



UNDP Project Document
UNDP-GEF Medium-Size Project (MSP)

Government of Romania
United Nations Development Programme

Title of Project

**Strengthening Romania's Protected Area System by Demonstrating
Public-Private Partnership in Romania's Maramures Nature Park.**

Romania is a country with rich biodiversity and a high percentage of relatively undisturbed natural ecosystems - 47% of the land area of the country is covered with natural and semi-natural ecosystems, which is the densest forest cover among the Carpathian countries. Romania encompasses approximately 55 % of the Carpathian range, making Romania by far the most important single country for the protection of the Carpathian biodiversity.

This project seeks to strengthen Romania's national system of protected areas by demonstrating effective biodiversity conservation in Maramures Mountains Natural Park in Romania's northern Carpathian Mountains. It has emerged from and is built upon a notable local stakeholder-driven process that has created an innovative Government-NGO partnership in Maramures to pursue the conservation and sustainable development of an area comprised of national forestland, protected areas, private forestlands, agricultural land and small urban areas. The project will contribute to the expansion and consolidation of Romania's national system of protected areas by demonstrating effective park management and Government-NGO partnership.

The project area encompasses approximately 150,000 ha, of which 66% is naturally regenerated forests, 30% meadows and alpine pastures and 4% agricultural lands. With respect to the forestland itself, Government still owns 76,500 ha, private individuals own 3,500 ha and local municipalities own 22,800 ha.

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Acronyms

CO	Country Office
CP	Country programme
DI	Designated Institution
EU	European Union
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
IA	Implementing Agency
MMNP	Maramures Mountains Natural Park
NEX	National Execution
NFA	National Forest Administration
NGO	Non-govermental Organization
PA	Protected Area
POC	Project Oversight Committee
PM	Project Manager
PMU	Project Management Unit
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme

SECTION I: Elaboration of the Narrative

PART I: Situation Analysis

More than 90% of the protected areas in Romania lack any kind of “on-the-ground” management. This project will contribute to the sustainability of Romania’s national protected area system by demonstrating best management practices for the newest protected area (PA) category within the national system and disseminating them to other protected areas in Romania and the Carpathians, as a whole.

The project’s innovative community NGO-Government partnership is one such practice. The strengthening of this partnership, and the sharing of the resulting lessons, will contribute significantly to and mark an important milestone in the long-term maturation and sustainability of the PA system.

Landscape-scale conservation planning is another such practice. Many protected areas in Romania are very small, making biodiversity conservation problematic over the long-term, especially as pressures in the surrounding landscape continue to grow. Coverage of ecosystems is often fragmented, and there is lack of connectivity between areas that would help redress size limitations. This project will demonstrate how to overcome these size limitations by teaching protected area managers landscape-scale conservation planning.

PART II: Strategy

The project was prepared in line with CP Outcome 1.1 Environmental governance strengthened at central and local levels and greater compliance with EU environmental standards and international conventions achieved.

Protected area management in Romania is still evolving in this transition period. In total, Romania has designated 1,234,710 ha or 5.18 % of the country’s territory as protected. Government’s target is to double this by 2010. The national network of protected areas consists of seventeen national and natural parks and 844 small reserves and protected areas. Few areas are protected and managed effectively, due to the lack of a coherent institutional framework involving local stakeholders, the lack of staff and insufficient budget allocation, as well as insufficient collaboration between the agencies coordinating the uses of natural resources.

The Minister of Environment and Water Management, according to the protected areas law provisions, recently accorded management responsibility for sixteen of the country’s seventeen national and natural parks to the National Forests Administration. The Forest Directorates of the National Forests Administration (NFA) manage protected areas located on forestland. In addition, the Environmental Protection Agency’s newly established Services for Conservation co-ordinates the inventory of natural protected areas, protected bird habitats, and the implementation of the EU Natura 2000 programme in Romania.

The Romanian Parliament removed an important barrier in 2001 to the establishment of Government-NGO partnerships for protected area management when it passed protected area law #462 creating the “natural park” category of protected area. A Natural Park is a category of locally designated protected area that can be managed by local government and, if relevant, an NGO or a consortia of local government, NGOs, and civil society. Maramures Natural Park was established by local government and a consortium of government, NGOs and civil society. The most significant remaining barrier is the lack of experience with actually making these Government-NGO partnerships work. The project has emerged from such a partnership.

PART III: Management Arrangements

The project will be implemented over a period of three years. Project execution will adhere to UNDP national execution (NEX) project requirements.

Designated Institution: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is the focal point for coordinating UNDP's technical cooperation in Romania. The Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Rural Development Administration will serve as the Designated Institution (DI) responsible for project implementation. The DI is accountable to the focal point and UNDP for the government's participation in the project. The DI will ensure that internal monitoring and review systems are in place. The DI will prepare the Project Oversight Committee (POC) meetings, and with input from POC members, will provide overall guidance and support to implementation of all project activities. The DI staff and/or experts will be utilized when needed in accordance with UNDP guidelines, and will facilitate interaction among relevant public organizations, research institutions and private organizations. The DI will nominate the National Project Director who bears the overall responsibilities for the project.

Implementing Agency: Under UNDP's NEX guidelines, an Implementing Agency (IA) may be a government institution, another UN agency, an NGO, or a private professional services firm. The IA will be designated to deliver specific inputs (services, expertise, procurement of equipment) to the project and produce specific outputs through an agreement with the DI and UNDP CO. The IA is accountable to the POC and UNDP for the proper use of funds provided to it and for the quality, timeliness and effectiveness of the services it provides and the activities it carries out. The National Forest Administration will be designated as the Implementing Agency (IA) for this project. The IA will be responsible for day-to-day project implementation and the timely and verifiable attainment of project objectives.

With respect to Outcome 3, sub-contracts will be utilized during project implementation to build capacity of local NGO partners and secure local ownership. For example, two NGO partners of this project -- the Ecological Society of Maramures and the Pro Viseu Foundation -- will be responsible for implementing Outcome 3.

UNDP: Working closely with the DI, the UNDP Country Office (CO) will be responsible for: overseeing project budgets and expenditures, recruiting and contracting project personnel and consultant services, procuring equipment (when not done by the Implementing Agency), and project evaluation and reporting, result-based project monitoring, and organizing independent audits to ensure the proper use of UNDP/GEF funds. Financial transactions, auditing and reporting will be carried out in compliance with national regulations and UNDP procedures for national execution.

Day-to-day Project Management and Implementation.

The IA will establish a small Project Management Unit (PMU) in consultation with UNDP. The PMU will be located in the administrative offices of MMNP in Maramures County. The PMU will consist of national staff members comprising the project manager, a procurement officer and a project financial and administrative assistant. PMU staff salaries will be paid by the NFA from their own budget beginning from the first day of the project. The PMU will be strengthened with national and international short-term experts. GEF funds will pay the costs associated with international and national expert input to the project. Recruitment of expert input for the project will be done in consultation with UNDP and through an open and fair competition following UNDP standard hiring procedures.

The PMU and will assume day-to-day management responsibility for MSP implementation and coordination among partner organizations. The PM will be responsible for facilitating UNDP's project monitoring duties, preparing technical and financial reports to UNDP and GEF, and confirming the

quality of the project's outputs. The Project Manager will also act as an interim Park Manager/Administrator during the project implementation period and will work closely with all the members of the Maramures Biodiversity Consortium. One of the most important responsibilities of the PM will be to work effectively with members of the POC to ensure that project-inspired activities proceed on schedule within each project partner. The PMU will follow the UNDP procurement rules when goods and services are funded by the GEF and/or UNDP funds.

Working groups will be established for Components 1, 2, and 3. These working groups will consist of IA staff, local NGOs, private entrepreneurs, and local community leaders. The PM will work closely with the IA to coordinate project activities and make the link between project administration and implementation as seamless as possible. Depending upon his or her area of expertise, the PM could be included into one of the project outcome working groups.

A Project Oversight Committee (POC). The NFA will establish and chair the POC. Membership in the POC will reflect membership of the Maramures Biodiversity Consortium and will consist of one member from each of the following institutions or stakeholder groups: Maramures County Prefecture, Maramures County Council, the local EPA, the Regional Forest Unit, the Water Management Service, the Ecological Society of Maramures, a private forest owner, and UNDP. The POC's role will be comprised of four main responsibilities. First, the POC will serve as a forum for stakeholder input and discussion. Second, the POC will oversee project implementation, meeting on a semi-annual basis to review project progress and approve annual project workplans. Any major changes in project plans or programs will require approval from the POC to take effect. Thirdly, POC members will facilitate the implementation of project activities in their respective organizations, ensure that cooperative activities are implemented in a timely manner, and facilitate the integration of project-inspired activities into existing programs and practices. The Implementing Agency will report to the POC at each meeting. Representatives of partner and co-funding organizations not represented on the POC will be invited to attend POC meetings on an as needed basis.

"In order to accord proper acknowledgement to GEF for providing funding, a GEF should appear on all relevant GEF project publications, including among others, project hardware and vehicles purchased with GEF funds. Any citation on publications regarding projects funded by GEF should also accord proper acknowledgment to GEF. The UNDP logo should be more prominent -- and separated from the GEF logo if possible, as UN visibility is important for security purposes."

PART IV: Monitoring and Evaluation Plan and Budget

The project team and the UNDP Country Office (UNDP-CO) will conduct project monitoring and evaluation with support from UNDP/GEF in accordance with established UNDP and GEF procedures. The Logical Framework Matrix in Annex 1 provides performance and impact indicators for project implementation along with their corresponding means of verification. These will form the basis for the project's M&E system.

SECTION II: STRATEGIC RESULTS FRAMEWORK

PART I: Logical Framework Analysis (please see Approved MSP proposal, page 54)

SECTION III: Total Budget and Workplan

PART I: Total Budget

TOTAL PROJECT WORKPLAN AND BUDGET								
(to be read in conjunction with the Advisory Note on Atlas and Total Workplan and Budget Terminology)								
Award ID: 37834								
1 Project Title: Strengthening Romania's Protected Area System by Demonstrating Public-Private Partnership in Romania's Maramures Nature Park								
GEF Outcome/Atlas Activity	Responsible Party	Source of Funds	Atlas Code	ERP/ATLAS Budget Description/Input	Amount (USD) Year 1	Amount (USD) Year 2	Amount (USD) Year 3	Total (USD)
OUTCOME 1: Stakeholders make Maramures Mountains Natural Park (MMNP) fully operational	NFA	GEF	71200	Int'l Consultants	4,000	0	0	4,000
			71300	Local Consultants	9,500	9,500	0	19,000
			71600	Travel	29,000	24,500	23,000	76,500
			72100	Contracted services	90,500	50,000	40,000	180,500
			72200	Equipment	135,000	0	0	135,000
			72400	Communications	14,000	6,000	6,000	26,000
			72500	Supplies	4,500	5,000	4,500	14,000
			72800	IT Equipment	33,000	0	0	33,000
			73300	Maintenance of IT Equipment	1,500	1,500	1,500	4,500
			73400	Maintenance of other Equipment	1,500	1,500	1,500	4,500
			74200	Publications	4,000	4,000	4,000	12,000
			74500	Miscellaneous	14,500	16,000	13,500	44,000
				Sub-total	341,000	118,000	94,000	553,000

OUTCOME 2. Stakeholders Strengthen Environmental Governance across Maramures	NFA	GEF	71200	Int'l Consultants	0	10,000	0	10,000
			71600	Travel	0	9,000	2,500	11,500
			72100	Contracted services	0	28,000	22,000	50,000
			72400	Communications	0	3,000	3,000	6,000
			72500	Supplies	0	1,000	500	1,500
			74200	Publications	0	8,000	3,000	11,000
			74500	Miscellaneous	0	6,000	4,000	10,000
			74500	Miscellaneous (audit)	12,000	10,000	10,000	32,000
				Sub-total	12,000	75,000	45,000	132,000
OUTCOME 3: Stakeholders recognize and begin to realize real value in natural capital, strengthening the link between sustainable use and conservation within MMNP	NFA	GEF	71200	Int'l Consultants	0	4,000	4,000	8,000
			71300	Local Consultants	0	10,000	15,000	25,000
			71600	Travel	0	4,500	28,000	32,500
			72100	Contracted services	0	46,500	80,000	126,500
			72200	Equipment	0	7,500	50,000	57,500
			72400	Communications	0	2,000	5,000	7,000
			72500	Supplies	0	3,000	8,500	11,500
			74200	Publications	0	0	5,000	5,000
			74500	Miscellaneous	0	4,500	12,500	17,000
				Sub-total	0	82,000	208,000	290,000
	NFA	UNDP	72100	Contracted services	0	0	50,000	50,000
	Sub-total	0	0	50,000	50,000			
TOTAL					353,000	275,000	397,000	1,025,000

GEF	353,000	275,000	347,000	975,000
UNDP	0	0	50,000	50,000
TOTAL	353,000	275,000	397,000	1,025,000

PARTII: PROJECT RESULTS AND RESOURCES FRAMEWORK

Intended Outcome as stated in the Country Results Framework:

UNDAF Outcome 1: Capacity Building for Good Governance - By 2009, administrative capacity is strengthened at central and local level to develop, implement and monitor sustainable policies and programmes – emphasizing transparency, accountability and participation - in the areas of public service delivery, environmental governance and the protection of the rights of vulnerable groups

CP Outcome 1.1 Environmental governance strengthened at central and local levels and greater compliance with EU environmental standards and international conventions achieved. (UNDP)

Outcome indicator:

Increased areas under protected are status

Baseline: In 2004, protected area represented approx. 5.18 % of the country’s territory

Target: By 2010, double the protected area

Applicable Strategic Area of Support (from SRF): G3-SGN2-SASN2 Global conventions and funding mechanisms

Improve national capacity to negotiate and implement global environmental commitments

Partnership Strategy: UNDP will implement the project in close cooperation with the National Forest Administration (NFA) and Baia Mare Directorate of NFA; other executing partners are local NGOs (Pro-Viseu and Societatea Ecologista Romana). Other partners include the Ministry of Environment and Water Management, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Local councils and County Council.

Project title and number: Strengthening Romania’s Protected Area System by Demonstrating Public-Private Partnership in Romania’s Maramures Nature Park; #37834

Intended Outputs	Output Targets for (years)	Indicative Activities	Responsible partner	Inputs
1.1. MMNP designated national PA	1.1.1 Prepare/adopt management plan for MMNP by 2007	1.1 Recruit project personnel 1.2 Set up project office 1.3 Project launching workshop 1.4 Establish the consultative and scientific committee 1.5 Workshops with all stakeholders	NFA	Project Manager, Project Assistant, Accountant Equipment, communications Travel, communications

		1.6 Develop the work plan for management planning 1.7 Meetings of committees 1.8 Adopt and gazette the management plan		
1.2. MMNP relationship with local communities is strengthened	1.2 Information and awareness raising campaigns for stakeholders	1.2.1 Prepare and conduct a campaign to inform livelihoods and decision makers about the protected areas	NFA,	Service contracts or grants to NGOs
	1.2.2. Strengthened capacity of local NGOs to raise awareness	1.2.2 Develop and publicize an illustrated ecology manual for school students living in the park area, print and distribute leaflets, brochures, posters, newsletters, etc.	NFA	Local personnel Communications Travel
1.3. Strengthened field conservation capacity	1.3.1 Fully functional park administration	1.3.1. Full staffing of MMNP (2005)	NFA	Local personnel
	1.3.2 Office equipped	1.3.2. Equipment and infrastructure rehabilitation for MMNP (2005)	NFA	Service contract Equipment and furniture Project vehicles Voices and data communications services
	1.3.3. Training in conservation related disciplines (2006)	1.3.3 Train park's staff and rangers	NFA	Local personnel International personnel Travel
	1.3.4. Elaborate supplementary funding mechanisms (2006)	1.3.4 Evaluate tourism in the area and assess market demands 1.3.5 Survey tourists growth 1.3.6 Develop market for craft arts, etc.	NFA	Local personnel

1.4. Information baseline and monitoring system	Operational information baseline, survey and monitoring system (2005)	1.4.1 Create a database with existing information on the biodiversity and ecosystem health of MMNP 1.4.2 Conduct biodiversity surveys (3 years) 1.4.3 Monitor biodiversity & ecosystem health (3 years) 1.4.4 Upgrade information management and GIS (2006)	NFA	Local personnel International personnel
1.5. Project results replicated	Increased likelihood that replication will occur	1.5.1. Revise policies to facilitate replication 1.5.2. Create knowledge network (2006) 1.5.3. Develop and integrate new modules in PA training	NFA	Local personnel Travel Communications
2.1. A model for civil society input to forest management is created	Current Forest practices and the future of MMNP Forest management analyzed	2.1 Prepare a report on the future of Forest in Maramures NP, in consultation with civil society	NFA	International personnel Local personnel
2.2. Landscape-scale biodiversity conservation plan for MMNP and areas	Conservation Landscape in Maramures (2006) defined	2.2.1 Develop a biodiversity conservation plan for MMNP and surrounding areas 2.2.2 Landscape maps developed and distributed	NFA	International personnel Local personnel Communications
2.3 Local administrations' capacity for regional planning is strengthened	Permitting system designed	2.3.1 Design operational permitting and zoning 2.3.2 Work with local administrators to integrate sustainability and conservation into development plans 2.3.3 In-county study tours	NFA	International personnel Local personnel Communications Travel

3.1. A marketplace to foster the knowledge, goods, and services of a conservation economy	3.1.1. Establish modest natural capital center (2006)	3.1.1.1 Building restoration 3.1.1.2 Equipment and furniture 3.1.1.3 Develop key mature trails 3.1.1.4 Production of side boards	NFA	Contract service Equipment
	3.1.2. Develop marketplace of knowledge (2007)	3.1.2 .1 Conduct economic analysis of the value of protected areas 3.1.2.2 Conduct workshops 3.1.2.3 Conduct mark demand survey for non-timber products 3.1.2.4 Assess demand for tourism	NFA	International personnel Local personnel Travel Communications Miscellaneous
	3.1.3. Strengthen capacity of financial institutions and SME	3.1.3.1 Prepare Market studies for SMEs 3.1.3.2 Training for SMEs	NFA	Local personnel Travel Communications Miscellaneous
3.2. Demonstration - Wood waste to energy	3.2.1. Model for sawdust conversion to energy and replicate	3.2.1 Three pilot projects for the use of biomass for heating	NFA	Service contracts Travel Communications
3.3. Demonstration – Ecotourism	3.3.1. Introduce the potential of ecotourism & demystify it	3.3.1.1 Workshop about the eco-tourism as a practical concept 3.3.1.2 Elaborate eco-tourism strategy and plan	NFA	Local personnel Service contracts Communications

	3.3.2. Strengthen ecotourism planning/management capacity	3.3.2.1 Training activities for community planners and managers on proactive ecotourism planning and management options 3.3.2.2 Expert input to train nature tour operators 3.3.2.3 A study tour to the only operational eco-tourism program for a key group of decision makers, nature tour operators, and other entrepreneurs as part of this process	NFA	Service contracts Communications Travel
3.4. Certified Forest Production and Marketing Demonstration	3.4.1. Introduce certification as a sustainable forest management practices to forest managers, owners and wood processors in Maramures area	Workshop about the opportunities and practices associated with forest certification	NFA	Local personnel Communications Travel
	3.4.2. Develop a "Producer Group" of Certified Management Units, private forests and forest products processing companies	Forest certification in FSC system	NFA	International personnel Local personnel Communications
	3.4.3. Establish links with certified forest products buyer groups in Romania and E.U. countries		NFA	Local personnel Communications
Project management M&E and audit			UNDP	

² In accordance with GEF-OP4 criteria; see GEF-OP4 para 4.18

SECTION IV: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

PART I: Approved MSP proposal



REQUEST FOR GEF FUNDING Medium-sized Project proposal

AGENCY'S PROJECT ID: 1969
GEFSEC PROJECT ID:
COUNTRY: Romania
PROJECT TITLE: Strengthening Romania's Protected Area System by Demonstrating Government-NGO Partnership in Romania's Maramures Nature Park.
GEF AGENCY: UNDP
OTHER EXECUTING AGENCY (IES): NFA
DURATION: 3 years
GEF FOCAL AREA: Biodiversity
GEF OPERATIONAL PROGRAM: OP #4
GEF STRATEGIC PRIORITY: BD-1
ESTIMATED STARTING DATE: August 2004
IMPLEMENTING AGENCY FEE: 146,000

FINANCING PLAN (US\$)	
GEF PROJECT/COMPONENT	
Project	975,000
PDF A*	25,000
Sub-Total GEF	1,000,000
CO-FINANCING**	
UNDP	50,000
Government	1,012,000
NGOs	95,600
Local Authorities	173,500
Sub-Total Co-financing:	1,331,100
Total Project Financing: (without PDF A)	2,306,100
FINANCING FOR ASSOCIATED ACTIVITY IF ANY: USD 6,773,500	

* Indicate approval date of PDF A
12/02/2002

** Details provided in the Financing
Section

CONTRIBUTION TO KEY INDICATORS OF THE BUSINESS PLAN:

7,800 hectares under priority conservation management by year 4.

150,000 hectares under improved protected area management by year 3.

RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT:

Liliana Chirila, National GEF Focal Point,
Directorate for Coordination of EU funds
Implementation.

Date: November 7, 2003

This proposal has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies and procedures and meets the standards of the GEF Project Review Criteria for a Medium-sized Project.

Yannick Glemarec
UNDP-GEF Deputy Executive Coordinator
Date: 19 January 2005

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

<i>APR</i>	Annual Project Report
BSAP	Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CO	Country Office
DI	Designated Institution
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FSC	Forest Stewardship Council
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GFTN	Global Forest and Trade Network
GIS	Geographic Information System
GPS	Global Positioning System
MEWM	Ministry of Environment and Water Management
MMNP	Maramures Mountains Natural Park
MRFA	Maramures Regional Forest Administration
NEX	National Execution
NFA	National Forest Administration
NFTP	Non Timber Forest Products
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NWDR	North-West Development Region
OP	Operational Program
PA	Protected Area
PAMA	Protected Area Management Authority
PDF A	Project Development Facility Block A
PEBLDS	Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy
PG	Producer Group
PIR	Project Implementation Review
POC	Project Oversight Committee
RBA	Romanian Biofuel Association
RCU	Regional Coordinating Unit
ROAR	Results-Oriented Annual Report
RPC	Regional Planning Committee
SME	Small and Medium Enterprises
TPR	Tripartite Review
TTR	Terminal Tripartite Review
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature

PART I - PROJECT CONCEPT

A - SUMMARY

This project seeks to strengthen Romania's national system of protected areas by demonstrating effective biodiversity conservation in Maramures Mountains Natural Park in Romania's northern Carpathian Mountains.

The project has emerged from and is built upon a notable local stakeholder-driven process that has created an innovative Government-NGO partnership in Maramures to pursue the conservation and sustainable development of an area comprised of national forestland, protected areas, private forestlands, agricultural land and small urban areas. The project will contribute to the expansion and consolidation of Romania's national system of protected areas by demonstrating effective park management and Government-NGO partnership.

In 2000, a group of concerned citizens representing a cross section of civil society in the Maramures region came together to conserve the biological diversity and ecosystem integrity of the Maramures Mountains. The group formed the Maramures Biodiversity Consortium and developed this project to help them strengthen their resource-use planning and environmental governance capacity in a rural region of northern Romania.

The successful completion of the project will result in stakeholders devising innovative and adaptive practices to strengthen Nature/National Park management and facilitate sustainable economic development by strengthening newly developed partnerships, conservation tools, information, and sustainable livelihoods to conserve biological diversity.

Maramures is a natural and cultural landscape where productive uses of Forest predominate and non-consumptive uses of the forest, such as eco-tourism, are growing quickly. Maramures is also a place where protected areas exist on paper more than on the ground. The demonstration of a Government-NGO partnership as a viable option for protected area management and biodiversity conservation constitutes the project's strategic approach to securing the sustainable long-term conservation of biodiversity in these mountains.

B - COUNTRY OWNERSHIP

1. COUNTRY ELIGIBILITY

Romania ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity on 17th of August 1994 and currently receives UNDP assistance.

2. COUNTRY DRIVENNESS

The Carpathians are internationally recognized for their biodiversity and conservation values. WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature) has included the Carpathian Mountains as one of the world's key Palearctic mountain ecoregions in the list of Global 200 ecoregions representing the world's most outstanding areas requiring targeted conservation efforts. The Government of Romania has long demonstrated a commitment to protecting biodiversity. The country ratified the Ramsar Convention in 1991, the Bern Convention on Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats in 1993, CITES and CBD in 1994, and the Bonn Convention for the Conservation of Migratory Species in 1998.

Approved in June 1996, the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP) identifies the Maramures Mountains as a conservation priority. The project furthers several of BSAP's most important priorities, including: strengthening and extending the network of protected areas; promoting the sustainable use of biological and cultural resources; and encouraging local participation and equitable access to benefits from biodiversity conservation.

Under the National Development Plan 2004-2006, the Romanian Government declared "environmental protection" as priority # 2 and defined "environmental protection" to include nature conservation and sustainable development, including eco-tourism and sustainable forest resource use.

The "Environment for Europe" Ministerial Conference in October 1996 endorsed the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS). This project is designed to further the overall objectives of the strategy and its specific recommendations, including promotion of mountain farming and sustainable Forest to support rural development, protection of mountain regions and promotion of habitat restoration projects.

Romania is also a partner in the NGO-driven Carpathian Ecoregion Initiative. The initiative is an international partnership of more than 50 organizations from seven countries in the region, aimed at protection and sustainable development of the Carpathians, listed as one of WWF's Global 200 ecoregions. The Carpathian countries demonstrated their commitment in April 2001 at the Bucharest Summit on Environment and Sustainable Development in the Carpathian and Danube Region, in which nine Heads of State and representatives of five other countries adopted a declaration committing their respective countries to collaborate on shaping a sustainable future for the Carpathians.

The Carpathian countries' ministers of environment strengthened this commitment by signing the Carpathian Convention at the 5th Environment for Europe Conference in May 2003 in Kiev, Ukraine. Following-up on this initiative, the Maramures Consortium signed a cooperative agreement in June 2003 with its counterpart consortium in Ukraine, to work for the establishment of a Transboundary Ukrainian-Romanian Biosphere Reserve in Maramures and Verkhovyna. This project supports this Romanian initiative.

C – PROGRAM AND POLICY CONFORMITY

1. PROGRAM DESIGNATION AND CONFORMITY

Strategic Priority Conformity:

This project is consistent with Strategic Priority #1: Catalyzing the Sustainability of Protected Areas (PA). The current protected area system suffers from a number of significant limitations that hamper the effectiveness and sustainability of protected areas in Romania.

More than 90% of the protected areas in Romania lack any kind of "on-the-ground" management. This project will contribute to the sustainability of Romania's national protected area system by demonstrating best management practices for the newest protected area (PA) category within the national system and disseminating them to other protected areas in Romania and the Carpathians, as a whole.

The project's innovative community NGO-Government partnership is one such practice. The strengthening of this partnership, and the sharing of the resulting lessons, will contribute significantly to and mark an important milestone in the long-term maturation and sustainability of the PA system.

Landscape-scale conservation planning is another such practice. Many protected areas in Romania are very small, making biodiversity conservation problematic over the long-term, especially as pressures in the surrounding landscape continue to grow. Coverage of ecosystems is often fragmented, and there is lack of connectivity between areas that would help redress size limitations. This project will demonstrate how to overcome these size limitations by teaching protected area managers landscape-scale conservation planning.

Operational Program (OP) Conformity:

The project meets GEF eligibility criteria under Operational Program #4 Mountain Ecosystems. Threats to biodiversity will be removed in targeted areas by mainstreaming biodiversity protection with socio-economic goals². The end-of-project situation will show sectoral integration in the management and conservation of project sites and in areas adjacent to those sites in the Maramures Mountains Natural Park (MMNP)³. Project activities include sustainable use and awareness components⁴. It has built-in mechanisms for monitoring outcomes, both in terms of ecosystem structure/function and sustainable use by local populations⁵. Finally, project risks have been minimized by applying best practice and best available knowledge and by ensuring that local communities share the conservation objectives of the GEF project⁶.

CBD Conformity:

This project is designed to support the primary objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). By integrating conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity into relevant plans and policies, the project will fulfill the requirements of *Article 6: General Measures for Conservation and Sustainable Use*, *Article 7: Identification and Monitoring* and *Article 8: In-situ Conservation* will be supported through the strengthening of park management and the targeted species and habitat management, research and monitoring program. *Article 10: Sustainable Use of Components of Biological Diversity* will be furthered through the development and demonstration of alternative, sustainable livelihood options that avoid or minimize adverse impacts on biological diversity, providing incentives for sustainable use (*Article 11: Incentive Measures*). The project also supports *Article 12: Research and Training* by promoting targeted research on priority biodiversity, providing training in technical and managerial areas, and developing linkages for exchange of information (*Article 17: Exchange of Information*). Education and awareness-raising is also a project priority (*Article 13*).

Global Biodiversity Benefits:

The Carpathian Mountains are the largest mountain range in Europe and constitute an important ecological north-south forested corridor for dispersal of flora and fauna across the Central Europe. Even large mammal species like wolf and brown bear use the corridor to migrate and repopulate unoccupied territories. The position of the Carpathians as a refuge during the ice age is still visible today in the exceptionally high diversity of species including many endemic and relict species⁷.

Romania is a country with rich biodiversity and a high percentage of relatively undisturbed natural ecosystems - 47% of the land area of the country is covered with natural and semi-natural ecosystems, which is the densest forest cover among the Carpathian countries. Romania encompasses

³ In accordance with GEF-OP4 criteria; see GEF-OP4; para 4.18b

⁴ In accordance with GEF-OP4 criteria; see GEF-OP4; para 4.18j

⁵ In accordance with GEF-OP4 criteria; see GEF-OP4; para 4.17m

⁶ In accordance with GEF-OP4 criteria; see GEF-OP4; para 4.20a, 4.24 and 4.25

⁷ See also The Status of the Carpathians, a report developed as part of the Carpathian Ecoregion Initiative, November 2001

approximately 55 % of the Carpathian range, making Romania by far the most important single country for the protection of the Carpathian biodiversity. The Maramures Mountains bordering Ukraine belong to the Eastern Carpathians and constitute the northernmost mountain range of the Romanian Carpathians. The Maramures Mountains form the headwaters to the Viseu, Vaser and Tisla catchments, all major tributaries to the transboundary Tisza River.

The project area, situated at an altitude of 340 to 1957m has an approximate surface of 150,000 ha, out of which 60% is represented by forests, 30 % grasslands and alpine pastures and only 4 % by agricultural lands. Lower altitudes are dominated by natural mixed forests of oak (*Quercus spp.*), hornbeam and beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), which are replaced at the montane level by pure beech and mixed spruce and fir. The dwarf pine (*Pinus mugo*) stands characteristic of the alpine level were declared a natural monument by County Council Decision 37/1994. On the volcanic plateau there are a number of bogs preserving numerous glacial relicts. The depression zone is a mosaic of lakes, alluvial meadows, terraces with clogged backwaters, swamps, and ponds, all hosting a rich biodiversity⁸.

Species Diversity: Among the 1000-recorded vascular plants, more than 90 species are endemic and 101 are included in the Red List of Romania (93 are rare, 7 vulnerable and one is endangered). Some of the rare species are legally protected in Romania as ‘natural monuments’, including *Cypripedium calceolus*, *Narcissus radiiflorus*, *Angelica archangelica*, *Gentiana lutea*, *Gentiana punctata*, *Rhododendron myrtifolium*, *Taxus baccata* and *Trollius europaeus*.

The fish fauna is diverse⁹ with 26 recorded species, 15 of which are listed under the Bern Convention and several are listed as endangered in the IUCN Red data Book. Very rare are *Eudontomyzon danfordi*, the ‘Danube Salmon’ (*Hucho hucho*, a glacial relict), chub (*Leuciscus souffia agassizi*, endemic to the Maramures mountains), and gudgeon (*Gobio uranoscopus*). *Leuciscus leuciscus*, absent in most of the Romanian rivers, has also been recently recorded in the Viseu River. All reported amphibian (8) and reptile (8) species are protected under the Bern Convention, some of them being listed as vulnerable in IUCN Red Data Book, such as *Triturus cristatus*, *Bombina variegata*, *Hyla arborea*, *Rana dalmatina* and *Rana temporaria*, among Amphibia, and *Emys orbicularis*, sand lizard (*Lacerta agilis*), and Aesculapian snake (*Elaphe longissima*) among Reptilia. The amphibian Carpathian newt (*Triturus montandoni*) is endemic to Eastern Carpathians. The avifauna is very rich with 141 recorded species, 140 of which are listed under the Bern Convention (85 are strictly protected and listed on Annex II and 55 protected - Annex III), 49 species under Bonn Convention with the rare white tailed eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*), 54 under the EC Bird Directive and 44 listed under the Agreement on the Conservation of Africa-Eurasian migratory Waterbirds (AEWA). A list of a few focal or indicator bird species recorded nesting in the project site includes golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), lesser spotted eagle (*Aquila pomarina*), corn crake (*Crex crex*), wryneck (*Jynx toquilla*), capercaillie (*Tetrao urogallus*), black grouse (*Tetrao tetrix*), pygmy owl (*Glaucidium passerinum*), Ural owl (*Strix uralensis*), Tengmalm’s owl (*Aegolius funereus*), white-backed woodpecker (*Dendrocopos leucotos*), and three-toed woodpecker (*Picoides tridactylus*). Records list also some rare trans migrant bird species, such as: *Pandion haliaetus*, *Gavia stellata*, *Anas clypeata*, *Netta rufina* and *Melanitta nigra*.

With 44 species, the mammal fauna is extremely rich with large populations of brown bear (at least 66 individuals recorded in a recent one-off survey in project site, whereas the estimated Romanian population is 5500 specimens), wolf (40 recorded in project site, and total population in Romanian

⁸ See ‘Muntii Maramuresului - The Database Concerning the Establishment of Biosphere Reserve’, Editura Echim 2000, for additional details

⁹ See Annex 4 – List of vertebrate species recorded at the project site

Carpathians estimated at 3000) and lynx (estimated 1500 in Romania, 18 recorded in project site). Rare and declining mammal species include also e.g., the European mink (*Mustela lutreola*), otter (*Lutra lutra*), *Myotis brandti*, and *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*. For many decades, research activity has lacked a systemic approach, and it can be expected that many more rare, vulnerable and endangered species of flora and fauna will be found in future studies.

2. PROJECT DESIGN

Sector issues, threats, root causes, & barriers affecting biodiversity conservation

Sector Issues:

Protected Areas

Protected area management in Romania is still evolving in this transition period. In total, Romania has designated 1,234,710 ha or 5.18 % of the country's territory as protected. Government's target is to double this by 2010. The national network of protected areas consists of seventeen national and natural parks and 844 small reserves and protected areas. Few areas are protected and managed effectively, due to the lack of a coherent institutional framework involving local stakeholders, the lack of staff and insufficient budget allocation, as well as insufficient collaboration between the agencies coordinating the uses of natural resources. Currently, only the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve, Retezat National Park, Piatra Craiului National Park and Vanatori Neamt Natural Park have proper administrative structures with designated staff. Officially, the remaining areas are under specific protection regimes, but in practice the legislation is not effectively implemented.

The Minister of Environment and Water Management, according to the protected areas law provisions, recently accorded management responsibility for sixteen of the country's seventeen national and natural parks to the National Forests Administration. The Forest Directorates and Districts of the National Forests Administration (NFA) manage protected areas located on forestland. In addition, the Environmental Protection Agency's newly established Services for Conservation coordinates the inventory of natural protected areas, protected bird habitats, and the implementation of the EU Natura 2000 programme in Romania.

The Romanian Parliament removed an important barrier in 2001 to the establishment of Government-NGO partnerships for protected area management when it passed protected area law #462 creating the "natural park" category of protected area. A Natural Park is a category of locally designated protected area that can be managed by local government and, if relevant, an NGO or a consortia of local government, NGOs, and civil society. Maramures Natural Park was established by local government and a consortium of government, NGOs and civil society. The most significant remaining barrier is the lack of experience with actually making these Government-NGO partnerships work.

This project has emerged from just such a partnership. The proposed project will build on the work already undertaken during the past eight years by the Ecological Society of Maramures together with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) - Baia Mare, the Maramures County Council and various NGOs, CBOs and governmental institutions in Romania, as well as their counterparts in Hungary, Ukraine and the Slovak Republic.

In 2000, civil society leaders mentioned above established a consortium for biodiversity conservation and landscape management in Maramures. The consortium includes the County Prefect, the President of the County Council, the Chief Inspector of the county EPA, the Director of the Forest

Administration and the President of the NGO Ecological Society of Maramures¹⁰. The proposed project would build the capacity of local Government and non-Government stakeholders to collaboratively plan and lead conservation management of the rich biodiversity of the Maramures Mountains through the newly established Maramures Biodiversity Consortium.

PDF A activities supported the establishment of the Maramures Mountains Natural Park (MMNP) and in 2003, Baia Mare County Council declared the project area a local-level, locally managed Natural Park. Altogether, MMNP encompasses an area of 150,000 ha. The project area is defined as the area of the MMNP park itself. Ten priority core areas have been identified by the Consortium, namely: Naclovati (237 ha, neighbouring Kuziyskiy PA in Ukraine); Zaslau - Runc – Hlubochni reserve (745 ha); Serban – Pop Ivan - Hututeanca reserve (1,050 ha, linked directly to the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve in Ukraine); Farcau – Vinderel reserve (1,920 ha); Piatra Socolaului reserve (613 ha); Tarnita – Bosotin reserve (890 ha); Lutoasa – Peceal – Baita reserve (930 ha); Baita - Bardau – Tunel CFF Terchila (1,095 ha); Comanu Mic (300 ha); and Ivorul Boului – Jupania reserve (265 ha).

The park's area is an important trans-boundary bridge to two parks in Ukraine: the Carpathians Biosphere Reserve of the Transcarpathia region and the Natural Park of Verkhovyna. Both border MMNP, which links them to Rodna Mountain National Park in Romania. Taking this into account, the Maramures County Council, the local EPA, and the Ecological Society of Maramures have submitted a proposal to the Ministry of Waters and Environmental Protection, Romanian Academy and the National UNESCO MAB (Man and Biosphere) Committee to declare the Maramures Mountains a transboundary Biosphere Reserve linked with the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve in Ukraine. See Annex 2 and Annex 3 for maps of the Maramures area.

Forest Management and Protected Area Management Context

All state forests in Romania are under the authority of the National Forest Administration (NFA) or "Romsilva" of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forest and Rural Development. Overall, the NFA has a long and notable history of rigorous forest management, and on the whole, national forest management in Romania has been relatively well funded and administered for many decades.

The project area encompasses approximately 150,000 ha, of which 66% is naturally regenerated forests, 30% meadows and alpine pastures and 4% agricultural lands. In recent years, Government has returned 24,000 hectares (16% of the project area) to the original private owners. With respect to the forestland itself, Government still owns 76,500 ha, private individuals own 3,500 ha and local municipalities own 22,800 ha. In other parts of Romania, new reinstated private owners have immediately cut their privatised forestland, intent upon realizing income from a long-lost asset. In the project area, this has not been such a problem, given that most of the original ownership was comprised of institutions and not individuals.

Due to the isolation of Maramures, forest management here was quite good during Communist times, compared to other parts of the country. Trees were harvested at a less industrial level and replanting was done using local species. This, combined with the area's inaccessible mountain terrain has resulted in one of the largest natural forests in the country, one of the best diversified age structures of any forest it's size in Romania, and native beech and fir forest and meadow landscapes closer to their natural condition than in most parts of the Carpathians. These facts bode well for forest ecosystem health as well as future sustainable off-take.

¹⁰ See consortium charter in Annex 9

However laudatory these practices are, there is room for improvement as forest management evolves to meet the challenges of the 21st century. Forest management in Romania is still focussed primarily on timber (trees) and not other forest goods and services (forest ecosystem), including the biological diversity therein (“not seeing the forest for the trees”). Forest management plans focus on trees and timber, with little attention paid to wildlife, or aquatic systems, for example. Non-consumptive uses of the forest are not adequately valued or recognized.

This is beginning to change in Romania. FSC certification work started in Romania in 2001 with two state forest districts in Neamt County with an area of 31,500 ha. In May of 2004, Romsilva began forest management assessment work in preparation for Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification of 1,025,000 ha of national forest in eight additional counties: Arad, Timis, Cluj, Hunedoara, Arges, Dambovita, Nemat, Suceava.

In addition, RomSilva has issued a request for proposals recently to certify over three million hectares of Romania’s national forestlands. This includes NFA funding for FSC certification of state forests in Maramures. As part of NFA’s contribution to this project’s re-oriented baseline, it has agreed to fast-track certification work in the Maramures region in coordination with this project’s work.

Experience with forest certification in other parts of the world has shown that for it to work effectively, not only must forest management be certified, but processors and consumer markets for the certified wood must be cultivated as well. One key to obtaining and maintaining markets for certified forest products is to secure certification of chain-of-custody for certified forest products from the forest’s edge to the consumer retailer. This has often been the weak link in the economic viability of forest certification.

Currently, WWF’s Global Forest and Trade Network program is in the process of establishing a producer group (PG) in Romania to promote forest certification and create linkages between certified forest growers and users or buyers of certified forest products. GFTN in Romania has a group of 14 companies and private forest districts that support forest certification work and who would like to become members of a producer group. Two of these companies are FSC-certified (Fratti and MTI) but are unable to find certified timber to buy and use in Romania.

Producing certified timber often means improving the level of forest management or at least changing existing forest management practices. To facilitate this, forest managers need assistance in navigating the transition from existing practices to those that will lead to certification and incentives to keep them on track. The absence of both serves as a barrier to forest certification in many areas.

Socio-economic context

During the Communist era, the Romanian economy was developed without regard for environmental externalities. Fortunately, the former system did not affect environmental conditions in Maramures to any significant degree. For example, the policy of collectivisation of farmlands was not very effectively implemented in northern Romania, particularly in marginal areas like the Maramures Mountains. Agricultural systems were not intensified to any substantial degree and traditional rural lifestyles, farming practices, landscapes and natural values survived.

The project area includes the territories of Bistra, Petrova, Repedea, Ruscova, Poienile de Sub Munte communities, and Viseu de Sus town with a combined total population of 49,294 inhabitants (according to the June 1999 census). The main economic activities in the area are mining, Forest and livestock, woodworking, and - just emerging - tourism. The region is one of the poorest in Romania on an economic scale and in modern times, significant numbers of people have chosen to earn their

living elsewhere, sending their earnings home to support their families. The PDF-A socio-economic study estimated the emigration of young people at the rate of 4.8 to 6.6% per year.

The region has always been disadvantaged, but this is beginning to change as new economic opportunities emerge. The conditions for sustainable development are improving, as Romania seeks to enter the European Union. The use values by which inhabitants of the Maramures Mountains measure their landscape's worth - what they can cut, graze, collect, and hunt - are being transformed as new opportunities such as tourism emerge. Growing eco and cultural tourism represent a promising new economic opportunity for the Maramures Mountains region. A PDF-A survey of tourist activities showed that the number of tourists in the project area doubled between 1995 and 2000 and doubled again between 2000 and 2003 to a total of 10,000 tourists per year. Even if every tourist only spends an average of \$250 during their stay, that means that tourists injected over 2.5 million dollars into Maramures' local economy in 2003.

Collectivised land is being returned to private and institutional owners. This process is accompanied by a considerable risk that the restitution of land ownership might result in short-term profit seeking in the form of excessive logging, and intensive grazing at high altitudes. Logging and wood-based enterprises (house and church construction) have become the mainstay of many localities near the Maramures Mountains. PDF A surveys show 99 lumber mills (2001) were operating in the project area, employing one quarter of the local communities' population.

Romania's National Development Plan 2004 – 2006 ranks “Nature Conservation and Environment Protection” as the # 2 priority. The presence of large natural parks and reserves was listed as a development strength and tourism development as a valuable resource. With the aim of balancing the country's development, the Romanian Government passed in 1998 Law #151 for Regional Development and set up eight Regional Development Agencies, of which the North West Agency is active in the project area, to develop regional programs.

Threats/Root Causes & Barriers to Effective Conservation and Protected Area Management:

In the past 10 years, new social and economic dynamics have emerged, contributing to the diminishment of biological diversity through the fragmentation and degradation of habitat and the direct exploitation of species. There are no single dramatic threats but rather growing pressures. The project proposes a measured, step-by-step approach to anticipating and minimizing imminent threats by guiding and managing change. The project will enable stakeholders to prepare for imminent pressures resulting from approaching EU accession by helping them understand what the options are.

Habitat fragmentation

Habitat fragmentation and degradation have been identified as the most serious threats to biodiversity in the Maramures area. Poor private forestland management, illegal felling of state forests (including the destruction of some old growth forests) and some overgrazing have degraded and fragmented forest and grassland habitat, leading to the loss of biodiversity and contributing to the severe floods that affected the Tisza River in 2000.

Unsustainable forest management practice is a low-level threat currently, but could well grow as new technology is introduced unless new owners are given help in improving their forest management expertise. This is especially true as some new owners seek a quick return on their new forest assets. Illegal felling is a problem that appears to have stabilized in recent years.

Root causes:

⇒ Trees are one of the most readily cash-convertible natural resources in Maramures.

- ⇒ Existing local markets for logs in Maramures have no preference and offer no incentives for sustainably harvested timber.
- ⇒ Uncertainties associated with the transfer of lands from public to private ownership.
- ⇒ New forest owners' confidence in the permanence of their property right is low.
- ⇒ Nearly all-new owners of private/municipal forestland have no training in sustainable Forest practices and principles.

Aquatic habitat degradation:

Over 90 small wood mills in the region produce over 43,000 m³ of sawdust per year, which are mainly deposited along riverbanks or in *ad hoc* dumpsites. Large deposits of sawdust produced along rivers and streams, together with soil erosion, drastically affect the aquatic habitat quality for many fish species by reducing the oxygen content in the water and silting stream beds. According to recent studies, sawdust accumulation in the rivers of the Maramures Mountains has degraded spawning and feeding habitat for some endangered fish species, such as the rare Danube salmon (*Hucho hucho*).

Root Causes:

- ⇒ The value of wood waste is unrealized; there is no market for such waste.
- ⇒ Most forest enterprises operate on a shoestring budget and are unwilling to pay for proper waste disposal.
- ⇒ The cost of waste disposal is an external cost easily ignored under current law and policy.
- ⇒ Viable alternative for disposing of sawdust waste in the region are not available.
- ⇒ Market-oriented solutions and related incentives remain undeveloped.

Direct exploitation of wildlife and Non Timber Forest Products (NTFP)

Wildlife is under growing pressure from increased hunting and collecting, but the precise level of this threat is unknown. Data on exploitation of birds (hunting, egg collecting, and falcon capture) is absent, but it is probable that the problem constitutes a serious threat, especially for rare birds of prey. NTFP harvest is increasing as economic difficulties continue, presenting questions of sustainability. Endangered flowering and medicinal plants are either sold in the city markets or used domestically for esthetic, herbal, and medicinal purposes. Three species of particularly beautiful flowering plants are found here and are over-exploited. At least four species of medicinal herbs also grow here, though are increasingly rare. Illegal fishing and trapping of fur-bearing animals are also common, indiscriminately affecting common and rare species alike.

Root Causes:

- ⇒ NTFP are some of the natural resources most readily convertible to cash.
- ⇒ Property rights are uncertain for NTFP, leading to uncontrolled harvest and a classic common property problem.
- ⇒ There are no incentives for people not to harvest NTFP wherever they find them, nor are the disincentives sufficient deterrent.

Uncontrolled tourism

The area has a very high tourism potential, being already a famous regional tourist destination for its local culture -- its traditional festivals and renowned wooden churches, houses and gates. Several villages near the project site are already part of an agro-tourism network. Combine the cultural attractions with the fact that the landscape of the Maramures lends itself to trekking, a popular outdoor activity in Europe, and one can see that the potential for tourism in Maramures is very promising. Indeed, as described in the baseline section, tourist visitation numbers have doubled in recent years.

The threat to biodiversity originates in the fact that tourism is growing in the absence of the necessary institutional and physical infrastructure. Institutional and individual capacity for planning, guiding, and enforcing are absent as are proper trails and information materials. There are no well constructed trails, nor are there any management plans or trained guides in place to develop tourism in an environmentally and biodiversity-friendly way. In the absence of these things, the uncontrolled development of tourism activities will adversely affect the biodiversity of the Maramures Mountains with a major negative impact over the medium and long term.

Other aggravating factors include the following:

- Insufficient system, institutional, and individual capacity and collaboration between the national and regional agencies responsible for the area's administration and natural resource management.
- Weak coordination among local communities, local authorities and the public sector.

Barriers:

In addition to these threats and root causes, the following are significant barriers that prevent conservation from being effectively operationalized by public and private stakeholders in protected areas like MMNP:

- Capacity barriers at the Ministerial, Regional, Department, and Individual levels.
- Stakeholders are inexperienced in developing and operating Government-NGO partnerships.
- There is a low level of awareness among the public regarding the value, importance and vulnerability of biological diversity and renewable natural resources.
- Key Government decision-makers, both national and local, do not recognize the economic value of protected areas, of non-consumptive uses of natural resources, ecosystem services and future development options.
- Ecotourism is a new concept and few people are aware of its practical implications and benefits.
- Regional land-use planning and environmental governance capacity is immature and underdeveloped.
- Financial institutions have little experience in assessing SME viability, especially in the relatively new "green" markets.

In conclusion, pressures on the biodiversity of the Maramures region are the result of historical and current economic development patterns, and are expected to grow in light of developing trends such as tourism. These pressures will result in ever greater habitat degradation - including species loss- and fragmentation, unless measures are undertaken to improve management of the area's natural resources. The goal of improved management must be the long-term sustainability of ecosystem services for economic and environmental benefit.

OBJECTIVES, OUTCOMES AND ACTIVITIES:

GOAL: Strengthening Romania's national system of protected areas by disseminating lessons and good practices extracted from the Maramures demonstration of an effective protected area model.

Objective: The biodiversity of Maramures Mountains Natural Park in Romania's Northern Carpathian Mountains is effectively conserved by adopting an effective protected area management model.

OUTCOME 1. STAKEHOLDERS MAKE MARAMURES MOUNTAINS NATURAL PARK (MMNP) FULLY OPERATIONAL.

Output 1.1: Maramures Mountains designated a national-level protected area.

Activities:

1.1.1. Prepare and adopt an integrated management plan for the MMNP. Under this activity, stakeholders will apply questions adapted from the World Commission on Protected Areas' Assessment Framework to the development of a management plan for MMNP¹¹. The development of MMNP's management plan will be a participatory, open process. Stakeholders will apply the following simple conceptual framework in their approach to preparing a management plan.

Where are we now?

⇒ Assess plans for establishment of MMNP, projected resources, intended management approaches, primary conceptual framework to be applied for PA management of MMNP.

Assess protected area design and planning -- Where do we want to be?

- ⇒ What are the main objectives of MMNP?
- ⇒ What capacity/resource needs do staff have to enforce protected area legislation and regulations?
- ⇒ Is MMNP legally gazetted to the full extent it needs to be at all levels?
- ⇒ Information on the critical habitats, species and cultural values of MMNP must be sufficient to support planning and decision-making.

What do we need? -- Assess resources needed to carry out management

- ⇒ Are there sufficient mechanisms for controlling inappropriate land use and activities in MMNP?
- ⇒ How can the PA budget be made as secure as possible in order to minimize uncertainty?
- ⇒ How to we ensure the PA has adequate equipment and facilities and the ability to maintain them?
- ⇒ How can international standards be applied to PA budget management?
- ⇒ Ensure staff numbers are adequate for critical management activities.
- ⇒ Endeavor to make personnel management as professional as possible in order to support the achievement of major management objectives.
- ⇒ What is an appropriate fee for visiting the protected area that helps to support MMNP?
- ⇒ Will available management mechanisms work to control access or use?

How do we go about it? -- Consider the way management of MMNP should be conducted

- ⇒ How can we develop a process that allows key stakeholders to influence the management plan?
- ⇒ A workplan must be developed and updated, in order to ensure MMNP is achieving its objectives.
- ⇒ How can survey or research work be encouraged in MMNP in order to support management?

¹¹ WWF and the World Bank. Reporting Progress at Protected Area Sites: A simple site-level tracking tool.

- ⇒ How can we ensure co-operation on management between managers and neighboring land users?
- ⇒ Assess the requirements for active management of critical ecosystems, species and cultural values.
- ⇒ How can local communities directly participate in making decisions relating to management?
- ⇒ How can MMNP protection systems be effective in controlling use in accordance with objectives?
- ⇒ How can MMNP be managed to generate a significant flow of economic benefits to local communities from activities in and around the protected area?

1.1.2. Prepare and submit the documents required for designation as a national level protected area.

The Ecological Society of Maramures, the Scientific Council and the PAMA will prepare and submit to the Ministry of Environment and Water Management (MEWM) the documents required for the designation as a national level protected area and legal gazetting of the area. The management plan will be part of this documentation. Once Maramures Natural Park is afforded national level status, the National Forest Administration will be able to provide a budget to support management and conservation activities in the park and thus sustain PA management beyond the project's closure.

Output 1.2. MMNP's relationship with local communities is strengthened.

Activities:

1.2.1. Mobilize community awareness and participation. Local peoples' knowledge of the PA and their attitudes towards it will affect the park's ability to successfully fulfill its purpose. Under this activity, the project will support MMNP in developing a simple and practical awareness-raising and participation plan. The plan will focus on how to develop effective co-operation between MMNP managers and local stakeholders like schools, resource users, and tourism operators to enhance visitor experiences, protect values and prevent and/or resolve conflicts.

This activity will focus education and awareness raising efforts on school children and resource users. The project will build a youth constituency for MMNP by helping local schools to teach children about the park and their own mountain environment. A visitor interpretation center will be developed in a place that is accessible to the most students. Teaching materials on the biodiversity and mountain ecosystems of Maramures will be developed for elementary school and middle school. Teachers will be trained in using these new materials. The project will support pilot efforts to introduce practical and fieldwork in Environmental Science by supporting programs to enable teachers and school children to visit MMNP. The project will develop and place information boards in various parts of the PA. Information leaflets will be produced for both hunters and fishermen and the wider community

1.2.2. Strengthen the capacity of local associations and community groups to raise awareness. Awareness-raising is a useful and necessary tool in helping to change peoples' behavior that is harmful to biodiversity. This activity would complement the project's other activities designed to bolster capacity and provide incentives to further such behavioral change.

Community group specialists, who have experience in preparing educational materials and working with schools, will organize education and awareness courses in targeted communities with input and direction from representatives of both the community and school. A training-of-trainers approach will be utilized whereby the project will focus on enabling the more promising groups to produce and implement actual courses on protected areas, their globally and regionally important biodiversity, conservation and sustainable use for resource users and school groups. An awareness activity manual will be produced with and distributed by youth organizations and NGO partners in one of the PAs initially. Activities will be monitored and expanded to other PAs by the third year. To the extent possible, PA staff will also participate in these activities.

Output 1.3: Strengthened field conservation capacity of Maramures Mountains Natural Park.

Activities

1.3.1 Staff MMNP to the level needed to achieve management objectives.

The National Forest Administration, in consultation with the Maramures Consortium, will establish, staff, and finance the Protected Area Management Authority (PAMA) for MMNP from day one of the project. This will be an important early milestone in the project's implementation. PAMA will be responsible for the development and implementation of the conservation management plan for the project site. GEF funds will cover the costs of short-term expert input during the life of the project.

1.3.2. Establish adequate equipment and facilities and the ability to maintain them. Under this activity, the basic infrastructure for the management of the MMNP will be established, including park premises, equipment, vehicles, and signage. GEF co-funding will support the renovation of an old building, the purchase of office equipment, establishment of the park's modest infrastructure, transport capacity, field monitoring and survey program and equipment for park personnel.

1.3.3. Strengthen capacity of PAMA and Maramures Biodiversity Consortium through institutional training, courses, and exchange programs with other project areas in Romania and abroad. Under this activity, the project will conduct short-term, in-country training programs in conservation biology, law & policy enforcement, PA management, and data management for new MMNP staff. Effective cooperation between the Park and resource users is crucial to the success of the project. This activity will also seek to improve PAMA's capacity to utilize community-based resource management as a tool. Training will focus on developing the ability of Park staff to interact and build relationships with local stakeholders and community leaders. It will require new ways of thinking broadly and cross-sectorally, including harmonizing local benefits with biodiversity conservation schemes.

1.3.4 Elaborate supplementary funding mechanisms to support additional activities under park management over the long term. The growth rates of tourism in Maramures, and the potential for future growth, make tourism a realistic part of a long-term funding solution for MMNP. The project will work with MMNP to evaluate tourism in the area (numbers, tourist demographics, areas of interest, reasons for visiting) and assess market demand i.e., the potential level of tourist visitation to MMNP. A team of University students will survey tourists (Romanian and international) on their willingness to pay for admission to the park and/or other use and visitation fees. The results of the study will feed into the development of a park revenue-generating program to be implemented by MMNP beginning in year two. A market study will also be conducted to assess the market for souvenir/book/map sales and the potential of these sales to generate additional revenues for the park. Project resources will also help MMNP in establishing this program, and to facilitate its application by the second year of operation. This will include training MMNP staff in these issues and producing informational materials for visitors.

Output 1.4. An established and operational information baseline, survey and monitoring system on biodiversity and ecosystem health.

This activity will generate the information that Government, protected areas, and local communities need to manage biodiversity effectively. An effective, practical survey, targeted research, monitoring and information management program is an important component of protected area management. Without up-to-date information, the protected area administration will not know how its own work is progressing, nor will it be able to learn from mistakes or successes.

1.4.1 Establish information baseline for MMNP. Under this activity, project resources will support work to compile existing information on the biodiversity and ecosystem health of MMNP in one,

simple and easy-to-use database. Paper records and data sheets will be properly stored and transcribed into a computerized database. Preliminary field assessments of targeted areas will be conducted as the basis for ongoing survey, research and monitoring during the first year of the project. Additional information will be gathered by consulting aerial photographs to achieve basic coverage of MMNP and published and unpublished information on biodiversity, Forest and other resource use;

1.4.2. Conduct ongoing biodiversity survey, research and monitoring to support management.

Surveys of priority species and habitats will be conducted over the lifetime of the project to build on the information baseline. Initial surveys will cover:

- a) Resource use patterns; ii) gender & resource use; iii) property rights; iv) traditional knowledge
- b) Water quality in designated sampling sites;
- c) Condition and extent of primary habitats;
- d) Biodiversity in priority areas;

Survey work will be conducted or overseen by the Cluj Biology Institute in collaboration with MMNP. The surveys will be designed and conducted in a way that is sustainable in the Maramures context. Project resources will enable PAMA to devise a survey methodology that is low cost, participatory and that strengthens local capacity. Limited, targeted research also will be conducted to improve understanding of ecosystem structure and function and species ecology and habitat needs.

Data will be compiled in standardized map and report formats, and survey methodology will follow recommended best practices. Surveys will be designed to involve community groups, forest managers, and resource users. For example, as part of the resource-use assessments, youth organizations will map the boundaries of customary grazing areas in the mountains.

1.4.3 Monitor biodiversity and ecosystem conditions. A technologically appropriate, low-cost community-based monitoring protocol will provide the basis for the project's monitoring activities. The Cluj Biology Institute jointly with MMNP will carry out the monitoring of priority areas in partnership with local communities and schools with the intention of providing data on the field survey priorities described above. As part of the project's focus on establishing sustainable conservation mechanisms, the project will reinvigorate the involvement of the private sector in ongoing monitoring.

GEF resources will support the start-up costs of monitoring and sustain them through the project's lifetime. The National Forest Administration has committed to continuing the monitoring activities upon conclusion of the project. This will be an important milestone in year three of the project.

1.4.4. Upgrade information management and create geographic information system (GIS). Good, basic data management is crucial to an institution's ability to access the information to inform decision-making processes. Under this activity, GEF resources will support stakeholders first in ensuring that existing paper data files are adequately stored and preserved and that second, new data is recorded in paper and electronic form. Secondly, this activity will support MMNP in standardizing and incrementally upgrading existing paper-based data files into computer files for a modest geographic information system (GIS) and ensuring that they are adequate to manage data gathered by survey and monitoring efforts and are compatible with international databases. The resulting data management system will be designed in cooperation with the Carpathian Ecoregion Initiative to ensure ease of data transfer and biodiversity data sharing among Carpathian states. And finally, a web-based mechanism for sharing information among decision makers, researchers, and civil society will be established.

One immediate output of this activity will be to produce and distribute information on the park to relevant local stakeholder and civil society organizations. The boundary of the protected area is not sufficiently known by the management authority or local residents/neighborhood land users. A new map

will be prepared of the Park using GIS and GPS technology, clearly demarcating its boundaries. Large maps will be distributed to local officials and small pocket maps will be made available to the public.

Output 1.5. Increased likelihood that replication will occur after the project.

Activities under this output will seek to facilitate and increase the likelihood that replication will occur once the project is over. A strong, detailed plan will be developed at project inception to ensure replicability of the lessons learned to the national PA system (i.e. means to disseminate lessons learned, outreach, and policy influence to different stakeholders).

1.5.1. Design and adopt mechanisms or policies requiring the NFA and the EPA to adopt certain best practices. Under this activity, the project will work with the NFA and EPA to develop and adopt NFA and EPA policies encouraging adaptive management and emphasizing the importance of adaptive management and reflective practice – learning from experience and applying those lessons to future experiences.

1.5.2. Build a knowledge network among protected area managers to provide the necessary enabling environment/mechanism to facilitate the adoption of best practices by others in the national system of protected areas and elsewhere. Under this activity, a modest knowledge network of protected area managers and NGOs would be established. In practical terms, this means a newsletter will be published and annual meetings held where best (and worst) practice experiences will be presented, discussed, and arrangements made to facilitate site visits and training, where needed. The knowledge network will include protected areas that have benefited from GEF interventions in the past, particularly the WB-GEF Biodiversity Conservation Management Project.

1.5.3. Incorporate new learning modules into the curricula of the NFA and EPA’s existing PA training programs, ensuring that these skills will be taught to the next generation of PA and environmental practitioners.

OUTCOME 2. STAKEHOLDERS STRENGTHEN ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE ACROSS MARAMURES.

Activities under Outcome 2 are designed to overcome key barriers to conservation and sustainable development that are primarily related to environmental governance. “Regional land-use planning and environmental governance capacity is immature and underdeveloped” is one such barrier.

Output 2.1 A model for civil society input to forest management is created.

2.1.1. Consider a simple set of forward looking questions regarding the future of Forest in Maramures. Despite the long and often heated debate on forest management worldwide, there is little understanding of the long-term consequences of current Forest practices, nor of the financial, social and ecological implications of sustainable forest management. Under this activity, the Consortium will pursue, through rigorous analysis, a simple set of forward-looking questions:

- ⇒ What is the current condition of the Maramures forest?
- ⇒ Where will it be in 50 years if trends continue?
- ⇒ Which approach to forest management will yield the most benefits to residents of the Maramures region, Romania, and the global environment over the next 50 years?
- ⇒ What is the full economic value of Maramures forest under each scenario?
- ⇒ What are the implications for wildlife, for river system health, for recreation, and sustainable economic development under each scenario?

THIS WORK WILL COMPLEMENT AND SUPPORT THE FOREST CERTIFICATION DEMONSTRATION UNDER OUTPUT 3.4 BELOW. DURING THE PRE-ASSESSMENT AND ASSESSMENT PROCESS FOR OBTAINING FSC CERTIFICATION ALL STAKEHOLDERS WILL BE CONSULTED REGARDING THE FUTURE OF FOREST MANAGEMENT IN THE AREA. THIS IS ASSURED THROUGH THE FSC PRINCIPLES AND CRITERIA, WHICH REQUIRE THIS CONSULTATION AND PROMOTE FOREST MANAGEMENT THAT MAXIMIZES ECOLOGICAL AND ECONOMIC BENEFITS.

OUTPUT 2.2 LANDSCAPE-SCALE BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION PLAN FOR MMNP AND SURROUNDING AREAS.

2.2.1. DEFINE CONSERVATION LANDSCAPE IN MARAMURES. UNDER THIS ACTIVITY MMNP STAFF, NGOS, AND COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES WILL WORK WITH PROJECT STAFF TO DEVELOP A BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION PLAN FOR MMNP AND SURROUNDING AREAS.

RELEVANT INFORMATION ON SPECIFIC HABITATS AND AREAS OF CONSERVATION IMPORTANCE (E.G. PRIORITY HABITATS, SPECIES ASSEMBLAGES, LOCATIONS OF IMPORTANT ECOLOGICAL PROCESSES, AND SO ON) WILL BE MAPPED IN A PARTICIPATORY PROCESS WITH RESOURCE STAKEHOLDERS.

CONSERVATION AND RECOVERY PLANS WILL BE DEVELOPED FOR PRIORITY SPECIES AND HABITAT TYPES IN THE AREA. SPECIFIC CONSERVATION GOALS WILL BE ESTABLISHED AND RECOVERY MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES PROSCRIBED. TERRESTRIAL AND AQUATIC HABITATS WILL BE PRIORITIZED FOR CONSERVATION ACTION. IN THE PROCESS, COMMUNITY LEADERS WILL BE TRAINED IN BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION PLANNING. BASED ON THIS PROCESS OF DOCUMENTING AND MAPPING INFORMATION, STAKEHOLDERS WILL LEARN TO APPLY LANDSCAPE ECOLOGY PRINCIPLES TO DEFINE THE ECOLOGICAL NEEDS AND SPECIFY AQUATIC AND TERRESTRIAL HABITATS AND SPECIES FOR CONSERVATION.

Applying the landscape species approach¹², this conservation plan will define the “conservation landscape” in and around MMNP. The biological requirements of priority species and plant or animal communities (feeding, nesting, home range) will be overlaid on landscape maps in order to identify key habitats (feeding areas, nesting sites) supporting these species and particularly their placements within the landscape. For example, the priority habitats of nesting bird populations will be identified and mapped – as will habitats providing services such as erosion control. Landscape-scale biodiversity conservation priorities will then be compared to the corresponding human landscape (land-use type and intensity, etc.) using GIS capabilities. The results of this activity will feed into the planning work done in Activity 2.3.1 below.

Output 2.3 Strengthened capacity of local administrations’ capacity for regional planning.

Activity 2.3.1 Integrate landscape-based approach into local planning.

This activity will work with local municipalities to develop a permitting system that controls development based on the landscape-scale conservation plan and other environmental parameters in order to facilitate managed and well-planned sustainable development and conservation. More specifically, a regional planning expert will work with a working group of local government officials to: a) Develop an operational permitting and zoning system for development; b) Establish development zones for the project area; and c) Introduce practical and appropriate development permitting system for the Maramures region. Work under this activity will be co-funded by local communities, who will

¹² Sanderson, E.W. et. al. 2002. Landscape and Urban Planning. 58 (2002)41-56.

access funds from the Regional Planning Committee, North-West Development Region (RPC/NWDR) under Measure 1.3.

The project will also seek to integrate sustainability and conservation criteria into local economic development plans and programs for the Maramures region. Project funding will support work to integrate conservation objectives into eligible activities and methods of local development planning programs, particularly the RPC/NWDR Measures 1.1-1.3.

OUTCOME 3. STAKEHOLDERS RECOGNIZE AND BEGIN TO REALIZE REAL VALUE IN NATURAL CAPITAL, STRENGTHENING THE LINK BETWEEN SUSTAINABLE USE AND CONSERVATION WITHIN MMNP.

Key institutions that are not normally part of a conservation initiative must recognize the full value of protected areas, of biodiversity and of ecosystem services if sufficient resources are to be applied to conserving and sustainably utilizing these values. Outputs and activities below are oriented towards this outcome, complimenting those from the project's other two main outcomes.

Unsustainable livelihood practices are the primary factors contributing to the problem of ineffective conservation of biological diversity. Activities under Outcome 3 seek to promote sustainable livelihoods in a way that overcomes key threats to conservation and barriers to sustainable development. In so doing, the project will be able to reduce pressure on biodiversity and ecosystem health and improve conservation effectiveness within MMNP.

Output 3.1. A marketplace to foster the knowledge, goods, and services of a conservation economy.

This output is designed to focus on catalyzing the adoption of a conservation economy in the Maramures region. Through the following activities, stakeholders will establish a marketplace that fosters the knowledge, goods, and services of a conservation economy.

3.1.1 Establish a natural capital center.

Under this activity, a modest “natural capital center” will be established at the Forest District’s office in Novat Viseu de Sus and managed by ESM with education and information activities performed by the ESM, PAMA and the Pro Viseu Foundation. The center will serve as a hub for information and education activities, and a venue for seminars and workshops. The center will have two primary purposes: 1) to serve as a marketplace of knowledge regarding the economic value and the goods and services of a conservation economy; and 2) to serve as a visitor information center.

In serving as a marketplace of knowledge, it will raise awareness of these issues among local entrepreneurs and decision makers, raise the profile of these issues in local development planning and financing, and cultivate a new sense of capacity for developing a conservation economy. The center will focus on overcoming the knowledge, capacity, and financial barriers that hamper the development of a conservation economy in Maramures. A resource reference office will be located in the center to provide information to local entrepreneurs on how to participate in various international fora and access information sources on organic agriculture and sustainable Forest products buyers groups, and international ecotourism trade organizations. It would also provide “how to” reference materials with respect to developing ecotourism enterprises, receiving organic certification, and forest and wood products certification. The reference office will complement all the activities described under 3.1.2 below.

The center will also serve as a tourist information center for MMNP and will be designed to serve as a visitor service facility for MMNP that will meet the projected visitation levels for the next seven years. Public awareness activities will also be linked with the National Public Awareness Strategy which will be developed with the assistance of the GEF/World Bank supported Biodiversity Conservation Management (BCM) project.

3.1.2: Develop a marketplace of knowledge.

Idea 1: Economic Value: Conduct economic analyses of the full value of protected areas, and of all major natural resources in Maramures. This activity would be tied into Activity 1.3.4 under Outcome 1, as well. These easy to understand economic assessments would be then presented in public workshops held at the natural capital center, and in other fora and through the press to help a broad range of stakeholders to begin recognizing the full value of these resources.

Idea 2: The value of sustainable goods and services and overcoming local market entry barriers to these goods and services. Workshops would be held on:

- a) Analysis of market demand and barriers/opportunities for entry
- b) Growing and marketing organic food and animal products;
- c) Overcoming market entry barriers for wood producers. This activity would focus on overcoming the inadequate understanding at the local level of the European market for wood products, especially the niche markets for craftsman-made products utilizing sustainably harvested wood. Local entrepreneurs and resource management organizations would benefit from expert advice on forest certification, the marketing of sustainably harvested wood, and value added wood processing and wood-based manufacturing. The center will incorporate some green technologies into its design to serve as a primary resource center for the local woodworking and home building economy on how to integrate green building materials and techniques into local construction practices.
- c) Analysis of market demand and market entry barriers for non-timber forest products.
- d) Eco-tourism's potential value and how to develop and capitalize on it (See Output 3.3 for detail). This will include conducting an assessment for tourism demand for MMNP, of market potential, including potential private sector investment. This will be done before investing in any facilities or training.

Idea 3: Conduct trade fairs during peak tourism season to highlight local goods and services for a conservation economy. Under this activity, co-funding would finance trade fairs that highlight goods and services for a conservation economy in Maramures. This would include local ecotourism businesses, sustainably produced wood products, agricultural products, and non-timber forest products.

3.1.3. Strengthen capacity of financial institutions and SME.

GEF financing would support work to overcome institutional capacity and finance barriers to the growth of a conservation economy. Marketing and business professionals will work with financial institutions to help them identify business knowledge that are feasible for loan investments and in doing "due diligence." This would include helping small and medium enterprises (SME) in doing a market study and business plan.

3.1.4. Facilitate replication of these approaches. Organize and conduct at least three workshops for civil society representatives from other parts of Romania to introduce the concept and the approach taken under Output 3.1.

Output 3.2. Demonstration: Wood waste to energy -- Sawdust biomass generated heat for a school or hospital.

Activities under this output will seek to solve a specific problem – wood waste in streams causing aquatic habitat degradation – by introducing market-based solutions to environmental problems.

An estimated 40,000 tons of sawdust are produced in the Maramures Region each year. Based upon the experience of other biomass projects, a sawdust biomass boiler for a small village or part of a larger village would consume approximately 2,500 tons/year.¹³ Under this activity, GEF resources will catalyze the collaboration between the Romanian Biofuel Association (RBA), three local communities, and co-funding partners¹⁴ to pilot up to three co-generation biomass units in the Maramures area. GEF and co-financing will demonstrate the viability of one system and co-funding would replicate these systems in other parts of Maramures and Romania via the two associations mentioned above.

One area will be targeted for reducing input of sawdust into streams, and demonstration activities will be focused on this area. Project funding would also be applied to monitor the impact of biomass heat generation on the wood waste disposal problem and facilitate the replication of this technology in other areas of Maramures, through peer-to-peer training. If proven successful, a financial strategy and plan to replicate this approach would be developed. GEF financing will support such a plan and work with other ministries responsible for forest management, education, research, finance, industry and resources to ensure policies are in place that require consideration of these kinds of solutions nation-wide in Romania.

The RBA will play a key role in helping to replicate the use of co-generation biomass units. At least two study tours will be organized to bring civil society representatives from other parts of Romania facing similar problems to see the demonstration and engage in peer-to-peer discussions on how these practices and experiences may be replicated.

Output 3.3. Ecotourism demonstration

Ecotourism potential is a valuable resource and is only growing more so in Maramures. The purpose of this output is to help people understand clearly what the potential value is and what decisions need to be made now to secure full realization of this potential.

3.3.1. Strengthen Ecotourism planning and management capacity

a) Introduce the potential of ecotourism and throw light on the concept - ecotourism is a concept that is often invoked, but little understood, especially in practical terms. Under this activity ecotourism expertise would be brought in to develop and apply eco-tourism as a practical concept, to introduce both decision makers and entrepreneurs to ecotourism's potential, to demystify the concept and to share best and worst practices from other parts of the world.

¹³ Case Study: Biomass Demonstration Project. Tasca, Romania. <http://www.managenergy.net/products/R423>

¹⁴ Swiss Cooperation Agency "Thermal rehabilitation program for schools and health care facilities"; Romanian Ministry of Education and Research Program for applied research in environment and renewable energy (MENER); UNDP-GEF Small Grants Program.

b) Project resources will support the Consortium in devising an ecotourism strategy and plan. The International Ecotourism Society defines ecotourism as *"responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment and improves the well-being of local people."* This means that those who implement and participate in ecotourism activities should follow certain principles, such as, but not limited to: a) Minimize impact; b) Build environmental and cultural awareness and respect, and; c) Provide direct financial benefits for conservation. This activity would introduce these principles to participants and work with stakeholders to draft appropriate ecotourism principles for Maramures.

The planning process will focus stakeholders on these principles and upon important elements that will be part of a successful ecotourism program in Maramures, including:

- ⇒ Principles, practices, and policies for sustainability;
- ⇒ Zoning MMNP for tourism use;
- ⇒ Codes of conduct for tourism and local communities;
- ⇒ Guidelines for eco-lodges and tour operators.

c) Development of a cadre of ecotourism professionals in Maramures. Project resources will support training activities for community planners and managers on proactive ecotourism planning and management options. The project would provide expert input to train nature tour operators in low-impact hiking and camping practices and the natural history/ecology of the area. A study tour to the only operational eco-tourism program in Romania will be organized for a key group of decision makers, nature tour operators, and other entrepreneurs as part of this process.

d) Foster knowledge and experience transfer by summarizing important lessons and findings from this process as described by stakeholders themselves. Organize at least three peer-to-peer conversations regarding this experience and how it or parts of it can be replicated in other parts of Romania.

Output 3.4. Certified Forest Production and Marketing Demonstration

The NFA is funding the re-oriented baseline costs of FSC certification of the state forests in Maramures, which represents 2/3 of the total forest in the Maramures region. GEF financing will pay to ensure that biodiversity criteria and objectives are included in new forest management plans and that biodiversity conservation practices are integrated into sustainable forest management training. GEF financing will also help to overcome barriers preventing private forests (the remaining 30% of forests in Maramures) from becoming certified by introducing the concept to them as part of the work described below under Activities 3.4.1, 3.4.2 and 3.4.3.

3.4.1. Introduce certification of sustainable forest management practices to forest managers and wood processors in the Maramures area. This activity will provide specific and detailed information on the opportunities and practices associated with forest certification to municipal and/or private forest owners in the Maramures area.

Certified Forest experts will conduct workshops with forest owners in the Maramures area to explain forest certification processes and promote sustainable forest management and chain-of-custody certification. Two-three pilot forests will be chosen from among those forest owners who express the most serious level of interest in terms of staff commitment and support. Training in sustainable forest management and chain-of-custody certification will be provided for the key staff from these two or three pilot forests. GEF financing will support training in ensuring that biodiversity conservation goals and conservation practices are also included in the sustainable forest management training for both state and private forest managers.

- 3.4.2. Develop a “Producer Group” of Certified State Forest Management Units, Private Forests, and forest products processing companies. This activity will build on the interest generated by activity 3.4.1 by establishing a model producer group in the Maramures area comprised of the owners of the two pilot forests, and three forest products processing companies.

Stakeholders will work with project experts to establish a framework that would describe how the producer group should be run to maximize benefits to members while ensuring credibility. The WWF-IKEA/Global Forest and Trade Network’s Producer Group Toolkit will guide work under this activity. To become a part of a producer group, a company or forest owner must commit to becoming independently certified within a pre-defined period of time, and must develop a work plan with specific performance objectives that is subject to third party evaluation.

The transition to certified forest management would follow these steps (WWF/GFTN):

- ⇒ Applications accepted to join a producer group from interested forest producers and forest product users.
- ⇒ Baseline audit will be conducted to clarify and summarize gaps between current management practices and the standard.
- ⇒ An action plan will be developed for reading the standard with specific, discrete actions, resources and timelines.
- ⇒ The forest enterprise in question will then formally commit to the Action Plan.
- ⇒ The forest enterprise(s) will then become a member of the Producer Group.
- ⇒ Incentives: The forest enterprise can then actively seek markets for transition timber, which serves as an incentive for continuing down the path of certification.
- ⇒ Monitoring visits to confirm that the action plan is being followed.
- ⇒ Certification: and finally, the forest in question will be certified with the FSC standard.

- 3.4.3. Facilitate chain-of-custody certification through supply and distribution channels in Maramures and establish links with certified forest products buyer groups in Romania and EU countries.

Under this activity, project experts, and Government and private sector counterparts would work to connect local producers with established trade relationships with specific certified forest trade networks in Europe, in particular: Italy, Sweden, Austria, Germany and Great Britain. In addition, WWF is developing a chain of custody certification mechanism in Romania. Companies in Maramures interested in being linked to buyer group companies must undergo a chain-of-custody verification. This procedure tracks the raw material from the forest gate and through the various stages of production. This activity would apply the WWF mechanism to achieve certification for Maramures forest products.

Logical Framework:

For measurable performance indicators, risks and assumptions, see Annex 1: Logical Framework.

Incremental Cost Table.

	BASELINE	ALTERNATIVE	INCREMENT
Global Environmental Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No established protection regime in Maramures Mountains, no funds allocated for nature protection; • Gradual depletion of the mountain and forest ecosystems biodiversity values; • Little or no incentives to use local natural resources in a more sustainable way; • Government-NGO partnership under-developed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maramures Mountains Natural Park and effective protection regime established; • Land-use and resource management planning capacity established; • Conservation economy promoted and incentives highlighted. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maramures Mountains Natural Park and effective protection regime established • Landscape-scale conservation approach in place. • Barriers to effective PA management overcome; • Valuations of PA, ecosystem services, and non-consumptive uses uncovered and affecting public policy.
Domestic Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential for conservation economy is under appreciated; • Pressure on globally significant biodiversity and related ecosystems is growing; • Knowledge and experiential barriers prevent people from developing a strategy for developing a conservation economy and pursuing new options. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New livelihood options identified and pursued by local stakeholders; • New markets identified. • More sustainable forest management practices in place; Pilot forest certification undertaken. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New economic opportunities developed through the elaboration of the knowledge, goods, and services of a conservation economy. • PA seen as a contributor to and not a detractor from local economies. • Forest certification tested also includes strong biodiversity criteria.

Outcomes	Baseline Costs (US\$)	Alternative Costs (US\$)	Incremental Costs (US\$)			<i>Re-directed co-financing</i>
			TOTAL	<i>Of that:</i> GEF Funds (US\$)	<i>Of that:</i> Direct Co-financing (US\$)	
Outcome 1. Establishment of the Park basic infrastructure, its overall management and monitoring systems	540,000	1,687,500	1,147,500	553,000	594,500	3,000,000
Outcome 2. Stakeholders Integrate Conservation and Sustainable Development Across Maramures.	155,000	294,500	139,500	100,000	39,500	18,500
Outcome 3. Promoting a conservation economy.	1,002,300	1,989,400	987,100	290,000	697,100	3,755,000
Project monitoring, evaluation and audit	0	32,000	32,000	32,000	0	0
TOTAL	1,697,300	4,003,400	2,306,100	975,000	1,331,100	6,773,500

3. SUSTAINABILITY (INCLUDING FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY)

Because this project emerged from the hard work and dedication of a unique consortium of Government and NGO stakeholders, the prospects for long-term sustainability are quite good. This project has been designed to enable the continuation of project-inspired changes in practice upon completion of the project itself. The project’s approach to sustainability reflects several overriding assumptions related to the question of sustainability and how this will be achieved. Please see below for a matrix of assumptions and project responses:

Assumption	Response
<p><i>Assumption #1:</i> The project’s outcomes are largely achievable with current institutions, and existing and to-be-increased financial resources and personnel.</p>	<p>Block A preparatory activities negotiated an arrangement with the NFA/PAMA whereby the NFA will absorb the costs of staffing the new MMNP beginning in year 1 and significantly reducing the sustainability challenge w/respect to long-term management of MMNP. The project, in turn will support project staff costs, expert input, and start-up costs for MMNP related to equipment, basic infrastructure, training, and management planning.</p> <p>In addition, building new capacities into the existing, funded programs (e.g. protected area management; local community development programs) is the most cost-effective approach to achieving lasting sustainability in the project area.</p>
<p><i>Assumption #2:</i> Strengthened partnerships among communities, NGOs and national government will contribute to sustainability.</p>	<p>The project is designed to strengthen the capacity of the Ecological Society of Maramures to remain a dynamic and constructive force in conservation and sustainable development in the Maramures area and in particular to remain the sustainable facilitator or the informal Consortium of stakeholder groups.</p>
<p><i>Assumption #3:</i> Integrating conservation objectives into economic development planning and programs will serve to reduce unsustainable pressures on PA resources and be a significant contributing factor to sustainability.</p>	<p>The project seeks to integrate conservation objectives into regional development plans and specific guidelines like road building standards, zoning, and so on. This will address some of the root causes associated with threats to biodiversity in the area.</p>
<p><i>Assumption #4:</i> Overcoming barriers (knowledge, financial, “proof of concept”) will catalyze the self-sustaining adoption of conservation economy knowledge and practices, the accessing of new markets for</p>	<p>The project integrates the guidance from GEF and experience of many other projects by focusing on removing barriers to the adoption of more sustainable practices. The project will seek to work with and strengthen local institutional</p>

conservation-economy based development, and new protected area management approaches.	and stakeholder capacities to access new information and markets.
<i>Assumption #5:</i> Properly managing the emergence of conservation economy services like ecotourism will generate supplementary long-term financing for the protected area	The project seeks to work with stakeholders to guide proactively the emergence of ecotourism, what could very well be a significant conservation economy activity, and in securing supplementary funding for protected area management. The Protected area's annual management costs will be fully covered by the National Forest Administration. Indeed, the NFA is covering the costs of all PA staff from the beginning of this project.

4. REPLICABILITY

The replicability potential of the best practices generated by this project is significant for at least two reasons: 1) the practices to be developed and demonstrated are directly relevant to other protected areas and protected area contexts within Romania; and 2) project partners have the resources or, with proper capacity building, the ability to access resources that are more than sufficient to support replication of civil society partnerships, protected area management, and the knowledge of a conservation economy, including eco-tourism management. Replication will also be fomented regionally through the emerging Carpathian Protected Areas Network and the Carpathian Ecoregion Initiative.

Replication can have two aspects: 1) direct replication and 2) scaling up. Direct replication occurs when lessons and experiences are replicated by different entities as a result of direct contact with project training, capacity building or publications. Scaling up occurs when lessons and experiences are integrated into larger programs and activities, which results in follow-on effects.

The project will facilitate direct replication by applying the following approach:

- i. Introduce stakeholders (local community development planners/managers, Forest Department staff, entrepreneurs, and protected area managers) to new knowledge, sources of information, sources of financing, and practices or approaches through workshops and study tours.
- ii. Establish a modest knowledge network of protected area managers and NGOs. In practical terms, this means a newsletter will be published and annual meetings held where best (and worst) practice experiences will be presented, discussed, and arrangements made to facilitate site visits and training.
- iii. Outcome 3 is designed to focus on introducing new knowledge, practices and technologies, and helping stakeholders overcome barriers to adopt them replicate them.
- iv. Identify and disseminate lessons learned and best practices to project partner institutions, and through relevant associations.
- v. Train individuals from other PAs to expand the project's main approaches to other areas. Protected area managers, NGOs, institutional staff will be invited to participate.

Scaling-up of Project Work:

See Output 1.5 for the activities within the project that will focus on scaling up project work.

5. STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT & IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

Stakeholder involvement in project development.

Stakeholders originated this project idea, have propelled this project concept forward, and will continue to do so during and after project implementation. A proactive NGO in the Maramures region called the Ecological Society of Maramures initiated the original project idea and began to gather support from civil society partners. In view of the strong interest of local stakeholders in conserving the biodiversity and natural resources of the area, local stakeholders established the Maramures Biodiversity Consortium¹⁵ in August of 2000 comprising representatives of local authorities, governmental and non-governmental organizations. It was designed to carry out the following functions:

- ⇒ Select priority areas and possible activities, to address national and regional needs for biodiversity conservation most strategically and effectively;
- ⇒ Identify the main threats to biological diversity, the underlying economic and social causes for these practices;
- ⇒ Propose possible activities to reduce the pressure on natural resources;
- ⇒ Agree on institutional arrangements for project implementation.

The strength of the project lies in the public private partnership constituted by the Local Consortium that includes all stakeholder representatives at the highest decision making level. Moreover, the PDF A was developed and implemented in a broad consultative manner, and local communities were informed and consulted about MSP activities and outcomes. Stakeholder participation in MSP implementation is expected to be substantial. The majority owner of the forestland, the NFA, is also a beneficiary of the project and was highly involved in its preparation and implementation.

Roles and responsibilities of relevant stakeholders in project implementation.

Stakeholder:	Roles and Responsibilities:
National Forest Administration (NFA)	National institution responsible for all state forests in Romania, as well as Natural and National Parks in Romania, under contract from the Ministry of Environment and Water Management.
Maramures Regional Forest Administration (MRFA)	The regional branch of the NFA responsible for all state forests in Maramures County, including the Maramures Mountains Natural Park. As such, the MRFA is the primary land and resource manager in the project site. The NFA will provide an institutional home for the Maramures Mountains National Park, and the project management unit. The MRFA is a member of the Maramures Consortium.
County Environmental Protection Agency – Baia Mare and national EPA.	Chair of the Consortium at the local level; will work with project to strengthen training programs and facilitate replication at the national level.

¹⁵ See Annex 7 for the decision of Maramures Biodiversity Consortium establishment.

Directorate for Biodiversity Conservation and Biosafety at the Ministry of Environment and Water Management.	Provides policy and regulatory framework
Ministry of Finance	The MoF encourages the startups of SME through low taxation; the Agency for SME promotes local economic development providing grant schemes to small private enterprises.
County Forest District – Baia Mare	Responsible for managing all State forests in Baia Mare County and coordinates the activities of territorial Forest districts and will be involved in park’s activities.
“Apele Romane” Somes – Tisza regional office;	Responsible for water resource management in the Park area and works to prevent floods and mitigate flood damage.
Prefecture of the Maramures County, County Council Maramures,	The Prefecture is the decentralized representative of the Government at the local level; oversees law enforcement at the county level. The County Council develops and approves county development plans, large infrastructure works, etc.
Local Councils of Bistra, Petrova, Leordina, Repedea, Ruscova, Poienile de sub Munte and Viseu de Sus.	Develops and approve local development plans, small infrastructure works, etc.
Water Management Service – Maramures - Baia Mare	Member of the Consortium; advisory role regarding water supply inside and outside protected areas as part of the basin water management plan.
Ecological Society of Maramures	Primary project proponent and Project executor for the PDF A; member of Consortium and a prominent champion of biodiversity conservation and public private partnerships.
Maramures Biodiversity Consortium (includes representatives of Maramures County Prefecture, Maramures County Council, local EPA, Regional Forest Unit, Water Management Service and the Ecological Society of Maramures)	Provides advice on project preparation; assists in problem solving related with project implementation. Also, provides a “neutral” platform for stakeholder consultation and mediation between various interest groups. The Consortium will serve as the main mechanism and forum for information dissemination and stakeholder participation and consultation.
Pro-Viseu Foundation	Mainly involved in outreach and education for tourists and maintenance of forest trails.
Romanian Biofuel Association	Will provide practical and technical advice to local communities for demonstration of co-generation biomass benefits.
Regional Planning Committee;	Responsible for regional development plan

Northwest Development Region	
Natural History Museum “Grigore Antipa”, Natural History Museum Sighet, “Nord” University – Baia Mare.	Provides expertise on flora and fauna of Maramures and can mobilize volunteers to work in MMNP.
Private Sector	
Private forest owners	Will take part in the project’s co-funded forest certification activity. They will be part of a model producer group in the Maramures area comprised of the owners of the two pilot forests, and three forest products processing companies
Forest product processing companies	Will also be part of the model certified forest products producer group created by the project in the Maramures area.
Ecotourism entrepreneurs	Will take part in developing guidelines for sustainable tourism and in training a cadre of ecotourism professionals.

Implementation Arrangements:

The project will be implemented over a period of three years. Project execution will adhere to UNDP national execution (NEX) project requirements.

Designated Institution: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is the focal point for coordinating UNDP’s technical cooperation in Romania. The National Forest Administration will serve as the Designated Institution (DI) responsible for project implementation. The DI is accountable to the focal point and UNDP for the government’s participation in the project. The DI will ensure that internal monitoring and review systems are in place. The DI will prepare the Project Oversight Committee (POC) meetings, and with input from POC members, will provide overall guidance and support to implementation of all project activities. The DI staff and/or experts will be utilized when needed in accordance with UNDP guidelines, and will facilitate interaction among relevant public organizations, research institutions and private organizations.

Implementing Agency: Under UNDP’s NEX guidelines, an Implementing Agency (IA) may be a government institution, another UN agency, an NGO, or a private professional services firm. The IA will be designated to deliver specific inputs (services, expertise, procurement of equipment) to the project and produce specific outputs through an agreement with the DI and UNDP CO. The IA is accountable to the POC and UNDP for the proper use of funds provided to it and for the quality, timeliness and effectiveness of the services it provides and the activities it carries out. The National Forest Administration will be designated as the Implementing Agency (IA) for this project. The IA will be responsible for day-to-day project implementation and the timely and verifiable attainment of project objectives.

With respect to Outcome 3, sub-contracts will be utilized during project implementation to build capacity of local NGO partners and secure local ownership. For example, two NGO partners of this project -- the Ecological Society of Maramures and the Pro Viseu Foundation – will be responsible for implementing Outcome 3.

UNDP: Working closely with the DI, the UNDP Country Office (CO) will be responsible for: overseeing project budgets and expenditures, recruiting and contracting project personnel and consultant services, procuring equipment (when not done by the Implementing Agency), and project

evaluation and reporting, result-based project monitoring, and organizing independent audits to ensure the proper use of UNDP/GEF funds. Financial transactions, auditing and reporting will be carried out in compliance with national regulations and UNDP procedures for national execution.

Day-to-day Project Management and Implementation.

The IA will establish a small Project Management Unit (PMU) in consultation with UNDP. The PMU will be located in the administrative offices of MMNP in Maramures. The PMU will consist of national staff members comprising the project manager and a project assistant. PMU staff salaries will be paid by the NFA from their own budget beginning from the first day of the project. The PMU will be strengthened with national and international short-term experts. GEF funds will pay the costs associated with international and national expert input to the project. Recruitment of expert input for the project will be done in consultation with UNDP and through an open and fair competition following UNDP standard hiring procedures.

The PMU will assume day-to-day management responsibility for MSP implementation and coordination among partner organizations. The PM will be responsible for facilitating UNDP's project monitoring duties, preparing technical and financial reports to UNDP and GEF, and confirming the quality of the project's outputs. The Project Manager will also act as an interim Park Manager/Administrator during the project implementation period and will work closely with all the members of the Maramures Biodiversity Consortium. One of the most important responsibilities of the PM will be to work effectively with members of the POC to ensure that project-inspired activities proceed on schedule within each project partner.

Working groups will be established for Components 1, 2, and 3. These working groups will consist of IA staff, local NGOs, private entrepreneurs, and local community leaders. The PM will work closely with the IA to coordinate project activities and make the link between project administration and implementation as seamless as possible. Depending upon his or her area of expertise, the PM could be included into one of the project outcome working groups.

A Project Oversight Committee (POC). The NFA will establish and chair the POC. Membership in the POC will reflect membership of the Maramures Biodiversity Consortium and will consist of one member from each of the following institutions or stakeholder groups: Maramures County Prefecture, Maramures County Council, the local EPA, the Regional Forest Unit, the Water Management Service, the Ecological Society of Maramures, a private forest owner, and UNDP. The POC's role will be comprised of four main responsibilities. First, the POC will serve as a forum for stakeholder input and discussion. Second, the POC will oversee project implementation, meeting on a semi-annual basis to review project progress and approve annual project workplans. Any major changes in project plans or programs will require approval from the POC to take effect. Thirdly, POC members will facilitate the implementation of project activities in their respective organizations, ensure that cooperative activities are implemented in a timely manner, and facilitate the integration of project-inspired activities into existing programs and practices. The Implementing Agency will report to the POC at each meeting. Representatives of partner and co-funding organizations not represented on the POC will be invited to attend POC meetings on an as needed basis.

Coordination with other IAs/EAs: In the preparation phase of the GEF/UNDP project, GEF/WB Biodiversity Conservation Management lessons were incorporated during selection of the current implementation modality, something that is more likely to ensure the project's sustainability and streamline park management operations. Other valuable lessons will be incorporated in the implementation phase through consultations with the GEF/WB park managers, exchange visits and also by inviting the ex park manager of Piatra Craiului Park (one of the three WB parks) who is also Director of Protected Areas within the NFA, to sit on the project's Steering Committee. In the

preparation of landscape level plans the Park Management team will organize a consultation process in form of a workshop, to be able to draw on valuable experiences of similar national or regional projects.

6. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The project team and the UNDP Country Office (UNDP-CO) will conduct project monitoring and evaluation with support from UNDP/GEF in accordance with established UNDP and GEF procedures. The Logical Framework Matrix in Annex 1 provides performance and impact indicators for project implementation along with their corresponding means of verification. These will form the basis for the project's M&E system.

An inception workshop will be organized to launch the project. The inception workshop will be conducted with the full project team, relevant government counterparts, co-financing partners, the UNDP-Country Office (CO) and representation from the UNDP-GEF Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU). During this workshop, stakeholders will prepare an M&E program that is integral to project implementation.

An impact measurement table will be prepared at project inception to keep the project team's work focused on achieving measurable results. The measurement table will draw largely upon the logical framework and will add more detail where necessary. As part of the work to establish an impact measurement table, the project team will establish a simple baseline for relevant measurement indicators as included in the logical framework in order to enable measurement of progress from this baseline situation. An important part of this baseline measurement will include the use of the WWF-World Bank Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) to establish a baseline for protected area management effectiveness. The Maramures protected area management team will fill out this METT at project inception to establish the baseline from which PA management improvements will be measured.

A detailed schedule of project review meetings will be developed by project management, in consultation with project partners and incorporated in the Project Inception Report. Such a schedule will include: (i) tentative time frames for Tripartite Reviews, Steering Committee Meetings, (or relevant advisory and/or coordination mechanisms) and (ii) project related Monitoring and Evaluation activities. And finally, the project's first annual workplan will be prepared as part of the inception report. The workplan will be prepared based upon the priorities established in the logframe and the impact measurement table.

Monitoring: Day-to-day monitoring of implementation progress will be the responsibility of the Project Manager based on the project's annual work plan and its indicators. The specific indicators for the first year implementation targets, together with their means of verification will be developed at the inception workshop (see above). These will be used in a day-to-day sense to assess whether implementation is proceeding at the intended pace and in the right direction. Targets and indicators for subsequent years will be defined annually as part of the internal evaluation and planning processes undertaken by the project team.

Annual Monitoring will be conducted by way of the Tripartite Review (TPR). This is the highest policy-level meeting of the parties directly involved in the implementation of a project. The first such meeting will be held within the first twelve months of project implementation. The terminal tripartite review (TTR) is held in the last month of project operations. The Project Manager is responsible for preparing the Annual Project Reviews/Project Implementation reports and for Terminal Report and submitting it to UNDP-CO and the RCU.

The PM in conjunction with the UNDP-GEF extended team will be responsible for the preparation and submission of the following reports that form part of the monitoring process.

Reporting: The PM and UNDP project focal point will prepare a project Inception Report immediately following the Inception Workshop. The IR will include: a detailed work plan for year one; detailed project budget for the first full year of implementation; a more detailed narrative on the institutional roles, responsibilities, coordinating actions and feedback mechanisms; a section on progress to date with project establishment and start-up, and; a list of technical reports envisioned for the year and tentative due dates.

The PM is responsible for producing the Annual Project Review/Project Implementation Report (APR/PIR). The APR/PIR is a UNDP/GEF requirement and part of UNDP-CO central oversight, monitoring and project management, provides input to the country office reporting process and the ROAR. It is an essential management and monitoring tool and is the main vehicle for extracting lessons from the project's ongoing work. APR/PIR is the key input to the Tripartite Project Review.

PM is responsible for preparing quarterly reports on progress of the project. CO focal point will re-write reports into quarterly operational reports and share them with GEF RCU every three months.

Evaluation: The project will be subjected to at least two independent external evaluations, the Mid-Term Evaluation and the Final Evaluation. An independent Mid-Term Evaluation will be undertaken at the mid-point of implementation. The Mid-Term Evaluation will determine progress being made towards the achievement of outcomes and will identify course correction if needed. An independent Final Evaluation will take place three months prior to the terminal tripartite review meeting, and will focus on the same issues as the mid-term evaluation. The final evaluation will also look at impact and sustainability of results, including the contribution to capacity development and the achievement of global environmental goals.

Audit: The project will be subject of financial audits as required according to UNDP/GEF rules and regulations.

D - FINANCING

Financing Plan

Outcomes/Outputs/Activities	Project TOTAL	GEF	Direct Co-financing
Outcome 1. MMNP becomes fully operational	1,147,500	553,000	594,500
Output 1.1 MMNP designated national PA.	64,000	50,000	14,000
1.1.1 Prepare/adopt management plan for MMNP.	61,000	50,000	11,000
1.1.2 Prepare/submit docs for national level designation.	3,000	0	3,000
Output 1.2 MMNP relationship with local communities is strengthened.	124,000	64,000	60,000
1.2.1 Mobilize community awareness	62,000	29,000	33,000
1.2.2 Strengthen capacity of local NGOs to raise awareness.	62,000	35,000	27,000
Output 1.3 Strengthened field conservation capacity.	807,500	309,000	498,500
1.3.1 Staffing of MMNP.	210,000	0	210,000
1.3.2 Equipment and infrastructure for MMNP	483,500	214,000	269,500
1.3.3 Training in conservation related disciplines.	94,000	75,000	19,000
1.3.4 Elaborate supplementary funding mechanisms.	20,000	20,000	0
Output 1.4 Information baseline and monitoring system.	122,000	100,000	22,000
1.4.1 Establish information baseline.	17,000	5,000	12,000
1.4.2 Conduct biodiversity surveys.	50,000	40,000	10,000
1.4.3 Monitor biodiversity & ecosystem health.	15,000	15,000	0
1.4.4 Upgrade information management and GIS.	40,000	40,000	0
Output 1.5 Project results replicated.	30,000	30,000	0
1.5.1 Revise policies to facilitate replication	8,000	8,000	
1.5.2 Create knowledge network	5,000	5,000	
1.5.3 Develop and integrate new modules in PA training.	17,000	17,000	
Outcome 2. Environmental Governance Strengthened.	139,500	100,000	39,500
Output 2.1 Model for civil society input to forest management.	30,000	30,000	0
Output 2.2 Landscape-scale biodiversity conservation plan for MMNP and areas.	35,000	30,000	5,000
Output 2.3 Local administrations' capacity for regional planning is strengthened.	74,500	40,000	34,500
Outcome 3. Stakeholders realize value in natural capital.	987,100	290,000	697,100
3.1 A marketplace to foster knowledge, goods and services of a conservation economy.	389,800	100,000	289,800
3.1.1 Establish modest natural capital center	264,800	50,000	214,800
3.1.2 Develop marketplace of knowledge	100,000	25,000	75,000
3.1.3 Strengthen financial institutions and SME capacity.	25,000	25,000	0
3.2 Demonstration - Wood waste to energy	225,000	70,000	155,000
3.3 Demonstration -- Ecotourism	207,300	60,000	147,300
3.3.1 Introduce the potential of ecotourism & demystify it.	120,000	20,000	100,000
3.3.2 Strengthen ecotourism planning/management capacity	87,300	40,000	47,300
3.4 Certified Forest Production and Marketing Demonstration	165,000	60,000	105,000
Project Management, M&E and audit	32,000	32,000	0
TOTAL	2,306,100	975,000	1,331,100

Co-financing

Co-financing Sources				
Name of Co-financier (source)	Classification	Type	Amount (US\$)	Status*
Forest Administration	Government	Cash and in kind	1,012,000	\$957 confirmed The difference comes from the forest certification, where the NFA approximated the cost as it is currently in the process of the tendering this. The figure was calculated based on the average 0.7 \$/ha x no. of state owned forest hectares.
Local Administrations	Local Government	Cash and in kind	173,500	Confirmed
Pro-Visue and Ecological Society of Maramures	NGO	Cash and in kind	95,600	Confirmed
UNDP	UN organization	Cash	50,000	Confirmed
Sub-Total Co-financing			1,331,100	

E - INSTITUTIONAL COORDINATION AND SUPPORT

1) CORE COMMITMENTS AND LINKAGES

This project is designed to be linked strongly to the three main Programme Areas (PA) of UNDP-Romania's Country Cooperation Framework: 1) Democratic governance and decentralized development; 2) Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction; and 3) Environmental Governance.

The project is a product of a civil society initiative in Romania, originating from the committed efforts of the Maramures Consortium, comprised of leaders from civil society and local government in the Maramures region. The result of the project will be strengthened democratic governance in terms of Government-NGO cooperation and decentralized development in a region hundreds of kilometers from Bucharest. As such, it contributes directly to the furtherance of PA #1 above.

The project is designed to strengthen institutional capacities, business development and the export of goods and services that contribute to a conservation economy in the Maramures area. Indeed, the project's Outcome #3 is devoted entirely to this. As such, it contributes directly to the furtherance of PA #2 above.

Finally, environmental governance is a priority concern of the project. Indeed, environmental governance is part of democratic governance and decentralized development. The project seeks to strengthen different aspects of environmental governance through virtually every major output and its associated activities, and particularly in Outcomes 1 and 2. As a result, the project contributes directly to the furtherance of PA #3 above.

Coordination with other Implementing Agencies.

Part II – Response to Reviews

- A - CONVENTION SECRETARIAT
- B - OTHER IAS AND RELEVANT EXAS
- C - STAP

PART III - PROJECT CATEGORY ANNEX

Annex 1 – Logical Framework

Annex 2 - Maramures Mountains on the map of Romania

Annex 3 - Map of Maramures Mountains Natural Park

Annex 4 – List of Vertebrate Species

Annex 5 – Information on Project Proposer

Annex 6 – Letter of Endorsement

Annex 7a – Letters of Co-funding

Annex 7 b – Letters on co-funding (unofficial translation)

Annex 8 – Letter of Co-funding NFA

Annex 9 – Maramures Consortium

Annex 1: Maramures Logical Framework

Objective/Outcomes	Performance Indicators	Baseline	Target goal	Sources of Verification	Assumptions and Risks
<p>The biodiversity of Maramures Mountains Natural Park in Romania's Northern Carpathian Mountains is effectively conserved by demonstrating an effective PA management model.</p>	<p>Hectares of forest under certification with biodiversity criteria incorporated.</p>	<p>Zero hectares.</p>	<p>50,000 ha by year 4.</p>	<p>NFA certification program; FSC .</p>	
	<p>Volume of wood waste disposed of properly and/or consumed by biomass boilers in municipal heating demonstrations.</p>	<p>Zero tones.</p>	<p>At least 2,500 tons/year by 2; 5,000 tons/year by 4.</p>	<p>Field visits; boiler consumption rates.</p>	
	<p>Hectares under strict conservation management.</p>	<p>0 ha currently.</p>	<p>7,800 ha by year 4.</p>	<p>Field visits; policy records.</p>	
	<p>Hectares under improved protected area management.</p>	<p>0 ha in Maramures under long-term PA management.</p>	<p>150,000 ha by year 3.</p>	<p>Government policy records; NP declaration; field visits.</p>	
	<p>Level of diversity within Maramures forest ecosystem.</p>	<p>TBD in year 1.</p>	<p>Unchanged or increased (uc/ic) in project area by year 4.</p>	<p>Survey records.</p>	
<p>Number and condition of populations of rare species of NTFP</p>	<p>TBD in year 1.</p>	<p>Uc/ic in project area by year 4.</p>	<p>Survey records.</p>		

	<p>Replication: 2 new training modules developed and applied in NFA PA training program. # of PA trainees using training modules by year 4. Best practice note for biomass heat program development and funding. # of municipalities pursuing biomass heat options.</p>	<p>No training modules. Zero staff. No note or guidelines. No municipalities pursuing biomass heating.</p>	<p>Training modules applied. 20 staff utilize them by yr 3. Note published and on web by year 3. At least 3 more munis pursuing by year 4.</p>		
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<p>OUTCOME 1. STAKEHOLDERS MAKE MARAMURES MOUNTAINS NATURAL PARK (MMNP) FULLY OPERATIONAL.</p>	<p>MMNP achieves national PA designation by Romanian Parliament.</p>	Not submitted	Designated by yr 3.	National policy documents; Official notices.	NFA will be able to work effectively with Consortium.
	<p>Number of staff on NFA payroll for MMNP.</p>	Zero	5 by yr 1 and 10 by yr 2	Forest dept. budget; Official papers.	Promised budgetary resources will actually materialize.
	<p>MMNP premises in use/not in use.</p>	Not in use.	In use by EoY 1.	Field visit.	NFA could become more risk averse and reduce its support for different approaches.
	<p>Staff knowledge in relevant areas of importance for MMNP.</p>	TBD prior to training	Increase in test score by 30%	B training/After training (BA) knowledge assessment.	<p>This outcome is largely achievable with existing institutions, existing and to be increased financial resources and personnel from the NFA;</p>
	<p>MMNP admin and management is/is not functional.</p>	Not functional.	Is functional by EoY 1	Field visit. Project reports.	
	<p>NFA does/does not fully fund MMNP operating and staff costs.</p>	Zero	\$70,000-\$90,000 /year disbursed beginning in yr 1.	NFA budget	

MMNP is/is not gazetted and boundary is/is not clearly marked on maps or on the ground.	Not gazetted; Not clearly marked	Is gazetted by EoY 3; Is clearly marked.	Official documents; Official maps; Field visits.
% change in awareness/knowledge of targeted school groups.	Unknown – TBD at project launch	30% up by EoY 3.	Annual assessments of awareness and knowledge levels – surveys.
Presence/absence of computer database with full baseline data installed.	Outdated paper files.	Computer database by EoY 3.	Database itself. Data sets; Field records.
MMNP does/does not financially support monitoring costs.	Project to support for first 3 years.	MMNP to support by EoY 3.	MMNP budget.
Replication: MMNP establishes new entrance fee based upon willingness to pay study. At least 2 other PAs do the same.	There is no baseline fee and no understanding of willingness to pay studies.	Entrance fee applied by year 2 in MMNP and in 2 other PAs by year 3.	Entrance fee policy; Field visit to PA.
Replication: At least two training modules utilized in NFA national PA training program to train at least 20 PA staff.	No new training modules.	2 new modules incorporated and applied by year 2.	
Replication: Web-site for knowledge network has 100 hits/month from PA staff in Romania.	Not knowledge network.	Network and website estab by yr 3.	
Protected Area Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) score	X (TBD at project inception)	X + 20% by mid term; X + 40% by project end.	

OUTCOME 2. STAKEHOLDERS STRENGTHEN ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE ACROSS MARAMURES.	Local admin and FD do/do not endorse analysis/report on forest management options.	Does not exist	Endorsed EoY 2.	Report document itself and letters of endorsement.	Local administrations maintain their level of interest in participating.
	Report publicized in local and national newspapers.	Not published	Published in 1 local, 1 national paper.	Copies of published report.	
	FD does/does not approve landscape-scale conservation plan.	Does not exist.	Approved by EoY 2.	FD letter//stamp of approval.	
	Maramures Municipality Council approves regional plan and zoning system.	Does not exist.	Approved by EoY 2.	Council meeting minutes; official documents.	
	Sustainable principles/guidelines are/are not built in all the relevant sectoral plans and programs.	Are not.	Are incorporated in 2 programs by EoY 3.	Revised plans/policies with new principles highlighted.	
Level of knowledge re: regional planning among development managers in 3 local communities.	Baseline TBD in first 6 months.	Increase in level of knowledge by 50% by EoY 3.	BA training assessment of knowledge.		
OUTCOME 3. STAKEHOLDERS RECOGNIZE AND BEGIN TO REALIZE REAL VALUE IN NATURAL CAPITAL, STRENGTHENING THE LINK BETWEEN SUSTAINABLE USE AND CONSERVATION.	Main stakeholder institutions do/do not incorporate new valuations of PAs, and other conservation economy ideas/goods, services into strategies and programs.	Do not currently.	2 local economic programs/ strategies by EoY 3.	Local economic program planning documents.	Overcoming barriers (knowledge, financial, “proof of concept”) will catalyze the self – sustaining adoption of conservation economy ideas and practices, the accessing of new markets for conservation-economy based development,
	Natural capital center is/is not operational in Maramures.	Not operational	Is operational by EoY 1.	Visitor book; Project records.	
	Change in level of usage of the	Visitation level	Increase by 40%	Visitor records;	

center.	TBD first year.	by EoY 4.	attendance records at special events.	and new protected area management approaches.
Participation in trade fairs increases annually.	Participation level for first trade fair TBD.	Increase by 30% by end of year 4.	Trade fair records; Interviews.	
Wood waste energy demonstration is/is not operational.	Does not exist.	1 operational by EoY 2 & 2 by EoY 3.	Site visit; Interviews.	
Volume of sawdust diverted to energy demonstration.	Zero	200 tons/ month by EoY 2.	Boiler fuel consumption records.	
Percentage of wood waste disposed of in proper waste management areas.	Zero; Baseline level TBD yr 1.	At least 25% by EoY 3.	Field monitoring surveys.	
Measured reduction or not in sawdust waste in streams in two target areas.	Baseline TBD in two areas.	Significant, reduction by EoY 3.	Field monitoring/surveys.	
Replication: Financial and planning best practices on developing successful biomass heating initiatives developed and distributed to 20 municipalities.	No best practices exist.	Practice note exists; at least 3 municipalities pursuing option by year 4.	Actual practice note. Field visits to municipalities.	
Eco/cultural tourism grows to be one of the top 3 industries in the project area.	Growth percentage in tourism. Is/is not an official a priority.	Enters the top 3 by year 4. Official priority by EoY 4.	Economic surveys. Economic development program papers and officials.	

ANNEX 3. Map of Maramures Mountains Natural Park



Annex 4 – List of vertebrate species

Scientific Name	Conservation Status
1. Eudontomyzon danfordi	Threatened Annex II, (o)
2. Alburnoides bipunctatus	Vulnerable–Endangered in Europe: Annex III (Bern);
3. Barbus barbus	Vulnerable in Europe
4. Barbus peloponnesius petenyi	DD (data deficient)
5. <i>Gobio uranoscopus</i>	Threatened Annex III (Bern)
6. Gobio kessleri kessleri	Rare and Vulnerable in Europe; Annex III (Bern)
7. <i>Gobio gobio</i>	-
8. Leuciscus souffia agassizi	Vulnerable–Endangered in Europe Annex II
9. <i>Leuciscus cephalus</i>	-
10. Orthrias barbatulus	Rare and Threatened in Europe
11. Phoxinus phoxinus	Vulnerable in Europe
12. Rhodeus sericeus amarus	Threatened Annex II
13. Cobitis taenia	Threatened Annex III (Bern)
14. Sabanejewia aurata	Rare and Vulnerable; Annex III (Bern)
15. <i>Sabanejewia aurata balcanica</i>	IUCN Red List of Threatened Animals (1996) – DD Annex II
16. <i>Salamo trutta fario</i>	-
17. <i>Hucho hucho</i>	Annex III (Bern)
18. <i>Thymallus thymallus</i>	Annex III (Bern)
19. <i>Abramis brama</i>	-
20. <i>Chondrostoma nasus</i>	Annex III (Bern)
21. <i>Rutilus rutilus</i>	Annex III (Bern)
22. <i>Lota lota</i>	-
23. <i>Zingel strebel</i>	Annex III (Bern)
24. <i>Zingel zingel</i>	Annex III (Bern)
25. <i>Cottus gobio</i>	-
26. <i>Cottus poecilopus</i>	-

LIST OF AMPHIBIAN SPECIES RECORDED AT THE PROJECT SITE

Scientific Name	Conservation Status (Bern Convention and the IUCN Red Data List)
1. <i>Salamandra salamandra</i> L.	Annex III
2. <i>Triturus alpestris</i>	Annex III
3. <i>Triturus montandoni</i>	Endemic; Annex II
4. <i>Bombina variegata</i>	Annex II
5. <i>Bufo bufo</i>	Annex III
6. <i>Bufo viridis</i>	Annex II
7. <i>Rana dalmatina</i>	Annex II
8. <i>Rana temporaria</i>	Annex III

LIST OF REPTILE SPECIES RECORDED AT THE PROJECT SITE

Scientific Name	Conservation Status (Bern Convention)
1. <i>Emys orbicularis</i> (L.)	Annex II
2. <i>Lacerta agilis</i> L.	Annex II
3. <i>Lacerta vivipara jacquin</i>	Annex III
4. <i>Anguis fragilis</i> L.	Annex III
5. <i>Coronella austriaca</i> (Laur.)	Annex II
6. <i>Natrix natrix</i> L.	Annex III
7. <i>Natrix tessellata</i> Laur.	Annex II
8. <i>Vipera berus</i> L.	Annex III

LIST OF BIRD SPECIES RECORDED AT THE PROJECT SITE

Nr.	SPECIES		SPEC category	European threat	Birds directive	Bern Convention	Bonn Convention	AEWA
1	Gavia stellata	W	3	V	I	L1	II	•
2	Gavia arctica	W	3	V	I	L1	II	•
3	Podiceps a. auritus	W	-	(S)	I	L1	-	•
4	Podiceps ruficollis	N	-	S	-	L1	-	-
5	Podiceps g. grisegena	W	-	S	-	L1	-	-
6	Podiceps c. cristatus	W	-	S	-	LII	-	-
7	Botaurus stellaris	W	3	(V)	I	L1	II	•
8	Ixobrychus minutus	N	3	(V)	I	L1	II	•
9	Nycticorax nycticorax	W	3	D	I	L1	-	-
10	Ardeola ralloides	W	3	V	I	L1	-	-
11	Ardea cinerea	W	-	S	-	LII	-	-
12	Ardea purpurea	W	3	V	I	L1	II	•
13	Ciconia nigra	W	3	R	I	L1	II	•
14	Ciconia ciconia	N	2	V	I	L1	II	•
15	Cygnus olor	W	-	S	-	LII	II	•
16	Anser anser	W	-	S	-	LII	II	•
17	Anser albifrons albifrons	W	-	S	-	LII	II	•
18	Anser fabalis brachyrhynchus	W	4	S	II	LII	II	•
19	Anas p. platyrhynchos	N	-	S	-	LII	II	•
20	Anas querquedula	N	3	V	-	LII	II	•
21	Anas crecca crecca	W	-	S	-	LII	II	•
22	Anas penelope	W	-	S	-	LII	II	•
23	Anas acuta acuta	W	3	V	II/III	LII	II	•
24	Anas clypeata	W	-	S	-	LII	II	•

25	<i>Netta rufina</i>	W	3	D	-	LII	II	•
26	Aythya nyroca	W	1	V	I	LII	II	•
27	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	W	4	S	II/III	LII	II	•
29	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	W	-	S	-	LII	II	•
30	<i>Aythya marila</i>	W	3	L	II/III	LII	II	•
31	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	W	-	S	-	LII	II	•
32	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	W	-	S	-	LII	II	•
33	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	W	-	S	-	LII	II	•
34	Haliaeetus albicilla	W	3	R	I	LI	I	-
35	Circaetus gallicus	N	3	R	I	LI	II	-
36	Circus cyaneus	W	3	V	I	LI	II	-
37	Circus pygargus	W	4	S	I	LI	II	-
38	<i>Accipiter gentilis gentilis</i>	N	-	S	-	LII	II	-
39	Aquila pomarina	N	3	R	I	LI	II	-
40	Pandion haliaetus	W	3	R	I	LI	II	-
41	<i>Falco subbuteo subbuteo</i>	N	-	S	-	LI	II	-
42	<i>Falco t. tinnunculus</i>	N	3	D	-	LI	II	-
43	Perdix perdix	N	3	V	I/II/III	LII	-	-
44	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	N	3	V		LII	II	-
45	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	N	-	S	-	LII	-	-
46	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	N	-	(S)	-	LII	-	-
47	Porzana porzana	N	4	S	I	LI	II	•
48	Porzana parva	N	4	S	I	LI	II	•
49	Crex crex	N	1	V	I	LI	-	-
50	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	N	-	S	-	LII	-	-
51	<i>Fulica atra</i>	W	-	S	-	LII	-	•
52	<i>Grus grus</i>	W	3	V	I	LI	II	•
53	<i>Charadrius dubius curonicus</i>	N	-	(S)	-	LI	II	•
54	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	N	-	(S)	-	LII	II	•
55	Pluvialis apricaria	W	4	S	I/II/III	LII	II	•
56	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	W	-	(S)	-	LI	-	•
57	Philomachus pugnax	W	4	(S)	I/II	LII	II	•
58	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	W	-	(S)	-	LII	-	•
59	Tringa glareola	W	3	D	I	LI	II	•
60	<i>Tringa t. totanus</i>	W	2	D	II	LII	II	•
61	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	W	-	S	-	LII	II	•
62	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	W	-	(S)	-	LI	II	•
63	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	N	-	S	-	LI	II	•
64	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	W	-	S	-	LII	-	-
65	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	W	-	S	-	LII	-	-
66	Sterna caspia	W	3	(E)	I	LI	II	•
67	Sterna hirundo	N	-	S	I	LI	-	•
68	Chlidonias niger	W	3	D	I	LI	II	•
69	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	N	4	S	I/II/III	LII	-	-
70	<i>Columba oenas</i>	N	4	S	II	LII	-	-
71	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	N	-	(S)	-	LII	-	-
72	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	N	3	D	II	LII	-	-

73	Bubo bubo	N	3	V	I	L1	-	-
74	Athene noctua	N	3	D	-	L1	-	-
75	Strix aluco	N	4	S	-	L1	-	-
76	Asio flammeus	W	3	(V)	I	II	-	-
77	Asio otus	N	-	S	-	II	-	-
78	<u>Alcedo atthis</u>	N	3	D	I	II	-	-
79	Upupa epops	N	-	S	-	II	-	-
80	Cuculus canorus	N	-	S	-	III	-	-
81	Jynx torquilla	N	3	D	-	II	-	-
82	Dendrocopos major	N	-	S	-	II	-	-
83	Dendrocopos syriacus	N	4	(S)	I	II	-	-
84	Dendrocopos medius	N	4	S	I	II	-	-
85	Picus viridis	N	2	D	-	II	-	-
86	Galerida cristata	N	3	(D)	-	III	-	-
87	Alauda arvensis	N	3	V	II	III	-	-
88	Riparia riparia	N	3	D	-	II	-	-
89	Cinclus cinclus aquaticus	N	-	(S)	-	II	-	-
90	Troglodytes troglodytes	N	-	S	-	III	-	-
91	Prunella modularis	N	4	S	-	II	-	-
92	Garrulus glandarius	N	-	(S)	-	III	-	-
93	Pica pica	N	-	S	-	III	-	-
94	Corvus monedula	N	4	(S)	-	X	-	-
95	Corvus frugilegus	N	-	S	-	III	-	-
96	Corvus corone	N	-	S	-	III	-	-
97	Corvus corax	N	-	(S)	-	III	-	-
98	Parus palustris	N	-	S	-	II	-	-
99	Parus caeruleus	N	4	S	-	II	-	-
100	Parus major	N	-	S	-	II	-	-
101	Aegithalos caudatus	N	-	S	-	III	-	-
102	Sitta europaea	N	-	S	-	II	-	-
103	Certhia familiaris	N	-	S	-	II	-	-
104	Saxicola rubetra	N	4	S	-	II	II	-
105	Saxicola torquata	N	3	(D)	-	II	II	-
106	Oenanthe o. oenanthe	N	-	S	-	II	II	-
107	Phoenicurus ochruros	N	-	S	-	II	II	-
108	Phoenicurus phoenicurus	N	2	V	-	II	II	-
109	Erithacus rubecula	N	4	S	-	II	II	-
110	Luscinia luscinia	N	4	S	-	II	II	-
111	Turdus pilaris	N	4	S	II	III	II	-
112	Turdus philomelos	N	4	S	II	III	II	-
113	Turdus merula	N	4	S	II	III	II	-
114	Hippolais icterina	N	4	S	-	II	II	-
115	Acrocephalus schoenobaenus	N	4	(S)	-	II	II	-
116	Acrocephalus palustris	N	4	S	-	II	II	-
117	Acrocephalus s. scirpaceus	N	4	S	-	II	II	-
118	Acrocephalus a. arundinaceus	N	-	(S)	-	II	II	-
119	Sylvia borin borin	N	4	S	-	II	II	-
120	Sylvia atricapilla atricapilla	N	4	S	-	II	II	-
121	Sylvia curruca curruca	N	-	S	-	II	II	-

122	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	N	3	D	-	II	II	-
123	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	N	-	(S)	-	II	II	-
124	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	N	-	S	-	II	II	-
125	<i>Motacilla cinerea cinerea</i>	N	-	(S)	-	II	-	-
126	<i>Motacilla alba alba</i>	N	-	S	-	II	-	-
127	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	W	-	S	-	II	-	-
128	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	N	-	S	-	II	-	-
129	Lanius collurio	N	3	(D)	I	II	-	-
130	Lanius minor	N	2	(D)	I	II	-	-
131	<i>Lanius excubitor excubitor</i>	N	3	D	-	II	-	-
132	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	N	-	S	-	III	-	-
133	<i>Passer montanus</i>	N	-	S	-	III	-	-
134	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	N	-	S	-	III	-	-
135	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	N	-	(S)	-	II	-	-
136	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	N	4	S	-	II	-	-
137	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	N	4	S	-	II	-	-
138	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	N	4	S	-	II	-	-
139	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	N	4	S	I	II	-	-
140	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	N	4	(S)	-	II	-	-
141	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	W	-	S	-	II	-	-

N – nesting; W- wintering or migratory in transit

SPEC category:

1. Endangered
2. Species concentrated in Europe with unfavourable conservation status
3. Species which are not concentrated in Europe with unfavourable conservation status
4. Species concentrated in Europe with favourable conservation status

European Threatened status:

E – endangered; V-vulnerable; R –rare; D- declining; S – certain status; ()- temporary status

EC Birds Directive (79/409/ECC)

AEWA- Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian migratory Waterbirds

1. ERINACEUS CONCOLOR		
2. <i>Talpa europae</i>		
3. <i>Sorex minutus</i>		
4. <i>Sorex araneus</i>	V; BE3; IP	Rare in Romania
5. SOREX ALPINUS	E; BE3; IP	Rare in Romania
6. NEOMYS FODIENS	V; BE3; IP	Rare in Romania
7. <i>Crocidura suaveolens</i>	V; BE2; B/II; D92/IV; STR; IP;	Declining number due to habitat loss
8. <i>Rhinolophus ferrumequinum</i>	NP	Declining number due to habitat loss
9. <i>Myotis myotis</i>	R, BE2; D92/II; D92/IV; STR. IP.	Declining number due to habitat loss
10. MYOTIS BLYTHII	R; BE2; D92/II; D92/IV; STR; IP.	Only at low altitudes
11. <i>Myotis dasycneme</i>	V; BE2; D92/II; D92/IV; STR;	
12. <i>Myotis brandti</i>	IP.	
13. <i>Cletryonimys glareolus</i>		Declining number due to habitat loss
14. <i>Apodemus flavicollis</i>		Declining number due to habitat loss
15. <i>Apodemus sylvaticus</i>		Declining number due to habitat loss
16. PLECOTUS AURITUS	V; BE2; D92/IV; IP.	Restricted area with isolated populations.
17. <i>Plecotus austriacus</i>	E; BE2; D92/IV; IP.	Declining number due to habitat loss
18. <i>Vespertilio murinus</i>	R; BE2; B/II; D92/IV; IP.	The number is declining
19. <i>Marmota marmota</i>	V; BE3; CT; LV1; IP; NP	
20. <i>Dryomys nitedula</i>	R; BE3; D92/IV; IP.	
21. MYOXUS GLIS	V; BE3; IP.	
22. <i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>		The number is declining
23. <i>Lepus europaeus</i>		The number is declining
24. <i>Muscardinus avellanarius</i>	V; BE3; D92/43/EEC/IV	European endemic
25. Microtus agrestis	Rare	Relict
26. <i>Microtus tatricus</i>	R; BE2; STR; IP.	
27. SICISTA BETULINA	R; BE2; D92/IV; IP	
28. <i>Canis lupus</i>		
29. <i>Vulpes vulpes</i>		
30. <i>Ursus arctos</i>		
31. <i>Meles meles</i>		
32. <i>Mustela erminea</i>		
33. <i>Mustela nivalis</i>		
34. <i>Mustela lutreola</i>		
35. <i>Mustela putorius</i>		
36. <i>Lutra lutra</i>		
37. <i>Martes martes</i>		
38. <i>Martes foina</i>		
39. <i>Felis silvestris</i>		
40. <i>Lynx lynx</i>		The habitat is declining
41. <i>Sus scrofa</i>		Game species
42. <i>Cervus elaphus</i>	E; BE3; LV1; IP; NP.	Natural monument
43. <i>Capreolus capreolus</i>	V; BE3; LV1; IP; Np.	
44. <i>Rupicapra rupicapra</i>	E; BE3; LV1; IP; Np.	

Abbreviations for the threat level and conservation:

a. Threat level (IUCN categories):

EX – Species not definitely located in the wild during the past 50 years. (EXTINCT).

E – Taxa in danger of extinction and which survival is unlikely if the causal factors continue operating; habitats have been so drastically reduced that they are deemed to be in immediate danger of extinction; taxa may be extinct but have definitely been seen in the wild in the past 50 years. (ENDANGERED).

V – Species with decreasing populations because of over-exploitation, extensive habitat destruction or other environmental disturbances; taxa with populations that are still abundant but are under threat from severe adverse factors throughout their range. (VULNERABLE).

R - Taxa with small world populations that are not at present “Endangered” or “Vulnerable”, but are at risk; taxa with restricted geographical areas or habitats. (RARE).

I (IUCN) - taxa known to be “Endangered”, “Vulnerable”, or “Rare” but where there is not enough information to say which of the three categories is appropriate. (INDETERMINATE).

K - Taxa that are suspected but not definitely known to belong to any of the above categories, because of lack of information. (INSUFICIENTLY KNOWN).

T - Species which are “ENDANGERED”, “VULNERABLE”, “RARE”, “INDETERMINATE” or “INSUFICIENTLY KNOWN”; taxa comprising of several sub-taxa which have different status categories. (THREATENED).

CT – Taxa not currently threatened with extinction, but most or all of whose populations are threatened as a sustainable commercial resource, or will become so, unless their exploitation is regulated; taxa whose populations assumed to be relatively large. (COMMERCIALY THREATENED).

b. Laws and Conventions for conservation.

BE2 – The Bern Convention (1979), Appendix II

BE3 – The Bern Convention (1979), Appendix III

B/II – Bonn Convention (1983), Appendix II.

LV1 – Appendix 1 to the Romanian Law of the Cynegetic Fund and Hunting Protection (1996). (Partial protection by prohibition periods).

LV2 – Appendix 2 to the Romanian Law of the Cynegetic Fund and Hunting Protection (1996). (Total protection; hunting prohibited).

D92/II – Directive 92/43/EEC, Appendix II – Animal and plant species of Community (European) interest whose conservation requires the designation of special areas of conservation.

D92/IV - Directive 92/43/EEC, Appendix IV - Animal and plant species of Community (European) interest in need of strict protection.

STR – Strasbourg (1997) – The threatened mammals of Europe.

IP – International protection.

NP – National protection.

ANNEX 5. Information on Project Proposer

Name: **Ecological Society of Maramures**

Date of establishment, membership and leadership:

The Ecological Society of Maramures was established in 1991 as a NGO, located in Baia Mare. It is a membership organization with 6 member NGO's, 177 members, out of which 32 are full and part-time staff and 32 are volunteers.

Mandate/terms of reference:

The mission of the Ecological Society of Maramures is to secure long-term conservation of the endangered species and habitats in the Maramures region, through development of ecological education programs, eco-tourism and ecological restoration.

Sources of revenue:

- Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe;
- EU/PHARE – Credo Program;
- Corporate sponsors;
- Membership fees;

Recent activities/programs, in particular those relevant to the GEF:

- International Camp SOS Biosphere Reserves – “Pietrosul Mare” – 1993
- Establishment of protected areas in Upper Tisza region – 1996 – 1997
- Sustainable development through organizing ecological tourism in Maramures County – 1997 – 1998
- Organizing the Maramures County NGO Forum – 1998
- Proposals for establishment of the Romanian-Ukrainian Biosphere Reserve in Maramures Mountains
- Reintroduction of the bearded vulture in Pietrosul Rodnei Biosphere Reserve.
- Cross border cooperation with Ukraine within the framework of EU/ TACIS “Improvement of the cross-border co-operation in Verkhovyna – Ukraine” (2001 –2004); see resolution attached.

Maramures Biodiversity Initiative Consortium

In September 2002, a local Consortium was set up to manage the GEF project. Members of the Consortium include County Governor (Prefect), President of the County Council, Director of the Regional EPA, Forest Administration's Director, Water Utility's Director, President of the “Societatea Ecologista din Maramures”, etc. The Consortium designated “Societatea Ecologista din Maramures” as executing agency for the project.

Annex 6 - LETTER OF ENDORSEMENT

R O M A N I A



MINISTRY of AGRICULTURE, FORESTS, WATERS and ENVIRONMENT
Directorate for Coordination of the European Funds Implementation



To: Mr. Nick Remple
GEF Regional Coordinator for Biodiversity
and International Waters

Global Environmental Facility Bureau for Development
Policy Europe and the CIS

Tel: 421 2 59337458; Fax: 421 259337450
Email: nick.remple@undp.org

November 7, 2003

LETTER OF ENDORSMENT

Re: Maramures Biodiversity Initiative

Dear Mr. Remple,

This is to endorse the project submitted by the Maramures Biodiversity Local Consortium composed of representatives of all major stakeholders in Maramures region to conserve and manage in a sustainable way an area of high biodiversity value.

Through its focus, activities, institutional arrangements for project preparation and implementation, and through its participatory approach, Maramures Biodiversity Initiative responds to priority objectives and actions identified by the Romanian National Strategy and Action Plan for Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable use of its components (prepared with GEF assistance in 1995 -1996).

The establishment of the national park as a protected is also in consistence with the requirements of the Protected Areas Law, and will constitute a management model that could be replicated throughout the country,

We look forward to a good cooperation for biodiversity conservation in Romania.

Sincerely yours,

Liliana Chirila
National GEF Operational Focal Point

Cc; Violeta Kogalniceanu – National Officer Environment UNDP Romania

Annex 7 A – LETTERS ON CO-FUNDING

CONSILIUL LOCAL AL COMUNEI
BISTRA

Hr 466/07.08.03

Către

Societatea Ecologistă din Maramureș

În cadrul sesiunilor organizate de către experții proiectului ROM/02/G41, finanțat de către PNUD-România, s-a prezentat inițiativa de realizare a Parcului Natural Munții Maramureșului, în scopul conservării biodiversității prin: reconstrucția ecologică a zonei, reducerea ricurilor de poluare și crearea de alternative de dezvoltare durabilă, în acopul reducerii presiunii asupra arealului protejat, de activitățile socio-economice.

Pe baza acestei inițiative și a posibilităților de a finanța anumite obiective model, care să corespundă scopului proiectului, ce se desfășoară pe o perioadă de 3 ani, în vederea realizării acestora în cadrul etapei a doua de desfășurare se propun obiectivele de mai jos care să fie finanțate de GEF și cofinanțate de Consiliul Local și alți beneficiari locali, precum și prin alte cofinanțări colaterale.

Prin prezenta scrisoare ne angajăm să realizăm întocmai obiectivele și profilul activității propuse în bugetul proiectului, desfășurate mai jos.

Contribuția noastră va fi în natură (terenuri, clădiri și alte servicii) precum și în bani, ce vor fi prevăzuți în bugetul local, după caz.

Valoarea estimată a obiectivelor prevăzute în proiect

Nr. Poz Buget	Denumirea obiectului sau a activității	Valoarea estimată	Din care cu finanțare	
			GEF	LOCALĂ
2.3	Discuții publice despre Planul de Management	1800	1200	600
4.2	Implementarea programului de conștientizare	7200	3000	4200
5.2	Valorificarea debitelor apelor de munte	19200	7200	12000
5.3	Valorificarea plantelor medicinale	15000	8000	7000
5.5	Valorificarea rumegusului	3000	3000	0
5.9	Infilitarea unei stani ecoturistice	25000	8500	16500
5.10	Proiectare și marcare trasee turistice	5000	3000	2000
5.11	Crearea rețelei de informare turistică	8600	4000	2600
Total		82800	37900	44900

Valoarea cofinanțării obiectivelor colaterale

Programul Sapard:

- Modernizarea DC 7 Crasna, 1.000.000 EURO, în curs de evaluare. Beneficiar: Consiliul Local Bistra

Data 07.08.2003

Primar
Oniujec Vasile



CONSILIUL LOCAL AL COMUNEI
PETROVA
Nr. 1933/07.08.2003

Către
Societatea Ecologistă din Maramureș

În cadrul sesiunilor organizate de către experții proiectului ROM/02/G41, finanțat de către PNUD-România, s-a prezentat inițiativa de realizare a Parcului Natural Munții Maramureșului, în scopul conservării biodiversității prin: reconstrucția ecologică a zonei, reducerea ricurilor de poluare și crearea de alternative de dezvoltare durabilă, în acoperirea reducerii presiunii asupra arealului protejat, de activitățile socio-economice.

Pe baza acestei inițiative și a posibilităților de a finanța anumite obiective model, care să corespundă scopului proiectului, ce se desfășoară pe o perioadă de 3 ani, în vederea realizării acestora în cadrul etapei a doua de desfășurare se propun obiectivele de mai jos care să fie finanțate de GEF și cofinanțate de Consiliul Local și alți beneficiari locali, precum și prin alte cofinanțări colaterale.

Prin prezenta scrisoare ne angajăm să realizăm întocmai obiectivele și profilul activității propuse în bugetul proiectului, desfășurate mai jos.

Contribuția noastră va fi în natură (terenuri, clădiri și alte servicii) precum și în bani, ce vor fi prevăzute în bugetul local, după caz.

Valoarea estimată a obiectivelor prevăzute în proiect

Nr. Poz. Buget	Denumirea obiectului sau a activității	Valoarea estimată	Din care cu finanțare	
			GEF	LOCALĂ
2.3	Discuții publice despre Planul de Management	1800	1200	600
4.2	Implementarea programului de conștientizare	7200	3000	4200
5.2	Valorificarea debitelor apelor de munte	9600	3600	6000
5.5	Valorificarea rumegusului	3000	3000	0
5.6	Amenajare Camping Petrova	18000	11500	6500
5.9	Infiltare stana ecoturistica	24500	8000	16500
5.10	Proiectare și marcare trasee turistice	5000	3000	2000
5.11	Crearea rețele de puncte de informare turistică	6600	4000	2600
Total		75700	37300	38400

Data 07.08.2003



Către,
Societatea Ecologistă din Maramureș

În cadrul sesiunilor organizate de către experții proiectului ROM/02/G41, finanțat de către PNUD-România, s-a prezentat inițiativa de realizare a Parcului Natural Munții Maramureșului, în scopul conservării biodiversității prin: reconstrucția ecologică a zonei, reducerea ricurilor de poluare și crearea de alternative de dezvoltare durabilă, în acopul reducerii presiunii asupra arealului protejat, de activitățile socio-economice.

Pe baza acestei inițiative și a posibilităților de a finanța anumite obiective model, care să corespundă scopului proiectului, ce se desfășoară pe o perioadă de 3 ani, în vederea realizării acestora în cadrul etapei a doua de desfășurare se propun obiectivele de mai jos care să fie finanțate de GEF și cofinanțate de Consiliul Local și alți beneficiari locali, precum și prin alte cofinanțări colaterale.

Prin prezenta scrisoare ne angajăm să realizăm întocmai obiectivele și profilul activității propuse în bugetul proiectului, desfășurate mai jos.

Contribuția noastră va fi în natură (terenuri, clădiri și alte servicii) precum și în bani, ce vor fi prevăzute în bugetul local, după caz.

Valoarea estimată a obiectivelor prevăzute în proiect

Nr. Poz. Buget	Denumirea obiectului sau a activității	Valoarea estimată	Din care cu finanțare	
			GEF	LOCALĂ
2,3	Discuții publice privind Planul de management	1800	1200	600
4,2	Implementarea programului de constientizare	7200	3000	4200
5,2	Valorificarea debitelor apelor de munte	9600	3600	6000
5,4	Instalatie de imbuteliere a sucurilor concentrate din fructe de padure	17000	10000	7000
5,5	Valorificarea rumegusului	3000	3000	0
5,6	Amenajare Camping Repedea	18000	11500	6500
5,10	Proiectare-mărcare trasee turistice	5000	3000	2000
5,11	Crearea rețelei de puncte de informare turistica	6800	4000	2800
Total		68200	39300	28900

Valoarea cofinanțării obiectivelor colaterale

- Alimentarea cu apă a localității Repedea – UE Program Sapard, valoare – 900.000 Euro, Proiect valuat. Beneficiar: Consiliul Local Repedea.
- Reabilitarea școlilor primare și profesionale – UE Program TVET, valoare – 200.000 Euro, în curs de evaluare. Beneficiar: Consiliul Local Repedea.
- Drum acces 2,5 km spre localitățile Lespedea de Sus și Plaic - UE Program Sapard, valoare 500.000 Euro, în curs de evaluare. Beneficiar: Consiliul Local Repedea.

Data 07.08.2003



Primar
Ciorei Vasile

CONSILIUL LOCAL AL COMUNEI
POIENILE DE SUB MUNTE
Nr. 2765 / 07.08.2003

Către
Societatea Ecologistă din Maramureș

În cadrul sesiunilor organizate de către experții proiectului ROM/02/G41, finanțat de către PNUD-România, s-a prezentat inițiativa de realizare a Parcului Natural Munții Maramureșului, în scopul conservării biodiversității prin: reconstrucția ecologică a zonei, reducerea ricurilor de poluare și crearea de alternative de dezvoltare durabilă, în acoperirea reducerii presiunii asupra arealului protejat, de activitățile socio-economice

Pe baza acestei inițiative și a posibilităților de a finanța anumite obiective model, care să corespundă scopului proiectului, ce se desfășoară pe o perioadă de 3 ani, în vederea realizării acestora în cadrul etapei a doua de desfășurare se propun obiectivele de mai jos care să fie finanțate de GEF și cofinanțate de Consiliul Local și alți beneficiari locali, precum și prin alte cofinanțări colaterale.

Prin prezenta scrisoare ne angajăm să realizăm întocmai obiectivele și profilul activității propuse în bugetul proiectului, desfășurate mai jos.

Contribuția noastră va fi în natură (terenuri, clădiri și alte servicii) precum și în bani, ce vor fi prevăzute în bugetul local, după caz.

Valoarea estimată a obiectivelor prevăzute în proiect

Nr. Poz. Buget	Denumirea obiectului sau a activității	Valoarea estimată	Din care cu finanțare	
			GEF	LOCALĂ
2,3	Discuții publice privind Planul de management	1800	1200	600
4,2	Implementarea programului de constientizare	7200	3000	4200
5,2	Valorificarea debitelor apelor de munte	9600	3600	6000
5,5,1	Valorificarea rumegusului (centrala termică)	25000	15000	10000
5,5,2	Instalații mici de încălzire	3000	3000	0
5,5,3	Instalație de brichetare rumegus	13500	10000	3500
5,10	Proiectare-marcare trasee turistice	5000	3000	2000
5,11	Crearea rețelei de puncte de informare turistică	6600	4000	2600
Total		71700	42800	28900

Valoarea cofinanțării obiectivelor colaterale

- Alimentarea cu apă a localității Poienile de sub Munte – UE Program Sapard, valoare – 1.000.000 Euro, Proiect în curs de evaluare. Beneficiar: Consiliul Local Poienile de sub Munte.
- Construcția Școlii nr.3 Cvasnita – Banca Mondială, valoare 200.000 Euro, proiect în curs de execuție. Beneficiar: Consiliul Local Poienile de sub Munte.

Data 07.08.2003



Către,
Societatea ecologistă din Maramureș

În cadrul sesiunilor organizate de către experții proiectului ROM/02/G41, finanțat de către PNUD -România, s-a prezentat inițiativa de realizare a Parcului Natural Munții Maramureșului, în scopul conservării biodiversității prin reconstrucția ecologică a zonei, reducerea riscurilor de poluare și crearea de alternative de dezvoltare durabilă, în scopul reducerii presiunii asupra ariei protejate, de activitățile socio-economice.

Pe baza acestei inițiative și a posibilităților de a finanța anumite obiective model, care să corespundă scopului proiectului, ce se desfășoară pe o perioadă de 3 ani, în vederea realizării acestora în cadrul etapei a doua de desfășurare se propun obiectivele de mai jos care să fie finanțate de GEF și cofinanțate de Consiliul Local și alți beneficiari locali, precum și prin alte cofinanțări colaterale.

Prin prezenta scrisoare ne angajăm să realizăm întocmai obiectivele și profilul activității propuse în bugetul proiectului, desfășurate mai jos.

Contribuția noastră va fi în natură (terenuri, clădiri și alte servicii) precum și în bani, ce vor fi prevăzute în bugetul local, după caz.

Valoarea estimată a obiectivelor prevăzute în proiect

Nr. poziție buget	Denumirea Obiectului sau a activității	Valoarea estimativă	Din care cu finanțare	
			GEF	Locală
2.3	Discuții publice privind planul de management	1800	1200	600
4.2	Implementarea programului de conștientizare	7200	3000	4200
5.2	Valorificarea debitelor apelor de munte	9600	3600	6000
5.5.1	Valorificarea rumegușului (centrale termice)	50000	30000	20000
5.5.2	Instalații mici de încălzire	3000	3000	0
5.5.3	Instalații brichetare rumeguș	13500	10000	3500
5.5.6	Amenajare camping Vișeu	18000	11500	6500
5.10	Protecție marcare trasee turistice	5000	3000	2000
TOTAL		108100	65300	42800

Valoarea cofinanțării obiectivelor colaterale:

Programul: reconstrucții ecologice și reabilitări

- Restaurare Muzeu de Istorie, - UE Program Phare, Valoare 37.484 EURO.
Beneficiar: Primăria Vișeu de Sus
- Sat. De vacanță Poiana Novăț; - UE Program Phare, Valoare 500.000 EURO
Beneficiar: Primăria Vișeu de Sus

Data 07.08.2003

Primar
Ciolpan Vasile



Către,
Societatea ecologistă din Maramureș

În cadrul sesiunilor organizate de către experții proiectului ROM/02/G41, finanțat de către PNUD –România, s-a prezentat inițiativa de realizare a Parcului Natural Munții Maramureșului, în scopul conservării biodiversității prin reconstrucția ecologică a zonei, reducerea riscurilor de poluare și crearea de alternative de dezvoltare durabilă, în scopul reducerii presiunii asupra arealului protejat, de activitățile socio-economice.

Pe baza acestei inițiative și a posibilităților de a finanța anumite obiective model, care să corespundă scopul proiectului, ce se desfășoară pe o perioadă de 3 ani, în vederea realizării acestora în cadrul etapei a doua de desfășurare se propun obiectivele de mai jos care să fie finanțate de GEF și cofinanțate de Consiliul Local și alți beneficiari locali, precum și prin alte cofinanțări colaterale.

Prin prezenta scrisoare ne angajăm să realizăm întocmai obiectivele și profilul activității propuse în bugetul proiectului, desfășurate mai jos.

Contribuția noastră va fi în natură (terenuri, clădiri și alte servicii) precum și în bani, ce vor fi prevăzute în bugetul local, după caz.

Valoarea estimată a obiectivelor prevăzute în proiect

Nr. poziție buget	Denumirea Obiectului sau a activității	Valoarea estimativă	Din care cu finanțare	
			GEF	Locală
4.2	Implementarea programului de conștientizare	6000	3000	3000
4.5	Infintarea centrului de instruire Novat	36300	24800	11500
5.7	Baza sportivă și agrement	25000	3000	20000
5.8	Omologare de pensiuni și ferme agro-turistice	6000	6000	0
5.10	Proiectare marcăre trasee turistice	6000	5000	1000
5.11	Crearea rețelei de informare turistica	6600	4000	2600
TOTAL		85900	47800	38100

Valoarea cofinanțării obiectivelor colaterale

- Inițierea și perfecționare în turism, U.E. program Phare, valoare 27.263 EURO. Beneficiar: Fundația Pro Viseu.
- Modernizare cantina ajutor social, U.E. program Phare; valoare 81.000 EURO. Beneficiar: Primăria Viscu de Sus.
- Birou de consiliere pentru cetățeni, U.E. program Phare, valoare 18.000 EURO. Beneficiar: Primăria Viscu de Sus
- Educație pentru protecția mediului, U.E. Phare; valoare 65.000 EURO. Beneficiar: Primăria Repedea.

Data 07.08.2003

PRESEDINTE
SABAU IOAN

 Fundatia
Pro Viscu
156 / PJ / 98



Societatea Ecologistă din Maramureș

Str. Luptei nr. 15 Baia Mare Tel. 275544

e-mail: ecologymm@arhimedes.ro

web: www.arhimedes.ro/ecologymm

Obiective și activități cu finanțare GEF și co-finanțare prin Societatea Ecologistă din Maramureș

În cadrul sesiunilor organizate de către experții proiectului ROM/02/G41, finanțat de către PNUD-România, s-a prezentat inițiativa de realizare a Parcului Natural Munții Maramureșului, în scopul conservării biodiversității prin: reconstrucția ecologică a zonei, reducerea ricurilor de poluare și crearea de alternative de dezvoltare durabilă, în scopul reducerii presiunii asupra arealului protejat, de activitățile socio-economice.

Pe baza acestei inițiative și a posibilităților de a finanța anumite obiective model, care să corespundă scopului proiectului, ce se desfășoară pe o perioadă de 3 ani, în vederea realizării acestora în cadrul etapei a doua de desfășurare se propun obiectivele din anexă care să fie finanțate de GEF și cofinanțate de Societatea Ecologistă din Maramureș și alți beneficiari locali, precum și prin alte cofinanțări colaterale.

Prin prezenta scrisoare ne angajăm să realizăm întocmai obiectivele și profilul activității propuse în bugetul proiectului, desfășurate în anexa de mai jos.

Contribuția noastră va fi în natură (terenuri, clădiri și alte servicii) precum și în bani, ce vor fi prevăzute în bugetul local, după caz.

Valoarea estimată a obiectivelor prevăzută în ANEXĂ

Data: 30 Iulie 2003

Președinte
Moisei Filip



Valoarea estimată a obiectivelor prevăzută în PROIECT

Nr poz buget	Denumirea obiectului sau al activitatii	Valoarea estimata	Din care cu finantare	
			GEF	LOCALA cofinantare
11	Crearea si functionarea Comitetului de Coordonare	2400	2400	
12	Crearea Corpului de Administratie a Parcului	228600	214200	14400
13	Procurari de echipamente conform listei	117700	117700	
14	Activitati ale grupului tehnic de consultanta	8600	8600	
16	Activitati ale reprezentantilor consortului la administratia Parcului	4400		4400
17	Monitorizarea performantelor proiectului	16800	16800	
21	Rezultatul planului de management	9800	9800	
22	Rezumatul planului de management	38500	38500	
25	Adoptarea planului de management	5000	5000	
31	Întâlniri ale co-partenerilor	2540	2540	
32	Bugetul Corpului Administrativ	4000	4000	
33	Programul de monitoring al Parcului	27600	27600	
34	Programe de pregatire si schimb de experienta	20000	15000	5000
35	Evaluarea economica si sociala a biodiversitatii	21650	21650	
36	Sensibilizare politica	4000	4000	
37	Colaborări cu Academia si Muzeul Antipa	5000	5000	
41	Programe de constientizare în ateliere de analiza	5000	3000	2000
42	Implementarea programelor de constientizare	12820	10320	2500
43	Verificarea co-partenerilor în programele de constientizare	3000	3000	
45	Situatia socio-economica	10000	10000	
46	Evaluarea alternativelor	8990	8990	
47	Atelier de lucru	5000	5000	
510	Realizarea de trasee turistice în Parc	5600	4600	1000
512	Organizare echipelor de salvamontisti si ghizituristici	19300	15000	4300
Total		586300	552700	33600

Data: 30 Iulie 2003

Președinte
Molise Filip





CONSILIUL JUDEȚEAN MARAMUREȘ

Șos. Gheorghe Șincai, nr. 46, 4800 Baia Mare, Maramureș
Tel: 062 212110 Fax: 062 212945 e-mail: office@cjmm.maramures.ro

Către

Societatea Ecologistă din Maramureș

În cadrul sesiunilor organizate de către experții proiectului ROM/02/G41, finanțat de către PNUD-România, s-a prezentat inițiativa de realizare a Parcului Natural Munții Maramureșului, în scopul conservării biodiversității prin: reconstrucția ecologică a zonei, reducerea riscurilor de poluare și crearea de alternative de dezvoltare durabilă, în scopul reducerii presiunii exercitate de activitățile socio-economice actuale asupra arealului protejat.

Pe baza acestor inițiative și a posibilităților de a finanța anumite obiective model, care să corespundă scopului proiectului ce se desfășoară pe o perioadă de 3 ani, în vederea realizării acestora în cadrul etapei a doua de desfășurare se propun obiectivele din anexă care vor fi finanțate de GEF și cofinanțate de Consiliul Județean Maramureș și alți beneficiari locali, inclusiv și de alte cofinanțări colaterale.

Prin prezenta, ne angajăm să realizăm întocmai obiectivele și profilul activităților propuse în bugetul proiectului și prezentate în anexa de mai jos

Contribuția noastră va fi în natură (terenuri, clădiri și alte servicii) precum și în bani, ce vor fi prevăzute în bugetul local, după caz.

ANEXĂ

Valoarea estimată a obiectivelor prevăzute în proiect

Nr poz buget	Denumirea obiectului sau a activității	Valoarea estimată	Din care cu finanțare	
			GEF	LOCALĂ cofinanțare
16	Crearea Autorității Parcului	5000		5000
23	Discuții publice ce pre Planul de Management	1800	1200	600
42	Implementarea programului de conștientizare	12000	6000	6000
Total		18800	7200	11600

Valoarea cofinanțării obiectivelor colaterale

Reconstrucție ecologică

- Dezvoltarea zonei turistice Luna-Șes-Borșa, 4.200.000 Euro. Beneficiar autoritatea locală
- Atenuarea impactului social; Dezvoltarea inițiativei comunitare și îmbunătățirea calității vieții în zonele miniere, 450.000 GBP. Beneficiar: Autorități locale

Cosma Alexandru
Președinte
Consiliul Județean Maramureș

Data 30 iulie 2003

Exp. 2

Annex 7 B – LETTERS ON CO-FUNDING (UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION)

Local Council of Bistrita

Attn: Ecological Society from Maramures

During the sessions organized by the experts of UNDP Romania project (ROM/02/G41), there were presented the first steps in creation of the Maramures Natural Park. The project's objective is to conserve biodiversity by the ecological reconstruction of the area, reducing risks of accidental pollution, creating sustainable development alternatives and reducing the pressure over the protected area from current economic activities.

The Local Council of Bistrita (LCB) is interested to promote pilot projects and activities to be implemented in the second phase of the three years' project. The list of pilot projects and activities in which the Local Council of Bistrita is interested to participate is presented in the table below.

The current letter represents a commitment to implement the proposed activities in order to achieve the objectives of the projects as stated in the project document.

Our contribution will be in cash from the local budget and in kind (with land, buildings, services), on a case-by-case basis.

The estimated cost of the pilot projects and activities:

Item no.:	Pilot Projects/Activities	Total estimated cost	Of which:	
			GEF	LCB
1	Public debates regarding the Park Management Plan	1800	1200	600
2	Implementation of a public awareness campaign	7200	3000	4200
3	Economic use of mountainous water flows	19200	7200	12000
4	Making benefit of medicinal plants	15000	8000	7000
5	Heat generation by sawdust (biomass) boilers	3000	3000	0
6	Establishing an eco-tourist sheepfold	25000	8500	16500
7	Design and mark tourist trails	5000	3000	2000
8	Design a tourist information network	6600	4000	2600
Total		82800	37900	44900

Financing for associated activities: SAPARD program: Crasna's District Road modernization, 1.000.000 EUR, on going evaluation, beneficiary: LCB

Date: 07.08.2003

Mayor
Oniujec Vasile

Local Council of Petrova
No: 1933/07.08.2003

Attn: Ecological Society from Maramures

During the sessions organized by the experts of UNDP Romania project (ROM/02/G41), there were presented the first steps in creation of the Maramures Natural Park. The project's objective is to conserve biodiversity by the ecological reconstruction of the area, reducing risks of accidental pollution, creating sustainable development alternatives and reducing the pressure over the protected area from current economic activities.

The Local Council of Petrova (LCP) is interested to promote pilot projects and activities to be implemented in the second phase of the three years' project. The list of pilot projects and activities in which the Local Council of Petrova is interested to participate is presented in the table below.

The current letter represents a commitment to implement the proposed activities in order to achieve the objectives of the projects as stated in the project document.

Our contribution will be in cash from the local budget and in kind (with land, buildings, services), on a case- by- case basis.

The estimated cost of the pilot projects and activities:

Item no.:	Pilot Projects/Activities	Total estimated cost	Of which:	
			GEF	LCP
1	Public debates regarding the Park Management Plan	1800	1200	600
2	Implementation of a public awareness campaign	7200	3000	4200
3	Economic use of mountainous water flows	9600	3600	6000
4	Heat generation by sawdust (biomass) boilers	3000	3000	0
5	Setting up a tourist camp in Petrova	18000	11500	6500
6	Establishing an eco-tourist sheepfold	24500	8000	16500
7	Design and mark tourist trails	5000	3000	2000
8	Design a tourist information network	6600	4000	2600
Total		75700	37300	38400

Date: 07.08.2003

Mayor
Bilasco Vasile

Local Council of Repedea

Attn: Ecological Society from Maramures

During the sessions organized by the experts of UNDP Romania project (ROM/02/G41), there were presented the first steps in creation of the Maramures Natural Park. The project's objective is to conserve biodiversity by the ecological reconstruction of the area, reducing risks of accidental pollution, creating sustainable development alternatives and reducing the pressure over the protected area from current economic activities.

The Local Council of Repedea (LCR) is interested to promote pilot projects and activities to be implemented in the second phase of the three years' project. The list of pilot projects and activities in which the Local Council of Repedea is interested to participate is presented in the table below.

The current letter represents a commitment to implement the proposed activities in order to achieve the objectives of the projects as stated in the project document.

Our contribution will be in cash from the local budget and in kind (with land, buildings, services), on a case by case basis.

The estimated cost of the pilot projects and activities:

Item no.:	Pilot Projects/Activities	Total estimated cost	Of which:	
			GEF	LCR
1	Public debates regarding the Park Management Plan	1800	1200	600
2	Implementation of a public awareness campaign	7200	3000	4200
3	Economic use of mountainous water flows	9600	3600	6000
4	Natural soft drinks – production and bottling	17000	10000	7000
5	Heat generation by sawdust (biomass) boilers	3000	3000	0
6	Setting up a tourist camp in Repedea	18000	11500	6500
7	Design and mark tourist trails	5000	3000	2000
8	Design a tourist information network	6600	4000	2600
Total		68200	39300	28900

Financing for associated activities:

- Water supply system of Repedea - EU SAPARD program, 900.000 EUR, beneficiary: LCR
- Rehabilitation of elementary and vocational schools: EU TVET program, 200.000 EUR, on going evaluation, beneficiary: LCR
- 2.5 kms of Local Roads to Lespedea de Sus si Plaic (villages of Repedea) – EU SAPARD program, 500.000 EUR, on going evaluation, beneficiary: LCR

Date: 07.08.2003

Mayor
Ciorei Vasile

Local Council of Poienile de sub Munte
No: 2765/07.08.2003

Attn: Ecological Society from Maramures

During the sessions organized by the experts of UNDP Romania project (ROM/02/G41), there were presented the first steps in creation of the Maramures Natural Park. The project's objective is to conserve biodiversity by the ecological reconstruction of the area, reducing risks of accidental pollution, creating sustainable development alternatives and reducing the pressure over the protected area from current economic activities.

The Local Council of Poienile de sub Munte (LCPM) is interested to promote pilot projects and activities to be implemented in the second phase of the three years' project. The list of pilot projects and activities in which the Local Council of Poienile de sub Munte is interested to participate is presented in the table below.

The current letter represents a commitment to implement the proposed activities in order to achieve the objectives of the projects as stated in the project document.

Our contribution will be in cash from the local budget and in kind (with land, buildings, services), on a case by case basis.

The estimated cost of the pilot projects and activities:

Item no.:	Pilot Projects/Activities	Total estimated cost	Of which:	
			GEF	LCPM
1	Public debates regarding the Park Management Plan	1800	1200	600
2	Implementation of a public awareness campaign	7200	3000	4200
3	Economic use of mountainous water flows	9600	3600	6000
4	Heat generation by sawdust (biomass) boilers	2500	15000	10000
5	Small heating stations	3000	3000	0
6	Wood briquetting machines	13500	10000	3500
7	Design and mark tourist trails	5000	3000	2000
8	Design a tourist information network	6600	4000	2600
Total		49200	42800	28900

Financing for associated activities:

- Water supply system of Poienile de sub Munte - EU SAPARD program, 1.000.000 EUR, on going evaluation , beneficiary: LC Poienile de sub Munte
- Construction of School no.3 in Cvasnita (village of Poienile de sub Munte): World Banc program, 200.000 EUR, on going execution, beneficiary: Local Council Poienile de sub Munte.

Date: 07.08.2003

Mayor
Songott Bela

Local Council of Viseul de Sus
No: 6226 / 07.08.2003

Attn: Ecological Society from Maramures

During the sessions organized by the experts of UNDP Romania project (ROM/02/G41), there were presented the first steps in creation of the Maramures Natural Park. The project's objective is to conserve biodiversity by the ecological reconstruction of the area, reducing risks of accidental pollution, creating sustainable development alternatives and reducing the pressure over the protected area from current economic activities.

The Local Council of Viseul de Sus (LCVS) is interested to promote pilot projects and activities to be implemented in the second phase of the three years' project. The list of pilot projects and activities in which the Local Council of Viseul de Sus is interested to participate is presented in the table below.

The current letter represents a commitment to implement the proposed activities in order to achieve the objectives of the projects as stated in the project document.

Our contribution will be in cash from the local budget and in kind (with land, buildings, services), on a case by case basis.

The estimated cost of the pilot projects and activities:

Item no.:	Pilot Projects/Activities	Total estimated cost	Of which:	
			GEF	LCVS
1	Public debates regarding the Park Management Plan	1800	1200	600
2	Implementation of public awareness campaign	7200	3000	4200
3	Economic use of mountainous water flows	9600	3600	6000
4	Heat generation by sawdust (biomass) boilers	50000	30000	20000
5	Small heating stations	3000	3000	0
6	Briquetting machines	13500	10000	3500
7	Setting up a tourist camp in Viseu	18000	11500	6500
8	Design and mark tourist trails	5000	3000	2000
Total		108100	65300	42800

Financing for associated activities: program for ecological reconstruction and rehabilitation

- Restoration of History Museum, EU Phare Program, 37.484 EUR, beneficiary: LCVS.
- Holiday Village Poiana Novat, EU Phare Program, 500.000 EUR, beneficiary: LCVS.

Date: 07.08.2003

Mayor

Ciolpan Vasile

Attn: Ecological Society from Maramures

During the sessions organized by the experts of UNDP Romania project (ROM/02/G41), there were presented the first steps in creation of the Maramures Natural Park. The project's objective is to conserve biodiversity by the ecological reconstruction of the area, reducing risks of accidental pollution, creating sustainable development alternatives and reducing the pressure over the protected area from current economic activities.

PRO VISEU Foundation (PVF) is interested to promote pilot projects and activities to be implemented in the second phase of the three years' project. The list of pilot projects and activities in which the PRO VISEU Foundation is interested to participate is presented in the table below.

The current letter represents a commitment to implement the proposed activities in order to achieve the objectives of the projects as stated in the project document.

Our contribution will be in cash from the local budget and in kind (with land, buildings, services), on a case by case basis.

The estimated cost of the pilot projects and activities:

Item no.:	Pilot Projects/Activities	Total estimated cost	Of which:	
			GEF	Local co-financing
1	Implementation of public awareness campaign	6000	3000	3000
2	Establishment of the Training Center Novat	36300	24800	11500
3	Sports and pleasure grounds	25000	5000	20000
4	Homologation of agro-tourist pensions and farms	6000	6000	0
5	Design and mark tourist trails	6000	5000	1000
6	Design a tourist information network	6600	4000	2600
Total		85900	47800	38100

Financing for associated activities:

- Training and Capacity building for tourism, EU Phare program, 27263 EUR, beneficiary: PVF
- Modernization of Social Canteen, EU Phare Program, 81.000 EUR, Town Hall of Viseu de Sus
- Citizen Advice Bureaux, EU Phare program, 18.000 EUR, Town Hall of Viseu de Sus
- Education for Environmental Protection, EU Phare program, 65.000 EUR, Town Hall of Repedea

President of PRO VISEU Foundation
Sabau Ioan

Date: 07.08.2003

County Council of Maramures

Attn: Ecological Society from Maramures

During the sessions organized by the experts of UNDP Romania project (ROM/02/G41), there were presented the first steps in creation of the Maramures Natural Park. The project's objective is to conserve biodiversity by the ecological reconstruction of the area, reducing risks of accidental pollution, creating sustainable development alternatives and reducing the pressure over the protected area from current economic activities.

The County Council of Maramures (CCM) is interested to promote pilot projects and activities to be implemented in the second phase of the three years' project. The list of pilot projects and activities in which the County Council of Maramures is interested to participate is presented in the table below.

The current letter represents a commitment to implement the proposed activities in order to achieve the objectives of the projects as stated in the project document.

Our contribution will be in cash from the local budget and in kind (with land, buildings, services), on a case by case basis.

The estimated cost of the pilot projects and activities:

Item no.:	Pilot Projects/Activities	Total estimated cost	Of which:	
			GEF	Local co-financing
1	Support to the Park Management	5000	0	5000
2	Public debates regarding the Park Management Plan	1800	1200	600
3	Implementation of public awareness campaign	12000	6000	6000
Total		18800	7200	11600

Financing for associated activities: ecological reconstruction

- Development of the tourist area Luna-Ses-Borsa, 4.200.000 EUR, beneficiary: Local Authority
- Social impact mitigation, Development of community initiative and improvement of livelihoods in mining areas, 450.000 GBP, beneficiary: Local Authority

President of County Council of Maramures

Date: 30.07.2003

Annex 8 – CO-FINANCING LETTER NFA

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NATIONAL FOREST ADMINISTRATION - ROMSILVA

B-dul Magheru nr.31, sectorul 1, cod postal 70164
telefon: 021.310.06.26; 021/212.97.69; fax:021/222.84.28
E-mail: rnp@rosilva.ro

NR. 16750 / 25. NOV. 2003.

Attn.: Mr. Nick Remple
GEF Regional Coordinator for Biodiversity and International Waters

RE: Maramures Biodiversity Initiative – Co-funding

Dear Mr. Remple,

The National Forestry Administration is interested in Maramures Biodiversity Initiative (ROM/02/G41) and willing to contribute to the funding of a Medium Size Project, next to UNDP Romania (GEF funds) and other local and regional stakeholders.

The scope of the project is to preserve biodiversity in the protected area of Maramures Mountains, through the creation of the Maramures Natural Park and ecological reconstruction of the area, by reducing risks of accidental pollution and last but not least, generating alternative, sustainable development activities and by that reducing the pressure over the protected area from current economic activities.

The Forestry Administration, both at national and regional level has responsibilities towards protected areas with large forest representation according to the Romanian law, and is interested to contribute to the implementation of the Maramures Biodiversity Initiative, that is in line with the Forestry Administration's objectives and strategy for protected areas.

Hereby we confirm our commitment to support the following expenses as identified by the project brief, in cash or in kind, over the lifetime of the project.

Outcome	Direct co-funding for the project US \$		Re-directed funds in the project area US \$
	Cash	In kind	Cash & In kind
Basic Park infrastructure, including salaries of the park's management staff	210,000	269,500	4,940,000
Declaration of the Maramures Mountains as a legally protected area		3,000	
Landscape –based approach to conservation		26,500	
Biodiversity surveying and monitoring system		30,000	
Awareness and participation plan for all stakeholders		18,000	
Alternative, biodiversity-friendly and income generating activities for the local communities		400,000	1,270,000
Total	210,000	747,000	6,210,000

The Forestry administration expresses its commitment to support the project by taking over the cost of the park's management staff not only at the end of the project, but also during the project life and set aside in its budget a total of US\$ 210,000 for this expense, together with substantial in – kind contribution.

We look forward to a very successful implementation of the project.

Sincerely yours,

Ion DUMITRU

General Manager



November 24th, 2003

Annex 9 – MARAMURES CONSORTIUM

Maramures Biodiversity Initiative

**LOCAL CONSORTIUM FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND COLLABORATIVE MANAGEMENT IN
MARAMURES PROJECT**

Local Consortium for the implementation of Biodiversity Conservation and Collaborative Management in Maramures:

- delegate the Ecological Society of Maramures to submit the medium-sized project brief "Maramures Biodiversity Initiative" in order to be financed by GEF through UNDP
- nominate the Ecological Society of Maramures as executing agency of the above mentioned project.

Ioan Buda
Prefect, Prefectura Maramures County



Alexandru Cosma
President, Maramures County Council



Gheorghe Voinescu
Executiv Director, Environmental Protection Agency - Maramures

Aurel Filip
Director, Forest Unit Maramures



Iuliu Szekely
Director, Maramures Water Management Service



Filip Moisei
President, Ecological Society of Maramures



_____ Maramures Biodiversity Initiative

PART II: Organigram of Project (optional)

PART III: Terms of References for key project staff and main sub-contracts

Terms of Reference

Project Manager (PM)

Duration: 36 months

Duty station: Baia Mare Forest Directorate and Viseu, Romania with travel in the Project region, and possible travel to other locations as required

General Responsibilities:

Under the guidance of the National Project Director, the PM shall be responsible for the overall daily coordination of all aspects of the Project. The PM will be responsible for overseeing the Project team's work and he/she will be ultimately responsible for the effective implementation of all Project activities. He/she will liaise directly with designated officials of the national and local governments, the UNDP, existing and potential additional Project donors, the National GEF Focal Point, and others as deemed appropriate and necessary by the PD or PM him/herself. The Project budget and associated work plan will provide guidance on the day-to-day implementation of the approved Project activities and on the integration of the various complementary initiatives. He/she shall be responsible for the delivery of all substantive, managerial and financial reports from and on behalf of the Project. He/she will provide overall supervision for all Project staff. The Project Manager will provide expert input in his/her area of expertise, coordinate contracted work necessary for Project implementation, and will organize and attend all consultations and meetings.

Specific Duties

- The PM will have the following specific duties:
- Ensure development, co-ordination and management of the Project.
- Manage and supervise the Project Implementation Unit's (PIU) staff, including work group leaders, and the project budget.
- Undersign all project progress reports, financial reports and requests.
- Ensure effective communication with the relevant public authorities, institutions and other stakeholders on project's activities.
- Establish and maintains links with national and international project partners.
- Procure equipment and local services following UNDP procurement rules
- Ensure preparation and submission to the POC and UNDP of progress and financial reports, as set out in the project document.
- Supervise activities under the project to ensure that they are performed in accordance with the budget as set out in the project document.
- Ensure that the expenditures incurred are in compliance with the activities referred to in the project document.
- Ensure project promotion and effective public relations.
- Establish and manage mechanisms for exchange of experience, and lessons learned at the local and national levels.

- Coordinate, monitor and be responsible to the PD and POC for implementation of the Project Work Plan.
- Ensure consistency among the various Project elements and related activities provided or funded by other donor organizations.
- Foster and establish links with other related GEF programmes and, where appropriate, with other relevant regional programmes.
- Ensure that all of the logistical needs of Project implementation are met.
- Conduct stakeholder workshops in the Project region.

Qualifications:

- Post-graduate degree preferably in a directly related field (e.g. natural resource management; biodiversity conservation);
- Experience as project manager, with proven experience in protected areas
- Developed inter-personal, communication and negotiating skills;
- Good familiarity with the goals and procedures of international organizations is preferred, in particular those of the GEF and its partners (UNDP, UNEP, the World Bank, major NGOs, and current and future potential donors);
- Proficient English speaking and writing capability;
- Previous work experience in the project region on issues directly related to the Project;
- Ability and willingness to travel; and,
- Demonstrable skills in using information technology (word processing, spread sheets) and familiarity with GIS applications.

Reporting requirements:

The PM will report to the NPD and the POC.

Terms of Reference

Financial and Administrative Assistant to the Project Manager

Position title:	Financial and Administrative Assistant to the Project Manager
Duration of contract:	36 months
<u>Duty Station</u>	Baia Mare and Viseu
Objectives of work:	To provide assistance to the Project Manager in implementing the project from finance and administrative viewpoints
Duties:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manages the project budget under the supervision of the PM • Prepare contracts for local consultants, service suppliers, equipment suppliers, etc. • Make payments of invoices and keep record of the budget expenditures • Prepare financial reports to the PD and UNDP, as requested in the project document • Ensures proper functioning of the project office, equipment, office supplies, etc. • Assist the programme manager and local and foreign consultants in conducting different activities within the framework of the project (training, seminars, procurement of tickets, rent of premises, arrangements on study tour, etc.)

- During the visits of foreign experts provide support for transportation, hotel accommodation, etc.
- Keep files with project documents, expert reports;
- Control the use of non expendable equipment (record keeping, drawing up regular inventories)
- Perform other duties under the instruction of the project manager.

Schedule of work: Start of activities: 2005
End of activities: 2008

Qualifications:

- High education diploma in finance/accounting, preferably certified accountant
- Not less than 3 years work experience in finance/accounting/office administration
- Proficiency in English (spoken and written)
- Computer skills (use of Excell)

Special Terms: Romanian citizen

Supervisor: The Project manager

SIGNATURE PAGE

Country: Romania

UNDAF Outcome: Capacity building for Good Governance - By 2009, administrative capacity is strengthened at central and local level to develop, implement and monitor sustainable policies and programs – emphasizing transparency, accountability and participation - in the areas of public service delivery, environmental governance and the protection of the rights of vulnerable groups.

Expected Outcome: Improve national capacity to negotiate and implement global environmental commitments

Expected Output(s)/Indicator(s): 1. Maramures Natural Park is designated a national-level protected area/Official Gazetting
2. A model for civil society input to forest management is created/Key recommendations approved by the local communities
3. Demonstration: wood waste to energy/Number of wood waste boilers installed in local schools/hospitals

Implementing partner: The National Forest Administration (NFA) and Baia Mare Forest Directorate

Other Partners: Ministry of Environment and Water Management;
Other ministries as per project's Partnership strategy
Ecological Society of Romania;
Pro Viseu Foundation

<p>Programme Period: April 2005 – April 2008 Programme Component: Capacity building for Good Governance Project Title: Strengthening Romania's Protected Area System by Demonstrating Government NGO Partnership in Romania's Maramures Nature Park</p> <p>Project ID: 37834 Project Duration: 36 months Management Arrangement: National Execution</p>	<p>Total budget: \$2,306,100 Allocated resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• GEF \$975,000• Regular \$50,000• Other (parallel funding)<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ NFA \$1,012,000• In kind contribution<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ NGOs \$95,600○ Local Authorities: \$173,500
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Agreed by (Government): Mr. Gheorghe Flutur
Minister of Agriculture, Forests and Rural Development

Agreed by (Implementing partner): Mr. Simion Maftei
Director General, National Forest Administration

Agreed by (UNDP): Soknan Han Jung
UNDP Resident Representative