

Grid Development and Nature

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**LOD/ BirdLife Lithuania Seminar:
Reduction of the negative environmental impacts when
planning development of electrogrid.**

Vilnius, April 14 2015

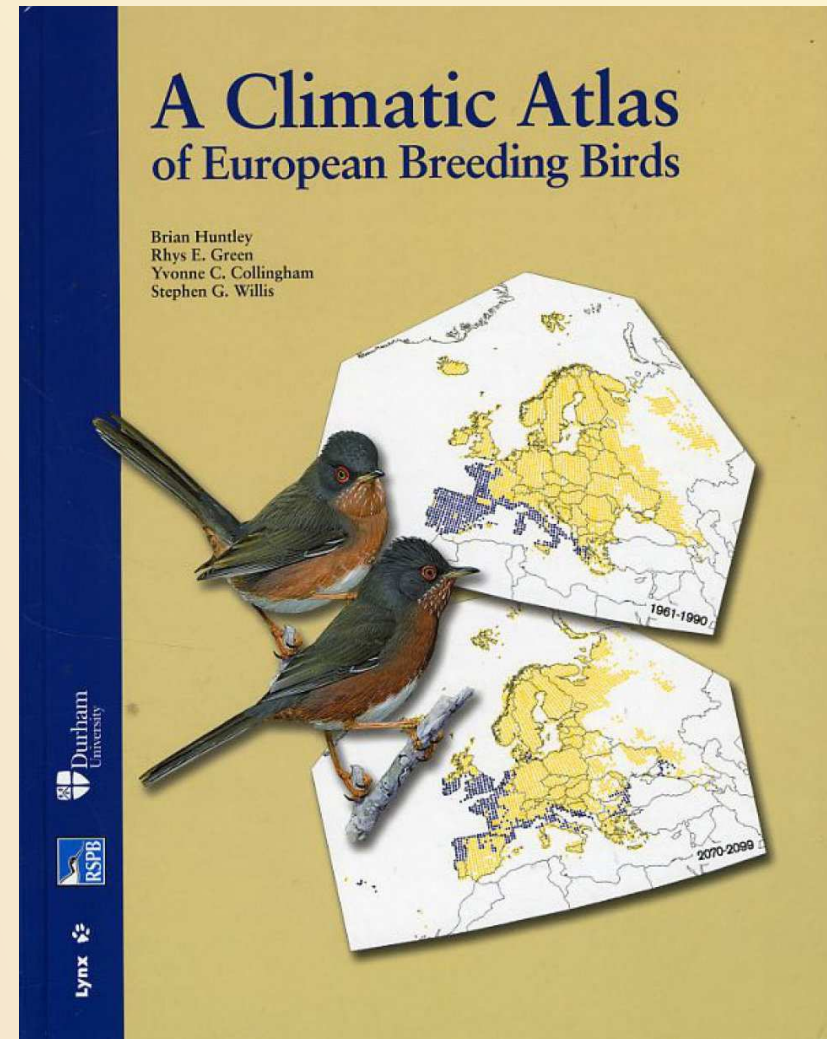
Overview of presentation



- Why grid development is a nature conservation issue?
- How is nature taken into account in EU-level grid planning?
- PCIs and 'streamlining' of environmental assessments
- Opportunities for NGOs to make grid development work for nature
- BirdLife partners' work in BESTGRID
- Recent BirdLife publications

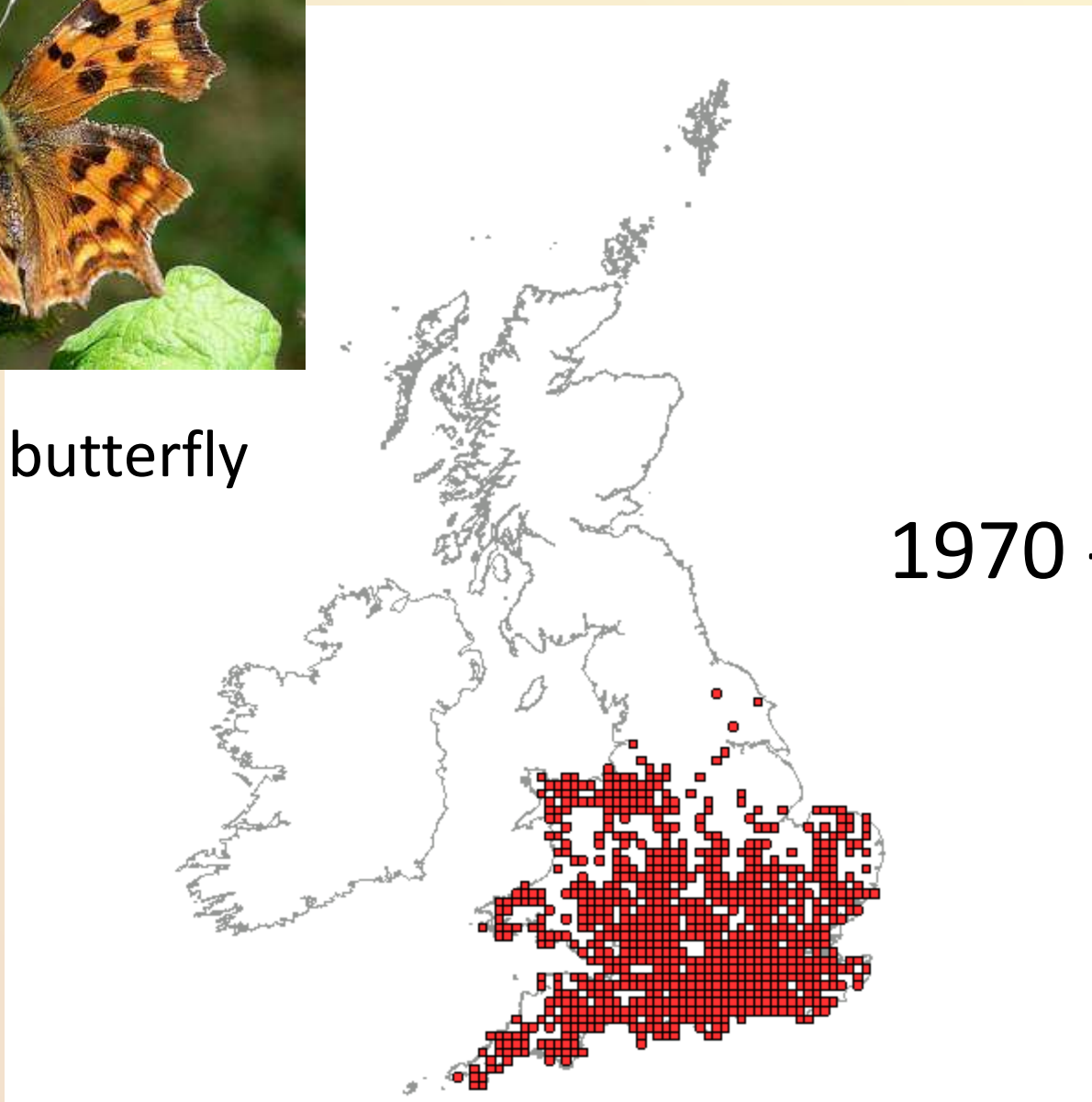
Expected climate impacts on nature

- 10 per cent of species will face an increasingly high risk of extinction for every 1°C rise.
- Breeding range of European species move 550 km to the NE under a mid-range warming scenario.
- Seasonality and species interactions.
- Extreme weather events.





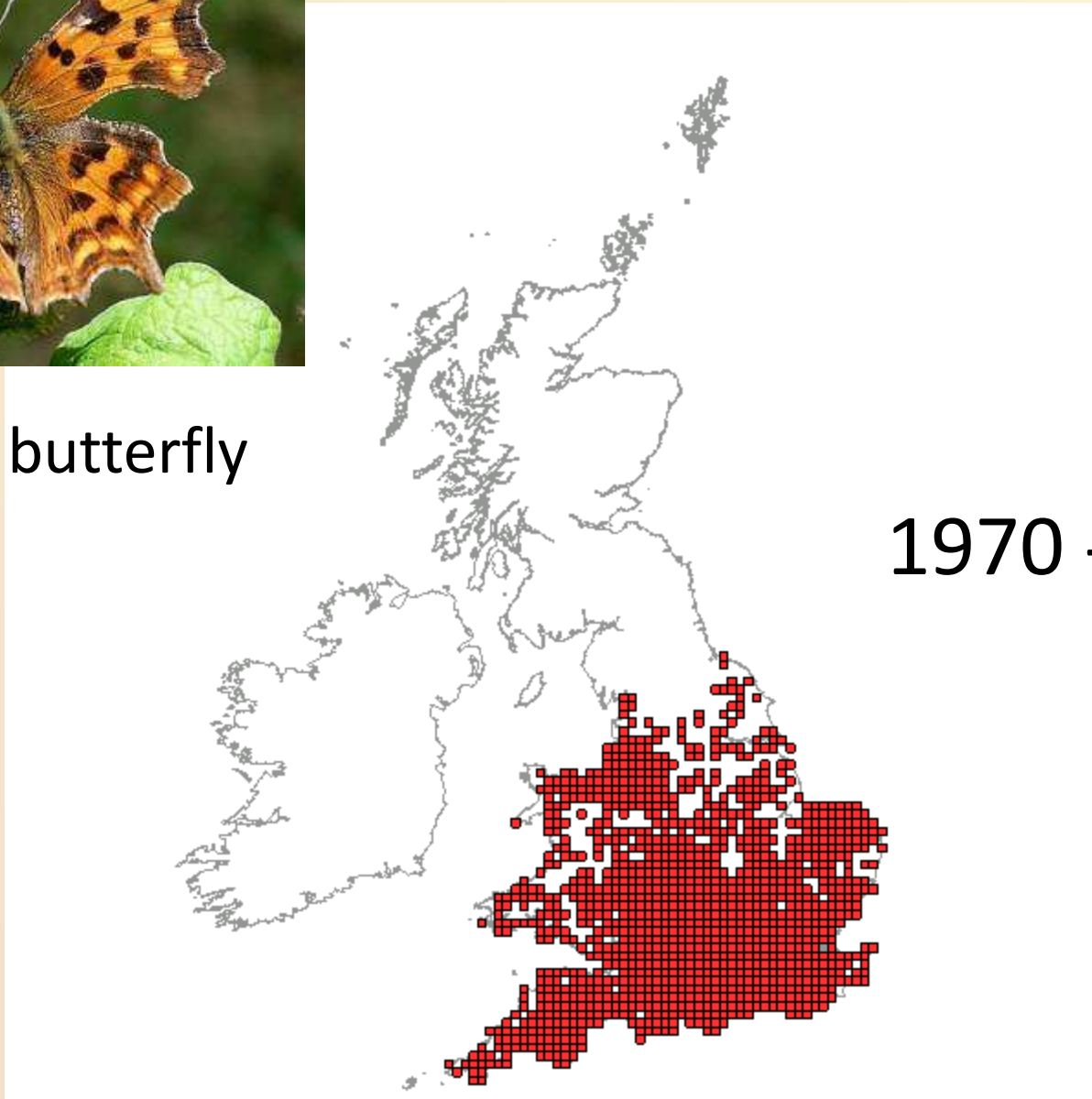
Comma butterfly



1970 - 1982



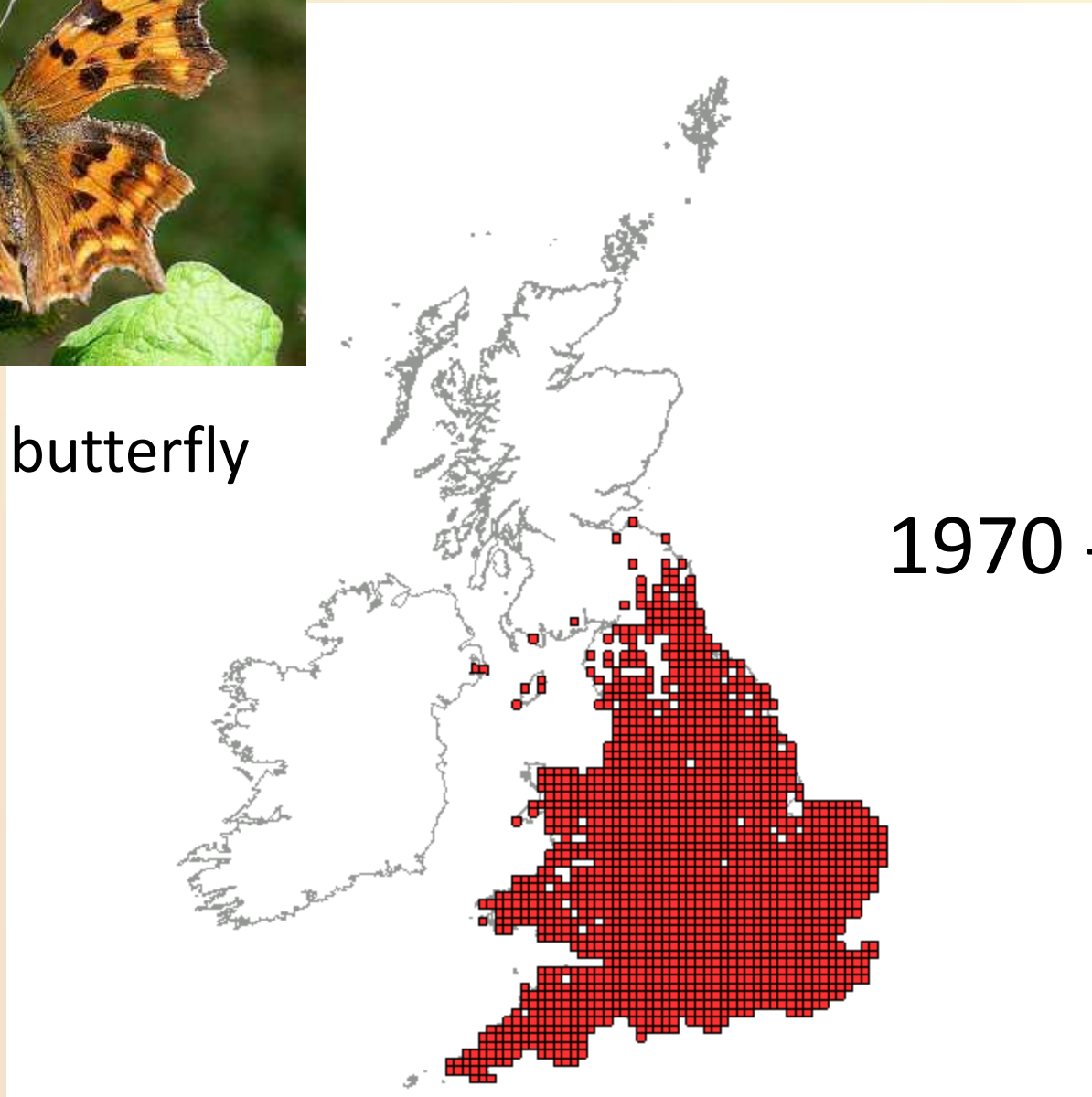
Comma butterfly



1970 - 1994



Comma butterfly



1970 - 2000

Three numbers to remember:

2 470 2795



- 2oC – the point beyond which we must not go
- 470 bn tonnes – the amount of carbon that we can release into the atmosphere whilst retaining a reasonable chance of keeping to below 2oC
- 2795bn tonnes – the amount of carbon that would be released if we burn all of the world’s remaining known fossil fuels.
- => We have to leave most fossil fuels in the ground.

The need for renewables

- EU commitment on RES: 20% by 2020
- At least 27% by 2030 (non-binding on member states).
- Most cost effective: wind, solar
- Variable supply
- Storage problematic: batteries? Pumped hydro?



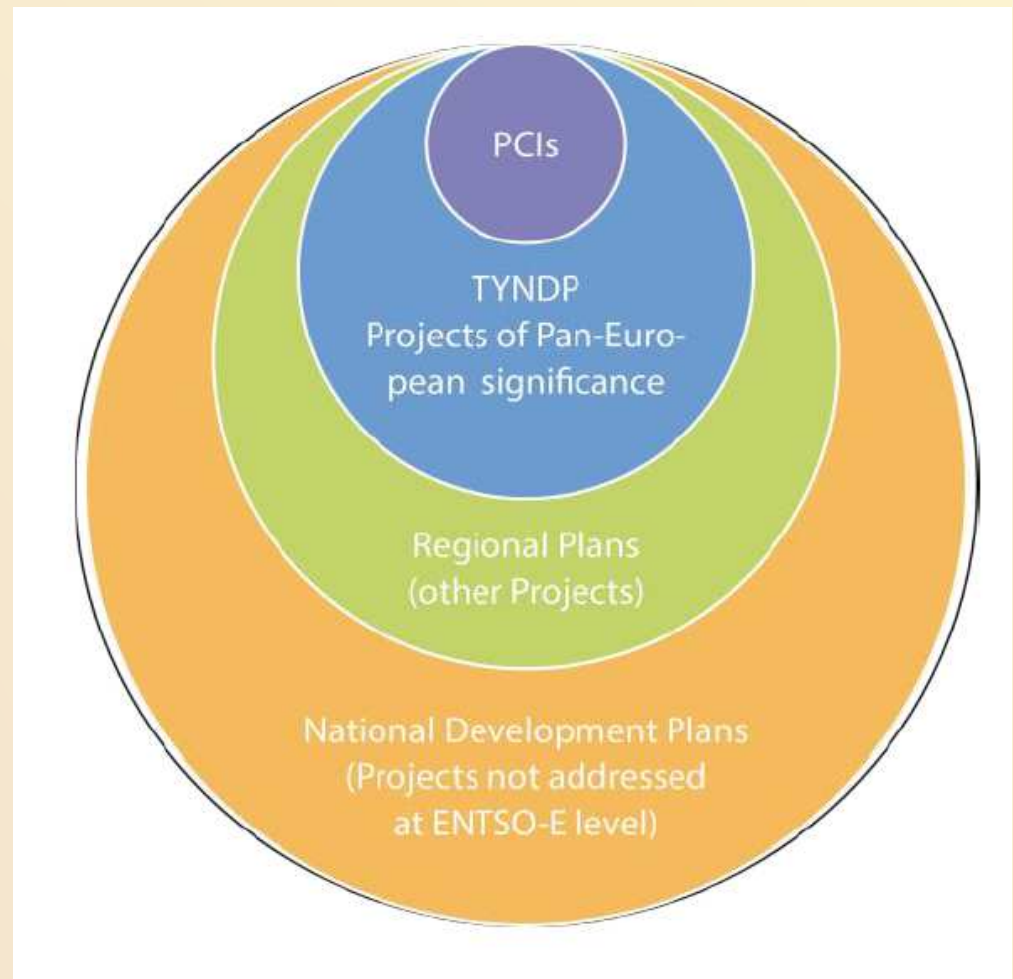
Power line risks to birds and habitats



- More renewables means more grid: connection and interconnection
- Electrocutation risks (distribution network)
- Collision risks
- Habitat modification
- Enhancement opportunities?
- Undergrounding?
- Solutions:
 - Safe design
 - Route planning
 - Mitigation measures

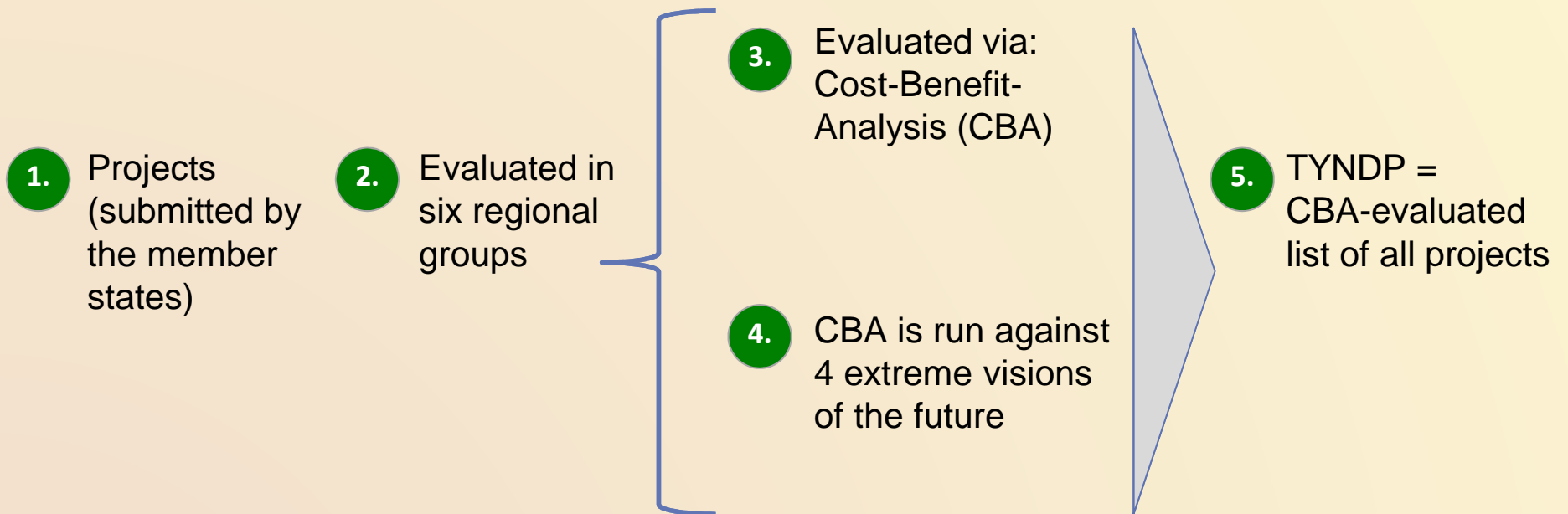
ENTSO-E's Ten year network development plans

- TYNDP prepared by ENTSO-E every 2 years.
- Only projects in the TYNDP can become 'projects of common interest' (PCIs).



The TYNDP is a project assessment of projects of pan-European interest

**BEST
GRID**



CBA environmental indicator



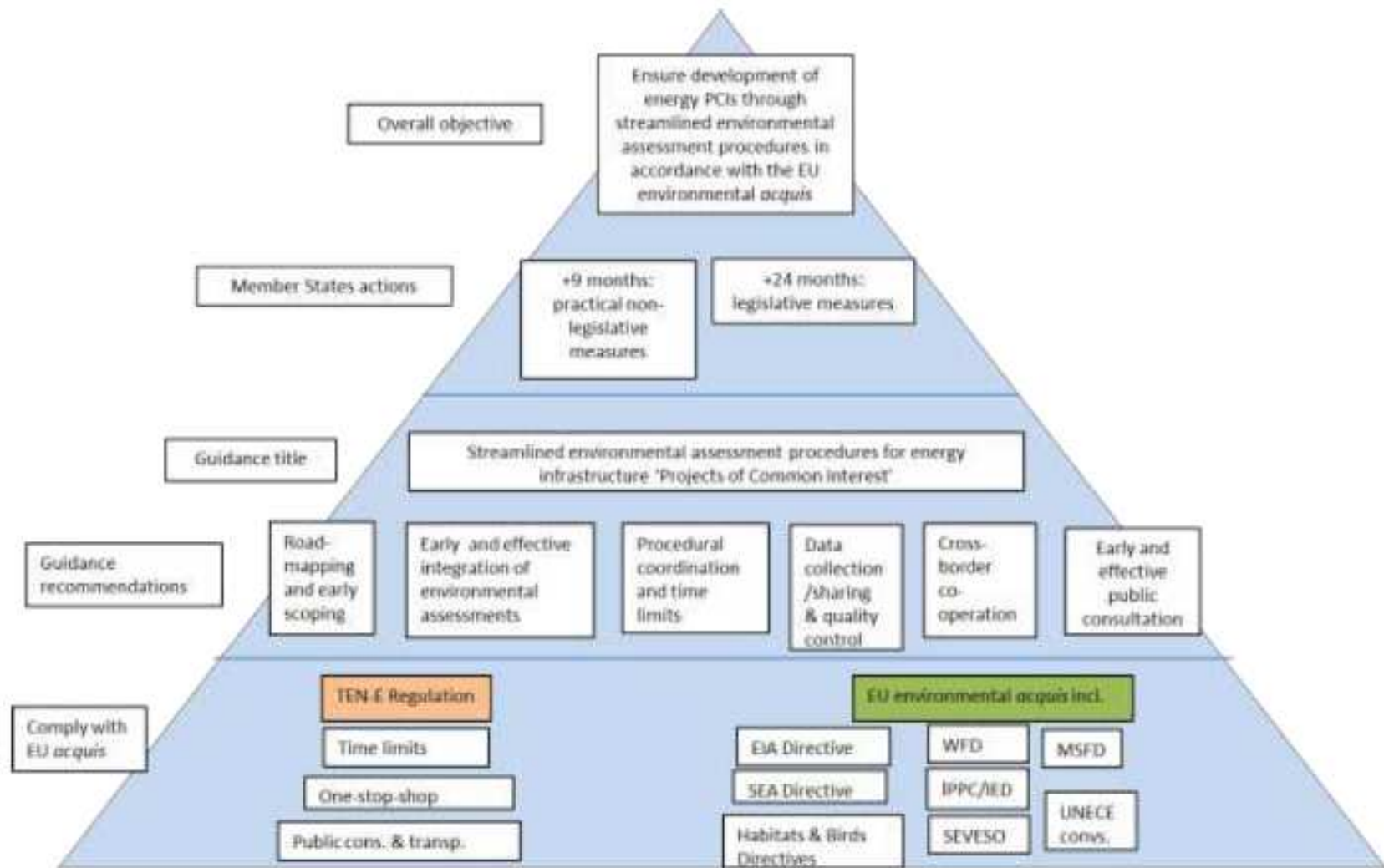
- Indicator S1 in the CBA methodology – developed in dialogue with BirdLife (but far from perfect!)
- Estimate of kms in protected areas. E.g. LitPol Link Stage 1: 50-100 km
- Approx 40% of TYNDP projects cross environmentally sensitive areas over more than 15 km.
- 4000 km of TYNDP projects in protected areas (10% of total kms of all projects)

Benefits of PCI status



- Faster, more efficient permit granting procedures (3.5 year time limit)
- Improved regulatory treatment
- Possibility to access financial support from Connecting Europe Facility

EC guidance on streamlining



es

Opportunities for NGOs to influence policies and plans



- ENTSO-E scenario development
- CBA methodology
- PCI selection process
- PCI manuals of procedures
- SEA
- EIA
- 'Appropriate assessment' under the Habitats Directive
- Dialogue with developers and regulators

National grid plans and strategic environmental assessment



- Directive 2009/72 ('Third energy package'): "Every year, transmission system operators shall submit to the regulatory authority a ten-year network development plan..."
- Directive 2001/42: "...an environmental assessment shall be carried out for all plans and programmes... which are prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy..."
- SEA sometimes done for national plans, but also for route planning for major grid projects.

What are BirdLife and its partners already doing?

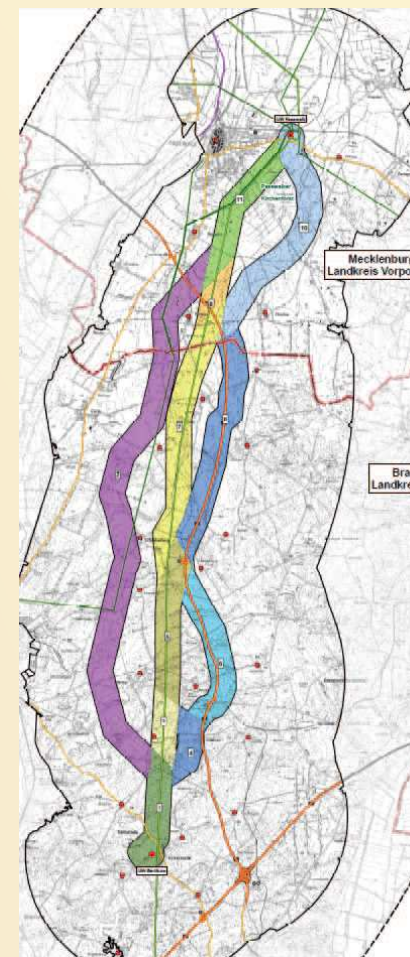


- Engagement with ENTSO-E and DG Energy to improve consideration of nature in EU plans
- National scrutiny of plans and projects
- Making power lines safe (preventing electrocutions)
- Renewables Grid Initiative
 - European Grid Declaration
 - Good practice guidance
 - Support for stable regulation, including Habitats Directive
- BESTGRID
 - Input to grid pilot projects
 - Handbook
 - Workshops

NABU collaboration with 50Hertz



- Attending information events & scopings
- Stakeholder mapping
- Support for Environmental Assessment and advise for scoping studies (areal alternative routing of corridors, site protection, bird protection)
- Informing and recruiting of local/ voluntary conservationists
- Realizing two round tables with local stakeholders and the TSO
- Site visits with local stakeholders and the TSO



NABU Lower Saxony's collaboration with TenneT



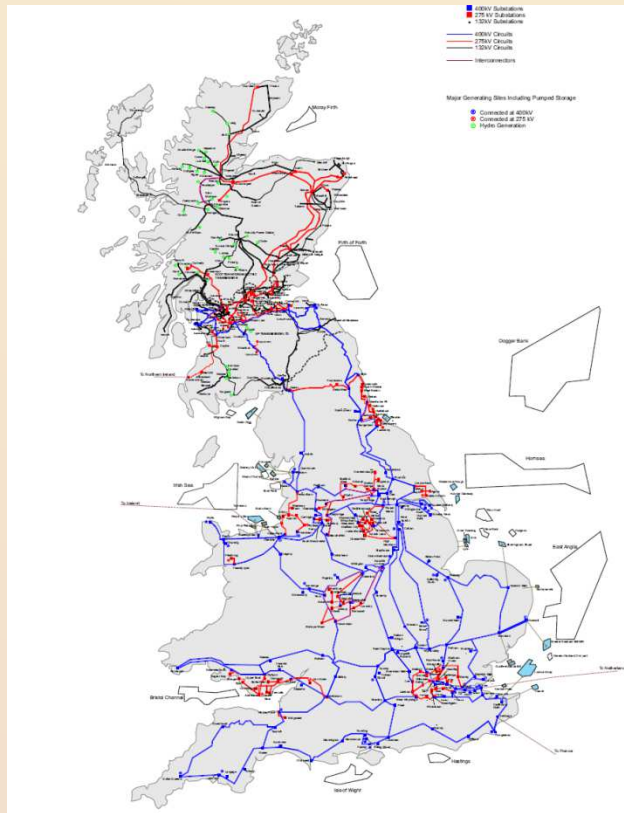
- Risks and opportunities for habitats and species in mountainous regions.
- More connectivity and habitat diversity, to benefit rare plants, reptiles, bats and insects.
- July 2014 visit to ELIA/RTE Life+ project.
- Roundtables Sep and Oct. Report in German and English.

Natagora's collaboration with ELIA



- Evaluation of ecological sensitivities in the Braine-l'Alleud – Waterloo route.
- Mapping of designated areas and habitats.
- Identification and description of flora, fauna and habitats, bird survey.
- Presented to stakeholders May 2014,
- Report delivered July 2014.
- Pilot project dropped June 2014.

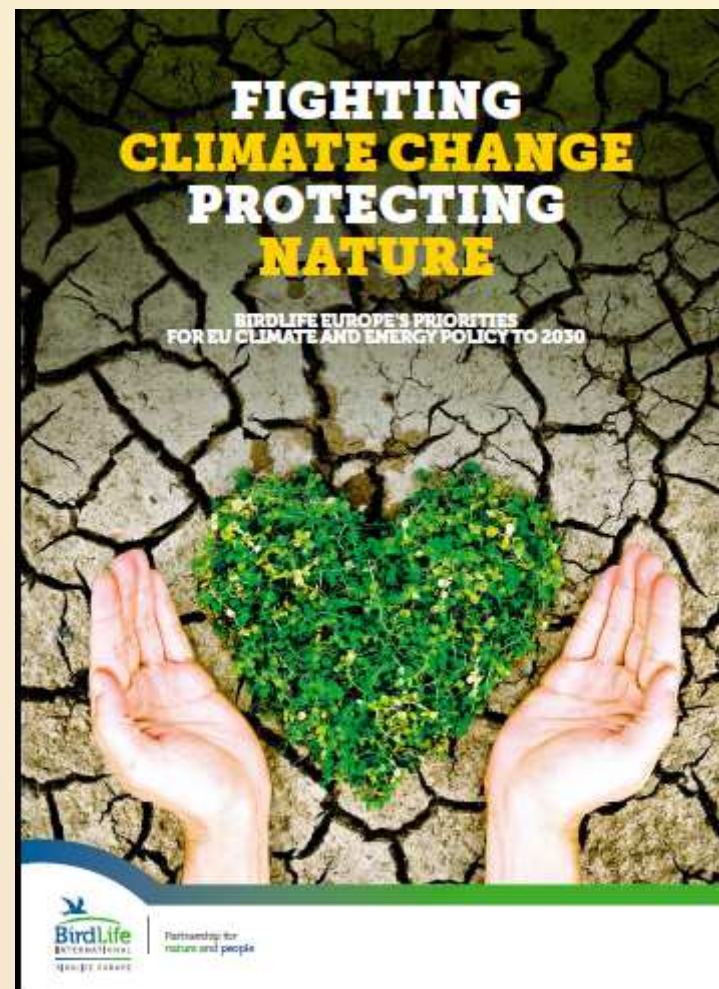
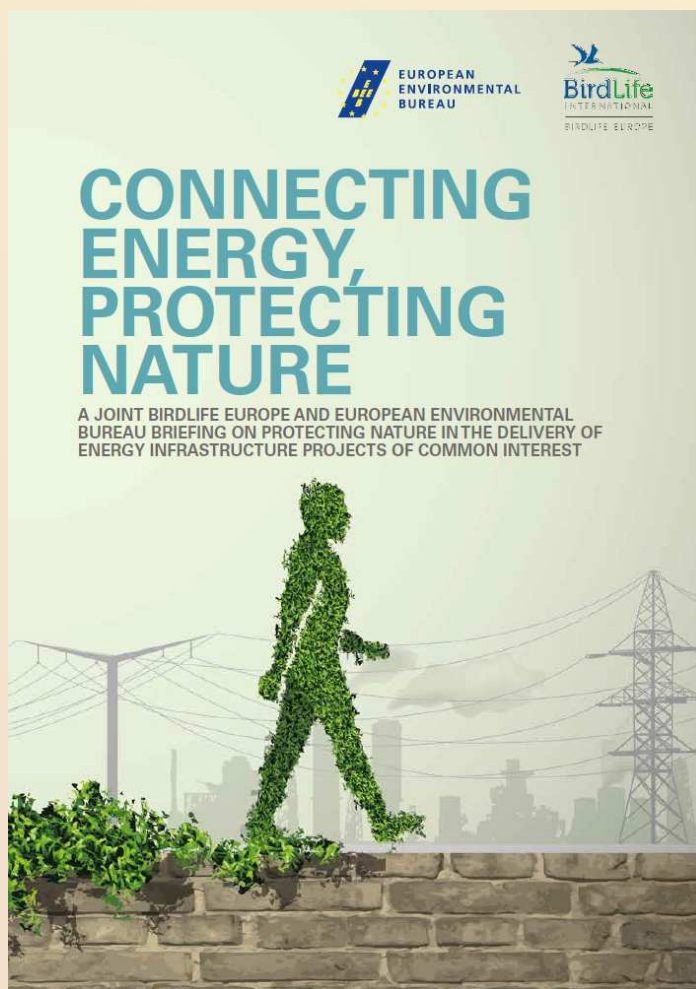
The RSPB's collaboration with National Grid [1]



- RSPB Casework Team
- Reviewing experience engaging with 6 UK grid projects.
- Archive research and interviews with 'Casework Officers'

Recent BirdLife Europe reports

**BEST
GRID**
testing better practices



Thank you. Questions?



<http://europe.birdlife.org>

www.bestgrid.eu

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Partnership for nature and people