

Project Update: March 2006

The project has proceeded successfully in the commune of Maieru (villages Maieru and Anies) situated just outside the Rodna Mountains National Park.

The project team purchased necessary field equipment and reviewed a significant amount of literature on the ecology and the traditional use of resources in Rodna Mountains. Ecological surveys of small mammals were carried out at three different sites by means of several transects.

A questionnaire survey of two hundred local people was completed in order to assess their perception of biodiversity components and values and their ideas on alternative sources of income. All respondents agreed on the fact that the forest was the main, and for some the only, source of income. Information about the project and the importance of biodiversity and its conservation was distributed in the community.

Activities planned for 2006 include: additional ecological research and monitoring undertaken with local students, developing a guidebook for practical ecological education with local school staff, coordinating discussions between the community and the park administration regarding the opportunity of enlarging the park with an area that belongs to the community and organizing a workshop to define a strategy for alternative sources of income for the community.

