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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

**Group of Experts
on Biodiversity and Climate Change**

Strasbourg, 14-15 June 2007

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REPORT

*Document
prepared by
the Directorate of Culture and Cultural and Natural Heritage*

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The Standing Committee is invited to:

1. take note of the report of the meeting.

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1. Opening of the meeting by the Secretariat

The Head of the Biological Diversity Unit, Mr Eladio Fernández-Galiano, welcomed participants, and introduced himself and the rest of the Secretariat. He stressed the importance of climate change as a crucial challenge for the conservation of the species and habitats protected by the Bern Convention. He further highlighted the need to link the work of this new Group of Experts, set up by the Standing Committee in 2006, with the work of the other Groups of Experts under the Bern Convention. This is why a number of Chairpersons of other Groups of Experts had been invited to the meeting, such as the Group of Experts on the Emerald Network, the Group of Experts on the Conservation of Birds, the Group of Experts on the Conservation of Invertebrates, and the Group of Experts on the Conservation of Amphibian and Reptiles. Unfortunately, the Group of Experts on Invasive Alien Species (IAS) could not be represented at this meeting but the impacts of climate change on IAS are a critical issue for the Bern Convention too.

The Secretariat noted that this first meeting of the Group of Experts on Biodiversity and Climate Change would address two main issues: (i) its programme of work, and (ii) technical issues raised in the discussion paper sent in advance to participants.

Participants introduced themselves, including their work and expertise in the field of biodiversity and climate change. They provided summary information on the work on biodiversity and climate change carried out by the different Contracting Parties and observer organisations (included as Appendix 3).

2. Election of Chairperson

Ms Caroline Cowan (UK) was elected as Chairperson of the Group of Experts. Mr Snorri Baldursson (Iceland) was elected as Vice-Chair.

Ms Cowan thanked participants for their support and welcomed them at the first meeting of the Group of Experts (a list of participants is included in Appendix 1).

3. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted as it appears in appendix 2 to this report.

4. Introduction by the Secretariat

The Secretariat presented the main obligations for Parties to the Bern Convention and recent work under the Bern Convention related to climate change, from Recommendation No. 109 (2004) of the Standing Committee “on minimising adverse effects of wind power generation on wildlife” to the study “Conserving European Biodiversity in the Context of Climate Change” presented by its author, Mr Michael Usher, to the Standing Committee in 2005.

The Secretariat provided the background of the creation of this new Group of Experts, set up by the Standing Committee at its meeting in November 2006, and whose terms of reference are detailed in Recommendation 122 (2006). The Secretariat recalled the mandate of the Group: (i) to provide information and guidance to Parties on understanding climate change impacts and threats, and (ii) to provide Parties with tools and support in developing appropriate adaptation measures in national policies regarding the species and habitats protected under the Bern Convention. The Group will aim to maximise synergies with the work of other relevant conventions and organisations, adding value to current international efforts to address climate change impacts on biodiversity and develop appropriate adaptation measures.

The Secretariat further explained that the main topic for discussion at the meeting was the “Discussion paper” by Prof. B. Huntley, including its 19 recommendations for national adaptation strategies, as well as the development of a work programme for the Group of Experts in 2008. Two meetings are planned for 2008, and the Group of Experts is requested to submit draft guidance and/or recommendations to the Standing Committee by November 2008.

5. Brief presentations of climate change work at the Council of Europe

Ms Eva García Pastor (Andorra, Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe) gave an overview of the work of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on climate change matters, which started in 1994 with a Resolution on the linkages between energy and environment. Ms García Pastor, member of the Parliamentary Assembly's Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs, informed the Group of Experts of a report under preparation in her Committee, focusing on natural catastrophes and climate change. Other planned reports by the Environment Committee will cover issues related to renewable energy, biofuels, and nuclear energy and sustainable development. The Assembly is also interested on the impacts of climate change on biodiversity and plans to submit a proposal that will lead to a report on this field. Ms García Pastor welcomed this opportunity of collaboration between the Parliamentary Assembly and the Bern Convention and expressed the interest of the Environment Committee in the future work of the Group of Experts, raising the possibility of a joint seminar or workshop on biodiversity and climate change.

Mr. William Borsus (Belgium, Independent and Liberal Democrat Group), member of the Committee on Sustainable Development of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, welcomed the opportunity to participate in the first meeting of the Group of Experts. Mr Borsus highlighted the commitment of the Congress to ensure that Governments take account of the role and contribution that local and regional authorities can make to global challenges such as climate change. Mr Borsus further informed the Group of Experts of Recommendation 215 (2007) on "Climate change: approaches at local and regional level", adopted by the Congress on 1st June 2007. In addition, further reports are under preparation on reducing vulnerability and adapting to climate change, and finding ways of developing a new energy culture. Mr Borsus stressed the importance of fighting climate change and protecting biodiversity. The Congress is also preparing a report on the effects of urbanisation on biodiversity to address the growing loss of biodiversity.

6. Biodiversity and Climate Change in other fora:

Mr Sergey Dereliev, from the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat, gave a presentation about the work on climate change issues carried out by the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and its related Agreements, in particular the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA). In 1997, the Parties to CMS recommended that its Scientific Council reviewed the scientific work on climate change under other bodies and conventions and assess its implications for the CMS. The CMS is currently undertaking research to (i) identify a set of indicator species that can act as indicators of likely climate change impacts on the range of migratory species, and (ii) develop international protocols to monitor the effects of climate change on populations of those migratory indicator species. The AEWA is also assessing evidence of the effects of climate change, identifying especially vulnerable waterbird species, and developing conservation guidelines on possible adaptation measures.

Mr Jan Plesnik, Chair of the Bern Convention's Group of Experts on the Emerald Network and former Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) conveyed the apologies from the CBD Secretariat as they were unable to join the meeting in Strasbourg. Mr Plesnik gave an overview of the CBD's activities on biodiversity and climate change, which focus on the request by the 8th COP, in 2006, to develop draft guidance on how to integrate relevant climate change impacts and response activities into the CBD programmes of work, to be submitted to the next COP in 2008. Mr Plesnik presented the message from the Roundtable on the Interlinkages between Biodiversity and Climate Change, an informal consultation organised by the CBD Secretariat in March 2007, as well as proposals for synergistic activities between the three Rio conventions and their Joint Liaison Group, which focuses on adaptation, capacity building and technology transfer.

Ms Ilona Jepsena, from the European Commission, highlighted the 2006 Biodiversity Communication: "Halting the loss of biodiversity by 2010 — and beyond, Sustaining ecosystem services for human well-being" and the consideration of climate change in the Action Plan. Ms Jepsena introduced a European Commission project on fragmentation and adaptation which has been expanded to make an inventory study about the first steps needed for adaptation, and which includes a

review of measures to promote connectivity among EU countries and with non-EU States, best available experience, and synergies between habitat fragmentation and climate change. She further noted that a Commission Green Paper on adaptation to climate change was due for adoption at the end of June 2007, with a conference organised to launch it on 3rd July 2007. Ms Jepsena reported that the European Environment Agency (EEA) will issue a report in 2008 about the impacts of climate change in Europe, including on biodiversity. In addition, the pan-European initiative SEBI 2010 (“Streamlining European 2010 Biodiversity Indicators”), launched in 2004, includes indicators related to biodiversity threats, such as the impact of climate change on biodiversity. Ms Jepsena also highlighted future work in the European Commission about the potential effects of climate change on the Natura 2000 Network to draw together the knowledge available on this issue and develop decisions on how to respond to those effects.

7. Presentation of the results of the International Conference “Bird Migration and Global Change”

Mr Miguel Ferrer, of the Doñana Biological Station, presented the main outcomes of the international conference on bird migration and global change held in Algeciras, Spain, on 28-31 March 2007. Mr Ferrer stressed that birds are perhaps the best species indicator to monitor the effects of climate change on biodiversity, as their distributions and numbers have been well monitored, including their migration and breeding patterns. In addition, he explained that migratory birds are perhaps more vulnerable than most species as they can be influenced by changing conditions in their breeding and wintering areas, as well as by the conditions of sites on their migration routes. Mr Ferrer highlighted that changes in the migratory behaviour of birds, in association with trends in climate, have already been recorded, and also raised the fact that some measures taken to combat the causes of climate change, CO₂ emissions, such as the development of wind farms, could themselves have severe impacts on migratory birds. Mr Ferrer put forward two suggestions for the future: a surveillance network for migratory fauna, and a new dynamic system of protected areas. Mr Ferrer noted that the current system of protected areas in Europe is clearly insufficient to prevent loss of biodiversity moving over the continent. He suggested that new and more flexible options are possible, such as the “custody of land”.

8. Biological invasions and climate change

In the absence of the Chair and Vice-chair of the Group of Experts on Invasive Alien Species (IAS), Mr Eladio Fernández-Galiano gave a short overview of the European Strategy on IAS developed under the Bern Convention and endorsed by its Standing Committee in 2003. He stressed the exploding number of new invasions recorded, in bird and mammal species as well as in the marine environment, and added that it is likely that some non-indigenous species present in Europe are becoming invasive because of climate change. Mr Fernández-Galiano also presented the project of German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation “IAS and climate change in Germany and Austria: establishment of a prediction- and early-warning system”, running in 2007 and 2008. As species are expected to move from Austria to Germany due to climate change, this transnational project, which covers vascular plants and fish, was launched aimed at the development of a criteria-based invasion assessment scheme that can be transferred to all taxonomic groups, is easy to use and focuses on biodiversity. The objective is to develop a draft black list of IAS for Germany and Austria by early 2009. The project links IAS and climate change; provides a better basis for prevention and rapid measures; offers a possible model for European activities (listing system, early-warning system); and implements the precautionary principle.

9. NGO views on biodiversity and climate change

Mr Olly Watts, from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB/BirdLife International) gave a presentation about the different types of changes created by a changing climate. He explained the RSPB’s plans on climate change, which include pressing decision-makers to take action to reduce greenhouse pollution, involving their membership to fight against climate change, and taking policies and actions to allow nature to adapt to climate change. Mr Watts noted their involvement in research on modelling, such as the “Monarch” project, and described the following key elements of their policy, including the protection of current biodiversity; the facilitation of species movements through reduced fragmentation, stepping stones and new habitats; the development of

landscape scale delivery; the integration of biodiversity into adaptation of other sectors; the maintenance of a species and habitat focus, the need to plan action in the face of uncertainty, and the use of existing legislative and policy instruments in the EU.

Mr Frits Backer, representing the European Environment Bureau (EEB), gave a presentation focusing on the contribution of the EEB to the development of the Commission Green Paper on Adaptation. Mr Backer stressed the fact that both resilience and accommodation are needed when developing adaptation strategies. The former aims to develop the resilience of current biological interests and ecosystems against climate change. Accommodation strategies will also need to be developed to facilitate distributional change among species as their areas of suitable climatic conditions shifts. Mr Backer further highlighted the need to integrate adaptation into sectoral policies in Europe, and to increase public awareness about this issue.

10. Presentation of the discussion paper by the consultant

The consultant, Mr Brian Huntley, gave a presentation highlighting the main issues covered in his discussion paper (“Climatic change and the conservation of European biodiversity: Towards the development of adaptation strategies”, T-PVS/Inf (2007) 3, of 3 May 2007), which had been sent to participants before the meeting. Mr Huntley explained the structure of the paper and summarised his main sections on the predicted 21st century climatic changes in Europe; species’ responses to past climatic changes and their potential responses to future climatic changes; and main implications for adaptation strategies. The discussion paper included 19 recommendations and Mr Huntley’s key conclusion regarding adaptation is that implementing the necessary steps for adaptation to anthropogenic climatic change will provide resilience in the measures for biodiversity conservation regardless of future climate changes.

11. Discussion of the different topics raised

A number of issues were raised after the presentation of the discussion paper, including trends in the movement and decline of species; the role of corridors as a valuable option to help adaptation to climate change; management of protected areas to accommodate changes, including disturbances; and how to address invasive alien species while considering climate change implications. The debate also addressed the merits of a strong focus on species or protected areas when tackling biodiversity adaptation to climate change; the need for monitoring changes at European level and selecting indicators; the new challenges that this issue present to existing legal frameworks for protected areas and ecological networks. Other issues raised by the Group were the need to take account of species that cannot disperse, such as amphibians and reptiles, and consider drivers of biodiversity loss while addressing adaptation to climate change.

The Chair summarised discussions by stressing the need to work on both species conservation and the wider landscape, and take account of critical issues such as non-native species. She also noted the need to build resilience and address other drivers of change and therefore the importance of other sectors with direct and indirect impacts on biodiversity. She recalled that the Bern Convention needs to add value and co-operate with other conventions and relevant groups, as done in this first meeting.

12. Next steps and work plan for 2008

On the basis of a proposal from the Chair, the Group of Experts discussed and agreed the following main elements to be included in the Group’s work plan until the Standing Committee meeting in late 2008:

1. Information needs:

- Review of information on direct and indirect impacts of climate change on biodiversity (Bern species/habitats)
 - Table and questionnaire to gather info
 - GoEs to identify more vulnerable species/areas
- Review of existing international and national guidance on adaptation

2. On the basis of the information reviewed, the Group of Experts will identify:

- Gaps and information
- Headline recommendations, including on:
 - Governance of protected areas
 - Landscape-scale approaches
 - IAS
 - Mitigation
 - Socio-economic drivers
 - Integration of biodiversity into other adaptation frameworks

3. Implementation phase (at a later stage):

- Identify the needs of countries to implement the recommendations
- Develop toolkits accordingly

The Group decided to hold a 1-day meeting in the autumn in order to refine and finalise the work plan, if possible hosted by the Group's Chair in London. Some members volunteered to take part in that meeting (The Czech Republic, Iceland, Spain, Switzerland, and UK). Others may also join. The electronic version of the draft work plan will be circulated by e-mail ahead of the London meeting so that input from the Group can be gathered in advance. The final version of the work plan will be circulated to the Group after the London meeting and submitted to the Standing Committee in November 2007. Two further meetings of this Group of Experts are planned for 2008

13. Any other business

None were raised.

Appendix 1

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Appendix 2



**Group of Experts
on Biodiversity and Climate Change**

Strasbourg, Room 1 (14-15 June 2007)

AGENDA

Thursday 14th June

09:30 – 10:00 Welcome and opening

1. **Opening of the meeting by the Secretariat**
2. **Election of Chairperson**
3. **Adoption of the agenda**

10:00 – 11:00 Introduction - climate change work at the CoE

4. **Introduction by the Secretariat (background and terms of reference)** (Ms Carolina Lasén)
5. **Brief presentations of climate change work at the Council of Europe**
 - a. Representative of the Parliamentary Assembly (Ms Eva Pastor)
 - b. Representative of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities (Mr Willy Borsus)

11:00 – 12:30 Setting the context

6. **Biodiversity and Climate Change in other fora:**
 - a. Convention on Migratory Species (Mr Sergey Dereliev, UNEP/AEWA Secretariat)
 - b. Convention on Biological Diversity (Mr Jan Plesnik, former SBSTTA Chair)
 - c. European Union (tbc)
7. **Presentation of the results of the International Conference “Bird Migration and Global Change”** (Algeciras, Spain, 28-31 March 2007) – Mr Miguel Ferrer, Doñana Biological Station

14:00 – 15:00 Critical issues

8. **Biological invasions and climate change** (Eladio Fernández-Galiano, Biological Diversity Unit)
9. **NGO views on biodiversity/climate change** (Mr Olly Watts, RSPB, and Mr Frits Backer, EEB)

15:00 – 17:00 Discussion paper

10. Presentation of the discussion paper by the consultant (Mr Brian Huntley)
11. Discussion of the different topics raised

Friday 15th June

09:30 – 12:30 Discussion paper

Continuation of agenda item 11

14:00 – 17:00 Programme of work for the Group of Experts

12. Next steps and work plan for 2008
13. Any other business
14. Closing

Appendix 3 – Summary reports of national activities on biodiversity and climate change

BULGARIA

[to be completed]

FRANCE

[to be completed]

THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Activities on biodiversity and climate change:

- As a part of the National Climate Programme, scenarios of the climate change in the Czech Republic were developed for hydrological regime, some economically used and managed ecosystems (agroecosystems, forest ecosystems), and human health in 2002 (www.chmi.cz/nkp/nkp.html).
- The National Programme for Mitigating Climate Change Impacts in the Czech Republic was approved by the Government in 2004 (www.env.cz/www.klima.nsf).
- Within the National Biodiversity Strategy of the Czech Republic, approved by the Government in May 2005 (www.chm.nature.cz), a special chapter deals with interlinkages between biological diversity and climate change.
 - It is expected that by May 25, 2008, a detailed action plan on biodiversity and climate change shall be prepared by the Ministry of the Environment in close co-operation with the Ministry of Agriculture and other sectors and consequently adopted.
 - Its main aim shall be to further elaborate priorities dealing with the topic which have been set within the National Biodiversity Strategy of the Czech Republic and which shall be implemented by various sectors, NGOs, regional (sensu provincial) and local authorities and other stakeholders.
- Research on various aspects of climate change, including impacts of increase in atmospheric CO₂ level on biota, has been carried out by institutes of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic and universities, supported inter alia by projects funded by the Council of the Government of the Czech Republic for Research and Technological Development through the Ministry of the Environment (sub-programme SP1 Climate Change, Contamination and Risk Reduction).
- The Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection of the Czech Republic is going to organise a national roundtable on biological diversity and climate change, putting together various stakeholders (ministries, regional authorities, academic institutions, NGOs, mass media, etc.).

DENMARK

Danish activities:

- Denmark is now preparing a strategy for climate adaptation, in co-operation between all relevant sectors in Denmark, thus including nature. The strategy is planned to come out in early autumn.
- This text from our National Environmental research Institute (NERI) describes the effects of climate change on nature in Greenland and it also describes a number of research activities in this topic. See at <http://www.dmu.dk/International/News/Climate+spring.htm>

- This is a Danish experimental project trying to experimentally find out how dry meadows will react to higher temperatures, higher CO₂ values and changes in the precipitation pattern. See at <http://www.climaite.dk/uk/Basics/index.html>
- This is a list of Danish and European projects on climate and e.g. nature. This is a website for the Danish Meteorological Institute and it therefore has a wider coverage than just nature and climate change. See at <http://www.dmi.dk/dmi/index/viden/fk-introduktion/projekter.htm>

Some relevant Nordic projects:

- Publication from October 2005: "Conservation of Nordic Nature in a Changing Climate", see at <http://www.norden.org/pub/sk/showpub.asp?pubnr=2005:572>
- A follow up project started in spring 2007: "Nordic Climate Change indicators of effects on nature". (This project is planned to end in late 2008).

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

[to be completed]

GERMANY

List of ongoing projects:

- Modelling the impact of climate change on plant distribution in Germany. This project will produce among other things an ecological risk assessment on the vulnerability of plant species in Germany and is set to run until the end of this year. More information is available at: <http://www.ufz.de/index.php?en=6370>.
- Protected Areas in Germany under Global Change – Risks and Policy Options. This project will produce among other things ecological risk assessments with regard to the conservation targets of selected protected areas in Germany and aims to formulate concrete steps towards necessary adaptations, also at the national scale. It is set to run until July 2009. More information is available at: http://www.pik-potsdam.de/forschung/aktuelle-forschungsfelder/klimawirkung-vulnerabilitat/vme/schutzgebiete/index_html?set_language=en
- Invasive species and climate change in Germany and Austria. This project aims to produce a list of species which are or might become problematic under climate change as well as the basis for an early warning system. It is set to run until early 2009.
- Climate change and biodiversity – a communication strategy for non-professionals engaged in nature conservation. This project aims to raise awareness and establish a dialogue with private conservation activists on the possible ways forward. It is contracted out to the German NGO NABU, the project homepage (in German) is to be found at: http://www.nabu.de/m06/m06_12/06172.html. The project will run until the end of 2008

ICELAND

Government actions on biodiversity and climate change (Ministry for the Environment):

- A national Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan is under preparation to be finalised in 2007. This strategy will inter alia address actions related to conservation of biodiversity in the face of climate change.
- A Scientific Body on Climate Change has been established under the Ministry for the Environment to advise the government on matters relating to climate change.

Research projects. The Icelandic Institute of Natural History participates in several research projects that are directly relevant regarding the impacts of climate change on biodiversity:

- The international Tundra Experiment (ITEX) is a circumpolar project that has been running since 1990 and aims at investigating the impacts of a warming climate on tundra vegetation.
- A survey of colonial seabirds is underway to determine the magnitude of changes in population numbers that have been ongoing in recent years.
- A matrix of plots was established in 1997 in lowland areas of Iceland to study long-term changes in vegetation due to changing land-use and climate change.
- The Benthic Invertebrates of Icelandic Waters project (BIOICE) is large international inventory of benthic fauna within Icelandic territorial waters. BIOICE will establish an important baseline to detect changes in Icelandic benthos due to climate changes.

THE NETHERLANDS

Outline of research on biodiversity and climate change in the Netherlands:

General

- Research in the Netherlands is closely related to the main themes of international policy networks, such as the UNFCCC and IPCC and is linked with policy themes within the Dutch Government.
- Research contributes to the improvement of knowledge on a number of fields regarding climate scenarios, mitigation and adaptation, including the spatial effects of climate change on species ecosystems, econetworks and (protected) areas as well as adaptive responses and response measures, national greenhouse gas inventories and carbon budget on an annual basis. Communication, knowledge transfer, capacity building are closely linked with these research.
- The period after 2012 gets attention by contributing to the preparation and vision building for the Post-Kyoto era.
- Research activities are complementary with the sixth and seventh framework research programmes of the European Union

Research

- Relevant research lines are part of National Research Programme Climate Changes Spatial Planning (CCSP).
- The programme is linked and tuned to several (inter) national programmes. It is an aim to strengthen international alliances and networks regarding science, monitoring and policy.
- CCSP has been developed in close collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders, including the Ministries of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries (LNV), Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment (VROM), Transport, Public Works and Water Management (V&W), Education, Culture and Science (OCenW) and Economic Affairs (EZ), regional and local governmental agencies, the private sector and NGOs.
- The key questions and themes addressed by this programme reflect the priorities in the Netherlands within the IPCC conclusions, the World Climate Change Research Programme (WCRP), the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP) and the international Human Dimensions Programme (IHDP).
- Main themes of CCSP deal with climate scenarios, mitigation and adaptation.
- Within the adaptation theme research concentrates on
 - Predicting climate affects on vegetation dynamics
 - Adaptation strategies for the Ecological Network of the Netherlands in multifunctional landscapes
 - Integration of adaptation and mitigation options

- Land use variables and climate change: conflicts and opportunities in water and nature management
- To stimulate “climate-proofing”, four ministries of the Netherlands and the programme on Climate changes Spatial Planning have established special focus in a National Programme on Adapting Spatial Planning to Climate Change, ARK which centres among others on biodiversity-climate (spatial) interactions. The core research questions examined by ARK are:
 - What is the nature and scale of the observable and expected impacts of climate change for various themes, including biodiversity and economic sectors?
 - What spatial issues, including those related to biodiversity and nature management, do they rise?
 - How can we tackle these spatial issues?
 - What dilemmas (technical, administrative, economic, and social) will we face when trying to resolve these issues?

Expected outputs are:

- Climate-proofing Baseline Assessment,
- a review (Quick scan) of knowledge gaps,
- Formulation of adaptation strategies,
- A qualitative assessment of adaptation options,
- A quantitative assessment of adaptation options and identification of case studies in a number of areas

A number of Netherlands research institutes and NGOs in the Netherlands are involved in the field of climate change and biodiversity, among others: Wageningen University and Research Centre, Free University Amsterdam/Institute for Environmental Studies, Leiden University, Utrecht University IMAU, Groningen University, Technical University Delft, Delta Institute, Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency, RIVM, KIWA, SOVON, Butterfly Foundation, NOW, NIOZ, ECN.

Informative web links:

<http://www.klimaatvoorroimte.nl/pro1/general/start.asp?i=0&j=0&k=0&p=0>

<http://www.programmaark.nl/CMS/Routeplanner/default.aspx>

NORWAY

The most important activities on climate change and biodiversity in Norway are as follows:

- A Norwegian strategy/plan for climate change adaptation will be developed. The work will start this year (2007), and will probably get on for up to 5 years. The Ministry of Environment together with the Directorate for Civil Protection and Emergency Planning (below the Ministry of Justice and Police) will lead the work which is going to include all relevant sectors/ministries, including biodiversity.
- norACIA (2005-2009) is a Norwegian national project following up of Arctic Climate Impact Assessment, published in 2004. This project is going to publish a regional assessment of predicted climate change (in 2009), impacts on ecosystems and biodiversity as well as impacts on sectors and society, and adaptation proposals. This regional assessment covers the northern part of Norway (link to webpage in Norwegian: NorACIA — NorACIA)
- The Research Programme “Climate Change and its Impacts in Norway” - NORKLIMA (2004-2013) contains research to enhance knowledge about the climate and promote a better interface between different types of research to give society a stronger platform for dealing with changes in the global climate - as a basis for adaptive responses by human society .

- The Directorate for Nature Management (DN) has published 2 reports:
 - Framstad, E. et al 2006. Effects of climate change on ecosystems and biodiversity. DN utredning 2006:2 (in Norwegian only)
 - Directorate for nature management 2007: Climate change – adaptation and measures in nature management. DN-report 2007-2 (in Norwegian, will be available in English in July/August).

SPAIN

[to be completed]

SWEDEN

[to be completed]

SWITZERLAND

[to be completed]

TURKEY

[to be completed]

UNITED KINGDOM

- MONARCH: http://www.ukcip.org.uk/resources/publications/pub_dets.asp?ID=94
- Defra guidance for adaptation: <http://www.ukbap.org.uk/Library/BRIG/CBCCGuidance.pdf>
- The “England Biodiversity Strategy: towards adaptation to climate change” report (May 2007): <http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/resprog/findings/ebs-climate-change.pdf>
- GBSC-Royal Society workshop outcomes: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/sbstta/sbstta-12/information/sbstta-12-inf-19-en.pdf>
- Defra Climate Change and Migratory Species:
 - <http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/resprog/findings/climatechange-migratory/climatechange-migratory.pdf>
 - Executive Summary: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/resprog/findings/climatechange-migratory/climatechange-migratory-summary.pdf>

Research projects:

- Durham University is undertaking work, mostly with RSPB/Birdlife and Rhys Green (Cambridge), to explore the identification, country by country, of bird species that might be monitored as indicators of climatic change. They have already completed some analyses of the species that might be monitored in the UK and are also going to embark later this year on a project to examine the potential future effectiveness of the European IBA network as a tool for the conservation of European birds. Finally, the climatic atlas of European breeding birds is due to be published by Lynx Edicions in December 2007.
- Durham University is also conducting research on butterflies and climatic change, in collaboration with Chris Thomas (York), and on climatic impacts upon seabird populations and ranges in collaboration with Keith Hamer (Leeds) and others.

SAINT-SIEGE

L'EGLISE CATHOLIQUE et LES CHANGEMENTS CLIMATIQUES

Les Eglises n'ont pas pour vocation d'élucider scientifiquement des phénomènes tels que le réchauffement climatique, mais elles doivent par contre s'engager activement pour la préservation de l'ensemble du patrimoine naturel, et pour cela provoquer chez les chrétiens un changement radical des modes de vies. C'est d'autant plus important que les conséquences de ces phénomènes affectent tout particulièrement les pays pauvres, alors que leur origine réside surtout dans les pays riches ainsi que le soulignent les évêques d'Allemagne dans leur publication de septembre 2006.

Comment agir? Par l'information et surtout l'éducation.

Dès 1989, date du 1er Rassemblement œcuménique européen de Bâle, les Eglises estiment « qu'il faut d'urgence prendre des mesures spéciales pour lutter contre les gaz à effet de serre », puis, en 1995 (Colloque de Crête) « la société durable implique un changement radical de direction, notamment pour la consommation d'énergie ».

Les papes Jean Paul II et Benoît XVI mentionnent eux aussi, à diverses reprises les dangers d'un développement incontrôlé aux conséquences particulièrement pernicieuses.

Les déclarations et initiatives de responsables d'Eglises et de mouvements se multiplient aujourd'hui rapidement. Citons simplement :

- Le Professeur Hans Joachim Meyer (Allemagne) : « sans un changement du mode de vie individuel des sociétés occidentales, il n'y a aucune perspective de réduire les changements climatiques et ses conséquences » et
- En France, une douzaine de mouvements d'Eglises a lancé des campagnes de sensibilisation aux problèmes d'environnement. Le thème de l'été 2007 est : « Heureux ceux qui se déplacent autrement, ils transmettront la terre » avec une belle approche humoristique sur l'affiche (voir site Internet <http://paxchristi.ccf.fr>).

Parmi les recommandations : réduire en voiture sa vitesse, limiter l'usage de la climatisation, privilégier le covoiturage, les transports en commun....

Terminons en mentionnant l'important séminaire international organisé par le Conseil pontifical Justice et Paix à Rome les 26-27 avril 2007 sur les « Changements climatiques et développement » aux exposés particulièrement denses et enrichissants.

A tous les niveaux, l'Eglise veut donc pleinement apporter sa contribution à la société civile pour que les responsables politiques, de l'économie et de la finance assument leurs responsabilités, et que puisse enfin apparaître un « bien-vivre » pour tous, surtout pour les générations futures.

THE EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT AGENCY (EEA)

The EEA's activities on climate change and biodiversity:

- A workshop was held in December 2006 entitled 'The Natura 2000 network and climate change - Addressing policy needs, learning from research'. Background papers and presentations are available at: <http://biodiversity-chm.eea.europa.eu/information/document/fo1390108>
- The EEA is working on the 2008 indicator-based report 'The Impacts of Climate Change in Europe'. This is an update of their 2004 report on this topic. Development of the indicators on biodiversity and climate change is ongoing. The 2004 report is still a useful reference, and it is available at: http://reports.eea.europa.eu/climate_report_2_2004/en
- The SEBI 2010 process ('Streamlining European Biodiversity Indicators for 2010) is an EEA-led process developing the indicators to allow us to monitor progress towards the 2010 target of halting the loss of biodiversity in the EU.

- This process includes a category of indicators on 'threats to biodiversity', including climate change, and the indicator which has been selected for this is 'Changes in frequencies of groups of plant species adapted to 'warm' and 'cold' conditions', building on and expanding the indicator on page 51 of the above 2004 report. A technical report on the SEBI indicators is just about to be released later this year.