

The Strategy Guide

the Clearing-House for the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy

Text of Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy

Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy

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This Strategy presents an innovative and proactive approach to stop and reverse the degradation of biological and landscape diversity values in Europe. Innovative, because it addresses all biological and landscape initiatives under one European approach. Proactive, because it promotes the integration of biological and landscape diversity considerations into social and economic sectors.

The Strategy reinforces the implementation of existing measures and identifies additional actions that need to be taken over the next two decades. The Strategy also provides a framework to promote a consistent approach and common objectives for national and regional action to implement the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy is based on the following terms:

Biological Diversity: the variability among living organisms from all sources including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems (Article 2 of the Convention on Biological Diversity).

Landscape Diversity: the formal expression of the numerous relations existing in a given period between the individual or a society and a topographically defined territory, the appearance of which is the result of the action, over time, of natural and human factors and a combination of both (Council of Europe Draft Recommendation on the Integrated Conservation of Cultural Landscape Areas as part of Landscape Policies).

CHAPTER 1 OVERVIEW

1.1 Introduction

Europe's biological and landscape diversity is one of our greatest riches. It is a heritage passed down to us over thousands of years and linked to other natural systems worldwide. We have a shared responsibility to pass this heritage on to future generations as a diverse and sustainable system. Europe's natural diversity is in decline, however, the decline is rapid and continuing. Across the continent, valuable and characteristic habitats are suffering serious damage; this has led to decline in the diversity, number and range of a wide variety of species, habitats and landscapes.

Traditional man-made landscapes, as well as natural and semi-natural habitats of European importance such as coastal zones, marine areas, wetlands, forests, mountain areas and grasslands, are under threat; so are many wild plant and animal species. The most obvious issues are changes in land use, and reduction in area of natural and semi-natural habitats, with their resulting fragmentation.

1.2 Justification

Many important initiatives have already been taken to conserve Europe's natural heritage, but - in spite of efforts by government bodies, non-governmental organizations and individuals - the biological and landscape diversity of Europe continues to decline at a rapid rate. An analysis of gaps in existing nature conservation initiatives and mechanisms indicates that they will be better used when:

- a coherent framework is set up to mobilize all existing initiatives towards the one goal of conserving biological and landscape diversity throughout Europe;

- key factors contributing to the deterioration of biological diversity and landscape diversity are recognized, addressed or influenced.

Full analyses of existing mechanisms are listed in Annexes [1a](#) -[1b](#)-[1c](#).

Recent political and social developments in Europe offer a number of unique opportunities to act in favour of the conservation of biological and landscape diversity. Throughout the continent agricultural practice is changing; former military, industrial and agricultural land is becoming available and has a potential for nature conservation; international cooperation is increasing in all areas, and there is growing public awareness and concern for biological and landscape diversity issues.

To conclude, it is recognized in the European context that:

- conserving Europe's natural heritage is a basic necessity for securing sustainable development in Europe;
- conserving Europe's natural heritage is a shared responsibility of all European countries and regions and a task which can only be successfully undertaken in a Pan-European context;
- Pan-European cooperation would strengthen the effectiveness of national action under the Convention on Biological Diversity;
- the issue of landscape diversity is as yet not adequately integrated into mechanisms aimed at protecting and enhancing the natural environment;
- public attitude, awareness and understanding of conservation issues is a very effective safeguard for maintaining biological and landscape diversity;
- far-reaching political and economical changes over the past decade require new answers to new challenges in land use and use of natural resources;
- sustainable management of the natural environment as an economic resource is a prerequisite for continued economic and social development and prosperity in Europe;
- the threats to biological and landscape diversity require urgent action that both integrates and builds on existing national and international activity;
- the decline in Europe's natural environment has been caused by economic and social action, and thus the integration of conservation considerations into socio-economic policy is a prerequisite for restoring and maintaining biological and landscape diversity;
- by facilitating local initiatives towards sustainable development, involving all land users, a new balance may be achieved in rural areas between social and economic dynamics and ecological stability.

These considerations have led the Council of Europe, in cooperation with other national and international organizations, both governmental and non-governmental, to take the initiative to develop the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy.

1.3 The Strategy

The Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy is a European response to support implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Strategy was proposed in the Maastricht Declaration *Conserving Europe's Natural Heritage* (1993), and builds on the Bern Convention, the European Conservation Strategy (1990), the Dobřis and Lucerne Ministerial Conferences (1991, 1993), UNCED (1992), and other existing initiatives and programmes. The Strategy aims to strengthen the application of the Bern Convention in relation to the Convention on Biological Diversity, following the Monaco Declaration.

The Strategy introduces a coordinating and unifying framework for strengthening and building on existing initiatives. It does not aim to introduce new legislation or programmes, but to fill gaps where initiatives are not implemented to their full potential or fail to achieve desired objectives. Furthermore, the Strategy seeks to more effectively integrate ecological considerations into all relevant socio-economic sectors, and will increase public participation in, and awareness and acceptance of, conservation interests.

1.4 Vision for the future of Pan-European biological and landscape diversity

The Strategy's vision for the future is to achieve conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity for the whole continent of Europe and all its regions within 20 years, and will seek to ensure that:

- the threats to Europe's biological and landscape diversity are reduced substantially, or where possible removed;
- the resilience of European biological and landscape diversity is increased;
- the ecological coherence of Europe as a whole is strengthened;
- public involvement and awareness concerning biological and landscape diversity issues is increased considerably.

These aims should be achieved within 20 years. To achieve them, the Strategy seeks to ensure that:

- full use is made of existing legal, administrative and socio-economical mechanisms at the international, national, regional and local level;
- action is taken at the appropriate level, whether Pan-European, regional, national or local;
- management practices enhance and strengthen the resilience of biological and landscape diversity;
- adequate scientific, technical and financial resources are made available;
- appropriate arrangements are made for monitoring the implementation of the Strategy;
- the emphasis is on measures and activities with broad applications or results.

Because of the urgent need to deal with certain pressing problems, the Strategy should be implemented through a series of five year Action Plans. The Action Plans address the issues that are considered most pressing and important. They make optimal use of opportunities as they occur over the next 20 years by prioritising the themes that need to be addressed at the European level and the ecosystems, landscapes, species and regions that require priority attention.

Europe's Environment: The Dobříš Assessment

The Pan-European ministerial conference in Dobříš Castle (former Czechoslovakia, June 1991) called for a report on the state of the European environment. The report, prepared by the European Environment Agency, is the basic input for an Environmental Programme for Europe (EPE). Part I of *Europe's Environment: The Dobříš Assessment* introduces the context and reporting techniques used. Part II assesses the state of the environment in eight different fields. Part III examines the pressures which impact the environment and Part IV describes the sources of these pressures according to eight different economic sectors. Part V summarizes 12 major environmental problems in Europe.

State of Europe's biological and landscape diversity

Europe's landscapes are diverse and rich in natural and cultural dimensions, and its ecosystems comprise a large diversity of habitats and a rich flora and fauna. Over the past decades, there has been a rapid decline in biological and landscape diversity.

Six per cent of Europe's land area is under landscape protection, but generally with a weak legal status. Geological landscapes and sites of Europe, such as dune systems, creek systems, eskers, drumlins and bogs, are disappearing forever.

Forests once covered 80 to 90% of the territory, but are now reduced to 33%. Natural river sites are small and threatened. Protection is insufficient. Grasslands are concentrated in south-eastern Europe, the Mediterranean and the Central European Plain, and fragmentation and small size characterizes many central and western European sites. Inland wetlands like bogs, fens and marshes have disappeared in large numbers. Iberia lost over 60% of such habitats. Protection of raised bogs averages only 3% in 18 European countries. Coastal and marine ecosystems too are adversely affected: 70% of the representative sites of the Mediterranean are facing stresses and external threats; Western Mediterranean has lost more than 75% of coastal dunes since 1900; more than 33% of the Wadden Sea salt-marshes have been lost during the last 50 years.

Many plant and animal species, and their genetic diversity, are currently declining or threatened with extinction: fish with 53% under threat, reptiles 45%, mammals 40%, birds 40% and 21% of Europe's 12,500 higher plant species are threatened.

Europe's Environment: The Dobříš Assessment indicates several causes for the deterioration of landscapes and the natural environment on the Pan-European level. Traditional farming has given way to intensive agriculture, a process accelerated by subsidies, with enormous effects on the rural landscape. The strong focus of forestry management on short term economic targets has caused the decline in forest biodiversity. The policies pursued in industry, transport and energy production are having a direct and damaging

impact on the coasts, major rivers (dam construction and associated canal building) and mountain landscapes (main road networks). Mass tourism affects mountains and coasts. Public and political knowledge and concern about the natural environment remains generally insufficient.

CHAPTER 2 STRATEGY 1996-2016

2.1 Purpose of the Strategy

The Strategy encourages a more concerted and therefore more efficient use of existing policy, initiatives, mechanisms, funds, scientific research and information to maintain and enhance European biological and landscape diversity.

The main challenge to be addressed by the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy is to encourage conservation and sustainable use of the natural environment.

Exploitation of the natural environment is the major cause of deterioration of biological and landscape diversity. The economic potential of the environment will continue to be used in the future and conservation efforts will only be successful if socio-economic factors are taken into account.

Based on the findings of *Europe's Environment: The Dobrás Assessment*, the Strategy addresses the strengths and weaknesses of existing initiatives, and promotes practical action where there is a lack of suitable instruments, or where existing mechanisms are not implemented to their maximum potential.

2.2 Pan-European aims and objectives

The Strategy's vision for the future is to achieve conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity for the whole continent of Europe and its territories within 20 years, and specifically to seek to ensure the following aims:

1. Threats to Europe's biological and landscape diversity are reduced substantially, and, where possible, removed.
2. Resilience of European biological and landscape diversity is increased.
3. Ecological coherence of Europe as a whole is strengthened.
4. Full public involvement in conservation of biological and landscape diversity is assured.

The Strategy sets out to achieve the following objectives over this period:

1. Conservation, enhancement and restoration of key ecosystems, habitats, species and features of the landscape through the creation and effective management of the Pan-European Ecological Network.
2. Sustainable management and use of the positive potential of Europe's biological and landscape diversity through making optimum use of the social and economic opportunities on a local, national and regional level.
3. Integration of biological and landscape diversity conservation and sustainable use objectives into all sectors managing or affecting such diversity.
4. Improved information on, and awareness of, biological and landscape diversity issues, and increased public participation in actions to conserve and enhance such diversity.
5. Improved understanding of the state of Europe's biological and landscape diversity and the processes that render them sustainable.
6. Assurance of adequate financial means to implement the Strategy.

A Common Vision for Europe

After the first five years of the Strategy, there should be national biodiversity strategies and action plans for all countries of Europe to implement the Convention on Biological Diversity. In the years to follow, national ecological network action plans and networks should have been established, and by 2005 a Pan-European Ecological Network should be realized, along which animal and plant species would be able to migrate freely.

In 20 years the Strategy aims to realize full biological and landscape diversity conservation, including *inter alia* the safeguarding of the last wild rivers, wetlands and coasts, and the last remaining virgin forests of Europe. There would be public and civic understanding and commitment to preserving Europe's natural heritage. Geological and cultural features determining landscape identity would be adequately protected.

In addition, biological and landscape diversity considerations would be integrated into relevant economic and social sectors as far as practicable. In particular, it is anticipated that agriculture, marine fisheries, forestry, and tourism sectors would recognize biological and landscape diversity as the heart of their industry, and actively strive to maintain and enhance nature and landscapes.

2.3 Priorities for action

Actions to implement the Strategy could take place throughout all nations of Europe, with Pan-European action aiming to cover as many of the cultural and political regions as possible. It is anticipated that full account will be taken of cultural diversity, regional identity and regional economy in implementing the Strategy, and that optimal use will be made of opportunities offered by regional and cultural variation to maintain and enhance biological and landscape diversity.

The *Europe's Environment: The Dobris Assessment* report identifies seven geographical regions in Europe: Boreal, Baltic, Central, Atlantic, East, Alpine and Mediterranean, these are mainly based on biogeographic factors such as climate, soil and vegetation. In implementation of the Strategy, action could take place throughout all these regions, but particular attention will be paid to ecosystems, land/seascapes and species that are of Pan-European importance. These are identified as:

- **ecosystems:** coastal and marine ecosystems, rivers, inland wetlands, grasslands, forests, and mountains.
- **land/seascapes:** tundra, taiga, uplands, bocages, open fields, steppe and arid landscapes, and cultural heritage landscapes.
- **species:** flagship species, and species and populations threatened and at risk of extinction throughout Europe or its regions.

Within the consecutive five year Action Plans, specific ecosystems, landscapes and species will be prioritized, to address urgent threats, or to make full use of opportunities that occur.

The Convention on Biological Diversity (Articles 6b, 7c, 10a and b, and 14) and the European Union's Fifth Environment Action Programme identify the key sectors impacting on the natural environment as being agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport and tourism. Action to implement the Strategy should focus on these sectors, and in addition also on structural and regional policy, water management, defence, and rural and urban planning.

In the next 20 years, the Strategy seeks to strengthen biological and landscape diversity considerations in all social and economic sectors by striving to:

Agriculture: Recognize the vital role of agriculture for the management of landscapes and semi-natural habitats as well as for maintenance of biological diversity and support this role in decision-making processes; stimulate wise management of agricultural land, including organic farming methods; reduce the use of fertilizers and pesticides as much as possible.

Defence: Integrate biological and landscape diversity objectives into defence policy, to avoid areas of high natural value as much as possible and prevent or mitigate negative impacts of military activities on landscapes, in order to promote sound forms of land use.

Energy and Industry: Integrate ecological considerations into general policies in this field and into the choice of localities for industrial activities, to make industrial and energy policies, including the abatement of emissions of hazardous substances, where possible, supportive of biological and landscape diversity policy.

Forestry: Better integrate the strategic principles into forest management, and thus further enhance indigenous tree species, set aside forest areas to develop naturally, harmonize afforestation policies with nature conservation and landscape policies, and allow the wise use of fertilizers and pesticides where appropriate.

Hunting and Fisheries: Integrate biological and land/seascape diversity objectives into hunting and fishery policies in such a way that these activities and nature conservation can coexist, taking into account the sustainability of the resources, the minimization of by-catches as regards fisheries and the adverse impacts of fisheries and hunting on benthic, pelagic and other wildlife communities.

Structural and Regional Policies: Make policies for the conservation of biological and landscape diversity mutually supportive with structural and regional policies, especially in the field of rural economy and extensive agriculture, thus changing the mainstream of fund-assisted development to sustainable development.

Tourism and Recreation: Integrate nature and landscape conservation objectives into tourism and recreation policies and stimulate their ecological sustainability, in order to improve the economic basis of ecologically sound forms of land use and prevent significant damage to biological and landscape diversity.

Transportation: Integrate biological and landscape diversity considerations into transport policies and infrastructure development, avoiding areas of high value as much as possible; prevent or mitigate the negative impacts of infrastructure works and transportation activities on landscapes and ecosystems.

Urban and Rural Planning: Integrate different interests bearing on the planning of rural areas and urban planning in such a way that natural and landscape values are safeguarded, especially in areas with high biological and landscape diversity value and in the wider countryside.

Water Management: Integrate objectives for conservation of biological and landscape diversity objectives into all aspects of water management, including reducing discharges and run-off of polluting substances.

2.4 Strategic principles

The Strategy is based on the application of the following principles through all sectors using or having an influence on natural resources, to achieve the conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity:

1. The Principle of *Careful Decision Making*: decisions relating to the Strategy are made on the basis of the best available information, and as far as possible and appropriate, adopt economically and socially sound measures that act as incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity.
2. The Principle of *Avoidance*: introduction of appropriate procedures requiring environmental impact assessment of projects that are likely to have significant adverse effects on biological and landscape diversity, with a view to avoiding such effects and, where appropriate, allow for public participation in such procedures. This would include projects concerning introduction into the natural environment of exotic species, or of the release of genetically modified organisms.
3. The *Precautionary* Principle: action to introduce appropriate procedures to avoid or minimize potentially adverse impact of activities on biological and landscape diversity, ought not be postponed if the causal link between those activities and the impact has not yet been fully confirmed.
4. The Principle of *Translocation*: those activities that are exceptionally harmful to biological and landscape diversity, and cannot be avoided, will, where possible or practicable, be relocated to areas where they will cause less impact.
5. The Principle of *Ecological Compensation*: the harmful effects of physical changes in areas with high biological and landscape diversity value which cannot be avoided, must be balanced by compensatory conservation measures by the user.
6. The Principle of *Ecological Integrity*: the ecological processes responsible for the survival of species should be protected and the habitats on which their survival depends maintained.
7. The Principle of *Restoration and (Re)Creation*: where possible biological and landscape diversity should be restored and/or (re) created if it can be demonstrated by reference studies that the original state could be re-established where practicable, and thereby adopting measures for the recovery and rehabilitation of threatened species and for their reintroduction into their habitat under appropriate conditions.
8. The Principles of *Best Available Technology* and *Best Environmental Practice*: as defined by the Paris Commission regarding activities that affect biological and landscape diversity. Both access to and transfer of technology are essential elements for the attainment of the Strategy, and where possible to provide and/or facilitate access for, and transfer to others of, technologies that are relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity.
9. The *Polluter Pays* Principle: costs of measures to prevent, control and reduce damage to biological and landscape diversity shall

be borne by the responsible party, as far as possible and as appropriate.

10. The Principles of *Public Participation* and *Public Access to Information*: creating sufficient and active public support for measures regarding biological and landscape diversity by involving public and private landowners, the scientific community, and other individuals and civic groups using land and sea resources in decision-making processes, through media, and the inclusion of these topics in education programmes.

2.5 Strategic and operational framework

The *legal basis* for implementing action under the Strategy is found in existing and widely accepted international agreements and treaties such as the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on Desertification, the Convention on Climate Change, the Bern Convention (which in the Monaco Declaration was indicated as the main instrument for implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity in Europe), the Bonn and Ramsar Conventions, and the EU Habitats and Birds Directives.

The Strategy will seek to achieve its aims by:

- facilitating and supporting the exchange of experience on, and creation or further development of, National Biodiversity Strategies, Action Plans and Programmes as stipulated by the Convention on Biological Diversity, and promoting a consistent approach and common objectives in all countries of Europe;
- using all other existing international and national legislation and policy, such as the EU Natura 2000 Programme, sectorial policy including agricultural, fisheries, transport, regional development and social policies, and implementing fully the EU Fifth Environmental Action Programme;
- facilitating, supporting and promoting the implementation of the existing international agreements and treaties.

The Strategy will also use a range of other mechanisms, in order to change how society thinks and works in relationship to biological and landscape diversity:

- *international and national market and trade policy*, which affects the sectors using the natural environment as a resource, including price support;
- *multilateral or bilateral funds*, used either directly for nature conservation, or for measures in other social and economic sectors interacting with the natural environment;
- *fiscal policy*, which can either stimulate or discourage the use of energy and natural resources;
- *financial policy*, which can promote sustainable economic benefits in different sectors;
- *initiatives and programmes*, aiming to preserve and strengthen regional cultural identity and traditions;
- *public awareness/participation*, such as education, training and public awareness campaigns, appropriate use of the mass media, and public-private-partnership in land ownership and land management.

The Pan-European Ecological Network will be the *operational framework* within which many of the strategic and priority actions will be taken. It is both a physical network through which ecosystems, habitats, species, landscapes and other natural features of European importance are conserved, and a coordinating mechanism through which the partners in the Strategy can develop and implement cooperative actions. It will build on a variety of existing initiatives, including Natura 2000, the European network of Biogenetic Reserves, the EECONET concept, the Bern Convention, the Bonn Convention, and the many national and regional ecological networks already under development.

2.6 Actors to be mobilized

Main actors who will be involved in the implementation of the Strategy will include:

- national authorities (local, regional and national governmental authorities);
- bilateral donors;
- international organizations and financial institutions;
- organizations and associations active in the economic sectors, and private enterprise;

- research community (research institutes, universities, researchers and scientists);
- information dissemination organizations (including museums, zoos and botanic gardens and other ex-situ gene depositors), as well as the educational systems at every level;
- private and public landowners;
- non-governmental organizations (including nature conservation and environmental protection bodies at the local, national and international level);
- public (grassroot and citizen groups, consumer organizations, churches and religious groups/orders, recreational and sports associations);
- indigenous and native peoples of the regions of Europe.

2.7 Structure for Action Plans

The Strategy is intended to operate within a 20-year period, setting a broad and consistent framework for achieving the Strategic aims and objectives and giving guiding principles for action. Actions are to be implemented by dividing the Strategy into five year Action Plans which stimulate conservation and sustainable use activities and ensure concerted and integrated action by international and national actors.

The Action Plans are to provide a framework which contributes to a common European response to the Convention on Biological Diversity and in particular the National Biodiversity Strategies.

The Action Plans identify the fundamental actions towards the realization of each set of five year goals. These actions can be fully elaborated into projects which can be undertaken by international agencies, government authorities, economic sectors or NGOs as separate, individual or stand-alone activities, either because they fall within the National Biodiversity Strategies, within their own existing work programmes or actions can be initiated in direct response to the Strategy Action Plan. By thus linking in to existing initiatives and work programmes, a coherent spectrum of projects is executed, fitting within the framework of the Strategy.

Projects developed within the framework of the Action Plans will be innovative, proactive, cross-sectorial, achievable within a five year time frame and acceptable to/involving the public. Project outlines will incorporate concrete activities, time frame, funding mechanisms, costs and actors, and instruments including incentives. The opportunity should be taken to examine existing sources of funding with a view to supporting the implementation of the Action Plans.

Prioritization into Action Plans will be based on the following criteria:

1. Need to address urgent issues.
2. Possibility to take advantage of unique opportunities.
3. Potential to ensure concrete action and produce results within a set time frame.
4. Need to undertake activities in a structured and coordinated sequence.

CHAPTER 3 ACTION PLAN ON BIOLOGICAL AND LANDSCAPE DIVERSITY

3.1 Introduction

The first Action Plan was recently revised and resulted in the Rolling Work Programme, which is listed below.

The following modifications were made:

- Retained the Aims of the PEBLDS as the overarching strategic goals for the European region and combined the objectives of the PEBLDS with the objectives of the CBD Strategic Plan (in the European context) and, in that way focused the work programme and eliminated any overlaps or duplication.
- Dropped the existing programme element and sub-element headings as it was possible to fit all activities under the new integrated goals and objectives.
- Noted when an activity contributed to the implementation of a thematic or cross-cutting programme of the CBD, but grouped activities according to their objective rather than the CBD programme under which they may fit.

Framework for the PEBLDS Rolling Work Programme, based on the harmonisation of the Strategic Plan of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) with the PEBLDS:

Goal 1: The PEBLDS is fulfilling its role as facilitator for European biodiversity issues, in close collaboration with other strategic frameworks, in particular the European Commission biodiversity strategy, as well as facilitating CBD implementation in the pan European region.

Objective 1.1: The PEBLDS is setting the Pan-European biodiversity agenda in the framework of the 'Environment for Europe' process, and facilitating the regional preparation and follow up to the CBD Meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Objective 1.2: The PEBLDS is promoting co-operation between all relevant European instruments and processes, as well as global instruments and processes on the Pan-European level, to enhance policy coherence.

Objective 1.3: Other relevant European processes are actively supporting implementation of the PEBLDS and CBD, in a manner consistent with their respective frameworks.

Objective 1.4: Biodiversity and landscape concerns are being integrated into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies at the sub-regional and pan European levels, to meet conservation and sustainable use objectives.

Objective 1.5: Participants in the PEBLDS process are collaborating at the regional and sub-regional levels: (1) for the implementation of the CBD; (2) for the conservation, enhancement and restoration of key ecosystems, habitats, species and features of the landscape through the creation and effective management of the Pan-European Ecological Network; (3) for the implementation of the Landscape convention; and (4) for the sustainable management and use of the positive potential of Europe's biological and landscape diversity through making optimum use of the social and economic opportunities on a national and regional level.

Goal 2: Participants in the PEBLDS process have improved financial, human, scientific, technical, and technological capacity to implement the PEBLDS and the CBD.

Objective 2.1: All participants in the PEBLDS process have adequate capacity for implementation of priority actions in national biodiversity strategy and action plans.

Objective 2.2: All participants in the PEBLDS process with economies in transition have sufficient resources available to implement the PEBLDS and the three objectives of the CBD.

Objective 2.3: Technical and scientific co-operation is making a significant contribution to building capacity in the pan European region.

Goal 3: National biodiversity strategies and action plans and the integration of biodiversity and landscape concerns into relevant sectors serve as an effective framework for the implementation of the objectives of the PEBLDS and the CBD.

Objective 3.1: All participants in the PEBLDS process have effective national strategies, plans and programmes in place to provide a national framework for implementing the PEBLDS, the three objectives of the CBD and to set clear national priorities.

Objective 3.2: Biodiversity and landscape concerns are being integrated into relevant national sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies to meet conservation and sustainable use objectives in the pan European region.

Objective 3.3: The priorities in national biodiversity strategies and action plans of the pan European region are being actively implemented, as a means to achieve national implementation of the PEBLDS and the CBD, and as a significant contribution towards the global biodiversity agenda.

Goal 4: There is a better understanding of the importance of biodiversity, landscape, PEBLDS and of the CBD in the pan European region, and this has led to broader engagement across society in implementation.

Objective 4.1: All participants in the PEBLDS process are implementing a communication, education, and public awareness strategy and promoting public participation in support of PEBLDS and CBD.

Objective 4.2: Indigenous and local communities in the pan European region are effectively involved in implementation and in the processes of the PEBLDS and the CBD.

Objective 4.3: Key actors and stakeholders, including the private sector, are engaged in partnership to implement the PEBLDS and the CBD and are integrating biodiversity and landscape concerns into their relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies.

Please [click here](#) to view the full text of the Rolling Work Programme.

CHAPTER 4 REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT OF THE STRATEGY

The successful implementation of the Strategy depends on regular review of progress and will be the occasion for dialogue between the actors involved in the Strategy. The review procedure is divided into four parts. It would be coordinated by the Council of Europe which will

report progress to the Environment for Europe ministerial conferences, and under its auspices a Pan-European Task Force on Biological and Landscape Diversity should be established in 1996.

The Task Force will seek representation from countries party to the Council of Europe, other European countries, international organizations including the European Union, United Nations bodies such as UNDP, UNECE, UNEP, UNESCO and FAO, the World Bank, donors and international NGOs.

4.1 Monitoring of the extent to which targets are being met

The Action Plans transform the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy into tangible results with targets of both a quantitative and qualitative character. Both types of targets need to be measured against pre-agreed indicators, and this periodic measurement is the substance of the monitoring process. The governmental parties adhering to the Strategy and the private or public actors responsible for its implementation should adopt a consistent approach for monitoring actual achievement. To the extent possible, use should be made of existing indicators and monitoring programmes. The actors should therefore ensure that projects contain monitoring programmes which identify: specific parameters to be monitored; methods and time scales; and output specifications.

Through the Task Force, the parties and actors would be responsible for ensuring proper communication and consultation within their respective areas of responsibility for particular actions engaged in under the Strategy.

4.2 Reporting

The review process could be institutionally localized in the Council of Europe, with regular assemblies of the governmental parties adhering to the Strategy, where other actors could assure the operational coordination in association with relevant Convention and Directive Secretariats and Committees, focusing on the Convention on Biological Diversity, Bern Convention and Habitats Directive. With regular meetings of the Council of Ministers, and existing Council of Europe Directorates, the parties adhering to the Strategy and the actors undertaking specific actions could have the opportunity to report on progress.

4.3 Updating of actions

The review process should be the occasion to examine progress or difficulties, review and amend the Strategy Action Plans, and to initiate new actions. Regular meetings of the Committees of Ministers, governmental parties adhering to the Strategy and the private or public actors would facilitate the updating of Action Plans.

Although the principle of updating allows flexibility in the means by which to pursue the objectives of the Strategy, and the specific actions, it must not be a substitute for the assessment of the Strategy, which should be a regular opportunity to review the objectives and to redefine the targets.

4.4 Assessment

Assessment of the effectiveness of the Strategy should take place both during the course of the regular periods for Action Plans and at the end of its term of reference, in the latter instance the assessment acts as a guide for future programmes to maintain and enhance Pan-European biological and landscape diversity.

The *Environment for Europe* Conferences of Environment Ministers will offer the opportunity to present the achievements of the Strategy and each of the five year Action Plans.

GLOSSARY ABBREVIATIONS

BSAP	Black Sea Action Plan
BSP	Biodiversity Support Program of USAID
CAP	Common Agriculture Policy of the European Union
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CDCC	Council for Cultural Cooperation of the Council of Europe
CDPE	Steering Committee for the Protection and Management of the Environment and Natural Habitats

CEE	Central and Eastern Europe
CIPRA	Commission Internationale pour la Protection des Alpes
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CORINE	Information system on the Co-ordination of Information on the Environment
CSCE	Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe
DECS	Directorate of Education, Culture and Sport
DELA	Directorate of the Environment and Local Authorities of the Council of Europe
DG	Directorates General of the European Commission
EAGGF	European Agriculture Guidance and Guarantee Fund
EAP	Environmental Action Plan for Central and Eastern Europe
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
EC	European Commission
ECNC	European Centre for Nature Conservation
ECU	European Currency Unit
EEA	European Economic Area
EEA	European Environment Agency
EEC	European Economic Community
EECONET	European Ecological Network
EFTA	European Free Trade Association
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIB	European Investment Bank
ENCY	European Nature Conservation Year 1995
EP	European Parliament
EPE	Environment Programme for Europe
ESA	Environmentally Sensitive Area
ESF	European Social Fund of the European Union
EU	European Union
EUCC	European Union for Coastal Conservation
FAO	Food and Agriculture organization of the United Nations
FIFG	Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance
FSU	

Former Soviet Union	
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
GEF	Global Environment Facility
HELCOM	Helsinki Commission
ICPRP	International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine against Pollution
IUCN	IUCN - The World Conservation Union (The International Union for the Conservation of Nature)
LIFE	L'Instrument Financier pour l'Environnement, funding mechanism of the European Union
MAB	Man and Biosphere Programme of UNESCO
MARPOL	International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships
MedWet	Mediterranean Wetlands programme of the European Union
METAP	Mediterranean Technical Assistance Programme
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty organization
NGO	Non-Governmental organization
OECD	organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
PE-S-ST	Protection de l'Environnement - Spécialiste - Stratégie of the Council of Europe
PE-S-ZP	Protection de l'Environnement - Spécialiste - les Zones Protégées of the Council of Europe
PHARE	Trade Agreement of the European Union and Central and East Europe (Poland and Hungary: Assistance to the Restructuring of the Economy)
REC	Regional Environmental Centre
SAC	Special Area of Conservation under the Habitats Directive
SDF	Social Development Fund of the Council of Europe
SPA	Special Protected Area under the Birds Directive
TACIS	Trade Agreement of the Commonwealth of Independent States and European Union
UK	United Kingdom
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNCSD	United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural organization
USAID	United States Aid Programme
WTO	World Trade organization
WWF	

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