



# Activity report for 2004-6

## Introduction

Welcome to the first activity report of Butterfly Conservation Europe, which covers the first two full years since the new organisation was formed in late 2004. BC Europe was conceived following concerns about the recent rapid declines of butterflies and moths across Europe, and in response to a groundswell of feeling from interested amateurs and professionals. We all believe that far greater concerted conservation action is needed urgently to halt these losses and to realise the potential of butterflies and moths as flagships of Europe's rich biodiversity.

A small group of people met to form the new organisation during 2004 and has spent the last two years setting up a basic infrastructure of the organisation and discussing potential organisational models to co-ordinate the existing butterfly and moth enthusiasts and organisations across Europe. We have drawn extensively on the knowledge and enthusiasm of many colleagues who have helped with previous projects on the Red Data Book of European butterflies and the Prime Butterfly Areas of Europe.

The fledgling organisation would like to thank everyone for their help and support in the early stages, and we look forward to working with you in the future.

*Dr Martin Warren*  
Chairman  
Butterfly Conservation Europe

## Aims and constitution

Butterfly Conservation Europe was formed in November 2004 as an umbrella body to help stem and reverse the rapid decline of butterflies, moths and their habitats across Europe. It also aims to promote all activities and initiatives to conserve butterflies, moths and their habitats, including increasing the resilience of ecosystems across Europe through adaptation of land uses to sustain biodiversity in the face of climate change.

A clear focus of the organisation will be to work with a wide range of partners in Europe, both governmental and non-governmental, to implement the Conservation on Biological Diversity with respect to butterflies and moths and their habitats, and to contribute to achieving the EU target of halting biodiversity loss by 2010.

The geographical scope of BC Europe comprises all countries that are members of the Council of Europe and includes the Azores, Madeira, the Canary Islands, Russia to the Ural Mountains and the whole of Turkey.

The organisation is registered as Stichting Butterfly Conservation Europe in Wageningen, The Netherlands, number 09146603.

## **Governance**

BC Europe is run by a small governing board comprising:

Dr Martin Warren	Chairman	From November 2004
Dr Theo Verstrael	Secretary	From November 2004
Dr Dirk Maes	Treasurer	From November 2004
Dr Josef Settele		From November 2004
Martina Sasic		Appointed from April 2007
Rudi Verovnik		Appointed from April 2007

The Board has appointed three advisers:

Chris van Swaay	General adviser	Appointed November 2004
Irma Wynhoff	General adviser	Appointed November 2004
Sue Collins	European Policy Adviser	Appointed November 2006

We are delighted that Sir David Attenborough has agreed to become patron.

The Board meets at least twice a year, either in Wageningen or around international conferences, and corresponds regularly between meetings by emails and phone calls.

## **Website and information**

A website has been created containing information on the organisation, its partners and projects: [www.bc-europe.org.eu](http://www.bc-europe.org.eu)

A leaflet has also been produced summarising the aims of BC Europe and some of the issues facing butterflies and moths across Europe.

## **Operating Principles**

After consultation with other similar organisations such as Birdlife International and Planta Europa, BC Europe has produced a set of operating principles for Network Partners.

Any organisation for which the mission is a key objective is eligible to join the BC Europe Network and help deliver its objectives. The Network is open to non-governmental and governmental organisations working in Europe. Conservation NGOs, entomological societies, independent conservation agencies, museums and other relevant non-profit organisations are eligible to be BC Europe 'Network Partners'. Government departments are eligible to be part of BC Europe as 'Network Associates'.

The general operating principles are:

- Build on what already exists
- Encourage the formation of new organisations where no existing organisation is available
- Be task oriented with minimum bureaucracy
- Form a genuine and mutually supportive partnership
- Include a fair geographical representation
- Work together to promote butterfly and moth conservation, and the aims of BC Europe
- Collaborate and co-operate with others to ensure a holistic approach to nature conservation
- Full details of our Operating Principles are on our website.

## **Network Partners and Associates**

Formal invitations were sent out to prospective Network Partners in November and December 2006, with an overwhelming positive response. To date Network Partners have been appointed for over 20 countries, with another 20 countries deciding which is the most appropriate organisation. Partners range from specialist Lepidoptera NGOs, and Entomological Society's, to Research Institutes and Museums.

### **Inaugural meeting of partners, Laufen, 29-31 October 2007.**

An inaugural meeting of BC Europe Partners and prospective partners will be held at Laufen in southern Germany from 29-31 October 2007. The meeting will be hosted by ANL - Bayerische Akademie für Naturschutz und Landschaftspflege, at their specialist conference centre. The Board is extremely grateful to Christian Stettmer of ANL for his help in obtaining funding and arranging the venue. The aims of the meeting are:

- 1) To identify BC Europe's priorities for reversing the decline of butterflies and moths in Europe and contributing to the 2010 target of halting biodiversity loss
- 2) To identify ways of working together to achieve our goals of a countryside rich in butterflies and moths

The meeting will comprise a mix of talks and workshops, with keynote speakers including Emilia Müller, Bavarian Minister for European Affairs, and Ladislav Miko, Head of Nature Conservation at DG Environment in Brussels.

### **Projects**

Numerous projects have been started under the BC Europe umbrella or involve the organisation in an advisory capacity:

#### Developing a European Butterfly Indicator

Chris van Swaay is a member of the Streamlining European Biodiversity Indicators (SEBI 2010) project run by the EU Topic Centre on Nature Conservation. The aim is to develop a suite of indicators that will assess progress towards the EU target of halting biodiversity loss by 2010. A provisional index of trends in grassland species was produced, drawing data from over 10 national monitoring schemes, all using the standardised transect monitoring protocols. Funds were raised to hold a seminar for staff from the contributing schemes in Wageningen in February 2007, with the aim of simplifying co-ordination and planning appropriate methods. Contact: [chris.vanswaay@vlinderstichting.nl](mailto:chris.vanswaay@vlinderstichting.nl)

#### Prime Butterfly Areas of Bulgaria.

Start date January 2006, duration 2 years. Aims: to identify and describe the most important sites for butterflies (Prime Butterfly Areas) in Bulgaria. The project is funded by the BBI-MATRA programme of the Dutch Ministry for the Environment and is run with the Natural History Museum of Bulgaria: [www.netempire.biz/butterfly\\_areas\\_bg](http://www.netempire.biz/butterfly_areas_bg)

#### Prime Butterfly Areas of Serbia.

Start date January 2006, duration 2 years. Aims: to identify and describe the most important sites for butterflies (Prime Butterfly Areas) in Serbia. The project is funded by the BBI-MATRA programme of the Dutch Ministry for the Environment and is run with HabiProt, a newly formed NGO whose remit is habitat protection and sustainable development. Main contact is Predrag Jakšić [pjaksic@eunet.yu](mailto:pjaksic@eunet.yu)

#### Butterfly Conservation (UK) volunteers

Several BC (UK) Branches have organised survey and monitoring visits to key sites in European countries. In November 2006, the Society formed a European Interest Group to co-ordinate the activities of BC Members in Europe and support the work of BC Europe. Main contact is Simon Spencer [cerisyi@btinternet.com](mailto:cerisyi@btinternet.com). Full details are given on: [www.bc-eig.org.uk](http://www.bc-eig.org.uk)

#### Bioscore

Start date 2006. Duration 3 years. Aims: to develop a tool for monitoring progress in achieving the EU target to halt the loss of biodiversity by 2010 and for linking pressures from policy sectors to the (change in the) state of biodiversity as measured by the presence and abundance of individual species. The tool will be made freely accessible on the Internet. BC Europe is an associate partner in the project. Main contact Dirk Maes [dirk.maes@inbo.be](mailto:dirk.maes@inbo.be) Website: [www.ecnc.nl/StateOfEuropeanNatur/Bioscore](http://www.ecnc.nl/StateOfEuropeanNatur/Bioscore)

## Alarm

Start date 2006. Duration 3 years. Aims: To develop an integrated large scale risk assessment for biodiversity as well as terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems as a part of environmental risk assessment, linking these with factors such as climate change and socio-economic risk indicators to derive outcome-oriented policy measures in the field of biodiversity preservation. Europe is an associate partner in the project. Main contact Josef Settele [settele@halle.ufz.de](mailto:settele@halle.ufz.de). Website: [www.alarmproject.net/alarm](http://www.alarmproject.net/alarm)

## **Policy work**

BC Europe joined the European Habitats Forum in 2006, and is now working with partner NGOs on European policy issues such as the implementation of the EC Habitats and Species Directive and the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy. Sue Collins, has agreed to lead our activities in this area as our European Policy Officer, using her expertise and experience from serving on many European fora in the past in her capacity as Director of English Nature.

## **Funding**

The organisation was established with a start up donation from Butterfly Conservation (UK), matched by staff contributions by Dutch Butterfly Conservation.

Funds have been raised successfully for two major projects from the BBI-Matra programme of the Dutch Ministry for the Environment: Prime Butterfly Areas of Bulgaria and Prime Butterfly Areas of Serbia. An application is planned for 2007 for a similar project in Turkey. Funds have also been offered by the Bavarian Conservation agency towards the forthcoming Inaugural Meeting of Partners in Laufen.

We currently have no core funding to run the organisation and travel and subsistence expenses to attend Board meetings have so far been borne by the member organisations.

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