



NEWSLETTER

July 2016



Nature Directives

Natura 2000 network

The second regional Natura 2000 seminars for the Atlantic, Mediterranean and Macaronesian marine regions will be held on the 27-29 September in Malta. These seminars will assess progress towards completing the marine part of the Natura 2000 since meetings held in Galway (2009) and Brindisi (2010).

Reporting under the Nature Directives

Work continues in preparation for the next reports under Article 12 of the Birds Directive and Art 17 of the Habitats Directive, for the period 2013-2018. The reporting formats for both directives have been revised following discussions and comments at both the Expert Group on Reporting at its March meeting and the Expert Group on the Birds and the Habitats Directives (NADEG) in April. The revised formats could possibly be approved at the next meeting of the Habitats Committee, in October.

Work is also underway to support the revision of the reporting guidance for both Article 12 and 17 (e.g. list of pressures and threats, population units, checklists of species and habitats per country and biogeogeographical regions), with discussions both at the Expert Group on Reporting and at meetings of the Ad hoc groups set up to

assist. The Ad hoc group on Structure and functions and Future prospects, chaired by the ETC/BD, has produced several discussion papers which will contribute to the revised guidelines for Article 17 reporting.

The 'New' biogeographical process

As part of the first cycle of biogeographical seminars (now known as the 'kick off seminars') a workshop on Forest management and Natura 2000 in the alpine and continental biogeographical regions was organised and held at the University of Padua (Italy) on 21-23 June 2016. Doug Evans participated in this meeting on behalf of the ETC/BD. The meeting focused on management of forest habitats, a report will be available soon while the presentations will form a special issue of the [Journal for Nature Conservation](#).



Field visit during the Natura & forest management meeting



A new cycle of biogeographical seminars, the “Natura 2000 Review Seminars” is about to start, aiming to monitor and evaluate the results of the actions agreed at the earlier Kick-off Seminars and to identify and recommend further priorities and opportunities for continuous development of the process. The first of these seminars will be held in Lithuania (Boreal region) in September and in Ireland (Atlantic region) in October.

The ETC/BD was requested to assist in the preparation of this new cycle of biogeographical seminars, by identifying Annex I habitats in a given region where action is most likely to lead to an improvement in Conservation Status in the short to medium term. For this, the ETC/BD devised and tested a methodology based on information from the 2007-2012 Article 17 reports. A consultation on this proposed methodology is on-going among members of the EU Natura 2000 management working group.

See the [Natura Communication platform](#) for further information.

Emerald and Bern Convention



The second Emerald seminar to assess the sufficiency of Emerald sites proposals by Norway was held in Trondheim at the [Norwegian Environment Agency](#) on the 14 and 15 June. The meeting discussed coverage of the species and a selection of habitats to be protected by the Emerald network. It is expected that the Norwegian sites will be formally adopted at this year’s meeting of the Bern Convention’s Standing Committee. Further information about Emerald can be found on the [network’s website](#).

EEA and EIONET

A number of important changes for the future of the EEA and EIONET are underway. They were reported and discussed during the meetings of the National Focal Points (NFPs), held in Copenhagen respectively on 02-03 March and 31 May-02 June, they include;-

- An EEA Management Board seminar will take place early December in Copenhagen to discuss the future of EIONET after 22 years of operations, taking into account the changing context such as an increase in country membership, societal developments, increasing complexity of issues, evolving knowledge developments, IT developments and strengthened regional engagements.

The ETCs are requested to prepare for this seminar by bringing their respective views on strengths, added value and weaknesses of the current setting and on possible evolutions. These contributions will be discussed during the next NFP meeting to be held in Istanbul on 13-14 October.

- As part of the REFIT process led by the European Commission, a Fitness check of environment monitoring and reporting is on-going to *‘identify opportunities to simplify and alleviate reporting obligations stemming from EU environmental law with a view to develop a more modern, efficient and effective system for regulatory monitoring’*.

The Fitness check will address the current EEA regulation and EIONET dataflows. This means that an evaluation of EEA, EIONET (including ETCs) led by the European Commission will take place between mid-2016 and 2017, looking at 1) Effectiveness, 2) Efficiency, 3) Relevance, 4) Coherence and 5) EU added value of the EEA and EIONET.

The outcomes of the above-mentioned EEA Management Board seminar should of course feed in this evaluation.



EIONET NRC Biodiversity 2016

The second EIONET meeting with the new structure of EIONET NRCs was held at the end of July in Copenhagen. The meeting was dedicated to biodiversity and ecosystem indicators and assessment. After a session dedicated to an update on key policy processes and an update on EEA work, five countries presented their activities (Bosnia-Herzegovina, Finland, France, Italy, Netherlands and Serbia).

Then three groups exchanged on Indicators, Ecosystem mapping and assessments, and reporting process. All presentations and outputs are available on the [EIONET Forum](#).

In 2017, the workshop will be dedicated to Biodiversity data and information.

SEBI 2020

The new SEBI 2020 Indicator Project Group met in early July in Copenhagen to discuss the SEBI 2020 roadmap, to review the current SEBI indicators and to analyse the possible gaps in relation with the 2020 biodiversity target. This group includes EEA and ETC/BD, DG ENV, JRC and CBD-BIP. EUROSTAT will be informed regularly.

IPBES Pan European Stakeholder Consultation

The 3rd IPBES-PESC meeting was held in Leipzig (14-16.06). This meeting aimed at increasing the involvement of different stakeholders with information on the IPBES process, the IPBES Conceptual Framework, the outputs of the IPBES conference (IPBES Pollination Assessment) and the work achieved at Pan European and Central Asian (ECA) level.

Another goal was support to the review of the preliminary draft ECA Regional Assessment coordinated by the IPBES Technical Support

Unit for the Regional Assessment for Europe and Central Asia (CH).

The EEA and ETC/BD have contributed to this first review. A second review is planned in May- June 2017.

EUNIS

Work continues on revising the Marine component of the EUNIS habitats classification and it is planned to have the revision available by the end of 2016.

An Internet based consultation on proposed revisions to the forests (section G) and heaths, scrub and (section F) was held in June. It is hoped to adopt these revisions (modified if required) later this year.

This year's annual workshop of the [European Vegetation Survey](#) (6-8 April, Rome) included a session dedicated to the EUNIS habitats classification and featured a paper on habitat complexes by Doug Evans from the ETC/BD core team.



Coffee break during the EVS workshop

A report for the EEA from the EVS on grasslands was received in June and will be the base of a proposed revision of this section of the EUNIS classification.

European Red List of Habitats

This DG Environment funded project which is using the EUNIS habitats classification as its typology is in its final stages. The ETC/BD has



been associated with the project and attended the final workshop held in Malaga in February. The draft report and supporting data was delivered in mid June and will be published later this year. Results will also be incorporated into the EUNIS website and will inform future revisions of the classification

ETC/BD Management Committee

The spring meeting of the ETC/BD management committee was held in Prague on the 24 & 25 May and was hosted by the Nature Conservation Agency of the Czech Republic ([AOPK](#)). Amongst topics discussed was the EEA's roadmap to 2020.



News from the EEA and our partners

EEA

Following reorganisation of biodiversity related work, Beate Werner, formerly head of the Water group, replaced Ivone Pereira-Martins as the new head of the Biodiversity group on 1st January 2016. Together with the Water and Marine group and the Land Systems group, this group is part of the [Natural Systems and Sustainability \(NSS\) programme](#) led by Ronan Uhel.

Naturalis/Catalogue of life - a new partner

[The Naturalis organisation](#), based in Leiden (NL), acting as the administrative secretariat of the international network [Species 2000](#), a

federation of taxonomic database custodians, involving taxonomists throughout the world, joined the ETC/BD consortium at the beginning of 2016. Naturalis will support the EEA and ETC/BD work on all taxonomic related issues by linking with databases and expert networks supporting the [Catalogue of Life](#), the most comprehensive and authoritative global index of species currently available.

MNHN

Michelle Watson (IE) joined the ETC/BD core team as the Biodiversity Information Officer in January 2016 having come from working at JNCC in Aberdeen as a support officer on both the marine protected sites and the marine species advice teams. She has worked previously with marine fisheries (Falkland Island Fisheries Department and the NAFC Marine Centre, Shetland Islands) and freshwater fisheries (Inland Fisheries Ireland) and has completed an MRes and PhD in limnology.

Celia García Feced left the core team at the end of March to return to her home town of Madrid. She is now working for an organisation supporting knowledge, research and technology via European projects for the Madrid Community. Many thanks for her efficient work and her kindness during her two years at the ETC/BD.

Bálint Czúcz from Hungary will join the core team in September as Ecosystem Assessments Officer. He joins us from the [Centre for Ecological Research](#).

Zelmira Gaudillat has been on maternity leave and will return in September. During her absence, Jean Ichter was recruited on a half time basis to support the work on reporting under the Nature Directives. Jean has previously collaborated with the ETC/BD as a lead author of the EEA/MNHN report on

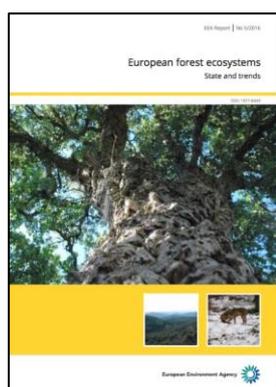


[Terrestrial habitat mapping in Europe](#) which was published in 2014.

Publications

The following publications are from the ETC/BD, its partners or from the EEA where the ETC/BD has been involved.

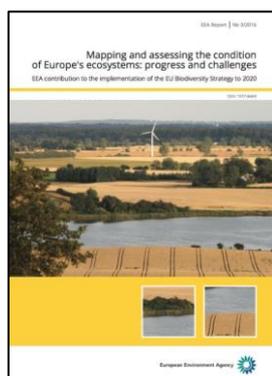
European forest ecosystems - State and trends



This report aims to assess the current state of forest ecosystems in Europe on the pathway to healthy, diverse, resilient and productive forests for the benefit of present and future generations.

<http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/european-forest-ecosystems>

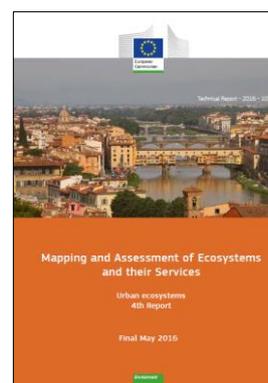
Mapping and assessing the condition of Europe's ecosystems: progress and challenges



This report provides an overview about the current condition of ecosystems in Europe and the human pressures they are exposed to. Many ecosystems are highly concentrated in a

small number of countries, which could increase their vulnerability to environmental change, and a substantial proportion of the most vulnerable ecosystems are not protected within Natura 2000 sites, Marine Protected Areas or equivalent zones. <http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/mapping-europes-ecosystems>

Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystems and their Services Urban ecosystems 4th Report



The fourth MAES report provides guidance for mapping and assessing urban ecosystems and includes an indicator framework to assess the condition of urban ecosystems and services, which used at European, Member State and local level.

http://catalogue.biodiversity.europa.eu/uploads/document/file/1340/MAES_report_urban_ecosystems.pdf

Article 17 reporting and Red List assessments

A recently published paper from ETC/BD partner [Umweltbundesamt](#) (Austrian Environment Agency) compares assessments of species by both Article 17 and Red Listing and discusses the differences. See Moser et al (2016) [Weak agreement between the species conservation status assessments of the European habitats directive and red lists](#). *Biological Conservation*, 198: 1-8. A complementary paper examining the same topic but just in France by the [Service du Patrimoine Naturel](#) (part of ETC/BD partner



MNHN) will appear later this year in [Revue d'Écologie \(La Terre et La Vie\)](#).

ETC/BD Technical Papers and Working papers

The ETC/BD and its predecessors have produced many reports and a selection of these reports is now being made available on our website, see the ETC/BD Technical papers and Working papers section on our [website](#).

Recent additions include

- Scoping document: state of agroforestry information across Europe
- Scoping document: information related to European old growth forests

The European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity is a consortium of 13 partners who share the responsibility for the work programme defined by the EEA, in collaboration with a Core Team based in Paris at the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle (National Museum of Natural History), the coordinator of the consortium. For further information see our website - <http://bd.eionet.europa.eu/>