

EURO – SITE – MANAGER

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Welcome to the sixth issue of Euro-Site-Manager! This series of newsletters provides site managers with insights about who's who and what's where in Brussels. Our aim is to bring Brussels and the issues that could affect your work closer to you. Also, we are very keen to hear about issues affecting your work, to share that with your network colleagues and also Brussels-based institutions.

Enjoy this sixth issue and remember - your feedback matters. Please send any specific comments you have about the issues raised or any general comments and thoughts about Euro-Site-Manager to info@eurosite.org to help us improve the newsletter.

The Eurosite Team.



1. Protected Sites and Species

1.1 Feedback from the latest European Habitats Forum Meetings

Eurosite is a long-standing member of the European Habitats Forum (EHF), a group of 21 nature conservation network organisations that work together to influence the development and implementation of EU nature legislation and biodiversity policies. The group meets together twice a year, in advance of joint meetings with DG Environment. From the last meeting with DG Environment, the following issues in relation to the Birds and Habitats Directives and EU biodiversity policies were raised:

- EHF expressed its support for the new biogeographic seminar process that the European Commission is planning to support action to improve Natura 2000 management (this was reported on in our Euro-Site-Manager news in January);
- DG Environment expects to publish a new Communication on Natura 2000 financing in June. They are continuing with their work to develop Prioritized Action Frameworks (PAFs) to assist in prioritising financing for Natura 2000 sites;
- The new EU Biodiversity Strategy has been delayed but is expected to be ready before June to go to the European Council for endorsement;
- The Commission intends to produce a new Communication on Green Infrastructure later in 2011 (please also see item 2.1).

1.2 Natura 2000 Network enlarged

Early this year, the European Commission announced that the Natura 2000 site lists were again updated, resulting in an expansion of almost 27,000 km². This includes a major addition of new marine sites covering more than 17,500 km², most of which are in Denmark, France and Spain. It also includes some new terrestrial sites, mainly in the Czech Republic and Poland. As well as adding new sites, this update also includes minor modifications to some existing sites. For further information, see the European Commission press release at: <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/11/18&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>. To access the complete lists including these new updates, please go to: http://circa.europa.eu/Public/irc/env/natura_2000/library?l=/candidate_importance/biogeographical&vm=detailed&sb=Title

1.3 New Guidance Documents for Best Practice in Natura 2000 Management

a) Estuaries and Coastal Zones

DG Environment has published a new guidance document concerning the management of Natura 2000 sites in estuaries and coastal zones, with a particular emphasis on port development and dredging. This guidance document has been developed in response to conflicts between nature conservation objectives and port infrastructure developments, which can often be avoided by implementing best practices. The new guidance document can be downloaded at: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/docs/guidance_doc.pdf. There is also an accompanying European Commission working document entitled 'Integrating biodiversity and nature protection into port development' which can be downloaded at: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/docs/sec2011_319pdf.pdf

b) Guidelines for Natura 2000

As previously announced by email, Eurosite is involved in two European Commission study projects to support the development of guidelines for the management of wilderness and wild areas in Natura 2000 and the impacts of climate change. Eurosite is looking for best practice case studies in respect of the following:

Management of wilderness and wild areas in Natura 2000

In particular, Eurosite would value examples which describe management practices being developed to restore Natura 2000 sites and 're-wild' them or are used in Natura 2000 sites in wilderness areas - for example, typical measures could include: re-introducing native species; reversing drainage systems in wetland areas/ bogs; steps taken to make biodiversity more resilient and boost ecosystems - such as, proactively managing areas around sites; re-introduction of grazing; removing physical barriers, which curb ecological connectivity; and also, non-management actions, as a way of enabling natural processes to take hold. Examples of such management measures (or others), where there is a specific purpose of restoring wild areas or supporting re-establishment of natural processes, would be very useful for the development of the new guidelines.

Guidelines on dealing with the impact of climate change on the management of Natura 2000

Eurosite is looking for examples of practical management measures, being implemented or considered, on Natura 2000 sites to adapt to climate change – for example: implementation of climate adaptation zones; management of coastal squeeze; fire / storm / flood / drought management measures; controls for invasive alien species; re-timing of grazing or mowing; translocation of species to

other sites; steps taken to conserve genetic variety in native populations or shift ranges to generate large scale connectivity. Examples of such management measures (or others being taken or considered), where there is a specific purpose to adapt to climate change impacts currently or predicted in future would be very valuable.



Your case studies are important and used to profile your organisation and its work for Natura 2000. Your feedback will contribute to shaping practical guidelines – sharing your experience and knowledge will help other site managers with similar sites and management responsibilities. We would strongly encourage and welcome your involvement in either or both projects. If you wish to contribute, please contact cpoirters@eurosite.org. All contributions will be used, but we will select specific examples for more detailed follow-up.

2. EU Biodiversity Policy Developments

2.1 New EU Working Group on Green Infrastructure

The European Commission is planning to publish a Communication on Green Infrastructure that will further explain the concept, outline how it should be implemented and include a number of targets. To assist in this task, the European Commission has set up a working group to provide expert opinions and recommendations. This will then be further developed by the European Commission, as part of its preparation of a policy on Green Infrastructure. The working group will consider a number of questions, such as:

- What should be the scope and objectives of Green Infrastructure in the EU?
- How can Green Infrastructure be implemented on the ground?
- What should be the role of the EU?
- How can Green Infrastructure be financed?

The working group will give its final recommendations to the Commission in the form of a report, which is expected in September 2011. Some of the information and documents from the working group will be made publically available on the circa website at: http://circa.europa.eu/Public/irc/env/green_infra_wg/home

2.2 Development of an EU Instrument on Invasive Alien Species

Work is underway to develop a dedicated EU instrument on Invasive Alien Species. As a preparatory step, the European Commission has published a report on its website entitled: 'Assessment to support continued development of the EU strategy to combat IAS', at: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/invasivealien/index_en.htm. The assessment was undertaken by the Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP) and analyses the current policy, outlines priorities and components of a strategy and gives preliminary cost estimates for the proposed measures. The Commission has also set up three working groups to support the development of the new policy instrument and measures to contain the negative impacts of IAS, in relation to the areas of:

- Prevention
- Early warning and rapid response
- Eradication, containment, management and restoration.

Many of the documents being prepared and discussed in the working groups are publically available at the web-link below. We update you in future Euro-Site-Managers as this work develops: http://circa.europa.eu/Public/irc/env/ias/library?!=general_information&vm=detailed&sb=Title

2.3 EU biodiversity strategy to 2020

The European Commission has adopted an ambitious new strategy to halt the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the EU by 2020. There are six main targets, and 20 actions to help Europe reach its goal. Biodiversity loss is an enormous challenge in the EU, with around one in four species currently threatened with extinction and 88% of fish stocks over-exploited or significantly depleted. To download the new biodiversity strategy, please visit: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/comm2006/2020.htm>.

The six targets cover:

- Full implementation of EU nature legislation to protect biodiversity
- Better protection for ecosystems, and more use of green infrastructure
- More sustainable agriculture and forestry
- Better management of fish stocks
- Tighter controls on invasive alien species
- A bigger EU contribution to averting global biodiversity loss

3. EU Funding for the Environment



3.1 LIFE+

As previously informed, the 2011 call for proposals under the LIFE+ programme is now open. Project proposals must be sent to the national authorities by the 18th July, who will then send them to the European Commission by the 9th September 2011. The earliest date when projects can start is the 1st June 2012. For information about the call for proposals and to access all relevant documents, please go to: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/index.htm>

Since the last round, some of the most important changes include: the introduction of a new theme of Natura 2000 management and restoration; the inclusion of a new theme on networking between site-managers; the allowing of land purchase for Natura 2000 site connectivity under limited conditions; the inclusion of limited research activities within projects; and the encouragement of small-scale studies on the socioeconomic benefits of Natura 2000 sites within projects. There is also a new pdf form format for applications.

3.2 The New BEST initiative

The European Commission has announced that it will be starting a new funding programme for biodiversity conservation in the EU's outermost regions and overseas countries and territories, many of which are found in the polar areas or tropics and therefore harbour some of the EU's most important biodiversity. This new funding initiative is being called 'BEST', short for 'Voluntary scheme for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Territories of the EU Outermost Regions and Overseas Countries and Territories'. The aim of the new fund is to promote the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services in European overseas entities, drawing on the experience gained with EU nature conservation programmes such as NATURA 2000. A call for proposals is expected within the next three months. Until then it is possible to find out more by reading the Commission Decision on the BEST initiative, published on the 1st March: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/funding/pdf/wp_best.pdf

3.3 Environmental NGO Perspectives on the next EU Budget

Discussions have already begun concerning the EU budget for the next financial period, 2014 – 2020. A report is available that was prepared jointly at the end of last year by seven environmental NGOs based in Brussels, called 'Changing Perspectives – How the EU Budget can Shape a Sustainable Future'. It recommends a list of guiding principles that should be adhered to so that the EU budget is sustainable, efficient, and accountable with clear targets. It also identifies the most pressing environmental challenges and how they should be tackled in the next EU budget, namely: climate change and the energy crisis; biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation; and resource inefficiency. To read the report, please go to: http://www.birdlife.org/eu/pdfs/Changing_perspectives_101109.pdf

4. Biodiversity Research

4.1 European Platform for Biodiversity Research Strategy (EPBRS)

EPBRS is a forum bringing together European scientists and policy-makers to discuss the interface between scientific research and biodiversity policy. The members are from EU Member States that participate in the EU's 7th Framework Programme for European Research, with each Member State appointing one scientist and one policy maker to attend biannual meetings under the EU Presidencies. EPBRS focuses on the following research areas:

- Using the components of biodiversity in a sustainable way
- Maintaining ecosystem functions that provide goods and services
- Conserving, protecting and restoring the natural world
- Halting biodiversity loss



In 2010, under the Spanish Presidency, the EPBRS adopted a European Strategy for Biodiversity Research: www.epbRS.org/PDF/EPBRS_StrategyBDRResearch_May2010.pdf. Later in 2010, under the Belgian Presidency, the EPBRS members developed a vision for 'Humans and Nature' and identified how research could help to reach this vision. In 2011, under the current EU Hungarian Presidency, a conference will discuss the research needed to sustain ecosystem services. To find out more about the EPBRS and their work, please visit the website at: www.epbRS.org/

4.2 EEA report on Land Use Conflict

This latest EEA report is the result of an assessment of land-use change in Europe, which highlights the competing demands for land from food and other production processes, bioenergy, housing, infrastructure and recreation and the impacts of these on the climate, biodiversity and ecosystem services. It shows that artificial land cover is increasing the fastest of all land cover types due to urbanisation and increased transport infrastructure. Farmland area has declined but is used more intensively and natural areas continue to decline but at a slower rate than previously. The report draws the conclusion that an integrated policy is needed to balance the various demands and ensure that land is managed sustainably. To read the report, go to: http://www.eea.europa.eu/highlights/land-use-conflicts-necessitate-integrated-policy?utm_campaign=land-use-conflicts-necessitate-integrated-policy&utm_medium=email&utm_source=EEASubscriptions

4.3 European Ecosystem Assessment

The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MEA), published in 2005, successfully raised awareness worldwide of the importance of ecosystems for human wellbeing. As a follow up for the European region, the EURECA project is underway to assess the state of ecosystems in Europe in 2010 and their possible development in the future under different policy-relevant scenarios. The findings are expected to be published in 2012. The European Ecosystem Assessment is intended to: improve the knowledge base; develop tools for decision-makers; and raise the awareness of politicians and the public of the importance of well-functioning ecosystems for human well-being. The project is being led by the European Environment Agency and a website has been created but so far very limited information is available: <http://eureca.ew.eea.europa.eu/>

5. EC Consultations

5.1 Resource Efficiency Initiative

DG Environment has launched an online consultation on the 'Roadmap for a Resource Efficient Europe', to collect public opinion on the proposed policy options.

5.2 Bio-based Economy

Also linked to the Resource Efficiency Initiative, DG Research has launched a consultation concerning the future potential of the bio-based economy, under the Europe 2020 Strategy. The consultation is part of the preparation for a new 'European Strategy and Action Plan towards a sustainable bio-based economy by 2020' which is planned for adoption at the end of 2011. The strategy will plan to build the bio-economy in the next ten years, with an emphasis on the sustainable use of natural resources, competitiveness, socio-economic and environmental issues. The consultation aims to gather views from all those involved in bio-based economic sectors.

5.3 Maritime Spatial Planning and Integrated Coastal Zone Development

The Commission has launched a consultation to gather views on the status and future of Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) and Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM). The aim is to help identify where future EU action would be most useful, as the Commission is considering preparing draft proposals in both these areas. According to the Commission, MSP involves the development of a Maritime Spatial Plan and is required to balance the needs of different user groups and promote the sustainable use of the sea. More information on this new policy area is available at: http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/spatial_planning_en.html. Integrated Coastal Zone Management aims to take a holistic approach to tackling the many different environmental and socio-economic pressures on Europe's coastlines through coastal planning and management. More information on the EC's perspective on this issue is available at: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/iczm/home.htm>. The Commission is gathering views on both of these areas, through an online consultation which is open until 20th May 2011. To respond please go to: http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/partners/consultations/msp/index_en.htm.

The European Commission (DG Environment, Unit D.2, Marine) is also organising a hearing on Integrated Coastal Zone Management on 30 May 2011 from 09:30 - 13:00 hrs. It is intended for persons working on, or with an interest in, Integrated Coastal Zone Management, e.g. government officials, NGO's, researchers, coastal or maritime companies. The European Commission invites all those interested in coastal planning and management to engage in a dialogue on the best ways forward regarding EU policy on Integrated Coastal Zone Management. The hearing offers an opportunity to express views, to give opinion and to raise questions. The hearing complements the on-line public consultation on Integrated Coastal Zone Management and Maritime Spatial Planning. To confirm your interest to attend by registering on http://ec.europa.eu/environment/consultations/iczm_hearing.htm.

European Agenda - Forthcoming Meetings and Events of Interest in 2011

May

- 13 EU Habitats and Ornis Committees**
Brussels, Belgium
EC Committees, limited participation
Organised by DG ENV, European Commission
- 14 - 15 UNEP/AEWA and UNEP/CMS Secretariats are organising World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) 2011** and are inviting organisations to take part by organising their own events and activities.
Website: www.worldmigratorybirdday.org
- 16 - 18 Eurosite Workshop: Wetland Restoration in Practice**
Ambleteuse, France
Eurosite members workshop – open to pre-registered participants
Organised by Eurosite and EDEN 62
Website: <http://www.eurosite.org/en-UK/content/eurosite-workshop-wetland-restoration-practice>
- 18 Workshop: Ex-situ conservation of wild species in Europe**
Brussels, Belgium
Organised by DG ENV, European Commission
- 19 Deadline for EU public consultation on options for future EU action on maritime spatial planning and integrated coastal zone management.**
To respond please go to: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/consultations/iczm.htm>
- 22 International Day of Biodiversity - this year the theme is 'Biodiversity and Forests'**
For information concerning events, see the CBD webpage: www.cbd.int/idb/2011/
- 23 - 25 European Parliament Environment Committee**
Brussels, Belgium
European Parliament Committee Meeting
Organised by the European Parliament
Website: www.europarl.europa.eu/activities/committees/homeCom.do?language=EN&body=ENVI
- 23 - 27 Second Mediterranean Congress of Herpetology**
Marrakech, Morocco
International scientific meeting, open to pre-registered participants
Organised by Université Ayyad Cadi and other partners
Website: www.ucam.ac.ma/cmh2/Home.html
- 24 EC working group on Green Infrastructure**
Brussels, Belgium
Limited participation, Eurosite represented via EHF
Organised by DG ENV, European Commission
- 24 European Parliament Intergroup: the challenge of invasive species and destructive insects**
Brussels, Belgium
Open to pre-registered participants
Organised by European Bureau for Conservation and Development
Website: www.ebcd.org/ISDA1.html
- 24 - 27 Green Week 2011: "Resource Efficiency - Using less, living better"**
Brussels, Belgium
Open to pre-registered participants
Organised by DG ENV, European Commission
Website: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/greenweek/>

May cont.

- 25 - 26 LIFE for our Environment - Success Stories and Future Challenges**
Brussels, Belgium
Organised by DG ENV, European Commission
Website: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/news/events/lifeconf_env/index.html

June

- 5 World Environment Day**
Organised by UNEP
More information will be forthcoming on their website: www.unep.org/wed/2010/english/flash_2010/intro.html
- 5 - 7 EU Nature Directors Meeting**
Balatonfüred, Hungary
Organised by DG ENV, European Commission and the Hungarian EU Presidency
- 14 - 15 European Parliament Environment Committee**
Brussels, Belgium
European Parliament Committee Meeting
Organised by the European Parliament
Website: www.europarl.europa.eu/activities/committees/homeCom.do?language=EN&body=ENVI
- 28 European Parliament Intergroup: Agriculture, water management and soil protection**
Brussels, Belgium
Open to pre-registered participants
Organised by the European Bureau for Conservation and Development
Website: www.ebcd.org/ISDA1.html
- 28 EC Coordination Group for Nature and Biodiversity**
Brussels, Belgium
Limited participants (Eurosites represented via EHF)
Organised by DG ENV, European Commission
- 28 - 29 SusCon 2011 International Conference on Sustainable Business and Consumption: Soil and Water**
Nürnberg, Germany
Open to pre-registered participants
Organised by COLOBORA, Eco-World and Organic Services
Website: www.suscon.net/
- 29 EC Habitats Committee**
Brussels, Belgium
EC Committee meeting
Organised by DG ENV, European Commission

July

- 10 - 16 EUROPARC Siggen Seminar: Strategy and Communication**
Siggen, Germany
Priority for EUROPARC members but open to other participants
Organised by EUROPARC
Website: www.europarc.org/whats-on/events/2011/07/10

August

30 Aug - Second Eurosite Marine Protected Areas Workshop

1 Sept Le Conquet, Brittany, France
Open to pre-registered participants
Organised by Eurosite and Mer d'Iroise Parc naturel marin
Website: <http://www.eurosite.org/en-UK/content/2nd-eurosite-marine-protected-areas-workshop>
Website: <http://eurosite-mpawg.espaces-naturels.fr/>

September

30 Aug - Second Eurosite Marine Protected Areas Workshop

1 Sept Le Conquet, Brittany, France
Open to pre-registered participants
Organised by Eurosite and Mer d'Iroise Parc naturel marin
Website: <http://www.eurosite.org/en-UK/content/2nd-eurosite-marine-protected-areas-workshop>
Website: <http://eurosite-mpawg.espaces-naturels.fr/>

6 **EC working group on Green Infrastructure**

Brussels, Belgium
Limited participation, Eurosite represented via EHF
Organised by DG Environment

7 - 8 **Eurosite Annual General Meeting 2011**

Brussels, Belgium
Open to pre-registered participants
Organised by Eurosite
Website: <http://www.eurosite.org/en-UK/content/eurosite-annual-meeting-2011-marketing-nature-engaging-our-customers-role-practice-site-mana>

21 **European Parliament Intergroup: Forestry – construction wood**

Brussels, Belgium
Open to pre-registered participants
Organised by the European Bureau for Conservation and Development
Website: www.ebcd.org/ISDA1.html

October

4 **European Parliament Intergroup: Spatial planning in the integrated maritime policy and fisheries**

Brussels, Belgium
Open to pre-registered participants
Organised by the European Bureau for Conservation and Development
Website: www.ebcd.org/ISDA1.html

4 - 7 **Ecosystem Services: Integrating Science and Practice**

Wageningen, the Netherlands
Conference, open to pre-registered participants
Organised by Ecosystems Partnership & Wageningen University
Website: www.es-partnership.org

October cont.

- 5 - 6 Science for the Environment – Environment for Society**
Aarhus, Denmark
Conference, open to pre-registered participants
Organised by the National Environmental Research Institute, Aarhus University
Website: www.dmu.dk/en/news/arrangements/conferences/environmentconference2011/
- 6 European Habitats Forum internal meeting**
Brussels, Belgium
Participation limited to EHF members
Organised by the European Habitats Forum
- 7 European Habitats Forum meeting with DG Environment**
Brussels, Belgium
Participation limited to EHF members
Organised by the European Habitats Forum and DG Environment
- 11 European Parliament Intergroup: Innovation in agriculture and the 2020 strategy**
Brussels, Belgium
Open to pre-registered participants
Organised by the European Bureau for Conservation and Development
Website: www.ebcd.org/ISDA1.html

November

- 15 EC Coordination Group for Nature and Biodiversity**
Brussels, Belgium
Limited participants (Eurosite represented via EHF)
Organised by DG Environment, European Commission
- 21 - 23 European High Level Conference on Biodiversity**
Poland
Type of meeting / participation to be announced
Organised by the EU Polish Presidency
- 22 European Parliament Intergroup: Forestry – energy wood**
Brussels, Belgium
Open to pre-registered participants
Organised by the European Bureau for Conservation and Development
Website: www.ebcd.org/ISDA1.html

December

- 8 - 10 Conservation Science for young scientists in the Mediterranean**
Carmargue, France
Conference for a limited number of pre-registered young scientists
Organised by Tour du Valat
Website: www.medconservationsciences-conference.org/

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