



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

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

**THIRD INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE
“BIODIVERSITY IN EUROPE”**

**Eighth Meeting of the Council
for the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy**

**19-21 January 2004
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Madrid, Spain**

**FOLLOW UP OF THE KYIV BIODIVERSITY RESOLUTION:
FOREST ACTION PLAN PROPOSAL**

*Document prepared by
UNEP and the MCPFE Liaison Unit*

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Implementation of the Kyiv Biodiversity Resolution: Forests and Biodiversity

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

Strategic Framework of the Action Proposal:

At the 5th Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference in Kyiv, Ukraine in May 2003, the European Ministers of Environment and Heads of Delegations of the States participating in the process of the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity adopted 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 requested the Joint Secretariat of the Pan European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy to operationalize the agreement by identifying objectives and activities in collaboration with the Liaison Unit of the MCPFE.

The Governments also agreed to halt the loss of biological diversity at all levels in the pan European region by the year 2010 and adopted a target on forest and biodiversity where they committed to contribute to the implementation in the pan European region of the Forest Biodiversity Expanded Programme of Work of the Convention on Biological Diversity by 2008, through, *inter alia*, the following activities:

- 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.

Action Proposal Summary:

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 2nd 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 4th Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe as well as the 5th 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:

Forest	Actions	Leading Actors	Timeframe	Notes
Ecosystem Approach	<p>MCPFE/PEBLDS ad hoc working group to develop a pan European understanding on the linkage between the ecosystem approach and sustainable forest management [adopting a common forest type vision on nomenclature (Italy)]</p> <p>Integration of the pan-European understanding of the linkage between the ecosystem approach and sustainable forest management into relevant processes at global level</p> <p>[Prepare case studies with experiences on sustainable forest management and the ecosystem approach in forest protected areas (Austria, Germany and Switzerland)]</p> <p>[Develop clear and measurable criteria of sustainable forest management, which are accepted and implemented by all stakeholders; to implement voluntary third party credible certification schemes that take into consideration relevant forest biodiversity criteria and that would be audited, taking into consideration indigenous and local community rights and interests; to develop in cooperation with the</p>	<p>MCPFE, PEBLDS Governments</p> <p>MCPFE Liaison Unit, PEBLDS Joint Secretariat, CBD Secretariat, UNFF Secretariat</p>	<p>2004</p> <p>2004 [2005] (RF)</p>	

	<p>Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe common guidelines for community forest management that will insure real control of local authorities over forest industries activities (EcoForum)]</p>			
<p>Illegal harvesting [and related trade] (Russian Federation)</p>	<p>Scientific analysis of information on illegal harvesting of forest products, and related trade at pan European level</p> <p>Workshop on combating illegal harvesting of forest products, and related trade in Europe [including through development of surveillance systems (Italy)]</p>	<p>EFI, IIASA, CITES Secretariat, CEC, UNECE/FAO Timber Committee, [WWF, Traffic] (Russian Federation)</p> <p>[EC Commission FLEGT] (Finland)</p> <p>MCPFE Liaison Unit, PEBLDS Secretariat, CEC</p>	<p>2004</p> <p>[2005] (Italy)</p> <p>[2006] (RF)</p>	
<p>Protected areas</p>	<p>Analysis of European networks of protected forest areas concerning the comprehensiveness, representativeness and adequacy of protected forests with regard to the conservation goal</p>	<p>COST E27, MCPFE, PEBLDS, CEC, CoE, UNEP</p>	<p>2005</p>	
<p>Sustainable forest management and greenhouse gas management</p>	<p>Elaboration of a proposal for recommendations for site selection [and guidelines for species selection (Italy)] for afforestation and reforestation in the context of the UNFCCC</p> <p>Workshop on pan European recommendations for afforestation and reforestation in the context of the UNFCCC</p>	<p>MCPFE Liaison Unit, PEBLDS secretariat, IUCN, UNEP</p> <p>MCPFE Liaison Unit, PEBLDS Secretariat</p>	<p>2004</p> <p>2006</p>	

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

Cost of Project: Expressed in Euros

Activity	2004	2005	2006	TOTAL
Funding requested from government(s), private sector (to be fundraised):				
Consultants/MOUs with supporting organizations/institutions	50,000	50,000	30,000	130,000
Workshops	100,000		50,000	160,000
Reporting Costs	10,000	10,000	10,000	30,000
Travel	5,000	5,000	5,000	15,000
Co-financing of supporting organization, institution or NGO (cash and in-kind): Including staff-time, logistical support	15,000	15,000	15,000	45,000
Total Cost of the Project	180,000	80,000	110,000	370,000