

## Report from Bonn, Expo of Diversity, 27-30 May 2008

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For two weeks in the second half of May, Germany hosted the 9th Conference of Parties on the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the 4th Meeting of the Parties on the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. During the Conference in Bonn, the -Plaza of Diversity (*Plaza der Vielfalt*) and the 4 day long “Expo of Diversity” provided an opportunity for the “presentation and exhibition of innovative concepts, products, ideas and projects” related to biodiversity conservation. 214 exhibitor participated in the Expo including a wide range of organisations: NGOs, universities, research institutes, companies etc.



*The main stage of the Plaza of Diversity*



*The exhibition tents of different organisations*

The Section participated in the Expo, promoting the Second European Congress of Conservation Biology ([www.eccb2009.org](http://www.eccb2009.org)). Andrea Hlavova, the member of the ECCB Local Organizing Committee and Barbara Mihók, the ES coordinator took part in the event. Martin Dieterich and Jochen Berger spent two days with us and Kolja Kreutz, the German national contact also joined the group for one day.



*Barbara, Jochen and Martin at the booth*

We had a 6m<sup>2</sup> booth in a collective tent, (together with other organisations including the EU-China Biodiversity Programme and the Conservation International). Several materials related to the ECCB and the Section were displayed: the A3 SCB-ES poster, the SCB-ES flyers, the SCB annual reports from 2006, registration forms of the SCB and display copies of the Conservation Biology and Conservation journals, ECCB flyers, ECCB visiting cards. On the walls the A0 ECCB poster and the SCB publication posters were hanged. A power point representation of the ECCB and the SCB-ES had been prepared and was displayed continuously on an LCD monitor. We also had a short film about Prague.



*Jochen, Martin and Andrea installing the monitor*



*Distribution materials on the table and on the wall*

The overall location of the booth was not optimal: the tent was quite far away from the conference centre with little traffic. The people interested varied from students to researchers and NGO members. Some people asked about the possibility to attend ECCB in case they are not from Europe. Students were interested in the Society and the Section. There were some SCB or former SCB members visiting the booth. After some discussion, we decided to spread the leaflets and the materials directly going out to other booths of relevant organisations. Mainly we contacted possible exhibitors during the ECCB and we also suggested to organisations and individuals to propose symposia or workshops or other events. This way we got in touch with the Global Environment Facility, the CEEWEB, the EUROPARC, the

Conservation International, Diversitas and the German State government conservation education facilities. We asked for potential sponsorship from several companies (e.g. Weleda, bionade, German Telecom, Deutsche Post) and organisations (GTZ coordinating the “Business for Biodiversity Initiative”).

Among others we talked with the German coordinator of the Diversitas (Carsten Neßhöver) who expressed his willingness to advertise for the ECCB2009, but recommended to also get in touch with the Diversitas secretariat for more wide-spread advertising. A close co-operation appears to be quite useful. We talked to the German BIOLOG coordinator (Stefan Hotes) and different University representatives (Bayreuth, Greifswald, Bremen) and research institutions (e.g. ZALF Müncheberg). We encouraged them to suggest a symposium or workshop. Josef Settele assured his willingness to help organize events relating to the ALARM and/or MACMAN projects. Peter Skoberne (Slovenia) was asked about the possibility of co-organizing an event relating to NATURA2000 implementation. A suggestion for a similar event was placed with one of the coordinators of the German Biodiversity Action Plan. The tutor of Kolja Kreutz, Frauke Fischer showed interest in the ECCB. Martin discussed the possibility of her help in organizing the business-biodiversity symposium.

This event was a good opportunity to meet possible contributors to the ECCB and future collaborators, though we expected more visitors. The next step will be to get in touch with the interested people and organisations mentioned above.

<b>Materials</b>	<b>Distributed</b>
ECCB flyers	195
ECCB cards	180
SCB ES flyers	100

Number of preregistrated	120
Number of volunteers	4
Number of researchers interested to send their contribution for symposia	5 (2 European, 3 non-European – Russia, China, Kazakhstan)
Number of potencial exhibitors	7