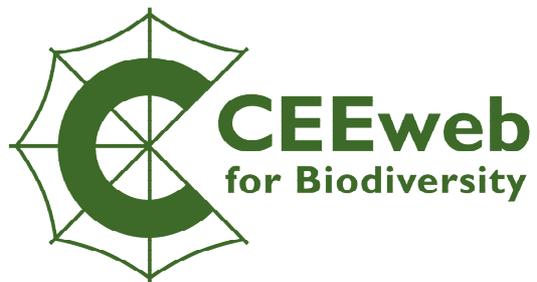


Electronic Newsletter of CEEweb

Summer Issue - 2012



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Editorial

Dear Readers,

Summer already seems to be far away, but we do hope that on your holiday you collected nice memories, as well as many beautiful photos about European nature. It is certainly refreshing to spend the summer in the nature – on the seaside, at lakes and riverbanks, or in the mountains. Millions of tourists 'invade' the natural sites and cultural, historical places of Europe causing considerable pressure on them. It does matter, therefore, how national tourism strategies consider such pressure in order to ensure the conservation of natural and cultural heritage on long term. In this issue of CEEweb Newsletter you will find hints, how you can check whether or not national tourism plan in your country takes sustainability into account.

You can also read about how CEEweb Policy Office works on strengthening CEEweb's network and how CEEweb's Natura 2000 Working Group will share experience on Natura 2000 management practices of the CEE region. Besides, you can get informed on a new project in Slovakia aiming to conserve city dwelling bird and bat species.

The Newsletter announces the 1st international conference on the protection of birds and bats, and we would like to kindly remind you on the 2nd Green-Go Short Film Contest and our photo competition to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Habitats Directive.

Last but not least, you will find a short summary on the disappointing results of the Rio+20 conference. This latter reminds us that there are still a lot to do to conserve our natural habitats for the future generations and for future summer holidays. Please, keep this in mind, when you have to make decisions in the upcoming policy processes.

Enjoy the Newsletter!

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

INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

Global discourse for sustainable development without real results

The worsening ecological and social situation on Earth indicates that UN Summit on Sustainable Development, held between 21 and 23 June was one of humanity's last chances to initiate the essential U-turn for the sake of protecting all creatures on earth including the Homo sapiens sapiens. Therefore, the Rio+20 conference could have provided a very unique opportunity to mark a milestone in effective sustainable development policy formulation, which was a very big failure to miss.

http://www.ceeweb.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/Rio+20_ceeweb_assessment.pdf

High-level Conference: The EU response to ecological overshoot day – Implementing the Rio+20 outcomes

This year, August 22 was Earth Overshoot Day, marking the date when humanity has exhausted nature's budget for the year. After that date, we are now operating in overdraft. For the rest of the year, we will maintain our ecological deficit by drawing down local resource stocks and accumulating carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

<http://www.ceeweb.org/4057/earth-overshoot-day/>

Tourism planning in CEE countries - Assessing National Tourism Development Strategies

The Central and East European countries need complex National Tourism Development Strategies to conserve and manage their natural and cultural resources, which could provide them competitive advantage. It is necessary to monitor the 'tourist business' in order to maintain and improve the quality of tourist destinations in the long term. The new assessment methodology presented by Sustainable Tourism Working Group, provides possibility for NGOs to assess tourism planning documents on the base of sustainability.

http://www.ceeweb.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/Article-for-CEEweb-newsletter_STWG.pdf

Strengthening the network through CEEweb field visits

In the last three years, colleagues from the CEEweb Policy Office have visited CEEweb Members, and held interactive two-day trainings about how CEEweb strives to influence European decision-making and about how this network and its individual member organizations can further improve their lobbying skills. In 2012, this activity continued in Uzhgorod, Ukraine at the Ecological Club, Ruthenia.

<http://www.ceeweb.org/event/3792/>

Protection of Common Swifts and bats in buildings in Slovakia

On 1st of January 2012 implementation of the LIFE+ project Protection of Common Swift (*Apus apus*) and bats in buildings in Slovakia has started. The project aims to preserve populations of the species in cities through protection of the existing sites and installation of swift- and bat-boxes on buildings.

http://www.ceeweb.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/LIFE+Apus+and+Nyctalus+in+Slovakia_info+pre+CEEweb+newsletter.pdf

UPCOMING EVENTS

1st International Conference on the Protection of Birds and Bats to be organised in Slovakia

On 24-26 October 2012 the 1st International Conference on protection of birds and bats in buildings will be held in Zvolen, Slovakia to inform professionals as well as public about the topic and share experience and knowledge from different countries.

<http://www.batlife-europe.info/webedit/uploaded-files/All%20Files/Conference%20on%20protection%20of%20birds%20and%20bats%20in%20buildings-1st%20circular%20EN.doc>

Let's Celebrate European Nature! – Short Film Contest and Photo Competition to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Habitats Directive

To mark this important date in CEEweb's calendar, we kick-off again the Green-Go Short Film Contest and Festival, where we call for short films in a category specially dedicated to celebrate the Habitats Directive and Natura 2000. Besides, to make the date more memorable and to compile a timeline of a success story, we also call for photos on Natura 2000 species and habitats. With the short film contest and festival along with the photo competition we aim to raise awareness on the European protected area network, the immense services they provide and the vast amount of efforts of conservation institutions and NGOs all around the continent to save European biodiversity.

Join the film contest and photo competition and let us celebrate European nature together!

Further information:

<http://www.ceeweb.org/photocontest/>

<http://www.ceeweb.org/2089/life-programme-and-the-habitats-directive-celebrate-its-20th-anniversary-in-2012/> and www.greengofest.eu/

Natura 2000 Management and Agri-Environmental Scheme and Natura 2000 Payments Workshops

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, renewal of the CAP, the Prioritized Action Frameworks and 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 organizes two workshops with Naturalists Club Poland in Dworek Gorze, Poland on 3-6 October, 2012.

<http://www.ceeweb.org/4120/workshop-on-natura-2000-management-and-agri-environment-scheme/>

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