



Policy Support

Supporting the innovative implementation of policy commitments

Integrating biodiversity policy into science, society and economic sectors

Over the last decades, in Europe the political interest in the conservation and enhancement of nature and biodiversity conservation and ecosystem services has increased. Following decisions in the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Millennium Development Goals, at Pan-European and EU levels an important policy target to halt biodiversity loss by 2010 has been set. Effective implementation of international and European policies and targets is successful only if all levels of government and all relevant partners and sectors are involved. On the other hand, regional and local biodiversity should be acknowledged and recognized at international levels as vital contributions to European targets.

International agreement has been reached; it is now time for implementation

ECNC's Policy Support programme therefore focuses on assisting in the implementation of biodiversity and ecosystem policies and targets via providing expertise, exchanging experiences, targeted communication, information and facilitation. As part of its core business, ECNC tries to create bridges between the different worlds.

With many European, national and sub-national biodiversity (relevant) policy documents, instruments and commitments in place, there is a need for:

- consistent and concrete action towards implementation on all geographical levels;
- synergy and cooperation between the various geographical levels of government and society;
- synergies in approaches and methods, including on nature, biodiversity, landscape conservation and ecosystem services;
- stronger anchoring of policy into science and civic society;
- communication and information about the relevance of biodiversity policies the wider public;
- mainstreaming of biodiversity policies into economic and financial policies;
- involvement of all other relevant stakeholders in policy implementation via targeted communication and support;
- factual and accessible monitoring of results and effectiveness of instruments and actions.

What ECNC can offer

ECNC provides practical, tailor-made support to the implementation of international, European, national and sub-national priority biodiversity and ecosystem services policy targets, combining it with regional and local realities and approaches.

ECNC can provide support by:

- informing and involving stakeholders in policy-implementation;
- assisting intergovernmental organizations with expert input;
- strengthening regional and local initiatives and partnerships in a European perspective;
- increasing civic awareness of and involvement in biodiversity targets such as the 2010 target;
- translating policy-targets into the realities of economic and financial sectors;
- training and development of manuals for countries and regions.

Examples of activities as part of ECNC's Policy Support programme

... ECNC provides sound and targeted expertise to policy frameworks and information on policy priorities to scientific networks. ECNC was involved in the actual drafting of the major European biodiversity policy strategies and is a key player in all major European biodiversity conferences, assisting governments and NGOs in preparing for effective discussions and solid decisions.

...ECNC increases national, regional and local awareness of and involvement in European biodiversity targets through communication and information. For instance, together with the Dutch Province of Noord-Brabant and the Countdown 2010 Partnership, ECNC promoted the involvement of a wide range of regions and municipalities in biodiversity targets and challenges. Within these regions, ECNC assists in the integration of biodiversity into businesses.

... ECNC is – from the very beginning – a key partner of the European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity of the European Environment Agency, providing services and expertise on areas such as biodiversity monitoring and indicators, climate change and biofuels impacts on Europe's biodiversity, and data management.

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