

# **CEEWEB WORK PROGRAMME**



**2007**

**CENTRAL AND EAST EUROPEAN WORKING GROUP  
FOR THE ENHANCEMENT OF BIODIVERSITY**



# Work Programme of CEEWEB for 2007

## **Introduction**

*THE MISSION OF CEEWEB IS THE CONSERVATION OF THE BIODIVERSITY THROUGH THE PROMOTION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.*

*The need to conserve biological diversity is not only vital for its intrinsic value but also for the goods and services it provides for humanity, which is essential for social and economic development. This has evoked a great number of environmental NGOs to cooperate in the Central and Eastern European region as well. Although the situation of the NGO movement is different from country to country, the problems they tackle are greatly similar. Some of these common issues are the economic trends, which threaten natural assets and are largely enhanced by the past or still upcoming EU accession of CEE countries in the today globalised world, the problematic enforcement of EU and national environmental legislation and the low environmental awareness of the public. Considering the common environmental problems and values of the region, it became evident for the environmental NGO movement in the CEE countries that co-operation on international level promotes solving their national problems efficiently.*

*CEEWEB was founded in 1994 as the common will of environmental NGOs from twelve countries of Central and Eastern Europe. The overarching aim for the establishment of the CEEWEB network was to work on the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity in CEE countries, to get familiar with each others' environmental activities, exchange ideas and experiences and to start working on joint projects. These projects are to focus on concrete nature conservation and lobby activities, raising public awareness and tackling cross-border nature conservation issues and policies.*

*Later it became obvious, that the greatest challenge for the conservation of biological diversity in these countries is related to the EU membership and the enlargement with Bulgaria and Romania. Tackling this issue calls again for the empowerment of a truly Central and East European NGO network.*

*For the year 2007 the main challenge lying ahead of CEEWEB is to pull together the intellectual resources available within the whole Network and within the topical Working Groups and to provide a holistic approach for the areas of work selected for 2007.*

## ACTIVITIES of CEEWEB in 2007

### 1. WORKING WITH GLOBAL INSTRUMENTS

#### 1.a Convention on Biological Diversity

*Besides forming common policies and actions in the CEE region<sup>1</sup>, promoting sustainable development and raising public awareness, a further aim of CEEWEB is promoting the enforcement of biodiversity conventions with special regards to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Being a holistic convention with the objectives of conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and equitable sharing of benefits, the implementation should be furthered in several areas in a multi-stakeholder approach. On Pan-European level the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy provides a frame for the regional implementation of the CBD. (See more below)*

*The European Union is also Party to the Convention and thus committed to implement its provisions as a regional economic organisation. As Member States delegate specific tasks, among others in the field of environment, agriculture, transport to the EU level, and at the same time the implementation of the Convention requires substantial efforts in these fields, EU policies and activities must also take the requirements of the Convention into account and they should be efficiently coordinated both horizontally at EU level, and vertically with the MSs' policies and activities.*

*The role of the EU in the CBD will be particularly enhanced by the next Conference of the Parties, which will take place in one of the EU member states, Germany in 2008. In addition to working with the EU and national governments, CEEWEB aims to find the entering points into the global CBD process in order to provide input from the lower levels. The various thematic fields CEEWEB works in (Natura 2000, agro-biodiversity and rural development, sustainable tourism, CITES, etc.) are all relevant in contributing to the objectives of the Convention and can bring valuable experiences and expertise into higher policy forming forums. Currently there is still a lack of knowledge and interest about the CBD among NGOs and other stakeholders in the region, which calls for further capacity building and involvement.*

#### **Overall objective**

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CBD IS REALISED THROUGH THE COOPERATION OF VARIOUS STAKEHOLDERS AND SECTORAL INTEGRATION ON ALL POLICY AND DECISION MAKING LEVELS.

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<sup>1</sup> With special focus on the new member states (with the exception of Cyprus and Malta), the two accession countries and countries involved in the good neighborhood policy of the EU

## Objectives

- Raise the profile of biodiversity conservation and CBD among stakeholders (NGOs, governmental officials, European Parliamentarians, European Commission, other Conventions' Focal Points (e.g. Carpathian Convention)), which is necessary for their involvement in the implementation
- Help the NGOs particularly in Central and Eastern Europe better realise the role and opportunities that CBD as a legal instrument can provide for nature conservation on national and regional levels
- Enhance cooperation between NGOs and governments (CBD Focal Points, other officials)
- Build the capacity of NGOs to deliver their opinions and expertise into the policy making process at the global and national levels
- Build the capacity and encourage grassroots NGOs to participate in a more coordinated and focused way in the implementation of CBD through practical projects
- Promote the application of the ecosystem approach in all areas of policy and decision making that affect biodiversity and ecosystem functioning
- Ensure the implementation of CBD by raising its importance on national, international conservation agendas

## Activities

- Prepare planning guidelines based on the ecosystem approach in different sectors (agriculture, protected areas planning and management, tourism) and provide these guidelines for the planning of programmes and projects financed by EU funds
- Liaise with other NGOs and provide input into the official EU position for COP-9 in agreement with UNEP/ROE
- Relevant CEEWEB members organise thematic workshops for stakeholders on CBD and the upcoming COP
- Build the capacity of NGOs in CEE countries on special thematic areas of CBD with particular focus on the upcoming COP
- Organise a joined campaign on biodiversity linked to the International Day of Biodiversity (22 May) targeting European Parliamentarians, the European Commission, international business associations
- Prepare assessment of the impact of CBD on the nature conservation policies and implementing measures of the Parties
- Undertake a survey for identifying relevant issues on parts of CBD that are interesting for members

## 1.b CBD Guidelines for Biodiversity and Tourism Development

*Taking into account the increasing pressure on habitats and species exerted by tourism related activities, there is a need that NGOs push tourism development towards sustainability. For this aim it is necessary to improve the capacity and enhance the knowledge of NGOs working on tourism and biodiversity.*

*For this reason CEEWEB members established the Sustainable Tourism Working Group in 2003 to tackle the specific problems in this area and determined to make full use of the International Guidelines for Biodiversity and Tourism Development of the Convention on Biological Diversity.*

### **Overall objective**

TO MAKE TOURISM IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES SUSTAINABLE THROUGH JOINT ACTIVITIES, SUCH AS INFORMATION EXCHANGE, PROMOTING GOOD PRACTICES, TRAINING AND EDUCATION, POLICY-MAKING, PILOT PROJECTS AND LOBBYING.

### **Objectives**

- Change understanding and actions of stakeholders towards sustainable tourism through training and education
- Transfer international agreements into local and regional actions
- Broaden and improve cooperation for sustainable tourism development through networking of NGOs in Central and Eastern Europe

### **Activities**

- Improve the skills of NGOs in targeting different stakeholders in promoting and developing sustainable tourism
- Campaigning, lobbying, national and regional workshops
- Gather feedback through country and regional reports, evaluation on local level
- Develop skills needed for launching and managing sustainable tourism projects
- Prepare a pilot project based on CBD guidelines
- Assist in developing sustainable tourism strategy and protocol under the Carpathian Convention
- Promote the European Agenda 21 for tourism
- Exchange of best practice and lessons learned
- Exchange of information and/or implementation of common activities with other networks and working groups
- Build capacity of NGOs outside the Sustainable Tourism Working Group at national levels on sustainable tourism

## 1.c CITES and EU Wildlife Trade Regulation

*The EU Environmental Action Programmes and legislation on the protection and conservation of the Community's indigenous species made wildlife trade regulations shift from a national affair to a matter of Community competence. The European Union Wildlife Trade Regulation (Council Regulation (EC) No. 1332/2005 from August 9 2005) enforces CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) within the EU and provides additional measures for the conservation of species in trade. There are still misgivings about the European Commission becoming a Party to the Convention, however the Commission is still committed to achieving European Community membership of CITES as soon as possible.*

*Realising the challenges of wildlife trade in CEE countries, especially as many of them being on the external border of the EU, NGOs formed the CEEWEB CITES WG and initiated a regional assessment on the implementation of the Convention.*

### **Overall objective**

TO PROTECT ENDANGERED SPECIES BY IMPLEMENTING THE PROVISIONS OF REGULATIONS CONCERNING WILDLIFE TRADE, SUCH AS THE CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE OF ENDANGERED SPECIES (CITES), EU WILDLIFE TRADE REGULATION AND RELEVANT NATIONAL LAWS IN CEE COUNTRIES.

### **Objectives**

- Outline the current features of CITES implementation in seven CEE countries
- Raise public awareness on CITES related issues
- Strengthen lobbying capacity of member NGOs
- Influence the decision-making process before and during CITES CoP14 by the member organisations
- Enlarge the Working Group with NGOs from remaining CEE countries

### **Activities:**

- Complete and publish the report on CITES implementation in the CEE countries
- Capacity building workshops for the Working Group members
- Preparation (e.g. seminars with experts) and active participation at CITES CoP14
- International public campaign on CITES (media campaign, short documentary, photo exhibition, leaflet distribution)
- Fundraising for WG activities

## 1.d Global Environmental Facility

*The Global Environmental Facility (GEF) was established as one of the results of the Rio Summit in 1992. Its mission is to provide financial mechanism among others to the implementation of CBD. As the new replenishment discussions were concluded, it became fact that the European Union member states are the biggest donors of the GEF. In the meanwhile most of the new member states change their status from recipient to donor. Therefore it is important that NGOs from these countries prepare for this changed role (shifting from project implementers to policy related activity) in order to stronger represent the overall policy of the EU during GEF deliberations.*

*The so-called GEF NGO network represents the public opinion in formulating the policy of GEF. It functions through the network of Regional Focal Points (RFPs), which is always an NGO with regional outreach capacities. In the Central and East-European region CEEWEB holds this position.*

### Overall objective

ENSURE THAT THE GEF INSTRUMENT IS FULFILLING ITS AIMS AND OBJECTIVES AND CONTRIBUTES TO THE PROTECTION OF NATURAL ASSETS IN THE CENTRAL AND EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.

### Objectives

- Support the reform of the GEF NGO Network for a more effective and efficient functioning
- Involve in the GEF Secretariat's work of rebuilding NGO portfolio and work program
- Ensure the involvement of the NGOs in the planning and decision making processes of GEF
- Encourage NGOs to get accredited to the Global Environmental Facility
- Provide know-how for NGOs considering applying for GEF support for projects
- Start building new NGO coalition reflecting the donor status of the new EU member states – providing more engagement on policy levels

### Activities

- Provide information on GEF news and policy issues mainly via mailing list and website
- Conduct preparatory consultations prior to Council Meetings electronically
- Present the NGO concerns from the CEE region on the GEF Council Meetings
- Attend the bi-annual Council Meeting of GEF (the main decision making event) and represent the concerns of the CEE NGOs
- Lobby the constituencies representing the CEE countries
- Initiate the process of restructuring the European NGO caucus in light of the changed recipient position of the new EU member states
- Start regional work on the GEF review processes through learning lessons from GEF projects and feed them into the review process as case studies
- Assist members in developing multi-country GEF projects

## 2. WORKING WITH PAN-EUROPEAN INSTRUMENTS

### 2.a Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy

*The 'Environment for Europe' (EfE) process sets the Pan-European environmental agenda since its launch in 1991. It regularly brings together ministers of environment to discuss major issues, review achievements, set targets and agree on future cooperation. NGO participation is valuable contribution in the process.*

*At the third Ministerial Conference in Sofia 1995 the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy was adopted, which aims to be the regional arm of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Since then the PEBLDS has set priority issues for action through its past Action Plans and the current Rolling Work Programme, such as the establishment of the Pan-European Ecological Network, sectoral integration, awareness raising and capacity building. In 2005 CEEWEB was elected as one of the three NGOs to be permanent observer member of the PEBLDS Bureau – the operative body of the PEBLDS Council.*

#### **Overall objective**

THE PAN-EUROPEAN BIOLOGICAL AND LANDSCAPE DIVERSITY STRATEGY AS THE EUROPEAN RESPONSE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CBD, PROVIDES A UNIQUE HOLISTIC FRAME FOR INTERNATIONAL ACTIONS AND ACTIVITIES WITH EFFECTIVE RESULTS.

#### **Objectives**

- Further engage in promoting PEBLDS as a Pan-European policy for conservation
- Remain an active actor in the 'Environment for Europe' process
- Ensure that biodiversity is a high on the agenda of the EfE process focusing on the 6<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference in 2007 and facilitate joined NGOs actions for the Conference

#### **Activities**

- Set up a task force in order to coordinate NGO involvement into the next Ministerial Conference held in 2007 autumn in Serbia among the CEE based NGOs
- Build capacity through information dissemination and trainings for NGOs within the CEEWEB Network, and for other interested CEE nature conservation NGOs as well
- Engage in the work of PEBLDS Secretariat
- Promote better understanding and interest among NGOs and stakeholders on PEBLDS, its related activities and the opportunities that the Pan-European process provides for nature conservation
- Collect information on best practices and lessons learned of NGOs implementing PEBLDS
- Engage nature conservation NGOs and relevant stakeholders more in the activities connected to the PEBLDS in policy shaping and monitoring
- Inform NGOs about PEBLDS meetings (ad hoc meetings, PEBLDS Bureau and Council meetings, Biodiversity in Europe Conferences, etc.), the preparations, the main issues on the agenda and the outcomes to the NGOs via e-mail distribution

- lists, website and the *Diversity* newsletter
- Participate on the PEBLDS Bureau and Council Meetings and be an active player in the PEBLDS reform
- Co-implement the PEBLDS work program with UNEP, ECO-Forum and other actors in the field of education and training, agriculture and monitoring
- Advocate for the PEBLDS work program in the EEB Biodiversity Working Group

### 3. WORKING WITH EUROPEAN UNION INSTRUMENTS

*The European Union is clearly a major force in shaping the political and natural landscape in CEE countries: in new member states and also in accession and candidate countries. This influence is manifested in the political priorities of the Lisbon process and in the various sectoral policies, but also exerted in the form of the EU Structural and Cohesion Funds that are often used for environmentally controversial investments.*

*The global economic competition and globalisation reprioritised the political EU agenda in the last years, pushed social and environmental issues into the background and made the transition to sustainable development even more difficult. As the new Commission formulated, "the most urgent issue facing Europe today is clear: growth and jobs". In this environment the CEE countries find themselves in an especially difficult situation to defend their natural environment, even if it is the basis of any human (and thus economic) activities.*

*For this reason it is especially important to promote a concept of sustainable development that is not defined through competitiveness, but realises that the aim is the social improvement of citizens' life, for which environment is a condition, and economy is only a tool.*

*Thus socially and environmentally responsible NGOs and other stakeholders should offer a viable and long-term alternative for development within and outside Europe. The need for alternative will be also evoked in the coming years or even decades by the challenges of climate change, ageing society and environmental degradation. Substantial changes are also needed if the EU is to meet its target to halt of the decline of biodiversity by the year 2010.*

#### 3.a Strategic Environmental Assessment as an instrument for sectoral integration

*The Amsterdam Treaty provides for in article 6 that "environmental protection requirements must be integrated into the definition and implementation of the Community policies and activities referred to in Article 3, in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development". According to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive programs and plans with likely significant affects on the environment should be subject to strategic environmental assessment, in order to evaluate their environmental performance and to influence the way they are implemented. The Directive came into force in 2004, but available experience on the implementation is still scarce.*

## **Overall objective**

INTEGRATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SUSTAINABILITY  
CONSIDERATIONS INTO NATIONAL PLANS AND PROGRAMMES  
WITH A VIEW TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

## **Objectives**

- Promote the effective and appropriate use of SEAs as an instrument for sectoral integration
- Raise awareness of policy makers at the national level about sectoral integration
- Build up capacity of member organization in SEA

## **Activities**

- Assess current practices in performing SEAs of national plans and programmes in cooperation with other NGOs
- Share information and experiences with other countries through participation in the EEB Biodiversity WG
- Organize training for CEEWEB with help of specialised organizations, e.g. Estonian Fund for Nature, WWF
- Organize a workshop on how to use new EU instruments in general (e.g. Liability Directive)

### *3.c EU biodiversity policy*

*The European Union committed itself to halt the loss of biodiversity by 2010 at the Gothenburg European Council in 2001. Within the EU biodiversity policy review, the Commission developed a Communication in May 2006: Halting the loss of biodiversity by 2010 and beyond - Sustaining ecosystem services for human well-being. The annexed EU Action Plan to 2010 and beyond sets out specific actions with related targets, which address both EU institutions and Member States. In addition, 16 headline indicators for biodiversity are described in line with the proposed global indicators endorsed by the Convention on Biological Diversity. Now the challenge lies ahead of the EU and member states to realise the envisaged activities.*

## **Overall objective**

TO UTILISE THE PROVISIONS OF EU BIODIVERSITY POLICY IN ORDER  
TO CONTRIBUTE TO HALTING THE LOSS OF BIODIVERSITY IN EUROPE.

## **Objectives**

- Promote the implementation of the Communication by the European Commission on halting the loss of biodiversity by 2010
- Support that policy making and implementation at the EU are in line with the

- requirements of the CBD
- Monitor the effectiveness of biodiversity policies and environmental performance in CEE

## Activities

- Disseminate information about the biodiversity policy developments in the EU, including the biodiversity communication and the related EU action plan
- By the 2007 Belgrade conference prepare a map for awareness raising, which show the human pressures on Natura 2000 and protected areas coming from road infrastructure, agriculture, industry and agglomerations in CEE countries
- Under the auspices of the Pan-European Eco-Forum organise the Ministerial round table on nature conservation during the Belgrade Conference
- Provide input on biodiversity related issues into the consultation process conducted by the Commission before the review of the 6<sup>th</sup> Environmental Action Programme is published

### 3.d Natura 2000

*The establishment of the Natura 2000 network is coming to an end now, the only remaining biogeographic seminar in EU-10 is the one for the Continental part of Poland, which needs to be paid attention though. Besides taking part in this particular process, NGOs now have to focus on the further accession countries: Romania and Bulgaria, which are to submit their national lists of proposed Sites of Community Interest by the beginning of 2007. This is a hot time for Romanian and Bulgarian NGOs for both contributing to the national lists and preparing shadow lists for their biogeographic seminars.*

*The main task for EU 10 member states of the CEE region concerning Natura 2000 in 2007 will be the proper implementation of the Habitats Directive: assuring sufficient financing for Natura 2000 (both on EU and national levels), management of sites in order to maintain their favourable conservation status, as well as monitoring and reporting in order to meet EU obligations. For all this member states need to create the proper legal regulation and institutional basis. NGOs should have a common strategy and significant input in these fields, which will be among the main activities of CEEWEB in 2007.*

## **Overall objective**

REACH AND MAINTAIN THE FAVOURABLE CONSERVATION STATUS OF SPECIES AND HABITAT TYPES OF EUROPEAN IMPORTANCE IN THE CEE REGION.

## **Objectives**

- Ensure that site designation is based on purely scientific ground, and the sites are sufficient to maintain favourable conservation status of the species or habitats which they host
- Promote NGO involvement in the bilateral negotiations following the seminars
- Enhance cooperation with other NGOs (IUCN, WWF, Bird Life) on monitoring and reporting and financing issues
- Aim for the first 2007 national reports reflecting the true conservation status of habitats and species
- Aim for commitment from military institutions for nature conservation in the CEE region through building partnership and establishing cooperation
- Promote adequate representation of the specific CEE concerns regarding Natura 2000 in the work of the European Parliament and of various bodies of the Commission
- Support the harmonisation of the objectives of Habitats and Birds Directives and multilateral agreements (PEBLDS, Carpathian Convention)

## **Activities**

- Prepare the NGO input and participation of accession countries NGOs into the biogeographic seminars in Poland, Romania and Bulgaria and lobby for NGO involvement in the following bilateral negotiations in all involved countries
- Support NGO shadow monitoring through coordination with other NGOs (e.g. WWF, BirdLife)
- Follow up Natura 2000 financing in Rural Development Plans and National Development Plans in a number of new MSs, lobby for better financing if necessary on national and EU levels
- Prepare position paper on national LIFE+ implementation
- Cooperate with other international NGOs in communicating the benefits of Natura 2000
- Further cooperation and knowledge exchange between member countries on nature conservation in military training areas
- Share experiences on Habitats and Birds Directives implementation with NGOs from Romania and Bulgaria and other accession countries
- Continue cooperation and participation in the work of other international conservation networks dealing with Birds and Habitats Directives implementation
- Link the activities of CEEWEB Natura 2000 WG to the Emerald Network
- Monitor and contribute to ensure that management plans of Natura 2000 sites are appropriate

### *3.e Rural development*

*The latest round of reforms of the Common Agriculture Policy took place in 2002 and 2003, when the concept of compulsory cross-compliance and the general principle of decoupling support from production were introduced. However the simplification of the CAP is still going on, which will provide for a more transparent policy.*

*In preparation for the 2007-2013 programming period of the EU, the MSs prepare their Rural Development Plans in line with the EU Strategic Guidelines for Rural Development, as well as their National, Regional Development Plans and Operational Programmes. For a viable rural economy and healthy natural countryside it is crucial that these plans integrate sustainability and biodiversity considerations and provide adequate funding for socially and environmentally adequate farming.*

#### **Overall objective**

INTEGRATING THE CONCEPT OF SUSTAINABILITY INTO THE AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY IN CEE COUNTRIES WITH A VIEW TO MAINTAIN AND ENHANCE BIODIVERSITY IN RURAL AREAS, AS WELL AS INTEGRATING CONSERVATION PRINCIPLES INTO AGRICULTURE, AND IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE COUNTRYSIDE.

#### **Objectives**

- Influence policy makers at national and EU level for giving a higher priority to eco-social dimensions of agriculture
- Assess the special problems of rural areas in CEE countries and monitor the development of national rural development plans
- Ensure the knowledge, information and best practice exchange regarding rural development policy and its relevance to nature conservation within the CEE region to reach a common level of understanding in order to form and articulate common positions
- Maintain the communication and information channel between the Commission and CEE NGOs
- Advocate specific CEE concerns regarding agriculture and rural development in the work of the European Parliament and of various bodies of the Commission and the Council
- Deepen the cooperation with other NGOs (e.g. EEB, Bird Life) on agriculture and rural development issues

#### **Activities**

- Build capacity of NGOs potentially dealing with agriculture and rural development in the CEE region
- Establish CEEWEB Advisory Committees in selected CEE countries as a pilot activity to assess the specific problems of rural areas in the region to formulate common principles and to form statements and proposals in order to influence EU agri-environmental and rural development policies
- Monitor the development of national rural development plans and their

implementation

- Monitor the CAP reform and develop well-founded proposals reflecting the positions of CEEWEB member NGOs
- Provide information to CEE NGOs about the implementation of the simplification of CAP
- Continue the participation in the official advisory committee "Agriculture and Environment" of the European Commission
- Participate in relevant hearings and consultations of the EP and the EC in order to ensure the maximum representation of CEE views and concerns
- Work together with environment, animal welfare, rural development and farmer organizations, resulting in coordinated activities at EU and national level, and possibly joint statements and lobby actions
- Co-ordinate and strengthen the CEEWEB Rural Development WG through electronic communication and with WG meetings
- Participate in the EEB Agricultural WG twice a year
- Further cooperate with and establish partnerships with international NGOs (e.g. Friends of the Earth, WWF, Bird Life, PREPARE network) and networks working on agriculture and rural development issues
- Prepare an indicative map of sustainable regional and rural development initiatives – best practices and lessons learned
- Participate in the next CSD cycle on Agriculture
- Launch a CEE campaign on food kilometres and community supported agriculture (linking producers with consumers)

### *3. f European Agenda 21 for Tourism*

***The European Union has also realised the threats that tourism bears on the natural environment and that it continues to be an increasing problem. For this reason a European Agenda 21 for Tourism is under development with the involvement of NGO experts as well. CEEWEB actively participates in representing the views of the civil society during the drafting process.***

#### **Overall objective**

TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IS IMPLEMENTED IN EUROPE WITH A VIEW TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ADEQUATELY BALANCING SOCIAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC ASPECTS.

#### **Objectives**

- Ensure that the European Agenda 21 for Tourism adequately integrates biodiversity considerations along with social and economic aspects
- Increase the knowledge on the European Agenda 21 for Tourism among NGOs

## Activities

- Participate in the final drafting of the European Agenda 21 for Tourism
- Promote the widespread distribution of knowledge on European Agenda 21 for Tourism among CEE NGOs
- Promote the implementation of the European Agenda 21 for Tourism in CEE countries

## 4. WORKING WITH REGIONAL INSTRUMENTS

### 4.a Carpathian Convention

*Biodiversity is under serious threat from unsustainable exploitation, pollution and land-use changes throughout Central and Eastern Europe. The relatively modest level of development in the region provides opportunities, as well as challenges for the sustainable use of biodiversity. This is realised in the Convention for the Sustainable Development in the Carpathians (Carpathian Convention), which is signed by seven Carpathian countries –the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia and Ukraine.*

*By promoting sustainable rural development through policy work and practical projects, which includes sustainable agriculture and sustainable tourism, access to sound transport, food and energy sources and respect for local cultures and traditions, a chain reaction with positive multiplier effects can be achieved throughout the region's rural economy. CEEWEB launched a pilot project in Romania for these aims that can provide positive model for the implementation of the Convention.*

### Overall objective

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CARPATHIAN CONVENTION IS REALISED WITH THE ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT OF LOCAL POPULATION AND DIVERSE, INCOME GENERATING RURAL ACTIVITIES THAT RESPECT THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND CONTRIBUTE TO THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGION.

## Objectives

- Provide for NGO involvement in developing strategies and protocols under the Convention
- Integrate the Convention's related activities with the EU rural development and biodiversity policies
- Provide input from CEEWEB organisations to the Working Groups of the Convention

## Activities

- Provide assistance to the Interim Secretariat
- Inform the NGOs within the scope of the Convention about policy developments, implementation of its work programme and CEEWEB's related activities
- Follow the preparatory events for setting up the Balkan Convention and

- strengthening CEEWEB members from Balkan to address the Balkan Convention
- After the CoP1, translate and formulate the decisions taken and bring them closer to member organizations
- Negotiate follow-up activities with ANPED and other organisations based on the outcomes of COP1
- Lobby for getting a stronger protocol on biodiversity in terms of enforcement

## 5. COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

*CEEWEB has the mandate to work in the Central and East European region on biodiversity related issues. However, there are also several other organizations, networks that have biodiversity portfolios and / or work on the perimeters of biodiversity. CEEWEB is seeking active cooperation with these organizations.*

### **Overall objective**

COORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES OF CEEWEB WITH OTHER NGOS  
AND NGO NETWORKS FOR MAXIMUM RESULTS AND EFFECTIVENESS  
IN NATURE CONSERVATION.

### **Objectives**

- Enhance cooperation with other NGOs in order to achieve synergies with their work programmes, increase efficiency of NGO work and avoid duplication of efforts
- Ensure that activities of other NGO networks are taken into consideration in CEEWEB planning processes

### **Activities**

- Position CEEWEB in relation to other networks: prepare organigram and establish rules on how to cooperate with other NGOs and networks
- Maintain cooperation with IUCN on the 2010 Countdown Initiative
- Continue the work with UNEP Regional Office for Europe
- Actively prepare and participate at UNEP's civil society regional consultations
- Promote keeping biodiversity and agriculture high on EEB's agenda
- Further participate in the meetings of EEB's Biodiversity and Agriculture WGs, taking the lead on regional development, financing and monitoring Natura 2000 and CBD/Countdown 2010 issues
- Further act as board member of the Carpathian Ecoregion Initiative, participating in the implementation of its work program
- In cooperation with ANPED start providing training for NGOs in order to strengthen the Central and East European concerns to the next cycle of CSD (Commission on Sustainable Development)
- Cooperate with the Carpathian Ecoregion Initiative, e.g. through maintaining the Board membership

## 6. COOPERATION WITHIN THE NETWORK

*CEEWEB represents the network of several dozen nature conservation organizations from Central and East European countries, working together to protect the natural heritage of the region. Presently CEEWEB is the only network in operation which has been set up and run by nature conservation NGOs in Central and Eastern Europe.*

*The CEEWEB Policy Office aims to strengthen the Network and its common identity through a number of services and other activities, as well as build the capacity of its individual members.*

### 6.a Working Groups

#### Objectives

- Further CEEWEB support for the Working Groups in order to implement the CEEWEB Work Programme.
- Ensure that the activities of the Working Groups are harmonised in a holistic manner.

Member organizations of the CEEWEB network can establish thematic Working Groups (WGs) as mission-oriented task forces, led by an elected Chair and receiving financial and administrative support from the Policy Office for implementing their work programme. The WGs set their own goals and objectives, stated in their work programme. The resources provided by CEEWEB and the own fund-raising activities of the Working Groups constitute the financial basis for their activities. The operating conditions of the Working Groups are regulated by a Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Chair of the Working Group and by the CEEWEB Secretary General. The Annual Meeting decides on the establishment of new working groups. Their elected chairs also become members of the CEEWEB Advisory Committee, thus the specific policy priorities are adequately represented in the strategic planning of the organisation.

Currently four WGs operate, on Natura 2000, Sustainable Tourism, CITES and Rural Development. WGs prepare their Work Programs prior to the AM and present them for approval. They also circulate information about planned meetings of the WGs in the general mailing list in order to give each member a chance to contribute to the meetings and thus to improve interdisciplinary cooperation.

### 6.b Strengthening the cohesion of the Network

#### Activities

- Set clear indicators for measuring the success and challenge of the targeted Network development activities
- Visit member organisations to collect and update information on the overall needs and expectations of the Network members
- Design template –based on the ongoing needs assessment- to help CEEWEB members and the Policy Office identify key issues for the region and translate ideas into concrete actions in the existing Working Groups, and rethink how the diversity of Network as a whole could be more effectively used, based on the members knowledge, experiences and capacities

- Prepare a “calendar of events” on the CEEWEB website indicating all the international meetings CEEWEB members attend in order to give an insight for the others through short reports posted on the same site
- Form an ad-hoc Expert Group on cross-cutting policy issues which ensures the holistic approach and gives policy guidance
- Provide concrete services for the Network members in the field of advocacy, training, representation, etc.

### *6.c CEEWEB Internship Programme*

CEEWEB aims to strengthen the relation and cooperation with the members through launching an internship program. Thus, the Policy Office plans to host interns from member NGOs and encourage the sending of interns from CEEWEB members to other hosting CEEWEB organisations. The aim is to provide opportunities for interns to gain practice and work experience in the work of the CEEWEB network in areas relevant to their sending organisation. This also builds fundamentals for later cooperation between the Policy Office and the sending organisation to which the intern returns after the completion of the internship programme.

The CEEWEB Policy Office will encourage international internships e.g. through providing information for interested organisations on its mailing lists and website, and putting the CEEWEB advertisement on the local NGOs´ websites as well.

### *6.d CEEWEB “Academy”*

The Annual Meeting mandated the Policy Office in 2004 to design and financially ensure a seminar series called ‘CEEWEB Academy’. The objective is to provide capacity building and knowledge transfer in order to achieve a common level of understanding among the various CEEWEB NGO members with different background and capacities, who can thus work together in a more effective and harmonised way in a more coherent network.

The two- or three-day seminars include presentations by internationally recognised speakers, discussions and working group sessions. The background materials and presentations are made available on the website. The primary aim is not only to impart academic knowledge through the seminars, but to develop a proper, holistic approach and view that support the prevention of environmental problems and long term solutions. The secondary purpose of the ‘CEEWEB Academy’ is to increase the internal cohesion of the Network by creating a common understanding about the topics discussed.

The following topics were suggested by the 2006 AM for 2007:

- SEA, EIA and Liability Directive
- How to work with the media
- CBD – GEF
- Fundraising (skills and resources)

### *6.e The newsletter of CEEWEB: ‘Diversity’*

‘Diversity’ is the printed form of information exchange within the CEEWEB Network, which was restructured in 2005. CEEWEB distributes ‘Diversity’ to the entire network of CEEWEB, to donors, policy partners (European Parliamentarians, governmental officials working on environmental issues), and key NGO networks (e.g. ANPED, IUCN, Bird Life, WWF) with whom CEEWEB works in partnership. It is foreseen, that the Diversity will be produced four times in 2007.

Through '*Diversity*' CEEWEB aims to

- Encourage communication and strengthen cooperation between the CEEWEB members and the Policy Office (serve as a channel for members for sharing project ideas, experiences and methodologies)
- Contribute to the capacity building of individuals working in the member organisations, e.g. through the introduction of best practices and concepts
- Inform about international and EU policies, agreements and achievements in the field of biodiversity and related areas, provide analytical information in order to enhance the common level of understanding
- Inform about CEEWEB activities, events, publications and planned projects
- Stimulate interest and curiosity through presenting a great diversity of issues in an attractive way.

The Policy Office coordinates the compilation of a mailing list with addresses from all countries where the *Diversity* newsletter should be sent to, with the help of the member organisations.

## *6.f Website*

The CEEWEB homepage ([www.ceeweb.org](http://www.ceeweb.org)) is a stable contact point for the whole network, where continuously updated information is available with regards to the issues CEEWEB works on (e.g. biodiversity, EU policies, tourism, CITES, Natura 2000). The homepage hosts a digital library of the publications of the CEEWEB Policy Office. The website is frequently updated, in order to serve as the backbone both for internal information dissemination within the CEEWEB Network as well as to be an attractive entry point for external contacts.

In 2007 the CEEWEB Policy Office will start making comprehensive reference materials available on the website in order to start up a "mini" clearing house for NGOs from Central and Eastern Europe. Besides this, the website will host a "calendar of events" in order to make CEEWEB relevant events more widely known in the Network. Last, but not least CEEWEB will make the presentations given on behalf of the network available in a separate page within its website. Member organisations can use them for their own capacity building or contact the presenters for more in-depth information.

The Policy Office shall explore the possibilities to develop a content management system for the WG pages. Access to the member pages is to be protected by a password and contain archives for internal publications, news, conferences, etc. The Policy Office will also explore the possibilities to provide a system, so that member organisations can easily change their data themselves.

## *6.g Mailing lists*

The CEEWEB Policy Office maintains a mailing list for all CEEWEB members and it also hosts a mailing list for each CEEWEB WG for thematic issues. Besides general matters about the operation of the Network (Annual Meetings, Board Meetings), information on policy development is provided, input into joint positions is sought, opportunities, requests for cooperation are announced, discussions are generated.

If there is need for, the Policy Office will explore the possibilities to establish discussion forums on specific topics.

## *6.h Policy Office support*

The CEEWEB Policy Office staff provide professional support for the policy work of the Network in thematic areas, as well as take care of the administrative tasks and financial duties. The network coordinator supported by other staff members provide services to network members (website, printed and digital library, mailing lists, 'Diversity', general information services, fundraising, assisting member applicants, etc.). The network coordinator is also in charge of organising the statutory meetings.

## *6.i External communication of the Network*

CEEWEB aims to communicate its view and positions in the media, as well as publicise its events and products to a wider audience. It includes communication through the website, press releases and conferences, radio interviews, publications, the *Diversity* newsletter, events, etc. It aims to use the opportunities of larger-scale conferences (e.g. COPs) to organise side-events.

CEEWEB members will be encouraged to use the logo <member of CEEWEB> more widespread, e.g. on their websites, publications. The Policy Office will provide its member organisations with an identity kit.

# **7. STATUTORY MEETINGS**

## *7.a Annual Meeting*

The Annual Meeting (AM) is the main decision-making and planning instrument of the Network. The AM is public, where all members and organisations applying for membership are invited, but the representatives of other NGOs /networks can be also asked for participation for working out future cooperation possibilities. The Annual Meeting decides upon the work programme for the next year, elects the officers, adopts the annual narrative and financial reports, endorses the establishment of Working Groups and their Work Programmes. It also approves the membership of new applicants.

The AM also aims to strengthen and build the cohesion among members through the personal meeting, social activities the common thinking and planning in thematic areas.

## *7.b Meetings of the Board and the Advisory Committee*

The Board is entitled to make strategic decisions in the interim periods between AMs and give quick response to suddenly emerging issues. The Board continually monitors the activities of CEEWEB and provides interim budget control. The Board may also decide, who from the Board or member organisations shall represent CEEWEB at meetings. The Board consists of the President, the Vice-president and one regular member elected by the AM for two years.

The Board is assisted by the Advisory Committee (AC), which consists of three general members elected by the AM and the WG Chairs elected by the WGs. The AC forms opinions about all issues, which are subject to the decision of the Board.

The Board and the AC hold meetings together, expectedly four times in 2007. The Board meeting is public, additional individuals can be also invited.