



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
 DIRECTORATE-GENERAL ENVIRONMENT
 Directorate B - Nature, Biodiversity & Land Use
 ENV.B.2 - Biodiversity
 ENV.B.3 - Nature

<p>CGBN</p> <p>Co-ordination Group for Biodiversity and Nature</p> <p>14th meeting – 21/03/13</p>		<p>NATURA 2000</p>
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Brussels, 17. 04. 2013
 ENV.B.2-B.3 Ares (2013)

**OPERATIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 14TH MEETING
 OF THE CO-ORDINATION GROUP FOR BIODIVERSITY AND NATURE (CGBN)
 HELD ON 21ST MARCH 2013 (BORSCHETTE CENTRE, BRUSSELS – 10.30 UNTIL 17.30)**

Participants (see attached list)

This operational summary record is to be seen in parallel with the supporting documents prepared by the Commission and posted on the CGBN CIRCABC site prior to the meeting (<https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/6f30d1d2-d6f2-4c6e-a4dc-1feb66201929> - site requesting an ECAS authentication). All presentations made during the meeting can also be found on the CIRCA site.

Chairs: François Wakenhut (Head of Unit ENV.B.2 "Biodiversity") and Stefan Leiner (Head of Unit ENV.B.3 "Nature")

1) Record of Previous Meetings

1.1 Approval of the summary record of the previous CGBN meeting (06/09/2012)

The summary record of the previous meeting was approved.

1.2 Nature Directors meetings – Outcome of the latest meeting under Cypriot Presidency and information on the next meeting under Irish Presidency

Cyprus presented the outcomes of the Nature Directors meeting held in Paphos on 17-18 September 2012. A note outlining the main outcomes of the meeting has been added on the CIRCABC site to the list of background documents for this CGBN meeting.

Ireland introduced the next Nature Directors' Meeting (NDM), which will take place on 2-3 May 2013, in Ireland (Dublin). The Irish Presidency has already sent the agenda and the invitations to the Member States. The Irish Presidency has been in close touch with the Commission in organizing the meeting and co-ordinating the agenda. The first day of the NDM will be open to stakeholders and NGOs, while the second day's discussions will be only for participation of Member States, the Commission and the EEA.

In the first day of its meeting NDM will discuss the following issues:

- (a) The Irish Presidency and the Commission will present the latest developments concerning the MFF and biodiversity/Natura 2000 financing (including EARDF, ERDF, EMFF, LIFE). The European Habitats Forum will present the views of the NGOs on financing under CAP and EARDF.
- (b) The Commission, Denmark and Estonia will present the latest state of play of PAFs preparations and submissions. This point will be followed by another one discussing Article 17 reporting.
- (c) The Commission's Joint Research Centre will make a presentation on MAES. Discussion on defining research needs for implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 will be covered by the following agenda point and the Irish Presidency will present the outcomes from the ALTERNET conference. Afterwards the Netherlands will make a presentation on TEEB-studies.
- (d) The Commission will introduce the latest developments regarding Green Infrastructure and the Large Carnivore initiative.
- (e) Other agenda items include a case study on restriction of turf cutting in Ireland and Land users' perspective; and Spain will introduce the forthcoming World Wilderness Congress (WILD10), taking place in Salamanca, early October.

The NDM closed session on 3 May 2013 will continue discussing the funding of biodiversity and nature. Other agenda items include discussions on the implementation progress of Targets 1, 2 and 5 of the Biodiversity Strategy including work of IMPEL, the application of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive in the context of implementing energy infrastructure projects, and the latest rulings of the ECJ.

2) Implementation of Target 1 of the EU biodiversity strategy to 2020

2.1 General progress report (see also PPT presentation)

The Commission gave a general description of the progress made since the last CGBN meeting on the 4 Actions and the sub-actions included under target 1 of the EU Biodiversity Strategy. The following questions were raised or points were made during the following discussion:

- **Biogeographical seminars:** Answering questions related to the provision of technical support during next seminar meetings, the Commission pointed out that a contract for the operation of a communication platform and follow up activities is planned. Issues of agenda length were also flagged by Member States, as well as the need to focus on grassland restoration in the Atlantic, two concerns that were acknowledged by the Commission, alongside with the need to optimise resources.
- **Sectoral guidance documents:** Several Member States requested access to drafts of the forthcoming guidance documents on Natura 2000 and energy infrastructure and on Streamlining environmental assessment procedures for Projects of Common Interest (PCIs) for Energy infrastructure. This latter guidance is required by Art. 8 of the new Regulation for Trans-European Energy Infrastructure (TEN-E Guidelines). The Commission will circulate the draft guidance on Natura 2000 and energy infrastructure document in April/May. The document on streamlining permitting procedures is under development (DG ENER and DG ENV co-leading on this matter). Meetings are planned with representatives of Member states and stakeholders in the coming months. The CGBN members will be informed about further steps on this topic.
- **Action plan on sea birds:** More information has been asked for in relation to the Seabirds By-Catch Action Plan. The Commission pointed out that the document was presented to Member States

at the last meeting of the ORNIS committee and is publicly available (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2012:0665:FIN:EN:PDF>). The Commission will also inform the CGBN about planned follow-up activities. *N.B.: the Commission can inform CGBN that a workshop organised by DG MARE is planned on 16 May in Brussels to discuss with Member States and stakeholders the follow up to the Action Plan. Furthermore, it is intended to bring the matter to the Council in May. The CGBN will be kept informed.*

- **New scoreboard on SAC designation:** Reacting to stakeholders' concerns about the delay in the completion of the new scoreboard, ETC remarked that the methodology initially envisaged was deemed too complex and that new discussions are now ongoing. As regards the methodology for measuring progress towards target 1 of the biodiversity strategy, it was stressed that degraded ecosystems should be deducted from calculations of progress, as the target reads '*show an improved conservation status*'.

- **Article 17 reports:** The Commission confirmed that a peer review process for Art. 17 reports will be open to stakeholders, as was the case during past reporting cycles.

The Council of Europe informed the CGBN about ongoing activities under the Bern convention and CMS with close links to EU activities under target 1. In particular it invited Member States to contribute to the forthcoming 2nd conference on combatting illegal killing and trapping of bird by answering the relevant questionnaire to be sent to them for that purpose.

2.2 Large Carnivores - (DOC.2-2) – Outcomes of the stakeholder workshop on EU action on large carnivores of 25th January 2013 and planned follow-up measures

The actions initiated by DG ENV in 2013 were briefly described. The stakeholder workshop was well received by the participants who welcomed the fact that they could present their position concerning large carnivores and encouraged the Commission to carry on with the dialogue. The call for tender for a new service contract was briefly described: it was pointed out that DG ENV would ask some Member States about the possibility for carrying out pilot actions on stakeholder dialogue on conflict-resolution at the population level (selection dependent on contractor's bid). Several Member States welcomed the initiative.

3) Implementation of Target 2 of the EU biodiversity strategy to 2020 (DOC.3-1 and PPT presentation)

The Commission presented progress on implementation of Target 2 of the Biodiversity Strategy, with particular focus on the latest developments on MAES and the Restoration Prioritisation Framework (RPF), whilst also providing an outline of the forthcoming communication on Green Infrastructure (GI). A number of issues were highlighted for feedback from CGBN members.

Member States welcomed overall progress made on Target 2 actions. On MAES, the need for practical results and the potential contribution to IPBES were highlighted. Links and synergies across actions needed to be developed further, and there was a need for common definitions across Working Groups. CGBN members highlighted the relevance of MAES for GI, but also for other actions within Target 2, including RPF, and also for Target 1, the wider biodiversity strategy, and the scope for influencing other sectoral policies such as Agriculture. The Commission confirmed the ongoing strengthened process to develop synergies across Target 2 actions and Working Group meetings, including through back to back meetings, shared work spaces, update of respective developments in each WG, and sharing of definitions and methodologies across Working Groups. The relevance of MAES beyond the Biodiversity Strategy was exemplified through DG REGIO's own work on mapping and assessing ecosystems and their services. The Commission also

confirmed the need to obtain practical results and welcomed Member States' and stakeholders' involvement in the MAES pilots.

Regarding green infrastructure, CGBN members highlighted the relevance of a timely adoption in the context of the resource efficiency roadmap. The importance of an adequate balance between restoration and maintenance was also highlighted, following a note prepared by Sweden for CGBN on the links between GI and target 1.

The proposed orientation for the Restoration Prioritisation Framework was generally well received, its relevance for national implementation was highlighted and the need for a pragmatic way forward stressed. The Commission reminded participants of the 29-30 May workshop and its importance to finalise the framework. There were no objections on the main lines presented on No Net Loss. Clarifications were provided on point 2 on roles of contractors in the No Net Loss Working Group. The Commission clarified the dates of forthcoming meetings, including an international joint workshop with the Business and Biodiversity Offset Programme on 22 May, the 5th No Net Loss Working Group meeting on 23 May, a workshop on No Net Loss policy options on 3 July and a possible last No Net Loss Working Group meeting on 4 July.

4) Financing Biodiversity and Nature - the new multiannual financial perspective – see also PPT presentations

4.1 General overview (state of play of negotiations on the CAP, Regional policy, EMFF, etc.) (DOC.4-1)

The Commission presented the state of play of negotiations on the main instruments relevant for biodiversity and nature funding, including Natura 2000 and green infrastructure, as well as the state of play on the development of partnership agreements and operational programmes. The potential of financial instruments to leverage funding from the private sector for biodiversity, and the need for a tracking system for biodiversity-related expenditure were also addressed.

Concerns were raised about the ongoing discussions on CAP, and consequences for its role for nature and biodiversity financing (EHF). The importance to also address the Maritime Policy dimension of EMFF was stressed. The difficult timing and sequence of partnership agreements and operational programmes was raised.

The potential use of financial instruments was welcomed and the recent report from the UK ecosystem markets task force, which advocates in particular the use of biodiversity offsets and habitat banking, was highlighted. The role of MAES in this context for raising awareness on key ecosystem services provided was also stressed.

Several Member States supported the Commission's proposal for a tracking system, although some questions were raised about how to do this in practice. The link with discussions in WPIEI Biodiversity meetings on resource mobilisation reporting was also highlighted and the Commission confirmed that these links were firmly established.

4.2 Financing Natura 2000 (Article 8 Habitats Directive - State of development of Prioritised Action Frameworks (PAFs)) (DOC.4-2)

The Commission presented the state of play of discussions on financing Natura 2000, PAFs and their follow up strategy. In the following discussion, several Member States informed about the state of preparation of PAFs in their counties (a number of Member States indicated that their PAFs were already advanced and that they would be soon submitted to the Commission). Participants stressed the importance of using the PAFs in the context of negotiations of the Partnership Agreements and Operational Programmes, of financing Natura 2000 measures under different sectoral policies and

synergies between financing Natura 2000 and other key EU policies (climate change, growth and jobs, green infrastructure etc.). The Commission also drew attention to the latest report on the Economic Benefits of the Natura 2000 Network and the contract to help Member States to improve uptake of funds for Natura 2000.

5) Implementation of other targets and actions of the EU biodiversity strategy to 2020

5.1 Implementation of Target 3 of the EU biodiversity strategy to 2020 (Doc.5-1)

Working Group Agriculture and Biodiversity and Standing Forestry Committee

The first meeting of the Working Group took place on 25 February with a very high attendance and a very lively and fruitful discussion. Work is in progress towards the different deliverables. The next meeting will take place on 26 June.

An update on where we stand on the forest biodiversity target will be provided at the meeting of the Standing Forestry Committee of 28th June.

5.2 Implementation of Target 4 of the EU biodiversity strategy to 2020 (PPT presentation)

The Commission presented the state of play regarding (i) reform of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), (ii) implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) and (iii) designation of marine protected areas, in particular under Natura 2000. In reply to questions, it was clarified that the Integrated Maritime Policy would be covered by the future European Maritime and Fisheries Fund but discussions are on-going as to the mode of managing related funds (direct and/or shared management). Some participants questioned whether currently envisaged CFP instruments and their settings would be able to deliver on the goal of good environmental status, as required by the MSFD.

5.3 Implementation of Target 5 of the EU biodiversity strategy to 2020

A brief presentation of the state of play on progress towards the adoption of a legislative instrument on Invasive Alien Species was made. Internal discussions are on-going and the Commission could be in a position to adopt a proposal before the summer break.

5.4 Implementation of Target 6 of the EU biodiversity strategy to 2020

The Commission reminded participants that the Biodiversity and Development Working Group had been set up in the context of the CIF and as a subgroup of the DEVCO Expert Group on Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEA).

The objective of the working group, which will be jointly managed by DG DEVCO and DG ENV, is to bring together experts from development cooperation and environment who work on biodiversity issues, as well as representatives from foreign affairs where relevant, and stakeholders, to discuss implementation of Target 6 of the Biodiversity Strategy, and in particular the actions relevant to the EU external activities. This group would also be used as a platform for knowledge sharing, identification of best practices and informal coordination on strategic issues. Representatives from environment ministries, development and cooperation agencies, and where relevant foreign affairs ministries were expected to participate.

The Commission presented the agenda for the first meeting of the working group, to be organised on 15 April, back to back with the WPIEI resource mobilisation expert meeting on 16 April and the Biodiversity WPIEI on 17 April. Following a request for clarification on the nomination process, the Commission explained that an informal process would be followed for this first meeting, with a focus on participation of EU resource mobilisation experts given synergies with the 16 April meeting, with CGBN playing an important role in ensuring adequate Member States representation

and DG DEVCO making a call in parallel to their constituency. The Green Diplomacy Network managed by EEAS would also be mobilised. Given the highly diverse organisation on these issues across Member States, the process would be reviewed based on attendance at the first meeting. The role of stakeholders was highlighted and the Commission clarified that for this first meeting, the agenda would be split between a closed and an open session.

The Commission also recalled that under Target 6, Action 17 (b) calls for enhancing the contribution of Trade policy to conserving biodiversity, and introducing in all new Trade agreements a chapter on sustainable development including on biodiversity goals. The Commission indicated that in addition to the many trade negotiations already on-going, two new important negotiations will be launched in the near future, with such strategic partners as the US and Japan. The Commission will strive to achieve the most ambitious environment and biodiversity provisions to be included in those agreements, and will keep the CGBN informed about developments and progress of the negotiations.

5.5 Preparation for EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy mid-term report (DOC.5-5 and PPT presentation)

The mid-Term Report on the implementation of the EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy is postponed to 2015 to allow for the outcomes of the EU Report of Article 17 assessments to be included. The format will be aligned with the 5th National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) that the EU and its Member States have to deliver by March 2014. This will facilitate inclusion of relevant information from Member States and ensure better streamlining between MS, EU and CBD reports on progress in implementing National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and in reaching biodiversity targets. A biodiversity reporting schedule has been provided. A revised set of biodiversity indicators to be used for monitoring progress in reaching EU and Aichi Targets is currently being developed by the European Environment Agency with the Commission.

6) Recent and Upcoming Meetings (DOC.6-1)

The planning document is kept regularly up to date on circabc. Participants were invited to take note of future events and to suggest amendments.

7) Any Other Business

- Review of stakeholder membership in CGBN (INFO DOC.7-1)

The Commission invited CGBN members by **19 April 2013** to send comments on the membership in CGBN (e.g. underrepresentation of certain stakeholders such as fishermen, business). The representation needs to ensure proper coverage of the targets. Based on the feedback from CGBN the Commission will make a proposal and CGBN will further address the issue in their next meeting.

- Tentatively planned dates for next CGBN meeting in 2013

The next CGBN will take place on 19 and/or 20 September 2013, enough in advance to prepare for the Biodiversity and Nature Directors meeting of 3-6 December under the Lithuanian Presidency. In case of a heavy agenda, the meeting will take place for two days. It will only be known 8 weeks before the meeting whether it can take place in the Borschette conference centre as usual or whether it will have to take place in DG Environment premises, in which case participation would have to be limited to 1 representative per Member State / Stakeholder organisation due to space constraints.

- **NDM meeting** under the LT Presidency will include a joint segment together with Water Directors Meeting.

- A new brochure "**The Economic benefits of the Natura 2000 Network**" was distributed to participants, it can also be downloaded at http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/financing/docs/ENV-12-018_LR_Final1.pdf

8) Information points

- **7th EAP and its relevance for the EU Nature and Biodiversity policy** (INFO Doc.8.-1)

- **Information on BEST and its third year of the preparatory action** (INFO Doc.8.-2)

- **Unit ENV.B.2 ("Biodiversity") studies** (INFO Doc.8.-3)

The activities under these information points were not discussed in the meeting. CGBN members can send written comments on the documents provided.

14TH MEETING OF THE CO-ORDINATION GROUP FOR BIODIVERSITY AND NATURE

HELD ON 21ST MARCH 2013 IN BRUSSELS

List of attendees

Member States:

- Austria: Edda-Maria BERTEL, Arno ASCHAUER
- Belgium: Els MARTENS, Catherine DEBRUYNE, Geert RAEYMAEKERS
- Cyprus: Marina XENOPHONTOS
- Czech Republic: Alena VACATKOVA
- Denmark: Mette DAMSGAARD, Peter SOLLING JORGENSEN, Lars RUDFELD
- Estonia: Kadri MÖLLER, Hanno ZINGEL
- Finland: Heikki KORPELAINEN, Kristiina NIIKKONEN
- France: Fanny LENDI-RAMIREZ, Nicolas ROUYER
- Germany: Christa RATTE, Detlef SZYMANSKI
- Hungary: Andras SCHMIDT
- Ireland: Conor O'RAGHALLAIGH
- Italy: Maria-Claudia MARINI (Permanent Representation)
- Lithuania: Sigute ALISUSKIENE, Lina CAPLIKAITE, Algirdas KLIMAVICIUS
- Malta: Marie Therese GAMBIN
- The Netherlands: Hans VAN DEN HEUVEL
- Poland: Nina DOBRZYNSKA, Piotr OTAWSKI
- Portugal: Mario SILVA
- Romania: Cristina SUT
- Slovak Republic: Rastislav RYBANIC
- Slovenia: Peter SKOBERNE
- Spain: Miguel AYMERICH
- Sweden: Michael LÖFROTH, Eva STIGHÄLL
- United Kingdom: Chris DE GROUCHY, Michael MEHARG

+ Croatia: Ana KOBASLIC

Not represented: Bulgaria, Greece, Latvia, Luxembourg

NGOs and other stakeholders:

- BirdLife: Sophie HERBERT
- COE (Council of Europe): Ivana D'ALESSANDRO
- EBRD (European Bank for Reconstruction and Development)
- ECNC (European Centre for Nature Conservation): Lawrence JONES-WALTERS, Amor TORRE MARIN
- EEB (European Environment Bureau)
- EHF (European Habitats Forum): Sue COLLINS
- EIB (European Investment Bank): Eva MAYERHOFER
- ELO (European Landowners' Organization): Marie-Alice BUDNIOK
- FACE (Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation of the EU): Charlotte SIMON
- FOE (Friends of the Earth): Friedrich WULF
- IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature): Ana NIETO
- UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme): Thierry LUCAS

Not represented: Business Europe, CEPF (Confédération européenne des propriétaires forestiers), COPA-COGECA (Committee of Professional Agriculture Organizations - General Committee for Agricultural Cooperation in the EU), EPBRS (European Platform for Biodiversity Research Strategy, WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature)

European Environment Agency / European Topic Centre: Ivone PEREIRA MARTINS (EEA), Andrus MEINER (EEA), Carlos ROMAO (EEA), Marita ARVELA (ETC), Dominique RICHARD (ETC)

European Commission (*attended all or part of the meeting*)

François WAKENHUT, Marco FRITZ, Laure LEDOUX, Matthias Leonhard MAIER, Patrick MURPHY, Milena NOVAKOVA, Claudia OLAZABAL, Julie RAYNAL, Anne TELLER, Elena VERCILLO (ENV.B.2);

Stefan LEINER, Sylvia BAROVA, Marco CIPRIANI, Ctibor KOČMAN, François KREMER, Ludovic LE MARESQUIER, Micheal O'BRIAIN, Przemyslaw OGINSKI, Fotios PAPOULIAS, Joseph VAN DER STEGEN, Iris VINCENT, Susanne WEGEFELT (ENV.B.3)

Andras DEMETER (ENV.B)

Juan Pablo PERTIERRA (ENV.D.2)

