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## **PUBLIC BENEFIT REPORT ON ACTIVITIES IN 2012**

The mission of CEEweb for Biodiversity is the conservation of biodiversity through the promotion of sustainable development. Registered in 1994, it is now a network of 66 members from 18 countries, who actively work in the CEE region. While covering a broad range of European and regional policies in pursuing its mission, the members of CEEweb especially focus on four thematic areas within the Working Groups (WGs): CITES, Natura 2000, Rural Development and Sustainable Tourism. In addition the Policy Working Group was established in 2007 for developing horizontal policy responses to tackle the root causes of biodiversity loss. The work of the network is guided by the Board comprising three members, and the International Advisory Committee comprising three regular members as well as the WG Chairs.

This present report only covers the regionally coordinated activities of the network, and not the various actions of the members. More information about the activities can be found at [www.ceeweb.org](http://www.ceeweb.org).

### **THE MOST IMPORTANT RESULTS IN 2012**

#### **Global cooperation for biodiversity conservation and sustainable development**

##### **Preparing for the CBD COP 11 – special focus on the Resource Mobilization Strategy**

CEEweb participated and provided input to the Quito Dialogue-Seminar on Scaling up Biodiversity Finance that dealt with the Resource Mobilization Strategy of the CBD in March 6-9, 2012. Also, within this frame, CEEweb has chaired a workshop on “Innovative instruments to address scale-related conservation policies” within the ‘Planet under Pressure’ conference in London. CEEweb has also followed the Resource Mobilization negotiations during the CBD COP 11 in Hyderabad, India.

##### **Preparing for Rio+ 20 and evaluating the outcomes**

CEEweb provided continuous input to the compilation of the *Future We Want* document and compiled a position about the results of the Rio+20 conference. Furthermore, CEEweb with the Global Footprint Network and EEB organized a high level conference on September 5, 2012 for MEPs and other stakeholders to initiate dialogues focusing on Rio+20 results and challenges in relation to Earth Overshoot Day.

##### **Advocating for Pan-European cooperation in resource and land use**

CEEweb has been active for many years in the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy, being an observer member in its Council.

#### **Supporting European biodiversity policy formulation**

##### **Post 2010 Biodiversity Policy formulation**

CEEweb has actively participated and provided input to the EC Working Groups and EHF Working Groups about the formulation of the Green Infrastructure Strategy and the No

Net Loss Initiative and offsetting targets. Besides, we provided comments on the new EU Forest Strategy, participated in the consultation on Invasive Alien Species.

### **Green Infrastructure, land use and the 7<sup>th</sup> EAP**

CEEweb channelled its coordinated position and national experiences to the expert Working Group on Green Infrastructure of the European Commission, and continued its project with its members from Visegrád countries on assessing the national situation and providing recommendations for national and EU level. As a closing of the project, CEEweb produced a study on the outcomes and organized a conference in Brussels in March with the participation of various stakeholders to evaluate on the results of the project and show relevant policy developments update in terms of GI, land use and the 7<sup>th</sup> EAP. CEEweb also presented its results during the EEB Biodiversity Working Group in Brussels and at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg.

CEEweb will additionally prepare a briefing on the elements of the Green Infrastructure Strategy, contribute to the EHF's position statement and compile a report on how the integration of different land use policy tools can benefit Natura 2000 and sustainable land use.

### **Climate change and biodiversity**

Results of the UNFCCC COP17 in Durban were evaluated; CEEweb position was prepared on it and sent to the Environmental Council participants with the aim of influencing their decision making. CEEweb contribution was prepared for the public consultation on the EU Climate Change Adaptation Strategy. DG CLIMA was approached with concrete recommendations for the climate axis of the future LIFE fund.

### **CITES**

#### **Monitoring wildlife trade in CEE**

The CITES WG continued to monitor the internet commerce of CITES-listed species in CEE countries based on the CEEweb methodology developed in 2008. A preparatory workshop was organised for CEE CITES authorities and NGOs in Kenya in order to understand the wildlife trafficking situation in one of the most important source country and to get prepared for the 16<sup>th</sup> CITES COP.

### **Nature and Biodiversity**

#### **Representing CEE positions at European level**

CEEweb is regularly represented in the EC Natura 2000 Management Working Group and the Subgroup on Management of Farmland in Natura 2000 by its members. CEEweb also attended EC consultations, the Co-ordination Group for Biodiversity and Nature (CGBN) meeting and the meetings of the European Habitats Forum. CEEweb members participate in all EHF subgroups dealing with specific topics, and as group coordinator especially the one following and influencing the No Net Loss Initiative. CEEweb will also meet the European Commission.

Furthermore, CEEweb continued to participate in EU public consultation in relation to resource and energy efficiency.

#### **Financing Natura 2000 and ecosystems**

CEEweb provided recommendations to the new LIFE budget's negotiations and lobbied MEPs for the better biodiversity considerations in the Cohesion Policy calling for sufficient funding for Natura 2000 and biodiversity. CEEweb has also provided comments on the PAF's formats and collected information and provided input to PAF developments at CEE level. Besides, CEEweb compiled a brochure on the pitfalls and positive sides of national level financing examples to contribute to the new budget's discussions.

## **Management of Natura 2000**

Together with EEB, CEEweb coordinated NGO input to the Boreal Biogeographic Process, collected and submitted NGO suggestions on the Atlantic process and participated in the first Steering Committee meeting of the Alpine process. Recommendations and good management examples were collected for the Alpine process. NGO recommendations and good examples were collected for the guidance on wilderness management in Natura 2000 and for the European wilderness register.

## **Biogeographical seminar**

CEEweb with the contribution of Naturalists Club Poland organized two workshops on Kamienica, Poland in October 3-6 on Natura 2000 management issues and Agri-Environmental Schemes. The Management workshop outcomes will feed into the upgrade of the “How to care for the Natura 2000 site during the conservation planning?” with CEE national experiences.

## **Emerald seminars**

CEEweb followed up the Emerald designation process in the West Balkans and organized an NGO meeting in Serbia to enable NGOs meet with each other and with the representative of the Council of Europe, discuss their national processes and methodologies, and coordinate next actions.

## **Rural development and agriculture**

### **Channelling CEE positions on the Common Agricultural Policy**

CEEweb compiled a position on the Agri-Environmental Schemes in order to channel CEE views to the process of greening of the CAP. Besides, CEEweb will also compile a study on small scale farming.

## **Sustainable Tourism**

The STWG finalized upgraded version of the Assessment Criteria for National Tourism Development Strategies. This research tool measures how well a national strategy fulfils the criteria for sustainable development of tourism. STWG is planning to assess five selected national tourism strategies from CEE according to methodology by the end of 2012. The Terms of Reference has been announced and initial results will be discussed during STWG Meeting in November, 2012. The results of the analyses will be published and commented on the CEEweb website.

## **Resource Cap Coalition**

CEEweb continued to coordinate the work of the Resource Cap Coalition (RCC), which is lobbying for EU-wide resource use limitation. CEEweb presented the achievements of the RCC at various events, such as the conference on Equity within Limits – Principles, Practices and Policies, Climate Alliance Conference, and European High-Level Conference on Rio+20: “Achieving Global Justice in the Green Economy”, in which CEEweb was one of the event organizers.

CEEweb organized a workshop with Global Nature Fund on *Running business in a resource constrained world* for business and NGO representatives. During the event, participants discussed possible solutions and cooperation between businesses and NGOs for achieving EU targets on Resource Efficiency and Biodiversity.

CEEweb will prepare a publication on the RCC *Proposal for a reduction of non-renewable energy use within the EU* together with ANPED and Ecologistas en Acción by the end of 2012.

## **Awareness raising**

CEEweb organized the second Green-Go Short Film Contest and Festival, a competition for short films on renewable energies, European biodiversity and the connection between cultural and biological diversity together with Diverziti Association and Greenpeace Hungary. The best films will be presented in December in Budapest at a film festival and all videos will be available on the festival's web page. Besides, to celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Habitats Directive, CEEweb launched an international photo contest on Natura 2000 and the services they provide. The best photos will be exhibited during the Green-Go Festival. CEEweb has also participated in many street campaigns and organized events (International Day of Biodiversity, EU Day, Sustainability Day, Civilian nights) and disseminated materials in the Sziget Festival to show its activities and raise awareness on biodiversity.

Moreover, CEEweb will compile and disseminate various brochures e.g. the updated Ecosystem Services brochure, the next issue of the Ministers and Children series focusing on land use and its impacts.

## **Capacity-building, networking and communication**

### **Capacity building**

The staff of the Policy Office participated in a two-day team building and will be trained on marketing and PR work in order to increase expertise in awareness raising and fundraising activities, and they continued the individual and team performance evaluation and bilateral feedbacks within the Policy Office.

### **Networking within and outside the CEEweb network**

Policy Office staff organized local visit to member organizations in Ukraine to strengthen cooperation, provide training, discussions on CEEweb policy and NGO pro-activity and ways to increase success in the NGO field. The National Focal Point system continued its operation.

CEEweb continued representing CEE view within the EHF and its working groups. Also, from 2012 CEEweb will fulfil the Vice-Chair position of the EHF. Outside the CEEweb network and EHF members, CEEweb has built additional partnerships and actively cooperated with the Global Footprint Network, Global Nature Fund, Greenpeace Hungary, Friends of the Earth Hungary, ANPED, and Ecologistas en Acción.

### **Internship programme**

The internship programme continued in 2012. One intern from the University of Georgia, USA supported the Policy Office in summer and one intern from the University of Coventry, UK. In addition, seven Hungarian interns helped the work of the Policy Office throughout the year.

### **Communication**

CEEweb kept members updated with EU and national policy developments through the mailing lists and the CEEweb website ([www.ceeweb.org](http://www.ceeweb.org)). We issued three electronic newsletters (the fourth is coming up in December) targeting decision makers and the members on thematic issues and issued press releases on several topics related to biodiversity conservation, but we also used the community channels for communication such as Facebook and our new YouTube channel.

CEEweb's website was upgraded with new functions and designs including our gallery and short video sections.

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.