



1. The Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy

The Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy was endorsed at the third Pan-European Conferences of Ministers of the Environment "Environment for Europe" held in Sofia in October 1995, it concerns more than 50 countries of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. The PEBLDS is a European response to support the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Strategy was proposed in the Maastricht Declaration (1993), and builds on the Bern Convention, the European Conservation Strategy (1990), the Dobriš and Lucerne Ministerial Conferences (1991, 1993), the Earth Summit (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 drafting group for the Strategy was lead by ECNC.

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. It provides the opportunity to take more effective measures by facilitating the development of a common approach to the conservation of Europe's biodiversity and by helping to promote coordinated action.

The Joint Secretariat of the Pan-European Strategy carries out the daily operations and is composed of the Council of Europe and UNEP.

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

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.

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

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

Obj. 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.

Obj. 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.

Obj. 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.

Obj. 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.

Obj. 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.

Obj. 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.

Obj. 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.

Obj. 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.

2. Pan-European Ecological Network

One important element of the implementation of the Pan-European Biological and Landscapes Diversity Strategy is the establishment of the **Pan-European Ecological Network**. The participating states have agreed that the network should be established by 2005. The national efforts for national ecological networks and for international cooperation should enable the establishment of the PEEN.

In order to support the establishment of the Pan-European Ecological Network, the Council of Europe created a Committee of Experts for the development of the Pan-European Ecological Network (STRA-REP). It was set up in 1997 in the framework of the Council of Europe under the authority of the Council for the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (STRA-CO).

3. The Emerald network

The Emerald network finds its legal basis in the Bern Convention. The idea for the establishment of the Network of Areas of Special Conservation Interest (ASCI) otherwise known as the Emerald Network was first launched in June 1989 at the meeting of the

Standing Committee¹ of the Bern Convention. It is a network of Areas of Special Conservation Interest (ASCIs), which is to be established in the territory of the Contracting parties and Observer States to the Bern Convention, including, among others, Central and Eastern European countries and the EU member States. For EU member States Emerald network sites are those of the Natura 2000 network. The areas of special conservation interest shall fit one or several of the following conditions:²

- a. it contributes substantially to the survival of threatened species, endemic species, or any species listed in Appendices I and II of the Convention;
- b. it supports significant numbers of species in an area of high species diversity or supports important populations of non or more species;
- c. it contains an important and/or representative sample of endangered habitat types;
- d. it contains an outstanding example of a particular habitat type or a mosaic of different habitat types;
- e. it represents an important area for one or more migratory species;
- f. it otherwise contributes substantially to the achievement of the objectives of the convention;

The Standing Committee also identified a list of endangered habitats requiring specific conservation measures³ and a list of species requiring specific habitat conservation measures⁴.

For the designated ASCIs management plans that identify both short-and long-term objectives should be drawn up, regularly reviewed and implemented. The governments shall undertake surveillance of the conservation status of species and natural habitats in designated ASCIs and shall inform the Secretariat of any important changes likely to affect negatively in a substantial way the ecological character of the designated ASCIs or the conditions having justified their designation. Where any such changes come to light, the Standing Committee may advise the government concerned on steps to be taken.

The implementation phase of the Emerald network started in 1999 for non- EU states. The years of 1999-2000 mark the pilot stage of setting up the Emerald Network, supported by the Council of Europe. Emerald network pilot projects were completed or initiated in Bulgaria, Russia and Slovenia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Poland, Slovakia and Turkey. The Council of Europe also asked Moldova and Romania to join the Emerald process. The pilot projects include building up and training a National Emerald team; identifying species and habitats within each biogeographical region in the country; selecting potential ASCIs; building up the pilot database on selected sites; designating ASCIs to the Standing Committee (national lists).

¹ The Standing Committee meets once a year and brings together representatives of the contracting parties and the observers

² Recommendation n° 16 (1989) of the Standing Committee on areas of special conservation interest

³ Resolution no. 4 (1996)

⁴ Resolution no. 6 (1998)

4. The European Landscape Convention

The Council of Europe elaborated a convention, the European Landscape Convention, which was opened for signature on 20 October 2000 in Florence (Italy). It is signed by 28 states⁵ and ratified by twelve⁶ of them. It entered into force on 1st March 2004. The European Landscape Convention aims to promote the protection, management and planning of European landscapes and to organise European co-operation on landscape issues. It is the first international treaty to be exclusively concerned with the protection, management and enhancement of European landscapes. The Convention applies to the Parties' entire territory and covers natural, rural, urban and peri-urban areas. It deals with ordinary or degraded landscapes as well as those that can be considered outstanding.

LINKS

Council of Europe nature site: http://www.coe.int/T/e/Cultural_Co-operation/Environment/Nature_and_biological_diversity/

Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy: <http://www.strategyguide.org/>

Emerald Network: http://www.coe.int/t/e/Cultural_Co-operation/Environment/Nature_and_biological_diversity/Ecological_networks/The_Emerald_Network/

List of endangered habitats requiring specific conservation measures (Resolution no. 4 (1996) of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention): [http://www.coe.int/T/e/Cultural%5FCo%2Doperation/Environment/Nature%5Fand%5Fbiological%5Fdiversity/Nature_protection/Resolution4\(1996\).asp](http://www.coe.int/T/e/Cultural%5FCo%2Doperation/Environment/Nature%5Fand%5Fbiological%5Fdiversity/Nature_protection/Resolution4(1996).asp)

List of species requiring specific habitat conservation measures (Resolution no. 6 (1998) of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention): [http://www.coe.int/T/e/Cultural%5FCo%2Doperation/Environment/Nature%5Fand%5Fbiological%5Fdiversity/Nature_protection/Resolution6\(1998\).asp](http://www.coe.int/T/e/Cultural%5FCo%2Doperation/Environment/Nature%5Fand%5Fbiological%5Fdiversity/Nature_protection/Resolution6(1998).asp)

⁵ Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey

⁶ Armenia, Croatia, Denmark, Ireland, Lithuania, Moldova, Norway, Romania, San Marino, Slovenia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey