

## **Project Update: November 2005**

In November Nadia received a second RSG to develop her work 'The wolves and local communities in Vrancea County'. Picture shows Nadia mapping the wolf tracks.

Having in view the fact that the mainly source of conflicts which causes a high mortality in the wolf population it represents the livestock growth, and at least 10 wolves are poached annually in mountainous part of Vrancea, between 2005 – 2006 through a Rufford grant it will be implement the project “Wolves and local communities in Vrancea County”, the aim being the conservation of wolves packs in Vrancea County through implementing anti poaching activities, promoting the electrical fences as effective protection system for sheepfold defence and improvement of wolves negative image. Developing the management plan for wolf conservation together with stakeholders and county environmental authorities represents a major objective in this project.

The project will be implemented in the western part of Vrancea County, being integrated in the policy of local authorities to ensure the protection of the species of communitarian interest and has the support of EPA Vrancea, especially for the management plan component. The major activities planned within the project are:

### 1. Initiating anti-poaching activities

- An information campaign about the situation of attacks on sheepfolds and about how electrical fences operate (meetings with shepherds in 6 communes in Vrancea: Nereju, Soveja, Campuri, Vizantea, Tulnici, Vidra)
- Elaboration of leaflet “Electrical fences – efficient method to defend the livestock” and of poster “Poaching – illegal activity”, that will be distributed to locals and shown in the communities’ visible places. The leaflet will include details on electrical fences, installing, producers and good practice examples
- Field investigation of poaching cases – especially of reasons that caused them. The documentation will be handed to EPA.

### 2. Establishing a management plan for wolves protection

- The action plan elaborated in the previous project will be detailed, defining clear actions, responsible institutions and deadlines. The plan will be elaborated together with EPA, who will include it in official papers

### 3. Involving the local communities in the protection actions

- A web page will be made dedicated to wolf protection in Vrancea, a contest of essays for pupils on: My forest – wolf’s home, meetings in schools and trips with pupils from 6 villages. The children will ensure the future of wolf protection and transmit the conservation message to their relatives.