

NEWS

• STREAMLINING EUROPEAN 2010 BIODIVERSITY INDICATORS (SEBI 2010)

The first meeting of the SEBI2010 Working Group on 'Indicators on impact of climate change on biodiversity' (chair: Snorri Baldursson, [IINH](#); Coordinator: Dominique Richard [ETC/BD](#), MNHN) was held in Paris, hosted by the MNHN on the 5 and 6 February 2008. The goal of the meeting was to make a first selection of indicators on the impact of climate change on biodiversity.

The SEBI Working Group on Interlinkages (chair: Ben ten Brink [MNP](#), Coordinator: Sophie Condé [ETC/BD](#), MNHN) held its second meeting on 25 and 26 February in the Botanical Gardens of Geneva (CH) and its third meeting on 17 and 18 June in the SEPA offices in Stockholm (SE). The Geneva meeting was based on national experiences on indicators providing a crosslink view to the European work and the Stockholm meeting discussed on inter-linkages within the first draft set of 26 indicators factsheets prepared by EEA and ETC/BD in May 2008.

The WG on Communication (chair: James Williams [JNCC](#), Coordinator: Lawrence Jones-Walters, [ECNC](#), both from the ETC/BD consortium) met on 28 of February and on 24-25 of June in Brussels. To insure a good coordination of SEBI activities, Ben ten Brink and Sophie Condé also attended this second Communication meeting which assessed the messages highlighted by the set of factsheets.

A SEBI Coordination Team meeting held in Copenhagen, the 11 and 12 of March to recap the on-going work of the three groups and validate the structure of the 2009 EEA indicator-based assessment report. The next meeting is on 3 and 4 of July in Reykjavik (IS) welcomed by [IINH](#).



3rd SEBI Inter-linkage meeting at the SEPA office

There was an EEA presentation of SEBI 2010 during a successful side event at the [COP 9 meeting in Bonn](#) and the project has received an [award](#) from the Spanish

magazine '[Red Life](#)' and the 'Fundación Caja Rural del Sur' as "one of 10 best ideas to save nature in 2008"

• NATURA 2000 & THE TWO NATURE DIRECTIVES

The European Commission has now adopted and published revised lists for the Mediterranean, Alpine & Macaronesian regions, and further details are available on the [DG Environments website](#).

The ETC/BD has prepared revised community lists for all regions to include new and modified sites proposed by the Member States in 2007, these include the first lists for the Black Sea and Steppic regions and for Bulgaria and Romania.

A biogeographical seminar was held in Sibiu, Romania from the 9th to 12th June to examine proposals from Bulgaria and Romania for sites in the Alpine, Black Sea, Continental, Pannonic and Steppic regions. This was the first meeting to discuss sites in the Black Sea and Steppic regions which were added when Bulgaria and Romania joined the EU in 2007.



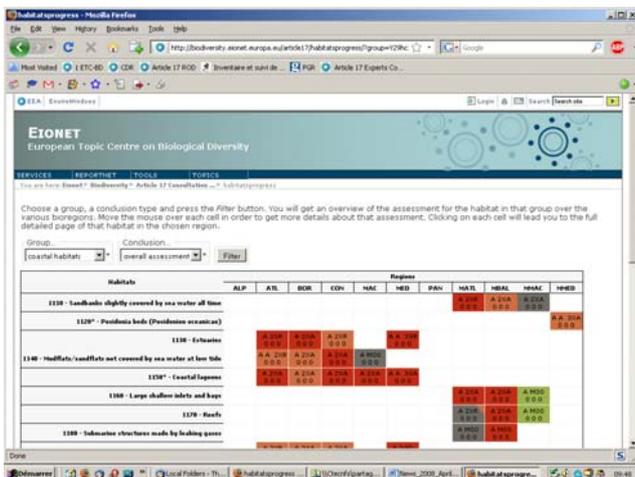
Further information about Natura 2000, including regularly updated statistics, are available on the [ETC/DB website](#).

All member states have now delivered their Article 17 reports with some 2 600 habitat reports and 5 800 species reports of conservation status (if a member state includes more than one region a separate report is required for each). The ETC/BD has now started to produce assessments of conservation status for the biogeographical regions.

In preparation, the ETC/BD organised an expert meeting in Paris on the 6-7 March to finalise methodologies for assessing conservation status for biogeographical regions and a training workshop for the staff who will carry out the assessments at the EEA, Copenhagen on the 1st & 2nd April.



Reports from the member states can be seen at <http://biodiversity.eionet.europa.eu/article17> together with assessments for each biogeographical region. This website will also be used for a consultation from 28 July - 15 September 2008.



• EUMON

Doug Evans ([SNH](#), ETC/BD core team) was invited to the final meeting of the FP6 EUMON project on biodiversity monitoring held in Leipzig in January. This was an opportunity to meet many of the people involved in monitoring projects across the EU. Further details are available on the [project website](#).

• NATURE DIRECTORS MEETING

A meeting of the EU Nature Directors was held at Bled and Brdo from 4th to 6th February 2008, hosted by the Slovenian Presidency. The meeting with NGOs (EHF, ELO, Prosilva, FACE and several organisations from Slovenia) and IUCN addressed two central issues: close-to-nature forest management and monitoring towards the 2010 biodiversity target. Nature Directors approved the new governance structure, proposed by the Commission. Other issues also discussed were reporting under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive, communication support to Natura

2000, COP9 topics, TEN-T and Natura 2000. Member states commented on the Work Plan 2008 presented by the EC. Two workshops took place: one focused on implementation of Natura 2000, the second one on close-to-nature forest management. The [programme with all presentations](#) is available on the internet. (contribution from from Breda Ogorelec , Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning of the Republic of Slovenia)

• EUNIS HABITATS CLASSIFICATION

"Towards a common classification system for Baltic marine habitats" was a meeting held in Stockholm on the 6-7 of March 2008 hosted by the [Swedish Environmental Protection Agency](#) to discuss developing a classification system for Baltic marine habitats. David Connor ([JNCC](#)) presented the EUNIS habitats classification to the meeting.

The workshop developed a proposed structure for a Baltic Sea classification which would be compatible with EUNIS. It also examined initial proposals for habitat types in Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Finland and Sweden based on analysis of benthic sample and video data. The results of the workshop will be reported to the HELCOM HABITAT meeting in May 2008.

It is hoped to undertake further analysis of data over the coming year, including for other parts of the Baltic (subject to funding), so that a common set of habitat types can be developed, for application by HELCOM and to be included in EUNIS.

• EURECA! LAUNCHED

More than 40 international experts gathered at the headquarters of the [European Environment Agency](#) in Copenhagen on 28 and 29 January 2008. Coming from as far as Australia, South Africa and the United States, they were there to participate in the inaugural expert meeting of the European Ecosystem Assessment project – EURECA!

Scheduled for publication in 2012 EURECA is intended to contribute to the [Millennium Ecosystem Assessment](#) follow-up as a sub-global assessment. It will assess the state of ecosystems in Europe in 2010 and their possible development beyond 2010. It will include an assessment of the stocks, flows and value of selected ecosystem goods and services under different policy-relevant scenarios. In doing so, it will apply recognised accounting techniques in order to ensure consistency between the environment, social and economic domains.

Three workshops organised by the EEA with ETC/BD contribution are scheduled this year related to this project: the [Eionet](#) seminar for National Reference Centres on nature and biodiversity (NRCs) on 23-24 September; an expert workshop on scenarios of ecosystem changes (mid October) and a thematic workshop focused on ecosystem services in different contexts, e.g. mountains, marine and coastal areas, agroecosystems, freshwater ecosystems as well as the links with the NATURA 2000 network

Relevant to this project is the involvement of Dominique Richard (MNHN, ETC/BD core team) and Jean-Louis Weber (EEA) in a pluri-disciplinary committee set up by the French Prime Minister, as part of the Strategic Analysis Council, on "Valuation of biodiversity and Ecosystem Services". The aim of this committee is to provide guidance to the French government on how to assign a "tutelar" value to biodiversity, with concrete applications such as for the implementation of the Environment Liability Directive.

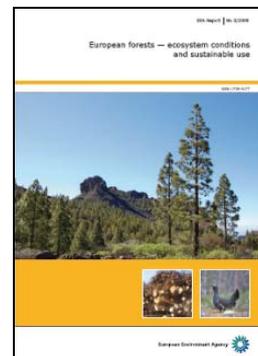
• ETC/BD MANAGEMENT MEETING

The Management Committee of the ETC/BD held its spring meeting at the [Institute of Landscape Ecology –Slovak Academy of Sciences](#) in Bratislava (Slovakia) on 13 & 14 May. The Committee, chaired by Ben Delbaere from [ECNC](#), reviewed the implementation of 2008 work programme of the ETC/BD and Ivone Pereira Martins (EEA) outlined the agencies strategy for the period 2009 – 2009. The next meeting will be in Tallinn, Estonia in September 2008.



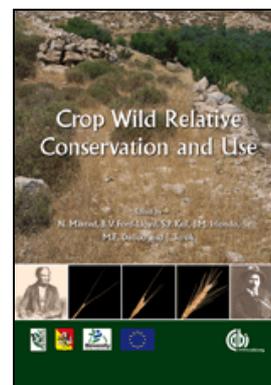
REPORTS & PAPERS

• EUROPEAN FORESTS - — ECOSYSTEM CONDITIONS AND SUSTAINABLE USE



This European Environment Agency report on forests was prepared for the [COP 9 meeting in Bonn](#) and is based on work by the ETC/BD and in particular by Jo Van Brusselen Tim Green & Katja Troeltzsch ([European Forest Institute](#)) and Dominique Richard ([Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle](#), France). The report can be downloaded or ordered from the [EEA website](#).

• CROP WILD RELATIVE CONSERVATION AND USE



Crop Wild Relative Conservation and Use, edited by Nigel Maxted and colleagues results from the EU funded [PGR forum](#) project. It is a review of the conservation and use of Crop wild relatives (CWR) which are species closely related to crop plants and which can contribute beneficial traits, such as pest or disease resistance and yield improvement. The book includes a chapter written by Dominique Richard & colleagues at the 'core team' on *Crop Wild Relatives: Putting information into a European context*. Further details are available from the [publisher's website](#).

The same group has also just published [Conserving Plant Genetic Diversity in Protected Areas](#).

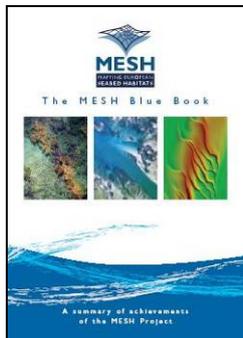
NEWSLETTER – July 2008

• ENTRE L'HOMME ET LA NATURE



'Entre l'Homme et la Nature' (Between man & nature) published by [MAB-France](#) explores the intersection between nature conservation sciences and biodiversity management policies bringing together legal, economic, social and ecological aspects of interest to all managers and stakeholders of sustainable development. It includes a short piece by Doug Evans (SNH, ETC/BD core team). It will also be available in English shortly.

• THE MESH BLUE BOOK



The [Mapping European Seabed Habitats](#) project, led by the [JNCC](#), has just published a summary of the project's achievements. The report can be downloaded from the project's [website](#).

NEWS FROM THE PARTNERS

• MUSEUM NATIONAL D'HISTOIRE NATURELLE (MNHN)

Sabine Roscher has been appointed 'Database Manager' for the ETC/BD Core Team and will start on June 1st. Sabine has previously worked for a number of German institutions and has considerable experience of managing biodiversity data. She has also taken part in several

European and international projects on plant and animal genetic resources.

Marie-Paule Hindermeyer will leave the ETC/BD Core Team at the end of July. Marie-Paule has been at the ETC since its debut as the ETC/NC in 1996 and has made a major contribution to building the Natura 2000 network, her knowledge and experience will be greatly missed. Many thanks, good luck in Pays de la Loire and farewell Marie-Paule!!!



• THE JNCC GOES GREEN

The JNCC has produced its first [Sustainable Development Action Plan](#) and was recently was nominated for an BETI+ award (Business Environmental Training Initiative) for Best Small & Medium Enterprise in Cambridgeshire and received the Runner Up award.

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).

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