

**WCS EU submission to the Call for evidence on ‘Simplification of administrative burdens in environmental legislation’  
(10 September 2025)**

The Wildlife Conservation Society European Union Office (WCS EU) appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback to inform the [Call for evidence on ‘Simplification of administrative burdens in environmental legislation’](#). WCS EU is a Belgian NGO supporting the conservation of wildlife and wild places globally. Our response is also submitted on behalf of the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), the world’s largest field-based conservation organization, with which we are affiliated. WCS has over 125 years of experience in conserving wildlife, landscapes, seascapes, and natural resources. WCS’s mission is to save wildlife and wild places worldwide through science, conservation action, education, and inspiring people to value nature.

Wildlife and wild places around the world have never been under greater threat from human-caused pressures, including habitat conversion for intensive agriculture, climate change, and escalations in the exploitation of species, including for the illegal and unsustainable wildlife trade. The World Economic Forum (WEF) Global Risks Report 2025 once again ranks nature-related risks as the most critical challenges facing the world over the next decade.

Robust environmental standards are not optional—they are fundamental to safeguarding both nature and public health. Any attempt to dilute or weaken these protections, even under a ‘simplification’ process, would represent a serious step backwards with lasting consequences for European citizens, the environment, and our economy.

EU domestic and global policies must remain firmly anchored in and informed by science and evidence, with environmental protection at the core of all decision-making. Weakening these laws and policies would not only jeopardize biodiversity but also undermine Europe’s ability to confront climate change, protect public health, and secure long-term economic stability.

We therefore call on the Commission to uphold the highest environmental standards and to categorically reject compromises that erode the integrity of the legal framework protecting our natural heritage. Europe’s socio-economic security and resilience depend on a healthy environment. Strong, forward-looking environmental stewardship is essential to preventing future crises, strengthening competitiveness, and ensuring prosperity for generations to come.