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Accompanying document to the

**COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE COUNCIL, THE
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS**

**A MID-TERM ASSESSMENT OF IMPLEMENTING
THE EC BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN**

SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY LEVEL ACTION

{COM(2008) 864 final}
{SEC(2008) 3043}
{SEC(2008) 3044}
{SEC(2008) 3045}

INTRODUCTION

In its 2006 Communication on "Halting the loss of biodiversity by 2010 and beyond" the European Commission has undertaken to provide annual reports on progress in implementing the EC Biodiversity Action Plan linked to the Communication. This action plan sets out the detailed framework of action to meet the 2010 target. It identifies what has to be undertaken at Community level and at Member State level to meet the 2010 target.

The first report, covering the period up to the end of 2007 was made publicly available in January 2007¹. This provided a summary of progress for each of the Community level actions set out in the Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP).

A similar approach has been applied to the present 2008 mid-term report. The information for 2007 has been updated and added to by each of the relevant Commission Services in light of the latest developments. As the mid-term report is intended to cover the situation up to the end of 2008 this summary also indicates actions that are foreseen to be launched or completed before the end of the year. Links are provided to relevant Commission web sites that provide further details about specific measures.

It should be noted that some actions, including those relating to allocations of funds to nature and biodiversity under different Community programmes are preliminary and will require further assessment.

Discussions on preparation of the 2008 report have taken place within the framework of the 'Biodiversity Interdepartmental Group' a forum for the different Commission Services to discuss implementation of the Biodiversity Action Plan. Representatives of the relevant Commission services have also provided updates within the framework of the new Co-ordination Group for Biodiversity and Nature, involving Member States and key stakeholder groups.

This assessment is arranged according to the 4 main policy areas, 10 objectives and 4 supporting measures set out in the Biodiversity Action Plan. For each objective and supporting measure the original actions foreseen at Community level are given as well as the progress assessment.

As it has not been possible to assess progress by Member States at the level of individual BAP actions, a comparison between the Community level implementation and that at the level of Member States is best made at the level of targets under the plan.

¹ See http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/knowledge/rep_biodiv_ap/index_en.htm.

No.	OBJECTIVES, TARGETS, ACTIONS	COMMUNITY LEVEL ACTION	MID TERM PROGRESS
A. THE TEN PRIORITY OBJECTIVES			
POLICY AREA 1: BIODIVERSITY AND THE EU			
OBJECTIVE 1: TO SAFEGUARD THE EU'S MOST IMPORTANT HABITATS AND SPECIES.			
HEADLINE TARGET: Biodiversity loss of most important habitats and species halted by 2010, these habitats and species showing substantial recovery by 2013.			
A1.1	TARGET: Natura 2000 network established, safeguarded, designated and under effective conservation management by 2010, 2012 in marine.		
A1.1.1	ACTION: Accelerate efforts to <i>finalise the Natura 2000 network</i> including: complete terrestrial network of Special Protection Areas (SPA) [by 2006, 2008 for marine]; adopt lists of Sites of Community Importance (SCI) [by 2006, 2008 for marine]; designate Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and establish management priorities and necessary conservation measures for SACs [by 2010, 2012 for marine]; establish similar management and conservation measures for SPAs [by 2010, 2012 for marine].	For EU15 - ensure MS which have not proposed sufficient sites complete their lists; adopt remaining lists of SCIs as soon as possible; provide necessary guidance on designation and establishment of management priorities and measures; for EU10 - ensure correct transposition of Birds and Habitats Directives, ensure MS which have not proposed sufficient sites complete their lists; adopt lists of SCIs as soon as possible; provide necessary guidance on designation and establishment of management priorities and measures; publish annual review of progress.	Significant progress in work on the establishment of NATURA 2000 with 823 areas covering a total surface area of approximately 97,000 km ² , added to the network protected under the Habitats Directive. Commission Decisions of 13/11/2007, 25/1/2008 and 28/3/2008 updated and extended the lists of protected sites for the Atlantic, Continental, Boreal, Macaronesian and Mediterranean biogeographical regions and provided a first list for the Pannonian region, thus extending the network for the first time to new Member States (EU 10).; By the end of 2008 there will be a second updating round of the lists of sites of Community importance. Two meetings of marine expert group held, to assess state of play with marine Natura 2000 designations and to specify the assessment process and the implementation of fisheries measures. All coastal MSs working to identify further suitable marine Natura 2000 sites, including related research and studies (sometimes with support from LIFE projects) and internal consultations. However Progress is slow and only a few MS (e.g. SW, UK) proposed additional offshore sites in 2008. At least 6 MS have indicated that they will propose sites in early 2009. Preparation of non-binding guidance on introducing measures for marine Natura 2000 sites under the CFP. Seminar for site selection for Atlantic Biogeographical sea region scheduled in March 2009. Others to follow. 464 Special Protection Areas (SPAs) have been designated by Member States under the Birds Directive covering 73528 km ² . 1st assessment of SPA designation for EU10+2 completed and legal action taken when necessary; infringement cases against 19 Member States (FIN, ES, IE, EL, PT, DE, AT, UK, PL, SL, SK, MT, LT, LV, HU, CY, CZ, RO, BG) on the basis that the list of areas classified as SPAs is not sufficient; transposition checks underway (see A.1.1.3); bilateral follow up with MS on completing NATURA 2000, including legal actions; infringement cases open against 4 Member States (IE, AT, UK, PL) on the basis that the list of pSCIs transmitted is not exhaustive.; Commission guidelines published for Natura 2000 in marine and for the implementation of Articles 12

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			and 16 of the Habitats Directive; development of new guidance documents for Natura 2000 in estuaries and coastal zones, for non-energy extractive industries and for wind energy and nature conservation underway; NATURA barometer updated twice yearly by ETC/BD; COM contract to overview process of SAC designation, establishment of conservation objectives & management instruments being applied by MS; New COM contract for <i>Natura 2000 to overview economic and social benefits, dealing with conflicts, best practice at the Local/Site levels, and its relationship with other initiatives which serve to protect biodiversity.</i>
A1.1.2	ACTION: Ensure <i>adequate financing provided to Natura 2000</i> implementation from Community sources (notably Rural Development funds, Cohesion and Structural Funds, Pre-Accession Instrument, Life-III, Life+) and MS sources, accessible to those who manage Natura 2000 sites, with focus on optimising long-term conservation benefits as well as priority awareness raising and networking initiatives [2006 onwards].	Establish Community priorities for co-financing under each instrument; provide guidance on co-financing to MS and potential beneficiaries; evaluate MS co-financing programme proposals; disburse funds; monitor effectiveness (in terms of biodiversity outcomes); audit expenditure.	Comprehensive opportunities to co-fund Natura 2000 costs provided in each appropriate EC funding regulation for 2007-2013. Guidelines & training under an EC contract provided to assist Member States in applying these funds. An Information Technology Tool on financing Natura 2000 has been developed to assist potential beneficiaries on how individual measures for Natura 2000 might be funded by the different major EU sources. COM is checking relevant funding programmes submitted by Member States (See also A 2.1.1, A 3.4.1, A 4.1.1 and B.1.1.1). A new COM study contract aims to further support linkages between financing and management of Natura 2000 This will update and refine cost estimates of Natura 2000 financial needs, provide documented examples of good practice where EU funds have been used in a successful and innovative way and develop a methodology to identify and evaluate different socio-economic benefits.
A1.1.3	ACTION: Transpose fully [by 2006] Articles 6(2), 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive into national legislation and planning policies and ensure subsequent timely implementation; where appropriate (i.e. where development proposals cannot avoid damage to Natura 2000 sites, but proceed for reasons of overriding public interest) ensure special effort for adequate design and implementation of compensatory measures [2006 onwards].	Check and ensure full transposition; address any complaints relating to implementation; establish external technical capacity for evaluating requests for derogations under Article 6(4); provide guidance on compensatory measures; evaluate adequacy of compensatory measures.	General conformity studies for all EU 25 MS have been carried out for both Birds and Habitats Directive; where gaps in transposition appear COM has initiated non-conformity cases. As regards the Birds Directive, infringement procedures related to non-conformity issues are ongoing against 15 Members States (AT, IE, ES, DK, UK, EL, IT, CZ, EE, HU, LT, LV, PL, SK, RO). As regards the Habitats Directive infringement procedures related to non-conformity issues are ongoing against 16 Member States (AT, DE, UK, FR, IE, ES, DK, NL, EL, CZ, EE, MT, PL, SI, SK, HU) COM Guidelines on compensatory measures have been published http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/guidance_en.htm . Update on COM guidance document on Article 6 is foreseen (start 2009).
A1.1.4	ACTION: Strengthen effectiveness of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in informing decision-making	Take stock of effectiveness of EIA (2006-07) and of SEA (2008-09) with respect to preventing biodiversity loss, produce guidance on best practice in treatment of biodiversity in SEA and EIA	Two studies on the application of the EIA and SEA Directives have been launched in 2008 and will include examination of the relationship between these directives and the EU Biodiversity Action Plan and the Habitats Directive. Final reports are expected in <u>early 2009</u> . Experience with the application of SEA to Structural Funds for

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	<p>(<i>inter alia</i>: take stock of effectiveness, produce guidance, tighten legal requirements as appropriate) so as to prevent, minimise and mitigate damages to Natura 2000 sites [2006 onwards]. (cf. Actions A4.1.4, A4.1.6 and A4.6.1 to A4.6.4)</p>	<p>(specific to the directives), consider options to tighten legal requirements (e.g. require biodiversity to be addressed at assessment of alternatives, screening, scoping stages) where necessary.</p>	<p>the 2007-2013 period suggests the need for specific guidance explaining 'how to do these' needs to be provided. The preparation of guidance document will be submitted to the EIA – SEA Experts group for further consideration and follow-up action. Also, the working groups set-up under the ENEA (European network of environmental authorities dealing with structural funds programmes) such as the one on "Natura 2000", "SF and SEA" and on "climate change" will be invited to consider the biodiversity dimension in their forthcoming new work-programmes. Action taken as regards transposition of the SEA/EIA Directives: - SEA: infringement procedures related to non-conformity issues are ongoing against 9 Members States (DK, EE, IE, LT, LV, SL, MT, CZ, UK). The assessment of the transposition measures is ongoing regarding 15 Members States. - EIA: infringement procedures related to non-conformity issues are ongoing against 12 Members States (BE, FR, IE, NL, AT, UK, EE, LV, LT, PL, CZ, SK).</p>
A1.1.5	<p>ACTION: Ensure full and timely application of the Environmental Liability Directive (ELD) as it applies to protected species and natural habitats (as defined under the directive), including preventive measures and remedial actions, as appropriate [2006 onwards].</p>	<p>Develop guidance, including on compensation required under ELD in respect of damages to Natura 2000 sites.</p>	<p>COM is monitoring progress on ELD transposition. At present 19 Member States have notified complete transposition of the Directive (in chronological order: IT, LT, LV, HU, DE, RO, SK, SE, ES, EE, CY, MT, BG, NL, CZ, PT, PL, DK, BE). The remaining 8 Member States are before the ECJ potentially facing judgements in 2009. The conformity assessment of the transposing legislation is being launched. A potential horizontal non-conformity infringement procedure resulting from this exercise will however not be instigated before summer 2009. When transposition will be complete there will be information about the choices of the MS on Biodiversity coverage and also on other issues that will affect implementation, the COM may start work together with the MS for providing guidelines on compensation (for all environmental legislation covered by ELD). The results of the recently finished 6th framework programme Community funded 'REMEDE' project on the application of Resource Equivalency Methods for Remediation and the tool-kit it produced will be of help (http://www.envliability.eu/index.htm).</p> <p>In terms of financial security issues (for which the COM will produce a report by April 2010), the COM may seek examples of ELD incidents and application and analyse the role of financial security for remediation of damage and for compensation of the loss of services and goods.</p>
A1.2	<p>TARGET: Sufficiency, coherence, connectivity and resilience of the protected areas network in the EU substantially enhanced by 2010 and further enhanced by 2013 (cf. objective 9, target 9.4).</p>		
A1.2.1	<p>ACTION: Carry out [in 2008, following next reports] scientific review of habitat types listed in annexes of nature</p>	<p>Coordinate review, propose necessary amendments to annexes, assess sufficiency of MS proposals for any new sites in</p>	<p>The first major 'health check' of the conservation status of species and habitats of Community interest under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive is underway. On the basis of national reports received in 2007/early 2008 the Commission with</p>

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	<p>directives, informed by 'shadow lists' of priority habitats; add to annexes any missing habitat types of Community interest, and ensure all habitat types of Community interest are sufficiently represented in the Natura 2000 network [by 2010].</p>	<p>response to any amendments to annexes, adopt revised lists of SCIs where necessary.</p>	<p>support of the European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity of the European Environment Agency will complete an EU level assessment (as part of the Commission's composite report by mid-2009. An overview on the national assessments can be already viewed through the following website: http://biodiversity.eionet.europa.eu/article17. Also for each MS a so-called "national summary" of the Art.17 reports can be viewed on the CIRCA-Reporting (http://circa.europa.eu/Public/irc/env/monnat/library). The next step is to carry out the EU-level (biogeographic level) assessment of conservation status: draft results in late 2008 following the input of the public consultation on the draft results. This exercise will help identify the extent to which additional measures for the management and restoration of species populations and habitats are needed and will be a key input to any review of habitat types of EU conservation concern; no separate review envisaged at present; preparatory actions for EC-level action plans for non-bird species are currently under preparation, a first set of action plans is envisaged to be prepared in 2009. Following up the Art.17 conservation status assessment exercise, the Commission has started also a new initiative in streamlining all reporting under the Birds and the Habitats Directive. The intention is to have better data available in order to assess the effectiveness of the nature directives as well as for a multitude of other purposes. Within this initiative a Member States Working Group was established, which deals not only with a review of the Art.17 exercise but also with (among others) starting up a similar status and trends assessment for bird-species and improving the dataflow on Natura 2000.</p>
<p>A1.2.2</p>	<p>ACTION: Accelerate efforts to place other designated protected areas (non-Natura 2000) of national, regional and local biodiversity importance under effective conservation management [by 2010, 2012 in marine].</p>	<p>Raise awareness of importance and relevance of these areas in context of Action 1.2.3 below.</p>	<p>Work undertaken & to be carried out under A 1.2.3 also takes account of national protected areas.</p>
<p>A1.2.3</p>	<p>ACTION: Assess [by 2008] and substantially strengthen [by 2010] coherence, connectivity and resilience of the protected areas network (Natura 2000 and non-Natura protected areas) by applying, as appropriate, tools which may include flyways, buffer zones, corridors and stepping stones (including as appropriate to neighbouring and other third countries), as well as actions in</p>	<p>Coordinate assessment, develop guidelines to strengthen coherence.</p>	<p>Draft guidelines on 'the maintenance of landscape features of major importance for wild fauna and flora' have been prepared & discussed with Habitats Committee (June 2007), A new COM contract was launched in 2007 for further assessment of coherence of Natura 2000 network.</p>

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	support of biodiversity in the wider environment (see also actions under objectives 2, 3 and 9).		
A1.3	No priority species in worsening conservation status by 2010; the majority of priority species in or moving towards favourable conservation status by 2013		
A1.3.1	ACTION: Implement [2006 onwards], at EC or MS level as appropriate, existing species action or management plans for species under threat and review and update as necessary; elaborate [2006 onwards] and implement [2007 onwards] additional species action or management plans for a wider range of species under threat - including birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, freshwater fish, invertebrates and plants; ensure monitoring of implementation and effectiveness of plans.	Coordinate preparation of EC-level action plans; coordinate implementation at Community level.	COM has prepared EU guidelines for management plans for large carnivores promoting best practice and providing guidance on population level management planning http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/species/carnivores/index_en.htm ; New COM contract launched at end of 2007 for technical support in elaboration of Species Action Plans (Annex I, Birds Dir.) & Management Action Plans (Annex II, Birds Dir.) & action plans for a selected number of Habitats Dir. species; first drafts prepared for 3 revised (<i>Acrocephalus paludicola</i> , <i>Marmaronetta anguistirostris</i> , <i>Aquila adalberti</i>) and 3 new (<i>Coracias garullus</i> , <i>Chersophilus duponti</i> , <i>Neophron percnopterus</i>) bird action plans; draft criteria prepared for selecting non-bird species for action plans. 7 new management plans for huntable bird species finalised in 2007 (http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/hunting/management_plans_en.htm), as well as an international action plan for Saker Falcon (http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/action_plans/index_en.htm). As regards Species Action Plans for non-bird species, preparatory actions are currently under preparation (development of selection criteria & format), a first set of action plans is envisaged to be prepared in 2009.
A1.3.2	ACTION: Carry out [in 2008, following next reports] scientific review of species listed in annexes of nature directives, informed by EU 'shadow lists' for major taxa and other relevant assessments of species status; add to annexes any missing species of Community interest, and ensure where appropriate that all species of Community interest are sufficiently represented in the Natura 2000 network [by 2010] .	Coordinate review, coordinate monitoring and assessment of species conservation status, support development of EU 'shadow lists' (including Red Data lists), propose amendments to annexes, assess sufficiency of Natura 2000 network in respect of all new species added to annexes.	Same as for habitat types in relation to Article 17 HD assessment (see 1.2.1); COM funded EUR mammal red data list (RDL) prepared (publish May 2007) http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/species/ema/index.htm ; EUR fresh-water fish RDL to be updated; COM currently funding European Red Lists (EU27) for other taxa: amphibians and reptiles (ready end 2008), dragonflies, butterflies & saproxylic beetles (ready end 2009), molluscs and vascular plants (selected families) – ready end 2010.
A1.3.3	ACTION: Identify and fill critical gaps in EU ex-situ (zoo, botanic gardens, etc.) conservation programmes for wild species , in line with best practice, with appropriate co-financing from EC and	Coordinate assessment, provide co-financing for priority projects.	New possibilities for EU financing of 'ex-situ' conservation actions under LIFE+ when justified for species conservation linked to delivery of BAP.

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	MS [2006 onwards].		
A1.4	TARGET: All above targets applied for Acceding Countries from date of accession.		
A1.4.1	ACTION: Expand all above actions to Romania and Bulgaria (Acceding Countries) and to any future Acceding Countries in a timely manner, i.e. to provide for full implementation of environmental <i>acquis</i> , and provide lists of Natura 2000 sites [by date of accession].	Ensure transposition of nature directives for application from day of accession; ensure lists proposed by day of accession; adopt lists within 1 year of accession.	As regards transposition, see Action A1.1.3; Bulgaria submitted part of its national SPAs and pSCIs lists by beginning of 2008. Romania submitted the pSCIs list in mid-2007 its list of SPAs in December 2007. The level of designation of both SPAs evaluated in 2008. The biogeographic seminar to assess the pSCIs in the 5 biogeographic regions of these 2 MS (BG-ALP, BLACK SEA, CONT; RO --+ PANN & STEPPIC) held in June 2008.
A1.5	TARGET: For those EU Outermost Regions not covered by the nature directives, valued biodiversity sites and species not in worsening conservation status by 2010; majority of valued sites and species moving towards favourable conservation status by 2013.		
A1.5.1	ACTION: Apply nature directives-type approach for valued sites and species in those EU Outermost Regions not covered by nature directives [2006 onwards].	None	ERA-net NET-BIOME - Community-funded network on biodiversity in EU outermost Regions – started in September 2006. European Conference on Biodiversity and Climate Change in Outermost Regions held in La Réunion, 7-11 July 2008. This conference brought together for the first time representatives of all OR and OCTs. The participants agreed, that there is a need for EU Member States and the European Commission, together with OCTs and ORs, to establish a voluntary scheme for the protection of species and habitats, inspired by the Natura 2000 approach. This scheme should be flexible, adapted to the local situation, balance conservation and development needs and take into account existing mechanisms and tools. The implementation of the scheme should be based on local commitment and shared financing. The importance of conservation, at species level, outside protected areas should be highlighted and priority should be given to globally threatened species. The elaboration of restoration or management plans is only a first step in the process, that has to be followed by effective implementation. The networking among existing national parks and other protected areas in order to harmonise monitoring, exchange best practices and share data is very valuable.
OBJECTIVE 2: TO CONSERVE AND RESTORE BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES IN THE WIDER EU COUNTRYSIDE.			
HEADLINE TARGET: In wider countryside (terrestrial, freshwater, brackish water <i>outside</i> Natura 2000 network), biodiversity loss halted by 2010 and showing substantial recovery by 2013.			
AGRICULTURAL & RURAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY			
A2.1	TARGET: Member States have optimised use of opportunities under agricultural, rural development and forest policy to benefit biodiversity 2007-2013.		
A2.1.1	ACTION: Allocate, at MS initiative, within each national/regional Rural	Assess MS RD Programmes and seek amendments where	Covered under rural development policy for 2007-2013; All 94 national and regional programmes have been approved by management committee.

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	<p>Development (RD) Programme, adequate Community and MS co-financing to measures available under all three axes of the RD Regulation which are directly or indirectly supportive of nature and biodiversity [2006/07 and any subsequent revisions]. (cf. Action B.1.1.2)</p>	appropriate.	At present the first analysis can be made: around 44% (€39.6 billion) of the EU resources have been allocated to Axis 2 dealing with land management and improvement of the environment including support to biodiversity and NATURA 2000 network. According to estimations, agri-environment, the biggest contributor to NATURA 2000 management, has been allocated more than a fifth part of the Community means devoted to rural development (around 22% i.e. €20.3 billion). In addition, approximately EUR 577 million of EAFRD resources have been dedicated specifically to Natura 2000 agriculture and forest areas.
A2.1.2	<p>ACTION: Apply Rural Development (RD) measures in the next programming period [2007-2013] to optimise long-term benefits for biodiversity - in particular for Natura 2000 areas and for other 'high nature value' farm and forest areas.</p>	Provide guidance on application of RD measures, including on identification of high-nature-value farmland, forests and woodlands.	See A 2.1.1
A2.1.3	<p>ACTION: Define criteria and identify [2006-07] high-nature-value farmland and forest areas (including the Natura 2000 network) threatened with loss of biodiversity (with particular attention to extensive farming and forest/woodland systems at risk of intensification or abandonment, or already abandoned), and design and implement measures to maintain and/or restore conservation status [2007 onwards].</p>	Evaluate extent to which Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) National Strategy Plans and National RDPs reflect this need - encourage adjustments where necessary.	See A 2.1.1; (High Nature Value) HNV farmland was element of work on agri-environmental indicators done by EEA under steering of the Commission (IRENA indicator report published in January 2006). Publication in September 2006 of a Communication on agri-environmental indicators (COM(2006(508)) based on IRENA work. Continuing work within the framework of a memorandum of understanding between Commission and EEA. In addition, the Commission has contracted a study on an HNV indicator for evaluation including a guidance document to the Member States on the application of the HNV impact indicator. This study has been completed in October 2007. A map of HNV farmland has been updated by the European Environment Agency and the Joint Research Centre (http://reports.eea.europa.eu/state_of_environment_report_2007_1/en/chapter4.pdf). Following consultations with the Member States, the guidance document on the application of the HNV impact indicator is currently being finalised in the context of the Evaluation Network for Rural Development under the auspices of the Commission. The final version is expected to be made available in December 2008 JRC has developed high-spatial resolution (25 m) forest maps for 1990 and 2000, which permit the identification of forest areas and the analysis of forest trends. Algorithms and GIS methods were developed by the JRC to assess forest pattern and fragmentation between 1990 and 2000.
A2.1.4	<p>ACTION: Ensure effective implementation of cross-compliance (which provides a baseline for</p>	Evaluate extent to which CAP National Strategy Plans for RD and National or regional RD	The EEA, under the steering of the Commission, has undertaken work on Cross-compliance Indicators in the context of the Farm Advisory System (CIFAS)

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	<p>most of the measures of Axis 2 of the Rural Development Regulation) in ways that benefit biodiversity [2007-2013].</p>	<p>Programmes reflect this need - encourage adjustments where necessary.</p>	<p>http://www.ewindows.eu.org/cifas. The Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP) together with Oreade-Breche (Alliance Environnement), also under the steering of the Commission, provided, in July 2007, an evaluation of the cross-compliance application (http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/eval/reports/cross_compliance/index_en.htm) On 20 May 2008, the Commission published proposals to further modernise, simplify and streamline the Common Agricultural Policy (COM(2008) 306), i.e. the "Health Check" proposals. The Good Agricultural and Environmental Conditions (GAEC) of cross-compliance are proposed to be amended. The Commission has proposed to strengthen the standard on landscape features under GAEC aimed at the promotion of biodiversity. This will contribute to retaining the environmental benefits of set-aside which the Commission proposes to abolish There is also a proposal for a new standard aiming at the establishment of buffer strips along water courses.</p>
<p>A2.1.5</p>	<p>ACTION: Ensure that MS Rural Development Plans (RDPs) comply with environmental legislation and in particular with the nature directives so as to prevent and minimise any potential damages to biodiversity [2007-2013].</p>	<p>Assess whether proposed National Strategy Plans for RD and RDPs may result in breach of environmental legislation, seek adjustments where necessary</p>	<p>See A 2.1.1 Member States were requested in their Rural Development Plans to commit themselves that all actions undertaken under these programmes will have to be carried out in accordance with the then environmental legislation, with particular emphasis on the nature directives. Safeguard clauses had to be attached to those measures which can have potential adverse impact on biodiversity and NATURA sites.</p>
<p>A2.1.6</p>	<p>ACTION: Broaden extension services, farm advisory systems and training actions to farmers, landowners and farm workers to strengthen biodiversity-related implementation in the next rural development programming [2007 onwards], including support from the LEADER axis.</p>	<p>Evaluate extent to which CAP National Strategy Plans for RD and National or regional RD Programmes reflect this need - encourage adjustments where necessary.</p>	<p>See A 2.1.1 all RDPs include the provision that the farm advisory services and system will cover standards and requirements of cross-compliance. The latter contains also some of the provisions of the Birds and Habitats Directive. Moreover, promotion of sustainable farming respecting biodiversity needs and raising environmental awareness of farmers form part of most training to be provided under the RDPs.</p>
<p>A2.1.7</p>	<p>ACTION: Ensure future 'less favoured area' (LFA) regime [from 2010] under Axis 2 enhances its contribution to biodiversity and to 'high nature value' farm and forest areas.</p>	<p>Assess contribution of LFAs to biodiversity, means to enhance this contribution - and reflect this in 2008 report and proposals.</p>	<p>Covered under rural development policy for 2007-2013; See A 2.1.1 the revision of the LFA scheme should be seen as a separate exercise which is supposed to be finalised in 2009 in order to be put in place in 2010. The Commission published in November 2006 an evaluation of the Less Favoured Area measure in the 25 Member States of the EU. The results indicate that the LFA measure has been part of a set of policies which have proved successful in maintaining farming but with variable results at the more specific land management level. The focus on livestock farms has helped to address the key issue of continued grazing on farms where profitability tends to be low and this is a major contribution to meeting nature conservation and landscape goals over a</p>

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			<p>significant area. Other habitat types have benefited less from the LFA measure. The results of this study are used as an input in the discussions on the revision of the LFA scheme. Following the inclusion into axis 2 of the renewed rural development policy, natural handicap payments now have a stronger focus on land management, contributing, through continued use of agricultural land, to maintaining the countryside and to maintaining and promoting sustainable farming systems that deliver public goods, such as valuable landscapes, biodiversity, soil conservation and fire prevention in areas where farming is difficult. The services of the Commission published different options for revising the scheme for public consultation as of end May 2008. The Commission proposal is scheduled for the first quarter of 2009.</p>
<p>A2.1.8</p>	<p>ACTION: Implement the <i>common monitoring and evaluation framework and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive requirements</i> where applicable for rural development programmes, including the definition of indicators in a way that impact of measures on biodiversity is assessed [2006 onwards].</p>	<p>Evaluate the extent to which MS have used the mandatory indicators and the appropriateness and adequacy of their additional programme specific indicators.</p>	<p>See A 2.1.1; Mandatory work on indicators ongoing (farmland birds, Natura 2000, Tree species composition) & working to 2010 target. Communication on agri-env. indicators adopted (COM(2006)508)); Council conclusions on the Communication give broad mandate to Commission for continuing work on indicators along the lines proposed in COM(2006)508. This work will be undertaken within framework of memorandum of understanding between Commission and EEA. 3 main objectives: consolidate selected set of indicators and extend it to new MS, correct existing weaknesses, establish a permanent and stable arrangement for management and long-term functioning of indicator system. All RDPs had to be accompanied by ex-ante evaluations and SEA whose evaluation was part of the assessment process;</p> <p>Some of the agri-environmental indicators developed under the work mentioned above have been integrated into the common monitoring and evaluation framework of the rural development policy.</p>
<p>A.2.1.9</p>	<p>ACTION: Encourage that implementation of the <i>Common Agricultural Policy first pillar benefits biodiversity</i>, notably through mandatory cross-compliance, decoupling (single farm payments) and by encouraging take-up of modulation by the Member States.</p>	<p>Evaluate the extent to which MS have used the first pillar of CAP for supporting biodiversity.</p>	<p>See A2.1.4; The proposed "health check" of the CAP includes proposals to require farmers to maintain field margins where appropriate, and to have buffer strips along water courses. The Commission has proposed to strengthen the standard on landscape features under GAEC aimed at the promotion of biodiversity. In addition to that, the CAP "health check" proposes to transfer additional resources (stemming from an increased rate of compulsory modulation) from pillar 1 of the CAP to Pillar 2, for use in meeting new challenges, which include biodiversity protection.</p>
<p>A2.1.10</p>	<p>ACTION: Consider, if appropriate, a <i>possible review of cross-compliance requirements related to the</i></p>	<p>Evaluate in 2007, in the context of the foreseen review of cross-compliance</p>	<p>See A2.1.4 and 2.1.9.</p>

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	<i>preservation of biodiversity</i> in the 2007 review of the cross-compliance system.		
A2.1.11	ACTION: Strengthen measures to ensure conservation, and availability for use, of genetic diversity of crop varieties, livestock breeds and races, and of commercial tree species in the EU, and promote in particular their <i>in situ</i> conservation [2006 onwards].	Facilitate (remove obstacles), provide guidance, provide co-financing.	<p>1. Rural Development Article 39 (1)-(4) of Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005, and Article 27 of Regulation (EC) No 1974/2006 offer the possibility to promote agri-environmental measures which may support the rearing of "farm animals of local breeds indigenous to the area and in danger of being lost to farming", and the preservation of "plant genetic resources naturally adapted to the local and regional conditions and under threat of genetic erosion". Article 39(5) of Regulation 1698/2005, and Article 28 of Regulation 1974/2006 may also support the conservation of genetic resources in operations not covered by the above-mentioned measures supporting the preservation of endangered animal and plant genetic resources.</p> <p>2. Community programme The Community programme on the conservation, characterisation, collection and utilisation of genetic resources in agriculture, which has been established by Regulation (EC) No 870/2004, promotes genetic diversity in agriculture. The Community Programme has given rise to 17 actions, involving 179 partners located in 25 Member States and 12 non EU countries, and a total EU co-funding of EUR 8.9 million. 59% of the actions concern plant, 12% tree and 29% animal species. The actions started in 2007 and have a maximum duration of 4 years. For more details, see http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/envir/biodiv/genres/index_en.htm. Preparation of Commission Directives on the acceptance and marketing of landraces and varieties which are naturally adapted to the local and regional conditions and threatened by genetic erosion covering seed of agricultural plant species, vegetables, vegetable propagating and planting material other than seeds and fodder plant seed mixtures. Adapting Community zootechnical legislation with view to protect animal genetic resources (zootechnical Decisions ensuring the protection of breeding programmes for domestic livestock, in particular cattle, sheep and goats).</p>
A2.1.12	ACTION: Exploit opportunities under the CAP [2007-2013] to implement all above actions in the Outermost Regions .	Evaluate extent to which CAP National Strategy Plans for RD and National or regional RD Programmes (for MS with outermost regions) reflect this need - encourage adjustments where necessary.	See A 2.1.1 This has been done within the framework of the RDPs assessment with taking account of the specific character of those areas and their problems and needs.
FOREST POLICY			
A2.1.13	ACTION: Ensure that the	Propose Action Plan,	The EU Forest Action Plan (2007-2011) was

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	<p>forthcoming EU Forest Action Plan [due 2006] addresses forest biodiversity among the priorities, in line with the EU Forest Strategy and the 6th Environment Action Programme.</p>	<p>implement Community-level components.</p>	<p>adopted as a Communication from Commission to Council and EP on 15 June 2006 (Council conclusions 24-25 October 2006). It contains 4 main objectives: 1) Improving long-term competitiveness, 2) Improving and protecting the environment, 3) contribution to the quality of life, 4) Fostering coordination and communication. Objective 2 is to maintain and appropriately enhance biodiversity, carbon sequestration, integrity, health and resilience of forest ecosystems at multiple geographical scales. Under Objective 2, Key action 7 is the contribution towards achieving the revised Community biodiversity objectives for 2010 and beyond. A work programme for implementation of the EU Forest Action Plan has been developed between COM and MS through Standing Forestry Committee and the latter adopted it in 2008 (29 February 2008). A Mid-term evaluation of the EU FAP to cover the implementation of actions and activities up to 2009 is now being developed. A European Forest Data Centre has been established at the JRC as part of the implementation of Key Action 8 of the FAP. and measures to enhance the protection of EU Forests (Key Action 9) have been implemented through the European Forest Fire Information System (http://effis.jrc.it).</p>
<p>A2.1.14</p>	<p>ACTION: Implement Vienna Ministerial Conference resolution on forest biodiversity (2003) through forest policies of MS and EU Forest Action Plan with particular reference to the CBD Expanded Programme of Work on Forest Biological Diversity [2006 onwards].</p>	<p>Implement Resolution as it applies at Community level.</p>	<p>Objective 4 of the EU Forest Action Plan on 'Fostering coordination and communication' includes a Key Action 16 to strengthen the EU profile in international forest-related processes. This action includes participation of MS and the Community in the MCPFE process (expert level meeting in Oslo, May 2008 and Working group, in Vienna April 2008), participation in the Advisory Group for the EEA report "European forests ecosystem condition and sustainable use". The latter was presented in the CBD COP 9 in 2008.</p>
<p>A2.1.15</p>	<p>ACTION: Assess potential impact on biodiversity of plans, programmes and projects for afforestation (or, should the case arise, deforestation); adjust accordingly in order to ensure no overall long-term negative impact on biodiversity [2006 onwards].</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>Objective 2 of the EU Forest Action Plan (2007-2011) is on 'Improving and protecting the environment' is to maintain and appropriately enhance biodiversity. Under Objective 2, Key action 9, which is to enhance the protection of EU forest, covers issues such as impact of afforestation (see work programme for implementation of the EU Forest Action Plan developed between COM and MS through Standing Forestry Committee). The "Feasibility study on means of combating forest dieback in the EU" executed in 2007 was presented in February 2008. Two studies have been launched during 2008; "Implementation of the EU Forestry Strategy: "How to protect EU Forests against harmful Impacts?" and a second one on "Wilderness management in European forests". The Forest Focus Regulation has also contributed towards the Objective 2, co- financing forest fires prevention activities and studies.</p>

No.	OBJECTIVES, TARGETS, ACTIONS	COMMUNITY LEVEL ACTION	MID TERM PROGRESS
ENVIRONMENT POLICY			
A2.2	TARGET: Risks to soil biodiversity in EU substantially reduced by 2013.		
A2.2.1	ACTION: Identify geographical risk areas for factors affecting soil biodiversity (soil sealing, loss of organic matter, soil erosion, etc.) [by 2009].	Provide guidance on identification of risk areas.	Publication in 2006 of the report elaborated by the Joint Research Centre (IES-Ispra) on Common criteria for risk area identification according to soil threats (EUR 22185 EN). This report has been distributed to all Member States in March 2007. This work will be continued by the JRC in the context of the Common Implementation Strategy for the Framework Directive on soil protection when the latter will be adopted by the EU.
A2.2.2	ACTION: Minimise soil sealing, sustain soil organic matter and prevent soil erosion through timely implementation of key measures identified in the forthcoming Thematic Strategy for Soil Protection [2010 onwards].	Propose suitable measures, provide guidance on implementation, monitor implementation, enforce any measures required by Community law.	Adoption of the Commission Proposal for a Thematic Strategy on soil protection (COM(2006) 231 and COM(2006)232 of 22.9.2006). The European Parliament adopted its first reading decision on the Soil Framework Directive in November 2007. The Council failed to reach a political agreement on the proposal in its meeting of December 2007. However, discussions are currently ongoing with the EU institutions for its adoption and subsequent implementation. In order to gain more knowledge about soil biodiversity, the COM is exploring the possibilities of funding research projects in the context of the 2009-2010 calls under FP7. The Commission has launched a study on soil biodiversity to gather the most recent information available on soil biodiversity taxonomy, the role of the different species in contributing to or performing soil functions, the vulnerability of soil organisms to different impacts and pressures, indicators and monitoring schemes for detecting trends in soil biodiversity, policies and legislation to specifically protect soil biodiversity. The results of this study will be available at the end of 2009.
A2.3	TARGET: Substantial progress made towards 'good ecological status' of freshwaters by 2010 and further substantial progress made by 2013.		
A2.3.1	ACTION: Ensure implementation of operational monitoring programmes [by 2006] and publication of River Basin Management Plans and establishment of River Basin District Programmes of Measures [by 2009] and that these Plans and Programmes of Measures are fully operational [by 2012], in line with provisions of the Water Framework Directive.	Provide guidance, monitor implementation, address complaints, enforce where appropriate.	New work programme for common implementation strategy for WFD agreed for 2007-2009; Progress in monitoring - MS reporting due in March 2007; work on 'intercalibration' (harmonising biological methods to assess ecological status) advanced; guidance on intercalibration application being prepared; Eutrophication guidance review underway. The progress in implementation was presented in a Communication (COM(2007) 128 and SEC(2007) 362). 26 Member States have reported the monitoring programmes in time under the newly established WISE. Assessment is underway and will be presented in the end of 2008. The intercalibration decision was adopted in October 2008. River Basin Management Plans (incl. ecological reporting) are expected to be reported to WISE for 110 river basin districts in March 2010. Commission will report on progress of this first planning cycle (incl. progress towards contributing to biodiversity goals) in the end of

No.	OBJECTIVES, TARGETS, ACTIONS	COMMUNITY LEVEL ACTION	MID TERM PROGRESS
			2012.
A2.4	TARGET: Principal pollutant pressures on terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity substantially reduced by 2010, and again by 2013.		
A2.4.1	<p>ACTION: Significantly <i>reduce point source pollutant pressures</i> on terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems through strengthening implementation of relevant Directives, notably on Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control, Large Combustion Plants, Waste Incineration, Urban Waste Water Treatment (<i>cf. action 3.2.1) [2006 onwards]</i>).</p>	<p>Provide guidance, monitor implementation, address complaints, enforce where appropriate.</p>	<p>Implementation report for urban wastewater treatment directive (SEC(2007)363). After a 2 year review process, the Commission adopted on 21 December 2007 a package to improve the EU policy on industrial emissions. This includes a Proposal for a Directive on industrial emissions [COM(2007) 843 final] [SEC(2007) 1679] [SEC(2007) 1682] that recasts seven existing Directives related to industrial emissions into a single clear and coherent legislative instrument. The recast includes the IPPC Directive, the Large Combustion Plants Directive, the Waste Incineration Directive, the Solvents Emissions Directive and 3 Directives on Titanium Dioxide. (see http://ec.europa.eu/environment/air/pollutants/stationary/ippc/proposal.htm). The IPPC Directive (2008/1/EC) requires installations falling under its scope to operate in accordance with permits including emission limit values based on the best available techniques (BAT), designed to prevent and, where that is not practicable, generally to reduce emissions and the impact to the environment as a whole. The prevention or reduction of emissions to air, water and soil should therefore be dealt with in the environmental permits issued in accordance with the IPPC Directive. The key deadline for the full implementation of the Directive was 30/10/2007. EPER is the European Pollutant Emission Register, the first European-wide register of industrial emissions into air and water, which was established by a Commission Decision of 17 July 2000. According to the EPER Decision, Member States have to produce a triennial report, which covers the emissions of 50 pollutants to be included if the threshold values indicated in Annex A1 of the EPER Decision are exceeded. Reports (2001, 2004) are published on the internet (http://eper.ec.europa.eu). From 2007 reporting will be made according to Regulation 2006/166/EC concerning the establishment of a European Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers that replaces EPER. The aim of the Waste Incineration Directive (2000/76/EC) is to prevent or to reduce as far as possible negative effects on the environment caused by the incineration and co-incineration of waste. The WI Directive requires the Commission to report on the application of the Directive, in particular for new plants and on the progress achieved in emission control techniques and experience in waste management. The Commission's Communication 'Towards on improved policy on industrial emissions' summarises this report. The 4th Implementation Report on Urban Waste Water Directive (91/271/EEC) was published on 22 March 2007 linked to the Communication</p>

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			<p>"Towards Sustainable Water Management in the European Union". The Executive Summary presents the overall picture in the EU, whilst a more detailed report presents the status of implementation in each Member State. (http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-urbanwaste/implementation/implementationreports_en.htm)</p> <p>In order to streamline and facilitate the reporting and sharing of information on the water environment between the Member States, the European Commission, the European Environment Agency (EEA), EUROSTAT and the Joint Research Centre (JRC) the Water Information System for Europe (WISE) was set up. The first reporting obligation for which the new electronic system is used is the reporting of monitoring networks under the Articles 8 and 15 of the Water Framework Directive (2007). The Commission adopted a 'Common Implementation Strategy for the Water Framework Directive' in 2006 as the progress and work programme for 2007-2009 for the implementation of Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC).</p>
A2.4.2	<p>ACTION: Significantly reduce airborne eutrophying and acidifying pollution of terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems in line with Thematic Strategy on Air Pollution [2006 onwards]; revise National Emission Ceilings Directive [by 2007]. (cf. action 3.2.2)</p>	Provide guidance, monitor implementation, address complaints, enforce where appropriate.	COM preparing legislative proposal for a revision of the NEC Directive in order to lay down national emission ceilings for 2020 achievable with cost-effective measures at national level on top of recent Commission policy proposals for industrial installations, new emission standards for heavy duty vehicles, the Climate action and renewable energy package and the recent IMO agreement, which all together already will reduce emissions significantly, but not sufficiently to meet all the objectives of the Thematic Strategy on Air Pollution. The proposal will also include a provision to monitor the effects on aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems within all types of Natura 2000 sites. Background documentation prepared for the revision of the NECD http://ec.europa.eu/environment/air/pollutants/iam_nec_dir.htm .
A2.4.3	<p>ACTION: Significantly reduce pollution of terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems from agricultural sources (notably pesticides, nitrates) through measures in line with Thematic Strategy on the Sustainable Use of Pesticides, pesticides and biocides legislation, Nitrates Directive [2006 onwards]. (cf. action 3.2.3)</p>	Provide guidance, monitor implementation, address complaints, enforce where appropriate.	<p>A report on implementation of Nitrates Directive based on the information transmitted by EU 15 Member States in the period 2004-2006 (3rd reporting exercise 2000-2003) produced (COM(2007) 120 final); preparations now underway for the implementation report for the period 2004-2007, with Commission report in 2010.</p> <p>A Framework Directive on the Sustainable Use of Pesticides was proposed to reduce the risks to human health and the environment from the use of pesticides. This new proposal is accompanied by a revision of existing legislation regarding the placing of plant protection products on the market and by two additional legislative proposals: one on the environmental protection requirements to be met by new pesticide application equipment placed on the market and the other one on the collection of statistics on plant protection products. The legislative adoption procedure of the</p>

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			Framework Directive has started in 2006 and should be terminated in 2009.
A2.4.4	ACTION: Significantly reduce current exposure, and limit future exposure, of terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems to toxic chemicals through measures in line with EU chemicals legislation including REACH [2006 onwards]. (cf. action 3.2.4)	Provide guidance, monitor implementation, address complaints, enforce where appropriate.	<p>Agreement in 2nd reading was achieved in June 2008 for the Daughter Directive under the Water Framework Directive setting environmental quality standards for 41 dangerous chemical substances (including 33 priority substances and 8 other pollutants) that pose a particular risk to animal and plant life in the aquatic environment and to human health. Publication of the new Directive is foreseen in early 2009.</p> <p>A review of the Paints Directive (2004/42/EC) in line with the provisions of Article 9 of the Directive is under completion and is likely to come into force in 2010. The directive obliges Member States to establish systems to monitor compliance of products with the requirements of the directive, the first of which was due by 31 June 2008.</p> <p>Study to complement the priority list of endocrine disruptors with a focus on Low Production Volume Chemicals (LPVC) was completed end of December 2006; The third implementation report of the Community Strategy for Endocrine Disrupters was published in November 2007 (SEC (2007) 1635).</p> <p>REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemical substances) (EC 1907/2006) entered into force on 1 June 2007. The Regulation will result in assessing risks to human health and the environment of ca. 30 000 chemical substances being currently used in the EU. The most risky substances, including those having persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic properties (or very persistent and very bioaccumulative), may be banned and specific uses may only be authorised if socio-economic benefits of a use outweigh risks and there are no suitable alternatives.</p> <p>The 2nd triennial report (2003-2006) in line with the Biocidal Products Directive (98/8/EC) is under finalisation.</p>
A2.5	TARGET: Flood risk management plans in place and designed in such a way as to prevent and minimise biodiversity loss and optimise biodiversity gains, by 2015.		
A2.5.1	ACTION: As part of the preliminary flood risk assessment for each river basin, assess the risks and benefits of flooding for biodiversity [within 3 years of adoption of Directive].	Provide guidance	Adoption of Directive 2007/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23.10.2007 on the assessment and management of flood risks (OJ L 288, 6.11.2007, p.27); 1st milestone will be preliminary flood risk assessment (for 2011); second step flood hazard maps and flood risk maps (for 2013). Information exchange on different topics in relation to implementation of this Directive is ongoing with thematic workshops organised under an expert working group established to support the implementation of the Directive. Issues addressed in 2008 are sustainable land use planning and flood risk management (April 2008) as well as on flood mapping (September 2008). Within the first topic the issue of working with natural processes is also addressed, and in the second topic the issue of mapping potential adverse consequences for the

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			environment will be considered.
A2.5.2	ACTION: Ensure Flood risk management plans for each river basin optimise benefits for biodiversity through, in particular, allowing necessary freshwater input to wetland and floodplain habitats, and creating where possible and appropriate additional wetland and floodplain habitats which enhance capacity for flood water retention [by 2015].	Provide guidance	See 2.5.1.; 1st management plans set for 2015; To be co-ordinated with implementation of WFD. Certain aspects of flood risk management are also foreseen to be considered in the 1st river basin management plans currently in preparation to be established by 22.12.2009, in particular as far as prevention of pollution as a result of floods, as well as hydromorphology and the need to assessing better environmental options before undertaking a new modification to a water body which could hinder the achievement of the WFD objectives of the water body in question.
OBJECTIVE 3: TO CONSERVE AND RESTORE BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES IN THE WIDER EU MARINE ENVIRONMENT.			
HEADLINE TARGET: In wider marine environment (outside Natura 2000 network), biodiversity loss halted by 2010 and showing substantial recovery by 2013.			
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY			
A3.1	TARGET 3.1: Substantial progress achieved by 2010 and again by 2013 towards 'good environmental status' of the marine environment.		
A3.1.1	ACTION: Make initial assessments, determine 'good environmental status', and establish environmental targets for each Marine Region in line within the timetable specified in the proposed Marine Strategy Directive [2006 onwards].	Council to adopt Marine Framework Directive by 2007. Commission to provide guidance, facilitate and where necessary enforce implementation.	The Marine Strategy Framework Directive was adopted in June 2008 (OJ L 164 of 25.6.2008, p.19). It provides the basis for achieving good environmental status in the marine environment and includes provision for the further development of marine protected areas. Adaptive management, on the basis of the ecosystem approach, will be applied to attain good environmental status. European Marine Monitoring & Assessment (EMMA) led by COM & EEA, helping prepare ground for future implementation - will include initial assessment of state of marine. Physically Sensitive Areas and high Oxygen Depletion Risk Areas mapped (http://emis.jrc.ec.europa.eu/).
A3.1.2	ACTION: Develop programmes of measures designed to achieve good environmental status in each Marine Region [by 2016 at latest, earlier where possible].	As above	See A 3.1.1.
A3.1.3	ACTION: Ensure key biodiversity and ecosystem provisions of the Thematic Strategy for the Marine Environment are assured in the Maritime Policy for the Union and any consequent policy.	Com to implement Thematic Strategy action plan.	Green paper adopted (June 2006). Stakeholder consultation concluded with over 490 contributions received. Impact assessment also concluded end 2007. In October 2007 the Commission adopted a Communication on an Integrated Maritime Policy for the EU together with a detailed Action Plan (COM (2007) 575 final) setting out an ambitious work programme for the years ahead. It ensures the key biodiversity and ecosystem provisions of the Marine Thematic Strategy while the Action Plan lists further actions

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			towards the protection of marine. The Com is now working on the implementation of the action plan. A European Monitoring and Data Network for the Seas (EMODNET), to be established (see A3.7.1).
A3.1.4	ACTION: Ensure timely implementation of the <i>Water Framework Directive</i> as it applies to coastal areas [2006 onwards].	Provide guidance, monitor implementation, address complaints, enforce where appropriate.	See A.2.3.1.
A3.1.5	ACTION: Ensure timely implementation and review of the EU <i>Integrated Coastal Zone Management Recommendation</i> [2006 onwards].	Coordinate implementation, review.	<p>An external evaluation of the implementation of the ICZM Recommendation was carried out in 2006. It concluded that the Recommendation has had a positive effect in stimulating progress towards a more integrated planning and management of Europe's coastal zones. In its Communication (COM (2007) 308), COM presented broad policy directions for the further support of ICZM at EU level. These include the development of guidance and sharing of good-practices, and the identification of 2 priority themes, being (1) adaptation to coastal risks and climate change impacts and (2) cooperation in regional sea context, including management of the land-sea interface and marine spatial planning. Specific actions to be designed in coherence with the Maritime Policy and the Marine Strategy Directive in particular. - The evaluation of the EU ICZM Recommendation concluded that more support to the implementation of ICZM needed to be given. A call for tender (1M€) was launched in 2008 to support the exchange of experience and comparative analysis of ICZM. The contract should start 1/2009 and run through to 2/2012.</p> <p>- In the framework of the Cohesion policy, the transnational operational programmes were adopted by the end of 2007. The programmes of all the European regional seas provided funding opportunities for ICZM. The implementation started in 2007/2008 with the first call for projects by the decentralised managing authorities.</p> <p>- The negotiations on the Protocol on ICZM in the framework of the Barcelona Convention were successfully concluded. By June 2008 all EU Member States (except Cyprus) signed the Protocol. The Proposal for the Community signature of the Protocol was put forward by the Commission. The French Presidency organises a stakeholder and Ministerial conference to promote the Protocol (18/19 December 2008) with specific attention for the role the Protocol can play in stopping biodiversity decline.</p> <p>- The 6th RTD Framework programme supported a number of key projects to support ICZM which are to deliver results in the course of 2009/2010 (ENCORA, strategic coordination action to overcome the fragmentation of the coastal research and to facilitate research-education-user links; CONSCIENCE policy support project to make operational the concepts of sound coastal</p>

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			erosion management developed by the EUrosion project in 2004; SPICOSA, integrated project to support decision making and assessment of policy options in the coastal zones). In the context of the 7th Framework programme, calls for projects were launched end 2007 and in 2008 on marine spatial planning and ICZM, research to support ICZM in the Mediterranean and Black seas and coastal cities.
A3.2	TARGET: Principal pollutant pressures on marine biodiversity substantially reduced by 2010, and again by 2013.		
A3.2.1	ACTION: Significantly <i>reduce point source pollutant pressures on marine ecosystems</i> through strengthening implementation of relevant Directives, notably on Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control, Large Combustion Plants, Waste Incineration, Urban Waste Water Treatment [2006 onwards] (cf. action 2.3.1)	Provide guidance, monitor implementation, address complaints, enforce where appropriate.	See A.2.4.1; COM communication (2006/0863) presenting the current state of Community action in terms of preparedness and response to marine pollution, and indicating how the Commission intends to continue and promote its activities to the full in this field from 200; European Union established the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) (1406/2002/EC) to strengthen its role in the field of maritime safety and pollution by ships. The Agency provides technical and scientific assistance to the COM and Member States on related matters and fulfils tasks on oil pollution response. Beyond the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC (which covers coastal waters), 2008 saw the adoption of the Marine Strategy Directive 2008/56/EC, expanding the scope of water protection to all marine areas, with the objective of good environmental status for all marine waters, and an obligation for Member States to cooperate and coordinate action in shared marine regions or subregions, across administrative and political boundaries.
A3.2.2	ACTION: Significantly <i>reduce airborne eutrophication and acidifying pollution of marine ecosystems</i> in line with Thematic Strategy on Air Quality [2006 onwards]; revise National Emissions Ceiling Directive [by 2007]. (cf. action 2.3.2)	Provide guidance, monitor implementation, address complaints, enforce where appropriate.	See A.2.4.2.
A3.2.3	ACTION: Significantly <i>reduce pollution of marine ecosystems from agricultural sources</i> (pesticides, nitrates) through measures in line with Thematic Strategy on the Sustainable Use of Pesticides, pesticides and biocides legislation, Nitrates Directive [2006 onwards]. (cf. action 2.3.3)	Provide guidance, monitor implementation, address complaints, enforce where appropriate.	See A.2.4.3.
A3.2.4	ACTION: Significantly reduce current exposure,	Provide guidance, monitor implementation, address	See A.2.4.4.

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	and limit future exposure, of marine ecosystems to toxic chemicals through measures in line with EU chemicals legislation [2006 onwards]. (cf. action 2.3.4)	complaints, enforce where appropriate.	
FISHERIES POLICY			
A3.3	TARGET: Ecosystem approach to the protection of the seas in place and implying fisheries management measures no later than 2016.		
A3.3.1	ACTION: Introduce the fisheries management measures required in the Regional Marine Strategies adopted by Member States in line with the requirements of the Marine Strategy Directive [by 2017].	Ensure respect of deadlines for Programmes of Measures to be adopted by Member States and propose pertinent fishery measures.	Measures being introduced into CFP – e.g. legislation implementing fisheries restrictive areas to protect vulnerable deep sea habitats in the Mediterranean & recovery plan for certain fish stocks in the Baltic Sea; Council Regulation fixing for 2007-2008 the fishing opportunities for Community fishing vessels for certain deep-sea fish stocks; Council Regulation concerning management measures for the sustainable exploitation of fisheries resources in the Mediterranean; Legislation implementing fisheries restrictive areas to protect deep-sea habitats in the Mediterranean and in the North East Atlantic included in the proposed 2008 TAC & Quota Regulation.
A3.4	TARGET: Substantially enhanced funding provided to environmentally-friendly fisheries management from 2007 onwards.		
A3.4.1	ACTION: Apply new European Fisheries Fund and Member State funds for actions beneficial to marine biodiversity [2007 onwards]. (cf. Action B1.1.3)	Negotiate Operational Plans with Member States.	Council Regulation (EC) No 1198/2006 of 27 July 2006 on the EFF. Designed to help implement the reformed CFP principles and to promote sustainable fisheries; National strategic reference frameworks and OPs being prepared; Member States have adopted National Strategic Plans for fisheries and aquaculture and proposed for approval by the Commission the Operational Plans. The Commission is checking their compliance with EU environmental acquis and their contribution to the sustainable exploitation of fisheries and aquaculture. The EFF may provide, opportunities to support biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of natural resources. This can be done by the implementation of many different types of operations included in 4 of the 5 Priority Axes defined by regulation 1198/2006. However, in every OP these operations are grouped together with many other measures belonging to the same Axis and not linked to biodiversity and NATURA 2000. The financial information provided by the EFF OPs does not include the amount allocated to measures or operations. The only available information concerns the total allocation of the EFF plus the national public contribution for each Priority Axis, and the total annual commitment of the EFF in the operational programme.
A3.5	TARGET: Stock levels maintained or restored to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield, where possible no later than 2015.		
A3.5.1	ACTION: Prepare plan of	Propose plan of action to	Communication on implementing sustainability in

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	action to attain maximum sustainable yield , prepare and implement multiannual plans for stocks outside safe biological limits [2006 onwards]	attain maximum sustainable yield. Seek scientific advice, consult stakeholders and elaborate proposals for recovery and management plans.	EU fisheries through Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) COM(2006)360; SEC(2006)868, the Council received the Communication and issued conclusions on the 17/12/2007; ongoing measures to introduce this objective into management of different stocks. The following relevant Council Regulations have been adopted in 2007: multiannual plan for fisheries exploiting stocks of plaice and sole in the North Sea, recovery plan for blue fin tuna, multiannual plan for sustainable exploitation of the stock of sole in the Western Channel and a recovery plan for eel. Council Regulation for a recovery plan for Eastern Baltic Sea cod stocks and a multi-annual plan for cod stocks in the Baltic Sea adopted in September 2007. The Commission's Communication on 'The role of the CFP in implementing an ecosystem approach to marine management' was adopted in April 2008; This shows how measures taken under the CFP will be guided by the ecosystem approach as the overarching principle.
A3.5.2	ACTION: Develop, adopt and implement restoration programmes for diadromous species (e.g. trout, salmon, sturgeon). [2006 onwards]	Propose programmes.	On 18 September 2007 Council adopted Regulation 1100/2007 establishing measures for the recovery of the stock of European eel COM (2005) 472 final; COM has produced a Guidance Document on preparations of Eel Management Plans in accordance with the regulation 1100/2007. MS have to submit their Eel Management Plans to the COM by 31 December 2008, which the COM has to scientifically assess and approve by July 2009. Long-term management plan for the Baltic Salmon to be adopted in 2009.
A3.5.3	ACTION: Adjust fishing capacity to improve balance between fishing capacity and available fish stocks. [2006 onwards]	Work out efficient parameters for the assessment of fishing capacity.	Annual Report from the Commission to the Council and the EP on MSs efforts to achieve a sustainable balance between fishing capacity and fishing opportunities. Ongoing discussions with MSs to improve the framework of the annual report by ensuring a better evaluation of the over-capacity concept, according to data on fishing possibilities allocations, status of exploited fishing stocks and economic results of the fleet segments.
A3.5.4	ACTION: Adopt and implement provisions under CFP for the wider establishment of no-take zones .	Seek scientific advice, consult stakeholders and elaborate proposals.	Technical workshops on Marine protected areas appropriateness as management tool for management of fisheries activities carried out by the Commission supported by Community experts. Measure being introduced to protect sensitive habitats (e.g. deep sea coral reefs) may result in no-take areas; Council Regulation concerning management measures for the sustainable exploitation of fisheries in the Mediterranean. Chapter III includes fishing protected areas.
A3.5.5	ACTION: Take concerted EU action to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing . [2006 onwards]		Commission Regulation (EC) No 1262/2006 of 23 August 2006 has amended Council Regulation (EC) No 51/2006 as regards the list of vessels engaged in illegal, unreported and unregulated fisheries in the north-east Atlantic; A

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			<p>Communication on "a new strategy for the Community to prevent, deter and eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing," COM(2007)601, as well as a proposal for Council Regulation Establishing a Community system to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, COM(2007) 602, have been adopted by the Commission in October 2007. On 29 September 2008, the Council adopted the Regulation establishing a Community system to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing. A stakeholder consultation has recently been launched on the reform of the CFP control system. Overcoming the shortcomings of the current control system, which dates back to 2003, will significantly help to ensure effective application of fisheries measures and deter illegal operations. The consultation exercise was open until 5 May 2008 and The Commission has adopted on 14 November 2008 a proposal for a Council Regulation on the reform of the control system of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). It is designed to strengthen the current regulatory framework in order to ensure a level playing field and to develop a culture of compliance within the fisheries sector across the European Union (COM(2008) 721 final).</p>
A3.6	TARGET: Impact of fisheries on non-target species and habitats progressively and substantially reduced from 2006 onwards.		
A3.6.1	<p>ACTION: Implement <i>technical measures</i> to help ensure favourable conservation status of marine species and habitats which are not commercially exploited, aimed at the reduction of unwanted by-catch and of damage to the benthos. [2006 onwards]</p>	<p>Propose new technical measures as provided for under the CFP; supervise implementation at Community level.</p>	<p>Simplified technical measures through the New Technical Measures Regulation proposed in 2008 will improve selectivity of fishing gear. Ongoing work. e.g.: article 9 by catch provisions of the Council Regulation Establishing a multi-annual recovery Plan for Bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean.</p> <p>In March 2007 the Commission adopted a Communication (COM 2007 (136)) on reducing unwanted catches and eliminating discards in European fisheries, for which the EP expressed broad support in its plenary session of the 31 January 2008. Legislation implementing fisheries restrictive areas to protect vulnerable deep-sea habitats in the Mediterranean and in the North East Atlantic is included in the 2008 TAC and Quota Regulation. Council Regulation 1967/2006 of 21 December 2006 concerning management measures for the sustainable exploitation of fisheries in the Mediterranean includes prohibition of fishing with devices impacting sensitive habitats (e.g. sea grasses) in areas known to host such habitats.</p>
A3.6.2	<p>ACTION: Adopt <i>Community Plan of Action for the conservation of sharks and Community Plan of Action for reducing seabird by-catch</i> and implement progressively thereafter.</p>	<p>Propose plans for Seabird by-catch action plan. Shark action plan to be adopted.</p>	<p>Community Action Plan for Sharks; Shark Action Plan was opened for consultation until 15 February 2008, an impact assessment of the Shark Action Plan has been undertaken and is foreseen to be adopted in early 2009; COM following work of FAO/ IPOA on sharks. COM is gathering information and scientific advice with a view to completing a Community plan of action for reducing seabird by-catch in the context of FAO</p>

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			by end 2009. See also comments under A.1.1.1 in relation to the marine Natura 2000 and fisheries management
A3.6.3	ACTION: Identify, define, adopt and enforce fisheries measures required for Natura 2000 sites in the marine environment. [by date of designation]	Define and propose measures, as appropriate, at Community level; supervise, guide and enforce implementation at Member State level.	Protection measures for four Irish SACs included as an amendment to 2008 TAC & QUOTA Regulation adopted in December 2007. DG ENV and DG MARE have completed a guidance document for Member States on how to request for fisheries management measures for marine N2000 sites under the CFP (http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/marine/docs/fish_measures.pdf) COM is responding to MS requests regarding fisheries management measures for Natura 2000 sites. New request from Spain for El Cachucho area is submitted. Measures included in the Mediterranean Regulation.
A3.6.4	ACTION: Ensure adequate treatment of biodiversity concerns in all cases where environmental impact assessment or strategic environmental assessment is required in relation to fisheries or aquaculture, and ensure authorisation process and subsequent implementation take due account of EIA and SEA findings in order to prevent negative impacts on biodiversity or, where prevention is not possible, minimise, mitigate and/or compensate for these negative impacts [2006 onwards].	Address any complaints relating to incorrect application of EIA; enforce correct application where necessary.	Ongoing
A3.7	TARGET: Substantially improved information and reporting on environmental integration of the Common Fisheries Policy from 2008 onwards.		
A3.7.1	ACTION: Make periodic assessments [2006 onwards] of the progress of the Common Fisheries Policy in incorporating environmental protection requirements (with particular reference to biodiversity).	Seek basic scientific information and report to Council and Parliament.	Study and expert workshops carried with STECF and ICES to identify improved indicators for reporting on impact of fishing on marine ecosystem (report released in July 2007). The Council adopted on 25 February 2008 the Regulation (EC) No 199/2008 concerning the establishment of a Community framework for the collection, management and use of data in the fisheries sector and support for scientific advice regarding the Common Fisheries Policy. This new framework also introduces provisions to meet the new developments following the 2002 Reform of the CFP, in particular the move towards fisheries- or fleet-based management as opposed to managing individual stocks, the integration of environmental data, and the shift towards an ecosystem-based approach. The new (Data Collection Regulation (DCR) includes the obligation for MSs to collect environmental data.

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			<p>The collection of basic scientific information will support periodic assessments of the progress of the CFP in integrating biodiversity protection requirements.</p> <p>The new DCR also includes access to and use of detailed data, in particular, access to satellite monitoring (VMS) data will provide detailed information at the high level of resolution required for effective spatial planning. This will play a major role in enabling effective action to protect vulnerable marine habitats both under the EU's Habitats Directive, and in fulfilment of the EU's international commitments. In August 2008 the Commission adopted technical implementing rules (COM 665/2008). In addition the Commission has recently proposed detailed implementing rules concerning the Commission's financial contribution to the Data Collection National programmes.</p> <p>A European Monitoring and Data Network for the Seas (EMODNET), to be established in the context of the new Integrated Maritime Policy, will monitor indicators on the natural state of the seas, including biodiversity.</p>
OBJECTIVE 4: TO REINFORCE COMPATABILITY OF REGIONAL AND TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT WITH BIODIVERSITY IN THE EU.			
HEADLINE TARGET: Regional and territorial development benefiting biodiversity and negative impacts on biodiversity prevented and minimised or, where unavoidable, adequately compensated for, from 2006 onwards.			
REGIONAL POLICY, SPATIAL PLANNING			
A4.1	TARGET: Cohesion and structural funds contributing to sustainable development and making (directly or indirectly) a positive contribution to biodiversity, and negative impacts on biodiversity prevented or minimised or, where unavoidable, adequately compensated for, from 2006 onwards.		
A4.1.1	ACTION: Allocate, at MS initiative, <i>cohesion and structural funds for projects directly or indirectly benefiting biodiversity</i> in appropriate operational programmes [2006 onwards]. (cf. Action B1.1.4)	Encourage MS to provide for such projects, provide technical support for programming (consistent with Financing Natura 2000 proposal); evaluate national programmes submitted.	Funding possibilities included in ERDF Reg. 1080/2006 (Art.5, part B); guidance on Financing Natura 2000 includes ERDF; seminars on financing NATURA 2000 provided in MS; The 27 MS have planned to invest a total amount of €5,2 billion (in practice from ERDF, CF and ETC funds), which represent in average 1,5% of the total financial allocations of the programmes. This amount covers only the Community participation to be completed by national and private funds. The Community participation varies according to the level of development of the regions or countries and can reach 85% in the convergence regions and in the new MS. Member states have made allocations to several categories of spending related to the protection of biodiversity and management of natural resources. The most relevant category is the "Promotion of biodiversity and nature protection" (code 51) for which €2719 million has been allocated. Also highly relevant is the "protection of natural assets" (code 55) for which €1146 million is allocated. A total of €1376 million, foreseen for the protection and development of natural heritage" (Code 56) in the framework of tourism, will also include some spending for nature and biodiversity. With

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			<p>exception of Cyprus, Ireland and Luxembourg all MS have allocated some funds for nature and biodiversity protection although this varies considerable between countries. Lithuania and Malta have used more than 3% of their allocated funds for biodiversity. Biodiversity benefits can also be expected from measures in the urban context (quarters/brownfield rehabilitation, re-establishment of green areas/open space etc.) and, more directly, from landscape conservation measures where they accompany major infrastructure projects to compensate for biodiversity losses.</p> <p>European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) programmes (former INTERREG) compared to national programmes, show higher allocations for specific action in favour of biodiversity and / or Natura 2000, approximately 5.6 % of the ETC programmes budget. They include a wide variety of cross-border cooperation measures within transnational partnerships.</p>
A4.1.2	<p>ACTION: ESF contributing to biodiversity objectives through awareness-raising, capacity building, employment of the young, long-term jobless and elderly, etc. [2007 onwards] (cf. Action B1.1.5)</p>	<p>Encourage MS to provide for such projects, provide technical support for programming; evaluate national programmes submitted.</p>	<p>No explicit mention to biodiversity funding but relevant opportunities (e.g. life long learning, training) exist for MS - outlined in COM guidance doc on financing NATURA 2000. Under the ESF, no funds are planned to be spent under the categories 51, 55 and 56. However, on initiative of some MS regions, the ESF will support training/education measures for specific projects at regional and local levels (examples: co-funding of regional programmes under the UNESCO Decade for Education for sustainable development², supporting schemes like the German ecological year for young people, training of park rangers). The ESF programmes offer a wide range of other funding opportunities but they need to be identified and proactively by the interested parties at national levels. Many Convergence programmes allow for using the technical assistance to support measures that indirectly promote Natura 2000/ biodiversity activities. This is for instance the case in DE, FR, IT, BG, RO or MT where technical assistance (or the OP on technical assistance or directly the technical assistance of the OP) allow funding of measures in relation to the implementation of the environmental measures; this can concern environmental monitoring, development of GIS, evaluation activities, reinforcement of capacity building and assistance to prepare Natura 2000 management plans.</p>

² **UNESCO was designated** by UN General Assembly Resolution 57/254 to lead the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014). In addressing biodiversity, the focus is on the interlinking issues of biodiversity and livelihoods, such as agriculture, livestock raising, forestry and fisheries. **The Decade offers an opportunity** to develop a better understanding of how consumption impacts biodiversity at local and global levels, to sensitize young people to their role and responsibility in this process and to accelerate human resource development, education and training to prevent habitat loss and degradation, species loss, and pollution.

<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0013/001388/138846e.pdf>

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A4.1.3	ACTION: Ensure <i>National Strategic Reference Frameworks (NRSFs) and Operational Programmes 2007-2013 fully respect environmental acquis [2006 onwards]</i>	Check conformity of NSRFs and Operational Programmes with environmental acquis.	All the NSRFs and most of the OP are now adopted (June 2008). The conformity of NSRFs and Operational Programmes with environmental acquis has been checked during the negotiations which are now completed.
A4.1.4	ACTION: Ensure <i>strategic environmental assessment (SEA) of Operational Programmes [2006 onwards]</i> gives adequate treatment to biodiversity concerns and that the final programmes take full account of the SEA findings in order to prevent, minimise and mitigate impacts on biodiversity and provide where possible benefits to biodiversity. (cf. Action A1.1.4)	Check SEA Directive is applied.	Most ERDF and CF supported OPs (326 out of 335) have been adopted (as of 01/04/08). COM (DG REGIO and ENV) wrote to MS (February 2006) regarding their obligations regarding SEA directive. In the process of adoption, all relevant DGs have been consulted on the OPs and their accompanying documents, among them, the justification on how SEA finding have been taken into account in the OPs. The biodiversity dimension has been assessed, although in general terms. The level of detail of the assessment of the OP on biodiversity varies between countries and from one OP to the other, and is closely related to the level of detail of the programme. This is not the case for the major projects i.e. those over Euro 50m (25m for environmental projects) and for the TENs projects, where more information on the location of the projects was available at the level of the programme. It seems, that the experience of common practice on how to deal with the biodiversity dimension in a SEA context is limited, especially at the intermediate geographical level of the regions where the OP intervenes. In general, the SEA of the <i>regional</i> programmes did not contain specific recommendations concerning biodiversity, except for most OPs on transport or large infrastructures when projects were likely to cross Natura 2000 areas. The SEA has also proposed additional monitoring and evaluation criteria to be incorporated in the programmes. In a few OPs clauses conditioning the funding to the respect of nature protection legislation with the focus on Natura 2000 sites, were introduced. For example, this is the case of Poland (Co-financing of projects having negative impact on the potential Natura 2000 sites which have not been designated shall not be eligible), Bulgaria (co-financing of projects having negative impact on potential Natura 2000 sites not permitted).
A4.1.5	ACTION: Ensure <i>environmental impact assessment (EIA) of projects co-financed by Cohesion Fund and European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)</i> , where such EIA is required, gives adequate treatment to biodiversity concerns and that final projects take full account of EIA findings in order to prevent, minimise and	Assess all proposals over Euro 50m (25m for environmental projects) for potential biodiversity impacts. Address any complaints relating to projects. Check EIA Directive is correctly applied.	The major projects form includes an explicit reference to the EIA and Natura 2000 sites Evaluations of Major Projects for the period 2007-2013 begun as soon as the projects submitted to the Commission. EIA includes a description of the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected by the project, including fauna, flora, and landscape. The EIA provides also for the assessment of alternatives to take into account environmental effects. DG ENV will verify that the EIA takes duly into account impact on nature and biodiversity (including ecosystems) and the measures foreseen to avoid, minimise and compensate. Additional efforts to address

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	mitigate impacts on biodiversity and provide where possible benefits to biodiversity [2006 onwards]. (cf. Action A1.1.4)		also climate change effects in combination with the OP investments and the interrelations between them and biodiversity and the possible needs for adaptation.
A4.1.6	ACTION: Ensure full participation of civil society in development of NSRF and national Operational Programmes and in SEA/EIA and ensure biodiversity interests fully represented [2006 onwards].	Address complaints relating to inadequate participation.	The SEA process has allowed the participation of civil society (in conformity with the provisions of the SEA Directive). When the public (including NGOs) had expressed comments on the programmes or the SEA, the Authority responsible for the programmes had the obligation to explain how the opinions expressed during the consultation had been taken in consideration. In practice, even if the timeframe of the consultations were not always sufficient to allow a large public to take part in the consultation, the SEA process has given to NGOs interested in the programme an opportunity to express their voice.
A4.2	TARGET: Negative impacts of territorial plans (within each MS) on biodiversity prevented or minimised, and positive benefits optimised, from 2006 onwards.		
A4.2.1	ACTION: Ensure that all those territorial plans subject to strategic environmental assessment (SEA) (where deemed applicable by Member States under the SEA Directive) do not cause significant negative impacts on biodiversity (direct, indirect, cumulative) [2006 onwards].	Assess effectiveness of SEA in addressing biodiversity impacts (2006 SEA reports, commission special study to take stock).	See A.1.1.4 re SEA study.
A4.2.2	ACTION: Implement policies and measures in line with Thematic Strategy for Urban Environment to prevent urban sprawl [2006 onwards].	n/a	
A4.3	TARGET: Ecological coherence and functioning strengthened through spatial planning from 2006 onwards.		
A4.3.1	ACTION: Develop and implement spatial and programmatic plans that support the coherence of the Natura 2000 network (in line with the requirements of the nature directives to ensure such coherence) and maintain and/or restore the ecological quality of wider landscape [2006 onwards] (cf. Action B2.5.1)	Promote best practice at MS, regional and local levels	Promoting correct application of SEA, which covers land use plans. New initiative - "Territorial Agenda for the European Union" - agreed in May 2007, provides an opportunity for planning and implementation of European ecological networks, especially stressing its role for opportunities for sustainable development in marginal areas and preservation of traditional cultural landscapes of Europe.
A4.4	TARGET: Significant increase in proportion of tourism which is ecologically sustainable by 2010 and again by 2013.		
A4.4.1	CBD Guidelines on Sustainable Tourism promoted, adopted and	Promote best practice.	To be considered under new EU Business and Biodiversity Initiative (See B 3.1.6).

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	implemented as appropriate by key stakeholders [2006 onwards].		
A4.5	TARGET: All above outcomes achieved also in Outermost Regions.		
A4.5.1	ACTION: All above actions applied, as appropriate, in Outermost Regions (French Guyana, Guadeloupe, Reunion, Martinique, Canaries, Azores, Madeira) [2006 onwards].	As for all above actions under targets 4.1-4.5, as appropriate.	Approach as for EU27 + Canaries, Azores & Madeira subject to EU nature legislation.
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY			
A4.6	TARGET: All Strategic Environmental Assessments and Environmental Impact Assessments have taken full account of biodiversity concerns (2006 onwards).		
A4.6.1	ACTION: Ensure effective treatment of biodiversity in all Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of programmes and plans, where such SEA is required , including by promotion of best practice through the development of guidelines, recognition of good performance) - and ensure that full account is taken of the findings of the assessment (in terms of impacts on biodiversity) in the final programmes or plans [2006 onwards]. (cf. Action A1.1.4)	See action 1.1.3 above.	See A.1.1.4.
A4.6.2	ACTION: Ensure effective treatment of biodiversity in all Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of projects, where such EIA is required , including by promotion of best practice through the development of guidelines, recognition of good performance) - and ensure that full account is taken of the findings of the assessment (in terms of impacts on biodiversity) in the authorisation procedure [2006 onwards]. (cf. Action A1.1.4)	See action 1.1.3 above.	See A.1.1.4.
A4.6.3	ACTION: Ensure all new Trans-European Networks provide for environmental assessment and take full account of biodiversity impacts in the design and authorisation process in the	Check projects (existing modus operandi ENV/TREN).	Ongoing

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	framework of the existing EU legislation [2006 onwards]. (cf. Action A1.1.4)		
A4.6.4	ACTION: Take stock of effectiveness of EIA and SEA in preventing and minimising negative impacts and improving positive impacts of developments on biodiversity and consider necessary measures to improve EIA and SEA performance in this respect [by 2009]. (cf. Action A1.1.4)	See 1.1.3 above.	See A.1.1.4.
OBJECTIVE 5: TO SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCE THE IMPACT ON EU BIODIVERSITY OF INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES (IAS) & ALIEN GENOTYPES.			
HEADLINE TARGET: Negative impacts on EU biodiversity of IAS and alien genotypes prevented or minimised from 2010 onwards.			
A5.1	TARGET: Impact of IAS on biodiversity in the EU substantially reduced by 2010 and again by 2013.		
A5.1.1	ACTION: Assess, at EU level, gaps in the current legal, policy and economic framework to prevent, control and eradicate IAS and mitigate their impacts on biodiversity and develop a community strategy to address IAS including, where necessary and appropriate, measures to fill gaps [by 2007].	Make assessment, propose measures to fill gaps.	A gap assessment of the current legal and policy framework applying to invasive species (IS) was completed in July 2006. A Council Regulation dealing specifically with alien species in aquaculture was agreed on 11 June 2007 (Council Regulation 708/2007) and a new permit system will enter into force for this sector no later than 1 January 2009. In June 2008 the Commission adopted two Regulations: Commission Regulation (EC) No 535/2008 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 708/2007 concerning use of alien and locally absent species in aquaculture; and Commission Regulation (EC) No 506/2008 amending Annex IV to Council Regulation (EC) No 708/2007 concerning use of alien and locally absent species in aquaculture. COM adopted in 2008 a Communication "towards an EU Strategy on Invasive Species". This Communication will identify policy options to tackle IAS. An ongoing study for the Commission assessing environmental, economic, and social impacts of IS, assists with the development of this policy. An evaluation of the impacts of invasive species on the functioning of aquatic ecosystems, and how these species should be considered in the definition of the good ecological quality of waters, is being carried out under the coordination of the Joint Research Centre. Several projects help inform EU policy development on IAS, funded under EU Research and Technological Development programmes e.g. DAISIE (http://www.daisie.se/), which delivered a pan European inventory of invasive species.
A5.1.2	ACTION: Encourage	Encourage MS	No specific measures yet taken.

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	Member States to develop national strategies on invasive alien species [by 2007] and to implement them fully [by 2010].		
A5.1.3	ACTION: Encourage ratification of the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ship's Ballast Water and Sediments under the International Maritime Organisation [2006 onwards].	Encourage ratification	Yet to be decided if Community action in environment or transport policy will be followed.
A5.1.4	ACTION: Establish early warning system for the prompt exchange of information between neighbouring countries on the emergence of IAS and cooperation on control measures across national boundaries [by 2008].	Propose early warning system, coordinate implementation at Community level.	An effective early warning and information system (EWIS) is an integral part of the policy options suggested in Commission Communication "Towards an EU Strategy on Invasive Species". The EWIS shall be based on the DAISIE inventory and other relevant initiatives (NOBANIS, CABI...). The use of scientific online journals is explored. The European Environment Agency has launched a feasibility study of developing an EU Early warning system for IAS.
A5.2	TARGET: Impact of alien genotypes on biodiversity in the EU significantly reduced by 2010 and again by 2013.		
A5.2.1	ACTION: Fully apply the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to ensure an adequate level of protection of biodiversity (and human health) in the field of the safe handling, use and transfer of genetically modified organisms [2006 onwards].	Apply as appropriate at Community level.	Regulatory framework in place. First regular implementation report of the European Community submitted in autumn 2007.
A5.2.2	ACTION: Ensure protection of biodiversity as part of measures to protect human health and environment in relation to the deliberate release into the environment of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) [2006 onwards].	Ensure in GMO authorisation procedure.	A study on long-term effects of GM crops on health, biodiversity and the environment was launched in 2007 to be reported on end 2008/start 2009.
POLICY AREA 2: THE EU AND GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY			
OBJECTIVE 6: TO SUBSTANTIALLY STRENGTHEN EFFECTIVENESS OF INTERNATIONAL GOVERNANCE FOR BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES.			
A6.1	TARGET: International governance for biodiversity substantially more effective in delivering positive biodiversity outcomes by 2010.		
A6.1.1	ACTION: Press for	Work at EU, global and	The EU is strongly promoting these objectives in

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	<p><i>effective worldwide implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity</i>, decisions of the Conference of the Parties including thematic and cross-cutting programmes of work, and other related international and regional biodiversity agreements (e.g. Bonn, Berne, AEWA, Ramsar, UN Fish Stocks Agreement) and promote greater synergies between these [2006 onwards].</p>	<p>regional levels for enhanced effectiveness in CBD implementation by streamlining operations of CBD, coordinating action between related multilateral environmental agreements, working towards integrated outcome-based reporting, establishing global partnership with key stakeholders.</p>	<p>international meetings. The 9th Conference of the Parties to the CBD (CBD COP9) in Bonn in May 2008 adopted decisions that significantly advance international efforts to reach the global 2010 target. Biodiversity has also been taken up by the G8, both in 2007 under German and in 2008 under Japanese G8 Presidencies. Both times it was discussed by the G8 environment ministers (which adopted the 'Potsdam Initiative' and the 'Kobe call of action' and is addressed in the respective G8 Summit statements. The European Commission has worked actively with the respective EU Presidencies and the EU Member States and was an important contributor to these outcomes. In 2006, 2007 and 2008, the Commission has made specific grants supporting the CBD Secretariat in implementing CBD COP decisions, to the IUCN Countdown 2010 global project and the UNEP-WCMC work on 2010 indicators and the world database on protected areas and to the AEWA Secretariat.</p>
<p>A6.1.2</p>	<p>ACTION: Enhance <i>integration of biodiversity into global processes</i> with important impacts on biodiversity such as sustainable development and the Millennium Development Goals, trade and climate change [2006 onwards].</p>	<p>Work for effective integration of biodiversity concerns within Commission for Sustainable Development, in Doha Round of trade negotiations, and under the UNFCCC/Kyoto Protocol regime.</p>	<p>The integration of the biodiversity 2010 target into the Millennium Development Goals targets was announced by the UN Secretary General. Progress was made in integrating further biodiversity indicators into the EU SDS indicators. The G8+5 Potsdam initiative has been welcomed by the G8 Summits in 2007 and 2008. Several activities are ongoing to integrate biodiversity into Climate Change with the aim to maximise co-benefits between Biodiversity and Climate change adaptation and mitigation measures (e.g. joint meeting of SBSTTA/SBSTA chairs, work on biofuels standards, work on reduced emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, IPCC WG2 report results on biodiversity). The EU has been instrumental in achieving at COP9 global recognition for the principle that the production and use of biofuels should be sustainable in relation to biodiversity. COP9 also supported a de-facto moratorium on ocean fertilisation and put on track a process for feeding biodiversity considerations into the ongoing negotiations for a post 2012 international climate regime with focus on REDD and climate change adaptation activities.</p> <p>The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (IT-PGRFA) aims at supporting the conservation and sustainable use of the PGRFA and at sharing the benefits of this use. The legal basis for the accession of the Community is Council Decision 2004/869/EC of 24 February 2004 concerning the conclusion, on behalf of the European Community, of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. The adoption in June 2006 of the Standard Material Transfer Agreement at the 1st session of the Governing Body of the IT was a cornerstone for the implementation of this Treaty.</p> <p>The Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources was adopted at the 1st International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic</p>

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			Resources for Food and Agriculture in Interlaken in June 2007.
A6.1.3	ACTION: Promote <i>improved oceans governance</i> for conservation and recovery of marine biodiversity, ecosystem services and integration of key sectors, including in relation to areas beyond national jurisdiction; make progress towards mechanisms for establishment of Marine Protected Areas in the high seas, including by supporting the adoption of an Implementing Agreement to the UN Convention of the Law of the Sea, with the scientific support from the CBD, notably in developing criteria for identifying the areas to be protected. <u>[2006 onwards]</u>	Coordinate EU action	COM and MSs actively participated in the UNCLOS process which led to adoption in December 2006 of Resolution 61/105 of the UN General Assembly on Sustainable Fisheries, where a commitment was made by the UN members to ensure the protection of vulnerable deep-sea ecosystems in the high seas. The Resolution calls on States and RFMOs to take measures to protect vulnerable marine ecosystems from the potential destructive impact of bottom fishing practices. In October 2007 the Commission adopted a Communication on "destructive fishing practices in the High Seas and the protection of vulnerable deep sea ecosystems" and a proposal for a Council Regulation aiming at implementing the UNGA recommendations of December 2006. On 15 July 2008 the Council adopted Regulation 734/2008. In accordance with the policy line laid down in the Commission's Communication, the EC will continue to push for international measures to address this issue within Regional Fisheries Management Organisations, taking into account that the UNGA will review the response given to its recommendations in 2009. Also of relevance is the active contribution of the EU to the development of FAO technical guidelines for deep sea fisheries in the framework of the code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. The guidelines were adopted in August 2008. CBD COP9 adopted criteria for the identification of marine protected areas in the high seas. COP9 also launched a process for gathering information on marine areas that meet the agreed criteria. It also agreed to develop guidelines for environmental impact assessment of activities in the high seas.
OBJECTIVE 7: TO SUBSTANTIALLY STRENGTHEN SUPPORT FOR BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES IN EU EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE.			
A7.1	TARGET: Financial resources flowing annually to projects directly benefiting biodiversity has substantially increased in real terms (for period 2006-2010 compared with period 2000-2005; and again for period 2011-2013).		
A7.1.1	ACTION: Ensure adequate community funds earmarked for biodiversity in development cooperation (in line with European Consensus on Development Cooperation) in EC Thematic Programme for Environment and Natural Resources and ensure the use of these funds is targeted at biodiversity priorities [2007-2013]; decide [in 2006] on an adequately funded EC	Include an adequate multiannual indicative resource framework and robust programming priorities for biodiversity in the ENRTP Article of both the DCECI and ENPI which should be adopted as early as possible in 2006. Further elaborate the biodiversity priorities in the Thematic Strategy Paper for the ENRTP and ensure its adoption well before the end of 2006. Seek	The global amount allocated for biodiversity and related sectors (sustainable forest management etc.) remains at a similar level in absolute terms between former period (2000-2006) and the one following the Communication (2007-2010) – with a yearly allocation of about €38 millions. The global increase of the budget of thematic instrument for environment (from EUR 323 million for 7 years (2000-2006) to EUR 470 million for 4 years (2007-2010)) has not benefited biodiversity, as some new themes and sectors have been included at the same time (energy, climate change adaptation). A total of €30.6 million has been allocated to biodiversity for the four year period from 2007-

No.	OBJECTIVES, TARGETS, ACTIONS	COMMUNITY LEVEL ACTION	MID TERM PROGRESS
	<p>Thematic Programme for Environment and Natural Resources (ENRTP) in the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) and the Development Cooperation and Economic Cooperation Instrument (DCECI) and ensure that biodiversity priorities receive an appropriate share of the total ENRTP and DCECI resources [2007-2013].</p>	<p>coverage for biodiversity actions in financing strategy papers and indicative programmes under ENPI instrument.</p>	<p>2010 under the EC Thematic Programme for Environment and Natural Resources (ENRTP). Furthermore, some other headings of ENRTP are strongly linked to biodiversity. A total of €72 million is earmarked for the promotion of Sustainable Forest Management. €34 million is available for implementation of the initiative on Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT). €6.4 million is earmarked for fisheries & marine/coastal resources. €12,3 million is earmarked for climate change and biodiversity projects for countries covered by the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI). In total, approximately €155 millions will be available for biodiversity related matters under 2007-2010 ENRTP.</p> <p>In January 2008 EuropeAid launched a restricted Call for Proposals for the period 2007 – 2008 under the ENRTP. About € 9 million has been reserved for biodiversity and about €20 million for forests. In addition €4.2 million and about €8 has been reserved for targeted proposal for biodiversity and forests respectively for 2007 - 2008.</p>
<p>A7.1.2</p>	<p>ACTION: Allocate adequate resources in Country and Regional Strategy Programmes wherever biodiversity identified as a key issue in country/regional environmental profiles [2006 onwards].</p>	<p>Check and ensure that resources are available to implement the recommendations in the R/CEP through biodiversity projects or mainstreaming biodiversity concerns in to other relevant projects.</p>	<p>For the 2007-2010 period, the actual provisions show that more than EUR 220 millions would be allocated to programmes with a focus on biodiversity (EUR 55 millions yearly). The global amount is comparable to the former period 2002-2006. A slight increase is foreseen for ACP countries and Latin America, while a decrease is expected in Asia. This stability in real terms has to be put in perspective with the general increase of EC external aid.</p> <p>In Asia, the following strategy papers promote biodiversity objectives: the RSP (Regional Strategy Paper) for Asia and the CSP (Country Strategy Paper) for Malaysia promoting the FLEGT process (approx. amount respectively €6 & €4 millions). The CSP for Pakistan mentions water and forest management activities within its focal area 'Rural development and natural resource management' that receives 54% of the total country allocation. Additionally, the CSPs of Bangladesh, India, China and Bhutan have environment as a focal sector, thus biodiversity is not specifically targeted. The RSP for Central Asia and in particular its focal sector on environment promotes the management and governance of water and forests.</p> <p>In Latin America, the CSPs of Brazil, Honduras and Bolivia address biodiversity, the latter two country programmes having natural resources management as a focal area. For Brazil, the focal sector in question targets the promotion of the environmental dimension of sustainable development, and foresees among its priority objectives the curbing of deforestation, the prevention of biodiversity loss and the improvement of governance in natural resource utilization. The foreseen allocation in Latin America would be around € 115 millions within</p>

No.	OBJECTIVES, TARGETS, ACTIONS	COMMUNITY LEVEL ACTION	MID TERM PROGRESS
			<p>National Indicative Programmes.</p> <p>For ACP countries, programming is in its final phases and all CSPs still need final official adoption. However, general trends can be drawn from the process and show that biodiversity is very rarely selected as a priority sector (these need to be limited to 2 only). Globally, an increase is foreseen with €34 millions per year on average for 2007-2010 compared to €24 millions during the 2002-2006 period (However, the annual EDF allocation has been approximately doubled between the two periods). The African CSP is the one for which biodiversity appears in most cases in non-focal sectors. However, around 20 draft CSPs include biodiversity as non-focal sector or as a component of a wider action (mainly in rural development programmes). Central African region, Malawi and Ethiopia are the countries where CSPs/RSPs present the highest focus on biodiversity. In the Caribbean and Pacific, biodiversity has not been included as a focal sector, even if some sectors such as waste or water management are expected to have a positive impact on ecosystems (including marine ecosystems). Two Intra-ACP programmes have also been included in the 10th intra-ACP EDF Strategy Paper: Support to FLEGT (€ 10 M) and to protected area network (€20 M).</p> <p>CSPs are drafted jointly with the partner country and follow the ownership principle. In partner countries, environment ministers are often weak meaning that environment rarely appears among the cooperation priorities presented by the governments. A number of ACP CSPs include commitments to undertake SEAs, which will allow biodiversity issues to be adequately taken into account in other sectors and programmes.</p> <p>For information on ENPI, see A7.1.5.</p>
A7.1.3	<p>ACTION: Enhance MS funds earmarked for biodiversity (in line with European Consensus on Development Cooperation) in MS bilateral development cooperation programmes in support of implementation of the CBD, Millennium Development Goals and other programmes relevant for biodiversity in developing countries [2006 onwards].</p>	n/a	
A7.1.4	<p>ACTION: Enhance the overall contribution of EU MS for biodiversity through a substantial 4th replenishment of the GEF based on the agreed policy priorities [2006/07].</p>	Use EU high level meetings to press for a substantial replenishment based on fair burden-sharing.	
A7.1.5	<p>ACTION: Enhance funds</p>	Seek coverage for	As regards the ENPI , environment is included as

No.	OBJECTIVES, TARGETS, ACTIONS	COMMUNITY LEVEL ACTION	MID TERM PROGRESS
	for biodiversity related actions under the <i>national and regional components of the Instrument for Pre-Accession (IPA) and the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI)</i>	biodiversity actions in financing strategy papers and indicative programmes under the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) and Instrument for Pre-Accession (IPA).	a focal sector in several ENPI CSPs and NIPs (National Indicative Programmes) for 2007-2010, and both the RIP (Regional Indicative Programme) ENPI South and the RIP ENPI East contain environment protection as one of their priorities. But in the vast majority of cases there is no earmarking for the different environmental sectors. For this reason, it is so far difficult to foresee if activities will be implemented as regards biodiversity in this region. Moreover, regular sectoral policy dialogue, including on biodiversity issues, takes places with ENP partner countries.
A7.1.6	ACTION: Enhance economic and development assistance funds available for biodiversity-related actions in the MS' <i>Overseas Countries and Territories</i> [2006 onwards].	Check and ensure that biodiversity is addressed through specific programmes and projects or through integration in other sectors covered by economic development assistance.	The programming for OCTs is under way. A Country Environmental Profile has been prepared which identified the importance of biodiversity in these countries and territories. The Commission participated in and actively contributed to the European Conference on Biodiversity and Climate Change in Outermost Regions held in La Réunion on 7-11 July 2008. This conference brought together for the first time representatives of all OR and OCTs and stressed inter alia the need for earmarked additional funding for biodiversity conservation as currently the available funds for environmental protection are not sufficiently allocated to biodiversity.
A7.2	TARGET: EU 'mainstream' external development assistance delivering enhanced biodiversity and related livelihoods benefits, and negative impacts on biodiversity prevented or minimised, from 2006 onwards.		
A7.2.1	ACTION: Prepare country and regional environmental profiles with specific attention to the maintenance of biodiversity and ecosystem services (in particular in relation to livelihood concerns), and take these needs fully into account in preparation of Country Strategy Papers (CSPs) and Regional Strategy Papers (RSPs) and in equivalent MS country and regional aid programming [2006 onwards].	Check and ensure that appropriate action in response to the recommendations in the Regional and Country Environmental Profiles is undertaken as specific biodiversity projects or mainstreamed in to other relevant projects.	From 2007, CEPs and REPs have been established systematically as part of preparation of cooperation strategies for individual development partner countries/regions. Some 75 of these were developed in a detailed form, broadly in accordance with the standard terms of reference, while in some cases a shorter version was prepared. Work is ongoing to improve the quality and comprehensiveness of these CEPs, and the level of uptake of findings and recommendations in country analyses, response strategies and indicative programming. Standard terms of reference for CEPs and REPs include an assessment of the biodiversity concerns, and the identification of possible response measures. While CEP are structured to meet the specific needs of EC cooperation programming, the EC is committed to work with other EU donors and other development agencies to promote greater harmonisation of analytical work and joint analytical work when possible. Consistent biodiversity indicators are now developed by the JRC. CSPs/RSPs show variable level of environment integration. Very few countries identify biodiversity as sector for cooperation. SEAs are planned to be carried out when relevant and will be the main tool to take biodiversity into account in sector programs.
A7.2.2	ACTION: Systematically	Check and ensure that	A screening questionnaire has been established

No.	OBJECTIVES, TARGETS, ACTIONS	COMMUNITY LEVEL ACTION	MID TERM PROGRESS
	<p>carry out <i>ex-ante strategic environmental assessment (SEA) of relevant strategies and programmes and environmental impact assessment (EIA) of relevant projects</i> funded by EU in partner countries and ensure actions are identified and implemented to prevent and mitigate negative impacts on biodiversity in a timely manner [2006 onwards].</p>	<p>SEAs and EIAs are systematically carried out on relevant development strategies, programmes and projects.</p>	<p>applicable to all EC programmes/projects during identification and formulation stages of the operations cycle to help identify the most appropriate measures to take in relation to environmental aspects - including the possible need for an SEA/EIA.</p> <p>According to the DCI Regulation (Art 22(4)) and as foreseen in a number of Country Strategy Papers of the last generation, SEAs will be/are being carried out when relevant, i.e. in relation to environmentally sensitive cooperation sectors. Alongside with more common, traditional project-level EIA, a number of SEAs have been carried out or are actively planned as part of preparation of EC-supported sector-wide programmes in areas such as transport and infrastructure development (Mali, Ghana, Zambia), sugar sector reform, (Mauritius, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Belize etc) regional development planning (Maldives).</p> <p>Impacts on biodiversity are expected to be addressed as a rule under the terms of reference for these studies and mitigation measures are to be identified as appropriate.</p>
<p>A7.2.3</p>	<p>ACTION: Substantially <i>strengthen capacities in recipient countries and in Commission and MS cooperation programming</i> for these purposes, including integrating implementation of the CBD into national development strategies including Poverty Reduction Strategies [2006 onwards].</p>		<p>Capacities within the EC and partner countries have been strengthened as a result of an ambitious seminar programme on environmental integration in development cooperation put in place since 2005 including seminars in EC Delegations overseas and at EC Headquarters. Seminars have been open to participation from staff of MS agencies. Methodological support has been made on request to operational staff. Environmental Integration Handbook is increasingly used by desk officers.</p> <p>Under the ENV/TROP FOR budget line, a number of projects have been carried out to support capacity building in the area of biodiversity, including projects for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conservation and sustainable development in the Chocó Biogeographic Region: Building Capacities for livelihood improvement and environmental - Capacity Building of Developing Country NGOs to Achieve Sustainable Development through Implementation of Principle 10 - Strengthening the African Biodiversity Network (ABN) - Capacity building within formal and non-formal education systems to support the implementation of national biodiversity strategic action plans in the South Pacific - 'Renforcement des capacités nationales en matière d'éducation et de sensibilisation à l'environnement dans les domaines de la biodiversité, des changements climatiques et de la désertification' (Morocco) - Strengthening and Capacity Development for the Long-term Management and Conservation of MCPAs encompassing coral reef resources in South Asia - Capacity building in the Congo Basin and implementation of Independent Monitoring of

No.	OBJECTIVES, TARGETS, ACTIONS	COMMUNITY LEVEL ACTION	MID TERM PROGRESS
			<p>Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (IM-FLEG) in the Republic of Congo</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthening civil society networks to address dryland degradation and poverty issues in the context of strategic development frameworks and the UNCCD - Conference on Integrating Biodiversity into Development Co-operation – “Support the Sustainable Management and Preservation of Natural Resources” - Ensuring international trade in CITES-listed timber species is consistent with their sustainable management and conservation - Consumer Organisations and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety – protecting the consumer's right to a healthy environment in the developing world <p>In addition, € 19 million environmental capacity building programme is under preparation under the intra-ACP envelope.</p> <p>Finally, a contract for the EC environment helpdesk has been concluded for an additional period up to the end of 2008, and this will be extended.</p>
A7.2.4	<p>ACTION: Ensure that <i>projects financed by EU under the Development Cooperation and Economic Cooperation Instrument (DCECI), European Development Fund (EDF), pre-accession, neighbourhood and partnership instruments</i> delivering enhanced biodiversity benefits, and negative impacts on biodiversity prevented or minimised [2006 onwards].</p>	<p>Commission to ensure that safeguards are included in procedures to ensure that these considerations are taken into account before funding can be released.</p>	<p>A screening questionnaire has been established applicable to all EC programmes/projects during identification and formulation stages of the operations cycle to help identify the most appropriate measures to take in relation to environmental aspects - including the possible need for an SEA/EIA.</p> <p>JRC develops systems for monitoring the trends in biodiversity in EU-funded African protected areas. 106 'critical' protected areas in ACP countries have been identified.</p>
A7.2.5	<p>ACTION: Ensure that projects financed by EU economic and development assistance do not cause significant negative impacts on biodiversity in the <i>MS Overseas Countries and Territories</i> [2006 onwards].</p>	<p>Check and ensure that SEAs and/or EIAs are systematically carried out on development strategies, programmes and projects.</p>	<p>Programming is still under way; OCTs have launched a study including the organisation of SEA workshop.</p>
OBJECTIVE 8: TO SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCE THE IMPACT OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE ON GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES.			
8.1	TARGET 8.1: Impact on biodiversity of EU trade significantly reduced by 2010 and again by 2013.		
A8.1.1	<p>ACTION: <i>Identify major impacts of trade on third countries' and EU biodiversity and adopt measures to significantly reduce (in case of negative impacts) and/or</i></p>	<p>Identify impacts and follow-up measures - in particular in the context of the Commission's trade-related Sustainability Impact Assessment (SIA) Programme, covering a</p>	<p>Work on FLEGT is described below in 8.1.6. As part of its trade-related Sustainability Impact Assessment (SIA) Programme, the Commission is in the process of conducting SIAs for all its planned regional and bilateral free trade and partnership agreements, be they in Asia, Africa or Latin-America. These studies include an</p>

No.	OBJECTIVES, TARGETS, ACTIONS	COMMUNITY LEVEL ACTION	MID TERM PROGRESS
	<p>enhance (in case of positive impacts) these impacts [by 2010]. This will in particular be done in the context of the Commission's trade-related Sustainability Impact Assessment (SIA) Programme, that covers a number of sectoral studies (e.g. agriculture, forests and forest products as well as fisheries), in the context of multilateral (WTO, ongoing negotiations on the Doha Development Agenda) and/or regional/bilateral free trade agreements (e.g. EPAs with ACP countries).</p>	<p>number of sectoral studies (e.g., agriculture, forests and forest products, fisheries, tourism), in connection to multilateral (WTO, ongoing negotiations on the Doha Development Agenda) and/or regional/bilateral free trade agreements (e.g. the planned Economic Partnership Agreements between the EU and ACP countries and the EU-Mediterranean Free Trade Area).</p>	<p>assessment of potential impacts on biodiversity (e.g. as a result of trade liberalisation in biofuels) and identify possible preventive or mitigation measures. The challenge facing trade negotiators on both sides is to translate the results and recommendation of sustainability impacts assessments into negotiations. Regardless of SIA results, sustainability and environment issues are important aspects of most if not all regional and bilateral free trade, association and partnership agreements under negotiation.</p>
<p>A8.1.2</p>	<p>ACTION: Foster links between the WTO agreements and biodiversity-related international agreements, and ensure biodiversity taken into account as a Non-Trade Concern, in order to identify and put in place key measures to reduce the ecological impact of globalisation in line with the precautionary principle and with the commitment made in the context of the WTO's Doha Development Agenda to promote the objective of sustainable development (paragraph 6 of the Doha Declaration) and to enhance the mutual supportiveness of trade and environment (paragraph 31) [2006 onwards].</p>	<p>This will be done in line with the commitment made in the context of the WTO's Doha Development Agenda to promote the objective of sustainable development (paragraphs 6 and 51 of the Doha Declaration) and to enhance the mutual supportiveness of trade and environment (notably paragraphs 28 and 31).</p>	<p>Ongoing discussions in the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment, but little progress to date.</p>
<p>A8.1.3</p>	<p>ACTION: Promote full implementation of the CBD Bonn Guidelines on Access to Genetic Resources and Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits (ABS) arising out of their Utilisation, and other agreements relating to ABS such as the FAO International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture – and continue to contribute to negotiation of an international regime on ABS according to the mandate adopted at the 7th Conference of the Parties of</p>	<p>Further implement actions set out in the Commission Communication on implementation of the Bonn Guidelines in the EC. Support effective EU coordination and defending of EU positions in ongoing negotiations on an international ABS regime.</p>	<p>Further efforts at EC level to raise awareness of the Bonn Guidelines throughout the Commission and by stakeholders. Commission contributed to successful adoption of the standard MTA under the FAO International Treaty in June 2006. Furthermore, the Commission has held a series of expert meetings on technical aspects of the international ABS negotiations in the CBD framework and continues to play a leading role in EU efforts to conclude these negotiations by 2010 in line with the respective decision adopted by the Eighth and Ninth Conferences of the Parties to the CBD in March 2006 and May 2008 respectively.</p> <p>Note: the mandate adopted at the 7th Conference of the Parties of the CBD has been amended by the Eighth and Ninth Conferences of the Parties in March 2006 and May 2008 respectively.</p>

No.	OBJECTIVES, TARGETS, ACTIONS	COMMUNITY LEVEL ACTION	MID TERM PROGRESS
	the CBD [2006 onwards].		
A8.1.4	ACTION: Maximise the proportion of EU consumption of wood products deriving from sustainable sources [by 2010].	Ensure implementation of CITES provisions for listed timber species and support capacity building in range states. Review of other timber species with criteria for listing. Analyse options for further legislation to control imports of illegally harvested timber into the EU (as foreseen in FLEGT action plan). Facilitate exchange of best practice in private and public sector procurement policies favouring wood products from sustainable sources.	The 14th Conference of Parties added Brazilwood to CITES control, but did not adopt EU proposals for listing additional tree species under CITES Appendices. CoP agreed however on further development of these and new proposals for CoP15 (2010). Import restrictions in EU in place for mahogany and ramin of non-sustainable source. Commission supports ITTO-CITES project on capacity building on the implementation of CITES listed timber species. In February 2008, the Commission adopted an Action Plan on "Innovative and Sustainable Forest-based Industries in the EU "that, among other things, encourages private initiatives and engagements to help prevent illegal logging and promote sustainable forest management.
A8.1.5	ACTION: In the context of action 8.1.1, identify EU non-wood imports driving deforestation in third countries (particularly in the context of trade-related SIAs, notably on agricultural products) and adopt and implement measures to prevent, minimise and/or mitigate this deforestation [by 2010].	Identify impacts and follow-up measures, in particular in the context of the Commission's trade-related Sustainability Impact Assessment (SIA) Programme, that covers a number of relevant sectoral studies (e.g., agriculture, forests and forest products, fisheries, tourism), both in connection to multilateral (WTO, ongoing negotiations on the Doha Development Agenda) and to regional/bilateral free trade agreements (e.g. the planned Economic Partnership Agreements between the EU and ACP countries and the EU-Mediterranean Free Trade Area).	Ongoing, including in EU-Mercosur SIA. The challenge facing trade negotiators on both sides is to translate the results and recommendation of these SIA studies into concrete provisions.
A8.1.6	ACTION: Put in place bilateral agreements between EU and major timber exporting countries with aim to support forest law enforcement, governance and trade (FLEGT) [2006 onwards].	Identify and secure key bilateral agreements.	Negotiations successfully finished and the first FLEGT Voluntary Partnership Agreement was initialled with Ghana in September 2008. Other negotiations of FLEGT VPA are underway were officially launched with Malaysia, Indonesia, Cameroon and Congo Brazzaville. The Commission works to start negotiations with several other countries. To complement FLEGT VPAs, the Commission has also proposed a Regulation laying down the obligations of operators who place timber and timber products on the Market (COM(2008) 644/3).
A8.1.7	ACTION: Ensure Fisheries Partnership Agreements compatible with maintenance and recovery of stocks at levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield, and with	Negotiate agreements; support assessments and recommendations for sustainable fisheries through Joint Scientific Committees, implementation by Parties	The Commission is at the final stage of renegotiation of the new Fisheries Partnership Agreements which will allow to support the sectoral fisheries policy of the third countries with a view of establishing a sustainable and responsible fisheries policy in their waters. Therefore, the biodiversity (and impact on non

No.	OBJECTIVES, TARGETS, ACTIONS	COMMUNITY LEVEL ACTION	MID TERM PROGRESS
	<p>minimising impact on non-target species and habitats [2006 onwards].</p>	<p>through Joint Committees.</p>	<p>target species or habitats) which are elements of a sustainable and responsible fisheries policy could be covered by the actions undertaken in the framework of the FPAs. In 2007, the fisheries partnership agreements with Ivory Coast, Madagascar and Guinea Bissau were successfully renegotiated. In March 2007 the mid-term modification of the FPA with Seychelles was finalised.</p> <p>In March 2008, the Commission negotiated a new fisheries protocol (1st August 2008 to 31 July 2012) with Mauritania.</p> <p>The current Fisheries Partnership Agreements in force (as from 1.03.2008) are: Cap Verde, Comoros, Ivory Coast, Gabon, Guinea Bissau, Greenland, Kiribati, Madagascar, Mozambique, Morocco, Mauritania, Micronesia, Solomon, Sao Tomé, Seychelles.</p> <p>The Commission is in the process of negotiating agreements with Guinea Conakry and Mauritius as these are the only two remaining countries that do not yet benefit from a FPA.</p>
<p>A8.1.8</p>	<p>ACTION: Support capacity-building and implementation of CITES provisions to ensure that <i>trade in CITES species is effectively regulated and controlled</i> and not detrimental to the conservation of the species in range states [2006 onwards].</p>	<p>Support CITES programmes to implement CoP decisions on capacity building, national legislation, enforcement and species specific measures in range states. Continue to ensure coordinated response to unsustainable trade in CITES species through the EU Scientific Review Group, including consultation with range states and ensure constructive follow-up to possible import suspensions with range states. Review MS enforcement of EC CITES Regulations, including gaps and best practice in addressing illegal trade, following completion of on-going study in this field. Assess the effectiveness of EC CITES Regulation in ensuring that trade in endangered species is sustainable.</p>	<p>Regular meetings by the EU Scientific Review Group meeting were held and several positive and negative opinions were established for imports into the EU of specific CITES species of certain countries. They were followed up with consultation by the Commission with Range States, where necessary. SRG negative opinions were published in Commission Suspension Regulations. Reviews and studies were undertaken to assist SRG.</p> <p>A Commission study of the enforcement of the EC CITES Regulations in EU-25 was finalised in December 2006. As a result of the study the Commission adopted on 13th June 2007 a Recommendation to the Member States identifying a set of actions for the effective enforcement of the EC CITES Regulations. The recommendations were formally sent to Member States (Autumn 2007). Several MS replied formally and further replies are awaited for follow up action. In its December 2006 conclusions, the Council also underlined the importance of effective implementation of the CITES Convention and EC CITES Regulations, it stressed the need for capacity-building on CITES in developing countries and called upon Member States to reinforce efforts to combat illegal trade. The Commission concluded in 2008 under its ENRTP programme 2 grant agreements with the CITES Secretariat to implement CITES CoP14 decisions on national legislation, enforcement and species programmes (0.5 mln euro) as well as the first phase of a CITES capacity building programme in developing countries (1 mln euro). A Study on Effectiveness of EU regulations has been finalised and a stakeholder meeting has been organised as well as Member States experts to discuss the findings. The Commission is currently considering its follow-up.</p>
<p>A8.1.9</p>	<p>ACTION: Apply principle of</p>	<p>n/a</p>	<p>COM is raising awareness of Article 8j CBD and</p>

No.	OBJECTIVES, TARGETS, ACTIONS	COMMUNITY LEVEL ACTION	MID TERM PROGRESS
	<p><i>prior informed consent</i> when commercially using traditional knowledge relating to biodiversity and encourage the <i>equitable sharing of benefits</i> arising from the use of such knowledge [2006 onwards].</p>		<p>relevant parts of the Bonn Guidelines throughout its services and in EC delegations in third countries. A special Interservice Group on Indigenous Issues regularly reflects on indigenous issues in the Commission's work. Since 2005, the Commission external relations directorate general has convened regular trainings for staff of Commission delegations in third countries, including a module on the CBD and Article 8j. Traditional knowledge is recognised as part of biodiversity related research. The EC provides financial support to enable representatives of indigenous groups to participate as observers in the meetings of the Convention on Biological Diversity including the international ABS negotiations. The EC and MS also follow closely the work on the protection of traditional knowledge in the World Intellectual Property Organization and push for recognition of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People adopted on 13 September 2007 in relevant CBD negotiating fora.</p>
POLICY AREA 3: BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE			
OBJECTIVE 9: TO SUPPORT BIODIVERSITY ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE.			
HEADLINE TARGET: Potential for damaging impacts, related to climate change, on EU biodiversity substantially reduced by 2013.			
A9.1	TARGET: 8% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions achieved by 2010.		
A9.1.1	<p>ACTION: <i>Commitments made under the Kyoto Protocol respected</i> [2006 onwards].</p>	<p>Implement measures identified in European Climate Change Programme (ICCP) including European Emission Trading Scheme (ETS); review ECCP and ETS.</p>	<p>Under the Kyoto Protocol, the European Community (EC) has agreed to reduce its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 8% by 2008–12 compared to base year levels. Based on the latest available inventory data of 2006, total GHG emissions in the EU-15 were 2.7% below base year levels when excluding Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF). In 2006, EU-15 GHG emissions decreased by 0.8% compared to 2005 while the EU-15 economy grew by 2.8%. Total EU-27 GHG emissions were, in 2006, 10.8% below base year level without emissions and removals by LULUCF and 0.3% lower compared to 2004. 2007 projections have indicated that the Community will reach its Kyoto target on the condition that MS put in place and implement as soon as possible their additional policies and measures. As for future action, in spring 2007, the European Council endorsed the EU's independent commitment to reduce GHG emissions by at least 20% by 2020 compared to 1990 levels even if no international agreement is reached. The EU would be prepared to increase this reduction to 30%, provided that such an agreement would indeed materialize. This underlines the need for the EU and its MS to put as soon as possible the necessary legislation in place to implement all the new policies and measures identified in the climate change and energy package.</p>

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A9.2	TARGET: Global annual mean surface temperature increase limited to not more than 2°C above pre-industrial levels.		
A9.2.1	ACTION: Further ambitious measures to limit temperature increase agreed in line with the long-term Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) assessments, and action against climate change post-2012 extended to all the polluting countries (with common but differentiated responsibilities) and sectors involved.	Explore strategies for achieving necessary emission reductions and reduction pathways for the group of developed countries in the order of 15-30% by 2020, compared to the baseline envisaged in the Kyoto Protocol, and beyond, without prejudging new approaches for differentiation between Parties; follow-up on Montreal UNFCCC COP 11 and negotiate international response addressing climate change. Actions at Community and Member State level to be differentiated in due course.	Major EU priority activity; Target to limit global climate change to 2° Celsius reconfirmed by Council. In order to achieve this target a global deal on climate change will be needed; European Council (March 2007) endorsement of EU objective of 30% reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2020 compared to 1990 (provided similar commitments of developed countries & economically more advanced developing countries are contributing adequately) - notwithstanding EU makes a firm independent commitment to achieve at least a 20% reduction; Commission (Dec. 2007 and Jan 2008) put forward legislative proposals for achieving at least 20% emission reduction in the EU and 30% in the context of an international agreement as part of comprehensive package of measures to establish new climate and energy policy for EU.
A9.3	TARGET: Climate change adaptation or mitigation measure from 2006 onwards delivering biodiversity benefits, and any negative impacts on biodiversity prevented or minimised, from 2006 onwards.		
A9.3.1	ACTION: All climate change adaptation and mitigation measures assessed to prevent negative impacts or, where prevention not possible, to minimise, mitigate and/or compensate for negative impacts and, wherever possible, provide positive benefits to biodiversity [2006 onwards].	Impact assessment of new policies at Community level where appropriate.	COM Green Paper on climate change adaptation (COM(2007) 354 final) recognises the central importance of maintaining healthy functioning ecosystems and emphasises the need for practical and early implementation of the EU Biodiversity Action Plan; ongoing work to minimise negative effects of CC mitigation measures, New COM contract launched in 2007 will help prepare guidelines on wind, hydro & tidal barrages. Policy option of including Avoided Deforestation into the post 2012 climate regime explored, methodology discussed at SBSTA under the UNFCCC. White paper on adaptation to climate change to be adopted in the Spring of 2009. This will emphasise the importance of maintaining and restoring ecosystem integrity and the development of a "green infrastructure", an interconnected network of natural areas, including some agricultural land, wetlands, forests, marine areas. This would help ensure vital ecosystem services such as the regulation of storm water, temperatures, flooding risk, water, air and ecosystem quality. The MACIS project supported by RTD FP6 (see http://www.macis-project.net/links.html) will deliver a detailed report on adaptation and mitigation measures in different sectors and their impact on biodiversity.
A9.3.2	ACTION: Ensure that implementation of EU Biomass Action Plan takes due account in assessments, where relevant, of impacts on biodiversity, in particularly on high-nature-value farmland and forests, in	Provide guidance on sustainability impact assessments.	EEA report 'How much bioenergy can Europe produce without harming the environment?' launched (June 2006); Ongoing debate (including in Council WPIEI and COP9 CBD) on bio-energy. As a follow-up to the Biomass Action Plan, the Commission published a Communication on an EU strategy for biofuels (COM(2006)34) which looks at the issue of the sustainability of biofuel feedstock cultivation. In addition, in its proposal

No.	OBJECTIVES, TARGETS, ACTIONS	COMMUNITY LEVEL ACTION	MID TERM PROGRESS
	order to achieve ecological sustainability of biomass production [2006 onwards].		for a directive on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources, tabled on 23 January 2008 (COM(2008) 19), the Commission included a set of environmental sustainability criteria for biomass for fuel use which aim <i>inter alia</i> at protecting biodiversity both inside and outside the EU.
A9.4	TARGET: Resilience of EU biodiversity to climate change substantially strengthened by 2010.		
A9.4.1	ACTION: Develop a <i>comprehensive programme of priority actions to support biodiversity adaptation to climate change in the EU</i> [by 2008].	Coordinate development of programme.	Forthcoming White Paper on climate change adaptation (see A9.3.1) provides impetus for follow up debate on policy responses. An ad hoc consultation group on biodiversity and climate change with Member State representatives and stakeholders will be set up.
A9.4.2	ACTION: Assess [by 2008], on the basis of available scientific evidence, and substantially strengthen [by 2010] <i>coherence, connectivity and resilience of the protected areas network</i> (Natura 2000 and non-Natura protected areas) in order to <i>maintain favourable conservation status of species and habitats in the face of climate change</i> by applying, as appropriate, tools which may include flyways, buffer zones, corridors and stepping stones (including as appropriate to neighbouring and third countries), as well as actions in support of biodiversity in the wider environment (<i>cf. action 1.2.3</i>).	Coordinate assessment, develop guidelines to strengthen coherence.	See A 1.2.3 - assessments and guidance are taking into account the potential significance of climate change impacts as appropriate.
A9.4.3	ACTION: Make a preliminary <i>assessment of habitats and species in the EU most at risk</i> from climate change [by 2007], detailed assessment and <i>appropriate adaptation measures</i> prepared [by 2009], commence implementation [by 2010].	Launch debate, raise awareness of need for Community level approach to adaptation.	An INTERREG IIIB funded project (BRANCH) examining spatial planning issues in relation to biodiversity adaptation to climate change has been completed in 2007. Several EU funded studies including RTD projects (e.g. ALARM, COCONUT, MACIS) in their final phase; COM has also launched in 2007 a review of current information, especially in the context of NATURA 2000.
POLICY AREA 4: THE KNOWLEDGE BASE			
OBJECTIVE 10: TO SUBSTANTIALLY STRENGTHEN THE KNOWLEDGE BASE FOR CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF BIODIVERSITY, IN THE EU AND GLOBALLY.			

No.	OBJECTIVES, TARGETS, ACTIONS	COMMUNITY LEVEL ACTION	MID TERM PROGRESS
A10.1	TARGET: Research findings on biodiversity and ecosystem services has substantially advanced our ability to ensure conservation and sustainable use by 2010 and again by 2013.		
A10.1.1	ACTION: Subject to funding being found from existing financial resources, establish an EU mechanism for independent, authoritative research-based advice to inform implementation and further policy development.	Develop concept in consultation with key stakeholders, confirm funding availability, put mechanism in place.	See B 2.1.2 The European Platform for Biodiversity Research Strategy (EPBRs), an informal science-policy interface whose main aim is to identify the knowledge gaps that hinder the creation or application of policy, or that make it difficult to manage ecosystems effectively, has been very active. The EPBRs has contributed to the European consultation on an International Mechanism of Scientific Expertise on Biodiversity (IMoSEB) and will also contribute to other science-policy interfaces, including the recent proposal for an Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), when called upon to do so in the future.
A10.1.2	ACTION: Identify ways and means to strengthen independent scientific advice to global policy making, inter alia by actively contributing to CBD consideration of the 2007 evaluation of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, and the ongoing consultations on the need for improved International Mechanisms on Scientific Expertise on Biodiversity.	Engage in CBD consideration of 2007 MA evaluation, and ongoing IMoSEB consultations.	The European Community is engaged in the global strategy for follow-up to the UN Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and is committed to develop a sub-global assessment for the European region, using the EURECA project launched by the European Environment Agency, and the outcomes of the study on The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB). At CBD COP9 in May 2008 the EC and its Member States have supported UNEP's proposal for establishing an Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystems Services (IPBES), to strengthen independent scientific advice to global policy making.
A10.1.3	ACTION: Enhance research on status, trends and distribution of all habitats and species of community interest and of additional habitats and species of policy relevance [2006 onwards].	Accommodate in FP7 work programmes - notably under the Specific Programmes for Cooperation and for Capacities (including research infrastructures).	There have been 2 calls for proposals in the first 2 years of FP7, 8 successful proposals (HUNT, SOILSERVICE, HighARCS, LiveDiverse, PALMS, SCALES and EBONE) as well as the LIFEWATCH support are expected to be funded with a Community contribution of EUR 23 122 421.
A10.1.4	ACTION: Enhance research on most significant pressures on biodiversity, develop and test prevention and mitigation options [2006 onwards].	Accommodate in FP7 work programmes - notably under the Specific Programmes for Cooperation and for Capacities (including research infrastructures) plus Direct Cost Action Research within the JRC.	See A 10.1.3 JRC has developed tools for assessing in a consistent way pressures on biodiversity in 741 major African protected areas and made this available via the WWW http://www-tem.jrc.it/PA/index.html . JRC has developed a methodology and a software tool that has been used for the assessment of forest fragmentation and lack of connectivity (pressure on biodiversity) at the European level (http://forest.jrc.it/biodiversity); JRC, in the context of the European Forest Fire Information System, has assessed the impact of forest fires in Natura2000 sites; reports on the impact of fires in Greece (2007) on forest fragmentation and connectivity in Natura2000 sites has recently been produced. The FP6 projects ALARM, MACIS and COCONUT have achieved first results regarding prevention and mitigation options as well as assessment tools.

No.	OBJECTIVES, TARGETS, ACTIONS	COMMUNITY LEVEL ACTION	MID TERM PROGRESS
A10.1.5	ACTION: Develop and apply tools to measure, anticipate and improve effectiveness of most important policy instruments for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity [2006 onwards].	Accommodate in FP7 work programmes - notably under the Specific Programmes for Cooperation and for Capacities.	See A 10.1.3.
A10.1.6	ACTION: Allocate adequate financial resources to European and national biodiversity research and to dissemination of its results, including under the Seventh Framework Programme [2006 onwards].	Accommodate in FP7 work programmes - notably under the Specific Programmes for Cooperation and for Capacities (including research infrastructures).	The first call for the Environment Theme (FP7 SP Cooperation) has a budget of c.EUR 200 Million of which only EUR 24 Million for the Activity 6.2 Sustainable Management of Resources under which the topic of biodiversity is treated. The indicative budget for the second call for the Environment Theme is of EUR 212 Million. The Activity 6.2 Sustainable Management of Resources under which the topic of biodiversity is treated has an indicative budget of EUR 30 Million. The funding profile over the duration of FP7 is expected to rise quite steeply towards the end but cannot be extrapolated from the first 2 years of the remaining 5 of this 7-year programme.
A10.1.7	ACTION: Establish effective and inclusive European Research Area for biodiversity and strengthen capacities (including infrastructures) in key disciplines, interdisciplinary and participatory science [2006 onwards].	Accommodate in FP7 work programmes - notably under the Specific Programmes for Cooperation and for Capacities (including research infrastructures).	BiodivERsA is an ERA-NET in biodiversity research with a Community contribution of EUR 2.8 Million. LIFEWATCH, an e-science and technology infrastructure for biodiversity data and observatories is supported through the "infrastructure" budget. LIFEWATCH has been launched on 12 March 2008 in Amsterdam. In the 3 years preparatory phase (2008-2010) the Community allocates EUR 5 Million to the project, Member States add further EUR 4.6 Million. The construction phase is planned from 2011-2018 with an overall budget of EUR 368 Million.
A10.1.8	ACTION: Put institutional arrangements in place to ensure policy-relevant research done (e.g. in support of implementation of the nature directives, integration of biodiversity into sectoral policies) and research outcomes are reflected where appropriate in policy development [2006 onwards].	Strengthen Community-level institutions/mechanisms at the science-policy interface (see Action A10.1.1); accommodate in FP7 work programmes - notably under the Specific Programmes for Cooperation and for Capacities; strengthen ability to assimilate research results at policy level.	For progress with the EU Mechanism and international mechanisms for scientific advice on biodiversity, see Actions B 2.1.2 and A10.1.2. The FP7 1st call included 3 biodiversity topics of considerable policy relevance (related to the development of the ecosystem services concept). The European Platform for Biodiversity Research Strategy (EPBRS) has developed a set of priorities for biodiversity research in response to the EU Action Plan to 2010 and Beyond and continues to help orient biodiversity research strategy towards policy needs. In the second call (FP7-ENV-2008-1) one topic was particularly dedicated to the science-policy interface, a co-ordination and support actions with a max. of EUR 1 Million EC contribution. EPBRS continues work towards an EU biodiversity research strategy.
A10.1.9	ACTION: Establish and promote [2006 onwards] common data standards and quality assurance procedures to enable	Accommodate in FP7 work programmes - notably under the Specific Programmes for Cooperation and for	See A10.1.7 the LIFEWATCH project.

No.	OBJECTIVES, TARGETS, ACTIONS	COMMUNITY LEVEL ACTION	MID TERM PROGRESS
	<i>interoperability</i> of key European and national biodiversity databases and inventories [by 2008].	Capacities (including research infrastructures).	

B. THE FOUR SUPPORTING MEASURES

SUPPORTING MEASURE 1: ENSURING ADEQUATE FINANCING FOR BIODIVERSITY.

B1.1	TARGET: Adequate funding provided for Natura 2000, biodiversity outside Natura 2000 in EU, biodiversity in external assistance and biodiversity research, inventory and monitoring 2007-2013.		
B1.1.1	ACTION: Ensure <i>adequate financing provided</i> [2007-2013] to Natura 2000 implementation through community (CAP Rural Development, Structural Funds, Life+) and MS co-financing, accessible to those who manage Natura 2000 sites, with focus on optimising long-term conservation status and benefits as well as priority awareness raising and networking initiatives. (cf. Action A1.1.2)	See Action A1.1.2	See Action A1.1.2
B1.1.2	ACTION: Allocate, at MS initiative, within <i>each national/regional Rural Development (RD) Programme</i>, adequate <i>Community and MS co-financing</i> to measures available under all three axes of the RD Regulation which are directly or indirectly supportive of nature and biodiversity [2006/07 and any subsequent revisions].	See Action A2.1.1	See Action A2.1.1
B1.1.3	ACTION: Apply new <i>European Fisheries Fund and Member State funds</i> for actions beneficial to marine biodiversity [2007-2013]. (cf. Action A3.4.1)	See Action A3.4.1	See Action A3.4.1
B1.1.4	ACTION: Allocate, at MS initiative, <i>cohesion and structural funds</i> for projects directly or indirectly providing biodiversity benefits in all MS operational programmes [2006 onwards]. (cf. Action A4.1.1)	See Action A4.1.1	See Action A4.1.1
B1.1.5	ACTION: <i>ESF contributing</i>	See Action A4.1.2	See Action A4.1.2

No.	OBJECTIVES, TARGETS, ACTIONS	COMMUNITY LEVEL ACTION	MID TERM PROGRESS
	<i>to biodiversity objectives</i> through awareness-raising, capacity building, employment of the young, long-term jobless and elderly, etc. [2007 onwards]. (cf. Action A4.1.2)		
B1.1.6	ACTION: Ensure adequate <i>financing of other biodiversity measures outside Natura 2000 in the EU through other Community co-financing</i> (e.g. Life+) and Member States' financing [2007-2013].	Ensure adequate co-financing within limits of funds available.	New LIFE+ programme (2007-2013) is providing additional possibilities to finance specific innovative or demonstration projects that contribute to the implementation of the objectives of the EU biodiversity action plan.
B1.1.7	ACTION: Increase in real terms international development assistance funds <i>flowing annually to projects directly benefiting biodiversity</i> [for period 2006-2010 compared with period 2000-2005; and again for period 2011-2013]. (cf. Actions A7.1.1 to A7.1.6)	See Actions A7.1.1 to A7.1.6	See Actions A7.1.1 to A7.1.6
B1.1.8	ACTION: Allocate adequate financial resources to <i>European and national biodiversity research</i> and to dissemination of its results, including under the Seventh Framework Programme [2006 onwards]. (cf. Action A10.1.5)	See Action A10.1.5	Under FP5 a total of 39 projects have been funded with an overall budget of EUR 58.597.463. Under FP6 the number of projects has been reduced to 20, but the overall budget allocated increased to EUR 77.480.422. Further 13 projects funded under FP6, focus on ecosystems, but also address biodiversity – with an overall allocated budget of EUR 78.608.847. For FP7, there have been 2 calls for proposals in the first 2 years and 7 projects are expected to be funded with a Community contribution of EUR 23.122.421. The funding profile under FP7 is expected to rise quite steeply but it is not possible to extrapolate from the first 2 years for the remaining 5 of this 7-year programme.
B1.1.9	ACTION: Allocate adequate funds for <i>supporting measures</i> including promoting joined-up planning, development of partnerships, monitoring, awareness raising and institutional capacity-building for biodiversity [2007-2013].	Allocate funds through available instruments including Life+	See B 1.1.6
SUPPORTING MEASURE 2: STRENGTHENING EU DECISION-MAKING FOR BIODIVERSITY.			
B2.1	TARGET: EU vision on biodiversity and ecosystem services agreed and providing policy framework by 2010.		

No.	OBJECTIVES, TARGETS, ACTIONS	COMMUNITY LEVEL ACTION	MID TERM PROGRESS
B2.1.1	ACTION: Launch, hold and conclude <i>EU debate</i> on this vision and policy framework [2007/08].	Establish process, coordinate debate, agree vision.	There is an ongoing discussion on the establishment of a process to support the EU vision on biodiversity and ecosystem services, which would incorporate the valuable contribution from "The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB)", the work and results of the EEA's EURECA project, the development of sub-global assessments (SGA) for Europe and research effort focusing over the course of FP7 on making human use of biodiversity sustainable. This process should be supported by an efficient science-policy interface, notably through promoting the establishment of an Intergovernmental science-policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) (see A.10.1.1).
B2.1.2	ACTION: Strengthen understanding and communication of the <i>values of natural capital and of ecosystem services</i> , and the taking into account of these values in the policy framework, expand incentives for people to safeguard biodiversity [2006 onwards].	Studies, meetings, research to feed into EU debate (Action 2.1.1) - development of proposals as appropriate.	As part of the Potsdam initiative agreed by G8 in 2007, a study on The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) has been jointly initiated by the European Commission and Germany in collaboration with the European Environment Agency. Under the lead of Indian economist Pavan Sukhdev, the first results of this assessment of 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 have been presented at CBD COP9 in May 2008. A second phase of this study will further develop a methodological framework for valuation of the services provided by ecosystems, as a contribution to the Millennium Development Goals. A COM study on Habitat banking will start in 2008 and run in 2009, as this instrument has been identified as one of Market Based Instruments (MBI) with potential for addressing Biodiversity off-sets.
B2.2	TARGET: New policies benefit biodiversity and ecosystem services, and their negative impact on biodiversity and ecosystem services prevented or minimised, from 2006 onwards.		
B2.2.1	ACTION: Integrate concerns for biodiversity and ecosystem services, given their economic importance in terms of jobs and growth for some sectors such as tourism, into <i>Lisbon National Reform Programmes</i> and the development of policies and budgets under these NRPs [2006 onwards].	Address biodiversity and ecosystem services in future guidelines, evaluate adequacy of integration of biodiversity and ecosystem services concerns in NRPs, address these issues in annual reports and any future recommendations to MS.	COM assessment in January 2006 showed that: Two thirds of the Member States refer to biodiversity or nature protection in their National Reform Programmes. Some of them consider biodiversity a particularly crucial resource due to the important economic contribution from nature tourism. However, later in the year COM assessment in December 2006 showed that: 'While on biodiversity important progress is reported by many countries, additional integrated policy efforts are needed.'
B2.2.2	ACTION: Screen all new legislative and policy proposals at EU and MS levels for potential significant impacts on biodiversity in general and on ecosystem goods and services in particular, and	Implement policy impact assessment effectively as part of Better Regulation, including taking biodiversity impacts better into account.	Impact assessment guidelines used by the COM include biodiversity concerns.

No.	OBJECTIVES, TARGETS, ACTIONS	COMMUNITY LEVEL ACTION	MID TERM PROGRESS
	ensure effective treatment of biodiversity concerns in policy impact assessments, in particular to ensure the maintenance of ecosystem goods and services [2006 onwards].		
B2.3	TARGET: Biodiversity needs have been better integrated, as necessary, into post-2013 Financial Perspectives and any mid-term review of FP 2007-2013.		
B2.3.1	ACTION: Strengthen alignment of the biodiversity policy cycle with the broader EU policy and budgeting cycle to enable more effective integration [2006 onwards].	Carry out mid-term and final reviews in timely manner in order to feed in to broader policy reviews (e.g. CAP) and into next Financial Perspectives post 2013.	6EAP mid term review carried out (03-05-2007), four priority areas confirmed. The 2007 Environment Policy Review carried out (02-07-2008), shows that the year 2007 was a turning point in EU environment policy. The main commitments under the 6th Environment Action Programme have been delivered and environment issues were firmly at the top of the political agenda. But there are also reasons for concern: while the policy framework is in place, implementation of EU environment legislation by Member States is often slow or incomplete. Further, the EU needs to prepare for the major environmental challenges ahead: defining a long-term strategic vision for sustainable consumption and production, adaptation to the inevitable climatic changes, and the protection of biodiversity. The accompanying Commission Staff Working Paper provides more factual details, including some key indicators of trends in the different priority areas of the 6th Environment Action Programme, as well as an overview of 2007 environment policy initiatives in all 27 Member States.
B2.4	TARGET: Complementarity of EC and MS biodiversity strategies and action plans substantially enhanced by 2010.		
B2.4.1	ACTION: Re-align MS biodiversity strategies and action plans with this EU Action Plan [by 2007] and strengthen mechanisms for ongoing alignment of EC and MS biodiversity strategies and action plans [2007 onwards].	Encourage MS to re-align; propose and establish new mechanisms.	ongoing discussions with Member States, including promoting co-operation on BAP delivery in Nature Directors meetings under each Presidency of the Council of Ministers.
B2.4.2	ACTION: Strengthen the institutional arrangements in support of coherence and complementarity in the implementation of EC and MS biodiversity strategies and action plans and in particular of this Action Plan [2006 onwards].	Propose and establish effective mechanism.	See B2.4.1 There have been discussions on improving the governance structure for implementation of EU nature and biodiversity policy, with particular regard to delivery of the EU Biodiversity Action Plan. This has led to the creation of a new Co-ordination Group on Biodiversity and Nature, involving the competent authorities of the Member States, different Commission services and representatives of key stakeholder groups.
B2.4.3	ACTION: Strengthen mechanisms for delivery from MS level to local	None	See B2.4.1

No.	OBJECTIVES, TARGETS, ACTIONS	COMMUNITY LEVEL ACTION	MID TERM PROGRESS
	<i>level</i> [2006 onwards].		
B2.5	TARGET: Effective integration of Natura 2000, rural development, river basin management and other territorial plans and programmes in support of biodiversity achieved by 2010.		
B2.5.1	ACTION: Strengthen proactive integration of available planning instruments including Natura 2000, river basin management planning, programmes of measures for soils, rural development plans - towards application of a ecosystems approach in the terrestrial and freshwater environment [2006 onwards]. (cf. Action A4.3.1)	Provide guidance	Ongoing
B2.5.2	ACTION: Integrate biodiversity concerns into the evaluation, monitoring and reporting mechanisms of Community-funded programmes which have an impact on the conservation and recovery of biodiversity [2006 onwards].	Provide guidance, integrate into community level evaluation and reporting.	COM has included biodiversity concerns and targets in the assessment of the National Strategies submitted by MS in the context of the EC Cohesion policy (Structural, Cohesion funds) for the financing period 2007-2013. Rural Development programs are also being monitored and assessed.
B 2.6	TARGET: Substantial improvement in compliance with environmental regulations by 2010 and again by 2013.		
B2.6.1	ACTION: Reinforce efforts to ensure compliance, control and enforcement at national, regional and local levels [2006 onwards].	Monitor compliance at Community level, enforce where necessary.	The European Commission has started a consultation exercise on its initiative to reform the control system of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). Continued failure of the control policy would have serious consequences for the future of fisheries resources and on conservation efforts. In February 2008, the Commission has therefore launched a public consultation on how CFP control should be improved and strengthened to make it fit to deliver the core goals of the Common Fisheries Policy, namely, a genuinely sustainable European fishing industry. The Commission has adopted on 14 November 2008 a proposal for a Council Regulation on the reform of the control system of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). (see also section A3.5.5) The Joint Deployment Plan (JDP) was launched in March 2008 by the Commission. This major EU control campaign will be coordinated by the Community Fisheries Control Agency (CFCA) and marks the EU's determination to ensure that the fifteen-year recovery plan for the blue fin tuna, agreed within the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna (ICCAT) in November 2006, is fully respected. The JDP brings together the resources of the seven main Member States involved in the fishery and will cover all stages in the market chain, including controls at sea, onshore and at fattening farms.

No.	OBJECTIVES, TARGETS, ACTIONS	COMMUNITY LEVEL ACTION	MID TERM PROGRESS
SUPPORTING MEASURE 3: BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS FOR BIODIVERSITY.			
B3.1	TARGET: Key stakeholder groups actively engaged in conservation of biodiversity from 2006 in each MS.		
B3.1.1	ACTION: Enhance communication, cooperation and concerted action between Commission, Member States, landowners, scientific and conservation communities in support of Natura 2000 (including implementation of 'El Teide Declaration') [2006 onwards].	Provide guidance, facilitate, co-finance.	Initiatives launched in 2008 by the Commission, aiming at the development and rewarding of Partnerships in the context of the management of the Natura 2000 network. The first initiative includes the establishment of a web-based 'Natura 2000 communication platform'. This will allow different socio-economic sectors to become actively involved on their own initiative in the exchange of good practice and the preparation of sector-specific guidance and recommendations for good conduct. The second initiative is the development of a 'Natura 2000 Partner Reward Scheme'. This will reward individuals, organizations and public institutions that show particular merit in promoting the management of and the communication on Natura 2000. Both initiatives are well under way, and the launch of the instruments is expected in 2009.
B3.1.2	ACTION: Develop farming and biodiversity, forestry and biodiversity partnerships, building on existing consultative processes under the Common Agricultural Policy and forest policy [2006 onwards].	Facilitate such partnerships at Community level.	Input to consultation on RD strategies and some RD Plans.
B3.1.3	ACTION: Establish and adequately fund Regional Advisory Councils for fisheries, as provided for under the Common Fisheries Policy, and support their operations [2006 onwards].	Support RACs at Community level as provided for in Common Fisheries Policy.	Since 2004, 6 Regional Advisory Councils have been established and are now operational: South-western waters RAC; High Seas/Long Distance Fleet RAC; Baltic Sea RAC; North-Western Waters RAC; Pelagic stocks RAC; North Sea RAC: The Mediterranean RAC was established in 2008.
B3.1.4	ACTION: Establish a Biodiversity and Climate Change Adaptation Task Force at EU level [2007] to advise on measures to support biodiversity adaptation to climate change and the prevention of damaging impacts of climate change adaptation and mitigation measures on biodiversity [2007 onwards].	Establish task force	A new ad hoc working group on Biodiversity and Climate change has been established by DG ENV of COM to help frame biodiversity and climate change policy for post 2010, including issues of Natura 2000 and ecological connectivity and the role of biodiversity and ecosystem services with regards to combating climate change. First meeting of group was in November 2008.
B3.1.5	ACTION: Develop biodiversity and planning partnership [2007 onwards].	Encourage such partnerships at MS levels, facilitate exchange of best practice.	See B 3.1.6
B3.1.6	ACTION: Develop	Facilitate such partnerships	The Commission plans to launch a call for tender

No.	OBJECTIVES, TARGETS, ACTIONS	COMMUNITY LEVEL ACTION	MID TERM PROGRESS
	<i>business and biodiversity</i> partnership [2006 onwards].	at Community level	for a contract to help the Commission to set up and to put into operation an EU Business and Biodiversity Technical Facility / Platform. This work is a follow up to the outcome of the major conference on this subject, organised by Portuguese Presidency, in Lisbon on 12-13 November 2007. The Message from Lisbon, a consensus document from over 400 conference participants, half of them representing businesses, stressed the importance of engaging business in meeting the 2010 target, underlined the need for concerted action at the EU level. Sectoral discussions aim at guidance documents for Natura 2000 are being prepared for the non-energy extractive industries, and for port operators in estuaries and coastal zones. A COM funded pilot study creating biodiversity technical assistance units in three selected new Member States (BU, HU & PL) aims to facilitate the creation of a new pro-biodiversity investment market for businesses, especially SMEs and the banking sector, and to help prepare bankable projects for future investment loans. Launching of the web-based 'Natura 2000 Communication Platform' and the 'Natura 2000 Partner' Reward scheme prepared for 2008.
B3.1.7	ACTION: Develop partnership between <i>financing sector and biodiversity</i> [2006 onwards].	Facilitate such partnerships at Community level, including involving EBRD and EIB.	See B 3.1.6 - Finance sector involved in the business & biodiversity partnership.
B3.1.8	ACTION: Apply the CBD Akwe-Kwon Guidelines for <i>projects affecting terrestrial lands of indigenous and local communities</i> both within the EU MS and in Third countries [2006 onwards].	Apply in respect of projects financed by Community public aid.	Provision of training to staff of EC delegations ongoing.
SUPPORTING MEASURE 4: BUILDING PUBLIC EDUCATION, AWARENESS AND PARTICIPATION FOR BIODIVERSITY.			
B4.1	TARGET: 10 million Europeans actively engaged in biodiversity conservation by 2010, 15 million by 2013.		
B4.1.1	ACTION: Develop [2006/07] and implement [2007 onwards] a <i>communications campaign</i> in support of full implementation of this Action Plan.	Coordinate development and implementation of campaign in partnership with MS.	In March 2008 a scoping study for an EU wide communications campaign on biodiversity and nature was published. Recommendations from this study (on campaign objectives, key messages, target audience, framework and components of a communications campaign) feed into the call for proposals of the third component of LIFE +, which focuses Information and Communication. Under this heading priority will be given to proposals focusing on nature protection and biodiversity. A common visual identity for communications campaigns on biodiversity and nature will be developed at EU level and subject to a call for tender in 2008. A Natura 2000 Book was launched in May 2008 and will play an

No.	OBJECTIVES, TARGETS, ACTIONS	COMMUNITY LEVEL ACTION	MID TERM PROGRESS
			important role in awareness raising and communication efforts. The Interim Report on the Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity was also finalized in May 2008 and was the subject of a series of presentations in a number of key Member States during 2008.
B4.1.2	ACTION: Strengthen and implement IUCN Countdown 2010 initiative [2006 onwards].	Support the initiative, implement joint actions under the initiative.	Financial support has been granted to the Countdown 2010 initiative. COM participation in "European regions as champions for biodiversity 2010" in Noord-Brabant, NL, 15-16.02.2007 A new grant for 2008/2009 will support activities to extend the Countdown 2010 network to missing Member States, work with the European Parliament and preparation of the post 2010 biodiversity target.
B4.1.3	ACTION: Ensure public participation, related access to justice requirements of the Aarhus Convention applied to projects, plans and programmes relating to or having an impact on biodiversity conservation [2006 onwards].	Ensure provisions of community law transposed and applied, address complaints.	Commission monitoring proper implementation of Directive 2003/35 on 'Public Participation when drawing up certain plans and programmes relating to the environment' (to be implemented as from June 2005), where it amends the EIA and IPPC Directives in relation to public participation in the permitting of projects that might affect biodiversity, and Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive / SEA Directive (2001/42). In relation to access to justice, the Commission completed a study on the implementation of Article 9(3) of the Aarhus Convention in September 2007. The study shows that there is still work to be done as there are still barriers to ensuring wide access to justice. A conference on access to justice took place on 2 June 2008 to discuss the issue further. The Commission is now considering the next steps to take on this subject.
C. MONITORING, EVALUATION AND REVIEW			
ANNUAL REPORTING			
C1.1	TARGET: Annual, Mid-term and Final Reports submitted in timely fashion to Council and Parliament		
C1.1.1	ACTION: Submit annual report on progress in implementation to Council and Parliament [starting end 2007].	Prepare and submit reports	First annual report focusing on Community level action available at http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/knowledge/rep_biodiv_ap/index_en.htm
INDICATORS			
C1.2	TARGET: Indicators in place and informing policy decisions by 2010		
C1.2.1	ACTION: Adopt and apply [by 2007], at EC and MS levels, a small set of biodiversity headline indicators (see Annex 2) which inform the public and decision-makers on the	Development, quality assessment, make proposal, implement indicators.	A set of 26 pan-European biodiversity indicators (SEBI 2010) provides the basis for a first European indicator based assessment of progress towards the 2010 biodiversity target to be published by the EEA in the first half of 2009. A set of indicator fact sheets has been produced by the European Environment Agency, related for the

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	state and trends of biodiversity, pressures on biodiversity and the effectiveness of key policy measures; adopt and apply at EC level a biodiversity index as a Sustainable Development Indicator and as a Structural Indicator [by 2007]		mid-term BAP assessment. The development of national indicators aligned to the SEBI 2010 indicator framework is underway in the Member States. Further refinement and improvement of the SEBI 2010 indicators is ongoing, including with regard to the impact of climate change on biodiversity and communication. Response indicators have been collected by the European Commission in 2008. Indicators used in the context of The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB), such as the Mean Species abundance and other indicators being developed, such as the Net Landscape Ecological Potential may be evaluated for their inclusion in other assessment reports or the SEBI 2010 set. SEBI 2010 is also contributing to the update, improvement and review of the section on natural resources of the next Sustainable Development Monitoring Report to be published by Eurostat in 2009.
MONITORING			
C1.3	TARGET: Monitoring providing adequate data flow for implementation of indicator set, for reporting on favourable conservation status, and for broader assessment of effectiveness of this Action Plan by 2010.		
C1.3.1	ACTION: Establish reference values for favourable conservation status for Habitats and Birds Directive habitats and species to achieve a consensus of definitions across Member States [2006/07]; monitor habitats and species status in relation to these values [2007 onwards].	Coordinate development of reference values.	MS have provided Article 17 HD reports including 1st conservation status assessment and favourable reference values for species and habitats under the Habitats Directive- to be evaluated at Community level (mid 2009).
C1.3.2	ACTION: Use, and as necessary develop, monitoring tools, approaches and frameworks (building on those existing, including those of civil society) in order to establish and coordinate adequate harmonised data flows for the biodiversity indicators to reveal key trends [2007 onwards].	Coordinate implementation of the action with EEA.	Building on SEBI 2010 outcomes, COM is working with EEA, ESTAT, JRC and DG RTD on strengthening the knowledge base for biodiversity within the framework of the Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) on developing a common approach for the establishment of a Europe wide biodiversity data centre and assessment facility to inform biodiversity policy. This will be undertaken jointly with Member States and NGOs.
C1.3.3	ACTION: Develop shared information system for biodiversity monitoring and reporting in the EU, based on agreed biodiversity indicators, which makes data available to all interested users, streamlines reporting and	Coordinate development of shared information system, including exploitation of generic information and communication technologies.	COM is developing a clear concept regarding the information needs for supporting the biodiversity policy cycle within the framework of the SEIS initiative. This concept will be developed progressively- within the COM, the EEA, with the Group of 4 (COM, EEA, Eurostat, JRC), with the Member States and with other stakeholders. A concept paper and a roadmap is being developed with EEA, which is responsible for the EU

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	supports policy evaluation and development at national, regional and global levels [2006 onwards].		<p>Biodiversity Data Centre within the Group of 4. In January 2008, the European Commission has adopted a Communication towards a Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS)³, based on technologies such as the internet and satellite systems. It is closely linked to INSPIRE, the environmental geographic data and services portal (see http://www.inspire-geoportal.eu/) and the 'Global Monitoring for Environment and Security' (GMES), which represents a concerted effort to bring data and information providers together with users, so they can better understand each other and make environmental and security-related information available to the people who need it through enhanced or new services (http://www.gmes.info/).</p> <p>In the framework of SEIS, the European Commission is currently working on a legal proposal, The SEIS legislative proposal is envisaged to provide a legal basis for the new DG ENV wide electronic reporting mechanism, focusing especially on information and data currently reported under Community environmental law.</p>
EVALUATION AND REVIEW			
C1.4	TARGET: Action Plan adjusted as necessary in 2010, new plan adopted in 2013		
C1.4.1	ACTION: Submit to Council and Parliament in 2009 a <i>concise mid-term evaluation of progress towards the 2010 targets</i> (to end 2008) and make any essential adjustments in actions to meet targets.	Commission to coordinate evaluation, prepare and submit evaluation report; Council to respond to evaluation report.	The mid-term Report from the Commission to the Council and European Parliament, comprises the Communication, which is summary text of progress at EC and MS levels in relation to objectives and targets; an updated assessment at Community level for each action of the BAP; a summary Country Profiles for each Member State; an indicator fact sheets from the European Environment Agency led project on Streamlining of European Biodiversity Indicators (SEBI 2010); a synthesis consolidated report, combining for different objectives and targets the summaries for Community and Member State level assessments, the relevant indicators and any key messages in support of the Communication.
C1.4.2	ACTION: Submit to Council and Parliament, in 2011, a <i>full evaluation of extent to which EU has met its 2010 targets</i> .	Commission to coordinate evaluation, prepare and submit evaluation report; Council to respond to evaluation report.	See C 1.4.1 - The fourth annual report (to end 2010) will evaluate the extent to which the EU has met its 2010 commitments. This will involve qualitative assessment of the extent to which Action Plan actions have been implemented and targets achieved, and an overall assessment of whether implementation of the BAP has had an impact on improving conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. These evaluations will also be informed by the Community Article 17 report, the indicator-based assessment of the extent to which Europe has met the 2010 biodiversity target to be published in 2009 by EEA and drawn on the ongoing study on the economics of ecosystems

³ See <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/seis/index.htm>.

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			and biodiversity (TEEB).
C1.4.3	ACTION: Submit to Council and Parliament, in 2014, a full evaluation of extent to which EU has met all post-2010 targets of this Action Plan, and proposing a new Action Plan for the period of the new Financial Perspectives post-2013.	Commission to coordinate evaluation and preparation of new action plan, prepare and submit evaluation report and action plan; Council to respond to evaluation report and new action plan.	See C 1.4.1 - The seventh annual report (to end 2013) will provide a similar evaluation, addressing also all post-2010 targets in the Action Plan. The development of a sub-global ecosystem assessment for Europe will inform final evaluation of the 6 th EAP, review of sectoral policies and budgets during the 2007-2013 period, and policies and budgets for the post-2013 period.