



Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process Newsletter

Photo: Lowland hay meadow, France. Source: NatureBureau

Welcome to the latest edition of the Natura 2000 biogeographical process newsletter! In this newsletter we will update you on the latest information around Natura 2000 conservation issues, reports from recent seminars and an overview of planned events in the coming months.

We also welcome the news that the Nature Restoration Law has been adopted! We look forward to the next steps, whereby the Biogeographical Process will likely continue to work with EU Member States on the implementation of the new Law - to help restore biodiversity and strengthen the Natura 2000 network.

If you have any questions, comments or remarks about the content of this newsletter, please do contact us at natura2000platform@wur.nl

In this edition:

- Upcoming seminars
- Meeting reports
- Events calendar
- Other news

Share your Natura 2000 news here!

As of May 2024, the biogeographical process newsletter has over 1,500 subscribers! If you have any updates or news that you would like to share with the network, you can send the information to natura2000platform@wur.nl

Don't forget – you can keep updated with the latest biogeographical process news with just one click of a button. You can access our wiki [here](#).



Upcoming seminars

Photo: Many-banded Tiger Cranefly *Nephrotoma flavipalpis*. Source: NatureBureau

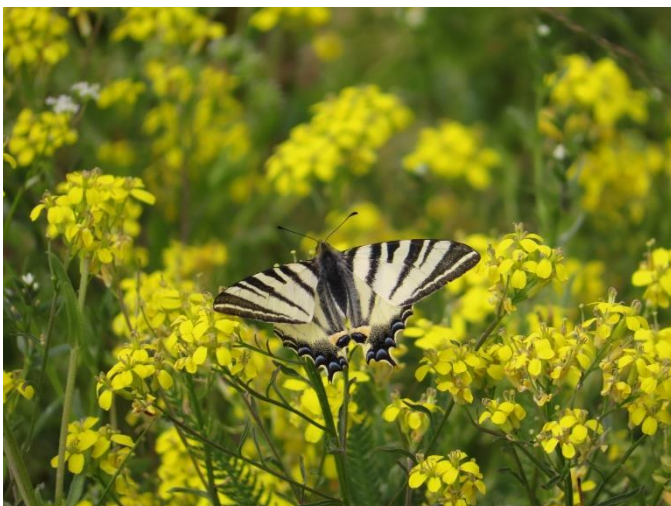
The fourth Natura 2000 Biogeographical Seminar for the Continental, Alpine, Pannonian, Steppic and Black Sea Regions, 25-27 June 2024, Prague, Czech Republic

The Continental seminar, the biggest seminar with 16 Member States participating, will be held in Prague/Czech Republic on 25-27 June 2024. The venue will be the Faculty of Environmental Sciences of the Czech University of Life Sciences in Prague. The seminar is hosted by the Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic, together with the Faculty of Environmental Sciences, Czech University of Life Sciences and the European Commission.

The first day of the seminar will focus on approaches to develop the protected area pledges, selecting areas of conservation interest. Member States will share their experiences, followed by discussions. The second day will be a field excursion to the Protected Landscape Area Český kras. It is the largest karst area in Bohemia, a remarkable landscape with limestone rocks, deciduous forests and steppes alternate and a canyon-like valley of the Berounka River. The third day will focus on two more themes of the seminar: restoration actions for grasslands in protected areas and using OECMs to safeguard biodiversity. This will be followed by break-out sessions in smaller groups, to discuss these topics.

All countries have submitted their list of nominees, whom have been invited to register for the event.

The final draft programme and background document is available on our [wiki](#), with more information coming soon.



Keep updated with live seminar information by following the [Twitter](#) account.

Photo: Scarce swallowtail *iphiclides podalirius*. Source: Alexandra Tamchynova



Photo: Blotch-winged Hoverfly, *Leucozona lucorum*. Source: NatureBureau

The Atlantic and Macaronesian Marine Seminar, 11-13 October 2023, Dublin, Ireland

As previously reported, presentations from the event can be found [here](#), where the seminar report is now available.

The Baltic Marine Seminar, 8-10 November 2023, Riga, Latvia

As previously reported, presentations from the event can be found [here](#), where the seminar report is now available.



Photo: Participants of the Baltic seminar visit the Veczemju cliffs

Effective Management of Marine Protected Areas, 7 March 2024, Brussels

On 7 March 2024, EU Blue Parks Community hosted their second community workshop: Effective management of marine protected areas.

The March workshop brought together experts to share insights on the challenges and opportunities in marine and freshwater biodiversity protection. Through a blend of presentations, case studies, and interactive discussions, the workshop highlighted key EU funded projects and research innovations in effective marine and coastal protection. It delved into policy development needs, and explored participatory approaches from EU Member States, regional, and local stakeholders.

Presentations from the event can be found [here](#), along with the report.

Surveillance and Enforcement for the Effectiveness of Marine Protected/Natura 2000 areas in the Adriatic Sea, 26 March 2024, Split, Croatia

In Split, on 26 March 2024, an event on surveillance and enforcement for the effectiveness of Marine Protected/Natura 2000 areas in the Adriatic Sea was organised by Sunce. This event, organised as part of the [EFFICIENTN2K project](#) and supported by Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process, brought together Croatian and Italian experts and stakeholders to discuss the importance of surveillance and enforcement in marine Natura 2000 areas.

A detailed summary of the event, along with conclusions, can be found [here](#). Presentations from the event can be found [here](#), along with the report.

Strictly Protected Marine Areas in the Context of the EU Biodiversity Strategy, 16 April 2024, online

On 16 April 2024, the final networking event under the marine biogeographical process was held. A total of 120 participants attended sessions to discuss the 10% strict protection target in the marine environment. Sessions included presentations on the criteria for strictly protected areas in the EU marine regions, a summary of the pledges received by Member States and an overview of discussions on strict protection at the three marine seminars. Case studies were presented and there were opportunities for questions and open discussions around the approaches and criteria used for strictly protected areas designations.

Presentations from the event can be found [here](#), along with the report.

Fourth Mediterranean Biogeographical Seminar, 17 – 19 April 2024, Larnaca, Cyprus,

The fourth Mediterranean Biogeographical seminar was hosted by the Department of the Environment of Cyprus in Larnaca, from 17 to 19 April 2024. In total, 93 participants attended the seminar, originating from all the Mediterranean Member States except Portugal, plus people from five additional Member States who participated as experts, representatives of the European Commission, or members of the supporting team.

The seminar focused on the following themes: Strictly protected areas in the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, Site-specific conservation objectives, Defining Favourable Conservation Status/Favourable Reference Values and Effective management of Natura 2000 sites. It also included a section for the working group promoted by the Spanish Ministry of Ecological Transition on preparing a pilot action plan for a habitat type of community

interest (Embryonic Shifting Dunes 2110).

The field visit, sponsored by [LIFE IP Physys](#) (LIFE10 IPE/CY/000006), was to Cape Grevo (Kavo Gkreko), and SPA and SAC which includes de National Forest Park of Kavo Gkreko, a rocky coastal peninsula dominated by scrubby arborescent vegetation, with *Juniperus Phoenicia* and other scrub typical of coastal thermo-Mediterranean coastal areas.

Presentations from the seminar can be found [on our wiki](#), where the report will soon be made available.



Photo: Coastal rocky habitats at Cape Grevo (Kavo Gkreko). Source: Theo van der Sluis

Towards Sustainable Forest Management and Monitoring: Bottoms Up Final Conference, Rome, 19-21 March 2024

A networking event was organised at the Botanical Garden in Rome, from 19-21 March 2024. This was the final conference of the COST Action Bottoms-up, led by the Sapienza University in Rome. The Cost Action focusses on improving information on forest management and forest biodiversity indicators. The current indicators of forest sustainability are mostly based on forest stand structure and landscape properties related to forest biological diversity. The COST Action BOTTOMS-UP aimed at increasing the degree of the biodiversity sustainability of European forest management.

The project gathered the most comprehensive knowledge of European multi-taxonomic forest biodiversity through the collaboration of research groups that collect data locally. This data about forest stands and biodiversity (various taxa) is available on this [public database](#).

The event attracted some 100 participants from all over Europe, with two keynote speakers opening the sessions. On day 1 there was an inspiring presentation from Prof. Lena Gustafsson from [Swedish SLU](#) on forest management and forest biodiversity. On day 2 Prof. Georg Winkel from Wageningen University highlighted the many services provided by forests and the values for people. Adrian Tistan from DG-Environment gave a presentation on new forest policies and forest monitoring, and Theo van der Sluis presented the Biogeographical Process, which developed the facilitation programme for the discussions and workshops at this final seminar.

Two policy briefs are among the outcomes of the workshop. The report from the workshop can be found [here](#).

Keep updated with seminar information by following our [Twitter](#) account.



Photo: Group discussions in the Botanical Garden in Rome. Source: Cost Bottoms-up



Photo: Three-nerved Sandwort, *Moehringia trinervia*. Source: NatureBureau

Prescribed burning in forest management: containing risks while maintaining biodiversity, 10-11 September 2024, online, and 2025 in Sweden

A networking event on Prescribed burning is being prepared by the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency SEPA, together with the LIFE2Taiga project. The event will be in September 2024, 2 half-days online. The event covers countries from South and Northern Europe that are facing increased fire risks due to climate change, across all biogeographical regions. Speakers will cover various aspects of burning management from the Boreal region to the West and East Mediterranean, as well as the United States.

Fire has always been an essential element of many forest ecosystems and has increasingly been adopted as a management tool by forest authorities in Northern Europe. Prescribed burning can be very effective in managing wildfire risks, preventing the risk of bigger losses due to damage to built-up infrastructure. Also, fire can be of particular importance for biodiversity conservation, with some Natura 2000 species and habitats exclusively dependant on fires for their survival.

This event will focus on the role of fire in the management of forest ecosystems. The LIFE2Taiga project is demonstrating how fire regimes are best reinstated as part of the forest management. The network event is planned for 10-11 September 2024. It will be an online event, with two half days of presentations and discussions. The first half day will provide an overview of the role of fire for European ecosystems, and how prescribed fire is used in different parts of Europe. . The second day will focus on how to overcome policy obstacles with case examples of policy shifts, success stories and lessons learned from previous processes.

In 2025, a follow-up networking event is planned near Stockholm in Sweden (in person), for two days, followed by a 1-day field excursion. If you are interested to join the online event on 10-11 September, more information can be found on the [LIFE website](#) and you can register for the event [here](#).

Strictly Protected Areas, Brussels, October 2024

One of the outcomes of the terrestrial biogeographical seminars was the need expressed by Member States to discuss strict protection, in view of the protected areas pledge. Such a networking event will now be prepared, focussing on all biogeographical regions, discussing aspects of strict protection in various regions in Europe. The event is likely to be held in October 2024.

It will be an in-person event, to be held at the Committee of the Regions in Brussels.

Keep updated with event information by following the [Twitter](#) account.



Other news

Photo: Participants of the Sustainable Forest management event in Rome, March 2024. Source: Carlos Sunyer

Natura 2000 Awards – 2024 Winners Announced!

On the 10-year anniversary of the Natura 2000 Award, the Executive Vice-President of the European Commission, Maroš Šefčovič, and high-level jury members announced the winners of the 2024 edition of the Natura 2000 Awards at the Award Ceremony held in Brussels on 29 May 2024. The six winners include initiatives from Estonia, Italy, Ireland, Poland, Portugal and Spain.

You can discover how the ceremony unfolded, including photos of the event, [here](#). Or jump straight to the [Winners Page](#) to learn more about the 2024 winners.

The Biogeographical Process in the Marine Regions: Project Closure

In previous times, the biogeographical process covered both land and sea areas, but in 2022 the terrestrial and marine elements were split and a new biogeographical process in the marine regions was formed. The marine process team comprised of two organisations: NatureBureau and CEEweb for Biodiversity.

The marine project was launched with an introductory seminar in December 2021, followed by the [Atlantic and Macaronesian seminar](#) in October 2023, the [Baltic seminar](#) in November 2023 and the [Mediterranean seminar](#) in France in March 2024. There were also [networking events](#) taking place.

The marine process ended in April 2024 and the biogeographical process is expected to be combining both land and sea again.

Follow us on Twitter

Visit our [Biogeographical Process Twitter](#) account for the latest updates on seminars and networking events, as well as live postings from ongoing meetings. We also cover news from related projects such as LIFE+ projects or organisations working towards Natura 2000 objectives.

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