

*Afforestation and Reforestation  
for Climate Change Mitigation:  
Potentials for Pan-European Action*



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Halt the loss of biodiversity

Warsaw, July 2004

Published by: IUCN Programme Office for Central Europe

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The background research for this policy brief was carried out by Dr. Christoph Wildburger.

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ISBN: 2-8317-0723-4

Cover photo: Sławomir Janyszek

Photos in the text: Sławomir Janyszek, Marcin Karetta, Magdalena Kłosowska

Lay out and cover design by: Carta Blanca, Ewa Cwalina

Produced with support of the Netherlands Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality (LNV).

Afforestation and reforestation activities enjoy high attention at the policy agenda as measures for carbon sequestration in order to mitigate climate change. The decrease of agricultural viability and the objective to increase forest cover in order to ensure soil protection, the supply with forest products and a reduction of forest fragmentation also trigger afforestation of former agricultural land in certain areas in Europe. But the establishment of new forested areas can endanger other environmental and social services, including biological diversity.

Therefore, there is a need for a comprehensive approach to afforestation and reforestation, which should consider carbon sequestration, biodiversity conservation, soil protection, as well as sustainable provision of raw material for forest industries and other goods and services in a balanced way.

## GLOBAL SETTING

### The Climate Convention

Industrialised European countries committed themselves to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by signing the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change** (UNFCCC). As outlined in the **Kyoto Protocol** and the **Marrakech Accords** to the UNFCCC, these countries may partly offset their domestic carbon dioxide emissions by sequestering carbon, inter alia, through afforestation and reforestation activities. Developing countries are eligible to implement afforestation and reforestation projects. To foster co-operation on afforestation and reforestation between industrialised and developing countries, the Kyoto Protocol established the **Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)** as a market based instrument.

The CDM provides an opportunity for industrialised countries to initiate afforestation and reforestation projects in developing countries and to trade respective carbon credits.

### Afforestation and reforestation

Afforestation and reforestation are defined by the UNFCCC as direct human-induced conversion of non-forested land to forested land through planting, seeding and/or the human-induced promotion of natural seed sources. Afforestation can take place on land that has not been covered by forest for at least 50 years. Reforestation can occur on land that was historically forested, but was subject to another land use.

(Source: FCCC/CP/2001/13/Add.1)



*The traditional European agricultural landscape – a mosaic of fields and forests*

In 2003, the Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC adopted modalities and procedures for afforestation and reforestation activities under the CDM. Though it was agreed that socio-economic and environmental impacts should be taken into account in CDM projects, these modalities and procedures do not provide specific guidelines for afforestation and reforestation covering the relevant environmental and social issues.

## **The Biodiversity Convention**

In general, parties to the UNFCCC are guided by the principle that land-use activities should contribute to biodiversity conservation and the sustainable use of natural resources. They are also requested to abide by commitments under the **Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD)** and other relevant international environmental agreements related to sustainable forest management (SFM). The CBD addresses the potential impact of afforestation and reforestation on forest biological diversity and other ecosystems. It urges Parties to the UNFCCC to ensure that activities targeted to carbon sequestration are in accordance with the conservation and use of biological diversity. Furthermore, it promotes the creation of synergies in implementing both conventions, the CBD and the UNFCCC. In addition, the report of a **CBD Ad-hoc Technical Expert Group on Biodiversity and Climate Change** provides advice on the integration of biodiversity considerations into the implementation of the UNFCCC. But no common guidelines have yet been discussed that would specifically address afforestation and reforestation for carbon sequestration.

## **Carbon sequestration versus other environmental and social considerations**

The Kyoto Protocol and the Marrakech Accords refer to the importance of ensuring that carbon sequestration activities contribute to the objectives of the CBD, but they do not explicitly exclude practices negatively impacting on ecosystem integrity and goods and services, as well as practices leading to loss of native biodiversity, e.g. afforestation of native grasslands or wetlands. Since the adoption of the Kyoto Protocol in 1997, the environmental and social implications of afforestation and reforestation in climate change mitigation have been widely discussed. Concerns have been raised that the valuing of carbon sequestration over other ecosystem services could have a negative impact on the environment and people's livelihoods.

There is a threat that the emerging market for carbon sequestration could encourage afforestation and reforestation based on large scale forestry schemes, which focus on simple forest types, land with good growth rates and the use of exotic or genetically modified species to improve those rates. Such activities may be effective in storing carbon, but will conflict with a balanced approach to SFM and sustainable development. Plantations of fast growing non-native trees and afforestation of native non-forest habitats threaten natural biodiversity and may reduce ecosystem services.

The use of chemicals for pest control and fertilising in order to ensure the accumulation of biomass may pollute air, soil and groundwater and affect populations of various species.

Socio-economic implications need to be considered especially in developing countries. The land use change for development may become highly constrained if large tracts of land are locked up in contracts for carbon sequestration. If an afforestation or reforestation project is perceived as being an impediment to local livelihoods, it may create an incentive for illegal harvesting or clearing, also threatening the permanence of carbon sequestration.

# AFFORESTATION IN EUROPEAN POLICIES

## Regional Processes

Afforestation and reforestation are addressed at pan-European level in the context of SFM (Sustainable Forest Management). The main regional policy process on forests, the **Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE)** refers to afforestation and reforestation issues in various commitments. Adopted in 1993, the “General Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Forests in Europe” already state that afforestation should be conducted in a manner that does not negatively affect ecologically interesting or noteworthy sites and landscapes. The resolution underlines that afforestation needs to be well suited to local conditions and capable of tolerating climatic and other stresses, inter alia, potential climate change. The “Pan-European Criteria, Indicators and Operational Level Guidelines for Sustainable Forest Management” adopted in 1998 provide the basis for development of environmentally sound carbon sequestration, balancing efforts on carbon sequestration with the need to conserve biological diversity and providing a tool to implement SFM at field level. They promote reforestation and afforestation with native species and local provenances that are well adapted to site conditions.

In addition to the MCPFE process, the **Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS)** identifies the harmonisation of afforestation policies with nature conservation and landscape policies as priority for action. The respective Work Programmes of MCPFE and PEBLDS tackle afforestation and reforestation issues and aim at a joint pan-European approach to afforestation and reforestation in the context of climate change mitigation.

## Policy Implementation for Afforestation

To meet further environmental concerns regarding afforestation and reforestation in the context of climate change, the following decisions have been taken at the pan-European level:

- In the MCPFE, the countries committed themselves to contribute to the implementation of the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol, among others, by including guidance on afforestation and reforestation into national forest programmes or plans, which takes due regard of environmental (in particular biodiversity), economic and social values and aims at mitigating the potential negative effects of large scale afforestation.
- Furthermore, the elaboration of recommendations for afforestation



*Hoopoe – a typical dweller of biologically diverse landscapes*

in the context of UNFCCC, taking account of biodiversity interests, is defined as priority theme for co-operation between MCPFE and PEBLDS.

➔ Corresponding to these commitments, the MCPFE Work Programme adopted in 2003 identifies pan-European recommendations for afforestation and reforestation in the context of UNFCCC as an action. At the same time, the Rolling Work Programme of the PEBLDS also addresses the implementation of this co-operative work.

### MCPFE commitments related to afforestation and carbon sequestration:

- *Resolution S2 – Conservation of Forest Genetic Resources* addresses the need for conserving genetic diversity to have sufficient diversity in the choice of afforestation material.
- *Resolution S5 – Expansion of the EUROSILVA Network of Research on Tree Physiology* emphasises the importance of carbon sequestration research.
- *Resolution H1 – General Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Forests in Europe* defines how afforestation should be conducted in the frame of SFM.
- *Resolution H4 – Strategies for a Process of Long-Term Adaptation of Forests in Europe to Climate Change* refers to the potential of forests for carbon sequestration and the need for related research.
- *Resolution L2 – Pan-European Criteria, Indicators and Operational Level Guidelines for SFM* defines Criterion 1 as “Maintenance and Appropriate Enhancement of Forest Resources and their Contribution to Global Carbon Cycles” and Criterion 4 as “Maintenance, Conservation and Appropriate Enhancement of Biological Diversity in Forest Ecosystems”. The operational level guidelines promote afforestation and reforestation with native species and local provenances.
- *Resolution V4 – Conserving and Enhancing Forest Biological Diversity in Europe* promotes the restoration of forest biological diversity in forests established on former forestlands or other landscapes as well as the enhancement of incentives to promote natural regeneration and regeneration with native tree species and provenances.
- *PEBLDS/MCPFE Framework for Co-operation* identifies the elaboration of recommendations for afforestation as priority issue.
- *Resolution V5 – Climate Change and SFM in Europe*: Countries commit themselves to include guidance on afforestation and reforestation into national forest programmes taking into account economic, social and environmental values, in particular biodiversity.

## The European Community and Afforestation



In contrast to other regional processes, which are not legally binding, the European Union sets a "hard law" framework for afforestation in the EU *Rural Development Regulation*. This Regulation contains forestry measures, including afforestation of agricultural land. Afforestation of agricultural land is supported, provided that such planting is adapted to local conditions and is compatible with the environ-

A Scots pine monoculture planted on an old field – a common sight in many European countries

ment. A new Rural Development Regulation is presently being developed and is expected to be adopted in 2005. *The Biodiversity Strategy and the Action Plan for the Conservation of Natural Resources* define the objective to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the implementation of the Rural Development Regulation. Nevertheless, the EC expresses concern that pastureland with high landscape value and importance for biodiversity is being afforested. This problem is likely to arise from the fact that support for afforestation is given for a wide range of agricultural land in the frame of the Rural Development Regulation. As large tracts of marginal land may be turned into forests and given the potential implications for biodiversity, this issue is of European concern.

### EC's regulations and policies on afforestation and carbon sequestration:

- *Rural Development Regulation* (1257/1999) and related regulations (1268/1999, 445/2002, 963/2003) focus especially on the restructuring and competitiveness of agriculture and, in addition, regard afforestation as means to increase supplies for certain forestry products and as important for soil use and the environment.
- *Forest Focus Regulation* (2152/2003) addresses the monitoring of biodiversity and carbon sequestration.
- *Forest Strategy* (COM/1998/649) proposes to contribute to carbon storage through afforestation of agricultural land with species adapted to local conditions, preferably native species or local provenances.
- *Biodiversity Strategy* (COM/1998/0042) includes the objective to promote carbon sequestration and to ensure that afforestation does not negatively affect ecologically interesting or noteworthy sites and ecosystems. In the "Message from Malahide" of May 2004, the outcome of a participatory review of the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans, the target was set that afforestation should have no further long-term negative impact on biodiversity in the EU from 2004.
- *Biodiversity Action Plan for the Conservation of Natural Resources* (COM/2001/0162) includes the Action to ensure that conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity is being promoted by the Rural Development Regulation.

### Needs and Challenges

Overall, policy commitments for afforestation and reforestations in Europe so far cover environmental concerns to some extent. But their implementation is partly hampered by incentives which do not adequately take note of environmental and social considerations. Furthermore, the issue of afforestation and reforestation projects in the frame of the CDM has not yet been tackled at a pan-European level. As a consequence, a number of related needs and challenges have to be addressed in order to ensure a balanced approach to afforestation and reforestation. More specifically, a respective discussion on European activities should take into account the following issues:

- ➔ Planting trees on formerly forested land can enhance biodiversity and environmental services, especially when native species are used. Planting trees on natural non-forest ecosystems is likely to lead to loss



*Pure Scots pine stands created through afforestation projects do not contribute much to biological diversity*



*Species diversity in afforestation*



*Creating a diverse habitat*

of native flora and fauna and associated ecosystem services.

- Support for afforestation can cause the loss of non-forest habitats based on traditional land uses with high ecological value, if the incentives for afforestation are higher than for the traditional use or conservation measures. Furthermore, the establishment of single species plantations may decrease biological diversity and degrade soils.
- Severe degradation may hamper the regeneration of native species. The establishment of non-invasive exotic species as a nurse crop may be justified in restoration of natural forest ecosystems in order to assist in the recovery of key primary processes such as nutrient cycling.
- Using alien invasive species for forest establishment will adversely affect environmental services and create negative side effects.
- The use of fertiliser to increase forest growth rates and hasten the accumulation of woody biomass may cause eutrophication leading to a loss of local biodiversity. Fertiliser may also contribute to greenhouse gas emissions through enhancing nitrogen oxide emissions and decreasing methane oxidation.
- The application of chemicals in controlling pest populations in order to retain biomass for carbon sequestration is likely to pollute air, soil and groundwater and may affect populations of non-target species negatively.
- Afforestation and reforestation may change landscapes and may have an impact on the provision of landscape-related goods and services. The supply with goods and services benefiting people and societies and the conservation of traditional cultural landscapes, as well as landscape ecology, need to be taken into account. Forest landscape restoration would constitute a valuable approach to afforestation and reforestation activities in this context.
- Afforestation and reforestation projects in developing countries also bear risks for sustainable development. The relation between livelihood and forest activities needs to be evaluated case by case. Projects in the framework of CDM should ensure social, economic and environmental improvements, should contribute to sustainable development through enhancing the productivity and resilience of existing land-use practices and should provide additional income generation.

# TOWARDS PAN-EUROPEAN POLICY GUIDELINES FOR AFFORESTATION

In both industrialised and developing countries, afforestation and reforestation projects in the frame of the climate mitigation process require a strong enabling framework at the national and international levels, i.e. effective institutions, proactive policies and clear legislation.

The European countries do not only face afforestation issues in Europe itself. Their co-operation with developing countries outside Europe on carbon sequestration under the CDM entails the need to consider socio-economic and environmental impacts of afforestation and reforestation also in these countries. There is a responsibility to ensure that all forest-related measures in climate change mitigation are in line with SFM – no matter where activities take place.

Specific policy recommendations would increase the prospects of implementing environmentally sound and socially equitable afforestation and reforestation activities and projects. A common pan-European approach could also contribute to further deliberations in the UNFCCC in reviewing modalities and procedures for afforestation and reforestation activities under the CDM.

The following policy recommendations should serve as a basis to discuss pan-European guidelines for afforestation and reforestation. MCPFE and PEBLDS should jointly develop the pan-European guidelines taking into account above issues and the related policy recommendations. These guidelines should refer to activities in Europe and projects conducted outside Europe by European countries in the frame of CDM.

## Policy Recommendations

### General Considerations

- Ensure that all afforestation and reforestation measures for increasing carbon sequestration are in line with SFM and take into account environmental, social and economic aspects in a balanced way
- Use the Pan-European Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management as an overall framework for establishing and managing afforestation and reforestation as well as the Pan-European Operational Level Guidelines for SFM as a framework to promote the sustainable management of afforestation and reforestation at the field level
- Apply the principles of the ecosystem approach to afforestation and reforestation activities
- Consider other measures in SFM, which also increase carbon sequestration, as alternative to afforestation and reforestation in those cases, where they may negatively impact on the environment
- Increase public awareness-raising and education among land owners on environmental issues related to afforestation and reforestation

### Institutional Considerations and Enabling Framework

- Promote the development of national or regional, cross-sectoral, integrated territorial land use planning schemes in order to maximise ecological and socio-economic benefits of afforestation.
- Review policies, legislation and programmes related to forestry, biodiversity, land use and agriculture to harmonise them with afforestation and reforestation guidelines that are in line with SFM; use stakeholder participation procedures in adapting them
- Promote the integration of such afforestation and reforestation guidelines in all relevant sector

policies (land-use planning, environment, development and financial policy processes) to avoid a purely sectoral approach and to enhance co-ordination between different government agencies

- Include afforestation and reforestation guidelines into National Forest Programmes and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans
- Include information on areas of high ecological value, ecological networks and protected areas in policy development and planning procedures for afforestation and reforestation activities
- Enhance incentives for the private sector to promote environmental and socio-economic objectives, e.g. sustainable rural employment, improvement of environmental services including biodiversity and improvement of economic viability for farmers and foresters
- Associate all incentives for afforestation and reforestation with the guidelines for afforestation and reforestation and promote specific nature conservation measures through additional incentives
- Monitor and evaluate afforestation and reforestation activities and establish mechanisms (e.g. remote sensing techniques) to monitor the spontaneous succession of forests due to loss of economic viability of agricultural land use
- Integrate binding guidelines for afforestation in related EU legislation.

### Environmental Considerations

- Establish a procedure to ensure adequate environmental impact assessments for large scale afforestation projects.
- Take measures against the conversion of naturally non-forested land, especially native grasslands and peat lands
- Take measures to conserve non-forest areas of high ecological value, which are part of traditional landscapes and subject to traditional land use; compile information on these areas and increase incentives for land owners to keep the traditional use
- Promote, preferably through incentives, afforestation and reforestation of native tree species on land that was historically forested and the use of origins of native species and local provenances that are well adapted to site conditions, *inter alia* through natural regeneration
- Restrict the use of non-native species; support afforestation and reforestation with non-native species only as an initial step to restore natural forests; only those introduced species, provenances or varieties should be used, whose impacts on the ecosystem and on the genetic integrity of native species and local provenances have been evaluated, provided that negative impacts can be avoided or minimised
- Take measures against the use of invasive alien species for afforestation and reforestation



- Promote, preferably through incentives, species compositions and structural diversity in line with the natural diversity of the specific habitats in afforestation and reforestation; promote the development of natural dynamics of forest ecosystems and in this context restrict the use of fire suppression measures aiming at carbon accumulation

- Promote the deliberate use of natural succession to increase species diversity (towards site adapted "mosaics" differing in species composition and age)
- Promote afforestation and reforestation activities that contribute to the restoration of ecological connectivity and ecological corridors



*A properly shaped forest-field ecotone*

- Take into account all landscape values, including maintenance of cultural landscape and cultural heritage sites and sacred cultural sites, in the elaboration of policies and planning procedures for afforestation and reforestation activities; promote forest landscape restoration as an approach to afforestation and reforestation
- Take measures against the use of nutrients to increase forest growth rates and hasten the accumulation of woody biomass
- Seriously limit the use of toxic chemicals to control pest populations in order to retain biomass for carbon sequestration
- Promote the use of endangered and rare tree species through incentives; establish/support propagation system for seeds and plant material of rare and endangered species

### **Considerations for Afforestation and Reforestation Projects under the CDM**

- Establish a government authority responsible for afforestation and reforestation activities under the CDM to facilitate co-ordination of relevant agencies
- Strengthen legislation, so that afforestation and reforestation for carbon sequestration do not overwhelm existing safeguards for SFM and existing priorities for environmental management, income generation and poverty alleviation; ensure that CDM projects do not only benefit carbon sequestration, but also social, economic and environmental conditions
- Assess environmental and socio-economic impacts of afforestation and reforestation projects in the CDM framework, including influences outside the project area, through adequate approaches
- Assess and take into account risk factors affecting the permanence of emission reductions, which are specific for afforestation and reforestation projects including storms, pests, disease, fire and animal browsing
- Ensure that an afforested landscape possesses the necessary goods and services to fulfil biodiversity and sustainable livelihood objectives to increase the permanence of the projects emission reductions
- Clarify land tenure rights and access to and control of resources in assessing afforestation and reforestation projects
- Establish a framework for monitoring for CDM afforestation projects, including the monitoring of emission reductions
- Promote the establishment of criteria for environmentally sound and socially equitable projects for investment funds of financial institutions and accounting and certification firms; encourage project developers and implementers to demonstrate that they have considered all relevant social and environmental issues in their project design

## Relevant Policy Documents

### United Nation Framework for Climate Change (UNFCCC)

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 1992. <http://unfccc.int>

Kyoto Protocol to the UNFCCC, 1997.

Marrakech Accords to the UNFCCC, 2001.

FCCC/CP/2001/13/Add.1: Report of the Conference of the Parties on its seventh session.

FCCC/CP/2003/6: Report of the Conference of the Parties on its ninth session.

FCCC/CP/2003/6/Add.1: Report of the Conference of the Parties on its ninth session.

FCCC/CP/2003/6/Add.2: Report of the Conference of the Parties on its ninth session.

### Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Convention on Biological Diversity, 1992. <http://www.biodiv.org>

UNEP/CBD/COP/5/23 Decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its fifth meeting.

UNEP/CBD/COP/6/20 Decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its sixth meeting.

UNEP/CBD/COP/7/21 Decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its seventh meeting.

UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/9/11 Climate change.

UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/9/INF/12 Biological diversity and climate change.

### Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE)

<http://www.mcpfe.org>

MCPFE Strasbourg Resolution S2: Conservation of Forest Genetic Resources, 1990.

MCPFE Strasbourg Resolution S5: Expansion of the EUROSILVA Network of Research on Tree Physiology, 1990.

MCPFE Helsinki Resolution H1: General Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Forests in Europe, 1993.

MCPFE Helsinki Resolution H4: Strategies for a Process of Long-Term Adaptation of Forests in Europe to Climate Change, 1993.

MCPFE Lisbon Resolution L2: Pan-European Criteria, Indicators and Operational Level Guidelines for Sustainable Forest Management, 1998.

MCPFE Vienna Resolution V4: Conserving and Enhancing Forest Biological Diversity in Europe, 2003.

MCPFE Vienna Resolution V5: Climate Change and Sustainable Forest Management in Europe, 2003.

MCPFE Work Programme – Pan-European Follow-up of the Fourth Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe in Europe, Vienna, 2003.

### Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS)

<http://www.strategyguide.org/straabou.html>

Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy endorsed at the Third Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe", Sofia, 1995.

Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy, STRA-CO(2003)9, Rolling Work Programme of the PEBLDS.

### European Community (EC)

<http://europa.eu.int>

Council Regulation (EC) No 1257/1999 of 17 May 1999 on support for rural development from the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF) and amending and repealing certain Regulations.

Council Regulation (EC) No 1268/1999 of 21 June 1999 on Community support for pre-accession measures for agriculture and rural development in the applicant countries of Central and Eastern Europe in the pre-accession period.

Commission Regulation (EC) No 445/2002 of 26 February 2002 laying down detailed rules for the application of Council Regulation (EC) No 1257/1999 on support for rural development from the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF).

Commission Regulation (EC) No 963/2003 of 4 June 2003 amending Regulation (EC) No 445/2002 laying down detailed rules for the application of Council Regulation (EC) No 1257/1999 on support for rural development from the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF).

Regulation (EC) No 2152/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 November 2003 concerning monitoring of forests and environmental interactions in the Community (Forest Focus).

COM/2002/0404 Proposal for a European Parliament and Council Regulation concerning monitoring of forests and environmental interactions in the Community (Forest Focus).

COM/1998/42 Communication of the European Commission to the Council and to the Parliament on a European Community Biodiversity Strategy.

COM/2001/0162 (01) Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament – Biodiversity Action Plans in the areas of Conservation of Natural Resources, Agriculture, Fisheries, and Development and Economic Co-operation.

COM/2001/0162 (02) Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament – Biodiversity Action Plan for the Conservation of Natural Resources.

COM/2001/0162 (03) Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament – Biodiversity Action Plan for Agriculture.

Council Resolution of 15 December 1998 on a forestry strategy for the European Union (1999/C56/01).

COM/1998/649 Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on a Forestry Strategy for the European Union.

Second Report of the European Community to the Convention on Biological Diversity, Thematic Report on Forest Biodiversity based on the Questionnaire provided by the CBD Secretariat, October 2002.

## IUCN – THE WORLD CONSERVATION UNION

Founded in 1948, The World Conservation Union brings together states, government agencies, and a diverse range of non-governmental organisations in a unique worldwide partnership; over 1000 members in all, spread across some 140 countries.

As a union, IUCN seeks to influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable.

The World Conservation Union builds on the strengths of its members, networks and partners to enhance their capacity and to support global alliances to safeguard natural resources at local, regional and global levels.

## EUROPEAN PROGRAMME 2005–2008

The IUCN European Programme mission is to contribute to a sustainable Europe by influencing policy development and implementation for biodiversity and landscape conservation, restoration and sustainable use inside and outside Europe. In practical terms, the mission translates into the following objectives:

**Supporting the Union in Europe and the EU** – Improved support framework for the global work of IUCN through the EU and other European partners; improved European membership services, including capacity building

**Understanding the main drivers of biodiversity change** – Improved knowledge of biodiversity change and effective conservation measures at landscape, ecosystem, habitat and species levels

**Financing nature conservation** – Efficient incentive frameworks for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use are available and understood

**Linking education, science, policy and practice** – National and supranational (EU) policies, multilateral agreements, processes and institutions are more supportive of biodiversity conservation and ecologically sustainable use

**Managing our natural heritage** – Ecosystems are managed in a sustainable manner, reconciling social, economic and biodiversity objectives

The European Programme seeks to make IUCN's voice heard through providing authoritative information and policy products, whilst applying the expertise in the European constituency of IUCN. These will be the result of integrating the diverse expertise of the Commissions, members and the worldwide IUCN secretariat to address the key drivers of biodiversity loss. The IUCN European Programme provides the platform for bringing the expertise together, coordinating development of the products and obtaining financial resources.

## Countdown 2010

'Countdown 2010' is an initiative of IUCN, its members and partners to raise awareness on biodiversity and to monitor the progress of a unique political commitment by all EU heads of State, and the pan-European Environment Ministers to 'halt the loss of biodiversity in Europe by 2010'. This ambitious goal forms a part of the EU Sustainability Strategy, and was reinforced by the 5<sup>th</sup> Environment for Europe conference in 2003.

## The IUCN Programme Office for Central Europe – current fields of activities

The IUCN Programme Office in Warsaw has a ten years experience in providing information on current topics related to biodiversity management. The office's expertise in compiling and disseminating information to key societal actors currently serves four major fields of activities:

- Ecological Networks – development of the ecological network in Ukraine. Uniting world experience to support a Global ECONET
- Agriculture – integrating environmental and consumer organisations of the CE region into the discussion of the European agricultural policy reform, and Integrating biodiversity protection concerns into the development of rural areas by linking instruments of the future Natura 2000 sites with Rural Development Plans in the CE region
- Forestry – raising awareness and building capacity among private forest owners in the CE region, developing nature conservation guidelines for afforestation projects
- Fishery – sustainable management of fresh-water fisheries in 19 countries of Central and Eastern Europe

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