

Sustainable *Eel* Group, 31 May 2016, Fishmongers Hall, London



The European Eel as a flagship species for EU water policy and migratory fish

Wetlands International – European Association

Cy Griffin



Wetlands International

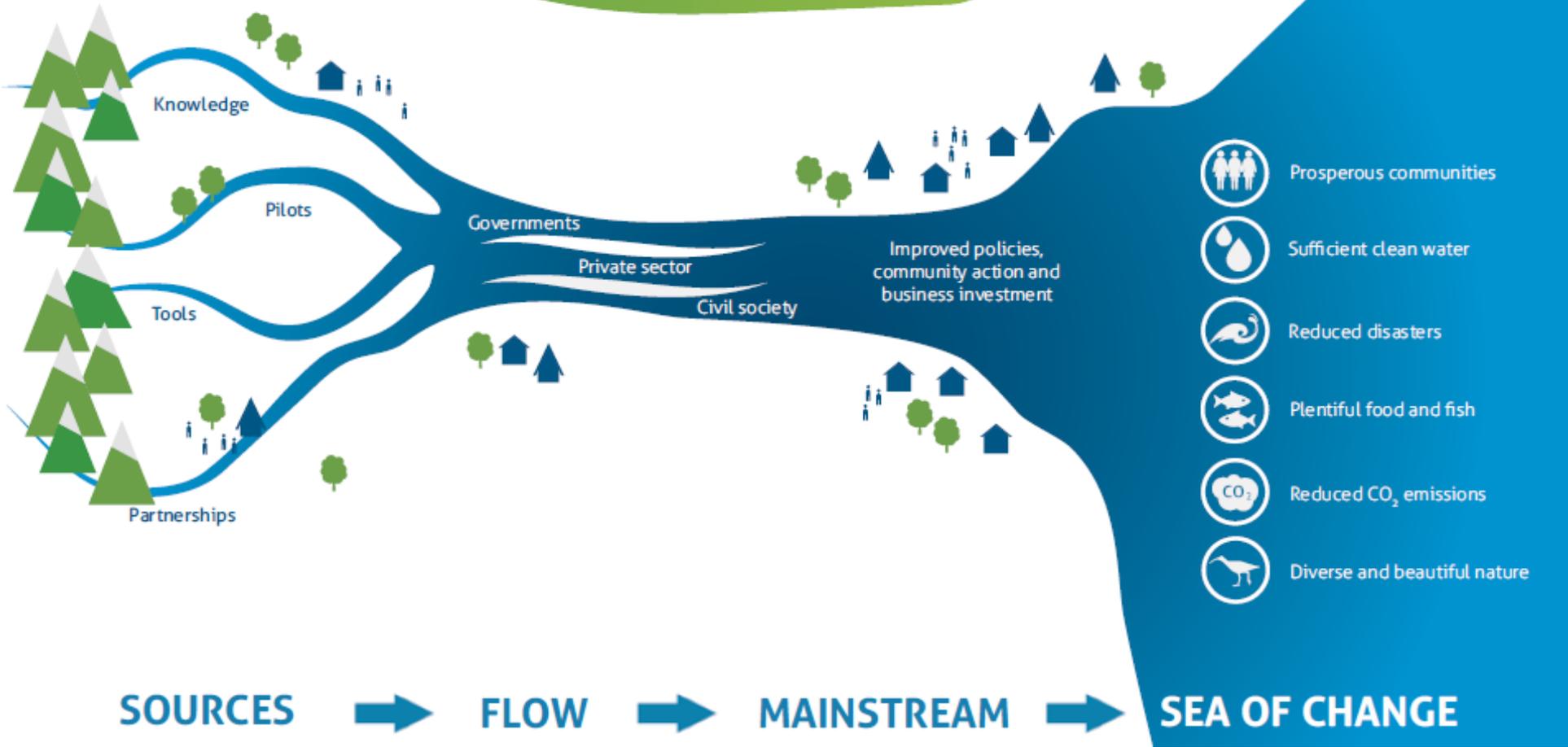
Introduction

Our vision and mission

Our **vision** is that of a world where wetlands are treasured and nurtured for their beauty, the life they support and the resources they provide.

Our **mission** is to sustain and restore wetlands, their resources and biodiversity

How we work...



Wetlands matter → They act as **water** sources, sinks and purifiers. Are a source of plentiful **food** & fish. They support abundant and unique **nature**. Are engines for the local **economy**. They buffer and mitigate **disaster risks**. And are the Earth's greatest natural **carbon stores**.

Wetlands International

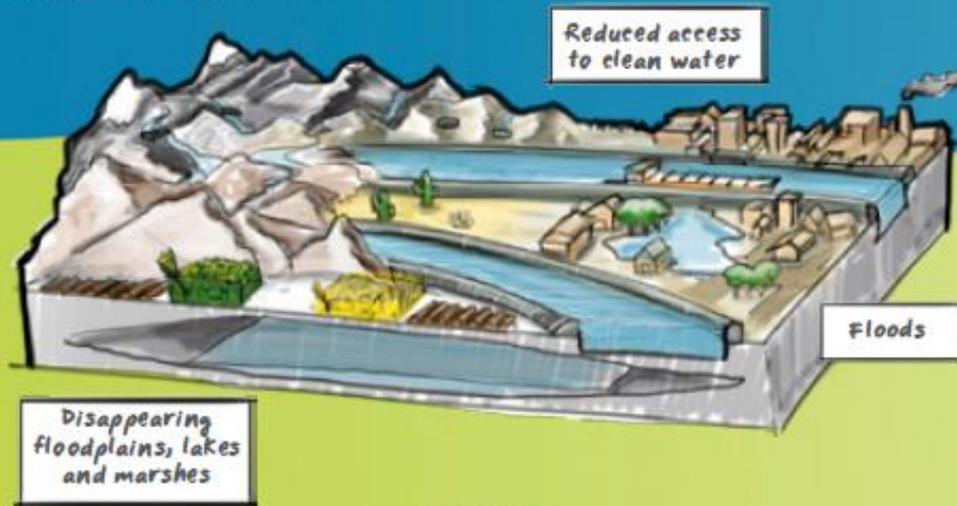
Introduction

Our Strategic Intent 2015-2025 has 5 streams:

1. Healthy Wetland Nature
2. Vibrant Coasts and Deltas
3. Blue Lifelines in the Desert
- 4. Replenished Water Stores from Mountains to Sea**
5. Peatland Treasures Safeguarded and Restored

Replenished Water Stores from Mountains to Sea

The current situation:



Develop business cases for wetlands as natural infrastructure



Demonstrate innovative wetland solutions to water management challenges



Influence water policies and investments



-  Prosperous communities
-  Sufficient clean water
-  Reduced disasters
-  Plentiful food and fish
-  Reduced CO₂ emissions
-  Diverse and beautiful nature

Replenished Water Stores from Mountains to Sea - Vision for the future

The degradation of wetlands of critical importance for water storage from mountains to sea is reversed. They will feed the rivers with water, reduce the risk of harmful flooding and provide the renewable opportunities for biodiversity. A more productive and safer landscape for millions of people and nature down stream.

Wetlands International – European Association

Brings together 8 members with strong focus on river restoration. Promoting conservation and sustainable use of wetlands for people and nature, by linking science, policy and practice



Sustainable
Eel Group



euRONATUR



The European Eel – Policy landscape

IUCN Red List assessment:

- **Critically Endangered** (2006–Not Evaluated, 2008 - CR)

Legal Status:

- CITES – Annex II
- Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97 ‘Wildlife Trade’– Annex B
- Barcelona Convention Protocol – Annex III
- OSPAR Convention – threatened species
- Helsinki Convention – threatened species Baltic
- Bonn Convention (CMS) – Appendix II (since 2014)

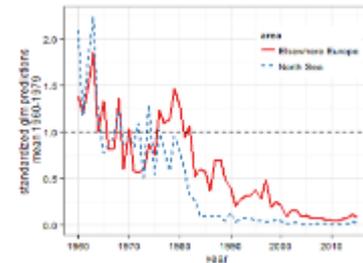
Regulated by:

- Council Regulation (EC) 1100/2007 ...“framework for the protection and sustainable use of the stock of European eel” .. Eel Management Plans.. 60% of eels less than 12cm for restocking...escapement to sea of at least 40% of sliver eels...

The European Eel – Policy landscape

Indirect legislative links:

- **Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97 ‘EU Wildlife Trade Regulation’**
 - Directive 2008/99/EC - protection of the environment through criminal law
- **Council Regulation (EC) 1100/2007 – “EU Eel Regulation”**
 - EU Habitats Directive
 - EU Water Framework Directive



11th MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
Quito, Ecuador, 4-9 November 2014
Agenda Item 21.1.1

➤ So what is missing?

**PROPOSAL FOR THE INCLUSION OF
THE EUROPEAN EEL (*Anguilla anguilla*) ON CMS APPENDIX II**

European Commission
FISHERIES
European Commission > Fisheries > Marine species > ... > Eel > National eel management plan

Maritime Affairs Fisheries Atlantic Fisheries Council

Fisheries

Home
Policy
Advisory bodies

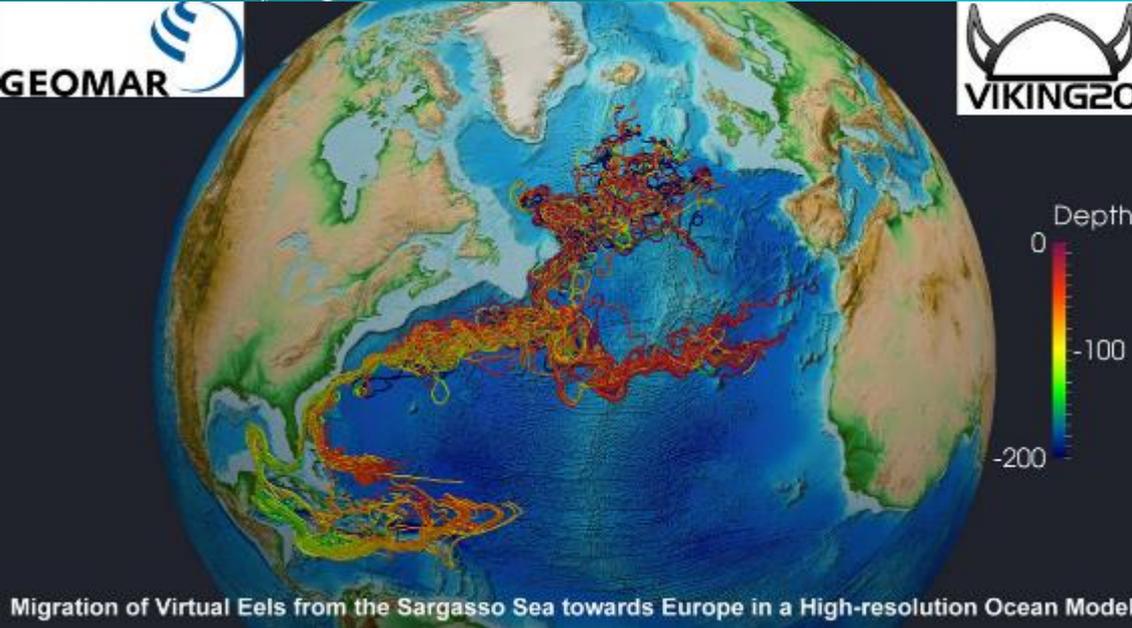
National eel management plan

The European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*) is a species of eel that is native to the European continent. It is a highly migratory species, and its population has declined significantly in recent years. In 2011, the recruitment level of glass eels was estimated to be 10% of the level in 1980.

J. Mitchel

ZSL

The European Eel – a great PR story



SWIMWAYS OF THE WORLD
Fish migration around the globe

home > environment climate change wildlife energy pollution
Environment
Guardian Environment
blogs

Illegal eel: who is pilfering Europe's catch?

In part two of the eel saga, I take a more detailed look at how the pieces of trade fit together, and what's being done to combat it.

Emma Bryce

Thursday 11 March 2016 11:21 (UTC)

150 Shares 5 Comments

Save for later

The top section features a graphic titled 'SWIMWAYS OF THE WORLD' showing a world map with various fish species and migration routes. Below this is a screenshot of a Guardian Environment article titled 'Illegal eel: who is pilfering Europe's catch?' by Emma Bryce, dated Thursday 11 March 2016. The article snippet discusses the eel trade and mentions 'part two of the eel saga'. Below the article text is a close-up photograph of a European eel swimming over a rocky, algae-covered seabed.

Closing remarks

- **Conserving wetland ecosystems, including restoring natural river features and unblocking river barriers provides multiple benefits**
- **An all inclusive stakeholder approach is key to solving the Eel issue (approach by SEG & Wetlands International)**
- **For the Eel, the legislative tool box is pretty full – implementation and enforcement is needed**
- **Incentives are often an effective route to real results on the ground**
- **The amazing life history of the Eel and its plight make a good story**
- **What is good for the Eel is good for European wetlands and people. It is not competition with other priorities.**

Thanks...

Stay in touch:

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 Wetlands International

 @WetlandsInt

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