



## EU Liaison Office *E-Update vol. 7, May 2007*

### Introduction

Welcome to the May update from the IUCN EU Liaison Office (EULO), based at the IUCN Regional Office for Europe in Brussels.

In this edition we look back on the Poverty Reduction and Governance Initiative and review information on the EU Environment LIFE+ budget and the European Parliament's report on 'Halting the Loss of Biodiversity by 2010'.

EULO is also pleased to announce that the proceedings of the 'Biodiversity and Development Cooperation' conference that took place in September last year are now ready and will soon be available online: <http://www.countdown2010.net/paris2006/>

Since our last update, the EULO has two new colleagues:

**Yves De Soye** joined the EULO in April. He will work on climate change and biodiversity in the European overseas territories and is in charge of organising a conference that will take place in Reunion island next year. He holds an MSc in biological science (tropical ecology, ornithology) as well as a Masters in Business Administration. Yves has more than ten years experience in leading and managing species conservation and sustainable development programmes, and has lived and worked on four continents.

**Johanna Donvez** also joined the EULO in April. She is fulfilling an internship within EULO to learn more about IUCN and European Institutions and to complete her last year at the French Institute for Forestry, Agricultural and Environmental Engineering in Paris. She holds an MSc in Agronomy and worked on several development or conservation projects in Europe, New Zealand and Morocco.

### Biodiversity in European Development Cooperation

After the organisation in Paris of the Conference "Biodiversity in European Development Cooperation", the EU Council on General Affairs and External Relations welcomed the Message from Paris and recognised the important link between biodiversity and achieving poverty reduction as well as other MDGs, stressed the need to turn commitments into action and asked the EC and EU Member States to report on the implementation of the recommendations. █



In this context, IUCN ROfE offered to set up, with some major partners, a 5-year global initiative

addressing some of the key issues raised in the Message from Paris and in the EU Council conclusions. The Poverty Reduction and Environmental Governance Initiative (PREGI) will aim to:

- Strengthen civil society and implement capacity building programmes for all relevant stakeholders;
- Include biodiversity and ecosystem services in policy dialogue processes and mainstream biodiversity in national and regional development strategies and plans;
- Include biodiversity and ecosystem services in development cooperation programming;
- Develop and support the use of innovative financial mechanisms;
- Develop a coherent framework and a platform of exchange and dialogue on biodiversity and environment in Overseas Countries and Territories; and
- Better communicate the importance of biodiversity for sustainable development.

The PREGI will be implemented in different phases. We are currently in the preparatory phase. The EU Liaison Office in close collaboration with IUCN Headquarters, Regional Offices and major organisations, is elaborating the content of the Initiative and contacting potential partners and donors. The implementation phase should be approved and financed by major donors in October 2007.

More information available from: [Jean-Claude Jacques](#) and [Catherine Ghyoot](#)

## EU Environment Budget 2007 – 2013 (LIFE+)



The European Parliament has this week in its [Plenary Session](#) approved the conciliation agreement with the Council on the funding arrangements for the EU's environmental policy (LIFE+). The unofficial text of this new LIFE+ Regulation is already available [online](#).

The overall budget foreseen for LIFE+ is just under €1.9 billion for the period 2007-2013. It replaces some existing environmental programmes, including the current LIFE programmes, the Forest Focus and Urban programmes and DG Environment's funding for environmental non-governmental organisations (NGOs). LIFE+ is divided into three strands:

- LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity
- LIFE+ Environment Policy and Governance
- LIFE+ Information and Communication

Some main elements of the LIFE+ Regulation are:

- The programme will be centrally managed by the Commission although Member States can propose national priorities
- The budget has been increased by an extra €40 million
- 78 % of the funding is to be used for projects, 50% of which will be ring-fenced for nature and biodiversity
- 22% will be spent by the Commission on cross-cutting measures for the environment, such as impact assessments, communication and operational grants to NGOs etc
- 15% of the projects should be trans-national in character and promote partnerships
- There will be an indicative allocation of the budget to be spent in each Member State based on certain criteria, such as population size and nature and biodiversity.
- The European Commission has committed to reporting on Natura 2000 financing, in time for a review of the EU Financial Perspectives 2008/2009

The official text (and its translations) are expected to be made public this summer. This means that after the official publication, the Regulation will enter into force and money will become available. The first calls for proposals can be expected in autumn and will be published on the [LIFE+ homepage](#)

For more information, please contact [Anouska Plasmeijer](#)

## EP Resolution on Halting Biodiversity loss by 2010

EULO welcomes the European Parliament's (EP) own initiative report on 'Halting the loss of Biodiversity by 2010' which was adopted at the EP's plenary session last Tuesday, on the [International Day for Biodiversity 2007](#).

By adopting this Resolution, drafted by Member of the European Parliament (MEP) Adamos Adamou (GUE/NGL, CY), the EP acknowledges that biodiversity loss is as important a threat as climate change. The report also states that Natura 2000 must be strengthened not only to safeguard species but also to restore them. Biodiversity considerations must be further integrated into agriculture and fisheries policies and into spatial planning at national, regional and local levels.

The European Parliament's report offers an excellent complement to the Commission's roadmap for halting biodiversity loss. It highlights the fact that we know what needs to be done. What is now needed is greater political will to change policies that help cause biodiversity loss. Member States and the Commission must now act to:

- Fully enforce world leading EU nature conservation laws: the Birds and Habitats Directives, including commitments to complete the designation of Natura 2000 sites and ensure sufficient financing;
- Immediately implement the EU's action plan to halt biodiversity loss, including the commitment to report annually to the Parliament. The Parliament should play a proactive role in this reporting process; and
- Back strong EU action at the 9th Conference of the Parties on the Convention on Biological Diversity which will take place in Germany in May 2008.



For more information contact [Janice Weatherley](#)

Further information:

[Halting the loss of biodiversity by 2010](#)

[Text, as adopted by the EP on 22 May, is available here](#)

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