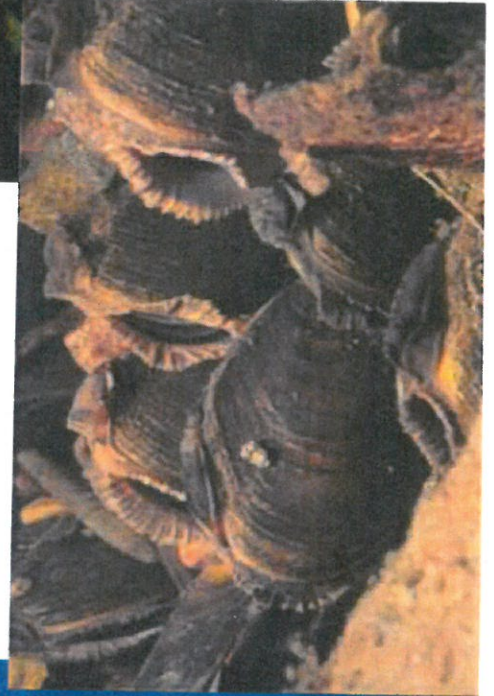
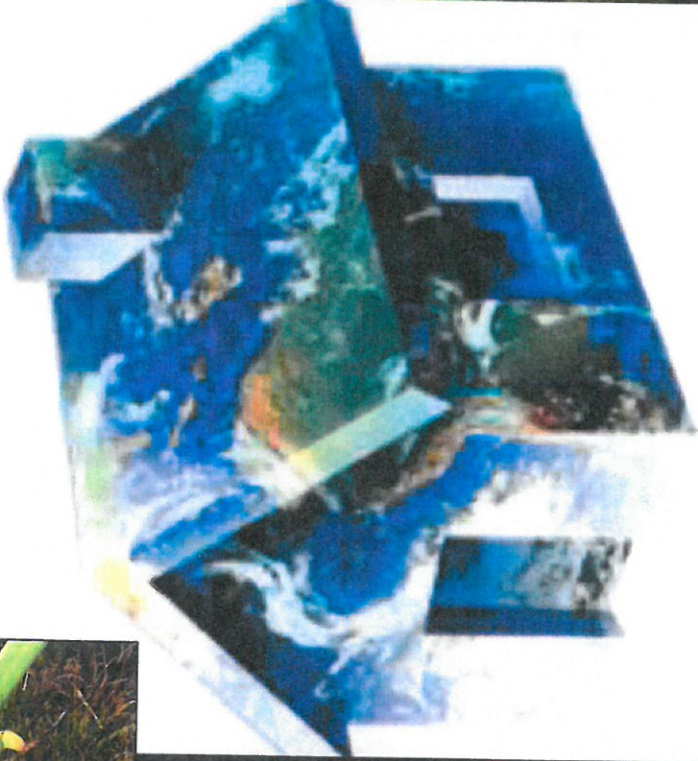


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Biodiversity Loss

..has “potentially catastrophic consequences for our economy and our society. The reasons too will be familiar: habitat destruction and fragmentation, inappropriate use of land, unsustainable use of natural resources, poorly implemented legislation, the insufficient integration of biodiversity into sectoral policies, too little funding for nature conservation and a lack of communication and education.”

EU Commissioner for the Environment Janez Potočnik

Improved screening / prioritise planting

- A. Habitat surveys / biodiversity assessments on all afforestation sites
 - Address EIA, Sub-threshold land use change, cumulative impacts of afforestation and other land use changes



NO NET LOSS OF BIODIVERSITY



Solutions?

- A. Greater recognition of value of Biodiversity & Ecosystems Services
- B. Integrate protection & management to all sectors (agriculture, finance, forestry, fisheries, education)



Better screening for afforestation licensing
=Plant on areas which do not cause biodiversity loss



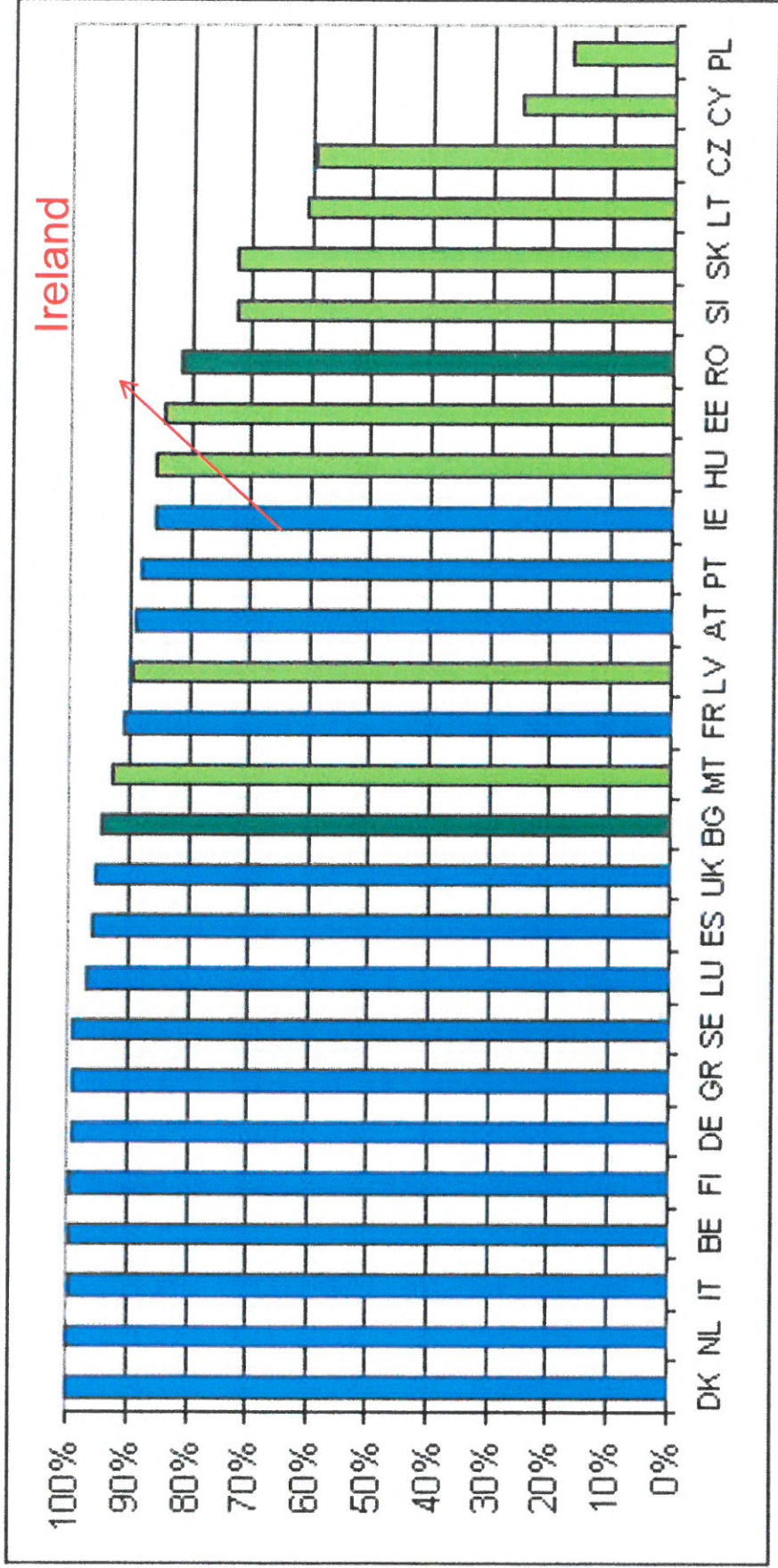
European Court of Justice

V's Ireland

- Birds case (2007) open
- Habitats case (2006) open
- + March 2010: final warnings to Ireland over failure to implement findings of 4 ECJ cases concerning EIA, nature conservation, access to justice, & nature conservation: new cases coming
- Need concerted & urgent action



State of progress by Member States in reaching sufficiency for the Habitat Directive Annex I habitats and Annex II species:



Ireland described as regulatory slum in relation to nature conservation where the 'rules are disregarded and responsibilities neglected'

Respecting Biodiversity: The legal Framework

Cornerstones of realizing our commitments:

- **The Birds Directive (SPAs)**
- **The Habitats Directive (SACs)**
- **EC Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations & Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)**
- **Water Framework Directive (WFD)**

Need full and timely implementation



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Upland Peat Soils, Sensitive Catchments & Water Quality

Sensitive to erosion

Ecological damage or sediment loading in waterways

(nutrient enrichment & sedimentation)

Very real cost to society

Need careful screening – more than currently practiced

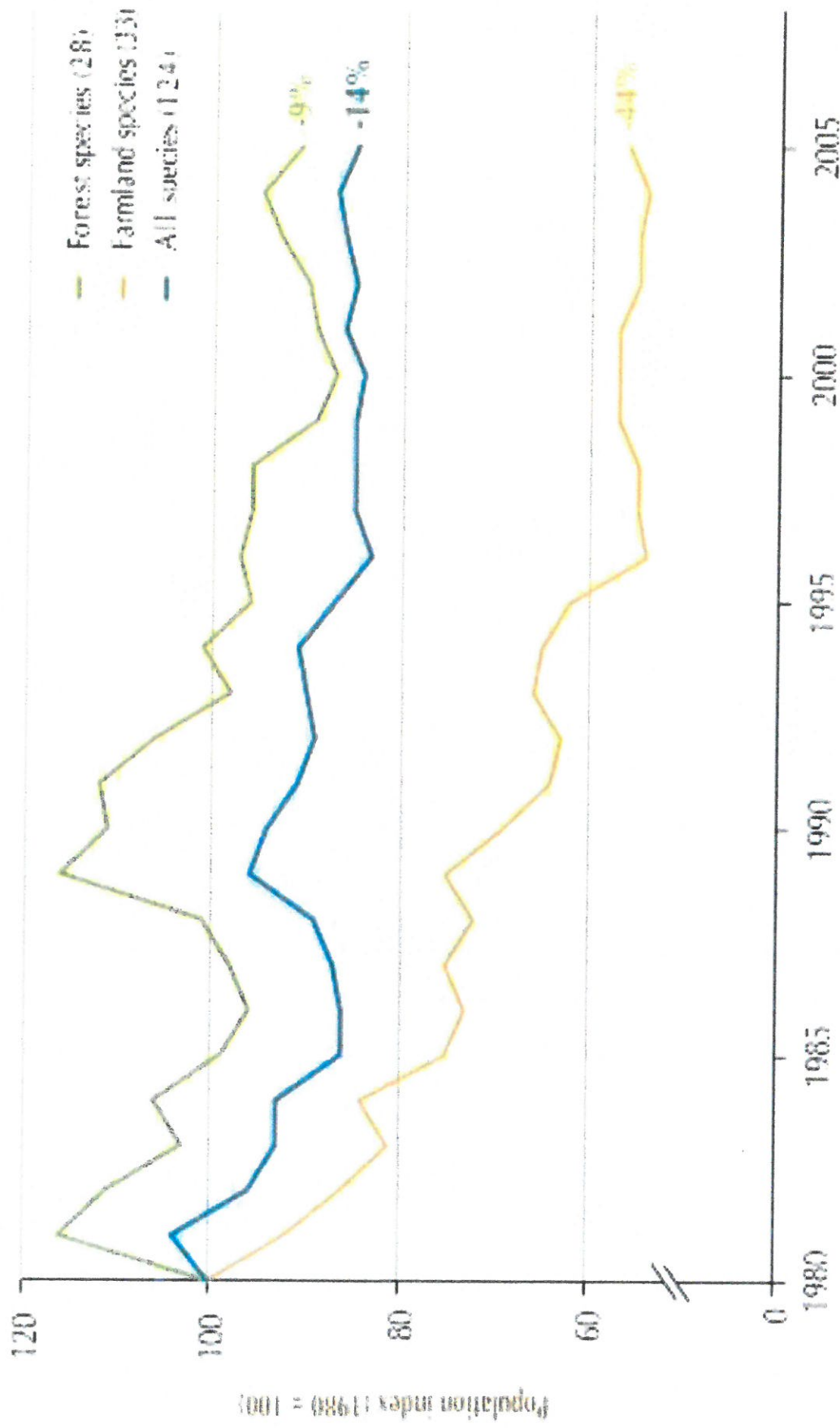


Birds as indicators

- Barometers of environmental health and sustainability of human activities
- occur in a range of habitats in considerable numbers, reflect changes in other biodiversity
- responsive and sensitive to environmental change
- excellent current and historical data exist - relatively inexpensive to collect



Wild Bird Index for Europe 1980 - 2005





Curlew decline in Ireland: 90% since 1990
Other breeding waders facing similar declines



Semi-natural & Species Rich grassland

- Very species rich –
 - carbon store, pollination, ground nesting birds
 - Culture & Heritage, traditional grazing management, sustaining marginal communities
- Annexed Habitats Directive – many not designated
- Status (Article 17 Report) unfavourable- bad
- Need positive management support
- As not designated – need mechanisms to ID not afforest



Ecosystem Services: Peat Bogs

carbon stores and sinks

- Store 1.2 billion tonnes Carbon
≈ 4.4 billion tonnes CO₂
- Sequester 60,000 – 140,000 tonnes CO₂ annually

BOGLAND report
EPA Strive project



€€€€

- Ecosystem services are worth at least
€2.6 billion per year to the Irish exchequer
- water purification
 - flood control
 - pollination
 - maintenance of soil fertility & ag productivity
tourism

The Economic and Social Aspects of Biodiversity, Irl Gov. 2008



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- Annual value of the global loss of ecosystem services:
 - €50 billion from land-based ecosystems alone
- The cumulated welfare losses could reach 7% of GDP by 2050

The Economics
of Ecosystems
& Biodiversity



TEEB FOR LOCAL AND REGIONAL
POLICY MAKERS



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Some Ecosystem Services

- Many wetlands buffer against flooding - increasing importance with Climate Change
- Integrated catchment management & flood attenuation
- Carbon store and sequestration
- **Pollination**
- Social Value – recreation, health



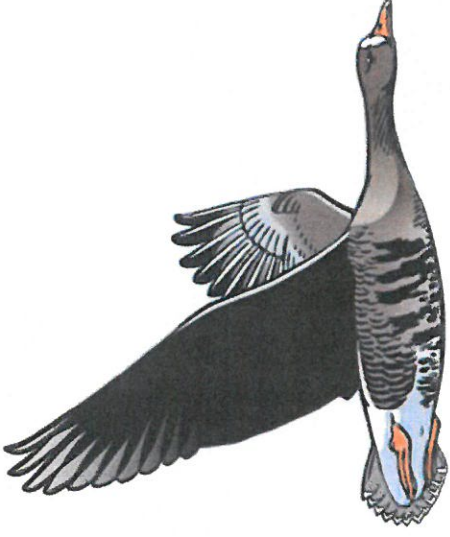
Biodiversity



Interconnected
Interdependent
Provisioning
Supporting
Regulating



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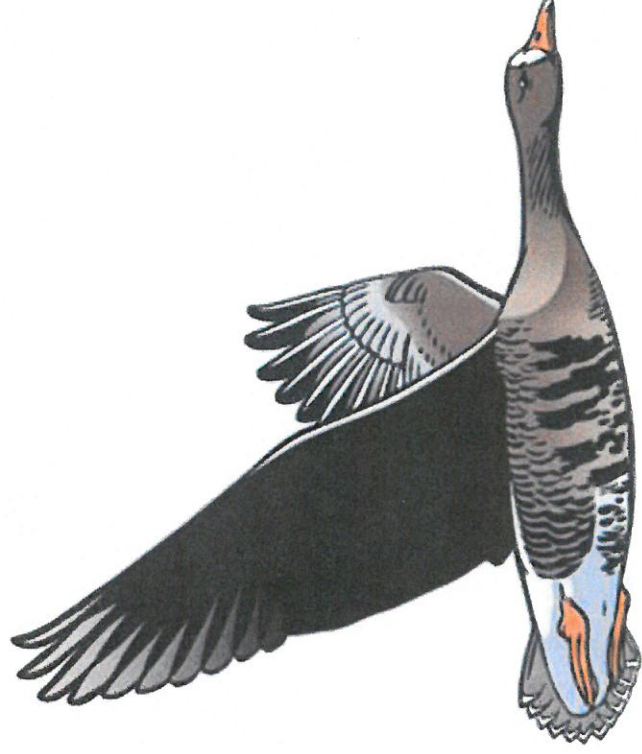
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- Environmental NGO established 1968
- **>14,000 members**
- Work to create a **healthy natural environment** for wildlife & people through protection of wild birds & habitats upon which they depend

Protection and management of Birds and Biodiversity in Upland Habitats

Anja Murray

**Policy Officer
for Land Use
& Habitats**



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