

# 35th Plenary Meeting of the Network of the Heads of European Nature Conservation Agencies (ENCA)

Brussels, 15 – 16 May 2025

## Programme

**Hosted by:** ENCA Secretariat and the European Commission

**Venue:** European Commission, DG ENV, Avenue d'Auderghem 19,  
room 5/397 in the BRE2 building

## Nature restoration as a key element of transformative change for nature



*Berlaymont building, Brussels, © Fallmann H., 2009, Umweltbundesamt*

Nature restoration is a key element of transformative change for nature. During ENC35 we will explore the role of ENCA members in this process and discuss how we could prioritise and fund Nature-based solutions, for biodiversity and climate. We will look at synergies and conflicts of interest and how to resolve them. Under the topic Transformative Change for Nature we will recap on the webinar *Transformative Change for Nature – Engaging with European Nature Conservation Agencies* and look into indicators that support Transformative Change for Nature.

## Thursday 15 May 2025

Time	Event	Presenter
9:00	Registration of participants at European Commission via <b>V-Pass</b> (a registration system); a link will be sent, which will request participants to submit some information, will then get a QR code to enter. Access to the canteen is equally granted.	
9:30 <b>Block 1</b> <i>Chair:</i> <i>Helmut</i> <i>Gaugitsch</i>	<b>Welcome &amp; Introduction</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Words of welcome from the host.</li> <li>Tour de table (name/institution/optional: one highlight per country + EC representatives)</li> <li>Adoption of the agenda and purpose of the meeting.</li> <li>Summary of ENCA-34</li> <li>Adopt minutes of ENCA-34</li> </ul>	Hans Stielstra, Deputy Head of Unit Natural Capital and Ecosystem Health, DG Environment, European Commission  All  Chair  Chair Chair
10:30	<i>Coffee break (EC)</i>	
11:00 <b>Block 2</b> <i>Chair:</i> <i>Andréa</i> <i>Ferret-</i> <i>Lambert</i>	<b>Topic 1 – Nature Restoration</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overview of state of play by the European Commission (15-20')</li> <li>National nature restorations plans – challenges and first successes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Input presentations by OFB, BfN and ISPRA (5' each)</li> <li>Nature restoration as a part of a new approach to species protection, conservation and management (10')</li> <li>Discussion points/guiding questions:</li> <li>What is your agency's role in developing and implementing the national restoration plan? Which are the monitoring measures? What is the process you are following? Which are the main challenges you are facing? Any success stories? What is the relationship with other organisations involved in the public participation process?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Kim De Rijck, Policy officer, Unit Natural Capital and Ecosystem Health, DG ENV, European Commission  Laurent Germain (OFB) <i>online</i> Marvin Beckert (BfN) Lorenzo Ciccicarese (ISPRA) <i>online</i> Jan Plesnik (AOPK)  All
13:00	<i>Networking sandwich lunch offered by DG ENV research unit</i>	

14:00 <b>Block 3</b> <i>Chair:</i> <i>Hans Romang</i>	Update by ENCA Interest Groups <i>(online presentations by chairs of IGs + discussion):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EPA/ENCA IG Genetically Modified Organisms (10')</li> <li>• IG Climate Change (10')</li> <li>• IG Sustainable Land Use (20')</li> <li>• EPA IG Green Finance (5')</li> <li>• Task &amp; Finish Group International Events Coordination (IEC) (10')</li> </ul> <i>Interactive discussion of open points</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Andreas Heissenberger (EAA)</li> <li>• Simon Duffield (Natural England)</li> <li>• Helmut Gaugitsch (EAA)</li> <li>• Sabine Fritz (EAA)</li> <li>• Andréa Ferret-Lambert</li> </ul> <i>All</i>
15:00	<i>Coffee break (EC)</i>	
15:30 <b>Block 4</b> <i>Chair:</i> <i>Aljoša Duplić</i>	<b>Topic 2 – Biodiversity and Climate change</b> <i>Work is envisaged be done in two break-out groups (chairs: Andréa Ferret-Lambert &amp; Simone Wulf)</i>  Guiding questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group 1 "How do we prioritize, fund and scale up nature-based solutions for biodiversity and climate? How can we successfully integrate NbS into different policy sectors to strengthen synergies? What works well, which are the main obstacles?"</li> <li>• Group 2: "How to collaborate with landowners, farmers and other stakeholders for NbS implementation? How to resolve conflicts of interests? How to ensure long-term dedication of plots of land?"</li> <li>• <i>Reports from rapporteurs and discussion</i></li> </ul>	Input presentations by Karin Zaunberger (DG ENV), Clarisse Siebert (SEPA) (20-25' in total)  <i>All</i>
17:30	<i>Close</i>	
19:00	<i>Official dinner (everybody pays) at <b>La Riviera</b>, Franklinstraat 10, 1000 Brussels</i>	

**Friday 16 May 2025**

Time	Event	Presenter
09:00 <b>Block 5</b> <i>Chair: Jan Plesnik</i>	<b>ENCA internal</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Activities ENCA Secretariat including ENCA finances</li> <li>AOB</li> </ul>	Ulrike Lamb (ENCA)  All
09:30 <b>Block 6</b> <i>Chair: Simone Wulf</i>	<b>Transformative Change for Nature (TCfN)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update and next steps</li> </ul> Webinar recap and follow-up	Nick Bialynicki-Birula (Natural Resources Wales)  All
10:15	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
10:45 <b>Block 7</b> <i>Chair: Pete Brotherton</i>	<b>Topic 3 – Indicators that support TCfN</b>  <u>Introduction</u> We have previously explored how some indicators resonate with the public, inspiring social relevance and behavioural change. Indicators linked to tangible, preferably legally binding, targets significantly increase the likelihood of action. Additionally, indicators that are widely recognized and shared across sectors strengthen interdisciplinary collaboration and commitment.  Our goal is to explore how indicators can help us go beyond tracking symptoms of ecological decline, toward shaping new paradigms, building cross-sectoral partnerships, and empowering behavioural and structural change.  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Short update by the European Commission</li> </ul> Framing questions for discussion: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Which types of indicators help enable new conversations with actors (including other government ministries) outside the nature policy domain - such as finance, energy, health, or agriculture - to align their strategies with transformative change for nature?</li> <li>2) What do other stakeholders or decision-makers typically expect from indicators (e.g. simplicity, attribution, cost-effectiveness)? How can we meet these expectations while also reframing the conversation to address systemic drivers of biodiversity loss?</li> </ol>	Rayka Hauser (Unit Natural Capital and Ecosystem Health, DG ENV, European Commission)

	<p>3) Which types of indicators are most effective at inspiring public awareness and behavioural change—e.g. those that link nature to daily life, equity, and well-being?</p> <p>4) How do we avoid the trap of “you manage what you measure,” where indicators end up driving narrow action rather than holistic systems thinking? What strategies help balance measurability with complexity, ensuring system-wide impact?</p> <p>5) How might EuropaBON's work on co-developed, policy-aligned biodiversity monitoring (i.e. EBOCC) help us build a shared indicator framework that supports TCfN across Europe?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EBOCC – state of play</li> </ul>	Vujadin Kovacevic (DG ENV)
<p>12:15</p> <p><b>Block 8</b></p> <p><i>Chair:</i></p> <p><i>Helmut Gaugitsch</i></p>	<p><b>Next ENCA Meetings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Autumn 2025: online, date tbd <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential topic: ?</li> </ul> </li> <li>Spring 2026: Czech Republic</li> </ul> <p><b>Any Other Business</b></p>	<p>Ulrike Lamb (ENCA)</p> <p>Jan Plesnik</p> <p>All participants</p>
12:45	<b>Summing up and close</b>	
13:00	<i>Lunch</i>	
14:00	Departure (to Sonian Forest or to the airport)	

## Site excursion to the Sonian Forest

(Maybe with Herman Van Rompuy, former President of the European Council, as special guest)

Time	ENCA Excursion	Details
14:00	<p>Depart from meeting venue.</p> <p>We will take the metro at Schuman station up to Hermann-Debroux (direct line) where David Kuborn (Sonian Forest Foundation) and Frederic Vaes (Brussels Environment) will wait for us and start the guided walk. No particular dress code as the walk will be in a rather 'civilised' part of the Sonian forest.</p>	<p>Meeting point: DG ENVI (BRE2) Anne Teller will come and pick you up.</p>
14:30	<p><b>Sonian Forest:</b> The walk will pass near the Rouge Cloître (old abbey) and go to the Sonian forest (ancient forest very close to Brussels, hence managed in a multifunctional way).</p>	<p>We will take the metro from Hermann-Debroux to Schuman station where people can take the train or bus to the airport.</p>
17:00	Return to Brussels Center	
17:30	Departure to airport	

For more information on the Sonian Forest Foundation  
<https://www.sonianforest.be/partners/sonian-forest-foundation> and [www.sonianforest.be](http://www.sonianforest.be)

### List of hotels

[Holiday Inn Brussels - Schuman](#)  
[Aloft Brussels Schuman](#)