



PAN-EUROPEAN BIODIVERSITY PLATFORM
WORK PROGRAMME 2014-2017

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1. Introduction

1.1. Presentation of the pan European Biodiversity Platform

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, the Pan-European 2020 Strategy for Biodiversity was developed as the successor to PEBLDS. This new strategy refocuses efforts to prevent further loss of biodiversity in the Pan-European region, in line with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. Furthermore, recognizing the importance of regional efforts to conserve biodiversity, the strategy emphasizes work in the following sub-regions: Eastern Europe, Caucasus, Central Asia, and the Western Balkans.

At the 6th Intergovernmental Biodiversity in Europe Conference held in Batumi, Georgia, in April 2013, countries present decided to establish the Pan-European Biodiversity Platform, as a follow-up to the PEBLDS, to contribute to the implementation of the Pan-European 2020 Strategy for Biodiversity and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. The Platform promotes regional and sub-regional biodiversity cooperation and serves as a bridge for further cooperation and coherence between EU and non-EU countries in Pan-Europe.

UNEP, providing the Secretariat for this Platform, is contributing to efforts amongst Pan-European countries to implement national, regional, and global biodiversity strategies. The Platform Steering Committee that helps to lead the platform is composed of governments and stakeholders and includes representatives from 10 countries, representatives from NGOs, academic institutions and other stakeholders. The Platform and Steering Committee are currently chaired by the Russian Federation.

1.2. The Pan-European 2020 Biodiversity Strategy

Not enough attention has been paid by decision makers to the role of nature in development, leading to a narrow focus on short-term gains at the expense of long-term prosperity and viability. The current model of economic development, based on over-exploitation and degradation of natural resources, is a challenge for ensuring sustainable economic development and social equity. Ecosystem degradation and the resulting loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services affect sectors such as agriculture, livestock breeding, fishing, and forestry the most, the very sectors on which many of the world's poor depend for their livelihood.

The key goal of the Pan-European 2020 Biodiversity Strategy is to address those challenges in order to comply with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its agreed Aichi Targets. It aims both at facilitating cooperation and synergies between biodiversity-related Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and at contributing 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:

- 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).

2. Ecosystem Management in Pan-Europe

2.1 Situation of Ecosystems & Biodiversity in the Pan-European Region

The main causes of biodiversity loss and degradation of ecosystems throughout Pan-Europe are changes in natural habitats. These are mostly due to: intensive agricultural production systems and land abandonment; construction and transport (fragmentation); overexploitation of forests, grasslands, oceans, rivers, lakes and soils; invasion of alien species; pollution; and — increasingly — climate change. For any policy to be effective in maintaining and restoring biodiversity in Pan-Europe, it must address these threats (EEA, 2010).

The latest *Corine Land Cover* inventory (EEA, 2010) shows a continued expansion of artificial surfaces (e.g. urban sprawl, infrastructure) and abandoned land at the expense of agricultural land, grasslands and wetlands across Pan-Europe. Natural grasslands are still being turned into arable land and built-up areas, or become desertification centers being under overexploitation. The loss of wetlands has slowed down (near 3 % lost in the last 16 years) but Pan-Europe had already lost more than half of its wetlands before 1990. Extensive agricultural land is being converted into forms of more intensive agriculture and for parts into forest.

Drivers of threats to biodiversity, ecosystems, and their services

Effective conservation and management of land, water, and living resources first requires a thorough understanding of the key drivers of threats to biodiversity, ecosystems, and their services. While these drivers impact countries to different extents, we can nevertheless find

some commonalities within Pan-Europe. A non-exhaustive list of these often correlated threats is found below:

- The political agenda is dominated by the drive for rapid economic growth, which takes precedence over environmental and social concerns. High-level political support is often lacking, as is demonstrated in the low priority given to environment and biodiversity in EU country and regional strategy papers for many countries in the region. Unregulated markets also exacerbate the rate of biodiversity loss.
- Poverty and the resulting direct dependence on natural resources leads to the overuse of forests and pastures and poaching.
- Lack of awareness of the importance of conserving biodiversity, especially among rural people and other users of natural resources.
- Lack of transparency and coherence in the development of strategies and projects and weak spatial planning and environmental assessment instruments leads to a lack of accountability for negative impacts of economic development on biodiversity.
- Under-financed sector administrations, capacity and legislative gaps, and unclear delineation of responsibilities result in insufficient coordination between government agencies; integrated and cross-sectoral approaches are rarely applied.
- Adequate systems for monitoring of natural resources management and sector-based studies are not always in place.
- Misconceptions about the contribution/benefits of ecosystems provisioning, regulating and supporting services to economic growth, poverty alleviation, and sustainable development.
- Limited awareness of significant benefits and values of Protected Areas at local and national levels.
- The role of civil society and NGOs in promoting the environment is limited in some sub-regions, including in Central Asia, and declines.

2.2 Regional Cooperation on Biodiversity and Ecosystems – State of Affairs

Though Pan-Europe faces multiple threats, as outlined above, it is nevertheless essential to note that Pan-Europe is at the forefront of establishing multi-national conservation efforts (Pullin et al. 2009). A wealth of biodiversity conservation policies and tools, including various regional conventions, has been applied to European terrestrial and marine ecosystems. At supra-national level, biodiversity conservation is mainly driven by such EU legal instruments as the Nature Directives adopted in 1979 and 1992 and the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy adopted at the Third Ministerial Environment for Europe Conference in 1995. Although the EU directives are legally binding and the Pan-European strategy is not, the two are mutually supportive and lead to an improved state of biodiversity in Europe (GEO5).

In 2001, the EU and its Member States committed to halt the loss of biodiversity by 2010 (CBD 2010a), but this target was not met, and the status of biodiversity is still a cause for serious concern (EC 2010d). One key message from 2010 is that simply designating protected areas is not enough to halt this decline. Biodiversity must be further integrated into other relevant policies (agriculture, fisheries, energy, transport, structural policies and development, finally – in the binding territorial planning). As a result, the new EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 and the Pan-European 2020 Strategy for Biodiversity were adopted in 2011. Both strategies, in line with the global Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, address mainstreaming of biodiversity into those key sectors.

2.3 Priority Objectives for Ecosystem Management in Pan-Europe

In the framework of the Pan-European Biodiversity Platform (formerly the PEBLDS), 30 countries gathered in Batumi, Georgia in April 2013 for the 6th Intergovernmental Biodiversity in Europe Conference. Three overarching priority areas for future biodiversity cooperation in the region were identified and agreed upon in the conference outcome document (see Annex 1). These priorities, which will support the implementation of the global Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Pan-European 2020 Strategy for Biodiversity, are as follows:

1. Support for the revision and implementation of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)
2. Improving the manner in which biodiversity and ecosystem services concerns and requirements are reflected in economic and development frameworks and policies
3. Promoting synergies amongst the biodiversity-related MEAs

Within these overarching priorities are more specific priority actions highlighted in the Batumi Outcomes as well as in the Pan-European 2020 Strategy for Biodiversity. These objectives and actions (outlined below) will drive the work of all the partners from the region involved in the Pan-European Biodiversity Platform for the period of 2014-2017. Furthermore, working through the Pan-European Biodiversity Platform will foster a strengthened regional voice in key international initiatives such as Conferences of the Parties for Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), and The Economics of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (TEEB), the Intergovernmental Platform on Climate Change (IPCC). At the same time, this Platform will enable to echo regionally-tailored information about how global decisions and initiatives are relevant for Pan-Europe.

For all priorities objectives and actions, the ultimate goal will be to support countries' capacities to tackle environmental degradation, and promote sustainable use of natural resources and the integration of environmental considerations into key sectors, including water, agriculture,

nature conservation, and forest management. The role of the Platform will also strengthen environmental information systems and governance to promote a transition to a greener economy, including through more sustainable consumption and production. Outcomes of all activities will contribute not only to their specific action, but to all three overarching priority

IUCN / WWF Expertise – Econet, Web For Life in Central Asia

Intensive socio-economic development has led to a situation where many protected areas are isolated from one another. Thus, they can't support optimal development of the environment as a whole. The objective of this project is the establishment and maintenance of a global network of comprehensive, effectively managed, and ecologically representative national and regional systems of protected areas.

Based on the Ecosystem Approach and the concept of Ecological Networks (Econet) all CBD Parties have committed, by 2015, to "integrate protected areas into broader land -and seascapes- and sectors so as to maintain the ecological structure and function". As a result, a new concept was developed and is now widely implemented: a [Web for Life](#) concept of Econet. It is a system that combines protected nature areas of different status and territories with different sustainable use of nature resources. Econet consists of three major elements: core areas, transit areas (ecological corridors) and buffer zones. The combination of all Econet elements should guarantee long term sustainability of ecosystem development in major ecoregions. Econet also contributes to soil protection and regulation of run-off, softening the microclimate and improving the agri-environmental milieu.

To date, the most important progress has been achieved in Moldova, Ukraine and Kazakhstan, where environmental legislation now includes the concept of Econet. A series of indicative maps covering various Econet issues is developed for Moldova and cross-boundary sector with Ukraine by BIOTICA Ecological Society, with IUCN coordination.

objectives.

3. Rationale

At the 6th Biodiversity in Europe Conference, capacity building, technical support, and regional cooperation were recognised as essential tools for supporting sustainable ecosystem management, poverty eradication, food security, and improved livelihoods. In line with the outcomes of the Conference and the priority objectives for the whole of Pan-Europe, countries

are seeking enhanced capacity building and technical support for (i) revision and implementation of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), particularly for indicator development, (ii) integrating biodiversity and natural capital into economic and development frameworks and policies, and (iii) coordinating and strengthening of MEA implementation through a synergistic approach to activities and reporting. The main themes of these priority objectives are not only found in the outcomes of the 6th Biodiversity in Europe conference; they have also been reflected in: country UN Development Assistance Frameworks; national sustainable development strategies; and; recent results from a UNEP survey conducted in the region.

The following is an overview of the rationale behind each of the three priority objectives:

Support for the revision of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)

The global Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Targets sets a vision for fully valuing and integrating biodiversity into national decision making, and taking concrete actions to reverse biodiversity loss during the next decade. The Strategic Plan is common to all biodiversity-related MEAs and the primary means for its implementation is through **National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans** (NBSAPs). Most countries in Pan-Europe are currently reviewing their NBSAPs, in line with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and it is, therefore, an opportunity for enhancing synergies with other biodiversity-related Conventions.

In the development process of the Pan-European 2020 Strategy for Biodiversity, at NBSAP and other capacity building workshops, through the conclusions of the 6th Biodiversity in Europe Conference, and from the results of a recent survey on NBSAP revision conducted by UNEP, the Secretariat has been able to work with countries in the region, to identify a number of key gaps in capacity and knowledge that need to be addressed in order to better meet the Aichi Targets. These needs are primarily linked to capacity building for the revision and implementation of NBSAPs including for (i) the development of biodiversity targets and indicators, and (ii) effective monitoring systems.

Biodiversity and ecosystem services in economic and development frameworks and policies

Integrating, or mainstreaming, the value of ecosystem services into decision-making and policy is greatly needed in the Pan-European region, and there is a strong policy imperative to do so as well. Accounting and mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services is echoed in: Action 7 of the Pan-European 2020 Strategy for Biodiversity, where TEEB¹ is recommended to account for natural capital and ecosystem services for decision making; the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, in particular Targets 1, 2 and 4 under Strategic goal A²; the final statement given by the CEE Region

¹ *"The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB): 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."*

² *Target 1 "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."; Target 2 "By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into*

to the CBD COP 11 (Annex 2); and, Article 2 of the European Union's 7th Environment Action Programme (EAP) proposal "Living well, within the limits of our planet" where five³ of the nine objectives clearly relate to and follow natural capital and ecosystem services valuation in public policy. Additionally, as a means to promote the science-policy interface linked to the value of ecosystem services, the international community, along with UNEP, have established the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) as the leading intergovernmental body for assessing the state of the planet's biodiversity, its ecosystems and the essential services they provide to society. In Pan-Europe, there is a request from countries to build capacity for the better understanding of ecosystem services and their values, and how to integrate these values into policy making.

As a response, the following areas where activities could contribute to this overarching objective have been identified: (i) Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystems and their Services; (ii) thematic biodiversity knowledge mappings; (iii) in-country TEEB-related activities; and (iv) capacity support for the use of market-based instruments.

ECNC Expertise – SEE BAP, Local Biodiversity Action Planning

The SEE BAP project –Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services for Local Sustainable Development in the Western Balkans– is led by ECNC (European Centre for Nature Conservation) in cooperation with REC (Regional Environmental Center). Its aim is to contribute and provide support to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services (BES) in order to integrate BES into municipal planning and decision making to promote development of local businesses (green economy) for the benefit of the local sustainable economic development of rural municipalities and their communities (especially women and vulnerable groups) in the Western Balkans.

A [handbook](#) for developing and resourcing Local Biodiversity Action Plans was produced in six country languages. This handbook was used by the staff of the municipalities, NGOs and community representatives to develop their own plans through community participation. In addition, partner municipalities have received training workshops and close assistance from local and regional experts. At the conference [Biodiversity goes local 2](#), which was held in Albania on September 2013, municipalities shared their experiences. The [SEEBAP website](#) was also presented as a platform for exchange of information.

into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.”; Target 4: 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.

³ “(a) to protect conserve and enhance the Union’s natural capital;(e) to improve the evidence base of environmental policy;

(f) to secure investment for environment and climate policy and get the price right; (g) to improve environmental integration and policy coherence; (h) to enhance the sustainability of the Union’s cities”

Synergies amongst the biodiversity-related MEAs

Encouraging synergies amongst focal points of biodiversity-related Conventions is increasingly recognised as a key mechanism for enhancing countries' capacity to implement global and regional targets^{4,5,6}. Action 3 of the Pan-European 2020 Strategy for Biodiversity calls for further cooperation and synergies amongst MEAs and Conventions in Pan-Europe in order to promote coherent, efficient, and effective implementation of activities. Through capacity building and international collaboration a greater understanding of the Conventions and their interconnectedness will be fostered.

At the 6th Biodiversity in Europe Conference, countries agreed to strengthen Pan-European cooperation and capacity to implement the Pan-European 2020 Strategy for Biodiversity and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 by reinforcing the synergies amongst the six biodiversity-related Conventions – the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Bonn Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (the Bern Convention), the UNESCO World Heritage Convention (WHC) – towards the implementation of the Strategic Plan at national, regional and global level, with the view to support and enhance coordination of national focal points in the following thematic areas: streamlined implementation particularly linked to (i) activities related with IPBES notably on scientific assessments and (ii) harmonizing policy and relevant indicators; (iii) streamlined national reporting; and (iv) resource mobilization.

4. Way forward on regional cooperation in the context of the Pan-European biodiversity platform

The following are a number of actions that are proposed to be undertaken in order to address the three priority objectives for ecosystem management in Pan-Europe, listed above. Work will build on the results of ongoing projects and initiatives and will focus on trans-boundary

⁴ UNEP Governing Council in 2012: *"the importance of enhancing synergies, including at the national and regional levels, among the biodiversity-related conventions, without prejudice to their specific objectives and recognizing their respective mandates, and encourages the conferences of the parties to those conventions to strengthen efforts further in that regard, taking into account relevant experiences."*

⁵ At the fourth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (WGRI-4) in May 2012, Parties agreed to a recommendation which *"urges Parties to further strengthen cooperation and synergy among convention focal points and other partners at the national level to enhance capacity for implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2012"*.

⁶ *"the significant contributions to sustainable development made by the multilateral environmental agreements"* and encourage *"parties to multilateral environmental agreements to consider further measures, in these and other clusters, as appropriate, to promote policy coherence at all relevant levels, improve efficiency, reduce unnecessary overlap and duplication, and enhance coordination and cooperation among the multilateral environmental agreements, including the three Rio conventions, as well as with the United Nations system in the field."*

cooperation amongst the countries of the region. For further information on these projects, including objectives, main activities, partners, and expected outputs, please see Annex 3. Text boxes with key information about ongoing expertise in the region can also be found throughout the document.

4.1 REVISION OF NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS (NBSAPs)

4.1.1 Capacity Building for NBSAP Revision

As stated before, the global Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Targets set a vision for fully valuing and integrating biodiversity into national decision making, and taking concrete actions to reverse biodiversity loss during the next decade. At country level, the primary means of implementing the Strategic Plan is through National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs). Countries in Pan-Europe are currently reviewing their NBSAPs to align with the Strategic Plan. The revision of NBSAPs provides an opportunity for countries and set targets and to develop indicators to measure their progress and to enhance synergies with other

Expertise – Capacity Building for National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)

In 2011, UNEP collaborated with the CBD for Regional Workshops worldwide on updating NBSAPs. The purpose of the workshops was to strengthen national capacities for the development, implementation, review, updating and communication of NBSAPs; to help facilitate national implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020; and to translate the Post-2010 Strategic Plan into national targets and commitments (decision X/2, paragraph 17).

The workshop for Central Asia took place in Istanbul, Turkey, in October 2011. Based on discussions with participating countries, the focus of the workshop was on target setting and indicator development. Participants gained knowledge on the Aichi-Nagoya Outcomes, the review and updating of NBSAPs, setting national targets in the framework of the Strategic Plan and NBSAP revision, strengthening Scientific and Technical Cooperation in the region.

Another source of expertise is the NBSAP Forum which was launched at the CBD COP11 in October 2012, which offer countries support in transforming and implementing their NBSAPs. <http://nbsapforum.net/>

biodiversity-related Conventions. Regional and sub-regional capacity building workshops in Pan-Europe and globally have proven to be effective tools for ensuring that countries set specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and time-bound (SMART) targets and effective indicators and

countries from Pan-Europe have requested such support. This project aims to provide training and support to Pan-European countries in order to build capacity and to promote cross-border collaboration during the NBSAP revision process. Specific trainings will cover: how to promote synergies in NBSAPs; how to integrate ecosystem services and TEEB-related activities in NBSAPs; and how to make the case to decision makers to support NBSAP implementation across sectors.

4.1.2 Support for Biodiversity Monitoring

As countries are in the process of revising their NBSAPs to align with the global Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, support for effective monitoring is also needed. Not only can monitoring be used to paint an accurate picture of biodiversity in the region, it can also help decision makers to assess the effectiveness of policies and actions implemented to meet NBSAPs and national and international targets. In pan-Europe, countries have identified a lack of data as a main constraint for undergoing biodiversity and ecosystem assessments and monitoring. For several countries within pan-Europe, particularly the former Soviet countries, data on the state of biodiversity has not been calculated for more than 20 years. The language of available data is also a complex issue where much of the existing data for the EECCA countries is in Russian and not available in English. This project aims to help reduce this gap of capacity and resources for biodiversity monitoring in order to make data available and to promote the implementation of national and international strategies across the whole Pan-European region.

4.2 ACTIONS TO IMPROVE THE WAY BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES CONCERNS AND REQUIREMENTS ARE REFLECTED IN ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORKS

4.2.1 Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystems and their Services

In order to effectively monitor biodiversity and progress towards national and international targets, policy makers need a thorough picture of where key ecosystems are found, what state they are in, and which ecosystems are at risk from degradation. Furthermore, an assessment of the extent to which their services support the national economy can be a powerful tool for enhancing stakeholder awareness and for the development and implementation of sound policies that take into account the value of nature.

There is a need of a clear and understandable classification system of ecosystems as well as a classification of services, and of the matrix of these two. Namely, the services that are relevant for each ecosystem and the appropriate indicators to measure them. The Pan-European Biodiversity Platform can rely and build up on experiences and the work done by the Common International Classification of Ecosystem Services (CICES) in order to support countries. The guidance provided by the Pan-European Biodiversity Platform should be concrete and operational and be based on the outcome of the processes and initiatives already in place.

The Pan-European Biodiversity Platform recognises the importance of the participation and involvement of different stakeholders in this process. Therefore, scientists and experts from

other disciplines such as social or cultural sciences, as well as economy, will be encouraged to be

CEEweb Expertise – Mapping and Assessing Ecosystem Services (MAES)

CEEweb for Biodiversity provided its expertise to the European Commission's MAES (Mapping and Assessing Ecosystems and their Services) expert group through forming opinions on relevant scientific documents. To aid the MAES process, the European Commission produced a [working paper](#), which sets the policy background of the process and also proposes a typology of ecosystems to be assessed and mapped with the use of the Common International Classification of Ecosystem Services (CICES) worked out for the purpose of environmental accounting. Some of the key issues for the successful implementation of MAES and ecosystem services assessment are adequate data identification and collection as well as the detection and incorporation of synergies among existing and new initiatives. Thus, one of the most important issues is how stakeholders can contribute to data collection and mapping exercises at various levels as well as ecosystem services assessment.

CEEweb also carried out quantitative and qualitative evaluation of ecosystem services in Carpathian grasslands in the framework of the [CarpathCC project](#), which aims to provide in-depth assessments of the vulnerability of the Carpathian region to climate change and establish sustainable adaptation measures. At the event [CEEweb Academy on preserving our natural capital](#) there were sessions dedicated to the mapping and assessing of ecosystems and their services, involving the leading European and CEE national researchers and decision makers of the topic.

included in the process.

Most countries from Pan-Europe recognise this and have planned or are planning to map and assess ecosystems and their services as part of their NBSAPs. However, through interactions with countries, including at the 6th Intergovernmental Biodiversity in Europe Conference in 2013, it is clear that there is a strong desire and need to build capacity and to acquire the necessary resources.

In the CEE Region's Final Statement to the CBD COP 11 in 2012, countries also highlighted the need for continuous cooperation in information sharing and capacity building activities among

Parties in order to draw attention to the prominent role of biodiversity and ecosystem services for social and economic development at sub-national, national, sub-regional, and regional level.⁷

This project will support countries in Pan-Europe to map and assess ecosystems and their services by giving practitioners an overview of different approaches for recognizing, demonstrating, and capturing the values of ecosystems, facilitating an exchange of good practice, and providing sub-regional guidelines (in line with IPBES) that will be tested in pilot sites.

4.2.2 Thematic Biodiversity Knowledge Mapping

Effective integration of the value of biodiversity into economic and development policies requires a strong interface between science and policy; decision makers need scientifically credible, independent, and policy relevant information that takes into account the complex relationships between biodiversity, ecosystem services, and people. At the same time, the scientific community also needs to understand the needs of decision makers better in order to provide them with the key information.

This project will support the development of national biodiversity knowledge mappings. This will include mapping available studies, guidelines, legislation, valuations, and assessments, as well as any relevant capacity building initiatives in order to maximise synergies with ongoing processes and avoid duplication of efforts linked to the valuation of ecosystems and their services.

Once completed, knowledge and capacity building gaps will be identified. These gaps will help to identify what information – in what format – is needed by policy makers to effectively integrate biodiversity and ecosystem services concerns and requirements into economic and development frameworks and policies. This will help inform the planning of capacity building activities including for NBSAP revision and implementation. These country mappings will build on ongoing UNEP studies and lessons from the work of the EU's [Biodiversity Knowledge](#) Project where a mapping of the biodiversity knowledge landscape within the EU was completed.

4.2.3 The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity

In EECCA countries, the concept of ecosystem services is not always easily understood by key sectors, decision makers, and stakeholders. Given country leaders' emphasis on economic development, the best arguments for integrating environment and ecosystem into policies and development frameworks are often economically based.

The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) has emerged as an instrumental tool for integrating ecosystem services into policymaking and ensuring sustainable development within

⁷ See Annex 2

the countries and throughout Pan-Europe. It is an initiative that has gained traction worldwide and has raised the interest of policymakers in biodiversity and ecosystem valuation. It has been widely referenced and has increasingly played a central role in international environmental policy, particularly in the context of the CBD.

At the 6th Biodiversity in Europe Conference, EECCA countries expressed their desire to undergo both in-country and sub-regional TEEB studies. For this project, it will be needed to provide capacity building and technical support for countries to develop roadmaps for mainstreaming recognition and valuation of nature into decision-making.

4.2.4 Capacity support for the use of market-based instruments & Policy making

UNEP Expertise - TEEB

[The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity \(TEEB\)](#) is a global initiative focused on drawing attention to the benefits of biodiversity. Its objective is to highlight the growing cost of biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation. TEEB presents an approach that can help decision-makers recognize, demonstrate and capture the values of ecosystems & biodiversity, including how to incorporate these values into decision-making. They have a suite of tools and publications available and have recently completed an Ecosystem Valuation Pilot Study (focus on mining) in Armenia and a TEEB Scoping Study in Georgia.

The [TEEB Georgia scoping study](#) identifies five core sectors of Georgian economy applicable for the TEEB Initiative; these are Energy, Tourism, Agriculture, Mining, and Forestry. The study highlights the substantial dependence of these driving forces of Georgian economy on natural capital and the services it provides. Thus the study is an important step forward in valuing natural capital; though it necessarily needs to be followed by a full TEEB National Study to ensure the sustainability of the country's commitment towards demonstration of strong relationship between economy and environment, and the integration of value of natural capital into national economic policies.

Experiences and lessons learned from this scoping study were shared at the 6th Biodiversity in Europe Conference, sparking interest from other countries in the region who expressed their wish to undergo national TEEB study.

The behaviour of companies, nations, and citizens is strongly influenced by the prices they pay for goods and services. A range of different Market-Based Instruments (MBIs) can play an important role in integrating the costs associated with such loss of value into decision making and consequently influencing the behaviour of citizens and companies. Examples include Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) and the establishment of liability regimes (TEEB, 2011).

Using essential data and outputs from mapping and assessment of ecosystems and their services (project 4.2.1), country biodiversity knowledge mappings (project 4.2.2), and TEEB (project 4.2.3), this project will provide capacity building and technical support for countries to apply economic instruments. PES feasibility studies will also be undertaken in key pilot sights, with a special emphasis on trans-boundary river basins, supporting the work of the EU Water Initiative (EUWI), and particularly that of the EECCA Working Group.

4.3 ACTIONS TO PROMOTE SYNERGIES AMONGST THE BIODIVERSITY-RELATED MEAS

4.3.1 Streamlined Implementation

Supporting the implementation of the global Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, the Pan-European 2020 Strategy for Biodiversity requires concrete activities. At the same time, activities are also being planned in order to contribute to meeting other national and international strategies and policies. In order to avoid duplication of efforts, to streamline implementation of NBSAPs, and to promote synergies amongst the biodiversity-related Conventions, key stakeholders and planners need to be aware of ongoing and planned activities, and efforts should be made to coordinate future activities.

For this project, technical support will be provided as well as bringing together and facilitating lessons learning and capacity for cooperative and collaborative planning of activities. Furthermore, using the Pan-European Biodiversity Platform, the project will facilitate the exchange of information on key activities amongst national focal points and other stakeholders, and will support the implementation and monitoring of joint activities.

4.3.2 Streamlined Reporting for Obligations under MEAs and Conventions

In order to reduce the burden countries face for reporting on progress to multiple Conventions, a better understanding of the objectives and targets of the different MEAs is essential. This will allow responsible officials to identify commonalities and actions that could potentially contribute to a number of targets or objectives under different Conventions and national strategies.

Effective communication amongst the different MEA focal points and key stakeholders is, therefore, needed; improved awareness about the different biodiversity-related activities and joint implementation in the region will significantly contribute to streamline reporting. In the context of this project, national capacity building workshops will be organized to help countries to understand the links between different targets found in NBSAPs, MEAs, and national policies such as sustainable development or water management strategies.

Strategic Plan for IUCN in South-Eastern Europe

The IUCN Strategic Plan for South-Eastern Europe (SEE) is aimed at defining mid-term Strategic Directions for IUCN by 2020 and programme priorities for the period 2013–2016. The plan stems from a broad consultation process including the IUCN Secretariat, IUCN Members and Commissions, and partners in SEE and beyond, and is closely linked with the IUCN Programme 2013–2016.

The overall objective of IUCN in South-Eastern Europe is to work towards the long-term protection of biodiversity and the sustainable use of natural resources. Stemming from this, six mid-term Strategic Directions have been defined, the first three of which are thematic and the remaining three are cross-cutting issues. The six mid-term.

Strategic Directions to 2020 are as follows:

- Protected areas;
- Species conservation;
- Sustainable ecosystem management;
- Policy influencing;
- Capacity development;
- Strengthening the Union.

5. Annexes

ANNEX 1



**The Pan-European Biodiversity Platform
Outcome of the 6th Biodiversity in Europe conference
Batumi, Georgia, 15-18 April 2013**

Participants of the 6th Biodiversity in Europe Conference, held in Batumi, Georgia from 15 to 18 April 2013

recognizing that Pan-European cooperation on and coordination of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems can contribute substantially to achieving the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, including the Aichi Targets, at national, sub-regional, and Pan-European levels

confirming a commitment to continue regional cooperation on the above, taking into account the Pan-European 2020 Strategy for Biodiversity (Geneva, Switzerland, 2011) and other relevant bilateral and regional cooperation initiatives at Pan-European level

stressing the importance of sharing experience, expertise, and learning from each other at a Pan-European scale

emphasizing the critical role of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) initiative, as well as other global biodiversity processes and initiatives for the region

emphasizing the importance of enhancing regional consultation on issues of mutual interest in support of Pan-European biodiversity objectives at global level

recognizing the value of inclusive and constructive dialogue and cooperation between governments and stakeholders, including NGOs, academia, and business,

1. *decided* to establish the Pan-European Biodiversity Platform, as a follow-up to the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS), to implement the Pan-European 2020 Strategy for Biodiversity
2. *decided* to set up a Steering Committee that will lead the process:
 - this structure is to be led by the Chair and will be open to the membership of official representatives of governments and regional economic integration organizations, and to the involvement of NGOs, academia, and businesses, reflecting sub-regional balance

- members of this Steering Committee are to actively contribute, financially and/or in-kind, to the Platform
 - members are to meet virtually or back to back with other events and a first meeting of the Steering Committee is to take place in 2013
3. *decided* that the Steering Committee is tasked with:
- developing a work programme, building upon existing efforts across the regions with a view to enhance consistency and effectiveness, and identifying a limited number of priority themes for Pan-European cooperation, reviewing them periodically
 - setting-up, where needed and depending on the availability of funding, thematic working groups to address these priority themes
 - facilitating cooperation on the implementation of the Pan-European 2020 Strategy for Biodiversity through concrete project activities in the region, learning from each other through the exchange of experience and expertise, (including preparation to and implementation of biodiversity-related MEA COP decisions, work on indicators, NBSAPs, etc.)
 - facilitating the mobilisation of resources for the implementation of the Pan-European 2020 Strategy for Biodiversity
 - supporting synergies for biodiversity-related MEA implementation and reporting in the region, and inviting representation from the Secretariats of biodiversity-related MEAs
 - engaging stakeholders (including NGOs, academia, and businesses) to cooperate in the framework of the Platform
 - ensuring active and timely communication of the results and achievements of Pan-European cooperation
 - organising regular Biodiversity in Europe conferences
4. *encouraged* UNEP to provide the Secretariat services for the Platform, to support the implementation of UNEP Governing Council Decisions UNEP/GC/27/2⁸ and UNEP/GCSS.XII/3⁹.
5. *requested* the Steering Committee to decide on the desired way to encourage formalised support for the Secretariat, be it through a submission to the next United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) of UNEP in 2014, direct request to UNEP, or through other means.

⁸ UNEP/GC/27/2 paragraphs 14 and 15

⁹ UNEP/GCSS.XII/3 paragraphs 1 and 2

ANNEX 2 - FINAL STATEMENT BY THE CEE REGION TO THE CBD COP 11, 8-19 OCTOBER, 2012

Mr Chairman,

Distinguished Delegates,

On behalf of the countries of the CEE Region, allow me to express our deepest gratitude to the Government of India and to fellow delegates for the great success achieved during the COP 11.

We are pleased with the good spirit of coordination and cooperation among all parties during the meeting and working groups I and II, as well as with the considerable progress achieved in the field of resource mobilization, sustainable use of biological resources (including wildlife), marine biodiversity, cooperation with other international organizations, as well as with the new platform for biodiversity and ecosystems services and the work on climate change adaptation and mitigation.

We would like to emphasise the development of further cooperation between countries at regional and global level in line with Rio+ 20 and with the Pan-European 2020 Strategy for Biodiversity. The CEE Region is especially interested in developing new initiatives for ecosystems restoration, in particular through the Green Bridge initiative.

We would also like to highlight the importance of TEEB studies at national level, which draws attention to the prominent role of biodiversity and ecosystems services for social and economic development at national and regional level. There is, therefore, a need for continuous cooperation in information-sharing and capacity building activities among Parties in this field.

During the next inter-sessional period, the CEE Regions pledges to contribute effectively to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2020 and towards the achievement of its Aichi targets, especially in the field of reviewing and updating NBSAPs and their implementation.

We appreciate support provided to the representatives of many parties from the CEE Region (not including EU member countries) which allowed for their participation in the COP and in all inter-sessional meetings. We would like to underline that this support is often the only possibility for many parties from the CEE Region to have consultations at regional level.

For future COPs and inter-sessional meetings, however, we would appreciate improved quality of translation in the Russian language – both oral translations during the sessions, as well as written translation of documents – in order to ensure even more fruitful participation of our representatives.

To conclude, we would like to thank the Presidency of India for the successful organization of COP 11 and the CBD Secretariat for providing great organization and support to this very important meeting, as well as the Government of Japan for its support and strong involvement during the past two years since COP10 in Nagoya.

Finally, we wish to express our appreciation to the people of India for their hospitality and friendship and to all donors who supported our participation at this meeting.

Thank you very much for your attention.

Annex 3 - Suggested project concept notes (status January 2014)

The following are a guiding examples to develop concept notes and project proposals. They have been agreed as fitting into the programme of work (2014-2017) and covering the scope of interventions needed to deliver the objectives and priorities of the Pan-European 2020 Biodiversity Strategy. It is not a closed set of options as it may include further relevant suggestions.

4.1 REVISION OF NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS (NBSAPs)

4.1.1 Capacity Building for NBSAP Revision

The global Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Targets set a vision for fully valuing and integrating biodiversity into national decision making, and taking concrete actions to reverse biodiversity loss during the next decade. At country level, the primary means of implementing the Strategic Plan is through National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs). Countries in Pan-Europe are currently reviewing their NBSAPs to align with the Strategic Plan. The revision of NBSAPs provides an opportunity for countries to set targets and to develop indicators to measure their progress and to enhance synergies with other biodiversity-related Conventions. Regional and sub-regional capacity building workshops in Pan-Europe and globally have proven to be effective tools for ensuring that countries set specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and time-bound (SMART) targets and effective. This project aims to provide training and support to countries in order to build capacity and to promote cross-border collaboration during the NBSAP revision process. Specific trainings will cover: how to promote synergies in NBSAPs; how to integrate ecosystem services and TEEB-related activities in NBSAPs; and how to make the case to decision makers to support NBSAP implementation across sectors.

Objective:

The main objective of this action is to strengthen NBSAP implementation through improved MEA synergies, cross-border cooperation, and effective indicators. The sharing of lessons learned will be facilitated and capacity from pan-Europe, and around the world will be built on to contribute to a Pan-European project on indicator development that is being planned for the region.

Expected Outputs:

Outputs will include: a collection of sub-regional targets and indicators that correspond with national needs and priorities; a synthesis report for the region that documents the process of (sub-) regional cooperation to provide lessons to other regions; and workshop training materials and reports.

Main Activities:

- Identification of key institutions and organisations within the region and sub-region to collaborate on the project in the revision and implementation of NBSAPs; provide

- training on the principles of NBSAPs including indicator development (on the job training of indicator facilitators). Results of this activity will build on and feed into the Thematic Biodiversity Knowledge Mapping (activity 4.2.2).
- Sub-regional scoping workshops for biodiversity MEA focal points and NBSAP implementing agencies will be organized to: 1) Review the current state of play regarding revision and implementation of NBSAPs; 2) Identify regional overlaps in NBSAP priorities and targets; 3) Identify other reporting needs and requirements for NBSAPs, including a focus on synergies; and 4) Make the case to decision makers for NBSAP implementation.
 - Identification of common Pan-European biodiversity targets that address common priorities in NBSAPs in order to facilitate indicator development, monitoring, and produce calculation protocols. Results of this activity will contribute to activity 4.1.2 (Support for Biodiversity Monitoring) and activity 4.3.2 (Streamlined Reporting).
 - Sub-regional capacity building workshop to: 1) Review and generate buy-in for suggested NBSAP implementation and data requirements and limitations, and 2) Build capacity to support NBSAP implementation and reporting. Answering to requests from countries, capacity building will include specific trainings on (i) Promoting Synergies through NBSAPs – contributing to objective 4.3, and (ii) Integrating Ecosystem Services and TEEB-related activities into NBSAPs, contributing to objective 4.2.
 - Development of a synthesis report for the region that documents the process of (sub-) regional cooperation to provide lessons to other regions.
 - In-country and on-line technical support in NBSAP revision, monitoring systems, and harmonization of MEA reporting, for NBSAP implementation.

Beneficiary:

The primary target of this action will be national ministries of environment and agencies or bodies responsible for NBSAP revision and implementation. Secondary beneficiaries will include MEA National Focal Points, ministries from other sectors, and local NGOs.

4.1.2 Support for Biodiversity Monitoring

As countries are in the process of revising their NBSAPs to align with the global Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, support for effective monitoring is also needed. Not only can monitoring be used to paint an accurate picture of biodiversity in the region, it can also help decision makers to assess the effectiveness of policies and actions implemented to meet NBSAPs and national and international targets. In Pan-Europe, countries have identified a lack of data as a main constraint for undergoing biodiversity and ecosystem assessments and monitoring. For several countries within Pan-Europe, particularly the former Soviet countries, data on the state of biodiversity has not been calculated for more than 20 years. The language of available data is also a complex issue where much of the existing data for the EECCA countries is in Russian and not available in English. This project aims to help reduce this gap of capacity and resources for biodiversity monitoring in order to make data available and to promote the implementation of national and international strategies across the whole Pan-European region.

Objective:

The main objective of this activity is to make data available to measure progress towards meeting national and international targets. This will be achieved by strengthening the capacity

of countries to streamline and/or develop their national monitoring systems, contributing also to streamlined reporting to the biodiversity-related MEAs (4.3.2).

Outputs:

Outputs will include a collection of good practice of streamlined monitoring from the region that will be shared within the Pan-European Biodiversity Platform. Data from monitoring will also contribute to activities linked to mapping and assessment of ecosystem services (activity 4.2.1).

Main Activities:

- Supporting the development of National Biodiversity Monitoring Systems (NBMS) through capacity building workshops and technical support
- Identification of a number of priority areas at high risk of biodiversity loss, for the implementation of NBMSs in collaboration with governments, NGOs and local governments
- Capacity building and technical support provided for pilot countries to monitor one or more national target(s) based on priority areas identified above. This activity will follow a multi-stakeholder approach, gathering key data providers identified in activity 4.2.2 with government officials responsible for reporting.

Beneficiary:

The primary target of this action will be government ministries of environment and national agencies responsible for biodiversity monitoring and reporting. Secondary beneficiaries will include ministries from other sectors and local NGOs.

4.2 ACTIONS TO IMPROVE THE WAY BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES CONCERNS AND REQUIREMENTS ARE REFLECTED IN ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORKS

4.2.1 Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystems and their Services

In order to effectively monitor biodiversity and progress towards national and international targets, policy makers need a thorough picture of where key ecosystems are found, what state they are in, and which ecosystems are at risk from degradation. Furthermore, an assessment of the extent to which their services support the national economy can be a powerful tool for enhancing stakeholder awareness and for the development and implementation of sound policies that take into account the value of nature. Most countries from Pan-Europe, recognise this and have planned or are planning to map and assess ecosystems and their services as part of their NBSAPs. However, through UNEP's interactions with countries, including at the 6th Intergovernmental Biodiversity in Europe Conference in 2013, it is clear that there is strong desire and need to build capacity and to acquire the necessary resources. In the CEE Region's Final Statement to the CBD COP 11 in 2012, countries also highlighted the need for continuous cooperation in information sharing and capacity building activities among Parties in order to draw attention to the prominent role of biodiversity and ecosystem services for social and economic development at sub-national, national, sub-regional, and regional level.¹⁰ This project will support countries to map and assess ecosystems and their services by giving practitioners an overview of different approaches for recognizing, demonstrating, and capturing the values of

¹⁰ See Annex 2

ecosystems, facilitating an exchange of good practice, and providing sub-regional guidelines (in line with IPBES) that will be tested in pilot sites.

Objective:

The main objective of this activity is capacity building and technical support to conduct mapping and assessments of ecosystem services that support the national economy and at risk of degradation and development pressures. Mapping and assessments of ecosystems and their services will both contribute to and build on the biodiversity knowledge mapping (activity 4.2.2). Combined, these two activities provide the foundation for improving how biodiversity and ecosystem services are reflected in different policies and the basis for in-country TEEB initiatives and support for the use market-based instruments (activities 4.2.3 and 4.2.4). They will also support monitoring activities (activity 4.1.2), the effective and synergistic implementation of NBSAPs (activity 4.3.1) and streamlined reporting (activity 4.3.2).

Expected Outputs:

Outputs will include: sub-regional guidelines for the mapping and assessment of ecosystems and their services, including their integration into local, national, and transboundary decision making; assessments supported by transboundary pilot activities, and; including of assessments into IPBES and Sub-Global Assessment Network databases.

Main Activities:

- Identification and engagement of key stakeholders including civil society, NGOs, academic institutes, government officials from key sectors, businesses, etc.
- Stakeholder workshop and training in English and Russian: on (i) the importance of mapping and assessment as well as the value of nature in decision making for development; (ii) initiatives and best practices; (iii) the MAES and TEEB approaches for recognizing, demonstrating and capturing values; and (iv) communicating results and integrating them into policy making and reporting. Trainings will take place at sub-regional level and at test sites.
- Development and publication of sub-regional guidelines for the mapping and assessment of ecosystems and their services including their integration into local, national, and transboundary decision making. These guidelines, published in English and Russian, will build on existing guidelines, including those developed through the IPBES and the EU's Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystem Services Working Group, but will be tailored to specific countries to include local case studies and the results of the project activities, and how case studies can be linked to reporting towards the biodiversity-related Conventions.
- Transboundary pilot assessments where guidelines will be tested and refined

Beneficiaries:

The primary target of this action will be government ministries of environment and national agencies responsible for biodiversity monitoring, assessment and reporting. Secondary beneficiaries will include ministries from other sectors, and key stakeholders including civil society, NGOs, academic institutes, government officials from key sectors, and businesses.

4.2.2 Thematic Biodiversity Knowledge Mapping

Effective integration of the value of biodiversity into economic and development policies requires a strong interface between science and policy; decision makers need scientifically credible, independent, and policy relevant information that takes into account the complex relationships between biodiversity, ecosystem services, and people. At the same time, the scientific community also needs to understand the needs of decision makers better in order to provide them with the key information. This project will support the development of national biodiversity knowledge mappings. This will include mapping available studies, guidelines, legislation, valuations, and assessments, as well as any relevant capacity building initiatives in order to maximise synergies with ongoing processes and avoid duplication of efforts linked to the valuation of ecosystems and their services. Once completed, knowledge and capacity building gaps will be identified. These gaps will help to identify what information – in what format – is needed by policy makers to effectively integrate biodiversity and ecosystem services concerns and requirements into economic and development frameworks and policies. This will help inform the planning of capacity building activities including for NBSAP revision and implementation. These country mappings will build on ongoing UNEP studies and lessons from the work of the EU's [Biodiversity Knowledge](#) Project where a mapping of the biodiversity knowledge landscape within the EU was completed.

Objective:

The main objective of this activity complete thorough country mappings of available knowledge linked to ecosystems and their services. This biodiversity knowledge mapping will ensure that all activities linked to ecosystem management in the region have maximum impact and relevance. Results will both draw on and contribute to networking activities linked to the IPBES process (particularly Objectives 1 and 5 of the draft Work Programme 2014-2018). It will also help inform the planning of capacity building activities for NBSAPs (activity 4.1.1).

Expected Outputs:

Outputs will include national biodiversity knowledge mappings for each county selected. These mappings will be made available online in both English and Russian.

Main Activities:

- Engage with the EU's Biodiversity Knowledge Project for lessons learned and results of their Network of Knowledge.
- Engage with IPBES, the Sub-Global Assessment Network and other regional and thematic networks – both for information gathering and sharing.
- Develop national biodiversity knowledge mappings (in Russian and English) and make them accessible on-line on the Pan-European Biodiversity Platform website. This mapping will build on UNEP-ROE scoping of studies and examples of valuation of ecosystem services for Pan-European countries, including inventory of case studies/good practice drawing also from Pan-European experiences.
- Identification of knowledge gaps
- Possibility of expanding the national biodiversity knowledge mapping and network at a sub-regional level with national mapping taking place in parallel in the Western Balkans, Eastern Europe, Caucasus, and Central Asia, and linking them up to complete a unique Pan-European mapping.

Beneficiary:

The primary target of this action will be government ministries of environment and national agencies responsible for biodiversity monitoring and reporting. Secondary beneficiaries will include ministries from other sectors and local NGOs.

4.2.3 The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity

In Pan-Europe, the concept of ecosystem services is not always easily understood by key sectors, decision makers, and stakeholders. Given country leaders' emphasis on economic development, the best arguments for integrating environment and ecosystem into policies and development frameworks are often economically based. The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) has emerged as an instrumental tool for integrating ecosystem services into policymaking and ensuring sustainable development within the countries and throughout Pan-Europe. It is an initiative that has gained traction worldwide and has raised the interest of policymakers in biodiversity and ecosystem valuation. It has been widely referenced and has increasingly played a central role in international environmental policy, particularly in the context of the CBD. At the 6th Biodiversity in Europe Conference, Pan-European countries expressed their desire to undergo both in-country and sub-regional TEEB studies. For this project, UNEP, hosts of the TEEB Secretariat, and partners involved will provide capacity building and technical support in order for countries to develop roadmaps for mainstreaming recognition and valuation of nature into decision-making.

Objective:

The main objective of this activity is to develop country-specific roadmaps for mainstreaming recognition and valuation of nature into decision-making, with the possibility of later developing sub-regional roadmaps. This activity will work at two levels: first, to bring robust data on natural capital and ecosystem services to feed into decision making; and second, to build capacity at decision making levels to incorporate this data meaningfully. This will be achieved through the following activities

Expected Outputs:

The outputs include natural capital reports; capacity building training materials and workshop reports, and; country implementation plans. Outputs and activities will build on the results of the activities linked to the mapping and assessment of ecosystem services and biodiversity knowledge mapping under 4.2.1 and 4.2.2, and contributing to work in activity 4.2.4.

Main Activities:

- Development of **Natural capital report(s)** for country/test sites. These reports will value ecosystem services that are policy relevant and will provide recommendations for mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services in public policy. The reports will follow the approach used for accomplishing a TEEB study found in *TEEB in Local and Regional Policy and Management, 2012*. The scoping phase will use the foundation provided by activities 4.2.1 and 4.2.2 above.
- Capacity building and training for national partners on (i) the importance of valuation outcomes in decision making for development; (ii) up-to-date overview of initiatives and best practices in natural capital and ecosystem services valuation; (iii) "TEEB approach" of recognizing, demonstrating, and capturing value; and (iii) implementing TEEB in policymaking. **Training sessions** will be organized on the margins of national and

international project workshops and other events where relevant and will be held in English and Russian. This capacity building will include training on integrating TEEB and ecosystem services in NBSAPs (activity 4.1.1).

- Development of an **implementation plan** for ‘capturing the value’ of biodiversity and ecosystem services both for the countries and in the sub-region. Such a plan may include an introduction of mechanisms that incorporate values of ecosystems into decision-making, notably through appropriate policy design and evaluation processes, integration of ecosystem services values into reporting and accounting, and through incentives and price signals (including payments for ecosystem services, reforming environmentally harmful subsidies, introducing tax breaks for conservation, or creating new markets for sustainably produced goods and ecosystem services). In this sense, the plan can be seen as directly contributing to Target 3 of the CBD Strategic Plan 2011-2020. The Plan will be accompanied by an outline of costs and benefits of implementation, which will ensure the design and application of cost-effective policy instruments. Indeed, one of the key challenges associated with the design of such plans is to ensure that they are done in such a way as they have a real chance of being implemented.

Beneficiary:

The primary target of this action will be government ministries of environment and national agencies responsible for biodiversity monitoring and reporting. Secondary beneficiaries will include ministries from other sectors, and key stakeholders including civil society, NGOs, academic institutes, government officials from key sectors, and businesses.

4.2.4 Capacity Support for the Use of Market-Based Instruments & Policy Making

The behaviour of companies, nations, and citizens is strongly influenced by the prices they pay for goods and services. A range of different Market-Based Instruments (MBIs) can play an important role in integrating the costs associated with such loss of value into decision making and consequently influencing the behaviour of citizens and companies. Examples include Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) and the establishment of liability regimes (TEEB, 2011). Using essential data and outputs from mapping and assessment of ecosystems and their services (project 4.2.1), country biodiversity knowledge mappings (project 4.2.2), and TEEB (project 4.2.3), this project will provide capacity building and technical support for countries to apply economic instruments. PES feasibility studies will also be undertaken in key pilot sites, with a special emphasis on transboundary river basins, supporting the work of the EU Water Initiative (EUWI), and particularly that of the EECCA Working Group.

Objective:

The main objective of this activity is to provide capacity building and technical support for the use of market-based instruments in key pilot sites in Central Asia.

Expected Outputs:

Outputs will include PES feasibility studies (in English and Russian) and workshop training materials and reports (in English and Russian).

Main Activities:

- Undertaking PES feasibility studies in Pan-European countries and/or transboundary river basin, building on the methodologies and lessons learned from other feasibility studies from Pan-Europe, including the UNEP-led study in Armenia. The selection of test site, the identification of key stakeholders, the values of ecosystem services that will be integrated into these instruments, and improved buy-in from policy makers needed to support such activities will rely heavily on the results of activities 4.2.1-4.2.3.
- Capacity building workshops on how economic instruments can be applied at national and sub-national level in order to effectively address transboundary water management issues as well as how to improve trans-boundary cooperation will be highlighted. PES pilot activities will build on the results and methodologies of existing projects including the PES project for the Razdan river basin, implemented in 2010-2011 with the support from the Government of Switzerland through UNECE. Furthermore, it will build on results of the Mainstreaming Ecosystem Services into the Sectoral and Macroeconomic Policies and Programmes of Countries project where a pilot study will be undertaken in Kazakhstan (see box below).
- Capacity building workshops and technical support for the establishment of liability regimes which include damage to national and regional water and biodiversity objectives. Such a regime could be designed in line with EU legislation and would provide strong incentive to preserve ecosystems and their services linked to freshwater.

Beneficiary:

The primary target of this action will be local and/or transboundary communities where market-based instruments will be used to support sustainable development. Secondary beneficiaries will include ministries of environment and national agencies responsible for biodiversity, ministries from other sectors, and key stakeholders including civil society, NGOs, academic institutes, government officials from key sectors, and businesses.

4.3 ACTIONS TO PROMOTE SYNERGIES AMONGST THE BIODIVERSITY-RELATED MEAS

4.3.1 Streamlined Implementation

Supporting the implementation of the global Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, the Pan-European 2020 Strategy for Biodiversity requires concrete activities. At the same time, activities are also being planned in order to contribute to meeting other national and international strategies and policies. In order to avoid duplication of efforts, to streamline implementation of NBSAPs, and to promote synergies amongst the biodiversity-related Conventions, key stakeholders and planners need to be aware of ongoing and planned activities, and efforts should be made to coordinate future activities. For this project, UNEP and partners will provide technical support and bring together and facilitate lessons learning and capacity for cooperative and collaborative planning of activities. Furthermore, using UNEP and partners' strong regional networks and the Pan-European Biodiversity Platform, the project will facilitate the exchange of information on key activities amongst national focal points and other stakeholders, and will support the implementation and monitoring of joint activities.

Objective:

The main objective of this activity is to bring together stakeholders, governments and sub-national authorities to jointly implement biodiversity-related activities and define how government authorities and other stakeholders can work together in a coherent manner. This

objective will be supported by activities found under 4.3.1 (Streamlined Implementation of NBSAPs). Furthermore, we will ensure that for all activities found in this paper, MEA national focal points are either involved or aware of work being undertaken.

Expected Outputs:

Outputs will include updated information on ongoing and planned activities that will contribute to the implementation of biodiversity-related and other Conventions.

Main Activities:

- Providing a platform for National focal points and key stakeholders to easily inform each other about ongoing or planned activities
- Building capacity for cooperative and collaborative planning of activities, including through the identification of common targets and objectives
- Supporting the implementation of joint activities that address common targets
- Supporting joint monitoring of these activities

Beneficiary:

The primary target of this action will be government ministries of environment and national agencies responsible for biodiversity monitoring and reporting as well as National Focal points for Conventions. Secondary beneficiaries will include ministries from other sectors and local NGOs.

4.3.2 Streamlined Reporting for Obligations under MEAs and Conventions

In order to reduce the burden countries face for reporting on progress to multiple Conventions, a better understanding of the objectives and targets of the different MEAs is essential. This will allow responsible officials to identify commonalities and actions that could potentially contribute to a number of targets or objectives under different Conventions and national strategies. Effective communication amongst the different MEA focal points and key stakeholders is, therefore, needed; improved awareness about the different biodiversity-related activities and joint implementation in the region will significantly contribute to streamline reporting. In the context of this project, national capacity building workshops will be organized to help countries within Pan-Europe to understand the links between different targets found in NBSAP's, MEAs, and national policies such as sustainable development or water management strategies.

The outcomes of Activity 4.3.1 on streamlined implementation, above, provide the necessary foundation to achieve this. Furthermore, activities will build on the results of the mapping and assessment of ecosystems and their services (4.2.1) and the Thematic Biodiversity Knowledge Mappings (4.2.2) and will support objectives 3.1.2 on Monitoring for NBSAPs. Furthermore, this project will contribute to Action 5 of the Pan-European 2020 Strategy for Biodiversity which calls for support for streamlined reporting to MEAs.

Objective:

The main objective of this activity is to improve collaboration between the national focal points to the different Conventions, agencies, and stakeholders involved to minimize the reporting burden. 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.

Expected Outputs:

Outputs will include the organisation of capacity building workshops, and the development training materials and workshop reports (in English and Russian).

Main Activities:

- Capacity building to improve the understanding that reporting should be an output and a byproduct of ongoing implementation. This will ensure: (i) that reporting is embedded in efforts to improve national information management and implementation; (ii) better understanding of the objectives and targets of the different MEAs and their connectedness; (iii) an understanding the MEA reporting processes, and; (iv) how collaboration between relevant actors will contribute to a harmonised and streamlined reporting process.
- National workshops to identify key links between targets found in NBSAPs, biodiversity-related and the Rio Convention, and other national policies (including Sustainable Development Strategies).

Beneficiary:

The primary target of this action will be government ministries of environment and national agencies responsible for biodiversity monitoring and reporting. Secondary beneficiaries will include ministries from other sectors and local NGOs.

Annex 4 – Other project initiatives

Innovative ideas and defining the Pan-European Biodiversity Platform's niches in the international initiatives would strengthen the Platform's main targets and future work. Therefore, the following project ideas –proposed by the European ECO-Forum–, could be considered:

1. *Monetary assessment of biodiversity*

The monetary assessment of biodiversity is mainly skipped in the methodology of the ecosystem services assessment, including by The Economics of Ecosystems and its Services (TEEB) excepting case studies that evaluate secondary benefits from biodiversity (e.g. through recreation). The main objective of this project is to define how to link territorial support to biodiversity values – one of the major ecosystem services – through economic assessments.

This project proposes to associate (1) relative measuring of the biodiversity (as the evaluation system of the National Ecological Network of Moldova does) with (2) virtual economic values and (3) to consider this option in wider context.

Being replicable, the expected results would bring solutions to one of the key methodological problems in ecosystem services assessment: to be understandable for many stakeholders, not only economists.

Potential partners: UNEP, BIOTICA Ecological Society on behalf of Biodiversity Issue Group of European ECO-Forum.

2. *Sharing experiences and promoting the coherent methodology development for the Pan-European Ecological Network*

The evaluation system of the National Ecological Network of Moldova was adapted and successfully tested for Chernivetska oblast of Ukraine. It incorporates the original figured criteria and adjustments as well as appropriate elements of NATURA 2000 methodology.

There is some experience in adaptation / selection of NATURA 2000 methodology elements in Belarus, Ukraine and maybe in other regions. Other experiences relate to WWF's Group of Experts for Protected Areas and Ecological Networks, which consists of governmental representatives, a few experts from the European Union (EU) and some from EECCA. The Group has no real function of experience sharing and knowledge distribution. Relevant expert groups of EECCA are been changing and losing contacts.

The project proposal is to support expert groups of EECCA and other regions in biodiversity assessment, planning issues and other matters under the Biodiversity Platform umbrella, as well as putting forward cooperation and methodology development.

Project results may include a renewed network of experts from EECCA (and the EU), generalized experience and recommendations as well as results of probable pilot elaboration and study.

Potential partners: Biodiversity Issue Group of the European ECO-Forum (hosted by BIOTICA ES), interested governments, WWF.

3. ***Experience sharing and development of methodology for evaluation of ecosystem resistance / resilience (biodiversity-related issues) in the context of climate change***

In spite of many provisions in different international legislation and some scientific and practical advances, this item is still low developed and remains rather a black box for different specialists and governmental experts. At the same time revealing of weak places and centers of relative stability of biodiversity at face of changing and anticipated climate is an unavoidable task for biodiversity conservation in planning and implementation.

The project proposal is to organize a work group, summarize existent knowledge and advances, and put forward methodology to be used by governments and other stakeholders.

Project results may include created network of experts from Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) and EU, generalized experience, results of pilot study and recommendations for governments.

Potential partners: IUCN, Biodiversity Issue Group of the European ECO-Forum, interested governments, WWF.

4. ***High Nature Value farmland for low-income Europe***

Since the elaboration of the High Nature Value Farmland (HNVF) vision for Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA), that UNEP ROE and the European ECO-Forum Biodiversity Group successfully reported at the Belgrade Conference 2007, nothing has been done in this field of sustainability building in the countries, economic and information capabilities that prevent following the EU model in HNVF policies.

The vision elaborated for EECCA is applicable especially on the background of scarce resources and underdeveloped specialized information systems but it needs promotion and legal development.

This project proposes to promote the notion of HNVF; study current conditions for implementation, including market environment; discuss with governments of the Pan-European Biodiversity Platform options for implementation step by step; and decide on perspectives, especially legal ones.

Project results will include a clear vision on one of the most important perspectives for conservation of wild agricultural biodiversity.

Potential partners: UNEP, Biodiversity Issue Group of European ECO-Forum, CEEweb for Biodiversity, interested governments.