



*This is the Executive Summary of the G7 Elmau Progress Report 2015.  
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G7 GERMANY 2015

# G7 Elmau Progress Report

Biodiversity – A vital foundation for sustainable development

**Executive Summary**





*Biodiversity – A vital foundation  
for sustainable development*





## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Biodiversity – the variety of life on Earth – underpins delivery of nature’s services. Ecosystems and the goods and services they provide form the foundation on which every society and economy is built. Biodiversity enables a range of vital services, including the provision of clean water and air, food, medicinal herbs and other medical products, flood protection, crop pollination and resilience to drought as well as the provision of resources to support economic growth. The poor often depend more heavily on nature and the services it provides; consequently, the loss of these natural resources affects them more severely.

The loss of biodiversity and the ecosystem services it provides is continuing in many geographical areas at an alarming rate, although significant improvements have also been observed, as highlighted by the recent Global Biodiversity Outlook 4. With the challenge of biodiversity loss in mind, the G7 committed in 2011 to intensifying its efforts to slow the loss of biodiversity. The group explicitly set this commitment in the context of related development goals: human well-being, poverty eradication and coping with climate change and food security – all of which depend on biodiversity and natural resources for effective delivery. The G7 biodiversity commitment also forms part of a wider group of development and development-related G7 engagements that include food security, health and climate change.

This report looks at the progress that the G7 has made so far on its commitment on biodiversity and reflects the extent to which the G7 has utilized synergies between its different commitments. In addition, this report offers arguments for further improving the scope and effectiveness of relevant G7 actions and making even better use of potential synergies with related G7 commitments.

The G7 has intensified its efforts to slow the loss of biodiversity by undertaking a broad range of activities, both at home and abroad. In acknowledgement of the many driving forces behind biodiversity loss, actions – including mainstreaming across political, legislative and financial landscapes – have been taken in a number of areas. This comprehensive approach, along with a number of policies and examples set out in this report, may arguably be highlighted as good practice.



*We are ... committed to intensifying our efforts  
to slow the loss of biodiversity.*

*2011 Deauville Summit*



First, G7 action is visible in financial terms: G7 countries account for almost half of all bilateral biodiversity aid. Every G7 country ranks among the top 10 donors to the Global Environment Facility. Some G7 members have more than doubled their contributions to international biodiversity finance. Overall, the G7 has shown relatively stable financial support for biodiversity in developing countries – a strong signal, given the impact of the financial crisis and its aftermath. Second, the G7 has taken significant measures to directly conserve biodiversity: supporting the management of protected areas and the establishment of ecological corridors; fighting poaching, illegal logging and wildlife trafficking. Third, the G7 has attacked some crucial direct drivers of biodiversity change by helping to control invasive alien species and promoting the sustainable use of natural resources. Fourth, the G7 has also started to address the main indirect drivers of biodiversity loss, namely by changing consumer incentives, making knowledge available about the multiple values of natural capital in order to support decision-making, and developing capacity to mainstream biodiversity into development planning. They further seek to enhance the benefits from biodiversity and ecosystem services to society, including through capacity-building initiatives that aim to foster the sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources in a fair and equitable way. Finally, the G7 took measures that not only generated progress toward its biodiversity goal but also helped in achieving additional G7 commitments on food security, health and climate change.



However, many drivers of biodiversity loss are still on the rise. There is still much work to be done. This includes expanding our collective understanding of how biodiversity relates to other development commitments and finding ways to maximize opportunities and synergies among those goals while minimizing the trade-offs. Also, the G7, together with its partners, could further investigate how it can strategically use biodiversity-related official development assistance funds to mobilize additional resources for biodiversity, as well as identify other funding sources through which biodiversity benefits can be achieved or mainstreamed. Regarding accountability, we acknowledge that the relationship between G7 actions and development outcomes is often long-term, and in many cases not straightforward. This report also shows that G7 countries are

taking action in their own countries, in addition to supporting measures in developing countries. Finally, this report highlights the interactions between different G7 commitments. This was useful since it led to the identification of good practices that serve multiple objectives.

The G7 has a shared understanding of the importance of biodiversity, which underpins the delivery of a host of vital services on which every society and economy is built. The G7 continues to act on its commitment to intensify its efforts to slow the loss of biodiversity and recognizes its role in setting examples of good practice, domestically and internationally, so that, together with global partners, it can tackle the challenge of biodiversity loss.



## *Key political messages*

- *The G7 acknowledges the importance of biodiversity for human well-being, sustainable development and poverty alleviation.*
- *The G7 has acted on its commitment through policies, finance and other means to protect species and their habitats while also addressing the multiple causes of biodiversity loss.*
- *The G7 is aware that significant challenges still need to be tackled in order to improve the status of biodiversity and ecosystems worldwide.*



## Pictures

- Title: Baobab trees, scientific name *Adansonia*, are recognizable from their distinctively broad trunks. Occurring naturally in the arid zones of continental Africa, Madagascar and Australia, the trees store massive amounts of water in their trunks to cope with seasonal droughts. The fruit of the Baobab is shaped like a large pod and known as “monkey bread” or “cream of tartar fruit” and is rich in vitamin C. *Gil.K/Shutterstock*
- Page 2/3: Rain forest. Jaraqui, Brazil. *Thomas Trutschel/photothek.net*
- Page 3: Nomadic people working on a field. Songot, Kenya. *Thomas Trutschel/photothek.net*  
Tadpoles. Florida, USA. *Phil's 1stPix under Creative Commons License*  
Boatbuilder in the Banc d'Arguin national park. Iwik, Mauretania. *Thomas Imo/photothek.net*
- Page 5: Varieties of potato for sale at the local market. Cusco, Peru. *FAO/Sandro Cespoli*
- Page 6: Rice terraces. Banaue, Philippines. *UFZ/André Künzelmann*
- Page 8: Copper mine within the Mopani Copper Mines. Kitwe, Zambia. *Thomas Trutschel/photothek.net*  
Restoring coastal livelihoods. Sulawesi, Indonesia. *Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada*
- Page 9: Monitoring Survey of the Programme for Bornean Biodiversity and Ecosystems Conservation. Crocker Range Park, Japan. *Japan International Cooperation Agency*  
Elephant herd with baby. Chobe National Park, Botswana. *Jeremy Eppel*
- Page 10: Community conserved areas. Majari Island, Brazil. *Christiane Ehringshaus/GIZ*



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