

Assessing Risks to Biodiversity from Exposure to Chemicals: Findings of an ECETOC Task Force on the Regulatory Context

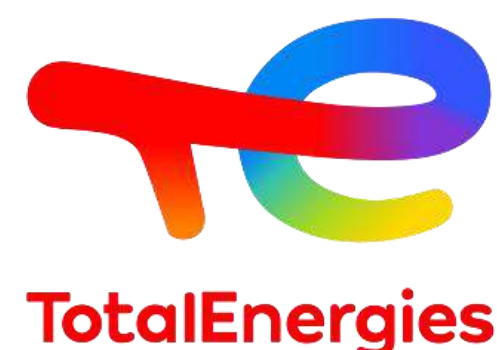
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ECETOC Biodiversity Committee

*Assessing risks to
biodiversity from
exposure to
chemicals: where
are we and where
should we be
going?*



Global Biodiversity Protection – A brief history

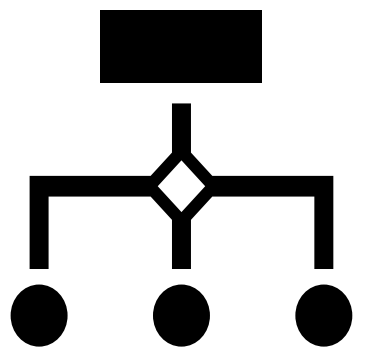


- The UN – Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) – a key instrument for sustainable development signed in 1992.
- There have been 15 “Convening of Parties” (COP) related to biodiversity protection
- At COP15 December 2022 in Montreal the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework was adopted - an ambitious pathway to reach the global vision of a world living in harmony with nature by 2050. Among the Framework’s key elements are 4 goals for 2050 and 23 targets for 2030.
- At COP16 Oct 2024 governments will be tasked with reviewing the state of implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and show the alignment of their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans.

Biodiversity Framework link into Assessing Chemicals?



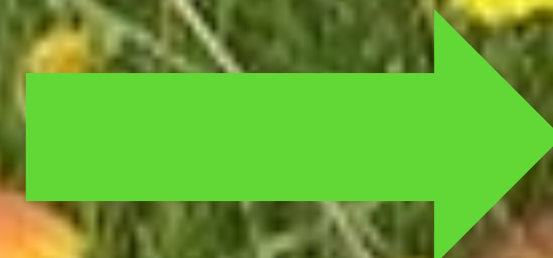
TARGET 7: Reduce Pollution to Levels That Are Not Harmful to Biodiversity



TARGET 14: Integrate Biodiversity in Decision-Making at Every Level



TARGET 15: Businesses Assess, Disclose and Reduce Biodiversity-Related Risks and Negative Impacts



**What Regulatory
Levers Can Protect
Biodiversity from
Chemicals?**

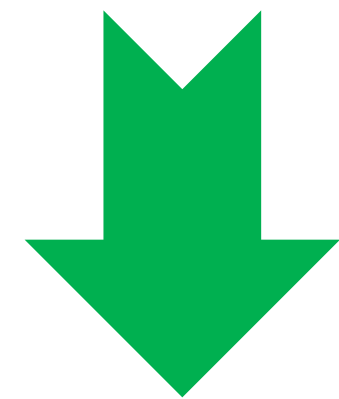
What EU Regulatory Programs Attempt to Protect Biodiversity?

- The EU has set goals for managing chemicals as one of the presumed influencing factors and aims to mitigate the entry and effects of chemicals in the environment.
- Green Deal initiatives identify chemical inputs as a main driver of biodiversity decline
- Chemical manufacturers and applicators are facing increasing regulatory demands to mediate and mitigate this decline
- Regulators and researchers are calling for more holistic assessment of how biodiversity is affected by chemical exposure



Challenges

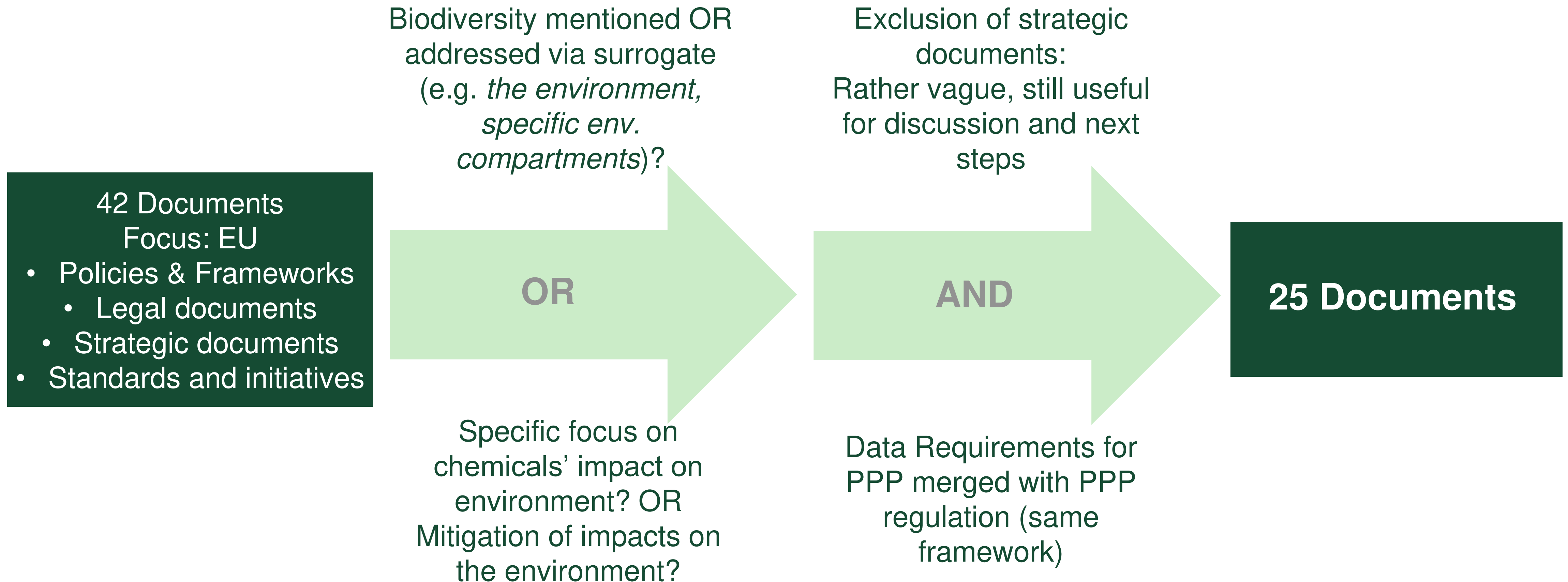
- Unclear definitions and metrics for biodiversity and how to efficiently link them to chemical regulation.
- Links between biodiversity loss and chemical exposure for different taxa and systems are not established,
- Unclear the relative contribution of chemicals compared to other pressures on biodiversity



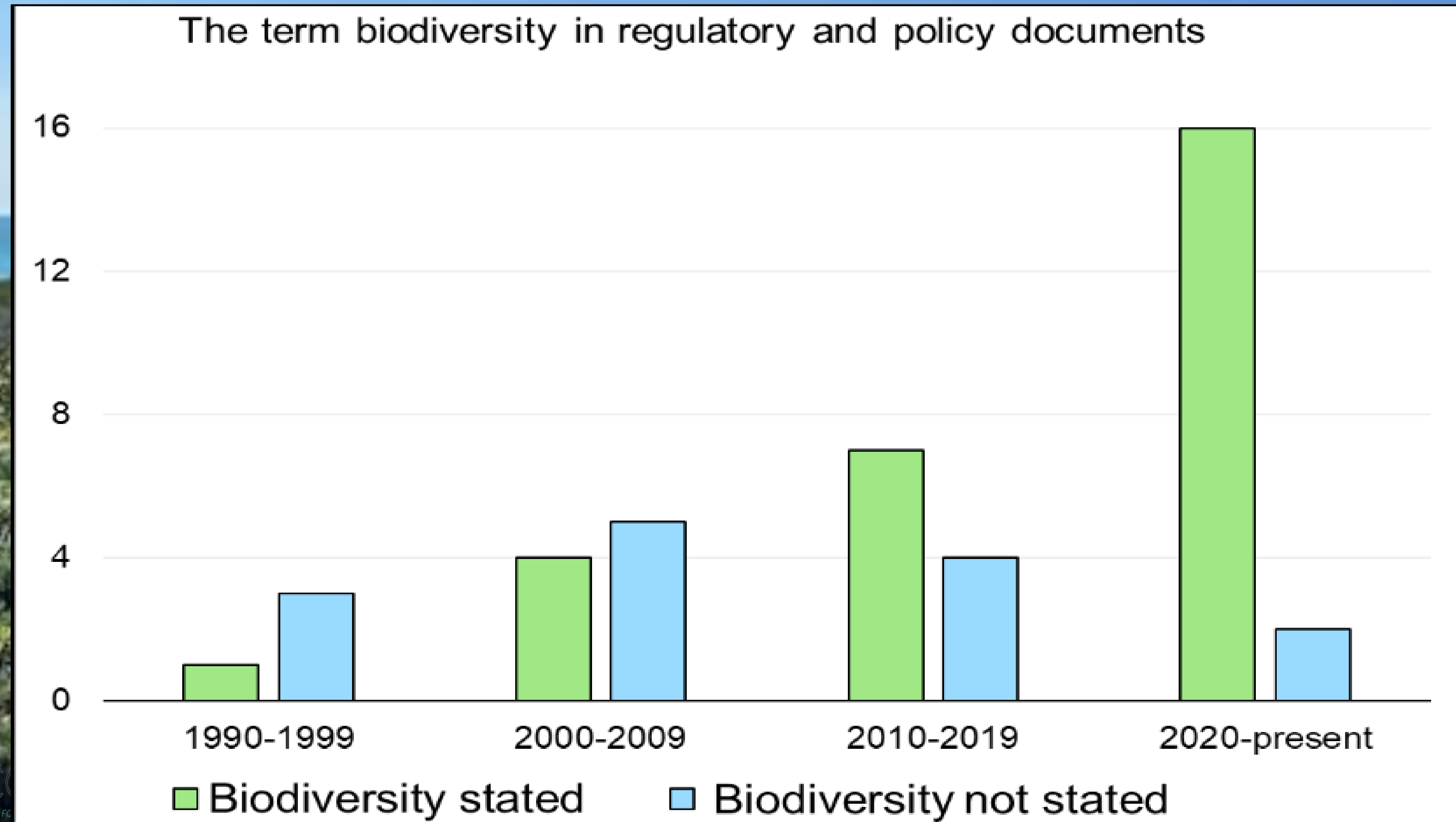
Objective: Review EU regulation and strategic documents to understand the regulatory context for considering biodiversity in chemicals management regulation.



Methods: Filtering Process of Regulatory Documents



Increasing use of Biodiversity in EU regulation

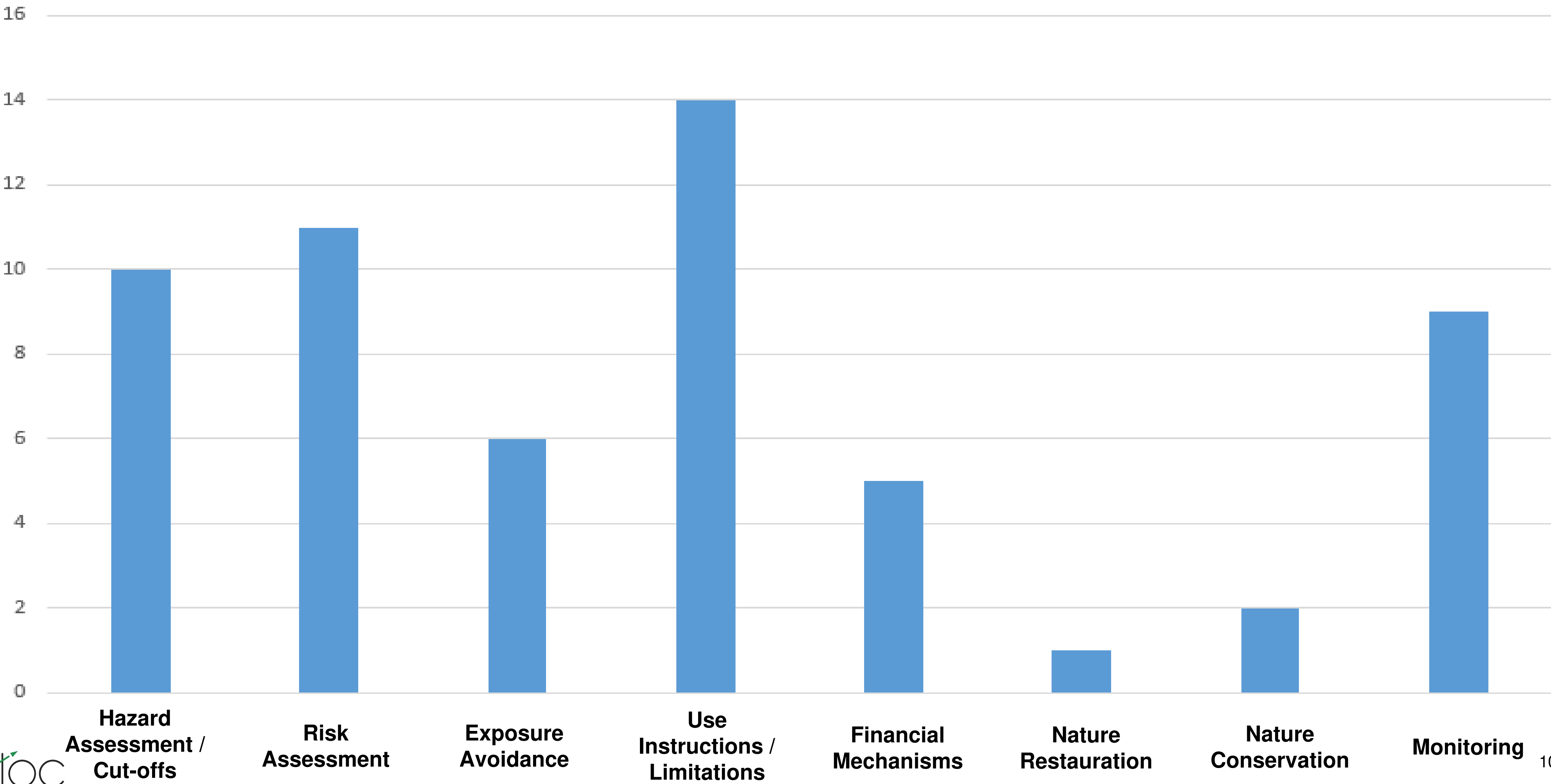


Lack of Definition is Reflected in EU Regulations

- Biodiversity is defined in only 5 documents, largely following CBD 1992
- Of papers that discussed biodiversity or “the environment,” only 9 documents provide metrics, and these vary in specificity

PPP's					
283/2013					
284/2013					
CLP REG					
REACH	Soil DIR				
POP REG	UWWT DIR				
VetMed Products	CSRD				
Med Products REG	Industrial Emission DIR				
Fertilizer Products	SUD				
Biocide Regulation	Birds DIR	Green Deal	CAP		
Batterie,Waste B REG	Habitats DIR	Biodiversity	EU Taxonomy		
EUDR	Marine Strategy DIR	F2F	WFD		
Cosmetic Products	CS3D	Chemicals	SSbD		Circular Economy
Nature Restoration	WEEE DIR	EU Zero Poll Action Plan	GBF		AMR Emission Standard
SUR	Biocidal Products Dir	ECHA Key Reg Challenges	OSPARCOM	Supply Chain Act (D)	EU Pollinators Init
Regulations	Directives	Strategies	Frameworks	national laws	other

Mechanism for Regulation of Chemicals





Take-home Messages

- Biodiversity is increasingly being mentioned in regulations
- Associated metrics remain poorly defined in chemicals management legislation
- Definitions of biodiversity need to be specified for the purpose of different regulations.
- Operational protection goals and biodiversity metrics need to be defined for risk assessments.
- Most common mechanism for management of chemicals is hazard/risk assessments and use limitations but other approaches are increasingly being incorporated into regulations.

Recommendations / Next Steps

- Synthesize the outcomes of the three work groups to provide recommendations about how biodiversity can be translated and adopted into the regulatory context
- Include considerations on spatial and temporal scales of biodiversity protection
- Facilitate greater adoption of new research and developments relevant for policy and regulation related to biodiversity
- Drive research by identifying needs and gaps in regulation more clearly
- Provide recommendations on methodologies for chemical risk assessments for biodiversity protection
- Make better connections between regulatory and academic research on data sharing
- ***Planning an ECETOC workshop for 2025***





Thank you.