

Minutes of the Natura 2000 WG meeting

CEEWEB Annual Meeting, 28th Sept 2006, Budapest

Events in 2006

Continental Biogeographical Seminar

WG N2000 Budapest

Bulgaria, Kiten (N2000 management, protected areas)

Upcoming issues 2006

EEB Meeting, EHF Meeting

NDP: Assessment methodology

Interested NGOs: BROZ Slovakia, Naturalists C.P. Poland, CEEWEB Hungary

Participants are needed from more countries! Contact directly NGOs or persons for further country involvement.

Overlapping of evaluation in Hungary (WWF not from point of view of biodiversity, but environment+sustainable development)

Assessment should include NSRF, OPs, ROPs, Rural Development Plans.

Actions:

Contact EC until end of October.

Questions should be simplified and specified for Natura 2000. (focus on specific threats, case studies?) scores, written comments for topics and biggest threats.

Further joining countries:

Estonia, Romania?, Latvia?, Slovenia?, Lithuania?, Czech Republic?

EEB helps to find interested NGO from Slovenia to participate.

Action:

Questionnaire with scoring and written comments. Collection of biggest threats NDPs present for Natura. CEEWEB recommends to include as many OPs as possible and Rural Development Plans and other programming documents.

Deadline: 22nd October

CEEWEB produces joint statement from the national assessments to be sent to EC.

Deadline: 30th October

Monitoring

No EU wide standard methodology, terms for reporting format should be defined clearly.

If biogeographical seminars, then CEEWEB aims for EHF mandate for EU-12.

General common guideline as minimum, more detailed for certain groups.

NGO shadow monitoring. (assessment of government monitoring)

Cooperation with other organizations.

Meeting.

First report 2007 September.

What's monitoring? EU means not only field examinations

Actions:

- Raise the option of biogeographical seminars.(lobby)
- Observe the national methodology.
- Participate in expert discussion at national level.

- Analyse the national report, prepare shadow report.

Paweł Pawlacik checks Visegrad Fund for funding.

Hungary: Transition Facility budget, Office for Nature Conservation, methodology for monitoring and improving N2000 management plans. NGOs, experts can participate.

Publication- generally about the national N2000 for the general public (figures, network, species, also compare between countries for politic pressure).

Communication: important to give positive message as well! (E.g. in monitoring) only negative can backfire HD review.

Offer data-base For GIS data, know-how transfer from CEEWEB office?

LIFE+

Programing approach through MS

Now: second reading in EP, vote in October

NGO lobby for 55% ringfencing(???) >nature

EP Env. Committee against delegating management

Council delegating MS prepare programmes

Possible action (depending on future EU decisions on LIFE) : assessment of national LIFE+ programming

Habitat Directive Review

Comes in 2010.

Because of possible „N2000 opponents” NGOs want to keep low profile on HD Review, but prepare good arguments meanwhile.

Arguments pro Natura and conservation:

e.g.: to keep landscape nice, EU pays for it, live more healthy, tourism is benefited, competing with other countries, drinking water will be affordable (for free on the countryside), quality of life, comply with EU law + avoid fines, berries, feeling special, access to the sea and riverside.

Possible activities communicating the benefits:

publications, trips for local people, campaign, interviews with locals, TV (newsworthy info, national poicy – advertisement, working camps for preservation of landscape, famous persons, make a film, computer game

Military areas

Estonia: good cooperation with Ministry of Defence

Romania: only few areas exist with good conservation status used by army

Slovakia: BROZ collects information from other CEEWEB members + common actions (some financing already available).

Practical cooperation is needed (military/NATO) for helping conservation.

Higher level input (e.g. coming from Defnet) is needed.

Actions:

BROZ sends questionnaire around(Lathvia, Estonia, CEEWEB Hungary, Milvus Romania)

Joint, co-financed BROZ-CEEWEB publication.

Marine N2000

Latvia, Estonia LIFE projects to prepare designation and management

Poland: sites full list will be sent to EC soon . management? Responsibilities?

Estonia: Interreg project

Liability Directive

Should be transposed into national laws until the 30st April 2007. In many countries, e.g. Hungary and Poland, transposition is likely to be delayed.

WG members should keep following the process of transposition in their countries.

Budget

Still available for 2006 :10000 Euro

2006	
NDP assessment	500/assessment (all 5000 max.)
EEB, EHF meetings	1000
Save for 2007	4000

2007	
Military areas co-financing	4000
Monitoring activities	4000 (saved) +4000 (Visegrad Fund)
Monitoring, LIFE+, LD assessments	10 000
WG Meetings, EEB, EHF meetings	2000
Altogether	20 000