



Media Release

## A smarter and greener EU Budget would contribute to employment and economic prosperity

**A coalition of Environmental Groups launches a major study by GHK Consultants on “the contribution a green EU Budget could make to job creation and the economy”**

**Brussels, 8 February 2012** – Today, a coalition of Environmental NGOs launched a new report '*Evaluating the Potential for Green Jobs in the next Multi-annual Financial Framework*' [1] during an event held in the European Parliament. As the report shows, a smart EU budget can reach two objectives at once: pursue the EU's environmental sustainability objectives and tackle the economic and social crisis [2].

*“This report demonstrates that a radical retargeting of the EU Budget towards environmental sustainability would go hand in hand with the creation of jobs and the building of a more healthy European economy”* said Ariel Brunner, Head of EU Policy at BirdLife Europe [3].

A senior economist with UNEP's Green Economy Initiative, Sheng Fulai, welcomed the report in a keynote speech. *“The findings confirm a major conclusion from UNEP's Green Economy Report. At the global level, redirecting investment to green activities is good news for jobs overall”*, he said.

*“Of course green techs are critical to the EU's economy. But amazingly, nature protection is equally important. The science on the economic value of biodiversity has boomed in recent years. There is now clear evidence that investing in natural ecosystems can deliver massive outcomes for job creation and the economy”* said Jean-Philippe Palasi, Director of Conservation International - Europe [4].

BirdLife Europe and CI Europe urge EU decision makers to show the courage needed to confront vested interests and make the European economy ready for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It is time for a real re-orientation of the EU budget, away from harmful subsidies and towards the delivery of green jobs and public goods, such as biodiversity conservation and climate stabilisation. Environmental NGO's have tabled detailed proposals for a green reform of the EU Budget and relevant sectoral policies [5].

**-Ends-**

**For more information, please contact:**

Elodie Cantaloube, Media and Communication Assistant  
Tel. +32 (0) 2 541 0781  
E-mail: [elodie.cantaloube@birdlife.org](mailto:elodie.cantaloube@birdlife.org)

## Notes to editors:

1. See summary report “Investing for the future: More Jobs Out of a Greener EU Budget” at <http://www.birdlife.org/eu/pdfs/2012GreenjobsGlossy-LR.pdf> and the full study at [http://www.birdlife.org/eu/pdfs/Green\\_Jobs.pdf](http://www.birdlife.org/eu/pdfs/Green_Jobs.pdf)
2. Key findings of the report:
  - a. Environmental sustainability and economic prosperity go hand in hand.
  - b. Investing in a green EU Budget creates more jobs than the current EU Budget. Shifting investment from current pattern of investment within the Cohesion Policy and the CAP to green sectors would increase job creating per euro by a factor of three.
  - c. Despite employment being a key policy goal of the EU, the European Commission has not estimated how many jobs it expects its €1 trillion budget to create by 2020.
3. Stichting BirdLife Europe  
BirdLife International is a global Partnership of conservation organisations that strives to conserve birds, their habitats and global biodiversity, working with people towards sustainability in the use of natural resources. The BirdLife Partnership operates in 117 countries and territories worldwide. BirdLife Europe supports the European and Central Asian Partnership for BirdLife International and is present in 45 countries and all EU Member States. <http://europe.birdlife.org>
4. Conservation International  
Conservation International is an organisation with global reach and impact. Building upon a strong foundation of science, partnership and field demonstration, CI empowers societies to responsibly and sustainably care for nature for the well-being of humanity. CI works in more than 40 countries on four continents. CI Europe is the organisation’s new office in charge of policy work at the EU level. Based in Brussels, it has a status of Belgian ASBL and started its operations in February 2010.  
<http://www.conservation.org/europe>
5. See Changing Perspectives: How the EU Budget Can Shape a Sustainable Future at [http://www.birdlife.org/eu/pdfs/Changing\\_Perspectives\\_101201.pdf](http://www.birdlife.org/eu/pdfs/Changing_Perspectives_101201.pdf)