



pan-european biodiversity

PICNIC

Biodiversity & ecosystem services essentially contribute to human life & well-being in numerous different ways. However, in order to save this biodiversity (also) for our future benefit, real commitment is needed from all decision makers and the public. The “Pan-European Biodiversity Picnic” is a multi-stakeholder initiative, which aims to contribute to raising awareness of biodiversity and strengthening commitment to its conservation through regular events every year on International Biodiversity Day.



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 **Biodiversity** means the diversity of life on Earth. It does not only include diversity of genes, species and ecosystems, but also the variety of relationships among living entities. The complexity comprising this diversity is a main characteristic of ecosystems and their functioning, a characteristic that we can never explore and understand in its entirety. At the same time, however, we do not have any doubts about the crucial role of ecosystem services, i.e. those ecosystem functions, which are beneficial for the society and vitally contribute to human well-being.

 **Human well-being** derives from ecosystem services and thus biodiversity in numerous different ways. The food we eat, the water we drink, a stable climate, timber, fiber and natural medicines are all presents from nature, which we take away or benefit from for our own well-being. If the ecosystems surrounding us cannot function properly any more, there will be no such services available either. Therefore maintaining the healthy functioning of ecosystems, which at the same time is built upon the diversity of all life forms in the course of billions of years, is not a luxury, but rather a matter of social welfare.

 **International agreements** and national policies are intended to ensure the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable use of its components. Governments have made strong commitments, namely to halt the loss of biodiversity at the Pan-European level by 2010. However, efforts have not been enough. As the Belgrade Assessment reveals, biodiversity decline is continuing in the region, and unprecedented efforts would be needed to reverse it. The lack of true sectoral integration and commitment from the public threaten not only biodiversity, but also the flow of these ecosystem services for our own well-being. **The Pan-European Biodiversity Picnic** aims to contribute to building up this commitment of all stakeholders in society.





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 The "Pan-European Biodiversity Picnic" is launched at the Biodiversity Stakeholders' Roundtable organised jointly by the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy and European ECO Forum within the Belgrade Conference in October 2007.

-  The "Pan-European Biodiversity Picnic" aims to:
- » Raise political and public awareness of biodiversity through regular national events on International Biodiversity Day
 - » Deepen the understanding of the contribution of biodiversity to human well-being
 - » Attract various stakeholders to nature conservation
 - » Raise the profile of biodiversity in global politics through publicising this Pan-European multi-stakeholder initiative at international events and in the media

-  The "Pan-European Biodiversity Picnic" intends to bring together:
- » the Head of state and heads of state institutions (like government, parliament, ministries),
 - » political leaders,
 - » trade unions, chambers, farmer organisations and other advocacy groups,
 - » business leaders,
 - » social and youth organisations,
 - » artists,
 - » scientists,
 - » conservation groups

and other stakeholders for a pleasant picnic in nature every year on **22 May**, International Biodiversity Day.





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P I C N I C



In addition to some seasonal fruits from extensive, organic orchards what else is needed for making the Picnic a success in your country?

- » Commitment from an institution or organisation, which can mobilise stakeholders and devote some capacities for the organisational tasks
- » High-level representatives of various stakeholders, who are attracted to the Picnic both by the importance of the issue and the content of the picnic basket
- » A nice place in nature, which can be a scenic place for a friendly gathering
- » Preferably nice weather



Join the Pan-European Biodiversity Picnic and help saving biodiversity and ecosystem services, the presents of nature for the future!



The Pan-European Biodiversity Picnic is a multi-stakeholder campaign for raising awareness of biodiversity. It is supported by UNEP Regional Office of Europe and by all participating countries and stakeholders.



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