



NEWSLETTER

December 2017



Nature Directives

Reporting under the Nature Directives

In preparation for the next reporting round, development of the Reporting tools for both Article 12 (Birds Directive) and Article 17 (Habitats Directive) has started and testing of the first versions is underway. After further testing, it is planned to make the tools available to Member States in mid-2018.

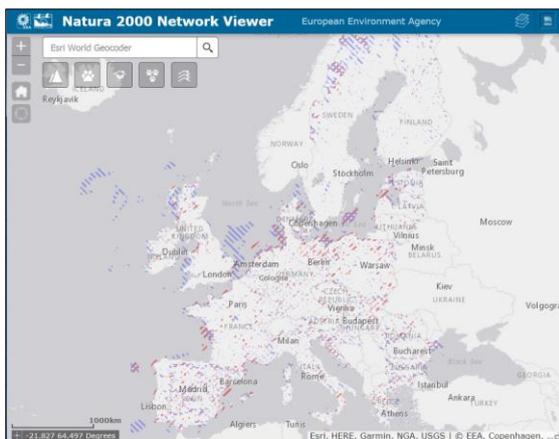
Checklists for species, habitats, pressures and conservation measures are available on the Reference portals which are at -

http://cdr.eionet.europa.eu/help/birds_art12

http://cdr.eionet.europa.eu/help/habitats_art17

The helpdesks are now open, see the Reference portals for details.

A new Natura 2000 viewer



The Natura 2000 viewer, developed by EEA, has been updated with some additional

functions. The viewer can be found at <http://natura2000.eea.europa.eu/>

The 'New' biogeographical process

The 2nd Mediterranean seminar was held in Limassol, Cyprus on the 14-16 November 2017. Mora Aronsson ([SLU](#)) represented the ETC/BD at the meeting and introduced the discussion on 'Low hanging fruit' habitats in that region (see [earlier newsletters](#) for further details).

These seminars focus on Natura 2000 site management and are intended to monitor and evaluate the results of the actions agreed among Member States at the earlier seminars. They also help to identify and recommend further priorities.

Mora Aronsson also participated in a joint Eurosite and Boreal networking event in Haltia, Finland, on 26-27 September, where discussions were held on how to include the 'Low hanging fruit' approach for restoration priorities.

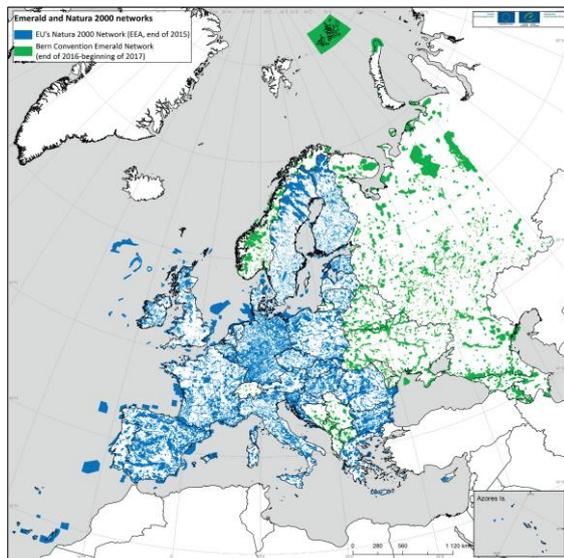
Further information can be found on the [Natura 2000 Communication Platform](#).

Emerald and Bern Convention

Under an [ENI SEIS II East](#) project, [MNHN](#) and [ILE-SAS](#), as partners of the ETC/BD consortium, are now supporting Emerald activities in six Eastern European and Caucasian countries. As part of this, MNHN and ILE experts prepared and participated in the second Emerald Biogeographical Seminar, held in Tbilisi on the 7 and 8 November 2017 to assess sufficiency of Emerald sites proposals



by the three Caucasus countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia).



The Emerald network (formally adopted and candidate sites) and including Natura 2000 in mid 2017, taken from a recent report on [Emerald in Eastern Europe](#)

A series of meetings of the Group of Experts on Protected Areas & Ecological Networks (GOEPAEN), where ETC/BD was represented by Doug Evans, took place in Belgrade (Serbia) on 26 – 28 September. Topics discussed included reporting on the conservation status of a limited number of habitats and species using the methods developed for reporting under the EU's Birds and Habitats Directive. Further information, including presentations, can be found on the [Emerald website](#).

Recommendations from the GOEPAEN on reporting conservation status were adopted by the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention during its meeting on 5 -8 December in Strasbourg . This means that there will be assessments of 40 habitats and species from the non EU countries covering the period 2013-18. As the habitats and species selected are also covered by reporting under the EU Nature Directives it will be possible to produce Pan-European assessments.

The committee also adopted lists of Emerald sites from Georgia and Norway. This means that the Emerald network now includes 1041 formally adopted sites and 2079 candidate sites.

Further information about Emerald can be found on the [network's website](#). This includes an Emerald viewer.

SEBI indicators

In November 2017, the SEBI 2020 Indicator Project Group, including EEA and ETC/BD, DG Environment, the [Joint Research Centre](#) (JRC) and the [CBD-Biodiversity Indicators Partnership](#) met in Copenhagen to discuss the progress during 2017, and to review the current SEBI indicators. [SEBIO01](#) on Abundance and distribution of selected species has been updated for Birds and Grassland butterflies while an updated [SEBIO17](#) Forest: growing stock, increment and fellings is also now available.



The forest indicator

Several other indicators will be updated and published online in 2018. Discussion on possible indicators on soil and on connectivity are of high interest but still need development before they can be integrated in the regular set of indicators.



Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystems and their Services (MAES)

Based on the MAES Ecosystem Condition Workshop held in Brussels in June, a synthetic MAES Condition Report is under development focusing on a small set of inter-correlated indicators to be used for an integrated assessment.

Information on relevant Member State projects is available from http://biodiversity.europa.eu/maes/maes_countries with recent news from Finland, France, Ireland, Italy, and the Netherlands.

EUNIS habitats classification

Following an EIONET based consultation held from June to September, a revised version of the grassland section of the EUNIS habitat classification was delivered to the EEA in November and it is expected that it will be published in 2018.

A revision of all the sections not yet revised except freshwater has been prepared largely based on the work of the [Red List of European Habitats project](#). It is expected that there will be an EIONET based consultation on these sections in 2018.

EEA and EIONET

Joint EEA-Scientific Committee seminar

On behalf of ETC/BD, Sander Mucher, [WER](#), participated in a joint EEA - Scientific Committee seminar on 'Big Data and environmental knowledge', organised on 20 October 2017 in Copenhagen. The scope of the seminar was to 'discuss to what extent [Big Data](#) related to the environment and related policies, when captured, formatted, manipulated, stored, and analysed, can help to improve the EEA knowledge base in support to EU policy

making'. Earth Observation data are examples of such Big Data of high potential for decision making.

EEA and EIONET evaluation

An evaluation of the EEA and EIONET, covering the period mid-2012 until end 2016, was launched by the European Commission in November 2016. The evaluation is supported by a study run by a consortium led by COWI consultants. Preliminary outcomes were presented and discussed during a Stakeholder Workshop on 5 December in Lyngby, Denmark. The workshop involved up to 80 participants, including members of the EEA Management Board, representatives of the European Parliament, officials from the European Commission, EEA staff and members of the EIONET network. ETCs were represented by Andreas Littkopf (Manager of ETC/ULS) and Dominique Richard. Discussions were organised along the five evaluation criteria, i.e. effectiveness, efficiency, coherence, relevance and EU added value and benefits of EEA and EIONET. Once finalised in March 2018, the study will feed into a Commission staff working document to be further endorsed by the college of Commissioners in June 2018, including with recommendations for the future EEA and EIONET.

News from our partners

MNHN

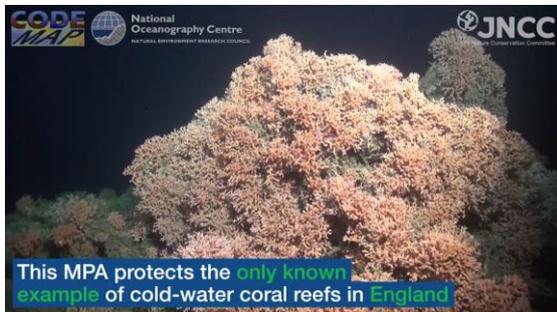
Together with the French National Agency for Biodiversity and the Ministry for ecological and solidary transition, the MNHN held, on 18-19 December in Paris, a workshop entitled "[Forum on biodiversity data](#) – towards the shared development of information system on biodiversity". The purpose of this workshop is to explore how to better coordinate and built synergies between various existing systems such as [ONB](#), [INPN](#), [SINP](#), [GBIF](#), etc.



JNCC - New assessments on state of the marine environment in OSPAR waters

[JNCC](#) has played a major role in the production of a recently published assessment of the state of the marine environment and the pressures caused by marine activities in the area covered by OSPAR - the North-East Atlantic. Further information is available on the [OSPAR assessment portal](#).

JNCC has also released a series of short videos on the United Kingdom Marine Protected Areas.



A still from the Canyons Marine Conservation Zone video

The videos can be found on [the JNCC's Facebook page](#).

European Centre for Nature Conservation

Unfortunately, after 24 years of existence, ECNC - expertise centre for biodiversity and sustainable development -, had to close on 11 December 2017. ECNC has been a key partner of the ETC consortium since 1995, providing an essential input e.g. in indicator development, in the Biodiversity Information System for Europe (BISE) as well as in capacity building with EIONET National Reference Centres. A big thank you to our former colleagues and our best wishes for the future!

Publications

The following publications are from the ETC/BD, its partners or from the EEA.

The State of the UK's Birds 2017



This report from ETC/BD partner JNCC, together with other British organisations shows how birds in the United Kingdom are reacting to an increase in summer temperature of nearly 1° since the 1980s. Many species have suffered population declines but others have increased. See the [JNCC's website](#) for further information.

EIONET core data flows 2016



This yearly report includes information on the data flows which update the Common Database on Designated Areas ([CDDA](#)) and is available from the [EEA website](#).

Actes du colloque international «Cartographie des végétations en Europe

The proceedings of this meeting held in St Mandé (near Paris) in 2012 has been published as Volume 6 of Documents Phytosociologiques (Series 3). It includes a



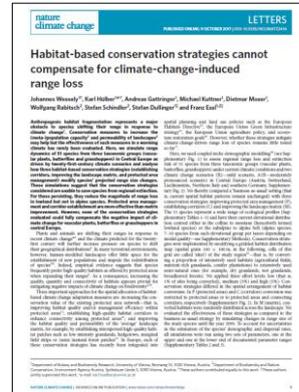
paper from Doug Evans (ETC/BD core team) and colleagues from the former SPN on the state of vegetation mapping in Europe.

Les invertébrés dans la conservation et la gestion des espaces naturels



The MNHN has just published the proceedings of a conference held in 2015 to discuss invertebrates and the management of protected areas. Many of the species discussed are listed on the annexes of the Habitats Directive. Further information available from the [MNHN's website](#).

Habitat-based conservation strategies cannot compensate for climate-change-induced range loss



This paper from ETC/BD partner [Umweltbundesamt](#) together with the University of Vienna in [Nature Climate Change](#) examines how conservation measures will help counteract the impact of climate change on three species groups ((vascularplants, butterflies and grasshoppers) in Central Europe.

ETC/BD Technical Papers and Working papers

The ETC/BD and its predecessors have produced many reports over the past 20 years. A selection of these reports is now being made available on our website in the [ETC/BD Technical papers and Working papers](#) section.

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.



Photo –Otars Opermanis