



**Policy Committee SCB-ES
Krakow Meeting
22th September 2008**

Venue – Institute of Nature Conservation
Polish Academy of Sciences, Mickiewicza 33
Kraków, Poland

1. Welcome of the participants

Participants

Nuria Selva (Poland, Chair)
Martin Dieterich (Germany)
Vassiliki Kati (Greece)
Barbara Livoreil (France)
Barbara Mihók (Hungary, European Section Coordinator, first part of the meeting)
Per Sjögren-Gulve (Sweden)

Apologies for absence:

Pierre Ibisch (Germany)
Przemek Chylarecki (Poland)
Tomasz Wesolowski (Poland). Not a PC member but he was invited by PC to discuss the organization of the European Policy symposium in ECCB2009

Christoph Haeuser and Markus Leibenath are willing to be involved and have been included in the PC e-mail correspondence but they have been little responsive because of lack of time. Martin will contact them again.



2. ECCB2009

2.1. Symposiums (Natura 2000, Ecological processes, Primeval/wild areas)

As the deadline for symposium proposals has passed but these topics are of great importance, the BOD proposed that the PC goes further with its organization and present it as a Special Session of the PC. In the BOD we also agreed that together with the open call for abstracts, a list of key topics will be published. This list will include topics not included in the accepted symposiums and that SCB-ES believes are important and should be covered in the ECCB2009. The PC may contribute with an own list of topics. Per explained us about the problems related to the proper assessment of the "favourable conservation status". The aim should be to have a significant larger population than the estimated minimum viable population; population viability analysis, genetic analysis and reference population distribution to be considered. We agreed to include it in the list of PC topics to be announced with the open call for abstracts.

Kiki recalls the complete success of Natura 2000 workshop in Eger and to go through the questionnaire to check the aspects of Natura 2000 in which people were interested. Barbara suggests focusing the Special Session of the PC on Natura 2000, covering all aspects, assuring 2 key speakers for each one and linking it to the poster session. Per also suggests making a special poster session for Natura 2000, and include 3 subsessions: (1) Natura 2000 areas, (2) roadless areas, (3) bridging the gap. Kiki proposes to elaborate and distribute questionnaires in the Special Session to follow-up the topic. This may be done in connection with Pierre's idea to collect outstanding conservation policy issues during ECCB2009 via the chairs of the sessions.

Special Session of the PC for ECCB2009

Natura 2000: success or failure?

Per suggested to contact the Species Information Centre in Sweden. We agreed that it is the best place to talk about our Roadless Areas Initiative. Martin suggested to get Petr Roth (Czech Ministry for the Environment) involved in organizing the symposium. The organization and contents of the session proposed is the following:

- Introductory talk by Kiki showing the results from Natura 2000 workshop in Eger. We need to get feedback from the Eureco-GfOE meeting on the Natura 2000 topics that have been discussed there. Questionnaires will be distributed then.
- Peter Roth, the key administrator working on Natura 2000 in the Czech Ministry for the Environment, or somebody from the European Commission are proposed to talk about the directives themselves.

- Then somebody from Sweden to talk about Art. 17 of the Habitats Directive about the assessment of favourable conservation status.
- Environmental Impact Assessment in Natura 2000 sites (a German speaker proposed, e.g. Trautner).
- Deficiencies of Natura 2000- not proper protection of primeval habitats (Tomasz Wesolowski, he may provide the contact to learn about the Russian network of wild areas), roadless areas (Nuria or Pierre, Kiki has also a contact, Barbara knows people working with roads in natural areas) and wilderness (a strong connection with the Wilderness Conference to be held in Prague is desirable). Martin to ask Petr Roth about the conference.
- Science and Management in Natura 2000 sites (hunting, pastoralism and best practice in Ireland, science and management in protected areas, marine and freshwater areas). Kiki will contact someone to give a talk on sustainable hunting with focus on protected areas.
- Ecological processes (two scientists from Bialowieza working with dead wood already agreed to give a talk, Kiki will contact a group working with processes).
- Nature Conservation outside protected areas (Renato Massa).
- Law enforcement, permanent funding of Natura 2000.
- Show also benefits of Natura 2000 and highlight the small scientific evidence on the effectiveness of Natura 2000. Remark the importance of carrying out studies which provide a scientific evaluation of the Birds and Habitats Directives. Try to get involved with a talk to one of the authors of the celebrated paper in Science by Donald et al.¹
- Last talk: "Natura 2000: 2010 and beyond"

Martin will write the abstract of the Session and Nuria the organization of contents and speakers, then it will be circulated with the PC for comments. It needs to be done as soon as possible.

¹ Donald et al. 2007. Donald, P.F., Sanderson, F.J., Burfield, I.J., Bierman, S.M., Gregory, R.D. & Waliczky, Z. 2007. International Conservation Policy Delivers Benefits for Birds in Europe. *Science* 317: 810-813.

Open topics by PC for ECCB2009

Topics proposed by PC for open sessions together with the call for abstracts:

- Favourable conservation status
- Impact of transport infrastructures: is mitigation possible?
- Science into policy and management
- Sustainable hunting
- Conservation of marine and freshwater ecosystems
- Conservation in agricultural landscape and Common Agricultural Policy
- Landscape ecology
- Ecological processes and ecosystem services
- Conservation and education
- Fire ecology
- Artificial light and noise pollution
- Sanitary regulations and their impact
- Methods and analytical tools in conservation, including remote sensing and stable isotopes analysis
- Conservation policy
- Conservation in urban areas
- Climate change
- Ecological modelling in conservation

Martin Sherman could give a talk about conservation research in the 7th Framework Programme, where conservation biology is so little represented. Isabel could contact and invite him.

2.2. Cooperation with global PC- Policy Director

In the BOD meeting we discussed whether it is feasible for us to bring John Fitzgerald to ECCB2009 as a VIP. Andrew Pullin will check it. John Fitzgerald could give a talk about CITES and trading of biodiversity; if he could participate in a round table or workshop it would be great. He could also contribute to PC during ECCB2009. It would be an excellent opportunity for the PC to have a personal contact and interact with the Global Policy director.

2.3. Round table of Ministers

The German Minister of Environment has declined the invitation because of election campaign (national elections in Germany in September 2009). The Czech Minister plans to attend. Martin had no response from the Swedish minister, yet. Response had arrived after Martin's return to Germany. Swedish Minister will not be able to

participate. Barbara and Martin will contact the French Council and invite the French Minister through it. Nuria will ask David Hammerstein which European Minister of Environment will be better and if they get along well.

A second round table linked to The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) is proposed. It should be related to Martin's symposium ("Economics for biodiversity conservation"); thus he will be in charge of organising the round table.

The PC would like to have a workshop on international and European policy actors and to identify the role of SCB in there. We should find speakers, Martin suggests to contact the Institute for European Environmental Policy. Per will ask his colleagues whether they could give us a talk (one of them did it for the PC during the Uppsala meeting). Georgina Mace is suggested as a possible speaker. PC will try to keep in mind and organise; nobody is enrolled in the task.

2.4. Message from Prague (proposal wild/primeval areas Resolution)

Per proposed to highlight the use of science for developing the conservation of biodiversity. Barbara said that good science is needed, but technology or science by itself will not solve all the problems, what we need are good evidence-based decisions from politics and support (through proper education) of the general public (including eco-citizenship applied to protection of biodiversity and ecosystems). We recall the proposition done in the last PC meeting in Brussels ("Conservation objectives for Europe after 2010"). Kiki explained that "abstract" things like scientific involvement are not successful when spreading the message to media, and that concrete issues should be used. Nuria suggested to have a short message (one paragraph). Barbara agreed, but recommended to produce also a longer text to be distributed, in case media requests it. We recalled the proposal by Tomasz Wesolowski that the congress will finish with a Resolution on primeval areas.

The PC agreed that the message should be concrete and short and tell about the urgent need to protect primeval areas (bogs, roadless, wild) 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.

3. Policy-related agenda publications

3.1. Roadless areas (Nuria)

Nuria updated the PC about the state of the manuscript, the contents included, the main goals and focus of the paper, the decisions taken by her and Pierre, and which will be the main message we want to spread. Nuria asked PC members for contributions, specifically for that related with the identification of conservation targets in nature conservation laws in respective countries. Kiki is eager to contribute by examining the legislation of Greece and Cyprus. Pierre asked Andrew for the UK law, will analyse it and, together with Stefan Kreft, they have already gone through the German legislation. Martin offers his help with the German law. Barbara will check whether she is able to revise the French law (huge book) and will let us know by the end of the month if she will contribute. Nuria has checked the Spanish law; Przemek said he will revise the Polish legislation. Per will not be able to contribute, but suggested to contact the Swedish Environmental Agency and ask whether an English document of the text exists and can be send to us. Kiki will ask the European Environmental Agency whether they have translations of nature conservation laws into English from EU member states. Per offered to comment on the draft if we specify deadlines, so he can know if he has time. Ideally, the manuscript may be submitted by the end of the year.

3.2. Economic value of biodiversity loss (Martin)

Martin and Pierre did not have time to make progress on the manuscript. The idea is to push it forward during/after the ECCB2009 symposium "Economics for biodiversity conservation" and in relation to Martin's working group (WGEES- Working Group on Ecological Economics and Sustainability Science. It will be then linked to the TEEB (The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity) process.

3.3. Joint scientific evaluation (Per)

The plan of the draft is in Andrew's hands. The idea is to propose a mechanism where scientists learn from practitioners and vice-versa. The draft could be circulated in the website after BOD approval. Martin mentioned he found a framework programme in the web related to that idea and that Markus Leibenath may be interested. Martin will search and try to find the link, and put in touch Markus with Per. Per will contact Andrew to remind him about the draft.

4. Meeting with Members of European Parliament in December

Nuria has initially agreed with David Hammerstein's office that planned dates are 9-11 December 2008. We should be updating the list of MEPs and people from European Commission we would like to meet. Nuria highlighted that most important is to think carefully which topics are very crucial and choose the most relevant. The PC should go well prepared to the meeting. Which message we want to spread to MEPs?

Per suggests that one message should be that if there is fear for any criticisms, then the Natura2000 process will be dead. Critical scientific evaluation of conservation policy measures is needed; not always the scientific knowledge has been used when designing nature conservation laws. Do policy-makers get help from scientists?

Martin suggests that our aim should be a type of "science lobbying". We want to support the conservation policy that better protects biodiversity and scientific evidence is the only way to know. Kiki and Nuria remarked that we should go for concrete issues.

Nuria recalled her conversation with Hammerstein, where he explained several ways to bring conservation laws into the policy arena (in the context of our Roadless Areas Initiative). One way is through the Petition Committee of European Parliament, another is via MEPs, which can formulate specific question to the Commission, who is obliged to answer them. Barbara mentioned also the citizens' initiatives; they can be put into laws after a number of signatures are collected. Nuria will ask Hammerstein for more details about how to lobby and prepare an internal document. She will also ask about topics that he considered interesting, how he sees the meeting and how SCB could play a good role. Martin proposed that we meet also people involved in the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) and the DG Research.

Nuria proposes that once we know that the meeting is finally happening and how many people from SCB can be invited by Hammerstein's office, we will discuss who may be the best candidates to attend from the PC and/or BOD in relation to the topics to be dealt and whether SCB could cover the expenses of other PC or BOD members not included in Hammerstein's package.

Preliminary topics the PC consider important to be dealt in the meeting are the following:

- CAP and biofuels
- Experience of MEPs with role of scientists, their perspectives
- Natura 2000 and conservation directives
- Fisheries policies
- 7th Framework programme and conservation biology representation
- Financing Natura2000
- Roadless areas
- Sustainable hunting

- Sanitary regulations (carrion)
- Water framework directive
- Global warming- pesticides
- Renewable energies/windfarms

5. Revision of the Brussels protocol (remaining points)

- “100 policy questions”. Bill Sutherland already took the leadership, it is done.
- Contributions to newsletter. Barbara updated the PC, some contribution about the activities of the PC were circulated.
- Member recruitment. Ask Barbara Mihok to recruit members by providing info of PC activities to members, if we cannot do it via the massive e-mails, then via the list-server. All PC members agreed that the restriction to two massive e-mails per year do not facilitate the recruitment task. Kiki suggested to make open calls to the members to join the committees; few sentences about the activities of each committee will be provided in the call.
- Statement regarding SIBIOS. Martin attended the workshop organised by the European Commission in March, he provided inputs from the meeting. Many people from all over the world attended but it seems that time constraints are enormous. For Martin the key point is that the economic value of species is related to future. Because of those difficulties, they cannot really put values to biodiversity and that is why they move to ecosystem services. So, they changed goals from assessing values of biodiversity to assess the value of ecosystem services, and now they keep both.
- IMOSEB. The European mechanism has been stopped and moved upwards, to the international level. It has been taken by United Nations Environment programme (UNEP), next meeting taking place soon in Kuala Lumpur. Per will contact Hornt Korn, from German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation to get updates. Nuria will inform Luigi about the meeting.
- Bialowieza Resolution. Resubmitted. Martin will try to know if Miko contacted Nowicki, the Polish Minister of Environment, in relation to this issue. Martin will also try to get details about the conference on European wild areas to be hold in the Czech Republic next year.
- Collection of relevant policy outcomes from ECCB2009. Pierre should update us. We may develop the strategy to develop Pierre’s idea during the next PC meeting as very late.
- Policy VIPs. Action stopped for the moment. Martin proposes his contact from the French Council, who offered to provide contacts to other French policy makers

- Training course for journalists and scientists- how to communicate science? Ongoing task. Barbara and Nuria will try to develop it in future, if possible for ECCB2009. Adam Wajrak and his colleague from “The Guardian” were interested, but late in presenting the workshop proposal.
- PC response to Stoiber’s initiative. Martin tells that the European Ecological Federation, which also intends to be active in policy in Europe, also had the intention to act in a similar way to ours, i.e., supporting the European Commission in stopping that initiative. However, the initiative has been put on ice in Germany. Therefore at this point it does not make sense to act. However, depending on the outcome of national elections in Germany, the initiative may rapidly reappear. We should keep alert and act then.

6. Matters arising

- TEEB e- conference. Isabel attended the meeting in Bonn and gave us a presentation of the stage of the project. The e-conference starts on 1st October and runs for 3 weeks. In March the TEEB will make public a draft report and will open a consultation process. It was recognised in the BOD meeting that SCB should play a role there. However, the time required for a critical evaluation of the draft is huge and nobody seems to have the time for that. The PC will try to do its best. We could at least advertise to all SCB members the call for evidence and post it in the webpage (and provide the link). Martin’s working group WGEESS could also communicate and take part.
- Next PC meeting. It is proposed to make it independently from the BOD meeting and for two days, so we can get deep inside some issues. The dates initially proposed are 15-17 May 2009, place to be decided.
- It would be good if all PC members could have a Skype account, so we could have multiple conferences.

7. Plan of activities for 2008-09

Activities	Timeframe	Responsible
SCIENCE-POLICY INTERFACE		
“Joint scientific evaluation” text on mechanisms to increase scientists-policy makers interactions	2009	Per, Andrew
Meeting with Members of European Parliament interested in nature conservation	December 2008	Nuria
Science lobby in European Parliament: internal document	2009	Nuria
TEEB conference- comments to draft report	March- April 2009	PC

SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS		
SIBIOS review- economic value of biodiversity loss	during/after ECCB2009	Martin, Pierre
Roadless areas as conservation targets in Europe	end 2008- beginning 2009	Nuria, Pierre
COOPERATION GLOBAL SCB		
Contribute to SCB newsletters	2009	Barbara, BarbaraM
Cooperation with the Policy Director (John Fitzgerald attends ECCB2009)	2009	PC, Nuria
Post our achievements in the Global webpage	2009	PC, Barbara, BarbaraM
MEMBERS RECRUITMENT		
Open call to invite members to join PC, informing of our activities	2009	PC, Nuria, BarbaraM
Invite members to comment TEEB report (e-mail & webpage)	March 2009	PC, BarbaraM
ECCB 2009		
PC Special Session proposal: "Natura 2000: success or failure?"	Before 1 st October	PC
PC Special Session: general organization and arrangements, finding good contributors	Before May 2009	PC
PC Special Session: Introductory talk on Natura 2000, results from the workshop in Eger	September 2009	Kiki
PC Special Session: preparation of questionnaires to be distributed in the session	May 2009	Kiki
Policy issues for the open session (announced with the call for abstracts)	Before 1 st October 2009	PC
Collection of relevant policy outcomes from ECCB2009 (Questionnaire preparation)	May 2009	Pierre, PC
Preparation of the Message-from-Prague	May 2009	PC
Carbon-offsetting in ECCB2009. Organising an open call for donation to a conservation project related to climate change	2009	Pierre, Martin
Organizing the round table of ministers in ECCB2009 (contact French and Swedish)	2008-2009 (end 2008)	Martin, Barbara
Develop proposals of policy VIPs to the BoD	May 2008	PC