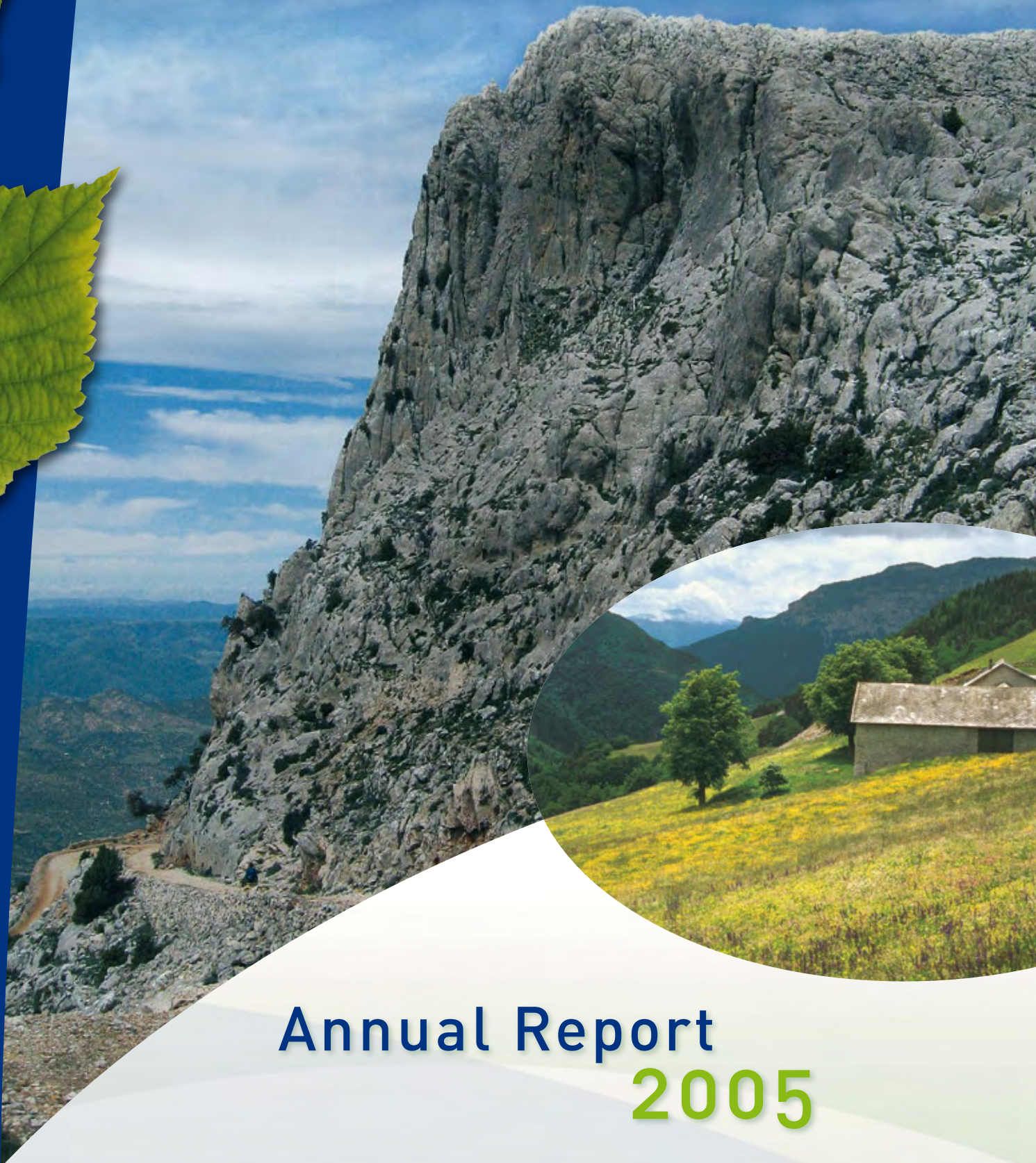




ECNC

european centre for nature conservation



Annual Report
2005



Annual Report 2005

ECNC-European Centre for Nature Conservation

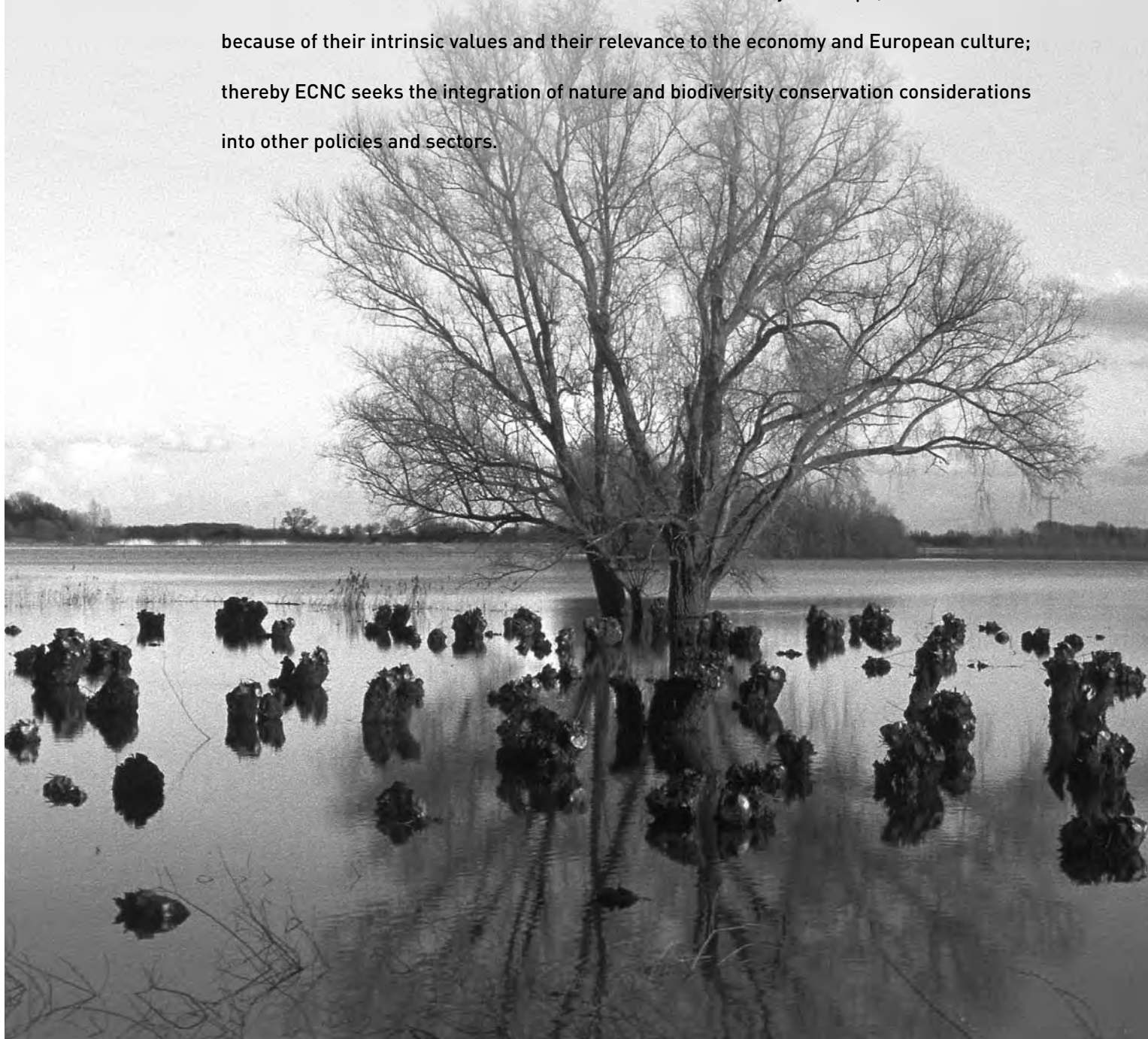


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ECNC Mission

ECNC actively promotes, by seeking to bridge the gap between science and policies, the conservation and sustainable use of nature and biodiversity in Europe, because of their intrinsic values and their relevance to the economy and European culture; thereby ECNC seeks the integration of nature and biodiversity conservation considerations into other policies and sectors.



Message of ECNC's President, Sir Brian Unwin



2005 was a year of considerable changes and exceptional new challenges for ECNC. It was the last year with a substantial guaranteed percentage of fixed programme budgets, and a year in which effective attention for biodiversity conservation in Europe further decreased, despite the commitment of European governments to halting the loss of biodiversity by 2010. 2005 also brought sad news: in June ECNC's founding father and our good friend Albert Klinkenbergh passed away. We will never forget Albert and he will continue to inspire our deeds and actions. ECNC adopted a new strategic midterm orientation, positioning itself as a European foundation offering innovative and tailor-made biodiversity expertise for sustainable development. ECNC's Board, Scientific Council and Secretariat were reorganized to prepare them to take up the new challenges. This had a considerable impact on the organization, including those working for ECNC on a daily basis.

But I am glad to conclude that the outcome of this process was successful. The organization is now better equipped for the future. This is crucial, since life will not get any easier for NGOs and intergovernmental organizations: the cake is getting smaller and more semi-governmental organizations which still receive significant governmental support are entering the competitive biodiversity 'market'.

**'The range of products and deliverables in 2005 was higher than ever,
and ECNC successfully moved into new fields.'**

A period of introspection and relative inaction is common for organizations following a major reorientation. This did not happen with ECNC. The range of products and deliverables in 2005 was higher than ever, and ECNC successfully moved into new fields. Moreover, ECNC invested in new alliances, in particular NatureNet Europe and the Countdown 2010 Partnership (see the first chapter of this report for the main achievements).

ECNC's central message for 2005 was communicated not only to its own bodies, but also to the whole conservation movement, both governmental and intergovernmental. That message read: 'We must focus on common objectives and targets between the conservation sector and the land use and economic sectors. We must all work together for a better and more nature-rich Europe.' In a nutshell, we must keep Europe beautiful for people, nature and economies, and biodiversity should therefore be closer to the heart of society and economic development.

I was heartened by, and grateful for, the commitment of the ECNC staff, under Rob Wolters' leadership, and the Board in contributing to the new orientation, even though some of them had to leave us. We are also very grateful for the continued financial support of a number of major partners, including UNEP, the EU's Research Programme, the European Environment Agency, the Dutch, Norwegian and Swiss Governments, the Province of Noord-Brabant and the Municipality of Tilburg. Their support shows their continuing trust in ECNC's expertise and its mission.

ECNC is alive and kicking, but can only continue its work because of its partners and financiers. We will continue to invest in these partnerships for the sake of our Beautiful Europe.

Sir Brian Unwin

President



IN MEMORIAM ALBERT KLINKENBERGH

On 9 June 2005, Albert Klinkenbergh, founding father of ECNC, passed away. We had to say farewell to a charming and committed person, a dedicated nature conservationist, and a very good friend. Mr Klinkenbergh stood at the cradle of ECNC and was ECNC's Vice-President for over 11 years. When he retired from the ECNC Board in 2004, he was appointed Honorary Vice-President for his invaluable contributions to ECNC and European nature conservation in general. Mr Klinkenbergh was a visionary and a pioneer for a truly European nature conservation.

He was one of the first persons in Europe to recognize the vital importance of cross-border cooperation and of bringing together nature conservationists from all over Europe. Mr Klinkenbergh was referred to as a 'pilgrim' for nature conservation: a person with a true mission, devoted and determined to reach his European nature conservation objectives.

We can safely say that he contributed to realizing these objectives like no man before him, always strongly supported by his dedicated and charming wife Lily. ECNC will remember him as one of the greatest European conservationists of our times and he will continue to be a source of inspiration to all persons involved in ECNC.

1. ECNC moving forward

by ECNC's Executive Director, Rob Wolters



It is amazing to see what a relatively small organization is capable of. As ECNC's President Sir Brian Unwin commented upon in his message, ECNC went through a period of considerable change and uncertainty. And on top of that, we had to say goodbye to our founding father and very good friend Albert Klinkenbergh.

I, too, was impressed with the strong commitment and support of ECNC staff and Board in coping with these changes and developing organizational and funding uncertainties into something positive.

It is now 2006. And we seem to have managed to address the most pressing challenges and external developments, although, as regards funding, organizations like ECNC have to live year-by-year. This is one of the biggest problems for non-governmental organizations. Competing for money in an increasingly competitive market could easily lead to organizations that 'go where the money is', or are constantly overburdened. While talking to leaders of other international organizations, this picture emerges, and I truly hope that more European governments will start to put their money where their mouths are. Governmental European biodiversity commitments have never been so high, governmental European practice in terms of budgets and active involvement in European cooperation has never been so low. Of course, there are (very) positive exceptions to this trend, but on the average the situation is worrying. But just complaining is not going to change things, we have to increase our efforts in proving that the services and expertise which the conservation sector offers are vital for sustainability, vital for people, and also vital for the economy. Biodiversity offers a whole range of green and blue services, including nature conservation, health, water retention, identity, recreation and tourism, and many more. A good quality and quantity of biodiversity will have positive effects on the health of Europe's people and will stimulate Europe's economy to innovate. Biodiversity conservation is not only in the interest of nature, it is also a matter of self-interest for people and economic sectors. We will have to illustrate this much more than we have been doing.

'Biodiversity conservation is not only in the interest of nature, it is also a matter of self-interest for people and economic sectors.'

ECNC took the lead in Europe to start promoting this new message, which is not a defensive message, but a message of hope. In the framework of NatureNet Europe, ECNC, EUCC and Eurosite together developed the Beautiful Europe initiative, which builds on a wide civic support that is reflected in the Apeldoorn Appeal of the European Nature Conference, held in September 2005 in Apeldoorn, the Netherlands. ECNC was one of the organizers of this large conference, which advocated one main message: Connect!: Connect nature with nature, people with nature, and policy with practice.

And ECNC put this 'Connect!' message into practice, via various projects and activities. These activities are mentioned in the other chapters of this Annual report, but I will list a number of them here.

The European
Task Force
on Banking,
Business and
Biodiversity.

In the framework of ECNC's programme on society and nature, ECNC organized a two-day international workshop aimed at discussing progress in an ECNC-coordinated project aimed at stimulating relevant social research contributing to biodiversity and ecosystem management. The participants, representing various fields in the social sciences, natural science and governmental organizations, discussed the research conducted and the goal of using it as the basis for a European research programme that will ensure better interaction between social and natural sciences. A key outcome of the workshop was the establishment of a forum of experts that will continue to provide a platform for discussing nature conservation issues on the interface between science, society and policy.

ECNC also continues to provide training in communication and negotiation for conservation professionals and to organize and facilitate stakeholder consultation processes. In August 2005, funding was approved for a project that will focus on training the staff of conservation authorities and NGOs in Croatia and FYRO Macedonia in communication, partnership development and stakeholder involvement.

In ECNC's programme on ecology and economy, the implementation of the 'LIFESCAPE – YOUR

LANDSCAPE' project got under way in 2005. The Province of Noord-Brabant and ECNC are coordinating this five-country, seven-region programme that aims to bring people together to create added value and quality of life. Through participation in meetings of the European Task Force on Banking, Business and Biodiversity, ECNC also works to encourage the increased involvement of the financial sector in sustainable development issues. The European Task Force on Banking, Business and Biodiversity concentrates on the development of tools to promote sustainable investment related to the preservation of biodiversity.

In ECNC's programme on European ecological networks the draft indicative map of the Pan-European Ecological

Network for South-Eastern Europe, showing the possible or likely location of core areas, corridors and potential corridors of pan-European importance, was under preparation. ECNC continued to coordinate the implementation of European Ecological Network pilot projects: the Duna Dráva – Kopacki Rit Nature Parks project came to a successful conclusion, and a cross-border ecological network project on the world-famous Bialowieza Forest in Poland and Belarus was commenced.

'ECNC also works to encourage the increased involvement of the financial sector in sustainable development issues.'

The programme on the state of European nature and biodiversity continued its work on assessing the value of biodiversity monitoring indicators, conducted surveys of national and international biodiversity monitoring programmes, and held a training workshop in South-Eastern Europe for participants involved in biodiversity conservation. ECNC is also part of the renewed EEA Topic Centre on Biological Diversity (ETC/BD).

The programme on support to international and regional initiatives and institutions resulted in various innovative activities and approaches.



ECNC made a strong contribution to the discussions to revitalize and refocus the pan-European biodiversity process. During the seminar celebrating 10 years of the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS), ECNC took stock of the situation and recommended merging the PEBLDS and 'Biodiversity in Europe' process, while focusing on the informal platform function this process could offer. ECNC also actively contributed to the discussions within the framework of the EC Biodiversity Working Group on the future EC 2010 Biodiversity Communication.

In the framework of the programme on support to international and regional initiatives and institutions, ECNC actively contributed to the establishment of NatureNet Europe. This cooperation resulted in the Beautiful Europe initiative, a framework for a programme for a 'Wadden Sea without borders', a climate and ecological network project, and a proposal for an Internet site linking European nature areas and tourist destinations. The Beautiful Europe initiative was applauded by the European Commission; European Commission Vice-President Margot Wallström said:

'I read about your new initiative Beautiful Europe with a great deal of pleasure. It never ceases to amaze me how dedicated Europeans can be when they unite in a common cause, without the need for directives and bureaucracy! This is a great example of how Europe really works for the common good.'

(Letter to NatureNet Europe, dated 20 October 2005)

We hope that 2006 will be the year of harvesting as regards the investments in NatureNet Europe.

'We are on the move again, and more determined than ever to deliver work that is of high standards and of direct use for nature, people and businesses.'

Another extremely important initiative that truly took off in 2005 is Countdown 2010. This is a communication and expertise instrument promoting awareness and information on the European 2010 biodiversity target, to halt the loss of biodiversity by 2010. ECNC has strongly supported this IUCN initiative right from the start, among others as member of the Steering Committee and the Executive Group. The Province of Noord-Brabant and the Municipality of Tilburg were the first province and municipality in the world to join the Countdown at the end of 2004, and in 2005 they launched a number of activities, in close cooperation with ECNC. Active promotion activities took place during 2005, in cooperation with the regions and municipalities that joined or were interested in joining Countdown 2010. ECNC co-organized with Tilburg and the ICLEI (International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives) Secretariat, the ICLEI European Conference 'Mainstreaming sustainability in the face of change' in May 2005. As part of this conference, ECNC organized a biodiversity workshop in cooperation with the Brabant&Europe Partnership and Countdown 2010. The conference

concluded in its recommendations that the development of an ICLEI programme on biodiversity would be very useful.

As part of the IUCN Netherlands Committee Leaders for Nature Initiative, ECNC provided active contributions, amongst others on the theme of biodiversity financing. This initiative brings together a growing number of captains of industry and commerce to discuss their contribution to biodiversity. Overall, the working relationship between IUCN-The World Conservation Union and ECNC improved during 2005, resulting in exploring promising project cooperation.

Looking back on the hectic year 2005, I think we may conclude that there is reason for some satisfaction. But 2006 is upon us, and unfortunately there is not much time for reflection and rest. We are on the move again, and more determined than ever to deliver work that is of high standards and of direct use for nature, people and businesses.

2. ECNC Programme and Service Areas

Introduction to ECNC's Programme and Service Areas

ECNC projects are clustered in five thematic programmes (four Core Programme Areas and one Core Service Area), the objectives of which contribute to achieving ECNC's overall mission. The Core Programme Areas address specific themes, while the Core Service Area deals with support to international policy initiatives and processes. A second Core Service Area deals with strengthening of ECNC itself. The thematic programmes are:

- Nature and Society: Connecting people and nature;
- Ecology and Economy: A programme of integration and investment;
- European Ecological Network: Connecting green areas;
- State of Europe's biodiversity: Monitoring trends in nature and biodiversity;
- Supporting international organizations and policy initiatives: Bringing biodiversity policy closer to the heart of society and economic sectors.

In 2005 ECNC carried out a wide variety of projects:

- studies were undertaken in support of international policy development and implementation;
- facilitating activities were organized to bring stakeholders together and explore priority issues;
- field-oriented pilot projects were initiated, linking the local dimension to the European dimension;
- publications and policy advice were developed that apply state-of-the-art knowledge and expertise to policy issues;
- capacity-building and training programmes were carried out;
- Internet-based services for biodiversity information were maintained and expanded.

Added value through multidisciplinary approach

Although ECNC's projects are grouped into different thematic areas, there are many cases of 'border-crossing' activities. ECNC's projects are almost by definition multidisciplinary: for example, communication expertise is used to support the development of ecological networks; ECNC's knowledge of biodiversity indicators and financial resources is made available to national and international authorities.

ECNC is able to approach projects from different perspectives and such 'border-crossing' activities, benefiting from the input of expertise from more than one area, contribute significant added value to the results of ECNC's work.

In the following sections the six ECNC work areas are described in more detail, spotlighting the most important activities of the year and including an overview of all projects undertaken in 2005.

Nature and Society: Connecting people and nature

Conservation of nature and biodiversity has as much to do with social structures and processes as with ecological structures and processes: ultimately, the aim of conservation policy is to influence the way in which society interacts with nature and biodiversity. ECNC's Nature and Society Programme aims to contribute to a greater understanding of the social aspects of conservation and to enhance skills among policymakers in dealing with these aspects. A true understanding of the social context of conservation requires analysis of the conflicts that can arise around the management of natural resources and areas, and of how these conflicts are resolved. It also requires insight into the different stakeholder groups, and into the way in which they position themselves towards conservation initiatives. Finally, for nature and biodiversity conservation to be successful, officials working in governmental and non-governmental organizations at the national and international level need to be aware of the social aspects of conservation and need to have skills in communicating with the large variety of stakeholders involved. Achieving a sustainable future for Europe's nature and biodiversity will depend to a considerable extent on recognition of the deeply social character of nature conservation and on mastering those aspects in making and implementing policies.

Highlights

Mobilising the European social research potential in support of biodiversity and ecosystem management: SoBio

Funded under the European Union's Sixth Framework Programme for Research, as a Coordinated Action under Priority 1.1.6.3 Global Change and Ecosystems

ECNC was project coordinator for the SoBio project (2004-2006), which aimed to stimulate relevant social research contributing to the management of biodiversity and ecosystems, and especially to the development of successful policies in this field. SoBio included various European countries, involving leading researchers from Germany, Hungary, Norway, Spain, Romania, the Slovak Republic and the United Kingdom.

To prevent the decline of biodiversity and ensure the sustainable management of ecosystems, the socio-economic processes and structures which can directly or indirectly impact upon these systems must be understood. Work has been carried out in the economic domain, but there is a gap in work focusing on social aspects.

The work that has been carried out indicates that sociological knowledge and research methodologies can be successfully applied to ecosystem and biodiversity management issues. However, the social dimension of the protection of biodiversity and ecosystems is still under-explored and social research is not yet sufficiently integrated in the development and implementation of biodiversity policy.

Phase I of the project provided an overview of the current contribution of social science research to biodiversity and ecosystem management through a series of national reports from the project countries and a European Overview report. This research established the current state of knowledge and identified gaps in this knowledge.



The second phase identified the future potential contribution of social science to biodiversity and ecosystem management policy. A European workshop held in Segovia, Spain (September 2005) provided an important opportunity for social scientists, natural scientists and policymakers to come together and provide valuable input into the conclusions and recommendations for the future contribution of social science research in biodiversity and ecosystem management policy. Increased cooperation between European researchers and policymakers in this field was achieved through the creation of a SoBio project network of social scientists, natural scientists and biodiversity policymakers, which was further strengthened at the above-mentioned European workshop. This project has set the scene for future research aimed at developing knowledge on the social dimension of the protection of biodiversity.

Biodiversity Partners: Capacity building for partnership development and stakeholder involvement in the field of nature and biodiversity

Funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

In recent years ECNC’s capacity-building programme in communication and stakeholder involvement for nature conservation has been successfully applied in several Central European countries. In 2005 ECNC started a new programme in the South-Eastern Europe region concerning training for staff of nature conservation authorities, national parks and NGOs in Croatia and FYRO Macedonia.

This project will develop basic professional capacity in support of nature conservation:

- Tailor-made training workshops on the use of strategic and interactive communication in conservation policy and action will be organized for staff of conservation authorities, NGOs and national parks in Croatia and Macedonia;
- Pilot projects focusing on stakeholder involvement and communication concerning one or more sites of European importance (e.g. Emerald Network or possible Natura 2000 areas) will give participants the chance to apply the lessons learned during the workshop.

To ensure continuity beyond the project lifespan and to extend the capacity-building effort beyond the direct participants, the most talented workshop participants will be trained as in-country communication trainers, and an in-country training programme will be set up, supported by reference and training materials.

The first phase of the project runs from August 2005 to August 2006 and involves the initial training workshops.



Major projects in 2005

Mobilising the European social research potential in support of biodiversity and ecosystem management: SoBio

See project highlight above for details.

Funding: European Union's Sixth Framework Programme for Research.

More details: http://www.ecnc.org/Overview/Index_317.html

Biodiversity Partners: Capacity building for partnership development and stakeholder involvement in the field of nature and biodiversity

See project highlight above for details.

Funding: Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

More details: http://www.ecnc.org/CommunicatingNatureC/Index_560.html

Communicating the Pan-European Ecological Network (PEEN) Phase 3

A draft communication strategy for PEEN was developed based on the study carried out by ECNC in 2004. The strategy was presented at the meeting of the Council of Europe's Committee of Experts for PEEN in October. The Committee endorsed the main thrust of the study, i.e. that it was necessary to clarify the position of the PEEN process in European nature conservation, and mandated ECNC and the Council of Europe to implement the Communication Strategy.

Funding: Netherlands Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality.

More details: http://www.ecnc.org/Overview/Index_353.html

Main conferences, meetings and workshops attended in 2005

11th International Symposium on Society and Resource Management

16-19 June 2005; Östersund, Sweden

Poster presentation 'SoBio, mobilising the European research potential in support of biodiversity and ecosystem management' by Natasja Hulst, Project Officer

The SoBio European Workshop

22 & 23 September 2005; Segovia, Spain

Chaired by Ben Delbaere, Senior Programme Manager – Biodiversity; presentations by Ben Delbaere, Senior Programme Manager – Biodiversity and Natasja Hulst, Project Officer

Publication in 2005

Gilbert, K., S. Rientjes & S. van 't Erve (2005) *Communicating the Pan-European Ecological Network: An analysis of the implementation and communication processes for ecological networks in Europe*. – Tilburg, ECNC-European Centre for Nature Conservation, ECNC technical report series.



For more information on this Programme Area and its projects, please contact Ayşegül Çil, Programme Manager – Nature and Society (cil@ecnc.org).

Ecology and Economy: A programme of integration and investment

The process of globalization of society and economy is a strong driving force throughout Europe. Democratic institutions and economic conditions are evolving rapidly in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA). In Western Europe, environmental changes are having a strong influence on health and the quality of life. These trends in East and West create pressure on sustainable use of natural resources, and therefore on the ability to halt the decline of biodiversity by 2010 – a European objective proclaimed both at the EU Göteborg Council and the Fifth Ministerial Conference 'Environment for Europe'.

Within this context, this ECNC Programme Area attempts to contribute to the integration of biodiversity issues in specific sectors, in particular through the use of appropriate financial instruments that are either innovative or specifically adapted to needs. The ambition is to foster awareness about the relationship between economy and ecology at the very heart of the development of policies, programmes and strategies. The Programme Area had two orientations for 2005: [sectoral integration of biodiversity](#), and [facilitating investment in biodiversity-related business](#).

Highlights

Economy at the service of biodiversity, a building block for human society

One element of ECNC's philosophy is that biodiversity and nature conservation are inherently much more effective if integrated with the way the economy as a whole operates. The role of ECNC is to work with as many different types of partners as possible to integrate biodiversity and nature concerns within sectors of human activity. The salient points of 2005 have been to expand the range of the types of partners that ECNC is involved with, and to facilitate relationships between institutional actors with regard to the integration objective.

The full implementation of the 'LIFESCAPE – YOUR LANDSCAPE' project during 2005 moved ECNC into a new mode of operation as coordinator of a five-country, seven-region programme to carry out 20 local actions for demonstrating the link between landscape identity and economic development. LIFESCAPE is co-financed by the INTERREG IIIB structural funding of the EU, and the project partners are mainly related to local and regional governments, along with NGOs having a public-service orientation. Developing and testing new types of local actions and sharing this experience provides the opportunity for the partners to work with local character and specific potential in very contrasting situations, which is a powerful stimulus for personal involvement and personal capacity enhancement.

A new challenge in 2005 was ECNC's work for the World Bank. The focus of the project 'Institutional models for managing multi-purpose protected areas' was to identify a common strategy for the World Bank to support in the establishment of multi-purpose protected areas in the Europe and Central Asia region of the Bank's operations.

The European Biodiversity Resourcing Initiative, which is coordinated by ECNC as part of the 'Biodiversity in Europe' process, has brought the principle of specific funding for biodiversity-related businesses to the point where two pilot situations are under development, in Hungary and Poland. The two European banks – European Investment Bank and European Bank for Reconstruction and Development – and other banking partners meeting together within the European Task Force on Banking, Business and Biodiversity, are searching for the most appropriate relationship with the local banks that would be the financial intermediaries. ECNC and other partners have been active with organizing a project pipeline in each country, in

LIFESCAPE –
YOUR LANDSCAPE:
French school
project.



association with national actors. Long-term technical assistance for putting together project pipelines with local entrepreneurs on a country-by-country basis and also mobilizing financial resources at the local and European banking levels is under consideration by the European Commission.

The food sector is of capital importance for society. In 2005 ECNC produced a report entitled *Biodiversity and the Food Sector* that is an initial review of the extent to which biodiversity is protected through food standards in Europe. ECNC also works with the operational

aspects of the food sector by developing indicators for measuring the social, environmental and economic benefits of multifunctional agriculture, within a European-level investigation of the 'Micro-economic instruments for impact assessment of multifunctional agriculture to implement the Model of European Agriculture' (MEA-Scope).

The rural world as a whole is the ultimate subject for attention with regard to promoting integration of biodiversity into human activities, and ECNC coordinates the scientific advisory review of the innovative integrated project SENSOR - 'Sustainability impact assessment: tools for environmental, social and economic effects of multifunctional land use in European regions'. Once the possible consequences of policy decisions of alternative actions can be properly compared before their implementation, it will be possible to responsibly engage civil society to integrate economy and ecology.

Major projects in 2005

LIFESCAPE – YOUR LANDSCAPE: Landscape identity and economic development – INTERREG IIIB

Funding: Co-financing from the EU INTERREG IIIB Programme for North-West Europe to match the contribution from the partners; Province of Noord-Brabant (the Netherlands); ECNC core funding.

More details: http://www.ecnc.org/Overview/Index_355.html

Micro-economic instruments for impact assessment of multifunctional agriculture to implement the Model of European Agriculture (MEA-Scope)

Funding: Sixth EU Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (via Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape and Land Use Research - ZALF); Programme allocation Netherlands Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality; ECNC core funding.

More details: http://www.ecnc.org/Overview/Index_289.html

Sustainability impact assessment tools for environmental, social and economic effects of multifunctional land use in European regions (SENSOR)

Funding: Sixth EU Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (via ZALF, Germany).

More details: http://www.ecnc.org/Overview/Index_304.html and <http://www.sensor-ip.org>

The European Biodiversity Resourcing Initiative – Phase 3 (EBRI 3+)

Funding: Swiss Agency for the Environment, Forests and Landscape; Programme allocation Netherlands Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality; Rabobank Nederland; Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA, UK); Hungarian Ministry of Environment and Water; UNEP/Regional Office for Europe.

More details: http://www.ecnc.org/Overview/Index_356.html



Biodiversity Technical Assistance Facility Support (BTAF)

Funding: ECNC core funding.

Institutional models for managing multi-purpose protected areas in Europe and Central Asia

Funding: The World Bank.

Biodiversity and the food sector

Funding: Netherlands Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality.

More details: http://www.ecnc.org/BiodiversityAndTheFo/Index_471.html

Main conferences, meetings and workshops attended in 2005

International Conference 'Multifunctional land use - meeting future demands for landscape goods and services'

26 & 27 May 2005; University of Tartu, Estonia

Poster presentation on indicators for agricultural policy impact assessment (the case of multifunctional beef production) by Yuca Waarts, Project Officer

MULTAGRI International Seminar 'Multifunctionality of agricultural and rural areas: Essential component for sustainable development?'

1 September 2005; Brussels, Belgium

Sessions 'Can supply and demand of multifunctionality be coordinated?' and 'How can multifunctionality be implemented and assessed?' chaired by Peter Nowicki, Programme Manager – Ecology and Economy

Journées nationales des Parcs (National Parks Days)

6 October 2005; Parc naturel régional de l'Avesnois, Trélon, France

Presentation on 'LIFESCAPE: making the link between town and country through economic development associated with landscape identity' by Peter Nowicki, Programme Manager – Ecology and Economy

Fourth meeting of the European Task Force for Banking, Business and Biodiversity

3 November 2005; EBRD Headquarters, London, UK

Chaired by Sir Brian Unwin, President ECNC; Task Force Secretary: Peter Nowicki, Programme Manager – Ecology and Economy; participation by Rob Wolters, Executive Director ECNC

PAN Parks Conference 'Europe's Wilderness Days 2005'

4 November 2005; Edinburgh, UK

Presentation on 'Organizing bridges between banks and pro-biodiversity businesses' during the theme day 'Business benefits from wilderness' by Peter Nowicki, Programme Manager – Ecology and Economy

Guest lecture on the MEA-Scope project

24 November 2005; Wageningen University, the Netherlands

Lecture on 'Indicators for agricultural policy impact assessment: the case of multifunctional beef production' presented by Yuca Waarts, Project Officer

National symposium 'Nature valuation and financing – making the priceless valuable'

8 December 2005; Ede, the Netherlands

Facilitation of session on 'European biodiversity investment funds' and presentation of results to plenary by Rob Wolters, Executive Director ECNC

Meeting of the Steering Committee of the INTERREG IIIB project 'LIFESCAPE – YOUR LANDSCAPE'

9 December 2005; St Omer, France

Participation by Sandra Rientjes, Deputy Executive Director ECNC

Publication in 2005

Waarts, Y.R. (2005) *Indicators for agricultural policy impact assessment: The case of multifunctional beef production (Milestone 2.4 and Deliverable 2.4 for the MEA-Scope project)*. – Tilburg, ECNC-European Centre for Nature Conservation, ECNC report.



For more information on this Programme Area and its projects, please contact Peter Nowicki, Programme Manager – Ecology and Economy (nowicki@ecnc.org).

European Ecological Network: Connecting green areas

This Programme Area supports the establishment of the Pan-European Ecological Network (PEEN) through the development of regional networks in Europe and by analysing the threats and opportunities arising from sectors other than nature conservation. The development of this Network is based on common objectives adopted by European states, and builds on the implementation of nature conservation instruments in Europe, in particular the EU Natura 2000 network and the Emerald Network under the Bern Convention. ECNC's expertise in ecological networks is increasingly in demand in Europe. In particular, the emerging threat of climate change is a factor in the growing interest in ecological connectivity.

In 2005, emphasis in the work programme shifted gradually from promoting the PEEN concept and mapping regional components of PEEN to work that supports the direct implementation of ecological networks in general and PEEN in particular. ECNC supported the on-the-ground development of a border-crossing ecological project in the Bialowieza Forest on the Polish-Belarusian border. In this case emphasis was on removing physical as well as organizational or administrative barriers to ensuring ecological coherence in this crucially important nature area.

ECNC finalized a study into support for the PEEN process among crucial stakeholders. Based on the outcome of the study, clear recommendations were drawn to stimulate the involvement of especially non-conservation stakeholders such as the spatial planning and agricultural sectors. These recommendations will direct the work of both ECNC and the Council of Europe's Committee of Experts for the establishment of PEEN for the coming years.

Highlights

Supporting the Pan-European Ecological Network (PEEN)

Funded by Programme allocation of the Netherlands Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality; ECNC core funding

Jointly with the Council of Europe, ECNC manages the Secretariat of the Committee of Experts for the Establishment of the Pan-European Ecological Network. This Committee consists of representatives of national governments and NGOs; its purpose is to promote and coordinate activities contributing to the eventual development of the PEEN. The Committee is in fact the central hub in the process of establishing the PEEN.

ECNC's special responsibility is to coordinate the process of developing indicative maps of the PEEN for various regions of Europe. Apart from the exercise of mapping the PEEN in South-Eastern Europe, in 2005 ECNC was involved in the preparation of a similar exercise in the EU 15. ECNC also played a leading role in developing an outline for a report on the assessment of PEEN implementation for the Sixth Ministerial Conference 'Environment for Europe' that will take place in Belgrade in 2007. In 2005 ECNC, with other expert organizations, drafted the report outline and identified authors. Work will continue into 2006.

ECNC also represented the Secretariat – and the PEEN process – in international meetings.

Pilot Project Ecological Network Duna Dráva - Kopacki Rit National Parks – Phase II

Funded by the Netherlands Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality/Hungarian Ministry of Environment and Water in the framework of the bilateral Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation in the field of nature conservation

This cross-border project aimed to promote the implementation of the Pan-European Ecological Network (PEEN) on a regional scale, through projects and coordinated actions.

The project started in January 2005 and was completed in December 2005.

Phase II continued the work commenced by ECNC in Phase I. ECNC coordinated the project in close cooperation with the national and nature park administrations in Hungary and

Croatia. The main activities in Phase II focused on completing the wetland restoration works in both parks, establishing a monitoring facility and building additional nesting and resting islets on Riha Lake and creating a basis for long-term monitoring of the area. A Trans-National Working Group was re-established to involve local and regional stakeholders and to disseminate information on the project. An international workshop was held in October 2005 to discuss the outcomes of the project with all stakeholders and to decide on priority follow-up actions; a multimedia CD-ROM was produced, containing the lessons learned from the project and the conclusions of the workshop.



Major projects in 2005

Indicative map of the Pan-European Ecological Network (PEEN) for Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (PEEN EECCA)

ECNC further developed an outline for this project which would fill one of the last remaining white areas on the indicative map of PEEN. Several possible donors were approached, but without success.

Funding: Netherlands Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality.

Joint Secretariat of the programme element 'Establishment of the Pan-European Ecological Network' of the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy, and contribution to the PEEN assessment report for Belgrade Ministerial Conference (2007)

See project highlight above for details.

Funding: Programme allocation Netherlands Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality; ECNC core funding.

More details: http://www.ecnc.org/JointCoE/ecncSecreta/Index_273.html

Mapping Networks: Developing an overview map of ecological networks in Europe

ECNC, together with the Budapest Eötvös University and ECNC's Vice-President Dr János Tardy, developed a map of the Council of Europe region indicating which countries have developed national ecological networks, and the stage of development. The map is a useful tool in assessing the implementation of the PEEN Kyiv biodiversity targets.

Funding: Swiss Government (BUWAL) via the Council of Europe; Hortobágy National Park (Hungary); ECNC core funding.

More details: http://www.ecnc.org/CompletedProjects/Index_87.html

Development of indicative map of PEEN for South-Eastern Europe (PEEN SEE)

The project entered its final stages. A draft map indicating the potential location of PEEN core areas and corridors in SE Europe and Turkey was circulated among stakeholders. Their comments helped to further refine and improve the map. The final version will be published in mid-2006.

Funding: Programme allocation Netherlands Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality; Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs (BBI-MATRA Subsidy Scheme); Swiss Government (BUWAL) via the Council of Europe; ECNC core funding.

More details: http://www.ecnc.org/PeenSee/Index_96.html

Bialowieza Forest Pilot Ecological Network: 'A Forest of Hope'

The project kick-off meeting, organized by ECNC and Natuurmonumenten, was held in March 2005 in the Bialowieza Forest area. Four expert groups, working on the different project themes, were established and intensive consultations took place with various stakeholders.

Funding: Vereniging Natuurmonumenten (the Netherlands); Netherlands Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality; Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs (BBI-MATRA Subsidy Scheme); ECNC core funding.

More details: <http://www.eeconet.org/alliance/news/index.html> and http://www.ecnc.org/BialowiezaForestPilo/Index_463.html

Pilot Project Ecological Network Duna Dráva - Kopacki Rit National Parks – Phase II

See project highlight above for details.

Funding: Netherlands Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality/Hungarian Ministry of Environment and Water in the framework of the bilateral Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation in the field of nature conservation.

More details: http://www.ecnc.org/jump/page/CompletedProjects/Index_87.html

Identifying connectivity between core nature areas in NW Europe + Support to Natura 2000

In 2005 interest in applying the concept of ecological networks to the EU territory increased, with special attention for the implementation of Article 10 of the Habitat Directive, which aims to promote connectivity between Natura 2000 sites. To coordinate efforts, ECNC organized a meeting of different organizations involved in identifying connectivity in the EU, and provided expert advice on ecological networks to institutes throughout Europe working on this topic.

Funding: Programme allocation Netherlands Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality; ECNC core funding.

More details: http://www.ecnc.org/Overview/Index_281.html

Natura 2000 Hungary desk study

ECNC analysed the process of implementation of Natura 2000 in Hungary, contributing to a comparative study of similar processes in Europe. ECNC organized a workshop of stakeholders, carried out interviews and compiled a report.

Funding: Alterra (the Netherlands).

Main conferences, meetings and workshops attended in 2005

Joint meeting of the Trans-National Working Group/project kick-off meeting Pilot Project Ecological Network Duna Dráva - Kopacki Rit National Parks

9 & 10 March 2005; Bilje, Croatia

TNWG meeting chaired by Mihály Végh, Head of ECNC Regional Office



Ecological networks stakeholder meeting

22 April 2005; European Commission DG Environment, Brussels, Belgium

Chaired by Ben Delbaere, Senior Programme Manager – Biodiversity

Second meeting of the Trans-National Working Group, Pilot Project Ecological Network Duna Dráva - Kopacki Rit National Parks

25 & 26 May 2005; Mohacs, Hungary

Chaired by Mihály Végh, Head of ECNC Regional Office

Third meeting of the Trans-National Working Group, Pilot Project Ecological Network Duna Dráva - Kopacki Rit National Parks

5 & 6 July 2005; Bilje, Croatia and Mohacs, Hungary

Chaired by Mihály Végh, Head of ECNC Regional Office

Fourth meeting of the Trans-National Working Group, Pilot Project Ecological Network Duna Dráva - Kopacki Rit National Parks

3 October 2005; Mohacs, Hungary

Chaired by Mihály Végh, Head of ECNC Regional Office

Joint meeting of the Group of Experts for the setting up of the Emerald Network of areas of special conservation interest and the Committee of Experts for the Establishment of PEEN

10 & 11 October 2005; Strasbourg, France

Presentation on 'Communicating the Pan-European Ecological Network' by Sandra Rientjes, Deputy Executive Director ECNC; input by Edina Biró, Programme Coordinator – European Ecological Network

Two-day European workshop, Pilot Project Ecological Network Duna Dráva - Kopacki Rit National Parks

20 & 21 October 2005; Bilje, Croatia

Chaired by Rob Wolters, Executive Director ECNC; presentations by Mihály Végh, Head of ECNC Regional Office

**Closing meeting of the Trans-National Working Group, Pilot Project Ecological Network
Duna Dráva - Kopacki Rit National Parks**

30 November 2005; Bilje, Croatia

Chaired by Mihály Végh, Head of ECNC Regional Office



Publications in 2005

Wolters, R. & E. Biró (2005) The Pan-European Ecological Network: Europe's Green Highway. *Coastline* 14, 3/4: 6-8.

Duna Dráva National Park, Kopacki Rit Nature Park & ECNC (2005) Multimedia CD-ROM: *Pilot Project Ecological Network Duna Dráva - Kopacki Rit National Parks - Phase II.* – Compiled by Duna Dráva National Park, Hungary.

For more information on this Programme Area and its projects, please contact Sandra Rientjes, Head of Programme Development (rientjes@ecnc.org), or Rob Wolters, Executive Director ECNC (wolters@ecnc.org).

Europe's biodiversity: Monitoring trends in nature and biodiversity

Tens of thousands of Europeans count biodiversity components; they go bird watching, make plant inventories, count butterflies - even sample mites. In an increasing number of countries the resulting vast pool of data is centrally collected (including via online tools), coordinated, processed and turned into messages about the state of biodiversity. Much effort is devoted, by ECNC among others, to assuring that these messages suit the users, those who need to act upon them.

Indicators and indexes are useful tools to simplify the complex messages that come out of the biodiversity data and to communicate to and with user groups. The headline biodiversity indicators that have been adopted at global and European levels also serve this purpose.

In particular they are designed to communicate progress in achieving the 2010 target to halt biodiversity loss to national and international policymakers as well as the public.

ECNC continues to support the use of these and other biodiversity indicators and monitoring networks, and actively helps coordinate the process at the pan-European scale. Simultaneously, ECNC stimulates countries and regions to develop indicator-based monitoring programmes that are compatible with the European initiatives, such as the Countdown 2010 process. ECNC is cooperating with the Province of Noord-Brabant (the Netherlands) to stimulate regions to get involved in Countdown 2010 and to link up to international indicators and monitoring. ECNC is convinced that the aim of halting biodiversity loss by 2010 and beyond can only be achieved by involving local authorities and interested citizens and at the same time through international coordination of the many monitoring, indicator and communication initiatives. Only in this way will the numerous counting efforts lead to the conclusion that biodiversity counts!

Highlights

Streamlining European 2010 Biodiversity Indicators (SEBI2010)

Funded by the European Commission and UNEP, together with voluntary expert input

The process of streamlining European 2010 biodiversity indicators started several years ago and was formally launched in 2005. The aim is to document and implement the EU headline biodiversity indicators at the pan-European level, while implementing the Kyiv target on indicators and monitoring. ECNC coordinates SEBI2010 with the European Environment Agency and the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre.

For eight of the 15 EU headline biodiversity indicators experts collected information about ongoing initiatives, how existing data and monitoring can best be used, or who is best placed to deliver indicators. An indication was given of the feasibility of producing the indicators at the pan-European scale on a regular basis. ECNC, as part of the European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity, coordinated the work of the expert group on nitrogen deposition. ECNC also prepared a scoping paper on two other indicators: funding of biodiversity, and public awareness and participation.

Most of the indicators are now available to feed into the European policy process during 2006. For the first time, a set of biodiversity indicators will be communicated to the Council of Ministers.

Harmonizing national biodiversity monitoring

Many European countries have or are developing biodiversity monitoring programmes. Mostly they concern monitoring of components of biodiversity (e.g. selected species groups or protected areas).

In recent years ECNC, as a partner in the consortium of the European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity, has created and updated an inventory of national monitoring programmes. In 2005 ECNC conducted an additional analysis to identify to what extent a number of nationally coordinated programmes link up to the EU headline biodiversity indicators, investigating which indicators are actually used and whether they are similar to the European set. This information is useful for the SEBI2010 process (see above). The results indicate that much is happening and that some indicators are already being used for national reporting. ECNC considers it important to ensure that these national efforts lead directly into international reporting obligations and reduce the national burden of reporting.

ECNC is also actively assisting a number of countries to develop a national biodiversity monitoring programme. ECNC advised on how to use European experience and to link to European initiatives for the development of the Bulgarian National Biodiversity Monitoring

System, which is using the EU headline biodiversity indicators right from the start.

For five other countries in South-Eastern Europe (Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, FYRO Macedonia, and Serbia and Montenegro) in September 2005 ECNC organized a two-day training workshop on biodiversity indicators and monitoring to stimulate closer involvement of the region in European developments, such as SEBI2010. The sessions covered European initiatives and policies and provided examples from biodiversity monitoring programmes in five European countries. The participants used this information to work in groups on an outline national biodiversity monitoring programme.



Major projects in 2005

Streamlining European 2010 biodiversity indicators (SEBI2010)

See project highlight above for details.

Funding: ECNC core funding; EEA via ETC/BD.

More details: <http://biodiversity-chm.eea.eu.int/information/indicator/F1090245995>

Training workshop in South-Eastern Europe on biodiversity indicators and monitoring

See project highlight above for details.

Funding: Governments of Switzerland and Norway through UNEP.

European Landscape Character Assessment Initiative (ELCAI)

ECNC provided expertise on international landscape policy to this project, led by LANDSCAPE EUROPE. ELCAI reviews the role of landscape character assessment in European landscape policy and management.

Funding: Fifth EU Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development via LANDSCAPE EUROPE (project coordinator).

More details: www.elcai.org

ALTER-Net: a long-term biodiversity, ecosystem and awareness research network

ECNC leads the work package on science-policy interaction. In 2005 progress was made in developing an action plan for a science-policy interface aimed at integrating ALTER-Net research into the policy process. Several workshops were held on, among others, training and mobility, and communication.

Funding: Sixth EU Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development.

More details: www.alter-net.info

Aggregating biodiversity indicators

ECNC-led subproject under ALTER-Net that focuses on how biodiversity indicators can be aggregated into indexes and how these can best be used for policy purposes. The project kicked off in December 2005.

Funding: ALTER-Net - Sixth EU Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development.

More details: http://www.ecnc.org/AggregatingBiodivers/Index_528.html

ECNC's role in the consortium of the European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity (ETC/BD)

In 2005 ECNC analysed how the EU headline biodiversity indicators are used in national and international biodiversity monitoring programmes. A scoping report on climate change and biodiversity was produced.

Funding: European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity.

More details: <http://biodiversity.eionet.eu.int>



Biodiversity monitoring in Bulgaria

ECNC provided advice on integrating international biodiversity indicator and monitoring developments into the Bulgarian national biodiversity monitoring system.

Funding: EVD (Agency of the Netherlands Ministry of Economic Affairs), within the framework of the PSO Pre-Accession programme (PPA) via Ameco (project coordinator).

Main conferences, meetings and workshops attended in 2005

Kick-off meeting of SEBI2010

6 January 2005; EEA, Copenhagen, Denmark

Co-chaired by Ben Delbaere, Senior Programme Manager – Biodiversity

ALTER-Net meeting on work package I5: Integrating policy and science

20 & 21 January 2005; Wageningse Berg, Wageningen, the Netherlands

Coordinator: Ben Delbaere, Senior Programme Manager – Biodiversity

National Biodiversity Monitoring System seminar

27 January 2005; Sofia, Bulgaria

Presentation on 'International biodiversity indicators' by Ben Delbaere, Senior Programme Manager – Biodiversity

ALTER-Net 'Network of Excellence' Council Meeting

5 & 6 April 2005; Rome, Italy

Participation by Sandra Rientjes, Deputy Executive Director ECNC

ALTER-Net meeting on work package I5: Integrating policy and science

19 & 20 May 2005; Braila, Romania

Coordinated by Ben Delbaere, Senior Programme Manager – Biodiversity

Green Week 2005

1 June 2005; European Commission, Brussels, Belgium

Participation in session on 'Climate change and biodiversity' by Ben Delbaere, Senior Programme Manager – Biodiversity, on behalf of ETC/BD

Training session for the South-Eastern Europe region on biodiversity indicators and monitoring

13 & 14 September 2005; Ohrid, FYRO Macedonia

Trainer: Ben Delbaere, Senior Programme Manager – Biodiversity

European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity (ETC/BD) collaborative panel

18 November 2005; IUCN/ROfE, Brussels, Belgium

Presentation on 'EU headline biodiversity indicators in biodiversity monitoring programmes' by Ben Delbaere, Senior Programme Manager – Biodiversity

Publications in 2005

Delbaere, B. (2005) European policy review: Biodiversity research to support European policy. *Journal for Nature Conservation* 13: 213-214.

Delbaere, B. (2005) European policy review: Biodiversity and climate change.
Journal for Nature Conservation 13: 275-276.

Delbaere, B. (2005) Integrating ALTER-Net's science into European policy.
ALTER-Net Newsletter 01:13.

Delbaere, B. & A. Nieto Serradilla (Eds) (2005) *Environmental risks from agriculture in Europe: Locating environmental risk zones in Europe using agri-environmental indicators*.
Tilburg, ECNC-European Centre for Nature Conservation.

The Royal Society (2005) *A user's guide to biodiversity indicators*. – London, the European Academies Science Advisory Council. Contribution by Ben Delbaere, Senior Programme Manager – Biodiversity.

Wascher, D.M. (Ed.) (2005) *European Landscape Character Areas - Typologies, Cartography and Indicators for the Assessment of Sustainable Landscapes*. – Wageningen, LANDSCAPE EUROPE.



For more information on this Programme Area and its projects, please contact Ben Delbaere, Senior Programme Manager – Biodiversity (delbaere@ecnc.org).

Supporting International Organizations and Policy Initiatives: Bringing biodiversity policy closer to the heart of society and economic sectors

By providing practical, tailor-made support to the implementation of the priority targets of pan-European, EU and national policies and action plans, this ECNC Service Area promotes synergy between global and European actions on nature and biodiversity.

The European Biodiversity 2010 target to halt the loss of biodiversity by 2010 was at the centre of ECNC's European policy support in 2005. European intergovernmental commitments on biodiversity have never been as high as in recent years, but practical governmental commitment to contribute towards meeting these commitments was low in 2005.

2005 was the 10th anniversary year of the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS), celebrated at the PEBLDS Council meeting on 16 March. ECNC was strongly involved in this celebration and the discussions on the future of PEBLDS.

ECNC was co-organizer of the European Nature Conference, which in September 2005 celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Vereniging Natuurmonumenten with a major conference addressing connectivity between nature and nature, nature and people, and policy and practice. The recommendations of the Apeldoorn Appeal were widely distributed in Europe and welcomed by European governments and civic society. The Beautiful Europe initiative (see page 9), which was very well received, aims to implement several recommendations from the Appeal.

An extremely important development was the establishment of NatureNet Europe (the former EECNET Alliance) by an alliance of ECNC, EUCC-The Coastal Union and Eurosite. In 2005 this cooperation resulted in the Beautiful Europe initiative, a framework proposal for a programme 'Wadden Sea without borders', a climate and ecological network project proposal, and a proposal for an Internet site linking European nature areas and tourist

destinations. Promising forms of cooperation were developed with a number of zoos in Europe.

As part of the IUCN Netherlands Committee Leaders for Nature Initiative, ECNC provided active contributions, amongst others on the theme of biodiversity financing. This initiative brings together a growing number of captains of industry and commerce to discuss their contribution to biodiversity.

As a consortium partner of the European Environment Agency's European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity (ETC/BD), ECNC carried out activities in the field of EEA's State of Environment Report 2005, and climate change and biodiversity (see page 24).



Highlights

Countdown 2010

Funded by ECNC core budget

2005 saw the development of the Countdown 2010 Partnership. The Countdown, as a communication and expertise instrument promoting awareness and information on the European 2010 biodiversity target, grew in strength in 2005 and managed to interest a growing number of stakeholders, not in the least local and regional governments. It was rewarding to see that the Netherlands Province of Noord-Brabant and the Brabant municipalities of Tilburg and Boxtel took the lead in this, actively supported by ECNC and the Brabant&Europe Partnership. ECNC has strongly supported this initiative from the start, among others as member of the Steering Committee and the Executive Group. ECNC's Executive Director chaired the December meeting of the Executive Group, which approved a new partnership procedure, and agreed on the main thrust of a Countdown 2010 business plan. Active promotion activities took place during 2005, in cooperation with the regions and municipalities that joined or were interested in joining Countdown 2010. ECNC co-organized with Tilburg and the ICLEI (International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives) Secretariat, the ICLEI European Conference 'Mainstreaming sustainability in the face of change' in May 2005, and ECNC organized a biodiversity event in cooperation with the Brabant&Europe Partnership.

Brabant&Europe (B&E) Partnership for Sustainability / the European House for Biodiversity and Sustainability (EHBS)

Funded by the Province of Noord-Brabant, the Netherlands (main funder) and other Partnership members

The Brabant&Europe Partnership for Sustainability aims to bring together the expertise and experiences of the region of Noord-Brabant in sustainable development and biodiversity with knowledge available elsewhere in Europe. The partners are: ECNC; IUCN - The World Conservation Union; Eurosite; Province of Noord-Brabant; Municipality of Tilburg; Tilburg University; Brabant Landscape Foundation; Eindhoven University of Technology; and Natuurmuseum Brabant.

The European House for Biodiversity and Sustainability (EHBS) functions as a centre for information, knowledge and training, and stimulates joint activities of affiliated organizations and active communication across the borders of existing networks.

In the framework of the EHBS and the B&E Partnership various activities took place in 2005, coordinated by the Steering Committee of the European House.

In 2005 the Partnership assisted in organizing the successful ICLEI European Conference 'Mainstreaming sustainability in the face of change', held in Tilburg in May 2005. ECNC organized a biodiversity workshop at the conference in cooperation with the B&E Partnership and Countdown 2010.

The Partnership supported the Province of Noord-Brabant in developing a biodiversity programme, including two seminars on biodiversity policy for Provincial policymakers. In June 2005, the Queen's Commissioner for Noord-Brabant, Mrs Hanja Maij-Weggen, visited the European House. The visit resulted in a number of new ideas and initiatives. In September the Brabant Provincial Commission for Europe paid a working visit to the European House



to discuss, among others, B&E Partnership's initiative to hold a conference in the European Parliament in 2006, the Partnership's role in projects such as LIFESCAPE - YOUR LANDSCAPE, and the development of cooperation between the Groene Woud region in Noord-Brabant and Bialowieza in Poland.

ECNC's Executive Director attended several meetings of the Sustainability Council of Brabant, under the Presidency of the Queen's Commissioner for Noord-Brabant, Mrs Hanja Maij-Weggen.

Major projects in 2005

Support to the implementation of the CBD and Kyiv targets: Safeguarding Europe's biodiversity by 2010

2005 was the 10th anniversary year of the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS), celebrated at the PEBLDS Council meeting on 16 March. ECNC's Executive Director reflected on past successes and failures of PEBLDS, and ECNC's President Sir Brian Unwin participated in the forum discussions and presented the results of the European Task Force on Banking, Business and Biodiversity. He recommended that PEBLDS address the business and finance communities in more effective ways. ECNC contributed to the discussions to revitalize and refocus the pan-European biodiversity process and participated in Bureau and Council meetings.

Funding: Programme allocation Netherlands Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality.
More details: http://www.ecnc.org/CbdAndKyivTargets/Index_388.html

EU biodiversity policies: Support to implementation of EU biodiversity policies, including EU presidencies and the European Parliament

In 2005 ECNC actively contributed, on behalf of a number of NGOs, to the discussions of the EC Biodiversity Expert Group and its Working Groups on the future EC Communication 'Halting the loss of biodiversity by 2010 – and beyond'. On 1 April 2005 ECNC's President Sir Brian Unwin and Executive Director Rob Wolters met the new EC Commissioner for the Environment, Mr Stavros Dimas.

Funding: Programme allocation Netherlands Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality; ECNC core funding.

More details: http://www.ecnc.org/Overview/Index_395.html

Support to European Environment Agency (EEA) and its Topic Centre on Biological Diversity (ETC/BD)

In 2005 ECNC continued the secondment of a staff member to the ETC in Paris to support activities on data management.

Funding: ETC/BD; ECNC core funding.

More details: http://www.ecnc.org/Overview/Index_399.html#link1093

Brabant&Europe (B&E) Partnership for Sustainability / the European House for Biodiversity and Sustainability (EHBS)

See project highlight above for details.

Funding: B&E Partnership: Province of Noord-Brabant (the Netherlands; main funder) and other Partnership members; EHBS: Province of Noord-Brabant (the Netherlands); Municipality of Tilburg (the Netherlands); Programme allocation Netherlands Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality.

More details: <http://www.ecnc.org/bep/index.html>

Main conferences, meetings and workshops attended in 2005

Meeting of EU Biodiversity Expert Group

11 January 2005; Brussels, Belgium

Participation by Rob Wolters, Executive Director ECNC

Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS) Council meeting

16 March 2005; Strasbourg, France

Input by Rob Wolters, Executive Director ECNC

10th Anniversary of the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS)

17 March 2005; Strasbourg, France

Participation in multi-stakeholder forum by Sir Brian Unwin, President ECNC; speech by Rob Wolters, Executive Director ECNC

ICLEI (International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives) European Conference 'Mainstreaming sustainability in the face of change', organized by ICLEI Secretariat and Tilburg, in cooperation with ECNC

25–27 May 2005; Tilburg, the Netherlands

Organization of a conference workshop on 'Cities and biodiversity, towards an ICLEI Biodiversity Programme for the 2010 biodiversity target' moderated by Rob Wolters, Executive Director ECNC

Meeting of EU Biodiversity Expert Group

28 June 2005; Brussels, Belgium

Participation by Sandra Rientjes, Deputy Executive Director ECNC

Biodiversity seminars for the Province of Noord-Brabant

24 August and 5 October 2005; Province House, Den Bosch, the Netherlands

Presentation on communicating biodiversity for the Province of Noord-Brabant, by Sandra Rientjes, Deputy Executive Director ECNC; presentation on biodiversity and indicators by Ben Delbaere, Senior Programme Manager – Biodiversity

Visit of the Brabant Provincial Commission for Europe to the European House for Biodiversity and Sustainability

2 September 2005; Tilburg, the Netherlands

Presentation on ECNC's activities by Rob Wolters, Executive Director ECNC and on the B&E Partnership's activities by Peter von Meijenfeldt, Partnership Manager

Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS) Bureau meeting

16 September 2005; Geneva, Switzerland

Input by Rob Wolters, Executive Director ECNC

European Nature Conference

21-23 September 2005; Apeldoorn, the Netherlands

Panel member during plenary: Sir Brian Unwin, President ECNC; workshop on 'How can communication and cooperation between nature conservation organizations, governments and land users be improved?' chaired by Rob Wolters, Executive Director ECNC; workshop on 'How do people perceive nature and how can nature meet these requirements' chaired by Sandra Rientjes, Deputy Executive Director ECNC

Second high-level meeting of NatureNet Europe

22 September 2005; Apeldoorn, the Netherlands

Input by Sir Brian Unwin, President ECNC and Rob Wolters, Executive Director ECNC

EU Biodiversity Expert Group Working Group on Indicators, Monitoring and Reporting

25 October 2005; European Commission DG Environment, Brussels, Belgium

Presentation on 'EU headline biodiversity indicators in biodiversity monitoring programmes' by Ben Delbaere, Senior Programme Manager – Biodiversity, on behalf of the ETC/BD

Management Committee meeting of the European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity (ETC/BD)

2 & 3 November 2005; Prague, Czech Republic

Input by Sandra Rientjes, Deputy Executive Director ECNC and Ben Delbaere, Senior Programme Manager – Biodiversity

Meeting of EU Biodiversity Expert Group

15 November 2005; European Commission DG Environment, Brussels, Belgium

Participation by Ben Delbaere, Senior Programme Manager – Biodiversity

Fifth Countdown 2010 Executive Group meeting

13 December 2005; IUCN office, Brussels, Belgium

Chaired by Rob Wolters, Executive Director ECNC

Publications in 2005

Berkhuysen, A. & T. Stoker (Eds) (2005) *Our landscapes: space for nature, opportunities for people: Proceedings of the European Nature Conference 2005*. – Natuurmonumenten, 's-Graveland, the Netherlands. These proceedings include the text of the Apeldoorn Appeal, written by EEB, Eurosite, Europarc, and ECNC-European Centre for Nature Conservation.

ECNC/B&E Partnership/IUCN (2005) *Countdown 2010 – een mooie Europese uitdaging voor gemeenten*. (Countdown 2010 – a good European challenge for municipalities) – Tilburg, ECNC-European Centre for Nature Conservation.

Von Meijenfeldt, P. (2005) *Brabant grenzeloos actief?* (Brabant boundlessly active?) – Tilburg, B&E Partnership.

Wolters, A.R., A.H.P.M. Salman & G. Magnin (2005) *Mooi Europa*. (Beautiful Europe) – Tilburg, NatureNet Europe.



For more information on this Service Area and its projects, please contact Rob Wolters, Executive Director ECNC (wolters@ecnc.org).

3. Resources and communication

Social report

At the end of 2005, ECNC employed a total of 19 staff (15 in the Netherlands, three in Hungary and one in France). ECNC also continued to maintain its relationship with five associated partners (based in the United Kingdom, Canada, USA, France and the Netherlands). 2005 was a year of changes in the organization. ECNC developed a strategic midterm orientation in a joint effort of management, staff and ECNC Board, reviewed the structure and functioning of the Secretariat, Board and Scientific Council, and implemented several organizational changes. The Secretariat went through a process of reorganization, resulting in a slimmed-down management structure and an organization better focused on programme issues and fundraising. As a consequence, some staff had to leave and some new staff were recruited. Advice was provided by Warner Strategy and Fundraising on organizational issues, fundraising and the (re)structuring of the finance department. As in 2004, volunteers provided support to the ECNC Secretariat in the areas of communication, ICT, information and the library. ECNC supported the other international partners of the European House for Biodiversity and Sustainability in human resource and office tasks and facilities; they, in turn, provided support to ECNC.

Information, communication and media

The ECNC Secretariat started to develop a new approach to communication and information, geared to ECNC's new strategic orientation. As a result, in 2005 there was a much stronger focus in communication and information activities on programmes, target groups, to-the-point information on project activities, and appealing presentations. Overall, media coverage of ECNC increased substantially in 2005. ECNC management was interviewed by several journals and magazines, including national newspapers and magazines of site management organizations, and quoted in press releases.

Websites

In 2005 ECNC's new website, www.ecnc.org, which was launched in 2004, was frequently updated with new information. The new website attracted an increased number of unique visitors - an impressive average of 22,000 a month. ECNC also contributed to the website of NatureNet Europe. EUCC leads on this website, which can be found at www.natureneteurope.org. A start was made on revising the website of the Brabant&Europe Partnership on Sustainability (B&E Partnership): www.ecnc.org/bep/index.html. ECNC continued to maintain the PEBLDS Strategy Guide: <http://www.strategyguide.org>

Publications, magazines and PR material

In 2005 targeted information was developed on ECNC's programmes and new project activities, such as cities and biodiversity. A new poster presenting ECNC and its programmes was developed. Several project leaflets were developed and distributed.

In 2005 ECNC produced or contributed to the following leaflets and brochures:

- *Development of a National Biodiversity Monitoring System in Bulgaria.*
 - Ameco Environmental Services (project coordinator), the Netherlands
- *Introducing the IPCB-International Press Centre Biodiversity Research*
- *BioScore-Biodiversity impact assessment using species sensitivity scores*
- *SEBI2010-Streamlining European 2010 Biodiversity Indicators*
- *ALTER-Net - A Long-Term Biodiversity, Ecosystem and Awareness Research Network*
- *Landscape Character Areas - Places for building a sustainable Europe.*
 - ELCAI Policy brochure
- *Project LIFE III - CRO-NEN: Building up the national ecological network as a part of the Pan-European ecological network and EU network NATURA 2000.*
 - State Institute for Nature Protection, Croatia

The revised *Statutes of ECNC-European Centre for Nature Conservation* (Tilburg, Budapest) were published in October 2005.

A short prospectus was produced for each of the ECNC Programme Areas, as well as a leaflet entitled *Biodiversity and cities – building a positive relationship* (in English and Dutch).

Several ECNC reports on finalized ECNC projects were published, and articles appeared in various journals, newspapers and magazines. A selection of these reports and articles is given in Chapter 2 of this Annual report.

During 2005 six issues of the *ECNC Update* were published. This newsletter is available from the ECNC website. The ECNC Annual report for 2004 was published in July. Four issues of the *Journal for Nature Conservation* were published by Elsevier Science in affiliation with ECNC.

ECNC's presence at conferences

2005 was a busy year as regards ECNC input to and presentations at conferences and seminars. ECNC staff were frequently requested to deliver speeches at international conferences or to facilitate workshops. The most important meetings are mentioned in Chapter 2 of this Annual report.



4. The organization in 2005

Introducing the structure of ECNC

ECNC is an independent non-profit foundation working on a pan-European level. It consists of four bodies – the Board (and Bureau), the Scientific Council, the Network partners, and the Secretariat.

As part of the process of developing a new strategic orientation, it was decided to position ECNC as an independent European biodiversity expertise centre for sustainable development, based on a foundation structure. ECNC prefers to find common ground in interests and promotes new and effective approaches and ways of conservation for sustainable development: nature and biodiversity conservation for the 21st century.

In 2005 ECNC's statutes were revised. As ECNC further develops its role as an independent expertise centre for sustainable development, it is important that its Statutes should not only fully reflect the scope of its current activities, but also provide a flexible enough basis to allow ECNC to evolve further in the rapidly changing world of nature conservation in the future.

ECNC Board and Bureau

The Board of ECNC provides leadership and legitimacy to ECNC's operations, and the President Sir Brian Unwin, with a number of other active Board members together with the management and staff of ECNC, are the true ambassadors of ECNC. In its meeting in 2005, the Board decided to encourage all Board members to assist in promoting ECNC with relevant stakeholders and funders.

Over the last two years, under the leadership of Sir Brian Unwin, steps have been made to increase the programme support focus of the Board and to decrease overheads.

On 20 May 2005 the ECNC Bureau meeting took place at the premises of Kiskunsági National Park in Kecskemét, Hungary. The meeting adopted the ECNC Annual report and Annual financial report 2004, and welcomed the Network partner application of the Greek institute Nomos + Physis. The Bureau endorsed the main thrust of the strategic paper *ECNC beyond 2005*.

A second Bureau meeting was held on 22 September, during the European Nature Conference in Apeldoorn.

The Annual Board meeting was held in Tilburg on 11 and 12 November 2005. The Board decided to strengthen ECNC's role as a European biodiversity expertise centre for sustainable development, while stressing the foundation character. The Board adopted a midterm strategic orientation.

ECNC Board members at the November 2005 meeting.



The Board adopted guidelines for cooperation with businesses, and endorsed the annual work plan for 2006. The Board welcomed the developments in the framework of NatureNet Europe, in particular via the Beautiful Europe initiative.

This was the first Board meeting to take place since Mr Albert Klinkenbergh passed away in June 2005. The Board paused to remember his valuable contributions to European nature conservation.

A number of changes took place in the ECNC Board in 2005. Mr Ronald Loudon was appointed Vice-President in February 2005, and Dr Zbigniew Witkowski was appointed member of the Board. Mrs Maria Karadimova stepped down in November 2005.

A full list of Board and Bureau members can be found on page 41.

ECNC Scientific Council

In 2005 ECNC began the process of electing a new Scientific Council. The aim was to establish a smaller Council, which would be able to operate more effectively and contribute to the quality of the ECNC work programme.

All ECNC Network partners were offered the chance to nominate individuals for membership of the Council. There were 11 candidates, all eminent experts in the field of nature conservation and biodiversity management. In making its decision, the Board took into account the necessity for a wide diversity in expertise among the Council members, as well as the wish to establish a geographically balanced Council, consisting of representatives from the different regions of Europe.

The newly appointed Council is due to meet for the first time in March 2006.

A full list of Scientific Council members can be found on page 42.

Mr Ronald Loudon,
ECNC Vice-
President.



Staff of the ECNC Secretariat.



The ECNC Network

The ECNC Network, which currently consists of 44 partners in 22 European countries, is an important pool of expertise and also provides legitimacy to ECNC's scientific aspirations. ECNC works on various projects with Network partners. In 2005 the Secretariat reflected on how best to organize proactive contacts with the Network within the Secretariat's structure and on possibilities to create a 'market-place function' for Network partners to the benefit of the implementation of ECNC's strategic orientation and Programme Areas. In 2006 a number of extra steps will be taken.

In 2005 two new partners joined the Network: Nomos + Physis (Greece) and Stichting Recreatie (Leisure Innovation Centre; the Netherlands).

A full list of ECNC Network partners can be found on page 43.

ECNC Secretariat

The Secretariat is the coordinating body of ECNC and the true engine of ECNC. It assists the Board, Scientific Council and Network and takes care of the daily operations of the ECNC foundation. An important role is the coordination of programmes and projects, communication and information services, and financial and logistical support. At the end of 2005, ECNC employed a total of 19 staff of various European nationalities. As previously stated, in 2005 ECNC's Secretariat went through a process of reorganization, resulting in a slimmed-down but more flexible and effective organization, focusing on substance and impact.

A full list of ECNC staff members in 2005 can be found on page 40.

5. ECNC in person

ECNC Staff

31 December 2005

Rob Wolters (the Netherlands)	Executive Director ECNC/ Executive of European House for Biodiversity and Sustainability
Peter von Meijefeldt (the Netherlands)	Partnership Manager for the Brabant & Europe Partnership for Sustainability
Sandra Rientjes (the Netherlands)	Head of Programme Development/Deputy Executive Director
Ben Delbaere (Belgium)	Senior Programme Manager – Biodiversity
Grégoire Loïs (France)	Technical Officer for Data Management on Biodiversity (seconded to the ETC/BD, Paris)
Peter Nowicki (France/USA)	Programme Manager – Ecology and Economy
Karen Gilbert (United Kingdom)	Programme Manager – Nature and Society
Edina Biró (Hungary), to December	Programme Coordinator – European Ecological Network (based in Hungary)
Glynis van Uden (United Kingdom)	Senior Project Officer
Ana Nieto Serradilla (Spain)	Senior Project Officer
Yuca Waarts (the Netherlands)	Project Officer
Natasja Hulst (the Netherlands), from January	Project Officer
Emanuel Suurhoff (the Netherlands), to June	Head of Resource and Communication Unit
Monique van Ballegooy (the Netherlands)	Senior Project and Finance Officer
Heidi Janssen (the Netherlands)	Information and Communications Officer
Frans Ghering (the Netherlands)	Senior Finance and Administration Officer
Gillian Heslop (United Kingdom)	Executive Secretary
Ignah Boekhoudt (the Netherlands), to December	Secretary and Personnel Officer
Betty Leeman (the Netherlands), to April	Finance Bookkeeping Officer/Financial Assistant

ECNC Regional Office

Mihály Végh (Hungary)	Head
Ágnes Bruszik (Hungary)	Project Manager

ECNC Associates/Advisors

Tom Kovacs (Canada)	Associate
Catherine Cassagne (France)	Associate
Graham Drucker (United Kingdom)	Associate
Jaap Pieters (the Netherlands)	Associate
Justin Mundy (United Kingdom)	Senior Executive Advisor

Volunteers/Trainees

Ada Vermaas (the Netherlands)	Volunteer, Communication and Information
Ad Vlems (the Netherlands), from September	Volunteer, IT
Mhamed Akatouh (Morocco), to February	Trainee, Finance and Bookkeeping
Susanne Kuytman (the Netherlands), January to March	Trainee, Communication

ECNC Board and Bureau members

Board Members

31 December 2005

President	Sir Brian Unwin KCB , on personal title, United Kingdom
First Vice-President	Dr J. Tardy , on personal title, Hungary
Second Vice-President	Mr R.H. Loudon , on personal title, the Netherlands (from February)
Treasurer	Prof. Dr J. Rammeloo , Belgium
Secretary	Mr A.R. Wolters , Executive Director, ECNC

Other members

Mr J. Bakker, the Netherlands
Mr M. Castroviejo, Spain
Dr G. Krepetz, Russian Federation
Mr E. Fernández-Galiano, on behalf of the Council of Europe
Prof. Dr P.A. Gerakis, Greece
Ms I. Higuero, on behalf of UNEP/ROE
Mr E. Idle, United Kingdom
Mrs M. Karadimova, Bulgaria (until November)
Mr B.J. Krouwel, the Netherlands
Mr R. Lamb, Switzerland
Mr R. Leafe, United Kingdom (until December)
Dr A. Liberatori, Italy (until November)
Prof. Dr M. Niekisch, representative of IUCN –
The World Conservation Union
Mr G.B. Raaphorst, the Netherlands
(Deputy: Mr J. Bakker, the Netherlands)
Mr G. Szilágyi, Hungary
Dr Z. Witkowski, Poland

Honorary Board members

Prof. Dr A. Machado (former ECNC President), on personal title, Spain
Ms N. Goulandris-Kefala (former ECNC Vice-President), on personal title, Greece
Mr M.C.A. Klinkenbergh (former ECNC Vice-President), the Netherlands († June 2005)

Observer

Mr P. Buckley, Ireland

Bureau members

31 December 2005

Chair Sir Brian Unwin

Other members

Mr E. Idle
Mr R. Leafe (until December)
Mr R.H. Loudon (from February)
Prof. Dr J. Rammeloo
Dr J. Tardy
Mr A.R. Wolters

ECNC Scientific Council members

31 December 2005

Chair

Dr Sjur Baardsen (University of Life Sciences, Norway)

Vice-Chair

Dr Július Oszlányi (Institute for Landscape Ecology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, Slovak Republic)

Other members

Prof. Dr Ruslan Butovsky (Institute for Sustainable Communities, Russian Federation)

Dr Mark Felton (English Nature, United Kingdom)

Prof. Dr Jozef Keulartz (Wageningen University, the Netherlands)

Mr Carlos Sunyer (Terra, Spain)



The ECNC Scientific Council: (left to right)

Dr Mark Felton,
Prof. Dr Ruslan Butovsky,
Mr Carlos Sunyer,
Ms Sandra Rientjes
(Council Secretary),
Dr Sjur Baardsen,
Prof. Dr Jozef Keulartz and
Dr Július Oszlányi.

ECNC Network partners

31 December 2005

Network partner organization	Country	Contact person
Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection	Czech Republic	Dr J. Plesnik
Agricultural Economics Research Institute	The Netherlands	Dr F.M. Brouwer
All-Russian Research Institute for Nature Protection	Russian Federation	Dr R.O. Butovsky
Autonomous University of Madrid	Spain	Prof. Dr B. Peco
Biodiversity Conservation Centre	Russian Federation	Dr V. Kuznetsov
Caucasus Nature Conservancy	Georgia	Mr E. van Maanen
Centre for Agricultural Landscape and Land Use Research	Germany	Dr U. Stachow
Centre for Cartography of Fauna and Flora	Slovenia	Ms K. Pobljsaj
Central European University	Hungary	Prof. Dr R. Mnatsakanian
Centre for Environmental Research of the Province of Madrid	Spain	Mrs P. Fernández Sañudo
Centre for Environmental Science	The Netherlands	Prof. Dr G. de Snoo
Complutense University of Madrid	Spain	Prof. Dr F.D. Pineda
Debrecen University	Hungary	Dr Z. Karácsonyi
English Nature	United Kingdom	Mr R. Leafe
EUCC-The Coastal Union	International	Dr A. Pickaver
Forest Research Institute	Poland	Dr W. Adamczyk
Goulandris Natural History Museum – Greek Biotope/Wetland Centre	Greece	Prof. Dr P.A. Gerakis
Hellenic Society for the Protection of Nature	Greece	Mr D. Matthews
Institute for Ecological and Regional Development	Germany	Prof. Dr B. Müller
Institute for the Protection of Nature of Serbia	Serbia & Montenegro	Vacant
Institute of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Estonian University of Life Sciences	Estonia	Mr K. Sepp
Institute of Biology of the Southern Seas	Ukraine	Dr N. Shalovenkov
Institute of Environmental Protection	Poland	Dr Z. Pisarski
Institute of Nature Conservation	Poland	Prof. Dr Z. Witkowski
József Attila University	Hungary	Prof. Dr L. Gallé
Knowledge Directorate, Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality	The Netherlands	Mr S. van Opstal
National Research Council	Italy	Dr G. Amori

Network partner organization	Country	Contact person
Natural History Museum	United Kingdom	Dr P. Williams
Nomos + Physis	Greece	Dr P. Patronos
Norwegian Institute for Nature Research	Norway	Dr E. Framstad
Plant Research International	The Netherlands	Ir H.G. van der Meer
Slovak Academy of Sciences	Slovakia	Prof. Dr L. Miklós
Stichting Recreatie	The Netherlands	Ms M. Veer
TERRA - centro para la política ambiental	Spain	Mr C. Sunyer
Terra Cypria	Cyprus	Dr A. Yíordamli
Telos/Tilburg University	The Netherlands	Mr M.J.H. Oldenhof & Prof. Dr J.T. Mommaas
UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre	International	Mr J. Harrison
University College Cork	Ireland	Ms V. Cummins
University of Antwerp	Belgium	Prof. Dr P. Meire
University of Bucharest	Romania	Prof. Dr A. Vadineanu
University of Tartu	Estonia	Prof. Dr Ü. Mander
University of the Aegean	Greece	Prof. Dr A. Troumbis
University of Zagreb - Dept of Botany	Croatia	Dr T. Nikolic
Wageningen Agricultural University	The Netherlands	Prof. Dr F. Berendse

6. ECNC Partners

Benefits from partnerships

As stated in ECNC's Annual report 2004, which was devoted to partnerships, ECNC is a strong believer in cooperation between all relevant stakeholders for strengthening the effectiveness of conservation efforts and for widening the involvement of non-conservation stakeholders in biodiversity targets.

Since its inception, ECNC has prioritized the development of partnerships and alliances, which we feel could result in the following benefits for Europe's biodiversity and people:

- stronger pools of expertise and innovation, which will provide better and more comprehensive products for clients and/or funders;
- enhanced impact of activities;
- more benefits of scale and scope, resulting in more efficient processes;
- enhanced stakeholder involvement and understanding, resulting in more effective biodiversity approaches and increased potential for sustainable economic development.

Priorities in partnerships in 2005

In 2005 ECNC devoted a great deal of attention to partnerships:

- exploration of far-reaching alliances with like-minded organizations, leading to the establishment of the NatureNet Europe Alliance by ECNC, EUCC-The Coastal Union and Eurosite, in close cooperation with the EECONET Action Fund;
- strong investment in the Countdown 2010 Partnership, including promoting the 2010 biodiversity target towards the regional and local levels in Europe;
- continued investment in its partnership with the European expert community, in particular via the cooperation with the European Environment Agency (EEA) and its renewed and extended European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity and via ECNC's strong involvement in the EU biodiversity 'Network of Excellence' ALTER-Net;
- deepening of the working relationship with a number of European and national banks, and exploration of joint ventures with some businesses;
- maintenance of ECNC's traditional strong working relationship with EU and pan-European intergovernmental biodiversity processes and organizations. In particular, cooperation with the European Commission, UNEP, Council of Europe and IUCN continued in 2005;
- partnerships with European countries, including the Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, Hungary, Croatia, Poland, Slovak Republic, Czech Republic, Russia, France, Spain and FYRO Macedonia;
- further development of ECNC's partnership with the Province of Noord-Brabant and the city of Tilburg in the Netherlands, with ICLEI (International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives) and via ICLEI with various other regions and municipalities;
- increased working relationships between various ECNC Network partners and the ECNC Secretariat in 2005, resulting in several project cooperation agreements.

ECNC is grateful for these and other partnerships and for the financial support received.

The preceding examples show that ECNC is firmly anchored in various 'worlds': the worlds of expertise, business, policy, and local and regional authorities. It is therefore well placed to provide tailor-made expertise and support, and to cope with future challenges.

7. Financial report

ECNC Financial resources

In 2005 ECNC received financial support for various projects and programmes. ECNC continued to receive financial programme support from the Netherlands Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, the Province of Noord-Brabant, and the Municipality of Tilburg, and in-kind contribution from the Hungarian Ministry of Environment and Water. Various other sources contributed to the realization of ECNC's work programme and projects, including the European Commission, various European countries, UNEP and the Council of Europe.

Auditor's Report

We have audited the financial statements of the European Centre for Nature Conservation at Tilburg, for the year 2005 (January–December), from which the summarized financial statements were derived, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the Netherlands. In our report dated 9 May 2006 we expressed an unqualified opinion on the financial statements from which the summarized financial statements were derived. These financial statements are the responsibility of the foundation's management. In our opinion, the accompanying summarized financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the financial statements from which they were derived. For a better understanding of the foundation's financial position and the results of its operations for the period and of the scope of our audit, the summarized financial statements should be read in conjunction with the financial statements from which the summarized financial statements were derived and our audit report thereon.

Tilburg, 9 May 2006

ARP Accountants en Belastingadviseurs B.V.

BALANCE SHEET (Euros)

Assets	2005	2004	Liabilities	2005	2004
	€	€		€	€
Fixed assets			Equity		
Tangible assets	-	-	Retained earnings	170,435	200,398
Current assets			Provisions	-	-
Work in progress	-121,526	37,602	Short-term liabilities	346,629	529,333
Receivables and other assets	346,647	245,016	Total liabilities	517,064	729,731
Cash	291,943	447,113			
Total assets	517,064	729,731			

COSTS & BENEFITS (Euros)

	2005	2004
	€	€
Gross income: subsidies	624,171	623,977
Of which directly allocated to projects	-600,783	-600,783
Net project revenues	566,464	502,888
Of which allocated to projects from Subsidies	600,783	600,783
Total income	1,190,636	1,126,865
A. Personnel	1,015,033	952,714
B. Office	163,236	131,860
C. Travel	20,348	24,975
D. Other general foundation	21,981	6,402
Total costs	1,220,599	1,115,951
Result on benefits/costs	-29,963 *	10,914
To retained earnings	-29,963	10,914

* Due to reorganization costs and doubtful debtors.



Colophon

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