

Editorial

We would like to draw your attention to two recently completed projects that make significant contributions to the development of ecological networks in Europe: 'Bialowieza – A Forest of Hope' and the 'Indicative map of the Pan-European Ecological Network in South-Eastern Europe'. See this issue for further details on these projects, whose outputs are now available on the ECNC website.

ECNC continues to assist in facilitating and stimulating regional input into European policies through i.a. the Countdown 2010 process, seminars and input into policy documents. For a review of ECNC's recent activities in this area, see page 4.

In June ECNC conducted a workshop on Communicating Nature Conservation in Croatia. This was the second of two such workshops, the first being held in FYRO Macedonia in May. Both workshops were well-received by the participants, and we look forward to continuing work on the next phase of this project in both countries.

We are pleased to welcome a new ECNC Network partner: the Institute of Sustainable Technology of the Tallinn University of Technology, Estonia (see page 5 for a brief introduction).

*On behalf of the Editorial Team
Glynis van Uden*

August 2006

In this issue

PAGE

- 2 Communicating Nature Conservation in Croatia – Training Workshop
- 3 Fourth LIFESCAPE - YOUR LANDSCAPE Partner Forum: joint activities in action!
- 3 'Bialowieza – A Forest of Hope' project finalized
- 4 Regions of Europe to support biodiversity
- 5 New ECNC Network partner
- 5 Staff news
- 6 New ECNC publication
- 6 New issue of *Journal for Nature Conservation*

Communicating Nature Conservation in Croatia – Training Workshop

26-30 June 2006, Velebit Mountain, Croatia

A workshop focusing on the techniques used for managing and facilitating consultation processes, and the development of communication strategies was organized by ECNC, in association with the Croatian State Institute for Nature Protection, in Velebit National Park, Croatia.



Velebit Mountain. (Photo: Aysegül Cil)

Twenty-four participants attended from government agencies, national parks and protected areas, NGOs and local authorities. The workshop was conducted by ECNC Deputy Executive Director Sandra Rientjes, Programme Manager - Nature and Society Aysegül Cil, and Senior Project Officer Natasja Hulst, in close collaboration with ECNC associate Tom Kovacs and Lawrence Jones-Walters from English Nature. This project is funded by the Government of Norway.

During ECNC's preparatory visit it was understood that there was already some experience in using communication as a policy tool for nature conservation in Croatia. This interactive learning process was enhanced by three 'master classes' that gave a short, intensive introduction to topics of special interest to the Croatian participants, such as stakeholder

involvement in coastal zone management, involving the general public in biodiversity assessment, and managing media campaigns during crisis situations. During the workshop, the team had the opportunity to explore the natural park on Velebit Mountain together with the participants.

The workshop evaluation shows that this workshop and that held in FYRO Macedonia in May 2006 (see *ECNC Update*, June 2006) were greatly appreciated by the participants, who felt that the knowledge acquired was relevant to their daily work and could be applied in the everyday reality of their countries. There was keen interest among the participants for a possible follow-up to the workshops, which would involve pilot projects and a training trainers module.

For more information: Aysegül Cil, Programme Manager - Nature and Society; cil@ecnc.org

The workshop participants. (Photo: Aysegül Cil)

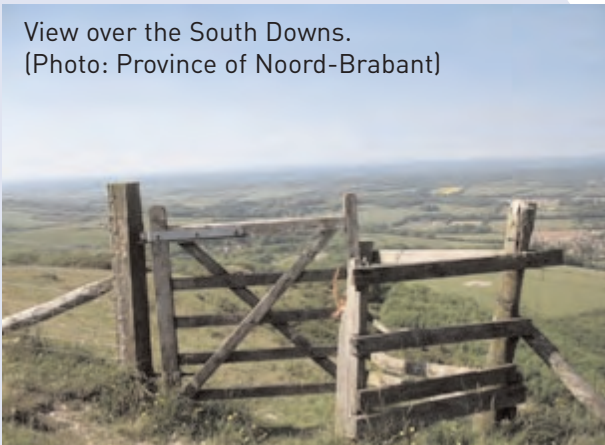


Fourth LIFESCAPE - YOUR LANDSCAPE Partner Forum: joint activities in action!

7-9 June 2006, Eastbourne, UK

The objectives of the fourth LIFESCAPE Partner Forum were to exchange the lessons learnt in implementing the Transnational Key Actions (TKAs) but in particular to work on future Joint Activities and exchange programmes. These issues were discussed in breakout groups, covering the three Poles of activities: Connecting People, Marketing & Branding, and Instruments & Measures.

View over the South Downs.
(Photo: Province of Noord-Brabant)



The Joint Activities that started since the last Partner Forum in December 2005 are:

- a school exchange between a French and English school;
- joint development of a landscape marketing and branding guide;
- organization of various exchange visits, from exchanges of volunteers and farmers to other countries, to exchanges of project partners.

These Joint Activities will be elaborated further during the summer and autumn and their outcomes will be discussed in various Pole meetings in September and October 2006.

The fourth LIFESCAPE - YOUR LANDSCAPE Partner Forum was held in Eastbourne, UK, on the border of the South Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, home of the South Downs Joint Committee (a LIFESCAPE partner).

For more information on LIFESCAPE - YOUR LANDSCAPE, visit www.lifescapeyourlandscape.org, or contact Yuca Waarts, Senior Project Officer Ecology and Economy; waarts@ecnc.org

Biodiversity survey in progress.
(Photo: Orchard Centre Foundation)



European Ecological Network

'Bialowieza – A Forest of Hope' project finalized

The European Ecological Network Pilot project 'Bialowieza – A Forest of Hope' focused on ways of enhancing the ecological and social coherence of the Bialowieza Forest, which lies on the border between Poland and Belarus, as one coherent ecosystem. The project has now been successfully finalized and has made important progress towards reaching this goal.

The 'Bialowieza – A Forest of Hope Appeal 2006', which resulted from the Forest of Hope Workshop in April 2006, includes suggestions for concrete priority actions and principles for hydrology, sustainable tourism, forestry and ecological networks, and the links to agriculture.

An important output of the project was the design of a cross-border ecological network, and the production of a map.

The findings of the four expert groups established in the framework of the project and the conclusions of the Forest of Hope Workshop will contribute significantly towards a more ecologically and socially coherent Bialowieza Forest area.

The consensus reached with all important stakeholders in the Bialowieza Forest area



reflects the willingness of those involved to work together and to develop the Bialowieza into a Forest of Hope – a European testing ground for a respectful interaction between man and nature.

The project was led by Mihály Végh (ECNC) together with Onno de Bruijn (Vereniging Natuurmonumenten), in close cooperation with both National Parks in Bialowieza Forest, a wide range of top experts and representatives of various stakeholders.

For more information, please consult the ECNC website:

http://www.ecnc.org/BialowiezaForestPilo/Ind ex_463.html and/or *Mihály Végh* (vegh@ecnc.hu) or *Onno de Bruijn* (O.deBruijn@Natuurmonumenten.nl)

(Photo: Ágnes Bruszik)

State of European Nature and Biodiversity

Regions of Europe to support biodiversity

The regions of Europe have a strong role to play in implementing biodiversity activities. ECNC is involved in a range of activities that help facilitate and stimulate this regional input into European policies.

For example, ECNC has provided input into a seminar organized by the Dutch Province of Noord-Brabant on 12 and 13 June.

This seminar aimed at providing a platform for exchange of regional experiences that relate to biodiversity conservation. This was explicitly linked to how regions can actively contribute to halting the loss of biodiversity by 2010. In relation to Countdown 2010 ECNC facilitated a workshop on urban biodiversity, in cooperation with the City of Zagreb, Croatia, with which ECNC is currently running a project on community involvement. ECNC also presented European progress in biodiversity monitoring and indicators, focusing on how regions could relate to the 'Streamlining European 2010 Biodiversity Indicators' process.

ECNC has also been asked to provide its expert input into the drafting of the Opinion of the EU Committee of the Regions on the EC Communication 'Halting the loss of biodiversity by 2010 ... and beyond'. This drafting process is led by Queen's Commissioner Mr Wim van Gelder of the Dutch Province of Zeeland.

The Netherlands Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality supports ECNC in stimulating regional and local governments' involvement in the Countdown 2010 process and in their actions towards reaching the 2010 target. As part of this project a national seminar is to be held on 10 and 11 October, aiming at exchange of national experiences and relating this to European efforts at regional level.

More information: Natasja Hulst, Senior Project Officer; hulst@ecnc.org

New ECNC Network partner

At its meeting on 19 May 2006 the ECNC Bureau approved the application of the Institute of Sustainable Technology, Tallinn University of Technology, Estonia, to become a Network partner.

The University's mission is to support Estonia's sustainable development through scientific creation and science-based higher education in the field of engineering, technology, natural and social sciences.

Contact person: Dr Mart Kylvik; mart.kylvik@ttu.ee; <http://www.ttu.ee/?lang=en>

This addition brings the number of ECNC Network partners to 45 in 22 European countries. See http://www.ecnc.org/EcncNetwork/Index_27.html for a complete list of our Network.

Staff news

After 12 years with ECNC, Deputy Executive Director/Head of Programme Development, Ms Sandra Rientjes has taken up a position in another organization, the Dutch Foundation for Nature and Environment in Utrecht. Sandra contributed significantly to developing ECNC into the professional organization it is now, and was appreciated as a very pleasant colleague and as a European top expert on communication issues. Sandra will remain associated with ECNC for activities in the field of communication.

As of 1 August 2006 Mr Ben Delbaere took over the position of Deputy Executive Director/Head of Programme Development. He has been with ECNC since 1994 and has

been Senior Programme Manager on bio-diversity since 2001.

From 1 July 2006 the contract of Ad Vlems has been extended for six months. Ad is employed as IT and Information Officer.

Pamela Westerlund completed a two-month traineeship with ECNC, and will be staying on as Project Officer until the end of August 2006.

On 3 July, Sunny Morrison joined ECNC on a short-term contract as Project Officer. Sunny will work on the 'Farmers and agricultural nature conservation' sub-project of the LIFESCAPE project.

New ECNC publication

As reported in the previous issue of the *ECNC Update*, ECNC recently completed a project aimed at outlining the contours of the Pan-European Ecological Network (PEEN) in South-Eastern Europe. The project resulted in an indicative map of the PEEN which identifies the core nature areas of European importance, existing corridors between these areas, and where new corridors could and should be established. The PEEN SEE map is accompanied by a report that gives detailed information on the process of map making, the data used, and how the map should be interpreted in its proper context. These documents are now available on ECNC's website at

http://www.ecnc.org/PeenSee/Index_96.html

New issue of *Journal for Nature Conservation*

Volume 14, Issue 2 of the *Journal for Nature Conservation* (published by Elsevier in affiliation with ECNC) was published in July 2006.

As of Issue 15/1 (2007) the *Journal for Nature Conservation* will be listed in the Science Citation Index Expanded and Current Contents Agricultural, Biological and Environmental Sciences by Thomson Scientific.

For further information, please consult:
http://www.ecnc.org/JournalForNatureCons/Index_36.html

ECNC Update Volume 13, No. 4

ISSN 1388-0039

ECNC Update is the newsletter of ECNC-European Centre for Nature Conservation
Editor: Glynis van Uden • ECNC Update is freely available from the ECNC website (www.ecnc.org).
Readers are welcome to reproduce this Update in whole or in part providing reference is made to the source.

Subscribers to the ECNC Update receive an email every time a new Update is issued. To subscribe, please send an email to Glynis van Uden (vanuden@ecnc.org).

ECNC Headquarters – Tilburg • PO Box 90154 • 5000 LG Tilburg, the Netherlands • Tel.: +31-13-5944944 • Fax: +31-13-5944945 • Email: ecnc@ecnc.org • WWW: www.ecnc.org

ECNC Regional Office • c/o National Authority for Nature Conservation • Költő Utca 21, 1121 Budapest, Hungary • Tel.: +36-1-3911763 • Fax: +36-1-3553699 • Email: ecnc@ecnc.hu

ECNC is a member of IUCN - the World Conservation Union