



Letter to President of the Commission Ursula von der Leyen

December 14th, 2022

**Subject: Call on the EU Commission to step up in financing for biodiversity**

Honourable President,

The world's ecosystems are suffering from an unprecedented biodiversity loss. The [2022 Living Planet Report](#) by World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) documents a 69 percent decline in the wildlife populations of mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles and fish, across the globe in the last 50 years. Since the [2019 Report](#) by the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystems Services (IPBES), the global community agrees that one million plants and animals are threatened with extinction that is 25 percent of all known species. Accordingly, the already unfolding biodiversity crisis has been described as the "6<sup>th</sup> mass extinction". A [Report](#) by UNEP and Chatham House identified the global food system as the primary driver of biodiversity loss, with current agricultural practices alone threatening 86% of the species at risk of extinction. The unfathomable consequences and risks of these immense levels of human ecological disruption are exemplified in the large-scale implications of the zoonosis Covid-19 ([IPBES, 2020](#)).

While the ongoing Russian aggression in Ukraine has, understandably, drawn away attention from this unfolding "slow catastrophe", addressing the biodiversity crisis is instrumental to fulfilling our ambitions as well as safeguarding our natural resources such as water quality and soil and agricultural productivity. Regrettably, the Ukraine war triggered false fears on European food security, which have been used as an excuse for the watering down of EU policy ambitions on biodiversity with direct disastrous consequences for European biodiversity.

Therefore, we are hopeful for strong commitments and results from COP15 and we urge the Commission to step up the financing of global commitments in order for the EU to become a leader in financing measures against the loss of biodiversity.

In order to achieve the spending target of 10% of the EU-budget for biodiversity, anchored in the Interinstitutional Agreement on the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027, we are urgently calling the Commission to present a methodology in the first quarter of 2023.



We urge the Commission to develop a methodology that allows the allocation of money towards the most needed measures to save biodiversity, to restore nature and drive the transition from harmful practices towards more sustainable practices in forestry, fishery, and agriculture. We should incentivise practices that support biodiversity, for instance via a Nature Restoration Fund to be implemented in the next MFF. As highlighted in the last report by the European Environment Agency (<https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/financing-nature-as-a-solution>), four key areas should be taken into account to make sure that financing is effective: compilation of data, development of logic chains, creation of geospatial tools and development of mechanisms for public support and private investment. We call on the Commission to urgently start working on the methodology relying on the great expertise of the EEA.

Given the urgent need to implement already existing biodiversity policies, we also call for the financial support and underpinning of administrations and other relevant structures so that they are fully able to implement and enforce current and upcoming EU biodiversity policies.

As the world is watching COP15, hoping for an ambitious and transforming Global Biodiversity Framework for 2030, we are convinced that our Union should step up to act as a global leader for protecting biodiversity.

We don't have time! We need to act, at home and abroad, and we need to implement the concrete solutions so many biodiversity experts have been calling for!

Kind regards,

Signed Members of European Parliament:

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