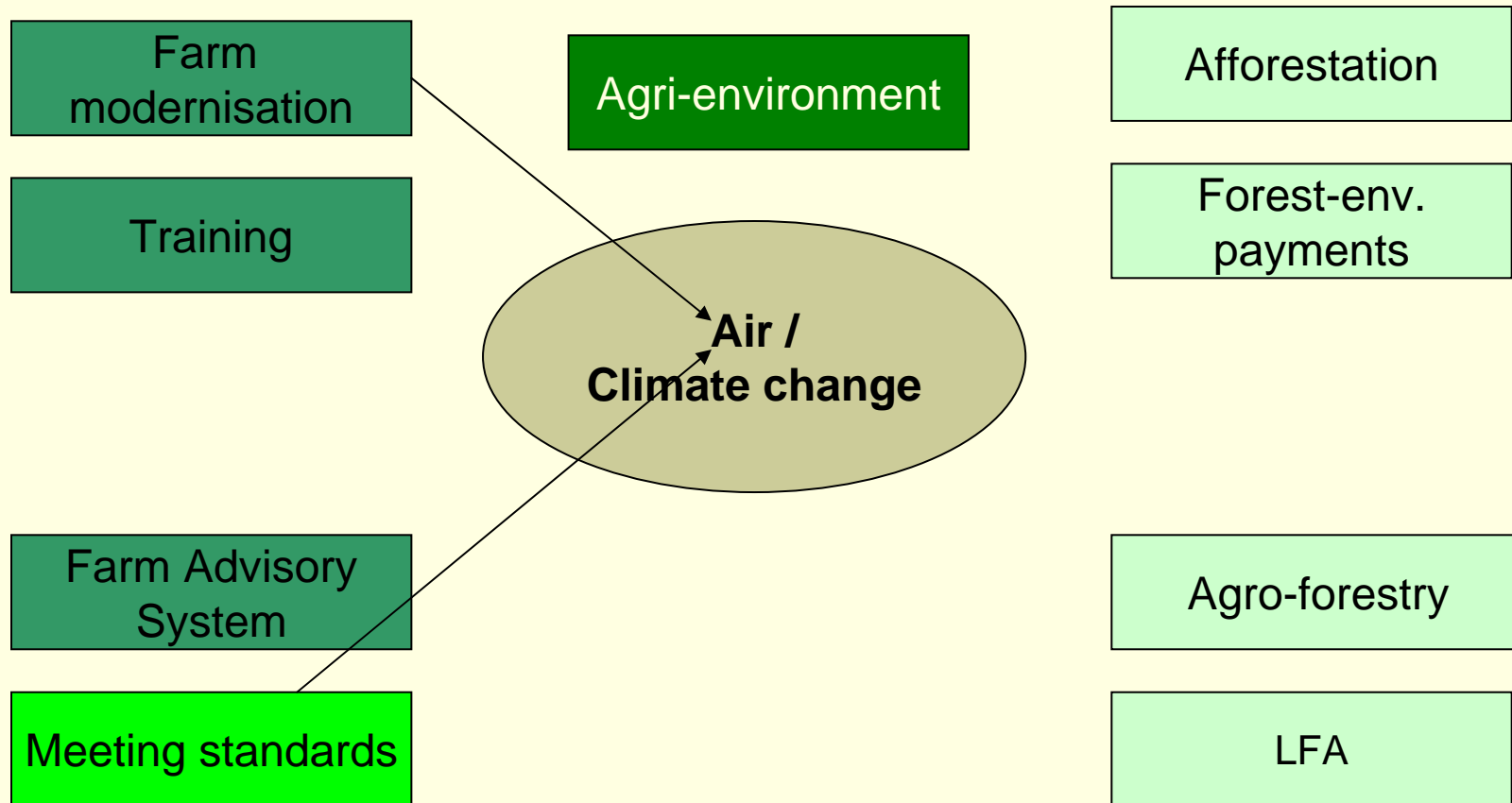


Air/Climate Change (1)

- Kyoto Protocol and goal of cutting greenhouse gas emissions of the EC to 8% below 1990 levels by 2008-2012
 - Reducing agriculture's contribution
10% of EU total; Methane and Nitrous Oxide.
 - Replacing fossil fuels
Energy crops support

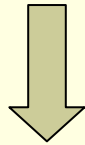
- NEC Directive and the Göteborg Protocol and goal of reducing ammonia emissions from agriculture (95% of NH₃ coming from this source)

Air/Climate Change (2)

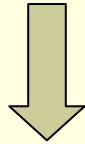


Water (1)

- Water Framework Directive with its objective of achieving good status of waters by 2015 via...

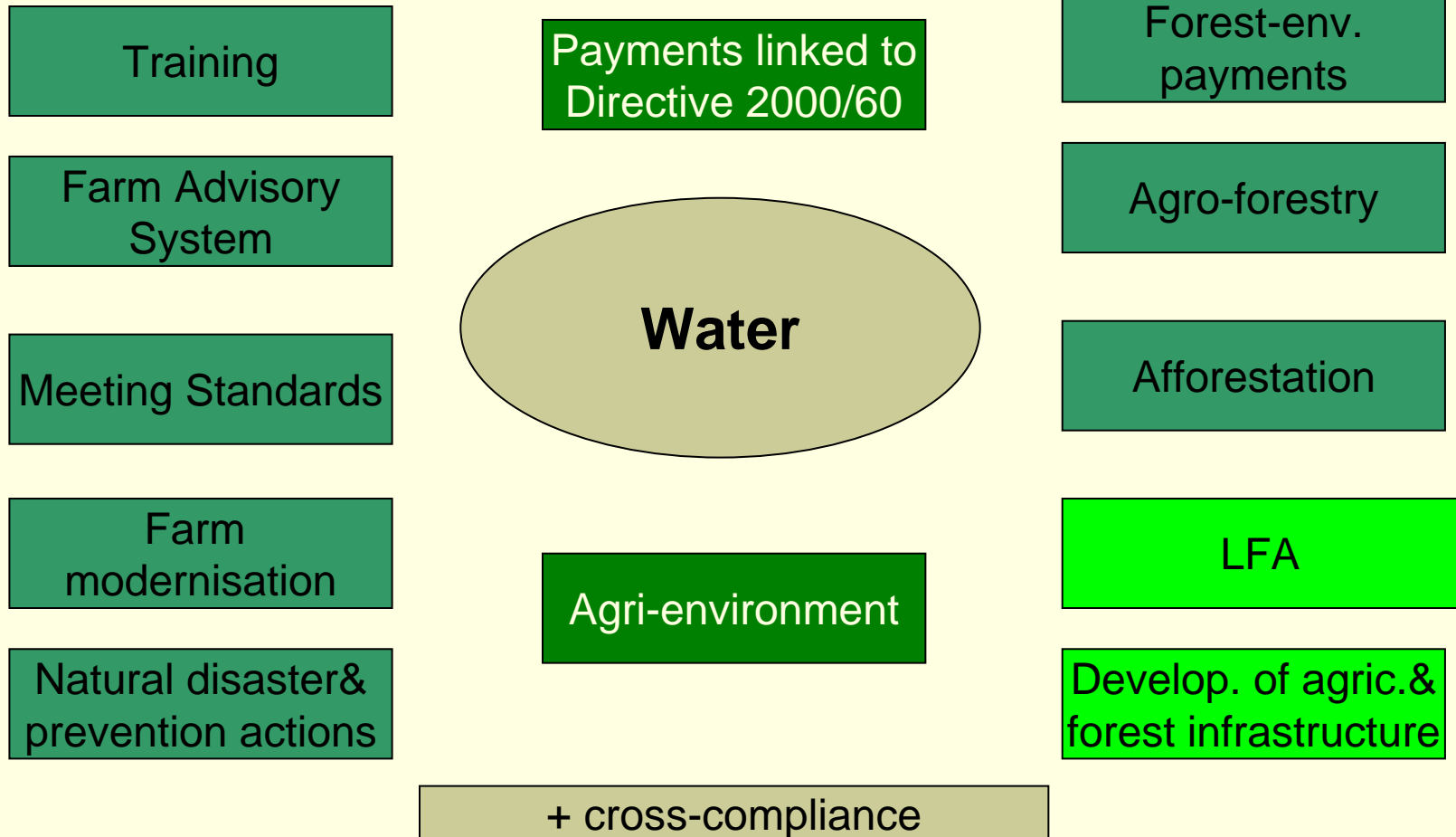


- River basin management plans to apply from 2009 therefore...



- Need to include measures for these plans already into RD Plans in 2007.

Water (2)



Soil (1)

- The current Annex IV of the R1782/2003 with its GAEC requirements regarding soil protection within farming (soil erosion, soil organic matter, soil structure, minimum level of maintenance and avoidance of deterioration of habitats)
- Forthcoming Thematic Soil Strategy

Soil (2)

Training

Farm Advisory System

LFA

Meeting standards

Afforestation

Soil

Agri-environment

Forest-env. payments

Agro-forestry

Farm modernisation

Restoring forestry potential & prevention

+ cross-compliance annex IV

Possible actions under certain RD measures (1)

Measures	Biodiversity/ N 2000	Air/Climate change	Water/Nitrates	Soil
Farm modernisation	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -biogas installations; -renewable energy; -animal housing (reduction of NH3): stable construction with reduced emissions; -liquid manure storage containers + coverage; -Spreader maintenance; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -water savings irrigation investment; -coverage of manure storage; -storage facilities; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -anti-erosion machinery;
Meeting standards	-all obligatory standards in relation to farming activities, as set by MS at farm level, based on requirements of nature directives;	- Machinery treatment of slurry;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -compulsory measures from mgt plans; -manure storage facilities; -manure application techniques; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -appropriate manure/sewage sludge application;
Less Favoured Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -prevention of land abandonment; -maintenance of sustainable farming (extensification) 	-maintenance of sustainable farming (agricultural extensification);	-maintenance of sustainable farming (extensification);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -prevention erosion; -maintenance of sustainable farming (extensification);

Possible actions under certain RD measures (2)

Measures	Biodiversity/N 2000	Air/Climate change	Water/Nitrates	Soil
Agri-environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -nature mgt (measures to protect specific species of flora&fauna) -reduction of input use: integrated plant/crop production; -organic farming; -mgt of linear features (hedges, stonewalls, river bank areas etc); -conversion of arable to grassland; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -increase carbon content in soil (sequestration); -reduced cultivation (tillage); -maintaining the permanent pastures; -stock density reduction; -reduction in use of fertilisers & PPP; -fertilisers free zones; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -buffer strips; -reduction of input (fertilisers, plant protection): integrated plant/crop production; -ground cover; -stocking density rate; -convert arable land to grassland; -fertilisers free zones; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Organic cover; -prevention erosion; -winter cover; - rotation of crops; -grassland strips; -greening arable land;
Forestry measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -forest mgt in N2000 areas; -ecological stability of forest; -prevention of forest fires; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -carbon sequestration; -GHG emissions; -energy from forest biomass & wood waste biomass; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -protection of freshwater resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -general soil protection; -prevention forest fires;
Natura payments	Positively influencing	the state of the natural	resources (interrelations	between the measures)
Training/ FAS	Spreading knowledge	on the environmentally	friendly farming practices	and land management

Challenges

➤ Strategies and programmes

- Consistency with EU legislation and strategy in National Strategy and RD programme.

Requiring:

- A strong consultative process
- An excellent socio-economic and environmental description
- Interaction with other major themes – e.g. river basin management plans
- Linking solutions to priorities
- Synergies between overall objectives and different measures
- Correct financial balance

Conclusions

- Rural development 2007-13 is not a roll-over of current period.
- It takes place against background of totally changed CAP pillar I.
- It sets objectives in key areas through a strategic approach mainly based on existing Member State commitments.
- It provides a menu to achieve objectives rather than a series of individual measures – choose carefully.
- Environmentally – the choice must suit the needs.

Annex: Summary table: relevance of some rural development measures for specific environmental policy areas.

Measure		Relevance for the following environmental policy areas:							
Subject	Air emission	Biodiversity	Climate change	NATURA 2000	Nitrates	PPPs	Soil	Water	Natural resources
Axis 1: Competitiveness									
Training	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++
Young farmers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Use of FAS	+	+++	+	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++
Farm modernisation	+++	+	++	+	+++	+++	++	+++	+++
Adding value to primary production	+	0	+	0	0	+	0	+	+
Meeting standards	++	+++	+	+++	+++	+++	++	+++	++

Annex: Summary table: relevance of some rural development measures for specific environmental policy areas.

Measure		Relevance for the following environmental policy areas:							
Subject	Air emission	Biodiversity	Climate change	NATURA 2000	Nitrates	PPPs	Soil	Water	Natural resources
Axis 2: Land management									
LFA-mountains + other areas	+	+++	+	+++	++	++	++	++	++
NATURA 2000 + WFD	+	+++	+	+++	0	+++	+	+	+
Agri-environment	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	++
Non-productive investments	+	+	+	+++	+	+	+	+	+
Afforestation of agric. land	+	++	++	++	0	0	+++	+++	+++
Agroforestry	+	++	+	++	0	0	+++	+++	+++
Afforestation of non agric. land	+	++	+	++	0	0	+++	+++	+++
NATURA 2000	+	+++	+	+++	0	+++	+	+	+
Forest-environment payments	+	+++	+	++	0	0	+++	+++	+++
Restoring forestry prod. & prevention	+	+	+	+	0	0	+	+	+
Non-productive investments	+	+	+	+	0	0	+	+	+

NB: LFA review foreseen

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Measure		Relevance for the following environmental policy areas:							
Subject	Air emission	Biodiversity	Climate change	NATURA 2000	Nitrates	PPPs	Soil	Water	Natural resources
Axis 3: Quality of life in rural areas									
Diversification of activities	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+
Business creation	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tourism activities		+		+					
Conservation, upgrading of the natural heritage	+	+++	+	+++	0	0	++	++	++
Basic services	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vocational training	0	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	0
Skills acquisition & animation	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0