



*European Platform for Biodiversity Research Strategy (EPBRS)
– Promoting Knowledge for Sustainability*

Statement of the EPBRS on

**Biodiversity research
in the forthcoming 8th framework programme**

Adopted at the EPBRS meeting in Palma de Mallorca,
13th to 15th of April, 2010

Biodiversity loss is probably the greatest challenge human societies face today.

The importance of biodiversity research must be recognized in the forthcoming Framework Programme (FP8) and supported with adequate visibility and funding.

Biodiversity is essential for human life. It generates goods and services including the provision of food, regulation of climate and water flow, supporting of soil formation and cultural values. Without which, there would be no economies, no societies – and no human life.

Although the world's attention is almost exclusively focused on economic crises and climate change, biodiversity loss has been identified as the most critical challenge for human welfare.

Meeting the Grand Challenge of biodiversity loss requires a major research effort as a basis for effective action and societal change.

In the last decades, integrated and collaborative research on biodiversity and ecosystem services, funded through the European Framework Programmes, has contributed to shaping the European Research Area (ERA). However, far greater efforts are necessary in terms of visibility and research budget to generate the knowledge necessary to bring human societies into a sustainable relationship with the natural world and ensure their survival.