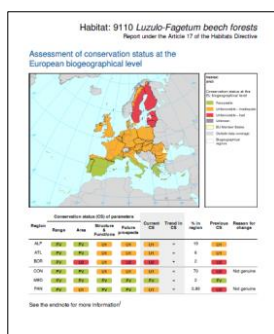


## NEWS

### • NATURE DIRECTIVES

Factsheets prepared by ETC/BD summarizing the results from Article 17 reporting (Habitats Directive) for the period 2007-2012 are now available via the [Article 17 webtool](#) by clicking on 'Download factsheet' from the pages giving the species and habitat assessments at EU biogeographical level or from the [EUNIS page](#) for each habitat or species under the heading 'Threat and conservation status'. The factsheets give information on conservation status, distribution, threats and pressures, coverage by the Natura 2000 network where relevant and conservation measures being undertaken. Similar factsheets for birds, with results from Article 17 reporting for the period 2008-2012 will be available soon.



*An extract from an Article 17 factsheet*

Work on the review of the reporting process continues as part of the Expert group on reporting, which met at the EEA in Copenhagen on the 17 & 18 November while the two *ad hoc* working groups on 'Structure and Functions', 'Future prospects' and 'Trends' and on 'Favourable Reference Values' both met on in September and October. A revised version of the reporting formats has been circulated to members of the Expert Group and it is hoped to have a final version agreed in spring 2016.

A Natura 2000 biogeographical seminar was held in Rome, Italy, on the 7-8 October to assess progress towards completing the network in Italy, based on preliminary assessments prepared by ETC/BD. Most of the Italian regions participated, together with NGOs and invited experts. The conclusions reached during the seminar provide a road map for further completion, by Italy, of its share of the Natura 2000 network.

A [high level conference on the Fitness check of the EU Nature legislation](#) was organised by the European Commission on 20 November 2015 in Brussels to present and discuss with Member States and other stakeholders the preliminary conclusions emerging from the assessment of evidence and information gathered on four different

aspects of the Birds and Habitats Directives: effectiveness, efficiency, coherence, relevance and EU added value. A decision on the follow up to the Fitness check will be taken by the European Commission in spring 2016.

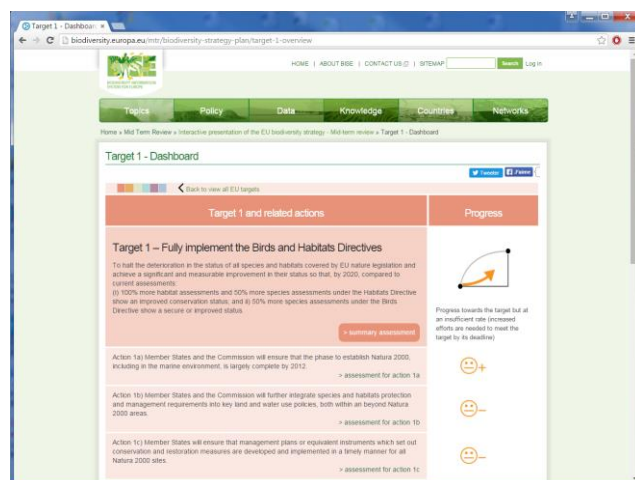
Statistics related to progress in implementing the Nature Directives in individual Member States are available through [BISE EU Biodiversity fact sheets](#).

For the latest news on Natura 2000 see [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/platform/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/platform/index_en.htm).

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### • MID TERM REVIEW OF 2020 BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY

The EU Mid-term Review of the EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy was published by the Commission on 2 October as a Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council and available from the [EUR-Lex website](#). Extensive support was provided by the EEA and ETC/BD for the preparation of the report providing indicators and the presentation of the results on the [BISE website](#).



A summary of progress towards the 2020 biodiversity targets prepared by the EEA has been included in a [leaflet about the mid-term review](#) published by the EEA and the Commission.

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### • STREAMLINING NATURE, WATER AND MARINE DIRECTIVES

As a follow up to the joint process initiated in Vilnius in December 2013, where Nature, Water and Marine Directors of the different EU Member States had identified topics of common interest across the relevant Directives, a joint meeting was organised under the Luxembourg Presidency on 25-26 November, to discuss specific actions to be taken in the future. One of the conclusions addressed was: "Taking action to streamline reporting under the



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*different directives seems a promising step. In the future, it can be followed by streamlining monitoring and assessments taking into account the potential of common status indicators towards natural capital accounting and the mapping of ecosystem services”, thus providing a background for further collaborative work between ETC/BD and ETC/Inland, Coastal and Marine.*

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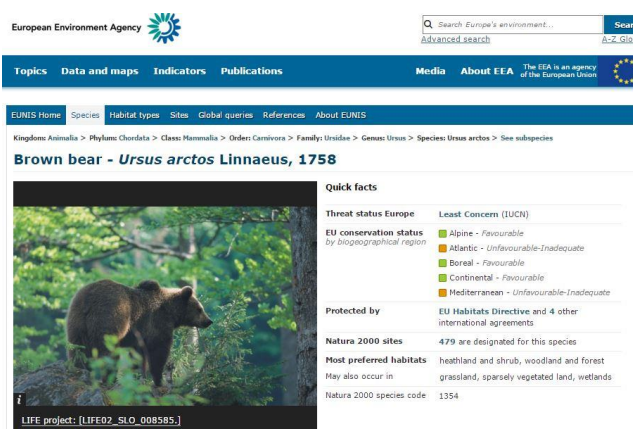
### • EMERALD & THE BERN CONVENTION

The ETC/BD has continued to support the implementation of the Emerald network, by assisting the EEA in the development of reporting tools, species checklists, viewers and guidelines such as the Habitats Interpretation Manual. Progress was reported at the meeting of the Expert Group on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks on 16-17 September and further acknowledged by the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention which met on 1-4 December in Strasbourg, FR. The Council of Europe has published a [leaflet on the Emerald network](#) and launched a [video presenting the Bern Convention](#).

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### • EUROPEAN NATURE INFORMATION SYSTEM (EUNIS)

The [EUNIS website](#) has been improved during 2015, additions include conservation status from the 2007-12 Article 17 reports and status on European red lists, coverage of all species mentioned in European and international legal texts, species linked to ecosystems groups and the links from habitats to plant communities (syntaxa) have been revised. The presentation has also been improved; further additions and improvements are planned for 2016.

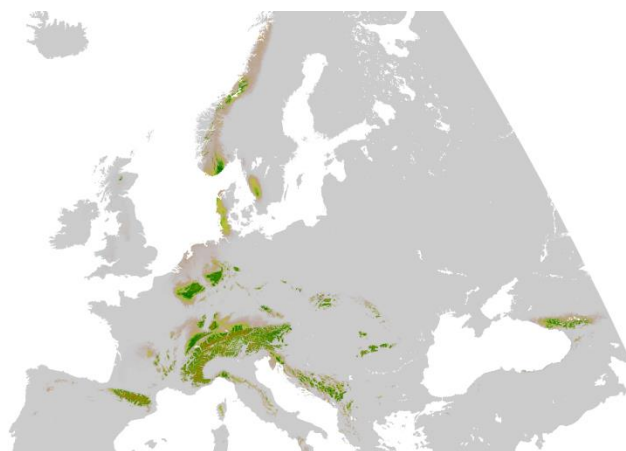


*The updated EUNIS page for Brown bear*

As noted in the previous newsletter, an EIONET based consultation on a proposed revision of the marine component of the EUNIS habitat classification (levels 2-4) was held 19

May to 9 July. Over 100 comments were received from a range of countries and organisations. The ETC/BD is now working to take into account the comments with the aim to have a revised marine classification published in 2016.

Following work to revise the forest and heath sections of the classification it is expected that there will be a consultation via EIONET in 2016. The results from contracts with the [European Vegetation Survey](#) to use vegetation plot data have now been published (see publications) and maps of predicted habitat suitability are now available on the [EEA website](#). A revision of grasslands has now been started and will be available in late 2016.



*Predicted habitat suitability for G3.2 Alpine Larix - Pinus cembra woodland*

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### • SEBI

A meeting held at the EEA in early December reviewed the policy requirements for the 26 SEBI indicators and agreed on further work for 2016 including a roadmap for 2017-2019 to ensure they will be relevant for monitoring progress in meeting the EU 2020 biodiversity target and related policy goals.

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### • EIONET NFP MEETING

As part of the third annual meeting of the National Focal Points (NFPs), held in Copenhagen on 21-22 October, a session was dedicated to knowledge developments in Europe. The EEA is aiming to move with EIONET from a problem-based to a solution-oriented knowledge base. An important aim of so doing is to establish a strengthened knowledge base for SOER 2020, in particular with EIONET. Part of the session was organised to discuss [transitions towards a new economic model](#), introduced by a lecture from Per Mickwitz (EEA Scientific Committee). NFPs and ETCs were further encouraged to complete a



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questionnaire providing concrete examples on sustainable transitions and niche innovations in from different sectors.

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### • EIONET NRCs RELATED TO BIODIVERSITY

Following the review of EIONET in 2014, two types of National Reference Centres (NRCs) related to biodiversity and ecosystems were set up. Both aim at supporting Biodiversity strategies (at global, EU and national level) but with different scope in reference to the EEA MDIAK chain model (Monitoring, Data, Indicators, Assessments and Knowledge):

1) The NRCs on Biodiversity data and information focus on the MDI part of the MDIAK chain model. They cover the knowledge base to support Biodiversity strategies as well as the reporting activities that sustain the main biodiversity data sets supported by the EEA (CDDA, Natura 2000, Article 17 and 12 data, Emerald), including key activities related to the Target 1 of the EU Biodiversity strategy.

2) The NRCs on Biodiversity and ecosystems indicators and assessment focus on the IAK part of the MDIAK chain model. They support the production of indicators (such as SEBI) to assess progress towards EU Biodiversity strategy and the assessments related to e.g. Target 2 on maintenance and restoration of ecosystems and their services and Target 3 on agriculture and forests.

A Biodiversity-related EIONET workshop was held on 19-20 November in Copenhagen with both types of NRCs. The seminar aimed at updating all participants on the recent developments in reporting under the Nature Directives, MAES initiative (Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystems and their Services), Mid-Term review of the EU Biodiversity Strategy, and IPBES (Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity, Ecosystems and their Services)). The country representatives discussed how to practically design the role of a 'NRC on Biodiversity and ecosystems indicators and assessment' and on priority topics where networking within EIONET would provide added value in knowledge building from national to European levels. Presentations can be downloaded from the [EIONET Forum](#).

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### • ECOSYSTEM ASSESSMENTS AND THEIR SERVICES

Held in Brussels mid-December, the 2015 MAES delivery workshop gave an opportunity to analyse the complementary between the MAES and IPBES frameworks supported by the presentations by Annie Larigauderie (IPBES secretariat) and Markus Fisher (IPBES Regional Assessment for Europe and Central Asia).

Three sessions discussed European and national progress on ecosystem assessment and their services, on valuing services and on developing natural capital accounting. The third was dedicated to impacts of ecosystem services projects at local level. Beyond the opportunity to exchange views and experience on methodologies and practicalities, all recognized the importance of the MAES initiative as a trigger at all levels.

Additional exchanges and discussions took place during the Christmas Fair exhibition on ecosystems organized by Belgium and European Commission.

The EEA announced the publication in February 2016 of a technical report on "Mapping and assessing the condition of Europe's ecosystems – Progress and challenges". Several ETC/BD partners have been reviewers for this report.

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### • COPERNICUS

A conference on '[New horizons for European and Global land monitoring – Copernicus products and services ready to use](#)' was held on 19-20 October in Copenhagen, with the aim to conclude the final stage of GMES/Copernicus initial operations of the land monitoring service (GIO land), and initiate the move to the operational phase of Copernicus. Two main types of products are of high relevance to biodiversity and will have to be further assessed by ETC/BD in terms of practical applications:

The [Pan-European Continental Component](#) which provides Corine Land Cover and 5 thematic High Resolution Layers (20 m resolution; imperviousness, forests, grassland, wetlands and permanent water bodies) and High and Very High Resolution pan-European mosaics.

The [Local Component](#) has three main products based on Very High Resolution imagery (2.5 x 2.5 m pixels): Urban Atlas, Riparian Zones and Natura 2000.

The [Riparian Zones](#) exercise has delivered three layers: a Very High Resolution Land Use/Land Cover layer within a 2 km buffer along the main European rivers, a delineation of Riparian Zones (potential, observable and actual) and the distribution of Green Linear Elements (hedgerows and scrub, trees) within the buffer zone. The overall thematic accuracy is 87%. The Local Component on the monitoring of [Natura 2000](#) focuses on 5 grassland habitat types inside and outside (2 km buffer) a sample of Natura 2000 sites. Three main outcomes will be provided: status layer 2006, status layer 2012 and changes layer 2006/2012. Results suggest that the loss of grassland is greater in the adjacent areas than in Natura 2000 sites. There is also an analysis of pressures and threats inside and outside Natura 2000 areas.



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### • ETC/BD MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The ETC/BD management Committee met on the 14 & 15 October at the Swiss Academy of Science, Bern, hosted by ETC/BD partner [Swiss Biodiversity Forum](#), to discuss progress with this year's work programme and to plan for future work. This meeting was the opportunity for all partners of the Consortium to meet with Beate Werner as the future EEA Head of Biodiversity Group, taking over from Ivone Pereira Martins who stepped down from this position during Summer. Stefan Kleeschulte from Space4environment was elected as the new chair of the Management Committee, replacing Lawrence Jones-Walters from Alterra who had been very efficiently acting as chair during a two years mandate.

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### • ETC COORDINATION MEETING

It is now a well-established tradition for all ETC managers to regularly meet with relevant EEA programme managers, Heads of groups and resources officers to enhance cross-cutting collaboration and help create synergies. During a meeting held on 23 October, a number of issues were discussed: strategic and knowledge developments, operational and management issues, information exchange.

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### • GROSSEN BINDING-PREIS

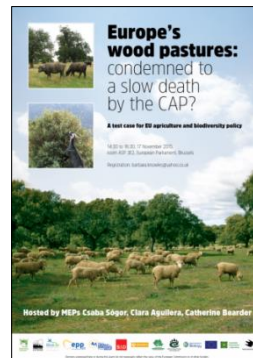


Dominique Richard, manager of the ETC/BD has been awarded this year's [Grossen Binding Prize](#) awarded by the Binding Foundation in a ceremony held in Vaduz, Liechtenstein on the 6<sup>th</sup> November. The award was in recognition of her work, and more widely the ETC/BD's work, in helping create the Natura 2000 network.

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### OTHER MEETINGS

#### *Europe's wood pastures*



The ETC/BD attended the EU policy seminar "Europe's wood pastures: condemned to a slow death by the CAP? A test case for EU agriculture and biodiversity policy" that was held at the European Parliament (Brussels) on the 17<sup>th</sup> of November 2015. It was organized by the [European Forum on Nature Conservation and Pastoralism](#), [Pogány-havas](#) and [BirdLife Europe](#). Case studies from Romania, Sweden and Spain were presented. The seminar discussed the effects of European policy on wood pastures, recommending policy changes to ensure their active management and conservation. The booklet and presentations are available from the [EFNCP website](#).

#### *EU habitats Red list*

The DG Environment funded project to produce a Red List of European habitats continues and Doug Evans attended a meeting between the contractors and DG Environment in October. Draft fact sheet with preliminary assessment have now been produced for the majority of habitats; the rest will be produced in the near future. Fact sheets and assessments will now be reviewed before final publication in mid 2016.

#### *Progress in Marine Conservation In Europe 2015*

Doug Evans attended the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting in this series of meetings organised by the [Bundesamt für Naturschutz](#), held in Stralsund on the 14-18 September which was covered a wide range of topics, abstracts are available from the [BfN website](#).

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### • STAFF CHANGES AT THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION & THE EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

The ETC/BD works in partnership with the EEA and in support of DG Environment and there have been important staff changes recently in both organisations. At the EEA,

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the 'Natural Systems and Vulnerability' programme (NSV) which included the 'Biodiversity, Ecosystems, Agriculture and Forests group' will become on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2016 the 'Natural Systems and Sustainability' programme (NSS), still led by Ronan Uhel. The new group 'Biodiversity and ecosystems' will be led by Beate Werner who was until now head of the Water group in the NSV programme.

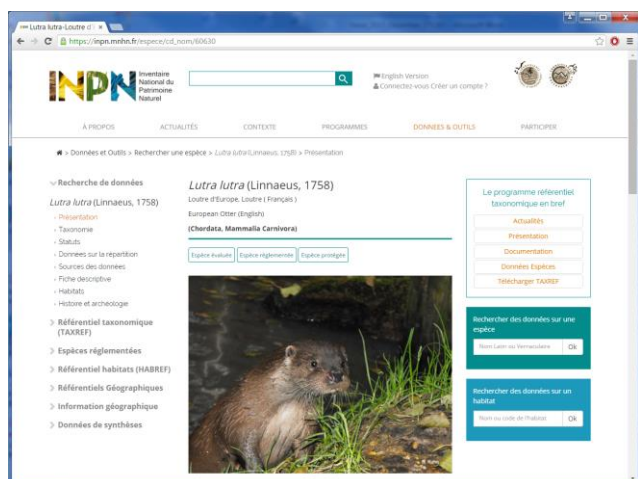
At the [European Commission](#), Daniel Calleja Crespo is now Director-General of DG Environment, Humberto Delgado Rosa is director of Directorate B - Natural Capital, Stefan Leiner is head of the Biodiversity Unit (B2) and Nicola Notaro is head of the Natura Unit (B3).

## NEWS FROM THE PARTNERS

### • MUSEUM NATIONAL D'HISTOIRE NATURELLE

An event to celebrate both the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ETC led by the MNHN and the award received by Dominique Richard (see above) was held at the MNHN on 17 November. The newly appointed President of the MNHN, Bruno David (see newsletter from July 2015) gave a speech, acknowledging the importance of the ETC/BD for the MNHN.

L'inventaire national du patrimoine naturel (national natural heritage inventory) has a new website giving access to information on species and habitats in France, including downloadable datasets, see <https://inpn.mnhn.fr/>.



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### • EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR NATURE CONSERVATION

The Dutch integrated approach to nitrogen (or PAS, from the Dutch Programmatie Aanpak Stikstof) was the

subject of a [two-day study tour in the north-east of the Netherlands](#) organised as a contribution to the new series of biogeographical seminars and held in November 2015. Forty participants from Belgium, Denmark, Ireland, the Netherlands and the UK visited two Natura 2000 sites affected by high levels of nitrogen deposition and a dairy farm applying innovative management measures for emission reduction, as part of the [Natura 2000 Field Trial Project](#). The visits were introduced by a series of presentations on the policy background, sectoral approaches and site and farm management measures.



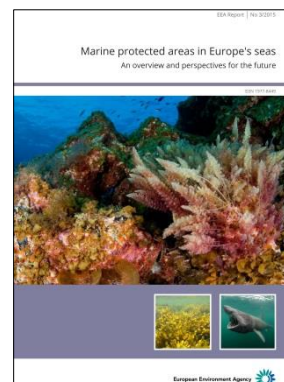
*Roland Bobbink (B-WARE, OB+N) explaining the restoration actions at Nationaal Park Dwingelderveld (photo ECNC)*

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## PUBLICATIONS

Publications from the EEA and the ETC/BD, together with selected publications from ETC/BD partners

### • MARINE PROTECTED AREAS IN EUROPE'S SEAS — AN OVERVIEW AND PERSPECTIVES FOR THE FUTURE



Europe's seas are under pressure. Marine protected areas (MPAs) can act as a key conservation measure to safeguard marine ecosystems and biodiversity as well as the services these ecosystems provide. The report provides an overview



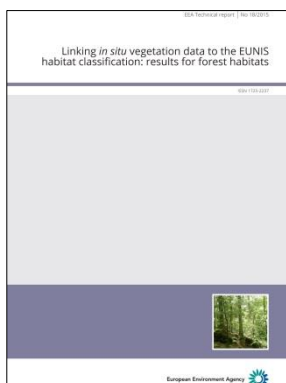
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on progress made to date in establishing MPAs and MPA networks in Europe's seas, specifically MPAs reported by European Union (EU) Member States up to and including 2012. It also discusses how best to assess the effectiveness of these MPAs and determine their effectiveness in protecting biodiversity across Europe's seas.

<http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/marine-protected-areas-in-europes>

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- **LINKING IN SITU VEGETATION DATA TO THE EUNIS HABITAT CLASSIFICATION: RESULTS FOR FOREST HABITATS**



This report describes a review of the forest section of the EUNIS habitat classification and subsequent work on modelling potential distribution. This work made use of data from georeferenced vegetation plots compiled as part of the European Vegetation Survey's [European Vegetation Archive](#). The report can be downloaded from the [EEA website](#).

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- **SPATIAL ANALYSIS OF MARINE PROTECTED AREA NETWORKS IN EUROPE'S SEAS**



This European Environment Agency (EEA) technical report presents an overview of the 2012 spatial distribution of the

networks of marine protected areas (MPAs) established in the waters of EU), excluding overseas territories.

<http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/spatial-analysis-of-marine-protected>.

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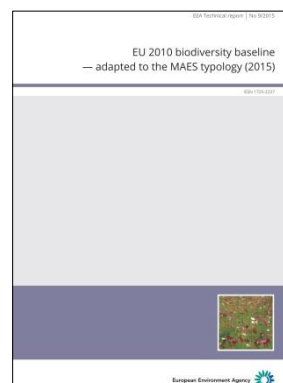
- **EVALUATING 15 YEARS OF TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY INTEGRATION**



The report analyses the evolution of the transport sector (freight and passenger) and its pressures on the environment since 2000, including the impacts of the economic recession in 2008. It makes use of the latest available data in order to assess key trends, measures and overall progress in meeting policy targets. It concludes that a fundamental decarbonisation of the transport sector will require not just technological solutions but also policies that stimulate significant behavioural changes, including the correct pricing of transport externalities and planning approaches that stimulate the use of sustainable modes of transport. The ETC/BD contributed to the sections dealing with biodiversity.

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- **EU 2010 BIODIVERSITY BASELINE — ADAPTED TO THE MAES TYPOLOGY (2015)**





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This report presents a revised overview of the EEA's EU 2010 biodiversity baseline report. The revised report provides the relevant facts and figures on the state and trends of the different biodiversity and ecosystem components recalculated to align with the [MAES typology of ecosystems](#).

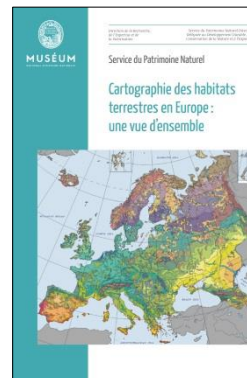
<http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/eu-2010-biodiversity-baseline-revision>

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- **RÉSULTATS DE L'ÉTAT DE CONSERVATION DES HABITATS ET DES ESPÈCES DANS LE CADRE DE LA DIRECTIVE HABITATS-FAUNE-FLORE EN FRANCE**



The Service du patrimoine naturel (a part of the MNHN) has published an overview of the results from Article 17 reporting in France.



[Cartographie des habitats terrestres en Europe: une vue d'ensemble](#) is a French edition of the joint MNHN and EEA report on mapping of terrestrial habitats, previously published in English as [EEA Technical Report N° 1/2014](#).

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- **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, see the [ETC/BD Technical papers and Working papers](#) section on our website.

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](mailto:evans@mnhn.fr)).

Visit our website at <http://bd.eionet.europa.eu/>