

NEWS

- BIODIVERSITY INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR EUROPE**

Announced in the [Communication from the Commission](#) on “Options for an EU vision and target for biodiversity beyond 2010” published in January 2010, the [Biodiversity Information System for Europe](#) (BISE) was set up by the European Environment Agency in partnership with the European Commission (DG Environment, Joint Research Centre, Eurostat and DG Research) with strong support from the ETC/BD. It was officially launched at the opening session of the [Green Week conference](#) on 2 June in Brussels.



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.

- BIODIVERSITY BASELINE 2010**

Also announced in the Commission's Communication on a post 2010 vision and targets, 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.



A [biodiversity baseline flyer](#) and a [baseline summary](#) were launched at Green Week. The full report will be prepared in time for distribution at the [CBD COP meeting in Nagoya](#), October 2010.

- TEN MESSAGES FOR 2010**



Eight of the '10 messages for 2010' being prepared by the EEA and the ETC/BD (see last newsletter) have now been published with the remaining two scheduled for August (Coastal ecosystems) and September (European biodiversity heritage). The messages can be downloaded from the [EEA website](#). The EEA will publish all 10 messages together as a book for the CBD meeting in Nagoya, Japan, in October.

- NATURA 2000 & THE TWO NATURE DIRECTIVES**

Progress in completing the marine component of the Natura 2000 network is at the core of EU biodiversity policy priorities. An important step forward was taken with the third Natura 2000 marine seminar held in Brindisi, Italy, in June to examine site proposals from 10 countries for the Black Sea, Macaronesia and Mediterranean marine regions. This was the last in the series of marine seminars.

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The Commission and the ETC-BD at Brindisi

At the Continental Biogeographical seminar held in Darova (Czech Republic) in 2006 it was clear that the Polish proposals for Natura 2000 were very incomplete. Following new proposals from Poland a bilateral meeting was held in Warsaw in March and it is clear that Poland has made significant progress.

The next update of the Community List of SCI, 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/BD website](#).

Work on streamlining and modernising the reporting under the Habitats and the Birds Directive, carried by different working groups in which the ETC/BD is involved has made good progress and an update was presented at the Expert Group on reporting held in Brussels on the 22nd April.

ETC/BD's involvement was particularly intense, as a leader of the Work Package 1 (reviewing and improving the guidelines for reporting under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive). This has included the organisation of a meeting focused on the marine habitats and species to ensure that the revised guidelines are applicable both on land and at sea. A revised reporting format and explanatory notes will be presented to the next meeting of the Expert Group which will be held in December. A revision of the Natura 2000 Standard data form was completed by Work Package 4 and this will be subject to a written consultation by the Habitats Committee in the near future.

- **LINKS BETWEEN EU NATURE AND WATER LEGISLATION**

A workshop was organised by DG Environment on 17-18 June in Brussels on "Biodiversity and Water – Links between EU nature and water legislation" with the aim to explore with EU MS the opportunities for integration of the

implementation of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) and the Birds and Habitats Directives (BHD). The workshop also addressed the potential to benefit from joint monitoring activities between these directives. The ETC/BD was represented by Marita Arvela, core team.

- **ASSESSING PRESSURES ON NATURA 2000**

The Bundesamt für Naturschutz organised a conference on Natura 2000 and climate change on the Island of Vilm, Germany, in early May. Doug Evans (ETC/BD) participated and gave a presentation on climate change and the habitats of Annex I. The conference proceedings will be published in the BfN's [Naturschutz und Biologische Vielfalt](#) series.

The 20th [Coordination Centre for Effects](#) (CCE) 'Workshop on the evaluation of air pollution impacts on ecosystems in a multiple issues – multiple effects context' was held in Paris in April. Much of the meeting was devoted to nitrogen deposition and critical loads and included linked presentations by Claire Whitfield (ETC/BD partner [JNCC](#)) and Doug Evans (ETC/BD core team) on Natura 2000, reporting conservation status and Nitrogen deposition.

- **EIONET's ROLE IN GMES**

Back to back with the second annual meeting of National Focal Points, a workshop on "Developing EIONET's role in GMES" ([Global Monitoring for Environment and Security](#)) was organised by EEA on 26 May in Copenhagen. GMES is an EU initiative that provides independent access to geo-spatial information for policy and decision makers to support environment and security policies. GMES also contributes to the international Global Earth Observation System of Systems ([GEOSS](#)).

With GMES now entering into an operational phase and EEA being responsible for its in-situ component, EIONET appears as a relevant network to facilitate organisational arrangements with EU Member States on the implementation of the land service component. ETC/BD will be requested to assist in the identification of relevant GMES applications for biodiversity, including following-up two biodiversity-related GMES projects selected by the Commission for funding as FP7 projects, - MS-Monina and Bio-SOS.

- **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

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authorities, the general public and third parties, especially in a Community and transboundary environmental policy context.

The ETC/BD is member of the INSPIRE thematic working group (TWG) "Bio-geographical Regions, Habitats and Biotopes, Species Distribution". Sabine Roscher and Brian Mac Sharry from the ETC/BD core team attended the kick-off meeting on 27/28 May in Bonn. The aim of the TWG is to design data specifications to ensure easy mapping between existing data and the harmonised INSPIRE data specification. These data specifications will be used to form the basis of proposals for the implementing rules. A first version of the data specifications of these Annex themes will be ready by October this year (phase I), in phase II (November 2010 - August 2011) will include consultation and testing by the Member States.

- **UNESCO BIODIVERSITY SCIENCE-POLICY CONFERENCE**

As a contribution to the UN's [International Year of Biodiversity](#), UNESCO organised a conference in Paris in January which aimed to present new information on biodiversity and to assess its implications for policy making. Dominique Richard and Doug Evans (both ETC/BD core team) were invited to give presentations. The conference proceedings will be published later this year and presented to the Convention on Biological Diversity's next meeting in Nagoya, Japan, in October. Further information can be found on the [UNESCO website](#).

- **OUR NATURAL EUROPE (ONE)**

The first two "[ONE stories](#)" from Finland and Switzerland have recently been published by the EEA. Work continues on several others such as Lake Tuz in Turkey and included a recent visit by Gordon McInnes (EEA), Jacques Thorette (French National Focal point) and Dominique Richard (ETC/BD) to the "Parc Naturel Régional des Bauges" in the French Alps to develop a story linking plant diversity in hay meadows and pastures to the quality of 'Tome des Bauges', the local cheese, and to honey production. Central to the story is a report on a competition– "[Concours prairies fleuries](#)" organised since 2007 by the Park, and since this year at national level, with increasing involvement from farmers willing to better understand and improve the biodiversity of their own meadows.



Photo – J.Thorette

- **SCALES**

[SCALES](#) (Securing the Conservation of biodiversity across Administrative Levels and spatial, temporal, and Ecological Scales) is a recently launched FP7 project bringing together 27 partners and led by Helmholtz Zentrum für Umweltforschung (UFZ) in Leipzig, Germany. The project had its first meeting in Barcelona in early March. Doug Evans (ETC-BD core team) attended as a member of the project's Advisory Board.

- **PHD COURSE ON INTERNATIONAL FORESTRY AND GLOBAL ISSUES**



Photo - INRA/Bernardi.

Doug Evans was invited to lead a seminar on forestry and biodiversity at this event jointly organised by the [European Forestry Institute](#) and the [Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique](#) in May held at INRA's centre for forestry research near Nancy, France. The school attracted some 50 students from across Europe, with many from SE Europe.

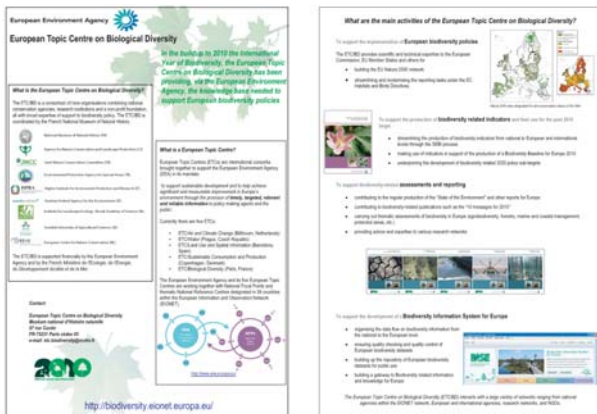
• ETC/BD MANAGEMENT MEETING

The third Management Committee meeting of the ETC/BD, which was hosted by [EPASA](#) in Istanbul on 15-16 April, provided the opportunity for all members of the Consortium to review progress on work under the 2010 Implementation Plan and then to enjoy wonderful Turkish hospitality with a memorable evening tour on the Bosphorus.



The “after meeting” was also memorable with the Eyjafjallajökull volcano and its ash cloud preventing people from flying home and obliging them to improvise alternative transportation, for example a 56 hours trip by bus, boat and train for several members of the ETC/BD core team and partners!

• ETC/BD EXPLAINED



The ETC/BD has recently produced a 2 page leaflet describing our role which can be downloaded from the [ETC-BD website](#).

NEWS FROM THE PARTNERS

• 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 Carpathicum](#) in September 2010 on the sustainable development of the Carpathian region. Further information is available from the Forum's website.

PUBLICATIONS

• SCALING UP ECOSYSTEM BENEFITS - A CONTRIBUTION TO THE ECONOMICS OF ECOSYSTEMS AND BIODIVERSITY (TEEB) STUDY



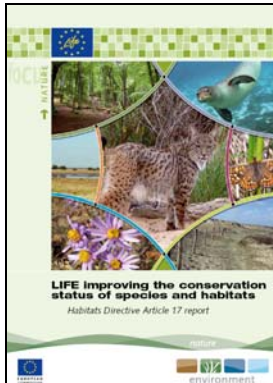
This report analyses options for scaling up existing estimates of ecosystem service values to larger geographical scales. It also presents a case study of wetlands at the European level and discusses the results and policy applications. The report can be ordered or downloaded from the [EEA website](#).

• ECOSYSTEM ACCOUNTING AND THE COST OF BIODIVERSITY LOSSES – THE CASE OF COASTAL MEDITERRANEAN WETLANDS

This study, in which ETC/BD was involved, examines changes in coastal Mediterranean wetlands using information from CORINE Land Cover. It discusses the importance of estimating the ecological and social costs of maintaining these systems, and the problems surrounding providing monetary estimates of the services associated with wetlands. The report can be found on the [EEA website](#).

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- LIFE IMPROVING THE CONSERVATION STATUS OF SPECIES AND HABITATS



The LIFE unit have published a report showing how LIFE funded projects are helping with the conservation of habitats and species of Community Interest. It can be downloaded from the [LIFE publications website](#).

- A RULE BASED SYSTEM FOR ANNEX I HABITATS

The FP7 [EBONE project](#) has published a system of rules, devised by Alterra with assistance from the ETC/BD to aid the field identification of Annex I habitats which can be downloaded from the [project 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/>



"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 was on the 11th of January 2010 in Berlin.

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