

FINAL REPORT

on the project ref: 50.03.08

“Moldavian-Ukrainian Centre for regional cooperation and development: middle Nistru River transboundary conservation perspectives”

by the applicant, the grant manager : Aurel Lozan

to Rufford Small Grant (for Nature Conservation)

Background and summary of the project:

The project aimed at transboundary conservation of the riverbank wetlands in the middle Nistru River basin. A bilateral (Moldova-Ukraine) cooperation might strengthen efforts for local conservation and biodiversity-rich (hotspot) habitat protection. Protected area network should be adequately used for developing a regional eco-tourism. A ‘Centre for Regional Cooperation and Development’, set up at the local authority Cosauti (Sorooca district), Moldova, would help to building capacity of local authorities and bringing together local stakeholders (people, NGOs, business, science, administration, ecology/forest agencies) of the area from both countries.

Duration of the project: 16 months, from July 2008 to November 2009

Implemented activities with details on approaches/methodology and timetable:

1. A local “Moldavian-Ukrainian Centre for Regional Cooperation and Development” (CRCD) was set up at the Cosauti local authority. Period of activities: all project time (July 2008 – December 2008) and Centre is functioning at the village authority (Primaria) Cosauti, Sorooca district, Moldova. A computer was purchased and installed at the local authority; and an Internet connection was set up (funded by the project till June 2010).



1.1. Target groups were local authorities and their councils (including tourism units/officers), local NGO community, local business community (stone manufacturing community, local waste group, agricultural farmers) and forest management units. A tight cooperation between the administrations of two neighbouring districts, local authority Cosauti (Moldova, Sorooca district; head, Mr. Sarghi V.) and Yampil district administration (Ukraine, Vinnytsea region; head, Mr. Voloshin A.) toward the conservation and tourism initiatives is set up.

1.2. Local youth group was strongly encouraged and supported as component part of the local bilateral Centre. Training with local pupils and schoolchildren was focused on future development of their own villages. Pupils were very eager to make views over local nature conservation and development of rural tourism as an economic perspective to the region in a trans-boundary context (i.e. Sorooca district of Moldova and Yampil district of Vinnytsea region in Ukraine).



2. We helped, assisted and still support the local ‘Waste recycle team’. The group represents a bunch of locals (2-3 people permanently employed), a small local company (Sorandri I.I.c.), lead by a local inhabitant, V. Andrievschi, and based at the municipal landfill which is ca 6.5 ha (by Land Cadastre). They have permission from the Cosauti Local Authority to collect and partially processed the plastic and glass waste deposited at the municipal landfill and surrounding areas. The plastic waste is bailed into cubic packs by the help of a small and old packing machine. Packs then are transported to the larger waste store area located in Peresechina, near



Orhei town (30 km of Chisinau). The glass waste is transported to the local glass factory located in the Soroca town. In season, they employ local homeless and other people willing to get some income. We purchased field outfit (bags, various types of gloves), a window fan and fuel for local transportation. And we also supplied them with drinking water and food during their work in the summer time (June-August).

3. A 'Habitat reconstruction and territory arrangements' activity was carried out during the summer time (June 2008 - August 2009) in the Landscape Reserve Cosauti (= Stanca-Jeloboc Forest) and banks of the Nistru river with its tributaries. This campaign was mainly focused on fieldwork activities, such as:

3.1. Arranging 2 small areas for tourists/visitors coming to the reserve. People visiting the curative spring, Monastery and forest around usually have no place to take some rest on their way through the area. Helped by the local business community (local stone masters) and Local Authority we installed 2 stone benches with containers for waste. Unfortunately, people are not always keeping the area clean, so waste dumping is a critical problem for the whole region.



3.2. Launching 'clean days' campaign for collecting waste (plastics and glass) left by visitors in the Landscape Reserve Cosauti and near the rivulet Garla flowing to the Nistru river. It is difficult to make people and/or visitors



stop through waste and create unauthorised dumping, particularly on protected areas and on river's banks. Ultimately, waste affects the whole environment and local people's life. We are trying to monitor the reserve and the rivulet's bank, however, habitat degradation and local species extinction as result of waste pollution is more serious than thought. We involved the waste recycle group and local pupils to collect waste and to contribute to our fieldwork on restoring habitats. We also



distributed booklets and talked personally to visitors and tourists coming to the areas. We think this is an effective environmental education.

4. A local Moldavian-Ukrainian regional workshop on sustainable environment was organised in Moldova and held at the Local Authority Cosauti (Soroca district) during 24-26th of July 2009. Participants of the workshop were local authorities (Cosauti, Jorjnita, Soroca) and district administration (Yampil), members of local councils, local forest management unit, tourism agents, local and republican NGO members, local school masters, local Museum guides, local business (stone manufacture, waste collectors), local youth group, pupils, University teachers and TV-making group. A total of 25 people participated in to our meeting and workshop activities. Transboundary conservation cooperation and development between the two neighbouring districts of the two countries were the main issue discussed. A technical/scientific informational exchange, development of bilateral (eco-)(rural-) tourist routes, nature conservation mapping and supporting the local crafts and museums as a local brand and attraction for visitors were the main subject of the



meeting. Joint steps to contribute to better nature conservation and rational management of natural resources should be taken by both sides. Poor farming and lack of clear strategy in the middle Nistru river basin – one of the oldest centres of agriculture in the area, are strongly affecting the environment. The remaining patches of the riverbank forests, the dry wetland systems along the river with its tributaries, many historical and cultural monuments should be incorporated into a larger protected area.



5. A moviemaking team took part (Andrei Dumbraveanu and Nicolai Garagulea) in our activities during July 2008 – September 2009. We directly involved the non-governmental environmental association “Ave-Natura” into this part of the project and an eco-film (“Signs to remember”, 10 min) was produced in co-operation with the Chair of Journalism of the Moldavian State University. A TV round table and eco-movie presentation towards the perspectives of local conservation and development was organised at the SOR-TV local television company, Soroca town district.



6. A booklet (1000 printed copies) “Unforgettable trip Soroca (Moldova) – Busha (Ukraine) (Romanian: *Călătorie de neuitat Soroca (Moldova)–Bușa (Ucraina)*; Russian: *Незабываемое путешествие Сороки (Молдова)–Буша (Украина)*) was prepared in co-operation with Romanian Ornithological Society, Galati branch (Teodor Glavan, chairman), and Green World of Podylia, Ukraine, Vinnytsea (Elena Yavorsky, chairwoman), published and disseminated throughout the two countries. It included information on nature (with biodiversity, flora and fauna, overview), history and culture of the area, and documented with appropriate photo materials. Several organisations from Moldova, Ukraine, Romania and Czech Republic and various experts helped with preparations of the booklet.

Booklet authors: Aurel Lozan, Elena Yavorsky, Teodor Glăvan, Andrei Dumbrăveanu, Oxana Kirilyach.

Special thanks to the Local Authority Cosăuți, Soroca; Environmental Association Ave-Natura; Yampil District Administration; Non-governmental local organisation “The King of Stone”; Ornithological Society of România, Galați branch; State Cultural and Historical Reserve Busha; Fomin Botanical Garden (KWHU); Ecological Association “Green World of Podylia”, Biology centre v.v.i., České Budějovice; and personally to Peter Smetacek, Konstantin Vinokurov, Victoria Lozan, Galina Jennings, Alexei Zagaevschi, Vasile Sârghi, Anna Kuzemko, Mykyta Peregrym, Alexandr Pyrneak and Ion Ciaicovschi.

Photos by: Aurel Lozan, Mykyta Peregrym, Elena Yavorsky, Florin Chirilă and Cristian Mihai.

Printed out at the Posekany print house, Ceske Budejovice, Czech Republic.

7. A regional tourism route and an appropriate website contribution were built together with the division of coordination and marketing of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Moldova. The regional route “Soroca – Busha”, between the two districts (Soroca (Moldova) and Yampil (Ukraine) is proposed and the information is placed on the website <http://www.turism.md/> (an update is under construction).



The route includes several historical and cultural objectives of European importance (Soroca fortress, historic-cultural reserve Busha etc.), many monuments of history and natural attractive landscapes (Bechir (=Bekyr) Valley, Bechir cave, Chapel of gratitude, Monastery Cosauti, Curative spring, Landscape Reserve Cosauti, Geological monument “Rapids”, Stone Sculpture Park, Haidamak ravine, Natural sight “The Wall”), data on biodiversity and rare plants and animals, and information about local manufacturing (stone business for local groups) and traditions of stone artisans. The information placed on the website is in three languages (Romanian, Russian, and English) and accompanied by ca 20 original photos.



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8. An article to the new edition of FUTUROPA (Cultural Heritage, Landscape and Planning Management Division, Council of Europe) was written and submitted to. A contribution to the IUCN’s newsletter of the Regional Office for Europe was made.

Date 30.11.2009

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Chisinau, Moldova

FINANCIAL REPORT

Total budget funded: £5300

Activities implemented	Period / dates	£Cost(s)	Participation and/or contributors
Meetings with local authorities, local communities, NGOs, locals throughout the region (two districts, two countries). Accommodation, transportation, per-diem covered	All project time	500	Project staff, NGOs, local community
Publication of the guide " <i>Unforgettable trip Soroca (Moldova)–Busha (Ukraine)</i> " (preparations, working with information, PC editing, photos, printing, language [Romanian, Russian, English]):	July 2008 – July 2009	600	Local authority Cosăuți; Association Ave-Natura; Yampil District Administration; local NGO "The King of Stone"; Ornithological Society of România, Galați branch; State Cultural and Historical Reserve Busha; Fomin Botanical Garden (KWHU); Ecological Association "Green World of Podylia", Biology centre v.v.i., České Budějovice; and personal help of many others. Printed out at the Posekany print house, Ceske Budejovice, Czech Republic.
Creating a webpage, developing a tourism regional route and its placement on the official website of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Moldova	Project staff (an update is to be provided regularly)	200	Project staff, in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and Tourism (Moldova)
Internet connection (via modem) at the Cosauti local authority	All project time (internet provided till July 2010)	250	Local authority (Cosauti Primaria council), project staff
Organisation of a regional workshop with participation of 25 people from two districts of the neighbouring countries. Meal, accommodation, transport, place, trips covered	July-August 2009	700	Project staff, local authorities, representatives of district administration, NGOs, business community (stone manufacturing, waste group), tourism officers of the local administrations, pupils (schoolchildren), locals
Supporting the waste recycling group (purchasing outfits, transportation)	July 2008 - September 2009	350	Project staff, 2-3 permanently employed people, Sorandri I.I.c., pupils, locals
Habitat restoration and landscape arrangements in order to prevent the conflicting between visitors and natural components (rare animal species, water/rivulet, important vegetal communities) and preventing degradation (land arrangement and reconstruction)	July 2008 - September 2009	600	Project staff, local authority Cosauti, locals, craftsmen community, stakeholders, locals
Installation of two small areas (2 benches, containers) for visitors and tourists coming to the landscape reserve Cosauti (=Stanca-Jeloboc Forest) and the banks of the rivulet Garla and the Nistru river (two Stone cutting and installing. Labour of stone artisans, stone material, transportation and meal/drink for workers covered	July 2008 – July 2009	650	Local authorities, craftsmen community, local business
Creation of a regional eco-TV making (10 min)	All project time	500	Activity almost entirely implemented by the non-governmental association Ave-Natura in cooperation with Moldavian State University and project staff

Procurement of a computer (laptop) and provision of the local authority with PC + Internet connection	September 2008	700	Project staff, local authority Cosauti
Training of several local people (acquired PC skills, working with information, internet, fundraising and donor's search, communication skills to address the problem). Remuneration of two locals to help project staff during the implementation of activities covered.	All project time	250	Cosauti local authority, local people.
Total		5300	