

NABU commemorates extinct species

Title

On 14 October, NABU (BirdLife in Germany), organised a demonstration to send a strong message to the German government and the European Environment Ministers, which were finalising their position for the CBD COP10 in Nagoya. NABU's staff, members and supporters met in front of the Brandenburg gate, showing large posters of animal and plant species which irreversibly disappeared, such as aurochs *Bos primigenius* and Chinese river dolphin *Lipotes vexillifer*. Olaf Tschimpke, NABU's president, reminded European Heads of States of their promise to stop the loss of biodiversity by 2010 in Europe, and to significantly reduce its loss at the global level. "Both targets have been dramatically missed", he said, asking both industrialised and poor countries to agree on rules for the access to natural resources and the sharing of benefits in Nagoya. He urged Germany, chairing the CBD, to be the driver in the negotiations, especially within the EU-delegation. He pointed to the weak position of the EU during the climate summit in Copenhagen last December, which failed as Europe did not have nor a joint position or the will to financially support poor countries. NABU asked world leaders attending the CBD COP 10 in Japan to adopt an ambitious strategic plan to stop the further degradation of biological diversity and ecosystems by 2020, and to restore it where necessary. Additionally, industrialised countries should commit themselves to mobilise enough financial resources to protect biological diversity worldwide, and to agree on a binding protocol against bio-piracy – the ABS-protocol (access and benefit sharing). Concerning the financial support to poor countries, NABU again asked the German government to respect the pledge Chancellor Angela Merkel had given during the COP9 in Bonn in 2008: to spend additional 500 million Euros for the protection of forests until 2012, and 500 million Euros per year from 2013 onwards. "The study on "The Economics of Ecosystems & Biodiversity" (TEEB) has proven that about 45 billion USD are needed every year for the protection of ecosystem services in protected areas, whereas today only a tiny proportion of this sum is available", concluded Mr Tschimpke More at www.NABU.de Background informations on CBD and COP10, including the BirdLife-video message: www.NABU.de/weltnaturschutzkonferenz For further informations contact: Claus.Mayr@NABU.de
