



FIFTH MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE  
ENVIRONMENT FOR EUROPE

KIEV, UKRAINE  
21-23 May 2003

---

**KYIV RESOLUTION ON BIODIVERSITY**

submitted by

the Council of the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Strategy  
through the Ad Hoc Working Group of Senior Officials



UNITED NATIONS  
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

## **Kyiv Resolution on Biodiversity**

*Noting* with great concern, despite previous efforts, the continued degradation of biological and landscape diversity in the pan European region as illustrated in the recent report prepared by the European Environmental Agency, and *recognising* that the continued loss of biological and landscape diversity will undermine sustainable development and the social and cultural integrity of the Earth's populations,

*Affirming* the Pan European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy process and its mandate to provide a framework to promote a consistent approach and common objectives for national and regional action in the pan European region to implement the Convention on Biological Diversity,

*Welcoming* the progress in the implementation of the programme of work of the Pan European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy, in particular in the areas of ecological networks, financing biodiversity, biodiversity monitoring and indicators, and in the integration of biodiversity and landscape concerns into sectoral policies such as agriculture and forestry,

We, the European Ministers of Environment and Heads of Delegations of the States participating in the process of the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity,

- a. Endorse the emerging role of the PEBLDS as an important instrument for regional implementation of the CBD, and as a vehicle for promoting, *inter alia*, the integration of biodiversity and landscape concerns into all relevant horizontal and sectoral policies;
- b. Adopt the Framework for Co-operation between the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe and the Environment for Europe/Pan European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy and request the Joint Secretariat of the Pan European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy to operationalise the agreement by identifying objectives and activities in collaboration with the Liaison Unit of the MCPFE;
- c. Recognise the need to further promote the development of national ecological networks, as proposed in the background documents prepared for the Kyiv Conference and endorse the statement in support of the Pan European Ecological Network, as appended to this Resolution;
- d. Welcome the Final Declaration on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity in the Framework of Agricultural Policies and Practices, adopted at the High-level Pan-European Conference on Agriculture and Biodiversity in June 2002 in Paris, and invite the Joint Secretariat of the Pan European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy to explore the possibility of organising a joint Ministerial Conference of Ministers of Agriculture and Environment in 2005;
- e. Take note of the Code of Practice for the Introduction of Biological and Landscape Diversity Considerations into the Transport Sector submitted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe and presented in the background documents prepared for the Kyiv Conference;
- f. Invite the UNEP/ECNC/IUCN/REC Service for the Implementation of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans to continue to provide expert biodiversity services to the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia to overcome the obstacles in the implementation of their Strategies and Action Plans;

**We, the European Ministers of Environment and Heads of Delegations of the States participating in the process of the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity, reinforce our objective to halt the loss of biological diversity at all levels by the year 2010, and to work towards it through concerted actions and a joint commitment to achieve the following key targets:**

Forests and biodiversity:

1. By 2008, contribute to the implementation in the pan European region of the Forest Biodiversity Expanded Programme of Work of the Convention on Biological Diversity through, *inter alia*:
  - a) Implementation of the objectives and activities of the Framework for Co-operation between the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe and the Environment for Europe/Pan European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy;
  - b) National Forest Programmes according to the MCPFE Approach to National Forest Programmes in Europe (adopted at the Vienna Conference in April 2003);
  - c) Application of the ecosystem approach.

Agriculture and biodiversity:

2. By 2006, the identification, using agreed common criteria, of all high nature value areas in agricultural ecosystems in the pan European region will be complete. By 2008, a substantial proportion of these areas will be under biodiversity-sensitive management by using appropriate mechanisms such as rural development instruments, agri-environmental programmes and organic agriculture, to *inter alia* support their economic and ecological viability.
3. By 2008, financial subsidy and incentive schemes for agriculture in the pan European region will take the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in consideration.

Pan European Ecological Network:

4. By 2006, the Pan-European Ecological Network (core areas, restoration areas, corridors and buffer zones, as appropriate) in all States of the pan European region will be identified and reflected on coherent indicative European maps, as a European contribution towards a global ecological network.
5. By 2008, all core areas of the Pan-European Ecological Network will be adequately conserved and the Pan European Ecological Network will give guidance to all major national, regional and international land use and planning policies as well as to the operations of relevant economic and financial sectors.

Invasive Alien Species:

6. By 2008, the pan European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species developed under the Bern Convention, fully compatible with the Guiding Principles of the Convention on Biological Diversity, will be implemented by at least half of the countries of the pan European region through their respective Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans.

Financing Biodiversity:

7. By 2008, there will be substantially increased public and private financial investments in integrated biodiversity activities in Europe, via partnerships with the finance and business sectors, that have resulted in new investment opportunities and facilities as outlined by the European Biodiversity Resourcing Initiative, taking into account the special needs of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia.

Biodiversity Monitoring and Indicators:

8. By 2008, a coherent European programme on biodiversity monitoring and reporting, facilitated by the European Biodiversity Monitoring and Indicator Framework, will be operational in the pan European region, in support of nature and biodiversity policies, including by 2006 an agreed core set of biodiversity indicators developed with the active participation of the relevant stakeholders.

Public Participation and Awareness:

9. By 2008, at least half of the countries in the pan European region are implementing national Communication, Education and Public Awareness action plans, in line with the CBD's Global Initiative on Communication, Education and Public Awareness, in order to communicate biodiversity and landscape policies and to increase multi-stakeholder participation, particularly indigenous and local communities, in their implementation.

While adopting this Resolution, the European Ministers of Environment and Heads of Delegations of the States participating in the process of the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity,

*Recognised* that biological and landscape diversity is not only significant for its intrinsic value but is also important for the valuable goods and services it provides to humankind, including the social and economic relevance of biological diversity for agriculture, forestry, tourism, water management, human health, quality of life, rural development and other sectors,

*Recalled* the endorsement of the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Strategy at the Third Ministerial Conference 'Environment for Europe' in October 1995 in Sofia, Bulgaria, involving 55 States,

*Recognised* the outcome of the Second Intergovernmental Conference 'Biodiversity in Europe', held in February 2002 in Budapest, where it was confirmed that the PEBLDS process is now a well-established forum for essential discussions on the conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity in Europe,

*Acknowledged* the important progress in the implementation of the Emerald Network under the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern, 1979),

*Acknowledged* the important progress of the European Community in the implementation of the European Community Biodiversity Strategy and its Action Plans, of the Council Directives on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora and on the Conservation of Wild Birds, including the establishment of the Natura 2000

Network and of biodiversity actions under the Sixth Environmental Action Programme and Sustainable Development Strategy and, recognizing the progress of the candidate states in application of the EC biodiversity *acquis*,

*Welcomed* the adoption by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe of the European Landscape Convention and its opening for signature on October 2000 in Florence (Italy),

*Acknowledged* the important progress of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar, 1971) in developing in Europe the List of Wetlands of International Importance (the Ramsar List).

*Welcomed* the outcome of the 6<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the commitment to halt the loss of biodiversity by 2010, the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the pledge to achieve by 2010 a significant reduction in the current rate of loss of biological diversity, and taking into account the Millennium Development Goals,

*Noted* para 42 of the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development that, *inter alia*, states, "...Implement the Convention and its provisions, including active follow up of its work programmes and decisions through national, regional and global action programmes, in particular the national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and strengthen their integration into relevant cross-sectoral strategies, programmes and policies, including those related to sustainable development and poverty eradication, including initiatives which promote community-based sustainable use of biological diversity,"

## Appendix

### Statement on the Pan European Ecological Network

**We, the European Ministers of Environment and Heads of Delegations of the States participating in the process of the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity:**

Consider that the Pan-European Ecological Network is a major means for implementing the aim of the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Strategy for the conservation and management of species, ecosystems, habitats, and landscapes;

Are convinced that the Pan-European Ecological Network has the potential to be used as a spatial planning tool for Europe;

Express our strong support to the development of the Pan-European Ecological Network and its establishment by 2015;

Engage ourselves to provide appropriate resources to the implementation of this major instrument;

Encourage financial institutions and mechanisms to prioritise green investments in relevant parts of the Pan-European Ecological Network and to avoid investments in these areas that will harm biological diversity and landscapes;

Welcome the maintenance or development of a sustainable relationship between agriculture and biological diversity in and around relevant parts of the Pan-European Ecological Network;

Welcome the indicative map of the Pan-European Ecological Network for Central and Eastern European region as a communication tool for promoting the establishment of the network in this region, and encourage the further extension of the map towards other regions in Europe;

**Encourage:**

- the States participating in the process of the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy to give a priority to the development of the Network by supporting the programme of activity of the intergovernmental body (the Council of Europe) entrusted with it, developing national ecological networks comprising both areas of national and international importance and promoting programmes for the implementation of transboundary networks;
- the Central and Eastern Europe States and the Newly Independent States to give particular attention to the implementation of the Pan-European Ecological Network, in synergy with the Bern Convention Emerald Network and Natura 2000, as a way to protect their rich landscape and biological diversity and express the wish that enough resources be allocated to the relevant programmes;

**Invite:**

- the institutions and intergovernmental organisations engaged in the implementation of the Pan-European Ecological Network, in particular the Council of Europe and its Parliamentary Assembly and the European Centre for Nature Conservation (ECNC), to pursue and develop the work already undertaken;
- UNESCO to co-operate for the implementation of the Pan-European Ecological Network, in particular through its programme Man and Biosphere, Biosphere Reserves and World Heritage Sites;
- the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe to co-operate in the implementation of the Pan-European Ecological Network;

- the European Conference of Ministers responsible for Regional Planning (CEMAT) to take into account the building-up of the Pan-European Ecological Network and its integration in the priorities and programme of activities for regional and spatial development in Europe;
- the European Conference of Ministers responsible for Culture to take into account the protection of all aspects of landscapes with a view of maintaining their biological and landscape diversity, in co-operation with the national authorities responsible for the protection of natural environment and landscapes;
- the local and regional authorities to implement the Pan-European Ecological Network at their level and be closely involved in development of transnational networks, and involve all local stakeholders;
- the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, the European Union, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe of the Council of Europe, to contribute to the development of the Pan-European Ecological Network by providing appropriate resources to the programmes and activities to be implemented in this framework.