

## Editorial

In this issue of the *Update* we continue our series highlighting ECNC's activities during the International Year of Biodiversity. This time we focus on some of the work being carried out by ECNC's Nature and Society Programme Area to promote the conservation of biodiversity.

Also in this issue we report on, among others, the recent symposium organized by ECNC on 'Climate change and biodiversity: multifunctional land use helps nature and entrepreneurs in Brabant', a workshop on dealing with conflicts in the management of Natura 2000 sites, and progress in establishing biodiversity action plans for municipalities in the Western Balkans.

*On behalf of the Editorial Team  
Glynis van Uden*

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**Increasing understanding of the social and cultural context of conservation**

In order to stop the decline of biodiversity and to maintain our physical well-being, we need to understand what motivates society. The ECNC Nature and Society programme applies insights from the social and behavioural sciences to challenges involving the conservation of biodiversity.

ECNC, together with the Regional Environmental Center, is implementing the project 'Biodiversity and ecosystem services for local sustainable development in the Western Balkans'. This project is making an important contribution to local sustainable development through the development of Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAPs). These identify the main biodiversity conservation issues (Red List species, ecosystems at risk, future pressures) and search for opportunities for sustainable development associated with their conservation. ECNC provides guidance on developing and implementing LBAPs through skill-building workshops and is preparing a handbook for the use of local authorities.

ECNC is also participating in the Alterra-led project on dealing with conflicts in the implementation and management of the Natura 2000 network. The aim is to promote best practices for achieving a balance between potentially conflicting interests and uses of Natura 2000 sites. This will ensure both the engagement of the population and respect of the ecological value of sites. ECNC will organize and facilitate four workshops and develop recommendations in a report to the European Commission. See page 3 for recent news on this project.

The project 'Biodiversiteit werkt in de regio!' ('Biodiversity works at regional level!') identified innovative, inspiring and reproducible projects developed by or with local authorities in the Netherlands. The projects concerned the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity at the local level. The publication (in Dutch) can be downloaded from:  
<http://www.ecnc.org/jump/page/179/Biodiversiteit-werkt-in-de-regio.html>.



ECNC provides training to improve the communication skills of policymakers and other stakeholders.

(Photo: Ayşegül Çil)

Another useful ECNC publication is *Communicating nature conservation: A manual on using communication in support of nature conservation policy and action*. The English version is available at <http://www.ecnc.org/publications/technicalreports>. A French version (hard copy only) is also available; see <http://www.ecnc.org> for ordering information.



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## **Preparing Noord-Brabant's rural areas for climate change impacts**

*14 April 2010, Schaijk, the Netherlands*

Over 80 participants attended the symposium 'Climate change and biodiversity: multifunctional land use helps nature and entrepreneurs in Brabant'. The symposium, organized by ECNC, took place in Schaijk, the Netherlands, and focused on the Dutch region of Noord-Brabant.

The symposium reviewed and discussed the consequences of climate change on agriculture and biodiversity and ways in which multifunctional land use could assist in adapting to climate change. Researchers from Wageningen University provided an overview of the current situation and future scenarios.



The symposium addressed the problems posed in Brabant by climate change and how to cope with them. (Photo: ECNC)

Representatives from regional and local authorities, the biodiversity sector, the leisure sector and the agricultural sector, subregional authorities, and expertise and research institutions discussed the possibilities of using multifunctional land use as a practical adaptation strategy for climate change impacts, focusing on agriculture and biodiversity. Both the threats and opportunities of climate change were addressed.

The meeting also discussed a number of possible pilot projects in the region of Noord-Brabant. In particular, Groene Woud and de Maashorst were mentioned as suitable areas for developing tailor-made pilot projects together with local stakeholders.

The meeting was a joint initiative of the Steering Committee for Agricultural Innovation (LIB) and the Province of Noord-Brabant. The meeting was chaired by Dr Frank Petter, chairman of the Brabant Task Force on Biodiversity and Mayor of Woudrichem.

The results of the conference will be discussed by the Steering Committee.

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## **Dealing with conflicts in managing Natura 2000 sites**

*17 March 2010, Brussels, Belgium*

Over 60 Natura 2000 stakeholders from north-western Europe discussed the reasons for conflict arising in the management of Natura 2000 sites and how to solve them at a workshop held on 17 March 2010 in Brussels.

After an introduction by François Kremer of the European Commission, DG Environment, two invited keynote speakers, Mrs Lucile Rambaud, Head of Natura 2000 at the French Ministry for the Environment, and Mr Ignace Schops,

Director of the Belgian Regional Landscape Kempen and Maasland, shared their experience with dealing with conflicts from the governmental and NGO perspective, respectively.

## **Nature and Society**



Preliminary project results were presented, and the participants shared their knowledge and experience regarding the avoidance, management and resolution of conflicts in and around Natura 2000 areas. The participants included local, regional, national and European level representatives of stakeholder groups (farmers, foresters, hunters, wind-farm developers, miners, etc.), policymakers and site managers. This mix led to lively discussions and interesting and useful insights, key messages and recommendations.

The key role of human use in the sustainable management of protected areas, including Natura 2000 sites, was stressed by the majority of participants. In order to create the necessary support and endorsement of the Natura 2000 areas by the owners, users and other stakeholders, more effort needs to be invested in clearly formulated and communicated guidelines and objectives, participative and inclusive ways to develop the management plans, and clear and easy ways to obtain financial support and compensation.



Workshop participants agreed that in order to prevent conflict, time and resources are essential, as is the early involvement of stakeholders.

(Photo: Ayşegül Çil)

The workshop was organized by ECNC as part of the project 'Conflict management in the Natura 2000 Network'. This project is being carried out by Alterra, Eurosite and ECNC on behalf of the European Commission, DG Environment.

*For more information: Ayşegül Çil, Programme Manager – Nature and Society; [cil@ecnc.org](mailto:cil@ecnc.org)*

### **Training in setting up biodiversity action plan for municipalities in the Western Balkans**

The third SEE BAP (Biodiversity and ecosystem services for local sustainable development in Western Balkans) project team meeting was held at the headquarters of the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC) in Szentendre, Hungary on 11 March 2010. The project has reached the stage where the 10 target municipalities will be provided with practical tools to ensure that they have adequate knowledge to develop and implement Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAPs) for the benefit of both biodiversity and the local communities.

A local biodiversity action planning handbook will guide the municipal staff through a step-by-step process of preparing and implementing the LBAP, in a simple and practical way. A two-day workshop programme for the advance training

will be held in Budva, Montenegro from 4 to 6 May 2010. During the training the representatives of the target municipalities will have the opportunity to test the Handbook in a series of practical exercises, equivalent to the process they will have to undertake in the actual LBAP preparation process.

On 16 March 2010 the SEE BAP project was presented during a meeting of the Committee on Sustainable Development of the Council of Europe's Congress of Local and Regional Authorities in Strasbourg. The meeting was organized to examine the preparation of reports on coastal towns facing rising sea levels, sustainable development of mountain regions and landscape as a new dimension of public territorial action. On the occasion of the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity, a hearing was

held on the topic 'Biodiversity as a local challenge'. ECNC's SEE BAP project was presented, together with three other projects on local action for biodiversity, and was well received.

This project is funded by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland.

*For more information: Ayşegül Çil, Programme Manager – Nature and Society; cil@ecnc.org*



(Photo: Ayşegül Çil)

## **Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity Assessment**

### **Two new assignments for ECNC**

ECNC has recently been contracted for two short-term assignments.

The 'Study on the costs and benefits of European biodiversity monitoring' is a DG Environment project, coordinated by ECORYS Nederland. ECNC's contribution to the project will be a knowledge/desk-based report on the context and current situation in relation to monitoring in Europe. The report will examine the work of the European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity in Paris relating to the monitoring of biodiversity. This report will be used as a basis for work on developing a post-2010 monitoring

framework for a new EU biodiversity target.

ECNC is to provide the biodiversity input to the National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP) for Georgia. The NEAP will identify the country's environmental priorities, and will contain policy goals, subsequent measures, deadlines and finances. This assignment is being carried out for Agentschap NL.

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## **News About Other Members of the ECNC Group**

### **EUCC News – European interregional cooperation to strengthen coastal sustainability**

A new European interregional cooperation project, aiming to ensure that the integrated management of coastal issues will be sustainable has recently started. SUSTAIN (Assessing sustainability and strengthening operational policies) is an INTERREG IVC project. The kick-off event took place in the municipality of Kouklia (Cyprus), one of the partners of the project.

Local and regional authorities are making efforts to use ICZM planning approaches to lead to sustainable development. A number of actions

need to be implemented along the coast to improve sustainability. The criteria for assessing sustainability at the coast which will be developed and tested in SUSTAIN will provide the management policy tool which is very much needed and currently lacking.

'SUSTAIN is an ambitious and comprehensive project that will lead us all, should we truly work together, to foster fully implementable policy tool, applicable to all 22 coastal states of the EU,' said project manager Alan Pickaver.

'The partners in this exciting project have come together to address the challenges that coastal communities face from issues like climate change, pressure on natural resources and the need for economic, social and cultural well-being by providing a new and innovative tool that can be used by the communities to enable them to live in and manage their own surroundings sustainably,' said Caroline Salthouse, communications lead partner (external expert for Sefton Council).

Twelve European partners will be working together, including eight regional and local autho-

rities under the coordination of the Coastal & Marine Union (EUCC) during the coming 3 years.

SUSTAIN International Contacts: Maria Ferreira, Coastal & Marine Union (EUCC); [m.ferreira@eucc.net](mailto:m.ferreira@eucc.net); and Caroline Salthouse, North West Coastal Forum Secretariat; [Caroline.Salthouse@4nw.org.uk](mailto:Caroline.Salthouse@4nw.org.uk)

*For more news from EUCC, see Coastal & MarinE-News at <http://www.eucc.net/en/news>*

### **EUCC News – EUCC well presented at ICCCM2010**

The International Conference on Coastal Conservation and Management in the Atlantic and Mediterranean (ICCCM2010) was held from 11-17 April, in Estoril, Portugal. With 300 people from 24 countries attending this conference, and over 150 presentations in plenary and parallel sessions given, the following EUCC projects were presented either as presentation or in workshops: CONSCIENCE, SUSTAIN, OURCOAST, QualityCoast, ACCMA and Cap Nador.

For CONSCIENCE it also was the final event with the presentation of the project results: Guidance for coastal managers working on eroding coastlines. Over 70 coastal stakeholders were informed about the work developed and results (also from end-users' perspective) of the project CONSCIENCE ([www.conscience-eu.net](http://www.conscience-eu.net)).

Next to that, an OURCOAST demonstration area was set up during the entire conference to present the web-based case study database, which will be online at the EUROPA website in the near future.

Professor Alan Pickaver also got the attention of the Portuguese Secretary of State of Planning

and Cities, Dra. Fernanda Carmo, with his presentation '50 years of managing our coastline: What comes next?' This resulted in an invitation to help evaluate the Portuguese National ICZM Strategy.

The conference website, including the full programme is at <http://icccm.dcea.fct.unl.pt/>

*For more news from EUCC, see Coastal & MarinE-News at <http://www.eucc.net/en/news>*



(Photo: EUCC)

## ECNC introduces thematic briefs on biodiversity issues

To increase communication with interested parties and the public, ECNC has commenced a series of thematic briefs outlining how ECNC views and defines certain major biodiversity-related issues. These briefs have been approved by the Board and Scientific Council. So far, the briefs explore the following topics:

- Bioenergy and biodiversity
- Biosafety and biodiversity
- Climate change and biodiversity.

The briefs can be downloaded from <http://www.ecnc.org/about-ecnc>

## New ECNC publications

### *ELN-FAB Newsletter*

The first issue of the newsletter of the European Learning Network on Functional AgroBiodiversity (ELN-FAB) was published in March 2010. This newsletter aims to inform the partners, intermediaries and interested stakeholders of the ELN-FAB initiative, which is coordinated by ECNC in cooperation with DIVERSITAS agroBIODIVERSITY International Project Office (AB-IPO).

The newsletter can be downloaded from [http://www.eln-fab.eu/uploads/ELN-FAB%20newsletter%20No\\_1.pdf](http://www.eln-fab.eu/uploads/ELN-FAB%20newsletter%20No_1.pdf)



Nowicki, P., V. Goba, A. Knierim, H. van Meijl, M. Banse, B. Delbaere, J. Helming, P. Hunke, K. Jansson, T. Jansson, L. Jones-Walters, V. Mikos, C. Sattler, N. Schlaefke, I. Terluin and D. Verhoog (2009) *Scenar 2020-II – Update of Analysis of Prospects in the Scenar 2020 Study.*

Contract No. 30-CE-0200286/00-21. – European Commission, Directorate-General Agriculture and Rural Development, Brussels.

The Scenar 2020-II study aimed to refine and improve the identification of major future trends and driving factors – and the perspectives and challenges resulting from them – provided by the initial Scenar 2020 study (December 2006) on the future of European agriculture and the rural world. In this respect the study does not aim at evaluating the impact of potential policy changes, but to compare how the agricultural sector might evolve under different, and somewhat extreme, pathways which, to a large extent, follow the assumptions of the first study.

The study was carried out by ECNC-European Centre for Nature Conservation, Landbouw-Economisch Instituut (LEI) and Leibniz-Zentrum für Agrarlandschaftsforschung e.V. (ZALF). ECNC coordinated the project and edited the final report.

The report is available online at [http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/analysis/external/scenar2020ii/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/analysis/external/scenar2020ii/index_en.htm)

*For more information, contact the project coordinator, Vineta Goba; [goba@ecnc.org](mailto:goba@ecnc.org).*

## New issue of *Journal for Nature Conservation*

Volume 18, issue 1 of the *Journal for Nature Conservation* (published by Elsevier in affiliation with ECNC) was published in January 2010.

For further information, please consult:  
<http://www.ecnc.org/publications/journal-for-nature-conservation>



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