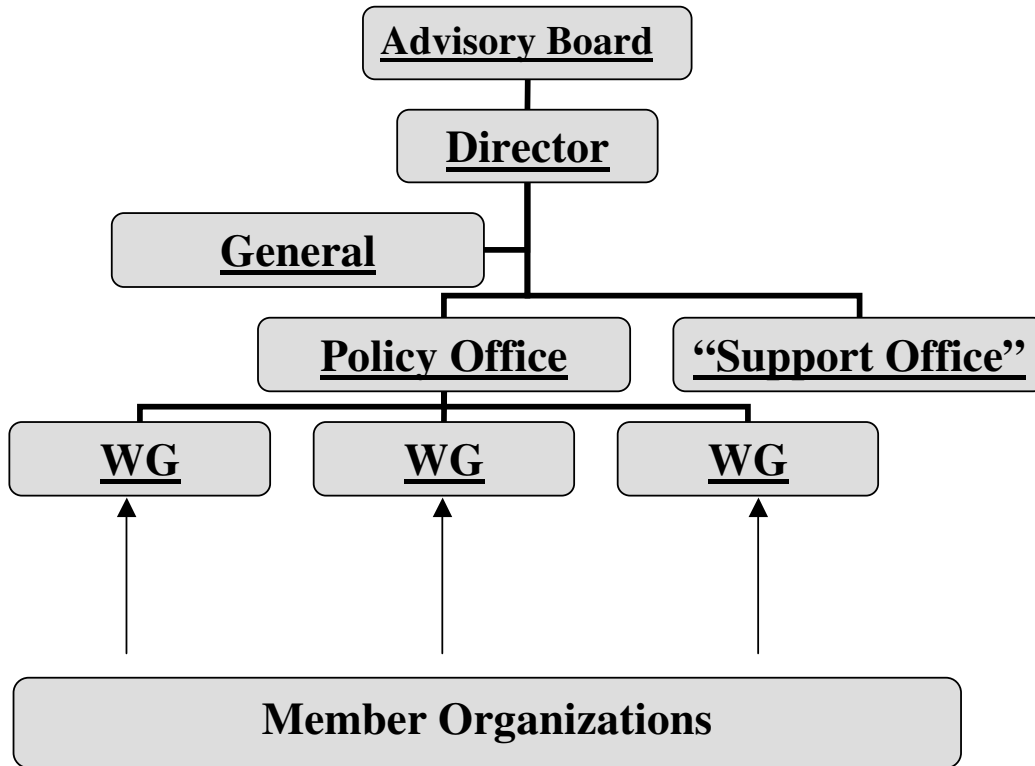


Overview of the proposed structure by András Krolopp



Presentation by Michael Meyer, Ecological Tourism in Europe

Present activities of E.T.E., specific problems of CEE countries, future possibilities of cooperation, work program of the proposed Sustainable Tourism Working Group

Issue raised: what kind of NGOs should be involved: ecotourism or nature conservation NGOs?

Problems of existing certification and ecolabelling systems

Jaromir Sibl proposed two other working groups: CITES and Natura 2000/EMERALD network/Bern Convention/PEBDLS

11:00 **Proposed Working Groups**

Sustainable Tourism
CITES – Illegal trade
Natura 2000/EMERALD network/Bern Convention/PEBDLS
Agriculture – Biodiversity
GEF
River and Wetland Restoration
Nature conservation in military areas
Forestry

Expectations from CEEWEB in the process:

Conduct a survey on existing expertise
Define concrete goals within a set timeframe

Discussion on the proposed working groups

1. Sustainable Tourism:

Start from biodiversity-nature conservation side:

- identify hot spots
 - threats
 - opportunities
- share information
- sustainable tourism as a source of income for local people

Distribute the concept of sustainable tourism

Model projects

2. CITES – Illegal trade

Raising of public awareness
Enforcement for custom officers
Cooperation with Italy
Share experiences
Create a Working Group for officials in the region
Cooperation with TRAFFIC, WWF

3. Natura 2000/EMERALD network/Bern Convention/PEBDLS

Information exchange on established sites
Involve management
Explore possible funds
Explore the possibilities of the existing conventions
Communicate to stakeholders best and worst practices
Natura 2000 barometer as a way of putting pressure
Shadow lists
Expert group for the biogeographical seminars
Evaluation manual
Work with local people
Comparing existing and proposed protected areas

4. Agriculture – biodiversity

Evaluate agro-biodiversity programs
Monitoring system

Being present from the very beginning
Explore existing activities

5. *GEF*

Assess ongoing projects
Provide training for NGOs
Regional input
Shape GEF policy to include CEE interests
Monitoring projects
Middle-sized projects
Cooperation between NGOs and governmental focal point
Influence the flow of the "big money"

6. *River and wetland restoration*

Communicate the methodology
Convince policy-makers
Cooperation with Danube Environmental Forum

7. *Nature conservation in military areas*

Achieve the same level of protection
Military activity's effect on conservation
NATO consultation
Reuse of military areas
Involve military capacity in nature conservation
Assess the status in different countries

8. *Forestry*

CBD Work Program
Share national legislation
Implementation of laws
Link to Natura 2000/PEBLDS

Discussion of possible structure

What should be the roles and responsibilities of the Advisory Board?

- It should include the heads of the Working Groups and outside experts.
- Should it be the Board of Members or only a Scientific Board with no voting power?
- Possible tasks: promote, lobby and raise funds.

3 options:

- Two boards: one consisting of members, one consisting of outside experts; meeting separately
- One board: members and outside experts meeting together, but outside experts have less influence, the decisions are made by the Internal Board of the Members
- One board with members and outside experts, all with equal rights

Decision to be made in June.

Approval of applications for membership by vote of acceptance:

- Centre for Responsible and Sustainable Tourism (Serbia)
- Carpathian Heritage Society (Poland)
- The Focal Centre for Biodiversity Monitoring and Conservation (Romania)
- UNESCO Pronatura Ecological Club (Romania)
- BROZ - Regional Association for Nature Conservation and Sustainable Development (Slovakia)
- Ecosilva Retezat (Romania)
- Ecological Society 'Gradac' (Serbia)
- Development Center ECOWORK (Serbia)
- Amber Trail (Slovakia)
- Zelenyi Svit – Friends of the Earth Ukraine
- UNEP National Committee (Bulgaria)
- Youth Environmental League of Prydniprovyia (Ukraine)

15:00 Closing of the General Assembly

Registered participants:

Andreev, Alexei	Biodiversity Issue Group of the European ECO-Forum/ BIOTICA Ecological Society
Bojkovski, Boban	Ecological Movement of Macedonia
Bokodi, Eszter	CEEWEB
Dimitrova, Milena	DEF National Focal Point for Bulgaria Centre for Environmental Information & Education
Hajdu, Klára	CEEWEB
Iványi, Anna	CEEWEB
Jelisavac, Sanja	International Scientific Forum "Danube - River of Cooperation
Kavrakova, Vessalina	WWF Danube – Carpathian Programme, Bulgarian Country Office
Kelemen, Márton	Association “Milvus Group”
Kornilova, Natalia	NGO "Ecology and Peace"
Krolopp, András	CEEWEB
Lengyel, Péter	UNESCO Pro Natura
Lytvynenko, Alla	Friends of the Earth Ukraine
Meyer, Michael	Ecological Tourism in Europe
Munic, Jagoda	Green Action
Nikolov, Hristo	Green Balkans
Papp, Tamás	Association “Milvus Group”
Racinska, Inga	Green Action
Sibl, Jaromir	BROZ
Spasov, Tzvetan	UNEP National Committee- Bulgaria
Vaiciunaite, Ruta	Lithuanian Fund for Nature
Vlasin, Mojmir	CSOP Veronioca

Participating as observer

Tesliar, Jaroslav	UNDP
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