

# **Pan-European 2020 Strategy For Biodiversity**



UNEP



Old woman collects dandelions and other medical herbs,  
Poltavska region, Ukraine



# **Pan-European 2020 Strategy For Biodiversity**

With a focus on:

Cooperation for the conservation and sustainable use of  
Pan-European biodiversity and the coordinated national  
implementation of biodiversity-related Multilateral  
Environmental Agreements (MEAs)

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

## PAN-EUROPEAN REGION



(Source <http://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/figures/country-groupings-in-europe-2>)

## INTRODUCTION

In 1994, the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS) was developed as a European response to support implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity. It served as a coordinating and unifying framework in pan-Europe for strengthening and building on existing initiatives. In 2011, a new strategy, the Pan-European 2020 Strategy for Biodiversity (hereon referred to as “this Strategy”), was developed as the successor to PEBLDS. This Strategy refocuses efforts to prevent further loss of biodiversity in the pan-European region, in line with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its global Aichi biodiversity targets set for 2020 at the tenth Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP10) in Nagoya, Japan in October 2010.

This booklet outlines the main actions to be taken in order to implement the global Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and to reach the Aichi Targets, the rationale behind the Pan-European 2020 Strategy for Biodiversity, and the added value of biodiversity cooperation at a pan-European level.

### **The global Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020**

The global Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, adopted by the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), is an overarching framework on biodiversity that provides guidance for all biodiversity-related Conventions, taking into account their pre-existing strategies, and invites Parties to collaborate for the successful implementation of the Strategic Plan and for the achievement of its Aichi Targets. While it sets out internationally agreed targets, the Aichi Targets, for the protection and restoration of biodiversity, the mechanisms for achieving them is left to the Parties to the CBD. In order to ensure the delivery of these targets, each Party is to develop or align its own National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP).

For further information, please see [www.cbd.int](http://www.cbd.int)

## The Aichi Targets of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020

<p><b>Strategic Goal A</b></p> <p><i>Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society</i></p>	<p><b>Target 1</b> By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.</p>
	<p><b>Target 2</b> By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.</p>
	<p><b>Target 3</b> By 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio economic conditions.</p>
	<p><b>Target 4</b> By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.</p>
<p><b>Strategic Goal B</b></p> <p><i>Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use</i></p>	<p><b>Target 5</b> By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.</p>
	<p><b>Target 6</b> By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.</p>
	<p><b>Target 7</b> By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.</p>
	<p><b>Target 8</b> By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity.</p>
	<p><b>Target 9</b> By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.</p>
	<p><b>Target 10</b> By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning.</p>

<p><b>Strategic Goal C</b></p> <p><i>To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity</i></p>	<p><b>Target 11</b></p> <p>By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.</p>
	<p><b>Target 12</b></p> <p>By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.</p>
	<p><b>Target 13</b></p> <p>By 2020, the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity.</p>
<p><b>Strategic Goal D</b></p> <p><i>Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services</i></p>	<p><b>Target 14</b></p> <p>By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.</p>
	<p><b>Target 15</b></p> <p>By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.</p>
	<p><b>Target 16</b></p> <p>By 2015, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation.</p>
<p><b>Strategic Goal E</b></p> <p><i>Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building</i></p>	<p><b>Target 17</b></p> <p>By 2015 each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan.</p>
	<p><b>Target 18</b></p> <p>By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.</p>
	<p><b>Target 19</b></p> <p>By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.</p>
	<p><b>Target 20</b></p> <p>By 2020, at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 from all sources, and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the Strategy for Resource Mobilization, should increase substantially from the current levels. This target will be subject to changes contingent to resource needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties.</p>



Horses running on a high mountain pasture, Kyrgyzstan

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## 2. RATIONALE FOR A PAN-EUROPEAN BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY

### 2.1 Background

In the years since the original development of the PEBLDS, the European biodiversity policy landscape has evolved. In 2002, the world's leaders agreed to achieve a significant reduction in the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010. Having reviewed all available evidence, including national reports submitted by Parties to the CBD, the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook<sup>1</sup> concluded that the target had not been met. Moreover, as the Outlook warns, the principal pressures leading to biodiversity loss are not just constant but are, in some cases, intensifying. New biodiversity targets were set for 2020 at the tenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP10) in Nagoya, Japan in October 2010. As a response, the European Union adopted the 2011 Communication: *Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020*<sup>2</sup> which includes six key targets. This Communication sends a strong signal about the need for the full engagement and commitment of a wide range of stakeholders and for a common framework for implementation involving other key actors, sectors and institutions based on best practice, and setting out the roles and responsibilities of each in ensuring success.

This Strategy will play a strong role in supporting the aspirations and the framework for action that is presented in the outcomes from Nagoya, including the 20 Aichi targets, and the 2011 EU Communication. In doing so it will provide the basis for a functional platform for pan-

European biodiversity cooperation and set a policy relevant agenda for securing the resources to deliver actions that will help meet the 2020 targets. In particular, this Strategy will concentrate on the cooperation between biodiversity-related agreements and Conventions and on facilitating the coherent implementation of biodiversity-related Conventions at the regional level.

### 2.2 Synergies and the coherent national implementation of biodiversity-related Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and Conventions in Pan-Europe

During the past decade, biodiversity-related MEAs have been exploring ways to better coordinate their actions and activities. The Secretariats have developed Memoranda of Understanding and joint workplans. In response to a call from the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity to enhance cooperation among the five biodiversity-related MEAs (CBD, CITES, CMS, Ramsar, and WHC), the Biodiversity Liaison Group was formed in 2004. This group brings together the heads of the Secretariats and meets regularly to explore opportunities for synergistic activities and increased coordination, as well as to exchange information. In response to Parties' requests to improve coordination and cooperation among biodiversity-related MEAs, there are a number of practical measures that also have been undertaken by UNEP. These measures take advantage of the synergies among the MEAs on specific issues.

<sup>1</sup> Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (2010) Global Biodiversity Outlook 3. Montréal, 94 pages

<sup>2</sup> Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions (2011) *Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020*. Brussels, 3.5.2011 COM(2011) 244 final

This Strategy represents a unique opportunity to build on these ongoing programmes and initiatives such as the **Biodiversity Liaison Group**, the **UNEP Knowledge Management Initiative**, the **work of UNEP-WCMC on harmonization of national reporting and indicator development** and the **United Nations information portal on multilateral environmental agreements (InforMEA)**. Collaboration with Streamlining European Biodiversity Indicators (SEBI) and the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (BIP) will also contribute to improved assessments on progress to be reported to MEAs. The Strategy can facilitate coordinated MEA implementation in the pan-European countries and the exchange of information and expertise.

### 2.3 Benefits of a regional approach

The success in the synergistic implementation of the multilateral chemical and waste agreements<sup>3</sup> provides the basis for a model that shows how the links between national, regional and worldwide levels can function successfully; the lessons learned should be used swiftly by other Conventions, in particular for those related to biodiversity. This Strategy bolsters the importance of a regional approach to biodiversity cooperation and strengthens the link between the global and national levels of biodiversity cooperation while furthering cooperation between the EU and non-EU countries in the region.

The pan-European region is important for biodiversity cooperation as it serves as an intermediary between the

national and the global level. While the CBD provides guidance and standards at a global level, pan-European cooperation has a distinct focus on biodiversity issues that affect this region and addresses the needs of the pan-European States. In pan-Europe, this regional level is particularly important for countries who are not members of the EU, where a platform already exists. Consequently, this Strategy creates a bridge between the EU and non-EU countries by enhancing synergies with the European Union's 2011 Communication and uniting all the existing multi- and bilateral cooperation frameworks within the pan-European region.

Through this Strategy, pan-European nations will benefit from a concentrated platform that will facilitate information exchange and harmonisation and the involvement of major stakeholders. From the pan-European level, data and information can be more easily aggregated in order to report globally as part of future sub-global assessments to be developed by the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). It is also the obvious level at which to provide guidance and frameworks for countries to marshal their own operations. This will include, for example, recommendations for reporting, monitoring and implementation of the Strategic Plan. However, because biodiversity priorities vary within the pan-European region, the implementation of this strategy outside of the EU, Norway, and Switzerland will be facilitated by identifying different priorities within the following sub-regions: Eastern Europe, Caucasus, Central Asia, and Western Balkans.

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<sup>3</sup> Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, and Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants



Alley of blooming apricot trees and a farm house against hills in Tuscany, Italy

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### 3. PAN-EUROPEAN BIODIVERSITY OBJECTIVES

The key goal of this Strategy is to facilitate cooperation and synergies between biodiversity-related Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and to contribute to the implementation of biodiversity-related Conventions at the regional level. Following discussions with pan-European countries and international organisations, including the European Commission, pan-European cooperation will focus on the following objectives in which capacity building is an overarching theme:

- **Delivery of an informal platform for the exchange of views, expertise and experiences for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi targets in the pan-European region;**
- **Direct support for pilot activities for the implementation of the global Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi targets in the pan-European region;**
- **Improved regional cooperation for policy development and implementation and the identification of priority themes of common pan-European interest;**
- **Enhanced coherence of biodiversity policies and priority actions at national and European levels;**
- **Delivery of an informal platform of exchange of views, expertise and experience to support implementation of MEAs as well as other related initiatives such as the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).**



Vagrant darter - *Sympetrum vulgatum*

## 4. ACTION PLAN

The Pan-European 2020 Strategy for Biodiversity provides the basis for pan-European action to contribute to the implementation of the global Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Targets. The action plan, outlined below, proposes seven specific actions that should be taken to prevent further loss of biodiversity in the pan-European region, in line with the global biodiversity targets.

### Actions:

1. **Develop a resource mobilisation strategy**
2. **Re-establish the Biodiversity Service for NBSAP delivery**
3. **Promote cooperation and synergies of biodiversity-related Conventions in the pan-European region**
4. **Develop issue-based modules under InforMEA - the United Nations Information Portal on Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) project**
5. **Support streamlining of reporting to MEAs**
6. **Joint implementation of biodiversity-related Convention activities in pilot countries**
7. **Undertake thematic actions**

### 1. Develop a resource mobilization strategy

A critical success factor for the future of biodiversity in Europe is the creation of a new resource mobilisation strategy which will leverage national and international support for the implementation of the Strategic Plan. This support should go beyond financing to include technical assistance and strategic coordination of policy and action across national boundaries and throughout the region. On the one hand, the resource mobilization strategy will require participating countries to commit their technical expertise, including the intellectual capital of their policy makers, practitioners and civil society. On the other hand, this Strategy will require financial leadership and contributions from donor countries. These contributions will ensure the success of the platform and will contribute to meeting the 2020 biodiversity targets in the pan-European region. The resource mobilisation strategy will not only seek to broaden the base of voluntary contributors, it will also aim to improve targeting of funding streams and enhance existing financial instruments for the pan-European region such as the Global Environment Facility, the EEA Grants and the EU neighbourhood policy. The resource mobilization strategy will also have a specific focus on engaging the private sector through initiatives such as The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) process mentioned in action 7.

## 2. Re-establish the Biodiversity Service for NBSAP delivery

The Service for Implementation of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) project, also known as the Biodiversity Service, was established in 2000 by UNEP, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the European Centre for Nature Conservation (ECNC) and the Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe (REC). Its mandate was to address the immediate needs of countries in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) in the implementation of their NBSAPs. By pooling each organisation's strengths, capacities, skills and potential, the Biodiversity Service has promoted and facilitated the implementation of the CBD during its first phase.

Through the Biodiversity Service, countries in the region were provided with expert and advisory services, policy recommendations and guidelines, up to date information, exchange of experience and training. The Service was based on a demand-driven approach within a clearly defined scope. All expert services and technical assistance within the framework of the project were provided by request from national, local and sub-regional levels to meet particular needs expressed by national governments and other biodiversity stakeholders.

NBSAPs as vehicles for implementing the global Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 would benefit from a renovated Biodiversity Service. The Service has the elements required to meet pan-European MEA Parties' needs and enable them to match demand with available resources in a coherent way. Furthermore, the Service could assist national governments in the development, revision or updating of NBSAPs, as appropriate, addressing their international obligations under the biodiversity-related Conventions to which they are a Party, including the improvement of information management underlying related implementation and reporting.

### **National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)**

National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) allow the development of coherent national plans for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. In order to achieve more effective implementation of biodiversity-related Conventions at country level, there is a clear and immediate need to make better use of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans. NBSAPs help guide countries to meet biodiversity obligations under various biodiversity-related MEAs in a consistent and harmonized manner. NBSAPs should be able to cover the full range of activities needed to implement all of the biodiversity-related Conventions, enhancing efforts for more effective and coherent 'on-the-ground' implementation.

### **The Biodiversity Service and the MEA Information and Knowledge Management Initiative**

The Biodiversity Service for NBSAP delivery should also build on the MEA Information and Knowledge Management (IKM) Initiative (also see Actions 4 and 6) which brings together 20 MEAs to develop harmonized and interoperable information systems for the benefit of Parties and the environment community at large. By participating in this collaborative framework, established by the MEA secretariats and UNEP, this Strategy could contribute to the development of a regional biodiversity knowledge hub for countries in the pan-European region which will facilitate:

- The exchange of information and dissemination of relevant documents, and the creation of the necessary mechanisms to ensure that lessons learned are shared and exchanged among targeted audiences;
- The establishment of communication tools;
- The harmonization of data and information administered by the biodiversity-related MEAs, thereby facilitating the development of much needed knowledge resources and tools; and
- Greater harmony and sharing of resources with other regional initiatives, potentially offering pan-Europe a wealth of new information resources and knowledge tools.

### 3. Promote cooperation and synergies of biodiversity-related MEA's and Conventions in the pan-European region

This Strategy will strive to facilitate the promotion of synergies and cooperation between the biodiversity-related MEA's and Conventions, including the Bern Convention, in order to support implementation of the global Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 in the pan-European region. At the regional level, implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions will be facilitated through increased:

#### Biodiversity-Related Conventions

- Convention on Biological Diversity (year of entry into force: 1993) [www.cbd.int](http://www.cbd.int),
- Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species (1983) [www.cms.int](http://www.cms.int),
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (1975) [www.cites.org](http://www.cites.org),
- International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (2004) [www.planttreaty.org](http://www.planttreaty.org),
- Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (1971) [www.ramsar.org](http://www.ramsar.org), and
- World Heritage Convention (1972) [www.whc.unesco.org](http://www.whc.unesco.org).

In Europe,

- Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (1982) <http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/nature/bern>

<u>Coherence</u>	To facilitate the coherent implementation of biodiversity-related Conventions at regional level;
<u>Capacity-building</u>	To increase the resources and capabilities of countries to effectively implement their biodiversity strategies and commitments; bold actions are needed to give these countries access to financial resources and technology transfer; <sup>4</sup>
<u>Efficiency</u>	To enhance synergies between biodiversity-related Conventions, enabling countries to streamline their work toward the fulfilment of their obligations, avoiding duplication of efforts and rationalising available resources;
<u>Effectiveness</u>	Through shared prioritisation, better targeting of resources and collaboration between countries;
<u>Understanding</u>	That derives from inter-institutional and international collaboration which is also reinforced by exchange of experiences and lessons learned at regional level between those leading the different Conventions at national level.

<sup>4</sup> President's Summary, High-level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on Biodiversity, 22 September 2010, New York

#### **4. Develop issue-based modules under InforMEA - the United Nations Information Portal on Multilateral Environmental Agreements project**

The InforMEA project provides an overview of COP decisions and resolutions, news, events, MEA membership, national focal points, national reports and implementation plans from MEA secretariats and organizes this information around a set of agreed terms and themes (modules). The aim of the project is to facilitate the coherent implementation of thematic provisions of the biodiversity-related Conventions. The InforMEA project is a portal which builds on and ensures the sustainability of other MEA-related projects such as TEMATEA, a tool that assists countries with inventories of their MEA obligations and informs activities related to those inventories. The InforMEA project now supersedes the TEMATEA project and will build on its issue-based modules. This action will contribute to the work of InforMEA and TEMATEA by developing further issue-based modules on relevant themes such as Agriculture, Ecosystem Restoration, and others. Furthermore, as part of this action, better access to and sharing of national authority or focal point information for all biodiversity-related Conventions via the adoption of agreed information exchange protocols and standards will be pursued.

InforMEA was established by the MEA Information Knowledge Management (IKM) initiative (see Action 2), which brings together 20 MEAs to develop harmonized and interoperable information systems for the benefit of Parties and the environment community at large. More information can be found at [www.informea.org](http://www.informea.org).

#### **5. Support streamlined reporting to MEAs**

This action focuses on linking reporting to ongoing implementation by building on the collaborative work of UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) and the Secretariats of biodiversity-related Conventions on indicators and streamlined reporting. Activities will also focus on continued collaboration with Streamlining European Biodiversity Indicators (SEBI) and the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (BIP). Specifically, actions could help countries:

- Understand that reporting should be an output and a by-product of ongoing implementation so that reporting is embedded in efforts to improve national information management and implementation.
- Improve the collaboration between their national focal points to the different Conventions, agencies and stakeholders involved, as well as improve the management of the information underlying reporting.

A better understanding of the reporting process and collaboration between relevant actors will contribute to a harmonised and streamlined reporting process. As a result, this action will lead to improved capacity for MEA implementation, a better record of reporting and a sound basis for decision making.

UNEP-WCMC, established in July 2000, is a collaboration between the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations System's voice for the environment, and WCMC, a UK-based charity. UNEP-WCMC is UNEP's specialist biodiversity assessment arm, and the Centre for UNEP's collaboration with WCMC.

The Centre's goal is to provide authoritative, relevant and timely information for countries, MEAs, organizations and companies to use in the development and implementation of their policies and decisions. To help achieve this, UNEP-WCMC aims to be an internationally recognized Centre of Excellence and the partner of choice for the expert synthesis, analysis and dissemination of knowledge about global biodiversity and ecosystem services.

With partners worldwide, UNEP-WCMC source, collate and verify information on biodiversity and ecosystems which is then synthesised and analysed to develop indicators and knowledge to support global decision making.

For more information, see [www.unep-wcmc.org](http://www.unep-wcmc.org).

## **6. Joint implementation of biodiversity-related Convention activities in pilot countries**

This action focuses on setting up pilot country activities that put joint implementation into practice at the country level. It will bring together stakeholders, governments and sub-national authorities to jointly implement biodiversity-related activities in pilot countries and define how government authorities and other stakeholders can work together in a coherent manner. This will help simultaneously strengthen links in the following initiatives: InforMEA (see Action 4); the TEMATEA issue-based modules (see action 4); and harmonized reporting activities which focus on online reporting and indicators and the identification of means to reduce the reporting burden undertaken by UNEP-WCMC and MEA secretariats (see Action 5). Furthermore, partners in the IKM initiative (see Action 2) are discussing ways to develop more coherent and cost-effective approaches to designing and implementing projects on online reporting while also providing a sustainable information management platform.



Beekeeper working in his apiary

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## 7. Undertake thematic actions

Relevant thematic pan-European biodiversity cooperation issues will be expanded, with special emphasis on the following topics:

<b><i>Capacity Building for Green Infrastructure to Conserve Ecosystem Values and Functions and to Restore Degraded Ecosystems</i></b>	Exchange of knowledge and sharing of good practices on ecosystem restoration. This would be in line with the CBD's Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) recommendation to build capacity at regional level and contributes to Aichi Targets 14 and 15 of the Strategic Plan and Target 2 of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020. This would allow for the promotion of Green Infrastructure priorities in the whole of Europe and the restoration of degraded ecosystems.
<b><i>Biodiversity Indicators</i></b>	Exchange of expertise for the development and application of indicators within the global flexible framework for monitoring progress in implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 with the collaboration of Streamlining European Biodiversity Indicators (SEBI) and the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (BIP). This will contribute to improved assessments on progress to be reported to MEAs (see Actions 5 and 6).
<b><i>Forests</i></b>	Cooperation with Forest-Europe and other relevant pan-European fora to contribute to Aichi targets 5 and 7.
<b><i>Invasive Alien Species (IAS)</i></b>	Exchange of strategies on combating IAS while building on the work of the Council of Europe and the Bern Convention and the development of the EU legislative instrument to be adopted by the end of 2012.
<b><i>Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS)</i></b>	Exchange and capacity-building workshops on the Nagoya Protocol on ABS in relation to genetic resources to support its timely ratification and implementation by the region.
<b><i>The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB)</i></b>	Placing a value on natural capital, including biodiversity and ecosystem services, through a range of economic tools and policies to take proper account of this value.
<b><i>Other Areas</i></b>	Integrating biodiversity into agricultural policies and practices, mountain ecosystems, and the emerging wilderness agenda.

Effective implementation of this action plan will require an emphasis on mainstreaming biodiversity and the engagement of the private sector and civil society. These concepts are the backbone of activities in the pan-European region:

<b><i>Mainstream Biodiversity into Development Cooperation</i></b>	Follow up on “The Message from Paris” <sup>5</sup> on mainstreaming biodiversity into development cooperation by engaging key stakeholders in debate and encouraging action.
<b><i>Increase engagement of the private sector</i></b>	Engaging practical involvement with the European level business and biodiversity related platforms and by supporting (particularly EECCA) countries in promoting Business and Biodiversity (B&B)-related activity through the development and publication of guidance.
<b><i>Increase engagement and active involvement of Civil Society</i></b>	Ensure that Civil Society, represented by the main pan-European and sub-regional nature conservation NGOs, is involved as a partner in the development and implementation of projects and programmes.

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<sup>5</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/development/icenter/repository/Message\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/development/icenter/repository/Message_en.pdf)



Bialowieza Forest in springtime, Poland

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## 5. CONCLUSION

This Strategy aims to facilitate cooperation and synergies between biodiversity-related MEAs and to contribute to the implementation of biodiversity-related Conventions in pan-Europe. The key objectives and actions outlined in this Strategy, in line with the global Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the EU's 2011 Communication: *Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020*, are tailored to the needs of the pan-European region. In order for the Pan-European 2020 Strategy for Biodiversity to achieve its targets, countries must move to support its implementation. This includes **political recognition** of this Strategy as a leading pan-European mechanism for supporting the implementation of the global Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and

its Aichi Targets. Political support among all pan-European countries is also needed in order to enable it to strengthen the ties between EU and non-EU countries, for which this Strategy could provide an important opportunity. Strong political support of the region is needed for recognizing this Strategy as a major framework for prioritizing action and supporting both technically and financially the delivery of National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans. Finally, a clear **commitment** from pan-European countries to offer their time and resources, including the intellectual capital of their policy-makers, practitioners and civil society, will ensure the success of this platform and the delivery of its actions.

The full strategy can be found at <http://www.unep.org/roe/Home/EcosystemManagement/tabid/54049/Default.aspx>





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The Skadar lake (Skadarsko jezero) in Montenegro