

8. Biodiversity [81]

Commitment

“We will reinforce our efforts to meet the 2010 Biodiversity Target to significantly reduce the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national level.

G8 Leaders Declaration on the Climate Change and Environment

Assessment

Country	Lack of Compliance	Work in Progress	Full Compliance
Canada			+1
France			+1
Germany		0	
Italy		0	
Japan			+1
Russia			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States		0	
European Union		0	
Average Score			+0.55

Background

In 2002, all parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity agreed to “achieve by 2010 a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss” at the regional, national and international levels (the 2010 Biodiversity Target)⁵⁴⁰. The Convention on Biological Diversity entered into force on 29 December 1993 and now has 192 parties⁵⁴¹. Consequently, the Target was endorsed by the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the United Nations General Assembly, and it was also incorporated into the Millennium Development Goals in 2006⁵⁴². Moreover, the United Nations pronounced the year 2010 the International Year for Biological Diversity⁵⁴³.

The Potsdam Initiative - Biological Diversity 2010 was agreed upon at a 2007 G8 Environment Ministers Meeting in Potsdam, 15 – 17 March, 2009. Some of the topics discussed here were the possibility of establishing a Global Species Information System, cooperation in battling illegal trade in wildlife, battling alien species, addressing species loss in the high seas, and considering how biodiversity will be affected by climate policies⁵⁴⁴. Germany suggested a study of the economic impact of biodiversity and

⁵⁴⁰ 2010 Biodiversity Target, Convention on Biological Diversity 28 October 2009. Date of Access: 31 October 2009. www.cbd.int/2010-target/

⁵⁴¹ List of Parties, Convention on Biological Diversity. Date of Access: 2 November 2009. www.cbd.int/convention/parties/list/

⁵⁴² 2010 Biodiversity Target, Convention on Biological Diversity 28 October 2009. Date of Access: 31 October 2009. www.cbd.int/2010-target/

⁵⁴³ The 2010 Biodiversity Target, Countdown 2010. Date of Access: 31 October 2009. www.countdown2010.net/biodiversity/the-2010-biodiversity-target

⁵⁴⁴ The 2007 Potsdam Initiative on Biodiversity by G8, European Community Biodiversity Clearing House Mechanism, 21 October 2009. Date of Access: 3 November 2009. biodiversity-chm.eea.europa.eu/convention/F1125911898/2007-03-18-potsdam-erklaerung.pdf Postdam Initiative – Biological Diversity 2010, G8 2007 Environment Ministers Meeting (Potsdam) 15-

ecosystem loss, which has been endorsed by the G8+5 at the Heiligendamm Summit in 2007⁵⁴⁵. It is now called “The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity”, and its goal is to “initiate the process of analyzing the global economic benefit of biological diversity, the costs of the loss of biodiversity and the failure to take protective measures versus the costs of effective conservation”⁵⁴⁶. In 2008, the “Kobe Call for Action for Biodiversity” was adopted by the G8 Environment Ministers. It urges countries to follow the 10 activities recommended in the “Potsdam Initiative - Biological Diversity 2010”⁵⁴⁷.

In April 2009, the Ministers for the Environment of the G8 and 11 other countries adopted the “Carta di Siracusa”⁵⁴⁸. They call for synergies of policies to protect biodiversity and those to prevent climate change. They also call for a strengthening of the economic incentives in preserving wildlife, for effective communication of different sectors and levels of government to achieve this goal, and for a reform of environmental governance “at all levels”⁵⁴⁹.

Commitment Features

Essentially this commitment can be seen as members of the G8 reaffirming a commitment that they have been making since 2007. ‘Reinforce’ can thus be taken to mean a commitment to keep in place current programs and to add additional programs that will reduce the rates of biodiversity loss. Since this is a commitment to an international target, compliance will be scaled to note the different levels of commitments a member can take to specifically reduce the rate of biodiversity loss and full compliance will entail members forging both domestic and international partnerships to reduce the rate of biodiversity loss.

17 March 2007. Date of Access: 31 October, 2009. biodiversitychm.

eea.europa.eu/convention/F1125911898/2007-03-18-potsdamer-erklaerung.pdf/download.

⁵⁴⁵ The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity, 8 September 2009. Date of Access: 2 November 2009. ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/economics/index_en.htm

⁵⁴⁶ The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity, 8 September 2009. Date of Access: 2 November 2009. ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/economics/index_en.htm

⁵⁴⁷ www.countdown2010.net/biodiversity/the-2010-biodiversity-target

⁵⁴⁸ Biodiversity Elevated to the Top of the G8 Environmental Dialogue, Convention on Biological Diversity (Montreal). Date of Access: 31 October 2009. www.cbd.int/doc/press/2009/pr-2009-04-23-g8-en.pdf accessed 31 October 2009.

⁵⁴⁹ Biodiversity Elevated to the Top of the G8 Environmental Dialogue, Convention on Biological Diversity (Montreal). Date of Access: 31 October 2009. www.cbd.int/doc/press/2009/pr-2009-04-23-g8-en.pdf accessed 31 October 2009.

Scoring

-1	Member DOES NOT implement additional measures OR fund new programs to reduce the rate of biodiversity loss on a national level OR on a regional level OR on an international level OR retracts previous commitments that reduce the rate of biodiversity. Additionally, does not cooperate with other governments, non-governmental organizations, or international organizations to reduce biodiversity loss.
0	Member takes additional measures OR funds new programs to reduce the rate of biodiversity loss on the national level OR on a regional level OR on an international level. Additionally, member cooperates with other governments, non-governmental organizations, or international organizations to reduce biodiversity loss.
1	Member takes additional measures OR funds new programs to reduce the rate of biodiversity loss on a national level AND on a regional level AND on an international level. Additionally, member cooperates with other governments, non-governmental organizations, or international organizations to reduce biodiversity loss.

Lead Analyst: Olga Tonkonojenkova

Canada: +1

Canada has partially complied with its commitment to reduce its current rate of biodiversity loss. Canada has funded new conservation efforts to protect sensitive Canadian ecosystems and species at risk.

On 10 December 2009, Environment Minister Jim Prentice announced an investment worth CAD194,000 for shore restoration and wildlife protection in the Îles-de-la-Paix Archipelago. The Archipelago is a national wildlife area and is inhabited by sensitive wildlife and plant species.⁵⁵⁰

On 2 December 2009, Canada signed onto the Jakarta Charter on Business and Biodiversity, which aimed to better coordinate state and business activities to promote biodiversity. The Charter was the outcome of the Third Business and 2010 Biodiversity Challenge Conference held in Jakarta, Indonesia from 30 November to 2 December 2009 and was convened by the Convention on Biological Diversity.⁵⁵¹

On 16 July 2009, Member of Parliament Gord Brown, together with the representatives from the Canadian Biosphere Reserve Association and the Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve, announced a contribution of CAD5 million over five years to support 14

⁵⁵⁰ Government of Canada invests \$194,000 for Shore Protection and Wildlife Habitat Restoration in the Îles-de-la-Paix Archipelago, Environment Canada (Ottawa) 10 January 2010. Date of Access: 12 January 2010. www.ec.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=714D9AAE-1&news=699D7A26-4AD1-4CB4-949D-53A678F224BB.

⁵⁵¹ Third Business and the 2010 Biodiversity Challenge Conference, Convention on Biological Diversity (Jakarta) 2nd December 2009. Date of Access: 4th December 2009. www.cbd.int/business3/.

biosphere reserves across Canada and the Canadian Biosphere Reserve Association.⁵⁵² These reserves are designated by UNESCO. This monetary injection will contribute to natural conservation, sustainable development, and capacity building. It will also help spread awareness of the Biosphere Reserve Association among Canadians.⁵⁵³

On 8 November 2009, at the international World Wildlife Congress in Merida, Mexico, Environment Minister Jim Prentice announced a Memorandum of Understanding with the United States and Mexico. This is the first intergovernmental agreement on wilderness preservation in the world.⁵⁵⁴ It commits the three countries to cooperate on wilderness conservation across North America.⁵⁵⁵

On 30 October 2009, Environment Minister Jim Prentice signed the first ever Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Nunavut's Environment Minister Daniel Shewchuk and Greenland's Minister of Fisheries, Hunting and Agriculture, Ane Hansen, to ensure the protection of shared polar bear populations.⁵⁵⁶ The MOU proposes a joint commission that would include representatives from Canadian Inuit organizations and would be used to establish the allowable harvest size for polar bears as well as to coordinate traditional knowledge, science, and management and outreach activities.

From 14-15 September 2009, Canada participated in a two day conference in Montreal to discuss a framework of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Business and Biodiversity on engagement with the private sector. Representatives from business, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and international organizations were present at the meeting as well.⁵⁵⁷

Because Canada has taken additional measures to reduce the rate of biodiversity loss at the national, regional and international levels Canada receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Igor Gontcharov

France: +1

⁵⁵² Government of Canada Invests in Canadian Biosphere Reserve, Environment Canada (Ottawa) 16 July 2009. Date of Access: 16 November 2009. www.ec.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=714D9AAE-1&news=705216D2-C028-439D-B126-A8E6F8E8919C.

⁵⁵³ Government of Canada Invests in Canadian Biosphere Reserve, Environment Canada (Ottawa) 16 July 2009. Date of Access: 16 November 2009. www.ec.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=714D9AAE-1&news=705216D2-C028-439D-B126-A8E6F8E8919C.

⁵⁵⁴ World Wilderness Congress (WILD9) [Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation for Wilderness Conservation], Parks Canada (Ottawa) 30 November 2009. Date of Access: 16 December 2009. www.pc.gc.ca/apps/cp-nr/release_e.asp?bgid=1240&andorl=bg.

⁵⁵⁵ Canada Signs Historic Agreement on Wilderness Protection with the U.S.S. and Mexico, Parks Canada (Ottawa) 8 November 2009. Date of Access: 17 November 2009. www.pc.gc.ca/apps/cp-nr/release_e.asp?id=1452&andorl=nr.

⁵⁵⁶ Canada Takes Another Major Step Forward on Polar Bear Conservation, Environment Canada (Ottawa) 30 October 2009. Date of Access: 16 November 2009. www.ec.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=714D9AAE-1&news=CB28FD19-07D9-446E-8DD9-899E38E8F5C5.

⁵⁵⁷ Brainstorming Session on Business and Biodiversity, Convention on Biological Diversity (Montreal) 16 September 2009. Date of Access: 1 December 2009. www.cbd.int/doc/press/2009/pr-2009-09-16-business-en.pdf.

France has fully complied with its commitments to act on biodiversity loss. France has worked with a variety of actors on the national, regional and international levels to help reduce the rate of biodiversity loss.

On 18 September 2009, the Government of France and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) signed an agreement to support sustainable management of biodiversity.⁵⁵⁸ The agreement pledges EUR8 million over four years to support a variety of biodiversity conservation projects established in 2009 in Africa, the Mediterranean and some of the overseas EU areas.

In October 2009, the French Senate passed into law the Grenelle II Environment action plan after rigorous debate.⁵⁵⁹ Among other measures, the law set up a steering committee to help implement a national biodiversity strategy.

On 16 December 2009 with several African presidents to discuss measures to prevent the deforestation of the Congo basin,⁵⁶⁰ and was also planning to discuss the issue of deforestation with the President of Indonesia⁵⁶¹.

Thus, for its work with other governments, non-governmental organizations and local partners on the national, regional, and international levels to reduce the rate of biodiversity loss, France has been awarded a +1.

Analyst: Igor Gontcharov

Germany: 0

Germany has partially complied with its commitment to reinforce efforts to reduce the rate of biodiversity loss at the international level. Germany has supported initiatives to reduce the rate of biodiversity loss through initiatives and partnerships with a variety of institutions

On 2 December 2009, Germany signed onto the Jakarta Charter on Business and Biodiversity, which aimed to better coordinate state and business activities to promote biodiversity. The Charter was the outcome of the Third Business and 2010 Biodiversity Challenge Conference held in Jakarta, Indonesia and was convened by the Convention on Biological Diversity.⁵⁶²

⁵⁵⁸ The French Government Signs an Agreement with the IUCN on Biodiversity Conservation and Bushmeat Monitoring, International Union for Conservation of Nature (Paris) 18 September 2009. Date of Access: 18 November 2009. www.traffic.org/home/2009/9/18/french-government-supports-bushmeat-monitoring-in-central-af.html.

⁵⁵⁹ Le Sénat Adopte le Projet de Loi Grenelle 2, Le Grenelle Environnement (Paris) 8 October 2009. Date of Access : 29 November 2009. www.legrenelle-environnement.fr/spip.php?article1307.

⁵⁶⁰ Communiqué annonçant la rencontre avec les représentants des pays de la Commission des Forêts d'Afrique Centrale (COMIFAC), Présidence de la République (Paris) 15 December 2009. Date of Access: 15 December 2009. www.elysee.fr/documents/index.php?lang=fr&mode=view&cat_id=8&press_id=3197.

⁵⁶¹ Rencontre avec M. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, Président de la République d'Indonésie, Présidence de la République (Paris) 13 December 2009. Date of Access: 15 December 2009. www.elysee.fr/documents/index.php?lang=fr&mode=view&cat_id=8&press_id=3185.

⁵⁶² Third Business and the 2010 Biodiversity Challenge Conference, Convention on Biological Diversity (Jakarta) 2nd December 2009. Date of Access: 4th December 2009. www.cbd.int/business3/.

From 14 - 15 September 2009, Nicola Breir, the representative of the German presidency, chaired a meeting in Montreal to discuss a framework of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Business and Biodiversity on engagement with the private sector.⁵⁶³ The two-day informal brainstorming session on business and biodiversity recognized the economic values of biodiversity and ecosystems services in preparation for the “Third Business and 2010 Biodiversity Challenge Conference” in Jakarta, Indonesia from 30 November to 3 December 2009.⁵⁶⁴ In addition to this, representatives from businesses, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and international organizations were present during the second day of the brainstorming session.

On 21 September 2009, Ilse Aigner, Federal Minister of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection, called for the fishing industry to be placed on a more environmentally sound footing in order to manage fish stocks sustainably.⁵⁶⁵

On 13 November 2009 Ursula Heinen-Esser, Parliamentary State Secretary at the Federal Environment Ministry, stated her support for the latest report of the study The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) study. The report stressed the importance of government efforts to honor the services and goods nature provides for society, the importance of giving the issue of biodiversity the appropriate priority, and the need for financial incentives for biodiversity and ecosystem protection.⁵⁶⁶

Germany has undertaken initiatives at mostly the international level to reduce the rate of biodiversity loss. While it has suggested it may take some action at the domestic level, it has yet to follow up on these suggestions. As well, it has not taken any action on the regional front. Thus, it has been awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Alexandra Sewell

Italy: 0

Italy has partially complied with its commitment to act on biodiversity loss by acting on the national and regional level, but not the regional level

On 25 - 27 September 2009, The Italian Association for Biodiversity and Conservation (ABC) presented a collection of rare and threatened plants in an exhibit funded by the Ministry of Agriculture. The exhibition was displayed in several Italian cities during in an

⁵⁶³ Brainstorming Session on Business and Biodiversity, Convention on Biological Diversity (Montreal) 16 September 2009. Date of Access: 1 December 2009. www.cbd.int/doc/press/2009/pr-2009-09-16-business-en.pdf.

⁵⁶⁴ Brainstorming Session on Business and Biodiversity, Convention on Biological Diversity (Montreal) 16 September 2009. Date of Access: 1 December 2009. www.cbd.int/doc/press/2009/pr-2009-09-16-business-en.pdf.

⁵⁶⁵ Protecting Fish Stocks, The Press and Information Office of the Federal Government (Berlin) 21 September 2009. Date of Access: 2 November 2009. www.bundesregierung.de/nn_919412/Content/EN/Artikel/2009/09/2009-09-21-aginer-fischkonferenz_en.html.

⁵⁶⁶ Ursula Heinen-Esser: Investments in Ecosystems Pay Off, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 13 November 2009. Date of Access: 29 November 2009. www.bmu.de/english/current_press_releases/pm/45220.php.

attempt to educate the public on the dangers of the loss of plant biodiversity and illegal plant harvesting.⁵⁶⁷

In addition to this, the Under the LIFE+208 initiative, the European Union funded 40 projects proposed by Italy. Some of those deal with the conservation of species and habitats listed in the Birds and Habitats Directives and with preventing biodiversity loss in Italy.⁵⁶⁸

Despite efforts to increase awareness of the dangers of biodiversity loss on the national and regional level, Italy has not engaged on the international and thus it has been awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Kimberly Innes

Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to reinforce efforts to reduce the rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional, and national levels. The Ministry of the Environment of Japan (MOE) has facilitated international cooperation through the “Kobe Call for Action for Biodiversity”, and reinforced efforts at the national and regional levels through increased transparency and encouragement of biodiversity protection.

From December 15-17, 2009, The MOE and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity co-hosted the “Regional Workshop for East, South and Southeast Asia on Updating the Strategic Plan of the Convention on Biological Diversity for the post-2010 period.”⁵⁶⁹

On December 4 2009, The MOE held an international meeting to promote biodiversity for the Asia-Pacific region. The Ministry stated the official purpose of the meeting was “to review the existing biodiversity observation activities and to promote those networking in Asia-Pacific region among researchers and relevant organizations, in order to achieve a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss.”⁵⁷⁰

On 2 December 2009, Japan signed onto the Jakarta Charter on Business and Biodiversity, which aimed to better coordinate state and business activities to promote

⁵⁶⁷ Endangered Succulent Plants on Display, International Union for Conservation of Nature (), 16 September 2009. Date of Access: 16 November 2009.

www.countdown2010.net/article/endangered-succulent-plants-on-display.

⁵⁶⁸ Forty Italian Projects Funded Under the LIFE + 2008, Ministry of the Environment , Ministry of the Environment (Rome), 20 November 2009. Date of Access: 15 December 2009.

translate.google.ca/translate?hl=en&sl=it&u=www.minambiente.it/&ei=lfonS5ORH9XAIAe7qomUDQ&a=X&oi=translate&ct=result&resnum=2&ved=0CBAQ7gEwAQ&prev=/search%3Fq%3Ditaly%2Bministry%2Bof%2Bthe%2Benvironment%26hl%3Den.

⁵⁶⁹ Regional Workshop for East, South and Southeast Asia on Updating the Strategic Plan of the Convention on Biological Diversity for Post-2010 Period, Ministry of the Environment (Tokyo) 10 December 2009. Date of Access: 14 December 2009.

www.env.go.jp/en/headline/headline.php?serial=1209.

⁵⁷⁰ International Meeting for Promoting Asia-Pacific Biodiversity Observation Network (AP-BON), Ministry of the Environment Government of Japan (Tokyo) 26 November 2009. Date of Access: 14 December 2009. www.env.go.jp/en/headline/headline.php?serial=1187.

biodiversity. The Charter was the outcome of the Third Business and 2010 Biodiversity Challenge Conference held in Jakarta, Indonesia from 30 November to 2 December 2009 and was convened by the Convention on Biological Diversity.⁵⁷¹

From 15 to 16 October 2009, The MOE hosted the “Kobe Biodiversity Dialogue 2009.”⁵⁷² Japan committed herself to organizing such a forum when the Kobe Call for Action was adopted in 2008 by the G8+5 Environment Ministers Meeting. The Kobe Biodiversity Dialogue in Japan aimed at facilitating key biodiversity-related discussions in preparation for the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to be held in Nagoya, Japan in October 2010.⁵⁷³ This meeting stressed the importance of integrating consciousness of biodiversity into business, addressing climate change, enhancing the conservation of marine ecosystems, and using ecosystem services in a sustainable manner.⁵⁷⁴

On 13 November 2009, over 200 participants attended a conference on biodiversity management for local authorities in Nagoya. Out of these participants, about 100 were representatives from Japanese local governments. In

On 20 August 2009, The Ministry of the Environment issued the “Guidelines for Private Sector Engagement in Biodiversity”, which provide guidance for voluntary actions taken towards the conservation of biodiversity and its sustainable use by the private sector.⁵⁷⁵ Thus, Japan has been awarded a score of +1 for reinforcing efforts to reduce the rate of biodiversity loss at the international, regional, and national levels.

Analyst: Alexandra Sewell

Russia: +1

Russia has fully complied with the commitment to reduce the rate of biodiversity loss.

On 2 December 2009, acting head of the International Cooperation department of the Russian Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology Vladimir Ivlev held a meeting with the head of the Federal Environment Agency of Germany Beate Essel. During this meeting they discussed results and prospects of bilateral cooperation in the field of environmental protection. They also set mutual objectives to carry out joint projects in the field of environmental protection and conservation of biodiversity. *Moreover, the*

⁵⁷¹ Third Business and the 2010 Biodiversity Challenge Conference, Convention on Biological Diversity (Jakarta) 2 December 2009. Date of Access: 4 December 2009. www.cbd.int/business3/.

⁵⁷² Japan Hosts International Multi-stakeholder Dialogue for COP 10, Convention on Biological Diversity (Kobe) 16 October 2009. Date of Access: 2 December 2009. www.cbd.int/doc/press/2009/pr-2009-10-16-kobe-en.pdf.

⁵⁷³ Japan Hosts International Multi-stakeholder Dialogue for COP 10, Convention on Biological Diversity (Kobe) 16 October 2009. Date of Access: 2 December 2009. www.cbd.int/doc/press/2009/pr-2009-10-16-kobe-en.pdf. Date of Access: 2 December 2009.

⁵⁷⁴ Japan Hosts International Multi-stakeholder Dialogue for COP 10, Convention on Biological Diversity (Kobe) 16 October 2009. Date of Access: 2 December 2009. www.cbd.int/doc/press/2009/pr-2009-10-16-kobe-en.pdf. Date of Access: 2 December 2009.

⁵⁷⁵ “Guidelines for Private Sector Engagement in Biodiversity,” Ministry of the Environment Government of Japan (Tokyo) 20 August 2009. Date of Access: 29 November 2009. www.env.go.jp/en/headline/headline.php?serial=1106.

parties emphasized that several working meetings, joint research work, scientific events, exchanges of specialists, advanced training of staff, and transmission of scientific and technical information (including exchange of results of scientific research) were planned.⁵⁷⁶

On 17 November 2009, a meeting of Amur Oblast authorities and Heyhe (China) authorities took place in order to exchange their experience in the sphere of conservation of biodiversity of border territories. The participants agreed a plan to found jointly protected special natural areas on the banks of the Amur.⁵⁷⁷

On 5 November 2009 the Baltic Sea action plan for the year of 2009 was approved by the Russian Government.⁵⁷⁸

On 29 October 2009, in Vladivostok, an agreement on cooperation was signed in the sphere of Amur Tigers and Far Eastern Leopards preservation between the Forestry Department of Jilin Province and Primorskiy Kray administration of hunting inspection together with the administration of Federal Service for Supervision of Natural Resource Usage of Primorskiy Kray.⁵⁷⁹

In September 2009, a plan to create a new special protected natural area in the Muezersky region of Karelia was announced. This area called Vottovaara mountain represents a highly valuable cultural and nature object.⁵⁸⁰

On 22 September 2009, several leopards were moved into Sochi National Park as part of a species reintroduction programme implemented by the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) and the Russian Government. This project is financed within the Environment Program for Sochi 2014.⁵⁸¹

Russia has undertaken a wide variety of measures on biodiversity protection at the national, regional and international levels and cooperates with external partners on this issue. Thus Russia has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Darya Frolova

⁵⁷⁶ Acting head of the International Cooperation department of the Russian Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology Vladimir Ivlev held a meeting with the head of the Federal Environment Agency of Germany Beate Essel, The Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation 2 December 2009. Date of access: 4 December 2009. www.mnr.gov.ru/part/?act=more&id=6509&pid=11.

⁵⁷⁷ Priamurie's authorities and Heyhe's (China) authorities have discussed a possibility to create jointly protected special natural areas. REGNUM Information Agency 17 November 2009. Date of Access: 4 December 2009. www.regnum.ru/news/1225682.html.

⁵⁷⁸ Government Order No. 1640-p of 5 November 2009. The Government of the Russian Federation 5 November 2009. Date of Access: 16 February 2010. government.consultant.ru/doc.asp?ID=55361

⁵⁷⁹ Experts call for urgent action to save tigers. Wild Life.by 30 October 2009. Date of Access: 5 December 2009. wildlife.by/index.php/world-news/1078-news-4-30-10-2009.

⁵⁸⁰ A new special protected natural area will be created in the Muezersky region of Karelia, The Centre of Nature Protection 24 September 2009. Date of access: 3 December 2009. oopt.info/index.php?news=192

⁵⁸¹ Leopards will inhabit Sochi outskirts The Centre of Nature Protection 22 September 2009. Date of access: 3 December 2009. oopt.info/index.php?news=188.

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has complied with its commitment to work towards the 2010 Biodiversity Target. It has engaged in an array of initiatives on national, regional and international levels.

On 12 November 2009, the UK passed the Coastal Access Act, meant to protect the marine environment.⁵⁸² This Act pledges that a new planning system will be put in place to better coordinate the social, the economic and conservation needs of marine areas and will establish Marine Conservation Zones to protect rare species and habitats. Four regional projects working on Marine Conservation Zones are already underway.

On 12 November 2009, Environment Secretary Hilary Benn signed the order to designate South Downs, an area of over 632 square miles, as England's ninth national park.⁵⁸³

On 5 November 2009, the UK government the farming industry and conservation organizations launched the Campaign for the Farmed Environment.⁵⁸⁴ This measure promotes existing agri-environment policies in addition to new ones. DEFRA-funded Local Groups and exhibitions will be put in place to provide advice to farmers about practices they could adopt in their local areas.

On 27 October 2009, the British Ecological Society (BES) and the Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (IEEM) held a reception in London to underline the importance of biodiversity loss for Members of the UK Parliament, Peers and policy-makers.⁵⁸⁵ Countdown 2010, the Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology and the UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum all supported the meeting. Over 120 academics, representatives of NGOs, government departments, agencies, businessmen and politicians attended the event.

On 26 October 2009, Hilary Benn – secretary of state for the environment – urged global cooperation to fight biodiversity loss.⁵⁸⁶ Among other things, he encouraged the international community to establish an Intergovernmental Science-policy Platform on

⁵⁸² England's Seas Get Better Protection after Marine and Coastal Access Bill Receives Royal Assent, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (London) 12 November 2009. Date of Access: November 14 2009. www.defra.gov.uk/news/2009/091112c.htm.

⁵⁸³ South Downs Becomes England's Ninth National Park, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (London) 12 November 2009. Date of Access: 14 November 2009. www.defra.gov.uk/news/2009/091112a.htm.

⁵⁸⁴ Groundbreaking Farming Agreement Launched to Protect Countryside, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (London) 5 November 2009. Date of Access: 14 November 2009. www.defra.gov.uk/news/2009/091105c.htm.

⁵⁸⁵ Raising the Profile of Biodiversity at the UK Parliament, Countdown 2010 (Brussels) 2 November 2009. Date of Access: 14 November 2009. www.countdown2010.net/article/raising-the-profile-of-biodiversity-at-the-uk-parliament.

⁵⁸⁶ Benn Calls for Action of Biodiversity Loss, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (London) 26 October 2009. Date of Access: 14 November 2009. www.defra.gov.uk/news/2009/091026b.htm.

Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and advocated that the United States join the UN Convention on Biological Diversity.⁵⁸⁷

On 11 October 2009, Fisheries Minister Huw Irranca-Davies announced new permit controls for English, Welsh and Northern Irish fishing boats in hopes of strengthening shark-finning regulations.⁵⁸⁸

Thus, the United Kingdom has been awarded a score of +1 for its commitment to promote biodiversity through several national, regional and international channels and its partnerships with numerous other organizations.

Analyst: Luca Sarcanin

United States: 0

The United States has partially complied with commitment to reduce biodiversity loss. Even though it has taken some initiatives to decrease biodiversity loss, it has failed to significantly increase the protection of endangered species, compared to the years before.

On 3 December 2009, the White House Council on Environmental Quality released a proposal to the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) suggesting some amendments to the way it plans its resources. One of the proposals includes considering biodiversity as a non-monetary factor in such planning.⁵⁸⁹

On 8 November 2009, at the international World Wildlife Congress in Merida, Mexico, the United States announced the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Canada and Mexico on wilderness preservation. This is the first intergovernmental agreement on wilderness preservation in the world.⁵⁹⁰ It commits the three countries to cooperate on wilderness conservation across North America.⁵⁹¹

There is evidence of some collaboration on the part of the American government with other governments. On 29 September 2009, the Under-Secretary of State for Democracy and Global Affairs Maria Otero held a round-table discussion on the Congo Basin Forest Partnership along with several heads of states from Central African nations. The goal of the roundtable, which was also attended by business and community leaders, was to explore new ways to preserve and protect the world's second largest rainforest.

⁵⁸⁷ Benn Calls for Action of Biodiversity Loss, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (London) 26 October 2009. Date of Access: 14 November 2009.

www.defra.gov.uk/news/2009/091026b.htm.

⁵⁸⁸ UK Announces Stronger Controls on Shark Finning, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (London) 11 October 2009. Date of Access: November 14 2009.

www.defra.gov.uk/news/2009/091011a.htm.

⁵⁸⁹ Updated Principles and Guidelines for Water and Land Related Resources Implementation Studies, Council on Environmental Quality (Washington) 3 December 2009. Date of Access: December 9 2009.

www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ceq/initiatives/PandG.

⁵⁹⁰ NPS signs Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation for Wilderness Conservation, National Park Services (Washington) 30 November 2009. Date of Access: 2 December 2009.

home.nps.gov/news/release.htm?id=931.

⁵⁹¹ NPS signs Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation for Wilderness Conservation, National Park Services (Washington) 30 November 2009. Date of Access: 2 December 2009.

home.nps.gov/news/release.htm?id=931.

The USA has pursued initiatives to reduce the rate of biodiversity loss at mostly the international and regional level. However, it has not pursued initiatives at the domestic level. Thus, it has been awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Kimberly Innes

European Union: 0

The European Union has partially complied with its commitment to reinforce its efforts to meet the 2010 Biodiversity Target through domestic and regional initiatives.

On 29 October 2009, it has pledged to provide EUR207.5 million for 196 LIFE+ projects – the European Fund for the Environment.⁵⁹² Among others, these projects cover actions in the fields of nature conservation and environmental policy. The EU will contribute EUR107 million for the conservation of endangered species and their habitats. Additionally, a New Amphibian Survival Alliance, which aims to protect Red List species from natural hazards and habitat destruction, was established with the participation of the EU.⁵⁹³

Speaking at the High Level Conference European Economic and Social Committee Brussels on 28 September 2009, Stavros Dimas – European Commissioner for the Environment – commended the Spring Alliance for suggesting a “biodiversity rescue plan”, and he expressed his support for making biodiversity a top political priority during the year 2010.⁵⁹⁴

Thus, the European Union has been awarded a score of 0 for its commitment to promote biodiversity on a national level and regional level but for neglecting an effort on an international level.

Analyst: Luca Sarcanin

⁵⁹² Commission to Provide €200 Million for Nearly 200 New LIFE+ Projects, EUROPA: Gateway to the European Union (Brussels) 29 October 2009. Date of Access: 14 November 2009. europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/09/1646&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en.

⁵⁹³ LIFE-EU Funds Start Making a Difference in Amphibian Conservation, European Community Biodiversity Clearing House Mechanism (Brussels) 14 October 2009. Date of Access: 14 November 2009. biodiversity-chm.eea.europa.eu/stories/life-eu-funds-starts-making-difference-amphibian.

⁵⁹⁴ Stavros Dimas: Putting People and Planet First, EUROPA: Gateway to the European Union (Brussels) 28 September 2009. Date of Access: 14 November 2009. europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/09/416&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en.