

The European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity - ETC/BD
(<http://biodiversity.eionet.europa.eu>),

one of the six topic centres of the European Environment Agency
(<http://www.eea.europa.eu>),

is seeking a

EU Nature Directives Reporting Officer *for its office in Paris*

Job description:

In close collaboration with the European Environment Agency, to coordinate the ETC-BD's work in providing technical and scientific support to Directorate General Environment of the European Commission on the reporting obligations under the Habitats and Birds Directives.

Background:

Article 11 of the Habitats Directive requires EU Member States to monitor the habitats and species listed in the annexes, and Article 17 requires a report to be sent to the European Commission every 6 years following an agreed format – hence 'Article 17 reporting'. A first European assessment of species and habitats conservation status, covering the period 2001-2006 was published in 2008, and a second European assessment, corresponding to the period 2007-2012, is in preparation. The next assessment is due in 2020, covering the period 2013-2018.

Article 12 of the Birds Directive requires Member States to report on progress made with the implementation of the Birds Directive. Recently the Commission, in agreement with Member States, has revised the reporting procedure in order to focus the reporting on the status of bird populations, thereby streamlining the reporting with the reporting under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive. A first European assessment covering the period 2008-2012, is ongoing. The next assessment is due in 2020, covering the period 2013-2018.

Learning from previous experience, both at national and EU scales, there is a need to start preparing for the next reporting cycle under each of the Nature Directives, from the point of view of both data collection, reporting formats, QA/QC procedures and supporting IT reporting tools. There is also a need to progress towards more comparability between Member States, in particular when assessing "Favorable conservation status" and corresponding "Reference values".

Ensuring consistency between reporting under the Nature Directives and reporting under the Water Framework Directive (WFD) and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) is also an important challenge over the next years.

Function and duties:

Help the ETC/BD in fulfilling its contribution to the projects and activities identified in its annual work programme, in particular:

- Contribute to the European Environment Agency's technical report on 'State of nature in the EU : results from the Reporting under the Nature Directives 2007-2012'
- In close collaboration with the corresponding EEA project manager, coordinate the different activities in preparation for the next reporting under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive (covering the period 2013-2018) and under Article 12 of the Birds Directive (covering the period 2013-2017). This includes:
 - Supporting the analysis on lessons learnt from the previous reporting cycles
 - Supporting the scientific reflexion on harmonisation of approaches across MS to assess 'favourable conservation status' for selected species groups and habitats, to be decided with European Commission and Member States
 - Supporting the revision of reporting formats and guidelines for reporting under Article 17 and under Article 12 of the Birds Directive
 - Supporting the preparation of quality assessment/quality control (QA/QC) procedures of the Article 17 and Article 12 reports from Member States as well as of IT reporting tools
- If relevant ensure the coordination of working groups set up by the Expert Group on Reporting under Nature Directives
- Contribute to the reflexion on streamlining reporting between Nature Directives and WFD and MSFD
- Support analysis and assessments made on the basis of data generated by Art 17 and potentially Art 12 reporting
- Liaise with the relevant staff in the European Environment Agency, European Commission's DG Environment and the EU Member States
- Represent the ETC/BD in various meetings involving experts, representatives of EU Member States authorities, European Commission, European Environment Agency
- Produce activity reports, memos, technical papers and notes related to the above

Eligibility:

Education certificates and diplomas:

- Completed university studies of at least five years attested by a diploma in ecology, biology or equivalent.

Range of professional experience and skills:

- Practical experience in the implementation of the Birds and Habitats Directives and preferably in reporting activities under these directives
- At least five years of professional experience of nature conservation within a government, non-governmental or international organization
- Experience in coordinating projects involving different types of expertise and in delivering quality checked products within agreed deadlines

- Experience of data handling and analysis including experience with e.g. relational databases, spreadsheets and GIS tools
- Zoological skills will be appreciated
- Good communication skills
- Good technical and scientific writing skills
- Excellent command of English (oral and written) is essential; other EU languages, particularly French, would be an asset.

Candidates applying must satisfy the following general requirements on the closing date for the submission of applications:

- Citizenship of one of the Member States of the European Union of the European Economic Area (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway) or of Switzerland
- Enjoy full rights as a citizen
- Have fulfilled any obligations imposed by law concerning military service

Application procedure:

Interested candidates should apply by sending a letter of motivation and a CV¹, both in English, to etc.biodiversity@mnhn.fr with the subject line 'Application EU Directives Reporting Officer'

Closing date for application: 18 August 2014, at 12.00 (Central European Time)

Contractual conditions:

- The successful candidate will be offered a Fixed Duration Contract by the *Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, MNHN* (<http://www.mnhn.fr>), as the organisation leading the ETC/BD consortium.
- The duration of the contract will be for an initial testing period of one year; this initial period may be prolonged for a period not exceeding end 2018.
- The salary is commensurable with the experience of the successful candidate.
- The place of work will be at the MNHN in Paris.

Position starts as early as possible **before end 2014.**

¹ Although not compulsory, we recommend the standard European format:
http://www.eea.europa.eu/organisation/jbs/cv/europass_CVTemplate-EN.doc