

CEEWEB CITES Working Group Meeting
(Serbia, Banja Vrujci, 15 November 2005)

Update on the membership of the WG

Actual members:

- Birds of Prey Protection Society (Bulgaria) – represented on the meeting by Tamara Lazarova
- BROZ (Slovakia) – represented on the meeting by Katarina Mladenkova
- Green Balkans (Bulgaria) – not represented
- Green Action (Croatia) – represented on the meeting – Petra Djuric
- Milvus Group – Association for Bird and Nature Protection (Romania) – represented on the meeting by Marton A. Kelemen
- Nimfea (Hungary) – not represented
- ORCA – Organization for Respect and Care for Animals (Serbia and Montenegro) – represented on the meeting by Martin Raspor
- Salamandra (Poland) - represented on the meeting by Andrzej Kepel
- Unesco Pro Natura (Romania) – not represented
- Young Researchers of Serbia (Serbia and Montenegro) - represented on the meeting by Jelena Beronja and Ivana Lepoev

Election of the new chair:

- Proposed new chair (by YRS): Marton Kelemen – Milvus Group
- No other proposal.
- Nobody is against.
- New chair unanimously elected.
- Next elections at CEEWEB AM in 2007

External relations of the working group

IFAW – the WG considers the IFAW as its most important strategic partner, close cooperation in the future is desired.

SSN – decision was taken not to join the SSN as the WG itself has no legal identity, and the CEEWEB can't join as many member organizations are not dealing with trade issues. On the other hand, the WG is ready to sign an agreement of cooperation with the SSN and in the same time advice its members to join the SSN to strengthen its lobby power.

“Bird Ban Coalition” – an informal coalition to fight for the total import ban, of wild birds to the EU. Its main members are: IFAW, SSN, World Parrot Trust, Born Free Foundation, RSPCA, etc. The coalition has no legal background, joining is free. Decision was taken to join the coalition. The WG members will carry out basic lobby work for the coalition (translating lobby short documents and forwarding them to the relevant decision makers) however more serious involvement of the WG members will require external funding as nor the members nor the WG has the necessary resources for further involvement.

Traffic – the WG will have the necessary minimal communication with the Traffic CEE offices but no cooperation is foreseen.

CEEWEB Work Programme 2006

No major modifications were necessary with regards the foreseen activities of the WG. Under paragraph *1.c CITES and EU Wildlife Trade Regulations* the last foreseen activity was modified. To the end of the original sentence: “Regular consultations with International Fund for Animal Welfare” will added the “and other NGO stakeholders with regards to Wildlife Trade”.

Working Group Meetings

- WG members agreed that during the implementation of the CeeTES project regular WG meetings are essential for achieving the best possible results. The next WG meeting will be held in Croatia in the end of January/first week of February.
- Further WG meetings should be organized as side events of other meetings. Such already identified possibilities are the SSN mini summit in Budapest/Hungary next spring and the potential study trip for the WG members in Denmark, proposed by IFAW.
- The closing meeting of the project in September 2006 will be probably organized by Andrzej/Salamandra in Poland.
- The WG members agreed that the achievement of the common level of understanding with regards the wildlife trade issues inside the working group is an urgent, high priority objective. The foreseen study trip to Denmark can improve the situation significantly. If for some reason the idea of the study trip will fail, the WG should ensure training activities (if possible still with the involvement of Birgith Sloth) for its members.

CEEWEB Diversity, Science and Academy

The WG agreed that the 2006 December number (instead of the already planed June 2006 number) of the *Diversity* magazine should be dedicated to wildlife trade issues. In this number the partial results of the CeeTES project can be already presented.

The WG decided that the will have no input in the near future to the *Ceeweb Science* publication.

The working group would like to organize specific *Ceeweb Academy* mini sessions, if possible back to back with WG meetings. The events should contribute to the capacity building of the WG members regarding specific problems of CITES implementation (ex. Identification of core animal groups, etc.).

IFAW funding

The WG was informed that the IFAW has 10.000 Euro for financing the working group activities. The decision was to use this amount for covering the gaps in the implementation of the CeeTES project. The money should be allocated to the following purposes:

- 3.500 Euro should be used as technical assistance for each country implementing the project (during the implementation of the project it turned out that phones with cameras and voice recorders are very important for the successful data collection).
- 6.500 Euro for the publication of project reports (fact sheet, report, e-version for web and CD)

Core funding

If the EU core funding for the Ceeweb will be granted, the WG will have its own share. We organized a general brainstorming on what activities we should undertake in the mid term future and than prioritized a few to be financed trough the potential core funding.

The following potential activities were identified (considering that the already planed activities for 2006 will be all implemented):

- Financing rescue centers – agreed that rescue centers should be financed only from dedicated funds (fund explicitly raised for this purpose), as they are a concern only for a few member organizations.
- Coordination work for the WG – no WG coordinator at Ceeweb office, momentarily coordination is done by the chair for free. For effective coordination a small coordination fee should be secured.
- Editing and publishing a *Basic handbook & manual for custom officers* with country specific chapters and on national languages.
- Regional leaflet mini-campaign on border crossing points and airports
- Airport campaign – with specific installations on the main CEE airports
- Shop labeling – development of a pet-shop labeling system for the shops which are complying with all relevant wildlife trade regulations

CeeTES project update and fine tuning of the methodologies

During the first monitoring period quite a few problems or gaps were identified in the methodologies. The decision was taken that we will not deal with the *methodology for the baseline documentation*, as its developer (Green Balkans) was not represented on the WG meeting. The proposed modifications will be discussed on the next WG meeting in Croatia in the presence of the Green Balkans representatives.

Both the *e-Trade monitoring* and the *retail commerce monitoring* methodology was discussed in details, its developers will present the updated versions of the methodologies till the end of November 2005.