

## Measuring progress in nature conservation against the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy<sup>1</sup>

### ***The problem***

The European Environment Ministers set the ambitious goal to halt the loss of biodiversity by 2010 at the Kyiv Ministerial Conference in May 2003. Thus they have reinforced the commitments undertaken at the Gothenburg Summit of the European Council by EU Member States, and went beyond the target of the Strategic Plan for the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg to reach a significant reduction in the current rate of loss of biological diversity.

However considering the current trends threatening biological diversity on different levels, and the challenge of making progress towards the 2010 target, it must be acknowledged that substantial changes are required in all areas of policy forming.

There are valuable policy tools that could be utilised in the efforts towards the 2010 target, namely the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and its regional arm for implementation, the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS). The Strategic Plan to the CBD and the harmonised Rolling Work Programme of the PEBLDS identified four priority goals, such as the leading role of these instruments in the international biodiversity issues, increased human, financial and scientific, technical and technological capacity, increased awareness, and the development of national biodiversity strategies or plans. Their goals and objectives, as well as the supporting guidance, work programmes should be duly taken into account in responsible policy- and decision-making.

Nevertheless these international policy-making tools (CBD, PEBLDS and other outcomes of the Environment for Europe (EfE) process) and the 2010 target are visible neither in the governmental sector, nor among the NGOs or the public, and thus they are not utilised in their full potential. It is especially difficult to put these policy-making tools into practice due to their complexity, as well as the insufficient knowledge among decision-makers (and NGOs) on them. Thus only very few good, practical examples exist in this field.

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<sup>1</sup> This document is integral part of the Agreement of support to be signed with the project partner

## ***Objectives of the project***

- Substantially raising the awareness on CBD, PEBLDS and the 2010 target not only among selected NGOs, but in the governmental sector and among the general public,
- Keeping these issues and policy tools on the public agenda for months and thus raising their profile,
- Showing the practical utility of these policy tools in the daily policy- and decision making,
- Developing/ strengthening the watchdog role of NGOs with regards to the implementation of the CBD, PEBLDS and the 2010 target through consultations, the use of publicity and the media,
- Building up high NGO expertise in SEE countries on the CBD, PEBLDS and international policy-making processes leading to the 2010 commitment,
- Forming an NGO expert group that has the capacity for professional involvement in the forming and utilising these policy tools in SEE countries,
- Providing recommendations, alternatives, expert analyses for governmental policy- and decision-makers,
- Providing quality information on these tools in a regular way, and thus broadening the knowledge of NGOs on them,
- Catalyzing NGO activity in the use and monitoring of implementation of these policy tools,
- Sharing expertise, experiences and building long term partnerships among the NGO partners continuously during the project,
- Multiplying the effect through sharing expertise and experiences in a wider forum at the end of the project.

## ***Activities of the project***

- Building up expert knowledge of the national project partners on CBD, PEBLDS and international policy-making processes leading to the 2010 commitment through the CEEWEB Academy I. and the expert training,
- Monitoring of national policy- and decision-making (following up national decision procedures in the various fields that affect environment and sustainable use),
- Mainstreaming these policy tools into national policy- and decision-making through NGO involvement (utilising public participation opportunities, consultations, etc.),
- Preparing assessments, positions on current national policy developments and decisions (evaluations how much they are in line with the CBD and PEBLDS commitments),

- Elaborating recommendations, gathering case studies that could support better national decision-making related to current issues,
- Communication and awareness raising through the own website of the project, press releases, presence in the media and national consultations, etc.,
- Preparing national and regional assessments on how much national policies and decisions are made in accordance with international commitments and guidance,
- Final workshop for exchanging experiences, sharing knowledge, multiplying positive effects.

### ***Requirements for project partners***

- More years of work experience in the field of environment protection/ nature conservation,
- Experience in public participation in national decision and policy making,
- Fluency in English,
- Capacity of at least one day a week that can be devoted to the activities related to the project.

### ***Activities and responsibilities of project partners and CEEWEB Policy Office***

The CEEWEB Policy Office will be responsible for the overall coordination of the project, while the national activities will be carried out by national project partners.

#### **1. Tasks and responsibilities of project partners**

##### **1. Participation on the CEEWEB Academy I. on sustainability**

The first seminar will give an insight into the concept of sustainable development and initiate common thinking among the members on the right approach to environmental problems either on local or on global level. The primary aim is not to impart academic knowledge through the seminars, but to develop a proper, holistic approach and view that support the prevention of environmental problems and long term solutions.

The participation of maximum two persons (one of them is the actual project coordinator) from the partner organisation is financially supported by CEEWEB.

*Date: 17-19 February 2005*

## **2. Participation on the expert training**

The training on CBD, PEBLDS and the EFe will focus on the strategies, work programmes, decisions and guidelines that are produced under these international instruments. It is aimed that through the gained knowledge the project partners will be able to effectively utilise the produced outcomes and tools of these processes and instruments in the monitoring of national policy and decision making within and beyond the project activities.

The participation of maximum two persons (one of them is the actual project coordinator) from the partner organisation is financially supported by CEEWEB.

*Date: 20-22 February 2005*

## **3. Monitoring, mainstreaming, public participation, communication**

### ***Setting up a work plan on the monitoring, mainstreaming, public participation, communication activities during the project***

Project partners are required to send a provisional work plan to the CEEWEB Policy Office, which includes those relevant activities of the partner organisation that will predictably take place during the project period (e.g. consultation on draft laws, round-table on strategies, various campaigns).

*Deadline for submitting the provisional work plan: 3 March 2005*

### ***Monitoring national policy- and decision-making***

Project partners are required to monitor national policy and decision-making relevant to nature conservation and sustainable use (as they also do in their regular, daily activities).

### ***Mainstreaming these policy tools into national policy- and decision-making***

Project partners are required to utilise public participation opportunities in national policy and decision-making (as they also do in their regular, daily activities) for mainstreaming these policy tools for nature conservation and sustainability interests.

For this aim the project partners should support the incorporation of the commitments or guidance (such as the articles, decisions and guidelines) accepted by national governments under these international instruments into national policies and decisions in line with the principles of sustainability and their own NGO strategy.

These commitments and guidance can be advocated for:

- at national roundtables and consultations with governments and other stakeholders,
- in petitions to governments,
- in press releases, and other appearance in the media,
- in projects that involve consultations, assessments, recommendations, as well as communication with regards to national policy- and decision-making,
- i.e. in any way, where the involved national project partners would defend the position of biodiversity in any case.

### ***Preparing NGO assessments /positions /recommendations on current national issues***

Project partners are required to formulate their assessments, positions on current issues in national policy- and decision-making (e.g. legislative proposals, institutional changes, budgetary proposals, national environmental and nature conservation programmes, infrastructural, environmental developments, etc. relevant to nature conservation, also if it is done by other members of the national NGO community) pointing out how much they are in line with the commitments and guidance of the international policy-making instruments.

They are also required to formulate recommendations on how national policies and decisions could better serve the conservation of biodiversity and the sustainable use of natural resources, while being formulated in accordance with these international guidance serving these aims.

For this it is required:

- assessments/ positions/ recommendations in national language, as well as short English summaries put on the project website regularly
- at least 4 assessments/ positions/ recommendations (min. 1 A4 page) should be made available in English on the national project website during the project

### ***Gathering case studies***

Project partners are required to seek and utilise case studies, good and bad examples related to current issues on the national agenda in the mainstreaming and public participation activities. These should be also made available on the national project website.

### ***Communication and awareness raising***

Wide communication of the assessments, recommendations and the international commitments and guidance is a cornerstone of the project, which will largely contribute to better policy- and decision-making, as well as to the better acknowledgement and awareness of these international policy-making instruments.

Project partners are required to set up and regularly update a national project **website**. The website should be created first of all in the national language, and it should include all the prepared materials as described above:

- description of the project and project partners,
- background materials on these international policy-making tools (CBD, PEBLDS, Environment for Europe) in various fields (agriculture, forestry, in situ conservation, monitoring, incentives, awareness raising, etc.),
- positions, assessments made by project partners that are related to the monitoring, advocacy and public participation activities of the organisation,
- short summaries of these positions and assessments in English that could facilitate international experience exchange within the project and beyond,
- at least four assessments of current issues in English (min. 1 A4 page) during the project,

- excerpts from decisions, guidance under these international policy-making tools that are relevant to the current issues in national policy- and decision-making in national language, and full decisions and guidance in English or Russian,
- recommendations on how these policies and decisions could better serve the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and be in accordance with the international guidance and commitments,
- case-studies, good and bad examples from other countries in those fields where policies and decisions are currently taken on national level (in national language, English or Russian),
- links to the websites, documents of these international policy-making instruments, secretariats and organisations dealing with these issues and other project partners.

The national project website should be updated with any of the above information *at least once a week*.

In addition, the project partners are encouraged to utilise other tools of communication as appropriate, such as:

- promotion of the project and the website through leaflets, newsletters, Internet portals, etc., as appropriate in the countries,
- personal meetings, consultations with governmental bodies and other stakeholders organised in connection with the current issues on national policy- and decision-making, where these international tools can be utilised in the argumentation,
- press releases on the current issues with critics and recommendations, while referring to the commitments and guidance of these international policy-making tools,
- presence in the media in other ways (articles, interviews) with the same objective as above.

#### *Scope of these activities*

The above activities that ultimately aim better policy- and decision-making cover areas such as *in situ* conservation, national biodiversity strategies, infrastructural developments, agriculture, forestry, economic incentives, education, research and awareness raising, budgetary proposals according to the profile of the partner organisation. However it is suggested to project partners to broaden the scope of monitoring, mainstreaming and communication also to other sectors as appropriate to their capacities.

#### *Capacity required*

At least one day per week is required from the partner organisation for monitoring, mainstreaming, communication activities, preparing recommendations, consultations, etc. that fit into the project. It may also include those activities that are carried out by project partners in the framework of their other activities, if input is also given into this project (i.e. information is put on the project website, shared with other project partners) and vice versa (international commitments are utilised in the public participation, lobby activities of the organisation).

CEEWEB financially supports the participation of two persons from the partner organisations at the Academy I., expert training and mid-term meetings, in order

to enable the sharing of project tasks among the project coordinator and a project assistant within the partner organisation.

Capacity is also needed for the regular update of the national project website, for which extra financial support will be provided on the basis of needs and resources. The project partner is responsible for finding and subcontracting web designers.

#### **4. Communication with the CEEWEB Policy Office and other project partners**

Project partners are required to share their experiences, ideas and suggestions with the Policy Office and other project partners via e-mails and at the personal meetings.

#### **5. Reporting to the Policy Office**

Project partners are required to send a report every second week to the CEEWEB Policy Office (Klára Hajdu, [hajdu@ceeweb.org](mailto:hajdu@ceeweb.org)) on the progress of the project. It should include references to the information uploaded on the national project website, monitoring, mainstreaming, public participation activities that are relevant to the project (i.e. contribute to the mainstreaming of international commitments, guidance into national consultations, policies and decisions). Project partners should also seek guidance for the effective project implementation from the Policy Office if needed.

#### **6. Participation at the mid-term expert meeting**

Project partners are required to participate at a two-day mid-term meeting with other project partners and the project coordinators from the CEEWEB Policy Office. The meeting will provide possibility to share experiences gained in the first months of the projects, exchange good ideas, methods, tools for monitoring and mainstreaming these international policy-making tools in national policies and decisions.

The participation of maximum two persons (one of them is the actual project coordinator) from the partner organisation is financially supported by CEEWEB.

*Provisional date: May-June 2005*

#### **7. Preparing regional assessment**

Project partners are required to submit a national report on the experiences gained during the project with recommendations to the CEEWEB Policy Office.

The reports will draw a picture, how much these international tools (CBD, PEBLDS, Environment for Europe) influence everyday and long-term policies and decisions at national level in different sectors (not only within the departments responsible for these international instruments), and will formulate recommendations for their improvement.

*Deadline for submitting national report: 15 October 2005*

## **8. Participation at the final workshop**

Project partners are required to participate at the final workshop of the project, which will be organised for SEE and CEE NGO representatives for sharing experiences, knowledge and facilitate the multiplication of the project.

It will be profoundly discussed, how NGOs could facilitate better policy- and decision-making for the aim of conservation of biodiversity and sustainable use of natural resources, also through the promotion and use of international policy-making tools (CBD, PEBLDS, EfE process). Possibilities for further cooperation, expertise and experience exchange, joint activities will be also explored.

Depending on the financial resources the participation of one or more persons (if it is only one than project coordinator) from the partner organisation is financially supported by CEEWEB.

*End of 2005 or early 2006*

### ***Deliverables from the project partners***

- Provisional work plan for the project
- National project website with regular (at least weekly) updates,
- Regular analyses of current national policies and decisions, their relationships with these policy tools in the national language, and short summaries in English on the project website,
- Developed recommendations, gathered case studies that could support decision-making in national languages or English on the project website,
- Other communication activities (press releases, leaflets, publications, etc.), as appropriate,
- Cumulative national report in English at the end of the project, which comprises professional assessments how much national policies and decisions during the project period were in line with these international policy-making tools.

### ***Financial support from the CEEWEB Policy Office for the project partners***

- Covering the participation of two persons from the partner organisation at the CEEWEB academy I., the expert training, the mid-term meeting and one or more persons at the final workshop,
- Consultant fee (1500-2000 EUR based on local expenses and implemented activities)
- Additional financial support for website maintenance (based on organisations' capacities, needs and available resources).

## 1. Responsibilities of the CEEWEB Policy Office

- Selection of the four project partners from among national NGOs in several South-East-European (SEE) countries<sup>2</sup> (on the basis of their participation in national decision- and policy-making, their relevant knowledge and capacities)
- Providing Terms of Reference and Agreement of support for the selected project partners
- Organising CEEWEB Academy I. on sustainability (setting up the agenda, inviting participants and lecturers, caring for logistics, providing materials, etc.)
- Organising the expert meeting on CBD, PEBLDS, EfE (setting up the agenda, inviting participants and lecturers, caring for the logistics, etc.)
- Ensuring the communication and sharing of experiences among project partners (e.g. via e-mail and the CEEWEB website)
- Providing reference materials on CBD, PEBLDS and EfE that can be utilised by project partners during the whole project
- Providing guidance and support for setting up the project website
- Providing project description and background materials in English for the national project websites
- Providing guidance and support to project partners for monitoring, mainstreaming, public participation and communication activities
- Assessing the progress of the project, collecting progress reports from project partners every second week
- Organising the mid-term expert meeting (setting up the agenda, inviting participants, caring for the logistics, preparing materials, etc.)
- Providing guidance for the national assessments for the publication
- Compiling, printing and disseminating the regional publication
- Informing the Secretariat of the CBD, PEBLDS Secretariat, PEBLDS Bureau and Council, as well as other organisations working with these international instruments about the outcomes and experiences of the project
- Organising the final workshop (setting up the agenda, inviting participants and lecturers, caring for logistics, preparing materials, etc.)
- Reporting to the donor, preparing final report

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<sup>2</sup> Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia, Moldova, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Ukraine

### ***Expected outcomes***

- Raised awareness among governments, NGOs and other stakeholders of international policy-making tools, such as CBD, PEBLDS and outcomes of the Environment for Europe process,
- In-depth NGO expertise on these international commitments and guidance,
- Better acknowledgement of these instruments, as useful tools for better policy- and decision-making leading to a greater influence on national policies and decisions,
- Better understanding how these policy-making tools could be better utilised, promoted and further improved to fulfil their goals and objectives.