

BojanaTour – Fostering and bringing together coastal Southwest Balkans nature, tourism and civil society involvement through Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM)

Ongoing for Critical Ecosystems Partnerships Fund

December 2013 – November 2015

This project uses ICZM as a framework to pursue sustainable development in Ulcinj Municipality (Montenegro), particularly in the Bojana River Delta where the actions will take place, focusing on nature and tourism.

In 2014, ECNC and EUCC conducted a training workshop in Ada Bojana together with key stakeholders from various sectors.

The project is coordinated and led by the ECNC Land & Sea Group; pilot activities are developed in close cooperation with Green Step and UBA.

<http://www.bojanatour.org/>

QualityDestination

Ongoing with support of the EC Life+ grant

Launched in 2013 and developed as part of the EU NGO 2014 programme, QualityDestination is an ECNC Land & Sea Group initiative. It links with EUCC's QualityCoast Programme and will contribute to the proposed 7th Environment Action Programme by developing a set of sustainability criteria for cities. The programme aims to involve 30 municipalities in different regions of Europe.

Activities in 2014:

- Cooperation agreement developed with NHTV Breda; QualityDestination was presented during a guest lecture on sustainable travel and tourism.
- Agreement reached with BookDifferent on cooperation; ECNC is a beneficiary of the donation facility on the BookDifferent website and listed as one of the beneficiaries that clients can choose to donate to on BookDifferent.
- Participation in the establishment of a 'Green Deal' for sustainable tourism between the Netherlands Ministry of Economic Affairs and partners from the environmental and travel sectors.
- The QualityDestination website was developed to facilitate membership and sponsorships.
- The programme became a member of GSTC (Global Sustainable Tourism Council), Canada.
- Activities on social media (Facebook and Twitter) were developed.
- Production of a [video](#) promoting the programme.
- Information seminars were held with selected destinations in the Black Sea region of Turkey.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four new destinations in the Eastern Black Sea region of Turkey became members of the QD programme. www.qualitydestination.info
<p>Green Impetus for tourism destinations</p> <p><i>Ongoing for the Netherlands Ministry of Economic Affairs</i></p> <p>July 2014 – August 2015</p>	<p>This project was launched in July 2014. It will contribute to the promotion and development of sustainable tourism destinations, A start was made on identifying pilot destinations to test the programmes in the Netherlands and abroad; the aim is to engage 12 pilot destinations (six Dutch and six foreign).</p>
<p>Nature Outlook</p> <p><i>Ongoing for the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency</i></p> <p>September 2014 – June 2015</p>	<p>ECNC facilitated the meetings for the Nature Outlook and was the first contact for workshop participants. The first stakeholder dialogue session was held in Brussels on 2 to 3 December 2014. A variety of stakeholders were involved in order to ensure representation of the many ideas and perspectives on nature. The results of the dialogue were used to develop scenarios on the future of European nature for discussion during the remaining dialogue sessions (in 2015) and in online consultations.</p>
<p>BiodiversMe</p> <p><i>Ongoing with support of the EC Life+ grant</i></p>	<p>In 2014, activities focused on developing an action plan for social media and web-based communication and actions to raise awareness of biodiversity, targeting young people in particular. Among actions undertaken in Tilburg, people were handed roses together with a note, to encourage them to communicate with like-minded people.</p>
<p>European Learning Network for Regions and Biodiversity</p> <p><i>Ongoing with support of the EC Life+ grant</i></p>	<p>The third ELN Regions and Biodiversity conference 'Natura 2000 in action!' was held in Barcelona, Spain, from 10 to 11 December 2014. The conference focused on how Europe's regions can contribute to and benefit from Natura 2000. http://www.regionsandbiodiversity.eu</p>
<p>Engaging Business for Biodiversity</p>	<p>As part of ECNC's work to proactively engage businesses and enhance their role and contributions for biodiversity, ECNC undertook the following activities in 2014:</p>

ECNC projects in 2014

Ongoing with support of the EC Life+ grant

- Participation in the annual gathering of cheese-producing Dutch farmers in April.
- Provision of training about the relationships between biodiversity and business sectors.
- Presentation on ECNC's Business & Biodiversity work at the board meeting of the Dutch umbrella organization for the small-scale cheese makers (BBZ).
- In May 2014, ECNC hosted a Lithuanian delegation from the Baltic Environmental Forum as part of their study visit to the Netherlands. The visit was part of the LIFE project 'Securing sustainable farming to ensure conservation of globally threatened bird species in agrarian landscape' (LIFE09 NAT/LT/000233). The farmers gained insights into Dutch practices with regard to agri-environmental measures and other alternative activities, aiming for added value in sustainable farming.

EBS: European Biodiversity Standard

Ongoing own initiative

The EBS assesses a company's impact on the natural world and helps it to contribute positively to the environment. As part of the process, the EBS also shows a company's commitment towards biodiversity. To acquire the EBS, a company needs to meet the ten components: Commitment, Survey, Assessment, Legislation, Planning, Implementation, Measurement, Partnerships, Communication, and Review.

<http://www.europeanbiodiversitystandard.eu/>

ELN-FAB: European Learning Network on Functional AgroBiodiversity

Ongoing for Flemish Land Agency (VLM), Belgium, and the European Commission (Life+ grant). The European Landowners Organization (ELO) provides in-kind support

January 2010 – December 2014

The ELN-FAB was established with the mission of accumulating, documenting and sharing knowledge on how biodiversity can be mobilized to the benefit of sustainable agricultural production. The ELN-FAB provides a platform for exchange of knowledge and practical experiences between farmers, policymakers and scientists to enable fast and effective implementation of best practices in the EU Member States, plus Norway and Switzerland.

Main activities in 2014:

- A presentation on soils and stakeholders at the First Global Soil Biodiversity Conference, Dijon, France, 2–5 December 2014.
 - Participation in the EcoFINDERS project stakeholder forum from 11–14 February 2014 in Manchester, UK.
 - Contribution to the stakeholder forum of the QUESSA project.
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ECNC projects in 2014

- Attendance at the annual Forum for the Future of Agriculture, Brussels, Belgium, on 1 April 2014, where FAB was reported in the plenary presentation.
- Participation in a workshop organized by CEEweb, Budapest, Hungary, 11–12 June 2014: ‘Options and tools in reaching a greener CAP – NGO Meeting on advocacy tools, experience exchange and lobby cooperation on CAP and RDP implementation’.
- Participation in the EC conference ‘Land as a resource’, in Brussels, Belgium, 19 June 2014.
- Participation in the conference ‘Rural Development Programmes in Action post-2014: How can they work towards a healthier environment?’ in Brussels, Belgium, 15 September 2014.

In addition, ELN-FAB has been expanded to provide a knowledge system, combining scientific, technical and practical knowledge on the use of functional agrobiodiversity (FAB) throughout Europe. This has aimed to enhance better communication between stakeholders and widen the FAB projects database on the website. ELN-FAB also offers communication support to the SUSTAIN project.

<http://www.eln-fab.eu/>

Healthy Seas: a journey from waste to wear

Ongoing with support of the EC Life+ grant DG Environment (Life+ grant), various businesses

As part of the ECNC Land & Sea Group, ECNC continues to coordinate and further develop the Healthy Seas initiative, which recycles marine litter into textile products. Actions focus on three regional pilots in Europe: North Sea (Netherlands and Belgium), Adriatic Sea (Italy, Slovenia and Croatia) and Mediterranean Sea (Spain), and include:

- Identifying hot spots (e.g. shipwrecks, coral reefs) in the pilot regions where ghost fishing net removal should be focused.
- Organizing diving trips to recover waste fishing nets with the involvement of volunteer divers, salvage companies and other stakeholders.
- Continuing to identify and involve a wide range of local and stakeholder groups (divers, salvage companies, fish farms, fishermen, NGOs, governments and the general public), as part of the actions to recover waste fishing nets from seas and to prevent that waste reaching land-fill sites.
- Establishing waste fishing net reception facilities along the coasts in the pilot regions where local awareness-raising actions will take place.

ECNC projects in 2014

In 2014, Healthy Seas was showcased during the 2014 Green Week (June, Brussels), attracting the attention of Commissioner Potočnik as well as over 1,000 participants. Additionally, Healthy Seas was profiled during the marine litter panel discussions;

<http://healthyseas.org/>

New Biogeographical Process: Technical and scientific support in relation to the Natura 2000 Seminars Process

Ongoing for EC DG Environment

December 2011 – December 2014

The overall objective of this project is to provide technical and scientific support to the Commission in relation to the implementation of the new Natura 2000 seminars process, including the preparation of the Natura 2000 seminars and the preparatory workshops. This includes the preparation of invitations, agendas, working documents, reports and guidance documents. Other direct activities include the organisation of Process networking events, participation in Steering Committee meetings, follow-up to monitor progress of planned activities emerging from the Process, as well as development and maintenance of a web-based resource for information sharing and dialogue building between actors.

The Mediterranean ‘Kick-off’ Seminar was organised and held in May 2014. Hosted by Greece, under their Presidency of the EU, this three-day seminar attracted 89 participants from all Mediterranean countries, except Malta.

Also in 2014 the [Natura 2000 Platform](#) website was developed, and launched on the EC’s Europa domain. New functions for Platform were designed and implemented, such as: events lists; website navigation; search/filter function; production of indexed Experts and Organisations Lists for the online directories.

Conformity checking of measures of Member States to transpose Directives... Lot 1 - Support in the context of Conformity Checking

Ongoing under lead of Milieu Ltd for EC DG Environment and Climate Action

December 2012 – November 2016

The objective of this framework contract is the drafting of studies which analyse the conformity of national measures with certain Directives in the environmental and climate action sectors. ECNC is involved as an expert on a call-off basis to support specific questions in relation to biodiversity directives.

<p>Leaflet on the benefits of the establishment of functional ecological networks at pan-European level</p> <p>Ongoing for Council of Europe</p> <p>Renewed in 2014</p>	<p>Based on previous work ECNC carried out for the Council of Europe (The Action Plan for the Future of the Pan-European Ecological Network), ECNC prepared text for a leaflet on the benefits of establishing functional ecological networks at pan-European level, targeting stakeholders and decision-makers from both national and subnational levels (decision and delivery levels).</p> <p>The leaflet explains the benefits for biodiversity as well as the social and economic benefits of the (re)creation and maintenance of ecological networks with protected areas at their core (Emerald and Natura 2000 networks) and the link to relevant EU initiatives such as the Green Infrastructure Strategy.</p>
<p>Maintenance of the Communication Platform and Support to the New (Natura 2000) Biogeographical Process</p> <p>Ongoing for EC DG Environment</p> <p>December 2013 – December 2016</p>	<p>This contract is directly linked to supporting the implementation of the Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process. The two main tasks are to support the technical development and use of the Natura 2000 Platform as the primary web-based resource to share information and build dialogue about the Natura 2000 biogeographical process, and to support the organization and delivery of a minimum of five networking events per year. The networking events are envisaged to be workshops, but can also take the form of ad hoc expert meetings, study visits and seminars.</p> <p>In 2014, the main activities enabled new input to support the improvements required for the Platform, as well as ongoing maintenance arrangements. In addition, there was a sharp increase in the number of follow-up networking events supported through the Process; for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zvolen, Slovakia: Restoration of Alpine Rivers Workshop; September 2014. The meeting was attended by over 40 participants, mainly from the Alpine and Carpathian countries (including Ukraine). • Budapest, Hungary: Post Alpine/ Pre Continental CEEweb preparatory workshop; September 2014. ECNC supported CEEweb for Biodiversity in organizing a Natura 2000 management workshop attended by 37 participants representing NGOs, EU Member States, national park and forest managers, and scientists. • Mediterranean follow-up workshop: 'Territorial governance and policy integration for Mediterranean water dependent Natura 2000 sites: challenges and opportunities'; Barcelona, Spain, 6 November 2014. <p>As with the Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process project, ECNC leads with input from various</p>

partners and manages their inputs.

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/platform/index_en.htm

Study on active dissemination of environmental information in relation to the 92/42/EEC 'Habitats' and 2009/147/EEC 'Birds Directives'

The project was led by ARCADIS Belgium, with ECNC as a sub-contractor focusing on development and analysis from an online survey about the Birds and Habitats Directives in five Member States and input to a workshop, held in Brussels on 24 October 2014, to present the results from a stakeholder survey. Specific activities delivered in 2014 include:

Completed as partner under lead of ARCADIS to EC DG Environment

- Development of the survey methodology and survey tool.
- Preparation of the stakeholder questionnaire.
- Preparation of the stakeholder list.
- Detailed survey of the availability of Birds and Habitats Directives data in five Member States (Spain, France, Hungary, the Netherlands, and Sweden).
- Contribution to the preparation of the workshop background document.
- Presentation of main survey results and reporting of workshop discussions.
- Drafting an interim document to report the survey findings.

December 2013 – September 2014

Ecological advice to Corpac House

Provision of general ecological support to the implementation and monitoring of the biodiversity garden around ECNC's office building. ECNC has been given a contract to provide ecological advice in support of the landlord's application for a sustainability certificate (BREEAM) for renovating the building.

Ongoing for Corpac House

September 2014 – 2016

Journal for Nature Conservation

Continuation of long-term agreement with Elsevier Publishing. ECNC is a member of the editorial and review team with a primary role is to ensure a European link and interdisciplinarity and to contribute a European Policy review paper for each year. Activities in 2014:

Ongoing in affiliation with Elsevier Science

- Six issues of the Journal were published.
- ECNC contributed two papers: one on [functional agrobiodiversity](#) and one on [how science influences policy](#).

January 2001 – date

- ECNC reviewed an external paper on 17 March.

BiodiversityKnowledge: Developing a Knowledge Network for European expertise on biodiversity and ecosystem services to inform policy-making and economic sectors

Completed as partner under lead of UFZ for EC DG Research FP7

November 2010 – May 2014

The project developed a recommended design for a scientific biodiversity Network of Knowledge (NoK) to inform policymakers, the policymaking process and other societal actors. This network shall be open, transparent, flexible, equally accessible to all, independent, scientifically and evidence-based and have a robust structure. It will develop links to relevant clients to support the science-society interface in Europe and beyond.

ECNC mapped knowledge holders and existing networks on biodiversity and ecosystem services in Europe; conducted interviews with potential clients of the NoK; prepared a summary report with the main results of the interviews; and elaborated a draft report on barriers to the transfer of knowledge. The proposed NoK is described in a [white paper](#) which was also presented during a final conference in the European Parliament in April 2014.

EEA Framework contract for support on agriculture

Completed for EEA

January 2011 – December 2014

This framework agreement with the EEA provided integrated analyses of agricultural land-use trends through assessments of their current and future impact on water, soils, air quality, biodiversity and landscapes. This will help to assess the impact of new societal demands, and demographic and technological trends on the natural environment, and to form a basis for policy evaluation and feedback into related sectoral and environmental policies, support inter-institutional cooperation and networking.

Integrated assessment of vulnerability of environmental resources and ecosystem-based adaptation measures

Completed as partner under lead of Alterra for EC DG Environment

January 2011 – April 2014

This project aimed at improving the understanding of vulnerability primarily to climate change of the Carpathian region. The main objectives of the project were to: gather information on vulnerability to climate change impacts in the Carpathian Basin; on that basis, to identify and assess potential adaptation measures, with a particular focus on ecosystem-based approaches. The level of analysis was based on the availability of data and information from external projects. In this, ECNC worked to:

- identify knowledge gaps to be filled in by additional field research or case studies. The latter was executed by a parallel separate framework contract for in-depth assessments of vulnerability of environmental resources and ecosystem-based adaptation measures;

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- contribute to ongoing national or regional adaptation strategies or related policy processes, and to the EU Knowledge Base on Climate Vulnerability and Adaptation (among others via the Adaptation Clearinghouse of the EU).

The project ended in 2014 with presentations at the Carpathian Forum and a joint [summary brochure](#).

EEA Framework contract for support on forests This framework agreement with the EEA is to provide integrated analyses of forest land-use trends through assessments of their current and future impact on water, soils, air quality, biodiversity and landscapes.

Completed for EEA as partner under lead of the European Forest Institute (EFI)

January 2011 – December 2014

OpenNESS: Operationalisation of natural capital and ecosystem services: From concepts to real-world applications

Ongoing as partner under lead of SYKE for EC DG Research FP7

December 2012 – May 2017

The goal of OpenNESS is to realise the potential of the concepts of natural capital and ecosystem services to create analytic and governance approaches to sustainable land, water and urban management that can be applied at different locales and scales, or across different sectors.

This large-scale project brings together 35 partners from research, business and policy to match research results and knowledge on ecosystem services and natural capital with needs for practical implementation. A multi-scale menu of solutions will allow end users to choose those practices that fit best their needs. This menu will be made available through an online platform that will also contain the practical test results of 26 case studies from around the globe.

ECNC leads the dissemination work package and has developed a communication strategy, a website and other communication tools. Therefore, ECNC coordinates and implements all external communication for the project, participating in the development team of Oppla, a common platform with the OPERAs project. In addition, ECNC contributes to stakeholder involvement activities.

Activities in 2014 include:

- First annual meeting in March 2014; OpenNESS partners attended training sessions, workshops and bilateral clinics.
- The OpenNESS project presented two case studies at a stand (prepared by ECNC and INBO) at

ECNC projects in 2014

the Belgian Ecosystem Services Community Christmas market. An ECNC representative gave a keynote speech based on OpenNESS and how science can influence policy.

<http://www.openness-project.eu/>

MESEU: Mapping of ecosystems and their services in the EU and its Member States

Ongoing under lead of Alterra for EC DG Environment

November 2012 – November 2015

The aim of this contract is to provide assistance on behalf of and in cooperation with the EC to the Member States in the context of Action 5 of the EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy, on the mapping and assessment of the state of ecosystems and their services in their national territories, making best use of studies and work already undertaken at EU and Member State levels. The objective is to compare and test EU methods on pilot cases from Member States in order to identify possible commonalities and facilitate cross-linkages between national/subnational assessments and the work carried out at EU level. Activities in 2014:

- Contribution to the scoping exercise on national ecosystem mapping approaches with specific responsibility for the Balkan countries and production of fact sheets for all countries in the region.
- Provision of expert input into the development of an analytical framework on relationships between biodiversity protection and ecosystem services.
- Facilitation of part of a hands-on workshop held in Ispra (Italy), February 10-13 2014.
- ECNC contributed to a high-level event with European Commissioners Potocnik (Environment) and Ciolos (Research) on 22 May 2014.

ETC/BD: European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity

Executing part of the ETC/BD work programme

Ongoing as partner under lead of MNHN for European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity

January 1995 – 2018

ECNC is again part of the ETC/BD consortium until 2018, as task leader for biodiversity input into the EEA 'State of Environment Report' 2015, producing/coordinating eight papers in support of this process. ECNC provides expert advice to and reviews the content of the Biodiversity Information System for Europe (BISE), reviews biodiversity indicators, and adapts the biodiversity baseline to the new ecosystem classification according to MAES (Mapping and assessment of ecosystem services).

Specific activities include:

- Review of the contents and structure of BISE, and comments for improvements.
- Identification of additional documents for inclusion under the various sections of BISE.
- Establishment of a list of keywords to be used for tagging the documents in the BISE Catalogue to

ECNC projects in 2014

facilitate searching.

- Review of the BISE library and adding relevant documents to the topics in the BISE Catalogue with relevant keywords attached from the list above (in particular documents related to Green Infrastructure and MAES).

Also, as part of the State of Environment Report (SOER), ECNC produced:

- A short topic assessment on *Integrated approaches to wetland conservation and management*.
- A short topic assessment on *Migration Corridors and Green Infrastructure*.

<http://bd.eionet.europa.eu/>

BioScore 2.0

Completed for the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency

June – November 2014

In 2009, ECNC coordinated the development of the BioScore European biodiversity impact assessment tool. Project partner PBL (Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency) later developed an advanced version. ECNC was contracted to lead the review process for this new version, including organizing a review workshop in Brussels on 16 October 2014. Other activities include:

- Support to PBL in preparing a draft report on the improved BioScore 2, a tool for testing the impacts of various policies on biodiversity.
- Organization of a BioScore 2 stakeholder workshop on 16 October in Brussels. The goal of the workshop was to get feedback from participants on what BioScore is most useful for, as well as how to improve and develop it further. Some 20 participants attended the workshop.

Scoping documents: initiatives related to mapping and assessment of ecosystems and their services in EECCA and SEE countries; and support to the revision of NBSAPs

Based on our successful input into the MESEU project, UNEP offered ECNC a contract to assess ecosystem service mapping approaches in the Balkan and the EECCA region (Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia). ECNC produced a review report with recommendations on knowledge exchange in support of ecosystem service mapping in the region.

Completed for UNEP

September – December 2014

ECNC projects in 2014

<p>LHNet: Large Herbivore Network</p> <p><i>Ongoing for EC DG Environment (Life+ grant)</i></p> <p>July 2010 – date</p>	<p>ECNC leads the coordination of the LHNet. In 2014, ECNC continued to support the LHNet website. Links were developed with the wilderness and rewilding activities of other organizations.</p> <p>http://www.lhnet.org/</p>
<p>ALTER-Net: a long-term biodiversity, ecosystem and awareness research network</p> <p><i>Ongoing as partner under lead of Norwegian Institute for Nature Research (Life+ grant)</i></p> <p>April 2004 – April 2017</p>	<p>ECNC signed a new MoU for phase 3 until 2017, providing process support to this large-scale biodiversity research network. This includes specific input to communication activities (brochure, banners, flyer, posters, etc.) as well as participating in management board and council meetings, etc. Specific activities in 2014 include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in the management board, with specific responsibility for external communication. • Participation in Council meetings; at the June Council meeting, the ECNC representative gave a presentation on stakeholder engagement. • Input to photo-blog development for a summer school from 3 to 19 September. <p>In addition, ECNC is part of a 2015 conference organizing committee. The theme for the conference is Nature-Based Solutions.</p> <p>http://www.alter-net.info/</p>
<p>Biodiversiteitsmeter</p> <p><i>Ongoing as marketable ECNC product</i></p> <p>January 2011 – date</p>	<p>Together with Grontmij, ECNC developed a method and tool for scoring the level of biodiversity of public places, companies, organizations, etc. This supports awareness raising as well as benchmarking for biodiversity.</p> <p>In 2014, there was successful continuation of two biodiversity meters (<i>biodiversiteitsmeters</i>) installed in Eindhoven and Weert (the Netherlands). Both meters and the processes surrounding them have been adopted by local neighbourhood groups. For the next four years they will undertake biodiversity stimulating measures under the guidance of Grontmij and ECNC. The level of the ‘meters’ will be under yearly scrutiny by ECNC. In Weert, the Biodiversiteitsmeter was installed in a former sand quarry owned by the Centrale Zandwinning Weert, a sand extraction company. The meter is part of a local municipality project that involves schools. Weert is also exploring more locations and a Biodiversiteitsmeter project for the entire municipality.</p>