

Biodiversity is essential, and it is in **danger**. Governments have promised to save biodiversity by **2010**. It is **time** to move from words to **action!**



It is in humanity's own interest to ensure the survival of species and ecosystems.

Biodiversity loss impacts human well-being, including food security, vulnerability to natural disasters, energy security, access to clean water and raw materials. It also affects human health, social relations, and freedom of choice.

COUNTDOWN
2010
SAVE BIODIVERSITY

Saving biodiversity by 2010

When Heads of State committed to 'achieve by 2010 a significant reduction in the current rate of loss of biological diversity' at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development, this ambitious 2010 Biodiversity Target was lauded as a historic step into the right direction.

Since then, several scientific reports have confirmed the gravity of the situation:

- 50% of species of European conservation interest have an unfavourable conservation status (BAP);
- Nearly 15% of Europe's mammal species are threatened (IUCN Red List);
- Between 40 and 80 % of European habitats of Community interest are in decline (BAP);
- Almost two thirds of ecosystem services worldwide are diminishing (MEA);
- Over half the plant species in Europe are at risk (ALARM).

A powerful network

More than 900 Partners ranging from national to local governments, from non-governmental organisations to businesses have joined Countdown 2010.

In Europe and across the world, Partners have come together in the Countdown 2010 network to take up the challenge and jointly make a difference for biodiversity.

By signing the Countdown 2010 Declaration, each Partner commits to specific efforts towards the 2010 Biodiversity Target. Acting together, they create a joint momentum to save biodiversity.

Countdown 2010 facilitates and encourages action, promotes the importance of the 2010 Biodiversity Target and assesses progress towards 2010.



Countdown 2010 is hosted by the IUCN Regional Office for Pan-Europe.

No time to lose for biodiversity



2010 is almost here. There are seven priority areas where action is needed to halt the loss of biodiversity worldwide:

1. **Species and ecosystems** need space to develop and recover. At least 10% of all ecosystem types should be under protection to maintain nature and natural landscapes.
2. Without biodiversity there will be no **agriculture**. Farming practices should not jeopardize species survival: improving farmland diversity and reducing the usage of pesticides and fertiliser are key to saving biodiversity. Organic agriculture practices can serve as an example in many areas.
3. 75% of all **fisheries** are fully exploited or overfished. Species like cod, haddock and halibut are already threatened. If we do not move towards sustainable use, there will be no fish left for our grandchildren.
4. **Roads, factories and housing** destroy habitats for animals and plants. If urban and rural development continues to ignore nature, our surroundings might soon be dominated by concrete and pollution.
5. **Climate change** is considered one of the greatest challenges for humanity. With changing conditions, ecosystems and habitats will change as well. Climate change must be tackled and we have to make sure that species can migrate or adapt to new surroundings.
6. If you release a species outside its usual habitat, it might simply die. In other cases, the so-called '**alien invasive species**' have thrived and destroyed local flora and fauna. As you never know how things turn out, finding a solution to this issue is crucial.
7. Biodiversity is the **foundation for sustainable development**. Ecosystem services provide the basis for all economic activity. Biodiversity concerns need to be integrated into all areas of policy-making. Measures include market incentives, development assistance, biodiversity-friendly trade and international governance processes.



Engage, join in and help us make it happen

While it is the responsibility of governments to fulfill the 2010 Biodiversity Target, the political reality shows that it takes not only committed politicians and officials but also an engaged and informed public to use this opportunity.

The claim of Countdown 2010 is broad and simple: providing the space for organisations to focus their work on the 2010 Biodiversity Target with the tools and issues that are closest to their own core aims and objectives.

To join the network, Partners undersign the Countdown 2010 Declaration stating their extra efforts and an endorsement of Countdown 2010's principles and objectives.

The Declaration asks three steps from each organization:

1. Support the implementation of the 2010 Biodiversity Target;
2. Encourage decision makers to take action;
3. Commit yourself to reducing biodiversity loss.

With a powerful network of active Partners, Countdown 2010 and its Partners can hold governments accountable and supports them in providing sufficient space for nature, use their natural resources in a sustainable manner and consistently reduce pollution.

Together, we can make a difference for biodiversity!

Visit countdown2010.net for more information or call us at +32 2 739 0320 to find out how to join!