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CEEweb Work Programme 2010

Cross-cutting policy issues	3
Budget review	3
Preparation for the Hungarian EU Presidency.....	3
Enhancing the impact of CEEweb Policy Working Group.....	4
Strategic approach and a written CEEweb policy for lobbying in the EU	4
Further building up contacts with new EU-10 MEPs.....	4
Enhancing cooperation between EU-10 and non-EU NGOs.....	5
Post 2010 target	5
Influencing the new European Post 2010 Biodiversity target and Strategy.....	5
Contribute to the EU debate on land use and biodiversity.....	6
Developing Pan-European NGO recommendations for post 2010 policies	6
Supporting the implementation of CBD COP decisions in Pan-Europe	7
Cooperation with other sectors	8
Establish an international platform among social, and environmental NGOs.	8
Communicating 2010 International Biodiversity Year.....	8
<i>Answers to Ministers and Children: Publications for paradigm change in biodiversity conservation.....</i>	9
Supporting the interaction of stakeholders through Biodiversity Picnics	9
Communicate the interlinkages between biodiversity loss and rural poverty	10
Covering biodiversity policy issues through 'Diversity' newsletter	11
Thematic issues	11
Natura 2000	11
Enhancing Natura 2000 management in CEE countries through experience exchange and lobby	11
CEEweb Green Authority Watch for a better implementation of European nature legislation.....	13
Check of GAEC and Cross compliance regulations in the light of fulfilling obligations related to EU nature legislation	13
N2000 management and wilderness.....	14
Military Training Areas.....	14
Land Use and Ecosystem Services	15
EU policy in Invasive Alien Species.....	15
Climate Change and Biodiversity	16
Enhancing NGO cooperation within CEE countries to support the interlinkages between climate change and biodiversity policies	16
Sustainable Tourism.....	19
Maintaining the activities of STWG and promoting the CBD Tourism Guidelines.....	19
Making mass tourism more sustainable	19
Rural Development	20
Supporting Leader programmes and revitalizing rural communities.....	20
Sustainability in rural development	20

Organic and environmentally friendly farming	21
Environmentally sound use of biomass	22
Cooperation in the Rural Development WG	22
Preparing for EU accession in the field of agriculture and rural development	22
CITES	23
Influencing decisions at CITES COP15.....	23
Capacity building and cooperation of the WG members for better implementation of CITES and EU Wildlife Trade Regulations.....	23
Monitoring the implementation of the EU Wildlife Trade Regulation.....	24
CITES Exhibition in 2010	24
Capacity-building, communication and strengthening the network	24
Communication and cooperation inside the network	24
Communication and cooperation outside the network.....	25
Networking.....	25
Capacity building	26

Cross-cutting policy issues

Budget review

The negotiations on the EU Budget 2014-2020 have already begun. European Institutions as well as individual Member States prepare their position related to the issue. It is also expected that leading European NGOs will form a coalition to fight for a more environmentally (and possibly also socially) friendly EU Budget. These processes provide good opportunity to discuss the drivers of biodiversity loss and on how these could be tackled through re-directing European funding. The goal of CEEweb is to lobby for an EU Budget that enhances and supports the implementation of the new EU biodiversity Target (and Strategy) and provides incentive to reduce overall energy and material use in the EU as a contribution to the protection of biodiversity.

Objectives

- Contribute with NGO positions and views, and lobby for an EU Budget that reduces the overall pressure on biodiversity and is in line with the new European Biodiversity Target and Strategy

Activities

- Prepare analysis of Member States' position on the new Budget from the point of view of biodiversity and sustainable development as an independent contribution to the debate on the Budget
- Disseminate the results of analysis at relevant high/level events, as well as through traditional and electronic media
- Establish a "Resource Cap Coalition" of leading European social and green NGOs that works on the implementation of the Spring Alliance recommendations regarding limitation of energy and resource use and a new economic framework. Organize first preparatory meeting of the Coalition
- Cooperate with other NGOs in the Budget coalition (when such is established)
- Continue participating in events and discussion on the Budget review, Environmental Tax Reform and revision of the GDP

Expected results and outputs

- Biodiversity and sustainability analysis of Member States' position on the Budget prepared and communicated to stakeholders and decision makers
- Resource cap Coalition establishes, first preparatory meeting is held
- Budget discussion correspond more to biodiversity agenda

Preparation for the Hungarian EU Presidency

In the first half of 2011, Hungary holds the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. CEEweb would like to support the preparation of the Hungarian Presidency in relation to biodiversity policies to ensure strong follow-up action under the new Biodiversity Strategy and the adoption of the new Lisbon Strategy. CEEweb already cooperates on this issue with other NGO networks (EEB and IUCN) and is a member of the Hungarian NGO coalition ("EU2011 Civil Munkacsoport") that provides coordinated input into the preparation to the Presidency. While the Presidency Agenda is still under discussion in the moment more talks are expected to be held during 2010. The main theme in the field of environment of the Hungarian Presidency is expected to be water.

Objectives

- Ensure that the biodiversity agenda of the Hungarian Presidency is strong and ambitious and the 2010 momentum is maintained during the first half of 2011

Activities

- Provide input into preparatory discussion of the Hungarian Presidency related to water and biodiversity policies

- Cooperate with international and Hungarian NGOs in the preparation of NGO positions related to biodiversity and water
- Participate in preparatory meetings and events

Expected results and outputs

- NGO positions in support of the Presidency's preparations developed and delivered to decision makers
- The priority list of Hungarian Presidency includes biodiversity

Enhancing the impact of CEEweb Policy Working Group

Strategic approach and a written CEEweb policy for lobbying in the EU

The uniqueness of CEEweb lies in its devotion to advanced approach that the root causes of biodiversity loss should be addressed. While this idea is not difficult to grasp, the implementation of holistic approach is something more difficult to plan and implement both on policy and practical level. CEEweb Annual Meeting established the Policy Working Group (PWG) and since 2008 the members of the working group are discussing the holistic approach in biodiversity and other policy fields. The work needs to be continued and the impact of the PWG enhanced to reach decision makers and other stakeholders.

Objectives

- Develop a strategic approach and CEEweb positions as response to the drivers behind biodiversity loss
- Develop a strategic approach and written policy for CEEweb, which provides guidance for lobbying and the work of the WGs
- Strive that EU policies, strategic objectives and the EU budget fully support sustainability in a holistic way and thus the currently conflicting policies and decisions are reconciled

Activities

- Continue the work of the Policy Working Group (PWG) established in 2008, which develops a common level of understanding of the drivers behind biodiversity loss and develops a strategic approach for holistic policy responses
- Broaden the understanding of the strategic approach within the CEEweb network through the CEEweb Academy and other meetings and information channels (e-mail lists, website, biannual magazine, publications, etc.)
- Lobby for a strategic approach in EU policy formulation and provide input to ongoing EU discussions (future biodiversity policy, the future of EU SDS, the Budget Review, CAP reform, etc.) through positions and consultations with decision makers and other stakeholders, in cooperation with other networks (e.g. EEB, Birdlife)
- Communicate the CEEweb policy through the media, the website and all CEEweb publications

Expected results and outputs

- Written policy and positions prepared
- At least two meetings of the PWG organized in 2010, electronic consultations between the meetings on positions take place via electronic means
- EU policies reflect more holistic approach

Further building up contacts with new EU-10 MEPs

As for the newly elected MEPs 2010 is just the start of their duty period, it is the very right time to address them with CEEweb suggestions on effective biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. If this is done there is a higher chance that EU heads towards developing really sustainable biodiversity conservation policies and integration of biodiversity concerns into other policy fields.

Objectives:

- Raise the interest and present the CEEweb position on biodiversity and sustainability for new EU-10 MEPs and thus provide overall guidance for their future legislative work

- Build up further contacts with new MEPs in a view for later lobbying and cooperation

Activities:

- Continue approaching EU-10 MEP candidates on biodiversity and other policies through personal meetings in Brussels and communicate the CEEweb position
- Organize a forum for the new EU-10 MEPs in Brussels on biodiversity and other EU policies presenting the CEEweb biodiversity vision and position on future EU policy directions post-2010
- Issue press release about the outcomes of the forum

Expected results and outputs:

- Forum for new EU-10 MEPs organized
- Press release, position paper on biodiversity vision and future EU biodiversity policies prepared and disseminated
- EU-10 MEPs have greater understanding of the drivers behind biodiversity loss and sustainability and shape their positions accordingly

Enhancing cooperation between EU-10 and non-EU NGOs

CEEweb is a network with member organizations from Central and Eastern Europe. However, impacting EU policies historically is a priority for the network and therefore often more emphasis is placed on the new EU Member States. At the same time there is a big potential of the countries from outside the EU to advance the national and sometimes regional or global policies.

Objectives

- Enhance cooperation between EU-10 and non-EU NGOs in all areas of work of CEEweb

Activities

- Bring together EU and non-EU NGOs in policy meetings, capacity-building workshops and practical activities of CEEweb within all four thematic Working Groups and the Policy Working Group also for discussing EU policies and their implementation

Expected results and outputs

- CEEweb Working Group meetings and workshops are organised with the participation of both EU and non-EU NGO participants
- Better understanding of EU policies and implementation among non-EU NGOs and better preparation for EU accession

Post 2010 target

Influencing the new European Post 2010 Biodiversity target and Strategy

2010 will be a crucial year for European Biodiversity policy development. The 2010 target of the EU to halt the loss of biodiversity has failed. In 2010 a new biodiversity target and a corresponding new EU Biodiversity Strategy will be adopted. This in turn will call for formulation of enhanced biodiversity policies and regulations that would halt and also possibly reverse the loss of biodiversity after 2010. Based on the outcomes of the Policy Working Group discussions, CEEweb would like to contribute to the above developments through providing NGO recommendations and expertise.

Objective

Contribute to the development of an ambitious, holistic new EU post 2010 target and Strategy and possible policies and regulations through providing NGO recommendations and through lobby activities

Activities

- Prepare and distribute press release on adoption of the new EU Biodiversity target. Prepare national press releases in a number of EU countries.

- Organize CEE NGO meeting to discuss specific issues related to the new EU Biodiversity Strategy (e.g. drivers of biodiversity loss, biodiversity and climate change, green infrastructure, land use policies, financing) and prepare recommendations for the Strategy
- Prepare recommendations on new indicators to measure the change in the drivers of biodiversity loss (e.g. changes in resource and energy use, land use) in cooperation with Friends of the Earth
- Represent NGO positions related to the new target and strategy in different platforms (Presidency events, Nature Directors Meetings, Working groups of the European Commission, Coordination Group, Green Week, etc.)
- Cooperate with other NGO networks in the European Habitats Forum on the formulation of post 2010 biodiversity policies

Expected results and outcomes

- The new Biodiversity target and strategy are ambitious and effective tools to stop the loss of biodiversity in Europe
- CEE NGO recommendations regarding post 2010 biodiversity policy are developed; duly represented and reflected in the final Strategy
- Indicators that capture change in the drivers of biodiversity loss are enhanced
- CEE NGO meeting to discuss specific issues of the post 2010 strategy is organized

Contribute to the EU debate on land use and biodiversity

Changes in land use are one of the main pressures on biodiversity in Europe. So far the negative effects on biodiversity resulting from the conversion of natural and semi-natural land to intensive agriculture, urban land and from the fragmentation of land couldn't effectively been minimized. The land use pressure is especially severe in Central and Eastern Europe where road construction, infrastructure development, intensifying agriculture, abandonment of traditional land use practices etc. are enjoying high political support. Therefore it is necessary to develop EU policies that respond to this challenge through opening debate on spatial planning, ecological networks, green infrastructure, and land use by different sectors. CEE NGOs can provide powerful input into this debate.

Objective

- Lobby for effective EU positions and policies relating to land use and biodiversity and lobby for new targets/policies that result in lowering the pressure on biodiversity resulting from land use change

Activities

- Prepare a feasibility study on the possibility of converting human used land back to natural and semi-natural land in different EU MS in cooperation with science and research institutes, and universities
- In cooperation under the Belgian Presidency organize a meeting on land use and biodiversity in the EU for different stakeholders and decision makers
- Prepare NGO position on the future of EU biodiversity and land use, green infrastructure and ecological networks

Expected results and outcomes

- Enhanced EU level discussion on biodiversity and land use
- Different stakeholders and NGOs discuss aspects of biodiversity and land use and possible related future policy options
- Feasibility study on possibility of converting land back to human uses prepared
- NGO recommendations on the land use aspect of future biodiversity policies developed

Developing Pan-European NGO recommendations for post 2010 policies

The 10th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 10) will be held in Nagoya, Japan in 2010. This year marks the UN International Year of Biodiversity and it is also the deadline for the 2010 Biodiversity Target adopted at COP 6 in 2002, which requires

contracting parties to "significantly reduce the rate of loss of biological diversity by 2010." On COP 10 the international community will assess the progress towards the target as well as decide on the new target and CBD Strategic Plan. In cooperation with the Pan-European ECO-Forum, CEEweb would like to coordinate NGO preparation to and input into the Conference. In special, we would like to elaborate recommendations regarding the post 2010 target and Strategic Plan; provide feed-back to a wider NGO community about the results of the Conference; as well as coordinate the planning and implementation of follow-up projects.

Objective

- The new global biodiversity target is ambitious and the revised CBD Strategic Plan is an effective tool to stop biodiversity loss globally

Activities

- Organize preparatory meeting for Pan-European NGOs three month before COP 10 in Europe
- Delegate selected representatives of Pan-European NGOs to COP 10 to lobby for ambitious decision
- Distribute information on conference outcomes among wider Pan-European NGO community
- Coordinate follow-up activities and projects through information distribution and joint fundraising activity

Outcomes and results

- NGO preparatory meeting for COP 10 is held
- NGO recommendations are prepared and represented in the debate on the new target and Strategic Plan as well as at COP 10
- The implementation of CBD COP recommendations is enhanced through coordinated NGO action

Supporting the implementation of CBD COP decisions in Pan-Europe

The European Community and its MSs are Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Thus the decisions of the Conferences of Parties of CBD guide their biodiversity policy and measures. The Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS) is a European response to support implementation of CBD. CEEweb provided a regional NGO input to the PEBLDS 5th Biodiversity in Europe Conference in 2009: prepared a regional assessment on the state of biodiversity in Pan-Europe titled *Clear View* and organized a preparatory meeting for Pan-European NGOs. NGO representatives used outcomes of the preparatory meeting during the Conference to lobby for holistic biodiversity policies and actions.

Objectives

- Support better implementation of CBD COP decisions on EU level and in MSs
- Ensure that PEBLDS, the regional arm for implementation of the CBD, provides an added value for biodiversity conservation at Pan-European level
- Promote (sub)regional cooperation between NGOs in EU and non-EU countries in implementing CBD COP decisions in the fields that are relevant for EU biodiversity targets and legislation

Activities

- Strengthen and extend the cooperation of the Pan-European NGO community established in the framework of the 5th Biodiversity in Europe Conference.
- Support the realization of joint project proposals
- Based on the regional CEEweb assessment on the state of biodiversity and the Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) mid-term review support practical activities under PEBLDS
- Promote the cooperation between EU and non-EU countries and mobilize NGOs for actions to strengthen the implementation of global (CBD), Pan-European (PEBLDS) and EU (BAP) targets and measures
- Use the experiences of NGO preparatory meeting of the 5th Biodiversity in Europe Conference when providing similar NGO input to the CBD COP10: organize preparatory meeting for pan-European NGOs, develop common messages, and channel them into the high-level negotiations
- Disseminate CEEweb's *Clear View: Regional synthesis report on the biodiversity challenges in Pan-Europe* at relevant events

Expected results and outputs

- Elected delegates of NGO preparatory meeting participate in CBD COP10 and lobby the delegates of the parties according to the mandate of Pan-European NGOs
- Cooperation between NGOs from EU and non-EU countries under the auspices of PEBLDS gets stronger
- More effective implementation of the global, Pan-European and EU biodiversity targets in EU MSs through more active involvement of NGOs and countries

Cooperation with other sectors

Establish an international platform among social, and environmental NGOs

The analysis of the underlying causes of biodiversity loss shows that this issue cannot be tackled separately from the other social and financial problems our societies face nowadays. When trying to find common effective solutions to the different sectoral problems, the involvement of experts from different fields is unavoidable. Therefore, CEEweb has already begun establishing partnerships with organizations from non-environmental fields. This network of partners should be strengthened and extended.

Objectives

- Build a coalition/partnership dedicated to holistic solutions to environmental and social problems.
- In cooperation with international environmental and social NGOs reach a common understanding, work out a long-term future vision and develop common strategies that uncover the underlying links between apparently different things such as poverty, biodiversity loss, global warming, homelessness, growing urbanization, etc. in the context of sustainable development.
- Influence policy making at different levels and sectors (environmental as well as social) to address the common root causes behind these problems.

Activities

- Hold multilateral and wider-circle meetings in order to build a coalition. The CEEweb network and its expanding partnerships will be used as a startup platform; the coalition will be built in cooperation with the community of environmental and social NGOs.
- Organize a conference with interactive workshops for social and environmental NGOs for developing common vision and strategies possibly back-to-back with a high-level EU Presidency event. The topic of the event would be sustainability and social justice.
- Channel the common messages into the high-level negotiations such as Spanish Presidency's biodiversity conference on January 25-27 or European Council's Spring Summit in March, etc.

Expected results and outputs

- A number of international civil organizations start to put focus on the common root causes behind poverty, biodiversity loss, dangers of global warming, homelessness, etc.
- The coalition can further the idea that sustainable development is a solution to healthy ecosystems, a healthy climate and a healthy society. This message is spread and impacts policy discussions, at national and EU levels, and at global negotiations

Communicating 2010 International Biodiversity Year

The UN marked 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity to draw greater international attention on the continuing loss of biodiversity; and the severe social, economic, and environmental implications of

this loss. This theme can be successfully used for explaining to different stakeholders and decision makers from other fields that the links between biodiversity and human well-being and among other things can and should inspire them to contribute to the EU debate on post 2010 biodiversity vision.

Answers to Ministers and Children: Publications for paradigm change in biodiversity conservation

The publication “Why biodiversity loss matters? Answers to children and ministers” (http://www.ceeweb.org/publications/english/Ministers_eng.pdf) published in 2008 has been the most successful CEEweb publication by now. This color booklet is written as a tale in dialogues with illustrations explaining why biodiversity is essential for human wellbeing and what factors are behind its continuous loss. We want to take this idea further by adding a second volume to the first booklet.

Objectives

- Achieve higher awareness of stakeholders and decision makers from different fields on the importance of biodiversity and ecosystem services conservation and their interlinkages to human wellbeing
- Attract various stakeholders into nature conservation (including social NGOs, trade unions, farmers, foresters, chambers, the youth, other prominent personalities, etc.)

Activities

- Disseminate the publication “Why biodiversity loss matters? Answers to children and ministers” among national and EU policy and decision-makers dealing with agriculture, forestry, economy, trade, regional planning, sustainable development, economy, etc.
- Publish the next volume of this popular publication. The next issue would be a paradigm-changing publication on biodiversity, sustainable development and consumption patterns in the light of the 2008 financial and economic crisis.
- Develop short video clips for youtube based on the stories from the two publications and disseminate the links to them through environmental and non-environmental mailing lists and internet communities in Europe.
- Link the publications and the video clips to “to do list” that inspires actions suitable to non/environmental stakeholders and decision makers.

Expected results and outputs

- “Why biodiversity loss matters? Answers to children and ministers” disseminated to 200 international decision makers
- 600 copies of second publication in the series is published and posted to 200 international decision makers as well as disseminated in printed and electronic formats
- 5 video clips made and seen by at least 2000 visitors in the internet
- Due to the messages delivered by the publications a number of stakeholders and decision makers from different professional spheres participate in activities related to biodiversity conservation

Supporting the interaction of stakeholders through Biodiversity Picnics

Since 2007 CEEweb has taken part in the organization of Biodiversity picnics. Environmental stakeholders as well as stakeholders from other fields participate at the events internationally around International Biodiversity Day. (<http://www.ceeweb.org/Picnic>)

Objectives

- Reach a higher awareness in decision-makers and various stakeholders on the importance of ecosystem services in human well-being
- Contribute to the EU debate on post 2010 biodiversity vision
- Communicate values of ecosystem services as envisaged in the EC Biodiversity Communication and Biodiversity Strategy

- Enhance cooperation of stakeholders from different fields on national level in conserving biodiversity

Activities

- Promote and support the organisation of several Biodiversity Picnics for organizations and institutions in the EU and other European countries with wide stakeholder involvement and significant media attention.
- Combine the Picnic's message with the hottest biodiversity topic of the EU (e.g. GMOS, invasive species, local and global biodiversity loss, etc.) with a special reference to the International Biodiversity Year
- Communicate the results of the Picnics with photos and posters through the media as well as at EU and other international events and thus facilitate the involvement of more countries in biodiversity discussions after 2010

Expected results and outputs

- Raised awareness and interest on the issue first of all among CEE and EU decision makers
- Raised public awareness on biodiversity, ecosystems services and their vital impact on human-wellbeing
- More various stakeholders attracted into nature conservation

Communicate the interlinkages between biodiversity loss and rural poverty

To further its mission CEEweb finds it necessary to show how biodiversity is linked to other issues. As 2010 is International Biodiversity Year, it is especially relevant to talk about issues related to biodiversity loss on a national and EU Level. CEEweb plans to produce a publication on the links between biodiversity and social issues, e.g. „Tackling Biodiversity Loss, Reviving Rural Europe”. The publication could come out in cooperation with New Economics Foundation or alone and will be similar to the publication of NEF „Tackling Climate Change, Reducing Poverty: The first report of the Roundtable on Climate Change and Poverty in the UK”.

Objectives

- Make decision makers and other stakeholders aware of the importance of conserving biodiversity and ecosystem services because of their interlinkages to human wellbeing
- To equip decision makers with valid arguments when discussing policy-level decisions
- To equip members of the Policy Office and CEEweb members with valid arguments when lobbying for changes

Activities

- Publish an attractive and easy to read booklet on biodiversity conservation and rural poverty eradication revealing the interconnections between the seemingly sectoral issues as well as the common root causes behind them. The publication would be called „Tackling Biodiversity Loss, Reviving Rural Europe” (working title) would also outline possible solutions and measures to tackle these root causes.
- Post and disseminate the booklet to decision makers in EU institutions and on national level (to those who deal with environmental issues, agriculture, regional development, spatial planning, social issues, etc.) as well as to other stakeholders.
- Hold a publication launch event in Brussels e.g. at the *8th Annual OPEN DAYS – European Week of Regions and Cities*
- Print a poster visually explaining the main messages of the publication for use at the launch event and other events
- Communicate the main messages outlined in the publication through international and national media

Expected results and outputs

- At least 600 copies of publication printed in English and distributed to key persons in EU institutions and in a number of EU countries; publications are also disseminated in electronic format
- A poster is produced and displayed in a number of international events, including high-level events
- The launch event and communication through media disseminates the message to wider public
- The awareness on biodiversity and on its interlinkages with socio-economic issues increases among decision makers and becomes a valid argument when making decisions

Covering biodiversity policy issues through 'Diversity' newsletter

'Diversity' is a periodical newsletter of CEEweb that covers the environmental policy aspects of the CEE region (<http://www.ceeweb.org/publications/newsletters>). The booklet is distributed both in paper version and in electronic form. The target audience of the publication is political decision makers of the region and in European institutions as well as CEEweb member NGOs and partner organizations.

Objective

- Shape awareness on biodiversity related policy issues and corresponding CEEweb opinions among decision makers, CEEweb members and partner organizations

Activities

- Prepare analytical policy articles on the hottest issues in the International Biodiversity year (post 2010 target, Invasive Alien Species, crosscutting issues, etc.)
- Publish two issues of 'Diversity' in English (A5 format, both on high quality paper in 600 copies and in digital version).
- Post the newsletter to 200 members of the target audience
- Distribute the newsletter to the target audience through electronic media and at relevant events

Expected results and outputs

- Diversity is published in 600 copies twice a year both on paper and in an electronic format and distributed to target audience
- Policy issues covered in 'Diversity' get higher on agenda of decision makers and NGOs

Thematic issues

Natura 2000

Enhancing Natura 2000 management in CEE countries through experience exchange and lobby

The CEEweb Natura 2000 Working Group consist of national Natura 2000 experts who in their own countries powerfully influence implementation of EU biodiversity legislation. WG members are both active on political level (e.g. working on legislation, distribution of funds, national and EU court cases etc.) as well as on practical level, dealing with practical conservation issues (e.g. management planning, LIFE+ projects, agricultural rural development etc.). CEEweb brings together these experts to provide a platform for international knowledge, information and best practice exchange related to Natura 2000 designation and management and to work out NGO positions and recommendations to influence decision making in Brussels.

Objectives

- Strengthen the enforcement of European biodiversity legislation in EU-10
- Natura 2000 sites are appropriately managed in EU-10 to ensure the favourable conservation status of species and habitats of Community importance
- Ensure the adequate representation of EU-10 concerns regarding biodiversity policy implementation in the work of the European Commission and MSs

Activities

- Organize seminar with expert lecturers in one or more member states to transfer best practice experience on Natura 2000 implementation (e.g. on ECJ rulings related to Natura 2000 management, practice of compensation according to Art.6, etc., definition of FCS)
- Compile a collection of national reference documents, translate them and make them available on the CEEweb website for the benefit of other countries (e.g. Hungary: Appendix on N2000 IA, Poland: study on significant impact, study on compensation measures)
- Support short term mission of experts into another MS upon request to help out in specific issues
- Organize two meetings for the Natura 2000 Working Group which provide a platform for knowledge, information and best practice exchange related to Natura 2000 designation and management, as well as for formulating and articulating common NGO positions in EU-10
- collect and distribute information in Natura 2000 implementation in MS (update national N2000 Implementation Fact Sheets)
- Continue organizing lobby meetings with different bodies of the EC, represent NGO positions on different forums (N2000 Management WG of the EC, DG ENV Coordination Group for Biodiversity and Nature, Nature Directors Meetings, European Habitats Forum IUCN WCPC, etc.)

Expected results and outputs

- CEEweb Natura 2000 Working Group meetings
- Seminar for the transfer of best practice examples and experiences organized
- English language compilation of national reference documents on N2000 published
- Enhanced Natura 2000 implementation in MS as a result of experience exchange and sharing of knowledge
- Information is collected and position papers are developed
- The specific EU-10 concerns regarding biodiversity and Natura 2000 are continuously represented in the European Commission at different levels
- CEEweb proposal on how to discuss and ensure the appropriate management of Natura 2000 sites

Biogeographic style seminar on management

The biogeographic seminar process has proved to be an important and highly effective tool for achieving scientifically consistent N2000 site designation across Europe. The effectiveness of the biogeographic seminar method is widely acknowledged. Some countries have been using this method independently, e.g. as a preparation before the „real“ seminar (Poland) or during the preparation of the national Art. 17 reports (Germany). CEEweb thinks that seminars should be organized also after designation was completed, e.g. during the management phase. Some first steps have been made in 2009 to check the interest of different stakeholders in a biogeographic seminar type event on management. In 2010 we will further elaborate the concept as well as prepare for the realisation of the idea. In case there is enough support we will organize a pilot biogeographic-style seminar on N2000 management with participation of the EC, national governments, NGOs, scientists and experts to test if the biogeographic seminar process is helpful for setting management objectives.

Objective

- New and innovative method to support the enhanced Natura 2000 management in MS is developed and tested

Activities

- Screen interest and willingness of different stakeholders groups and decision makers for a biogeographic seminar type event on Natura 2000 management through facilitating discussion on a side event of Green Week (or other international event)
- Explore the possible ways of discussing and ensuring the appropriate management of Natura 2000 sites on biogeographic level at a Natura 2000 Working Group meeting (including FCS, typical species)
- Organize a seminar-like event in one biogeographic region, to discuss different management options for selected habitat types (maybe on the Island of Vilm)

Expected results and outputs

- Side event is organized at Green Week
- Methodology of biogeographic-style seminar on N2000 management is elaborated and tested

CEEweb Green Authority Watch for a better implementation of European nature legislation

Green authorities play an important role in the adequate implementation of EU biodiversity legislation. Unfortunately, Member States' authorities do not always keep to the prescriptions of law, which is shown by the number of court cases in front of the European Court of Justice, and furthermore by different studies and analysis. Therefore an independent, systematically working watchdog to check the implementation of EU nature legislation by green authorities is needed. This would help to balance nature's interest with political pressure in favor of diverse development in CEE countries. Within the framework of a one year project, it will be systematically checked how authorities implement EU Nature legislation focusing on one special issue (e.g. quality of Impact Assessments or quality of impact assessments done for wind farms). In each country, a number of cases will be analyzed according to a prepared matrix. The process of decision making, as well as the quality of the final decision will be examined to see how much the decision reflected the provisions of the Nature directives.

Objective

- Strengthen the implementation of EU biodiversity directives by green authorities in the new MS

Activities

- Prepare of a matrix for assessing green authorities decision making process and analyse ca. 30-50 cases on the Habitats and Birds Directive implementation in new MS with the help of the matrix
- Publish the results of the assessment in a final report and distribute it among national and European practitioners and decision makers (authorities, GreEnforce, EU Commission, Council, Parliament, EU Ombudsman, NGOs, NGO networks, etc.)
- Prepare complaints if necessary

Expected results and outputs

- Methodology for checking implementation of specific provisions of the EU Birds and Habitats Directives implementation by green authorities developed
- A number of cases is checked for appropriateness
- Final report on results of green authorities implementation is published
- Complaints prepared and sent to the Commission
- Implementation of specific provisions of the Birds and Habitats Directives improved

Check of GAEC and Cross compliance regulations in the light of fulfilling obligations related to EU nature legislation

Cross compliance requires agricultural practice to be in line with EU regulations of other sectors. In the field of nature protection selected paragraphs of the Habitats and Birds Directives have to be followed. Nevertheless cross compliance regulation is very broad and therefore much depends on MS implementation. At the moment there are very few studies and assessments looking at this issue. With the help of its members CEEweb will coordinate an assessment of national cross compliance-related regulations and measures that are connected with the Habitats and Birds Directives. The goal is to have a comparative CEE assessment, to highlight best practices and show possible insufficiencies. In the framework of this activity it will be checked also if the updating of national legislation related to the Council Regulation No 73/2009 (GAEC standards) has been realized by MS or not. The analysis carried out will lead to a CEE assessment and if necessary to a common CEE complaint.

Objective

- Agricultural legislation and practice in the new MS reflects better EU biodiversity priorities

Activities

- Prepare CEE study on integration of Natura 2000 in Cross compliance and GAEC standards
- Distribute the results among stakeholders and EU decision makers

Results

- CEE study on integration of Natura 2000 in Cross compliance and GAEC standards
- Bigger awareness on biodiversity among agricultural sector
- Agricultural practice is more biodiversity friendly

N2000 management and wilderness

Under the Czech Presidency a Conference on Wilderness and Large Natural Habitat Areas in Europe was organized on 27 - 28 May 2009, in Prague. The overall aim of the conference was to develop a coordinated strategy for the protection and restoration of wild and nearly wild areas across Europe. CEEweb is interested to actively participate in the further development of the wilderness policy process and the practical implementation of the concepts. CEEweb already prepared its holistic policy recommendations connected to giving land back to nature, as well as recommendations to the EP report on wilderness prepared by Gyula Hegyi MEP. These ideas form the basis for further work and lobby for an effective wilderness concept that benefits CEE wilderness most.

Objectives

- Influence the formulation of policies under the EU wilderness initiative
- Ensure that the wilderness concept can be used to its full potential in areas where non-management is appropriate and ensure that the concept is not misused in Natura 2000
- Influence the formulation of policies and guidelines under the new EU wilderness initiative

Activities

- Identify areas in the CEE region with non-intervention management and assess conservation status of N2000 habitats and species in these areas
- Based on above start to work out criteria for wilderness management, including: criteria under which areas could be non-managed; criteria under which wilderness areas can provide socio-economic benefit for the local communities; criteria under which N2000 areas can be left non-managed, criteria for wilderness management in different sectors (e.g. commercial forestry, farming, fishery, military training areas)
- Follow up the Report on Wilderness adopted by the European Parliament on 19, February 2009

Expected results and outputs

- Information of conservation status of species and habitats in sites with non-intervention management is collected and made published
- Set of wilderness management criteria developed based on available information
- NGO and stakeholder meeting on wilderness management organized
- CEE position on wilderness channeled back to the EU policy development process
- The wilderness concept provides a clear and effective contribution to EU biodiversity conservation

Military Training Areas

In 2006 CEEweb started an international project to preserve outstanding natural values in military managed areas in the CEE/SEE countries. Members of the CEEweb Natura 2000 Working Group aim to assist military and conservation authorities in the process of reconciling military activity with conservation objectives. As the first step in the project we gathered information on existing biodiversity values; leading to a common database on biodiversity in military training areas in the region. The online interactively working database is available at http://www.naturstiftung.de/osteuropa_test/start.php. In 2010 CEEweb would like to continue data collection in those areas where this has not happened yet. Based on the information collected so far we plan to prepare practical follow-up projects to realize concrete conservation action on military training areas.

Objective

- Contribute to ensuring the conservation of natural values in military training areas of conservation importance in CEE countries

Activities

- Continue data collection and where necessary, inventorization on biodiversity of military training areas in CEE countries and set priorities for conservation action based on collected data
- Develop follow-up project ideas to realize enhanced biodiversity conservation in military training areas
- Cooperate with affected institutions (Ministries of Defence, Ministries of Environment etc.) on this issue to raise awareness and achieve continuous political support for this issue and lobby for high level commitment from Ministries of Defence of the region

- Organize study trip(s) for involved organizations between different CEE countries to exchange experience on military conservation issues

Expected results and outputs

- Enhanced CEE database of military biodiversity values
- Enhanced cooperation between involved military and conservation institutions and NGO
- Enhanced support for biodiversity conservation within the military sector
- Follow-up project ideas developed and submitted for funding

Land Use and Ecosystem Services

In a number of the New Member States of EU ideas exist how to use the concept of Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES). Such examples include payments to foresters for standing forests as water reservoirs or payments to farmers for beavers that expand the reservoirs of water. In addition, the suitability of REDD mechanism for the new MS could be explored. Agriculture is yet another area where PES could be applied. CEEweb member NGOs find that an exploratory study would be very useful at this stage.

Objective

- Promote the idea of Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) by using the examples of forestry and water management in new MS

Activities

- Collect and distribute information on available experience with PES in forestry and water management in CEE countries and in other parts of the world in a publication
- Explore the possibility of implementing PES schemes in new MS by analyzing the legal and financial framework, and the possibility of business involvement

Outcomes and results

- Best practice examples of implementing PES in forestry and water management collected
- Higher awareness on PES in forestry in CEE countries

EU policy in Invasive Alien Species

The development of the EU Strategy on Invasive Alien Species (IAS) is planned for 2010. IAS is an important pressure behind the loss of biodiversity. Therefore it is of crucial importance that the new legislation developed by EU institutions addresses the drivers behind this problem.

Objectives

- Effective EU policies are developed focusing on the prevention of spreading of IAS, which respond to the drivers behind

Activities

- Lobby for sufficient support in EU institutions for developing EU legislation on IAS (e.g. through generating support within the framework of a possible EP resolution on BAP and the report on wilderness) in cooperation with other NGOs (e.g. Birdlife)

Expected results and outputs

- CEEweb position, consultations with the involvement of members
- Support for the development of EU legislation on IAS by EU institutions

Climate Change and Biodiversity

Enhancing NGO cooperation within CEE countries to support the interlinkages between climate change and biodiversity policies

At this moment the outcomes of UNFCCC COP15 that will be held in Copenhagen on 7-18 December 2009, which will largely determine the 2010 processes, cannot be known. Despite of that, CEEweb expects that there will be a need to promote deeper interrelation between climate change and biodiversity, and facilitate coherence between these two fields also after Copenhagen.

Until now both on EU and on global level when combating climate change most emphasis was put on cutting down the direct greenhouse gas emissions. The significant role of ecosystem functions has been underestimated. Therefore, we fully agree with the findings of the EU's Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Climate Change and Biodiversity, that safeguarding the coherence, connectivity and functionality of ecosystems should be one of our most urgent tasks. CEEweb's overall objective in this area is that biodiversity and ecosystem services get a weight similar to that of greenhouse gases both in mitigation and adaptation.

Central and Eastern Europe is a region with the richest biodiversity in Europe. Therefore it is the most vulnerable to climate change on one hand, but on the other hand provides the most opportunities in terms of employing biodiversity for climate change mitigation and adaptation measures, involving various sectors such as spatial planning, land use, agriculture, forestry and water management. NGO community has a significant role in conservation of natural values, therefore mobilization of it is one of the factors of success for achieving proper integration of policies and measure related to climate change and biodiversity.

Objectives

- Enable CEE NGOs to cooperate in enhancing the interlinkages between measures to combat climate change and biodiversity loss
- Feed the coordinated input of CEE NGOs into the relevant discussions on climate change and biodiversity on EU level and shape EU policies accordingly
- Raise awareness of EU decision makers on the relationships between climate change, ecosystems, energy production and other sectors

Activities

- With the involvement of CEEweb members develop and implement joint projects, prepare common position papers, coordinate political lobbying both at EU and at national level
- Evaluate the results of UNFCCC COP15 in Copenhagen and formulate CEEweb response, proactively lobby Commission's proposals in follow-up of Copenhagen
- Participate in the multi-stakeholder Conference in early 2010 under the Spanish Presidency to discuss the follow up of Copenhagen results
- Provide input into discussions of: Renewable Energy Sources Directive, Carbon Capture and Storage Directive, Biofuels Directive
- Continue to participate in the work of the Ad Hoc Technical Working Group on Biodiversity and Climate Change and represent CEE NGO position

Expected results and outputs

- Concrete projects get started
- Assessment of the Copenhagen meeting results is prepared, the messages of CEEweb get delivered to decision makers and are publicized through media, relevant mailing lists and internet communities, and at EU level meetings
- Climate change and biodiversity policies and measures get better integrated
- CEE NGOs participate in stakeholder, personal and electronic consultations on EU level
- There is a greater understanding on the interlinkages between natural ecosystems and climate change among EU decision makers

National level climate policies

The environmental policies on national level are often divided to subsectors such as water, air, climate, biodiversity, which can easily get into conflict with each other. In our view, a transparent and coherent environmental policy is needed, including climate and biodiversity policies as well as sustainable

development strategy, energy policy and spatial planning under the same umbrella, frequently communicating and reinforcing each other. Climate change policies must be adjusted to include biodiversity considerations and biodiversity policies must include climate change mitigation and adaptation measures, respectively. The linkages between climate change and biodiversity must be communicated to the stakeholders as well as the general public.

Nevertheless, the most important task to be done on national level is to tackle the socio-economic drivers which are behind the increasing production of greenhouse gases and loss of carbon sinks. Therefore, we support incorporating environmental policy into a holistic policy framework, in which the reduction of total environmental pressures is targeted.

Objectives

- Draw the attention of national governments to the two-way relationship between climate change and biodiversity loss
- Facilitate coherence between climate change and biodiversity-related national policies and actions
- Facilitate national adaptation to climate change through strengthening the resilience and adaptive capacity of ecosystems

Activities

- Continue the ongoing assessment of CEE countries' national climate change policies, focusing on how much they take into account biodiversity considerations
- Collect best practices of integrating biodiversity considerations into national climate change policies and prepare recommendations on possible national policy options
- Organize forums on climate change and biodiversity for national decision makers in seven CEE countries in order to raise awareness on the biodiversity and climate change nexus, covering such topics as: follow-up of the UNFCCC COP 15, relevant national policies (especially climate strategy and biodiversity strategy)
- Communicate the results of the forums, and recommendations for national policy and best practices to decision makers and other stakeholders

Expected results and outputs

- Assessment of biodiversity considerations in national climate change policies prepared for 12 countries and published in electronic format
- Publication on best practices and recommendation on possible national policy options prepared in electronic format in English and distributed to the target audience
- Five-seven forums for decision makers organized, results disseminated
- Greater understanding on the interlinkages between natural ecosystems and climate change among CEE decision makers
- National level climate change policies and measures are adjusted to include biodiversity considerations, and biodiversity policies are adjusted to include climate change mitigation and adaptation measures

CEEweb Academy on Climate Change and Biodiversity

Since 2005 CEEweb runs a seminar series called CEEweb Academy targeting member organizations. These events give a chance to members to develop their professional knowledge in various fields related to their everyday work. Apart of being an educational event, the Academy on Climate Change and Biodiversity will be a workshop. During it the follow up activities of the network will be planned and the message about the need to integrate the measures in those two fields will be refined for further distribution among relevant stakeholders.

Objective

- Build capacity and expertise of the CEEweb members
- Discuss how CEEweb could contribute to halting the loss of biodiversity and combat climate change at the same time

Activities

- Organise the Academy with the involvement of high level experts (e.g. for the MACIS project, EU Ad hoc Working Group on Biodiversity and Climate change WG, Oxford Climate Change Department, etc).

- Plan the measures CEEweb could implement in this field, including future cooperation, further seminars
- Based on the results of the Academy prepare a policy paper and disseminate to relevant stakeholders and decision makers

Expected results and outputs

- Short policy paper distributed to relevant stakeholders and decision makers
- A dedicate webpage about the event is prepared
- There is a common understanding among CEEweb Members on the interlinkages between the climate change and biodiversity, and on the best methods for biodiversity management in the changing climate
- A plan on the future cooperation, including the series of seminars is prepared

Assessing the best land management practice in adaptation to climate change and for biodiversity conservation

Decreasing GHG concentrations in the atmosphere is a global project on a long time scale, in which a microregion might do its best; still it is at the mercy of the big players. There is a need for local and regional measures too, which moderate the probable adverse effects of climate change (such as heat waves, heavy storms, flash floods, soil degradation, water scarcity or emerging new invasive pests) on a short time scale, even if global limitation of CO₂ level is failed. Besides protected areas, it is very important that these concerns should be prioritized in the wider environment too, already at the planning phase. If we apply win-win-win solutions in time, namely, that are beneficial for the climate, for the ecosystems and for the people too, the area will profit a lot in the coming decades. Therefore, implementing measures of spatial planning and land management that is safeguarding the coherence, connectivity and functionality of ecosystems should be one of our most urgent tasks.

Objectives

- Build capacity of CEEweb members as well as decision makers, land managers and planners
- Evaluate the best methods for management of land in adaptation to climate change
- Prepare a large project on adaptation of land management to climate change in CEE countries

Activities

- Organize a seminar on adapting land management to climate change in, for example forests and floodplains in protected areas, and agricultural land of specific character
- In an number of study and reference sites analyze climate friendly management of land using measurable indicators of quantifying CO₂ source and sink potentials and water retention potential
- Implement a pilot project in three microregions in Hungary where multi stakeholder seminars are organized to discuss possibilities for climate friendly land use and spatial planning
- Based on the results of the studies develop recommendations for land management in the form communication material and distribute to the target audience
- Plan a large-scale project (e.g. LIFE+) out of it for 2011 for the application of the climate friendly land use management based on the results of studies and experiences from pilot project in Hungary

Expected results

- Greater understanding on best methods for management of different sites in the climate change situation in the target audience achieved
- Communication material for decision makers and other stakeholders, incl. water engineers is prepared and distributed in printed and electronic format
- A dedicated webpage is created
- A proposal for a large-scale project is prepared

Sustainable Tourism

Maintaining the activities of STWG and promoting the CBD Tourism Guidelines

Both community based tourism and mass tourism are important factors in terms of biodiversity loss or conservation. CEEweb Sustainable Tourism Working Group (STWG) in 2010 plans to focus on concrete projects implemented by the member organizations of the working group and in this way contribute to the implementation of CBD and of the EC Biodiversity Action Plan.

Objectives

- Support the implementation of the EC Biodiversity Action Plan (action A 4.4.1) namely to promote and implement best practices of CBD Guidelines on Biodiversity and Tourism development

Activities

- Organize a project development workshop for such projects that promote sustainable options to mass tourism providers and tourists, and for sustainable tourism development with local communities based on CBD guidelines
- With the involvement of local communities and based on CBD guidelines develop sustainable tourism strategies for 2-3 sites in CEE
- Foster the cooperation of STWG members on bilateral projects through electronic means

Expected results and outputs

- One meeting of the STWG on project development held
- One regional and three bilateral projects developed
- Partnerships on local level strengthen and sustainable tourism strategy development advanced in 2-3 sites

Making mass tourism more sustainable

Below is the description of one of the possible projects of STWG that was discussed at the Annual Meeting of CEEweb. Mass tourism is an industry that has a tremendous impact on environment including biodiversity. STWG feels that substantial amount of efforts should be dedicated to minimizing the negative impacts of mass tourism and maximizing the positive ones.

Objective

- Promote sustainable tourism ideas among the providers of tourism services that operate near the natural areas in Central and Eastern Europe.

Activities

- Based on good practices from previous projects on sustainable tourism in CEEweb and in the region and with the involvement a wide circle of tourism stakeholders, including hotel owners, travel agencies and decision makers on all levels developing and disseminating messages on environment and nature friendly tourism.
- Develop promotional materials to disseminate the message widely
- Organize a series of workshops for local municipalities, NGOs and hotel managers on sustainable tourism
- Launch a media campaign for promoting sustainable tourism towards tourism service providers and/or consumers

Expected results and outputs

- Change in attitudes and knowledge of local municipalities about unsustainable mass tourism
- Change in attitudes and knowledge of local hotel managers and/or owners
- Better understanding on positive and negative impacts of tourism among the decision makers, tourism service providers and consumers
- Actual impacts in terms of nature conservation and environmental performance of tourism service providers

Rural Development

Please note: the plan below remains from the WP2009. The plan for 2010 will be prepared by the WG via electronic means of communication by mid-November.

Supporting Leader programmes and revitalizing rural communities

Objectives

- Empower the local communities to be better able to take responsibility for their wellbeing
- Make use of the opportunities of direct marketing of local products for rural development and Leader programmes
- More sovereignty for local communities through properly designed and implemented Leader programmes

Activities

- Evaluate legislation related to direct marketing in a few CEE countries under project contract (e.g. Hungary, Czech Republic, Serbia)
- On the basis of this evaluation, lobby at national level for simplifying and optimising quality standards and regulations (with lead NGOs in participating countries)
- Organize the "Train the trainers programme": 3 thematic trainings will be organized for 1-2 selected participants by countries (app. 5)
- Continuing capacity-building programmes for Leader communities started in 2008 on the basis of needs collected at the Leader Forum in November 2008
- Continue capacity-building for Leader communities on the basis of needs collected at the Leader Forum in November 2008 through organising a follow up forum in autumn
- Support direct marketing of environmentally friendly agricultural products in EU-10 for better livelihood of farmers and conserving genetic diversity of agricultural breeds and varieties
- Evaluate the relevant EU and national legislation on direct marketing in a few CEE countries, as well as lobby for simplifying and optimising quality standards and regulations, which make use of the opportunities provided by EU legislation

Expected results and outputs

- International forum on Leader programmes
- Suitable regulations and therefore more opportunities for direct marketing
- Direct marketing more widespread in EU-10

Sustainability in rural development

Objectives

- Greater understanding among decision makers of the drivers behind biodiversity loss, which are related to agriculture and rural development
- Better cooperation and information exchange between EU-10 NGOs, EU institutions and other stakeholders on agriculture and rural development

Activities

- Promote understanding of the developed common CEEweb policy among decision-makers through personal meetings with members of EU institutions (European Parliament, European Commission, Permanent Representations, etc.) and lobby for the CEEweb policy
- Prepare a publication on the drivers behind biodiversity loss related to the CAP and rural development targeting decision makers, and provide as an input to the forum for new EU-10 MEPs in autumn
- Organise a CEEweb Rural Development Working Group (RDWG) meeting to discuss issues related to CAP and rural development and share EU-10 experiences

Expected results and outputs

- One RDWG meeting
- Better understanding among decision makers on the sustainability context of CAP and rural development
- Established working contacts with decision makers

- Publication on the CAP and rural development in a sustainability context

Organic and environmentally friendly farming

Objectives

- Promote traditional and environmentally friendly methods of agricultural production

Activities

- Cooperate with farmers' associations, NGOs and other relevant stakeholders on environmentally friendly methods by involving them in CEEweb activities
- Organizing 3 workshops to provide fresh EU-12 experiences to NGOs from accession and candidate countries on the legislative and practical background of EU rural development policy, especially agro-environmental schemes, and on the NGO lobbying opportunities at national and Community level
- Publishing a briefing about better use of available funding opportunities for organic production at national and EU level

Expected results and outputs

- Better understanding of the importance of organic farming among NGOs and producers
- More farmers switching to organic and environmentally friendly farming

Environmentally sound use of biomass

Objectives

- Policies and financial subsidies ensure the environmentally sound use of all forms of biomass in the EU

Activities

- Keep on lobbying for moratorium on agrofuels with cooperation with FoE, EEB, Birdlife, etc. and disseminating the CEEweb/Friends of the Earth Hungary publication on the threats of biomass among decision makers and stakeholders

Expected results and outputs

- Better understanding of the social, environmental and economic impacts of biomass use and production

Cooperation in the Rural Development WG

Objectives

- Stronger NGOs in the CEE region and enhanced cooperation among them

Activities

- Continue recruiting new members for the WG and re-activating the current inactive ones
- Collect and provide information regularly to all the members and share national and EU level experiences among them
- Organize at least 1 WG meeting in 2010, organize a WG meeting, seminar in Turkeve by Nimfea in March
- Develop projects in the framework of the WG meeting

Expected results and outputs

- Expanded and stronger RDWG
- Members actively participate in the WG activities
- Increased capacities of CEE NGOs

Preparing for EU accession in the field of agriculture and rural development

Objectives

- Improved knowledge and understanding of EU legislation among NGOs from (potential) candidate countries and the possibilities of NGOs in involvement on EU and national levels

Activities

- Organize capacity-building workshops for NGOs from (potential) candidate countries to provide fresh EU-10 experiences on the legislative and practical background of EU rural development policy, especially agro-environmental schemes, and on the NGO lobbying opportunities at national and Community level related to CAP implementation
- Promote the sharing of this knowledge within the countries concerned with the active participation of our partners

Expected results and outputs

- Meetings organized for SEE NGOs, background materials prepared
- Improved capacities of SEE NGOs, governments and other stakeholders

CITES

Influencing decisions at CITES COP15

The 15th Conference of the Parties of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora will take place 13-25 March 2010 in Doha (Qatar). While the proposals are not officially published yet, it is expected that quite some of them may have an impact on biodiversity of Central and Eastern European region. At least three representatives of CEEweb CITES WG will participate at the COP15 aiming to influence the decisions in favour of conservation of endangered species.

Objectives

- Influence some of the decisions made during the CITES CoP 15th – with special attention to those affecting the biodiversity in CEE region.
- Strengthen the positive image of CEEweb CITES WG, as an important regional non-governmental stakeholder in CITES issues.

Activities

- Pursue intense lobbying activities towards delegates of at least 10 CITES Parties from the CEE region during the CITES CoP 15th. The following subjects should be covered: internet wildlife trade, elephants and ivory, deletion of bobcat from the CITES Appendix II (if submitted by USA) as well as other important issues that will be chosen by the WG after the CITES Secretariat will announce the proposals.
- Dissemination of the report on the monitoring of internet wildlife trade (that was prepared based on the activities of the WG carried out in 2009) to the CITES CoP 15th delegates of the Parties.

Expected results and outputs

- Copies of the report on the monitoring of internet wildlife trade are transported to Qatar and disseminated to the English speaking delegates of the Parties.
- If needed, the positions of the delegates of the chosen CITES Parties during the CoP in Qatar, change according to the priorities of the CITES WG.
- The internet wildlife trade is covered by the resolution of CITES, the moratorium on elephants is reinforced and other IFAW proposals regarding these animals get supported, the bobcat remains in CITES Appendix II, other COP decision on the subjects chosen by the WG meet the expectations of the WG members.

Capacity building and cooperation of the WG members for better implementation of CITES and EU Wildlife Trade Regulations

There are no professional activities of the non governmental organizations in the field of EU Wildlife Trade Regulations and CITES, without continuous efforts to build the capacity of individuals involved in these subjects. Therefore a workshop for the members of the CEEweb CITES WG focused on the identification of the species of chosen taxonomic group covered by these regulations would be necessary. In addition, the workshop would be followed up by a WG meeting during which best practices and lessons learned about the implemented activities will be shared and future plans will be developed including those for lobbying EU institutions. Cooperation of WG members outside of the meeting would be assured through electronic means.

Objectives

- Improve of the skills and effectiveness of the WG member organizations in the implementation of EU Wildlife Trade Regulations and CITES in their country of origin.
- Report and analyze the activities already carried out by the WG
- Prepare a plan for future activities and projects
- Develop a lobbying plan and address the EU institutions to include in the provisions of the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations the ban on trade of all *Trachemys scripta* subspecies.

Activities

- Organize at least 2-3 days workshop focused on the identification of the species included into the CITES Appendices, with one day dedicated to the things related to the work of the WG.
- Develop project proposal on turtles (containing such elements as fighting against illegal collection of the native tortoises in the region covered by the WG, reducing introduction of the invasive alien species (IAS) of turtles to the natural sites in the region, improving EU policy regarding IAS of turtles, improving society awareness with regard of trade in turtles, etc.)
- Implement the lobbying plan

Expected results and outputs

- The capacity of the representatives of the WG member organizations in identification of the species of chosen taxonomic group covered by CITES improves.
- The operation of the WG gets more efficient, a plan for the future activities gets prepared and the implementation discussed.
- The WG prepares a project proposal on turtles and submits it to LIFE+ or for other source of funding.
- The provisions of the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations include the ban on trade of all *Trachemys scripta* subspecies.

Monitoring the implementation of the EU Wildlife Trade Regulation

Objectives

- Assure better enforcement of the EU Wildlife Trade Regulation (EU WTR, transposing the CITES provisions) in CEE countries and thus also contribute to the implementation of the EC Biodiversity Communication (Action 8.1.8)

Activities

- Continue to monitor the internet commerce of CITES listed species in CEE countries based on the CEEweb methodology, and feed the results to the CITES CoP 15th with a view to influence position at the CoP 15th

Expected results and outputs

- Data on implementation of EU WTR gathered and report prepared
- Enforcement of EU WTR promoted through feedback about implementation

CITES Exhibition in 2010

Capacity-building, communication and strengthening the network

Communication and cooperation inside the network

Sharing information inside the network makes the network more aware therefore more professional. Cooperating within the network gives added value to working separately.

Objectives

- Support effective functioning of the network by assuring efficient information flow (information about lobbying opportunities, priorities and results, sharing the best practices and lessons learned, information about fundraising opportunities, etc).
- Enhance the professionalism, motivation and dedication of network members

Activities

- Regularly inform members on EU and national policy developments, activities of other members and the network, news and positions from the network through the mailing lists and the CEEweb website (www.ceeweb.org)
- Post and disseminate 'Diversity' newsletter on network news to motivate members for action
- Encourage members to communicate CEEweb positions to national decision makers and other NGOs with the help of media and through the national NGO mailing lists (e.g. through the national focal points)

- Use CEEweb mailing lists to let members know about fundraising opportunities, CEEweb proposals and joint projects
- Implement the activities described in the Communication Plan
- Explore innovative means of communication for delivering the messages to CEEweb members during a dedicated staff retreat in April

Expected results and outputs

- A more active nature conservationist network of professional CEEweb members with a better vision of CEE policy issues
- More cooperation among CEEweb members (e.g. common projects)
- The website is up-to-date and well-visited, e-mail lists are used for information sharing and communication
- 'Diversity' contains news from the members

Communication and cooperation outside the network

Showing and communicating this professionalism outside the network makes the network more recognized. Cooperating within and outside the network, gives added value to working separately.

Objectives

- Achieve that CEEweb is widely known as a proactive lobbying force comprising member organizations with valuable experiences in the various fields related to EU policies and implementation
- Maintain already established, well working partnerships with environmental NGOs from outside of the network

Activities

- Post and disseminate 'Diversity' newsletter on the network and policy news
- Regularly reach out to decision-makers (members of the EP, European Commission, etc.) and partners with the information and positions from the network through our presence at events, through our publications and website (www.ceeweb.org)
- Implement the activities described in the Communication Plan
- Improve pages on the CEEweb website that focus on relations with partners and media
- Write and publish CEEweb's "Biennial Report for 2008–2009"
- Issue press releases and other materials aimed at the media to let the public know about important environment-related policy events in CEE
- Explore innovative means of communication for delivering the messages to decision makers and partners during a staff retreat in April

Expected results and outputs

- Up-to-date and well-visited website
- "Biennial Report for 2008–2009" printed on paper in 400 copies and published in electronic form, distributed at relevant events
- The messages of CEEweb appear in the press and other mass or independent electronic media, including in national languages
- Greater recognition of CEEweb by decision-makers as well as (potential) partner organizations

Networking

Network-development inside the network as well as communicating the policy ideas of CEEweb to other sectors is crucial in order to become a more effective lobbying force in the EU and achieve change in biodiversity policy field. Therefore, CEEweb needs to use and strengthen its existing tools and develop other innovative mechanisms in the field of networking.

Objectives

- Become a well-recognized proactive lobbying force in the EU offering policy-level solutions to current trends of biodiversity loss as well as social and environmental problems arising from unsustainable development
- Strengthen professional and personal ties between member organizations
- Improve team spirit in the network, find joint project ideas and opportunities for their implementation

- Activate sleeping members to find partners for common activities
- Increase the number of people dedicated to CEEweb's policy messages from outside the realm of environmental NGOs
- Increase specific projects cooperation between the network and outside NGOs

Activities

- Organize 20 local visits by Policy Office staff to CEEweb members to provide trainings on CEEweb policy and on proactivity and ways to increase success in the NGO field.
- Organize a three-day Annual Meeting (<http://www.ceeweb.org/aboutCEEWEB/annualmeetings>) for the network in the fall/winter of 2009 and offer a workshop on CEEweb's policy.
- Strengthen the National Focal Point system which was established according to the decision of the Annual Meeting in 2008.
- Produce promotion materials for CEEweb for use by members and by outsiders in order to strengthen a common CEEweb identity
- Continue international internships within the Network and hosting interns in the Policy Office
- Cooperate with other networks (mainly based in Brussels) CEEweb has already contacted through ongoing projects.
- Create and maintain a CEEweb blog

Expected results and outputs

- CEEweb member NGOs would be equipped with knowledge on CEEweb Policy and sustainable development, the root causes of unsustainable development and drivers behind biodiversity loss, they would become more committed to represent the policy ideas of the network and they would become more proactive and successful inside and outside the network as well.
- At the Annual Meeting member NGOs would be provided with physical space to meet, to strengthen network cohesion, to find possible ways and means for joint projects and to deepen their understanding on the CEEweb policy and its practical implementations.
- The National Focal Points would assist in finding new partners for CEEweb, activate sleeping members, establish partnerships with national social NGOs and experts from other fields, find partners for the joint proposals, etc. The National Focal Points would also be instrumental in organizing the field trips and related workshops.
- Members have a higher motivation to participate in the activities of the network due to better understanding of what the network/members really do, what projects they can join, what proactivity means, how they can increase their success as NGOs and lobby better
- More personal and professional contacts are established between the Policy Office staff and national members, returning interns take back a new paradigm with themselves on CEEweb's mission and policy
- Partnerships with other fields would be strengthened and extended from outside the traditional field of environmental NGOs, mainly from social field as well as non-civic experts, academicians and researchers. This is a powerful leveraging instrument in spreading CEEweb policy.
- Readers of the CEEweb blog will have a better and more hands-on understanding of CEEweb's policy messages as well as of its projects

Capacity building

To be an effective lobbying force, CEEweb as a network has to strengthen both its professional and general organizational capacities. Therefore, the Policy Office will provide opportunities for improvement to its staff and network members on both fields in 2010.

Objectives

- Improve the advocacy power as well as personal and organizational performance of CEEweb network members and office staff
- Generate a broader understanding of professional issues related to biodiversity conservation and sustainability
- Assure real and long-term prospects for staff based on stable economic conditions and professional development

Activities

- Organize general skills training(s) for CEEweb Policy Office staff and members on one of the following topics:
 - Lobbying skills and techniques
 - Team management skills and techniques

- Presentation skills and techniques
- Skills on good quality writing (articles, reporting, publications, etc)
- Project and time management
- Project development and fundraising
- Organize a CEEweb Academy in 2010 on Climate change and biodiversity
- Continue the individual and team performance evaluation and bilateral feedbacks within the Policy Office, provide individualized capacity building sessions for the general secretary and the staff
- Develop the evaluation mechanism within the network with the involvement of the Board and International Advisory Committee and of the National Focal Points for the improvement of the overall CEEweb performance

Expected results and outputs

- Members as well as CEEweb Policy Office staff have better skills and more solid knowledge on organizational and individual performance as well as knowledge on a proactive lobbying stance
- Members have a broader understanding of professional issues related to biodiversity conservation and sustainability
- Lessons learned from past activities are integrated into the future work and operation for better performance
- The technical competence in the fields where CEEweb is active is increased