

CEEweb for Biodiversity is an international NGO network of more than 60 members in 20 countries in Central and Eastern Europe. We have been celebrating our 20 years in 2014 – 20 years in the service of conserving biodiversity through the promotion of sustainable development through advocacy work, raising awareness, implementing field projects and research. See below our main achievements and if you feel like exploring more or become part of the CEEweb experience, visit our website on www.ceeweb.org or our Facebook site at www.facebook.com/ceeweb.for.biodiversity.



CEEweb has been actively promoting the designation of the Europe-wide nature protection network, the **Natura 2000** in the Central and Eastern European countries. Through our efforts and active national NGOs, the Polish network covers much more area than originally proposed providing valuable services like flood reduction and ecotourism. Similarly, also thanks to our capacity building, Croatian NGOs actively contributed to the freshest Natura 2000 network covering record number of the country's area. Besides, CEEweb was the main initiator of the biogeographic process on management aiding experience exchange on managing Natura 2000 sites.



CEEweb has been a trailblazer to advocate for sustainable land use and to support the realization of **green infrastructure** by linking relevant stakeholders, organizing workshops and trainings and providing a knowledge hub of best practices. We also vigorously try to integrate the ecosystem services approach to other policies and to send the message to the public by our photo and short film contests.



CEEweb has been active in the field of **rural development** as well building capacities for greening EU and national agriculture policies, promoting direct marketing and biodiversity-friendly agricultural practices.

Our **CITES** (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) Working Group has majorly contributed to halt the illegal trade of wildlife in the region by training and connecting authorities and NGOs.

The **Sustainable Tourism** Working Group has been working on channeling biodiversity and sustainability considerations into relevant policies, including the Carpathian Convention.

Besides following current nature policy trends, we put a large emphasis on addressing the drivers of biodiversity loss, the ultimate triggers. The pro-active initiative, the **Resource Cap Coalition** compiling 45 organizations worldwide, advocates for a global resource use reduction, a precondition for sustainability that shall be realised hand in hand with poverty reduction and building a green economy.

Saving nature in Central and Eastern Europe – introducing CEEweb members

Fundatia ADEPT Transilvania: Habitat conservation through traditional farming



ADEPT has developed its landscape conservation approach and activities within the Târnavă Mare area, Natura 2000 SCI since 2007. This complex landscape of 85,000 ha with many Habitats Directive grassland, scrub and forest habitats and associated species, is managed by about 5,000 small-scale farming families. It cannot be protected by “Protection Orders”: a Natura 2000 management team cannot maintain the complex management over such a large area. Successful management of the area relies on continued current farming practices. But these practices are threatened by lack of economic viability, leading to abandonment or intensification which will destroy the habitats. ADEPT used a variety of funding sources: agri-environment schemes; assisting improvements in milk quality, quantity, price; branding, marketing, farmers markets. These have brought an additional €2.5m of income, for about 2,500 farmers and producers, establishing long-term economic incentives to continue traditional management. The commercial developments are now self-sustaining, and the agri-environment schemes are repeated in the 2014-20 RDP period, offering sustainability of results.

Regional Association for Nature Conservation and Sustainable Development (BROZ):

Protection of birds and bats in buildings (LIFE10 NAT/SK/079)

This is the first complex project focusing on protection of birds and bats and their sites in buildings implemented in Slovakia. It includes both implementation of innovative protection measures such as installation of special multi-boxes and communication and cooperation with stakeholders. It represents a new approach in species conservation in urban areas in CEE region. Effectiveness of applied measures reaches beyond the country since *Common Swift* is a migratory species wintering in Africa and both birds and bats are species of the European importance. Through monitoring of birds and building activities in cities, public is actively involved as well. Presence of birds and bats prevents mass occurrence of tiresome insects and costs on application of chemical spraying are decreasing consequently. The project provides a platform to synchronize energy policy and biodiversity conservation policy and offers socio-economic solutions acceptable for all involved. It emphasises cooperation between different sectors (Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Development) and stakeholders (state authorities, constructing companies, nature conservationists), including public.



Lithuanian Fund for Nature: Species conservation through strengthening connections between protected areas



LIFE+ Nature project “Development of a Pilot Ecological Network through Nature Frame areas in South Lithuania” is an innovative project focusing on species conservation through strengthening connections between protected areas. The target species of the project are amphibians and reptiles, relatively immobile species of animals, which are endangered by habitat destruction and fragmentation. The project has created a functional ecological network, which consists of core areas, buffer zones and ecological corridors designed for European pond turtle (*Emys orbicularis*) and European tree-frog (*Hyla arborea*) as umbrella species and a wide range of rare bird, amphibian, invertebrate and plant species. At the same time it has restored some features of the traditional landscape, adjusted it to nowadays needs and increased its value for the local communities. It is the first functional ecological network, designed as spatial system and securing the needs of the target species in Lithuania, therefore it is important not only as a tool for the species conservation, but also from the methodological aspect.

Brod Ecological Society (BED): Reintroduction of cattle in abandoned areas

Free-range grazing on flooded common grasslands is the key ecological process in the Sava River area because it keeps invasive plant species under control. Those man-made habitats with its spawning and nesting possibilities in alluvial areas, match biodiversity richness and value as the habitats of the pristine nature. In the last few decades these wet meadows and grasslands are in danger of dying out. The reintroduction of cattle in abandoned areas was pivotal in fighting against the aggressive spreading of invasive species (in particular *Amarfa fruticosa*). The choice of Croatian indigenous breeds as keepers of biodiversity proved to be ideal because they show exceptional durability in all, even extreme weather conditions. BED is present as co-manager on Gajna grassland since 1989 and made Gajna into something of an “Arc” for reintroduced native Croatian cattle breeds. Through the numerous projects on this protected landscape conducted by BED, it has been proven that the combination of cattle grazing and treading is the best way to permanently keep invasive species under control.



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