

Brussels in Brief

Biodiversity and climate change

Climate change has been identified as one of the main drivers for biodiversity loss. In addition, as the current changes in climate couple with other human pressures on biodiversity, such as fragmentation, the stress on biodiversity in the future will increase. Therefore, actions are needed to help biodiversity adapt to changing climatic conditions.

On the other hand, protection of biodiversity can also contribute to the mitigation of and adaptation to climate change. For example, climate change policy and biodiversity conservation. Finally, the issue

outlines some upcoming developments and challenges related to addressing the inter-linkages between biodiversity and climate change in the future.

In principle, the application of natural carbon sinks within the Kyoto Protocol can function as an incentive to maintain and/or increase the carbon sequestration by ecosystems, in particular through afforestation and reforestation. The biodiversity-related benefits will, however, depend greatly on the extent of the application of carbon sinks and the approach adopted at national level. In general, carbon sinks have not yet been widely used as a part of the national emission reduction schemes.

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The development of renewable energy sources is a central element of EU climate change policy. The production of energy from biomass plays an important role in the EU's strategy on renewable energies as set out in the Renewable Electricity Directive (2001/77EC). Biomass electricity is one means of reaching the Community target of 12% of energy consumption from renewables. According to the 2003 Directive on Liquid Biofuels (2003/30/EC), biofuels should make a 5.75% contribution to the total renewable energy consumption. Bio

For example, even though the application of carbon sinks might potentially support the maintenance or