

NEWS

• STREAMLINING EUROPEAN 2010 BIODIVERSITY INDICATORS (SEBI 2010)

Presentations on SEBI 2010 have been given at several recent meetings including the Biodiversity NRC EIONET meeting, the IUCN Congress (see below), a Eurostat meeting on Sustainable Development Indicators and an Asian meeting on biodiversity indicators.

In the meantime, work has continued with several meetings. The [second 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](#) (16-17 October). An agreement was reached within the group on an indicator on impacts of climate change on bird populations and on further development of an indicator related to alpine plants.

The Working Group on Communication held a meeting on the 21-22 October in the Ministry of Environment in Vienna to comment on the draft indicator based report and the factsheets and made proposals for future products.

SEBI Coordination Team meetings were held in Reykjavik (3 - 4 July) hosted by the Icelandic Institute of Natural History and in Copenhagen, (30 - 31 October) to recap the on-going work of the three groups and validate the structure of the 2009 EEA indicator-based assessment report.



The SEBI co ordination team in Iceland

In December 2008, DG Environment published a [mid-term report on implementation of the EU Biodiversity Action Plan](#) which provides the first comprehensive assessment of progress at both European Community and Member State levels. A set of 22 SEBI indicators is included as an annex.

A consultation began on 19 of December for an EEA draft assessment report based on the SEBI indicators and other relevant sources of information. The aim of the report is to give a clear, easy-to-grasp impression of recent progress

and current issues and to provide a solid and reliable basis for a reasoned debate about future action, in view of post 2010 discussions to be started in 2009, as well as targeting relevant events in 2010.

The consultation is open till 8 February and the [report is available on the EC-CHM](#).

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

• NATURA 2000 & THE TWO NATURE DIRECTIVES

The European Commission adopted and published revised lists for all regions except for the Mediterranean on the 12 December 2008 including the first lists for the Black Sea and Steppic regions. These are the first lists to include Bulgaria and Romania. Further details are available on the [DG Environment website](#). There will be another update in 2009.

A meeting to discuss Natura 2000 in the marine environment was held at DG Environment on the 29th September 2009. Several Member States have now proposed offshore sites under both Directives and a first seminar will be held in Galway, Ireland, during spring 2009 to evaluate proposals for sites in the Atlantic. A second meeting for the Baltic Sea may be held later in the year.

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

An Internet based consultation was held during the summer to allow discussion of the assessments of conservation status for biogeographical regions prepared by the ETC/BD based on the Member State assessments as part of their Article 17 reports. Following comments several assessments have been revised and are now available at <http://biodiversity.eionet.europa.eu/article17>.

EIONET
European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity

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Choose a group, a conclusion type and press the Filter button. You will get an overview of the assessment for the species in that group over the various bioregions. Move the mouse over each cell in order to get more details about that assessment. Clicking on each cell will lead you to the full detailed page of that species in the chosen region.

Group: Invertebrates Conclusion: overall assessment Filter

Species	Regions										
	ALP	ATL	BOR	CON	MAC	MED	PAN	MATL	MBAL	MMAAC	NRMED
<i>Aechmion vortici</i>											
<i>Agathidium puchheium</i>											
<i>Agriades glandan aquilo</i>											
<i>Anisus verticillus</i>											
<i>Anthrenochares stellae</i>											
<i>Agrotis melis</i>											
<i>Apterostigma aptera</i>											
<i>Aradus angulatus</i>											
<i>Armadillidium ghardaimensis</i>											
<i>Aryturus musculus</i>											
<i>Astaus astaus</i>											
<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>											
<i>Austropotamobius torrentium</i>											
<i>Baetica ustulata</i>											
<i>Baibatesmus uncinatus</i>											
<i>Beros schneideri</i>											
<i>Brachythrus megacephalus</i>											
<i>Buprestis splendens</i>											



NEWSLETTER – December 2008

A series of reports explaining the Article 17 methodology and analysing the results have been prepared and these will be available when the European Commission will publish its Composite Report. There will also be a special issue of the European Commission's [Natura 2000 newsletter](#) focused on the Article 17 reports and a report by the European Commission.

• EURECA!

The EURECA! initiative launched by the EEA includes three main elements:

- Production of a *storyline-based assessment* of biodiversity change and its consequences for delivery of ecosystem services against the background of European trends
- Development of a methodology for an *integral accounting framework* that will ultimately allow economic assessment of ecosystem service flows across different scales. This will be a direct contribution to the The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) process.
- *Capacity building* through the production of a methods handbook, consistent with the UNEP WCMC Millennium Assessment follow-up manual, and tailor-made for application at European and national scales.

EURECA's *Story-line based assessment* is scheduled for publication in 2012. It will include a comprehensive analysis of the state and trends of major ecosystems (the 'Pathfinder' module) and then will focus on areas/issues of particular interest, to be explored in further detail and from an ecosystem service perspective ('Spotmeter' modules). The story-line based assessment will also be supported by scenario analysis.

Over the last months, the ETC/BD has supported the EEA in the development of the EURECA spotmeter and scenario modules with the organisation of two expert workshops: a workshop on scenario analysis, held on 13-14 October 2008 in Copenhagen and a workshop on spotmeters held on 10-11 November 2008, also in Copenhagen, focussing on four thematic areas:

- *Food for Thought* - Food, fuel and the fate of the landscape
- *Fish Behind the Net* - Exploiting the marine environment
- *Natura2morrow* - Significance and robustness of the protected area networks
- *Peak Performance* – Mountain ecosystems under pressure

Based on the outcomes of these two expert workshops, the EEA and its ETC/BD will prepare a work plan for further development of these specific spotmeters for 2009 and beyond in cooperation with relevant experts and organisations.

• IUCN WORLD CONGRESS

The [IUCN world congress](#) took place in Barcelona from 5 to 9 October 2009, with more than 8,000 participants and some 800 events. The EEA, represented by Rania Spyropolou, and ETC/BD represented by Sophie Condé and Dominique Richard (both MNHN), Lauri Klein and Tiina Dislis (both [Estonian Environment Information Centre](#)), participated in the Alliance workshop with an event entitled "[Country networks for better environmental information and governance: Three examples from Europe](#)". Gordon McInnes (EEA) reported on the SEBI process during an event on "Meeting the 2010 biodiversity target!" organised as part of the Countdown 2010 initiative.

• LTER-EUROPE CONFERENCE

LTER stands for "Long-term Ecosystem Research". Besides being an umbrella term for activities in the field of ecosystem and environmental research, it is also the name for formal LTER networks of research sites and scientists on national and continental levels composing the global LTER Network. The setting up, in June 2007, of [LTER Europe](#) is a major outcome of the ALTER-Net network of excellence.

As a stakeholder, the EEA was invited to attend the 6th LTER Europe Conference which took place in Palma de Mallorca, Spain, from 1-5 December 2008, with 4 December dedicated to a meeting of National Networks Representatives. Potential support from LTER Europe to processes such as the in-situ component of [Global Monitoring for Environment and Security \(GMES\)](#), the [Shared European Environment Information System \(SEIS\)](#) and EURECA were discussed.

• EUROPEAN CITY OF SCIENCES

As part of the EU French Presidency, a [large exhibition dedicated to science](#) welcomed more than 42 600 visitors from 14 to 16 December 2008 in the Grand Palais, Paris. A stand, entitled "What is your nature?" was organised jointly by the French Museum of Natural History and the European Environment Agency, supported by ETC/BD.



While the Museum part of the stand focused on taxonomy and diversity of life, the EEA-ETC/BD made use of interactive tools and a quiz to increase awareness on the conservation status of species and habitats of European interest.



• ETC/BD MANAGEMENT MEETING

The last meeting of the ETC/BD consortium under the 2004 - 2008 Framework Partnership Agreement was held in Tallinn, Estonia, kindly hosted by the [Estonian Environment Information Centre](#). The meeting was largely dedicated to a review of progress on the different tasks under the 2008 Implementation Plan, so as to ensure a proper finalisation of all products and services to be delivered to the European Environment Agency and a smooth transition towards the next ETC/BD contract. To conclude the meeting, ETC/BD partners were invited to express their views on the consortium's performance in achieving its mandate over the last five years.



The positive feedback on this assessment is supported by the EEA's Executive Director's following statement:

"...we value the excellent collaboration during the past years, visible in the results of projects of high complexity such as those related to Natura 2000, Article 17, SEBI 2010 or the Ecosystem Assessment for Europe, to name a few. I would like to communicate this appraisal to all the partners of both the old and the new consortium as these results are the coordinated work of the core team and its manager together with the partners distributed across Europe". (Letter from Jacqueline McGlade, EEA Executive Director to Bertrand Pierre Galey, Director of the "Museum national d'Histoire naturelle", 20 August 2008)



The meeting was preceded by a short visit to an extensive and interesting raised bog not far from Tallinn.

• A NEW ETC/BD FOR 2009 - 2013

The MNHN led two bids for the two lots tendered by the EEA for the ETC/BD for the period 2009 - 2013. Our bid for the first lot (which covered an area of work similar to that undertaken by previous ETC/BDs) was successful but our bid for the second lot (Ecosystem Assessments and related work) was unsuccessful even though it was the only bid.

As a result the ETC:BD consortium will change, with the Estonian Environment Information Centre, the European Forest Institute and Wetlands International leaving and the following new members joining the ETC/BD consortium 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.

NEWS FROM THE PARTNERS

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

Otars Opermanis joined the ETC/BD core team in Paris in October 2009 to work on Natura 2000 filling the role previously undertaken by Marie-Paule Hindermeier (see last newsletter). Otars comes from Latvia where he worked as a project manager for the United Nations Development Programme after previously managing scientific work related to establishing Natura 2000 in Latvia. He has a PhD in biology and his scientific work has focused on birds, especially waders and ducks, particularly on different aspects of habitat selection and predator-prey relationships.

Iurie Maxim left the core team at the end of 2008 to return to the Ministry of Environment in Bucharest, Romania. Iurie played a key role in bringing together the data for the Article 17 reports and the subsequent regional assessments would not have been possible without his contribution.

Stéphanie Pyamootoo who has been our assistant left at the end of December and we wish her well for the future. From 1 February 2009 Muriel Vincent will join the core team as our assistant.

- **EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR NATURE CONSERVATION**

Marcus Zisenis joined the ETC/BD core team on 1 January on secondment from the [European Centre for Nature Conservation](#) as Biodiversity Analyst. His expertise lies in interdisciplinary evaluations of biodiversity, using methods from both the natural sciences and humanities. He has been working for more than 13 years in nature conservation, landscape planning, and sustainable development in public administration, politics, and research on local, European, and international levels. Marcus will be contributing to work such as the next EEA State of the Environment report, the development of biodiversity indicators and ecosystem assessments.

- **ISPRA... ex-ICRAM**

Following a reorganisation of research and environmental institutions in Italy, ICRAM is now part of the newly created IPSRA (Istituto Superiore per la Protezione e la Ricerca Ambientale).

- **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 (SNH, ETC core team) has been invited to join the project's advisory board which had its first meeting in Amsterdam in early January 2009.

- **The ETC/BD wishes you**



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).

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