Green – Blue Infrastructure as provider of multiple cross-sectoral benefits

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Meeting of the Great Rivers of the World
Rome, 23 – 25 October 2017
Securing resilience of global energy and food systems builds on fairness of water allocation strategies.
Ecosystems in an interdependent EU policy context

**Water Framework Directive**
- Water status is slowly improving
- 43% in 2009, 53% in 2015
- 100% of EU surface waters will have good ecological status by 2021

**Common Agricultural Policy**
- Intensive cropping
- Crop diversification
- Mixed farming

**Floods Directive and EU Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction**

**EU Biodiversity Strategy**

**Partnership on Sustainable Land Use and Nature-based Solutions**
The benefits of multifunctionality

- Reduction of storm water runoff
- Filtering of water pollutants
- Decreasing urban heat effects
- Energy saving through insulation
- Providing habitat for a variety of species
- Ability to perform several functions and provide different benefits on the same spatial area
Tailoring the spatial distribution of measures

Year 2030 scenarios
Investing in natural solutions to reduce the discharge of flood peaks

*Indicator of effectiveness: 20 year return period*

Exploring trade-offs with economic and social goals

*Source JRC*
• Mainstream ecosystem-based measures in territorial planning
• Need to generate awareness, but also solutions demonstrating potential benefits
• Promote transfer of best practices through the creation of international networks involving cross-sectoral stakeholders

A WEFE-Nexus science-policy interface for Europe, Mediterranean and Africa