



State of European biodiversity

Monitoring the achievement of policy targets

Tracking changes in biodiversity is an essential step in halting the decline of biodiversity

Measuring biodiversity trends over time by using indicators is essential because:

- it provides a tool to assess effectiveness of policies aimed at reducing biodiversity loss, particularly in the light of the European biodiversity target to halt the loss of biodiversity by 2010;
- proper decisions cannot be made without knowledge;
- it measures progress in achieving policy goals;
- it informs many groups in society about an important aspect of the quality of life.

A number of European countries have integrated the outcome of ongoing biodiversity monitoring programmes into their national policy cycle. International initiatives stimulate the coordination between countries and civic groups for enhancing biodiversity monitoring.

Information on biodiversity trends in Europe is not easy to access

Biodiversity indicators and monitoring need international coordination because:

- no overall picture of the state of Europe's biodiversity exists;
- only a few countries have nationally coordinated biodiversity monitoring networks;
- policymakers want concise information for their policy decisions;
- international policy processes have to measure their effectiveness;
- the interested public and other groups in society need to be involved in biodiversity conservation.

What ECNC can offer

Over the years ECNC has built up essential knowledge in monitoring and reporting on trends and impacts, and in translating this knowledge into applicable information for policy-making and business decisions at global, European and national levels.

ECNC can offer:

- European expertise on European policy-oriented biodiversity indicators and monitoring;
- a broad network of experts, civil society groups and policymakers that are involved in monitoring;
- training workshops for targeted audiences;
- desk studies, analysis and recommendations;
- an interface between science, society and policy;
- support in designing biodiversity monitoring programmes with a European accent;
- expertise in risk assessment, policy impact, reporting and information systems.

Examples of activities as part of ECNC's 'State of European Biodiversity' programme

... ECNC implements projects on the impact of pressures like agriculture, climate change and the production of bio fuels on Europe's biodiversity, resulting in practical recommendations for policy and businesses.

...ECNC organizes training workshops in, for example, Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, ensuring linkages with the global, pan-European and EU biodiversity policies and processes.

...ECNC offers expertise on policy-oriented biodiversity indicators and monitoring. Together with the European Environment Agency, the United Nations Environment Programme and UNEP-WCMC, ECNC coordinates the process to develop and streamline European biodiversity indicators.