



Joint CEE national lobby for the ecosystem-based mitigation and adaptation to climate change

report on activities carried out by Bulgarian Biodiversity Foundation in 2012

Relevant national processes in 2012

- **Third national action plan on climate change.** For the year of 2012 the third National action plan on climate change (NAPCC) as a primary and the only one official document for Bulgaria as a country signed the Kyoto protocol, went through discussions and proposals by leaders of different sectors of NAPCC and NGOs including BBF. The frame and the period of the NAPCC include the years from 2012 to 2020. This plan should be ready since 2008 but because of the lack of administrative capacity and some management changes from the ministry of environmental side, the real action started in the end of the summer 2011. The main areas of the NAPCC are as follow: Agriculture; Land use; Forestry; Energy; Industry; Energy efficiency, renewable energy and household services; Transport; Waste and Education and Science.
- **The national climate change act¹.** The first draft of the Act was published on the website² of the Ministry of Environment and Waters on 16 August 2012. There was time of less than 2 weeks (normal should be at least 1 month) for discussion and proposals with the public at the first preliminary stage.
- **National climate adaptation strategy.** Institutional working group has been formed and now the ministry of environmental is trying to find enough funding and capacity to start the working process of the strategy.
- **National Strategy for the Development of the Forestry Sector in Bulgaria** for the period 2013 – 2020th. From September 2012 official process has been started for establishment of forest national strategy. The process goes slowly.
- **Changes of the Bulgarian forestry act-** during the summer harmful changes of the Forestry Act were proposed by the government.
- **Status of old-growth forests.** The price of the electricity from biomass was increased twice. This is significant threat for the last remaining old- growth forests in Bulgaria and for the dead wood in the forests. There is significant interest in development of biomass from timber which can lead to significant forest destruction.

1

<http://www.climatebg.org/sites/default/files/Climate%20coalition%20position%20climate%20change%20act-final%2029082012.pdf>

2

<http://www.moew.government.bg/?show=konsultacii&kid=37>

Key messages, objectives

BBF, in coordination with CEEweb, aimed to achieve the following long-term key objectives:

- more transparency in national legislation,
- better public involvement,
- better involvement and responsibility of the business sector,
- leadership and fair-play of the government in stimulating the positive changes and restricting the bad examples,

as well as the following concrete goals in the above listed processes:

- more emphasis on nature protection in climate related laws and regulations,
- special state funding programmes for households.

Main activities

BBF participated in the activities for the climate changes as a part from the Bulgaria Climate Coalition.

- **Third national action plan on climate change.** A working group was formed in the end of 2011 and a process started to prepare a draft version on NAPCC. The representatives of institutions and NGOs framed important targets for dealing with the changes related to climate change of Bulgaria. Main purpose was to regulate and require other institutions to act on climate change. Although after the first working group meeting there were no other official consultations the draft was finalized in the beginning of 2012.
- **The national climate change act** –On August 29 the Climate Coalition including BBF published comments and suggestions on the draft law. The main recommendations were focused both on purely administrative level and to its contents. The contributions and proposals were discussed and considered on a meeting with all stakeholders hosted by Council of Ministers on 19 September. The proposal³ for the act was submitted in the Parliament on 21 November 2012. The act is now in the parliament before first hearing in 2013. All the suggestions by the climate action coalition Bulgaria were accepted in the preparation process.
- **National Strategy for the Development of the Forestry Sector in Bulgaria.** A working group was established, BBF is represented there together with other NGO representatives.
- **Changes of the Bulgarian forestry act.** BBF organized big campaign and street protest⁴.
- **Old- growth forest NGO campaign.** Protection of the old-growth forests was another important issue which was discussed by the Bulgarian NGOs. A round table of all interested NGOs was held on this topic in the autumn in order to brainstorm ideas for national wide campaign for the old-growth forest conservation. BBF participated actively and proposed the old-growth forests to be considered as tools for carbon

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<http://www.parliament.bg/bg/bills/ID/14207/>

⁴ <http://forthenature.org/actions/313>

sequestration. A conference “The future of old growth forests” on 04.12. 2012, initiative of WWF Bulgaria, started a big national campaign for finding and protecting old growth forests. There were two representatives from BBF- Elitza Ivanova and Neli Nikolova.

- **International activities.** BBF participated in the UN COP meeting in Doha Qatar, emphasized the importance of forests under the climate action coalition activities⁵ and organized round table discussion for all interested NGOs⁶.

Achievements in 2012

- **Third national action plan on climate change.** NAPCC was finalized and officially adopted with Decision # 439 of the Council of Ministries on 01.06.2012.
- **The national climate change act.** The act is now in the parliament before first hearing in 2013. All the suggestions by the climate action coalition Bulgaria were accepted in the preparation process.
- **National Strategy for the Development of the Forestry Sector in Bulgaria.** BBF has communicated its recommendations in the working group.
- **Changes of the Bulgarian forestry act.** due to of the big civil society protests⁷, the changes of the forestry law were cancelled and the non-nature friendly measures were excluded from the proposed changes in the forestry act.

NGOs plans for the future

- Continue being involved in the processes related to the new climate change act
- Continue being involved in the processes related to the climate adaptation strategy
- Continue being involved in the National Strategy for the Development of the Forestry Sector in Bulgaria. It is expected to be finalized and adopted in the beginning of 2013.

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<http://www.climatebg.org/content/%D0%BA%D0%BE%D0%B0%D0%BB%D0%B8%D1%86%D0%B8%D1%8F-%D0%B7%D0%B0-%D0%BA%D0%BB%D0%B8%D0%BC%D0%B0%D1%82%D0%B0-%D0%B7%D0%B0%D0%BF%D0%BE%D1%87%D0%B2%D0%B0-%D0%BA%D0%B0%D0%BC%D0%BF%D0%B0%D0%BD%D0%B8%D1%8F-%D0%BA%D0%B0%D1%81%D0%B0%D0%B5%D1%89%D0%B0-%D1%81%D1%80%D0%B5%D1%89%D0%B0%D1%82%D0%B0-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%B2%D1%8A%D1%80%D1%85%D0%B0-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%BE%D0%BE%D0%BD-%D0%B7%D0%B0-%D0%BA%D0%BB%D0%B8%D0%BC%D0%B0%D1%82%D0%B8%D1%87%D0%BD%D0%B8%D1%82%D0%B5-%D0%BF%D1%80%D0%BE%D0%BC%D0%B5%D0%BD%D0%B8>

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<http://www.redhouse-sofia.org/Event.aspx?id=8894>

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<http://www.ovcharski.com/2012/06/15/snimki-protest-sreshhu-zakona-za-gorite/>