

NEWS

• STREAMLINING EUROPEAN 2010 BIODIVERSITY INDICATORS (SEBI 2010)

Almost two years after the launching meeting of the SEBI 2010 project a workshop was organised by the EEA on 28-29 November in Copenhagen. Around 75 people -including experts on many different biodiversity topics, participants from the Biodiversity Expert group set up by the European Commission, representatives of the European Commission (DG Env, DG Agri, Joint Research Centre & Eurostat), as well as several EEA staff - met to discuss the relevance of the first set of headline Biodiversity indicators prepared by the expert groups and the way they could be presented and communicated. They also assessed possible interconnections and storylines across the indicators. During breakout group sessions, participants had the opportunity to consider each proposed indicator in more detail and to provide an external view on the results provided by the SEBI experts and the Coordination Team during this year.

Now the Coordination Team has to take stock of the comments received, to make a selection of the most accepted indicators and to finalize the corresponding documentation forms. In 2007, the list will be presented at different meetings (PEBLDS Council in March, EU Nature Directors in May, EU Environment Council in June and during the SBSTTA meeting in July). In addition, the EEA will prepare a technical report on the state of the work of the project. Further information about the workshop is available on the [EC-CHM website](#).

This work has involved all the ETC/BD partners in co ordinating and chairing some of the expert groups and contributing to their work.

• NATURA 2000 & THE TWO NATURE DIRECTIVES

As reported in the last newsletter the Mediterranean list of Sites of Community Importance has been adopted and was published in September 2006 (available at the [DG Environment website](#)). This completes the initial lists of Sites of Community Importance for the former EU15 and is an important landmark in building the Natura 2000 network. It has taken a little more than 10 years to complete this first phase. The Community Lists will be updated in 2007 to include sites in the 10 new Member States, including a first list for the Pannonian region, and additional sites from the EU15.

A biogeographical seminar for Cyprus and Malta was held in Brussels on 6th December, this completes the series of seminars for the 10 Member States who joined the EU in 2004.

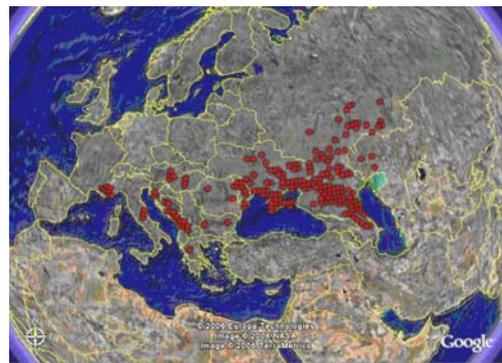
Bulgaria and Romania join the EU in January 2007 and in anticipation the annexes of both the Birds and Habitats Directives have been amended, for example 13 new habitats have been added to Annex I of the Habitats Directive. Descriptions of these new habitats along with amendments to some existing habitat types are being considered by the Habitats Committee at present and will be available soon.

The guidelines for preparing the Article 17 reports produced by the ETC/BD in collaboration with experts from the Member States have now been adopted by the Habitats Committee and are available on [CIRCA](#) . The reports due in 2007 will be the first comprehensive review of the conservation status of the species and habitats protected by the Habitats Directive.

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

• EUNIS

The [EUNIS](#) (European Nature Information System) website, with information on European species, habitats & sites of conservation interest has been updated. It now includes a tool to overlay Google Earth with distribution maps for terrestrial vertebrates. This solution will be further developed for all other EUNIS maps.



Distribution of the [Meadow Viper \(*Vipera ursini*\)](#) from [EUNIS](#)

• FARMING & BIODIVERSITY

As much of Europe's land surface is used for agriculture farming is clearly of importance for biodiversity. It is estimated that maybe a third of the habitat types listed in Annex I of the Habitats Directive are linked to agriculture in



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some way and a list was published some years ago by Ole Ostermann while he was part of the ETC/NC Core team. That list has recently been updated by the ILE SAS for the ETC/BD and is available on request from the ETC/BD.

To highlight the interaction of farming and biodiversity the ETC/BD has been involved in a project to identify areas of 'High Nature Value Farming' as noted in our July newsletter. A workshop was held in November, jointly organised by the EEA and the Joint Research Centre (JRC), where the Member States could comment on the criteria for selecting such areas and on preliminary maps of HNMF across Europe. The JRC is leading the preparation of a map of European HNMF areas. A report is expected to follow.

• **ASSESSMENTS FOR THE BELGRADE PAN-EUROPEAN CONFERENCE**

As indicated in the April issue of the newsletter, the ETC/BD has contributed to two different reports which will be presented at the Belgrade Conference of Ministers of the Environment in October 2007:-

- the chapter on Nature and Biodiversity, including a section on forests prepared by the European Forest Institute, for the assessment report on the State of the Environment in Pan-Europe, led by the European Environment Agency. The [country consultation process](#), organised by the EEA in September closed on 1st December. Comments received will be incorporated in a new version of the report which will be produced early in 2007.

- the assessment report on the [Pan-European Ecological Network](#), coordinated by the Council of Europe. Following a presentation of the draft report to the meeting of the Committee of experts for the development of the Pan-European Ecological Network (STRA-REP) on 9-10 October in Strasbourg, comments provided by countries have been incorporated in a new version of the report for final endorsement by the Council of the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (STRA-CO) in March 2007.

The ETC/BD contributions to this work have been led by the ECNC, EFI and the MNHN.

• **BIRD MONITORING WORKSHOP**

A workshop on pan-European Forest Bird Diversity Monitoring was held 18-19 September at the MNHN in Paris. The workshop brought together experts with backgrounds in bird and forest monitoring and followed a feasibility study on forest bird monitoring carried out by the

European Forest Institute for the ETC/BD in 2005. The objectives of the workshop were to explore the options to monitor forest bird populations as identified in the feasibility study, to present currently on-going practices, and to identify options to harmonise forest bird monitoring across the European Union. Different methods for combining bird and forest monitoring were discussed.

The presentations given addressed forest and bird monitoring in the European and national/regional context (Finland, France & UK) as well as indicators and regional monitoring projects. There is need for better collaboration between the forest and bird monitoring, e.g. by a possible cooperation between the Forest Focus project BioSoil and the FINE project (Forest Indicators in Europe). Cooperation between forest and bird monitoring schemes should preferably be coordinated at a European level. It was suggested that a project proposal should be developed to bring European experts together to study the integration of bird and forest monitoring data for the ICP Forest Level I monitoring plot network.

The workshop was an important first step for bringing the forest and bird monitoring communities together. More information exchange in a follow-up workshop would be very valuable.

• **WORK PROGRAMME 2007 & BEYOND**

The work programme for 2007 was the main subject of the fourth meeting of the ETC/BD Management Committee held in early November in Peterborough and hosted by the JNCC. Work will be organised around 3 pillars; - Firstly the creation of an EU biodiversity data centre which will be a common data centre for Eurostat, DG Environment, the EU Joint Research Centre and the EEA and will be managed by the EEA. The second pillar is to build strong partnerships for data and information gathering through interchanges with Eionet, NGO's, science community and international organisations; while the third is to develop the capacity to make assessments in support of policy making especially the ecosystem functions aspects underpinning the 2006 Biodiversity Communication.

NEWS FROM THE PARTNERS

Congratulations to Gabriela Augusto (MNHN) who has just had a baby boy - *Parabéns e felicidades!*

Doug Taylor recently moved from Wetlands International to Washington DC, USA to become the Secretary of the



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Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) of the United Nations Environment Programme Global Environment Facility (see <http://stapgef.unep.org>). -We wish Doug good luck in his new post.

• **EDIT**

Following its launching meeting in June 2006, the FP6 Network of Excellence, [EDIT](#) ("Towards the European Distributed Institute on Taxonomy") the Scientific Advisory Council of the project held its first meeting in Paris on 14 November.

By gathering 26 of the most important European, North-American and Russian taxonomic institutions, the EDIT project, coordinated by the MNHN, aims at "reducing fragmentation in European taxonomic research and expertise, and to co-ordinate the European contribution to the global taxonomic effort, in particular the Global Taxonomy Initiative, through an integrated initiative aimed at improving society's capacity for biodiversity conservation".

The Scientific Advisory Committee, chaired by Sybille van den Hove, director of the Institute for Environmental Science and Technology in the Autonomous University of Barcelona, includes 17 members, including Dominique Richard as a representative of the ETC/BD. Following presentation by leaders of each eight EDIT work-packages, the committee made extensive recommendations for the further development of the project. These recommendations will be transmitted to the board of Directors of the various consortium member institutions.

• **BIOSCORE**

The European Centre for Nature Conservation has been developing a tool for linking pressures from policy sectors to the (change in the) state of biodiversity as measured by the presence and abundance of individual species, see [Bioscore](#) for more information.

REPORTS & PAPERS

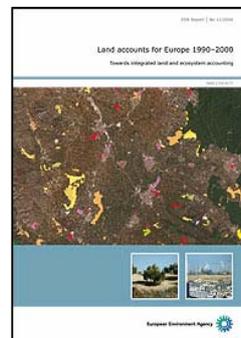
• **EUROPEAN FOREST TYPES**

Prepared by the European Forest Institute & others this is a classification of forests produced for the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE) and aiming to give categories for reporting. This report was the subject of a recent [workshop](#) held by the MCPFE in Bled, Slovenia.

(http://reports.eea.europa.eu/technical_report_2006_9/en)

• **LAND ACCOUNTS FOR EUROPE 1990-2000**

This EEA report examines changes in land use across Europe based on data from the Corine land cover inventory derived from satellite images from 1990 and 2000



(http://reports.eea.europa.eu/eea_report_2006_11/en)

• **BIRD MIGRATION & CLIMATE CHANGE**

'Contrasting responses of migration strategies in two European thrushes to climate change' by Philippe Rivalan-Morten Frederiksen, Romain Julliard (all MNHN) & Gregoire Lois (ECNC) has been accepted by Global Change Biology – the [paper](#) is available via the journal's 'online early' website.

This paper results from a study partially funded by the ETC/BD in 2005.

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).

Visit our website at
<http://biodiversity.eionet.europa.eu/>

BONNE et DIVERSIFIEE ANNÉE **HAPPY NEW YEAR**
ŠTASTNÝ NOVÝ ROK **"AAM SAID"** **GODT NYTÅR**
GELUKKIG NIEUWJAAR **FELICXAN NOVAN JARON**
HEAD UUT AASTAT **ONNELLISTA UUTTA VUOTTA**
FELIZ ANINOVO **EIN GUTES NEUES JAHR** **"KALI CHRONIA"**
BOLDOG ÚJ ÉVET **ATH BHLIAIN FAOI MHAISE**
ELICE ANNO NUOVO **FELIX SIT ANNUS NOVUS**
LAIMÍGO JAUNO GADU **LAIMINGŪ NAUJUJŪ METŪ**
SENA GDIDA MIMLIJA RISQ **SZCZĘŚLIWEGO NOWEGO ROKU**
FELIZ ANO NOVO **UN AN NOU FERICIT**
BLIADHNA MHATH UR **STASTLIVY NOVY ROK**
SREČNO NOVO LETO **FELIZ AÑO NUEVO** **GOTT NYTT ÅR**
YENI YILINIZ KUTLU OLSUN **BLWYDDYN NEWYDD DDA**
URTE BERRI ON **TRATRY NY TAONA EH** **LA MULᵀ ANI**
NOLLAIG CHRIDHEIL AGUS BLIADHNA MHATH UR