



**Point of departure for the discussion:**

Private grant-making foundations and bilateral and multilateral public funding agencies are still working under sub-optimal conditions of coordination/cooperation to address rampant biodiversity loss. How can this be improved?

**Objectives:**

1. Understand the current major **challenges** and map **key opportunities** for public and private funding initiatives aimed at conserving biodiversity in ways that address conservation of biodiversity in Europe, and reduce the European footprint in other areas of the globe.
2. Identify and agree **possible next steps** towards **increased cooperation** among funders that would enhance the chances of achieving significant positive impact on preserving biodiversity.

The event comprised two parts with the first focusing on the state of play, identification of the most urgent challenges and inspiring approaches; and the second part challenging participants to come up with new and creative ideas in tackling more effectively the challenges to biodiversity and nature conservation and defining a role and potential strategies for foundations.

The key issues, ideas and proposals for future action are summarised below.

**Part 1:** Examine the "state of play"; lay out the most urgent challenges we are facing; look at inspiring approaches; and discuss the role of different stakeholders in advancing effective policies and achieving real impact in the biodiversity and conservation area.

CHALLENGES	OPPORTUNITIES
<p><i>Discussions with the European Commission</i>  <i>Ladislav Miko, Director, Nature Directorate, European Commission</i></p>	
<p>EU not reaching 2010 targets<sup>1</sup>            More research, more funding and better enforcement of EU rules are all urgently needed.</p>	<p><u>EU Targets: Biodiversity 2020<sup>2</sup></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Nature conservation</li> <li>▪ Enlarging scope: global (responsibility)</li> </ul> <p>The post-2010 plan/targets should apply to the EU and global levels. In other words, action and implementation will be needed at multiple levels: international, EU, national and sub-national.</p> <p><u>Opportunities for different stakeholders to contribute to policy making:</u></p>
<p>Limited Public Funds            Existing Financing tools:            (a) Life<sup>3</sup> and (b) Natura<sup>4</sup>  <u>Target groups:</u> EU-27; EU candidate, accession and</p>	

<sup>1</sup> See EC News Item "Can we stop biodiversity loss by 2020?" available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/news/environment/100119\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/news/environment/100119_en.htm)

<sup>2</sup> COM(2010) 4 final, Options for an EU vision and target for biodiversity beyond 2010, Brussels, 19.1.2010, available at: [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/policy/pdf/communication\\_2010\\_0004.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/policy/pdf/communication_2010_0004.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Current budget approximately €243 million - Info available at: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/>

<sup>4</sup> Info available at: [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/financing/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/financing/index_en.htm)

<p>neighbourhood</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Upcoming consultation on the future EU Strategy (December 2010)</li> <li>▪ Development of biophysical maps</li> <li>▪ Development of EU indicators</li> <li>▪ Development of biodiversity Information Systems</li> <li>▪ EU participation in the International Biodiversity Panel</li> </ul> <p>It is important for the EU to deliver on existing international commitments, in particular under multilateral environmental agreements such as the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds Agreement, and make further progress on the establishment of marine protected areas at international level.</p>
<p>Short Timing → Action is needed now.</p> <p>The EU's post-2010 long-term vision for biodiversity should include a clear time-frame (up to 2050); reflect the urgency of the biodiversity crisis and the intrinsic and tangible values of biodiversity and the importance of the services it provides.</p>	<p>Upcoming EU initiative, named BEST (follow-up of Natura 2000)</p>
<p>Biodiversity is a complex issue</p> <p>Green Infrastructure does not only cover the protection of specific areas, but is a much broader issue.</p>	<p>Need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Step up research to fill key knowledge gaps (e.g. economics of biodiversity and ecosystem services; development of effective indicators for measuring progress as well as 'putting pressure' etc)</li> <li>- Develop evidence-based, integrated approaches to address the main pressures exerted on biodiversity and ecosystem services by specific sectors – land-use change, over-exploitation, invasive species, pollution and climate change. Sub-targets will need to be devised for each kind of pressure, sector or ecosystem, combined with cost-effective action at the appropriate level of intervention to deliver the desired results.</li> </ul>
<p>Combination of technical solutions with Ecosystems</p>	<p>Need to link investment on (preservation of) biodiversity with Economic Development<sup>5</sup></p>
<p>Implementation gaps: 'Good' legislation is in place, but it is not properly implemented.</p> <p>Targeted measures under the EU nature</p>	<p>Foundations could fund initiatives that aim to address gaps public funding – for example, focusing on effective implementation of EU legislation and international (UN) standards at national and sub-</p>

<sup>5</sup> A recent study on the Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity ([TEEB](#)) underlined that biodiversity loss has direct economic repercussions that are widely underestimated, and that the cost of nature conservation is by far outweighed by societal and economic benefits. For further information download the study '[The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity for National and International Policy Makers](#)' [pdf file]

conservation legislation have proved capable of reversing the decline in threatened species and habitats, but there have been delays and problems with implementation, including insufficient resources allocated to this effort.	national levels.
It is necessary to engage diverse actors in the discussion, especially economic players. A platform for public discussion has been created on the Europa website.	Opportunity for diverse stakeholders to contribute to shaping the policies and actions.
The general understanding of the importance of biodiversity is still low  Usually, states at high risk with respect to biodiversity lack the will or capacity to address the challenges to protecting and preserving their biodiversity	Foundations can fund (or launch) awareness raising activities, targeting key decision makers on the EU Member States (at all levels).  Promote Effective implementation of EU legislation (and international commitments)
Better tracking of funding flows from public and private donors needed at European level	
<i>Input by BirdLife International</i>	
Value of 'core funding': potential for higher impact of the organisation, as it strengthens its capacity to deliver its mission  NGO are often struggling to obtain framework or core funding: it is difficult to make the case if public and private donors remain focused on specific projects.  Core / Organisation support should be available at all levels: local; regional; international – for both practical on the ground initiatives and policy/advocacy related work  Pooling funds to support organisations and coalition building has the potential to focus better actions, expertise and deliver better results	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg); border-right: 1px solid black; padding-right: 5px; margin-right: 5px;">Elements of Core Funding</div> <div style="border-left: 1px solid black; padding-left: 5px;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- builds capacity of people and organisations to better advance their missions</li> <li>- typically, longer term</li> <li>- flexible</li> <li>- combined with targeted project funding, has the potential to achieve higher impact in addressing complex challenges</li> <li>- potential to increase “leverage” capacity of organisations – towards attracting further resources, building strategic partnerships, etc.</li> </ul> </div> </div>
<i>Input by Cariplo (focus on international impact)</i>	
Implementation of Conservation Principle on National, sub-national and then EU levels	Establishment of Ecological Corridors → Benefits: nature conservation and safe animal crossing
Connecting Various Biodiversity areas → To be successful: technical, legal, economic, urban etc issues need to be considered and linked	
Participatory Implementation → strong commitment is needed by all relevant players	Vision of cross-border collaboration and partnership Create space for interaction between different actors

Limited working scope of Foundations → Establishment of cross-border partnerships are needed	
<i>Input by Fondation Ensemble (focus on grass root level)</i>	
Harmonise local life with Biodiversity “Everything is inter-related”	Promote dialogue synergies
Collective actions needed	Establish cross-sectoral synergies
Lack of adequate governance. Local – national – global are interconnected Urgent action needed – with a long term view behind Funders need to fund innovation (e.g. organic farming)	Sharing innovation Promote Cooperation between private & public funders towards a common goal Environmental mainstreaming: how? – Need to establish principles and develop criteria
Link conservation and development Develop communication programmes Link North and South; address institutional constraints Use new mechanism of funding	

**Part 2:** explore new and creative ways in tackling more effectively the challenges to biodiversity and nature conservation and examine in particular the role foundations can play in catalysing strategic collaborations and concerted action at European and global levels.

### Summary of brainstorming

- ❖ Need to step up cooperation, including across borders; this will require also investment in building more long-term focused relationships
- ❖ Enhance capacity of recipients
- ❖ Enhance commitment to address issues related to biodiversity protection – through research, building evidence, communications, among others
- ❖ Explore opportunities arising from pilot projects on the ground and lessons learnt: the challenge of replicating or scaling up
- ❖ Need to clarify the language and definitions related to the biodiversity area – this has implications for policy, as well as public communications
- ❖ Support NGO capacity to raise and/or leverage funds and other assets; invest in developing long-term sustainability strategies; invest in learning about and testing new approaches to tackling biodiversity challenges (such as promoting market-based mechanisms); strengthen accountability and improve measurement of impact
- ❖ The field will benefit from better coordination among donors, from information sharing level all the way to pooling funds together; simplifying funding mechanisms and application procedures particularly of institutional funders will reduce costs for NGOs as well as facilitate access to a wider pool of organisations
- ❖ All actors in the biodiversity field need to invest in improving communications – messages, as well as strategies; towards the public; governments and the media. More effective translation of scientific findings into a language accessible to all would be key

- ❖ There is a need to better monitor and organise key relevant data/information concerning biodiversity at European and global levels; such systems will contribute significantly to improving the flow of funding and designing timely and adequate responses

The [European Environmental Funders Group](#) is already looking at some of the areas raised during the discussion, such as [mapping](#) foundation funding for environmental issues; and improving information sharing and opportunities for cooperation among donors. It will further examine the state of the environmental movement/organisations in Europe – it is expected that this study will help inform future strategies by identifying gaps, urgent needs and opportunities for strengthening the field.

Key ideas/issues foundations are looking at or may consider in the future include: engaging with EU institutions around policy and programmes development and examining ways to better coordinate; support “problem” analysis and development of propositions on what and how foundations are best placed to do to address these; capacity building events for funders aimed at improving grantmaking strategies – including discussions on project versus core funding and the role of each within the “funding toolbox”; and finally, support initiatives aimed at improving our understanding of what works in addressing the biodiversity challenge and how to measure impact and effectiveness with a view on the long term.