



## Biodiversity in a Changing World

The BirdLife FACE Joint Message to the Ghent post-2010 Biodiversity Conference

*8 September 2010*

Recognising that we collectively, as Europeans, will have all failed in our attempt to halt the loss of biodiversity by the end of 2010 BirdLife International and FACE welcome the opportunity to focus attention on nature and biodiversity in the run up to the Convention on Biological Diversity COP10 in Nagoya. We remain convinced that human well-being and economic prosperity are inseparably linked to the health of ecosystems and biodiversity. For both FACE and BirdLife the social, environmental and indeed the intrinsic values of nature are equally important.

FACE and BirdLife International call upon EU policy makers gathering in Ghent to discuss biodiversity in a changing world to come out with a strong message that recognises the multi-functionality of our environment and the need for us to develop tools and incentives to conserve the nature upon which we rely. In turn we ask that policy makers take this message and build into the post-2010 policies, ambitious targets as well as the tools and means by which to achieve them.

Specifically we call for:

1. The **Birds and Habitats Directives**, and the Natura 2000 network to remain at the heart of the EU's biodiversity policy. To be successful however, they need to be properly implemented, interpreted and enforced. All use of land or biodiversity, whether consumptive or non-consumptive, should be sustainable and compatible with conservation objectives of these legal instruments;
2. Mechanisms to address the **key responsible drivers** of biodiversity loss. Despite the increased actions to address the problem there is no evidence to suggest that pressures upon biodiversity are slowing<sup>1</sup>. More targeted efforts are required to ensure tangible results;

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<sup>1</sup> CBD (2010) Global Biodiversity Outlook 3

3. Strategies to enhance **biodiversity in the wider countryside**, to allow these areas to support ecosystems, provide resilience and habitat connectivity;
4. **New and innovative tools to improve implementation** of EU post 2010 biodiversity policy such as: effective inspection and monitoring, agreed sectoral strategies and improvements in sustainable consumption and production lines;
5. Additional, comprehensive legislation has to be adopted on **Invasive Alien Species** as well as for the protection of **soils**, as they are vital for ecosystem functioning;
6. The **EU Budget** to be reformed so that public money is above all spent on public goods, all spending is biodiversity and climate change proofed, and so that the budget supports biodiversity conservation through dedicated and integrated funds;
7. Adopt innovative communication strategies to increase **public awareness** and **political will**.

We, as Europeans, all have a role to play and we hope that our coming together and speaking jointly as concerned conservationists will encourage other groups to seek dialogue and consensus in order to work together in the interest of conserving our common heritage and our joint future, nature.

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