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Raw Materials Initiative and Biodiversity

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EU BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY - BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN

- EC and Member States contracting parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity
- EU Heads of State and Government undertook in 2001 “to halt the decline of biodiversity in the EU by 2010”
- In 2002, they agreed “to significantly reduce the rate of biodiversity loss globally by 2010”.
- In 2006 Commission presented a Communication on *“halting the loss of biodiversity to 2010 – and beyond: Sustaining ecosystem services for human well-being”*
 - This included a detailed Action Plan as a strategic response to accelerate progress to meet the 2010 targets
- **Core of EU biodiversity policy:** the Birds Directive and the Habitats Directive, forming the Natura 2000 network

Key areas

- **Biodiversity in the EU**
- **The EU and the global Biodiversity**
- **Biodiversity and climate change**
- **The knowledge base**
- **Supporting measures**

Conclusions of BAP Mid-Term Assessment

- despite some progress, **highly unlikely** - on the basis of current efforts - **that the overall goal of halting biodiversity loss in the EU by 2010 will be achieved**
- **Significant additional commitment by the EC and Member States required over the next two years**, if the EU is even to come close to its objective
- At the **global level, biodiversity loss is disastrous** and even a significant reduction in the global rate of loss of biodiversity will not have been achieved by 2010
- Some **positive signals**:
 - Natura 2000 stopping destruction of areas of high biodiversity value
 - SEBI 2010 indicators (SEBI 2010) positive trends (eg water quality)
 - “Science” analysis confirms Birds Directive has made a significant difference in halting decline of many threatened birds
- but Habitats Directive 'health check' indicating **50% of species & up to 80% of habitat types with unfavourable status & invasive species problem rapidly growing**

Key priorities for action include *inter alia*...

- Press for completion of Natura 2000 network, promote its effective management & meet funding needs
- Better engage business community, including launching new Business and Biodiversity (B@B) initiative

BAP implementation depends on effective use of existing legislative and policy tools and engagement/commitment of different stakeholders

Setting a post 2010 EU vision and target(s)

- Conclusions by the **ENVI Council for the Spring European Council** underline the need to establish, by mid-2010 at the latest, a **vision and targets beyond 2010** for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity within the EU, building on and contributing to deliberations at global level on a vision for biodiversity beyond 2010.
- The Message from Athens Conference on “Biodiversity Protection - beyond 2010” highlighted, *inter alia*, that:
 - ➔ **The objective of halting biodiversity loss remains valid**
 - ➔ **The EU and Member States should *inter alia*:**
 - **secure the sustainable management of the Natura 2000 network**
 - **Integrate biodiversity explicitly in EU and domestic policies**

What might post-2010 EU targets be?

- **'Ecosystem approach'** to ensure healthy ecosystems and ecosystem services
- **Political message** such as 'maintaining the value of nature's benefits'
- **Close co-operation between Community and MS**
- **Close co-operation between administration, industry and NGO's**

- New targets should aim to be:
 - **specific, measurable, ambitious, realistic, time-bound** and developed on the basis of scientific evidence

The EU Business and Biodiversity Initiative

- One activity under BAP (2006); rearticulated in BAP Mid-term assessment (2008);
- 'The Message from Lisbon' (November 2007) called for the EC to develop a facility that aims to engage the business sector in biodiversity;
- 'The Message from Athens' April 2009: engagement of business is a **key policy element** for shaping EC's future biodiversity policy;
- **B@B technical facility /Platform**: call for tender for a service contract published, submissions by end May. It will aim to provide
 - **A web-based platform** to provide up-to-date information on know-how and best practices, to facilitate discussion and co-operation, and to enhance business engagement; extractive sector mentioned
 - **Sectoral guidance documents** on business involvement;
 - **Clear tools to measure biodiversity impacts (benefits);**
 - A proposal for an **EU award scheme** to acknowledge outstanding performance.

The key for success: building partnerships

not corporate greenwash but honest collaboration



government, academia, conservation practitioners, landowners
and users, business sector, educational sector, financial
sector and media

Guidance document on NEEI and Natura 2000

- Activity triggered by the Commission Communication on Raw Materials Initiative
- Aims at providing guidance on the implementation of the Habitats Directive in the context of Non-Energy Extractive Industries; focus on assessment of impacts of extractive plans and projects affecting Natura 2000 sites (Art. 6)
- Elaborated with the assistance of Working Group consisting of representatives of Member States, NEEI sectors and NGOs.

Guidance document on NEEI and Natura 2000

- Key issues addressed:
 - ➔ **Specificities of the NEEI sector**
 - ➔ **Importance of strategic mineral planning**
 - ➔ **Appropriate assessment requirements, including prevention and mitigation of impacts, rehabilitation**
 - ➔ **Extraction in marine areas**
 - ➔ **Role of stakeholders**
- Includes good practice examples on positive contribution of NEEI to biodiversity
- Final draft by June – to be then published as Commission services document