

Annual Report, 2006

2006, as seen by Arnika

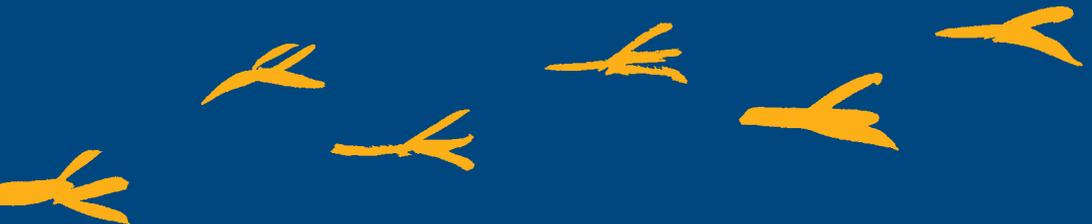
Looking back over the past year ... well, what's there to say about it? It's one of those jobs that people usually pass over until the need arises, then they slowly come to realise what the past year has brought and what has gone, never to return. The most notable events in the Czech Republic were the changes in government, bringing a new environment minister with them. Long before the elections there were many who expected the Czech Green Party to become part of the lower house in the Czech Parliament, and this led the other political parties to introduce „green“ policies. This was a new phenomenon in this country and might itself be enough to improve the political policies that affect the environment.

Not only the Czech Republic, but the world turned its attention once more to the problem of global climate change caused by the rising amounts of greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere by man. Even the Conservative Party in England wants to see a reduction in their levels. It's hard to say what it is that persuaded them, be it the rise in the number of extreme weather events, films showing the shrinking of the glaciers or something else entirely. There were many international agreements, such as the Stockholm Convention, that followed on from the Kyoto Protocol and the struggle to limit greenhouse gas emissions. Arnika has been actively campaigning most of all for the elimination of persistent organic pollutants and concentrating, this year, on the following two points:

1) to persuade the European Union not to be too generous in the amounts of POPs it allows in waste matter and, 2), to ensure that members of the Stockholm Convention take care to use best available technology, as it's called, and best possible practice where the environment is concerned, so that levels of POPs can be reduced as fast and as far as possible. It was not possible to meet the first objective, but the second did have some success.

For the past two years, every industrial concern in the Czech Republic has been required to give a synopsis of how much dangerous material it produces and how that material is moved from place to place. These data are available to the public, and differences between the declarations for each of the two years have been, in some cases, striking. Some companies have made substantial reductions in the amount of material produced, although some others have increased their emissions. It was interesting for Arnika to see that it was the companies that had been at the top of the scale of polluters that had most reduced their emissions by the following year. This shows that publishing a synopsis of pollution levels has been an important instrument in motivating industries to reduce the amount of pollutants they release, and makes it all the more regrettable that the Czech Ministry of the Environment prepared a new statute in 2006 which would substantially limit the amount of information shown on the integrated register of pollution and what each company needs to declare each year. Companies will not only no longer be required, for example, to declare what dangerous materials are in their waste products, but there would even be entire sections of industry that would no longer need to make any declaration for the integrated register at all. Arnika has continued to be active in 2007 with its campaign to see that no important data are left out of the integrated register of pollution.

Discussion about Natura 2000, the network of sites intended to protect endangered species of plants and animals all over Europe, has continued in the Czech Republic, and the debate is far from over. Arnika and other non-government organisations have repeatedly drawn the matter to the attention of the European Commission. In Darová, near the city of Plzeň, Arnika organised a biogeographical seminar in April where a number of NGOs met to share their concerns about Natura 2000. Speaking on behalf of the NGOs at the meeting, Dr. Mojmír Vlačín of the organisation Veronika in the city of Brno,



„We are satisfied with the outcome of this seminar. Most of our observations have been accepted by the European Commission. We have suggested that further sites be added to the existing nine percent covering a total of 2 percent of the territory of the republic. This would do a great deal to improve the protection offered by particular types of habitat“.

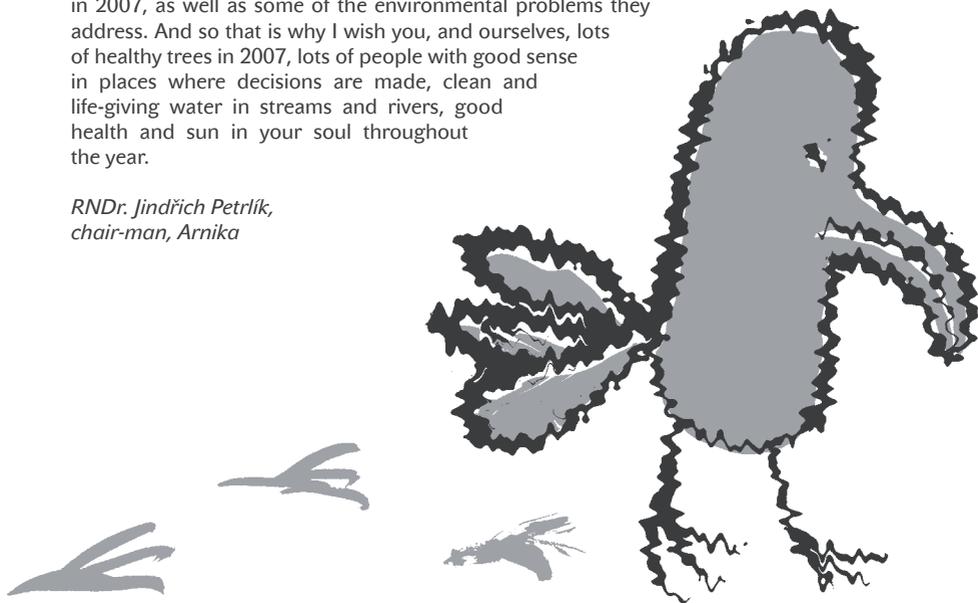
The list of places suggested by the government fails to include some very valuable sites, even though they meet the criteria for selection perfectly. The Elbe Valley, for instance, with its unique wildlife, was proposed only in a very limited form. It's quite clear that the reason for this is that this site, as originally proposed to cover a certain area, would have come into conflict with controversial plans to construct a weir, but this approach is in violation of the European directive under which Natura 2000 was planned. These plans to construct a weir persisted through 2006 and was one of the prime concerns of our Nature Protection Programme. Even at the start of 2007 the matter still did not seem to have been settled. Fortunately, at the end of the year, the Czech Ministry of Agriculture rejected a plan to construct hundreds of dams and other waterworks all over the country.

But was not just national and international matters that affected Arnika and the rest of the world in 2006. Through one of its programmes, the Centre for Public Support (CEPO), Arnika was able to establish 12 new public associations devoted to environmental protection in city, town and village.

In the town of Litoměřice, CEPO helped citizens to prevent the construction of a car-breaking yard, it helped the village of Dolní Kalná and the public association, Pod Rovněmi, to prevent damage to the area Podrovoňsko at the base of the Giant's Mountains (Krkonoše) by large scale exploitation of Czech garnets, and it helped to limit plans to extend the ESSA Czech car factory at Úvaly, near Prague. Making use of its programmes and its network of activists, Arnika also took part in dozens of legal proceedings through 2006 and saved many healthy trees which would otherwise have been needlessly destroyed.

Some of Arnika's projects and campaigns will still be with us in 2007, as well as some of the environmental problems they address. And so that is why I wish you, and ourselves, lots of healthy trees in 2007, lots of people with good sense in places where decisions are made, clean and life-giving water in streams and rivers, good health and sun in your soul throughout the year.

*RNDr. Jindřich Petrlík,
chair-man, Arnika*



Arnika monitors pollution levels in rivers such as the Bečva and the Haná by means of a special device for taking samples, here being installed by Milan Havel of the Toxic Materials and Waste Programme.

*Photo: Jindřich Petrlík,
Arnika.*



Toxic Materials and Waste Programme

This programme is intended to limit the amount of dangerous materials that escape into the environment and the amount of waste dumped on landfill sites or burned in incinerators. We are also pressing for stricter laws and the introduction of „Cleaner production“, and the thorough recycling of waste. We support the citizen’s right to information about toxic materials in the environment which, even now, is still not a matter of course in the Czech Republic. The Toxic Materials and Waste Programme seeks to solve these problems not only within the Czech Republic but also throughout Europe and the world. Members play an active part in the global network of NGOs with similar aims.

Important Activities and Successes in 2006:



ne of the successes of the Toxic Materials and Waste Programme was its announcement of the worst polluters as revealed by data in the Integrated Register of Pollution. This is the second year that such an announcement has been made, and it was already clear that companies that had most success in reducing pollution levels in 2005 were the ones that had been the worst offenders in 2004. This shows that the

Integrated Register of Pollution, combined with a league table showing the worst polluters, has been an important instrument in motivating industries to reduce the amount of pollutants they release.

We have sought to prevent several important pieces of information being left out of registers of pollution in the future, which is what would result from a new law being prepared by the Ministry of the Environment. Under the new law, companies would no longer be required to declare, for instance, levels of dangerous materials in their waste products. There would even be entire sections of industry that would no longer need to make any declaration for the integrated register. The new law has continued under discussion in 2007, and so, therefore, have our activities concerning it.

There was a double success for the Campaign Health Care without PVC, working in collaboration with the University Hospital in Olomouc. The first was in February when the hospital announced that its maternity department would be the first in the Czech Republic to replace appliances made of PVC, which contains the toxin, phthalate. The second success was when, at the start of June, Olomouc University Hospital was awarded the prestigious Best Practice Award for environmental concern by the Golden Hall in Stockholm Town Hall. At the biggest conference in Europe for measures to improve environmental procedures and products in healthcare, CleanMed Europe 2006, the hospital came top in the category „Minimalising Toxic Materials in Healthcare“.

The Campaign Toxic Free Future attained a number of successes affecting specific sites that released toxic materials into the environment:

At the Spolchemie chemical works in Ústí nad Labem, plans to stop the production of chlorine using mercury were brought forward from 2015 to 2012 because of efforts by Arnika.

Citizens in the town of Lysá nad Labem refused to allow a dangerous waste incinerator to be adapted and enlarged for the burning of old munitions and explosives. Arnika has many years experience of campaigning in this sort of matter, and in the discussions about the incinerator in Lysá nad Labem it paid off.

Termizo, the company that operates the public waste incinerator in the city of Liberec, agreed to remove the dioxins from its most dangerous types of ash by the middle of 2009. This was a result of our campaign against ash containing high concentrations of POPs being freely transported, which has also led to ash of this sort becoming unsaleable on the Czech market.

In October of 2006, the energy supplier, E.ON, withdrew its plans to build a new, high-capacity, general waste incinerator in Mydlovary, near České Budějovice. This decision was largely the result of many years of activity by Arnika.

2006 saw the culmination of the international campaign by NGOs to push through the new European policy on chemicals, known in short as REACH (Registration, Evaluation and Authorisation of Chemicals), in its strictest form. Arnika's part in this campaign was a study of levels of toxic materials in indoor dust and in rain in the Czech Republic. Working in collaboration with the author of the study Dr. Alan Watson, we published our results in Prague, Ostrava and Ústí nad Labem. The petition Toxic Free Future II also urged that REACH be made as strict as possible, and by the time we had presented it to Czech members of the European Parliament it had been signed by more than 16,200 people.

Substantial improvements were made to the Directive on Best Available Technology and on Best Environmental Practice, which is due to be presented in its draft form to the Stockholm Convention on POPs for their approval. This can be seen as a major achievement. The draft proposal was examined by several dozen experts from all parts of the world in November 2006 in Geneva. Arnika took part in preparing the draft by co-ordinating the work of experts on behalf of NGOs from the international network, IPEN (International POPs Elimination Network).

We were likewise able to slow down final approval for the proposed limits for POPs in waste, which Arnika considered too high, within the Basel Convention. That wasn't unfortunately successful in the European Union. Limits on the content of dioxins in waste are remarkably generous.



Ondřej Zapletal, shown here in his garden with his daughter, moved to this house in a suburb of Prague in order to get away from the noise of the big city. However, his view of the woods was soon blocked by a factory making car parts, owned by ESSA Czech. The Centre for Public Support is helping Mr. Zapletal and other residents of Úvaly to get back the peace and quiet they came here for. *Photo: Ondřej Petrlik, Arnika*

Centre for Public Support

The Centre for Public Support helps public associations, assists in establishing them and also offers its services to local authorities. It is intended to expand the specialist knowledge of individual groups, make their work more effective at a local level and to foster contacts between them. We are mostly concerned with giving advice about waste management, the felling of trees, the right to information and the Natura 2000 network. We help citizens in their dealings with officials and support public involvement in decision making processes. In some especially important cases we even offer legal assistance.

Important Activities and Successes in 2006:

In 2006, we helped establish twelve new public associations devoted to environmental protection in towns and villages. We gave 543 free consultations to citizens, public associations and local councils at our branches in Prague, Děčín, Ostrava and Jihlava. We solved 142 separate cases of damage to the environment and public health.

We helped the local councils of Mlékojedy, Žalhostice, Litoměřice and Lovosice in their efforts to prevent the construction of a car breaker's yard on the banks of the River Elbe, and took part in the Environmental Impact Assessment for this project. After being reminded of the matter many times, the Ministry of the Environment announced that it would not support the project, which posed a threat to the environment, and the car breaker's yard was not built.

The area of Podrovoňsko, at the foot of the Giant's Mountains (Krkonoše) was under threat from large scale plans to mine Czech garnets. Arnika worked with the town council of Dolní Kalná and the public association, Pod Rovněmi, to prevent the damage this would have caused and the developer concerned, Jan Štýbr, did not obtain permission for exploitation to begin either within the village or in the valuable flood plain of Kalenský Stream. We were also able to obtain a prosecution for illegal mining of semi-precious stones near Horní Olešnice.

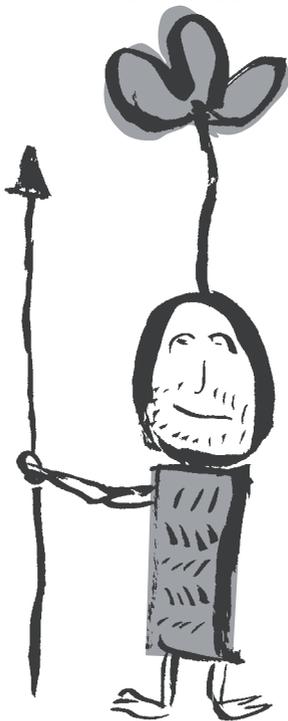
The campaign against new sky-scrapers in the plain of Pankrác, in Prague, lasted all through the year. The new buildings would not only have been damaging to the view of the Prague skyline but also would have prevented the residents of Pankrác from living in the area in the way they would like. In collaboration with Public Initiative Pankrác, the Pankrác Association and Atelier for the Environment, we took part in the legal proceedings and negotiated with UNESCO's Centre for World Heritage. Martin Štěpánek, the Minister of Culture, revoked the permission given by the body overseeing historic buildings in Prague at the end of the year.

We succeeded in saving Čechelice Lake, near Mělník, from being filled in with waste material at the very last moment. With our assistance, Čechelice council took the matter to court where the permission earlier granted to HZCJ by mining authorities was withdrawn. The lake is not only an attractive recreational area for local residents but also the home of rare, freshwater jellyfish.

Working with the public association Nové Úvaly, we were able to limit the expansion of the ESSA Czech car works near Prague. The Regional Council issued its disapproval of the project during EIA proceedings. The car works was established illegally in 2000 because of staff in government offices, and it damages the health of hundreds of people.

We took part in dozens of legal proceedings and saved healthy trees which would have been needlessly felled. 70 trees were condemned to disappear for the construction of a Lidl supermarket in a district of Ostrava called „Poruba“, and another 17 would have been victims of plans to widen the Opavska road in the same city. We saved thousands of healthy trees in Hřensko, where they would have been felled to make way for road widening.

We organised a travelling exhibition which went to Třebíč, Jihlava, Ostrava, and festivals Trnkobrání



near Slušovice and Open Air Trutnov. The exhibition drew attention to causes that we had helped settle and we were able to offer advice and information.

„Corruption over the Next Four Years“ was the title of a debate organised by us in collaboration with the public association Oživení, and Radiožurnál, an important state radio channel. The debate took place in Prague and candidates from all political parties for mayor of the city took part.

Our photographic exhibition, „Chemical Accidents – a misfortune that industry does not talk about, a risk that we can prevent“ was prepared in collaboration with Arnika's Toxic Materials and Waste Programme, and it was taken to Prague, Děčín and Ústí nad Labem. The exhibition shows a selection of the most serious catastrophes in the chemical industry around the world over the past thirty years, and explains how further disasters of this sort could be avoided.



In the beautiful landscape around the Uckermärkische Lakes, north Germany, it was possible to combine nature conservation with local development.

Photo: Kateřina Hlavatá, Arnika

Nature Protection Programme

The Nature Protection Programme is directed mainly at the conservation of waterways and wetlands, which are the richest ecosystems in central Europe. It researches and promotes alternative ways of managing and exploiting waterways so that nature conservation can work in collaboration with flood prevention and the commercial requirements for making use of waterways and the land around them. Other important activities of the Nature Protection Programme are the conservation of endangered species in their original biotopes and the maintenance of a natural balance in the landscape.

Important Activities and Successes in 2006:



e helped organise an international conference in Prague for organisations involved with the Natura 2000 scheme, which was attended by thirty representatives of the WWF and other groups from all over Europe. The main theme of the three day event was how to implement Natura 2000 in each country and how it should be paid in the

new financial period. There was a preparatory seminar to go with the conference, attended by members of NGOs which had taken part in negotiations between the European Commission and new member states in April about how Natura 2000 would develop in the future.

Working with our partners in Poland, we organised two successful study trips to Germany and Wales for people engaged in local development and environmental protection. Most of the individuals who went on the trips were members of local councils, environmentalists, and NGOs but there were also local agricultural workers who also took part. On these trips, we examined a number of projects which successfully combine nature protection with local development. The area around the lakes of Uckermärkische Seen in Germany and the valley of the River Taff in Wales are both Natura 2000 sites, and could well be the source of inspiration for similar projects in the Czech Republic.

In 2006, we coordinated the Coalition of Non-governmental Organisations for Natura 2000, which applied its specialist skills in working out "shadow" very high-quality set of recommendations for Natura 2000 sites in the continental region. We were successful in presenting our point of view at a meeting between the European Commission and member states. The European Commission agreed with the Coalition that the Czech Republic needs make major additions to its system of Natura 2000 sites so that the system can work effectively not only throughout Europe as a whole but also within the Czech Republic to protect the most valuable parts of our natural wealth. We followed up this result with a letter to the Minister of the Environment in which we suggested specific sites that could be added to the system.

A new project was begun which addresses the conservation and management of waterways. It is intended to help prevent rivers being no more than dead channels, to help them become home once more to a large number of plant and animal species and part of the landscape. The first of a series of seminars about managing waterways took place in Ostrava, where twenty local councils were represented as well as public associations and conservationists specialising in nature and waterways. Discussion developed to cover many different aspects of different ways of managing waterways. A special website was created – www.voda.arnika.org – where more information about types of waterway management can be found, as well as ways of taking part in decision making and examples of waterways that have been revitalised.

Working with the Czech Ministry of the Environment, we organised a seminar about the possibility of financing Natura 2000 from European funds. A new handbook was presented at the seminar which analyses what financial sources might be available for the Natura 2000 system from European Union, and what new national Operational Programmes will be applied during the following period. The event was attended by more than fifty representatives from regional authorities, NGOs, agriculture and ministries.

New information about the effects of climate change on the navigability of the River Elbe were brought to public attention at a press conference we held jointly with the German organisation, BUND. A study issued by The Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK) makes it very clear that the Elbe is likely to have even less water in the future, so that goods traffic along it at all times of year will be more difficult. In the light of this information, the Czech plans for weirs on the Elbe seem like a pointless investment, as even if a boat can travel as far as the border with Germany the increasingly dry conditions mean that for most of the year it will not be able to continue to the docks in Hamburg.

The General Waterways Plan (Plán hlavních povodí) involves the construction of more than 200 dams and weirs throughout the country. It raises many problems and controversies and Arnika has been devoting attention to it. A number of town councils and NGOs campaigned together for the document to be reprocessed so that it would give priority to the ecosystems and landscapes around the waterworks rather than expensive technical alterations that address just one problem. At the same time, all proposals for a new dam were removed.



Arnika Branches and Contact Points:

Arnika Broumov

At Broumov grammar school, we organised an exhibition on the theme of toxins. It was opened with a speech by Milan Havel in which he not only presented the exhibition but also drew attention to cases seen by the Centre for Public Support in and around the city of Hradec Králové. From the high school, the exhibition moved on to Masaryk Elementary School in the same city.

We took part in Project Garden in Broumov – Broumov in Garden. This involved combining the gardens of two schools and making the area open to the public. It operates in collaboration with the VIA Foundation.

In December, we helped organise a petition against a new petrol station near to two schools and took part in preventing its being built. The petition was signed by more than 500 people in period of four days. We called for an Environmental impact assessment and urged that Arnika Broumov be able to take part in decision making.

Arnika České Budějovice

One of our main concerns in 2006 was environment-friendly healthcare, where medical personnel would be taught about how to dispose of medical waste in other ways than incineration, how to minimize the amount of infectious waste in hospitals and the alternatives to PVC as material for medical equipment, because it contains the toxin, phthalate.

On Earth Day in České Budějovice we took part in the „Eco-Market“ with a tent for offering information and signing petitions. Much of the information that visitors gained from us was to do with the European Union’s new policy on chemicals, REACH, and many new signatures were added to Arnika’s petition, Toxic Free Future II.

After a wave of opposition from citizens, public associations and politi-





In the city of Děčín, members of Arnika are campaigning for new cycle paths and to make life safer and pleasanter for local cyclists. *Photo: Miloslav Kliment*

cians, the energy company, E.ON, decided to go back on its plans to build a general waste incinerator in Mydlovary which would have had a bad effect on the environment. Our activities had a major effect in this case.

Working with public associations in the region, we gathered signatures for the petition, „Better Recycling Services in South Bohemia“. The petition not only declared our opposition to the construction of a new waste incinerator in Mydlovary and enlargement of landfill sites but also urged to regional authority to make it possible to sort organic waste and introduce a „bag“ system for collecting sorted waste.

In November, working with the Toxic Materials and Waste Programme, we made use of the Integrated Register of Polluters to publish the names of the biggest polluters in the south Bohemian region. This also gave us the opportunity to make it clear that a source of information of this sort is indispensable, and limiting its scope would mean the citizen would have much less access to information about how much pollution is emitted by each concern.

An event to show that „PVC does not go with your Christmas dinner“ took place in front of Albert department store. Potential customers were warned of the dangers created by the use of PVC as food packaging.

Arnika Děčín

At the beginning of the year, the Sunflower Association (Sdružení Slunečnice) held an event „30 days for non-profit organisations“ in which we took part. A number of non-profit making organisations in the town held an exhibition in the foyer of a local cinema where we displayed our activities and showed the film, „Zdroj“ („The Source“) along with a lecture. The whole event concluded with a cyclo-workshop which addressed the question of the future of cycling as a means of transport in the city.

On Earth Day, we organised a multi-cultural event under the title, „Streets Alive“. It included competitions for children, information tents run by public associations, an exhibition of artistic photographs, art workshops, performances,

a lecture about waterworks on the River Elbe and the day concluded with a party and fireworks.

The Sunflower Association were our partners in a project supporting requalification for people who are physically disabled. Those who took part in the course attended a series of lectures about environmental practice in the workplace.

We took part in three cultural and informational activities during the holidays; there was the three-day student event, „Wayout Happening”, the Sunflower Association’s cultural festival, and ZOO Děčín’s event to mark the end of the holidays.

On Car Free Day there was the traditional annual cycle tour of the city. As local elections were due to take place soon afterwards, the cycle tour adopted the slogan „Vote Cycle-routes!” and several dozen riders took part in it.

Arnika’s Toxic Materials and Waste Programme came to the area in September with its month long sequence of events in Ústí nad Labem under the title „30 Days for Clean Earth, Clean Air and Clean Water”. We



started this event with a photographic exhibition „Chemical Accidents – a misfortune that industry does not talk about, a risk that we can prevent”. The exhibition had already been to Prague and Děčín, and from Ústí it will go on to other Czech cities until it ends in September 2007.

The thirty-day event was concluded with a demonstration, the „March for Clean Earth, Clean Air and Clean Water”. The march, with around 70 people taking part, began right under the gates of the Spolchemie chemical works and went on through the city centre, carrying a banner 130 meters long. The objective of all these events was to draw attention to the risks created by the production and use of toxic materials by industry.

As the local branch of the Centre for Public Support, we offered a total of 50 free consultations in 2006 and settled 20 cases of harm caused to the

environment in the Ústí area. We were able to prevent the destruction of 1,000 healthy trees which would have been felled to make way for road widening at Hřensko.

Arnika Chotěboř

Arnika established a new contact point in this city in 2006, which is involved in all of Arnika’s informational programmes.

Arnika Jihlava

The two-day event, „Echoes of the Ecofilm” took place in one of Jihlava’s cinemas. Viewers were able to see a number of documentary films, including the Slovak film „Amazonia Vertical” or „Ants – nature’s secret force” which had been made using special macro-technology.

On Earth Day, we collaborated with the regional museum and city library in preparing lectures, competitions and day-long screenings of environmental films.

We organised an information tent as part of the summer festival, „Holiday in Telč”. Here, visitors were able to sign the nationwide petition, Toxic Free Future II, as well as the organisers of the festival and some of those taking part, including the Spiritual Quintet and some members of the Moravian folk music group, Hradištan.

Over the holidays, we took part in „Summer Travels with Arnika”. Residents of Třebíč and Jihlava were able to look at the exhibitions in our information tent and ask us about environmental problems in their area. Nearly 600 new signatures were added to the Toxic Free Future II petition.

Kronospan is a wood processing works in Jihlava, and as part of the Centre for Public Support we were able to lead a campaign for a reduction in the environmental risks it poses. This processing plant is the biggest producer of the proven carcinogen, formaldehyde, in the Czech Republic, and the air of Jihlava is polluted with large amounts of dust every year. We aim to reduce the harmful effects of this works on the environment.

In the village of Pozdátky, near the town of Třebíč, we were able to offer specialist consultations to the public. An accident at a nearby landfill ten years ago has left the local environment devastated and the site continues to leak acidified water with a high content of heavy metals. The owners of the site, Logika, has plans to restart operation there, but local residents disagree with the idea.

As a branch of the Centre for Public Support, we offered 71 free consultations to the public in 2006 and solved 9 separate cases of damage to



For the last ten years, dangerous materials have been leaking into the environment from a hazardous landfill near the village Pozdátky. The Jihlava branch of Arnika is helping residents of the area to put an end to this disaster. *Photo: Archiv VŠCHT*

the environment in the area of the Czech-Moravian Highlands.

Arnika Ostrava

We took part in celebrations of Earth Day in the castle. Visitors to our information tent were able to sign the Toxic Free Future II petition and to obtain various kinds of information about how to sort waste or why it is important to use recycled paper. We had a similar tent at the music festival, „Colours of Ostrava“.

The Toxic Free Future exhibition was took place in the Academia bookshop. It addressed the problems caused by toxins such as mercury, dioxins, pesticides, PVC and other materials that threaten people’s lives in the modern world. Visitors to the exhibition, organised by us, were able to learn where these materials come from, how they find their way into the environment, the effects they have on human health and how to prevent these effects or avoid them altogether.

Arnika’s activities were displayed to the people of Ostrava in a tent we placed in the city centre. This exhibition, due to travel all round the country, also offered visitors information about the Toxic Free Future campaign and gave them the chance to sign the petition.

We have given much attention to the problem of trees that are felled illegally and for no reason. We were able to obtain the interest of the public in the district of Poruba and helped people living on the Opava road in Ostrava-Poruba to save 17 mature trees.

We organised a seminar under the title, „Community, Public and the Management of Waterways“ which presented ways in which the public could take part in decision making around water courses. The discussion went on to consider various ways of managing water courses, and participants were able to raise specific problems which, in this area, are considered urgent.

We used information from the Integrated Register of Pollution to draw attention to the biggest

pollutors in the Ostrava area, and, in collaboration with medical personnel, we made it clear to the public how emissions of dangerous materials can harm people's health.

Outside the Kaufland supermarket in the Karolina shopping centre, we organised an event entitled „PVC does not go with your Christmas dinner“ and gave customers information sheets not only about PVC but also with a list of food-stuffs wrapped in PVC which they would be able to buy in Kaufland.

As a branch of the Centre for Public Support, we offered a total of 30 free consultations in 2006 and settled 12 separate cases of damage to the environment in the Moravia-Silesia region.

Arnika Prague

Our main and most frequent activity is the organisation of public lectures about the environment. These take place on the second Wednesday of each month (except holiday periods). In 2006, for instance, discussions about sorting waste, environmental engagement of Buddhism and the legal aspects of environment protection took place at the Prague branch of Arnika. The lecture that received most acclaim was the one about tree felling.

Working together with students and teachers, we organised the exhibition „Waste as Raw Material“ at Jan Palach Grammar School in Prague and the grammar school in Horní Počernice. Information about sorting and recycling waste was shown on panels, and students also learned what they could do themselves to improve the environment.

As part of the Toxic Materials and Waste Programme we helped prepare an event on the theme of „PVC does not go with your Christmas dinner“ . In front of the Tesco department store on one of Prague's main streets, we approached customers and urged them to be aware of packaging made of PVC, especially where it was used to wrap food. We distributed informational material to shoppers which drew attention to the dangers caused by the use of PVC as packaging and the effects it can have on the environment and personal health.

Our information tent was also a part of Green Day, organised by Agora CE in Letenské sady. Visitors were able to see the „Waste as a Raw Material“ exhibition and students could put their names down for the competition of the same name, all about recycling and waste sorting.

Team Bořena

At the student festival in Děčín we organised an information tent about environmental matters.

We organised a photographic exhibition about endangered plants and animals in the Bohemian Highlands (České středohoří) at the high school in Bílina and at the cultural festival in Děčín.

On Earth Day, we had an information tent in Děčín and Teplice where we showed our activities to the public.

We helped to catch and move endangered species of amphibians from the area around a mine in Bílina where they were in danger from mining activities. 21 great crested newts, 41 smooth newts, 4 fire bellied toads and 3 agile frogs were moved to a safer location.

In the location above Mošnov, in the Bohemian Highlands, we spent a day helping to plant 900 young oak trees.



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Arnika Praha

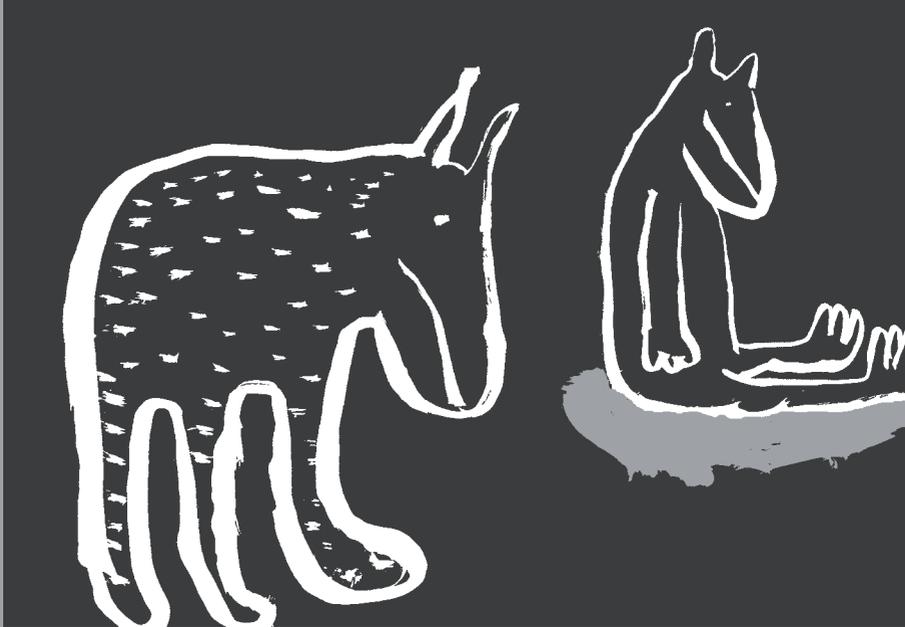
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Bank account where donations can be made: 173 570 941/0300



Arnika - overall budget

Income 2006

Donations from members and individuals	274 651	3,7%
Donations from corporations	178 000	2,4%
State subsidies	1 185 050	16,0%
EU subsidies	2 090 635	28,3%
Grants from Czech funds	354 375	4,8%
Grants from foreign funds	2 651 964	35,9%
Own activities	655 667	8,9%
TOTAL INCOME	7 390 343	100,0%

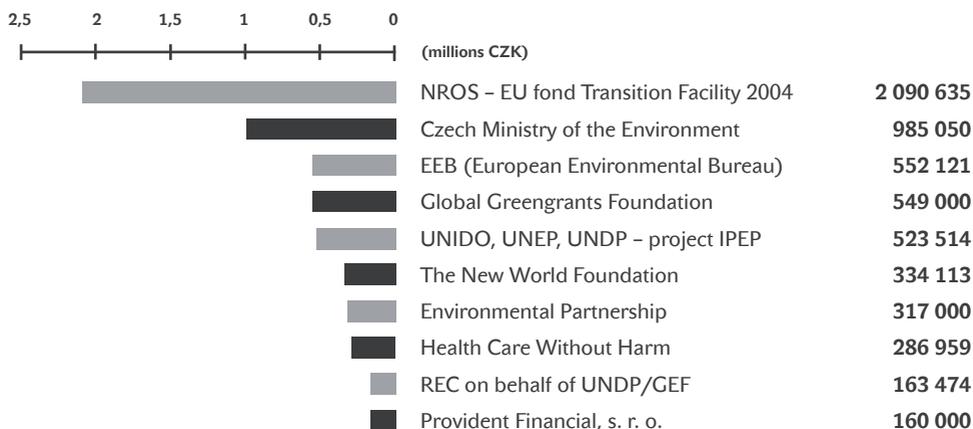
Expenditure 2006

Personal costs	2 979 990	38,9%
Consultations and expert services	691 727	9,0%
Communications costs	465 534	6,1%
Publications costs	739 810	9,6%
Materials used	476 151	6,2%
Transport costs	444 441	5,8%
Rent	197 577	2,6%
Per diem and representation	121 094	1,6%
Publicity	139 364	1,8%
Other costs, including transfers to project partners	1 413 345	18,4%
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	7 669 031	100,0%

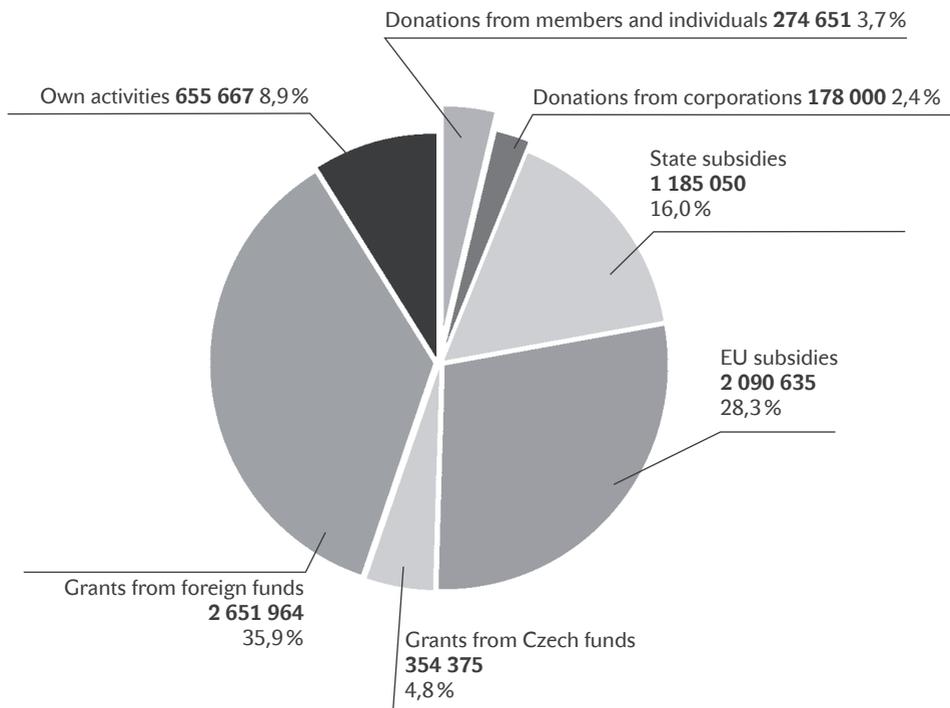
Balance -278 688

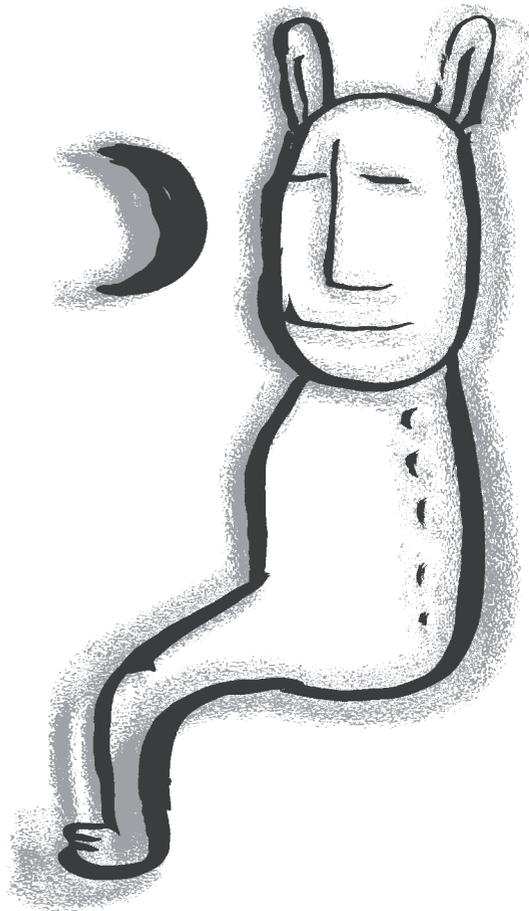
Note: this negative balance was the result of prefinancing projects for which the final payment is due in 2007

The Arnika's Mayor Donors in 2006



Structure of Revenues in 2006





Budget Summary for divisions of Arnika

In accordance with its Constitution, Arnika also manages a number of organisational units which specialise in a certain place or a certain theme. All these divisions are governed by the same Constitution which is registered at the Czech Ministry of the Interior under the number: VS/1-1/48279/01-R, date 16. 10. 2001.

Arnika – founder	(Identification Number of the Organisation: 265 43 281)
Expenditure, 2006	399 454 Kč
Income, 2006	290 869 Kč
Balance, 2006	-108 585 Kč

Arnika – co-ordination centre	(Identification Number of the Organisation: 709 38 105)
Expenditure, 2006	751 022 Kč
Income, 2006	872 885 Kč
Balance, 2006	121 863 Kč

Arnika – Centre for Public Support	(Identification Number of the Organisation: 709 47 261)
Expenditure, 2006	1 591 585 Kč
Income, 2006	1 457 430 Kč
Balance, 2006	-134 155 Kč

Arnika – České Budějovice	(Identification Number of the Organisation: 712 05 993)
No costs or income in 2006.	
This branch of Arnika was dissolved as a legal entity at the end of 2006.	

Arnika – Děčín	(Identification Number of the Organisation: 646 76 587)
Expenditure, 2006	19 409 Kč
Income, 2006	123 071 Kč
Balance, 2006	103 662 Kč

Arnika – Praha	(Identification Number of the Organisation: 711 68 842)
No costs or income in 2006.	

Arnika – Ostrava	(Identification Number of the Organisation: 709 46 515)
Expenditure, 2006	88 543 Kč
Income, 2006	107 216 Kč
Balance, 2006	18 673 Kč

Arnika – Team Bořena	(Identification Number of the Organisation: 709 39 888)
Expenditure, 2006	14 456 Kč
Income, 2006	47 292 Kč
Balance, 2006	32 836 Kč

Arnika – Nature Protection Programme	(Identification Number of the Organisation: 709 52 027)
Expenditure, 2006	1 712 774 Kč
Income, 2006	1 751 307 Kč
Balance, 2006	38 533 Kč

Arnika – Toxic Materials and Waste Programme	(Identification Number of the Organisation: 709 47 805)
Expenditure, 2006	4 303 088 Kč
Income, 2006	3 951 572 Kč
Balance, 2006	-351 516 Kč



Thanks and Co-operation

Arnika is aware that an individual – even an individual organisation – has a far smaller chance of success than a team. This is why we value the co-operation of dozens of associations in Czech land and abroad, and the help of individuals without whose contributions the way to our common objective would be much harder. Arnika would like most of all to thank the following organisations and individuals:

Thanks for outstanding donations (over 150 000 CZK):

NROS – EU fond Transition Facility 2004
Ministry of the Environment, ČR
EEB (European Environmental Bureau)
Global Greengrants Foundation
UNIDO, UNEP, UNDP – project IPEP
The New World Foundation
Environmental Partnership
Health Care Without Harm
REC on behalf of UNDP/GEF
Provident Financial, s. r. o.

Thanks for other donations:

Environmental Health Fund
Prague City Council
IPEN
WWF
Carlsbad regional council
STEP
Wastech, a. s.
Olmex-Kal, s. r. o.
Lesy České republiky (Woodland administration)
Country Life, s. r. o.
Merced, a. s.
Europapier

Thanks to our partners:

Ateliér pro životní prostředí (Atelier for the Environment)
CENIA
Deutsche Umwelthilfe (German Environmental Help)
Ekologický právní servis (Environmental Legal Service)
VM Tisk
Zelený kruh (Green Circle)

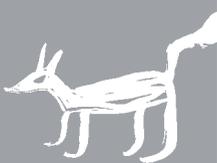
Thanks for donations over 3000 CZK:

Blaha Martin
Fajkus Tomáš
Formánek Michal
Gattermayer Ondřej
Rojíková Tatiána
Strmiska Čestmír
Veselý Martin

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Bendová Ludmila

Bukovinská Beket
Čigánek Jiří
Černý Jaroslav
Dědková Eva
Eichler Renata
Fischerová Táža
Fürstová Jana
Hájek Radko
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Havel Milan
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Kysela Jindřich
Librová Hana
Lomička Jan
Mádrová Marta
Mácha Přemysl
Majer Jan
Málek František
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Řeháková Olga
Řezníček Jiří
Smolík Jan
Soukup Pavel
Svitáková Karin
Štroblová Ludmila
Šulc Miroslav
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Tůma Vlastimil
Urban Vladimír
Váňová Helena
Veselý Martin
Vohryzková Jana
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Vokáč Michal
Volf Luděk
Vrubel Zdeněk
Zatloukal Radek
Ziková Věra
Žáček Roman
Žaloudek Jaroslav

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Čábelová Eva
Čmelo Rostislav
Doležel Bronislav
Hrdina Petr
Kobližková Martina
Kořán Marián
Krejzlik Václav
Kubíček Jiří
Kužma Rudolf
Látal Jan
Louma Stanislav

Malý Petr
Martínková Lucie
Mazánek Jan
Merhautová Iva
Mikušová Monika
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Přechová Irena
Purschová Adéla
Rut Ondřej
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Sýkorová Marie
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Viktorová Jitka
Vokáč Michal
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Sojková Karin
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Váňová Helena
Volf Martin

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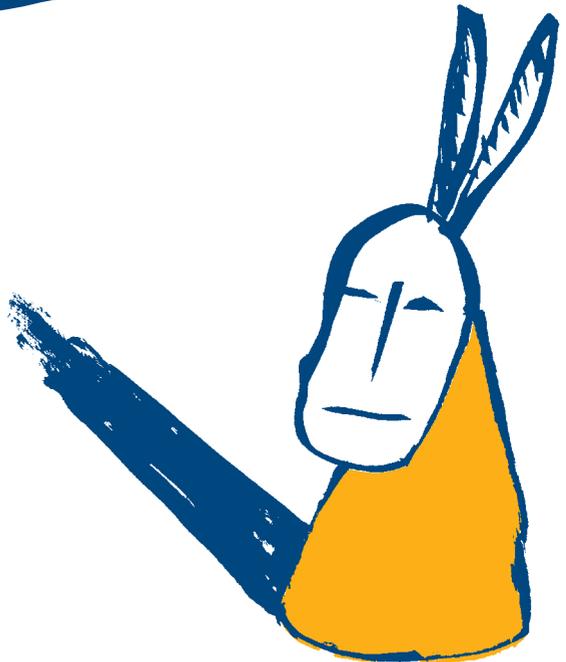
Humlíčková Petra
Klátilová Andrea
Němeček Jakub
Synovcová Borovičková Jana
Ševela Kamil
Tošner Ondřej

Note: Non-alphabetical order is sorted by size of contribution.

Our motto:

*„If a human heart is too far from nature,
it becomes hard. If a person does not have
enough respect for things that grow, things
that are living, then he will soon not have
enough respect for people either.“*

*(Words of Luther Standing Bear
of the Lakota tribe).*





Arnika's aim is to improve the environment and protect nature. Arnika is concerned with protection of wetlands and waterways, the pollution of the environment by toxic materials and wastes and to support the public in taking part in decision making about the environment. An important part of our activities involves collaboration with individuals and organisations across borders and in other countries.

www.arnika.org

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Set up, pattern and illustration by Jakub Němeček
Translation by David Wylie

