



# Central & East European Working Group for the Enhancement of Biodiversity

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## Annual Meeting 2007

of the Central and East European Working Group  
for the Enhancement of Biodiversity  
November 16, 2007, Budapest

### REPORT

#### **Opening of the Annual Meeting**

The Annual Meeting was opened and chaired by Klára Hajdu, the Executive Director of CEEWEB. The minute taker (Katarzyna Ososinska) and minute certifier (Laszlo Stoll), as well as Nomination and Credential Committee (Urszula Biereznoj and Katrin Gebhard) were elected.

The agenda of the Meeting was presented by Klára Hajdu and adopted, without questions, by the members.

The nominees for the Supervisory Committee and International Advisory Committee (one free post in each of the committees) presented themselves shortly: Urszula Biereznoj (Naturalists Club Poland) and Katarina Klimova (BROZ, Slovakia).

#### **Discussion on the strategy and work program for 2008-2010**

The Executive Director, Klára Hajdu, presented the Chapter 7 of the draft strategy incorporating changes and comments of the discussion held on November 14-15. Some not yet clear issues were discussed and amended in the draft text. A question if the strategy had been developed properly was raised by Klára Hajdu and left for discussion.

Iván Gyulai, the President of CEEWEB, presented his view on the draft strategy, stating it was not a proper strategy for achieving the mission of CEEWeb, being only a working plan for the particular Working Groups dealing with existing bad policies. He introduced the DPSIR (driving forces-pressures-state-impact-response) model, showing the current work of CEEWEB was not leading to the results expected, as concentrating only on pressures, but not on driving forces. Mentioning the mission of CEEWEB, the conservation of biodiversity through promoting sustainable development, he suggested the following way of developing a strategy:

1. Developing CEEWEB policy
  - Revising the existing sustainable development policies, their relation with biodiversity and shortages,
  - Establishing own CEEWEB policy, aiming to halting biodiversity loss through sustainable development;
2. Developing organizational strategy, including e.g. capacity building within the organization, as the way to achieve the main aim.

He suggested the need of establishing a Policy Working Group (team), that would develop a policy, approaching the driving forces (e.g. commerce, agriculture, etc.), getting feedback from members on concrete issues.

Klára Hajdu raised two crucial issues for the discussion:

- Changing the name of the existing document into "Work Program 2008-2010" and further work on strategy,

- Practical dealing with the existing document and establishing in 2008 a Policy Working Group (aiming to develop common understanding within the network and a written CEEWEB policy, having e.g. three meetings in 2008 in order to achieve it).

The following discussion led to a number of ideas:

- All of the working groups should be given one common tool, worked out by the network;
- The members of CEEWEB need to find a common interest, common view, and try to influence the international and national policy in order to achieve it;
- The network needs to work both on policy level and "on the ground";
- Particular members could still work on local/national level, and the Policy Working Group (to be established) should be a basis giving them guidance and support, as well as working on international level;
- The members can work on national level raising interest for good policy, what will influence also international level;
- The Policy Working Group should consist of members of the Board and International Advisory Committee, as well as members of all the existing working groups.

As the result, the decision on establishing a Policy Working Group was taken.

### **Presentation of the informative narrative report**

Klára Hajdu presented the most important results of CEEWEB work in 2007, stressing the involvement in the Belgrade "Environment for Europe" conference in October, launching the "Pan-European Biodiversity Picnic" and participation in the reform of Pan-European Biodiversity and Landscape Diversity Strategy.

Kristina Vilimaite introduced the activities connected to sustainable tourism: two WG meetings combined with workshops for the members, involvement in the preparation of a strategy and tourism protocol for the Carpathian Convention and launching a new project on implementing CBD Tourism Guidelines.

Sarolta Tripolszky presented the Natura2000 Working Group activities, including Natura2000 designation, monitoring, communication and situation in new EU member countries, and a programme on military training areas.

Andrzej Kepel mentioned CITES Working Group commitment to the regional report on CITES implementation and participation in 14<sup>th</sup> CITES COP.

Veronika Kiss introduced the position of CEE NGOs on "Business and Biodiversity" initiative of the Portuguese EU Presidency, prepared by CEEWEB and presented at the High Level Conference in November.

Klára Hajdu shortly introduced two CEEWEB rural development project in Romania and a national project in Hungary, and mentioned the changes in the Policy Office, including the leaving of the General Secretary of CEEWeb, new employees and the internship programme.

### **Presentation of the informative financial report**

Klára Hajdu shortly presented the informative financial report for 2007, including the allocation of resources. There were no questions following.

### **Voting on new members**

There were ten organizations applying for the full membership in CEEWEB. Seven of them presented themselves at the AM:

- Eco Protection, Macedonia
- Greens of Montenegro

- Zivot, Croatia
- Green Echoes, Romania
- Sand Glass Foundation, Bulgaria
- Bulgarian Biodiversity Foundation
- Future Now, Bulgaria

The other three were:

- Carpathian Paths, Ukraine
- Fauna, Ukraine
- Rodope Mountains, Bulgaria

The members decided unanimously on a general voting for the approval of all the applicants, and endorsed all of them. Thus all of the candidates became full members of CEEWEB.

### **Supervisory Committee and International Advisory Committee elections**

Klára Hajdu explained the need of electing new members of Supervisory Committee and International Advisory Committee.

#### Nominees for the Supervisory Committee:

- Urszula Biereznoj, Naturalists' Club, Poland;
- Katarina Klimova, BROZ, Slovakia.

#### Nominees for the International Advisory Committee:

- Urszula Biereznoj, Naturalists' Club, Poland;
- Katarina Klimova, BROZ, Slovakia.

After a secret voting Katarina Klimova was elected for the International Advisory Committee and Urszula Biereznoj for the Supervisory Committee.

### **Changing the name of the developed document from "Strategy 2008-2010" to "Work Program 2008-2010"**

Based on the discussion on the draft strategy, the members adopted a new name for the draft strategy: Work Program 2008-2010. The change of the name was accepted in an open voting with 2 abstentions.

### **Adoption of the Work Program 2008-2010**

The Work Program 2008-2010 was adopted in an open voting, with 2 abstentions.

### **Changing the name of CEEWEB**

The change of the name was required by the earlier decision of the Board and International Advisory Committee, in order to make it shorter, but without changing the logo.

Six propositions were given by the members:

- CEEWEB – Nature Network
- CEEWEB – Network for Biodiversity and Sustainability
- CEEWEB (Central & Eastern European Web)
- CEEWEB for Biodiversity
- CEEweb for Biodiversity.

In an open voting the members endorsed the last proposition, CEEweb for Biodiversity.

### **Closing of the Annual Meeting**

The Annual Meeting was closed on November 16 by Klára Hajdu, Executive Director.