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Halting Biodiversity loss by 2010 – UK on course to miss target

The UK is on course to miss its target of halting biodiversity loss by 2010 warned a coalition of environmental charities today. An annual progress report produced by Wildlife and Countryside Link and Wales Environment Link today suggested that with only one of nine actions achieving a green light status, government needs to focus increased effort and resources if we are to avoid failing on a key international target.

The report scores progress against action on priority habitats and species, protected sites, and the wider environment – key tests of our commitment to biodiversity conservation: to stop the rot, protect the best and restore the rest.

John Everitt of The Wildlife Trusts, Vice-Chair of WCL's Biodiversity Working Group, said "Government has gone a long way to recognising the importance of climate change, but must now back this up with increased action on the ground. Investing in halting biodiversity loss by 2010 will not only enable wildlife to adapt to climate change but will provide essential services such as flood management and pollution control, to help people adapt also."

Ends

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Notes

1. The report highlights that, although some progress has been made, there is still a long way to go if we are to achieve the 2010 target, further in some areas than in others. For example, in England progress towards achieving favourable condition of protected sites has been good, and receives a "green/amber" assessment, while in Wales the same performance indicator is assessed as "red". The full report can be viewed at http://www.wcl.org.uk/2010/2010_assessment.htm.

Wildlife and Countryside Link and Wales Environment Link bring together environmental voluntary organisations united by their common interest in the conservation and enjoyment of the natural and historic environment. This progress report is supported by the following organisations: Bat Conservation Trust, Buglife – the Invertebrate Conservation Trust, Butterfly Conservation, The Herpetological Conservation Trust, Mammal Society, Marine Connection, Marine Conservation Society, Plantlife, Pond Conservation Trust, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, The Wildlife Trusts, Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society, Woodland Trust, WWF-UK, Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, and Zoological Society of London.



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