



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1. *decided* to establish the Pan-European Biodiversity Platform, as a follow-up to the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS), to implement the Pan-European 2020 Strategy for Biodiversity
2. *decided* to set up a Steering Committee that will lead the process:
 - this structure is to be led by official representatives of governments and regional economic integration organizations, and open to the involvement of NGOs, academia, and businesses, reflecting sub-regional balance
 - members of this Steering Committee are to actively contribute, financially and/or in-kind, to the Platform
 - members are to meet virtually or back to back with other events and a first meeting of the Steering Committee is to take place in 2013
3. *decided* that the Steering Committee is tasked with:

- developing a work programme, building upon existing efforts across the regions with a view to enhanced consistency and effectiveness, and identifying a limited number of priority themes for pan-European cooperation, reviewing them periodically
 - setting-up, where needed and depending on the availability of funding, thematic working groups to address these priority themes
 - facilitating cooperation on the implementation of the Pan-European 2020 Strategy for Biodiversity through concrete project activities in the region, learning from each other through the exchange of experience and expertise, (including preparation to and implementation of biodiversity-related MEA COP decisions, work on indicators, NBSAPs, etc.)
 - facilitating the mobilisation of resources for the implementation of the Pan-European 2020 Strategy for Biodiversity
 - supporting synergies for biodiversity-related MEA implementation and reporting in the region, and inviting representation from the Secretariats of biodiversity-related MEAs
 - engaging stakeholders (including NGOs, academia, and businesses) to cooperate in the framework of the Platform
 - ensuring active and timely communication of the results and achievements of pan-European cooperation
 - organising regular Biodiversity in Europe conferences
4. *encouraged* UNEP to provide the Secretariat services for the Platform, in accordance with UNEP Governing Council Decision UNEP/GC/27/2
5. *requested* the Steering Committee to decide on the desired way to encourage formalised support for the Secretariat, be it through a submission to the next United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) of UNEP in 2014, direct request to UNEP, or through other means.