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## **LET'S CELEBRATE EUROPEAN NATURE TOGETHER! - Photo Competition to Celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Habitats Directive and the Natura 2000 Network**

Europeans can still be proud of the rich biodiversity the old continent is hosting, let it be the beaver, the kingfisher, the pasque flower or the pannonic sand steppes with gentle slopes. We enjoy their beauty, use the benefits they provide, and take the responsibility for their protection for future generations. In the European Union, this is ensured through the **Habitats Directive** (together with the **Birds Directive**), and its network of **Natura 2000** sites. Altogether they protect over 1.000 animals and plant species and over 200 so called “habitat types” (e.g. special types of forests, meadows, wetlands, etc.) covering about 18% of landmass of the EU.

**CEEweb for Biodiversity** celebrates the **Habitats Directive's 20th anniversary** to **show the values of European biodiversity** by organizing a photo competition together with **Bulgarian Biodiversity Foundation** and with the support of its members: **BROZ - Regional Association for Nature Conservation and Sustainable Development**, **Ecological Movement of Macedonia**, **Environmental Organization Rhodope**, **Naturalists Club Poland**, **Macedonian Ecological Society** and **Nimfea Nature Conservation Association**, in the following two categories:

- 1. Natura 2000 species and habitats – our natural heritage to guard** – Show the beauty of our natural inheritance and take picture of one of the habitats types or species within the Natura 2000 network<sup>1</sup>.
- 2. Ecosystem services from the Natura 2000 network are the key for our survival – how do we benefit from nature?** Natura 2000 network provides several

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<sup>1</sup> For more information on Natura 2000, the included species and designated sites, please visit the [European Commission's](#) and [CEEweb's website](#) or your own country's nature conservation portals.

benefits to people from recreation through agricultural products to protection from natural disasters<sup>2</sup>.

**So if you are a nature-friend, a hiker, a photo-geek or simply someone, who enjoys one or many of the services nature provides, dust off your camera, go out and get some nice shots related to Natura 2000<sup>3</sup>. The received and selected photos will be screened during the [II. International Green-Go Short Film Festival](#) in a movie theatre in Budapest and will be uploaded to an online gallery of CEEweb.**

#### **AWARDS:**

#### **First place in the Natura 2000 species and habitats – our natural heritage to guard category:**

- Three full-day-stay in the breath-taking Bulgarian Western Rhodope (protected in the Natura 2000 sites Trigrad-Mursalitzza and Rodopi-Zapadni) with a local photographer guide. On the slopes of the picturesque mountain slides, you can find excellent opportunities to take pictures of numerous wild animals and plant species such as Balkan chamois, brown bear, capercaillie, wallcreeper, three-toed woodpecker, mountain Apollo butterfly, orchids, and other special creatures. More information about these Natura 2000 sites and the opportunities for wildlife tourism and photography can be found here – <http://www.bbf.biodiversity.org><sup>4</sup>

#### **First place in the Ecosystem services from the Natura 2000 network are the key for our survival:**

- A day in the famous – UNESCO world Heritage Site – [Hortobágy National Park](#) and Bird Park with a highly experienced local guide to explore the picturesque “puszta” and other magnificent features what the park can offer. This will provide the unique opportunity to take “once in a lifetime” shoots of many endemic and migratory bird species including cranes, bustards, birds of preys, but also ground squirrel, weasel, ermine and domestic animals. This day will be an unforgettable day for any nature photographer!<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Read more on ecosystem services [here](#).

<sup>3</sup> To check Natura 2000 areas in Europe, visit <http://natura2000.eea.europa.eu/>

<sup>4</sup> Please, note that the organizers cover the accommodation and board (four nights), the guiding and the local transport within the country. The organizers cannot guarantee the view of the all above mentioned species as their occurrences largely depend on the period of the day and the season. Related traveling to and from Bulgaria from international applicant and additional costs (including taxes, insurance and other costs) are the sole responsibility of the applicant. The organizers are not taking any responsibility for personal and material damage or loss.

<sup>5</sup> Please, note that the organizers cover traveling and accommodation costs only within Hungary, therefore, related traveling costs to and from Hungary from international applicants are the sole responsibility of the applicants. The organizers cannot guarantee the view of the above mentioned species as their occurrences largely depend on the period of the day and the season. Costs within Hungary including one night in the countryside and board as well as domestic traveling costs will be covered by the organizers. Related traveling to Hungary and additional costs (including taxes, insurance and other costs) from international applicant are the sole responsibility of the applicant. The organizers are not taking any responsibility for personal and material damage or loss.

### **Public award winners of the two categories:**

- Dedicated conservation and nature albums

### **APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS**

**Deadline:** November 15, 2012.

**Submission email address:** [photocontest@ceeweb.org](mailto:photocontest@ceeweb.org)

Photos will be only accepted **via email in electronic format (JPG extension)**. One submission (including all the photos from the applicant) may not exceed the overall size of **15 MB**.

From one applicant a **maximum number of five photos** will be accepted in both categories. The file name of the photo must include the photographer's name and the title of the picture such as:

**Firstname\_Surname\_Title.jpg**

The email must also include:

- **the location (the name of the Natura 2000 site), where the photo was taken or**
- **the name (English and/or Latin) of the Natura 2000 species on the photo.**
- **If you have, a related story, description or message in maximum 3 sentences.**

### **Image File technical conditions:**

File Type: JPG (the compression cannot exceed Adobe Photoshop jpeg larger than 8)

Minimum size: 3 megapixels (approx. 2000 x 1500 pixels)

Applicants should note that **manipulated photos cannot be submitted**.

### **What does not count as photo manipulation?**

- Image cropping, cutting the disturbing elements, changing the orientation of the image.
- Full touch image correction. The image's brightness, contrast or sharpness setting.
- The colour photo's transformation to black and white.
- In case of analogue photos, the correction of the scanning / digitalization errors (scratches, dust, etc.)

**In case the applicant does not fulfil these requirements, the organizers have the right to exclude the applicant from the contest!**

### **The received photos will be evaluated based on:**

- Natura 2000 content
- Creativity
- Originality
- Strength of environmental and conservation messages
- Professionalism

in each category according to the category-specific jury consisting of a professional photographer and a conservationist. In each category, the jury will select one first-place award. There will also be one public award winners in each category, which will be based on a public online voting on CEEweb's website. The public award will be awarded to those who receives the highest number of votes by the end of the voting period (November 19-25, 2012) in each category.

The winners will be notified by email by November 27, 2012 and the name of the winners will be indicated on the website of CEEweb ([www.ceeweb.org](http://www.ceeweb.org)).

### **Terms and conditions**

The organizers are not responsible for any copyright violating entries. Any breach of copyright lies within the sole responsibility of the applicants. The applicants by submitting her/his entries automatically accept the terms and conditions also granting the rights for the organizers to use their entries free of charge on their webpage and free printed or online materials indicating the name of the photographer and the title of the picture. In these cases, the applicant cannot pursue any charges or demands in relation to the copyright. The organizers cannot disseminate the photos for profit-gaining reason. The organizers cannot make any significant alterations of the entries without the permission of the applicant.

*The contest is financially supported by the European Commission.*



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