

Protecting our natural capital: an EU strategy to conserve biodiversity and ensure the provision of ecosystem services by 2020

Profile of the respondent.

This section provides us with some basic information about the background of the respondent.

Status confirmation - I am responding on behalf of: (compulsory)

- ☐ I am an interested citizen
- ☐ I work in a private company or for a financial institution
- ☐ I am a researcher
- ☐ I work in a national administration
- ☐ I work in a regional or local administration
- ☐ I am a consultant
- ☒ I work in a non governmental organisation
- ☐ I work in an European Business/Industry Association

Country: (compulsory)

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Austria | <input type="radio"/> Finland | <input type="radio"/> Latvia | <input type="radio"/> Romania |
| <input type="radio"/> Belgium | <input type="radio"/> France | <input type="radio"/> Lithuania | <input type="radio"/> Slovakia |
| <input type="radio"/> Bulgaria | <input type="radio"/> Germany | <input type="radio"/> Luxembourg | <input type="radio"/> Slovenia |
| <input type="radio"/> Cyprus | <input type="radio"/> Greece | <input type="radio"/> Malta | <input type="radio"/> Spain |
| <input type="radio"/> Czech Republic | <input type="radio"/> Hungary | <input type="radio"/> Netherlands | <input type="radio"/> Sweden |
| <input type="radio"/> Denmark | <input type="radio"/> Ireland | <input type="radio"/> Poland | <input type="radio"/> United Kingdom |
| <input type="radio"/> Estonia | <input type="radio"/> Italy | <input type="radio"/> Portugal | <input type="radio"/> Outside the EU |

→ chose your country

Introduction to the main questionnaire

Many authoritative reports confirm that global biodiversity is under severe threat, with extinction rates occurring at 100 to 1000 times the normal rate. More than a third of species assessed face the risk of extinction and an estimated 60% of the Earth's ecosystems have been degraded in the last 50 years, with consequences for the ecosystems services that depend on them. Marine biodiversity is also under pressure, and approximately 90% of the planet's biomass lives in the ocean. Habitat destruction, fragmentation and degradation caused by land-use change, over-exploitation, unsustainable practices (e.g. overfishing), invasive species, ocean acidification, pollution and, increasingly, climate change are the strongest pressures on biodiversity.

In 2001, the EU set itself the target to halt biodiversity loss in the EU by 2010. Efforts to tackle biodiversity loss were subsequently stepped up, and an EU Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) was adopted by the Commission in 2006 to accelerate progress.¹ Despite the efforts to date, however, there are clear indications that the EU has not achieved its target.

In March 2010, The EU adopted a new biodiversity target that aims at *halting the loss of biodiversity and*

the degradation of ecosystem services in the EU by 2020, and restoring them in so far as feasible, while stepping up the EU contribution to averting global biodiversity loss.

The European Commission is working on the development of a new EU biodiversity strategy to enable the 2020 target to be met. The objective of this consultation is to gather input from a wide range of stakeholders on possible policy options for this strategy. This public consultation takes into account the results of a first stakeholder consultation held in Brussels on 3 June, as well as the results of a recent Eurobarometer Survey of Attitudes of European towards the issue of Biodiversity.²

1. http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/comm2006/bap_2006.htm

2. http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/flash/fl_290_en.pdf

A) General questions

1. The EU's 2010 biodiversity target was not reached because...

	Agree	Disagree	No opinion
Measures taken were not sufficiently ambitious. (compulsory)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Measures taken did not address the main drivers of biodiversity loss. (compulsory)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The relevant legislation (Birds and Habitats Directives, Water Framework Directive, Marine Strategy Framework Directive, etc.) has not been sufficiently implemented. (compulsory)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The level of funding directed towards this end was not adequate. (compulsory)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The target itself was unrealistic. (compulsory)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

2. The EU's approach to tackling the biodiversity challenge so far has not enabled the EU to reach its 2010 target because...

	Agree	Disagree	No opinion
It lacked a baseline and measurable targets against which progress could be measured. (compulsory)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Measures did not have the necessary buy-in from other sectoral actors. (compulsory)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Measures were largely voluntary/non-binding. (compulsory)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Measures were too diffuse and not sufficiently prioritised. (compulsory)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

3. Biodiversity in the EU continues to be lost because...

	Agree	Disagree	No opinion
The policy framework to tackle the issue is inadequate. (compulsory)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Knowledge about the impacts of biodiversity loss is insufficient. (compulsory)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The economic value of biodiversity for other sectors is underestimated. (compulsory)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Negative impacts from new and emerging threats (climate change, invasive species) have outweighed benefits from efforts to halt biodiversity loss. (compulsory)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Economic development objectives generally prioritised over biodiversity concerns. (compulsory)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Political will to tackle the issue has been insufficient. (compulsory)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

4. The EU biodiversity policy framework until now...

	Agree	Disagree	No opinion
Has ensured the sufficient integration of biodiversity concerns into other policy areas. (compulsory)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Has ensured that biodiversity is sufficiently reflected in the financial perspectives and financing cycles of the EU. (compulsory)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Has ensured sufficient focus on ecosystem services. (compulsory)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Has ensured sufficient focus on the importance of ecosystem restoration. (compulsory)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Has raised awareness about biodiversity. (compulsory)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Has secured the commitment of actors in key sectors to biodiversity objectives. (compulsory)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Has suffered from policy gaps in certain areas. (compulsory)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Has made sufficient use of economic incentives and economic instruments. (compulsory)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

5. Future efforts to halt biodiversity loss in the EU should...

	Agree	Disagree	No opinion
Include measures and actions that go beyond nature conservation. (compulsory)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Focus on a limited number of direct and indirect drivers of biodiversity loss (those having the most significant impacts). (compulsory)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Address the full range of drivers and pressures. (compulsory)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

6. To reach the EU's 2020 biodiversity target, existing EU environmental legislation (e.g. nature, air, water, chemicals, climate change, etc)... (compulsory)

- ☐ is sufficient.
- ☐ would be sufficient if fully implemented.
- ☒ is not sufficient - additional measures focusing on other sectors are required.
- ☐ No opinion

7. Of the following sectors, which 3 in your view have the most significant negative impacts on biodiversity? Please rank them in order of importance (1 being the most important)

	1	2	3
Agriculture (optional)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Energy (optional)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fisheries (optional)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Forestry (optional)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Industrial production (optional)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Trade (optional)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Transport (optional)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Other (please specify below) (optional)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other (optional) (between 1 and 100 characters)

8. Given that there are EU policies addressing several of the previous sectors, which 3 of the following policy areas have the most potential to bring benefits for biodiversity? Please rank them in order of importance (1 being the most important)

	1	2	3
Agriculture and Rural Development (optional)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Climate Change (optional)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Energy (optional)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Health and Consumers (optional)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Maritime and Fisheries (optional)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Regional Policy (optional)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Research (optional)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Trade (optional)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Transport (optional)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (please specify below) (optional)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other (optional) (between 1 and 100 characters)

B) THE PROPOSED APPROACH

To date, the EU's approach towards halting biodiversity loss has tended to be comprehensive, covering a broad range of sectors and actions with little prioritisation. The current biodiversity strategy, the 2006 Biodiversity Action Plan, includes some 160 actions. From the various assessments of the BAP undertaken to date³, it can be concluded that with this approach the EU has not met its objective of halting biodiversity loss in the EU by 2010. The Commission is therefore exploring the possibility to build the post-2010 strategy around a new, prioritised approach. The strategy would contain a limited number of measurable and strategic sub-targets (ST). The topics to be covered by those sub-targets currently under consideration are:

- ST1 - sustainable land management - agriculture and forestry
- ST2 - sustainable use of natural resources- fisheries
- ST3 - protecting habitats and species - nature conservation
- ST4 - working with nature and investing in natural capital - Green Infrastructure
- ST5 - preventing the introduction and spread of invasive species
- ST6 - the EU's contribution to global biodiversity

In this approach, it is assumed that the policy baseline, which includes EU nature legislation (Birds and Habitats Directives), water and marine legislation (in particular the Water Framework Directive and Marine Strategy Framework Directive), the Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment Directives, the Climate and Energy Package; and pollution-related legislation (nitrates, pesticides, air, REACH, industrial emissions, waste...) will deliver substantial improvements for biodiversity. For this reason, the proposed sub-targets should focus on remaining gaps. For each sub-target, feasible and cost-effective measures and actions will need to be elaborated. The strategy should also seize upcoming opportunities to further integrate biodiversity into other policies arising from the forthcoming reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and Common Fishery Policy (CFP), and developments in Regional and Cohesion Policy.

3. http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/comm2006/index_en.htm

ST1 - SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT - Agriculture and Forestry

Rural areas and agriculture account for 80% and over 40% respectively of the total EU land area. Unsustainable agriculture and forestry are one of the main pressures on biodiversity because of growing intensification on the one hand, and land abandonment on the other hand. Moreover, while traditional farming and forestry practices have often generated species rich habitats, these are declining across the EU. Given the agricultural sector's dependence on a range of ecosystem services such as pollination, biological control, soil formation, water availability, and genetic diversity, it has a direct stake in efforts to ensure biodiversity conservation.

9. In your view, how necessary is it to have a sub-target on agriculture and forestry?

(compulsory)

- ☒ Necessary
- ☐ Somewhat necessary
- ☐ Not necessary
- ☐ No opinion

10. Please rank the following options according to their importance in ensuring conservation of biodiversity in the agriculture and forestry sectors (1 being most important):

	1	2	3	4	5
Preserving and/or expanding extensive agriculture and High Nature Value areas. (optional)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reducing the negative impacts of intensive farming. (optional)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Increasing the total land area devoted to organic farming in the EU. (optional)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Increasing the share of funding for biodiversity-related agri-environment measures. (optional)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (please specify below) (optional)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other (optional) (between 1 and 100 characters)

Environmental priority area - 10% of each farm managed for environment

11. In order to contribute to a better conservation of biodiversity, the reformed Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) should...

	Agree	Disagree	No opinion
Include more explicit biodiversity conservation objectives. (compulsory)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Integrate the Biodiversity Strategy's agriculture & forests sub-target into its own objectives. (compulsory)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Include obligatory biodiversity monitoring and reporting requirements. (compulsory)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Include voluntary biodiversity monitoring and reporting requirements. (compulsory)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

ST2 - SUSTAINABLE USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES - Fisheries

88% of EU fish stocks are overfished, making fisheries the most representative example of overexploitation of natural resources in Europe. Pressure from unsustainable fishing is also a major cause of degradation of marine ecosystems and the other services they provide. Yet, as with the agricultural sector, the long-term viability of the fisheries sector depends on healthy ecosystems. The April 2009 Green Paper on the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy⁴ highlights the main challenges facing the sector, including those relating to marine biodiversity.

4. <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2009:0163:FIN:EN:PDF>

12. In your view, how necessary is it to have a sub-target on fisheries? (compulsory)

- ☒ Necessary
- ☐ Somewhat necessary
- ☐ Not necessary
- ☐ No opinion

13. Please rank the following options according to their importance in ensuring conservation of biodiversity in the fisheries sector (1 being most important):

	1	2	3	4	5	6
Changes to the Common Fisheries Policy governance system (optional)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Changes to the EU fishing fleet structure (optional)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Changes to the monitoring and control system (optional)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Measures aimed at minimising and/or eliminating the negative impacts of fishing (including discard and by-catch) (optional)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Expanding marine protected areas (optional)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (please specify below) (optional)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other (optional) (between 1 and 100 characters)

Significant cut in EU fleet capacity to match fisheries resources

14. In order to contribute to a better conservation of biodiversity, the reformed Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) should...

	Agree	Disagree	No opinion
Include more explicit biodiversity conservation objectives. (compulsory)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Integrate the Biodiversity Strategy's fisheries sub-target into its own objectives. (compulsory)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Include obligatory biodiversity monitoring and reporting requirements. (compulsory)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Include voluntary biodiversity monitoring and reporting requirements. (compulsory)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

ST3 - PROTECTING HABITATS AND SPECIES - NATURE CONSERVATION

The Birds and Habitats Directives are key legal instruments dedicated to habitat and species conservation at EU level. Together with other environment legislation such as the Water and Marine Strategy Framework Directives, the Birds and Habitats Directives form the backbone of the EU biodiversity policy.

The Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC was adopted in 1992. The overall aim of this Directive is to promote the maintenance of biodiversity, taking account of economic, social, cultural and regional requirements. The main objective of the Directive is to achieve a favourable conservation status of over 1.000 animals and plant species and over 200 so called "habitat types" (e.g. special types of forests, meadows, wetlands, etc.), which are of particular European importance. The Habitats Directive also establishes the EU wide Natura 2000 ecological network of protected areas. For these areas it provides a high level of safeguards against potentially damaging developments.

The Birds Directive 2009/147/EC was originally adopted in 1979. This Directive ensures far-reaching protection for all of Europe's wild birds, identifying 194 species and sub-species among them as particularly threatened and in need of special conservation measures. Member States are required to designate Special Protection Areas (SPAs) under the Birds Directive and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) under the Habitats Directive, which are critical for the survival of the targeted species and habitats. They together form the EU Natura 2000 network.

At present, approximately 18% of EU territory is designated as protected areas under the Natura 2000 network. However, recent assessments show that only 17% of known protected habitats and species are in favourable conservation status.

15. In your view, how necessary is it to have a sub-target on nature conservation? (compulsory)

- ☒ Necessary
- ☐ Somewhat necessary
- ☐ Not necessary
- ☐ No opinion

16. In your view, should this sub-target focus on an improved conservation status of species and habitats of community interests? (compulsory)

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No

17. What are in your view the 3 most important measures to improve the implementation of the Birds and Habitats Directive and the favourable conservation status of habitats and species?

	1	2	3
Improved knowledge of the conservation status of species and habitats. (optional)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Adequate funding for the management of the Natura 2000 networks. (optional)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Appropriate management of Natura 2000 sites. (optional)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Better integration of - and respect for - the EU Birds and Habitats Directives in other EU policy areas (e.g. Agriculture, Regional Development & Cohesion, Transport, Energy, Maritime & Fisheries,...). (optional)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Better Communication and Public Awareness about the EU Birds and Habitats Directives and Natura 2000. (optional)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Additional designations of Natura 2000 sites. (optional)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Better valuation of the ecosystem services and benefits produced by Natura 2000 sites. (optional)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Better legal enforcement of the legislation at EU and national level. (optional)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (please specify below) (optional)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other (optional) (between 1 and 100 characters)

ST4 - WORKING WITH NATURE AND INVESTING IN NATURAL CAPITAL - Green Infrastructure (5)

Ensuring adequate protection of biodiversity both within and outside of protected areas and investing in natural capital are vital to sustain the long-term functioning of ecosystems. Europe has undergone more habitat and ecosystem fragmentation than any other continent to date. European ecosystems are literally cut to pieces by urban sprawl and a rapidly expanding transport network. Fragmentation reduces the opportunities for organisms to disperse and affects their ecological needs (e.g. access to specific habitats, sufficient area for food and breeding). It also affects the ability of ecosystems to provide the services we need. Overcoming these challenges requires putting in place so-called 'Green Infrastructure' to re-establish connections between areas with high biodiversity or importance for ecosystem functionality, and to improve the permeability of landscapes (e.g. buffer zones and corridors, green urban areas and eco-bridges to reconnect natural areas divided by transport infrastructure), as well as to ensure the continued provision or re-establishment of ecosystem services (e.g. natural coastal protection through marshes/flood plains; natural water cycling; urban cooling solutions such as tree planting, etc). These measures, which depend on integrated land management, can also make a valuable contribution to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

5. http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/ecosystems/index_en.htm

18. In your view, how necessary is it to have a sub-target on Green Infrastructure? (compulsory)

- ☒ Necessary
- ☐ Somewhat necessary
- ☐ Not necessary
- ☐ No opinion

19. A sub-target on Green Infrastructure should primarily seek to...

	Agree	Disagree	No opinion
Ensure connectivity between protected areas, e.g. Natura 2000 sites, and between ecosystems within and outside protected areas. (compulsory)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Maintain and increase the resilience of ecosystems and their continued service delivery. (compulsory)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Restore ecosystems that contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation and disaster risk reduction. (compulsory)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ensure systematic compensation of biodiversity loss ("no net loss"). (compulsory)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

20. Measures under this sub-target should focus on...

	Agree	Disagree	No opinion
Increasing biodiversity in urban areas. (compulsory)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mitigating the adverse effects of transport and energy infrastructure. (compulsory)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Promoting integrated spatial planning that fully takes into account ecosystems and ecosystem services (e.g. through ecosystem service mapping). (compulsory)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ensuring compensation of biodiversity loss ("no net loss"). (compulsory)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Introducing market mechanisms to regulate the use of ecosystem goods and services (payments for ecosystem services, pricing mechanisms, taxes, etc.). (compulsory)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Introducing specific biodiversity provisions in relevant impact assessment tools (e.g. Environmental Impact Assessment Directive ⁶ , Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive) as a condition for the provision of EU funding. (compulsory)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Increasing the rate of public and private investments in natural capital maintenance/restoration. (compulsory)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Developing stronger linkages between biodiversity and territorial cohesion objectives/landscape policy and their financing. (compulsory)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

6. Please note that a separate public consultation on the review of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive is being carried out from 28 June to 24 September 2010.

21. Do you believe that working with nature (i.e. nature-based solutions) can be more cost-effective than man-made or technological solutions? (compulsory)

- ☒ Yes, often
☐ Rarely
☐ No
☐ No opinion

22. In the context of competing demands for land, how important is it to ensure the provision of ecosystem services (water purification, carbon sequestration, pollination...) as compared to other economic and social considerations? (compulsory)

- ☒ More important
☐ Equally important
☐ Less important
☐ No opinion

ST5 - INVASIVE SPECIES

Invasive Species are recognised as a major and growing driver of biodiversity loss in the EU, and the costs arising from economic and social impacts are estimated at least 12 billion euros per year in Europe. In 2008 the Commission adopted a Communication entitled "Towards an EU Strategy on Invasive Species" [COM(2008)789]. A public consultation on Invasive Alien Species was organised in 2008. Results can be consulted via the following link:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/invasivealien/docs/results_consult.pdf

23. In your view, how necessary is it to have a sub-target on invasive species? (compulsory)

- ☒ Necessary
☐ Somewhat necessary
☐ Not necessary
☐ No opinion

24. A sub-target on invasive species should primarily seek to...

	Agree	Disagree	No opinion
Prevent the introduction of new invasive species. (compulsory)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Establish an early warning and rapid response system. (compulsory)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Control and/or eradicate invasive species that are already settled in the EU. (compulsory)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

All of the above (compulsory) ☒ ☐ ☐

ST6 - EU CONTRIBUTION TO GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY

The EU's 2020 biodiversity target explicitly includes a global dimension, calling for the EU to step up its contribution to averting global biodiversity loss. We depend on biodiversity elsewhere for many of our needs and have a degree of responsibility for the global loss of biodiversity on account of our consumption and production patterns. Biodiversity and ecosystems play a crucial role in mitigating climate change (e.g. by absorbing carbon emissions) and enabling species - including humans - to adapt to its impacts. Given that the livelihoods of a large part of the population in many developing countries is directly dependent on biodiversity and healthy and functioning ecosystems, the protection of biodiversity is also very closely linked to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

25. In your view, how necessary is it to have a sub-target on the EU contribution to global biodiversity? (compulsory)

- ☒ Necessary
☐ Somewhat necessary
☐ Not necessary
☐ No opinion

26. A sub-target on the EU contribution to global biodiversity should primarily seek to...

	Agree	Disagree	No opinion
Increase EU development aid spending on biodiversity related projects and programmes. (compulsory)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reduce the negative impacts of the EU's production and consumption patterns on global biodiversity. (compulsory)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Prevent negative impacts of EU trade and fishing agreements on biodiversity. (compulsory)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ensure that biodiversity concerns are systematically reflected in the EU's dialogue with third countries. (compulsory)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
For all projects and programmes funded through EU development cooperation assistance, introduce mandatory ex-ante environmental impact assessments that include biodiversity related criteria. (compulsory)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Incentivise and/or reward efforts by third countries to conserve biodiversity and ecosystem services, e.g. through international payments for ecosystem services, biodiversity offset payment schemes, etc. (compulsory)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Seek further convergence between international biodiversity and climate change objectives to seize the full potential of 'co-benefits'. (compulsory)

27. Of the following list of measures, which three do you believe would be the most effective in reducing the impact of the EU's Ecological Footprint(7) on global biodiversity? Please rank them in order of effectiveness (1 being most effective).

	1	2	3
Awareness-raising campaigns (optional)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Certification systems (optional)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Import restrictions or levies (optional)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Increase resource efficiency (optional)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Labelling of products and services (optional)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Public procurement criteria (optional)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Sustainability criteria in trade agreements (optional)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Taxation (optional)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (please specify below) (optional)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other (optional) (between 1 and 100 characters)

7. The ecological footprint compares human demand with planet Earth's ecological capacity to regenerate. Key features of the footprint include the overexploitation of marine resources (unsustainable catches), forestry (unsustainable management) and species (unsustainable hunting). The EU's ecological footprint is 4.7 global hectares per person, whereas its available bio capacity is only 2.2 global hectares per person. The EU's footprint has increased by approximately 16% in the last decade.

28. Do you believe that the EU's development policy currently contributes sufficiently to the protection of global biodiversity? (compulsory)

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Somewhat
- ☒ No, not sufficiently
- ☐ No opinion

29. Do you agree with the proposed approach as broadly outlined above? (compulsory)

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Somewhat

- ☐ No
- ☒ No opinion

C) THE ECONOMICS OF BIODIVERSITY

The loss of biodiversity and degradation of ecosystems has already had serious economic consequences. The annual loss of ecosystem services under a business-as-usual scenario is estimated to be equivalent to around €50 billion, while by 2050 the accumulated welfare losses could be equivalent to 7% of annual consumption, according to an international study on 'The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity' (TEEB), which is analyzing the global economic benefit of biological diversity, the costs of the loss of biodiversity and the failure to take protective measures versus the costs of effective conservation.⁸

8. <http://www.teebweb.org>

30. How important do you think it is to assign an economic value to biodiversity and ecosystem services? (compulsory)

- ☐ Important
- ☒ Somewhat important
- ☐ Irrelevant, biodiversity has intrinsic value
- ☐ Not important
- ☐ No opinion

31. Do you believe that the value of natural assets should be accounted for in national budgeting systems, e.g. National Accounting Standards? (compulsory)

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ Yes, but it is not possible
- ☐ No
- ☐ No opinion

32. Which three out of the following market based instrument would you consider most effective to enhance biodiversity and halt biodiversity loss? Please rank them in order of effectiveness (1 being most effective)

	1	2	3
Payment for ecosystem services (optional)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Taxation (optional)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Systems of off-sets, credits and compensation for damage and restoration of biodiversity (optional)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reform or elimination of harmful subsidies (optional)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Pricing of natural resources or products on the basis of their impacts on biodiversity (optional)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Certification and labelling schemes (optional)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (please specify below) (optional)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other (optional) (between 1 and 100 characters)

D) GOVERNANCE

As Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, the 27 EU Member States are obliged to adopt National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans. The EU, as a Party, must also develop such a plan. Many of the issues that need to be covered in these Plans often fall within the competences of local and regional authorities.

33. In your opinion, how can the participation and commitment of local authorities in the implementation of these strategies be enhanced? (optional) (between 1 and 500 characters)

1/ the sub-targets, sect. targets, indicators etc. of the EU Biodiv. Strategy should, be broken down at regional and local level, so that local authorities can measure and report on their progress; 2/ the Commission and MS should develop and fund a targeted training programme obligatory for local and regional authorities; focus on their role in implementing National and EU Biodiversity Strategies and on how to use the relevant EU/national legislation/policies/funds for this.

34. In your opinion, the implementation of the strategy should be based mainly on? (compulsory)

- ☐ Voluntary commitments
- ☒ Mandatory measures
- ☐ Market-based instruments
- ☐ A mixture of the above
- ☐ No opinion

35. How do you think the private sector could increase its contribution to the protection of biodiversity? (compulsory)

- ☒ By informing the public and their shareholders about how they use biodiversity.
- ☒ By increasing the resource efficiency of their activities through the development of dedicated strategies (business/biodiversity interdependency indicators; ecosystem services reviews, etc).
- ☒ By engaging in partnerships with environmental NGOs.
- ☒ By increasing their use of raw materials from sustainably managed sources.
- ☒ Through the provision of funds for the protection and conservation of biodiversity.

☒ By compensating for residual/unavoidable harm to biodiversity caused by their activities, e.g. through biodiversity offset schemes and other compensation mechanisms.

☐ Other

☐ No opinion

E) MONITORING OF BIODIVERSITY

It is very important to increase the knowledge base on biodiversity for the formulation of science based policies, as well as to be able to measure progress. Over the past years a lot of progress has been made in gathering data and information on biodiversity, but more needs to be done to fill in remaining knowledge gaps.

36. From the following list, which 3 options would be the most effective for increasing the knowledge base? Please rank them in order of effectiveness (1 being most effective)

	1	2	3
Through EU legislation on monitoring biodiversity and reporting (optional)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By including biodiversity considerations in existing monitoring and reporting systems (optional)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Through dedicated EU funding for national monitoring (optional)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Through the adoption of guidelines on monitoring (optional)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By encouraging voluntary monitoring by the private sector, stakeholders and citizens (optional)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (please specify below) (optional)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other (optional) (between 1 and 100 characters)

F) ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

If you have additional comments, please provide them here: (optional)
(maximum 500 characters)

1/ need for specific biodiversity targets and milestones for high-impact economic sectors 2) we support NGOs "4-I-Initiative" for better implement. of Nature Directives: targeted INFORMATION campaign for key stakeholders; INDUCTION programme of authorities, judges, planners etc. on the implications of the Nature Directives; EU INSPECTION competences, capacities and tools to verify compliance with Directives; Improvement of environmental law enforcement across the EU (INVESTIGATION).

Thank you for answering this questionnaire.

How did you perceive the questionnaire? (compulsory)

☐ Expectations met

☐ Expectations not met

Why? (optional)

☐ too long

☐ too short

☐ too general

☐ too technical

☐ too difficult to understand

☐ irrelevant in content

SUBMIT

