



Development of plan and guidelines for indicators and monitoring to help achieve the 2010 target for biodiversity in Europe.

Outcome of joint meeting of EIONET, IWG Bio-MIN and PEBLDS, Copenhagen, 21-23 April 2004

70 representatives from 30 countries (13 EU member states, 5 EU acceding countries, 8 additional EEA member/participating countries and 4 EECCA countries), European Environment Agency (including its ETC on nature protection and biodiversity), European Commission (DG Environment and Joint Research Centre), Council of Europe, UNEP, UNECE/FAO, IUCN, European Centre for Nature Conservation, several research programmes and non-governmental organisations met in Copenhagen on 21-23 April 2004 to consider how to work together to develop a plan and guidelines for indicators and monitoring to help achieve the 2010 target for biodiversity in Europe linking together as far as possible requirements at national, EU, pan-European and global levels.

The meeting agreed that:

- 1) it would be better to try to provide coordinated support for the common aspects of national, EU, pan-European and global requirements than to serve the various requirements individually,
- 2) the lists of indicators - recently adopted by the Convention on Biological Diversity, and based on the CBD list proposed for adoption at the pan-European level by the Pan-European Biodiversity and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS) Council and as EU headline indicators by the Malahide stakeholder conference (*see separate paper*) - provide the focus for work to be done,
- 3) work should be carried forward by a coordination team supported by ad hoc expert groups which would address each of the agreed indicators,
- 4) work should start as soon as possible, and build on current activities and good practice within both governmental and non-governmental organisations, since the latter were recognised to be able to contribute to biodiversity monitoring, data management, indicator development and assessment, for example on species (while the former remain responsible for reporting under the various reporting obligations),
- 5) the coordination team and expert groups should support pan-European requirements for the development and use of agreed indicators within the global context established by CBD as well as specific, related EU requirements for example relating to the EU habitats and birds directives,
- 6) the coordination team and expert groups should therefore complement, support, and report to, relevant 'advisory' bodies (which meet once or twice per year in plenary sessions): the EU working group on monitoring and indicators established under the Biodiversity Expert Group, the PEBLDS/EBMI-F advisory group to be established under the Kiev Biodiversity Resolution action plan on monitoring and indicators and the Ad-hoc technical expert group on baseline, targets and indicators to be established under CBD/SBSTTA,
- 7) the objectives of the work to be done in support of countries and other interested bodies should be:
 - To improve coordination, exchange of information and collaboration on biodiversity-related indicator and monitoring activities
 - To advise and collaborate in consolidating, testing, refining, documenting and producing workable sets of policy-relevant biodiversity indicators, such as to be used for assessments (considering also their wider use and applicability within other relevant indicator frameworks)
 - To help ensure adequate funding for monitoring, indicators and assessments to support implementation and achievement of the policy decisions and targets.

The meeting also agreed that the following issues needed to be taken into account in the development of the work plan and its implementation:

Mandate

The coordination team/expert groups require a clear mandate at EU and pan-European level beyond respectively the EEA mandate to coordinate the development of environment indicators for EU and EEA member countries (*EEA Strategy 2004-2008*) and the PEBLDS decision on the European biodiversity monitoring and indicator framework (*ECE/CEP/108 (Kiev Biodiversity Resolution)*). Specifically the coordination team/expert groups and the objectives for the work to be done should be recognised in the 2010 delivery plan to be agreed at the Malahide conference in May and adopted by the EU Environment Council in June, and in the action plan on monitoring and indicators to be adopted by PEBLDS Bureau (*STRA-CO (2004) 3f revised*) also in May.

Awareness

Participants were generally aware of some but not all of the ongoing and inter-related activities at national, EU, pan-European and global levels on biodiversity monitoring, indicators, assessment and reporting in relation to biodiversity and the 2010 targets. This limited the scope for discussion/decision during the meeting, and highlighted the need for better coordination within countries/between international organisations and for better access and organisation of available information (as proposed during the meeting).

Organisation

The proposed coordination team/expert groups should support ongoing activities, build on existing information, avoid duplication, keep things simple and learn by doing. They should focus on requirements for the development and use of the indicators agreed by CBD and to be agreed by PEBLDS and EU. The coordination team should be kept small and focus on technical issues relating to the detailed testing, development, use and documentation of indicators and related monitoring and data management. The team should be led by EEA (with support from the European Topic Centre on nature protection and biodiversity), European Centre for Nature Conservation and UNEP-WCMC. The coordination team should work closely with expert group leaders and representatives of countries, European Commission, PEBLDS secretariat and the EU, PEBLDS and CBD 'advisory' bodies to ensure the coordination and consistency of the work of the individual expert groups. However the group leaders and representatives would not be included in the coordination team. Each expert group should be established with a specific mandate and timetable/duration for work relating to one of the indicators agreed by CBD, PEBLDS and/or EU and should consist of a small number of relevant national experts, NGO specialists and others from across the pan-European area.

Work plan

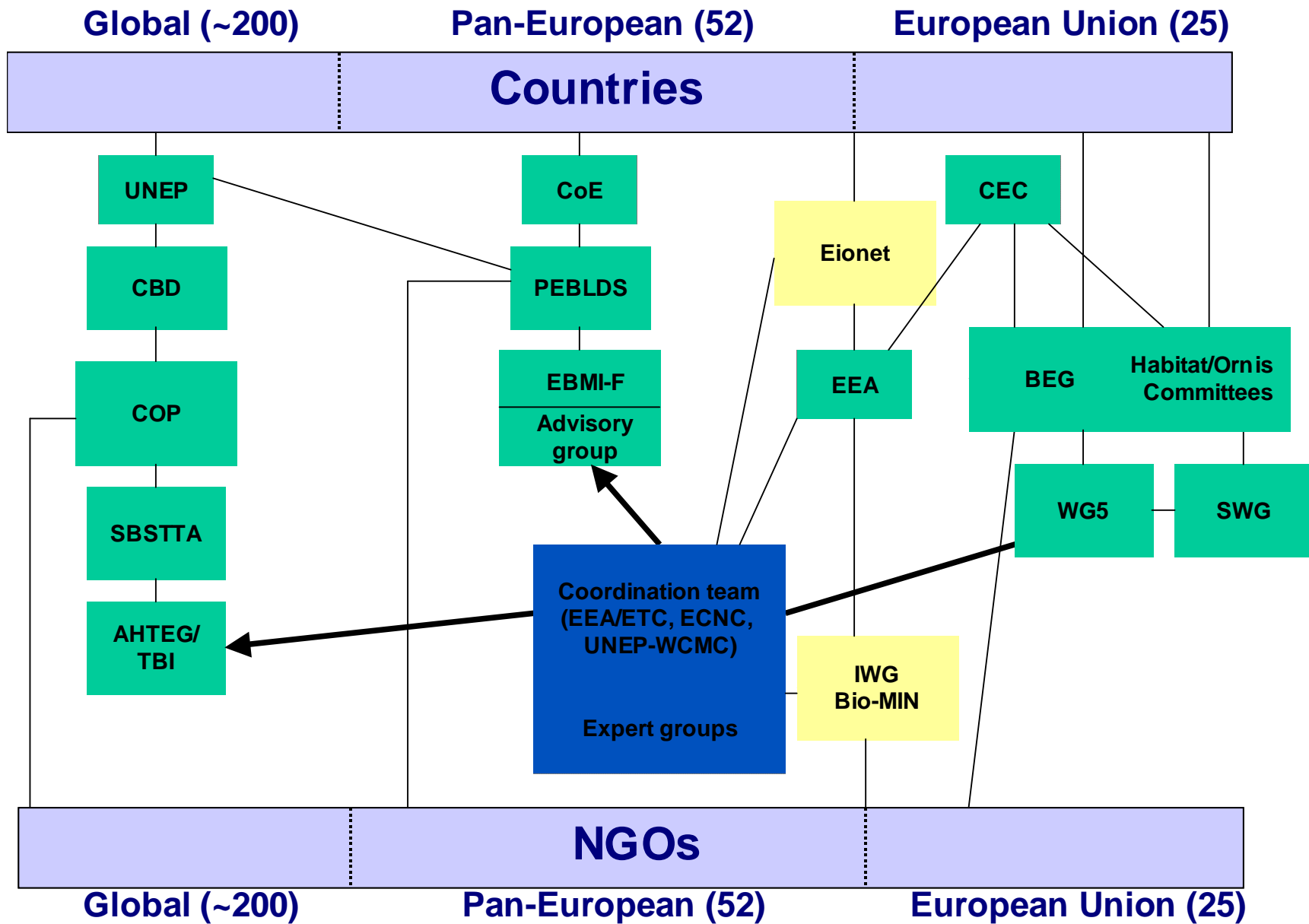
The coordination team should produce a detailed work plan by end August 2004 in line with the mandates provided by EU Environment Council and PEBLDS Bureau. The work plan should include proposals for adequate funding of both implementation of the work plan and improving monitoring, data management, indicator development and assessment across Europe in relation to the 2010 target.

Timing

The work to be done should meet the needs and time schedules of EU, PEBLDS and CBD (and their inter-connections).

Communication

The expert groups and coordination team should prepare clear, short reports on plans and activities to communicate to pan-European countries and all other relevant stakeholders to help ensure awareness, recognition, participation and financial support.



Illustrative overview of biodiversity organisations and activities (to be completed)