

Minutes of the Natura 2000 Working Group Meeting

11th January, 2003
CEEWEB Policy Office
11/A Kuruclesi, Budapest
H-1022

List of participants:

Andriy, Mihaly - Ruthenia, Ukraine
Kepel, Andrzej - The Polish Society for nature Protection "Salamandra", Poland
Munic, Jagoda - Green Action, Croatia
Pacenovski, Samuel - SOSNA, Slovakia
Papp, Tamás - Association for Bird and Nature Protection "Milvus Group", Romania
Papp, Dorottya - CEEWEB Policy Office, Hungary
Racinska, Inga - Latvian Fund for Nature, Latvia
Sibl, Jaromir - BROZ, Slovakia
Tomcsanyi, Zsófia - CEEWEB Policy Office, Hungary
Tukaciauskas, Tomas - Lithuanian Fund for Nature, Lithuania
Vlasin, Mojmir - Czech Union for nature Conservation Ecological Institute "Veronica", Czech Republic

Chair of the WG: Jaromir Sibl, BROZ

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Suggested end of conversation is about 4.

Minute-taker: Zsófia Tomcsanyi in the morning and Dorottya Papp in the afternoon.

1. Comments on minutes of last WG meetings

A copy of the minutes of last WG meeting was sent around and everybody was asked to comment it.

Time limit for writing the minutes and sending to CEEWEB Policy Office is 2 weeks and method of distribution is directly from the CEEWEB Policy Office as it was agreed by the members.

2. Progress report and activities

JS expressed that there is not much progress since last WG meeting held in Krakow, Poland. He added that some documents have been prepared like the informal Work Program of the Working Group.

It was agreed that the publication, which was planned to be published by 1 May can be published at a later deadline. WG decided to prepare it anyway.

DP reported to the WG about CEEWEB planned activities for 2004.

CEEWEB is going to host the next **EEB** (European Environmental Bureau)

Biodiversity and Agriculture Working Group meeting in Budapest in April 2004 and it should be decided how to present the Natura 2000 WG there.

Then she gave a short presentation of **Biogeographic seminars** in general, and about the state of the play. Next task for NGOs of the region is preparing a list of experts who could represent the countries on the Biogeog. seminars. There is an intention from the Commission that the Pannonian biogeographic region would be the first for accession countries and maybe started just after finishing the process for the present member states until 2004.

She added that CEEWEB is 10 years old this year. This year's annual meeting is planned to be longer than usually: it will be located in Gömörzölös, with field trips etc.

Also, a policy level leaflet should be prepared this year. Suggestions: corporate design for all CEEWEB WGs. (accepted). And WG members should agree about a Work Plan, which describes the goals, the objectives and tasks of the working group. It can be used for fundraising and for preparing that planned leaflet.

3. Tour the table – international activities

MV:

- Veronica's international activity: preparing shadow lists for all 8 accession countries (not including Cyprus and Malta, because these countries are "out of the region") for 20 important species and 20 important habitats coordinated by WWF. (It cannot substitute the national shadow lists.) Veronica is responsible for processing the information, producing report and for the Czech list. Deadline for it is the day of accession. Short discussion about the methodology of creating shadow lists. (MV's (=Czech) method: random use of experts knowledge)

EU countries prepared a common shadow list for 14 countries, they presented it for Brussels, for journalists for politicians. Shadow lists of accession countries should be prepared and presented (!) similarly.

DP:

- Train the trainers program. Aim: capacity building for the 2nd round accession countries (officially only 2 countries). 3 day long program in Cluj, Romania: training future NGO trainers. MV and AKrolopp and DP are trainers.

- February, Vienna: WWF Natura 2000 WG meeting. A good opportunity to meet Sandra Jen from WWF and learn about her experience with biogeographic seminars.

- There is a Biogeographic seminar publication, planned to be published by CEEWEB until end of February this year, it aims to present potential participants, procedure, possibilities of NGO participation (basic orientation). It is planned to be sent to NGOs of the region.

(- Distribution and presentation of the Natura 2000 calendar) - let's do it again next year (maybe more balanced, in sense of having both habitats and species) (AKE's remark).

4. Working Program

AKE said that the content is OK, program should be more elaborated.

Comments on Goal of the WG: (Inga taking notes at board; language correction can be done later.)

Goals should be short, one sentence which everybody can understand. There was a short discussion whether mission should be used instead of goal.

WG made corrections of the structure and content. New version of the Work Program to be distributed. Deadline for that: 2 weeks, deadline for comments is in 2 more weeks time.

*Below you can find the Work Program of CEEWEB N2000 WG as it was accepted on the meeting:

Mission/Goal: To help Natura 2000 network to be established and function properly in CEE countries; to work towards minimizing threats to biodiversity in the CEE region caused by human activities.

Overall Objective: To support Gothenburg target “Halt biodiversity loss by 2010”

Objective 1 - Establishment: (originally objective 3) Helping and supporting the establishment of Natura 2000 network

Task 1: Support preparations of shadow lists in accession countries.

Task 2: Identifying a list of experts for the biogeographic seminars in CEE region and support NGO participation in the seminars

Task 3: deleted

Task 4: moved to obj.3 as task 1

Task 5 moved to obj 2 as task 1

Task 6 moved to obj 2 as task 2

Obj.2 - Raising Awareness: Ensure that all stakeholders understand and are aware of Natura 2000 network.

Task 1: Training activity related to capacity building on N2000 with special focus on protection and management of N2000 sites.

Task 2: Disseminate information on N2000 to NGOs and other stakeholders in the region via website, electronic and printed publications

Task 3: Creating and maintaining library on N2000 issues in CEEWEB Secretariat.

Obj. 3 - Watchdog: Monitoring and supporting the functioning of N2000 network

Task 1: Evaluation of effectiveness of management of N2000 sites (originally task 4 of orig. obj.3=now obj.1)

Task 2: Identifying and monitoring the threats of human activities affecting N2000 sites, making “Black lists” of sites under serious pressure by development projects

Task 3: Identifying and promoting good practices of establishment and management of N2000 network

Task 4: Identifying bad practices (lessons learnt), provide solutions (if possible) for avoiding further mismanagement

Task 5: Analyze national and EU legislation regarding N2000 and propose improvements

Obl.4. – Lobbying: Influencing policy makers at national, EU and international level for giving higher priority to biodiversity conservation.

Task 1: Participation in organizing Strategic Environmental Assessment for National Development Plans and in elaborating new National Development Plans

Task 2: Participation in international biodiversity platforms and events

Task 3: Cooperation with international NGOs working on biodiversity and conservation issues

Task 4: Lobbying for better involvement of NGOs in N2000 establishment and management process

5. Strategy and activities for 2004

Who, what, when

AKrolopp joined the meeting.

AKro informed WG members about EEB Biodiversity WG meeting at Budapest. It is planned to have a joint Agriculture and Biodiv. WG will be on 24-25 April. It can give the opportunity that the issues discussed, also the discussion and conclusions can be accepted by EEB Board.

The topic of that meeting will be the Goeteborg target "Halt Biodiversity loss by 2010". For a more in depth discussion input from ministries about what has been done is needed.

Halting biodiversity loss has in common with agriculture activities like in the case of a bird (*Crex crex*). And it is also problematic what level do they want to halt biodiversity loss.

AKro added that this event is a good opportunity to decide on what level the WG members intend to participate - individually or as a WG. On this meeting the WG can come up with a common WG position, introduce their activities, make a presentation or we can develop the agenda and lead the meeting.

Present members agreed that they would like to participate as WG – everybody; as a working group – and it is also possible to come up with a common position on halting biodiversity loss.

They also agreed that they would like to put issues onto their agenda.

It should be decided whether the WG can have a pre-meeting before or after the EEB meeting.

It was agreed that JS would give a presentation on Natura 2000 WG and also about the Road to Natura 2000 publication, biogeographic seminars and the preparation of expert list. And get input from EEB members.

AKr added that maybe it can be endorsed by EEB.

AKr said that next CEEWEB Annual meeting will be in September, in Hungary, in countryside for two days and one more day field trip. After it a high level conference will be organized in Budapest – 2010 target will be a topic there and it will be an additional 2 day long event. It can be a Strategy meeting for networks dealing with environmental issues (Birdlife, Eurosite, WWF are too dominant) and the goal of it can be to come up with CEE region based NGO common position.

These events will be in the second half of September 2004.

Suggestions to EEB

JM said that Birds and Agriculture can be important topic (e.g. Cormorans eating crops)

TP added that fisheries are maybe a good topic.

MV added that ecological forestry problems should be solved – JS agreed and said that forestry issue is very important in CEE region.

MV told about common forestry policy – and he explained an example of Finnish government.

JM said that a good topic for discussion can be: how does agriculture influence N2000 sites – if EEB has experts.

Items for discussion if they have expertise:

1. N2000 sites and buffer zones - diminishing impact of agriculture
2. increasing& protecting biodiversity in Agriculture (semi-natural) habitats

3. precautionary principle for pesticides

CEEWEB Natura 2000 WG can present there:

Forest certification, common forestry policy of EU, sustainable forestry (MV)

Topics on which N2000 WG would like to be informed:

1. CAP reform

14:00

Discussion about questionnaire prepared in order to provide information about preparation process of N2000 in accession countries for publication "Road to Natura 2000".

Fundraising is necessary, info about fundraising opportunities should be sent around to WG members. The members estimated the amount needed for the publication as an 8*1000=8000 plus 2000 to Secretariat plus printing. 1000 copy and 200 pages long text is needed.

JS will make the changes on the questionnaire before the end of January.

Procedure of making the publication was agreed as the following:

Repeat the procedure with Kiev publication of CEEWEB.

Money: to make contract with all the persons delivering the national reports.

It should be solved how to present those countries which are not presented in the WG.

At the moment there is no fund available for this publication therefore the members agreed that they start fundraising and they finalize the questionnaire.

They agreed that CEEWEB Office has to look for funds for the publication.

By the end of January JS is going to write a first draft of project proposals for this publication.

IR added that there is a strong need to start fundraising for the WG.

By the end of February JS will write a project proposal about funds to find for WG functioning.

Making list of experts for the biogeographic seminars:

Members have to collect names and CVs; MV will send the form of it by the end of next week (23th January).

Before next WG meeting (in April 2004) this draft list of experts will be made.

JS: asked the members about creating a military area working group – IR and AKep expressed their interest on this topic. Under the name of Biodiversity for military areas – JS will write a project proposal after he finished the other two.

DP suggested to create an activity calendar about WG member countries: and members were asked to send in continuously the events to the Secretariat by e-mail.

The question related to AM participation should be discussed on next WG meeting in April.

Making a calendar for 2005

JS suggested that this calendar should be created with a changed focus; how accession countries enrich EU: to look for those Annex species and habitats, which are *important with large population and coverage in EU*.

Members decided to include candidate countries into the calendar as well, like Romania, Bulgaria and Croatia. The calendar can show habitats and species, too. Free photographs can be only included and members agreed that 10 copies should be given to the author of the pictures.

The calendar will be published in 1000 copies and the Secretariat has to find the cheapest means of printing it. TP added that he can ask the price of printing in Romania.

Members were asked to bring photographs by April for next WG meeting.

1 habitat plus one or two species from the habitat can be shown with very short description.

Important nature protection dates:

Green week – members have to give a presentation about the WG activities.

Logo should somehow include CEE region.

There was no agreement about the presented versions of logo. It was agreed that TP will ask their specialist to make some samples. New version of logos should be sent to Secretariat until end of January.

AOB:

| JS: membership development: Estonia, Romania, Bulgaria, Slovenia.

Recruit new members from countries till not represented DP task.