

WILDSpace

TOWER HAMLETS

AUGUST 2006

SPECIES IN DECLINE AS EUROPE FAILS TO MEET BIODIVERSITY TARGETS

QUESTIONS

1. Highlight the term **biodiversity** in the text.
2. What does **biodiversity** mean?
3. Highlight **ecological footprint**.
4. What does this term mean?
5. Highlight the 2 reasons given for the decline in biodiversity in Europe.
6. Underline the biodiversity target. List 4 other targets that you think Europe need to have set if they want to stop the decline of biodiversity.
7. How is this local article linked to the article above?

The amount of land covered by towns and cities in Europe increased by five times the size of Greater London in the 1990s, at the same time as the continent has failed to protect its biodiversity.

A report, by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Council of Europe, says there are 800 000 hectares of built-up areas in Europe. The harmful impact of urban areas on the environment is highlighted by the example of London.



Housing in London: can a balance be found between humans and nature?

London's 'ecological footprint' - the amount of land needed to provide resources to support the city and absorb its wastes - is estimated to be twice the size of Britain.

'Humanity continues to use resources at an unsustainable level,' the report says. Europe's failure to protect the environment is also threatening biodiversity. For example, the numbers of many species of moths in Britain are declining at an alarming rate.

The protection of species, both those classified as under threat and others selected at random, is one of the targets that Europe is failing to meet.

SHOCK OVER PLANS FOR DEVELOPMENT AT MILE END ECOLOGY PARK



Mile End Park

London Water is considering draining the water from one of the pond habitats found at Mile End Ecology Park, it was

reported last week. A housing shortage across London has made the selling of underdeveloped land very profitable, and London Water is quoted to have said that the company needs to find funds to repair old pipes in Tower Hamlets to decrease the amount of water lost through leakages per year. The Environmental

Trust and other local campaigners are against the drainage claiming that a decline in bird numbers will be seen if food is removed from lower down the food chain.

Tower Hamlets borough council are planning to give their response to the suggested development in the forthcoming months.