

## Editorial

As you are no doubt aware, 2010 has been designated by the United Nations as the International Year of Biodiversity. To promote this global initiative in the Netherlands, ECNC has joined the Biodiversity Coalition 2010. The Dutch campaign will highlight the importance of biodiversity in people's daily lives. The International Year of Biodiversity in the Netherlands will be launched officially in autumn 2009, during a meeting organized by ECNC. See page 2 for details.

ECNC is co-organizer of the Second European seminar on the European Learning Network on Functional AgroBiodiversity (ELN-FAB), to be held on 24 and 25 September 2009 in Frick, Switzerland. The network will provide a platform for exchange of knowledge and practical experience to optimize agrobiodiversity benefits and promote sustainable agriculture. See page 4 for background and registration information.

We are pleased to announce that ECNC's Annual report for 2008 is now available on the ECNC website (see [www.ecnc.org/publications/annualreport](http://www.ecnc.org/publications/annualreport)).

*On behalf of the Editorial Team  
Glynis van Uden*

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## **ECNC part of coalition leading the Dutch campaign for the International Year of Biodiversity**

As is the case in many other countries worldwide, a national campaign to mark the International Year of Biodiversity is being organized in the Netherlands in 2010. ECNC is among the first members of the Biodiversity Coalition 2010, an informal group of governmental and non-governmental organizations that decided to join forces in order to disseminate knowledge about the International Year of Biodiversity.

The approach and themes follow the objectives set out by the Convention on Biological Diversity but also integrate the main specific priorities of the Dutch Government regarding biodiversity.

The Coalition is presided over by the Regional Minister for Environment of the Province of Noord-Brabant, Mr Onno Hoes. In the coming months the coalition partners will continue developing the programme for the 2010 activities to mark the International Year of Biodiversity. It has been decided to focus the attention of the 2010 campaign on the citizen, to demonstrate how biodiversity is important for the daily lives of Dutch citizens. Organizations and citizens will also receive clear and practical guidelines on how to contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity resources at home and in the wider world.

The strategy to generate the most impact is to spread information through existing communication channels and planned activities of the coalition members, who have committed themselves to doing this.

The International Year of Biodiversity in the Netherlands will be launched officially in November 2009, during a national meeting organized by ECNC. This event will also be used to present the results of a project ECNC is carrying out for the Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and Environment: 'Biodiversity works in the region', a study into the practical and innovative initiatives that have been developed by local and regional authorities and their (non-governmental) partners to protect and sustainably use biodiversity.

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(Photo: Saxifraga: Jan Nijendijk)

## **Nature and Society**

### **Complex conflicts in Natura 2000 network call for simple solutions**

*18 June 2009, Brussels, Belgium*

Better communication, clear and transparent decision-making processes, early involvement of key stakeholders, recognition of other users' needs and engagement of local people and communities in developing site management plans, in order to create a sense of ownership and pride, are essential ingredients for avoiding

conflicts in the Natura 2000 network. These are among the conclusions reached at a workshop organized by ECNC on 18 June 2009.

This was the first of four workshops under the EU-funded project 'Conflict Management in the Natura 2000 Network', managed by ECNC

together with Alterra and Eurosite. Chaired by Dr Leon Braat (Alterra), the workshop aimed to collect information, experience and insights from EU-level organizations representing a wide range of Natura 2000 stakeholders. The 30-plus attendees represented interest groups from sectors such as forestry, agriculture, nature conservation, hunting, etc.

Contextual information was provided through presentations that approached the subject from scientific, policy and practical points of view. Invited speakers Mark Thomasin-Foster (President of the European Landowners Organization) and Bernie Fleming (a Senior Specialist with Natural England) highlighted the perspectives of the resource owners and the conservationists, respectively.



In this project the search for solutions to conflicts in the Natura 2000 network focuses on the current development of management plans, but most parties acknowledged that the designation phase of Natura 2000 had contributed to creating an atmosphere of fear, misunderstanding and opposition among the parties concerned – which cascaded into the management planning phase. It was agreed that improved communication with and involvement of all stakeholders are key to avoiding conflict. Success stories and practical examples of how to achieve these were given.

The workshop results will be integrated with the outcomes of a desk study conducted by Alterra. This will provide the background for three regional workshops, planned for autumn 2009, to deepen understanding of the emergence of conflicts and their resolution in various parts of Europe.

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Stakeholder workshop on conflict management in the Natura 2000 network.

(Photo: ECNC)

## ***Business and Biodiversity***

### **Scenar 2020-II study drawing to a close**

Work on the Scenar 2020-II study, 'Update of analysis of prospects in the Scenar 2020 study', is entering its final phase. The study is being conducted by ECNC, together with the Agricultural Economics Research Institute (LEI) and the Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research (ZALF).

The first Scenar study was finalized in December 2006. The Scenar 2020-II study refines and adds to the first study's identification of major future trends and driving factors and the perspectives and challenges resulting from them

for European agriculture and rural regions until 2020. As with the first study, the current study considers the challenges for agriculture and the rural world within the European Union that are posed by demographic trends, economic development, socio-economic trends, globalization, the uptake of new technological development, and changing environmental conditions.

The economic and regional modelling phase of work has been completed, and the Preliminary Final Report was submitted to DG Agriculture in July.

Six theoretical axes are explored in the Scenar 2020-II study: agricultural commodities; farm structure; demographic development; economic activity in all sectors; quality of life; and environmental conditions.

The general picture of the socio-economic reactions of the EU-27's regions in 2020 is that of fairly small changes; population growth or decline as well as changes in employment growth are relatively stable. Furthermore, the analysis shows that although all types of regions

are represented all over the EU-27, there is a cleft between the EU-12 and the EU-15, with the more positive reactions in the old Member States.

The project is funded by DG Agriculture, and will be completed in September 2009.

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### **Announcement of seminar on the European Learning Network on Functional AgroBiodiversity**

On 24 and 25 September 2009 the Second European seminar on the European Learning Network on Functional AgroBiodiversity (ELN-FAB) will be held in Frick, Switzerland. The meeting will bring together representatives of the various stakeholder groups from several countries to collect and exchange experience. The seminar will be hosted by the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL), and is being organized by ECNC and the FiBL.

The realization that agriculture has to become more sustainable is incorporated in policy instruments from national to global level. Knowledge is being increasingly accumulated on how biodiversity can be mobilized to make agriculture sustainable. Throughout Europe, farmers, researchers, policymakers and other stakeholders are implementing various forms of agrobiodiversity. At present, this practical experience is extremely fragmented and barely accessible. The project 'European Learning Network on Functional AgroBiodiversity' (ELN-FAB) aims to change this.

The network is set to provide a platform and facility for exchange of knowledge and practical experiences with other EU Member States, across country and language borders, between

farmers, policymakers, scientists, businesses and NGOs, to enable fast and effective implementation of best practices in order to help to optimize agrobiodiversity benefits and promote sustainable agriculture.

More information about the initiative, the preliminary programme and registration information (for seminar and hotel) can be found on the ECNC website: [www.ecnc.org/ongoing-projects\\_33.html?action=detail&id=84](http://www.ecnc.org/ongoing-projects_33.html?action=detail&id=84).

If you would like to take part in the seminar, please send the completed registration form to the organizers before 11 September 2009.

The ELN-FAB project is funded by the Netherlands Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment (VROM).

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European Learning Network on Functional AgroBiodiversity

### Experts discuss lessons from biodiversity corridor initiatives in the EU

2 July 2009, Brussels, Belgium

ECNC joined experts from across Europe last month to discuss lessons learned from the implementation of biodiversity corridor initiatives in the EU. The workshop was part of a European Commission DG Environment study: 'Reflecting environmental land use needs into EU policy: preserving and enhancing the environmental benefits of land services'. The study aims to develop an approach to the protection of land for food production, biodiversity, water retention and quality and soil organic matter against the background of changing land use and climate change.



(Photo: Saxifraga: Jan van der Straaten)

The workshop included presentations on case studies from Member States, key findings from other projects on ecological networks and connectivity, discussion and facilitated brainstorming sessions. Case studies on biodiversity corridor implementation showed ways of addressing a similar problem and illustrated

the significant progress made in implementing ecological networks in Europe. Key findings were presented from the DG Environment 'Green Infrastructure' study on integrating Natura 2000 into the broader countryside.

ECNC's Senior Programme Manager, Dr Lawrence Jones-Walters, summarized the findings from two projects sponsored by the Netherlands Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, which address the links between spatial planning and ecological networks (the SPEN project) and the practical implementation of ecological networks through stakeholder involvement (the KEN project). He outlined the recommendations and research agenda resulting from the projects and the international workshops (October 2008 and February 2009), where stakeholders gave the benefit of their experience and views on the process of planning and implementing ecological networks. (See ECNC's website and [www.ecologicalnetworks.eu](http://www.ecologicalnetworks.eu) for downloadable outputs and reports from both projects.)

The presentations generated debate on issues such as the balance between a science-driven approach and the involvement (and role) of stakeholders, the importance of legislation and regulation, the role of spatial planning and the need to move from strategy to delivery. There clearly remains a great deal of interest in the subject of connectivity.

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### Staff news

Ingeborg Smit left ECNC on 30 June after completing a seven-month traineeship. While at ECNC, she conducted research for her Master's thesis, entitled *Safeguarding Europe's biodi-*

*versity? A tool to assess the implementation process of the EU Natura 2000 policy.* Ingeborg has now obtained her Master's degree in Sustainable Development (University of Utrecht, the Netherlands).

### New ECNC publications

Brajanoska R., K. Čivić, Lj. Melovski, S. Hristovski and L. Jones-Walters (2009) *Background document on Ecological Networks. Development of the National Ecological Network in FYR Macedonia (MAK-NEN).* – MES, Skopje, Republic of Macedonia; ECNC, Tilburg, the Netherlands.

The implementation of the National Ecological Network in FYR Macedonia (MAK-NEN) will provide a decisive instrument to achieve effective consideration of the country's extraordinary and rich biodiversity in key decisions about land management and land use, and to preserve it as a vital resource for future generations. This report reviews the status of biodiversity in Macedonia and provides a thorough introduction to the concept, history and legislative framework surrounding the development and implementation of ecological networks in Europe. The national legal framework and strategic documents in FYR Macedonia are also summarized. The report concludes with a review of current progress of work on ecological networks in FYR Macedonia, and provides a brief summary of the MAK-NEN project.

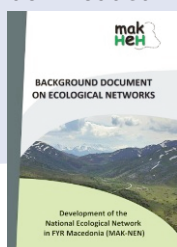
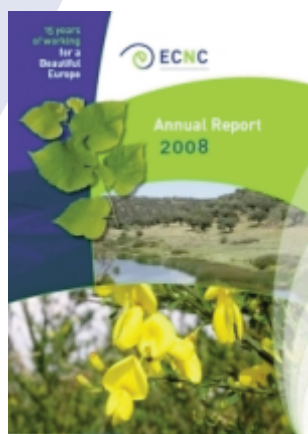
The report can be downloaded from the ECNC website: [www.ecnc.org/programmes/european-ecological-networks-ongoing-projects?action=detail&id=63](http://www.ecnc.org/programmes/european-ecological-networks-ongoing-projects?action=detail&id=63)

A Macedonian version of the report can be downloaded from [www.mes.org.mk](http://www.mes.org.mk).

*ECNC–European Centre for Nature Conservation, Annual report 2008.*

ECNC's Annual report 2008 was published in July 2009. Last year ECNC celebrated the 15th anniversary of its establishment. The governing councils of ECNC and the Coastal & Marine Union (EUCC) decided to gradually integrate the two organizations under the flag of a new-style ECNC. 2008 saw an important further increase of ECNC's work in challenging areas such as climate change, biofuels, business and biodiversity, and working with local authorities and stakeholders. ECNC's activities in South-East Europe also increased substantially.

The Annual report, together with extra online information, is available at [www.ecnc.org/publications/annualreport](http://www.ecnc.org/publications/annualreport).



Jones-Walters, L. and I. Mulder (2009) Valuing nature: The economics of biodiversity. *Journal for Nature Conservation*.

This paper has recently been published online. The abstract can be found at <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jnc.2009.06.001>. The full text is available online to subscribing institutes and can be purchased by non-subscribers.

In 2008 Dr Jones-Walters published a paper on multifunctional landscapes in the *Journal for Nature Conservation*. This is the *Journal's*

second most downloaded paper of 2008, with a total of 240 downloads. The full reference is as follows:

Jones-Walters, L. (2008) Biodiversity in multi-functional landscapes. *Journal for Nature Conservation* 16, 2: 117-119.

The abstract can be found at <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jnc.2008.03.001>. The full text is available online to subscribing institutes and can be purchased by non-subscribers.

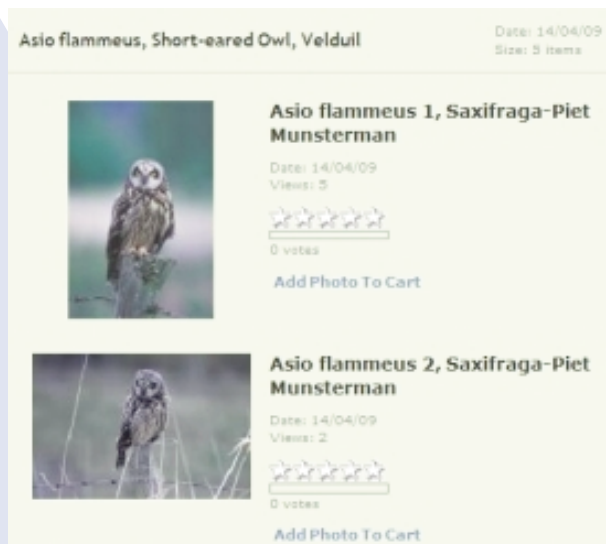
### Free nature images available on the ECNC website

In January this year, ECNC launched its new, improved website [www.ecnc.org](http://www.ecnc.org). We said that more items would be added in future, so we would like to draw your attention to an exciting new addition.

A large and unique collection of high-quality nature images has been made available on the website. Thousands of pictures of European species and landscapes can now be downloaded free of charge. The pictures are from Saxifraga Foundation, an ECNC-linked network of European nature photographers, whose aim is to stimulate and facilitate the conservation of European biodiversity. Visitors can freely download a wide range of pictures to use, for instance, in PowerPoint presentations or on websites. To access the database, click on the Saxifraga button on the ECNC home page.

The image gallery is an initiative of the Saxifraga Foundation. ECNC, Dutch Butterfly Conservation (De Vlinderstichting) and Crossbill Guides Foundation provide assistance in its development and maintenance.

If you have any comments on the website, please contact ECNC's Communication Officer, [wijnja@ecnc.org](mailto:wijnja@ecnc.org).



Find a picture by typing the Latin, common English or Dutch name of the plant or animal in the search engine; then click on the resulting image to see all available pictures. The first two images for the Short-eared owl (*Asio flammeus*, Velduil) are shown here.

## New issue of *Journal for Nature Conservation*

Volume 17, issue 3 of the *Journal for Nature Conservation* (published by Elsevier in affiliation with ECNC) was published in June 2009.

For further information, please consult:  
[www.ecnc.org/publications/journal-for-nature-conservation](http://www.ecnc.org/publications/journal-for-nature-conservation)



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