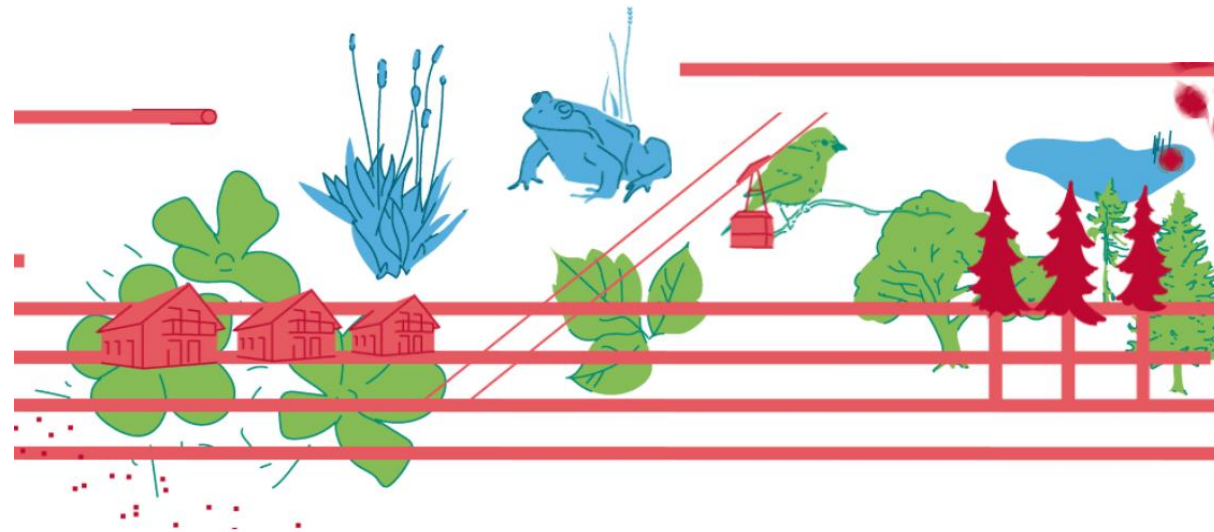


# Agricultural Subsidies harmful to Biodiversity



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<https://subventionen.wsl.ch>

Based on the Study:

Gubler, L., Ismail, S., Seidl, I. (2020), Biodiversitätsschädigende Subventionen in der Schweiz, WSL

# State of Biodiversity

## Accelerated decline of biodiversity



Nature's contributions to people	DIRECTIONAL TREND			Across regions
	50-year global trend			
	Decrease ←	No change →	Increase →	
1 Habitat creation & maintenance	↓			Consistent
2 Pollination & dispersal of seeds	↓			Consistent
3 Regulation of air quality		↘		Variable
4 Regulation of climate		↘		Variable
5 Regulation of ocean acidification			→	Variable
6 Regulation of freshwater quantity		↘		Variable
7 Regulation of freshwater quality		↘		Consistent
8 Regulation of soils		↘		Variable
9 Regulation of hazards & extreme events		↘		Variable
10 Regulation of organisms	↓	↘		Consistent
11 Energy		↘	↗	Variable
12 Food & feed	↓	↘	↗	Variable
13 Materials & assistance		↘	↗	Variable
14 Medicinal, biochemical, & genetic resources	↓	↘		Consistent
15 Learning & inspiration	↓	↘		Consistent
16 Physical & psychological experiences		↘		Consistent
17 Supporting identities		↘		Consistent
18 Maintenance of options	↓	↘		Consistent

TREND ACROSS REGIONS

Consistent

↑ Increase

↓ Decrease

→ Variable

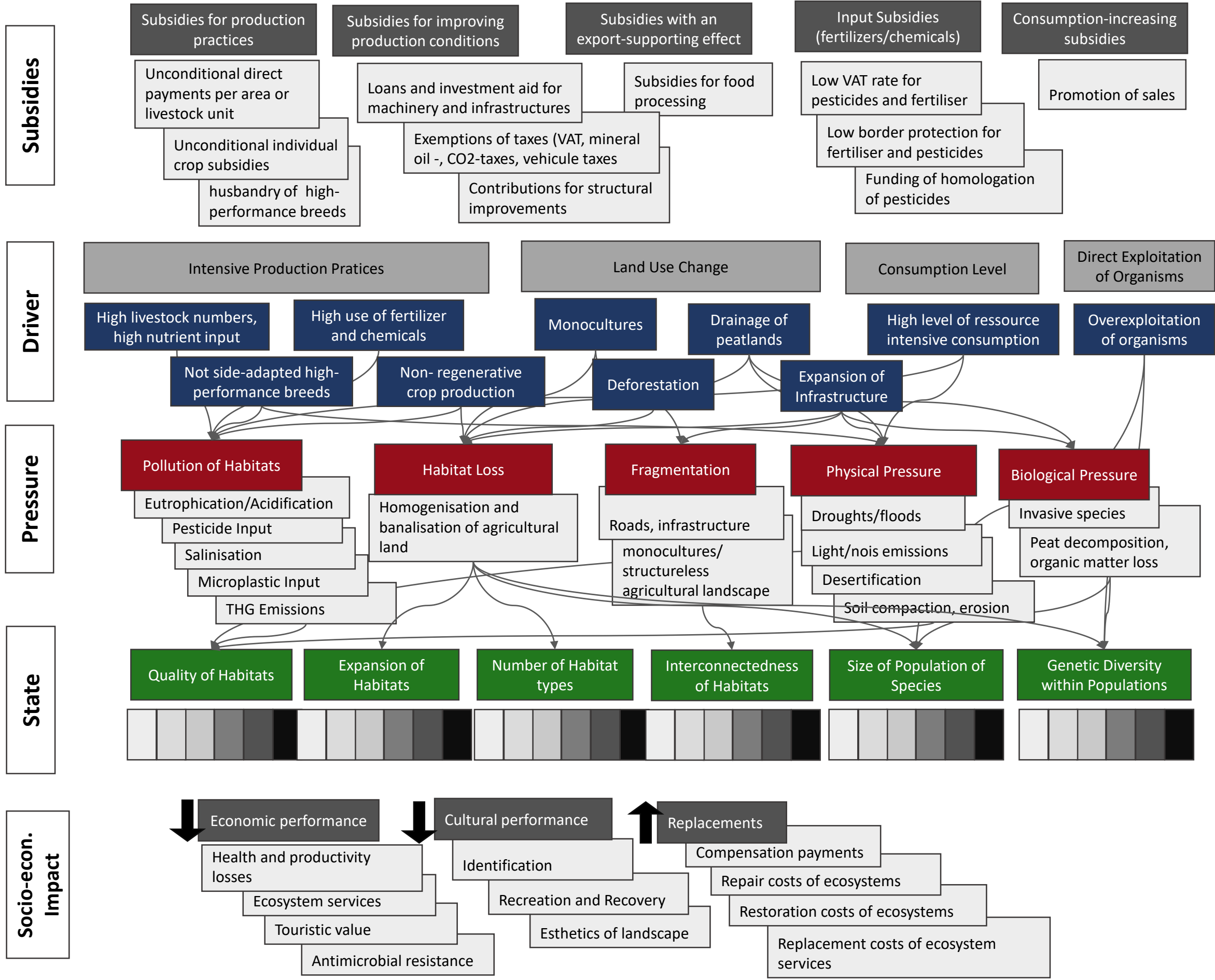
Almost all ecosystem services are declining

## Aichi Target 3 and Kunming Target 18

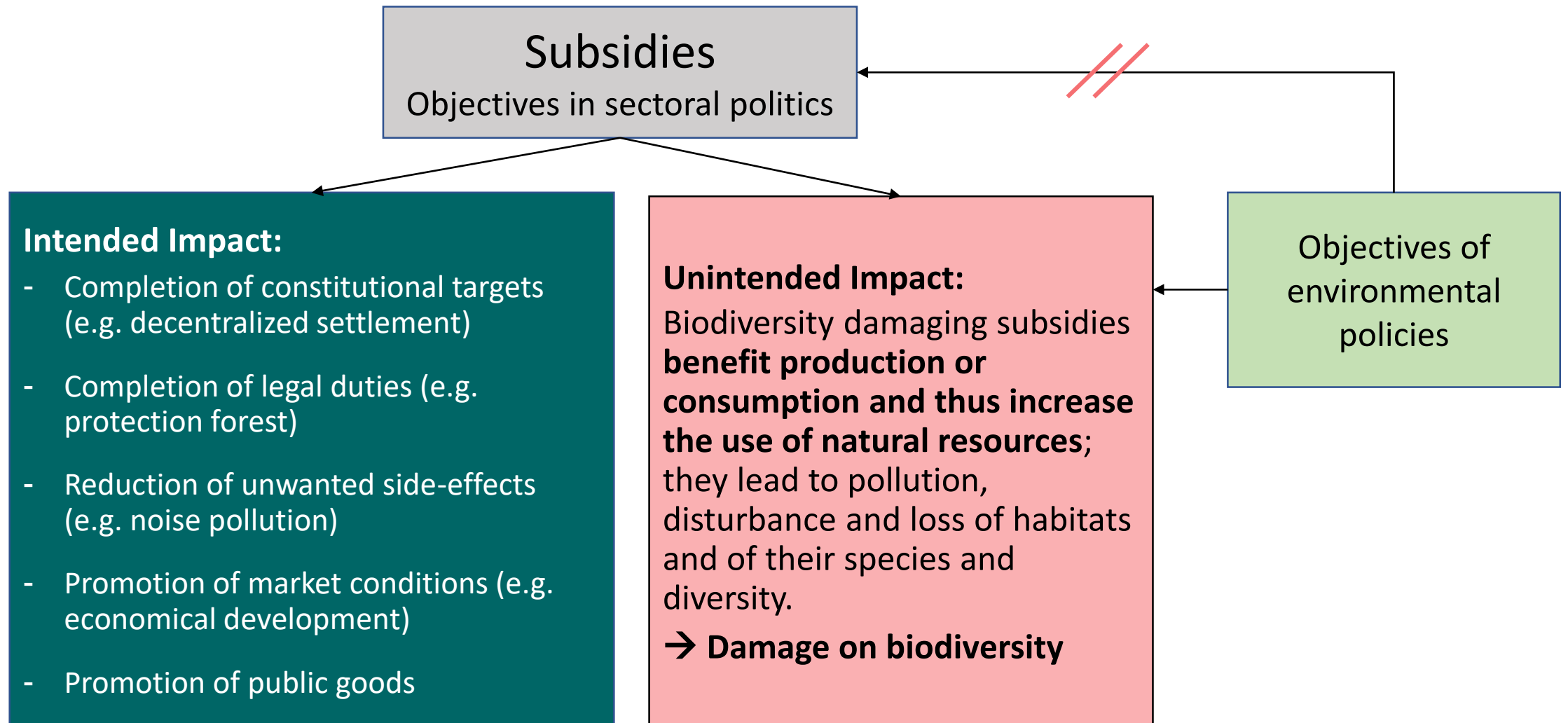
Identify by 2025, and eliminate, phase out or reform incentives, including subsidies, harmful for biodiversity (...)

## Ecologically harmful and economically inefficient

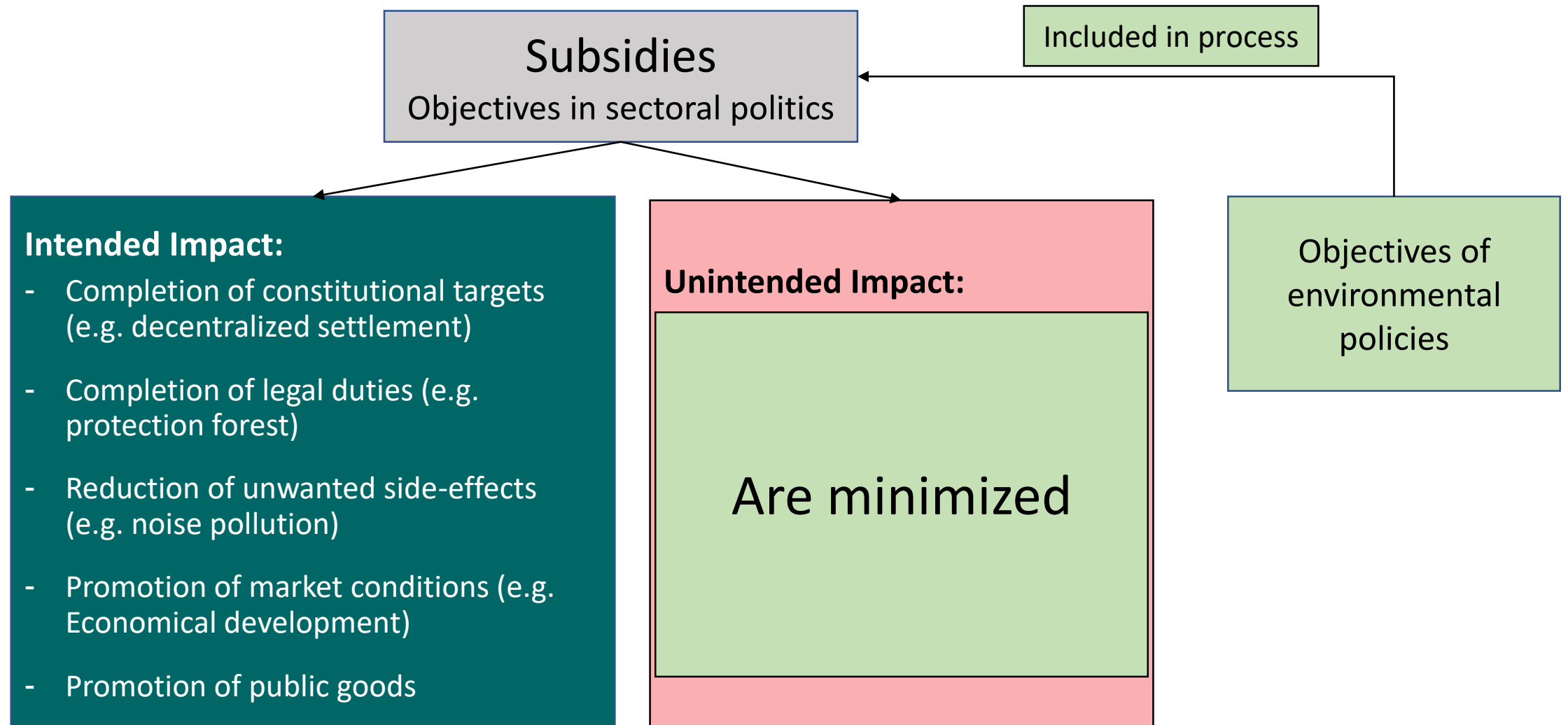
- Budgets are charged in several ways:
  - Subsidies damaging biodiversity
  - Funding for biodiversity promotion
  - Repair costs of damages
- Administrative expenses through restrictions, control measurements, monitorings, etc.
- Reputational damages for recipients of subsidies that are damaging biodiversity



# Subsidies: an important fiscal instrument



# Minimize environmentally damaging impact



# Possible political approaches

<b>a) Process of subsidies allocation and evaluation</b>	<b>b) Reform individual subsidies</b>	<b>c) Align sectoral policy goals with environmental goals</b>
Adaptation of legal basis and evaluation tools	By prioritization of impact or by opportunity	Mainstreaming Biodiversity considerations in planning basis, strategies, policy-measures



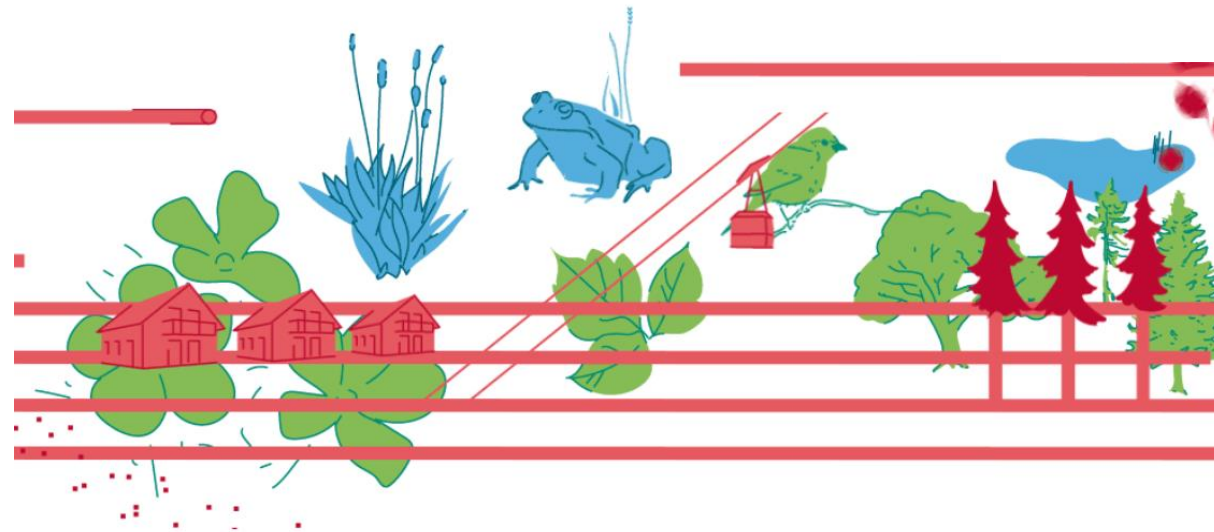
# Reform of individual subsidies

**(1) Elimination:** weighing of interests between sectoral objectives and environmental objectives or assuring intended objective of the subsidy by other instruments, i.e. relementation

**(2) Reform:** The intended objective of the subsidy (e.g. food security) must be maintained while the negative effect on biodiversity are minimised. This can be achieved in the following way:

- a) ...subsidies are **redirected to less biodiversity-damaging practices** that contribute to the same objectives (i.e.: subsidation of plant based food, instead of livestock).
- b) ...subsidies are **subject to conditions** (i.e. condition of a regenerative cultivation method).
- c) ...**the incentive is changed** (i.e. instead of the livestock unit, the labour required for a regenerative production method is subsidised).
- d) ...subsidies are **subject to compensation measures** (for example, only farms that carry out a defined ecological compensation could benefit from the subsidy).

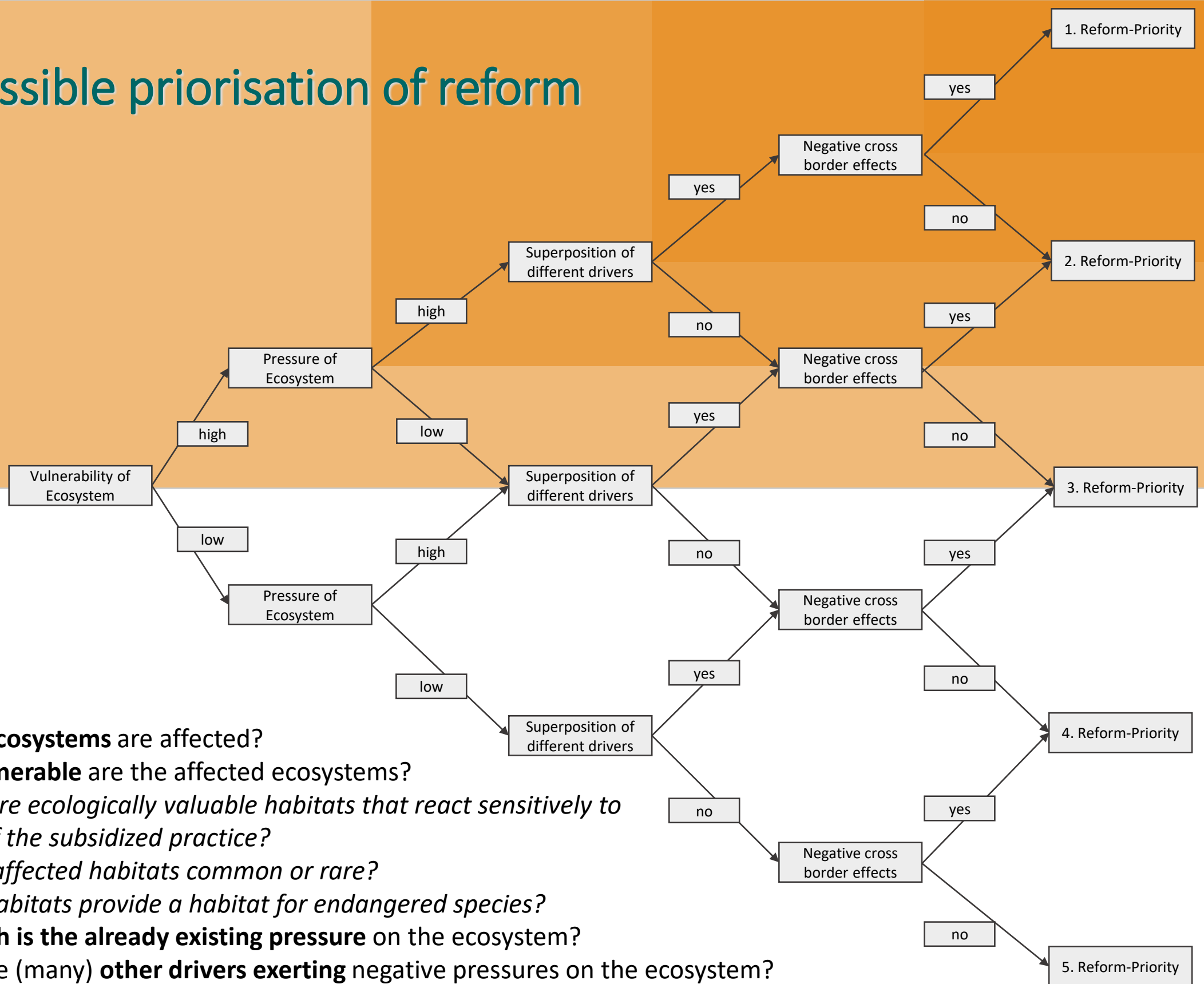
# Thank you for your attention



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# Possible prioritisation of reform



1. Which **ecosystems** are affected?
2. How **vulnerable** are the affected ecosystems?
  - a. *Are there ecologically valuable habitats that react sensitively to pressure of the subsidized practice?*
  - b. *Are the affected habitats common or rare?*
  - c. *Do the habitats provide a habitat for endangered species?*
3. How **high** is the **already existing pressure** on the ecosystem?
4. Are there (many) **other drivers exerting** negative pressures on the ecosystem?
5. Does the subsidised practice also have negative effects **beyond the national territory**?