ACTING IN THE PRESENT – WORKING FOR THE FUTURE

BIENNIAL REPORT
OF CEEWEB FOR BIODIVERSITY
2008–2009
Welcome!

You are now looking at the biennial report of CEEweb for Biodiversity for 2008–2009. CEEweb is a network of nature conservation NGOs from the Central and Eastern European region. Our mission is the conservation of biodiversity through the promotion of sustainable development. We are a proactive network organization working on the policy level.

Why proactive?

We think that for finding the right answers, we need to ask the right questions first. We believe that the challenges of biodiversity loss are pressing — we cannot content ourselves with temporary solutions, while the root of the problem remains unaddressed. Thus we ask questions and raise issues about the drivers of biodiversity loss, even if they are not on the political agenda.

Why a network?

Global problems like climate change, biodiversity loss and poverty can never be addressed locally alone. NGOs are doing so much excellent work in the region but without joint effort, their actions will stay scattered and isolated. It is our aim to provide a forum for environmental NGOs in the CEE region to cooperate, learn and take action together.

Why on the policy level?

The natural landscape is ultimately shaped by the various policies from agriculture through transport, and trade to social policies. To avoid the traps of sectoralization we are looking at the drivers behind biodiversity loss and make holistic policy proposals on national and international levels.
The Policy Working Group

The Policy Working Group (PWG) had its debut at the 2007 Annual Meeting, which was an important step in CEEweb’s proactive policy making and strategic work. The PWG’s mandate is to develop policy responses to the various drivers of biodiversity loss, which are channelled into the consultation processes through the Policy Office and the thematic WGs. In 2008 - 2009 the PWG had four meetings.

Clearly it is not possible to ignore the questions of sustainability, if halting biodiversity loss is the ultimate goal. The PWG considered the basic principles of sustainability in its first discussions, and it was found that holistic approach to environmental problems, and to social and economic problems for that matter, is a prerequisite to effective policy development. The PWG analysed the complex cause-effect relationships between biodiversity loss and human activities in various contexts, such as rural development and agriculture, Natura 2000 and tourism. It was concluded that no matter what environmental problem or sectoral context we use for the analysis, the deeply underlying socio-economic drivers are the same. Consequently these cultural, institutional and structural drivers should be the target of holistic environmental policies, otherwise environmental pressures are only shifted in space or time.

Another cornerstone of the elaborated CEEweb policy is the need to limit total environmental pressure exerted by all the human activities. The legal, economic and awareness raising measures targeting the socio-economic drivers should ensure that the use of natural resources, the use of space, as well as pollution and the spreading of alien genotypes is absolutely limited.
However, introducing such holistic policies require a paradigm change. In this current paradigm of economic growth the aim is economy, and humans and nature are merely considered as tools in the scheme. Within a new paradigm economy is just a tool, not an aim. It is the interface between society and the environment. In contrast environment is a precondition, limit and opportunity at the same time.

Sustainable development is not equal to environmental protection. Environmental protection, which has developed into a sector by itself, wants to tackle environmental problems. Its basic question is how to do it? On the contrary sustainable development wants to avoid environmental and social problems through careful decisions. Its basic question is what and why to do?

In order to bring these ideas forward the PWG recommended the establishment of a European coalition to advocate for global resource use cap. It also developed policy positions in the field of climate change mitigation and adaptation, fighting invasive alien species and considered future scenarios, trends and the anomalies of the current monetary system.
In many cases in our everyday lives we must first give in a part of us in order to contribute to a greater good. When working and living in a corporate world, where a third of our day takes place in an office and our priorities are set on achieving our daily assignments, many times we forget about the importance of things that surround us and we miss out on their beauty. When running a business or working in the business world, it is important to keep in mind that the survival of all enterprises relies on natural resources ultimately. Therefore contributing to the preservation of nature and proper use of natural resources should be a goal of all of us.

Thus following the success of the 2007 Conference on ‘Business and Biodiversity’ in Portugal, CEEweb took the initiative to gather a significant group of participants from the public, business and civil sectors in order to raise awareness on the importance of the conservation of biodiversity for businesses. The presentations focused mainly on the links between business and biodiversity, bringing several examples from real life. The interactive approach and the sharing of national best practices were an inspiration for the participants. In addition a set of suggestions were compiled targeting banks, governments, enterprises and NGOs alike on how to improve biodiversity financing, initiate more biodiversity businesses and improve the related policies.

The outcomes of the event were more than satisfying since there was a noticeable interest among participants to improve future activities and initiate closer cooperation among different stakeholders.

“There is something fundamentally wrong with treating the earth as if it were a business in liquidation.”

Herman Daly

Business & biodiversity conference for Hungarian stakeholders
Joint efforts to conserve the natural heritage of Pan-Europe

Since 1995 the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS) has provided a Pan-European platform to promote coordinated action in the field of biodiversity conservation. NGO stakeholders, including CEEweb as an observer member of the PEBLDS Bureau, have been traditionally strong and reliable partners in the process contributing to PEBLDS meetings and activities, as well as Pan-European Ministerial conferences.

Assessing Pan-European challenges – looking for the sense for joint cooperation

Despite the various ongoing efforts the natural heritage of Pan-Europe is still declining. Therefore in 2008–2009 CEEweb made an assessment of the main problems and needs in biodiversity conservation in Pan-Europe. The assessment was based on short country profiles focusing on the status, trends of and threats to biodiversity, progress in nature conservation and contribution to Pan-European targets, the level of civil society involvement, as well as related socio-economic baseline data. The publication titled “CLEAR VIEW: Regional synthesis report on the biodiversity challenges in Pan-Europe” collects the results from 46 Pan-European countries. It reveals the current challenges and efforts of nature conservation and proposes new ways of achieving biodiversity protection goals.

According to the survey, in Western Europe the most significant threat to biodiversity is the ever-increasing consumption of natural resources and the overuse of land. While the local circumstances differ in the Pan-European region in many respects, all Pan-European countries are increasingly facing the same socio-economic drivers behind biodiversity loss. Therefore, the most urgent common interest of all Pan-European countries is to reveal these drivers and find holistic policy tools to change their course. In CEEweb’s view Pan-European and subregional cooperation can provide an added value through experience exchange and common projects towards the way of eliminating these drivers. Only these efforts can stop biodiversity loss and assure future well-being of all citizens in Pan-Europe.

Strengthening the lobby power of Pan-European NGOs

A high-level conference under PEBLDS was held in the fall of 2009. At the 5th Intergovernmental Conference “Biodiversity in Europe” over 120 governmental, non-governmental and business representatives discussed the state of Europe’s biodiversity, the potentials of valuing ecosystem services, the interconnectedness of biodiversity and climate change, as well as the post-2010 biodiversity targets for the Pan-European region.

CEEweb in collaboration with the European ECO-Forum held a pan-European NGO meeting preceding the conference, where 35 NGO representatives from 24 countries took part. In order to reach common understanding, CEEweb compiled background documents and organized discussions on the topics of the high-level conference. As a result, joint pan-European NGO messages were channeled into the high-level discussions, and many of them were reflected in the “Message from Liege”, the official outcome of the conference. As a more practical, but similarly important outcome of the NGO meeting was the development of project ideas in support of Pan-European nature conservation related to business involvement and high-nature value farming among others.
Picnicking for the sake of biodiversity

CEEweb initiated the Pan-European Biodiversity Picnic, a Pan-European multistakeholder campaign on behalf of the European ECO Forum. The campaign was launched at the Roundtable in Belgrade in 2007 with the aim to raise political and public awareness of biodiversity and to deepen the understanding of its contribution to human well-being. It is intended to bring together various actors from the society at national picnics on 22 May, International Biodiversity Day.

Within two years of its launch ten picnics took place around Pan-Europe with the help of local NGOs and national ministries. Not only their topic: biodiversity, but also the places and the style of the picnics showed great diversity.

In some countries like Estonia and Lithuania participants could explore the biodiversity of the surroundings through walks into national parks or testing their knowledge to recognise invasive alien species. In Azerbaijan they actively contributed to the development of a tourist path.

A picnic took place during the 9th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Germany, while in Luxembourg the picnic was one important step in the awareness raising campaign led by the Ministry of Environment. Through sound presentations and lively discussions, the Moldavian event resulted in a written appeal for the government on better biodiversity policies.

The Hungarian picnic was held on a ship travelling on the Danube, where an interactive quiz could reveal the biodiversity knowledge of the participants coming with different institutional background.

In Macedonia participants discussed the importance of intersectoral cooperation in order to reach biodiversity conservation goals, while in Romania the organizers caught birds with mist-nets to show the high bird diversity of the area.

During the Serbian picnic caricatures of the participants and artistic photographs with nature motifs were created.
Global efforts for biodiversity conservation

The 9th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP9) was organized in 2008 in Germany. CEEweb, along with numerous other environmental groups was lobbying national delegates for strong commitments on financing biodiversity, a moratorium on producing biofuels and genetically modified trees, as well as ocean fertilisation. The meeting could not deliver all the required results, but negotiations will continue in several fields in the future.

CEEweb also organised the first Biodiversity Picnic during the meeting within the Pan-European Biodiversity Picnic campaign.

“The value of biodiversity is more than the sum of its parts.”

Bryan G. Norton
Assessing the EU Biodiversity Action Plan and its mid-term evaluation

Halting biodiversity loss by 2010 became a main objective of EU biodiversity policies after 2001. The EU Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) identified actions at EU and MS levels to halt biodiversity decline by 2010. The mid-term review of the BAP showed that even though progress had been made since 2006 in several areas, the EU is highly unlikely to meet its 2010 target of halting biodiversity decline. CEEweb assessed the BAP and its implementation and concluded that the more than 150 BAP actions, although most of them are indispensable for biodiversity conservation, do not respond to the root causes of biodiversity loss. Looking at the wider socio-economic framework, the BAP actions are not more than end-of-pipe solutions trying to tackle the results of our consumption and production patterns, sectoral institutional system, economic regulatory framework and material values among many others. The complex nexus of cause-effect relationships which connect biodiversity changes and socioeconomic trends is not sufficiently revealed and the underlying problems remain untouched both by biodiversity and other EU policies.

The report contained CEEweb's first recommendations including both short term priority actions and long term priority measures in order to reach the missed 2010 target as soon as possible. Communication materials were also prepared based on the whole report, which were disseminated at the European Biodiversity Protection Beyond 2010: Priorities and options for future EU Policy Conference in Athens (April 2009), as well as in the Nature Directors Meeting in Prague (June 2009).

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed it’s the only thing that ever has.”

Margaret Mead
Fighting climate change and biodiversity loss at the same time

Ecosystems are extremely important in regulating and stabilizing the Earth’s climate, half of the anthropogenic carbon-dioxide emissions is captured and stored by them. Besides, they play key role in the global circulation of nitrogen and water, both being very important in the climate system. Thus ecosystems offer safe, local and cheap solutions mutually beneficial for fighting climate change and biodiversity loss, especially in critically endangered sectors such as land use and water management. Nevertheless, ecosystems are only able to function properly and resist to increasing human pressure if they are stabilized by a huge diversity of life forms, and if they have sufficient cover and spatial coherence.

Recognising these linkages CEEweb lobbied for an ambitious climate commitment with higher priority of biodiversity and sustainability aspects, and promoted ecosystem-approach in both mitigation and adaptation. As part of its climate change policy but also going beyond it, CEEweb worked for a holistic environmental policy and a new, more sustainable socio-economic framework.

Prior to the UNFCCC COP15 in Copenhagen in 2009, CEEweb provided input and support for the joint lobby of the European Habitats Forum towards the chief EU negotiator. The joint message was highlighting the importance of ecosystems and biodiversity to climate mitigation and adaptation. Following Copenhagen, CEEweb reflected on the results and compiled additional recommendations, which were sent to a wide representation of decision makers at EU and CEE national level.

Since 2008, CEEweb has been member of the European Commission’s Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Climate Change and Biodiversity. CEEweb contributed to the work of the group by providing CEE NGO input into its joint publication Discussion Paper — Towards a Strategy on Climate Change, Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity.

Climate Change and Biodiversity was also a topic of the 5th Biodiversity in Europe Conference in 2009, where CEEweb coordinated the NGO input and thus produced background paper and compiled NGO messages in this theme as well. The conference gave a unique opportunity to disseminate NGO views to a number of decision makers from all across Pan-Europe.

As parties to the Kyoto Protocol, EU Member States are obliged to develop their national strategies on climate change mitigation and adaptation. CEEweb compiled a questionnaire about these strategies in order to compare the approaches of CEE governments to climate change, identify the strengths, critical points and deficiencies of national climate policies and underpin CEEweb recommendations for an effective climate policy. Strategies of seven countries were analyzed and the results were channelled to the lobby activities described above.

“"If the climate changes on global level, why can’t people?”
Loesje (Dutch fictional character)
Some years ago almost everybody believed that declining oil reserves – with skyrocketing prices – can be substituted with biofuels, while we can also fight climate change at the same time. However, today there are growing concerns about biofuels and biomass in general used for energy purposes all over the EU and the USA. Thus in May 2008 CEEweb organized a CEEweb Academy in Esztergom, Hungary focusing on this hot topic to better examine the pros and cons of biomass production for energy purposes. The CEEweb Academy series aims to build a common level of understanding among CEEweb members on important issues and build their capacities for policy work.

Participants representing the government, business, scientific and non-governmental organisations approached the issue of biomass from various different points of view in Esztergom. As several presentations pointed out, the real social, economic and environmental implications of biomass (especially in the case of biofuels) are often more harmful than beneficial for both the environment and people.

“"What is the nature of a species that knowingly and without good reason exterminates another?””

George Small
In the area of species protection, we should concern ourselves with what is right as opposed to what might be easier, or popular in the short term.”

Richard Leakey

CITES Working Group

Central and Eastern European e-trade in endangered species

In 2009 the CITES Working Group published its second report about the situation of the Internet trade in endangered species of animals. The data for this report was collected for one year by the WG members and an external partner in the Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Ukraine. The results prove that the phenomenon of wild-life e-commerce is a booming problem in the region. Both the number of items (live and dead specimens) and the range of species offered for sale is increasing (by approx. 57% annually). Besides also rarer and more expensive species, such as large cats and primates appeared on the market.

Travelling exhibition about illegal wildlife trade

CITES and related EU Wildlife Trade Regulations (WTR) are still unknown rules for most of the residents of Central and Eastern European countries. Bearing this in mind, the CITES WG created an international awareness raising exhibition dedicated to this subject. With the help of excellent photographs it explains the problems caused by the unsustainable harvesting of wildlife for commercial purposes and the role of the CITES and EU WTR to control these actions. The exhibition was prepared in nine languages and was presented to the public in Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia and Ukraine.

“Train the trainers”

As a continuation of previous activities of the WG a train the trainers workshop took place in 2008. The aim was to increase the knowledge of WG members about CITES and EU Wildlife Trade Regulations. The workshop consisted of presentations and documentaries, as well as practical exercises with different types of documents and samples of CITES specimens for recognition. It was conducted with professional input by Birgith Sloth, an expert in the field and works for the Society for the Conservation of Marine Mammals..
April 2008, in Poland. Among the 40 participants of the meeting there were governmental delegates from all the seven Carpathian Countries. During the meeting the draft of the protocol was finalized and the group came up with recommendations for the Second Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention (COP2). Moreover, the elaboration of the Via Carpatica project proposal was furthered and a brainstorming session with regards to other project ideas and initiatives on sustainable tourism development in the Carpathians also took place. The development of the protocol was welcome by the Parties of the Carpathian Convention during the COP2 in 2008 in Bucharest.

Sustainable Tourism Working Group

Tourism is one of industries that puts extra pressure on the environment and often contributes to biodiversity loss. It will continue doing so unless some measures are taken. People used to spend their vacations close to their homes, but in the past few decades different forms of tourism have become popular. Such forms of tourism often do harm to communities and biodiversity. However, sustainable tourism could help to avoid the negative impacts. Therefore the Sustainable Tourism Working Group (STWG) aims to make tourism in Central and Eastern European countries sustainable. NGOs in the group promote such practices through information exchange, sharing best practices, training and education, policy-making, pilot projects and lobbying.

Capacity building

The workshop on tourism policies in the EU and beyond took place in October 2008 in Bojentzi, Bulgaria, where the participating NGOs could increase their knowledge on the policy framework of making tourism environmentally friendly and socially beneficial in the CEE region. The workshop also included a skills development training on writing policy papers.

Involvement in the Carpathian Convention

CEEweb continued its activities devoted to development of tourism protocol to the Carpathian Convention. STWG representatives took part in the second meeting of the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Sustainable Tourism, which was organized by CEEweb in

“Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better.”

Albert Einstein
The forum provided opportunity to discuss different aspects of the LEADER programme as well as good and bad experiences from various countries. Besides presenting practical community building initiatives from Austria and England and funding opportunities for LEADER Action Groups in Hungary, thought provoking discussions also took place on the sustainability of rural development within the current production and consumption patterns. On the second day models of direct marketing were introduced and deliberated by the audience. The event took place in Tata, Hungary, where, beside the official program, participants had a bird-watching program on the Old Lake of Tata, a famous Ramsar Site since 1989.

"Farming looks mighty easy when your plow is a pencil, and you're a thousand miles from the corn field."

Dwight D. Eisenhower

Rural Development Working Group

Agricultural management plays a key role in the maintenance of valued cultural landscapes as well as biodiversity-rich farmlands all over Europe. The Rural Development Working Group aims to integrate the concept of sustainability into the agricultural and rural development policy in CEE countries. Its view is to maintain and increase biodiversity in rural areas, to promote the integration of environmental protection into agriculture, and to improve the wellbeing of people in the countryside.

CAP Health check

In 2008 CEEweb undertook several activities and took part in various discussions related to sustainable rural development and the future of the CAP. Among others CEEweb channelled CEE NGO views about the CAP Health Check into the Commission’s work and participated at the European NGO Seminar on the future of the CAP which aimed at influencing the legal processes related to agriculture and environment during the EU’s French Presidency. In the same year CEEweb organised the CEEweb Academy on Biomass where the participants met to discuss the real social, economic and environmental implications of agrofuels.

International Forum on LEADER and direct marketing

With the aim to tackle challenges faced by local LEADER action groups such as development planning and project implementation under the LEADER approach, CEEweb organized an international forum in November 2008 to facilitate discussions on possible solutions. We also used this occasion to promote opportunities provided by direct marketing in local development.
Natura 2000 Working Group

Representing CEE views on biodiversity in Brussels

In 2008 the Natura 2000 Working Group organized two lobby meetings between the European Commission and CEEweb members. In January CEEweb NGO representatives met DG Environment Infringement Unit to discuss ongoing and planned Natura 2000 infringement issues. In September CEEweb NGOs from ten countries met the Nature Director of DG Environment to discuss challenges and possibilities of better biodiversity conservation related to issues such as Natura 2000 designation and management, illegal destruction of Natura 2000 sites, forestry and Natura 2000, as well as the drivers behind biodiversity loss and the EU future biodiversity policy framework.

CEE NGO positions were also represented within several forums and networks, such as the Nature Directors Meetings, the European Habitats Forum (EHF) and the European Environmental Bureau’s Biodiversity and Agriculture Working Groups. CEEweb also provided strong input on Natura 2000 designation and implementation in the World Conservation Congress in Barcelona in October 2008.

Natura 2000 site designation

CEEweb coordinated the technical input into the Biogeographic Seminars from NGOs within the new EU Member States on behalf of the European Habitats Forum. In 2008 CEEweb supported Romanian and Bulgarian NGOs in the preparation for the Biogeographic Seminar for Romania and Bulgaria and thus organised a joint preparatory meeting in May 2008 in Brasov. Here, representatives of EU10 countries shared their experiences on Natura 2000 site designation with the Romanian and Bulgarian participants. CEEweb also successfully lobbied the European Commission to allow more NGO representatives to participate in the Seminar. As a result of the active NGO input to the Biogeographic Seminar, the list of sites could be expected to improve significantly for Romania and also improve for Bulgaria.

In cooperation with the CEEweb member Milvus Group, in 2009 we organised a two-day expert meeting in Nyárádszentlászló, Romania to discuss further steps of site designation. We also aided the Romanian Natura 2000 NGO Coalition’s lobby work towards European and national decision makers to rally higher support for the establishment of the Natura 2000 network in Romania.

“Suburbia is where the developer bulldozes out the trees, then names the streets after them.”

Bill Vaughan
Natura 2000 implementation
CEEweb continuously monitors and collects information on the implementation of Natura 2000 in the new Member States in order to lobby national and European decision makers and to carry out communication and awareness-raising activities. The Natura 2000 Working Group thus compiled Natura 2000 Implementation Fact Sheets focusing on designation, management, financing and other general issues. CEEweb also created a database with best practice examples of Natura 2000 implementation from CEE countries to facilitate the exchange of best practices.

In June 2009, CEEweb was invited to represent NGO views on Natura 2000 management from the new EU Member States in the Nature Directors Meeting in Prague. Based on the Natura 2000 Implementation Fact Sheets and additional information collected from members of the Working Group we prepared a background document to inform EU Nature Directors about the greatest challenges. Furthermore Bulgarian NGOs compiled a background paper on the shortcomings of implementing impact assessments according to the Habitats Directive in Bulgaria. All this information was presented to the European Commission, the current and upcoming presidencies and the Nature Directors.

Sharing experiences with accession countries
CEEweb aims to transfer experiences between EU MSs and (potential) candidate countries on nature conservation, also in preparation of introducing Natura 2000 in the region. Thus NGOs from candidate and potential candidate countries actively participate in the work of the CEEweb Natura 2000 Working Group and CEEweb also provides targeted capacity building in the SEE region. In September 2008 CEEweb organised a Seminar for Accession countries in the Western Balkans, in Split, Croatia. The seminar covered issues such as EU policies and sustainability, the nature directives and common agricultural policies.

Capacity building
The EU Environmental Liability Directive was the topic of the training organised in September 2008 for Natura 2000 WG members. Learning about the rights of NGOs and the group work on theoretical cases helped NGOs to better use the potential of the provisions of the Directive also in support of biodiversity conservation.

What is the nature of a species that knowingly and without good reason exterminates another?
George Smill
Protecting biodiversity on military training areas

The first steps to enhance the long term protection of natural values in military areas were taken in several countries. This involved management planning to combine military training with conservation requirements of species and habitats, as well as concrete projects to restore degraded nature areas. The EU LIFE fund co-financed several such projects, and many of the areas still in military use have been designated as Natura 2000 sites. However, there are still a lot of unsolved management problems and conflicts of interest, especially in countries under high transformation pressure in Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe.

In 2008–2009 cooperation between military and conservation authorities, as well as nature protection NGOs was strengthened in Central and Eastern Europe also thanks to the various activities realised by the Natura 2000 WG of CEEweb. On one hand CEEweb members collected scientific data about biodiversity values of military training areas in the region within the framework of cooperation with the German David Foundation. The created database can serve as a basis for analysing the situation, identifying priority areas and setting conservation objectives. The situation of military areas in the Visegrad countries, namely the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia and Poland was also described in a comprehensive publication. On the other hand several discussions among CEEweb members and a CEE conference with the support of the International Visegrad Fund took place in December 2008. The aim of the conference was to promote the importance of nature protection in military areas, present the challenges, such as the access of third parties to military sites, discuss the future of decommissioned areas and come up with ideas and means on strengthening cooperation among these two sectors. As part of the program a field-visit to the Várpalota shooting and training range also took place.

These events are very important in raising awareness on the value of military sites for nature conservation. Furthermore, since Natura 2000 now involves many of the large biodiversity-rich military areas, extra attention is being paid on EU level on the correct management and protection of these areas.

“We should preserve every scrap of biodiversity as priceless while we learn to use it and come to understand what it means to humanity.”

E. O. Wilson

Working groups
Publications have been a traditionally strong side of the network: through written materials we can spread our views among decision makers and leave a mark in the thinking of people. All of our materials are available on our website at http://www.ceeweb.org/publications/english/index.html.

BOOKLETS

» Clear View - Regional synthesis report on the biodiversity challenges in Pan-Europe 2009
This synthesis report was prepared on the basis of 46 national assessments focusing on state of biodiversity, nature conservation efforts, international commitments and progress among other issues.

» e-CEETES Central and Eastern European e-trade in endangered species 2009
CEEweb prepared this report on the e-trade in endangered animal species in order to raise this issue at the following Conference of the Parties of CITES, held in March 2010.

» How Local Agenda 21 can change your community - A manual for the Carpathian settlements 2008
This manual shows how the settlements themselves can take the steering wheel into their own hands and create better lives for themselves. You can read about the process of Local Agenda 21, which has the potential to maintain and revitalise healthy social structures of small villages. The booklet was published in English, Slovakian and Hungarian.

» The biomass dilemma 2008
This booklet explains the real social, economic and environmental implications of biomass and biofuels. It seems that biofuels will not bring a solution to the problem of climate change and energy shortage. Just on the contrary, they will exacerbate these problems to the extreme.

NEWSLETTER

» We covered several hot topics in our newsletter Diversity from different points of view.
STUDIES

» Significance and implementation of global environmental conventions at national level 2008
This report summarises the comprehensive capacity assessment of the implementation of the three Rio conventions in Hungary, and includes a Capacity Development Action Plan to address the shortcomings.

» Findings of a survey on climate change policies in seven CEE countries 2008
NGOs from seven countries analysed national climate change policies from biodiversity and sustainability point of view. This study summarises the main results and puts forward recommendations for a holistic climate change policy.

» Assessing the EU Biodiversity Action Plan and its implementation 2009
CEEweb analysed how much the shortcomings of EU biodiversity conservation efforts were a failure of implementation or a failure of approach.

POSTERS

» Biodiversity picnics
The Pan-European Biodiversity Picnic was originally launched at the Biodiversity Stakeholders’ Roundtable in October 2007. CEEweb supported the organization of picnics in nine locations in 2008 and 2009.
Members of the Board

- President — Mr. Iván Gyulai (2007-2008), Ms. Zsuzsanna Flachner (2008-)
- Vice-President — Mr. László Stoll (2006-2008), Mr. Zoltán Demeter (2008-)
- Regular Member — Ms. Anna Iványi (2006-2009), Ms. Zsófia Fábián (2009-)

International Advisory Committee

- Ms. Katarína Klimová, BROZ, Slovakia (2007-)
- Mr. Michael Meyer, Ecological Tourism in Europe, Germany (2006-2009)
- Mr. Tamás Papp, Milvus Group, Romania (2009-)

Working Group Chairs

- Mr. Ivan Svetozarevic, Young Researchers of Serbia, Serbia – Sustainable Tourism WG (2008-)
- Mr. Pál Péter, Agora WG for Sustainable Development, Romania – Rural Development WG (2007-)
- Mr. Márton Kelemen, Milvus Group, Romania – CITES WG (2006-2008)
- Mr. Borys Kala, Polish Society for Nature Protection “Salamandra”, Poland – CITES WG (2008-)
- Mr. Pawel Pawlaczycyk, Naturalists Club Poland, Poland – Natura 2000 WG Interim Chair (2006-2009)
- Mr. Iván Gyulai, Ecological Institute for Sustainable Development, Hungary – Policy WG (2008-)

Supervisory Committee:

- Mr. Jaromir Sibi, BROZ, Slovakia (2005-)
- Mr. Benedek R. Sallai, Nimfeia, Hungary (2005-2008)
- Ms. Urszula Biereznoj, Naturalists Club Poland (2007-)
- Mr. Dejan Zagorac, Eco-Centar, Serbia (2008-)

New full members in 2008:

- Biosfera, Macedonia
- Daphne Cz., the Czech Republic
- Ecosilvex 2000, Romania
- Sustainable Sighisoara, Romania
- TERRA’s, Serbia

New full members in 2009:

- NGO Ecoproject, Belarus
- NGO Green Home, Montenegro

Policy Office staff in 2008 – 2009

- Ms. Beá Dezsényi – Financial assistant between March and July 2008
- Ms. Imola Füzi – Office Manager until March 2009
- Ms. Klára Hajdu – General Secretary until March 2009, on maternity leave from August
- Ms. Judit Herman – Communications Coordinator
- Mr. Gyula Kiss – Rural Development Working Group Coordinator
- Ms. Veronika Kiss – Networking Coordinator, Interim General Secretary from November 2009
- Ms. Zsófia Rigó – Financial Manager from September 2008
- Ms. Sarolta Tripolszky – Natura 2000 Working Group Coordinator

Interns in 2008 – 2009

- Ms. Faina Shalts (June-August 2009)

We would like to thank all the staff of our member organizations who have donated their time and expertise as in-kind contribution in the past years. Without their efforts we could not implement the work programme of CEEweb.
Financial report

In 2008 our activities could be realised with the generous support from the Operating grant of the European Commission, EU INTERREG III: CADSES, UNEP Regional Office for Europe, International Fund for Animal Welfare, Hungarian Civic Fund, International Visegrad Foundation, ANPED, Swiss Federal Office for Environment, Naturstiftung David, Jablonka and CEEweb members in the form of membership fees.

In 2009 we received funding from the UNEP Regional Office for Europe, International Fund for Animal Welfare, Hungarian Civic Fund, International Visegrad Foundation, UNEP, Hungarian Ministry of Environment and Water, Naturstiftung David, Hungarian Taxpayers (1% of Income Taxes) and CEEweb members in the form of membership fees.

The financial management of organisation is regulated by Hungarian law and comply with the requirements of our donors. Balance sheets and financial records are yearly audited and checked by the Supervisory Committee. The Annual Meeting adopts the public benefit report each year.

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<tr>
<td>10. Liquid Assets</td>
<td>16,550</td>
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<tr>
<td>11. Accrued and deferred assets</td>
<td>160,845</td>
<td>63,649</td>
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<tr>
<td>12. TOTAL ASSETS</td>
<td>192,998</td>
<td>86,763</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Own equity</td>
<td>75,654</td>
<td>8,381</td>
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<td>14. Starting equity</td>
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<tr>
<td>15. Equity changes</td>
<td>57,245</td>
<td>70,776</td>
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<td>16. Limited reserve</td>
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<tr>
<td>17. Evaluation reserve</td>
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<tr>
<td>18. Results of the year (public benefit)</td>
<td>18,410</td>
<td>-62,395</td>
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<tr>
<td>19. Results of the year (venture activity)</td>
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<td>20. E. Provisions</td>
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<tr>
<td>21. Liabilities</td>
<td>49,394</td>
<td>47,057</td>
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<td>22. Subordinated liabilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>23. Long-term liabilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>24. Short-term liabilities</td>
<td>49,394</td>
<td>47,057</td>
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<tr>
<td>25. Accrued expenses and deferred income</td>
<td>67,949</td>
<td>31,325</td>
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<tr>
<td>26. TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES</td>
<td>192,998</td>
<td>86,763</td>
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