

## NEWS

### • A NEW ETC/BD FOR 2009 - 2013

The [ETC/BD consortium](#) changed at the beginning of 2009 following a call for proposals launched by the European Environment Agency; the Estonian Environment Information Centre, the European Forest Institute and Wetlands International left and the following new members joined on 1 January 2009



[Environmental Protection Agency for Special Areas](#)  
(Turkey)



[Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences](#)  
(Sweden)



[Umweltbundesamt](#)  
(Austria)

We look forward to working with our new partners and express our great thanks to those leaving the consortium for their support and contribution over the past years.

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### • STREAMLINING EUROPEAN 2010 BIODIVERSITY INDICATORS (SEBI 2010)

The major event in 2009 is the publication of the first report on *Progress towards the European 2010 biodiversity target* released by the 22 of May (see Publications).



In the meantime, work has continued with several meetings. The [SEBI2010 Working Group on Communication](#) held a meeting on the 5-6 February at the UK Nature and Landscape Office in Brussels to comment on the draft indicator based report and the factsheets and made proposals for future communication products. Proposals for a SEBI logo were made and the final version was adopted during the SEBI Coordination Team meeting in Copenhagen (19 - 20 March)

The [SEBI2010 Working Group on Interlinkages](#) met in Copenhagen (4 - 5 March). The final version of the Interlinkages report made recommendations focusing on the need to support a regular implementation of the production of indicators including harmonisation of monitoring and data collection. Biodiversity assessments based on a cross-cutting analysis through the set of SEBI indicators will be considerably facilitated.

The 15<sup>th</sup> SEBI Coordination Team meeting agreed that each WG achieved its objectives and 2009 and 2010 will be dedicated to completing the 2010 target assessment. The SEBI Coordination Team will go on as a platform of exchange and to keep the momentum within a post 2010 context.

The third meeting of the [SEBI2010 Working Group on 'Indicators on impact of climate change on biodiversity'](#) was held in Paris hosted by the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle (11 - 12<sup>th</sup> June). Progress on the development on a European-wide alpine plant indicator as well as on a butterfly indicator were presented.

If you have any questions please contact: Sophie Condé (conde @ mnhn.fr) or Frederik Schutyser (frederik.schutyser @ eea.europa.eu)

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### • NATURA 2000 & THE TWO NATURE DIRECTIVES

The first seminar specifically dedicated to the marine environment was held in Galway, Ireland, 24-25 March to evaluate proposals for sites in the Atlantic. A second meeting for the Baltic Sea will be held in November 2009.



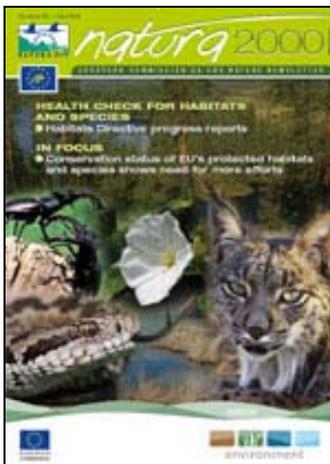
The nine regional lists of Sites of Community Importance have been updated to include recent proposals and are now with the European Commission. It is expected that the lists will be officially adopted by the end of 2009.

Bilateral meetings have been held with Italy and France to examine the outstanding reserves in light of additional proposals and to discuss the effect of many changes on the former conclusions from earlier seminars and bilateral meetings. The ETC/BD is updating the lists of reserves for all countries where there have been recent proposals although in most cases it will not be necessary to have meetings. The revised lists of outstanding reserves should be finished by the time the 2009 update of the Community lists are adopted.

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The Expert Group on reporting has met twice so far in 2009 in Brussels on 5<sup>th</sup> March and 18<sup>th</sup> June, a further meeting is scheduled for the 18<sup>th</sup> November. The ETC/BD is leading the work of two of the work packages: WP1, reviewing and improving the guidelines for the Article 17 reporting, and WP4 reviewing the Natura 2000 standard data form and the associated data flow. The work of the Expert Group can be followed on [Circa](#).

The European Commission's "[Composite Report on the Conservation Status of Habitat Types and Species as required under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive](#)" summarising the results from the Member States reports was published on 13<sup>th</sup> July in 22 languages. The latest [Natura 2000 newsletter](#) also features the results from the Article 17 reports.



The report clearly shows that the majority of species and habitats of Community Interest are not at favourable conservation status. This is not surprising as they were mostly selected for the Annexes as they were considered to be rare and/or under threat of extinction. The report also highlights the lack of information for many habitats and species, particularly in southern Europe and for the seas.

Further information can be found on the [Article 17 website](#) which has been updated and now includes a series of reports prepared by the ETC/BD together with access to the assessments of conservation status and associated information.

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

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● **THE MESSAGE FROM ATHENS**

The European Commission organized a conference on '[Biodiversity Protection - Beyond 2010: priorities and options for future EU policy](#)' which took place on 27-28 April 2009 in Athens, Greece and convened all the main actors involved in the development and implementation of

EU biodiversity policy, together with international institutions and globally recognized experts. The ETC/BD was represented by its Manager and many other ETC/BD partner organisations were also present.

The Executive Director of the EEA gave one of the two scene setting presentations - '[The status of European biodiversity](#)'. This was largely based on work by the ETC/BD. On the basis of the comments and discussions that took place in the final plenary session, the Commission has produced the '[Message from Athens](#)'.

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● **EU NATURE DIRECTORS MEET IN PRAGUE**

A meeting of directors of EU nature conservation organisations was held in Prague on 8-10 June under the auspices of the [Czech Presidency of the EU Council](#). The meeting was organised by the Ministry of the Environment and focused on aspects of the practical implementation of the Birds and the Habitats Directives: the assessment of projects where a significant impact on Natura 2000 sites cannot be excluded and the state of play of monitoring and data assessment. The ETC/BD was invited to make two presentations: one by C. Romão on 'EU biodiversity data: possible uses and limitations' and another by D. Richard on 'From biodiversity assessments to ecosystem services'. All presentations and conclusions are published at the [CZ Clearing House Mechanism](#) webpage.

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● **ETC/BD MANAGEMENT MEETING**

The first meeting of the new consortium's management committee took place in the [Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle](#), Paris, on 22-23<sup>rd</sup> April 2009 and was mainly dedicated to an analytical review of tasks allocated to each partner organisation as part of the 2009 Implementation Plan.

The meeting was also an opportunity for all participants to learn about the new priorities of the European Environment Agency as addressed in [its 2009-2013 multi-annual strategy](#) and also its new [organisation](#). Thus the EEA Biodiversity group, led by Ivone Pereira Martins is now integrated in the "Natural Systems and Vulnerability" programme (NSV), led by Ronan Uhel, together with the "Water", the "Land" and the "Climate Change Adaptation and Vulnerability" groups.

The presence at the meeting of Stephan Leiner, at that time acting Head of Nature and Biodiversity Unit in EC-DG Environment, allowed fruitful exchanges on priority topics for collaboration between the EEA-ETC/BD and his unit.

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- **ETC MANAGERS MEETING FOR BETTER COLLABORATION AND SYNERGY**

Although they have regular opportunities to meet, in particular three times a year, back to back with the EEA's National Focal Point meetings, managers of the five European Topic Centres ([ETC/Air and Climate Change](#) (based in Bilthoven, NL), [ETC/Water](#) (based in Prague, CZ), [ETC/Land Use and Spatial Information](#) (based in Barcelona, ES), [ETC/Sustainable Consumption and Production](#) (based in Copenhagen, DK) and ETC/Biological Diversity) rarely have the time to exchange views on specific ETC issues, such as ETC identity, management, relation to EEA and CEC-DG Environment, relation with countries, with research networks, fields of collaboration, strategic views in support to the EEA mandate etc.

A two-day meeting which took place on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> April in Barcelona hosted by ETC/LUSI, demonstrated the usefulness of such encounters. The development of Data centres and the work on EURECA were identified as some of the important common issues for future collaboration.

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- **TEN MESSAGES FOR 2010**

As a contribution to the International Biodiversity year in 2010, the EEA is planning to launch a series of biodiversity-related messages, during each of the 10 months before [the 10<sup>th</sup> CBD COP \(Nagoya, October 2010\)](#). These messages will build upon recent findings from country reporting, indicators, outcomes of research projects and EEA specific assessments. The ETC/BD is actively involved in the preparation of these messages using available data, including from Natura 2000, Article 17 reporting, SEBI 2010 indicators and designated areas.

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- **WORKSHOP ON "TOWARDS A GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE FOR EUROPE"**

The ETC/BD was invited to participate in a workshop organised by DG Environment (unit Nature & Biodiversity) on "Towards a Green Infrastructure for Europe, integrating Natura 2000 sites into the wider countryside", held in Brussels on 25-26<sup>th</sup> March. A [joint EEA-ETC/BD presentation](#) was made, mainly addressing the spatial related data available and potentially needed for such an approach. [Proceedings](#) of the workshop are available on-line.

## NEWS FROM THE PARTNERS

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

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of August 2009, Dominique Richard, current Deputy-Manager, will become the new Manager of the ETC/DB replacing Carlos Romão who will move to the EEA as project manager on Biodiversity and Ecosystems. Sophie Condé will become the Deputy-Manager.

Carlos became Manager in February 2001 when the ETC-Nature Conservation became the ETC-Nature Protection & Biodiversity after working in DG Environment. We wish him well in his move to Copenhagen, but we will still be working with him so it's 'Au revoir' rather than 'Adieu'.

Muriel Vincent joined the ETC/BD Core Team in Paris in February 2009 to be our new assistant. Muriel is French and previously she has worked in publishing, TV and cinema.

Marita Arvela joined the core team in June as 'Senior Officer - Biodiversity and reporting'. Marita is Finnish and an animal ecologist by training. Before joining the ETC/BD she worked in the Nature and Biodiversity Unit of the European Commission dealing with the Nature Directives, including Natura 2000, particularly in relation to Finland, Sweden, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, she also dealt with EU policy on large carnivores. Marita also has many years of experience with [LIFE-Nature](#) projects as she was part of one of the external monitoring teams. Before working in Brussels she worked in the Finnish environment administration.

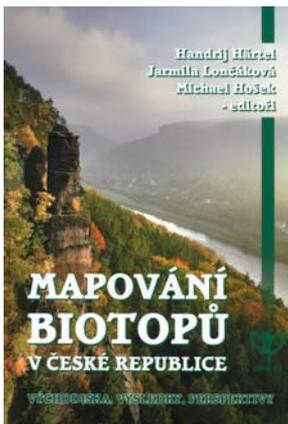
As reported in the July 2008 issue of the newsletter, Dominique Richard participated in a pluri-disciplinary committee set up by the French Prime Minister, as part of the Strategic Analysis Council, on "Valuation of biodiversity and Ecosystem Services". [The report](#) is now available on-line in French version. An English version of the analytical summary will soon be available as well.



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• **AGENCY FOR NATURE CONSERVATION AND LANDSCAPE PROTECTION**

HABITAT MAPPING IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC: this publication from [AOPK-CR](#) describes the impressive project to map the habitats of the Czech Republic, although mostly in Czech it does include an English summary. A DVD included with the book includes a Red List of Czech Habitats.



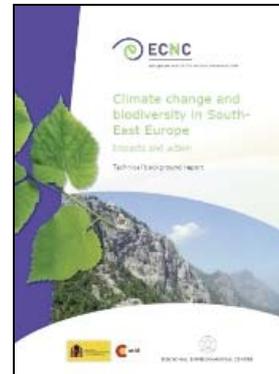
• **EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR NATURE CONSERVATION**

The [BioScore](#) project led by ECNC under the EU Sixth Framework Programme provides a tool for European biodiversity impact assessments. It contains indicator values on the ecological preferences of more than 1000 species of birds, mammals, amphibians, reptiles, fish, butterflies, dragonflies, aquatic macro-invertebrates and vascular plants. These values are linked to policy-related pressures and environmental variables.

It can be used to assess possible impacts of changing environmental variables. BioScore tells you what proportion of species are likely to benefit and what species might be negatively affected by certain policy measures. It allows you to distinguish impacts by taxonomic group, by geographic region or by country. Also, it shows what proportion of protected species (red lists or annexes of the EC Habitats and Birds Directives) might be affected.



The ECNC led project 'Impacts of climate change in South-East Europe' has produced three reports, which were published recently. The reports can be downloaded from <http://www.ecnc.org/publications/technicalreports>



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• **JOINT NATURE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE**

JNCC hosted an event in London on May 20<sup>th</sup> to discuss a number of issues related to the Multi-lateral environmental agreements (MEAs) including:

- provide relevant and thematic feedback from the recent meetings of MEAs and other international meetings that took place in 2008;
- identify key issues that have arisen which are relevant to the UK and its domestic implementation of MEAs, especially cross-cutting themes that are being taken forward through more than one MEA;
- identify work taking place in inter-sessional MEA subsidiary bodies where there might be relevant UK expertise that could be offered, and to identify key issues on which the UK might wish to contribute to future meetings;
- identify future needs for evidence and research in order to inform UK approaches to policy development and implementation; and
- consider future emerging issues and UK approaches to them.

Briefings prepared for the meeting are available at <http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-4663>.

At the start of April an update to the UK biodiversity Indicators was published on the JNCC website ([www.jncc.gov.uk/biyp](http://www.jncc.gov.uk/biyp)). A new hardcopy version of biodiversity Indicators in Your Pocket (BIYP 2009) was published on 22<sup>nd</sup> May – copies are available from [defra@cambertown.com](mailto:defra@cambertown.com), quoting product code PB13261. In parallel with this, James Williams contributed to a workshop on CBD reports for least developed countries in Africa held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia 4-8<sup>th</sup> May 2009, where the use of the indicators in the CBD reporting process was discussed.

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- **EBONE**

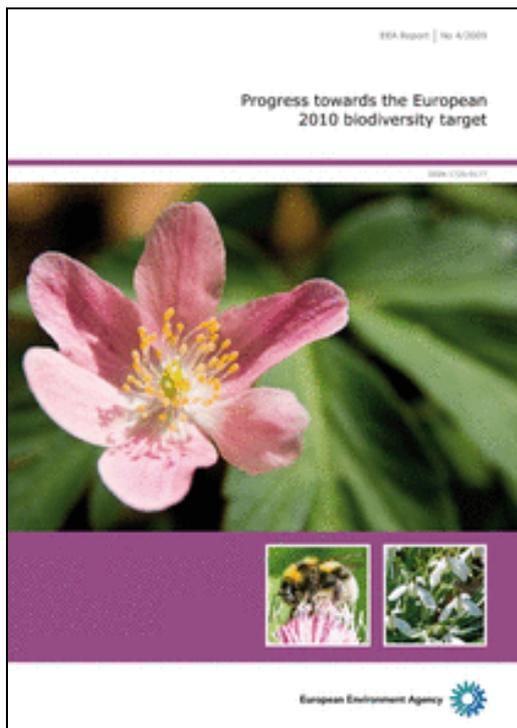
[EBONE](#) (Earth Biodiversity Observation Network) is a FP7 project which builds on previous projects such as Alternet, Biohab, EUMON and Biopress and includes partners from those projects including ETC/BD partner, the Slovak [Institute for Landscape Ecology](#). EBONE will contribute to [GEO-BON](#) (Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network) as part of Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS). Doug Evans ([Scottish Natural Heritage](#), ETC/BD core team) has been invited to join the project's advisory board which had its first meeting in Amsterdam in early January 2009.

In addition, a technical report dedicated to the SEBI fact sheets will be available during the summer.

[Progress towards the European 2010 biodiversity target - Indicator fact sheets.](#)

## PUBLICATIONS

- **PROGRESS TOWARDS THE EUROPEAN 2010 BIODIVERSITY TARGET**



This report provides a first assessment based on a set of biodiversity indicators internationally agreed. It takes stock of the state of biodiversity and its loss in Europe based on the most recent data available but also points out weakness of information on target values, causal links and trends. The report sets the scene in a post 2010 perspective.

<http://www.eea.europa.eu/highlights/publications/progress-towards-the-european-2010-biodiversity-target/>



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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 2009-2013.

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](mailto:evans@mnhn.fr)).*

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