

# Halting the loss of biodiversity by 2010

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This Commission impact assessment aims to analyse the impact of the Communication on Halting the Loss of Biodiversity by 2010 – and Beyond (Sustaining ecosystem services for human well-being). It provides the European institutions and public with information on the impacts of biodiversity loss and of proposed measures to halt this loss and secure the longer-term recovery of biodiversity.

Section 1 provides a review of the use of consultation and expertise in the preparation of the Communication. This includes a year-long stakeholder review of progress in implementation, effectiveness and appropriateness of the European Community Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans.

Section 2 reviews the problem of biodiversity loss – at the levels of ecosystems, species and genes - and the closely related problem of decline in natural capital and ecosystem services, both within the EU and globally.

Section 3 presents the aims of the Communication and their consistency with other EU policies.

Section 4 presents three possible policy approaches. The preferred option being to develop a focused EU Action Plan to 2010 and Beyond. The approach is elaborated through four key policy areas for action and ten related priority objectives, and four key supporting measures. Section 5 analyses the impacts of those few actions in the Action Plan which are new or accelerated beyond already agreed timetables.

Section 6 refers to the differentiation of Community and Member State responsibilities for each action.

Lastly, Section 7 presents plans for monitoring and evaluation, including the establishment and implementation of a headline set of biodiversity indicators.