

Review plan of the nature reporting - update

Expert group on reporting under the nature directives

15 March 2016

Version 4

Introduction

At its **October 2014** meeting, the Expert Group on Reporting under the Nature Directives (EG) was informed about the general time plan for the review of the 2007-2012 reporting round and the preparation for the next reporting period 2013-2018. The **Review plan**¹ listing main actions, objectives and methods was presented to the group. The Review plan identified three underlying objectives for the review work:

- i. Improve, develop further & streamline formats & guidelines for the data and information to be reported,
- ii. Further harmonise reported data between Member States and between the two nature directives
- iii. Work towards closing data gaps.

The Review plan also outlined an overall timing of the review cycle. (see below):

Overall review TIMING (from the Review plan)

1. Delivery Art. 12: 31 **December 2019 (tbc)**
2. Delivery Art. 17: 30 **June 2019 (tbc)**
3. IT tools & CDR ready: **mid 2018**
4. IT developments: **2017-2018**
5. Final Guidelines ready: **end 2016**
6. Formats approved by the Committees: **April 2016**
7. Final draft formats and draft Guidelines (field-by-field section): **March 2016**
8. Addressing issues, drafting and discussing proposals: **2014-2016**

The Review plan further presented the working methods for the upcoming revision of the Reporting formats and Guidelines. In general the EEA and ETC/BD will develop proposals and carry out tasks needed to revise the Reporting formats and Guidelines. If needed, proposals can be developed in collaboration with the Commission's contractor. The proposals should be developed under the scientific and technical guidance of the EG. For more complex issues dedicated ad hoc groups composed of Member State experts, EEA, ETC/BD, Commission and if needed a contractor will be established.

The **Updated review plan** containing more detailed information on points outlined in the original Review plan document was presented to the EG at the **November 2015**² meeting. The document listed main actions related to the update of the Reporting formats and Guidelines and provided principal milestones of the review work.

This document revises and updates actions and milestones presented in the Updated review plan from November 2015.

¹ <https://circabc.europa.eu/d/a/workspace/SpacesStore/1e46e744-9e0c-4cac-a9c8-bc95e5ad37e7/Review%20of%20the%20Nature%20reporting%20-%20final.pdf>

² <https://circabc.europa.eu/sd/a/502aa0c9-4dc7-40c8-9e84-07f14fcb6a31/4.a%20Review%20plan-updated%20version3.pdf>

Reporting formats and Guidelines – actions and timing

The table below provides more detailed overview of actions and foreseen timing related to review of the Reporting formats and Guidelines:

1. Reporting formats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Annotated reporting formats highlighting sections and fields likely to be modified as a result of the current review: 16th March 2015 (for the March EG meeting)³ b. Draft revised formats : November 2015 (for the November EG meeting) c. Pre-final revised formats: end 2015-early 2016 (if needed, for written comments by the EG) d. Final draft formats presented to the EG: March 2016 e. Reporting formats approved by the Committees: April/November 2016
2. Explanatory notes and guidelines document(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. New structure of the guidelines presented to the EG: November 2015 b. Draft revised field-by-field section of the Guidelines: March 2016 (for approval of the formats) c. Final draft of revised Guidelines: autumn 2016 (for the autumn EG meeting) d. Final Guidelines: end 2016

Ad hoc groups – actions and timing

The Expert Group on Reporting agreed that two ad hoc groups will be formed to develop proposals for the revision of the Formats and Guidelines. The action points for these two ad hoc groups with the foreseen timing are outlined below:

3. Ad hoc group on Structures and functions, Future prospects and Species trends
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Draft terms of reference and call for interest: January 2015 b. 1st meeting dedicated to Structures and functions and Future prospects: 24th February 2015⁴ c. Note on outcomes of the 1st meeting presented to the EG: March 2015 d. 2nd meeting dedicated to Structures and functions and Future prospects: 22nd September 2015 e. Proposal to revise the relevant sections of the Reporting formats: November 2015 (reflected in Draft revised formats) f. Note on outcomes of the 2nd meeting presented to the EG: November 2015 g. Scoping note for review work related to Species trends and call for interest: November 2015 (for the November EG meeting)

³ In grey past events and actions

⁴ The meeting documents can be found at: <https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/5251f690-3e89-4f2b-ae52-95f2fa8b4d41>

- h. 3rd meeting dedicated to Structures and functions and Future prospects: **25 February 2016**
- i. Discussion paper dedicated to Species trends: **March 2016**
- j. Potentially 4th meeting dedicated to Structures and functions and Future prospects and meeting dedicated to Species trends: **early summer 2016**
- k. Proposal to update relevant sections of the Guidelines: **early summer 2016** (for Final draft revised Guidelines)

4. Ad hoc group on Favourable reference values

- a. Scope of the work presented to the EG: **March 2015**
- b. 1st meeting of the ad hoc group: **2nd June 2015**
- c. 2nd meeting of the ad hoc group: **21st October 2015**
- d. Terms of reference and outcomes of the 2nd meeting presented to the EG: **November 2015**
- e. 3rd meeting of the ad hoc group: **6 April 2016**
- f. 4th meeting of the ad hoc group (tbc): **third quarter 2016**
- g. Proposal to update relevant sections of the Guidelines: **third quarter 2016** (for Final draft revised Guidelines)

Proposals for guidance developed by the EEA, ETC/BD (and/or if relevant by a contractor) – actions and timing

The Review plan indicated that in general the proposals to revise the Formats and Guidelines will be prepared by the EEA and ETC/BD. More conceptual issues will be addressed in dedicated discussion documents and presented to the Expert Group on Reporting either during its regular meeting or for written comments. More technical issues will be addressed directly during the review of the Formants and the Guidelines.

The table below provides an overview of more conceptual issues which will be addressed in the discussion documents prepared by the EEA and ETC/BD together with the list of actions and the foreseen timing:

5. Population units - Article 17

- a. 1st discussion document: **March 2015** (for the March EG on Reporting)
- b. Proposal to revise relevant sections of the Reporting formats **November 2015** (reflected in Draft revised formats)
- c. Updated discussion document: **November 2015** (for the November EG meeting)
- d. Updated discussion document: **March 2016** (for the March EG meeting)
- e. Potentially other actions e.g. draft revised chapter of the Guidelines for written comments by the EG **early summer 2016**
- f. Proposal to update relevant sections of the Guidelines: **early summer 2016** (for Final draft revised Guidelines)

6. Habitat for species - Article 17

- a. Note on principles for review of guidance: **March 2015** (for March EG on Reporting)
- b. Scoping note on future work on habitat specialists/generalists: **November 2015** (for the November EG meeting)
- c. 1st discussion document: **November 2015** (for the November EG meeting)
- d. Updated discussion document: **March 2016** (for the spring EG meeting)
- e. Potentially other actions e.g. draft revised chapter of the Guidelines for written comments by the EG **early summer 2016**
- f. Proposal to update relevant sections of the Guidelines: **early summer 2016** (for Final draft revised Guidelines)

7. Pressures and threats

- a. Proposal to update the relevant sections of the Reporting formats: **November 2015** (reflected in Draft revised formats)
- b. 1st discussion document **November 2015** (for the November EG meeting)
- c. Updated discussion document and updated pressure list: **March 2016** (for the spring EG meeting and for written comments by the EG)
- d. Potentially other actions **early summer 2016**
- e. Proposal to update relevant sections of the Guidelines: **early summer 2016** (for Final draft revised Guidelines)

8. Natura 2000 and conservation measures

- f. Proposal to update the relevant sections of the Reporting formats: **November 2015** (reflected in Draft revised formats)
- g. First discussion document **March 2016** (for the spring EG meeting)
- a. Proposal to update relevant sections of the Guidelines: **early summer 2016** (for Final draft revised Guidelines)

9. Article 12 and Article 17 checklists

- a. Note on principles for review of the checklists **November 2015** (for the November EG meeting and written comments)
- b. Draft updated checklists: **March 2016** (to be commented by MS after the spring meeting of the EG)
- c. 2nd draft updated checklists with recommended population units: **spring-early summer 2016**
- d. Final reporting checklists: **no date fixed yet**

10. Technical specifications for spatial data - INSPIRE

- a. Note on scope of review of technical specifications (including a proposal to set up a virtual working group): **March 2015** (for March EG meeting)
- b. Discussion on INSPIRE process **November 2015** (for the November EG meeting)
- c. Potentially other actions
- d. Proposal to update relevant sections of the Guidelines: **early summer 2016** (for Final draft revised Guidelines)

A series of issues will be addressed directly during the review of the Reporting formats and Guidelines. A non-comprehensive overview is provided below.

11. Issues which will be addressed during the review of formats and guidelines

- a. Progress in work related with SAPS (Article 12)
- b. Sensitive species
- c. Marginal, occasional and extinct species
- d. MS with geographical exceptions (Article 17)
- e. Range
- f. Area of habitat (Article 17)
- g. Population size
- h. Methods used and data quality
- i. Long term trends (Article 17)
- j. Issues related to general report(s)
- k. Trend in overall conservation status (qualifier)
- l. Impact (ranking) of pressures and threats