

Biodiversity Working Group

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Biodiversity Working Group Update

The EFAEP Biodiversity Working Group (BioD WG) was established formally in May 2010 in Porto.

Our ambition is to bring together academic knowledge and experiences from practice.

This should deliver insights into what works and what does not for present or future biodiversity policies, strategies or targets.

Biodiversity Working Group Update

Our objectives are adapted from The International Year of Biodiversity (IYB) objectives and are:

- To raise awareness of the importance of conserving biodiversity and its sustainable use;
- Build capacity in ecology as a profession across Europe.
- Inform policy changes through our network of environmental professionals, bringing together academic knowledge and experiences from practice.
- Share these best practice insights with other environmental professionals and decision makers in relation to policies, strategies or targets.

Biodiversity Working Group Update

Action so far

- Attended Green Week in June 2010 at the Commission offices with a Biodiversity themed stand for ENEP;
- Prepared feedback on the recently published Commission brochure 'LIFE building up Europe's green infrastructure'.
- Attended and fed into the DG Env expert conference on Green Infrastructure Implementation in November 2010, based on BioD WG case studies from Netherlands, Switzerland, UK and Ireland.

Biodiversity Working Group Update

Progress on the Commission's GI Strategy

- The GI Strategy is being developed through a small formal Working Group (WGGI) including Member States, commission representatives from different DG's and experts.
- The Commission Working Group (WGGI) will meet three times. The meetings have been scheduled as follows:
 - 1st meeting – 31 March 2011
 - 2nd meeting – 24 May 2011
 - 3rd, final, meeting – 06 September 2011
- ENEP is not on this WGGI but we aim to provide comment and feedback on the outputs of each of these meetings.

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BioD WG Next Steps

- Provide feedback and input to the WGGI process through 2011 and other actions to support the development of the EU GI Strategy;
- Support, as appropriate the Biodiversity Offset and GI Implementation Pilot in Somerset, UK by case study input and dissemination through 2011 & 2012;
- Seek to influence the review of the Common Agricultural Policy process to enhance biodiversity aspects.