

Report of the international conference

“TIME IS LIFE – Conference on
halting biodiversity
loss by 2010”

TIME IS LIFE



Conference on halting
biodiversity loss by 2010



Central and East European Working Group for the
Enhancement of Biodiversity

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INTRODUCTION

Halting the loss of biodiversity is a great challenge, which requires a lot of coordinated efforts at all levels with broad stakeholder involvement. Any effort supporting sustainable development, contributing to the integration of biodiversity concerns into policy- and decision-making, as well as building partnerships within and among the sectors and across the country borders will clearly contribute to this aim.

Between 3-4 November 2004 about 75 participants from various countries with a geographical scope on Central and Eastern Europe met at the event **TIME IS LIFE – Conference on halting biodiversity loss by 2010** in Budapest. The aim of the conference was to promote understanding of the relevant global, Pan-European, EU, regional and national processes, initiatives and efforts towards the target to halt biodiversity loss by 2010 and to explore possibilities for NGO involvement and cooperation.

An introduction into sustainable development gave the framework for actions and processes towards the 2010 target, while panel discussions on the 2010 target, global, regional and EU efforts and processes provided space for sharing views and information between panellists and the audience. The findings of NGO assessments carried out in South-East European countries on national efforts and actions towards the 2010 target as tangible results of this commitment were also first presented at this event. Conference participants expressed and formulated their personal experiences, ideas and recommendations with regards to NGO involvement and specific actions, sectoral integration and international conventions during working group discussions. As an outcome of the conference, a position paper on NGO involvement in the processes and realising the target was endorsed, that could provide a basis for future strategic collaboration.

Background

In 2001 EU Heads of State and Government made a commitment at the EU's Spring Summit in Gothenburg to "halt the loss of biodiversity by 2010" as articulated in the 6th Community Environment Action Programme and the European Union Strategy for Sustainable Development.

In spring 2002, the 6th Conference of the Parties (COP6) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) adopted a Strategic Plan for the CBD. In the Strategic Plan the "Parties commit themselves to a more effective and coherent implementation of the three objectives of the Convention, to achieve by 2010 a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national level as a contribution to poverty alleviation and to the benefit of all life on earth".

Later in 2002 world leaders agreed at the World Summit for Sustainable Development to "significantly reduce the current rate of loss of biodiversity by 2010" as formulated in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

In May 2003 Ministers of Environment set the goal to halt the loss of biodiversity by 2010 at the Pan-European Kyiv Ministerial Conference in the Kyiv Resolution on Biodiversity, along with other nine tangible targets.

Attendance

Participants were representatives of non-governmental, governmental, international and intergovernmental organisations, as well as scientific institutions working in the field of nature conservation and international policy forming on different levels.

They attended the event from the following countries: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Germany, Hungary, Macedonia, Moldova, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Switzerland, United Kingdom and Ukraine.

Representatives of the following non-governmental, governmental and intergovernmental organisations, as well as scientific institutions participated:

Non-governmental organisations: ALMA-RO Association, Romania; BIOTICA Ecological Society, Moldova; Black Sea University Foundation, Romania; BROZ, Slovakia; Bulgarian Blue Flag Movement, Bulgaria; CEEWEB, Hungary; Club "Sustainable Development of Civil Society", Bulgaria; Eco Counselling Centre Galati, Romania; ECOLIBRI BIONET, Serbia and Montenegro; Ecological Institute for Sustainable Development, Hungary; Ecological Society "Endemit", Serbia and Montenegro; Ecological Tourism in Europe, Germany; Environmental Society "ECO-MISSION", Macedonia; Environmental Organization Rhodope, Bulgaria; Estonian Fund for Nature, Estonia; Estonian Institute for Sustainable Development, SEI-Tallinn, Estonia; European Centre for Nature Conservation, Hungary; Green Action, Croatia; Green Balkans, Bulgaria; FERN, United Kingdom; Institute for Ecological Modernization, Bulgaria; Institute for Nature Conservation, Serbia and Montenegro; IUCN, Belgium; Clean Air Action Group, Hungary; Milvus Group, Romania; National Association of Conservationists, Hungary; NGO Mare Nostrum, Romania; Osijek Greens, Croatia; Student Union of Biology Faculty, University of Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro; Terra Mileniul III, Romania; The Academic Section of the Polish Tourist Country-Lovers' Association in Krakow, Poland; The Ecologists' Movement of Macedonia, Macedonia; TRAFFIC Europe – Central Eastern Project Office, Hungary; UNEP National Committee- Bulgaria, Bulgaria; UNESCO Pro Natura, Romania; Veronica, Czech Republic; WWF-Austria, Austria; WWF-Hungary, Hungary; Young Researchers of Serbia, Serbia and Montenegro.

Governmental organisations: City Bureau for Development Planning and Environmental Protection, Croatia; Croatian Environment Agency, Croatia; European Commission DG Environment; European Parliament; Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, Germany; Institute for Environmental Policy, the Czech Republic; Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Safety, the Netherlands; Ministry of Environment and Water, Hungary; Ministry of the Environment, the Czech Republic; Swiss Agency for Environment, Forest and Landscape, Switzerland; Ukrainian Committee for Assistance to UNEP, Ukraine.

Intergovernmental organisations: United Nations Environment Program Regional Office for Europe, Switzerland; Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Canada.

International organisations: The Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe Head Office, Hungary; The Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe – Country Office Bulgaria; The Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe – Country Office Hungary.

Scientific institutions: Environmental Protection Institute, Estonian Agricultural University, Estonia; Institute of Ecology and Botany, Hungary; Institute of Geography of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Russia; Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, Belgium.

ITEM 1

POSITION PAPER ON NGO INVOLVEMENT IN ACTIONS TOWARDS THE TARGET TO HALT BIODIVERSITY LOSS BY 2010

We, the participants of the CEEWEB international conference "TIME IS LIFE – Conference on halting biodiversity loss by 2010" on 3-4 November 2004, Budapest, Hungary,

fully committed to meet the internationally recognised Pan-European target of halting the loss of biological diversity by 2010 at all levels, and in order to optimise the countries' contribution to the global target of significantly reducing the current rate of biodiversity loss by 2010;

recognising the Convention on Biological Diversity as the key international instrument for implementing the 2010 target;

recognising the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy, among others, as an important regional platform for NGO action;

taking into account the Kyiv Resolution on Biodiversity adopted at the Fifth Ministerial Conference „Environment for Europe” in May 2003 Kyiv, Ukraine;

welcoming the EC Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans, which were developed to meet obligations of the European Community as a Party to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the review of the EC biodiversity policy;

taking into consideration the outcome of the Malahide "Stakeholder conference on Biodiversity and the EU – Sustaining Life – Sustaining Livelihoods", held on 25-27 May 2004 in Malahide, Ireland;

preparing the ground for NGO action, have agreed on the following plan of actions:

Actions towards the 2010 target

1. Get involved in drafting and improvement of national policies and legislation, strategic documents, and play a watchdog role by monitoring policy implementation.
2. Put pressure on the government to adopt and sign international treaties, contribute to the implementation of international treaties and support ministries of environments to implement their function.
3. Use the Aarhus Convention and related national regulations to ensure public participation.
4. Build partnerships between NGOs, governments and businesses.
5. Take part in the monitoring of species and the implementation of an early warning system on species trends at the local level.
6. Use European initiatives for promoting national cooperation among stakeholders.

7. Undertake and support education, awareness raising, communication campaigns on biodiversity and landscape protection and the 2010 targets, involving the media.
8. Facilitate access to financial mechanisms, including through joint projects with authorities.
9. Develop pilot projects to change undesirable and preserve good land use patterns and nature conservation in cooperation with relevant authorities and other stakeholders.

Target 1. Forest and biodiversity

10. Promote the expansion of the network of forest protected areas.
11. Initiate forest restoration activities, with participation of civil society and public institutions.
12. Carry out capacity-building activities for foresters.
13. Encourage forestry and state organizations to introduce and implement third-party forest certification systems (e.g. FSC) by lobbying, demonstration projects and participation.
14. Facilitate the establishment of a control system on illegal cutting, poaching, fires, e.g. eco-patrols.
15. Develop partnerships with forestry authorities for developing and implementing joint projects.

Target 2. Agriculture and biodiversity

16. Educate farmers on biodiversity and its importance.
17. Preserve autochthonous breeds.
18. Carry out campaigns against the use of GMOs.
19. Promote the establishment of farmers associations to encourage farmers to use environmental friendly - traditional and organic - farming methods.
20. Promote the maintenance of traditional land use patterns, small scale farming and identify financial sources.
21. Promote sustainable rural tourism and marketing of ecological products (e.g. eco labelling, certification system).
22. Assist in the designation of high nature value farmland areas, promote actions targeted to these areas, and attract EU financial mechanisms for their support.
23. Raise awareness on risks and opportunities of the reformed EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).

Target 3. Pan-European Ecological Network (PEEN)

24. Raise awareness and encourage governments to establish corridors, buffer zones and restoration areas if necessary.

25. Provide data and contribute to surveys if data is not available for the development and mapping of the PEEN, through other Pan-European conservation initiatives, such as the European Plant Conservation Strategy.

26. Take part in the planning and management of protected areas, and undertake training and education on the development of management plans.

27. Lobby for legislation on the EU level covering PEEN with an amendment of the Habitat Directive, accelerate the establishment of Natura 2000 in the Pan-European Ecological Network.

28. Raise funds for the PEEN management.

29. Contribute to planning and land use decisions respecting PEEN.

Target 4. Invasive alien species

30. Contribute to an early warning system.

31. Take concrete actions to prevent, control, and eradicate invasive alien species.

Target 5. Funding mechanisms for biodiversity

32. Take part in fund-raising efforts with international donors.

33. Encourage national governments to allocate more funds for nature conservation and make them available for NGOs.

34. Urge governments to reinvest funds generated by national parks in nature conservation.

Target 6. Biodiversity monitoring

35. Provide updated data on species trends.

36. Carry out an assessment on biodiversity monitoring (existing frameworks, capacities, needs and gaps).

37. Contribute to the development and implementation of national biodiversity monitoring systems, including national Geographical Information Systems (GIS).

Sectoral Cooperation

How NGOs can work together with other sectors to reach the 2010 target

38. Develop specific skills and knowledge of the different sectors at the national level and build specialized NGO networks.
39. Continue dialogue with government and other sectors, organise stakeholder meetings.
40. Facilitate the creation of ad-hoc informal groups of stakeholders to address specific problems.
41. Develop partnerships with the ministries of environment for the coordination with other sectors and other tasks.
42. Develop partnerships with other sectors.
43. Maintain independence in order to provide objective assessments.
44. Document and communicate positive examples of intersectoral cooperation.
45. Identify the main players in each sector.
46. Make use of already existing initiatives.
47. Develop a clear and relevant message that is appealing to the different sectors to communicate the 2010 targets.

International and regional conventions and the role of stakeholders

Target 1. National reporting to the Convention on Biological Diversity

48. Disseminate information on the Convention to relevant stakeholders.
49. Enhance NGO participation in national reporting.
50. Promote cooperation among different conventions in reporting.
51. Promote the establishment of national biodiversity committees and ensure the representation of NGOs as well as other relevant sectors.
52. Organize NGO meetings to share information on activities to achieve the 2010 targets.
53. Identify and communicate the gaps in the implementation of the Kyiv Resolution on Biodiversity.
54. Organize national workshops with NGOs to assist in the drafting and distribution of national biodiversity reports.

Target 2. NGO support to the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy

55. Urge governments to fulfil their obligation to involve NGOs in National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) development and implementation, in order that NGOs may contribute to relevant activities.

56. Establish a mechanism to encourage the NGOs in the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS) Bureau to communicate with the other NGOs on the 2010 targets.

57. Contribute to the PEBLDS through the implementation of NBSAP priority activities.

58. Promote communication (e.g. through the Internet) in different languages to reach a wider audience.

59. Participate in the implementation of the action plans of the Kyiv Resolution on Biodiversity.

How regional conventions can support international ones

60. Integrate biodiversity considerations and activities, including the 2010 target into other relevant conventions.

61. Address specific environmental problems, particularly transboundary ones in regional conventions to encourage cooperation.

Who should coordinate regional NGO actions for better efficiency?

62. Use existing mechanisms, such as the PEBLDS and EU Biodiversity Expert Group to encourage NGO participation.

63. Develop mutual communication between NGOs, governments and international organisations on the 2010 targets.

64. Organise joint coordinated actions between PEBLDS partners and NGOs participating in the implementation of the action plans of the Kyiv Resolution on Biodiversity.

65. Translate the Kyiv Resolution on Biodiversity into national languages.

Next steps after the conference

66. Prepare an NGO view/report on the state of biodiversity in the Pan-European region, integrating information about other sectors.

67. Encourage cooperation among focal points of different conventions at the national level to avoid duplication of activities.

68. Identify gaps in the implementation of the 2010 targets and communicate the results.

69. Relate and link NGO biodiversity activities to the 2010 targets.

ITEM 2

Summary of national NGO reports from Albania, Bulgaria, Moldova, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro

Introduction

With the aims of capacity-building, awareness raising and assessment of progress towards the 2010 target, CEEWEB carried out the project "Towards halting the loss of biodiversity by 2010" in South East European countries between December 2003 and 2004. The project included national workshops and round-tables with the participation of NGO and governmental representatives with the aims of awareness raising and building partnerships. Besides, project partners¹ made national assessments of the progress made in their countries towards the 2010 target. The findings of the NGO assessments are summarised below.

Advances in national nature conservation and sectoral integration apart from the 2010 target

Nature conservation in the context of national decision making

1. The priorities and general situation of nature conservation in South East European countries is largely determined by the past (that is by the economic and social difficulties mainly in such emerging market economies of Albania, Moldova, Serbia and Montenegro) and the future (the approaching EU accession of Bulgaria and Romania).
2. As the priorities are largely determined by the economic objectives, there is an imminent threat that developments will take place on the clear expense of the national natural assets, as it has been warned in almost all reports. This is also apparent in the acute lack of funding in the environmental sector (both within the government and in the NGOs), which diminishes their potential to mitigate adverse environmental impacts.
3. It is the case in spite that ambitious goals are identified on high political level. For instance Montenegro is declared as an "Ecological State" in the constitution, and Moldova elaborated a new policy to regulate the relations within the system 'Man-Society-Nature' and environmental protection after the country gained independence in 1991.
4. About during the last fifteen years the basic documents in environmental field were elaborated in these countries or their development is underway (such as the National Environmental Action Plan, National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, etc.). However, for instance in Romania despite the well defined objectives of the *National Strategy and Action Plan for Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use of its Components*, mainly due to the preparation for EU accession the priorities have been significantly changed since then. Now the development of the National Ecological Network and the identification of the future Natura 2000 sites are among the main concerns of the relevant governmental institution.

¹ Albania: Preservation and Protection of Natural Environment in Albania; Bulgaria: Green Balkans; Moldova: BIOTICA Ecological Society; Romania: Milvus Group; Serbia: Young Researchers of Serbia; Montenegro: Eco Centar "DELFIN"

5. In the judgement of NGOs the legal framework of these countries provides good basis for nature conservation (and in principle meets the EU requirements in accession countries, as Romania), however some typical shortcomings were pointed out, such as legal inconsistencies, legal gaps and maybe as being the most important, low (or the lack of) enforcement, because in many cases there are no sanction systems in place.

6. Besides low enforcement, weak institutional and human capacities were reported as major impediments of effective nature conservation activities and sectoral integration.

7. The possibilities of nature conservation are greatly limited by the small share of protected areas in these countries, especially as compared to Western Europe (1.96% in Moldova, 4.9% in Bulgaria, 5.18% in Romania and 6.05% in Serbia is reported as protected area). Protected areas insufficiently represent the natural habitats in many countries. For instance in Bulgaria they do not provide enough coverage of plain forest ecosystems, grass and river ecosystems, as well as the ecosystems of the Black Sea aquatory, while in Romania in the continental, pannonic and steppic biogeographical regions. The lack of management plans (or the lack of their implementation) of numerous protected areas also appear as a major problem together with the lack of adequately qualified human resources (despite some progress in some fields e.g. in Bulgaria).

8. There is no integrated and comprehensive nationwide biodiversity monitoring in these countries (except for some separated monitoring programmes and the annual Biodiversity Monitoring Programme (BMP) in Montenegro), thus it is hard to assess the achievement or failure of the 2010 target on the field.

9. The citizen right to access to environmental information is still not respected and provided, although these countries (except for Serbia and Montenegro) signed the Aarhus Convention. It is also partly due to the lack of developed culture to exercise such citizen rights, which is especially true in environmental field. Information exchange is also slow and insufficient among relevant institutions and sectors, though some progress was made in this respect in Bulgaria, where an information exchange mechanism was successfully developed as part of the global Clearing House Mechanism. In addition reliable environmental information often does not even exist in these countries.

Sectoral integration

10. In general agriculture, industrial development, transportation and urbanisation are identified as major threats on biodiversity. At the same time there are no substantive results reported in sectoral integration.

11. Legal basis of sectoral integration have been developed in the form of various laws, plans and strategies (on forestry, water, territory management, environmental assessment, eco-tourism, etc.), however their enforcement seems to be especially problematic.

12. Mechanisms, forums or instruments for sectoral integration either do not exist or do not work properly. The overlap of competencies and unclear sharing of responsibilities also hinder effective integration and cooperation in some cases. As mentioned in the case of Serbia, the cooperation of different governmental and non-governmental organisations largely depends upon personal contacts (which may be however seriously hindered by often institutional changes).

13. However good initiatives exist, for instance a Sustainable Development Council is to be (re-)established in Serbia, which would include up to nineteen representatives of different sectors, including one or two NGO representative(s). Besides, a protocol for cooperation between the Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry and Waters and the Ministry of

Environment Protection of Serbia is being prepared (although it does not provide any legal constraints for the case of infringement). In addition the respective ministry signed a memorandum with the Agency for Privatization, which obliges new company owners to comply with environmental standards. Although in reality there is a lot of evidence that it is not applied as it should be.

NGO participation

14. The role of environmental NGO movement in solving national environmental problems in these countries is fairly different. Although the insufficient and insecure funding is a general problem, its extent, as well as the human and technical capacities of NGOs greatly differ.

15. Although with small capacity, Bulgarian nature-conservation NGOs are reported to exert serious influence on actions in this sector, through participation in development of laws, plans and strategies, as well as field activities. Almost 100% of all protected areas designated during the recent years were proposed by NGOs, including two big nature parks. Some Romanian NGOs also deal with the designation of Natura 2000 areas, others with the protection of endangered species, etc. (funded mainly by international donors). One of the most important events in the nature conservation NGO cooperation was the establishment of the "Natura 2000 Romania" NGO coalition. The coalition is coordinated by a Representing Council, has a secretariat and 37 NGO members.

16. In other countries as Albania, Serbia and Montenegro NGOs have less human and financial capacities and thus possibilities to have a large impact. However, for instance the number of NGOs has significantly increased recently in Albania (from 7 organizations in 1994 to about 70). Moreover a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with the NGO community in order to include them in the process of drafting new laws and regulations and running new projects. International cooperation has started already with other NGOs and umbrella organisations, however cooperation even among national NGOs could be still enhanced on national activities in these countries.

17. NGOs traditionally undertake environmental awareness raising activities in every country. In other fields of work, there are also examples of good cooperation between NGOs and governmental organisations. In Serbia it resulted that the Institute for Nature Protection of Serbia recommended that NGOs should become governing bodies in special nature reserves.

Achievements resulting from the 2010 target

Ownership of the 2010 target

18. All these countries participated in the Kyiv Conference with governmental and non-governmental representatives and the ownership of the 2010 target to halt biodiversity loss seems to be strongly linked to the Environment for Europe process. In all these countries the ministries of environment (most recently this ministry was established in Albania in 2001) are responsible for the 2010 target mainly through their nature conservation units. Thus it can be said that the target is not dedicated to high political level, which would be needed for their achievement. As it was pointed out in Montenegro, after the Kyiv Conference the institutions and persons responsible for the implementation of the outcomes were not identified.

Visibility of the 2010 target

19. In general the visibility of the target is very low, including the ministries, NGOs and the public. It gets the proper attention neither in communications, nor during official meetings (in the parliament, (inter)governmental committees, working meetings); in most countries it does not appear in official national documents. For instance in Romania even the name of the target is only known by those who directly work in biodiversity protection in the Ministry of Environment and Water Management and by some representatives of NGOs active in this field. The idea behind the name is known by very few people.

20. Despite the huge-scale international conferences where this commitment was made, the target does not appear in the media at all. Positive exceptions can be reported however from Bulgaria, where the Government presented the target to the media and the public after the 7th Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (held in February 2004) and at a National Working Meeting on the occasion of the International Biodiversity Day, on 22 May 2004.

21. At the same time there are a few official documents where the 2010 target appears, such as the National Environmental Strategy and Action Plan 2005-2014 of Bulgaria, where the 2010 target was adopted as a sub-target in the section on biodiversity. The 2010 and other targets of the Kyiv Resolution on Biodiversity are included and would appear in the National Environmental Action Plan of Serbia as well.

Change in attitude and priorities due to the 2010 target

22. There are no noticeable changes in the attitude of decision-makers and the public due to the 2010 target in any of these countries. Biodiversity has not become a higher priority either.

Direct results that can be explicitly credited to the 2010 target

23. The fact that the commitment of the 2010 target was made on international level does not seem to ensure any extra efforts in the national implementation. It means that the achievement of the target is hindered by the same factors as any other nature conservation and sectoral integration activities. Other national priorities (economic growth, poverty reduction, etc.) prevent any substantial progress even though the issues of these economic, social and environmental problems are interwoven and can be only solved in a holistic way in the long term.

24. As it was recognized in Romania, the 2010 target is considered by the decision makers as an expression of the political will of Romania to reduce (stop) the loss of biodiversity by 2010 and not as a commitment resulting in concrete obligations for the country. As a result no separate human/financial resources are allocated for the implementation of the target.

25. The progress in nature conservation that follows making the 2010 commitment in 2002 and 2003 definitely contribute to its achievement, however the extra efforts that would be necessary are still not visible anywhere.

Monitoring and evaluation of efforts for reaching the 2010 target

26. As pointed out before, integrated biodiversity monitoring system that would enable the monitoring of the commitment in the field is generally not well developed and does not properly function in these countries.

27. As for monitoring governmental efforts on policy level towards halting the loss of biodiversity, no reporting system could be reported from any country.

NGO participation related to the 2010 target

28. In most countries NGOs contribute to the 2010 target in an indirect way through their usual activities apart from the target. As recognized in Bulgaria, NGOs are still unaware of the significance of the adopted 2010 target as a reason for mobilization of resources and implementation of biodiversity conservation activities. As for Serbia, the only example of awareness raising on 2010 among NGOs was the training and round-table organised within the CEEWEB project "Towards halting the loss of biodiversity by 2010" by Young Researchers of Serbia in Belgrade, May 2004.

29. Although not directly related to the 2010 target, BIOTICA Ecological Society and REC-Moldova organized a multi-stakeholder conference "From Rio to Johannesburg" with the similar aim to assess progress after making international commitments in the field of sustainable development during the nine years after the Rio Summit.

NGO recommendations

On the policy level

- Rearrangement of priorities and recognition of biodiversity conservation as a social and political priority direction, so that environmental values get a greater weight in decisions
- Joining international biodiversity conventions (as the Bern and Bonn Conventions by Serbia)
- Undertaking appropriate and necessary legislative and administrative measures for the implementation and enforcement of ratified international conventions
- Co-ordination of activities among the various sectors and the elaboration of sectoral programmes for biodiversity integration
- Translating global sustainability goals into national goals and targets as an essential step to ensure integration of these goals into national policies
- Developing national development plan and other planning documents that ensure the effective sectoral integration of nature conservation considerations
- Analyses of legislation and filling legal gaps
- Incorporation of sanctions into the legislation (e.g. for the enforcement of legislation on environmental crime)
- Finalizing strategic documents on environmental policy, such as national environmental action plans, biodiversity strategies and action plans
- Identifying, mobilizing and employing necessary resources for environmental and biodiversity plans
- Paying adequate attention to the 2010 target through its appearance in official documents, communications, official meetings, orders as well as through public consultations, the media, etc.
- Adoption of new legal regulations on economic incentives (e.g. taxes on the use of natural resources, pollution charges and penalties, user and product charges)
- Development of a funding strategy for biodiversity conservation

- Introduction of binding procedures of public hearings on local and national levels in the legislation

On the institutional level

- Creation of an inter-ministerial reconciling body (including NGO members) to ensure the integration of biodiversity conservation considerations in other sectoral policies
- Improvement of coordination, exchange of information and collaboration among sectors (including governmental and non-governmental organisations)
- Using multi-stakeholder dialog as the main planning tool on local, regional and national levels
- Adoption and implementation of effective mechanisms for legislation enforcement in the field of access to information, public participation in environmental decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters according to the provisions of the Aarhus Convention;
- Establishment of biodiversity conservation units in all main sectoral ministries and strengthening the expert knowledge on biological diversity in national authorities
- Significant increase in the number of staff dealing with nature conservation inside the ministries of environment

Direct actions

- Significant increase in the budget of the ministries of environment
- Effective management of existing protected areas as well as their expansion (also in order to make them more representative of the natural habitats in the country), and the establishment of national ecological networks
- Development and implementation of management plans for protected areas and species
- Restoration and redemption of degraded lands
- Consolidating, testing, refining, documenting and producing workable sets of policy-relevant biodiversity indicators
- Elaboration of methodology for biodiversity monitoring, development of a functional biodiversity monitoring system
- Scientific assessments (e.g. on practices, methods and technologies for natural resource management, alien animal species and for producing red lists) and establishing data bases (e.g. on genetic resources)
- Public awareness campaigns on the 2010 target as well as on biodiversity conservation issues in general, which may also make the difference in the success of key issues like Natura 2000 network, National Protected Area Network, etc.
- Moving forward the development of environmental education on all levels, developing education modules, training teachers, etc.

In the non-governmental sector

- Strengthening cooperation between NGOs and the central, regional and local nature conservation authorities
- Enhancing NGO efforts to monitor governmental activities for implementing and enforcing environmental legislation, conventions and international agreements with relevance to nature conservation
- Creation of a forum for nature conservation NGOs in order to ensure good exchange of information, data and experiences and to prepare common projects
- Better information of NGOs about international conventions in order to be able to monitor the implementation of legislation, submit proposals for improvement and help halting the loss of biodiversity by 2010.

ITEM 3

ORGANISATION OF WORK

Agenda

The Conference proceeded according to the following agenda:

1. Welcome speeches.
2. Presentation and discussion on sustainable development as the framework for actions and efforts to halt biodiversity loss.
3. Panel discussion on the target to halt biodiversity loss by 2010, with consideration of the driving forces behind the commitment and the processes, activities leading to biodiversity loss.
4. Panel discussions to review and discuss global, Pan-European, EU and regional processes, trends and efforts towards the 2010 target, their opportunities, priorities, synergies, complementarities and overlaps.
5. Presentation on NGO assessments of national efforts under the 2010 commitment in South East European countries.
6. Working group discussions on the role of NGOs with regards to actions, sectoral integration and international conventions.
7. Elaboration, edition and adoption of the position paper on NGO involvement in actions towards the target to halt biodiversity loss by 2010.
8. Closure of the conference.

Organisation of work

The first day of the conference aimed to provide possibilities for sharing information and views among speakers, panellists and the audience in the framework of the presentation on sustainable development and the panel discussions. On the second day practical results of national assessments were presented in order to demonstrate the national manifestation of the 2010 target in South East European countries, as well as to show an example of NGO involvement in the monitoring of implementation. Later the participants could express their own experiences, proposals in working groups and worked on a joint position paper that target NGOs, governments and international organisations.

The following working groups were formed:

1. NGO activities towards the 2010 target chaired by Ms. Entela Pinguli
2. Intersectoral cooperation chaired by Mr. Tamás Marghescu
3. International conventions and the role of the stakeholders chaired by Ms. Ivonne Higuero

The written results of the working group discussions were further elaborated by a drafting group in the lunch break of the second day and then presented to the plenary by the working group chairs. The plenary finalised the position paper on NGO involvement in actions toward the target to halt biodiversity loss by 2010, whereas each sentence was adopted by a consensus.

Opening of the conference

The welcome speeches were given by Ms. Katalin Rodics (Hungarian Ministry of Environment and Water), Mr. Robert Höft (Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity) and Mr. András Krolopp (CEEWEB, Hungary).

Facilitators

Mr. András Krolopp (CEEWEB, Hungary) acted as the chair of the conference during the two days. The wrap up of the first day was presented by Mr. Michael Meyer (Ecological Tourism in Europe, Germany), the closing remarks by Ms. Ivonne Higuero (UNEP, PEBLDS Secretariat), Mr. Robert Höft (Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity) and Mr. András Krolopp (CEEWEB, Hungary) at the end of the second day.

The following participants acted as moderators on the first day:

1. Mr. Andreas Beckmann (WWF, Austria) in the panel on the 2010 target
2. Mr. Michael Meyer (Ecological Tourism in Europe, Germany) in the panel on global and regional processes for policy forming
3. Mr. András Krolopp (CEEWEB, Hungary) in the panel on the efforts of EU towards the 2010 target

Mr. Michael Meyer (Ecological Tourism in Europe, Germany) coached the organisation of work within the three working groups on the second day, and moderated the edition and adoption of the position paper.

The following participants chaired the working group discussions:

1. Ms. Entela Pinguli (Regional Environmental Center, Hungary) on NGO actions
2. Mr. Tamás Marghescu (IUCN, Belgium) on sectoral integration
3. Ms. Ivonne Higuero (UNEP, PEBLDS Secretariat, Switzerland) on international conventions

Closure of the conference

Ms. Ivonne Higuero (UNEP, PEBLDS Secretariat) and Mr. Robert Höft (Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity) evaluated the conference and pointed out the usefulness of getting a view about the various ongoing activities, and Mr. András Krolopp (CEEWEB, Hungary) acknowledged the efforts of participants and organisers to make the conference a success.

ITEM 4

FINAL EDITION AND ADOPTION OF THE POSITION PAPER

On the second day of the conference after the working group discussions Mr. Michael Meyer outlined the modalities of the edition and adoption of the position paper and the working group chairs introduced the results of the working groups to the plenary. Mr. Meyer presented the draft recommendations that had been edited beforehand by the drafting group sentence by sentence. Each concern and addition was discussed by the plenary and after reaching a common agreement, the text was included in the document. The preamble of the draft position paper formulated before the conference was also discussed and adopted. The position paper was endorsed by the conference participants on 3 November 2004. The conference participants gave the mandate to CEEWEB to work on the layout.

ANNEX I

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ANNEX II

CONFERENCE AGENDA

Wednesday, 3 November			
TIME	ITEMS	SPEAKERS, PANELLISTS	ANNOTATION
8.30	Registration		
9.30	Welcome speeches	Katalin Rodics , Ministry of Environment and Water, Hungary András Krolopp , CEEWEB Robert Höft , Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity	Welcome speeches
10.15	Sustainable development, the framework for halting biodiversity loss <i>30 min presentation 15 min questions from the floor</i>	Iván Gyulai , Ecological Institute for Sustainable Development, Hungary	What lies behind the concept, its framework and principles. Is the 2010 target realistic without sustainability? NGOs' possible role in the realisation.
11.00	coffee break		
11.30	Halting the loss of biodiversity, the 2010 target <i>Panel discussion</i>	Katalin Rodics , Ministry of Environment and Water, Hungary Horst Korn , CBD SBSTTA Focal Point of Germany Iván Gyulai , Ecological Institute for Sustainable Development, Hungary Tamás Marghescu , IUCN, Belgium Moderator: Andreas Beckmann	Perception of the 2010 target, challenges, opportunities, priorities and main obstacles from different perspectives.
13.00	lunch		
14.30	Global and regional processes for policy forming <i>Panel discussion</i>	Ivonne Higuero , UNEP Peter Bos , Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Safety, the Netherlands Robert Höft , Secretariat of the CBD Robert Lamb , Swiss Agency of Environment, Forest and Landscape, Switzerland Mihály Végh , ECNC, Hungary Moderator: Michael Meyer	The Convention on Biological Diversity, the Environment for Europe process, PEBLDS, their connections, synergies and complementarities, their contribution to the 2010 target. NGO involvement.
16.00	coffee break		

16.30	Efforts of the EU towards the 2010 target <i>Panel discussion</i>	Andreas Beckmann , WWF, Austria Erzsébet Schmuck , CEEWEB, Hungary András Demeter , DG Environment Gyula Hegyi , Member of the European Parliament Moderator: András Krolopp	2010 target in the EU policies (EU Sustainable Development Strategy, 2010 delivery plan). NGO involvement in policy forming and implementation.
18.00	Wrap up of the day	Michael Meyer , Ecological Tourism in Europe	Lessons learned from the first day.

Thursday, 4 November			
9.00	Presentation of the CEEWEB project related to the 2010 target <i>Presentation and questions from the floor</i>	Klára Hajdu , CEEWEB, Hungary Márton Kelemen , Milvus Group, Romania	Assessments of national efforts towards halting biodiversity loss. Findings from Albania, Bulgaria, Moldova, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro.
9.45	Working group discussions Intersectoral cooperation NGO activities towards the 2010 target International conventions and the role of the stakeholders	Chair: Tamás Marghescu , IUCN Chair: Entela Pinguli , REC Chair: Ivonne Higuero , UNEP	Building partnership towards halting biodiversity loss. How could NGOs and governmental, intergovernmental institutions best facilitate each other's work towards halting biodiversity loss? In what field is NGO involvement most necessary and effective, and what could NGOs undertake?
12.30	lunch <i>Drafting group working on the paper</i>		Further elaboration of a draft position paper on possible NGO involvement based on a prepared document and the outcomes of the WG discussions.
14.30	Adoption of the NGO paper	Moderator: Michael Meyer	Discussing and adopting the position paper on a CEE strategy on NGO involvement towards the 2010 target.
15.30	Wrap up of the day, closing of the conference	Ivonne Higuero , UNEP Robert Höft , Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity András Krolopp , CEEWEB	Lessons learned from the conference, follow-up.