

Editorial

In this issue of the *ECNC Update* we report on the progress being made in the project 'Biodiversity and ecosystem services for local sustainable development in the Western Balkans' (SEE-BAP). ECNC and project partner REC-Regional Environmental Center recently gave a training workshop in Montenegro to increase local knowledge, awareness and capacity regarding biodiversity and sustainable development. A handbook on local biodiversity action planning for the Western Balkans was presented during the workshop. See page 5 for further details.

Registration is now open for the 'Seminar on European Learning Network on Functional AgroBiodiversity (ELN-FAB) in Baltic Sea Region', to be held in Estonia on 25 and 26 August 2010. Please see page 7 for details and information on how to register.

In this issue of the *Update* we continue our series highlighting ECNC's activities during the International Year of Biodiversity. This time we focus on some of the work being carried out by ECNC's Business and Biodiversity Programme Area to promote the conservation of biodiversity.

On behalf of the Editorial Team
Glynis van Uden

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Nature as a provider of business opportunities

All businesses, irrespective of their size, sector or location, ultimately depend on biodiversity. Concern for biodiversity is integral to sustainable development, competitiveness, economic growth and employment, and improved livelihoods. The ECNC Programme Area Business and Biodiversity facilitates the integration of biodiversity issues in the financial and economic sectors and facilitates investment in biodiversity-related business.



ECNC promotes activities to help create a biodiversity-friendly economy, with benefits for business, biodiversity and society.

(Photo: Wikimedia Commons – Kintaiyo)

ECNC is currently working on the European Business and Biodiversity Platform. The Platform will facilitate information and knowledge exchange between businesses, governments, the EU and NGOs about how they can contribute to business sustainability and biodiversity. ECNC is leading the work on the agriculture and finance sectors. See <http://www.ecnc.org/programmes/business-and-biodiversity-ongoing-projects> for further details.

The European Learning Network for Functional AgroBiodiversity (ELN-FAB), implemented together with DIVERSITAS agroBIODIVERSITY, provides a platform for exchange of knowledge on functional agrobiodiversity, best practice examples and practical guidance to European farmers and landowners.

A project website and newsletter have been developed (<http://www.eln-fab.eu>). ECNC co-organized the second ELN-FAB seminar, held in Switzerland, which focused on how ELN-FAB can contribute to increased attention to agrobiodiversity in European policies.

As part of a project to establish a Biodiversity Finance Workstream, in 2009 ECNC co-organized a high-level conference (Amsterdam, the Netherlands) to discuss opportunities and mechanisms for investments in biodiversity/ ecosystem services, motivating investors to invest, and the need for an enabling environment.

ECNC has also done considerable work on the topic of bioenergy and biodiversity. An ECNC brief on this topic can be found at <http://www.ecnc.org/about-ecnc/briefs>. The ECNC publication *Impacts of biofuel production on biodiversity in Europe* provides an overview of positive and negative impacts of biofuel production, and gives recommendations for European and national policymakers regarding sustainable biofuel production. (Download the report at <http://www.ecnc.org/publications/technicalreports>.)



For more information: Ben Delbaere, Head of Programme Development; delbaere@ecnc.org; also visit the ECNC website <http://www.ecnc.org>

Education package 'Brabant Pearls of Biodiversity' launched

On 9 April 2010 the programme 'Brabant Pearls of Biodiversity' started. During a kick-off meeting in Tilburg, Mr Frank Petter (Mayor of Woudrichem and Chairman of the Molo Biodiversity Task Force) and Mrs Marieke van der Werf (manager of the national programme office for Nature and Environmental Education) signed a statement confirming their support for this unique new programme (in Dutch: 'NME-arrangement').

As part of the International Year of Biodiversity, in recent months a unique partnership of municipalities, schools, child care services, companies, nature and environmental organizations and agricultural organizations has been created. Some 50 organizations involved in the programme 'Brabant Pearls of Biodiversity' focus on strengthening nature and environmental education in relation to biodiversity in the Province of Noord-Brabant, where ECNC is located. The Programme aims to connect existing initiatives ('pearls'), to upscale them and to integrate them into regional policy in order to ensure increased impact and effectiveness.

According to the parties involved, the dissemination of insights, knowledge and experience on natural systems and biodiversity is an essential way to structurally involve citizens in the maintenance of biodiversity. Environmental

education is a powerful policy tool that continuously contributes to the appreciation of biodiversity among the public, children and adolescents.



From left to right: Marieke van der Werf, Wim Ruis (IVN), Ben Delbaere (ECNC) and Mayor Frank Petter. The 'Brabant Pearls of Biodiversity' programme will focus efforts on education for biodiversity. (Photo: ECNC)

This two-year nationwide programme is a joint initiative of the Netherlands ministries responsible for nature, environment and education and is managed by ECNC together with the regional branch of the IVN, with active involvement of the Province of Noord-Brabant, municipalities and national government. The government programme 'NME' is providing €900,000 of co-financing for the Programme.

For more information: Ben Delbaere, Head of Programme Development; delbaere@ecnc.org

Policy Support

ECNC project outputs presented at Green Week 2010

1-4 June 2010, Brussels, Belgium

Representatives from ECNC attended the Green Week Conference 2010, the largest European environmental conference, which took place from 1 to 4 June in Brussels. This year's theme was 'Biodiversity – our lifeline', addressing the state of biodiversity and nature in Europe and the world, the benefits they bring, current pressures on them, and possible solutions to the current rates of loss.

During the opening session the European Commission and the European Environment

Agency (EEA) unveiled two important new tools to combat biodiversity loss: BISE (the Biodiversity Information System for Europe) and the EEA report *EU 2010 Biodiversity Baseline*. ECNC was strongly involved in producing the report and contributed to the BISE.

BISE is a web portal that brings together information about European biodiversity and ecosystem services in a single location. It is being developed to strengthen the knowledge base and support decision making on biodiversity.

Visit the BISE website at:
<http://biodiversity.europa.eu/>.

The *EU 2010 Biodiversity Baseline* report offers a comprehensive view of the current state of biodiversity and will be used to monitor progress in the renewed efforts to halt biodiversity loss.



Green Week 2010. This year's theme was 'Biodiversity - our lifeline'. (Photo: © EC/CE - Patrick Mascart)

A brochure on the European Learning Network on Functional AgroBiodiversity (ELN-FAB) project (being implemented by ECNC together with DIVERSITAS agroBIODIVERSITY) was disseminated during the event. *Functional AgroBiodiversity for a more sustainable agriculture and countryside in Europe* explains the concept of functional agrobiodiversity, and

Injecting biodiversity policy into PhD research

For a number of years ECNC has been involved as an associate partner in the SPECIATION network. This network, one of the Marie Curie Initial Training Networks, aims to train nine young scientists to PhD level in the biological disciplines to understand the evolutionary origin of biological diversity. Speciation is the evolutionary process by which biological species are formed.

During a project meeting on 3 June in Konnevesi Research Station, Jyväskylä, Finland, ECNC's Ben Delbaere presented international biodiversity policy and the role played by ECNC in the field of biodiversity conservation. The PhD students were invited to join ECNC for a short period to get a feel for working on biodiversity policy issues. Coming from a very scientific

aims to inform the interested public about benefits and possibilities that FAB offers (see also page 11). Also, the BioScore (Biodiversity impact assessment using species sensitivity scores) folder and report, produced by ECNC as part of an FP6 project, were distributed via the EC DG Research information stand.

The website of the EU Business @ Biodiversity Platform, of which ECNC is a project partner, was officially launched during the session 'Finding the tools to make business biodiversity-neutral' on 2 June. Visit the website at: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/biodiversity/business/index_en.html. (See also page 8.)

The results of the project 'Conflict management in the Natura 2000 Network', which ECNC carried out for the European Commission together with its project partners Alterra and Eurosite, were presented by Dr Leon Braat (Alterra) and Mrs Nicole Nowicki (Eurosite) during the session 'Local actors: reconciling socio-economic goals and nature conservation', chaired by Stefan Leiner, Acting Head of the Natura 2000 Unit, DG Environment, European Commission.



background, this is a big challenge which was picked up by a number of students who are willing to learn from ECNC.

For more information: Ben Delbaere, Head of Programme Development, delbaere@ecnc.org; or <http://speciation.group.shef.ac.uk/>

Mini-seminar launches biodiversity garden initiative

27 May 2010, Tilburg, the Netherlands

On 27 May 2010 ECNC, Corpac House and the Municipality of Tilburg organized a mini-symposium to present the design for a biodiversity garden to be established on the grounds around the Corpac House office building in Tilburg, the Netherlands, where ECNC's headquarters are located.

The biodiversity garden is intended to create an attractive environment for plants and animals, as well as for the office building's tenants and visitors. It will contain hedges, wildflower lawns, a pond and nesting opportunities for various species of birds and insects. This autumn a start will be made on planting the garden, which should be ready by the winter. The garden has been designed by students from Van Hall Larenstein University of Applied Sciences in the Netherlands.

During the symposium Mr Oudejans, headmaster of the Theresialyceum, a grammar school located opposite the Corpac House, signed the Countdown 2010 declaration. In doing so, the school declared its intention to take up the theme of biodiversity in and around the school grounds and in lessons. Pupils from the school

will be actively involved in the development of the garden.

The biodiversity garden is the result of cooperation between ECNC, Corpac House (the office building owners) and the Municipality of Tilburg. It is being financed by the Municipality of Tilburg, Corpac House and the Province of Noord-Brabant. ECNC is providing its expertise and time in kind.



Marieke Moorman (right), Alderman of the Municipality of Tilburg, and Ben Delbaere (left), ECNC's Head of Programme Development, unveil a board that informs passers-by about the biodiversity garden.

(Photo: Jack Tummers)

For more information: Ben Delbaere, Head of Programme Development; delbaere@ecnc.org

Nature and Society

Local biodiversity action planning for Western Balkan municipalities speeds up!

4-6 May 2010, Budva, Montenegro

Some 50 representatives of nine municipalities of six countries in the Western Balkans have received further training in skills to develop Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAPs). This was achieved during a region-wide training workshop of the ECNC-led project 'Biodiversity and ecosystem services for local sustainable development in the Western Balkans' (SEE-BAP), held in Budva, Montenegro, in May 2010. The workshop was organized by ECNC together with its partner, REC-Regional Environmental Center.

Following the first two regional workshops in October 2009, this workshop was designed to build essential skills in the use of participatory

techniques, using real examples from the partner municipalities. The LBAP handbook, *Local Biodiversity Action Planning for Southeastern Europe*, was presented during the workshop (see also page 10). This handbook, available in six languages, outlines the stages that are needed to explore the many functions, goods and services that biodiversity provides and explains how to set up an action plan. It stimulates the involvement of local community vision and promotes sustainable business opportunities that are provided by working with biodiversity. A first copy of the handbook was presented to Ms Anu Rämä, First Secretary of the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs.



Participants of the training workshop. The SEE-BAP project stimulates the involvement of local community vision and promotes sustainable business opportunities that are provided by working with biodiversity. (Photo: ECNC)

The workshop participants expressed their appreciation for the informative workshop. All

12th Dinaric Arc Initiative (DAI) meeting reviews progress

29 & 30 April 2010, Budva, Montenegro

On 29 and 30 April 2010, ECNC hosted the 12th Dinaric Arc Initiative (DAI) meeting, held in Budva, Montenegro.

The Dinaric Arc Initiative is a broad framework of collaboration which aims to add value to the ongoing programmes and activities of its partners (WWF, UNESCO-BRESCE, UNDP, IUCN, the Council of Europe, FAO, Euronatur and SNV). These organizations are implementing a varied portfolio of projects and initiatives aimed at securing long-term conservation and sustainable development in Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, and Albania.

The partner organizations presented their work in the region and gave updates on ongoing

participating municipalities committed themselves to trying to have local biodiversity action plans ready by the end of 2010.

On 6 May 2010 the second SEE-BAP Steering Committee meeting took place, bringing together representatives of governments and ministries of the participating Balkan countries, the Finnish Ministry of the Environment, two Finnish experts, and members of the ECNC-REC project team. The Steering Committee welcomed the progress made in the implementation of the project, and provided advice for future priorities.

The project is funded by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland.

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projects. The meeting was very fruitful, with active participation and lively discussions. The participants shared common visions for the work areas and discussed further possible cooperation for effective implementation. ECNC's Programme Manager and DAI contact person, Ayşegül Çil, presented the recent results of the local biodiversity action planning process for collaborative actions with other international initiatives in the same area.

More information on DAI can be found at: <http://www.cbddinaricarc.com/content/view/13/28/>

Business and Biodiversity

ELN-FAB steering group meeting discusses future activities

4 May 2010, Copenhagen, Denmark

The project team and steering group of the European Learning Network on Functional AgroBiodiversity (ELN-FAB) held its first meeting for 2010 to discuss the progress made so far this year and the future of the initiative.

The ELN-FAB project aims to provide a platform and facility for exchange of knowledge and practical experiences between farmers, policymakers and scientists to enable fast and effective implementation of best practices in

order to help to optimize agrobiodiversity benefits and promote sustainable agriculture. ELN-FAB focuses on the 27 Member States of the EU, plus Norway and Switzerland.

The meeting was hosted by the European Environment Agency (EEA) in Copenhagen. Fields of cooperation between ELN-FAB and the EEA were identified during the meeting.

One of the key issues discussed during the meeting was the organization of the annual ELN-FAB European seminar later this year. The participants also exchanged information on processes, publications and meetings of relevance to ELN-FAB, and discussed what kind of approach the Network should take to ensure balance between different stakeholder groups. A brochure on the concept of functional agrobiodiversity was discussed, and is now available (see page 11). This brochure was

disseminated at the Green Week 2010 event (1–4 June 2010, Brussels).

The ELN-FAB project is being implemented by ECNC together with DIVERSITAS agroBIODIVERSITY, and is currently financially supported by the Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment (VROM), the Netherlands; Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN), Switzerland; Flemish Land Agency (VLM), Belgium; Ministry of Agriculture, Estonia; and the European Environment Agency (EEA). The further support of funders is being sought in order to expand the Network in the long term.

For more information: Veronika Mikos, Project Manager; mikos@ecnc.org



European Learning Network on Functional AgroBiodiversity

Announcement of seminar on European Learning Network on Functional AgroBiodiversity (ELN-FAB) in Baltic Sea Region

EU farmers and policymakers increasingly acknowledge that biodiversity and agricultural production need not necessarily be in conflict, but can potentially strengthen each other, as experience has already shown.

In this context, the 'Seminar on European Learning Network on Functional AgroBiodiversity (ELN-FAB) in Baltic Sea Region' will be held in Rakvere in northern Estonia on 25 and 26 August 2010. The event is being jointly organized by the Estonian Ministry of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Centre (Estonia) and ECNC-European Centre for Nature Conservation (host of the ELN-FAB secretariat).

Understanding the relations between biodiversity and sustainable agricultural production and translating such knowledge into management practices that can be applied at the scale of farms and landscapes is of key importance for a robust and environmentally friendly agriculture in Europe. In this context, the concept of

Functional AgroBiodiversity (FAB) has recently been introduced. This seminar introduces the concept of FAB and the benefits it can provide for a more sustainable agriculture.

The invitation, programme and registration form can be found on the ECNC website:

<http://www.ecnc.org/news#link460>.

You are kindly asked to send the completed registration form by email to fabseminar@pmk.agri.ee. Registration closes on 15 July! For organizational reasons, we ask you to express your interest in participating as early as possible. Your registration will be confirmed after the registration deadline.

All relevant information (regularly updated) is also available at:

<http://pmk.agri.ee/pkt/fabseminar>. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Iiri Selge by email at fabseminar@pmk.agri.ee or phone + 372 53 021 925.

Please forward this information to your colleagues or interested persons.

EU Business @ Biodiversity Platform website launched at Green Week

The website of the EU Business @ Biodiversity (B@B) Platform, of which ECNC is a project partner, was officially launched at Green Week 2010. Green Week is the largest annual conference on European environment policy. This year it was held from 1 to 4 June 2010, and turned the spotlight on biodiversity and nature in Europe and the world.

The Business @ Biodiversity Platform website can be found at:
http://ec.europa.eu/environment/biodiversity/business/index_en.html

The website displays general information about the programme as well as sections focused on the identified priority sectors (agriculture, food supply chain, forestry, extractive industry, financial sector and tourism).

Becoming involved with the Platform is an opportunity for businesses to:

- gain access to the sectoral best practices for biodiversity conservation;
- contribute to the development of guidance documents;
- recognize outstanding contributions to biodiversity conservation through the award system.

ECNC is providing input for the sectors of agriculture and finance.

The Business @ Biodiversity Platform is funded by the European Commission, Directorate-General Environment.

For more information: Ben Delbaere, Project Coordinator; delbaere@ecnc.org



Green Infrastructure

Draft MAK-NEN map presented during Second National Workshop

10 & 11 May 2010, near Kičevo, Macedonia

As part of the MAK-NEN project to develop a national ecological network in Macedonia, ECNC and the Macedonian Ecological Society (MES) organized the Second National Workshop on Ecological Networks, held near Kičevo in Macedonia on 10 and 11 May 2010.

The workshop was a first step in the consultation process for the map of the National Ecological Network. Professor Ljupcho Melovski, President of MES, presented the first draft of the map, which shows the core areas, corridors and areas that may pose potential challenges and threats to the connectivity and coherence of the network. The participants were able to comment on the map and contribute to its further development and improvement, bringing in the views of the sectors they represented. The results of the workshop will feed into the process of developing the map further.

The Project Team also presented the project's communication activities, including the five sectoral leaflets for forestry, agriculture,



transport, energy and water management. These leaflets explain the issues and opportunities for each sector in relation to the ecological network's implementation. The awareness-raising pilot project for kindergarten children was also presented, for which a picture book, *Brave Little Bear*, has been published.

The workshop was used as an opportunity to generate ideas for the preparation of the Bear Corridor Management Plan, which is the next important step on the way towards the implementation of the ecological network in Macedonia and an important milestone of the MAK-NEN project.

The workshop was opened by Mr Filip Ivanov, Director of the Administration of Environment of the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, demonstrating the Ministry's support to and interest in the MAK-NEN project. In addition to the Ministry representatives, there were over 20 participants, representing all relevant stakeholder groups involved in implementing the National Ecological Network.

The MAK-NEN project is funded by the BBI-Matra programme of the Netherlands Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

For more information: Dr Lawrence Jones-Walters, Senior Programme Manager – Green Infrastructure (joneswalters@ecnc.org) or Kristijan Čivić, Project Coordinator (civic@ecnc.org)



Workshop participants examining the draft map of the National Ecological Network.

(Photo: Lawrence Jones-Walters)

News About Other Members of the ECNC Group

EUCC News – Innovative approaches to management: IMCORE progress



(Photo: EUCC)

The IMCORE partnership met in Auray (Brittany, France) in May. With 18 months until the conclusion of the project, particular attention was given to the transnational working groups established as mechanisms to better support the approaches being applied within the Expert Couplet Nodes but also as platforms to discuss the messages and enhancement of the final products that will come out of IMCORE. Clearly in the right direction but still with considerable work ahead, this was the best chance to apply a new impetus and tune the activities under development.

The meeting allowed to see, both in practice and detail, some of the issues and approaches from the Couplet of France: AMURE (University of

Brittany) and SIAGM (Intercommunal Development Association of the Gulf of Morbihan). The Gulf of Morbihan is a multi-use area that receives 2 million visitors each year and its communities are highly dependent on the oyster farming that is done on the banks of this lagoon. An integrated and sustainable management, promoted by SIAGM, is essential to assure the viability and compatibility of all these activities. Furthermore, it is extremely important to develop an adaptive strategy to factors that will induce change – such as sea-level rise or the recent outbreak of an oyster disease, which is also threatening oyster production in other areas of southern Europe. One of the 40 islands within the gulf – the Island of Ilur - was bought by the Conservatoire du Littoral and is now being managed in a sustainable way, as a pilot site. The goal is that this island becomes energy independent with economic autonomy, guaranteeing the preservation of its natural values while allowing visitors to enjoy its beauty.

Keep informed about IMCORE - Innovative Management for Europe's Changing Coastal Resource – online: <http://www.imcore.eu/>

For more news from EUCC, see Coastal & Marine News at <http://www.eucc.net/en/news>

ECNC's Annual Scientific Council meeting

The Scientific Council of the ECNC Group held its annual meeting in Tilburg on 28 May 2010. This is the main occasion each year for the six Council members to review progress in ECNC activities, to discuss specific issues from a scientific point of view and to propose new priorities for the upcoming work plan. The Quality Assurance Protocol, developed by the Scientific Council in previous years, provides guidance to the Council's deliberations.

During this year's meeting specific attention was paid to the Mid-Term Strategy that is being developed in the framework of the ongoing integration process towards a broader ECNC. With the joining of both 'green' and 'blue' activities, the Council felt an increased need for

a number of cross-cutting themes to be included in the Strategy, such as work with civil society or on climate change. In order to facilitate an integrated approach, the Council also advised focusing on the benefits of the integration process and making clear connections to a number of key European policy documents, such as the recent EC vision on biodiversity or the Integrated Maritime Policy.

A number of ECNC staff presented selected ongoing projects, on which the Scientific Council then provided specific advice.

The Scientific Council extended the membership term of Dr Eeva Furman by another three years.

Staff news

Vineta Goba left ECNC in May 2010. Vineta joined ECNC in 2007 as Programme Manager for the Business and Biodiversity programme area.

Mirte Kruit joined ECNC in March 2010. Mirte is Dutch, and has a degree in forestry and nature management. She will be assisting ECNC Group member the Large Herbivore Foundation in collecting relevant information about the LHF species and editing the species website database.

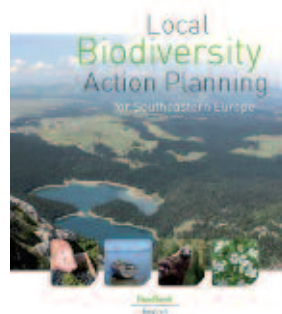
New ECNC publications

Jones-Walters, L., R. Catchpole, A. Mladenović, A. Çil, M. Snethlage, K. Čivić, A. Schrauwen, S. Sušić and A.S. Solujić (2010) *Local Biodiversity Action Planning for Southeastern Europe*. – ECNC, Tilburg, the Netherlands and REC, Szentendre, Hungary.

This handbook guides the reader through a number of stages that are needed to (re)discover the many functions, goods and services that biodiversity provides, and shows how to set up a Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP). It also provides guidance on how to integrate the conservation and wise use of biodiversity with other relevant local policies. The handbook promotes a participatory approach, which allows a local community vision to be developed in which all actors and stakeholders can have their

say. Special attention is also given to the specific sustainable (small) business opportunities that are provided by working with biodiversity.

The handbook can be downloaded from <http://www.ecnc.org/publications/technical-reports/local-biodiversity-action-planning>



Functional AgroBiodiversity for a more sustainable agriculture and countryside in Europe. – ECNC, Tilburg, the Netherlands.

This brochure was produced as part of the European Learning Network on Functional AgroBiodiversity (ELN-FAB) project. It describes the concept of Functional AgroBiodiversity (FAB) and the benefits it can provide for a more sustainable agriculture. The brochure can be downloaded from <http://www.ecnc.org/programmes/business-and-biodiversity-ongoingprojects?action=detail&id=84> (scroll down to bottom of page).



ELN-FAB Newsletter

The new issue of the newsletter of the European Learning Network on Functional AgroBiodiversity (ELN-FAB) was published in June 2010. This newsletter exists to inform the partners, intermediaries and interested stakeholders of the ELN-FAB initiative (coordinated by ECNC in cooperation with DIVERSITAS agroBIODIVERSITY International Project Office).

The newsletter can be downloaded from <http://www.ecnc.org/programmes/business-and-biodiversity-ongoingprojects?action=detail&id=84> (scroll down to bottom of page).

New issue of *Journal for Nature Conservation*



Volume 18, issue 2 of the *Journal for Nature Conservation* (published by Elsevier in affiliation with ECNC) was published in May 2010.

For further information, please consult: <http://www.ecnc.org/publications/journal-for-nature-conservation>

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