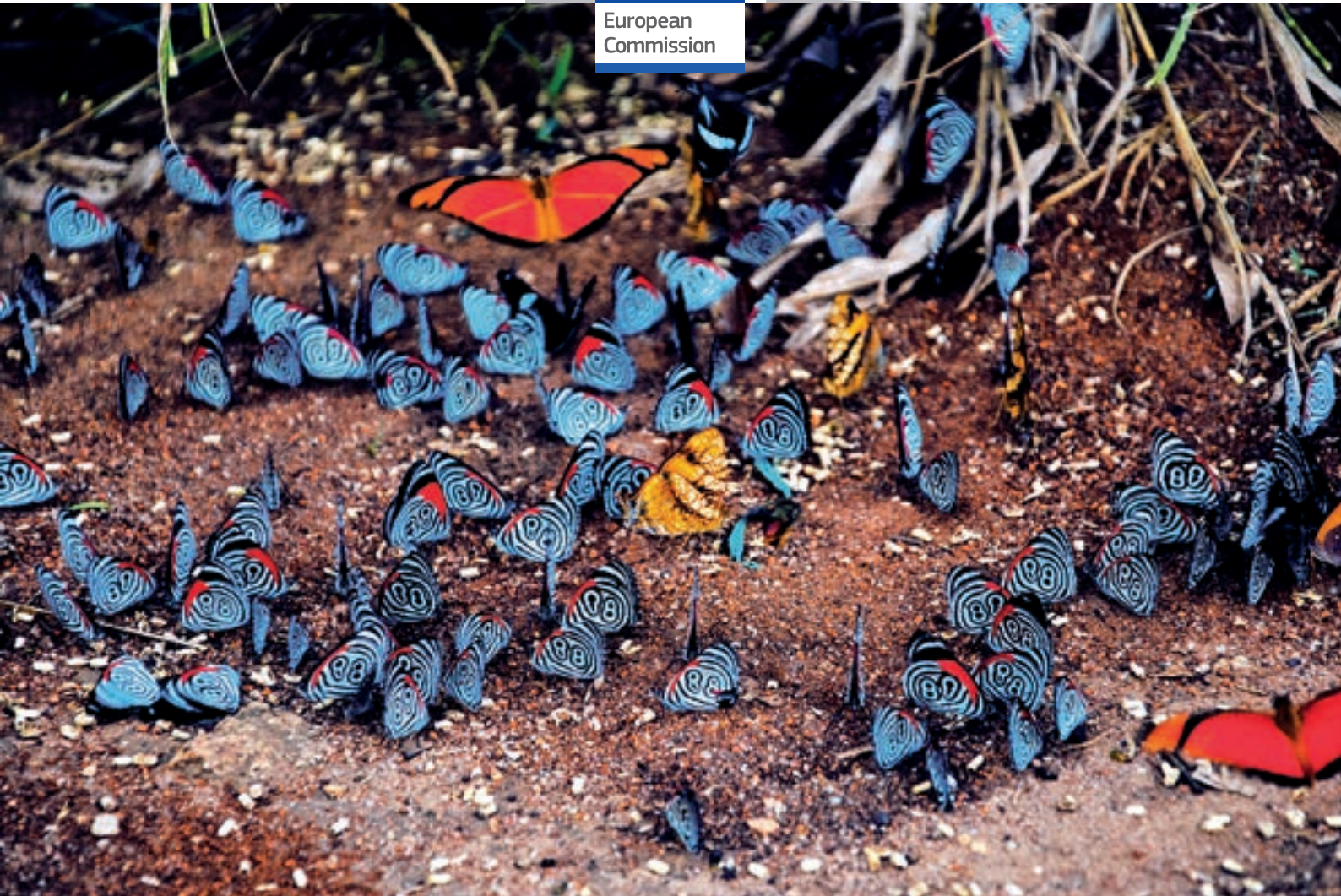




European  
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# The EU Biodiversity for Life



flagship initiative

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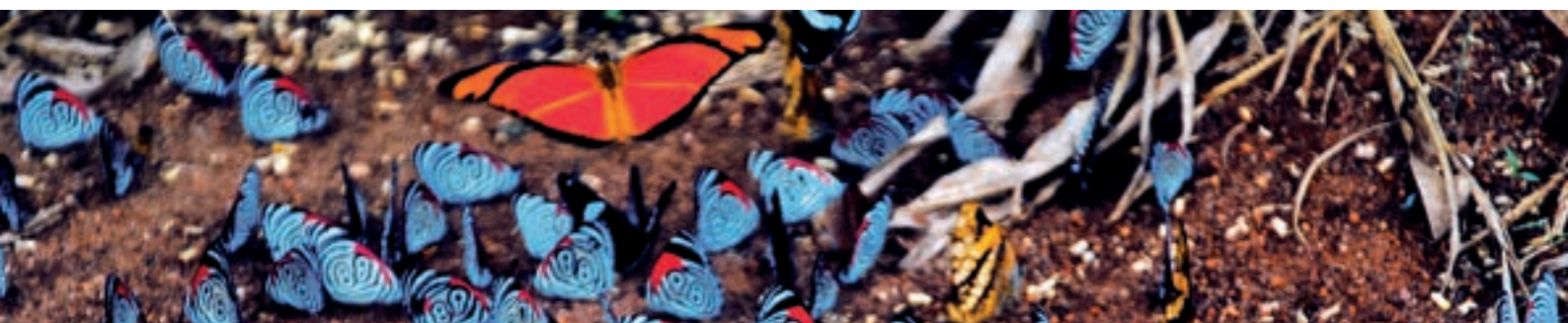
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# The EU Biodiversity for Life flagship initiative



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# Foreword



**Fernando Frutuoso de Melo,**  
Director-General,  
DEVCO - EuropeAid



**Karl Falkenberg,**  
Director-General,  
Environment

We are delighted to introduce our new flagship initiative for development cooperation, the EU Biodiversity for Life – B4Life – through which the EU will provide support to developing countries over the next seven years to protect biodiversity, ensure sustainable livelihoods and combat wildlife crime.

It is clearer today than ever that healthy and resilient ecosystems are vital for human development and well-being. For food production, as well as for textiles, timber and other natural materials, we depend on an interconnected web of life, ranging from microscopic soil organisms to large marine mammals, from tiny seeds to vast ancient forests. This wealth of biodiversity not only supports life on Earth; it is also fundamental to meeting our most basic needs as humans, from the air we breathe to the water we drink. It is also crucial for regulating the Earth's climate system.

Biodiversity and ecosystem services in many developing countries offer huge potential to create growth and help improve the lives of millions of people. However, many obstacles challenge the protection of this natural capital. Weak governance, unsustainable farming practices and extraction of resources at an alarming rate, together with a rapid increase in wildlife poaching and trafficking, are destroying ecosystems and threatening rural communities in some of the world's poorest and most vulnerable countries. These challenges will remain if we don't act now.

With B4Life we mark a new direction and determination in our work. In line with our international commitments to increase the EU contribution to averting global biodiversity loss, B4Life will strengthen the linkage between biodiversity conservation and poverty eradication, ultimately boosting growth and supporting a green economy.

This brochure presents detailed information on the EU priorities to help protecting biodiversity and ecosystems in the world's most deprived areas. Critical ecosystems and biodiversity hotspots, weak institutions, food insecurity and illegal wildlife trafficking will be addressed by B4Life, in cooperation and coordination with our able and committed partners worldwide.

We hope you will find inspiration in the following pages and the case studies presented, as we look forward to continuing our support through B4Life, by doing our part to help people improve their livelihood and ensure a strong and lasting legacy for future generations.

**Fernando Frutuoso de Melo**  
Director-General, Development Cooperation – EuropeAid

**Karl Falkenberg**  
Director-General, Environment

# Why biodiversity matters for development

Biological diversity - or biodiversity - is one of the key terms in conservation, encompassing the richness of life and the diverse patterns it forms. The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), a multilateral treaty created in 1992, defines biological diversity as “the variability among living organisms from all sources including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems”.<sup>1</sup>

More than 70 % of the world’s poor live in rural areas and depend directly on biodiversity and ecosystem services<sup>2</sup> for their subsistence. Global biodiversity and ecosystem services are under threat and, with the current species extinction rate estimated to be 1,000-10,000 times higher than it would naturally be<sup>3</sup>, scientists assert that the biodiversity crisis has now passed the tipping point of ‘planetary boundaries’, with a risk of irreversible changes that will profoundly affect humans.

**‘Planetary boundaries’** is a concept proposed by a group of 28 internationally renowned scientists led by Johan Rockström and Will Steffen of the Stockholm Resilience Centre. The scientists assert that once human society has passed certain thresholds or tipping points, defined as ‘planetary boundaries’, there is a risk of ‘irreversible and abrupt environmental change’. Three of the nine planetary boundaries have already been crossed - climate change and biodiversity loss included.<sup>4</sup>

The global welfare loss of ecosystem services from land-based ecosystems alone is estimated by The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) study to be around EUR 50 billion per year under a business-as-usual scenario. Biodiversity is lost due to the unsustainable use of natural resources, such as large-scale mono-cropping, overfishing, the transformation of forests and natural areas for agricultural production or urban expansion and the construction of roads and other infrastructure. The illegal wildlife trade also has a major impact on biodiversity, and poses a considerable threat to national security in many countries, especially in Africa. In addition, poor governance gives rise to ineffective policies and inequitable land tenure rights, affecting people’s livelihoods. Since taking steps to restore damaged and degraded ecosystems, if at all possible, can be very costly, conservation may be much more cost-effective.

We can already observe the impact of the global biodiversity crisis on people. Development strategies that ignore biodiversity and ecosystem protection undermine efforts to alleviate poverty. Healthy ecosystems, by contrast, sustain development: ecosystem conservation and restoration benefit human well-being directly, as well as representing an opportunity to generate growth, create jobs and reduce poverty. The green economy approach<sup>5</sup>, which emphasises the economic benefits of natural capital, is to be seen as a complement to traditional approaches, which focus on the protection of species and habitats for their intrinsic natural value.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.cbd.int/doc/legal/cbd-en.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Ecosystem functions are the physical, chemical, and biological processes or attributes that contribute to the self-maintenance of an ecosystem. Ecosystem services are the beneficial outcomes, for the natural environment or people that result from ecosystem functions.

<sup>3</sup> May and Tregonning, 1998

<sup>4</sup> Rockström, Steffen et al., “Planetary Boundaries: Exploring the Safe Operating Space for Humanity”, *Ecology and Science* 14, no. 2: 32 (2009) (<http://www.ecologyandsociety.org/vol14/iss2/art32/>)

<sup>5</sup> An internationally agreed understanding of green economy, as an important approach for achieving sustainable development and poverty eradication, can be found in the Rio+20 Outcome Document – “The Future We Want” – from paragraph 56 to 74.

# 1. EU commitments to support biodiversity in development cooperation



## The EU's response to the global biodiversity crisis

The EU has long supported biodiversity conservation and recognised the links between healthy ecosystems and livelihoods. Starting from the mid-1980s, the EU has helped developing countries manage biological resources in a sustainable way. It has provided long-standing support to biodiversity conservation in national parks and protected areas, especially in Africa, by increasing the capacity of local authorities and NGOs in management and finance, monitoring and evaluation, and in promoting income-generating activities compatible with conservation. The best-known action of this kind is the Conservation and Rational Use of Forest Ecosystems in Central Africa Programme (COFAC), which protects the habitats of great apes and other emblematic species and ecosystems. The EU has invested nearly EUR 140 million in COFAC since 1992, supporting 16 major protected areas in eight Central African countries, covering an area of more than 130 000 square kilometres.

In dialogue with recipient countries and other partners, the EU also seeks to integrate the protection of biodiversity and ecosystem services into every sector of development cooperation, and to maximise synergies with the forestry sector, with efforts to combat climate change, with rural development programmes and with marine resources management, among others. It provides assistance to people whose livelihoods depend on natural resources and ecosystems by offering sustainable approaches to the use and conservation of natural capital.

In 2010, at the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 10) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Nagoya, Japan, the European Union, along with the other CBD Parties, agreed to a new global Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, including 20 targets to be achieved by 2020, known as the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

**The Aichi Biodiversity Targets** included in the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity are structured under five overarching goals:

1. to address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss,
2. to reduce pressures on ecosystems,
3. to safeguard habitats,
4. to enhance the benefits provided by ecosystems, and
5. to strengthen capacities.



Building upon Nagoya's outcomes, the European Commission adopted, in May 2011, an EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020<sup>6</sup>, which explicitly includes a global dimension, with the target of helping avert global biodiversity loss.

**Target 6** of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 states that, by 2020, the EU has stepped up its contribution to averting global biodiversity loss. This includes four specific actions, as follows: (action 17) reduce indirect drivers of biodiversity loss; (action 18) mobilise additional resources for global biodiversity conservation; (action 19) 'biodiversity-proof' EU development cooperation; (action 20) regulate access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their use.

Valuing and investing in natural capital is a key policy objective in current EU development policy, as set out in 'An Agenda for Change' (2011)<sup>7</sup>: '*development is not sustainable if it damages the environment, biodiversity or natural resources*'. In this sense, EU development policy will promote a '*green economy that can generate growth, create jobs and help reduce poverty by valuing and investing in natural capital*'. The EU understands that conservation of ecosystems and poverty eradication are intrinsically linked and must be tackled together.

<sup>6</sup> Communication from the European Commission: Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020 (COM(2011) 244), ([http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/comm2006/pdf/2020/1\\_EN\\_ACT\\_part1\\_v7%5B1%5D.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/comm2006/pdf/2020/1_EN_ACT_part1_v7%5B1%5D.pdf))

<sup>7</sup> Communication from the European Commission: Increasing the impact of EU Development Policy: an Agenda for Change (COM(2011) 637), ([http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/what/development-policies/documents/agenda\\_for\\_change\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/what/development-policies/documents/agenda_for_change_en.pdf))



**'An Agenda for Change'** sets out the overarching development policy of the European Union. Its main objective is to focus EU support in countries where it can have the greatest impact, and concentrate development cooperation in support of: human rights, democracy and other key elements of good governance and inclusive and sustainable growth for human development. In order to ensure best value for money, this should be accompanied by: differentiated development partnerships, coordinated EU action and improved coherence among EU policies.

In line with the direction of its development policy and its increasing commitment to biodiversity and ecosystem services, the EU and the other CBD Parties committed, at the CBD COP 11 in Hyderabad, India (2012), to 'double total biodiversity-related international financial resource flows to developing countries by 2015 and at least maintain this level until

2020', considering funds 'from a variety of sources'<sup>8</sup>.

Last but not least, in response to the significant surge in illegal cross-border trade in wild fauna and flora which the world is facing, the European Commission adopted, in February 2014, a Communication on wildlife trafficking<sup>9</sup>, in addition to the existing EU Wildlife Trade Regulations that aim at guaranteeing sustainable wildlife trade, and is currently reviewing policies and measures to enable the EU to react more effectively to the wildlife crisis. The European Commission is also developing an African Wildlife Conservation Strategy, which should provide a framework for EU efforts to tackle the problem.

<sup>8</sup> CBD COP 11, Decision XI/4: Review of implementation of the strategy for resource mobilization, including the establishment of targets (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/COP-11/cop-11-dec-04-en.pdf>)

<sup>9</sup> Communication from the European Commission: the EU Approach against Wildlife Trafficking (COM(2014) 64), (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52014DC0064&from=EN>)

## Why B4Life? Lessons learned from EU activities to protect biodiversity and ecosystems

Previous EU activities to protect biodiversity and ecosystems have provided valuable lessons on what works but also on what needs to be and should be improved for the future. The EU is determined to respond to the lessons learnt thus far, especially about the need to strengthen the linkages between biodiversity and ecosystem conservation on one hand and poverty eradication and sustainable economic growth on the other. Another important observation from past activities is the need to enhance the coordination, coherence and visibility of EU efforts. It is in response to this policy

context and its international commitments that the EU has developed the Biodiversity for Life (B4Life) flagship initiative, which should contribute to better preventing the irretrievable loss of global biodiversity. The initiative will address challenges such as food insecurity linked to ecosystem degradation, poor governance of natural resources, global economic growth at the expense of nature, as well as the dramatic increase in poaching and illegal trade in wildlife. B4Life is meant to encompass EU efforts to build and strengthen a virtuous relationship between biodiversity and development.



## 2. What is B4Life?





The B4Life flagship initiative, which was announced on the International Day of Biodiversity, 22 May 2014<sup>10</sup>, is an umbrella framework bringing together all EU cooperation activities, from both thematic and geographical financing instruments, which target biodiversity as principal objective, with the aim of ensuring better coherence, coordination and effectiveness in this field. The aim of B4Life is to contribute to halting biodiversity loss and to react promptly to biodiversity and ecosystem crises, such as deforestation, wildlife poaching and ecosystem function collapse, by fully integrating biodiversity and ecosystem conservation with socio-economic development and poverty eradication through a comprehensive and cross-cutting approach. In particular, B4Life will focus on the contribution of ecosystem functions and services to people's livelihoods and to eradicating poverty. It will do so through actions both under the EU's Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC) thematic programme, but also bilateral and regional programmes.

<sup>10</sup> Press release from the European Commission: New EU initiative to protect biodiversity and fight wildlife crime (22 May 2014), ([http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-14-593\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-14-593_en.htm))

B4Life will increase the visibility of EU support for biodiversity in developing countries by providing an easy to recognise identity and creating synergies between ongoing and future projects implemented at a global, regional and national level.

In line with the Agenda for Change, B4Life will concentrate its operations in three priority areas:

- (1) **Good governance** for a sustainable management of natural capital;
- (2) Ecosystem conservation for **food security** and sustainable rural development;
- (3) Ecosystem-based solutions towards a **green economy**.

B4Life will also offer a special "window" of action to address the **wildlife crisis** caused by the dramatic increase in poaching and illegal trafficking in recent years, especially in Africa, which merits special attention.

Geographically, B4Life will focus on developing countries that are most in need, by paying particular attention to least developed countries and those countries that contain or are located within "biodiversity hotspots", where ecosystems and their services are the richest but frequently also the most threatened.

Besides mobilising funding, an important dimension of B4Life is to provide a platform for networking, cross-fertilising and the sharing of experiences between different partners and sectors (public, private, environment, rural development and governance). B4Life will also seek to contribute to a more assertive integration of biodiversity in the policy dialogues of the EU with its partner countries.

The implementation of B4Life from 2014 to 2020 corresponds to the EU's multi-year financial framework, as well as the target date of the CBD's Aichi Targets and of the EU Biodiversity Strategy. If successful, the flagship is likely to be extended, in coherence with further international commitments such as the UN Sustainable Development Goals within the post-2015 development agenda.

B4Life will be implemented with the support of a dedicated B4Life Facility, a body that will assist the European Commission by providing technical support, improving communication and coordination with partners, promoting knowledge exchange and capacity building, and enhancing the visibility of EU-backed measures to support biodiversity.

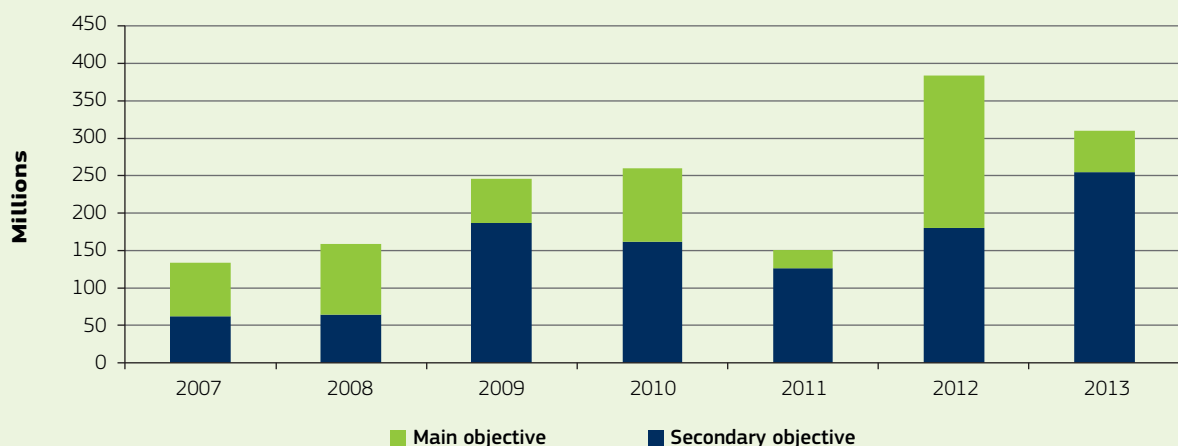
By combining resources from EU's Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC) thematic programme, and region- and country-specific funding programmes, B4Life could mobilise an estimated EUR 800 million for projects with biodiversity and ecosystems protection as main

objective (so called 'Rio Marker 2')<sup>11</sup> for the period 2014–2020. Its vocation is to evolve into a broader initiative in which EU Member States as well as civil society and private sector organisations join forces, ultimately, perhaps, to form an EU B4Life Trust Fund. In addition, continuous effort will be spent on mainstreaming biodiversity, aiming to increase the financing of projects with biodiversity as a secondary objective (so called 'Rio Marker 1'); however, these projects are not included under the B4Life umbrella.

EU development cooperation flagship initiatives are characterised by being broad partnerships involving different stakeholders. Other flagship initiatives that aim at better integration of environmental issues into development cooperation include the Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA+); Switch To Green; Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT); and Climate Mitigation. B4Life benefits from and contributes to these other initiatives, either directly or indirectly.

<sup>11</sup> Five statistical policy markers exist to monitor aid for environmental purposes within the OECD/DAC: The "Environment" marker and four Rio markers covering: Biodiversity, Climate Change Adaptation, Climate Change Mitigation and Desertification.

The EU is one of the largest Overseas Development Aid contributors to biodiversity financing. Biodiversity-related investments managed by EuropeAid in the 2007–2013 period are estimated at around EUR 1.6 billion, with an increasing trend in funding over time (see figure, below). This increase can mainly be explained by the enhanced integration of biodiversity in other cooperation sectors, such as climate change, forestry, agriculture and coastal resources management, with co-benefits for biodiversity. This figure thus includes contributions to projects with biodiversity as main objective ('Rio Marker 2') and as a secondary objective ('Rio Marker 1'). Counting only those projects with biodiversity as main objective, the total investment for 2007–2013 was around EUR 500 million.



### 3. B4Life focal areas



## 3.1. Good governance for a sustainable management of natural capital

Most of the world's biodiversity is found in tropical countries, where people depend heavily on natural resources but suffer from high levels of rural poverty and weak governance.

The challenge for B4Life – to make biodiversity an asset for development, and development a means to strengthen biodiversity – will require a stronger focus on good governance. This needs actions that directly address the functioning of biodiversity-related institutions. Governance includes policies, institutions, processes and power. It is about who decides and how. It is as much about process and politics as it is about the content of policies and laws. Investment in the creation and consolidation of protected areas or support for nature-based economic activities would not, for example, guarantee any sustainable benefits in a weak institutional context. Consolidating a sound governance framework will create enabling conditions that will make the protection of biodiversity and ecosystems sustainable.

To meet this challenge there needs to be a comprehensive approach, incorporating principles of good governance in all biodiversity conservation projects and addressing structures and mechanisms that drive the governance of natural resources in any particular country, taking into account their political, legal, social and economic role. The EU can scale up support for governance reforms that promote sustainable and transparent management of natural resources, paying particular attention to poor communities' dependence on these resources, in order to strengthen a virtuous correlation between biodiversity, development and poverty eradication.

Good governance depends on the effective functioning of a number of areas deemed important for a healthy society, including: democracy, human rights, the rule of law, equality of chances, public sector management, tax policy and administration, tackling corruption, empowerment of civil society and local authorities. These areas are also critical to achieve results in a "biodiversity for development" approach.

To improve governance, B4Life will focus on the following areas:

- Promoting good governance and the fight against corruption in rural areas through the empowerment of local stakeholders and the development of innovative partnerships between administrations, civil society organisations, indigenous and local communities, academia and the private sector;
- Enhancing transparency and equity in the redistribution of benefits from natural resources, through balancing national control and enforcement with decentralised governance, which devolves resource rights and promotes community participation.
- Making biodiversity visible in national development planning and budgeting, through the economic valuation of ecosystem services and natural capital accounting. This is also strongly linked with the focal area on Green Economy, for more information see Case study 5 on page 21;
- Reinforcing coordination between the different national and local bodies in charge of protected areas and strengthening capacities towards a long-term management and sustainable financing of protected areas;
- Assisting the development and enforcement of laws and regulations to protect threatened species or habitats at national, regional and global level, taking into consideration international biodiversity-related conventions, and addressing the international and local demand for wildlife products;
- Building capacities and developing accompanying measures to address underlying causes of biodiversity loss, such as harmful subsidies or taxes, trade agreements and foreign direct investment policies.

### How do some subsidies harm biodiversity?

According to the OECD, environmentally harmful subsidies (EHS) include all kinds of financial support and regulations that are put in place to enhance the competitiveness of certain products, processes or regions, and that, together with the prevailing taxation regime, (unintentionally) discriminate against sound environmental practices. Such EHS can be found in a wide range of sectors, such as energy (particularly fossil fuels), food and agriculture, fisheries, infrastructure, transport and waste. Their potentially harmful impacts on biodiversity vary according to the nature of the subsidies and the way they are applied. Addressing them not only helps to minimise their impacts, but can also

- Integrating and promoting principles of good governance in the management and conservation of natural capital.



be beneficial from a short-term economic point of view, particularly where environmental degradation and the over-use of natural resources induced by such subsidies have rebound effects on the economy by changing demand and supply conditions. Through B4Life, the EU could promote cooperation programmes that support beneficiary countries in developing EHS phasing out or phasing down policies and plans.

#### **How can B4Life address biodiversity governance within Trade Agreements?**

The EU has built its wealth for decades on intensive trade relationships with economic partners worldwide. Many of these involve Free Trade Agreements (FTA), which, if not regulated by appropriate safeguards and mitigation measures, can have adverse impacts on biodiversity. The EU has provided specific instruments to address such impacts, such as ex-ante Trade Sustainability Impact Assessments (TSIA) as well as the compulsory

insertion of a Trade and Sustainable Development chapter (TSD) in any relevant trade agreement. A potential field of action for B4Life is to provide technical assistance and capacity building to help developing countries that engage in bilateral trade negotiations to meet such requirements. Likewise, developing countries often lack a system of appropriate safeguards and mitigation measures to minimise the adverse impacts of Foreign Direct Investments on biodiversity. This is another aspect of governance and policy coherence that EU development cooperation may help to address under B4Life.

#### **Corruption and biodiversity**

Corruption, where individuals abuse public office for financial or other private gain, is a worldwide phenomenon, but afflicts some societies more than others. Most alarming, from a biodiversity conservation perspective, is the corruption of government officials who manage and control valuable natural resources, such as timber, oil, wildlife products and precious minerals. Societal issues that promote corruption include weak political institutions, poorly developed checks and balances among different government agencies, and widespread nepotism and political patronage.

Given that many developing nations rely heavily on the exploitation of natural resources for revenue and employment, corruption has a corrosive effect on governments and can seriously impede economic and social development. It is also a threat to sustainable development. It can have a significant impact on nature conservation by promoting overexploitation of forests, wildlife, fisheries and other resources, and by reducing the effectiveness of conservation programmes. Unstable governments are highly vulnerable to the most insidious forms of corruption.



### Case study 1: Sector Budget Support to the National System of Protected Areas in Bolivia – PACSBIO

Bolivia has been a cooperation partner of the EU for many years. Since 2007, most of the EU bilateral cooperation with Bolivia has been channelled through budget support. This relatively new means of providing development aid – developed and promoted by the donor community for the past decade – has proven to be more effective than traditional project or programme-based approaches.

Budget support gives the beneficiary country effective ‘ownership’ of the financial resources provided, whereas the international partner (donor) gains the leverage to ensure that measures have a real, positive impact in the country.

Budget support can be either general – going directly to the national treasury with the government given full discretion to use it for national development priorities – or sector-earmarked. Traditionally, it has been applied to sectors at the core of development concerns, such as

macroeconomic stability, infrastructure, energy, agriculture and education. However, it can also be used to enhance governance related to biodiversity. It has been used in this way in Bolivia since 2012.

The EU has committed EUR 18 million to support Bolivia’s National System of Protected Areas through sector budget support. This provides critical resources to the Bolivian government to consolidate and manage its network of protected areas. It has also helped improve the political dialogue between the government and its international partners, including the EU. It gives the government a strong incentive to take full ownership and upscale its commitment to biodiversity conservation objectives through conditioning the release of donor funds to the compliance of key indicators that associate biodiversity conservation criteria with concerns related to public finance management, national budget allocation and the consolidation of good governance architecture.

After the first year of the PACSBIO programme, an assessment of performance indicators showed a high degree of achievement, reflecting major structural improvements in the government institution responsible for national protected areas. Further progress is expected on integrating subnational protected areas within the national system.

## Case Study 2: Sustainable management of peatland forests in Southeast Asia (SEApeat)

The Sustainable Management of Peatland Forests in Southeast Asia (SEApeat) project aims to reduce deforestation and degradation of peatland forests by strengthening governance at regional, national and local levels. Working in eight ASEAN countries: Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Vietnam, Cambodia, Myanmar, Laos and Thailand, it develops incentives to support integrated peatland forest management in order to sustain local livelihoods, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and conserve biodiversity.

The project has facilitated the development and implementation of National Action Plans for peatlands, and

developed an incentive mechanism that promotes best management practices, provides alternative income-generating activities and prevents fires, through the introduction of controlled burning.

It has helped identify and map significant new peatland areas in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Philippines, and promoted the protection of peatlands for biodiversity, including the designation of U Minh Thuong National Park as an ASEAN Heritage Park. It has developed peatland forest rehabilitation at sites in Malaysia, Philippines and Vietnam; and sustainable livelihood approaches for local communities including farming, ecotourism and forestry.

It has established partnership with the plantation sector to enhance sustainability of palm oil and forest plantations on peat and support fire prevention in adjacent areas. The project also supports the replication of FDRS (Fire Danger Rating System), which has helped authorities to predict and prevent peatland fires.

## 3.2. Ecosystem conservation for food security and sustainable rural development

Pressure on the global food system is increasing. The growing world population, together with changing consumption patterns due to rising incomes in emerging economies, is estimated by the FAO<sup>12</sup> to require a 70 % rise in food production between 2005/07 and 2050, mainly in developing countries<sup>13</sup>. Adding to the pressure on food supplies are issues such as the growth in biofuel production, climate change, soil depletion, air and seawater pollution, uncontrollable expansion of invasive alien species, unsustainable fisheries, ocean acidification, limited and non-renewable phosphorus supplies – phosphorus is an essential plant nutrient used in fertilisers – and water scarcity. Furthermore, increasing food production alone will not ensure global food security; food security also depends on availability and access. Current pressures have already led to higher and more volatile food prices, affecting availability of food for the poor. Access to food thus needs to be improved, including for the most vulnerable. Although largely influenced by trade

circuits, purchasing power and land tenure and rights, the availability of food is fundamentally dependent on healthy ecosystems.

Ecosystem services such as pollination, soil formation, pest and disease regulation, fisheries nurseries, oxygen and nutrient and water cycling are vital for food production. And ecosystem services and biodiversity are closely interlinked: a large number of ecosystem services, with regard to food, depend on biodiversity, in particular organisms such as bacteria, phytoplankton, fungi and earthworms, pollinators and natural pest predators. Numerous studies have shown that there is positive relationship between biodiversity and the functioning of ecosystem services. Both are thus indispensable for food security.

Other benefits of biodiversity and ecosystem services include their ability to improve the resilience of food production systems to the impacts of weather-related disasters. They also provide a safety net in the form of wild animals and plants, minimising the risk of food insecurity during times of bad harvests.

At the same time, the so-called 'Green Revolution', while successful in increasing productivity per unit area by industrially intensifying

<sup>12</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

<sup>13</sup> FAO, Global agriculture towards 2050, How to feed the world 2050 High-Level Expert Forum, Rome 12-13 October 2009 ([http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/wsfs/docs/Issues\\_papers/HLEF2050\\_Global\\_Agriculture.pdf](http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/wsfs/docs/Issues_papers/HLEF2050_Global_Agriculture.pdf))



food production, has had significant negative impacts on the quality and quantity of ecosystem services and biodiversity, and likely negative feedbacks on sustained food production over the long term. The conversion of wild land into cropland led to a loss of natural habitat and biodiversity, which, in the short term could be a 'trade off' between biodiversity and food security. Today, agricultural land, comprising cropland and pasture, covers approximately 40 % of land surface.

It is crucial, therefore, to find ways to increase food production and ensure food security, while minimising the further conversion of wild land into farmland, and using production methods that minimise the negative impacts on biodiversity and ecosystems. In developing countries, a particular focus on smallholder farmers - who produce over 80 % of food consumed - is essential.

Marine ecosystems are also essential for food security. Fish and seafood are the primary source of protein for a large part of the population in many developing countries. Marine ecosystems, in particular in coastal zones which are essential spawning areas, are, however, threatened by human activities such as changed land uses, overfishing and destructive fishing practices, pollution and climate change. The latter is especially affecting coral reefs, which are highly vulnerable to the warmer temperatures and the higher concentration of CO<sub>2</sub> in the oceans.

B4Life aims to promote ecosystem conservation for food security and sustainable rural development through the:

- Promotion of sustainable agricultural practices, such as agroforestry and conservation agriculture;
- Development of environmentally friendly agro-products;
- Promotion of the use of eco-labelling for biodiversity-based food products;
- Promotion of ecosystem restoration of degraded areas;
- Development of measures to prevent, control or eradicate invasive alien species;
- Development of sustainable land-zoning and the promotion of community-based management plans;
- Promotion of integrated coastal zone management through the establishment of marine protected areas and other suitable management and conservation measures.

If they are to belong to the B4Life flagship, such actions need to address biodiversity as principal objective. Projects or programmes that



primarily address food security or agricultural objectives, with biodiversity as a significant component, are considered as mainstreaming actions, in addition to the flagship.

**Agroforestry** is a traditional land use where agricultural crops are grown together with woody perennials (trees, shrubs, palms, bamboos, etc.), in some form of spatial arrangement or temporal sequence. This land-use increases the resilience to climate change, mitigates biodiversity loss and provides opportunities to improve diversification of crops and agro-habitats, thus benefiting rural livelihoods. The increased diversity and availability of products serves both as an important gap-filler when food stocks are low and as a source of income.

**Conservation Agriculture** integrates three principles: minimal soil disturbance through the promotion of no-till farming, permanent soil cover, and diversified crop rotation with more than two species. The objective is to integrate environmental concerns with profitable agriculture to improve farmer livelihoods. Conservation agriculture has been promoted as a way of increasing crop productivity, resilience to drought, soil carbon storage as well as to create habitats more suitable for biodiversity.



**Eco-labelling** is a voluntary method of environmental performance certification aimed at consumers, intended to make it easy to take environmental concerns into account when choosing a product or service. To use an eco-label, the production has to comply with a set of minimum sustainability or environmental requirements. Some eco-labels include requirements for habitat protection where products or services are created. Conservation poses special challenges for certification since ecosystems fluctuate naturally, and field verification of producers' impacts is slow, complex and costly.

**Ecosystem restoration** is the process of assisting the recovery of a terrestrial or aquatic ecosystem that has been degraded, damaged or destroyed. The objective is to increase the sustainability, resilience and health of the ecosystem under current and future conditions, through attempts to re-establish its natural composition, structure, pattern and ecological processes. The EU, together with the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, have committed to restore at least 15 % of degraded ecosystems by 2020, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity conservation and to combating desertification.

**Integrated coastal zone management** is a dynamic process for the sustainable management and use of coastal zones, taking into account the fragility of coastal ecosystems and landscapes, the diversity of activities and uses, their interactions, the maritime orientation of certain activities and uses and their impact on both the marine and land environments. It requires the use of multiple instruments, including a mix of law, economic instruments, voluntary agreements, information provision, technological solutions, research and education.

### Case study 3: Ecosystem Approach to Small Scale Tropical Marine Fisheries

This EU project, implemented by WorldFish Center, aims to investigate the utility of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) as a method for improving fisheries in small-scale tropical marine contexts. The project is being implemented in four countries: Indonesia, the Philippines, Solomon Islands and Tanzania.

In spite of the important role that fisheries play in the national and local economies of many developing countries, the fisheries sector is often poorly planned and regulated, inadequately funded, and neglected by all levels of government, compared to other sectors of the food economy. Overfishing coupled with insufficient management has led to depleted resources and thus reduced benefits. The EAF puts sustainability and equitability at the forefront in an attempt to frame pathways for improved fisheries governance. In each of the four countries, coastal small-scale fisheries are very important for food and nutritional security, but with the current pressure on fisheries from over-harvesting, destructive fishing gear and coastal habitat change (e.g. mangrove cutting), the productivity and resilience of fisheries and marine habitats are declining.

The approach adopted is participatory and gender sensitive. Representatives of all relevant stakeholder groups

are involved at each stage of the project. The EAF manages fisheries in a holistic way, taking account of all stakeholders and aspects within an ecosystem. For instance, it considers all uses of fisheries, all impacts on fish, habitats and people, as well as the social aspects of fisheries, so who participates and who benefits. It also considers non-fisheries issues. This contrasts with the historical approach of managing fisheries by focusing on single species (e.g., particular species of tuna).

The project's objectives are to:

1. Assess the status of the coastal resources and the existing institutional arrangements and understand how an EAF can overcome barriers to effective small-scale fisheries management;
2. Develop EAF strategies and actions for small-scale fisheries management suitable for developing country contexts, and;
3. Strengthen the capacity of local fishery stakeholders and government agencies to collaborate and work within an EAF.

Location: Jor Bay and Gili Matra, Indonesia; Northern Mindanao, the Philippines; Langalanga Lagoon, Solomon Islands; Bagamoyo, Tanzania. Duration: 2012-2015. Partners: Worldfish, Malaysia; Bogor Agricultural University; Research Center for Marine and Fisheries Socio-Economics, Indonesia; South East Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study (SEARCA), the Philippines; University of Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania; University of East Anglia, UK. See: <http://www.worldfishcenter.org/>



## Case study 4: Empowering communities to manage forests and conserve wild coffee resources

Maintaining forests in south-west Ethiopia where Coffee arabica grows wild is a global concern given the diverse gene pool in the forests and the limited genetic diversity of plants used in commercial coffee production. Several attempts at top-down conservation have failed, due to limited state resources and poor relations with communities, and there is growing pressure to convert the forests for agriculture. The challenge is especially important given the potential impacts of climate change on disease and pest threats in coffee plantations and the loss of suitable natural habitats in which wild coffee can grow and evolve.

In an attempt to address the challenges, an EU-funded project started in 2010 to explore how participatory forest management (PFM) – empowering communities to manage forests sustainably – can be applied to help maintain wild coffee forests covering over 20,000 ha, with some 60 communities living in or near the forest and over 300 000 people living in the four districts that contain the forests. The Wild Coffee Conservation by Participatory Forest Management (WCC-PFM) project was developed by the University of Huddersfield, Ethio-Wetlands and Natural Resources Association and Sustainable Livelihood Action (EEIG), which are based in the UK, Ethiopia and the Netherlands.

### New Approach to In Situ Conservation

The project draws on international experience with PFM, which has shown how when local communities gain rights over forest areas and benefit from the sustainable use of resources, they are prepared to organise and develop institutions to take responsibility for maintaining the forest.

In the project, communities at the lowest level – the *gots* – organise themselves into forest management groups for mapping, demarcating and assessing their forest resources. They then, in discussion with the local district agricultural office, develop a forest management plan, which includes aspects of protection, development

and use, especially linked to generating increased livelihood benefits. The government approves the plan, an agreement is signed and the forest is handed to the community, subject to an annual review.

Besides helping set up forest management institutions, the project supports the communities in setting up enterprise cooperatives. These develop the international value chains for marketing forest products, including coffee, honey and spices. At a wider level, the project explores a new form of joint forest management and benefit sharing, with enhanced livelihoods through enterprise development and other incentives, such as carbon payments. The project's experience will have relevance beyond Ethiopia and the conservation of coffee biodiversity.

### Achievements to mid-2014

The project has succeeded in introducing PFM into the four districts covered. Nearly 10 000 hectares of forest have been handed over to the communities to manage, guided by the application of the new regional forest policy, which was developed by an earlier project with the same three partners. A forest management association has been established to coordinate community forest management, while two enterprise cooperatives are marketing forest coffee and honey. Diversification of forest-based enterprises has been explored along with carbon payments related to forest enhancement. Land management regimes are also being developed for the long-term sustainable use of forest and farmland.

### Prospects

The project builds on more than 17 years of forest and landscape work by the three partners in this part of Ethiopia, much of this funded by the EU. It contributes to the development of sustainable natural resource management, including in situ biodiversity conservation, and this is linked to enhanced ecosystem services and livelihood improvement / poverty reduction.

Location: South-west Ethiopia. Duration: 2010-2016. Partners: University of Huddersfield, UK; Ethio-Wetlands and Natural Resources Association, Ethiopia; and Sustainable Livelihood Action (EEIG), the Netherlands. See: [http://wetlandsandforests.hud.ac.uk/forests/wcc/wild\\_coffee\\_index.html](http://wetlandsandforests.hud.ac.uk/forests/wcc/wild_coffee_index.html)

### 3.3. Ecosystem-based solutions towards a green economy

Biodiversity and ecosystem services are at the core of the transition towards a green economy. We rely on ecosystems for goods and services such as clean air, fresh water, food, energy and fibres, all of which contribute to human well-being and are fundamental for economic activity and growth. The (economic) value of these ecosystem services is, however, rarely taken into account when decisions – for instance on building new infrastructure, land-use change or production choices – are made. This has been an important factor in the worldwide degradation of ecosystems and loss of biodiversity.

**Green economy** was one of the two themes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio+20, in June 2012, where it was acknowledged by the international community as being ‘one of the important tools available for achieving sustainable development’. The conference’s outcome document, ‘The Future We Want’, states that the green economy ‘should contribute to eradicating poverty as well as sustained economic growth, enhancing social inclusion, improving human welfare and creating opportunities for employment and decent work for all, while maintaining the healthy functioning of the Earth’s ecosystems’.

The European Union perspective, as stated in the Commission Communication on Rio+20<sup>1</sup>, refers to ‘an economy that can secure growth and development, while at the same time improving human well-being, providing decent jobs, reducing inequalities, tackling poverty and preserving the natural capital upon which we all depend.’

<sup>1</sup> Commission Communication ‘Rio+20: towards the green economy and better governance’ COM (2011) 363 adopted on 20 June 2011

The importance of ecosystem services and biodiversity has been increasingly recognised over the last decade. Studies of the value of ecosystem services and the cost of biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation have become more common, the most important and well-known being The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB). However, there is a need to implement and integrate values of ecosystem services into policies and decision-making at all levels and in all sectors. There is also scope for further research to improve the understanding of complex ecosystems and the valuation methodologies used.

The conservation and sustainable management of ecosystems and biodiversity should not be seen as a cost but as an area of economic opportunity. Well-functioning ecosystems generate economic benefits in the form of goods and services, which in turn increase profits from economic activity while mitigating risks and reducing costs from, for instance, weather-related events. They should be seen as an opportunity to develop new products, technologies and activities, taking advantage of the benefits provided by nature while managing these goods and services sustainably. Integrating the value of ecosystem services along the entire supply chain would allow companies to identify and increase the benefits – such as improved resource efficiency – through better management of ecosystems for production.



B4Life will promote the development of ecosystem-based solutions towards a green economy through:

- Supporting capacity building and private biodiversity-based initiatives and businesses (bio-businesses) including green jobs creation.
- New partnerships with the private sector, including the development of public-private partnerships, for example for the sustainable management of protected areas and to develop ecotourism activities.
- Development of Payment for Ecosystem Services.
- Promotion of ecosystem-based economic development in EU Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs).

**Public Private Partnerships (PPPs)** are designed as mutually beneficial partnerships between the public sector and private companies. Private sector involvement can boost the efficiency and effectiveness of investments, increase a project's economic independence and raise service quality. PPPs may enable projects that otherwise would not be undertaken. Examples of PPPs in the field of biodiversity include the long-term management of protected areas and the development of tourism infrastructure in parks and community projects. The aim is to create jobs, skills and enterprise development and economic growth through conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems.

**Ecotourism** is defined as a 'responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment and improves the well-being of local people' (The International Ecotourism Society). Ecotourism can be an important job-creator in rural areas, and help reduce poverty while offering an alternative to environmentally damaging economic activities. Ecotourism minimises the negative impacts of conventional tourism, usually operating on a smaller and local scale in rural areas, and can thus help safeguard biodiversity and ecosystems in developing countries. In addition, these areas have a high global value for tourists, who travel from all over the world to see the wildlife and nature, which can play an important role as an incentive for conservation.

**Payment for Ecosystems Services (PES)**

is based on the principle that those who provide ecosystem services should be compensated for the cost of doing so by those who benefit from the services. This requires that property rights exist over the ecosystem providing the services. Through PES schemes, incentives are created to manage ecosystems in a more sustainable way and benefit wider society rather than just the owner of the land or ecosystem. PES schemes are often funded by governments and used as policy tools, operating as a financial mechanism for biodiversity conservation and ecosystem service provision. PES schemes may be used, for instance, to control soil erosion, improve water quality, enhance habitats and wildlife, and capture carbon emissions.



## Case study 5: Biodiversity in accounting and planning – BIOFIN, WAVES and TEEB

Historically, the world has failed to take account of the economic value of nature, and the contribution of ecosystem services such as clean water, air, soil fertility, forests, marine resources and natural disaster risk reduction is not reflected in national and local accounts and budgets. However, these and other non-marketed natural goods are estimated to account for between 47 and 89 per cent of the so-called “Gross Domestic Product of the Poor”, the effective GDP or total source of livelihoods of poor, rural and forest-dwelling households in some developing countries. The real costs of depletion or degradation of natural capital are thus felt most keenly at micro-level, particularly by the poor, although they are rarely recorded or brought to the attention of policy-makers.

The EU has called for a wider recognition of the contribution of nature to human livelihoods, health, security and culture. It supports capacity development to enable the integration of pro-poor management of biodiversity and ecosystem services into development policies, plans, programmes and projects. This includes the capacity to create an inventory of biodiversity and to assess the economic value of ecosystems, integrating environmental issues in national planning strategies for poverty reduction and macroeconomic policy instruments, and monitoring progress in turning policies into action. The EU currently supports three complementary initiatives in this area:

- **BioFin – the Biodiversity Finance Initiative**<sup>14</sup> – is coordinated by the United Nations Development Programme and aims to help developing countries assess biodiversity financing needs and address financing gaps. The project has developed a methodology for mainstreaming biodiversity into national development and sectoral planning, and the results will contribute valuable elements to the CBD’s Resource Mobilisation Strategy and to the formulation of the next generation of National Biodiversity Strategies.
- **The Wealth Accounting and the Valuation of Ecosystem Services program (WAVES)**<sup>15</sup> is a global partnership led by the World Bank to promote the

integration of the value of natural resources into national accounts that are used for planning and measuring economic growth. By working with central banks and ministries of finance and planning in several developed and developing countries, including Botswana, Colombia, Costa Rica, Madagascar and the Philippines, the programme aims to enable more informed decision-making to ensure genuine green growth and long-term advances in wealth and human well-being.

- **The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB)**<sup>16</sup> study is a major international research initiative, coordinated by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), on the economic benefits of ecosystems and biodiversity and the growing costs of biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation. It draws together expertise from the fields of science, economics and policy to enable practical actions. The study builds on three core principles: recognising the value in ecosystems, nature and biodiversity; demonstrating the value in economic terms, which is often useful for policy-making; and capturing the value through mechanisms such as incentives and price signals, to integrate it into decision-making.

The TEEB initiative has produced a series of reports to support the integration of biodiversity and ecosystem considerations in policy-making (‘mainstreaming’), drawing on examples from around the world. It gives an overview of options for appraising ecosystem services and a guide on applying the options in local policy settings, including a needs-oriented approach to appraisal. Following the TEEB reports – the first ones were presented at CBD COP10 in 2010 – many governments have shown an interest in building capacity in national, regional and local government to undertake ecosystem and biodiversity valuation studies. The EU is now supporting UNEP with the implementation of national TEEB studies in five developing countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. The project seeks to assist governments in assessing the value of biodiversity and ecosystem services and reflecting these values in their decision-making.

Recently, work has begun on the development of a new TEEB study on agriculture and food, which is to provide an economic evaluation of the ‘ecological/agricultural/food systems’ and identify the negative and positive external effects on ecosystems and ecosystem services. This will allow decision-makers to capture these values in policy processes.

<sup>14</sup> <http://www.biodiversityfinance.net/>

<sup>15</sup> <http://www.wavespartnership.org/en>

<sup>16</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/economics/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/economics/index_en.htm)

## 4. A special window in B4Life: Fighting the Wildlife Crisis





The world is facing an unprecedented wildlife crisis. The challenge, already huge, has seen a dramatic acceleration in recent times. The illegal trade of endangered species has a major impact on biodiversity and represents a real threat to security in some countries and regions. Unprecedented levels of poaching and sophisticated smuggling methods indicate highly organised criminal activity, compromising the security of entire communities.

The crisis is particularly severe in Sub-Saharan Africa, where a growing list of species might face extinction if poaching levels do not decrease, including elephants, rhinos, great apes and lions. The causes are complex and interlinked, combining a context of political instability, weak governance, poverty, corruption and porous international borders with population growth, changing land uses, unsustainable use of natural resources, poaching and climate change causing habitat loss and degradation of ecosystems. Not to forget the high demand for illegal wildlife products in some parts of the world that creates the market in the first place. Both the demand and supply sides need to be addressed in order to attain a sustainable solution.

The crisis is a catastrophe for local communities and the economies of countries dependent on wildlife resources, and could lead to the loss of irreplaceable heritage on a global level. Wildlife crime creates a vicious circle, leading to further poverty, corruption and insecurity.

The recent development of organised wildlife trafficking appears to involve international criminal and possibly terrorist networks, which use the spoils of the trade to finance war and other criminal activities, threatening national security in some countries along the trade routes. They target both animal and plant species, but the greatest threat is the poaching of elephant and rhino ivory and horn. Elephants and rhinos are currently being lost at an unprecedented rate. The population of African forest elephants has declined by 76 % since 2002, and about 50 to 100 African elephants are killed each day. If the current trend continues, wild elephants and rhinos will be entirely wiped out.

The complex nature of the crisis calls for a concerted approach on several fronts: to boost anti-corruption and the rule of law, and combat organised crime; to tackle poverty reduction and foster alternative livelihoods; to regulate and monitor trade; to increase awareness and education, in particular on the demand side – all in addition to measures to support conservation and wildlife protection. Efforts will be

needed at all levels of society – local, national, regional and global – and must address both the supply and demand sides.

International mobilisation is gaining momentum, with several high-level calls for action being made during 2014<sup>17</sup>. In June 2014, Environment Ministers from around the world adopted a Resolution on illegal trade in wildlife at the first ever UN Environment Assembly (UNEA). The Resolution includes commitments for practical steps to end the illegal trade in timber products, rhino horn, tiger parts and elephant tusks that fuels a multi-billion Euro criminal network.

In February 2014 the European Commission adopted a Communication, 'the EU approach against wildlife trafficking', which takes stock of EU involvement in global efforts to combat the problem. It launched a stakeholder consultation and set out the areas on which the EU and its international partners should enhance their efforts:

- Strengthening the enforcement of legal instruments, such as the regulations on wildlife trade, on timber and on illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.
- Investing more in training and capacity building of environmental enforcement practitioners, customs authorities, prosecutors and judges, and securing long-term support of their networks.
- Integrating environmental crime into the fight against organised crime, emphasising detection of illegal financial flows and enhancing cross-border cooperation mechanisms.
- Engaging civil society and taking better advantage of its expertise in activities such as awareness-raising campaigns, investigations into alleged illegal conduct or specialised trainings.

In parallel to this political mobilisation, EU B4Life provides a special Wildlife Crisis Window (WCW) to scale-up support to developing countries in their efforts to combat the illegal wildlife trade, particularly with regard to endangered species, and particularly in Africa.

The WCW will tackle poaching and trafficking at all levels:

- at a local level by securing the creation and management of priority protected areas;

<sup>17</sup> Including the adoption of 3 March as International Wildlife Day by the UN General Assembly.



- at a national level by helping to reinforce the rule of law by tackling corruption and improving enforcement on the ground, for example through the development of efficient patrolling systems in protected areas;
- at a regional level by promoting enforcement networks, improving species monitoring and increasing cooperation and information-sharing across borders;
- at a global level by supporting organisations specialised in the fight against wildlife crime, illegal trade and smuggling.

In order to steer resources as coherently as possible within the WCW, the European Commission has designed a strategy to address the wildlife crisis in Sub-Saharan Africa, identifying

the principle threats and gaps in current measures as well as the most appropriate responses. Innovative approaches will be proposed and successful practices are being up-scaled for wider application. Special attention is being given to rural populations in the vicinity of wildlife-rich areas, aiming to improve their livelihoods and reduce reliance on the unsustainable exploitation of wild resources.

The strategy will be used as a basis to plan EU development cooperation in the near future and foresees activities at all levels, and for the immediate and long term. It will also provide guidance to better coordinate EU programmes with those of other agencies involved in wildlife conservation.

## Case study 6: Minimising the Illegal Killing of Elephants and other Endangered Species - MIKES

This EUR 12 million project builds on the highly successful MIKE Programme (Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants), which has been implemented in African elephant range states by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) with the support of the European Commission from 2001 until the present. The MIKE Programme was designed to generate reliable and impartial data on the status and trends in African elephant populations, illegal killing and the illegal trade in ivory, as a basis for international and range state decision-making and action concerning elephant conservation, according to the mandate established by the CITES Conference of the Parties. Following a recent evaluation of MIKE Phase II, this new project initiative – CITES MIKES – has been developed to build on the lessons learnt from implementing MIKE in Africa and Asia, and specifically to respond to the growing threat to Africa's elephant populations as a result of the escalating international illegal trade in their ivory, as well as similar threats faced by other CITES-listed flagship species.

The MIKE Programme monitoring has documented alarming increases in levels of elephant poaching and highlighted the urgent need for action to reduce the threat to elephant populations across Africa. MIKES will respond to this with an expanded focus to include:

- Other CITES-listed flagship species threatened by international trade;
- Initiatives aimed at minimising the impact of poaching and illegal trade on the target species, in

particular through efforts to strengthen the capacity and capabilities of law enforcement agencies to combat poaching at both site and national levels;

- Piloting of the MIKE Programme's successful adaptive management and monitoring approaches in selected sites in the Caribbean and Pacific regions.

The positive outcomes of the MIKE Programme have been widely acknowledged at the national, regional and international level, notably by the African elephant range states themselves. Commitment to and ownership of the programme by the range states is evidenced by the increasing buy-in to the MIKE systems, which has resulted in ranger-based monitoring being instituted at 58 sites in 30 African countries over the past decade. The monitoring systems implemented are not unique to elephants and can be applied to other key species threatened by illegal trade, such as rhinos and great apes. These systems can inform and catalyse effective law enforcement for the protection of these species. Given the disturbingly high poaching levels being documented, now is a critical time to enhance the effectiveness of enforcement based on sound monitoring data. This is one of the main aspects that the MIKES project proposes to address.

Location: MIKE range states, i.e. Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Togo, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe, and some selected sites from the Caribbean and Pacific Regions.

Duration: 2014-2018

Partners: CITES; UNEP; African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP)

## Case study 7: Improving governance and supporting local communities: Zakouma National Park, Chad

An EU-funded project for Zakouma National Park in Chad aims to support conservation and good governance of natural resources and ecosystems, for the benefit of local development.

The project involves African Parks Network (APN), the Chad Ministry of Agriculture and Environment, Wildlife Conservation Society, Network of Protected Areas of Central Africa and Unesco, which are in the process of setting up the Zakouma National Park foundation.

At the park level, better equipment and a reorganisation of anti-poaching measures will enable a more effective and efficient response to the illegal killing and trade of wildlife, a growing problem that affects a large number of protected areas in the region. The project has also strengthened transport and communication networks, installing radio systems around the park's boundaries and along animal migration corridors, and creating or refurbishing landing strips and vehicle routes around the periphery of the park.

Measures to monitor the park's large fauna include the fitting of 27 GPS tracking collars – on 17 elephants, five hartebeest (a type of African grassland antelope),

four lions and a cheetah. The new GPS system replaces a radio tracking system, and allows elephants to be tracked on a daily basis via the Internet. Beyond Zakouma, APN has attached nine GPS collars to elephants in other parts of Chad to help the authorities monitor and protect elephants as they move around the country.

The park has opened a marketing bureau in the state capital, N'Djamena, to increase its visibility. It has also boosted its web presence. TV reports about Zakouma have been broadcast in national and international media.

Efforts to strengthen relations between the park and local communities have been successful: 13 agreements have been signed with local communities, security forces and the national parks agency. The project has also supported two local health care initiatives – to supply medicines and provide accommodation for the health centre manager – and improved schooling provision in three villages through building a school and providing six teachers, teaching materials and school books.

To help local communities gain benefit from park tourism, women in one village have created three typical dwellings, and tourists can purchase local products at the park entrance in an improved visitor centre. Other tourist infrastructure is also being upgraded: the park maintains 655 km of tracks each year, has improved picnic areas and is offering tourists the option to visit villages and sleep beneath the stars in mobile 'fly camps'.

Duration: 2011-2015



5. What happens next?



The implementation of B4Life will allow for rapid response and maximum flexibility over the programming period 2014-2020. To this end and with the support of the B4Life Facility, it will encompass a variety of management modes and financing instruments based on the needs and the absorption and implementation capacity of recipients. B4Life may use diverse delivery modalities such as budget support, procurement and grants.

In order to enhance coherence and coordination of all biodiversity-specific activities in EU development cooperation, B4Life has a designated Coordination Committee which will meet regularly. This will include a representative from all relevant thematic and geographic departments in EuropeAid, other relevant European Commission directorates-general, as well as the European External Action Service (EEAS). The coordination group will be open to Member States at a later stage, upon their interest to join this flagship initiative.

**A B4Life Facility** will support the implementation of the flagship, providing a management and coordination role and ensuring coherence of biodiversity-related activities. The facility will:

- provide technical support during the whole project cycle with biodiversity being the main objective including biodiversity mainstreaming;
- enhance communication and coordination towards achieving international biodiversity targets and coherence;
- promote knowledge exchange for capacity development of partners and beneficiaries;
- enhance the visibility and coherence of EU development cooperation activities related to biodiversity.

The Facility will, among other things, identify projects, conduct Rio-marking follow-up, support studies and scoping missions, elaborate dissemination tools, organise seminars and meetings, deliver training and develop communication channels to ensure coordination and coherence.

Various initiatives are, on a permanent basis, being developed under B4Life's three priorities and the WCW. Examples of projects currently being developed include the development of a payment for ecosystem services scheme in the Andean region of Latin America; the development of biodiversity-based value chains for commercialisation and promotion of a green economy in Least Developed Countries and Small Island Development States; the sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services through the empowerment of local authorities and civil society organisations in Overseas Countries and Territories.

Types of support potentially available through B4Life:

#### **Funding Instruments**

The European Commission implements several funding instruments for external assistance in the multiyear financing framework 2014-2020. The overall goal of these instruments is the eradication of poverty in partner countries and regions in the context of sustainable development. Based on strategy papers and annual action programmes, but also oriented by Flagship Initiatives such as B4Life, EU funding is delivered through budget support, grants or procurement contracts.

Geographic funding – at national or regional level – is provided by: the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI) for developing countries of Asia and Latin-America; the European Neighbourhood Instruments (ENI) for countries of North-Africa, the Middle East and Eastern Europe; the European Development Fund (EDF) for countries of Sub-Saharan Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific Ocean; the Partnership Instrument (PI) for developing countries with emerging economies.

The non-geographical component of the DCI also provides funding for thematic programmes in specific areas: the Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC) and Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities (CSO-LA) programmes.

**Budget support**

This type of aid involves i) political dialogue, ii) financial transfers to the national treasury account of the partner country, iii) performance assessment and iv) capacity development, based on partnership and mutual accountability.

**Procurement**

The European Commission identifies, and concludes a contract with a suitable contractor to provide defined goods, works or services.

**Grant**

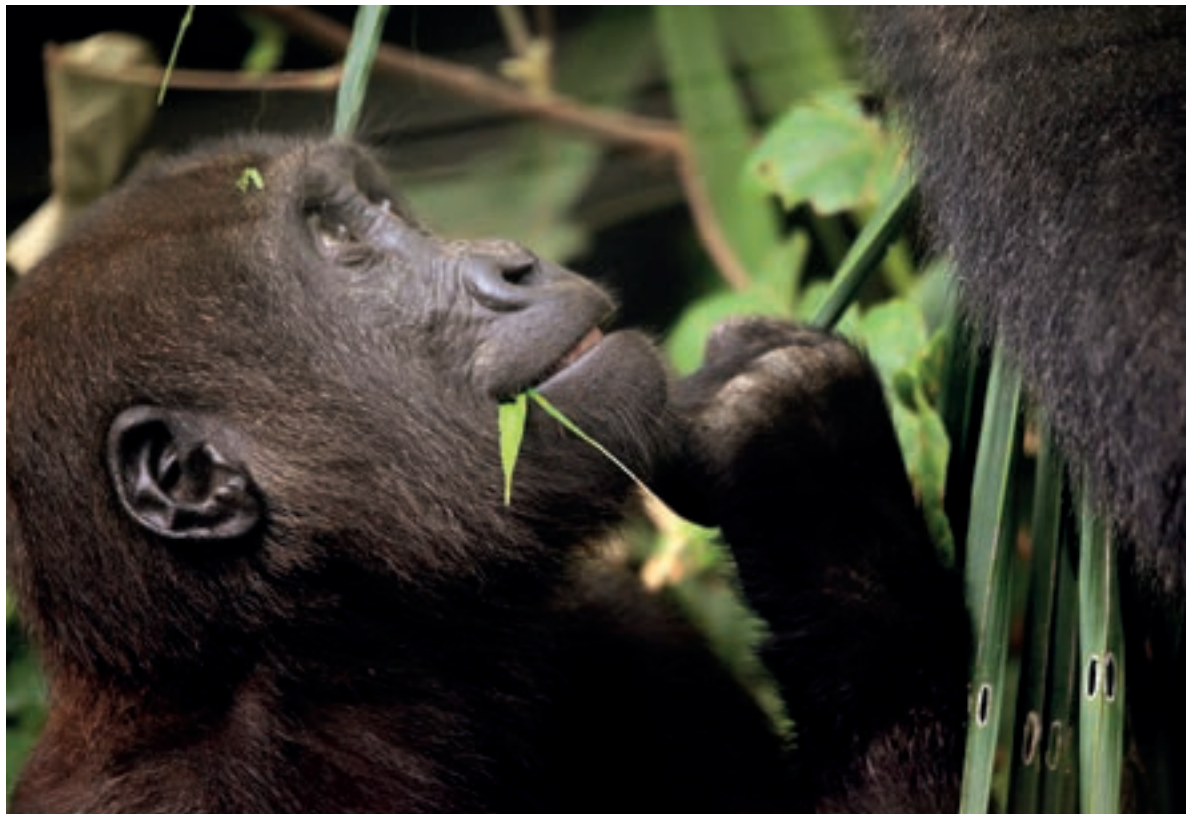
A direct payment of a non-commercial nature by the European Commission to a specific beneficiary in order to implement an operation (or in some cases to finance part of its budget) in order to promote an EU policy aim.

To keep up to date with developments in B4Life, join the capacity4dev group at:

<http://capacity4dev.ec.europa.eu/b4life/>

or contact

[EuropeAid-B4Life@ec.europa.eu](mailto:EuropeAid-B4Life@ec.europa.eu)



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