May 2016

WORKING TOGETHER IN NATURA 2000

This bimonthly newsletter provides an overview of progress in the Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process. It contains relevant Natura 2000 developments within each of the biogeographical regions, funding information, the latest news, forthcoming networking events and links to other useful resources.

On behalf of the EC, ECNC leads the consortium of partners appointed to support the development and implementation of the Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process. (See last page for contact details.)

ABOUT THE NATURA 2000 BIOGEOGRAPHICAL PROCESS

The Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process assists Member States and key stakeholders to manage Natura 2000 as a coherent ecological network. Read more about it »

BIOGEOGRAPHICAL REGION UPDATES

Items marked with an asterisk (*) are part of the Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process. All other items are included for information, but they are coordinated by external parties.

ALPINE

* Forest management and Natura 2000 in the Alpine and Continental biogeographical regions: bridging research and practice
21–23 June 2016, Padova, Italy
The workshop will address the challenges of combining forest management and Natura 2000 objectives in Alpine forest habitats. It will do so by bringing together the latest advances in forest ecology (researchers and scientists) and practice (landowners, foresters, conservationists). A particular focus will be given to forest management in Natura 2000, the integration of conservation objectives in current forest management
and planning, the European Union legal boundaries for habitat management, and the monitoring and assessment of reference values and conservation status.

**ATLANTIC**

* LIFE platform meeting on restoration of sand dune habitats
15–17 June 2016, Zandvoort, the Netherlands

The *State of Nature in the EU* report highlights the critical status of dune habitats across all biogeographical regions. The LIFE platform will, for the first time, bring together projects focusing on the restoration of coastal and inland dune habitats as part of the Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process. The meeting is an opportunity for review and to consider the challenges ahead for habitat and species conservation at national, biogeographical and EU level.Whilst specific focus is given to the Atlantic and Boreal regions, experience from other regions is included.

For registration and more information, including offers of presentations, please contact John Houston.

* Management of Natura 2000 sites in Estuaries and Sea Ports
15–16 September 2016, Hamburg, Germany

Stiftung Lebensraum Elbe will organise a two-day event in cooperation with the Behörde für Umwelt und Energie. The organisers expect to welcome attendees involved with or interested in any topic related to estuaries management such as port authorities, water management bodies, coast management bodies, environmental organisations, local/regional governments, etc. Any organisation with ideas, problems and solutions regarding estuaries management will be welcome.

**BOREAL**

* Boreal seminar follow-up ‘Restoration of fens mire habitats in Estonia – field trip’
14–16 June 2016, Tallinn, Estonia (departure)

The Estonian Ministry of the Environment, Environmental Board and LIFE SPRINGDAY (LIFE12 NAT/EE/000860) project invite you to Boreal seminar follow-up: ‘Restoration of fens mire habitats in Estonia – field trip’.

The organisers will cover the seminar costs, including transportation costs in Estonia, accommodation in Kipi-Koovi, and meals during the seminar. Accommodation will be based on shared rooms. The participants are requested to bear their own transportation costs to Tallinn and back, and accommodation in Tallinn.

**MACARONESIAN**

* Macaronesian Kick-off Seminar
November 2016 (tbc), Funchal, Madeira, Portugal

Spain and Portugal are preparing a first Seminar for the Macaronesian Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process to take place in the second half of 2016 (date to be confirmed). This seminar will be the kick-off meeting for the Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process in
this region, involving Spain and Portugal and focusing on the coherent management of
the Natura 2000 network (including its marine components) in the Macaronesian region.
The process will include work towards further improving common understanding of
habitats definitions and favourable reference values for conservation status assessment,
as well as work on methodologies for conservation status assessment. Finally, the
process should also help to identify common conservation issues and management
opportunities to improve the conservation status of the Macaronesian habitats and
species of Community interest.

**MEDITERRANEAN**

* Workshop on Mediterranean forest management and Natura 2000
  9–11 May 2016, Parc naturel régional du Luberon, France
  Forty experts (researchers, private and public forest owners, foresters and nature policy
  officers) from five countries (France, Greece, Italy, Portugal, Spain) participated in this
two-day workshop. The workshop was a follow-up event of the Mediterranean
Biogeographical Kick-off Seminar (held in Thessaloniki, Greece, in May 2014) and
enabled more concrete exchanges on management actions in favour of biodiversity in
managed forests. The workshop addressed current issues in Mediterranean forest
management, focusing in particular on integrated management approaches, benefiting
both forestry and nature conservation. It presented examples of approaches, shared
results, and discussed strategies and good practices that could contribute to the
conservation and restoration of ecological networks in managed forests.

**CROSS-CUTTING**

* European Workshop on Control and Eradication of Invasive Alien Plant Species
  19–21 April 2016 (including field programme), Budapest, Hungary
  A hundred experts from over 15 countries participated in this Biogeographical Process
  follow-up event and event of the Turjanvidek LIFE project, which focused on invasive
  alien species. During the workshop, management, land users, researchers and plant
  protection experts exchanged views and experience. It was concluded that the
  management of invasive alien species poses a significant challenge for the conservation
  sector and relevant authorities. Sharing knowledge in a cross-border manner is
  extremely important as invasive species represent one of the greatest threats to
  biodiversity and Natura 2000. Joint, intersectoral, and efficient efforts are crucial!
  Presentations and the final recommendations of the event are available here.

More information will be provided as it becomes available.

* Conference: ‘Conciliate operational training with preservation of biodiversity on
  military camps’
  28 June–1 July 2016, Nîmes, France
  The French Ministry of Defence and the Conservatoire d’espaces naturels Rhônes-Alpes
  (an NGO specialised in biodiversity management) are organising an international nature
  conference ‘Conciliate operational training with preservation of biodiversity on military
  camps’. The conference is being organised in the framework of the LIFE Project Nature
Defense 2 Mil. The first day will be a plenary session devoted to national and international issues, and will close with a tour of Nîmes. On day 2, there will be a visit to Garrigues Camp to observe military activities and biodiversity restoration actions. Exchanges based on the experience of the military or NGOs will take place on day 3.

10th European conference on ecological restoration: Best practices in ecological restoration
21–26 August 2016, Freising, Germany
The 10th European conference on ecological restoration will be held at the Department of Ecology and Ecosystem Management, School of Life Sciences Weihenstephan - Technische Universität München. The organisers aim to provide a friendly and exciting atmosphere to stimulate dialogue between restoration scientists, practitioners and policymakers, and to collaborate on the challenge of best practice in restoration. The conference's main topics are:
LAND: Landscape, Land use, Biogeochemical fluxes, Soil formation
LIFE: Ecosystems, Interactions, Species, Genotypes
PEOPLE: Socio-economy, Planning, Law & Politics, Public relations
PRACTICE: Methods, Tools, Monitoring.

The conference will collect reports on practical case studies of ecosystem or population restoration - encouraging the reporting of pitfalls as well as success stories. For registration and more information visit the conference website.

*Bosland 10-year anniversary conference: People and nature in partnership
12–14 October 2016, Lommel, Belgium
Bosland, the largest forest and nature project in Flanders, was launched 10 years ago. A decade down the road we can look back on an impressive list of achievements of inclusive and sustainable forest management and governance. Although the core traditional forestry-related activities (timber, wood and biomass production) have been maintained and enhanced, a wide range of innovative approaches with significant social and scientific benefits have been successfully developed in the past years. Bosland is a true example of successful multifunctional territorial development and integrated forest governance. Bosland’s tenth anniversary is the occasion to share the main achievements of our project with the world. More information will soon be available here.

NETWORKING EVENTS

News of all networking events can be found on the Natura 2000 Platform's Events Calendar - check regularly for details.

NATURA 2000 FUNDING NEWS

A page on funding opportunities for the Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process has been included on the Natura 2000 Platform. Each issue of this newsletter highlights some
recent funding news.

**INTERREG**

The Platform provides a [gateway](#) to the INTERREG funding websites.

**LIFE**

The Commission invites legal persons (entities) registered in the European Union (EU) to present proposals for the [2016 Call for proposals for LIFE Action Grants](#). For the sub-programme for Environment, this call will cover action grants for 'Traditional' projects, Preparatory projects, Integrated projects, Technical Assistance projects. For the sub-programme for Climate Action, this call will cover action grants for 'Traditional projects', Integrated projects, Technical Assistance projects.

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**OTHER NATURA 2000 NEWS**

**Natura 2000 Award winners 2016 announced**

At a ceremony in Brussels on 23 May, Commissioner Vella announced the winners of the 2016 Natura 2000 Awards. The six winners include projects from Bulgaria, Latvia, Spain, and the UK and cross-border projects from Belgium, France, Greece, Bulgaria, Hungary, Finland and Norway.

The annual Natura 2000 Awards recognize conservation achievements across the EU and raise awareness about initiatives that protect nature across Europe, benefiting citizens’ quality of life as well as the economy on which their prosperity depends.

Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Commissioner Karmenu Vella said: ‘I am once again honoured to recognize the fantastic work undertaken by the winners and all of the finalists in preserving our common natural heritage. These initiatives have gone a long way towards ensuring that nature’s benefits keep flowing for many years to come.’

See the list of winners [here](#).

**Green Week 2016 about to start!**

The 2016 edition of Green Week, the biggest annual occasion to debate and discuss European environment policy, will take place from Monday 30 May to Friday 3 June. The theme of this year is 'Investing for a greener future'.

More information on this event can be found [here](#).

**Applications open for Marine turtles monitoring training 2016**
The Bern Convention will support the travel and subsistence of three experts to attend a 10-day training course on 'Monitoring of marine turtle nesting'.

The training will be held in Akamas Peninsula (Cyprus) from 16 to 25 July 2016, and directed by Mr Andreas Demetropoulos and Ms Myroula Hadjichristophorou. The training, which is essentially practical, is aimed at people working with marine turtles in the Convention’s area, in particular in the Mediterranean Sea. It will be conducted in English.

If you are interested, please send an email with a short motivation letter and CV to Mr Eladio Fernández-Galiano before 25 June 2016. Candidates selected will be informed by 30 June. Early application will be appreciated.

**Beyond Wood – The multiple services provided by Europe's forests**

This conference was held on Monday 23 May 2016 at the European Commission, Charlemagne building, Brussels (Belgium). The conference:

- focused on forest ecosystem services and benefits beyond the production of wood;
- was about ensuring balanced approaches, and about preserving and appropriately managing Europe's forest ecosystems and forested landscapes;
- brought together key players working in these fields;
- brought the main challenges to the table, raised awareness, showcased good examples and practical solutions;
- discussed what needs to be done and how EU action can provide support and added value.

For more information visit the [conference website](#).

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**RESOURCES**

Relevant publications and links to tools in support of habitat management continue to be added to the [Natura 2000 Platform](#), including:

**UK report on conserving freshwater and wetland habitats in England**

A new document has been published to encourage more integrated implementation of the Habitats and Birds Directives and the Water Framework Directive, relating strongly to climate change adaptation. The report is based on recognising the common goal of protecting and restoring natural function in freshwater and wetland ecosystems, and highlights the critical importance of the Natura 2000 series of sites in achieving this goal. The report is available from the [Knowledge Library](#).

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*Get involved!*
We really value your news, feedback and inputs! Please share news with us about your Natura 2000 activities, past, present and future. For example, you can tell us about your LIFE, INTERREG or other funded projects, recent Natura 2000 publications and other news by emailing natura2000platform@ecnc.org. Do not hesitate to distribute this newsletter among your colleagues and networks.

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ECNC leads the consortium of partners that support the EC in the development and implementation of the Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process. We work together with CEEweb for Biodiversity, Eurosite, the EUROPARC Federation, the European Landowners’ Organization, ILE-SAS, and Arcadis.

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