



## **Media Release**

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### **BirdLife calls upon the EU to champion biodiversity in Nagoya and at home**

**BirdLife International launches its key priorities on biodiversity ahead of the CBD COP 10 in Japan.**

**Brussels, 30 September 2010** – Today BirdLife International [1] hands in to the European Commissioner for the Environment, Mr Janez Potočnik, its “message for Nagoya”, an urgent Europe wide appeal to save the world’s biodiversity, as he leaves for the Japanese city hosting the world summit on biodiversity (the CBD COP10).

“In Nagoya the EU will have to take the leadership for a comprehensive and ambitious Strategic plan, focusing both on the drivers of biodiversity loss and on the necessity to integrate biodiversity into all relevant political and economic sectors”, commented Ariel Brunner, Head of EU Policy at BirdLife. “And last but not least, the EU must commit to provide sufficient funding for the implementation of the Convention, as well as work for a swift agreement on the fair sharing of access and benefits from the use of genetic resources”. [2]

“The EU has also to do its own homework, achieving the 2020 biodiversity target. We must save our biodiversity for our own good, and we need to set a positive example for the rest of the world”, continued Mr Brunner.

Presenting the new BirdLife ‘4-eye’ initiative, Mr Brunner added: “The EU has very effective nature legislation, but unfortunately its implementation and enforcement are not up to speed. Our new ‘4-eye initiative’ offers concrete and innovative tools to address this. We hope that the Commission realises that if the EU is to meet its 2020 target, it has to go much further than simply admitting the lack of implementation”, concluded Mr Brunner. [3]

The initiative, based on a balance of Information, Induction, Inspection and Investigation, proposes measures such as targeted communication campaigns for key

stakeholders groups such as fishermen, farmers or developers. National civil servants, judges, prosecutors and land planners dealing with Natura 2000 should receive proper trainings on proper implementation of the EU Directives; at the same time the European Commission should be granted significant powers of inspection to ensure proper national implementation of the Directives- such inspection procedures have been proved very effective in other fields such as animal health and consumer protection. Much better coordination between Member states is also needed in order to deal with wildlife crime and other forms of illegal activities that increasingly cross national borders.

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**Notes for the editor**

[1] BirdLife International is a global Partnership of nature conservation organisations working in more than 100 countries and territories. BirdLife is the leading authority on the status of birds, their habitats and the problems affecting them, and is working on a wide range of environmental issues. BirdLife has 42 Partners in Europe, and is represented in all 27 Member States.

For more information about the work of the BirdLife European Division:

<http://europe.birdlife.org>

[2] The BirdLife **5 Asks for the CBD COP 10** Conference in Nagoya:

1. In Nagoya the governments of the world must adopt a comprehensive and ambitious new strategy for saving the world's biodiversity and ecosystems. By 2020 biodiversity loss must be stopped and most of the species and habitats must be on the road to recovery.
2. At the conference governments, especially those of the rich, industrialised countries must make significant additional commitments for financing the protection of biodiversity.
3. The Parties of the CBD should adopt binding targets for the establishment of a global network of protected areas, especially at sea. By 2020 20% of the globe should be effectively protected. This protection must target the world's key biodiversity areas and not just be a percentage exercise
4. At COP-10 governments must conclude and adopt a legally binding Protocol on international Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) – to ensure that profits made from genetic resources are shared in a fair way with the countries and communities owning those resources, and thus giving incentives for their conservation.

5. In Nagoya, biodiversity and climate policy must move closer together: COP-10 should adopt initiate a Joint Work Programme of the three Rio-Conventions on biodiversity (CBD), climate (UNFCCC) and desertification (UNCCD) and send strong messages on biodiversity safeguards in REDD+ (the mechanism to avoid emissions from deforestation and forest degradation being proposed under the climate negotiations) and bioenergy production.

More at [http://www.birdlife.org/eu/EU\\_policy/Biodiversity/nagoya-birdlife-key-messages.html](http://www.birdlife.org/eu/EU_policy/Biodiversity/nagoya-birdlife-key-messages.html)

[3] BirdLife's "**four-eye initiative**" should be included as a key element in the upcoming EU Biodiversity strategy, as a fundamental building block in the effort to meet the EU 2020 target of halting and reversing biodiversity decline. It includes the following tools:

- **Information:** a stronger and much more focused programme is needed to communicate Natura 2000 and the importance and benefits of biodiversity conservation; the implementation of this programme has to be focused on specific high impact stakeholder groups (such as farmers and developers), tailored to their respective national and regional situations. Experience from past "Commission-only" campaigns show that it is essential for Member State authorities and civil society to play a key role;
- **Induction:** the appalling state of knowledge and proficiency about the EU Nature Directives and their implications, especially in local and regional authorities, in the non-environmental administration and the judiciary has to be tackled by a well targeted, if needed obligatory, training programme, implemented jointly by European Commission and Member States;
- **Inspection:** the European Commission has to be provided with much more capacity and competences to directly assess potential infringements of EU nature conservation law on the ground (including much more extensive use of information technology and remote sensing);
- **Investigation:** like in other areas of EU law there is need for more EU level coordination of law enforcement, e.g. on issues such as wildlife trade and cross border environmental crime.