

Countdown 2010 Declaration

BIODIVERSITY - THE WEB OF LIFE ON EARTH - IS ESSENTIAL TO THE QUALITY OF HUMAN WELL-BEING, AND IT IS A CRUCIAL ELEMENT IN SUSTAINING THE SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND SPIRITUAL DIMENSION OF ALL EUROPEANS. YET, BIODIVERSITY CONTINUES TO DECLINE. POLITICAL COMMITMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO STOP THIS TREND BY 2010. FURTHER STEPS NEED TO BE TAKEN TO HONOUR THIS COMMITMENT AND TO TRANSLATE IT INTO ACTION.

We the undersigned will take every practical opportunity to:

Support the commitments to halt or significantly reduce the current rate of biodiversity loss by 2010, made by:

- European Union Heads of State and Government in the Presidency Conclusions adopted at the Göteborg European Council, Sweden in 2001;
- World Environment Ministers in the Hague Ministerial Declaration of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in the Netherlands 2002;
- World Heads of State in the Plan of Implementation at the United Nations World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa in 2002;
- European Environment Ministers and Heads of Delegation of the region of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe in the Declaration of the fifth Ministerial "Environment for Europe" Conference, in Kyiv, Ukraine 2003.

Encourage European decision makers at all levels, in both the public and the private sector, to contribute to these commitments and to

- Increase public awareness and participation for biodiversity conservation, including the promotion of exemplary activities towards the 2010 biodiversity target;
- Better integrate biodiversity considerations into all relevant sectors of public policy and economy;
- Undertake serious efforts to adapt human activities to the needs of natural systems;
- Likewise address the loss of biodiversity Europeans are causing in other regions of the world;
- Support the development of suitable monitoring and indicator tools to assess the state of biodiversity in Europe.

Commit ourselves to encourage and assist decision makers and European societies in achieving the 2010 biodiversity target, notably through:

- Actively promoting Countdown 2010 to focus attention and mobilise resources for achieving the 2010 biodiversity target;
- Significantly reducing our own impact on biodiversity.

In particular, we will:

- Launch the Finnish Countdown 2010 Initiative at the Conference on Biodiversity in European Development Cooperation to be held in Paris on 19-21 September, which aims at mainstreaming biodiversity into EU development cooperation, and inform the EU General Affairs and External Relations Council on the outcome and the recommendations of the Conference in Autumn 2006.
- Integrate the 2010 biodiversity target to address the pressing environmental problems in the complex Peruvian Amazon, through the BIODAMAZ project and prepare the launch of a regional initiative in collaboration with the Andean Community as a concrete response to the 2006 Paris Conference on Biodiversity in European Development Cooperation.



- Adopt and implement the Second Finnish National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2006-2016 focusing on the 2010 biodiversity target.
- Prepare the EU Environment Council Conclusions on the European Commission's Biodiversity Communication: 'Halting the loss of Biodiversity by 2010 – and beyond', with a focus on the strategy and the EU action plan to 2010 and beyond.
- Promote "Youth and biodiversity" (education, communication and public awareness) during the European Platform for Biodiversity Research Strategy meeting in Helsinki in November 2006 and present the national education and awareness strategy with a focus on biodiversity.