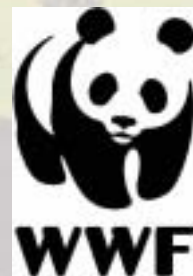


CEI Case Studies from the Past and Moving Forward with Small Grants

Summary of former small grants program and future outlook

Hildegard Meyer, Assistant to Coordinator
Carpathian **EcoRegion Initiative** "CERI"
WWF International
Danube-Carpathian Programme

CERI General Assembly, Brasov, 1-2 June 2005





The WWF

Small Grants competition

The Small Grants competition was established to

- Work with local people and encourage **community-based projects** in the Carpathians
- Financially support these local initiatives up to 5,000 €
- Promote **sustainable development** and its links to **biodiversity**
- Increase **knowledge** in the region

Bringing people and nature together in the heart of Europe



Sustainable Development

Improvement
of lifestyles
and well-being



Preserving
natural
resources and
ecosystems

Sustainable Development

Definition

Sustainable development is maintaining a delicate **balance between the human need** to improve lifestyles and feeling of well-being on one hand, and **preserving natural resources and ecosystems**, on which we and **future generations** depend.



Topics of Sustainable Development

- Agriculture & land-use management
- Alternative technologies & resource management
- Habitat conservation for wildlife and plants
- Preservation of cultural heritage
- Ecotourism

Projects I

Agriculture & land-use

- Organic farming (fruit growing & processing)
- Extensive land-use (orchards, pasture management)
- Preservation of local fruit & vegetable varieties (creation of a gene bank)
- Promotion & marketing of local agricultural products



Projects II

Alternative technologies & resource management

- Sewage farming
- Establishment of solar power stations
- Establishment of waste water gardens

Projects III

Habitat conservation for wildlife and plants

- Conservation of large mammals (brown bear, wolves) and birds
- Grassland protection in order to preserve endangered plant species
- Habitat reconstruction and long-term management

Projects IV

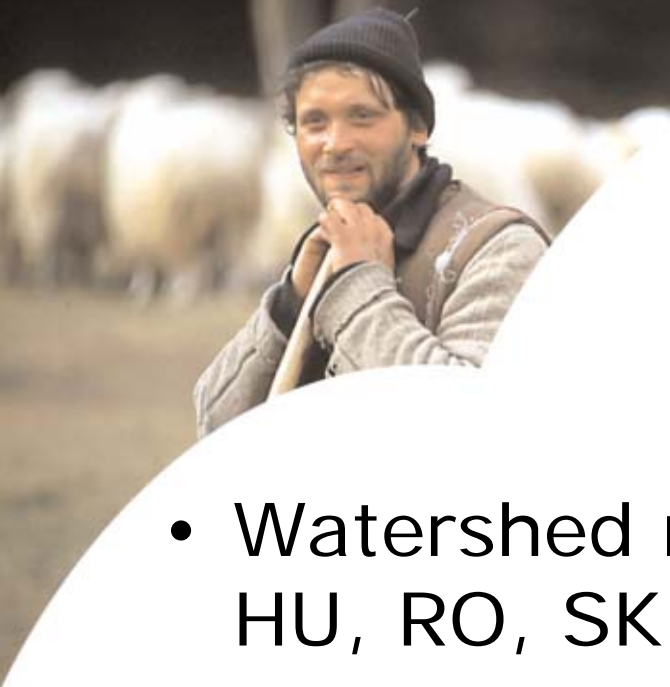
Cultural heritage

- Preservation of old villages
- Local traditions (festivals)
- Traditional handicrafts (woodcrafts)
- Collection & publication of local fairy tails, legends and historic events

Projects V

Ecotourism

- Provide “Know How” for local people
- Establishment of information centers and guidebooks
- Establishment of recreation facilities for tourists (nature & bicycle trails, horse-riding, eco-farms)
- Cultural events
- Local products



Cross-border networking

- Watershed management (river Tisza – HU, RO, SK, UA)
- Eco-tourism in the White Carpathians (CZ, SK)
- Grassland protection (HU, SK)
- Regional sustainable development (land-use management, orchards – HU, SK)