



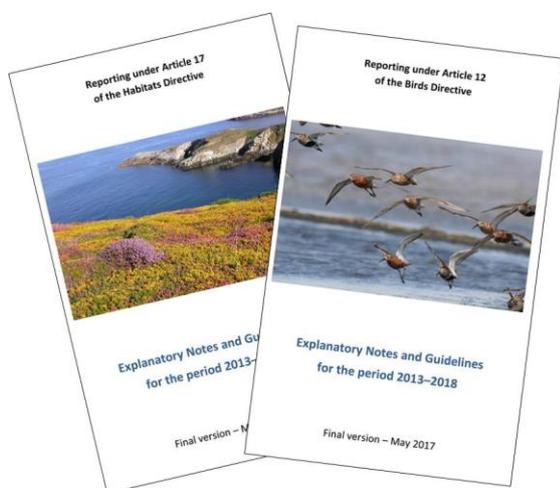
# NEWSLETTER

## July 2017



### Nature Directives

#### Reporting under the Nature Directives



The reporting formats for Article 12 and Article 17 (2013-2018) reporting were adopted by the Habitats Committee on the 3 May 2017 while the reporting guidelines for both directives were approved on the 4 May 2017 at a meeting of the Expert Group on the Birds and Habitats Directives (“NADEG”).

Checklists for species, habitats, pressures and conservation measures are still in preparation and will be made available on the Reference portals once finalised.

[http://cdr.eionet.europa.eu/help/birds\\_art12](http://cdr.eionet.europa.eu/help/birds_art12)

[http://cdr.eionet.europa.eu/help/habitats\\_art17](http://cdr.eionet.europa.eu/help/habitats_art17)

#### The ‘New’ biogeographical process

Eurosite organised a meeting as part of the ‘new biogeographical process’ on monitoring which was held on the 4 – 6 April in

Litoměřice (Czech Republic). Doug Evans (ETC/BD core team) gave a presentation on ‘Linking European, regional and site-based targets for conservation’ as part of the opening session. All presentations can be downloaded from the [Eurosite website](#). A report on the workshop together with guidance on indicators of site condition will be published later this year.



*One of the botanical highlights of the visit to the České středohoří Protected Landscape Area was the abundance of Adonis vernalis*

In support to the ‘[Alpine review seminar](#)’ held in 21-23 June 2017, Padova, Italy, the ETC/BD had prepared [background information on habitats](#) for possible priority discussion among Member States and stakeholders. Mora Aronsson ([SLU](#)) represented the ETC/BD at the meeting and introduced the discussion on ‘Low hanging fruit’ habitats in that region (see [previous newsletter](#) for further details).

The review seminars focus on site management and are intended to monitor and evaluate the results of the actions agreed



at the earlier seminars. They also help to identify and recommend further priorities.

Further information can be found on the [Natura 2000 Communication Platform](#).

### Nature Directives fitness check – what next?

Based on the findings of the Nature Directives fitness check launched in 2014, the Commission has developed an [Action Plan for nature, people and the economy](#), which aims to improve the practical implementation of the Nature Directives and help move closer to stopping biodiversity loss and achieving the targets of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020. The Action Plan was presented during a [conference](#) hosted jointly by the European Commission, the Committee of the Regions and the Maltese Presidency in Brussels on 6 June 2017. The plan includes 4 priority areas and 15 actions, among which Action 3 (Improve knowledge including through enhanced and more efficient monitoring, and ensure public online access to data necessary for implementing the Directives...) which is of direct relevance for EEA and ETC/BD work.

## Emerald and Bern Convention



As part of the Memorandum of Cooperation between the European Environment Agency and the Council of Europe, support to the implementation of the Emerald network in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine will be provided under the [ENI SEIS II East](#) project. As partners of the ETC/BD consortium, [MNHN](#) and [ILE-SAS](#) will support national capacities for reporting on species and habitats of European importance

and harmonising methodologies for the production of a regional indicator on protected areas, including Emerald sites in these countries. The work also includes support to the second round of Emerald biogeographical seminars to assess the sufficiency of Emerald sites proposals, with the first meeting scheduled to be held in Georgia in November 2017.

Further information about Emerald can be found on the [network's website](#).

## EEA and EIONET

An EIONET seminar for National Reference Centres on Biodiversity Data & Information took place in Copenhagen on 15-16 June and gathered representatives from 27 countries. Among topics discussed within break-out group sessions were: 'preparation for Inspire compliant [CDDA](#) reporting in 2018'; 'streamlining between Emerald reporting under the Bern Convention and reporting under Nature Directives (including Natura 2000' and 'feasibility of reporting on protected areas effectiveness' – a topic which is given increased attention at global level as part of the reporting to the United Nations List of Protected Areas.

## NATURE@work

What does nature mean to you? The European Environment Agency is organising a photography competition 'NATURE@work', which invites European citizens to capture how nature benefits them.

The competition has three categories; - NATUREprovides, NATUREprotects and NATUREinspires and the closing date is 15 August 2017. Entry is free of charge and the competition is open to citizens of the EEA member countries and West Balkan



cooperating countries. Further information is available on the [EEA's website](#).

## SEBI indicators

In February 2017, the SEBI 2020 Indicator Project Group, including EEA and ETC/BD, DG Environment, the [Joint Research Centre](#) (JRC) and the [CBD-Biodiversity Indicators Partnership](#) met in Copenhagen to discuss the SEBI 2020 roadmap, and to review the current SEBI indicators. Work is underway on how to fill the gaps in relation with the 2020 biodiversity targets. The possible use of remote sensing datasets to improve the indicators was also part of the discussion.

## Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystems and their Services (MAES)

### A framework for assessing Ecosystem condition

During the first half of 2017, several experts from EEA, ETC/BD, [ETC/ Urban, Land and Soil Ecosystems](#), JRC and DG Environment worked on a common understanding of the analytical framework to be used for assessing ecosystem condition including relevant indicators to support Target 2 of the EU's 2020 biodiversity strategy.

The output was a comprehensive background document which was discussed during a MAES Ecosystem Condition Workshop held in Brussels in the last week of June. The workshop gathered about 60 participants among which representatives from 20 Member states, stakeholders, researchers and different services of the Commission (DGs agriculture, environment, marine, JRC, statistics, research and innovation) and agencies (EEA, Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises).

The document included proposals for indicators to be used to assess the condition of agro-ecosystems (including grasslands), forest, heathlands & scrub, wetlands, sparsely vegetated land, freshwater, marine and urban ecosystems; it also included cross-cutting proposals for soils. ETC/BD supported the preparation of the section on heathlands & scrub, wetlands, sparsely vegetated land and prepared the relevant information based on Article 12 and 17 for the other ecosystem-types.

The analytical framework was accepted overall with some refinements, in line with the approach adopted in France, which brings a distinction between the capacity to provide ecosystem services and the actual use of these services, therefore building a useful bridge with work on natural capital accounting ([KIP-INCA](#)). The proposed set of indicators was considered as relevant by all groups, and some additions were proposed (e.g. climate change for all ecosystems, noise and water in urban ecosystems). Top priority indicators were also identified (e.g. birds and soil biodiversity for agro-ecosystems). Based on these outputs, a 5<sup>th</sup> MAES Report on 'An analytical framework for ecosystem condition for mapping, assessment and integration into accounting work' should be published by the end of the year.

### Ecosystem services glossary

Assessments of ecosystems and their services (ES) is a relatively new and rapidly expanding field connecting policy and science. There are several glossaries of definitions for ES related terms available, which mostly consist of compilations of the relevant definitions from various scientific disciplines. Based on three existing glossaries, ETC/BD has prepared a proposal for a consistent set of working definitions for the EU MAES assessment. It should be available by the end of 2017.



## EUNIS



The revised heathlands classification has been published as part of an [EEA briefing note](#) which also describes the methodology and process. It is planned that the marine and forest sections will be available later this year.

An Eionet based consultation on the grassland section was launched on 19<sup>th</sup> June and will run until 11<sup>th</sup> September. Full details, including the proposed revision are available on the [EIONET website](#).

An EIONET based consultation on a proposed revision of the remaining sections, largely based on the [Red List of European Habitats project](#), is planned for later this year.

## News from our partners

### MNHN

Following a comprehensive internal review, a [new organisational structure](#) was put in place early in 2017, including a 'General Directorate for Research, Expertise, Outreach and Education' (DGD-REVE). The ETC/BD is now integrated into the 'Expertise pool' of this directorate, together with [PatriNat](#), a partnership between the [MNHN](#), the newly established [French Agency for Biodiversity](#) and the National Scientific Research Centre ([CNRS](#)), acting at national level with the overall mission to build and consolidate the knowledge base in support to biodiversity policies.

## Publications

The following publications are from the ETC/BD, its partners or from the EEA.

### UK Biodiversity Indicators



The latest edition of the UK biodiversity Indicators has been published by JNCC. The indicators are based on a wide variety of data, provided by Government, research bodies, and the voluntary sector – in total nearly 100 organisations were involved. As many as possible of the indicators have been updated with new data and in some cases there has been a change in the methodology. In some cases, however, development work is ongoing, and where this is the case, the work to develop them has been described briefly. The report can be downloaded from the [JNCC website](#).

### Diagnostic et recommandations pour une stratégie d'acquisition de connaissances naturalistes



This report examines how data from naturalists (eg species distribution) can be



used for national and international needs and makes recommendations on how to improve the collection, compilation and use of such data. The report is in two volumes and can be downloaded from the [PatriNat website](#).

### Implementation and application of multiple potential natural vegetation models – a case study of Hungary



Journal of Vegetation Science ■■ (2017)

#### Implementation and application of multiple potential natural vegetation models – a case study of Hungary

Imelda Somodi, Zsolt Molnár, Bálint Czúcz, Ákos Bede-Fazekas, János Bolóni, László Pásztor, Annamária Laborczi & Niklaus E. Zimmermann

#### Keywords

Conservation prioritization, Landscape evaluation, Multilayer model, PNV, Predictive vegetation model, Probability distribution of vegetation types, Probability re-scaling, Restoration, Vegetation stochasticity

#### Abbreviations

AUC = area under the receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curve; GBM = gradient

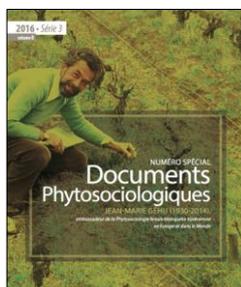
#### Abstract

**Questions:** Multiple potential natural vegetation (MPNV) is a framework for the probabilistic and multilayer representation of potential vegetation in an area. How can an MPNV model be implemented and synthesized for the full range of vegetation types across a large spatial domain such as a country? What additional ecological and practical information can be gained compared to traditional potential natural vegetation (PNV) estimates?

**Location:** Hungary.

This paper by Bálint Czúcz (ETC/BD core team) and his former colleagues describes an extension to the traditional concept of Potential Natural Vegetation and tests it with data from Hungary. It is published in the [Journal of Vegetation Science](#).

### Jean-Marie Géhu (1930--2014)

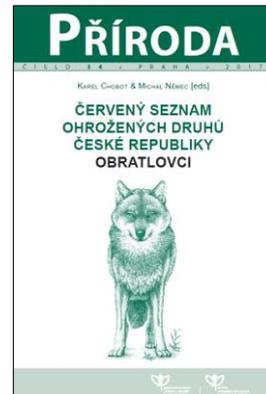


Volume 8 of Documents Phytosociologiques (Series 3) is dedicated to French ecologist

The [European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity](#) is a consortium of 13 partners who share the responsibility for the work programme defined by the EEA, in collaboration with a Core Team based in Paris at the [Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle](#) (National Museum of Natural History), the coordinator of the consortium.

Jean-Marie Géhu and his work. It includes a paper from Doug Evans (ETC/BD core team) on Jean-Marie Géhu's contributions to European nature conservation.

### Red List of Threatened Species of the Czech Republic - Vertebrates



The [Nature Conservation Agency of the Czech Republic](#) has recently published an updated Red List of Czech vertebrates.

### ETC/BD Technical Papers and Working papers

The ETC/BD and its predecessors have produced many reports over the past 20 years. A selection of these reports is now being made available on our website in the [ETC/BD Technical papers and Working papers](#) section.