

BOX 4.1 | Summary of the main findings on biodiversity of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment

1. Biodiversity is being lost at rates unprecedented in human history;
2. Losses of biodiversity and decline of ecosystem services constitute a concern for human well-being, especially for the well-being of the poorest;
3. The costs of biodiversity loss borne by society are rarely assessed, but evidence suggests that they are often greater than the benefits gained through ecosystem changes;
4. Drivers of loss of biodiversity and the drivers of change in ecosystem services are either steady, show no evidence of declining over time, or are increasing in intensity;
5. Many successful response options have been used, but further progress in addressing biodiversity loss will require additional actions to address the main drivers of biodiversity loss; and
6. Unprecedented additional efforts will be required to achieve, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of biodiversity loss at all levels.