

8. Biodiversity [89]

Commitment:

“We endorse the Kobe Call for Action for Biodiversity and reiterate our commitment to increase our efforts to reduce the rate of biodiversity loss significantly in order to achieve the globally agreed 2010 Biodiversity Target, including by reducing threats from the illicit trade in wildlife.”

G8 Leaders Declaration on the Environment and Climate Change

Assessment:

Interim Compliance Score

Country	Lack of Compliance -1	Work in Progress 0	Full Compliance +1
Canada			+1
France			+1
Germany			+1
Italy	-1		
Japan			+1
Russia			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average Score			+0.78

Background:

In the spring of 2002, 188 states party to the Convention on Biological Diversity agreed to “achieve by 2010 a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss.”⁴⁴⁴ This goal has been reiterated several times, and is now integrated into the Millennium Development Goals. International coordination is facilitated by the Countdown 2010 Secretariat, based in Brussels.⁴⁴⁵ While G8 members have been involved in the 2010 initiative in a variety of capacities, the G8 itself did not make a commitment directly related to biodiversity until the Hokkaido-Toyako Summit.

⁴⁴⁴ What is the 2010 biodiversity target? Countdown 2010 Secretariat (Brussels). Date of Access: 13 January 2009. <http://www.countdown2010.net/?id=35>.

⁴⁴⁵ Secretariat, Countdown 2010 (Brussels). Date of Access: 13 January 2009. <http://www.countdown2010.net/europe/secretariat>.

The Kobe Call for Action for Biodiversity was the product of the May 2008 G8 Environment Ministers Meeting.⁴⁴⁶ The Call for Action follows a document from the 2007 environment ministerial, the Potsdam Initiative on Biological Diversity 2010.⁴⁴⁷

The fifth activity under Potsdam concerns illegal trade in wildlife:

“Recognizing the serious threats to biodiversity from the illegal trade in wildlife, we will strengthen our cooperation to combat illegal activities within the framework of CITES and through effective partnerships between governments, international and non-governmental organizations, such as the Coalition Against Wildlife Trafficking.”⁴⁴⁸

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) entered into force in 1975. All G8 member states are party to the Convention, which sets rules and guidelines for international trade in selected vulnerable species.⁴⁴⁹

Commitment Features:

The commitment reiterates an intention to reduce the rate of biodiversity loss. Specific methods for reducing biodiversity loss are not endorsed, but there is an emphasis on reducing the illegal trade in wildlife. Action is not limited to addressing illegal trade in wildlife, however. The commitment calls for cooperation, including “effective partnerships” between governments and other organizations. G8 members have agreed to reduce threats to biodiversity, not just prevent them from escalating.

Scoring:

-1	Member does not create new programs OR implement new policies intended to reduce illegal trade in wildlife. Additionally, member does not cooperate with other governments, non-governmental organizations, or international organizations to reduce biodiversity loss.
0	Member creates new programs OR implements new policies intended to reduce illegal trade in wildlife, OR puts in place effective enforcement measures for existing programs or legislation, OR increases, above inflation, funding to programs intended to reduce illegal trade in wildlife. Alternatively, member cooperates with other governments, non-governmental organizations, or international organizations to reduce

⁴⁴⁶ Biodiversity, Ministry of Environment (Tokyo) 26 May 2008. Date of Access: 13 December 2008. <http://www.env.go.jp/earth/g8/en/meeting/Biodiversity.html>.

⁴⁴⁷ Potsdam Initiative – Biological Diversity 2010, G8 2007 Environment Ministers Meeting (Potsdam) 15-17 March 2007. Date of Access: 13 January 2009. <http://biodiversity-chm.eea.europa.eu/convention/F1125911898/2007-03-18-potsdamer-erklaerung.pdf/download>.

⁴⁴⁸ Potsdam Initiative – Biological Diversity 2010, G8 2007 Environment Ministers Meeting (Potsdam) 15-17 March 2007. Date of Access: 13 January 2009. <http://biodiversity-chm.eea.europa.eu/convention/F1125911898/2007-03-18-potsdamer-erklaerung.pdf/download>.

⁴⁴⁹ List of Contracting Parties, CITES (Vernier). Date of Access: 13 December 2008. <http://www.cites.org/eng/disc/parties/alphabet.shtml>.

	biodiversity loss.
1	Member creates new programs OR implements new policies intended to reduce illegal trade in wildlife, OR puts in place effective enforcement measures for existing programs or legislation, OR increases, above inflation, funding to programs intended to reduce illegal trade in wildlife. Additionally, member cooperates with other governments, non-governmental organizations, or international organizations to reduce biodiversity loss.

Lead Analyst: Shiva Logarajah

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to act on biodiversity loss. The Government of Canada has funded a number of conservation projects, set aside land for protection, and coordinated with other governments and organizations to combat species loss.

On 20 August 2008 Member of Parliament Jim Abbott announced that the Government of Canada would give CAD150,000 over three years to conserve and protect the Columbia Valley wetlands.⁴⁵⁰ The Ramsar Convention of 1971 recognized the area as a wetland of international importance; it will now be the focus of enhanced environmental enforcement as well as funding to promote local preservation efforts.⁴⁵¹

On 13 August 2008 the Government of Canada, in cooperation with the Nature Conservancy of Canada, protected more than 830 acres of land in Deep Cove, Nova Scotia. The area is a wet coastal environment with conifer-dominated mixed forests, bogs, fens, shrub barrens and small lakes.⁴⁵²

On 22 August 2008, then Environment Minister John Baird and Acting President of Nunavut Tunngavik Inc, James Eetoolook, announced the establishment of three new National Wildlife Areas on and around Baffin Island.⁴⁵³ These areas will act as arctic wildlife sanctuaries to reduce biodiversity loss in the region. Protected areas provide key

⁴⁵⁰ Canada to fund Columbia Valley Wetlands, Parks Canada (Kootenay) 20 August 2008. Date of Access: 20 December 2008. http://pc.gc.ca/apps/cp-nr/release_e.asp?id=1248&andor1=nr.

⁴⁵¹ Canada to fund Columbia Valley Wetlands, Parks Canada (Kootenay) 20 August 2008. Date of Access: 20 December 2008. http://pc.gc.ca/apps/cp-nr/release_e.asp?id=1248&andor1=nr.

⁴⁵² Canada to Protect Deep Cove, Nature Conservancy of Canada (Halifax) 13 August 2008. Date of Access: 20 December 2008. http://www.natureconservancy.ca/site/News2?abbr=at_ncc_&page=NewsArticle&id=10269&news_iv_ctrl=1021.

⁴⁵³ Canada's Government Announces Protection for Arctic Wildlife Sanctuaries (Nunavut) 22 August 2008. Date of Access: 20 December 2008. <http://www.ec.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=714D9AAE-1&news=1888CBF6-5A68-40A2-8653-25F4FCF188BE>.

bowhead whale habitats, house significant populations of seabirds, and provide habitat for a number of marine animals including walruses, seals, and polar bears.⁴⁵⁴

On 21 November 2008 Cathy Mcleod, Member of Parliament for Kamloops-Thompson-Cariboo, in cooperation with the Nature Conservancy, announced the successful conservation of 31 square kilometres of land on the Frolek Ranch, in British Columbia's Thompson-Nicola Valley. The area is important because it includes a range of grassland ecosystems that provide habitat for many species at risk including the American Badger and the Burrowing Owl.⁴⁵⁵

On 16 December 2008, Minister Prentice met with other governments and organizations to discuss strengthening implementation of the Species at Risk Act.⁴⁵⁶ In 2009, the Government is planning a Parliamentary review of the Act.⁴⁵⁷

Thus, Canada has been awarded a score of +1 for its efforts to reduce biodiversity loss by establishing new conservation areas and cooperating with other governments and NGOs.

Analyst: Igor Gontcharov

France: +1

France has fully complied with its commitment to act on biodiversity loss. France has made substantial progress implementing policies to support the biodiversity 2010 target.

On 6 October 2008, French Secretary of State of Ecology, Nathalie Kosciusko-Morizet, announced an allocation of EUR7 million between 2009 and 2012 to help develop sustainable management techniques for the protection of southern nations' biodiversity.⁴⁵⁸

⁴⁵⁴ Canada's Government Announces Protection for Arctic Wildlife Sanctuaries (Nunavut) 22 August 2008. Date of Access: 20 December 2008. <http://www.ec.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=714D9AAE-1&news=1888CBF6-5A68-40A2-8653-25F4FCF188BF>.

⁴⁵⁵ Canada's Government Takes Further Action to Protect Important Ranch Lands in British Columbia (Kamloops) 21 November 2008. Date of Access: 20 December 2008. <http://www.ec.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=714D9AAE-1&news=6D6218D4-F6AB-4F28-843D-381A02959222>

⁴⁵⁶ Environment Minister Convenes Promised Polar Bear Roundtable, Environment Canada (Ottawa) 26 November 2008. Date of Access: 20 December 2008. <http://www.ec.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=714D9AAE-1&news=45E4FEB3-A833-4D8F-928A-CE57DB88BFA4>.

⁴⁵⁷ Environment Minister Convenes Promised Polar Bear Roundtable, Environment Canada (Ottawa) 26 November 2008. Date of Access: 20 December 2008. <http://www.ec.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=714D9AAE-1&news=45E4FEB3-A833-4D8F-928A-CE57DB88BFA4>.

⁴⁵⁸ La France s'engage pour la sauvegarde de la biodiversité des pays du Sud, Ministère de l'Ecologie, de l'Energie, du Développement durable et de l'Aménagement du territoire 6 October 2008. Date of Access: 17 December 2008. http://www.environnement.gouv.fr/article.php?id_article=3733&var_recherche=biodiversite.

On 21 October 2008, French deputies of the Assemblée Nationale signed Grenelle 1, an environmental law that sets a ten year plan to limit pesticide use by 50 per cent.⁴⁵⁹ This should help to curtail erosion of biodiversity by water pollution.⁴⁶⁰

On 22 December 2008, French President Nicolas Sarkozy announced the creation of a Franco-Brazilian academic collaboration on biodiversity. According to Minister Pécresse, the university-level partnership will function as incentive for world-class research by providing project grants of EUR500 000 beginning in 2009.⁴⁶¹

On 5-14 October 2008, France attended and contributed to the Nature World Conservation Congress in Barcelona. At the conference, Laurent Stefanini, French ambassador for the environment, formalized the French government's commitment to the 2010 biodiversity target, signing the Countdown 2010 Declaration.⁴⁶² The declaration committed France to: "implement a strategy for biodiversity based on existing frameworks and restoration plans for threatened species; reinforce European policies on invasive alien species and biodiversity conservation in high seas, coastal Mediterranean areas and European overseas entities; and establish a cooperation platform with the private sector on how to reach the 2010 biodiversity target."⁴⁶³

On 10-12 October 2008, French Minister of Education and Research Valérie Pécresse represented the French Republic at the United Nations Environment Programme conference that took place in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The conference permitted the advancement of the creation of an intergovernmental group of biodiversity experts, named the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. Minister Pécresse communicated the necessity for a "mechanism that benefits from all guarantees of independence and transparency," suggesting that the IPBES secretary be "placed under the double auspices of the United Nations and UNESCO." Minister Pécresse also proposed that this secretariat be installed in Paris.⁴⁶⁴

⁴⁵⁹ Que va changer la loi Grenelle 1 ? LeMonde.fr 21 October 2008. Date of Access: 17 December 2008.

<http://abonnes.lemonde.fr/cgi-bin/ACHATS/ARCHIVES/archives.cgi?ID=261baaf77aed54e474baf1fac092b4d4cc0a8394ccc70e9d>.

⁴⁶⁰ Que va changer la loi Grenelle? LeMonde.fr 21 October 2008. Date of Access: 17 December 2008.

<http://abonnes.lemonde.fr/cgi-bin/ACHATS/ARCHIVES/archives.cgi?ID=261baaf77aed54e474baf1fac092b4d4cc0a8394ccc70e9d>.

⁴⁶¹ Partenariat universitaire entre la France et le Brésil, LeMonde.fr 16 November 2008. Date of Access: 17 December 2008. http://abonnes.lemonde.fr/web/recherche_breve/1,13-0,37-1058723,0.html.

⁴⁶² Liberté, égalité, diversité: France joins Countdown 2010, Countdown2010.net 8 October 2008. Date of Access: 18 December 2008. <http://www.countdown2010.net/article/liberte-egalite-diversite-france-joins-countdown-2010>.

⁴⁶³ Liberté, égalité, diversité: France joins Countdown 2010, Countdown2010.net 8 October 2008. Date of Access: 18 December 2008. <http://www.countdown2010.net/article/liberte-egalite-diversite-france-joins-countdown-2010>.

⁴⁶⁴ Consensus sur un forum mondial de la biodiversité, LeMonde.fr 14 November 2008. Date of Access: 17 December 2008. <http://abonnes.lemonde.fr/cgi-bin/ACHATS/ARCHIVES/archives.cgi?ID=15f86027419ff70f3ace6ea73c3a40b550f2226277d6e3d0>.

On 19 October 2008, 'biodiversity and cultural diversity' was set as the theme of the next Francophonie Summit in 2010 in Madagascar.⁴⁶⁵

Thus, France has received a score of +1 for implementation of new policies, and creation and funding of new programs intended to significantly reduce biodiversity loss.

Analyst: Adam Romanov

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to act on biodiversity loss.

In October 2008, the Cabinet adopted the National Strategy for the Sustainable Utilization and Protection of the Marine Environment.⁴⁶⁶ Material on the strategy directly referenced the 2020 biodiversity target. Director General for Nature Conservation Jochen Flasbarth, said that this strategy further demonstrated "the government's commitment to the precautionary principle and the ecosystem approach as basic pillars of Germany's future maritime policy."⁴⁶⁷ On 8 October 2008, the first German fishery was certified as environmentally sustainable by the Marine Stewardship Council.⁴⁶⁸

From 10-12 November 2008, Germany sponsored a meeting in Putrajaya, Malaysia, to discuss the proposed Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). IPBES has been proposed to serve a purpose similar to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Director General Flashbarth, who also holds the presidency of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, said: "We urgently need usable scientific advice for policy-makers that the international community cannot ignore in order to stop the destruction and overexploitation of biological diversity."⁴⁶⁹

On 22 October 2008, the UN Environment Program (UNEP) launched a USD4 million Green Economy Initiative (GEI).⁴⁷⁰ The GEI is funded by the European Commission, Germany and Norway.⁴⁷¹ The initiative builds upon the Economics of Ecosystems and

⁴⁶⁵ Le prochain sommet de la francophonie se tiendra à Madagascar, LeMonde.fr 21 October 2008. Date of Access: 17 December 2008. <http://abonnes.lemonde.fr/cgi-bin/ACHATS/ARCHIVES/archives.cgi?ID=e11ffc89b4849b0083b6d639537bc746862040ba01ea19c6>.

⁴⁶⁶ Working together to protect our marine environment (Berlin) 1 October 2008. Date of Access: 12 December 2008. http://www.bundesregierung.de/nm_6562/Content/EN/Artikel/2008/10/2008-10-01-meeresschutz-strategie_en.html.

⁴⁶⁷ The German contribution to marine nature conservation and fisheries management: future perspectives (Ozeaneum) 3 November, 2008. Date of Access: 12 December 2008. http://www.bmu.de/english/nature/press_statements_speeches/doc/42524.php.

⁴⁶⁸ The German contribution to marine nature conservation and fisheries management: future perspectives (Ozeaneum) 3 November, 2008. Date of Access: 12 December 2008. http://www.bmu.de/english/nature/press_statements_speeches/doc/42524.php.

⁴⁶⁹ First steps towards a Global Biodiversity Council (Berlin) 13 November 2008. Date of Access: 12 December 2008. http://www.bmu.de/english/current_press_releases/pm/42618.php.

⁴⁷⁰ "Global Green New Deal" – Environmentally-Focused Investment Historic Opportunity for 21st Century Prosperity and Job Generation (London/Nairobi) 22 October 2008. Date of Access: 12 December 2008. <http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=548&ArticleID=5957&l=en>.

⁴⁷¹ "Global Green New Deal" – Environmentally-Focused Investment Historic Opportunity for 21st Century Prosperity and Job Generation (London/Nairobi) 22 October 2008. Date of Access: 12 December 2008. <http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=548&ArticleID=5957&l=en>.

Biodiversity (TEEB), which is funded by the European Commission and Germany, and emphasizes the economic implications of ecosystem degradation and biodiversity loss, as well as their link to poverty.⁵

On 3 October 2008, Germany's Federal Minister for the Environment, Sigmar Gabriel, met with United Nations Under-Secretary General and UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner. The leaders discussed the importance of working with the South in order to reverse the rate of loss of biodiversity while generating new, biologically-based products in areas from pharmaceuticals to materials and agriculture.⁴⁷²

Thus, Germany has been awarded a score of +1 for passing its strategy on marine biodiversity and for funding two initiatives to support international cooperation on biodiversity.

Analyst: Sofi Blazeski

Italy: -1

Italy has not complied with its commitment to act on biodiversity loss.

Italy was one of six governments that failed to respond to queries for the mid-term report of the European Commission on the European Union Action Plan to halt the loss of biodiversity, released 16 December 2008.⁴⁷³

The Italian National Report on the Implementation of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands submitted at the 10th Conference of Parties last fall indicates that Italy has taken some action since 2005, designating four new priority wetlands under the Ramsar Convention.⁴⁷⁴ None of these areas were protected in the current compliance cycle, however.

Italy hosted the 9th Meeting of the Parties to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Wildlife Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) at the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization headquarters in Rome, 1-5 December 2008.⁴⁷⁵ Resolutions were adopted to fight disturbances to marine mammals and to limit bycatch in fishing

⁴⁷² German Government Invests \$18 Million to Support Clean Energy and Climate Change Adaptation Unite to Combat Climate Change (Nairobi) 3 October 2008. Date of Access: 11 December 2008.

<http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=548&ArticleID=5935&l=en>.

⁴⁷³ 2010 biodiversity target is a hundred years away, BirdLife International 16 December 2008. Date of Access: 18 December 2008.

http://www.birdlife.org/news/news/2008/12/biodiversity_mid_term_review.html.

Summary of progress in delivery of objectives of EU Biodiversity Action Plan, European Commission 16 December 2008. Date of Access: 18 December 2008.

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/comm2006/pdf/profiles/it.pdf>.

⁴⁷⁴ National Report on the Implementation of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, Ramsar.org 4 November 2008. Date of Access: 17 December 2008. http://www.ramsar.org/cop10/cop10_nr_italy.pdf.

⁴⁷⁵ Press and Media Resources COP9, Convention on Migratory Species 5 December 2008. Date of Access: 17 December 2008. <http://www.cms.int/press/index.htm>.

gear. New protection for sharks, whales and African dogs was also implemented.⁴⁷⁶ Nonetheless, the conference was not hailed as a success by all involved. A press release from UNEP noted that “several countries ... had very strict instructions on finance which meant that the Convention’s plan to improve its capacities had to be scaled down.”⁴⁷⁷

Thus, Italy is awarded a score of -1. Despite some limited engagement with international meetings on biodiversity, Italy has not taken any action to reduce biodiversity loss in this compliance cycle.

Analyst: Adam Romanov

Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to act on biodiversity loss.

On 1 August 2008, Japan’s Ministry of the Environment unveiled plans for the Oyama Kamiike-Shimoike National Wildlife Protection Area and the Oyama Kamiike-Shimoike special protection area within it.⁴⁷⁸ These areas are essential to efforts to increase the population of Japan’s crested Ibis, a bird once thought to be extinct.

On 13 September 2008 Japan chaired the sixteenth Environment Congress for East Asia and the Pacific. The congress focused on biodiversity as its main theme, and promoted active discussion and cooperation between the Asia-Pacific nations to develop a roadmap to 2010 and beyond, including concrete actions for protecting biodiversity.⁴⁷⁹ Furthermore, on 17-19 November 2008 Japan hosted the International Coral Reef Marine Protected Area Network Meeting, which aimed to develop conservation methods for coral reef ecosystems.

From 12-16 September 2008, Japan co-chaired and sponsored the Long Term Ecological Research networks Mongolian conference in support of the Global Biodiversity Network Initiative.⁴⁸⁰ The conference addressed environmental protection, land use and environmental change in Mongolia.⁴⁸¹

⁴⁷⁶ Migratory Species Get Conservation Boost at International Wildlife Conference, UNEP 5 December 2008. Date of Access: 18 December 2008.

http://www.cms.int/press/pressreleases/press_release_CMS_COP9_rev.pdf.

⁴⁷⁷ Migratory Species Get Conservation Boost at International Wildlife Conference, UNEP 5 December 2008. Date of Access: 18 December 2008.

http://www.cms.int/press/pressreleases/press_release_CMS_COP9_rev.pdf.

⁴⁷⁸ Designation of National Wildlife Protection Areas, Ministry of the Environment (Yamagata) 1 August 2008. Date of Access 20 December 2008. <http://www.env.go.jp/en/headline/headline.php?serial=856>.

⁴⁷⁹ Japan Joins Countdown 2010 (Nagoya) 13 September 2008. Date of Access 20 December 2008. <http://cms.iucn.org/where/asia/index.cfm?uNewsID=1536>.

⁴⁸⁰ Ulaanbaatar, Mongolian Conference, Long Term Ecological Research (Ulaanbaatar) 12-16 September 2008. Date of Access 20 December 2008. <http://www.INTERNET.EDU/events/files-for-events-2008/Ulaanbaatarconference2008.pdf/view>.

⁴⁸¹ Ulaanbaatar, Mongolian Conference, Long Term Ecological Research (Ulaanbaatar) 12-16 September 2008. Date of Access 20 December 2008. <http://www.INTERNET.EDU/events/files-for-events-2008/Ulaanbaatarconference2008.pdf/view>.

National, regional and local governments of Japan have pledged to achieve the 2010 Biodiversity Targets. The governments reiterated their support when Minister of the Environment Tetsuo Saito, along with the mayor of the city of Nagoya Mr. Matsubara, and the Aichi Governor Mr. Kamada, signed the Countdown 2010 Declaration in Nagoya City on 13 September 2008.⁴⁸²

Thus, Japan has been awarded a score of +1 for expanding its protected areas and facilitating international dialogue on biodiversity.

Analyst: Igor Gontcharov

Russia: +1

Russia has fully complied with its commitment to act on biodiversity loss.

In August 2008 a new national park, Anyuskii, was established in the Far East, within Siberian tiger habitat.⁴⁸³ In October 2008 the government also established another wildlife preserve, Leopardovii, for the Far East leopard.⁴⁸⁴

On 9 September 2008 at the V Baikal Economic Forum in Irkutsk, the Minister of natural resources and ecology of the Russian Federation, Y. Trutnev, announced that the Ministry had prepared a bill to restrict economic activity in the Baikal natural territory.⁴⁸⁵

On 28 July 2008 the government launched a new fisheries program.⁴⁸⁶ Its aims are to increase fish resources, and to save valuable and rare species of fish.⁴⁸⁷ The project includes measures to prevent illicit trade in fish.⁴⁸⁸

On 29 October-2 November 2008, in the Altai region, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology, as well as regional and international authorities and scientists, discussed the

⁴⁸² Countdown 2010: Nagoya – Aichi – Japan: Biodiversity bridges boundaries (Nagoya) 13 September 2008. Date of Access: 20 December 2008. <http://www.countdown2010.net/article/nagoya-aichi-japan-biodiversity-bridges-boundaries>.

⁴⁸³ Anyuskii national park will get employees and resources, WWF Russia, 29 August 2008. Date of access: 7 December 2008. <http://www.wwf.ru/resources/news/article/4180>.

⁴⁸⁴ Federal wildlife reserve “Leopardovii” was established for the far east leopard protection, Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology of the RF, 30 October 2008. Date of access: 7 December 2008. <http://www.mnr.gov.ru/part/?act=more&id=5269&pid=11>.

⁴⁸⁵ Ministry of natural resources of Russia offers the complex of measures for decrease in emissions volumes into the water and atmosphere, Russian Convention on Biological Diversity web-site, 9 September 2008. Date of access: 7 December 2008. <http://ruschm.org/novosti/minprirody-rossii-predlagaet-kompleks-mer-napravlenykh-na-umenshenie-obemov-sbrosov-zagryaznyayuschih-veschestv-v-vodoemy-i-vybrosov-v-atmosferu-2/>.

⁴⁸⁶ Materials for Government Meeting, Government of the RF, 28 July 2008. Date of access: 7 December 2008. <http://www.government.ru/content/governmentactivity/kzp/5090fed6-c396-4f3a-80f7-362cfe72279f.htm>.

⁴⁸⁷ Materials for Government Meeting, Government of the RF, 28 July 2008. Date of access: 7 December 2008. <http://www.government.ru/content/governmentactivity/kzp/5090fed6-c396-4f3a-80f7-362cfe72279f.htm>.

⁴⁸⁸ Materials for Government Meeting, Government of the RF, 28 July 2008. Date of access: 7 December 2008. <http://www.government.ru/content/governmentactivity/kzp/5090fed6-c396-4f3a-80f7-362cfe72279f.htm>.

possibility of creating Special Protected Natural Areas to preserve biodiversity in the region.⁴⁸⁹

Thus, Russia has been awarded a score of +1. Russia has taken a wide variety of measures on biodiversity.

Analyst: Natalya Churkina

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to act on biodiversity loss.

On 3 December 2008, the UK government announced the drafting of important legislation that would effectively increase the boundary of protection for marine life to 200 miles offshore.⁴⁹⁰

On 23 October 2008, the UK, in conjunction with the United Arab Emirates, put into effect an international agreement that could help save various species of predatory birds native to both countries by protecting their migratory patterns.⁴⁹¹

The UK has continued to provide funding to organisations such as Fauna and Flora International (FFI). On December 7 2008, a critically endangered monkey species was found to be marginally greater in number than was first anticipated. The survival of the species could be secured by FFI.⁴⁹²

Thus, the UK has been awarded a score of +1 for directly funding efforts to stem biodiversity loss, and for cooperating with other governments to do the same.

Analyst: Leroy Massey

United States: +1

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to act on biodiversity loss.

On 3 September 2008, the US State Department began airing a series of Public Service Announcements (PSAs) aimed at raising public awareness that a decrease in demand for

⁴⁸⁹ In Altai-Sayansk region new special protected natural areas will be founded, Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology of the RF, 7 November 2008. Date of access: 7 December 2008.

⁴⁹⁰ Stamping Out Wildlife Crime, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, 13 June 2008. Date of Access: 13 December 2008. <http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/issues/2008/biodiversity-0613.htm>.

⁴⁹¹ Birds of Prey Migratory Routes Protected, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, 23 October 2008. Date of Access: 13 December 2008. <http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/issues/2008/biodiversity-1023.htm>.

⁴⁹² Glimmer of Hope For Rare Monkey, BBC NEWS – Science and Environment. 7 December 2008. Date of Access: 13 December 2008. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/7767360.stm>.

illegally trafficked goods could help endangered species recover.⁴⁹³ These PSAs will be distributed by USA embassies to audiences around the world.⁴⁹⁴

On 27 October 2008, the Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy Colleen P. Graffy held a live web-conference aimed at educating members of foreign diplomatic corps on US-EU cooperation for biodiversity.⁴⁹⁵

On 11 December 2008, Dirk Kempthorne, US Secretary of the Interior, announced that the USA finalized a new law that unifies domestic and international conservation laws to manage polar bears. This law tightens restrictions on the hunting of polar bears, an endangered species, as well on the goods manufactured from their remains.⁴⁹⁶

On 9 October 2008, the US Government reduced the speed at which large commercial vessels may travel in coastal waters populated by right whales, an endangered species, to ten miles an hour. Right whales have been killed by fast-moving vessels traveling through their home waters.⁴⁹⁷

Thus, the USA has been awarded a score of +1 for taking a wide variety of measures to reduce biodiversity loss.

Analyst: Leroy Massey

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to act on biodiversity loss.

On 12 December 2008, the EU announced an additional 769 protected flora and fauna sites have been added to the EU's network of protected natural's areas, Natura 2000.⁴⁹⁸ This is now the largest interconnected network of protected areas in the world, covering 95,522 km².⁴⁹⁹ Most of the new sites come from the newer EU Member States, including

⁴⁹³ Dr. Jane Goodall Films Public Service Announcements (PSAs) to Stop Illegal Trade in Wildlife, U.S. Department of State. 3 December 2008. Date of Access: 13 December 2008.

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/pix/b/sat/111906.htm>.

⁴⁹⁴ Dr. Jane Goodall Films Public Service Announcements (PSAs) to Stop Illegal Trade in Wildlife, U.S. Department of State. 3 December 2008. Date of Access: 13 December 2008.

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/pix/b/sat/111906.htm>.

⁴⁹⁵ Green Diplomacy: Environmental Diplomacy in Europe, U.S. Department of State. Date of Access: 13 December 2008. <http://www.state.gov/p/eur/rls/newsletter/105169.htm>.

⁴⁹⁶ New Rule Unifies Domestic and International Conservation Laws to Manage Polar Bear, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 11 December 2008. Date of Access: 13 December 2008.

<http://www.fws.gov/news/NewsReleases/showNews.cfm?newsId=27A58FDE-922A-2B50-ED394D030EE543BD>.

⁴⁹⁷ U.S Requires Ships to Cut Speeds in Waters used by Right Whales – NYTimes.com. 9 October 2008. Date of Access: 13 December 2008.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/10/us/10whales.html?partner=rssnyt&emc=rss>.

⁴⁹⁸ Environment: Greater protection for Europe's wildlife (Brussels) 12 December 2008. Date of Access: 13 December 2008.

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/08/1956&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>.

⁴⁹⁹ Environment: Greater protection for Europe's wildlife (Brussels) 12 December 2008. Date of Access: 13 December 2008.

Bulgaria, Romania and Poland.⁵⁰⁰ The Natura 2000 network now covers approximately 700,000 km² and includes 27 Member States.⁵⁰¹

The European Commission and the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, along with the support of several other partners joined forces last year to finance a two phase study called The Economics of Ecosystems & Biodiversity (TEEB).⁵⁰² The European Commission will continue to fund the TEEB Phase II and has now requested submission to stakeholders from all sectors, including scientific and research institutions, governments, local authorities and managers of natural resources, the private sector, NGOs, and other experts in Europe and around the world.⁵⁰³

On 14 November 2008, a meeting of EU government agencies discussed the illegal hunting of European wild birds for food in the European Union.⁵⁰⁴ A TRAFFIC brochure, funded by the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, was created to raise the issue of illegal hunting with enforcement authorities in the EU and neighbouring countries but no action has been taken by the EU or neighbouring countries as of yet.⁵⁰⁵

Thus, the EU has been awarded a score of +1 for establishing protected areas, funding measures to study biodiversity loss and its facilitating discussion on biodiversity.

Analyst: Sofi Blazeski

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/08/1956&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>.

⁵⁰⁰ Environment: Greater protection for Europe's wildlife (Brussels) 12 December 2008. Date of Access: 13 December 2008.

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/08/1956&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>.

⁵⁰¹ Environment: Greater protection for Europe's wildlife (Brussels) 12 December 2008. Date of Access: 13 December 2008.

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/08/1956&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>.

⁵⁰² The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity. 1 October 2008. Date of Access: 12 December 2008.

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/economics/index_en.htm.

⁵⁰³ The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity. 1 October 2008. Date of Access: 12 December 2008.

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/economics/index_en.htm.

⁵⁰⁴ Illegal trade in wild birds highlighted at EU wildlife trade meeting (Brussels) 14 November 2008. Date of Access: 13 December 2008. <http://www.traffic.org/home/2008/11/14/illegal-trade-in-wild-birds-highlighted-at-eu-wildlife-trade.html?printerFriendly=true>.

⁵⁰⁵ Illegal trade in wild birds highlighted at EU wildlife trade meeting (Brussels) 14 November 2008. Date of Access: 13 December 2008.

http://www.wwf.org.uk/what_we_do/press_centre/index.cfm?uNewsID=2367.