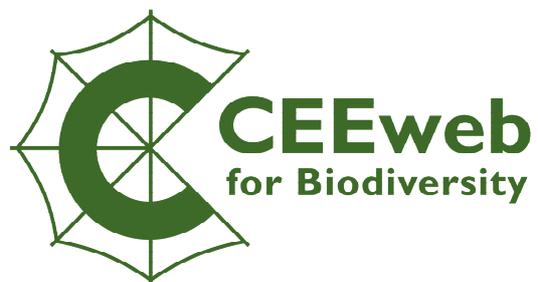


# Electronic Newsletter of CEEweb

Autumn Issue - 2012



## **IN THIS ISSUE**

### **EDITORIAL**

#### **EU POLICY ISSUES**

- Debating Nature - Workshops on Natura 2000 Management and Agri-Environmental Schemes in Poland
- Financing Nature in Central and Eastern Europe - Publication on Conservation - Activity Financing from Five CEE Countries
- CEEweb Academy on Synergies between Biodiversity, Water and Land use Policies
- CEE NGO meeting for enhancing sustainable tourism in the region
- Celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the Habitats Directive

#### **INTERNATIONAL ISSUES**

- Green-Go Short Film Festival

**Dear Reader,**

2012 has come to an end and we can say that it was an interesting year - with many CEEweb activities. Maybe one of the most important ones is the preparation for the new EU budget 2014-2020. Negotiation are well on the way about all budget lines. Most of the biodiversity related debates, meetings, conferences and of course, many CEEweb's events have been discussing the possibilities to allocate more financial sources, as well as to involve alternative funding for biodiversity conservation. More information can be found in the articles below.

Using existing EU regulations and applying them in the field were also in our focus in the last months, especially as for managing Natura 2000 sites, involving NGOs in the management planning process, as well as discovering and using synergies between existing EU regulations.

Last but not least, I would like to mention two activities on raising public awareness. Just like many other organisations in Europe, we also celebrated the 20th Anniversary of the Habitats Directive. CEEweb organised a photo competition on this occasion. Besides, in order to promote conservation on international level, we organised the II. Green Go short film contest and festival. You can read more from both events below.

It has been a busy year, and not only for CEEweb, but certainly also for you, dear Reader. Now it is time to lean back a bit and enjoy the holiday - family, friends and nature, of course. For that, hereby I wish you merry Christmas and Happy New Year, on the behalf of CEEweb!

Wishing all the best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Matyas Prommer', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Matyas Prommer, Secretary General

## EU POLICY ISSUES

### Debating Nature - Workshops on Natura 2000 Management and Agri-Environmental Schemes in Poland

The issues regarding management of Natura 2000 sites as well as the Agri-Environmental Schemes are high on the agenda due to the recent processes of biogeographic seminars, greening of the CAP, the Prioritized Action Frameworks and the EC guidance documents. To show the update of these processes to our members active in the field of Natura 2000 and to share practical management experiences among CEE NGOs, CEEweb for Biodiversity and Naturalists Club Poland organized two workshops in Dworek Gorce, Poland on 3-6 October 2012. At the workshops, more than 25 participants from CEE NGOs and state agencies took part and provided valuable input.

The Natura 2000 management workshop aimed to introduce the recent updates in terms of SAC designation, wilderness and the biogeographical process, and to provide in-depth knowledge and experience exchange opportunities about Natura 2000 management progress and some specific issues (large carnivores, bird requirements) at national and regional levels in CEE countries. The workshop also demonstrated the outcomes of the Polish pilot project on NGO involvement in Natura 2000 planning process and in terms of this, elaborated on NGO participation options. The Agri-Environmental Scheme and Natura 2000 payments workshop had the objective to provide update on national implementation of the schemes and the payments and to compile CEE NGO recommendations for the future CAP. Further information is available [here](#).

### Financing Nature in Central and Eastern Europe - Publication on Conservation Activity Financing from Five CEE Countries

Discussions on financing at EU level are heated up as the next Multiannual Financial Framework is being decided. Besides, Member States are in the process to draw up their operational programmes and finalise their Prioritized Action Frameworks. It is therefore high time to draw attention on the importance of biodiversity conservation, the pros and cons of the recent financing mechanisms and the financial resources these activities need. For this very reason, CEEweb compiled a publication based on several CEE case studies, which show the benefits and amendable segments of various financing mechanisms and their application at the national level. The cases demonstrate for instance, how the Bulgarian water tax contributed to Natura 2000 designation, how various financial sources can work together to rehabilitate wetlands in Lithuania, how EU funds for river channelization caused Natura 2000 fish species decline mainly due to inadequate transposition of EU directives and how Natura 2000 financing can aid employment opportunities and stakeholder cooperation in Slovakia. The cases and the publication can be found [here](#).

### CEEweb Academy on Synergies between Biodiversity, Water and Land use Policies (5-6 November 2012, Szokolya - Királyrét, Hungary)

As biodiversity, resource and water problems affect whole Europe, policies are already in place to address these issues at various levels. However, in order to apply these policy tools more effectively, it would be inevitable for all stakeholders group to understand the elements of these policies and the potential overlapping issues. For this reason, CEEweb for Biodiversity organized this academy to raise issues of water, land use and biodiversity policies and shed light on the probable synergies and possible cooperation opportunities. At the CEEweb Academy, 24 participants came together from various sectors (European Commission, state authorities, NGOs, etc.) during the two days workshop.

More information as well as the presentations are available at: <http://www.ceeweb.org/about-us/annual-meetings/2012-2/>

#### CEE NGO meeting for enhancing sustainable tourism in the region

CEE NGO representatives met in Királyrét in Hungary to formulate common goals on how to promote sustainable tourism in the Central and Eastern European region. They shared ideas on how to influence the content of the Carpathian Tourism Strategy considering biodiversity aspect. They disseminated their interim results of assessing CEE national development tourism strategies, developed project proposals on implementing the Danube Strategy from biodiversity point of view, and finalized their work plan for 2012.

More information: <http://www.ceeweb.org/work-areas/working-groups/sustainable-tourism/meetings/>

#### Celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the Habitats Directive

CEEweb to commemorate the date of the 20th anniversary of the Habitats Directive and LIFE programme and to raise awareness on these issues among the public, announced a photo contest in two categories (Natura 2000 species and habitats and Natura 2000 ecosystem services) and launched a category within the frame of the II. International Green-Go Short Film Contest.

As a result of our 'LET'S CELEBRATE EUROPEAN NATURE TOGETHER!' awareness raising campaign, we received more than 60 short films from 22 countries worldwide and hundreds of fantastic nature photos from all over Europe about Natura 2000 species and sites and also the ecosystem services the network provides. Apart from our creative applicants, more than 20.000 of internet users were reached with the splendid photographs and the creative shorts, since the audience could view, comment and vote on the submissions via the webpages and social media sites. During the short film festival in Budapest, CEEweb organized a special screening on European nature also showing a LIFE video on the big screen and provide information on Natura 2000 for the audience. Further information and the best submissions are available here.

## INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

### Green-Go Short Film Festival

The second Green-Go Short Film Campaign came to an end with its final event, which was held in one of the art cinemas in Budapest, Hungary 1st December 2012. During the Green-Go festival, visitors had the opportunity to learn how to live sustainably through different interesting and creative games and programmes. In the evening, the audience watched on big screens the best Green-Go shots, after which they got to know the selection procedure and also what suggestions the Green-Go patrons proposed in order to make this awareness raising campaign even a bigger success.

More information: [www.greengofest.eu](http://www.greengofest.eu)

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