

Introduction to the BESTGRID project and BirdLife's participation

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DOPPS/ BirdLife Slovenia BESTGRID workshop
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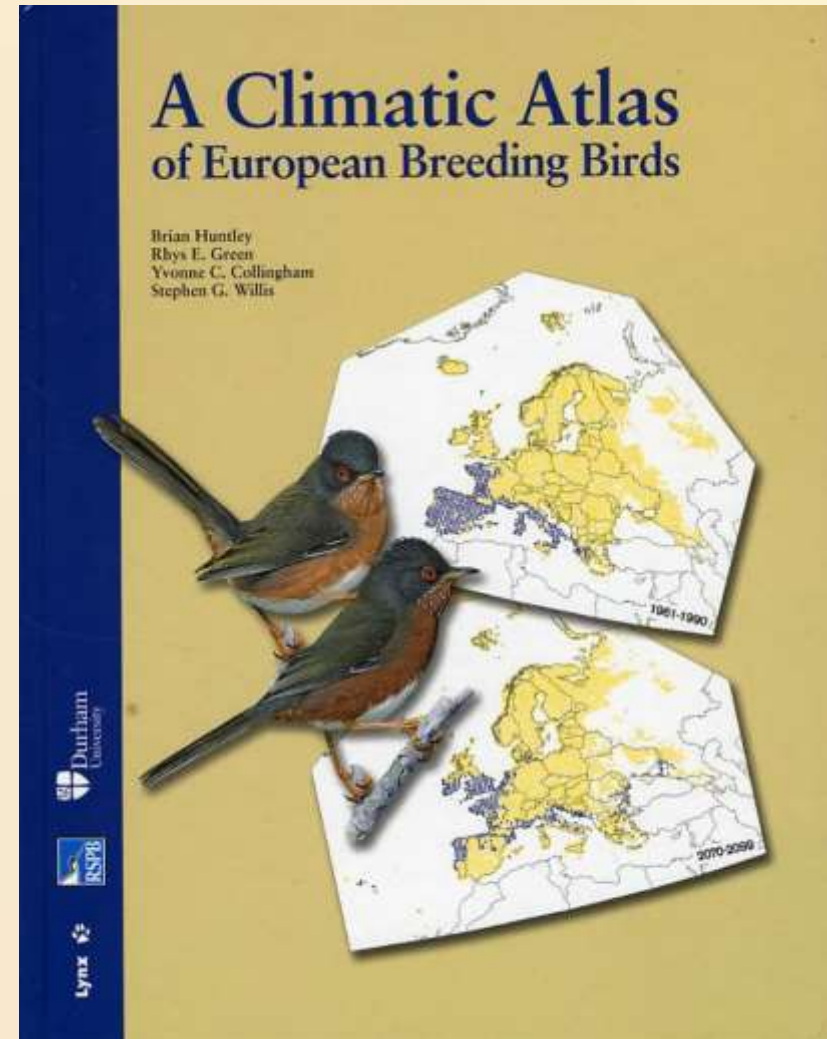
Overview of presentation



- Climate change impacts on nature and the need for a new grid system
- The BESTGRID project: an introduction
- BirdLife's work in BESTGRID, and other power lines work
- EU grid planning and strategic opportunities for NGOs
- Recent BirdLife publications

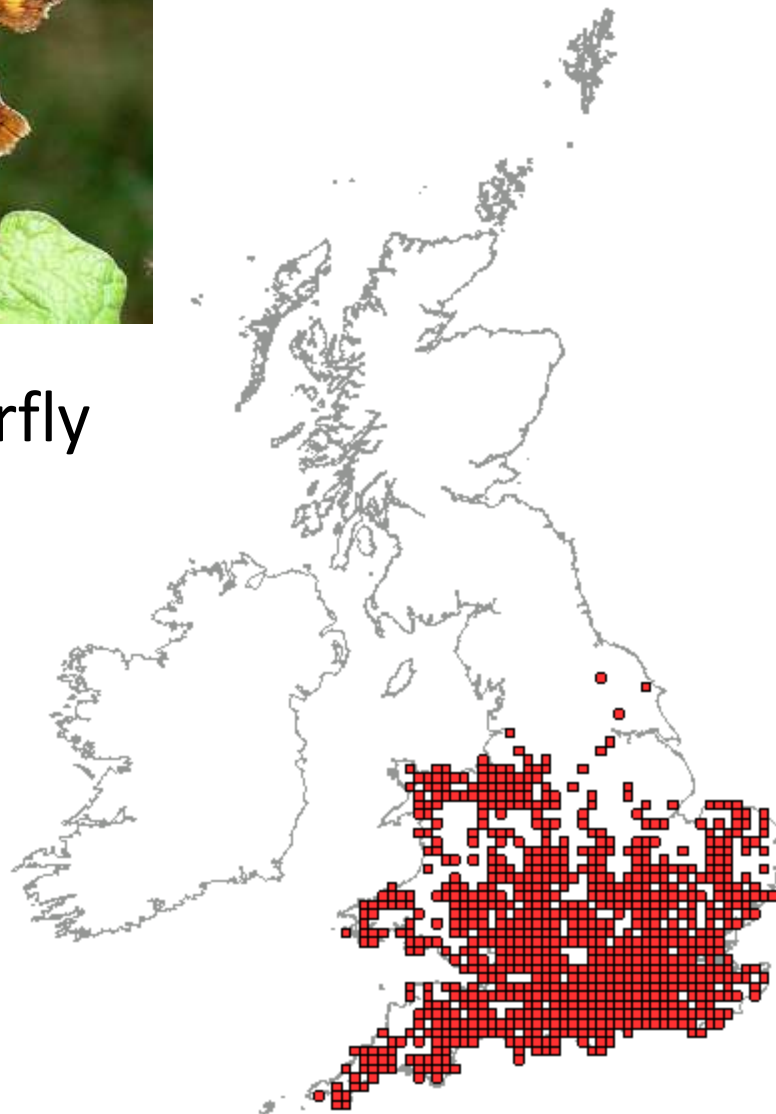
Expected climate impacts on nature

- 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.





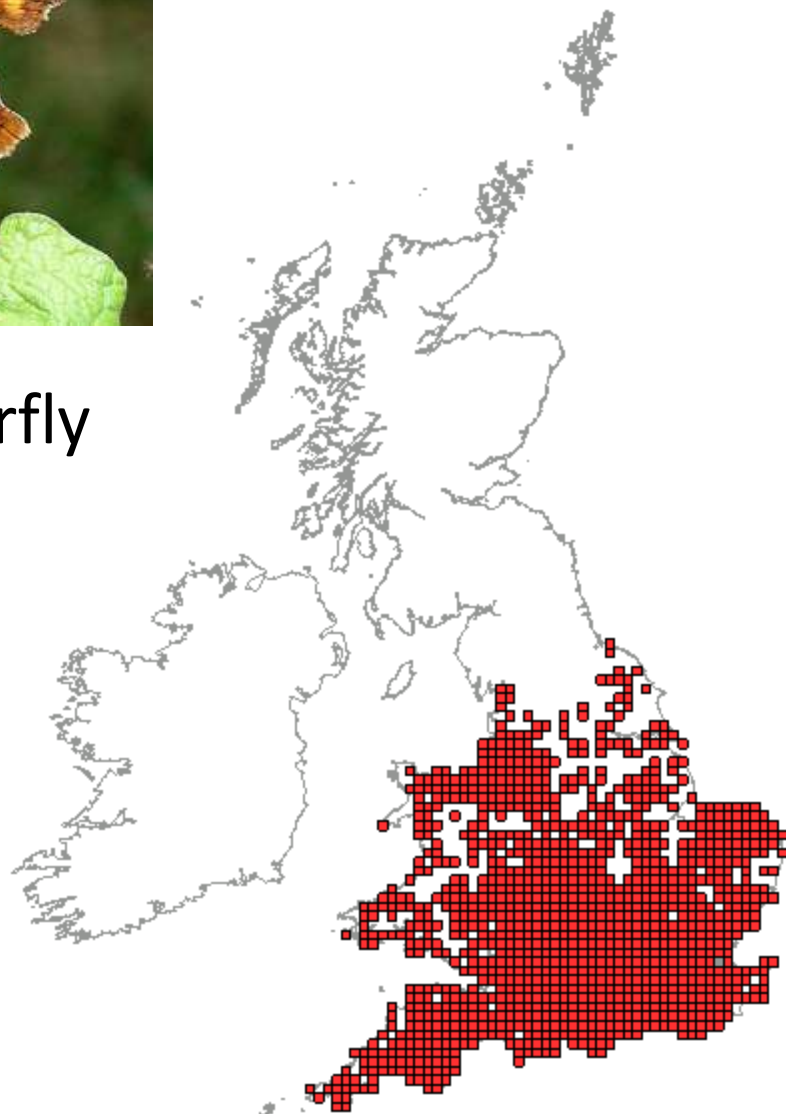
Comma butterfly



1970 - 1982



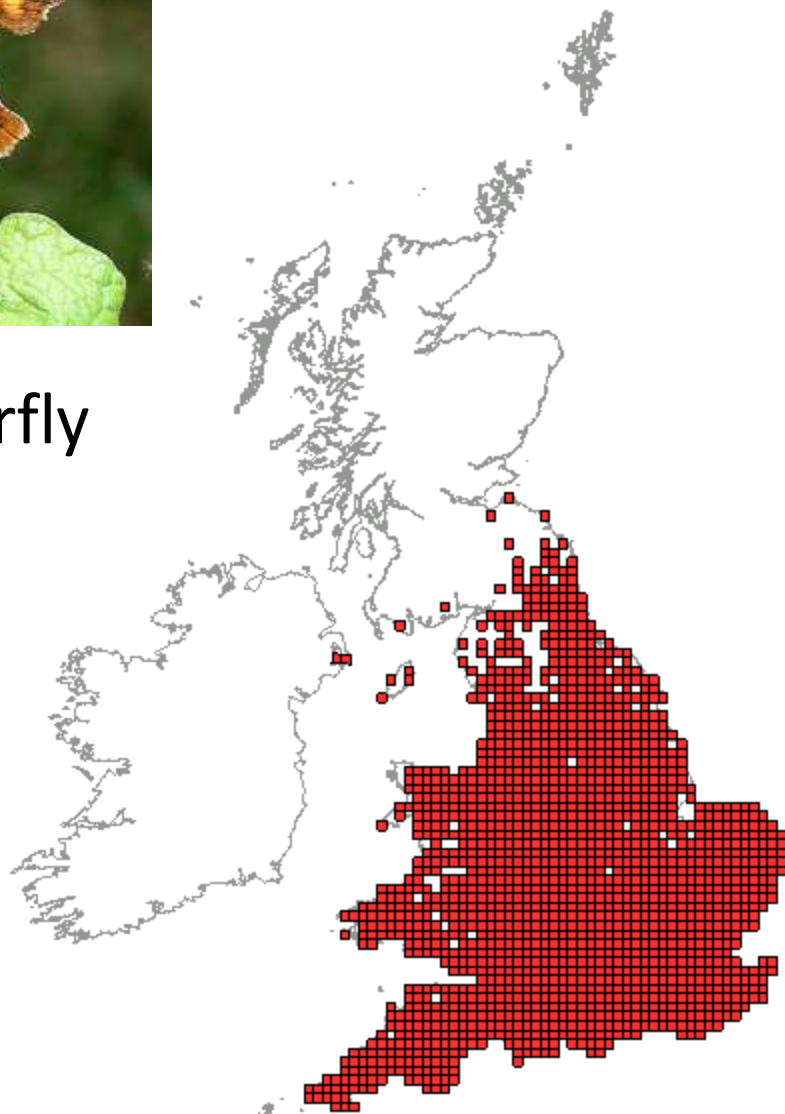
Comma butterfly



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
 - Joint working between grid operators and NGOs

BESTGRID – an RGI project



- BESTGRID is coordinated by the Renewables Grid Initiative – a coalition of grid operators and environmental NGOs based in Berlin.
- Objective to improve the public acceptability of grid development for renewables through:
 - reduced environmental impacts
 - improved public engagement
- European Grid Declaration.
- EU- level advocacy.
- Good practice guidelines and annual award.
- Applying all this on the ground: BESTGRID.

BESTGRID aims and partners (1)



- Aim to implement and test better practices in environmental protection and stakeholder engagement.
- 4 'pilot projects'
- Germany: TenneT line from N to S Germany. Major routing challenges, including forests.
- Germany: 50Hertz line – EMF focus.
- Belgium: Elia – focus on routing and SEA challenges in a densely populated area
- UK: National Grid - sub-sea link to Belgium: challenges in the marine environment.

BESTGRID aims and partners (2)



- BirdLife – focus on reducing environmental impacts. BL Partners advising on pilot projects. Workshops in Lithuania, Romania and Slovenia, UK and Brussels. Handbook on good practice.
- Germanwatch – focus on improved transparency and public participation in grid planning. Advising on pilot projects. Handbook.
- IIASA – academic monitoring of initiatives and their effectiveness (questionnaires).
- Terna (Italian grid operator): how to share good practices.

NABU Lower Saxony's collaboration with TenneT

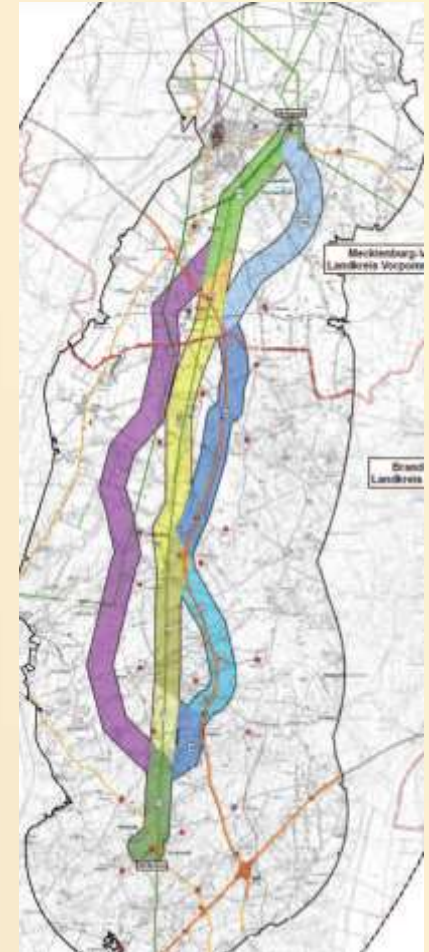


- Risks and opportunities for habitats and species in mountainous regions.
- More connectivity and habitat diversity, to benefit rare plants, reptiles, bats and insects.
- July 2014 visit to ELIA/RTE Life+ project.
- Roundtables Sep and Oct. Report in German and English.



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

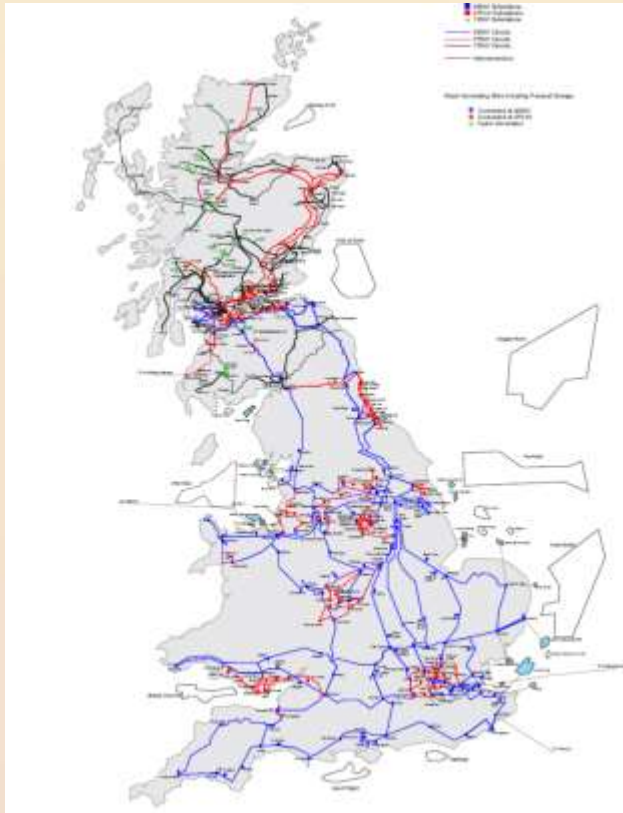


Natagora's collaboration with ELIA



- 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.

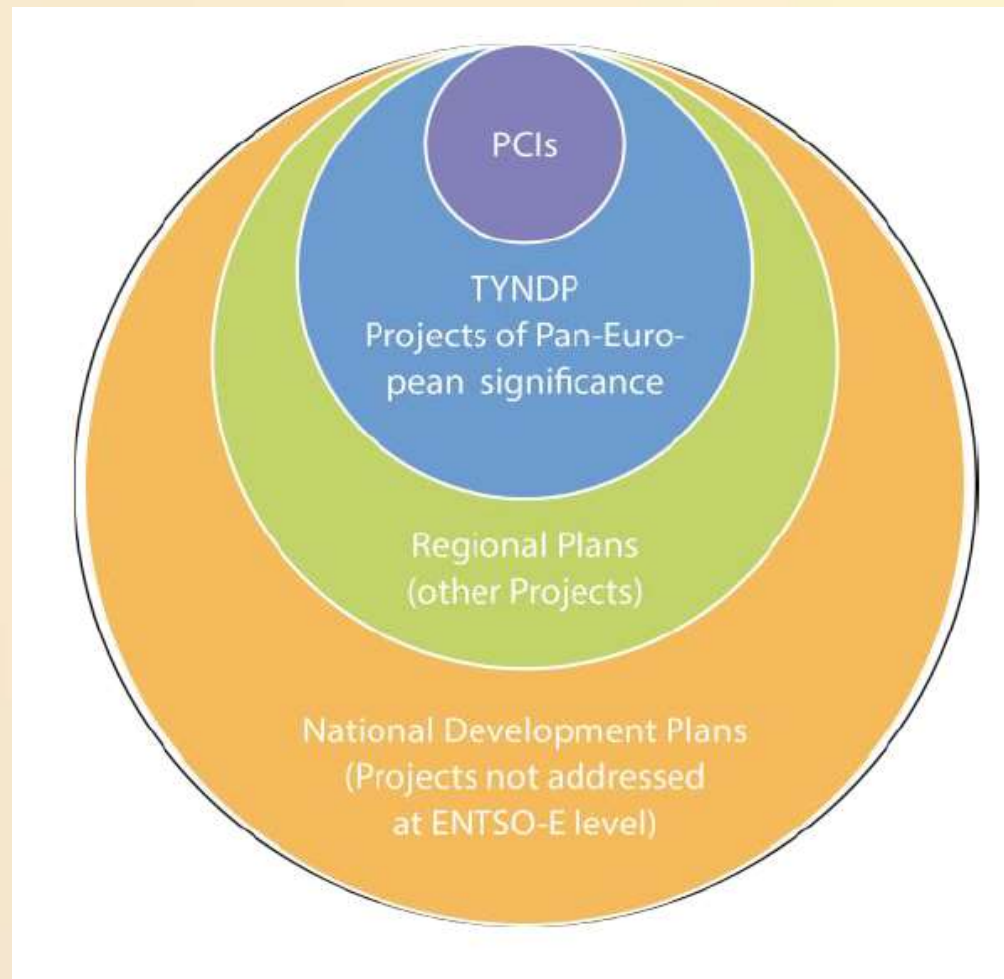
The RSPB's collaboration with National Grid



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

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).

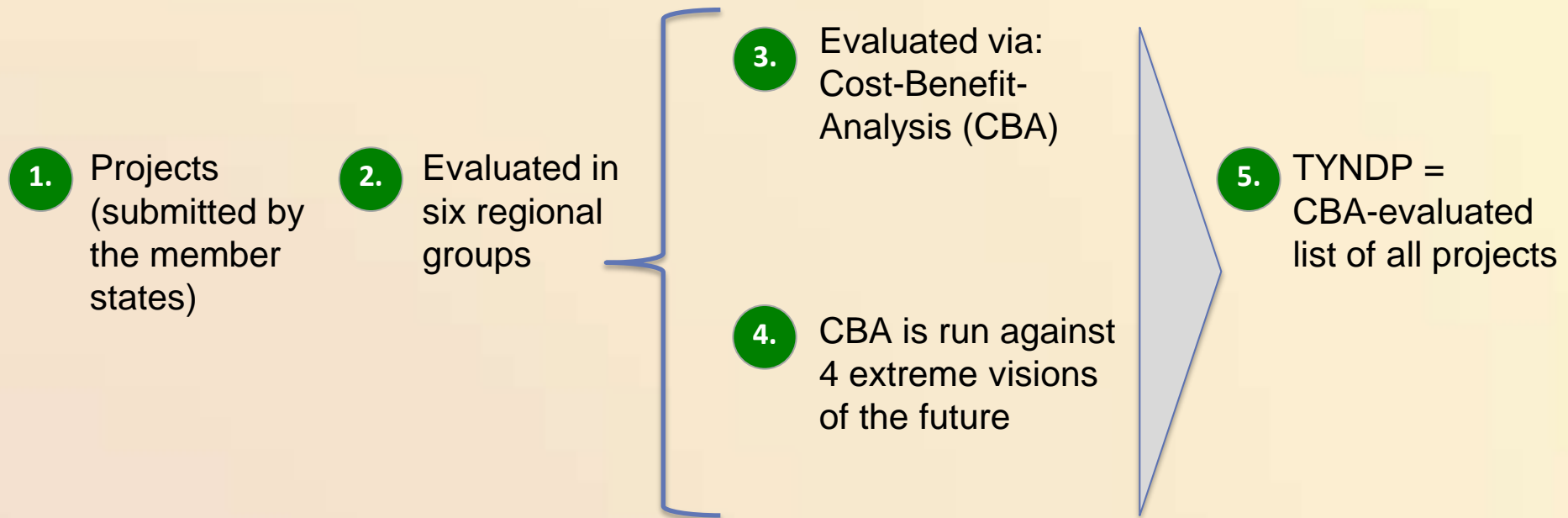


Benefits of PCI status



- Faster, more efficient permit granting procedures (3.5 year time limit).
- Improved regulatory treatment.
- 'Streamlined' environmental assessments (EC guidance on this).
- Possibility to access financial support from Connecting Europe Facility.

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



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)

Opportunities for NGOs to influence policies and plans



- ENTSO-E scenario development
 - CBA methodology
 - PCI selection process
 - SEA of national grid plans
 - Dialogue with developers and regulators
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- Project level EIA and 'appropriate assessment' under the Habitats Directive – important, but too late?

What are BirdLife and its partners already doing?



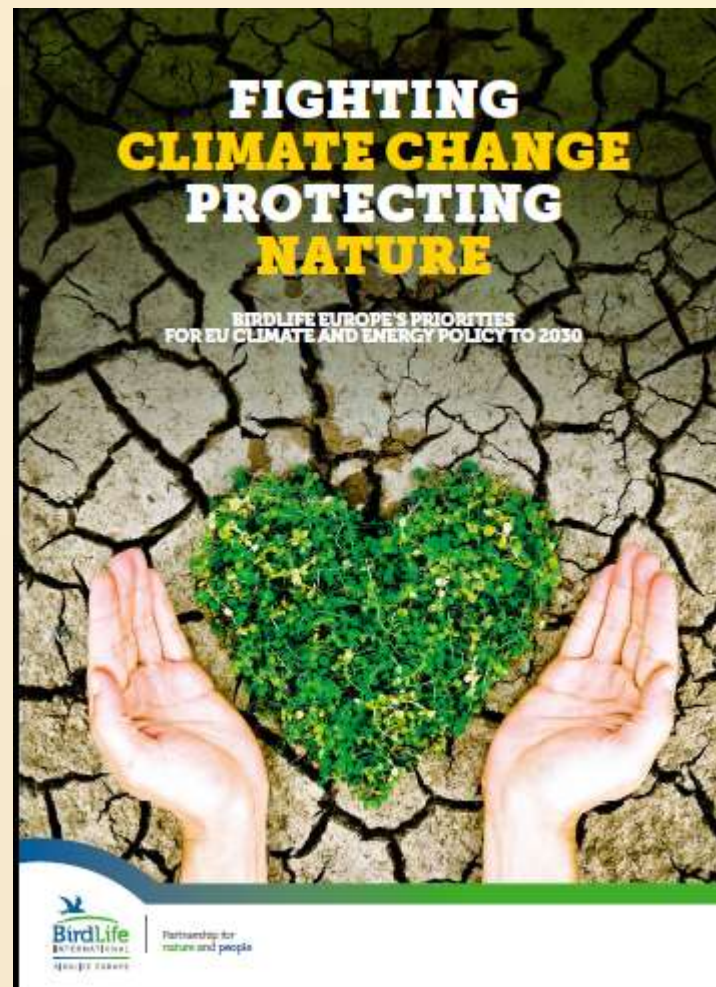
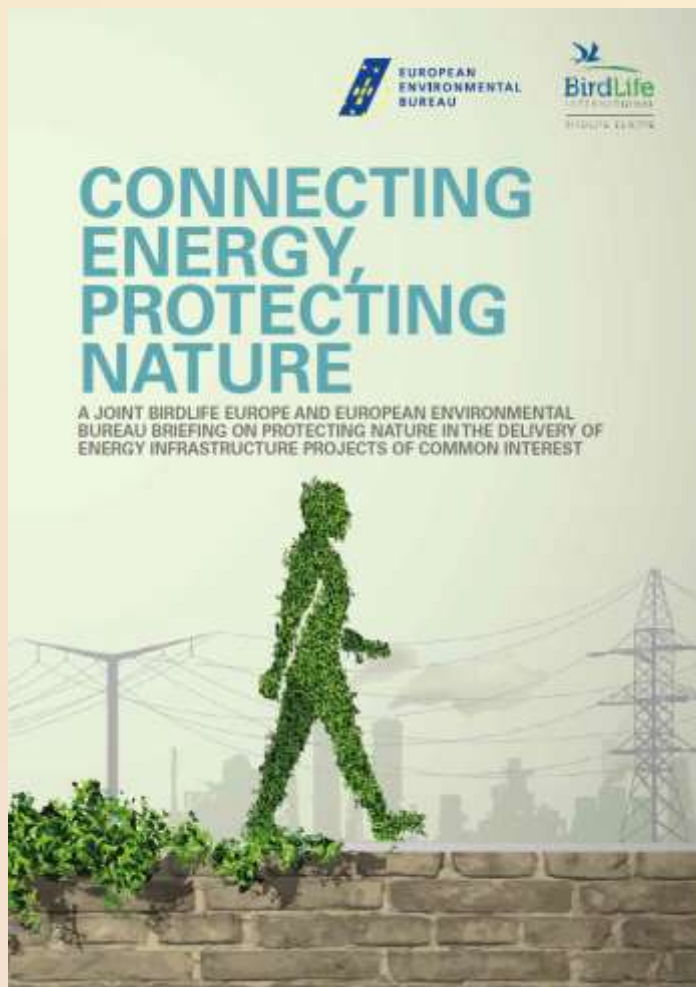
- Engagement with ENTSO-E and DG Energy to improve consideration of nature in EU plans
- National scrutiny of plans and projects – improving routing, mitigation and stopping the worst projects if possible.
- Making power lines safe (preventing electrocutions) – Bulgaria, Portugal, Slovenia, Estonia, Belgium
- BirdLife ‘position paper’ on power lines and work with Bern Convention on guidelines.
- Renewables Grid Initiative

BESTGRID

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