

Text of Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy

Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy

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

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

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

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

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

CHAPTER 1 OVERVIEW

1.1 Introduction

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

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

1.2 Justification

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

- a coherent framework is set up to mobilize all existing initiatives towards the one goal of conserving biological and landscape diversity throughout Europe;
- key factors contributing to the deterioration of biological diversity and landscape diversity are recognized, addressed or influenced.

Full analyses of existing mechanisms are listed in Annexes 1a -1b-1c.

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

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

- conserving Europe's natural heritage is a basic necessity for securing sustainable development in Europe;
- conserving Europe's natural heritage is a shared responsibility of all European countries and regions and a task which can only be successfully undertaken in a Pan-European context;

- Pan-European cooperation would strengthen the effectiveness of national action under the Convention on Biological Diversity;
- the issue of landscape diversity is as yet not adequately integrated into mechanisms aimed at protecting and enhancing the natural environment;
- public attitude, awareness and understanding of conservation issues is a very effective safeguard for maintaining biological and landscape diversity;
- far-reaching political and economical changes over the past decade require new answers to new challenges in land use and use of natural resources;
- sustainable management of the natural environment as an economic resource is a prerequisite for continued economic and social development and prosperity in Europe;
- the threats to biological and landscape diversity require urgent action that both integrates and builds on existing national and international activity;
- the decline in Europe' s natural environment has been caused by economic and social action, and thus the integration of conservation considerations into socio-economic policy is a prerequisite for restoring and maintaining biological and landscape diversity;
- by facilitating local initiatives towards sustainable development, involving all land users, a new balance may be achieved in rural areas between social and economic dynamics and ecological stability.
- These considerations have led the Council of Europe, in cooperation with other national and international organizations, both governmental and non-governmental, to take the initiative to develop the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy.

1.3 The Strategy

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Europe's Environment: The Dobris Assessment

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

State of Europe's biological and landscape diversity

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

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

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

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

Europe's Environment: The Dobris Assessment indicates several causes for the deterioration of landscapes and the natural environment on the Pan-European level. Traditional farming has given way to intensive agriculture, a process accelerated by subsidies, with enormous effects on the rural landscape. The strong focus of forestry management on short term economic targets has caused the decline in forest biodiversity. The policies pursued in industry, transport and energy production are having a direct and damaging impact on the coasts, major rivers (dam construction and associated canal building) and mountain landscapes (main road networks). Mass tourism affects mountains and coasts. Public and political knowledge and concern about the natural environment remains generally insufficient.

CHAPTER 2 STRATEGY 1996-2016

2.1 Purpose of the Strategy

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

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

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

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

2.2 Pan-European aims and objectives

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

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

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

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

A Common Vision for Europe

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

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

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

2.3 Priorities for action

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2.4 Strategic principles

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

1. The Principle of *Careful Decision Making*: decisions relating to the Strategy are made on the basis of the best available information, and as far as possible and appropriate, adopt economically and socially sound measures that act as incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity.
2. The Principle of *Avoidance*: introduction of appropriate procedures requiring environmental impact assessment of projects that are likely to have significant adverse effects on biological and landscape diversity, with a view to avoiding such effects and, where appropriate, allow for public participation in such procedures. This would include projects concerning introduction into the natural environment of exotic species, or of the release of genetically modified organisms.

3. The *Precautionary Principle*: action to introduce appropriate procedures to avoid or minimize potentially adverse impact of activities on biological and landscape diversity, ought not be postponed if the causal link between those activities and the impact has not yet been fully confirmed.
4. The Principle of *Translocation*: those activities that are exceptionally harmful to biological and landscape diversity, and cannot be avoided, will, where possible or practicable, be relocated to areas where they will cause less impact.
5. The Principle of *Ecological Compensation*: the harmful effects of physical changes in areas with high biological and landscape diversity value which cannot be avoided, must be balanced by compensatory conservation measures by the user.
6. The Principle of *Ecological Integrity*: the ecological processes responsible for the survival of species should be protected and the habitats on which their survival depends maintained.
7. The Principle of *Restoration and (Re)Creation*: where possible biological and landscape diversity should be restored and/or (re)created if it can be demonstrated by reference studies that the original state could be re-established where practicable, and thereby adopting measures for the recovery and rehabilitation of threatened species and for their reintroduction into their habitat under appropriate conditions.
8. The Principles of *Best Available Technology and Best Environmental Practice*: as defined by the Paris Commission regarding activities that affect biological and landscape diversity. Both access to and transfer of technology are essential elements for the attainment of the Strategy, and where possible to provide and/or facilitate access for, and transfer to others of, technologies that are relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity.
9. The *Polluter Pays Principle*: costs of measures to prevent, control and reduce damage to biological and landscape diversity shall be borne by the responsible party, as far as possible and as appropriate.
10. The Principles of *Public Participation and Public Access to Information*: creating sufficient and active public support for measures regarding biological and landscape diversity by involving public and private landowners, the scientific community, and other individuals and civic groups using land and sea resources in decision-making processes, through media, and the inclusion of these topics in education programmes.

2.5 Strategic and operational framework

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

The Strategy will seek to achieve its aims by:

- facilitating and supporting the exchange of experience on, and creation or further development of, National Biodiversity Strategies, Action Plans and Programmes as stipulated by the Convention on Biological Diversity, and promoting a consistent approach and common objectives in all countries of Europe;
- using all other existing international and national legislation and policy, such as the EU Natura 2000 Programme, sectorial policy including agricultural, fisheries, transport, regional development and social policies, and implementing fully the EU Fifth Environmental Action Programme;
- facilitating, supporting and promoting the implementation of the existing international agreements and treaties.
- The Strategy will also use a range of other mechanisms, in order to change how society thinks and works in relationship to biological and landscape diversity:
- *international and national market and trade policy*, which affects the sectors using the natural environment as a resource, including price support;
- *multilateral or bilateral funds*, used either directly for nature conservation, or for measures in other social and economic sectors interacting with the natural environment;
- *fiscal policy*, which can either stimulate or discourage the use of energy and natural resources;
- *financial policy*, which can promote sustainable economic benefits in different sectors;
- *initiatives and programmes*, aiming to preserve and strengthen regional cultural identity and traditions;

- *public awareness/participation*, such as education, training and public awareness campaigns, appropriate use of the mass media, and public-private-partnership in land ownership and land management.

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

2.6 Actors to be mobilized

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

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

2.7 Structure for Action Plans

The Strategy is intended to operate within a 20-year period, setting a broad and consistent framework for achieving the Strategic aims and objectives and giving guiding principles for action. Actions are to be implemented by dividing the Strategy into five year Action Plans which stimulate conservation and sustainable use activities and ensure concerted and integrated action by international and national actors. The Action Plans are to provide a framework which contributes to a common European response to the Convention on Biological Diversity and in particular the National Biodiversity Strategies.

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

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

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

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

CHAPTER 3 ACTION PLAN ON BIOLOGICAL AND LANDSCAPE DIVERSITY

3.1 Introduction

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

The following modifications were made:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CHAPTER 4 REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT OF THE STRATEGY

The successful implementation of the Strategy depends on regular review of progress and will be the occasion for dialogue between the actors involved in the Strategy. The review procedure is divided into four parts. It would be coordinated by the Council of Europe which will report progress to the Environment for Europe ministerial conferences, and under its auspices a Pan-European Task Force on Biological and Landscape Diversity should be established in 1996.

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

4.1 Monitoring of the extent to which targets are being met

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

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

4.2 Reporting

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

4.3 Updating of actions

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

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

4.4 Assessment

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

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

GLOSSARY ABBREVIATIONS

BSAP - Black Sea Action Plan
BSP - Biodiversity Support Program of USAID
CAP - Common Agriculture Policy of the European Union
CBD - Convention on Biological Diversity
CDCC - Council for Cultural Cooperation of the Council of Europe
CDPE - Steering Committee for the Protection and Management of the Environment and Natural Habitats
CEE - Central and Eastern Europe
CIPRA - Commission Internationale pour la Protection des Alpes
CIS - Commonwealth of Independent States
CITES - Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CORINE - Information system on the Co-ordination of Information on the Environment
CSCE - Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe
DECS - Directorate of Education, Culture and Sport
DELA - Directorate of the Environment and Local Authorities of the Council of Europe
DG - Directorates General of the European Commission
EAGGF - European Agriculture Guidance and Guarantee Fund
EAP - Environmental Action Plan for Central and Eastern Europe
EBRD - European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
EC - European Commission
ECNC - European Centre for Nature Conservation
ECU - European Currency Unit
EEA - European Economic Area
EEA - European Environment Agency
EEC - European Economic Community
EECONET - European Ecological Network
EFTA - European Free Trade Association
EIA - Environmental Impact Assessment
EIB - European Investment Bank
ENCY - European Nature Conservation Year 1995
EP - European Parliament
EPE - Environment Programme for Europe
ESA - Environmentally Sensitive Area
ESF - European Social Fund of the European Union
EU - European Union
EUCC - European Union for Coastal Conservation
FAO - Food and Agriculture organization of the United Nations
FIFG - Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance
FSU - Former Soviet Union
GATT - General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
GEF - Global Environment Facility
HELCOM - Helsinki Commission
ICPRP - International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine against Pollution
IUCN - The World Conservation Union (The International Union for the Conservation of Nature)
LIFE - L' Instrument Financier pour l' Environnement, funding mechanism of the European Union
MAB - Man and Biosphere Programme of UNESCO
MARPOL - International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships
MedWet - Mediterranean Wetlands programme of the European Union
METAP - Mediterranean Technical Assistance Programme
NATO - North Atlantic Treaty organization
NGO - Non-Governmental organization
OECD - organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
PE-S-ST - Protection de l' Environnement - Spécialiste - Stratégie of the Council of Europe
PE-S-ZP - Protection de l' Environnement - Spécialiste - les Zones Protégées of the Council of Europe
PHARE - Trade Agreement of the European Union and Central and East Europe (Poland and Hungary: Assistance to the Restructuring of the Economy)
REC - Regional Environmental Centre
SAC - Special Area of Conservation under the Habitats Directive
SDF - Social Development Fund of the Council of Europe
SPA - Special Protected Area under the Birds Directive
TACIS - Trade Agreement of the Commonwealth of Independent States and European Union
UK - United Kingdom
UNCED - United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNCSD - United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development
UNDP - United Nations Development Programme
UNECE - United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNEP - United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO - United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural organization
USAID - United States Aid Programme
WTO - World Trade organization
WWF - World Wide Fund for Nature

ANNEX 1A

Existing Agreements and Initiatives on Conservation of Biological and Landscape Diversity in Europe

CONVENTIONS AND LEGAL INSTRUMENTS		
GLOBAL		
Title	Secretariat/focal point	Aims
Convention on Biological Diversity	UNEP	The conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources.
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (Washington Convention)	CITES Secretariat	To regulate the trade in endangered species of wild fauna and flora.
Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (World Heritage Convention)	UNESCO	To protect cultural and natural heritage of outstanding universal value through, among other things, the listing of World Heritage Sites.
Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention)	Ramsar Convention Bureau	To ensure the conservation of wetlands, especially those of international importance, by fostering wise use, international cooperation and reserve creation (among other means).
Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn Convention)	Bonn Convention Secretariat	To provide a framework for the conservation of migratory species and their habitats by means of, as appropriate, strict protection and the conclusion of international agreements.
Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (under Bonn Convention)	Bonn Convention Secretariat	The conservation of African-Eurasian migratory waterbirds through coordinated measures to restore species to a favourable conservation status or to maintain them in such a status.
PAN-EUROPEAN		
Title	Secretariat/focal point	Aims
Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention)	Council of Europe	To maintain populations of wild flora and fauna with particular emphasis on endangered and vulnerable species.
European Cultural Convention	Council of Europe	Cultural heritage convention for Europe.
European Convention on Architectural Heritage	Council of Europe	To provide governments with the basis to safeguard Europe' s architecture and landscapes.
European Convention on Archaeological Heritage	Council of Europe	To provide governments with the basis to safeguard Europe' s archaeology and landscapes.
Draft European Landscape Charter	Council of Europe	Draft charter to ensure the effective conservation of European landscapes.
REGIONAL		
Title	Secretariat/focal point	Aims
Directive and Resolution of the Council of the European Community on the Conservation of Wild Birds (Wild Birds Directive)	European Commission DG XI	To protect wild birds and their habitats, such as through the designation of Special Protection Areas (SPAs).
Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (Habitats Directive)	European Commission DG XI	To conserve fauna, flora and natural and semi-natural habitats of importance in the EU, including through the designation of the Natura 2000 network of Special Areas for Conservation (SACs).
Agri-Environment Regulation (2078/92/EEC)	European Commission DG VI	Provides for Set Aside and ESAs.
Helsinki Convention (1974, 1992)	Helsinki Convention Secretariat	To protect the Baltic marine environment against all forms of pollution.
Alpine Convention (1991)	Commission Internationale pour la Protection des Alpes (CIPRA)	To conserve and manage the Alpine region in a sustainable way.
Baltic Sea Joint	Helsinki Commission	To improve the quality of the Baltic Environment, such as by the

Comprehensive Environmental Action Programme (under Helsinki Convention)	(HELCOM)	designation of marine and coastal protected areas.
Bucharest Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution, 1992	UNEP/UNDP	To protect the Black Sea against pollution.
Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic	Oslo-Paris Commission	To prevent pollution of the North-East Atlantic.
Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution (Barcelona Convention)	UNEP	To protect the Mediterranean Sea against pollution.
Mediterranean Action Plan (under Barcelona Convention)	UNEP	To improve the quality of the Mediterranean environment implementing the Barcelona Convention, 1976, including through a protocol on Specially Protected Areas.
MedSPA (under Barcelona convention)	UNEP	To provide special protection for endangered Mediterranean species and habitats vital for their conservation.
INITIATIVES AND PROGRAMMES		
GLOBAL		
Title	Secretariat/focal point	Aims
World Conservation Strategy and the subsequent Strategy for Sustainable Living (Caring for the Earth)	IUCN/UNEP/WWF	To provide a strategic conservation framework and practical guidance to all nations to (1) maintain essential ecological processes and life support systems; (2) preserve genetic diversity; and (3) ensure the sustainable utilization of species and ecosystems.
Agenda 21	UNCED	Outline priorities and guidelines towards sustainable development to be implemented at the national level.
Man and Biosphere Programme	UNESCO	To develop within the natural and social sciences a basis for the rational use and conservation of the resources of the biosphere, through such measures as the creation of a worldwide network of Biosphere Reserves.
PAN-EUROPEAN		
Title	Secretariat/focal point	Aims
European Conservation Strategy	Council of Europe	To provide governments with the basis for developing policies to safeguard and manage natural resources.
European Ecological Network (EECONET)		To develop a Europe-wide ecological network for the conservation of nature.
Environment Programme for Europe	UNECE, EU, UNEP, IUCN	To prepare the intergovernmental environmental programme for Europe, following Dobris and Lucerne.
European Nature Conservation Year (ENCY) 1995	Council of Europe	To develop a public awareness campaign in 1995 on "conservation outside protected areas".
European Network of Biogenetic Reserves	Council of Europe	To conserve representative examples of Europe' s habitats, biocenoses and ecosystems through a network of biogenetic reserves.
IUCN Parks for Life: Action for Protected Areas in Europe	IUCN	To ensure an adequate, effective and well managed network of protected areas in Europe.
REGIONAL		
Title	Secretariat/focal point	Aims
Fifth Environmental Action Programme (1992)	European Commission DG XI	The EU' s programme of policy and action on environment and sustainable development.
CORINE Information System	European Environment Agency	EU system to develop a database on European environment, including for nature conservation.
Environmental Action Programme for Central and Eastern Europe (1993-1995)	Task Force established by Ministers with EU, OECD, World Bank, and EBRD	Endorsed by the Ministerial Conference Lucerne 1993 to promote environmental protection measures in central and eastern Europe.
Ecological Bricks for our Common House of Europe Initiative	c/o European Ecological Movement, Global Challenges Network	To promote the establishment of 18 transboundary protected areas.
Green Lungs of Europe (1993)	Institute of Sustainable Development	Based on Poland' s experience, to create sustainable development zones in Belarus, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia and Ukraine.
Environment Programme for the Danube River Basin	Task Force for the Programme	To conserve the Danube River Basin.

Black Sea Action Plan	UNEP, UNDP, World Bank	Environmental protection programme for the Black Sea region.
Ministerial Conference on the North Sea	Danish Ministry of the Environment	To protect the North Sea ecosystem.
MEDPAN	European Investment Bank/World Bank	To strengthen links between managers of protected areas.
MedWet	European Commission DG XI	To conserve Mediterranean wetlands.
Mediterranean Technical Assistance Programme (METAP)	World Bank/European Investment Bank	2nd Phase of European Programme for the Mediterranean, to reverse present environmental degradation.
Nicosia Charter (1990)	European Commission	To provide closer cooperation on sustainable development in the Euro-Mediterranean region, including nature conservation.
Arctic Initiative	Working group on the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna	To prepare a common Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy.
Nordic Arctic Conference	c/o Nordic Council of Ministers	Environmental protection of the Arctic region.
Danube River Basin Global Environment Facility (GEF) Programme (1991)	World Bank	Environmental protection for the Danube River.
Danube Delta Biodiversity GEF Project	World Bank	To protect the Danube Delta ecosystems.
Agreement on the Protection of the Rhine against Chemical Pollution	International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine (ICPRP)	To protect the Rhine from chemical pollution.
Ministerial Declaration on the Sixth Trilateral Governmental Conference on the Protection of the Wadden Sea	The Common Wadden Sea Secretariat	To coordinate the conservation of the Wadden Sea.

ANNEX 2B

Achievements, shortcomings and Strategic potential of existing policies and legislation

Initiative	Achievement	Shortcomings	Opportunity for the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy
Convention on Biological Diversity	International framework for national action, agreed to by all countries in Europe.	Does not fully link biodiversity to cultural landscape diversity. Deals at the national level and currently lacks response at a coherent Pan-European level.	The fundamental framework for national and pan-European action and strategies.
Agenda 21	Develops guidelines in multi-sectorial approach, combining needs under economics, society and ecology.	Deals at the national level and currently lacks response at a coherent Pan-European level. Does not sufficiently highlight landscape needs.	Acts as a framework model to incorporate guidelines on integrating sectors.
World Conservation Strategy and Caring for the Earth	Major global initiative which encouraged the global view of conservation as wise use.	Does not fully incorporate landscape needs.	A fundamental framework of value for the Strategy.
World Heritage Convention	Identifies sites of global significance for natural heritage and cultural landscape.	Only deals with individual sites, and then at the global level rather than European.	Not strategic for Europe, however nature, culture and cultural landscape selection criteria of value for the Strategy. Incorporate sites into the coherent Pan-European Ecological Network.
Ramsar Convention	Well established and large number of parties, relatively simple to implement. Devised wise use of wetlands concept.	Mainly individual country/site related and does not cover all countries of Europe.	Apply Ramsar wise use policy in the Strategy' s wetland actions. Integrate Ramsar sites into the Pan-European Ecological Network.
Bern Convention	Key initiative focusing on wider European biodiversity conservation.	Concentrates only on habitats and species. Not all European countries are parties. Lack of funding mechanism.	Potential mechanism for CBD implementation in pan-Europe and hence to help provide legal framework to support the Strategy. Potential of landscape annexes being incorporated in the Annexes as confirmed in the Monaco recommendations.
Bonn Convention	Integrated flyway/migratory pathways approach involving all Range States. Regional agreements possible.	Administrative process towards technical agreements are time consuming.	Integrate elements of Bonn Convention into the Strategic framework and the Pan-European Ecological Network.
European Cultural Convention	Important framework convention for cultural heritage and identity.	Lacks cultural landscape details.	Support to framework of the cultural elements of the Strategy.
European Convention on Architectural Heritage	Important for architecture conservation in the landscape.	Lacks cultural landscape details.	Support to the architectural and cultural landscape components of the Strategy.
European Convention on Archaeological Heritage	Important for archaeology conservation in the landscape.	Lacks cultural landscape details.	Support to the architectural and cultural landscape components of the Strategy.
Environment Programme for Europe	Broad framework from which concerted actions in a European context are supported by sovereign states. Promotes the Dobriš report and elements towards the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy.	Not full incorporation of nature and landscape elements into all environmental actions.	Promotes the Strategy in the process leading up to the Sofia Conference in 1995.
EU Habitats and Birds Directives (Natura 2000)	The Birds and Habitats Directive provide the framework towards conservation of threatened species and habitats within priority areas linked to the wider countryside. Forms the basis for a coherent European Ecological Network in the EU.	In process of implementation, and effectiveness will not be known till post 2004. Does not focus thoroughly on wider species/habitat or landscape conservation. Birds Directive weaker in coverage and procedures.	Integrate into the framework of the Strategy and ensure that the SACs are a fundamental part of the Pan-European Ecological Network. Review coverage of essential ecosystems, including semi-natural ecosystems.
EU Environmental Impact Assessment Directive	Requires Member States to identify, describe and assess effects of economic, social and environmental projects on ecosystems, habitats, landscapes	Implemented at each Member State level only. Merely ensures that the authority is informed of environmental impact. Inadequate application by Member States.	Potential to broaden the scope of the EIA principles to encompass the wider Europe. Integrate into the Strategic framework.

	and cultural heritage.		
EU Agri-Environment Measures	Assists and encourages the maintenance of extensive agriculture or set aside, provides the framework to establish Environmental Sensitive Areas as integrated areas for environmental and socio-economic use.	Not widely applied for the benefit of biological or landscape diversity in all countries of the EU.	Important principles, opportunities and demonstrations to be used in Strategy actions.
EU Fifth Environmental Action Programme	Framework programme of the EU to coordinate European Commission multi-sectorial policies in relationship to the environment.	Identifies the need for integrating the environment into all the sectors, but does not yet identify clear priority actions.	Consider the integration of the Strategy into the review process of the Fifth Environmental Action Programme.
Environmental Action Programme for Central and Eastern Europe	CEE countries in collaboration with the Council of Europe and IUCN, have developed biodiversity conservation priorities as examples of integrated approach serving both conservation and development objectives.	Limited number of site-based projects; limited attention to nature and landscape elements.	Incorporate the case study biodiversity conservation priority sites as demonstrations in the Strategy actions.
Draft Recommendation to Member States on the Integrated Conservation of Cultural Landscape Areas as part of Landscape Policies	When signed and implemented will ensure integrated conservation of cultural landscape areas as part of landscape policies for all Council of Europe countries.	Not yet signed or implemented.	With the link to the Strategy would provide an important framework for integrating cultural landscape areas into landscape policies.
Helsinki Summit Declaration	Encourages the development of a network of protection areas in the CSCE region to conserve and safeguard large-scale biotopes and ecosystems, and conservation of species.		Integrate the environmental principles of the Declaration into the Strategy.
European Conservation Strategy of the Council of Europe	Integrates landscapes and economic sectors into biodiversity conservation.	Not fully acknowledged throughout Europe.	Basic conceptual framework for the development of the Strategy.
MAB Biosphere Reserve Programme	Establishes integrated areas for environment, research and socio-economic use, basing areas on networks in key biogeographical regions of the world. Focus in Europe is through EuroMAB.	No legal framework. Limited funding support.	Important tool to support the Strategy' s aims for integration of sectors into areas established for cultural and natural heritage.
IUCN Parks for Life: Action for Protected Areas in Europe	The first European Strategy towards concerted European protected areas action, large ownership/support.	Concentrates on protected areas issues.	Important in linking protected areas issues to other sectors within the Strategy.
EECONET Declaration Maastricht 1993	The first initiative to call on the need for a European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy, emphasis on pan-European ecological coherence.	Still to be developed at the Pan-European level.	Apply the principles as the guiding mechanism for pan-European Ecological network.
European Biogenetic Reserves	Practical Pan-European network of biogenetic reserves of conservation value.	Lack of legislative framework.	Integrate into the coherent Pan-European Ecological Network process.

ANNEX 1C

Economic and fiscal initiatives and opportunities for the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy

Mechanisms	Achievements	Shortcomings	Potential for the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy
Global Environmental Facility	Biodiversity integrated into priority funding areas of GEF in developing countries including CEE and CIS.	Does not focus on all countries of Europe.	As one of the key funding mechanisms for Agenda 21 and the Convention on Biological Diversity, GEF can give substantial support to the Strategy.
Council of Europe Social Development Fund	The Fund operates for the benefit of human beings, striving to improve their condition. It focuses on dealing with exceptional circumstances, including natural or ecological disasters.		Potential for giving support to the Strategy.
EU Structure and Cohesion Funds	Focuses on EU fiscal resources, concentrating on places of greatest need integrating the natural environment into overall objectives. Community initiatives fund land use planning, protection of flora and fauna, and strengthening know-how.	Insufficient application of Cohesion and Structure funding to landscape and biological diversity issues. Continued emphasis for projects which may not be of strategic importance. Mainstream finance to economic projects which have caused significant environmental tension in the past.	Ensure biodiversity and landscape diversity considerations are assured in the six priority objectives for Community Structural Policies, and incorporate them into the Pan-European Ecological Network. Focus Cohesion Funds closer towards the conservation of biological and landscape diversity. Improve environmental impact review in procedures.
EU Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance	Inherent fisheries restrictions to promote sustainability of fisheries stocks and their areas.	Insufficient taking into account the wider environmental concerns, including the impact on vulnerable or endangered marine habitats.	Maximize the FIG biological diversity elements in the Strategy.
EU European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund	Establishment of, and support to, Environmentally Sensitive Areas, and other agri-environmental measures and price support in the wider EU landscape, which may assist marginal extensive agriculture to be maintained.	The original Common Agricultural Policy objectives were to ensure that food supplies were available to consumers and to increase agricultural productivity. The protection of the environment was not specified as an objective.	Integrate the advantageous elements of the Agri-Environment Measures and Environmentally Sensitive Areas into promoting biological and landscape diversity conservation and incorporate areas into the Pan-European Ecological Network.
EU TACIS and PHARE	Funds integrated environmental programmes in the CEE, including integrated river delta and mountain projects and an extension of the CORINE land cover and biotopes beyond the EU.	Very insufficient application of TACIS and PHARE funds to biological and landscape diversity issues. Inadequate environmental safeguards in economic or social programme.	Lacking coherent goals for sustainable development and environmental conservation, explore options to integrate biological and landscape diversity conservation needs into TACIS and PHARE activities.
EU LIFE	Major emphasis on nature protection and biodiversity, linked to objectives requirements under Habitats and Birds Directives.	Continued insufficient funding for landscape and biological diversity issues.	Need to raise funding for nature in the LIFE instrument considerably.
EU Fourth Framework Programme	Focuses on priority research within the EU and neighbouring countries of Europe.	Lack of coherent view on biological and landscape diversity conservation in relationship to land use.	Need to focus key research towards the Strategy. Develop vision on land use and introduce or recast coherent set of instruments.
EU European Social Fund and Human Resources Community Initiatives	Incorporate the recognition into social and human resource policy of the importance of nature, including training programmes directly supporting protected areas managers.	Insufficient direct policy support to employment, education or training connected to the natural environment. Disproportionate support for other sectors towards employment and training in natural and rural areas.	Need for significant raising of the importance of integrating social and human resource issues into European biological and landscape diversity conservation.
Bi- and multilateral donor funding	Focuses on general environmental and biodiversity issues, prioritizing the CEE and CIS.	Inadequate funding and coordination of bi- and multilateral donor funds towards biological and landscape diversity issues in Europe.	Ensure integration of bi- and multilateral donor funding into the Strategy. Increase awareness about the need to raise bilateral funding aid for biological and landscape diversity conservation.

ANNEX 2

Justification of focus of the Action Plan on landscapes, ecosystems and species

Currently, there is an overall negative trend for many landscapes, ecosystems and species, which has effects on the quality of human life. To redress the balance and find the appropriate response on the international level, it is important to focus the Strategy on ecosystems and landscapes of nature conservation value for the whole of Europe and its regions. Such nature conservation value is determined according to the following criteria:

Biological Diversity: Actions should be prioritized in areas of greatest biological diversity, which are determined according to:

- **Naturalness:** minimally man-altered areas, where the ecosystem and species composition is closest to the original natural habitat;
- **Diversity:** areas with a wide range of habitats, species and/or genotypes; including those maintaining the genetic diversity of traditional varieties and races;
- **Representativeness:** areas with habitats that are typical of a region;
- **Threat or rarity:** areas with types of habitats, species and/or genomes that are suffering environmental stress;
- **Size:** areas that are large enough to be sustainable for biological and landscape diversity in Europe;
- **Endemism:** populations restricted to local areas or to Europe;
- **Cultural biodiversity:** including habitats/species of cultural, aesthetic or regional identity.

Landscape Diversity: Actions should maintain and enhance natural and cultural landscapes of European significance, determined by:

- the main geological land forms that characterize the geological/climatic zones based on four criteria: rarity, uniqueness, representativity and naturalness. Geological features may include untouched river systems, pingos, eskers, dune systems, coastal barriers, dolines, domes and fossil biota;
- the combined application of ecologically sound processes and sustainable use of natural resources;
- the non-intensive management of semi-natural habitats for fauna and flora;
- regionally and culturally distinct land use and settlement patterns, including field systems, terraces, historic houses and estates. Cultural features can include rural vernacular architecture, historic parkland estates, ancient drove routes, canals and ditches, moats, fishponds, man-made waterways, traditional settlement and field system patterns;
- outstanding scenic quality representing the visual characteristics of the natural and cultural landscapes of the continent.

Criteria concerning nature conservation value can be interpreted to demonstrate that the focus of the Strategy concentrates in priority on:

- *Ecosystems of greatest biological diversity:* forests, mountains, European rivers, grasslands, inland wetlands, coastal and marine systems;
- *Land/seascapes of most significant European-wide concern:* tundra, taiga, uplands, bocages, open fields, steppic/arid landscapes, regional landscapes and artificial landscapes;
- *Species under threat of extinction*