



Faculty of Applied Ecology "FUTURA"

Pan-European Biodiversity Picnic in Serbia

**- Special Nature Reserve "Veliko ratno ostrvo" -
Belgrade**



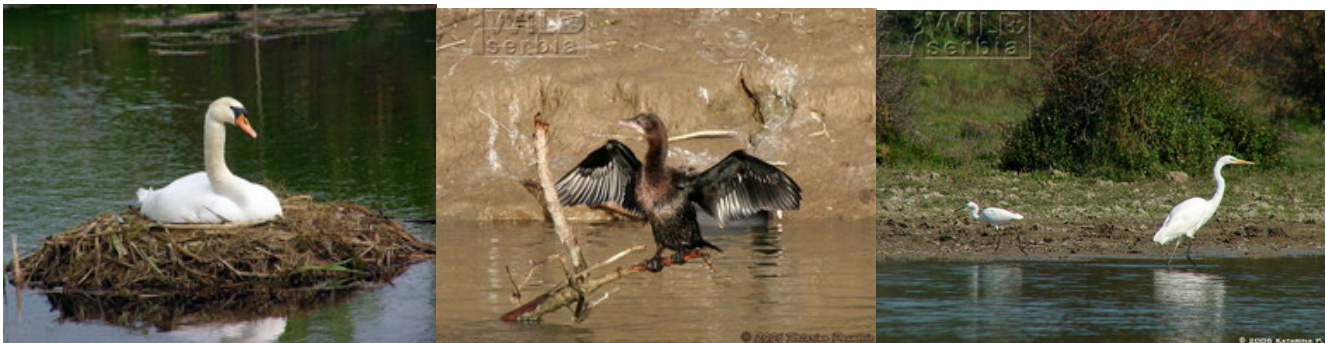
May 22nd 2009

The Biodiversity Picnic in Serbia was organized by the Faculty of Applied Ecology "FUTURA" University "Singidunum" Belgrade, with the support of CEEWeb and UNEP Regional Office for Europe, in the area of Special Nature Reserve "Veliko ratno ostrvo" ("Great War Island"), located at the mouth of the Sava river into the Danube.



Scheme of the "Great War Island"

Great War Island is generally triangular shaped and covers an area of 2.11 km². It is low, for the most part marshy and often flooded by the Danube. The main physical feature on the island is the canal of Veliki Galijaš. In time, the canal was cut off from the Danube and effectively turned into a lake, with an area of 0.24 km² and the major natural bird and fish spawning area on the island. The island and the waters around are home of numerous rare species including endangered birds, but also a morphologically and geologically extremely interesting area.



Among more than 150 participants there were representatives from the governmental sector (Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, City Secretariat for Environmental Protection, Institute for Nature Protection, Forest Management public and private enterprises etc.), local self-authorities (more than 20 municipality eco-fond representatives), academic and research institutions, nongovernmental sector, cultural and artistic circles and national and local media.



Banqueters of the Pan-European Biodiversity Picnic in Serbia

Program was performed in the Ecological Classroom of the Faculty of Applied Ecology "Futura", where Prof. dr Dragan Markovic, the Dean of the Faculty, opened the event and stressed importance of biodiversity conservation public awareness and cooperation between the CEEWeb for Biodiversity and the Faculty of Applied Ecology "Futura" on the Picnic preparation and realization.

Having in mind the main topic of the Pan-European Biodiversity Picnic in 2009 - INVASIVE SPECIES, Prof. dr Lidija Amidzic from the Faculty "Futura" presented current situation, threats and opportunities in the process of invasive species control and ecosystem stability protection.

Academic painter mr Conic, together with students and elementary and high school pupils, was creating caricatures of banqueters and artistic photographs with nature motifs, as well as with the symbol of the CEEWeb of Biodiversity and the Faculty of Applied Ecology.



Popularisation of the CEEWeb Pan-European Picnic website

Also, promotion material - leaflet of the CEEWeb Pan-European Picnic was disseminated and posters with main information on the International Biodiversity Day have been very discernible.



Promotion of the CEEWeb Pan-European Picnic

Faculty employees have been interviewed about the event by journalist from the National Television and from different local media (TV, newspapers, radio).

After the official part and organic lunch, guests had opportunity to enjoy in didactic and informative coasting around the island with several boats.

RESULTS AND FUTURE STEPS

- organization of artistic photographs exhibition with nature and biodiversity motifs from the Special Nature Reserve "Veliko ratno ostrvo"
- Dissemination of CEEWeb promotion material during the Summer Camp "I love Danube" which will be organized at the same place, with the main topic on water resources biodiversity conservation and eco-remediation
- Establishing of the Picnic website in Serbian language

<http://www.futura.edu.rs/novosti/novosti.html#ancNov1>