

European Topic Centre on Nature Conservation

ANNUAL SUMMARY REPORT 1996

By

Juan Manuel deBenito

ETC Leader

This report was prepared under the supervision of Ulla Pinborg, Project Manager,
European Environment Agency

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Note

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European Environment Agency
Kongens Nytorv 6
DK - 1050 Copenhagen K
Denmark
Tel: +45 33 36 71 00
Fax: +45 33 36 71 99
E-mail: eea@eea.eu.int
Homepage: <http://www.eea.eu.int>

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1. BACKGROUND

The European Environment Agency's Topic Centre on Nature Conservation (EEA-ETC/NC) consists of a consortium of fifteen institutions from twelve European countries. The French Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle (MNHN) was appointed as the lead organisation of this consortium. Each institution has a representative on a Management Committee, which is responsible to the Agency for the overall development of the ETC/NC work programme.

The consortium has a variety of partner types, ranging from public science and research institutions to international organisations, partners from national administrative bodies or with NGO affiliations. These partners are:

- **MNHN:** Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle (*National Museum of Natural History*). Paris (France)
- **BfN:** Bundesamt für Naturschutz (*Federal Agency for Nature Conservation*). Bonn (Germany)
- **NERI:** Miljøministeriet (*National Environmental Research Institute*). Rønde (Denmark)
- **MNCN:** Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales (*National Museum of Natural History*). Madrid (Spain)
- **DGCN:** Dirección General de Conservación de la Naturaleza (*General Directorate for Nature Conservation*). Madrid (Spain)
- **FEI:** Suomen Ympäristökeskus (*Finnish Environment Institute*). Helsinki (Finland)
- **EKBY:** ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟ ΚΕΝΤΡΟ ΒΙΟΤΟΠΩΝ ΥΓΡΟΤΟΠΩΝ (*Greek Biotope/Wetland Centre*). Thermi (Greece)
- **ANPA:** Agenzia Nazionale per l'Ambiente (*National Environment Agency*). Rome (Italy)
- **NINA:** Norsk Institutt for Naturforskning (*Norwegian Institute for Nature Research*). Trondheim (Norway)
- **ECNC:** European Centre for Nature Conservation. Tilburg, (The Netherlands)
- **ICN:** Instituto para a Conservação da Natureza (*Institute for Nature Conservation*). Lisboa (Portugal)
- **ISEGI:** Instituto Superior de Estatística e Gestão de Informação (*Higher Institute for Statistics and Information Management*). Lisboa (Portugal)
- **ITE:** Institute for Terrestrial Ecology. Monkswood (United Kingdom)
- **JNCC:** Joint Nature Conservation Committee. Peterborough (United Kingdom)
- **SEPA:** Naturvårdsverket (*Swedish Environmental Protection Agency*). Stockholm (Sweden)

Several of the partners are members of the European Conservation Institutes Research Network. (CONNECT). The ECNC partner is also a network of institutions, among which is included the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC).

The *Management Committee*, which is chaired by Claus Stuffmann (formerly head of the Nature Conservation Unit of EC-DG XI), consists of:

- one representative of each partner of the Consortium, except ECNC, which according to an initial Memorandum of Understanding with EEA, has two representatives (the second one being WCMC)
- the EEA Project Manager, responsible for the ETC/NC
- a representative of the head of the Nature Conservation Unit of EC-DG XI
- furthermore, there are a number of observers, among which there is a representative of the Council of Europe.

There have been several requests from other European institutions, belonging to EIONET, to join the ETC/NC Consortium, at least in participating in the meetings of the Management Committee but the decision of the Committee was to continue with a limited number of participants.

The Management Committee meets twice a year. During these meetings, the ETC/NC Project Leader reports on the progress and the co-ordination of the work as well as on the general context of the EEA Work Programme and EIONET activities. He accounts to the Committee for the budgetary issues and proposes priority projects for the future for discussion and amendment.

Since the Management Committee is large, ETC/NC has set up a *Steering Committee* with seven partners taking turns to assist the Project Leader more closely and quickly. It meets when necessary. For specific tasks *ad hoc groups* are formed (for example EUNIS/Technical Advisory and Appraisal group, Pilot Studies Steering group, DMEER experts groups).

The ETC/NC Project Leader is Juan Manuel de Benito, who is assisted in co-ordinating the Topic Centre's work programme by an international Core Team of specialists based at the MNHN in Paris.

The Project Leader is responsible for the implementation of the work programme, either through the Core Team or by a partner of the Consortium. He assists the EEA Project Manager in preparing the technical annexes for the subventions and provides ad hoc support whenever requested and agreed. He develops and maintains contacts with EEA partner organisations, international organisations and international programmes (UN-ECE, EUROSTAT, OECD International conventions Secretariats)

The ETC/NC work programme is developed both under EEA subventions and complementary subventions from the French Ministry of the Environment to the MNHN as Consortium leader.

2. WORK PROGRAMME

As for the other Topic Centres, the 1996 ETCNC's work programme included activities concerning three general tasks:

- general management and co-ordination
- development of the nature conservation aspects of EIONET
The European Environment Information and Observation Network embodies the EEA itself, which orchestrates the whole, together with the 18 National Focal Points (NFP), the National Reference Centres (NRC, national institutions responsible for specific themes) and the European Topic Centres
- ad hoc technical support to the Agency

Furthermore, ETC/NC has carried out specific activities, in the framework of three main projects identified in the EEA Multi-Annual Work Programme for the period 1995-1997: MN1 (General Approach to Nature Conservation), though formally considered to be already finished in 1995¹, MN2 (State and trends of Biodiversity in Europe) and MN3 (Support to Natura 2000).

The activities concerning the two last projects were distributed to three specific tasks:

- European Information System on Nature (EUNIS)
- support to Natura 2000
- information and reporting on Europe's nature

The work in 1996 has been undertaken under two different subventions: the 1995 subvention, running from January 1996 to June 1996 and the 1996 subvention, running from July 1996 to March 1997.

2.1. Project Mn1 - General Approach to Nature Conservation

To contribute to the definition of the EEA strategy in the field of Nature Conservation, identifying the information needs for helping the implementation of the related European and national policies and measures.

¹ In fact MN1 was continued in some way through different activities (see text further).

EEA has to provide the most appropriate and reliable information, comparable at regional level, which permits an integrated European approach to the problem of maintaining biodiversity through an efficient nature conservation policy. To do so, a long-term strategy to collect and harmonise relevant data has to be defined. The first step in reaching this objective is to define the information needs in the field of nature conservation and other related issues in Europe, to compare them with the data available and to identify any major gaps.

On the basis of the first results from ETC/NC, the Agency, in close collaboration with its Scientific Committee, will produce in 1997 a document describing the EEA's European Information Strategy for Nature after a wider discussion within EIONET.

This Strategy shall be partially implemented through different tasks included in the current ETC/NC working programme, and it will be used to define future EEA priorities in the field of nature and biodiversity.

2.2. Project Mn2 - State and Trends of Biodiversity in Europe

To provide the conceptual framework, the appropriate tools and the relevant information for ensuring the integration of nature and biodiversity aspects in the EEA's general task of reporting about the state and trends of Europe's Environment.

The importance of the monitoring of biodiversity and its features (species, habitats, landscapes, also genes) has been enhanced by the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD, 1992). Until now, there is no agreed methodology for the monitoring and assessment of biodiversity in Europe. The EEA is aiming at developing a general frame for such a methodology in the ETC/NC work programme.

To assess the state and changes of biodiversity at European level, beyond a simple aggregation of national approaches, some common references have to be agreed. Three key aspects were identified by the Agency:

Geographical references: homogeneous units for the assessment of biodiversity are needed to ensure the comparability of results despite the high ecological heterogeneity of Europe.

Methodological references: a common methodology is needed to ensure the coherence of results after the exercise of integration at European level.

Nomenclature references: standardised procedures are needed to describe main components of biodiversity (species, habitats, sites).

For such purposes, a European Information System on Nature (EUNIS) has been designed in order to ensure data harmonisation and analysis in a standardised way.

The outcomes of the biodiversity assessment in Europe will be used for the EEA reporting activities. The next EEA State of the Environment reports due to be published in 1998: «Europe's Environment» (Dobris +3) and «Environment in the European Union» (EU 98), as well as the nature-related aspects/chapters of some identified monographs, will benefit from the progress of this project.

2.3. Project Mn3 - Support to Natura 2000

To give technical support to the European Commission's DG XI D2 in handling and assessing data related to the proposed Sites of Community Interest for inclusion in the Natura 2000 Network.

The Habitats Directive² committed EU Member States to ensure nature conservation mainly through designation of natural Sites of Community Importance (SCIs) to be integrated in the Natura 2000 Network.

To comply with this obligation, each EU Member State has to provide the Commission, as a first step, with a National List of proposed Sites of Community Importance (pSCIs). In close co-operation with the Member States, the European Commission will establish the Community List of SCIs which shall be designated by Member States and included in the Natura 2000 Network. Since 5. June 1994, the date of effect of the Habitat Directive, the Special Protected Areas (SPAs) designated under the Directive 79/409/CEE for the protection of birds are included automatically in the Natura 2000 Network.

At the request of the European Commission, the EEA Work Programme includes tasks for support to Natura 2000. ETC/NC is therefore involved in the Natura 2000 process through the three following activities:

- *Improvement of the Natura 2000 software*
 - to help Member States in the fulfilment of their obligations concerning the National List when using the Natura 2000 software;
 - to detect and to correct the existing bugs;
 - to identify possible improvements, and to implement them if appropriate.
- *Handling the Natura 2000 Database*
 - to integrate the National Lists provided by Member States in the pSCIs working database;

² 92/43/EEC Directive on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (21 May 1992)

- to maintain permanently updated the Natura 2000 Database for the sites designated by Member States on the basis of official data. For the moment, this database contains only SPAs.
- *Assessment of NATURA 2000 proposals*
 - to assess the completion of the Natura 2000 official forms;
 - to prepare (if necessary) the appropriate requests to the Member States to complete them.
 - to check if the Member States' proposals include, at national level, a representative sample of each type of concerned habitat type and species.
 - to help verify the Community interest of sites proposed by Member States;
 - to check whether the Community List includes or not, at each geographic level, sites of Community interest involving a sufficiently representative sample of each type of concerned habitat type and species;
 - to assess the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 network.

3. PROGRESS DURING THE YEAR

3.1. Project Mn1- General Approach To Nature Conservation

On the basis of the main results from the 1995 ETC/NC work programme («Biodiversity and Nature Conservation in Europe, a general approach»³, and «Databases on species, habitats and sites, survey and analysis, 1995-1996»⁴), the Topic Centre shall assist the EEA Project Manager in building an Information Strategy on Nature, to be developed in the framework of a more general EEA Information Strategy.

Activities related to this goal were continued through the tasks on the development of the nature conservation aspects of EIONET and on the information and reporting on Europe's nature.

3.1.1. EEA Strategic Priorities in the Field of Nature Conservation

As a first step, a workshop was organised in May 1996 («EIONET workshop on Nature») in Copenhagen to reflect upon the practical approach to respond to the information needs, taking into account the real availability of data in Europe. This workshop gathered representatives of EEA Member Countries, NFPs and/or NRCs, EEA Scientific Committee, EEA staff, EC's DG XI (Environment) and DG XII (Research), ETC/NC Consortium, other international organisations and selected experts.

Main conclusions:

- The EEA information strategy on nature has to be oriented towards the assessment of European biodiversity from a «horizontal» point of view, but focusing attention in a sample of *reference sites* linked to the existing networks (international monitoring programmes), which should be identified. The expected regional approach should be ensured through the biogeographic (ecological) regions.
- The information provided by EEA to DG XI, the European Parliament (EP) and other relevant European institutions must help them to take an active position in the nature field, mainly through interlinking nature information with sectorial activities. *Changes in nature due to agriculture, forestry and tourism should be given priority*. But, at the same time, it should allow to distinguish «the signal from the noise», to detect changes in nature due to human impact and due to natural modifications.
- The European Information System on Nature (EUNIS), proposed as a tool to meet EEA needs, must be conceived in a way to allow the *integration of change* when necessary and, in particular, be prepared to integrate data coming from new Member Countries when appropriate. A stepwise *modular approach*, according to priorities and resources, seems the most appropriate. An analysis will be necessary to fill gaps in data supply,

³ Available as technical report from EEA

⁴ Available as technical report from EEA

through national or community initiatives. DG XII (Directorate General for Science, Research and Development) is presently preparing for possible inclusion of biodiversity issues in its work programme, and ETC/NC will assist EEA as appropriate in identifying priority fields of research

- The proposed EUNIS should have a nested structure (figure 1). A *core system* concerning species, habitats and specific sites related to Natura 2000, and a *delta system*, recording georeferenced data on species and habitats considered as key elements to monitor environmental changes:

a) The core system will be a main tool to set up and to monitor the Natura 2000 network (and consequently to assess the efficacy of Community policies on nature), but should also serve EEA reporting objectives on nature conservation (showing for example distribution or trends of priority species or habitats).

b) The delta system will give relevant *signals* of the effects on nature of human activities (for example agriculture, tourism) or related processes (for example air pollution, eutrophication).

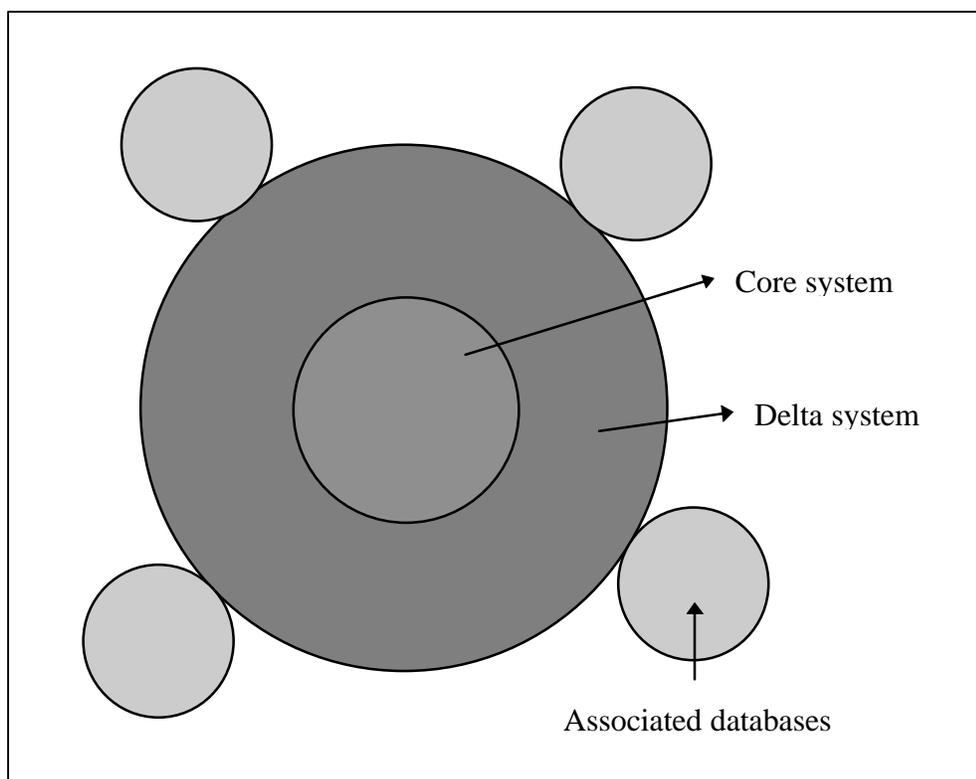


Figure 1 - Diagramme of the EUNIS structure

3.1.2. Development of the EEA Information Strategy for Nature

In the frame of its general Information Strategy, EEA is developing an Information Strategy on Nature. ETC/NC will assist the EEA Project Manager on this issue.

The strategy, which is still under development, will benefit from the main outcomes of the different activities undertaken in 1996. It needs discussions with the EEA Scientific Committees as well as EC DGXI and DGXII prior to publication in 1997.

3.1.3. Contribution to the EEA Catalogue of Data Sources

The Catalogue of Data Sources of the EEA stores descriptive information on existing data sources relevant for each topic of environment.

Prior to the setting-up of the ETC/CDS, ETC/NC developed a catalogue of data sources on nature aspects in 1995. In 1996, this process has been continued and the countries which had not replied to the initial questionnaire were reminded to provide the expected information. A complement of data sources which were considered to be relevant for EEA has been incorporated in the catalogue on nature. Finally, ETC/NC has co-operated with the ETC/Catalogue of Data Sources in establishing an up-dating and exploitation procedure to transfer data from the Nature CDS to the EEA CDS.

3.2. Project Mn2 - State And Trends of Biodiversity in Europe

Most of the work undertaken in 1996 was a follow-up of a work initiated in 1995.

3.2.1. Digitised Map of European Ecological Regions (DMEER) (table 3.5 - product no 6)

The *Digitised Map of European Ecological Regions* is aimed to become the geographical framework for the assessment of state and trends in biodiversity in Europe, independently of any administrative boundaries.

It results from the combination of climatic, topographic and geobotanical data (all these parameters are managed in a data base). The geobotanical data were provided by the existing *Natural Vegetation Map of Europe* which was digitised at the scale of 1:2,5 million in beginning of 1996.

The DMEER map, which complements in a more detailed way the existing *map of Biogeographic Regions* produced in the framework of the Habitats Directive, differentiates about 30-40 classes of ecological regions at Pan-European level. It will be published by the Agency late 1997.

3.2.2. *Methodology for an Assessment of Europe's Biodiversity*

(table 3.5 -products no 8, 19 & 20)

This methodology is aimed at generating a broad overview through a geographic representation of biodiversity components such as species, habitats and land use throughout Europe. The analysis of existing biophysical data at European scale, such as CORINE land cover, CORINE biotopes, atlas inventories on species or potential vegetation, will help to identify

- profiles of ecological regions
- potential biodiversity centres with regard to habitats and species («hot spots») and
- major vegetation changes

This analysis will be made through the combination of existing data to obtain the needed information.

The conception of the methodology was based on literature and data surveys, three international workshops and experimental biodiversity assessments within ten Biogeographic Pilot Studies

The Biogeographic Pilot Studies, initiated in 1995 and completed in June 1996, were implemented in ten biogeographic and ecological regions. The pilot study areas were chosen to show the diverse situations over Europe, and each of them were placed in sites for which a maximum of existing data was available. They explored possibilities to report on the state of biodiversity at the level of species, habitats and landscapes with an emphasis on human activities, especially the role of land use. ***The results of the studies will be published by the Agency.***

The methodology will be a basis for discussion of the possibilities for development of a future network of European sites of reference for the assessment of changes in biodiversity. A ***current survey*** aims to compare existing international, regional and national networks for environmental monitoring with the aim to assess the possibility of concerted action.

Natura 2000 sites might form an important part of this reference sites network. A ***specific survey*** has been undertaken on existing initiatives of possible future schemes of monitoring Natura 2000 sites.

The basic data on species and habitats relevant for the assessment of the European biodiversity will be managed within EUNIS as well as the data collected through the pilot studies.

3.2.3. *European Information System on Nature*

The design of a «European Information System on Nature» (EUNIS) was first described in a tentative manner in the ETC/NC report entitled «Framework of a common European

Information System on Nature»⁵, on the basis of experiences and lessons learned from CORINE Biotoques and discussed during a Workshop in Paris on October 1995. The development of the system over time and in blocks, according to priorities and definition of user needs was then considered at the Workshop on a General Approach on Nature (so called «EIONET workshop» held in May 1996 in Copenhagen)

In order to obtain and distribute relevant data and information on Europe's nature it is necessary to develop and maintain a frame for working with and processing data on nature from many sources in a co-ordinated and comparable form. Much information is collected through national activities, but NGO's and research and consultant bodies are also important sources of data and information. The collected data are of various quality, age and geographical coverage. Terminologies, data collection and analysis methodologies are also different. Furthermore, the system should allow cross-analysis with other topics of the Agency's Work Programme such as water, air, land cover, soil and forests.

Therefore a workable system over time requires a number of interconnected activities :

- development of harmonised tools and data collection methodologies
- organisation of access to data with the basic principle that access should be as simple and straightforward as possible, and that data should always be maintained and managed by the data holders. The activities should be co-ordinated with or use as much as possible existing national and international initiatives

In 1996, the following activities have been undertaken:

I. *General conception of the system* (table 3.5 -product no 11 to 14)

In order to get various expertise from several institutes working in different geographical and administrative contexts, this aspect was developed by a Technical Advisory and Appraisal Group (TAAG). This group is formed by representatives of six ETC/NC partner-institutions with specific experience of databases on nature issues, either at national or international level. They met four times during the year and **delivered several reports** on the following topics:

Identification of information needs

- Information needs have been assessed according to four main concrete and priority fields of the ETC/NC's work, i.e. updating of the EEA reports (Dobris+3; EU-State of the Environment), analysis of the Natura 2000 proposals, monograph on «Excessive anthropogenic nutrients in European ecosystems» and ad hoc support to the Agency.
- Information needs can be met either by a simple query to a data source, or by a cross-analysis between data extracted from different data sources, or, finally, by a survey involving not only collection and handling of data but also a specific expertise

⁵ Internal Technical report December 1995

- A list of important parameters for species, habitats and sites has then been proposed by the TAAG on the basis of these information needs and validated through the ETC Consortium.

Data sources identification and evaluation

- Following the review of data sources carried out in 1995, a preliminary selection of data sources has been made to fulfil the priority needs of EEA and the EC. The selection was made taking into account the availability of qualitative and quantitative data for species, habitats and sites. Once these data sources are identified, agreements on use will be developed with data holders as appropriate.
- A concrete example of a major source of information is the data-base managed by the IUCN Environmental Law Centre (ELC) located in Bonn. This institute has been collecting and cataloguing legal texts related to environmental conservation at national level as well as pertinent international instruments since 1963. A database on Fauna and Flora Species helps to retrieve legal texts with the species names. ETC/NC has been considering ways to collaborate with ELC.

Development of data handling procedures

- In order to develop data handling procedures, data have to be described and organised through a data model. A data model has been created for each main element (species, habitats and sites). Each data model presents the structure of the data files and the relations between each of them. This is the basis for defining the format which will allow the collection of data from different sources.

2. Preparation of harmonised frames for species and habitats

Standardisation of species and habitats nomenclature is an important issue to make the information provided by different sources and databases comparable. For this purpose, EEA has to adopt and use a standard nomenclature for species and habitats of interest for environmental protection and function in Europe and to encourage wider use of this among collaborating institutions

The work undertaken in 1995 provided a critical analysis of the previous and existing European initiatives on species nomenclature and habitats classification (CORINE Biotores, Palearctic classification). On the basis of this previous work, the outcomes of the ETC/NC 1996 work programme are:

Concerning species (table 3.5 - product n° 2)

- A **database** including 6341 records (about 3000 valid names and 3300 synonyms) able to manage all valid names and relevant synonyms for each species of the EU Directives and the Bern Convention (figure 2).

For the time-being, this database will be used internally by ETC/NC as a tool to test the data handling procedures set up by the TAAG (cf General Conception). It will also help for the analysis of Natura 2000 data. For external use in the future, it will be necessary to develop a user-friendly interface and the related documentation to

distribute the database. By now, it is possible to elaborate *sub-products as a printed list of synonyms for a specific species group*.

Generally speaking, the project on species nomenclature can be considered as a significant contribution to international initiatives, for example to Species 2000 (EEA was interested to consider the way to support this initiative).

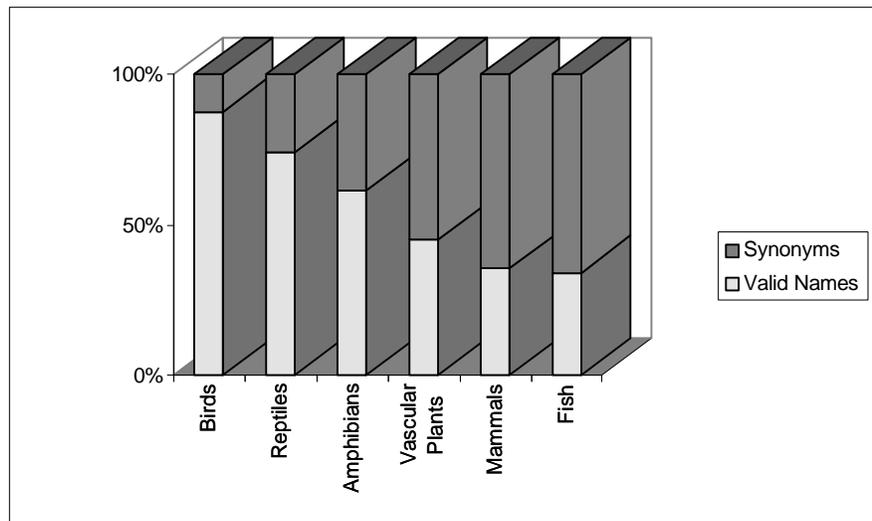


Figure 2 - Distribution of valid names and synonyms for species considered in the survey

Concerning habitats (table 3.5 - products n° 5, 15 & 16)

- A **database** (developed on the experience of a Nordic Council of Ministers project) with a parameter frame for the descriptions of habitats-types allowing correspondances between several different classifications and **proposed habitat classification at a «medium level» of description**, built from the Palaearctic classification

Three meetings were organised on this issue in 1996 with the participation of representatives from different European countries (Pan-European level) who are experienced in application of habitats inventories, evaluations and assessments. The outcomes of the meetings also include a comprehensive analysis of the strength and weakness of existing classifications and a statement of the «Rationale and applications of the classification», including rules for further evolution of the classification (EEA as single responsible body supported by a committee of experts, clear rules for any changes and additions in the classification etc...)

Working contacts to bodies working with marine habitat classifications have been taken up in 1996. The user interface of the database will allow the registration of data on habitat description.

The database will be tested in 1997 with specific habitats types included in Annex I of the Habitat Directive. The database will be made available as part of EUNIS after 1997.

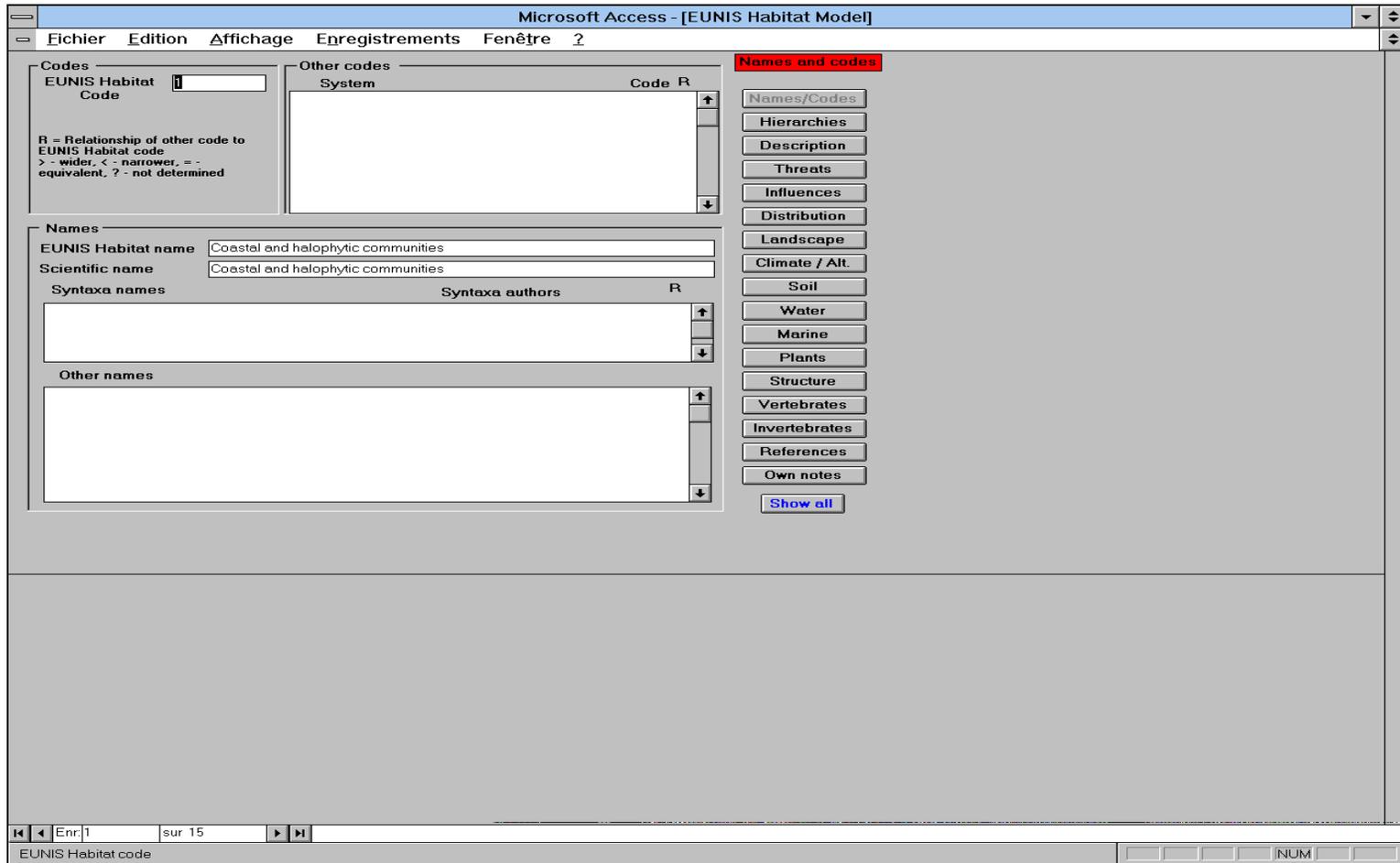


Figure 3 - Example of screen of the Parameter Frame database

3. Acquisition and input of relevant data

Once the general frame of the Information System is defined and the harmonisation procedures set up, the acquisition and input of data have to be considered in relation with priority requests to EEA and custodianship with data holders. In 1996, the main activities were related to:

Basic data layers

Basic maps with administrative boundaries, soils types, road infrastructures etc have been requested from Eurostat by EEA. These data layers will be distributed on CD ROM by the EEA for EIONET internal use.

Designated Areas (table 3.5 - product n° 3)

- The Council of Europe, the EEA and the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) agreed to elaborate a ***Common European Database on Designated Areas***. They also agreed that the updating and validation process, for the 18 EEA Member Countries, related to the next United Nations List of Protected Areas should be carried out through EIONET. Each NFP was therefore asked to indicate a National contact point as the most appropriate institution to deal with protected areas.

It is foreseen to extend to other European countries this scheme of data collection through one single national coordinator. For PHARE countries, this will soon be possible with the nomination of National Focal Points for the EEA. To date, for these countries, data have been collected by WCMC as usual for the UN-list process.

Information on nationally designated areas of all European countries are foreseen to be available during 1997-98 via the EEA Web server.

Site-based data

- On the basis of the work undertaken in 1995 (Status of the CORINE Biotopes Sites database⁶), a case-by-case analysis of the CORINE Biotopes situation in the 15 EU Member States has been made. In few cases, the ***database*** has been kept up-dated which helped the EU Member States to identify sites in the Natura 2000 process (in NL for instance), but it was not the case for many other countries. Therefore, as far as EU countries are concerned, there is a need to clarify through EIONET which data are still relevant and whether up-datings can possibly be done. Concerning the PHARE countries, the exercise is quite recent and data might not be available for the coming «Dobris + 3» report. Nevertheless it should provide a significant amount of validated data by the end of 1997.

⁶ Available as technical report from EEA

Information on species and habitats of European interest (table 3.5 - product n° 9)

- A **survey** has been undertaken in 1996 as an extension of the 1995 ETC/NC work programme related to Red Books on species concerning the EEA Member Countries. It consists in reviewing the most recent initiatives on Red Lists and Red Books of species and habitats of European concern. ***The results of this survey will be available on the EEA web site during 1997.***
- A first proposal on criteria to identify threatened species at European level has been prepared. These criteria are being tested on Vertebrates. After a consultation process within EIONET, ***this European Red List will be made available on the EEA Web site.***

3.2.4. Reporting Activities (Table 3.5 - products no 21 & 22)

ETC/NC has been involved in the reporting activities of the Agency, ensuring the integration of nature aspects in different information and reporting processes:

1. DOBRIS + 3

The follow-up of the Dobris report «Europe's Environment» (1995) to be produced for the next Conference of the European Ministers of the Environment in Aarhus, DK, in 1998, will be a major product from EEA. In 1996, ETC/NC has started to contribute to the preparation of the Nature and Biodiversity chapter, taking into account both the relevancy of selected indicators and the availability of data. 21 indicators have been selected for this chapter. For some of them, the data collection will be directly undertaken by EEA; for others, ETC/NC will contact relevant data-holders (ETC/Land-Cover, IUCN Law Centre, WCMC, European Atlases etc.); moreover, for a limited number of indicators (state and trends of selected species, state and trends of selected habitats types, threatened and protected species), ***questionnaires have been prepared by ETC/NC and sent to Member Countries through NFPs in early 1997.***

2. MONOGRAPH ON 'EXCESSIVE NUTRIENTS'^a

The ETC/Inland Water is preparing a monograph on «Excessive anthropogenic nutrients in European ecosystems» to be published in Autumn 1997. In 1996, ETC/NC has been involved in this product both to comment on proposals for its content and to prepare ***the questionnaire to NFPs related to «terrestrial habitats».*** ETC/NC will contribute further in analysing and summarising replies from Member Countries

3.3. Project Mn3 - Support to Natura 2000

This project is of direct relevance to EU policy, as a support to the European Commission DGXI D2 for implementation of the Habitats, Fauna and Flora Directive. It represented one of the main activities of ETC/NC in 1996 and will continue to be a main activity in 1997.

After a more theoretical step in 1995, the operational work started in 1996 since several Member States have officially sent to the Commission the expected National Lists of pSCIs together with the site descriptions according to the Natura 2000 official form. These first data have been used for testing in real scale and for tuning up most of the tools and procedures previously developed by ETC/NC, in particular:

- *the standardised procedures* to allow an appropriate evaluation of the quality of the Natura 2000-related data forms;
- *the appropriate tools* to allow a well-based analysis on the acceptability of the proposed sites *assufficient* to ensure the foreseen objectives;
- *the appropriate tools* to allow a scientific analysis on the acceptability of the proposed sites *assufficiently representative* at biogeographic level;
- *the identification of the relevant scientific information* needed as a reference to base the above mentioned scientific analysis and assessments.

After having been presented to the Scientific Working Group of the Habitats Directive), these procedures are now being applied to the National Lists provided by the Member States.

The description and results of this exercise are reported in a Natura 2000 annual report 1996 prepared by ETC/NC and available as a technical report from EEA in 1997.

3.3.1. Improvement of the Natura 2000 Software

(table 3.5 - product n° 1)

The development of a computerised database was considered essential to allow the scientific evaluation of Natura 2000 sites asked for by the European Commission. The Natura 2000 software was developed for the computerised entry of data by the Member States of the National lists of pSCIs. The software (national input and query modules) developed by an external software consultant company has been tested in real scale in 1996. The ETC/NC was able:

- *to detect the existing bugs, which have been corrected by the software consultant company as part of their contract with the Agency*
- *to identify minor software improvements to make national data input easier and more secure;*
- *to assess the feasibility of integrating national data which were computerised with a different software (because some Member States had already started the computerisation of their national data before the availability of the Natura 2000 Software).*
- *to evaluate the necessary effort (in time) and associated costs to input national data concerning Natura 2000 network;*

A new improved version of the Nature 2000 software will be available from the beginning of 1997.

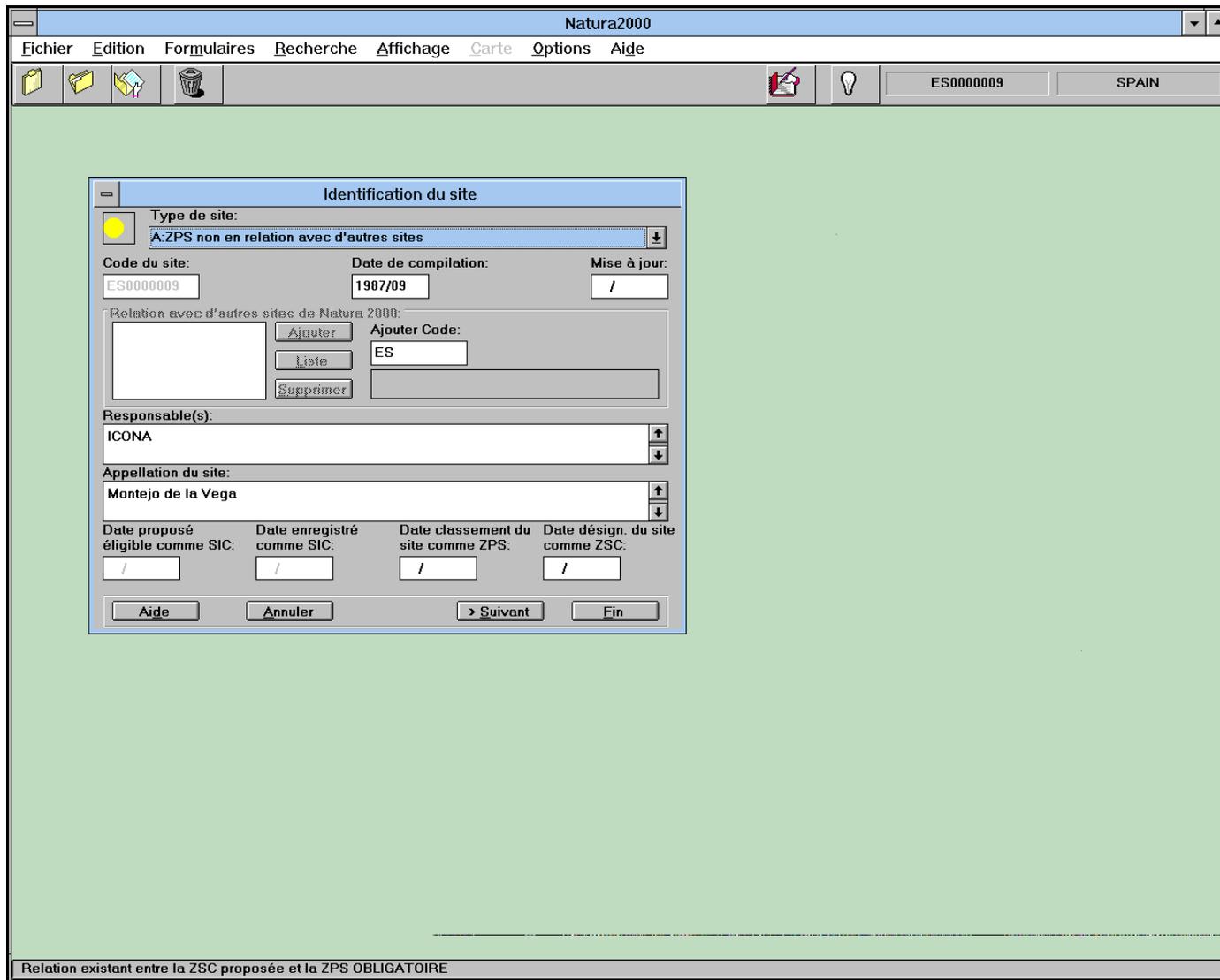


Figure 4 - Example of screen from the Natura 2000 software

3.3.2. Handling the Natura 2000 Database (table 3.5 - product n° 4)

The National Lists of sites officially provided by Member States (Austria, Belgium, The Netherlands (partly), Macaronesian Region of Spain and Portugal, United Kingdom) have been registered in the SCI working database after a first verification.

For the time-being, this database contains only provisional data to build the Community list of sites. These pieces of information are currently not available for public use. They are used only internally by the European Commission to elaborate working documents.

The Natura 2000 Database (designated areas) has been updated through the integration of data forms concerning new Special Protected Areas (SPAs) designated by Member States between June 1995 and December 1996 in the framework of the Birds Directive. The next Commission's report on SPAs will be produced automatically from the Database. This report will be available from the Commission by the end of March 1997. It will be circulated to EU Member States and on request to the Commission to all interested bodies.

3.3.3. Assessment of Natura 2000 Proposals (table 3.5 - product n° 18)

The assessment activities concerning the National and Community Lists include four stages:

- STAGE 1: ACCEPTABILITY OF NATIONAL DATA FORMS
- STAGE 2: NATIONAL COVERAGE ON SPECIES AND HABITAT TYPES
- STAGE 3: BIOGEOGRAPHIC REPRESENTATIVITY ON SPECIES AND HABITATS
- STAGE 4: BUILDING OF THE COMMUNITY LIST

In January 1997 the situation was as follows:

Country or Biogeographic Region	STAGE 1	STAGE 2	STAGE 3	STAGE 4
Austria	fulfilled	<i>on-going</i>		
Belgium	<i>on-going</i>			
Netherlands	<i>on-going</i>			
Portugal and Spain (Macaronesian Region)	fulfilled	fulfilled	fulfilled	<i>on-going</i>
UK	<i>on-going</i>			

Other Member States have also provided data forms *on paper*; this information will be included in the database as soon as the European Commission receives the diskettes, as the ETC/NC can only process *computerised data* (according to an agreement between EEA and the European Commission, ETC/NC is not in charge of digitising the paper forms). (Figure 5).

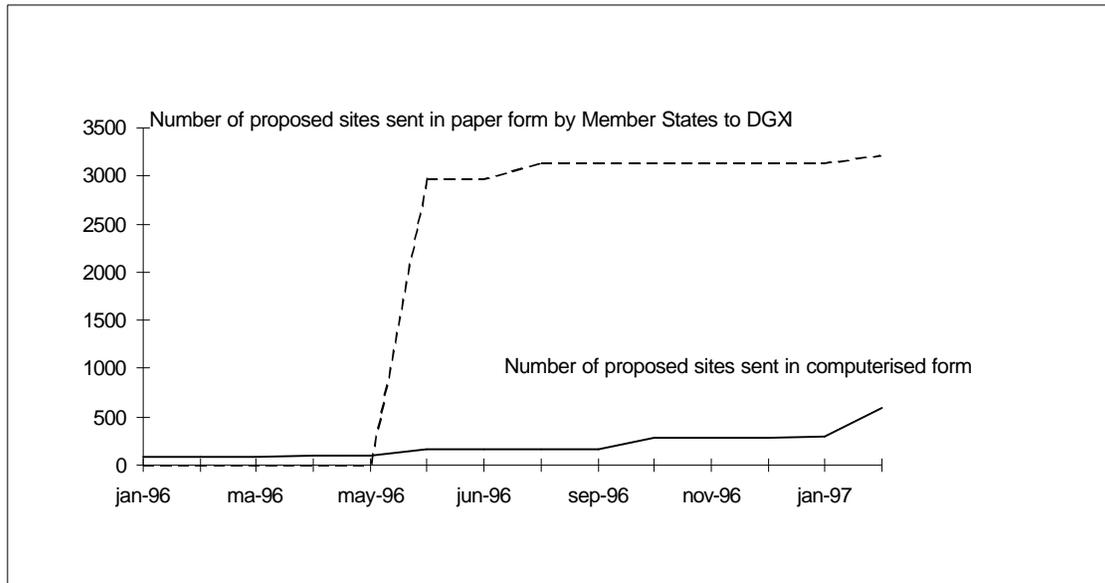


Figure 5 - Comparison between data in paper form and computerised data

3.4. Ad Hoc Technical Support to the Agency

Ad hoc support to EEA is a task foreseen for all ETCs within their specific field. It includes aspects which are not foreseen in detail in an ETC work programme but which are essential for the development of EEA's activities.

In 1996, ETC/NC's ad hoc support to the EEA consisted of:

- assistance to the EEA on relevant matters to help develop the EEA Work Programme
This includes:
 - participation in NFP/EIONET meetings;
 - contribution to other Topic Centres activities: ETC/NC attended workshops organised by ETC/ Inland Water, ETC/ Land-Cover, ETC/ Marine and Coastal Environment, ETC/ Catalogue of Data Sources;
 - participation in workshops on specific topics of EEA concern: forests, biodiversity, clearing-house mechanism;

- . contacts with PHARE country representatives, both from the EEA's staff and from the countries themselves
 - . contacts with EEA partner organisations, international organisations and international programmes: OECD, UN-ECE, Eurostat, Council of Europe, IUCN...
- reviewing and commenting on draft reports (from other Topic Centres, EEA specific reports...)
- participating on behalf of the EEA in working groups, committees etc. The ETC/NC has been involved in the following permanent committees or steering groups:
 - . Habitats Directive Scientific Working Group, as observer
 - . Bern Convention Steering Committee, as observer
 - . Council of Europe specialist groups on designated areas, protection of plants, invertebrates
 - . Groups on Action Theme 1 (Ecological network) and Action Theme 11 (Threatened species) of the Pan-European Strategy on Biological and Landscape Diversity
 - . Planta Europa Steering Committee, as observer
 - . Euro-Mediterranean Initiative in Plant Systematics (previously called Pan-European Initiative in Plant Systematics), as observer
- representing the EEA Project Manager at other meetings (UN-ECE meeting on nature-related statistics, European Science Foundation workshop on «Disseminating Biodiversity Information», seminar with CEEC countries on Nature policies and data collection, UN Conference on Alien Species, World Congress on Nature Conservation...)
- providing advice to specific clients/users mostly in relation to EC:
 - . advice on the Scandinavian proposal concerning the annexes of the Habitat Directive
 - . support for a taxonomic revision of the annexes of the Habitat Directive
 - . information on the status of some species in Europe
 - . provision of background information to EC-DGXVI on sensitive types of habitats and their distribution in Europe

3.5. Products / Outputs Produced by Etc/Nc in 1996

no	Product	Title	Task *	Responsible
1	Software distributed to EU Member States	Improved version of the software Natura 2000	8.3.1	Core Team
2	Database (publicly available late 1997- early 1998)	Species Synonyms Database	7.4.1	MNCN (ES)
3	Database (publicly available late 1997- early 1998)	Common Database on Protected Areas	7.5.2	Core Team CoE WCMC (UK)
4	Database to Commission	Natura 2000 Database on potential Sites of Community Interest (DG XI)	8.3.2	Core Team
5	Database (publicly available after 1997)	Habitat Classification : Parameter Frame for a European classification	7.5.4	ITE (UK)
6	Digitised Map and Database (publicly available late 1997- early 1998)	Digital Map of European Ecological Regions	9.3.2	ISEGI (PT)
7	Digitised Map	Digitised Map of Potential Vegetation in Europe	9.3.2	BfN (DE)
8	Report to be published in 1997 (final draft)	Methodology for an assessment of Europe's biodiversity Biogeographic Pilot Studies (10 regions)	follow-up 1995 subv.	ECNC 10 partners Core Team
9	Report to be published in 1997 (final draft)	Situation of existing and on-going initiatives on red books of species and habitats of European concern	7.5.4	Core Team
10	Report to be published in 1997 (final draft)	Annual Summary Report 1996	4.4	Core Team
11	Internal report (final draft)	EUNIS : General conception	7.3.1	Core Team TAAG
12	Internal report (final draft)	EUNIS : Identification of information needs	7.3.2	MNHN (FR)
13	Internal report (final draft)	EUNIS : General report on data sources	7.3.3	MNHN (FR)
14	Internal report (final draft)	EUNIS : Development of handling data procedures	7.3.4	MNHN (FR)
15	Internal report (final draft)	Habitat Classification : Parameter Frame for a European classification	7.5.4	ITE (UK)
16	Internal report (final draft)	Habitat Classification : Proposal for a European classification	7.4.2	ITE (UK)
17	Internal report (final draft)	Four Quaterly Reports	4.4	Core Team
18	Internal report (final draft)	Analysis report for Macaronesian region list of potential Sites of Community Interest	8.3.3	Core Team
19	Working document	Review of International monitoring initiatives on Reference sites	9.3.3	ECNC (NL)
20	Working document	Review of existing monitoring methodologies Survey of indicators for biodiversity status and change (Natura 2000 sites)	9.3.4 9.3.5	JNCC-SNH (UK) NERI (DK)
21	Questionnaire sent to NFPs early 1997	Contribution to Dobbris+3 report	9.3.6	Core Team
22	Questionnaire sent to NFPs early 1997	Contribution to Nutrient Monograph	9.3.6	Core Team NERI (DK)

* As described in the technical annex of 1996 subvention

Products/Outputs from seminars / meetings

- ☞ Report on Workshop on a general approach to nature, EIONET (ETC/NC Core Team) Report available from ETC/NC
- ☞ Internal reports on Workshops on the Habitat Classification (ITE)
- ☞ Report on Scientific seminar on the Macaronesian biogeographic region (ETC/NC Core Team)

Other products

- ☞ ETC/NC presentation leaflet (English and French) available from ETC/NC
- ☞ ETC/NC Newsletters (English and French); the last issue was sent to 450 institutions (administrative and scientific bodies, NGOs) or individuals, mostly European, members or non-members of EIONET, available from ETC/NC.
- ☞ ETC/NC Homepage on World Wide Web (English and French) <http://www.mnhn.fr/index.html>

3.6. Main Meetings Attended and Missions by Etc/Nc Core Team

MEETINGS IN THE FRAME OF EIONET

Date	Place	Comment
25.1.96	Copenhagen, DK	Presentation of the NatureCDS
7.2.96	Copenhagen, DK	Meeting of ETCs
26/27.2.96	Copenhagen, DK	EIONET/National Focal Points meeting
28.2.96	Copenhagen, DK	Working session with ETC/CDS
15.3.96	Paris, FR	Working session with J-L. Weber and L. Duhautois (IFEN, on behalf ETC/Land Cover),
6/7.5.96	Copenhagen, DK	EIONET workshop on Nature
3/4.6.96	Madrid, ES	EIONET Workshop on Inland Waters
11/12.6.96	Copenhagen, DK	EIONET/NFP's meeting
18/19.6.96	Paris, FR	Workshop on ETC/Land-Cover
3.9.96	Paris, FR	ETC/IW - Nutrients Monograph Meeting
16/17.9.96	Copenhagen, DK	3rd International Workshop on CDS
26/27.9.96	London, UK	Workshop on CBD-follow-up
3/4.10.96	Copenhagen, DK	Workshop on Forests
7/8.10.96	Copenhagen, DK	NFP/EIONET meeting
7/8.10.96	Rome, IT	Forum of the ETC Marine and Coastal Environment
9.10.96	Copenhagen, DK	ETCs meeting
23.10.96	Paris, FR	Meeting with ETC/IW representatives on Nutrients Monograph,

INSTITUTIONAL MEETINGS

Date	Place	Comment
18/19.1.96	Brussels, BE	Meeting with DGXI on the Commission NatRef concept
22/26.1.96	Strasbourg, FR	Steering Committee of the Bern Convention
29.1.96	Brussels, BE	Workshop with DGVI, EFNCP, WWF on «CAP and environmental practices»
19.2.96	Geneva, CH.	Meeting in UN-ECE
4.3.96	Brussels, BE	Scientific Group of the Habitat Directive
6/8.3.96	Strasbourg, FR	Specialist group on Protected Areas (CoE, Council of Europe)
28.3.96	Stockholm, SE	Meeting with experts of the FFH Scientific Group on Boreal region
4.4.96	Paris, FR	Meeting with representatives of UNESCO MAB-France Committee
27/29.5.96	Killarney, IE	Bern Convention Experts group on Invertebrates
20/21.6.96	Banska-Bystrica, SK	EU PHARE Workshop with CEECs on Nature Conservation policy and data collection
21.6.96	Brussels, BE	Scientific Working group of the FFH Directive
10/11.9.96	Strasbourg, FR	Pan-European Biological & Landscape diversity (Act. Theme 1: Ecological network)
12/13.9.96	Strasbourg, FR	Pan-European Biological & Landscape diversity (Act. theme 11: threatened species)
25.9.96	Brussels, BE	DGXII - Information day on space techniques for environmental monitoring & research;
9/11.10.96	Galway, IE	Seminar on Natura 2000 sites Monitoring
14/22.10.96	Montreal, CA	World Congress on Nature Conservation,
4/6.11.96	Paris, FR	Council of Europe seminar on Emerald project
7/9.11.96	Tenerife, ES	Natura 2000 Seminar for Macaronesian Biogeographic region
20.11.96	Brussels, BE	Meeting with DG XI.D2 and D.4
2/6.12.96	Strasbourg, FR	Standing Committee of the Bern Convention
11.12.96	Brussels, BE	Follow-up meeting on the Macaronesian Seminar with DGXI.D2
12.12.96	Copenhagen, DK	Meeting with PHARE project Managers

OTHER INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS

Date	Place	Comment
19.1.96:	Paris, FR	Steering Committee of Planta Europa
20.1.96	Paris, FR	Meeting on Important Plant Areas's project
22/24.3.96	Rome, IT	Workshop on «European Vegetation Survey»,
24/26.3.96	Amsterdam, NL	Workshop on «Disseminating Biodiversity Information»,
27.3.96	Brussels, BE	Meeting with DGXI.D4 and JNCC on BIOMAR classification
7.6.96	Paris, FR	Workshop on Sustainable development
20/22.6.96	Vienna, AT	Workshop on Nature monitoring
24/25.6.96	Monkswood, UK	Workshop on Habitat classification
27.6.96	Paris, FR	Meeting on a project of a flora of N-W Europe
1/5.7.96	Trondheim, NO	International workshop on Alien species
2/5.9.96	St Petersburg, RU	HELCOM 3rd Workshop «Red Data Book on Biotopes of the Baltic Sea region»
14/17.9.96	Varena, IT	EBCC- Monitoring of birds in Europe
25/26.9.96	Cambridge, UK	WCMC- Clearing House mechanism
22/23.10.9	Copenhagen, DK	Expert meeting on Habitat classification
24/25.10.96	Reading, UK	Euro-Mediterranean Initiative on Plant Systematics
4.11.96	Copenhagen, DK	Meeting on State indicators
13.12.96	Copenhagen, DK	Experts meeting on Habitat classification

VISITS

Date	Place	Comment
31.1.96	Paris, FR	Visit to C. DeKlemm (IUCN Law Centre)
13.3.96	Bonn, DE.	Visit to IUCN Law Centre
16/18.12.96	Madrid, ES	Visit to Spanish NRC and Nature authorities

ETC/NC's CONSORTIUM RELATED MEETINGS

Date	Place	Comment
10/11.1.96	Tilburg, NL	Project management meeting on Pilot studies
30.1.96	Paris, FR	Preparatory meeting for the workshop on «Habitat classification»
1.2.96	Paris, FR.	Steering Committee for Pilot studies
1.2.96	Paris, FR	Preparation of the ETCNC's Steering Committee with EButtle
9.2.96	Paris, FR	Installation of the Natura 2000 central module with CRAY system
12.2.96	Paris, FR	ETC/NC's Steering Committee.
19.3.96	Bonn, DE	Meeting with U.Bohn on the project of European map of natural vegetation
20.03.96	Bonn, DE	Visit to M.Uppenbrink (Director ofBfN)
28/29.3.96	Rome, IT	ETC/NC Management Committee
14/15.4.96	Funchal, PT	Macaronesian Pilot study
18.4.96	Copenhagen, DK	Meeting with WCMC on Common database on protected areas
21.5.96	Paris, FR	Preliminary meeting on Habitat classification
23.5.96	Paris, FR	Meeting withT.Reed (JNCC)
3/4.7.96	Paris, FR	First EUNIS/TAAG meeting
18.9.96	Tilburg, NL	Visit to F.Prillewitz (Director of ECNC)
23/24.9.96	Cambridge, UK	Second EUNIS/TAAG meeting
28.10.96	Paris, FR	Meeting withE.Moreno (MNCN) on Species nomenclature
31.10.96	Paris, FR	Meeting with A.Troya (DGCN)
11.11.96	Paris, FR	Expert Meeting on DMEER
12.11.96	Paris, FR	ETC/NC Scientific follow-up Committee
20/21.11.96	Bonn, DE	Third EUNIS/TAAG meeting
21/22.11.96	Bonn, DE	ETC/NC Management Committee

3.7. Visitors to the Etc/Nc Central Office

Date	Institution	Name	Object of the visit
5.1.96	Direction Régionale Environnement Bretagne, FR	P.Singelin	General information on ETC/NC
22.1.96	University ofGrenoble, FR	P.Ozenda	Vegetation of Europe
6.2.96	Europe Conservation, FR	M. BeauDouezy	Presentation of this European Foundation
14.2.96	University of Vienna, AT	B. Assemer	Natura 2000
26.2.96	Acer Campestre Company,FR	E. Lierdemann	Survey on management cost of future SAC
27.2.96	BfN, DE	A. Groger	Medicinal plants, CITES
29.2.96	Ingénieurs Ecologues, FR	Th Mouget	Ecological corridors
13.3.6	IUCN France, FR	R. Guilbot	IUCN World Congress
5.4.96	Conservatoire Botanique National deBailleul, FR	V. Boulet	Project onNorth-West Flora of Europe
6.6.96	Office Fédéral de l'Environnement, Forêts et Paysages, CH	J.Schencker	Databases, inventories in Switzerland
11.6.96	European Federation of local Forest Authorities, FR	PC.Zingari	Mountain forests
12.7.96	Forest Ecosystem research Group, IE	Dr. Little	Monitoring of Forests in Ireland
27.7.96	Office National des Forêts,FR Office National de laChasse	M. Hermeline B. Cinnotti	Availability of data on Forests
6.9.96	English Nature, UK	Dr Idle	Presentation of English Nature
6.9.96	Eurosite, FR	N. Nowicki	Presentation ofEurosite
9.9.96	WCMC, UK	J. Busby	Clearing-House mechanism
18.9.96	Bureau des Ressources Génétiques, FR	D. Planchenot	Convention onBiodiversity
26.9.96	Ministry of the Environment, CZ Nature. Conserv. Agency, CZ	M. Rivola M. Roudna J. Plesnik	Data collection in the field of Nature and Biodiversity
8.11.96	LEI-DLO, NL	F. Brouwer	Indicators
17.12.96	UN-ECE, CH	A. Kahnert	Statistics on Species and Protected areas
18.12.96	JRC, IT	J. Laurent	Alpine Information and Observation System

4. PROPOSED ETC/NC WORK PROGRAMME ITEMS FOR 1997

4.1. Development of Eunis

In 1996, the activities related to this issue were basically conceptual, in particular with development of data models and standardised nomenclature. In 1997, the work will be more focused on operational aspects, i.e testing the tools and starting incorporation of relevant data.

Activities

- To continue the development of basic tools, in particular:
 - data handling procedures;
 - habitat classification (including marine habitat types);
 - species nomenclature (including links with the Species 2000 initiative);
- To incorporate in the system relevant data concerning the main EEA priorities, in particular:
 - basic layers (to be provided by EUROSTAT/GISCO);
 - national data related to the Dobris +3 process;
 - national reference data related to the Natura 2000 process (to be requested by questionnaire);
 - CORINE Biotopes relevant data (including PHARE countries)
 - selected information from LIFE projects;
 - international relevant data (European Atlases, Environmental Law Centre, Designated Areas Common Database).

Expected products

- An operational central module of EUNIS for direct use in the EEA reporting activities and support to Natura 2000.

4.2. Support to NATURA 2000

This task is becoming more and more important in relation to the provision, by EU Member States of their National List of potential Sites of Community Interest. A precise time schedule for work has been prepared by the Commission for 1997.

Activities

- To continue the assistance to Member States in using the Natura 2000 software.
- To maintain updated the Natura 2000 Database through the integration, after a first verification, of new SPAs officially designated by Member States.
- To integrate in the Natura 2000 Central Module, after a first verification, the National Lists and/or complementary information officially provided by Member States.
- To assess the National Lists as follows:
 - STAGE 1: ACCEPTABILITY OF NATIONAL DATASHEETS**
Austria, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany (except Bavaria), Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Portugal (mainland), Spain (mainland), Sweden.
 - STAGE 2: NATIONAL COVERAGE ON SPECIES AND HABITAT TYPES**
Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal (mainland), Spain (mainland), Sweden, United Kingdom
 - STAGE 3: REPRESENTATIVITY OF SPECIES AND HABITATS**
Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal (mainland), Spain (mainland), Sweden, United Kingdom
- To assess the Community List as follows:
 - STAGE 4: BUILDING THE COMMUNITY LIST:**
 - First Scientific Seminar for the *Boreal Region* (Finland and Sweden), the *Alpine Region* (partial: Austria, Germany, Italy, Spain and Sweden), the *Mediterranean Region* (possibly partial: Greece and Italy) and possibly the *Atlantic Region* (Belgium, Denmark, France, Ireland, Netherlands, Portugal, United Kingdom).
 - Second Scientific Seminar for the *Macaronesian Region* (Portugal and Spain)

Expected products

- At National level:
 - *Analysis on the acceptability* of the Austrian, Danish, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Irish, Italian, Luxembourg, Portuguese (Atlantic and Mediterranean Regions), Spanish (Alpine, Atlantic and Mediterranean Regions) and Swedish National Lists.
- At Biogeographic level:
 - *Final «reference list»* for Boreal, Alpine, East-Mediterranean (if relevant) and Atlantic species and habitat types.
 - *Draft «reference list»* for Continental species and habitat types.
 - *Assessment on the species and habitat types coverage at national level and representativity at biogeographic level* of the National Lists for each Region.

- *List of species and habitat types sufficiently/insufficiently represented in the National Lists for each Biogeographic Region.*
- *Specific requests of additional information and/or proposed sites for improving the Community List in the concerned Regions.*
- *First assessment on the Community List for the Boreal, Alpine, East-Mediterranean and Atlantic Regions.*
- *Final assessment on the Community List for the Macaronesian Region.*
- Other products:
 - *Updated version(s) of the Natura 2000 Database (if appropriate).*
 - *Global assessment of the currently legal Natura 2000 Database (only designated SPA) in relation to a possible subsequent scientific updating.*

CONTRIBUTION TO THE EEA REPORTING ACTIVITIES

In 1997, the ETC/NC will be fully involved by providing data and commenting on the main foreseen reports:

- Europe's Environment - The Dobris Assessment
- Environment in the European Union. Report for the Review of the Fifth Environmental Action Programme

Furthermore, the ETC/NC will assist the EEA in preparing a specific product, the «EEA Nature Presentation» in CD-ROM form for the Ministers Conference to be held in Aarhus (DK) in 1998.

Finally, another major priority is to achieve the EEA Information Strategy for Nature, initiated in 1996.

Activities

- To collect, analyse and process national and international data concerning some of the nature-related indicators included in the Dobris +3 Report
- To propose, if appropriate, and discuss additional indicators for the EU Environment Report.

Expected products

A specific visual presentation (CD-ROM) including different aspects of the Nature and Biodiversity chapter of the Dobris +3 Report. They will be combined with components concerning land cover and other topic aspects.

4.3. Foreseen 1997 Budget Distribution

Task	1996 additional subvention	1997 subvention	TOTAL
1. Management and Co-ordination	10 000	100 000	110 000
2. Support to EIONET	0	60 000	60 000
3. Ad hoc support to the EEA	0	60 000	60 000
4. European Nature Information System (EUNIS)	0	190 000	190 000
5. Support to NATURA 2000	0	270 000	270 000
6. Reporting activities	45 000	100 000	145 000
Total	55 000	780 000	835 000 ¹⁾

¹⁾ Including 250kECU from the French Ministry of Environment