



***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”**

**FOLLOW UP OF THE KYIV BIODIVERSITY RESOLUTION:
PAN-EUROPEAN ECOLOGICAL NETWORK ACTION PLAN PROPOSAL**

*Document prepared by
ECNC, IUCN and Council of Europe*

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Implementation of the Kyiv Biodiversity Resolution

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

Strategic Framework of the Action Proposal

At the Fifth Ministerial Conference "An Environment for Europe", held in Kyiv 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 (PEBLDS), reinforced the Pan-European Ecological Network (PEEN) as the major means for implementing the aim of the PEBLDS for the conservation and management of species, ecosystems, habitats and landscapes. The realisation of the Pan-European Ecological Network is an important contribution to the overall target to halt the loss of biological diversity at all levels in the pan-European region by the year 2010 as was committed in the Kyiv Biodiversity Resolution.

As regards the PEEN, the Kyiv Conference adopted, as part of the Resolution on Biodiversity, paragraphs 4 and 5, the following two specific targets:

1. 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.
2. 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.

Moreover, in a separate PEEN Statement annexed to the Resolution on Biodiversity, the Conference encouraged:

- the States participating in the process of the PEBLDS to give a priority to the development of the Network by supporting the programme of activity of the intergovernmental body (the Council of Europe) entrusted with it, developing national ecological networks comprising both areas of national and international importance and promoting programmes for the implementation of transboundary networks;
- the Central and East European States and the Newly Independent States to give particular attention to the implementation of the PEEN, in synergy with the Bern Convention Emerald Network and the European Union Natura 2000, as a way to protect their rich landscape and biological diversity and express the wish that enough resources be allocated to the relevant programmes;
- the institutions and intergovernmental organisations engaged in the implementation of the Pan-European Ecological Network, in particular the Council of Europe and the European Centre for Nature Conservation (ECNC), to pursue and develop the work already undertaken.

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 EC would be highly beneficial in implementing this Action Plan.

Synergies will be ensured between the implementation of this Action Plan and the Biodiversity Service, second phase, enabling funding for demonstration projects in countries of the Caucasus and Central Asian regions.

This Action Plan is addressing the PEEN Kyiv targets (2006 and 2008) in the overall timeframe of the commitment to halt biodiversity loss by 2010. The suggested timeframe is this 2004-2010. The plan takes into account the ongoing activities as decided in the framework of the PEEN Expert Committee and the Council of PEBDLS, in particular the activities as mentioned in the Rolling Work Programme of PEBLDS. This Rolling Work Programme will be updated after the adopting of the Action Plans.

This Action Plan will build on existing global and European policy-frameworks, notably CBD, PEBLDS and EC Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans, and will take fully into account ongoing activities. The Action Plan aims to be a catalyst for demonstration actions at European, regional, national and sub-national levels.

While implementing the Action Plan importance will be attached to the following issues, which were tabled by members of the Council of PEBLDS:

- a good balance between the ecological network, including the wider countryside approach, and the differences in nature and biodiversity conservation approaches in the various countries in Europe, including the role of regional and spatial planning;
- the importance of ecological networks for integrating biodiversity into other sectors, such as agriculture, forestry, infrastructure, spatial planning, fisheries, etc;
- the basic requirement to mobilize the public opinion and regional and local authorities in support of PEEN and ecological networks in general;
- the need to focus on concrete projects;
- support to the Central and East European, Caucasus and Central Asia regions;
- synergies between monitoring for PEEN and wider monitoring approaches and programmes, also at national levels;
- the importance of developing appropriate legislation and legislative measures;
- the involvement in the establishment of PEEN of conventions and international instruments, including EU Natura 2000, Bern Convention Emerald Network, Ramsar Convention, Bonn Convention, World Heritage Convention; European Diploma sites, etc.

It should be noted that PEEN can be regarded as a general framework which can be given effect to in different ways by different countries and in which countries can participate according to national circumstances embracing the wider environment and, as appropriate, buffer zones, stepping stones, and corridors as well as core areas.

In this regard, national approaches which may not include formal designation of buffer zones stepping stones and corridors but which provide for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity throughout the whole of the wider countryside are particularly relevant and important in the context of ecological networks. The term 'as appropriate' which appears in the Kyiv Biodiversity Resolution target was intended to reflect this position.

Action Proposal Summary

This Action Plan will help ensure timely implementation of the two "Kyiv targets" for the PEEN:

- by 2006 to have identified areas in every State of the pan-European region that will form part of this network; and

- by 2008 to have implemented appropriate conservation measures in all core areas and to provide guidance to all major national, regional and international land use and planning policies and the operations of relevant economic and financial sectors;
- The Action Plan also includes the development of a targeted PEEN communication strategy, addressing major stakeholders.

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. Synergy between the implementation of this Action Plan and the Biodiversity Service will ensure practical support for PEEN implementation in the Caucasus and Central Asian regions.

The Action Plan includes provisions for regular monitoring and evaluation in order to track developments for PEEN and ensure that the implementation of the Action Plan is on schedule.

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 5th 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 7th 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:

- 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;

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"> • 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) 	<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"> • 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 	<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"> • 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. 	<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"> • 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; 	<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"> • 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 	<p>Council of Europe and IUCN, together with interested governments, and together with the European Commission, OECD and FAO</p> <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>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>
<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</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<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>2004-2008</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <i>Countdown to 2010</i> process 	<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>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>
<p>Adequately conserve all core areas of the Pan-European Ecological Network by 2008</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<p>Interested countries, Council of Europe, in co-operation with the Bern Convention Standing Committee, the European Commission and WWF. 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>2004-2008</p> <p>2004-2008</p> <p>2004-2008</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	Council of Europe, together with EUCC, IUCN (WCPA) and ECNC, and national and regional governments	2004-2008	The outputs will be adequately conserved core areas of PEEN by 2008 in all European countries of the UN-ECE region
Enhance the institutional support for implementing the PEEN Kyiv targets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	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.	2004-2008	The outputs will be a substantially increased involvement of leading bodies in the establishment of PEEN

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.

Cost of Project (expressed in Euros)

<i>Activity</i>	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	TOTAL	%
Enhancing institutional support for implementing the PEEN Kyiv target by 2006	50,000	150,000	150,000	100,000	100,000	550,000	
PEEN network is identified by 2006 on indicative maps for all Pan-European States, as contribution to global network	50,000	400,000	150,000	200,000	50,000	850,000	
Core areas of the PEEN area adequately conserved by 2008	100,000	200,000	500,000	500,000	200,000	1,500,000	
PEEN is reflected in strategies and operations of relevant economic and financial sectors by 2008	50,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	650,000	
Total cost of the project	250,000	900,000	950,000	950,000	500,000	3,550,000	

Explanation

The PEEN Kyiv 2006 target involves the continuation of the identification of the Pan-European Ecological Network: indicative European maps exists 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.

The budget is indicative.