



***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”**

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**FOLLOW UP OF THE KYIV BIODIVERSITY RESOLUTION:
BIODIVERSITY MONITORING AND INDICATORS
ACTION PLAN PROPOSAL**

*Document prepared by the
Government of the Czech Republic,
European Centre for Nature Conservation, and European Environment Agency*

Implementation of the Kyiv Biodiversity Resolution

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

Introduction

This document serves as an action proposal to ensure the implementation of target 8 on biodiversity monitoring and indicators of the Kyiv Resolution on Biodiversity.

Achieving the Kyiv target to halt the loss of biodiversity at all levels by the year 2010 calls for a wide range of activities. With regards to implementation of actions and monitoring of progress, all nations that have endorsed PEBLDS have a key role to play. Importantly, the actions that have been defined in National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, as well as those agreed within the framework of CBD/COP decisions, should be implemented, where appropriate together with neighbouring countries or with other international cooperation.

Also with regard to the topic of the current action proposal, biodiversity monitoring and indicators, it is crucial that countries take action towards using indicators that have been agreed at CBD/COP7 and that countries cooperate in an internationally coordinated and policy-oriented way, striving for enhanced synergy and cooperation between international ongoing monitoring and reporting activities.

In order to tackle target 8 of the Kyiv resolution, the current action plan builds on ongoing activities and proposed the execution of demonstration activities in order to develop a coherent European monitoring programme, including a core set of biodiversity indicators. The activities proposed form the pan-European linkage between the activities at CBD, EU, EECCA and national levels. The PEBLDS forum provides the ideal framework for pan-European coordination in this field.

The action plan takes into account comments made by the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Finland, Slovenia, Czech Republic, EEA and ECNC at the 3rd 'Biodiversity in Europe' intergovernmental conference (Madrid, January 2004) (STRA-CO (2004) 13), the decisions made at the 7th Conference of the Parties to the CBD (Kuala Lumpur, February 2004) (CBD Decision VII/30), an expression of interest by the FYROMacedonia, comments made by the PEBLDS task force and 10th Bureau meeting (13-14 May 2004, Strasbourg) (STRA-CO (2004) 18) as well as recent developments at EU (BEG-WG5 and Malahide conference) and pan-European level, including EECCA (Joint meeting of EIONET/IWG-BioMIN/PEBLDS). The plan also builds on the chairmen's conclusions from a seminar organised by ECNC and EEA at the European Parliament (23 March 2004, Brussels), that have been communicated to EU Environment Commissioner Margot Wallström.

Strategic Framework of the Action Plan:

The overall objective of the Kyiv biodiversity resolution, as agreed to by the European Ministers of Environment and Heads of Delegations of the States participating in the PEBLDS process, is to halt the loss of biodiversity at all levels by the year 2010.

The specific objective of target 8 on biodiversity monitoring and indicators in the Kyiv resolution on biodiversity is that:

“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.”

An additional objective of this action plan is to serve other elements of the Kyiv resolution on biodiversity, notably where it regards 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. Specifically, this action plan aims at further developing at pan-European level the trial indicators adopted at CBD/COP7. The testing of the trial indicators at the regional level will deliver lessons learnt to SBSTTA in 2005 and COP8 in 2006. The plan also aims at reaching some of the conclusions of a seminar held by ECNC and EEA at the European Parliament (23 March 2004), amongst others to develop a headline indicator that over time might be used for annual biodiversity reporting in Europe.

Action Proposal Summary:

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-Europe 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-IMPs 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 6th 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:

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.

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 countries¹;
- 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 the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Albania, Moldova and Uzbekistan have expressed interest to participate in this activity

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.

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?

Cost of Project: Expressed in Euros

ACTIVITY	LEAD ORGANISATION	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	TOTAL
1. Establish and run coordination team	EEA, ECNC and UNEP-WCMC	40,000.-	40,000.-	40,000.-	40,000.-	40,000.-	40,000.-	240,000.-
2. Establish advisory group and arrange for regular consultation	EEA, ECNC and UNEP-WCMC	10,000.-	10,000.-	10,000.-	10,000.-	10,000.-	10,000.-	60,000.-
3. Develop work plan	Coordination team to jointly agree responsibilities	20,000.-						20,000.-
4. Pan-European coordination meeting	EEA, ECNC and UNEP-WCMC	In kind: EIONE T meeting Cash: 17,000.- support to non- EEA MS						17,000.-
5. Proposal for pan-European indicators	Coordination team with cooperation network	20,000.-	20,000.-					40,000.-
6. Three demonstration activities	Countries to be selected	20,000.- per country	60,000.- per country					240,000.-
7. Hold stakeholder meeting	Coordination team		40,000.- In kind: EIONE T meeting					40,000.-
8. Publish agreed indicators	Coordination team		20,000.-					20,000.-
9. Proposal for pan-European monitoring programme	Coordination team with cooperation network		30,000.-					30,000.-
10. Hold stakeholder meeting	Coordination team with cooperation network			40,000.- In kind: EIONE T meeting				40,000.-
11. Design	Coordination			50,000.-				50,000.-

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ACTIVITY	LEAD ORGANISATION	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	TOTAL
implementation scheme	team with cooperation network							
Total		157,000	340,000	140,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	797,000.

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)