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Birdlife International, European Division <http://www.birdlife.org/eu/>  
 CEE Bankwatch Network <http://www.bankwatch.org/>  
 Climate Action Network Europe <http://www.climnet.org/>  
 European Environmental Bureau <http://www.eeb.org/>  
 European Federation for Transport & Environment <http://www.transportenvironment.org/>

European Public Health Alliance - Environment Network <http://www.env-health.org/>  
 Friends of the Earth Europe <http://www.foeeurope.org/>  
 Greenpeace European Unit <http://eu.greenpeace.org/>  
 International Friends of Nature <http://www.nfi.at/>  
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### green10

The Green10 is an informal association of environmental groups working at EU level



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biodiversity is life  
extinction is

# forever

green10

saving

# life

# 10

10 SIMPLE STEPS TO HELP HALT BIODIVERSITY LOSS BY 2010

## 1 tides of destruction

Populations of large, predatory fish, like tuna and swordfish, have fallen by 90% or more in the last 50 years. The fishing gear used to catch these species entangles and kills 300,000 small whales, dolphins and porpoises each year.

**you** Your eating habits are intimately tied to global fishing practices. Avoid tuna, swordfish and other fish stocks in crisis.



## 3 rising waters

Due to rising temperatures, 35% of mangrove and 20% of coral reef areas have been lost and polar regions are diminishing. Melting ice caps affect sea levels, sacrificing the home of polar bears, which are predicted to suffer more than a 30% population decline in the next 45 years.

**you** Help reduce concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere: buy energy-efficient devices, insulate your home and think twice before using your car.



## 5 too big for our boots

With seven percent of the world's population, the EU25 uses 17 per cent of the world's resource supply. Its Ecological Footprint is 2.2 times as large as its own biological capacity, which means that if everyone on Earth had the same lifestyle as Europeans, the world would not be able to cope. A large proportion of this footprint is based on our energy consumption.

**you** Ask your bank to invest your money in 'green funds', so that more private sector money is invested in sustainable development. Go recycle crazy and think before you buy - avoid non-refill packaging and short-lived or non-recyclable products.

## 7 altitude sickness

Sensitive areas such as the Alps and the Pyrenees are particularly threatened by the impact of transport. Air pollution and land use for transport infrastructure reduce biodiversity.

**you** Use sustainable transport, particularly in sensitive areas. Walking, cycling, taking the train or car-sharing can all reduce the damage caused. If car driving is unavoidable, choose a fuel-efficient, low-emission model and take an 'eco-driving' course to learn how to reduce your emissions further.



## 9 go natural

Natura 2000 is the backbone of Europe's natural heritage, and is as rich and diverse as Europe itself. When completed, this will cover some 17% of Europe's territory. Apart from protecting nature it will also boost local nature-friendly development such as sustainable tourism.

**you** Take a holiday in one of Europe's protected areas. Relish the landscape, the wilderness and the biodiversity, whilst helping to support the local economy. This will enable communities in areas of natural beauty to survive.



## 2 paradise lost

Each year, 6 million hectares of ancient forests are destroyed. It is estimated that 20% of the plants and animals in these ecosystems will disappear by 2030, which will include our closest wild relatives, the great apes.

**you** Few furniture-sellers in Europe can say that their wooden items come from forests managed in a sustainable and socially responsible way. Demand Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified garden furniture and other wood products.

## 4 seeds of discontent

UK fields trials of genetically modified crops showed a depletion in weeds and wildflowers, an essential food source for insects, birds and butterflies. In Australia last year, GM peas which had been grown in open fields for years were found to cause allergies and lung inflammation in mice. GMOs are living organisms whose spread cannot be controlled once released into the environment.

**you** Demand GMO-free food, seeds and crops.



## 6 not cheap, but nasty

The EU is one of largest global markets for wildlife products, including for sturgeon caviar, the luxury food. Many sturgeon stocks are seriously depleted as a result of illegal fishing and habitat degradation. Although legal trade can support local communities and economies, in some circumstances, illegal trade in wild animals and plants is the biggest threat to species survival.

**you** Bringing wildlife souvenirs home from your holiday may be a nice memento, but beware that trade in many animal and plant species and their products, including caviar, is controlled under CITES and the EC Wildlife Trade Regulations.



## 8 save the algae!

Many chemicals used in our daily lives are absorbed into the bodies of plants and animals. Triclosan, a substance found in anti-bacterial soap and toothpaste, and highly toxic to algae, is not removed during the waste water treatment process and so ends up in streams and rivers, where it can disturb entire aquatic ecosystems.

**you** Avoid toothpaste and anti-bacterial soap containing Triclosan. The chemical is always named in the ingredients list so is easy to identify.



## 10 killer bags

Marine species confuse plastic bags, rubber, balloons and confectionery wrappers with prey. Endangered sea turtles often eat plastic bags because they look like jellyfish, their main source of food. The bags then get stuck in the turtles' digestive systems, causing them to die of painful internal injuries.

**you** Use reusable cotton bags instead of plastic bags and never drop litter.

