

The social dimension of biodiversity policy

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The objective of this study is to characterize the impact of biodiversity loss or enhancement on jobs and social inclusion both at the European scale and worldwide. The study will make use of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment framework to characterize the link between biodiversity, the level of provision of ecosystem services, and the welfare of the population that benefits from such services. The study is available for download.

Biodiversity underpins the provision of ecosystem services that all people ultimately depend on at all scales, from the individual to the global, rich and poor alike. For this reason, a 2010 target of halting biodiversity loss has been promoted by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to reduce the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national level, so as to contribute to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in terms of alleviating poverty, enhancing social structure and creating jobs. At the EU level, however, despite a Biodiversity Action Plan put in place in 2006 to accelerate progress towards the EU2010 target, it is highly likely that the 2010 goal will not be met. In fact, based on the experience gathered with the current policy it is increasingly recognized that the success of biodiversity policies largely depends on a good understanding of the social dimension of biodiversity.

Under such circumstance, the scope of this study is therefore to make a progressive contribution to a better understanding of the social inclusion aspects of biodiversity as well as the disproportionate risk of biodiversity loss to certain groups of people across countries in different world regions. More specifically the study will: (1) identify the main economic sectors and social groups impacted by loss of biodiversity, the number of jobs at risk and their geographical location; (2) provide tools to quantitatively assess the impact of biodiversity loss on the economy, with particular focus on the rural poor whose welfare highly depends on the provision of ecosystem services; and (3) develop policy guidelines to manage the trade-offs and synergies between biodiversity conservation and job enhancement in an efficient way.

The [study](#) [6] [pdf, 6.2 MB, English] is available for download.

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