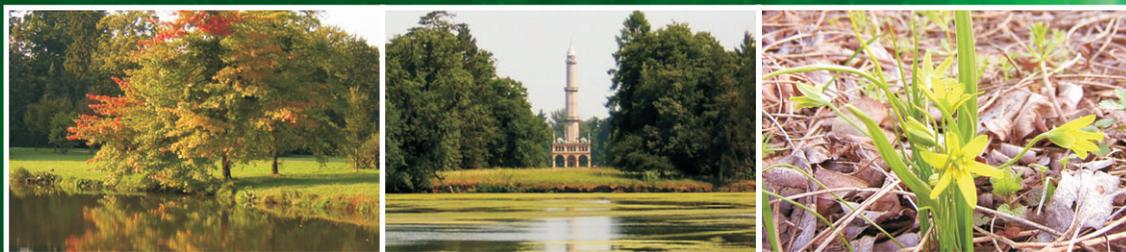


ANNUAL REPORT 2009

The Lower Morava Biosphere Reserve



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INTRODUCTION

Dear friends,

The year 2009 marked a minor anniversary for our Public Benefit Organization (hereinafter PBO). Five years previously, on August 31st 2004, PBO was officially registered and began its existence as a legal subject. However, no celebrations accompanied this major step, as the economic crisis affected the lives and activities of the organization. Shortage of funds compelled the board of directors to take the decision to cut overhead costs and to instruct the BR management to participate only in those projects which would be fully financially covered.

Despite being in a difficult position further accentuated by the fact that our PBO does not have any secured regular income, we managed to provide for the running of the company and to implement interesting projects as well. Traditionally, the best collaboration was established with Forests of the Czech Republic, State Enterprise, which supported the implementation of four projects focusing on the sustainable use of natural resources and conservation of species and cultural diversity. The Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic commissioned an important study on the management of the Lednice-Valtice Cultural Landscape, World Heritage Site. As partners of the project "Management of Natural Resources in the Tropics and Subtropics – Innovation of Study Programs of the Mendel University in Brno" we actively participated in international cooperation with our partner biosphere reserve in the Sokotra Archipelago. Our remaining activities are listed in this Annual Report.

One particular event of this past year is worth mentioning. From November 26–30, 2009 another meeting of the EuroMAB international network joining all European and North American biosphere reserves took place in Slovakia's High Tatras. Almost 100 people from 18 countries attended this meeting, among them delegates of the Lower Morava BR and the secretary of the Czech National MAB Committee who were the small few who represented the Czech Republic's six biosphere reserves. Work groups in a number of sessions assessed the past two-year period and set the priorities for the next two years. We played an active role in formulating these priorities. It was pleasant to discover that the name, publications and primarily the activities of the Lower Morava BR have earned much credit with our foreign partners. It has become a norm to be approached as a party which helps set modern trends in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. We received a number of

exciting ideas and offers to collaborate in joint international projects which we are gradually processing. We fully realized the responsibility inherent in the discovery that we in fact represented the Czech Republic at an important international forum. It was best and most naturally expressed by representatives of traditional wine-producing countries, such as the Spanish, French, Italians and Germans, who in the course of presentation of typical products of individual BR were quite astounded by the high quality of South Moravian wines readily provided by our partner PBO National Wine Centre in Valtice and the company Vinselekt Michlovsky from Rakvice. "We must come visit you and check whether everything you say is true", they said. That is why we are getting prepared. The world is a small place and South Moravia is far from being just hospitable. It has so many more things to offer. We look forward to delivering more pleasant surprises to those who are planning to visit us (and you by proxy).

I would like to thank all those who respect our public benefit activities and who are capable of expressing their appreciation not only verbally but also financially. Our thanks and appreciation go to all the members of the BR governing bodies, its employees, consultants and sponsors whose joint efforts have helped us complete another successful year.

I do not doubt that we are fully capable of meeting the visionary goals embedded in the Man and Biosphere Programme and in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. We are ready to take on the demanding role as representatives of our country and region. However, we will not be able to do so without people understanding just how significant the role is and without the support of those who are aware of how tough and long the road to civic society actually is.

Jan Vybíral
Managing Director

April 2010

LOWER MORAVA BIOSPHERE RESERVE

Man and the Biosphere Programme (MaB)

Man and the Biosphere (MaB), a worldwide programme of environmental cooperation, was established by UNESCO in the 1970s. Its primary objective is to promote sensible and sustainable use of natural resources and to improve relationships between man and the environment.

Biosphere reserves differ from other types of reserves by not focusing exclusively on nature protection but also by stressing the promotion of such human activities in landscape which lead to its positive and sustainable use and development.

Biosphere reserves (hereinafter BRs) are nominated by national governments and designated by the MaB International Coordinating Council. Prior to its acceptance into the World Network, every BR must conform to a minimum set of criteria and to meet a certain minimum set of conditions. Some countries adopted specific legislation for designating BRs. However, the institution of BR lacks any legislative support in the Czech Republic as well as in many other member states. Paradoxically, this has had a positive impact on the functioning of BRs in different political-geographical conditions as it forces them to employ flexibility and creativity, which in turn become one of the key strengths of the BR concept. In most cases, BRs encompass sites protected under individual national systems (national parks, nature reserves, etc.) or other types of internationally recognized areas (World Heritage Sites, Ramsar Wetlands, Natura 2000, etc.).

All BRs fulfil three equally important functions:

1. Conservation of natural and cultural diversity
2. Economic development which is socially, culturally and environmentally sustainable
3. Support of research, monitoring, environmental education and training

The recommended and most efficient management model of every BR encompasses complex collaboration of natural and social scientists as well as other stakeholders, such as conservation and development groups, representatives of state administration, local governments and local inhabitants. All three basic functions of BR are considered equally important and their application is well balanced. BRs following this model are called "second generation Biosphere Reserves" and we are proud to be one of them.

In 2009, the World Network of Biosphere Reserves created under the MaB Programme encompassed a total of 553 BRs in 107 countries. Six BRs were in the area of the Czech Republic (Šumava, Krkonoše, Křivoklátsko, Třeboň Basin, Bílé Karpaty and the Lower Morava BR).

Lower Morava Biosphere Reserve

In July 2003, the extension of the Pálava Biosphere Reserve (designated in 1986) was approved to encompass the Lednice-Valtice Cultural Landscape (hereinafter LVCL) and the floodplain forests at the confluence of the Morava and Dyje rivers. The newly established body was called the **Lower Morava Biosphere Reserve**.

In 2004, the **Lower Morava Biosphere Reserve, Public Benefit Corporation**, was established to procure proper management and fulfilment of all BR functions. The corporation was established by the following founding members: Forests of the Czech Republic, State Enterprise, MND, a.s., the Breclav District Chamber of Commerce, Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic and the Czech Union of Nature Conservationists. In the context of the Czech Republic, this represents a unique concept of BR management by a non-profit, non-governmental organization, as the areas of the remaining Czech BRs are identical with those of Protected Landscape Areas and as such share the same state administration.

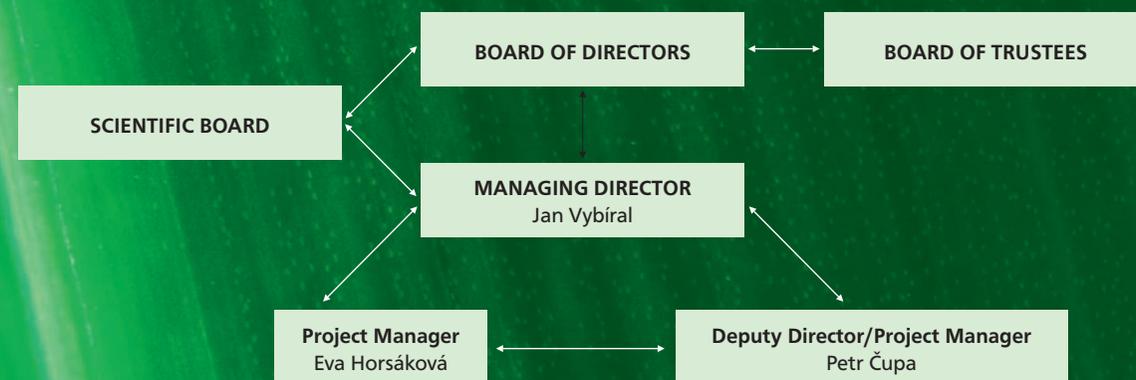
The provided public benefit services comprise the following:

1. Organizational, institutional, factual and personnel provision of activities administered by the Lower Morava Biosphere Reserve as part of the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves.
2. Participation in activities relevant to the Lower Morava BR, including the coordination of these activities with state administration bodies, municipal authorities, stakeholders, educational and scientific institutions, companies, general public and other bodies.
3. Participation in mediating and procuring advisory, financial and coordinating services which relate to the Lower Morava BR and its development, in accordance with the UNESCO regulations on the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.
4. Safeguarding the commissioning, development and regular update of an open information database on the Lower Morava BR and on the scientific, economic and development activities relating to the area or existence of the Lower Morava BR.
5. Participation in publishing both periodic and non-periodic materials and proceedings, including informative and methodological publications printed, electronic, audio-visual and multimedia, as well as their presentation, distribution and sale.
6. Participation in educating the general public, further education and training of young people, and cooperation with youth centres in a spirit of promoting the principles of sustainable lifestyle, in particular those of nature and landscape conservation and the rational management of natural resources.
7. Providing information services for the general public.
8. Participation in organizing international scientific conferences, forums, training courses and exhibitions relating to the Lower Morava BR.
9. Establishment and management of model facilities.
10. Fostering international cooperation in matters relating to the Lower Morava BR and the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.
11. Promoting and enforcing activities aimed at economic and demographic development of the Lower Morava BR and the entire region.
12. Providing mediatory services in cases of disputes and conflicts arising from the existence and activities of the Lower Morava BR.

All activities conducted in 2009 were in accordance with the 2005–2010 Action Plan and in concord with the conditions of the Man and the Biosphere Programme.

ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE OF THE CORPORATION

Registered office: Národních Hrdinů 23, 690 02 Břeclav
Registration number: 26938171
Legal form: Public Benefit Corporation



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Board of Directors

Chairman:	Libor Opluštil	(Czech Union of Nature Conservationists)
Vice-Chairman:	Libor Kabát	(municipalities of the LVCL Region)
2 nd Vice-Chairman:	Stanislav Koukal	(Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic)
Members:	František Fabičovic	(District Chamber of Commerce Breclav)
	František Hrnčíř	(municipalities of the Podluzi Region)
	František Komárek	(Moravske Naftove Doly, a.s.)
	Ladislav Sečkář	(District Chamber of Agriculture Breclav)
	Miroslav Svoboda	(Forests of the Czech Republic)
	Petr Žluva	(municipalities of the Mikulovsko Region)

Board of Trustees

Chairman:	Pavel Kotásek	(Moravské Naftové Doly, a.s.)
Members:	Libor Ambrozek	(Czech Union of Nature Conservationists)
	Víktor Beran / Jaroslav Hladík	(Chamber of Commerce Breclav)
	Martin Bílý / Dušan Utinek	(Ministry of the Environment)
	Tomáš Blaha	(Forests of the Czech Republic)
	Vilém Vyhnálek	(municipalities of the Podluží, LVCL and Mikulovsko regions)

Scientific Board

Chairman:	Karel Zlatuška	(municipalities of the Podluzi Region)
Members:	Antonín Buček	(Czech Union of Nature Conservationists)
	Jiří Danihelka	(Ministry of the Environment)
	Václav Jelínek	(District Chamber of Commerce Breclav)
	Petr Kučera	municipalities of the LVCL Region)
	Jiří Matuška	(administration of the Palava Protected Landscape Area)
	Jaromír Mička	(National Institute for the Protection and Conservation of Monuments and Sites)
	Ota Pražák	(Moravské Naftové Doly, a.s.)
	Martin Půček	(District Chamber of Agriculture Breclav)
	Milada Rigasová	(municipalities of the Mikulovsko Region)
	Jiří Schlaghamerský	(MAB National Committee)
	Jiří Stonavský	(Forests of the Czech Republic)

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In 2009 the Board of Directors met seven times, the Board of Trustees had one meeting and the Scientific Board met twice.

IMPORTANT ACTIVITIES IN 2009

Our activities in 2009 were affected by the economic crisis. Shortage of funds compelled the Board of Directors to rule that all activities and projects be eliminated to a maximum degree. Yet, despite the adverse situation we managed to participate in several interesting projects.

1. Long-term programmes implemented in collaboration with Forests of the Czech Republic, State Enterprise

In accordance with our Foundation Contract, the Seville Strategy and the Madrid Action Plan for biosphere reserves and in collaboration with Forests of the Czech Republic, State Enterprise, we were able to implement four programmes encompassing a number of activities:

- 1) Conservation of Species and Cultural Diversity of Cultural Landscape
- 2) Cultural Landscape Management
- 3) Environmental Education and Training
- 4) Information and Cooperation with the General Public

The aim of these programmes is to promote the concepts of complex nature and cultural heritage conservation and to nurture positive relations to the environment through professional conduct of representatives of landscape professions. They strive to employ historical facts on cultural landscape's long-term development and on the role of landscape professions within it and based on this, to promote sustainable methods of landscape management as a time-tested approach to balancing relations between human needs and the need to conserve the species and habitat diversity of a cultural landscape. We make every effort to make the outcomes understandable to the general public and to raise awareness about the fact that the traditional landscape professions are a part of general culture. We would like to promote examples of landscape management harmonized with conservation of all the landscape's values for future generations.

The projects are implemented under the co-funding of Forests of the Czech Republic, State Enterprise.

2. Study on the structure, management and regulation of a World Heritage Site

The study was commissioned by the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic under the programme "World Heritage Site Support" and it was financed from funds allocated for the LVCL Site Manager activities and for Management Plan implementation in 2009. The study provides a brief analysis of the present situation in terms of protection, regulation and coordination of the management of a cultural landscape inscribed on the World Heritage List. It also outlines possibilities for implementing the site's strategic plan while enabling the conservation of its values.

The Lednice-Valtice Cultural Landscape was inscribed on the World Heritage List as a conservation area in 1996. One of the requirements of the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention is the provision of LVCL Management Plan, its implementation and regular update. A prerequisite for implementing the LVCL Management Plan is the establishment of a management system coordinating individual stakeholder interests within the LVCL conservation area which encompasses several municipalities. Designing an optimal management system of a UNESCO-protected site of similar size is complicated, as only a few similar examples focusing on much smaller sites with a simpler system of public administration are even available in the Czech Republic. Based on an analysis of the existing situation, a proposal for dealing with the issue was designed for LVCL which could also be implemented in other landscape units in the Czech Republic.

The study drew on consultations with World Heritage Site managers (Sarah Simmonds/ Avebury WHS UNESCO/United Kingdom, Isabelle Bedu/Stonehenge WHS UNESCO/ United Kingdom a Richard Giefing Fertö-Neusiedlersee WHS UNESCO/Austria), on recommendations and examples of World Heritage Site management (Hadrian's Wall WHS, Heart of Neolithic Orkney WHS, Dorset and East Devon Coast WHS) as well as expert papers on Heritage Studies published by Brandenburg Technology University in Cottbus. The study also

drew on the existing experience derived from implementing the post of LVCL Site Manager and on knowledge of the present LVCL management system.

The study should become a basis for further discussions aiming to find an optimal solution for the LVCL management system whose primary objective would be the conservation of the unique and outstanding landscape monument.

The project was co-funded by the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic.



3. "Management of Natural Resources in the Tropics and Subtropics – Innovation of Study Programs of the Mendel University in Brno" Project

The project aims to implement innovation to the Forestry and Horticulture study programmes at Mendel University in Brno in order to enhance competitiveness of its graduates. A modular system of study superstructure enables the university students to apply general knowledge obtained through studies in the conditions of tropical and subtropical regions and to compare it with cultural landscape management in Central Europe. The project's primary objective is to train competitive graduates for professional activities and project management in tropical and subtropical countries.

We were approached to participate in the preparation and implementation of the project's theoretical part in the Czech Republic as well as in its practical training abroad. The project modifies the former, purely forestry-oriented approach towards a broader environmental scope on the landscape level. For this purpose we utilize the platform of two biosphere reserves, Lower Morava BR and Sokotra BR.

The project's output will encompass graduates (200) who in the course of three years will undergo theoretical and practical training (60), as well as innovative study material and well-designed field projects which the members of target group carry out in collaboration with employees of the Sokotra BR and local nature conservation bodies.

Our participation is in accordance with our Foundation Contract, the Seville Strategy and the Madrid Action Plan. Involvement in this project gives us the opportunity to influence the management of an important international project, to participate in designing the training modules and to obtain experience for designing lectures which compare the models of both BR under different conditions.

The project was funded by the European Social Fund and state budget of the Czech Republic under the Operational Programme Education for Competitiveness.

4. "Transboundary information exchange for revision and functional improvement of zonation in the Lower Morava Biosphere Reserve" Project

In concord with the Madrid Action Plan, the issue of biosphere reserve zonation was revisited under the MaB Programme to reassess zonation which may not be designed in a way which allows biosphere reserves to fulfil the set tasks and aims.

In accordance with General Statutes, all BRs should comprise one or more core zones, a buffer zone and a transition area which enable them to fulfil all their functions.

a) Core zone – a legally area or several areas designated for long-term conservation

- b) Buffer zone(s) – area surrounding or connecting core zones designated for human activities which are in accord with conservation objectives
- c) Transition zone(s) – areas of cooperation where sustainable management of natural resources is developed and promoted.

Zonation in our BR is not fully functional and it was therefore necessary to revise the original proposal and see whether the individual zones took into account all facts, conditions and the given areas' suitability for fulfilling the functions they are designated for. Moreover, the original proposal failed to do an important thing – to discuss the proposed zonation with all its stakeholders.

An international project in which Austrian Institut für Ökologie and Wienerwald Biosphärenpark participate will help improve the zonation of the Lower Morava BR. The duration of the project is 2009–2010.

The project was co-funded by the Austrian Academy of Sciences.

5. "Fishponds – Outstanding Component of the Lednice-Valtice Cultural Landscape" Seminar

Fish management is one of the oldest landscape professions which have had major impact both on the landscape and on human society. The Liechtenstein family had a number of fishpond networks built in the Lednice-Valtice cultural landscape and their efforts resulted in the establishment of Nesyt fishpond in 1414–1418 as well.

At present, fishponds are among the most outstanding elements of cultural landscape. Added to this, within LVCL they represent the basis of the surrounding composed landscape which constitutes a part of a UNESCO World Heritage Site, a part of the Lednice Fishponds National Nature Reserve, a Bird Area under the Natura 2000 Programme, as well as part of a Ramsar Wetland.

Apart from fishponds' primary production function, the 20th century began to appreciate their other values. The understanding of fishpond management differs in relation to the varying interests of individual stakeholders. Fishponds are newly viewed not purely as an economic resource but also as an important element constituting the basis of the surrounding landscape, as is manifested in the composition of the Lednice-Valtice cultural land-



IMPORTANT ACTIVITIES IN 2009

scape established in the 19th century. The plant and animal species diversity has attracted biologists and conservationists alike. However, fishponds are also significant from the water management, climatic and other perspectives.

Under the "Traditions and Trends" Programme, the Lower Morava BR in collaboration with Mendel University in Brno and its Faculty of Horticulture organized a seminar which raised a number of issues regarding fishpond management in the landscape. Experts from different fields, e.g. water managers, landscape architects, historical monument preservationists, as well as sociologists, lawyers, representatives of local governments, biologists and nature conservationists, attempted to define the parameters of sustainable fishpond management in LVCL which would meet the requirements of stakeholders and at the same time preserve the balance between economic, social and environmental principles. Lectures of experts, discussions and forums were open for all those who are involved in fishpond and cultural landscape management.

6. "Inventory of Periodic Pools and Wetlands in Forests of the Lednice-Valtice Cultural Landscape, World Heritage Site" Project

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The Lednice-Valtice Cultural Landscape is a result of harmonious interplay of cultural and natural environments. It arose in an area which had traditionally been subject to human impact. Apart from its cultural values, which were vindicated by the area's inscription on the World Heritage List, LVCL was identified as an area of exceptionally high species and habitat diversity.

The most significant natural phenomenon of LVCL is the vast floodplain of the Dyje river encompassing complexes of floodplain forests, parks, fishponds, alluvial production meadows, periodic pools and wetlands. Habitats of small wetlands and periodic pools within forests represent a specific natural element of LVCL. This is where rare plant and animal species find ideal environment to thrive in.

In order to identify the complex relations within the floodplain forest biome for the use of the Ministry of the Environment, we mapped the extent of these unique and frequently inconspicuous habitats and prepared a basis for follow-up detailed studies of natural processes in which beavers have recently played an increasingly significant role. In collaboration with specialists we created a basic passport of pools and wetlands which are clearly identified by GPS coordinates and provided with basic descriptive characteristics and photos of the winter aspect.

The project is to serve as a basis for a more detailed study of period pools and wetlands which will be conducted with the support of the Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic in 2010. Its primary objective is to provide a coordinated proposal for management measures in LVCL which would conserve the area's sum of cultural and natural values.

The project was implemented with financial support of the Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic.

PUBLICATION ACTIVITIES

Publications constitute a significant part of our activities. We publish materials which inform readers about the missions of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves and about the specific regional significance of our Public Benefit Corporation. The publications highlight places of interest in the area of the Lower Morava BR or interesting activities within, and their general aim is to promote the ideas of the area's sustainable development.

"Floodplain Forest of the Morava and Dyje River" publication

The area of South Moravian floodplain forests represents the largest ecosystem of the highest species diversity in the Czech Republic and possibly within the entire Central Europe. It rightfully draws the attention of local inhabitants, tourists and specialists of different fields alike. In recent years, massive pressure has been put on Forests of the Czech Republic, State Enterprise, to achieve radical change in floodplain forest management and to give absolute preference to management systems which are guided largely by individual preferences of certain field specialists. However, we must question whether these efforts take into account the entire context connected with the origin and existence of this de facto "man-made" ecosystem. Are we capable of understanding the complex cultural value of floodplain landscape? These and many other questions are answered in the clearly arranged publication written by selected leading specialists who allow us to view the issue of floodplain forests from the perspective of different landscape professions and experts.

We attempted to provide clearly organized information from different fields on the largest floodplain forest complex in the Czech Republic, to promote sustainable management of these forests and to outline major trends

in cultural landscape management and sustainable management of natural resources. These include the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme, Seville Strategy and Madrid Action Plan for the World Network of Biosphere Reserves, as well as the global programme Model Forest or the European Landscape Convention. The Czech-English publication is to employ the strategy of positive campaign to promote the sustainable forest management of floodplain forests. The project is a follow-up to a popular book "Floodplain Forests in the Dyje-Morava Alluvium" published earlier (Moraviapress, 2004), whose Czech version has been out of print for several years.

The project was funded by Forests of the Czech Republic, State Enterprise.

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OTHER ACTIVITIES

Throughout 2009 we presented the Man and the Biosphere Programme, the Lower Morava BR, its founding members and partners as well as our activities at conferences, lectures, forums and excursions for both general and expert public.

Visitors from the Canadian Biosphere Reserves Association

From May 15–19th 2009, Dr. Rebecca Pollock of the Canadian Biosphere Reserves Association, member of Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve Board of Directors, visited our BR. This unofficial visit to the Czech Republic took place prior to a meeting at the MAB headquarters in Paris. Dr. Pollock addressed members of the Board of Directors of our PBC with a short presentation called "Experience with collaboration with stakeholders in BRs and funding of BRs in Canada".



Dr. Rebecca Pollock se zástupci BRDM

Student internships

In concord with our efforts to facilitate an internship for at least one student a year, Bc. Radomír Dohnal, graduate of the Faculty of Biology at University of South Bohemia and Masters student at the Department of Ecosystem Biology, took internship at our BR. He focused on plant and animal species protection, applied ecology, environmental legislation and management of specially protected areas. He took interest in the Lower Morava BR concept and decided to become closely acquainted with it. As part of his internship he compiled a Critical Analysis of Existing Activities of PBC in 2004–2008. For his analysis he drew on data provided by our annual reports, website, publications and interviews with PBC employees. He participated in processing one of the topics of the project submitted for approval under the Operational Programme Education for Competitiveness. He is the third student to take an internship with our PBC.

Field excursion at the Soutok-Tvrdonice site, mediated debate on the given topic (Lanžhot, 19. 9. 2009, 48 participants)

The Czech Ecological Society in partnership with the Czech National MaB Committee organized a field excursion to floodplain forests with the objective to demonstrate different aspects of the unique floodplain forest ecosystem with regard to its natural riches, biodiversity conservation and forest management.

During the excursion a discussion focusing on the Lower Morava BR and the issue of large-scale protection of floodplain forests took place. The present experts concluded the objective discussion by stating that the role of Lower Morava BR, PBC, in floodplain forest conservation is crucial and unquestionable.

Presentation for mayors of municipalities in the Podluží Microregion (6. 10. 2009)

During the meeting, a presentation of our activities in 2009 was conducted and information materials and copies of 2008 Annual Report were distributed. The mayors expressed their appreciation of our activities and collaboration and pledged support for our projects.

Seminar to mark the 90th anniversary of Mendel University in Brno and the 40th anniversary of the Institute of Forest Ecology at the Faculty of Forestry and Wood Technology (Brno, 7. 10. 2009)

A total of 100 participants from the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Austria, Croatia, Germany, Ukraine, Poland and Russia took part in the seminar. We presented our activities in the form of two posters which declared our collaboration in the field of floodplain forest management and conservation.

Visit from the Swedish National MaB Committee and the Vannern BR (Lednice, 15–16. 10. 2009)

Nine representatives of the Swedish National MaB Committee and the Vannern BR, whose designation is to take place next year, came to a study visit of the Lower Morava and Wienerwald Biosphere Reserves. The primary objective of the excursion was to get acquainted with our activities, type of management, involvement of the founding members and collaboration with stakeholders. Our experience will be drawn upon in the course of designing the management and activities of the newly established BR.



Návštěva ze Švédska v Lanžhotě

Seminar of Czech National MaB Committee called “Proposal of a New BR Concept in the Czech Republic – Learning Laboratories of Sustainable Development” (Žleby, 15–16. 10. 2009, 30 participants)

Together with representatives of all Czech BRs, the Czech National MaB Committee and representatives of the Ministry of the Environment and Šumava National Park we took part in the seminar. In the course of the two-day event we played an active part by giving presentations, lectures, participating in discussions, by preparing a poster presentation and by distributing our publications to all Czech BRs.

Lecture and presentation for children (Mikulčice, 23. 11. 2009, 115 participants)

Under cooperation with the Lower Morava Local Action Group we prepared a lecture for children of grades 3–6 in primary schools located in Mikulčice and Austria. In the course of the lecture Ing Jan Vybíral presented various points of interest within the Lower Morava BR in interactive form.

EUROMAB 2009 (Slovakia, Stará Lesná, 26–30. 11. 2009, 100 participants)

The international network EuroMAB unites all European and North American biosphere reserves under its MaB Programme. Every two years a conference is organized for representatives of individual biosphere reserves and management of the MaB Programme to assess their activities in the preceding period and to set priorities and future development of the MaB Programme. The international EUROMAB 2009 conference was held on 26–30. 10. 2009 in Stará Lesná, Slovakia, and was attended by almost 100 delegates from 18 countries.

The individual conference sessions focused on the implementation of the EuroMAB Action Plan (2007) and Madrid Action Plan (2008), with particular stress on defining the EuroMAB Network (hereinafter only Network), the added value arising from membership in the Network for individual BRs and the Network's positive and negative aspects and priorities.

The conference also dealt with different aspects and approaches to sharing procedures and experience in educating the general public. Specific examples of Action Plan implementation, identification of human, financial and technical resources, partnership and possible management schemes (responsibilities, management models,



Účastníci konference EuroMAB 2009

partnerships) necessary for actual implementation of these activities within the Network were provided.

The following priority strategic themes were defined for the upcoming period:

1. create a communication strategy as a tool for raising awareness on BRs
2. develop opportunities for BRs to serve as case studies for applying policies and influencing policy change
3. education: promote twinning of BRs and schools at all levels, focus on positive issues, make science accessible for citizens
4. integration of BR concept into sectors in regional and national development plans
5. climate change as an overarching strategic theme
6. development (sustainable) at regional level
7. database development to provide access to a wide range of information
8. establishment of thematic groups and networks

Discussions taking place at all meetings revealed that the entire programme stresses the importance of involvement of municipalities and stakeholders in decision making about BRs and that the function of nature conservation is equal with other BR functions and should not be prioritized at their expense.

When comparing our activities with those of other BRs and with the official stand of the MaB Programme we can conclude that the Lower Morava BR meets the set tasks and its projects are in concord with all the relevant requirements. The Lower Morava BR, PBC, its founders, partners and projects were presented in the form of printed publications, posters and a presentation called “Management of natural resources in the tropics and subtropics innovation of education programmes on the platform of biosphere reserves” which was presented by Ing Petr Čupa. Mr Čupa, a member of the organization team, was also responsible for managing one of the discussion groups.

A presentation of typical products of each BR was also a part of the conference program. We represented The Lower Morava BR by collection of local wines, kindly provided by our friends from The National Wine Center and the Vinselekt Michlovský Winery.

At this top priority event for European BRs, the Czech Republic was represented by employees of the Lower Morava BR and RNDr Eva Jelínková on behalf of the Czech National MAB Committee.

3rd International Conference of the Alliance of World Heritage Cultural Landscapes on “Use and Management of Water in World Heritage Cultural Landscapes”

Following the establishment of the Alliance of World Heritage Cultural Landscapes and its second international conference held in Sintra, Portugal in 2008, the 3rd International Conference took place in Spain, La Alhambra in Granada in November 2009. Its topic was “Use and Management of Water in World Heritage Cultural Landscapes”.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

The Lednice-Valtice Cultural Landscape (LVCL) was represented by our Project Manager and LVCL Site Manager, Ing Eva Horsáková, as the only cultural landscape from the Czech Republic. Mrs Horsáková presented the uniquely composed cultural landscape to representatives of World Heritage Sites from a number of countries, leading UNESCO figures as well as other organizations and institutions. She presented the unique landscape between the towns of Lednice and Valtice at the highest international level to a group which endeavours to create a functional network for mutual communication, exchange of experience and best practices in conservation and development of dynamically changing cultural landscapes. The conference adopted a Declaration clearly defining support for the involvement of relevant bodies at various levels of decision-making and for the involvement of local communities in the conservation of cultural and natural heritage: a type of management we are trying to apply in our biosphere reserve.

Meeting with mayors of the Voluntary Association of Municipalities of LVCL (3. 10. 2009)

During the meeting of the mayors of LVCL microregion, we presented a report on Lower Morava BR activities and explained the role of Site Manager within LVCL.

Cooperation with universities

Similar to previous years, we were involved in active cooperation with universities, notably with Mendel University of Agriculture and Forestry in Brno.

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DONORS AND PARTNERS

Activities and projects implemented in the Lower Morava Biosphere Reserve would not be possible without the funding of grant and support programs, nor without the contributions from individual donors and project partners.

We wish to express our thanks to all without whose financial support we would not be able to fulfil our mission.

Forests of the Czech Republic

State Enterprise Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic

Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport of the Czech Republic

Voluntary Association of Municipalities LVCL

Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic

European Union

and the Austrian Academy of Sciences

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