



7 000 000 Hunters for Conservation in Europe

JOINT STATEMENT ON THE EU'S "POST 2010" BIODIVERSITY POLICY

23 April 2009

BirdLife International and FACE are extremely concerned by the fact that the EU is likely to fail on its 2010 target to halt the decline of biodiversity¹. Both organisations are convinced that human well-being and economic prosperity are inseparably linked to the health of ecosystems and biodiversity. For both FACE and BirdLife the intrinsic values of nature are equally important.

FACE and BirdLife International call upon EU Institutions, Member States and all stakeholders to intensify efforts for implementing the EU's 2010 Biodiversity Action Plan. At the same time, both organisations are convinced of the necessity of additional efforts, new targets and a new strategy to halt the loss of, and to restore, biodiversity and ecosystems after 2010. Both organisations recognise the important role that all land-users and their representative bodies, including hunting and conservation NGOs, can and must play to preserve Europe's biodiversity, as most European landscapes are influenced by human activities.

A new EU policy framework for ecosystems and biodiversity should include, inter alia, the following elements:

1. The successful **Birds and Habitats Directives, and the Natura 2000 Network**, have to continue being at the heart of the EU's biodiversity policy, but they need to be properly implemented, interpreted and enforced, sufficiently financed and better communicated; all use of land or biodiversity, whether consumptive or non-consumptive, should be sustainable and compatible with conservation objectives - in order to fully realise the benefits of the Nature Directives and Natura 2000 for biodiversity and society;

¹ See 2008 mid-term report of the European Commission on the Biodiversity Action Plan (http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/comm2006/bap_2008.htm)

2. Additional, comprehensive legislation has to be adopted on **Invasive Alien Species** as well as for the protection of **soils**;
3. **Sectoral policies and strategies**, like those on agriculture, fisheries, forestry, regional development, transport and energy, have to be reformed so that they contribute to, biodiversity conservation and ecosystem resilience – within Natura 2000 sites and in the wider land/seascape;
4. The **EU Budget** has to be reformed so that public money is only spent on public goods, and so that the budget supports biodiversity conservation through dedicated and integrated funds;
5. Better **spatial planning**, coordinated among EU Member States, is an essential pillar for sustainable development and effective conservation of biodiversity.

The economics of ecosystems and biodiversity have to be integrated into the mainstream economic system, including proper validation of the goods and services biodiversity and ecosystems deliver to society.

As an overarching principle both organisations stress that any EU, international, regional or national policy must increase, rather than weaken **ecosystem resilience**, which is of special importance in times of climate change.

Finally, FACE and BirdLife International think that biodiversity loss can only be stopped if the **key responsible drivers** are addressed: to this end the unsustainable use of natural resources (including energy) and area/space by society must be limited effectively, as well as the EU's harmful impact on ecosystems and biodiversity outside Europe.