



Declaration of the ENCORE Regions on Combating Biodiversity Loss 2010

**The European Regions must act together in the fight against
biodiversity loss.**

European Regional members of the ENCORE network declare that the political leaders of all EU countries should support the halting of biodiversity loss across the world, in both developed and developing countries, in this year 2010, the International Year of Biodiversity.

The representatives of the regions of the ENCORE network are aware that human activities have caused and will continue to cause a loss in biodiversity due to, among other things, changes in the land use and soil cover, pollution and degradation of soil, water and air. According to the IPCC-2002 report, the current rate of biodiversity loss is higher than that of natural extinction.

Climate change adds additional pressure and is affecting biodiversity. The increases in atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases since preindustrial times, are due to human activities, particularly the use of fossil fuels and land use change.

Biodiversity is essential for maintaining the conditions for the existence of humans on Earth. All citizens have the right to have a healthy and sustainable environment – this requires the preservation of biodiversity.

Efforts to date, to avoid the loss of biodiversity at global and European level, have been inadequate. Today's biodiversity loss continues to grow at an unacceptable rate with predictable ecological, economic and social consequences.

The recent study on The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) estimated that by 2050 the cost of doing nothing about terrestrial biodiversity loss would amount to about 7% of global consumption. The ENCORE network underlines the importance of this study and the essential work to put a price tag on biodiversity. Halting the loss of biodiversity is an economic, ecological and ethical obligation and is in line with the EC communication about the loss of biodiversity.

We need to act quickly and effectively to avoid going beyond the limits of the nature.

Therefore, the European Regional members of the ENCORE network **believe that**:

- The European Union is obliged to take urgent action to preserve its biodiversity. Furthermore, the European Union has a responsibility to demonstrate the preservation of biodiversity as an important tool to achieve a high level of sustainable economic development and social welfare.
- European regions as a whole, must commit themselves to support global efforts to prevent biodiversity loss.
- European regions are in a privileged position of being able to take forward substantive initiatives to protect and manage biodiversity, largely due to their enhanced proximity to the citizens.
- European regions are responsible for implementing two thirds of EC directives and therefore can proactively promote "bottom-up" policies to improve biodiversity and conservation.

The ENCORE network is committed to working jointly and coordinating efforts to **promote and share experiences** on preventing biodiversity loss, promoting sustainable economic growth of the regions and contributing to the environmental well-being of the planet.

The ENCORE network will continue participating in international fora, strengthening partnerships between regions and **contributing** all of its knowledge and experience in the pursuit of a sustainable and diverse future.

Finally, the ENCORE network wishes to promote the vital role that regional Governments play in the fight against the loss of biodiversity and urges this to be considered during this important International Year of Biodiversity.

**ENCORE Network, 2010, International Year of Biodiversity
ENCORE Conference, Olsztyn, 10th and 11th June 2010.**