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NEWS

● **2014-2018: - A NEW CYCLE**

With the implementation of its [multiannual work programme 2014-2018](#) a new cycle started for both the European Environment Agency and its supporting [EIONET network](#), including the European Topic Centres.

The [new ETC/BD consortium](#) started its activities on 1st January 2014 and will run until 31 December 2018. A joint EEA-ETC/BD kick off meeting took place in Copenhagen on 23 January. Three other ETCs were also launched for the same period, i.e. ETC for Air Pollution and Climate Change Mitigation ([ETC/ACM](#)), still based in Bilthoven (NL), ETC on Climate Change impacts, vulnerability and Adaptation ([ETC/CCA](#)), based in Bologna, ETC on Inland, Coastal and Marine waters ([ETC/ICM](#)), now based in Magdeburg (DE). A new [ETC on Waste and Materials in a Green Economy](#), coordinated by [VITO](#) in Belgium took over from ETC/Sustainable Consumption and Production on 1st July. ETC/Spatial Information and Analysis ([ETC/SIA](#)) continues to run until 31 December 2014 under the coordination of the University of Malaga (ES).

The EIONET network is also being restructured. Following extensive consultations among EEA countries and with the EEA, new profiles for National Reference Centres have been agreed. For biodiversity there will be now be NRCs for Biodiversity data and information and for Biodiversity and Ecosystem indicators and assessments.

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

Work continues with reports under Article 12 of the Birds Directive and Article 17 of the Habitats Directive. This will lead to the publication in 2015 of reports by the European Commission and the EEA.

Most countries sent their Article 12 second deliveries in March and by early May all countries except Greece had delivered. National Summaries have been produced and sent to the countries for their comments.

All Article 17 deliveries (except Greece) had arrived by early January and the EEA and the ETC/BD produced the EU regional assessments which are available on [the Article 17 website](#).

A public consultation on the EU regional assessments was open from 2nd June to 7th July with more than 100 people or organizations registering and making some 500 comments. The ETC/BD would like to thank them all for their contributions.

DG environment sent a questionnaire to the countries asking for comments on both reports and the results will be an input contribution to improving the reporting processes.

A bilateral seminar with Slovenia was held in Ljubljana, on the 19-20 June 2014. As a result, the majority of the outstanding insufficiencies are now considered to have been met by recent additions to the Natura 2000 network. A further seminar will be held in Croatia in September to assess the Croat contribution to the network.

The Kick off meeting for Mediterranean region in the new seminar series was held in Greece from 26 to 28 May). A report of the meeting and working documents are available on the [Natura 2000 Communication Platform](#).

For the latest news on Natura 2000 see http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/platform/index_en.htm

● **EUROPEAN ECOSYSTEM ASSESSMENTS AND THE BIODIVERSITY INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR EUROPE (BISE)**

As defined in its work programme, the ETC/BD continues to contribute to activities on ecosystem mapping and assessment in close collaboration with [ETC/SIA](#) and several products are in preparation. EEA and both ETCs have supported the publication by the European Commission of a 2nd Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystems and their Services (MAES) report entitled "[Indicators for ecosystem assessments under Action 5 of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020](#)" published in February.



Commissioner Potocnik during the MAES High level Conference

The main outcomes of the MAES process were presented at the [High-Level Conference on Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystems and their Services \(MAES\) in Europe](#) (22

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May, Brussels) through the [BISE portal](#), which had been updated for the purpose with strong support from ETCBD. BISE pages dedicated to MAES give access to several [ecosystem assessment tools](#) such as a typology of ecosystems, correspondence between CORINE Land Cover and ecosystem types, the Common International Classification of Ecosystem Services (CICES), etc.

• RED LIST OF EUROPEAN HABITATS

As mentioned in the last newsletter, the European Commission are funding a 3 year project to produce a European Red List of habitats. The work is being done by a consortium led by Alterra and IUCN in collaboration with the ETC/BD. The project is now underway and held a workshop in late June to which the ETC/BD was invited.



*John Janssen (Alterra) introducing the project
(photo R Tzonev)*

• EUNIS



The [EUNIS website](#) has been upgraded by the EEA with support from the ETC/BD.

Following a workshop last December (see previous newsletter) a proposal for revising the marine section of the

EUNIS habitat classification has been produced. There will be a consultation via EIONET later this year, other interested groups, such as the regional marine conventions, will also be consulted.

• OTHER MEETINGS

ECNC represented the ETC/BD at the Expert workshop on climate change adaptation platforms organised by the EEA and in the 8th EIONET workshop on climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation. One lesson learnt is that better links could be made between the biodiversity community within EIONET and the climate change community, mainly in relation to ecosystem based adaptation approaches.

ILE represented the ETC/BD at a meeting of the [International Cooperative Programme on Modelling and Mapping](#) of Critical Levels & Loads and Air Pollution Effects, Risks and Trends (ICP M&M) on 7-10 April in Rome, where results of the Call for Data 2012-14 of contributions to dynamic modelling of vegetation changes and applications were presented. Work under this programme is highly relevant to evaluating the condition of European ecosystems, for instance as part of MAES.

NEWS FROM THE PARTNERS

• MUSEUM NATIONAL D'HISTOIRE NATURELLE

Celia García Feced joined the ETC/BD core team in July to work as an agriculture and forest ecosystems officer. Celia is a forest engineer and holds a PhD in Advanced Forest Research from the Technical University of Madrid (Spain). She has previously worked at Alterra Research Institute (Wageningen, The Netherlands), the University of California at Berkeley (California, USA) and the Institute of Environment and Sustainability of the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission (Ispra, Italy). She has participated in projects leading to the inventory and planning of forests, the mapping of green infrastructure in agricultural land, and the identification and connectivity assessment of wildlife habitat.

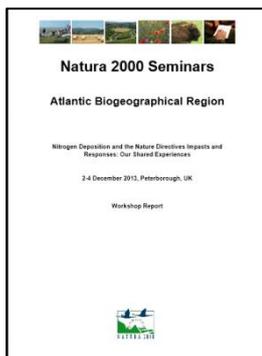
Laura Patricia Gavilan joined the ETC/BD core team in January as Nature Directive Officer and will be responsible for updating the Union Lists of Sites of Community Importance and the annual review of the impact of changes to sites (additions, deletions and changes) on the Natura 2000 network.

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Laura comes from Spain, where she studied Environmental Science at the University of Salamanca, specialising in botany ('Cartography and Conservation of flora and vegetation from Castronuño Wetlands, Valladolid'). Her career has always been closely linked to the Natura 2000 network, having worked on the cartography of Annex I habitats for the Regional Government of Castilla- Leon (ES), for the Natura 2000 team of the Spanish Ministry of Environment and for the Nature Unit, at the European Commission.

Otars Opermanis left the ETC/BD core team at the end of January. Otars is now working for the Council of Europe where he is involved in implementing the Emerald network in Eastern Europe. He also continues to work part time for the ETC/BD as a consultant.

• **JOINT NATURE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE**



A report on the Workshop on Nitrogen Deposition and the Nature Directives: Impacts and Responses: Our Shared Experiences held last December (see last newsletter) is now available on the [JNCC website](#).

This report provides an overview of the presentations and discussions concerning the two themes of the workshop entitled 'Nitrogen deposition and the Nature Directives: Impacts and Responses: Our shared Experiences' which aimed to explore the practical solutions to reduce impacts of deposition of reactive nitrogen compounds. A series of accounts of the findings and recommendations of the workshop's working groups is also provided in Appendices 1-7. Whilst many of the conclusions and recommendations from the workshop groups contained a high level of detail that was specific to the working group topic, there were a number of recommendations made that were common amongst the groups.

These recommendations are brought together in a 'Conclusions' section to the report. The recommendations are grouped together under each of the two themes:

- Theme 1: Reporting and assessment of nitrogen deposition impacts; and
- Theme 2: Knowledge sharing of practical solutions to reduce nitrogen deposition impacts.

Additionally, cross-cutting recommendations are grouped together into those requiring future collaboration between experts, and those concerning the promotion and sharing of good practice.

• **EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR NATURE CONSERVATION**

Together with Alterra, ECNC is further developing the [BioScore](#) tool which was first developed under a FP6 project. The tool links pressures from policy sectors to the (change in the) state of biodiversity as measured by the presence and abundance of individual species.

ECNC participated in a conference on "Towards a consolidated network of knowledge (NoK) on biodiversity and ecosystem services in Europe' on 1 April. This meeting at the European Parliament presented the Network of Knowledge (NoK), the result of the EU-funded coordination action [KNEU](#) to the EP Intergroup on 'Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development' and brought together over 150 participants

Ben Delbaere has published a short article on how science can really influence policymaking, see '[The journey of a data point](#)'. This is the first in a series related to European policy issues in the *Journal for Nature Conservation* which is published in affiliation with ECNC.

• **SWISS BIODIVERSITY FORUM**



New ETC/BD partner, the Swiss Biodiversity Forum, has recently published a fact sheet on pollination and biodiversity, unfortunately only in German or French.



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http://www.biodiversity.ch/e/publications/position_papers/index.php

The Swiss Biodiversity Forum with the support of the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN), and in collaboration with other European IPBES Platforms from Germany, France, Belgium, UK and Portugal is organising the Second IPBES Pan-European stakeholder meeting (PESC-2) on 22 & 23 September in Basel, Switzerland. See <http://www.biodiversity.ch/e/ipbes/PESC-2.php>.

PUBLICATIONS

The ETC/BD has produced a large number of reports since 1995, many of these are available on the web but are often difficult to find. To overcome this problem we have created a space on our website for ETC/BD publications and the first reports have been uploaded. However it will take some time to deal with the remaining reports.

• **EFFECTS OF AIR POLLUTION ON EUROPEAN ECOSYSTEMS**



This EEA Technical Report evaluates how European ecosystems were affected by acidifying and eutrophying air pollutants in the past decades, and also how they are predicted to be affected in the future if the 2012 amended Gothenburg Protocol under the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (LRTAP) will be fully implemented by 2020. The presented results will be used to inform forthcoming updates of the EEA Core Set Indicator 'Exposure of ecosystems to acidification, eutrophication and ozone' (CSI 005) and the biodiversity indicator 'Critical load exceedance for nitrogen'.

<http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/effects-of-air-pollution-on>

• **SPATIAL ANALYSIS OF GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE IN EUROPE**



This technical report proposes a feasible and replicable methodology for use by different entities and at varying scales, when identifying Green Infrastructure (GI) elements. The proposed methodology will help those policymakers and practitioners define a landscape GI network to identify areas where key habitats can be reconnected and the overall ecological quality of the area improved. Lubos Halada from ETC/BD partner ILE was one of the contributors.

<http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/spatial-analysis-of-green-infrastructure#tab-news-about-this-publication>

• **TERRESTRIAL HABITAT MAPPING IN EUROPE: AN OVERVIEW**



This Technical report, edited by Jean Ichter (MNH), Douglas Evans and Dominique Richard (ETC/BD core team) with contributions from some 40 contributors, is based on a survey of habitat and vegetation mapping projects which have mapped large areas (sometimes whole countries) at large scales across Europe. It also includes an introduction to habitat mapping.

<http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/terrestrial-habitat-mapping-in-europe>



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- **THE NATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY APPROACH TO SETTING CONSERVATION PRIORITIES — RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ITS USE**

This paper in the [Journal for Nature Conservation](#) describes the application of a method developed by the [SCALES FP7 project](#) to support priority setting. It captures the impact of the loss of a particular species or habitat within the focal region (usually a country) may have on the global persistence of that species or habitat type.

DS Schmeller, D. Evans, Y-P Lin & K. Henle, (2014) The national responsibility approach to setting conservation priorities—Recommendations for its use, *Journal for Nature Conservation*, 22(4): 349-357.

This newsletter produced twice a year 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 2014-2018.

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://bd.eionet.europa.eu/>