



CEEweb for Biodiversity  
Széher út 40. 1021 Budapest, Hungary  
Phone: +36 1 398 0135  
Fax: +36 1 398 0136  
ceeweb@ceeweb.org  
www.ceeweb.org

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

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

To celebrate the **Habitats Directive's 20th anniversary** and to **show the values of European biodiversity** to everybody, CEEweb for Biodiversity organizes a photo competition in the following two categories:

- 1. Natura 2000 species and habitats – our natural heritage to guard –** Show the beauty of our natural inheritance and take picture of one of the habitats types or species
- 2. Ecosystem services from the Natura 2000 network are the key for our survival – how do we benefit from nature?** Natura 2000 network provides several benefits to people from recreation, through agricultural products to protection from natural disasters.

**Therefore, if you are a nature-friend, a hiker, a photo-geek or simply someone, who enjoys one of the services nature provides, dust off your camera, go out and get some nice shots related to Natura 2000<sup>1</sup>. The received and selected photos**

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

will be screened during the [II. International Green-Go Short Film Festival](#) in Budapest and will be uploaded to an online gallery.

### **AWARDS:**

#### **First places in the two categories:**

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

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

- Dedicated conservation albums

### **APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS**

**Deadline:** November 15, 2012.

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

Photos will be only accepted **via email in electronic format (JPG extension)** not exceeding the overall size of **10 MB**.

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

**Firstname\_Surname\_Title.jpg**

The email must also include:

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

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

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

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

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

What does not count as photo manipulation?

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

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

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

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

in each category according to the category-specific jury consisting of a professional photographer and a conservationist. In each category, the jury will select one first-place award. The public award winner will be based on a public online voting on CEEweb's website receiving the highest number of votes for one week from November 19-25 in in each category.

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

**Terms and conditions**

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

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

