



NEWSLETTER

December 2018



The current European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity (ETC/BD) is a partnership of twelve organisations led by the Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle (MNHN) under a contract with the European Environment Agency (EEA) which runs until 31 December 2018. Following a call for proposals from the EEA, a new consortium, also led by the MNHN, will be the ETC/BD from January 2019 until the end of 2021. This new consortium will include all the existing partners, except the Istituto Superiore per la Protezione e la Ricerca Ambientale (ISPRA) and the Swiss Biodiversity Forum, and will include a new partner, the Universidad Rey Juan Carlos de Madrid.

Dominique Richard who has been ETC/BD manager since 2009 and part of the core team since 1995 will retire in March 2019. The MNHN is currently recruiting her successor.

Nature Directives

Natura 2000

The updated list of Natura 2000 sites proposed (Sites of Community Interest – SCIs) and designated (Special Areas of Conservation SACs) under the Habitats Directive per biogeographical region, compiled by ETC/BD, was approved by the Habitats Committee on 29 November 2018. As compared to 2017, there has been a 9.6 % increase in surface area of SCIs/SACs, including 26,9% increase in the marine surface area, with important contributions from France, Portugal and Greece.

Information on sites can be found using the [Natura 2000 Network Viewer](#).

Biogeographical seminars

Three biogeographical seminars focused on Natura 2000 site management were organised this autumn, with active ETC/BD contribution, including the preparation of [background documents](#):

- for the Macaronesian seminar, held on 24-27 September 2018 Funchal, Madeira, Portugal
- for the Continental, Pannonian, Steppic and Black Sea regions seminar held on 16-18 October 2018 in Strasbourg, France
- for the Marine seminar involving the five marine regions, held on 13-15 November 2018, Palma de Mallorca, Spain.

Further information is available from the [Natura 2000 Communication Platform](#).

Habitat Action Plans

Action 7 of the EU's '[Action Plan for nature, people and the economy](#)' includes the preparation of two Habitat Action Plans and the European Commission has signed a contract with a consortium ([Institute for European Environmental Policy](#), N2K Group and ETC/BD partner [Ecologic](#)) for technical support. A workshop to discuss a draft of the first plan, for '6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia)' was held in Brussels on the 27 November. It is planned to present the plan to the spring 2019 meeting



of the Expert Group on the Birds and Habitats Directive (NADEG) meeting.

The 2nd habitat action plan will be for '4030 Dry heaths' with a first draft in March 2019 and a workshop in April. It is planned to present the 2nd plan to the autumn NADEG 2019 meeting.

Emerald and Bern Convention



Training workshops

As partners of the ETC/BD consortium, partly with funding from the [ENI SEIS II East](#) project, [MNHN](#), [ILE-SAS](#) and [Space4Environment](#) supported the preparation and organisation of two events held at the Council of Europe's Paris office:

- [Second training workshop on reporting](#) on Bern Convention Resolution 4 habitats and Resolution 6 species, held on 8th November, attended by representatives of the 6 Eastern and European countries involved in the ENI SEIS II East project but also of 4 other Contracting Parties to the Bern Convention
- Second training workshop on the development of an indicator on protected areas, only involving representatives of the six ENI East countries.

Reports prepared by the countries before each of these workshops were discussed and recommendations for further work were provided by ETC/BD partner organisations.

Standing Committee of the Bern Convention

During the 27-30 November meeting of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention,

88 additional Emerald sites were formally adopted (52 from Moldavia and 36 from Georgia) and 9 Candidate sites were proposed by Moldavia. These new designations are largely a result of the sufficiency assessment work performed during the Emerald biogeographical seminars held respectively in Tbilisi in November 2017 and in Kiev in May 2018, with support from ETC/BD partners.

In preparation for the Standing Committee meeting, the Group of Experts on Protected Areas had discussed, during its October meeting, advice provided by ETC/BD on 4 habitats proposed by Ukraine for addition to Resolution 4 of the Bern Convention. The Standing Committee accepted two of the new proposals, plus two earlier proposals from Switzerland. The additional habitats are:

- *C3.2 Water fringing reedbeds and tall helophytes other than canes*
- *G1.41 Alnus Swamp Woods not on acid peat*
- *G3.4G Pinus sylvestris forest on chalk in the steppe zone*
- *X36 Depressions (pody) of the Steppe zone*

Further information about the Bern Convention and Emerald can be found on the [network's website](#), particularly on the Emerald Reference portals for [site designation](#) and for [reporting](#).

SEBI indicators

The SEBI001 indicator related to the [Abundance and distribution of selected species](#) has been updated mid-September based on new information from the [European Bird Census Council](#). Between 1990 and 2015, the common bird index decreased by 8 % in the 26 EU Member States that have bird population monitoring schemes. This decrease is slightly greater (9 %) if figures for Norway and Switzerland are included. Grassland butterflies also showed a significant rate of decline in the 19 European countries where butterfly population monitoring schemes exist, at 34 % (EU) and 32 % (all countries).



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

In support to EEA, DG ENV and JRC, ETC/BD is contributing to the preparation of the MAES Ecosystem assessment, following a scoping paper 'Shaping an EU wide ecosystem assessment' presented during the last MAES WG meeting in September. Next year will be dedicated to the development of thematic assessments for each ecosystem based on indicators selected in the 5th MAES report. Narratives will be presented on key policy issues such as pollination, soil, wetlands and floodplains, invasive alien species, Natura 2000, Green Infrastructure and restoration.

EUNIS habitats classification

An EIONET based consultation was held in August and September on a proposed revision of the EUNIS habitats classification, largely based on work undertaken for the Red List of European Habitats, of *coastal, mires, inland sparsely or unvegetated habitats, cultivated and other man-made habitats*. Following the consultation, a revision of these sections has been delivered to the EEA and it is expected to be published in 2019.

A revised classification of marine habitats was delivered to the EEA in December while some changes have been made to the classification of *forests, scrublands* and *grasslands* following work by contractors (led by Wageningen University) to produce lists of indicator species and distribution maps using the [European Vegetation Archive](#).

A draft revision of the *freshwater habitats* which aligns the EUNIS classification with the Broad Types developed under the Water Framework Directive has been produced and will be subject to an EIONET based consultation early in 2019.

Invasive Alien Species - IAS

The 1st meeting of the Invasive Alien Species Expert Group (IASSEG) was held on 14th November in Brussels. The objective of IASEG is to discuss issues related to the implementation of Regulation (EU) 1143/2014 on invasive alien species beyond the implementing acts. This meeting focussed on the preparation of reporting under Article 24 of the Regulation, which is due in April-June 2019. The ETC/BD is member of this group and informed during this meeting on the reporting procedures. Back to back with this meeting, the ETC/BD also attended the coordination meeting with EEA, JRC and EC to discuss questions related to the delivery of Inspire conforming distribution data.

The list of IAS of Union concern and other relevant material is available at http://cdr.eionet.europa.eu/help/ias_regulation

News from our partners

MNHN



Dominique Richard will retire in March 2019 after being director of the ETC/BD since 2009.

After a PhD on the forests of central Nepal, Dominique worked for the nature conservation section of the 'Direction départementale de l'Agriculture de l'Isère' in the French Alps and in 1983 became coordinator for the Alpine section of the inventory of [Zones naturelles d'intérêt écologique, faunistique et floristique](#) (ZNIEFF, areas of ecological, faunistic & floristic natural interest) before moving to the



MNHN in Paris in 1990 to become the national coordinator of this programme. While in Paris she took part in working groups held by the European Commission to help implement the then new Habitats Directive. In 1994 she led the successful bid from the MNHN to become the European Topic Centre on Nature Conservation as part of the newly established European Environment Agency. The ETC/BD began in 1995 with Dominique as deputy director.

Her contributions to nature conservation have been recognised by the award of l'Ordre national du Mérite in 2006 and the Prix Binding in 2015 (see [ETC/BD newsletter for December 2015](#)).

Although Dominique retires from the ETC/BD she will continue to sit on the French '[Comité national de la biodiversité](#)' (National Biodiversity Committee).

Balint Czúcz, who has been our 'Ecosystem assessment officer' since 2016, will leave the ETC/BD core team at the end of 2018 to take up a post at the [Joint Research Centre](#) in Italy.

Publications

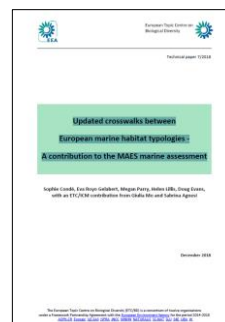
The following selected publications are from the EEA, ETC/BD and its partner organisations.

Marine Protected Areas



The EEA has published a briefing on marine protected areas - [EEA Briefing No 13/2018](#).

Updated crosswalks between European marine habitat typologies - A contribution to the MAES marine assessment



This report updates the 2014 report on crosswalks between marine habitat/ecosystem typologies to take into account revisions to the EUNIS habitats classification and the list of predominant habitat types listed by the MSFD. See: https://bd.eionet.europa.eu/Reports/ETCBDTEchnicalWorkingpapers/Crosswalks_EU_marine_hab_typologies

Managing the Natura 2000 network: between Europeanization and societal engagement



This thesis by Irene Bouwma at Wageningen University reviews how different Member States have arranged the management of these sites and how people who own, use or live near these sites – or the organisations representing those people – have influenced the management of the sites.

<http://library.wur.nl/WebQuery/wda/2247049>



What can Natura 2000 teach us?



Doug Evans (MNHN) contributed to a paper about to be published in [Bioscience](#) examining how experience in implementing the Natura 2000 network in Europe could help elsewhere.

Half Earth or Whole Earth: What Can Natura 2000 Teach Us? Campagnaro, Sitzia, Bridgewater, Evans & Ellis (2018) *Bioscience*

Ecosystem services

Balint Czúcz (MNHN) has contributed to several recent papers on ecosystem services including

Czúcz B, Arany I, Potschin-Young M, Bereczki K, Kertész M, Kiss M, Aszalós R, Haines-Young

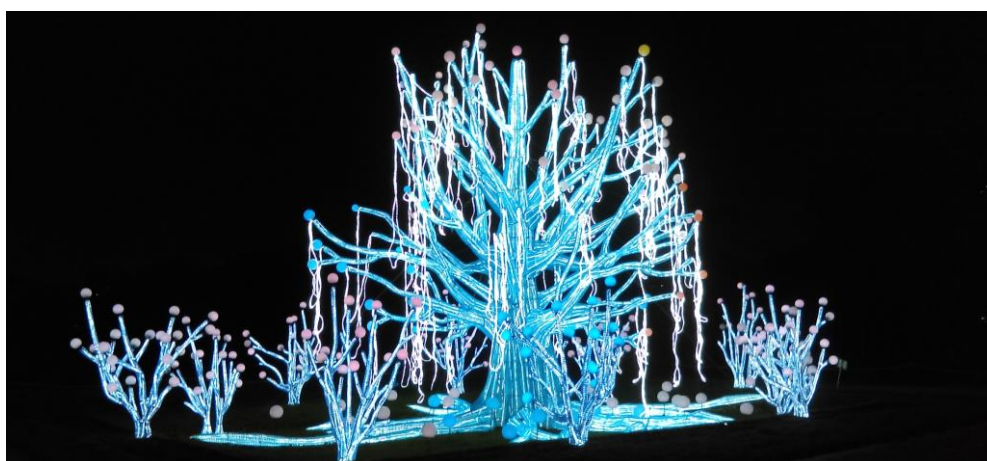
R (2018): Where concepts meet the real world: A systematic review of ecosystem service indicators and their classification using CICES. *Ecosystem Services* 29: 145-157.

Potschin-Young, M., Burkhard, B., Czúcz, B., & Santos-Martín, F. (2018). Glossary of ecosystem services mapping and assessment terminology. *One Ecosystem*, 3, e27110.

van Oudenhoven, A. P. E., Schröter, M., Drakou, E. G., Geijzendorffer, I. R., Jacobs, S., van Bodegom, P. M., ..., Czúcz, B., ..., Albert, C. (2018). Key criteria for developing ecosystem service indicators to inform decision making. *Ecological Indicators*, 95, 417–426.

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.



Part of the '[Espèces en voie d'illumination](#)' exhibition in the Jardin des Plantes, MNHN.

The [European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity](#) is a consortium of 12 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.