

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

Title

BirdLife International launches its key priorities on biodiversity ahead of the CBD COP 10 in Japan. Last Thursday BirdLife International handed 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'. '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-i' 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-i 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. 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. More information [here](#).
