

EMAS - Newsletter

The European
Eco-Management
and Audit Scheme
Improving your environmental
and business performance
<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/emas>

EMAS and biodiversity

In the spotlight

Integrating biodiversity concerns into environmental management

Biodiversity, defined as the variety of life, is disappearing at an unprecedented rate, and the consequences of this continuous loss are considered as dramatic as the consequences of climate change – not only from an ecological standpoint, but also from an economic one.



considerations into the entire EMAS implementation cycle. For example, it is necessary to assess the risks and opportunities stemming from your organisation's positive and negative impacts on biodiversity, as well as your dependency on ecosystem services. Based on your assessment results, biodiversity-related policies, programmes, and objectives need to be formulated. Subsequently, concrete measures to achieve the set objectives need to be launched, and your environmental management system will need to be adjusted (e.g. biodiversity education/training for employees). Suitable indicators are to be selected to monitor and communicate your performance improvements. The environmental core indicator on land consumption (and the other five core indicators) introduced with EMAS III is a good starting point. However, biodiversity is a complex issue, and organisations are encouraged to develop additional indicators to measure, benchmark, and continuously improve their environmental performance.

Most companies and other organisations have a two-way relationship with biodiversity. On the one hand, their activities have an impact on biodiversity and ecosystems, such as mining or oil companies, as well as banks or local authorities. This impact can be of a direct nature through core industry operations or indirect through supply chain activities or investment and administrative decisions. On the other hand, many organisations, including those in the food production or tourism sectors, depend on ecosystem services like fresh water or fisheries as key inputs to production processes or offered products and services.

Improving your organisation's biodiversity performance requires integration of relevant

Editorial



Mr. Janez Potočnik
Commissioner for Environment

Dear EMAS Community,

Although the United Nations International Year of Biodiversity 2010 came to an end, the challenge of understanding and managing the impact of biodiversity on the bottom lines of companies and other organisations has just begun.

According to the "European Business and Biodiversity Campaign", around 40 per cent of the world economy relies on biological products, services or processes. Undoubtedly, companies and other organisations have much to gain from protecting biodiversity.

However, biodiversity management can be a complex issue. EMAS is perfectly equipped to help organisations approach biodiversity protection in a strategic and systematic manner. In this Newsletter we provide you with information on the links between nature and the economy, as well as discussions about the ways in which biodiversity protection can be achieved by both private and public organisations.

Enjoy the reading!

The EMAS Team, European Commission, Environment Directorate General – Unit C1 – Environment & Industry

Case Study

The Polish municipality of Trzebinia

The Polish municipality of Trzebinia with its approximately 34,000 inhabitants is located in the Silesian-Cracovian Plateau. The region is characterised by its sensitive habitats and diverse wildlife. One of the objectives of the Town Council of Trzebinia, which employs 169 people, is to protect nature.

EMAS is one of the main instruments used to achieve this objective. The Town Council's Department of Waste Management, Environmental Protection, Agriculture and Forestry is the first local authority in Poland to be EMAS registered (reg. no.: PL-2.12-001-9). The scheme helps the local authority, which fulfils many responsibilities including road maintenance or development of new infrastructure, to approach both direct and indirect significant environmental aspects.

Significant direct environmental aspects related to the protection of nature which the Department has identified include the organisation's energy and water consumption. For example, through

simple and straightforward activities such as switching-off electronic equipment when not in use or controlling the use of water through employee educational activities, the Department achieved an 11 per cent reduction in energy consumption and a 35 per cent reduction in water consumption between 2007 and 2009 (baseline year 2006) in its office.

Although local authorities need to consider direct environmental aspects they play a crucial role in protecting biodiversity mainly through their administrative and planning decisions. Biodiversity protection can be successful only when it is taken into account in infrastructure development and other kinds of projects. For example, the Town Council of Trzebinia considers how to protect nature when developing spatial plans and other planning procedures. Spatial plans influence decisions about development and land use which may affect habitats and wildlife. In order to be able to embed biodiversity considerations into administrative

and planning decisions, employees in the Department are regularly educated about important environmental matters relating to biodiversity.

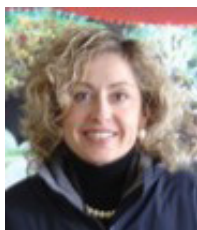
Education is also used to increase public knowledge and understanding of nature protection. For example, the Department educates citizens and visitors about the importance of protecting habitats and wildlife. This may be achieved through environmental education activities in schools or through the dissemination of information about local nature reserves and wildlife in the environmental statement and other relevant publications.

Further information is available at <http://www.trzebinia.pl>



Faces of EMAS - Interview with an environmental manager Ms. Rosalba Rizza, Consortium Plemmirio (Italy)

The Marine Protected Area of Plemmirio is a popular tourist destination in Italy, which covers an area of approx. 2,500 square meters of the sea on the beautiful eastern coast of Sicily near the city of Syracuse. Protecting and enhancing the region's precious and vulnerable biodiversity, particularly the species-rich coastal wetlands, while promoting tourism is one of the core challenges the Consortium Plemmirio faces. The EMAS registered public organisation (reg. no.: IT-001135), which has been established by the Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea, is the managing body of the Marine Protected Area. We spoke with Ms. Rosalba Rizza, the environmental manager of Consortium Plemmirio, about the organisation's approach to biodiversity.



Rosalba Rizza: With EMAS we can make sure that being a popular tourist destination while protecting the marine environment is not a contradiction. In fact, EMAS helps us achieve our objective of becoming a leader in providing sustainable tourism. For example, through the scheme we are able to integrate environmental concerns into planning decisions and development plans systematically. Additionally, we are able to communicate our achievements as well as our mission through the environmental statement to our employees, the local community and tourists.

What are your main environmental improvements with regard to biodiversity?

The Consortium Plemmirio constantly aims to prevent waste and water pollution. This is achieved inter alia by launching environmental education programmes in schools and for tourists. Additionally, local fishermen are informed about sustainable fishing methods. We have also set up measures to respond to accidental spills at sea. By doing so, over the

years the area has seen an increase in fish stocks and in the diversity of flora and fauna.

Which indicators do you use to measure your performance with regard biodiversity?

In addition to the EMAS environmental core indicator on biodiversity (land use) we have introduced several specific indicators. For example, we measure if the amount of certain fish populations have increased or decreased. We also focus on species diversity by measuring their presence, abundance and distribution (based on the Shannon Index; index of species diversity).

Further information on the marine reserve is available at <http://www.plemmirio.it> and <http://www.consorzioplemmirio.it>





Good practice

European Business and Biodiversity campaign

In contrast to climate change, biodiversity has failed to take root as an important topic in the business community—until now. The “European Business and Biodiversity Campaign” aims to make the business case for biodiversity by raising awareness about the links between biodiversity and businesses and by assisting companies in the assessment of risks and opportunities related to biodiversity. The campaign focuses on large companies and small and medium-sized enterprises in Europe, as well as business intermediaries like non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and associations. Led by the Global Nature Fund, the three-year campaign was initiated in 2010 by several European NGOs and companies. It is supported by the European Union’s LIFE+ Programme.

The campaign rests upon a range of different activities. Sector-specific workshops on biodiversity management are organised for decision-makers in the private sector, and workshops are offered for environmental auditors. Furthermore, the campaign website

provides in-depth information on the key elements of biodiversity management and case studies on business’ biodiversity approaches.



The central element of the campaign is a “Biodiversity Check” available for companies. The approach follows the “Plan-Do-Check-Act Cycle” of EMAS. All departments and all functions of a company are analysed in order to fully assess its relationship to biodiversity. These assessments not only take into account impacts on biodiversity, but also address a company’s risks and opportunities related to biodiversity. The results of the analysis, as well

as recommendations for indicators from an expert team, serve as the foundation for further decision-making and the inclusion of biodiversity into a company’s (environmental) management system. The “Biodiversity Check” is tailored to specific industries and applies sector-specific key data and indicators to evaluate direct (e.g. maintenance of premises, cultivation of plants needed for the production) and indirect (e.g. procurement, sourcing of raw materials) impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem services. Other, previously overlooked but equally important environmental aspects of biodiversity management (such as invasive species, communication on biodiversity protection, or “Access and Benefit Sharing” as outlined in the Convention on Biological Diversity) are also integrated in the “Biodiversity Check”.

Further information on the campaign is available at <http://www.business-biodiversity.eu>

Portrait

TEEB study

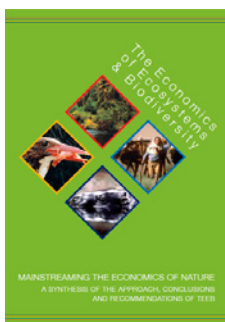
Following the example of the Stern report, which examined the impact of climate change on the economy, “The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity” (TEEB) study highlights the economic value of biodiversity. The TEEB study was conducted by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) with financial support from the European Commission, Germany, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, and Japan.

The study’s key message is the urgent need for action on biodiversity loss – both from an ecological and an economic standpoint. For example, halving deforestation rates by 2030 would significantly reduce global emissions of greenhouse gases, thereby avoiding damages from climate change estimated at more than US\$ 3.7 trillion in net present value terms.

The TEEB study is a series of reports aimed at

different audiences, including businesses, policy makers, and local governments. The study emphasises the important role that private and public organisations play in protecting biodiversity. Work on the TEEB study began in 2007 and was finalised with the publication of the [final TEEB report](#), which was presented at the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in October 2010 in Nagoya, Japan.

Further information is available at <http://www.teebweb.org>



Tools

EMAS leaflet

An updated version of the EMAS leaflet is now available online! The leaflet provides a quick insight into the scheme. It includes benefits for participating organisations and detailed instructions on the steps to registration. It is currently only available in English. Within the next few months, the leaflet will be made available in all 23 EU languages.

Visit the EMAS website to download or print a copy at <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/emas>





EMAS website

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/emas>

EMAS in figures

In March 2011, the number of EMAS registered organisations has grown by 4.06% compared to March 2010 and the proportion of SMEs in the scheme has reached 80.84%.

+4.06%

EMAS
Organisations

+80.84%

SMEs

Registered organisations and sites

Austria.....	261	645
Belgium.....	49	428
Bulgaria.....	0	0
Cyprus.....	5	5
Czech Republic.....	25	70
Denmark.....	92	248
Estonia.....	3	5
Finland.....	24	27
France.....	20	20
Germany.....	1366	1866
Greece.....	72	814
Hungary.....	20	23
Ireland.....	6	14
Italy.....	1103	1588
Latvia.....	5	7
Lithuania.....	0	0
Luxembourg.....	1	2
Malta.....	1	1
Netherlands.....	7	7
Norway.....	22	23
Poland.....	20	27
Portugal.....	76	92
Romania.....	4	6
Slovak Republic.....	5	6
Slovenia.....	3	7
Spain.....	1217	1527
Sweden.....	75	76
United Kingdom.....	56	286

Total 4,538 7,820

Leading industrial sectors:

Sectors	Registrations
• Waste and disposal.....	433
• Fabricated metal products, except machinery and equipment.....	244
• Electricity, gas.....	234
• Chemicals.....	225
• Manufacture of food products.....	132

Leading service sectors:

Sectors	Registrations
• Public administration.....	447
• Accommodation.....	250
• Activities of membership organizations.....	187
• Education.....	183
• Architectural and engineering activities.....	124

News

Catalan EMAS registered organisations share their environmental management experience with enterprises in Greece

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are the backbone of the Spanish and Greek economies. They constitute the majority of all enterprises and provide many jobs. However, collectively they also have significant negative impacts



on the environment through their production processes, products, and services. Hence, in order to effectively protect the environment, it is vital that these countries' SMEs approach environmental management. However, barriers to engaging SMEs in such practices include a lack of knowledge and experience on the part of SMEs about how to approach environmental management in a strategic and systematic way.

The European professional training project "Green Business Practices: transform small and medium enterprise into green enterprises" aims to overcome these barriers. The project is organised by the Evia Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Greece and the private European mobility organisation "Moveu" within the Leonardo da Vinci Programme of the European Commission. In the framework of the project, the Catalonian Club EMAS and some of its member companies hosted a delegation of representatives from 15 Greek SMEs from various sectors, including construction, publishing, wine, engineering, and food processing. The objective of the initiative, which took place between November 2010 and early 2011, was to share knowledge and practical advice with participating companies on how to systematically approach environmental management.

In three training sessions, the Greek SMEs received in-depth information on aspects of environmental management in general and EMAS in particular. EMAS experts from Club EMAS and Club EMAS member companies shared their knowledge on ways to significantly increase resource efficiency and to engage in constructive stakeholder dialogues with regulatory authorities and other stakeholders. Additionally, the Greek SMEs visited several Club EMAS member companies to gain practical insights into successful implementation of EMAS into companies in different sectors and of varying sizes.

The Catalonian Club EMAS is confident that initiatives focusing on face-to-face interactions between experienced EMAS practitioners and companies interested in strategic and systematic environmental management help motivate more European business people to join EMAS.

Further information on the project is available at <http://www.moveu.es/>

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<http://ec.europa.com/environment/emas>

For comments or further information, please send an email to the EMAS Helpdesk at emas@biois.com or write to the following address:

EMAS Helpdesk

c/o BIO Intelligence Service - 20-22 Villa Deshayes - 75014 Paris - France

Telephone: +33 1 53 90 11 75

Upcoming events

27 April 2011

El Prat de Llobregat, Spain

Benchmarking conference on green procurement.

Organised by Club EMAS. The conference will consist of practical workshops to advise environmental managers and procurers on more sustainable purchasing practices.

<http://www.clubemas.cat/en/>

18-19 May 2011

Brussels, Belgium

European Business Summit - "Europe in the world: leading or lagging?"

The event will discuss challenges such as environmental sustainability and globalisation and their impact on European businesses.

<http://www.ebsummit.eu/>

24-25 May 2011

Gödöllő, Hungary

Small Business Act Conference

The event presents local and regional solutions to the key challenges facing small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and workshops where "best practice" examples on (inter alia) improving the business environment or supporting the internationalisation of business are presented.

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/sme/best-practices/charter/2011-sba-conference-budapest/index_en.htm

24-27 May 2011

Brussels, Belgium and around Europe

Green Week

The Green Week is the biggest annual conference on European environment policy. The theme of this year's edition is: "Resource Efficiency - Using less, living better".

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/greenweek/>

15-16 June 2010

Brussels, Belgium

EMAS Competent Body and Regulatory Committee Meeting

27 June - 1 July 2011

Edinburgh, United Kingdom

INSPIRE Conference 2011 - 'INSPIRED by 2020'

The theme of this year's edition is "INSPIRED by 2020 - Contributing to smart, sustainable and inclusive growth".

http://inspire.jrc.ec.europa.eu/events/conferences/inspire_2011/