



***PAN-EUROPEAN BIOLOGICAL AND LANDSCAPE
DIVERSITY STRATEGY***

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**COUNCIL FOR THE PAN-EUROPEAN
BIOLOGICAL AND LANDSCAPE DIVERSITY STRATEGY**

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Palais de l'Europe, Strasbourg
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**Synergies between the Pan-European 2010 Biodiversity Implementation Plan
and the European Union Malahide Message**

*Document prepared by
the Joint Secretariat for PEBLDS*

Promoting maximum synergies between the Pan-European 2010 Biodiversity Implementation Plan and the EU Malahide Message

Introduction

The PEBLDS Bureau at its 11th meeting in Geneva on 25 October 2004 agreed to promote as much synergy as possible between the Pan-European 2010 Biodiversity Implementation Plan and the European Union's (EU) *Message from Malahide: Halting the Decline of Biodiversity - Priority Objectives and Targets for 2010*. The Malahide Message is the stakeholder response to the 2001 commitment of the EU to halt the loss of biodiversity by 2010 in the European Union. The Message will be followed by an EU communication on reaching the 2010 biodiversity targets.

The PEBLDS Council may recall that various commitments have been made at the pan European level to work jointly to achieve the 2010 biodiversity targets:

- Endorsement of the Kyiv Resolution on Biodiversity by the pan European Environment Ministers at Kyiv in 2003.
- Announcement by the EU Environment Commissioner, at the Third Biodiversity in Europe Conference in Madrid (2003), of the European Commission's intention to work with the PEBLDS in achieving the 2010 target in Europe.
- Commitment of the European Commission to the implementation of the Environmental Strategy for Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) at Tbilisi in 2004.

The 2010 biodiversity targets are ambitious yet achievable. However, to reach them in the pan European region will require substantial efforts and strong partnerships. The Council at this meeting may wish to explore ways in which the PEBLDS could move forward in its co-operation with the European Union to achieve jointly the pan European and EU 2010 biodiversity targets.

Pan European and European Union synergies

In order to propose ways and means of facilitating and harmonizing implementation of regional activities, the PEBLDS Joint Secretariat identified the common goals and objectives in the Kyiv Resolution on Biodiversity and its Action Plans, the Malahide Message and the Environmental Strategy for EECCA. The PEBLDS Bureau in October 2004, as mentioned above, decided that the PEBLDS would approach the European Commission to discuss a number of cross-cutting flagship activities for further co-operation with regards to the following common themes: agriculture and biodiversity (identification of high nature value farmland –ongoing); biodiversity monitoring and indicators (SEBI2010—ongoing); protected areas and ecological networks (Pan European Ecological Network and Natura 2000); forests and biodiversity (MCPFE and PEBLDS cooperation) and financing biodiversity (increasing partnerships with the finance and business sectors).

The European Environment Agency, a body of the European Commission, is currently working with the PEBLDS at the pan European level on the Biodiversity Monitoring and Indicators action plan (integrated in the *Streamlining European 2010 Biodiversity Indicators project*) as well as the Agriculture and Biodiversity action plan. The Joint Research Centre of the European Commission has agreed to develop, jointly with UNEP and the EEA, an update of the methodology for quantifying and identifying High Nature Value (HNV) farmland and extend it to the pan European region parting support of the Agriculture and Biodiversity action plan.

The *Streamlining European 2010 Biodiversity Indicators (SEBI2010)* project of the European Environmental Agency (EEA), UNEP/World Conservation Monitoring Centre, and the European Centre for Nature Conservation (ECNC) is an excellent example of what can be achieved through regional cooperation and partnerships to assist countries in reaching the biodiversity targets. The PEBLDS has established a close partnership with the EEA to collaborate on this project to develop and test biodiversity indicators for the pan European region. The formation of the indicators expert groups is underway and the European Commission has provided 300,000 Euros this year to the EEA for the *SEBI2010* project.

Furthermore, cooperation is developing between the Council of Europe, ECNC, the EEA's European Topic Centre/Biological Diversity and the Committee of experts for the development of the Pan-European Ecological Network, in particular with regards to the indicative map of the European Ecological Network in Western-Europe and the preparations for the next *Environment for Europe* Ministerial Conference.

While the implementation of the above activities in cooperation with European Commission bodies is very encouraging, there are other areas in which the PEBLDS could join forces with the European Commission to achieve the 2010 biodiversity targets in the pan European region. At the meeting of the EC Biodiversity Expert Group held in Brussels on 11 January 2005, it was announced by DG-Environment that the European Community's biodiversity communication on achieving the 2010 targets would be finalised in November 2005. The PEBLDS Council may wish to consider a way forward to join forces early in anticipation of the communication and plan some relevant joint activities, as the 2010 deadline is fast approaching. This paper proposes a few building blocks for a road map to maximize the synergies with the European Commission and its bodies.

Proposals

While developing as much synergy as possible between the intergovernmental Pan-European and EU policies for biodiversity, the PEBLDS Council may wish to agree to take the following steps:

1. Invite the Directorate General-Environment of the European Commission (DG-Environment) to identify, in collaboration with the PEBLDS Joint Secretariat the cross-cutting priorities at the interface of the Pan-European Implementation Plan and the EU Implementation Plan, and to present the results of this identification together to the Council of PEBLDS (see attached annex).
2. Agree with giving top-priority to the cross-cutting priorities, also with regards to fundraising;
3. Ask the PEBLDS Chair to present PEBLDS and the Pan-European 2010 Biodiversity Implementation Plan to the new EU Environment Commissioner;
4. Ask the PEBLDS Chair and Joint Secretariat to discuss with DG Environment ways of ensuring a structured representation of both bodies within each other's frameworks, and to develop a "common presentation and profiling".

Annex

Priorities of the Malahide Message complementary to the Pan European 2010 targets of the Kyiv Resolution on Biodiversity and reflected in the PEBLDS action plans:

Pan European Ecological Network

Objective 1 of the EU Malahide Message is to ensure conservation of Europe's most important wildlife habitats and species within a thriving wider environment, as well as a number of targets concerning Natura 2000 and the Habitats and Birds Directives.

Biodiversity Monitoring and Indicators

Objective 15 of the EU Malahide Message is to implement an agreed set of biodiversity indicators to monitor and evaluate progress towards the 2010 targets, with the potential to communicate biodiversity problems effectively to the general public and to decision-makers and provoke appropriate policy responses. The EU targets reflect the global and pan European decisions and recognises the need to harmonise reporting at the pan European level.

Countdown 2010 Initiative and Public Participation and Awareness

Both the European Union Environment Council and the pan European region, through the PEBLDS, have welcomed the 2010 Countdown Initiative. The EU Malahide Message has as an objective to reinforce measures for public communication, awareness and participation.

Forest Biodiversity

The EU Malahide Message contains an objective to conserve and enhance biodiversity through sustainable forest management at national, regional and global levels.

Agriculture and Biodiversity

Objective 5 of the EU Malahide Message is to further integrate biodiversity issues into the Common Agricultural Policy in order that the agricultural sector can fulfil its contribution to the 2010 biodiversity target.

Financing Biodiversity

In the EU Malahide Message, under the section on economic and development cooperation, Objective 11 is to ensure an improved and measurable contribution of EU economic and development cooperation to achieving the global target 'to significantly reduce the current [2002] rate of biodiversity loss by 2010' in support of the Millennium Development Goals and one of the targets is that "Effective mechanisms are in place to enable NGOs and local communities to access EU funding and to increase synergies between governments, NGOs and the private sector."

Invasive Alien Species

The EU Malahide Message contains an objective to develop and implement measures for the prevention and control of invasive alien species and alien genotypes and a target under this objective that refers to the adoption of an Invasive Alien Species Strategy by 2005.