

## Editorial

'Biodiversity is life': this was the theme of Green Week 2006. ECNC was one of the 72 organizations selected to have a stand at this well-attended event. Our stand attracted a lot of interest and highlighted ECNC's work on partnerships and the 2010 target. ECNC also actively participated in several seminars during Green Week. The Brabant&Europe Partnership for Sustainability together with the Province of Noord-Brabant was also allocated a stand, promoting various projects in which they are cooperating. See further page 2.

Over the last two months ECNC has organized several workshops whose results will have far-reaching effects. The international workshop 'Bialowieza - A forest of hope' resulted in the 'Bialowieza - A forest of hope Appeal 2006'. A meeting of the new ECNC programme to boost ecological network development in South-East Europe and the Black Sea region was held in Belgrade. Continuing its activities to provide training to assist countries and regions in Europe to develop biodiversity indicators and monitoring, in April ECNC held a training workshop for 12 countries in the EECCA region, and in May a workshop was held in Macedonia as part of the Communicating Nature Conservation project. You can read more on these activities in this issue. In our next issue we will report on the Communicating Nature Conservation workshop to be held in Croatia, and the 4th LIFESCAPE - YOUR LANDSCAPE Partner Forum, held in the UK.

We are pleased to announce that ECNC's Annual report 2005 was published in mid-June and is currently being distributed.

*On behalf of the Editorial Team  
Glynis van Uden*

June 2006

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## Support to International Organizations and Policy Initiatives

### B&E workshop on landscape integration of industrial estates

20 April 2006, 's-Hertogenbosch, the Netherlands

In cooperation with several organizations in Noord-Brabant, including PIT (Projects Innovation Team of the Province of Noord-Brabant), BOM (Noord-Brabant Development Agency) and BMF (Noord-Brabant Environmental Federation), in April 2006 the Brabant&Europe Partnership for Sustainability (B&E) organized a workshop on the theme of landscape integration of industrial estates. The Secretariat of B&E is hosted by ECNC.



Anke Marrien of PIT Noord-Brabant presents the results of the workshop discussions.  
(Photo: Peter von Meijenfeldt)

This theme was adopted by B&E as a result of the seminar held in celebration of ECNC's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary in November 2003.

In a pleasant and creative atmosphere the participants discussed the possibilities for a more functional and successful integration of industrial estates and biodiversity in future. Nowadays many industrial estates are perfect examples of drab and ugly places, lacking the values of biodiversity and quality of the landscape.

The participants concluded that further integration of economics and biodiversity is necessary, as is regional cooperation. Pilot projects can show the way to a new approach to integration. These conclusions will be further elaborated and followed up. They have been briefly summarized in a document for presentation to politicians and enterprises.

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### ECNC at Green Week 2006

30 May – 2 June 2006, Brussels, Belgium

ECNC actively participated in the annual Green Week organized by the European Commission, DG Environment, from 30 May to 2 June in Brussels. The focus of Green Week 2006 was on biodiversity, specifically on the four main components of our endeavour to halt biodiversity loss: biodiversity as a global issue, the management of natural resources, space for nature, and biodiversity and society.

ECNC had a stand where information on its projects and partnerships was provided. The stand attracted much interest from participants of the Green Week, and resulted in a much stronger awareness in Europe about



Natasja Hulst (left) and Ana Nieto (right) were ready to answer all your questions at the ECNC stand. (Photo: ECNC)

ECNC's work on partnerships and the 2010 target.

ECNC also participated in various seminars during the Green Week, including the seminars on branding, business and biodiversity, monitoring and reporting, and biodiversity and regions and municipalities.

The Brabant&Europe Partnership for Sustainability collaborated with the Province of Noord-Brabant in organizing a stand at the event. Their stand provided information on projects on which they are working together, including LIFESCAPE - YOUR LANDSCAPE and Countdown 2010, and promoted a biodiversity seminar to be held at the Province of Noord-Brabant in June.

## ***Nature and Society***

### **Communicating Nature Conservation in Macedonia - Training Workshop**

*24 May 2006 – 27 May 2006, Pelister National Park, Macedonia*

ECNC, in association with the Macedonian Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, organized a capacity-building workshop for 25 staff members from national and regional conservation authorities, NGOs, media and national parks in Macedonia. This workshop took place in Macedonia's oldest national park, Pelister.

The workshop participants had the opportunity to benefit from the trainers' extensive experience in communicating nature conservation. ECNC Deputy Executive Director Sandra Rientjes and Senior Project Officer Natasja Hulst were accompanied by and received expertise and advice from ECNC Associate Tom Kovacs and English Nature's Lawrence Jones-Walters.

Learning at the workshop was not a one-way process; the team learned a lot from the Macedonian participants during the interactive sessions. Prior to the workshop ECNC had investigated the potential learning and information needs by studying the Macedonian situation and meeting with the Park authorities and government officials. This paid off as the workshop was evaluated very positively by the participants and considered a great success by all involved. Another contributing factor to this success was that every possible measure was taken to circumvent the language barrier by the translation of the course material into Macedonian and the presence of two excellent interpreters. It was also possible to invite a guest speaker from the region, Aleksandra Majic Skrbinek, who



Pelister National Park. (Photo: ECNC)

presented the Croatian wolf programme that has received much international acclaim as an example of best practice in participatory methods.

To conclude the workshop the project team was invited to visit the most beautiful of Macedonia's natural wonders, Ohrid Lake in Galicica National Park. This natural tectonic lake is one of the oldest in the world and at 294 m the deepest in South-East Europe.

This workshop was the first of two; at the end of June ECNC will be presenting a second workshop, adapted to the Croatian situation and learning needs, at Croatia's Baške Oštarije on Velebit Mountain. This project is funded by the Government of Norway.

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Interactive session in progress. (Photo: ECNC)

## **European Ecological Network**

### **Consensus on cross-border measures and priorities for future of Bialowieza Forest**

From 6 to 8 April 2006, the international workshop 'Bialowieza - A forest of hope' took place in Bialowieza, on the border of Poland and Belarus. It was organized by ECNC, Vereniging Natuurmonumenten, Bialowieza National Park in Poland and Belovezhskaya Pushcha National Park in Belarus, together with several other organizations. The workshop was part of a project that was finalized at the end of May 2006.

The workshop participants discussed ways of enhancing the ecological and social coherence of the Bialowieza Forest as one coherent ecosystem. It resulted in the 'Bialowieza - A forest of hope Appeal 2006', which includes suggestions for concrete priority actions and principles for hydrology, sustainable tourism, forestry and ecological networks, and the links to agriculture. The workshop concurred on joint principles for forest management on both sides of the border.

The proposed activities include the establishment of a cross-border ecological network as part of the European Ecological Network, including testing the establishment of cross-border ecological gateways at two locations in the border fence that currently divides the forest in two, while fully respecting international and national laws, including border police regulations. The ecological network and the gateways would allow species to

migrate between the two parts of the forest. The workshop stressed that the Bialowieza Forest is a true European ecological and social capital, and a European responsibility. Its conservation and management should therefore receive much more funds from the international community. The very old tradition of nature conservation and game management in the Forest, ranging back some 600 years, was also stressed.

The workshop results will be communicated to the Governments of Belarus and Poland, the Government of the Netherlands (main project funder through the BBI-Matra fund) and international organizations, such as the European Commission, Council of Europe, European banks and the UN.

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Bialowieza Forest: approaching the Strictly Protected Zone.

(Photo: Rypke Zeilmaker, April 2006)

## Boosting ecological network development in South-East Europe and the Black Sea region

On 12 May in Belgrade, Serbia-Montenegro, the first focus group meeting took place on the ECNC programme for the establishment of the Pan-European Ecological Network (PEEN) in countries in South-East Europe and the Black Sea region (SEENET). The meeting brought together government representatives and experts from Bulgaria, Romania, Russia, Serbia-Montenegro, Turkey and Ukraine and representatives from ECNC, Eurosite, EUCC and the Regional Environmental Centre. The President of the Expert Committee on the Pan-European Ecological Network, Mr Jan-Willem Sneep, also attended the meeting, and underlined the importance of the programme and the region for the establishment of the European Ecological Network.

The meeting resulted in strong consensus on the priorities under the programme, including on the SEENET website for PEEN in South-East Europe and the Black Sea region, and on the main themes, in particular

funding and regional development. It was agreed to promote the importance and requirements of the PEEN in South-East Europe and the Black Sea region at relevant pan-European, EU and global meetings.

The SEENET website established in the framework of the programme will be launched in the near future.

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## State of European Nature and Biodiversity

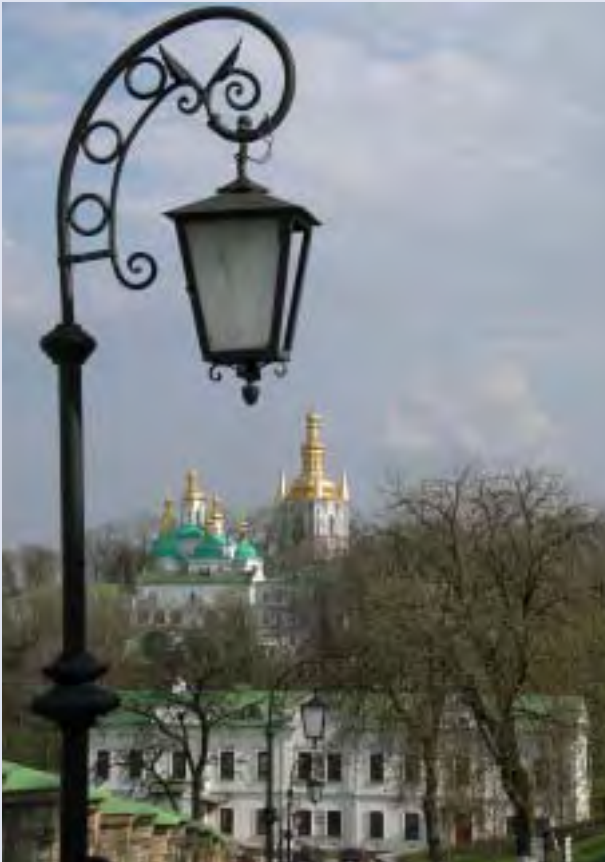
### ECNC supporting biodiversity monitoring in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia

On 20 and 21 April 2006 ECNC held a training workshop for 12 countries in the EECCA region: Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia. Some 25 participants, representing ministries and science institutes dealing with biodiversity in their country, were presented with an overview of international and national initiatives on biodiversity indicators and monitoring. This focused on how biodiversity policy effectiveness - especially the 2010 target - can be measured and how their countries could take part in the process. Based on some national examples and experiences with field monitoring, training was given to the participants. During the second day small working groups discussed the steps that need to be taken to set up a national monitoring programme. The group outcomes were presented and a joint outline for a national biodiversity monitoring programme was developed.

Also, the participants discussed bottlenecks and possible solutions regarding biodiversity monitoring in their country. The bottlenecks observed ranged from lack of specialists in certain taxonomic groups, low awareness, difficult accessibility of many areas, and lack of funding for monitoring. Some of the



The workshop participants. (Photo: Ben Delbaere)



(Photo: Ben Delbaere)

solutions related to increasing cooperation and exchange of experiences (including from Western countries), involving a wider range of stakeholders, and reviewing possible national and international funding opportunities.

Following a similar workshop in the Western Balkan in 2005, this training is one of ECNC's efforts to assist countries and regions in Europe in developing biodiversity indicators and monitoring. It is part of ECNC's role in the Streamlining European 2010 Biodiversity Indicators process (SEBI2010).

Salix Nature Tours Ltd from Ukraine co-organized the meeting in Kyiv, Ukraine. Financial support for the meeting was kindly provided by the Swiss and Norwegian Governments through UNEP/ROE. The meeting report can be downloaded from the ECNC website: [http://www.ecnc.org/IndicatorAndMonitoring/Index\\_559.html](http://www.ecnc.org/IndicatorAndMonitoring/Index_559.html).

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### Launch of the BioScore News Alert

The BioScore News Alert has been set up to keep you informed of news and recent developments and activities within the BioScore project on assessing biodiversity impacts by using species sensitivity scores. It is intended for policymakers, scientists, NGOs and other interested parties.

This electronic news alert will be published at regular intervals and is available at the BioScore website. Try out the first issue at [http://www.ecnc.org/Issue1April2006/Index\\_589.html](http://www.ecnc.org/Issue1April2006/Index_589.html)

To subscribe to the news alert mailing list, please send an email to [nieto@ecnc.org](mailto:nieto@ecnc.org).



### ECNC Bureau meeting

*19 May 2006, Valkenswaard/Heeze, the Netherlands*

On 19 May 2006 the ECNC Bureau met in Valkenswaard/Heeze. The meeting was hosted by ECNC's Vice-President Mr Ronald Loudon. The Bureau adopted ECNC's Annual report 2005 and welcomed the progress in the implementation of ECNC's strategic mid-term orientation. The Bureau also discussed and welcomed the outcome of the first meeting of ECNC's 'new-style' Scientific Council, which was reported upon by its Chairman Dr Sjur Baardsen.

The Bureau members were offered a field excursion on the Valkenhorst estate, guided by Mr Loudon and a representative of Brabants Landschap. During the excursion they were informed about recent nature restoration works and the management of the former fish ponds on the estate.

### European House making good progress

The fifth meeting of the Steering Committee of the European House for Biodiversity and Sustainability took place on 25 April 2006 in Tilburg.

The member organizations (Province of Noord-Brabant, ECNC, Eurosite, Netherlands Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, IUCN and Municipality of Tilburg) concluded that the cooperation within the framework of the European House is progressing well. This conclusion was based on examples of successful activities, such as the ICLEI Conference held in Tilburg in May 2005 and the initiatives being taken towards reaching the Countdown 2010 objectives.

The objectives of the European House are to provide expertise and added value. The added value of the cooperation can be seen in the new initiatives that are to be developed, such

as the participation of municipalities in the Countdown 2010 targets (biodiversity).

Following their attendance at the World Congress of IUCN in Cape Town, in March 2006, titled 'Local actions for biodiversity', the Municipality of Tilburg is exploring the possibility of entering into cooperation with other cities in the world for a programme on biodiversity. B&E will provide support to Tilburg's initiatives by acting as a platform. B&E also aims to extend the initiatives undertaken by Tilburg to the level of the region of Brabant.

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### Staff news

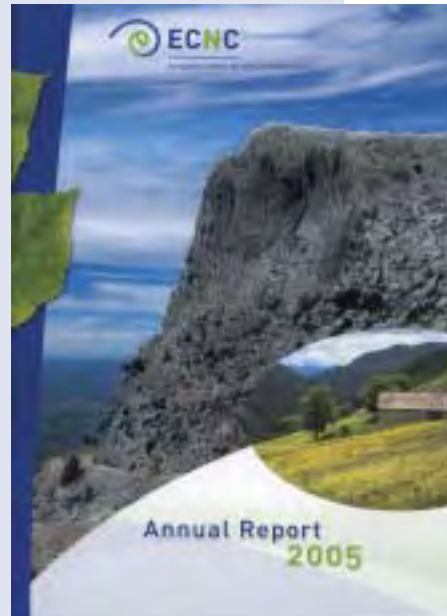
On 1 June, Aysegül Çil joined ECNC as Programme Manager – Nature and Society. Aysegül started her career as a landscape planner in Ankara, Turkey. She completed her master's degree on 'Urban Environmental Management' in Rotterdam (Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies/Wageningen University) and continued with a Ph.D. project (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam) on sustainable coastal resource management, focusing on stakeholder involvement and negotiation from the perspective of collaborative management. Over the past fifteen years, she has worked with national, regional and local authorities for various environmental projects and programmes.

Pamela Westerlund joined ECNC on 24 April for a two-month traineeship, conducting a Finnish case study for the BioScore project. Pamela comes from Finland, and is studying Environmental Biology at the University of Helsinki.

## New ECNC publications

### *ECNC-European Centre for Nature Conservation, Annual report 2005*

ECNC's Annual report 2005 was published in June and is currently being distributed. The report provides details on the organization and its Programme Areas, and illustrates how the range of ECNC's products continued to grow in 2005, which was a year of change and new challenges.



### *Streamlining European 2010 Biodiversity Indicators*

This leaflet provides information on SEBI2010, a joint pan-European activity to develop and implement biodiversity indicators for assessing, reporting on and communicating achievement of the 2010 target to halt biodiversity loss. The coordination team is led by the European Environment Agency, ECNC and UNEP-WCMC.

Biró, E., I. Bouwma and V. Grobelnik (Eds) (2006) *Indicative map of the Pan-European Ecological Network in South-Eastern Europe. Technical background document.* – Tilburg, ECNC-European Centre for Nature Conservation, ECNC technical report series.

The indicative map of the Pan-European Ecological Network for the South-Eastern European countries shows areas that are vital for biodiversity in Europe. It indicates possibilities to reinforce the safe and long-term existence and possible return of internationally important species following the strategy of a coherent and robust network. It summarizes insights and data in a manner that is meant to be readily understandable, useful and inspiring for policymakers responsible for nature protection and land use planning. This report will be distributed shortly.

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