



**Policy Committee SCB-ES
Eberswalde Meeting
9-10th May 2009**

**Venue – University of Applied Sciences
Eberswalde, Germany**

1. Welcome of the participants

Nuria Selva (Poland, Chair)
Martin Dieterich (Germany)
Pierre Ibisch (Germany)
Vassiliki Kati (Greece)
Barbara Livoreil (France)

Apologies for absence:

Per Sjögren-Gulve (Sweden, phone conversation)
Przemek Chylarecki (Poland)

2. Revision of the Kraków protocol (September 2008)

Approved



3. ECCB2009

3.1. Natura 2000 Special Session in ECCB 2000

3.1.1. Questionnaires (Kiki)

Difficulties to combine methodological aspects (as double-check questions) and keeping short the questionnaires, so people are eager to contribute.

Options suggested:

(1) to provide during ECCB one paper sheet with questions to participants, with not many questions, asking them to fill it up during the congress;

(2) an online questionnaire. ECCB participants are invited through Vendula e-mail list to fill the questionnaires 1-2 weeks before ECCB starts, then ask for collaboration once more during the Natura 2000 Session, after ECCB the questionnaire can be still be completed for some time. This option is preferred because the database can be automatically generated and later on, questionnaires can be sent to people in those categories from which we do not have a good sample. In order to make an Intro to the report/paper, we can send to DG Environment the questions about Natura 2000 in different countries (ministry, expert group in charge, management agencies). It is recommended also to keep short the number of questions and focus on the most interesting.

The answers should be ranked from 1 to 5 categories, not with numbers but text (highly agree to strongly disagree). The problems are known, so we are more interested in providing solutions, if possible scientifically supported. Solutions linked to the problem.

Questionnaires should be anonymous. Professional categories (e.g. researcher, managers, policy-makers&administration, NGOs) and country are important to be requested from those filling out the questionnaires.

Brainstorming:

- Funding is one of the problems: no specific funds for Natura 2000 (under DG Env, for example) except LIFE+ (single model projects, totally insufficient to cover the matrix). Indirect funding through Agri-Environmental schemes in the context of rural development funds. The money for LIFE+ is sufficient but badly distributed (e.g. it would be preferred more LIFE projects but with less funds). Barbara highlights that what is important is the efficiency of any LIFE+, and to measure it LIFE+ must experiment methods to improve conservation status of species and ecosystems. In a LIFE+ the scientific aspects are not properly evaluated and money can be easily wasted.

- Enforcement of the law: different reasons throughout Europe for lack of enforcement – research needed. Natura 2000 is not working itself without enforcement or strong NGOs.
- Research needs
- Implementation
- No good monitoring
- No science-based evaluation of activities

Kiki will prepare a draft questionnaire, she will circulate it among the PC, BOD and other scientists for review during July. She will try to collaborate with expert in social sciences. The questionnaire will be ready in August.

3.1.2. Final list of contributors & time schedule (Martin, Nuria)

June 30: very final deadline for abstracts (to be sent to abstracts book).
Janina send an email to the group of contributors.

2nd September, after Miko's plenary session.

Introduction to the Session: Nuria as Chair opens the Session, then Kiki presents the results from the Eger workshop (5-6 slides) and participants are reminded to fill (online and/or on paper sheet) the new questionnaire. The Session is intended to be dynamic, with involvement of and moderation of all PC members. Last details to be discussed and prepared (e.g. questions to the contributors) before ECCB2009.

3.2. Attendance of Policy Director John Fitzgerald

He will have a contribution in Andrew's symposium. Nuria asks him to give a talk about the Global Policy in the presentation of the Policy Committee.
Address him specific with topics we may be interested in.

3.3. Policy Round Table

Proposed title: "The day after 2010"

Planned after the Natura 2000 session, 2nd September 19:00

3.4. Meeting BoD-NGOs (RSPB, Institute of European Environmental Policy IEEP, Birdlife International)

Discuss the roles of NGOs and scientific societies and how we can complement each other in order to be more effective in nature conservation. As compared to NGOs scientists should be more independent than NGOs that directly depend on funding and membership contributions. Our task as scientists is to raise the problems as first. Natura 2000 network and how to improve its effectiveness can be an example to be discussed. It can be discussed the possibility to work together on the proposal document to the new European Commission.

3.5. Collection of relevant policy outcomes (Pierre)

Very brief questionnaire delivered to chairs of the sessions. They are asked about the policy relevance of the talks. Pierre will prepare and circulate among PCs. Ideally questionnaires will be sent to the chairs of the sessions together with the general instructions on how to chair a session.

3.6. Message from Prague

Context: economic crisis, 2010 goal and climate change.

We want: strengthening Natura 2000 network

How (1) more funds, (2) wild/roadless areas protection, (3) better implementation, (4) consider other areas in Europe.

We recall the proposals from the Krakow meeting (the message should be concrete and short and tell about the urgent need to protect primeval areas in Europe and link it to climate change and the limited capacity of men and technology to solve the problems related to environment and conservation).

Well preserved nature is not costing us, but when we destroy it, the costs for us are huge. Highlight that Natura 2000 is good, but need to be developed, effectively implemented, funds, linked to primeval/roadless areas. Like in DG Agriculture, 1% of Natura 2000 sites could be randomly sampled as a way to check how they work and correct deficiencies. Funds need to be better used.

Nuria drafts the message with help of Barbara.

3.7. Policy VIPs

No registration payment (conference fee) agreed in BoD meeting.

3.8. Other ECCB matters

- Zoltan Kun, organizer of the Wilderness conference (27-28 May in Prague) is interested in having a Wilderness site event in ECCB2009. We propose him to organise a spontaneous discussion session and register as soon (Nuria's task). These sessions are registered the same day.
- Presentation of the PC in ECCB2009. A different day than the Natura 2000 session. Nuria prepares a short talk about targets, activities, goals for future, request people to join and provide emails. Participants can be involved with questions of the type, e.g. which are the policy questions that you think should be a priority for SCB? It would be great if John Fitzgerald contributes with a short presentation about the Global Policy.

4. Roadless areas publication (Nuria)

We proceed further with the preparation of the publication, which also will be the base for the presentation of the initiative during the Natura 2000 session. Final draft to be circulated for comments in the end of May; manuscript submitted in June.

5. Contribution to TEEB study (Martin)

No input from the BoD members. It was submitted to the European Commission call as a PC SCB-ES contribution. The WGEES has been re-established as a SCB working group (trial period) about 2 weeks after submission).

6. Science-policy interface

6.1. Follow-up with EU Commission and MEPs

We need the protocol to be finished by Stefan Kreft soon.

ECCB2009 is a good opportunity to invite the officers from EU Commission we met as well as the MEPs. Nuria provides Martin and Janina a list with all the names plus the names of MEPs interested in nature conservation collected prior to the Brussels visit in December 2008. We need to know who are the nature consultants for MEPs, what the assistants of MEPs are doing after the elections.

Kiki reports that the activity on benchmarks of Education Committee did not proceed due to work overload of the responsible EC member, and is postponed for the future. However, Kiki will contact K. Zaunberger, in order to

accept her invitation (Brussels meeting 2008) of joining the working group on biodiversity and climate change.

6.2. Relationships with International NGOs

A first contact will be established during the meeting in ECCB2009.

6.3. Ad hoc Committee for IPBES (International Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services) process

With the agreement of the BoG, the Europe Section will take the lead in this process. Other sections are interested in participating. Bege has been asked to chair an Ad Hoc Committee; Bege and Isabel participated in the meeting in Brussels. Per highlights the need to find competent people who will be interested in serving on this committee. European commission is ready to proceed if the global mechanism fails. Pierre suggests not invent the wheel and try to get on board somebody from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). On 7-8 september, a high level meeting about 2010 goal will take place under Swedish Presidency.

7. Contribution to newsletters

The current style continues to be unattractive. BarbaraL ask Erica how to improve the newsletter and send in massive emails.

8. Matters arising

8.1. Meeting and establishment of a Natura 2000 expert group

Proposed by Wojtek Mroz, contributor in the Natura 2000 session, to do a preliminary meeting during ECCB2009. We can offer him 5 min during the presentation of the Natura 2000 and/or to register for spontaneous discussion session. We could use COST funding for future events and meetings. It is a good idea to be in touch with experts and compare how different systems in Europe work. Nuria contact him.

8.2. PC guidelines/recommendations to new EU Commission

Good idea but difficult due to time constraints. We need to have a look to the document SCB prepared with recommendations for the Obama's team. Nuria will send to all PC members.