

*The year 2009 has seen many changes for the ETC/BD: a renewed consortium, a restructured EEA with a new multiannual strategy and two new units at DG Environment (The former Nature unit has been divided to become 'Biodiversity' and 'Natura 2000'). The core team itself has also changed, with five new persons recruited since 1<sup>st</sup> January and two former colleagues leaving, including Carlos Romão, previous ETC/BD manager, now replaced by Dominique Richard.*

*The year ends with the realisation that the crucially expected changes to fight global warming will not occur. With 2010 ahead of us, it is with full dedication that the ETC/BD will, on its part, contribute to the International Biodiversity Year which, we hope, will make a significant difference!*

## NEWS

### • STREAMLINING EUROPEAN 2010 BIODIVERSITY INDICATORS (SEBI 2010)

The major event in 2009 was the publication of the first report on [Progress towards the European 2010 biodiversity target](#) and the [indicator fact sheets](#).



In October 2009, the 16<sup>th</sup> SEBI Coordination Team meeting agreed that a short report based on 2009 results with an ecosystem approach or a sectorial approach will be prepared for distribution during the CBD COP10 in Japan.

The 2007 technical report [Proposal for a first set of indicators](#) will also be updated to reflect the SEBI process and including new views. In addition, ETC/BD and EEA will contribute to the revision of the [EC BAP report](#).

Much remains to be done during the first part of 2010 before taking any decisions on the future, closely linked to the political decision on the Post 2010 target!

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

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### • NATURA 2000 & THE TWO NATURE DIRECTIVES

The second Natura 2000 marine seminar was held in Sopot, Poland, in late November to examine site proposals from 8 countries for the Baltic Sea. The Commission plan to hold a single meeting for the remaining marine areas (Black Sea, Macaronesia and Mediterranean) in mid 2010.

The Habitats Committee approved updated lists of Sites of Community Importance on the 15<sup>th</sup> October. The revised lists include site proposals made up until September 2008 and will be published in the Official Journal in the near

future. The next update, taking into account proposals made up to November 2009, will be in autumn 2010.

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



The ETC/BD (left) and the European Commission (right) during the Sopot meeting

The Expert Group on reporting under the Birds and the Habitats Directives met in Brussels on the 18<sup>th</sup> November to review progress with reports from most of the working groups. The next meeting will be on the 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2010.



Visiting bogs, lakes & forests during the workpackage 1 meeting in Helsinki



There have also been meetings of several of the working groups including Work Package 1 (reviewing and improving the guidelines for reporting under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive) which is led by the ETC/BD which met at [Syke](#) (the Finnish Environment Institute) in September in Helsinki to discuss a range of topics including range, population units, structure & function and future prospects.

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#### • NATURA 2000 WORKSHOP IN TURKEY

The ETC/BD was asked to organise a workshop introducing Natura 2000 for staff at the Turkish Ministry of Environment, the Turkish [Environmental Protection Agency for Special Areas](#) (an ETC/BD partner) together with participants from Turkish NGOs and universities. The workshop, which aimed to give an introduction to all aspects of Natura 2000, was held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> October in Ankara with contributions from Doug Evans and Otars Opermanis (ETC/BD core team), Karel Chobot from ETC/BD partner [Agentura ochrany přírody a krajiny České republiky](#) (the Czech agency for Nature conservation) together with Petr Roth from the Czech Ministry of Environment. The speakers from the core team presented the two nature directives and explained the roles of the European Commission, the ETC/BD and others while the Czech speakers focused on implementation on the directives while a Candidate Country and as a recently joined member of the EU.

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#### • SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON PROGRESS IN MARINE CONSERVATION IN EUROPE 2009

This was the second conference on marine conservation in Europe to be organised by the [Bundesamtes für Naturschutz](#) and held in Stralsund, Germany on the 2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> November 2009. Doug Evans and Otars Opermanis (ETC/BD core team) gave a presentation on the current status of the Habitats Directive marine Sites of Community Importance (SCI).

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#### • EIONET BIODIVERSITY WORKSHOP 2009

The 2009 [EIONET](#) NRC Biodiversity Workshop was held on the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> September at the [European Environment Agency](#) in Copenhagen, Denmark. The main items discussed were SEBI2010 together with possible future targets for after 2010 and the EEA work programme for 2010. There were also presentations from biodiversity related projects such as EBONE (see below) and [LifeWatch](#).

#### • EBONE

The FP7 project [EBONE](#) (Earth Biodiversity Observation Network) held a project meeting in Thessaloniki, Greece in early October. Doug Evans ([Scottish Natural Heritage](#), ETC/BD core team) was present for a meeting of the project's advisory board while Lubos Halada from ETC/BD partner, the Slovak [Institute for Landscape Ecology](#) which is one of the EBONE project partners, also attended the meeting.

Earlier in October, Doug Evans attended a meeting held in Porto together with staff from [Alterra](#) and the [Biodiversity & Conservation Ecology group, University of Porto](#) to help to better define the descriptions of the habitats of Annex I of the Habitats Directive as part of the development of a key to the Annex I habitats as part of the EBONE project.

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#### • BIODIVERSITY INFORMATION STANDARDS (TDWG) CONFERENCE 2009

[Biodiversity Information Standards \(TDWG\)](#) is a not for profit organisation which develops standards for the exchange of biodiversity data, which are widely used within the Biodiversity domain. The yearly conference was held on the 9-13<sup>th</sup> November 2009 in Montpellier, France. Sabine Roscher (ETC/BD core team) and Mora Aronsson ([ArtDatabanken](#), part of ETC/BD partner [SLU](#)) participated in the conference, which attracted more than 300 experts from all over the world. The great success of the conference was also given by the fact that for the first time experts from both fields – biodiversity and agrobiodiversity – had the opportunity to share within small working groups their experience and discuss the way forward.

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#### • INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON THE CLASSIFICATION OF ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

As a follow up to the first meeting held in December 2008, the second expert meeting of the Common International Classification of Ecosystem Services (CICES) project was organised in Copenhagen on 2-3<sup>rd</sup> December 2009 co-sponsored by the EEA, [UNEP](#) and the German [Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety](#). The ETC/BD was represented by Deanna Donovan from ETC/BD partner the [Joint Nature Conservation Committee](#).

The need for a standardised classification emerges from the debate stimulated by the multiplicity of global initiatives related to ecosystem services assessment and accounting, such as the [IPBES](#), [TEEB](#), the Millennium Assessment-follow-up, [Eureca!2012](#) the European ecosystem



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assessment, many national assessments, Green Economics, [PES](#) and IPES, SEBI2010, the [SEEA2003](#) revision and the European Strategy on Environmental Accounting. The aim of the CICES project is to foster synergies and bring together the diverse approaches taken to estimate and quantify ecosystem services.

The objective of the meeting was to arrive at a consensus on a working nomenclature to be used in the coming years in the various programmes on ecosystems and ecosystem services.

The presently proposed system has been uploaded onto the [CICES website](#) and comments are welcome until mid January. The classification will be then be amended to reflect the meetings and the comments before final consensus is achieved.

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### • TOWARDS GREEN ACCOUNTING

Better accounting of the environmental costs and benefits in national accounts will be a key challenge for the planned revision of the current [SEEA2003](#), scheduled for 2013. A joint Directors Meeting of the Environmental Statistics and Accounts (DIMESA) and EEA Management Board seminar was organised on 24<sup>th</sup> November in Luxembourg on the topic: “Accounting for what matters: how linking national accounts and environmental accounts can support sustainable development objectives in Europe and globally”, focusing on socio-economic and ecosystem perspectives on carbon accounting for Europe. Sophie Condé participated on behalf of ETC/BD.

As a follow up to the CICES workshop mentioned above, a meeting dedicated to accounting for ecosystem capital degradation and depletion was organised on 4<sup>th</sup> December by the EEA, with Deanna Donovan participating on behalf of ETC/BD. Jean-Louis Weber from the EEA presented progress in creating structures for comparing natural asset depreciation against restoration for a net impact analysis. This will eventually be done across 6 topics. The four initial areas to be addressed in the coming year include Biodiversity.

### • PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN DG ENVIRONMENT, EEA, JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE AND EUROSTAT ON BIODIVERSITY RELATED ISSUES

In order to ensure an efficient partnership through regular meetings and mutual exchanges of information, a “Group of 4 Biodiversity” has been set up with representatives of DG Environment Biodiversity Unit (B2) and Natura 2000 Unit (B3), [Joint Research Centre](#), [Eurostat](#) and the European Environment Agency with its ETC/BD. The second meeting of this group, where DG Research was

also invited, took place in Brussels on 11 December. Dominique Richard and Sophie Condé attended on behalf of ETC/BD. Several topics were discussed including policy priorities and needs for 2010 and beyond, the 2010 Biodiversity year (see below), the development of the Biodiversity Data Centre and the Biodiversity Information System for Europe, ERA-Net and other research projects to support integrated assessments, the JRC project on Ecosystem services mapping for Europe and the science policy interface. The meeting concluded with the production of a Cooperation Paper between DG ENV(B2/B3), EEA/ETC, JRC, ESTAT, RTD, to frame the partnership between these

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### • EEA-ETC/BD COLLABORATION WITH THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

The Bern Convention [Group of experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks](#) met on 17<sup>th</sup> September at the Council of Europe, Strasbourg. Among topics discussed were: the programme for the development of the Emerald Network in South-East Europe (finalisation of the CARDS’ programme carried on in co-operation with the European Agency of Environment) and the joint programme with the European Union for the development of the Emerald Network in the South Caucasus and in Central and Eastern Europe. Dominique Richard, ETC/BD manager, attended the meeting on behalf of the European Environment Agency and conveyed to the group a message from Jacqueline McGlade, EEA Executive Director, ensuring a continuing support for the further development of Emerald, in the spirit of the Memorandum of Cooperation signed between the Council of Europe and EEA in 2001.

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### • TEN MESSAGES FOR 2010

The first of the ‘10 messages for 2010’ being prepared by the ETC/BD (see last newsletter) on climate change and biodiversity should have been published by the time you read this newsletter while the second, on protected areas, is scheduled to be published in January 2010. The remaining messages should appear at monthly intervals during 2010.

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### • ETC/BD MANAGEMENT MEETING

The second meeting of the new consortium’s management committee took place in Vienna on the 7 & 8<sup>th</sup> October hosted by ETC/BD partner [Umweltbundesamt](#) (Austrian Environmental Protection Agency). As well as reviewing progress with the work planned for 2009 the meeting started planning the ETC/BD’s Implementation Plan for 2010.

## NEWS FROM THE PARTNERS

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

The ETC/BD welcomed Isabelle Le Viol to the core team in September. Isabelle recently finished a PhD thesis at the MNHN and will be developing a Community Specialisation Index developing work done in the Département d'écologie et gestion de la biodiversité. Although a member of the core team, Isabelle is based in the [Unité Conservation des Espèces, Restauration et Suivi des Populations](#) which is part of the museum's Département d'écologie et gestion de la biodiversité. Isabelle will also be contributing to the FP7 project [Scales](#) (Securing the Conservation of biodiversity across Administrative Levels and spatial, temporal, and Ecological Scales).



Some of the ETC/BD core team including 'new' arrivals Jerome, Otars, Marita & Muriel

Jérôme Bailly Maitre joined the ETC/BD core team in mid October and is principally working with Sophie Condé on indicators. Jérôme comes from Dijon, France, where he studied for an MSc in Evolutionary Ecology and the Biology of Organisms and Populations. He also spent some time in Guadeloupe for an internship on the natural control of two pest insects in crop rotations of sugarcane and banana.

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- **SVERIGES LANTBRUKSUNIVERSITET**

In July the [Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences](#) organised a habitat workshop which was held at Persåsen,

in the province of Jämtland, which was attended by some 25 people, mostly from countries around the Baltic but also with Marco Fritz from DG Environment and Doug Evans (ETC/BD core team). Much of the meeting was held outdoor with visits to several habitats typical of Boreal Sweden with lively discussions on interpreting and monitoring the habitats of Annex I.



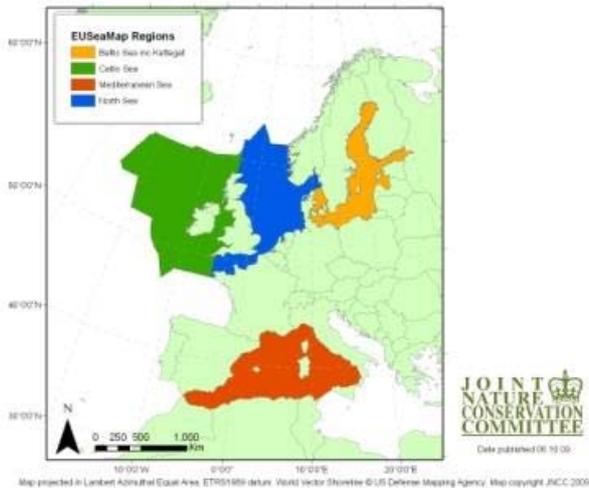
Participants from the Persåsen workshop visiting an example of the Annex I habitat type '7220 Petrifying springs with tufa formation (*Cratoneurion*)'

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- **JNCC AND ISPRA**

Two ETC/BD partners, [Joint Nature Conservation Committee](#) and [Istituto Superiore Per La Protezione e la Ricerca Ambientale](#), are involved in the [EUSeaMap](#) project that will produce broad-scale predictive habitat maps for over 2 million square kilometres of European sea bed. Building on the highly successful INTERREG IIIB-funded MESH and BALANCE projects, EUSeaMap will improve and harmonise predictive benthic habitat layers across the Celtic, North and Baltic Seas using the EUNIS classification, as well as undertaking broad-scale mapping of the western Mediterranean for the first time. The consortium of seven partners from five countries, led by the JNCC, are now working to develop data layers and thresholds, with the final product to be available publically through a webGIS by Autumn 2010.

This contract is funded by the European Commission's DG MARE, with the primary aim to support the implementation requirements of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive specifically the Initial Assessments which all Member States must undertake in 2012. EUSeaMap is itself an integral part of the EC's preparatory actions for a European Marine Observation Data Network ([EMODNET](#)).



The areas covered by the EUSeaMap project

### • INSTITUTE FOR LANDSCAPE ECOLOGY

Lubos Halada from ETC/BD partner, the Slovak [Institute for Landscape Ecology](#) is a member of the organising committee for a meeting being held by the [Forum Carpaticum](#) in September 2010 on the sustainable development of the Carpathian region. Further information is available from the Forum's website.

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### • EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR NATURE CONSERVATION

The Saxifraga Foundation is network of more than 100 European nature photographers from 17 European countries linked to [the European Centre for Nature Conservation](#), whose aim is to stimulate and facilitate the conservation of European biodiversity by providing high-quality nature pictures free of charge. The photos can be viewed and downloaded from [Saxifraga](#).



*Adonis annua*, one of more than 50 000 images available from the Saxifraga Foundation

### • ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY FOR SPECIAL AREAS

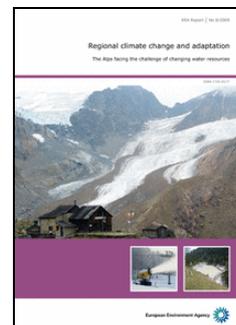
EPASA welcomed EEA Deputy Director Gordon McInnes to Turkey in October. Gordon visited Lake Tuz which is one of the most important wetland areas in Turkey and which will feature as the Turkish contribution to the 'Our Natural Europe' project. This EEA project organised with EIONET National Reference Centres on Biodiversity will allow each country to present an aspect of their biodiversity as part of a project covering all of Europe.



Gordon McInnes at Lake Tuz

## PUBLICATIONS

### • REGIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE AND ADAPTATION — THE ALPS FACING THE CHALLENGE OF CHANGING WATER RESOURCES



This report from the EEA, with contributions from the ETC/BD analyses the risks that climate change presents to the region's water supply and quality, identifying needs, constraints, opportunities, policy levers and options for adaptation.

The report can be ordered or downloaded from the [EEA website](#).

- **VALUING NATURE: - THE ECONOMICS OF BIODIVERSITY**

Lawrence Jones-Walters from the ECNC, together with Ivo Mulder, has recently published a paper on 'Valuing nature: The economics of biodiversity' in the Journal for Nature Conservation (volume 17 part 4) which reviews European policy developments in this area including [The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity \(TEEB\) process](#).

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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 2009-2013.

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](mailto:evans@mnhn.fr)).*

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



"Biodiversity is life, Biodiversity is our life"

2010 has been declared by the UN to be the International Year of Biodiversity. Amongst the key aims of the year are to reflect on what we have been doing to safeguard biodiversity and to focus on the challenges that lie ahead, to highlight how biodiversity is essential to our existence, and how human activity is causing diversity of life on Earth to be lost at a greatly accelerated rate. The official launch of the International Year of Biodiversity will be on the 11th of January 2010 in Berlin.

The [Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle](#) is one of 50 partner institutions spread across the planet that are partners in supporting the International Year of Biodiversity. For more information visit the [2010 website](#).

Best wishes for 2010