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Y&E

youth discovering biodiversity

in this issue ...

... forest biodiversity
... International Year of Biodiversity
... why to protect biodiversity?

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Content

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COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Editorial

Dear readers,

We are proud to present you with the new issue of our Magazine containing articles on such different topics in the context of biodiversity.

Our lives depend on biodiversity in many ways, although all these connections are not often appreciated. A case in point is agriculture, because it is due to a wide variety of species that humans can obtain timber for building, food for nutrition, medicines for health and the great outdoors for recreational opportunities. Much of today's world is also dependent on wild resources, of which the best known examples are probably marine fisheries. Other economic gains derive from our interaction with the natural world. A good example of this is the fastest expanding industry and economic value of tourism. Once a species becomes extinct, it's too late to apply conservation methods. So far, about 1.75 million species have been identified and classified, many of these are made up of small creatures such as insects. There are still a lot of unknown species in the world, and some of these could hold economic or medicinal value. Scientists believe that there are actually about 13 million species, though estimates range from 3 to 100 million.

Current education and leisure patterns lead to ongoing alienation of young people from nature. Nowadays people in European countries live mostly in man-made habitats, so there is a gap between them and nature. Nature plays a minor role in the lifestyle of young people today as their free time is taken up by computers, games, television and other multimedia activities. We run the risk of bringing up a generation that does not care about the conservation of biodiversity.

In addition to this, a significant contribution to biodiversity will occur across Europe with the initiation of young people in the issues concerning biodiversity. The young people will certainly carry forward the torch lit by the young environmentalists fighting for the cause and ensure for themselves a secure future. To enhance biodiversity education and conservation, we need to reconnect people to nature, promote more in-depth knowledge of biodiversity, and encourage people to take environmentally-friendly actions.

That is why we created this magazine that is filled with articles of young people deeply concerned with biodiversity. You can read about the results of their researches on the topics connected with biodiversity protection, about biodiversity situation in their countries and special actions that they organise or attend in order to protect nature. These are the examples of activities in which 'youth is discovering biodiversity'. We believe that they will inspire you to discover it even deeper.

We hope that you will enjoy the articles of the present issue and we invite you to submit us your contribution for our next Magazine. We will soon announce the next topic. Until then, try to find out how many species of birds are living in your country... or the song from which one you like the most?

Gjoko Zoroski
YEE Publications Officer
(DEM-Youth, Macedonia)

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Youth and Biodiversity

Living in an age of technological developments, it makes it very hard to attract the young generation to issues related to environment, and in particular to biodiversity.

However, at the same time, having so much information at hand, it is very hard to ignore what is currently happening with our environment and stay inactive. It is quite important that we acknowledge the vital importance of biodiversity in sustaining our lives and making this world an environmentally sound place for people and nature to live in harmony. There are various threats to biodiversity from diverse natures and its disastrous consequences

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are now being felt. It is quite important to note the problems associated with biological diversity concern everyone everywhere and we need to act urgently as decisions made will greatly influence our future.

To educate about biodiversity

Youth and biodiversity are very similar and interconnected in many ways. We (youth and biodiversity) are both very vulnerable to external pressure and depending on how carefully and attentively we are taken care and treated today, one could determine to some extent our future. Youth and biodiversity are the future of our planet, a planet that will survive only if we have educated young people among ourselves, aware of the problems of today, caring about the other people and species living around us. The significance of youth participation in the process of biodiversity protection and preservation must be noted as well. Thus, it is very important that instead of spending hours in front of the computer, we youth go out in the nature and enjoy its beauty. If schools and universities employ some non-formal methods of education and try to engage young boys and girls in more outdoor activities, we will grow more physically active and healthier and will learn on our own to appreciate nature and the species surrounding us. It is crucial that families and schools start very early in life to educate us while still children and cultivate some kind of affection towards the environment and the other living creatures.

We are not alone here

We, as children or students, have to be aware we are not alone in this world and we do not live only to satisfy our own needs and desires, or to achieve our goals at any price. We have to live responsibly, knowing there is so much more that is outside of our homes and we have to respect its way of growing, living, breeding and existing. Namely because we are aware of the biodiversity's vulnerability and we are in a position to influence its future, we have to protect it and strive at its long-term conservation. As responsible citizens of our societies and of the world, we need not only to make sure our voice concerning biodiversity issues is heard and our requests are best addressed and reflected in any biodiversity legislation, but also that those requests would be highly respected and fully implemented by all governments that have to abide to them. Since the young people are the ones serving as balance and check mechanisms for their home governments, we should continue to keep them (our governments) accountable for their actions as well as non-actions and be more involved in the decision-making process undergoing on both national, European or international level.

Lili Deyanova
(Ecosouthwest, Bulgaria)

Making Wealth or Choosing Life

Why is the biodiversity important? What is the role of biodiversity? Biodiversity and modern society? How does the socioeconomic system in which we live influence biodiversity?

About the social ecology

Biodiversity is composed of all the vegetable and animal species that populate the planet and whose interaction with the environment creates the formation of ecosystems. Every ecosystem functions through a dynamic equilibrium, which is maintained by the operations of the network, as self-organised, inevitable and with change as a variable constant. In the Summit of Rio in 1992, the need to protect biodiversity to guarantee its future existence was recognised on an international level.

Why is biodiversity so important? It is because our life depends on it, because we form a part of it, we are one element in the ecosystem of 'life'. We live in an anthropocentric culture, therefore it makes it difficult to obtain another point of view than an egoistic one. Therefore, it is sufficient to realise that our own lives will be in danger if the biodiversity gets worse. That all our activities, from our diet to our own survival, depend on the protection of the planet's biodiversity. Can there be any greater motive for human beings than its very own life? We are being tested on instinct to survive…

It is curious to observe that the principles on which our socioeconomic system is based are contradictory to the very principles on which a system of ecological diversity is based.

I would like to analyse this situation thoroughly:

The main aim

A natural system functions based on its ability to function under pressure and its survival instinct with its main objective to generate maximum protection for life itself. Therefore, the individual is subordinate to the ecosystem to which it belongs and is a great beneficiary of the diversity provided for it to function and for the relationships that are derived from this variety.

Nevertheless, in the socioeconomic system in which we live, the objective is always to generate the maximum profit for an individual. We can observe and explore how the laws of the current market enter into direct competition with the conservation of life because of the value of profit.

Rhythms

Life is a process that evolves slowly and is in a constant state of change. All the elements that are integrated in an ecosystem have to have an adequate rhythm. This is a time which is a great opportunity for the nature.

In our lives we are all immersed in the velocity of time, and it is this high speed pace that business requires. Our modern world lacks time and as the result we don't have time for anything. We do not allow things to take their natural rhythm, there is always a deadline that needs to be met so we prioritise time over

Basic information

What is biodiversity?

Biodiversity is the variation of life forms within a given ecosystem, biome, or for the entire Earth. Biodiversity is often used as a mea-sure of the health of biological systems. The biodiversity found on Earth today consists of many millions of distinct biological species, which is the product of nearly 3.5 billion years of evolution.

"Biological diversity" or "biodiversity" can have many interpretations and it is most commonly used to replace the more clearly defined and long established terms, species diversity and species richness. Biologists most often define biodiversity as the "totality of genes, species, and ecosystems of a region".

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biodiversity

Jaime Fernández

allowing things to naturally evolve at their own pace.

The resources

In nature, a self-limitation exists because of limited resources. In nature, there is never more consumed than there exists which means that the consumption is based on need and resources available. The resources are always used in the rational way. All is based on the interdependence and interrelation of all species, with even the dysfunction or surplus of resources having a self regulating objective.

The capitalistic system is based on the principle of unlimited growth. The growth cannot stop because it will halt the profit value. Here in this example we can observe one of the greatest contradictions of a socioeconomic system and the environment. The earth's resources are treated like they are infinite, as if when they disappear then they will be replaced. But our resources are finite and there are consequences to be considered.

The relations

In a natural environment, we can observe thousands of relationships based on cooperation among animals and plants. Competition is a reality for each individual as resources are limited. But the collective interest is never put in doubt and it continues to keep the dynamic equilibrium.

Competition is the motor of the global economy. It permeates all fields of our life and has human behaviour working against nature. That is why people look at nature as an enemy, something that endangers the obtaining of our objective: to have more.

To be is to gain or to gain is to be

In a natural ecosystem the needs are clear: the continued survival of the species and its ecosystem. Requirements for this need: food and shelter. Obtaining more food than one needs, does not make sense, does not give the happiness.

In our society, we exist in order to have and not just this but to have more and to have better things. This desire 'to have' and consume has become a need in itself. It is curious to consider that we are thought to be the only animal with mental and rational capacity.

Basic information

Three levels at which biological variety has been identified:
· genetic diversity
· species diversity
· ecosystem diversity

Genetic diversity is a level of biodiversity that refers to the total number of genetic characteristics in the genetic makeup of a species. It is distinguished from genetic variability, which describes the tendency of genetic characteristics to vary. Genetic diversity plays a very important role in survival and adaptability of a species because when a species's environment changes, slight gene variations are necessary to produce changes in the organisms' anatomy that enables it to adapt and survive.

Species diversity is an index that incorporates the number of species in an area and also their relative abundance.

Ecosystem diversity refers to the diversity of a place at the level of ecosystems. It is contrasted with biodiversity, which refers to variation in species rather than ecosystems.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biodiversity

Types of processes

In nature, all is based on the proximity of its resources, all the needs are contained in a space that we would be able to define as nearby. If species do not find everything they need in the land directly around them, they are obliged to change their habitat or are condemned to die.

The processes that are fundamental to globalisation are that resources can be retrieved from any distance. Everything that we eat, we wear, and we use in our daily life is often brought from the other side of the world. This is sustained by ignoring the logical method of living in balance by choosing profit value over this.

Productivity – Diversity

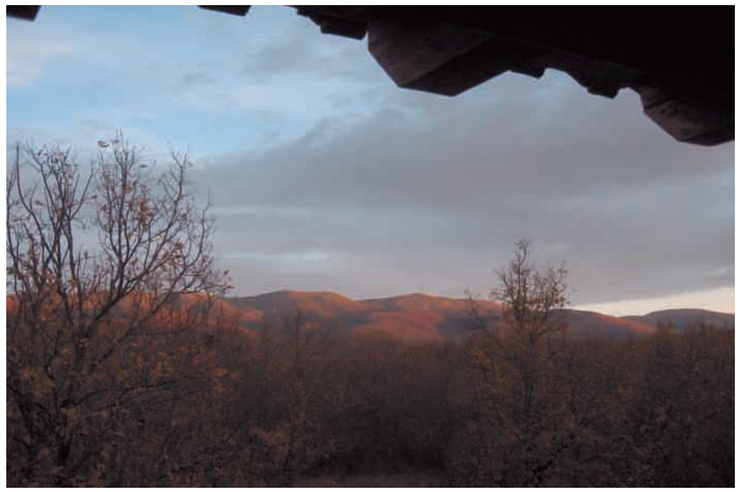
After this brief analysis, we can see that there are some clear differences that separate our socioeconomic system and a natural system with biodiversity. In my opinion 'wealth' is the word to focus on through discussion. Based on the capitalistic economy we consider the term 'enjoy' to be measured in terms of wealth, based on investment and profit value, considered only through the economic results: numbers. How can we begin to explain to the current economy the need to keep in mind other aspects? Perhaps we are only able to continue our anthropocentric look. But we should try to see the biodiversity in which we live as fundamental to our survival.

Jaime Fernández

According to the evolution of an ecosystem, during its first phase the energy is concentrated on productivity: to produce vegetable biomass so that animals needed to sustain other species can begin to arrive. At the completion stage of this phase the productivity is abandoned because of the simple reason that the ecosystem is now enriched. The relationship between the species supports ever greater numbers of species and the ecosystem becomes more complex and abundant. As a result, the ecosystem and its continued sustenance and survival depends on a diversity of small things rather than a few that are very large. Therefore, the disruptions that may occur will be confronted in more decisive way as the ecosystem can adapt to these changes due to its diversity.

Our system has remained in the first phase, it is a producing system which doesn't give the sufficient importance to supporting and nurturing diversity. Humanity is mature enough to decide to pass to another phase but whether it chooses to or not remains to be seen.

Jaime Fernández
(Spain)



Jaime Fernández

Recommended reading:
Murray Bookchin,
Jorge Riechmann,
Serge Latouche,
Jorge Scala,
Gregory Bateson.

NATURA 2000

Natura 2000 is an ecological network of protected areas in the territory of the European Union. In May 1992, governments of the European Union adopted legislation designed to protect the most seriously threatened habitats and species across Europe. Natura 2000 is an important tool for protecting biodiversity.

General Background Information

In 1992 the Member States of the European Union adopted legislation created in order to preserve and protect the most threatened habitats and species throughout Europe. The legislation in question is the Habitats Directive, (Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora) which complements the Birds Directive adopted in 1979. The main purpose of those Directives is the establishment of a network of sites known also as NATURA 2000. The Birds Directive requires the creation of Special Protection Areas (SPAs) for birds to help protect and manage areas important for rare, vulnerable or extinct species of birds. The Habitats Directive similarly requires Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) to be designated for other species and habitats in order to provide them with increased protection and management.

To protect land and water

Both sites protect endangered or unprotected habitats, helping to safeguard the animals and plants that need them. Throughout the EU a great variety of habitats are protected and a variety of endangered animals across the EU benefit from this, such as golden eagles and flamingos. It is important to note NATURA 2000 sites can be designated on both land and water. Marine Special Areas of Conservation might include reefs or lagoons, inter-tidal areas, territories covered by sea or land near the sea used by marine wildlife. Marine NATURA 2000 areas are protected by innovative conservation measures to ensure they are not over-fished or affected by pollutants from sewage or shipping traffic.

It is not only natural habitat types which are covered, but also semi-natural ones, that depend on the management of humans as certain types of grasslands. Sometimes certain human activities have to be restricted or stopped when they pose a significant threat to the species or habitat types for which the site is being designated. However, keeping species and habitats in good condition is not necessarily incompatible with human activities. On the contrary, many areas are dependent upon certain human activities for their management and survival, such as agriculture. However, those activities must be carefully regulated in order not to cause any harm to the species and habitats for whose protection NATURA 2000 sites are established.

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20% of the EU's territory

All EU Member States contribute (to NATURA 2000) in the form of Europe-wide partnership. Each Member State must compile a list of the best wildlife areas containing the habitats and species listed in the Habitats and Birds Directive and submit them to the European Commission. Regarding the selection of sites under the Habitats Directive, an evaluation and selection process is taking place at a European level. However, under the Birds Directive no such process is foreseen. For all sites it is the Member States' responsibility to put the necessary protection mechanisms in place. EU governments are also in charge of ensuring that all NATURA 2000 sites are appropriately managed by the relevant conservation authorities in each country. These bodies frequently work in collaboration with other authorities, non-governmental organisations, local, regional to national charities and private landowners. Member States are expected to pay for managing the sites in their country. In order to help countries pay for conservation work, the European Union provides various ways to finance different activities related to NATURA 2000 management. Nowadays, the NATURA 2000 network sites are spread throughout the EU, from Finland in the north to the Canary Islands in the south and currently cover approximately 20% of the Union's territory.

Additional Information

NATURA 2000 Upcoming events

NATURA 2000 Event Calendar
http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/NATURA2000/calendar/events.htm

NATURA 2000 Financial resources

Guidance Handbook presenting EU funding options for Natura 2000 sites in the period 2007-2013
http://circa.europa.eu/Public/irc/env/financing_natura/library?l=/contract_management/handbook_update&vm=detailed&sb=Title

General information, EEB, WWF, BirdLife International:
http://www.eeb.org/activities/biodiversity/Financing-Natura-2000-position-Dec03-final.pdf

General information regarding the financial instruments and specifically some more info about the situation in Romania:
http://www.anpm.ro/Files/twining/5100/09_5102_EN.ppt

Lili Deyanova
(Ecosouthwest, Bulgaria)

NATURA 2000 in Bulgaria

The issue of NATURA 2000 is one of the most controversial and disputed ones in Bulgaria's public life and opinion is deeply divided on the inclusion or exclusion of many areas.

History and Introduction of the Issue in Bulgaria

The first government debate on the proposed sites at the end of 2006 provoked great public outrage, questions and discussions. NATURA 2000 filled the newspapers and news programmes for several months and demonstrators walked the streets in favour of and against the EU's nature protection network. Under intensified pressure from developers, the government finally voted to cut out half of the scientific list, including valuable forest areas and virtually the entire Black Sea coast. Although ecological organisations and landowners were trying to attract publicity to their side of the matter, it appeared most Bulgarians did not understand the significance of the issue's possible consequences.

Identifying zones in Bulgaria started in 2002 with a project funded by the Danish Environment Agency and conducted by the Green Balkans Federation together with the Ministry of Environment and Danish consultants. At least half of the financing for NATURA 2000 in Bulgaria came from external sources. At the end of 2004 other projects took place, some financed by the Netherlands. In 2005, Bulgaria began providing finance but at levels lower than external funders.

Up to the 20th of October 2006, proposals for over 300 zones within the Habitats Directive were submitted, covering a total of 36% of the territory of the country and 23% of the territory of the country in terms of the Birds Directive. After the 20th of October, a working group of NGOs was formed to draw up a final proposal to be presented

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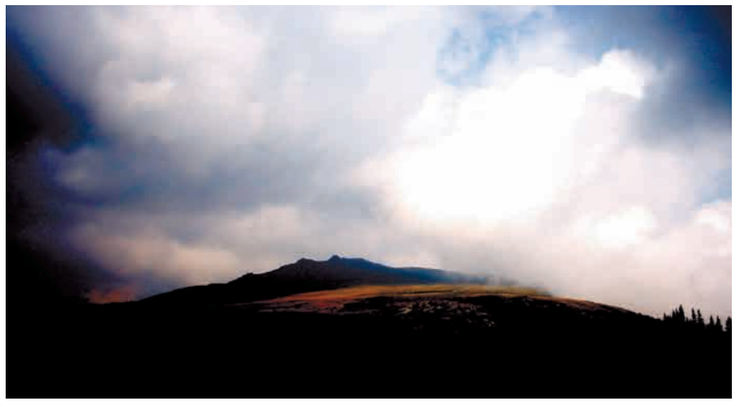
to the EU. The work lasted three weeks, some unessential zones were excluded and areas covered in some zones were reduced. On the 21st of November, the consultative body within the Environment and Water Affairs Ministry approved the proposal submitted by the NGOs. At the meeting, the NGOs proposed the total protected area be reduced from 36 per cent to almost 29 per cent. The NGOs proposed 225 zones. The Bulgarian government consulted with environmental groups and local government, which attributed to the delay of composing the list

Finally, approved by the cabinet on the 15th of February the following year, the list pleased no one. Environmental activists were demanding more territory to be included, whereas investors and property owners were fighting to keep their lands out. The list comprised about 20% of Bulgarian territory, where 32 sites were removed from Bulgaria's protected list unexpectedly. Those sites present an additional 4% of Bulgarian territory and are close to the Black Sea and mountain ski resorts. They are the most attractive areas for Bulgaria's rapidly developing tourism industry and are also among the most untouched and biologically sensitive ones. The list exacerbated the environmentalists' sense of injustice, suggesting they had been consulted only so that the government could appear eco-friendly to Brussels. They also spoke out against powerful economic interests in the tourism and construction industries pressuring the government to remove territories from the list.

In the course of time, the Environment Minister signed 28 new decrees (according to the European Union's EU Habitats directive) paving the way for the inclusion of 28 new zones in Bulgaria's European environmental network NATURA 2000 and another 50 zones were waiting for the process of preparing final orders to be completed.



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Legal Proceedings Regarding NATURA 2000 Against Bulgaria

As early as 2007 the European Commission prepared to send Bulgaria first written warning in two separate cases over its failure to properly incorporate EU environmental laws into its national legislation. The first case concerned the directive on the conservation of natural habitats and wild fauna and flora and the second, the directive on the conservation of wild birds. In the first case Bulgaria's legislation did not correctly reflect European legislation such as the definition of sites, habitats and species and there was lack of procedures, which can be used to adequately assess potential impact and compensation measures in case of development projects on the sites of the NATURA 2000 network. The other first written warning to Bulgaria was for failure to transpose correctly the directive on the conservation of wild birds, particularly the requirement on information and research for key conservation issues.

In June 2008, the European Commission started another infringement procedure against Bulgaria due to the insufficient wild birds' protection. The European Commission sent a first written warning to Bulgaria for taking insufficient measures to protect nature. The case concerned Bulgaria's failure to designate adequate Special Protection Areas (SPAs) for migratory and vulnerable wild bird species, which violates the EU directive on the conservation of wild birds. Although Bulgaria has designated 114 important bird areas as protected zones, 6 Special zones were significantly smaller in size than the respondents of their important bird areas.

Later on that same year, in November 2008, this time the Commission sent Bulgaria a first written warning for failing to properly apply the Wild Birds Directive. In the beginning of 2008, the Commission received a complaint that ongoing construction projects in the important bird area (IBA) of Kaliakra are leading to the deterioration of a number of bird species habitats and disturbance of bird species protected by the EC law. Information made available

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to the Commission reveals several projects for the construction of large wind turbine development may have been authorized without taking their environmental impact into account. The Commission was also concerned that other sports, tourism and road infrastructure construction projects may have cumulative impacts on the environment which have not been properly assessed.

In the beginning of October this year, the European Commission again sent written warnings to Bulgaria about four separate instances of failure to provide adequate protection for its natural heritage. The areas involved are the Pirin Mountains, Tsarevo municipality and the Vaya River in the protected area of Emine-Irakli near the Black Sea. The fourth warning was related to the failure to bring Bulgarian nature legislation fully in line with European requirements. The Commission had received a number of complaints regarding on-going tourist and skiing developments in the Bansko Ski Centre in protected areas of the Pirin Mountains noted for their spectacular flora and fauna. Some of those developments were authorized by the national authorities before any proper assessment of their impact and cumulative effects on protected species and habitats had been carried out. Similar complaints have been received about failures to assess the impact on protected areas of the spatial development plan for the Tsarevo Municipality, where habitats and species in the coastal area are particularly at risk. A third warning concerns a more fundamental question about Bulgarian nature legislation, which is not yet fully in line with the requirements of the Habitats Directive. The practical implications of this failure to implement the directive have become apparent from the destruction of important habitats as a result of works undertaken along the Vaya River in the protected area of Emine-Irakli, which is the subject of the fourth letter sent by the Commission.

Just some time ago (October 2009), the EC opened a new punitive procedure against Bulgaria, because of the systematic violation of the directive for protection of birds. According to EC experts, who have received a number of complaints for violations, tourist and urban infrastructure and wind mill parks are built in NATURA 2000 protected areas under no consideration for protected species there. The Commission believes Bulgaria is systematically violating its obligations to safeguard areas eligible for protection under the Birds Directive and to properly assess the cumulative effects of the numerous authorized plans and projects on the environment and on bird habitats and species. In spite of all the legal actions already taken against Bulgaria, the country continues to breach NATURA 2000 legislature. A luxury vacation spa complex near the mountain resort village of Ribaritza is beginning to appear, parts of the forest around the village of Gorno Lukovo (Ivailovgradsko) are gone, new golf course near Bozhurets on the Black Sea coast was constructed despite those places' inclusion in NATURA 2000. What will happen with all the species living on the territories of those protected and violated areas? How many times does the European Commission have to initiate infringement procedures so that Bulgaria starts to protect and appreciate its nature? How many species will be extinct until environmentalists manage to prevail over people having powerful economic interests in Bulgaria?

Lili Deyanova
(Ecosouthwest, Bulgaria)

Sources:

- INSIGHT: NATURA 2000 debate heats up in Bulgaria: sofiaecho.com/2006/12/04/645359_insight-natura-2000-debate-heats-up-in-bulgaria
- An EU directive pits environmentalists against developers in Bulgaria International Herald Tribune: www.nytimes.com/2007/02/23/business/worldbusiness/23iht-wbnatura.4698905.html
- More areas to be included in Bulgaria's Natura 2000 network: sofiaecho.com/2008/04/15/659852_more-areas-to-be-included-in-bulgarias-natura-2000-network
- Concrete Crawls into Another Natura 2000 Area in Bulgaria: news.guide-bulgaria.com/NC/Lovech/Teteven/Ribaritsa/News.aspx?3055=Concrete_Crawls_into_Another_Natura_2000_Area_in_Bulgaria

The International Year of Biodiversity (IYB)

The United Nations declared 2010 to be the International Year of Biodiversity. It is a celebration of life on earth and of the value of biodiversity for our lives. The world is invited to take action in 2010 to safeguard the variety of life on earth: biodiversity.

The International Year of Biodiversity (IYB) is a year-long celebration of biological diversity and its value for life on Earth. It will take place in many countires around the world in 2010. Coinciding with the date of the 2010 Biodiversity Target, the Year was declared by the 61st session of the United Nations General Assembly in 2006.

The International Year of Biodiversity aims to raise awareness of the importance of biodiversity all over the world. It wants to show that stop the loss of biodiversity we need the effort from everybone. That is why the IYB will be celebrated and announced with many actions in many countries. The global community will work together to ensure a sustainable future for us all.

Main messages

- Humans are part of nature's rich diversity and have the power to protect or destroy it.
- Biodiversity, the variety of life on Earth, is essential to sustaining the living networks and systems that provide us all with health, wealth, food, fuel and the vital services our lives depend on.
- Human activity is causing the diversity of life on Earth to be lost at a greatly accelerated rate. These losses are irreversible, impoverish us all and damage the life support systems we rely on everyday. But we can prevent them.
- 2010 is the International Year of Biodiversity. Let's reflect on our achievements to safeguard biodiversity and focus on the urgency of our challenge for the future. Now is the time to act.

Main goals

The celebrations of the International Year of Biodiversity are a unique opportunity to raise public awareness about the vital role of biodiversity sustaining life on Earth, supporting ecosystem services and of its importance to human wellbeing and poverty reduction.

The main goals of the International Year of Biodiversity are to:
- Enhance public awareness of the importance of conserving biodiversity and of the underlying threats to biodiversity
- Raise awareness of the accomplishments to save biodiversity that have already been realized by communities and governments
- Promote innovative solutions to reduce the threats to biodiversity
- Encourage individuals, organisations and governments to take immediate steps to halt biodiversity loss
- Start dialog between stakeholders for the steps to be taken in the post-2010 period.

Slogan of The International Year of Biodiversity

Biodiversity is life

Biodiversity is our life

There will be many actions in the frame of the IYB. Check the list of events at:
http://www.cbd.int/2010/celebrations/

Anyone who wishes can participate

As part of the International Year of Biodiversity, people around the world are invited to submit ideas of biodiversity-friendly practices, which:
- have a positive impact on biodiversity.
- promote the sustainable use of biodiversity.
- promote innovative solutions to biodiversity-related problems.
- motivate individual action to protect biodiversity.
- can be adapted and imitated by others.
- raise people's awareness of biodiversity.
- show the relationship between biodiversity and other themes.

More information at:
www.cbd.int/2010

Source:
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Year_of_Biodiversity
www.cbd.int/2010

2010 Biodiversity Target

The 2010 Biodiversity Target is an overall conservation target aiming to save biodiversity by the end of the year 2010.

Targets are increasingly being used in various areas of public policy. Clear, long-term outcome-oriented targets that are adopted by the international community can help shape expectations and create the conditions in which all actors, whether Governments, the private sector, or civil society, have the confidence to develop solutions to common problems. More than one decade after the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the recognition of biodiversity loss has gained high political profile both at global, national and regional levels. This has resulted in ambitious commitments for action by heads of states, initiated in 2001 in the European Union.

In April 2002, the Parties to the Convention committed themselves to achieve by 2010 a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national level as a contribution to poverty alleviation and to the benefit of all life on Earth. The Conference of the Parties has considered the 2010 Target during deliberations on the Convention's Strategic Plan during its 6th, 7th 8th and 9th meetings. Since 2007, the 2010 Biodiversity Target is fully integrated into the Millennium Development Goals. The Conference of the Parties (COP) agreed on a provisional list of global headline indicators, to assess progress at the global level towards the 2010 target (decision VII/30), and to effectively communicate trends in biodiversity related to the three objectives of the Convention. In decision VIII/15, the COP distinguished between: indicators considered ready for immediate testing and use (green), indicators confirmed as requiring more work (red).

Focal Area	Indicators
Status and trends of the components of biological diversity	- Trends in extent of selected biomes, ecosystems, and habitats - Trends in abundance and distribution of selected species - Coverage of protected areas - Change in status of threatened species - Trends in genetic diversity of domesticated animals, cultivated plants, and fish species of major socioeconomic importance
Sustainable use	- Area of forest, agricultural and aquaculture ecosystems under sustainable management - Proportion of products derived from sustainable sources - Ecological footprint and related concepts
Threats to biodiversity	- Nitrogen deposition - Trends in invasive alien species
Ecosystem integrity and ecosystem goods and services	- Marine Trophic Index - Water quality of freshwater ecosystems - Trophic integrity of other ecosystems - Connectivity / fragmentation of ecosystems - Incidence of human-induced ecosystem failure - Health and well-being of communities who depend directly on local ecosystem goods and services - Biodiversity for food and medicine
Status of traditional knowledge, innovations and Practices	- Status and trends of linguistic diversity and numbers of speakers of indigenous languages - Other indicator of the status of indigenous and traditional knowledge
Status of access and benefit-sharing	- Indicator of access and benefit-sharing
Status of resource transfers	- Official development assistance provided in support of the Convention - Indicator of technology transfer

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To halt biodiversity loss

However, given the current rapid decline in biodiversity, both in Europe and worldwide, and the ever-increasing extent and intensity of many human activities, the objective of halting the decline in biodiversity by 2010 will require unprecedented efforts in adapting our activities to the needs of natural systems.

But what will happen after 2010? Will the Biodiversity Target be renewed? Does the international community need another target?

A new target should "halt any further loss of species and habitats and, by 2025, restore degraded areas with an emphasis on links between biodiversity, ecosystem services, climate change and human well-being".

To make any target a success, broad societal change would be necessary, not least the shift to a "Green New Deal"; a change to the economic and policy framework underlying society, a rethink of GDP and the development of an economic successor to this tool which measures natural capital. Integration of land-use for multiple needs will be absolutely vital. Education of the public, raising the profile of biodiversity to public consciousness in the same way as climate change over recent years, will also be integral to success. Perhaps to facilitate this there should be a change in terminology. Is "biodiversity" too sterile, too devoid of any "spiritual significance" – is it too "scientific"'. Do we need to shift to present the target as "halting declines in life on earth"?

Countdown 2010

You can join Countdown 2010 by taking action to save biodiversity by 2010 and signing the Countdown 2010 declaration **www.countdown2010.net**

Gjoko Zoroski
(DEM-Youth, Macedonia)

Sources:
http://www.cbd.int
http://www.countdown2010.net
http://britishecologicalsociety.org

Basic information

What can I do?

Learn about biodiversity and environmental issues in your area and in your country. You need to know a bit about what biodiversity is before you can act. You can participate in the International Year of Biodiversity at the local level by joining environmental NGOs and volunteering in environmental actions. Saving biodiversity starts in the community. Find out about the celebrations in your country and participate. If there are no celebrations in your area, you can organise biodiversity-related activities, conferences and events yourself. Your biggest contribution though is in your daily actions. Thoughtful consumption that takes into account the impact of your actions on the ecosystems of our planet is the way you can conserve and sustainably use the biodiversity of our planet.

www.cbd.int/2010

CEEWEB FOR BIODIVERSITY

CEEweb is an international network of 78 non-governmental organisations in the Central and Eastern European regions. The mission of the network is the conservation of biodiversity through the promotion of sustainable development.

CEEweb is active on EU, regional and national levels.

Since 2008 CEEweb has been discussing the complex relationships among biodiversity loss and the cultural, institutional and structural drivers behind it in its Policy Working Group (PWG). The PWG uses the so-called DPSIR-model developed by the European Environment Agency for identifying the drivers and for the developing measures (responses) how to tackle them.

Cultural drivers:
- loss of identity and traditional lifestyle, loss of relationship to nature, consumerism, the values of society, sectoral approach, analytical knowledge, etc.

Institutional drivers:
- economic regulatory framework resulting in that natural resources are cheap in comparison to human labour,
- monetary system with money increasing itself through interest,
- cheap fuel for transport,
- state budgets,
- education system, etc.

Structural drivers:
- production and consumption patterns with energy and material intensive products and services and population growth,
- Urban structures, infrastructures, etc.

Responses that address the drivers:
- taxation policy,
- changing the sectoral institutional system,
- land use policies,
- educating consumers, etc.

The network has four thematic Working Groups that are mission-oriented task forces of the organisation. The WGs operate on the following fields: CITES, Natura 2000, Rural development and Sustainable Tourism.

The most recent activities of CEEweb

Pan-European Biodiversity Picnic

The Pan-European Biodiversity Picnic is a multi-stakeholder initiative aiming to raise awareness on biodiversity and to strengthen commitment to its conservation through regular events every year on 'International Biodiversity Day'. It was originally launched at the Biodiversity Stakeholders' Roundtable in October 2007. At the Picnics Pan-European stakeholders of biodiversity spend a pleasant day together in the countryside, eat organic fruits and discuss the issues of biodiversity.

The Pan-European Biodiversity Picnic aims to:
- Raise political and public awareness about biodiversity,
- Deepen the understanding of the contribution of biodiversity to human wellbeing,
- Attract various stakeholders to nature conservation,
- Raise the profile of biodiversity in global politics through publicising this Pan-European multi-stakeholder initiative at interna-

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tional events and in the media.

The Picnic intends to bring together: the Head of state and heads of state institutions (like government, parliament and ministries), political leaders, trade union members, farming organisations and other advocacy groups, business leaders social and youth organisations, artists, scientists, conservation groups and other stakeholders for a pleasant picnic in nature every year on 22 May, 'International Biodiversity Day'.

Biodiversity Assessment of Pan-European Countries

The well-being of any society depends on healthy ecosystems that provide proper services. Therefore conservation of biodiversity rightfully should be the same level priority on the political agenda as socioeconomic issues. The assessment of 46 countries shows that in the Pan-European region this is still not the case.

According to the survey, in Western Europe the most significant treat to biodiversity is ever-increasing consumption of natural resources and land. All Pan-European countries are facing or will soon face the same socio-economic drivers behind biodiversity loss.

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The most urgent common interest of all Pan-European countries is to reveal these drivers and find holistic policy tools in international cooperation to change their course. Involvement of NGOs on a national level to implementation of both national plans and international agreements can be one factor of success to biodiversity conservation. Only this can stop biodiversity loss and assure future well-being of all citizens in Pan-Europe.

Biodiversity in Europe Conference

The 5th Biodiversity in Europe Conference was the most recent major event in the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS) process and it was held between the 22nd and 24th of September 2009 in Belgium.

Making a strong link between CBD COP decisions and the conference agenda, the Conference focused on the following three topics:

-Valuing ecosystem services
- Biodiversity and climate change
- Post-2010 vision for the Pan-European region

CEEweb was preparing inputs of different scales for the event. Primarily, CEEweb prepared for the Conference background documents for each of the theme:

- Valuing ecosystem services and related case studies
- Biodiversity and climate change
- Post-2010 vision for the Pan-European region

The next high-level conference of the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS) is going to be held this autumn, 2009.

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More information about CEEweb for Biodiversity network can be found at: **www.ceeweb.org**

Biodiversity situation in Bulgaria

Bulgaria is one of Europe's most biodiversity abundant countries and despite the challenges in the transition to market economy, concern for biodiversity conservation remained strong within the country.

Introduction

Biodiversity is necessary for the sustained existence of mankind and is of crucial importance for the well-being of future generations. In light of the threats to ecosystems and species, the governments of the world came to an agreement in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 to work together to preserve and conserve biodiversity and promote the sustainable use of natural resources. Bulgaria is one of Europe's most biodiversity abundant countries and despite the challenges in the transition to market economy, concern for biodiversity conservation remained strong within the country. This is confirmed both by the existence of national legislation and by Bulgaria's accession to international initiatives in this field. In 1998 the Bulgarian Government approved the National Biological Diversity Conservation Strategy. The development of the National Biodiversity Conservation Plan (NBCP) was a follow up to the National Strategy and it specifies certain priority activities and determines the following key areas:

- Internal water and wetland ecosystems
- Forest ecosystems
- Mountain (pasture) ecosystems
- Agro-ecosystems
- Lowland (grass) ecosystems

Although relatively small in size, Bulgaria is rich in biological diversity due to the varied climatic, geologic, topographic, and hydrologic conditions. Thus, Bulgaria ranks among some of the most biologically diverse countries in Europe. Its biota includes considerable numbers of endemic species and subspecies, where endemic plant species constitute about 5 % of the total flora and endemic insect species make 8.8 percent of all non-insect species and 4.3 percent of insect species. Known endemic vertebrates include 12 freshwater fishes, 1 amphibian subspecies, 4 reptile subspecies, and at least 4 sub-species of mammals.

However, as a result of anthropogenic pressure, a number of Bulgarian species have become vulnerable or endangered during the last decades. In total Bulgaria has 473 protected animal species and 389 protected plant species. It has a number of unique and representative communities and ecosystems highly valuable in terms of biological diversity, including alpine and sub-alpine coniferous forests, meadows, wetlands, lakes, beech forests, oak woodlands, caves and mountain gorges, sand dunes, coastal limestone communities and other unique habitats along the Black Sea coast. In addition, it is important to note Bulgaria's forests cover approximately 3.9 million hectares (about 35 per- cent of the nation's total land) of this area, where around 60 % are of natural origin.

Threats to Biodiversity

Bulgaria's biodiversity encounters a broad scope of threats. The loss and degradation of aquatic and terrestrial habitats is perhaps the most significant one, affecting all ecosystems from the high mountain forests and lakes to the open waters and Bentic communities of the Black Sea. Pollution of air, soil, groundwater, freshwater and coastal waters intensified over the last decades present a great danger to both biological diversity and human health. Most forms of source pollution - household, agricultural, petroleum, industrial, and nuclear - are present in Bulgaria and threaten biological diversity.

Direct exploitation and especially over-exploitation of economically valuable species affect many ecosystems and habitats. This includes threats such as illegal gathering and export of edible fungi, medicinal plants, snails and several reptiles and amphibians; over-harvesting of commercial fish species in the Black Sea coastal and open waters; or poaching and hunting for sport of large mammals and birds. Additionally, introduction of non-native species have significantly affected the dynamics of major ecosystems. For instance, the intentional introduction of non-native fish, game, and timber trees has also had detrimental impacts on indigenous ecosystems, species and sub-species. Bulgaria's unique genetic resources of local crop varieties, wild relatives of cultivated plants and local and primitive domestic animal breeds have diminished as a result of changes in land use and in the agricultural economy.

Local communities regain land through land restitution processes which could constitute an important potential threat to biological diversity as well. Restitution offers significant opportunities for conservation, but if citizens and local governments are not informed or encouraged to adopt conservative or restorative land use practices, the restitution may have adverse impacts on biodiversity. Given its traditional position amidst three major bioclimatic regions, acceleration of climate change could additionally have far-reaching effects on Bulgaria's biological diversity. If global warming results in a rise in sea levels, the detrimental effects along the Black Sea coast would also be substantial.

Lack of knowledge and ineffective policies is also a considerable factor. Insufficient information on species richness, distribution, current populations and population trends for many taxonomic groups; insufficient information on biological diversity in specific geographic regions; insufficient information on the impact of various anthropogenic threats and on mitigation methods and restoration procedures are among the most significant problems related to that threat.

Main Measures Directed Towards the Protection of Biodiversity

Institutional Strengthening of Government Biodiversity Conservation Units

-Establishment of new units where necessary; Capacity building of personnel of the existing units; Material and technical provisions for the new units; Training of the experts in the units on biodiversity conservation.

Expansion and Maintenance of the Protected Area Network

- Re-categorising of protected areas according to the new categories of the Law on Protected Areas and drafting of Management Plans for protected areas and implementation of the main recommendations of the Management Plans.
- Study of new areas and sites in view of including them in the ecological network and maintenance of ongoing records of Protected Areas taking account of increases/decreases of their areas and changes in their regimes, new categories, and statistical records.

Restoration and Maintenance Activities

- Restoration and maintenance activities are related to conservation of endangered species and of their genetic resources.
- Provision of legal protection for endangered plant and animal species; Implementation of species conservation actions in compliance with relevant laws and conventions; Maintenance of critical populations of endangered species.

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- Drafting of protected species action plans; Carrying out of practical on-site measures on the terrain according to the action plans (restoration of habitats, fencing of a rare plant habitat, artificial nests or islands to attract for nesting endangered birds, etc.)
- Construction of national reserves for domestic plant, animal and fish breeds threatened with extinction;

Strengthening of the Scientific Base for Biodiversity Conservation

- Establishment of a data base of taxonomic groups, geographic areas, anthropogenic threats and impacts, as well as methods for reduction of undesirable impacts;
- Improvement of the essential equipment of the scientific biodiversity units;

Information, Education and Training

- Improving promotion of the significance of biodiversity, carrying out of periodical information campaigns through the mass media in visitor centers; Elaboration and introduction of nature protection programmes for use in the educational system; Providing biodiversity related information and additional training services to new (and current) farmers and landowners.
-Increasing the involvement of non-governmental environmental organisations in the implementation of state policy.

Lili Deyanova
(Ecosouthwest, Bulgaria)

Source:

"National Biodiversity Conservation Plan", Ministry of Environment and Water of the Republic of Bulgaria

Mushroom Biodiversity in Europe

There are approximately 1,5 million species of fungus in the world which makes it the second highest number of species in one family after insects. All of us have sadness about the prospect of losing species, losing biodiversity and its consequences for ecological functions as well as its potential medical applications.

First of all, we should clarify some basic concepts about mushrooms. The English words "Mushroom" and "Toadstools" refer to the reproductive part of a living form called 'fungus' although not all fungus reproductions are done by mushrooms. It´s something like an apple (being the apple a Mushroom) and an apple tree (being the apple tree the fungus) - not all the trees have fruits.

Alejandro Martínez Sánchez

Oudemansiella mucida grows in beech forest, its characterictic it soft surface, used to make hand cosmetics.

There are approximately 1,5 million species of fungus in the world which makes it the second highest number of species in one family after insects. All of us have sadness about the prospect of losing species, losing biodiversity and its consequences for ecological functions as well as its potential medical applications.

Many researchers have studied and still study the decrease in the number of fungus all around Europe. There are many kinds of studies; the most popular one is done by counting the species which grow in different squares (areas) of the forest during several years. Others, done for example in Spain, just aim to count the species that are found walking through a habitat over a period of time. In Germany some researchers analyzed the amount of mushrooms in a market. The conclusions of all these studies are showing that the number of fungus is decreasing, mainly the species in association with plant roots, whereas the groups of fungus growing in organic debris have increased.

Alejandro Martínez Sánchez

Leccinun lepidum, it grows in association with plant roots of Holm oak Quercus ilex, is included in the red list of Spanish endangered fungi.

Some countries have started to protect through legislation the species which are in danger or threatened. They have created a "red list" of endangered fungus. For example, in Germany species like Boletus edulis and Boletus aereus are included in the list, but in many other countries these species grow in a big amount and are not at all considered endangered.

Here you have a table comparing the number of extinct and endangered species in 3 different countries:

Countries	Extinct	Endangered
Germany	26	170
Norway	7	87
Denmark	56	142

But what causes this decrease?

Scientifics consider the following reasons to be the main causes:

- Climate change, which could change the rainy pathrons and the Flora.
- Loss of habitats.
- Changes in the forest ecosystems.
- Pollution, for example the acid rain which burns the flora and creates soil erosion. This is the main cause in north and central Europe.
- Human picking, not caused by the extraction of mushrooms, but because of the bad practices of picking which inhibit future growth.

Alejandro Martínez Sánchez

Rhodotus Palmatus. It grows in wood debris. Exactly in Dutch elm (Ulmus minur) debris. Rhodotus palmatus is very rare due to the Dutch elm disease which is a devastating disease responsible for the destruction of the majority of mature elm trees (Ulmus) across the world. So Rhodotus palmatus has decreased because it has less debris to live of. It is included in the red list. It is an example of the situation when the habitat of the fungus change.

What can be done?

Governments can continue creating lists of endangered species to forbid people picking them and also in order to make people aware of the situation.

By reducing the CO2 emissions to avoid the impacts of climate change.

To protect and increase the forest areas and the different habitats. In my opinion this is the main action to be done, which is not only necessary for mushrooms but also for all living beings.

But what can every person do to protect the mushrooms?

- *Respect them all*: it doesn't matter if the fungi are edible, poisonous, pretty or ugly, all of them have a function in nature.
- *Never use tools to pick them*, or you will destroy their habitat and reproductive structures.
- *Use basket to pick them up.* Plastic bags don´t let the spores to spread, and neither let the mushrooms to "breathe"

Alejandro Martínez Sánchez
(ORO Verde, Spain)

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Asinine Race of Miranda

AEPGA - Association for Study and Protection of the Asinine Cattle tries to protect the population of Miranda's donkey in Portugal.

AEPGA Archive

AEPGA - Association for Study and Protection of the Asinine Cattle, has many activities among which it deals with the protection of the indigenous population of donkey in Atenor, Portugal. They promote and collaborate in the spreading of the Miranda's donkey breed, through providing expositions, cultural and ecotourism activities, therapeutic use of the donkey, auctions and other events involving the Miranda's Donkey Race.

Diagnostic Characteristics of the Miranda Donkey

The Miranda donkey possesses distinctive characteristics that allow us to identify them very easily. Some of them are:

- Dark chestnut colour pelage with clearer gradations in the backs and inferior face of the trunk
- Long and thick hair
- Large and hairy ears
- Voluminous Head
- Short snout with a white extremity
- Thick Lips
- Eyes surrounded by one white spot
- Short and thick neck
- Wide Chest
- Raised stature, more than what 120m, ideally with 135m
- Physically robust with thick legs
- Docile Temperament

AEPGA Archive

Causes of the Threatened Extinction

The mechanization of the agricultural works, the abandonment of the rural world and subsistence farming methods led to the disappearance of important cultural and traditional values.

In the Trás-os-Montes Region another factor is the emigration of families over the last 60 years to other countries such as France. This has had a significant effect because it has been largely those of the population who are in active age. This fact has largely led to the aging population being sufficiently advanced to make labour intensive farming a real challenge as well as the use and protection of donkeys.

Further issues of concern

- the advanced age of the female donkeys means that there is a reduction in its fertility;
- the reduced numbers of virile males to reproduce because castrated males are more docile for working in the fields so the practice continues;
- difficulties in the transportation for the reproductive places/ ranks;

and finally, the miscegenation of different varieties of donkeys, losing itself the characteristics that are specific, in the case of the Miranda´s Donkey.

All these factors have contributed to the current decline of the number of donkeys of the Asinine Race de Miranda.

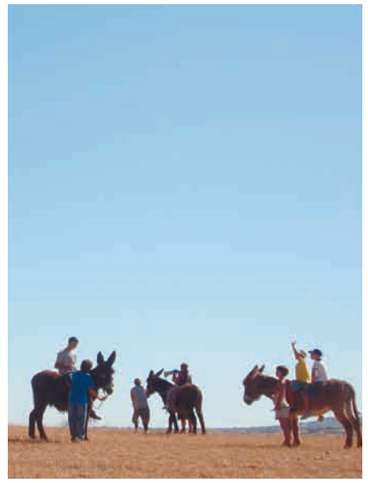
Biodiversity is of great importance in order to maintain stable ecosystems. If there is a sudden change in that community's environment, the balance of the community may change, which may result it in its existinction. In the last 50 years intensive farming has increased and now only the most productive species of crops and animals are grown and reared. This means that several different varieties of domestic animals, fruits and vegetables are in danger of becoming extinct. This is what is also happening with donkeys!

Particularly in Trás-os-Montes, a region in Northern Portugal, the donkey was used in agriculture, to plough the land and also as transport between villages and cities. Nowadays, for some people, donkeys are still their eyes, legs and arms. The Miranda's Donkey Race has often suffered crossbreeding with horses to produce mules, because of their big size, their robust body and their friendly and quiet character. The mules were used in the Douro's Wine Region to transport grapes, because it was the only animal able to work and go through the big hills of the Douro's River.

Miranda's donkey is endangered because of the industrialisation of the rural world, people and farming techniques. Due to the mechanization of farming farmers don't use them anymore in their daily life and also because there are few females of reproductive age. To preserve this species, AEPGA has been working since 2000 directly with breeders, supporting and assisting the animals that need veterinary care and updating the Genealogical Book of the Breed. At the same time our Association organises various activities and events throughout the year. Our activities are related to environmental, cultural and traditional aspects and concerns, with the most important objective to raise awareness about other uses of the donkeys, such as ecotourism rides, walks and therapy provided by asinine.

Biodiversity and the protection of our ecosystems are also very important to us all as individuals. We can all appreciate the beauty of nature when we are looking at the landscape, going for a walk in a wood or sitting in a garden. Human beings like to live in a varied natural environment with open spaces to walk and play in, trees for shade, colorful flowers, clean water, birds and animals. The donkey is a significant element in this region of Portugal and we work towards its long term preservation among other of natures wonders.

Bruna Moreira
(AEPGA, Portugal)



AEPGA Archive

Finnish Forest Biodiversity

Young forest activists play significant role in protecting fragmented forest landscape in Finland.

Emilia Pippola

In the beginning of the 20th century, the forest biodiversity in Finland was still at quite a sustainable level. The forests were selectively cut for different purposes but this didn't have a very strong impact on the forest ecosystem. Intensive use for timber and pulp since mid 20th century has transformed most of Finland into a fragmented landscape of different aged stands often growing just one tree species. The volume of the forests is increasing as the majority of the forests are young and therefore in a good state of growth. But what is important, and often forgotten when the Finnish forests are presented internationally, is the ecological quality of these forests. It has changed dramatically over the past decades.

Forests as economical resources

The forests used as economical resources are treated with clear cut, thinning and soil preparation as a common practice. This causes major damage to the species communities, as well as to the functions of the forest ecosystem, such as carbon binding. Also during the past few years logging residue (branches and stumps) has been collected from many cutting areas to be used to produce bioenergy.

Forest characteristic

37 percent of the endangered species in Finland live in forests. The most tremendous change in the forest structure is a decrease in the amount of dead wood. In Finland 20-25 percent of all the forest dwelling species are dependent on this resource. There is only on average 5 m3/ha of dead wood in the managed forests where as in similar natural forests there can be found tens or even more than hundred m3/ha. Also other key characteristics have changed. For example large, old deciduous species have decreased.

The situation is most critical in the Southern part of the country where most of the people are living. Around 2% of the forests in this part of the country are protected. Many of the protected areas are small in size and they are not all naturally maintained and supported. Because the quality of the forests is weakened, restoration is needed in many places. As well as this the completion of the protection network is needed to ensure that the biodiversity is preserved. In some regions the base for the network is not yet even created and needs work to establish this fir the protected area.

Intensive use for timber and pulp since mid 20th century has transformed most of Finland into a fragmented landscape of different aged stands often growing just one tree species.

Päivi Mattila

Forest protection

In order to improve the situation, the Finnish government has started up the Forest Biodiversity Programme for Southern Finland (METSO). There is some money reserved for paying the forest owners for the protection but altogether the resources are too scarce. There is no adequate plan and the authorities aren't capable of using time to search for the ecologically best areas to be protected. Therefore, volunteers from some environmental non-governmental organisations are doing this work: searching and mapping valuable forest areas.

Finnish Nature League

Finnish Nature League (Luonto liitto) is a youth organisation which focuses on environmental education and environmental politics. The organisation's Forest Action Group (FAG) was established in the beginning of 1990's at the same time when a protection program for old-growth forests was started by the state in Finland. The organisation has just one part time worker which means that most of the work is done voluntarily. Many of the volunteers are biology students or people who have gained knowledge on forests from other work or experience. These people are motivated to use their recreation and spare time for finding and mapping nature values to be used in protection processes.

Tiina Jalkanen

Each year FAG gives education to new as well as existing volunteers. The topics are for example: indentifying indicators or EU nature directive species such as the flying squirrel. Other issues taught to the volunteers are: how to orientate in the forest, how to use GPS or how to write a report. FAG organises courses and educates young people in a way that new volunteers accompany experienced activists in the field work and learn by doing – it has turned to be an efficient way of learning. The field work is very often done in pairs or small groups. When there is this kind of possibility to share the experiences in the field, the motivation stays high.

Volunteers from environmental non-governmental organisations are searching and mapping valuable forest areas.

Most of the protected areas in Finland are located in the North. Volunteers of FAG have played an essential role in the protection of these forests. Some 10,000 findings have been identified by the volunteers. These observations have been used to compare the ecological value of different areas and to prove the importance of these forests for their biodiversity. Similar work has been done also in the Southern part of the country and will continue to develop in the near future.

Some members of FAG have shared the knowledge and experiences with Swedish, Norwegian, and Russian forest activists. In co-operation with local NGOs the Finnish forest activists have mapped thousands of hectares together with the local volunteers. From this collaboration, a new web page has been created called **www.nordicforests.org** highlighting the unprotected forests of Finland, Sweden and Norway. This page is written in English and will be regularly updated for new information on the forests and in terms of their protection. In many cases the protection of forest biodiversity is promoted nationally but in some situations international publicity urges the decision making in Finland forward.

Mari E. Niemi
(Finnish Nature League)

Forests, Biodiversity and Climate Change

A big green bravo for all Macedonians for their multi-million tree planting accomplishment!

I would like to start this article with the following report:

Five million trees were planted on 14 March 2009 on different locations in Macedonia as a continuation of the campaign **"Tree Day - Plant Your Future"** which started in 2008. During that first event a year and a half ago, more than 150 000 Macedonians planted 2 million trees in one day (symbolically, one tree for each citizen). On 12 March 2008, the Macedonian citizens planted 2 million trees and on 19 November 2008 6 million in one day. The campaign was initiated by the opera singer Boris Trajanov and supported by the Government, the Association of Local Self-government Units and the NGO sector.

"Imagine Macedonia in Green"

This year the fourth campaign "Tree Day-Plant Your Future" was held on November 11, under the motto "Imagine Macedonia in Green". 7,5 million seedlings were planted at 3,674 hectares throughout Macedonia.

Gjoko Zoroski

A big green bravo for all Macedonians for their multi-million tree planting accomplishment! It's not just about the fact that the author of this text originates from the mentioned country and participated in both actions. I am convinced that this is a great step forward towards the fight against biodiversity loss and climate change which initiated one small country to do something.

During first event in 2008, more than 150 000 Macedonians planted 2 million trees in one day (symbolically, one tree for each citizen).

Forest - ecological life-support system

Healthy forest ecosystems are ecological life-support systems. Forests provide a full suite of goods and services that are vital to human health and livelihood. Many of these goods and services are traditionally viewed as free benefits to society, or "public goods" - wildlife habitat and diversity, watershed services, carbon storage, and scenic landscapes, to name just a few. As the climate changes, partly due to deforestation, the benefits we derive from forests may be threatened. To be more concrete: trees absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere for photosynthesis. Some of this carbon is used by the tree for growth and will remain locked up within the cell structure until the tree is burnt or felled. In this way, a tree acts as a carbon sink. At the end of the tree's life cycle that carbon is released back to the atmosphere as carbon dioxide. When forests are unmanaged there is no net change in the atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide since the removal of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere through photosynthesis is balanced by the release of carbon dioxide from rotting trees. Deforestation, however, alters this balance. Carbon dioxide is released to the atmosphere by forest burning. The subsequent replacement vegetation, frequently in the form of agricultural crops, has comparatively little biomass in comparison to forests, and the potential to absorb carbon dioxide is reduced.

Let's look at the unending cycle which exists over a million years: a forest is more than trees, but without trees there can be no forest. Trees create the structure that welds the entire community of plants and wildlife together by creating shade, enhancing the soil and soil hydrology. The roots hold fragile soils together, preventing erosion. Fallen leaves and branches build up nutrients in the soil and provide the substance on which soil microbes thrive. The trunks and branches become a substrate on which other living things grow, such as epiphytic plants. Here we see the link between the forests, biodiversity and ultimately climate change. EU member states have agreed to "halt the loss of biodiversity by 2010" and post-2010 targets are currently being discussed. The EU White Paper Adapting to Climate Change 2009 highlights the relationship between biodiversity and climate change and identifies the need for integrated policy development.

Gjoko Zoroski

Forest and Climate Change

Taking biological diversity into account we should think about raising and increasing awareness about these issues, reducing deforestation, and increasing the expanse of land protected. Forests are the most diverse ecosystems on land, because they hold the vast majority of the world's terrestrial species. Biodiversity is also related to global warming. Slow growth forests can take in a significant amount of carbon dioxide but deforestation immediately cuts the contribution to this important environmental function. Preserving biodiversity is not without cost but the importance of maintaining a wide variety of species makes this endeavour a necessary problem to address. Action and pressure from individuals towards government level can help maintain biodiversity through the sheer will of the people. Herein, many incentives and actions should be raised by us - as young environmentalists and environmental networks.

We know a lot about the causes of climate change. Climate change is predicted to be the greatest long-term threat to biodiversity in many regions and is listed as a key threatening process. The impacts of climate change, such as increased air and ocean temperatures, and increased frequency of extreme climatic events can directly and indirectly impact on biodiversity. Higher summer temperatures and mild winters can influence the distribution of pests and diseases. Some birds, insects, mammals and plants are already showing changes in their geographic distribution and have moved northwards or to higher altitudes in response to the observed changes in the European climate. One thing is certain: the more we learn about biodiversity the more we realise how much the world depends on it. Humans as a species are in threat of becoming extinct like any other species if biodiversity continues to decline.

It is clear how the forests, biodiversity and climate change are linked but what can we do? Let each of us provide an initiative for taking some action in the community where he/she lives. If you are a member of some organisation or network try to initiate something "green". Fight for minimising deforestation. Plant a tree! As a NGO-volunteer, teach younger people the rich biodiversity in your country! They will appreciate it in the future more…for sure. We - the youth of today are planting our future.

Gjoko Zoroski
(DEM-Youth, Macedonia)

Gjoko Zoroski

Basic information

What are human benefits from biodiversity?

Biodiversity also supports a number of natural ecosystem processes and services. Some ecosystem services that benefit society are air quality, climate (both global CO2 sequestration and local), water purification pollination, and prevention of erosion.

Since the stone age, species loss has been accelerated above the geological rate by human activity. The rate of species extinction is difficult to estimate, but it has been estimated that species are now being lost at a rate approximately 100 times as fast as is typical in the geological record, or perhaps as high as 10 000 times as fast. To feed such a large population, more land is being transformed from wilderness with wildlife into agricultural, mining, lumbering, and urban areas for humans.

Non-material benefits that are obtained from ecosystems include spiritual and aesthetic values, knowledge systems and the value of education.

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biodiversity

Discovering Diversity:
From one idea to permaculture on many levels

How hemp project starts to deal with biodiversity...

Our story started seven years ago when we came together at the 'Field day of flax and hemp' at Research Institute Agritec in Šumperk, at foothills of Jeseníky (Czech Republic). I met there a woman in middle age and her teenage daughter. We were looking at field essays with hemp (Cannabis Sativa, L., in the article related to industrial variety with minimal psychoactive THC content of 0,2%). I read before that hemp is a pest and weed resistant plant ideal as a rotational crop and is highly valuable as a soil conditioner. In Šumperk, the plants were growing well but the soil itself was in terrible state. These essays with pesticides, herbicides and radiation are really strange, I told myself. I understood the hemp as environmentally friendly plant suitable for many climates, very promising for peoples' independency on oil, for their health and well being.

My dream was that one day we would manufacture hemp in an organised and cooperative way. I didn't know at that stage the history of the Czech cooperative movement in early 20th Century before and after First World War. Today I am familiar with the name of Vladislav Feierabend, 'supporter of Czechoslovak farmers' and the moving force for the renaissance of our countryside. During the First Republic (1918 – 1938), Czechoslovakia became a study field and inspiration for many cooperative and mutual "democratic" economy movements all around the world. I didn't know about that but I had a feeling that to build something stable and fair it was necessary to establish a cooperative where farmers have their share in both the hemp processing and distribution. I saw a need to re-establish social cohesion and to overcome negative connotations that cooperatives got in the socialist era.

Looking for resources

There, during the workshop day in the field, we discovered that we have a lot to share and we started our cooperation. In the beginning, our goal was 'to solve the energy crisis'. We wanted to create a new energy source for Vysočina (Highlands, region in the middle of the Czech Republic, between Bohemia and Moravia). We were planning to install a small-scale processing technology for crushing hemp stalks (known as a Schlichtens decorticator), sell hemp fibre for paper or automotive industry and the remaining crushed woody core (shives or hurds) press into pellets and offer on the market as a cheap alternative to coal, gas and wood. In doing so to decrease CO2 emissions and relieve the increasing pressure on local forests. We calculated the costs for over 250 ha of land used for hemp growing and we came to a final figure that we would need to raise. But we were missing machines, money, land and people.

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In autumn 2005, I went to the UK for a training course on sustainability and the agenda 21. I learned few techniques around community involvement during my visit so that once I came back, we decided to start the process at our identified location. This was the village of Černíč, situated in the middle of forests, with a fortified water mill located just next to a pond protected for its rich biodiversity. The fortress used to be used for manufacturing of food and crafts, as well as for accommodation and a safehouse for travellers in the Middle Ages when forests were home to thiefs. We received an offer to locate our processing equipment there, to the fortresses hay barn, so naturally we decided to call a meeting in the local pub and ask local people and others interested what do they think about our ideas.. In 2006, we invited YEE participants as part of a project to design a development space from their point of view as environmentalists too. Their ideas are still alive.

As plans diversify…

This is how we started to form our cooperative, called ZEMĚDRUH, zemědělské družstvo pro udržitelné hospodaření (agricultural cooperative for sustainable economy), that is currently composed of 13 members and a few other friends and family members, mostly from the region.

We have continued to develop our project according to the needs, expectations and ideas of the members. After more serious calculations produced by results from student research on hemp, we found that to sell hurds as a fuel is economically defunct and that it is much more profit making to focus on animal (horse) bedding and building materials, using just a part of the production for energy. However, because of the lack of machines, our attention turned to manufacturing hemp seeds as a food, cosmetic and technical oils basic material.

Thanks to our contacts with real farmers and our own experience, we realised that there was no way we could grow hemp on fields alone. We would need much more land if we wanted to maintain a high ecological production. As we started to focus more on the food and cosmetic market, more reasons for organic farming were revealed. Our members, that were not certified, were converting their fields into certified organic land. We have gradually been developing new strategies for growing hemp in an organic way together with other crops. Our aim is to use the qualities of hemp as a soil enricher to benefit the land and other crops that are grown alongside as much as possible. In nearby Austria we got inspired by a non-ploughing method of Roman Liebhart and we started to grow hemp together with clover (trefoil) with very good results in both the crops vitality, quality and taste of the hemp seeds and hemp seed oil harvested in autumn 2008. Next to hemp, we grow false flax and its seeds we press into oil that we use for running some of our cars and combine harvester. We also plan to grow traditional oat and barley (for making organic hemp beer) and to make compositions with lupine (lupinus) and buckwheat (Fagopyrum esculentum) known for their benefits to peoples' health. We plant fruit trees next to fields and try to establish multi-cultures of cereals, legumes, vegetables, potatoes and other crops suitable for our climate. With the highest attention and respect given to wildlife, we try to develop a long-term partnership with the land and nature around us.

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When the project grows like hemp

Since then our project has developed and flourished. Alongside the growing part, we work on the Schlichtens decorticator and small-scale seed production development. We also have a 'touristic' part of the project where we are keen to restore the fortress and other water mill and to build an educational centre to promote traditional and modern uses of renewable energies, fibre and oil plants, water and land protection and provide materials for workshops, accommodation and a buffet. We are planning to have all our production of hemp and education facilities run off renewable energies. We want to develop these projects with Czech and Austrian partners with co-finance from the Czech-Austrian cooperation funds. It is not all as we predicted but throughout all the stages it has been an enriching experience. It has allowed us to discover the diversity of our nature and culture, as well as of ourselves.

Michal Ruman
(Konopa, Czech Republic)

Biodiversity - On the Edge

International Youth Conference for the Protection of Biological Diversity

NAJU & YEE
13th – 19th May 2008
Bonn, Germany

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In face of the 9th Conference of Parties (COP9) for the Convention of Biological Diversity, the German Youth Association for the Protection of Nature (NAJU) and Youth and Environment Europe (YEE) organised an international youth conference tackling crucial biodiversity issues named ”Biodiversity - On the Edge”. It preceded the Conference of Parties (COP9) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) that took place from 19th to 30th of May in Bonn.

Young environmentalists from Europe, Africa, South America and Central Asia interested in dealing with the protection of biodiversity gathered in Bonn to participate in this international event. Biodiversity activists from all over the world spent a week exchanging knowledge, viewpoints, projects information on topics related to the conference. The program also included:

- Discussions around the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD);
- Full range of different workshops (e.g. climate change and biodiversity; WTO and fair trade; threats to the oceans, forest diversity, project management, etc.);
- Intercultural evening and live music;
- Excursions in Bonn and surroundings;
- Handing over of resolution to COP9;
- Making a short film of the conference;
- Open space and planning of actions.

One of the main aims of the conference was to deal with this complex matter in a critical manner and as a result of the meeting to compose a resolution to be handed to the representatives of COP9. The demands of the concluded resolution of the International Youth Conference “Biodiversity - on the Edge” representatives included:

- The integration of sustainable development education into school curricula,
- A protocol on protected areas,
- No patents on living organisms,
- Prohibition of genetically modified organisms,
- Full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities
- Measurable targets for biodiversity protection
- As well as other demands.

The youth conference itself was only the first part of the project “Biodiversity – On the Edge”. It was succeeded by local actions of the participating countries aiming at protecting biological and cultural diversity. As a result of this, a touring exhibition followed, dedicated to the young people’s activities about biodiversity. In addition a video dedicated to the project and specifically to the conference was created which can be found at **http://vids.myspace.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=vids.individual&videoid=52683245**) and distributed to all the participants.

Prepared by:
Lili Deyanova
(Ecosouthwest, Bulgaria)

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This year NAJU and YEE also organise the special event - the Training Course ‘Stop fear! Start action!’ to make young people aware of environmental problems and to join COP 15.

Youpec 2010: European Youth Perspective Conference on Biodiversity

Many conferences are organised all year round and often we are at odds with which one to attend. Some are relevant for our studies, some present new research and others try to achieve new international legislation. However, forget what your typical perception of a conference is, as Youpec is definitely not the ordinary conference.

In 2010, JNM will organise the 3rd edition of YouPEC in Belgium. Jeugdbond voor Natuur en Milieu (Youth for Nature and Environment) is a youth organisation from Flanders, Belgium, that is open to all youngsters between 7 to 25 years old that are interested in nature and the environment. 150 people from all over Europe, aged between 18 and 30, will gather for five days to learn about, discuss and share knowledge and experience on Biodiversity Conservation. Biodiversity is everywhere around us: in the genetic variation, the variety of species and all the different interactions between these species that constitute ecosystems. Mankind depends on these species, as humans are indeed of the same species too.

Christian Noll, one of the organisers of the first conference, thinks that Youpec: ‘…really made people experience what it feels like to be a part of a European movement which is able to make a difference together’.

2010 is the year of the Belgian presidency of the European Union (July-December) and the international Countdown 2010 project on biodiversity conservation. The United Nations convention which came in effect of Biological Biodiversity targeted 2010 as the year by which to end significant reduction in the rate of biodiversity loss at all levels. But has this been achieved or was it a complete failure? This will surely be one of the hot discussions that will come up during the workshops and lectures in the upcoming Youpec conference.

Environmentalists have often tended to be divided between those coming from Nature groups interested in studying the different species, to those coming from organisations concerned more with environmental issues, like overdevelopment and climate change. One of the interesting developments in the upcoming Youpec is that the conference will bring both branches of environmentalists under one roof to discuss biodiversity from a wide range of topics. There are various urgent issues like: the current debate on banning fishing of the highly endangered Bluefin Tuna, the threat of growing crops for biofuels, exotic species migration and much more. The need to work closer together on the issue of Biodiversity is no longer an option - it is a must.

The young people will be very busy during the Youpec conference as they will not only be just discussing issues but they will also have to develop a declaration over 6 days on biodiversity conservation, with policy recommendations for the European Union.

Although the Youpec conferences last only a few days, the impact that the conference has on the participants is far reaching.

Eirini Stavroulaki, a participant from Crete sais about Youpec 2007: ‘made me think more about awareness and how the other young people are acting on climate change and other environmental issues.‘

The previous Youpec conferences in 2007 and 2008 are also remembered for their colorful actions in the streets of Berlin and Hague. Youpec 2010 will continue this focused actions which will surely not fail to attract the attention of the public, media and politicians alike. We are really excited about this project and we are expecting some really interesting debates. We do hope you can be a part of this debate! So if you are interested, look out for the launch of applications next November 15th.

As famous broadcaster and naturalist, David Attenborough once said, ‘…one is tempted to think the whole of the life of any thinking man, is trying to come to terms with the relationship between yourself and the natural world. Why are you here, and how do you fit in, and what’s it all about’.

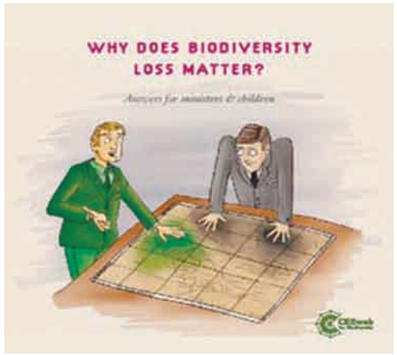
We are sure this will become increasingly clear for you after Youpec 2010!

Christian Debono
(JNM, Belgium)

To join the conference write to:
info@youpec2010.eu

Why does Biodiversity Loss Matter? Answers for ministers & children

CEEweb for Biodiversity, 2008
Text | Klara Hajdu and Judit Herman
Editing | Judit Herman and Veronika Kiss
Illustrations | Attila Kis



The publication "Why biodiversity loss matters? Answers to children and ministers" published in 2008 has been the most successful CEEweb publication by now. This color booklet is written as a tale in dialogues with illustrations explaining why biodiversity is essential for human wellbeing and what factors are behind its continuous loss.

During the journey of four travellers in the train you can learn a lot about biodiversity, biodiversity loss, intensive agriculture, poverty and hunger, biomass and biofuels, sustainability, tourism, climate change, greewashing, and the interlinkaeges between these only seemingly sectoral problems.

This story is written for politicians and children alike. It is about Susie and Peter who are "typical youngsters": although they like nature, they know so little about the surrounding natural world - nor do they understand how important nature and biodiversity is in their own lives.

Luckily, on this journey they meet a man who can explain complicated relationships between biodiversity and climate change, tourism and poverty, biofuels and rice prices, and the like. As their journey draws closer to its end, Susie and Peter come to understand that the fate of people and biodiversity are inseparably related. Join Susie and Peter on this trip and find out yourself about the most pressing environmental issues of our times whether you are a politician or a child!

The journey begins…

Peter: This planet is too big for people to have it on their own. And it would be quite boring to live by ourselves, right?
Susie: I like flowers of all kinds. Especially red tulips! And violets! And roses…
Old man: May I join in, little lady? This is called 'biodiversity'of life on earth. Bio means life, diversity means many different types of things.
Peter: I know this term. It is about having many species on earth like foxes, deer, hedgehogs and the like…
Old man: Yes – and it means much more than that! Biodiversity means having many types within species. Take this example: Brassica oleracea is a plant that has many cultivated versions. Broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, kale, collard greens, Chinese broccoli and kohlrabi are all its varieties. But biodiversity is even more than that! It also means having many types between species like different plants, animals, fungi or bacteria. And the last thing it means is many types of ecosystems.
Peter: What's an ecosystem?
Old man: It is a complex of living creatures. A forest or a pond is an ecosystem. It is a system of living things that grow and work together. In an ecosystem each species has a role to play, so they need diversity for their stable functioning.

Intensive Agriculture

Old man: In our days agricultural plants grow higher and bear more yield. This is called "intensive agriculture" and it mostly means the use of chemicals (some of which are poisonous), heavy machinery and also more and more genetically modified crops. (…) When we focus so much on food production, we harm other functions of that area and its ecosystems. In the past fifty years corn yield has more than tripled. Just imagine! In such areas soil does not form as it should, the natural nutrient cycles become unbalanced, the area can no longer be used by most animals and plants for a living and hiding place. So intensive agriculture always leads to a loss of biodiversity.

Read the whole book at:
http://www.ceeweb.org/publications/english/Ministers_eng.pdf

YEE member organisations list for 2009

EDEN Centre	"Luigj Gurakuqi", Pall. 87B, Ap.15, Tirana	Albania
Federation of Youth Clubs Armenia FYCA	Shirak Street 6-30, 378414 Yeghvard	Armenia
Stepanavan Youth center	Charents st. 137, 377320 Stepanavan	Armenia
Active Young citizenship initiative	Baghramyan, 4 line, house 30, 0033 Yerevan	Armenia
Association for Sustainable Human Development	33 Khanjyan st., apt.18, 0010 Yerevan	Armenia
ÖNJ - Österreichische Naturschutzjugend	Pater-Stefan-Str. 7, 5061 Elsbethen	Austria
JNM - Jeugdbond voor Natuur- en Milieustudie	Kortrijksepoortstraat 192, 9000 Gent	Belgium
Natuur 2000	Bervoetsstraat 33, B-2000 Antwerpen	Belgium
Jeunes et Nature	BP 91 B-1300 Wawre	Belgium
Ecosouthwest	P.O. Box 29 2700 Blagoevgrad	Bulgaria
YEO Rhodope	Tourist Information Centre, 4710 Shiroka Luka	Bulgaria
Eco Club Yetti	University of Mining and Geology, 1100 Sofia	Bulgaria
Hnuti Brontosaurus	Hvězdová 10, 602 00 Brno	Czech Republic
Konopa	Chvaleč 236, 542 11 Chvaleč	Czech Republic
Natur og Ungdom	Klostermrllevej 48A, DK-8660 Skanderborg	Denmark
Luonto Litto	Annankatu 26 A, 5.KRS. 00100 Helsinki	Finland
GYEM - Georgia Youth EcoMovement	4.Khetagurov Str. App 7, 0102 Tbilisi	Georgia
Alliance For Society Advancement (ASA)	3mk, 5 kv, bl-24a, Apt-2., 380097 Tbilisi	Georgia
Studio Re	Aleksidze street, Institute of Geophysics, 0193 Tbilisi	Georgia
Bundjugend	Am Kollnischen Park 1a, 10179 Berlin	Germany
DJN - Deutscher Jugendbund fur Naturbeobachtung	Geiststraße 2, 37073 Göttingen	Germany
Naturschutzjugend NAJU	NAJU-Headquarter, Charitéstr. 3, D-10117 Berlin	Germany
Naturschutzjugend im LBV	Postfach 1380, 91157 Hilpoltstein	Germany
JNM - Jeugdbond voor Natuur- en Milieustudie	Spuistraat 47/A1 1012 SR Amsterdam	Holand
IVN	Plantage Middenlaan 2c 20123 1000 HC Amsterdam	Holand
FTK: Club of Young Naturalists	Ludovika ter 6, H-1083 Budapest	Hungary
ECO-Unesco	26 Clare St., Dublin 2	Ireland
Green Future	House of creativity Vilties 16, LT- 31121, Visaginas	Lithuania
DEM	ul. Vasil Gjorgov 39, b 6, 1000 Skopje	Macedonia
Nature Trust Malta NTM	P.O. Box 9, VLT 1000	Malta
Organizacja Mlodziezowa Ligi Ochrony Przyrody	ul. Tamka 37/2, 00-355 Warsaw	Poland
OA PTTK	Radziwillowska 21/4, 31026, Krakow	Poland
OPE - Organisation for the promotion of Ecoclubes	Rua da fonte dos casados 920 Pedroso Vila Nova de Gaia	Portugal
GAIA	Travessa da Nazaré, 21, 2º 1100-368 Lisboa	Portugal
Ecological Mountain Foundation	7th M.Eminescu street RO, 5600 Pietra Neamt	Romania
Eco Terra	Str. Cetatatea de Balta 116, Bl.8, Ap. 17, 060954 Bucharest	Romania
LUGA Environmental Organisation	Volodarskogo, 5/1-83, Leningradskaya Oblast Luga 118230	Russia
EYC Environmental Youth Club	Leninskie gori 119991 Moscow	Russia
Civil initiative	Uritskogo str., 25 188350 Gatchina (Leningradskaya oblast)	Russia
Young Researchers of Serbia	Bulevar Umetnosti 27, 11070 Novi Beograd	Serbia
Zveze Za Technico Kulturo Slovenije	Lepi pot 6 SI-1000, Ljubljana	Slovenia
Asociación Ambiental y Cultural Oro Verde	C/Grande, nº 2, 24273, Las Omañas, Leon	Spain
Fältbiologerna	Brunnsgatan 62, SE 802 52 Gävle	Sweden
For the Earth!	14 Naberjnaya Street, 734003 Dushanbe	Tajikistan
Arkadas	Ilhan Akgün C. 12/C, TR 33960 Silifke	Turkey
GSM	Bayindir Sokak 45/9, 06650 Kizilay / Ankara	Turkey
METU Nature club	Middle East Technical University, 06531 Ankara	Turkey
Look East Wild Earth	2 Pound Place, SY23 1LX Aberystwyth	U.K.
MELP	kim. 175, bud. 6, vul. Moskovska 49000 Dnipropetrovsk	Ukraine

More information about YEE and Member Organisations at: www.yeenet.eu

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