

2010 was a very active year for the ETC/BD with many events connected with it being 'the year of biodiversity'. The [10th Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity](#) held at Nagoya, Japan, agreed 20 global targets for 2020 and a process is underway to develop and agree EU targets for the same period. This new policy framework paves the way for ETC/BD future work in the context of the EEA multiannual strategy and its 2011 work programme, in partnership with other ETCs and in close collaboration with the European Commission DG Environment.

NEWS

• EUROPEAN BIODIVERSITY AT NAGOYA

As part of a side event organised by the EEA and the European Commission at the CBD COP 10 held in Nagoya, Japan, a number of reports to which the ETC/BD had contributed were presented to a global audience.

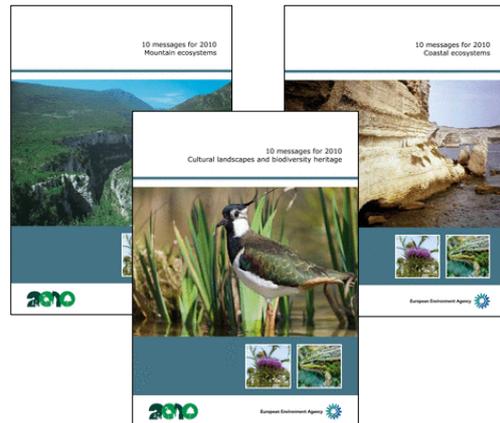


Three reports were presented; - '[Assessing biodiversity in Europe](#)' (an update of the SEBI Assessment report 2009) , the [EU 2010 Biodiversity Baseline](#) and the series '[10 messages for 2010](#)'. These provide policymakers with a starting point for measuring the state of biodiversity within the EU and unveiling major information gaps.



The EU 2010 Biodiversity Baseline, prepared by the EEA and the ETC/BD, provides key facts and figures on the state and trends of Europe's biodiversity. The Baseline

compiles existing information from reporting under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive, EU Red lists of species, SEBI indicators, CORINE Land Cover 2006 and from EU funded research projects such as RUBICODE. The baseline provides a basic reference for the development of EU biodiversity post 2010 sub targets and as well as factual data for measuring and monitoring progress in the EU from 2011 to 2020.



The 'Ten Messages for 2010' series was completed with the publications on 'Coastal ecosystems' in July, 'Mountain ecosystems' in August and 'Cultural landscapes and biodiversity heritage' in September.

• BIODIVERSITY INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR EUROPE



[BISE](#) is a web portal bringing together information about European biodiversity in a single location. This includes access to information on biodiversity-related policy frameworks, quality checked/ quality assured European biodiversity datasets, various selected assessments and news and European research projects on biodiversity as well as to information from countries and other networks. The EEA has recently published a pamphlet on BISE – "[A living resource for biodiversity information](#)".

- **NATURA 2000 & THE TWO NATURE DIRECTIVES**

Updated Community Lists of SCI, taking into account proposals made up to November 2009, were adopted by the Habitats Committee on 15 November 2010 and the updated lists will be available early in 2011 on the [DG Environment website](#). During 2010 the ETC/BD, together with the Member States, have revised the list of reserves and insufficiencies resulting from Biogeographical seminars and bilateral meetings, the revised lists of reserves is now available on [CIRCA](#) while updated Reference Lists (listing species and habitats for which each Member State has an obligation to propose SCI) are available on the [ETC/BD website](#).

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

Work on streamlining and modernising the reporting under the Habitats and the Birds Directive continues to make good progress as recognised by the meeting of Expert Group on reporting in Brussels on the 2nd December. The ETC/BD is involved in several of the work packages.

Work Package 1 on revising reporting under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive is led by the ETC/BD and has held meetings in Brussels & Uppsala. The group has produced a revised reporting format and a revision of the guidelines for reporting. These have been presented to the Expert Group and after revision to take into account feedback, will be presented to the Habitats Committee in spring 2011.



Members of WP1 visit a stand of Western Taiga near Uppsala

A revision of the Natura 2000 Standard data form was completed by Work Package 4, also led by the ETC/BD, and this will be subject to a written consultation by the Habitats Committee in the near future.

- **THE EMERALD NETWORK**

During the last year there has been increased collaboration between the EEA and the Council of Europe in the implementation of the [Emerald network](#) in countries which are parties to the Bern Convention. This includes the preparation of [Criteria for assessing the National Lists of proposed Areas of Special Conservation Interest](#) coherent with the Natura 2000 process, and a revision of the [list of endangered natural habitat types](#) (Resolution 4) to fit with the [EUNIS habitats classification](#). Both documents were approved by the Bern Convention Standing Committee in Strasbourg, on 9 December 2010. In addition the ETC/BD will support the second phase of the Emerald implementation in the West Balkans countries, i.e. the assessment of candidate sites at biogeographic level with two seminars scheduled for 26-27 January 2011 in Paris and Autumn 2011. Support will also be provided to start analysing proposed Emerald sites in Norway and Switzerland.

- **MEETINGS UNDER THE BELGIAN PRESIDENCY**

The Conference on ['Biodiversity post-2010 - biodiversity in a changing world'](#) was organised by the Belgian Presidency of the EU Council on 8-9 September in Ghent, leading to the ['Message from Ghent'](#). Three main topics were discussed: 'Biodiversity in an urbanizing Europe', 'Valuation and benefits of ecosystem services' and 'Ways and means for implementing vision and targets for biodiversity'. Within the latter, a presentation on the EU Biodiversity baseline was made by D. Richard, on behalf of the EEA.

The informal [meeting of the Nature Conservation Directors and Forestry Directors](#) under the Belgium Presidency was organised in Liège on 9-10 November and included four areas of work, i.e. 'Biodiversity in Forest', 'Everyday's Nature', 'Forests habitats and species conservation status' and 'Financing of Natura on 2000'. First discussions were held on the possible implementation of a new biogeographical process - where EEA-ETC/BD support would be requested - in enhancing trans-boundary cooperation in Natura 2000 sites management and restoration to improve species and habitats conservation status. Another topic of relevance to ETC/BD activities was the refinement of criteria to assess forest species and habitats' conservation status.

- **THE INSPIRE DIRECTIVE**

The [INSPIRE Directive](#) establishes an infrastructure for spatial information in Europe to help support Community environmental policies, making geographic data and information much easier to find and (re-)use by public authorities, the general public and third parties, especially



in a Community and transboundary environmental policy context.

The ETC/BD is involved in the Technical Working Group on the INSPIRE themes on Biogeographical regions, Habitat and Biotopes and Species Distribution. In early October the ETC/BD participated in a meeting of this group which was hosted by the [Joint Research Centre](#) at their offices at Ispra, Italy. The first version of the Data Specifications for these themes was completed at the end of October. The second version of these specifications is due in June 2011.

- **ENHANCED COORDINATION BETWEEN THE ETCS. SUPPORT POLICY INTEGRATION**

From a scientific perspective, it is well known that biodiversity and ecosystems are transversal topics. In recent years, this has been recognised in the political arena with commitments towards better integration and mainstreaming of environmental sectors with a biodiversity perspective. Legal instruments such as the Habitats Directive (1992), the Water Framework Directive (2000) and the recent Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008) are more and more interrelated as discussed in "[Water Note 11-Water Notes on the Implementation of the Water Framework Directive - From the rivers to the sea: Linking with the new Marine Strategy Framework Directive](#)".

As announced in our previous newsletter, a workshop was organised by DG Environment in June on "Biodiversity and Water – Links between EU nature and water legislation" with the aim to explore the opportunities for integration of the implementation of the two directives. Further information is available on the [CIRCA](#) intranet.

ETCs also need to enhance their collaboration in support to the EEA mandate and several meetings were recently organised to identify and strengthen links between their respective work programmes, in particular around inland, coastal and marine ecosystems. From 1st January onwards, four new ETCs will be in place in addition to ETC/BD and ETC/Sustainable Production and Consumption, i.e.: ETC/SIA (Spatial Information and Assessments), based in Malaga, taking over from the previous ETC/Land Use and Spatial Information; ETC/ICM (Inland Coastal and Marine Waters), based in Prague (CZ), taking over from the previous ETC/Water as well as ETC/ Air pollution and Climate Change mitigation, based in NL. and ETC/ Climate change impacts, vulnerability & adaptation, based in Bologna (IT), both resulting from a split from the previous ETC/Air and Climate Change. In 2011, the major topics for cross-collaboration will be data sharing, expertise sharing, indicator development and work towards common reference tools.

- **EXPERT WORKSHOP ON APPROACHES TO IDENTIFYING HNV FARMLAND IN TURKEY**

A meeting jointly organised by the Turkish Ministry of Environment and Forestry and the EEA was held in Ankara on the 26 October discussed High Nature Value Farming (see EEA report '[High nature value farmland. Characteristics, trends and policy challenges](#)'). ETC/BD partner [EPASA](#) presented work on biodiversity-rich grasslands and Crop Wild Relatives.



- **SCALES**

[SCALES](#) (Securing the Conservation of biodiversity across Administrative Levels and spatial, temporal, and Ecological Scales) is a FP7 project bringing together 27 partners and led by Helmholtz Zentrum für Umweltforschung (UFZ) in Leipzig, Germany. The project held a seminar in Brussels on "Crossing scales for biodiversity: Can the development of scale sensitive policies help to promote effective conservation of biodiversity in the EU beyond 2010?" in September bringing together stakeholders from a variety of administrative levels from site or region to European institutions such as the ETC/BD and DG Environment to help frame the projects future work. The [workshop proceedings](#) are available from the project website.

In October members of the project visited the ETC/BD to discuss future areas of collaboration.

- **ETC/BD MANAGEMENT MEETING**

The fourth Management Committee meeting of the ETC/BD, which was hosted by the [Joint Nature Conservation Committee](#) in November, was mostly dedicated to preparing our implementation plan for 2011. Johan Bodegård, director of the Swedish Species Information Centre (SSIC) at the [Swedish University of Agricultural Science](#) (SLU) was elected chairman of the ETC/BD management committee for 2011. We would like

to thank the outgoing chairman, Leonardo Tunesi of [l'Istituto Superiore per la Protezione e la Ricerca Ambientale](#), for his work over the last two years.



NEWS FROM THE PARTNERS

- CZECH AGENCY FOR NATURE CONSERVATION AND LANDSCAPE PROTECTION

[AOPK-CR](#), in cooperation with [Silva Tarouca Research Institute for Landscape and Ornamental Gardening](#) and [Evernia](#) Ltd have a research project called "Assessment of landscape migration permeability for large mammals and proposal of protective and optimization measures". A recent meeting discussed the current state of wildlife corridor planning in Austria (Upper Austria), the Czech Republic, Germany (Bavaria), Poland and Slovakia. The participants drew conclusions on a common future strategy of designing, connecting and maintaining wildlife corridors across Central Europe. As the approaches to corridor delineation are quite similar in the 6 countries their interconnection is possible. To raise public awareness and to jointly enforce legal protection across Central Europe the participants agreed on a common transnational map of large mammals migration corridors together with a scientific paper which is due to be published next year.

- MUSEUM NATIONAL D'HISTOIRE NATURELLE

A ceremony was held in the museum on the 13th December to award the first '[Grands prix Natura 2000](#)'. These awards, organised by the French Ministry of Ecology, reward local initiatives in France to implement Natura 2000 and 11 prizes were made. Karl Falkenberg, Director General for Environment at the European Commission attended and awarded several of the prizes.



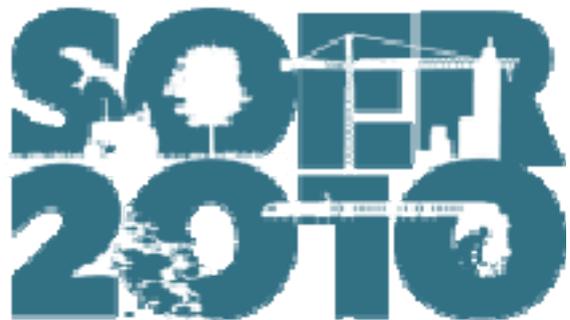
Karl Falkenberg presenting one of the prizes

- ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY FOR SPECIAL AREAS

In November 2011 EPASA will host an International Symposium on Ecology and Environmental Problems to be held at Belek, Turkey. Further information is available from the [symposium's website](#).

PUBLICATIONS

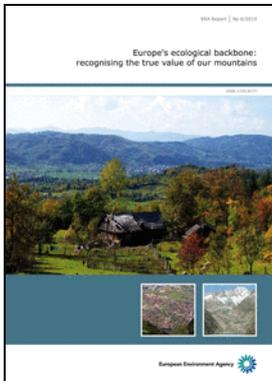
- THE EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT – STATE AND OUTLOOK 2010



Every 5 years the EEA publishes a report on the State of the environment in Europe and the latest in the series (which started with the Dobris report in 1995) has just been published. The 2010 report is in several sections, with only the [synthesis report](#) available as a printed volume, and in 20 languages. The synthesis report is based on 13 Europe-wide thematic assessments of key environmental themes.

One of the thematic reports covers [biodiversity](#) and this is largely based on work by the ETC/BD. There are also [national assessments](#) for each of the 38 countries who are members of the EEA.

- **EUROPE'S ECOLOGICAL BACKBONE:
RECOGNISING THE TRUE VALUE OF OUR
MOUNTAINS**



Europe's mountain areas have social, economic and environmental significance and this importance has been recognised since the late 19th century through national legislation; since the 1970s through regional structures for cooperation; and since the 1990s through regional legal instruments for the Alps and Carpathians. This report from

the EEA examines several aspects of Europe's mountains, and includes a chapter on biodiversity which draws on work undertaken by ETC/BD partner, [the Slovak Institute of Landscape Ecology](#). The report can be downloaded from the [EEA website](#).

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 2-3 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/>

