



Spanish Presidency of the European Union Conference

“Post-2010 Biodiversity Vision and Target - The role of Protected Areas and Ecological Networks in Europe”

26-27 January 2010
IFEMA Convention Centre – Northern area
Feria de Madrid
Spain

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Document prepared by
the Spanish Ministry of Environment and Rural and Marine Affairs,
in cooperation with the Council of Europe and the European Commission



Conference background

There is a very general consensus that the crisis on biodiversity that we are facing at present has no precedent. Since the rise of the environmental awareness, forty years ago, many initiatives have been put forwards to tackle this important problem. 1992 was the key year when the main international instruments on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity were launched.

2010 is bound to be another fundamental milestone, 18 years after Rio. The United Nations have declared 2010 "International year on Biodiversity". Many important events and meetings will take place, paving the way for the 10th Conference of the Parties (COP) of the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) to be hold in Nagoya (Japan). In that Conference, a key new consensus will be reached concerning the post 2010 target for biodiversity.

If Nagoya is to succeed, previous preparatory work has to be carried out. The Conference "*Post-2010 Biodiversity Vision and Target. The role of Protected Areas and Ecological Networks in Europe*" wants to be a step in that direction on two domains:

The first is to adapt new post-2010 targets for the European Union. This new EU vision and targets will be presented during the Spanish Presidency of the Union and intend to be a fundamental reference for the global process. The second refers to the networks of protected areas in which development and management are vital to address biodiversity conservation in the framework of the Programme of Work on Protected Areas of the CBD.

Great expectations have been raised on biodiversity conservation for 2010. Let us hope that the results of this Conference may set the appropriate foundation.

Beyond the 2010 target

In 2001, EU Heads of State and Government committed to hold the decline of biodiversity in the EU by 2010 and to restoring habitats and natural systems (the EU 2010 target). They also signed up to the global target of significantly reducing biodiversity loss by 2010 (the global 2010 target), adopted by the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) at its 6th Conference of the Parties (COP6) in The Hague in 2002. The goal for 2010 "*to achieve a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national level as a contribution to poverty alleviation and to the benefit of all life on Earth*".

The global target, less ambitious than that of the Union, was also adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, 2002) through the approval of the objective "to reach by 2010" of a significant reduction in the current loss of biological diversity.

In the pan-European space, in May 2003, at the Fifth Ministerial Conference "an Environment for Europe" (Kiev, Ukraine), the Ministers reinforced their objective to halt the loss of biological diversity at all levels by year 2010 and committed themselves to work towards it through concerted action and a set of specific key targets.

In May 2006, the European Commission (EC) adopted a communication on "Halting Biodiversity Loss by 2010 – and Beyond: Sustaining ecosystem services for human well-being"¹. The Communication underlined the importance of

¹ COM(2006) 216 final

biodiversity protection as a pre-requisite for sustainable development, as well as setting out a detailed EC Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) to achieve this.

In its conclusions, the March 2009 Environment Council of the EU called the European Commission to develop a post-2010 biodiversity vision and target. This need was reiterated in the June 2009 Council Conclusions.

Thus, during 2010 the process of 2010 targets needs to be concluded with an assessment of its success. The elaboration of a new post-2010 target is an important challenge and it will be in this Conference where the European process will continue. To this end, during this Conference the European Commission intends to present options for a new vision and targets. The new EU post-2010 biodiversity target may thus be adopted at the European Council in Spring 2010, contributing to the debate on the global post-2010 target and strategy.

The role of protected areas in halting the loss of biodiversity

Protected areas are fundamental to conserve biological diversity and maintain complex ecological systems that deliver vital environmental services. Although almost all contracting parties to the CBD have a national system of protected areas of varying degrees, there are only a few regional networks, of which the EU's Natura 2000 and the Emerald Network of the non-EU signatory parties to the Bern Convention are good examples.

In 2004, the Conference of the Parties to the CBD adopted a Programme of Work on Protected Areas with the objective of supporting the establishment and maintenance of comprehensive, effectively managed, and ecologically representative national and regional protected areas (by 2010, for terrestrial, and by 2012, for marine areas), which provides a good framework for the design and management of protected areas systems. The implementation of the programme of work on protected areas by each Contracting Party to the Convention on Biological Diversity represents a crucial contribution to the 2010 target to reduce biodiversity loss.

Aim of the conference

During 2010, it is important to make a critical analysis and assessment of the achievements of the 2010 target, which was approved in 2002 at a global level and a year before at the EU. Besides, the challenge of defining, reaching a consensus and adopting a new post-2010 target should be faced up.

Therefore, it is an important dare which arises at this Conference. The aim considered is to encourage a positive debate on the post-2010 biodiversity Target and to promote a large participation. Furthermore, a part of the Conference will focus on the application of the Programme of Work on Protected Areas of the CBD, as an example of a successful initiative to achieve the 2010 target.

Finally, but not less important, this event will also serve as the European Launch of the International Year of Biodiversity.

Organisers

The Conference is organised by the Spanish Government (in the framework of the Spanish Presidency of the European Union from January to June 2010) in cooperation with the Council of Europe and the European Commission.

Official Languages:

French-English and Spanish in the plenary sessions. English and Spanish in the workshops.

Participants

High Level officers from 48 European states, UNEP, UNESCO, OECD, the European Commission, international conventions (CBD, Bonn Convention and its Agreements, Ramsar Convention, OSPAR Convention, Barcelona Convention, Alpine Convention, Bucharest Convention, Carpathian Convention), other governments representatives, Spanish regional governments, IUCN, non-governmental organisations, experts and other relevant stakeholders.

Anticipated results

The conference will:

- Examine the European Commission proposals on “post-2010 biodiversity vision and target” and others that may be presented by European governments with a view of encouraging a first positive discussion to progress through post-2010 target at EU level;
- Find some of the first common elements of a post-2010 vision for biodiversity across European countries, that can be fed into subsequent international meetings. Specifically, in WGRI (Working Group on the Review of Implementation of the Convention) – to determinate the post-2010 target - and in SBSTTA (Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice) – to follow-up the 2010 target. Booth meetings of the CDB will take part in May 2010.
- Assess to what extent the measures and initiatives taken in Europe, at governmental and non-governmental level, are actually contributing to the implementation of the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas and the achievement of its goals and targets while identifying strengths and gaps,
- Propose successful initiatives that, as the Programme of Work on Protected Areas, could contribute to stimulate a post-2010 objective,
- Better define the role of the Emerald, Natura 2000 and the Pan-European Ecological Networks processes in implementing CBD programme of Work on Protected Areas in Europe;
- Promote an improved inclusion of the ecosystem approach in the practice of protected areas management and the further research on ecosystem services provided by ecological networks.

Monday 25th January 2010

9:00 – 18:00

Registration at “Fundación Biodiversidad”

(c/Fortuny, 7 – Madrid, Metro Line 5 “Rubén Darío” Station or Line 4 “Colón” Station)

18:00 – 20:00

Registration at the Conference site

(Hall of the Northern area of the IFEMA Convention Centre, Metro Line 8 “Parque de las Naciones” Station)

DAY 1, Tuesday 26th January 2010

7.30 – 9.30 **Registration at the Conference site**

9.30 – 11.00 **Plenary Session I – Halting the loss of biodiversity :
2010 and beyond**

Chair: Stig Johansson, IUCN Commission on Protected Areas, Regional
Vicechair, Europe

Rapporteur: Pierre Hunkeler, expert

- Gordon Mc Innes, Deputy Director of the European Environment Agency: "The state of biological diversity: knowledge base"
- Jeff Mc Neely: "How ecological networks contribute to avoid biodiversity loss: challenges for the next decades "
- Helen Mountford, Deputy Director of the Environment Directorate of the OECD: "Integrating ecology and economy in times of climatic and economic crisis"
- Zoltan Waliczky, Chairman of the European Habitat Forum: "Vision of civil society of biodiversity loss objective for 2010" Presentation of main results of the EEB Seminar.
- Pavan Sukhdev, Study leader TEEB: "The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity: Valuing ecological services"

Discussion

11.00 - 11.30 **Inaugural Session**

**Formal launch in Europe of the International Year on Biological Diversity
2010**

11.30 - 12.00 **Coffee break**

12.00 – 13.30 **Plenary Session II – Visions and targets for
biodiversity in Europe beyond 2010**

Chair: Elena Espinosa Mangana, Minister of Environment and Rural and
Marine Affairs of Spain

Rapporteur: Eladio Fernández-Galiano, Head of the Biological Diversity Unit,
Council of Europe

- Karl Falkenberg, Director General of DG Environment, European Commission: "Developing a vision and setting post-2010 biodiversity targets for the European Union: presentation of the EC Communication"
- Bruno Oberle, Director of the Federal Office of Environment, Switzerland (Swiss Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe): "A European perspective of our commitments to Nagoya"
- Elena Espinosa Mangana, Minister of Environment and Rural and Marine Affairs of Spain: "Europe's role and leadership in promoting conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity"

Roundtable discussion

Moderator: Joke Schauvliege, Flemish Minister of Environment, Nature and Culture, Belgium

Participants, other than those above

- Ivica Radovic, State Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, Serbia
- László Haraszthy, State Secretary for Nature and Environment Protection, Hungary
- Humberto Rosa, State Secretary of Environment, Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Regional Development, Portugal
- Chantal Jouanno, State Secretary of Ecology, France
- Kart Erjavec, Minister of Environment and Spatial Planning, Slovenia
- Norbert Röttgen, Minister of Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Germany

13.30 – 14.00 Introduction to workshop sessions

Chair: Marta García Pérez, General Deputy Director on Biodiversity, Ministry of Environment, Rural and Marine Affairs of Spain

General Rapporteur: Carlos Martín Novella, expert

14:00 – 15:30 Lunch break

Workshop 1: Delivering biodiversity vision and targets beyond 2010

Aim: Exchange of views on the EC Communication and other European and global views on the post-2010 targets, which will help the EU Presidency in preparing post-2010 targets

Location: N 105

Chair: Peter Bos, Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Food Quality, the Netherlands

Rapporteur: Carolina Lásen Diaz, Secretary of the Bern Convention, Council of Europe

15.30 – 18.30

- Marta García Pérez, General Deputy Director on Biodiversity, Ministry of Environment, Rural and Marine Affairs of Spain: "The definition of the Objective post 2010: Spanish contribution and tools to achieve it"
- Igor Ivanenko, Deputy Chief of the State Agency for Protected Areas of Ukraine: "Using post-2010 targets to promote ecological networks development"
- Balakrishna Pisupati, UNEP: "Commitments by governments, the key for success in the biodiversity agenda"
- Jo Mulongoy, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity: "Preparing for Nagoya with precise objectives"
- Virginia Sáenz, responsible for biodiversity, Ecologistas en Acción: "Setting ambitious targets for the next years"

Discussion and preparation of draft recommendations

In 2001 the target of Halting Biodiversity Loss by 2010 was adopted by EU Heads of State and Government in the Gothenburg Summit. Global targets were adopted also at Head of State and Government level during the Johannesburg Summit and endorsed by UNGA. At Pan-European level Ministers for the Environment adopted the target of Halting Biodiversity Loss by 2010 during the Kiev Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe". Even when targets have not been fully achieved, their adoption has triggered reinforced efforts in favour of biodiversity. Global targets will be discussed at UNGA in September and reviewed at CBD COP-10 in October 2010. The European Commission has just adopted a Communication on the Vision and targets for the EU.

- How can EU Members states and other European Countries best contribute to enhance the status of global biodiversity?
- How can better European Countries coordinate their efforts in support of biodiversity?
- Which of the options presented in the Commission's Communication can better trigger decisive action for biodiversity within the EU?

Workshop 2: Towards a knowledge-based conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity: planning and designation of protected areas and ecological networks.

Relevant aspects: Identifying gaps, assessing success and failures. Ideas for targets for post 2010 and the new CBD work programme on protected areas.

Aim: Presenting the variability of networks in Europe while stressing the need for greater coherence and a more systematic, knowledge-based approach. Completing the networks: how much is still missing ?

Location: N 107

Chair: Olivier Biber, Swiss General Office for the Environment

Rapporteur: Mart Klvik, Estonian University of Life Sciences

15.30 – 18.30

- Antonio J. Lucio Calero, Deputy Director of Biodiversity, Government of Cantabria: "Landscape use and planning for biodiversity conservation" (speaker and title to be confirmed)
- Tobias Salathe, senior adviser for Europe for the Ramsar Convention: "Wetlands and their key role in sustainable use of water and biodiversity"
- Grigori Baboianu, Governor Danube Delta: "A view from the ground: what do managers need form planners and international programmes?"
- Cristina Gutirrez Cortines, MEP, Environment Commission, European Parliament: Role of protected areas in spatial planning: conserving biodiversity and landscape
- Alejandro Snchez, Executive Director SEO/BirdLife: "The scientist knowledge as the base for biodiversity conservation"

Discussion and preparation of draft recommendations

Science is vital for designing better biodiversity policies and measures. The lack of full scientific certainty however is not a reason for postponing measures to minimize important threats to biodiversity. Scientific Committees established under EU Directives, and international conventions, the European Platform on Biodiversity Research and Strategy, and the establishment of an Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) already contribute or will enhance efforts towards a knowledge-based conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, also for planning, designation and management of protected areas and ecological networks.

- How can best knowledge holders contribute towards knowledge-based policy actions, in particular on protected areas and ecological networks?
- Which mechanisms could be established at European regional level in order to optimise the contribution of scientists and knowledge holders towards policy making relevant to biodiversity, in particular regarding protected areas and ecological networks?
- Which could be the most efficient structure and governance of IPBES and which could be the more appropriate composition, structure, functions/roles and responsibilities of its different bodies?

Workshop 3: Valuing ecosystem services and integrating economic concerns

Relevant aspects: Valuing ecosystem services while integrating socio-economic aspects and building alliances with users; bridging cultural gaps; creating partnerships; promoting win-win situations and integrating ecological networks concerns into other policies

Aim: To see how better integrate ecological networks with the economic concerns of local population, encouraging business opportunities, avoiding creating gaps and favouring a greater integration of protected areas into other policies

Location: N 106

Chair: Peter Schei, Chairman of Birdlife International

Rapporteur: Lawrence Jones-Walters, ECNC

15.30 – 18.30

- Guillermo Crespo Parra, Head of Protected Areas and Conservation, DG Environment of Extremadura, Spain: "Protected Areas, biodiversity and local development"
- Ives Lecocq, Secretary General FACE: "Investing in employment in protected areas by hunting, fishing, rural tourism"
- Annamaria Kopek, Balaton National Park, Hungary: "Integrating other users"
- Carlos Sunyer Lachiondo, Centro TERRA: "Importance of socio-economic impact of protected areas on local communities; reasons for a change"
- Jordi Pietx, Xarxa de Custodia del Territori: "Integrating private interests through land stewardship"

Discussion and preparation of draft recommendations

Too often protected areas have been seen as zones of low economic development where restrictions set up to maintain their rich biological diversity act as a brake to economic activities. Far from being a burden to the taxpayer, protected areas are efficient economic machines engines that create new activities and jobs (often linked to recreation) if properly integrated into the local economy. In a wider economic perspective they provide valuable ecosystem services far beyond their borders, as the Economics of Ecosystem and Biodiversity study (TEEB) has shown.

- How to better integrate protected areas into the local economy? Who are the key actors?
- What are the challenges in integrating economic stakeholders into Protected Areas management?
- Is it realistic to contemplate payment for the provision of ecosystem services to land owners? How can it be done? What are the difficulties?

Workshop 4: Improving connectivity, coherence and management of ecological networks

Relevant aspects: Addressing fragmentation; applying the ecosystem approach; protected areas versus ecological networks; integrating existing ecological functional systems into the networks; applying connectivity principles to the ground, experiences and challenges; from designation to management.

Aim: How to apply the ecosystem approach and improve biodiversity management, building a coherent green infrastructure for Europe and delivering better tools for management.

Location: N 109-110

Chair: Jón Gunnar Ottósson, Director Icelandic Institute for Nature Conservation

Rapporteur: Eladio Fernandez-Galiano, Head of the Biological Diversity Unit, Council of Europe

15.30 – 18.30

- Graham Bennett, Director Syzygy: "Improving Connectivity and Coherence: Taking Action"
- Nicolai Sobolev, Director Centre Biodiversity Conservation, Russia: "Experiences in networking in Eastern Europe"
- Ivica Radovic, State Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning of the Republic of Serbia: "Improving communication and involving the public in protected areas"
- José Luís García Varas, responsible of the marine programme, WWF Spain: "The challenge of connectivity in marine areas"
- Christophe Lefebvre, delegate for European and international affairs for the French Marine Protected Areas Agency: "Progress in the building of Marine Protected Areas networks in Europe"

Discussion and preparation of draft recommendations

Present protected areas in Europe form a heterogeneous patchwork of zones of high biodiversity value often surrounded by land of medium or low wildlife interest. Connectivity is low, except in a few northern or mountain regions, and fragmentation is a long-time threat. Thus it seems appropriate to integrate the ecosystem approach into the design and management of protected areas and build more structured ecological networks with improved spatial and functional coherence. The challenge is to conceive and implement new green infrastructures for Europe that ensure valuable biodiversity is not lost.

- How to avoid further fragmentation? What role for restoration of degraded areas?
- How to build ecological networks with the present instruments? Are they enough or are new instruments needed?
- How can key policies (spatial planning, forest, agriculture, transport, etc) contribute to green infrastructures?

Workshop 5: Biodiversity, protected areas and ecological networks in the face of global change

Relevant aspects: Ecological networks facing global changes, such as climate change; what will remain? how hard will ecological networks be hit? what possible adaptation?; the need to providing guidance, protected areas role in mitigation, balancing present threats with long term threats, focusing on choosing sensible, achievable goals and priorities.

Aim: To discuss how global change and other drivers may affect protected areas; to propose new approaches for their conservation; and to promote an improved perception of their role in mitigating and adapting to climate change.

Location: N 108

Chair: José Manuel Moreno, IPCC (Vice-Chair Working Group II)

Rapporteur: Ricardo Gómez Calmaestra. General Direction of Nature and Forest Policy, Ministry of Environment, Rural and Marine Affairs of Spain

15.30 – 18.30

- María José Asensio Coto, General Director of Climate Change and Urban Environment, Government of Andalucía: "Global Change Monitoring Network in Natural Protected Areas of Andalucía"
- Yves de Soye, expert: "Protected areas and climate change: an overview of the challenges, opportunities and potential responses"
- Marie Odile Guth, President of the Platform "Ecological Network" of the Alpine Convention: "Mountain protected Areas facing climate change"
- Miguel Ángel Soto, Responsible for forest campaigns, Greenpeace: "Global Change, biodiversity and the welfare of human societies"

Discussion and preparation of draft recommendations

Human-induced climate change will test the strength of the present system of protected areas in Europe. As mean temperatures rise and rainfall pattern change, species will move to new areas, some wetlands will dry up and other valuable ecosystems will undergo drastic change. Much European biodiversity will lose suitable climate space within present protected areas in a few decades. The challenge is to maintain and increase ecosystem resilience, accommodate the impacts of climate change and conceive a new more dynamic system of protected areas and ecological networks that proves climate change safe.

- Do we know enough about species and habitats that will be threatened by climate change?
- Can the present system of protected areas ensure the survival of Europe's biodiversity in the long term?
- What options exist for the adaptation of protected areas to climate change, so that they can continue fulfilling their functions?

DAY 2, Wednesday 27th January 2010

9.00 – 11.00 **Session III - Diversity of approaches, coherence of goals: The variety of protected areas systems in Europe**

Chair: Ladislav Miko, Director for Nature, Environment Directorate, European Commission.

Rapporteur: Robert Brunner, Directeur du Parc National de Thayatal

- Sarat Babu Gidda, SCDB Programme Officer for Protected Areas: "Programme of Work on Protected Areas of the CDB: actual situation and perspectives for the future"
- Stefan Leiner, DG Environment, EC: "Next steps for Natura 2000"
- Marc Roekaerts, expert: "Building a coherent system of protected areas for the whole continent"
- David Johnson, Executive Secretary OSPAR Commission: "Setting –up and valuing marine protected areas in the Atlantic"
- Marco Onida, Secretary General Alpine Convention: "Mountain areas networks in Europe: their value and challenges"
- Abderrahmen Gannoun, Director RAC/SPA: "The case of the Mediterranean, 25 years of experience in marine areas"

Discussion

11.00 -11.30 **coffee break**

11.30 – 13.30 **Session IV – International initiatives for ecological coherence**

Chair: José Jimenez, General Director of Nature and Forestry, Ministry of Environment, Rural and Marine Affairs of Spain

Rapporteur: Marie Prchalova, UNESCO

- François Wakenhut, EC: "Building green infrastructures for Europe"
- Meriem Bouamrane, UNESCO: "Management experiences in Biosphere Reserves"
- Gordon Shepherd, Director of International and Regional Policy at WWF International: "NGO vision. The long way to achieve conservation results in Europe"
- Erika Stanciu, President of the EUROPARC Federation: "Integrating public and voluntary schemes"
- Ian Jardine, President Eurosite: "Protected Areas and Ecological Networks management: news from the field"
- Toby Aykroyd, Wild Europe Initiative: "Integrating wilderness into European protected areas"

Discussion

13.30 – 15.00 **Lunch break**

15.00 – 16.30 **Conference results reporting session**

Chair: José Jiménez García Herrera, Director General of Nature and Forest Policy, Ministry of Environment, Rural and Marine Affairs of Spain

General Rapporteur: Carlos Martín Novella

With the participation of the Chairs of workshop sessions

16.30 - 17.00 **Closing of the Conference** by Josep Puxeu Rocamora, State Secretary of Rural Affairs and Water, Ministry of Environment, Rural and Marine Affairs of Spain

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Thursday 28th January 2010
All-day excursion
(return to Madrid at 8PM)