

# HANASAARI DECLARATION ON BIODIVERSITY RESEARCH



Adopted by the EPBRs Meeting

***Actions for the 2010 biodiversity target in Europe- how does research contribute to halting the biodiversity loss?***

under the  
Finnish Presidency of the EU  
in Helsinki 16-19 November 2006

## Hanasaari declaration

Biodiversity research is a necessity for ensuring a sustainable future

European Union Member States and the Commission are committed to halt the loss of biodiversity (Commission Communication COM2006/216 final). This calls for an unprecedented effort from governments, the Commission, NGOs, researchers, business community and citizens.

European scientists are ready to step up their efforts to answer the challenge through the acquisition and application of biodiversity research. Large-scale and long-term multiple and integrated research involving experts from natural and socio-economic sciences and humanities is needed. This research depends on adequate and sustained funding from public and private sources, as well as institutional commitment.

Large-scale and long-term research requires corresponding methods and networks. At the national level this would imply, *inter alia*, securing biodiversity monitoring networks and data collection. At the European level a research infrastructure for integration of data, methods and scientific communities is necessary to complement the national efforts (as suggested in the *LifeWatch* proposal which has been selected by the European strategic forum for research infrastructure, ESFRI). At the global level, biodiversity research capacity must be further strengthened. Thus, knowledge and science-policy interfaces are essential to support the decision-making processes.

Newly emerging biodiversity research challenges that require urgent attention, include climate change, energy, food and water security, human health, urbanization and education. This also requires better communication and public awareness to transform biodiversity research results into actions.

The European Platform for Biodiversity Research Strategy calls on the United Nations to instigate a Decade of Biodiversity 2011-2020.