

NEWS

• STREAMLINING EUROPEAN 2010 BIODIVERSITY INDICATORS (SEBI 2010)

Over the last months, SEBI has been presented at several international meetings including at the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Biodiversity Expert Group of the European Commission. During this latter meeting in June, the [EC Biodiversity Communication](#) was presented including its annex 2 which lists the work on SEBI indicators. This work was welcomed by Member States, though concern was expressed that the indicator set as a whole should be delivered and that the number of indicators in the set as a whole should not be excessive. The Communication is seen as very high priority by DG Environment.

A substantial communication on SEBI is expected in 2008 and 2010 – to the European Parliament, Council, etc and a status report to the European Council is anticipated at the end of 2006. A report and discussion is also anticipated at the next meeting of the Monitoring, Indicators and Reporting sub-group of the Biodiversity Expert Group (25 September 2006). An Alternet workshop on 28 September in Brussels, on communication of indices to policy makers may also be of interest. An investigation on what individual countries are doing to implement the CBD indicator set may also be launched in the late summer so that this can inform, and be informed by, the work on SEBI.

• NATURA 2000 & THE TWO NATURE DIRECTIVES

The Mediterranean list of Sites of Community Importance has been adopted and will be available on the [DG Environment website](#). This completes the lists of Sites of Community Importance for the former EU15 and is an important landmark in building the Natura 2000 network. It has taken a little more than 10 years to complete this first phase.

The Continental Region biogeographical seminar (for Czech Republic, Poland & Slovenia) was held 26-28 April 2006 at Darova in the Czech Republic. DG Environment have recently agreed to have a meeting for Cyprus & Malta (Mediterranean Region) later this year which will complete the seminars for the 10 member states who joined in 2004.

A summary of progress towards completing the Natura 2000 network is now available on our [website](#).

The ETC/BD has started to analyse new proposals from Austria, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany & Sweden. It is expected that these new proposals will remove some of the gaps in the lists of Sites of Community Importance already adopted.

A revised draft of the explanatory notes for the Article 17 Reporting format was produced by the ETC/BD following discussion at January's meeting of the Scientific Working Group and presented to the April meeting of the Habitats Committee. Following a period for comments from the Member States a further revision is now underway.

Revised annexes to the two nature directives have been prepared ready for when Bulgaria and Romania join the EU in 2007. Fourteen new habitats will be added to Annex I and twenty two species to annexes II & IV of the Habitats Directive.

• THE COMMON DATABASE ON DESIGNATED AREAS IN PROGRESS

Started in 1995, the development of a joint venture between the European Environment Agency, the UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre and the Council of Europe on a Common Database on Designated Areas (CDDA) is in progress.

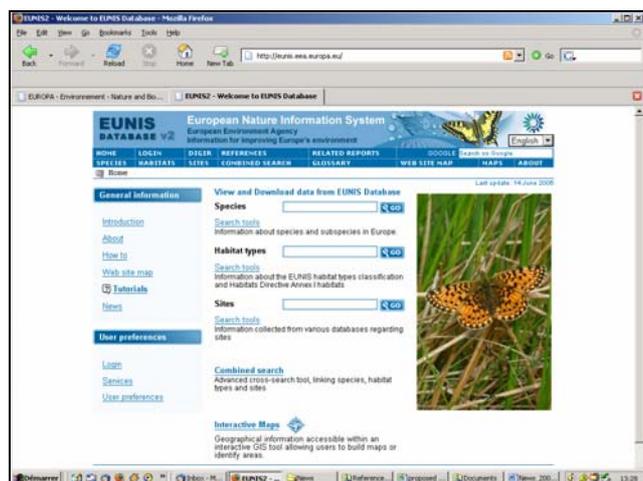
With more than 75000 sites designated at national level, up to 25 000 sites under European Union designation and several hundreds of sites designated at international level under various systems, Europe makes a considerable contribution to the global network of protected areas.

Collecting, recording and managing the large amount of data which underpins the characterisation of these designated sites is an important challenge. A new phase in the collaborative process was stimulated with the recent appointment of UNEP-WCMC's head of Unit on protected areas. Representatives of ETC/BD and EEA met with UNEP-WCMC unit of protected areas in Cambridge on 15-16 May 2006 to extensively discuss means for an enhanced collaboration for the CDDA. Main points discussed were: share of work between the three partner organisations of the CDDA process for streamlining dataflow on national designations; contacts with secretariats of international and regional conventions for data on international designations, improvement of the correspondence between the CDDA and the World Database on Protected Areas, collection of boundary data, synchronisation of regular updates between European dataset and deliveries for the WDPA.

The meeting was also the opportunity to finalise an Operational agreement for work on designated areas between the EEA and UNEP-WCMC within the broader scope of collaboration between these two organisations.

• EUNIS

The EUNIS (European Nature Information System) website, with information on European species, habitats & sites of conservation interest, has recently been updated and the interface improved – EUNIS is available at <http://eunis.eea.europa.eu/>.



• IDENTIFYING AND MAPPING HIGH NATURE VALUE FARMLAND AREAS

The conservation of high nature value (HNV) farmland areas is an explicit objective of EU environment and rural development policies. In the Resolution arising from the Kyiv conference (Environment in Europe, 2004) the European Environment Ministers committed themselves to identifying high nature value farmland areas by 2006 and to have favourable management of a substantial proportion of it in place by 2008.

A preliminary map of high nature value farmland (HNVF) was produced by the EEA in 2004. However, it was recognised that further work was needed in particular by involving countries in the definition and mapping of such HNVs. The Joint Research Centre has undertaken this work in close collaboration with the EEA.

ETC/BD has been requested to contribute to this process by: identifying Annex I habitat-types and Annex II species of the Habitats Directive corresponding to HNV areas and further selecting corresponding NATURA 2000 sites; facilitating contacts with relevant data holders such as for Important Plant Areas (Plantlife) and for national grassland inventories; participating in a HNV regional meeting with

central European countries; provide comment to the draft maps to be produced by JRC and EEA by the end of 2006.

• GREENWEEK 2006

Green Week is organized by the European Commission, DG Environment, and held each year in Brussels. The focus of Green Week 2006 (30 May to 2 June) was on biodiversity and several members of the 'core team' attended for one or more days. The European Centre for Nature Conservation (ECNC) had a stand and other partners also attended.

NEWS FROM THE PARTNERS

The [JNCC](http://www.jncc.gov.uk) have published the first report assessing the condition of UK protected areas. This is the result of over six years of effort, and summarises just under 13,000 assessments on over 6,000 sites.

<http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-3520>

Giulia Mo (ICRAM) and Dorian Moss attended 'Black Sea Ecosystem 2005 and Beyond' (8-10 May 2006, Istanbul, Turkey), a meeting organised by the Black Sea Commission where they presented the EUNIS habitats classification. Dorian Moss has since been invited to help the Black Sea Commission's Advisory Group on Conservation of Biological Diversity.

Sandra Rientjes leaves her post as Head of Programme Development/Deputy Director at ECNC on the 1st of August to take up a new post at the Dutch NGO 'Natuur en Milieu' (Nature and Environment) where she will be working on issues related to climate, energy and economy. The ETC/BD wishes her all the best in her new post and 'tot zins'.

Ben Delbaere will take over her responsibilities at ECNC.

REPORTS & PAPERS

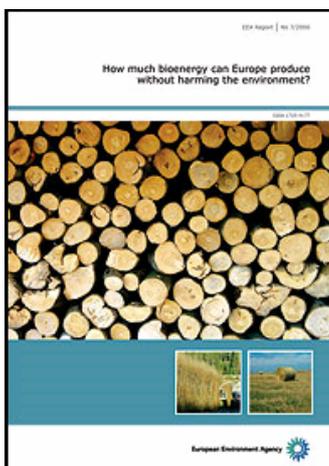
- PROGRESS TOWARDS HALTING THE LOSS OF BIODIVERSITY BY 2010



This report is one of several thematic reports prepared as a background to the "European Environment State and Outlook Report 2005" published in November 2005 by the EEA. It provides an assessment of progress towards the 2010 target to halt biodiversity loss for selected European ecosystems while also placing Europe within the global picture. Major contributions were provided by ETC/BD, including use of SEBI 2010 indicators.

http://reports.eea.europa.eu/eea_report_2006_5/en

- HOW MUCH BIOENERGY CAN EUROPE PRODUCE WITHOUT HARMING THE ENVIRONMENT ?



This report by the EEA with a major contribution by ETC/BD partner the European Forest Institute examines the impact of using biomass from agriculture, forestry and

waste for producing energy on farmland and forest biodiversity as well as on soil and water resources.

http://reports.eea.europa.eu/eea_report_2006_7/en

- THE CHANGING FACES OF EUROPE'S COASTAL AREAS



This report published by the EEA based on work of ETC/Terrestrial Environment with contributions from the ETC/BD and ETC-Water, provides information on the state of the environment in the coastal areas of Europe, and provides evidence of the need for a more integrated, long-term approach. ETC/BD mainly contributed to the chapter on trends of state of coasts on natural areas.

http://reports.eea.europa.eu/eea_report_2006_6/en

This newsletter is from the European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity. It aims at providing information on activities led by the Consortium in the framework of the multi-annual European Environment Agency's Strategy 2004-2008.

The newsletter will be produced 4 times per year at regular intervals.

If you have any contributions for the next issue of this newsletter please forward them to Doug Evans (evans@mnhn.fr).

Visit our website at

<http://biodiversity.eionet.europa.eu/>