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Project for Natura 2000 connectivity and Green Infrastructure – cooperation with the Visegrad countries

Europe is the most densely populated continent with high level of urban areas and actively used lands with an approx. 30% of fragmented area. The spreading of grey infrastructure and the unsustainable land-use practices cause habitat fragmentation and destruction, which are main factors of species and ecosystem services (e.g. food production, recreation, flood prevention, pollination, etc.) decline. Although Central and Eastern Europe is relatively untouched in comparison with our Western neighbours, many of our region's species are endangered.

It is essential to preserve the high biodiversity of the Visegrad countries by sustainable land use and ecological network through adequate national and EU policies. It is especially important in the light of the Hungarian and Polish EU Presidencies, where the EU's ecological network (Natura 2000) and Green Infrastructure are high priorities. Within this framework, Visegrad NGOs will form and represent a common Visegrad position towards the Ministries, the Polish Presidency and the EU with the aim of creating sustainable land use, and through this, to maintain our high biodiversity.

Our main goals include that the rich natural heritage of the Visegrad countries is conserved through integrated spatial planning, where ecological networks, the connectivity of Natura 2000 and the maintenance of ecosystem services are duly taken into account. To achieve this goal we will jointly create a Visegrad position that shapes national and EU policies also using the possibility of the Hungarian and Polish Presidencies, while also strengthening cooperation among the region's NGOs.

In order to ensure the survival of our rich ecosystems, we will carry out a research, and formulate and communicate our joint position towards decision-makers and the public through various means.

The first meeting of this project will take place in Gomorszolos, July 6, 2011 to work out the methodology of the connectivity study, which will serve the base for the collection of national examples.

For details and further information, visit our website (www.ceeweb.org).

Project Partners

BROZ - Regional Association for Nature Conservation and Sustainable Development (<http://www.broz.sk/>)

Naturalists Club Poland (<http://www.kp.org.pl/>)

DAPHNE CZ - Institute of Applied Ecology (<http://www.daphne.cz/>)



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http://www.ceeweb.org/workingareas/visegradfund_conserving_natural_heritage/index.htm

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