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***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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PEBLDS future

*Document prepared by
the Chair of the PEBLDS*

DRAFT

**PEBLDS future: First draft by Peter Bos, The Netherlands, Rob Wolters, ECNC and Sylvi Ofstad Samstag, PEBLDS chair.
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Introduction:

The Council of the Pan European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy in May 2003 submitted a Resolution on Biodiversity to the Fifth Ministerial 'Environment for Europe' Conference (Kyiv, Ukraine) for the consideration of the pan European Ministers and heads of delegation representing 53 countries of the UNECE region.

After the endorsement of the Resolution on Biodiversity in Kyiv, the PEBLDS Council decided to prepare action plans to catalyse action and assist the countries in the region in achieving the biodiversity targets to halt the loss of biological diversity in the pan European region by 2010. The Kyiv resolution had specific annual targets on how to halt the loss of biodiversity by 2010 within invasive species, communication, education and public awareness, monitoring and indicators, protected areas, forestry and agriculture.

A number of organisations such as UNEP, the Council of Europe, the European Environment Agency, the Joint Research Centre (Ispra) of the European Commission, the European Centre for Nature Conservation, IUCN-the World Conservation Union, CEEWEB, ECO-Forum and others have been supporting the efforts to support Governments in the implementation of the action plans connected to the Kyiv targets. Overall, however, the support for the action plans and for PEBLDS and its work in general has been insufficient and showing downward trends, especially in recent years.

The reason why is manifolded, but the main reason is that PEBLDS to many countries, especially within the EU, does not give the accurate added value. In order to keep the PEBLDS going it is therefore crucial to find a structure and a strategy for PEBLDS that meet the needs set by the countries in 2006 and not 2003. Actions and implementations are now on the agenda, not bureaucracy.

In discussions at Council and Bureau meetings regarding the lack of financial support for PEBLDS and the implementation of the various activities in the Action Plans, the PEBLDS Council has stressed the need for the PEBLDS to streamline its process and develop "a strategy" for PEBLDS that will attract new support and engagement from Governments, NGOs and stakeholders.. The strategy/new working philosophy will have to correspond with the general development of global and regional policies on biodiversity (CBD and EU's action plan for biodiversity) and give added value to regional institutions like the EU, the non-EU countries, the EECCA and the CEE countries. Both the CBD and EU are stressing the value of integrating biodiversity into other sectors. The policy documents developed by CBD's COP-meetings on the mainstreaming of biodiversity should therefore be one of several prerequisites for how PEBLDS should operate. Finally networking and communication plans

DRAFT

are another important prerequisite for how to facilitate the implementation of the 2010 targets all through the region, but in particular the EECCA region.

Discussions:

As it was impossible to summon the draft group October 4 as decided in the PEBLDS bureau meeting in September, a telephone conference was set up between the chair, Rob Wolters and

Council of Europe 9 October (PEEN meeting October 9 and 10). Peter Bos did not reach the PEEN meeting till later so the chair had a separate meeting with him in Barcelona during the IUCN Europe meeting recently (18 – 21 October).

Best scenarios. The survey did not give a complete indication on how to develop best scenarios. **But to our opinion scenario III** could be the best on how to develop PEBLDS according to a new strategy for the pan-European region. In summary this is as:

An instrument for policy discussions based i.a. on the CBD COP-decisions

A forum in which the Pan-European process, the ECCA process and the EU process are connected;

A market place of bringing demand and supply together (i.a. best practices)

A strong communication forum where non conservation stakeholders participate

Working scenario:

- **The Biodiversity in Europe Conferences** should be closely attached to the CBD COP-meetings and contribute to the following up of COP-decisions in the pan-European region. (*by allowing more substance discussions, more other stakeholders, by going beyond the preparation of papers for input in CBD which no one will read after the production.*)
- The Kyiv targets should be constantly developed in accordance with CBD-COP decisions
- PEBLDS should concentrate on few specific issues according to yearly plans/budgets and focus them regionally and sub-regionally. Activities generally carried out as an initiative of governments, NGOs and / or partners taking responsibility for funding. (*Flexibility and bottom-up.*)
- The IUCN Countdown 2010 programme should be used as a tool for reaching the 2010 target (Kyiv and CBD)
- PEBLDS should work in close cooperation with relevant stakeholders in order to facilitate the implementation of National Biodiversity Action Plans in the region mainly through sub-regional work and projects.
- A network between countries and regions should be developed to facilitate the implementation of the Kyiv targets and the COP decisions.

DRAFT

- The NGOs within the pan-European region should establish and connect networks (*this should be NGO-driven i.a. by The Countdown2010 network*)
- The PEBLDS communication plan should be put into action. (*PEBLDS as a strong communication forum, bringing the 2010 target alive at ALL GEOGRAPHICAL LEVELS and with all relevant stakeholders, and bringing together views, practical and inspiring projects and activities, and project concepts, and enter out of the shade we are in now.*)

Organization:

- The Biodiversity in Europe conferences should act as a PEBLDS council.
- A small bureau or working group (max 6-8 persons) should be established to follow up the decisions taken by the Biodiversity in Europe Conferences. The bureau should reflect the regions. A representative from the EU should participate in the bureau.
- Regional secretariat: UNEP/Roe and Council of Europe
- **Sub regional work** with countries and NGOs, IGOs Most of the work should be, when financed, delegated to a sub-regional level in order to make countries responsible for their sub region. (*country and NGO-driven*)

Financing:

Council of Europe and UNEP/Roe

Participating countries

Stakeholders within agriculture, forestry, fishery, tourism, developing banks etc.

EU support

Annex 1: the survey

Annex 2: the 4 scenarios as proposed by the Joint Secretariat.