



European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity

In the buildup to 2010 the International Year of Biodiversity, the European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity has been providing, via the European Environment Agency, the knowledge base needed to support European biodiversity policies

What is the European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity?

The ETC/BD is a consortium of nine organisations combining national conservation agencies, research institutions and a non-profit foundation, all with broad expertise of support to biodiversity policy. The ETC/BD is coordinated by the French National Museum of Natural History.



National Muséum of Natural History (FR)



Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection (CZ)



Joint Nature Conservation Committee (UK)



Environmental Protection Agency for Special Areas (TR)



Higher Institute for Environment Protection and Research (IT)



Austrian Federal Agency for the Environment (AT)



Institute for Landscape Ecology -Slovak Academy of Science (SK)



Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SE)



European Centre for Nature Conservation (NL)

The ETC/BD is supported financially by the European Environment Agency and by the French *Ministère de l'Écologie, de l'Énergie, du Développement durable et de la Mer*.

What is a European Topic Centre?

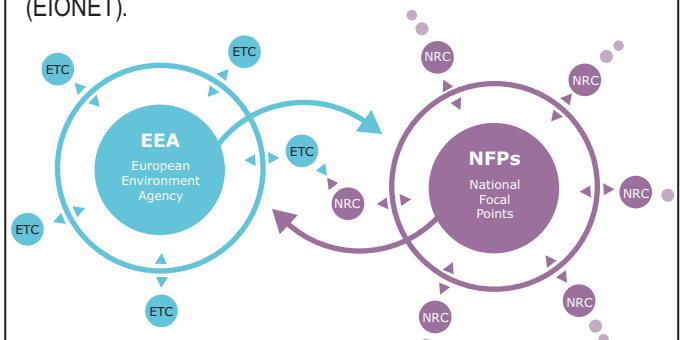
European Topic Centres (ETCs) are international consortia brought together to support the European Environment Agency (EEA) in its mandate:

*'to support sustainable development and to help achieve significant and measurable improvement in Europe's environment through the provision of **timely, targeted, relevant and reliable information** to policy making agents and the public'.*

Currently there are five ETCs:

- ETC/Air and Climate Change (Bilthoven, Netherlands)
- ETC/Water (Prague, Czech Republic)
- ETC/Land Use and Spatial Information (Barcelona, Spain)
- ETC/Sustainable Consumption and Production (Copenhagen, Denmark)
- ETC/Biological Diversity (Paris, France)

The European Environment Agency and its five European Topic Centres are working together with National Focal Points and thematic National Reference Centres designated in 38 countries within the European Information and Observation Network (EIONET).



<http://www.eea.europa.eu/>

Contact:

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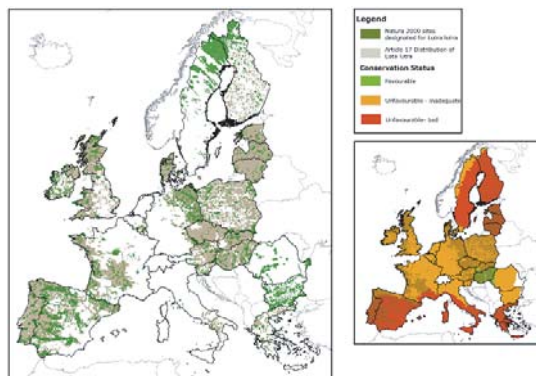


What are the main activities of the European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity?

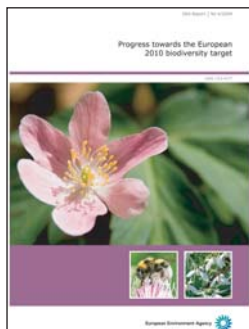
To support the implementation of **European biodiversity policies**

The ETC/BD provides scientific and technical expertise to the European Commission, EU Member States and others for

- building the EU Natura 2000 network
- streamlining and modernising the reporting tasks under the EC Habitats and Birds Directives



Natura 2000 sites designated for and conservation status of the Otter



To support the production of **biodiversity related indicators** and their use for the post 2010 target

- streamlining the production of biodiversity indicators from national to European and international levels through the SEBI process
- making use of indicators in support of the production of a Biodiversity Baseline for Europe 2010
- underpinning the development of biodiversity related 2020 policy sub-targets

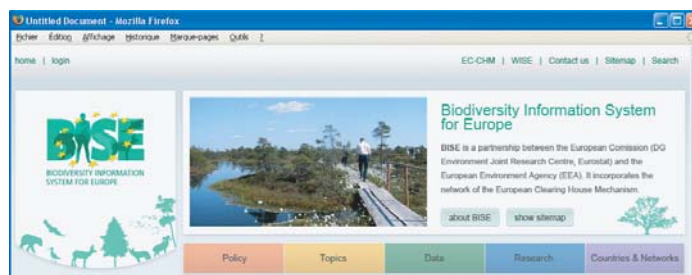
To support biodiversity-related **assessments and reporting**

- contributing to the regular production of the “State of the Environment” and other reports for Europe
- contributing to biodiversity-related publications such as the “10 messages for 2010”
- carrying out thematic assessments of biodiversity in Europe (agrobiodiversity, forestry, marine and coastal management, protected areas, etc.)
- providing advice and expertise to various research networks



To support the development of a **Biodiversity Information System for Europe**

- organising the data flow on biodiversity information from the national to the European level
- ensuring quality checking and quality control of European biodiversity datasets
- building up the repository of European biodiversity datasets for public use
- building a gateway to Biodiversity related information and knowledge for Europe



The European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity (ETC/BD) interacts with a large variety of networks ranging from national agencies within the EIONET network, European and international agencies, research networks, and NGOs.