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# Working with the European Environment Agency (EEA) topic centres & service contracts



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Bridging the science-policy-society interface is one of the key areas of Wageningen Environmental Research (WENR) expertise. We work continuously with local and national governments and at international level with policy makers and practitioners. We help them to make more accurate, timely and sustainable decisions. We do this through the application of expertise that ranges from leading edge remote sensing technology, modelling and use of big data, to knowledge-based moderation of stakeholder participation processes.

WENR is a partner in consortia that manage three of the EEA Topic Centres: 1) Climate, 2) Urban land use and soil, 3) Biodiversity, and leads an important Framework Service Contract for providing services in the area of natural capital and ecosystem assessment: 'Spatial analysis and mapping, informing ecosystem-based management'. In each case the knowledge and technical expertise of our research institute, provides critically important input to the delivery of a variety of tasks that support the EEA in their role to provide sound, independent information on the environment, and information for those involved in developing, adopting, implementing and evaluating environmental policy.

### ETC/CCA: European Topic Centre Climate Change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation

The ETC/CCA assists the EEA by providing expertise and data/information on the area of climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation and disaster risk prevention across Europe, in support of EU policy developments.

WENR tasks include:

- (Co)Authoring EEA-reports, including assessment of national adaptation policies in the EU Member States and sectoral assessments.
- Providing content to Climate-ADAPT, the European Climate adaptation information system being developed by WENR and hosted at EEA.
- Dissemination and networking with prominent partners in the field of climate change
- Enabling links with Copernicus activities e.g. Global Agriculture contract (2017-2019, WENR Lead)



### ETC/ULS: Urban land use and soil

ETC/ULS takes an integrated approach to environmental issues, including societal challenges that include those in urban areas – where most of the Europeans live. WENR contributes to the activities of the EEA through supporting and informing policy development and implementation by means of data (e.g. Copernicus land data), information, indicators and assessments. Activities are organised into three main groups:



- Relevant analysis and compilations of information, and direct and timely policy support to EEA member countries and the European Commission.
- Adaptation and improvement to EEA information systems to accommodate changes in reporting and user needs, and operation and maintenance of the integrated data platform for spatial and territorial thematic assessments.
- Development of sound, timely and policy-relevant indicators and assessments (including policy-effectiveness analysis) of urban areas and sustainable cities, land-use dependent economic sectors, and land- and soil-related resource efficiency.

### ETC/BD: Biodiversity

The ETC/BD supports the EEA in the development of policy, indicators and spatial information relating to biodiversity. WENR has a role in linking flora, fauna, vegetation and habitat information from both in situ and remote sensing information. It assists in carrying out assessments relating to the Natura 2000 protected area network, modelling species and ecosystems at European level, fragmentation and connectivity and species-environment relationships as well as High Nature Value farming and forestry. The main tasks of the topic centre are to:



- Assist the EEA in its task of reporting on Europe's environment by addressing state and trends of biodiversity in Europe.
- Provide the relevant information to support the implementation of environmental and sustainable development policies in Europe in particular for EU nature and biodiversity policies.
- Build capacity for reporting on biodiversity in Europe, mainly through the European Information and Observation Network (Eionet).

### Value creation

Our expertise also allows us to participate as a knowledge-based facilitator of EEA workshops and seminars. Our involvement in the Topic Centres on the basis of a number of ongoing processes/programmes, allows us to accumulate results and data and therefore knowledge and experience. This makes us a valuable contractor nationally and internationally for policy-related work and as a partner in project consortia. The presence of WENR within the ETCs provides a conduit for Dutch knowledge and practical experience into Europe, but is also a means for two-way communication and the collection of intelligence and information about the key biodiversity-related issues at any given moment. Through WENR-involvement in the Netherland's biodiversity agenda, we are able to input to national issues and problem solving and to contribute significantly to many of the critical issues of the moment.



For more information, please contact Wageningen Environmental Research

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