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Report of the International Workshop “Capacity-Building for Biodiversity in Central and Eastern Europe”

- Full workshop report including presentations of initiatives,
case-studies and lessons learned -



Capacity-Building for Biodiversity in Central and Eastern Europe

**Full report of the workshop convened by the
German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation
at the International Academy for Nature Conservation,
Isle of Vilm
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Preface

Capacity-building has become one of the key topics in the discussion on the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and has been included among the priority goals of many organizations dealing with conservation issues. Major efforts in the development of new capacities will be required over the coming years if we are to reach the Convention's "2010 target", according to which a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss is to be achieved by the year 2010. This target, which is highly prominent in today's environmental debate, has been adopted at the sixth Conference of the Parties to the CBD and was later endorsed in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002.

Meeting the 2010 target represents a great challenge not only at the global, but also at the European level, where it has been further elaborated and strengthened in 2003 by the fifth Ministerial Conference of the "Environment for Europe" process in the Kiev Resolution on Biodiversity.

The cooperation with countries of Central and Eastern Europe traditionally plays a large role within the framework of Germany's international activities in the environmental sector. This results not only from the need to find regional solutions to common problems and to cooperate in the protection of our common natural heritage, but also from the particular situation of Germany as a country sharing the experience of states from both sides of the former East-West divide.

This special relationship is reflected also in the work of the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN), including the thematic range of workshops and seminars held at its conference centre, the International Academy for Nature Conservation on the Isle of Vilm. Meetings targeted at participants from Central and Eastern Europe and the CIS make up the majority of the international events held at the Academy and are an important part of its mandate.

The present workshop report marks the first step in a three-year project initiated by the BfN which aims to support capacity-building for the implementation of the CBD in Central and Eastern Europe and to explore possibilities for the establishment of a regional centre or network for capacity-building. We hope it will contribute to further constructive debate on this issue both within and beyond the wider European region.

Prof. Dr. Hartmut Vogtmann
President of the German Federal Agency
for Nature Conservation

Contents

1 Introduction	1
2 Background	
The Role of Capacity-Building in the CBD Process	
CORDULA EPPLE	3
3 Presentation of Activities and Initiatives Related to Capacity-Building for Biodiversity Conservation in Central and Eastern Europe	
- Capacity Development for Global Environmental Management: UNDP Lessons, Tools and Approaches	
KETI CHACHIBAIA	7
- The Work of IUCN for Capacity-Building in Central and Eastern Europe - Activities and Experiences	
DOROTA METERA	12
- Supporting the Build-Up of NGOs in the Field of Nature Conservation	
NORBERT SCHÄFFER	16
- Experiences with Building Capacities for Biodiversity Conservation - the 'Pros and Cons' of NGO Networking	
ANDRÁS KROLOPP	21
- Promotion of Networks and Exchanges in the Countries of South Eastern Europe	
- Experiences from Contemporary Practices in Providing Capacity-Building in the Field of Nature Conservation	
SRDJAN SUSIC	23
- Romanian NGOs and Natura 2000	
OANA-DOMINICA PENU	25
- Capacity-Building in Implementation and Enforcement of the EU Nature Conservation Policy in the Baltic States	
LIGA EGLITE	31
- Capacity Needs in Central and Eastern Europe - The Example of Sustainable Tourism Development	
STEFANIE HÖHN AND MICHAEL MEYER.....	34

- Current Activities and Potential for Capacity-Building at the International Academy for Nature Conservation, Isle of Vilm GISELA STOLPE	37
- Experiences with Twinning as an Instrument for Capacity-Building Exemplified by EU Species Protection Regulations FRANZ BÖHMER	40
- Linking Professional Careers to Sustainable Development BARBARA KRAUSE	43
4 Capacity-Building Needs and Opportunities in Selected Thematic Areas under the CBD	
- The Clearing-House Mechanism of the CBD – Strengths and Weaknesses of the Internet as a Means to Promote International Cooperation for Capacity-Building HORST FREIBERG	47
- Capacity-Building and the Global Taxonomy Initiative FABIAN HAAS	49
5 Relationship of the Convention on Biological Diversity to other Multi-Lateral Environmental Agreements	
- An Overview of Multi-Lateral Environmental Agreements Relevant for Biodiversity Conservation RAINER SCHLIEP	51
- The Convention on Migratory Species – Possibilities for Synergy with the Convention on Biological Diversity and Contribution to Capacity-Building for Biodiversity VOLODYMYR DOMASHLINETS	55
6 Capacity Needs and Possible Priorities for Capacity-Building in Countries of Central and Eastern Europe	
- Capacity-Building for Biodiversity Conservation - Status in the Czech Republic JINDRISKA STANKOVA AND JANA BROZOVA	59
- Capacity-Building Needs in Estonia KRISTIINA LIIMAND	61
- Capacity-Building for CBD Implementation in Hungary DÉNES NAGY	62

- Experiences with National Capacity Self-Assessment for Global Environmental Management in Hungary ANDRÁS KROLOPP	63
- Capacity-Building Problems in Poland BOZENA HACZEK	64
- National Capacity Self-Assessment - Slovenia DARKO FERCEJ	66
7 Results and Recommendations of the Workshop	
Working Group 1: Instruments for Capacity-Building	69
Working Group 2: Tasks and Structure of a Regional Centre or Network for Capacity-Building	70
Working Group 3: Priority Areas for Capacity-Building for Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use in Central and Eastern Europe	72
Working Group 4: Integrated Policy Formulation and Implementation as a Priority Goal for Capacity-Building	76
Working Group 5: Monitoring the Success of Capacity-Building.....	78
8 Contact Data and Descriptions of Relevant Organisations, Institutions, Networks and Initiatives for Capacity-Building on Biodiversity Conservation in Central and Eastern Europe.....	81
Glossary of Acronyms.....	98
List of Participants	100
Workshop Programme.....	103

1 Introduction

The international workshop „Capacity-Building for Biodiversity in Central and Eastern Europe“ brought together 27 experts from 12 European countries from December 03-06, 2003. It was organized by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation at its conference centre, the “International Academy for Nature Conservation” on the Isle of Vilm.

The aim of the workshop was to provide an opportunity for an exchange of ideas and experiences between representatives from governmental and scientific institutions as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations involved in capacity-building activities with regard to biodiversity issues in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. Among the main topics for discussion were the possible tasks and functioning of a regional centre or network for capacity-building to promote the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and the capacity needs of countries in the region.

The idea of developing a network of regional centres or partners for capacity-building in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean and Central and Eastern Europe has been proposed by the Executive Secretary of the CBD for further examination in document UNEP/CBD/MSP/5. In organising the workshop, the Federal Agency was also led by Decision VI/27 of the Conference of the Parties, which “invites Parties, Governments, and relevant organizations to strengthen their existing regional and subregional mechanisms and initiatives for capacity-building and to contribute inputs regarding their experiences into the wider assessment process” with regard to regional and subregional instruments and mechanisms for enhancing CBD implementation.

The workshop was set up as an informal scientific meeting and the participants attended in their personal capacity as biodiversity experts. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Horst Korn. The outcomes presented here do not necessarily mean that consensus has been achieved on every individual point.

This report contains abstracts of the presentations made by participants on their activities, experiences and views with regard to capacity-building. The results of the five working sessions are summarized and recommendations are given to help individuals and organizations in their work and to contribute to further discussion on the issue. Contact data of relevant initiatives and institutions are included.

2 Background

The Role of Capacity-Building in the CBD Process - An Overview of Relevant Documents and Developments

CORDULA EPPLE

Introduction

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is the most important international agreement dealing with the challenge to maintain biodiversity in spite of the many threats to which it is currently exposed. Its implementation requires a wide range of activities at the national and local level. Building and/or enhancing the capacity of potential actors in all member states to contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity is therefore a central concern in the CBD process. Already in the preamble of the Convention, the "urgent need to develop scientific, technical and institutional capacities" in order to be able to "plan and implement appropriate measures" is mentioned.

Among the articles of the CBD, the following contain provisions which relate to capacity-building: Article 12 (Research and Training), Article 13 (Public Education and Awareness), Article 17 (Exchange of Information) and Article 18 (Technical and Scientific Cooperation). Article 18 (3) calls for the establishment of the Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM), which aims to facilitate cooperation and information exchange within and between the Parties to the Convention.

Understanding of Capacity-Building

There is no definition of "capacity-building" in the text of the Convention or in the decisions of its governing body, the Conference of the Parties (COP). However, the use of the term in CBD documents is generally supportive of a wide understanding of capacity-building, which includes not only the training of individuals and the build-up and strengthening of institutions, but also the creation of enabling environments. This latter aspect may involve for example the development of supportive legal and policy frameworks, institutional mechanisms for policy integration and the mainstreaming of biodiversity into the work of other sectors, mechanisms for stakeholder involvement and participation, support for networks and information exchange systems or the introduction of appropriate incentive measures.

Over the past years, such a broad notion of the scope of the term has come to be widely accepted in international fora dealing with environmental issues. According to a definition based on the work of the Capacity Development Initiative led by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) (GEF 2001), "'capacity building' can be taken as 'the actions needed to enhance the ability of individuals, institutions and systems to make and implement decisions and perform functions in an effective, efficient and sustainable manner.'"

Relevant Documents and Developments

The implementation of the CBD has to be based on both the convention text and the decisions of the Conference of the Parties. Already at the first meeting of the COP in 1994, in Decision I/9 on the medium-term programme of work up to 1997, the Parties emphasized "the importance of capacity-building as one of the elements of successful implementation of the Convention" (Dec. I/9, Annex (4)). Capacity-building was also included among the programme priorities for support by the financial mechanism of the Convention (Dec. I/2, Annex I (III e)).

Since then, guidance on capacity-building has been given in the decisions of every COP meeting and is included in the work on almost all of the thematic programmes and cross-cutting issues treated under the Convention. As a consequence of the declared shift of focus from policy formulation to implementation at COP 6 in 2002, the weight accorded to capacity-building and the degree of detail of the provisions have increased further.

The following list gives an overview of the thematic areas of COP decisions which make reference to capacity-building:

- Access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing
- Agrobiodiversity
- Art. 8j and rel. provisions (traditional knowledge)
- Alien invasive species
- Biodiversity of Inland Waters
- Biosafety
- Clearing House Mechanism
- Dryland Biodiversity
- Ecosystem Approach
- Education and Public Awareness
- Ex-situ collections
- Forest Biodiversity
- Global Strategy for Plant Conservation
- Identification and monitoring
- Impact assessment
- Incentive measures
- Indicators
- Liability and redress
- Marine and Coastal Biodiversity
- Coral Reefs
- National Reporting
- Sustainable Use
- Taxonomy
- Tourism

According to the Multi-Year Programme of Work of the COP up to 2010 (cf. document UNEP/CBD/COP/7/5), the refinement of mechanisms to support implementation of the Convention (such as the financial mechanism, the clearing-house mechanism, technology transfer and capacity-building) will also be considered as a separate item on the agenda of every meeting until COP 10.

The "Strategic Plan for the Convention on Biological Diversity" (Dec. VI/26), which was adopted by COP 6 in 2002, identifies the improvement of the financial, human, scientific, technical and technological capacity of Parties to implement the Convention as one of four central goals. This goal is further elaborated among others by the following objectives:

- "All Parties have adequate capacity for implementation of priority actions in national biodiversity strategy and action plans." and

- “Developing country Parties, in particular the least developed and the small island developing States amongst them, and other Parties with economies in transition, have sufficient resources available to implement the three objectives of the Convention.”

In promoting the implementation of the CBD, regional and subregional mechanisms and networks can play an important role, which is acknowledged in Decision VI/27. The same decision invites Parties, Governments, and relevant organizations to strengthen their existing regional and subregional mechanisms and initiatives for capacity-building.

The Clearing-House Mechanism, which was established on the basis of Article 18 (3) to promote technical and scientific cooperation (see above), has over the past years developed into an extensive network with a large number of national and thematic focal points. It has a strong internet component, which should, however, not be seen as the only element of the CHM, but rather as the fundament on which further activities can be developed. In the strategic plan of the CHM for the period 1999-2004, “training and capacity-building” is identified as one of six key areas of cooperation to be promoted by the work of the mechanism (cf. UNEP/CBD/COP/5/INF/3).

The importance of capacity-building is also emphasized in the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, which was adopted by the COP in 2000 as the first supplementary agreement to the CBD and entered into force in September 2003 after ratification by 50 Parties. In 2001, an Action Plan for building capacities for the effective implementation of the Protocol was endorsed. To support capacity-building activities, internet databases on capacity-building opportunities, ongoing projects and initiatives, lessons learnt from completed projects and national and regional capacity-building needs have been set up (see <http://bch.biodiv.org/Pilot/CapacityBuilding/GettingStarted.shtml>).

When considering developments relevant to capacity-building in the framework of the CBD, one should also keep in mind the work which is under way on related issues such as Technology transfer (especially with regard to "soft technologies", i.e. skills and knowledge), Education and public awareness, and issues connected with the creation of enabling environments, such as Incentive measures.

References

Global Environment Facility (2001): "A Guide for Self-Assessment of Country Capacity Needs for Global Environmental Management"

The documents and decisions cited in the text can be found at the website of the Secretariat of the CBD at <http://www.biodiv.org>

3 Presentation of Activities and Initiatives Related to Capacity-Building for Biodiversity Conservation in Central and Eastern Europe

Capacity Development for Global Environmental Management: UNDP Lessons, Tools and Approaches

KETI CHACHIBAIA

Redefining the Concept and Introducing New Approaches

Capacity Development has always been a central mandate of UNDP. But during the decades of technical cooperation, concerns over effectiveness of capacity-building work have provoked several reassessments. It has become clear that, while focusing on achieving specific objectives and implementing concrete tasks, technical cooperation often did not lead to building of local capacities in a sustainable way. And despite some significant achievements, successful and sustainable capacity-building has remained an elusive goal. Therefore, from the sustainability viewpoint it becomes equally or even more important to focus on how development work is done rather than what is being done.

In earlier definitions of capacity development, focus was placed on strengthening human resources and building institutions. Capacity-building primarily encompassed these two dimensions. The third, systemic or societal dimension was often overlooked. The systemic or societal dimension goes beyond the public administration system and embraces private and non-governmental “sectors” that are equally important entities affecting the overall state of governance. Collective, individual and entity capacities and their interactions in formal and informal networks are critical to comprehend so that the design of development work is adequately informed. Therefore, capacity development must go beyond the individual and the entity levels to consider the broader societal environment or overarching systems within which they function.

The concept of capacity-building is evolving - for UNDP it signifies the process by which individuals, organizations, institutions and societies develop abilities individually and collectively “...to perform functions, solve problems and set and achieve objectives” (UNDP, 2002). Certainly, this requires understanding capacity needs from the demand side perspective and exploring it at three interconnected levels: individual, institutional and systemic. This is increasingly becoming the model approach of technical cooperation in general. For example, CIDA defines capacity development as “approaches, strategies and methodologies to improve performance at the individual, organizational, network/sector or broader system level” (CIDA, 2000).

Capacity development can therefore be both a means and an ends, something that has been restated in the context of achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). UNDP, as scorekeeper for MDGs

within the UN system, believes that, while the availability of resources is insufficient, the existence of adequate capacities to efficiently apply and manage what resources there are is much more or equally relevant. As such, UNDP established a capacity development mechanism to assist in achieving the MDGs. Launched at the 2002 Johannesburg WSSD, the Capacity 2015 platform builds on Capacity 21's¹ efforts and experience and is the primary tool used by UNDP to assist in developing local capacities to achieve MDGs. Where complementary with the MDGs, Capacity 2015 will assist capacity development for implementing Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEAs).

Capacity Development Initiative: Results of Strategic Partnership

UNDP, while acting as one of the Implementing Agencies of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), is increasingly bolstering its position as GEF capacity development leader. In 1999, the Capacity Development Initiative (CDI) was undertaken in the framework of a strategic partnership between UNDP and the GEF Secretariat. This partnership started with a capacity needs assessment for global environmental management followed by development of the strategy to address these needs. After a decade of GEF work it has become apparent that a more strategic and integrated approach is needed. Project-focused capacity development has proved to be insufficient to address global environmental challenges related to implementation of the global conventions on Biodiversity, Climate Change and Desertification/Land Degradation.

UNDP has supported activities in these focal areas in this region since the early nineties when the major political transformations began in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. UNDP, as the UN's global development network, operates in all twenty-seven countries of this region. From its successes and failures it has drawn the following conclusions through the CDI process in this region.

Main Findings

Capacities of EECA countries are inadequate to meet commitments they have undertaken under the Rio Agreements; establishment of the new independent states and subsequent associated economic problems caused a breakdown of institutional frameworks which had been developing for decades and resulted in major institutional gaps. Therefore, implementation of the conventions is hindered by absence of capacities, inefficient utilization and/or ill co-ordination of existing capacities. During this decade of reforms supported by technical cooperation, the predominant focus has been on human resource and institutional strengthening, something that has often ignored the three cross-linked layers of capacity development, subsequently leading to failures and unsustainable capacities. Therefore, priority should be placed on creating enabling environments for the generation of sustainable capacities, which will allow continuous capacity development without further special assistance.

¹ UNDP trust fund established in 1991 to assist countries developing capacity to implement Agenda 21

Priority Issues in Biodiversity

In relation to the main objectives of the CBD - conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of its components and equitable sharing of benefits arising from utilization of the genetic resources - the following priority issues have been identified:

Awareness and knowledge of complex issues arising from the integrated ecosystem approach to biodiversity conservation is still insufficient. The ecosystem approach requires highly *integrated policies* among and between the agriculture, forestry, energy, trade, transport, financial and other sectors. Methodologies to evaluate and mitigate specific threats to components of biological diversity require improved coordination. This has been established under the current circumstances of limited resources and against the historical background of a *sectoral culture of competing* rather than collaborating. *In-situ conservation* is difficult to implement in the absence of *incentive systems and compensation mechanisms*. The situation is aggravated by *isolated policy formulation* practices in land use and spatial planning and current land privatisation policies, leading to fragmentation of ecosystems and habitats. Biodiversity *values* (except for commercial species) are not considered in national accounts. Biodiversity *law* is very new and underdeveloped, coupled with poor enforcement mechanisms. Absence of proper *impact assessment* has resulted in serious environmental damages and loss of biodiversity. There is no systematized *biomonitoring*. Biodiversity data is scattered in various governmental and non-governmental organizations and is of differing qualities. Capacity needs around these prioritised issues are being currently assessed through GEF funding.

Important Lessons for Capacity Development

It is important to note that political and economic stability provides a critical context for sustainable capacity development work.

Balance between the project and programme approach has also proved problematic. The project approach cannot be avoided as projects meet urgent needs, but more coordinated and integrated approaches are desirable to allow synergies and amplify impacts.

All three levels of capacity are closely interlinked and often precondition each other - therefore capacities need to be developed in an integrated manner.

Strategic planning capacity is essential to carry out meaningful work. Development of clear strategic frameworks in a nationally owned process is critical for future commitment.

New Strategic Planning Tool for Capacity Development Opportunities

The GEF through its strategic partnership with UNDP has recognized the importance of assisting capacity development efforts for global environmental management. It has provided access to GEF resources to all eligible countries to undertake National Capacity Self-Assessments (NCSA) to identify gaps and strengths in addressing global environmental concerns such as climate change, loss of biodiversity and land degradation and desertification.

As a result, national NCSAs are at various stages of development in twenty-one countries of this region, through UNDP (approximately in one hundred thirteen – globally).

The NCSAs are process-oriented projects that are intended to organize nationally owned and led, highly participatory and consultative processes of capacity needs self-assessment at individual, institutional and systemic levels for national implementation of the three Rio Conventions. They will produce National Capacity Needs Assessment Reports and Capacity Development Action Plans.

There are a number of capacity-building needs that have already been identified as common across the region and are relevant to all these focal areas:

- ⇒ Need for optimisation and rationalisation of institutional and regulatory frameworks;
- ⇒ Need for strategic and integrated planning and management to avoid conflicting policies and / or duplication to ensure more efficient utilization of limited resources;
- ⇒ Need for strategies and action plans formulated through broad participation and consensus building;
- ⇒ Need for widely agreed priorities and realistic targets by departing from the “opportunity” approach;
- ⇒ Need for developing appropriate incentive systems and economic/market instruments for environmental funding;
- ⇒ Need for cohesive accountability systems and effective enforcement mechanisms;
- ⇒ Need for functional public participation mechanisms;
- ⇒ Need for de-politicisation of managerial positions within institutions and need for more focus on abilities of institutions to adapt to market oriented environments, build networks and partnerships;
- ⇒ Need for improved monitoring and integrated information management systems through strengthening of existing multi-stakeholder networks of government, NGOs, private sector, research institutes etc.
- ⇒ Need for raised environmental awareness for decision-makers and the general public;
- ⇒ Need for improved research and education in multidisciplinary areas, environmental law, environmental management and economics.

This endeavour of identifying the underlying causes to address these needs will provide unique opportunities to build partnerships between and among the diversity of stakeholders, governments, NGOs, businesses, academia and the donor community. Around 25% of total GEF resources are earmarked for the 2003-2006 cycle. Targeted and cross-cutting capacity-building programs and stronger capacity-building components in regular investment projects would be the main modalities for capacity

development work in global environmental management. This brings opportunities to UNDP to collaborate actively with other interested agencies and parties in this area of its global mandate.

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The Work of IUCN for Capacity-Building in Central and Eastern Europe - Activities and Experiences

DOROTA METERA

“IUCN builds bridges between governments and NGOs,
science and society, local action and global policy.
It is truly a world force for environmental governance.”

Achim Steiner, IUCN Director General

Introduction

IUCN - The World Conservation Union is a unique worldwide network. Coming from more than 140 countries, the members that constitute the union comprise not only 70 governmental and 100 state agencies, but also some 750 NGOs working internationally and locally on different aspects of nature conservation. With 10,000 affiliated scientists and experts from 180 countries, and approximately 1,000 permanent staff members, IUCN works on some 500 projects worldwide. For more than 50 years this ‘Green Web’ of partnership has generated environmental conventions, global standards, scientific knowledge and innovative leadership on topics related to the protection and management of nature and natural resources.

As set out in the global programme, IUCN’s mission is “to influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable.” The actions taken by the union follow the vision of “a just world that values and conserves nature”.

The principal strategies to guide IUCN’s diverse worldwide actions are described in the union’s global programme:

KNOWLEDGE – IUCN’s core business is generating, integrating, managing and disseminating knowledge for conservation and the equitable use of natural resources.

EMPOWERMENT – IUCN uses that knowledge to build capacity, responsibility and the willingness of people and institutions to plan, manage, conserve and use nature and natural resources in a sustainable and equitable manner.

GOVERNANCE – When knowledge is available and people are able to use it, the most important steps can be taken – systematic improvement of laws, policies, economic instruments and institutions for the conservation and sustainable and equitable use of nature and natural resources.

The Structure of IUCN

Taking worldwide actions based on sound science, at both the local and international level, The World Conservation Union's vast scope of activities are reflected in its different components:

Headquarters with Out-posted Offices	The worldwide Secretariat based in Gland, Switzerland, balances the different regional programmes and co-ordinates Commission activities. With the help of its out-posted Offices (e.g. the Environmental Law Centre in Bonn, Germany), the Secretariat works on global governance aspects.
Regional Offices	Regional priorities under IUCN's global aims are formulated and governed by the Regional Offices, which also try to influence relevant policies and their implementation, and co-ordinate IUCN's work in the different programmatic regions.
Country and Programme Offices	Country or sub-regional Programme Offices are established wherever appropriate to: better implement projects; involve scientific experts; and involve and assist local stakeholders and national decision-takers.
Commissions	The Commissions are networks of expert volunteers entrusted to develop and advance the institutional knowledge and experience and objectives of IUCN. Commissions and the documents they produce are widely acknowledged due to the updated information and sound science they represent.

Source: own table, definitions partly adapted from IUCN main web-page (www.iucn.org, January 2004)

Global Capacity-Building Activities

Example 1: Environmental Law Capacity-Building Initiative

Under the "Global Environmental Law Capacity-Building Programme for Sustainable Development", a contribution to the WSSD in Johannesburg 2002, the IUCN Environmental Law Centre (ELC) in Bonn has developed the Environmental Law Capacity-Building Initiative. The IUCN Environmental Law Programme (ELP), and in particular the Commission on Environmental Law (CEL) has facilitated the establishment of regional "centres of excellence", e.g. in the Russian Federation and the Ukraine. A MoU was signed with the Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe (REC).

The aims of the initiative are, for example, "to develop the capacity to actively take part in the international policy debate", "to implement what is agreed through co-ordinated policies, laws and institutions" and "to ensure effective compliance with environmental laws", by using the following tools: academic education, practical training, expert forums, publications, technical assistance, international experience and information.

Example 2: Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) for Biodiversity

IUCN's Commission on Education and Communication (CEC) is part of a group of experts who are developing a global initiative in support of Article 13 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), on public education. The CEPA initiative aims to support the Parties with access to expertise and know-

how on communication and education and to support the development of capacity to make use of these instruments to achieve policy or management objectives.

As a contribution to CEPA's work, the CEC has set up a web site in which it makes tools available on planning communication and managing stakeholder participation. As well there are cases and resources available through the site to assist biodiversity managers with their work. The site is at www.iucn.org/themes/cec. As part of its global action in supporting capacity development in communication CEC has undertaken research to assess communication problems relating to the work of biodiversity scientists. Results of this research have highlighted the problems managers experience in being able to work on a set of priorities, knowing how to market biodiversity to other sectors, to manage and use networks and to work in a more interactive way. The CEC has supported communication training programmes in Asia and South America and has undertaken a more comprehensive communication capacity development programme in Central Europe.²

IUCN in Central and Eastern Europe

The Commission on Education and Communication programme in Central Europe has been focused on developing communication capacity in Poland, Slovak and Czech Republics, Slovenia, and Hungary. The programme undertaken in 4 phases, commenced in 1997 and has wound up in 2003, was supported by the Netherlands government. The project worked with government agencies, nationally and regionally, protected area agencies and some NGOs on implementing national and pilot projects on biodiversity conservation communication.

The project demonstrates that to introduce new concepts, ideas and practices much more is needed than a training workshop in which knowledge is transferred in a one way process. Training may provide people with new knowledge but if the system and the organisation in which he or she is working is not changing accordingly, it can be very difficult to apply new knowledge. In this project long term support was provided over 5 years to assist with managing the change of the magnitude needed. The approach was by a series of interventions including training course, workshops, developing local language materials, checklists, coaching of learning by doing on practical tasks before the staff, managing pilot projects, informal and formal high level meetings, national and international peer review. It is apparent that capacity development in strategic communication needs to address the development of organisational management as well.

The European Programme Office in Warsaw was established 10 years ago to co-ordinate IUCN's work in the Central and East European Region. Since then it has not only undertaken actions as a 'branch office' of the Regional Office in Brussels, but has also run independent projects, bringing together local NGOs, scientists, ministerial staff and other experts on topics related to biodiversity and nature protection. It caters for a range of different types of members, from Estonia to Slovenia.

² Excerpt taken from IUCN (2003). *An Assessment of Progress 2002: The IUCN Programme*. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK. Page 40.

Capacity-building has a specific role in the current projects of IUCN in Central and Eastern Europe, in enhancing the strengths of its members through management and dissemination of information. This helps to eliminate problems causing the environment to be in an unsatisfactory state, and helps to conserve the valuable natural areas in regions of Central and Eastern Europe.

The IUCN Office in Warsaw is currently running various projects with international funding that aim to improve the sustainable use of forests, freshwater fisheries, and reduce the negative impacts of agricultural activities. Under the latter aim, the following projects have a strong capacity-building aspect:

a.) Integrating Polish Environmental and Consumer Organisations into the discussion on the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy, Agenda 2007:

The project aims to bring a wide range of stakeholders to join together and thus be able to influence the ongoing discussions about Europe's future agricultural policy. In essence this means building their capacity through knowledge transfer and 'training'. The project objectives are as follows:

- ⇒ Initiate a "knowledge transfer" about agricultural policy
- ⇒ Organise regular discussion meetings
- ⇒ Discuss resolutions and position papers with environmental NGOs, consumers and farmers in EU Member States

b.) Integrating Natura 2000, Rural Development and Agri-environmental Programmes in CEEC

One of the main objectives of this project is to "facilitate communication and exchange of experience among the European Union Accession Countries", which is achieved through an e-discussion forum, a dedicated web site, and also through personal expert meetings. Exchanges of best-practice, as well as discussions relating to the common gaps preventing successful implementation of Natura 2000 at the national level, are anticipated to have improved the designation process, through building an international network of excellence.

c.) PHARE Project: Institution building for agri-environment and afforestation

Within the framework of this project, IUCN, together with its partners, conducted training courses for 'trainers', in which 300 future advisors were educated to present and help farmers in Poland that are receiving funds from measures under Pillar II of the CAP (i.e. agri-environmental and afforestation schemes).

The objectives that were achieved included the following:

- ⇒ Develop, print and distribute promotional and information materials, and training manuals on agri-environmental and afforestation programmes.
- ⇒ Prepare and conduct training sessions for agricultural advisors and administration staff to train farmers in how to implement those programmes.

As the given examples demonstrate, IUCN believes that active management and improved information exchange between stakeholders is necessary in order for projects to benefit nature, and therefore forms a key part of IUCN's work. With its international expertise and experience based on sound science, the union seeks to assist in solving global and regional threats to nature.

Supporting the Build-Up of NGOs in the Field of Nature Conservation

- Abstract based on the presentation held at the workshop -

NORBERT SCHÄFFER

Introduction

Sufficient relevant capacity in governmental bodies, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and scientific institutions is a central pre-requisite for successful nature conservation. In particular countries which are important for biodiversity often lack the necessary capacity to protect their natural heritage. Several Central and Eastern European Countries (CEECs) are a case in point.

This paper outlines BirdLife's approach in supporting the build-up of NGOs in the field of nature conservation and lessons learnt during this process.

BirdLife International

BirdLife International is a global partnership of non-governmental conservation organisations with a focus on birds and biodiversity. The mission of BirdLife International is as follows: "The BirdLife International Partnership strives to conserve birds, their habitats and global biodiversity, working with people towards sustainability in the use of natural resources." The BirdLife Partnership can be described as a federation of independent organisations, in fact a similar structure to the United Nations. In every region (usually a country), there can only be one BirdLife Partner or BirdLife Partner-designate. These national BirdLife Partners or Partners-designate keep their national identity, which is for example reflected in the use of their individual national logos.

This is the profile of BirdLife International worldwide (year 2003):

- ⇒ Active in > 100 countries
- ⇒ Network of > 100 national NGOs
- ⇒ Total membership: > 2.5 million
- ⇒ Total annual budget: > US\$300 million
- ⇒ Total staff: > 4,000
- ⇒ One million ha owned/managed

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) is the BirdLife Partner in the United Kingdom. It has more than one million members, about 1,500 staff and a budget of about € 80 million.

The worldwide network of BirdLife International currently has gaps in parts of Africa, South America, Central Asia and South East Asia. Representatives of BirdLife Partners and Partners-designate (those without full voting rights within BirdLife) meet during a Global Partnership Meeting every 4-5 years (last meeting was in Malaysia in September 1999 and the next meeting will be in South Africa in March 2004).

The four pillars of BirdLife's work are: species, sites, habitats and people. A science-based approach is one of BirdLife's guiding principles. The partnership has for example on behalf of IUCN compiled the list of threatened birds of the world (the official IUCN global Red Data Book for birds).

Capacity-Building within BirdLife International

Building up capacity on a national and local level is very much at the centre of BirdLife's work. Rather than going into a country, running short-term nature conservation projects with a large budget, and then pulling out at the end of the project, BirdLife develops and supports national structures. The aim is to build up independent, professional and stable BirdLife Partners worldwide. This is considered as the key to successful capacity-building in nature conservation. An example of this work is the support of BirdLife Partners in CEECs in their attempt to influence the EU accession negotiations, a project the RSPB is carrying out on behalf of BirdLife.

The minimum operation for a BirdLife Partner is as follows:

- ⇒ Three Staff (usually Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Conservation Officer, Development Officer)
- ⇒ An office
- ⇒ A membership operation (magazine, meetings)

For this minimum operation, core funding (unrestricted funding) is required. A typical budget for this in CEECs would be between € 15,000 to € 60,000.

Capacity-building should address three levels:

- ⇒ Skills and knowledge of individuals and organisations.
- ⇒ The internal environment (e.g. technical equipment; management, including staff management; staff retention, job security)
- ⇒ The external environment (e.g. political framework, public perception)

Within BirdLife, these levels are addressed through the following means:

- ⇒ Skills and knowledge of individuals and organisations:
Training workshops ("Building on Experience"), study visits, one to one advice etc.
- ⇒ Internal environment:
Individual support and advice of larger organisations to smaller ones (Supporting-Supported Partner System); follow up of Building on Experience training workshops etc.
- ⇒ External environment:
Policy and advocacy work on legal conditions for NGOs etc.

"Building on Experience" is a large-scale organisational development programme for all BirdLife Partners worldwide. The aim of the project is to build the management capacity of organisations leading ultimately to greater sustainability of those organisations and thus their programmes of conservation work. The course, consisting of four modules, equips usually two key staff per BirdLife Partner with the

necessary skills and knowledge to run a professional outfit. Five assignments are set, one before the course, and then the rest between the modules, which allow the learning to be cascaded back into the organisations giving the programme greater relevance to the whole organisation and not just to the individuals who attend. The Building on Experience curriculum is based on a business planning model that gives an insight into all aspects of running a modern NGO. The eight-week course covers business planning, human resource management, management of change, financial planning and management, income generation, communication and advocacy. The programme uses a ‘sharing methodology’ to bring together the collected experience of the participants, supplemented by taught elements from experts in the fields covered.

Additional to this, RSPB runs a number of workshops on specific issues like fundraising, finance management, site protection issues etc. “Training the trainer” guarantees a multiplication of skills and knowledge.

Under the umbrella of BirdLife, a partner support system has been developed. The BirdLife Supporting Supported Partner System targets long-term support for small, young, financially weak partners through large, older, financially stronger partners. It includes technical and financial support with the aim of developing sustainable, independent partners.

The RSPB’s vision is: Supported Partners will be financially independent after a certain number of years (core funding will come from membership, donations, project money). Our aim is to start with a rather small amount of core funding, increase this to the necessary amount to fund the minimum operation (see above) within a few years and then gradually pull out, leaving the Partner as an independent self-sustaining organisation.

The RSPB currently supports BirdLife Partners in about 25 countries in Europe, Africa and Asia.

Example: APB/BirdLife Belarus

In 1997, a new non-governmental, membership-based conservation organisation was set up in Belarus. Its name is Akhova Ptushak Belarusi (APB/BirdLife Belarus). APB brought together under one roof some of the best nature conservationists in Belarus. Previously, there were only very small, regional and inactive conservation organisations. The RSPB supported APB from the first hour. Today, APB is seen as by far the most professional and successful nature conservation NGO in Belarus. The APB success story is illustrated by following facts:

- ⇒ APB has an office with 8 permanent, well trained, professional and committed staff in Minsk, the capital.
- ⇒ APB has an extensive network of regional branches.
- ⇒ APB has initiated a long list of small, medium and large conservation projects. These projects are carried out in cooperation with UNDP, the Ministry for Natural Resources and Environmental Protection as well as the Academy of Sciences.

- ⇒ APB is the largest membership organisation in Belarus.
- ⇒ APB has been voted “Best NGO in Belarus” by the German Embassy.
- ⇒ APB has a strategic 5-years plan and is systematically implementing this without losing the necessary flexibility.

Talking to APB senior staff and board today, it is clear that project-independent core funding, and through this job security, in combination with regular visits by the supporting partner (RSPB), the whole range of training provided through BirdLife and the link to a large international organisation (BirdLife International) were essential for the success of APB. In particular, secure funding of key individuals enabled APB to recruit and retain top staff in various positions.

Project-dependent funding would have meant project staff would be forced to look for job alternatives even before the end of that project, and as such externally funded projects would not have been given their full attention. Low-level project-independent core funding provided the necessary security and put APB in a position to carry out very large projects in a professional way.

The development of APB/BirdLife Belarus can be seen as a textbook example for NGO capacity-building in the field of nature conservation. The nature conservation work of APB/BirdLife Belarus has been spectacularly successful in the past years. However, looking back at the original vision of the RSPB “Supported Partners will be financially independent after a certain number of years” we have not really fully achieved what we intended. APB still needs core funding, not every year, but quite frequently, and certainly needs a permanent financial safety net. It should be stressed again that APB turns core funding into very large projects, multiplying the investment of core funding.

Another successful example of the supporting supported partners’ system has been that of SEO/BirdLife Spain. SEO was financially supported by the RSPB up until a few years ago. Even at a time when RSPB reduced core-funding to zero, SEO’s budget and membership continue to grow.

Conclusion

Looking at the whole range of partners RSPB is supporting, it is clear that our expectation regarding the financial independence of BirdLife Partners has not been fulfilled in countries:

- ⇒ with a weak economy;
- ⇒ where membership organisations are not part of the culture.

Large BirdLife membership organisations are mainly concentrated in Western and North-western Europe. The membership of BirdLife Partners here is usually between tens of thousands to a million members. In CEECs, BirdLife Partners usually have only a few thousand or even fewer members.

Annual membership fees in Western and North-western Europe are usually around €40 and cover not only the membership recruitment and membership administration costs, but also pay for core

conservation work. In contrast, the annual membership fee for an adult member in Belarus is about US\$ 2; the membership administration costs (only the membership magazine!) are almost five times higher.

So, while income through membership fees is a key source of income to cover core costs in Western and North-western European countries, this is not the case in all other parts of Europe and in fact many parts of the world.

During the development phase, the need of many organisations for core funding moves from permanent support to a permanent safety net, with funding needed in certain years.

Conclusions regarding membership:

- ⇒ In particular, partners in CEECs are characterised by low membership (due to culture).
- ⇒ The membership potential in many countries has not been fully explored.
- ⇒ Low membership fee – high membership costs ratio.

Lessons learnt:

- ⇒ Many organisations do not have enough unrestricted income to survive.
- ⇒ Members often cannot solve the core-funding problem.
- ⇒ Partners need security. They might not need money every year.

There are various models of unrestricted income generation. These are:

- ⇒ Permanent support through supporting partner
- ⇒ Endowment fund (4%)
- ⇒ Business, trade
- ⇒ Project funding
- ⇒ Donations
- ⇒ Membership fees
- ⇒ Governmental support

All these models come with obvious advantages and disadvantages and are very much country specific.

In conclusion, the key to success in capacity-building of NGOs is:

- ⇒ Long-term, reliable support of selected organisations
- ⇒ Close contact to partner
- ⇒ Investment in people and structures (not spectacular projects)
- ⇒ Formal link to international body like BirdLife International.

Nature conservation can only be successful through professional, well-trained, well-equipped, dedicated staff. While the issue of providing a permanent safety net for core funding is still an issue for many NGOs in CEECs, the approach of BirdLife International to capacity-building in the nature conservation NGO sector can be seen as very successful.

Experiences with Building Capacities for Biodiversity Conservation – the 'Pros and Cons' of NGO Networking

ANDRÁS KROLOPP

The political-economic changes in the '90s have brought immense development of the NGO community in the Central and Eastern European region. With the borders opening up and the availability of international, and later also the domestic financial resources the NGOs became enabled for professional work and networking on different levels. However their operation is still primarily project based.

The Central and East European Working Group for the Enhancement of Biodiversity (CEEWEB) was established in 1994 with the aims to form common policies and actions for the enhancement of biodiversity in the CEE region, to promote the enforcement of international conventions for nature and biodiversity conservation, with special regards to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to enhance the implementation of sustainable development and to build NGO capacity and raise awareness. CEEWEB itself is a network of nature conservation NGOs from the CEE region.

On the basis of experiences in the CEE region, CEEWEB considers the following 'pros and cons' for NGO networking:

'Pros'

NGO networking generates an added value, because:

- ⇒ 1+1=3 joining forces often achieves synergy, i.e. much bigger effects can be made than through acting on their own.
- ⇒ It provides higher sustainability in terms of financial and human resources.
- ⇒ Also due to the higher sustainability it enables a longer programmatic approach. Instead of responsive and isolated projects, a long term strategy can be developed and followed, which provides perspectives.
- ⇒ It acquires bigger recognition from the side of decision-makers and donors.

'Cons'

However, there are also difficulties that may emerge:

- ⇒ It is always difficult to establish a network coherent in its targets, ideas and tools. Although diversity may be useful, in some cases it may lead to oppositions, and it is hard to mobilize different NGOs for the same specific tasks.
- ⇒ It is still of course funding driven to some extent, which makes a bigger entity, such as a network, even more vulnerable.
- ⇒ Education itself is not an objective but added value

- ⇒ Owing to the different situations, priorities, and possibilities in different countries, there is always some fluctuation in the network.
- ⇒ There is a threat of “inbreeding”, i.e. the most accessible target group within the network is already educated in environmental issues.
- ⇒ There are substantial cultural differences and language barriers, which hinders or may even prevent effective cooperation.

The main challenges (also) for networks:

- ⇒ How to bring the global level to local level, i.e. how to translate the global environmental issues into the most appropriate languages, which is comprehensible and motivating for both the decision-makers and the public?
- ⇒ On the other hand how to provide feed-back from local to global level?
- ⇒ Deciding on policy trends and prioritisation of issues. Considering the lack of capacities within the countries, there are major constraints for the effective implementation of tasks. Thus a major question can emerge: what is more relevant when devoting the existing low capacities to specific tasks: the EU or the CBD requirements? Even if these requirements are in line with each other, no overall implementation is realistic, which needs a strong prioritisation.
- ⇒ Realizing stability and long term planning instead of implementing responsive projects, through adopting a coherent, strategic approach and framework. It would mean dealing with root causes of the problems and reflect a different, holistic approach.

CEEWEB intends to face up to these challenges through enabling NGO participation and their representation at higher levels, through its working groups within the network, and information dissemination both horizontally and vertically.

Promotion of Networks and Exchanges in the Countries of South Eastern Europe - Experiences from Contemporary Practices in Providing Capacity-Building in the Field of Nature Conservation

SRDJAN SUSIC

Within the framework of the Regional Environmental Reconstruction Programme (REReP) of the Stability Pact for South-eastern Europe, with financial support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the Regional Environmental Centre (REC) launched a project based in three trans-boundary nature-protected sites (Neretva River delta, Skadarsko Lake, West Stara Planina Mountain) in six countries of the region.

This programme (REReP) has four priority components:

- ⇒ Institution and capacity-building;
- ⇒ Support to environmental civil society;
- ⇒ Support to environmental regional cooperation mechanisms and cross-border projects;
- ⇒ Reducing environmental health threats and loss of biodiversity.

Project activities are based on following processes:

- ⇒ Promotion of cooperation in the process of management and protection of cross-border sites.
- ⇒ Promotion of local organizations and cross-border exchanges between organizations/institutions and people.
- ⇒ Promotion of technical networks at the regional level.

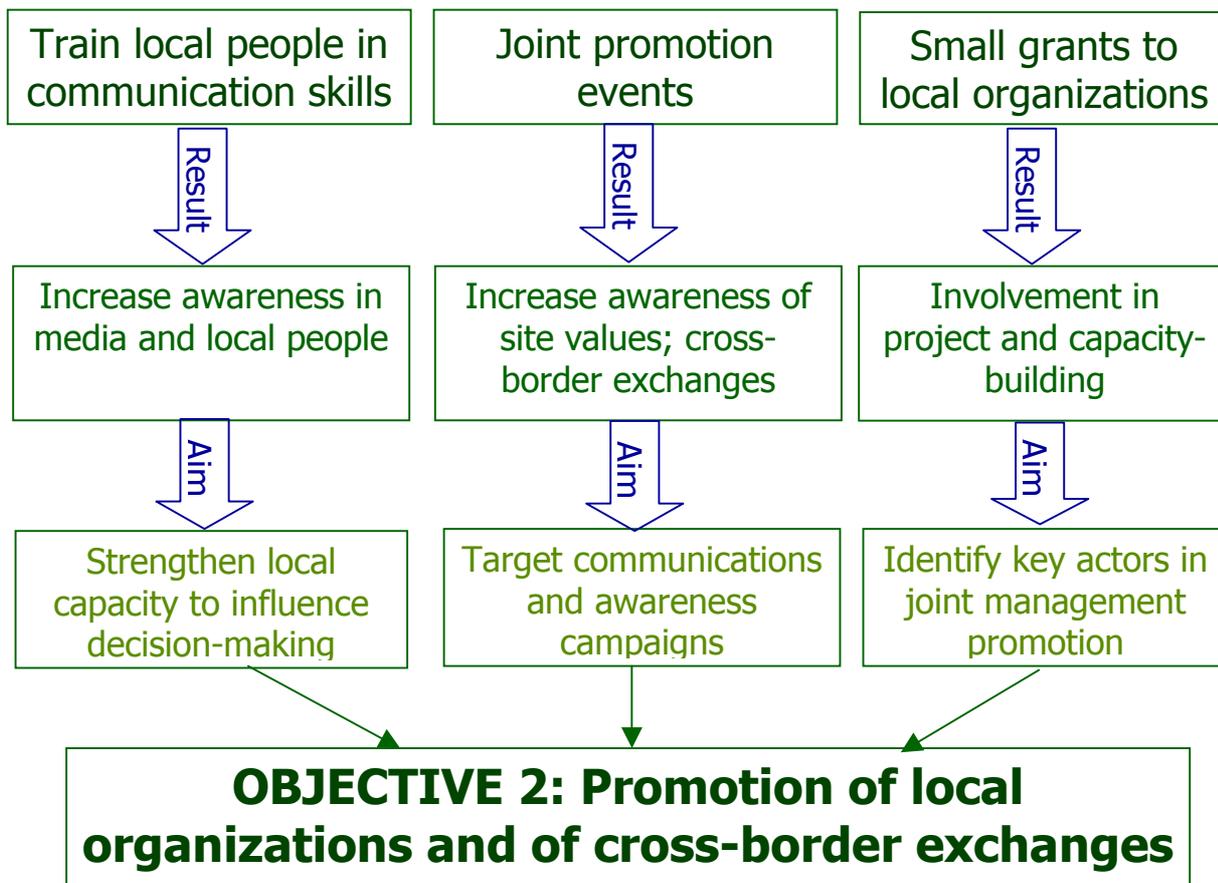
The Project operates on three levels:

1. Local site level (cross-border exchanges and local capacity-building)
2. Regional level among 3 cross border sites (Promotion of networks for joint management of cross-border sites)
3. SEE region level (Environment as a trigger for cooperation in other areas).

Capacity-building is one of the overall goals of the project, but project activities are focused on (figure 1 provides an example of steps taken to reach one of the Project goals):

1. Training;
2. Granting;
3. Information exchange;
4. Strategic planning;
5. Enhancing public participation.

Fig. 1: An example of reaching a capacity-building goal



Romanian NGOs and Natura 2000

OANA-DOMINICA PENU

Romania is home to Europe's richest natural treasures¹ because of its great biogeographic diversity. Romania covers five of the eleven biogeographic regions in Europe – alpine, continental, pannonic, steppe and pontic – the last two regions are not represented in the present EU countries. The accession of Romania could significantly contribute to the enrichment of the EU's natural capital. Unfortunately, the Romanian biodiversity has not yet been studied according to the European biogeographic regions, as no overall classification system of species and habitats exists, but different systems tailored to different fields. The habitats in annex of Law 462/2001 - have no corresponding codes, no description and are not correlated with other classification systems of Romania's natural habitats.

Although the legal framework exists since 2000 and even an agenda for the implementation of the Natura 2000 Network was established, little progress has been made.

Implementing the Natura 2000 Network in Romania will suffer mainly from a lack of trained experts and a chaotic dispersion of data.

Many other difficulties appear at all three levels of competency - full transposition of community laws, inventory of Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)/ Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and site protection - as well as at the different levels of authority: national, county and local.

Concerning **legislation** many issues are still to be dealt with, as many EU laws and directives were simply translated into Romanian and adopted as such without securing the financial and human resources necessary for their enforcement. It is therefore likely that many of these laws will prove impossible to implement and will have to be amended. The problems concerning:

- ⇒ the regulations on conservation condition in private areas,
 - ⇒ the regulation on private and public acquisitions regime that have conservation purpose, and
 - ⇒ the regulation on the site management system
- have not been clarified yet.

Difficulties at the **scientific level** include:

- ⇒ limited understanding of management and community issues related to natural resources conservation,
- ⇒ limited technical equipment for mapping and plotting, and
- ⇒ absence of communication with local agencies and communities.

These problems are closely related to the inventory of SAC/SPAs as the scientific community has to establish and validate them.

¹ WWF characterization

Difficulties at the **governmental level** include budget constraints, human resource limitations, lack of experience with protected areas, and monitoring requirements.

Difficulties at the **county and local levels** include limited integration of environmental issues, insufficient integration of all planned components, less importance given to biodiversity with interests focussed mainly on economic development.

Only four protected areas (Danube Delta Reserve; Vânători Reserve; Piatra Craiului Reserve and Retezat Reserve) have their own management structures. The others are managed by the local councils and/or by local Forest Offices. The site management in the latter protected areas is not well applied due to the lack of experience, interests and incentives, and many irregularities still occur.

The difficulties related to the **civil society and the NGOs** are mainly related to communication problems that exist between the NGOs and the central government, as both sides are holding back and are not very open to a mutual co-operation. The activities of the NGOs are not always as appreciated by the Government, as they should be.

The NGOs consider that the Government is ignoring them and thus they are very reluctant and reserved when co-operating with the authorities.

The Romanian NGOs understand the need of an active player in the implementation of the Natura 2000 Network. As such a workshop was organised in October 2003. The topic was “**The Romanian NGOs and Natura 2000**”. At that meeting a Declaration was issued. In the Declaration the participants presented three of the most important reasons why the Natura 2000 Network has to be implemented as soon as possible:

- ⇒ The Natura 2000 Network is a central element of the EU strategy for sustainable development and for the conservation of the European biodiversity;
- ⇒ The Natura 2000 Network is the main instrument in the conservation and preservation of the rich biodiversity of Romania;
- ⇒ The implementation of the Natura 2000 Network is one of the most important conditions imposed by the EU to Romania for the accession.

Through the Declaration the NGOs offered all their support to the involved stakeholders (the government, the scientific community, other NGOs and local authorities) to implement fully and in a timely manner the Natura 2000 Network.

The NGOs organised themselves into a primary communication network and also in workgroups and established their main objectives for 2003-2005:

- ⇒ Identification of the possible Natura 2000 sites, collection of data, gap analyses. All this information will be correlated with data from other competent stakeholders;
- ⇒ Supporting the build-up of NGOs and the activities involving capacity-building for significant institutions and organisations involved in the implementation of the Natura 2000 Network;

- ⇒ Monitoring of potentially threatening activities (e.g. infrastructure projects) to the possible Natura 2000 sites;
- ⇒ Initiation of a strategy that will consolidate the role of NGOs in implementing the Natura 2000 sites.

Currently the workgroups have started their activities by presenting a questionnaire that addresses NGOs all over the country. Through this questionnaire the workgroups are trying to find out which organisations are willing to commit to this cause and implicate themselves in implementing Natura 2000 Network in their region. Based on the reaction of the other stakeholders the “NGOs and Natura 2000” Network will be enhanced.

A national workshop on capacity-building on the Natura 2000 Network will be held with all the interested parties. Yahoo group-lists were established and a permanent connection exists between all the NGOs and other stakeholders involved in implementing the Natura 2000 Network.

Another notable action performed by the Romanian Ornithological Society (SOR) – one of the most powerful and well organized Romanian NGOs in nature conservation – is the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding regarding the implementation of the Natura 2000 Network in Romania with the General Directorate for Environmental Protection of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forests, Waters and Environment (MoAFWE).

The main objective of this Memorandum is to smoothen the co-operation between the MoAFWE and SOR concerning nature conservation activities and the implementation of the Natura 2000 Network in Romania. Other objectives are aiming at the establishment of SAC/SPAs, at the common usage of data collected by parties, at the setting-up of a common project that envisages the Natura 2000 Network, at monitoring endangered bird species, drafting site-management plans, at common fund-raising actions and at awareness-raising of important stakeholders concerning the biodiversity problems through public campaigns.

The SOR initiative wants to set an example for other Romanian NGOs involved in implementing Natura 2000 Network.

The Regional Environmental Centre, local office Romania, REC Romania, was established in 1991 as part of the Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe network, and is a non-advocacy, non-profit organization with a mission to assist in solving the environmental problems in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE).

REC fulfils its mission through encouraging co-operation among governments and businesses and non-governmental organisations, supporting environmental assistance and consulting, free exchange of information, and promoting public awareness and public participation in environmental decision-making.

In this sense the main areas of activity are business and environment, **capacity-building**, climate change, environmental law, environmental policy, environmental information, local initiatives, NGO support and public participation.

The capacity-building area of expertise of REC Romania is oriented towards two main directions:

- ⇒ Capacity-building for local and central governments. Through our capacity-building expertise we are offering opportunities for local and central governments with environmental responsibilities to increase their field administrative capacity.
- ⇒ Capacity-building for the civil sector. Through our capacity-building assistance we are offering opportunities for environmental NGOs and their members to increase environmental expertise and capacity.

Concerning the capacity-building activities related to nature conservation REC Romania was involved in the implementation of the Transpark –“Golden Gates of Danube” –Transboundary Management of Two National Parks in the Iron Gates Area. “Transpark – The Golden Gates of Danube” was a transboundary project financed by the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The main objective of this pilot project was to lay the foundation for the transboundary management of two protected areas: Pořtile de Fier natural park, on the Romanian side of the Danube and Djerdap National Park on the Serbian side. The project was implemented jointly by REC Country Office Romania and REC Country Office Yugoslavia in close cooperation with the authorities of the Local Environmental Inspectorate Reșița and the administration of Djerdap National Park. The activities developed within the project were:

- ⇒ Defining and establishing a common management system for the administration of the two parks;
- ⇒ Capacity building for becoming an official recognized Transboundary Biosphere Reserve;
- ⇒ Awareness-raising on the biological importance of the area and promotion of its assets on both sides of the Danube.

REC has successfully implemented the project and as a result several outputs were provided. It is necessary to outline that the project produced the expected deliverables but also identified certain issues that were not yet addressed.

The project was of great importance considering that it succeeds in identifying the local and regional stakeholders (Environmental Protection Agencies, Prefectures, County Councils, Forestry Departments and NGOs) and experts. A Regional Working Group was created. Based on the results from the meetings of the Regional Working Group, needs assessments and gap analyses were performed in order to determine the weak and strong points regarding the development of a transboundary reserve in the area.

Training materials were adapted to the local realities and necessities and sent to all the interested parties. Workshops and training sessions for the local stakeholders were prepared in order to inform the local and regional stakeholders about the project outputs and to create the opportunities for new cooperation.

Much has been accomplished with the implementation of this project but it is imperative to continue the activities started here. Even more has to be done in the future so that the outputs from this and other similar projects implemented in the area are not lost:

- ⇒ Information and know-how exchange between Romania and Yugoslavia,
- ⇒ Establishing cooperation relationships with other transboundary parks,
- ⇒ Educational activities,
- ⇒ The evaluation of the natural capital from the both parks,
- ⇒ Popularisation of the two parks between local citizens, local authorities, business sector and other interested people,
- ⇒ Identification of the opportunities of financing the local and regional level,
- ⇒ Establishment of project portfolio for the region,
- ⇒ Integration of the National Park “The Iron Gates” in the strategies of the authorities from Yugoslavia and Romania.

The success of this project enhanced the expertise of REC Romania in this area and facilitated the approach to other projects concerning nature conservation.

Currently **REC Romania** is preparing a MATRA Pre-accession Programme – Environmental Facility: “The implementation of the EU Nature Conservation Legislation in Romania” as partner in an international consortium with Veen Ecology, Association of Romanian Botanical Gardens, Forestry Research and Management Institute, Romanian Society of Ornithology and the Romanian Centre for Remote Sensing in Agriculture.

The overall objective of this project is to assist Romania with the implementation of the EU Birds – Directive (Directive 79/409/EEC) and Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC) for habitats and species protection.

The main activities performed will be:

- ⇒ Support Actions;
- ⇒ Manual “Description of Habitats of European Importance in Romania”;
- ⇒ Identification and mapping the SAC and SPAs
- ⇒ Completion of the standard forms for registration of the sites;
- ⇒ Blue prints for management plans of SPA and SAC sites and two pilot implementation projects.

REC Romania will perform all the capacity-building related activities within this project, as it has to organize seminars, round table sessions and press conferences for all levels of Romanian society in order to strengthen the institutional and organisational structure.

Seminars and round-tables will be held with all significant GO, NGOs and local administration officials directly involved in the implementation of the Natura 2000 Network. At the beginning of the project these activities will be to enhance the cooperation between the mentioned parties and to achieve a full understanding of the directives.

Activities and Initiatives

The deliveries will be a leaflet to be produced with all relevant information about the directives and that the Natura 2000 Network will be established.

As the project activities are fulfilled, new meetings will be held with interested parties. The aim is to centralise the collected data, to establish possible Natura 2000 sites, and mainly to understand the impact of the Network on the development of the countryside. A Natura 2000 Network booklet for Romania will be issued.

A public campaign for promoting the Natura 2000 Network and other similar activities will end the project. The campaign consists mainly on press conferences and its goal is to raise the awareness of the general public about Natura 2000 Network.

Capacity-Building in Implementation and Enforcement of the EU Nature Conservation Policy in the Baltic States

LIGA EGLITE

History

During the Soviet era, the nature realm in the Baltic States was always the one least affected by the centralized decision-making from Moscow. For instance, some foresters recall having intentionally skewed reports on the available forest territories in Latvia to avoid excessive logging. Seemingly, there was a silent agreement that nature, to an extent an element of national identity and pride, has to be sheltered from wrong and potentially harmful decisions. Ironically, the Soviet military could also be credited for preserving the rich nature of the coastal areas through having restricted access military zones along the western border of the Soviet Union.

Consequently, aside from certain environmental "hot-spots" with high levels of pollution or disturbance, after the collapse of the Soviet Union Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania could boast a lot of positive environmental features, i.e. rich biological and landscape diversity, abundance of rare species and natural habitats as well as a good state of freshwater, peat and forest resources. The richness and a relative health of the Baltic natural heritage gave us a mistaken confidence that meeting the European Union's nature conservation requirements will be an easy task. Nature conservation was not regarded as a priority for the general EU approximation in any of the Baltic states, as in comparison to other environmental sectors it was in a much better position from the point of existing legislation, research traditions, knowledge base and the overall capacity.

However, the first meeting on nature conservation issues organized by the Baltic Environmental Forum in 1998, "Baltic Nature Legislation facing EU Requirements", revealed some weaker links in the nature-related policy and laws. This was strongly supported by the outcomes of the 1999 Baltic States' first screening rounds with European Commission on legislative gaps. On the one hand, in order to fully comply with the requirements of the Birds and Habitats Directives all three countries needed to make remarkable changes in their laws. On the other hand, due to certain species or habitat types endangered in Western Europe but being quite common here, several obligations from the Birds and Habitats Directives were not relevant for the Baltic states. Other species typical for this biogeographical region and in need of protection were not listed in the Annexes of the Directives. Therefore, the countries needed to seek exemptions and amendments to the Annexes. This demanded careful analysis of data and good preparation for the negotiations.

BANAT - Introduction

The inception of the Baltic Environmental Forum (BEF) subproject Baltic States' Regional Preparation for NATURA 2000 (BANAT) in 1999, was a result of a common understanding among the Baltic nature

conservation actors of the need for trilateral collaboration and information exchange. BANAT was designed to assist the Ministries for Environment in the implementation of the EU requirements of the Birds and Habitats Directives as well as with establishment of the Natura 2000 network. This role is fulfilled by facilitating a continuous dialog among the Baltic states, by compiling and disseminating relevant information, and by acting as a link between the region and the European Union. Recently, BANAT entered its third phase, which will witness the change of the current accession countries into the new EU member states. During the five years of BANAT, the aims of the project have remained the same, yet the themes brought to the discussion table have expanded, issues deepened and the stakeholder groups grown significantly. This is undeniably indicative of the increasing knowledge base, skills and competence of the Baltic nature conservation actors.

How Do We Do It

Seminars, workshops, information days, and trainings are the key tools of our trade. Since 1999, BANAT has organized roughly 55 events that have gathered more than 2500 participants from the Baltics and the EU member states. To better demonstrate the scope of the program, the events that have taken place can be arranged under the following thematic headlines:

- ⇒ Policy meetings on amending the Annexes of the Directives to the Baltic conditions;
- ⇒ Expert discussions/workshops on specific nature conservation issues (e.g. species protection, habitat classification, hunting requirements, etc.);
- ⇒ Site selection and establishment of Natura 2000 network;
- ⇒ Public awareness on EU nature conservation objectives
- ⇒ Cross-sectoral integration of nature conservation issues
- ⇒ Information and discussion on implementation of EU nature conservation policy (e.g. Boreal region specifics)
- ⇒ Transboundary co-operation and management of sites along the borders
- ⇒ Site management, species/habitat management problems, monitoring

The evolution of the topics covered throughout the project can be used as an indicator of increasing capacity of the authorities, experts and NGOs alike. That is to say, the issues have become increasingly practical and in-depth, and there are more and more Baltic case-studies that can be used as illustrative examples during our workshops or trainings. Furthermore, seminars that incorporate nature conservation objectives into other policy areas (e.g. agriculture, tourism, commercial forestry) gather a growing number of different stakeholders willing to try to find a common language.

Similarly, the types of BANAT events have changed along with the nature conservation actors. Seminars and workshops have become more interactive, with increasing emphasis on debates, working groups and ad hoc expert dialogs. Actors have acquired confidence in not only being able to voice their opinions but also in having the responsibility to inform the rest of the specific approaches each of the Baltic states has taken in complying with the EU requirements.

BANAT – Capacity-Building Role

Capacity is hardly a tangible, strictly measurable entity. Even less so is the role of BANAT in regional capacity-building for implementation of EU nature conservation goals. There is no clear indicator that a seminar contributed to improved understanding on management of a particular habitat type, for instance. Improved ability to understand and meet nature conservation objectives is a cumulative effect. Nevertheless, workshops and other events organized by BANAT have remained popular and well-attended, which is an indicator of their relevance, timeliness and importance. This leads us to believe that knowledge gained at the seminars is deemed necessary and practically applicable.

Since each seminar yields some new ideas and easily points to problem areas, we use this information to build the agendas of future seminars. In addition, a group of key stakeholders is frequently asked for their input on seminar content. Such an approach undeniably helps BANAT to remain in tune with the needs of the Baltic nature conservation actors. Additionally, an opinion poll surveying various Baltic nature conservation stakeholders carried out in 2000 and 2003 was another successful tool in finding out the weaker links of nature protection goal communication to the public. The study helped create an overview of the existing approaches and skills of the relevant actors as well as form a set of recommendations for further improvement.

BANAT project implementation is overseen by a steering group composed of the representatives of our donor institutions, i.e. Ministries of Environment in Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia and Finland, The Nordic Council, Swedish Environmental Protection Agency and the German Federal Ministry of Environment. Project activities are carried out by a core team located in Riga, Vilnius and Tallinn.

Capacity Needs in Central and Eastern Europe - The Example of Sustainable Tourism Development

STEFANIE HÖHN AND MICHAEL MEYER

Tourism is a cross-cutting issue and therefore can be an important tool for capacity-building. The Association Ecological Tourism in Europe (ETE) is an organization that acts Europe wide and is based in Bonn, Germany. It consists of various member organisations and aims to train and educate all types of stakeholders and local populations in the field of sustainable tourism. ETE organises and implements campaigns, workshops and seminars for lobbying, capacity-building and awareness-raising means. In addition, the Association is involved in international processes and model projects regarding the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD) "International Guidelines for Biodiversity and Sustainable Tourism Development".

The term Capacity Needs is a very demanding title; therefore within the context of the work of ETE, some selected ideas on capacity-building will be presented as best practice and lessons learnt.

Key Stakeholders

Key stakeholders play an important role in capacity-building. **International organisations** such as UNDP, UNEP or GEF can play an initial part through implementing projects (e.g. training programs), or by distributing information on the international level. On the other hand, international organisations often do not consider the concept of sustainable tourism and tend to lobby primarily their own priorities. This can lead to the problem that the aims an organisation or stakeholder tries to fulfil might not be achieved to the full extent.

Governments and agencies provide legal or operational frameworks in the field of capacity-building. It has proved, however, that these institutions lack cross-sectoral approaches and strategies, mainly focusing on their own field of interest, which was an important issue for the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) of the CBD in the context of combining tourism and biodiversity. Furthermore, even governments and governmental agencies often have very low staff capacities, which can also lead to failures in cooperation and networking.

NGOs fulfil capacity-building measures in a different way, mainly focusing on "watchdog" and "pioneer" functions, when it comes to new experiences. As it is the case with ETE, NGOs can contribute to capacity-building needs through advising, lobbying and networking measures. The problems that NGOs are facing include low staff numbers and capacities what constrains their work abilities. It is also noticeable that there is a high competition among NGOs in trying to acquire important projects for themselves. As it is the case with international institutions, a lack of cooperation can also be seen among NGOs. An additional problem in the field of biodiversity and tourism is the low number of NGOs dealing with this issue.

The **business sector** provides capacity-building in the frame of their investment and development co-operation including staff training and the education of clients. However, since sustainability is a current trend on the market, the business sector is likely to “green-wash” sustainability components. Business companies rather use the term sustainability simply to commercialise their interests.

The Example of Banska Stiavnica

ETE is currently running a project on biodiversity and sustainable tourism in the region of Banska Stiavnica, Slovak Republic, which has been running for 2 ½ years now. It includes the implementation of a training and information program of 20 seminars involving all relevant stakeholders, e.g. local governments and NGOs. In terms of capacity-building the project initiated round table discussions with decision makers at the local level and inter-departmental round tables, thus contributing to cross-sectoral approaches, supporting co-operation between the different sectors and providing the results for the national level.

Another part of the project is the preparation of a habitat management strategy and a tourism management strategy and the combination of both approaches. Overall, these aspects and parts lead to the development of principles for sustainable tourism.

So far, the project has shown various **lessons learnt**: First, the results of the training seminars show a high demand of locals to get involved in decision-making processes which proves a successful implementation of capacity-building. Second, as a logical consequence this positive outcome was followed by an increasing pressure on the local government if the government was not contributing to the demands of the local population.

In comparison to the positive results on the local level, not much has been achieved on the national level. There is still no inter-linkage of biodiversity and tourism development and the government agencies lack time and capacities, which also contributes to the negative outcome. A lack of competent NGOs both on local and national level is another lesson learnt, although this problem is not limited to Slovakia but applies to all CEE countries, since many NGOs are start-ups and often lack experience.

Recommendations

For future activities related to capacity-building, a **strategic approach** could include the following recommendations: First, it is important to build the capacity of international organisations towards an integrated approach of tourism development and biodiversity conservation (e.g. through the Biodiversity Planning Support Programme of UNDP-GEF, UNEP and World Bank). International organisations need to be convinced to turn their interest of funding projects into an integrated approach, e.g. implementing the CBD. Second, an inter-governmental, cross-sectoral strategy for tourism development should be established, which requires capacity-building for staff and decision-makers. In this context Germany is

facing the same problems as CEE countries: The aim to convince governments to establish inter-governmental strategies requires capacity-building at all government levels. Third, capacity-building can contribute to achieve Public Private Partnerships and thus to the appreciation of the economic value of ecosystems. It is important to create awareness on that biodiversity conservation is not a pure conservation matter.

Recommendations from the **practical approach** can be given from the point of view of ETE and CEEWEB:

- **Activities by ETE** include the publishing of a tourism management guide for NATURA 2000 sites, the establishment and distribution of a handbook on training in sustainable tourism and the development of a checklist for the CBD Guidelines for Biodiversity and Tourism Development. Another possibility for the enhancement of capacity-building is the organisation of workshops to implement the VIABONO certification programme for environmentally sound tourism destinations. Additional possibilities are the training of trainers on the delicate issue of fundraising and, more general, the micro-region assessment and product development.
- **CEEWEB** currently hosts 70 NGO members in its network. The main objective is to strengthen the NGO network in order to support cross-sectoral co-operation. Further recommendations include intensive training and education, linking of different topics (FFH, CITES, tourism etc.), co-ordination and coaching model projects and giving feedback to international levels. CEEWEB is also providing assistance to the development of the Carpathian Convention and to the Carpathian Ecoregion Initiative.

Contribution to the Workshop Goals

A regional capacity-building centre should be based on regional acceptance. It should take into account and integrate all relevant capacity-building activities, including National Capacity Self-Assessments (NCSAs). The Clearing-House Mechanism should play an important part and should closely be linked to such a regional capacity building centre where available. Further, this centre should evaluate the impact of capacity-building and get interlinked with similar centres.

Current Activities and Potential for Capacity-Building at the International Academy for Nature Conservation, Isle of Vilm

GISELA STOLPE

History and Mandate

The International Academy for Nature Conservation was founded in 1990 as a branch office of the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN).

The mandate of the Academy is:

- ⇒ to promote international cooperation in nature conservation
- ⇒ to fulfil obligations arising from Germany's bilateral agreements and the CBD (technology transfer and cooperation)
- ⇒ to support the EU-accession process (mandate of the EU) with regard to nature conservation.

With its dedication to conservation and its international scope the Academy is probably a unique institution on a European, and quite likely, global scale.

The Academy is conducting seminars and workshops on many aspects of nature conservation for a German and international audience. 60 – 75 seminars are held annually with participants from more than 130 countries since 1990. It is working with a wide range of partners.

Facilities

Apart from its unique location within an ancient nature reserve and its secluded atmosphere, the Academy has perfectly equipped seminar rooms and provides comprehensive logistical support as well as a network of well-experienced trainers and resource persons.

Geographical Focus

One third of the training seminars held at Vilm are targeted to a German audience, another third are directed towards participants from the CIS including Central Asian countries. One quarter of the training seminars are addressed to experts from Central and Eastern Europe whereas training seminars for experts from the EU and developing countries make up the rest. The rather strong focus on Eastern Europe and CIS has historical reasons and is in tune with Germany's foreign policy, which is reflected in a number of bilateral agreements as well as in the EU accession process.

Thematic Focus

One focal area of the Academy is **Capacity-Building**. Within capacity-building the Academy has offered seminars mainly on the following topics:

- ⇒ Protected areas management
- ⇒ Ecotourism
- ⇒ Environmental Education
- ⇒ World Heritage Sites
- ⇒ Financing conservation
- ⇒ Sustainable use (i.e. sturgeon, medicinal plants)
- ⇒ Implementation of CITES
- ⇒ EU legislation

Topics were chosen on **request** by authorities or institutions from the respective countries or on **suggestion** by certain institutions. The BfN is particularly interested to support the implementation of **multilateral conventions** (CBD, CITES, World Heritage), which is an expressed goal of the German foreign policy. Since the Academy is a branch of the BfN and thus a governmental body, target groups have predominantly been staff from governmental institutions.

The training courses are conducted in partnership with e.g. IUCN, Conservation Finance Alliance, GTZ, UNESCO, WWF Germany, TRAFFIC Europe, EUROPARC Germany, WCPA Europe, UNEP, Technical University Dresden, WWF International and others.

Outlook and Potential

In the coming years, training activities of the Academy are envisaged on the following **topics**:

- ⇒ *Conservation Finance* (working together with the Conservation Finance Alliance in elaborating and realising their Global Training Programme)
- ⇒ *World Heritage* (working together with the World Heritage Centre in realising their Global Training Programme for CIS and Eastern Europe)
- ⇒ *Sustainable Use* (tackling the issues of medicinal plant collection and hunting, particularly with regard to CEE and CIS)
- ⇒ *Environmental communication*
- ⇒ *Co-Management of Protected Areas in CEE* (a joint initiative with IUCN and EUROPARC Federation)
- ⇒ *Private Protected Areas* (a topic of increasing relevance but little experience in Europe)
- ⇒ *CITES* (assisting in implementing CITES and the respective EU regulation, in accordance with the CITES Secretariat)
- ⇒ *CBD* (training activities that pertain to specific CBD issues such as the Global Taxonomy Initiative, the Ecosystem Approach etc.)

While governmental authorities will remain the prime **target groups**, the Academy will try to reach out into the private sector too (as it plays an important role in sustainable use, ecotourism, private protected areas) and will also strengthen the inclusion of NGOs. Participants should serve as multipliers (applying the “Training of trainers” concept). Major challenges for the future are monitoring the impact of training events and tailoring seminars more specifically to the needs of selected target groups.

In the future the Academy aims to support the formation of learning networks and exchange facilities in terms of **methods, tools and approaches**. Training courses are based on exercises, group work and case studies.

Experiences with Twinning as an Instrument for Capacity-Building Exemplified by EU Species Protection Regulations

FRANZ BÖHMER

Twinning is an instrument of the European Union for the funding of projects on the implementation of the EU legislation in pre-accession or candidate countries. They are supported by external experts (short-term and long-term experts) and directed mostly to the governments and administrations of the pre-accession or candidate countries. Twinning projects are designed for all the different sectors of EU regulations.

The EU species protection regulations are based on the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Most of the candidate countries have signed the convention. However, there is a need for training in the much more complicated EU regulations concerning the implementation of CITES.

Each twinning project is based on an agreement, which defines all requirements and conditions for the project, e.g. the legal basis, financial requirements, personnel, and duration of training phases in the candidate country.

Key objective of a twinning project is the close cooperation between a candidate state and an EU member state. This cooperation is realised through the delegation of experts from an EU member state to a candidate state. The main goal of training seminars held in the scope of a twinning project is to enable the ability for self-help in the candidate states. This necessitates some basic requirements for the organisation and realisation of seminars.

There are three steps to be taken to realise a seminar:

1. the assessment stage,
2. the preparation stage, and
3. the realisation stage

These steps are of similar importance but have to be fulfilled in the above shown order.

Main elements of the assessment stage are the assessment of the organisational structure of the administrations involved in the candidate country and the identification of the participants for the seminars. The latter aspect is an important issue because of the different level of knowledge and education among the participants. Subsequently, the identification of the relevant training themes is carried out combined with the assessment and analysis of the domestic legislation in force or in preparation.

The assessment stage should not lead to the impression that the administration, its organisational standard and its employees will be criticised. The assessment stage is necessary to make the training as helpful as possible. For the involvement of local knowledge, authorities of the candidate country should be

identified, who will take part in the seminar as trainers. In addition the assessment can be used for the exchange of experiences with other European countries.

The second step is the preparation stage. A workshop with the local authorities is helpful to identify the parts of the training, which can be realised through domestic experts. The integration of local staff provides several advantages:

- ⇒ domestic legislation is discussed from the point of view of the stakeholders;
- ⇒ domestic experiences feed the discussion process;
- ⇒ participants get in touch with domestic experts.

The schedule for the seminar and the form and contents of the training material is also defined during this stage. Training manuals containing all presentations and all additional information should be prepared in a way that local experts could harness them. At the end of the preparation stage, organisational matters such as the appropriate location for the seminar, what accommodation, translation service for external experts, print of manuals and legislative texts etc. must be resolved.

The realisation stage will be described by an example. Within a twinning project with Bulgaria two basic training seminars about the legal frame for the enforcement of CITES and the relevant EU legislation were held. The seminar was addressed to customs officers and members of other enforcement bodies. Each seminar took five days and was held by two German experts in cooperation with experts from the Bulgarian Ministry of Environment and from the customs training centre. Soon after, the participants of these seminars were invited to two additional seminars dealing with the identification of protected species. In contrast to the above-mentioned basic seminars, mostly Bulgarian experts held these seminars. German experts did the opening of and the introduction to the seminars. Nevertheless, the training manuals for the identification seminars were prepared in close cooperation with experts from both countries and can be employed for follow-up seminars.

There are several advantages to twinning projects. Twinning projects are funded by the European Commission that sponsors the expenses for external experts and for the printing of training manuals. Thus the financial requirements are very low for the participating candidate country. One project is always directed to one candidate country. Thus the project can explicitly focus on the domestic legislation. The same applies to the training material prepared for the project. In addition questions about the domestic implementation and legislation can be answered immediately if local experts take part in the seminars.

However, there are some challenges. The preparation of twinning projects is very time-consuming as there is a huge burden of administrative duties, which must be fulfilled. The bilateral agreement needs to be prepared, several reports must be written, and several committees must be informed. The trainers are usually confronted with participants with different levels of education and knowledge, which is not only a problem for twinning projects, but for all kinds of training seminars. Furthermore, the differing motivation of participants may lead to problems within the seminars. Last but not least the translation and interpretation of presentations from external experts could be very time-consuming and delicate due to language problems.

There are different types of seminars possible that deal with species protection regulation under the involvement of German experts. The advantages and disadvantages of twinning projects are described above. Another possibility is the bilateral organisation of seminars with a candidate country and a EU member state. Beside the costs and the funding, the advantages and disadvantages are nearly the same as in twinning projects. The BfN organises a third type of seminars for an international audience. This type of seminar facilitates the exchange of experience and information between participants from different countries for e.g. problem-solving. However, the number of participants per country is limited as regularly only two or three participants per country may attend. Additionally these seminars are held in a foreign language and not in the mother tongue of the participants. The advantage is less effort for interpretation.

Résumé: You have to be aware of several issues while preparing training seminars. There are organisational issues, technical issues and last but not least human aspects which must be recognised and noted for organising and holding a successful seminar.

Linking Professional Careers to Sustainable Development

BARBARA KRAUSE

InWEnt as a Young Organisation with a Long Standing Tradition

*“The most extensive yet
undiscovered frontiers
lie but within our human minds”
Dr. Hans Pfeifer, InWEnt*

The “Internationale Weiterbildung und Entwicklung gGmbH” (Capacity Building International) is a major global player in the field of human resources and organisational development, blending 40 plus 30 years of experience of the two preceding organisations. Its mandate is to make a meaningful contribution in the challenging process of shaping globalisation towards sustainable development.

Within this mandate, the Department of Environment, Natural Resources and Food dedicates itself to enhancing individual competences, improving organisational performance and strengthening institutions worldwide. The department is endowed with nine core competency teams. One of them being Natural Resources Management (region targeted: worldwide), the other Structural Change and Agrarian Reform (region targeted: CEE/NIS); both are located at the International Conference Centre at Leipzig-Zschortau.

Investment in training is a risky business. It is a one-time huge investment in one single person. Results are difficult to measure and individual behaviour is difficult to predict. High personnel fluctuation rates are increasing worldwide and the jeopardy of brain drain is a persisting factor. Therefore most care has to be taken in systematically securing that trainees and participants of dialogue events can indeed effectively contribute towards the agreed objectives. How this is done is but one outstanding trait of InWEnt’s human resources and organisational development strategy.

InWEnt’s trade mark is the learning method, which has been widely imitated. It starts on the potentials, the needs and the specific working situation of the trainees and dialogue participants and evolves towards approaching their visions and achieving their professional goals. We create the link between professional careers and sustainable development.

The main activities of InWEnt comprise a) advice to the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and other donor organisations, b) co-ordination with other German development agencies (GTZ, KfW, DED, etc.) and participation on bi-lateral policy consultations, c) advice in organisational and human resource development, and d) implementing dialogue, training and the InWEnt-Alumni programmes for long-term-courses.

Dialogue and Training

A description of the competence fields, the training and dialogue events, and the participants in the fields of Agrobiodiversity, Management of Plant Genetic Resources and Development-Oriented Biotechnology on the one hand side and for the Central and East European Countries (CEE) and the New Independent States (NIS) on the other hand, can be found in multiple brochures at your disposition. Within the scope of this discussion paper we will present the lessons learnt from training and dialogue, as we have reflected on them.

Lessons Learnt from an International Conference Centre

- ⇒ Get an international learning community together: it promotes international careers.
- ⇒ Facilitate the south – east dialogue: it promotes brand new intercultural competences.
- ⇒ Expose your trainees to public debate on international development initiatives: it promotes the experience of democratic thinking.
- ⇒ Integrate your trainees into German daily life: it promotes tolerance and acceptance on both sides.
- ⇒ Offer plenty of local reference experiences: it promotes regional business relations and inter-institutional cooperation.
- ⇒ Avoid the entertainment trap: in order to promote concentration necessary for learning and the tranquillity conducive to creativeness.
- ⇒ Keep away from conventional hotel arrangements: the key for effective learning is authenticity!

Lessons Learnt from Training and Dialogue Events

- ⇒ Start with the action plan: ask the participants to bring their working place into the course.
- ⇒ Learning precedes revolution: prepare trainees for the response of the auto-immune system of the deploying organisation's established structures.
- ⇒ Install feelings of uneasiness: recognising the knowledge gap and technological divide is but one source of motivation for improvement.
- ⇒ Don't worry about the critical-mass-approach: social changes bear their own leaders to steer them, those are the ones.
- ⇒ Training creates its own demand: knowledge always bears new knowledge.
- ⇒ Target the heart, not the head: what counts on the long run is capturing the change agent's commitment to the cause.
- ⇒ Take a holistic approach: you might be shaping excelling biographies.
- ⇒ Establish the link: articulate successful careers with sustainable development.

Outlook

*“Results we might admire,
but it is the process we learn”*

It has been suggested elsewhere, that it is our current models of pedagogy which have lead to unsustainable development³. Also, it is a decade since, during which experience has been reaped on biodiversity conservation activities, but the field of knowledge itself seems not to have evolved at the same pace⁴. So maybe we have to forget about what has been said before, right away and altogether.

These results ask for rethinking – one might also say reengineering – our pedagogy and knowledge management, all over. It would require us to think, that the “hen is the means of the egg to produce another egg”. Success in biodiversity conservation would then not be the goal of capacity-building. It rather would be like capacity-building being the ultimate goal of biodiversity conservation efforts? In that case, biodiversity conservation is not the result of capacity-building. It is THE process to be learnt.

³ Bourn, D., 2003: Entwicklungspolitische Bildung im Umbruch. In: EPI 20/2003, pp28-33.

⁴ Berthoin, A., 2003: Organizational Learning: how can it help the biodiversity field to evolve? Handout presented at the workshop on “Incentive Politics in the First 10 Years of the Convention on Biodiversity”, 2003, WZB-Berlin

4 Capacity-Building Needs and Opportunities in Selected Thematic Areas under the CBD

The Clearing-House Mechanism of the CBD – Strengths and Weaknesses of the Internet as a Means to Promote International Cooperation for Capacity-Building

HORST FREIBERG

The Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM) of the CBD was used as an entry point to provide an overview on some concrete options how to develop or to implement capacity-building activities using the Internet as main vehicle. Three examples will be presented:

- 1) The CHM as information and cooperation platform
- 2) InWEnt – Global Campus 21
- 3) GBIF OCB programme element

1.1) The CHM is based on three main pillars: Information, Cooperation and Network building. The information part of the CHM represents one of the capacity-building aspects of the CHM. Today the CHM provides huge amounts of information on the CBD, its programmes of work, its documents, as well as a list of experts and a compilation of case studies. In synthesis, first-hand information is available for those who search information on the CBD for learning from other experiences or learning about the Convention. The provision of information can be seen as a kind of capacity-building – even more, as the CHM offers contacts to regional, national and international Focal Points. If more in-depth information is needed, the CHM offers a comprehensive list of contact points of the CBD.

1.2) Additionally, the CHM offers some concrete actions on the facilitation of scientific and technical cooperation, which are expected to contribute to the training and capacity-building expectations of the Parties to the CBD. For instance, the German-Colombian Bank of Research Ideas is a concrete example on how to stimulate such a capacity-building activity. The new and challenging task of facilitating technology transfer via the CHM will be a major task for all Parties in the future. The CHM will serve as a basis for this purpose. In order to facilitate impact on capacity-building it is urgently needed that each Party to the CBD implements a national CHM. This will enable the global CHM network to grow and to fulfil its expectations to be a facilitator on technical and scientific cooperation. Considering the many years of practical experiences and concrete work on the CHM development, however, this can only be achieved if all Parties accept and adopt their role in pro-actively installing their national CHM structures and in participating in the development of the global CHM. Only when this is achieved, capacity-building will be part of the CHM network.

2.) Another option to use the Internet for capacity-building activities is realised through the German Agency for Capacity-Building International “InWEnt” (Internationale Weiterbildung und Entwicklung

gGmbH). InWEnt has developed the so-called “GlobalCampus21” as an internet-based capacity-building platform. The platform offers virtual working spaces and facilitates information sharing. It is used for remote preparation of e.g. seminars and workshops as well as for information sharing and for the follow-up of meetings. Participants have remote access to the platform and the seminar/workshop materials, which allows them to continue discussions after the meeting or to draft final conclusions at home.

Another element of GlobalCampus21 represents the feature “Learning Spaces”, which contains web-based training courses. These web-based training courses can be developed on any topic and in any language, e.g. a training course could be developed on the basis of a concrete workshop that identified the need for such a web-based training course. Participants could also comment online to the draft of the course using the GlobalCampus21-Platform as communication platform. The concept offers many options. Usually, a Learning Space is organised following the so-called “blended learning” concept. The course starts with a face-to-face meeting and continues virtually via remote access. It is possible to re-gather participants at the end of the course to evaluate the course or to plan next steps. After finalising the course participants can obtain a “certificate”. GlobalCampus21 is designed as a “Capacity-building and training platform” with a huge spectrum of options for participation.

3.) As a further example of concrete capacity-building action in the framework of the CBD and the CHM, the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) and its Outreach and Capacity-Building (OCB) Programme are presented. GBIF is developing capacities through its OCB Programme with regards to the specific aspects of the GBIF programme of work. The current capacity-building activities cover e.g. learning about GBIF programme areas; data base management, data collection and data sharing; development of GBIF projects or how to participate in the projected International School of Biodiversity Informatics (ISBI).

These three areas of capacity-building are of high relevance for Parties and national partners of the CBD in the future. In a short-term as well as on a long-term perspective, internet-based training and capacity-building platforms are available and of increasing importance for information sharing and the development of national capacities.

Capacity-Building and the Global Taxonomy Initiative

FABIAN HAAS

Before the experiences of the first year of work of the German National Focal Point (NFP) for the Global Taxonomy Initiative (GTI) are outlined, some of the history that led to the GTI should be mentioned. The first step was taken by Recommendation II/2 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in the years before 1996. This in turn led to the Decisions IV/1D and V/9 of the Conference of Parties (COP), where the needs and programme of work for the GTI were developed. These Decisions note the urgent need for taxonomic capacities in order to successfully run all the other cross-cutting issues and thematic work programmes of the CBD. Without the prerequisite of exact taxonomic knowledge, other CBD activities run severe risk of failing their objectives. The term ‘taxonomic impediment’, though coined earlier, summarises this problem.

In 2002, COP-6 adopted the formal programme of work for the GTI (Decision VI/8) with the following main goals:

- ⇒ Capacity-building in taxonomy to help implement the CBD
- ⇒ I.e. provide the thematic work programmes and cross cutting topics with taxonomic competence to reach their aims
- ⇒ I.e. no scientific, ‘independent’ taxonomy

The German GTI-NFP was established in August 2002 at the State Museum for Natural History, Stuttgart, as a 3 years project funded by the BfN (German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation) with the goals of needs and capacity assessment, development of a national implementation plan and other activities. The needs and capacity assessment covers a survey of the taxonomists in Germany, of the available infrastructure, the relevant capacity-building projects, and the programmes and user communities. Some aspects were already examined by other projects (ZEFOD, GBIF and GBIF-D, etc.), thus the GTI activities are developed in cooperation with these projects.

In the first year, it soon became evident that knowledge about the CBD and especially the GTI is lacking among the scientific and user community. Consequently, annual meetings and conferences of societies to be considered (about 15) were visited. Mailing lists of these societies were used to inform about the GTI.

It also became evident that some more obstacles exist, which, albeit small, hinder successful GTI implementation:

- ⇒ No GTI funding mechanism (people will invest their time in efforts which may yield funding)
- ⇒ In the current political situation, funding emphasises ‘applied’ research, whereas taxonomy is seen as ‘non-applied’ or basic research (which it is not)

An especially severe obstacle is the lack of a long-term perspective in taxonomy for students and professionals. The number of open positions suitable for taxonomy is rather declining than increasing and so students will turn to professions, which offer a more promising perspective. This in turn leads to:

- ⇒ A brain-drain in taxonomy - a waste of capacities
- ⇒ A breaking of traditions - there is no one left to teach taxonomy to future students
- ⇒ Relying on amateurs, who simply lack capacities and broad knowledge to deal with larger projects, which require institutional backbone

Despite these obstacles, the German GTI-NFP has some achievements. There is a web page (www.gti-kontaktstelle.de), which collects information on taxonomy (also some definitions what taxonomy actually is, follow 'Taxonomie' link) and its importance. The information is constantly updated and expanded. Amongst this information are – for the first time – a number of case studies, which show that proper identification of organisms does indeed make a difference, a difference that is sometimes measurable in millions of Euro. Please help and provide further cases studies! Furthermore there is an online database with more than 2,000 acronyms (based on a table by BioNET-INTERNATIONAL), from all areas of biodiversity and administration. Please contribute and make this database even more useful!

Future activities consist of a National Implementation Plan dealing with:

- ⇒ Education and training of taxonomists - which capacities are actually needed to produce a good taxonomist
- ⇒ Improving taxonomic infrastructure - i.e. collections, libraries
- ⇒ Raising awareness in public and scientific community for the importance of taxonomy - i.e. PR activities
- ⇒ Addressing the user community and make them aware of their taxonomic basis and how this basis could be improved

There will be a European workshop to exchange ideas on overcoming the obstacles, implementing national plans and some practical aspects (databases' field list, website contents and structures etc). The workshop will be held with support of the BfN in June 2004 on Vilm and everything relevant to it will be found on the GTI-NFP web page (www.gti-kontaktstelle.de).

To conclude, I would like to report some good news from the international level of the GTI:

- ⇒ A Programme Officer (PO) at the Secretariat of the CBD is now in charge, who is Mrs. Lucie Rogo
- ⇒ The Coordination Mechanism (p575) is in place again (consisting of the PO, NFPs and by invitation of the Executive Secretary, organisations such as UNESCO, FAO, GBIF, GEF, BioNET-INTERNATIONAL, Chair: Dr. CL Häuser)
- ⇒ Based on the work of this Coordination Mechanism, SBSTTA-9 adopted a Recommendation on the GTI, which will be discussed at COP-7 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

All Acronyms are explained on www.gti-kontaktstelle.de, follow 'Acronyme' link.

5 Relationship of the Convention on Biological Diversity to other Multi-Lateral Environmental Agreements

An Overview of Multi-Lateral Environmental Agreements Relevant for Biodiversity Conservation

RAINER SCHLIEP

Introduction

Like a mirror to the complexity of the global environment, the issue of biodiversity conservation found a manifold expression in inter-related treaties, conventions, and agreements on a regional, national and international level. The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) sure constitutes the overarching framework of the international effort to conserve biodiversity on a global scale, however, there is a large number of biodiversity-related issues that is also treated in different international negotiation processes or by other governmental or non-governmental bodies.

As the global environment is a complex composition with inter-related elements, the protection of the different aspects of the environment requires a holistic approach. It integrates environmental problem-solving at all levels whether on the regional, national and international scale or on the level of genes, species and ecosystems. An important step towards an integrated approach to biodiversity conservation is the identification of potential synergies for a more effective coordination of multi-lateral environmental agreements (MEAs). This identification is an on-going process between a number of MEAs, partly already formally supported by Joint Liaison Groups, Memoranda or Joint Work Programmes (JWPs). Exploration of synergies is also taking place through a number of other initiatives at the international level. These include UNEP's work on synergies amongst conventions and the United Nations University's Inter-Linkages initiative. Yet many of the MEAs were developed separately from each other in different decades, are at different stages of evolution and are often implemented by separate government departments. These are severe constraints to the merging of forces between the MEAs.

Within the follow-up process of the CBD, its Conference of the Parties (COP) consistently recognised the importance of co-operation and synergies with other conventions and institutions. Background of this effort is the urgent need to facilitate the exchange of information and to explore the harmonisation or efficiencies of reporting requirements.

Not only with respect to these needs, capacity-building as a catalyser plays a key role in achieving synergistic effects in the implementation of different MEAs. However, capacity-building itself would profit from a coordinated approach as the capacity-building efforts of the different MEAs are seldom

inter-linked. The CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE (2000)⁵ concludes that there are several core activities, for example awareness raising, education, public participation, research and training, which are particularly amenable to search for synergies between MEAs. A positive example is the CBD-UNESCO Consultative Working Group of Experts on Biological Diversity Public Education and Awareness established in 2000.

Biodiversity-Related Conventions

Besides the CBD, there are four global conventions within which certain aspects of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are addressed:

- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)
- Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention)
- Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)
- Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (World Heritage Convention)

There is a 'Joint Web Site of the Biodiversity-Related Conventions' (www.biodiv.org/convention/partners-websites.asp) for the ease of access to and exchange of information relevant to all five Conventions. In the following, a short overview is given concerning the objectives of the Conventions, the status of cooperation with the CBD, and their capacity-building activities. For the CBD and the CMS please refer to the articles of EPPLE and DOMASHLINETS in this issue.

CITES

Entered into force in 1975, CITES' objective is the regulation of the international trade in specimens of endangered wild animals and plants by means of a system of import/export permits. The Convention provides for a Conference of the Parties, which is supported by a Secretariat and a Standing Committee. Three additional Committees on plants, animals and nomenclature contribute to the COP. Parties are obliged to annually report their trade records to the Secretariat. The species covered by CITES are listed in three Appendices, according to the degree of protection they need. Currently, roughly 5,000 species of animals and 28,000 species of plants are protected by CITES against over-exploitation through international trade.

With Goal 5 of its 'Strategic Vision through 2005', the Convention aims at increased cooperation and strategic alliances with international stakeholders. More specifically, close coordination and synergy with the CBD and other relevant MEAs is aspired (objective 5.1). A Memorandum of Cooperation between the CBD and CITES was already endorsed at CBD COP-3 in 1996. Potentials for a JWP should be reported to SBSTTA (Decision IV/15).

Objective 1.10 of the CITES Strategic Vision calls for a full use of the potential of regional coordination and collaboration in capacity-building efforts in order to enhance the ability of the parties to implement the Convention.

⁵ Capacity Development Initiative 2000: "Country Capacity Development Needs and Priorities. Regional Report for Eastern Europe and Central Asia". UNDP, GEF

Ramsar Convention

The Ramsar Convention (adopted on 2 February 1971 in the Iranian city of Ramsar) was the first modern global intergovernmental treaty on conservation and wise use of natural resources. One of its key obligations is to include wetland conservation in national land-use and water planning to promote "the wise use of wetlands in their territory". The principle of 'wise use' is an important link to both the CBD and the Agenda 21. In recent years, the Ramsar Convention has adopted various documents and guidelines for due consideration of wetland conservation in water management. Ramsar is a pioneer in efforts to broaden co-operation and to harmonise work of the different MEAs.

Ramsar has started a fruitful co-operation with the CBD. In 1996, a Memorandum of Cooperation was decided by the Secretariats of the two bodies. Meanwhile the third 'Joint Work Plan'⁶ was adopted (at CBD COP-6, Dec. VI/20 and Ramsar COP-8, Res. VIII.5) and the Ramsar Bureau has proved to be a strong political actor. The Ramsar Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) is working with the CBD's Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) to address issues of common importance (e.g. impact assessment, inland waters, alien species). Beyond the co-operation with the CBD, the Ramsar Bureau has begun to develop direct co-operative efforts with the secretariats of other global treaties.

In the field of capacity-building, the Ramsar Convention has developed a number of tools to promote communication, education and public awareness to support the implementation of the Convention. Its 'Outreach Programme' (1999-2002) resulted e.g. in the development of the 'Ramsar Handbooks for the Wise Use of Wetlands', a series of information brochures to assist wetland managers, national authorities, and others in implementing the Convention's mission and objectives. The 'Wise Use Resource Centre' at the Ramsar web site (http://ramsar.org/wurc_index.htm) compiles relevant materials for capacity-building, e.g. the above-mentioned handbooks and information concerning the Ramsar Programme on Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) with its World Wetlands Day activities.

World Heritage Convention

The General Conference of UNESCO adopted the World Heritage Convention (WHC), signed to date by more than 175 Parties, in 1972. The WHC provides a widely accepted international legal instrument for the protection of the cultural and natural heritage by drawing up a list of sites whose outstanding values should be preserved for all humanity and aims to ensure their protection through a closer co-operation among nations. The World Conservation Union (IUCN) as an international, non-governmental organization provides the WHC with technical evaluations of natural heritage sites and, through its worldwide network of specialists, reports on the state of conservation of listed properties. The most significant feature of the Convention is to link together the concepts of nature conservation and the preservation of cultural sites. From the point of view of the Convention, nature and culture are complementary and cultural identity is strongly related to the natural environment in which it develops.

The WHC is an official partner to the CBD. The World Heritage Centre as the Secretariat to the WHC meets regularly with the secretariats of other international conventions such as the Secretariat of the CBD.

⁶ The JWPs organise collaboration and co-operation between the Ramsar Convention and the CBD in the areas of inland water ecosystems, marine and coastal biodiversity, impact assessment and incentive measures. They direct the expert bodies of the Conventions to exchange information, as well as co-operate and co-ordinate activities, where appropriate.

The implementation of a Memorandum of Cooperation with the CBD continues and the possibility of developing a joint work programme with the CBD is in the state of exploration.

A first International Task Force meeting to elaborate a five-year strategic action plan for ‘Capacity Building to Serve Outreach, Natural Heritage Networking, Education, Cooperation and Training’ (CONNECT) for World Natural Heritage sites management was convened in 2000.

Other Multi-Lateral Environmental Agreements Relevant for Biodiversity Conservation

The COP of the CBD has also made frequent references to cooperation with other conventions and organisations in its decisions on specific articles, cross-cutting issues and thematic areas. Apart from the Biodiversity-related Conventions mentioned above, the list of partners of the CBD includes the two other Rio Conventions UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) and UNCCD (United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification) as well as a large number of other conventions, organisations and UN Agencies.

Memoranda of Cooperation

In addition to cooperation at the inter-secretariat level, the CBD adopted a number of Memoranda of Cooperation to promote the consideration of CBD objectives and to stimulate possible contributions to the implementation of the objectives of the Convention in other relevant processes. The following list names some of the partners with whom Memoranda have been concluded:

- Council of Europe - Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitat (Bern Convention) (2001)
- Global Invasive Species Program (GISP) (2001)
- Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land based Activities (GPA) (2000)
- Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS) (2000)
- United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) (1998)
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) (1998)

Joint Work Programmes and Initiatives under development

In Decision IV/15, the COP reaffirmed the importance of mutually supportive activities under the Convention on Biological Diversity and under other conventions, processes and institutions relevant to the achievement of the objectives of the Convention, while avoiding unnecessary duplication of activities and costs on the part of Parties and the organs of the Convention. Accordingly, at its fifth meeting, the COP invited the Executive Secretary to strengthen cooperation with other bodies. A number of decisions were adopted to explore possibilities of JWPs or other collaborative activities with conventions, processes and institutions such as the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), the Global International Waters Assessment (GIWA), the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities (GPA), the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), the Regional Seas Conventions, and UNESCO.

The Convention on Migratory Species – Possibilities for Synergy with the Convention on Biological Diversity and Contribution to Capacity-Building for Biodiversity

VOLODYMYR DOMASHLINETS

The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS/Bonn Convention) aims at conserving and managing avian, marine, freshwater and terrestrial migratory species throughout their range. The CMS is one of the few intergovernmental treaties concerned with the conservation of wildlife and wildlife habitats on a global scale. Since the Convention's entry into force on November 1, 1983, its membership has grown steadily to 84 Parties from Africa, Central and South America, Asia, Europe and Oceania.

Parties to the CMS collaborate in the conservation of migratory species and their habitats through providing strict protection for the endangered species listed in Appendix I of the Convention, through concluding multilateral agreements for the conservation and management (this term includes “Sustainable use”) of migratory species listed in Appendix II and through co-operative research activities.

Appendix II lists migratory species that require or would significantly benefit from international co-operative agreements under the CMS. The form of the agreements may range from legally-binding treaties to less formal Memoranda of Understanding (MoU). More formal agreements should provide for co-ordinated Species Conservation and Management Plans, for the conservation and restoration of habitats, for the control of factors impeding migration, for co-operative research and monitoring, and public education and exchange of information among Parties. In this respect, the CMS is a framework convention.

The CMS actively contributes to the global aim of promoting sustainable development and conserving biodiversity. It is committed to the target of reducing the biodiversity loss by 2010, which was set at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002. CMS tools have a direct impact on local populations and promote their access to the benefits arising from the utilisation of natural resources. The Convention supports human economic activities resulting from the sustainable use of migratory species, such as ecotourism, and encourages the sustainable use for human subsistence. The CMS and the associated agreements complement, and therefore synergise, with all other global and regional biodiversity-related conventions.

There is a number of MoUs and agreements that were concluded under the auspices of CMS. Some of them are relevant to the Central and Eastern European Countries, namely:

- ⇒ MoU concerning Conservation Measures for the Siberian Crane, *Grus leucogeranus* (1993);
- ⇒ MoU concerning Conservation Measures for the Slender-billed Curlew, *Numenius tenuirostris* (1994);

- ⇒ MoU and Action Plan Concerning Conservation Measures for the Aquatic Warbler, *Acrocephalus paludicola* (2003);
- ⇒ MoU on the Conservation and Management of the Middle-European Population of the Great Bustard, *Otis tarda* (2000);
- ⇒ MoU concerning Conservation and Restoration of the Bukhara Deer (*Cervus elaphus bactrianus*) (2002);
- ⇒ Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) (1995);
- ⇒ Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas (ASCOBANS) (1991);
- ⇒ Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats (EUROBATS) (1991);
- ⇒ Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS) (1996);
- ⇒ Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (2001).

The CMS has taken an active role in contributing to the implementation of the Agenda 21 and is consistently searching for synergies with other biodiversity-related conventions, namely the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the World Heritage Convention and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), just to name the global treaties.

The Sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD (CBD COP-6) in its decision VI/20, *inter alia*:

- ⇒ recognised migratory species as a **unique globally important component of biodiversity** whose conservation and sustainable use needs to take place in their migratory range and through co-operative actions;
- ⇒ recognised that the CMS provides an **international legal framework** through which migratory species can be conserved;
- ⇒ recognised the **CMS as lead partner on migratory species conservation and sustainable use**;
- ⇒ welcomed and endorsed a **CBD/CMS Joint Work Programme (JWP)**;
- ⇒ invited the CBD Secretariat to develop guidance with the CMS on integrating migratory species considerations into National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAP); and
- ⇒ urged CBD Parties to address migratory species activities and their co-operation with Range States in CBD national reports.

The CBD/CMS Joint Work Programme includes collaborations in the following directions:

1. Marine and Coastal Biodiversity;
2. Inland Waters Biodiversity;
3. Forest Biodiversity;
4. Agricultural Biodiversity;
5. Biodiversity of Dry and Sub-humid Lands;
6. Alien Species;
7. Ecosystem Approach;

8. Global Taxonomy Initiative (GTI);
9. Indicators, Identification and Assessment and Monitoring of Biodiversity;
10. Impact Assessment and Minimising Adverse Impacts;
11. Protected Areas;
12. Global Strategy for Plant Conservation;
13. Public Education and Awareness;
14. Sustainable Use of Biodiversity and Sustainable Tourism;
15. National Strategies, Plans, Policies and Laws;
16. National Level Institutional Linkages;
17. Secretariats;
18. Bureaux and Subsidiary Scientific Bodies;
19. Information Management: Clearing-House Mechanism and National Reporting;
20. Emerging Areas (areas not originally identified for 2002-05);

Based on the CBD/CMS JWP there could be several ways for the CMS Secretariat and its Parties to contribute to capacity-building for biodiversity:

- ⇒ Development of international legal instruments addressing migratory components of biodiversity (agreements, MoU, Action Plans);
- ⇒ Provision of specific information services, e.g. GROMS (Global Register of Migratory Species), case studies, thematic web-sites;
- ⇒ Implementation of international pilot projects and the provision of special equipment and technology for the study of migratory species (e.g. bat detectors, transmitters);
- ⇒ Exchange of expertise and experience relevant to migratory species including joint research programmes;
- ⇒ International public awareness campaigns (e.g. European Bat Night);
- ⇒ Unification/harmonisation of national reporting;
- ⇒ Breeding programmes for migratory species, as appropriate (e.g. Bukhara Deer farms);
- ⇒ Development of guidelines and/or recommendations for the conservation/sustainable use of specific groups of migratory animals (e.g. AEWA guidelines to reduce crop damage and other forms of conflict between waterfowl and human activities, guidelines on bat-friendly forestry practices under EUROBATS etc.);
- ⇒ Cost-effective use of scientific resources available by involving them in international concerted conservation actions/programmes pertinent to migratory species;
- ⇒ Promote and facilitate scientific and technical co-operation on migratory species via the CHM;
- ⇒ Other activities.

6 Capacity Needs and Possible Priorities for Capacity-Building in Countries of Central and Eastern Europe

The following short overviews and statements were prepared by participants as an input to Working Session 3 (Priority Areas for Capacity-Building for Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use in Central and Eastern Europe). In preparing the statements, the participants were asked to draw on their own personal experience and/or results and findings from completed or ongoing assessment processes.

Capacity-Building for Biodiversity Conservation - Status in the Czech Republic

JINDRISKA STANKOVA AND JANA BROZOVA

The Ministry of the Environment (MoE) with its Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection of the Czech Republic (ANCLP) and the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) ensure the implementation of CBD in the Czech Republic (CR). National Focal Points and thematic responsibilities in these administrative bodies are⁷:

MoE:

- ⇒ CBD NFP - Dr. Petr Roth
- ⇒ NFP for Cartagena Protocol - Dr. Zuzana Doubkova
- ⇒ BCH NFP - Dr. Milos Nemecek
- ⇒ ABS NFP – Dr. Milena Roudna

ANCLP:

- ⇒ CHM NFP – Jindriska Stankova
- ⇒ SBSTTA NFP – Dr. Jan Plesnik

MoA:

- ⇒ genetic resources – animals, plants, microorganisms
- ⇒ forestry
- ⇒ agriculture

Cross cutting issues are covered by both of the Ministries.

Positive steps:

- 1) First National Report sent to the CBD Secretariat

⁷ see also <http://www.biodiv.org/world/map.asp?lg=0&ctr=cz>

- 2) Questionnaire on Alien species sent to the CBD Secretariat
- 3) Questionnaire on Forest ecosystems sent to the CBD Secretariat
- 4) Questionnaire on CHM sent to Aram Grevorgyan (EC CHM Implementation)
- 5) CHM Portal Toolkit installed (EC CHM version – FINSIEL)
- 6) CHM meeting for CEEC and EU countries in Prague-Pruhonic, September 2003
- 7) Preparation of the NBSAP
- 8) Establishment of the Czech Committee for the CBD
- 9) GEF-, IUCN- and UNDP-funded projects running or finished

Main problematic topics:

- 1) First National Report available in English only, not published in both languages yet
- 2) CHM portal established, but not functioning as a real clearing-house, need of team work, coordination, getting of appropriate information, updating, putting into practice, feedback
- 3) NBSAP needed to be well coordinated to achieve all three objectives of the CBD; need of a log frame, time schedule, clear and reclaimable responsibilities, participation of all stakeholders essential
- 4) Czech Committee for the CBD is not fully working (the last meeting took place 2000), hoping the following one will be held at the beginning of 2004
- 5) Implementation of objectives is limited mostly by lack of people in both ministries and at the ANCLP as well
- 6) Communication gaps – related to point 5
- 7) Generation gaps connected to unwillingness of information sharing – lack of incentive measures
- 8) Team work, sharing of responsibilities
- 9) Overall information flow and feedback
- 10) Fluctuation of responsible persons
- 11) Education, awareness raising
- 12) Weak interest in CBD implementation
- 13) Biosafety CHM does not yet exist

Capacity-Building Needs in Estonia

KRISTINA LIIMAND AND MART KÜLVIK

In the area of biodiversity a number of projects with a notable capacity-building component, funded either through multilateral donors or on the basis of bilateral agreements, have been implemented in Estonia through the last decade. In most cases they have substantially contributed to the strengthening of the country's ability to address biodiversity issues. However, there were several critical commonalities met, of which some **important lessons learnt** are listed here.

- ⇒ **There is a remarkable lack of wise programming and coordination in the preparation of projects to avoid overlapping and creation of uncovered gaps in the country.**
- ⇒ **Insufficiency of counterpart financing** – the Government of Estonia has been mostly capable to commit in-kind contribution only. The private sector has not been involved in projects and it is not known to which extent private investors are interested to participate.
- ⇒ **Lack of high quality consultants** - in many cases it has occurred that foreign experts do not have proper knowledge of local conditions, they do not speak any Estonian (if the materials are only in Estonian, they are not able to get this information) and sometimes Estonian participants have difficulties with other languages.
- ⇒ **Project management skills** - all the management of a project, beginning with project drafting and ending with reporting, needs special skills. Training in these fields has been insufficient and most of the specialists in this area in Estonia are “self-made men” – i.e. gaining expertise through learning by doing
- ⇒ **Non-efficient project monitoring system** – in many cases the monitoring of project implementation has been complicated due to a lack of relevant indicators of success, cost-effectiveness etc.
- ⇒ **Poor inter-institutional coordination** – different institutions do not cooperate sufficiently, this is obvious even on the ministerial level where different ministries do not interact. NGOs are often forgotten and the private sector is almost always forgotten to be included in the projects.
- ⇒ **The institutional instability** has often complicated the implementation of projects. After a recent administration reform that has been conducted in the country, the system has not started to function entirely proper yet.
- ⇒ Often the projects are **focused** to some particular site or species and do not consider a longer term development. It should be understood that the priority should be success in the long-term and a coordinated management approach to biodiversity conservation.

Capacity-Building for CBD Implementation in Hungary

DÉNES NAGY

Statement

The content of this statement only reflects the opinion and perceptions of the author, although Mr. Gábor Nechay, National Focal Point to the CBD of Hungary was also consulted.

CBD implementation struggles with challenges. The government organisation/institution responsible for the co-ordination and implementation of the CBD is the Ministry of Environment and Waters. Since 1992 one senior officer is responsible for these tasks, who was and still is responsible also for other duties. This year the situation somewhat changed, there are two more persons now working on CBD issues including also GMOs. Thus, concerning capacity-building a major point is the development of human capacities in the administration. Because of the lack of appropriate staff, at the time it is not possible to:

- ⇒ Administer the domestic official and co-ordination tasks in accordance with the obligations,
- ⇒ Distribute appropriate information and knowledge from the responsible department towards the affected bodies and the public,
- ⇒ Follow all international matters and to implement all international obligations including reports, providing information and taking part on meetings, because of their great and ever growing number and the lack of human resources.

As one of the consequences of these mentioned capacity problems, some areas of implementing the CBD are insufficient, such as access and benefit sharing, liability and redress, and traditional knowledge issues. Furthermore, the implementation of some COP decisions on thematic areas and cross-cutting issues needs more human capacity in order to identify and patch missing areas. Further gaps are:

- ⇒ CHM is not working,
- ⇒ There is a first parliamentary decision on the ratification of the Cartagena Protocol, but no decision on the Cartagena Protocol Focal Point, Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH) and laboratory capacity have to be also established,
- ⇒ NBSAP is still in preparation.

The resources of other institutions (other Ministries, municipalities, science, private sector) on CBD issues are still underrepresented.

The Hungarian Commission on Sustainable Development, established to follow up the implementation of the Rio-instruments, performs the tasks of a National Committee to the CBD and other Rio-documents. Unfortunately this board has had no meeting recently. Therefore there is no official information and decision-making channel on biodiversity-related topics between the government and other involved sectors, science, or the public.

Experiences with National Capacity Self-Assessment for Global Environmental Management in Hungary

ANDRÁS KROLOPP

The objective of the National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA) is to prepare a valid Strategy and Action Program in order to improve the implementation capacity from the perspective of sustainable resource use.

The project is executed by CEEWEB, which provides administrative support and enables stakeholder involvement in the execution of the project. The Hungarian Ministry of Environment and Waters has a coaching role and should help the wide stakeholder involvement in the assessment. The acceptance may be provided by the Office of the Prime Minister or the Environmental Committee of the Parliament. The sustainability of the follow-up to the needs assessment, i.e. the capacity development, could also be supported by the open parliamentary committee for Sustainable Development to be established next year.

The launching of the project was to some extent hindered by the reluctance from the ministry side, which resulted from the lack of capacity. For the thematic profiles three expert teams on biodiversity, land degradation and climate change (linked to the Convention on Biological Diversity, UN Convention to Combat Desertification and UN Framework Convention on Climate Change) were formed, they are led by representatives of NGOs (CBD), of science (UNCCD) and by the private sector (UNFCCC). An additional expert team deals with cross-cutting issues and synergies. The project team is left alone with designing methodology and establishing the time frame for the activities. The ministerial expectation is: it is not interesting what we are not doing, but we should get a clear picture what we SHOULD be doing.

The Project Board consists of the National Focal Points of the conventions and the team leaders of the thematic working groups. An Advisory Panel will give overall guidance on the higher level, and includes educational, scientific, and business institutions and NGOs.

Main bottlenecks experienced so far are mainly the lack of capacity in the ministry, which is worsened by the changes on the policy level (no Inter-ministerial Committee on Sustainable Development, change of National Focal Point). Thus it is difficult to mobilize the Project Board in this quite shifting environment.

There are also positive signs however: the National Focal Points are getting interested, comprehensive education / PR material is under development, the advisory boards for the thematic areas are activated. The Hungarian Academy of Science (co-organizer of the high level kick-off meeting on 29 January, 2004) is interested in getting involved.

Still a lot of work is to be done, with such challenges as mobilizing stakeholders, pressure and lobby groups. However as valuable experiences and lessons are and will be learnt, it is planned to hold regional consultation for NCSA implementers in the accession and candidate countries. Besides lessons learnt notes will be produced for a wider target group and discussion will be initiated on the national / international level.

Capacity-Building Problems in Poland

BOZENA HACZEK

In Poland nature protection has a long tradition. For many years most activities were related to direct actions for the conservation of species and habitats. Currently more attention is given to the sustainable use of biodiversity and it is dealt with problems of creating the enabling environment and building our capacity in this field. Recently Poland has finished one project on capacity-building for agro-biodiversity. There are two other on-going projects: a twinning project on the implementation of the Natura 2000 network in Poland and a project assessing the national capacity needs in environmental management.

The GEF project „Biodiversity enabling activities: assessment of capacity-building needs for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use” defined some priorities:

- ⇒ development and implementation of general principles of *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, including national plans, strategies and legislation;
- ⇒ methods of assessment and avoiding particular threats to components of biological diversity;
- ⇒ preliminary assessment and monitoring programmes, including taxonomy;
- ⇒ assessment and sustainable use of biodiversity important for agriculture;
- ⇒ economic and social incentives;
- ⇒ national project on the participation in the Clearing-House Mechanism.

The specific objectives of the PHARE Twinning project “Implementation of Natura 2000 network in Poland” are:

- ⇒ to carry out a diagnosis of the state of the habitats selected for the Natura 2000 network, an evaluation of their protection conditions, and an assessment of external and internal risks;
- ⇒ to establish criteria for creating plans for the protection of habitats, which will be the basis for Natura 2000 network;
- ⇒ to elaborate the most appropriate methods and formal procedures to develop protection plans of selected Natura 2000 sites;
- ⇒ to determine national forms of nature protection through which the sites will be covered;
- ⇒ to develop methods of management of Natura 2000 sites;
- ⇒ to establish an organisational basis for the management of the Natura 2000 network: set up managing units, create databases, determine monitoring scope, establish supervision and control systems, ensure reporting.

A new GEF project (starting in 2003) deals with National Capacity Self-Assessment. It takes into account the necessity of coordination of efforts in the implementation of the three leading UN conventions: CBD, UNFCCC and UNCCD. The overall goal of this project is to gain knowledge and prioritise capacity-building needs for the effective global environment management (including biodiversity issues) in Poland through a wide national consultative process. The specific objectives of this project are:

- ⇒ to identify, define and update priorities within the scope of the conventions related to global environmental management, e.g. biodiversity, climate change, desertification and land degradation;

- ⇒ to prioritise the capacity needs which would improve effectiveness of the undertaken individual and joint activities to implement the global environmental conventions;
- ⇒ to identify the linkage of various state funded measures and activities related to environmental management at national level with the sustainable development principles.

National Capacity Self-Assessment - Slovenia

DARKO FERCEJ

Background

The issue of capacity-building has become a major priority within the global conventions, the GEF and the international community. Within the GEF financial assistance programme, Slovenia recently prepared documentation for the National Capacity Self-Assessment project. The project has been approved and it is currently in the starting phase.

Goal and Purpose

The overall goal of the project is to identify priorities and needs for capacity-building through a country-driven, consultative process to protect the global environment.

The project purpose is to prepare the National Self-Assessment document that will identify constraints and opportunities for capacity-building necessary for the implementation of three global conventions:

- ⇒ the Convention on Biological Diversity
- ⇒ the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
- ⇒ the Convention to Combat Desertification

Project Objectives

The objectives of the project are:

- ⇒ to identify / confirm / review priority issues for actions within each of the thematic areas
- ⇒ to explore capacity needs within and across the thematic areas
- ⇒ to catalyse coordinated action and requests for future external funding
- ⇒ to link country action to the broader national environmental management and sustainable development

Action Plan

Establishment of project implementation mechanism

In the starting phase, the following activities will be implemented: Appointment of a National Project Director, selection of a Project Manager and of Thematic Area Coordinators, establishment of the Steering Committee and the Project Implementation Team, establishment of four Multi-Stakeholder Working Groups and of a Project Information Service.

Situation Analyses

After the establishment of the project implementation mechanism the situation analysis will be implemented: with the existing methodologies the thematic areas coordinators will undertake a stocktaking and review of the baseline situation for each thematic area. Three workshops will be organised, where Multi-Stakeholder Working Group members will define strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats related to the environmental management in Slovenia, with specific focus on thematic areas. Based on these analyses, problems and gaps related to the capacity for global environmental management will be identified within each of the thematic areas and will then be prioritised. Thematic Area Coordinators will prepare a final draft document. Other stakeholders will be invited for comment on the final version, which includes the confirmation of priority issues within each thematic area and will be completed on the basis of their input. A fourth workshop will be held to determine the priority issues that cut across the three thematic areas. Based on the capacity constraints list and considering the situation analysis, the opportunities for building capacities will be identified.

Preparation of an integrated Report and Action Plan

The Thematic Area Coordinators and the Project Manager will prepare the final draft integrating results from all phases of the process. Special focus will be devoted to improvement of coordination among conventions and linkages with other programmes and processes. The final draft NCSA Report will be announced, stakeholders will be invited for comments. On the basis of their input the final version of NCSA will be prepared.

Additionally, the Capacity-Building Strategy and Action Plan will be prepared within the project. Four Thematic Areas Coordinators will prepare drafts for the National Capacity Needs Assessment Reports and Capacity Development Action Plans; Multi-Stakeholder Working Groups will contribute with comments and suggestions at the workshops.

Monitoring and evaluation procedures to ensure the implementation of the Action Plan will be prepared by the Thematic Area Coordinators and commented by Multi-Stakeholder Working Groups members.

A final national workshop will be organized in order to discuss the findings with stakeholders and to promote the NCSA Report and Action Plan among stakeholder groups, in public and media.

Project Results

The expected results of the project will be:

- ⇒ NCSA document (including strategy and action plan for capacity-building)
- ⇒ New project concept based on identified opportunities / agreed priorities
- ⇒ The consultative process (itself), built synergies, strengthened national procedures

7 Results and Recommendations of the Workshop

Working Group 1: Instruments for Capacity-building

Introductory remark: In this working session, a list of commonly applied instruments for capacity-building was drawn up and discussed. It was noted that for certain categories of capacity needs, a lack of available instruments is apparent.

Results

Capacity-building is an integral part of development work. To achieve its goals, capacity-building work should be organised at three levels:

1. Individual/human resource

If e.g. inspectorates are the important units for environmental law implementation at the local level, adequate skills can be enhanced for more effective work on the ground by training the inspectors of the ministry of environment.

2. Organisational

If e.g. a ministry fails to provide relevant working conditions for the skilled personnel, their skills and knowledge won't be applied and erode over time.

3. Systemic

If e.g. there are no functional legal mechanisms at the systemic level, inspectorates will not be able to perform accordingly.

These levels are highly interconnected and precondition each other, therefore enabling environments should be created at all three levels. Albeit knowledge and skills of individuals are important (level 1), they alone are not sufficient.

The working session identified the following instruments for capacity-building:

1. Printed material:

- ⇒ Publications
- ⇒ Studies
- ⇒ Assistance tool kits
- ⇒ Manuals
- ⇒ Articles

2. Face –to –face:

- ⇒ Training
- ⇒ Training of trainers
- ⇒ Info days
- ⇒ Study visits / Exchange visits / Twinning
- ⇒ Seminars (for various purposes: training, exchange of ideas, elaborating concepts etc)
- ⇒ Pilot projects

- ⇒ Helpdesks
- ⇒ Expertise exchange
- ⇒ Coaching

3. E –tools:

- ⇒ Providing information on the internet
- ⇒ Web based learning
- ⇒ Clearing House Mechanism

Other instruments, which have been mentioned, are:

- Public participation
- Lobbying (Advocacy)
- Schools
- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)
- Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

The above-mentioned instruments mainly relate to individual human resource development (level 1). More work needs to be done on level 2 and level 3.

The participants identified the following **subjects for further discussion**:

- The role of information exchange for capacity-building
- The importance of networking (for information exchange and/or integration of activities) as an instrument for capacity-building
- The significance of financial instruments for NGOs and governments in capacity-building
- The significance of Needs Assessments for capacity-building
- The role of mass media in capacity-building
- The use of local knowledge for capacity-building
- The use of scientific knowledge for capacity-building

Generally participants expressed the need for new capacity-building instruments and the need for a further development of existing capacity-building instruments for (a) local people, (b) politicians, and (c) media.

Working Group 2: Tasks and Structure of a Regional Centre or Network for Capacity-building

Introductory remark: The aim of this working session was to outline the main tasks and structural features of a regional centre/network for capacity-building as they could be applied for the Central and Eastern European countries (CEECs), but also in other regions of the world.

Regional background information gathering (e.g. taking into account results from National Capacity Self-Assessments (NCSA)) and needs identification are prerequisites for establishing a regional centre for capacity-building. The establishment of the centre will be based on and will further strengthen the existing structures. This centre could serve as a hub for a larger regional network of actors, and its activities will be open to all stakeholders. For fulfilling the aims of the centre, experiences and information gathered by national focal points of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) should be considered.

The centre should be structured into two parts: a virtual centre with links to the Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM), and a physical centre to provide a forum for face-to-face communication. According to this structure, the tasks of the two branches would be the following:

A Physical Centre

- ⇒ Organizing workshops and training as means of capacity-building
- ⇒ Continuously keeping track of capacity-building needs in the region to appropriately direct the activities of the entire centre
- ⇒ Providing advice in project development, management and fund raising
- ⇒ Facilitating flow of information among the different actors
- ⇒ (Act as an auditor of CBD implementation process – invited by a country and gives recommendations)

B Virtual Centre

This will reflect the activities that have taken place at the physical centre and will additionally provide information on:

- ⇒ The capacity needs of the countries (including the results of the NCSAs)
- ⇒ Developments in the CBD process with regard to capacity-building (e.g. COP guidance, results of questionnaires)
- ⇒ Implemented and ongoing projects as well as opportunities for new capacity-building activities
- ⇒ ‘Best practices’, lessons learnt and case studies
- ⇒ A roster of experts

In its capacity-building mission the centre should take a proactive role as well as respond to the specific demands of the stakeholders. It should maintain a flexible approach to adapt to future needs and trends (future developments), and motivate other actors to incorporate the objectives of the CBD into their capacity-building activities.

Working Group 3: Priority Areas for Capacity-Building for Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use in Central and Eastern Europe

Introductory remark: The aim of this working session was to identify thematic areas in which capacity-building would be particularly valuable in Central and Eastern European countries (CEECs). Every participant from a CEEC was asked to select a maximum of three priorities from a list of thematic areas which had been drawn up based on COP guidance on capacity-building and on input from presentations at the workshop. The participants were asked to state the reasons behind their choice with special regard to the situation in CEECs. A drafting group condensed the resulting statements into a coherent text.

The order of the following priorities and thematic clusters reflects the prioritisation carried out by the participants from CEECs.

Areas of priority and thematic clusters:

1. Integrated Policy Formulation and Implementation

Rationale

Integrated policy formulation and implementation is a crucial element of precautionary principles.

A major obstacle for the implementation of CBD objectives is the inadequate public attitude concerning biodiversity conservation, including the associated individual activities. This must be addressed by capacity-building. Therefore it seems appropriate to address the human factor in terms of changing people's understanding and attitudes towards biodiversity conservation in various thematic areas.

Capacity-building in nature conservation has to be integrated with other environmental and non-environmental activities to accomplish a full and targeted action (to avoid overlooking certain aspects).

One of the major problems in CEECs is a sectoral and isolated way of development and implementation of nature conservation and other relevant policies for the sustainable use of natural resources.

- Stakeholders have to understand the necessity of nature conservation and participate in identifying possible cross-cuts between nature conservation and other areas.
- Decision and policy makers often do not have the capacity to identify nature conservation goals, which results in a lack of structure in strategies.
- Non-integrated policies and strategies are created.
- It is essential to put designated goals and aims into practice and enforce executing bodies to establish an integrated policy approach.

Capacity-building in this matter should consider the use of new approaches and models, case studies and existing best practices.

2. Sustainable Use

Rationale

Sustainable use is a cross-cutting issue related to a wide range of sectoral activities and the various ecosystems affected by them. It bears a challenging task for capacity-building. The conservation of biological diversity through its sustainable utilization is one of the key objectives of the CBD.

Especially in CEECs, the overarching concept of sustainable development needs to be communicated on a broader scale, as the term and its meaning are often poorly understood by actors and stakeholders.

Concerning the field of capacity-building, the task is to communicate the ecological, social and economic implications of sustainable use to actors and stakeholders.

The following thematic areas were selected as important aspects (in order of priority):

a) Agriculture:

Extensive agricultural practices resulted in a valuable rural landscape in CEECs and are currently maintaining great biodiversity values for the benefit of all of Europe.

- Agriculture plays a key role in the field of biodiversity conservation, because conservationists do not have the means to achieve biodiversity conservation in the cultural landscape by themselves alone.
- It is important to educate, train and inform decision makers and those implementing agriculture policies to ensure the implementation of Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) making full use of its opportunities for sustainable agricultural practices in line with conservation goals.
- It is important to train, educate and build capacities of stakeholders to represent their concerns related to the sustainability principles, e.g. within the CAP at EU administrative and decision making level.

b) Forests:

Issues related to forests must be dealt with using a comprehensive and holistic approach including environmental, economic and social values. In the context of capacity-building, forestry in CEECs needs enhanced resource management, as e.g. deforestation, loss of native species, mono-cultures and the insufficient use of native species and varieties for afforestation are topics of critical importance for sustainable forestry in this region.

- Training, educating and informing forest authorities with regard to forest certification schemes and to improve forest management in the sense of nature conservation is a target for capacity-building.

c) Inland Waters:

In the context of sustainable use inland waters play an important role because of the goods and services they provide (e.g. energy, food, transport, recreation).

- Focus capacity-building on those human activities that cause pollution affecting ecosystems and resulting in a reduced productivity concerning goods, services and ecological functions.

d) Tourism:

Tourism is recognized by the CBD as an important component of sustainable use. Therefore, the CBD developed guidelines for tourism in vulnerable areas. Concerning CEECs, tourism is one of the fastest growing economies, having at these times mostly a negative impact on the environment. This implies that tourism is not planned, managed and organized in a sustainable way.

- Minimize impacts on the environment and maximize benefits for all stakeholders through training of decision makers as well as tourism and biodiversity managers.

e) Ecosystem Approach:

The Ecosystem Approach developed under the CBD is a strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way. As a framework of the objectives of the CBD it forms the fundament for building capacity, e.g. on sustainable use issues.

- The capacity of relevant sectors and stakeholders at all levels on the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach in the CEECs needs to be enhanced.

3. Monitoring

Rationale

Monitoring focuses on the changes of and impacts on ecosystems, which should be incorporated in the development of policies and management approaches, considering the Ecosystem Approach.

A special issue in relation to the EU accession is the monitoring of the favorable conservation status of species and habitats, as required by the Habitats Directive.

With regard to sustainable use it is necessary to evaluate project design and to monitor implementation taking into account possible negative impacts on biodiversity.

- Institutions/individuals currently developing monitoring systems need to be linked to each other in order to identify gaps and avoid fragmentation or duplication of work.

Thematic areas related to Monitoring:

a) Indicators

- Indicators should be used to monitor and evaluate projects and to identify weaknesses and successes in order to facilitate effective adaptive management.
- It is necessary to gather and assess existing indicator systems and distribute information.

b) Valuation Methods

The economic benefits of governmental investments raise legitimate and important public policy questions, but the answers are often ambiguous and difficult to justify. Agency staff may not always be able to provide acceptable answers with regard to the environmental costs and/or benefits of a project - no matter how much money they spend on analysis. However, if there are no substantiated estimates on a sound theoretical basis of the benefits of environmental programmes, investment decisions will be based on other factors.

- There should be descriptions of how economists value the beneficial ways in which ecosystems affect people

4. Clearing-House Mechanism

Rationale

The Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM) of the Convention on Biological Diversity is a platform to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation and information exchange related to biodiversity conservation and its related issues.

Through the CHM, a global mechanism for exchanging and integrating information on biodiversity is being developed.

- The dissemination of project reports and of information about legislation issues or best practices through the CHM should be an integral part of capacity-building.

5. Information Management

Rationale

Partners involved in biodiversity conservation are responsible for providing the relevant information to education and capacity-building centres.

- The centres are dealing with the management of the received information for further dissemination.

6. Public Awareness/Education

Rationale

Capacity-building for enhanced public awareness and environmental education forms the base for the social acceptance of biodiversity conservation and the sustainable use of biodiversity components. It is an essential tool to support development management and the implementation of nature conservation issues.

To some extent, CEECs are still lacking public awareness programmes supporting the implementation of programmes or actions for biodiversity conservation (e.g. by showing best practices or lessons learnt).

- In terms of the CBD implementation, awareness raising programmes, training sessions or workshops should enable all stakeholders, including local communities, to understand the nature and importance of the respective topics.

7. In-situ Conservation

Rationale

In-situ conservation is the conservation of ecosystems and natural habitats and the maintenance and recovery of viable populations of species in their natural surroundings (Art. 2, CBD).

It is crucial to build capacities and relevant frameworks for in-situ conservation within and outside protected areas in CEECs. In the context of the increased loss of biological diversity, capacities and incentive measures for in-situ conservation should be mandatory.

Further actions regarding in-situ conservation are:

- Education on site management plans for in-situ conservation.
- Developing the skills of site managers.

Thematic areas related to in-situ conservation:

a) Protected Areas Systems

- The systems of protected areas guarantee measures undertaken for biodiversity conservation.
- They provide gene-pools, therefore they are outmost important for the existence of biological diversity by having sufficient genetic varieties for responding to the change of the environment.

b) Alien Species

- Alien species can threaten ecosystems, habitats or species. There is need to promote concrete actions for dealing with this problem in CEECs.
- There is a need to train scientists and protected areas managers on how to cope with eliminating the negative effects of their occurrence and their impacts on native species.

8. Topics for future consideration

The following areas have been identified as potential areas for capacity-building but were not chosen to be of higher priority. The order is alphabetical and does not follow specific priorities.

- Benefit sharing
- Contributing to/following CBD process
- Drylands
- Ex-situ conservation
- Global Strategy for Plant Conservation
- Impact assessment
- Incentive measures/compensation
- Integration of research in decision making
- Liability and redress
- Marine and coastal biodiversity
- Taxonomy
- Traditional knowledge

Working Group 4: Integrated Policy Formulation and Implementation as a Priority Goal for Capacity-building

Introductory remark: In working session 3, “Integrated Policy Formulation and Implementation” was identified by the participants as the single most important area for capacity-building in Central and Eastern European countries (CEECs). Because of the complex nature of the issue, the fourth working

group decided to further specify the capacity needs of relevant actors and discuss the instruments which could be used to address them.

The **reasons** for the prioritisation of “Integrated policy formulation and implementation” as a goal for capacity-building were identified as follows:

- ⇒ It can help to increase public involvement
- ⇒ Improvement of horizontal and vertical integration is needed
- ⇒ Integration is needed on strategic level
- ⇒ Enforcement of existing regulations etc. can be improved
- ⇒ The effectiveness/utilization of existing capacities can be enhanced
- ⇒ There is a need to build new partnerships for biodiversity conservation

The following **actors** in integrated policy formulation and implementation were considered important:

- ⇒ Technical staff in relevant administration
- ⇒ Politicians on the local, regional and national level
- ⇒ The public
- ⇒ NGOs
- ⇒ Science / academia

The **needs** for capacity-building for these actors were described as the following:

Technical staff	Politicians	Public	NGOs	Science/academia
1. Number of staff	6. Knowledge on means for integration	9. Awareness of opportunities for involvement (e.g. Århus-Convention)		13. Education of specialists in governance
2. Awareness of need for integration		8. Awareness of need for integration	10. General knowledge on relevant international processes	14. Identification of research demands
3. Interdisciplinary skills and knowledge	7. Awareness of need for expertise		11. Knowledge on means for integration	15. Holistic approaches
4. General knowledge on relevant international processes (guidance, obligations, opportunities)			12. Networking in a thematically wide range of NGOs	16. Communication skills
5. Capacities for communication				
17. Acknowledgement of importance of traditional knowledge				

The working group identified the following **capacity-building instruments** that could be used to address the needs listed above (the numbers in brackets refer to the numbering of needs in the table above):

- ⇒ Encourage allocation of environmental focal persons in other sectors (1)
- ⇒ Seconding of experts (1)
- ⇒ Outsourcing of services by collaboration with NGOs and science (1)
- ⇒ Dissemination/presentation of case studies and best practice (2, 12, 17)
- ⇒ Present financial benefits and advantages (2, 6, 8)
- ⇒ Advertising for training in cooperation with National Focal Points (3, 4, 5)

- ⇒ Training (3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 16)
- ⇒ Publications (3, 4, 5, 9, 10, 11)
- ⇒ Web-based information services/thematic e-groups (3, 4, 5, 9, 10, 11, 12)
- ⇒ Networking/conferences/expert meetings (3, 14, 15)
- ⇒ International meetings (4)
- ⇒ Promoting peer-to-peer education (4, 12)
- ⇒ Set-up/improvement of relevant advisory services (6)
- ⇒ Advertising sectoral integration by involving key decision-makers (6)
- ⇒ Gap analyses and needs assessments (7, 14)
- ⇒ Assist educational institutions to develop curricula (8, 9, 11, 13, 15)
- ⇒ Media (8, 9, 10)
- ⇒ Adult education (8, 13)
- ⇒ Start-up meeting (12)
- ⇒ Creating science-policy interlinkage platforms (14, 15)
- ⇒ Inventory, codification and dissemination (17)

Working Group 5: Monitoring the Success of Capacity-Building

Introductory remark: The question of how the success of capacity-building activities can be monitored was taken up in several presentations held at the workshop and proved during discussions to be a matter of interest to many participants. It was therefore decided to further discuss the issue in a separate working group.

In order to ensure the effectiveness of capacity-building activities regular monitoring should be conducted. Monitoring requires appropriate indicators for evaluation, which are different for each group of recipients. In the discussion, a list of recipients was pointed out which the participants perceived as the most important with regard to the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Many of the suggested indicators are fairly general and could be applied to any organisation / any form of capacity-building. Prior to applying the indicators they should be adapted and elaborated further in order to match them with the existing needs and trends in the region.

The presented list of indicators is aimed to measure the achievement of goals rather than to evaluate the performance of instruments in capacity-building (see figure 1).

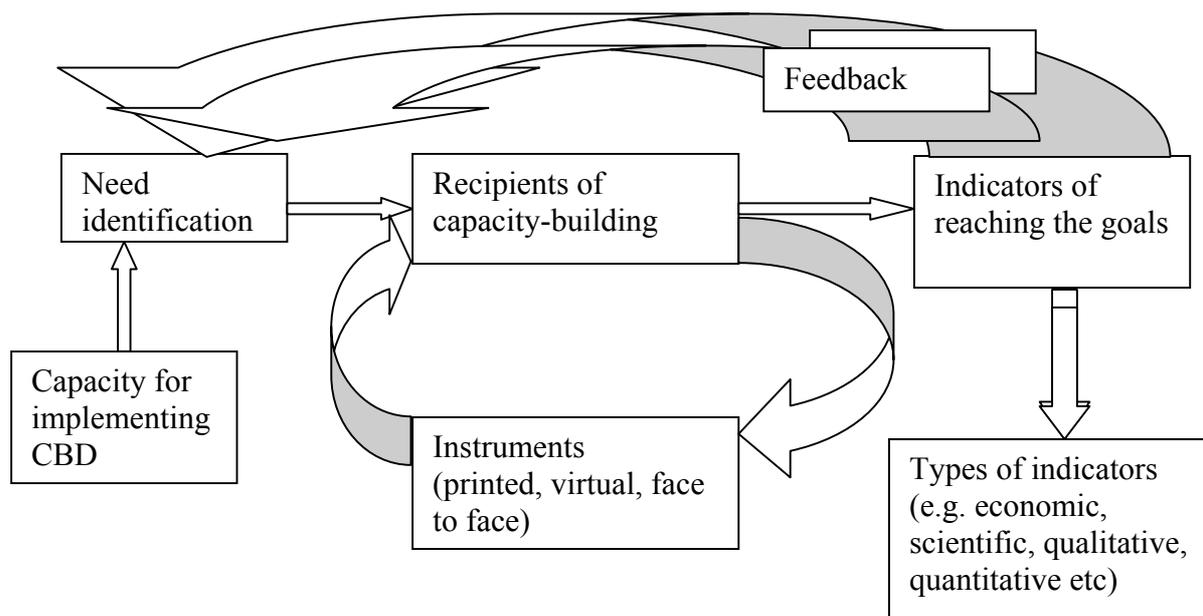


Figure 1: The monitoring process in capacity-building

The following are the recipients and the corresponding indicators:

GOVERNMENT:

- ⇒ Governments spend more money and man power to the subject (e.g. in CBD agency)
- ⇒ New legislation in place and enforced (e.g. nature park)
- ⇒ Governmental ranks which appear on international level (Queen, Prime Minister, ministers...)
- ⇒ interoperability of data / compatibility of data
- ⇒ number of interviews given on CBD issues by government representatives
- ⇒ implementation of green (eco-) taxation schemes

NGO:

- ⇒ number of staff working on CBD issues
- ⇒ number of them in contact with the SCBD
- ⇒ number of contacts with National Focal Points (NFPs)
- ⇒ number of invitations to take part in decision making
- ⇒ number of seminars and training run by NGOs in CBD context
- ⇒ number of functioning NGOs working on CBD issues
- ⇒ amount of financial resources

SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTIONS:

- ⇒ number of publications and media appearance on CBD issues
- ⇒ number of scientists and institutions cooperating with NFPs
- ⇒ number of research projects (funding allocation) about and within CBD

Results and Recommendations

- ⇒ ranking of CBD issues on list of research priorities
- ⇒ number of databases and inventory work
- ⇒ presence of scientific community in decision making and visibility in public
- ⇒ interoperability of data / compatibility of data

PUBLIC:

- ⇒ public awareness on CBD
- ⇒ appearance and frequency of CBD issues in media
- ⇒ number of websites (private and institutional)
- ⇒ number of hits on websites including those of the CHM
- ⇒ ranking in search engines
- ⇒ size of environmental membership organisations
- ⇒ number of visitors at biodiversity events

BUSINESS:

- ⇒ decrease in number of harmful or non-sustainable projects and products
- ⇒ number of green (eco)-label products and firms
- ⇒ number of green (eco) jobs
- ⇒ number of companies having functioning environmental strategy in place

8 Contact Data and Descriptions of Relevant Organisations, Institutions, Networks and Initiatives for Capacity-Building on Biodiversity Conservation in Central and Eastern Europe

The following organisations, institutions, networks and initiatives are among the actors currently involved in capacity-building related to the objectives of the CBD in Central and Eastern Europe.

Baltic Environmental Forum (BEF)	
Type of organisation / initiative / institution / network:	Multilateral project with donor support from EC, EU countries and the Baltic States
Goals:	Practical support for environmental co-operation and information exchange in the Baltic States
Types of capacity-building offered:	Workshops, training seminars, expert meetings, Info-days, pilot studies, publications, twinning
Target groups:	state authorities, regional and local administrations, scientists, stakeholders/private sector, NGOs
Capacity-building activities related to biodiversity issues:	Project "Baltic States' Regional Preparation for NATURA 2000" (BANAT)
Contact data / persons:	Homepage: www.bef.lv Main Secretariat: Room 505, Peldu Street 26/28, Riga LV-1050, Latvia Contact person for BANAT Project: Ms. Liga Eglite, liga.eglite@bef.lv , Tel.: +371-7-357547

Biodiversity Service	
Type of organisation / initiative / institution / network:	Initiative by UNEP, IUCN, ECNC and REC
Goals:	To promote and facilitate the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity in CEE/NIS countries by providing demand-driven and tailor-made assistance in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans.
Types of capacity-building offered:	Expert consultations, training, provision of information, networking
Target groups:	Governments, NGOs and other institutions involved in CBD implementation process.
Capacity-building activities related to biodiversity issues:	All activities of the Biodiversity Service. Topics include: strengthening of national legislation, preparation of GEF project proposals, financing strategies, preparation of publications, transboundary cooperation, creation of ecological networks.
Contact data / persons:	Homepage: http://www.strategyguide.org/bioserve Contact person: Biodiversity Service Manager, UNEP Regional Office for Europe, 15 chemin de Anémones, 1219 Châtelaine Geneva, Switzerland, phone: +41-22-9178310; fax: +41-22-9178024; e-mail: roe@unep.ch

Contact Data and Descriptions of Relevant Organisations, Institutions, Networks and Initiatives

BirdLife International	
Type of organisation / initiative / institution / network:	Global network of non-governmental conservation organisations with a focus on birds and biodiversity
Goals:	To conserve birds, their habitats and global biodiversity, working with people towards sustainability in the use of natural resources.
Types of capacity-building offered:	Training of individuals and development/support of national structures (BirdLife Partners) through various training tools (like workshops, seminars, exchange visits, publications, internships, 1:1 advice etc.).
Target groups:	NGOs: BirdLife Partners and BirdLife Partners-designate worldwide
Capacity-building activities related to biodiversity issues:	All activities of BirdLife International and its national BirdLife Partners are related to biodiversity issues.
Contact data / persons:	Homepage: http://www.birdlife.net Contact person: Dr. Norbert Schäffer, The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) (BirdLife in UK), The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2DL, UK; e-mail: Norbert.Schaffer@rspb.org.uk

Botanic Gardens Conservation International	
Type of organisation / initiative / institution / network:	Conservation charity
Goals:	-To build and sustain a worldwide network of botanic gardens and interested individuals -To work with its members to implement the International Conservation Agenda for Botanic Gardens, and promote the CBD Global Strategy for Plant Conservation.
Types of capacity-building offered:	Training of individuals and development/support of national structures by a variety of means (workshops, seminars, exchange visits, publications, 1:1 advice).
Target groups:	Botanic Gardens and anyone interested in Plant Conservation
Capacity-building activities related to biodiversity issues:	All work is related to biodiversity, and promoting the CBD Global Strategy for Plant Conservation
Contact data / persons:	Homepage: http://www.bgci.org Address: BGCI, Descanso House, 199 Kew Road, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 3BW, UK; tel.: +44 (0)208 332 5953, fax: +44 (0)208 332 5956; e-mail: info@bgci.org

Capacity Development in Environmental Information Management/GRID-Arendal (Global Resource Information Database)	
Type of organisation / initiative / institution / network:	Programme by UNEP
Goals:	To improve access to environmental information for decision making by catalyzing and assisting capacity building in environmental information management.
Types of capacity-building offered:	Support to capacity and needs assessments, workshops, training courses, consultations.
Target groups:	Partner institutions associated with national and international government organizations.
Capacity-building activities related to biodiversity issues:	The information made available by the Environmental and Natural Resource Information Network (ENRIN) includes biodiversity data.
Contact data / persons:	Homepage: http://www.grida.no/enrin/ Manager of Capacity Building Programme: Otto Simonett, Tel.: +41 22 917 8342, e-mail: otto.simonett@grida.no

Central and East European Working Group for the Enhancement of Biodiversity (CEEWEB)	
Type of organisation / initiative / institution / network:	Network of nature conservation NGOs from the CEE region
Goals:	Form common policies and actions for the enhancement of biodiversity in the CEE region; promote the enforcement of international conventions for nature and biodiversity conservation, with special regards to the Convention on Biological Diversity; enhance the implementation of sustainable development; build NGO capacity and raise awareness
Types of capacity-building offered:	Workshops and seminars, publications, networking and information exchange, training materials, pilot projects
Target groups:	NGOs, stakeholders, general public
Capacity-building activities related to biodiversity issues:	All activities of CEEWEB are related to biodiversity issues; thematic working groups focus on the following subjects: Agri-environment, CITES, Natura 2000 and Sustainable Tourism
Contact data / persons:	Homepage: http://www.ceeweb.org Address: CEEWEB Headquarters, H-3525 Miskolc, Kossuth u. 13, Hungary; phone: +36 46 413 390; fax: +36 46 352 010, 508 700, 508 699; e-mail: ceeweb@ceeweb.org ;

Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage	
Type of organisation / initiative / institution / network:	International agreement (ratified by all Eastern European countries)
Goals:	To encourage the identification, protection, preservation and transmission to future generations of cultural and natural heritage around the world considered to be of outstanding value
Types of capacity-building offered:	Training workshops and capacity building programmes
Target groups:	Site managers, heritage agencies
Capacity-building activities related to biodiversity issues:	Training and capacity building for the conservation of natural World Heritage sites carried out in collaboration with IUCN and other organizations.
Contact data / persons:	<p>Homepage: http://whc.unesco.org/nwhc/pages/home/pages/homepage.htm</p> <p>Address: UNESCO World Heritage Centre, 7, place de Fontenoy, 75352 Paris 07 SP, France; phone: +33 (0)1 45 68 18 89, fax : +33 (0)1 45 68 55 70; e-mail: wh-info@unesco.org</p> <p>Contact person: Dr. Mechthild Rössler, Chief, Europe & North America; phone: + 33 -(0) 1 45 68 18 91; e-mail: m.rossler@unesco.org</p>

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)	
Type of organisation / initiative / institution / network:	International agreement
Goals:	To ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival.
Types of capacity-building offered:	Seminars, workshops, publications, training materials.
Target groups:	Management authorities, scientific authorities, enforcement officers
Capacity-building activities related to biodiversity issues:	Capacity-building on sustainable use of wild flora and fauna
Contact data / persons:	<p>Homepage: http://www.cites.org</p> <p>Address: CITES Secretariat, International Environment House, Chemin des Anémones, CH-1219 Châtelaine, Geneva, Switzerland</p> <p>Senior Capacity Building Officer (training): Ger van Vliet, tel.: +41-22-9178120; e-mail: ger.van-vliet@unep.ch</p>

Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)	
Type of organisation / initiative / institution / network:	International agreement
Goals:	Conservation and management of avian, marine, freshwater and terrestrial migratory species throughout their range
Types of capacity-building offered:	Publications, information exchange, workshops, training courses, awareness campaigns
Target groups:	Conservation experts, general public, stakeholder groups
Capacity-building activities related to biodiversity issues:	All activities under the convention are related to biodiversity issues. Capacity-building activities mainly take place in cooperation with national or other organizations and within the framework of the specific agreements under the convention, such as the Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats (EUROBATS), the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) or the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS)
Contact data / persons:	Homepage: http://www.cms.int/ Address: UNEP/CMS Secretariat, United Nations Premises in Bonn, Martin-Luther-King-Str. 8, D-53175 Bonn, Germany; phone: (+49 228) 815 2401/2; fax: (+49 228) 815 2449; e-mail: cms@unep.de

Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention)	
Type of organisation / initiative / institution / network:	International agreement
Goals:	Conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local, regional and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world.
Types of capacity-building offered:	Internet-based Wise Use Resource Library, publications.
Target groups:	Wetland managers, planners, policy makers.
Capacity-building activities related to biodiversity issues:	All activities of the Ramsar Convention are related to biodiversity issues.
Contact data / persons:	Homepage: http://www.ramsar.org Address: The Ramsar Convention Secretariat, Rue Mauverney 28, CH-1196, Switzerland; tel. +41 22 999 0170; ramsar@ramsar.org ; CEPA Programme Officer: Sandra Hails, hails@ramsar.org .

Environmental Protection Institute, Estonian Agricultural University	
Type of organisation / initiative / institution / network:	Research and development institute with academic capacities
Goals:	To participate in formation of an intellectual basis for the rational use of nature resources and for sustainable development through research, tuition and developmental activities.
Types of capacity-building offered:	Workshops, training seminars, expert meetings, Info-days, pilot studies, publications, twinning
Target groups:	State, regional and local authorities and administrations, stakeholders/private sector, NGOs, international scientific community
Capacity-building activities related to biodiversity issues:	Current activities include participation in <i>National Capacity Needs Self-Assessment for Global Environmental Management</i> and international partnerships in projects such as <i>Integrated Development of Agricultural and Rural Institutions in CEEC</i> , <i>Definition of a common European analytical framework for the development of local agri-environmental programmes for biodiversity and landscape conservation</i> , and <i>Integrated Strategies for the Management of Transboundary Waters on the Eastern European fringe</i> .
Contact data / persons:	Homepage: www.envinst.ee Office: Akadeemia 4, Tartu, 51003, Estonia Contact person: Mr. Mart Klvik, Tel.: +372-5-218104; mkulvik@envinst.ee

Europarc Federation	
Type of organisation / initiative / institution / network:	Federation of over 340 organisations which are responsible for and/or concerned with the management of protected areas across Europe.
Goals:	To achieve the vision of an adequate, effective and well-managed network of protected areas in Europe, conserving the full landscape and biological diversity of the continent.
Types of capacity-building offered:	Seminars, workshops, study visits, staff exchanges, expert missions, consultancy services, publications, studies, dissemination of good practice.
Target groups:	Protected area authorities, government agencies, nature conservation institutions.
Capacity-building activities related to biodiversity issues:	All activities of the Europarc Federation are related to biodiversity issues. The Europarc Expertise Exchange Project (1997-2001) aimed to enhance the management of protected areas in the Phare countries and was implemented in two phases: "Technical Assistance for Central and Eastern European Protected Areas through Training, Partnership and Staff Exchanges" and "Sustainable Nature Protection".
Contact data / persons:	Homepage: http://www.europarc.org Administrative office: Krllstr. 5, P.O. Box 1153, D-94475 Grafenau; Tel.: +49-8552-96100; e-mail: office@europarc.org

European Centre for Nature Conservation (ECNC)	
Type of organisation / initiative / institution / network:	Foundation
Goals:	To further European nature conservation by bridging the gap between science and policy.
Types of capacity-building offered:	Studies, publications, seminars, training programmes.
Target groups:	Government authorities, policy makers, NGOs
Capacity-building activities related to biodiversity issues:	see also "Biodiversity Service"
Contact data / persons:	Homepage: http://www.ecnc.org Address: ECNC Head Quarters Tilburg, PO Box 90154, 5000 LG, Tilburg, The Netherlands; Tel. +31-13-5944944; e-mail: ecnc@ecnc.org

European Commission	
Type of organisation / initiative / institution / network:	Executive body of the European Union
Goals:	One of the main tasks of the European Commission is the implementation of EU policies and programmes, some of which include support to capacity-building activities.
Types of capacity-building offered:	Examples of capacity-building activities supported by EU programmes and services of the European Commission (for a short description of the respective programmes see below) include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expert missions, study visits, seminars, workshops, training, provision of information (TAIEX office) - Institution twinning (supported under the PHARE, TACIS and CARDS programmes) - Support to higher education schemes, e.g. through promotion of partnerships, institution building, development of curricula (TEMPUS programme) - Vocational training (Leonardo da Vinci programme)
Target groups:	Target groups include national and sub-national authorities, representatives of private sector and civil society organizations, NGOs, academic institutions and vocational training institutions.
Capacity-building activities related to biodiversity issues:	Examples of EU programmes and services of the European Commission which support capacity-building activities related to biodiversity issues in Central and Eastern Europe are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PHARE programme: This programme aims to help EU Candidate Countries in the adoption and implementation of EU legislation. It works through investment support and institution building. Institution building is undertaken mainly by way of twinning arrangements involving partner institutions from the EU Member States. Capacity-building measures related to biodiversity take place e. g. in the fields of environment and agriculture. After accession to EU, the Transition Facility will provide continued assistance to the new Member States until 2006.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SAPARD programme: This programme aims to support social and economic reforms concerning agriculture, forestry and rural development in EU Candidate Countries. While a large share of available funds is directed at investment in infrastructure, processing and marketing of products, certain eligible measures such as the promotion of agricultural production methods which protect environment and landscape or the diversification of economic activities may contribute to capacity-building related to biodiversity issues. - TACIS programme: This is the EU's programme for technical assistance to Eastern European and Central Asian countries. Some activities under TACIS, e. g. within the Institution Building Partnership Programme (implemented mainly through twinning arrangements) or the TEMPUS programme (see below) provide capacity-building related to biodiversity issues. - CARDS programme: This is the EU's programme for technical assistance to the countries of the Western Balkans. Capacity-building related to biodiversity issues may be included in certain activities under this programme. - TEMPUS programme: This is the European Community's programme for cooperation in higher education with the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. It aims at supporting reforms in the partner countries' higher education systems and their adaptation to the new socio-economic needs. It is implemented within the larger framework of the PHARE, TACIS and CARDS programmes. A number of ongoing or completed projects under the TEMPUS programme are related to biodiversity issues, e. g. projects supporting development of curricula for environmental education, sustainable forest management, water resources management or agroecology. - Services of the TAIEX office: the Technical Assistance and Information Exchange (TAIEX) unit of the Directorate-General Enlargement of the European Commission facilitates the delivery of short-term technical assistance to EU Candidate Countries and new Member States on the transposition and implementation of EU legislation. Capacity-building measures related to biodiversity take place e. g. in the fields of environment and agriculture. <p>Countries acceding to the EU will no longer benefit from many of the funding opportunities and services under the PHARE, SAPARD and TEMPUS programmes, but instead become eligible for funding from programmes in the respective areas targeted at the EU Member States.</p>
Contact data / persons:	<p><u>Websites and contact addresses for further information:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PHARE programme: http://europa.eu.int/comm/enlargement/pas/phare/index.htm; e-mail: enlargement@cec.eu.int - Twinning Homepage: http://europa.eu.int/comm/enlargement/pas/twinning/index.htm;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SAPARD programme: http://europa.eu.int/comm/enlargement/pas/sapard.htm; e-mail: enlargement@cec.eu.int - TACIS programme: http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/projects/tacis/regional_en.htm; e-mail: europeaid-info@cec.eu.int - CARDS programme: http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/projects/cards/foreword_en.htm; e-mail: europeaid-info@cec.eu.int - TEMPUS programme: http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/programmes/tempus/index_en.html; e-mail: eac-info@cec.eu.int - TAIEX office: http://taix.be; e-mail: Elarg-Taix@cec.eu.int
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European Environmental Bureau (EEB)	
Type of organisation / initiative / institution / network:	Federation of European NGOs dealing with environmental issues and nature protection
Goals:	Promotion of environmental policies and sustainable policies on the European Union level
Types of capacity-building offered:	Studies, publications and advice
Target groups:	Member organisations, EU authorities, policy makers
Capacity-building activities related to biodiversity issues:	The EEB has thematic working groups on biodiversity, agriculture and water policy.
Contact data / persons:	<p>Homepage: http://www.eeb.org</p> <p>Address: European Environmental Bureau, 34, bd. de Waterloo, B-1000 Brussels; Tel.: +32-2-289 10 90; e-mail: info@eeb.org</p>

European Nature Heritage Fund (Euronatur)	
Type of organisation / initiative / institution / network:	NGO
Goals:	Endangered species/biodiversity conservation, implementation of protected areas, rural development based on natural values, environmental lobbying/education/communication.
Types of capacity-building offered:	Project development, youth camps, networking, workshops and seminars
Target groups:	NGOs, governmental organizations, protected area (PA) staff
Capacity-building activities related to biodiversity issues:	Euronatur coordinates conservation and sustainability projects worldwide with an emphasis on Europe. Important topics in Euronatur's work are PA planning, implementing and monitoring, eco-tourism, water management, ecological agriculture, NGO structure, EU politics and regulations.
Contact data / persons:	<p>Homepage: http://www.euronatur.org</p> <p>Address: European Nature Heritage Fund – Euronatur, Konstanzer Str. 22, D-78315 Radolfzell, Germany; tel: +49-(0)7732-9272-0; fax: +49-(0)7732-9272-22; e-mail: info@euronatur.org</p> <p>Contact persons: Executive Director: Gabriel Schwaderer; Director Environmental Politics: Lutz Ribbe; Project Manager: Dr. Martin Schneider-Jacoby</p>

Contact Data and Descriptions of Relevant Organisations, Institutions, Networks and Initiatives

Eurosite	
Type of organisation / initiative / institution / network:	Network of public bodies, private organisations and NGOs devoted to nature conservation management throughout Europe
Goals:	To enhance European nature conservation, through both the management of land and water and through the dissemination of practical information working directly with site managers
Types of capacity-building offered:	Workshops, training programmes, study visits, coaching, networking, twinning, publications, public awareness campaigns
Target groups:	Site managers, staff of nature conservation organisations
Capacity-building activities related to biodiversity issues:	All activities of Eurosite are related to biodiversity issues. Priority areas for capacity-building in Central and Eastern Europe include management planning (with a focus on stakeholder involvement), project management and management of grasslands and wetland habitats. Eurosite is also promoting good practice in the management of Natura 2000 sites.
Contact data / persons:	Homepage: http://www.eurosite-nature.org and http://www.natura.org (for Natura Network Initiative). Address: Eurosite, PB 90154, 5000 LG, Tilburg, The Netherlands; tel. +31 13 5 944 970; fax: +31 13 5 944 975; e-mail: eurositenl@eurosite-nature.org

Fauna & Flora International	
Type of organisation / initiative / institution / network:	International conservation organization
Goals:	To conserve threatened species and ecosystems worldwide, choosing solutions that are sustainable, based on sound science and compatible with human needs.
Types of capacity-building offered:	Advice, consultancy, training, organizational development support, studies, publications, dissemination of best practice
Target groups:	Government agencies, NGOs, protected areas staff, local communities
Capacity-building activities related to biodiversity issues:	All activities of Fauna & Flora International are related to biodiversity issues.
Contact data / persons:	Homepage: http://www.fauna-flora.org Address: Fauna & Flora International, Great Eastern House, Tenison Road, Cambridge CB1 2TT, United Kingdom; Tel.: +44 1223 57 1000, e-mail: info@fauna-flora.org Eurasia Programme: eurasia@fauna-flora.org

German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN)	
Type of organisation / initiative / institution / network:	Governmental authority
Goals:	To provide advice to the Environment Ministry and the Federal Government on issues relating to national and international nature conservation, to support conservation projects and research, to provide information on conservation issues and to fulfil executive tasks (e. g. as licencing authority under CITES).
Types of capacity-building offered:	Twinning projects, consultancy, studies, workshops, training seminars, publications
Target groups:	Governmental authorities (main target group), NGOs, private sector
Capacity-building activities related to biodiversity issues:	Twinning projects have been conducted e. g. on implementation of Natura 2000 and EU species protection regulations; other subjects of capacity-building include landscape planning, conservation legislation, sustainable tourism, bat conservation, CHM development and environmental communication. The BfN also runs its own seminar centre, the "International Academy for Nature Conservation" (see below).
Contact data / persons:	Homepage: http://www.bfn.de Contact person on biodiversity issues: Dr. Horst Korn, Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, Branch office Isle of Vilm, D-18581 Putbus, GERMANY; phone: +49-38301-86-130; e-mail: horst.korn@bfn-vilm.de

Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF)	
Type of organisation / initiative / institution / network:	International non-profit organisation; members include governments and international organisations that are prepared to share biodiversity data.
Goals:	To make the world's primary data on biodiversity freely and universally available via the Internet; members support network nodes through which they provide data.
Types of capacity-building offered:	Training courses, mentoring, helpdesk, development of tools, studies, help in accessing IT support, promoting establishment of biodiversity informatics chairs
Target groups:	Mainly participant nodes, some activities are also aimed at users of the GBIF network and users of biodiversity information in general.
Capacity-building activities related to biodiversity issues:	All activities of GBIF are related to biodiversity issues.
Contact data / persons:	Homepage: http://www.gbif.org Address: GBIF Secretariat, Universitetsparken 15, DK-2100 København, Denmark Program Officer for Outreach and Capacity Building: Beatriz Torres, Tel.: +45 3532 1474; Fax: +45 3532 1480; e-mail: btorres@gbif.org

International Academy for Nature Conservation Isle of Vilm	
Type of organisation / initiative / institution / network:	Branch office of the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) / Governmental organisation
Goals:	<u>International mandate:</u> To promote international cooperation in nature conservation, to fulfil obligations arising from Germany's bilateral agreements and the CBD (technology transfer and cooperation) and to support the EU-accession process (mandate of the EU) with regard to nature conservation. The Academy also has a national mandate to support the formulation of conservation policies and to further exchange of experience in Germany
Types of capacity-building offered:	Workshops, training seminars, publications
Target groups:	Governmental authorities (main target group), NGOs, private sector
Capacity-building activities related to biodiversity issues:	Practically all activities of the Academy are related to biodiversity issues; special emphasis on protected areas management and on conservation finance
Contact data / persons:	<u>Website:</u> http://www.bfn.de/06/index_en.htm <u>Address:</u> International Academy for Nature Conservation, c/o Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, Isle of Vilm, D-18581 Putbus, GERMANY; phone: +49-38301-86-113 (Gisela Stolpe); fax: +49-38301-86-150; email: ina.vilm@bfn-vilm.de

Internationale Weiterbildung und Entwicklung gGmbH (InWent) / Capacity Building International	
Type of organisation / initiative / institution / network:	Non-profit organization run by the Federal Republic of Germany, the German Federal States and private sector organizations; merger of the German Foundation for International Development (DSE) and the Carl Duisberg Society e. V. (CDG)
Goals:	Promotion of worldwide sustainable social, economic and ecological development by human resources development, training and dialogue
Types of capacity-building offered:	Workshops, conferences, training courses, long-term courses and internships, consulting and advice, networking, web-based learning, publications
Target groups:	Decision-makers, experts, managers and professionals from business and industry, politics, public administration and civil society
Capacity-building activities related to biodiversity issues:	Activities of the Department of Environment, Natural Resources and Food, particularly under the thematic areas "Natural Resources Management" (worldwide) and "Structural Change and Agrarian Reform" (specially for CEE/NIS countries); topics include development of protected areas and ecotourism, international environmental law, conservation and use of plant genetic diversity, agrobiodiversity, standards for ecological agriculture and forest policy.

Contact data / persons:	<p>Homepage: http://www.inwent.org</p> <p>Contact person on natural resources and biodiversity: Barbara Krause, InWEnt gGmbH, Leipziger Straße 15, 04509 Zschortau, Germany; Tel.: ++49-34202-845-203; Fax: ++49-34202-845-777; e-mail: barbara.krause@inwent.org</p> <p>Contact person on the web-based capacity-building platform Global Campus 21 (http://www.gc21.de): Günter Podlacha, InWEnt gGmbH, Tulpenfeld 5, 53113 Bonn, Germany; Tel.: ++49-228-2434-895; Fax: ++49-228-2434-766; e-mail: guenter.podlacha@inwent.org</p>
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IUCN - The World Conservation Union (International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources)

Type of organisation / initiative / institution / network:	Network of governments and state agencies, NGOs and affiliated scientists and experts based in more than 140 countries
Goals:	To influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable.
Types of capacity-building offered:	Expertises, training, global standards
Target groups:	Governments, international and state institutions, parliaments, scientists, NGOs, advisors and other stakeholders (farmers, foresters etc).
Capacity-building activities related to biodiversity issues:	e. g. Environmental Law Capacity Building Initiative; Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) for Biodiversity; Integrating Polish Environmental and Consumer Organisations into the discussion on the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy, Agenda 2007; Integrating Natura 2000, Rural Development and Agri-environmental Programmes in CEEC
Contact data / persons:	<p>Homepage: http://www.iucneurope.org/</p> <p>Address: Tamas Marghescu, IUCN Regional Office for Europe, 15, rue Vergote, 1030 Brussels; phone: +32.2.7328299; fax: +32.2.7329499; e-mail: europe@iucn.org</p>

Ökologischer Tourismus in Europa (Ö.T.E.) e.V. (Ecological Tourism in Europe)

Type of organisation / initiative / institution / network:	NGO
Goals:	Training and education in the field of sustainable tourism
Types of capacity-building offered:	Campaigns, workshops and seminars, awareness-raising, model projects, publications
Target groups:	Government agencies, private stakeholders, NGOs and conservation authorities at international, national and local level
Capacity-building activities related to biodiversity issues:	Relevant capacity-building activities take place for example within the projects "Promoting sustainable tourism in Central and Eastern Europe - Tourism in Banska Stiavnica" and "EDUCATOUR – Education in Ecotourism"

Contact Data and Descriptions of Relevant Organisations, Institutions, Networks and Initiatives

Contact data / persons:	<p>Homepage: http://www.oete.de</p> <p>Address: Ökologischer Tourismus in Europa (Ö.T.E.) e. V., (Ecological Tourism in Europe ETE), Am Michaelshof 8 - 10, D-53177 Bonn, Germany; phone: +49-228-359 008; fax: +49-228-359 096; e-mail: info@oete.de</p>
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Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe (REC for CEE)	
Type of organisation / initiative / institution / network:	Non-profit organization based on an inter-governmental co-operative agreement supported by 28 countries and the European Commission
Goals:	To assist in solving environmental problems in Central and Eastern Europe by promoting cooperation among NGOs, governments, businesses and other environmental stakeholders, supporting the free exchange of information and public participation in environmental decision-making
Types of capacity-building offered:	Training workshops, internships, studies, publications, policy advice, coaching, public awareness campaigns, networking, grants to support organizational development of NGOs
Target groups:	Governments, local authorities, NGOs, private stakeholders, students
Capacity-building activities related to biodiversity issues:	Capacity-building components are included in various programmes, e.g. in the Environmental Policy Programme which addresses nature conservation as one of several environmental issues. Projects under this programme are dealing for example with transboundary management of natural resources or the initiative for a Balkan Conservation and Development Forum. Relevant activities are also carried out by several of REC's country offices.
Contact data / persons:	<p>Homepage: http://www.rec.org</p> <p>Address: REC Head Office, 2000 Szentendre, Ady Endre út 9-11, Hungary; phone: (36-26) 504-000; fax: (36-26) 311-294</p> <p>Contact person for Biodiversity Project: Mira Mileva, MMileva@rec.org, Tel. +36 26 504-000, Ext. 302</p> <p>Contact person for Capacity-Building Programme: Adriana Craciun, ACraciun@rec.org, Tel. +36 26 504-000, Ext. 407</p>
Additional remarks:	During discussions at the workshop on the potential tasks and structure of a regional center/network for capacity-building, the Regional Environmental Center (REC) was mentioned as one of the potential models. It was also mentioned as an organization with capacities to act as a center itself and provide relevant assistance for both the physical and the virtual components of this institution.

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)	
Type of organisation / initiative / institution / network:	Multilateral international agreement
Goals:	To combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought in countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification with a view to contributing to the achievement of sustainable development in affected areas.
Types of capacity-building offered:	Workshops, awareness raising, support for elaboration and implementation of National Action Programmes and for development of regional activities. In CEE region, facilitation of the identification of Regional Training Centres on CCD-related priority areas.
Target groups:	Governments, intergovernmental organisations, NGOs, institutions and all stakeholders involved in the implementation of the convention.
Capacity-building activities related to biodiversity issues:	Many thematic areas covered by the CCD also relate to biodiversity issues (e. g. water management, soil conservation, ecological education). Capacity-building on issues of synergies between the Rio conventions is supported through regional meetings of CEE focal points.
Contact data / persons:	Homepage: http://www.unccd.int for CEE: http://www.unccd.int/regional/centraleu/menu.php Address: UNCCD Secretariat, Martin-Luther-King-Str. 8, D-53175 Bonn, Germany; Tel: +49 228 815 2832; Fax: +49 228 815 2898/99; e-mail: secretariat@unccd.int Coordinator Europe Unit: Ms. Elysabeth David, e-mail: edavid@unccd.int Programme Officer CEE: Mikhail Outkine, e-mail: moutkine@unccd.int

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	
Type of organisation / initiative / institution / network:	UN Agency
Goals:	To help countries in their efforts to achieve sustainable human development, with a focus on democratic governance, poverty reduction, crisis prevention and recovery, energy and environment and the fight against HIV/AIDS.
Types of capacity-building offered:	Workshops, helpdesks, coaching, training materials, publications, analyses, policy advice, networking
Target groups:	Governments, NGOs, civil society actors, private stakeholder groups, local communities

Contact Data and Descriptions of Relevant Organisations, Institutions, Networks and Initiatives

Capacity-building activities related to biodiversity issues:	<p>Within its practice area dealing with energy and the environment, UNDP sometimes carries out thematic projects related to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, for example on protected areas management and conservation of arid and semi-arid ecosystems.</p> <p>UNDP is also the main implementing agency supporting National Capacity Self-Assessments (NCSAs) in the CEE region. It is supporting Biodiversity Enabling Activities financed through the GEF and has taken part in the Capacity Development Initiative (completed in 2000) and the Biodiversity Planning Support Programme (completed in 2002).</p>
Contact data / persons:	<p>Homepage: http://www.undp.sk/</p> <p>Address: UNDP Regional Bureau for Europe and the CIS, Bratislava Regional Centre, Grosslingova 35, 811 09 Bratislava, Slovak Republic; phone: +421 (2) 59337 111; fax: +421 (2) 59337 450; e-mail: registry.sk@undp.org</p>

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)	
Type of organisation / initiative / institution / network:	UN Agency
Goals:	To inspire, inform and enable nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations
Types of capacity-building offered:	Assessments, studies, policy advice, facilitation of institution building, demonstration projects, publications, training materials, training events, workshops
Target groups:	National governments, Civil Society and NGOs
Capacity-building activities related to biodiversity issues:	<p>Biodiversity aspects are considered in UNEP's activities in many fields, such as implementation of environmental law, integrated coastal zone management and combating of land degradation. As one of the implementing agencies of the GEF, UNEP is also supporting various types of projects directly related to implementation of the CBD, including National Capacity Self-Assessments (NCSAs) and Biodiversity Enabling Activities. UNEP has taken part in the Biodiversity Planning Support Programme (completed in 2002) and is one of the contributing agencies of the Biodiversity Service (see above).</p>
Contact data / persons:	<p>Homepage: http://www.unep.org</p> <p>Regional Office for Europe: http://www.unep.ch/roe/</p> <p>Address: UNEP/Regional Office for Europe - International Environment House, 11-13, chemin des Anémones, CH-1219 Chatelaine, Geneva – Switzerland, Tel. +41-22-917 82 79, Fax +41-22-917 80 24, E-mail: roe@unep.ch</p> <p>Contact person on GEF biodiversity projects: David Duthie, UNEP/GEF Biodiversity, PO Box 30552, 00100 Nairobi, KENYA; Tel: +254-20-623717; Mobile: +254-722-786743; Fax: +254-20-624268; E-mail: david.duthie@unep.org</p>

World-Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)	
Type of organisation / initiative / institution / network:	Independent conservation organization (foundation)
Goals:	To conserve biological diversity, ensure the sustainable use of renewable natural resources and to promote the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption
Types of capacity-building offered:	Pilot projects, workshops, training seminars, expert meetings, information events, publications
Target groups:	NGOs, state authorities, regional and local administrations, politicians
Capacity-building activities related to biodiversity issues:	<p>The initiatives of WWF's European Programme provide diverse activities throughout Eastern European countries focussing on EU environmental legislation, especially Natura 2000 implementation, agriculture and rural development as well as EU financial support instruments (Structural Funds)</p> <p>Main WWF activities are focussed on Poland, Latvia and countries of the Carpathians and the Danube basin (especially Slovakia, Romania and Bulgaria)</p>
Contact data / persons:	<p>Homepage: http://www.panda.org</p> <p>Contact persons: Andreas Beckmann, EU Accession Coordinator, WWF International, c/o WWF Austria, Ottakringerstr. 114-116, A-1160 Vienna, Austria; phone: +43 1 488 17 238; mobile: +43 676 83 488 238; fax: +43 1 488 17 277; e-mail: andreas.beckmann@wwf.at</p> <p>NEW WEB PAGE!: www.panda.org/accession</p> <p>Peter Torkler, Conservation, Agriculture and EU-Accession, WWF Germany, WWF Berlin Office, Große Präsidentenstr. 10, D-10178 Berlin; phone: +49 30 30 87 42 15, fax: +49 30 30 87 42 50, e-mail: torkler@wwf.de</p>

Glossary of Acronyms

ABS	Access and Benefit-Sharing
AEWA	Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds
ANCLP	Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection of the Czech Republic
APB	Akhova Ptushak Belarusi (BirdLife Belarus)
BANAT	Baltic States' Regional Preparation for NATURA 2000
BCH	Biosafety Clearing-House
BEF	Baltic Environmental Forum
BfN	Bundesamt für Naturschutz (German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation)
BMZ	Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung (German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development)
CAP	Common Agricultural Policy (EU)
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CDI	Capacity Development Initiative (UNDP/GEF)
CEEC	Central and Eastern European Country
CEEWEB	Central and East European Working Group for the Enhancement of Biodiversity
CEPA	Communication, Education and Public Awareness Initiative (CBD)
CHM	Clearing-House Mechanism
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CMS	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn Convention)
COP	Conference of the Parties
EC	European Commission
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ETE	Ecological Tourism in Europe
EU	European Union
EUROBATS	Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats
FAO	United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization
GBIF	Global Biodiversity Information Facility
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GMO	Genetically Modified Organism
GSPC	Global Strategy for Plant Conservation
GTI	Global Taxonomy Initiative
GTZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (German Association for Technical Cooperation)
InWent	Internationale Weiterbildung und Entwicklung gGmbH (Capacity Building International)
ISBI	International School of Biodiversity Informatics
IUCN	The World Conservation Union (International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources)

JWP	Joint Work Programme
KfW	Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (German Reconstruction Bank)
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreement
MoAFWE	Ministry of Agriculture, Forests, Waters and Environment (Romania)
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NCSA	National Capacity Self-Assessment
NFP	National Focal Point
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NIS	New Independent States
OCB	Outreach and Capacity-Building Programme (GBIF)
PHARE	Pre-accession instrument of the EC to assist applicant countries of Central Europe in their preparations for joining the European Union
REC	Regional Environmental Centre
REReP	Regional Environmental Reconstruction Programme
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SBSTTA	Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (CBD)
SCBD	Secretariat of the CBD
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SEE	South-Eastern Europe
SEO	Sociedad Española de Ornitología (BirdLife Spain)
SOR	Romanian Ornithological Society
SPA	Special Protection Area
STRP	Ramsar Scientific and Technical Review Panel
TRAFFIC	Trade Records Analysis of Fauna and Flora in Commerce
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WCPA	World Commission on Protected Areas
WHC	Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development
WWF	World-Wide Fund for Nature
ZEFOD	Zentralregister biologischer Forschungssammlungen in Deutschland (Inventory of biological research collections in Germany)

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Workshop Programme

Tuesday, December 2nd:

Arrival of the participants

18.30 *Dinner*

21.00 Welcome of the participants (H. Korn, BfN)

Wednesday, December 3rd:

08.00 *Breakfast*

09.00 Introduction to the topic (C. Epple, BfN)

09.30 Presentation of current activities and potential for capacity-building at the International Academy for Nature Conservation Isle of Vilm (G. Stolpe, BfN)

10.00 Experiences with building capacities for biodiversity conservation – the 'pros and cons' of NGO networking (A. Krolopp, CEEWEB)

10.30 *Coffee*

11.00 Capacity Building in Implementation and Enforcement of the EU Nature Conservation Policy in the Baltic States (L. Eglite, Baltic Environmental Forum)

11.30 Promotion of Networks and Exchanges in the Countries of South Eastern Europe (S. Susic, REC Serbia and Montenegro)

12.00 Romanian NGOs and Natura2000 (O. Penu, REC Romania)

12.30 *Lunch*

14.00 *Guided tour through the nature reserve "Isle of Vilm"*

15.30 *Coffee*

16.00 Capacity development for global environmental management: UNDP lessons, tools and approaches (K. Chachibaia, UNDP)

16.45 Supporting the build-up of NGOs in the field of nature conservation (N. Schäffer, RSPB)

17.15 The Clearing-House Mechanism of the CBD – strengths and weaknesses of the internet as a means to promote international cooperation for capacity-building (H. Freiberg, BfN)

17.45 Discussion/Summing up

18.30 *Dinner*

Thursday, December 4th:

08.00 *breakfast*

09.00 The work of IUCN for capacity-building in Central and Eastern Europe – activities and experiences (D. Metera, IUCN)

09.30 Capacity-building and the Global Taxonomy Initiative (F. Haas, GTI Focal Point Germany)

10.00 Experiences with "twinning" as an instrument for capacity-building at the example of EU species protection regulations (F. Böhmer, BfN)

Workshop Programme

- 10.30 *Coffee*
- 11.00 Working session I: Instruments of capacity-building and their opportunities and problems
- 12.30 *Lunch*
- 14.00 Convention on Migratory Species - possibilities for synergy with the CBD and contribution to capacity-building for biodiversity (V. Domashlinets, CMS Secretariat)
- 14.30 Working session II: Tasks of a regional centre/network for capacity-building and how to fulfil them
- 15.30 *Coffee*
- 16.00 Continuation of working session II/Presentation of results of working session II
- 17.00 Experiences with conducting an assessment of capacity needs at the national level – the case of Hungary (A. Krolopp)
- 17.10 Experiences with conducting an assessment of capacity needs at the national level – the case of Slovenia (D. Fercej)
- 17.20 Short statements by participants on capacity needs and possible priorities in their countries
- 18.30 *Dinner*

Friday, December 5th

- 08.00 *breakfast*
- 09.00 Capacity Needs in Central and Eastern Europe – the example of sustainable tourism development (M. Meyer, E.T.E)
- 9.30 Working session III: Priority areas for capacity-building for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use in Central and Eastern Europe
- 10.30 *Coffee*
- 11.00 Continuation of working session III
- 12.00 Working session IV: Towards a strategy for addressing identified needs – what can we achieve?
- 12.30 *Lunch*
- 14.00 Continuation of working session IV
- 15.30 *Coffee*
- 16.00 Preparation of draft workshop report and final plenary discussion
- 18.30 *Dinner*

Saturday, December 6th

- 08.00 *breakfast*
- 09.30 Departure from Vilm. All-day excursion to Stralsund.