

NGO message to the roundtables

Theme III: Post-2010 vision for the pan-European region

Fifth Intergovernmental Conference Biodiversity in Europe

The message was prepared by Pan-European NGOs at the NGO preparatory meeting preceding the Conference on 21 September 2009. It targets participants of the Fifth Intergovernmental Conference Biodiversity in Europe that takes place on 22-24 September 2009 in Liege, Belgium.

The 2010 CBD target was not reached for two reasons: firstly, because the Strategic Plan did not target the core drivers of biodiversity loss, and secondly because the CBD Strategic Plan and other existing international biodiversity instruments were not completely implemented.

1. The new post 2010 Strategic Plan is a unique opportunity to make biodiversity policy more holistic at international level, e.g. through addressing the drivers of biodiversity loss (societal values-consumption patterns, economic framework, energy and material use, etc.). This is necessary because biodiversity policies that target the pressures only have failed.
 - ⊗ We need to regulate drivers by setting caps, using economic instruments (taxes, quotas), or other tools to restrict unlimited access to resources. While the overall targets should be worked out at global level, sectoral subtargets could be established on regional level *by the sectors themselves*.
2. Lack of implementation at all levels (national, EU, CBD) is the other main cause of failing the target. Therefore effective action is needed to implement the already existing regulations throughout Pan-Europe. For this:
 - ⊗ the PEBLDS structure needs to be strengthened and ideas have to be promoted (granting a special role to the European ECO-Forum in this process.)
 - ⊗ instead of being process-oriented, objectives must be result based so that outcomes, tasks and indicators are measurable.
 - ⊗ sufficient funding for post 2010 policies should be granted
 - ⊗ an independent monitoring and review process needs to be improved.

Suggestions for an enhanced PEBLDS implementation in Pan-Europe:

- ✓ EU Neighbourhood policy and EU funded projects in the Pan-European region should comply with national and international biodiversity legislation and European standards (e.g. on EIA). The involvement of NGOs in implementation according to the Aarhus convention is necessary.
- ✓ Sectoral contribution to biodiversity loss have to be addressed through indirect tools (economic incentives like taxes and subsidies; absolute ceilings on resource use) and direct tools (e.g. spatial planning, polluters pay regulations, coordination between CBD and other international organisations like WTO on trade regulations)
- ✓ The knowledge base should be improved especially in EECCA space, e.g. through improving the PEEN information system, elaborating a financial assessment of biodiversity values for pan-Europe („TEEB+”); assessing the impact of climate change on biodiversity across Pan-

Europe especially in 'hot spots; and defining and applying regionally adapted biodiversity indicators,

- ✓ We have to look for win-win solutions in climate change mitigation and biodiversity conservation (based on scientific results, e.g the MACIS project).
- ✓ One important tool of climate change mitigation in the Pan-European region is establishment of PEEN until 2015 in connection with improved biodiversity management, preventing and reversing biodiversity loss and through sustainable resource management and spatial planning.
- ✓ Voluntary certifications (FSC, MSC), ecolabeling schemes are an important tool to shift consumers' choice towards biodiversity friendly products and services . Public authorities across Pan-Europe should support and promote such certification and include "green" requirements into public procurement policies.