

## **Second meeting of Natura 2000 Working Group**

After establishing Natura 2000 Working Group in Krakow, Poland last November, on 11 January 2004 a second meeting was organized in Budapest.

After discussing some administrative issues the working group prepared the policy level work program, deciding the goal, the objectives and the tasks of the working group. The members would like to publish a leaflet about the working group and they would like to include the most important parts of this work program. Upon the decision of the WG Members they decided to make a publication about the Natura 2000 establishment and implementation process in the accession countries by sending out questionnaires to each country to NGO level and based on the information given, CEEWEB Secretariat will edit the publication as a whole. However, there is no fund available for this publication therefore the WG decided to start fundraising for the publication. Also the form of questionnaire was finalized on the meeting in order to make possible to start sending out the questionnaires as soon as funds are available.

In the end of April 2004 the Biodiversity Working Group and the Agriculture Working Group of European Environmental Bureau will be in Budapest and CEEWEB Natura 2000 Working Group came up with some ideas of joint work. Also the working group would like to present their plans there.

Also there were plans to create an activity calendar on the homepage of CEEWEB, which would show the Natura 2000 related events throughout the region. To realize it CEEWEB needs information about national level conservation events so please send any relevant information to CEEWEB Secretariat.

Another priority of CEEWEB Natura 2000 WG is to start preparing for the biogeographic seminars, which should be finished in 3 years time after the accession. On these seminars the Commission accepts the proposed Sites of Community Interests (list of pSCIs), which should be delivered by each accession country by the date of their accession. The biogeographic seminars are expert level meetings between the Commission, the national governments of the countries in the biogeographic region, European Habitats Forum and the representatives of land-users. There is NGO participation on the seminars throughout the European Habitats Forum, which means that EHF member NGO networks can send experts to the seminars to make sure that each site will be designated as Sites of Community Importance (SCIs).

The Commission has an intention that they may start the whole process for accession countries with the Pannonian biogeographic seminar. This biogeographic region covers 3 accession countries: Hungary, Slovakia and Czech Republic (also a tiny part of Austria is covered but Austria does not intend to participate on the seminar).

Therefore the working group would like to start preparing a list of experts for the Pannonian region, by getting information about people with a broader knowledge about the fauna and flora of the region.

Trying to find fundraising opportunities for the working group was also an important part of the conversation and there are more project proposals under development.

The next meeting of the working group is going to be at the end of April before EEB meeting mentioned above.

There are no representatives from Slovenia, Estonia and Bulgaria so to make the work more effective the members welcome new members from these countries.

## List of Activities for 2004

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Responsible person</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
<b>Taking part and representing the working group on next EEB joint Biodiversity and Agriculture meeting</b>	Jaromir Sibl; WG members	22-25 April
<b>Making a publication under the title Road to Natura 2000</b>	WG members and Secretariat	postponed until funds are available
<i>- finalizing the questionnaire</i>	<i>Jaromir Sibl</i>	<i>end of January</i>
<i>- write a project proposal for the publication</i>	<i>Jaromir Sibl</i>	<i>end of February</i>
<i>- look for funding opportunities</i>	<i>WG members with the support of CEEWEB Secretariat</i>	<i>By the end of February</i>
<b>Fundraising for the WG</b>	WG members, Secretariat	ongoing
<i>- writing a project proposal</i>	<i>Jaromir Sibl</i>	<i>End of February</i>
<b>Making list of experts for the biogeographic seminars</b> , getting in contact with experts; collect names and CVs	WG members	Until the end of April
Writing a project proposal on Conservation of military areas	Jaromir Sibl	by the end of March
<b>Create an activity calendar</b> on CEEWEB homepage showing conservation events throughout CEE region	WG members, Secretariat	ongoing
<b>Making a Natura 2000 calendar for 2005</b> , including species and habitats, which are important and have large population and coverage in EU	WG Members, Secretariat	ongoing
<b>Membership development</b> (Estonia, Slovenia)	Secretariat	ongoing