

2010 Biodiversity Target UK Parliamentary Event

The 2010 Biodiversity Target is an agreement through the Convention on Biological Diversity to halt the loss of biodiversity. Parties to the Target commit themselves to achieving by 2010 a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national level as a contribution to poverty alleviation and to the benefit of all life on Earth. The Target is now also incorporated into the Millennium Development Goals.



The British Ecological Society (BES) and the Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (IEEM) have come together to further the exposure of the 2010 Biodiversity Target with an event in the UK Parliament in October 2009.

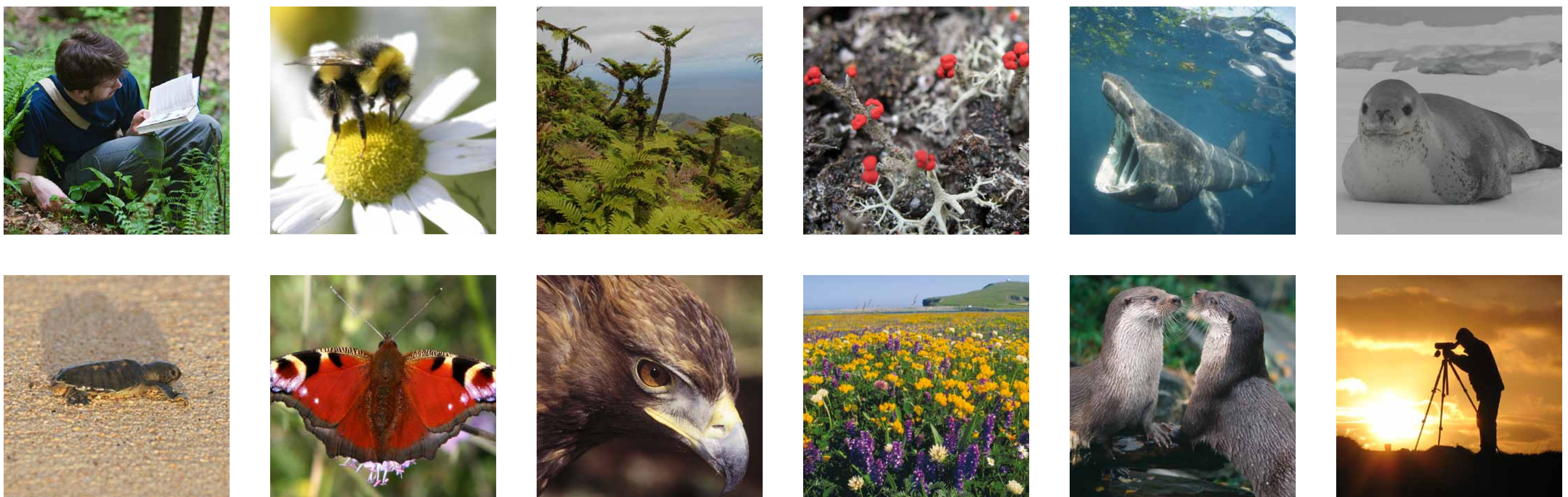
A workshop was held in June 2009 to draft a Position Statement on the 2010 Biodiversity Target. This Statement will be presented to the UK Government at the October 2009 parliamentary event.

The purpose of producing the Position Statement is to provide an independent and authoritative contribution to discussions already taking place regarding the successor to the 2010 target in the UK, to ensure that the voice of ecologists is heard in discussion and continues to be heard, and to ensure that future policy with respect to the 2010 Biodiversity Target will be based on sound scientific evidence.

The final outcome of the June workshop will be an informative, authoritative and independent Statement exploring the indicators and evidence of biodiversity loss, the importance of and threats to biodiversity, mechanisms for reversing biodiversity loss, and aspirations beyond 2010.

It is hoped that the parliamentary event will raise the profile of the 2010 Biodiversity Target, within both the UK and its dependent territories, with parliamentarians and policy-makers. The event will be chaired by Lord Selborne and speakers include Sebastian Winkler, Head of Countdown 2010, and Pavan Sukhdev, study leader of *The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity*. All MPs and Peers will be invited to the event.

The Statement will be used by the BES, IEEM and partners to raise the profile of biodiversity in policy throughout 2010.



The British Ecological Society was established in 1913 and has approximately 4,000 members worldwide. Membership is open to all with an interest in ecology. Its many activities include the publication of a range of scientific literature, including four internationally renowned journals, the organisation and sponsorship of various meetings, funding grant schemes, education work and policy work. The vision of the British Ecological Society is to advance ecology and make it count.

The Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management is the professional body that represents and supports ecologists and environmental managers in the UK, Ireland and abroad. It provides a variety of services to develop competency and standards in the profession, such as training, conferences and publications. It has around 4,000 members drawn from local authorities, government agencies, industry, environmental consultancies, teaching/research, and NGOs.

We are grateful for advice and support from our partners in this endeavour: Countdown 2010, the Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology, and the UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum



British Ecological Society



www.countdown2010.net



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