

# Biodiversity protection and enhancement in the EMAS Sectoral Reference Documents



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# Outline of the presentation

1. Introduction of the EMAS Sectoral Reference Documents
2. How biodiversity is considered in the EMAS SRDs
3. Examples of best practices for protecting and enhancing biodiversity from different EMAS SRDs under development

# The EMAS Sectoral Reference Documents

According to the EMAS Regulation (EC) 1221/2009, the European Commission shall develop EMAS Sectoral Reference Documents on Best Environmental Management Practices (BEMPs)



**BEMP**



**EMAS**

**BEMPs** help your organisation to improve its environmental performance and are a key element of the **EMAS** framework.

# Two final outputs for each sector



**Best  
Practice  
report**

**Sectoral  
Reference  
Document**



# GO GREEN WITH **BEST ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PRACTICES!**



## **BEMP**

**Best practices to reduce  
environmental impacts**

Already in Use by Best Environmental Performers



**Practical  
Guidance**



**Environmental  
Performance  
Indicators**



**Benchmarks  
of Excellence**

## BEMPs for 11 sectors

The European Commission cooperates with experts and stakeholders from different sectors to identify BEMPs. As a result of this cooperation, Sectoral Reference Documents for 11 sectors are currently under development.



## WORKING GROUPS

JRC & DG Environment  
in close cooperation with



# Best Environmental Management Practices (BEMPs)

Description of BEMPs (requires detailed technical information):

- Description
- Achieved environmental benefit
- Appropriate environmental indicator
- Cross-media effects
- Operational data
- Applicability
- Economics
- Driving force for implementation
- Reference organisations
- Reference literature

# Best practices in EMAS SRDs for protecting and enhancing biodiversity

Loss of biodiversity is among the relevant environmental impacts for a number of sectors targeted by the EMAS SRDs

The EMAS SRDs which include best practices addressing biodiversity are:

- Tourism
- Construction sector
- Public administration
- Agriculture
- Car manufacturing
- Manufacture of electrical and electronic equipment



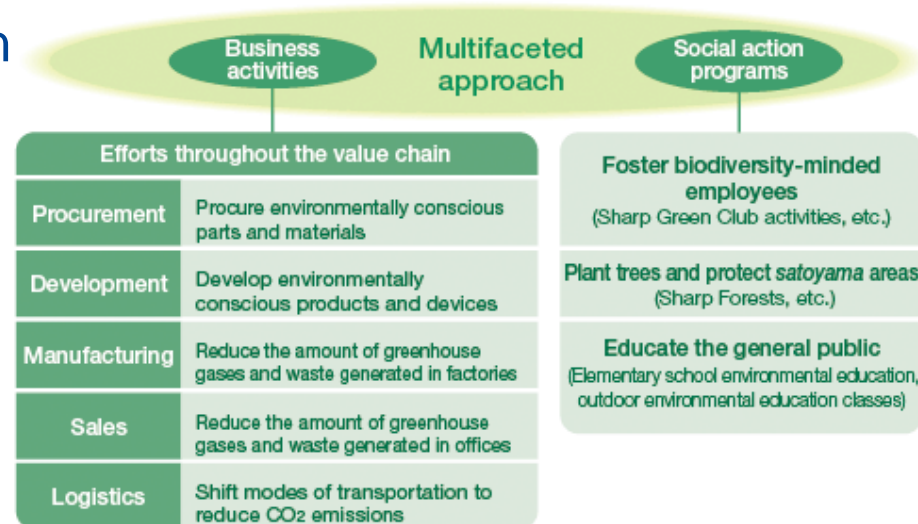
# Protecting and enhancing biodiversity: Manufacture of Electrical and Electronic Equipment

## Short description of the BEMP

EEE manufacturing sites usually impact biodiversity through land use and soil sealing, but they can also benefit from ecosystem services

Measures considered best practice can include activities such as:

- Planting trees, reintroducing native species or creation of wetlands into sites where the natural environment has been destroyed in the past
- Surveys of flora and fauna, aimed at documenting and monitoring the state of biodiversity at a specific site



Source: SHARP (2014a)

# Protecting and enhancing biodiversity: Manufacture of Electrical and Electronic Equipment

## Environmental cross-media effects and performance indicators

Cross-media effects: introduction of new species into a habitat where natural enemies do not exist can lead to uncontrollable development of the new species, resulting in negative impacts on the wellbeing of other species.

Environmental performance should be monitored with checklist-based qualitative metrics by comparing the progress of companies in terms of the implementation of biodiversity strategies, e.g. including:

- Regulation (including regional planning initiatives aimed at enhancing biodiversity)
- Conduct survey of biodiversity on facility grounds every 3 years
- Implementation of greening efforts on facility grounds

# Protecting and enhancing biodiversity: Manufacture of Electrical and Electronic Equipment

## Applicability and economics

Approach is not only applicable to facilities surrounded by natural areas; enhancing biodiversity in urban areas is equally important

Costs depend on various factors, e.g. the amount of work done by volunteering employees and special equipment

# Landscape biodiversity management: Agriculture

## Short description of the BEMP

The intensification of farmland has been linked to the decline of farmland birds and insects, poorer plant diversity as well as soil biodiversity

Four steps can be considered as general best practice with respect to protecting farmland biodiversity:

- ✓ Practise Integrated Farm Management;
- ✓ Select and apply pesticides responsibly;
- ✓ Provide field margin habitats;
- ✓ Provide in-field habitats.

# Landscape biodiversity management: Agriculture

## Environmental cross-media effects and performance indicators

Measures to enhance local biodiversity need to be balanced against the risk of displacing food production to other areas (e.g. high nature value areas, other continents such as Brazilian Amazon)

Environmental performance indicators can be:

- ✓ Number of species present on farm by category
- ✓ Absolute and relative areas of different habitat types
- ✓ Length of biotope corridors
- ✓ Percentage of area dedicated to nature or low input agriculture

# Landscape biodiversity management: Agriculture

## Applicability and economics

This BEMP can be applied across all farm types, sizes and locations

Typically there is a loss of revenue through provision of natural habitat areas on farms, through lost food production. However, reduced biodiversity and ecosystem functioning at the landscape level can lead to large productivity losses for farmers, through e.g. flooding, soil degradation, poor pollination

# Local biodiversity strategy and action plan for Public Administrations

## Short description of the BEMP

It is best practice to establish a local biodiversity strategy and action plan to:

- ✓ Collect primary data on local biodiversity (e.g. number and type of native species);
- ✓ Involve stakeholders and experts in identifying short-term and long-term targets and goals of the plan ;
- ✓ Define specific action to achieve the targets and goals (e.g. restoration and rehabilitation of degraded areas, expansion of protected areas);
- ✓ Allocate a budget to the action plan;
- ✓ Raise awareness among citizens about the action plan.

# Local biodiversity strategy and action plan for Public Administrations

## Environmental performance indicators

- ✓ Percentage (%) and number of native species (including also the kind of the species e.g. birds, butterflies etc.) in the urban area
- ✓ Percentage (%) of natural-semi natural areas compared to the total urban area
- ✓ Green space per inhabitant ( $\text{m}^2$ greenery/inhabitant) – distinguished into urban, semi-urban, rural areas



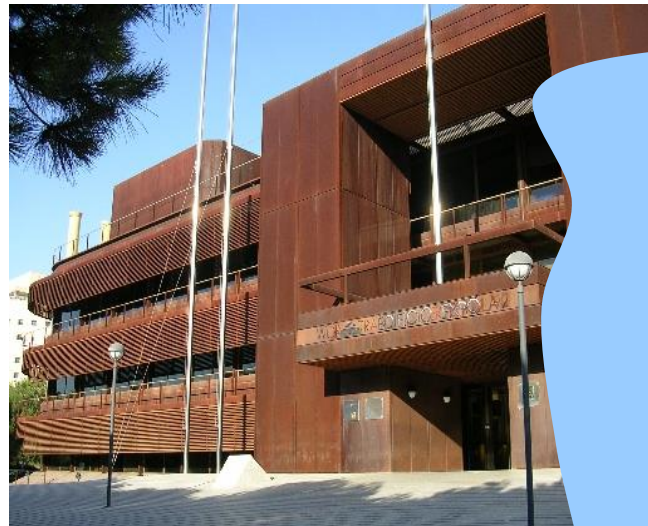
# Local biodiversity strategy and action plan for Public Administrations

## Applicability and economics

This BEMP can be applied by all types of local public administrations.

The success depends on the priority given to biodiversity protection, the budget allocated and the dialogue with external experts and stakeholders.

# Thank you!



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