

Measuring progress in nature conservation against the CBD and PEBLDS

Final report
Makmontana, Macedonia

1. The situation of CBD/PEBLDS in the country

1.1 Introduction

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was opened for signature in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, since then more than 180 parties have ratified the Convention. The Convention provides a comprehensive document underlining the principles of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, or more precisely this Convention clearly defines relations between protection, sustainable use of natural resources, and sustainable human development. In ratifying the CBD, the Parties to the Convention undertake a commitment to implement the Convention at national level in contribution to the achievement of its goals and objectives at global level.

During the period when the Convention was opened (1992), Macedonia did not have a regular membership in the Organization of United Nations. After acceptance in the UN, as well as of the many years' efforts by the competent ministries and scientific institutions, in 1997 the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia ratified CBD. In accordance with the regulation of the Convention, the General Secretary of the UN notified that Macedonia had become a party to the Convention on 2 March, 1998.

Humans are an inherent part of the global ecosystem, whether we recognize it or not. We have a unique role to play, because of our ability to influence the system, and because the threat to biodiversity is also a threat to our basic life-support systems that keep (maintain) the living world on planet Earth. The role that micro-organisms, plants, and animals play in providing ecological services of value to humanity is the most important anthropocentric reason for conserving the biodiversity.

Multiplicities of organisms underpin the ecological life-support functions that enable human societies to exist. The value of biological diversity thus lies in the value of the ecological services supported by the interaction between the organisms, populations, and communities of the natural environment, and the value of biodiversity loss reflects the sensitivity of ecological services to both the depletion and the extinction of species. There is a threshold of diversity below which most ecosystems cannot function. That is, all self-organizing living systems require a minimum diversity of species (which, by the way, is very difficult to assess or to predict) to capture the sun's energy, and to develop the cyclic relation of fundamental compounds between producers, consumers and decomposers.

The major threat to the loss of biodiversity is not caused by direct human exploitation of species, but the habitat alteration and destruction that result from the expansion of human populations and human activities. Habitat change by humans is caused directly through land-use changes, urbanization, infrastructure development, and industrialization. Indirect habitat change is caused through environmental effects by the use and extraction of resources from the environment and the discharge of various wastes to air, soil, and water. In this process, global changes due to fossil-fuel burning and the emission of greenhouse and ozone-depleting gases are included.

The natural process that creates new species constantly generates biological diversity. That process of the differentiation of populations (speciation) normally

operates on a time scale of thousands to millions of years. All estimates of present day extinction rates are shown to be vastly higher than the rates at which the natural process that creates biodiversity could expect to compensate for the losses. The extinction outputs far exceed the speciation inputs, and Earth is becoming impoverished because of it.

The global, regional, and national processes that cause biodiversity losses do not exclude Macedonia. Notwithstanding the fact, that on the national level, the components of biological diversity are in better condition in comparison with the developed European countries, the present situation suggests that there is an increased rate of biodiversity degradation in the country. This situation should be a challenge for further, more expressed activities focussed on entire biodiversity conservation.

The basic factors, which have led to the current unfavourable state of the environment in Macedonia in all of its spheres including biodiversity, include general historical processes, a bad socio-economic situation, an unstable political situation, inadequate implementation of spatial planning, and inappropriate land use.

In the desire to accomplish economic development at any cost, a general trend towards the erosion of moral and traditional societal values can be observed, neglecting the principle of sustainable development. Instead, natural resources are used beyond the limits of their sustainability, which produces a real threat of extinction for endangered plant and animal species and varieties, and thus impinges upon traditional rural landscapes.

Special attention should be paid to insufficient trans-boundary co-operation in reply to nature conservation and water management of the natural lakes.

1.2 Strategy and Policy Framework

Macedonia does not have a common policy concerning biodiversity management as yet. There is still not clear picture in respect to responsible institutions and ministries considering the use of bio-resources. The first strategic document that was ever adopted was the National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP). It was completed in 1996 and adopted in 1997. It serves for protection and promotion of environment but it is also the first document that treated biodiversity as a separate part of the environment. The NEAP priorities related to biodiversity included:

- The improved management of the Lakes Ohrid, Prespa, and Dojran;
- Renewal and preservation of forests;
- Strengthening the environmental management capacity of institutions;
- The development of improved management plans for protected areas.

The NEAP, although in need of both revision and updating, represents a first step towards the long-term ambition of the country to integrate all aspects of environmental protection. This was the first step towards European Union integration as well. In the year 2000, a National Committee for National Biodiversity was founded, within the framework of the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning (MoEPP), as an obligation of the state arising from the Convention of Biological Diversity. Its objectives are to monitor the implementation of the Convention requirements at the national level, and to contribute to the decision-making process concerning biodiversity issues. The Committee prepared a draft proposal for preparing a National Biodiversity Strategy, which after elaboration was submitted to the GEF for financial support.

During the process of elaboration of the Strategy the "Country Study for Biodiversity of the Republic of Macedonia – First National Report" was published in

the second half of 2003. The Study represents an overview of the situation in the country related to species and ecosystems diversity, the level of threats, as well as the uses of biodiversity for commercial purposes and the impacts driving its alternation.

This study was a solid basis for preparing of the "Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan" (BSAP) that was finished by the end of 2003. The strategy was comprised by work of experts from the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, respectable institutions, the university, and representatives from several NGOs. As a national document, BSAP defines the priorities for effective and integrated conservation, as well as indispensable actions, projects and programmes for biodiversity conservation. The BSAP comprises the overall aim for biodiversity conservation in Macedonia, which should be attained in the period 2004-2008, over which the Biodiversity Action Plan will operate.

The Action Plan encompasses specific activities that should be realized in order to achieve the overall aim and the guiding objectives, ascertained within Biodiversity Strategy for Macedonia.

In general, within Macedonia the legislation contains numerous laws and by-laws that are directly or indirectly related to biodiversity conservation. However, the whole legislation is outdated and does not respond to the current international policy for biodiversity conservation.

Therefore, having in mind the ambition of the country to be integrated in the EU and other international associations, it is an urgent necessity to harmonize the existing laws in order to approximate the EU directives and international conventions.

The aim of the new Law for Nature Protection will be the integrated protection and conservation of nature. Biodiversity conservation takes the most significant part of this law. It regulates obligations, duties, and responsibilities for nature protection. It includes landscape protection as well. The protection of habitats and species is fully harmonized with the European directives for nature protection. It provides for the creation of protected areas network with bio-corridors in accordance with European Natura 2000 and Bern Convention provisions, as well as the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Strategy. The protected areas system is in agreement with IUCN's (International Union for Nature) recommendations and categorization. The law has special chapters for species conservation. It provides for the distinguishing of protection status of certain species according to the national red lists, which are also an obligation of this Law.

The monitoring, evidences, and cadastres are an obligation and responsibility of the MoEPP (Administration for Nature Protection).

Advisory and expert role is given to the National Council for Nature (an inter-ministerial and expert body). The main administrative and executive responsibilities are given to the partly independent body that has to be established in the frame of the MoEPP – Administration for Nature Protection.

For the first time in Macedonia, criminal acts and misdemeanours against nature are foreseen.

Ratifying the Convention of Biological Diversity, the Republic of Macedonia accepts a great number of obligations. Some have already been conducted, but most of them are yet to be promoted in the national legislation.

Therefore, it can be claimed that the existing national legislation regarding biodiversity conservation is not adequate to the ratified international conventions and protocols. So, the priority objective of the normative politics in the sphere of biodiversity conservation should be application of international acts.

Concerning the cooperation between the civil sector and the Ministry of Environment and Physical planning, though it is the only Ministry in Macedonia that involves the non-governmental, non-for-profit organizations in its activities there has been no official cooperation in the preparation on the National Reports for the Convention on Biological Diversity or in its implementation or preparation for meetings.

1.3 Proposed measures

Current opportunities for the improvement of legislative and institutional set up concerning the sectors related to biodiversity conservation are very weak. Harmonizing other sectoral laws such as: Law on Forests, Law on Hunting, Law on Plant Protection, Law on Fishing could provide biodiversity conservation.

The current socio-economic context of the country has resulted in biodiversity degradation and consequently its less effective conservation. In that way, since the country is in the stage of transition, burdened with political problems it is difficult to improve the overall economic situation.

In order to mitigate the current unfavourable situation, the following opportunities exist:

- Promotion of the necessity for biodiversity conservation in macro-economic policy formulation;
- Creation of favourable conditions within the administrative framework for development and implementation of measures for support of biodiversity conservation;
- Introduction of tax and customs incentives for implementation of appropriate technologies for biodiversity conservation;
- Introduction of tax and customs incentives for economic and legal entities concerned with eco-tourism development;
- Establishment of a special item within the state budget regarding biodiversity conservation;
- Providing direct support from the central budget for activities in protected areas;
- Providing compensation (or changes in tax regulations) for use of biological resources;
- Conducting a review of potential external donors and programmes;
- Implementation of the measure "debt-for-nature", etc.

2. Project activities

2.1 Summary of activities

MAKMONTANA conducted the following activities in the time frame of the project for "Measuring progress in nature conservation according to CBD and PEBLDS".

- Management of MAKMONTANA's website
- Balkan Mountain Convention
- Balkan Desk in Brussels
- Preparing Management plan for National Park "Pelister" according to EU standards
- National Forestry Policy and Strategy
- The GMO – Free Balkans Conference

Regarding the Balkan Mountain Convention, since the initiative was at its grassroots, MAKMONTANA addressed all participating organizations in the process for strong acknowledgment and implementation of the twelve principles of the Ecosystem Approach as leading guidelines in the process of its formulation.

Having in mind that the parties of the Balkan Mountain Convention are signatories of the Convention on Biological Diversity and that implementation of the twelve principles of the Ecosystem approach is an obligation for each country. This effort was put together and officialized on the meeting on the Balkan Convention Initiative that was held at FAO in Rome on 17 June 2005. The meeting attended by: MAKMONTANA, UNEP, EURAC (all leading members of the Mountain Partnership - European Initiative), FAO – Mountain Partnership Secretariat, and the Macedonian Embassy in Rome concluded the following:

ACKNOWLEDGING that the Balkans are a unique natural treasure of great beauty and ecological value, an important reservoir of biodiversity, the headwaters of major rivers, an essential habitat and refuge for many endangered species of plants and animals;

AWARE that the Balkans constitute a major ecological, economic, cultural, recreational and living environment within Europe, shared by numerous peoples and countries;

The future parties of the Balkan Mountain Convention shall:

1. pursue policies aiming at conservation, sustainable use and restoration of biological and landscape diversity throughout the Balkans. The Parties shall take appropriate measures to ensure a high level of protection and sustainable use of natural and semi-natural habitats, their continuity and connectivity, and species of flora and fauna being characteristic to the Balkans, in particular the protection of endangered species, endemic species and large carnivores.
2. promote adequate maintenance of semi-natural habitats, the restoration of degraded habitats, and support the development and implementation of relevant management plans.
3. pursue policies aiming at the prevention of introduction of alien invasive species and release of genetically modified organisms threatening ecosystems, habitats or species, their control or eradication.
4. develop and/or promote compatible monitoring systems, coordinated regional inventories of species and habitats, coordinated scientific research, and their networking.
5. cooperate in developing an ecological network in the Carpathians, as a constituent part of the Pan-European Ecological Network, in establishing and supporting a Balkan Network of Protected Areas, as well as enhance conservation and sustainable management in the areas outside of protected areas.
6. take appropriate measures to integrate the objective of conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity into sectoral policies, such as mountain agriculture, mountain forestry, river basin management, tourism, transport and energy, industry and mining activities.

The conclusions from the meeting in Rome at FAO HQ, addressed only the 4th, 5th, 10th and 11th principle of the Ecosystem Approach, but was agreed that the Balkan Mountain Convention will be a stretching arm of the Convention on the Biological Diversity, levelling it down to local understandings, and therefore it will incorporate all twelve principles of the Ecosystem Approach. This constitution was confirmed with the mission of our occupant on the Balkan Desk in Brussels, within the framework of the Initiative for the Balkan Mountain Convention. MAKMONTANA reassured the strong efforts in the incorporation of the twelve

principles of the Ecosystem Approach in the Balkan Mountain Convention and this can be seen directly in the recommendation for the future development of the Balkan Mountain Convention in the report of the Balkan Desk in Brussels:

- In the preparation period the real need is to find an appropriate strategy for implementation of the Balkan Convention and an organisation that can concretely drive it forward. An Interim Secretariat of the Balkan Mountain Convention should be established as soon as possible to perform this function.
- The Balkan Convention should involve all concerned stakeholders at the regional and local level even in the early stages of the participatory planning process, for instance regional politicians or Local Self Governments, NGOs, representatives from business sector, protected areas, local communities, experts, etc. (in accordance to EA principle 12)
- The Balkan Convention should not be focused only on environmental issues and protection. More emphasis should be given to economic development. The Balkan Countries need more sustainable economic development than nature protection (since nature is not disturbed by human activities, yet). The mistake from Alpine and Carpathian Convention should not be repeated. (in accordance to EA principle 1 and 4)
- Learning from the Alpine Convention, the Balkan Convention perhaps should involve more Ministries related with the sectors covered by the Convention. It is advisable to involve them from very beginning. In addition to the Ministry for Environment and Physical Planning in the three participant states, the Balkan Convention should ensure the cooperation and participation of other Ministries such as the Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry and Water, or Ministry for Local Self Government. (in accordance to EA principle 2 and 12)
- The process of preparing the framework of the convention should culminate with Ministers meeting when the Ministries from the three participant committees should sign the framework of the Convention.
- The Balkan Convention should make reference to important global conventions (climate, biodiversity, mountain agenda etc). It should act as an instrument of the states and help the implementation of global conventions in the Balkan Mountains.
- The system of protocols was not so practical for all of the Governments of the participating states in the Alpine Convention. Some of the protocols are even contradictory to the legal framework in some of the countries. That is why their ratification presents a problem for in all of participant states. This contradiction can be overcome by the provision of derogation rules in each legal system. The Balkan Convention might invent some other applications form or guides instead of protocols but on other hand, if the implementation roles are not legally binding, without ratification they would only have political importance.
- Although each of the mountain systems has its own specificity, it is not necessary to re-invent the wheel. The strength and the weaknesses of the current Conventions should be examined to take positive examples, adapt them to the situation of the Balkan conditions, and use the lessons learned from the problematic sectors, so that conservation and sustainable development can go hand in hand. (in accordance to EA principle 2 and 10)

Regarding the preparations of the Management plan for National Park "Pelister", MAKMONTANA's activities were directed at awareness raising of the major stakeholders of the National Park about the CBD and PEBLDS and the full participation of all stakeholders in the process of its preparation.

MAKMONTANA stressed the importance of incorporating the CBD principles in the "Pelister" National Park management plan, and pointed out the Convention as the first global instrument taking a comprehensive approach to the problems of conserving the world's biodiversity and to using its biological resources sustainably. The Convention recognizes that networks of protected areas are central to conserving biological diversity. Two vital provisions, among others, relate to protected areas:

- Under Article 6, each Party has to develop national strategies, plans or programs for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and to integrate them into other relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programs and policies;
- Under Article 8(a), each Party has to establish a system of protected or areas where special measures are taken to conserve biodiversity; this is followed up by other clauses in Article 8 on protected areas.

During the participatory process of the finalization of the Pelister National Park management plan, MAKMONTANA introduced to the relevant stakeholders the concept of Ecosystem Approach as a strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way. That helped lead the preparation of the Management plan to be finalized in a more sustainable and participatory Management plan. Special attention was given to principle 2, 4 and 12 of the Ecosystem Approach, the principles seemed very useful to the stakeholders but the connection to the Convention on Biological Diversity was far out of the planet for them.

Regarding the National Forestry Policy and Strategy formulation, MAKMONTANA through its representatives in the Steering Committee and the Working Group of the project helped in bringing the Convention of Biological Diversity and the Pan European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy to the knowledge of the forestry policy and strategy decision-make bodies. This process, though not yet finalized, lead to having a National Forestry Sustainable Development Strategy in accordance to the CBD Decisions (Decision V/6 article 2 and Decision III/12: Programme of work for terrestrial biological diversity: Forest biological diversity, Annex: Input to the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests, Related recommendation (b) and Decision VI/22: Forest biological diversity), though the connection given between the measures and the CBD Decisions did not matter to anyone the only concern expressed was directly about the propositions.

Regarding the GMO – Free Balkans Conference, MAKMONTANA pointed out the following: There are great uncertainties as concerns environmental risks of GMOs. These uncertainties are the result not only of the fact that there is a lack of reliable data but also the fact that natural systems are extremely complex. Therefore it is of decisive importance to determine under what premises a predicted or observed effect of the GMO on the environment can be classified as "environmental damage" and therefore as not tolerable.

Using an asset-related approach in defining ecological damage is recommended. Using this approach, valuable environmental assets can be understood to be biological diversity thus any change or disturbance of the assets/biological diversity can be defined as an ecological damage which is a subject of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Though most of the Balkan states are not in the EU, with exception of Greece, all of them are in fact in Europe, some have received the status of an EU candidate country (like Macedonia) and all tend to become a future member of the EU. In the EU Sixth Environmental Action Programme member States committed themselves to "Protecting, conserving, restoring and developing the functioning of natural systems, natural habitats, wild flora and fauna with the aim of **halting** desertification and the **loss of biodiversity [by 2010]**, including diversity of genetic resources, both in the European Union and on a global scale".

Decision VII/30 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) *defines* biodiversity loss "as the long-term or permanent qualitative or quantitative reduction in components of biodiversity and their potential to provide goods and services, to be measured at global, regional and national levels".

The CBD-information paper *UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/9/INF/26* recognises that the notion of biodiversity loss is complex and concludes as a basis for developing indicators that biodiversity loss can consist of:

- A decline in extent, condition or sustainable productivity of ecosystems
- A decline in abundance, distribution or sustainable use of species populations, and extinctions
- Genetic erosion

The basic prerequisite for assessing ecological damage is having baselines and GMO-free reference areas. Therefore it is necessary to keep sufficiently large areas free of GMOs.

2.2 Assessing the potential of the use of CBD/PEBLDS by NGOs

2.2.1 Assessment of these tools in general

MAKMONTANA sees the Convention on Biological Diversity as providing a framework for conserving biological diversity (as well as for achieving other goals, such as on access to genetic resources). Most of its Articles set out policies that Parties should follow, such as on planning protected area networks or controlling the spread of introduced species, rather than establishing precise obligations (as does the World Heritage Convention) or setting targets (as do the EU Directives). The Convention provides a good opportunity for Parties to update and bring into line a wide range of biodiversity-related policies, and in particular to make the linkage between policies on protected areas and policies on other sectors of national life.

The Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy as a European response to support the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity transfers the guidelines of the Convention on Biological Diversity to European level and gives opportunity for coordination on regional level, that by all means produces more efficient measures for the protection and conservation of Europe's biodiversity.

Both of these tools only provide a framework, while the actual decision in adaptation and narrowing down to local conditions for implementation is set to the parties themselves. The guidance set by the Convention on Biological Diversity COP decisions gives the freedom to address global issues in a proprietary way by local governments and organizations in a manner that is best seen fit to serve the result.

2.2.2 Opportunities – in general and particularly in the project

Civil society groups referred to as Non-Governmental Organizations in general reflect the opinion of the citizens towards the government and governmental bodies. Their standpoint, which in general terms means opposite attitudes and positions in issues, in order to represent a serious opposition must be based on sound arguments.

MAKMONTANA as a national organization for sustainable development of mountain regions in the Republic of Macedonia, which is also well positioned amongst governing bodies though, must take hold of every ally in order to achieve its goals. The CBD, together with PEBLDS serves as a superb tool for achieving sustainable development and thus protection and conservation of

nature and its biological diversity. They present a driving force of our activities and give guidance to the activities that need to be taken to maintain the biological diversity in the Republic of Macedonia.

By enhancing an NGO's knowledge on the CBD and PEBLDS and positioning itself as a watchdog of the implementation of the CBD, the organization takes credit and acknowledgement in forwarding the national processes towards sustainability, especially in nature conservation and protection. This position enables us to be part in all future national decision making processes that have close points to the loss of biological diversity in the country, especially as part of the participatory process, where the voice of the civil society should be valued. This is one of the reasons why MAKMONTANA was elected to appoint a representative in the Steering Committee of the project for the National Forestry Policy and Strategy formulation – "Institutional and capacity building in the forestry sector and forest industry sub-sectors" as well as to have one of its member to be a part of the Working Group covering topics on Forestry Legislation and NGOs.

Always, when possible, referring to the decisions by the Conference of the Parties gives the needed argumentative positions that provide backstopping to the aimed goals. This tool is well applicable when influencing important national processes such as strategies or action plans. But the use must be well elaborated without leaving any possibilities for misinterpretation of the stated position, since most of the people involved are not really familiar with any of the decisions or articles of the CBD.

As maybe the most important opportunity for the use of CBD and PEBLDS as tools, which was created within the project, is the actual possibility for networking in lobbying. Through implementation of the project, MAKMONTANA had the opportunity to establish contacts with several Non-Governmental Organizations from the region that face similar realities and have similar goals. The exchange of ideas, especially project ideas, seeing others' successes and downfalls creates environment for elaborate and successful ideas to turn into action and be supported by the experience of others. This position enables for good ideas easily replicable and sometimes scaleable methods that support sustainability and the protection of nature and biodiversity in one country, to be implemented in another country.

But networking is not only constrained to NGOs from abroad. All NGOs with unifying goals, such as the prevention of loss of biological diversity in the country, are welcome to work together and collaborate in achieving the goals. This opportunity is of great value when dealing with issues of national importance, since a unified approach with the help of the CBD as a tool can give significant results.

2.2.3 Obstacles - in general and particularly in the project

Living in a world where personal acquaintances bear higher influence than duties and obligations towards the society, puts the implementation of the CBD under question. Therefore, all activities in the professional world should be followed up with personal interaction. Hence all results are seen as personal favour and not as professional duty. And this puts CBD and PEBLDS as an accompanying argument to one's personal influence.

The use of CBD and PEBLDS as tools for achieving goals is very dependant on the possibility to communicate with the people in charge about the importance of the CBD itself. The lack of knowledge about its importance, what it means and sometimes even its existence present a barrier in its use in lobbying. Therefore we were asked direct questions, such as what CBD is, weather Macedonia is really

a signatory of the CBD, and so on, which prove that ignorance though may be bliss, it represents a serious matter that must be overcome with knowledge and influence.

On the other hand, this ignorance - extremely low awareness about the CBD is not limited to governmental personnel, but it is rather a national fact. The general public does not seem very interested about the global decisions and conventions that should reflect in the countries' everyday life, either. This obstacle seems even greater, since the support of the general public is lacking if these decisions and conventions are delivered in the language of the experts. And if delivered in the language of the people, the Convention does not bear the importance that it should.

3. Recommendations

3.1 Recommendations for NGOs

Seeing the CBD as a framework for conserving biodiversity (as well as for achieving other goals, such as on access to genetic resources), it gives enormous possibilities in making argumentative negotiations usually with governmental representatives, when making a point. But it must be substantiated, and as mentioned before, the government must realize the importance of CBD itself. Therefore an awareness raising activity about the importance of the Convention must be well elaborated prior to any argumentative efforts. If this is not a case, then a proper reference to the CBD must be made. Brochures and internet references are welcomed, that is why NGO websites with adequate information on the CBD, especially together with pointing out to the relation with the organization's activities can prove handy.

The role of the NGOs can be seen actually as a medium between the CBD with its Conference of the Parties and the national implementation of the decisions of the COP. Therefore each NGO must make sure that they influence all national processes to develop in accordance with the Convention.

On the other hand, when communicating with international organizations, especially donor organizations dealing on issues related to CBD is more successful. Therefore acquiring funds for the fourth point of the operational guidelines for the application of the Ecosystem Approach can be rather easy, than on the other hand to actually see it implemented since the Convention on Biological Diversity is not brought down to the level of local communities and people and local governments simply do not understand when you mention CBD.

In conclusion these tools can be used most effectively when dealing with organizations and institutions (people) that are familiar with the CBD. These could be other environmental NGOs, people dealing with international environmental commitments, possibly the Ministry of Environment, and international organizations, especially international donor organizations that guide their work in line with CBD. Therefore the most effective use of these tools for every NGO would be their fundraising activities.

3.2 Recommendations for governments

The CBD provides a good opportunity for Parties to update and align their wide range of biodiversity related policies. In particular they can make the linkage between policies on protected areas and policies of other sectors, since the Principles of the Ecosystem Approach can be also applicable to other sectors, but biological diversity.

For this aim however, a proper personal education must be conducted or at least people must be properly acquainted with CBD. Once this is achieved, the need for a cross-sectoral body that works on the implementation of CBD and other related issues will emerge. And this can be only done through closer communication between the government and the civil sector.