



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

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

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### **Strategy for Implementation of the Kyiv Biodiversity Resolution**

**2004 - 2010**

**DRAFT**

*Document prepared by the  
Joint Secretariat for PEBLDS*

*With support from the PEBLDS Chair  
And the European Centre for Nature Conservation*

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## ***Introduction***

During the discussions on the CBD Strategic Plan at the Budapest Conference all European Parties resolved to actively use the Plan as well as harmonise the PEBLDS Rolling Work Programme with the CBD as to its goals, priorities for action, and expected outcomes. In response, the PEBLDS Joint Secretariat prepared a new rolling programme of work which was adopted by the PEBLDS Council at their 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting in January 2003.

In May 2003, the Ministers and Heads of delegation at the Fifth *Environment for Europe* Ministerial Conference agreed to halt the loss of biological diversity by the year 2010 to address the CBD and WSSD outcomes. They agreed to 9 key targets in seven areas: forests, agriculture, ecological networks, invasive alien species, biodiversity financing, biodiversity indicators and monitoring, public awareness and participation. In response to this commitment, at the Third *Biodiversity in Europe* Intergovernmental Conference held in Madrid, Spain, from 19-21 January 2004, the PEBLDS Council reviewed seven action plan proposals for the implementation of the Kyiv Resolution on Biodiversity. The Council asked the Joint Secretariat to amend the action plans according to their comments and instructions by 31 March 2004.

The PEBLDS Bureau, at their 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting, decided to compile the action plans as amended and to complement the plans with a consolidated work programme, that would be known under the name of "Strategy for Implementation of the *Kyiv Resolution on Biodiversity*" as a strategic document and communication and outreach tool to donors and the public at large. The PEBLDS Bureau mandated the Joint Secretariat to prepare the Strategy. Elements have been identified from the original Pan European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy, the previous rolling programme of work and the Kyiv Resolution on Biodiversity to be used as the basis of the updated Strategy.

The Strategy contains an introduction to update the original Pan European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy as well as harmonised and cross-referenced programme elements linked to the seven action plans. It also includes an overall priority setting based on the discussions of the 10<sup>th</sup> Bureau meeting and an indication of the inherent responsibilities and tasks of the EU. The Strategy contains an indication of the specific actions in the context of the implementation of the EECCA strategy; an indication of expected sources of financial support and of activities to be implemented under the Biodiversity Service and integrated proposals for resourcing PEBLDS, monitoring, evaluation and public communication (including 2010 Countdown Initiative). The Strategy also contains a core work programme and budget (costs of secretariat, organisation of meetings and conferences, travel and core consultancies) reflecting the ownership, financial and other commitments of PEBLDS members.

The following draft document is proposed to the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the PEBLDS Bureau to be reviewed and amended as needed.

### *Draft Recommendation:*

*The PEBLDS Bureau recommends to the PEBLDS Council that the Strategy for Implementation of the Kyiv Resolution should replace the existing rolling work programme. The governments and partners involved in the implementation of the activities under the Strategy should report to the PEBLDS Bureau and Council on progress and programmes for feedback and guidance from these bodies. The PEBLDS Bureau will monitor and evaluate the implementation of the Strategy and report to the PEBLDS Council.*

# Strategy for Implementation of the *Kyiv Resolution on Biodiversity*

## **1. Introduction**

To address the commitment in 2002 of the Sixth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to reduce the rate of loss of biodiversity by 2010 at all levels, the pledge to achieve by 2010 a significant reduction in the current rate of loss of biological diversity by the participants at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and taking into account the Millennium Development Goals, the European Ministers of Environment and heads of delegation of the States participating in the process of the Pan European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS), committed to halt the loss of biological diversity in the pan European region by the year 2010 at the Fifth Ministerial Conference *Environment for Europe* held in Kyiv, Ukraine in May 2003.

The Ministers and heads of delegation agreed to 9 key targets in seven areas: forests, agriculture, ecological networks, invasive alien species, biodiversity financing, biodiversity indicators and monitoring, public awareness and participation. Reaching the key targets and the overall 2010 target requires a broad range of actions at the regional, national and sub-national levels. Actions at the national level should focus on the implementation of crucial elements of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans including tackling problems of a trans-boundary nature and participation in (sub) regional and international negotiations aimed at creating the right environment and incentives for biodiversity conservation.

At the regional level, the PEBLDS Council decided on a number of catalytic activities that highlight and address elements of the key targets that best can and should be undertaken under the direct umbrella of the PEBLDS, through concerted actions, regional cooperation and capacity-building, with the involvement of governments, non-governmental organizations, relevant stakeholders, and economic sectors. These catalytic activities are included in this strategy in each of the action plans prepared by the PEBLDS members, PEBLDS partners and the Joint Secretariat with a view to move from policy to action in the seven areas mentioned above. The action plans are the priority focus of the PEBLDS to ensure concentration of efforts and funding for the achievement of the 2010 targets. The action plans take into account ongoing work in the pan European region and emphasise the achievement of results rather than the implementation of activities.

There are many international fora (PEBLDS, CBD, EU/EEA groups, Committees of the WTO, etc.) and instruments (Global Environment Facility, the UNEP/ECNC/IUCN/REC Biodiversity Service, the Environment Strategy for countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia, 2010 Countdown Initiative, etc.) that exist to help PEBLDS countries to reach each of the targets. The European Community has made important progress in the implementation of the European Community Biodiversity Strategy and its Action Plans, of the Council Directives on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora and on the Conservation of Wild Birds, including the establishment of the Natura 2000 Network and of biodiversity actions under the Sixth Environmental Action Programme and Sustainable Development Strategy. The European Union's Message from the Malahide Conference contains priority objectives and targets for 2010. The objectives of several of the key Kyiv targets, however, will only be achieved through activities in the action plans carried out in collaboration and synergy with the European Community, particularly those involving the agricultural sector and ecological networks. The European Commission must follow up on its commitment to work closely with the PEBLDS to achieve the 2010 targets as pledged by the Environment Commissioner at the Third *Biodiversity in Europe* Conference in Madrid, Spain in 2004.

This updated strategy is an illustration for the PEBLDS community of the collaborative actions that should take place at the regional level and, perhaps most importantly, to introduce to stakeholders outside the PEBLDS community the regional commitments made within the CBD, WSSD, *Environment for Europe* and the European Union processes. A great number of stakeholders exist whose activities have an impact on biological diversity, yet they have not been given the opportunity to play their part in the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in the pan European region. The involvement of all stakeholders from all relevant sectors, including economic and production sectors, is vital to collectively address the root causes of biodiversity loss in the pan European region. It is also of critical importance that the entire PEBLDS community as well as other relevant stakeholders embrace and support, both financially and politically, the activities contained in the action plans to ensure follow up of the commitments made at the regional and global levels.

## **2. Goals and Objectives of the updated Strategy**

In order for the Strategy to be successful and meet the targets contained in the Kyiv Resolution on Biodiversity, and taking into account the decisions of the PEBLDS Council concerning the need to integrate the CBD Strategic Plan, and later the Kyiv Resolution on Biodiversity, with the PEBLDS, the following conditions (goals and objectives) will have to be met:

**Goal 1: *The PEBLDS is fulfilling its role as facilitator for European biodiversity issues, in close collaboration with other strategic frameworks, in particular the European Commission biodiversity strategy, as well as facilitating CBD implementation in the UN-ECE region, in line with the targets of the Kyiv Resolution on Biodiversity.***

- Objective 1.1: The PEBLDS is setting the Pan-European biodiversity agenda in the framework of the 'Environment for Europe' process and the Kyiv Resolution on Biodiversity, and facilitating the regional preparation and follow up to CBD Conference of the Parties and Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice Meetings.
- Objective 1.2: The PEBLDS is promoting co-operation between all relevant European instruments and processes, as well as global instruments and processes on the Pan-European level, to enhance policy coherence.
- Objective 1.3: Other relevant European processes are actively supporting implementation of the PEBLDS and CBD, in a manner consistent with their respective frameworks.
- Objective 1.4: Biodiversity and landscape concerns are being integrated into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies at the sub-regional and UN-ECE levels, to meet conservation and sustainable use objectives.
- Objective 1.5: Participants in the PEBLDS process are collaborating at the regional and sub-regional levels: (1) for the implementation of the CBD and the Kyiv Resolution on Biodiversity; (2) for the conservation, enhancement and restoration of key ecosystems, habitats, species and features of the landscape through the creation and effective management of the Pan-European Ecological Network; (3) for the implementation of the Landscape convention; and (4) for the sustainable management and use of the positive potential of Europe's biological and landscape diversity through making optimum use of the social and economic opportunities on a national and regional level.

**Goal 2: *Participants in the PEBLDS process have improved financial, human, scientific, technical, and technological capacity to implement the PEBLDS, the CBD, and the Kyiv Resolution on Biodiversity***

- Objective 2.1: All participants in the PEBLDS process have adequate capacity for implementation of priority actions in national biodiversity strategy and action plans and the Kyiv Resolution on Biodiversity.
- Objective 2.2: All participants in the PEBLDS process with economies in transition have sufficient resources available to implement the PEBLDS, the three objectives of the CBD, and the Kyiv Resolution on Biodiversity.
- Objective 2.3: Technical and scientific co-operation is making a significant contribution to building capacity in the UN-ECE region.

**Goal 3: *National biodiversity strategies and action plans and the integration of biodiversity and landscape concerns into relevant sectors serve as an effective framework for the implementation of the objectives of the PEBLDS and the CBD.***

- Objective 3.1: All participants in the PEBLDS process have effective national strategies, plans and programmes in place to provide a national framework for implementing the PEBLDS, the three objectives of the CBD and to set clear national priorities.
- Objective 3.2: Biodiversity and landscape concerns are being integrated into relevant national sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies to meet conservation and sustainable use objectives in the UN-ECE region.
- Objective 3.3: The priorities in national biodiversity strategies and action plans of the UN-ECE region are being actively implemented, as a means to achieve national implementation of the PEBLDS, the CBD, the Kyiv Resolution on Biodiversity and as a significant contribution towards the global biodiversity agenda.

**Goal 4: *There is a better understanding of the importance of biodiversity, landscape, PEBLDS, the CBD and the Kyiv Resolution on Biodiversity in the UN-ECE region, and this has led to broader engagement across society in implementation.***

- Objective 4.1: All participants in the PEBLDS process are implementing a communication, education, and public awareness strategy and promoting public participation in support of PEBLDS, the CBD and the Kyiv Resolution on Biodiversity.
- Objective 4.2: Indigenous and local communities in the UN-ECE region are effectively involved in implementation and in the processes of the PEBLDS and the CBD.
- Objective 4.3: Key actors and stakeholders, including the private sector, are engaged in partnership to implement the PEBLDS, the CBD and the Kyiv Resolution on Biodiversity and are integrating biodiversity and landscape concerns into their relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies.

### **3. Programme of Work of the updated Strategy**

The PEBLDS Bureau, at its 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting, decided that the order of priority of the action plans prepared for the implementation of the Kyiv Resolution on Biodiversity was: Pan European Ecological Network Action Plan,

Biodiversity Monitoring and Indicators Action Plan, Public Awareness and Participation Action Plan, Forest Biodiversity Action Plan, Agriculture and Biodiversity Action Plan, Financing Biodiversity Action Plan and Invasive Alien Species Action Plan. Summaries of all the action plans for the implementation of the Kyiv Resolution on Biodiversity as adopted are found below. The CBD Secretariat will cooperate and provide input for the implementation of all the action plans.

#### **a. Pan European Ecological Network Action Plan**

Lead Government: Estonia

Cooperating organizations: Council of Europe, ECNC, IUCN and *potentially the European Commission*

Supporting organizations: EcoForum, CEEWEB, UNESCO MAB and World Heritage programmes, Ramsar Convention, Bonn Convention, Flora and Fauna International, Birdlife International

Kyiv Target (s): By 2006, the Pan-European Ecological Network (core areas, restoration areas, corridors and buffer zones, as appropriate) in all States of the pan European region will be identified and reflected on coherent indicative European maps, as a European contribution towards a global ecological network. By 2008, all core areas of the Pan-European Ecological Network will be adequately conserved and the Pan European Ecological Network will give guidance to all major national, regional and international land use and planning policies as well as to the operations of relevant economic and financial sectors.

Objectives: The action plan for the implementation of the Kyiv PEEN targets will be centred on the following themes and will assist in implementing in Europe the CBD Work Programme on Protected Areas and mobilizing the Countdown to 2010. The themes are:

- A. Ensure that the Pan-European Ecological Network will give guidance by 2008 to all major national, regional and international land use and planning policies as well as to the operations of relevant economic and financial sectors;
- B. Identify and reflect by 2006 the Pan-European Ecological Network (core areas, restoration areas, corridors and buffer zones, as appropriate) in all States of the Pan-European region on coherent indicative European maps, as a European contribution towards a global ecological network;
- C. Conserve all core areas of the Pan-European Ecological Network adequately by 2008;
- D. Enhance institutional support for implementing the PEEN Kyiv targets by 2006.

#### Major Activities:

- Develop and implement a target PEEN communication strategy, which includes the communication and information about ecological networks and their contribution to PEEN and the global ecological network to society as a whole, and towards specific stakeholder groups directly relevant to the implementation of the PEEN Kyiv targets in particular (with a focus on major land use sectors)
- Develop concrete demonstration projects with financial institutions and mechanisms to prioritise green investments in relevant parts of the Pan-European Ecological Network and to avoid investments in those areas that will harm biological and landscape diversity; develop transboundary PEEN pilot projects with a clear European spin-off in co-operation with GEF. Highlight via studies and pilot projects the economic, employment and tourist value of core areas in the Pan-European Ecological Network
- Organise international symposia on the integration of the PEEN into sectoral policies in order to produce concrete recommendations and guidelines. Support legislation processed in countries. Organise these symposia together with the sectors in question.
- Develop guidelines and pilot projects for ecological networks and spatial and regional planning, and discuss these in an international symposium in 2006 for national authorities on regional and spatial planning of the countries of the PEBLDS process to disseminate PEEN as a decision-making support tool to relevant stakeholders. Develop recommendations to ensure right balance between ecological approach and the wider countryside and landscape approaches, including the role of regional planning;
- Guidelines and pilot projects for the maintenance or development of a sustainable relationship between agriculture, fishery and biological diversity in and around relevant parts of the Pan-European Ecological Network.
- Pilot project to enhance the integration of conservation, management and sustainable use of biodiversity into sectoral policies and encourage the integration of the objectives of the Vienna Declaration of the 4th Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (Vienna, April 2003) into the establishment of the PEEN; to that effect organise in 2004 a Symposium on Ecological Networks and Forest Conservation and Management in order to foster the integration of the objectives set down in the Vienna Declaration "European forests – common benefits, shared responsibilities", in the development of the PEEN.
- Develop pilot projects to implement existing guidelines on the PEEN and transport networks, including the EU Trans-European Network

- Further extension of the indicative PEEN maps towards other regions in Europe, with a priority focus on the South East European region, Caucasus and Central Asian regions as well as West European region. Have maps ready for all regions by 2006.
- Promote European contributions to the development of a global ecological network with the framework of the CBD by presenting options to CBD meetings, and by discussing this issue at all relevant PEBLDS meetings, including intergovernmental "Biodiversity in Europe" conferences and at the World Conservation Congress 2004
- Provide a platform for the exchange of experience and information between science, policy and practice for involved NGOs and GOs through pan-European conferences in 2004 and 2006 on ecological networks within the *Countdown to 2010* process
- Develop and implement a number of PEEN pilot projects in the Central and East European countries and the countries of the Caucasus and Central Asia to give particular attention to the adequate conservation measures within the framework of the Pan-European Ecological Network, in synergy with the Bern Convention Emerald Network and Natura 2000 and based on national and regional priorities and legislations.
- Assist in the establishment of a fully functioning national ecological network as a contribution to the Pan-European Ecological Network in those countries that not yet have developed such a network, and while taking into account the wider countryside and landscape approaches;
- Set up support structure for ensuring practical services and concrete pilot projects to increase the international and national conservation status of areas in the Pan-European Ecological Network, by a full implementation of the Ramsar and World Heritage Conventions, UNESCO Biosphere reserve initiatives, as well as of the Bern Convention Emerald Network, Natura 2000 and national nature conservation laws and policy measures, including national parks.
- Develop and implement national and interregional projects for the identification of marine and coastal core areas to be conserved for the setting-up of the European Coastal and Marine Ecological Network, including elaborating specific criteria for the selection of marine and coastal areas to be conserved and organising a Symposium in 2005 to gather concerned parties involved in the conservation and management of coastal and marine environment in order to exchange information and strengthen co-operation in the pan-European region
- To enhancing the institutional support for PEEN implementation by mobilising the organisations and frameworks as mentioned in the PEEN Statement to commit themselves in a concrete and action-oriented manner to assisting the implementation of the PEEN Kyiv targets, and reporting to the PEBLDS Council in progress. The priority organisations are mentioned in the PEEN statement

Cross references to programme elements in other initiatives and action plans: The implementation of this action plan will:

- Assist in implementing the wider countryside approach and holistic approaches for nature and biodiversity conservation;
- Foster the development of national ecological networks promoting the establishment of the PEEN in the pan-European region;
- Use the opportunities provided by sustainable forest management and afforestation for the development of national ecological networks as part of the PEEN, especially for ecological corridors and stepping-stones, while promoting the use of the site selection guidelines for afforestation to be developed under the joint PEBLDS/MCPFE work programme;
- Supporting the conservation of marine and coastal core areas for the establishment of the European Coastal and Marine Ecological Network in the pan-European region;
- Contribute to the implementation of the public participation and awareness action plan.

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. The EECCA Strategy has as one of its planned actions, the extension of areas of specially protected territories; and the establishment of systemic funds for biodiversity conservation, including environmental networks. Synergies will be sought between the implementation of this Action Plan and the second phase of the Biodiversity Service, enabling funding for demonstrations projects in countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asian regions. The Biodiversity Service has supported the development of ecological networks in a project carried out in Moldova.

The PEEN Action Plan will help ensure timely implementation of the two "Kyiv targets" for the PEEN. This will be achieved by further mobilizing leading bodies (including *inter alia* the European Commission, the Council of Europe, ECNC, IUCN – The World Conservation Union, UNESCO, FAO, national authorities responsible for the protection and sustainable use of natural environment, landscapes and land use sectors), through organizing symposia and other dissemination activities, joint work plans and a comprehensive communications strategy.

Budget and expected sources of financial support: 3,550,000 Euros

National Action Plan systems and existing ecological networks are important building blocks for the Pan-European Ecological Network. Besides these national systems, EU's Natura 2000 and the Bern Convention Emerald Network are also two extremely important instruments for the implementation of targets of this Action Plan, and strong involvement of the European Commission would be highly beneficial in implementing this Action Plan. The GEF Council has established four strategic priority areas in biodiversity, including *Catalyzing sustainability of protected areas*. Efforts will be made to access GEF funding through a project proposal under this priority area.

## **b. Biodiversity Monitoring and Indicators Action Plan**

Lead Government: Czech Republic

Cooperating organizations: EEA, UNEP-WCMC, ECNC

Supporting organizations: A number of government experts, non-governmental experts and experts within other relevant pan European processes.

Kyiv Target (s): By 2008, a coherent European programme on biodiversity monitoring and reporting, facilitated by the European Biodiversity Monitoring and Indicator Framework, will be operational in the pan European region, in support of nature and biodiversity policies, including by 2006 an agreed core set of biodiversity indicators developed with the active participation of the relevant stakeholders.

Objectives:

- Establishment of a coherent pan European programme for coordinating ongoing biodiversity monitoring and reporting activities by 2005;
- Agreement to a core set of pan European biodiversity indicators by 2004, to be tested and reported on in 2005;
- Delivery of a report to CBD/COP8 and other stakeholders on the tested indicators, including recommendations, to support further development of biodiversity monitoring and indicators and to improve national level monitoring;
- Development of an approach to measure the effectiveness of governments and the pan European community in implementing and reaching the Kyiv target to halt the loss of biodiversity at all levels by 2010;
- Relate the change in biodiversity at pan European level to policy measures taken at this level, so as to be able to adjust or strengthen the measures concerned.

Major Activities:

- Establish a coordination team consisting of ECNC, EEA and its ETC/NPB, UNEP-WCMC with clearly distributed responsibilities and closely linked to the lead by the Czech government;
- Establish an advisory group consisting of the lead country and interested PEBLDS Council members and observers and interested international organizations.
- Organization of a pan European coordination meeting to start active cooperation with selected ongoing national and international initiatives in a cooperative network;
- Organization of a stakeholder meeting in 2005 to reach agreement on the monitoring programme;
- Preparation of a proposal for the PEBLDS Council a minimal set of biodiversity indicators based on an analysis of currently adopted indicators at CBD and EU levels and the policy goals and targets that need to be addressed;
- Operationalise the indicators and test on pan European scale with existing data;
- Carry out demonstration activities in three non EEA countries with a focus on the EECCA countries;
- Publication of a report to the EU-BEG, the PEBLDS Council and COP8 in 2006 on the results of the tested indicators, including recommendations, and guidelines for implementation;
- Organization of a stakeholder meeting in 2008 to reach agreement on the refinement of the monitoring programme;
- Design an implementation scheme to ensure coordinated reporting beyond 2008.

Cross references to programme elements in other initiatives and action plans: This action plan will monitor the implementation of the overall objective of the Kyiv Resolution on Biodiversity to halt the loss of biodiversity as well as serve other elements of the Kyiv Resolution on Biodiversity, notably in regards to cooperation and synergy with development of biodiversity monitoring and indicators at the level of the European Community and in the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Millennium Development Goals and the further development of the trial indicators adopted at CBD/COP7 at the pan European level. 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. The EECCA strategy

has planned actions to: a) identify priority activities in the field of environmental monitoring, based on requirements to data collection and reporting stipulated by the due national legislation, environmental action plans and programs as well as on requirements of applicable international commitments; b) harmonize definitions, classifications and procedures of environmental monitoring with international standards; c) improve information quality, focusing on development of core sets of indicators with application of international experience. This action plan will also contribute to the implementation of the public participation and awareness action plan. The Biodiversity Service should be granted the means to fund the participation of countries outside of the EEA in the implementation of this action plan.

Budget and expected sources of financial support: 797,000 Euros

The action plan has been developed under the lead of the Czech Republic by ECNC and the European Environmental Agency in consultation with Birdlife International, Wetlands International, UNEP-WCMC, CONNECT and UNEP-Regional Office for Europe. It is explicitly set up to build on the many ongoing activities in Europe, such as the work under the Ramsar Convention and to support further developments at the global level, including the Global Biodiversity Outlook. It is expected that the European Commission will continue to support the work of the EEA under the ongoing working group on development of indicators and the Biodiversity Service will seek funding to implement the plan in the EECCA region.

### **c. Countdown 2010 Initiative and Public Participation and Awareness Action Plan**

Lead Government: Norway (to be confirmed)

Cooperating organizations: UNEP, IUCN, ECNC, ECOForum, CEEWEB

Supporting organizations: relevant NGOs at the national and regional level

Kyiv Target: By 2008, at least half of the countries in the pan European region are implementing national Communication, Education and Public Awareness action plans, in line with the CBD's Global Initiative on Communication, Education and Public Awareness, in order to communicate biodiversity and landscape policies and to increase multi-stakeholder participation, particularly indigenous and local communities, in their implementation.

Objectives: Although it is the responsibility of each country to develop their own national communication, education and public awareness action plan, the PEBLDS could assist countries at the regional and sub-regional levels by implementing a number of activities related to the programme elements of the CBD Global Initiative. This action plan therefore has as its objectives:

- Assist in the development of national communication, education and public awareness action plans;
- Promote the development of effective instruments on communication, education and public awareness to engage major stakeholders and to convey the appropriate messages to mainstream biodiversity;
- Increase participation of a wider range of stakeholders and indigenous and local communities in the implementation of the Convention

“**Countdown 2010**”, launched in May 2004, has the goal that “**All European governments, at every level, have taken the necessary actions to halt the loss of biodiversity by 2010**”. Countdown 2010 will act as an independent communications and technical support instrument to profile the importance of the global 2010 commitments<sup>1</sup> in the EU<sup>2</sup> and a Pan-European context and to monitor the progress of the implementation of these commitments via highly visible actions, aiming to reach the below target groups. Countdown 2010 focuses on the Kyiv Biodiversity commitments<sup>3</sup>, the Malahide targets<sup>4</sup>, and the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas<sup>5</sup>. Through the 2010 Countdown Initiative it is expected that this action plan will:

- Encourage and enable the implementation of all existing relevant legislation and international commitments;
- Promote the full implementation of all necessary actions in the Kyiv Resolution on Biodiversity;
- Clearly demonstrate the level of achievement of the 2010 commitments.

<sup>1</sup> WSSD <http://www.johannesburgsummit.org/> and chapter 7 of the Millennium Development Goals <http://www.developmentgoals.org/Environment.htm>

<sup>2</sup> At the Gothenburg European Council in September 2001, the EU Heads of State committed themselves to halt the loss of biodiversity by 2010, and made this a goal in the EU Strategy for Sustainable Development [http://europa.eu.int/comm/gothenburg\\_council/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/gothenburg_council/index_en.htm)

<sup>3</sup> In the biodiversity resolution of the **Fifth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference**, May 2003, over 40 Eurasian Environment Ministers signed the commitment to halt the loss of biodiversity at all levels by the year 2010. [http://www.countdown2010.net/documents/biodiv\\_resolution\\_Kiev.pdf](http://www.countdown2010.net/documents/biodiv_resolution_Kiev.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> Message from Malahide [www.eu2004.ie/templates/document\\_file.asp?id=17810](http://www.eu2004.ie/templates/document_file.asp?id=17810)

<sup>5</sup> These commitments are reflecting the target of the **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)** to substantially reduce the loss of biodiversity by 2010. <http://www.biodiv.org/2010-target/default.aspx>

### Major Activities:

- Preparation of communication, educational and public awareness materials on the CBD and PEBLDS
- Establishment of partnerships with journalists and broadcasters engaged in communicating biodiversity related issues through the mass media and participate in the development of an effective communication strategy for the pan European region
- Development of case studies on communication, education and public awareness
- Exchange of experiences of successful initiatives at the regional and subregional levels [demonstration project(s)]
- Building networks at the regional and sub-regional levels to increase the participation of NGOs, civil society, indigenous and local communities and relevant stakeholders in other sectors in the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity
- Assist countries in Eastern and South Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia to develop national communication, education and public awareness action plans

The 2010 Countdown Initiative will:

- Develop annual “scorecard” or 2010 biodiversity barometer-MFM, CBD PoW, KRB
- Produce Biodiversity trends and threats as an annual summary report to the EP
- Develop overview of agreed targets/commitments at pan-European level
- Develop European Red List
- Facilitate production of ecological footprint of European countries
- Co-ordinate annual or bi-annual conferences on Countdown themes
- Facilitate coordination of sectoral activities
- Co-ordinate EU Presidencies Countdown 2010 action
- Bring together stakeholders to develop agenda for Council on specific issues
- Coordinate NGO lobbying efforts
- Convene experts on specific issues
- Foster national and regional Countdown 2010 model regions

Cross references to programme elements in other initiatives and action plans: All the action plans for the implementation of the Kyiv Resolution on Biodiversity include activities relevant to the 2010 Countdown Initiative as well as activities on public awareness and participation. 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. The EECCA strategy contains planned actions in the area of public participation in environment decision-making as well as environmental education and seeks to: a) strengthen institutional frameworks, existing mechanisms and capacity of governmental agencies in the sphere of involvement of the general public into decision-making on matters of environmental significance; b) develop partnership and cooperation between public authorities and NGOs in the area of environmental education; c) develop national systems for environmental public information and awareness raising, including the use of social service advertising; d) introducing education for sustainable development involving all types and levels of education. The Biodiversity Service has supported the preparation of a CD ROM with relevant CBD and PEBLDS documents as well as the translation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation in the Russian language. It is also supporting the CEEWEB to help achieve the 2010 target by engaging NGOs in South East Europe (SEE).

Budget and expected sources of financial support: 715,000 Euros

The GEF Council has agreed to a priority area in biodiversity called *Generation and dissemination of best practices to address current and emerging biodiversity issues* and it is likely that some of the activities in this action plan could be eligible for GEF funding. For the 2010 Countdown Initiative, funds have been pledged by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), English Nature and IUCN, and negotiations are ongoing with the European Commission and Governments (Ministries of Environment) of several European countries. A donation will also be provided by the Brabant-European Partnership for Sustainability.

#### **d. Forest Biodiversity Action Plan**

Lead Government: *To be confirmed*

Cooperating organizations: UNEP, Council of Europe, PEBLDS Joint Secretariat, MCPFE Liaison Unit-Warsaw

Supporting organizations: UNFF Secretariat, IUCN, forestry associations, forestry-related NGOs and other relevant organizations, institutions and processes.

Kyiv Target: By 2008, contribute to the implementation in the pan European region of the Forest Biodiversity Expanded Programme of Work of the Convention on Biological Diversity through, *inter alia*:

- a) Implementation of the objectives and activities of the Framework for Co-operation between the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe and the Environment for Europe/Pan European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy;
- b) National Forest Programmes according to the MCPFE Approach to National Forest Programmes in Europe (adopted at the Vienna Conference in April 2003);
- c) Application of the ecosystem approach.

Objectives:

- Further integrate biodiversity considerations in the forestry sector.
- Promote the development and implementation of National Forest Programmes, also aiming at contributing to the implementation of the expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity of the CBD as well as the IPF/IFF proposals for action.
- Apply the ecosystem approach placing greater emphasis within Sustainable Forest Management on the interactions between forest habitats and other habitat types and on biodiversity conservation issues according to the principles of the ecosystem approach.
- Overcome obstacles related to illegal harvesting.

Major Activities:

- MCPFE/PEBLDS ad hoc working group to develop a pan European understanding on the linkage between the ecosystem approach and sustainable forest management
- Integration of the pan-European understanding of the linkage between the ecosystem approach and sustainable forest management into relevant processes at global level
- Prepare case studies with experiences on sustainable forest management and the ecosystem approach in forest protected areas
- Scientific analysis of information on illegal harvesting of forest products, and related trade at pan European level
- Workshop on combating illegal harvesting of forest products, and related trade in Europe
- Analysis of European networks of protected forest areas concerning the comprehensiveness, representativeness and adequacy of protected forests with regard to the conservation goal
- Elaboration of a proposal for recommendations for site selection for afforestation and reforestation in the context of the UNFCCC
- Workshop on pan European recommendations for afforestation and reforestation in the context of the UNFCCC

Cross references to programme elements in other initiatives and action plans: This action plan addresses the activities proposed in the framework for cooperation between the Efe/PEBLDS and the MCPFE process. The collaborative work will focus on pan-European priorities in forest biodiversity conservation in the implementation of the Expanded Work-Programme of the CBD and the UNFF Multi-year Programme of Work and Plan of Action. The EU Malahide Message contains an objective to conserve and enhance biodiversity through sustainable forest management at national, regional and global levels. The forest biodiversity related commitments of the Fourth Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe are an important basis for the selection of common themes and related tasks for co-operation. The specific themes and related tasks will especially contribute to creating synergies between the two ministerial processes and facilitate a joint regional contribution to ongoing global processes. Activities will be coordinated with the PEEN action plan and the public participation and awareness action plan, including the 2010 Countdown Initiative. The EECCA strategy has stated the need to apply indicators and requirements of the Ministerial Conference for the Protection of Forests in Europe to the forestry sector, including the ones dealing with accounting for multiple functions of forests, biodiversity conservation, etc. It also states the need to account for environmental aspects in national forestry strategies and action plans. The Biodiversity Service has not carried out any activities in the forestry sector up to now.

Budget and expected sources of financial support: 370,000 Euros

Governments participating in the MCPFE and the PEBLDS process should contribute to the implementation of this action plan. Additional funding will be sought from the European Commission and the GEF, as the GEF Council has agreed to a strategic priority in biodiversity to mainstream biodiversity in production landscapes such as forestry. Synergies will be sought with other processes, organizations and institutions working on relevant themes, such as the FAO, UNECE, COST 27, CITES Secretariat, and the EC FLEGT.

## **e. Agriculture and Biodiversity Action Plan**

Lead Government: *To be confirmed*

Cooperating organizations: UNEP, Council of Europe, European Environment Agency (EEA), potentially the European Commission, IUCN, ECNC and other relevant institutions and organizations

Kyiv Target: By 2006, the identification, using agreed common criteria, of all high nature value areas in agricultural ecosystems in the pan European region will be complete. By 2008, a substantial proportion of these areas will be under biodiversity-sensitive management by using appropriate mechanisms such as rural development instruments, agri-environmental programmes and organic agriculture, to *inter alia* support their economic and ecological viability. By 2008, financial subsidy and incentive schemes for agriculture in the pan European region will take the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in consideration.

### Objectives:

- Develop methodologies for the identification of HNV farmland, taking into account all components of agriculture biodiversity as defined in Annex 2 to decision V/5 of the COP to the CBD.
- Identify HNV farmland and assess their distribution and conservation status at the Pan-European level.
- Promote adequate management of HNV farmland in order to maintain a high degree of biodiversity and landscapes in the Pan-European region.
- Identify measures that can decrease the current trend of agricultural intensification and crop and livestock homogenisation.
- Identify and promote measures to reduce or manage land abandonment to as to minimise the negative impacts on agriculture biodiversity and create opportunities to create other HNV habitats.
- Promote conversion of agriculture intensive areas into more environmentally sound managed areas including through labelling of products, organic farming, promoting quality of life and health benefits and others.
- Integrate biodiversity and landscape considerations in financial subsidy and incentive schemes in the Pan-European region.
- Build capacity through the dissemination of targeted information on biodiversity-sensitive management of high nature value farmland.
- Emphasize the socio-economic and cultural (including landscape and tourism) benefits in assessing the national values of farming activities and agricultural areas.
- Raise awareness on the importance and potential economic benefits of developing and promoting marketing of local and traditional products supporting maintenance and conservation of agricultural biodiversity.

### Major Activities:

- Further development and elaboration of the HNV concept; agreement on the use of a common HNV concept in the pan European region; guidelines for the identification of HNV farmland in the Pan-European region based on sharing of experiences at sub regional and regional level, and national input from EU and non-EU governments;
- Preparation of recommendations for the conservation of HNV farmland to the European Union policy-making bodies and non-EU countries
- Establishment of appropriate mechanisms to promote co-operation between the agricultural and biodiversity sectors, national farm organisations and stakeholders in the Pan-European region; preparation of a proposal for a framework for cooperation and initial joint activities
- Organization of a Conference to discuss how best integrate biodiversity considerations into the agricultural sector
- Develop and compile capacity-building materials for targeted groups (farmers, extension services, etc.) on biodiversity-sensitive management of HNV farmland in the Pan-European region
- Develop ways and means to build consumers awareness on the importance of conservation of HNV farmland and opportunities for society contribution to this task
- Raise farmers awareness on the importance of conserving biodiversity and of HNV farmland and farming practices to maintain them
- Disseminate information on biodiversity-sensitive management of HNV farmland through various means (sub-regional workshops, consultation meetings, etc.)

Cross references to programme elements in other initiatives and action plans: Activities will be coordinated with the Pan European Ecological Network where relevant as well as the activities of the Public Awareness and Participation action plan, particularly the 2010 Countdown Initiative. 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. The EECCA strategy has as a priority to integrate environmental considerations into the development of key economic sectors. In particular, in the agricultural sector, the strategy aims to develop

comprehensive land use planning, accounting for environmental consequences; implement projects for rehabilitation of affected land areas, associated with programs for combating desertification; implement counter-erosion and counter-landslide activities, alienate degraded land areas from agriculture use for their rehabilitation and reforestation; implement soil protection technologies and practices for increase of nutrients levels and improvement of soil fertility. The Biodiversity Service in the first phase provided funding for a workshop and materials on Good Agricultural Practices in Eastern and Central Europe.

Budget and expected sources of financial support: 500,000 Euros

Fundraising will take place for support from donor countries that are interested in the integration of biodiversity considerations in the agricultural sector. Proposals will be prepared for the European Commission to continue the work initiated with the European Environmental Agency on identification of high nature value farmland. GEF funding will also be considered as the GEF Council has agreed to a strategic priority in biodiversity to mainstream biodiversity in production landscapes such as agriculture.

#### **f. Financing Biodiversity Action Plan**

Lead Government: *To be confirmed*

Cooperating organization (s): ECNC, EBRD and OECD, and other organisations, including World Bank, GEF, European Investment Bank, PPC, UNEP, EC, Fauna and Flora International, ECOFORUM and other relevant organizations

Supporting organization (s): European Task Force for Banking, Business and Biodiversity

Kyiv Target (s): By 2008, there will be substantially increased public and private financial investments in integrated biodiversity activities in Europe, via partnerships with the finance and business sectors, that have resulted in new investment opportunities and facilities as outlined by the European Biodiversity Resourcing Initiative, taking into account the special needs of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia.

Objectives:

- The implementation of the Kyiv Resolution on Financing Biodiversity requires complementary provision for Technical Assistance in the establishment of a Biodiversity Finance Facility, and a European Biodiversity Investment Partnership should also be established to insure synergy with the business community;
- The measurement of the impact of the financing of biodiversity-related projects, in particular within the pan-European Ecological Network, requires review and monitoring of indicators regarding such investment;
- Contribution of European expertise to the implementation of relevant decisions on biodiversity resourcing of the Conferences of the Parties of the CBD, including the CBD Initiative on banking, business and biodiversity (COP 6 Decision VI/16 (2002)), and fine-tuning of relevant CBD activities with relevant PEBLDS activities.

Major Activities:

- Ensure coordination of the European Task Force on Banking, Business and Biodiversity with the EBRD / PPC team mandated to design the Biodiversity Finance and Technical Assistance Facilities, in particular for the approval of the latter;
- Participate in the establishment of the Biodiversity Technical Assistance Facility, which includes locating its operational site, manning the TA facility, preparing administrative arrangements and establishing a Financing Biodiversity CHM;
- Establish an outreach programme to the elements of the business community likely to provide significant and emblematic support for biodiversity-related investment in the EECCA region, while dedicating attention to the role of local communities and other stakeholders, such as NGOs;
- Provide for the structural commitment of banks and businesses to realise the Kyiv Resolution on Financing Biodiversity through setting up and gathering adhesion to a European Biodiversity Investment Partnership (including through the use of green finance/tax incentives at all appropriate levels of government);
- Organise regular meetings of the Task Force to oversee the implementation of this project;
- Review and develop indicators for biodiversity-relevant investment in the EECCA region in cooperation with data repositories and management organisations, notably OECD;
- Evaluate the evolution of biodiversity-related investment in the EECCA region, including Dept for Nature Swaps, and publish the findings before the next EfE ministerial conference;

- Study the impact of biodiversity-related investment upon the establishment / enhancement of the Pan-European Ecological Network, and communicate the findings to the Council of PEBLDS, in 2008;
- Frequent contacts between Secretariat of Task Force and Secretariat of CBD to ensure full coordination of global and European activities on biodiversity resourcing.

Cross references to programme elements in other initiatives and action plans: 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. The EECCA Strategy proposes actions in the area of financing for conservation of biodiversity and protection of ecosystems. For example, the strategy proposes the incorporation of biodiversity conservation aspects into governmental programmes of socio-economic development, material and finance support for protected territories; and setting adequate rates of charges for use of biological resources. The Biodiversity Service has supported activities in Uzbekistan on financing conservation of biodiversity and UNEP continues to support the EBRI process.

Budget and expected sources of financial support: 720,000 Euros

There is an interest within financial institutions and mechanisms to increase investments in biodiversity, making this the right time for exploring opportunities for increasing biodiversity relevant investments. A combination of public funds with bankable investments – in the form of equity participation and loans – as well as technical assistance grants could considerably increase the scope for biodiversity resourcing<sup>6</sup>. Support for the creation of the Biodiversity Finance Facility is being sought from EBRD, EIB and private banks such as Deutsche Bank and Rabobank. A post is currently funded at the EBRD through a TACIS grant for the further development of the Biodiversity Finance Facility. Further funding will be sought from the private sector and perhaps private industry for work in this area.

#### **g. Invasive Alien Species Action Plan**

Lead Government: Italy (*To be confirmed*)

Cooperating organization (s): Council of Europe, IUCN (European section of the Species Survival Commission and Invasive Species Specialist Group)

Kyiv Target (s): By 2008, the pan European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species developed under the Bern Convention, fully compatible with the Guiding Principles of the Convention on Biological Diversity, will be implemented by at least half of the countries of the pan European region through their respective Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans.

Objectives:

- Develop and implement coordinated measures and cooperative efforts throughout Europe to prevent or minimise adverse impacts of IAS on Europe's biodiversity, as well as its economy and human health and wellbeing.
- Reach a scientific consensus in Europe on priority IAS to be eradicated for the sake of biodiversity.
- Set up appropriate policies, control methods and financial resources to carry out the eradication action plans on priority IAS.

Major Activities:

- Identify appropriate prevention and mitigation measures
- prevent the introduction of new invasive alien species into and within Europe and support rapid response to detected incursions
- rapidly increase awareness and information on IAS issues and ways to tackle them
- strengthen national and regional capacity and cooperation to deal with IAS issues, including through the clearing house mechanisms, as well as the establishment of national focal points
- identify and prioritise key actions to be implemented at the national and regional level (*e.g.* prepare appropriate legislations, awareness campaigns, policies to carry out eradication plans, etc.)
- draft national lists of priority invasive alien species to be eradicated, including list of species newly introduced, species which have the greatest impact on biodiversity and species whose eradication was proven to be feasible

<sup>6</sup> Bankable biodiversity-relevant investments are defined as investments by financial institutions and mechanisms that have a certain financial return from investment and an acceptable risk rate. They can take the form of equity and various forms of loans, associated when necessary and possible with technical assistance support.

- define suitable methodologies, policies and financial resources for carrying out the eradications
- identify needs for bilateral and multilateral co-operation in carrying out eradications
- set up a monitoring system to assess the effectiveness of the eradication campaigns
- recover species and restore natural habitats and ecosystems that have been adversely affected by biological invasions, where feasible and desirable
- prepare regional and national workshops on IAS

Cross references to programme elements in other initiatives and action plans: 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. The EECCA strategy does not make any mention of invasive alien species as a priority nor has the Biodiversity Service provided any assistance to CEECCA countries on this issue.

Budget and expected sources of financial support: 560,000 Euros

The Council of Europe provides support to actions on the development of the pan European guidelines on invasive alien species. Given the importance of this issue in the European Union, the European Commission could be asked to collaborate with the PEBLDS members on the financing of these activities.

#### 4. Institutional Arrangements

The PEBLDS is an intergovernmental process under the broad auspices of the “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference. Its legal framework is based on an agreement between the Council of Europe and UNEP. The overall aim of the PEBLDS is to promote and enhance biodiversity protection in Europe, *inter alia*, through acting as the implementing arm of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The policy under the PEBLDS is set by an intergovernmental Council, and the Secretariat services are provided jointly by the COE and UNEP.

#### 5. Financing the PEBLDS action plans

Both EU and non EU Governments participating in the PEBLDS process will be approached for contributions for the implementation of the action plans. Closer cooperation, both financial and political, is sought from the European Commission. As mentioned above, there are a number of instruments that could assist the PEBLDS countries in achieving the key targets, and they are illustrated below. A small task force, with members of the PEBLDS Bureau, the Joint Secretariat and the European Task Force for Banking, Business and Biodiversity will support the fund-raising activities needed to carry out the action plans and assist in approaching the various funding mechanisms and donor governments.

**Total Cost of the Action Plans for implementation of the Kyiv Resolution on Biodiversity:**

*Expressed in Euros*

Activity	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Total
<b>Funding requested from government(s), private sector (to be fundraised) for:</b> Consultants/MOUs with supporting organizations/institutions Workshops Reporting Costs Travel							
Co-financing of supporting organization, institution or NGO (cash and in-kind) including staff-time, logistical support							
<b>Total Cost of the Project</b>	<b>1,077,000</b>	<b>1,920,000</b>	<b>1,455,000</b>	<b>1,480,000</b>	<b>935,000</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>6,917,000</b>
	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>			<b>0</b>

Three initiatives are of prime importance to the topic of resourcing PEBLDS:

- The Strategy Trust Fund
- The European Biodiversity Resourcing Initiative;

- The Biodiversity Service.

### ***Strategy Trust Fund***

At the 3rd meeting, held in Geneva, the Executive Bureau asked the Secretariat of the Council of Europe to prepare a document setting out proposals on the operation of a special trust fund with a view to considering it at the 2nd meeting of the Council for the Strategy [STRA-BU (97) 45]. Such a fund should be created in order to finance the participation of representatives of countries from the EECCA region in meetings organised by different organisations in the framework of the Strategy and should the need arise, in the meetings of the Strategy Council.

The Strategy's Trust Fund has never been established but would be critical for the governments to provide contributions for the implementation of the action plans under the PEBLDS, as it is clear that other instruments available will not provide sufficient funding for all the necessary activities..

### ***The European Biodiversity Resourcing Initiative***

In December 2003, the second phase of EBRI was initiated by Switzerland and ECNC. The purpose is for information, expertise and project-related experience to be made available to potential entrepreneurs in EECCA countries. The means currently being worked on include the setting up of norms and criteria for the development of a biodiversity project portfolio, awareness raising, information transfer and training. In addition, a European Task Force on Banking, Business and Biodiversity has been established, based on a decision of the Budapest "Biodiversity in Europe" Conference.

The work of the Task Force is to advise the PEBLDS process on the issue of banking, business and biodiversity in a European context, and more in particular to advance the establishment of a Biodiversity Finance Facility for biodiversity-related investments and a European Biodiversity Investment Partnership for involving the private sector in supporting such investments. The Task Force has determined that a complementary European Biodiversity Technical Assistance Facility should also operate during the first years of operation of the Biodiversity Finance Facility, in order to 'prime the pump' by soliciting project proposals and then controlling their eligibility from both the biodiversity and financial perspectives, and also offering advice and some technical support when necessary in order to bring promising proposals up to the required level of acceptability for consideration by the Biodiversity Finance Facility.

### ***The Biodiversity Service***

A consortium of four organizations, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Conservation Union (IUCN), the European Centre for Nature Conservation (ECNC) and the Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe (REC), established the Biodiversity Service as a comprehensive response to support the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Central and Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (CEECCA), helping to address, as far as possible and appropriate, specific biodiversity related problems faced by countries of the region during the early stages of implementation of their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs). The Governments of Denmark, Finland, Hungary, the Netherlands and Switzerland as well as the European Commission and UNDP/GEF, under the UNDP-UNEP Biodiversity Planning Support Programme, have contributed a total of approximately US\$ 1,2 million to the project.

In the first phase of the Biodiversity Service, the overall objective was to strengthen capacity in CEECCA countries to fulfil their obligations under the CBD through facilitating the process of NBSAP implementation and stimulating synergies in implementation of national (NBSAP), regional (PEBLDS) and global (CBD) instruments for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity by providing countries of the region with expert and advisory services, policy recommendations and guidelines, up to date information, experience exchange and training. The Biodiversity Service is now expected to enter the second phase of activities this year; the focus of the Service will largely shift from the EU accession countries towards the Balkans region and the EECCA, and include as the overall objective the achievement of the 2010 target and implementation of the Kyiv Biodiversity Resolution in this region.

### **Programmes available in support of Resourcing the PEBLDS**

#### *Programmes of UNEP and Council of Europe, members and observers of PEBLDS Council*

In addition to their role as the Joint Secretariat, the Council of Europe and UNEP are funding an important portion of the projects developed so far within the Pan-European Strategy. Both their work programmes on biodiversity have been adapted to this aim.

Members and observers of the Strategy process are also focusing their activities in support of the implementation of the PEBLDS by building in Strategy-related components in their work programmes. Especially ECNC and IUCN have contributed to the implementation of PEBLDS priorities. A number of governments participating in the PEBLDS Council have over the years financially contributed considerable amounts to fund the Joint Secretariat and PEBLDS-related activities, but there is still much room for broader financial and technical support of the full PEBLDS Council.

### **Global sources of funding the implementation of the PEBLDS**

The Financial Mechanism for the Convention on Biological Diversity is the Global Environment Facility.

The GEF provides grants and concessional funding to recipient countries for projects and programmes that protect the global environment and promote sustainable economic growth. GEF projects and programmes are managed through three implementing agencies: the UN Development Programme (UNDP), the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Bank. The GEF is striving for universal participation and currently 156 countries are participants. Countries may be eligible for GEF funds in one of two ways: (1) if they are eligible for financial assistance through the financial mechanism of either the Climate Change Convention or the Convention on Biological Diversity; or (2) if they are eligible to borrow from the World Bank (IBRD and/or IDA) or receive technical assistance grants from UNDP through a Country Programme. A country must be a party to the Climate Change Convention or the Convention on Biological Diversity to receive funds from the GEF in the relevant focal area.

The GEF Operational Guidelines for Enabling Activities include those for the field of biodiversity. For the third replenishment of the GEF, the GEF Council will address past weaknesses by addressing root causes of biodiversity loss, mainstreaming and integrating biodiversity into production sectors, improving project sustainability, involving the private sector and improving evaluation of project performance. The GEF Council has currently established four strategic priorities in biodiversity: catalyzing sustainability of protected areas; mainstreaming biodiversity in production landscapes (agriculture, forestry, fisheries and tourism as well as cross cutting sectors such as water, health and energy); capacity building for the Cartagena Protocol; generation and dissemination of best practices for addressing current and emerging biodiversity issues.

GEF funds have only indirectly been mobilised in support of the implementation of European PEBLDS priorities, e.g. via relevant projects of countries. More vigorous efforts should take place to seek funding from the GEF under their various current priorities.

### **EU funding sources relevant for supporting the PEBLDS**

On the European level the European Union has an online guide "Funding opportunities for environmental projects" ([http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/funding/intro\\_eu.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/funding/intro_eu.htm)) whose purpose is to give an overview of the current funding opportunities available from through Directorate General Environment, and especially its Nature and Biodiversity Unit. Many of these funding opportunities have a direct relevance to biodiversity and to the support of action under the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy. The Sixth Environmental Action Programme has elevated environmental protection from a flanking to a central policy. The effect of this will be, in the medium to long term, the integration of the 'precautionary principle' into the use of all financial instruments of the Union. To this end, the use of all monies should reflect the goal of achieving sustainable development. Where possible links are provided to environment related funding opportunities in other Directorate Generals (DGs) of the Commission.

The history of EU financing for nature conservation is focused through the LIFE financial instrument. LIFE is the financial instrument supporting the Community environmental policy. Within the meaning of LIFE, the nature conservation actions are those "required to maintain or restore the natural habitats and the population of species of wild fauna and flora at a favourable status". In practice, LIFE-Nature must contribute to the implementation of the "Birds" (79/409/EEC) and "Habitats" (92/43/EEC) Community directives and, in particular, to the establishment of the European network of protected areas - Natura 2000 - aiming at the on-site management and conservation of the most valuable fauna and flora species and habitats in the Union.

### ***Financing the Joint Secretariat and the Meetings of the Council and Bureau***

Meetings and services under the PEBLDS are financed from a budget comprised of voluntary contributions by Governments and the Joint secretariat partners. The implementation of the PEBLDS and its further development is a responsibility of the Governments participating in this process. The cost of meetings of the Council, its Bureau and subsidiary bodies, including travel and subsistence expenses, the cost of preparation, translation and dissemination of documents, and simultaneous interpretation as well as the staff and administration related costs of the Joint Secretariat, is captured in one consolidated budget.

In agreement to Council decisions of 2001, the budget comprises a section covered by UNEP, a section covered by the COE, and a section covered by Council members. The part of the budget covered by Council members, is approved by the Council annually and will be administered by UNEP. It includes staff support cost, which cannot be covered by the Environment Fund. A reserve should be built up to ensure and provide a guarantee for a stable and predictable funding for the Joint Secretariat post, as agreed by the Council at their meeting in Budapest. See the current budget of the Joint Secretariat in Annex 1.

## **5. Communication Strategy and 2010 Countdown Initiative**

### **Communication Strategy and Strategy Guide Website**

*In development*

### **2010 Countdown Initiative**

“**Countdown 2010**”, launched in May 2004, has the goal that “**All European governments, at every level, have taken the necessary actions to halt the loss of biodiversity by 2010**”. Countdown 2010 will act as an independent communications and technical support instrument to profile the importance of the global 2010 commitments<sup>7</sup> in the EU<sup>8</sup> and a Pan-European context and to monitor the progress of the implementation of these commitments via highly visible actions, aiming to reach the below target groups. Countdown 2010 focuses on the Kyiv Biodiversity commitments<sup>9</sup>, the Malahide targets<sup>10</sup>, and the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas<sup>11</sup>. Countdown 2010 is a strategic alliance between many governmental and non-governmental partners who are committed to the goal of halting the loss of biodiversity by 2010.

The initiative is aimed at two primary target groups:

1. European Heads of State and governments, main European decision makers (such as EC and EP staff and MEP's), and (private sector) stakeholders;
2. Civil society (through IUCN members and other conservation related organisations).

Two secondary target groups of the initiative have been identified:

1. Private Sector;
2. European Media.

Building on the official endorsements<sup>12,13,14</sup> the initiative has received, Countdown 2010 **adds value** through **raising awareness** amongst Pan-European stakeholders that so far have low interest or awareness of biodiversity and in particular the 2010 targets. Secondly Countdown 2010 substantively contributes through the **facilitation** and **coordination** of action (synergies) of a large number of organisations to raise the profile of the 2010 target and to critically review the progress in its **implementation** across Europe. Thirdly the time-sensitive technical support of Countdown 2010 enhances and facilitates existing work though providing **knowledge management** to meet the 2010 target. Fourthly Countdown 2010 provides the function of highlighting what work has been done and what still needs to be done to achieve the 2010 target.

<sup>7</sup> WSSD <http://www.ijohannesburgsummit.org/> and chapter 7 of the Millennium Development Goals <http://www.developmentgoals.org/Environment.htm>

<sup>8</sup> At the Gothenburg European Council in September 2001, the EU Heads of State committed themselves to halt the loss of biodiversity by 2010, and made this a goal in the EU Strategy for Sustainable Development

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/gothenburg\\_council/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/gothenburg_council/index_en.htm)

<sup>9</sup> In the biodiversity resolution of the **Fifth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference**, May 2003, over 40 Eurasian Environment Ministers signed the commitment to halt the loss of biodiversity at all levels by the year 2010. [http://www.countdown2010.net/documents/biodiv\\_resolution\\_Kiev.pdf](http://www.countdown2010.net/documents/biodiv_resolution_Kiev.pdf)

<sup>10</sup> Message from Malahide [www.eu2004.ie/templates/document\\_file.asp?id=17810](http://www.eu2004.ie/templates/document_file.asp?id=17810)

<sup>11</sup> These commitments are reflecting the target of the **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)** to substantially reduce the loss of biodiversity by 2010. <http://www.biodiv.org/2010-target/default.aspx>

<sup>12</sup> EU Environment Councils June 2004 conclusions, <http://register.consilium.eu.int/pdf/en/04/st10/st10997.en04.pdf>. Welcomes and encourages Countdown 2010 in Point 13, “Welcomes the Countdown 2010 initiative, launched by a partnership of civil organisations, including the Irish Presidency, the Commissioner for the Environment and the World Conservation Union (IUCN) and other key actors at the Malahide Conference, as an important sensitising initiative to the significance of biodiversity loss across the globe and as a means to act as an independent monitor of progress towards the 2010 targets and ENGOURAGES (sic) Member States, Commission and civil society to support the Countdown 2030 initiative”

<sup>13</sup> Countdown 2010 was endorsed in the Message from Malahide, objective 17.3 “Ten thematic conferences under the “Countdown 2010” initiative (launched at Malahide in 2004) to halt the loss of biodiversity supported from 2004 to 2010, and parallel processes in other regions, or by other partners encouraged”

<sup>14</sup> Council for PEBLDS in May 2004 identified Countdown 2010 as one of the Leading Actors to contribute to “organise international symposia on the integration of the PEEN into sectoral policies in order to produce concrete recommendations and guidelines. Support legislation processed in countries. Organise these symposia together with the sectors in question”.

## **6. Monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the action plans**

The monitoring of the action plans will take place through a small task force of members of the PEBLDS Bureau and the Joint Secretariat and will be assisted by the action plan on Indicators and Monitoring. In addition, each action plan has proposed mechanisms for the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the activities in the action plans. Indicators that could be useful to evaluate the results and impacts of the activities are suggested and surveys, checklists and questionnaires will be developed for the assessment of the implementation of the action plans.

As an independent instrument, the Countdown Initiative will follow up and communicate on the implementation of the Kyiv Resolution on Biodiversity at the pan European level.

## APPENDIX

**BUDGET FOR THE PEBLDS JOINT SECRETARIAT  
JUNE 2004 TO DECEMBER 2005  
In US Dollars**

<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Council of Europe Core Budget</b>	<b>UNEP Core Budget</b>	<b>Donor Contributions</b>	<b>Total</b>
<i>Coordinator</i>			237,500	237,500
<i>Reserve</i>			75,000	75,000
<i>UNEP Staff (professional and support staff)</i>		190,000		190,000
<i>Council of Europe Staff (professional and support staff)</i>	258,000			258,000
<i>Travel Costs of the Joint Secretariat</i>	23,750	8,000	16,000	47,750
<i>10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> Bureau Meetings (June 2004, October 2004, June 2005, October 2005)</i>	36,400	10,000	20,000	66,400
<i>9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Council (January 2005) (Participants travel and interpretation)</i>	40,000	5,000	10,000	55,000
<i>Preparation of documents (translation, printing and dispatching of documents)</i>	13,500	5,000	10,000	28,500
<i>Miscellaneous (Administrative Support Costs, Communications, etc.)</i>	10,000	10,000	20,000	40,000
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>381,650</b>	<b>228,000</b>	<b>388,500</b>	<b>998,150</b>

### Kyiv Resolution on Biodiversity

*Noting* with great concern, despite previous efforts, the continued degradation of biological and landscape diversity in the pan European region as illustrated in the recent report prepared by the European Environmental Agency, and *recognising* that the continued loss of biological and landscape diversity will undermine sustainable development and the social and cultural integrity of the Earth's populations,

*Affirming* the Pan European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy process and its mandate to provide a framework to promote a consistent approach and common objectives for national and regional action in the pan European region to implement the Convention on Biological Diversity,

*Welcoming* the progress in the implementation of the programme of work of the Pan European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy, in particular in the areas of ecological networks, financing biodiversity, biodiversity monitoring and indicators, and in the integration of biodiversity and landscape concerns into sectoral policies such as agriculture and forestry,

We, the European Ministers of Environment and Heads of Delegations of the States participating in the process of the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity,

- a. Endorse the emerging role of the PEBLDS as an important instrument for regional implementation of the CBD, and as a vehicle for promoting, *inter alia*, the integration of biodiversity and landscape concerns into all relevant horizontal and sectoral policies;
- b. Adopt the Framework for Co-operation between the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe and the Environment for Europe/Pan European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy and request the Joint Secretariat of the Pan European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy to operationalise the agreement by identifying objectives and activities in collaboration with the Liaison Unit of the MCPFE;
- c. Recognise the need to further promote the development of national ecological networks, as proposed in the background documents prepared for the Kyiv Conference and endorse the statement in support of the Pan European Ecological Network, as appended to this Resolution;
- d. Welcome the Final Declaration on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity in the Framework of Agricultural Policies and Practices, adopted at the High-level Pan-European Conference on Agriculture and Biodiversity in June 2002 in Paris, and invite the Joint Secretariat of the Pan European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy to explore the possibility of organising a joint Ministerial Conference of Ministers of Agriculture and Environment in 2005;
- e. Take note of the Code of Practice for the Introduction of Biological and Landscape Diversity Considerations into the Transport Sector submitted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe and presented in the background documents prepared for the Kyiv Conference;
- f. Invite the UNEP/ECNC/IUCN/REC Service for the Implementation of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans to continue to provide expert biodiversity services to the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia to overcome the obstacles in the implementation of their Strategies and Action Plans;

**We, the European Ministers of Environment and Heads of Delegations of the States participating in the process of the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity, reinforce our objective to halt the loss of biological diversity at all levels by the year 2010, and to work towards it through concerted actions and a joint commitment to achieve the following key targets:**

Forests and biodiversity:

2. By 2008, contribute to the implementation in the pan European region of the Forest Biodiversity Expanded Programme of Work of the Convention on Biological Diversity through, *inter alia*:
  - a) Implementation of the objectives and activities of the Framework for Co-operation between the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe and the Environment for Europe/Pan European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy;

- b) National Forest Programmes according to the MCPFE Approach to National Forest Programmes in Europe (adopted at the Vienna Conference in April 2003);
- c) Application of the ecosystem approach.

Agriculture and biodiversity:

- 2. By 2006, the identification, using agreed common criteria, of all high nature value areas in agricultural ecosystems in the pan European region will be complete. By 2008, a substantial proportion of these areas will be under biodiversity-sensitive management by using appropriate mechanisms such as rural development instruments, agri-environmental programmes and organic agriculture, to *inter alia* support their economic and ecological viability.
- 3. By 2008, financial subsidy and incentive schemes for agriculture in the pan European region will take the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in consideration.

Pan European Ecological Network:

- 4. By 2006, the Pan-European Ecological Network (core areas, restoration areas, corridors and buffer zones, as appropriate) in all States of the pan European region will be identified and reflected on coherent indicative European maps, as a European contribution towards a global ecological network.
- 5. By 2008, all core areas of the Pan-European Ecological Network will be adequately conserved and the Pan European Ecological Network will give guidance to all major national, regional and international land use and planning policies as well as to the operations of relevant economic and financial sectors.

Invasive Alien Species:

- 6. By 2008, the pan European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species developed under the Bern Convention, fully compatible with the Guiding Principles of the Convention on Biological Diversity, will be implemented by at least half of the countries of the pan European region through their respective Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans.

Financing Biodiversity:

- 7. By 2008, there will be substantially increased public and private financial investments in integrated biodiversity activities in Europe, via partnerships with the finance and business sectors, that have resulted in new investment opportunities and facilities as outlined by the European Biodiversity Resourcing Initiative, taking into account the special needs of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia.

Biodiversity Monitoring and Indicators:

- 8. By 2008, a coherent European programme on biodiversity monitoring and reporting, facilitated by the European Biodiversity Monitoring and Indicator Framework, will be operational in the pan European region, in support of nature and biodiversity policies, including by 2006 an agreed core set of biodiversity indicators developed with the active participation of the relevant stakeholders.

Public Participation and Awareness:

- 9. By 2008, at least half of the countries in the pan European region are implementing national Communication, Education and Public Awareness action plans, in line with the CBD's Global Initiative on Communication, Education and Public Awareness, in order to communicate biodiversity and landscape policies and to increase multi-stakeholder participation, particularly indigenous and local communities, in their implementation.

While adopting this Resolution, the European Ministers of Environment and Heads of Delegations of the States participating in the process of the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity,

*Recognised* that biological and landscape diversity is not only significant for its intrinsic value but is also important for the valuable goods and services it provides to humankind, including the social and economic relevance of biological diversity for agriculture, forestry, tourism, water management, human health, quality of life, rural development and other sectors,

*Recalled* the endorsement of the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Strategy at the Third Ministerial Conference 'Environment for Europe' in October 1995 in Sofia, Bulgaria, involving 55 States,

*Recognised* the outcome of the Second Intergovernmental Conference ‘*Biodiversity in Europe*’, held in February 2002 in Budapest, where it was confirmed that the PEBLDS process is now a well-established forum for essential discussions on the conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity in Europe,

*Acknowledged* the important progress in the implementation of the Emerald Network under the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern, 1979),

*Acknowledged* the important progress of the European Community in the implementation of the European Community Biodiversity Strategy and its Action Plans, of the Council Directives on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora and on the Conservation of Wild Birds, including the establishment of the Natura 2000 Network and of biodiversity actions under the Sixth Environmental Action Programme and Sustainable Development Strategy and, recognizing the progress of the candidate states in application of the EC biodiversity *acquis*,

*Welcomed* the adoption by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe of the European Landscape Convention and its opening for signature on October 2000 in Florence (Italy),

*Acknowledged* the important progress of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar, 1971) in developing in Europe the List of Wetlands of International Importance (the Ramsar List).

*Welcomed* the outcome of the 6<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the commitment to halt the loss of biodiversity by 2010, the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the pledge to achieve by 2010 a significant reduction in the current rate of loss of biological diversity, and taking into account the Millennium Development Goals,

*Noted* para 42 of the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development that, *inter alia*, states, “...Implement the Convention and its provisions, including active follow up of its work programmes and decisions through national, regional and global action programmes, in particular the national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and strengthen their integration into relevant cross-sectoral strategies, programmes and policies, including those related to sustainable development and poverty eradication, including initiatives which promote community-based sustainable use of biological diversity,”

***ACTION PLANS***

<b>Title of Action Plan:</b>	Implementation of the forests and biodiversity target
<b>Lead Government (s):</b>	All Governments involved in the PEBLDS and MCPFE Processes
<b>Co-operating Agency/ Supporting Organization:</b>	PEBLDS Joint Secretariat, MCPFE Liaison Unit, UNEP, Council of Europe, IUCN, forestry associations, forestry-related NGOs and other relevant organizations, institutions and processes
<b>Duration of the Action Proposal:</b>	Start: 2004 End: 2006

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### **Background:**

The Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE) constitutes the high-level process for forest policy dialogue and co-operation in Europe, including forest biodiversity issues. 'Environment for Europe' is the high-level process for environment related co-operation in Europe. Within the ministerial process 'Environment for Europe', the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS) constitutes the co-ordinating framework for efforts to conserve biological and landscape diversity in Europe, including forest biodiversity.

PEBLDS has incorporated activities related to forest biodiversity in its first Action Plan (1996-2000) under Action Theme 'Forest Ecosystems'. PEBLDS also addresses the issue in its current Rolling Work Programme, which is now structured in line with the Strategic Plan of the CBD, with focus on the European situation through the co-operation of relevant European instruments and processes. The PEBLDS Joint Secretariat collaborates with the CBD Secretariat in the frame of a Memorandum of Co-operation to promote a consistent approach and common objectives for national and regional action to implement the CBD in Europe.

The European ministers responsible for forests have recognized the fact that the conservation and appropriate enhancement of biological diversity in all types of forests is an essential element in sustainable forest management. The MCPFE has therefore tackled the subject since its beginnings in 1990 through commitments at the Ministerial Conferences and subsequently in the follow-up processes. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Ministerial Conference in 1993 in Helsinki explicitly adopted General Guidelines for the Conservation of the Biodiversity of European Forests in Resolution H2 in response to the forests related outcomes of the UNCED 1992, especially the CBD. In addition, biodiversity conservation was explicitly included in the Guidelines for Sustainable Management of Forests in Europe, adopted by the Ministers as Resolution H1. The MCPFE is co-operating with the CBD to contribute to the regional implementation of the decisions on forest biological diversity.

The joint 'Work Programme on the Conservation and Enhancement of Biological and Landscape Diversity in Forest Ecosystems 1997-2000', endorsed by both the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE) and 'Environment for Europe' at their ministerial meetings in Lisbon and Aarhus in 1998, proved to be a useful tool for the collaboration on forest biodiversity issues between the pan-European forest and environment processes. Based on these experiences, the decision-making bodies of the MCPFE and 'Environment for Europe'/PEBLDS highlighted the benefit of a continued co-operation. Therefore, both processes adopted a Framework for Co-operation.

### **Proposal:**

The respective priorities of both processes in the conservation of biological diversity in European forests is the basis of the Framework for Co-operation and this proposal on the implementation of the Kyiv target. Recalling the regional contribution of the MCPFE to global level initiatives and the Memorandum of Co-operation between the PEBLDS Joint Secretariat and the CBD Secretariat, the work under this action proposal should also contribute to the deliberation on and implementation of forest biodiversity related global activities.

In this context the collaborative work will focus on pan-European priorities in forest biodiversity conservation in the implementation of the Expanded Work-Programme of the CBD and the UNFF Multi-year Programme of Work and Plan of Action. The forest biodiversity related commitments of the Fourth Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe are an important basis for the selection of common themes and related tasks for co-operation. The specific themes and related tasks will especially contribute to creating synergies between the two ministerial processes and facilitate a joint regional contribution to ongoing global processes.

Pan-European contributions to the four following themes, which are global and pan-European priorities at the same time, will assist in the achievement of the overall goal to halt the loss of biodiversity in the pan European region

by 2010. All these themes refer to commitments made at the 4<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe as well as the 5<sup>th</sup> Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference:

- The theme '*Ecosystem approach*' will contribute to the clarification of the relationship between the Ecosystem Approach and Sustainable Forest Management (SFM), building on the work achieved so far by MCPFE on SFM (Decision VII/11, 7th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity).
- The theme '*Protected forest areas*' will contribute to the global work on protected forest areas and simultaneously contribute to the general work on protected areas for CBD-COP7 (2004) by making a link between the concepts of protected forest areas and protected areas in general. In the Pan-European context, the work will build on existing work on protected areas of the MCPFE and current work on ecological networks.
- The theme '*Forest law enforcement with regard to biodiversity conservation*' is a global cross-cutting issue, which is also of pan-European relevance and refers to the impacts of illegal harvesting and related trade and institutional capacity building.
- The elaboration of '*Recommendations for site selection for afforestation*' in the context of the decisions of the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol, taking account of biodiversity interests, was identified as a fourth area of co-operation. This work will build on recent work by IUCN and UNEP, adapted to the European situation.

#### **Objectives:**

- Further integrate biodiversity considerations in the forestry sector.
- Promote the development and implementation of National Forest Programmes, also aiming at contributing to the implementation of the expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity of the CBD as well as the IPF/IFF proposals for action.
- Apply the ecosystem approach placing greater emphasis within Sustainable Forest Management on the interactions between forest habitats and other habitat types and on biodiversity conservation issues according to the principles of the ecosystem approach.
- Overcome obstacles related to illegal harvesting.

#### **Results:**

- The action plan will contribute to and facilitate the implementation of the expanded programme of work of the CBD at national level and lead to concrete actions on the ground.
- As a result of the cooperation between the MCPFE with the PEBLDS, relevant forestry and biodiversity stakeholders will cooperate on the activities under this action proposal, and forest biodiversity will be conserved through sustainable forest management practices in the pan European region
- National Forest Programmes will benefit from improved information on forest protected areas, improved understanding of the ecosystem approach, and further discussion on combating illegal harvesting of forest products.

#### **Outputs:**

- A technical report and recommendations on the linkage between the ecosystem approach and sustainable forest management
- A presentation on the pan-European understanding of the linkage between the ecosystem approach and sustainable forest management to global fora
- A scientific analysis of information on illegal harvesting of forest products with recommendations on how to reduce illegal harvesting at national and regional level focusing on, e.g., transport routes, border controls and their role, the role of certification, and related trade at pan European level.
- Report on illegal timber trade and trade in forest products (Russian Federation).

- Forest protected area systems adequately reflected into the PEEN.
- Recommendations for site selection for afforestation and reforestation in the context of the UNFCCC

**Activities:**

<b>Forest</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Leading Actors</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Ecosystem Approach	MCPFE/PEBLDS ad hoc working group to develop a pan European understanding on the linkage between the ecosystem approach and sustainable forest management	MCPFE, PEBLDS Governments	2004	
	Integration of the pan-European understanding of the linkage between the ecosystem approach and sustainable forest management into relevant processes at global level	MCPFE Liaison Unit, PEBLDS Joint Secretariat, CBD Secretariat, UNFF Secretariat	2004	
	Prepare case studies with experiences on sustainable forest management and the ecosystem approach in forest protected areas	Austria, Germany and Switzerland		
Illegal harvesting and related trade	Scientific analysis of information on illegal harvesting of forest products, and related trade at pan European level	EFI, IIASA, CITES Secretariat, CEC, UNECE/FAO Timber Committee	2004	
	Workshop on combating illegal harvesting of forest products, and related trade in Europe	MCPFE Liaison Unit, PEBLDS Secretariat, CEC	2005	
Protected areas	Analysis of European networks of protected forest areas concerning the comprehensiveness, representativeness and adequacy of protected forests with regard to the conservation goal	COST E27, MCPFE, PEBLDS, CEC, CoE, UNEP	2005	
Sustainable forest management and greenhouse gas management	Elaboration of a proposal for recommendations for site selection for afforestation and reforestation in the context of the UNFCCC	MCPFE Liaison Unit, PEBLDS secretariat, IUCN, UNEP	2004	
	Workshop on pan European	MCPFE Liaison Unit, PEBLDS Secretariat	2006	

	recommendations for afforestation and reforestation in the context of the UNFCCC			
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**Monitoring and Evaluation:**

The MCPFE Liaison Unit and PEBLDS Joint Secretariat shall monitor and report on the implementation of the activities in this action plan through expected reporting of Governments, agencies and organisations involved in the MCPFE and PEBLDS processes, as well as the reporting on the implementation of the expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity of the CBD.

Indicators that could be useful to evaluate the results and impacts of the activities include:

- Implementation of the objectives and activities of the Framework for Co-operation between the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe and the Environment for Europe/Pan European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy
- A successful implementation of the expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity of the CBD in the pan European region
- National Forest Programmes are set up, which fully integrate biodiversity considerations and take into account the ecosystem approach
- A decrease in illegal harvesting of forest products in the pan European region

<b>Title of Action Plan:</b>	Facilitating the implementation of agriculture and biodiversity targets of the Kyiv biodiversity resolution
<b>Lead Government (s):</b>	To be determined
<b>Co-operating Agency/ Supporting Organization</b>	FAO, Council of Europe, European Environment Agency (EEA), UNEP, European Commission, IUCN, ECNC and other relevant institutions and organizations
<b>Duration of the Action Proposal:</b>	Start: 2004 End: 2008

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### **Background:**

The loss of biological diversity on much of Europe's farmland is largely a result of the continuing decline in traditional, extensive and mixed farming practices, the intensification of agriculture and the abandonment of farming in certain regions.

The participants to the "High-Level Pan-European Conference on Agriculture and Biodiversity," organised by the Council of Europe with UNEP and the French Government, in Paris in June 2002, recognized these trends as well as the high value for society of the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity on agricultural land. Wildlife diversity, genetic diversity of agricultural species, varieties and breeds, and the life support functions of biodiversity, wisely managed in the wider context of sustainable agriculture and rural development, serve people in rural areas, consumers of agricultural goods and services, as well as society at large. They therefore recommended, *inter alia*, the further identification of high nature-value (HNV) areas in agricultural ecosystems in order to apply biodiversity-sensitive management by means of rural development instruments, especially agri-environmental programmes, and to support their economic viability in order to prevent land abandonment.

It was suggested at the Conference that initiatives should be developed which integrate biodiversity considerations into the agricultural sector in European Union Member States and non-EU States of the Pan-European region. Under the European Union, an important objective of the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) reform, as stated in Agenda 2000, is a stronger integration of environmental objectives into the CAP. To invite and empower the farming community to better manage and conserve natural resources and landscapes is a core interest. As described in the Communication by the European Commission to the European Council "Partnership for Integration: A Strategy for Integrating Environment into EU Policies," the agricultural sector is seen as a key target to foster this needed policy integration. The multifunctionality model of European agriculture, defined for the first time at the Luxembourg European Council in 1997 and highlighted in many European strategies adopted in the last few years, also supports this view. The results of the Luxembourg Summit of June 2003 give a clear message that the reform of the agricultural policy can no longer be seen as a mere sectoral issue; but as a socio-political task responding to society's demands to achieve better environmental protection, consumer protection, animal welfare and social equity. The Luxembourg Agreement on the CAP reform - with the main results of decoupling direct payments from production, introducing cross-compliance of payments with environmental standards and a compulsory modulation to strengthen from 2005 onwards rural development instruments, especially agri-environment programmes - can in the long term lead to a substantial reduction of negative impacts of the CAP on farming and non-farming biodiversity that accompany the trend of intensification of agricultural methods.

In the Pan-European region, traditional agricultural systems have shaped the rural environment and created habitats for a wide range of species, many of which today are of particular conservation concern (EEA-UNEP, in preparation). Extensively managed permanent meadows and grasslands, mosaic structures formed by agricultural areas and natural assets like hedges, ponds, or slopes, contribute to species rich habitats with high nature value. The importance of HNV farmland for biodiversity today is widely accepted and is also recognized in the EU Regulation on Rural Development, amongst other EU documents. Although the identification of all HNV areas has not yet been carried out at the Pan-European level, Ciudad and Hopkins (IUCN, 1998) estimated 25% of the total agricultural area in CEE to be valuable for nature conservation and the EEA and UNEP (in preparation) point out that preliminary estimates show that roughly 20% of countryside in the European Union qualifies as HNV farmland.

### **Proposal:**

Many policy instruments already developed to ensure the adequate management and protection of HNV farmland (e.g. agri-environment programmes) are implemented under the responsibility of individual governments. In the case of the European Union, through the Common Agriculture Policy and measures in Regulation EC 1783/2003. Nevertheless, the

PEBLDS forum could further contribute to the management of Europe's biodiversity by stimulating discussions on financial subsidy and incentive schemes for agricultural activities, applicable in the Pan-European region.

The development and establishment of a mechanism to promote discussions between the biodiversity and the agriculture sectors, resulting in a co-operation on a few joint activities focusing on those matters affecting biodiversity, is an additional activity supporting the overall PEBLDS aim to integrate biodiversity considerations into all economic sectors. An example of such a process has been recently initiated between the Environment for Europe/PEBLDS and the Ministerial Conference for the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE). A further recommendation, deriving from the High Level Conference in Paris in 2002, is to organise a joint conference between Ministers of the Environment and Ministers of Agriculture of the pan European region.

The PEBLDS could assist countries in the technical work that needs to be carried out at the Pan-European level, such as the identification of HNV farmland, and the assessment of the distribution and management status of HNV farmland, by joining forces with the EEA and other institutions and organisations working on this issue. The PEBLDS, with its partners, could also take the lead in the preparation and dissemination of capacity building materials with targeted information on biodiversity-sensitive management of HNV farmland to countries in Eastern and South-eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia.

### **Objectives:**

- Develop methodologies for the identification of HNV farmland, taking into account all components of agriculture biodiversity as defined in Annex 2 to decision V/5 of the COP to the CBD.
- Identify HNV farmland and assess their distribution and conservation status at the Pan-European level.
- Promote adequate management of HNV farmland in order to maintain a high degree of biodiversity and landscapes in the Pan-European region.
- Identify measures that can decrease the current trend of agricultural intensification and crop and livestock homogenisation.
- Identify and promote measures to reduce or manage land abandonment to as to minimise the negative impacts on agriculture biodiversity and create opportunities to create other HNV habitats.
- Promote conversion of agriculture intensive areas into more environmentally sound managed areas including through labelling of products, organic farming, promoting quality of life and health benefits and others.
- Integrate biodiversity and landscape considerations in financial subsidy and incentive schemes in the Pan-European region.
- Build capacity through the dissemination of targeted information on biodiversity-sensitive management of high nature value farmland.
- Emphasize the socio-economic and cultural (including landscape and tourism) benefits in assessing the national values of farming activities and agricultural areas.
- Raise awareness on the importance and potential economic benefits of developing and promoting marketing of local and traditional products supporting maintenance and conservation of agricultural biodiversity.

### **Outputs:**

- Facilitation of the process for national governments to develop inventories identifying the distribution, assessing the management and protection status of existing HNV farmland in the Pan-European region: agreed HNV concept, elaboration of guidelines, sharing of experiences at regional level; rough estimates of concentration of HNV farmland.
- Recommendations to the European Union and non-EU countries for the adequate management of HNV farmland.
- Dissemination of materials targeting information on the importance of biodiversity-sensitive management of HNV farmland in the Pan-European region to farmers, consumers, and other groups of a wider public. This should lead to:
  - Increased awareness among farmers on the importance of conserving biodiversity and of HNV farmland and farming practices to maintain them;
  - Consumer awareness about the importance of environmentally friendly farming methods and labelling with references to organic agriculture, geographical origin or animal welfare to promote responsible consumer choice and environmentally-friendly consumption.
- Set up a mechanism to improve the dialogue between agricultural and environmental authorities, national farm organisations and stakeholders, on the basis of already existing mechanisms.
- Assessment of national socio-economic and cultural values of farming activities and agricultural areas, taking into account *inter alia* the landscape and tourism.

**Activities:**

Activity	Leading Actors	Timeframe
Further development and elaboration of the HNV concept; agreement on the use of a common HNV concept in the pan European region; guidelines for the identification of HNV farmland in the Pan-European region based on sharing of experiences at sub regional and regional level, and national input from EU and non-EU governments;	EU and non-EU governments, EEA (for EU member countries), UNEP (for EECCA countries), and other relevant institutions and organizations	2004-2005
Preparation of recommendations for the conservation of HNV farmland to the European Union policy-making bodies and non-EU countries	European Commission, EEA, IUCN and other relevant institutions and organizations	2005-2006
Establishment of appropriate mechanisms to promote co-operation between the agricultural and biodiversity sectors, national farm organisations and stakeholders in the Pan-European region; preparation of a proposal for a framework for cooperation and initial joint activities	Pan European governments involved in the Environment for Europe process, Council of Europe, UNEP	2004-2006
Organization of a Conference to discuss how best integrate biodiversity considerations into the agricultural sector	IUCN, PEBLDS, European Commission	2006
Develop and compile capacity-building materials for targeted groups (farmers, extension services, etc.) on biodiversity-sensitive management of HNV farmland in the Pan-European region	Council of Europe, UNEP, IUCN, IEEP,	2004-2006
Develop ways and means to build consumers awareness on the importance of conservation of HNV farmland and opportunities for society contribution to this task	Council of Europe, UNEP, IUCN, IEEP, consumer organisations and mass media	2004-2006
Raise farmers awareness on the importance of conserving biodiversity and of HNV farmland and farming practices to maintain them	Council of Europe, UNEP, IUCN	2005-2006
Disseminate information on biodiversity-sensitive management of HNV farmland through various means (sub-regional workshops, consultation meetings, etc.)	European Commission, Council of Europe, UNEP, IUCN, IEEP and others	2006-2008

***Monitoring and Evaluation of the Project:***

Indicators that could be useful to evaluate the results and impacts of the above activities include:

- Availability of national inventories of HNV farmland and/or estimates of the highest concentration of HNV farmland.
- Recommendations to the European Union policy-making bodies and non-EU countries.
- Establishment of mechanisms for cooperation between the agriculture and biodiversity sectors.
- Publication of capacity-building materials on HNV management.
- Completion of sub-regional workshops.

<b>Title of Action Plan:</b>	Achievement of the Pan-European Ecological Network Kyiv targets
<b>Lead Government(s):</b>	Estonia
<b>Co-operating Agency:</b>	Council of Europe, ECNC, IUCN, and potentially EC
<b>Supporting Organisation:</b>	Ecoforum, CEEWEB, UNESCO MAB reserves, Wetland Convention, Bonn Convention, Fauna International, BirdLife
<b>Duration of the Action Proposal:</b>	Start: 2004 End: 2008

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## Background

Protected areas form the backbone of policies for *in situ* conservation of biodiversity in the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy and the EU Biodiversity Strategy. Protected areas now cover about 12% of the Earth's land surface, and less than 1% of the Earth's marine area. To enhance their capacity to fulfil their function as the main instruments of *in situ* conservation, protected areas should become part of wider ecological networks.

The basic premise of the ecological network concept is straightforward: the fragmentation of habitats can be counteracted by a wider countryside approach or by creating buffer zones to protect the remaining natural areas; these core areas will be connected by stepping stones and corridors which allow species to range freely over wide areas, either to colonise new areas or follow natural migration pathways. The ecological networks and the wider countryside approach are crucial for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems, as well as to adapt to present and future external pressures. Of particular relevance, in this respect, are the expected impacts of climate change throughout Europe.

According to the PEBLDS, the so-called core areas of the ecological networks could be formed by protected areas, but could also consist of areas of high nature and landscape values, which are used by sectors such as agriculture, forestry or tourism in a sustainable manner. The PEBLDS also introduces the concept of nature restoration zones.

Following the plea of the WSSD (Johannesburg, 2002) to prioritise the establishment of ecological networks, the Vth IUCN World Parks Congress (Durban, 2003) stressed the importance of protected areas and ecological networks for sustainable development and poverty eradication, and to human well-being and to the livelihood and cultural integrity of people. The Congress refers to a global system of protected areas required to safeguard all globally and nationally important areas for biodiversity, which should comprise an ecologically representative and coherent network of land and sea areas.

The decisions concerning PEEN in the 5<sup>th</sup> Ministerial "An Environment for Europe" Conference take into account the progress made in establishing the Pan-European Ecological Network in the framework of the PEBLDS, and also create a framework for the implementation of the WSSD decision (Johannesburg, 2002) to prioritise the establishment of ecological networks.

Furthermore, the PEEN Kyiv targets offer a framework to assist in the European implementation of the CBD work on protected areas and ecological networks.

The 7<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties of CBD (COP7) adopted a Work Programme on Protected Areas (PoW) suggests goals, targets and actions to focus on the four Programme Elements. This document recognises the value of the ecological network concept, and highlights the importance of establishing a global network of protected areas. With the target for integration in the wider countryside and other sectors, the work programme specifies as one of the means: "*inter alia* by establishing and managing ecological networks, ecological corridors and/or buffer zones, where appropriate, to maintain ecological processes and also taking into account the needs of migratory species".

In the field of marine and coastal ecosystems, the PEBLDS focuses on developing and implementing the European Coastal and Marine Ecological Network as a fundamental element of the PEEN. In the field of forest, the PEBLDS focuses on the implementation of the Forest Biodiversity Programme of the Convention on Biological Diversity in the pan-European region, in co-operation with the process of the Ministerial Conference on Protection of Forests in Europe. The PEEN is an important tool for the conservation and management of forests.

The results, outputs and activities of this proposal are conceptualised as essential steps contributing to the overall goal to halt the loss of biodiversity by 2010.

## **Focus**

The action plan for the implementation of the Kyiv PEEN targets will be centred on the following themes (which are directly derived from the Kyiv PEEN targets and the PEEN Statement) and will assist in implementing in Europe the CBD Work Programme on Protected Areas and mobilizing the Countdown to 2010, an initiative of IUCN to provide scientific and technical advice for the implementation of the 2010 target.

The themes are:

- E. Ensure that the Pan-European Ecological Network will give guidance by 2008 to all major national, regional and international land use and planning policies as well as to the operations of relevant economic and financial sectors;
- F. Identify and reflect by 2006 the Pan-European Ecological Network (core areas, restoration areas, corridors and buffer zones, as appropriate) in all States of the Pan-European region on coherent indicative European maps, as a European contribution towards a global ecological network;
- G. Conserve all core areas of the Pan-European Ecological Network adequately by 2008;
- H. Enhance Institutional support for implementing the PEEN Kyiv targets by 2006;

While focussing on the above themes, the action plan implementation will help to:

1. Assist in implementing the wider countryside approach and holistic approaches for nature and biodiversity conservation;
2. Foster the development of national ecological networks promoting the establishment of the PEEN in the pan-European region;
3. Use the opportunities provided by sustainable forest management and afforestation for the development of national ecological networks as part of the PEEN, especially for ecological corridors and stepping-stones, while promoting the use of the site selection guidelines for afforestation to be developed under the joint PEBLDS/MCPFE work programme;
4. Supporting the conservation of marine and coastal core areas for the establishment of the European Coastal and Marine Ecological Network in the pan-European region.

## **Results**

Based on the needs and objectives and the assumption that the objectives will be fully realised, by 2010 the results will be:

- The Pan-European Ecological Network (core areas, restoration areas, corridors and buffer zones, as appropriate) is identified by 2006 on coherent indicative European maps for all States of the Pan European region, as a European contribution towards a global ecological network;
- Core areas of the Pan-European Ecological Network area adequately conserved by 2008;
- The Pan-European Ecological Network is a core component of all relevant national, regional and international land use and planning policies by 2008.
- The Pan-European Ecological Network is adequately reflected in the strategies and operations of relevant economic and financial sectors by 2006, including via the use of spatial planning tools;
- Institutional support for implementing the PEEN Kyiv targets is enhanced by 2006.

**Activities:**

PEEN	Actions	Leading Actors	Timeframe	Notes
<p>Ensure that the Pan-European Ecological Network will give guidance by 2008 to all major national, regional and international land use and planning policies as well as to the operations of relevant economic and financial sectors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and implement a target PEEN communication strategy, which includes the communication and information about ecological networks and their contribution to PEEN and the global ecological network to society as a whole, and towards specific stakeholder groups directly relevant to the implementation of the PEEN Kyiv targets in particular (with a focus on major land use sectors)</li> </ul>	<p>ECNC while involving Council of Europe, IUCN and Ecoforum, in consultation with all European governments, land use sectors' representatives and other interested bodies</p>	<p>2004-2008</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop concrete demonstration projects with financial institutions and mechanisms to prioritise green investments in relevant parts of the Pan-European Ecological Network and to avoid investments in those areas that will harm biological and landscape diversity; develop transboundary PEEN pilot projects with a clear European spin-off in co-operation with GEF. Highlight via studies and pilot projects the economic, employment and tourist value of core areas in the Pan-European Ecological Network</li> </ul>	<p>ECNC as Secretariat of the European Task Force on Banking, Business and Biodiversity</p>	<p>2004-2008</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organise international symposia on the integration of the PEEN into sectoral policies in order to produce concrete recommendations and guidelines. Support legislation processed in countries. Organise these symposia together with the sectors in question.</li> </ul>	<p>Interested governments, Council of Europe, IUCN and ECNC (<i>Countdown to 2010</i> process), together with representatives of the sectors in question</p>	<p>2004-2008</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop guidelines and pilot projects for ecological networks and spatial and regional planning, and discuss these in an international symposium in 2006 for national authorities on regional and spatial planning of the countries of the PEBLDS process to disseminate PEEN as a decision-making support tool to relevant stakeholders. Develop recommendations to ensure right balance between ecological approach and the wider countryside and landscape approaches, including the role of regional planning;</li> </ul>	<p>Lead governments, Council of Europe with CEMAT Secretariat and ESPON, and together with interested governments and international organisations</p>	<p>2004-2008</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guidelines and pilot projects for the maintenance or development of a sustainable relationship between agriculture, fishery and biological diversity in and around relevant parts of the Pan-European Ecological Network.</li> </ul>	<p>Council of Europe and IUCN, together with interested governments, and together with the European Commission, OECD and FAO</p>	<p>2004-2008</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pilot project to enhance the integration of conservation, management and sustainable use of biodiversity into sectoral policies and encourage the integration of the objectives of the Vienna Declaration of the 4th Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (Vienna, April 2003) into the establishment of the PEEN; to that effect organise in 2004 a Symposium on Ecological Networks and Forest Conservation and Management in order to foster the integration of the objectives set down in the Vienna Declaration "European forests – common benefits, shared responsibilities", in the development of the PEEN.</li> <li>• Develop pilot projects to implement existing guidelines on the PEEN and transport networks, including the EU Trans-European Network</li> </ul>	<p>Council of Europe and the MCPFE Liaison Unit and IUCN, together with interested governments</p> <p>IENE Network of transport ministry together with ECNC and Council of Europe</p>	<p>2004-2008</p> <p>2004-2008</p>	<p>The outputs will be the provision, through the PEEN, of strategic and practical guidance to various major national, regional and international land use and planning policies as well as to the operations of relevant economic and financial sectors</p>
Identify and reflect by 2006 the Pan-European Ecological Network (core areas, restoration areas, corridors and buffer zones, as appropriate) in all States of the pan-European region on coherent indicative European maps, as a European contribution towards a global ecological network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further extension of the indicative PEEN maps towards other regions in Europe, with a priority focus on the South East European region, Caucasus and Central Asian regions as well as West European region. Have maps ready for all regions by 2006.</li> <li>• Promote European contributions to the development of a global ecological network with the framework of the CBD by presenting options to CBD meetings, and by discussing this issue at all relevant PEBLDS meetings, including intergovernmental "Biodiversity in Europe" conferences and at the World Conservation Congress 2004</li> <li>• Provide a platform for the exchange of experience and information between science, policy and practice for involved NGOs and GOs through pan-European conferences in 2004 and 2006 on ecological networks within the <i>Countdown to 2010</i> process</li> </ul>	<p>PEEN Expert Committee and ECNC with input from all countries involved, and from all relevant international and national organisations, including NGOs, in particular Ecoforum, IUCN, BL and WWF</p> <p>Interested governments, Council of Europe, with IUCN and ECNC</p> <p>IUCN, ECNC and Council of Europe</p>	<p>2004-2008</p> <p>2004-2008</p> <p>2004-2008</p>	<p>The outputs will be by 2006 an indicative European maps on PEEN for all parts of Europe, which will contribute to the establishment of the global ecological network of protected areas.</p>
Adequately conserve all core areas of the Pan-European Ecological Network by 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and implement a number of PEEN pilot projects in the Central and East European countries and the countries of the Caucasus and Central Asia to give particular attention to the adequate conservation measures within the framework of the Pan-European Ecological Network, in synergy with the Bern Convention Emerald Network and Natura 2000 and based on national and regional priorities and legislations.</li> </ul>	<p>Interested countries, Council of Europe, in co-operation with the Bern Convention Standing Committee, the European Commission and WWF.</p>	<p>2004-2008</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assist in the establishment of a fully functioning national ecological network as a contribution to the Pan-European Ecological Network in those countries that not yet have developed such a network, and while taking into account the wider countryside and landscape approaches;</li> <li>• Set up support structure for ensuring practical services and concrete pilot projects to increase the international and national conservation status of areas in the Pan-European Ecological Network, by a full implementation of the Ramsar and World Heritage Conventions, UNESCO Biosphere reserve initiatives, as well as of the Bern Convention Emerald Network, Natura 2000 and national nature conservation laws and policy measures, including national parks.</li> <li>• Develop and implement national and interregional projects for the identification of marine and coastal core areas to be conserved for the setting-up of the European Coastal and Marine Ecological Network, including elaborating specific criteria for the selection of marine and coastal areas to be conserved and organising a Symposium in 2005 to gather concerned parties involved in the conservation and management of coastal and marine environment in order to exchange information and strengthen co-operation in the pan-European region</li> </ul>	<p>The Biodiversity Service could be mobilised to support relevant national projects</p> <p>Governments involved with support of IUCN, and in co-operation with Council of Europe and ECNC and other relevant bodies and organisations</p> <p>governments, assisted by Council of Europe and the European Commission and other interested organisations</p> <p>Council of Europe, together with EUCC, IUCN (WCPA) and ECNC, and national and regional governments</p>	<p>2004-2008</p> <p>2004-2008</p> <p>2004-2008</p>	<p>The outputs will be adequately conserved core areas of PEEN by 2008 in all European countries of the UN-ECE region</p>
<p>Enhance the institutional support for implementing the PEEN Kyiv targets</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To enhancing the institutional support for PEEN implementation by mobilising the organisations and frameworks as mentioned in the PEEN Statement to commit themselves in a concrete and action-oriented manner to assisting the implementation of the PEEN Kyiv targets, and reporting to the PEBLDS Council in progress. The priority organisations are mentioned in the PEEN statement</li> </ul>	<p>Council of Europe and PEBLDS Joint Secretariat, under the guidance of the PEEN Expert Committee, and with the assistance of the PEBLDS Bureau. EC involvement would be highly instrumental to effectively implement the PEEN Kyiv targets.</p>	<p>2004-2008</p>	<p>The outputs will be a substantially increased involvement of leading bodies in the establishment of PEEN</p>

### ***Monitoring and Evaluation***

1. Set up a practical monitoring system for measuring progress in implementing the PEEN Kyiv targets as well as progress in integration to relevant economic, financial and land use sectors, as a contribution to the overall monitoring and reporting system to be set up for the Kyiv 2010 target. Monitoring efforts for PEEN will be fine-tuned with the overall monitoring and reporting approach and activities in Europe, including in EU and CBD. Indicators for PEEN implementation will be developed;
2. Assess the progress of States in the identification and adequacy of conservation of core areas - including for marine, coastal and forest areas - and the establishment of the PEEN through quantitative and qualitative analysis of the *ad hoc* national reports submitted.
3. Evaluate the number of pilot projects carried out for the setting-up of the Bern Convention Emerald Network (including Natura 2000 Network) and assess the follow-up initiatives developed at national level for the establishment of the PEEN.

Co-ordination: Council of Europe and ECNC as the PEBLDS Joint Secretariat of the Committee of Experts on the PEEN.

### **Explanation**

The PEEN Kyiv 2006 target involves the continuation of the identification of the Pan-European Ecological Network: indicative European maps exist for part of the CEE and CIS regions, and are in development for South-East Europe. Other areas to cover include Western Europe and the Mediterranean.

The PEEN Kyiv 2008 target involves projects focusing on increasing the conservation status of core areas of PEEN all over Europe, and increasing involvement of major sectors in PEEN implementation. The above budget does not include the resources required to ensure an adequate conservation status in all European countries via national and sub-national efforts. However, it does include PEEN transboundary pilot and demonstration projects and assistance in developing national ecological networks.

<b>Title of Action Plan:</b>	Achievement of the Invasive Alien Species target
<b>Lead Government (s):</b>	Italy (to be confirmed)
<b>Co-operating Agency/ Supporting Organization</b>	Council of Europe, IUCN (European section of IUCN Species Survival Commission and Invasive Species Specialist Group)
<b>Duration of the Action Proposal:</b>	Start: 2004 End: 2008

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### **Background:**

The introduction of species beyond their natural range is rising sharply, due to increased transport, trade, travel and tourism and the unprecedented accessibility of goods resulting from globalisation. These activities provide vectors and pathways for live plants, animals and biological material to cross biogeographical barriers that would usually block their way. Most alien species do not become invasive or cause problems in their new locations: many have considerable benefits to society e.g. in agriculture, horticulture, forestry and the pet industry. However, the subset of alien species that are invasive, are having significant environmental, economic and public health impacts and present a significant risk of the wholesale homogenisation of ecosystems. Invasive Alien Species (IAS) are now considered to be the second cause of global biodiversity loss after direct habitat destruction and have adverse environmental, economic and social impacts from the local level upwards. The European Community has recognized proliferation of IAS as an emerging issue, noting that IAS introductions are one of the main recorded causes of biodiversity loss and cause serious damage to economy and health. In order to have a consistent and pragmatic approach to tackle this urgent matter, cooperation should be strengthened amongst countries and concerned conventions (International Plant Protection, Ramsar, Bern, etc.) and institutions (International Maritime Organisation, World Trade Organisation, etc.).

### **Proposal:**

1. Foster the development of national action plans for the implementation of the pan-European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species and the CBD Guiding Principles for the Prevention, Introduction and Mitigation of Impacts of Invasive Alien Species.
2. Strengthen inter-state information exchange and cooperation for addressing the threats posed by IAS.
3. Identify priority IAS to be eradicated through action plans.

### **Objectives:**

1. Develop and implement coordinated measures and cooperative efforts throughout Europe to prevent or minimise adverse impacts of IAS on Europe's biodiversity, as well as its economy and human health and wellbeing.
2. Reach a scientific consensus in Europe on priority IAS to be eradicated for the sake of biodiversity.
3. Set up appropriate policies, control methods and financial resources to carry out the eradication action plans on priority IAS.

### **Results:**

Enhance conservation, management and sustainable use of biodiversity.

### **Outputs:**

1. Action plans carried out at national level for the implementation of the pan-European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species and the CBD Guiding Principles for the Prevention, Introduction and Mitigation of Impacts of Invasive Alien Species.
2. Mechanisms for enhancing cooperation among States to minimise risks posed by IAS.
3. An inventory of prevention and mitigation measures for minimising impacts posed by IAS.
4. A list of priority IAS to be eradicated in Europe, as well as a list of suitable policies and control methods to implement eradication action plans.

**Activities:**

Actions	Leading Actors	Timeframe
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify appropriate prevention and mitigation measures</li> </ul>	Council of Europe, IUCN, Portugal, Belgium, Italy	2005-2006
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>prevent the introduction of new invasive alien species into and within Europe and support rapid response to detected incursions</li> </ul>	Council of Europe, IUCN, Portugal, Belgium, Italy	2004-2008
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>rapidly increase awareness and information on IAS issues and ways to tackle them</li> </ul>	Council of Europe, IUCN, Portugal, Belgium, Italy	2004-2008
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>strengthen national and regional capacity and cooperation to deal with IAS issues, including through the clearing house mechanisms, as well as the establishment of national focal points</li> </ul>	Council of Europe, IUCN, Portugal, Belgium, Italy	2005-2007
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>identify and prioritise key actions to be implemented at the national and regional level (<i>e.g.</i> prepare appropriate legislations, awareness campaigns, policies to carry out eradication plans, etc.)</li> </ul>	Council of Europe, IUCN, Portugal, Belgium, Italy	2005-2007
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>draft national lists of priority invasive alien species to be eradicated, including list of species newly introduced, species which have the greatest impact on biodiversity and species whose eradication was proven to be feasible</li> </ul>	Council of Europe, IUCN, Portugal, Belgium, Italy	2005-2006
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>define suitable methodologies, policies and financial resources for carrying out the eradications</li> </ul>	Council of Europe, IUCN, Portugal, Belgium, Italy	2005-2007
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>identify needs for bilateral and multilateral co-operation in carrying out eradications</li> </ul>	Council of Europe, IUCN, Portugal, Belgium, Italy	2004-2008
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>set up a monitoring system to assess the effectiveness of the eradication campaigns</li> </ul>	Council of Europe, IUCN, Portugal, Belgium, Italy	2006-2007
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>recover species and restore natural habitats and ecosystems that have been adversely affected by biological invasions, where feasible and desirable</li> </ul>	Council of Europe, IUCN, Portugal, Belgium, Italy	2005-2007
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>prepare regional and national workshops on IAS</li> </ul>	Council of Europe, IUCN, Portugal, Belgium, Italy	2005-2008

**Monitoring and Evaluation:**

1. Carry out surveys to evaluate the initiatives undertaken at national and regional level to implement the Strategy on Invasive Alien Species.
2. Carry out surveys to assess the activities developed at national and regional level to eradicate invasive alien species and the plans for recovery of species and restoration of natural habitats adversely affected by biological invasions.

<b>Title of Action Plan:</b>	<b>Action to meet the Kyiv Resolution on Financing Biodiversity</b>
<b>Lead Government(s):</b>	<i>To be confirmed</i>
<b>Co-operating Agency/ Supporting Organization</b>	ECNC, EBRD and OECD, and other organisations, including World Bank, GEF, EIB, Project Preparation Committee, UNEP, EC, FFI, ECOFORUM, European Task Force for Banking, Business and Biodiversity.
<b>Duration of the Action Proposal:</b>	Start: 2004 End: 2008

## Background

Following the increased priority the Conference of the Parties of the CBD and the Council of PEBLDS attach to financing biodiversity and cooperation with the financial sector, there is currently an interest within financial institutions and mechanisms to increase investments in biodiversity, making this the right time for exploring opportunities for increasing biodiversity relevant investments. A combination of public funds with bankable investments – in the form of equity participation and loans – as well as technical assistance grants could considerably increase the scope for biodiversity resourcing<sup>15</sup>.

In order to make financial resources available, the European Biodiversity Resourcing Initiative (EBRI)<sup>16</sup>, was initiated in the framework of the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS), following the request at the Fourth Ministerial “Environment for Europe” Conference in Aarhus for the financial sector to increase their involvement in sustainable development issues. EBRI was also a European response to the growing interest in CBD framework for additional financial resources, which, inter alia, has been reflected in COP6 Decision VI/16 (2002). Subsequently in COP-7 significant progress occurred towards further development of the global initiative on banking, business and biodiversity, as placed into context by the Note of the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/COP/7/18) on *Financial Resources and Mechanism (Articles (20 and 21))*. In decision VII/21 (additional financial resources), paragraph 8, the Conference of the Parties: “Invites Parties and Governments to develop and encourage biodiversity-related partnership arrangements with and among funding institutions and other stakeholders, including with banking and business sectors, in order to promote, inter alia, the development and implementation of initiatives such as the Global Initiative on Banking, Business and Biodiversity, in support of the achievement of the objectives of the Convention and agreed global targets.”

The purpose of Phase 1 of the European Biodiversity Resourcing Initiative (EBRI) was to establish an operational framework that would bring the needs for biodiversity resourcing in Europe together with the interests of the Banking Community and International Financial Institutions (IFI’s), with the ultimate aim to increase the investments in bankable biodiversity activities in Europe. In autumn 2002, the first phase of EBRI was concluded.

In December 2003, the second phase of EBRI was initiated by Switzerland and ECNC. The purpose is for information, expertise and project-related experience to be made available to potential entrepreneurs in EECCA countries. The means currently being worked on include the setting up of norms and criteria for the development of a biodiversity project portfolio, awareness raising, information transfer and training. In addition, a European Task Force on Banking, Business and Biodiversity has been established, based on a decision of the Budapest “Biodiversity in Europe” Conference.

The work of the Task Force is to advise the PEBLDS process on the issue of banking, business and biodiversity in a European context, and more in particular to advance the establishment of a Biodiversity Finance Facility for biodiversity-related investments and a European Biodiversity Investment Partnership for involving the private sector in supporting such investments. The Task Force has determined that a complementary European Biodiversity Technical Assistance Facility should also operate during the first years of operation of the Biodiversity Finance Facility, in order to ‘prime the pump’ by soliciting project proposals and then controlling their eligibility from both the biodiversity and financial perspectives, and also offering advice and some technical support when necessary in order to bring promising proposals up to the required level of acceptability for consideration by the Biodiversity Finance Facility.

<sup>15</sup> Bankable biodiversity-relevant investments are defined as investments by financial institutions and mechanisms that have a certain financial return from investment and an acceptable risk rate. They can take the form of equity and various forms of loans, associated when necessary and possible with technical assistance support.

<sup>16</sup> EBRI has been supported principally by Switzerland, and also by The Netherlands, United Kingdom, UNEP and Rabobank.

## **Proposal**

The action plan will facilitate the implementation of the Kyiv Biodiversity Resourcing target while taking into account relevant CBD decisions, in particular via the establishment of the Biodiversity Technical Assistance Facility and the European Biodiversity Investment Partnership, and support the establishment of the Biodiversity Finance Facility by European financial institutions. It will support the monitoring and reporting of investment in biodiversity-related projects in the EECCA region for the attention of the Environment for Europe and CBD processes and other relevant stakeholder groups. To this end, the project will contribute to the creation appropriate indicators and the implementation of adequate record keeping.

Throughout the period, in 2004 and 2005 a complementary activity of outreach to the business sector will commence as part of the European Biodiversity Investment Partnership programme. By 2006 the indicators for monitoring biodiversity-related investment will begin to be followed on a regular basis so as to report to the next Efe ministerial conference, and in 2008 a full assessment of progress with biodiversity financing in the EECCA region will be made, including the role of Debt for Nature Swaps in the EECCA region. A specific study of the impact of green financing within the Pan-European Ecological Network will also be carried out.

The action plan will involve the European Task Force on Banking, Business and Biodiversity, and other national and international policy-making institutions, data collecting organizations, voluntary organisations and private sector interests that the Task Force determines should be involved. Co-ordination will be provided through the existing technical secretariat of the Task Force under the guidance of the Task Force and the PEBLDS process. The Task Force will closely liaise with the CBD process and CBD Secretariat.

### **Needs/Objectives:**

- The implementation of the Kyiv Resolution on Financing Biodiversity requires complementary provision for Technical Assistance in the establishment of a Biodiversity Finance Facility, and a European Biodiversity Investment Partnership should also be established to insure synergy with the business community;
- The measurement of the impact of the financing of biodiversity-related projects, in particular within the pan-European Ecological Network, requires review and monitoring of indicators regarding such investment;
- Contribution of European expertise to the implementation of relevant decisions on biodiversity resourcing of the Conferences of the Parties of the CBD, including the CBD Initiative on banking, business and biodiversity (COP 6 Decision VI/16 (2002)), and fine-tuning of relevant CBD activities with relevant PEBLDS activities.

### **Results:**

- Effective institutional structures to achieve and monitor the 2008 biodiversity financing targets;
- Integration of the business sector into the European Task Force on Banking, Business and Biodiversity;
- Regular monitoring of the level of biodiversity-related investment in the EECCA region, including the involvement from local and regional stakeholders;
- Evaluation of the impact of biodiversity-related investment with regard to the establishment /enhancement of the Pan-European Ecological Network;
- Full synergy between relevant CBD and PEBLDS activities on biodiversity resourcing, and exchange of information and expertise on lessons learned.

### **Outputs:**

- The establishment of a Biodiversity Technical Assistance Facility in 2004/2005;
- A programme to involve the business sector in the support of biodiversity-related investments in the EECCA region, through an European Biodiversity Investment Partnership;
- The integration of the business sector in the European Task Force on Banking, Business and Biodiversity;
- The establishment of a biodiversity-related investment monitoring programme for the EECCA region by 2006, which includes attention for involvement of local communities and NGOs.
- An evaluation of the evolution of biodiversity-related investment in the EECCA region by 2008;
- An analysis of the impact of biodiversity-related investment on the establishment / enhancement of the Pan-European Ecological Network in 2008.

### **Activities:**

- Ensure coordination of the European Task Force on Banking, Business and Biodiversity with the EBRD / PPC team mandated to design the Biodiversity Finance and Technical Assistance Facilities, in particular for the approval of the latter;

- Participate in the establishment of the Biodiversity Technical Assistance Facility, which includes locating its operational site, manning the TA facility, preparing administrative arrangements and establishing a Financing Biodiversity CHM;
- Establish an outreach programme to the elements of the business community likely to provide significant and emblematic support for biodiversity-related investment in the EECCA region, while dedicating attention to the role of local communities and other stakeholders, such as NGOs;
- Provide for the structural commitment of banks and businesses to realise the Kyiv Resolution on Financing Biodiversity through setting up and gathering adhesion to a European Biodiversity Investment Partnership (including through the use of green finance/tax incentives at all appropriate levels of government);
- Organise regular meetings of the Task Force to oversee the implementation of this project;
- Review and develop indicators for biodiversity-relevant investment in the EECCA region in cooperation with data repositories and management organisations, notably OECD;
- Evaluate the evolution of biodiversity-related investment in the EECCA region, including Dept for Nature Swaps, and publish the findings before the next EfE ministerial conference;
- Study the impact of biodiversity-related investment upon the establishment / enhancement of the Pan-European Ecological Network, and communicate the findings to the Council of PEBLDS, in 2008;
- Frequent contacts between Secretariat of Task Force and Secretariat of CBD to ensure full coordination of global and European activities on biodiversity resourcing.

The lead on the proposed activities will be decided by the European Task Force in close consultation with the Joint Secretariat of PEBLDS and the lead government(s) and financiers of this action plan. The action plan implementation will build on ongoing structures and activities, including the ERBD lead on the Biodiversity Finance and Technical Assistance Facilities and the ECNC lead on the coordination of the meetings of the Task Force, and the interaction with other involved organisations and interested countries.

#### **Monitoring and Evaluation of progress:**

The primary bodies to carry out monitoring and evaluation of the project will be:

- the European Task Force on Banking Business and Biodiversity;
- the providers of specialist input, notably EBRD, OECD and the EBRI technical secretariat;
- financiers.

A checklist for monitoring and evaluation will include:

- Has the Task Force approved the design for the Biodiversity Finance and Technical Assistance Facilities in 2004?
- Has a programme for involving the business sector been developed by the EBRI technical secretariat in 2004?
- Has a Biodiversity Technical Assistance Facility been set in operation in 2004/early 2005?
- Has a European Biodiversity Investment Partnership become operational by the end of 2005?
- Has a review and development of indicators for monitoring biodiversity-related investment been carried out by mid 2005?
- Has the set of indicators been used for a first evaluation of biodiversity-related investment in 2006?
- Has an evaluation of biodiversity-related investment in the EECCA region been published before the next EfE ministerial meeting?
- Has a study of the impact biodiversity-related investment on the establishment / enhancement of the pan-European Ecological Network been communicated to the PEBLDS Council in 2008?

<b>Title of Action Plan:</b>	Action to achieve Kyiv target 8 on biodiversity monitoring and indicators
<b>Lead Government(s):</b>	Czech Republic
<b>Co-operating Agency/ Supporting Organization</b>	ECNC, EEA & UNEP-WCMC
<b>Duration of the Action Proposal:</b>	Start: 2004 End: 2010

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## **Background:**

Over the past years, the initiative for a European Biodiversity Monitoring and Indicator Framework (EBMI-F) has been developed by ECNC and EEA with a partnership of UNEP-WCMC, BirdLife International, Wetlands International and CONNECT. This was in response to a call made at the Aarhus ministerial conference 'Environment for Europe' in 1998 and in the framework of the PEBLDS implementation. At the ninth PEBLDS Bureau meeting ECNC and EEA have been given the mandate to coordinate the development of the Kyiv target on biodiversity monitoring and indicators, which should be based on EBMI-F (STRA-CO (2003) 29).

During the last year, increased effort has been put globally and at EU-level to develop ways to measure and report towards achieving the 2010 target, as formulated at global level (CBD and WSSD) and EU level (Sustainable Development Strategy) in addition to Kyiv. The 7th Conference of the Parties to the CBD in February 2004 has particularly seen a breakthrough in this field. Its Decision VII/30 serves as a direct starting point for the action proposed in the current document. At the level of EU, the proposal by the EC Biodiversity Expert Group and successive endorsement by the Malahide Conference of a set of EU biodiversity headline indicators based on the CBD decision provides an additional basis for development.

Policymakers need to know if the decisions they take and the instruments that are developed to implement the decisions and actions to protect and use biodiversity in a sustainable manner are effective in bringing about the 2010 target and in securing it in the years beyond. Also, they must know how other policies are affecting biodiversity and if new or amended policies, decisions and behaviours are needed. The public should also have access to such assessments.

To get good assessments, not everything happening to biodiversity needs to be measured and monitored. It is more essential to build the knowledge on assessments of indicator-based monitoring (the MDIAK chain), which show causal relationships between the many influences and pressures by humans and the impacts on biodiversity. The indicators need to reflect the past, the present and the 2010 situation and to be useful in looking beyond 2010. They need to be pragmatic in concept and build on data that can be collected with sound and justifiable methods. This also means that the results from policy-related monitoring programmes should be communicated in easily accessible messages to various target groups while continuing research to enhance understanding. This will contribute to insight into the connection between policy measures and trends in biodiversity and to achieving the 2010 target.

For the indicators that are needed for use in the future, we need to maintain monitoring tailored at getting updated data, both at national and international levels, preferably based on data sets which reach also into the past to allow trends over time to be recognized.

Recent surveys have shown that most monitoring programmes work in isolation and only cover parts of biodiversity or focus on specific targets and are often not aimed at policymakers. Together, however, they cover wide aspects of biodiversity.

To ensure the most efficient and effective spending of the limited resources available for monitoring, and to ensure that questions by decision makers are answered adequately, there is a need for better coordination of biodiversity monitoring initiatives and reporting activities across Europe. This should enable wide access and multi-purpose use of data. It should also gradually lead to a harmonised approach towards long-term monitoring of biodiversity in Europe, to more integrated and regular reporting of the results of monitoring and the use of a consistent set of headline indicators. This approach would provide a coherent Pan-European monitoring programme.

In order to reach a coordinated pan-European monitoring programme, as aimed for by the Kyiv target, there is:

- a need to coordinate the testing of the limited set of biodiversity indicators that were agreed at CBD/COP7 to be used for reporting at pan-European level;
- a need for a coordinated approach to harmonise national and international monitoring programmes in a cooperative network for European biodiversity monitoring and reporting

This pan-European action will build on and support the following other developments of biodiversity monitoring and indicators:

- 2010 target at global level (CBD, WSSD) and the development of indicators to report on achievement of this target (see CBD Decision VII/30);
- 2010 target at EU level (SDS) and development of a biodiversity reporting frame, using indicators at various levels to report on it (including through the EC DG Environment Biodiversity Expert Group; the Bio-IMP's project and the EEA's IWG Bio-MIN);
- development and use of biodiversity indicators and monitoring by many international organizations and projects in Europe, as demonstrated in two recent EEA reports;
- development and use of biodiversity indicators and monitoring at national level by many of the States participating in the PEBLDS process, as demonstrated in an ongoing EEA study;
- development of scientific and technical progress in support of Europe-wide monitoring, as funded by the EU 6<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme;
- the efforts for harmonisation of environmental reporting as carried out by the UNECE Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment (WGEMA).

### **Action Plan Proposal:**

The current action plan is prepared under the lead of the Czech Republic by ECNC and EEA in consultation with BirdLife International, Wetlands International, UNEP-WCMC, CONNECT and UNEP-ROE. The action proposal will facilitate the establishment of a coherent programme to collate data and report on the achievement of the 2010 target based on a pan-European core set of biodiversity indicators at the pan-European level. It is explicitly set up to build on the many ongoing activities in Europe, such as the work under the Ramsar Convention, and to support further developments at the global level, including the Global Biodiversity Outlook.

The agreed pan-European indicators shall be developed and tested to reflect the specificities of Europe's biodiversity and decision making process per se as well as the global setting. It shall pursue demonstration activities that implement the COP7 Decision with regard to testing a minimal set of indicators. These demonstration activities may be supported through the UNEP/ECNC/IUCN/REC Biodiversity Service for those countries at which this Service is targeted.

The action plan will be implemented while involving national and international policymakers, IGOs, international NGOs and data collecting organizations. It will have a simple organisational structure, relying on coordination of ongoing initiatives when possible. In 2004 a coordination team will be established with working links to main actors and supported by ad hoc expert groups to develop and test the agreed limited set of indicators. In 2005 a network of expert groups will be established. In 2006 a report based on the indicators will be issued to CBD/COP8 and other stakeholder forums and in 2008 the coordination network will be refined, reflecting the latest developments at the national, regional and global level and aiming at a second reporting round for CBD/COP9.

The action plan is not intended to set up a new system for biodiversity monitoring. Rather the aim is towards coordination of ongoing activities so as to support and enhance what needs to be done in order to achieve target-oriented biodiversity monitoring.

### **Needs/Objectives:**

In order to support assessment of the achievement of the Kyiv target to halt the loss of biodiversity by 2010, there is a need:

- for a coherent pan-European programme for coordinating ongoing biodiversity monitoring and reporting activities, to be established by 2005;
- for an agreed pan-European core set of biodiversity indicators to underpin the monitoring programme, to be agreed in 2004 and to be tested and reported in 2005;
- a report on the tested indicators, including recommendations, to support further development of biodiversity monitoring and indicators, also to improve national-level monitoring, to be delivered to COP8 and other stakeholders;
- to develop an approach to measure the effectiveness of governments and the pan-European community in implementing and reaching the Kyiv target to halt the loss of biodiversity at all levels by 2010;
- to relate the change in biodiversity at pan-European level to policy measures taken at this level, so as to be able to adjust or strengthen the measures concerned.

## Results:

- Enhanced commitment and actions to reach the 2010 targets;
- Enhanced consistency in the use of biodiversity indicators at national, EU, pan-European (including EECCA) and global levels;
- Enhanced and regularly updated information on the state and trends in Europe's biodiversity and increased understanding of causal relationships between drivers, pressures and responses;
- Enhanced coherence and cooperation at international level towards a pan-European programme for monitoring and reporting on the state of biodiversity;
- Enhanced exchange of national experiences.

## Outputs:

- A coordination team established in 2004 and operational until 2010;
- A work plan outlining a stepped approach towards achieving a coherent monitoring programme in 2005. Plan to be developed in 2004 and approved by PEBLDS Council in 2005;
- Demonstration activities testing pan-European CBD indicators at national level for selected countries<sup>17</sup>;
- An agreed pan-European core set of biodiversity indicators in 2004;
- A tested set of pan-European indicators in 2005;
- An agreed monitoring programme in 2005;
- An implementation scheme for running the monitoring and reporting programme as from 2005.

## Activities:

### 2004-2006

1. Establish a coordination team consisting of ECNC, EEA and its ETC/NPB, and UNEP-WCMC with clearly distributed responsibilities and closely linked to the lead by the Czech government;
2. Establish an advisory group consisting of the lead country and interested PEBLDS Council parties (members and observers) and interested international organisations.
3. The coordination team to develop a work plan with input by the advisory group. The work plan shall identify steps (milestones including demonstration activities) and collaboration towards 2010;
4. Organise Pan-European coordination meeting in April 2004 to start active cooperation with selected ongoing national (based on EIONET and complementary national activities) and international initiatives (EBMI-F partnership (UNEP-WCMC, BirdLife International, Wetlands International, CONNECT), EEA Bio-MIN group, CBD, IUCN) in a cooperative network;
5. The coordination team to organise a stakeholder meeting (including EC, PEBLDS Secretariat and national governments) in 2005 to reach agreement on the monitoring programme;
6. Propose to the PEBLDS Council a coordination approach for European monitoring and reporting and guidelines (including technical design, collation tools, procedures, quality control, ...) based on existing reviews and intention for cooperation between national and international stakeholders, while using the agreed indicators and the policy requirements;
7. Propose to the PEBLDS Council a minimal set of biodiversity indicators based on an analysis of currently adopted indicators at CBD and EU levels and the policy goals and targets that need to be answered. This set should also be based on the requirements as developed in the CBD framework (UNEP/SBSTTA/9/INF/26);
8. Operationalize the indicators and test on pan-European scale with existing data;
9. Carry out demonstration activities in 3 countries (from non-EEA region and with focus on EECCA, a procedure for selection of countries will be put in place and will take into account interest expressed so far) to test CBD indicators or other indicator sets to be used to achieve the 2010 target;
10. The coordination team to publish a report – as a step towards annual biodiversity reporting – to the EU-BEG, the PEBLDS Council and COP8 in 2006 on the results of the tested indicators; including recommendations, and guidelines for implementation;
11. 2007-2010: The coordination team to organise a stakeholder meeting (including EC, PEBLDS Secretariat and national governments) in 2008 to reach agreement on the refinement of the monitoring programme;
12. Design an implementation scheme to ensure coordinated reporting beyond 2008;
13. Ensure agreement among cooperating partners to implement the monitoring programme.

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<sup>17</sup> the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Albania, Moldova and Uzbekistan have expressed interest to participate in this activity

### **Monitoring and Evaluation of progress:**

The primary bodies to carry out monitoring and evaluation of the plan will be:

- the financiers;
- the PEBLDS Joint Secretariat;
- the PEBLDS Council.

A checklist for monitoring and evaluation will include:

- Has a coordination team with clearly identified responsibilities been established by mid 2004?
- Have partnerships been established and have roles and responsibilities been agreed?
- Have stakeholders participated and taken ownership
- Has a work plan been produced and approved by mid 2004/early 2005?
- Has a set of pan-European indicators been accepted for use in 2005?
- Has information on the indicators and guidelines or their use been published in 2005?
- Has a monitoring and reporting programme been accepted in 2005?
- Has an implementation scheme been developed in 2008?
- Are we able to contribute to monitoring the achievement of the 2010 target by 2010?

ANNEX: List of acronyms

BEG	Biodiversity Expert Group (EC)
Bio-IMPs	Biodiversity Implementation Indicators project
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CONNECT	European Conservation Institutes Research Network
COP	Conference of the Parties
DG	Directorate-General
EBMI-F	European Biodiversity Monitoring and Indicator Framework
EC	European Commission
ECNC	European Centre for Nature Conservation
EEA	European Environment Agency
EECCA	Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia
EIONET	European Environment Information and Observation Network
ETC/NPB	European Topic Centre on Nature Protection and Biodiversity (EEA)
EU	European Union
FYROM	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
IGO	Intergovernmental Organization
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature (The World Conservation Union)
IWG Bio-MIN	International Working Group on Biodiversity Monitoring and Indicators
MDIAK	Monitoring, Data, Information, Assessment and Knowledge chain
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PEBLDS	Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy
REC	Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe
SBSTTA	Subsidiary Body for Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (under CBD)
SDS	Sustainable Development Strategy (EU)
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNEP-ROE	United Nations Environment Programme Regional Office for Europe
UNEP-WCMC	UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre
WG5	BEG Working Group 5 on biodiversity indicators, monitoring and reporting
WGEMA	Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment (UNECE)
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development (also: Johannesburg Summit)

<b>Title of Action Proposal:</b>	Implementation of the public participation and awareness target
<b>Lead Government (s):</b>	Norway (to be confirmed)
<b>Co-operating Agency/ Supporting Organization</b>	<b>UNEP, UNESCO, CEEWEB, ECNC, ECOForum, IUCN Commission for Education and Communication, Baltic 21 Education Sector Network and other relevant organizations institutions and networks</b>
<b>Duration of the Action Proposal:</b>	<b>Start: 2004 End: 2008</b>

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## Background:

The Conference of the Parties to the CBD (COP) and the countries involved in the PEBLDS have recognized that to be able to achieve the goals of the Strategic Plan and the PEBLDS target of halting the loss of biological diversity by 2010, a wide range of stakeholders need to participate in the relevant activities for the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Kyiv Biodiversity Resolution.

The COP has urged Parties to place special emphasis on Article 13 in the development of their national strategies and action plans. It has also urged Parties to:

- promote education on biodiversity through relevant institutions including NGOs;
- allocate resources for the use of education and communication instruments;
- allocate appropriate resources for the strategic use of education and communication instruments at each phase of policy formulation, planning, implementation and evaluation;
- integrate biodiversity concerns into education strategies; and
- support relevant initiatives by major groups which foster stakeholder participation in biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.

The COP has encouraged Parties to make use of the media to promote public education and awareness about the importance of and appropriate methods for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Where necessary, provisions of the Convention should be illustrated and translated into local languages.

“**Countdown 2010**”, launched in May 2004, has the goal that “**All European governments, at every level, have taken the necessary actions to halt the loss of biodiversity by 2010**”. Countdown 2010 will act as an independent communications and technical support instrument to profile the importance of the global 2010 commitments<sup>18</sup> in the EU<sup>19</sup> and a Pan-European context and to monitor the progress of the implementation of these commitments via highly visible actions, aiming to reach the below target groups. Countdown 2010 focuses on the Kyiv Biodiversity commitments<sup>20</sup>, the Malahide targets<sup>21</sup>, and the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas<sup>22</sup>. Countdown 2010 is a strategic alliance between many governmental and non-governmental partners who are committed to the goal of halting the loss of biodiversity by 2010.

The initiative is aimed at two primary target groups:

1. European Heads of State and governments, main European decision makers (such as EC and EP staff and MEP’s), and (private sector) stakeholders;
2. Civil society (through IUCN members and other conservation related organisations).

Two secondary target groups of the initiative have been identified:

3. Private Sector;
4. European Media.

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<sup>18</sup> WSSD <http://www.johannesburgsummit.org/> and chapter 7 of the Millennium Development Goals <http://www.developmentgoals.org/Environment.htm>

<sup>19</sup> At the Gothenburg European Council in September 2001, the EU Heads of State committed themselves to halt the loss of biodiversity by 2010, and made this a goal in the EU Strategy for Sustainable Development [http://europa.eu.int/comm/gothenburg\\_council/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/gothenburg_council/index_en.htm)

<sup>20</sup> In the biodiversity resolution of the **Fifth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference**, May 2003, over 40 Eurasian Environment Ministers signed the commitment to halt the loss of biodiversity at all levels by the year 2010. [http://www.countdown2010.net/documents/biodiv\\_resolution\\_Kiev.pdf](http://www.countdown2010.net/documents/biodiv_resolution_Kiev.pdf)

<sup>21</sup> Message from Malahide [www.eu2004.ie/templates/document\\_file.asp?id=17810](http://www.eu2004.ie/templates/document_file.asp?id=17810)

<sup>22</sup> These commitments are reflecting the target of the **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)** to substantially reduce the loss of biodiversity by 2010. <http://www.biodiv.org/2010-target/default.aspx>

The COP has also recognized the importance of public awareness and education in relation to each of the thematic work programmes and has urged Parties to strengthen education and awareness programmes in relation to agricultural biological diversity, inland water biological diversity and marine and coastal biological diversity. Although the COP has noted that the implementation of forest conservation and sustainable use policies depends, inter alia, on the level of public awareness and policies outside the forest sector, and that attention needs to be paid to the further raising of public awareness and the understanding of the importance of biological diversity through educational programmes and information, public awareness and education does not appear to be explicitly addressed in the work programme on forest biological diversity adopted in decision IV/7 of the COP. In relation to Article 8(j) and related provisions, the COP has urged Parties, inter alia, to use means of communication other than Internet, including newspapers, bulletins and radio, and increasing the use of local languages.

In response, at the regional level, the UNEP/ECNC/IUCN/REC Biodiversity Service has supported the preparation of a CD ROM with relevant CBD and PEBLDS documents as well as the translation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation in the Russian language. The CEEWEB will help achieve the 2010 target by engaging NGOs in South East Europe (SEE) through a project with the following objectives: enabling NGOs from SEE to implement the Kyiv biodiversity resolution; identifying opportunities for building partnerships among NGOs from the non-accession countries for joint actions in the field of biodiversity conservation; forming an NGO taskforce for long term cooperation in monitoring the Environment for Europe process; identifying capacity needs of NGOs from SEE to become players in the Environment for Europe process and implementation of the CBD; produce concrete materials for training and building capacity for NGOs on nature conservation, CBD and PEBLDS; and linking NGOs from SEE to international activities. IUCN and ECNC are actively involved in the development of biodiversity-relevant communication and public awareness tools as well as efforts to increase media participation and promote the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.

The Baltic Sea countries have developed expertise in the area of environmental education through the Baltic 21 Education Sector Network and the Agenda 21 for education for sustainable development in the Baltic Sea region and action programme. Other relevant activities have been carried out by the Interstate Environmental Council of NIS 'Working group on environmental education', and the Association of European Universities. It would be useful to gather the biodiversity related experiences related to public participation and awareness to be able to apply them throughout the pan European region in a concerted manner to satisfy both the global and regional mandates.

#### **Proposal:**

Although it is the responsibility of each individual country to develop their own national communication, education and public awareness action plan, the PEBLDS could assist countries at the regional and sub-regional levels by implementing a number of activities related to the programme elements of the CBD Global Initiative. Therefore the activities under this proposal would focus on the development of communication, education and public awareness networks at the regional and sub-regional level; the exchange of knowledge and expertise at the regional and sub-regional level; and capacity building for communication, education and public awareness. Of priority would be to promote an increased participation of indigenous and local communities and stakeholders from other sectors in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, as well as the integration of biodiversity considerations in other economic sectors through the activities under this proposal. The CBD Clearing House Mechanism and CBD focal points should be used to disseminate information as well as the UNEP/ECNC/IUCN/REC Biodiversity Service.

Building on the official endorsements<sup>23,24,25</sup> the initiative has received, Countdown 2010 **adds value** through **raising awareness** amongst Pan-European stakeholders that so far have low interest or awareness of biodiversity and in particular the 2010 targets. Secondly Countdown 2010 substantially contributes through the **facilitation and coordination** of action (synergies) of a large number of organisations to raise the profile of the 2010 target and to critically review the progress in its **implementation** across Europe. Thirdly the time-sensitive technical support of Countdown 2010 enhances and facilitates existing work though providing **knowledge management** to meet the 2010 target. Fourthly Countdown 2010 provides the function of highlighting what work has been done and what still needs to be done to achieve the 2010 target.

<sup>23</sup> EU Environment Councils June 2004 conclusions, <http://register.consilium.eu.int/pdf/en/04/st10/st10997.en04.pdf>. Welcomes and encourages Countdown 2010 in Point 13, "Welcomes the Countdown 2010 initiative, launched by a partnership of civil organisations, including the Irish Presidency, the Commissioner for the Environment and the World Conservation Union (IUCN) and other key actors at the Malahide Conference, as an important sensitising initiative to the significance of biodiversity loss across the globe and as a means to act as an independent monitor of progress towards the 2010 targets and ENGOURAGES (sic) Member States, Commission and civil society to support the Countdown 2030 initiative"

<sup>24</sup> Countdown 2010 was endorsed in the Message from Malahide, objective 17.3 "Ten thematic conferences under the "Countdown 2010" initiative (launched at Malahide in 2004) to halt the loss of biodiversity supported from 2004 to 2010, and parallel processes in other regions, or by other partners encouraged"

<sup>25</sup> Council for PEBLDS in May 2004 identified Countdown 2010 as one of the Leading Actors to contribute to "organise international symposia on the integration of the PEEN into sectoral policies in order to produce concrete recommendations and guidelines. Support legislation processed in countries. Organise these symposia together with the sectors in question".

**Objectives:**

- Assist in the development of national communication, education and public awareness action plans;
- Promote the design of effective instruments on communication, education and public awareness to engage major stakeholders and to convey the appropriate messages to mainstream biodiversity;
- Increase participation of a wider range of stakeholders, civil society, including indigenous and local communities in the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the PEBLDS.
- Develop a strategic vision on communication for the objectives of the Kyiv Resolution.
- The full implementation of all existing relevant legislation and international binding commitments is encouraged and supported.
- The full implementation of all necessary supplementary actions, in particular those in the Message from Malahide and Kyiv Resolution on Biodiversity, is championed and supported.
- The level of achievement of the 2010 commitments is clearly demonstrated

**Results:**

- An increase in the development of national communication, education and public awareness action plans in the pan European region;
- Availability of tools and public awareness materials related to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity;
- Increased participation of a wider range of stakeholders, civil society, including indigenous and local communities, the media, and stakeholders from other sectors in the implementation of the CBD and the PEBLDS.
- A core set of indicators of public participation at all stages of PEBLDS development –from planning to and decision-making up to implementation should be agreed upon by 2006.
- Exchange of experience at the regional and sub-regional level on communication, education and public awareness.

**Outputs:**

- Education and public awareness materials on the CBD and the PEBLDS and dissemination of information
- Communication and education tools for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity
- Established networks at the sub-regional level in the pan European region
- Case studies on communication, education and public awareness
- Model demonstration projects for replication

**Activities:**

Activity	Leading Actors	Timeframe
Preparation of communication, educational and public awareness materials on the CBD and PEBLDS and dissemination of information	UNEP, UNESCO, CEEWEB, ECNC, IUCN	2004-2005
Establishment of partnerships with journalists and broadcasters engaged in communicating biodiversity related issues through the mass media and participate in the development of an effective communication strategy for the pan European region	UNEP, ECNC, IUCN	2004-2006
Development of case studies on communication, education and public awareness	CEEWEB, ECOForum	2004-2005
Exchange of experiences of successful initiatives at the regional and subregional levels i.e., demonstration project(s)	CEEWEB, ECOForum, and subregional initiatives such as the Baltic 21 Education Sector Network, Interstate Environmental Council of NIS 'Working group on environmental education', and the Association of European Universities	2004-2006
Building networks at the regional and sub-regional levels to increase the participation of NGOs, civil society, including indigenous and local communities and relevant stakeholders in other sectors in the conservation and sustainable use of	CEEWEB, EcoForum, ECNC, IUCN	2004-2006

biological diversity		
Assist countries in Eastern and South Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia to develop national communication, education and public awareness action plans	UNEP, ECNC, IUCN, REC, CEEWEB, EcoForum	2006-2008
Create a group of experts consisting of the lead country and interested PEBLDS Council members and observers and NGO representatives; organize a meeting of experts to start active development of a set of indicators on public participation; to propose to the PEBLDS Council a set of indicators of public participation in biodiversity conservation policy development and implementation on regional, national and local levels, based on national and international experience and best practice; to publish the agreed set of indicators and guidelines for its implementation; to use the agreed set of indicators to evaluate the level of public participation in different PEBLDS actions and programmes and to prepare relevant proposals for the PEBLDS Council; to publish annual public participation barometer results using the indicators.	EcoForum	2005-2006
Develop a synergy between PEBLDS and other initiatives of the Environment for Europe process. Thus, regarding public awareness, cooperate with the UNECE strategy for Education for Sustainable Development to ensure inclusion of biodiversity aspects in education for sustainable development at all levels	EcoForum	2004 - 2010
Develop annual "scorecard" or 2010 biodiversity barometer-MFM, CBD PoW, KRB	Countdown Initiative	2004-2010
Produce Biodiversity trends and threats as an annual summary report to the EP	Countdown Initiative	
Develop overview of agreed targets/commitments at pan-European level	Countdown Initiative	
Develop European Red List	Countdown Initiative	
Facilitate production of ecological footprint of European countries	Countdown Initiative	
Co-ordinate annual or bi-annual conferences on Countdown themes	Countdown Initiative	
Facilitate coordination of sectoral activities	Countdown Initiative	
Co-ordinate EU Presidencies Countdown 2010 action	Countdown Initiative	
Bring together stakeholders to develop agenda for Council on specific issues	Countdown Initiative	
Coordinate NGO lobbying efforts	Countdown Initiative	
Convene experts on specific issues	Countdown Initiative	
Foster national and regional Countdown 2010 model regions	Countdown Initiative	

### Monitoring and Evaluation:

Indicators that could be useful to evaluate the results and impacts of the activities include:

- Increased number of effective communication, education and public awareness materials, including traditional and non-traditional types, as well as improved access to these materials;
- Increased involvement of the media in the activities of the Convention and the PEBLDS;
- Availability of relevant case studies and demonstration projects for replication in the region;
- Active regional and sub-regional networks of NGOs, indigenous and local communities and major stakeholders;

- An increased number of communication, education and public awareness action proposals are developed in the region, which include the outputs of the project.

**Indicative Cost of Project:**

*Expressed in Euros*

<b>Activity</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Funding requested from government(s), private sector (to be fundraised):</b>						
<i>Consultants/MOUs with supporting organizations/institutions</i>	100,000	100,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	320,000
<i>Workshops</i>	0	0	50,000	50,000	50,000	150,000
<i>Publication and Dissemination Costs</i>	5,000	5,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	70,000
<i>Travel</i>	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	50,000
Co-financing of supporting organization, institution or NGO (cash and in-kind): Including staff-time, logistical support	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	125,000
<b>Total Cost of the Project</b>	<b>140,000</b>	<b>140,000</b>	<b>145,000</b>	<b>145,000</b>	<b>145,000</b>	<b>715,000</b>