

PROTECTING BIODIVERSITY BEFORE AND AFTER 2010

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What is biodiversity?

The diversity of life on Earth, including genetic diversity within species, diversity of species (wildlife and agriculture), diversity of ecosystems and habitats.

Why is biodiversity important?

- Biological resources.
- Ecosystem services.
- Cultural benefits. To protect the above values the Convention on Biological Diversity was adopted in Rio de Janeiro in 1992.

Three main goals of the convention are:

- Conservation of biological diversity (or biodiversity);
- Sustainable use of its components; and
- Fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from genetic resources.

2010 biodiversity targets

2001 Göteborg – EU: Stop biodiversity degradation.

2002 Johannesburg – 110 state presidents: significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national level.

None of the above targets was reached, because of the following reasons:

- Moral crisis – private interests over public interests;
- Human selfishness, smugness – our development comes at the expense of other species and global subsistence systems;
- Developments dominated by capital and money, causing short-term driven decisions, globalization;
- The importance of diversity and its protection aren't accepted neither by everyday people nor by decision makers;
- Lack of economic incentives;
- The lack of clear definitions and direct language to explain the topic, including sustainable development.

What is the result?

- Speeding up of global population growth;
- Increasing pollution rate of the oceans, the atmosphere and the land;
- Poverty within individual states and internationally;
- Insufficient environmental protection in most regions;
- Permanent implementation conflicts of environmental regulations in those countries, where this has a legal background at all.

State of natural resources of Europe

Millennium Ecosystem Assessment 2005

- Europe uses an unfairly high proportion of the world's natural resources;
- The strongest anthropogenic fragmentation of natural ecosystems in the world;

- Only 1-3% of Western-European forests are undisturbed;
- The wildlife of the continent has significantly changed and the proportion of natural habitats has significantly decreased;
- Fifty percent of wet habitats and high nature value farmlands of Europe have disappeared since the 1950s;
- Risk of extinction of many animal species: mammals 42%; birds 43%, amphibians 30%, reptiles 45%, freshwater fishes 52%, butterflies 45%.

Agrobiodiversity

A growing biodiversity of agricultural systems is also essential, since the decrease of varieties within species and the domination of a very few varieties makes the world's food supply vulnerable, whereas the disappearance of the gene pools impedes the creation of new resilient varieties in the future.

What can we do to stop the devastation of the global ecosystem after 2010?

Change all the above destructive processes, the way of our thinking and our lifestyle.