

# The role of development policy in the response to biodiversity loss in developing countries, in the context of the achievement of the 2030 Agenda

2020/2274(INI) - 06/10/2021 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 351 votes to 31, with 304 abstentions, a resolution on the role of development policy in the response to biodiversity loss in developing countries, in the context of the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

## *Policy coherence for development*

Concerned that the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services is undermining progress towards around 80% of the measurable Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets, Parliament called on the EU to comprehensively address the root causes of biodiversity loss and to mainstream obligations on conservation, the sustainable use of resources and the restoration of ecosystems into its external development cooperation policy and partnerships.

Stressing that the European Union has a shared responsibility for the preservation of global biodiversity, the resolution urged that the EU's biodiversity targets be based on sound science knowledge and **fully integrated into its external action**, including in the context of partnership strategies and agreements, such as fisheries agreements with developing countries.

The EU is called on to introduce the right to a safe, **clean, healthy and sustainable** environment to the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, to support the global recognition of this right as a human right.

Members welcomed the Commission's commitment to develop a legislative proposal on a binding human rights and environmental due diligence for companies at all stages of their supply chains. They called on the Commission to come forward urgently with a proposal for an **EU legal framework to halt and reverse deforestation** and forest degradation for which the EU is responsible globally, including due diligence for companies.

## *Increasing funding*

Parliament recalled that the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI)-Global Europe should contribute to the ambition that 7.5% of annual spending under the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) in 2024, and 10% from 2026 onwards, should be devoted to biodiversity targets.

Members called for an effective increase in funds for biodiversity protection, in line with the MFF agreement, and for technical assistance for the development of further resource mobilisation tools to respond to global commitments on biodiversity. They called for a significant share of EU official development assistance for climate action to be allocated to the benefits of biodiversity protection and for the EU to require business and financial institutions to scale up their commitment to biodiversity.

## *Integrating biodiversity into all policy areas*

Parliament urged the EU to mainstream biodiversity and ecosystem services into all related policy areas, in particular agriculture, fisheries, forestry, energy, mining, trade, tourism and climate change, and in its policies and actions for development and poverty reduction. It also called for the promotion of innovative and feasible solutions to tackle biodiversity loss, while ensuring healthy, safe, accessible and affordable food for all.

The EU's development policy should in particular:

- provide financial incentives and voluntary as well as regulatory actions to encourage the adoption and implementation of biodiversity environmental benefits by farmers through training, technology use and innovation, as well as good sustainable agricultural practices, which implies, among other things, restoring limited water resources;
- take account of the EU's obligations under international agreements and ensure that development aid is not used to promote genetically modified technologies in developing countries;
- support intellectual property rights regimes that promote the production of locally adapted seed varieties and farmers' seeds;
- support developing countries in their efforts to strengthen pesticide risk regulation;
- improve partnership agreements in the field of sustainable fisheries;
- take all necessary steps to address the root causes of marine pollution and depletion of fisheries resources in a comprehensive manner;
- carefully assess the impacts of trade agreements on deforestation, biodiversity loss and human rights as part of sustainability impact assessments, based on scientific evidence;
- increase focus on health care, disease prevention and access to medicines in developing countries and strengthen EU action against pandemics and other health threats, taking into account the links between zoonotic pandemics and biodiversity loss;
- pay particular attention to projects and agreements that may have an impact on the lands, territories or natural resources of indigenous peoples and local communities
- combating environmental crime (wildlife trafficking, timber and raw materials) which poses a global threat to nature conservation, sustainable development, stability and security.

The EU and its Member States are invited to include **ecocide** and the right of future generations in international environmental law.