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## Work Programme of CEEweb for Biodiversity for 2011

5<sup>th</sup> November, 2010

### Contribution to EU policy formulation

#### 1. Climate policy

EU level:

- Contribute to the formulation of EU adaptation strategy (which will be made by 2012), maximize synergies between climate change and biodiversity, ensure that biodiversity is properly taken into account in the EU adaptation policy
- Participate in discussions on the role of EU agriculture and forestry (LULUCF) in achieving the EU's climate change commitments (public consultation is ongoing, participate in the follow-up process)
- Continue active membership in the Ad Hoc WG on Climate Change and Biodiversity of the EC DG Environment

National level:

- Organize forums on climate change and biodiversity for national decision-makers in order to raise awareness on the biodiversity and climate change nexus and share good examples for national policies. In 2 CEE countries.
- Coordinated national lobby (joint paper translated into national languages and disseminated)

Local level:

- Organize multi stakeholder seminars in 2 microregions in Romania where possibilities for climate friendly land use and spatial planning will be discussed.

#### 2. Invasive Alien Species

- Lobby for better legislation on Invasive Alien Species, possible IAS Directive, take part in stakeholder consultations

#### 3. Soil biodiversity and soil protection

- Lobby for Soil Directive in a coordinated way on national level in CEE countries
- Implement an awareness raising campaign on soil biodiversity and soil protection in cooperation with DG Environment

#### 4. Post-2010 Biodiversity policies

- Lobby for including ecological footprint as a subtarget in the Strategy
  - Participate in lobbying for effective Green Infrastructure (land use aspects and see more under Connectivity) Contribute to the debate on Green Infrastructure Strate
- Contribute to EU level discussions on Wilderness
  - Wilderness concept: definition, criteria for management, recommendations for management guidance: include sustainable tourism
  - EU level policy on wilderness (Biodiversity Strategy, Natura 2000 management guidelines), include floodplain revitalization
  - Input to the Wilderness Working Group

## 5. EU Hungarian and Polish Presidencies

### *Objectives*

- Strengthen the lobbying power of nature conservation NGOs from CEE in influencing policies under the Hungarian and Polish EU Presidencies
- Put higher biodiversity concerns on the EU Presidencies political agenda

### *Activities*

- Prepare Hungarian nature conservation NGOs for lobbying effectively for biodiversity goals under the Hungarian Presidency
  - Carry out a preparatory meeting for Hungarian nature conservation NGOs in January 2011
    - on the topics of integrated water management and Danube Strategy
    - building on the experience of Spanish and Belgian NGOs
    - involving NGOs from Poland and Croatia in order to strengthen NGO lobby during Presidencies following one other and also in newly accessing States
    - representing the NGO position at events and processes realized under the Hungarian EU Presidency
- Realize CEE NGO input for Future Waters in Europe high level scientific and political conference realized between 23-25 March under the Hungarian EU Presidency
  - Channel the results into the discussions on River Basin Management Plans (EU task force in 2011), include floodplain revitalization. Water Framework Directive, World Water Forum in 2012, Ramsar COP in 2012 and other relevant forums
- Provide continuous input into the priorities of the Hungarian and Polish Presidencies
  - Hungarian Presidency:
    - Communicate the adoption of the Action Plan of the Danube Strategy
      - Cooperate with Danube River Forum, ICPDR and NGOs' coalition on Danube Strategy
    - Advocate for more environmental conscious Budget Review
    - Lobby for powerful research agenda and sufficient resources through 8th Framework Programme (FP8)
    - Provide input into the discussions on climate change and energy (energy efficiency, green economy, energy independence) challenges
  - Polish Presidency:
    - Use innovative methods to influence policies related to
      - land use, spatial planning
      - Invasive Alien Species: use the results of previous CEEweb studies on national transposition of EC legislation, update it for IAS case. Look at the national IAS legislation. Overview of existing datasets on IASs. Collect successful stories such as Czech results and alarm about the most threatening ones. Link it to lobbying activities at EU levels (see above).
      - Ecosystem Services (ESs): lobby for development and use indicators for ESs, promote sustainable tourism indicators as an example for this
    - Collect and show how to extend the small scale good examples to wider level
  - Combine inputs to River Basins Management Plans (RBMPs) discussion and Water Framework Directive (WFD)
    - Check the (RBMPs), if necessary provide coordinated complaints to the European Commission

- Advocate for ecosystems role in flood risk protection (big project coordinated by the Romanian Government: scan the possibilities for cooperation)
- Emphasize the importance of natural state floodplains
  - Use Slovakian and Polish expertise and experience

## 6. Resources and Biodiversity (riding the resource efficiency wave of Commissioner Potocnik)

- Initiated in 2010 by CEEweb and realize the first steps identified in the RCC kick off meeting, namely:
  - Expand the Resource Cap Coalition: exchange views and network with similar existing platforms, look for potential alliance of the DEGROWTH movement and steady state economy
  - Cooperate with scientific institutions such as the Wuppertal Institute and the TEEB project, collect and disseminate scientific background of the concept
  - Clarify gaps in the Resource Cap concept, agree in definition, vision, expected results
  - Prepare a roadmap for further actions
  - Lobby for including resource cap / resource efficiency at EU level in the following policies:
    - EU Biodiversity policy: advocate for the importance of the Footprint subtarget at EU level
    - EU 2020 Strategy
    - Resource Efficiency Flagship Initiative
  - Lobby for resource cap / resource efficiency at international level
    - Convention on Biological Diversity
    - United Nations Marrakech process
    - United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development
    - Seventh Ministerial Conference to the Environment for Europe process
    - Rio+20
  - Organize a next meeting of the Coalition in Brussels, directly before the Green Week, enable members of the Coalition to take part in Green Week and contribute to the discussions on Resource Efficiency
  - Organize a side event on Green Week 2011 together with European Partners for the Environment, Friends of the Earth, The Resource Efficiency Alliance, Material Efficiency Centre in Finland, Northern Westphalia Resource Efficiency Agency, Austrian Resource Efficiency Agency
  - Start web-based and mainstream media campaign on limiting resource use (together with FoEE or others of the Coalition):
    - Use the International biodiversity day and environment day
    - Use the biodiversity media alliance
    - Establish a facebook group, website for forum and interactive exchange
  - Carry out one Policy Working Group meeting focusing on the resource efficiency process and CEEweb priorities
- Valuation of biodiversity and ecosystem services
  - Continue cooperation with TEEB
  - Organize three Hungarian seminars for national businesses, scientists, local decision-makers about the main outcomes of the TEEB aimed at different target groups

## N2000 issues

### 7. Biogeographic Management Seminar

#### *Objectives:*

- (conditional on endorsement for the biogeographic management seminar by the European Commission and Member States) Continue lobby for seminars to be implemented by EC institutions, Member states and stakeholders and disseminate information on the beneficial results of it
- Further develop the methodology of the biogeographic management seminar

#### *Activities:*

- Screen the interest and willingness of national governments and stakeholder groups for organising biogeographic seminar-type events on Natura 2000 management through facilitating discussion in the EC Natura 2000 Management Working Group, Nature Directors Meetings, presidency conferences as well as bilateral meetings
- Organize a first pilot seminar-like event in one biogeographic region with participation of the EC, national governments, NGOs, scientists and experts
- Develop the methodology further based on the results of the first pilot seminar

### 8. Monitoring Natura 2000 implementation in CEE countries

#### *Objectives:*

- Based on the work started in the previous years, continue to monitor the implementation of the Birds and Habitats Directive in new EU MS by NGOs
- Strengthen the NGO network monitoring the implementation of the BHD

#### *Activities:*

- Organise a first Natura 2000 WG meeting to identify ways and means of how to best monitor N2K implementation by NGOs (looking at existing CEE and WE examples)
- (ensure dedicated N2000 Focal point works in all CEEweb member countries)
- Raise funds to enable practical site level monitoring of Natura 2000 sites by NGOs
- Continue the collection of Natura 2000 infringement cases from CEE countries as a basis for identifying common problems, and if necessary aid NGOs in the preparation of complaints to EU
- Monitor the Natura 2000 sites Management Planning, pilot study in Poland with
  - Organizing a workshop on the results of the pilot study
  - Compiling guidelines for NGOs and print it and spread it among stakeholders to ease their work in monitoring
- Finalize CEEweb's 2010 Natura 2000 implementation electronic colourful report and spread widely among decision makers, NGOs, governments etc. including CEEweb's Natura 2000 success stories
- Prepare a printed version of the national reference documents translated in 2010 and distribute them
- Continue to participate in N2000 Management working group of the EC, European Habitats Forum, EEB Biodiversity Working Group

### 9. Connectivity

#### *Objective:*

- Support European Commission policy making as well as national level implementation of Article 10 of the Habitats Directive (also including connectivity of rivers)

#### *Activities:*

- Collect national level information on the implementation of connectivity measures between Natura 2000 sites from different CEE MS.
  - Analyse the different approaches in a desktop study
- Based on the study, prepare recommendations to the Commission's Green Infrastructure Strategy and lobby for enhanced legislation (implementation?) of connectivity legislation=measures on European and national levels
- Organise a meeting between EC and CEEweb NGO experts to discuss connectivity and implementation of the Green Infrastructure strategy (see also under EU policy formulation) in new EU member states (Miko meeting II)

## 10. Accession countries

### *Objective:*

- Lobby for adequate NGOs representation in the biogeographic-seminar style events organised by the Bern convention in accession countries in South-Eastern Europe
- Transfer experiences of the new EU member states on the biogeographic seminar to those countries

### *Activities:*

- Organise, in cooperation with WWF and other NGOs seminar preparatory meeting for South-Eastern European NGOs
- Involve accession countries in all Natura 2000 related activities of the CEEweb N2000 WG to help them prepare for the implementation of the EU acquires

## Rural Development issues

### 11. Greening of the CAP

#### *Objectives:*

- Continue providing input into the formulation of the CAP post 2013 to strengthen the environmental component and to enhance sustainable development
- Lobby for a better European agricultural and food policy delivering both biodiversity and social benefits
- Make European decision makers aware of the importance of High Nature Value (HNV) farming and lobby for HNV support payments under Pillar 1

#### *Activities:*

- Organize one meeting of the Rural Development working group in 2011 in order to provide coordinated CEE NGO input into ongoing CAP discussions through consultations, lobby meetings and position papers
- Broaden the partnership for greening of the CAP by participating at relevant meetings organised by DG-Agriculture, European Environmental Bureau, Agriculture and Rural Convention, European Food Sovereignty Platform or other NGO platforms
- Shape EU positions and ensure involvement in international conferences, meetings and promote their follow up in practical implementation especially during the Hungarian and Polish Presidency.
- Promote the proper implementation of GAEC and Cross-compliance standards on national level and support the preparation of complaints, if necessary
- Check CC and GAEC implementation in our EU countries, if necessary complaint to EC
- Link it to health issues and cooperate with organizations working on health issues, be aware that in might be CAFP
- Explore links to Codex Alimentarius (info from Natasa)

- Advocate for win-wins for healthy food and nature friendly farming
- Use good example of the label “product from my farm”: direct link to biodiversity and ecosystem services. This should be included in CAP too
- Hygienic regulations: ease them (Soros idea: “personal responsibility”)

<i>Expected results</i>	<i>Outputs</i>
The Rural Development working group has a stronger voice by lobbying for a greener CAP	One Working Group meeting
New partnerships established in the field of rural development, food and health	Position papers on the CAP and its implementation both on EU and national level
A new CAP from 2014 that is delivering biodiversity targets	

## 12. Local food and biodiversity

### *Objectives:*

- Contribute to more favourable legal environment in CEE countries for direct marketing
- Achieve higher awareness about the environmental, socio-economic and health benefits of direct marketing of organic products among the affected stakeholders

### *Activities:*

- Organise national conferences in at least 3 CEE countries with possible interactive part for mayors, rural development officers at local governments and presenting them Community Supported Agriculture projects, other successful local food community initiatives and also good examples of combining slow food, rural tourism and local organic farming and traditional farming
- Create database on the constrains for widespreading local food, direct marketing, cultivation of local breeds (not in the official register): put it on CEEweb website and in members’ websites in national languages, cooperate with sustainable tourism WG, use synergies
- Collect good local examples for direct marketing in CEE countries and seed banks for local breeds
- Celebrate the UN World Food Day on 16th October 2011, European Agrobiodiversity Day by an information campaign focusing on the interrelation of farming and food production methods and human health
- Chanel the conclusions of the conference and the campaign in the agricultural and food policies as well as other relevant health policies on national and EU level (During the Week for Regions and Organic Fairs)

<i>Expected results</i>	<i>Outputs</i>
Better understanding of local food community systems among RD officers	National conferences in at least 3 CEE countries on local food and rural development

More slow food and local food community initiatives in CEE region on the long run	Press release and briefing on the tendencies of food quality and human health issues in Europe
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### 13. Sustainable Tourism issues

#### *Objectives*

- Make STWG stronger lobbying force around CEE
- Reveal sustainability aspects in National Tourism Development Strategies in CEE

#### *Activities*

- Organize one working meeting of WG
  - During which project proposal will be elaborated on Testing the Indicators developed by EU DG Enterprise Tourism Sustainability Group
  - Back to back a conference on sustainable mountain tourism and cultural heritage of mountains in spring
- Report on unsustainable investment in CEE thus contacting Natura2000WG and RDWG on this topic
- Cooperate with CEEweb RDWG on listing good practices spreading traditional and organic food
- Review National Tourism Development Strategies in CEE in order to find it out how sustainability aspects are reflected
  - Develop common methodology for analysis
  - Carry out the analysis revealing differences and similarities
  - Communicate results with relevant national bodies
  - Lobby for improving strategies and/or their implementation thus justifying the need for sustainable tourism and implemented indicators
- Continue participation in Carpathian Convention WG on Sustainable Tourism (Tourism Strategy adaptation)

<i>Expected results</i>	<i>Outputs</i>
Members of the STWG will work closer on Indicators developed by EU Tourism Sustainability Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One WG meeting</li> <li>• One project proposal on Indicators developed by EU Tourism Sustainability Group</li> </ul>
Lobby for more consideration of sustainability aspects in National Tourism Development Strategies	Methodology developed, analysis carried out in at least 5 National Tourism Development Strategies in CEE

### 14. CITES and EU Wildlife Trade Regulations

#### *Objectives:*

- To lessen the threat on European natural habitats posed by pond turtles, which are among the 100 worst invasive species in the World through information gathering and sharing
- To strengthen the enforcement of the EU Wildlife Trade Regulation (EU WTR) in CEE countries through monitoring trade, awareness raising and capacity building of NGOs and thus contribute to the implementation of the EC Biodiversity Communication (Action 8.1.8)
- To build capacity of CEEweb CITES Working Group members to enable them to lobby better for improved wildlife trade regulations on European and international level

*Activities:*

- Developing of a project proposal and carry out project focused on alien species of pond turtles. In the frame of the project an internet database with the information about the locations of the alien turtles in the field in different countries will be elaborated. The database will be posted on the web pages of the WG member organizations in their national languages.
- Continuation of the monitoring of the internet commerce on CITES-listed species in CEE countries, based on the CEEweb methodology developed in 2008
- Organize a capacity building Working Group meeting on experience sharing on internet monitoring and on developing the project proposal on pond turtles

<i>Expected results</i>	<i>Outputs</i>
Estimation of the scale of the problem of alien species of pond turtles in CEE countries.	Information from the database will give a solid background for the further activities of the WG related to the problem of alien species of turtles.
Planned for 2011 surveys of the Internet trade will provide an information for the report which will be elaborated prior the CITES CoP 16 <sup>th</sup> in 2013.	Results from two surveys of the Internet wildlife trade in CEE region.
Capacity of the CITES WG is developed	One WG meeting

## 15. Networking

*Activities*

- Carry out Member visits
  - Organize local field visits by Head Office staff to at least 12 CEEweb member organizations to provide trainings on CEEweb policy, on NGO proactivity and ways to increase success in the NGO field
  - Use these visits to recruit new members who are opened to the topics (CEEweb policy and proactivity)
- Revitalize the National Focal Point system in order to
  - Activate national members
  - Recruit new members
  - Spread information about upcoming CEEweb events and activities on national level
  - Coordinate meetings between members and the Policy Office at national visits
  - Echo CEEweb activities in the national media
  - Update CEE press list



- Organize a three-day Annual Meeting (<http://www.ceeweb.org/aboutCEEWEB/annualmeetings>) for the members of the network

## 16. Capacity building

### *Activities*

- Organize 2-3 day general skills training for CEEweb Head Office staff and CEEweb members on topics selected during Annual Meeting 2010.
  - Fundraising – donation strategy – marketing, diversify fundraising strategies, pre-accession and EU funds (incl. Voluntarism)
- Organize 1 day professional skills training preceding CEEweb Annual Meeting 2011 for CEEweb members on topics selected during Annual Meeting 2010
  - The process of public consultation for local communities/partnership building, public involvement, bottom-up approach
- CEEweb Academy on Water Framework Directive and biodiversity, including non-EU countries

## 17. Communication

### *Objectives*

- Achieve that CEEweb is widely known as a proactive lobbying force with sound scientific background (resource use – biodiversity, space use – rewildening, etc.), comprising member organizations and cooperating partners with valuable experience in various fields related to EU policies and implementation

### *Activities*

- Issue CEEweb's newsletter Diversity, print it and send it to CEEweb members and political decision-makers
- Translate the second issue of Ministers and Children into Hungarian and at least one other CEE language
- Frequently update the website, upload results quickly
- Restructure the website: develop a new and more interactive structure for the website
- Use web-based communication channels more systematically and effectively: write regular posts on Twitter, the CEEweb blog and Facebook
- Further develop and extend media relations through press releases, press conferences and campaigning
- Update the press list, include CEE contacts

CEEweb for Biodiversity is a network of non-governmental organizations in the Central and Eastern European region. Our mission is the conservation of biodiversity through the promotion of sustainable development.