

## **Best practices in CEEC countries' private forestry** **- meeting in Vilnius/Kernava, 27-29.11. 2007**

This workshop brought together some 30 participants from administration bodies and private forest owners from 12 different EU and future EU countries. It was part of the series of workshops co-organised by CEPF, IUCN and FAO hosted by the **Lithuanian Ministry of Environment**.

Private forestry issues were discussed in thematic sessions during the two days and were followed by a field excursion.

The sessions were entitled:

- 1) General development of private forestry in the **Czech Republic, Hungary, Estonia**
- 2) Finances and incentives in private forestry in **Croatia, Estonia**
- 3) Information gathering on private forestry in **Lithuania, Hungary, Germany (BW)**
- 4) Environmental services and nature conservation issues in private forestry in **Finland and Austria**

Surprisingly, it became obvious that in some countries public administration considers private forest owners as their partners in putting through national policy aims on private forest land property. In others this understanding is lacking to a large extent. However, national forest owner associations developed themselves considerably in the CEEC countries in spite of the structure and policy framework difficulties. Further work must be done hand in hand with public authorities to resolve the remaining difficulties. It came to light that one of the major problems in CEEC private forestry roots in the insufficient regulation and recognition of private forest property and linked user rights. This was especially contrasting in nature conservation issues and related financing regulations, where positive regulation is mainly missing but overruling of authorities dominates and this approach is also largely supported by "ENGOS".

It was a widely shared understanding that implementation of targeted measures is needed to develop private forestry further in CEEC and that governments must be more specific in this respect. On the other hand private forest organisations must do everything possible to mobilise more owners and get them organised. Administration needs capable private partners to achieve national targets in cooperation with stakeholders.

See presentations in [http://www.cepf-eu.org/event.cfm?ID\\_art=332](http://www.cepf-eu.org/event.cfm?ID_art=332).