POSITIVE VISIONS FOR BIODIVERSITY

Report of the Positive Visions for Biodiversity Summit

The 2010 European Platform for Biodiversity Research Strategy (EPBRS) meeting under the Belgian Presidency of the European Union, Brussels. With the high patronage of UNESCO.

2010 International Year of Biodiversity

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Executive Summary

On 16th -17th November 2010, over 230 participants from 43 countries met in Brussels to create a Positive Vision for Biodiversity. The Belgian Biodiversity Platform (an initiative of the Belgian Science Policy office), one of the national platforms of the European Platform for Biodiversity Research Strategy (EPBRS), organised this innovative meeting. It brought together natural and social scientists and a wide diversity of stakeholders (including policy makers, politicians, businessmen, architects, civil society representatives, artists, and philosophers). The participatory approach used during the meeting was facilitated by Global Voices, a non-profit organization specialized in large-scale meetings. Their method, the 21st Century Summit, allowed participants to share ideas, develop a common "vision framework", vote for priority goals and identify the main changes that they thought would be needed in the coming years.

For instance, participants decided that by 2050, a sustainable relationship with biodiversity will have been established through:

1-Governance that is more transparent and effective and that balances global and local responsibilities

2-Sustainable and participatory management of land, seascapes and urban areas

3-A sustainable human population

4-High technology that is used to build a low-tech world that enhances and protects biodiversity

5-Sustainable renewable energy and transportation

6-Sustainable food production, using minimum energy and resources

7-Efficient use of resources through responsible production and consumption, recycling and eliminating waste

8-The integration of biodiversity into every part of life

9-Transforming the economic paradigm to reflect fully biodiversity and human values

10-Values and behaviours appropriate to a more harmonious way of life.

For each theme, participants prioritized a small number of key goals. For example, one of the goals for «governance» was: "Sustainability is the core business of governments / governance e.g. world trade and finance has been dramatically changed".

Some significant changes necessary to reach these goals were also identified, for example:

- There will be a legal UN Biodiversity Charter that all countries will have signed up by 2050 that will include overarching principles everyone must follow, and will detail specific responsibilities for different stakeholders.
- Protect 20% of each coastal and marine ecosystem from human activities and strengthen sustainable management legislation for the rest, to create corridors and support reproduction.
- Integrate biodiversity thinking including bio-compatible technology in all levels of education starting with elementary school and research.
- Achieve a 100% of renewable energy by 2050 at least at EU level.
- Accounting system in place to reflect real environmental and social costs and benefits of energy production and use.
- Acknowledge the diversity of existing and potential non-monetary and/or local and alternative economies; Create space for different economic paradigms, which are not only focused on growth, exploitation, accumulation.)

The results of this two-day participative meeting are compiled in this report. A separate report will address the follow-up meeting (18th-19th November 2010) where the results of the participatory meeting were communicated to scientists and policy makers to identify research priorities related to the vision goals, and changes required in the way research is structured, carried out and funded, to support the goals of the vision.

The event organisers implemented a follow-up website (www.positivevisionsforbiodiversity.org) to allow for further interaction and discussions. The impact of this initiative will depend on the actions taken by each stakeholder, and hopefully, will lead to making a step forward to reach a sustainable future for Humans and Nature.

Edited by Estelle Balian, Angélique Berhault, Julian Rode, Stefan Schindler, Martin Sharman.

Positive Visions

Contents

for Biodiversity

Preamble

As the 2011-2012 UN Decade of Biodiversity begins, we face not only a critical responsibility, but also an historic opportunity to envision an ambitious future for People and Nature.

The 2010 International Year of Biodiversity created a fertile ground for initiatives, projects and ideas, among which was an innovative meeting called "Positive Visions for Biodiversity". This brainstorming meeting, convened by representatives of the scientific community, aimed at inspiring and engaging with a diverse group of stakeholders.The idea was to initiate an inter-disciplinary dialogue between the scientific community and a diverse group representing other sectors and professions, to raise awareness on biodiversity related-issues and build together a common vision for the future of Humans and Nature, and the possible pathway to reach it. "Positive Visions for Biodiversity" was the opportunity to create positive incentives (in complement to the more usual catastrophist warnings on the current biodiversity crisis) to motivate people to act in favour of Biodiversity.

On 16th and 17th of November 2010 in Brussels, over 230 participants engaged in a highly participatory meeting involving academics and journalists, the private sector and philosophers, scientists and politicians, architects and photographers. In simultaneous round-table

discussions, the participants identified the main characteristics of this future world, as well as related goals that should be reached by 2050. The inspirational vision that emerged is the product of this brainstorming involving an influential, creative and diverse group of people.

Having identified elements of a desirable future world, the participants went on to identify the long-term and short-term changes that should occur to achieve some of the identified goals, establishing a pathway through the next critical years that can inspire us to reach that world.

Over the following two days, (18th and 19th of November) some 60 invited scientists and policy makers identified both the research priorities and the long-term science policies needed to reach the vision.

Organizers

"Positive Visions for Biodiversity" was a brainstorming meeting that took place in Brussels in November 2010. It was convened by the "European Platform for Biodiversity Research Strategy" (EPBRS), a network of national platforms working to link scientists and policy[1].

The Belgian Biodiversity Platform and the Science Policy Office organized the event with the support of national and international partners, including the European Commission (EC), the Department of Economy, Science and Innovation of the Flemish Government (EWI), the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (RBINS), the French Foundation for Biodiversity Research (FRB), the UNESCO Man and Biosphere Programme (MAB) and the Biostrat project.

Participation was upon invitation. Organisers used the network of national platforms from EPBRS to identify for each EU country about 20 potential delegates from several professions: journalists, artists, philosophers, civil society (nature and non-nature related), economists, sociologists, natural scientists, politicians, business men...

Of the 240 participants who registered, some 230 came at least one day of the meeting. During the first day, participants provided information about themselves at the beginning of the meeting using wireless keypad polling equipment. When asked about their level of understanding about biodiversity, 72% said they had a high or very high understanding, while 28% said low or medium.

[1]The aim of the EPBRS is to generate and share the knowledge necessary to bring human societies into a sustainable and mutually beneficial relationship with the living world.

Participants

Gender	%
Male	62
Female	38

Age	%
18-24	4
25-34	16
35-44	27
45-54	32
55-64	16
65 and better	5

Live/Call Home	%
Europe	85
Africa	3
Asia	3
Australia and Pacific Islands	1
North America	5
South America	2
Other	1

Profession/Sector	%
Business/Industry	8
Philosopher	4
Economist	4
Scientist	28
Artist or Architect	15
Civil Society	14
Journalist	6
Elected Official / Politician	1
Policy maker	6
Other	14

The method

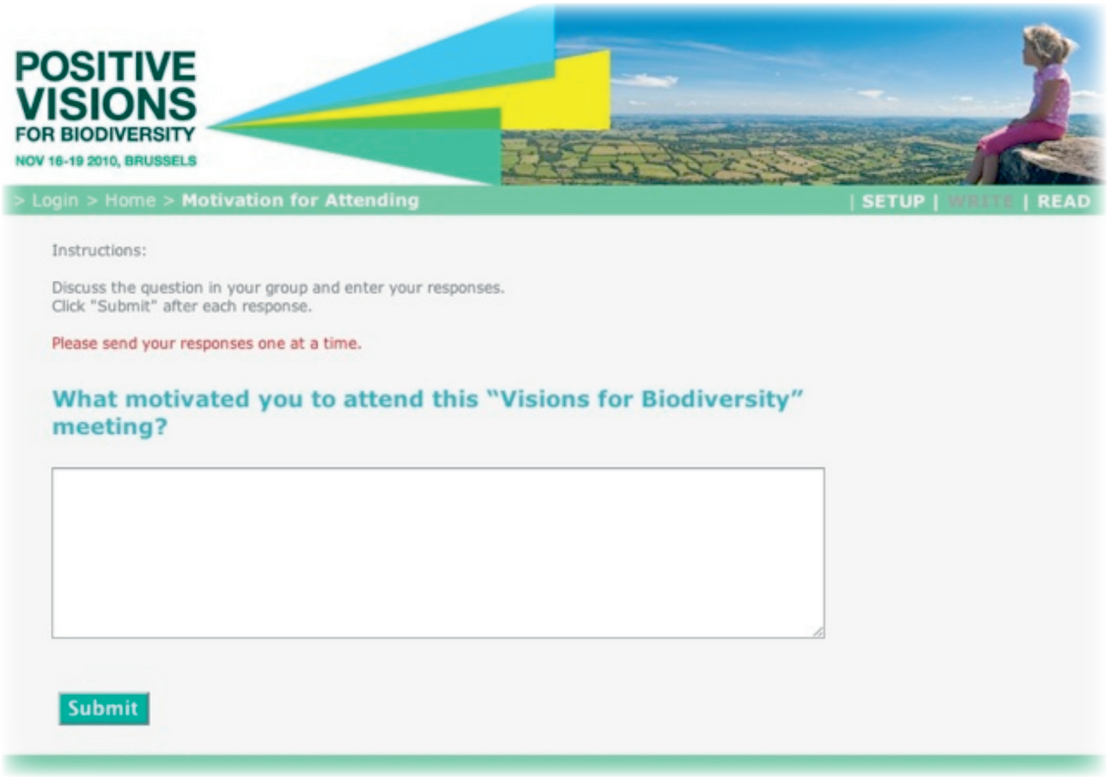
"Positive Visions for Biodiversity" was facilitated by Global Voices (http://globalvoices.org), a non-profit organization with more than a decade experience in implementing their method: the 21st Century Summit. Global Voices aims at helping governments, international organizations, and multinational institutions around the world to improve citizen and stakeholder participation in decision-making. The Global Voices participatory process taps into the collective wisdom of stakeholders through large-scale meetings that identify shared priorities and develop recommendations on essential action plans or policies. Through lively discussion, participants explore key issues, weigh critical tradeoffs, and deepen their connection and commitment to next steps. The method integrates leading technology with facilitated table discussions, enabling groups to examine important options and identify mutual priorities

For "Positive Visions for Biodiversity", participants spent most of the two days in small group discussions with people and a neutral facilitator on each of the 25 tables. The lead facilitator from Global Voices gave the main guidelines, and launched discussion of selected questions and other activities. Usually the table discussions started with a brainstorming phase, followed by a more in-depth discussion on different ideas. During all the discussions, a reporter captured ideas on a computer, through a standardized form that was electronically sent to the Theme Team. The Theme Team read the ideas coming from all the tables to detect themes emerging from the various discussions, and to generate reports listing the most predominant ideas/themes. These reports were presented to participants who could use wireless keypad polling equipment to vote and prioritize these emerging ideas/themes.

Facilitator role

All table facilitators were trained on their tasks and key role in the process on the day before the conference. Half of the facilitators came from the EPBRS network and had scientific or policy background on biodiversity, the other half were either professional communicators/facilitators or social scientists.

At each table the facilitator moderated the discussion to maintain balance between participants, and to help wording the statements to be typed in by the reporter- a volunteer from among participants at the table- and sent to the "Theme Team".



Theme team role

The Theme Team was composed of 12 members led by two "captains" from Global Voices. Theme Team members came from various backgrounds including the EPBRS network and other partners.

Pairs of Theme Team members sought to identify common themes from among the ideas sent to them from the tables. The potential common themes were further discussed with all Theme Team members. As some of discussions sessions sometimes varied, the screening tasks were adapted accordingly (e.g. subset of tables were assigned to 2 or 3 pairs when tables were working on different themes), but the "theming" procedure always aimed to best capture the key ideas.




Process and Results

Day 1

Introductory presentation

The presentation given by Martin Sharman opened the event by explaining the current stakes for biodiversity and inspiring participants to feel concerned by the issue.

First discussion sessions

The first sessions aimed at warming up the round table discussions. After a simple tour de table, participants were asked to express why they chose to attend the meeting. The Theme Team generated the following report from their answers:

1. «To gather ideas from a diversity of professionals and lay people»
2. «Wish to contribute to a positive vision, no longer on negative» - «Feel the urgency to change for a good future»
3. Recognize the need to find ways to communicate on biodiversity and to be able to «promote knowledge and awareness» - including the general public
4. Building a shared vision: «The format of this meeting is interesting» - a methodology embracing the «wisdom of crowds» - «democratic process»
5. «The opportunity to introduce new ideas into the debate» - new perspectives and visionary thinking
6. Interested in influencing policy - follow up of outcomes of Nagoya:COP10 - bringing a positive vision into policy making - «bring global issues to the local community»
7. The opportunity to contribute to finding a solution, to take concrete actions, to become engaged
8. Linking biodiversity to other fields - art, public health, IT, business...
9. Curiosity - opportunity to learn more about biodiversity

Next, participants were asked to identify what was most important to them personally about biodiversity on our planet. The Theme team generated the following report from those comments:

1. «Biodiversity is essential for my happiness - it inspires, gives energy, is beautiful» - source of wonder and spirit
2. Biodiversity has intrinsic value
3. «Biodiversity's role in supporting my life» - source of well-being, quality of life
4. «At the end, it is all about the survival of humanity»
5. «Basis of life» providing food, medicine, health, safety for our survival
6. Taking responsibility «for the future of humans and other living creatures» - inter-generational responsibility
7. Importance of our connection with biodiversity -
8. «Interdependence of living systems» - «I am simply part of biodiversity»
9. The need for «respect» for the living world - for differences - respect for other species is «what makes us human»
10. Importance of equality and equity between cultures and with other species
11. Interaction between culture and nature, importance of cultural diversity
12. «It's what I care about»
13. «Heterogeneity is part of freedom»

Dreaming a new future for biodiversity

After the break, another approach was proposed to participants getting into a more personal connection with their own vision of a desirable future. The lead facilitator guided participants through a dreaming session in which they could let their mind wander into the future. Participants were then asked to share their personal visions with others at their table.

Identifying vision themes

Based on this dreaming session, participants talked about possible vision themes (Appendix 2).

Having roughed out the themes, participants were asked to discuss them further, refine them and identify missing themes (Appendix 2).

After this critical input, participants of the meeting proposed the following «Vision Framework»

By 2050, humans have managed to achieve a mutually beneficial relationship with the rest of the living world by:

1. Governance that is more transparent and effective and that balances global and local responsibilities
2. Sustainable and participatory management of land, seascapes and urban areas
3. A sustainable human population
4. High technology that is used to build a low-tech world that enhances and protects biodiversity
5. Sustainable renewable energy and transportation
6. Sustainable food production, using minimum energy and resources
7. Efficient use of resources through responsible production and consumption, recycling and eliminating waste
8. The integration of biodiversity into every part of life
9. Transforming the economic paradigm to reflect fully biodiversity and human values
10. Values and behaviors appropriate to a more harmonious way of life.

70% of the participants agreed with this revised version, 16% felt somewhere in between strong and weak support, while 13% thought that the themes were not a good choice. Subsequent discussion showed that the latter group felt that the Theme team had filtered out the most innovative, marginal ideas, and constructed the themes around the more mainstream and consensual discussions at the tables.

The second session of brainstorming was the opportunity to go a step further into the discussion. Participants were asked to identify the main goals that would be aimed for under each theme. Practical reasons of time and space meant that it was not possible to let participants choose the theme they would like to work on. Instead, themes were randomly assigned to the tables. Although some participants felt this constraint was not motivating, it actually contributed to generate a diversity of views and lively debates.

Vision Framework and Goals

Vision Framework and Goals

For each "Vision Theme," participants developed and prioritized goals using keypad polling. The results of this consultation produced the following Vision Framework. (For a complete list of goals and votes, see Appendix 3)

Theme 1: GOVERNANCE

By 2050, a sustainable relationship with biodiversity has been established through governance that is more transparent and effective and that balances global and local responsibilities:

1. Biodiversity-relevant policies are coordinated at the level that is relevant for the issue and compliance is strictly enforced by independent legal bodies - biodiversity is considered in every decision taken at every level.

2. Sustainability is the core business of governments/ governance e.g. world trade and finance has been dramatically changed.

3. Biodiversity loss is considered as a matter of global security by the UN by 2020.

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Theme 2: LAND MANAGEMENT

By 2050, a sustainable relationship with biodiversity has been established through sustainable and participatory management of land, seascapes and urban areas:

1. 90% of the urban population lives in Green Cities (self-sustainable in transport, architecture, infrastructure, water, waste), maximum population depends on the local environment, with measured urban agriculture integration (covering at least 30% of the city).

2. Larger ecosystem areas (x %) is protected including pre-informed consent from indigenous communities, including their cultures and traditional knowledge.

3. Seascapes and landscapes have been developed to allow natural dynamics to take place.

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Theme 3: HUMAN POPULATION

By 2050, a sustainable relationship with biodiversity has been established through a sustainable human population:

1. People are informed and educated about the link between population, resource consumption, and their impact on biodiversity.

2. Good universal family planning practices have been adopted, with empowerment of women through free education everywhere.

3. People do not depend on large family size any longer.

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Theme 4: TECHNOLOGY

By 2050, a sustainable relationship with biodiversity has been established through high technology that is used to build a low-tech world that enhances and protects biodiversity:

1. All technologies are clean and based on sustainable use of natural resources and good recycling practices.

2. Producers are life-long responsible for their waste (i.e., waste management is part of any business plan).

3. Worldwide, technologies are only allowed if they are culturally, socially and environmentally appropriate, and take into account ecological, social, and cultural costs.

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Theme 5: ENERGY AND TRANSPORT

By 2050, a sustainable relationship with biodiversity has been established through sustainable renewable energy and transportation:

1. Global energy consumption is reduced to the level that can be provided by renewable energy.

2. Maintenance of biodiversity is a major criterion in selecting renewable energy - the entire life cycle should be considered.

3. All people enjoy equal access to the resources, research technology and training to produce and use renewable energy.

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Theme 6: FOOD

By 2050, a sustainable relationship with biodiversity has been established through sustainable food production, using minimum energy and resources:

1. Food production applies the ecosystem approach, guaranteeing the maintenance of landscapes that function to conserve biodiversity.

2. Consumers are fully aware of how food is produced and what effect its production has on the environment/ biodiversity (the ecological footprint): they select food based on these factors rather than on price alone.

3. The sea is harvested within the limits of marine ecosystems and damaged marine environments have been restored.

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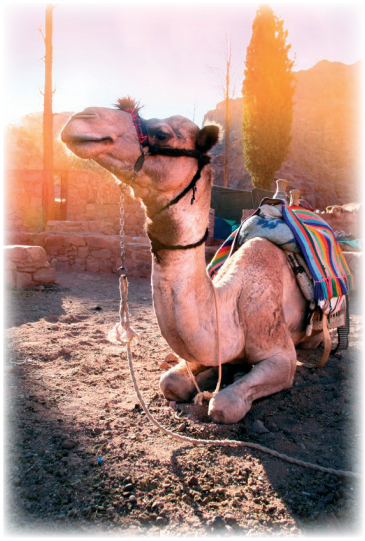
Theme 7: RESOURCES

By 2050, a sustainable relationship with biodiversity has been established through efficient use of resources through responsible production and consumption, recycling and eliminating waste:

1. All renewable biological resources (e.g. fisheries, forestry, agricultural land) are managed and utilised only within safe ecological limits as to maintain natural system productivity.

2. Product-labeling is obligatory: everyone knows where the products they use come from, how they were produced and what impact they have had on biodiversity. Every product must include lifecycle analysis and cradle-to-cradle cycles. Advertising that encourages consumption is prohibited.

3. Throw away products or planned obsolescence are ended. Products are designed with a maximum life span to minimize the materials used, achieve total recyclability, minimize waste and avoid adverse impacts on biodiversity.



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Theme 8: DAILY LIFE

By 2050, a sustainable relationship with biodiversity has been established through the integration of biodiversity into every part of life:

1. There is awareness of the value of biodiversity in our daily lives including the value of food on our plate, leisure, clothing and shelter.

2. People are provided with incentives to opt for environmentally friendly solutions.

3. Every human being is provided with the means for understanding the drama of what biodiversity is, and why it is essential to sustain the human species and to maintain our quality of life.

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Theme 9: ECONOMIC PARADIGM

By 2050, a sustainable relationship with biodiversity has been established through transforming the economic paradigm to reflect fully biodiversity and human values:

1. Economic decisions incorporate realistic natural and social costs and benefits, using macroindicators as metrics for social and economic performance in e.g. health, biodiversity, sustainability, and well-being.

2. All people, in particular children, are educated as responsible consumers and can calculate their ecological footprint.

3. Non-monetary economies favouring biodiversity conservation & local subsistence are strengthened e.g. with raw materials & energy as a key currency, or bartering.

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Theme 10: VALUES

By 2050, a sustainable relationship with biodiversity has been established through values and behaviors appropriate to a more harmonious way of life:

1. Biodiversity, and value and respect for nature, are part of the formal curricula, including medical school curricula, and are taught based on a holistic approach at all educational levels, and as a result are an integral part of society.

2. All people have access to detailed 'footprint' information on all products - biodiversity, water, carbon, and fair trade - so informed choices can be made.

3. New performance indicators such as biodiversity and happiness indexes are implemented by 2050 so that human well-being has increased by 20% globally.

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Day 2

A search for "Gems"

To answer the concern of some participants that innovative and marginal ideas might have slipped through the net, the Theme Team screened all records a second time at the end of Day 1 and extracted some "Remarkables". These are some striking or surprising statements which were unique and could not be considered as a common theme (See Appendix 6).

Significant changes

At the end of Day 1, participants were asked on which theme they would like to work on the next day. Following the results of the poll, each theme was assigned to a certain number of tables proportional to the number of people particularly interested in that theme. When the participants came in the room on Day 2 they were asked to sit at a table that was to discuss the theme they chose to work on.

Each table was asked to select one or two of the goals developed for its assigned theme in the previous step. A brainstorming discussion took place to identify the key changes required to reach these goals. After this brainstorming phase, a more in depth discussion led to agreements on proposed significant changes for each goal at each table. The changes were then written on a flipchart (one sheet per goal).

Since the available voting technology could not allow to vote for more than 10 choices at a time, and considering the feedbacks on the voting phase of the previous day (some of the participants found the process tedious,) organizers implemented a different method for participants to have an overview of all proposed changes and prioritize them.

All flipcharts sheets were exhibited in two break-out rooms for a "gallery walk" and participants were provided with 20 sticky dots to stamp next to the changes they thought should be priority changes.

The 20 "significant changes" that received the highest number of votes are categorized under the ten vision themes (All significant changes written on flipcharts are available in Appendix 4. A full record of entries submitted on the computers of each table is reported in the full record report available as a pdf file on the website http://www.positivevisionsforbiodiversity.org).

Top 20 Significant Changes

THEME 1: Governance that is more transparent and effective and that balances global and local responsibilities
• There will be a legal UN Biodiversity Charter that all countries will have signed up by 2050 that will include overarching principles everyone must follow, and will detail specific responsibilities for different stakeholders. (65 VOTES)
THEME 2: Sustainable and participatory management of land, seascapes and urban areas
• Remove the dichotomy between protected areas and human settlement. Soften the borders of protected areas to allow them to expand to create corridors and respond to climate change. Legislate to enable communities to benefit directly from biodiversity conservation. (67)
• Integrate ecosystem services in (peri) urban planning with increased reliance/contribution/role of ecosystem services to urban well-being (e.g. air quality, water, land-coast interactions) (63)
• Within the next 2 years, every town and city has a central biodiversity information hub with an education and action plan. (59)
• Protect 20% of each coastal and marine ecosystem from human activities and strengthen sustainable management legislation for the rest, to create corridors and support reproduction. (54)
THEME 3: A sustainable human population
• Introduce free and mandatory primary and secondary education for boys and girls in all countries by 2020. (57)
THEME 4: High technology that is used to build a low-tech world that enhances and protects biodiversity
• Integrate biodiversity thinking including bio-compatible technology in all levels of education starting with elementary school and research (65)
• Develop sustainable high technology using ecosystem approach, inspired by nature, with indicators for pollution. (55)
THEME 5: Sustainable renewable energy and transportation
• Achieve a 100% of renewable energy by 2050 at least at EU level. (68)
• Accounting system in place to reflect real environmental and social costs and benefits of energy production and use. (67)

THEME 6: Sustainable food production, using minimum energy and resources
• Food prices reflect their environmental costs (e.g. carbon, biodiversity impacts) by 2020 (75)
• In 20 years, all agriculture and aquaculture will be sustainable (organic, permaculture, integrated agriculture etc.) (52)
THEME 7: Efficient use of resources through responsible production and consumption, recycling and eliminating waste
• All producers are 100% responsible for managing their waste. (58)
THEME 8: The integration of biodiversity into every part of life
• Education is discovery-based and experiential. It inspires and prepares students to understand biodiversity and make it part of their lifestyle. (87)
• The price of a product reflects faithfully its social and environmental footprint. (81)
THEME 9: Transforming the economic paradigm to reflect fully biodiversity and human values
• Total internalization of costs/goods & services involving life cycle approach and use of “ecosystem” thinking to ensure resilience of biodiversity in our ecosystems. (72)
• Acknowledge the diversity of existing and potential non-monetary and/or local and alternative economies (63)
• Create space for different economic paradigms, which are not only focused on growth, exploitation, accumulation.
THEME 10: Values and behaviors appropriate to a more harmonious way of life
• Change Teaching: All students need to spend part of their time in education immersed in biodiversity (80)
• Awareness raising and creating emotional connection through media. (57)
• Change of the agenda our Institutions: Biodiversity is at the top of the agendas of governments and UN (55)

Cross-cutting ideas

Participants worked on different themes and goals, but since some of them are connected, it is not surprising that some similar ideas appear in the significant changes (Appendix 4). These similarities can be considered as crossing-cutting ideas. A crucial cross-cutting idea that came up in many discussions on various themes is the need to change Education, both formal (through curricula, school systems...) and informal (through adult training...) to:

- prepare more informed and conscious consumers
- raise knowledge and awareness on biodiversity
- move toward a sustainable human population

Governance, although it is an identified theme, was also discussed in several other themes. This emphasizes the need for reforming our institutions and enforcing more policy integration among different sectors. This integration should happen at all levels from local to regional, national and global. The involvement of citizens and local and indigenous communities in policy development and decision making was also highlighted as a key step in many changes relating not just to governance but also to land management and resource consumption and production.

Another cross-cuting concept is the notion of responsibility. Responsibility is shared at all levels and not just in the hands of citizens, or of industry or of governments. Each actor has a certain level of responsibility: a producer is responsible for the life-long impact of his product including the waste stage and its recycling, likewise consumers if they have access to appropriate information become responsible of their choices.

Actions and Commitments

Following the vote on changes, participants worked on identifying what actions they could personally take to contribute to these significant changes. Each attendee shared a couple of the commitments he/she would make and some example where extracted by the theme team:

Attendees could also express what actions they would like the organizers to take and the theming results were used as a basis for our follow up activities:

- Facilitate on-going communication via website, blog and e-newsletter
- Collecting & sharing best practices of biodiversity positive visions and success stories
- Evaluate the outcomes of the meeting
- Contact other initiatives, networks and organizations
- Give access to the raw data to exploit the full potential of «brainstormed» ideas"
- Share email & contact information of participants
- Organize a follow-up EVENT in 1-5 years time to review accomplishments and celebrate changes
- Transfer the Positive Visions for Biodiversity approach to the incoming EU presidency
- Circulate a declaration on Positive Visions to be signed by participants and send to politicians
- Innovative Idea: Replicate this process with Young People

Participants were also asked to reflect on key responsibility to take action regarding these vision themes, goals and changes. National governments and regional governance were primarily designated by the polling, followed by citizens and personal networks, national/international medias and national/international businesses and industries.

Table 1 Responsibility to take actions

What are 3 external audiences you most want to ensure take action on the vision, goals, and priorities from this meeting? (multiple choice)

Responses	Percent
National Governments	17,20%
Regional Governance orgs (European Union; ASEAN; etc.)	14,25%
Citizens and personal networks (family, friends, etc.)	12,10%
The National and International Media	11,83%
National and International Businesses and Industry groups	11,02%
Local Communities	9,68%
Global Multilateral organizations (UN, World Bank; IMF; WTO)	9,14%
Scientific and Academic institutions	7,53%
Religious and Spiritual Networks	4,03%
National and Global Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) 3,23%	3,23%
Total	100%

At the end of the meeting, a last session of discussion was organized to create some slogans and catch-ideas that could be used to promote the importance of biodiversity among citizens. Here are some examples of these slogans:

(All slogans are available in the full record of entries at www.positivevisionsforbiodiversity.org)

Evaluation of the meeting

Evaluation polling was done at the end of the first day and then on the overall meeting at the end of the second day. In addition evaluation forms were filled in and collected for each meeting day. In each form, participants were asked to identify what they most and least appreciated.

In the evaluation forms and in the polling, a large majority (65%) of participants expressed a high or very high level of satisfaction, 28% were not sure and 7% were clearly not satisfied. Likewise in the forms, on the 144 forms received for the first day, 127 were globally positive on the meeting day, 17 were globally negative. For the second day on the 93 forms received, 83 were globally positive on the meeting day and 10 were negative.

We screened all forms to identify the main aspects of the meeting that participants most liked or disliked. This first rough analysis (Appendix 5) will be completed by a more in-depth evaluation over the next months to generate an article on the process and its pros and cons.

For the overall meeting, the majority of participants (about 90 people) most appreciated the quality of the table discussions and the diversity of people and point of views present in the room. The interactions and exchanges were mentioned as very interesting and a good opportunity to confront different opinions and to network outside one's usual community.

For the evaluation of day one, participants qualified the dreaming session, the technology allowing for fast results, the discussion on goals and Martin Sharman's presentation, as most satisfying (respectively cited by 25, 19, 16 and 11 people in the answers to the most satisfying parts of the meeting).

At the end of the first day, 43 people were least satisfied by the "Theming" process: they felt that innovative and visionary ideas were lost during the process and only the more general common statements made it on screen. They also would have liked to be given more time for discussion (32 people mentioned it as least satisfying) and did not like the long and tedious voting process on goals. Another criticism was that participants could not choose the theme they worked on for the "goal discussion" (24 people mentioned it as least satisfying).

For the evaluation of the second day, participants also mentioned as most satisfying the innovative method and technology that gives the opportunity to reach consensus. 17 participants would have also liked to have more time for discussion and less emphasis on voting or on slogans and 15 people were not satisfied with the green dots voting process.

Table 2: Overall Evaluation of the meeting and method

On a scale of 1-5, what is your level of satisfaction with the meeting overall? (multiple choice)

Responses	Percent
High	54,55%
Neutral/ Not sure	28,10%
Very high	10,74%
Low	4,13%
Very low	2,48%
Total	100%

The satisfaction with the overall meeting was quite high with about 65 % people highly satisfied by the meeting, including the quality of the conversation and the use of technology.

However, participants expressed a lower level of satisfaction with the results with only 33% of people being satisfied with the results, while 46% were neutral and 19% were not satisfied.

On a scale of 1-5, what is your level of satisfaction with the results we've achieved across the 2 days? (multiple choice)

Responses	Percent
Neutral/ Not sure	46,34%
High	29,27%
Low	14,63%
Very low	5,69%
Very high	4,07%
Total	100%

In order to further understand these votes, one of the task force of the post-meeting evaluation will develop a detailed evaluation of the process and results that will be published in a science journal.

Follow up activities

Disseminate, stay in touch & promote

Many participants expressed their concern related to what will be done with the meeting results and if there will be a follow up of their effort. To address this aspect, several activities are planned to:

-Disseminate the results in various fields

-Stay in touch and maintain the momentum

-Promote future follow up activities by participants

The main tool established to insure the event follow up is a website[3] where participants are able to exchange through discussion forums, blogs and find key files (reports, videos, photos, leaflet, powerpoint presentation, etc.). The aim of this web-platform is to give participants a chance to exchange on the actions and projects they are initiating following this event. Additional social networking tools will also be maintained (Twitter account: PositiveBiodiv, the Facebook page: Positive Visions for Biodiversity and the LinkedIn discussion group: Positive Visions for Biodiversity).

There is a list of participants who agreed to be "ambassadors" of the message to make use of the communication material and promote the event in other audiences. They will be able to use all material on the community website and we will maintain regular interactions to track their actions in dissemination of the results (possibility to post on the blog) and to inform them on potential interesting events or publications they can contribute to.

The success of the follow up and dissemination of the results will also depend on participants motivation to get involved and actively contribute to promote the outcomes in their own fields and in the media and wider European community.

Follow up in the Research Community: The role of research to reach the vision

The two participatory days involved scientists from various disciplines who were invited to join a second phase that took place on the following days: 18th and 19th November 2010. This meeting was the opportunity for scientists to reflect upon the results of the participatory phase. Additional experts from the European Platform for Biodiversity Research Strategy (EPBRS) network joined the scientists who attended the first phase meeting to:

-Identify the research needs and long-term science policy strategies

-Identify how the research world should evolve to implement efficiently these research priorities

-Identify methods and products to implement these recommendations

A separate report focuses on this meeting and will be disseminated in the wider biodiversity research community and Science Policy to be discussed in several different fields.

Two task forces have also been set up to prepare scientific publications on the Positive Visions for Biodiversity meeting.

[3] http://www.positivevisionsforbiodiversity.org/

Conclusion

The closing remarks were given by Bogdan Van doninck (BELSPO Director-general of Cooperation and Information) and Horst Korn (Chair of the EPBRS Steering Committee).

Initiated by scientists, «Positive Visions for Biodiversity» summit was innovative both in its approach involving participatory method and technology, and in its process engaging scientists into a dialogue with representatives of many professions not usually associated with the biodiversity topic. The event challenged experts in their own views and raised awareness of participants from other background. The main success of the event is to have built this bridge between diverse stakeholders who had the opportunity to learn, discuss and engage on the topic of biodiversity. The outcomes show some common priorities of participants but should be taken as informative and do not claim to be representative of the whole European society. Positive Visions for Biodiversity was a trans-disciplinary experience that could be re-conducted in many contexts.

The event highlighted the need to act at the higher indirect level addressing not just direct causes of the biodiversity crisis but also the anthropogenic pressures linked to our economy, consumption and production systems and overall our current values and life-style. Natural scientists felt sometimes challenged to be taken on such societal grounds, while their expertise is mainly related to usual biodiversity related disciplines such as ecology or conservation sciences. Overall, discussions enriched all participants understanding and awareness of the issues at stake. It generated in all attendees motivation and will to see changes happen and to engage themselves in concrete actions.

Acknowledgements

Positive Visions for Biodiversity was organised by the Belgian Biodiversity Platform with the support of the Belgian Science Policy Office, its parent institution, and the Steering Committee of EPBRS. It was held in the context of the International Year of Biodiversity, with the support of the Belgian Presidency of the European Union and with the high patronage of UNESCO. The event was delivered in partnership with national and international partners, including the European Commission (EC), the Department of Economy, Science and Innovation of the Flemish Government (EWI), the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (RBINS), the French Foundation for Biodiversity Research (FRB), the UNESCO Man and Biosphere Programme (MAB), and the Biostrat project. The background information for the event was provided by Greenfacts. The event was also sponsored by Thalys.

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Special thanks for our preliminary report writer: Stefan Schindler, to the mighty web master: Julien Cigar and to all who were smoothly managing the floor, handling the registration or helping with preparatory tasks: Kristina Articus, Dimitri Brosens, Heidi Courard, Christophe Deuil, Claudine Devries-Duchêne, Zohra Elouazizi, Barbara Gonzales, André Heughebaert, Michel Kapel, Jacqueline Merveille, Nicolas Noé, Marianne Schlesser, Michelle Steenhaut, Sonia Vanderhoeven.
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Appendixes

All appendixes are available
on the website
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For references

Balian, E.V.[1], Berhault, A.[1], Rode, J.[2], Schindler, S.[3], Sharman M.[4] (eds). 2011. Report of the Positive Visions for Biodiversity Summit: the 2010 European Platform for Biodiversity Research Strategy (EPBRS) meeting under the Belgian Presidency of the European Union. EPBRS, Brussels. 47pp

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