

**Sixth Ministerial Conference
Environment for Europe
Biodiversity Stakeholders' Roundtable
Belgrade, 10 October 2007
Session on 'Society in nature, nature in society'**

**'Assessing progress to the 2010 target'
Gordon McInnes
Deputy Director
European Environment Agency**

Chairman, Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen

Jacqueline McGlade, the Agency's Executive Director, presented the Fourth Assessment of Europe's Environment to you this morning. As also highlighted by the Chairs of this Roundtable, the assessment concludes that the European target of halting biodiversity loss by 2010 will not be achieved without considerable additional efforts.

We see progress in protecting a few species and in creating ecological networks including Natura 2000. However 700 European species are under threat and the pressures from agriculture, illegal logging, over-fishing, invasives, pollution and climate change continue to impact on biodiversity and ecosystems and hence on our well-being.

After two years of work involving experts and stakeholders from across the Pan-European region, we now have a first set of Streamlined European Biodiversity Indicators – SEBI2010- to monitor progress to the 2010 Target. These indicators will be available for all to use. I invite all countries and interested organisations to recognise these indicators and help extend their spatial and temporal coverage.

The Agency will now use the set of indicators in at least three reports: firstly an indicator-based assessment to be prepared in 2008 to establish the pre-2010 situation in Europe, then our State and Outlook report to be published in 2010, and then as part of an Ecosystem Assessment of Europe in 2012 when the progress to 2010 will become clear.

These assessments will show how the pressures of climate change, habitat destruction, pollution, invasives and over-harvesting are impacting on biodiversity, biodiversity functions, ecosystems and ecosystem services. They will also contribute to Countdown 2010 and to the Kiev Resolution Action Plans on Forest, Agriculture including High Nature Value farmland, the Pan-European Ecological Networks and Invasive Alien Species, as coordinated through PEBLDS.

Much remains to be done. However we now have a set of indicators to see by 2010 where we are making progress.

The Agency with its many partners across Europe will help show where work should be focussed, where progress is being achieved, and where no progress is being made. I hope you will respond to these indicators and build them into your systems for maintaining and sustaining our Living Planet.

Thank you for your attention.