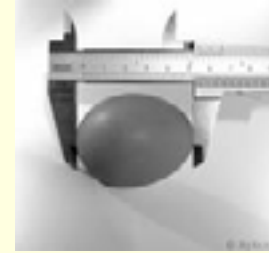


# Why Targets? Moving from a Thin to a Thick Analysis of Biodiversity Loss

**Susan Baker**  
**Cardiff School of Social Sciences**  
**Cardiff University**

# Part 1

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- **What We Know and What We Have Done to Date**

# Our Understanding

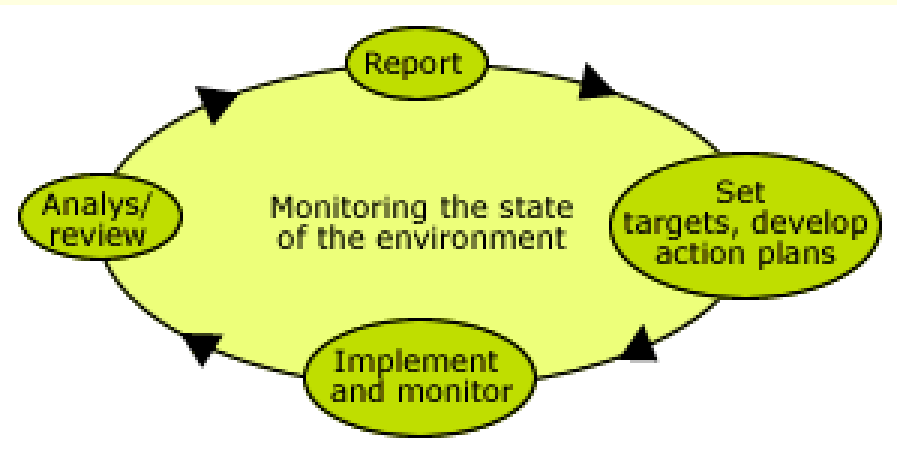
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- We know what the problem is
- We know the causes and deepened our understanding
- We understand the seriousness of the problem



# Our Policy Response

- We have declaratory intent
- We have strategies & plans
- We have targets, including 2010 Target



# Our Governance Actions

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- We have monitoring & governance regimes
- We have stakeholder engagement



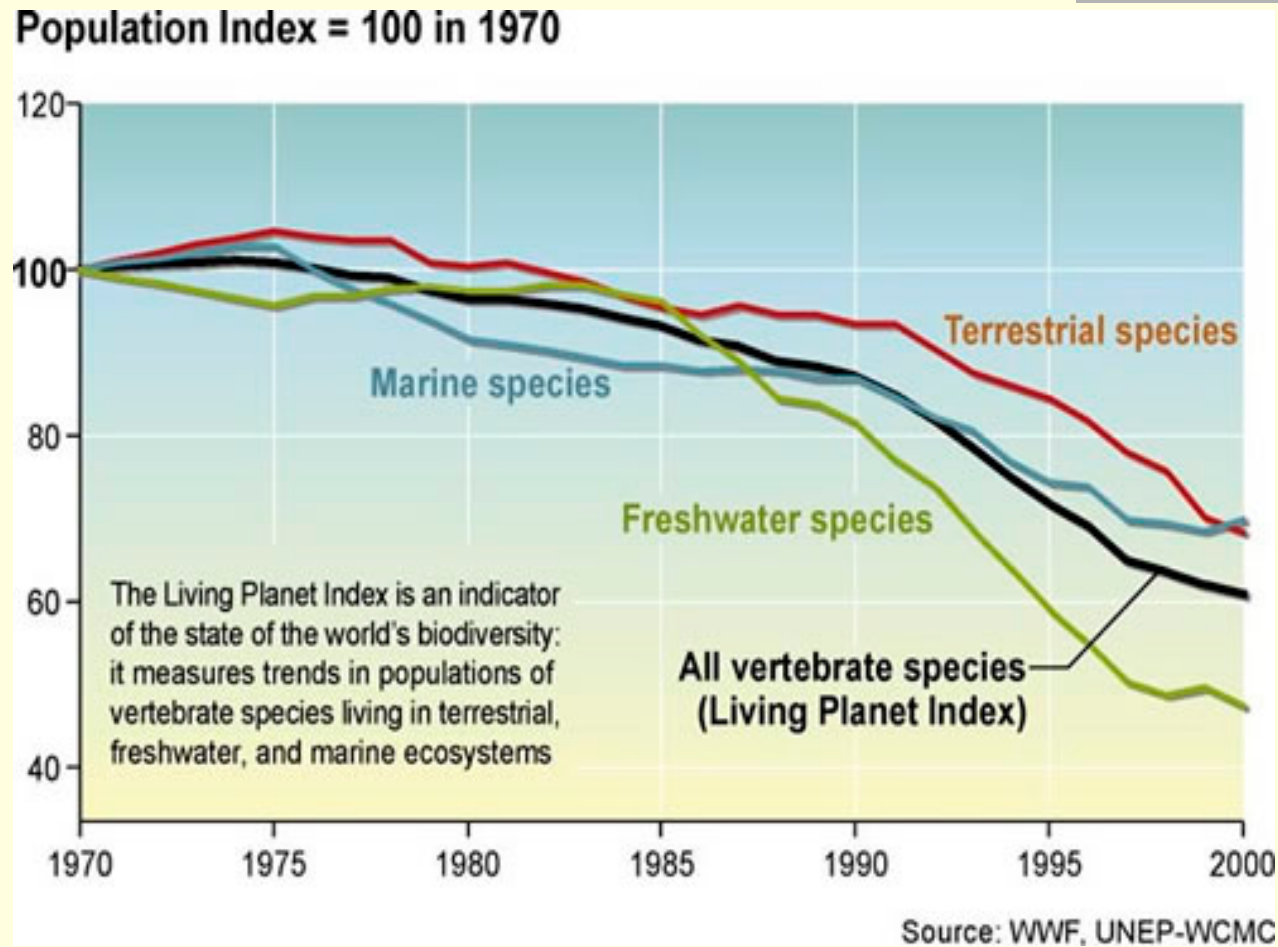
# Some Examples of Our Declarations, Initiatives & Reports



# Part 2: But, BD is declining!



# Negative Trends





# Failure to Meet 2010 Targets



- Pace of biodiversity loss is not slowing
- Pressures on biodiversity [land use change, climate change, pollution, invasive alien species] are expected to increase
- It can take years, decades, or even centuries from when human institutions take actions & for impacts on biodiversity & ecosystems to become apparent (time lags; extinction debt)

# EEA Report: Key Findings



## *Overall*

- Progress has been made in reducing pressures but success is limited
- Impacts of climate change on biodiversity are emerging, but wider ecosystem implications not fully understood.

## *Specific*

- Around 40 -85 % of habitats & 40-70 % of species of European interest have unfavorable conservation status. Grasslands & wetlands are particularly at risk.
- Agriculture-related pressures continue.
- Overexploitation of fisheries threatens marine ecosystems, & 45 % of assessed European stocks fall outside safe biological limits.
- Invasive alien species remain a threat, including in marine systems
- Urban sprawl & land abandonment continues.
- Forest fragmentation has increased since 1990

## *Policy*

- Policy response, including in relation to funding, are poor
- Public understanding is weak

# Why Does the Problem Persist?



- Why can't we resolve the problem?
- Are we just going to get better at monitoring our decline?



# WHY? Thin Analysis

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# What We Need to Do

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*Address matters in relation to:*

- Policy & Policy Regime
- Science
- Science - Policy Interface
- Values

# Policy & Policy Regimes



- Improve global governance (CBD)
- Enhance implementation efforts
- Address problems with 2010 Target
- Promote better policy integration



# The Science

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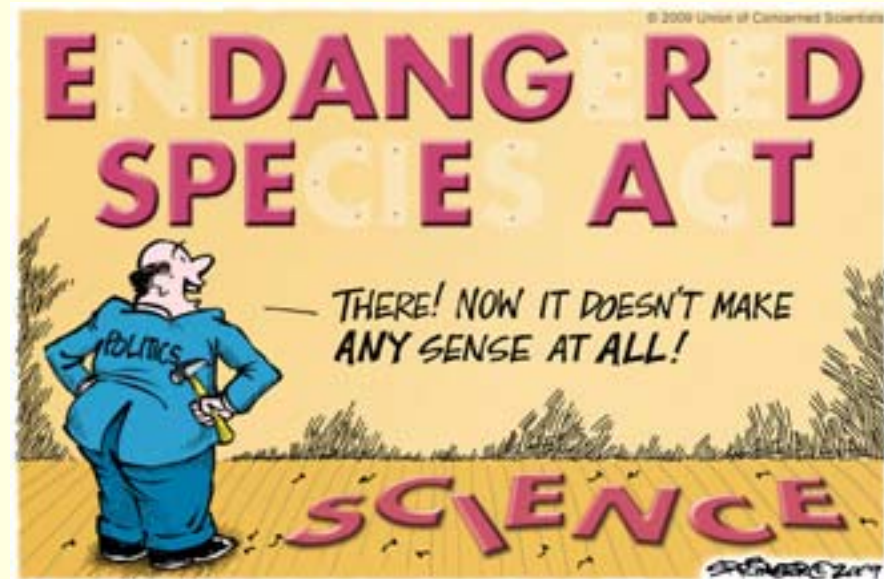


- The science is not good enough:  
we need more science!
- We need a different type of science

# Science-Policy Interface

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- We need to strengthen science/policy interface
- we need to democratise science/policy interface





# Our Values



- We need to link to issues of equity & global justice
- We need to show economic importance of biodiversity
- We need to change anthropocentric values



# Anthropocentric Values



# WHY? Thick Analysis

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- Structural causes of biodiversity loss

1. Over consumption
2. Population growth



# 1. Over Consumption

Consumption beyond human needs

resulting in:

- Resource depletion
- Breaches of planetary absorptive capacity
- Disruption of ecosystem functions and services



# The Face of Inequity

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- Driven by economic growth and preoccupation with individual gain
- Supported by structures of inequality

*Economic growth in context of finite resources & limited planetary capacity is incompatible with biodiversity protection*



# Addressing Our Over Consumption

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## Tackle Institutional Contributors

- Macroeconomic
- Administrative
- Educational



## 2. Population: the Elephant in the Room

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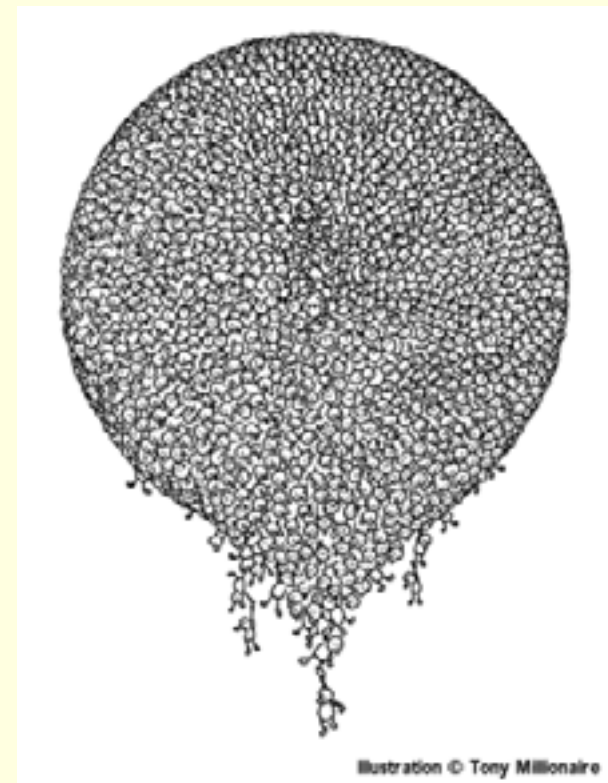
Sensitivities  
blocking dialogue

- Political
- Gender
- Ethical/Religious
- Public/private boundary



# Addressing Over Population

- Take the leap and declare the problem!
- Get issue on biodiversity policy agenda
- Start a new social & political dialogue
- Look again at the sensitivities
- See where there is room for manoeuvre





# Do the Maths

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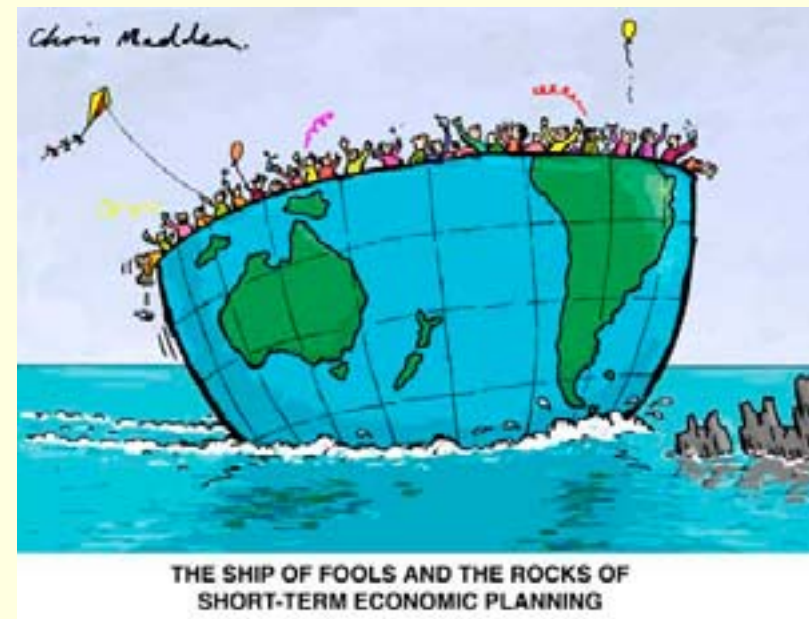
Be fruitful and multiply...



Now divide.

# See the Bigger Picture

- Problem of biodiversity loss can not be solved by addressing biodiversity!
- Maintenance of biodiversity should be by-product of how we manage our social & economic future



# Addressing Structural Causes

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- Requires
  - Putting a break on our growth and its related over-consumption
  - Curbing population growth
  - Tackling Inequality and making way for ecological legitimate development

# Show Leadership

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- Establish limits on environmental pressures (LEPs) stemming from within EU as a whole
- Work toward global limits (TLEPs)



# EU Policy priorities:

- Produce comprehensive assessment of species & habitats of European conservation concern
- Strengthen knowledge base for conservation & sustainable use
- Press for completion of *Natura 2000*, promote its effective management and ensure funding
- Protect 'ordinary' biodiversity in Europe [outside protected areas]
- Protect marine biodiversity & ecosystem services
- Implement strategy to deal with IAS and alien genotypes.
- Ensure adequate financing
- Support biodiversity adaptation to climate change.
- Promote sectoral policy integration
- Improve compatibility of regional & territorial development with biodiversity.
- Improve understanding of economics of ecosystems & biodiversity, 'The Economics of Ecosystems & Biodiversity' (TEEB) project.
- Launch action in European overseas entities
- Improve international governance & EU external assistance.
- Reduce impact of trade on biodiversity
- Mainstream biodiversity into EU external assistance
- Apply SEA and EIA to environmental sensitive aid operation
- Build partnerships, public education & participation
- Communicate a vision as to why biodiversity [ecosystem services] matters
- Enhance understanding' of impact of EU consumption [e.g. soy, palm oil etc] on biodiversity