

Regional Capacity Development Workshop for Europe on National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and Mainstreaming of Biodiversity

International Academy for Nature Conservation Isle of Vilm, Germany,
April 26 – May 1, 2008

REPORT OF THE WORKSHOP



Convention on
Biological Diversity



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Abbreviations and acronyms

BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan
BARS	Biodiversity Action and Reporting System (UK)
BfN	Bundesamt für Naturschutz (Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, Germany)
BRAG	Biodiversity Research Advisory Group (UK)
BRAP	Biodiversity Research Action Plan (EU)
BRIG	Biodiversity Reporting & Information Group (UK)
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CEPA	Global Initiative on Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CBD, UNESCO)
CHM	Clearing-House Mechanism
CMS	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
COP	Conference of the Parties
DESD	United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (UNESCO)
EC	European Community
ECNC	European Centre for Nature Conservation
EEA	European Environment Agency
EPBRs	European Platform for Biodiversity Research Strategy
EU	European Union
GEF	Global Environment Facility
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee (UK)
LBAP	Local Biodiversity Action Plan (UK)
MEPA	Malta Environment & Planning Authority
MoE	Ministry of the Environment
NBCP	National Biodiversity Conservation Plan (Bulgaria)
NBN	National Biodiversity Network (UK)
NBS	National Biodiversity Strategy
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NCSA	National Capacity Self Assessment
NEP	National Environment Programme (Hungary)
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
PA	Protected Area
PEBLDS	Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy
SCBD	Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
SEBI2010	Streamlining European 2010 Biodiversity Indicators
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UK	United Kingdom
WCMC	World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP)
WGRI	Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the CBD
WRI	World Resources Institute
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development

Executive Summary

1. The Regional Capacity Development Workshop for Europe on National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and the Mainstreaming of Biodiversity was held at the International Academy for Nature Conservation, Isle of Vilm, Germany, April 26 – May 1, 2008. It was organized by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation. It brought together 31 participants including representatives from 18 European countries and the European Commission. The countries represented were: Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, the European Community, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Malta, Montenegro, Norway, Romania, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Sweden, and the United Kingdom.
2. The overall purpose of the Workshop was to strengthen national capacities for the development, implementation, reviewing and updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) and the integration of biodiversity concerns into relevant sectors, through exchange of experiences and training on the use of relevant tools and mechanisms.
3. Participants from the 18 countries and the European Commission made presentations on the status of the development, updating and implementation of NBSAPs in their respective countries, including efforts in mainstreaming biodiversity. Additional presentations addressed the ecosystem approach, communication education and public awareness, and monitoring and reporting. A field study visit provided valuable insights into the link between biodiversity conservation, sustainable energy production and climate change mitigation and adaptation measures. The presentations and field study visit provided the background for plenary and small group discussions, and interactive exercises, through which key challenges and examples of good practice were identified and overall conclusions emerged.
4. Considerable variation among countries was reported in various aspects:
 - Development and updating of NBSAPs: most countries have developed NBSAPs; a few have also updated them; a few others have not developed their first NBSAPs.
 - Structure and content of NBSAPs
 - Processes of the development and implementation;
 - The identification of suitable indicators and the establishment of monitoring systems; many European countries have developed indicators and data management systems to monitor progress towards the 2010 biodiversity target;
 - Integration of biodiversity concerns into sectors and cross-sector collaboration.
 - Communicating the NBSAP and involving the public and other stakeholders: improving awareness of the contribution of biodiversity and ecosystem services is widely seen as a way of strengthening support for biodiversity conservation and use.
5. Some of the main recommendations emerging from the workshop are:
 - ⇒ Exchange of experience; Due to the varying status of NBSAP development and implementation in the region, a learning network is highly desirable to link frontrunner countries with countries in initial stages of the process; the CHM should be developed for this purpose including within

countries and for cross-border and regional cooperation.

- ⇒ Communication: Communication efforts need to be reinforced to gain support from other sectors. Communication should be strategic, evidence-based and target-group oriented; communication plans should be concrete and include short-term and longer term goals; should also use creative – even provocative – forms.
- ⇒ Monitoring and reporting: evaluate targets using matrices, streamline reporting, introduce central data management, use evidence-based indicators.
- ⇒ Mainstreaming: Mainstreaming: more efforts to integrate biodiversity into the work of the sector ministries are needed focus on ecosystem services, strive for high-level adoption of NBSAP, use partners to lobby, involve other sectors.
- ⇒ Improving awareness of the contribution of biodiversity and ecosystem services (private vs. social benefits, tangible vs. intangible benefits) is widely seen as a way of strengthening support for biodiversity conservation and use.
- ⇒ Implementation: use subsidiarity principle, look for strong committed champions at all levels, learning by doing (adaptive management).

6. There was the broad agreement among the participants that the workshop was very useful in facilitating mutual learning through the exchange of experiences among practitioners responsible for the implementation of the Convention and that they wished to continue this process of regional networking and information exchange. Lessons from the four other regional workshops on NBSAPs which have already taken place were presented at CBD's COP-9 through a side event and are summarised in a report¹ and a brochure².

¹ <https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/cop/cop-09/official/cop-09-14-rev1-en.pdf>

² <http://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-brochure-nbsap-ws-en.pdf>

1: Introduction

1. The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the decisions of its governing body, the Conference of the Parties (COP), as well as the national and regional strategic frameworks which have been established for its implementation, are widely recognised across the world as the most important political instruments to direct activities in the fields of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.
2. However, because of the broad range of issues covered under the Convention and the large number of commitments laid down in the individual decisions, there is a general need for increased communication between experts involved in CBD policy-making and those engaged in conservation at the national and local levels. An exchange of information is necessary in order to keep practitioners up to date about the most relevant developments with regard to their respective areas of work, to enable them to provide feedback into the decision-making process and to establish a dialogue on ways and means to ensure implementation.
3. A series of regional and sub-regional capacity-building workshops are being organised worldwide during 2008, in response to decision VIII/8 (paragraph 6) of the CBD. The International Academy for Nature Conservation Isle of Vilm agreed to carry out these workshops for the European region. Another European workshop to reach those countries³ that could not attend the first one is currently under consideration by the CBD-Secretariat and BfN
4. COP decision IX/8 was agreed in light of poor progress towards goal 3 of CBD's Strategic Plan (NBSAPs and the integration of biodiversity concerns into relevant sectors serve as an effective framework for the implementation of the objectives of the Convention; see UNEP/CBD/WGRI/1/2) as revealed by the in-depth review undertaken by the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention. A summary of the review is found in UNEP/CBD/COP/9/14/Rev.1. An overview of the outcome of the capacity development workshops held in other regions before the Vilm workshop is provided in the brochure: "Mainstreaming Biodiversity: Workshops on national biodiversity strategies and action plans" available on the CBD website⁴.
5. The purpose of the Regional Workshop for Europe on Capacity Building for National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and Mainstreaming of Biodiversity was to strengthen national capacity for the development, implementation, reviewing and updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and the integration of biodiversity concerns into relevant sectors, through exchange of experiences and training on the use of relevant tools and mechanisms. The workshop provided an opportunity for countries to identify ways and means for overcoming challenges in the development and implementation of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs). A major focus

³ Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belgium Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Moldova, Monaco, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine

of this workshop was the integration of biodiversity in national development planning, and the results were to inform the ongoing review of implementation of goals 2 and 3 of the Strategic Plan to be considered by the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in May 2008.

6. This report contains the results of discussions in the working groups as well as abstracts of the presentations. The presentations are available on the CBD website at: <http://www.cbd.int/nbsap/workshops/europe.shtml>. The recommendations and suggestions were elaborated in this report are intended to help individuals and organisations working in the field of NBSAPs and to contribute to further discussion on the issues tackled by CBD COP-9. The report was drafted by Rainer Schliep, with inputs from Gisela Stolpe, Andrea Burmester and Lijie Cai, reviewed by workshop participants, and edited by David Cooper.

2: Proceedings

7. The Regional Capacity Development Workshop for Europe on National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and the Mainstreaming of Biodiversity was held at the International Academy for Nature Conservation Isle of Vilm, Germany, April 26 – May 1, 2008. It was organized by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation. It brought together 31 participants including representatives from 18 European countries and the European Commission. The countries represented were: Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, the European Community, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Malta, Montenegro, Norway, Romania, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. In addition there were participants from the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD), the Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), IUCN's Countdown 2010, and the IUCN Commission on Education and Communication.
8. The workshop was organised by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation in co-operation with SCBD at the “International Academy for Nature Conservation” on the Isle of Vilm, Germany, from 26 April – 1 May 2008. The workshop was facilitated by Natasha Walker of the Institute for Organisational Communication (*Institut für Organisationskommunikation*; IFOK) which is also servicing the German NBSAP process.
9. Participants were welcomed to Vilm during an informal session following dinner on Saturday, April 26th. Ms Gisela Stolpe welcomed the workshop participants on behalf of the International Academy for Nature Conservation and introduced them to the Isle of Vilm. Mr David Cooper welcomed the participants on behalf of the Secretariat to the Convention on Biological Diversity. The workshop was facilitated by Ms Natasha Walker (IFOK). She invited participants to introduce themselves.
10. The Workshop was formally opened on Sunday morning, April 27th. Mr Rainer Blanke welcomed the workshop participants on behalf of the International Academy for Nature Conservation and the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation. The objectives and programme of the workshop were introduced by Mr David Cooper. Ms Natasha Walker provided further details of the workshop and facilitated the identification of expected outcomes by participants, which, broadly, were consistent with the objectives listed above (paragraph 5. The expectations listed by participants are given in full in Annex G).
11. The 18 countries present and the European Commission presented national perspectives on the status of development and implementation of NBSAPs in their respective countries and on the updating and improving of NBSAPs while integrating biodiversity into sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies. The country presentations described the development process of the NBSAPs, summarised their main features, highlighted the achievements in implementing the NBSAPs, provided information about the national efforts in mainstreaming biodiversity, and reported on evaluating and updating the existing NBSAPs. The country presentations are summarized in section 3.

12. Brief question and answer sessions followed each presentation, and some key points (obstacles and success stories) were identified. These were noted on cards and flip charts so that they could be further discussed and analyzed later. More general discussions followed each group of presentations, either in plenary or in small group discussions (5 to 7 participants per group). The main conclusions emerging were summarized in the Executive Summary, above, and are considered in more detail in Section 4.
13. Consistent with the Convention (Article 6), and the Strategic Plan (Objective 3), mainstreaming of biodiversity was identified as a major objective of NBSAPs: it was seen as both a challenge (it is difficult to achieve, in particular for NBSAP coordinators who are usually located in environment ministries and often lack the positional power to secure the engagement of officials in other ministries) and an opportunity (since successful mainstreaming would leverage additional human and financial resources for implementation of NBSAPs). An exercise was developed to explore this *problematique* further. The facilitator, Ms Natasha Walker, explained the basic idea of the exercise to the participants: Participants were invited:
- to choose a case study and specify its objectives (this might be a conservation or development project, or the elaboration of a strategy or policy);
 - to identify the key players and describe what is on their agenda; and
 - to identify the existing blockages and oppositions to the objectives of their case study.

Before going to the working groups, the participants brainstormed in plenary about key players in biodiversity management. After an intense working phase in five small groups, the case studies were presented to the plenary and discussed against the background of the experiences in the national NBSAP processes and the input given by the workshop facilitators. Finally participants were invited to name: new and/or surprising players; the major problems; and the benefits provided. The following case studies were presented:

- the establishment of the Trillemarka Forest Protected Area, Norway (presented by Arild Lindgaard)
- the development of the Serbian NBSAP (presented by Vasilije Buskovic)
- The integration of biodiversity into development cooperation (presented by Ant Maddock)
- Applying a policy to limit the loss of land through infrastructure development (tarmac limitation) (presented by Jana Vavrinova)

Further information is provided in Annex D.

14. On Monday afternoon, participants made a brief excursion around Isle of Vilm which forms part of the core conservation area of South-east Rügen Biosphere Reserve. Isle of Vilm contains all types of coasts found in the southern Baltic, its coastlines are linked by never-ending processes of erosion and land formation. Vilm's flora and fauna have developed within an almost pristine wilderness; only very few other places in Germany remain as untouched as Vilm. Vilm's forests of ancient oak and magnificent beech are among the most impressive in all northern Germany.
15. A few presentations were made highlighting initiatives relevant to NBSAP implementation:
 - Mr Jorge Luis Ventocilla (IUCN Countdown 2010 Secretariat) presented TEMATEA – a web-based tool providing an issue-based analysis of existing decisions of global and regional agreements on specific issues in order to facilitate coherent implementation of biodiversity-related commitments (www.tematea.org). Mr Ventocilla encouraged the use of this tool which can help to develop coherent national positions on the various Multilateral Environmental Agreements. He also introduced the Countdown 2010 initiative and its readiness assessment tool.
 - Mr Liam Addis (UNEP-CMS) informed the participants that all CMS Parties are invited to take the necessary steps at the national level to ensure that migratory species are integrated into NBSAPs (UNEP/CMS/Resolution 8.18) and referred to the activities of the CBD-CMS Joint Work Programme.
16. In an evening session, Lijie Cai of the CBD Secretariat introduced the guidelines and relevant tools for preparing the fourth national report, including a reference manual and a portal. He and Mr David Cooper highlighted the significance of the 4th National Report for reviewing the implementation of the CBD, in particular progress towards the 2010 Biodiversity Target and the goals and objectives of the Strategic Plan of the Convention. The national reports will also feed into the 3rd Global Biodiversity Outlook. Participants from the UK, Czech Republic, Finland and the European Community introduced their approaches and plans for preparing the fourth national report, including sample chapters they had prepared and submitted to the Secretariat. They highlighted the need to link reporting with reviews of implementation of NBSAPs and to strengthen synergies among different sectors as well as the need to harmonize reporting at various levels.
17. Jana Vavrinova introduced the NBSAP poster tool, and presented the Czech NBSAP poster that had been developed using this tool. The German GTZ had developed the interactive online tool for NBSAP posters illustrating the implementation of NBSAPs and the contribution of associated activities to the achievement of the eleven goals under the 2010 Biodiversity Target (<http://nbsaps.onlinegeneration.com/>).
18. On Tuesday morning, April 29th, Mr David Cooper introduced the ecosystem approach, focussing on the CBD framework (Decision V/5) and the conceptual framework of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment that links biodiversity to ecosystem services and human well-being. Ecosystems provide natural goods, are the basis of cultural diversity, regulate climate and other natural systems, and support other ecosystem processes. People impact on nature, which in turn provides benefits for the human population. However, many ecosystem services are in decline and the ongoing biodiversity

loss is triggered by a variety of direct and indirect drivers. The MA Approach is a framework for integrating ecosystem services into decision-making incorporating a variety of methods and often applied at watershed or landscape level. It can inform national and sub-national policies and plans as well as economic and fiscal incentives, sector policies and plans, and general governance of biodiversity.

19. The workshop participants, working in small groups, were invited to select case studies, and for each case to:

- Identify ecosystem services, their status and trends;
- Identify users of ecosystem services;
- Identify impacts of dependencies on ecosystem services;
- Evaluate the assessment of impacts; and
- Identify possible interventions to mitigate negative impacts.

The four case study working groups were:

- The Kaliacra Wind Farm case study (presented by Emilia Radoslavova Slavova and Stela Stankova Dineva)
- The Danish River Restoration case study (presented by Hans Skotte Möller)
- The traditional orchard intensification case study (presented by Olga Shugaeva)
- The Urbanisation case study (presented by Maria Mihaela Antofie)

The results of the exercises were presented the following day (see Annex F)

20. The remainder of Tuesday was devoted to a field study visit in the Federal State of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern which provided valuable insights in the link between biodiversity conservation, sustainable energy production and climate change mitigation and adaptation measures as well as in relevant instruments and approaches to achieve and strengthen such linkages:

- The first visit was a wind farm where an expert from the local environment authority explained ways and methods to incorporate biodiversity concerns into land use planning for wind farm development.
- The second stop was at a restored gravel-pit and the Peene river valley demonstrating compensatory measures for the wind farm – biodiversity offsets as well as climate change mitigation options – through mire restoration.
- A second example of mire restoration, the Dargezin mire, was presented at the third stop. This project also combined biodiversity conservation with CO₂ offset objectives.
- The visit of the Stralsund University of Applied Sciences and its Laboratory for Integrated Energy Systems concluded the field trip demonstrating the novel techniques to use biomass from managed conservation sites for energy generation.

Further information is provided in Annex C.

21. On Wednesday morning, 30th April, Katalan Czippán of IUCN's Commission on Education and Communication (CEC) gave a presentation on "Developing a communication Strategy for NBSAPs". She also introduced the work of the CEC, provided a theoretical background to strategic communication, including an outline of the main approaches used and the elements and steps of a

strategy and plan, and presented the CBD CEPA Toolkit.

22. Participants were then invited to apply the theory to the already elaborated NBSAP case studies (see point 13 above, and Annex D) in a structured exercise following the two main questions:

- What do you want the key players to change?
- What is your message for the key players (benefit, your contribution)

The results of the working groups were presented to the plenary by members of each working group and discussed in plenary and compiled (Annex E provides more information).

23. On Wednesday afternoon, Mr David Cooper outlined major activities or events leading to COP 10 in 2010. Before COP-10 will take place in Nagoya/Japan in 2010,

- the progress towards the 2010 Target needs to be assessed;
- the strategy in respect to the 2010 Target needs to be reviewed;
- additional resources need to be mobilised; and
- progress needs to be made in negotiations on Access and Benefit Sharing.

24. A discussion on next steps in developing, updating and implementing NBSAPs was led by a group of four panellists, drawn from among the participants. Each panellist was asked to commit themselves to undertaking one task to further the development, updating and implementation of NBSAPs when they returned home, and to identify an area where support is required from the international community. Panelists highlighted the importance of sharing information among and within countries. The secretariat was requested to develop best practice guidance drawing upon the outcomes of this and other workshops and the fourth national reports.

25. Participants reviewed the outcomes of the workshop against the expectations they had listed the first day (see Annex G). Participants also completed an evaluation form, the results, expressed anonymously are contained in Annex G.

26. The workshop was closed by David Cooper and Gisela Stolpe. They encouraged the participants to work towards improving the monitoring and reporting of the status of biodiversity and the implementation of the Convention and to look for opportunities to enhance biodiversity conservation in their respective countries in the coming two years until 2010 in order to reach the 2010 target.

3: Country Presentations

Highlights the presentations of the country experts are noted below. The PowerPoint presentations can be found on the CBD website at: <http://www.cbd.int/nbsap/workshops/europe.shtml>

United Kingdom

The UK case was presented by Mr Ant Maddock. In 1993, the UK government consulted over three hundred organisations throughout the UK and debated the key issues of the CBD. The product of this, in early 1994, was *Biodiversity: the UK Action Plan* (UK BAP) which outlined action for addressing biodiversity issues.

In late 1994 and in 1996 the UK published two reports (*Biodiversity: meeting the Rio challenge* and *The Government Response to the UK Steering Group Report on Biodiversity*) which established the framework and criteria for identifying species (1250) and habitats of conservation concern and action plans for 391 species and 45 habitats (116 species and 14 habitats in Tranche 1 and the balance in the six volumes of Tranche 2).

As well as having national priority species and habitats with targets, action was also taken at a local, usually county, level and with about 174 Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAPs) across the UK. To measure progress on these action plans, a three yearly reporting cycle was established starting in 1999 and again in 2002 and 2005. The 2008 reporting round which will contribute to the UK and European Indicators to measure progress against the 2010 targets is now being planned.

Reporting

Over the years there have been a number of different structures in place to manage the UK BAP but currently it comprises a number of groups representing a UK BAP partnership of stakeholders. The UK Biodiversity Partnership involves all stakeholders in the UK BAP. Government, NGOs and volunteers are vital to this partnership.

A Standing Committee manages the business of the UK Biodiversity Partnership assisted by a group providing technical and scientific advice (BRIG) and a research advisory group (BRAG). Four Country Groups are also active in the UK BAP process and promote public awareness of biodiversity, co-ordinate progress reports to the UK Partnership and promote action on the Species, Habitat and Local Action Plans.

BRIG provides technical and scientific advice on reporting and information while BRAG provides advice about biodiversity research priorities and co-ordination in the UK and fulfils the role of a national biodiversity research platform. Recently, BRIG has managed the review of the priority species and habitats and their targets.

Changes since 1996

There have been a number of conservation related changes since the original UK BAP was developed.

- Certainly for the UK, the most important change is devolution. The UK signed the CBD and developed a national strategy, the UK BAP. However, the UK comprises four countries and in 1998 Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland devolved from the UK. All four countries have their own conservation agencies.

Devolution meant that that these devolved administrations implement environmental regulation in addition to other policy areas and separate groups manage biodiversity conservation issues in each country:

- Northern Ireland Biodiversity Group
- England Biodiversity Group
- Scotland Biodiversity Committee
- Wales Biodiversity Partnership

These countries wrote their own strategies to guide biodiversity conservation, sustainable development and environmental concerns:

- In 2002 *Northern Ireland Biodiversity Strategy* and England's *Working with the Grain of Nature*;
 - In 2004, Scotland's *Biodiversity It's in Your Hands*; and
 - In 2006 *Environment Strategy for Wales*.
- In addition to devolution, changes have occurred in international conservation approaches that are no longer accommodated effectively in the UK BAP. These include modifications to the CBD, the advent of the 2010 targets, commitments to WSSD, and the Millennium ecosystem assessment.

As the UK BAP was intended to become a component of these changes, a review was suggested. Essentially, a more up-to-date, holistic approach was needed to set the objectives of the UK BAP within a wider strategy for conservation. So, as a result of these changes, relationships between the UK role, the UK BAP, the country strategies and international developments needed to be reconsidered.

Where are we now

Given these changes, a re-evaluation of the UK BAP was started. To help with this, a recent review of the UK BAP list of priority species and habitats was used. The conclusion of this work, "*Conserving Biodiversity - the UK Approach*" was published in 2007.

Although conservation responsibility is devolved, this publication emphasises a common approach to conservation of biodiversity in the UK which defines the UK role separate from country roles. For example, there is a common vision:

“Our countryside, towns and seas, living things and their habitats are part of healthy, functioning ecosystems: we value our natural environment, a concern for biodiversity is embedded in policies and decisions, and more people enjoy, understand and act to improve the natural world about them.”

This vision includes the ideas of ecosystems, sustainability and engaging people through communication, policies and decision making reflecting a more holistic view of conservation.

Priorities for action

Within this framework are a number of priorities for action, e.g. ensuring that the UK plays a proactive role in influencing the development of multilateral environmental agreements and contributes fully to their domestic delivery. Further priorities are:

- Protecting the best sites and targeting action on priority species and habitats
The model for the refresh of the UK BAP was the Species and Habitat Review. This started in 2005 and as many UK species and habitats as possible were assessed against a set of criteria. This produced the UK List of Priority Species and Habitats in which the original 577 species increased to 1149, and the

original 45 habitats increased to 65.

The UK is now in the process of agreeing how to implement conservation for these priorities which is trying to adopt the spirit of the vision i.e. engaging people, sustainable use, consideration of ecosystem functioning and influencing government policy.

Priority species actions will be delivered through various high level categories of action:

- Habitat action plans
- Wider action (agri-environment schemes)
- Species-specific action
- Research
- Survey and monitoring
- Legislation
- Embedding proper consideration of biodiversity and ecosystem services in all relevant sectors of policy and decision-making

Country strategies play an important role for embedding proper consideration of biodiversity and ecosystem services in all relevant sectors of policy and decision-making.

- Engaging people and encouraging behaviour change

This is an important part of conservation action. Some examples: BBC breathing places, biodiversity weeks organised by the country biodiversity groups and involve the local BAPs a lot.

Also there are various communication initiatives within the organisations and NGOs are important here.

- Developing and interpreting the evidence base

There is a focus on outcome-based reporting i.e. reporting on if biodiversity is changing as a result of our actions rather than reporting on the development of action plans, or the setting up of working groups.

The UK focus is to provide advice based on evidence. We need to make more use of biological data.

Generally, the simplified mechanism for gathering data is via existing monitoring and surveillance schemes who forward the data to a central database called the National Biodiversity Network (NBN).

Currently, there are nearly 28 million records on the NBN.

Another important UK BAP database is called the Biodiversity Action and Reporting System (BARS).

BARS lists the country strategies and details for each species including targets and trends.

Finally, the UK supports the idea of making reporting more useful. It needs to mean something to people in their day to day work. The way UK does this is to summarise biological and environmental data that are summarised into a series of indicators.

Roles and responsibilities

The strategic role of the UK is to provide the following:

- Survey and Monitoring strategy
- Data management including evidence of trends
- Guidance/standards
- Research strategy
- Co-ordination across the countries
- Appropriate reporting framework

The countries' role is focused on the implementation:

- Action planning
- Develop objective/targets
- Report against the objectives/targets
- Policy influencing
- Local spatial planning for biodiversity

Plenary discussion issues

- Why there was no mentioning of sector plans competing with the UK BAP? The main responsibility for implementing the Convention in the UK rests with the constituent countries of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, each of which have developed their own biodiversity strategies (or environment strategy in the case of Wales). Moreover, implementation is facilitated through 162 Local Biodiversity Action Plans developed by local authorities and local nature conservation organizations. These LBAPs, which span the entire country, define in detail the arrangements among partners to protect particular species and habitats. At the UK level, parliament has enacted a “biodiversity duty” which requires all local authorities (as well as other public authorities, including ministries), to demonstrate that they have identified and taken opportunities to integrate biodiversity considerations into all relevant service areas and functions, and ensured that biodiversity is protected and enhanced in line with statutory obligations. Guidelines for the implementation of the duty have been prepared.
- Do you have a plan for engaging people? Whom do you focus on? Communication strategy from different organisations such as JNCC existing, countries developed own communication strategy, but with limited impact.
- Is there any species and habitat action plan at UK level? Assessment done at UK level, but not at country level.
- Is there a reporting system at UK level? After 2010 more at country level; UK responsibility is to facilitate amalgamation of country reporting.
- How do you make synergies, e.g. with Natura 2000 reporting? Major issue for UK, “accumulated” indicators.

Bulgaria

Ms Stela Stankova Dineva and Ms Emilia Radoslavova Slavova presented the Bulgarian case. The NBSAP process started in 1992 with five teams in an interdisciplinary approach. The results were compiled into a National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy, adopted by the Bulgarian Government in 1998. The National Biodiversity Conservation Plan (NBCP), adopted by the Council of Ministers in 1999, is a direct result of the Strategy. In 2005 the National Biodiversity Conservation Action Plan 1999-2004 was developed. A new version of the NBCP was elaborated in a participatory approach with involvement of ministries, NGOs, and other stakeholders. The current version running from 2005-2010 prioritises:

1. the establishment of the Nature 2000 network;
2. the adoption and implementation of the agro-ecological measure;
3. reform in the forest sector;

4. the acceptance of legislative changes;
5. institutional strengthening of biodiversity units;
6. improvement of the education about biodiversity conservation;
7. biodiversity conservation by long-term observation and assessment of the trend of change for taking preventive measures by development and maintenance of national biodiversity monitoring system;
8. monitoring of the management of protected areas and monitoring of wetlands;
9. provision of sufficient financial resource and optimization of its management;
10. development and implementation of preventive measures for biodiversity conservation and compensation and incentive mechanisms;
11. augmentation of the rights and the responsibilities of non-governmental organisations;
12. business, local authorities and branch organisations working in the biodiversity sector;
13. integration of the biodiversity conservation policies and activities into the different economic sectors;
14. support of local and regional (including transboundary) initiatives;
15. strengthening of the scientific base for biodiversity conservation;
16. maintenance and use of an accessible and well structured national database for biodiversity and
17. public awareness raising and public participation in the process of decision making.

New national legislation relevant for biodiversity conservation comprises *inter alia* the following:

1. Environmental Protection Act 2002 - contemporary framework of the state policy and management
2. Protected Areas Act 1998
3. Biodiversity Act 2002
4. Medicinal Plants Act 2000

In Bulgaria, PAs make up 5% of the national territory; 31 PAs developed and approved a management plan, 31 PA management plans are in the process of preparation or approval. Natura 2000 sites cover 33.8% of the national territory partly overlapping with the aforementioned PAs.

Bulgaria achieved a formally strict protection for many species and habitats. In addition, the Medicinal Plants Act regulates use and trade of endangered plant species. Other legislation and strategies affecting biodiversity conservation exist in the field of e.g. agriculture, forestry, hunting and fishery. Different plans and programmes were derived from the NBCP.

So far, Bulgaria did not develop a communication strategy for the implementation of the CBD objectives. Further challenges are a weak cross-sector collaboration which resulted in the establishment of a working group to improve information exchange between departments relevant to biodiversity conservation.

Bulgaria has set up a National Biodiversity Monitoring System for the monitoring and assessment of long-term changes in biodiversity.

European Community

Experiences from the European Community (EC) were presented by Ms Anne Teller. In 1998, the EC adopted its first Biodiversity Strategy. Currently, there are four Biodiversity Action Plans existing for the following sectors: Agriculture, Fisheries, Territorial Development, Development Co-operation.

The 2010 biodiversity target was adopted by EU Heads of State at the EU Summit in Gothenburg in June 2001. The 2004 Irish Presidency held a major stakeholder conference on the 2010 biodiversity target which resulted in a detailed roadmap to 2010 called the Message from Malahide. In the same year, a Pan European initiative, SEBI2010 (Streamlining European 2010 Biodiversity Indicators), was launched. Its aim is to develop a European set of biodiversity indicators to assess and inform about progress towards the European 2010 targets. The work is performed in collaboration between EEA (European Environment Agency), DG Environment of the European Commission, ECNC (European Centre for Nature Conservation), UNEP/PEBLDS Secretariat with the lead of Czech Republic and UNEP-WCMC (World Conservation Monitoring Centre). Work is led by a Coordination Team. In 2005 the Coordination Team and six expert groups involving more than 100 experts nominated by European countries as well as NGOs started working for the compilation of a First European Set of Biodiversity Indicators for assessing the 2010 target. The EU Biodiversity Research Action Plan (BRAP) was formulated and adopted in its first version by EPBRS in 2005 in Hungary aiming at the identification of knowledge that is necessary to halt the loss of biodiversity in Europe and elsewhere, and the improved understanding of the drivers and ecological, economic and social consequences of biodiversity change. The BRAP contains ten objectives concerning e.g. the Natura 2000 network, specific ecosystems, or land use. In 2006 the European Commission launched its Biodiversity Communication and Action Plan on halting biodiversity loss by 2010 and beyond (focus on ecosystem services) as an implementation tool to reach the 2010 biodiversity target. It proposes ten priority objectives addressing most important habitats and species; actions in the wider countryside and marine environment; making regional development more compatible with nature; reducing impacts of invasive alien species; effective international governance; support to biodiversity in international development; reducing negative impacts of international trade; adaptation to climate change; and strengthening the knowledge base. The Communication also recognises the need for four supporting measures relating to adequate financing, strengthening EU decision-making, building partnerships and promoting public education, awareness and participation. Its overall goal is to accelerate progress and to integrate sector policies. A set of EU Headline Biodiversity Indicators has been adopted to monitor progress.

Challenges for the EC are the weak inter-ministerial cooperation and a lack of focus on the restoration of semi-natural habitats. A lesson learnt from the first report on the delivery of the EU BAP (2007) is that integration is not happening to the extent as requested.

Plenary discussion issues

- Interlinkage of biomass production and biodiversity conservation is assessed how? Environmental Impact Assessment is not really working in this respect, it is not properly implemented.
- How to move EU priority to semi-natural habitats? Natura 2000 priority was on designation, but Art. 10 of the EU Habitats directive concerns networks, and these habitats are the next step.
- How are coordinated actions monitored within the EU? Inventory of data and information facilitates comparison of e.g. EU funds.
- How does the EU reach the public? A biodiversity campaign at EU and state level is in preparation; EUROBAROMETER to ask the public about biodiversity; attempt to work at national and local level
- How many staff is in the department you are working in? About 30 people plus supervision.

Germany

German experiences with the NBSAP process were presented by Mr Ralf Grunewald. Germany is characterised by one of the highest threat levels to biodiversity in Europe: Figures for the level of threat for vascular plants, animals and habitats all show alarmingly high levels.

In 2007, the federal government adopted the German National Biodiversity Strategy. It was developed through a highly participatory process with strong political support from parliament and the coalition government. It contains clear targets and sets deadlines. Progress can be measured using a wide set of different indicators which are aligned to the EU and CBD frameworks. Reporting is mandatory in each legislative period.

In addition to measures addressed at conserving habitats, species and genetic diversity, the strategy addressed many sectors of the economy including agriculture, mining and infrastructure development. The effects of German activities on biological diversity worldwide are also being considered. Furthermore, the Strategy considers the opportunities for promoting innovation and employment such as organic farming, the marketing of regionally-produced products and sustainable tourism. Responding to the findings of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, the strategy targets the indirect drivers behind nutrient loading, climate change and the degradation of natural habitats.

The Strategy's structure is as follows:

- Chapter A - The current situation: reasons for conserving biological diversity from an ecological, economic, social, cultural and ethical viewpoint, global and national dimensions of the threat to biological diversity, the efforts so far and further action
- Chapter B - Concrete vision: formulates and elucidates the Government's visions, quality targets and action targets for the future on the major national biodiversity-relevant topics • Chapter C - Action areas: translates the action targets into concrete measures and assigns these to lead implementing organisations and government bodies
- Chapter D - Innovation and employment: outlines the potential for economic development, innovation and jobs associated with the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity (synergies)

- Chapter E - Eradicating poverty and promoting justice: explains the correlations between biological diversity and implementation of the Millennium Development Goals
- Chapter F - Implementation of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment in Germany
- Chapter G - Flagship projects: provides details of concrete projects which exemplify the conservation of biological diversity
- Chapter H - Reporting, indicators and monitoring: outlines future regular reporting on target achievement.

Communication and stakeholder engagement are central to the development and implementation of Germany's NBSAP. The development process involved conservation experts, different NGOs as well as governmental bodies from various sectors and levels. Implementation is being carried forward through national and regional fora, and through outreach efforts to business, the media, and churches as well as NGOs. The German Ministry for the Environment has undertaken a major national public awareness campaign in the lead-up to the country's hosting of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. This is supported by an Alliance for Nature bringing together leaders from all stakeholder groups. An implementation strategy is now being developed through further consultations in each of the Länder and at the federal level.

Plenary discussion issues

- What is the role of the Regional Fora? The fora are an important element to communicate the National Strategy to the Länder level focusing on different specific topics at each forum; the Länder partly adopted the NBSAP for implementation at regional level.
- How are cross-sector aspects / targets implemented? A very intensive consultation process with other sectors in preparing the Strategy supports cross-sector implementation; the Strategy was adopted by all ministries. Furthermore the role of the NBSAP is further strengthened by being part of the coalition treaty.
- How was it possible to put biodiversity high on the political agenda? The German government had set itself the goal to develop its different existing biodiversity policies into a national biodiversity strategy until COP-9.

Finland

Ms Marina von Weissenberg presented the Finnish example. The Finnish Government became the first European country to adopt its revised biodiversity strategy at the end of 2006. The Finnish Ministries of Environment, Agriculture and Forestry, Transport and Communications, and Foreign Affairs jointly commissioned a major evaluation of the country's first NBSAP (1997-2005) to inform its revision. The evaluation – conducted in 2004-5 by an independent team of researchers drawn from a number of Finnish research institutes – used 75 indicators. It aimed to assess: the state and trends of biodiversity in Finland; the effectiveness of the Action Plan and its impacts on these trends; prospects for reaching the 2010 target and new measures needed. The evaluation found that while the Action Plan had led to a number of favourable changes, measures taken so far are not sufficient to halt the loss of biodiversity by 2010. The analysis showed that not all sectors had taken full responsibility for biodiversity conservation in their own areas.

The evaluation results included the following recommendations:

- new measures are needed for halting biodiversity loss;
- emphasise sector responsibility;
- monitoring needs to be improved;
- establish planning and information systems related to biodiversity;
- implement permanent mechanisms for gathering data and establishing relevant indicators including interaction between society and research;
- social, cultural and economic incentives need to be created.

These results have been used in developing Finland's revised NBSAP (2006-2016), entitled "Saving nature for people". It aims not only to halt the decline of biodiversity but also to prepare, by 2016, for climate change and other global changes that may threaten the natural environment in Finland. The development of the 2nd NBSAP was coordinated by a National Commission including all ministries and stakeholder groups. A key objective is intensifying sector responsibility. The associated Action Plan includes 110 measures for the implementation of the National Strategy, and, for each one, the Plan defines which ministries are responsible. The Plan is closely linked to each of the Convention's Programmes of Work. An online implementation table with public accessibility will be finished by autumn 2008.

Plenary discussion issues

- How do you verify the provided information in the online implementation table? There is no formal verification system for data, but a reporting table is given to each ministry with a very good uptake by the ministries; it is important for the uptake that the data is appreciated and used.

Hungary

In her presentation, Ms Ditta Greguss reported that Hungary started the NBSAP process already before its accession to the European Union (EU). An expert group for each sectoral chapter was set up, the final document, however, has not been adopted at that time.

A new attempt was started in 2004 after EU accession with a review of the existing draft. The resulting document was approved by the Hungarian Ministry of the Environment and Water (MEW) and an inter-ministerial consultation process was started. Until today, the document has not been adopted by the Hungarian Government, but it is partly used by other sectors. The document which was approved by the MEW contains a framework chapter and nine chapters on sector issues. These are:

1. Mining
2. Forestry
3. Fisheries management
4. Agriculture
5. Regional development and tourism
6. Land use
7. Hunting

8. Water management
9. Molecular biology methods

In addition to the above, Hungary adopted its second National Environmental Programme (NEP) for the period of 2003-2008, trying to further strengthen integration of environmental policy. The Programme includes a separate, detailed chapter on nature conservation (titled: Nature Conservation Master Plan). The 2nd NEP is very much focused on biodiversity related issues but is not as comprehensive as a NBSAP.

Plenary discussion issues

- How will you proceed with the adoption process? The NBSAP is a very comprehensive document, in particular the agriculture and forestry chapters but some of the chapters should be further updated before approval. The adoption process is planned to be connected to the development of the 3rd NEP

Serbia

Mr Vedran Berlekovic reported from Serbia which is from the ecological point of view a biodiversity hotspot. 6.5% of Serbia's territory is protected area. However, due to the political situation in Serbia, the process of the NBSAP development is in a very early stage. The process is steered by two employees in the Ministry of the Environment. Until today, Serbia has not yet adopted its Nature Protection Programme. The development of the NBSAP is financed by UNDP/GEF which puts some external pressure on the process.

The Serbian Ministry of the Environment is facing strong opposition when implementing the CBD objectives. A challenge for Serbia is the lacking cooperation between sector ministries. Generally, ecological issues are of only low priority in Serbia due to the dominant economic development pressure.

Sweden

Mr Mark Marissink presented the Swedish example. Next year, Sweden celebrates its 100th anniversary of national parks and the nature conservation act. Sweden used to have a NBSAP (dated 1995), but nowadays biodiversity issues have been mainstreamed into environmental objectives. About 170 strategic documents and 300 action plans led to the necessity to create a new structure. In 1998, 15 national qualitative environmental objectives (to be achieved by 2020) were set up, six of them directly related to nature. The objectives were adopted by the Swedish parliament and tackle inter alia the following issues: Reduced Climate Impact, Clean Air, Natural Acidification Only, A Non-Toxic Environment, A Protective Ozone Layer, Zero Eutrophication, and A Balanced Marine Environment, Flourishing Coastal Areas and Archipelagos. A sixteenth objective, A rich diversity of plant and animal life (related to the 2010 target), was adopted by the parliament in 2005.

To assess progress towards the environmental quality objectives and the associated interim targets, use is

made of indicators. These are based on regular gatherings of quantitative and qualitative data from sampling programmes, questionnaire surveys, interviews, voluntary reports, and studies of other kinds (see http://www.miljomal.nu/english/no_time_to_lose/1_executive_summary.php for further details).

Each year, progress towards the environmental quality objectives and the associated interim targets is assessed. Once every four years, a more thorough evaluation of the objectives is carried out (what are we doing, how is the response). The assessment reports are evaluated by the Swedish Environmental Objectives Council and used to constantly refine objectives and interim targets.

Each sector is responsible for the assessment of their respective objectives (sometimes in shared responsibility). Insofar, the objectives are a means of sector integration. However; real implementation within the sectors is still a challenge.

The Swedish Species Portal (see www.artportalen.se) is an online reporting tool open to everyone, and is increasingly being used to keep track of biodiversity.

Plenary discussion issues

- To whom the every four years reports are presented? The Environmental Objectives Council consisting of leading administrators elaborates, on the basis of the individual reports, a comprehensive state-of-the-art report which is the basis for governmental decisions on the revision of objectives.
- How are data verified entered into the Species Portal? A registration is necessary to enter data, and there is some quality control by NGOs.
- How did you get that far? The central persons were very skilled, the government is in favour of the approach, there is sufficient political support. Still a challenge is to take the decisions from the sector boards into the sector administrations.
- Are there interest groups lobbying against objectives? Yes, e.g. forest owners are opposing changes in the interim target for forest protection at this moment.

Malta

In her presentation, Ms Lisa Schembri Gambin reported about the Maltese experiences with the ongoing NBSAP development. The Malta Environment & Planning Authority (MEPA) is the lead agency in the NBSAP development process. “Working hand-in-hand with nature” is being proposed as a title for the NBSAP following suggestions made at a preliminary stakeholders’ workshop. The NBSAP process is financed from the national budget and from MEPA resources. Technical support resulted from a twinning project between Malta (MEPA) and England (English Nature at the time). Steps at establishing an inter-departmental NBSAP Coordinating Committee (NBSAP-CC) are ongoing to further develop and eventually agree on a suite of strategic directions and actions (plus target and priority setting) via a series of meetings envisaged to be held in the second half of 2008.

The following stages in the overall NBSAP development process are planned:

- Organisational phase: Setting up an administrative structure - NBSAP coordinating committee and an administrative team within MEPA;
- Stocktaking phase: Country study involving the compilation of sub-reports addressing particular issues in relation to biodiversity - this process also involves the preliminary drafting of proposed strategic directions and a proposed suite of actions and targets;
- 1st phase of consultation: Preliminary workshop; questionnaire based surveys;
- NBSAP development: Compiling the NBSAP document bearing in mind results from the country study and the first phase of consultation;
- 2nd phase of consultation: Consultation with the wider public will be crucial as it will be impossible to implement the strategy and its associated action plan without their help, assistance and support;
- Adoption and implementation review: Envisaged five years from adoption to assess the efficacy of the strategy and the actions carried out.

Preliminary consultation is done in written form (standardised, tailor made forms) and there are meetings on problematic issues. Technical experts, NGOs and other stakeholders will also be consulted. The intended final product should be an easy to understand strategy. The participatory approach is regarded necessary for creating ownership. The NBSAP is envisaged to be adopted by Malta’s Prime Minister.

Plenary discussion issues

- Who will be addressed by the objectives and targets? The objectives and targets are to be adopted by the Office of the Prime Minister and will be developed in meetings/workshops on the basis of the CBD objectives. Participants of the Vilm workshop recommended adopting the final NBSAP by the government to increase sector ownership.

Azerbaijan

Mr Yashar Karimov presented the system of protected areas in the Republic. He introduced the participants of the Vilm workshop to the diversity of plant and animal species of Azerbaijan and informed about the particular features of the national parks and the trends in red listed species since the independence of the Republic. Azerbaijan completed its NBSAP in 2004.

Plenary discussion issues

- What is the level of protection? Medium or low.
- What is the level of pressures on the protected areas? There are many problems.

Norway

Ms Tone Solhaug introduced the participants of the Vilm workshop to some experiences from Norway. At the national level, the Norwegian priorities include the implementation of the CBD and the development of agreed goals on biodiversity. At the international level, Norway supports the further development of the CBD and the cluster of biodiversity agreements and is engaged in environmental development assistance.

In 1997, Norway's parliament adopted the National Biodiversity Strategy, and in 2001 the Biodiversity Action Plan (NBSAP) was adopted. Both are white papers approved by the Parliament. Later white papers have also included the 2010 target. Norway introduced cross sector responsibilities and coordination with each sector describing use and benefits of biodiversity. A reporting duty is included but not sufficiently functioning.

In Norway, the NBSAP is seen as an opportunity to develop a knowledge-based management system for biodiversity conservation. Data from surveys, a monitoring programme, and a species data base help municipalities to do their work. The Norwegian Biodiversity Information Centre is a new institution for data management and funded by several ministries as a result of the NBSAP. A further Norwegian achievement is a black list on invasive alien species and a cross-sector strategy and action plan on invasive alien species. An important achievement recently is the Barents Ocean Integrated Management Plan which is based on the Ecosystem approach and involves all major sectors and stakeholders. The Plan is adopted by the Norwegian Government and a new plan is under way for the Norwegian Sea. Presently, the Norwegian Ministry of the Environment is working on a new comprehensive legislation to be finalised in 2008 and replacing scattered legislation.

Plenary discussion issues

- Did cross-sector integration fail in Norway? Although reporting from other sectors is still too weak, integration did not fail. However, the diffusion of biodiversity information takes time.

Where do you get the necessary information for monitoring and biodiversity assessment? There is an inter-sector group on mapping and data flow, but no specific institution to regulate this issue.

Georgia

Mr Giorgi Lebanidze presented the status of progress concerning the NBSAP development in Georgia. The NBSAP process was started in Georgia in 1998 building on an assessment of biodiversity from 1996 and supported by GEF. In 2002, the draft NBSAP was revised due to political reasons and finally adopted by the government in 2005. The structure of the document is as follows:

- Preamble - strategic components of biodiversity protection and the problems related to them;
- Chapter 1 - general aim and vision, strategic principles and concrete objectives for each strategic component;
- Chapter 2 - action plan with concrete activities and preliminary amount of funds necessary to achieve the above objectives;
- Annexes – a brief review of the country's biodiversity and the main issues of biodiversity protection.

The key issues identified in the NBSAP are:

1. Protected Areas
2. Species and Habitats
3. Agrobiodiversity
4. Hunting and Fishing
5. Biodiversity Monitoring
6. Biotechnology and Biosafety
7. Environmental Education, Public Awareness and Public Participation
8. Financial and Economical Programme
9. Legislation and Institutional Development
10. Sustainable forestry

The implementation of the NBSAP is done with the support of many international bodies and institutions. Monitoring is currently being established.

Main challenges for the implementation of the NBSAP in Georgia are the communication of the NBSAP (not all stakeholders refer to it), cross-sector integration, and low public awareness. Until now, ecosystem services are not reflected in the NBSAP. It would be helpful to prioritise the portfolio. The biggest challenge for biodiversity conservation in Georgia is the lack of local support and understanding, and pressure from poaching.

Plenary discussion issues

- Did Georgia conduct a National Capacity Self Assessment (NCSA)? Yes.
- Are the different ecosystem types properly reflected in the NBSAP? No.
- How is the NBSAP used in Georgia? The NBSAP is not widely and properly used among governmental bodies and NGOs due to a communication problem; they simply do not know it.
- Is there a list of priority projects for engaging NGOs? Not yet.
- What is the biggest threat / challenge to biodiversity in Georgia? The lacking support from people and poaching. There are now intentions to offer trainings for hunters and to introduce a licensing system. A possible reference point could be the Sustainable Hunting Initiative of the EU.

Russian Federation

Ms Olga Shugaeva introduced the Russian NBSAP to the participants of the Vilm workshop. The National Biodiversity Strategy (NBS) is a long-term planning instrument and framework document. In the NBS, subjects of NBS, status of subjects of NBS, main goals and ways of conservation including priority species, ecosystems and regions for biodiversity conservation are identified. The NBS and National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP) were adopted in 2001 and correspond with the 2010 target. Mainly scientists and NGOs, but also officials participated in the development of the Russian NBS and NBAP.

Russia developed specific national strategies for the conservation of several rare and endangered species such as far eastern leopard (*Panthera pardus orientalis*), snow leopard (*Unica unica*), amur tiger (*Panthera tigris altaica*), european bison (*Bison bonasus bonasus*) and musk deer of Sakhalin Island (*Moschus moschiferus sachalinensis*).

At the federal level, the network of protected areas in Russia consists of 101 state *zapovedniks*, 39 national parks and 69 state *zakazniks* (reserves). All together, at the federal and regional level, the number of protected areas is about 14,000, covering 11.7 % of the national territory.

It is worth mentioning that species of animals and plants which are included to the Red Book of the Russian Federation are excluded from economic activities. With respect to cross-sector integration, Ms Shugaeva pointed towards the new Russian Forest Code (2006) that integrates biodiversity concerns into forest management. A voluntary forest certification system is under development. Another example is provided by the hunting regulation that considers conservation measures for game species.

Plenary discussion issues

- Who was involved in the preparation of the NBSAP? Different stakeholders were involved in the process, among them representatives of scientific community, NGOs and officials.
- Does the Russian NBSAP include any targets? The main goals in NBS and NBAP correspond with 2010 target and objectives of CBD.

Estonia

Mr Mart Külvik introduced the NBSAP process in Estonia. In 1994, Estonia ratified the CBD followed by the 1995 government decree on the implementation of the CBD which includes the obligation to prepare a National Action Plan. In 1998, a biodiversity assessment was carried out at national level. The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan was finalised in 1999 and included quantitative tasks.

Due to political problems, this draft NBSAP has not been adopted. Although technical experts from other ministries were involved into drafting, the ministerial level of the other sectors opposed the adoption of the

strategy. Instead, the Estonian Environmental Strategy and the National Environmental Action Plans were produced as surrogates of the NBSAP, because they are solely in the responsibility of the Ministry of the Environment. In addition, a Nature Conservation Development Plan (targets and measures) was derived, which is, however, not touching on issues of other sectors. In summary and as a result of the Estonian NCSA, there is a lack of integration of biodiversity concerns into other sectors due to mostly political reasons and inadequate communication. Lack of skilled personnel aggravates the problem.

Plenary discussion issues

- Is the situation in Estonia then similar to Hungary? Yes, there is an official document, but it is not adopted.
- Are you revising the NBSAP? In essence, the surrogates (Environmental Strategy, National Environmental Action Plans, Nature Conservation Development Plan) are used.

Montenegro

Mr Vasilije Buskovic presented the NBSAP process in Montenegro, which is a very young nation. Soon after its independence in 2006, Montenegro ratified the CBD. However, already in 2004 a preliminary Biodiversity Strategy was produced by the Ministry of the Environment together with UNEP in response to the requirements of the Barcelona Convention for Protection against Pollution in the Mediterranean Sea.

However, the new political structure and unregulated tourism development deeply impacted on the NBSAP process. Although the preliminary Strategy resulted in some successes such as the designation of new protected areas, the integration of biodiversity into the National Sustainable Development Strategy and in integrated coastal zone management, substantial shortcomings are missing budget as well as incomplete inventories and species action plans.

Resulting achievements of the NBSAP process until now are the gathered experience and the establishment of relevant institutions. On the other hand, lack of personnel, missing cross-sector integration, large infrastructure projects and the socio-economic development pressure thwart biodiversity conservation efforts.

The next steps will be the analysis of the national biodiversity assessment in 2007/2008, the determination of national targets using a participatory approach with public workshops and thematic meetings, and the enlargement of protected areas.

Plenary discussion issues

- What will be the timeframe for the targets of the NBSAP, beyond 2010? There are some targets reaching further than 2010 (2025).
- Is the Sustainable Development Strategy adopted by the government? Yes.
- Characteristics of the NBSAP development process? Two phases: first, the document was developed by government and experts, which was then followed by a public participation phase organised by NGOs. There was heavy criticism of the draft document and the concerns could not fully be included in the present revised document.

Denmark

Mr Hans Skotte Möller presented some insights in the Danish biodiversity policy. Denmark's biodiversity policy benefited from a high public interest in the environment until the 1990s. In addition, the EU legislation (Birds Directive, Habitats Directive) gave push to the development. However, since the late 1990s there seems to be less interest in society towards nature conservation in general and a growing opposition against more environmental regulations in particular: 70 % of the affected land is owned by 1 % of the people, a small but powerful societal group.

In 2001, a right wing government was elected which changed the priorities of the environment from the political agenda of the country: environmental agencies were reduced and budgets were cut back. The Ministry of the Environment was reduced in staff and budget. Since 2001, Denmark has also undergone a substantial administrative reform which resulted e.g. in the complete removal of the regional level.

In 2004, the Danish Action Plan on Biodiversity (covering the period 2004-2009) was adopted; the development process was characterised by constructive support from other ministries. Achievements include the designation of additional national parks and a high awareness of the 2010 target. Many nature restoration projects are still being implemented. However, challenges remain with regards to private land tenure and the heavy work load through the many convention follow-up processes. High level commitment for follow-up is so far still weak, however, the new Ministry for Climate and Energy might be a chance to raise the profile of biodiversity.

Plenary discussion issues

- How come private land owners have such a big influence? This is a stable trend in society.
- Why did biodiversity lose its appeal in Denmark? (Environmental) NGOs are going down in numbers, in general there is lower public interest. There are hopes connected with the Biodiversity "Stern"-Report to raise the profile of biodiversity.
- How are chances to link the biodiversity issue with climate change in public perception? The new Minister for Climate and Energy is the former Minister of the Environment, so there is a lot of understanding; however, there is no strong link to biodiversity, communication is weak.

Remark of participants: The visitor numbers in protected areas are decreasing in many EU countries but the interest in nature conservation is still high. A "Biodiversity Ambassador" is needed to raise the profile of Biodiversity!

- What is the influence of the Nordic Council of Ministers on the development in Denmark? There is low to no influence and the Council is not the place to get support. An Action Plan of the Nordic Council (2009-2012) is underway including a chapter on synergies regarding monitoring etc. Sweden (currently presidency of the Council) is least enthusiastic about the Nordic Council and puts far more emphasis on EU processes.

Czech Republic

Ms Jana Vavrinova presented her experiences with the Czech NBSAP process. The National Biodiversity Strategy of the Czech Republic was developed by the environment and agriculture ministries and approved by the government in 2005. The Strategy builds upon the Convention's programmes of work and cross-cutting issues, as well as upon relevant EU and national legislation. Targets and goals are included for each topic, such as nature protection, genetic resources, agriculture, forests, transport, climate change, invasive alien species. The government resolution approving the strategy requires the environment and agriculture ministers to develop an action plan and elaborate a system of indicators to monitor implementation. However, responsibility for developing the action plans for each topic rests with the sector departments. The Strategy will be updated after 10 years.

Right from the beginning, the objective was to produce a cross-sector and interdisciplinary, comprehensive and well-structured document. The EU Strategy served as a model format. 16 working groups with a team leader and more than 100 experts contributed to the Strategy making use of existing strategic and policy documents. Timeframe for the elaboration process was 2004-2005. Two public and NGO hearings as well as consultations with other ministries and with universities were part of the development process. The document is divided into part a) strategic topics and part b) biodiversity in sector policies. The 2010 target was included in the chapeau of the document. Action Plans are to be developed on selected issues, e.g. state nature conservation and landscape protection.

Currently, a survey on how other ministries fulfil the strategy goals is underway, the results are not bad. Further achievements include a species survival/recovery programme, more biodiversity policies are in place. The Czech CHM is a very good information source.

Plenary discussion issues

- Why was participation in the development process so low? No evaluation done on that.
- How did you manage the information flow between the 16 working groups? There was an initial kick-off meeting and Ms Vavrinova personally took care of the information flow.
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of getting the agreement of other sectors? The development process takes a much longer time and there is the danger of dilution. So what is the added value then? If you involve other sectors right from the beginning they complain less and you create more ownership; it is also a matter of trust.
- How to avoid to be trapped in technical and political fights? This depends much on personal relations and networks as well as on communication.
- How many people were involved in the process (MoE)? Three people during the development process, now only one.
- Surveying: every two years; to be reported to the government; revision in 2015; analysis assisted by academia; no impact assessment yet foreseen.

Romania

Ms Maria Mihaela Antofie reported that the basic approach in Romania is to develop a new NBSAP as a white paper on biodiversity to be approved by the government. In 1996, Romania adopted its Strategy for Biodiversity which provided guidance but no Action Plan and is outdated today. This Strategy is not very well used, however, other sector strategies and programmes take up the contents of a NBSAP. Until now, there has been a lot of effort to safeguard biodiversity but currently there is no comprehensive and consistent strategy or action plan for biodiversity in place in Romania.

There is a great need for capacity development in Romania.

Plenary discussion issues

- Does or did the 1996 NBS have any effect? No, because there was no action planning.

Belarus

Ms Marina Hryshchanko reported experiences from the Republic of Belarus. The 1997 NBSAP needs to be updated, it contains no quantitative targets. Its structure is as follows:

Chapter 1: The system of management, scientific support and control over the use of natural resources

Chapter 2: Biological diversity in Belarus

Chapter 3: Threats to biological diversity in Belarus

Chapter 4: Current problems of biodiversity conservation in Belarus

Chapter 5: Major activities for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity

The National Action Plan for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity aims *inter alia* at the formulation of policies and respective legislation, the improvement of state management and control, scientific research, development of a protected area system, capacity development, etc.

The impact of the NBSAP is not monitored and there are no measures foreseen to integrate biodiversity into other sector strategies.

4: Lessons learned and conclusions from the discussions

This section tries to synthesize the overall lessons learned and conclusions information gained from the presentations and the many group discussions during the workshop.

The presentations and discussions show considerable variation among countries in various aspects of NBSAPs:

Development and updating of NBSAPs: Most countries have developed NBSAPs (Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Norway, the Russian Federation, Serbia,) Finland, and the United Kingdom have updated their strategies, as has the European Community. Sweden has integrated biodiversity into its environmental objectives, replacing its previous stand-alone biodiversity strategy. Estonia and Romania have their NBAPS under revision, while Malta and Montenegro have their first strategy under development. A full list of the status of NBSAPs in the European region is provided in Annex

Structure and content of NBSAPs: Some NBSAPs are focused on species- and habitat-protection, with only limited focus on ecosystem services, although recently there has been increased attention to the latter.

Processes of the development and implementation: The development of NBSAPs in most countries has been a participatory endeavour involving national workshops and other consultative mechanisms. However, frequently, there has been insufficient involvement from other sectoral interests. There is wide variation in terms of the level of the political adoption of NBSAPs: in some countries the NBSAP is adopted by the government (sometimes as an action by the environment ministry, sometimes with explicit cross-government approval); in others it is approved by the Parliament. Coherent implementation is a challenge for many countries. This is complicated when frequent changes in government and administrative structures occur as is the case not only in some EU accession countries. Long-term commitment of civil servants is seen as an asset for development and implementation of the NBSAP

Targets, indicators, monitoring and review: Some European countries have developed indicators (UK, Finland, also the European Community) and data management systems (e.g.: BARS in the UK) to monitor progress towards the 2010 biodiversity target. Online tools broaden the access and increase the number of the channels for information exchange and data collecting. Instruments presented by country representatives were e.g. web-based reporting systems, web fora for feedback, web portals for data collection. Few countries have set quantified targets however. Finland's revised NBSAP was informed by an independent scientific evaluation of the implementation of the first NBSAP.

Integration of biodiversity concerns into national policies, planning processes and sectors: The NBSAPs (or equivalent instruments) in Finland and Sweden set clear objectives and responsibilities for sectoral ministries. In the UK, local authorities and public agencies have a duty to take into account biodiversity. However, these positive examples of mainstreaming are the exception rather than the rule. Often, the understanding of the NBSAP as an obligation for all ministries is missing. Implementation of NBSAPs often suffers from lacking ownership among other sectors in government, administration and business. This is

aggravated by the fact, that in many countries there are only unclear working relations between ministries. The political commitment to solve this problem is lacking in many governments, at national as well as at local level. Biodiversity conservation is not high on the political agenda in many countries and is overridden by socio-economic concerns due to considerable economic development.

Communicating the NBSAP and involving the public and other stakeholders: improving awareness of the contribution of biodiversity and ecosystem services is widely seen as a way of strengthening support for biodiversity conservation and use. However, a common issue across the European region are the weaknesses in communicating the NBSAP process to governmental and administrative bodies, the broader public and stakeholders at all levels. Communication strategies are widely lacking or unclear and not able to make results and impacts from the NBSAP visible to other sectors. Some examples from European countries to create popular support for conservation were identified: Finland is using broadcasting; in the Czech Republic there is an everyday TV spot on a threatened species before the daily major news; in Norway and Denmark, postcards were sent by the Minister of the Environment to each mayor with the invitation to take care of a certain species; free postcard on importance of ecosystem services were distributed in Hungary; there is a 'tree of the year' competition in the Czech Republic; some countries are experimenting with private sector involvement (Finland, Slovenia etc.). However, the question remains if this is only preaching to the converted: how to get the message across in those parts of society that are not aware of the importance of biodiversity conservation?

The European Union has had a significant impact on the objectives of the Convention. On the one hand EU legislation in particular the Habitats Directive spurs action to strengthen conservation efforts. On the other hand, biodiversity conservation is not high on the political agenda in many countries and is overridden by socio-economic concerns due to considerable economic development pressure particularly in EU accession or candidate countries.

Scarce financial and human resources remain a clear bottleneck for NBSAP development, implementation and monitoring in many European countries.

Recommendations

Some of the main recommendations emerging from the workshop are:

Promote exchange of experience: Due to the varying status of NBSAP development and implementation in the region, a learning network is highly desirable to facilitate exchange of experiences, in particular to promote good practice and to link frontrunner countries with countries in initial stages of the process to develop NBSAPs. The CHM should be developed for this purpose, at both the national level and among countries.

Develop a framework to assist countries in reviewing NBSAP implementation. Such a framework or matrix could help to promote best practice among countries. The framework could build upon that annexed to COP decision VIII/8.

Developing the evidence base: Strengthen data collection and management. Develop indicators to track the status of biodiversity and ecosystem services and publicize the results. Use independent scientific review of NBSAP implementation.

Reinforce communication efforts: This is necessary to gain support from other sectors. Communication should be strategic, evidence-based and target-group oriented. Communication plans should be concrete and include short-term and longer term goals, Communication should employ creative – even provocative – forms.

Promote participation of stakeholders. Participatory processes are evaluated as clearly having a positive impact generating ownership and broad support to the NBSAP. However, they need patience and persistency for maintaining the process. Participants repeatedly recommended to get all stakeholders involved from the very beginning of the planning process.

Redouble efforts to integrate biodiversity into the work of the sector ministries. Strive for high-level adoption of the NBSAP. Use partners to lobby, involve other sectors. Develop indicators for cooperation between sectors. High-level political support and involvement (from prime minister, councils etc.) enables the achievement of cross-sector cooperation.

Promote local level action. For example use local biodiversity action plans.

Focus on ecosystem services and their contribution to human well-being. Improving awareness of the contribution of biodiversity and ecosystem services (private vs. social benefits, tangible vs. intangible benefits) is widely seen as a way of strengthening support for biodiversity conservation and use. The study on The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) is expected to contribute to this endeavour.

Concluding remarks

There was the general feeling among the workshop participants that this workshop was a very useful exercise and that they wish to continue this process of regional networking and information exchange. Participants particularly highlighted the concentrated learning atmosphere, the so-called ‘Vilm spirit’, during the workshop which was due to an excellent organisation and facilitation of the workshop. The NBSAP process itself is seen as a vehicle to improve many aspects of biodiversity conservation. It also reveals those weaknesses in governmental and administrative structures that are challenging NBSAP implementation.

European countries gathered a lot of experience in developing and implementing NBSAPs. The workshop participants appreciated the detailed insight in the various national approaches and expressed the general hope that these experiences not only feed into the NBSAP development in countries which are in an initial stage just now but also find their way into NBSAP revision in front runner countries. In this regard the workshop was very useful according to the participants: they expressed their strong wish to improve regional networking between the European countries for the benefit of national NBSAP processes.



Fig. 2: Summary of country presentations: flipchart with positive issues / aspects in NBSAP process



Fig. 3: Summary of country presentations: flipchart with negative issues / aspects in NBSAP process

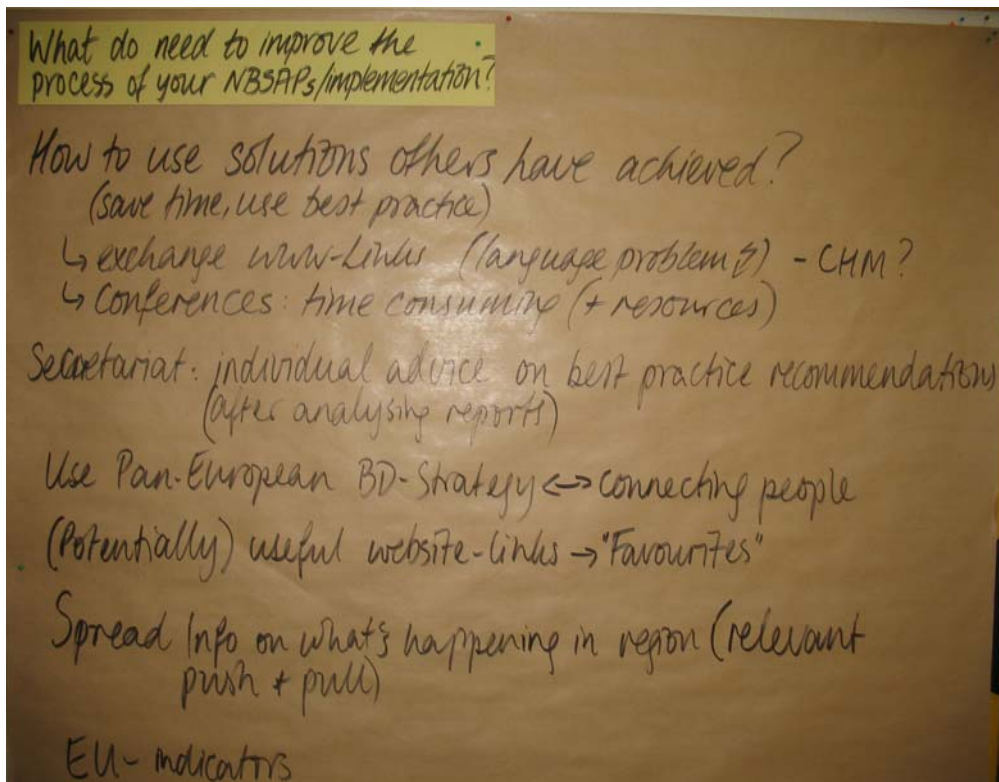


Fig. 4: Overall workshop results concerning needs for improvement of NBSAP development and implementation

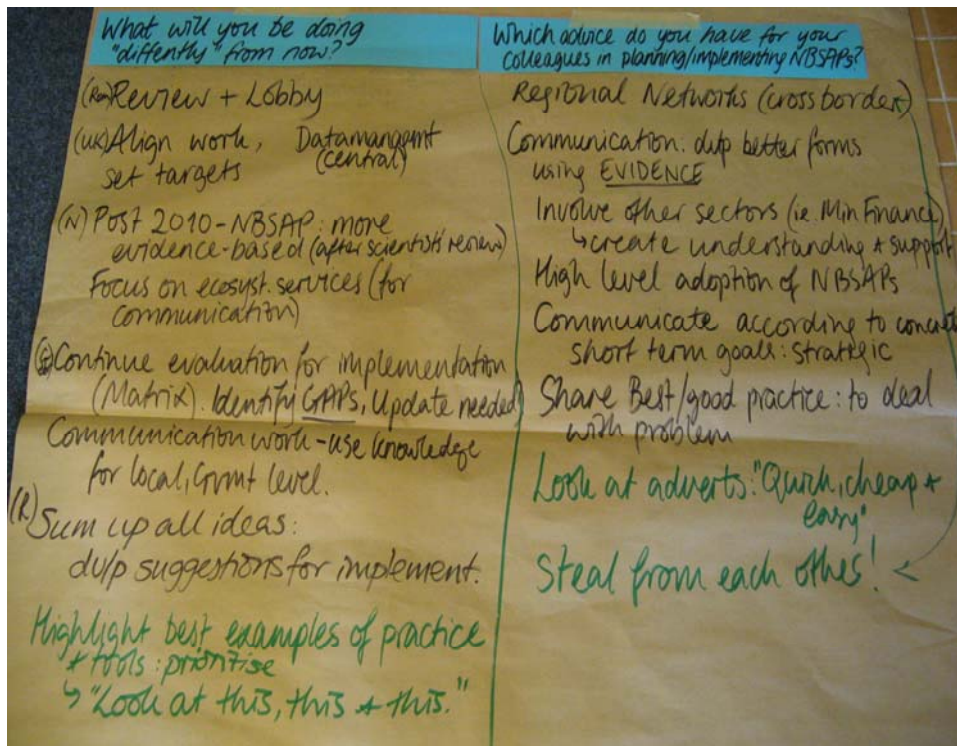


Fig. 5: Participants' lessons learnt

Programme of the Workshop

Saturday, April 26th, 2008

- 18:20 *Welcome and Registration*
- 18:30 *Dinner*
- 20:00 Welcome by the International Academy for Nature Conservation
(G. STOLPE, BfN)
- Welcome by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
(D. COOPER, SCBD)
- Self-introductions of participants
(facilitated by N. WALKER, IFOK)

Sunday, April 27th, 2008

- 07:30-08:30 *Breakfast*
- 09:00-09:20 **Opening of the workshop**
Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (R. BLANKE, BfN)
- 09:20-10:00 **Overview of the objectives and programme for the workshop**
Introduction (D. COOPER, SCBD)
- Details of Workshop and Identification of Hopes and Fears as well as Expected Outcomes
(N. WALKER, IFOK)
- 10:00-10:30 *Coffee/Tea break*
- 10:30-12:00 **Status of development & implementation of NBSAPs in the region**
Updating and improving NBSAPs: Integrating biodiversity into sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies
National perspectives (country presentations by UK, Bulgaria, European Commission)
- Plenary discussion
- 12:30-14:00 *Lunch break*
- 14:00-15:45 National perspectives (country presentations by Germany, Finland, Hungary, Serbia)
- Plenary discussion
- 15:45-16:15 *Coffee/Tea break*
- 16:15-18:00 National perspectives (country presentations by Sweden, Azerbaijan, Malta, Norway)
- Plenary discussion
- 18:00-20:00 *Reception, courtesy of the International Academy of Nature Conservation*

Monday, April 28th, 2008

- 07:30-08:30 *Breakfast*
- 08:30-08:40 **“Catch of the Day” (identification of key issues from previous day)**
- 08:40-10:00 National perspectives (country presentations by Georgia, Russian Federation, Estonia, Montenegro)

	Plenary discussion
10:00-10:30	<i>Coffee/Tea break</i>
10:30-12:30	National perspectives (country presentations by Denmark, Czech Republic, Romania, Belarus)
	Plenary discussion
12:30-13:30	<i>Lunch break</i>
13:30-14:45	Excursion to the Isle of Vilm Nature Protection Area
14:45-15:15	Tools for Mainstreaming – Countdown 2010 Initiative, Tematea database on environmental conventions (J. L. VENTOCILLA, IUCN Countdown 2010 Secretariat)
15:15-15:45	<i>Coffee/Tea break</i>
15:45-18:00	How to do mainstreaming of biodiversity (group exercise)
18:00-19:00	<i>Dinner</i>
19:30-21:00	Communicating and Reporting on NBSAPs The Fourth National Reports (L. CAI, SCBD) Country experiences with the Forth National Report (Czech Republic, UK, Finland) The NBSAP Poster Tool (J. VAVRINOVA, Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic)

Tuesday, April 29th, 2008

07:30-08:30	<i>Breakfast</i>
08:30-10:00	Ecosystem services and the Ecosystem Approach (D. COOPER, SCBD) Exercise on Ecosystem Services (Choose a project of land use change)
10:00-10:30	<i>Coffee/Tea break</i>
	FIELD TRIP: Integrating biodiversity into sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies: Renewable energy policies, Impact assessment, climate change mitigation policies (continued)
10:35	<i>Departure from Vilm</i>
12:45	Wind farm Klein Bünzow: Integrating biodiversity concerns in land use planning (D. WEIER, local environment authority)
13:15	Bus transfer
13:45-14:00	<i>Lunch break (packed lunch)</i> Biodiversity offsets/Compensatory measures for the wind farm: restoration of a gravel-pit (close to Gützkow) (D. WEIER, local environment authority)
15:00	Bus transfer
15:30	Mire restoration in North-East Germany - objectives and measures Case study: CO₂ Compensation project - Restoration of the Dargezin mire (F. TANNEBERGER, University of Greifswald)
16:30	<i>Departure</i>
17:15	Visit of the Stralsund University of Applied Sciences and its Laboratory for Integrated Energy Systems: Using biomass from managed conservation sites for energy

generation

(M. BARZ, Stralsund University of Applied Sciences, W. WICHTMANN, University of Greifswald)

- 19:00 *Dinner in Stralsund (Restaurant “Hanse Keller”)*
 21:00 *Departure from Stralsund*
 21:45 *Departure from Lauterbach/Mole by boat*
 22:00 *Arrival on Vilm*

Wednesday, April 30th, 2008

- 07:30- 08:30 *Breakfast*
 08:30- 08:40 **“Catch of the Day” (Field Trip)**
 08:40-10:00 **Working group presentations (Ecosystem Services)**
 10:00- 10:30 *Coffee/Tea break*
 10:30-12:00 **Communicating and Reporting on NBSAPs**
 Developing a communication strategy for NBSAPs (K. CZIPPÁN, IUCN Commission on Education and Communication)
 Discussion
 12:00-12:30 *Open questions for implementing and updating NBSAPs*
 12:30- 14:00 *Lunch break*
 14:00- 16:00 **The way forward: next steps in implementing and updating NBSAPs and on mainstreaming of biodiversity**
 Upcoming events under the Convention (D. COOPER, SCBD)
 Panel Discussion/“hot chair”
 16:00- 16:30 *Coffee/Tea break*
 16:30– 17:00 **Consideration of the Conclusions of the Workshop**
 17:00– 17:30 **Workshop Evaluation**
 17:30- 18:00 **Closing of the Workshop**
 18:00– 19:00 *Dinner*
 20:00 *Farewell Party (to be organised by the participants)*

Thursday, May 1st, 2008

- 07:30- 09:00 *Breakfast*
 09:20 *Departure from Vilm (alternative: departure 07:25)*

List of Participants

No.	Name	Institution	Address	Country
1.	Addis, Liam	UNEP Convention on Migratory Species	Hermann-Ehlers-Str. 10 53113 Bonn	Germany
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20.	Möller, Hans Skotte	Danish Ministry of the Environment; Agency for Spatial and Environmental Planning	Haraldsgade 53 2100 Copenhagen	Denmark
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List of Participants

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31.	von Weissenberg, Marina	Ministry of the Environment Land Use Department	Kasarmikatu 25 00023 Government Finland	Finland

Annex A

Status of development of NBSAPs (including equivalent instruments) at 24 April 2008 - European Region

A. Parties that have revised NBSAPs

(dates refer to completion of each NBSAP)

1. Austria (1998, 2005)
2. European Community (1998, 2006)
3. Finland (1997, 2006)
4. Netherlands (1995, 2001)
5. Sweden (1995, 2006)
6. United Kingdom (1994, 2006)

B. Parties with NBSAPs under revision

(date refers to existing NBSAP)

1. Estonia (1999)
2. Ireland (2002)
3. Romania (1996)
4. Spain (1999) *Strategy only

C. Other Parties with completed NBSAPs

(date refers to completion)

1. Albania (1999)
2. Azerbaijan (2004)
3. Belarus (1997)
4. Belgium (2007)
5. Bulgaria (1998)
6. Croatia (1999)
7. Czech Republic (2005)
8. Denmark (1996)
9. France (2004) *Strategy only
10. Georgia (2005)
11. Germany (2007)
12. Hungary (2004)
13. Latvia (2000)
14. Lithuania (1996)
15. Norway (2001)
16. Poland (2003)
17. Portugal (2001)
18. Republic of Moldova (2000)

19. Russian Federation (2001)

20. Slovakia (1998)

21. Slovenia (2001)

22. Switzerland (2006)

23. Republic of Macedonia, (2005)

24. Ukraine (1998) *Strategy only

D. Parties with first NBSAP under development

1. Bosnia and Herzegovina
2. Greece
3. Iceland
4. Italy
5. Malta
6. Monaco
7. Montenegro
8. Serbia

E. Parties for which there is no information about the status of NBSAPs

1. Cyprus
2. Liechtenstein
3. Luxembourg
4. San Marino

Completed NBSAPs: 34 of 46 Parties

Updated NBSAPs: 6

Annex B

Web-links concerning NBSAPs in Europe

For NBSAPs in general see the CBD website at: <http://www.cbd.int/nbsap/search/>

For the NBSAP online poster toolkit: <http://nbsaps.onlinegeneration.com/>

Awareness raising - Country Biodiversity weeks; popularising biodiversity/ bringing politicians and the public closer. Draw examples from WBP archive at

<http://bioamrywiaethcymru.org.uk/English/BioWeek/2008/default.aspx>

BARS: <http://www.ukbap-reporting.org.uk/>

Biodiversity duty: <http://www.biodiversityscotland.gov.uk/pageType2.php?id=6&type=2&navID=28>

Breathing places: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/breathingplaces/> and logo of “do one thing”

German NBSAP (2007): http://www.bmu.de/files/pdfs/allgemein/application/x-download/national_strategy_biodiv.pdf

Local Record Centres Wales: <http://www.lrcwales.org.uk/> as an example of biodiversity information initiatives - note the way that local recorders' efforts are being drawn towards a common purpose.

Mainstreaming / UNEP's Issue Based Modules for Coherent Implementation of Biodiversity Related Conventions: www.tematea.org

Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources of Georgia: www.moe.gov.ge

Natural England: <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/>

Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004: [Nature Conservation \(Scotland\) Act 2004](#).

Northern Ireland Biodiversity Strategy: <http://www.ehsni.gov.uk/pubs/publications/NIBS2002.pdf>

Norway's Biodiversity website: www.environment.no

Norwegian Biodiversity Information Centre: <http://www.biodiversity.no/frontpage.aspx?m=23>

Romanian NBSAP (1996): <http://enrin.grida.no/biodiv/biodiv/nbsap/rostrat.htm>

Russian CBD Clearing House Mechanism: <http://www.ruscm.ru/> and <http://www.ruscm.org>

Russian Strategy for Biodiversity Conservation (part 1; further parts see CBD website):
<http://www.cbd.int/doc/world/ru/ru-nbsap-01-p1-en.pdf>

Scottish Biodiversity Strategy: <http://www.biodiversityscotland.gov.uk/>

Scottish Government's web-based guidance on the biodiversity duty:
<http://www.biodiversityscotland.gov.uk/>

Sweden's Environmental Objectives Portal (Sweden's NBS): www.miljomal.nu/english/english.php

Sweden's online reporting system for species: www.artportalen.se

UK Biodiversity Action Plan: <http://www.ukbap.org.uk/>

UK Biodiversity Research Advisory Group (UK National Biodiversity Research Platform):
<http://www.jncc.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=3900>

UK National Biodiversity Network: <http://www.searchnbn.net/>

Ecosystem Services

WRI 2008. Ecosystem Services: A Guide for Decision Makers:
http://pdf.wri.org/ecosystem_services_guide_for_decisionmakers.pdf

Communication

Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) toolkit of IUCN-CEC:
http://www.cepatoolkit.org/html/resources/F3/F3656DCC-C288-4A7A-93E7-0BBAF62D8A31/Toolkit%20CEPA%20total%20_12%2004_.pdf

Annex C

Field trip on the integration of biodiversity concerns into sector and cross-sector plans, programmes and policies: renewable energy policies, impact assessment, and climate change mitigation policies

The field trip during the workshop intended to exemplify the interaction between biodiversity conservation and landscape planning, climate change mitigation policies and innovative technologies for energy production.

The first stop of the excursion was at a wind farm near Klein Bünzow where Mr D. Weier from the local environment authority introduced the workshop participants into the German system of integrating biodiversity concerns in land use planning. Biodiversity offsets and compensatory measures for the wind farm were exemplified by Mr Weier by the restoration of a gravel-pit. He further explained measures for mire restoration in the nearby Peene river valley. Ms F. Tannenberger from the University of Greifswald presented the case study of a CO₂ compensation project through the restoration of the Dargezin mire to the workshop participants: A heavily degraded peatland was re-wetted and re-activated as a long-term carbon storage and sink in the frame of a carbon credit project.

The final visit at the Stralsund University of Applied Sciences and its Laboratory for Integrated Energy Systems exemplified the link between biodiversity conservation and sustainable energy production: biomass from managed conservation sites is used for energy production (presented by M. Barz, Stralsund University of Applied Sciences, and W. Wichtmann, University of Greifswald).

In the evaluation of the field trip, workshop participants highlighted the very valuable insights they gained from the hands-on experience. Besides many ideas for implementation, they benefited from the presentation of planning tools, compensation methodology and participatory approaches. They were surprised of the advancements in technology for using biodiversity conservation products and appreciated the government commitment to research and development of biofuel production technologies. Especially for products from wetlands there seems to be a win-win-situation linking biodiversity conservation measures and energy production from renewables. Participants recognised the potential for twinning projects in that respect. They especially appreciated the devoted attitude of the local nature conservation staff. Further highlights from the participants' point of view are the good links between nature conservation authorities and universities. However, there are two sides to the biofuel production and participants expressed their concerns against the background of changing land use needs and increasing pressure on ecosystems (e.g. through biofuel production).

The presentation at the Stralsund University of Applied Sciences triggered the conclusion that the presented research results at small scale level are also applicable in developing countries.

The field trip was also characterised by intense information exchange and discussions among the participants which was felt to be an added value.

Annex D

Developing and Implementing NBSAPs – A Case Study Exercise

The facilitator Ms Natasha Walker explained the basic idea of this exercise to the participants and provided them with the necessary guidance to develop and present the intended case studies. After choosing a case study, the participants should specify and identify the relevant key players for developing and implementing NBSAPs. Second, they should describe what is on the key players' agenda. And third, the participants were asked to think of the existing blockages and oppositions to the objectives of their case study.

Before going to the working groups, the participants brainstormed in plenary about key players in biodiversity management. The result can be found in the picture of the flipchart that was elaborated during this exercise (Figure X).

After an intense working phase in the five working groups, the case studies were presented to the plenary and discussed against the background of the experiences in the national NBSAP processes and the input given by the workshop facilitators. The following four cases were presented:

- the establishment of the Trillemarka Forest Protected Area, Norway (presented by Arild Lindgaard)
- the development of the Serbian NBSAP (presented by Vasilije Buskovic)
- The integration of biodiversity into development cooperation (presented by Ant Maddock)
- Applying a policy to limit the loss of land through infrastructure development (tarmac limitation) (presented by Jana Vavrinova)

In the wrap-up session, the participants were requested to name:

- new and/or surprising players;
- the major problems; and
- the benefits provided in the case studies. The result of this exercise is shown in figure X.



Fig. 1: Introduction of the case study exercise.



Fig. 2: Key players in biodiversity management

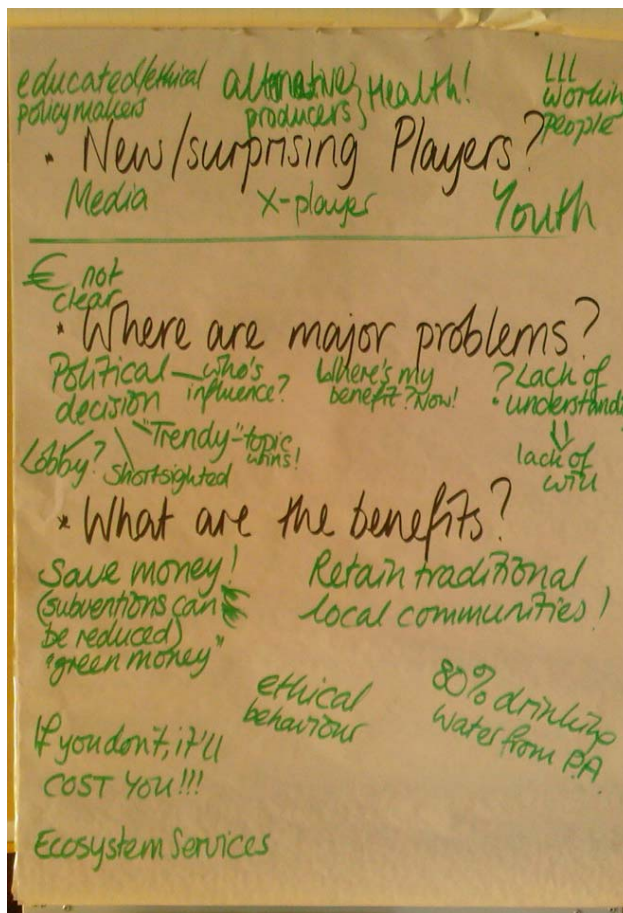


Fig. 3: Summary flipchart after case study exercise



Fig. 4: Arild Lindgaard presents the Trillemarka Forest Protected Area case study.



Fig. 5: The Serbian NBSAP case study (presented by Vasilije Buskovic)

Annex E

Developing a Communication Strategy for NBSAPs

presented by KATALIN CZIPPÁN

The IUCN Commission on Education and Communication (CEC) is particularly devoted to support the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD) spanning from 2005 to 2014. The DESD aims at eight key action themes: the third key action theme, ‘environment’, has four major themes including biodiversity.

The IUCN-CEC working group on the DESD is one out of three working groups. The other two are dedicated to the World Conservation Learning Network and to the Global Initiative on Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA).

So, what is communication? Why is it so important in the NBSAP process?

“Communication is the process of transferring information from a sender to a receiver with the use of a medium in which the communicated information is understood by both sender and receiver. It is a process that allows organisms to exchange information by several methods. Communication requires that all parties understand a common language that is exchanged. (...) Communication is defined as a process by which we assign and convey meaning in an attempt to create shared understanding. This process requires a vast repertoire of skills in intrapersonal and interpersonal processing, listening, observing, speaking, questioning, analyzing, and evaluating. (...) It is through communication that collaboration and cooperation occur.” (quote from Wikipedia, the free Encyclopaedia)



Fig. 1: Workshop participants' ideas about communication

And why should we want to have a communication strategy for NBSAP development and implementation?

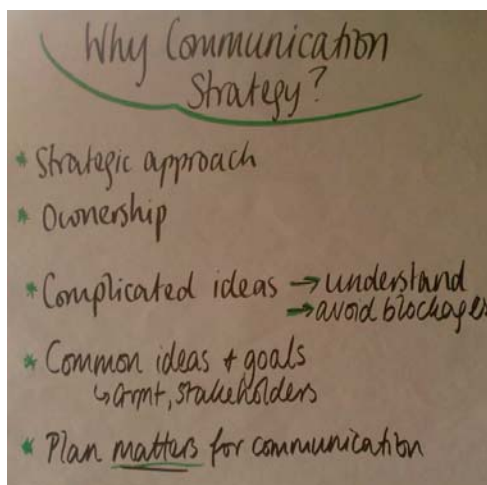


Fig. 2: Workshop participants' justification for a communication strategy

There are broadly two approaches to strategic communication:

1. Instrumental communication with the objective to raise interest or to generate support.
2. Interactive communication is the active dialogue with interest groups to involve them in planning, implementing, or evaluating policy. Prerequisite for this approach is a partner who is able to formulate opinion.

Strategic communication is planned and contributes to a well defined purpose. It is targeted to a particular audience in order to trigger changes in e.g. policy, practice, or behaviour. Strategic communication strives for achieving these results with the best use of resources.

Thus, the preparation of a communication strategy includes the following aspects:

- Targets, audience and message are clarified before deciding on the communication media
- Creative people plan to achieve desired outcomes
- Focus on the audience, message and content
- Media is considered as a tool to achieve the desired objectives

Consequently, a communication plan should include the following elements:

1. Issue
2. Target groups
3. Communication objectives (what do we want them to understand, know, do)
4. Message
5. Means/media (action, website, agreement, training, educational material, poster, mass media, personal)
6. Organization, budget, planning, evaluation

There are 10 steps for communication planning:

1. Analysing of the issue and role of communication
2. Selecting target groups/audiences and stakeholders
3. Determining the communication target (better choose clearly defined issues than talking about all the aspects)

4. Developing strategy and selecting partners
5. Determining the messages
6. Selecting the communication means
7. Organising communication and brief partners
8. Planning (in terms of milestones and activities)
9. Budgeting of activities
10. Monitoring and evaluation

CEPA offers a toolkit for NBSAP coordinators with movies, presentations etc. (see Annex B for the web address) to serve both as a resource for the regional training workshops for NBSAP coordinators as well as a resource base for them when they are back in their work place and are dealing with CEPA issues as part of their daily responsibilities. The toolkit provides guidance on where, when and how to use a wide range of education and communication interventions.

Remember two things:

- The plan is nothing, planning is everything! (Eisenhower)
- Communication alone cannot solve the problem!!

Exercise

Participants applied the theory to the already elaborated NBSAP case studies (see Annex D) in a structured exercise following the two main questions:

1. What do you want the key players to change?
2. What is your message for the key players (benefit, your contribution)

The results of the working groups (see two examples below) were presented to the plenary by members of each working group. The results from the working groups were discussed in plenary and compiled (see below).



Fig. 3: Tone Solhaug presents the results of her working group on the communication strategy for the Trillemarka Forest PA case study to the plenary

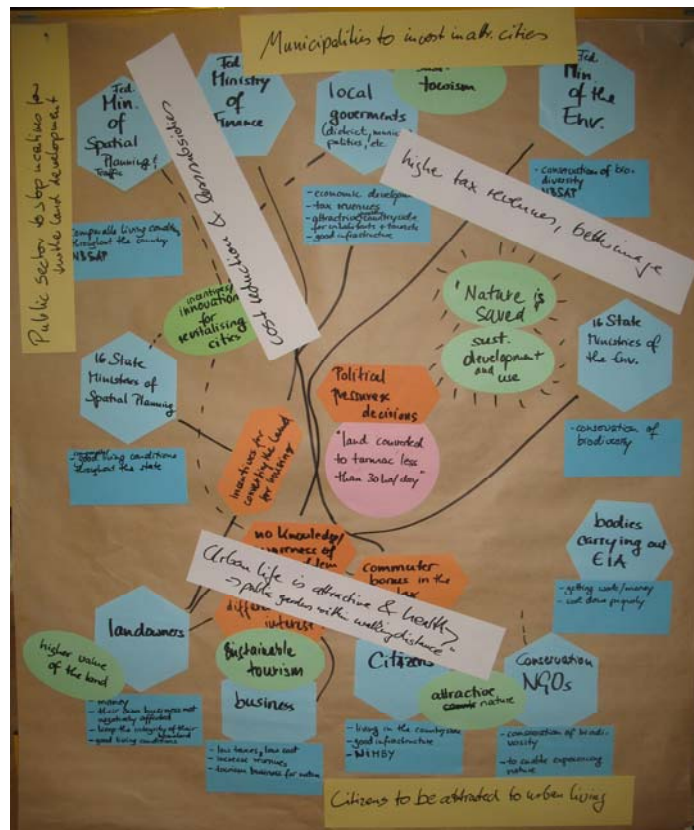


Fig. 4: The results of the working group on the communication strategy for the Tarmac case study (presented by Ralf Grunewald)

Annex F

The Ecosystem Services Approach – An Introduction with Exercise

Mr David Cooper introduced the topic by explaining the inter-linkages between biodiversity and human well-being. Biodiversity underpins ecosystem functioning and the services that support human well-being. Ecosystems provide natural goods, are the basis of cultural diversity, regulate climate and other natural systems, as well as support other ecosystem processes. People impact on nature, which in turn provides benefits for the human population.

However, many ecosystem services are in decline and the ongoing biodiversity loss is triggered by a variety of direct and indirect drivers. Following the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, most of these drivers for biodiversity loss are increasing.

Mr Cooper presented the WRI's Ecosystem Services Approach to the participants of the workshop. This Approach is a framework for integrating ecosystem services into decision-making incorporating a variety of methods and often applied at watershed or landscape level. It can inform national and sub-national policies and plans as well as economic and fiscal incentives, sector policies and plans, and general governance of biodiversity. Mr Cooper introduced the key elements of the Approach and a stepwise procedure.

For more information see: <http://www.wri.org/publication/ecosystem-services-a-guide-for-decision-makers>

Exercise

Mr Cooper initiated four working groups on fictitious or non-fictitious case studies formulating the tasks:

1. Identify ecosystem services, their status and trends
2. Identify users of ecosystem services
3. Identify impacts of dependencies on ecosystem services
4. Evaluate the assessment of impacts
5. Identify possible interventions to mitigate negative impacts.

The objective of each case study should be the sustained benefit from the identified ecosystem services.

The working groups were further urged to assess the benefits of ecosystem services according to the following aspects:

- Private versus social benefits
- Tangible versus intangible benefits

The four case study working groups were:

1. The Kaliacra Wind Farm case study
2. The Danish River Restoration case study
3. The Land Use Intensification case study
4. The Urbanisation case study

The results of the four working groups (see documentation below) were presented to the plenary by members of each working group.



Fig. 1: The Kaliacra Wind Farm case study (presented by Emilia Radoslavova Slavova and Stela Stankova Dineva)



Fig. 2: The Danish River Restoration case study (presented by Hans Skotte Möller)



Fig. 3: The Land Use Intensification case study (presented by Olga Shugaeva)

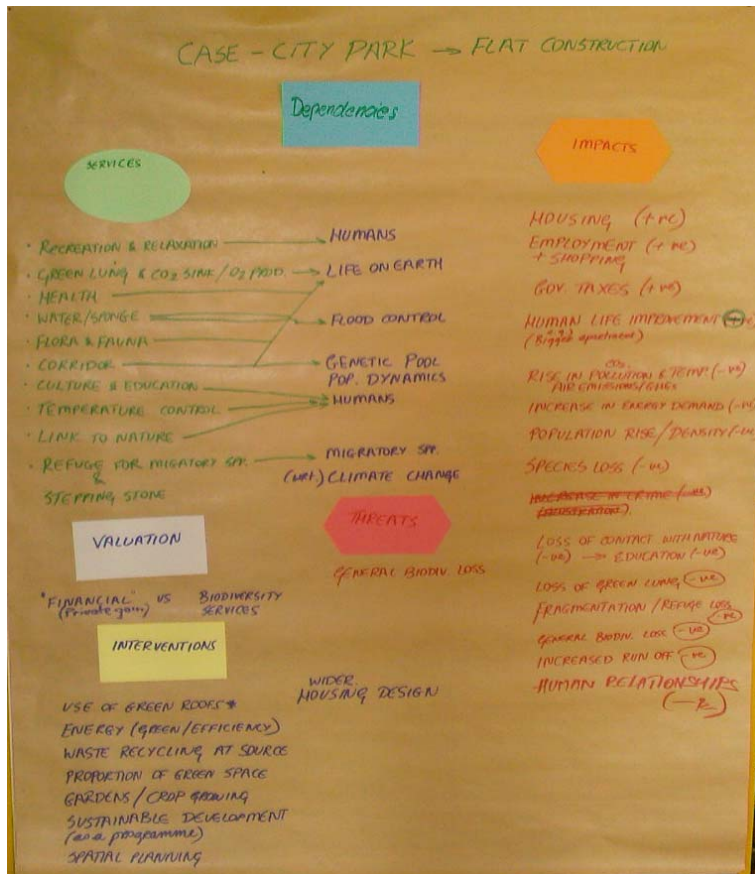


Fig. 4: The Urbanisation case study (presented by Maria Mihaela Antofie)

Annex G

Expectations of Participants for the Workshop

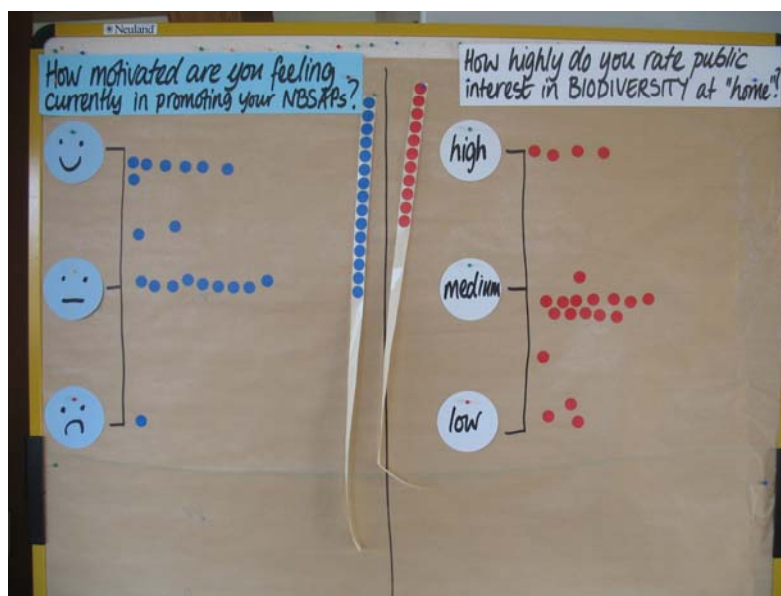


Fig. 1: Evaluation of the situation in the home countries

Tab. 1: Fears and hopes of the participants regarding the workshop

Fears	Hopes
COP-like meeting	Share and learn from practical experience, to learn from other experiences, exchange of best practices and good experiences, knowledge; more knowledge on mainstreaming, sector integration, engaging stakeholders
Just stating obvious things	Focusing on action
Just another meeting	Transboundary view on problems
Not to complicate the process	Integration of different MEAs
The NBSAP	Inspiration, to get some inspiration
4 th NR preparation	Benefit for biodiversity
Time constraints	Ideas how to put NBSAP issue on national agenda, to get more ideas about the CBD guidance on NBSAPs
Miss the train on the way back	Understand connection between 4 th NR and NBSAP
Fox / ticks	How to review NBSAP
Lack of frankness	Timing might be conducive to introduce new ways in my country
	To get a common approach for Europe, also for benchmarking and lobbying back home
	Focus on ecosystem services offers new opportunities
	Focused discussion, be frank
	Achieve specific conclusions / outcomes, way forward
	Enhance communication among countries of various stages of development / implementation, networking of people working on NBSAPs