

Note on the Kick-off Meeting for Implementing European 2010 Biodiversity Indicators

The meeting was attended by 73 participants from 25 countries, 12 non-governmental organisations and 7 other (International/European) bodies.

Jacqueline McGlade (EEA Executive Director) welcomed participants to the European Environment Agency stressing the increasing importance of biodiversity, both globally and within Europe, and the role of indicators in informing the policy process.

Gordon McInnes (EEA) chaired the opening session and presented the purpose of the meeting as well as the rationale and framework for Implementing European 2010 Biodiversity Indicators (IEBI2010) – see also slides as presented to the meeting.

The purpose of the meeting was:

- To present related biodiversity indicator activities
- To discuss and help finalise the IEBI2010 work plan
- To discuss and establish the first IEBI2010 expert groups
- To consider the financial support available
- To discuss and agree next steps.

The rationale and framework for IEBI2010 addressed the issue of biodiversity loss; the global, pan-European and European Union policy commitments and responses; related indicators to monitor progress to the 2010 targets adopted within the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD Decision VII/30) and as EU headline biodiversity indicators (EU Council conclusion of 28 June 2004), and to be adopted as Pan-European indicators by the PEBLDS Council; principles for choosing indicators; and requirements from countries to streamline international reporting requirements and to base biodiversity indicators on current monitoring and data.

The proposed objectives of the work to be done within the IEBI2010 activity in support of countries and other interested bodies to help achieve the 2010 target were presented as:

- to consolidate, test, refine, document and help produce workable sets of policy-relevant biodiversity indicators meaningful in the context of the 2010 target;
- to help ensure adequate funding for monitoring, indicators and assessments to support implementation and achievement of the policy decisions and targets;
- to improve coordination, exchange of information and collaboration on biodiversity-related indicators and monitoring activities building on current activities and good practice;
- to consider the wider use of the indicators, and their applicability within other relevant indicator frameworks and assessment processes.

This opening presentation was followed by presentations from Jerry Harrison (UNEP-WCMC), Ivonne Higuero (PEBLDS Joint Secretariat) and Rania Spyropoulou (EEA)/Guy Duke (DG Environment) on recent/upcoming events and related indicator initiatives relevant to IEBI2010 at the global, pan-European and EU levels respectively – see related slide presentations.

Ivonne Higuero chaired the second session where Ben Delbaere (ECNC) presented the proposals for the IEBI2010 work plan including the role and activities of the coordination

team and expert groups – see slide presentation. This presentation opened up the meeting for comments and questions from participants. These mainly addressed:

- how verbal and written comments would be taken into account,
- how IEBI2010 related to other indicator initiatives including the CBD Ad-hoc technical expert group on biodiversity indicators, the ad-hoc working group on monitoring, indicators and reporting under the EU Biodiversity Expert Group (WG5), the EEA core set of indicators and the UNECE Working Group on environmental monitoring
- how and by whom will specific indicators be agreed for inclusion under the headings for indicators adopted by CBD, PEBLDS and EU
- funding requirements for indicators and related monitoring and data gathering
- support to EECCA countries
- indicators to be covered by the first six expert groups proposed
- how to deliver indicators as well as document requirements for their delivery
- the development of European aggregated indicators versus national indicators
- the clarity and flexibility of the draft terms of reference for expert groups
- the balance between working electronically vs via meetings
- the need for a better title/acronym for the activity
- timetable for IEBI2010 vs timetables for CBD and EU
- funding available and who will be supported by it
- how will chairs be selected.

Most of these issues were clarified during the meeting. It was agreed that the main issues to be resolved related to funding, finalising the work plan and selecting chairs for each of the expert groups. Gordon McInnes confirmed that DG Environment had made an extra 300000 euro available via EEA for support to IEBI2010 and some related activities. Ivonne Higuero indicated that she expected to have some funding available via PEBLDS budget to support non-EU/EEA countries and experts. However it was recognised that this would be insufficient to support all requests for funding and all work to be done and hence that the use of this funding would need to be prioritised.

It was agreed that the IEBI2010 coordination team should revise the work plan in the light of the comments raised during the meeting or in writing and distribute it as soon as possible with a new nomination form for participation in the first six expert groups so that work could begin soon after the end of January 2005. In the event the work plan and nomination form were finalised for distribution on 31 January and experts were requested to return the nomination forms by 15 February 2005.

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EEA

Ben Delbaere
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Jerry Harrison
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on behalf of IEBI2010 (now SEBI2010) coordination team

1 March 2005