

NEWS

● **STREAMLINING EUROPEAN 2010 BIODIVERSITY INDICATORS (SEBI 2010)**

As announced in the previous newsletter, the report "*Halting the loss of biodiversity by 2010: proposal for a first set of indicators to monitor progress in Europe*" (EEA Technical report, n° 11 - 2007) is available on the [SEBI web page](#) including the technical specifications of the 26 indicators selected during the first phase of the SEBI project.

A SEBI Coordination Team meeting held in November has launched the SEBI 2010 process Phase 2 putting in place 3 new working groups (Interlinkages, Climate Change and Communication) and the calendar to support the production of an Indicator Based Assessment report to be published by the EEA end of 2008. Material from this report will also be used by the EC DG Environment for its 2008 mid term review report.

The WG1 on Interlinkages (chair: Ben ten Brink [MNP](#), Coordinator: Sophie Condé [ETC/BD](#), MNHN) held a first meeting in Brussels the last 11 and 12 December at [INBO](#). The two other groups, Climate Change (chair: Snorri Baldursson [IINH](#), Coordinator: Dominique Richard [ETC/BD](#), MNHN) and SEBI communication (chair: James Williams [JNCC](#), Coordinator: Lawrence Jones-Walters [ETC/BD](#), [ECNC](#)) will meet early 2008.

● **NATURA 2000 & THE TWO NATURE DIRECTIVES**

On 13 November 2007 the European Commission adopted revised lists of Sites of Community Importance for the Atlantic, Continental and Boreal regions together with a first list for the Pannonian. This has added some 4.255 new sites and an area of some 90.000 square kilometres (about the size of Portugal) to the network. The Commission expects to update the Community lists for the Alpine and the Macaronesian biogeographical regions early in 2008 and the list for the Mediterranean biogeographical region a little later.

Further information about Natura 2000, including regularly updated statistics, are available on the [ETC/DB website](#).

National reports under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive have been delivered via the IT tool developed by the EEA by nineteen of the 25 concerned Member States and are being checked using the Quality Control routines developed by the ETC/BD. Some MS have submitted their second deliveries but others are yet to submit their first.

(Very) late deliveries risk not being taken into account when producing the biogeographical assessments and the EU Composite Report.

The ETC/BD organised an expert meeting in Paris on the 25 September and also contributed to discussions at the November meeting of the Habitats Scientific Working Group in Brussels to work with DG Environment and others to develop methodologies for assessing conservation status for biogeographical regions.

● **EIONET-NRC SEMINAR ON NATURE AND BIODIVERSITY**

The annual seminar with National Reference Centres on Nature and Biodiversity took place in Copenhagen on 29-30 October 2007, under the topic "Biodiversity – from datasets to assessments". Introductory presentations to the topic were made by DG-Environment on the reporting cycle generated by the [2006 Biodiversity Communication of the European Commission](#) and by the EEA on the development of the Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS), with a specific component to be tested from 2008 onwards with volunteer countries towards a "Land-Water-Biodiversity integrated assessment".

After a session dedicated to European-wide biodiversity datasets already or soon to be available for assessments (e.g. NATURA 2000 database, Article 17 reporting, Nationally and Internationally designated areas, bird population data), a session on SEBI 2010 indicators provided an insight on the biodiversity-related datasets which should be generated in the future by streamlined data flows. Examples of integrated spatial assessments related to climate change-biodiversity, agro-ecosystems, forests, coastal and marine ecosystems as well as economics and biodiversity were presented by the EEA. The seminar ended with a perspective on how these various datasets should contribute to the next EEA State of the Environment Report scheduled for 2010 and the European Ecosystem Assessment report (EURECA) to be published in 2012. Both for indicators and ecosystem assessment, national examples respectively from UK, NL and FR were presented.

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NATURE DIRECTORS MEETING

The annual meeting of EU Nature Directors was held in Lisbon, Portugal on 29 & 30 November.

Governance of EU biodiversity issues including the committee structure associated with the 2 nature directives was discussed with possible changes to the current system proposed. It is likely this will be discussed further in 2008. Other issues discussed included progress with the EU Biodiversity Action Plan, implementation of the Birds and Habitats Directives, impacts of renewable energies on Natura 2000 and climate change with reference to Natura 2000.

• DAMS, FISH & FRAGMENTATION

In support to the EEA project 8.2.2 – Spatial features of hydro-systems, the ETC/BD organised with the EEA an Expert workshop on “fragmentation of rivers systems by obstacles” held at the [MNHN](#) in October. The main objective was to collect comments and expertise about problem of rivers fragmentation limited to biological aspect. Experts from Austria, France, Germany, Belgium and Italy have selected a short set of fish based on data availability, sensitiveness and representativity at geographical scale. Data collection of historical and current distribution will help to validate a fragmentation model developed by EEA. This project will also contribute to develop a SEBI indicator on river fragmentation. In 2008, the ETC/BD will help the specification of a web-tool dedicated to collection of fish observation.

• JOINT MEETING ON ECOLOGICAL NETWORKS

A meeting of the Committee of experts on the Emerald Network, set up under the Bern Convention, took place in the Council of Europe, Strasbourg, on 18 October, followed, on 19 October, by a meeting of the Committee of experts of the [Pan-European Ecological network](#) (PEEN), set up under the [Pan-European Biological Landscape Diversity Strategy](#) (PEBLDS).

A presentation was made by ETC/BD on the work undertaken as part of a CARDS project to coordinate the development of Emerald pilot projects in six West Balkans countries. Report was also made on the agreement signed between EEA and UNEP-WCMC for the development of the European Common Database on Designated Areas, highlighting the role Council of Europe should play in streamlining the collection of information on designated areas from non-EEA countries.

The Council of Europe's secretariat reported on the very positive feedbacks received on the report entitled “The Pan-European Ecological Network” (see below), launched at the Belgrade Ministerial Conference, which includes extensive contributions from ETC/BD.

• FINAL INTERNATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE FOR AN INTERNATIONAL MECHANISM OF SCIENTIFIC EXPERTISE ON BIODIVERSITY (Montpellier, 15-17 NOVEMBER 2007)

The final International Steering Committee meeting has addressed outcomes from six regional consultations on an IMoSEB which have taken place since January 2007. After, discussion on main needs, stakeholders and possible structures of this mechanism led to a Statement while not recommending the formation of a new institution, proposes a mechanism which should:

- be flexible, intergovernmental, involve non-governmental stakeholders and build upon existing networks of scientists and knowledge holders;
- be in collaboration with the follow-up of the MA;
- ensure interaction with other relevant assessment processes; and
- have monitoring procedures for its effectiveness, used from its outset for programme evaluation, development and continuation.

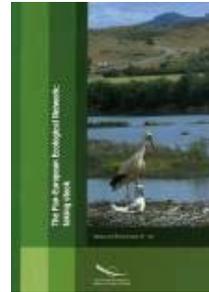
Donors and governments are invited to provide support for the further and urgent consideration of the establishment of a science-policy interface. The ISC also agreed to invite the Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme, and others, to convene a meeting to consider such an interface. The recommendations from the Statement are expected to be considered during the SBSTTA in February and during the COP in May 2008. A [summary of meeting](#) is available on the internet.

- **ETC/BD MANAGEMENT MEETING**

The Management Committee of the ETC/BD held its autumn meeting at the European Centre for Nature Conservation in Tilburg (NL) on 14-15 November. The Committee, chaired by Ben Delbaere from [ECNC](#), reviewed the implementation of 2007 work programme of the ETC/BD and exchanged views with Ivone Pereira Martins, representing the EEA, about the priorities for 2008. Ben Delbaere will continue as chairman for 2008.



- **THE PAN-EUROPEAN ECOLOGICAL NETWORK: TAKING STOCK**



This report from the Council of Europe was also launched at the above-mentioned 'Belgrade Conference'. It looks at the implementation of the Pan-European Ecological Network (PEEN) in the 55 states concerned. The report includes a substantial input from the ETC/BD. For further information visit the [Council of Europe website](#). The report is also available in French.

REPORTS & PAPERS

- **EUROPE'S ENVIRONMENT - THE FOURTH ASSESSMENT**



The latest in a series of assessments of the pan-European environment published over the past 15 years by the EEA is now available. This report assesses environmental progress in 53 countries from Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA), South Eastern Europe (SEE), as well as Western and Central Europe (WCE). The ETC/BD contributed to the chapter on biodiversity.

The report which was presented at the 5th Pan-European "Environment for Europe" Ministerial Conference is only available in English and Russian but the executive summary has been published in 26 languages.

The report and summaries can be downloaded from the [EEA website](#).

NEWS FROM THE PARTNERS

- **INSTITUTE OF LANDSCAPE ECOLOGY (SLOVAK ACADEMY OF SCIENCES)**

Julius Oszlányi (Director of ETC/BD partner the [Institute of Landscape Ecology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences](#)) has been awarded the 2007 Sultan Qaboos Prize for Environmental Preservation for his contributions to interdisciplinary ecological research programmes, notably in forest biodiversity conservation and biosphere reserves including his efforts to promote the creation in 1998 of the first tri-lateral biosphere reserve, East Carpathians, shared by Poland, Slovakia and Ukraine.

- **MUSEUM NATIONAL D'HISTOIRE NATURELLE (MNHN)**

Karima Ammad has left the ETC/BD Core Team in Paris and her post has been filled by Stephanie Pyamootoo. Good luck to Karima and welcome to Stéphanie.

At October's ESRI Users Conference in Romania Iurie Maxim was commended for his innovative use of GIS in developing IT tools for the implementation of Natura 2000 in Romania prior to joining the Core Team in Paris.

- EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR NATURE CONSERVATION (ECNC)**

Grégoire Lois (seconded to the Core Team in Paris) leaves the ETC/BD on 31 December 2007 after 7 years; we thank and wish him well in the future. An announcement for his replacement will be advertised soon.

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 is produced 3 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@mh.n.fr).

Visit our website at
<http://biodiversity.eionet.europa.eu/>

THE ETC/BD WISH YOU A

**BONNE et DIVERSIFIEE ANNÉE HAPPY NEW YEAR ŠĀSTNÝ
NOVÝ ROK "AAM SAID" GODT NYTÅR GELUKKIG
NIEUWJAAR FELICXAN NOVAN JARON HEAD UUT AASTAT
ONNELLISTA UUTTA VUOTTA FELIZ ANINOVO EIN
GUTES NEUES JAHR "KALI CHRONIA" BOLDOG ÚJ ÉVET
NOLLAIG SHONA AGUS ATH BHLIAIN FAOI MHAISE
FELICE ANNO NUOVO FELIX SIT ANNUS NOVUS LAIMĪGO
JAUNO GADU LAIMINGŪ NAUJŪJŪ METŪ SENA GDIDA
MIMLIJA RISQ SZCZĘŚLIWEGO NOWEGO ROKU FELIZ
ANO NOVO UN AN NOU FERICIT BLIADHNA MHATH UR
ŠĀSTNÝ NOVÝ ROK SREČNO NOVO LETO FELIZ AÑO NUEVO
GOTT NYTT ÅR YENI YILINIZ KUTLU OLSUN
BLWYDDYN NEWYDD DDAURTE BERRI ON LA MULP ANI
NOLLAIG CHRIDHEIL AGUS BLIADHNA MHATH UR
TRATRY NY TAONA EH**