

NEWS

• STREAMLINING EUROPEAN 2010 BIODIVERSITY INDICATORS (SEBI 2010)

After a period of consultation within EIONET¹, 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) was published at the beginning of July and presented during a side-event of the [Twelfth Meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice](#) (SBSTTA) held in Paris 2-6 July 2007. The first part is available on the [SEBI web page](#). The second part on technical specifications of the 26 indicators will be available on-line from August at: www.reports.eea.europa.eu/technical_report_2007_11/en.

The last SEBI Coordination Team meeting held in May discussed the SEBI 2010 process Phase 2. This new step will run until the end of 2008 and will focus on

- obtaining political endorsement of the SEBI 2010 process,
- securing dataflows for the production of the 26 indicators and
- using them in an indicator based assessment report.

Three specific areas will be deepened as Inter-linkages & data, Climate change and SEBI communication.

Additional work will be oriented to collection of information on which indicators sets are being used throughout Europe and an assessment of the extent the SEBI 2010 set has steered the countries in their implementation of biodiversity indicators.

• NATURA 2000 & THE TWO NATURE DIRECTIVES

A list of Sites of Community Importance for the Pannonian region together with updated lists for the Atlantic, Boreal, Continental regions (including sites in the countries which joined the EU in 2004) have been approved by the Habitats Committee in June and, subject to scrutiny by the European Parliament, will be published in the EU Official Journal later this year. Updated lists for the Alpine, Macaronesian and Mediterranean regions are in preparation.

The first national reports under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive – for CZ, LV, PL, SE - have been delivered via the IT tool developed by the EEA and are being checked using the Quality Control routines developed by the

ETC/BD.

The ETC/BD organised an expert meeting that was held in Paris on the 14 June to discuss possible methodologies for assessing Conservation Status of habitats and species for Biogeographical Regions.

A Marine Expert Group, set up by the Habitats Committee, has been working since March 2003 to "develop a common understanding of the provisions of Natura 2000 relating to the marine environment in order to facilitate the designation and future management of these areas". A report "[Guidelines for the establishment of the Natura 2000 network in the marine environment. Application of the Habitats and Birds Directives](#)" is now available.

A revision of the Interpretation Manual to include new habitats proposed by Bulgaria and Romania has been prepared by the ETC/BD and was approved by the Habitats Committee on 13 April 2007. It will be available from the [DG Environment website](#) shortly.

Romania has recently proposed 273 Sites of Community Importance for fauna, flora and habitats but to date no Special Protection Areas for birds.

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

• EUROPEAN REGIONAL CONSULTATION FOR AN INTERNATIONAL MECHANISM OF SCIENTIFIC EXPERTISE ON BIODIVERSITY (GENEVA, 26-28 APRIL 2007)

After the conference on Biodiversity, Science and Governance in 2005, an international consultation was launched to assess the need, scope and possible forms of an [International Mechanism of Scientific Expertise on Biodiversity](#) (IMoSEB), this mechanism aiming to improve the interface between expertise and decision-making. The consultation is an exploratory process, a broad, multidisciplinary consultation with numerous parties involved and a political and media audience. Its aim is to provide real added value, taking full account of what already exists. The Executive Committee of the consultative process towards an IMoSEB, meeting in December 2006, wished to broaden and deepen the consultations by holding meetings on each continent. Then, after two regional meetings in North America and Africa, the European Regional Consultation was held in Geneva, (26-28/04/2007) and the ETC/BD, representing the EEA, has presented its experience on how answer to political needs with production of information and assessment.

http://www.imoseb.net/regional_consultations/europe

¹ [European Environment Information and Observation Network](#)

● COLLABORATION WITH ETC/LUSI

Following a successful tender to a call for proposals by the EEA for the period 2007-2010, the Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB) continues to coordinate the European Topic Centre focused on the spatial dimension of the environmental information. The [European Topic Centre on Land use and Spatial Information](#) (ETC/LUSI), involving ten partner organisations started work in January 2007.

Areas of collaboration with ETC/BD were discussed and clarified during a joint meeting held in Paris on 19 April. Such areas include: assessment of the environmental context of designated areas, indicators on habitat fragmentation/ connectivity and ecosystem accounting.

Further discussion took place during the ETC/LUSI launching meeting in Barcelona on 7-8 June, where the ETC/BD, as well as the [ETC/Air and Climate Change](#) and the [ETC/Water](#) were invited to express their needs for support on spatially related data.

● ECOSYSTEM SERVICES AND ECOSYSTEM ACCOUNTING

Assessing the condition, trends and resilience of ecosystems across Europe is at the heart of EEA's work. As a follow-up to the publication of the [Millennium Ecosystem Assessment](#) as well as of the Communication from the Commission on "Halting the loss of Biodiversity by 2010 - and Beyond, Sustaining Ecosystem Services for Human Well-being" a report on a European Ecosystem Assessment (EURECA) is scheduled for publication in 2012 by the EEA.

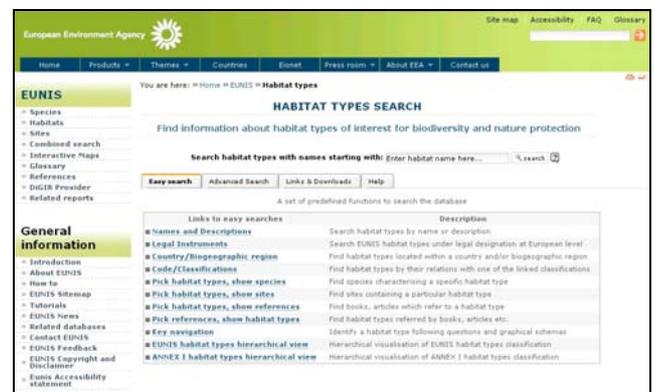
As part of the project on Land and Ecosystem Accounting initiated two years ago, a methodological framework for characterising and quantifying European ecosystem condition and services, starting from CORINE Land-Cover, is being developed and tested, involving both ETC/LUSI and ETC/BD. A [workshop](#) dedicated to wetlands accounting took place in Barcelona on 21-22 June, with representatives of the Med-Wet project, the recently launched [Observatory of Mediterranean Wetlands](#) as well as site managers from the Camargue (FR), the Danube Delta (RO) and Doñana (ES). Various parameters to qualify land use functions, natural functions and ecosystems goods and services were preliminary tested and will be further presented during a workshop on classification of ecosystem services to be held in September.

ETC/BD is also following initiatives which are developing at European or national level of relevance to European ecosystem assessments such as the [Rubicode project](#), the

French Millennium Ecosystem Assessment project and the project on a French Ecosystem Accounting.

● MARINE HABITATS IN THE BLACK SEA

The ETC/BD and the Black Sea Commission jointly held an expert workshop in Istanbul in May to produce a list of marine habitats occurring in the Black Sea. A draft list has been prepared by ETC/BD partner [ICRAM](#) which has been circulated to participants for comments. A final list will be available by the end of this summer which will be used to improve the [EUNIS habitats classification](#).



● ETC/BD MANAGEMENT MEETING

The Management Committee of the ETC/BD held its spring meeting at the [European Forest Institute](#) in Joensuu (FI) on 28-30 May. 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.



From left to right: B. Delbaere (ECNC), J. Oszlyanyi (ILE-SAS), J. Williams (JNCC), L. Klein (EEIC), C. Romão (MNHN), G. Mo (ICRAM), I. Maxim, S. Condé (MNHN), B. MacSharry (seconded by the [DoEHLG](#)), I. Pereira Martins (EEA), A. Schuck (EFI), D. Richard (MNHN), J. Plesnik (AOPK-CR), J. van Brusselen (EFI)

REPORTS & PAPERS

- **BIODIVERSITY INDICATORS FOR FRENCH FORESTS - OVERVIEW AND OUTLOOK**

'Indicateurs de biodiversité pour les forêts françaises. État des lieux et perspectives' ('Biodiversity indicators for French forests - Overview and outlook') by Harold Levrel, Denis Couvet (all [MNHN](#)) and Grégoire Lois ([ECNC](#)) has just been published in *La Revue Forestière Française*, n°1, 2007. The paper is in French with an English summary, further details available via the journal's [website](#).

- **LAND-USE SCENARIOS FOR EUROPE: QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS ON A EUROPEAN SCALE (PRELUDE)**



This report from the EEA presents the methodological approach and key findings of the [PRELUDE](#) project that used an innovative mix of illustration, text and models to simulate five contrasting future environmental scenarios for a Europe some 30 years from now.

NEWS FROM THE PARTNERS

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

Želmíra ŠÍPKOVÁ joined the ETC/BD core team in Paris in June to help with work on the Natura 2000 network. Želmíra comes from Slovakia where she worked in the [Natura 2000 unit of State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak republic](#) as a habitat expert and as administrator of databases of their Natura 2000 unit. After university studies in the field of nature conservation she started PhD studies on the toxicology of endangered plant species (*Primula farinosa*, *Pedicularis palustris*, and *Cirsium brachycephalum*) which she has temporarily interrupted. She is particularly interested in plant and vegetation ecology and conservation.

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@mnhn.fr).

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

THE ETC/BD WISH YOU A NICE RESTFUL SUMMER