



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

Geneva and Strasbourg, 18 September 2009

STRACO (2009) 02

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

**PEBLDS ACTIVITIES  
REPORT OF THE JOINT SECRETARIAT**

12<sup>th</sup> meeting  
22-24 September 2009  
Liège, Belgium

*Document prepared by  
the Joint Secretariat for PEBLDS*

**UNEP and PEBLDS****PEBLDS Highlights**

PEBLDS Partners have carried out a number of catalytic activities on all geographical levels following the adoption of the PEBLDS. Flagship activities include the development of a pan-European system of protected areas and ecological networks (PEEN), development of biodiversity indicators (SEBI2010), stakeholder activities in the agriculture and forest sectors (identification of high nature value farmland and collaboration with the Ministerial Conference for the Protection of Forests in Europe-MCPFE), a 2010 Countdown Initiative to monitor and profile implementation of commitments, biennial preparatory conferences for the meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and many more.

**Biodiversity in Europe Conferences**

The PEBLDS has been convening regional biodiversity conferences since the year 2000. The four previous Conferences have been held in Riga, Budapest, Madrid, and Plitvice Lakes National Park, Croatia focusing on the biodiversity priorities for the pan European region within the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The past preparatory Conferences have proven to be useful for better preparation of the entire pan European region on the important issues under consideration of the CBD and raising awareness on the pan European priorities during discussions at the Conferences of the Parties.

**Collaboration with the MCPFE**

*Joint Position of the MCPFE and the PEBLDS on the Pan European Understanding on the linkage between the ecosystem approach and sustainable forest management:* The MCPFE and the PEBLDS processes agreed that the SFM is the concrete means of applying the Ecosystem Approach to forest ecosystems in the pan European region. They noted that the two concepts aim at promoting conservation and management practices which are environmentally, socially and economically sustainable, and which generate and maintain benefits for both present and future generations.

*Afforestation and Reforestation Guidelines:* In November 2008, the MCPFE and the Environment for Europe/Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS) adopted the "Pan-European Guidelines for Afforestation and Reforestation with a special focus on the provisions of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change". These guidelines, jointly developed by the MCPFE and the PEBLDS, are targeted at afforestation and reforestation programmes that aim inter alia at carbon sequestration and reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. The Guidelines provide a set of recommendations for implementing economically viable, environmentally sound, socially equitable, and culturally acceptable, afforestation and reforestation programmes and projects. They address specific pan-European issues in balancing afforestation and reforestation needs with the requirements of other land-users, as well as considering the conservation of sites of high ecological, landscape and cultural value. Furthermore, they may serve as an example for developing and relevant international programmes like implementing Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects.

*Pan European input to the UNFF:* In light of the existing regional cooperation, and based on respective mandates of each organisation, a report was jointly prepared by MCPFE, UNECE/FAO, the European Forest Institute (EFI), and the Efe/PEBLDS in response to an invitation from the secretariat of the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF). It presents a summary of Pan-European achievements, major developments, challenges and plans for future actions on sustainable forest management in relation to issues that will be addressed at the Eight Session of the UNFF, 20 April – 1 May, 2009.

### ***Cooperation between PEBLDS and the European Environment Agency (EEA)***

*Streamlining European 2010 Biodiversity Indicators (SEBI2010):* A number of expert groups, including experts from South Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia region, developed a set of 26 indicators to provide a broad assessment of major trends and threats and help understand the relationship between biodiversity and policies on key sectors such as agriculture, fisheries and forestry. The PEBLDS also supported regional workshops in SEE and the EECCA regions to build capacity, share experience and develop recommendations on development of national biodiversity indicators and the development of a biodiversity monitoring system.

*Identification of HNV farmland:* The EEA worked with the PEBLDS on the agreement of a definition of high nature value farmland for the pan European region. PEBLDS also supported regional workshops in SEE and the EECCA regions to build capacity, share experience and develop recommendations regarding the identification and protection of High Nature Value Farming (HNVF) areas.

### ***Countdown 2010***

Pan European Countdown 2010: The Countdown 2010 Initiative was first exhibited at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Intergovernmental Conference *Biodiversity in Europe* in Madrid in 2004. UNEP has supported the Countdown 2010 initiative financially and substantively through the PEBLDS. The initiative is now a network that includes 932 partners from all sectors to support the commitment to save biodiversity by 2010. Public institutions of all kinds – national, regional and local governments and municipalities – businesses and local and national NGOs have joined the Countdown 2010 network.

### ***Cooperation with the European Commission and UNEP on the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)***

*IPBES Consultation:* Organization of a consultation prior to the 5<sup>th</sup> Intergovernmental Conference *Biodiversity in Europe* with the countries from the South Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asian region (SEE, EECCA) to inform Member States in the region on the ongoing process on IPBES and provide opportunities to exchange their views on some of the key issues in preparation for the global meeting that will take place in Nairobi in October 2009.

### ***Pan European Biodiversity Picnics***

*Pan-European Biodiversity picnic:* An awareness raising event, carried out on or near the celebration of International Biodiversity Day. Personalities from each country (president, heads of government, the parliament, parties, fractions, trade unions, farmer organisations, youth organisations, chambers of commerce, artists, NGOs, etc.) come together for a picnic in the nature in their country. They attract the wider media and largely draw the attention of the general public towards the importance of biodiversity and the value of their own natural environment.

<h2><b>The Council of Europe and PEBLDS</b></h2>
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The Pan European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS) is a European response to support implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity. It aims to conserve ecosystems, habitats, species, their genetic diversity, and landscape of European importance through, *inter alia*, the development of the Pan European Ecological Network (PEEN).

Established at the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Council for the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (STRA-CO), which was held in Riga (Latvia) in March 2000, PEEN contributes to achieving the main goal of PEBLDS.

It is mainly based on existing European networks, in particular the EU Natura 2000 network and the Bern Convention Emerald Network.

The Pan-European Ecological Network objective is to conserve ecosystems, habitats, species their genetic diversity and different landscapes giving greater coherence to existing networks and improving corridors, buffer zones and restoration of degraded areas. PEEN is particularly relevant for European countries that do not belong to the European Union.

### **Emerald Network**

The **Emerald network** is an ecological network to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats of Europe, which was launched in 1998 by the Council of Europe as part of its work under the Bern Convention. It is to be set up in each Contracting Party or observer state to the Convention.

As foreseen in Resolution (98) 5, the implementation of the Emerald Network is to be carried out in co-operation with the European Union. The European Union is responsible for sites in EU member states and the Council of Europe for the building of this ecological network outside EU. The European Environment Agency is a common partner for both organizations in this exercise.

The Emerald network is being successfully implemented, among others, in Central and Eastern European Countries and the EU member States. Nowadays the pilot projects are starting to be implemented in the Caucasus region.

The work programme with the 2008-2009 activities is available at:  
<[http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/nature/EcoNetworks/Default\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/nature/EcoNetworks/Default_en.asp)>

### **Follow up of the Pan-European Ecological Network (PEEN)**

At the 5<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference “An Environment for Europe”, held in Kyiv in May 2003, the European Ministers of Environment and Heads of Delegation of the States, participating in the process of 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 the species, ecosystems, habitats, and landscapes.

The Kyiv Conference adopted as part of the Resolution on Biodiversity, the following two specific targets:

1. By 2006, the Pan-European Ecological Networks (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.
2. By 2008, all core areas of PEEN will be adequately conserved and PEEN will give guidance to all major national, regional and international land use and planning policies as well as to the operation of relevant economic and financial sectors.

The specific indicatives maps (general indicative map, South East European Region, Caucasus region and Central Asian regions) and Assessment Report “Taking stock” were presented at the last 6<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference “An Environment for Europe”, held in Belgrade, Serbia, in October 2007.

**The Council of Europe – The Bern Convention**

The Bern Convention was adopted and signed in Bern in September 1979 and entered into force on June 1, 1982. The Convention aims to protect wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats and promote cooperation among states on nature conservation matters. The Convention gives as well special attention to the monitoring and control of endangered and vulnerable species and assist with the provision of support concerning legal and scientific issues. The text of the Convention was ratified by 48 Contracting Parties.

Over 30 years the Bern Convention has produced extensive guidance and standards under different forms: nearly 140 recommendations and resolutions assisting countries improve their national policies and preserve their natural heritage and several Actions Plans for threatened species.

At their 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting on December 2003, the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention adopted the Recommendation No.99 on the European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species and endorsed the European Code of Conduct on Horticulture and Invasive Alien Plants.

Relevant documents are available at:  
<[http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/nature/Bern/IAS/default\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/nature/Bern/IAS/default_en.asp)>

At its 26th meeting, held in Strasbourg in November 2006, the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention set up a Group of Experts on Biodiversity and Climate Change to exchange information and review the effects of climate change in the biological diversity covered by the Convention. They adopted the recommendation No. 122 on the conservation of biological diversity in the context of climate change

At their 28<sup>th</sup> meeting, held in Strasbourg in November 2008, the Standing Committee adopted the Recommendation No. 138 on the European Strategy for Plant Conservation 2008-2014.