



NEWSLETTER

July 2018



Nature Directives

Reporting under the Nature Directives

Reporting tools, delivery manuals and data specifications, together with checklists for species, habitats, pressures and conservation measures, for the 2019 reporting 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.

Checking coherence across datasets

As part of action 3 of the [Action Plan for nature, people and the economy](#), implemented as a follow up to the Nature Directives Fitness Check, the EEA-ETC/BD is working at “... *improving data quality, by making a systematic assessment of the coherence of the data-sets provided by Member States, followed by discussions in relevant expert groups*”. Based on an initial cross-analysis of data reported under the Nature Directives (Natura 2000, Art 12/17 data) prepared in Autumn 2017, the ETC/BD presented the first results of this coherence checking exercise at the Expert Group on Reporting on 9 March 2018. Inconsistencies in reporting within the Natura 2000 dataflow and between Natura 2000 and Art 17 reporting were highlighted and discussed for further action by Member States. Results of the cross analysis between Natura 2000 and

Art 12 data will be discussed at the autumn meeting of the Expert Group.

Emerald and Bern Convention

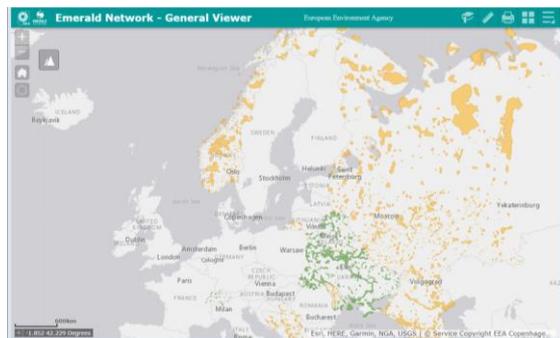


As partners of the ETC/BD consortium, with funding from the [ENI SEIS II East](#) project, [MNHN](#) and [ILE-SAS](#) supported the preparation, organisation and follow-up of several events:

- [First training workshop on reporting](#) on Bern Convention Resolution 4 habitats and Resolution 6 species, held at the EEA on 17 & 18 April. Although primarily for the 6 Eastern and European countries involved in the ENI SEIS II East project, this training workshop was also open to ten other Contracting Parties to the Bern Convention.
- First training workshop on the development of an indicator on protected areas following the [UN-ECE approach for D1 indicator](#) as well as [SEBI 007 indicator](#)
- [Second Emerald biogeographical seminar](#), held in Kiev on 23-24 May to assess site proposals for birds by Ukraine, Republic of Moldova and Belarus



The Emerald viewer has a new URL - <http://emerald.eea.europa.eu/>.



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

EEA and EIONET

The annual meeting of National Reference Centres (NRCs) for biodiversity was held in EEA on 28-29 June, with ETC/BD support (partners MNHN and WER), with 28 countries participating. Following a preliminary EIONET consultation three main topics were discussed: Biodiversity Information Systems, Habitat mapping and modelling and Green Infrastructure. Six NRCs made presentations related to these topics and all contributed during the breakout groups, discussing the status of development of these issues in the countries, on the most pressing issues and their possible solutions.

SEBI indicators

The indicator related to Sites designated under the EU Habitats and Birds Directives (SEBI008) has been updated and is now available [online](#). An update of the indicator "Status of marine fish and shellfish in European seas" (SEBI021) is also available. Updates of SEBI001 (Abundance and distribution of selected species), and 007 (Nationally protected areas) are in preparation.

Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystems and their Services (MAES)

The fifth MAES report, prepared by DG ENV, JRC, and EEA with support from ETC/BD, has been published. This report, [available from the MAES website](#), makes proposals for measuring the condition of terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystem types based on a selection of indicators. A set of specific indicators is available for assessment of ecosystem condition per main ecosystem type. A core set of key indicators is available to support an integrated ecosystem assessment across the different ecosystem types.

The report defines ecosystem condition, describes in a conceptual model the link between pressures, ecosystem condition and ecosystem services, and provides a hierarchical structure and classification of pressure and ecosystem condition indicators.

ETC/BD partner UBA has updated the Map of Ecosystems for Europe with a contribution from ETC/ULS for the marine component. EEA is preparing a note on the maps which will be available soon on the EEA website.

EUNIS habitats classification

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](#). An EIONET based consultation on these sections will run until 17 September 2018, see the [EIONET website](#) for details.

Work to start revising the freshwater section took an important step forward with a workshop held at the ETC/BD on the 3-4 March. It was agreed to align the EUNIS classification with the Broad Types developed under the Water Framework Directive.



Doug Evans (ETC/BD) and Mette Lund (EEA) gave a presentation on the work to update the classification at this year's [European Vegetation Survey](#) meeting held in Wrocław (Poland) on 23-25 May. The agenda and abstracts are available from the [meeting's website](#).

IAS

Based on Target 5 of the EU Biodiversity Strategy ("Combat Invasive Alien Species"), and particularly Action 16 ("Establish a dedicated instrument on IAS"), as well as International Conventions and Agreements, the EU has developed a dedicated legislative instrument, Regulation (EU) 1143/2014 on the "prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species", which entered into force on 1 January 2015.

The first report by the Member States under the IAS regulation will be in 2019 (from April until June 2019). In preparation for this reporting, the ETC/BD has developed 'field by field' guidelines and provides support to the reporting infrastructure such as web-forms and vocabularies. It is planned to have a meeting with the national reporters in November. The list of IAS of Union concern and other relevant material is available at http://cdr.eionet.europa.eu/help/ias_regulation

HNV forests

Lubos Halada (ETC/BD partner [SAS-ILE](#)) attended a meeting organised by ETC/ULS in Malaga on the 26 & 27 February to discuss future work on High Nature Value forests, particularly a biodiversity sub-indicator. Following the meeting the ETC/BD has produced a concept paper outlining a methodology for producing the sub-indicator and have forwarded the necessary datasets to ETC/ULS.

Green Infrastructure

A report on 'Informing strategic green infrastructure and restoration planning through mapping and assessment methods based on spatial and technical data', prepared jointly by the EEA the JRC and DG Environment will be published soon. This report aims at providing guidance to support strategic policy and decision-making on Green Infrastructure (GI). It draws on a range of European-wide datasets and tools available for mapping green and blue infrastructure, with several case studies.

ETC/BD contributed to this report with general comments as well as with a description of the [LARCH tool](#), which evaluates landscape connectivity based on suitable habitats for a specific species or a species group.

Following a review of experience in implementing Green Infrastructure in the European Union, organised by the European Commission, [summary fact sheets per country](#) are now available on the BISE country pages ([Biodiversity Information System for Europe](#)).

News from our partners

MNHN

Welcomed by the President, Bruno David, an important policy event was held in the MNHN on 4th July 2018, i.e. the first meeting of an inter-ministerial committee for biodiversity involving 15 Ministers and State Secretaries, and chaired by the Prime Minister Edouard Philippe. At the meeting Nicolas Hulot (Minister for Ecological and Inclusive Transition) launched the [Biodiversity Plan "Biodiversité. Tous vivants"](#). This plan which includes 6 themes and 90 actions is complementary to the 2020 National Strategy for Biodiversity and aims at enhancing the policy profile of biodiversity to the same level as climate change and to mobilise decision makers and society at all scales of action.



JNCC

The 2018 UK Biodiversity Indicators will be published on the 19th July on JNCC's [website](#). In April, JNCC announced the 2017 [UK butterfly trends](#) collected through the UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme (UKBMS), these revealed a continuing trend of below average butterfly numbers.

In May, JNCC re-launched its European Court of Justice caselaw database in a more user-friendly cloud-based online library. The database encompasses all UK and EU caselaw related to the Habitats and Birds Directive up to December 2017. The database contains a search engine and the case law is summarised in a way that users will not need a legal background to draw out the relevant information. The database is available on JNCC's [website](#) at <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-6780>

On June 26-27 the JNCC '[Beyond the Coast 2018](#)' took place at the University of Hull. Timed to mark the 10th Anniversary of the establishment of the first UK Marine Protected Area, the conference specifically focused on progressive marine conservation in the UK's offshore marine environment.

JNCC alongside the British Ecological Society and UK Nature Conservation Agencies joint hosted a meeting on '[Securing our natural environment for future generations](#)' (23-24 May). It brought together policy officials, practitioners and scientists to set the direction for nature conservation in the UK.

Publications

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

Proceedings of the EuroGard VII Congress



The proceedings of the European Botanic Gardens Congress, (EuroGard VII) held at the MNHN in Paris from July 6-10, 2015, have now been published. It contains two papers from the ETC/BD core team; - 'Biodiversity in Europe: between risks and opportunities' (Dominique Richard) and 'Progress in plant and habitat conservation across the European Union' (Douglas Evans et al). The proceedings can be downloaded from the [European Botanic Gardens Consortium website](#).

Habitats d'intérêt communautaire : actualisation des interprétations des Cahiers d'habitats



This report (in French) covers 35 Annex I habitats and updates the interpretations in France published in the [Cahiers d'habitats](#) series.



Vegetation Science and the Habitats Directive



The Italian journal *Rendiconti Lincei. Scienze Fisiche e Naturali* has just published a special issue with a collection of papers concerned with aspects of the Habitats Directive by members of the European Vegetation Survey. It includes a paper on 'Phytosociological relationships in European Union policy-related

habitat classifications' by Joop Schaminée and Douglas Evans (both from ETC/BD partner organisations) and John Rodwell. Other papers focus on particular habitats or on aspects of monitoring. The special issue is available from the [journal's website](#).

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 12 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.



ETC/BD Core team meeting at the Paris Zoological Park (a branch of the MNHN)