The role of restored quarries and EU green and blue infrastructure

Quarries alive international conference
02/05/18

H. Delgado Rosa
Director for Natural Capital
European Commission, DG Environment,
Belgium)
Structure of the presentation

1. Introduction: the EU policy context
2. Recent GI developments and new initiatives
3. The role of restored quarries in the EU green and blue infrastructure network
1. Introduction

Policy context

- Target 2 of EU Biodiversity strategy to 2020
- EU green infrastructure strategy
- Birds and Habitats Directives - N2000 backbone of EU Green and Blue infrastructure
- Action plan for nature, people and the economy (Action 12)
- Council conclusions and EP resolutions on GI
Commission Guidance on Non-Energy Extractive Industries (NEEI) & Natura 2000

- **Issued in 2011, triggered by COM Communication on Raw Materials**
- **Aim:** how extraction activities can be reconciled with Natura 2000
- **Key issues:**
  - Identify/mitigate effects of mines/quarries on nature
  - Positive contribution of NEEI to biodiversity
  - Value of Strategic planning
  - Appropriate assessment of plans/projects - mitigation – streamlining with EIA/SEA
  - Marine extraction
  - Monitoring, stakeholder cooperation
- **Annex with good practices illustrating these issues**
2. Recent GI developments and new initiatives

- Under the **Action plan for nature, people & the economy** (2017-2019):
  - **EU Green Infrastructure strategy implementation review**: Q2 2018
  - Guidance on a strategic framework for further supporting the deployment of **EU-level green and blue infrastructure**: summer 2018-2019
  - Integrating **ecosystems and their services** into decision-making: summer 2018 – follow-up 2019
  - **Pollinators** initiative
a) Review of progress in implementing the EU GI Strategy

- GI Strategy: 'by the end of 2017, the Commission should review progress on developing GI, and publish a report on the lessons learnt together with recommendations for future action.'

- Format and content: Commission report + SWD (under finalization)

- + 28 country fiches on BISE (https://biodiversity.europa.eu/countries/gi)
b) Guidance on a strategic framework for further supporting the deployment of EU-level green and blue infrastructure
Draft Structure of the guidance on green and blue infrastructure

- The multiple benefits of GI (part I)
- Taking stock of the GI Strategy review (part II)
- Key criteria to help identifying and stimulating green infrastructure projects (part III)
- EU support: through EU financing instruments; as well as through scientific and technical tools and instruments for the design of projects (part IV)
Suggested cumulative criteria

1. Enhance the **delivery of multiple ecosystem services**
2. Significantly contribute to the **goals of EU Nature legislation**
3. Projects should have a **strategic approach** with an **EU-level impact**: either a scale which is significant and transcends administrative boundaries; or involve a minimum of two Member States; or implement a national GI strategy or a national restoration prioritisation framework.
EU Support: Financing instruments

• European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIFs)
• Programme for Environment and Climate Action (LIFE)

see new 2018 calls for proposals:

• Horizon 2020 – The Framework Programme for Research and Innovation
• Connecting Europe Facility (CEF)
• Innovative financing for EU-level GI: NCFF

+ Synergies with relevant processes such as PAF revised format
EU Support: scientific and technical tools

• **MAES**: EU initiative on Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystems and their Services

• **KIP INCA**: accounts on ecosystem condition and on ecosystem services

• **GIS modelling tools**: upcoming report on ‘Informing strategic GI and ecosystem restoration planning through mapping and assessment methods based on spatial and technical data’
c) **Other relevant new initiatives**

i) **Guidance on integrating ecosystems and their services into planning and decision-making**

- Non-binding guidance (Staff Working Document)
- Increase awareness of the benefits from nature
- Prioritise working with nature: enhancing ecosystems and their services and synergies with socio-economic objectives
- Enable working with nature: available tools, policy instruments, case studies
- Follow-up (experience exchange, online resources)
ii) EU Pollinators Initiative

State of play

• Roadmap published 1 December 2017

• 3 pillar structure:
  I) Improving knowledge on pollinators
  II) Tackling causes of pollinator decline
  III) Collaboration and knowledge sharing

• Pillar II: Restoring and maintaining pollinator habitats in rural and urban areas is critical - Strategic approach needed

• Public consultation: 66 000 answers

• Planned adoption: Q2 2018

• http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/species/pollinators/index_en.htm
3. The role of restored quarries in the EU green and blue infrastructure network

Included in **Action 8 of the Nature Action Plan**:

'Identify with MS/stakeholders best practices on investment for extractive operations and land rehabilitation & restoration by Non Energy Extractive Industry, in order to complement the existing guidance
Developing best practices for NEEI

- **Scope:**
  - various extractive sectors,
  - key mine/quarry life-cycle phases (planning and design, exploitation/extraction phase, closure/after-care with focus on rehabilitation),
  - representative ecosystems,
  - different issues (e.g. mitigation, compensation, temporary nature, partnerships, award schemes),
  - geographical balance

- **Selection criteria:**
  - relevance,
  - design and implementation,
  - effectiveness and efficiency,
  - transferability,
  - sustainability,
  - intersectoral collaboration and stakeholder participation.

- **Consultations:** Member States, NEEI and NGO. Workshop in autumn
- **Completion** by end 2018
Next steps

• NEEI guidance: Workshop in autumn 2018; completion by end 2018

• Foreseen finalisation of the GI and ES guidances by summer 2018

• Public conference on the 2 guidances in October in Brussels (EWRC between 8 & 11/10)
Thank you for your attention