

Countdown 2010 Declaration

BIODIVERSITY - THE WEB OF LIFE ON EARTH - IS ESSENTIAL TO THE QUALITY OF HUMAN WELL-BEING, AND IT IS A CRUCIAL ELEMENT IN SUSTAINING THE SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND SPIRITUAL DIMENSION OF ALL SOCIETIES WORLDWIDE. YET, BIODIVERSITY CONTINUES TO DECLINE. POLITICAL COMMITMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO STOP THIS TREND BY 2010. FURTHER STEPS NEED TO BE TAKEN TO HONOUR THIS COMMITMENT AND TO TRANSLATE IT INTO ACTION.

We the undersigned will take every practical opportunity to:

Support the commitments to halt or significantly reduce the current rate of biodiversity loss by 2010, made by:

- World Environment Ministers in the Hague Ministerial Declaration of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in the Netherlands 2002;
- World Heads of State in the Plan of Implementation at the United Nations World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa in 2002;
- World Heads of State in the United Nations World Summit Outcome in New York 2005;
- a number of biodiversity related conventions and regional processes since 2001.

Encourage decision makers at all levels, in both the public and the private sector, to contribute to these commitments and to:

- Increase public awareness and participation for biodiversity conservation, including the promotion of exemplary activities towards the 2010 biodiversity target;
- Better integrate biodiversity considerations into all relevant sectors of public policy and economy;
- Undertake serious efforts to adapt human activities to the needs of natural systems;
- Support the development of suitable monitoring and indicator tools to assess the state of biodiversity in Europe.

Commit ourselves to encourage and assist decision makers and societies in achieving the 2010 biodiversity target, notably through:

- Actively promoting Countdown 2010 to focus attention and mobilise resources for achieving the 2010 biodiversity target;
- Significantly reducing our own impact on biodiversity.

In particular, we will:

Please use this space to describe your specific contribution to the stated commitment. Use a separate sheet if needed.

Goals and Principles

By signing the Countdown 2010 Declaration, an organisation becomes a partner of Countdown 2010. Partnership is open to organisations from all sectors and levels that can demonstrate their commitment to the 2010 Biodiversity Target.

Overarching goal:

That all governments and members of civil society, at every level, have taken the necessary actions to halt or significantly reduce the loss of biodiversity by 2010.

Objectives:

- Encourage and support the full implementation of all the existing binding international commitments and necessary actions to save biodiversity;
- Demonstrate clearly what progress countries are making in meeting the 2010 biodiversity target;
- Gain maximum public attention for the challenge of saving biodiversity by 2010.

Principles:

- **Science based:** all Countdown 2010 work will be underpinned by sound science and/or relevant practical conservation experience and will be carried out to the highest possible standard.
- **Transparency:** Countdown 2010 is committed to the principle of transparency in process and decision making. It will ensure public access to information, while respecting individual privacy and institutional confidentiality, as appropriate.
- **Subsidiarity:** the Countdown 2010 Secretariat will work at the most appropriate level (local, national, regional, multi-regional) and it will only undertake those Countdown 2010 activities that partners are unable to undertake.
- **Autonomy:** Countdown 2010 is an independent alliance. It is governed by the will of its partners through the institutional mechanisms in place (Advisory Board and Partners' Assembly).



Please fill in this form to sign the Countdown 2010 declaration and send it to the Countdown 2010 Secretariat:

Name of organisation:

Signature: Date:

Name / Position:

Details of main contact person for Countdown 2010 activities:

Name / Position:

Address:

Tel:

Fax:

Email: