

Integrated Management of Natural Resources in South East Europe

Diana Gallrapp¹

The sustainable use of natural resources is one of the central aims of the EU action for the protection of the environment and sustainable development (Sixth Environment Action Programme of the EC 2002-2012). European NGOs are among the key actors in this field. They play an important role in harmonizing experiences collected in EU countries with new EU member states, particularly those in Central and Eastern Europe.

In this context the Federation of Nature and National Parks of Europe (EUROPARC) launched the **NatuRegio project** (Nature Conservation and Regional development in South-East-Europe) in 2006 in cooperation with the Alfred Toepfer Academy for Nature Conservation (NNA), the University of Lüneburg and the European Nature Heritage Fund (EURONATUR). The project's main objective is to support Romania and Bulgaria in developing expertise for the management of natural resources through training and capacity building activities.

Every year 10 scholarships are awarded to young environmental professionals from Romania and Bulgaria. These young scholars take part in a conservation management training programme in Germany. The programme provides four months of training in protected areas and natural conservation institutions, including four capacity building courses and two workshops².

In the framework of this year's training period a seminar on "**Integrated Management of Natural Resources in South East Europe: Regional Experiences and International Cooperation**" was held in Poiana Brasov from the 1st to 5th June 2009. It was attended by 20 trainees from the last two project years.

¹ Senior Project Manager, EUROPARC Federation.

² Seminars held in previous years: Conservation of migrating birds in Eastern Europe in January 2009, Plovdiv (BG); The implementation of Natura2000 and consequences for the protection of species, April 2008, Sofia (BG); Nature conservation and regional development in Romania and Bulgaria, November 2007, Hateg (RO).

The seminar, organised by EUROPARC, was comprised of various training sessions, held by representatives of several organisations and institutions, such as, *WWF-Romania*, *The Association of Ecotourism in Romania*, the *Italian Institute for International Legal Studies (ISGI)* and the *German Technical Cooperation (GTZ GmbH)*. The speeches and discussions gave a broad insight into the challenges of natural resource management at a national and European level.

The first day focused on important experiences in Romania and Bulgaria. It looked at NGO activities, the Natura2000 Network, cross border cooperation in the Danube-Carpathian region and the management effectiveness of protected areas. The second day, particular attention was given to European Union policies and legislation in this field and their implementation at national level as well as to bilateral development cooperation and eco-tourism³.

Erika Stanciu, President of EUROPARC opened the workshop by analyzing sectoral trends and examining the role of NGOs in the field of nature conservation.

Christian Remus-Papp (WWF) underlined the fact that improving capacity for the evaluation of protected area goods and services as well as cross-sectoral planning is among the main objectives in the Carpathian Ecoregion according to the 2012 Protected Area Programme, which was adopted in the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). To illustrate the work being done in this area he informed the participants about a tool for Monitoring the Effectiveness of Carpathian Protected Area Management (CPAMEMT), which was developed by the WWF Danube-Carpathian-Programme.

Orieta Hulea (WWF) highlighted the challenges and opportunities for cross-border conservation and the management of protected areas by presenting the case study of the Lower Danube Green Corridor. This Corridor contributes to the European Green Belt initiative, which aims to create an ecological network running from the Barents Sea to the Black Sea, spanning some of the most important habitats for biodiversity in Europe. To achieve and guarantee

³ The programme also included an excellent field visit to the Piatra Craiului National Park and the historical city centre of Brasov, where many natural and cultural issues of the region were explored.

the conservation goal, namely the maintenance of favorable conservation conditions for species and habitats in an area with significant human pressures, many actions are considered to be a priority. These include the integration of EU legislation (and sensible use of EU funds); the adoption of adaptive management strategies aimed at protecting ecosystem processes; to increase awareness on the values of protected areas and involve local stakeholders.

Gianfranco Tamburelli (ISGI) spoke about the evolution of international and EU law and policies concerning biodiversity conservation and the management of protected areas. He focused on the implementation of the CBD and other relevant multilateral environmental agreements as well as on the national implementation of the “Bird” and “Habitat” Directives. He highlighted the fact that the VI EU Environment Action Programme emphasizes the interrelationship between the conservation of natural systems and habitats and the aim of halting desertification and loss of biodiversity.

The issue of sustainable tourism was approached from a number of different angles. *Florina Florescu* presented the first ecotourism certification system in Romania, developed by the NGO *The Association of Ecotourism in Romania and Ioana Dobrescu* gave an overview about the activities of the Romanian – German development cooperation (GTZ GmbH). The GTZ offers consultancy services and expertise to the Romanian Ministry of Tourism for the elaboration of national and regional strategies for tourism development and promotion.

Finally the NatuRegio trainees presented the projects which they had implemented in their home institutions as part of the programme. These included the creation of a geographical information system model for a Romanian ecological network, the creation of an interactive network between schools and protected areas, etc.

These topics and more will be explored further in the next workshop which will be held in November 2009 in Bulgaria. By this time the trainees will be defining and developing their own projects in their home institutions. These will be evaluated by a selection committee and the three best projects will be funded with up to 15.000 EUR each.

The **EUROPARC Federation**, known as the "Federation of Nature and National Parks of Europe" was founded in 1973. The aim of the organization is to support protected areas to fulfill their role as preservers of the natural and cultural diversity of Europe, to promote their sustainable development, to encourage cooperation and exchange between their managers and staff. EUROPARC represents over 500 protected areas, governmental departments, NGO's and businesses in 39 countries, who themselves manage the green jewels of Europe's land, sea, mountains, forests, rivers and cultural heritage. EUROPARC facilitates international co-operation in all aspects of protected area management to further improve and conserve our shared natural inheritance. EUROPARC endeavours to exchange expertise, experience and best practise as well as to collaborate with others to ensure the value and meaning of protected areas is at the heart of Europe.

EURONATUR

The European Nature Heritage Fund – EuroNatur is a non-profit foundation which stands up for the conservation of the European nature heritage at different levels, e.g. via species protection projects, rehabilitation measures, and site protection as well as political lobbying activities or environmental education.

EuroNatur is implementing long-term and often cross-border projects, aiming not only at the protection of nature, but also at an ecological development of rural areas. Long-term protection of natural resources requires the consideration of the needs of the people. Therefore, EuroNatur cooperates closely with regional partner organizations and local residents.

Alfred Toepfer Academy for Nature Conservation (NNA)

The Alfred Toepfer Academy for Nature Conservation (NNA) was founded in 1981. It is a state institution under the administration of Lower Saxony's Ministry of the Environment. Its three main concerns are research, education and training, and public relations work in the wide field of nature conservation. NNA acts as a mediator between the sciences, the administration, the economy, and the public. The academy wants to show that while conservation is necessary for human life and well-being, it need not run counter to economic interests.

Leuphana University of Lüneburg

Leuphana University is one of Germany's young universities, established in 1946 as a teacher

training college. Determined to become a model for the future of German learning and research institutions, Leuphana has recently been awarded national honours for developing an outstanding profile and innovative development.

4th NatuRegio-Seminar
Integrated Management of Natural Resources in South East Europe: Regional Experiences and International Cooperation
in Poiana Brasov, Romania

Monday, 01st June

Ca. 20:00 Arrival in Poiana Brasov

Tuesday, 2nd June – Integrated Management of Natural Resources in SEE

9:30 - 9:45 **Welcome**
Erika Stanciu (WWF Romania)

9:45 -10:45 **NGO contribution to nature conservation in the Danube Carpathian region – WWF Danube Carpathian Programme and NGO coalitions in Romania and Bulgaria**
Presentation and discussion
Erika Stanciu (WWF Romania)

Coffee Break

11:15 – 12:30 **Challenges and opportunities for cross-border conservation and management of protected areas - the Lower Danube Green Corridor case study**
Presentation and discussion
Dr. Orieta Hulea (WWF Romania)

Lunch Break

13:30 – 14:45 **Participatory and adaptive management in protected areas: NATURA 2000 Management - do we need management plans?**
Presentation and discussion
Erika Stanciu (WWF Romania)

Coffee Break

15:15 – 16:30 **Evaluation of management effectiveness in protected areas – an interactive on-line tool developed for the Carpathians**
Presentation and interactive application of the on-line tool
Erika Stanciu (WWF Romania) and Cristian Remus Papp (WWF Romania)

16:30 – 18:30 **Intermediate evaluation of project implementations started in February 2009**
Internal group discussion
Dr. Dorothe Lütkemöller (University of Lüneburg)

Discussion about the administrative side of project implementation
One-to-one interview
Dr. Annika Frech (NNA)

Wednesday, 3rd June – Field trip

09:00 Field Trip to the Piatra Craiului National Park

Thursday, 4th June 2009 – International cooperation, policies and experiences

09:00 – **Welcome & Information about DBU projects in South-East-Europe**
09:30 *Wilhelm Kulke (Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt – DBU)*

09:30 – **International environmental conventions and their implementation at national and regional levels**
10:30 Presentation and discussion
Gianfranco Tamburelli (Italian Institute for International Legal Studies –ISGI, Italy)

Coffee Break

11:00 – **European policy and law in the field of biodiversity conservation and protected areas**
12:00 Presentation and discussion
Gianfranco Tamburelli (Italian Institute for International Legal Studies - ISGI, Italy)

12:00 – **Eco-Tourism in European protected areas – current development in Europe and Romania**
13:00 Presentation and discussion
Florentina Florescu (Association of Ecotourism in Romania)

Lunch Break

14:00 – **Technical development cooperation between Germany and Romania**
14:30 Presentation and discussion
Ioana Dobrescu (German Technical Cooperation GTZ GmbH, Bucharest)

14:30 – **Presentation and discussion of NatuRegio Projects**
17:00

14:30 – **GIS model for a Romanian ecological network**
15:00 *Mirea Ion (Forest Research and Management Institute- FRMI) and Anca Ardeleanu (Apuseni Nature Park Administration)*

Coffee Break

15:30 – **Interactive network between schools, NGO's, museums and Rodna Mountains National Park**
16:00 *Claudiu Iusan (Rodna Mountains National Park)*

16:00 – **Electrical fences and otters – how to preserve fish farms from otters**
16:30 *Yanchev Yanislav (SFA)*

16:30 – **Swarming activity of bats in front of cave entrances in Strandja Nature Park**
17:00 *Stoyan Yordanov (DPP Strandja)*