

Summary from Annual report 2009

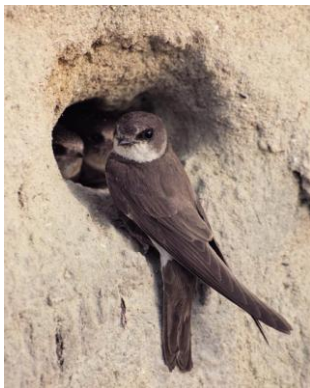
Calla – Association for Preservation of the Environment

Motto: "Calla – a hand givin to nature"

Calla citizens' association is named for the Water Arum (*Calla palustris*), a protected plant growing in marshes and peat bogs. According to our founders, the name was meant to symbolise the connection of our work with practical field nature protection, especially in the wet alluvial plain of the Stropnice. It is hopeful that field work is regaining its importance as we do maintenance of sand pits for Bank Swallows and build ponds for amphibians.

Defending the environment, helping others, awakening people's interest in positive changes in their relationship towards nature, as well as pushing necessary changes are the chief forms of Calla's work.

We strive for a fundamental shift from wasting to conserving of not only energies, for greater utilisation of renewable sources and steps leading towards protecting the Earth's climate.



In nature protection, we become involved in processes deciding on plans with potentially negative environmental impacts in South Bohemia. We assert quasi-natural methods of land reclamation after mining. We hold numerous seminars, discussions, lectures, conferences, workshops, excursions and exhibitions for both the professional and lay public.

We are a sought-after environmental consultancy specialised on legal procedural advice, nature protection, and energy issues. People can make use of our office library stocked with Czech and international books.

We are involved in and a member of the Green Circle – an association of environmental NGOs, STEP Eco-Counselling Network, and the KRASEC network.

Sustainable energy promotion programme

Motto: "Calla – living with clean energy"

Renewable energy sources, climate protection and the underside of nuclear power were the key issues of our last year's energy projects. They were part of our work towards a systemic shift in the power industry, including the preparation of a "green" concept for the Czech Republic's energy future, involving NGOs. We launched the "Clean Heat" component, maintaining that we do not have to spoil the country for coal, towards the end of the year.

Being a member of the Czech Climate Coalition, Calla did information work concerning global climate change. Our regularly updated website www.zmenaklimatu.cz was

enhanced with a carbon footprint calculator, where everyone can calculate their climate impacts and find advice on reducing their emissions. In the Krasec network, we co-ordinated activities of the Climate and Water project year. It included the fourth annual South Bohemian Day for Renewable Energy Sources with film screenings in KOTVA cinema, and a so-called Climate Baobab in central České Budějovice. Together with



Veronica, we launched a series of regional climate seminars at the University of South Bohemia. We also lent the PRIMA KLIMA exhibition to several venues.

We prepared a seminar focusing on growing and utilisation of energy crops, "Field Energy". Following two more thematic workshops, we published dossiers on the environmental impacts of biogas stations, wind power and small hydropower plants. We managed to update the database of renewable energy sources at www.zdrojeenergie.cz.

Our marathon job is to alter the Czech Republic's strategy for finding a deep nuclear waste repository, to make the government respect positions of municipalities during the location process. We organised meetings of representatives from all the potential sites in Božejovice, which produced an appeal to politicians and officials. We pointed out the risk of locating the repository at Boletice by making an international happening in Hodňov. The exhibition "Faces of Uranium", featuring photographs by V. Vašků, tours chiefly places affected by uranium mining and processing. We were also involved in organising the conference "Nuclear Renaissance in Reality".

In the last year, our energy projects gave rise to 8 different information papers, two issues of the repository newsletter, and numerous other lectures, discussions and miscellaneous activities.

Nature protection programme

Motto: "South Bohemia's nature - the citizens' issue"



Calla participated in numerous environmental impacts proceedings (such as land-use planning, zoning permit procedures, exemptions from protection requirements, etc.), and our comments were at least partially incorporated in the final decisions in more than one half of the cases. We also assisted in establishing several new local citizens' associations, published print materials "Public participation in administrative proceedings - legal tools and conservation options" and "Trees and insects - a practical guide for participation in administrative proceedings".

We have long been pursuing protection of trees from needless felling as well as insects bound to old trees. In cooperation with experts and nature protection authorities, we managed to protect a number of interesting trees from being chopped. In addition, we have infiltrated the minds of officials and the public with "soft" alternatives to felling, e.g., keeping the torsos for rare animal species bound to hollows and dead wood.

As part of our long-term campaign to save Boletice, we organised a successful excursion to Boletice Military Area, led by Prof. Vít Grulich; we issued a leaflet on Špičák and a "Save Boletice" postal card for regional deputies. We also initiated work on a Sociological Study of Boletice MA and Around, led by Mgr. Eliška Novotná.

Calla dealt with promoting ecological restoration of sites affected by mineral extraction. We initiated the establishment of a broad informal coalition involving scientists, NGOs, mining corporations, etc. The turning point was the organisation of an expert seminar on reclaiming mining areas, attended by leading Czech experts. Besides our pressure on systemic shifts, we continued to promote ecological restoration in specific mining areas in South Bohemia and to do awareness raising. We were also involved in practical conservation of sand pits of great scientific value, specifically adaptation of three nesting banks for Bank Swallows and making of pools for amphibians and other aquatic fauna. Moreover, Calla launched a successful project of scientific tours for the public, attended by dozens of individuals around České Budějovice last year.

Calla's public activities

Ekologická poradna / Environmental consultancy

Calla's eco-counselling is increasingly sought after, with 830 processed queries in 2009. This success is thanks to specialists in environmental law (Pavla Matějková), energy issues (Edvard Sequens), nature protection and ecological restoration (Jiří Řehounek) and agricultural alternatives (Hana Gabrielová). People can ask us for advice on other issues as well. Calla is a member of the nation-wide STEP network of eco-counselling offices, where E. Sequens is in the executive committee. For more details on the consultancy, go to www.calla.cz/poradna.



KRASEC

By doing component activities and working in the executive and auditing committees of KRASEC citizens' association, we help this South Bohemian regional network of environmental centres exist and expand. We launched the large-scale project "Under the Trees", published the KRASEC magazine, a half-yearly catalogue of events, held a roundtable with the South Bohemian government, and gave advice at www.krasec.cz.

Green Thursdays

In co-operation with Rosa, Calla held ten panel discussions as part of the Green Thursdays series at the Měsíc ve dne art gallery in České Budějovice. Calla organised discussions on where the day butterflies have gone to, lectured by Martin Konvička; Josef Polívka talked about the making and recycling of paper; Martin Charvát presented the beauty of natural gardening; Jindřich Kalous described peak oil and its consequences; and Ivan Beneš outlined the energy sector of the future.

Ďáblík

The year 2009 was a milestone: the magazine celebrated its 10th anniversary of going out to its readers. As the numbers of subscribers keep growing, Ďáblík is now published electronically once a month, by the tenth day of each month. Its pages inform on current activities of Calla and its friend organisations as well as bringing invitations to interesting events and an offering of our new publications. For Ďáblík and more, go to www.calla.cz.

Acknowledgments

In 2009, the following entities supported our work:

EOG – Association for conservation
Heinrich Böll Stiftung
Government of Upper Austria
Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic
Nadace Partnerství
Nadace rozvoje občanské společnosti
Nadace VIA
Oak Foundation by way of Nadace Partnerství
STEP, Czech Eco-Counselling Network
SSEV Pavučina
State Environment Fund by way of Krasec network
Royal Netherlands Embassy in Prague, Czech Republic

We would like to thank them for their assistance and co-operation.

Other individuals and organisations supported our work both financially and in the form of assistance and co-operation. Our thanks also go to them.

Calla office ...

... hosted the following people in 2009:

Romana Panská in charge of accountancy and economics (romana.panska@calla.cz);

Edvard Sequens in charge of energy and climate issues (edvard.sequens@calla.cz) – head of consultancy;

Vojtěch Šimek – assistant in energy and climate issues (vojtech.simek@calla.cz);

Pavla Matějková in charge of legal and administrative procedures (pavla.matejkova@calla.cz);

Jiří Řehounek in charge of nature protection and post-mining land reclamation (rehounek@seznam.cz);

Olga Dvořáková in charge of nature protection field work (olga.dvorakova@calla.cz);

Hana Gabrielová in charge of nuclear power and hemp cultivation and utilisation (hana.gabrielová@calla.cz).

Romana Panská is Calla chairwoman; Edvard Sequens is the economist. Moreover, Calla committee includes Josef Polívka, Ludmila Rakovská, and Jiří Řehounek. Štěpánka Homolková is the association's auditor.

2009 Business Report

Incomes in 2009 (CZK):

subsidies and grants

NROS – Block grant	799,100
Ministry of the Environment	519,400
EOG – Association for conservation	444,500
Government of Upper Austria	437,400
Nadace Partnerství	195,100
Nadace VIA	80,000
Heinrich Böll Stiftung	72,600
KRASEC o. s. – SEF project	31,800
Royal Netherlands Embassy in Prague	26,300

other incomes

principal activities	154,000
donations	30,000
membership fees	26,500
office space rental	25,900
interest on bank accounts	17,700
Incomes total	2,860,300

Expenditures in 2009 (CZK):

wage costs (incl. social security and health insurance)	1,437,100
service procurement	1,028,700
communications (telephone, internet, postage)	129,500
rental	115,000
office supplies and petty expenditures	98,700
travel costs	71,300
network administration, office equipment repairs and maintenance	70,600
energies	43,100
literature, journals	8,900
office and employee insurance	8,600
promotion	6,100
membership fees in other orgs	5,000
banking fees	6,000
Expenditures total	3,028,600

Business result in 2009 (CZK) **-168,300**

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