

# EU Business and Biodiversity Initiative



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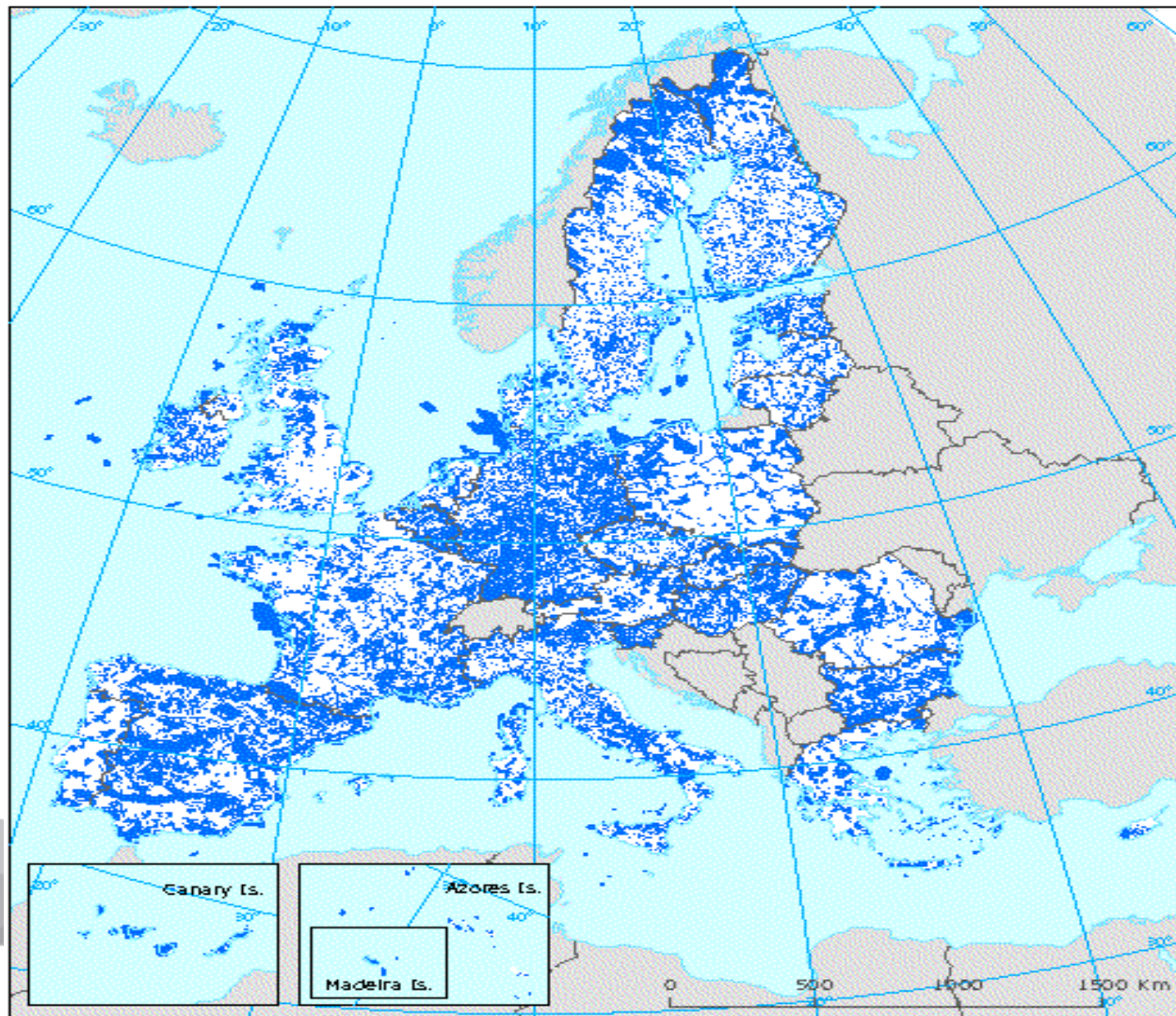
# EU Biodiversity Policy

- **EU 2010 target:** *To halt biodiversity loss in the EU by 2010?*

## What are the policy barriers?

- **Implementation gaps**
- **Policy gaps**
- **Knowledge and data gaps**
- **Integration into other policy areas**
- **Funding**
- **Equity**

# EU Natura 2000 network



**Distribution of pSCI's and SCI's across EU27**

- Natura 2000 sites
- Outside report coverage

## A new EU target?

- Option 1. Significantly reduce the rate of loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the EU by 2020
- Option 2. Halt the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the EU by 2020
- Option 3. Halt the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the EU by 2020 and restore them insofar as possible
- Option 4. Halt the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the EU by 2020 and restore them insofar as possible, and step up the EU's contribution to averting global biodiversity loss

## A new EU target?

- “halting the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services in the EU by 2020, and restoring them in so far as feasible, while stepping up the EU contribution to averting global biodiversity loss”

# Should business care about Biodiversity?

## ■ **The Economics of biodiversity**

- Lack of market prices
- Valuing makes economic sense
- Need to measure
- Investing in nature pays off

# Should business care about Biodiversity?

## Council conclusions on biodiversity post-2010

NOTING that, according to the TEEB study (The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity), the annual loss of ecosystem services under a business-as-usual scenario is estimated to be equivalent to around €50 billion, while by 2050 the accumulated welfare losses could be equivalent to 7% of annual consumption;

STRESSING the important contribution of biodiversity as a driving force to combat the economic crisis, to promote job creation and to generate long-term, economic benefits, as illustrated by the finding of the TEEB study 2 that up to 2.6% of those working in Europe have jobs mostly based on natural assets and that up to 16.6% of European jobs are indirectly linked to those natural assets; and AWARE that in most developing countries the link between ecosystems and employment, income and livelihoods is even stronger;

# Should business care about Biodiversity?

## ■ The benefits of biodiversity

- Access to ecoservices
- Access to raw material and genetic material
- Bio-mimicry
- Limitations on land conversion
- Customer satisfaction



# EU Business and Biodiversity Initiative

- Building partnerships with business highlighted in the Commission's **Communication on Biodiversity** (2006);
- The «**Lisbon Declaration**» - outcome of the High Level Conference on Business and Biodiversity, organised by the Portuguese Presidency of EU Council - called on action at EU level - a technical platform to engage various key sectors (Nov 2007);

[http://www.cbd.int/doc/business/bb\\_proceedings\\_screen.pdf](http://www.cbd.int/doc/business/bb_proceedings_screen.pdf)

- Activity under BAP (2006); re-articulated in the **Mid-term Report on the delivery to the EU Biodiversity Action Plan** (COM(2008) 864 Final) - highlighted need for better engagement of businesses;
- «**Message from Athens**» ("**Biodiversity Protection - Beyond 2010: Priorities and options for future EU Policy**" conference, Apr 2009) - engagement of business crucial for shaping EU's biodiversity policy, re-instated by the **Environment Council**.

# Business and Biodiversity Platform

- Create awareness in priority sectors
- Bench-marking
- Explain business opportunities for already existing programmes
- Special attention to SMEs
- Measuring benefits of the project
- Develop rating system

# Summary

- The EU proposes an ambitious target of "halting the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services in the EU by 2020, and restoring them in so far as feasible, while stepping up the EU contribution to averting global biodiversity loss".
- The business community has a key role to play in helping to achieve this target.
- To support the engagement of the business community the European Commission is establishing the EU Business and Biodiversity Platform.
- Protecting biodiversity makes sound economic sense and business should see such engagement as an opportunity for sustainable development rather than as a constraint.