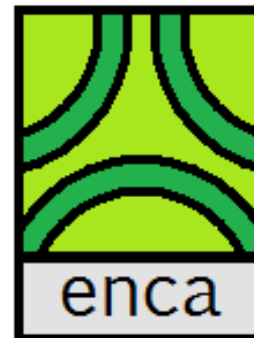


# Heads of European Nature Conservation Agencies (ENCA network)



## Update on ENCA activities and actions from the ENCA secretariat: ENCA News Nr. 10

Tuesday, 08 November 2011 of the international year of forest

### 1. Meetings

#### Past 9<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting in Haarlem/NL

Between October 9 and 11, a back-to-back meeting between the two networks ENCA and EPA was hosted by PBL, the Dutch member in both networks (cp. 4.).

The venue in the historical centre of **Haarlem** was an excellent choice for bringing together all the participants of both networks within walking distance demonstrating the skill of Dutch city planners and the gift of the Dutch hospitality.



The meeting started with a windy boat trip from **IJburg**, where the urban growth of Amsterdam and its effects on a Natura2000 site were shown. Also the role of invasive cockles and mussels has been discussed. Staatsbosbeheer, invited the participants to a completely unexpected trip to **Oostvaardersplassen**, the Dutch "Serengeti" where nature processes are working at their bests, bringing a number of current ecological theories into question: <http://www.lhnet.org/assets/pdf/britishwildlifevera.pdf>, official site of area: <http://www.oostvaardersplassen-sterfte.nl/page15.html>.

The **ENCA meeting on Monday/Tuesday** provided a good opportunity to get some input from the European Commission on the concept of Ecosystem Services (ES) and its integration into European policy making. Further insight into the concept of ES was provided by PBL's explanation on how the institutions have integrated the concept into their work and two inputs by the IGs on Sustainable Land Use and Climate Change Adaptation. The speakers showed links between ES

and the reform of the European Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) and the close link between adaptation to climate change, ES and biodiversity. The session was concluded by a workshop bringing up the most important points in dealing with the concept of ES which will serve as a guideline for future ENCA work.

Pia Bucella from the European Commission emphasized the opportunities of the CAP also for nature conservation.

The **joint session** was dedicated to discuss the joint implementation of the two EU directives on bird/habitat and water highlighting deficits and the

views/expectations of the EC.

Under **organisational issues**, an offer of how to tackle the financial and organisational future of ENCA was discussed together with the hosting of the networks' secretariat and both will be further substantiated.

The plenary offered its gratitude for the interest group's work to the chairs and their groups, and expressed motivation to carry on with their work with the same dedication quality.

A further **conclusions** of the meeting was the establishment of a new interest group on ecosystem services, taking into account the outcome of the workshop. The proposals resulting from this remit will be on the agenda in Austria.

28 participants from 17 parties attended the meeting.

After the official end of the meeting, there was a visit to **National Park Zuid-Kennemerland**, where ecosystem service provision of drinking water and recreation (>2 Mio visitors/year) and the protection of the wonderful

calcareous dune ecosystems and cultural historical area are the main scope of protection. The maintenance of the area is partially provided by Wisent and Scottish Highland cattle. The management of the area is a co-operation between the national park and forest authority, the water provsio company of the area and the communities in the area. Further details: <http://www.np-zuidkennemerland.nl/documents/home.xml?lang=nl>

## Upcoming 10th meeting in Austria

The 10th ENCA meeting will be hosted by Austrian UBA between April 22 and 24 2012 in Gumpoldskirchen near Vienna. The main focus will be set on the discussion around the strategic level of biodiversity strategy and a more technical discussion on Invasive Alien Species.

## 2. Interest groups and workshops

### 2.1 Sustainable Land Use

Chaired by Karin Robinet, BfN, [Karin.Robinet@BfN.de](mailto:Karin.Robinet@BfN.de)

The new working programme focussing on sustainable intensification which is closely linked to EC's activities on resource efficiency.

Check the following link for further information: <http://encanet.eu/home/index.php?id=suslaus>

### 2.2 Monitoring and Assessment

Chaired by CCW's Alan Brown [a.brown@ccw.gov.uk](mailto:a.brown@ccw.gov.uk)

Joint ENCA/EBONE workshop on “**Optimising field-based recording of ecological data for integration with remotely sensed data**”, offered by Doñana Natural Space, Matalascañas, Andalucia, Spain on 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> February 2011.

Check the following link for further information: <http://encanet.eu/home/index.php?id=monitoring>

### 2.3 Climate Change and Adaptation

Chaired by Natural England's Nick MacGregor [nicholas.macgregor@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:nicholas.macgregor@naturalengland.org.uk)

From Monday 26 to Thursday 29 March 2012 there will be a major international conference in London called **Planet Under Pressure** with a one day frame for an IG meeting on Friday 30 March 2012, London (following conference) for further details, please check <http://www.planetunderpressure2012.net/>

Check the following link for further information: <http://encanet.eu/home/index.php?id=clchange>

### 2.4 GMO and Hazardous Organism

Coordination by Sara Restrepo-Vassalli, Swiss FOEN [sara.restrepo-vassalli@bafu.admin.ch](mailto:sara.restrepo-vassalli@bafu.admin.ch)

**4th meeting** of the Joint ENCA EPA Interest Group on GMOs. We have the pleasure to be invited by the Environment Agency Austria (EAA). The meeting will take place in **February 23/24 2012 in Vienna**.

As decided during the 3rd meeting in Bonn an important topic will be a policy statement on GMO monitoring. We plan the statement to be based on the policy paper that was published in summer 2011 by the EAA (Austria), the BfN (Germany) and the FOEN (Switzerland). A draft of the statement is currently developed by Austria. We would kindly like to invite you to discuss the outcome of this work for endorsement of the entire interest group. In addition, we would like to decide within the group, whether and how we will present the statement to the NEEPHA.

Check the following link for further information: <http://encanet.eu/home/index.php?id=gmo>

### 2.5 Workshop on Marine Biodiversity

Coordinated by Ana Štrbenac of the Croatian (SINP): [Ana.Strbenac@dzzp.hr](mailto:Ana.Strbenac@dzzp.hr)

Announcement of workshop:

3 rd International Conference on Progress in Marine Conservation in Europe 2012 will be organised for June 18-22 2012 in Stralsund/Germany:

<http://www.bfn.de/habitatmare/de/aktuelles-progress-in-marine-conservation-in-europe-2012.php>



Check the following link for further information: <http://encanet.eu/home/index.php?id=marinebiol>

## 2.6 IG on Communication of Biodiversity

The group's activities have been suspended by the ENCA plenary, as no new chair could be found.

The network thanks warmly to all active parties and involved experts for the work carried out and the inputs provided to the IGs work.

## 3. Statements

No new statements have been adopted at the moment.

Please find the documents on the ENCA website:

<http://encanet.eu/home/index.php?id=statements>

## 4. ENCA members and partners

**ENCA members present themselves: PBL Netherlands Environmental Agency**



PBL Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency

*Head Department of Nature and Rural Areas and representant in ENCA: Keimpe Wieringa; Head of agency: Maarten Hajer*

*Head quarter: The Hague and Bilthoven*

*Staff: 247*

*Number of protected areas managed: none*

*Commissioned by: Dutch Government and international organisations.*

*Mission: The PBL Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency (PBL) is the national institute for strategic policy analysis in the field of environment, nature and spatial planning at national, European and global scale*

*Typical activity: PBL contributes to improving the quality of political and administrative decision-making by conducting outlook studies, analyses and evaluations in which an integrated approach is considered paramount. Policy relevance is the prime concern in all PBL studies. PBL conducts solicited and unsolicited research that is always independent and scientifically sound.*

*Particularity: 5 core values:*

**Policy-relevant** (research focuses primarily on strategic decision-making by the Dutch Government, on long-term objectives and the policy instruments needed to achieve them),

**Independent** (PBL is autonomous in defining its research questions as well as the research methods to be used and how to report results, for both

solicited and unsolicited advice),

**Integrated** (PBL strives to establish links not only between different scales but also between different domains: economic, ecological, social and cultural),

**Scientifically sound,**

**Learning organisation** (A learning organisation presupposes an alert organisation and so we maintain an active internal discussion about how we fulfil our core tasks)

*Further information: <http://www.pbl.nl/en/> and publications:*

*<http://www.pbl.nl/en/publications/2011>*

### ENCA troika

The ENCA troika, the governing body of the network is currently consisting of the three agencies: Austrian Umweltbundesamt (UBA Wien), PBL Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency and UK's Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC).

### Partner organisations: DG Environment

A good link to DG Environment could be re-established.

### NHEEPA network

The joint passed meeting with the EPA network allowed an intensive exchange between ENCA and EPA members.

### European Habitat Forum (EHF)

EHF is a network of NGOs similarly organised like ENCA, founded in 1991. Its mission is:

Represent the interest of civil society in conserving Europe's natural heritage, in the implementation of the EU Habitats and Birds Directives; and

Positively influence biodiversity policy and legislation through discussion and partnership with relevant stakeholders.

IUCN Europe Regional office is hosting the secretariat. ENCA is currently checking possibilities of cooperation with EHF.

Further details:

[http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/ehf\\_20leaflet.pdf](http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/ehf_20leaflet.pdf)

## 5. Conferences, publications, projects and announcement from ENCA members

PBL Trends report **'The energetic society. In search of a governance philosophy for a clean economy'**: The existing powers of creativity and innovation within society offer opportunities for 'green growth'. Mobilising

this energetic society demands adjustment of the way national government thinks and acts. In its Trends Report, 'The energetic society. In search of a governance philosophy for a clean economy', the PBL Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency suggests how government could fill this new role: <http://www.pbl.nl/en/publications/2011/trends-report-the-energetic-society-in-search-of-a-governance-philosophy-for-a-clean-economy>

## 6. Open consultations

No consultation, but the state of play of the CAP reform: "Legal proposals for the CAP after 2013": [http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/cap-post-2013/legal-proposals/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/cap-post-2013/legal-proposals/index_en.htm)

## 7. Other business

### Further topics

**Biogenesis:** A new biodiversity platform "providing an evolutionary framework for biodiversity science: <http://www.biogenesis-diversitas.org/>

Berne, November 2 2011, ENCA-Secretariat  
(Comments to [Christian.schlatter@bafu.admin.ch](mailto:Christian.schlatter@bafu.admin.ch))

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**Typical activity organised by the Dutch ENCA member agency PBL:** Model GLOBIO3: Together with their partners PBL has developed the GLOBIO3 model to assess the state of biodiversity on a global and regional scale. For the modelling of several pressure factors GLOBIO relies on the results of the climate model IMAGE.

**GLOBIO3: A global biodiversity model:** The GLOBIO3 model uses quantitative relationships between environmental pressure factors and biodiversity, based on state-of-the-art knowledge from literature. By combining the results related to individual pressures, the overall change in biodiversity is calculated in terms of Mean Species Abundance of original species (MSA) and the extent of ecosystems.

Further information: <http://www.pbl.nl/en/dossiers/biodiversity/models> and <http://www.globio.info/>