

## **Biodiversity in a Nutshell**

Biodiversity is simply the variety of life on Earth. World leaders have acknowledged that humans depend on maintaining that diversity and this has been enshrined as a commitment under the UN Convention on Biological Diversity. Species and habitats which are particularly vulnerable to extinction, rapidly declining, rare or threatened are seen as priorities for conservation action in order to secure biodiversity for future generations. EU and UK biodiversity strategies identify objectives and targets to steer conservation action including restoring past damage.

In its natural state, peatlands are not the most biologically diverse ecosystems, but they do support a wide range of specialist species and habitats which depend entirely on peatlands. Many peatland species and habitats are declining or threatened and their conservation is of high priority in maintaining biodiversity at the national and international level.

Action taken at the site level to conserve and restore peatlands in a way which maintains or enhances the conditions suitable for supporting peatland species and habitats is therefore contributing to priority biodiversity objectives.

For further details on peatlands and biodiversity see:

<http://www.iucn-uk-peatlandprogramme.org/commission/biodiversity>

Clifton Bain  
Director IUCN UK Peatland Programme