

## Editorial

The ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP9) to the Convention on Biological Diversity was held in Bonn in May. ECNC contributed to the organization and execution of various side events at COP9 and presented several new ECNC publications, including the paper *Impacts of biofuel production on biodiversity in Europe* and *The European Biodiversity Finance Compendium*. Information on ECNC's role during the conference can be found in this issue.

ECNC was honoured to receive a Countdown 2010 Activity Award for its implementation of commitments towards the 2010 biodiversity target. The award was presented at the end of the annual Countdown 2010 Partners' Assembly, which convened at COP9 on 22 May.

In June ECNC, together with REC-Regional Environmental Center and its relevant country offices, organized an interregional conference on the impacts of climate change on biodiversity in South-East Europe. The conference, held in Belgrade, drew participants from the region as well as internationally-recognized experts. It was an important step in developing an active platform and a concrete action plan on biodiversity and climate in South-East Europe. For more details on the conference, see page 8.

*On behalf of the Editorial Team*  
 Glynis van Uden

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## Support to International Organizations and Policy Initiatives

### ECNC and the World Biodiversity Conference

19–30 May 2008, Bonn, Germany

Between 19 and 30 May this year more than 5,000 delegates (a record) attended the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP9) to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Bonn, Germany. The CBD is the international framework for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the equitable sharing of its benefits.

ECNC's involvement focused on Countdown 2010 and communication, business and biodiversity, financial investments in biodiversity, communication for nature and biodiversity conservation, protected areas and ecological networks, and biodiversity conservation in South-East Europe. ECNC contributed to the organization and the discussions of various side events.

On 22 May ECNC participated in the Countdown 2010 Partners' Assembly. ECNC's Deputy Director Ben Delbaere delivered a speech on ECNC's involvement in Countdown 2010 actions. ECNC received an Activity Award for its implementation of commitments towards the 2010 biodiversity target (see page 3).

On 26 May ECNC organized, together with the Countdown 2010 Secretariat and the Swiss Government, a seminar on Business and Biodiversity, which was attended by over 30 participants. ECNC's Deputy Director, Ben Delbaere, and ECNC's Programme Manager for Business and Biodiversity, Vineta Goba, presented 'Biodiversity as a business case'. The meeting was chaired by Robert Lamb of the Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN).

On 28 May ECNC organized a side event on 'Communicating nature conservation and biodiversity' during the CBD CEPA Fair, which was opened by Rob Wolters, ECNC's Executive Director. Aysegul Cil, ECNC's Programme Manager for Nature and Society, presented the results of

the ECNC communication project in Croatia and FYRO Macedonia. A new ECNC brochure on this subject was presented during the side event. Aysegul Cil was afterwards interviewed by Montenegro national television.



Aysegul Cil being interviewed by Montenegro national television.

(Photo: Hanneke Wijnja)

ECNC's Senior Programme Manager, Dr Lawrence Jones-Walters, contributed to the side event on 'SEBI 2010 - Streamlining European Biodiversity Indicators 2010', together with the European Environment Agency and UNEP.

During COP9, the ECNC paper *Impacts of biofuel production on biodiversity in Europe* and *The European Biodiversity Finance Compendium* were presented. Both publications, as well as the communication brochure mentioned above, can be downloaded from the ECNC website <http://www.ecnc.org/jump/page/811/020608.html>. (See also page 7 of this issue.)

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## ECNC receives Countdown 2010 award

22 May 2008, Bonn, Germany

Celebrating international biodiversity day, the annual Countdown 2010 Partners' Assembly convened at the CBD/COP9 in Bonn on 22 May. The Assembly provides a platform for Countdown 2010 partners to share experiences, talk about their activities and think about future steps.

Ben Delbaere, Deputy Director ECNC, presented ECNC's activities, with a focus on the enthusiasm and positive spirit of the non-traditional stakeholders. Countdown 2010 provides an angle for others to become more easily involved, as ECNC witnesses through its involvement with partners in the Province of Noord-Brabant, in other parts of the Netherlands, in Zagreb, Budapest and other parts of Europe. At the end of the Assembly Ignace Schops, winner of the 2008 European Goldman Environmental Prize,

presented Countdown 2010 awards to the presented projects. ECNC received an Activity Award for its implementation of commitments towards the 2010 biodiversity target.

*For further information, contact Ben Delbaere, Deputy Director ECNC; [delbaere@ecnc.org](mailto:delbaere@ecnc.org)*



ECNC's Activity Award.

## Recent activities in ECNC's cooperation with the Province of Noord-Brabant

The work programme for 2008 for the cooperation between ECNC and the Province of Noord-Brabant emphasizes the relationship between business and biodiversity. In 2008 ECNC will expand the involvement of business in Noord-Brabant in the Countdown 2010 process. As a result of ECNC's initiatives, the number of Countdown 2010

member organizations in Noord-Brabant is growing steadily. Several companies in the region recently signed the Declaration, bringing the number of organizations to 64. They include Brabant Water, which supplies water to over 2 million inhabitants in Noord-Brabant; the Efteling, a famous leisure and theme park; and Zuidelijke Land- en Tuinbouw Organisatie (ZLTO), the biggest cooperation for farmers in the south of the Netherlands.

ECNC has finalized an action programme on the theme 'Business and Biodiversity in Noord-Brabant'. This will be the guideline for many activities in the coming months.



Biodiversity stand at the Groene Woud regional festival. (Photo: A. Wolters)

ECNC started a survey for the establishment of a Biodiversity Knowledge Centre in Noord-Brabant. In another survey, conducted at the request of the Province of Noord-Brabant, various initiatives in Europe for the development and management of nature and natural sites are being explored.

ECNC has contributed to and participated in several public events focusing on the subject of 'Biodiversity in Brabant', such as 'Animal Event' (in April) and the regional festival 'Groene Woud' (6 July). At the regional festival ECNC, in cooperation with the Province

of Noord-Brabant, manned a biodiversity-related stand showing examples of and offering information about the different ways in which citizens can support biodiversity. During these events many visitors signed the Countdown 2010 Citizens' Declaration.

*For more information: Peter von Meijenfeldt, Brabant-Europe Manager; [vonmeijenfeldt@ecnc.org](mailto:vonmeijenfeldt@ecnc.org). You can find the Citizens' Declaration (in Dutch) at [www.redbiodiversiteitinbrabant.nl](http://www.redbiodiversiteitinbrabant.nl)*

## Nature and Society

### First in-country training workshop on 'Communicating nature conservation' held in Croatia

*13–15 May 2008, Paklenica, Croatia*

The ECNC project 'Communicating nature conservation in the Balkan Region: Capacity building and pilot projects in Croatia and FYRO Macedonia', now in its final phase, is building up an in-country capacity for communication training infrastructure. Following the successful earlier phases of the project and the refresher course held in April 2008 in Tilburg, the Croatian trainers were ready to use and deliver the communication and facilitation skills through this first training workshop, which was held in Paklenica



Group work during the course in Paklenica. (Photo: Aysegul Cil)

National Park. The in-country trainers, Kristijan Civic, Aljosa Dupic, Ivana Plavac and Snjezana Malic-Limari, conducted this training workshop for 32 participants, drawn from nature parks, national parks, county protected area management authorities, ministries and NGOs dealing with nature conservation issues in Croatia.

The workshop was opened with a welcome speech from the Director of the State Institute for Nature Protection, Mr Davorin Markovic. In his speech he emphasized the importance of communication in nature and biodiversity conservation. Aysegul Cil, Project Coordinator, then briefly explained the project to the participants. During the workshop, the basics of communication and facilitation for multistakeholder groups and targeted meetings were taught through a number of lectures with a combination of lively facilitation exercises using real-life examples. The participants were pleased with the programme and found the skills and techniques extremely useful for their work.

This project is funded by the Norwegian Government.

*For more information: Aysegul Cil, Programme Manager – Nature and Society, and Project Coordinator; cil@ecnc.org*

The training workshop participants.  
(Photo: Aysegul Cil)



### Local Macedonian conservationists successfully trained in nature communication skills

A communication workshop was successfully completed in July 2008 to instil the basic skills of communication, facilitation and negotiation in nature conservation practitioners in Macedonia. The workshop was part of the third and final phase of the project 'Communicating Nature Conservation in the Balkan Region', funded by the Norwegian Government and carried out by ECNC in partnership with the Macedonian Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning (MESP) and the Croatian State Institute for Nature Protection.

The sixteen participants represented various public and private institutions active in the field of nature conservation and management in Macedonia.

The workshop was opened by Mr Mile Jakimovski, Director of the Administration of Environment at the MESP. He underlined the importance of developing good communication skills for the nature conservation sector, in a time of increased public participation and advance towards European integration. Mr Mark Snethlage, Project



Manager at ECNC, introduced the project aims and activities and accompanied the workshop throughout. The workshop was given by four enthusiastic and skilled facilitators: Mrs Robertina Brajanoska (MESP), Mr Dime Melovski (MES), Mr Naumche Noveski and Mr Oliver Avramoski (both from Galicica National Park) who were trained by ECNC in previous project phases.

After some introductory presentations on the basics of communication, facilitation and conflict resolution, the participants engaged in exercises aimed at developing practical skills through learning by doing. These resulted in a series of presentations based on examples of challenges which the conservation practitioners face in their daily professional lives.

The workshop took place in Samokov, a remote village surrounded by extensive wooded hills. The local economy is largely dependent on the collection of herbs which are marketed for culinary and medicinal use, an example of the direct benefit of biodiversity to local sustainable livelihoods.

*For more information: Aysegul Cil, Programme Manager – Nature and Society; cil@ecnc.org*

The communication workshop participants.  
(Photo: Mark Snethlage)

### Third KEN project team meeting

26 June 2008, Tallinn, Estonia

The third project team meeting of the Knowledge for Ecological Networks project (KEN) was held at the Estonian University of Life Sciences in Tallinn, Estonia, on 26 June 2008. KEN aims to stimulate practical partnerships and consensus-building within and between stakeholders involved in implementing ecological networks.

ECNC was represented by Aysegul Cil, Lawrence Jones-Walters and Mark Snethlage. KEN project partners Ramona Topic (Croatia), Mart Klvik, Monika Suskevics and Kadri Kreisman (Estonia), Rosemarie Siebert (Germany), Antonio Righetti (Switzerland) and Roger Catchpole (UK) attended the meeting.

The meeting focused on the outcomes of the county reports and extensive discussions were held on the delivery of the products. ECNC's project team conveyed the results of the Joint Steering Committee meeting of the two ECNC projects Knowledge for Ecological Networks (KEN) and Spatial Planning for Ecological Networks (SPEN), held on 11 June 2008 at ECNC's headquarters in Tilburg. The SPEN project is undertaking a comparative study on the interaction between policy on spatial planning and ecological networks in Europe. The Steering Committee gave valuable and constructive feedback on the progress reports of the two projects. Themes common to both projects that had attracted special attention from the Committee were issues related to knowledge base, knowledge

gaps, and transfer of knowledge. The Steering Committee members were pleased with the joint progress being made by KEN and SPEN.

During the KEN project team meeting, the project partners presented their work and the outcomes of each report were discussed in line with key advice from the Steering Committee. The team agreed that the country reports will be presented during the SPEN workshop in October 2008. The project is now in the stage of delivering stakeholder reports including an extensive questionnaire and interviews in the selected regions.

KEN and SPEN are funded by the Netherlands Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality.

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View of Tallinn, Estonia.  
(Photo: Aysegul Cil)

## *Business and Biodiversity*

### Phase II of Biodiversity Technical Assistance Units project begins

In May 2008 ECNC together with RSPB started execution of Phase II of the Biodiversity Technical Assistance Units (BTAU) project in Bulgaria, Poland and

Hungary. The project explores the link of small and medium-sized enterprises to society, economy, biodiversity and habitats, and will highlight the oppor-

tunities and constraints faced by SMEs in managing biodiversity sustainably while achieving commercial viability.

The scope of work for the BTAU project in 2008 includes:

- preparation of business plans for each BTAU;
- preparation of an expanded pro-biodiversity business portfolio and its testing on two or three small and medium-sized enterprises in each project country;
- preparation of financial instruments for funding pro-biodiversity business projects in all three project countries;
- a seminar for national teams on the opportunities, benefits and best practice in relation to the branding/

clustering of pro-biodiversity business activities on Natura 2000 sites;

- communication of the project to the relevant international audiences.

ECNC will play a major role in the preparation of financial instruments and in the preparation and conducting of the seminar on the branding/clustering of pro-biodiversity business activities (provisionally planned for November 2008).

This project is funded by the Directorate General Environment of the European Commission.

*For more information: Vineta Goba, Programme Manager – Business and Biodiversity; [goba@ecnc.org](mailto:goba@ecnc.org)*

### *Report Impacts of biofuel production on biodiversity in Europe presented at COP9*

During the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP9) to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Bonn, Germany, ECNC launched a discussion paper on the impacts of biofuel production on biodiversity in Europe. The paper is a summary of a longer report funded by the Manfred-Hermesen-Stiftung which will be available through the ECNC website in August. The report focuses on second-generation biofuels which have great potential for reducing carbon but which may also have a significant impact on biodiversity.

The report concludes that the increase in biomass crop production in Europe should certainly not lead to additional pressure on the environment and, where possible, it should lead to the improvement of biodiversity. Headline

points include: 1) the urgent need for the development of an overall policy and implementation framework that could make agricultural bioenergy production environmentally compatible; 2) a requirement to draw up a code of practice, memoranda of understanding, criteria for biodiversity-friendly production; and 3) a pressing need for research and monitoring that is required to demonstrate the values and best practices for biodiversity in European agricultural habitats.

*For further information about the full report and a summary document contact Vineta Goba, Programme Manager – Business and Biodiversity; [goba@ecnc.org](mailto:goba@ecnc.org). The report can be downloaded from <http://www.ecnc.org/jump/page/811/020608.html>*

## South-East Europe to combat climate change impacts on biodiversity

18 & 19 June 2008, Belgrade, Serbia

The European conference 'Changing climate, changing biodiversity in South-East Europe', held in Belgrade, Serbia on 18 and 19 June, focused on five SEE countries – Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey. It was attended by 60 participants from countries in South-East Europe, experts from a number of Western European countries and various international organizations.



The conference participants in the main hall. (Photo: Hanneke Wijnja)

The conference confirmed the predictions that South-East Europe (SEE) will be severely affected by climate change. There is a growing body of scientific evidence showing that the effects of climate change on biodiversity and the 'goods and services' that ecosystems provide that are already becoming visible, may begin to rapidly increase. This is of great concern, since South-East Europe contains extremely high biodiversity richness, and the impacts of climate are on top of existing threats to biodiversity, such as agricultural intensification and development pressure.

It was concluded that the impacts of climate change in the SEE region will jeopardize the implementation of various national and international biodiversity policies, in particular the Convention on Biological Diversity and European biodiversity targets to reduce or halt the

decline of biodiversity by the year 2010.

The conference participants proposed the development – without delay – of a strong and concrete action plan on climate and biodiversity for South-East Europe, while building on ongoing national and international initiatives, including those of the EU, UN and Council of Europe.

The conference urged that regional cooperation between countries and multi-stakeholders in SEE should be stepped up and that awareness and education actions on climate change, biodiversity and ecosystem services are of vital importance in order to reach the public, politicians and policymakers and economic sectors.

The conference was organized by ECNC together with REC-Regional Environmental Center and its relevant country offices. Financial support was provided by the AECID, the Spanish International Cooperation Agency for Development through the Azahar programme.

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During the afternoon sessions, the participants worked in smaller groups. (Photo: Hanneke Wijnja)

### Second KYOTO project team meeting

12 & 13 June 2008, Tilburg, the Netherlands

KYOTO, which stands for Knowledge Yielding Ontologies for Transition-Based Organization, is one of the exciting new information technology-based projects that ECNC has recently become involved in. As reported in the last *Update* (May 2008), the goal of KYOTO is to develop a system that provides search and information access to large quantities of data and information for both experts and the general public in relation to biodiversity and other environmental subject material. When realized, the system will result in a highly sophisticated search engine that actually has the capacity to learn from the user.

The project team came together for the second time in Tilburg, on 12 and 13 June, at a meeting organized by ECNC. Progress is good on all fronts and the system is beginning to be populated with data and information, in a large part provided by ECNC, that can be used to develop the ontology. It is expected that the first operating system trial and testing will be available towards the end of this year. As well as enjoying an energetic meeting, the delegates took advantage of a break in the rain to make an evening

### A streamlining project gets wings!

The SEBI2010 – Streamlining European 2010 Biodiversity Indicators programme, led by the European Environment Agency, with the support of ECNC, UNEP and the French Museum of Natural History (in the form of the European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity), was set up in order to develop a streamlined set of indicators to measure progress towards the target of halting biodiversity loss in Europe by 2010. Last year a longer list of over 140 indicators was refined into an operational list of 26. This work was



trip to the remarkable inland dune system near Tilburg, the Loonse en Drunense Duinen, and were startled by the extraordinary beauty and uniqueness of one of Holland's most special wildlife sites. Thus, we hope, providing inspiration for the future stages of the project.

KYOTO is funded under the EU Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP7).

*For further information about the KYOTO project contact: Dr Lawrence Jones-Walters, Senior Programme Manager – Biodiversity and Ecological Networks ([joneswalters@ecnc.org](mailto:joneswalters@ecnc.org)) or Andrew Schrauwen, Project Officer ([schrauwen@ecnc.org](mailto:schrauwen@ecnc.org))*

summarized in a technical report (available on the EEA website) and is now progressing into a further phase of development.

The SEBI Coordination Team met in Reykjavik, Iceland, in July to consider all of the indicators, which are now being populated with real data. The process of collating the data and presenting it in graphical form has proved extremely challenging and there is much work yet to be done. However, some clear patterns and trends are

emerging and it is expected that a set of fact sheets (one for each indicator) summarizing the results so far will be available towards the end of this year.

ECNC has played a major role in the process, *inter alia* by initiating the biodiversity 2010 streamlining initiative, contributing the indicators on public awareness and financing for biodiversity, playing an active role in the Coordination Team and as a member of the Communications Working Group. The latter is charged with deriving an attractive presentational format in order that the indicators will be easily understood by the lay reader, policy-maker and scientist alike.

### ECNC to continue its part in the European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity

On 18 June 2008 the EEA Management Board decided on the continuation of the European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity (ETC/BD) for the period 2009–2013. ECNC was part of a bid led by the French Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle (MNHN). This EEA decision adds a fourth term to the existence of the ETC/BD under the lead of the MNHN. It was launched in 1995 and ECNC has been a partner from the very beginning.

The call for the renewed ETC/BD was divided into two Lots: one on biodiversity (focusing on data, indicators and information services) and one on ecosystem accounting (focusing on

SEBI 2010 is a pan-European process, and was recently selected as 'one of ten best ideas to save nature in 2008'. The prize was awarded by the Spanish magazine *RED LIFE* and the Fundación Caja Rural del Sur in a ceremony that took place on 16 June in Sevilla, Spain.

The SEBI2010 project is financed by the European Environment Agency, the European Commission DG Environment and the Governments of Switzerland and Norway.

*For further information about SEBI 2010 contact: Dr Lawrence Jones-Walters, Senior Programme Manager – Biodiversity and Ecological Networks; [joneswalters@ecnc.org](mailto:joneswalters@ecnc.org)*

ecosystem services, assessments and valuation). Both Lots received separate bids with MNHN and ECNC partnering. Unfortunately, only the Lot on biodiversity was accepted.

The current ETC/BD held its latest Management Committee meeting at the Institute of Landscape Ecology in Bratislava, Slovakia, in May. In addition to chairing this Committee, ECNC's involvement centred on indicators for biodiversity impacts of climate change in the last few months.

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### Beta version of BioScore tool tested

The ECNC-led BioScore project has now produced a first version of a biodiversity impact assessment tool. This was thoroughly discussed during the latest project team meeting at NINA in Oslo, Norway on 7 and 8 May. It was also tested by Steering Group members meeting at DG Research in Brussels on 10 June. The members were given the

opportunity to try out the tool on laptops, under guidance of project team members, who recorded all user feedback. This feedback will be turned into improvements of the tool that will be made public later this year.



Another major achievement of BioScore is the use of the data that are collected in BioScore (distribution data on some 1,200 species, environmental preferences of over 1,800 species, policy scenario data) in three case studies. The first considers the possible consequences of second generation bioenergy production in Europe on a European scale. The second looks into historic impacts of



afforestation on species in Italy. A third case study will study the possible positive historic impacts of improved air and water quality.

The current BioScore project will end at the beginning of 2009 and in the meantime a plan is being made to publicize the results and the tool to relevant policymakers and other end users. In addition, routes are being explored to continue the important BioScore work and to ensure the uptake of the tool via integration in other projects and application of the tool in relation to ecosystem services.

*For more information: Ben Delbaere, BioScore Project Coordinator (delbaere@ecnc.org) and [www.ecnc.org/BioScore/index\\_529.html](http://www.ecnc.org/BioScore/index_529.html)*

Members of the BioScore team on an excursion to a nature area near Oslo. (Photo: Ben Delbaere)

## *ECNC Organizationally*

### **ECNC Bureau meets in Zagreb** *6 & 7 June 2008*

On 6 and 7 June 2008 an ECNC Bureau meeting took place in Zagreb, Croatia. The ECNC Bureau, chaired by ECNC's President, Sir Brian Unwin, was hosted by the Croatian Ministry of Culture. The Bureau was welcomed by the Minister of Culture, Mr Božo Biškupić. The Director of the Nature Protection Agency, Mrs Kornelija Pintaric, also attended the Bureau meeting. The meeting endorsed a proposal of the ECNC management to establish an ECNC Regional Office for East and Central Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia in Zagreb, with support and involvement of the Ministry of Culture.

The Bureau visited Croatia's beautiful Nature Park Lonjsko Polje, including its European village of the storks

Storks nesting in Lonjsko Polje.  
(Photo: Ben Delbaere)

(<http://www.find-croatia.com/nature-parks-croatia/lonjskopolje.htm>).

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## Staff news

Yuca Waarts, Project Manager, left ECNC on 31 May 2008. Yuca joined ECNC in May 2004 as Project Officer. She worked on various projects in the Business and Biodiversity Programme, including MEA-Scope and LIFESCAPE – YOUR LANDSCAPE.

## New ECNC publications

Biemans, M., Y. Waarts, A. Nieto, V. Goba, L. Jones-Walters, and C. Zöckler (In preparation) *Impacts of biofuel production on biodiversity in Europe.* - ECNC-European Centre for Nature Conservation, Tilburg, the Netherlands.

This paper is a summary of a longer report funded by the Manfred-Hermesen-Stiftung which will be available through the ECNC website in August.

It can be downloaded from <http://www.ecnc.org/jump/page/811/020608.html>. See page 7 of this issue for further details.

*Communication for nature conservation in South-East Europe: Capacity building and pilot projects in Croatia and FYRO*

*Macedonia.* – ECNC-European Centre for Nature Conservation, Tilburg, the Netherlands.

This brochure presents the results of the ECNC communication project for Croatia and FYRO Macedonia. It can be downloaded from <http://www.ecnc.org/jump/page/811/020608.html>



## New issue of *Journal for Nature Conservation*

Volume 16, issue 2 of the *Journal for Nature Conservation* (published by Elsevier in affiliation with ECNC) was published in June 2008.

For further information, please consult: [http://www.ecnc.org/JournalForNatureCons/Index\\_36.html](http://www.ecnc.org/JournalForNatureCons/Index_36.html)



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ECNC is a member of NatureNet Europe and IUCN - the International Union for Conservation of Nature